

## Scan Side Channel Analysis: a New Way for Non-Invasive Reverse Engineering of a VLSI Device

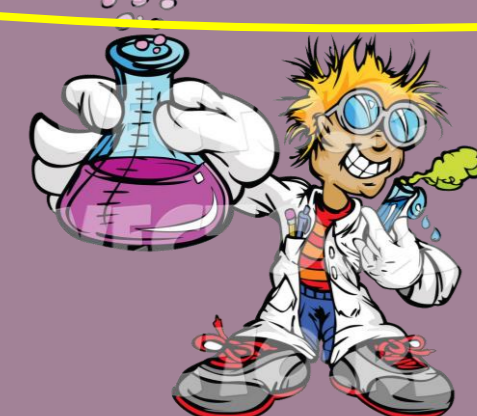
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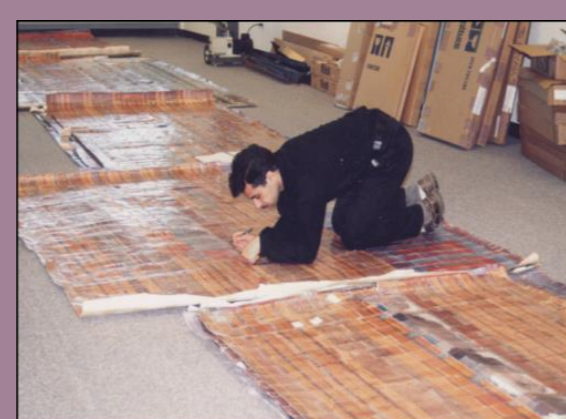
### Reverse Engineering of an ASIC – State of the Art

Phase 1 Invasive - ASIC to Circuit  
Delayering, SEM, Nanoscale Imaging, Cross-section

Phase 2 Algorithmic – Circuit to Spec  
FSM Extraction, Model checking, SAT



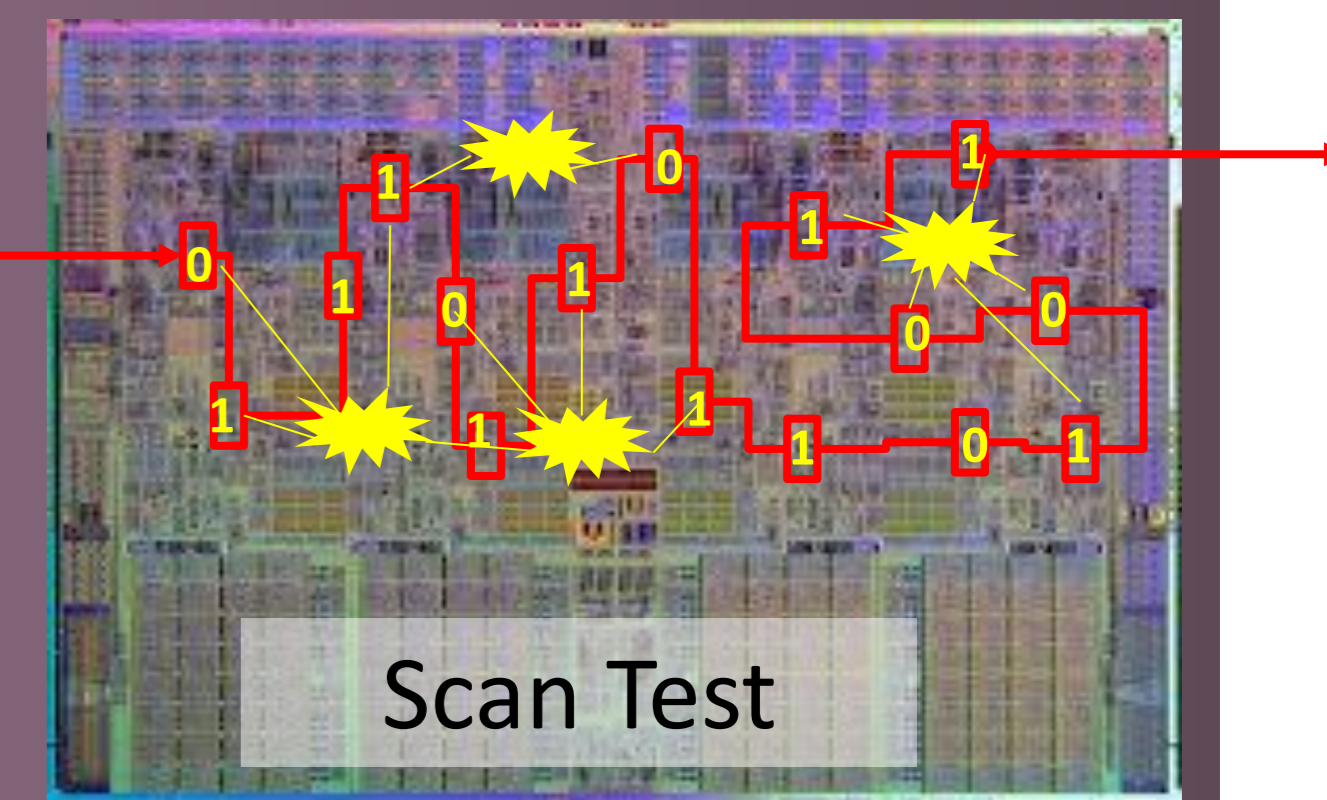
Our Target



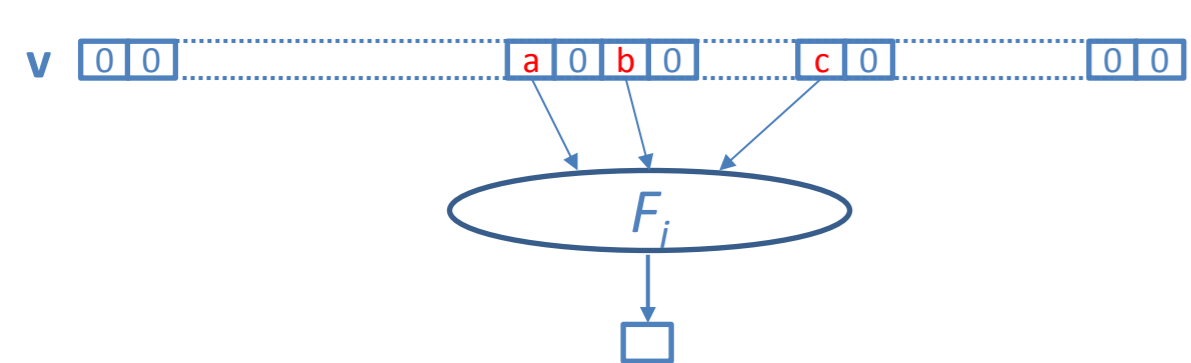
### The Scan Technique

- Designed to automate production test
- Chains all memory elements in a shift register
- The tester verifies correctness by
  - Setting the device state (Shift-In)
  - Running one cycle (Capture)
  - Reading the next state (Shift-Out)

Tester



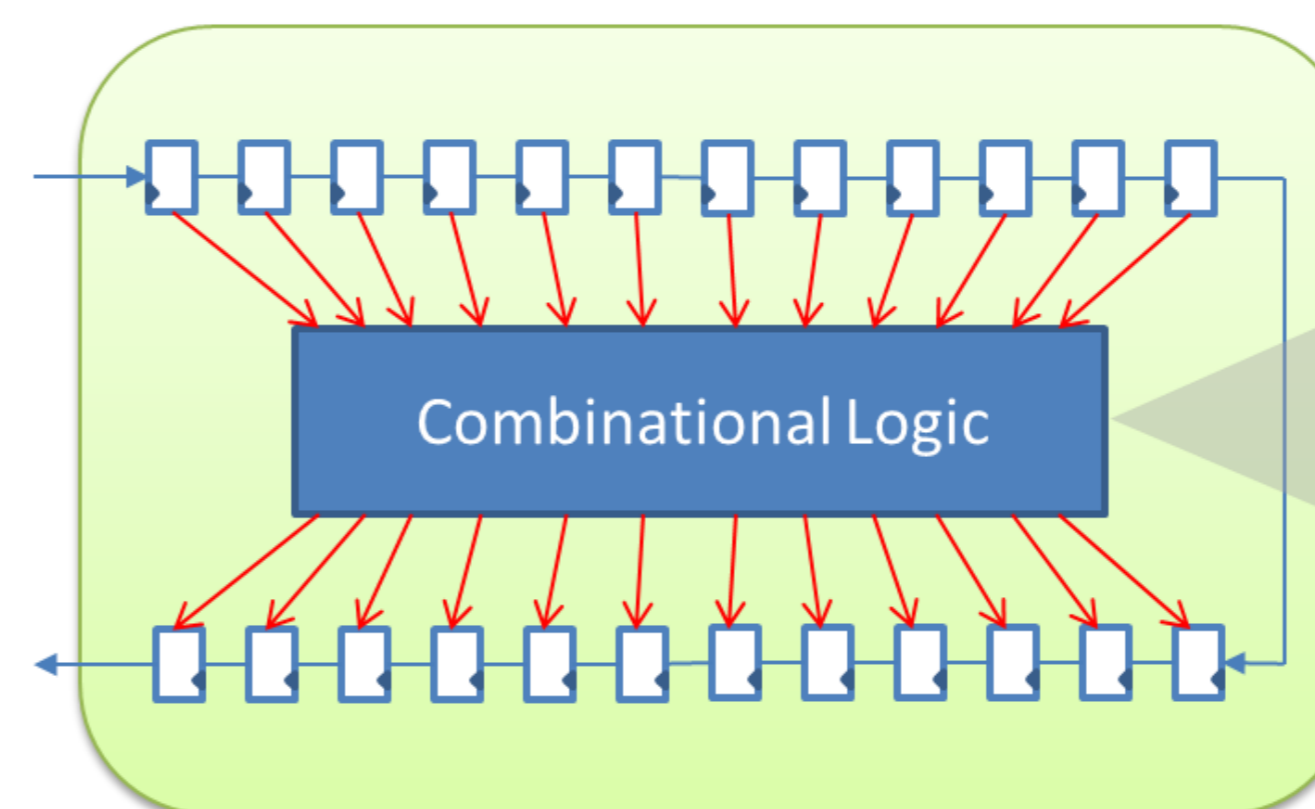
### Algorithm for Limited Transitive Fan-in (K)



- Suppose  $F(0) = 0$  (simple extension to any  $F$ )
- Example for  $K = 3$
- Testing all values of input  $v$  with Hamming Weight 3 or less covers all combinations of  $\{a,b,c\}$
- Runtime  $\sim n^k$

- Computational complexity theory has more efficient algorithms for learning limited fan-in functions or Junta functions
- Runtime complexity:  $O(n \cdot 2^k)$
- Scalable – can be applied to large scale devices
- Still exponential growth with  $K$ .

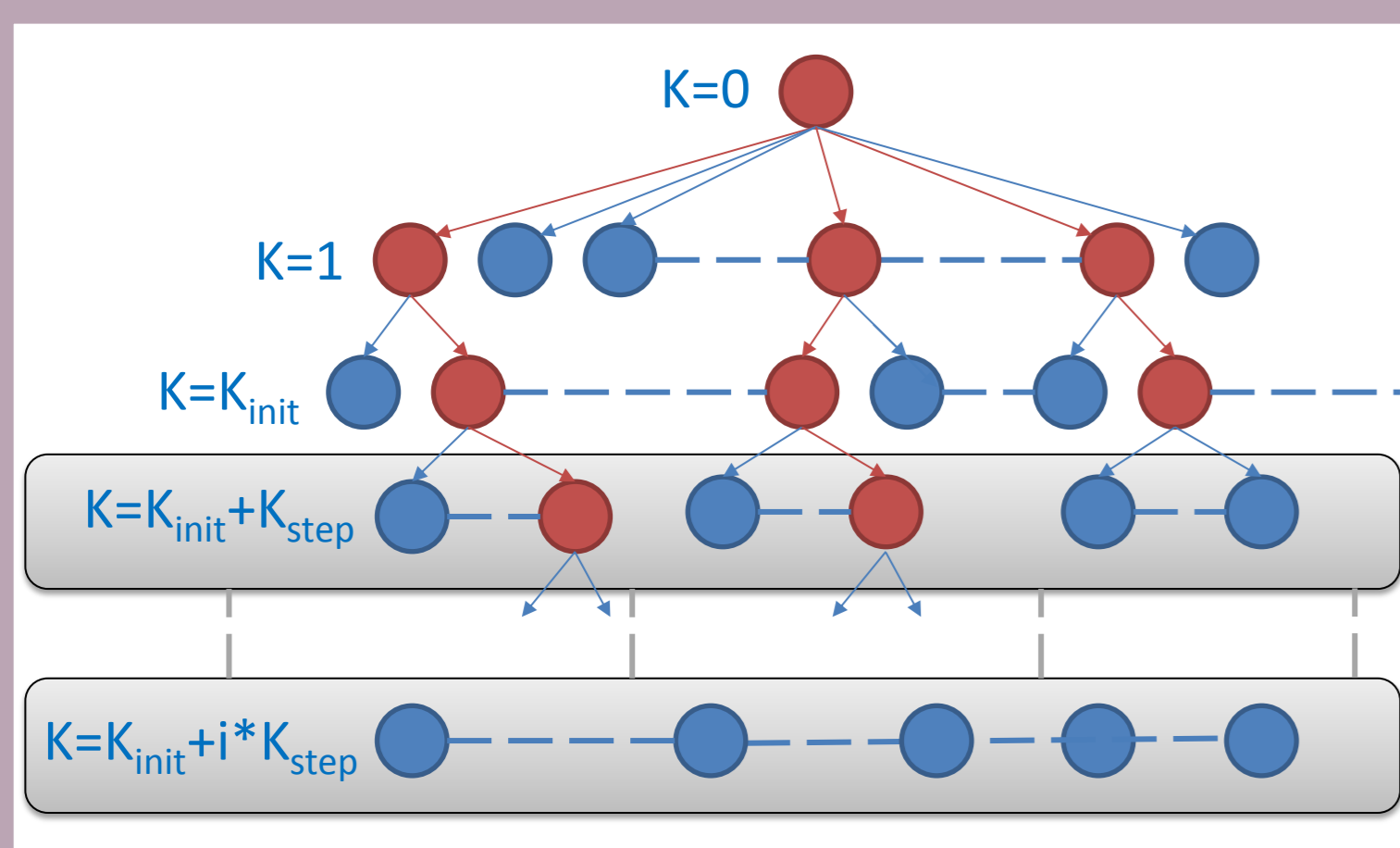
### Unfolding Sequential Circuits with Scan



$$F = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & . & . \\ . & . & . & . & . \\ . & . & . & . & . \\ . & . & . & . & . \end{bmatrix}$$

- Scan turns the ASIC to a stateless circuit
- Mapped to the **Boolean Function Learning** problem:  $\{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$
- Exhaustive Search: Extract the Truth Table by running queries for all inputs
- Exponential Size:  $2^n$

### Heuristic Based Incremental Search

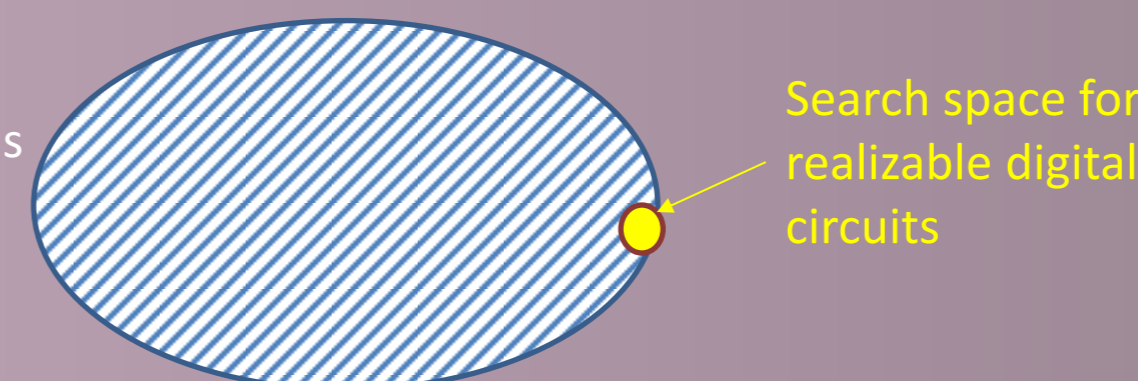


- Best First Approach
- When reached computational limit (large  $K$ ) continue only the winning paths of the tree
- Expand already discovered implicants to new vectors
- Very efficient for arithmetic circuits (carry propagation)

### Shannon Effect

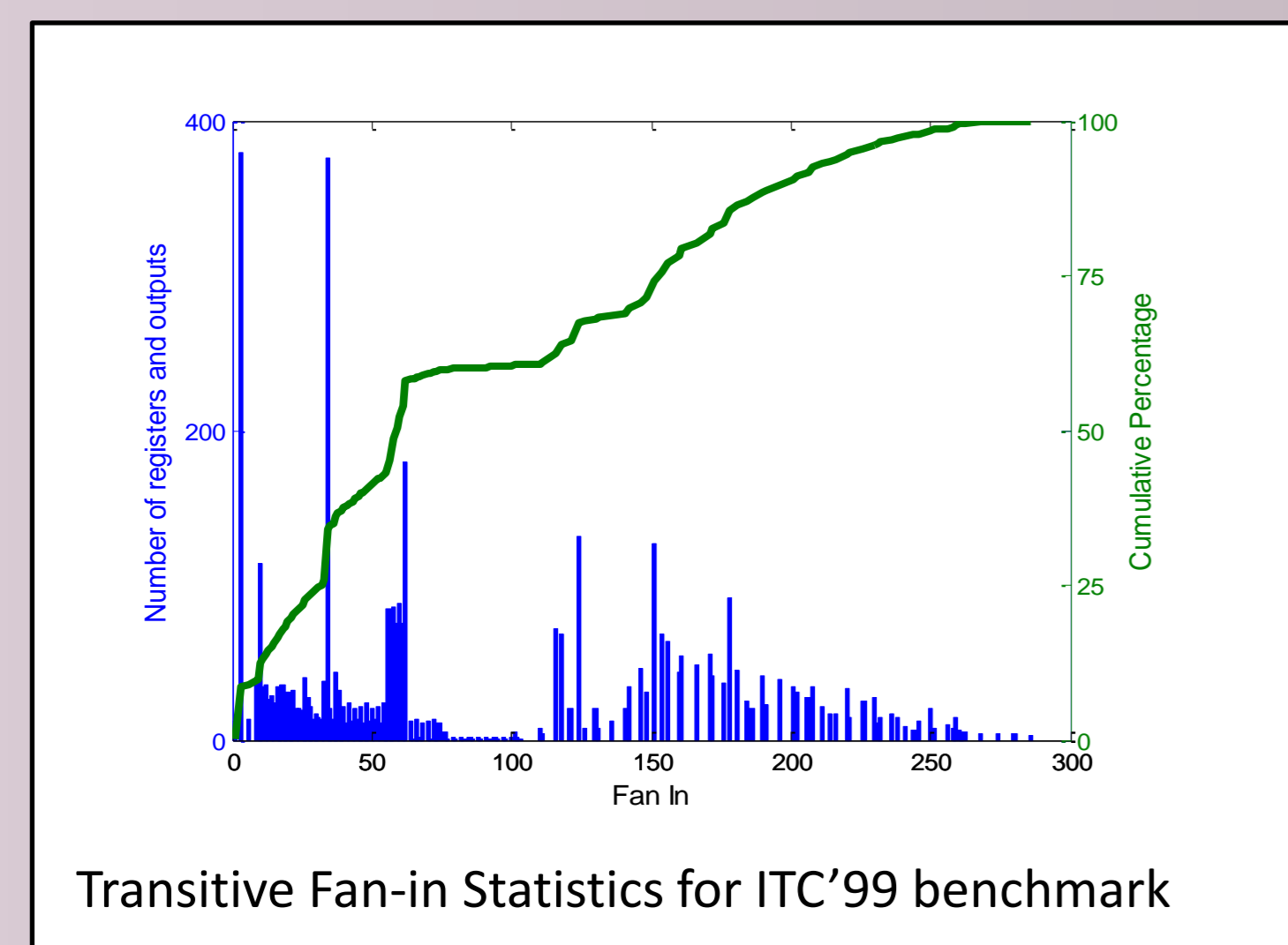
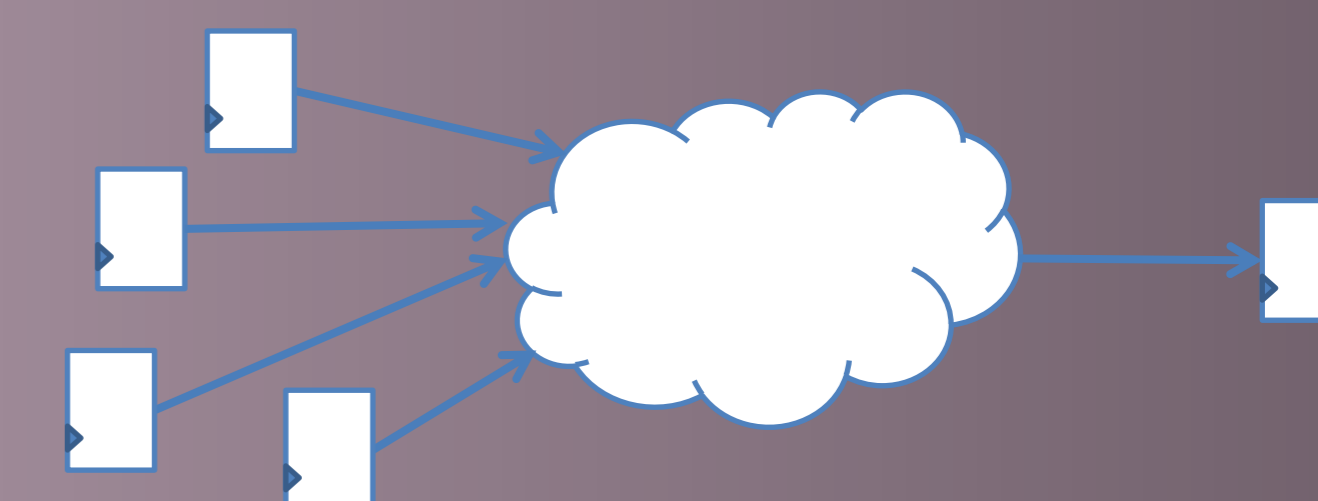
- Shannon Effect: "almost all" Boolean functions have a complexity close to the maximal possible ( $\sim O(2^n)$ ) for the uniform probability distribution
- Corollary: For large  $n$ , "almost all" Boolean functions are not realizable in VLSI technology

$2^{2^n}$  functions

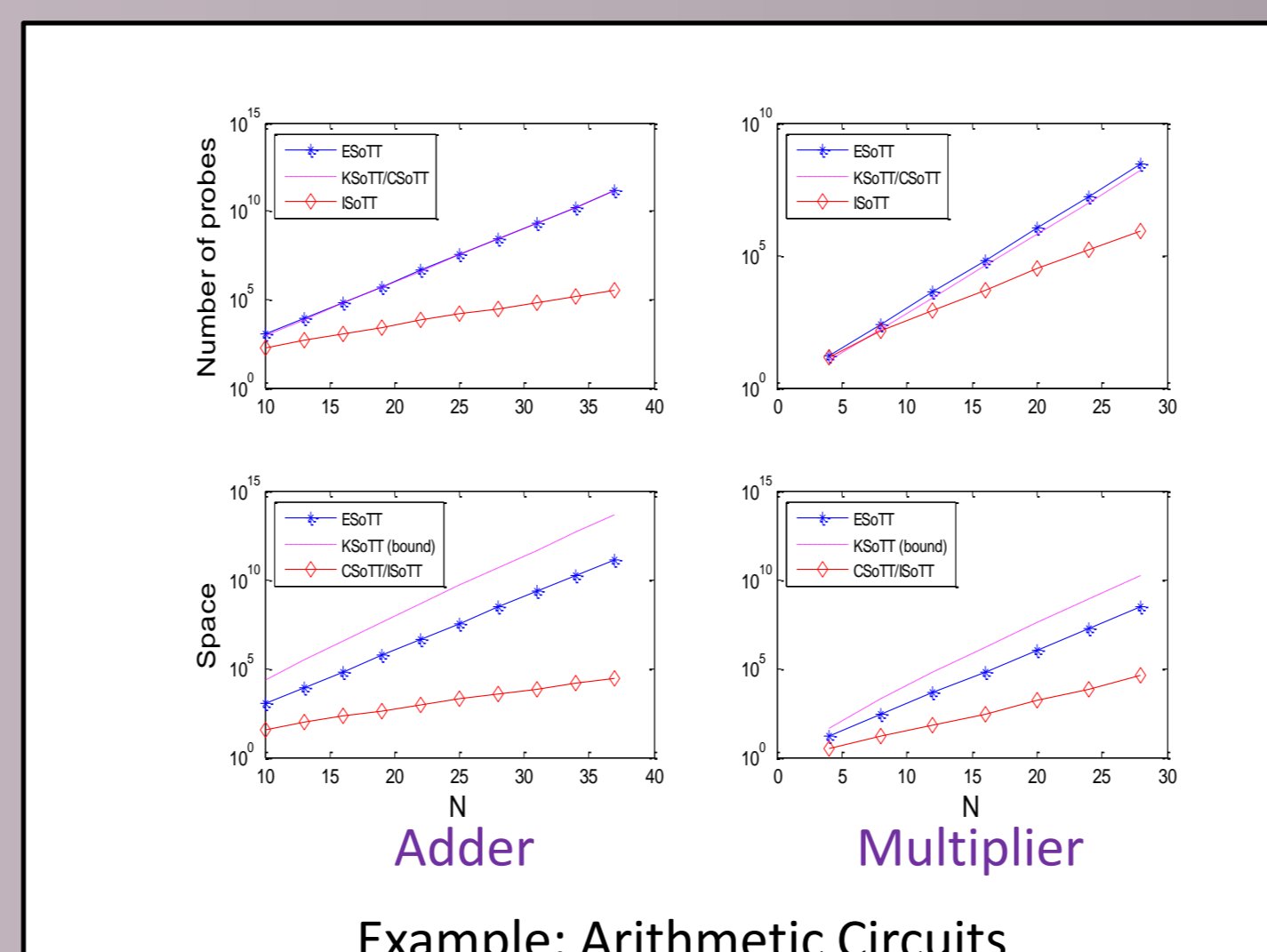


### Limited Transitive Fan-in

- In practice, logic cones have limited number of inputs: Transitive Fan In =  $K$



Successfully reconstructed a full AES engine with 6K registers



### What Next

- Find ways to learn high fan-in functions
  - Machine Learning
  - Special function classes (e.g. linear)
- Overcoming practical limitations
  - Compression
  - Masking
  - NPN transformations
  - Non-scan logic
- Protection methods
  - Hide the function without sacrificing testability
- Finding Hardware Trojans
  - Detecting mismatches with scan