

An Introduction to Phase-Locked Loops and Clock and Data Recovery

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References used to prepare these slides:

Behzad Razavi ed., *Monolithic Phase-Locked Loops and Clock Recovery Circuits, Theory and Design*, Wiley-IEEE Press, 1996

Richard C. Walker, Clock and Data Recovery for Serial Digital Communication, ISSCC Short Course, 2002

Behzad Razavi, *Design of Integrated Circuits for Optical Communications*, McGraw-Hill, 2003

Bahzad Razavi ed., *Phase-Locking in High-Performance Systems From Devices to Architectures*, Wiley-IEEE Press, 2003

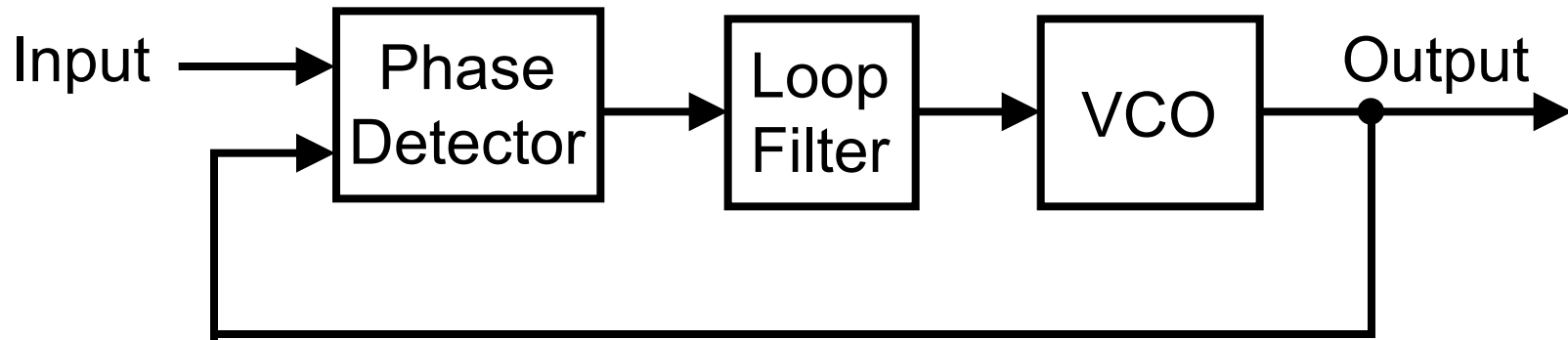
Dennis Fischette, Introduction to PLL and DLL Design for Digital Systems, ISSCC Tutorial, 2004

Agilen Technologies, Measuring Jitter in Digital Systems, Application Note 1448-1

Technical contributions of Marwa Hamour and Pedram Sameni are greatly acknowledged.

Simplified Block Diagram of a PLL

- PLL is a feedback system that, when in lock, aligns the phase of its periodic input and output.

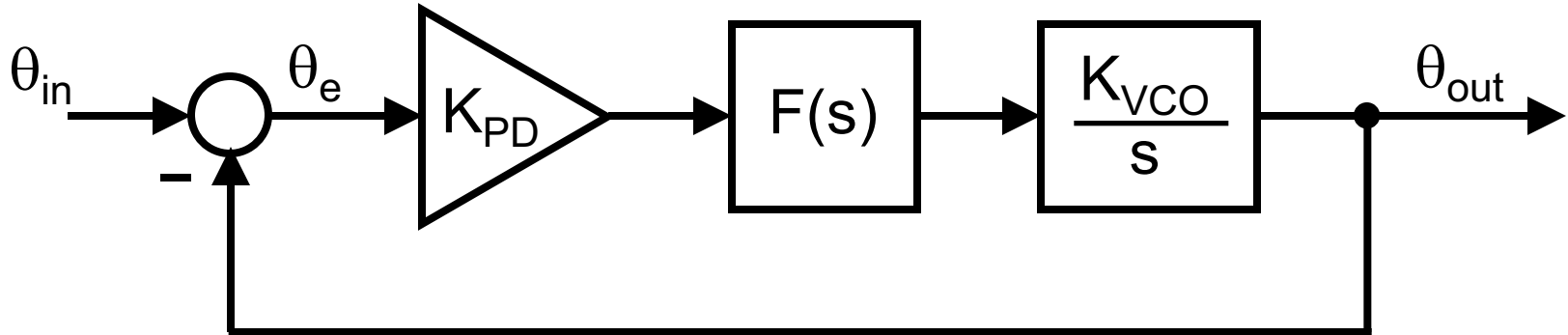


- Feedback path may include a frequency divider.

Applications

- PLLs are ubiquitous blocks and are used in almost all communication-related applications. They are used for:
 - Jitter reduction
 - Skew suppression
 - Frequency synthesis
 - Clock and data recovery
 - ...

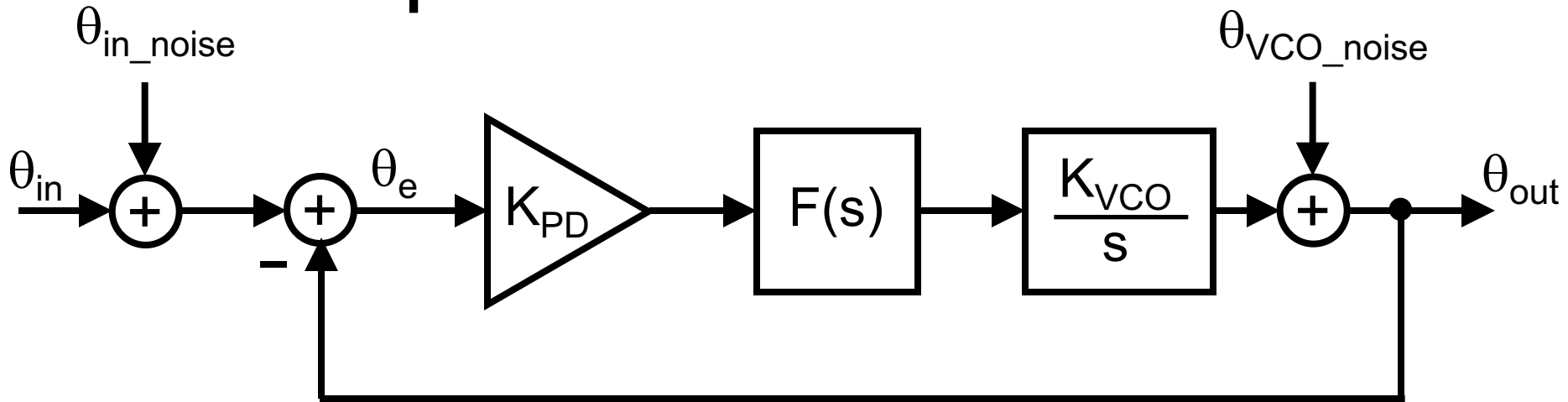
Simple PLL Linear Model



$$H(s) = \frac{\theta_{out}(s)}{\theta_{in}(s)} = \frac{K_{PD} K_{VCO} F(s)}{s + K_{PD} K_{VCO} F(s)}$$

$$H_e(s) = \frac{\theta_e(s)}{\theta_{in}(s)} = \frac{\theta_{in}(s) - \theta_{out}(s)}{\theta_{in}(s)} = \frac{s}{s + K_{PD} K_{VCO} F(s)}$$

Simple PLL Linear Model



$$\frac{\theta_{out}(s)}{\theta_{in_noise}(s)} = \frac{K_{PD} K_{VCO} F(s)}{s + K_{PD} K_{VCO} F(s)}$$

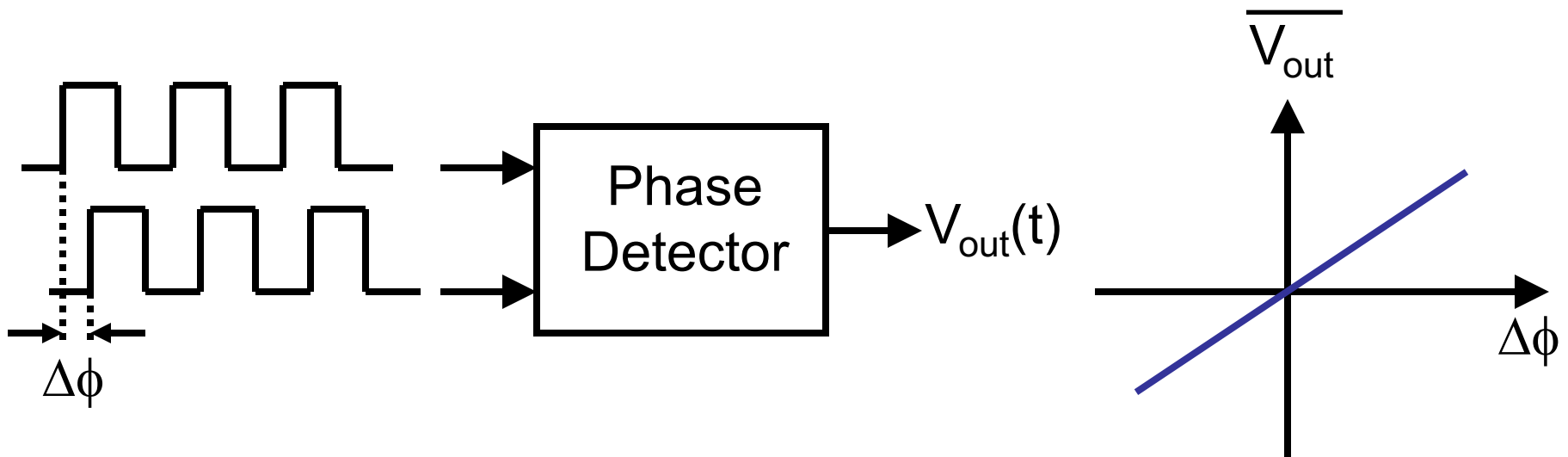
$$\frac{\theta_{out}(s)}{\theta_{VCO_noise}(s)} = \frac{s}{s + K_{PD} K_{VCO} F(s)}$$

Design Trade-off

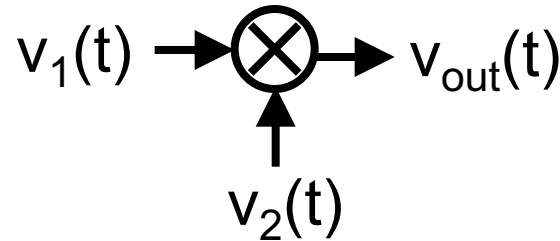
- Jitter of the PLL input is low pass filtered. Thus reducing the loop bandwidth improves the input phase noise rejection.
- Jitter generated in the VCO is high pass filtered through the loop. This noise is reduced as the bandwidth increases.
- Depending on the application proper loop bandwidth should be designed to minimize the overall phase noise at the output.

PLL Blocks: Phase Detector (PD)

- Ideally, the average value of the output of the phase detector is linearly proportional to the phase difference of its two (periodic) inputs.



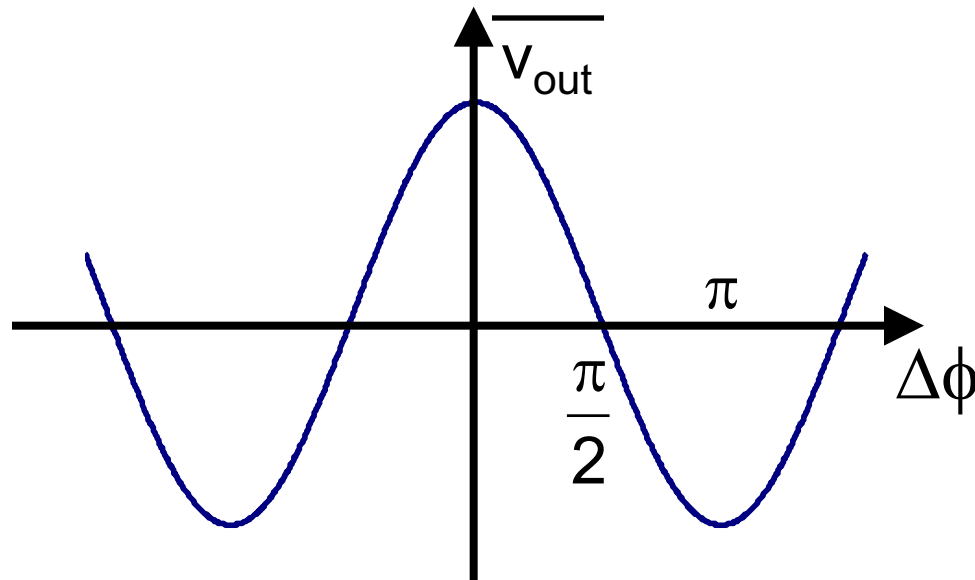
Mixer (Multiplier) as a PD



- For $v_1(t)=A_1\cos(\omega_1t)$ and $v_2(t)=A_2\cos(\omega_2t+\Delta\phi)$:
$$v_{out}(t)=0.5kA_1A_2\{\cos[(\omega_1+\omega_2)t+\Delta\phi]+\cos[(\omega_1-\omega_2)t-\Delta\phi]\}$$
where k is the mixer gain.
- For $\omega_1 = \omega_2$ average output is given by $0.5kA_1A_2\cos(\Delta\phi)$
- For $\omega_1 \neq \omega_2$ the average output is zero.

Multiplier as a PD

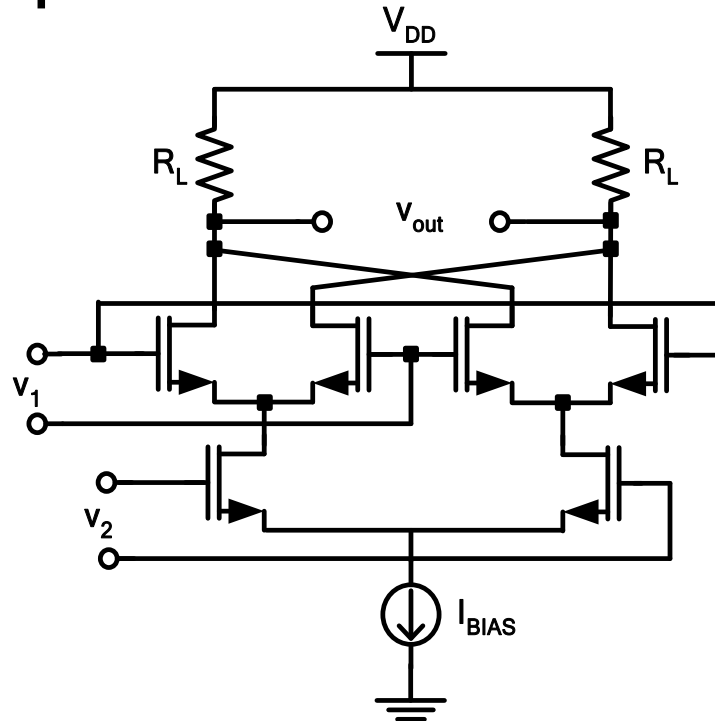
- Also called sinusoidal phase detector, it has the following characteristic curve:



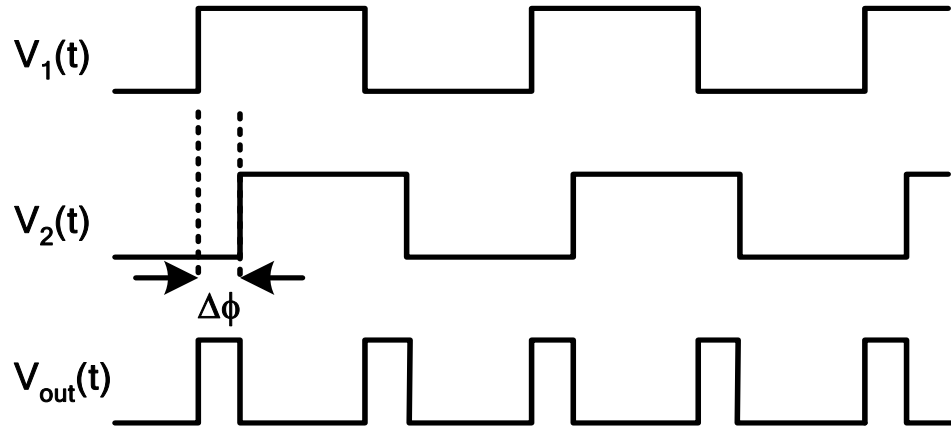
- In the vicinity of $\pi/2$ we have $\overline{v_{out}} \approx 0.5kA_1A_2(\pi/2 - \Delta\phi)$

Multiplier as a PD

- $K_{PD} = -0.5kA_1A_2$
- K_{PD} is amplitude dependent (undesired)
- Gilbert multiplier can be used



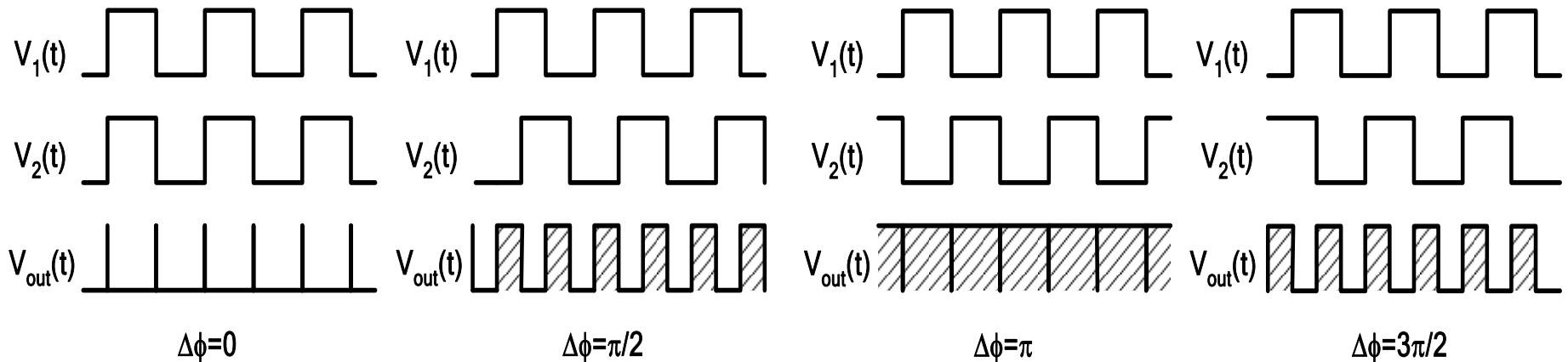
Exclusive-OR as a PD



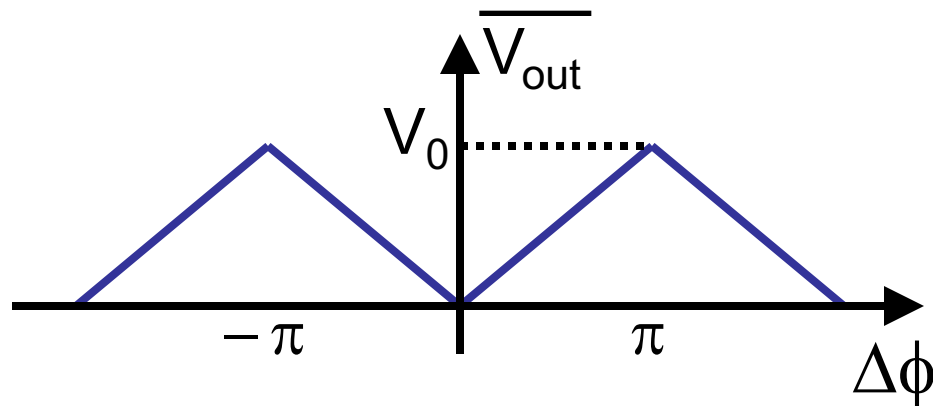
- For large input signals Gilbert cell operates as an XOR gate

Exclusive-OR as a PD

- For inputs with 50% duty-cycle

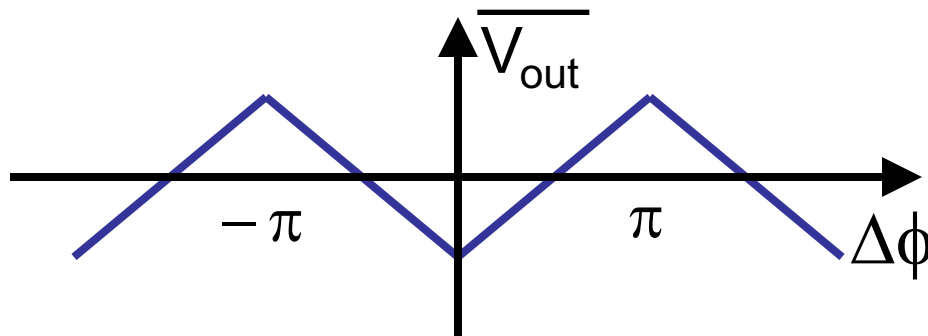


- $K_{PD} = V_0/\pi$



Exclusive-OR as a PD

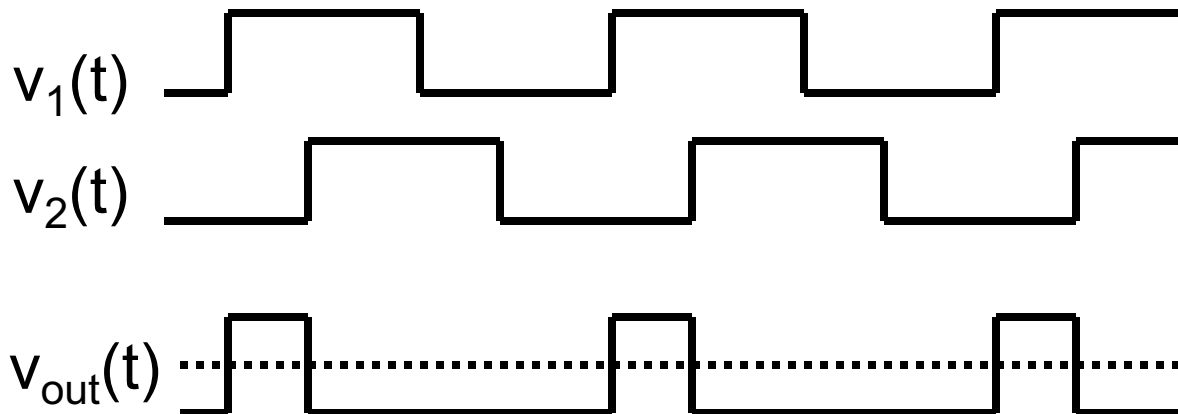
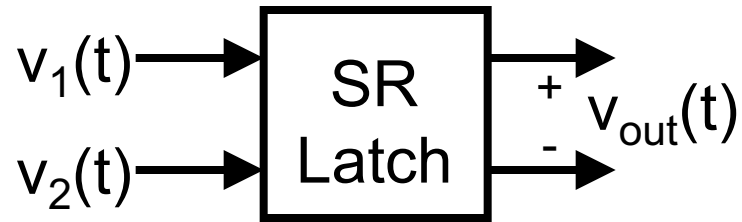
- K_{PD} is constant over the range of π (advantage over multiplier based PD)
- In differential implementations the phase characteristic would be



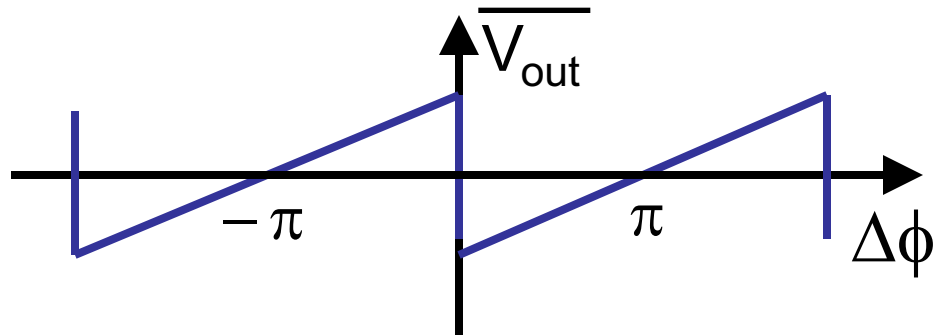
- The peak value also depends on the input duty cycle.

S-R Latch as a PD

- An edge-triggered S-R latch can be used as a PD.

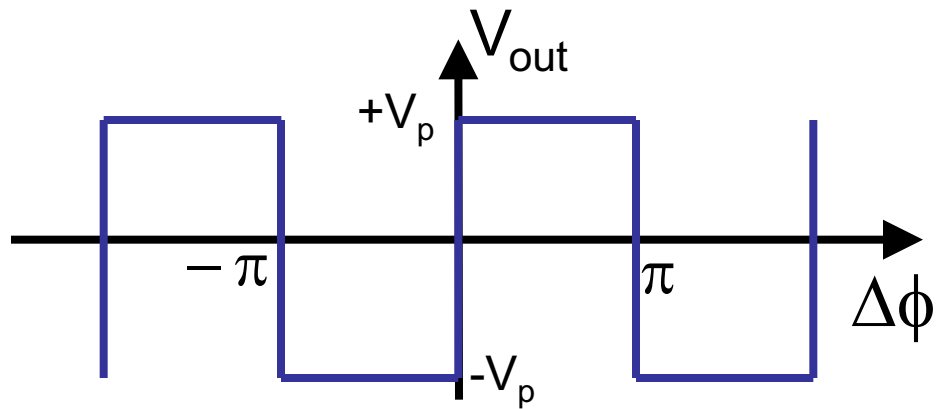
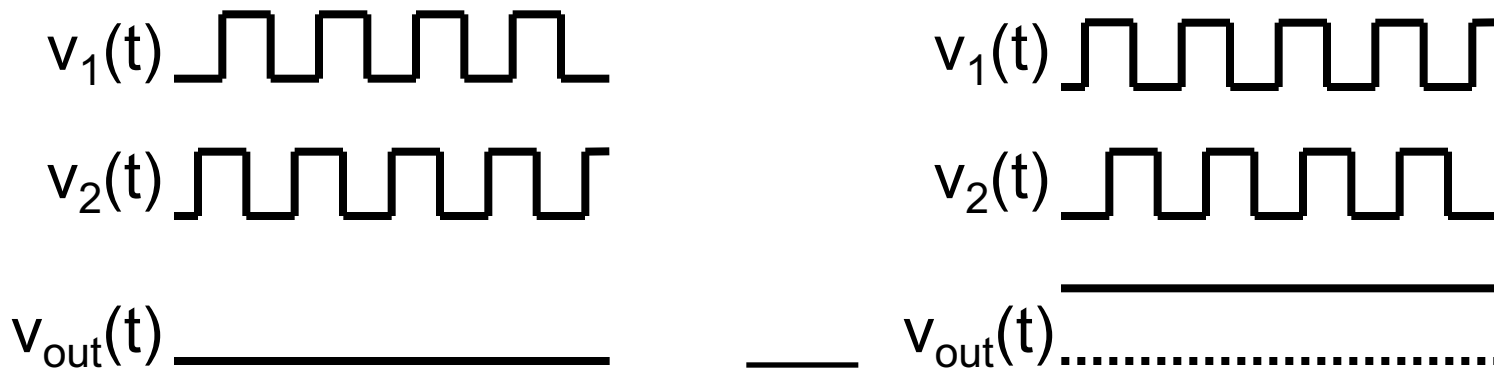
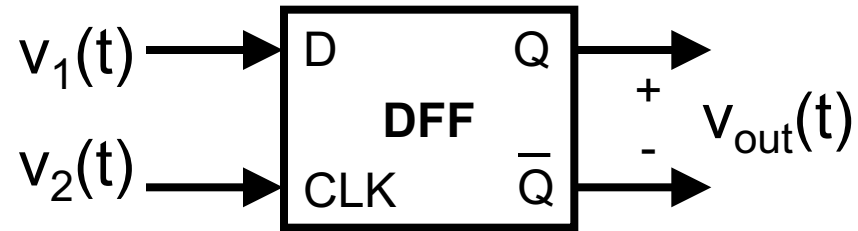


S-R Latch as a PD



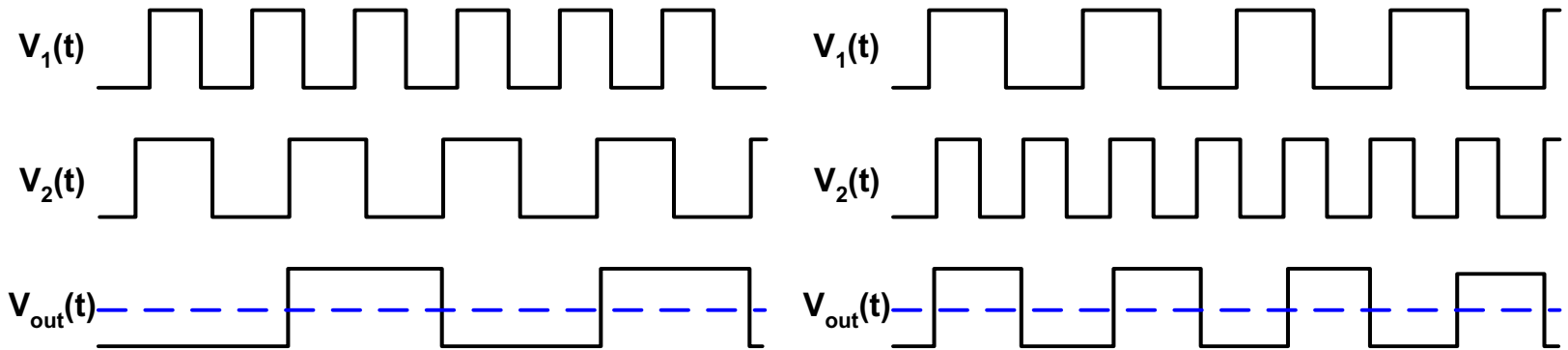
- Average output is independent of input duty cycle
- The monotonic range of PD is 2π
- Output jitter at lock due to metastability

D-Flip Flop as a PD

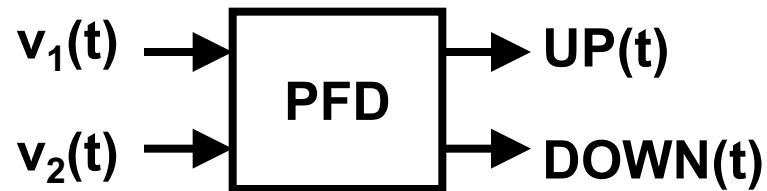


D-FF as a Frequency Detector

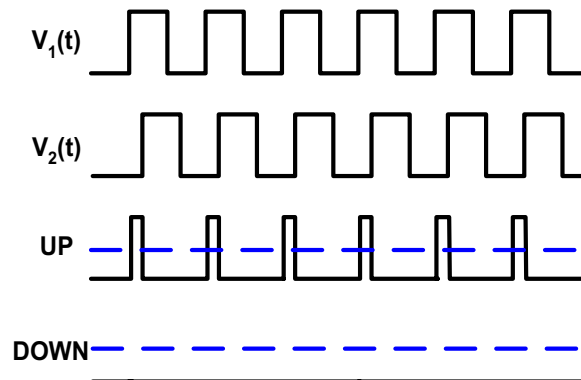
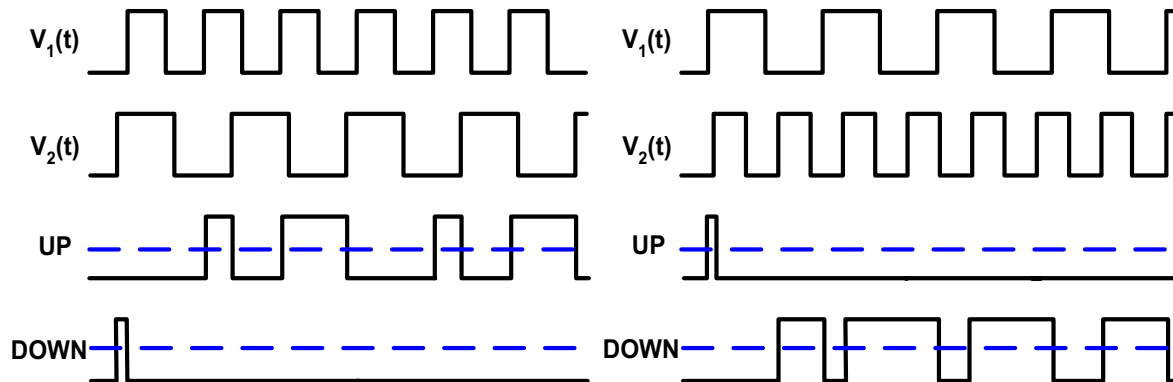
- Not a good choice!



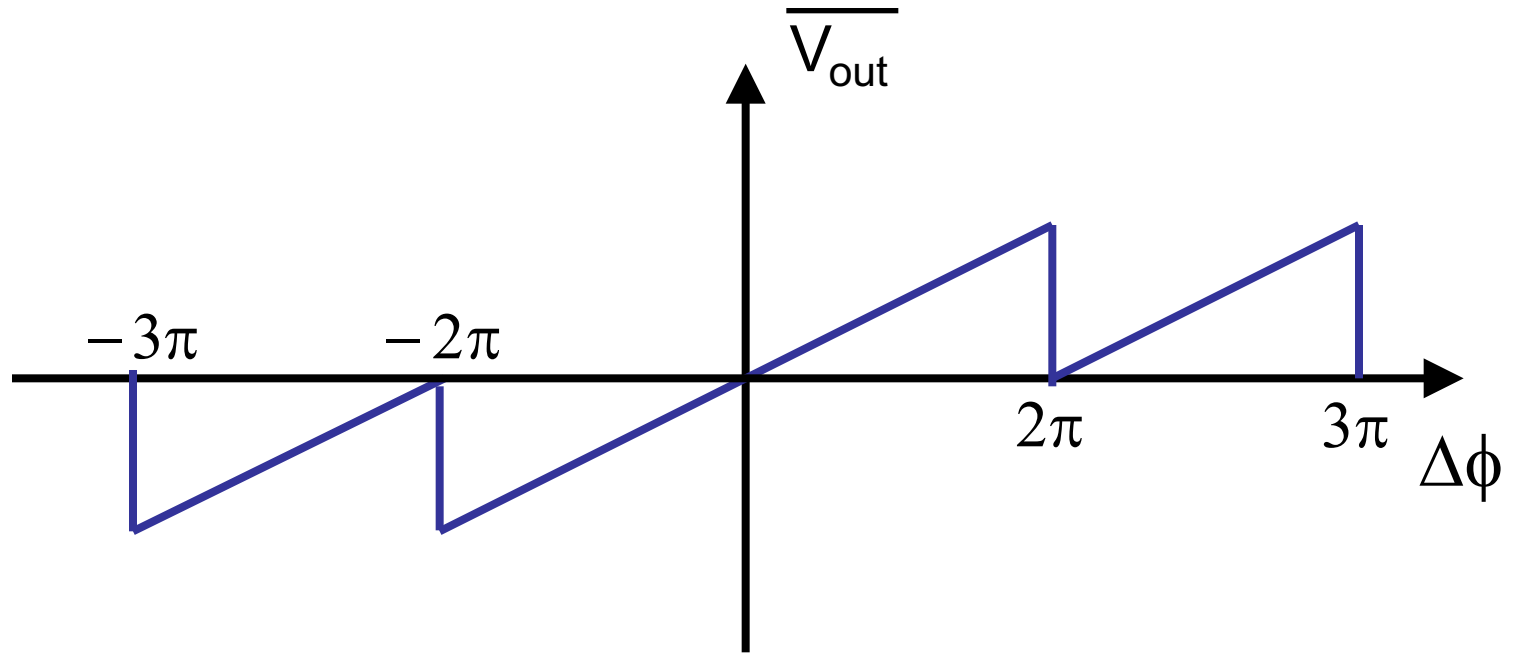
Phase/Frequency Detector



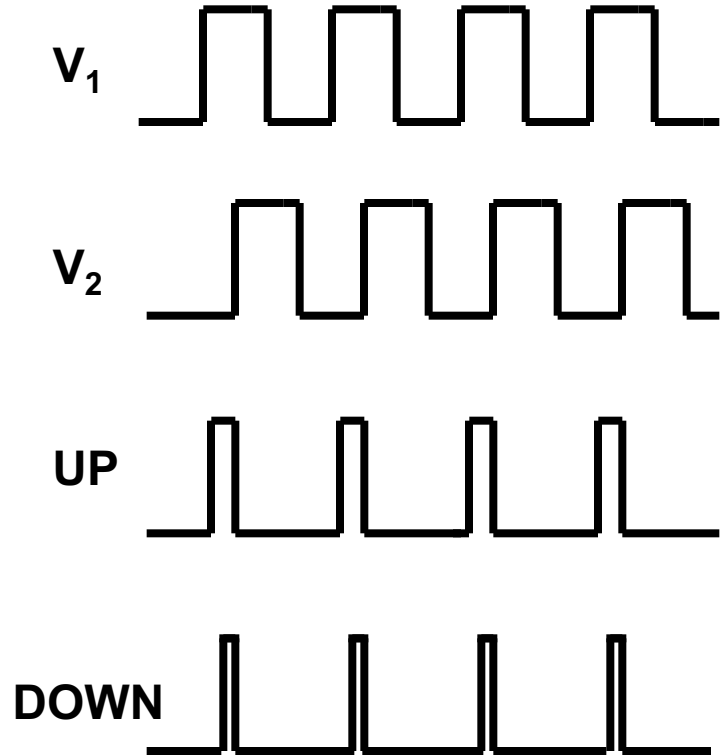
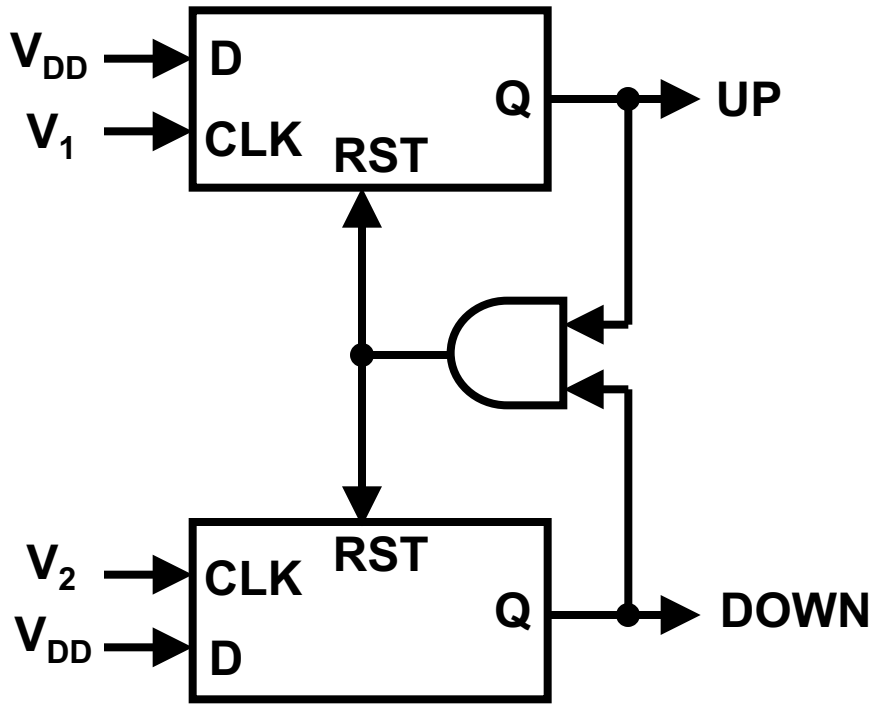
- Conceptual operation



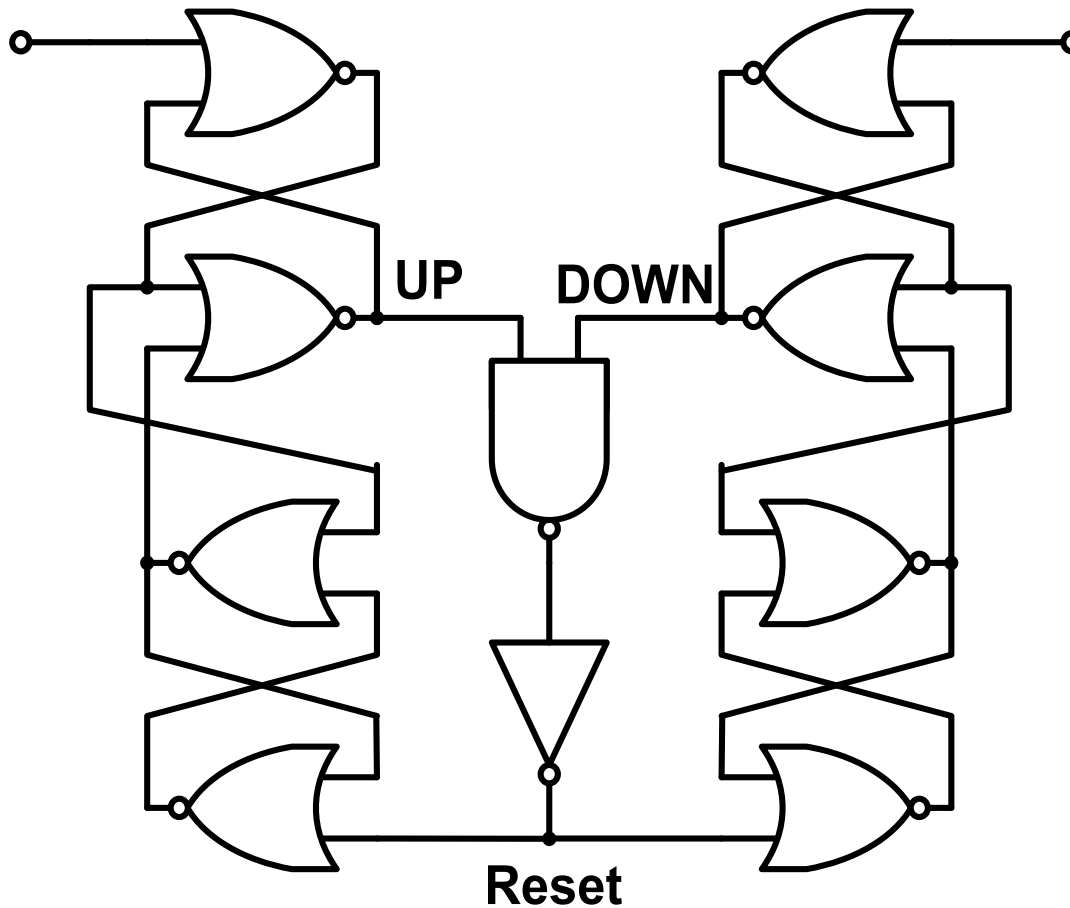
Phase Characteristics of the PFD



An Implementation for PFD

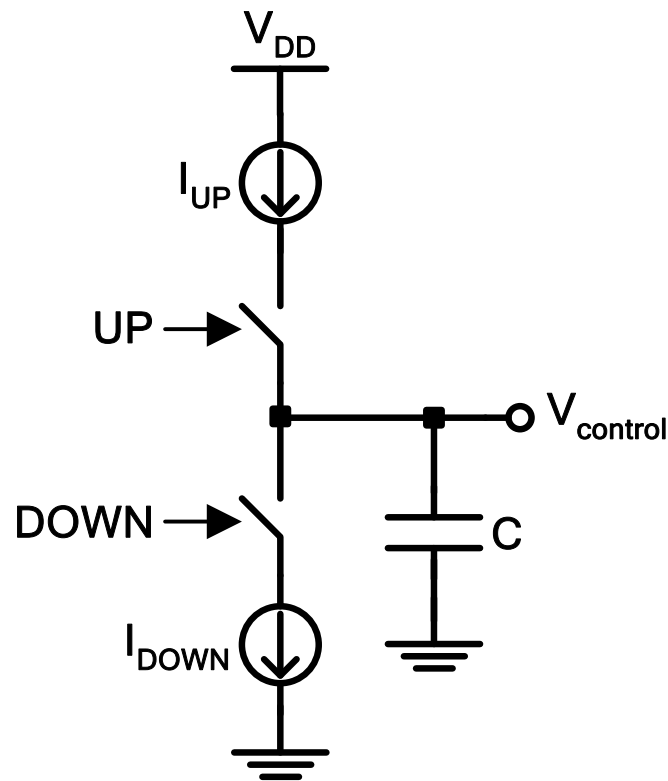


An Implementation for PFD



Charge Pump

- Converts the output pulse of the PD/PFD to charge that is proportional to PD/PFD pulse widths

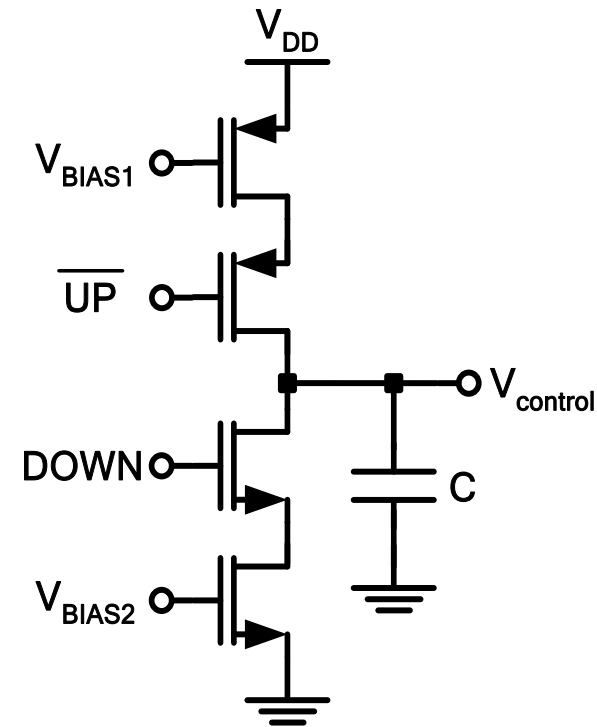


(Ideal) Charge Pump

- Equal UP/DOWN currents over the entire control voltage range (preferably programmable currents to control the loop dynamics)
- No charge coupling to control voltage during the switching
- Insensitive to power supply, process and temperature variations

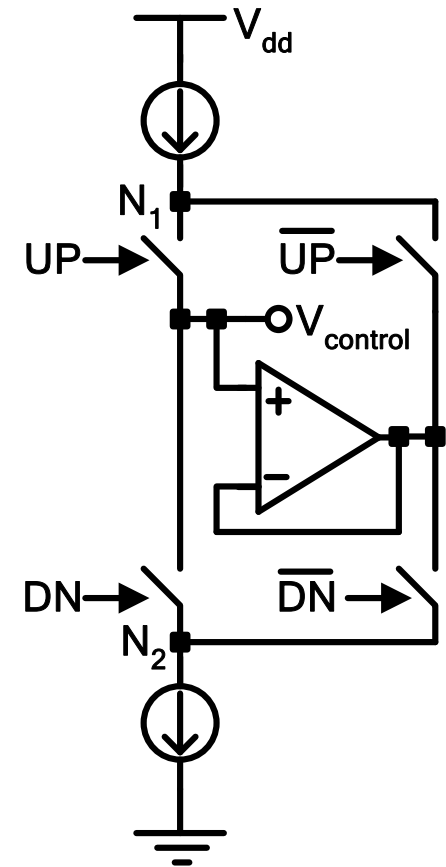
Simple Charge Pump

- Resistance of the switches varies (e.g., due to body effect)
- Can use CMOS pass gates as switches
- Long channel M_1 and M_2 for matching and higher output resistance



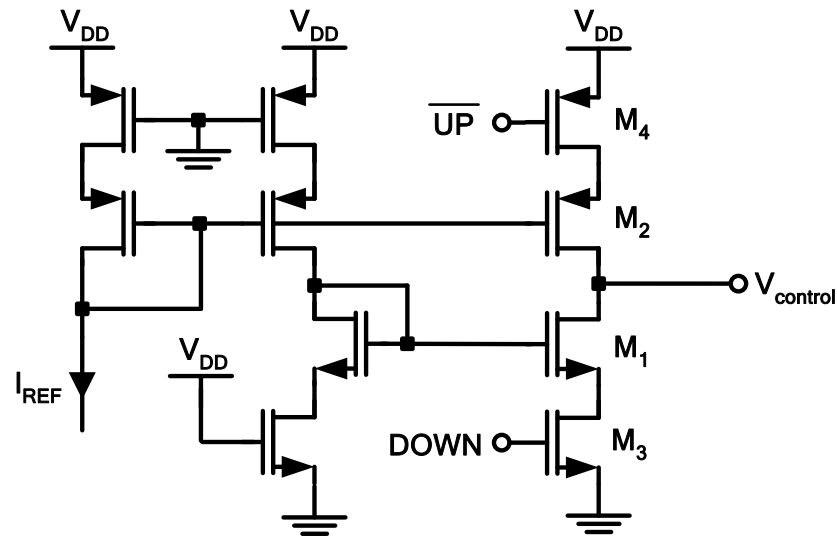
CP: Constant Current with Amp [YGW92]

- Unity gain amplifier suppresses charge sharing from parasitic capacitances on nodes N_1/N_2 and V_{control} (reduced mismatch between I_{UP} and I_{DN})
- Buffer sinks “waste” current when UP(DN) is off



Charge Pump [LaR00]

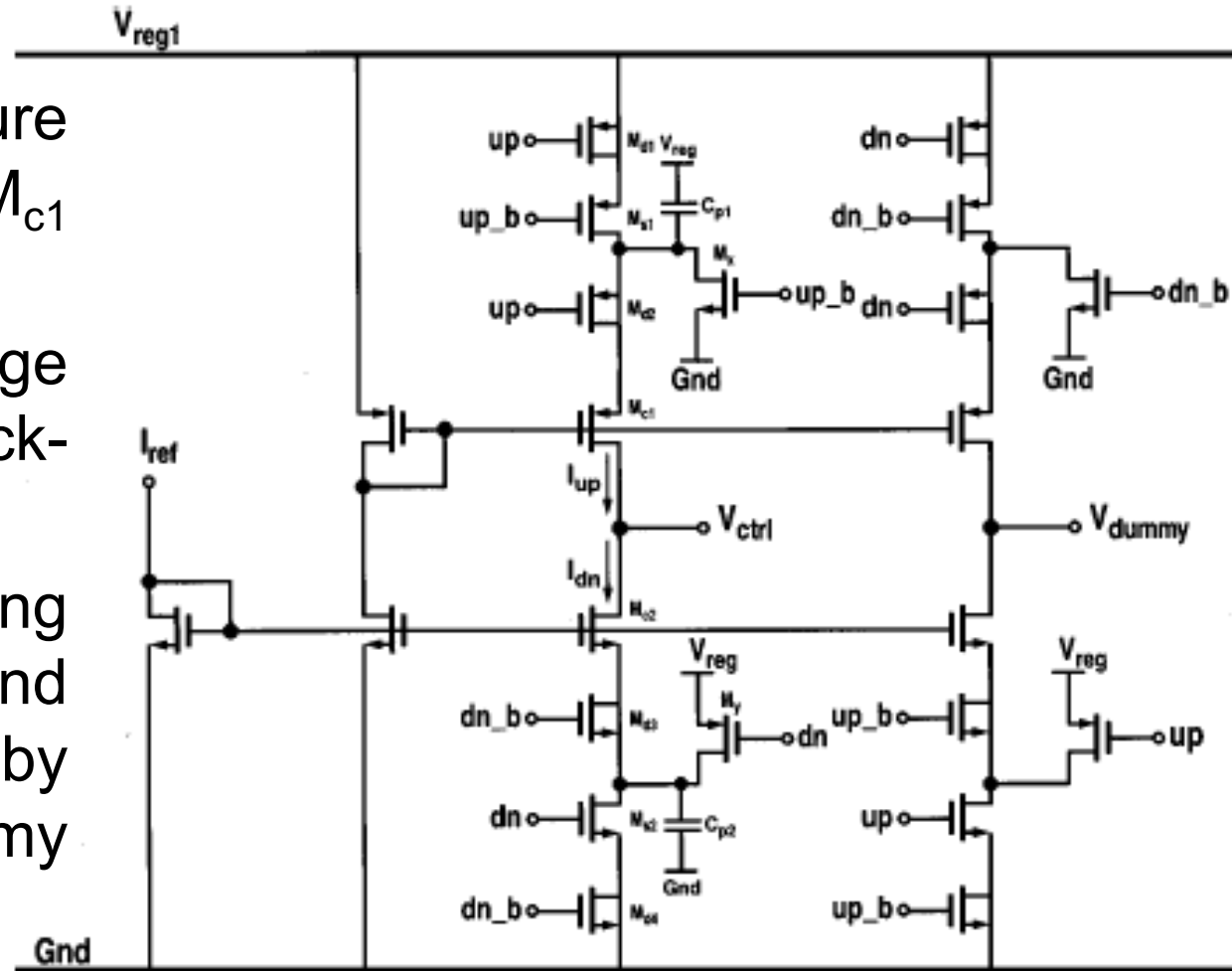
- Move Switches closer to the rails to reduce the body-effect of switches, charge injection and clock feed-through



- M_1 , M_2 and corresponding biasing transistors are long channel

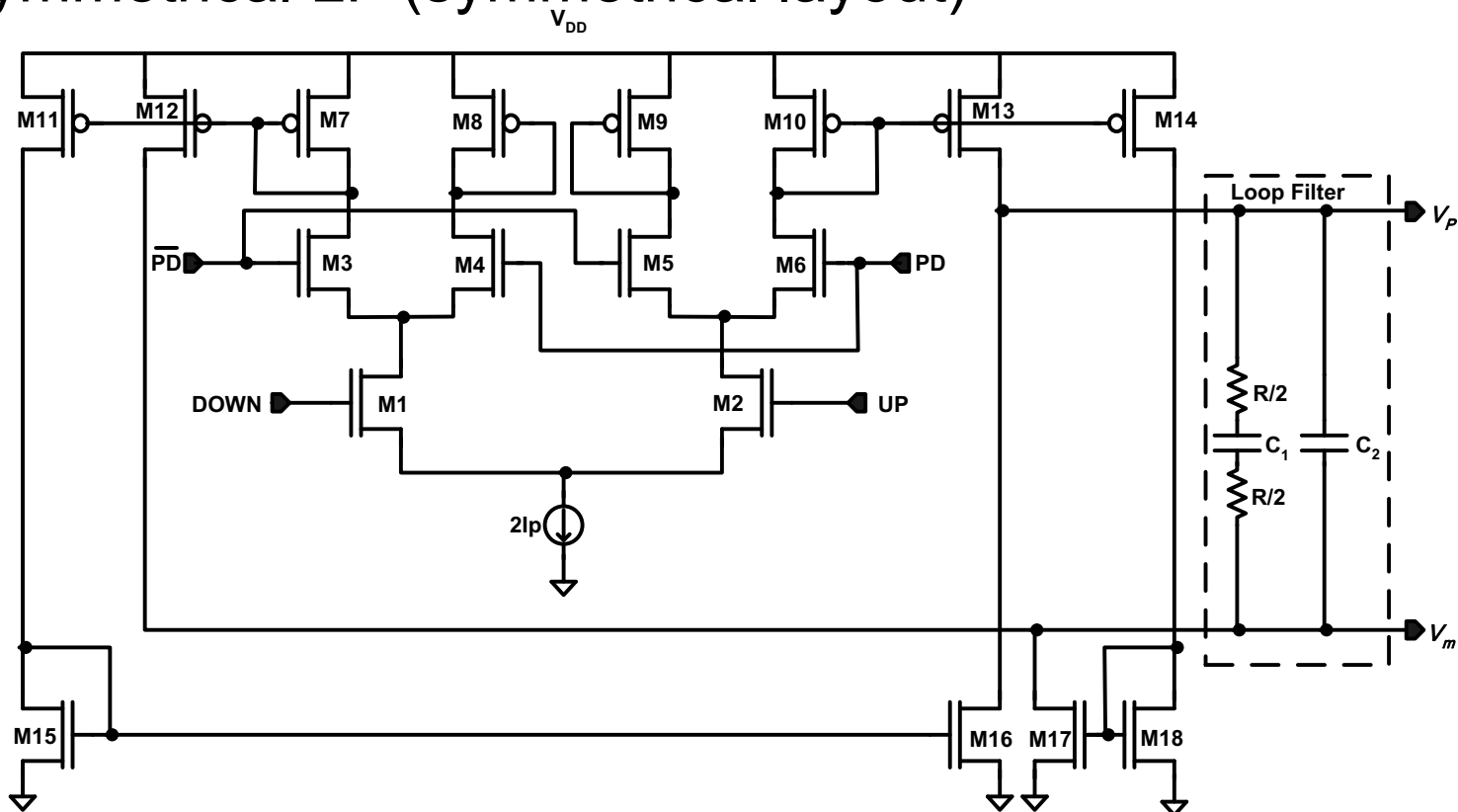
Fast turn-off CP [InK01]

- M_x and M_y ensure fast turn-off of M_{c1} and M_{c2} .
- M_{d1-d4} reduce charge injection and clock-feedthrough
- Improved matching between UP and DOWN currents by using the dummy load structure.

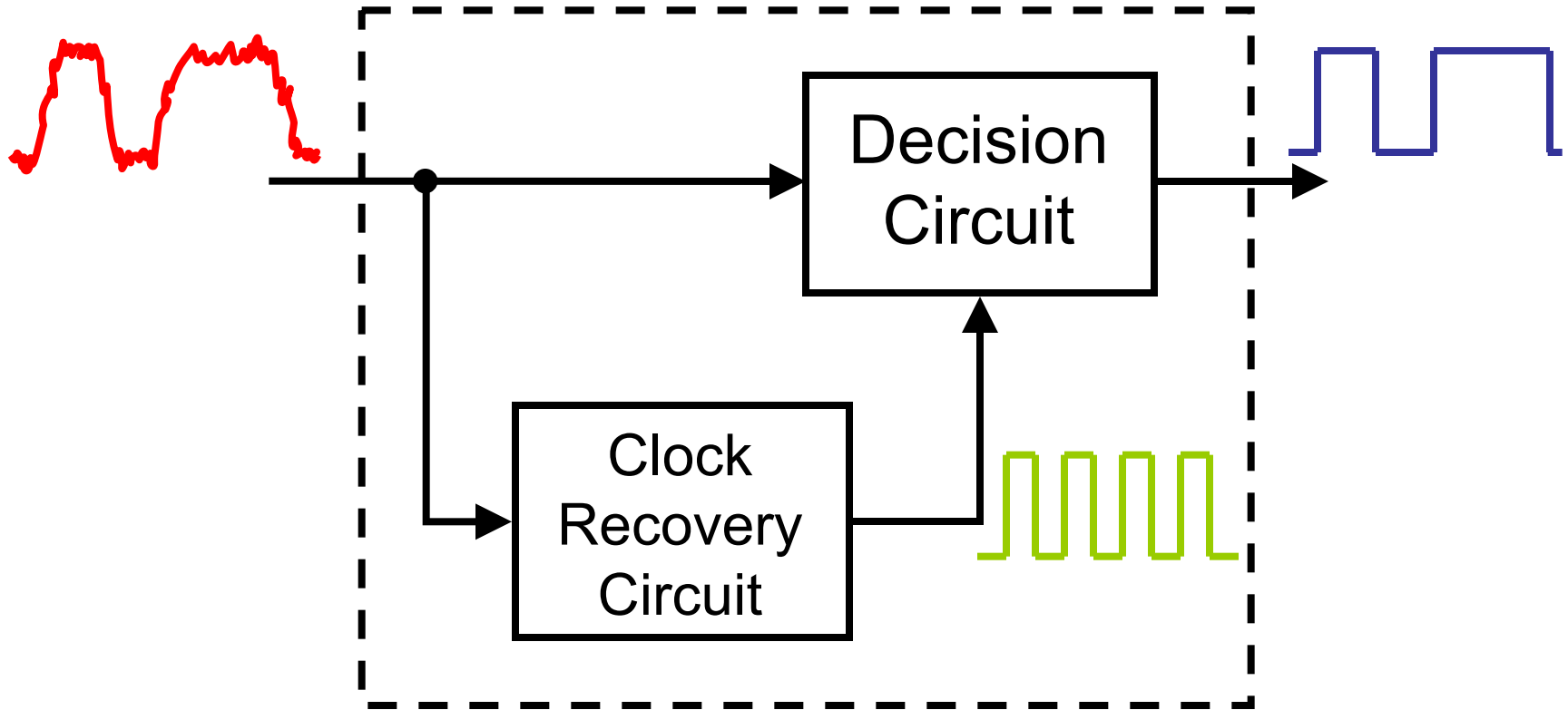


Fully Differential CP [DjS00]

- Different control lines for frequency and phase difference
 - faster frequency capture and smoother phase control
- Identical output paths for charging/discharging LF
- Symmetrical LF (symmetrical layout)



Clock and Data Recovery

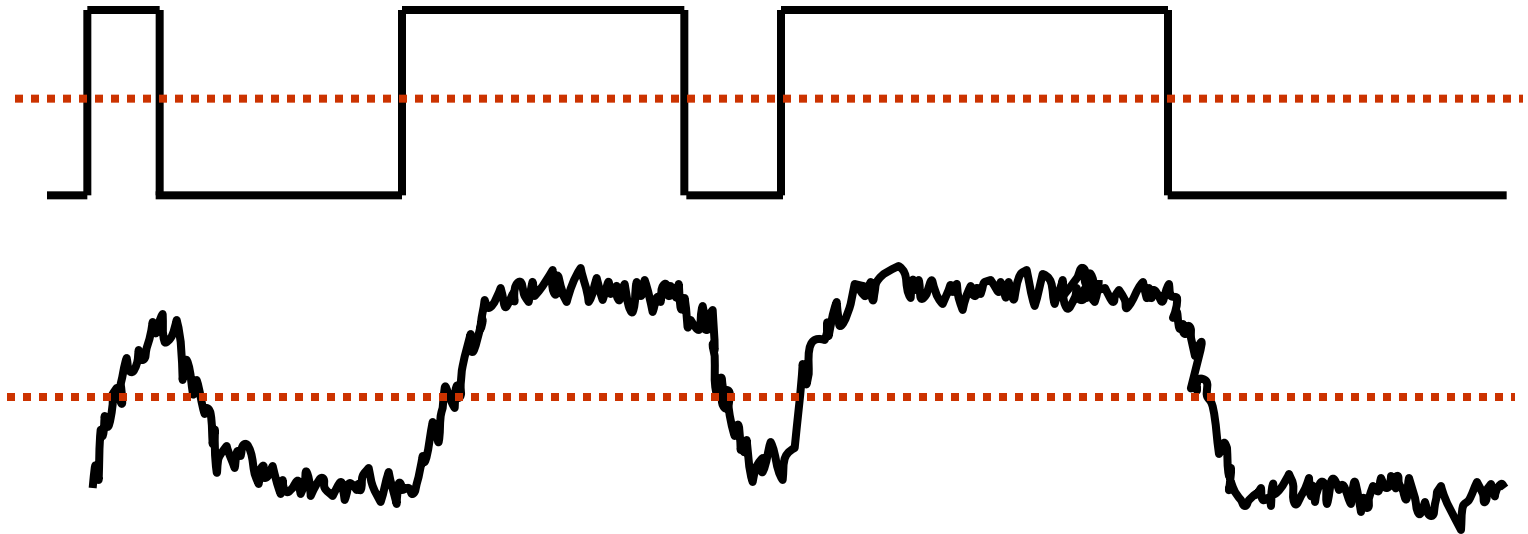


Signal Degradation Mechanisms

- Dispersion
- Baseline wander due to AC coupling
- Intersymbol interference
- Skin/dielectric loss
- Noise
- Connector discontinuities

Jitter

- Deviation of significant instances of a signal (e.g., its zero crossings) from their ideal location in time



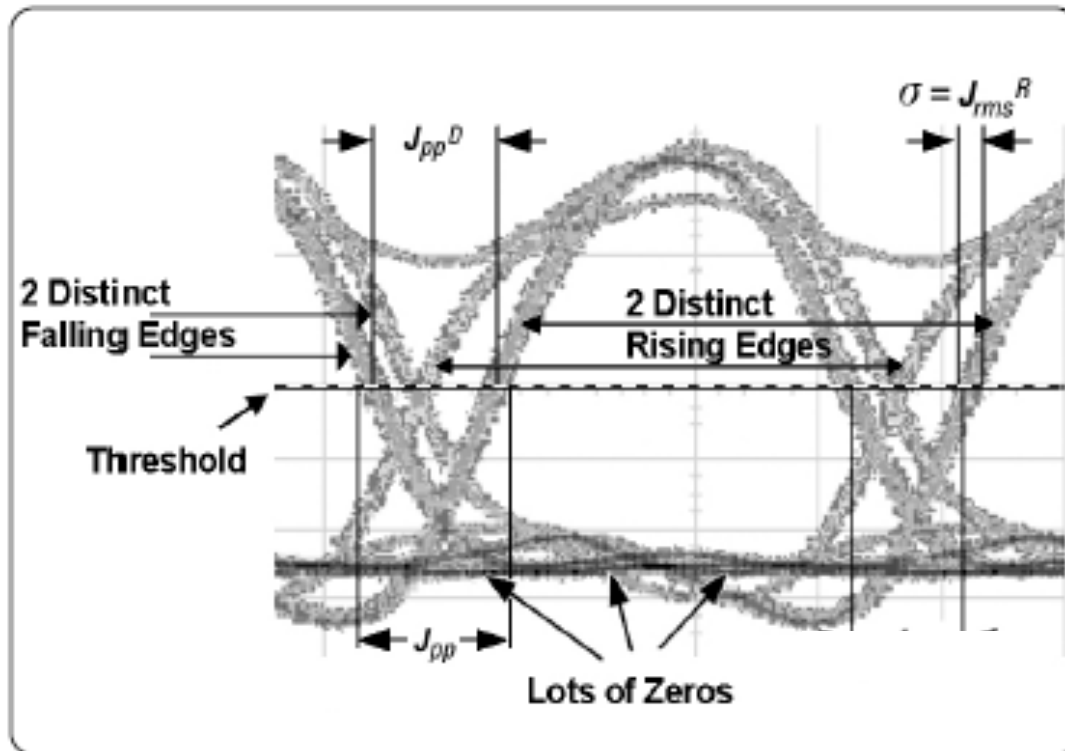
Jitter Measurements

- Based on time-domain (eye diagram):
 - Deterministic jitter
 - Random jitter
- Based on frequency-domain:
 - Jitter tolerance
 - Jitter transfer

Random and Deterministic Jitter

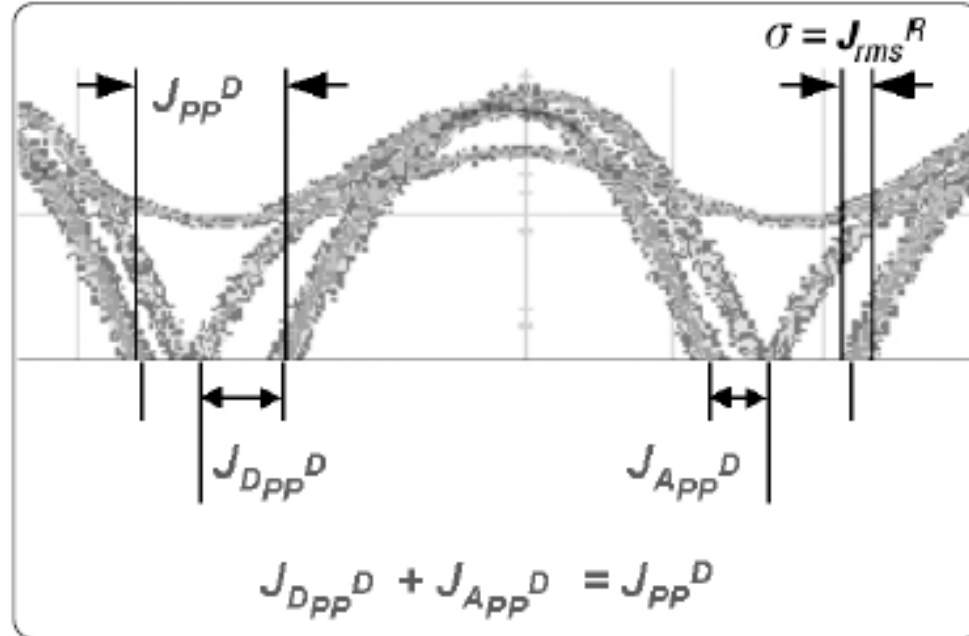
- Random Jitter (RJ)
 - Use a simple repetitive “clock-like” pattern as input.
 - Measure RMS jitter at zero crossings of eye-diagram
- Deterministic Jitter (DJ)
 - Use (pseudo-) random data as input
 - Measure peak-to-peak jitter at zero crossings
 - RJ contribution is subtracted from the measurement

RJ and DJ



Source: Agilent Technologies Application Note 1448-1

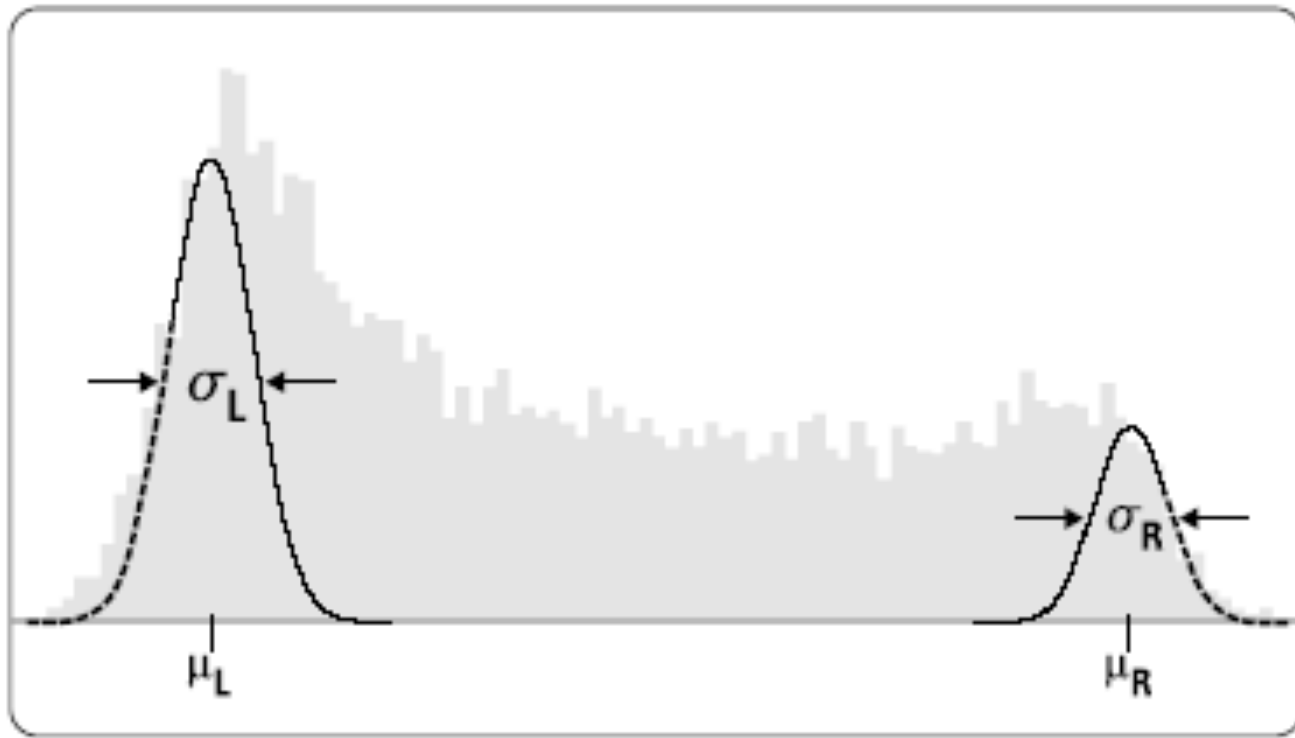
RJ and DJ



Source: Agilent Technologies Application Note 1448-1

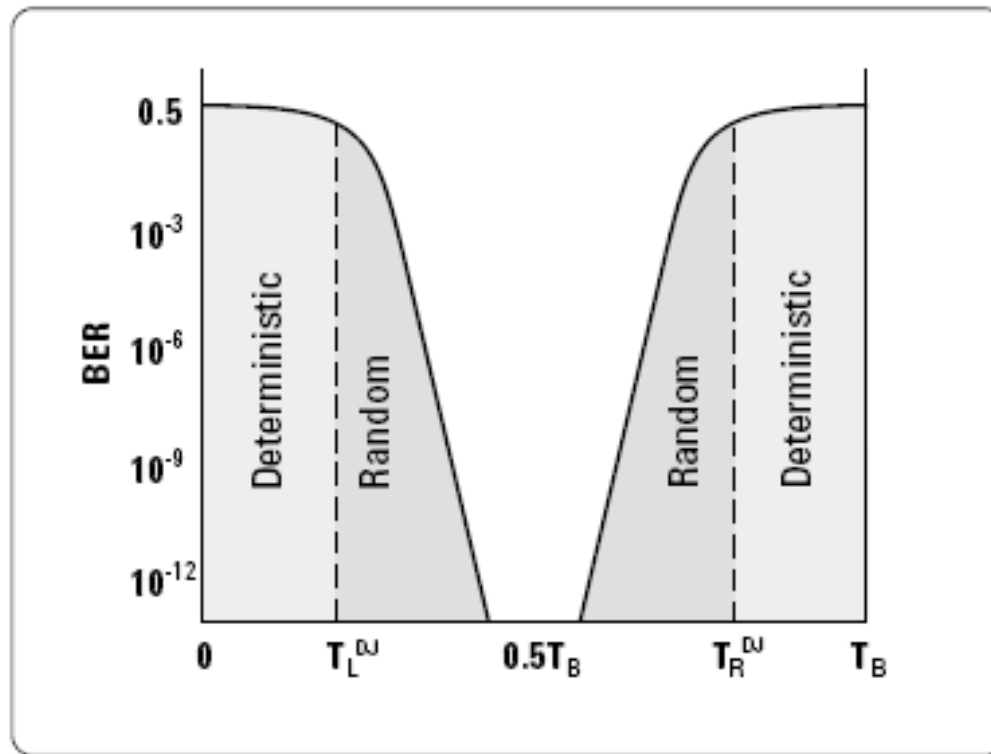
Separating RJ and DJ

- Use histogram of zero crossings



Source: Agilent Technologies Application Note 1448-1

Bath-tub Plot

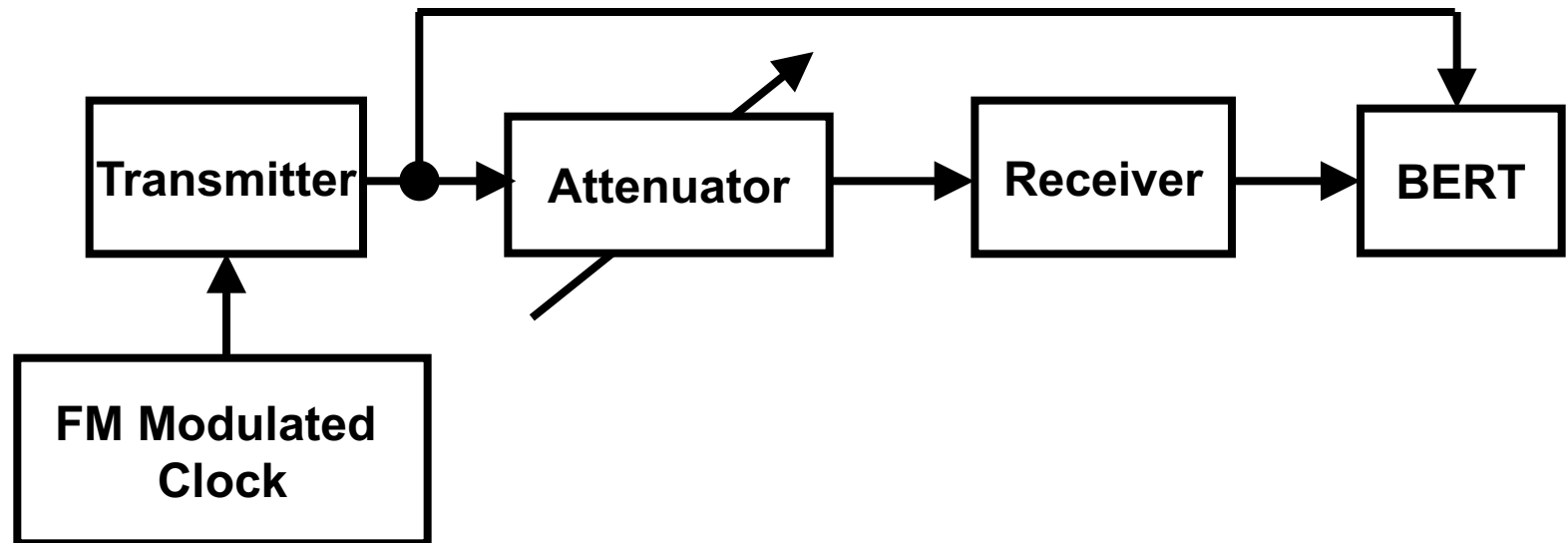


Source: Agilent Technologies Application Note 1448-1

Jitter Tolerance

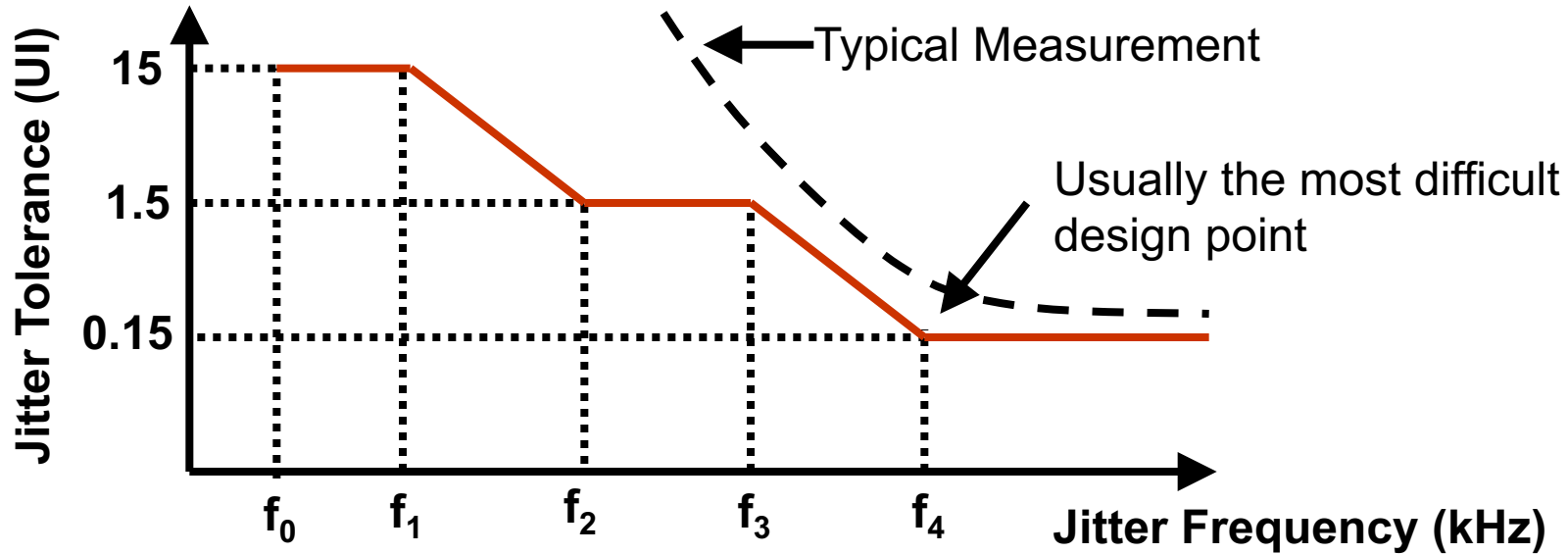
- A measure of how a known amount of jitter affect the system performance (e.g., BER)
- In a CDR system jitter tolerance can be specified as the input jitter that the CDR system must tolerate without increasing the BER

Jitter Tolerance Measurement Setup



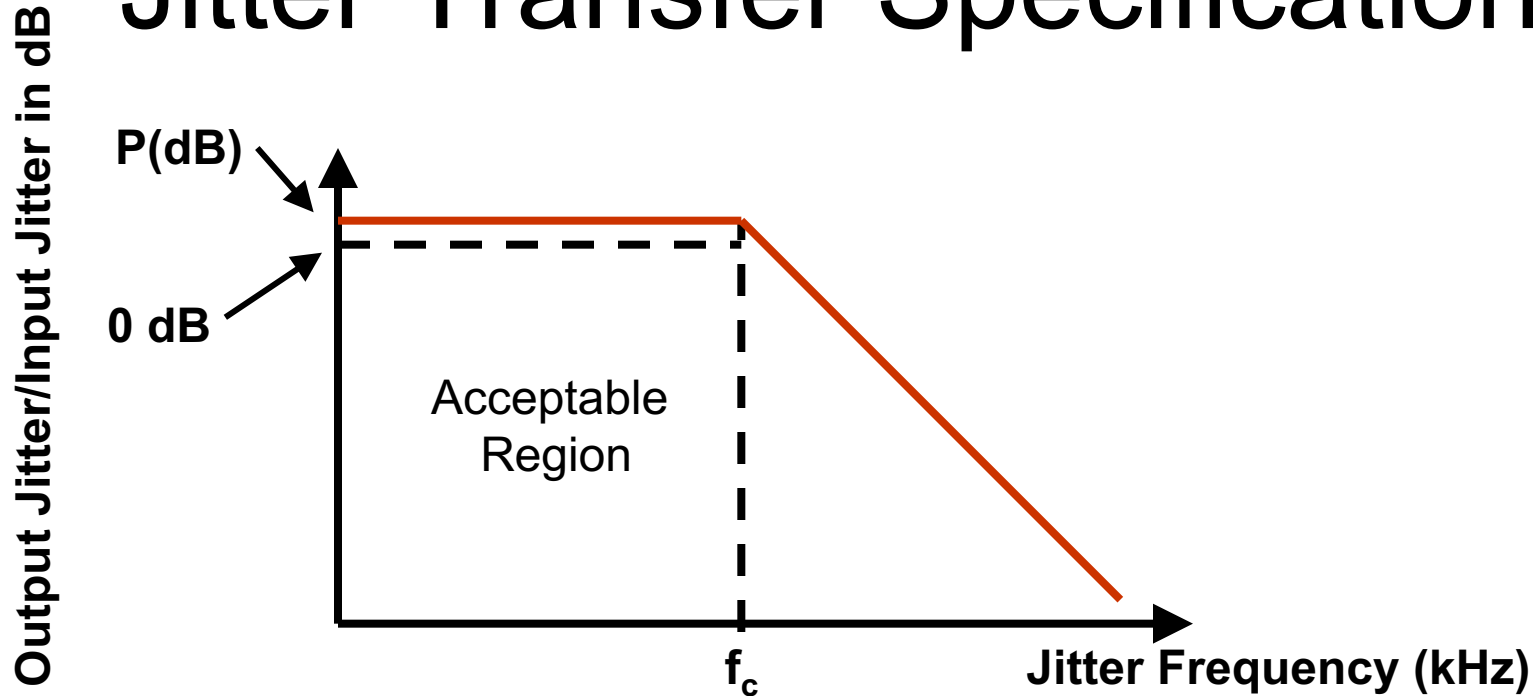
- In SONET jitter tolerance is the tolerable jitter until BER penalty is the same as that caused by 1dB optical attenuation

SONET Jitter Tolerance Mask



Data Rate	f_0	f_1	f_2	f_3	f_4
OC-3 (~155Mbps)	0.01	0.03	0.3	6.5	65
OC-12 (~622Mbps)	0.01	0.03	0.3	25	250
OC-48 (~2.5Gbps)	0.01	0.6	6	100	1000
OC-192 (10Gbps)	0.01	2.4	24	400	4000

Jitter Transfer Specification

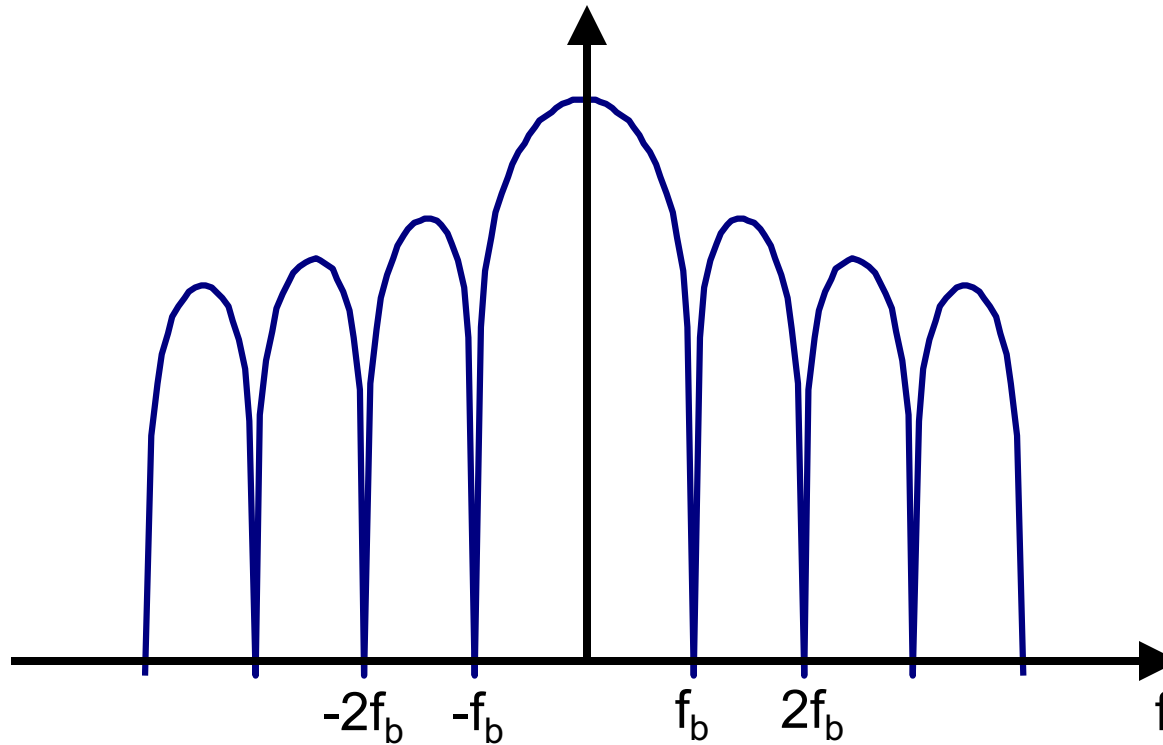
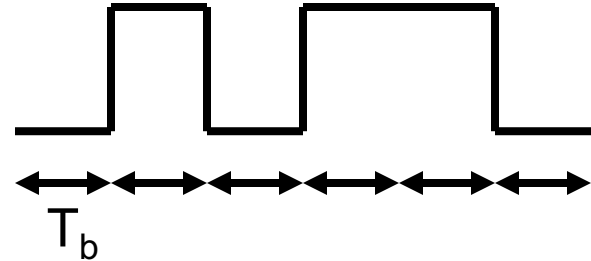


Data Rate	f _c (kHz)	P(dB)
156Mbps	130	0.1
622Mbps	500	0.1
2.5Gbps	2000	0.1

Important specification to control jitter peaking for channels with large number of repeaters

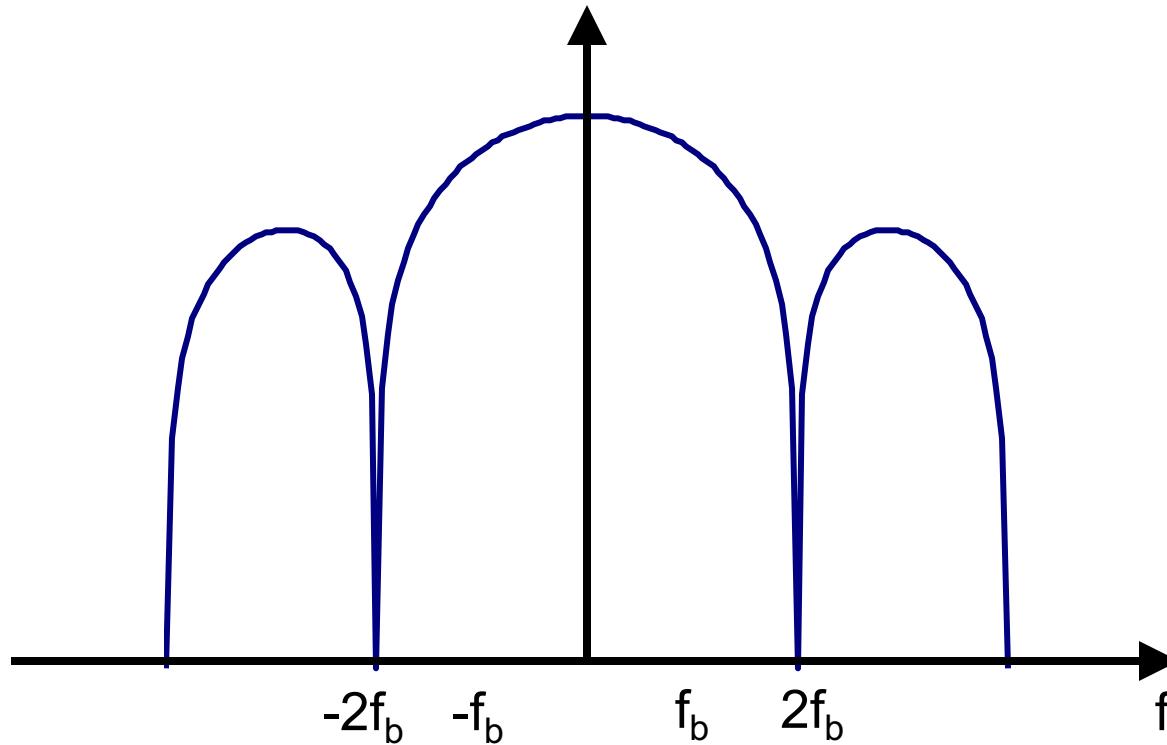
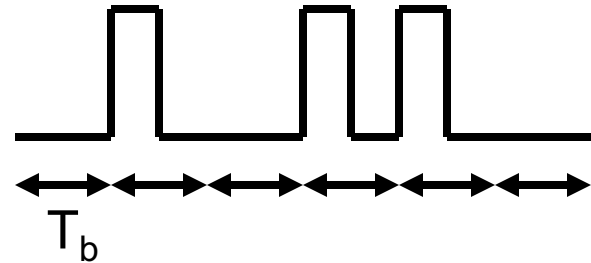
Random Binary Data

- Non-return to zero
- Power spectrum:



Random Binary Data

- Return to zero
- Power spectrum:



NRZ versus RZ

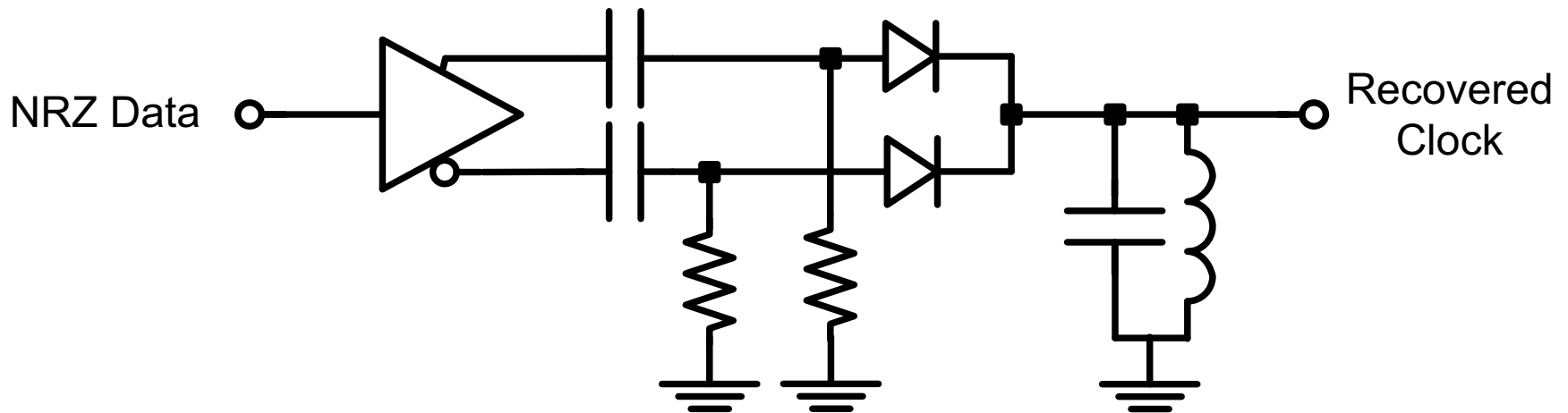
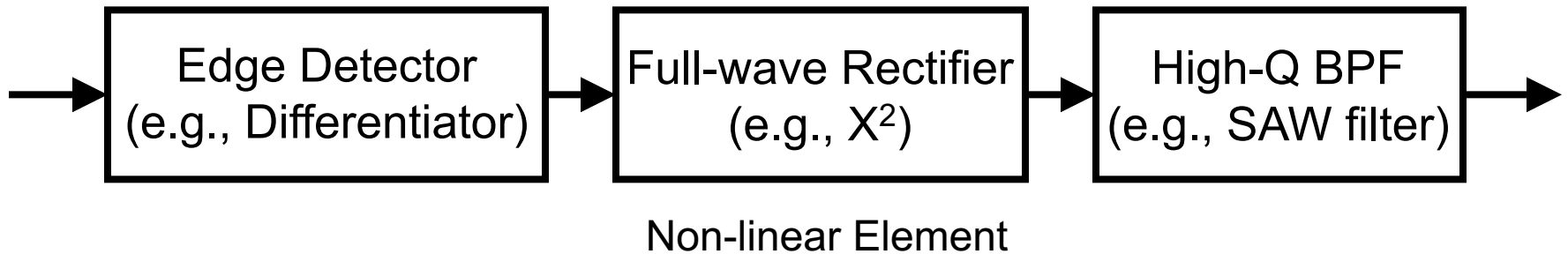
- NRZ is 2x spectrally efficient
- NRZ signaling is almost always used
- However, NRZ data spectrum has no component at clock frequency (more challenging clock recovery) and also susceptible to baseline wander (due to large run length)

Coding

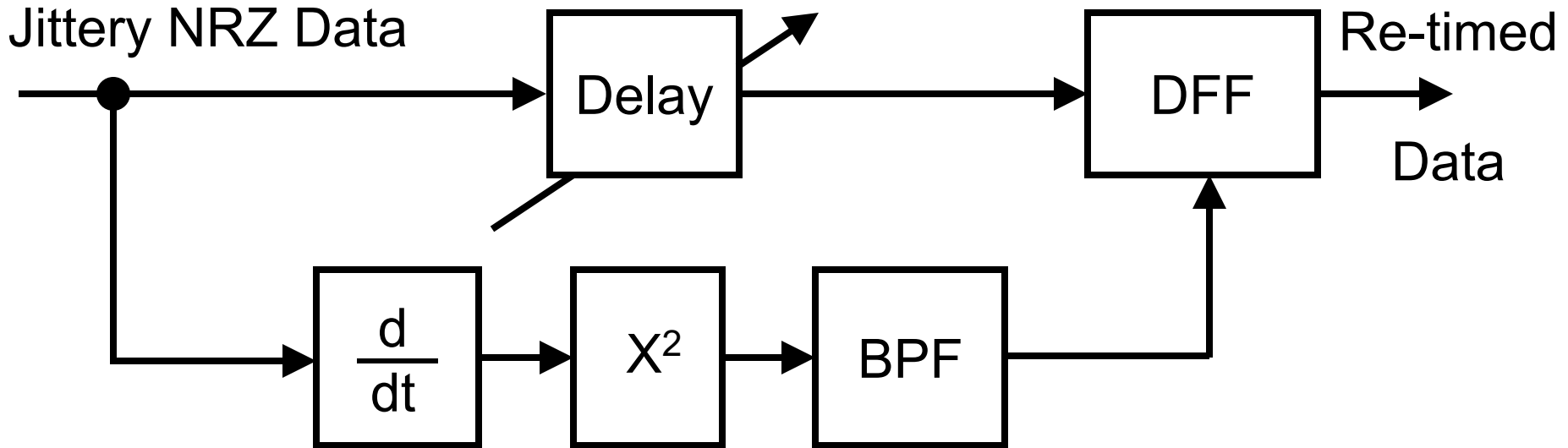
- Coding is generally used to:
 - DC balance and spectral shaping
 - Bounded run length
- High coding efficiency is desired
- Example: 8b/10b used in SONET

Filter based Clock Recovery

- Clock extraction

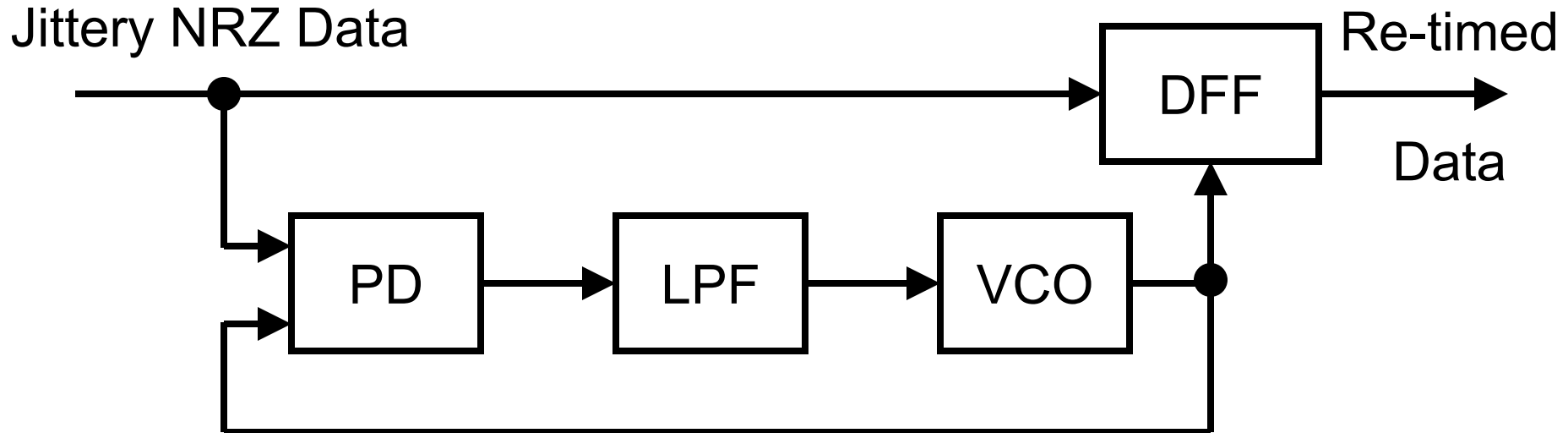


Filter based Clock Recovery



- Pros: Relatively simple discrete implementation
- Cons: Temperature and frequency variation of the filter, narrow pulse generation require high f_T , high-Q filter difficult to integrate

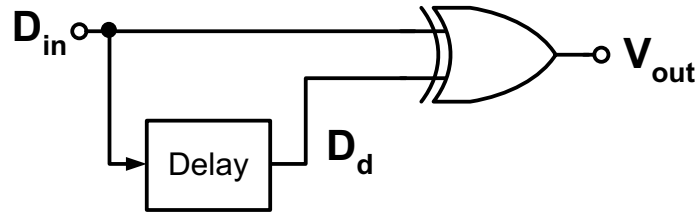
PLL Based Techniques



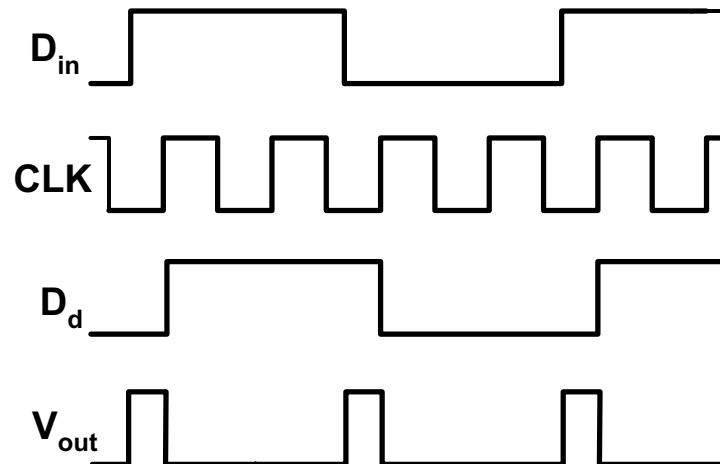
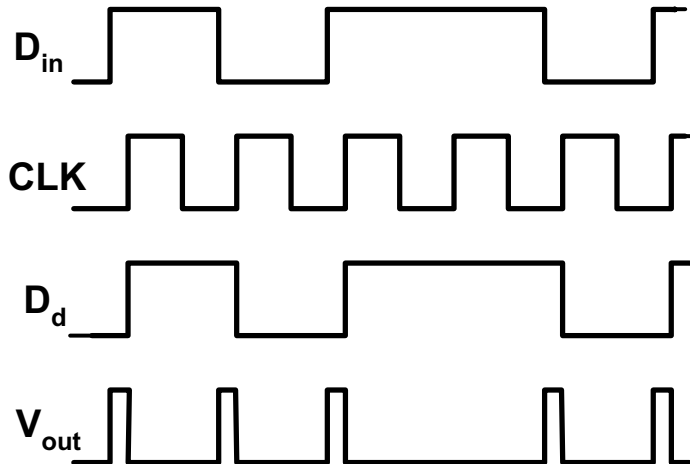
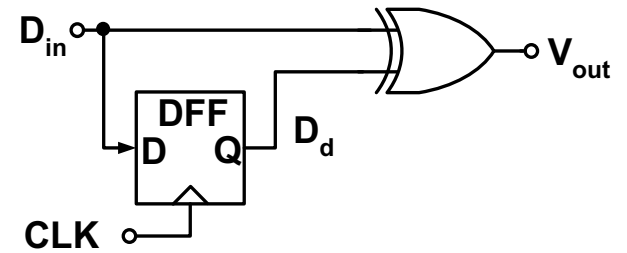
Phase Detector for CDR Systems

- Linear and bang-bang PDs
 - Hogge and Alexander types
- Full rate and fractional rate PDs

An Edge Detector as a Simple PD

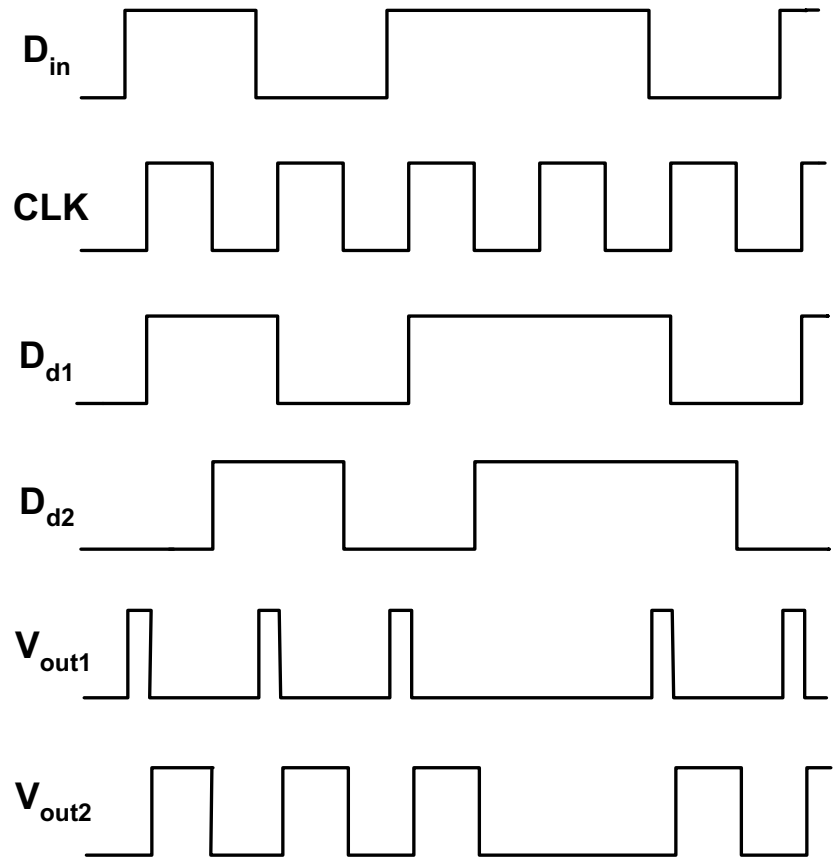
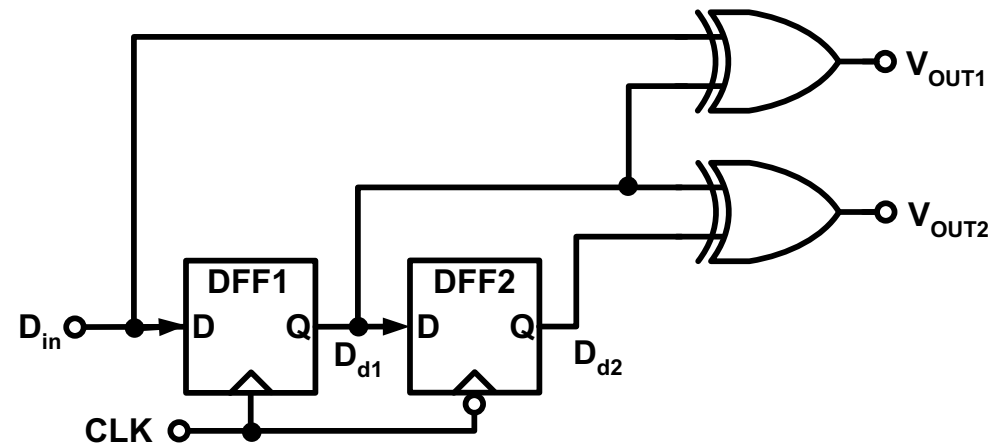


- Use FF as a delay element
- Problem?



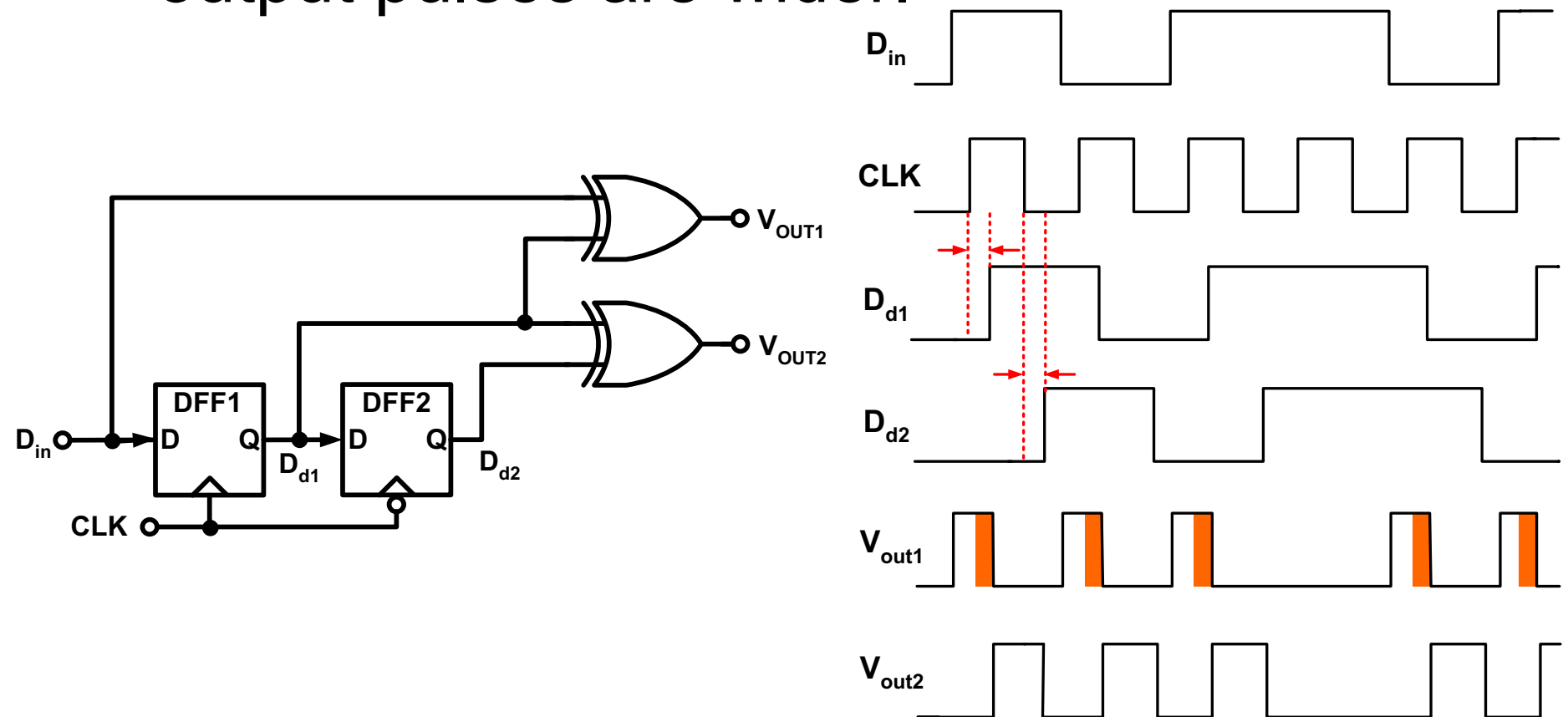
Hogge PD

- Use a reference pulse to eliminate the pattern dependency



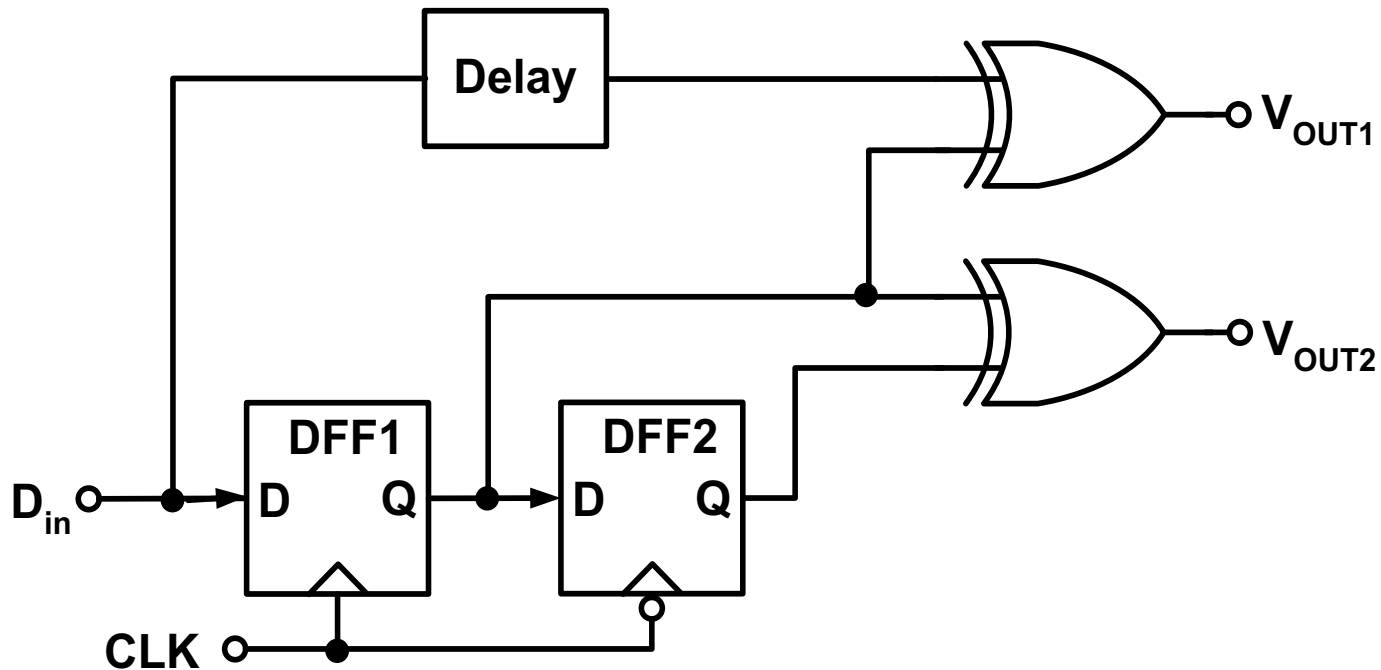
Effect of FF Delay

- Due to clock to Q delay of the FF the V_{out1} output pulses are wider.



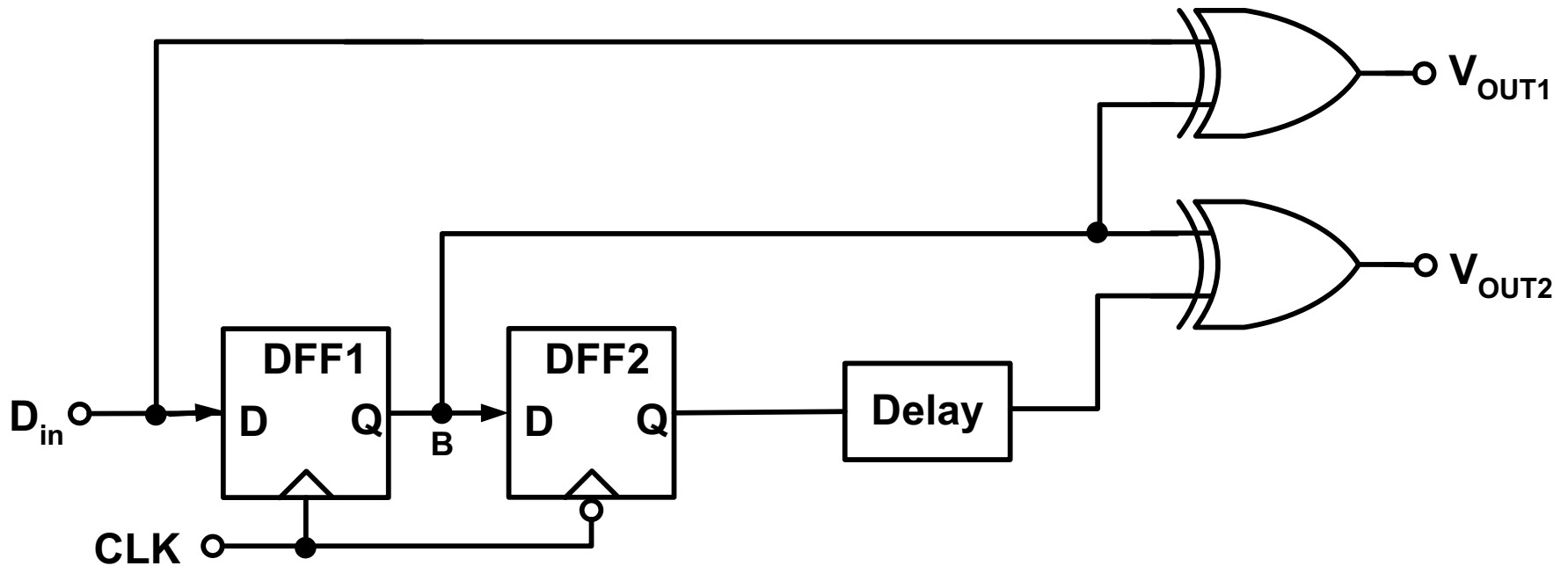
Delay Compensation in Hogge PD

- Add an equal delay in the data path



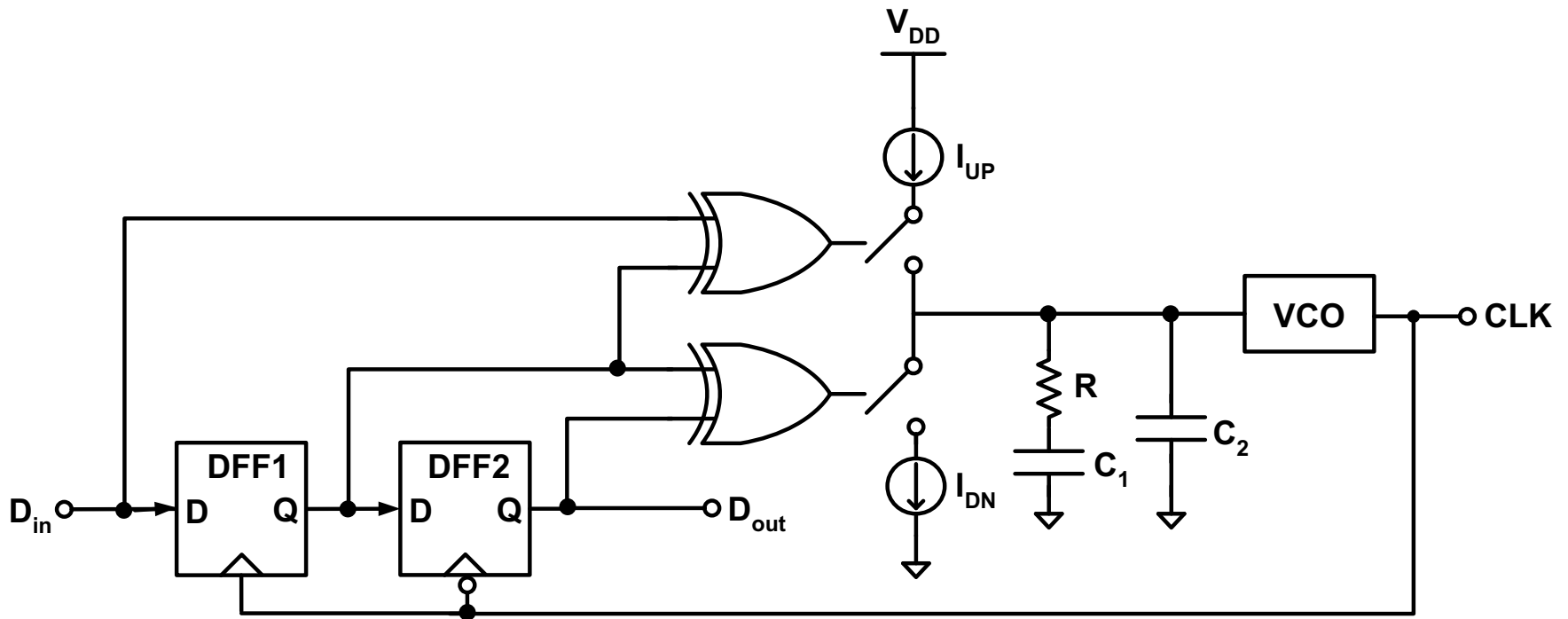
Delay Compensation in Hogge PD

- Widen the reference signal



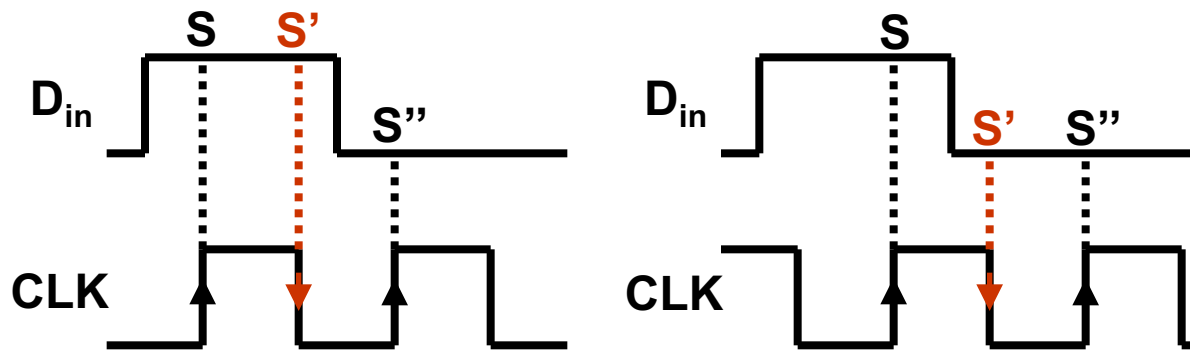
CDR System Using Hogge PD

- Simplified Hogge PD



Alexander PD (A Bang-Bang PD)

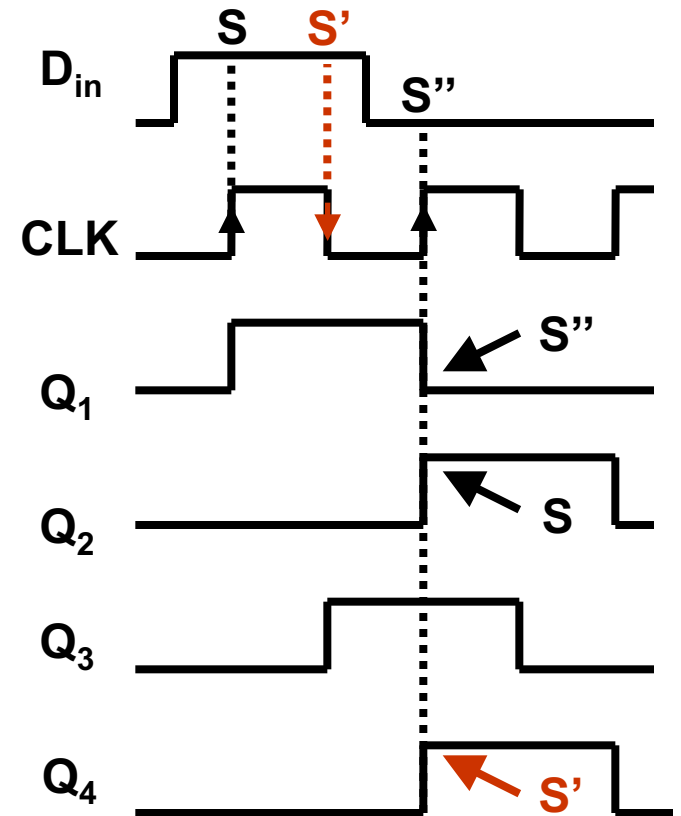
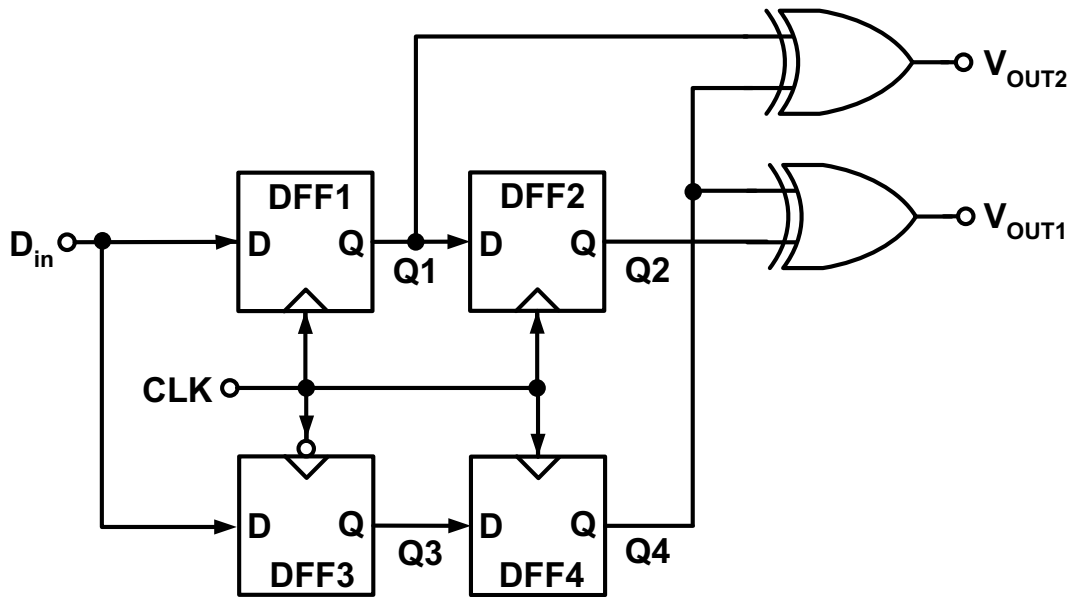
- Based on early-late detection principle



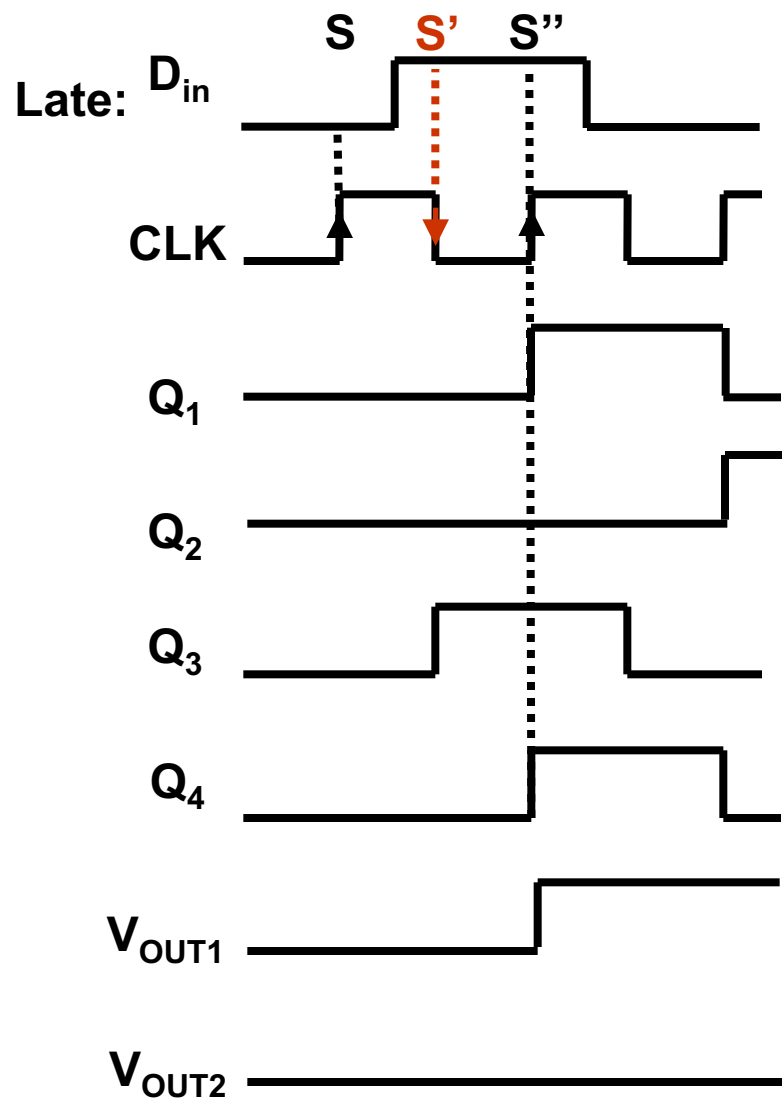
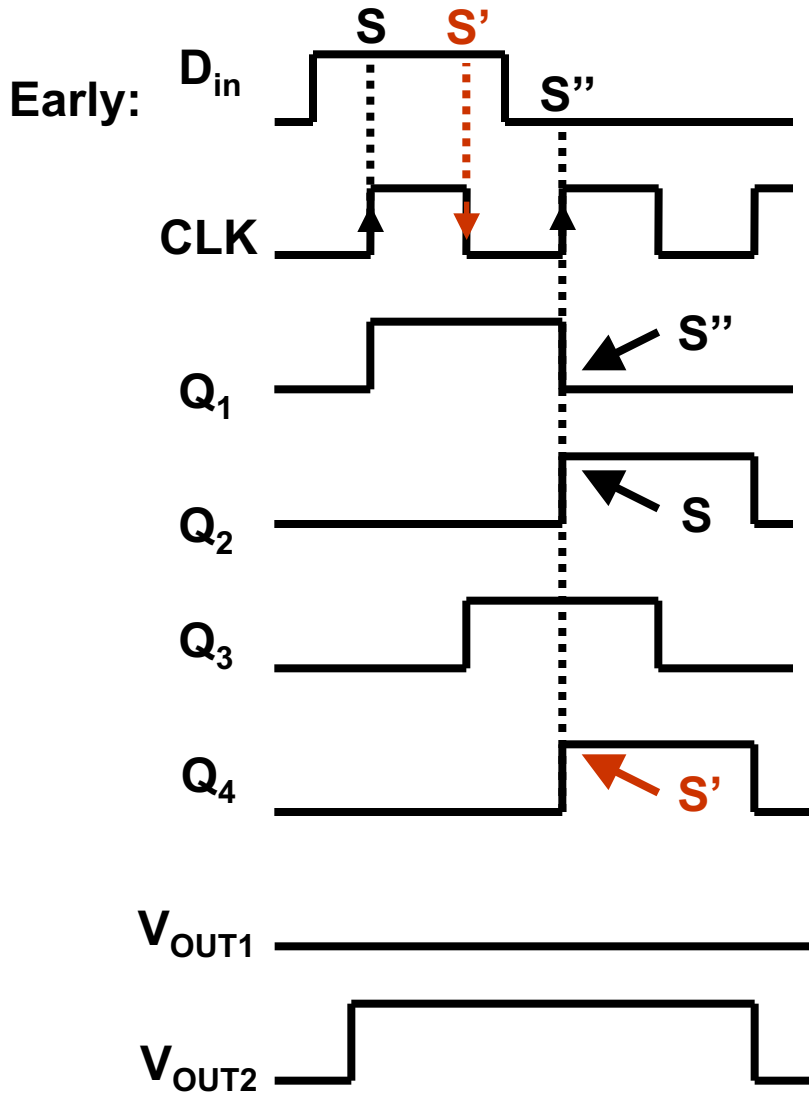
- Determine whether the falling edge of the clock is early or late with respect to data transition point

Alexander PD (A Bang-Bang PD)

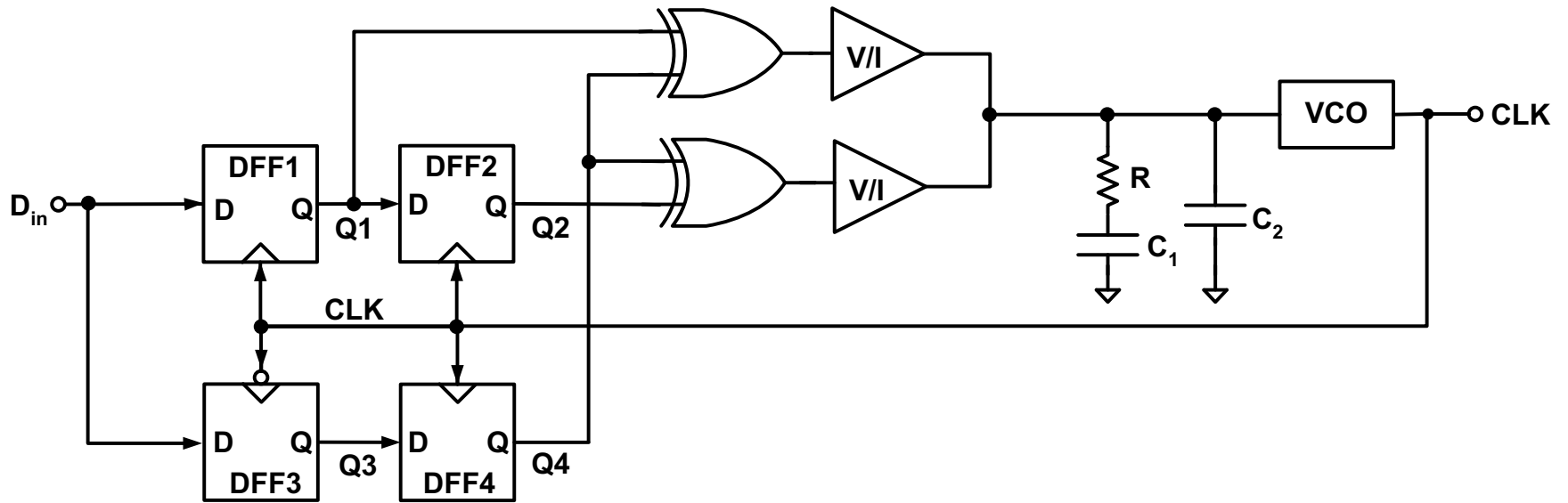
- Based on early-late detection principle



Alexander PD Waveforms



CDR System using Alexander PD

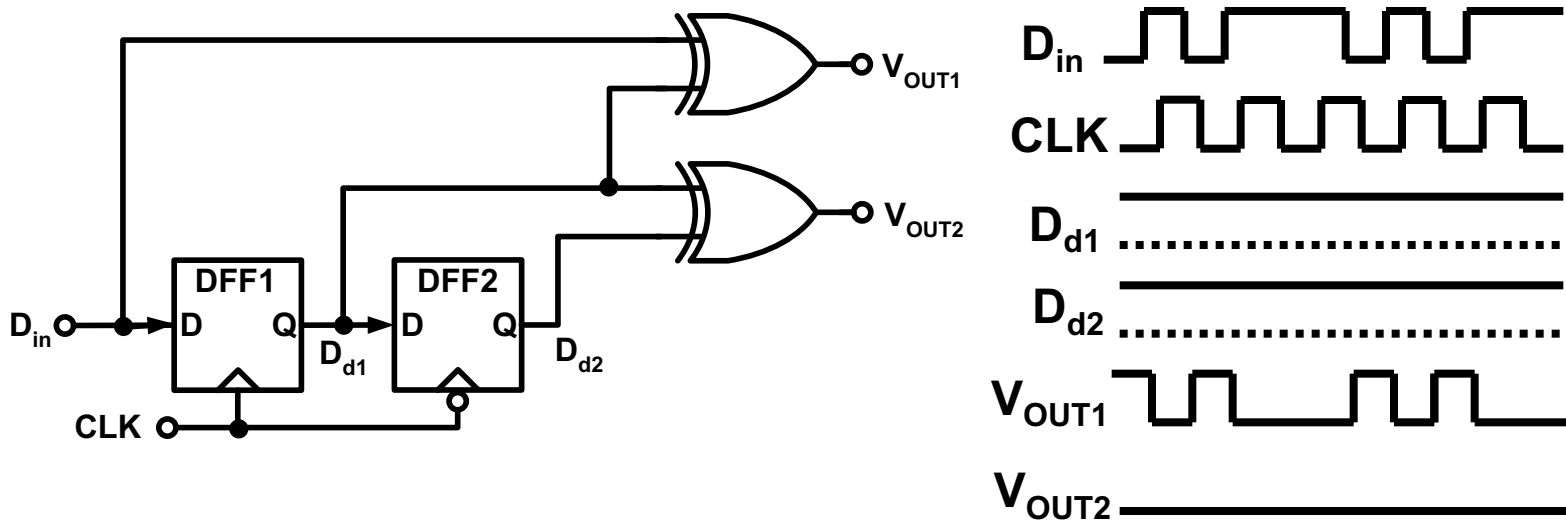


Fractional-Rate CDR Systems

- Design of high-speed adequately tunable clocks with reasonable jitter performance is challenging.
- Use a fractional rate clock (e.g., half-rate)
- The PD should be able to operate at the fractional clock rate.

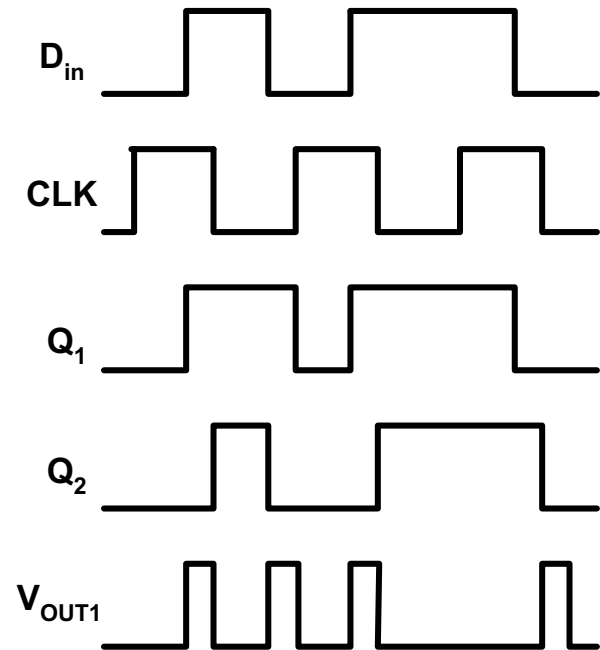
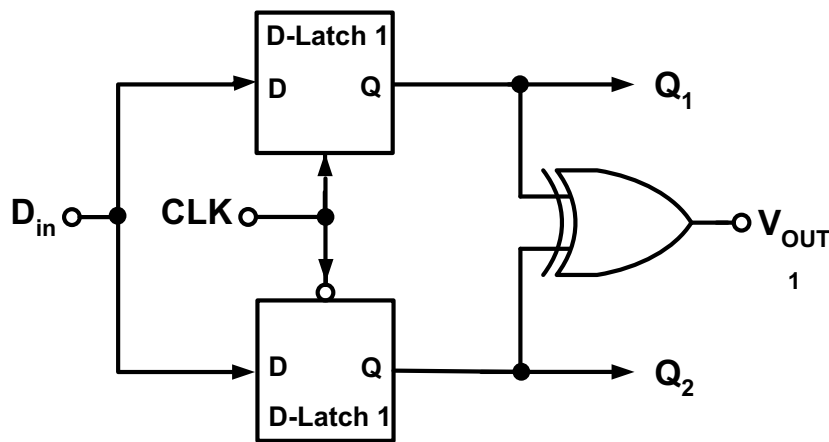
Half-Rate Hogge PD?

- Problem: Half of the clock transitions are missing, random data can be chosen such that all the samples have the same value.

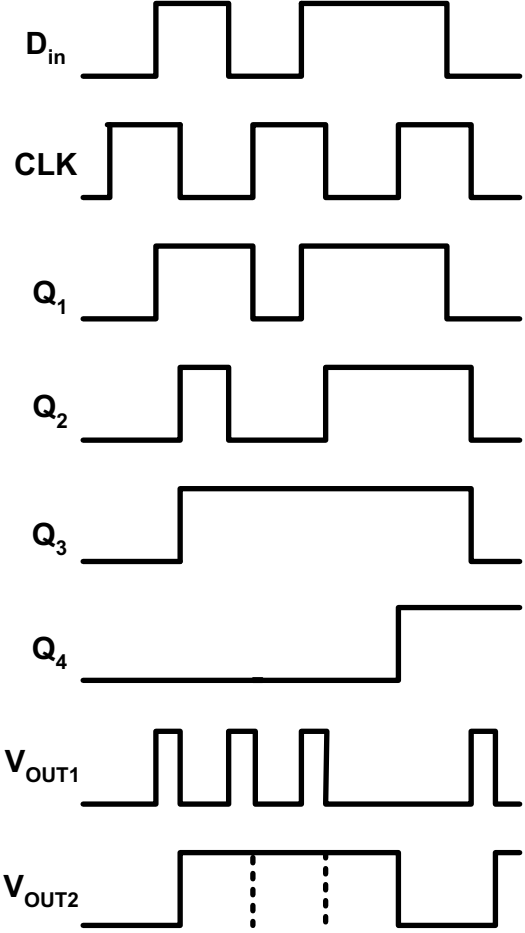
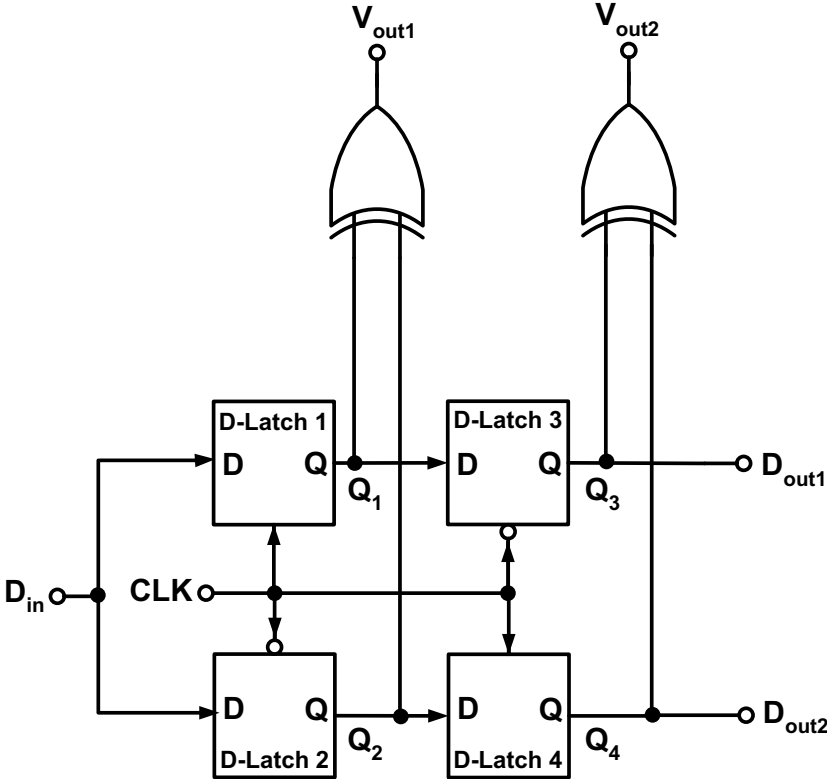


Simple Linear Half-Rate PD

- Use both edges of the half-rate clock

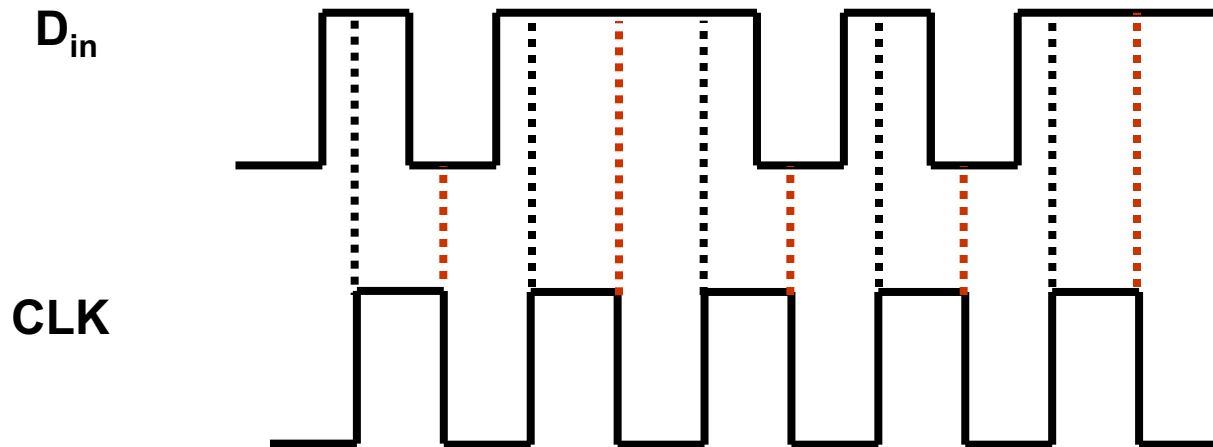


Complete Linear Half-Rate PD



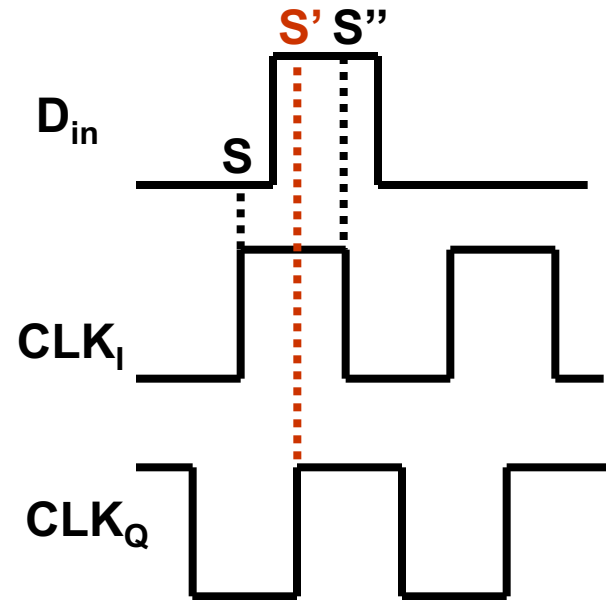
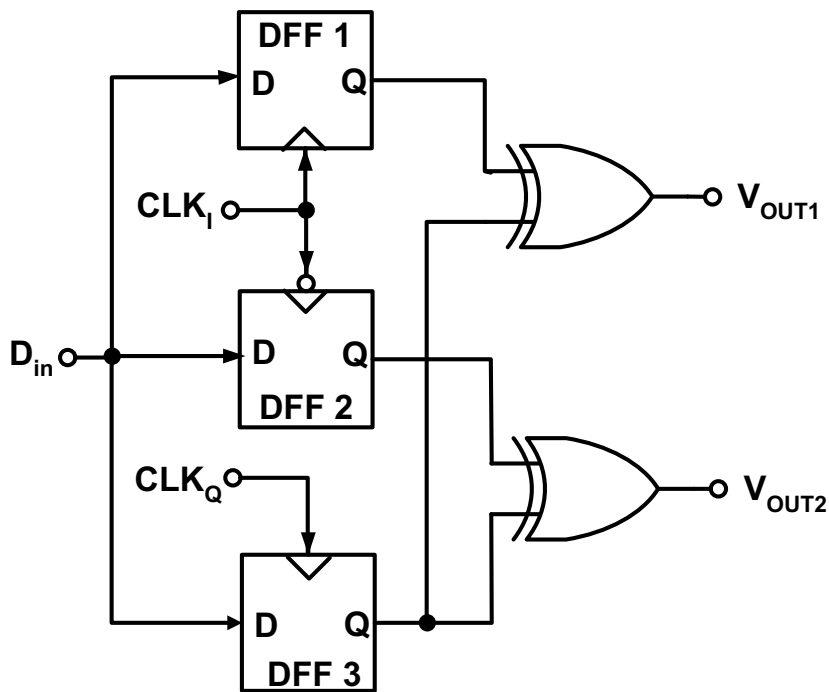
Half-Rate Alexander PD?

- Problem: Alexander PD already required sampling at both edges of the clock



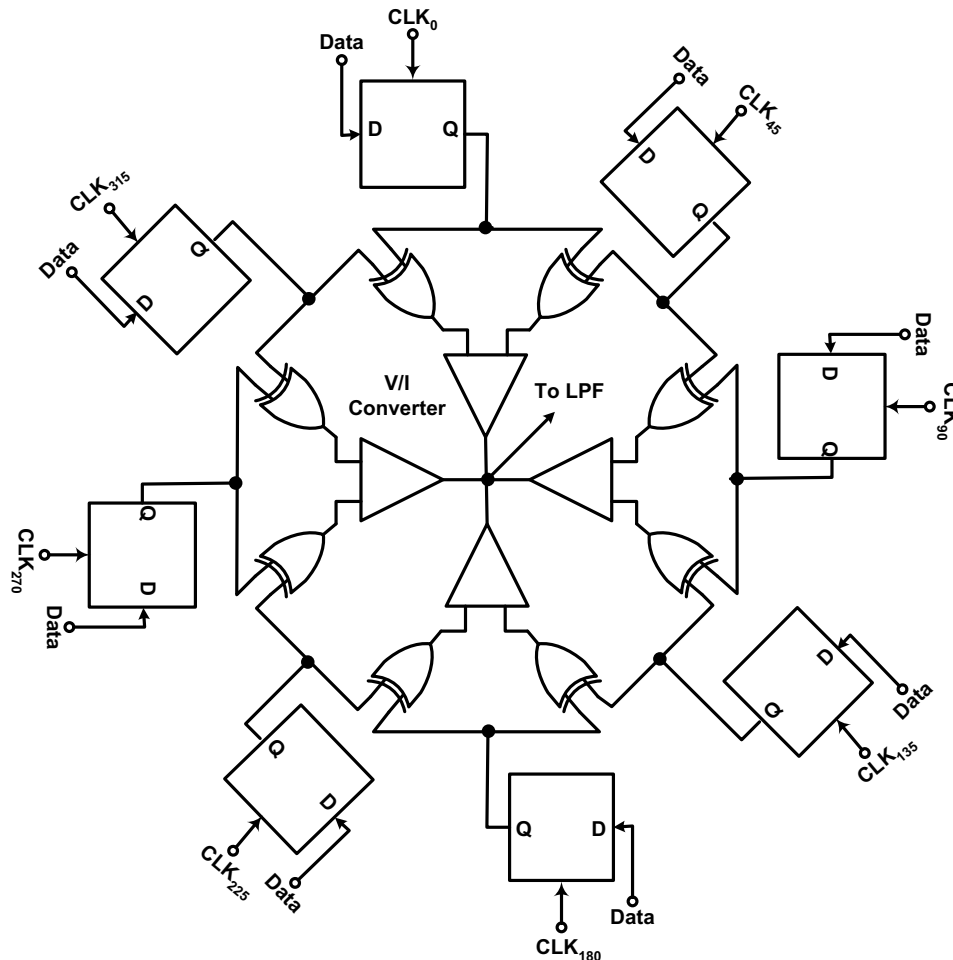
Half-Rate Bang-Bang PD

- Use both in-phase and quadrature clock phases

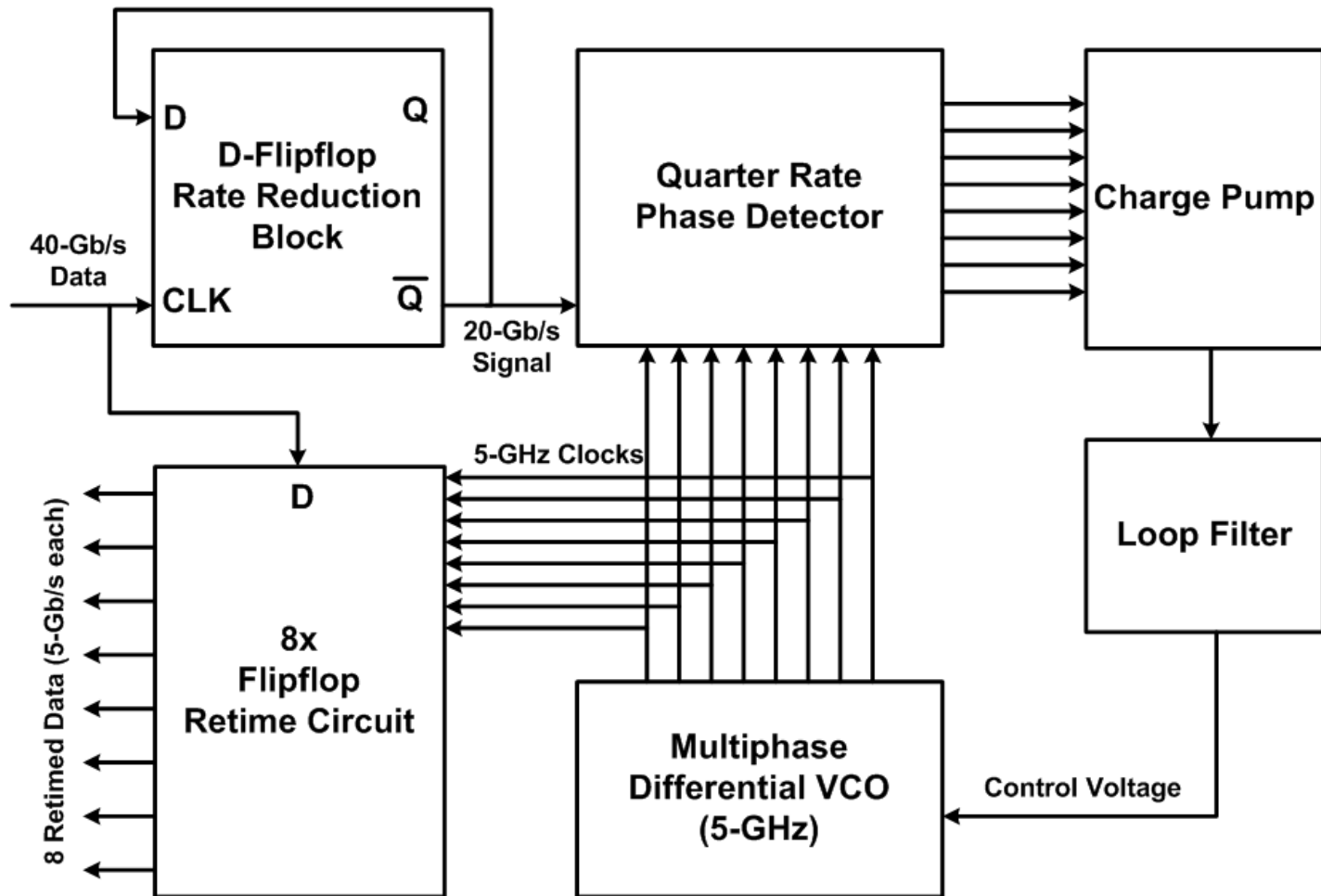


Quarter Rate BB PD [LeR03]

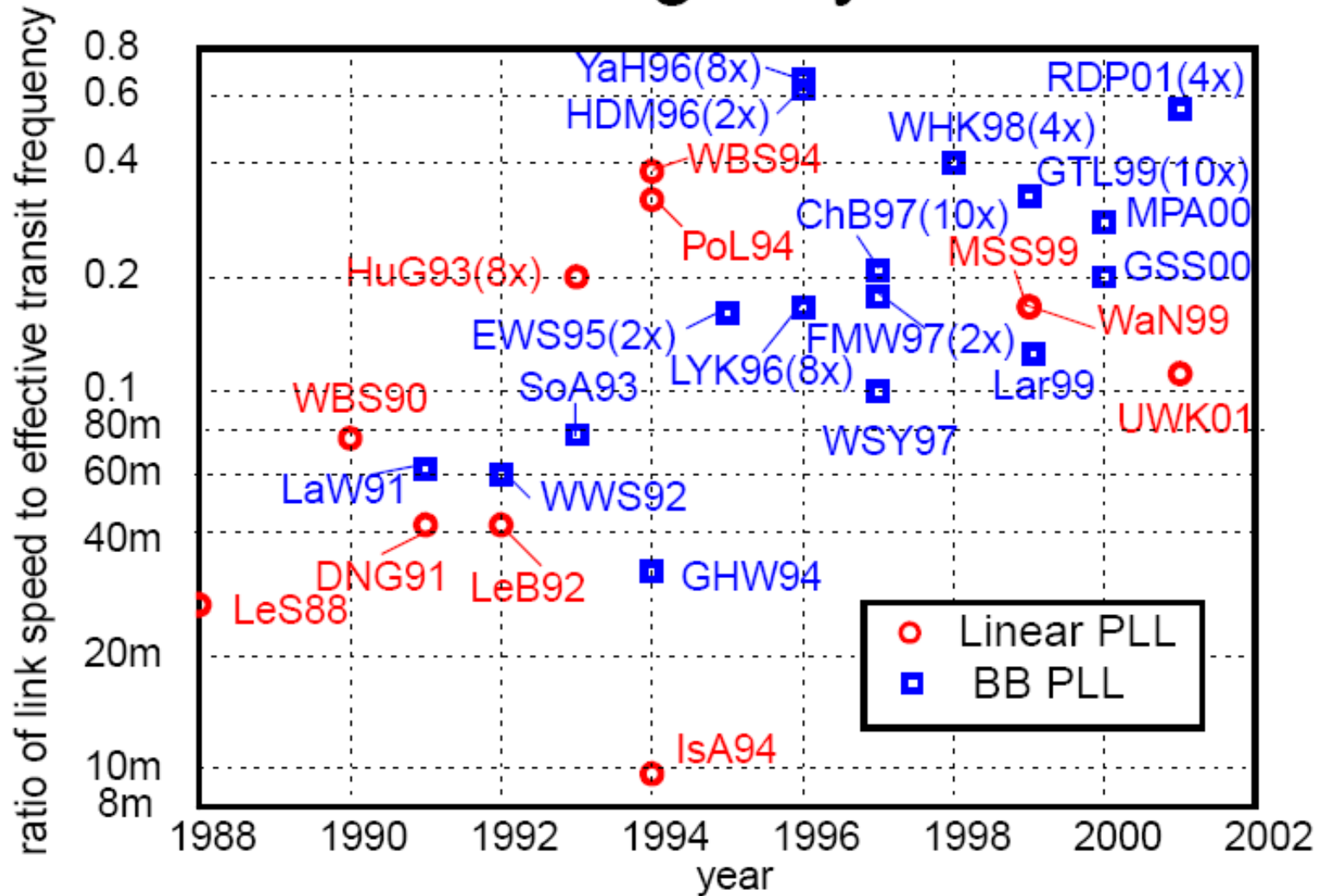
- Use multi-phase half quadrature clocks



1/8-Rate CDR System [SaM04]

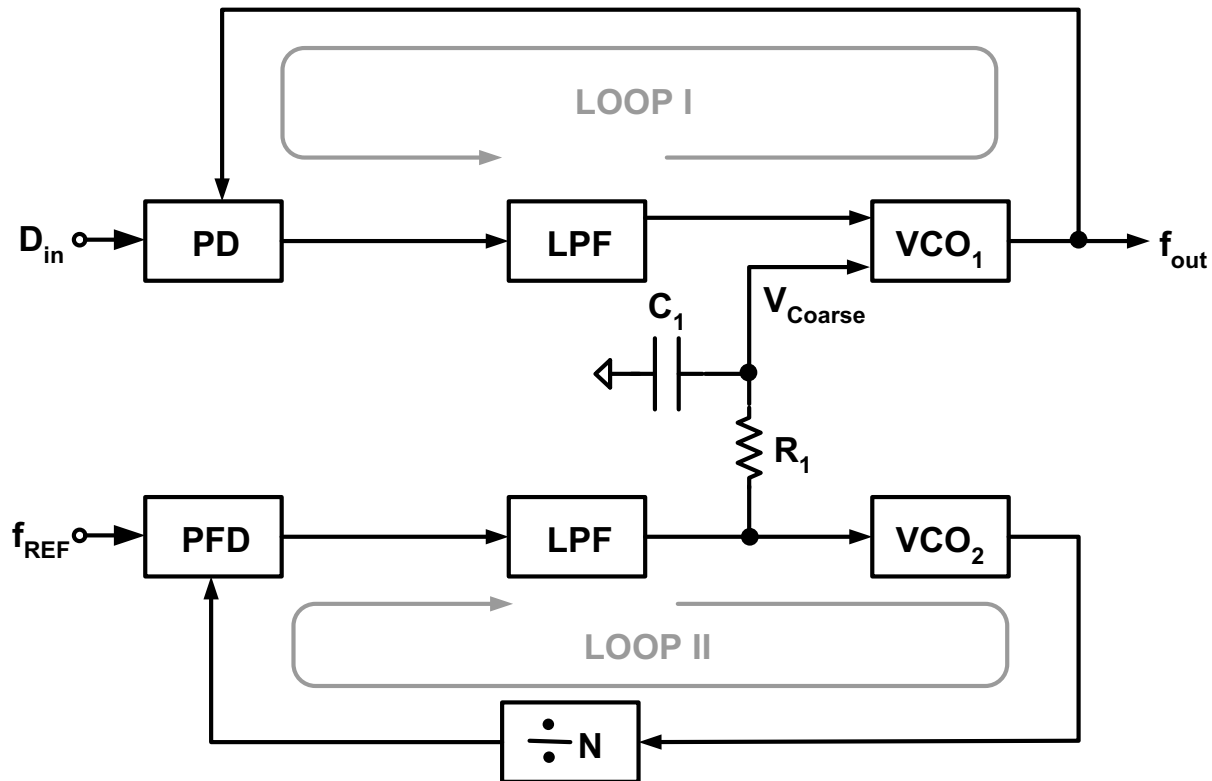


CDR PLL design style over time



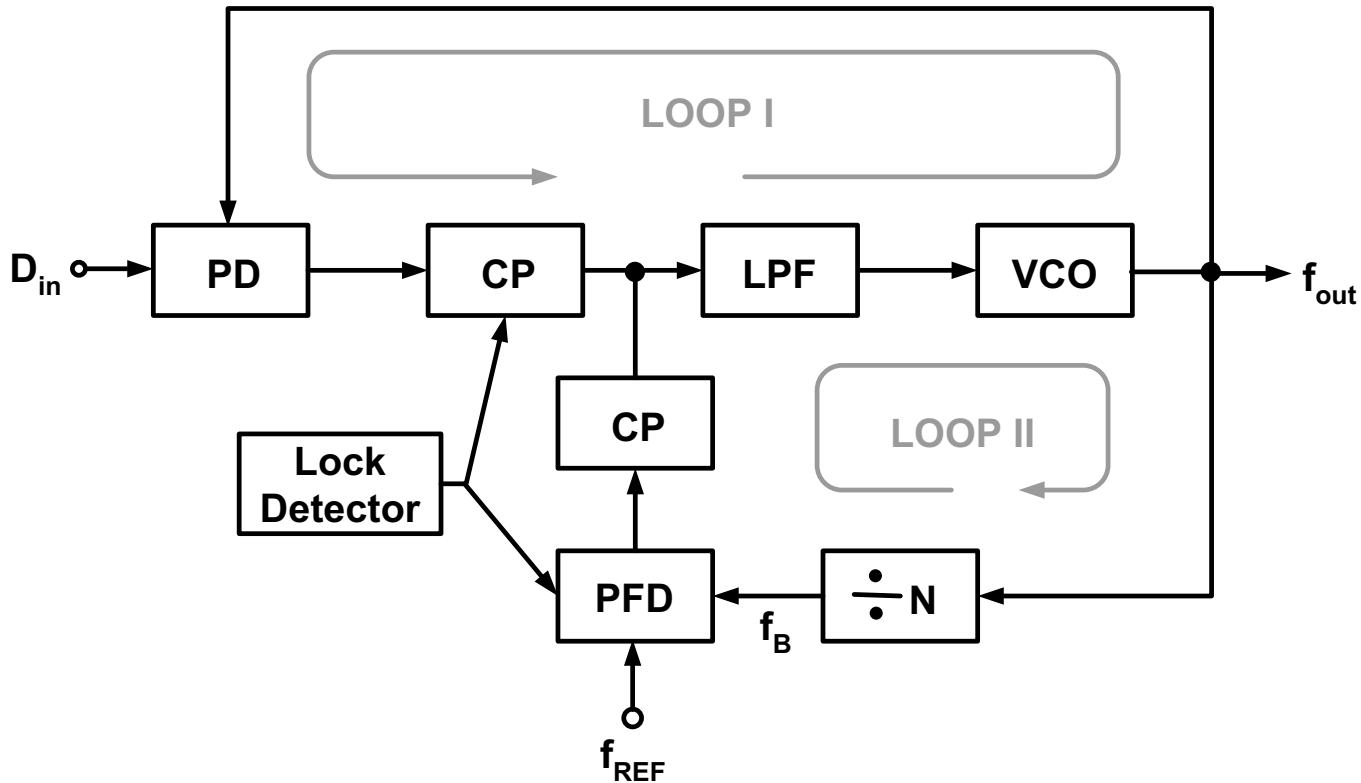
CDR Architectures

- Dual VCO architecture



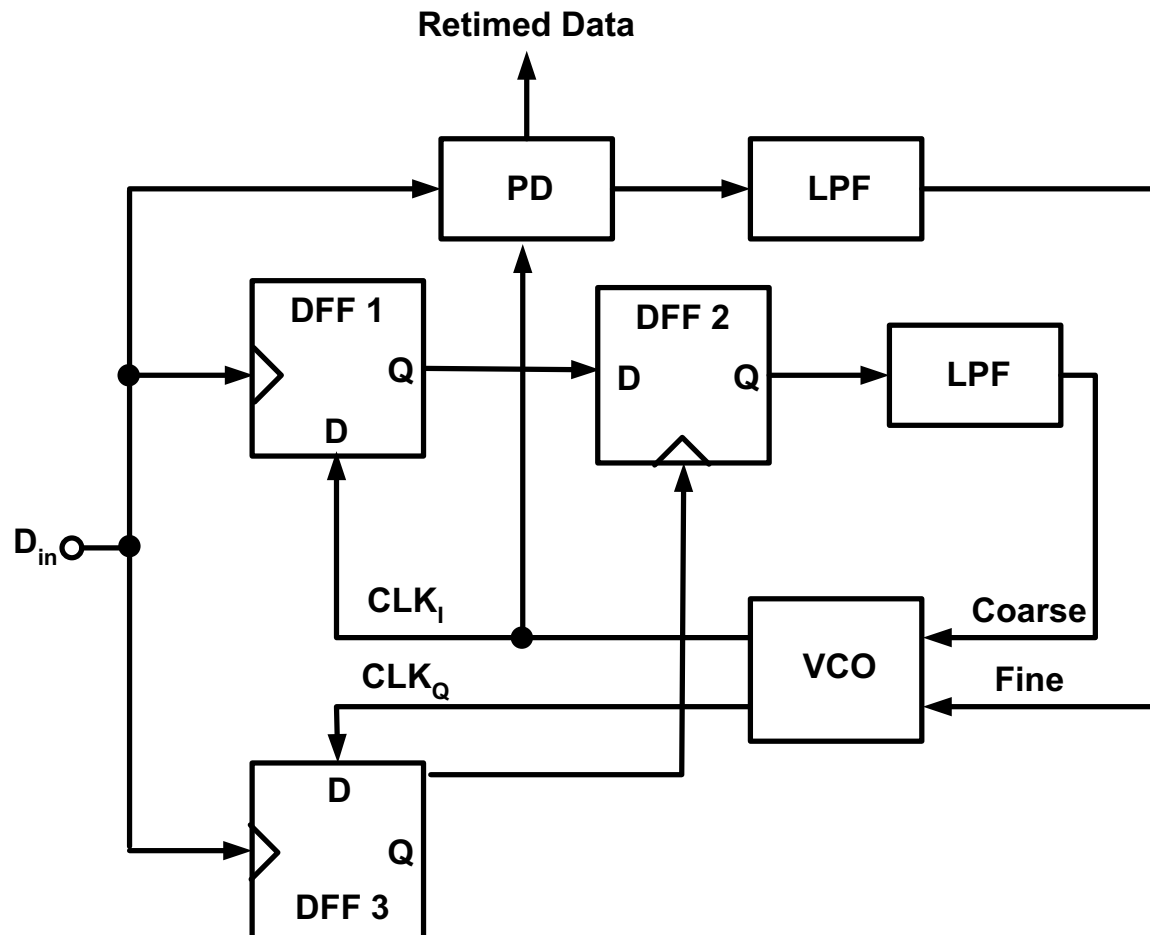
CDR Architectures

- Dual loop architecture with external reference



CDR Architectures

- Full rate CDR with both FD and PD



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