



*Data Persistence at Speed*

# STT- MRAM: High Density Persistent Memory Solution

Sanjeev Aggarwal

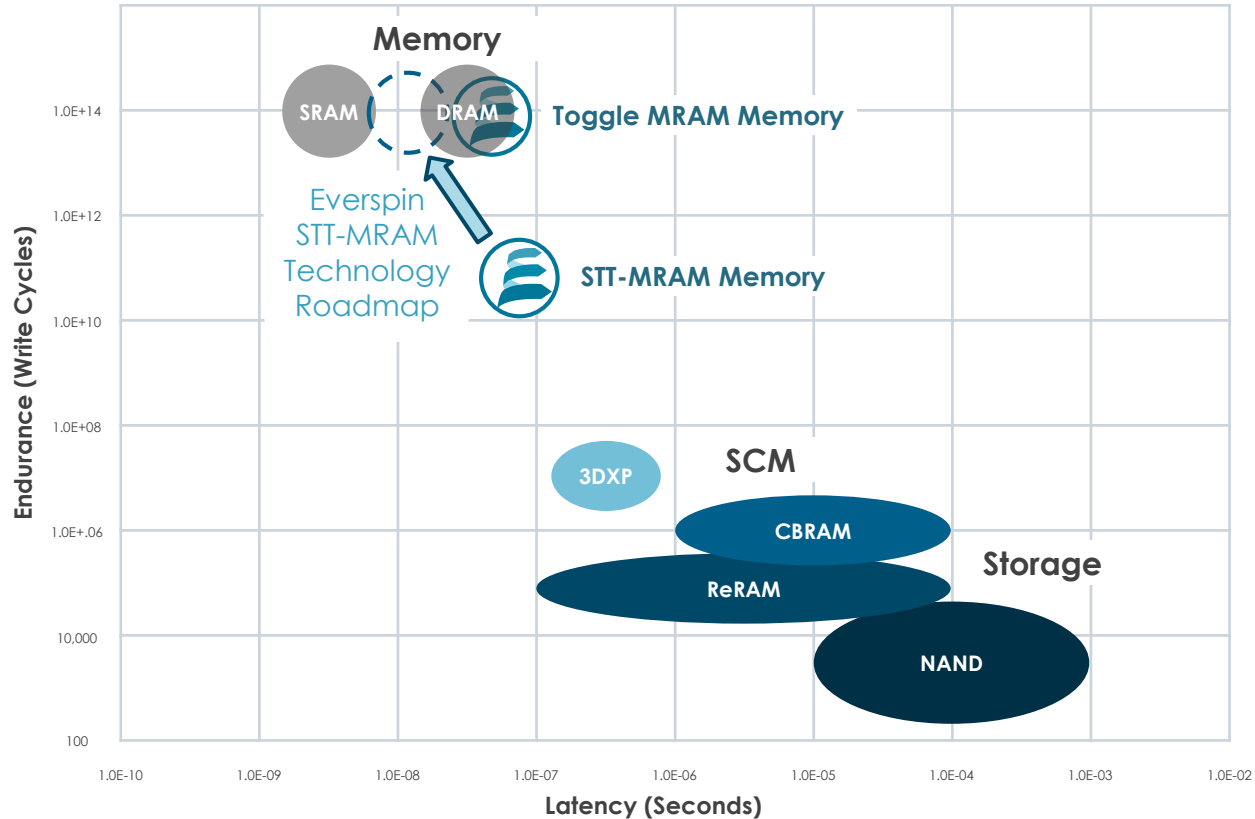
# Safe Harbor Statement

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We assume no obligation, and do not intend, to update these forward-looking statements, except as required by law.

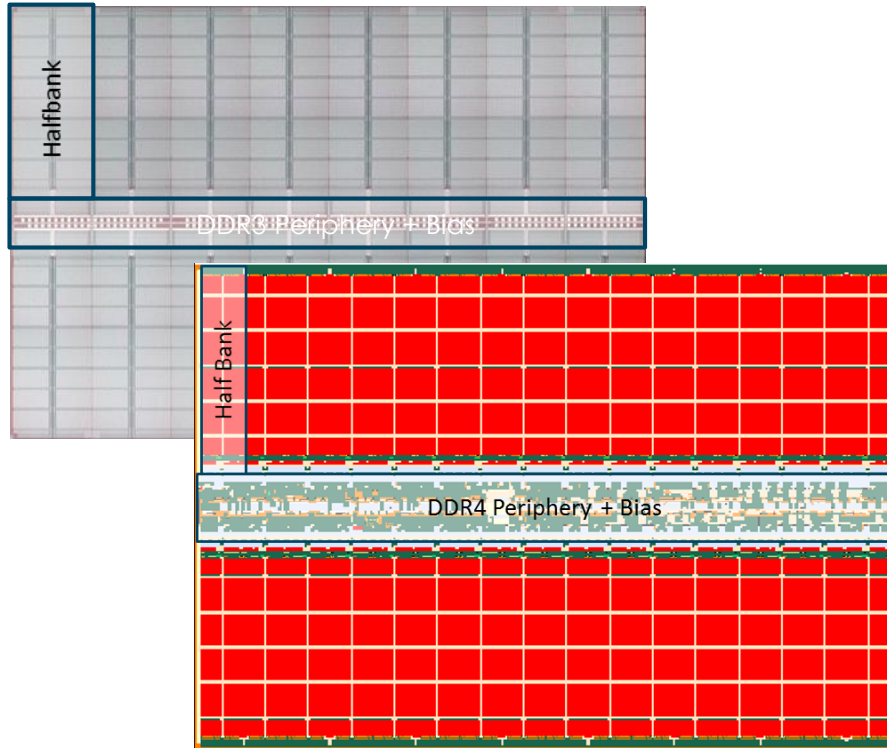
# MRAM Brings Native Persistence to Memory Workloads



## MRAM COMBINES PERFORMANCE OF MEMORY WITH PERSISTENCE OF STORAGE

- **Non-Volatile:** Maintains data without power or refresh
- **Fast:** Read/write similar to DRAM
- **Endurance:** Handles memory workloads

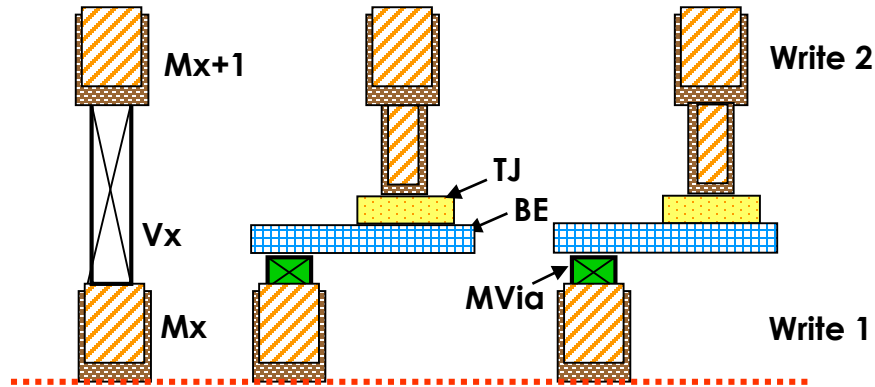
# Everspin STT-MRAM in Production



- 256Mb ST-DDR3 MRAM
  - 40nm CMOS
  - 1.5V DDR3 VDD/VDDQ
  - Standard JEDEC DDR3 ball configuration
  
- 1Gb ST-DDR4 MRAM
  - 28nm CMOS
  - 1.2V standard DDR4 VDD/VDDQ
  - Standard JEDEC DDR4 ball configuration

# STT-MRAM – Easy to Integrate with Standard CMOS

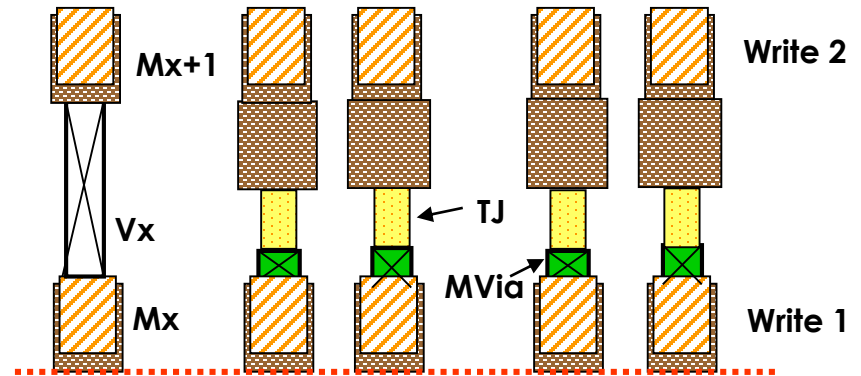
## Off Axis Integration, 256Mb



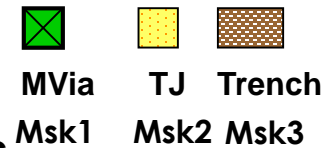
**MRAM  
Layer  
Additions**



## On Axis Integration, 1Gb

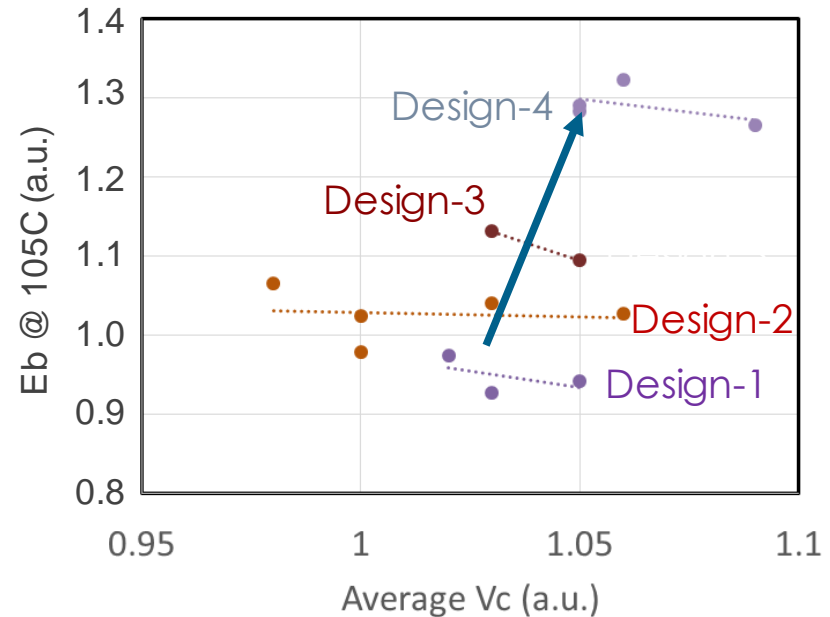


**MRAM  
Layer  
Additions**



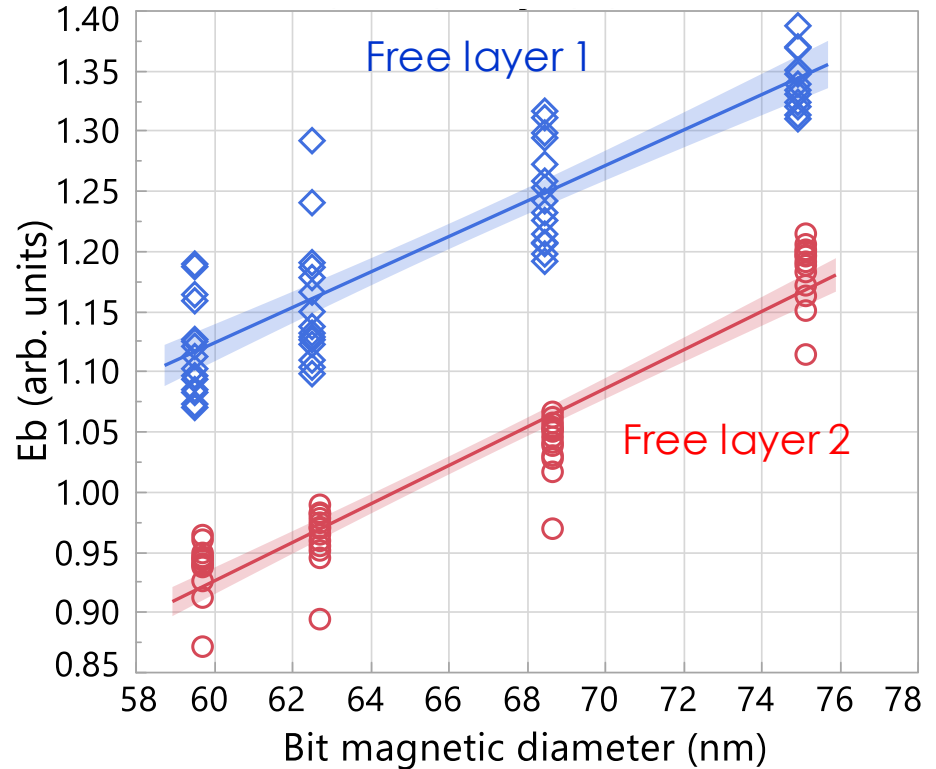
# Free Layer Engineering for STT Efficiency

- Free layer designs with different materials
  - Lower  $V_c$  and higher  $E_b$  indicates better STT switching efficiency
  - Figure of Merit for product efficiency and reliability is:  
$$Eb(105\text{ C}) / Vc(20\text{ C})$$
- Each series is a range of thickness
- $E_b$  is flat but  $V_c$  varies for a range of thickness near the optimum  $E_b$  design point
- $E_b$  increased ~35% with <5% increase in  $V_c$  from lowest to highest  $E_b$  design



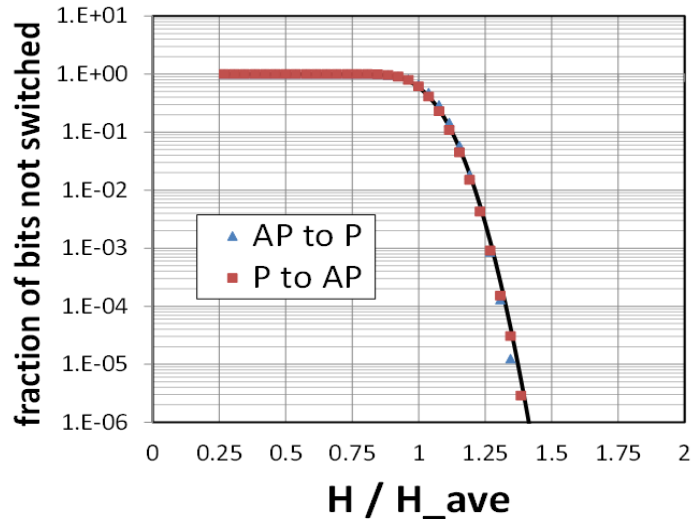
# Materials Design for Scaling

- Data retention bakes at 160°C
- Data retention flips measured for 4 nominal bit sizes and fit to obtain  $E_b$
- $E_b$  decreases linearly with bit diameter
- Magnitude of  $E_b$  is tunable through free layer design

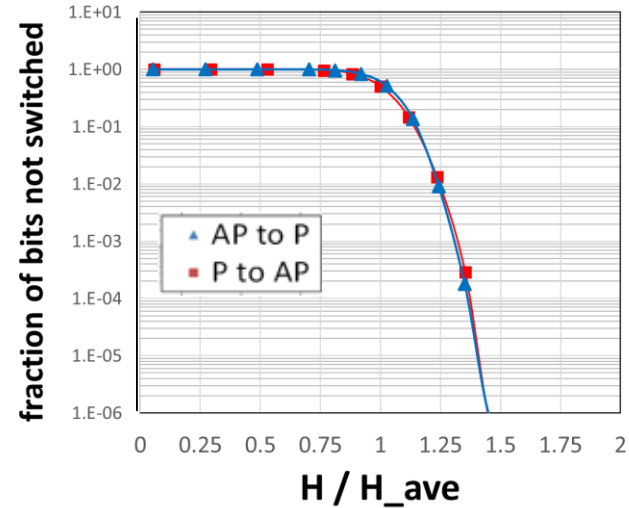


# Reliable Switching with Narrow Distributions

## 256Mb DDR3 STT-MRAM



## 1Gb DDR4 STT-MRAM

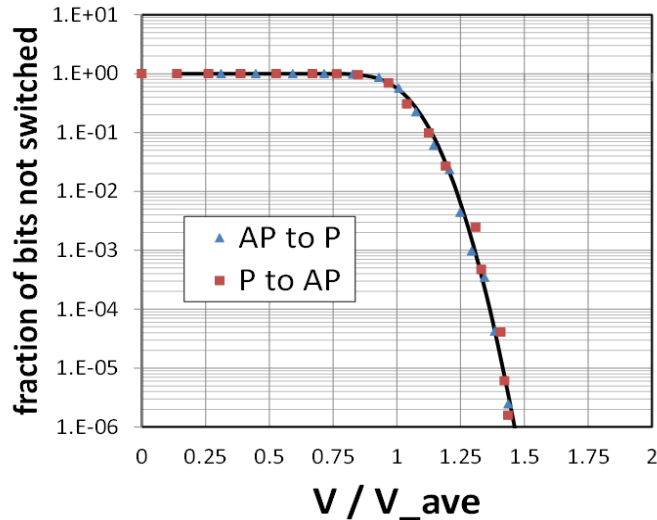


- The field switching distribution correlates to the resistance to thermal fluctuation
- The large separation from 0 field indicates essentially zero probability of spontaneous flips

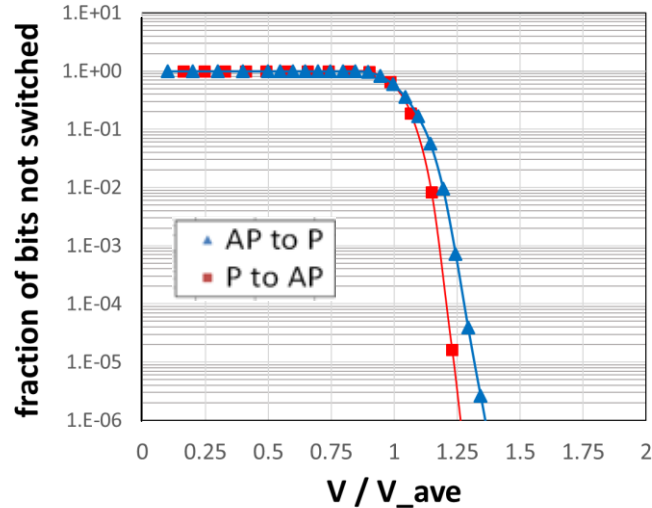


# Better Margin for Manufacturability

## 256Mb DDR3 STT-MRAM



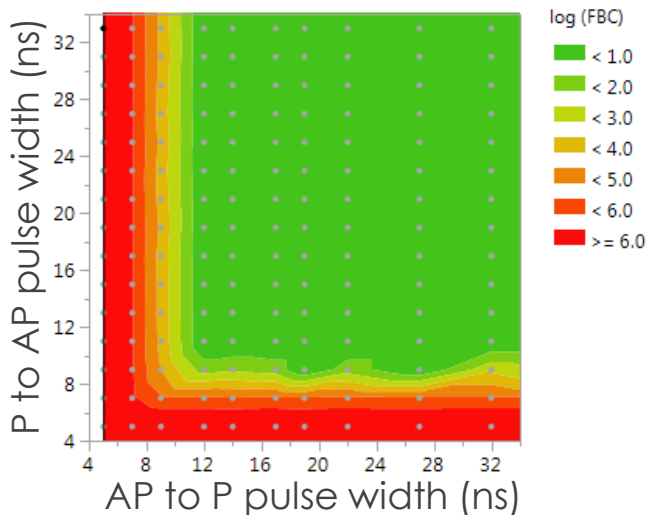
## 1Gb DDR4 STT-MRAM



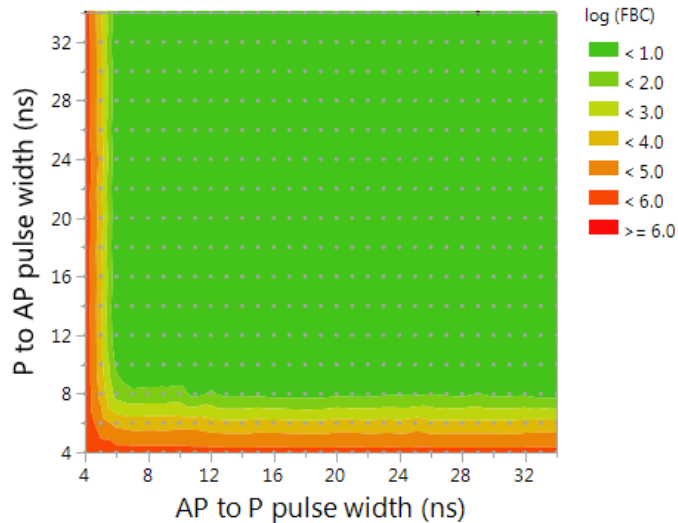
- Error rates < 1E-6 (raw bit error rate) achieved for both 256Mb and 1Gb
  - Relative Vswitch of > 1.5 for 256Mb and > 1.4 for 1Gb
  - Improved (narrower) distribution in both directions going from 256Mb to 1Gb

# Improving Switching Efficiency

## 256Mb DDR3 STT-MRAM



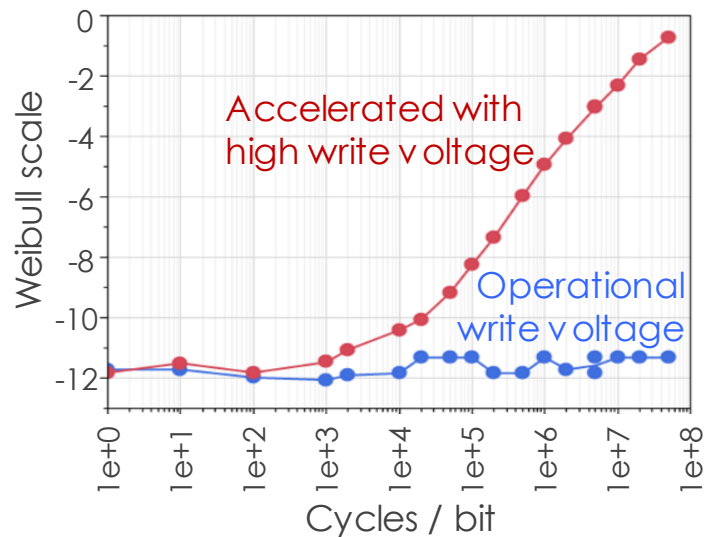
## 1Gb DDR4 STT-MRAM



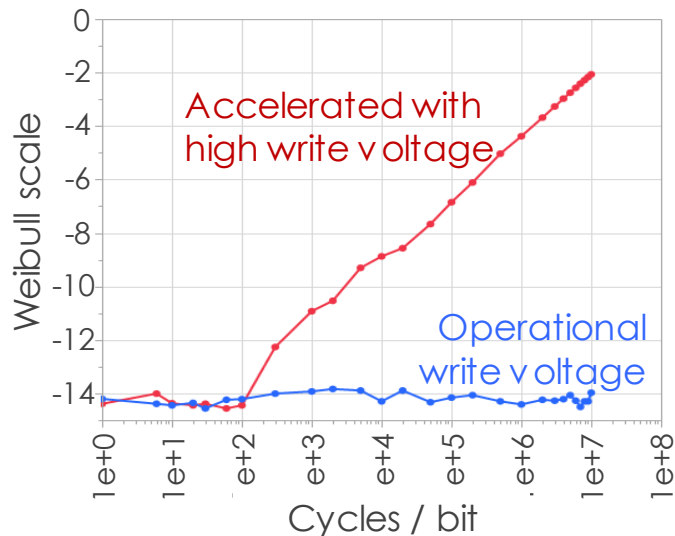
- Zero fails for range of write pulse widths  $\geq 10$ -12 ns for 256Mb and  $\geq 6$ -8 ns for 1Gb
  - Endurance is better with longer pulses due to the lower required write bias
  - Clock rate is not affected by the choice of pulse width in this range
- Improved switching efficiency for 1Gb enables better performance

# Reduction in Extrinsic for Better BER

## 256Mb DDR3 STT-MRAM



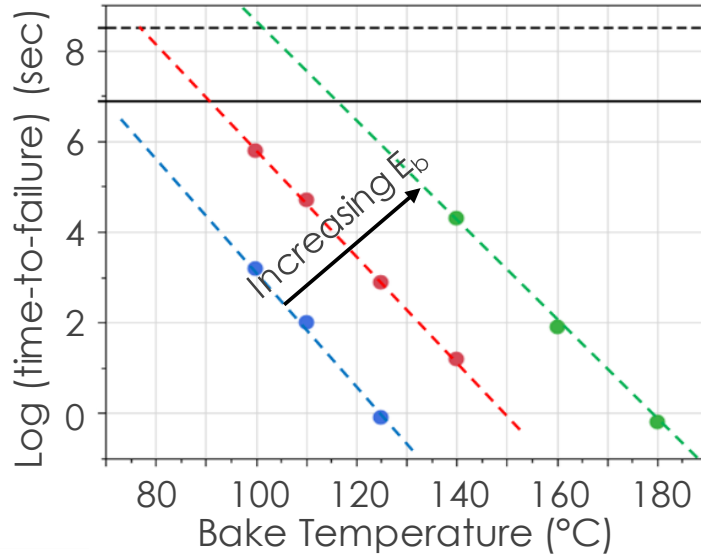
## 1Gb DDR4 STT-MRAM



- Full array cycling with stress to accelerate fails
  - Used bias and temperature acceleration to predict endurance at operating conditions
  - Product endurance >1E10 cycles to BER specification is demonstrated
- Improved extrinsics for 1Gb (linear down to -14 on Weibull scale)

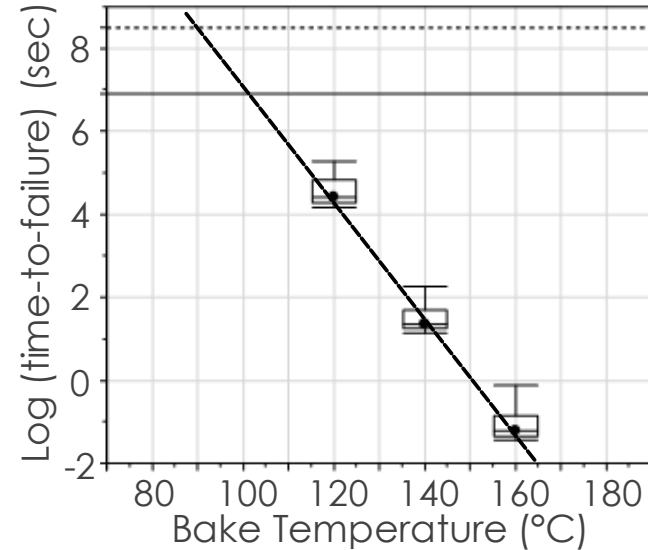
# Widening Operating Temperature Range

## 256Mb DDR3 STT-MRAM



10 yr.  
3 mo.

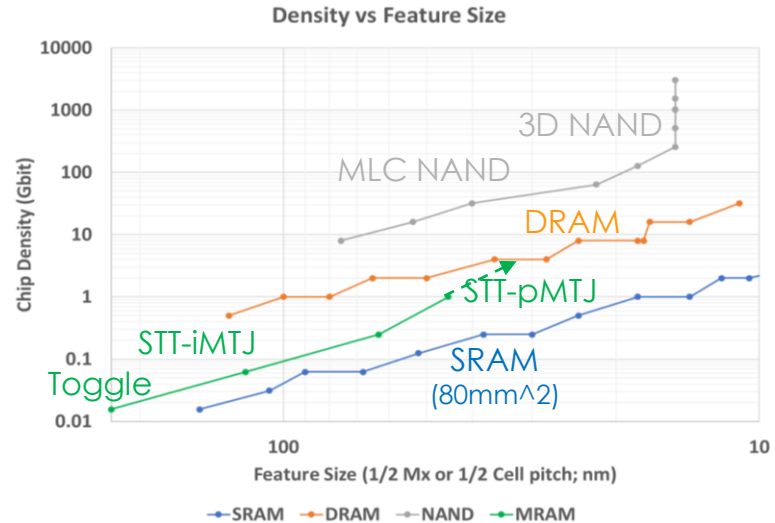
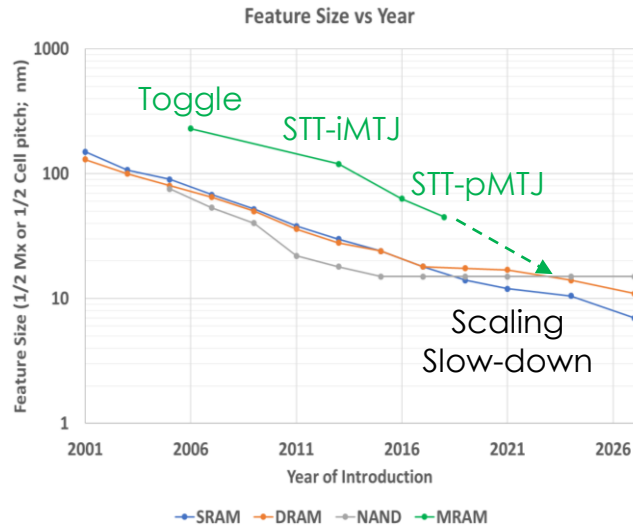
## 1Gb DDR4 STT-MRAM



10 yr.  
3 mo.

- Baked parts at elevated temperature to accelerate fails
  - Free layers engineered to achieve desired data retention
- 10yr @ 85C data retention achieved for 1Gb parts with 1e10 endurance

# The STT-MRAM Revolution has Started



- Everspin has successfully transitioned STT-MRAM from R&D to volume manufacturing
- STT-MRAM is approaching DRAM Density and Feature Size
  - Switching efficiency improvements for STT-MRAM expected to scale with bit size enabling

# Acknowledgements

- Colleagues at Everspin Technologies:
  - H. Almasi, M. DeHerrera, B. Hughes, L. Hui, S. Ikegawa, J. Janesky, H. K. Lee, F.B. Mancoff, K. Nagel, G. Shimon, J.J. Sun, T. Andre, S. M. Alam
- Partners for STT-MRAM Manufacturing & Development



**Thank you.**



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