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# A 300 nW, 7 ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C CMOS Voltage Reference Circuit based on Subthreshold MOSFETs

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ASP-DAC 2009  
Jan.19–22, Yokohama

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# Introduction

Sensor network



RFID



Medical Devices



## 1. Limited energy source



(button battery)



(solar cell)

## 2. Long-time operation

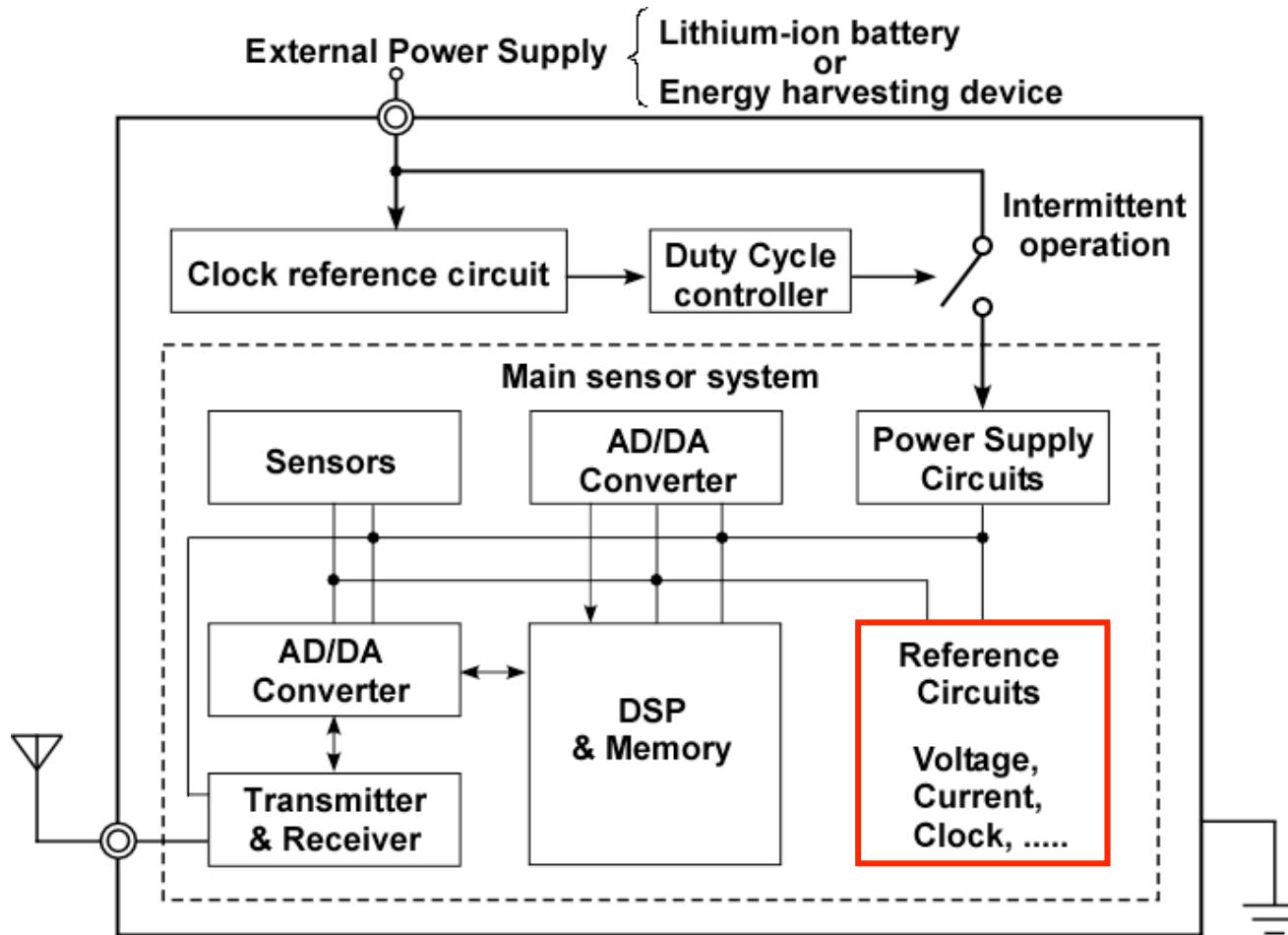
Button battery (160 mAh)  
**(for over 3 years)**

Power < 20  $\mu$ W



Ultra-low power LSIs operating in the Subthreshold region

# Smart Temperature sensor LSI



All subcircuit : operated in the subthreshold region



Ultra-low Power Voltage Reference

## Our previous works

### Sensors

- IEEE JSSC, pp. 798-803, 2007.
- IEEE Sensors, pp.186, 2005.
- IEEE VLSI Symp., pp.194 -, 2006.

### DC-DC Converter

- IEICE ELEX, pp. 464-468 , 2006.

### Voltage Reference

- IEEE ESSCIRC, pp. 398-401, 2008.
- SSDM, pp. 486-487, 2007.
- IEEE ISCAS, pp. 3748-3751, 2007.

### Current Reference

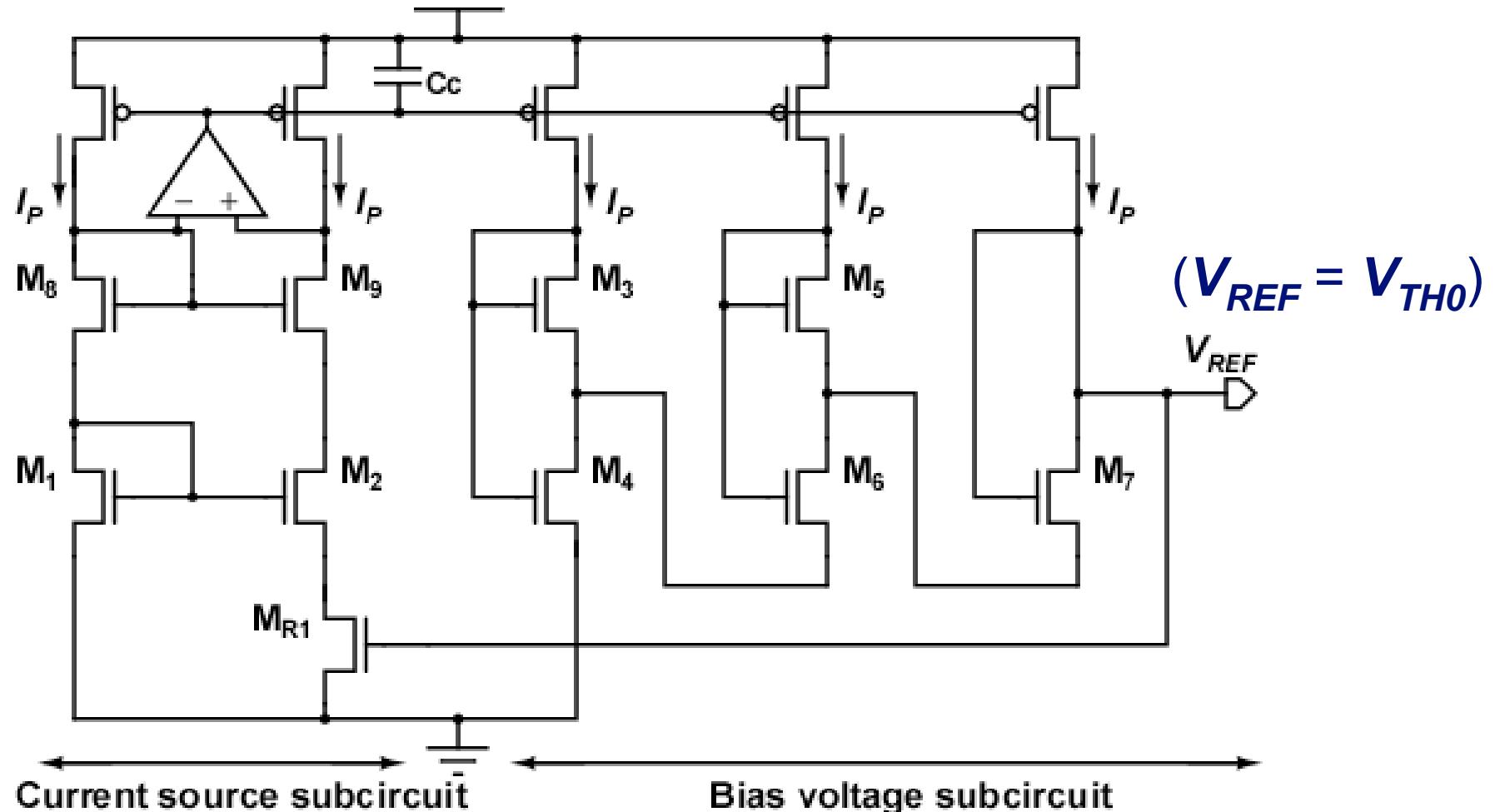
- IEEE Sensors, p.186, 2005.
- SSDM, 2008.
- IEEE ASSCC, 2008.

### Digital Circuits

- AVLSIWS, pp. 78-83, 2007.

# Voltage Reference Circuit

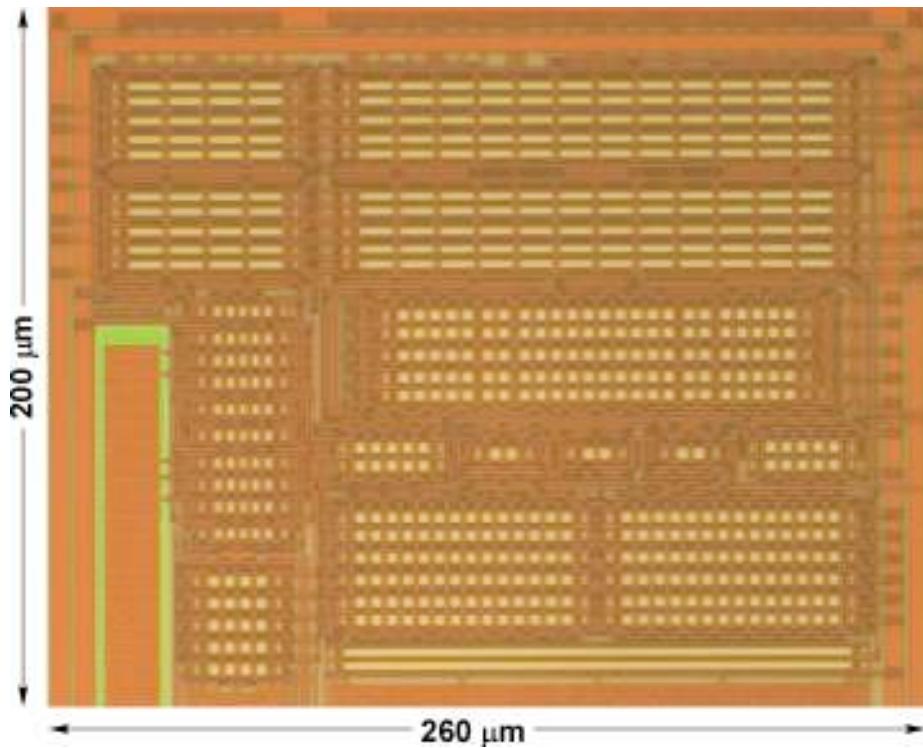
Threshold Voltage ( $V_{TH0}$ ) Reference



All MOSFETs are operated in the subthreshold region  
( Power = 0.3  $\mu$ W )

# Measurement Results

## Prototype chip



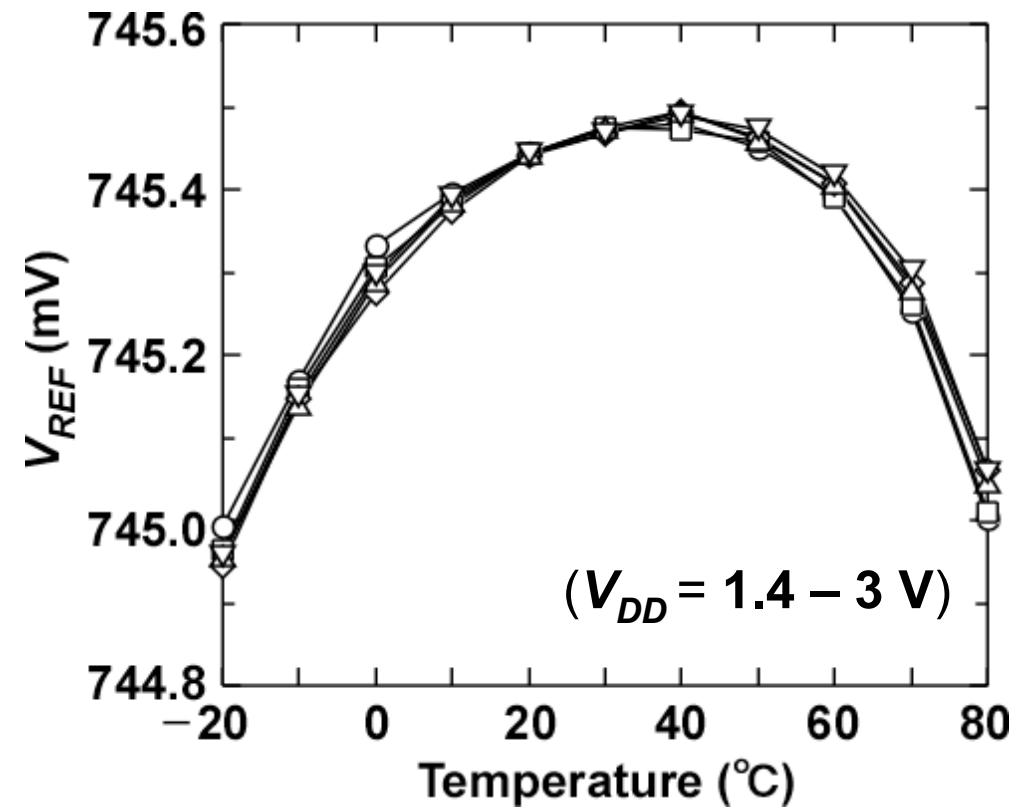
Process: 0.35 μm 2P- 4M CMOS

Area: 0.052 mm<sup>2</sup>

Temp. range: -20°C – 80°C

Supply voltage: 1.4 – 3.0 V

## Temp. characteristics



Temp. coefficient = 7 ppm/°C

Line sensitivity = 20 ppm/V

# Performance Summary

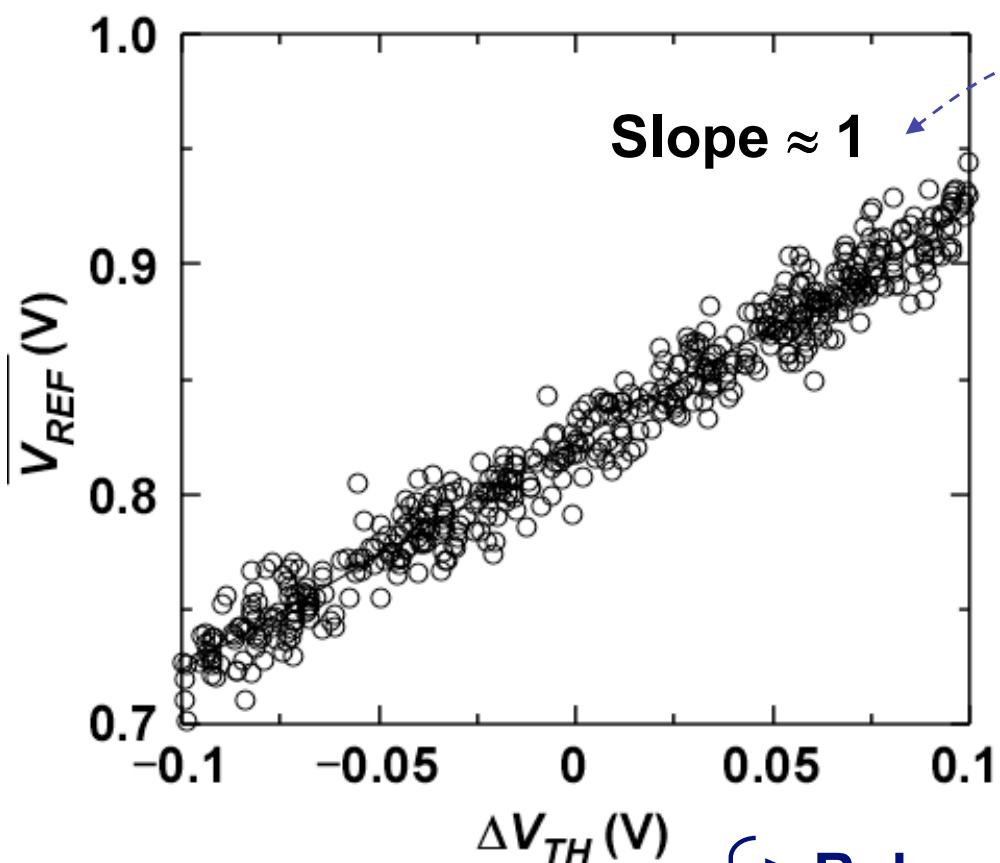
Our performance compared with other reported voltage reference

	This work	De vita JSSC 2008	Leung JSSC 2003	Chen Eleclet 2005	Giustolisi JSSC 2003	Huang CASII 2006
Process	<b>0.35 μm</b>	0.35 μm	0.6 μm	0.35 μm	1.2 μm	0.18 μm
Temp. (°C)	<b>-20 – 80</b>	0 – 80	0 – 100	0 – 70	-25 – 125	20 – 120
$V_{DD}$	<b>1.4 – 3 V</b>	0.9 – 4 V	1.4 – 3 V	1.4 – 3 V	1.2 V	0.85 – 2.5V
$V_{REF}$	<b>745 mV</b>	670 mV	309.3 mV	579 mV	295 mV	221 mV
Power	<b>0.3 μW</b>	0.036 μW	29.1 μW	4.6 μW	4.3 μW	3.3 μW
TC	<b>7 ppm/°C</b>	10 ppm/°C	37 ppm/°C	62 ppm/°C	119 ppm/°C	271 ppm/°C
Line	<b>20 ppm/V</b>	2700 ppm/V	800 ppm/V	6700 ppm/V	N.A.	9000 ppm/V
Area	<b>0.052 mm<sup>2</sup></b>	0.045 mm <sup>2</sup>	0.055 mm <sup>2</sup>	0.126 mm <sup>2</sup>	0.23 mm <sup>2</sup>	0.024 mm <sup>2</sup>

**Best T.C. & Line regulation performances**

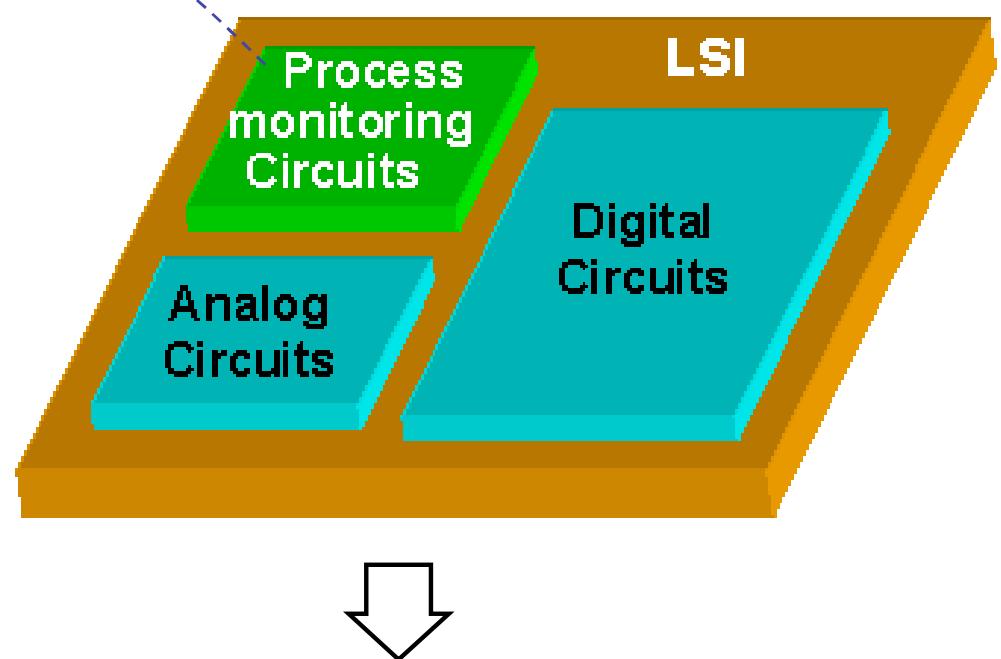
# Applications

$V_{REF}$  depends linearly on  $\Delta V_{TH}$



**Process Compensation System**

On-chip monitoring of  $V_{TH}$  variations



- {> Robust current sources,
- > Slew rate compensation in analog buffers,
- > Frequency compensation in VCOs...