



Sensing and Awareness in Microsystems

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Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS Sensors for Energy & Power

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Presentation Outline



Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

- **Acknowledgements**
- **Research Motivation**
- **High Temperature Sensors**
- **Materials for Harsh Environments**
- **Future Vision 1: Passive Telemetry**
- **Future Vision 2: Active Telemetry**
- **Conclusions**



Acknowledgements



Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

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- Mr. Matt Chan
- Mr. Ryan Xie
- Mr. Gabriele Vigevani
- Ms. Sarah Wodin-Schwartz
- Mr. Jonathan Rheaume



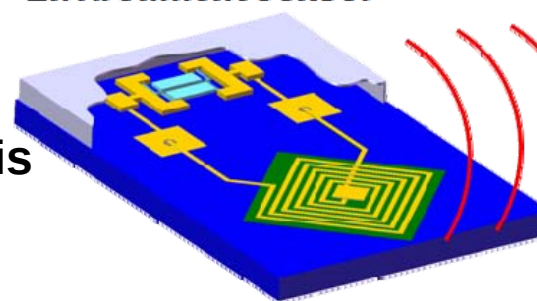
Research Motivation

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

- Next generation power systems
 - Reduced emissions
 - Increased efficiency
 - Fuel flexibility
 - Greater bandwidth
- Real-time monitoring and control of power systems
 - Enable condition based monitoring
 - Predict failure of materials and critical components
 - Prevent combustion instabilities
 - Reduce NO_x and CO₂
- Harsh environment telemetry is one solution for obtaining control data for combustion systems.



Harsh Environment Sensor



Passive RF Backscattering Telemetry



Technology Trend Analysis



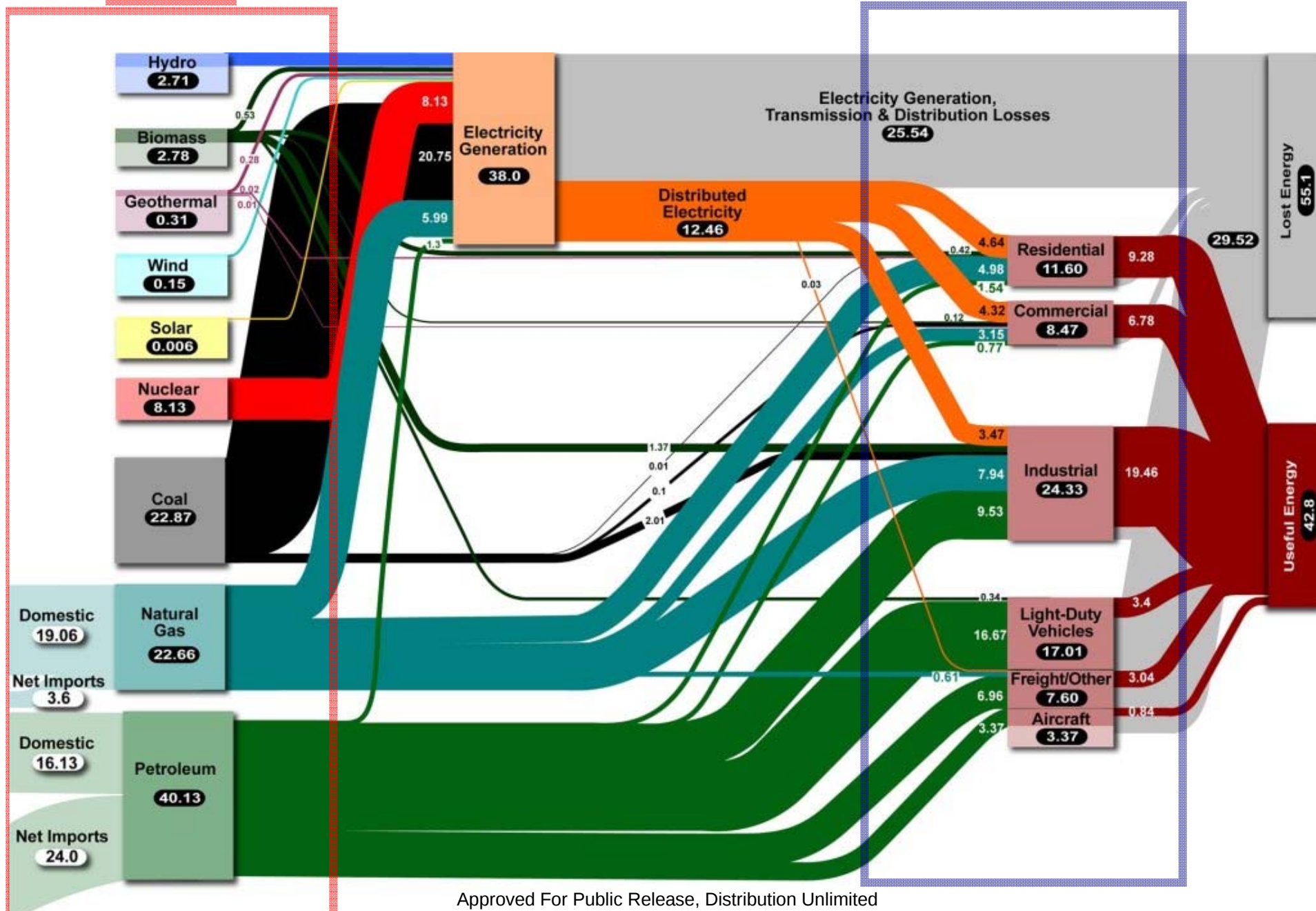
Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

- **Energy sources will diversify**
 - Specific solutions for specific problems
 - Avoid problems with scaling single solutions
- **Advanced combustion will play a role**
 - Highest specific power
 - Existing infrastructure
- **THEREFORE ---**
- **Sensors required for more efficient power generation**
- **Energy scavenging required for active sensors systems**



Supply

Demand



The CITRIS Solution: “Conservation” plus “Creation without Carbon Emissions”

1. Conservation & Energy Efficiency

- *Power-Aware Buildings*
- *Fuel Efficiency*
- *Sustainable Transportation*

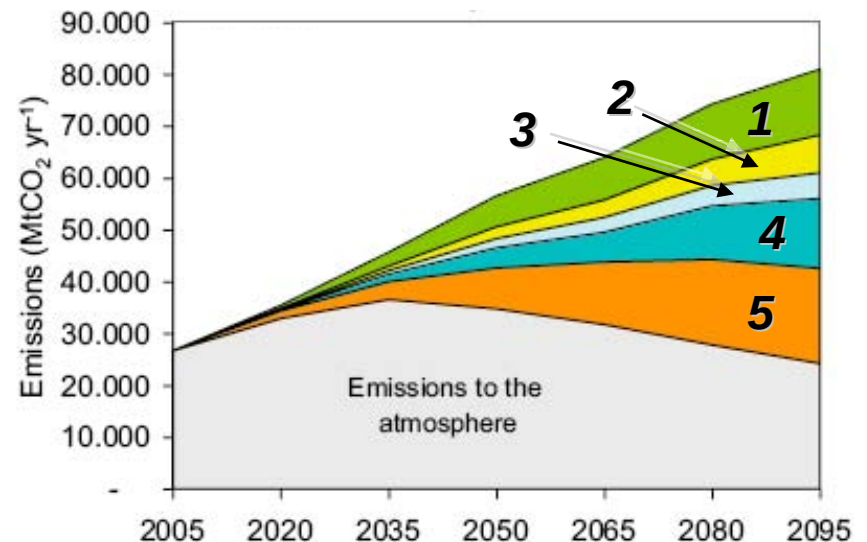
2. Renewable Energy

- *Alternative Fuels*
- *Alternative Power*

3. Nuclear Energy

4. Coal to Gas Substitution

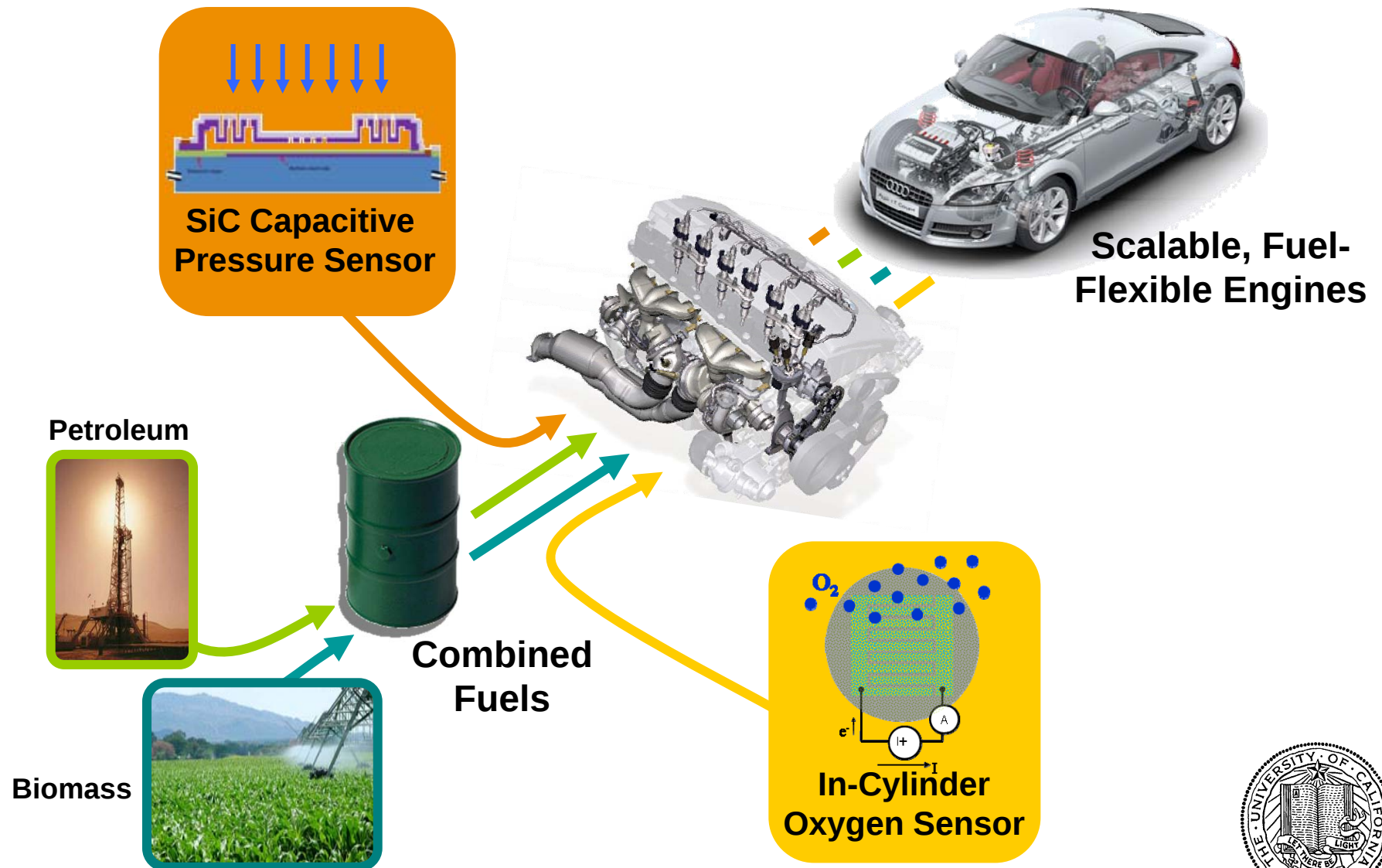
5. Carbon Capture & Storage



- Conservation and Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Nuclear
- Coal to Gas Substitution
- CCS

Mobile Power Sources

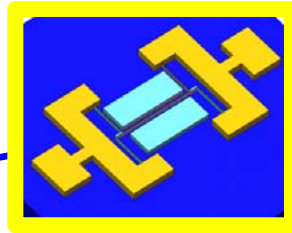
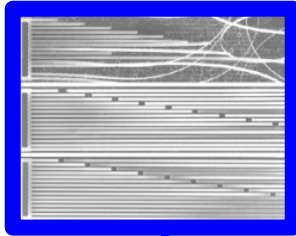
Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS



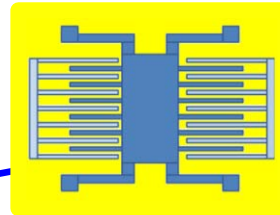
Stationary Power Sources

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

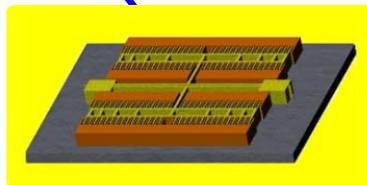
SiC Materials
Development and
Characterization



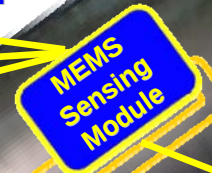
Ultra-Stable
Temperature
Sensor



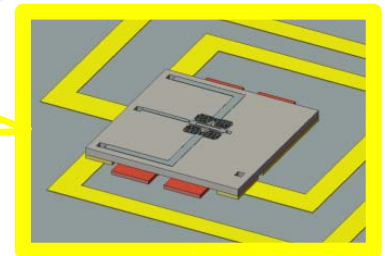
Ultra Low Cross
Axis Sensitivity
Accelerometer



High Accuracy
Erosion/Corrosion
Sensor



MEMS
Sensing
Module



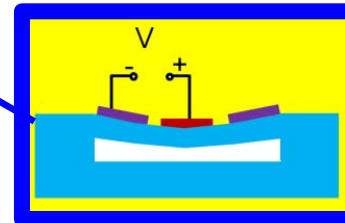
High Temperature
Bonding and
Interconnect



RF
Module

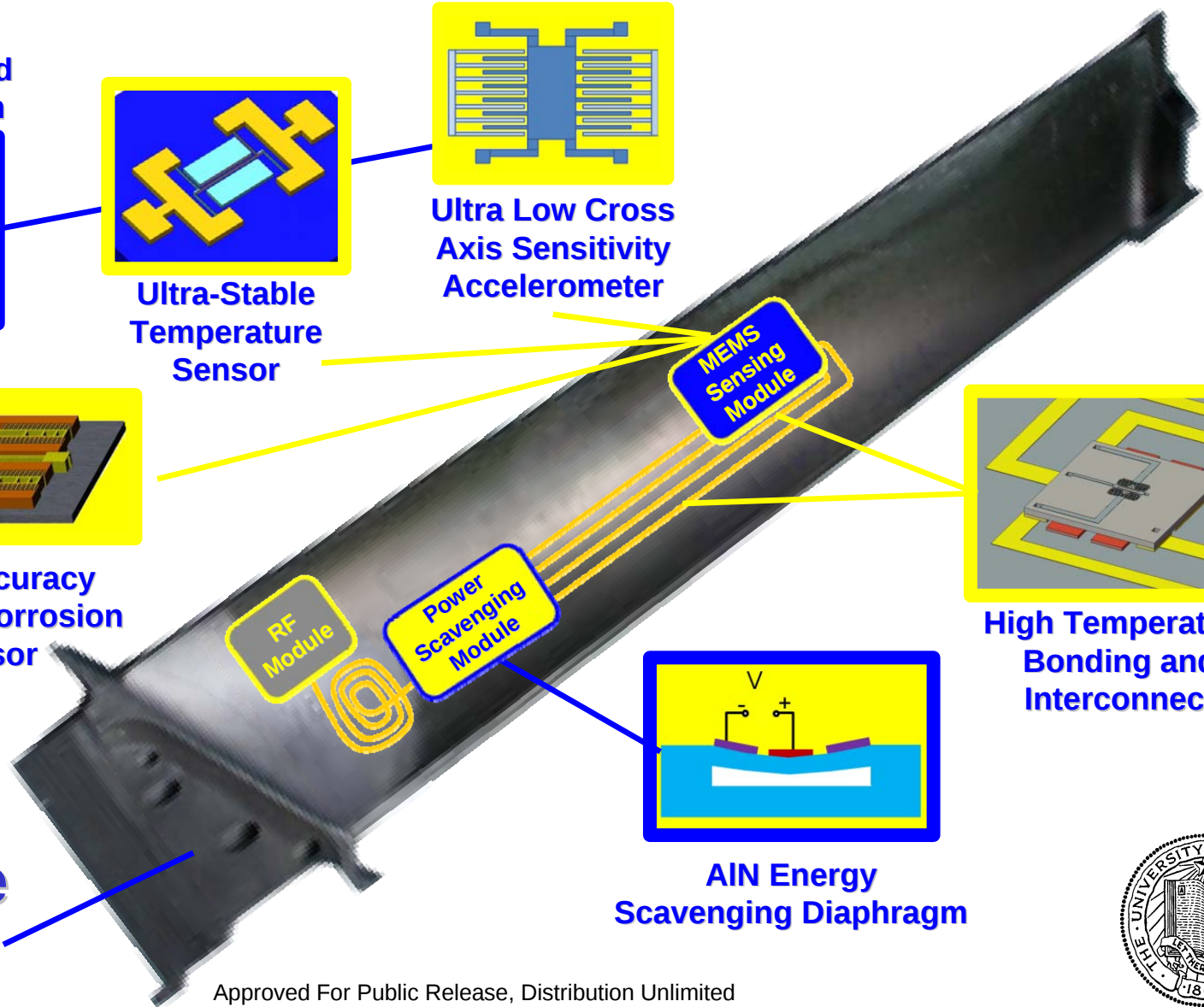


Power
Scavenging
Module



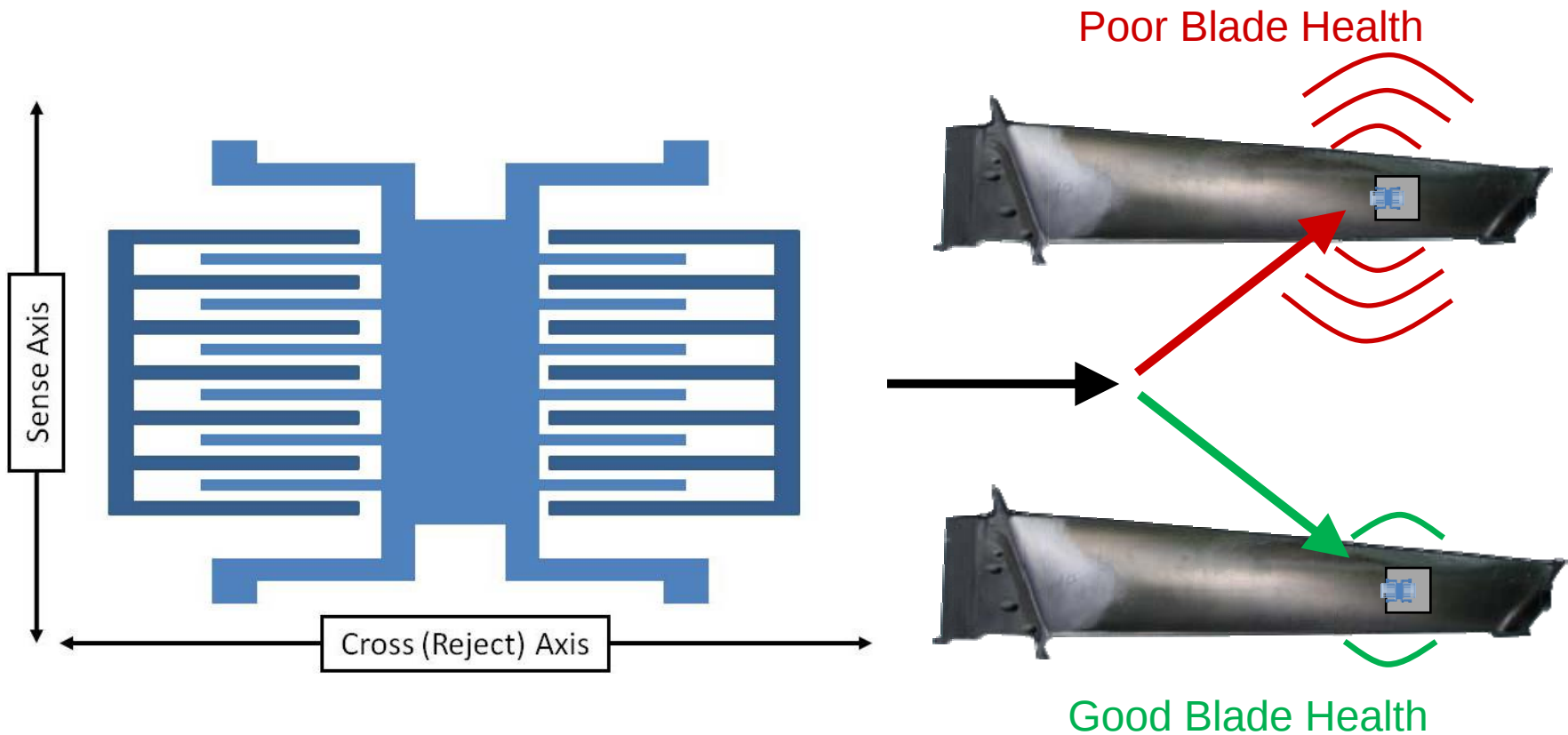
AlN Energy
Scavenging Diaphragm

Gas
Turbine
Blade



SiC Accelerometer

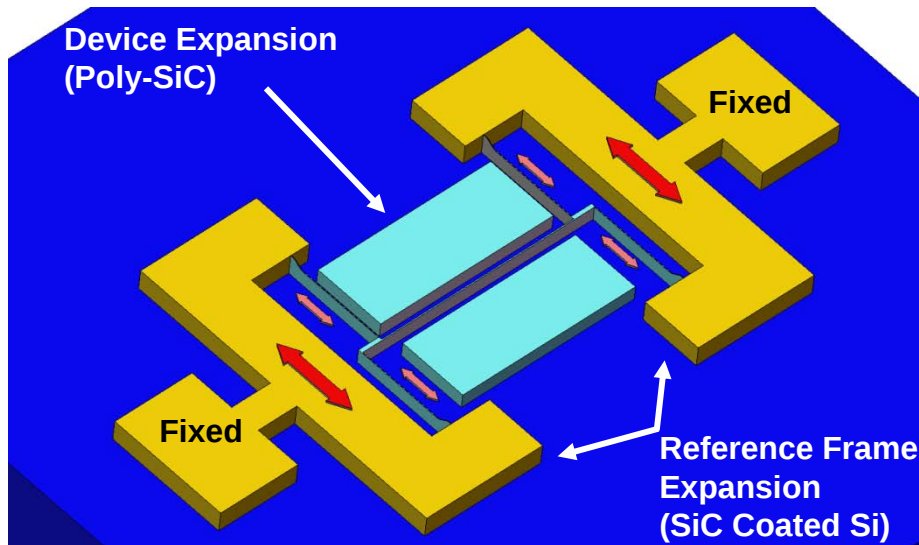
Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS



- Abnormal vibrations indicate blade cracking and occur before potential failure
- Ultra low cross axis sensitivity accelerometer can be used to detect abnormal vibrations

SiC Temperature Sensor

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS



A capacitive temperature sensor which works based on the thermal coefficient of expansion mismatch between Silicon and Silicon Carbide structures.

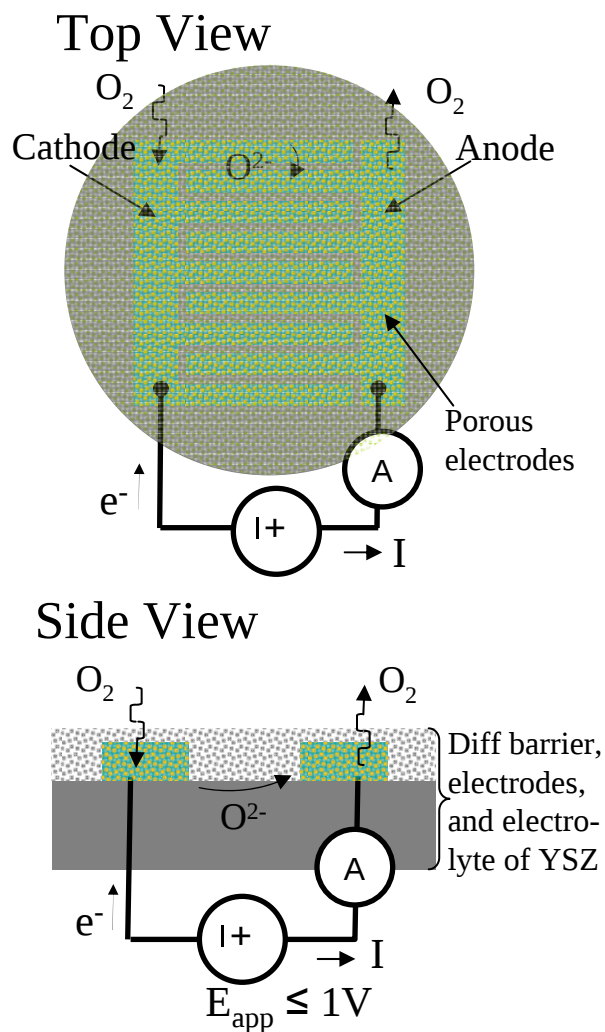
- Intrinsically temperature insensitive
- Low power
- Highly accurate and stable
- Requires traditional circuitry
- Mechanically decoupling strain and temperature effect



Temperature sensor attached on the blade

Microscale YSZ O₂ Sensor

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

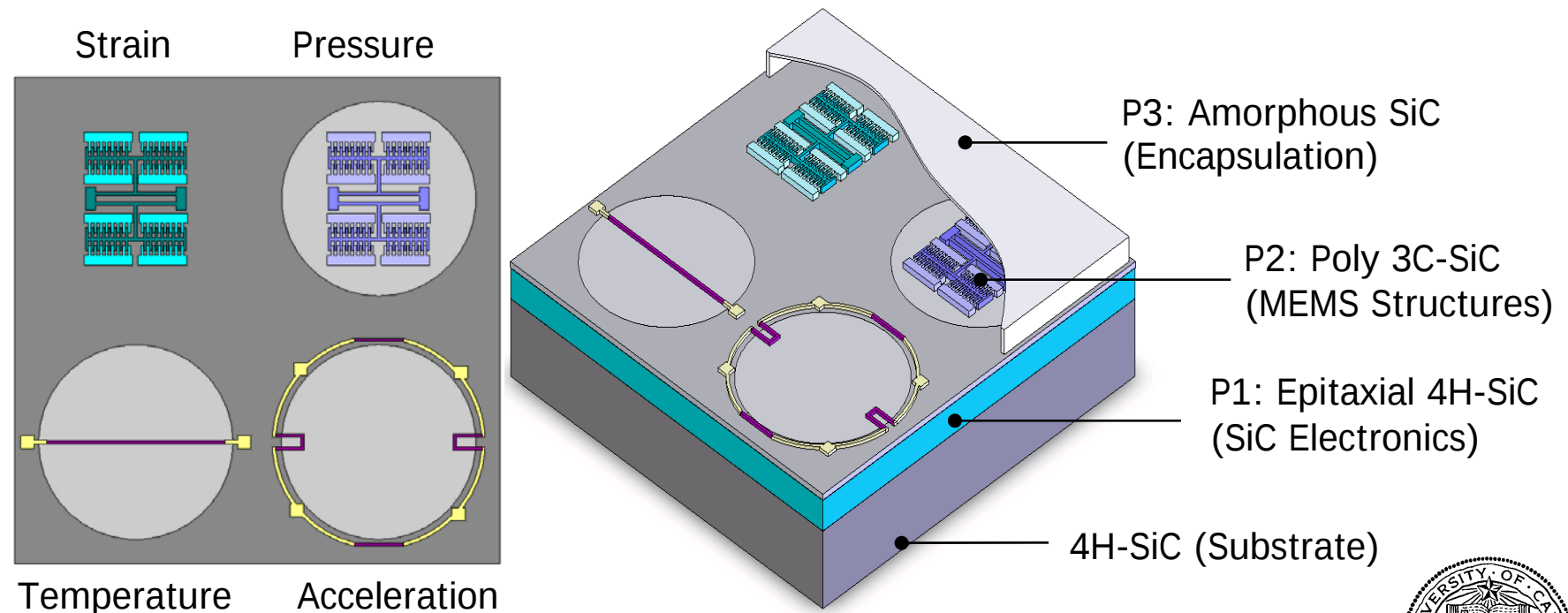


Features	Benefits
Electrodes on same side	allows utilization of microfabrication techniques including microprinting
Interdigitated electrodes	increase reaction sites and ion conduction flux area
Short channel length	facilitates rapid ion exchange for fast response
YSZ electrolyte/substrate	mitigates thermal stresses
Electrolyte, electrodes, and diff barrier of YSZ	better matches CTEs
30% Pt/YSZ cermet electrodes	increases triple phase boundary; 3YSZ and Pt CTE match at high T
Porous electrodes	allows transport and O ₂ evolution, creates large surface area for reactions, and alleviates stress
Co-fired electrodes, substrate and diff barrier	mitigates stress from CTE mismatch

SiC TAPS Project

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

- Development of extreme harsh environment TAPS (Temperature, Acceleration, Pressure, and Strain) sensors on a single chip
- Silicon carbide (SiC) as a platform material (Electronics, MEMS, and Encapsulation)



Harsh Environment Specifications



Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

- **Instrumentation Requirements:**
 - Elevated temperatures (600°C)
 - Elevated pressures (up to 1000 psi)
 - High g-shock
 - Corroding and oxidizing environments
 - New materials systems
 - Barrier coating materials
 - High temperature base metals
- **Candidate Materials**
 - Silicon is limited to temperatures below 350°C
 - Silicon Carbide (SiC) sensors have demonstrated operation at 600°C
 - Aluminum Nitride (AlN) can operate at temperatures above 1000°C
 - Non-ferroelectric material
 - Piezoelectric actuation
 - RF communication
 - Compatible etch mask
 - Hexagonal crystal structure



Material Properties



Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

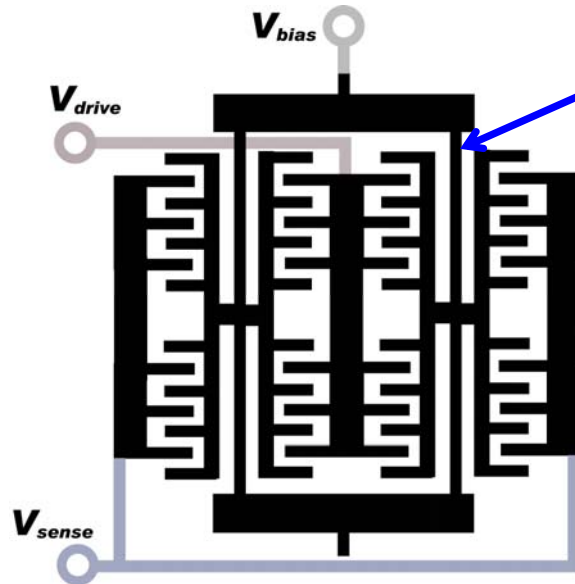
Property	Silicon Carbide 3C-SiC (6H-SiC)	AlN	Silicon	Diamond
Melting Point (°C)	2830 (2830) (sublimes)	2470	1420	4000 (phase change)
Energy Gap (eV)	2.4 (3.0)	6.2	1.12	5.6
Critical Field ($\times 10^6$ V/cm)	2.0 (2.5)	10	0.25	5.0
Thermal Conductivity (W/cm-K)	5.0 (5.0)	1.6	1.5	20
Young's Modulus (GPa)	450 (450)	340	190	1035
Acoustic Velocity ($\times 10^3$ m/s)	11.9 (11.9)	11.4	9.1	17.2
Yield Strength (GPa)	21 (21)	-	7	53
Coeff. of Thermal Expansion ($^{\circ}\text{C} \times 10^{-6}$)	3.0 (4.5)	4.0	2.6	0.8
Chemical Stability	Excellent	Good	Fair	Fair

Material properties of SiC, AlN, and other semiconductor materials.

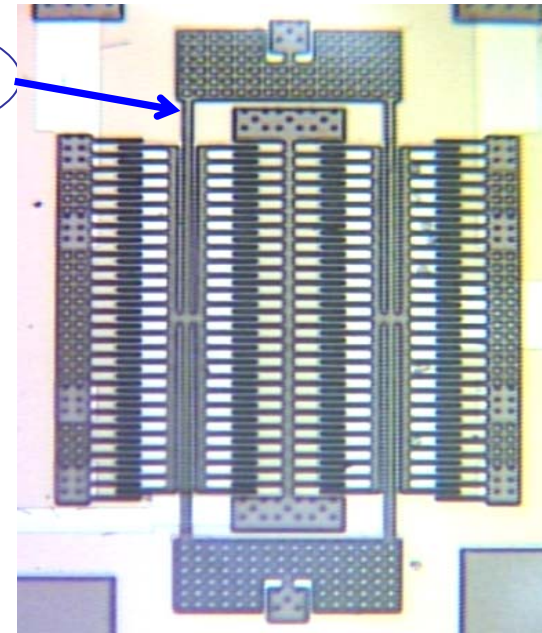


SiC Strain Sensor Development

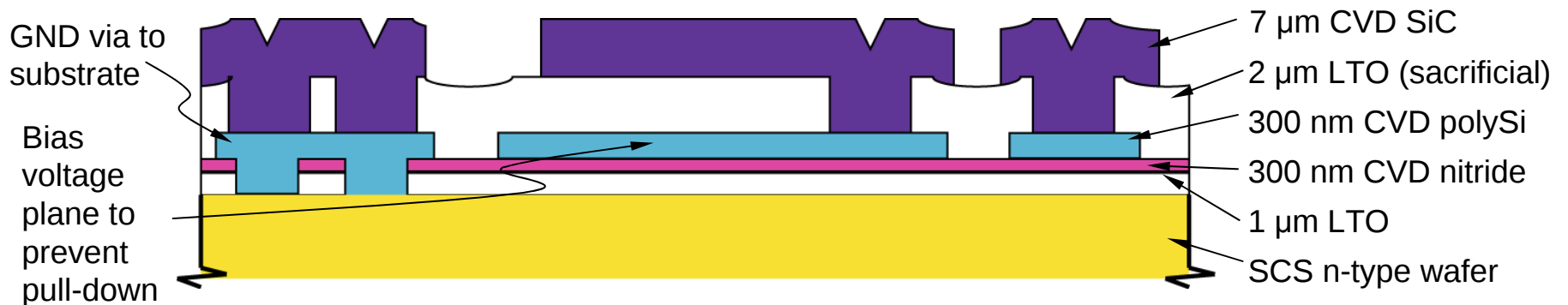
Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS



CDETF: the balanced DETF (BDETF)
(Second Generation)



Optical micrograph of fabricated BDETF
(Second Generation)

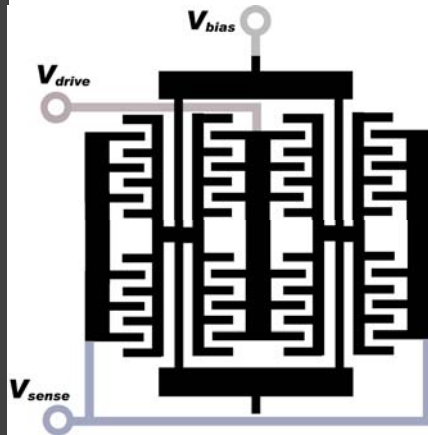


SiC Strain Sensor Development



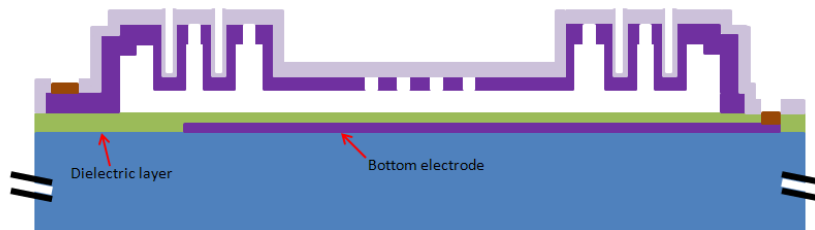
Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

Strain Sensor



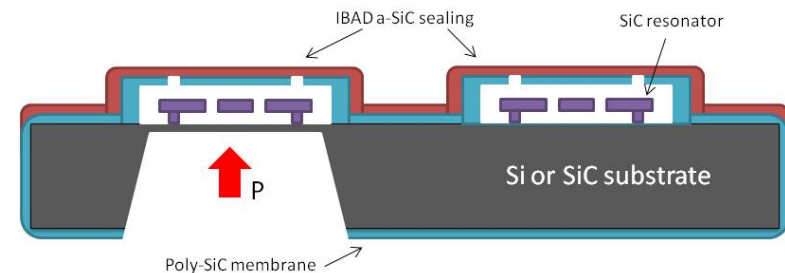
- DETF-based Strain Sensor fabricated and tested
- Resolves $0.06 \mu\epsilon$ in 10 kHz bandwidth
- Operates at 600°C
- Works in dry steam environment
- Works after enduring 64,000 g
- Meets or exceeds all Phase II milestones

Accelerometer



- Design optimization in progress
- Single or Multiple shock detection
- High linearity
- Low temperature sensitivity

Pressure Sensor



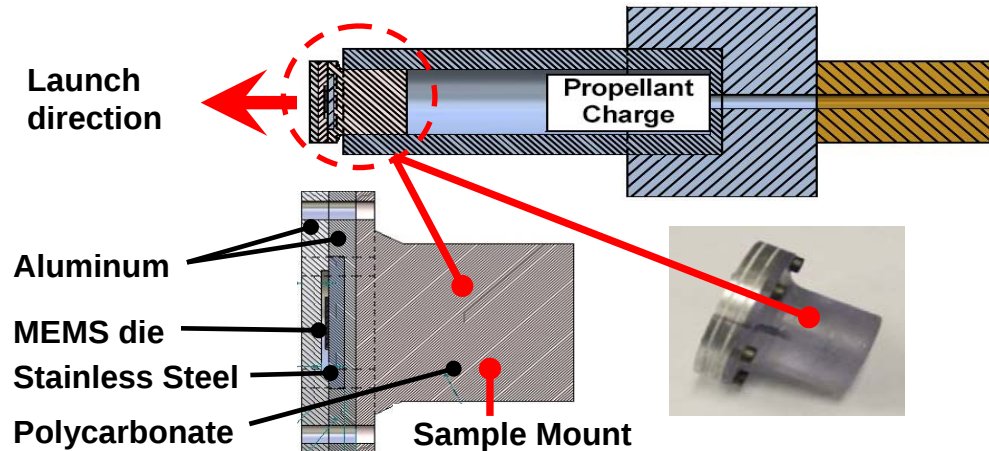
- Design optimization in progress
- Sensor based on DETF SiC strain gauge
- Diaphragm deflection strains tines
- Temperature compensation capability

SiC Strain Sensor Shock Testing

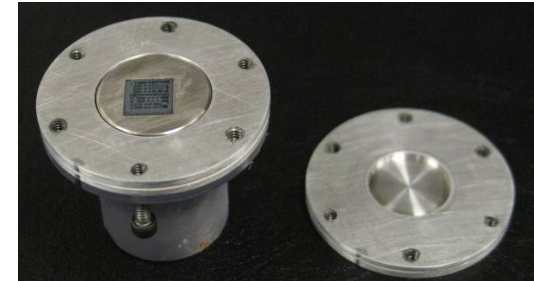


Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

Gas Gun Schematics

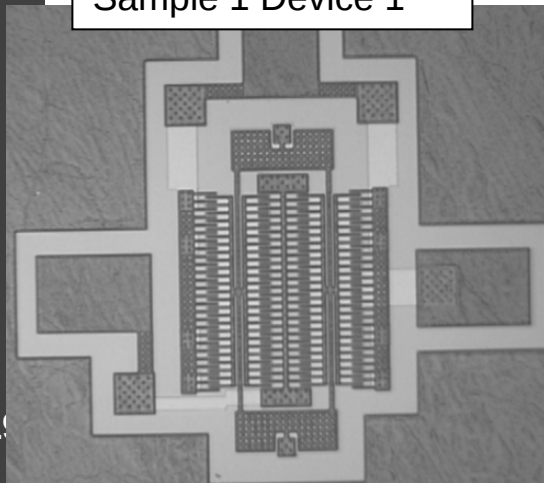


- G-shock Testing carried out at Aerophysics Research Center at University of Alabama in Huntsville
- Hard-launch soft-catch method
- Initial G-load is 64,000 g



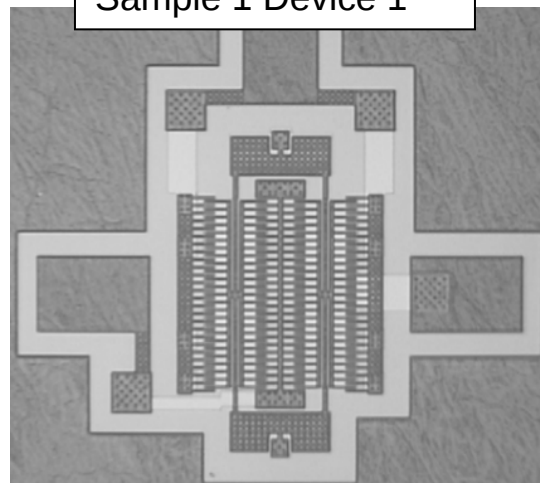
Before G-shock

Sample 1 Device 1



After G-shock

Sample 1 Device 1



- No structural damage after g-shock at 64,000g
- Successfully operates (resonates) after enduring a 64,000 g shock



SiC Strain Sensor at 600°C

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

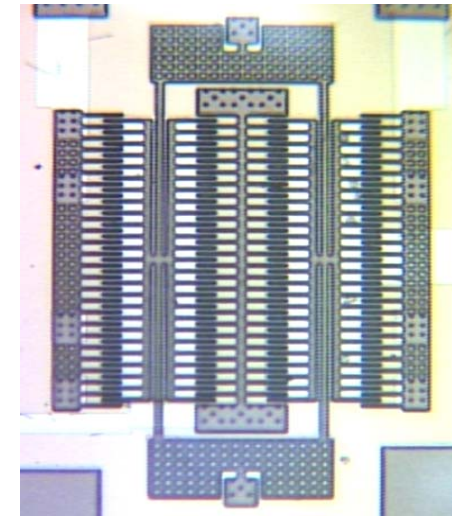
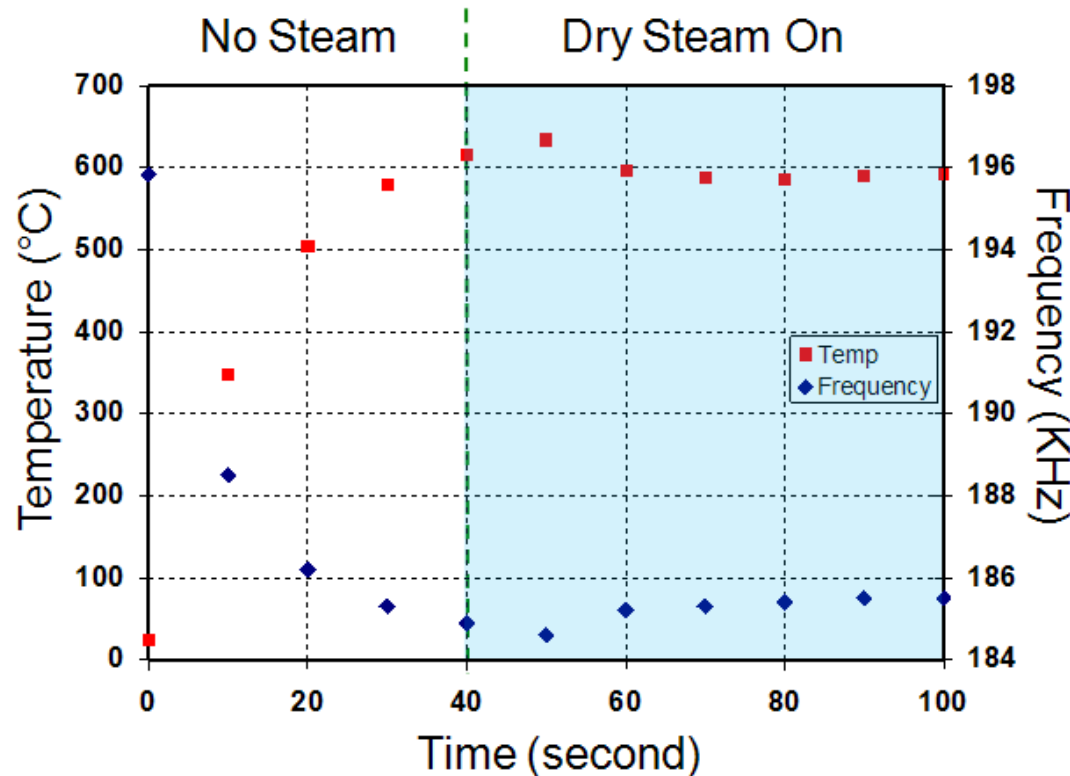


Image of SiC resonant strain sensor operated at 600 C in dry steam environment.

- Resonant SiC strain sensor previously developed for harsh environment operation.
- Operation at 600 C in dry steam environment demonstrated.
- Operation after exposure to 64,000 G-Shock demonstrated.

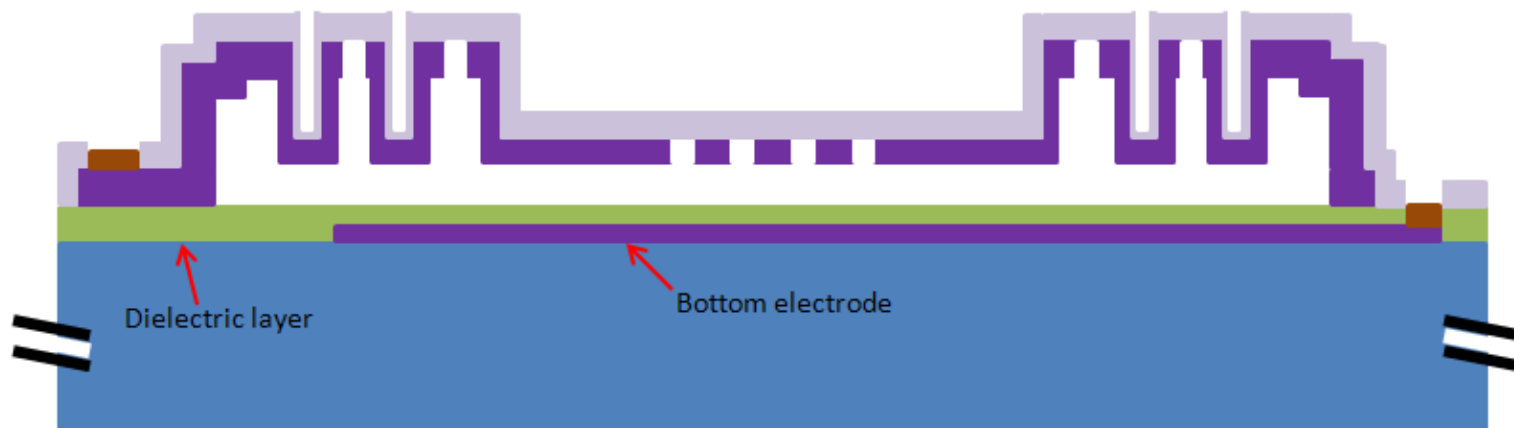
D. R. Myers et al., In review with JMM (2008)

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SiC Capacitive Accelerometer



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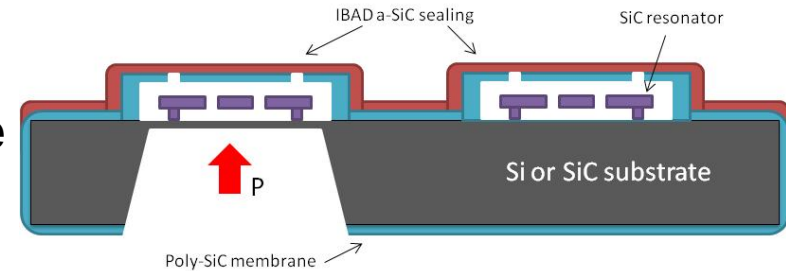
- Design optimization in progress
- Single or Multiple shock detection
- Range 5,000-100,000 g
- Sensitivity ~ 1 aF/g
- Resolution ~ 5000 g
- High linearity through corrugated diaphragm
- Low temperature sensitivity due to corrugation



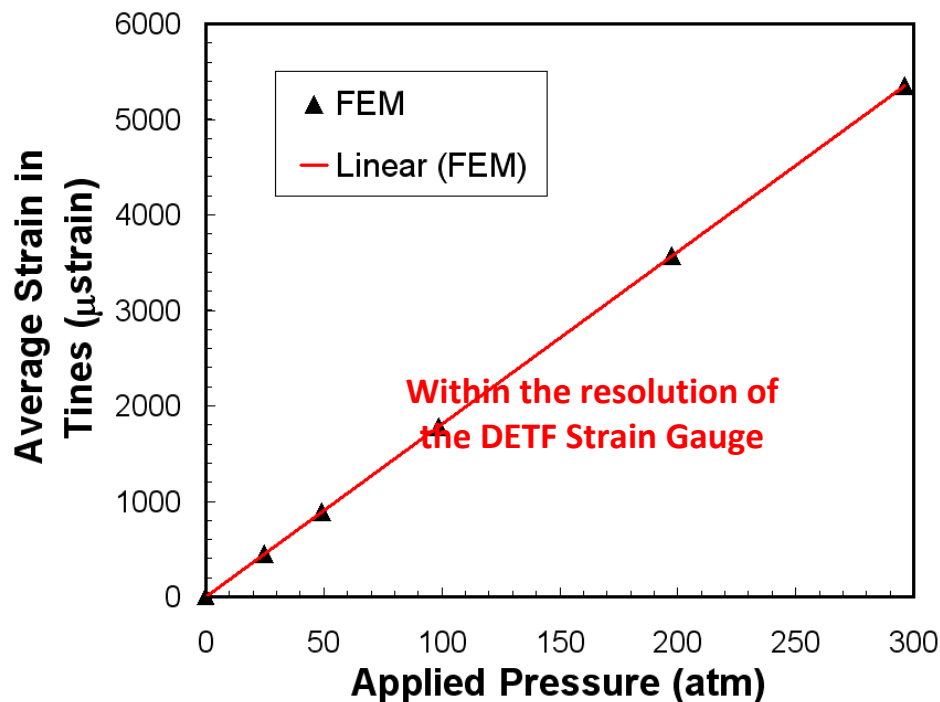
SiC Resonant Pressure Sensor

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

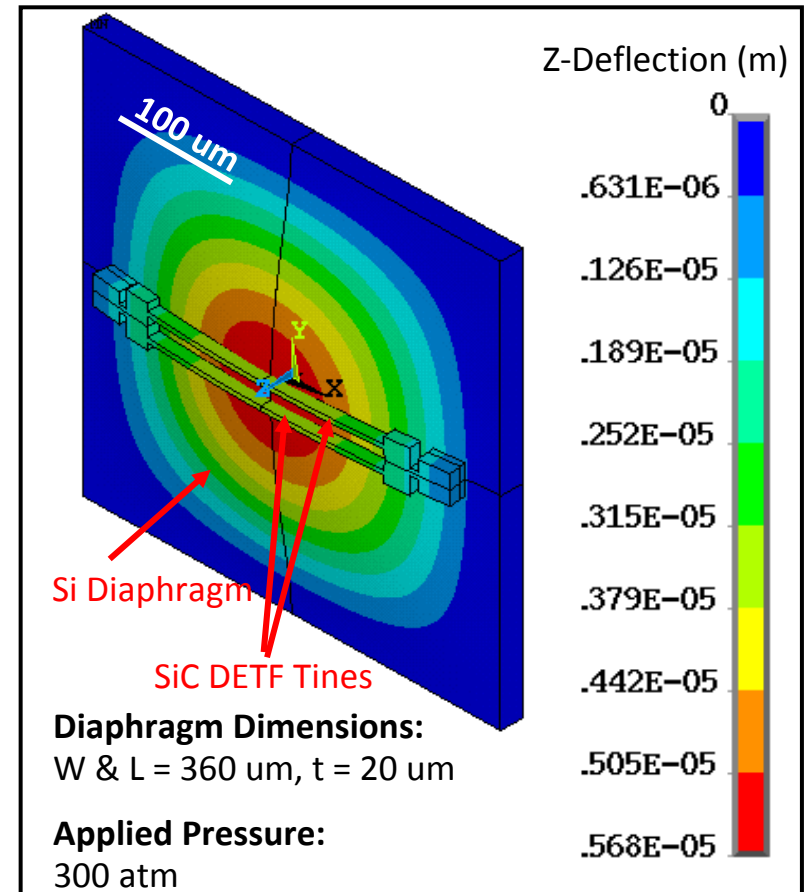
- Design optimization in progress
- Sensor based on DETF SiC strain gauge
- Diaphragm deflection strains tines
- Temperature compensation capability



Finite Element Modeling (FEM)



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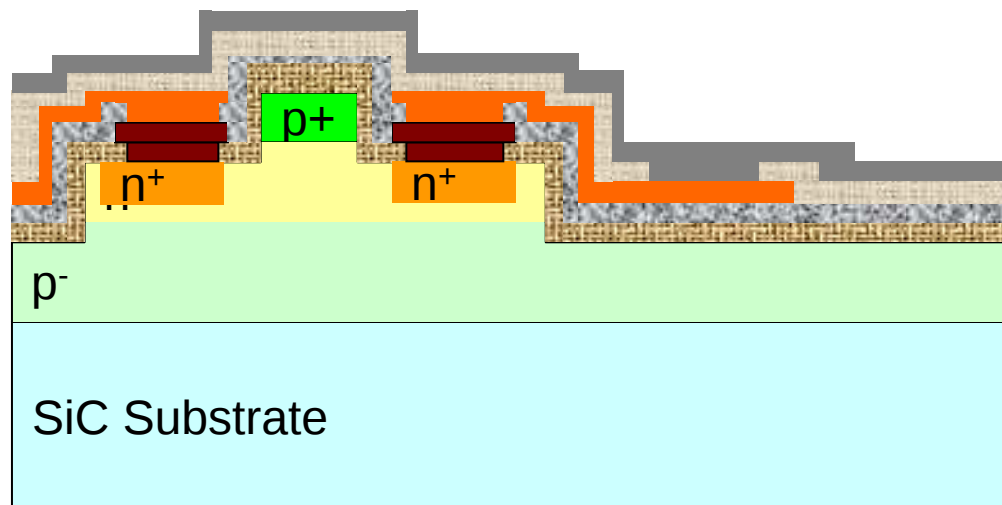
SiC Electronics Process



Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

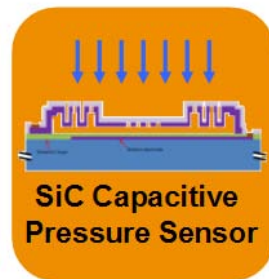
- Eight photomask steps for SiC JFET integrated circuits
- RIE etching of gate and channel layers
- Nitrogen ion implantation for ohmic metal-SiC contacts
- Thermal oxidation for surface passivation
- **Multilayer metal for reliable high-T metal-SiC contacts**

JFET cross-section



SiC Sensors in Engines

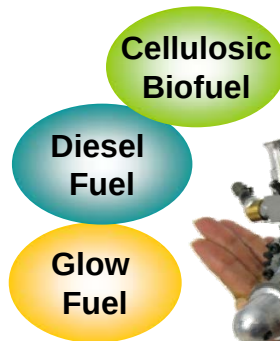
Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS



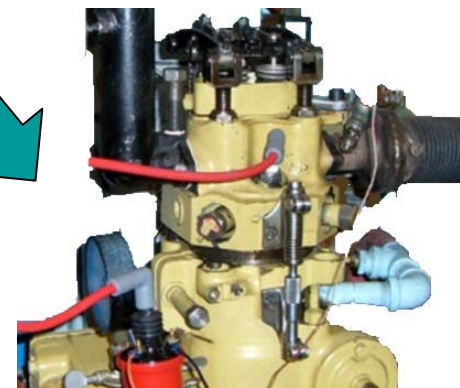
Sensor Development



Spark Plug Sensor Mount for In-Cylinder Testing



Fuel-Flexible, Small-Scale Engine



Large-Scale Combustion Fuel Research (CFR) Engine

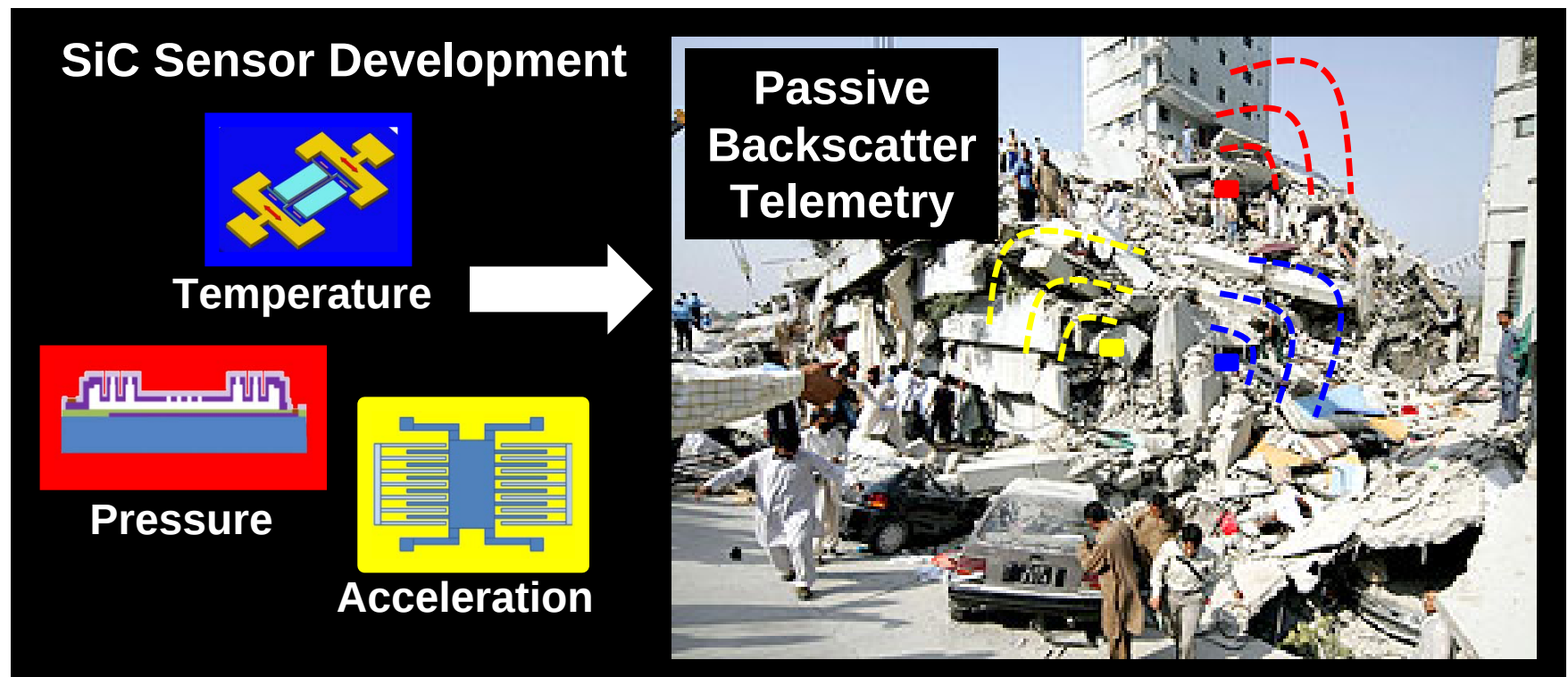


Poster #53:
S. Wodin-Schwartz

Alternative Applications

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

- Development of SiC sensors that will operate during and upon exposure to hyper extreme environments.



LPCVD Cost Reduction



Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

Precursor	Purity	State	Price per gram	Price per mol of SiC	Deposition Temperature (°C)
1,3-Disilabutane*	98%	Liquid	\$ 22	\$ 990	750-850
Methylsilane**	99.9%+	Gas	\$ 17	\$ 798	750-850
Methyltrichloro-silane**	99%	Liquid	\$ 0.062	\$ 9.24	1000-1200

* - Current technology which previously demonstrated low stress, low resistivity films for sensor fabrication.

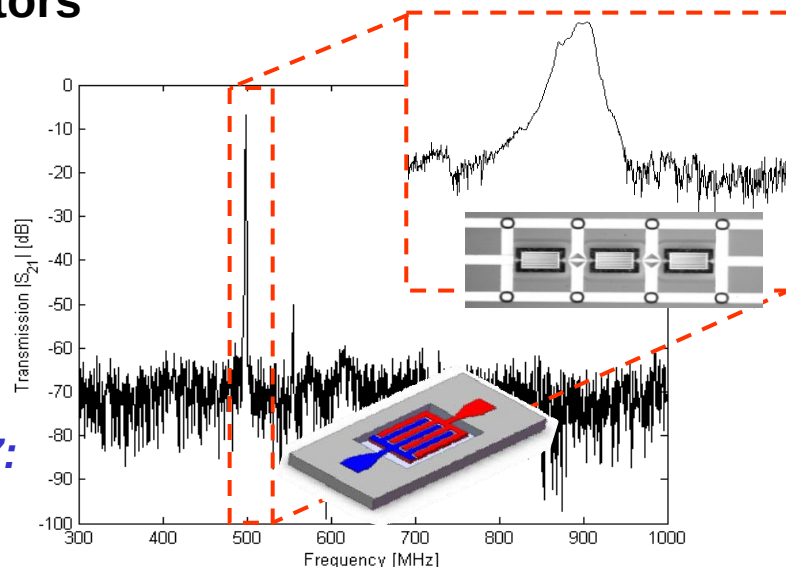
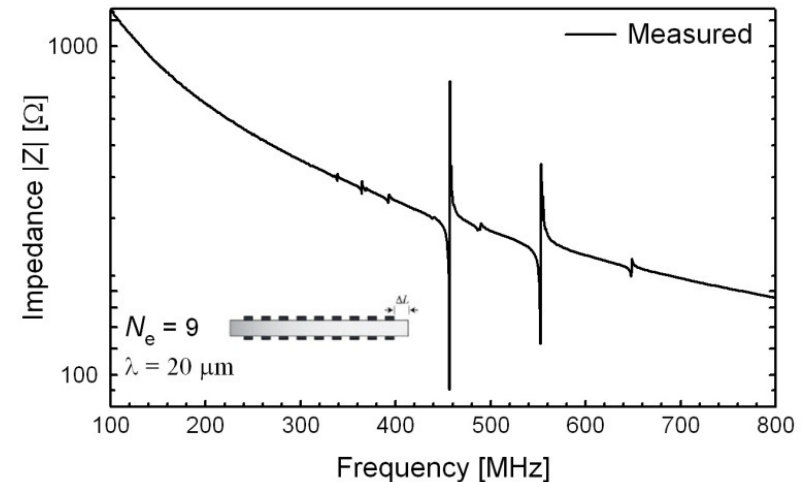
** - Proposed technology to be developed and characterized for improved cost.



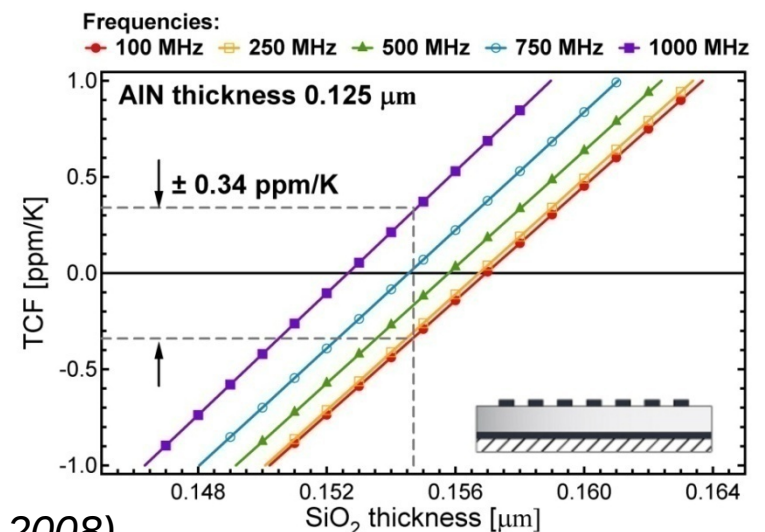
AlN for High Temperature RF

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

- AlN resonators and filters demonstrated
 - Narrow band RF filters
 - Dual-mode Lamb wave resonators
- Temperature compensation of resonators developed
 - Near zero temperature compensation
 - Utilizes positive TCE of SiO_2 (predicted to 1200°C)
- Developed Green's function model for resonators



Poster #77:
T.T. Yen

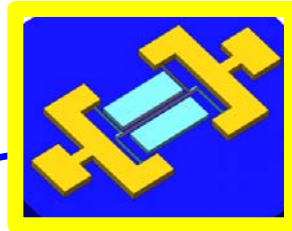
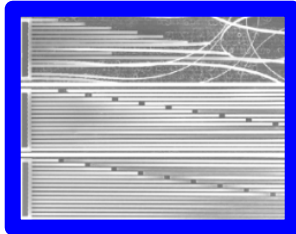


Future Vision 1: Passive

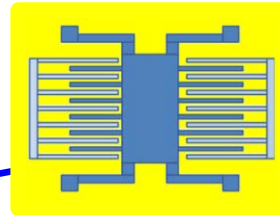


Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

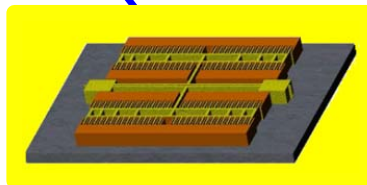
SiC Materials
Development and
Characterization



Ultra-Stable
Temperature
Sensor

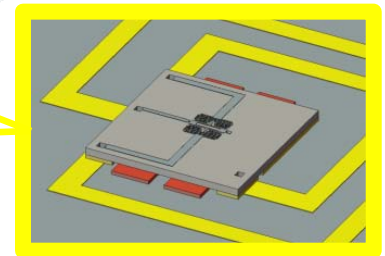


Ultra Low Cross
Axis Sensitivity
Accelerometer



High Accuracy
Erosion/Corrosion
Sensor

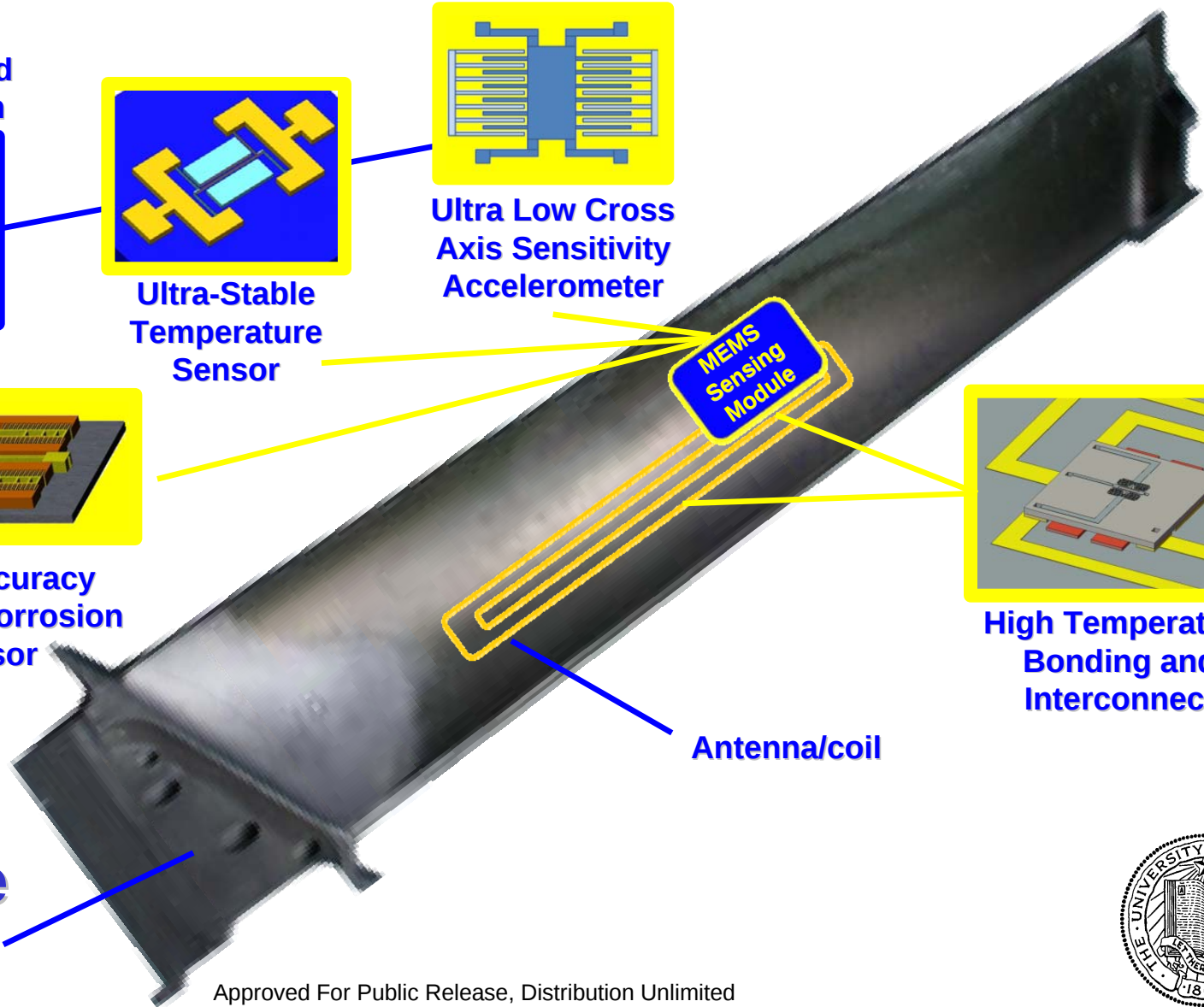
MEMS
Sensing
Module



High Temperature
Bonding and
Interconnect

Antenna/coil

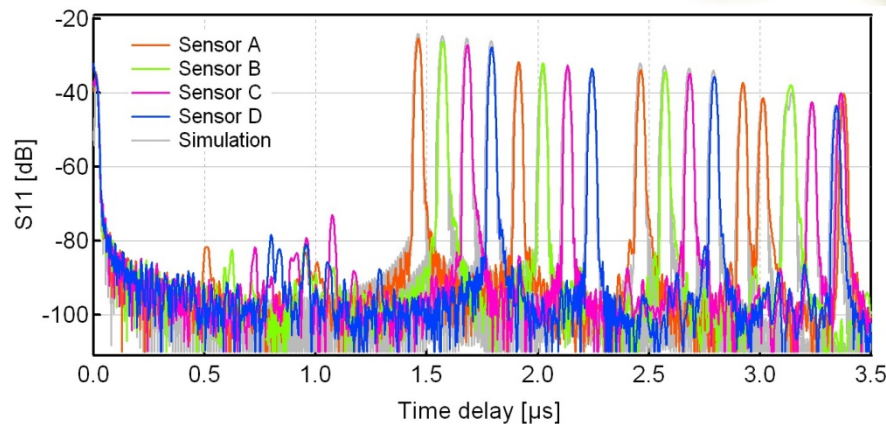
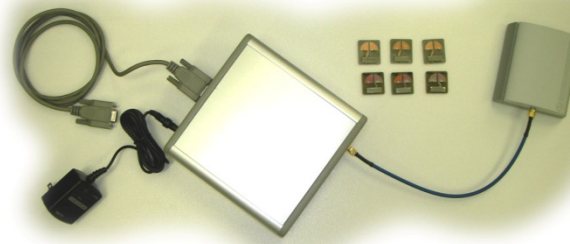
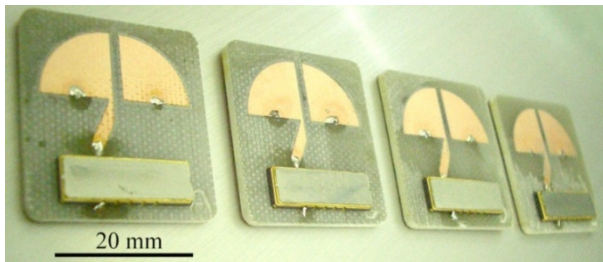
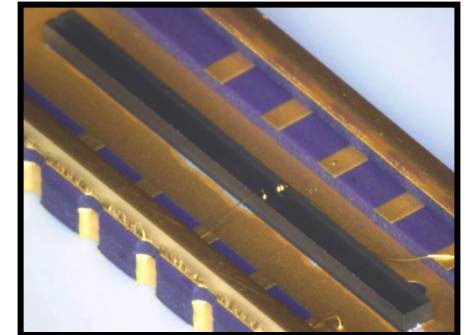
Gas
Turbine
Blade



Passive Wireless Temp Sensing

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

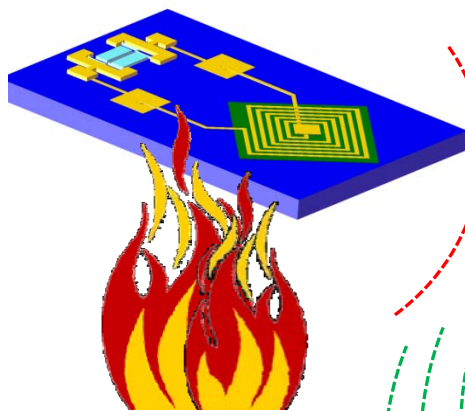
- 2.45 GHz Passive Wireless Sensor Systems
- Operates up to 200°C [± 0.1 °C (6σ) at SNR of 10 dB]
- Simultaneous readout of 4 passive sensors ($\rightarrow$ maintenance free, no battery)
- Readout distance of 1-5 m (1 ms sweep time)
- Sensor uses surface acoustic wave on LiNbO₃



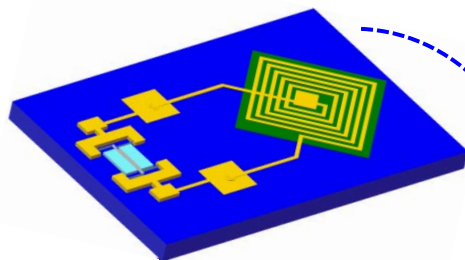
Passive RF Backscattering



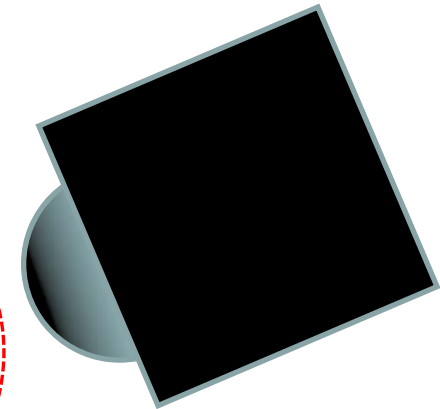
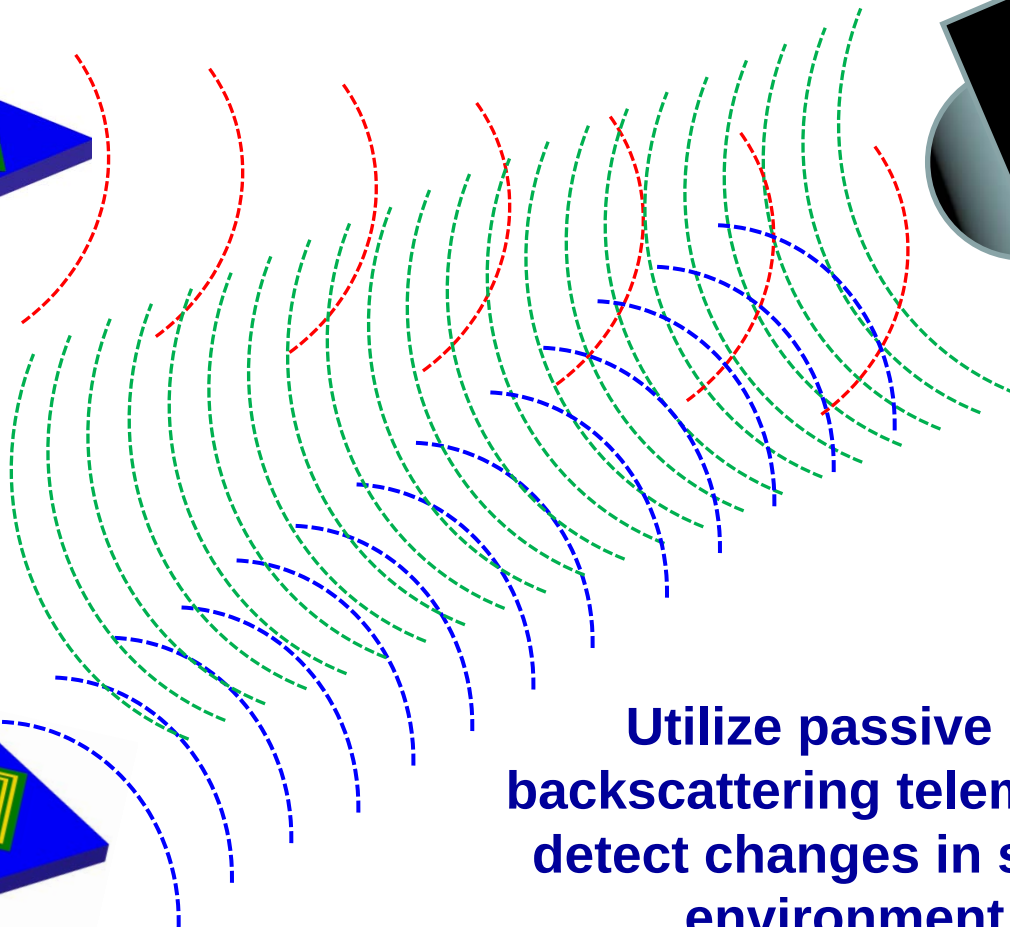
Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS



Hot Sensor



Cold Sensor



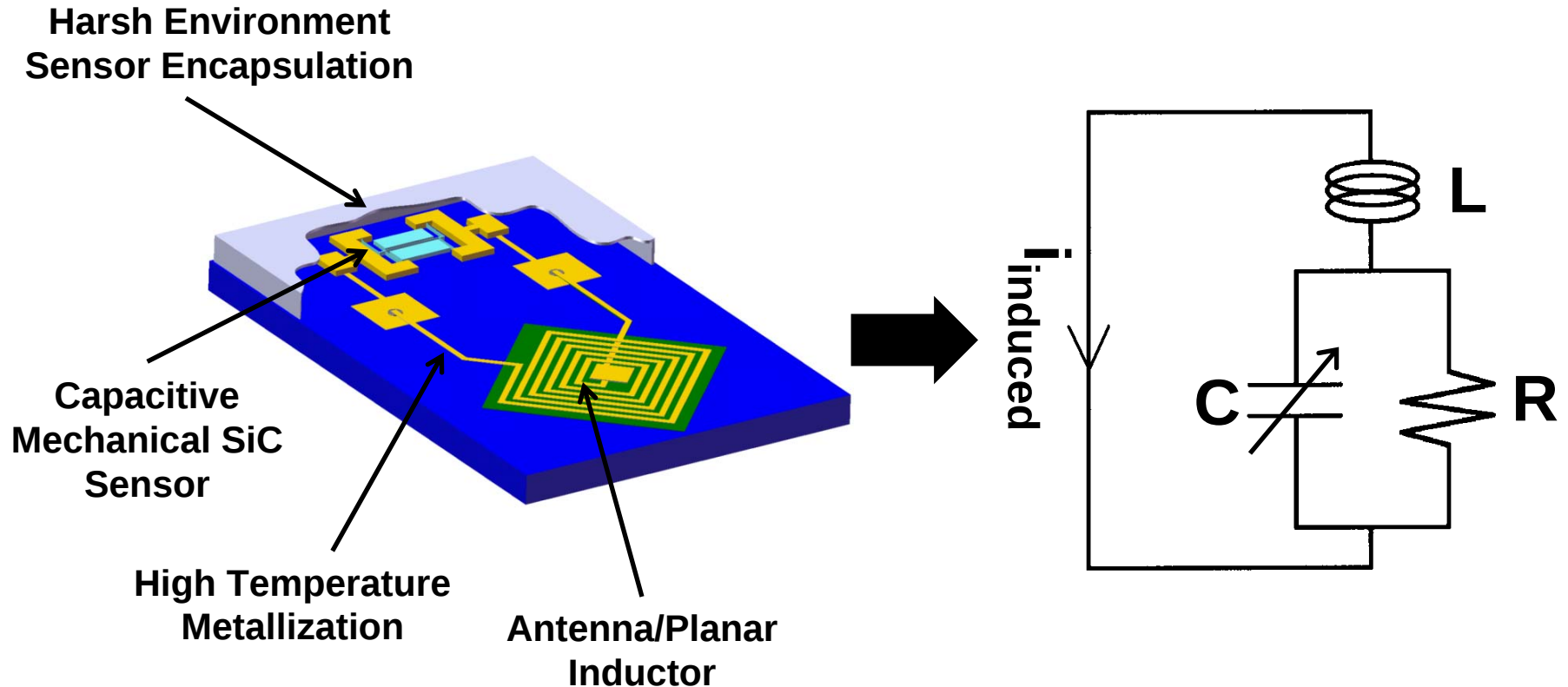
**RF Sensor
Interrogator/
Receiver**

**Utilize passive RF
backscattering telemetry to
detect changes in sensor
environment.**



Sensor Transduction Platform

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

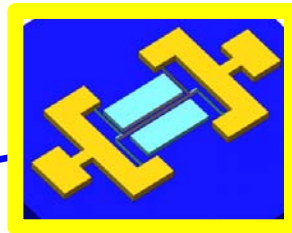
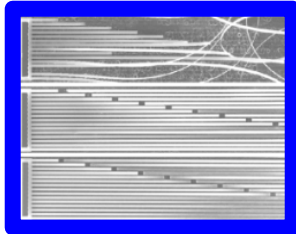


- Passive sensor is modeled as an RLC circuit composed of capacitive sensor (temperature, acceleration, pressure, or strain) and planar antenna.
- Current is induced in circuit through mutual inductance coupling between circuit and RF interrogator.

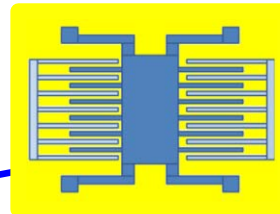
Future Vision 2: Active

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

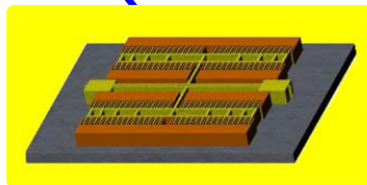
SiC Materials
Development and
Characterization



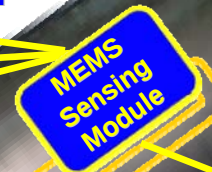
Ultra-Stable
Temperature
Sensor



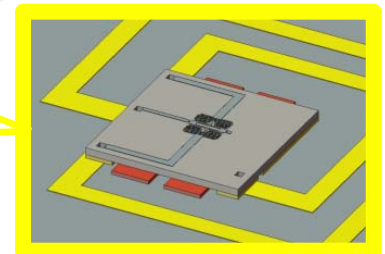
Ultra Low Cross
Axis Sensitivity
Accelerometer



High Accuracy
Erosion/Corrosion
Sensor



MEMS
Sensing
Module



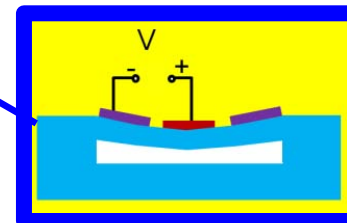
High Temperature
Bonding and
Interconnect



RF
Module

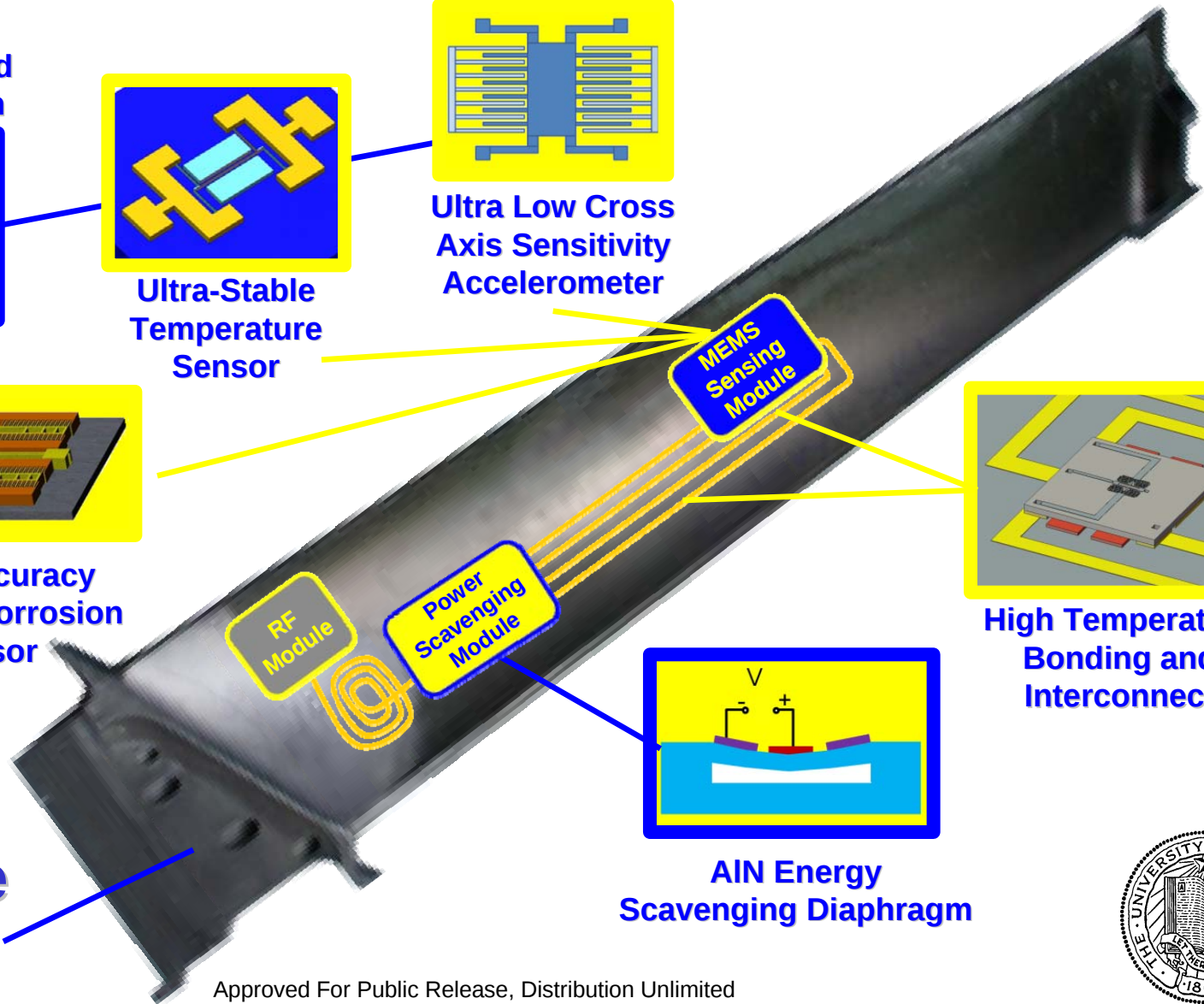


Power
Scavenging
Module



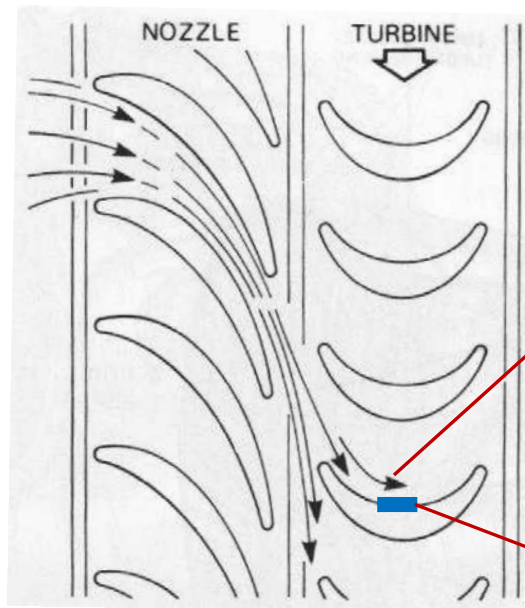
AlN Energy
Scavenging Diaphragm

Gas
Turbine
Blade

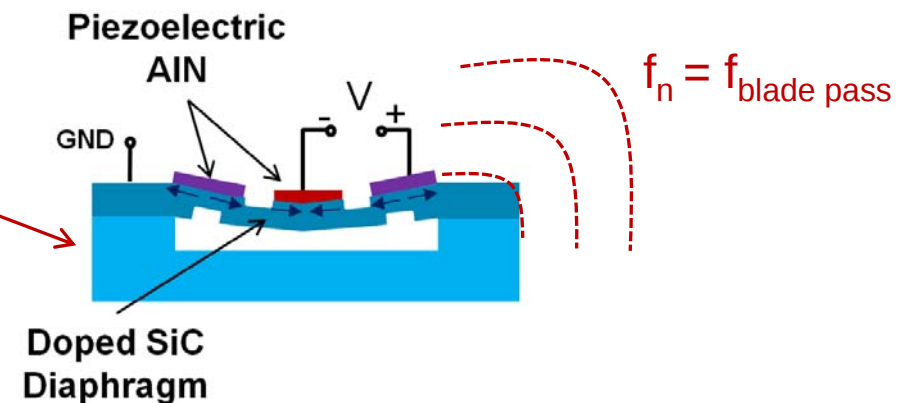
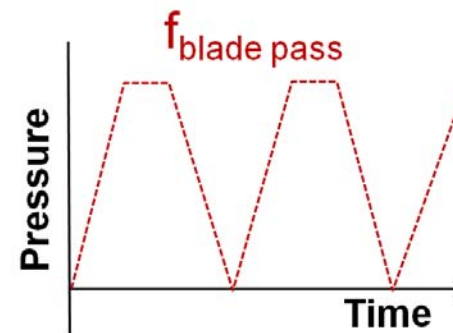


AlN Power Scavenging

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS



Turbine driven by impulse of gas flow (C. Soares)

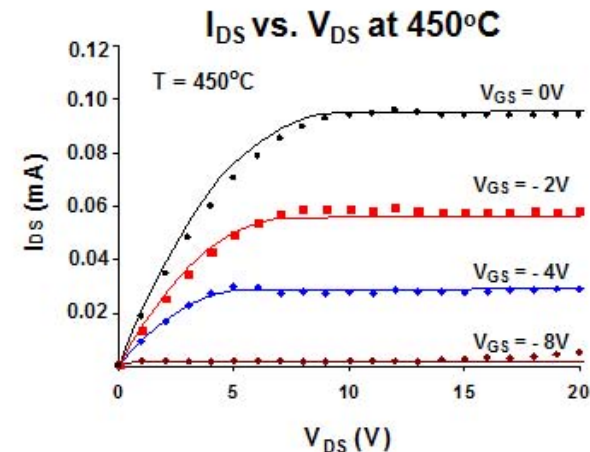
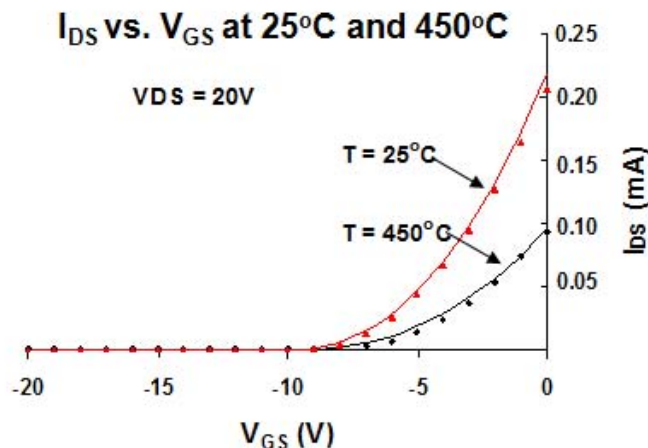
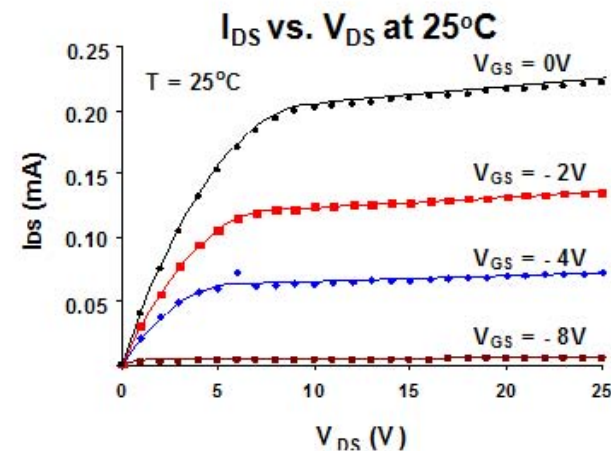
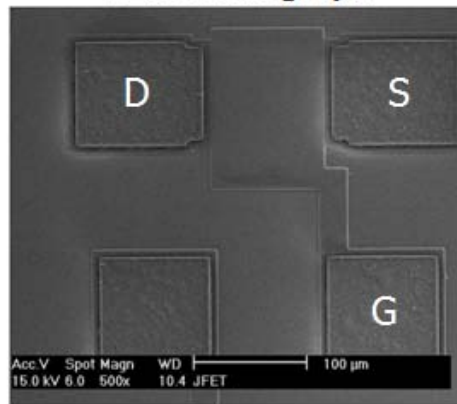


- Utilize stable pressure pulses near turbine blade to self energize SiC diaphragm and provide power to blade sensors
- Design diaphragm such that the mechanical resonant frequency is matched with the blade pass frequency to maximize the output voltage
- May utilize rectification circuit to store voltage

SiC JFET Operation at 450°C

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

SEM Micrograph



Measured and Modeled Drain Current using 3/2-power JFET Model ($W/L = 100\text{ }\mu\text{m}/100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$).

A. Patil, X.-A. Fu, C. Anupongongarch, M. Mehregany and S. Garverick, IEEE (2007)

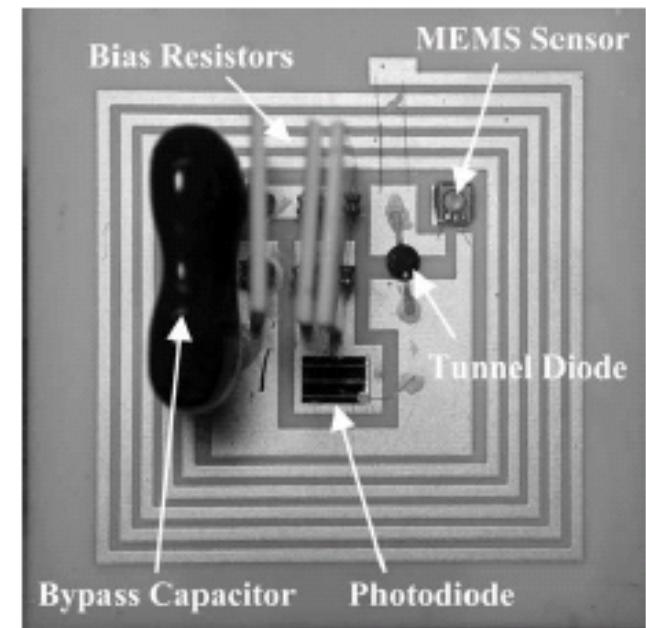
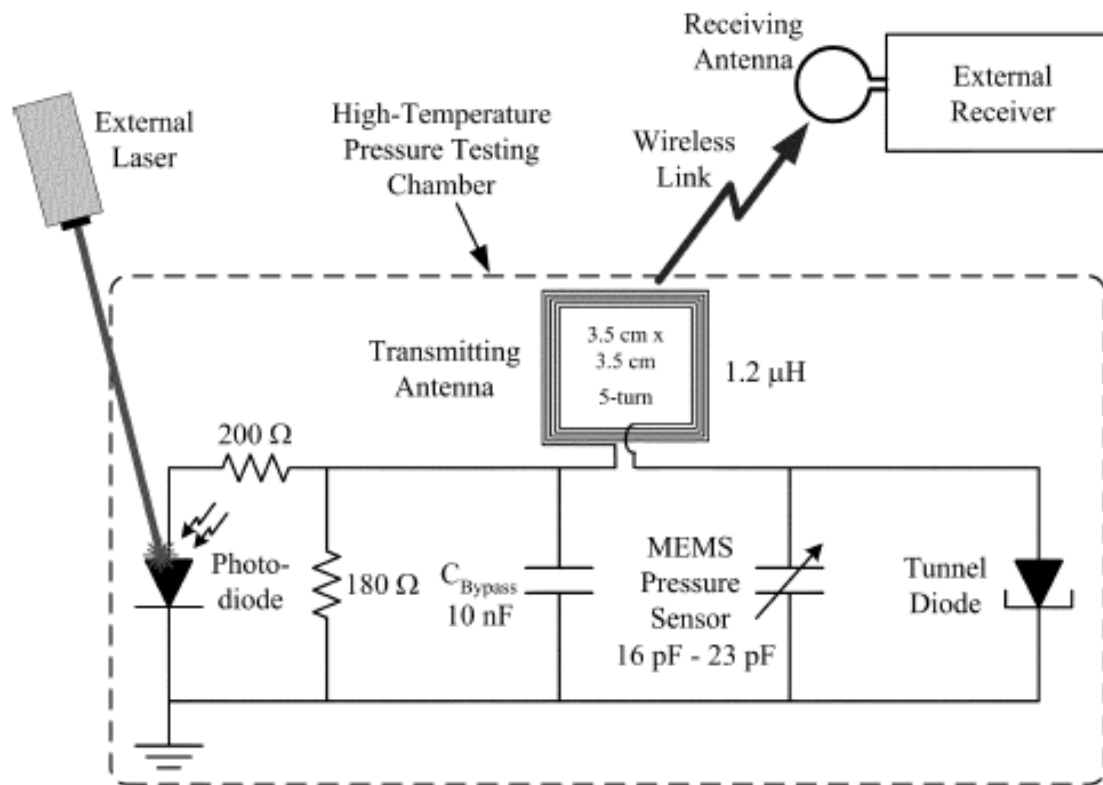
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High Temperature Active Platforms



Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS



Optically powered telemetry module operated up to 250°C over a distance of 1.5 m with a transmitter power consumption of approximately 60 μ Watts.

M. Suster, W. H. Ko, and D. J. Young, JMEMS (2004)

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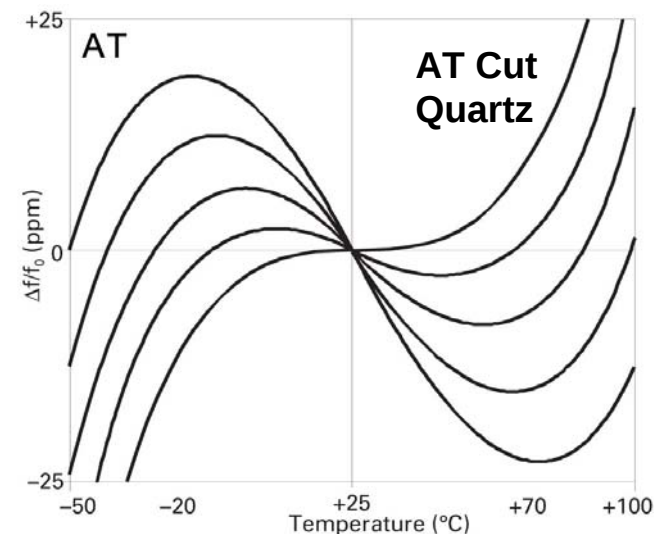
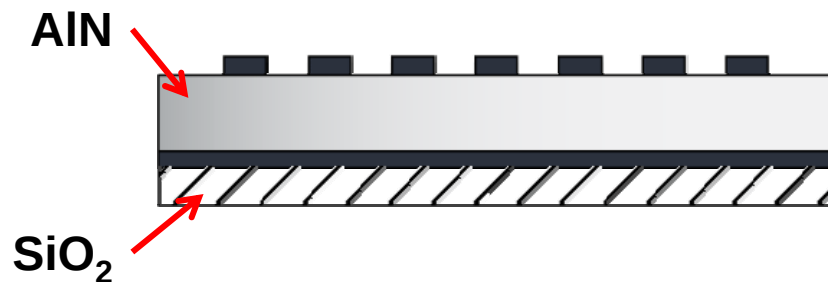


AlN Frequency References

Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

Temperature compensation of AlN Lamb wave resonators

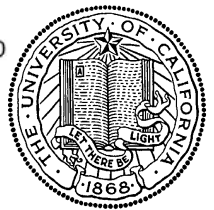
- Darpa S&T program
 - Invited talk at IEEE Int. Frequency Control Symposium (May 2008)
 - Quartz resonators only compensated around RT
- At BSAC: AlN resonator compensation from **-270 to +600°C**



Poster #78: C.-M. Lin

C.-M. Lin, G. Vigevani, J. H. Kuypers, A. P. Pisano, *IEEE Freq. Contr. Symp.* (2008)

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Conclusions



Harsh Environment Wireless MEMS

- **Advanced combustion energy sources (mobile and stationary) require instrumentation for increased efficiency, improved reliability, and reduced emissions.**
- **High-temperature SiC sensors have been developed and demonstrated in hostile environments.**
- **Materials such as SiC and AlN can be utilized to develop high-temperature wireless platforms.**
- **Two future visions (passive and active) of high-temperature transduction platforms have been presented for obtaining control data for combustion systems.**
- **Call for collaboration with BSAC members**



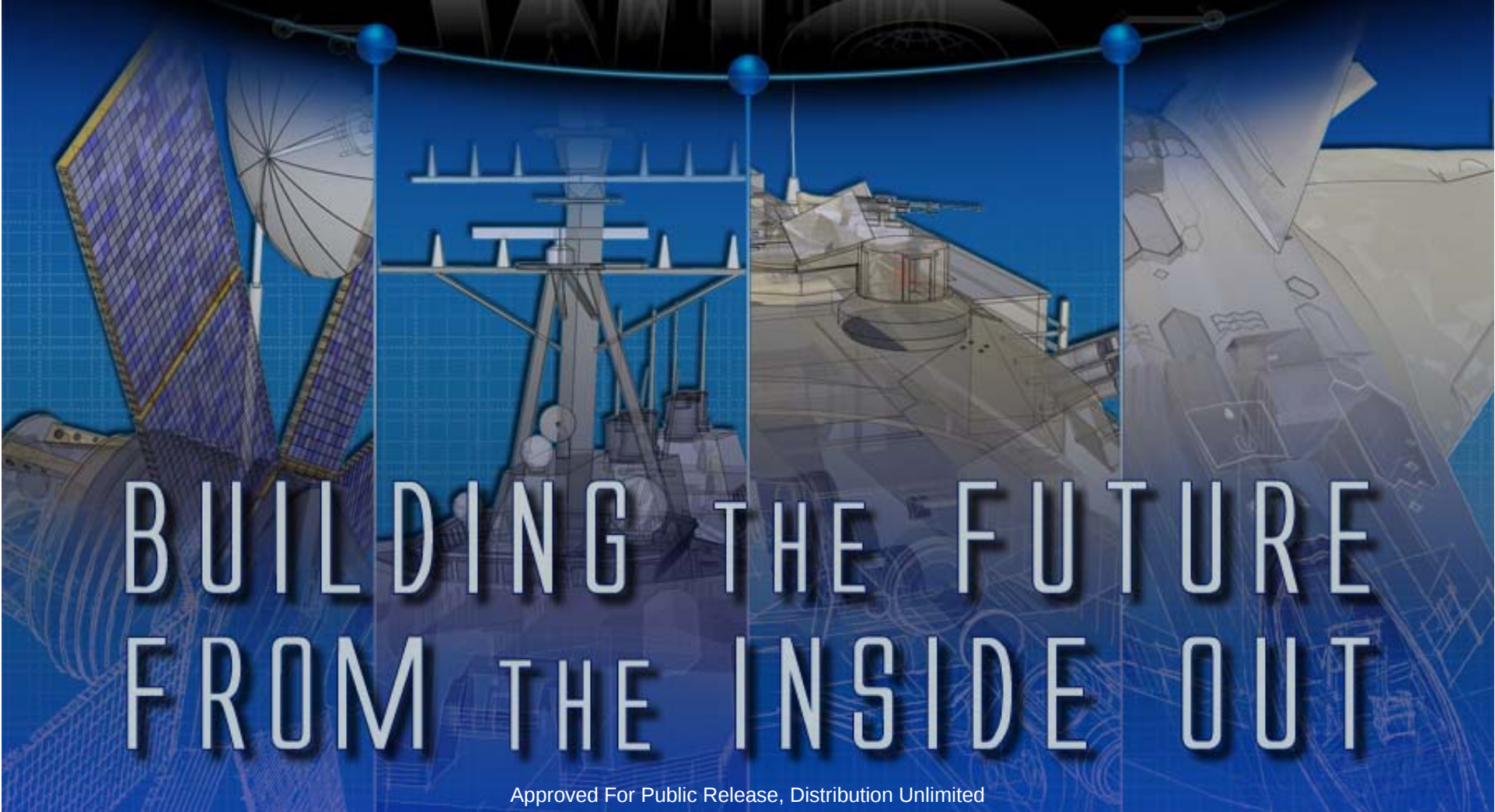
Thank You!

MICROSYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

MTO SYMPOSIUM

The logo for the Microsystems Technology Office (MTO) Symposium. It features the letters 'MTO' in a large, bold, metallic font. A globe with the word 'DARPA' on it is integrated into the 'O'. Circuit traces extend from the 'M' and 'O'. Below 'MTO' is the word 'SYMPOSIUM' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a dark background with a reflection effect below it.

BUILDING THE FUTURE
FROM THE INSIDE OUT

The background of the poster is a collage of various technological and infrastructure elements. It includes a large satellite dish, a complex antenna array, a ship's radar system, a large industrial building, and a cityscape. The collage is rendered in a blue and white color scheme with a grid-like pattern. A blue line with three blue spheres runs horizontally across the middle of the image, passing through the collage.

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