



6.1820 Mobile and Sensor Computing

aka IoT Systems

<http://6mobile.github.io>

Lecture #15: Ocean IoT

Course Staff

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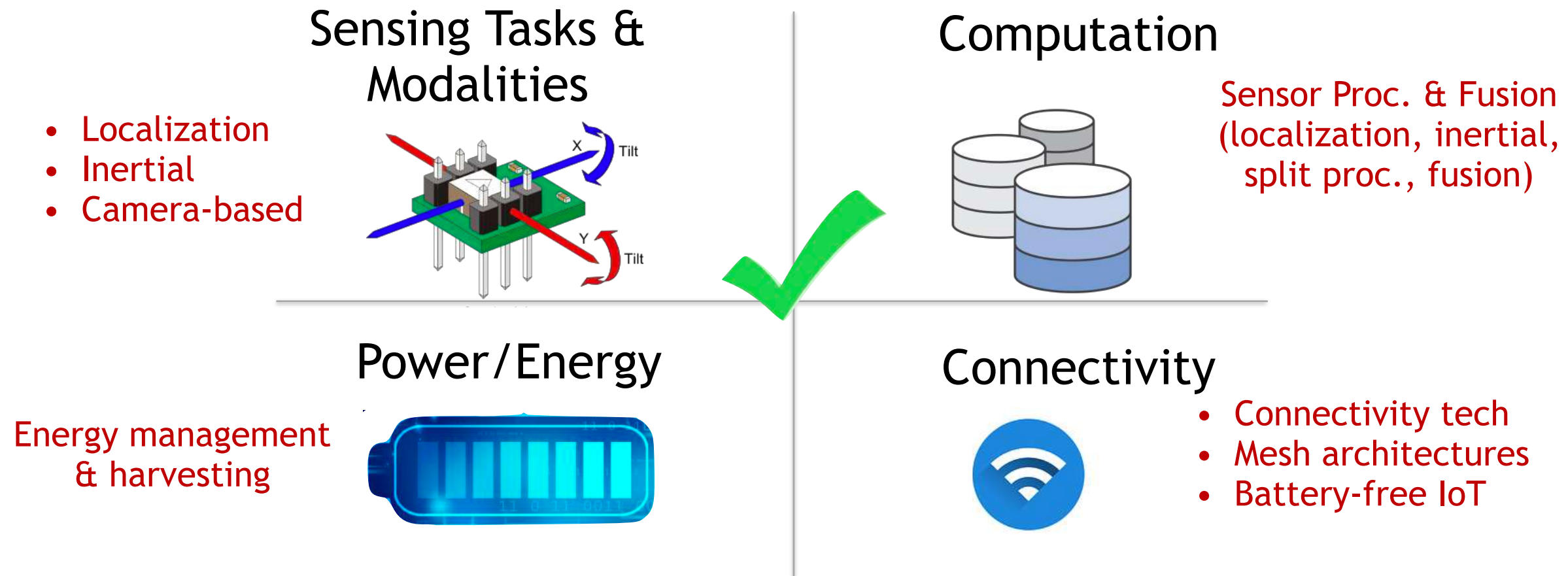
Jack Rademacher (jradema@mit.edu)

Announcements


- 1- Grades out - Lab 1 & 2
- 2- Sign up for project meetings - Next Tue & Thurs
- 3- Lab 4 due April 8
- 4- Pset 2 due April 10

Class Timeline

4 Quadrants of IoT

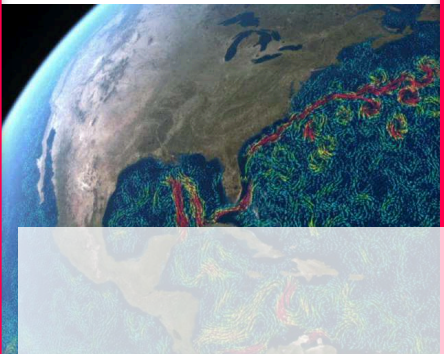


Emerging Application Domains & Cross-Cutting Topics

✓ 1. Transportation


✓ 2. Health

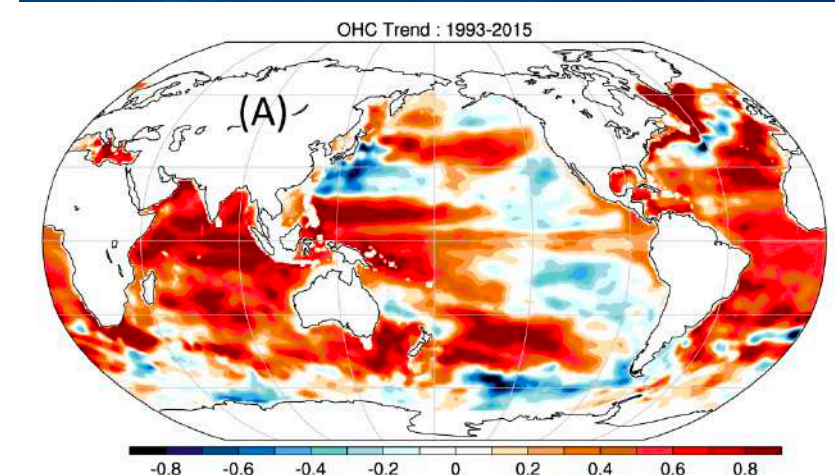
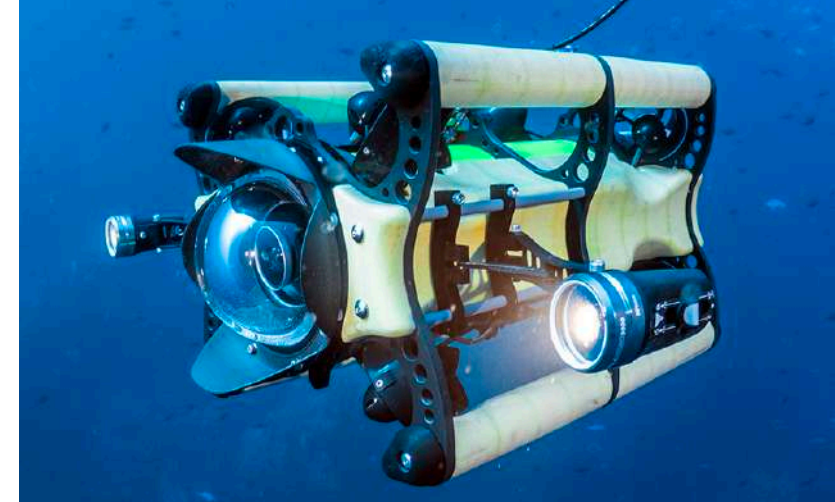

✓ 3. Agriculture


4. Oceans/Climate


✓ 5. Augmented Reality


Let's start with some trivia

1. What percentage of the ocean floor has never been observed?
2. Out of every 10 marine organisms, how many have never been discovered?
3. What is the world's fastest-growing food sector?
4. What has more heat content: the ocean or the atmosphere?
5. Which decade did the UN declare "*Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development*"?



Taking the Internet of Things to the Ocean World

30 bn

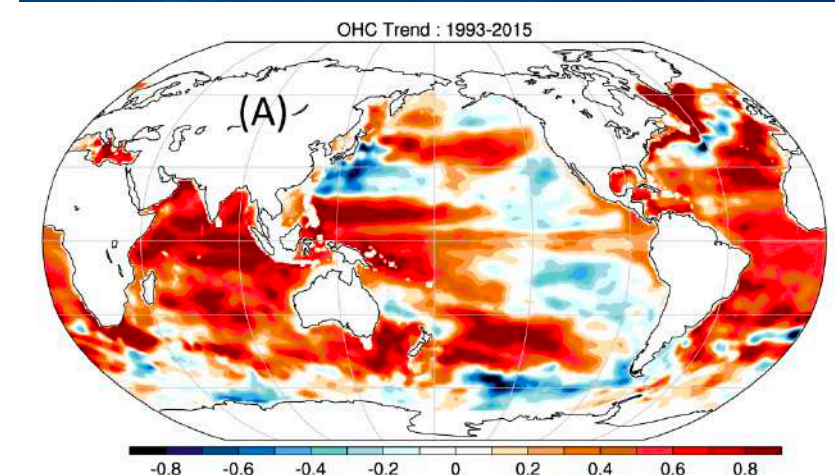
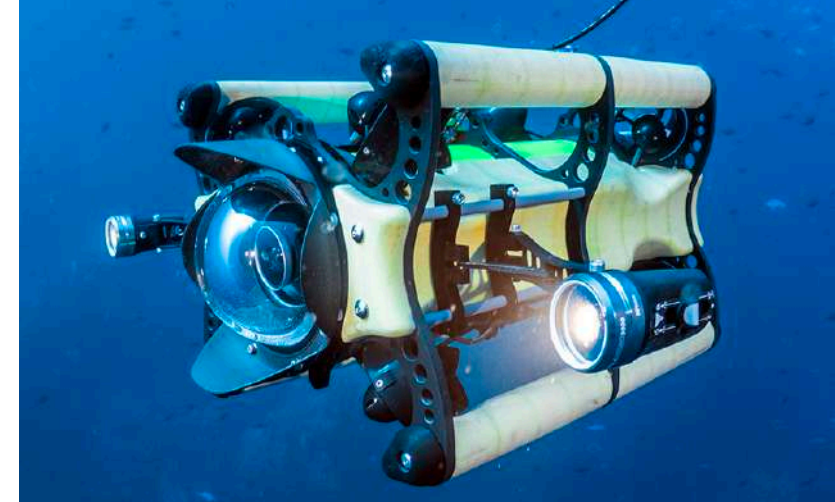
IoT Devices

Less than 1 in a million of IoT is in the ocean, even it they covers >70% of the planet and has significant needs for food, climate, etc.



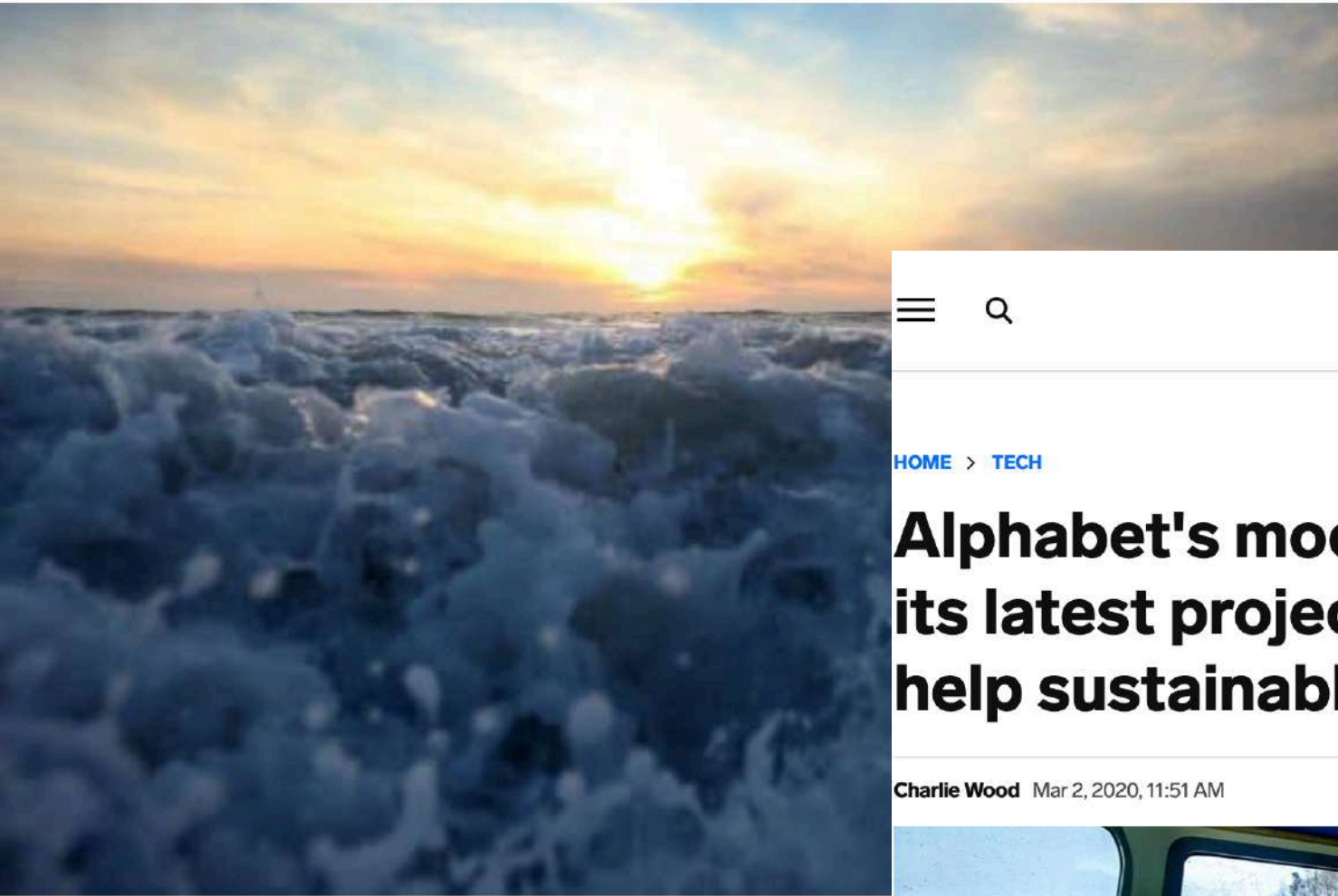
How Can IoT help?

1. How percentage of the ocean floor has never been observed?
2. Out of every 10 marine organisms, how many have never been discovered?
3. What is the world's fastest-growing food sector?
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5. Which decade did the UN declare "*Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development*"?



Energy • Analysis

To Save Earth’s Climate, Map the Oceans



What lies beneath? (Photographer: David McNew/Getty Images)

By Dawn Wright | Bloomberg
August 17, 2021 at 2:45 p.m. EDT

Seabed 2030 aims to map the ocean floor by 2030

INSIDER


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Alphabet's moonshot division unveils its latest project Tidal, which aims to help sustainable fishing

Charlie Wood Mar 2, 2020, 11:51 AM

f



NASA

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

SWOT

SURFACE WATER AND
OCEAN TOPOGRAPHY

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NEWS | December 9, 2024

NASA's PACE, US-European SWOT Satellites Offer Combined Look at Ocean

One Earth satellite can see plankton that photosynthesize. The other measures water surface height. Together, their data reveals how sea life and the ocean are intertwined.

Featured Resc

 Interr

Forbes

DARPA Progress With ‘Ocean Of Things’ All-Seeing Eye On The High

David Hambling

Contributor ⓘ⊕

Aerospace & Defense

I'm a South London-based technology journalist, consultant and author

as awarded a contract for the next phase of
ent of its Ocean of Things (OoT), a project to

Why is bringing IoT to the ocean (esp. underwater) hard?

- **Communication:**

- Can't use radio (WiFi, bluetooth)
- Direct underwater-to-air comms remains challenging

- **Power:**

- No power outlet (access); hard to replace batteries

- **Sensing:**

- Can't use GPS (radio signals) for localization
- Imaging is challenging (light interferes, refracts, etc.)

Example Ocean Connectivity, Sensing, & Power Technologies

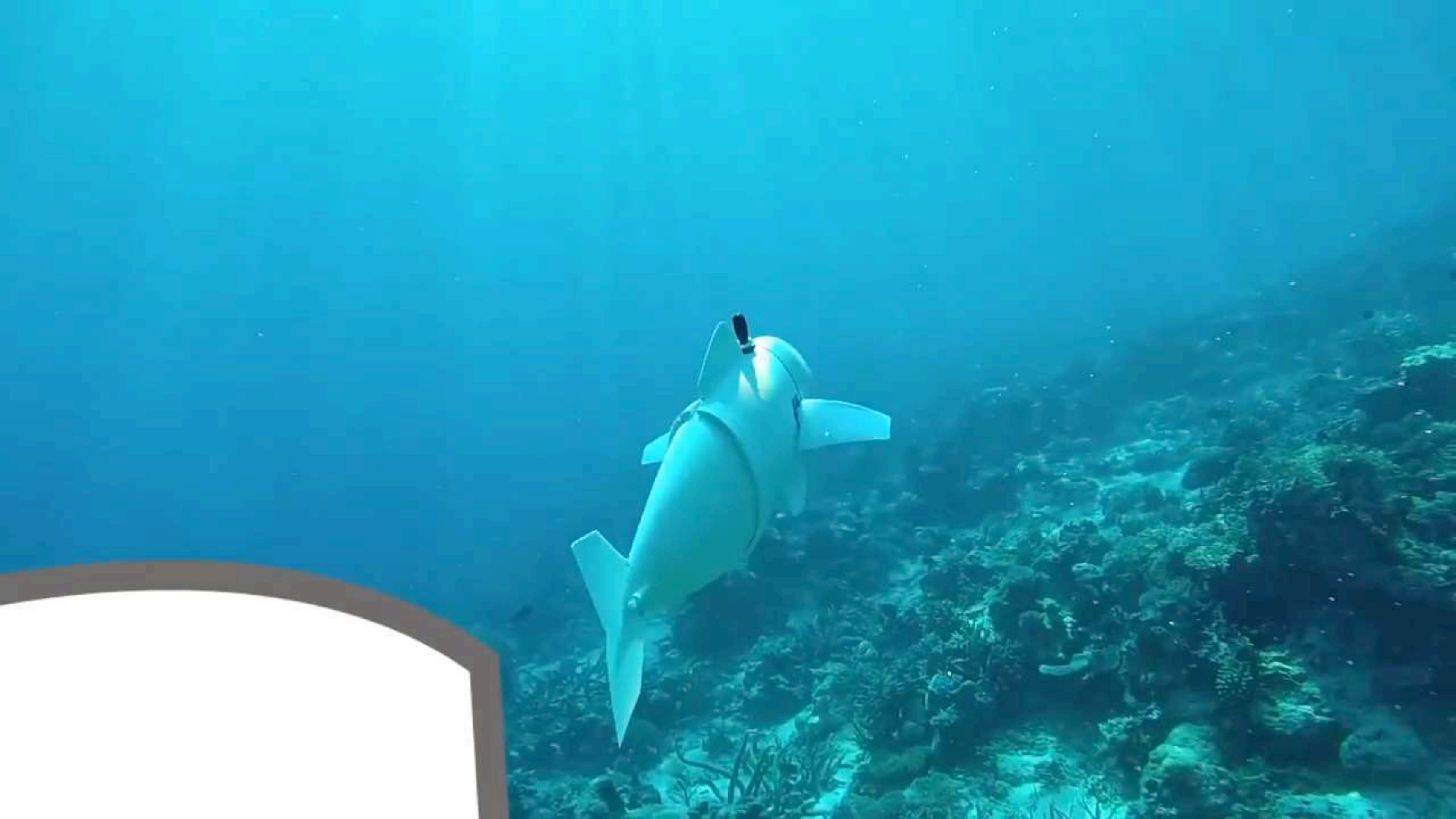


ARGO PROGRAM

BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY







Rest of this lecture: Underwater Backscatter

- Motivation
- Basic Principles
- Networking
- Localization
- Other applications: Imaging, AI, Robotics, Defense, Space

Problem: Battery life of underwater sensors is extremely limited

Low-power underwater transmitters consume **100s of Watts**
(e.g., WHOI low-power micro-modem 2019)

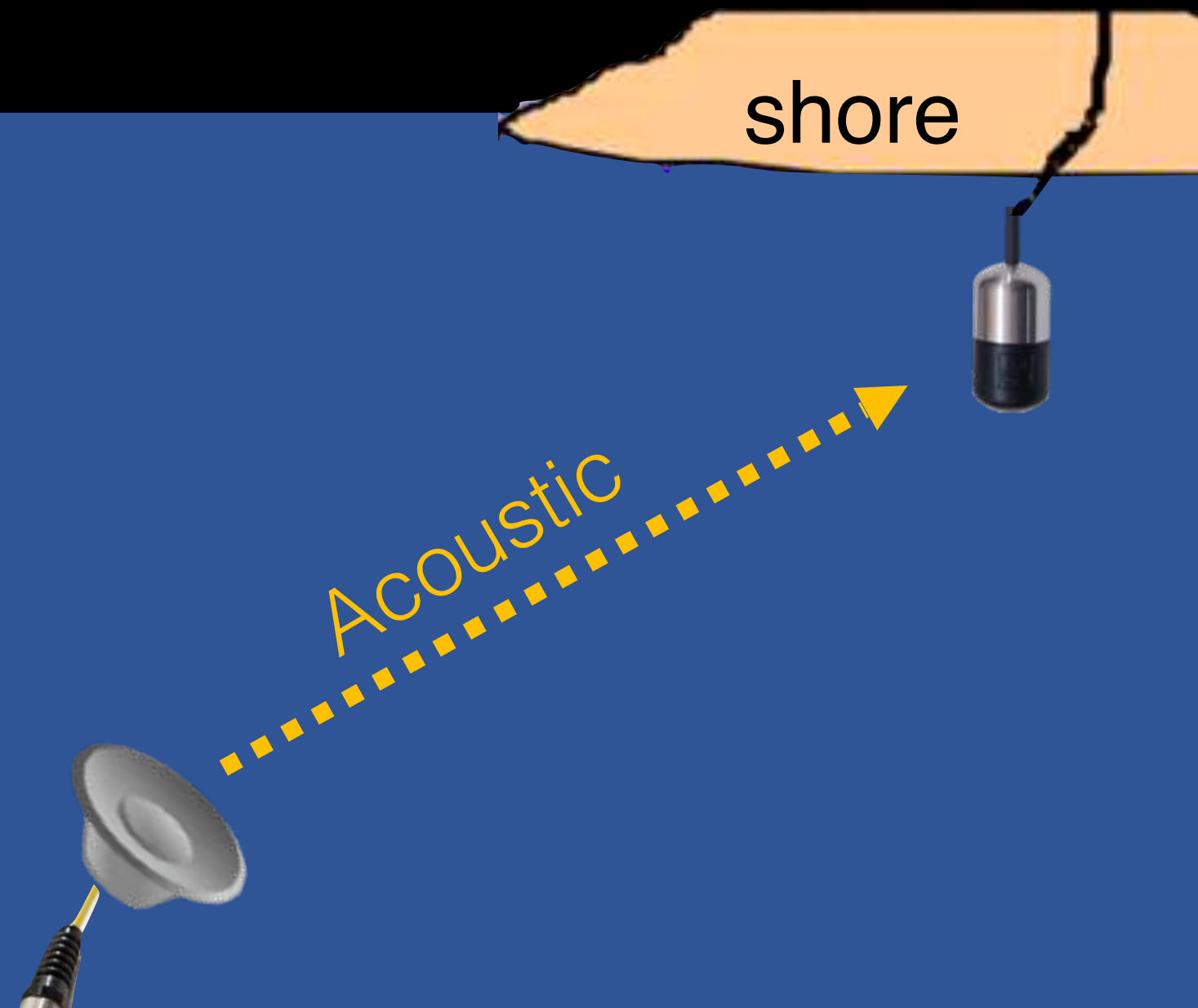


State-of-the-art sensors for tracking marine animals only last
for **few hours or days**

[Animal Biotelemetry'15, Scientific Reports'17]

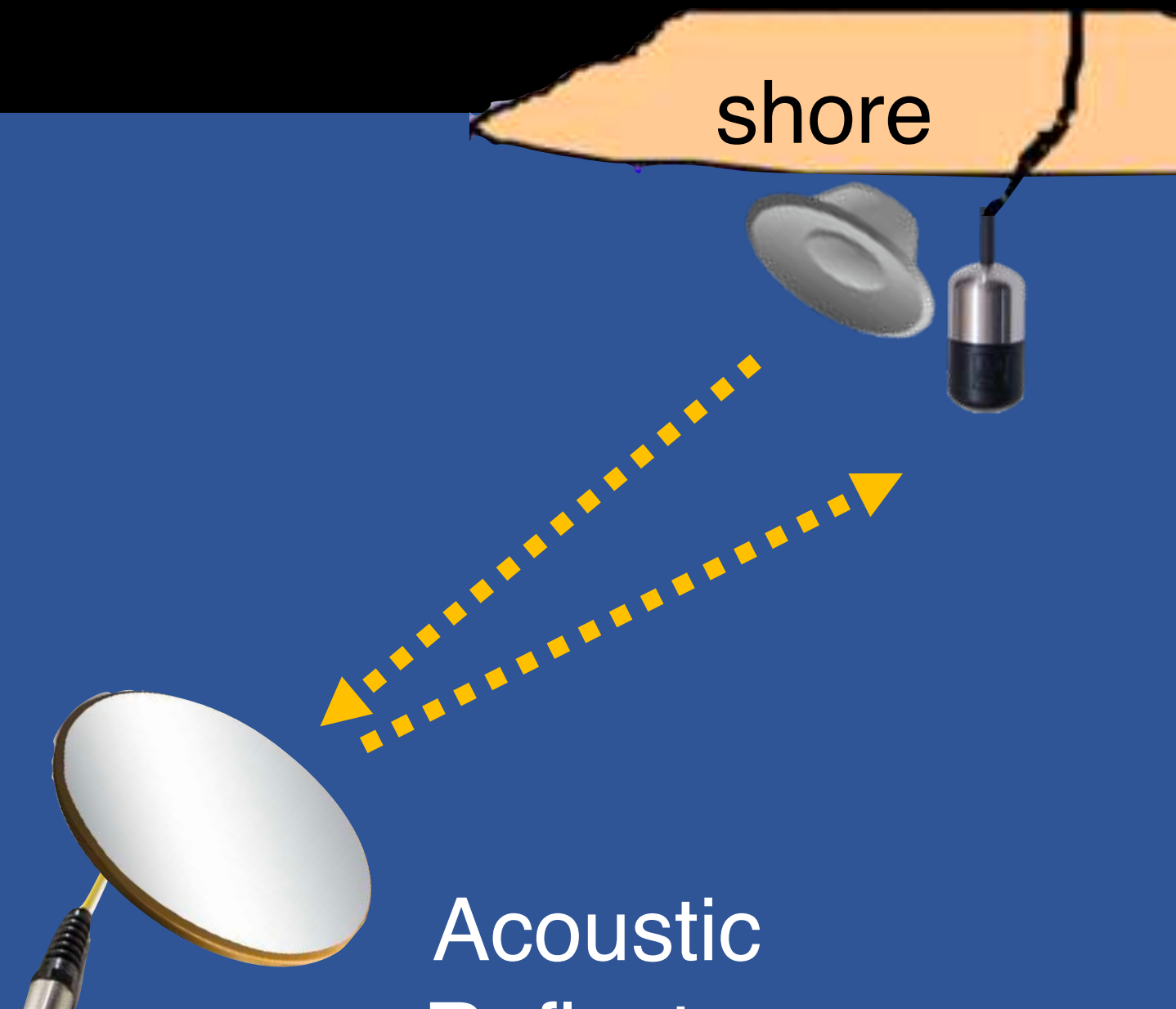
Technology that Enables Underwater Backscatter (**Batteryless**) Networking

Traditional Approach



Sensor generates its own acoustic signal

Underwater Backscatter

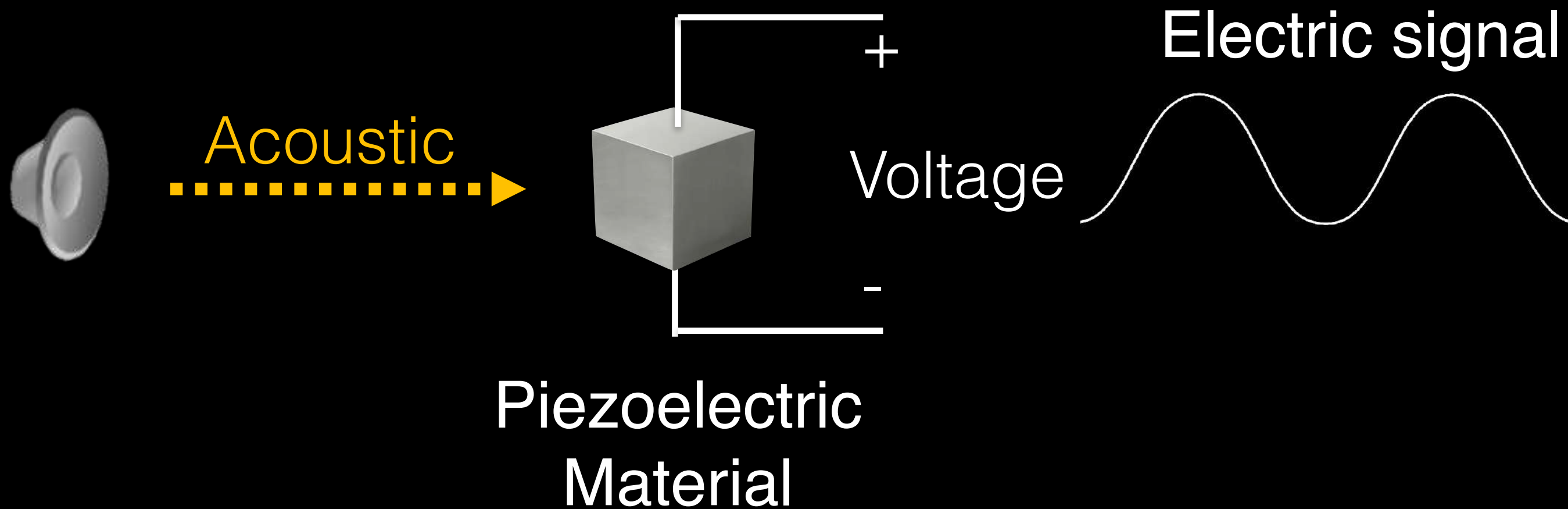


Sensor reflects an existing acoustic signal

How can we control the reflections of
acoustic signals?

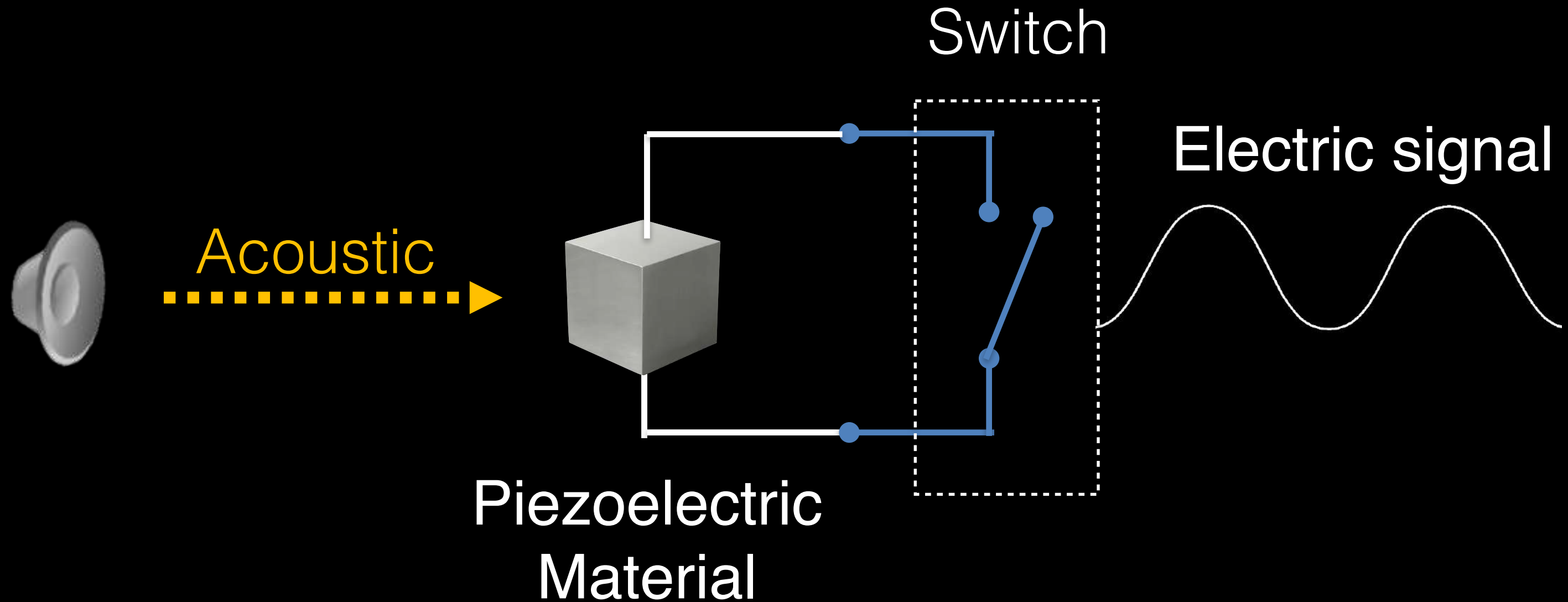
Key Idea: Use piezoelectricity to design programmable acoustic reflectors

Piezoelectric materials transform mechanical to electrical energy



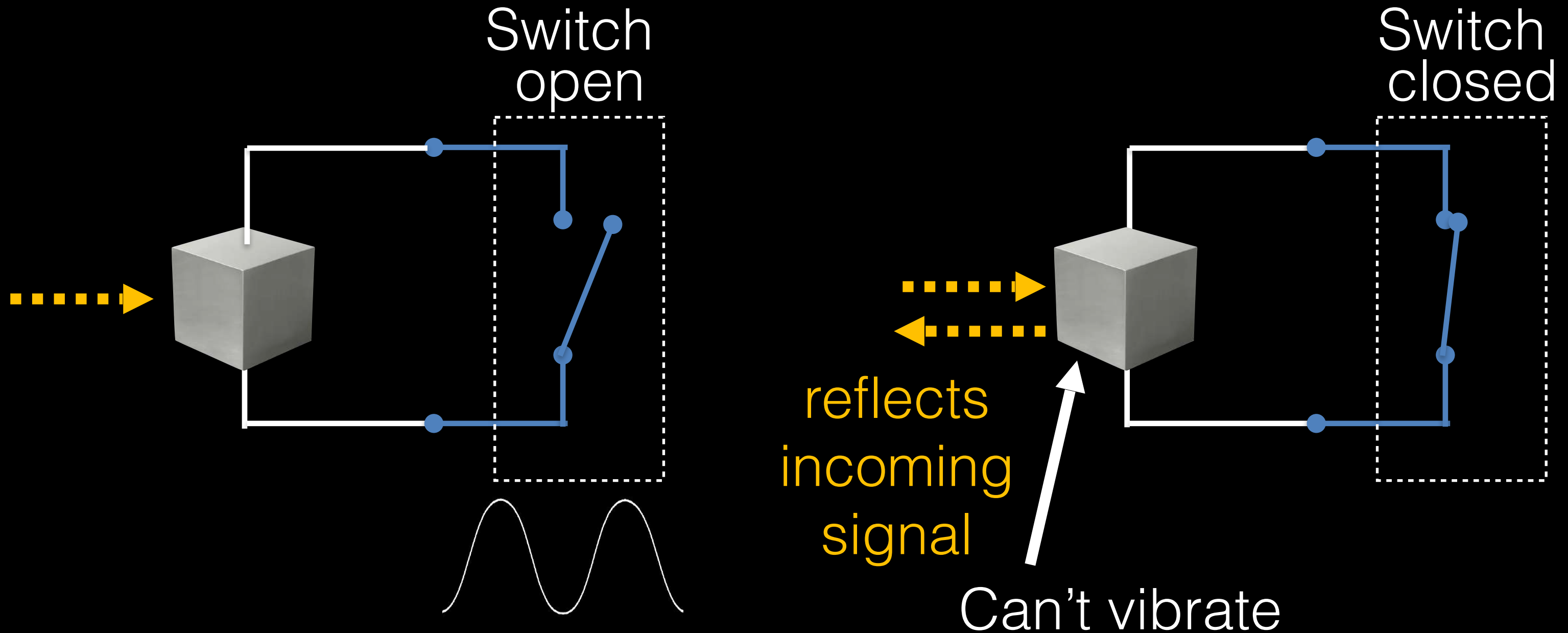
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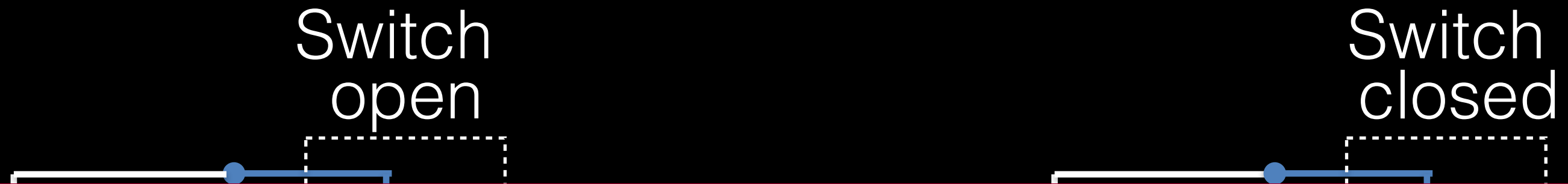


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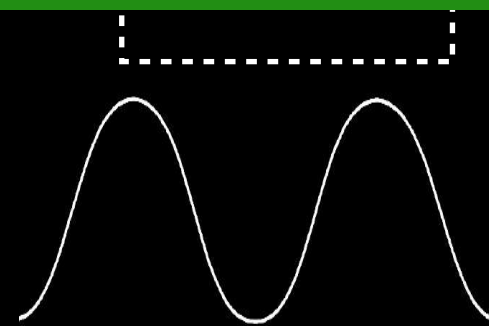


Piezo-Acoustic Backscatter



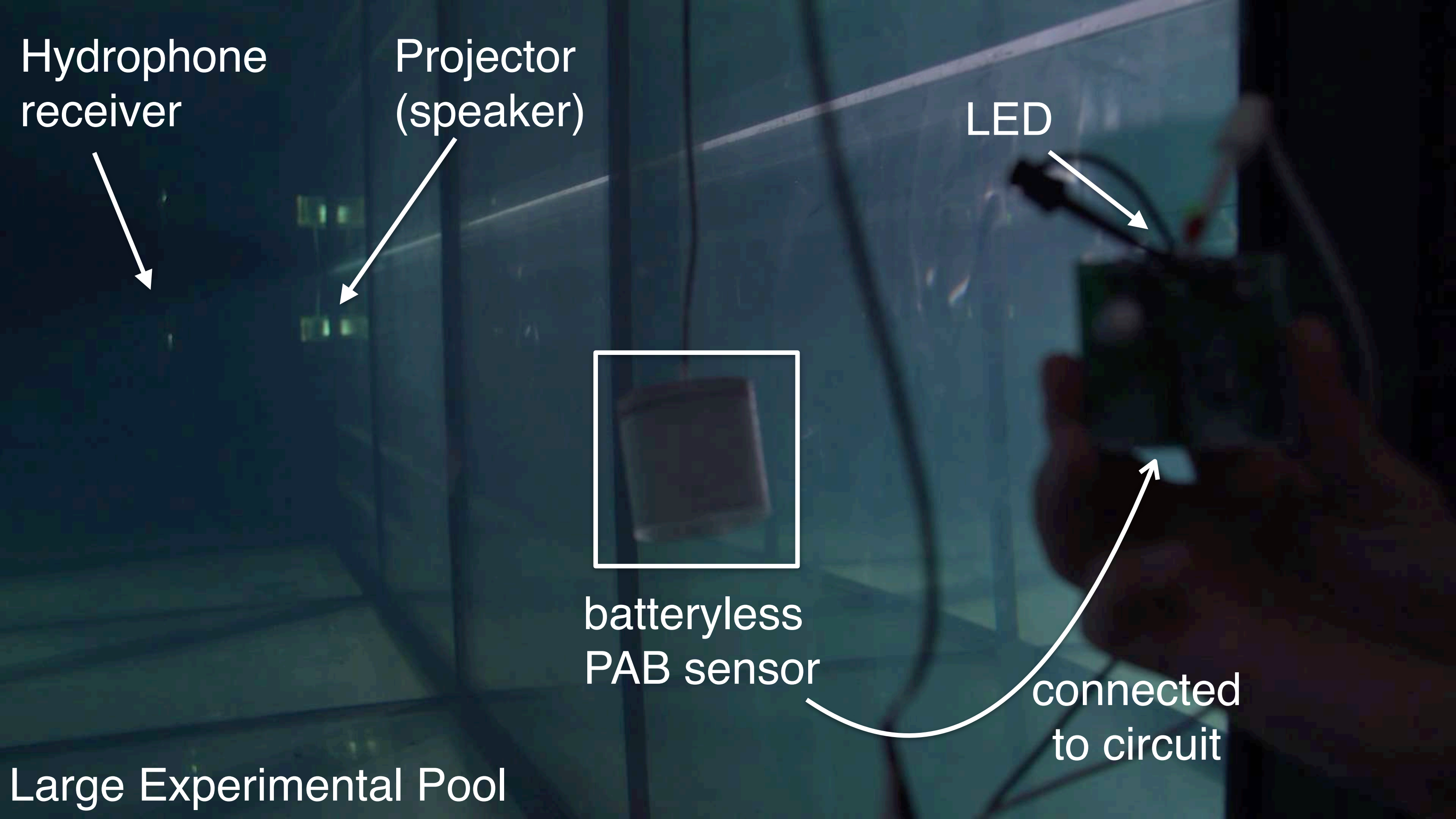
PAB sensor needs 1 million times less power (~100s microWatt)
than standard underwater communication

And it harvests energy in non-reflective (absorptive) state
→ battery-free



incoming
signal

Can't vibrate



Hydrophone
receiver

Projector
(speaker)

LED

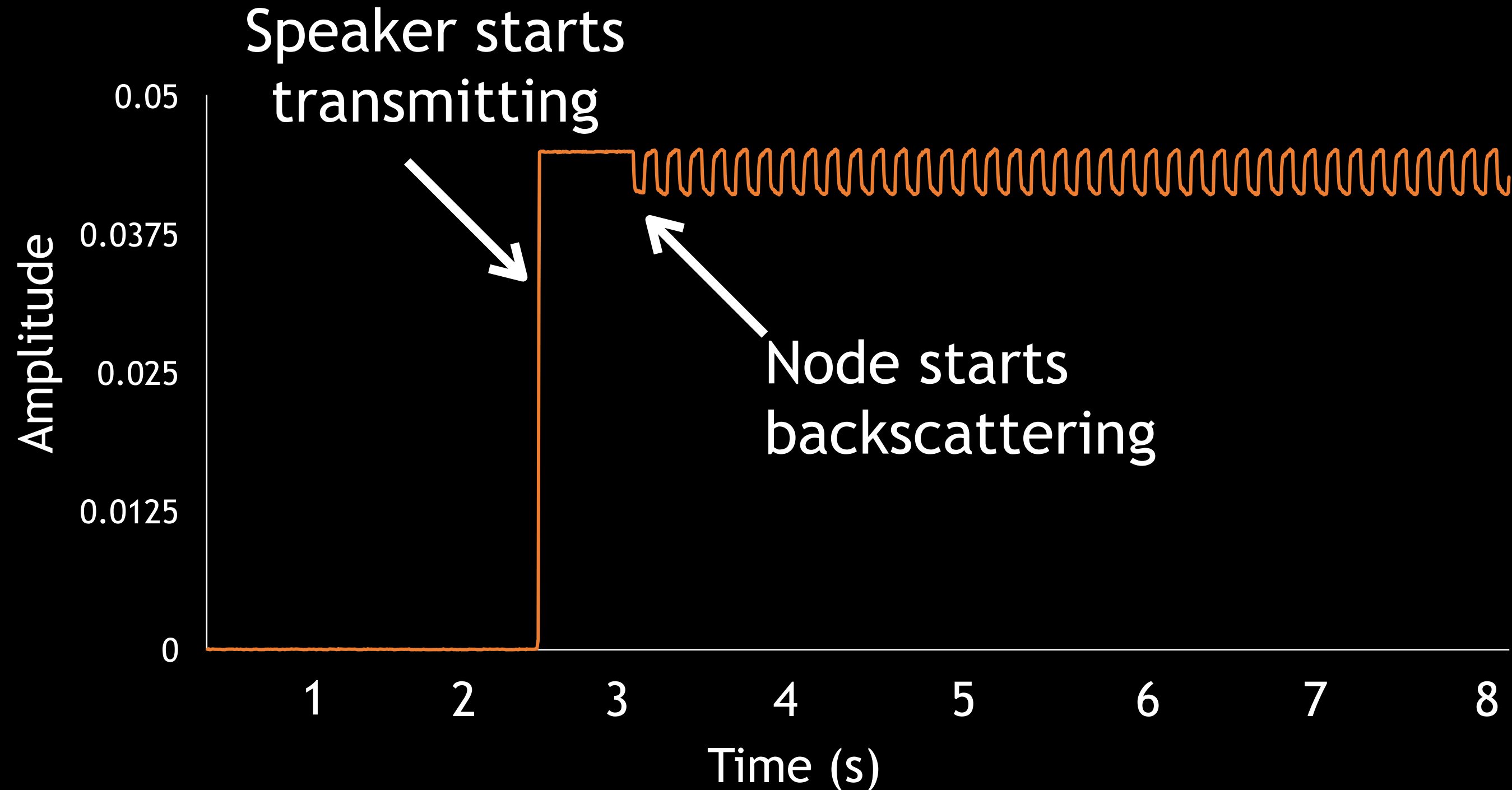


batteryless
PAB sensor

connected
to circuit

Large Experimental Pool

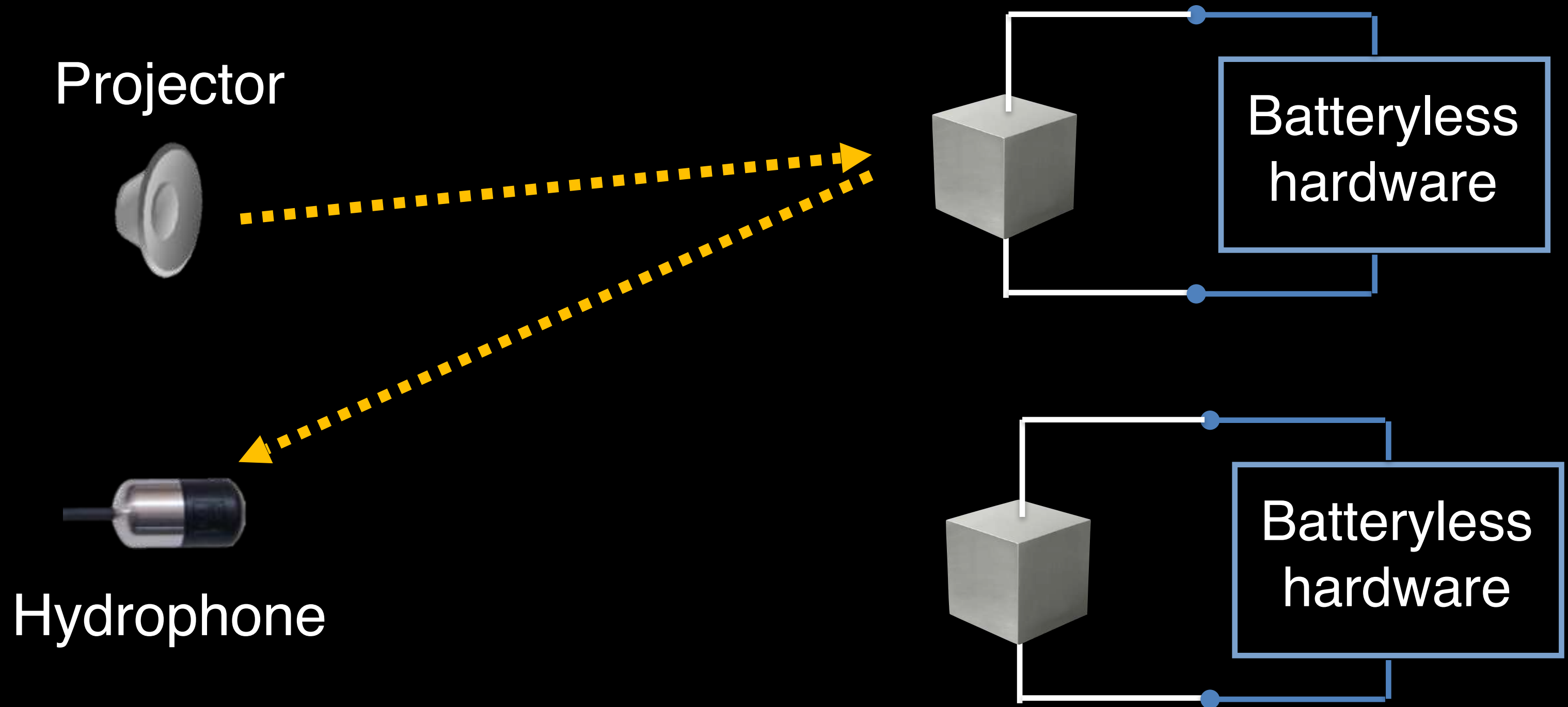
Measuring the Backscatter Signal (by Hydrophone)



How can we extend underwater backscatter to multiple nodes?

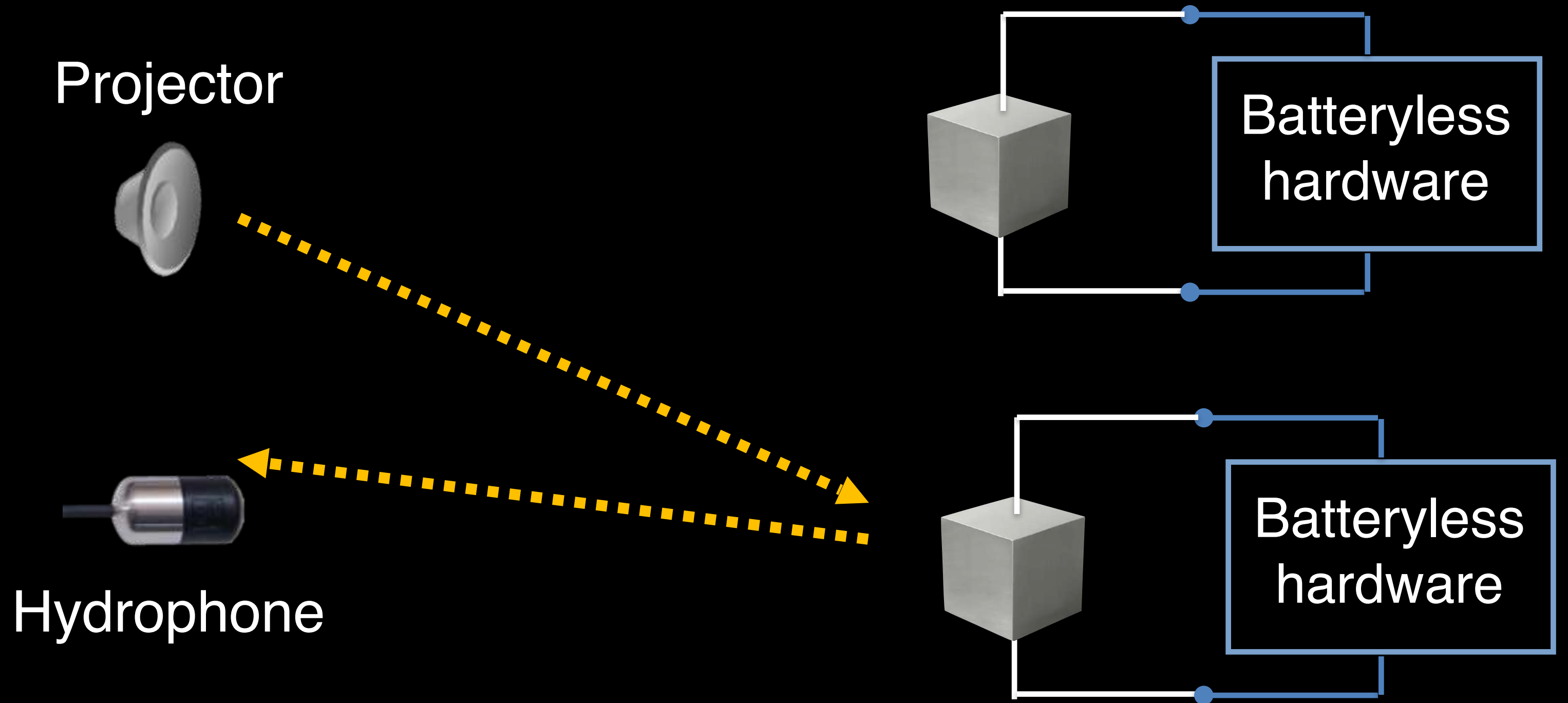
Extending to Multiple Nodes

Option 1: Time Division Multiplexing



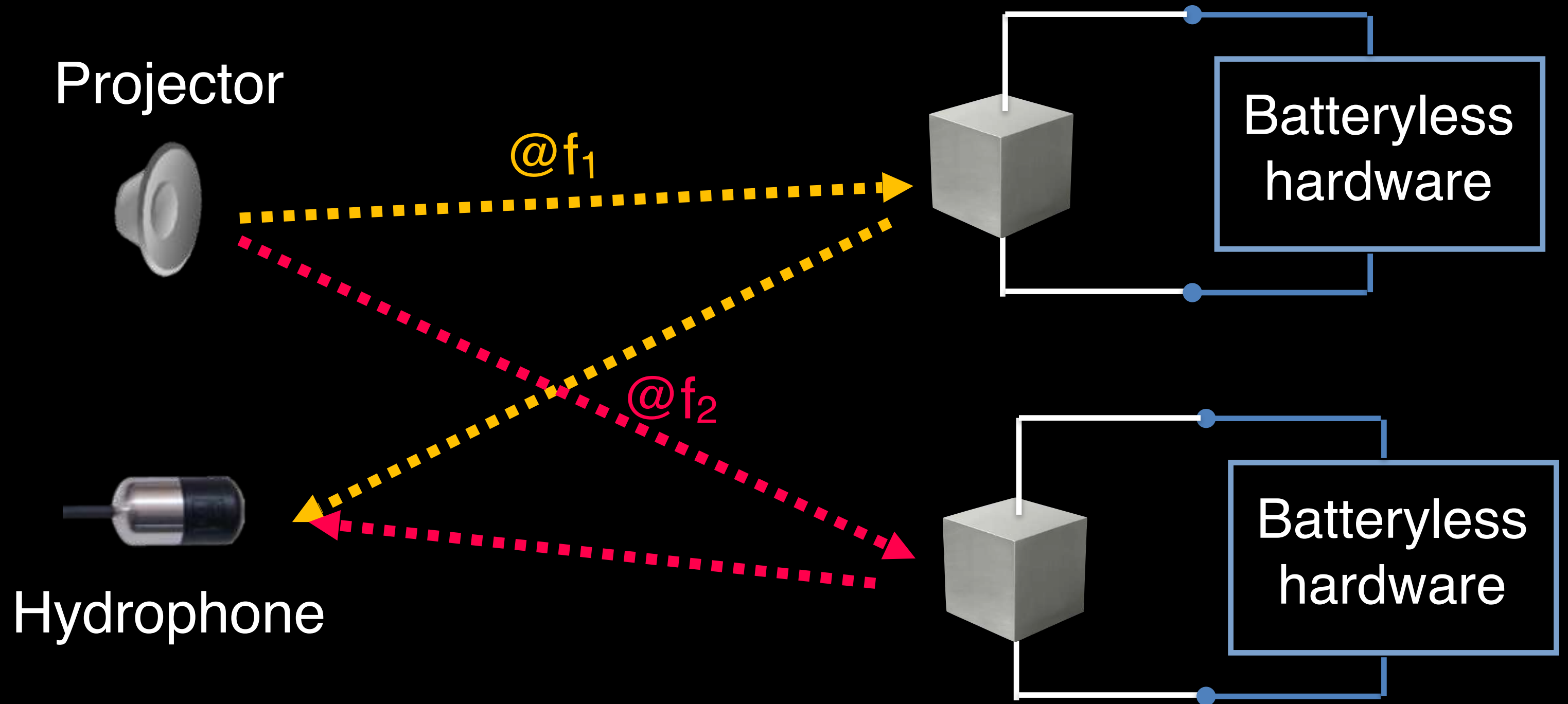
Extending to Multiple Nodes

Option 1: Time Division Multiplexing



Extending to Multiple Nodes

Option 2: Frequency Division Multiplexing



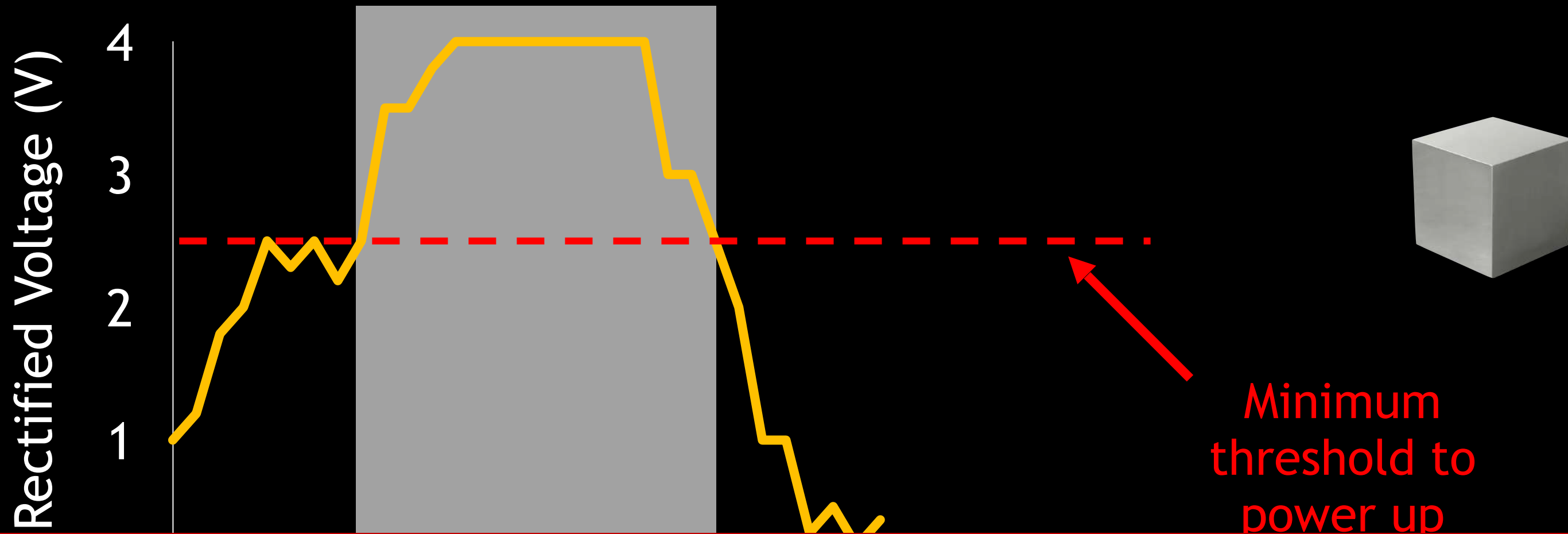
Extending to Multiple Nodes

Problem: Resonance of piezoelectrics limits their bandwidth



Extending to Multiple Nodes

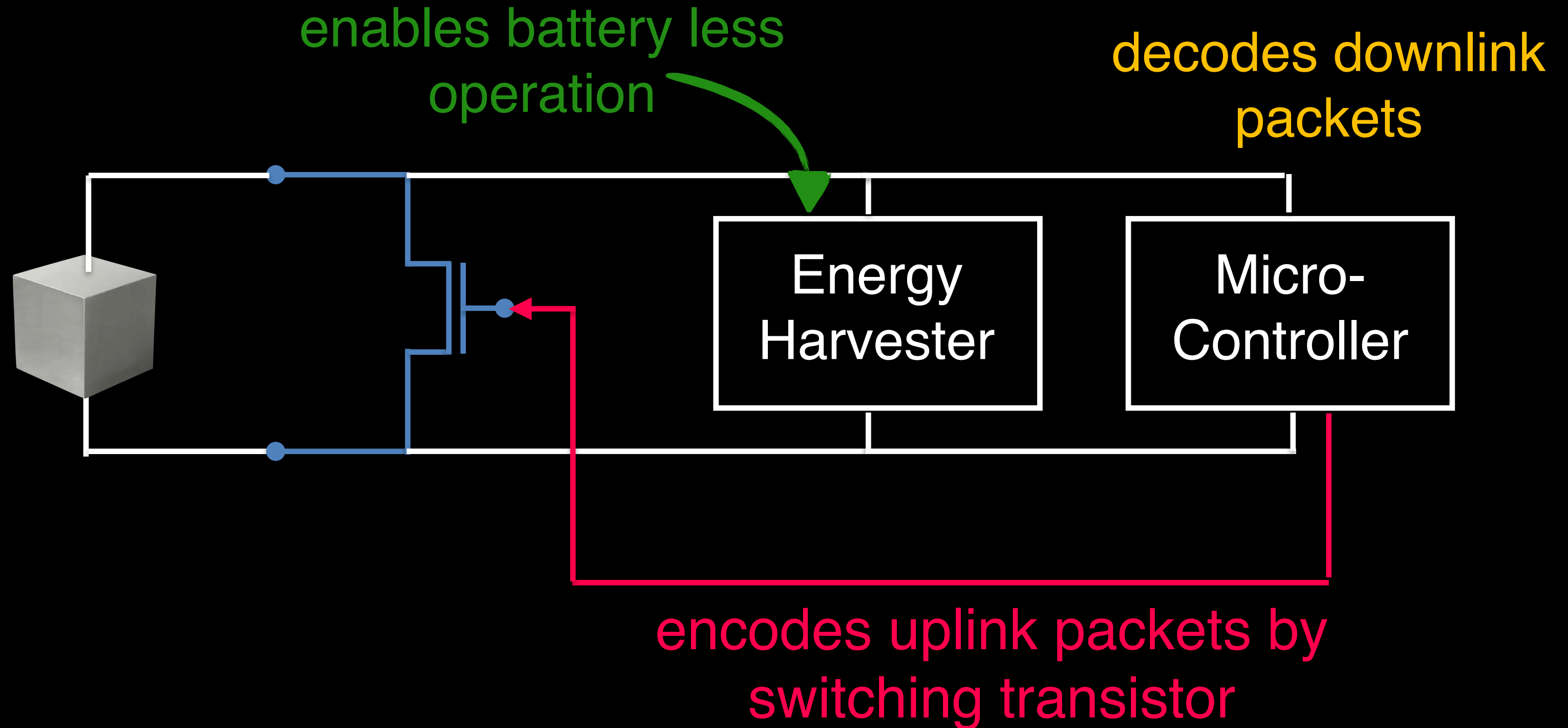
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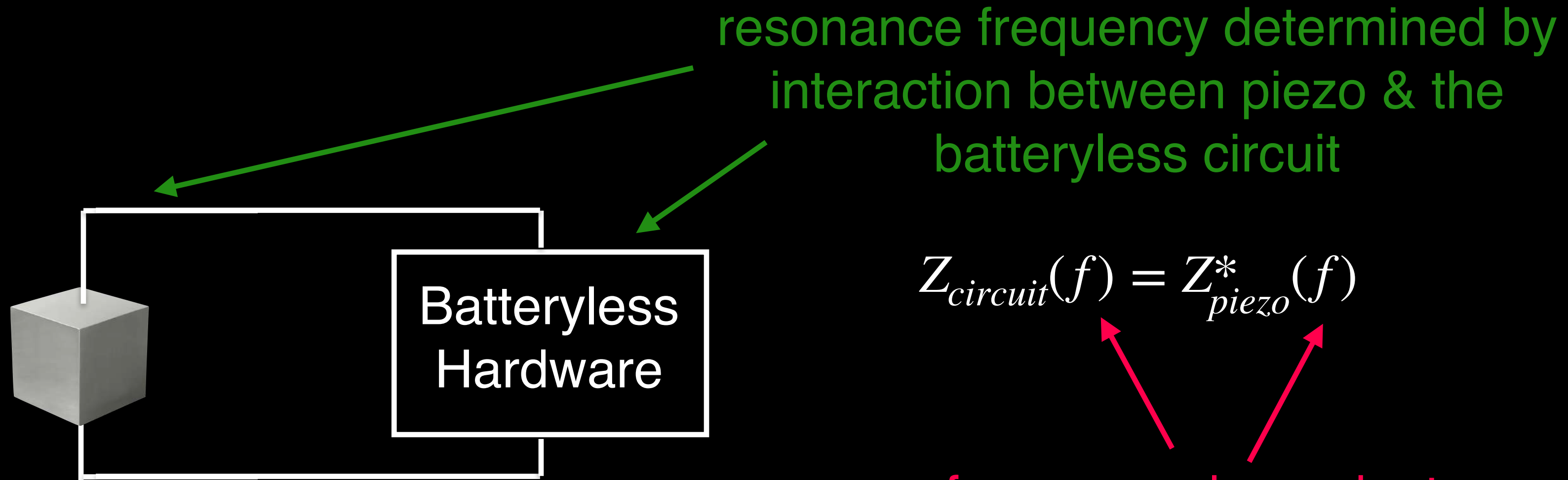
Operating at resonance maximizes energy harvesting but limits concurrent transmissions (and FDMA)

Solution Idea: Shift the resonance frequency *itself* to a different channel

Solution Idea: Shift the resonance frequency itself to a different channel



Solution Idea: Shift the resonance frequency *itself* to a different channel

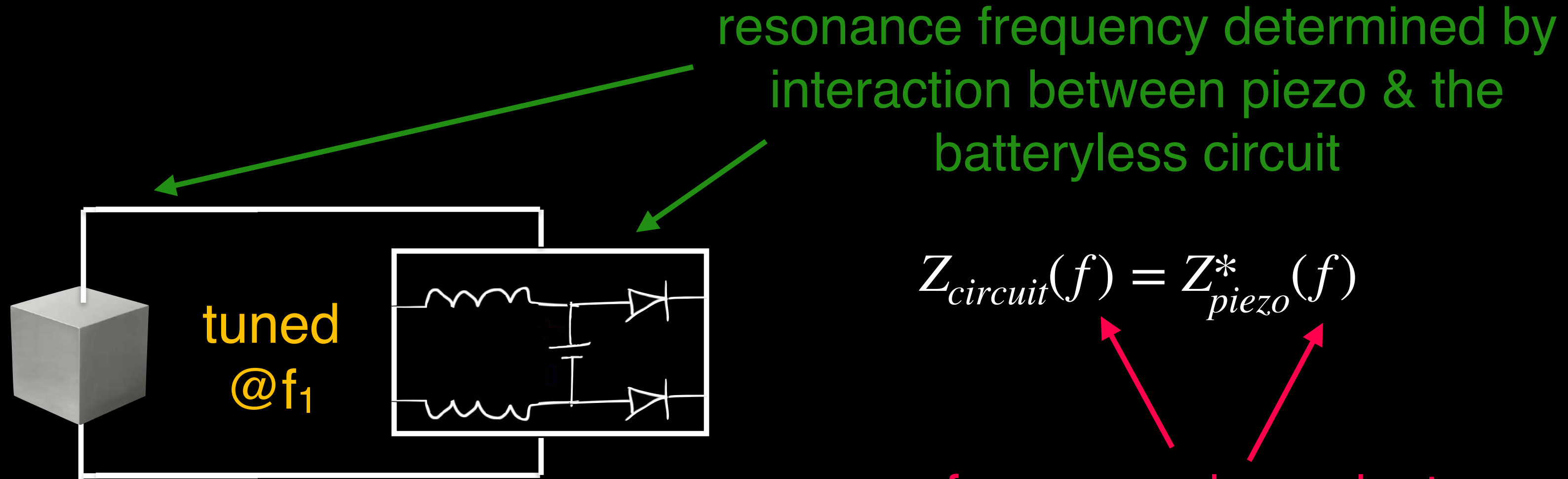


$$Z_{circuit}(f) = Z_{piezo}^*(f)$$

frequency dependent

→ Tune the circuit to a different frequency

Solution Idea: Shift the resonance frequency *itself* to a different channel

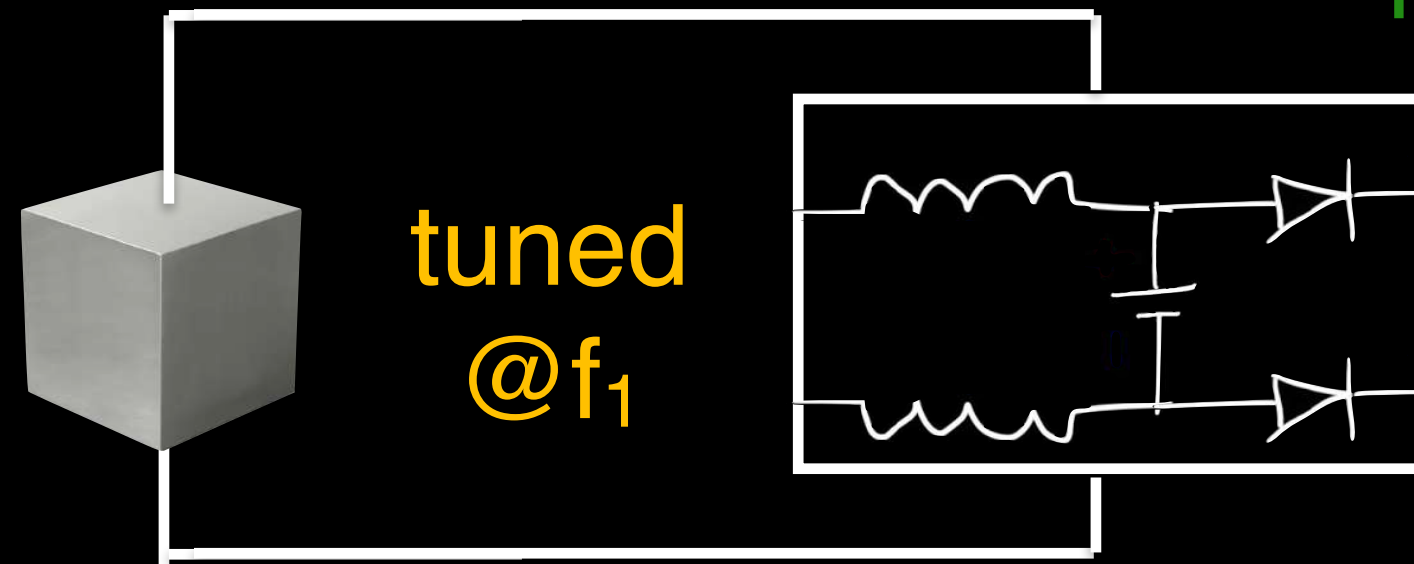


$$Z_{circuit}(f) = Z_{piezo}^*(f)$$

frequency dependent

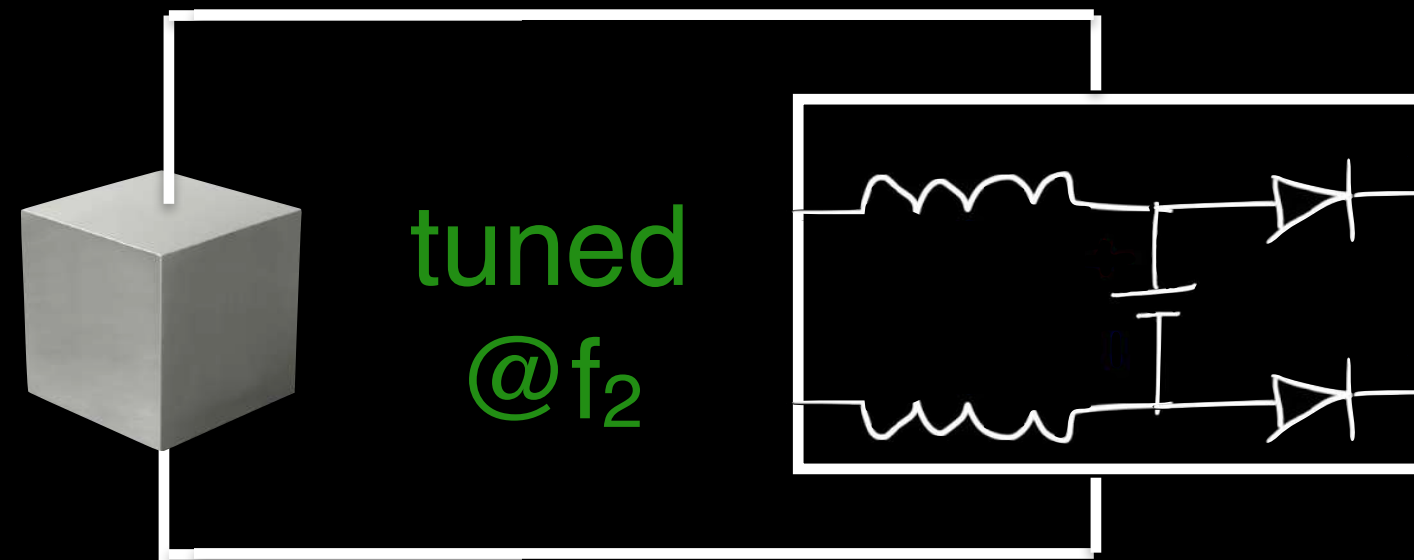
→ Tune the circuit to a different frequency

Solution Idea: Shift the resonance frequency *itself* to a different channel



resonance frequency determined by
interaction between piezo & the
batteryless circuit

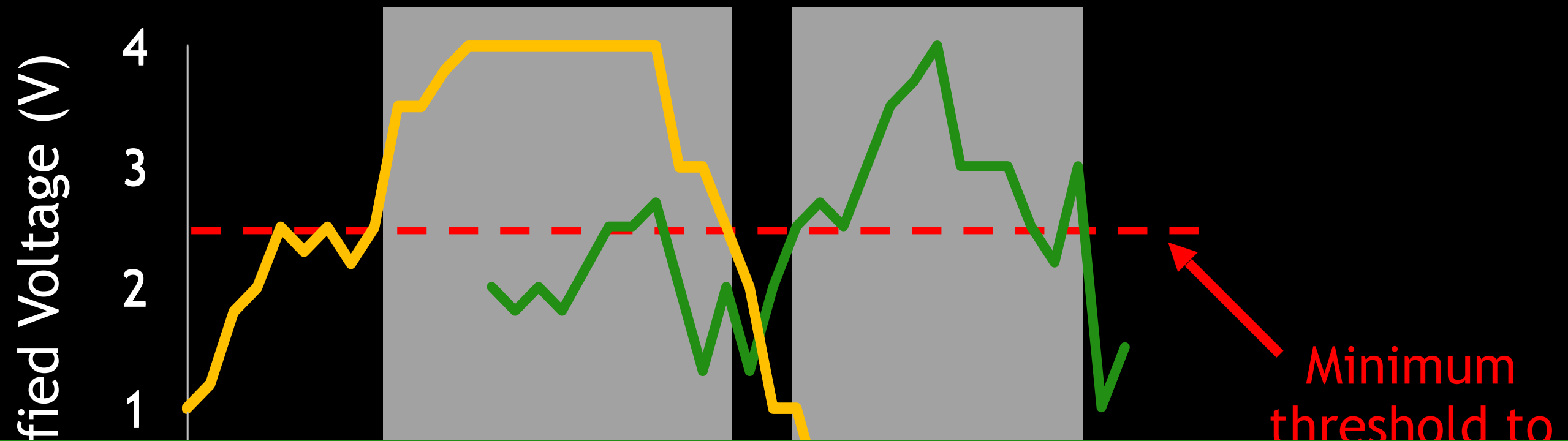
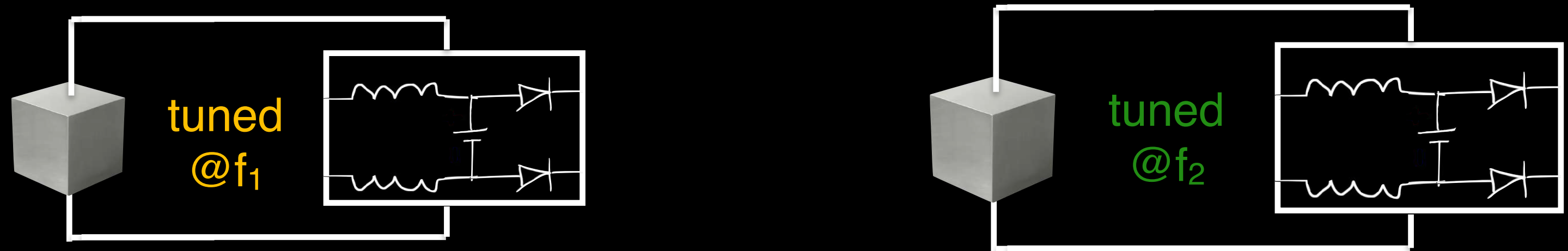
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frequency dependent

→ Tune the circuit to a
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Solution Idea: Shift the resonance frequency *itself* to a different channel

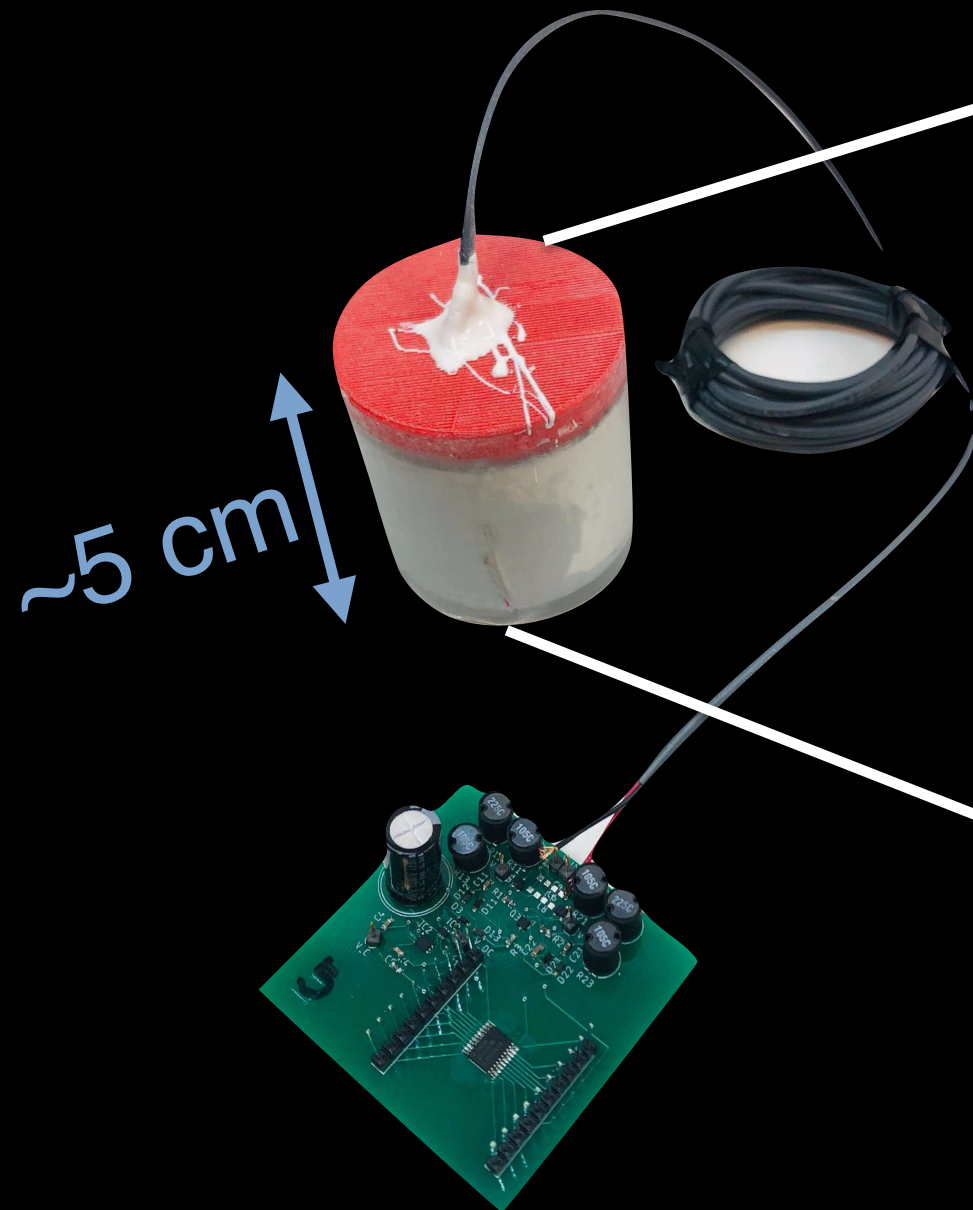


Extend the idea to uplink communication using a MIMO-style decoder adapted to backscatter resonance modes

Frequency (KHz)

Implementation

Batteryless PAB sensor



Exploded
transducer view

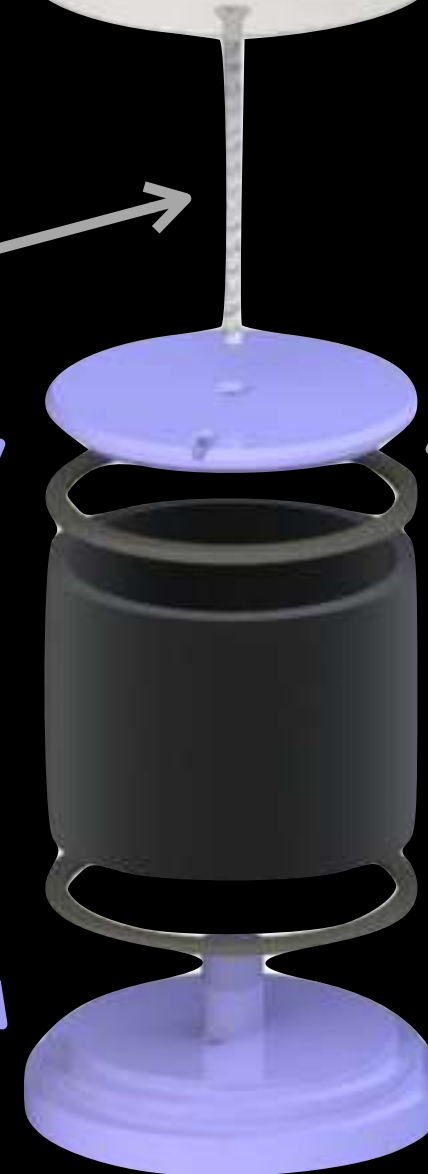
3D printed
end-caps

bolt

polyurethane
encapsulation

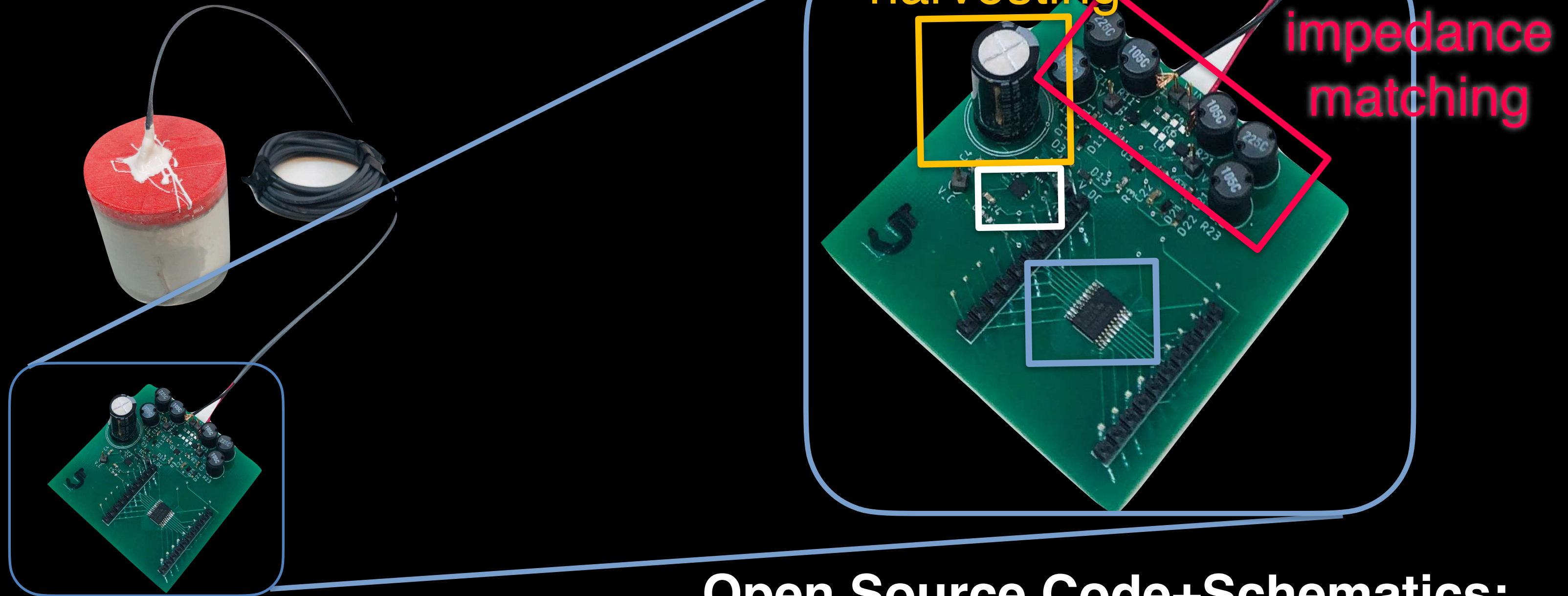
washers

piezoceramic
cylinder



Implementation

Batteryless PAB sensor



Open Source Code+Schematics:

<https://github.com/signalkinetics/Underwater-Backscatter>

Implementation

Batteryless PAB sensor



Projector



fabricated in-house

Hydrophone



Aquarian H2A

Implementation

Batteryless
PAB sensor

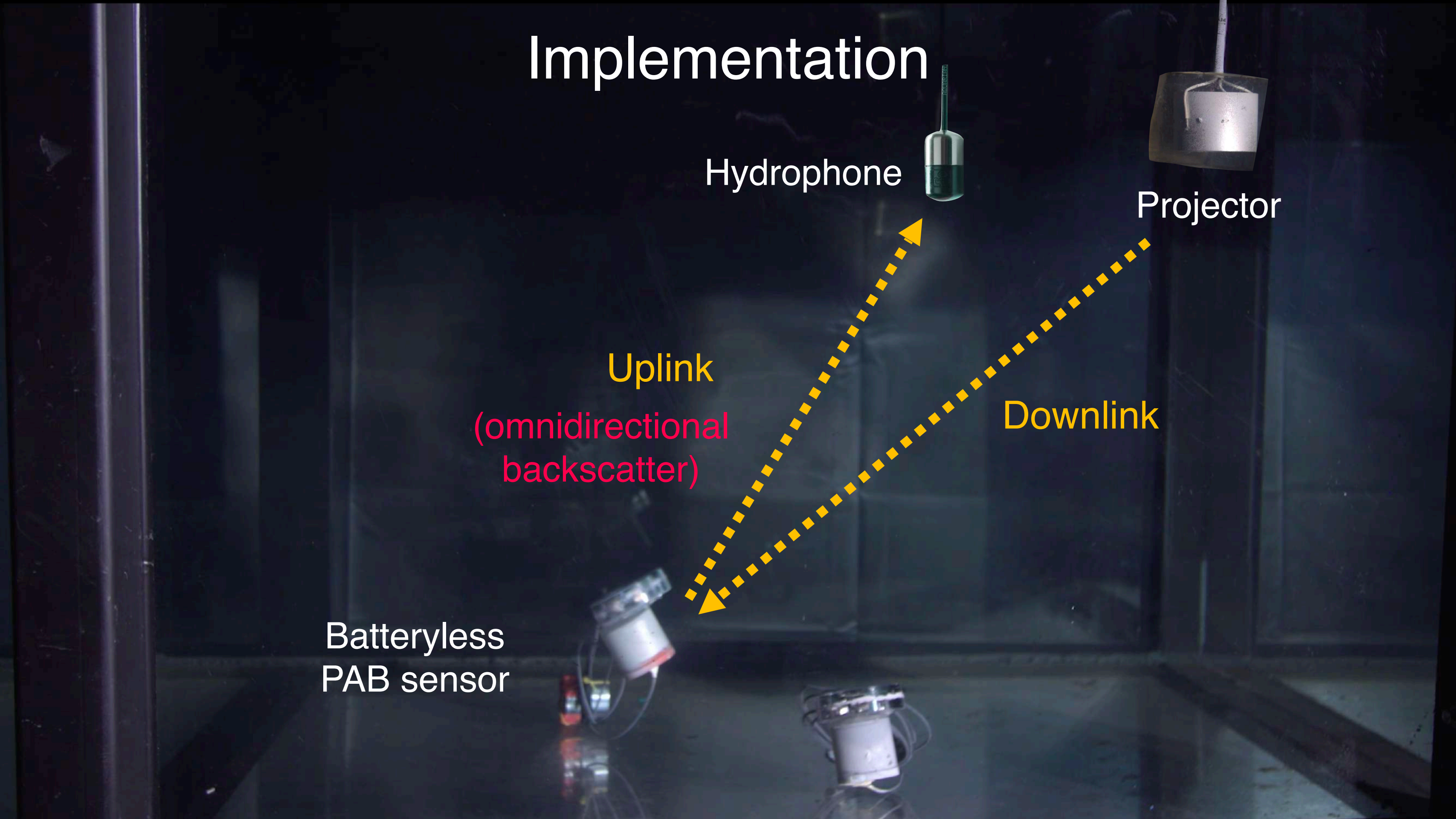
Hydrophone

Projector

Uplink

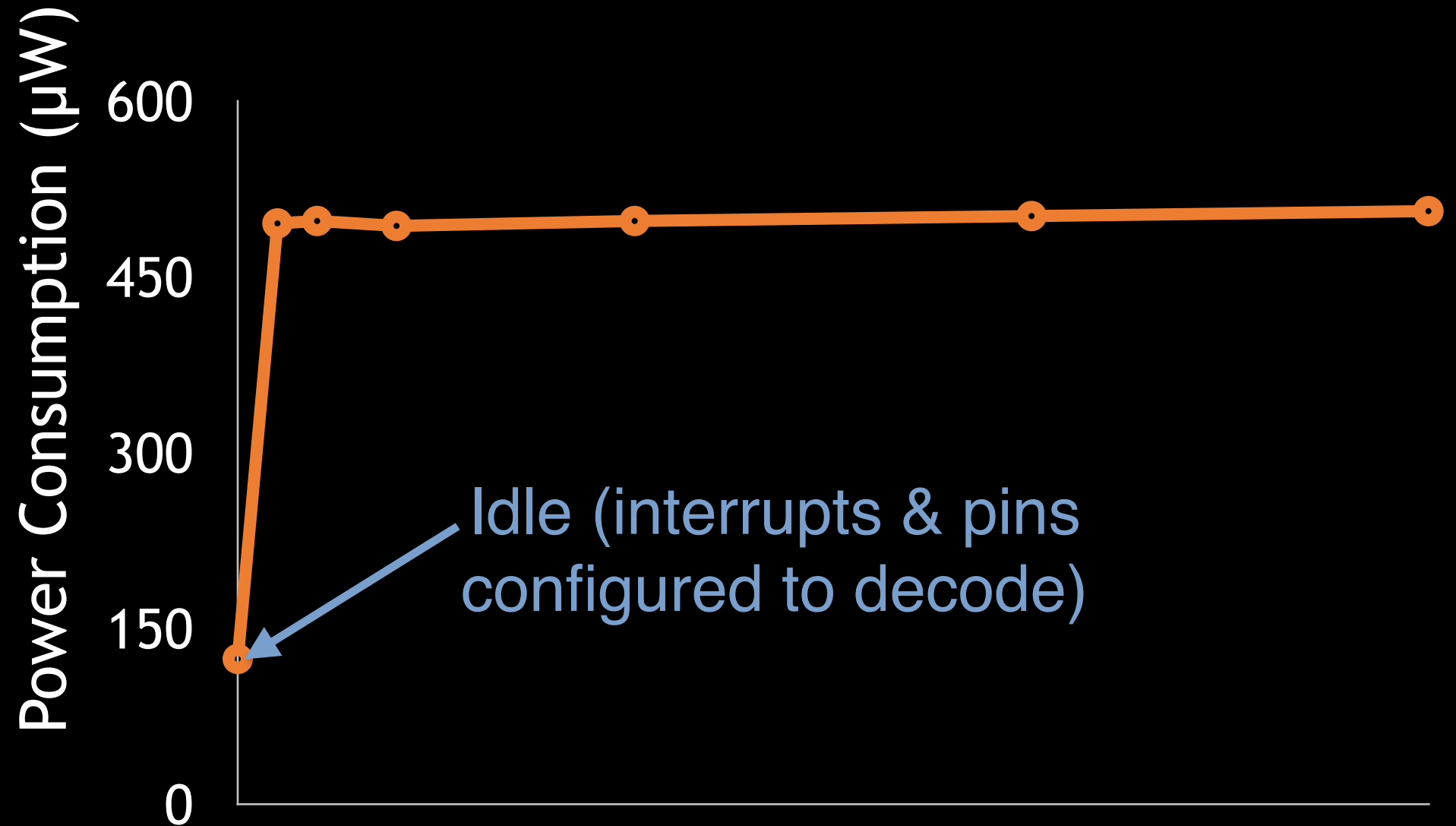
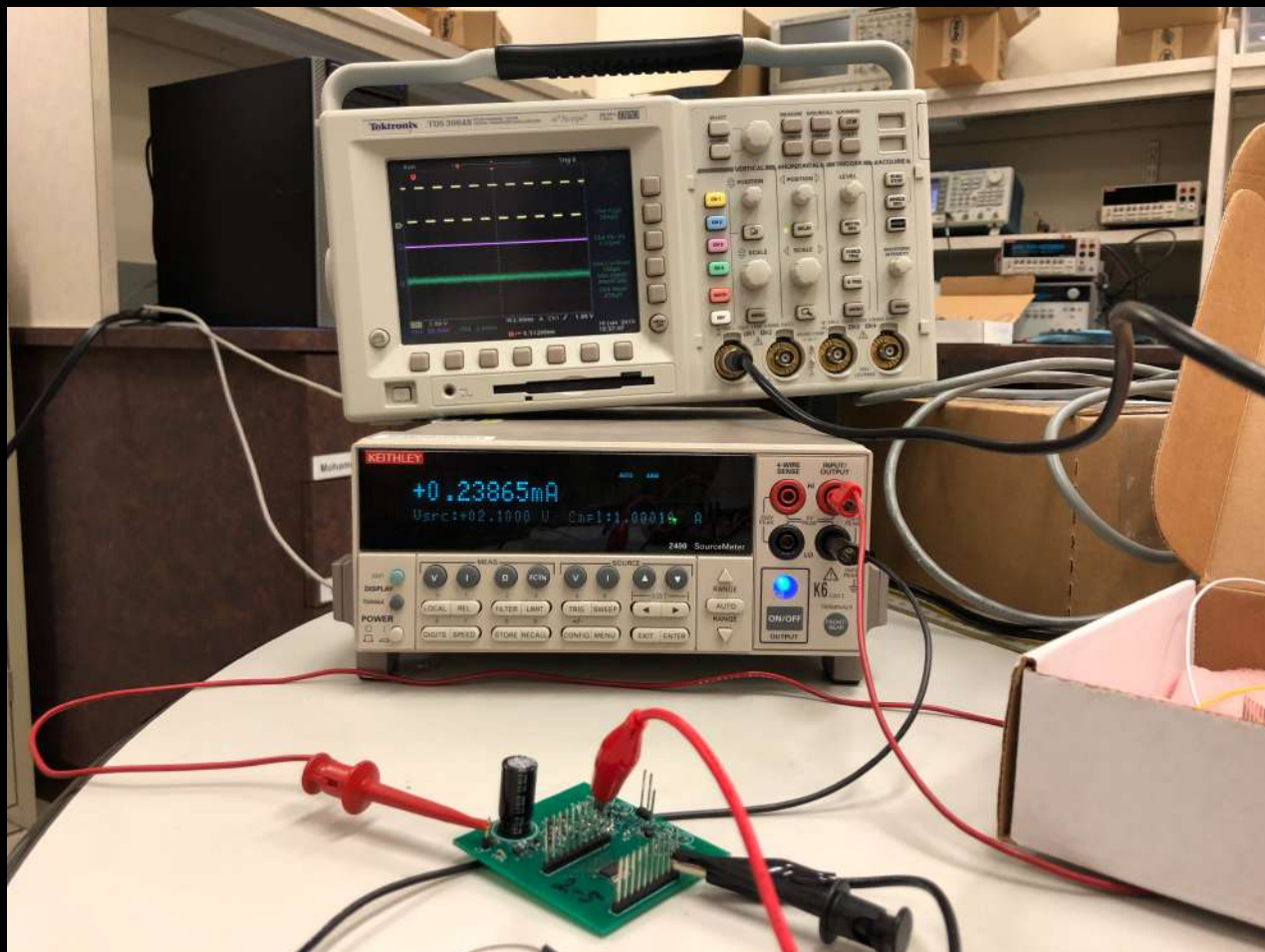
(omnidirectional
backscatter)

Downlink



Power Consumption

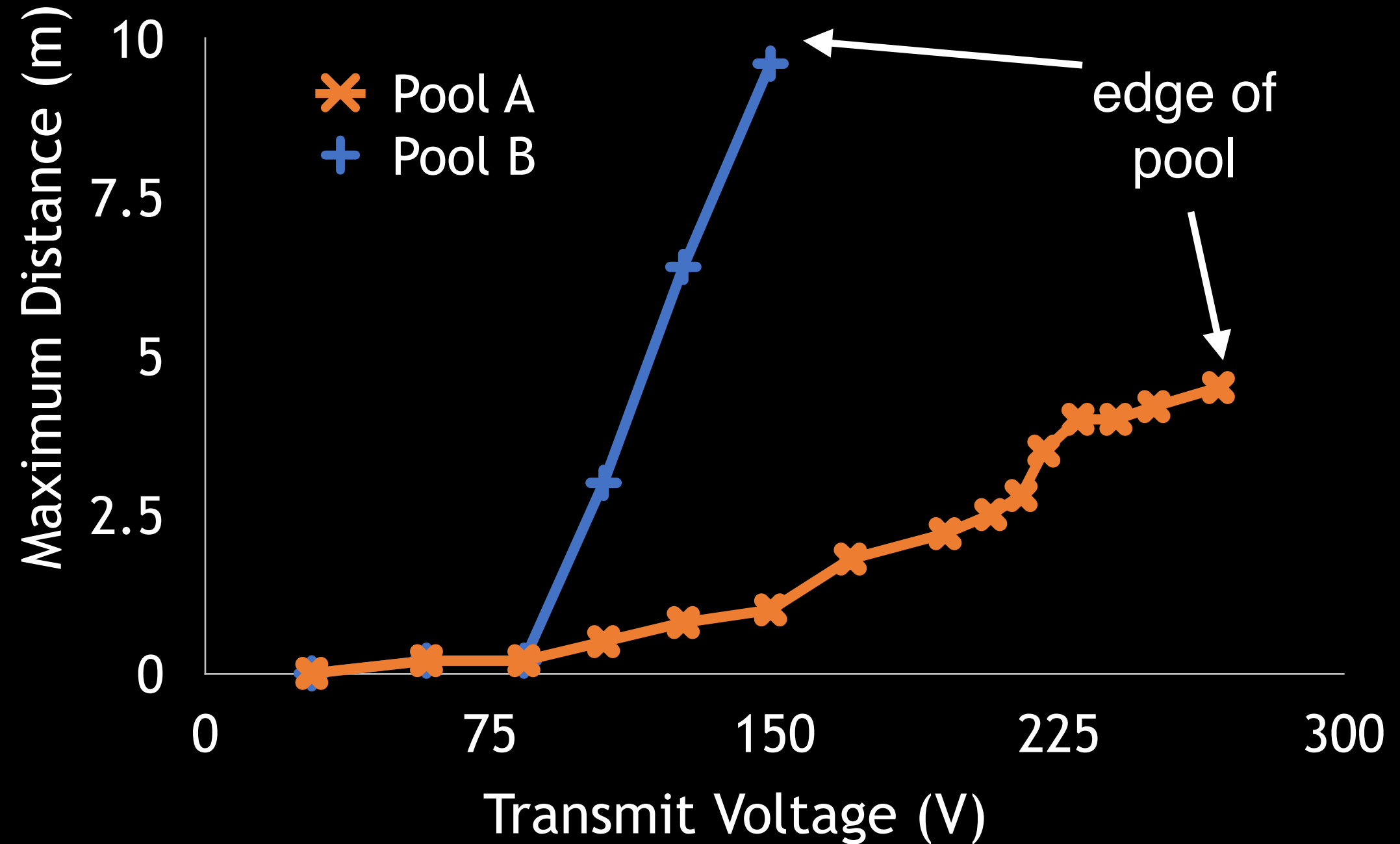
Empirically measured using Keithley 2400 source meter



1 million times less power than state-of-the-art low-power underwater sensors [WHOI micro-modem 2019]

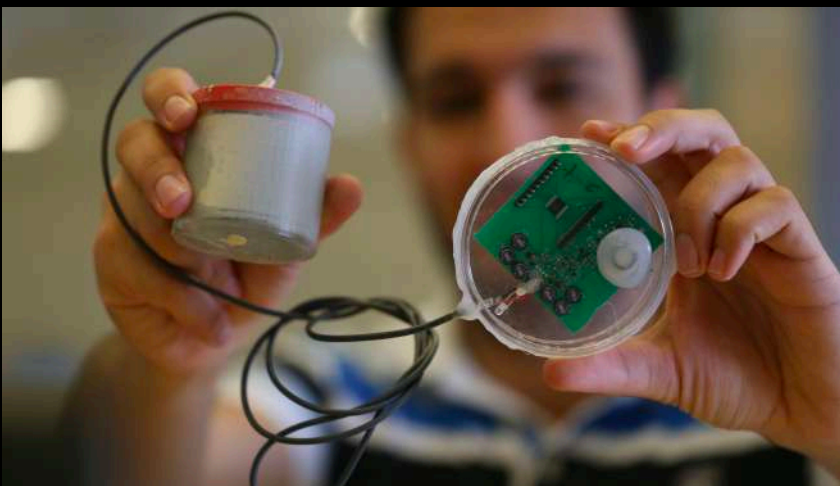
Power-up Range

Experiment: Vary power and distance to sensor



Batteryless Ocean Sensing

[ACM SIGCOMM'19]



Fabrication

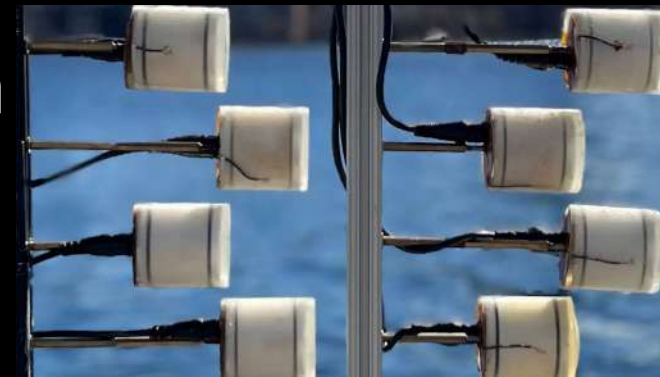
[ACM SIGCOMM'20]



Metamaterials for
UWB (40 kHz)

Communication

[ACM SIGCOMM'23]



Backscatter Array for
Long-range Comm
(150m+)

Localization

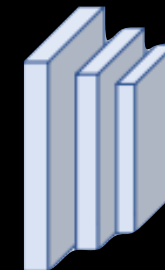
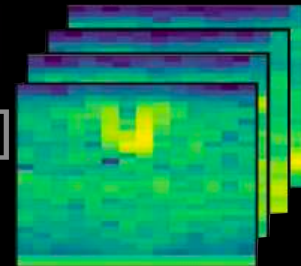
[ACM HotNets'20,
IROS'24]



Battery-free GPS
(~10cm)

AI

[ACM HotMobile'22]



Bioacoustics
(animal/climate
sensing)

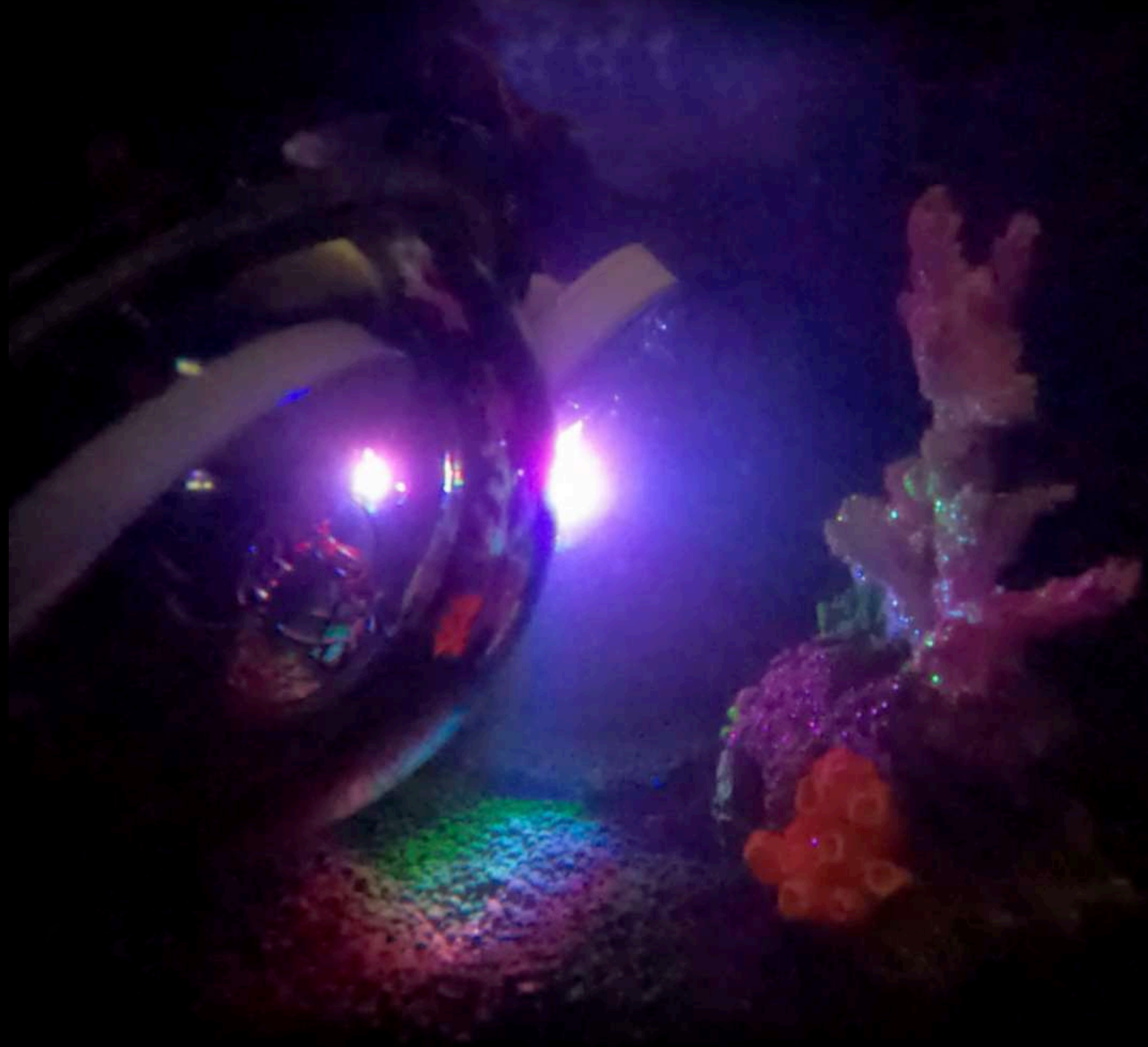
Imaging

[Nature Comm'22,
ACM MobiCom'24]



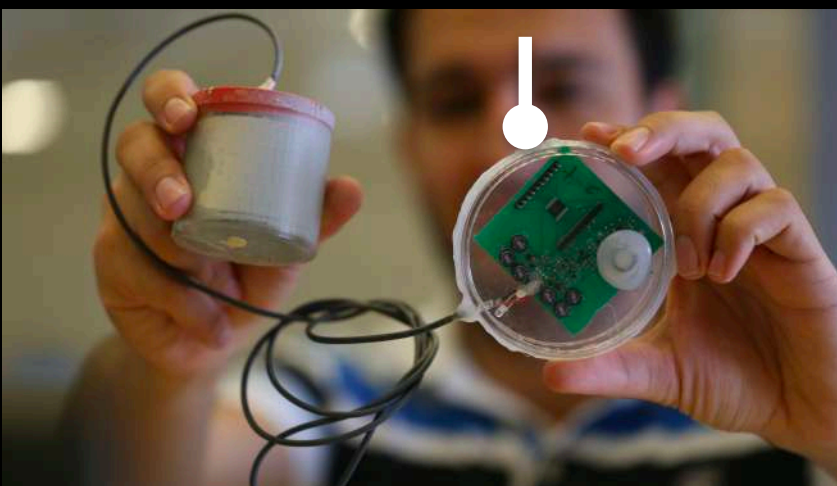
Monitoring for
climate, ecology,
defense

Can we enable battery-free underwater imaging?



Battery-free & Wireless Underwater Camera

Batteryless Ocean Sensing [ACM SIGCOMM'19]

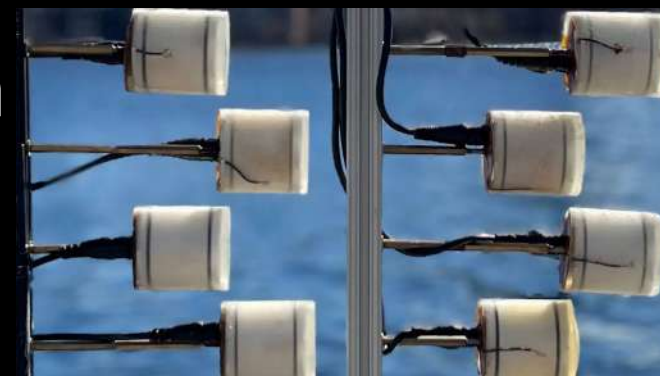


Fabrication [ACM SIGCOMM'20]



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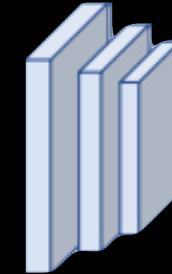
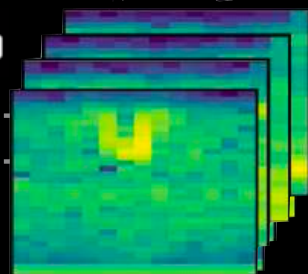
Localization [ACM HotNets'20]



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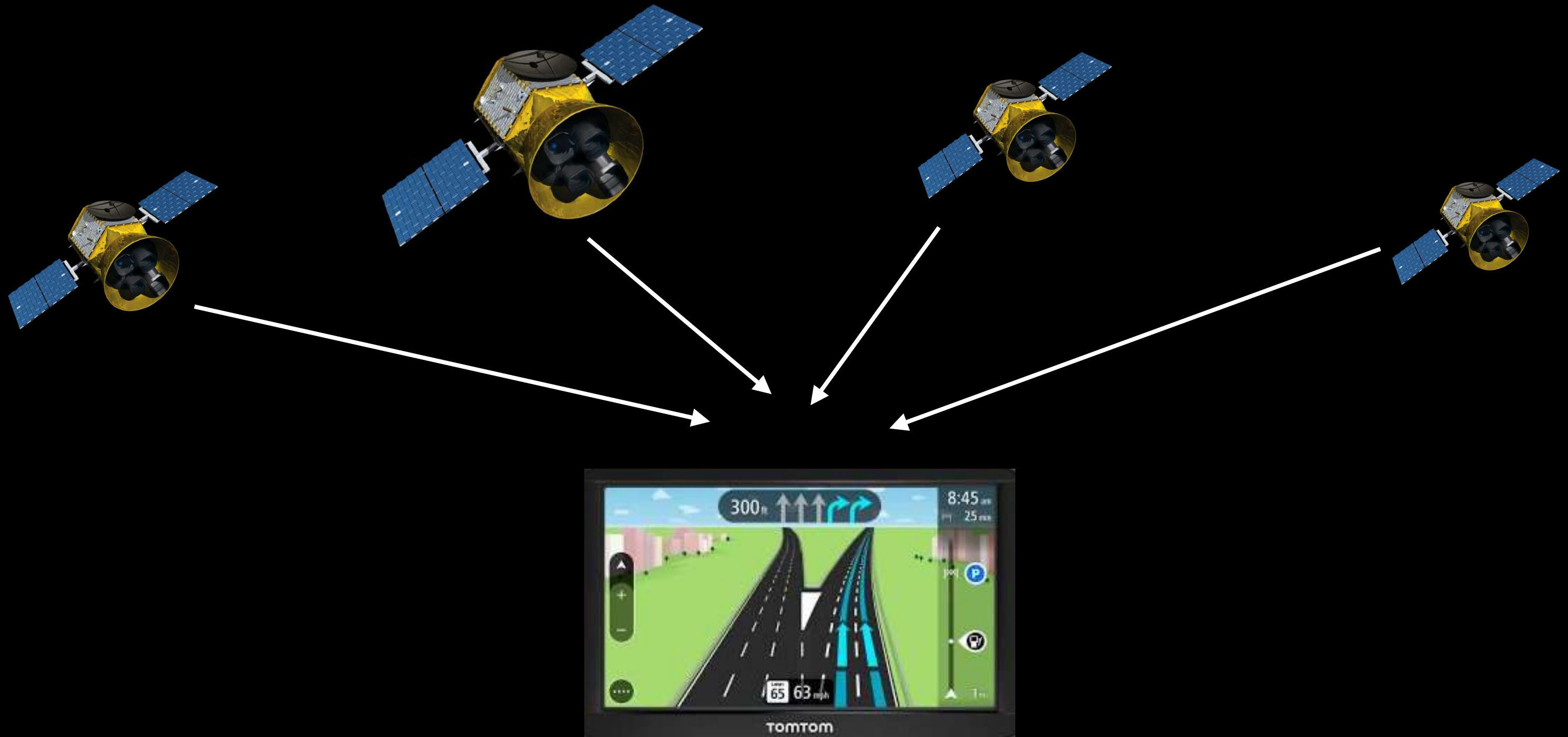


Monitoring for
climate, ecology,
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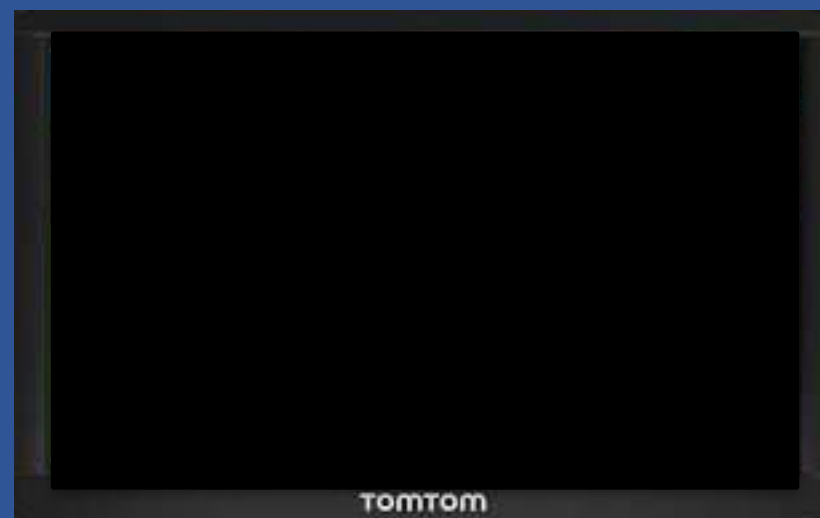
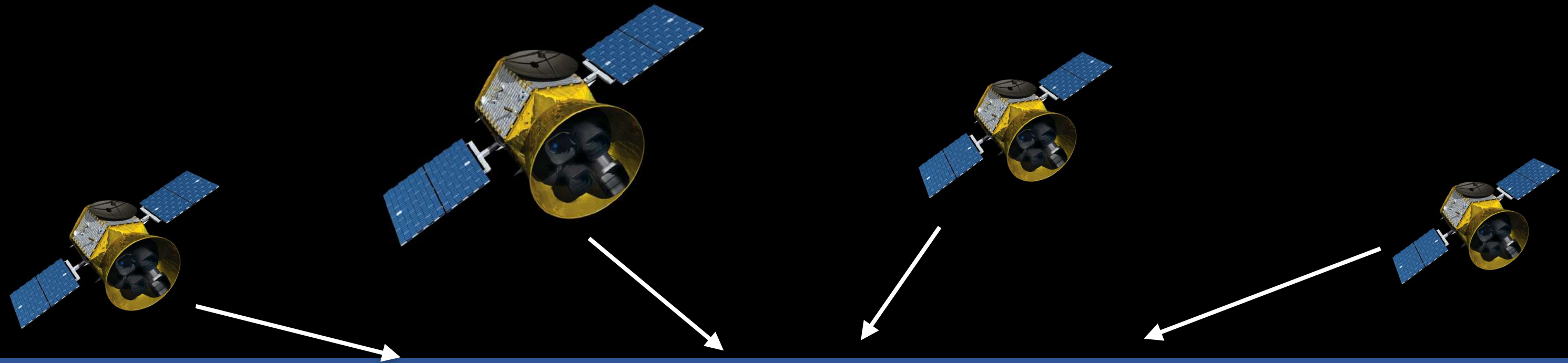
Can we enable battery-free underwater localization?



Global Positioning System (GPS)

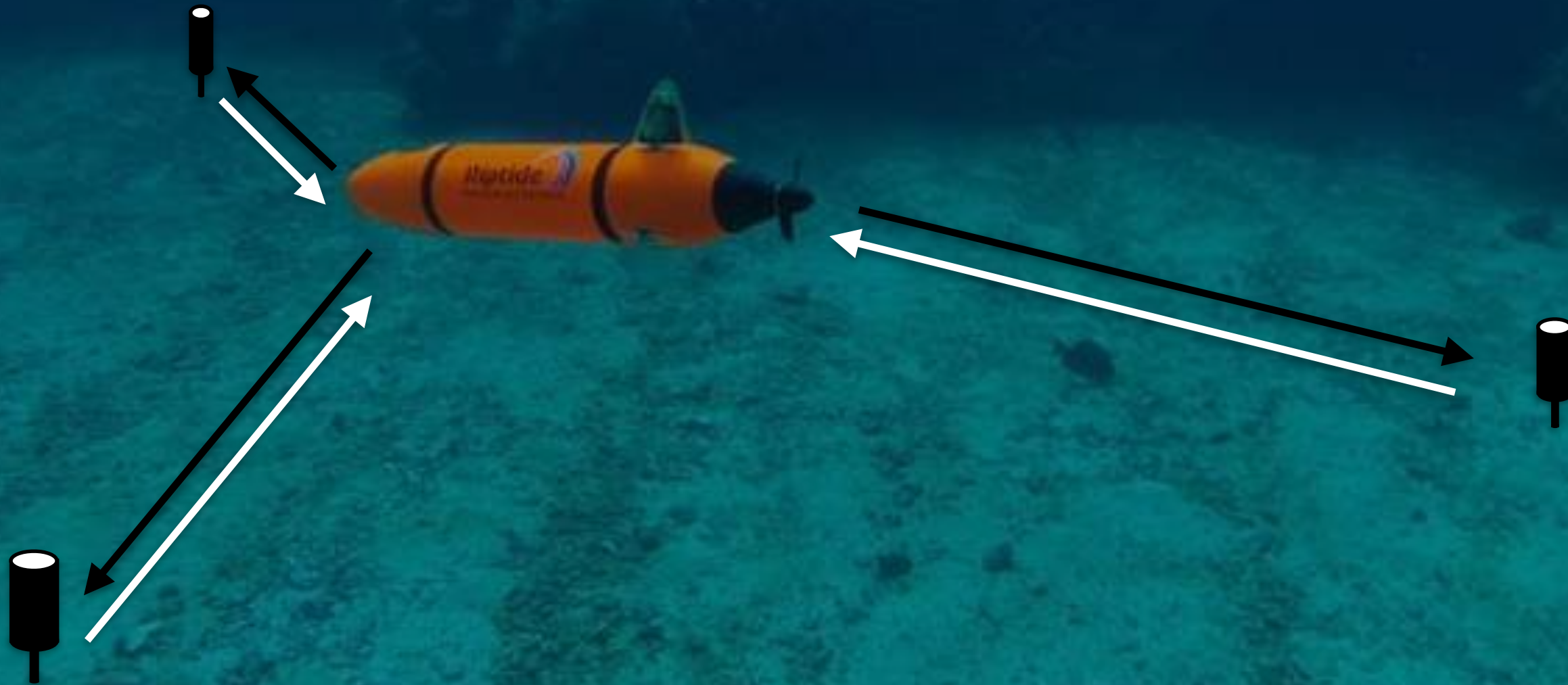


Global Positioning System (GPS)



Conventional Underwater Positioning

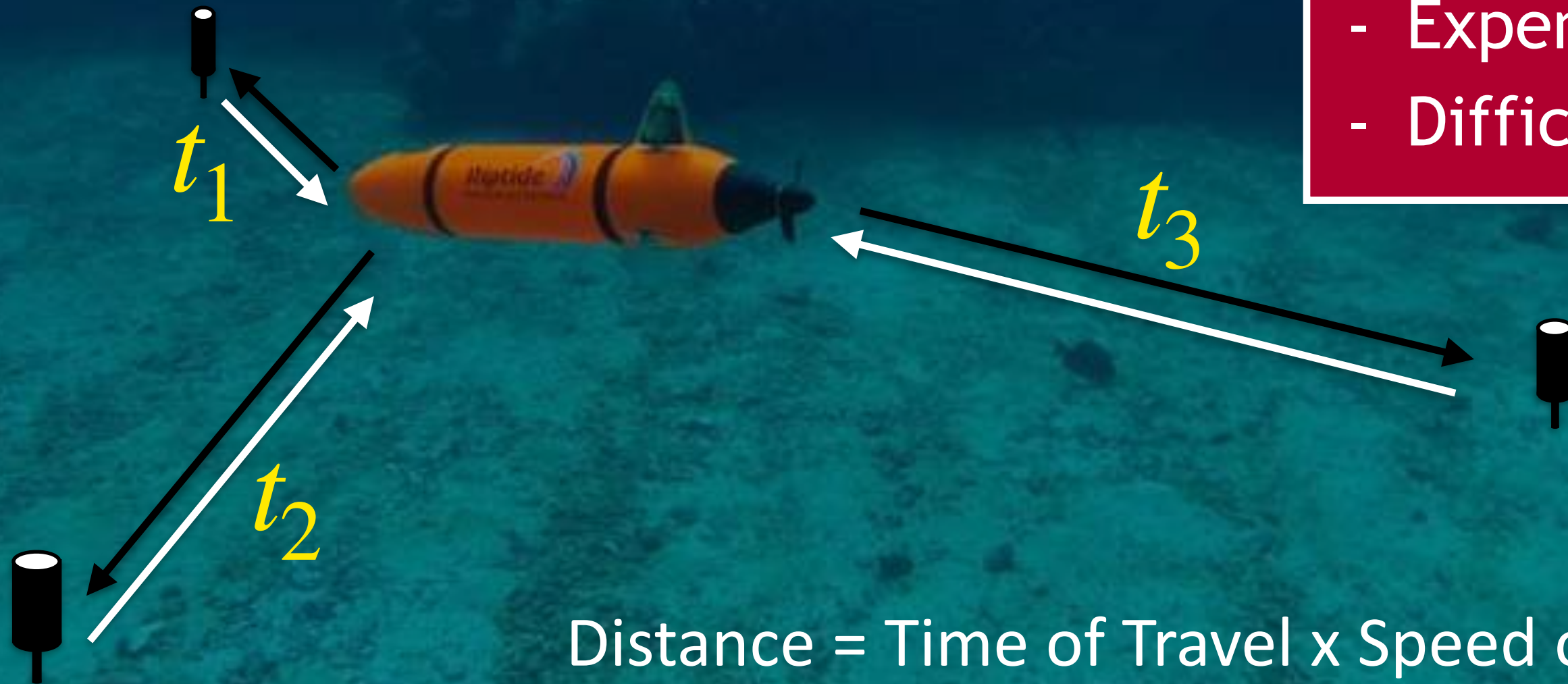
Works by measuring distances to deployed anchors



Conventional Underwater Positioning

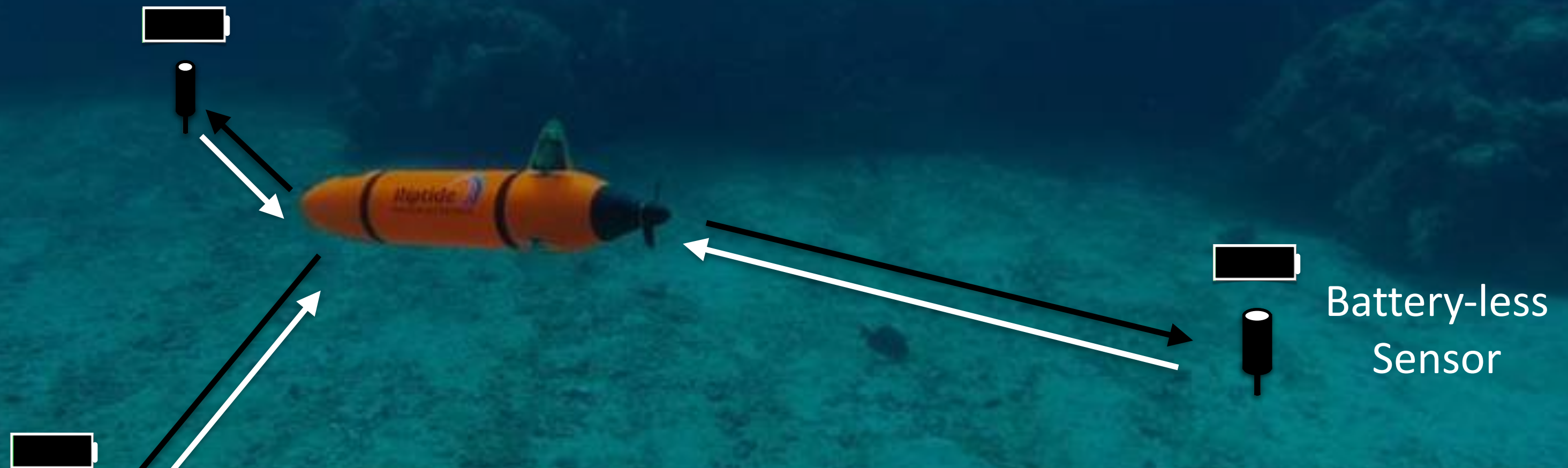
Works by measuring distances to deployed anchors

- Batteries run out of energy
- Expensive packaging
- Difficult to scale



Distance = Time of Travel x Speed of Sound

Batteryless Underwater Positioning



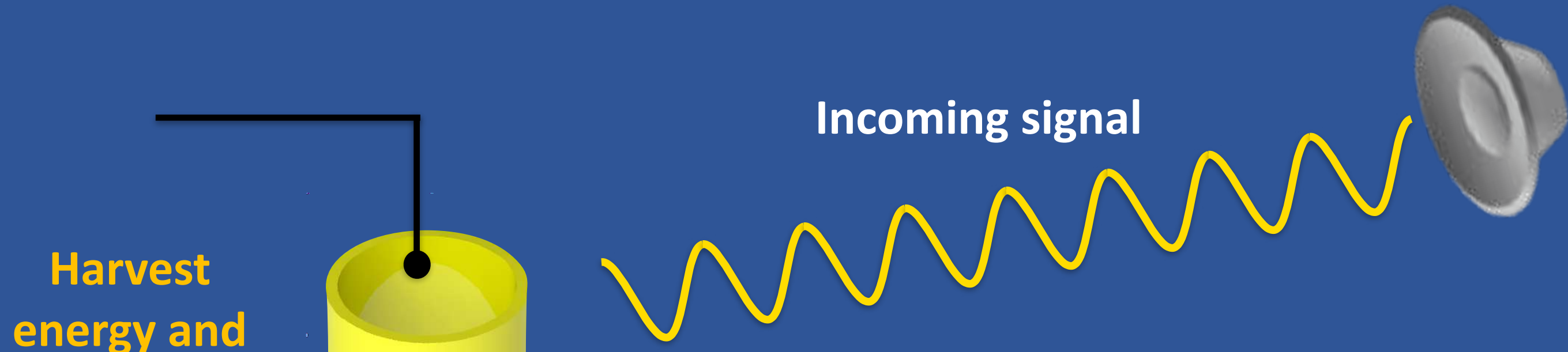
Random wake-up lag makes it extremely hard to localize

Time of Arrival $\longrightarrow t = t_{roundtrip} + t_{Lag}$

Key Idea: Underwater positioning using backscatter sensor

Key Idea: Underwater positioning using backscatter sensor

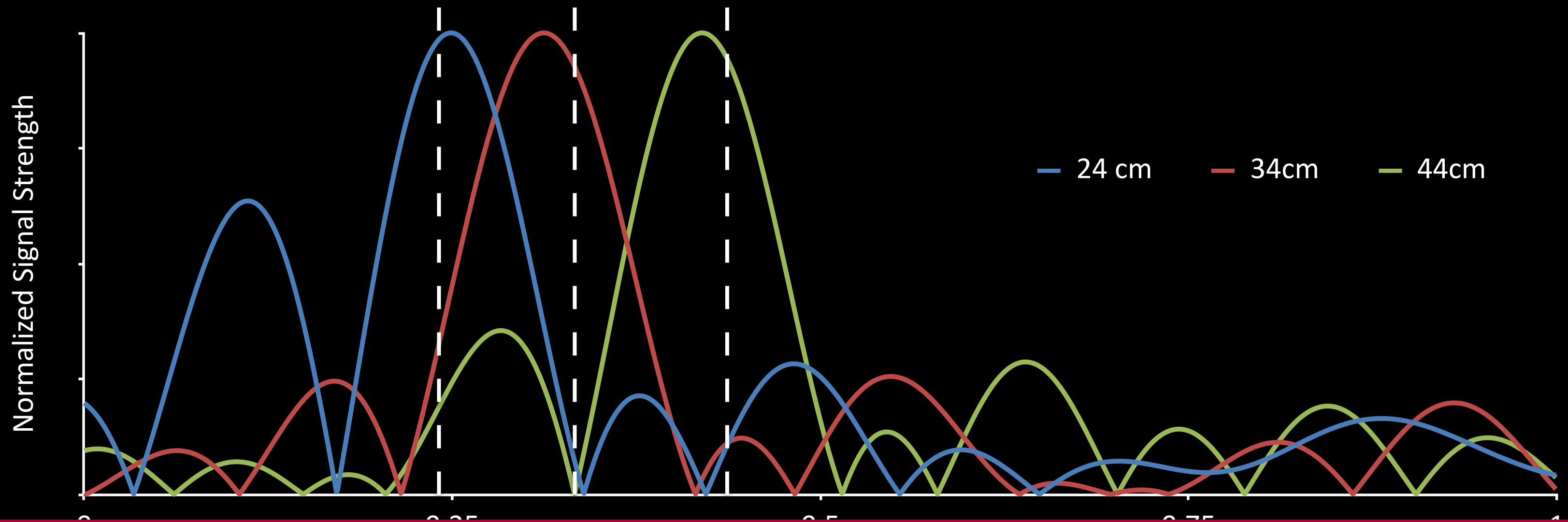
Measure “phase” instead of measuring time



Backscatter acts as a code and the phase of the continuous signal is not impacted by the wake-up lag

Use multi-frequency estimation to compute the time-of-flight from backscatter reflections [ACM HotNets'20]

Experimental Evaluation in the River



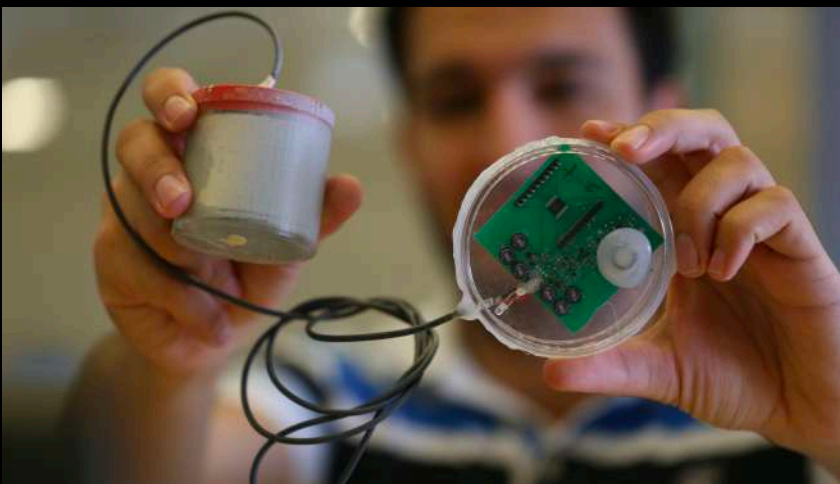
Early results show localization accuracy of ~10 cm

Can we enable battery-free underwater localization?



Batteryless Ocean Sensing

[ACM SIGCOMM'19]



Fabrication

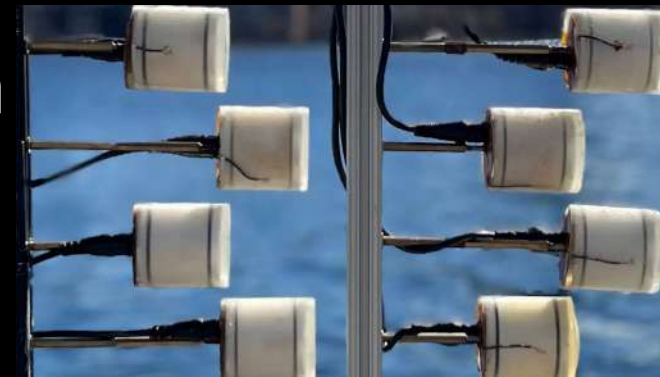
[ACM SIGCOMM'20]



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[ACM SIGCOMM'23]



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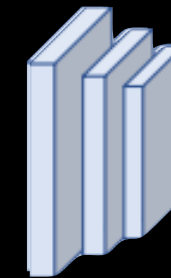
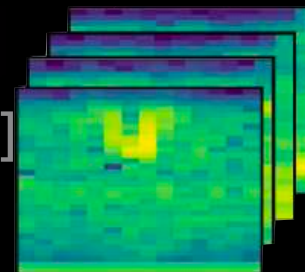
[ACM HotNets'20,
IROS'24]



Battery-free GPS
(~10cm)

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[ACM HotMobile'22]



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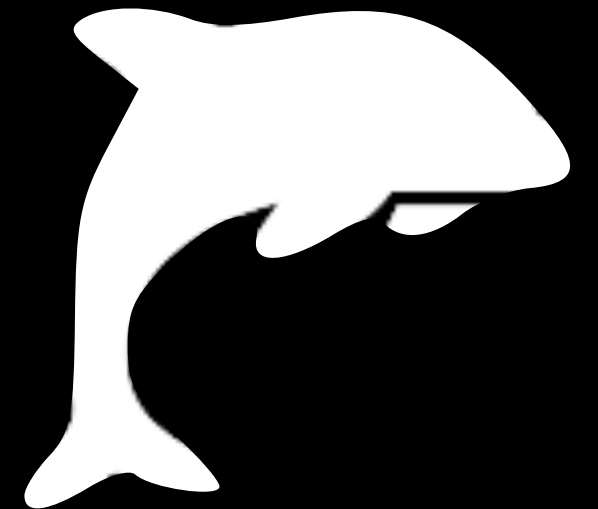
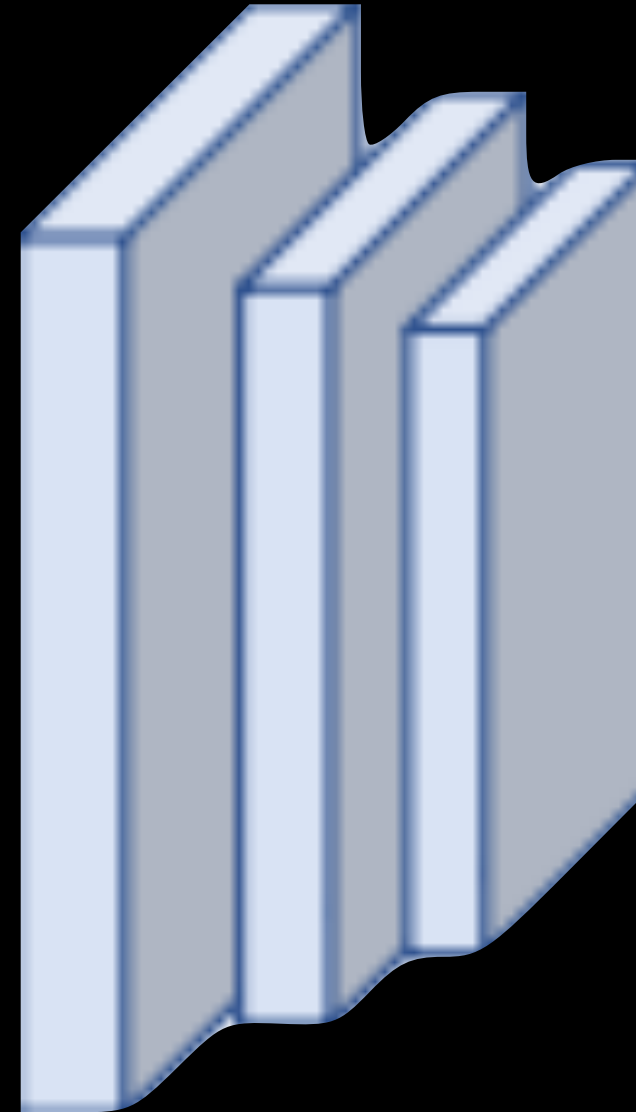
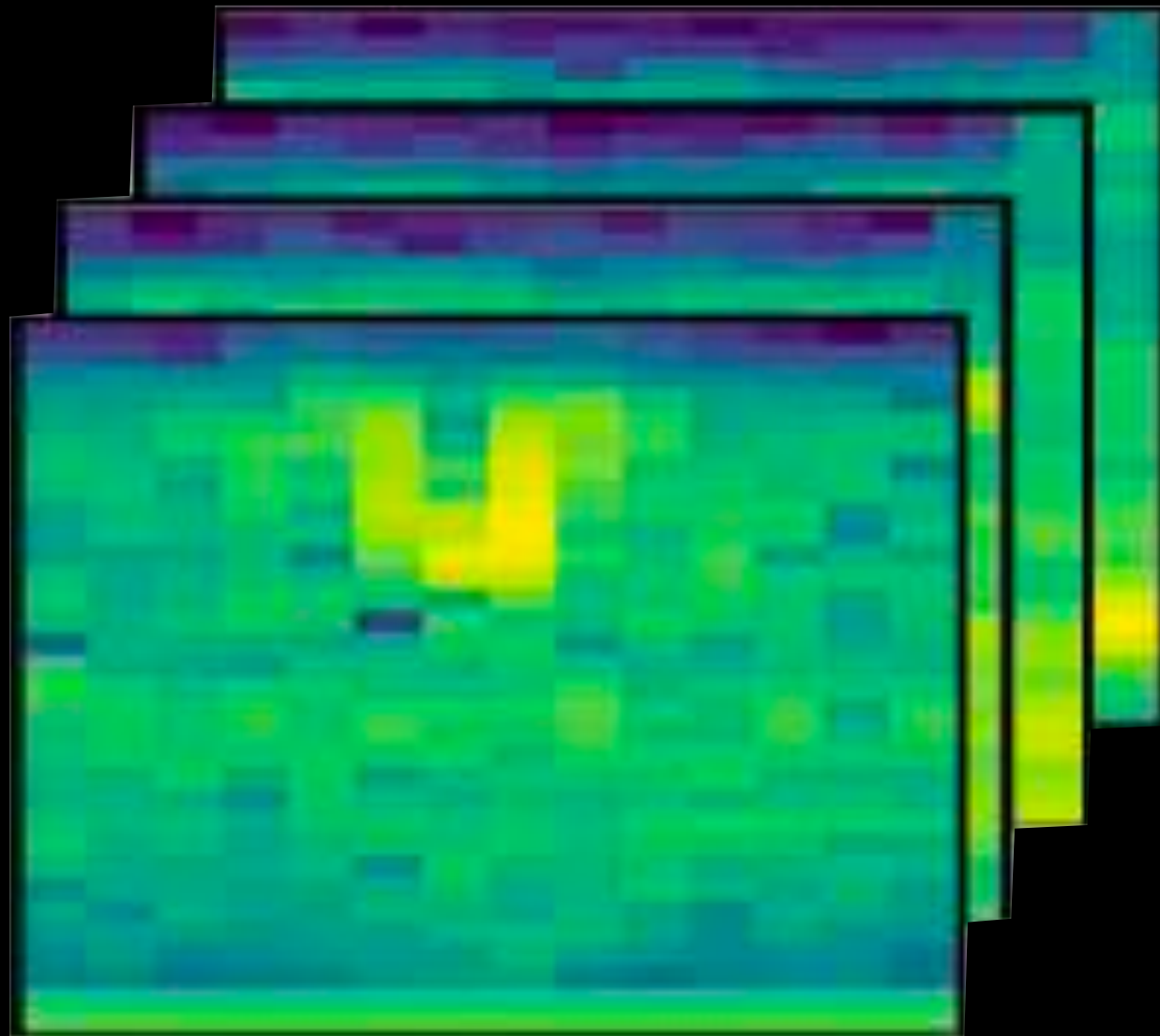
[Nature Comm'22,
ACM MobiCom'24]



Monitoring for
climate, ecology,
defense

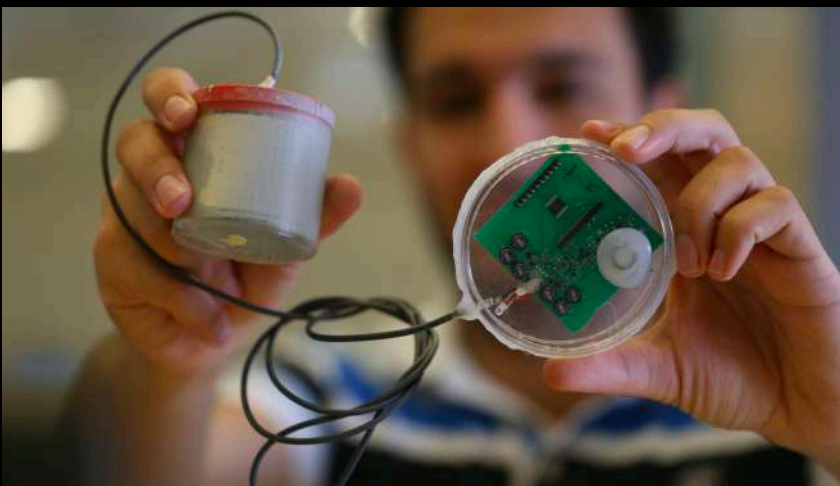
Can we enable battery-free underwater AI?

Early results demonstrate 85%+ accuracy in identifying marine species (without any batteries)



Batteryless Ocean Sensing

[ACM SIGCOMM'19]



Fabrication

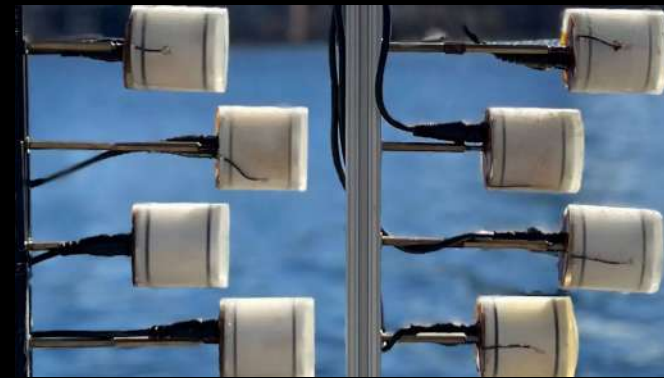
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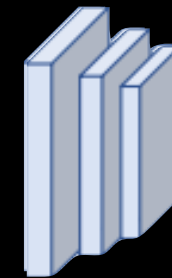
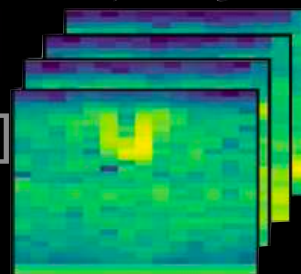
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Imaging

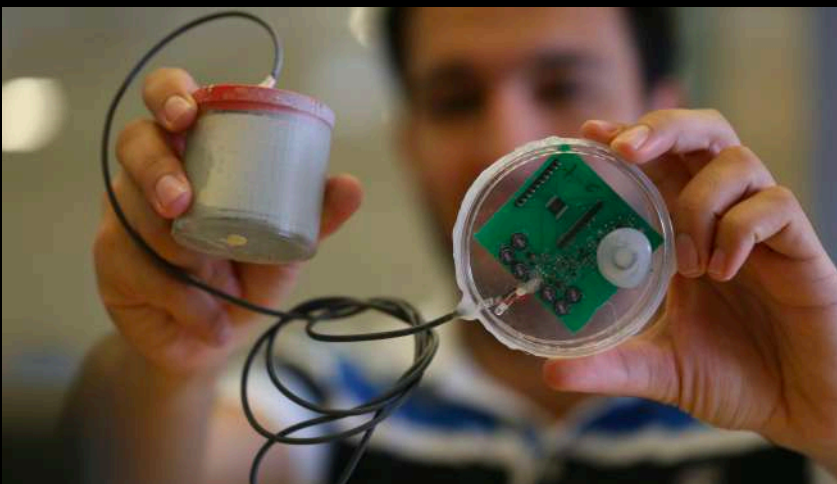
[Nature Comm'22,
ACM MobiCom'24]



Monitoring for
climate, ecology,
defense

Batteryless Ocean Sensing

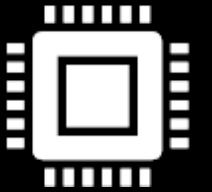
[ACM SIGCOMM'19]



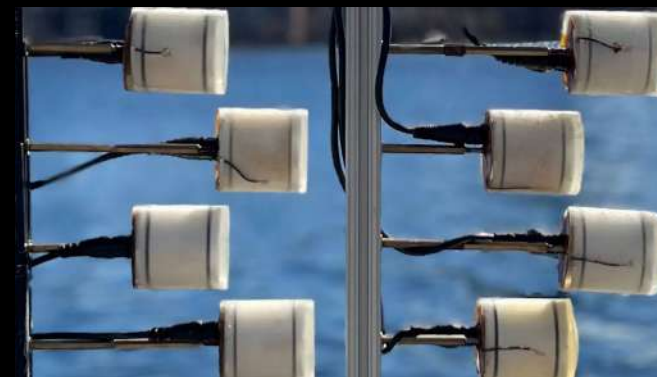
Fabrication
[ACM SIGCOMM'20]



nanoWatt
power levels



Communication
[ACM SIGCOMM'23]



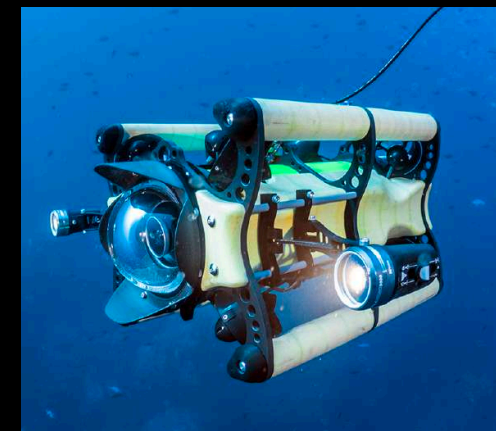
Toward km-scale
comms

Woods Hole
Oceanographic
INSTITUTION

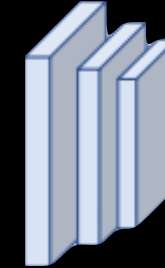
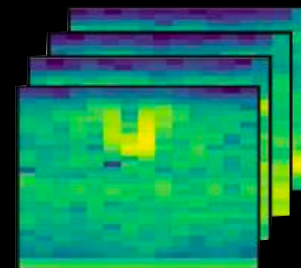
Localization
[ACM HotNets'20,
IROS'24]



Robotic
exploration



AI
[ACM HotMobile'22]



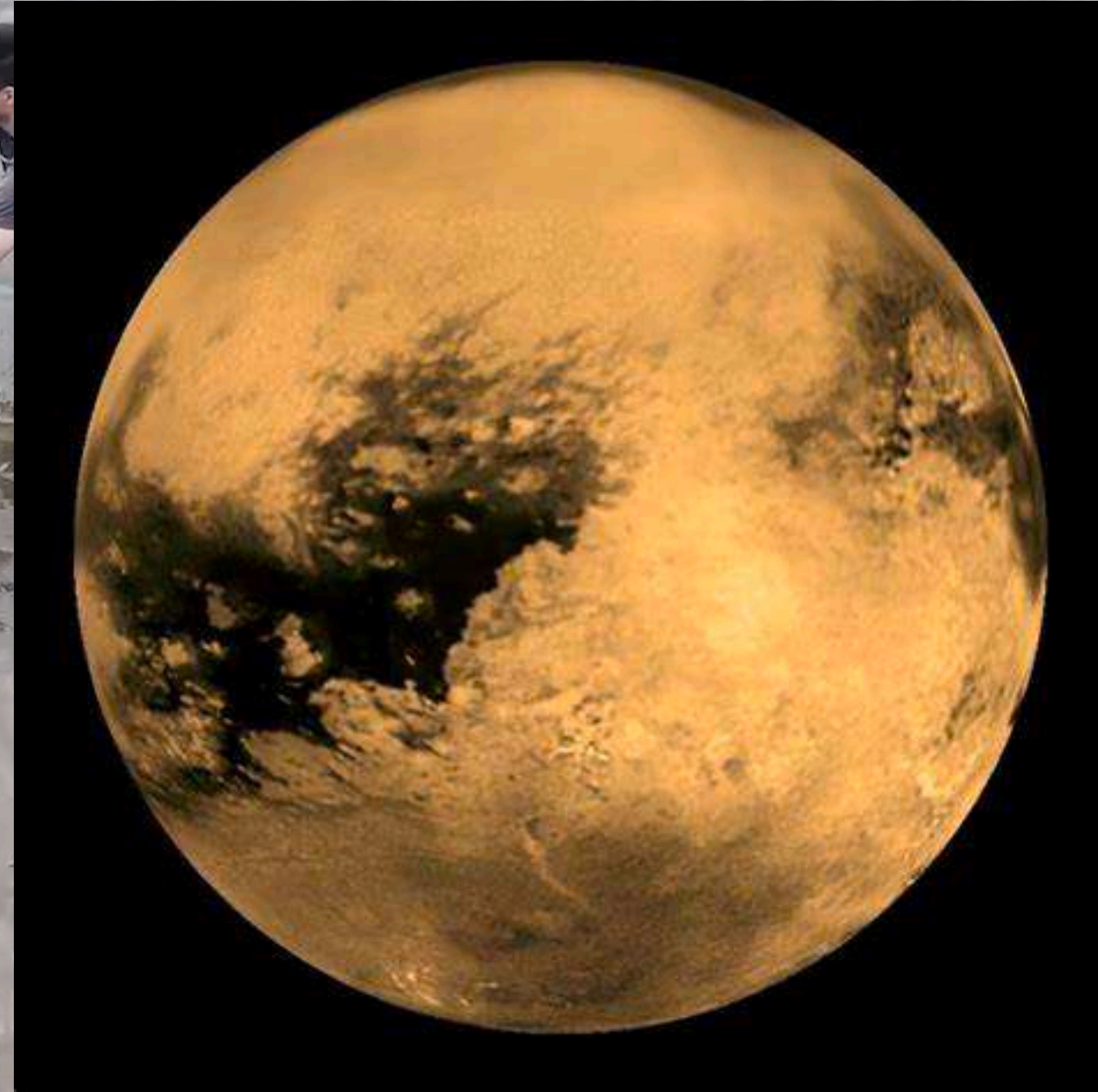
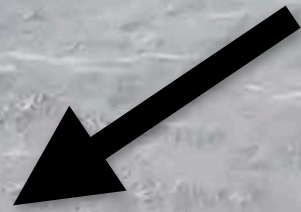
- Discovering marine species
- Aquaculture
- Climate change monitoring
- Defense
- ...

Imaging
[Nature Comm'22,
ACM MobiCom'24]



battery-free node with
temp & pressure sensor

Extraterrestrial
oceans (e.g., Titan)



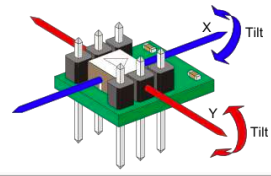
Summary of this Lecture

- Motivation of Ocean IoT & Existing Systems
- Basic Principles of Underwater backscatter
 - Networking
 - Localization
 - Other applications: Imaging, AI, Robotics, Defense, Space

Remainder of the Class

IoT Fundamentals

Sensing



Computation



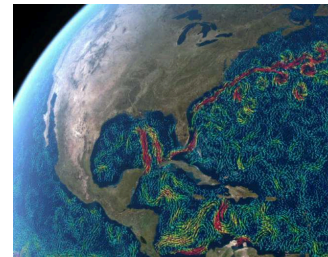
Power/Energy



Connectivity



Emerging & Cross-Cutting Topics



1. Labs 0-4
2. PSets 1-2

Lab 4 Due
April 8

PSet 2 Due
April 10

Midterm
April 17

**Project
Meetings -
Check Slack**

1. Will meet teams weekly
2. Presentations + Q&A on last day of class