

# Design of Majority Logic-based Approximate Booth Multipliers for Error-Tolerant Applications

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**Abstract**—Approximate computing at the nanoscale provides sufficiently accurate and often adaptive results to improve hardware efficiency for error-tolerant applications. Differently from conventional Boolean logic-based designs, many emerging nanotechnologies extensively assemble circuits using the voter-based majority logic (ML). In this paper, we investigate designs of approximate radix-4 Booth multipliers based on ML. Initially, we propose two new radix-4 Booth partial product (PP) generation methods by exploiting the characteristics of ML. Based on these methods, approximate PP generators are designed to produce single-sided or double-sided errors. The PPs are then reduced by using the features of errors to construct approximate multipliers. Specifically, complementary strategies guided by an analysis of error effects are developed to compensate for the accuracy loss and to reduce the hardware overhead during the PP reduction. The reduced PPs are then compressed by using full adders. Four approximate multipliers are proposed to offer various accuracy requirements for different applications. These designs show superior performance in power and area for emerging nanotechnologies. As case studies, image processing, a multiple-layer perceptron and a multi-task convolutional neural network are presented to show the validity and advantages of the proposed designs.

**Index Terms**—Booth encoding, partial product generator, approximate multiplier, majority logic, nanotechnologies

## I. INTRODUCTION

AS alternatives to CMOS, emerging nanotechnologies have been considered for digital circuit design by exploiting their characteristics of high density and low energy dissipation. Substantially different from conventional Boolean logic, these nanotechnologies are often based on majority logic (ML) [1], such as nanomagnetic logic (NML) [2], and magnetic tunnel

junction (MTJ) devices [3]. An ML function uses an odd number of inputs; the logic expression of a 3-input majority gate is given by  $M(A, B, C) = AB + BC + AC$ . Due to its ability of realizing more complex functions, fewer gates are required when building circuits using majority gates.

As an emerging paradigm of low-power design, approximate computing can provide a reduction in hardware at a reasonable accuracy loss without significant negative effects for error-tolerant applications, such as neural networks (NNs). A major hurdle in NNs is the energy overhead; so, approximate computing can be used, especially for multiplication, which is one of the most hardware intensive arithmetic operations [4].

Since both emerging nanotechnologies and approximate computing benefit from low power and high performance, approximate designs based on these nanotechnologies can be symbiotically devised [5]. Unlike approximate designs for CMOS circuits, approximate ML-based designs have not been extensively studied. A direct mapping of previous approximate designs to ML-based nanotechnologies usually does not fully utilize the specific properties of ML; approximate designs for ML must be adapted for these new technologies.

Prior research includes the designs of approximate full adders (AFAs) [6-7], approximate compressors for multipliers [5, 8-9], array multipliers using approximate partial product (PP) generation and compressors [10], and an approximate PP generator (PPG) based on the modified Booth encoding (MBE) with single-sided errors [11]. Only unsigned approximate multiplier designs are considered in [10]. Moreover, approximate circuits with single-sided errors [11] lead to catastrophic results in some applications with accumulative operations, including NNs [4].

For approximate designs, the errors that make the approximate results always smaller or larger than the exact results are referred to as negative or positive single-sided errors. Otherwise, whether the number of negative errors equal to that of positive errors or not for a particular design, determines if the errors are called unbiased or biased double-sided errors.

In this paper, radix-4 Booth multipliers based on ML are designed with approximate PP generation, reduction, and compression. Initially, the ML implementations of two new MBE-based PPGs are proposed. Then, different approximate PPGs are designed: some produce negative or positive single-sided errors and others produce biased or unbiased double-sided errors. In the PP reduction, complementary strategies are considered

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by analyzing the properties of the introduced errors to control accuracy. To assess the proposed approximate multipliers, we perform an analytical investigation of hardware complexity, errors, and the estimate of power dissipation based on nanotechnologies. Applications with various accuracy requirements are also provided to show the validity of the proposed designs.

This paper is a significant extension of [11]. The contributions of this paper are as follows:

(1) PP generation: Based on the MBE, in addition to the classical PP generator (CPPG) [11], the new PPG (NPPG) [12] and two newly proposed PPGs are considered for efficient ML implementations.

(2) Approximate PPGs: In addition to the approximate PPG with positive single-sided errors in [11], seven other approximate PPGs are designed based on various Booth PP generation methods by introducing errors towards different directions.

(3) PP reduction and compression: The PPs are reduced by using complementary strategies based on different error features and then efficiently compressed.

(4) Various applications: Apart from the image multiplication considered in [11], the proposed multipliers at different levels of accuracy are applied to edge detection, classification, joint face detection and alignment.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section II reviews the preliminaries. Section III proposes new PP generation methods and discusses the ML implementations. Section IV presents the approximate PPG designs. Section V and Section VI discuss the PP reduction and compression strategies, and then evaluate the required hardware. Applications are presented in Section VII. Section VIII concludes the paper.

## II. PRELIMINARIES

### A. Radix-4 Booth Encoding

The modified Booth algorithm (also known as the radix-4 Booth algorithm) [13] has been widely utilized to solve the sign correction issue of signed multiplication and reduce the number of PPs. For an  $n \times n$  multiplier, let  $A = a_{n-1}a_{n-2}\dots a_2a_1a_0$  denote the multiplicand and  $B = b_{n-1}b_{n-2}\dots b_2b_1b_0$  denote the multiplier. The most significant bits of  $A$  and  $B$  are the sign bits. In the MBE, the multiplier bits are first grouped into sets of three adjacent bits and the bits on the two sides overlap with the neighboring sets, except for the first set. Then, the multiplicand is encoded into  $-2A$ ,  $-A$ ,  $0$ ,  $A$ , or  $2A$  to generate the PP array, as per Table I [13], where  $0 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2} - 1$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq n - 1$ . As the first step in a Booth multiplier design, the PP generation plays an important role in the overall circuit design. Compared with the naive encoding and shift operations, a dedicated PPG can be more efficient in performance and power consumption. The CPPG is a common implementation of the MBE [14]. Let  $pp_{ij}$  be the PP bit in the  $i$ th row and the  $j$ th column, as

$$pp_{ij} = (b_{2i} \oplus b_{2i-1})(b_{2i+1} \oplus a_j) + \overline{(b_{2i} \oplus b_{2i-1})}(b_{2i+1} \oplus b_{2i})(b_{2i+1} \oplus a_{j-1}). \quad (1)$$

The negation operation is performed by inverting every bit of

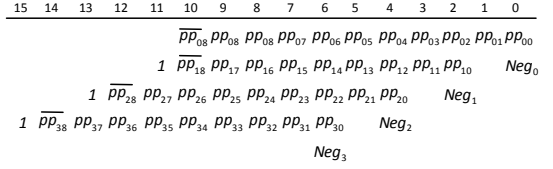


Fig. 1: PP and sign bit generation for an 8-bit Booth multiplier [13].

$A$  (realized by  $pp_{ij}$ ) and adding a ‘1’ to the LSB (implemented by  $Neg_i$ , given by (2)) to get the 2’s complement.

$$Neg_i = b_{2i+1}\bar{b}_{2i} + b_{2i+1}\bar{b}_{2i-1}. \quad (2)$$

The Baugh Wooley algorithm is used to avoid the sign bit extension. All Booth PP generation methods discussed here are developed based on the structure of Fig. 1 [13].

Based on the MBE, the NPPG modifies the PP ‘0’ when  $b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1} = 111$  in Table I by performing the negation operation on it:  $pp_{ij}$  is inverted to ‘1’ and  $Neg_i$  is ‘1’ [12]. This enables a simplified  $Neg_i$  by directly using  $b_{2i+1}$  as

$$Neg_i = b_{2i+1}, \quad (3)$$

with a slight increase in the complexity for  $pp_{ij}$  as

$$pp_{ij} = (b_{2i} \oplus b_{2i-1})(b_{2i+1} \oplus a_j) + b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1} + \overline{(b_{2i} \oplus b_{2i-1})}(b_{2i+1} \oplus b_{2i})(b_{2i+1} \oplus a_{j-1}). \quad (4)$$

### B. Error Metrics

We consider error metrics to evaluate the approximate designs [15]. The error rate (ER) is the percentage of input assignments that result in errors. The error distance (ED) is defined as the absolute difference between the approximate and the exact results, while the relative error distance (RED) is the difference divided by the exact result. The mean error distance (MED) and mean relative error distance (MRED) are the averages of the ED and the RED, respectively. The NMED is the normalized MED by the maximum exact result.

### C. Transformation of Majority Logic Functions

Shannon’s decomposition can be used to reformulate a logic function for simplifying an ML-based expression [16], by

$$F = xF_x + \bar{x}F_{\bar{x}}. \quad (5)$$

TABLE I: Implementations of the MBE Scheme using CPPG [14] and NPPG [12]

$b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1}$	PP	CPPG [14]		NPPG [12]	
		$pp_{ij}$	$Neg_i$	$pp_{ij}$	$Neg_i$
000	0	0	0	0	0
001	+A	$a_j$	0	$a_j$	0
010	+A	$a_j$	0	$a_j$	0
011	+2A	$a_{j-1}$	0	$a_{j-1}$	0
100	-2A	$\bar{a}_{j-1}$	1	$\bar{a}_{j-1}$	1
101	-A	$\bar{a}_j$	1	$\bar{a}_j$	1
110	-A	$\bar{a}_j$	1	$\bar{a}_j$	1
111	0	0	0	1	1

where  $F$  is a Boolean function of a variable  $x$ ,  $\bar{x}$  is the complement of  $x$ , and  $F_x$  and  $F_{\bar{x}}$  are the positive and negative Shannon cofactors with  $x$  set to ‘1’ and ‘0’, respectively.

The following transformation rules are considered to simplify ML-based implementations using a reduced number of majority gates and a shorter critical path: inverter propagation  $\Omega.I.$   $M(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}) = \overline{M(x, y, z)}$ , distributivity  $\Omega.D.$   $M(x, y, M(u, v, z)) = M(M(x, y, u), M(x, y, v), z)$  and complementary associativity  $\Psi.C.$   $M(x, y, M(y, \bar{u}, z)) = M(x, u, M(y, x, z))$  [16]. In addition, if the appearance of the minterms or maxterms in the K-map looks like the letter ‘‘T’’, it is said to have a ‘‘T shape’’, which can be implemented by using a 3-input majority gate [17].

For the ease of reading, the acronyms of the PPG designs are listed in Table II.

### III. FORMULATION AND DESIGN OF ML-BASED PPGS

This section first formulates the CPPG and NPPG for ML implementations, referred to as MLCG and MLNG, respectively, and then discusses the ML implementations of two new PPGs based on the MBE, namely MLGA and MLGB.

#### A. ML Implementation of Partial Product Generators

1) *MLCG*: AND or OR gates can be directly mapped into ML by setting one input of the 3-input majority gate to ‘0’ or ‘1’.  $pp_{ij}$  and  $Neg_i$  are obtained by using sixteen and three majority gates, respectively [11]. However, such a naive mapping does not fully leverage the capabilities of ML. Initially, the expression of  $pp_{ij}$  can be divided into two sections using Shannon’s decomposition at  $b_{2i+1}$  [16]. There is a T shape for the maxterms (eight out of ten cases) in the K-map when  $b_{2i+1} = 0$  and 1, respectively (see Table A1 [14] in the supplementary document; the same for other tables indexed with ‘‘A’’ unless otherwise noted). The terms in T shapes can be implemented by using  $\overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j)$  for  $b_{2i+1}$  and  $M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j)$  for  $\bar{b}_{2i+1}$ , as

$$pp_{ij} = \{b_{2i+1}\overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j)\} (b_{2i} + b_{2i-1} + \bar{a}_{j-1}) + \{\bar{b}_{2i+1}M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j)\} (\bar{b}_{2i} + \bar{b}_{2i-1} + a_{j-1}). \quad (6)$$

TABLE II: Acronyms of Partial Product Generator Designs

Category	Acronyms	Meaning
Boolean logic based PPGs	CPPG	classical partial product generator in [14]
	NPPG	new partial product generator in [12]
Majority logic based PPG designs	MLCG	majority logic based classical partial product generator design
	MLNG	majority logic based new partial product generator design
	MLGA	majority logic based partial product generator design A
	MLGB	majority logic based partial product generator design B
Approximate majority logic based PPG designs	AMLCG	approximate majority logic based classical partial product generator design
	AMLNG	approximate majority logic based new partial product generator design
	AMLGA	approximate majority logic based partial product generator type A
	AMLGB	approximate majority logic based partial product generator type B

Consider  $\Omega.D.$ ,  $Neg_i$  can be simplified to

$$\begin{aligned} Neg_i &= M(M(b_{2i+1}, \bar{b}_{2i}, 0), M(b_{2i+1}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, 0), 1) \\ &= M(b_{2i+1}, 0, M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, 1)). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Consider  $\Omega.I.$ , when  $j = 0$ ,  $\overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j)$  in (6) is equal to  $M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, 1)$  that can be reused in (7).

2) *MLNG*: MLNG can be interpreted as a variant of MLCG.  $Neg_i$  is given by (3). For  $pp_{ij}$ , the minterms for MLNG are the same as for MLCG when  $b_{2i+1} = 0$ ; thus the expression is the same as (6). When  $b_{2i+1} = 1$ , there is a T shape for eight out of ten minterms in the K-map (see Table A2 [12]) which can be implemented using  $M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j)$  as

$$\begin{aligned} pp_{ij} &= b_{2i+1} \{M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j) + \bar{b}_{2i}\bar{b}_{2i-1}\bar{a}_{j-1}\} + \\ &\quad \{\bar{b}_{2i+1}M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j)\} (\bar{b}_{2i} + \bar{b}_{2i-1} + a_{j-1}) \quad (8) \end{aligned}$$

3) *MLGA*: Consider that PP is also encoded to ‘0’ when  $b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1} = 000$  in Table I. Like MLNG, MLGA modifies the PP ‘0’ when  $b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1} = 000$ . The results of  $b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1} = 000$  are then changed to ‘1’s (as per Tables A3 and A4) to realize the negation operation. For  $pp_{ij}$ , the expression is the same as (6) when  $b_{2i+1} = 1$  and  $M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, a_j)$  can cover eight out of ten minterms (see Table A3) when  $b_{2i+1} = 0$ , as

$$\begin{aligned} pp_{ij} &= (b_{2i} \oplus b_{2i-1})(b_{2i+1} \oplus a_j) + \bar{b}_{2i+1}\bar{b}_{2i}\bar{b}_{2i-1} \\ &\quad + (\bar{b}_{2i} \oplus \bar{b}_{2i-1})(b_{2i+1} \oplus b_{2i})(b_{2i+1} \oplus a_{j-1}) \\ &= \{b_{2i+1}M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j)\} (b_{2i} + b_{2i-1} + \bar{a}_{j-1}) + \\ &\quad \{\bar{b}_{2i+1}M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, a_j) + \bar{b}_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1}a_{j-1}\} \quad (9) \end{aligned}$$

In this case, a T shape occurs for the minterms in the K-map of  $Neg_i$  (as per Table A4). Thus,  $Neg_i$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} Neg_i &= \overline{\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i+1} + b_{2i-1}\bar{b}_{2i+1} + b_{2i-1}b_{2i}} \\ &= \overline{M(\bar{b}_{2i+1}, b_{2i}, b_{2i-1})} = M(b_{2i+1}, \bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}) \quad (10) \end{aligned}$$

4) *MLGB*: MLGB can be considered as a combination of MLNG and MLGA to modify the PP ‘0’ when  $b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1} = 000$  and 111 in Table I. Thus, the results in both cases are set to ‘1’s (see Tables A5 and A6). As discussed above,  $pp_{ij}$  employs  $b_{2i+1}M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j)$  and  $\bar{b}_{2i+1}\overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j)$  to include sixteen out of all twenty true cases, as given by

$$\begin{aligned} pp_{ij} &= (b_{2i} \oplus b_{2i-1})(b_{2i+1} \oplus a_j) + (\bar{b}_{2i} \oplus \bar{b}_{2i-1})(b_{2i+1} \oplus b_{2i}) \\ &\quad (b_{2i+1} \oplus a_{j-1}) + \bar{b}_{2i+1}\bar{b}_{2i}\bar{b}_{2i-1} + b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1} \\ &= b_{2i+1}M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j) + \bar{b}_{2i+1}\overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j) + \\ &\quad \{\bar{b}_{2i}\bar{b}_{2i-1}\bar{a}_{j-1} + b_{2i}b_{2i-1}a_{j-1}\}. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Consider  $\Psi.C.$ , for  $Neg_i$ , the fully-utilized majority gate  $M(b_{2i+1}, \bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1})$  is converted into a partially-utilized majority gate  $M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, 0)$ , as described in

$$\begin{aligned} Neg_i &= M(b_{2i+1}, \bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}) + b_{2i+1} \\ &= M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, 0) + b_{2i+1}. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Moreover, consider  $\Omega.I.$ ,  $M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, 0)$  in (12) is equal to  $\overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j)$  when  $j = 0$ , which can be reused in (11).

TABLE III: Comparison of ML Implementations for Different Partial Product Generation Methods

PPGs	Equations	MV	INV	D
MLCG	$pp_{ij} = M(M(M(b_{2i+1}, 0, \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j)), M(b_{2i}, 1, M(b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_{j-1}, 1)), 0), M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, 0, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j))), M(a_{j-1}, 1, M(\overline{b}_{2i-1}, \overline{b}_{2i}, 1)), 0), 1)$	10	6	4
	$Neg_i = M(b_{2i+1}, 0, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, 1))$	2	2	2
MLNG	$pp_{ij} = M(M(b_{2i+1}, M(M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j)), M(\overline{b}_{2i}, M(b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_{j-1}, 0), 0), 1), 0), M(M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), M(\overline{b}_{2i}, M(\overline{b}_{2i-1}, a_{j-1}, 1), 1), 0), 1)$	11	5	5
	$Neg_i = b_{2i+1}$	0	0	0
MLGA	$pp_{ij} = M(M(M(b_{2i+1}, 0, M(b_{2i}, \overline{b}_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j)), M(b_{2i}, 1, M(b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_{j-1}, 1)), 0), M(M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, 0, M(b_{2i}, \overline{b}_{2i-1}, a_j))), M(M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, b_{2i}, 0), M(b_{2i-1}, a_{j-1}, 0), 0), 1), 1)$	12	5	4
	$Neg_i = M(b_{2i+1}, b_{2i}, b_{2i-1})$	1	2	1
MLGB	$pp_{ij} = M(M(M(M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j), b_{2i+1}, 0), M(\overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j), \overline{b}_{2i+1}, 0), 1), M(M(\overline{a}_{j-1}, M(\overline{b}_{2i-1}, \overline{b}_{2i}, 0), 0), M(b_{2i}, M(b_{2i-1}, a_{j-1}, 0), 0), 1), 1)$	10	6	4
	$Neg_i = M(b_{2i+1}, 1, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, 0))$	2	2	2

### B. Comparison of Different Partial Product Generators

Table III presents the ML-based equations and the required logic gates for different PP generation methods evaluated by the number of utilized majority voters (MVs), the number of utilized inverters (INVs), and the critical path delay (D). The critical path delay is measured by the number of majority gates on the critical path since the delay for inverters is often very small for ML-based nanotechnologies [18].

All PP generation methods use the inversion of every input operand bit. Moreover, MLCG and MLGB use one more inverter when computing  $pp_{ij}$  due to the reuse of a majority gate. Compared with MLCG and MLGB, MLNG requires one more majority gate and thus, it incurs into a longer critical path to generate  $pp_{ij}$ ; however, it does not need any logic gate to implement  $Neg_i$ . MLGA uses two more majority gates to generate  $pp_{ij}$  and one fewer majority gate to generate  $Neg_i$ .

For an  $n \times n$  multiplier,  $\frac{n}{2} Neg_i$  and approximately  $\frac{n^2}{2}$  PPs are required. Therefore, the efficiency to generate  $pp_{ij}$  has a more significant effect on the multiplier design. Compared with MLNG and MLGA, although MLCG and MLGB have a higher complexity in generating  $Neg_i$ , they need fewer majority gates to implement  $pp_{ij}$  and a shorter critical path. Thus, MLCG and MLGB are more efficient for exact PP generation.

## IV. DESIGN OF ML-BASED APPROXIMATE PPGS

### A. Design of Approximate MLCG (AMLCG)

Initially, (1) can be divided into two parts as shown in (13)-(15):  $sub1_{ij}$  relates to  $b_{2i+1}$  and  $sub2_{ij}$  relates to  $\overline{b}_{2i+1}$ .

$$pp_{ij} = sub1_{ij} + sub2_{ij}, \quad (13)$$

$$sub1_{ij} = \{b_{2i+1} \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j)\} (b_{2i} + b_{2i-1} + \overline{a}_{j-1}), \quad (14)$$

$$sub2_{ij} = \{\overline{b}_{2i+1} M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j)\} (\overline{b}_{2i} + \overline{b}_{2i-1} + a_{j-1}). \quad (15)$$

1) *Introducing single-sided errors [11]*: To simplify  $sub1_{ij}$  and  $sub2_{ij}$ , (14) and (15) are approximately obtained by using only the terms in the curved brackets, resulting in four positive errors (see Table A7). An approximate  $pp_{ij}$  ( $app_{ij}$ ) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} app_{ij} &= b_{2i+1} \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j) + \overline{b}_{2i+1} M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j) \\ &= M(M(b_{2i+1}, \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), 1). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

2) *Introducing double-sided errors*: If only single-sided errors are introduced, it leads to relatively large errors, especially used for building a large circuit. To reduce the number of required majority gates in the PPGs and to control errors, we consider leveraging different characteristics of the input operands and introduce unbiased double-sided errors. Therefore, two approximate PPGs are designed for  $pp_{ij}$ : the first one is for the PPs except the first row, denoted as  $app1_{ij}$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq \frac{n}{2}-1$ ; the second one is for the PPs in the first row, denoted as  $app2_{0j}$ , where  $0 \leq j \leq \frac{n}{2}-1$ .

For  $app1_{ij}$ , four unbiased errors are introduced (as per Table A8) by replacing  $b_{2i} + b_{2i-1} + \overline{a}_{j-1}$  in (14) and  $\overline{b}_{2i} + \overline{b}_{2i-1} + a_{j-1}$  in (15) with  $\overline{a}_j$  and  $a_j$ , respectively.  $app1_{ij}$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} app1_{ij} &= b_{2i+1} \overline{a}_j \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j) \\ &\quad + \overline{b}_{2i+1} a_j M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j) \\ &= M(M(M(b_{2i+1}, \overline{a}_j, 0), \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), M(M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, a_j, 0), M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), 1). \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Consider  $app2_{0j}$  ( $j \neq 0$ ),  $b_{2i-1}$  is equal to 0. Using (17), two unbiased errors are introduced (as per Table A9). Consider  $\Psi.C$ , it is further simplified to

$$\begin{aligned} app2_{0j} &= b_1 \overline{a}_j \overline{M}(b_0, 0, a_j) + \overline{b}_1 a_j M(b_0, 0, a_j) \\ &= M(M(\overline{b}_1, M(b_0, 0, a_j), 0), M(b_1, \overline{a}_j, 0), 1). \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

For  $app_{00}$ , (18) causes single-sided errors; therefore, (16) is used to generate an exact  $pp_{00}$ .  $app_{i0}$  ( $i \neq 0$ ) is expressed by (17) with unbiased errors. Thus, (18), (16) and (17) are used to generate  $app_{0j}$  ( $j \neq 0$ ),  $app_{00}$  and all other  $app_{ij}$ .

### B. Design of Approximate MLNG (AMLNG)

Similarly, (8) is divided into two sections:  $sub1_{ij}$  as

$$sub1_{ij} = b_{2i+1} \{M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j) + \overline{b}_{2i} \overline{b}_{2i-1} \overline{a}_{j-1}\}, \quad (19)$$

and  $sub2_{ij}$  as shown in (15).

Consider  $app_{ij}$ , by ignoring the second term in the curved bracket in (19), two negative errors are introduced, and  $sub1_{ij}$  can be simplified to the first term in (20). To obtain the unbiased double-sided errors, two positive errors are further introduced as the second term in (20), similar to the approximation for the MLCG-based  $sub2_{ij}$ . Thus, by introducing four unbiased errors (as per Table A10), (8) is approximately simplified to

$$\begin{aligned} app_{ij} &= b_{2i+1} M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j) + \overline{b}_{2i+1} M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j) \\ &= M(M(b_{2i+1}, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j), 0), M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), 1). \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

Consider  $app_{0j}$  ( $j \neq 0$ ). Since the representation for the cases of  $\bar{b}_1$  has no error using (20) when  $i = 0$ , two negative errors are introduced. The equation of MLNG-based  $pp_{0j}$  is the same as for MLCG-based  $pp_{0j}$ . To obtain unbiased double-sided errors, (18) is employed. Consider  $app_{00}$ , (18) or (20) causes single-sided errors. Therefore, (16) is used to generate  $pp_{00}$  with no error. Hence, (18), (16) and (20) are employed to generate  $app_{0j}$  ( $j \neq 0$ ),  $app_{00}$  and all other  $app_{ij}$ .

### C. Design of Approximate MLGA (AMLGA)

The MLGA-based  $pp_{ij}$  in (9) is divided into (14) and

$$sub2_{ij} = \bar{b}_{2i+1}M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, a_j) + \bar{b}_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1}a_{j-1}. \quad (21)$$

For  $app1_{ij}$ , similar to the AMLNG-based  $app_{ij}$ , two negative errors are introduced by disregarding the second term in (21); thus  $sub2_{ij}$  is simplified to the second term in (22).  $sub1_{ij}$  in (14) is approximately implemented by the first term in (22) with two positive errors. Thus,  $app1_{ij}$  is implemented by (22) with four unbiased errors (as per Table A11).

$$\begin{aligned} app1_{ij} &= b_{2i+1}M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j) + \bar{b}_{2i+1}M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, a_j) \\ &= M(M(b_{2i+1}, M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j), 0), M(\bar{b}_{2i+1}, \\ &\quad M(\bar{b}_{2i}, \bar{b}_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), 1). \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

As discussed, using (22) to generate  $app_{0j}$  ( $j \neq 0$ ) introduces single-sided errors. The AMLGA-based  $app2_{0j}$  is expressed by (23) with two unbiased errors (as per Table A12).

$$\begin{aligned} app2_{0j} &= \bar{b}_1M(\bar{b}_1, \bar{b}_0, a_j) + b_1\bar{a}_j \\ &= M(M(\bar{b}_1, M(\bar{b}_1, \bar{b}_0, a_j), 0), M(b_1, \bar{a}_j, 0), 1). \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

For  $app_{00}$ , (22) is applied with no error. Thus, (23) and (22) are employed to generate  $app_{0j}$  ( $j \neq 0$ ) and all other  $app_{ij}$ .

### D. Design of Approximate MLGB (AMLGB)

1) *Introducing single-sided errors:*  $sub1_{ij}$  and  $sub2_{ij}$  to generate  $pp_{ij}$  are given in (19) and (21), respectively.

By ignoring the second terms in (19) and (21),  $app_{ij}$  is generated by (24) with four negative errors (as per Table A13).

$$\begin{aligned} app_{ij} &= b_{2i+1}M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j) + \bar{b}_{2i+1}\bar{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j) \\ &= M(M(b_{2i+1}, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j), 0), M(\bar{b}_{2i+1}, \\ &\quad \bar{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j), 0), 1). \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

This scheme can be considered as a combination of the designs of AMLNG- and AMLGA-based  $app_{ij}$ .

2) *Introducing double-sided errors:* By replacing  $b_{2i+1}\bar{b}_{2i}\bar{b}_{2i-1}\bar{a}_{j-1}$  in (19) and  $\bar{b}_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1}a_{j-1}$  in (21) by  $b_{2i+1}\bar{a}_j$  and  $\bar{b}_{2i+1}a_j$ , respectively,  $app1_{ij}$  is obtained by introducing four unbiased errors (see Table A14), as

$$\begin{aligned} app1_{ij} &= b_{2i+1}M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j) + \bar{b}_{2i+1}\bar{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j) \\ &\quad + b_{2i+1}\bar{a}_j + \bar{b}_{2i+1}a_j \\ &= M(M(b_{2i+1}, M(M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j), \bar{a}_j, 1), 0), \\ &\quad M(\bar{b}_{2i+1}, M(\bar{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \bar{a}_j), a_j, 1), 0), 1). \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

TABLE IV: Comparison of Different Approximate Booth Partial Product Generation Methods

PP Generations	approximate $pp_{ij}$						
	Type	Eq.	Errors	MV	INV	D	ER(%)
AMLCG	$app_{ij}$	(16)	positive	4	2	3	12.5
	$app_{0j}$ ( $i = 0, j \neq 0$ )	(18)	unbiased	4	2	3	12.5
	$app_{00}$ ( $i = 0, j = 0$ )	(16)		4	2	3	0
other $app_{ij}$	(17)	6		3	3	12.5	
AMLNG	$app_{0j}$ ( $i = 0, j \neq 0$ )	(18)	unbiased	4	2	3	12.5
	$app_{00}$ ( $i = 0, j = 0$ )	(16)		4	2	3	0
	other $app_{ij}$	(20)		5	2	3	12.5
AMLGA	$app_{0j}$ ( $i = 0, j \neq 0$ )	(23)	unbiased	4	3	3	12.5
	$app_{00}$ ( $i = 0, j = 0$ )	(22)		5	4	3	0
	other $app_{ij}$	(22)		5	4	3	12.5
AMLGB	$app_{ij}$	(24)	negative	4	3	3	12.5
	$app_{0j}$ ( $i = 0, j \neq 0$ )	(23)	unbiased	4	3	3	12.5
	$app_{00}$ ( $i = 0, j = 0$ )	(22)		5	4	3	0
	other $app_{ij}$	(25)		6	3	4	12.5

When  $i = 0$ ,  $pp_{0j}$  for MLGB has the same logic expression as MLGA. (23) and (22) are employed to represent the AMLGB-based  $app_{0j}$  ( $j \neq 0$ ) and  $app_{00}$ , respectively. Therefore, for AMLGB, (23), (22) and (25) are employed to generate  $app_{0j}$  ( $j \neq 0$ ),  $app_{00}$  and all other  $app_{ij}$ .

### E. Hardware Comparison and Error Analysis

Table IV shows the comparison of the different approximate PPGs. The AMLCG and AMLGB require a similar hardware complexity. Compared to introducing single-sided errors, introducing unbiased errors in AMLCG and AMLGB results in the increase of hardware complexity. With unbiased errors, AMLNG and AMLGA save two more majority gates than AMLCG and AMLGB. Compared to their exact counterparts in Table III, AMLNG and AMLGA save up to 58% of utilized majority gates, while AMLCG and AMLGB save 40% and 60% of utilized majority gates with unbiased and single-sided errors, respectively.

The errors are analyzed for  $8 \times 8$  Booth multipliers. As defined in [11], the approximation factor  $p$  denotes the number of columns with approximate PPs in the PP array. The approximation is applied from the PPs of least significance.

The AMLCG- or AMLGB-based multipliers with unbiased errors lead to the same error characteristics. With an increase of  $p$ , the improvement in errors increases up to 56.9% in NMED and 81.1% in MRED compared to their counterparts with single-sided errors. Compared with previous designs in [11], the AMLGB-based designs with unbiased errors show an improvement of up to 56% and 81% in NMED and MRED, respectively. For unbiased errors, when  $p < 5$ , the AMLGA-based designs show a higher accuracy than other PPG-based multipliers; when  $p > 5$ , the AMLCG- or AMLGB-based designs are better choices for higher accuracy; when  $p = 5$ , the AMLGA- and AMLGB-based designs are superior in MRED, respectively. Detailed error analysis is presented in Tables A15 and A16.

## V. PROPOSED PARTIAL PRODUCT REDUCTION

Depending on the different error characteristics introduced by the proposed approximate PPGs, complementary strategies

are utilized in the PP reduction based on a probability analysis. The  $8 \times 8$  Booth multiplier is presented as a case study.

#### A. PP Reduction for the Designs with Single-sided Errors

1) *Positive single-sided errors*: The AMLCG-based design with positive single-sided errors results in larger results than the exact results. As a common approximation technique, truncation can significantly reduce hardware complexity to generate output values that are smaller than the exact results. Therefore, truncation is considered as a complementary strategy for the positive errors due to the approximate PP generations.

Assume that the number of truncated columns from the least significant column in the PP array is  $t+1$  ( $0 \leq t < p$ , and  $t=0$  means that Column 0 including  $Neg_i$  is truncated). So,  $p-t-1$  columns remain using the approximate PPGs. To select the number of columns in the PP array for truncation under different values of  $p$  to maximize the effects of error compensation, we assume the probability of generating effective carries from the truncated columns be  $P_G$  and the probability of introducing positive single-sided errors by the remaining approximate PPs after truncation be  $P_{CP}$ .

For a specific  $p$ ,  $P_G$  and  $P_{CP}$  are calculated using a probabilistic analysis (see the supplementary document) and compared for different values of  $t$ . The selection of  $t$  is determined to ensure the difference between  $P_G$  and  $P_{CP}$  the smallest. Combined with truncation, the improvement in accuracy increases with  $p$ , up to 27.7% in NMED and 8.4% in MRED (as per Table A17).

2) *Negative single-sided errors*: The AMLGB-based design with negative single-sided errors makes the results smaller than the exact ones. Instead of using truncation, the PPs of lower significance are replaced by '1's to make the approximate results larger to compensate for the errors.

Assume the number of columns in which the PPs are set to '1's (from the least significance in the PP array) is  $l+1$  ( $0 \leq l < p$ , e.g.  $l=0$  means that the PP in Column 0 is set as '1's, except for  $Neg_0$ ); then, the remaining  $p-l-1$  columns of PPs are generated by the approximate PPGs. A similar probabilistic analysis is then performed to decide the pairs of  $l$  and  $p$  (see the supplementary material).

The use of the complementary strategy achieves an improvement up to 27.7% in NMED and 9.4% in MRED (as per Table A17). These two PP generation methods with complementary strategies result in multipliers with similar error characteristics. By using the probability analysis, it can be concluded that excluding the exact PPs, it is better to keep two columns of higher significance for approximation while the other columns complement the errors. As verified by exhaustive simulation, the selected pairs of  $t$  and  $p$ , and  $l$  and  $p$  (as per Table A17) are the best values. For  $p=5$  and 8, the complementary strategy for an AMLGB-based design is slightly more effective. For an AMLCG-based design with PP reduction, the complementary strategy (truncation) can significantly reduce the bit-width of the final results.

#### B. PP Reduction for the Designs with Unbiased Errors

Truncation is used as a complementary strategy for designs with a relatively high error tolerance ( $p \geq 5$ ). As discussed in Sections III and IV, AMLCG- and AMLGB-based multipliers with unbiased errors are considered due to their smaller hardware overhead to generate exact PPs and the higher accuracy to generate approximate PPs. From the experiments, although truncation increases the NMED, it can improve the MRED (see Table A18). For an improvement in MRED and to maximize the advantages of truncation, AMLGB-based multipliers with  $t=0, 1, 1$  for  $p=5, 6, 7$  are preferred; while the AMLCG-based multiplier with  $t=2$  is preferred for  $p=8$ .

### VI. PROPOSED APPROXIMATE BOOTH MULTIPLIERS

Prior to compression, the PP array is preprocessed, as discussed in Section V. For compression, exact full adders are used to preserve the accuracy; however, they can be replaced by approximate adders to further reduce hardware at a loss of accuracy. As a case study, the  $8 \times 8$  radix-4 Booth multiplier is presented to show the compression process.

#### A. Designs for the Compression of PP Arrays

In this section, we consider accuracy, at  $p=4$ ,  $p=6$  and  $p=8$ . As discussed in Sections IV and V, with unbiased double-sided errors, the AMLGA-based design ( $p=4$ ), the AMLGB-based design ( $p=6$ ,  $t=1$ ) and the AMLCG-based design ( $p=8$ ,  $t=2$ ) are considered.

For AMLCG- and AMLGB-based multipliers with single-sided errors, the PP array can be significantly reduced by using the complementary strategies, but with a high accuracy loss. Therefore, they are suitable for the low accuracy cases (i.e.  $p=6$  and 8) to reduce the hardware. The AMLCG-based design (positive,  $p=6$ ,  $t=3$ ) and the AMLGB-based design (negative,  $p=8$ ,  $l=5$ ) are considered. If the smallest bit-width of the output result is desired, then the AMLCG-based design is preferred.

The reduced PP array are compressed by leveraging the different characteristics of PPs. The compressed design for the AMLGB-based PP array (negative,  $p=8$ ,  $l=5$ ) requires thirteen full adders and a 9-bit ripple carry adder (RCA) (see Appendix A.E). The AMLCG (positive,  $p=6$ ,  $t=3$ )-based PP array is compressed by using fifteen full adders and a 11-bit RCA. To simplify the compression process of the AMLGA (unbiased,  $p=4$ )-based PP array,  $Neg_0$  is discarded resulting in a 28% increase in NMED but a 2.8% decrease in MRED; thus, the compression requires sixteen full adders and a 12-bit RCA. The compression of the AMLGB (unbiased,  $p=6$ ,  $t=1$ )-based PP array requires sixteen full adders and a 12-bit RCA; the compression of the AMLCG (unbiased,  $p=8$ ,  $t=2$ )-based PP array requires seventeen full adders and a 10-bit RCA.

#### B. Hardware Analysis

Table V presents the numbers of MVs and INVs, D, the area-delay product (ADP,  $MV \times D$ ), the error metrics (NMED and

MRED) and the bit width (BW) of the final results for the exact and proposed approximate Booth multipliers. ADP is used to assess the overall hardware efficiency. For the reduction of PPs in the exact multipliers, the schemes of Section VI are used, i.e., only full adders are applied in parallel prior to obtaining the two rows of PPs. Thus, thirty full adders and a 13-bit RCA are required in the compression process. Since no other ML-based approximate signed multipliers were previously proposed, only exact Booth multipliers are considered for comparison.

TABLE V: Hardware and Error Evaluation of Exact and Approximate  $8 \times 8$  Booth Multipliers based on Different PPGs

Multiplier	Errors	$p$	$t$	MV	INV	D	NMED ( $10^{-3}$ )	MRED ( $10^{-3}$ )	ADP	BW	Energy( $fJ$ )		
											NML	STT	MTJ
MLCG	-	-	-	442	138	24	0	0	10608	16	2.29	817	
MLNG	-	-	-	479	106	25	0	0	11975	16	2.49	886	
MLGA	-	-	-	497	106	24	0	0	11928	16	2.58	919	
MLGB	-	-	-	444	138	24	0	0	10656	16	2.30	821	
[11]	positive	6	-	638	142	25	1.3	14.2	15950	16	3.31	1180	
		8	-	518	142	25	7.2	95.6	12950	16	2.69	958	
AMLCG	positive	6	3	329	102	20	1.1	12	6580	12	1.71	608	
	unbiased	8	2	325	106	20	3.3	17	6500	13	1.69	601	
AMLGA	unbiased	4	-	435	76	21	0.14	0.61	9135	16	2.26	804	
	negative	8	-	5258	84	19	5.2	86	4902	16	1.34	477	
AMLGB	negative	6	1	363	106	21	0.71	3.5	7623	14	1.88	671	

With no approximation, the MLCG- and MLGB-based exact multipliers show good performance, reducing the number of majority gates by up to 11%, and the ADP by up to 12% compared with the MLNG- and MLGA-based exact schemes. Using approximate PP generation methods, the hardware decreases with a reduced accuracy (in NMED or MRED). Compared with the MLCG-based exact multiplier, those using approximate PPGs can obtain an improvement from 13% to 53% in the ADP and from 12% to 20% in delay. The AMLGA-based multiplier achieves only a reduction of 1.5% in the number of majority gates, 45% of the inverters and 12% of the delay. The AMLGB-based multiplier with negative single-sided errors ( $p = 8$ ) reduces up to 41% of the majority gates, 39% of the inverters, 20% of the delay and 53% of the ADP at a relatively large decrease in accuracy. Moreover, with truncation, the bit-width of the final result can be reduced by up to 12 bits.

The proposed multipliers with positive single-sided and unbiased double-sided errors introduced by AMLCG perform similarly in hardware metrics. The AMLCG (positive,  $p = 6$ ,  $t = 3$ )-based multiplier design is likely to be preferred, due to the higher accuracy. Due to the specific ML optimizations of PPGs, even the exact multiplier designs in Table V are superior in hardware than the approximate multiplier design in [11]. Moreover, the additional use of truncation can improve accuracy and reduce the bit-width of the final result.

Finally, some ML-based technologies are considered for power dissipation, including NML and STT-MTJ. For simplicity the power consumption and critical path delay of a majority gate are considered as a unit under different technologies or devices to estimate the energy consumption of the considered designs. The energy for the majority gate based on NML or STT-MTJ is approximately  $5.2 \times 10^{-3} fJ$  [2] or  $1.85 fJ$  [3], respectively. As shown in Table V, the proposed AMLGB-based

multiplier (negative,  $p = 8$ ,  $l = 5$ ) leverages the low-power nature of emerging nanotechnologies, consuming only  $1.34 fJ$  and  $6.71 \times 10^2 fJ$  for NML and STT-MTJ, respectively. These results show the power efficiency of the proposed ML-based multipliers in emerging nanotechnologies.

In Fig. 2, it is shown that compared with exact multiplier designs, the AMLGA-based design achieves at least a reduction of 13% in ADP. With a further decrease in accuracy, the AMLGB-based design (unbiased,  $p = 6$ ,  $t = 1$ ) reduces the ADP by 28%. Although the AMLCG-based designs have a similar ADP, the one with positive single-sided errors is superior in NMED. The AMLGB-based design (negative,  $p = 8$ ,  $l = 5$ ) saves 53% of ADP with a large accuracy loss. Therefore, four levels of accuracy can be established for different requirements of applications: high accuracy (AMLGA, unbiased,  $p = 4$ ), good accuracy (AMLGB, unbiased,  $p = 6$ ,  $t = 1$ ), moderate accuracy (AMLCG, positive,  $p = 6$ ,  $t = 3$ ), and low accuracy (AMLGB, negative,  $p = 8$ ,  $l = 5$ ).

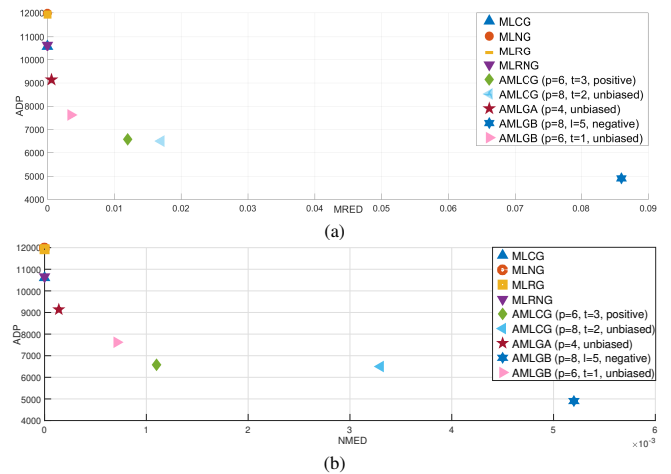


Fig. 2: Errors (in NMED and MRED) vs. hardware complexity for exact and approximate  $8 \times 8$  Booth multipliers: (a) ADP vs NMED and (b) ADP vs MRED.

## VII. APPLICATION

Several applications are considered for the proposed approximate multipliers at four different accuracy levels: low and moderate accuracy for image multiplication and edge detection using the Sobel operator, good and high accuracy for a multilayer perceptron (MLP) for classification and a multi-task CNN for joint face detection and alignment, respectively.

### A. Image Processing

Image multiplication [10] and edge detection using the Sobel operator [19] are considered for the proposed approximate multipliers with low accuracy (AMLGB, negative,  $p = 8$ ,  $l = 5$ ) and the ones with moderate accuracy (AMLCG, positive,  $p = 6$ ,  $t = 3$ ), respectively. The structural similarity index measure (SSIM) and the peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR) are used to evaluate the quality of the image processing results.

The experiments on ten different images return on average a PSNR of 59.34 dB and an SSIM of 0.9993 for the image multiplication, and a PSNR of 71.09 dB and an SSIM of 0.9998 for the edge detection, respectively.

### B. Classification

The proposed approximate  $8 \times 8$  radix-4 Booth multipliers (AMLGB, unbiased,  $p = 6$ ,  $t = 1$ ) with good accuracy are used in an MLP of three layers (an input layer of 784 neurons, one hidden layer of 100 neurons and an output layer of 10 neurons) to classify the MNIST dataset. The performance of the MLP is assessed by the accuracy of the classification.

The  $8 \times 8$  approximate Booth multipliers are utilized in the inference. The trained weight matrix, the inputs and biases are mapped into  $[-128, 127]$  for the inference. Using MATLAB, 94.41% and 94.34% are obtained as classification accuracies when using the exact and approximate multipliers, respectively. Moreover, compared with the exact design, the proposed design reduces the ADP of the multipliers in inference by up to 28% along with a reduced hardware for the accumulation operations due to the truncation in each multiplication.

### C. Face Detection and Alignment

A multi-task CNN (MTCNN) is considered for joint face detection and alignment, using the Face Detection Data Set and Benchmark (FDDB) and Annotated Facial Landmarks in the Wild (AFLW) datasets. The MTCNN consists of three cascaded CNNs: the so-called “proposal network” (PNet), “refine network” (RNet) and “output network” (ONet) [4]. The true positive rate (TPR) and the normalized mean error (NME) indicate the accuracy in face detection and alignment, respectively. Different numbers of multiply-and-accumulate (MAC) units are required when the accuracy varies because of the face detection algorithm. As a MTCNN is usually executed by using data pipelines due to the limitation of the hardware resources, we report the average number of MACs required for detecting the faces in an image on the FDDB dataset to assess the hardware overhead related to performance and energy consumption.

Due to the large number of multiplications required for a MTCNN, approximate  $8 \times 8$  multipliers with a relatively high accuracy (AMLGA, unbiased,  $p = 4$ ) are used to replace the exact circuits. Fig. 3 shows an example for the results of face detection and alignment. Compared with the exact multiplier, the use of the proposed approximate multipliers achieves a 5.1% reduction in the number of MACs due to the acceleration of inference (0.48 billion vs 0.51 billion), thus approximately saving 18.9% in ADP for the MACs at a 7.4% accuracy loss with a TPR of 80.24%; however, the NME is increased from 3.58% to 11.01%. A higher accuracy can be achieved by using approximate multipliers for the less error-sensitive MACs and exact designs for the more error-sensitive components. The proposed approximate multiplier performs better in face detection than alignment, while the approximate multipliers [11] for  $p = 4$  show an unacceptable TPR of 0.23% and an NME of 32.88%.



Fig. 3: Results of face detection and alignment using  $8 \times 8$  approximate Booth multipliers with high accuracy (AMLGA, unbiased,  $p = 4$ ): (a) face alignment and (b) face detection.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, approximate Booth multipliers are proposed based on ML that are applicable to emerging nanotechnologies. New partial product generation methods are first developed for efficient ML implementations. Approximate partial product generators are then designed with different types of errors: positive single-sided, negative single-sided, biased double-sided and unbiased double-sided errors. Improvements up to 56% and 81% in NMED and MRED are achieved in comparison to previous designs. For the reduction of the PP array, complementary strategies are proposed by considering the features of the errors. Various schemes for PP compression are then designed to efficiently calculate the final results. Finally, four approximate multipliers with different levels of accuracy are proposed to meet various design requirements in area, delay, and accuracy. A hardware evaluation at the gate level shows a saving of 28% in ADP compared to the exact design and very low NMED and MRED of 0.00071 and 0.0035 for ML-based nanotechnologies (NML and MTJ). Case studies of image processing and neural networks show the great potential of the proposed designs for ML-based emerging technologies.

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APPENDIX A  
K-MAPS, ERROR ANALYSIS, COMPLEMENTARY  
STRATEGIES, COMPRESSION

A. *K*-maps for exact and approximate PPGs

1) *K*-maps for exact PPGs: The *K*-maps for exact PP generations are given in Tables A1-A6, including MLCG, MLNG and the newly proposed MLGA and MLGB. The maxterms in light gray and the minterms in dark gray can be represented using 3-input majority gates using *K*-map based ML optimization.

TABLE A1: *K*-Map of the MLCG-based  $pp_{ij}$  [14]

$a_j a_{j-1}$	$b_{2i+1}$	$b_{2i}$	$b_{2i-1}$	000	001	011	010	110	111	101	100
00	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	
01	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	
11	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
10	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	

TABLE A2: *K*-Map of the MLNG-based  $pp_{ij}$  [12]

$a_j a_{j-1}$	$b_{2i+1}$	$b_{2i}$	$b_{2i-1}$	000	001	011	010	110	111	101	100
00	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	
01	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
11	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	
10	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	

TABLE A3: *K*-Map of the MLGA-based  $pp_{ij}$

$a_j a_{j-1}$	$b_{2i+1}$	$b_{2i}$	$b_{2i-1}$	000	001	011	010	110	111	101	100
00	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	
01	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	
11	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
10	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	

TABLE A4: *K*-Map of the MLGA-based  $Neg_i$

$b_{2i+1}$	$b_{2i}$	$b_{2i-1}$	00	01	11	10
0	1	0	0	0		
1	1	1	0	1		

TABLE A5: *K*-Map of the MLGB-based  $pp_{ij}$

$a_j a_{j-1}$	$b_{2i+1}$	$b_{2i}$	$b_{2i-1}$	000	001	011	010	110	111	101	100
00	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	
01	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	
11	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	
10	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	

TABLE A6: *K*-Map of the MLGB-based  $Neg_i$

$b_{2i+1}$	$b_{2i}$	$b_{2i-1}$	00	01	11	10
0	1	0	0	0		
1	1	1	1	1		

TABLE A7: *K*-Map of the AMLCG-based  $app_{ij}$

$a_j a_{j-1}$	$b_{2i+1}$	$b_{2i}$	$b_{2i-1}$	000	001	011	010	110	111	101	100
00	0	0	⊕	0	1	0	1	1			
01	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	⊕	
11	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	⊕		
10	0	1	⊕	1	0	0	0	0	1		

TABLE A8: *K*-Map of the AMLCG-based  $app_{1ij}$

$a_j a_{j-1}$	$b_{2i+1}$	$b_{2i}$	$b_{2i-1}$	000	001	011	010	110	111	101	100
00	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1			
01	0	0	⊕	0	1	0	1	0	1	⊕	
11	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0		
10	0	1	⊕	1	0	0	0	0	⊕		

TABLE A9: *K*-Map of the AMLCG-based  $app_{20j}$

$a_j a_{j-1}$	$b_1$	$b_0$	00	01	11	10
00	0	0	1	1		
01	0	0	1	⊕		
11	0	1	0	0		
10	0	1	0	⊕		

TABLE A10: *K*-Map of the AMLNG-based  $app_{1ij}$

$a_j a_{j-1}$	$b_{2i+1}$	$b_{2i}$	$b_{2i-1}$	000	001	011	010	110	111	101	100
00	0	0	⊕	0	1	1	1	⊕			
01	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0			
11	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0			
10	0	1	⊕	1	0	1	0	⊕			

TABLE A11: *K*-Map of the AMLGA-based  $app_{1ij}$

$a_j a_{j-1}$	$b_{2i+1}$	$b_{2i}$	$b_{2i-1}$	000	001	011	010	110	111	101	100
00	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1			
01	1	0	⊕	0	1	0	1	0	1	⊕	
11	1	1	⊕	1	0	0	0	0	⊕		
10	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		

TABLE A12: *K*-Map of the AMLGA-based  $app_{20j}$

$a_j a_{j-1}$	$b_1$	$b_0$	00	01	11	10
00	1	0	1	1		
01	1	0	1	⊕		
11	1	1	0	0		
10	1	1	0	⊕		

TABLE A13: *K*-Map of the AMLGB-based  $app_{ij}$

$a_j a_{j-1}$	$b_{2i+1}$	$b_{2i}$	$b_{2i-1}$	000	001	011	010	110	111	101	100
00	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	⊕		
01	1	0	⊕	0	1	1	1	0			
11	1	1	⊕	1	0	1	0	0			
10	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	⊕		

TABLE A14: K-Map of the AMLGB-based  $app1_{ij}$ 

$a_j \ a_{j-1}$		$b_{2i+1} \ b_{2i} \ b_{2i-1}$									
		000	001	011	010	110	111	101	100		
00		1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1		
01		1	0	⊕	0	1	1	1	⊕		
11		1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0		
10		1	1	⊕	1	0	1	0	⊕		

2) *K-maps for approximate PPGs*: Tables A7-A14 present the K-maps of approximate  $pp_{ij}$  based on different PPGs.

### B. Error analysis of the proposed approximate PPGs

The approximate designs are measured with respect to the introduced error directions, i.e., single-sided vs unbiased double-sided errors, and biased vs unbiased double-sided errors.

1) *Single-sided vs unbiased double-sided errors*: Table A15 shows the NMED/MRED of the AMLCG- and AMLGB-based designs with single-sided and unbiased double-sided errors.

With single-sided errors, the use of AMLGB shows a slightly higher accuracy (in NMED and MRED) than for AMLCG when  $p \leq 5$ . When generating approximate PPs with single-sided errors, the errors accumulate, resulting in a substantial difference from the exact result. Therefore, approximate PPGs with unbiased errors show lower NMEDs and MREDs than for single-sided errors in the approximate multiplier.

2) *Biased or unbiased double-sided errors*: The comparison of errors due to the use of AMLNG and AMLGA with biased and unbiased double-sided errors is given in Table A16. Unlike designs with unbiased errors, the AMLNG- and AMLGA-based designs with biased errors ignore the different characteristics of PPs, only using (20) and (22) to compute the PPs, respectively.

Generally, approximate PPGs with unbiased errors result in a more accurate approximate multiplier (with lower NMEDs and MREDs) than for biased errors. Independently of biased or unbiased errors, the AMLGA-based designs show better accuracy than AMLNG. Moreover, the NMED for AMLGA-based designs with biased errors is comparable to that for AMLNG-based ones with unbiased errors.

### C. Complementary strategies for the PP reduction

1) *Positive single-sided errors*: Define  $C_i$  and  $N_i$  as the carry-out and the number of '1's in Column  $i$ .  $C_i$  can be larger than '1' for multiple PPs in a column. The probability of the carry values for each column in the PP array is analyzed using Bayes theory, i.e., computing the prior probability as per the posterior knowledge of the relationship between input operands and output results.

For example, in Column 0, there are two operands ( $pp_{00}$  and  $Neg_0$ ), so  $C_0$  has two possible values: 0 and 1. Hence:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(C_0 = 1) &= P(N_0 = 2) = P(pp_{00} = 1 \cap neg_0 = 1) \\
 &= P(pp_{00} = 1 | neg_0 = 1) P(neg_0 = 1) \\
 &= \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{8}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

The probabilities of the carry values for the other columns in the PP array can be similarly derived. Then,  $P_G$  can be derived as approximately:

$$P_G = \sum_{i=1}^{max} 2^{i-1} \times P(C_t = i). \tag{2}$$

where  $max$  is the largest possible value of the carry generated by the truncated columns.

The proposed AMLCG-based  $app_{ij}$  with single-sided errors has a probability of 50% to introduce positive errors when  $b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1} = 011$  and 100 (as per Table A7). Since different PPs may be correlated, the conditional probability is considered in this analysis. Based on the analysis of the carries,  $P(b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1} = 011 \text{ or } 100 | P(C_n > 0))$  can be easily obtained. When carries are generated for the truncated columns, the errors introduced in the remaining PPs of higher significance can mitigate the accuracy loss. Assume the probability of introducing positive single-sided errors for each remaining approximate PP is given by  $P_{CP}^{app_{ij}}$  ( $0 \leq i \leq \lceil \frac{p}{2} - 1 \rceil$ ,  $t + 1 - 2i \leq j \leq p - 2i - 1$ ).  $P_{CP}^{app_{ij}}$  takes into consideration the distance from the truncated column with the highest significance to  $app_{ij}$ , as given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{CP}^{app_{ij}} &= 2^{j-(t+1-2i)} \times \frac{1}{2} \\
 &\quad \times P(b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1} = 011/100, P(C_t > 0)) \\
 &= 2^{j-(t+2-2i)} \times P(C_t > 0) \times \\
 &\quad P(b_{2i+1}b_{2i}b_{2i-1} = 011/100 | P(C_t > 0))
 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

As the sum of all  $P_{CP}^{app_{ij}}$ ,  $P_{CP}$  is given by

$$P_{CP} = \sum_{i=0}^{\lceil \frac{p}{2} - 1 \rceil} \sum_{j=t+1-2i}^{p-2i-1} P_{CP}^{app_{ij}}. \tag{4}$$

The selected pair of  $t$  and  $p$  depends on the distance between  $P_G$  and  $P_{CP}$  to make their values the closest.

2) *Negative single-sided errors*: Let  $P_E^{pp_{ij}}$  ( $0 \leq i \leq \lceil \frac{l+1}{2} - 1 \rceil$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq l - 2i$ ) and  $P_E$  be the probability of introducing positive errors resulting from using '1' to replace each  $pp_{ij}$  and the original PPs in all  $l + 1$  columns, respectively. For each  $pp_{ij}$ , there is a probability of  $\frac{5}{8}$  to replace the original '0's, thus introducing positive errors. The calculation of  $P_E^{pp_{ij}}$  considers the difference between the significances of  $pp_{ij}$  and Column  $l + 1$ , as

$$P_E^{pp_{ij}} = 2^{j-(l+1-2i)} \times \frac{5}{8} = \frac{5}{2^{l+4-2i-j}}. \tag{5}$$

To simplify the analysis, assume that the generation of each PP is independent. Thus,  $P_E$  is the sum of all  $P_E^{pp_{ij}}$ :

$$P_E = \sum_{i=0}^{\lceil \frac{l+1}{2} - 1 \rceil} \sum_{j=0}^{l-2i} P_E^{pp_{ij}}. \tag{6}$$

Similarly,  $P_{CN}^{app_{ij}}$  ( $0 \leq i \leq \lceil \frac{p}{2} - 1 \rceil$ ,  $l + 1 - 2i \leq j \leq p - 2i - 1$ ) is defined as the probability of introducing negative errors due to each remaining  $app_{ij}$  encoded by AMLGB on Column  $l + 1$ . Each  $app_{ij}$  using AMLGB has a probability of  $\frac{1}{8}$  to introduce a negative error.  $P_{CN}^{app_{ij}}$  also depends on the difference between the significances of  $app_{ij}$  and Column  $l + 1$ , as

$$P_{CN}^{app_{ij}} = 2^{j-(l+1-2i)} \times \frac{1}{8} = 2^{j-(l+4-2i)}. \tag{7}$$

TABLE A15: Error Measurements for an  $8 \times 8$  Booth Multiplier using AMLCG and AMLGB with Single-sized or Unbiased Double-sided Errors in PP Generation

Encoders	AMLCG [11] using (16) (single-sized)		AMLCG using (18) & (16) & (17) (unbiased)		AMLGB using (24) (single-sized)		AMLGB using (23) & (22) & (25) (unbiased)	
	NMED	MRED	NMED	MRED	NMED	MRED	NMED	MRED
$p = 1$	0	0	0	0	$1.52 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.10 \times 10^{-5}$	0	0
$p = 2$	$1.52 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.10 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.52 \times 10^{-5}$	$9.15 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.05 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.22 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.52 \times 10^{-5}$	$9.15 \times 10^{-5}$
$p = 3$	$7.62 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.27 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.91 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.50 \times 10^{-4}$	$9.15 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.57 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.91 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.50 \times 10^{-4}$
$p = 4$	$1.98 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.13 \times 10^{-4}$	$6.71 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.13 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.5 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.13 \times 10^{-4}$	$6.71 \times 10^{-4}$
$p = 5$	$5.64 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.9 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.21 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.9 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.79 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.21 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.9 \times 10^{-3}$
$p = 6$	$1.3 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-2}$	$6.32 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.7 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.3 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-2}$	$6.32 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.7 \times 10^{-3}$
$p = 7$	$3.3 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.9 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-3}$	$9.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.3 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.9 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-3}$	$9.2 \times 10^{-3}$
$p = 8$	$7.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$9.5 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.1 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-2}$	$7.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$9.5 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.1 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-2}$

TABLE A16: Error Measurements for an  $8 \times 8$  Booth Multiplier using AMLNG and AMLGA with Biased or Unbiased Double-sided Errors in PP Generation

Encoders	AMLNG using (20) (biased double-sized)		AMLNG using (18) & (16) & (20) (unbiased double-sized)		AMLGA using (22) (biased double-sized)		AMLGA using (23) & (22) & (22) (unbiased double-sized)	
	NMED	MRED	NMED	MRED	NMED	MRED	NMED	MRED
$p = 1$	$1.52 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.10 \times 10^{-5}$	0	0	0	0	0	0
$p = 2$	$3.05 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.22 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.52 \times 10^{-5}$	$9.15 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.52 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.10 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.52 \times 10^{-5}$	$9.15 \times 10^{-5}$
$p = 3$	$9.92 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.73 \times 10^{-4}$	$8.39 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.66 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.57 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.05 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.05 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.83 \times 10^{-4}$
$p = 4$	$2.00 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.3 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.68 \times 10^{-4}$	$8.08 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.44 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.12 \times 10^{-4}$	$6.25 \times 10^{-4}$
$p = 5$	$5.22 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.1 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.69 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.5 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.45 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.6 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.82 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-3}$
$p = 6$	$1.1 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-2}$	$9.53 \times 10^{-4}$	$6.6 \times 10^{-3}$	$8.68 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-2}$	$7.52 \times 10^{-4}$	$6.3 \times 10^{-3}$
$p = 7$	$2.5 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.9 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.3 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.9 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.7 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-2}$
$p = 8$	$5.1 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.9 \times 10^{-2}$	$4.7 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.4 \times 10^{-2}$	$4.5 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.7 \times 10^{-2}$	$4.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.3 \times 10^{-2}$

$P_{CN}$  includes all  $P_{CN}^{appij}$ , as given by

$$P_{CN} = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{p}{2} - 1 \rfloor} \sum_{j=l+1-2i}^{p-2i-1} P_{CN}^{appij}. \quad (8)$$

The selected pair of  $l$  and  $p$  depends on when the distance between  $P_E$  and  $P_{CN}$  is smallest.

Table A17 shows the analytical results of the values of  $t$  (and  $l$ ) for  $p$  ( $p \in [4, 8]$ ) and the error results for  $8 \times 8$  multipliers.

3) *Unbiased double-sided errors*: Error results of AMLCG and AMLGB (unbiased errors) based  $8 \times 8$  Radix-4 Booth multiplier combined with truncation when  $p \geq 5$  is presented in Table A18. Only those cases when the MRED of the approximate multiplier has an improvement after combining with truncation are included.

From the experimental results, despite truncation increases the values of NMED, it could improve the accuracy in MRED. In Table A15, the AMLCG- and AMLGB-based multipliers without truncation share the same error characteristics. Truncation increases the error distances more when the accurate results are larger, but it decreases the error distances more when the accurate results are smaller. Compared with the error results presented in Table A15, using truncation in the AMLGB-based designs when  $5 \leq p \leq 7$  can achieve a significant improvement in MRED but with a larger increase in NMED than in the AMLCG-based designs. When  $p = 8$ , if three columns of PPs are truncated ( $t = 2$ ), the AMLCG-based design can still get an improvement in MRED but it is not applicable to the AMLGB-based one.

TABLE A17: Error Measurements for an  $8 \times 8$  Booth Multiplier using the Proposed PP Reduction Schemes, AMLCG and AMLGB with Single-sided Errors for PP Generations

PPGs		AMLCG (positive)		AMLGB (negative)		
$p$	$t$	NMED	MRED	$l$	NMED	MRED
4	1	$1.9 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-3}$	1	$2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-3}$
5	2	$5.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.3 \times 10^{-3}$	2	$5.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.1 \times 10^{-3}$
6	3	$1.1 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.3 \times 10^{-2}$	3	$1.1 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.3 \times 10^{-2}$
7	4	$2.4 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.4 \times 10^{-2}$	4	$2.5 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.4 \times 10^{-2}$
8	5	$5.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$8.7 \times 10^{-2}$	5	$5.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$8.6 \times 10^{-2}$

TABLE A18: Error Measurements for an  $8 \times 8$  Booth Multiplier using Truncation for the PP Reduction, AMLCG and AMLGB with Unbiased-sided Errors for PP Generations

Value of $p$	Value of $t$	AMLCG		AMLGB	
		NMED	MRED	NMED	MRED
5	0	$3.41 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.63 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-3}$
	1	$6.51 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.3 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.71 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.1 \times 10^{-3}$
6	0	$6.72 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.6 \times 10^{-3}$	$7.11 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.5 \times 10^{-3}$
	1	$1.6 \times 10^{-3}$	$8.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-3}$	$7.7 \times 10^{-3}$
7	0	$1.6 \times 10^{-3}$	$8.5 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-3}$	$8.0 \times 10^{-3}$
	1	$3.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.61 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.48 \times 10^{-2}$
8	0	$3.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.64 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.52 \times 10^{-2}$
	1	$3.3 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.70 \times 10^{-2}$	-	-

#### D. PP compression

The compressed design for the AMLGB-based PP array (negative,  $p = 8$ ,  $l = 5$ ) is shown in Fig. A1. At Stage 1, the initial PP array is generated using Columns 0 to 5 to complement errors. The constants '1's in Columns 2 to 5 are

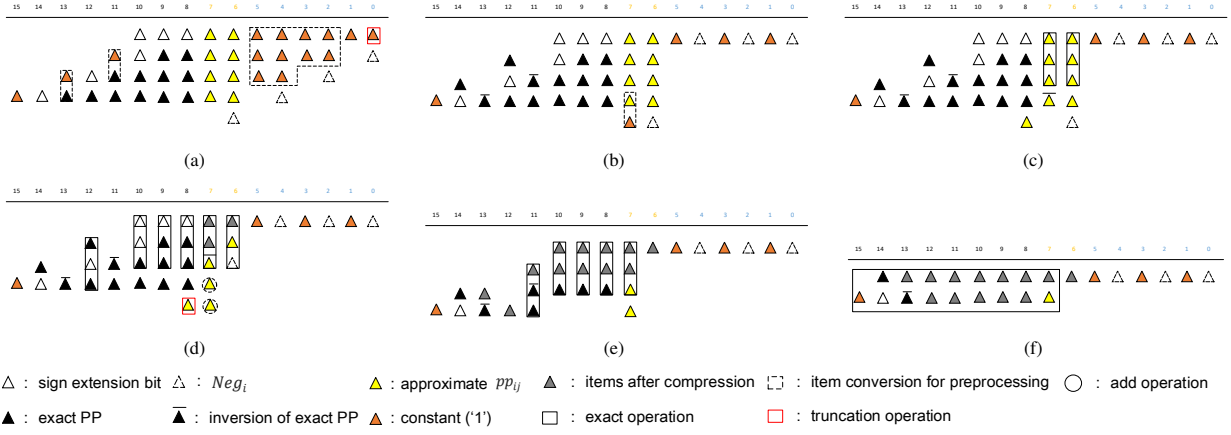


Fig. A1: Design of PP Compression in an  $8 \times 8$  Booth multiplier using AMLGB (negative,  $p = 8$ ,  $l = 5$ ): (a) Stage 1 (preprocessing), (b) Stage 2 (preprocessing), (c) Stage 3, (d) Stage 4, (e) Stage 5, and (f) Stage 6.

preprocessed into “101010”. To further simplify computation, the constant ‘1’ in Column 0 is truncated. Consider that in binary computation, adding ‘1’ to an operand results in a carry equal to the operand and a sum equal to the inversion of the operand, Columns 11 and 13 at Stage 1 and Column 7 at Stage 2 are simplified. The ML-based adder design requires two units of gate delay [12]. Stages 3 to 5 reduce the PP array to two rows with one additional term at the least significant position using full adders. Stage 3 compresses the approximate PPs in Columns 6 and 7 to keep the same execution time for the exact PP generation. At Stage 4, a circled PP in Column 8 is replaced by two terms in Column 7 to simplify the further compression. Finally, a 9-bit ML-based ripple carry adder (RCA) is required. The compressed PP designs for the other cases are similar.

#### E. Overall approximate Booth multiplier designs

Table A19 extends Table V to give the overall designs of the Booth multipliers.

TABLE A19: Extension of Table V

Multiplier	PP Generation		Errors	$p$	$t$	$l$	$MV_{AM}$	$INV_{AM}$	D	NMED ( $10^{-3}$ )	MRED ( $10^{-3}$ )	ADP	BW	Energy( $fJ$ )	
	Equations	MV												NML	STT-MTJ
MLCG	$pp_{ij} = M(M(M(b_{2i+1}, 0, \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j)),$ $M(b_{2i}, 1, M(b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_{j-1}, 1)), 0),$ $M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, 0, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j)),$ $M(a_{j-1}, 1, M(\overline{b}_{2i-1}, \overline{b}_{2i}, 1)), 0), 1)$ $Neg_i = M(b_{2i+1}, 0, M(\overline{b}_{2i}, \overline{b}_{2i-1}, 1))$	10	-	-	-	442	138	24	0	0	10608	16	2.29	817	
		2													
MLNG	$pp_{ij} = M(M(b_{2i+1}, M(M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j)),$ $M(b_{2i}, 1, M(b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_{j-1}, 0), 0), 1), 0),$ $M(M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j), 0),$ $M(\overline{b}_{2i}, M(b_{2i-1}, a_{j-1}, 1), 1), 0), 1)$ $Neg_i = b_{2i+1}$	11	-	-	-	479	106	25	0	0	11975	16	2.49	886	
		0													
MLGA	$pp_{ij} = M(M(M(b_{2i+1}, 0, M(\overline{b}_{2i}, \overline{b}_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j)),$ $M(b_{2i}, 1, M(b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_{j-1}, 1)), 0), M($ $M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, 0, M(\overline{b}_{2i}, \overline{b}_{2i-1}, a_j)), M($ $M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, b_{2i}, 0), M(b_{2i-1}, a_{j-1}, 0), 0), 1), 1)$ $Neg_i = M(b_{2i+1}, \overline{b}_{2i}, \overline{b}_{2i-1})$	12	-	-	-	497	106	24	0	0	11928	16	2.58	919	
		1													
MLGB	$pp_{ij} = M(M(M(M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j), b_{2i+1}, 0),$ $M(\overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j), \overline{b}_{2i+1}, 0), 1),$ $M(M(\overline{a}_{j-1}, M(\overline{b}_{2i-1}, \overline{b}_{2i}, 0), 0),$ $M(b_{2i}, M(b_{2i-1}, a_{j-1}, 0), 0), 1), 1)$ $Neg_i = M(b_{2i+1}, 1, M(\overline{b}_{2i}, \overline{b}_{2i-1}, 0))$	10	-	-	-	444	138	24	0	0	10656	16	2.30	821	
		2													
[11]	$app_{ij} = M(M(b_{2i+1}, \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j),$ $0), M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, M(b_{2i}, \overline{b}_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), 1)$ $app_{ij} = M(M(b_{2i+1}, \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j),$ $0), M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), 1)$	4	positive	6	-	638	142	25	1.3	14.2	15950	16	3.31	1180	
		8	-	-	-	518	142	25	7.2	95.6	12950	16	2.69	958	
AMLCG	$app_{ij} = M(M(b_{2i+1}, \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j),$ $0), M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), 1)$ $app_{0j} = M(M(b_1, M(b_0, 0, a_j), 0),$ $M(b_1, \overline{a}_j, 0), 1)$ $app_{00} = M(M(b_1, \overline{M}(b_0, 0, a_0), 0),$ $M(\overline{b}_1, M(b_0, 0, a_0), 0), 1)$ $app_{ij} = M(M(M(b_{2i+1}, \overline{a}_j, 0),$ $\overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), M(M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, a_j, 0),$ $M(b_{2i}, \overline{b}_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), 1)$	4													
		4													
		4	unbiased	8	2	-	325	106	20	3.3	17	6500	13	1.69	601
		6													
AMLGA	$app_{0j} = M(M(b_1, M(b_1, b_0, a_j), 0),$ $M(b_1, \overline{a}_j, 0), 1)$ $app_{00} = M(M(b_1, M(\overline{b}_0, 1, \overline{a}_0), 0),$ $M(\overline{b}_1, M(\overline{b}_0, 1, a_0), 0), 1)$ $app_{ij} = M(M(b_{2i+1}, M(\overline{b}_{2i}, \overline{b}_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j), 0),$ $M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, M(\overline{b}_{2i}, \overline{b}_{2i-1}, a_j), 0), 1)$	4													
		5	unbiased	4	-	435	76	21	0.14	0.61	9135	16	2.26	804	
		5													
AMLGB	$app_{ij} = M(M(b_{2i+1}, \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j), 0),$ $M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, \overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j), 0), 1)$ $app_{0j} = M(M(b_1, M(b_1, b_0, a_j),$ $0), M(b_1, \overline{a}_j, 0), 1)$ $app_{00} = M(M(b_1, M(\overline{b}_0, 1, \overline{a}_0), 0),$ $M(\overline{b}_1, M(\overline{b}_0, 1, a_0), 0), 1)$ $app_{ij} = M(M(b_{2i+1}, M(M(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j),$ $\overline{a}_j, 1), 0), M(\overline{b}_{2i+1}, M(\overline{M}(b_{2i}, b_{2i-1}, \overline{a}_j),$ $a_j, 1), 0), 1)$	4	negative	8	-	5	258	84	19	5.2	86	4902	16	1.34	477
		4													
		5	unbiased	6	1	-	363	106	21	0.71	3.5	7623	14	1.88	671
		6													

MV: the number of required majority voters for a single  $pp_{ij}$  or  $Neg_i$ ;  $MV_{AM}$ : the number of required majority voters in an approximate multiplier;  $INV_{AM}$ : the number of required inverters in an approximate multiplier; D: the delay for an approximate multiplier; ADP:  $MV \times D$ ; BW: bit-width of the final result.