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# Synthetic Insects

Kris Pister

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Founder & Chief Technologist, Dust Networks

# Outline

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The past

Micro-robots → Smart Dust

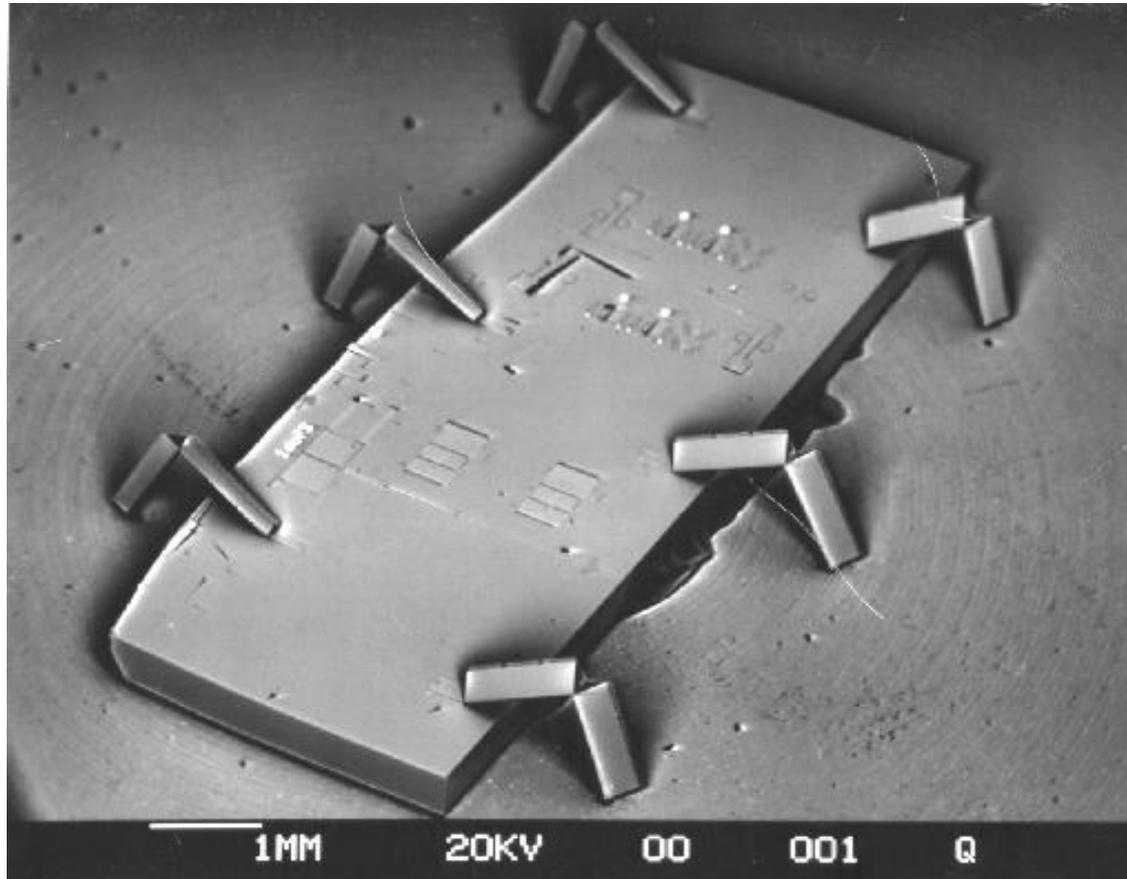
The present

Smart Dust → IoT

The future

IoT → Micro-robots

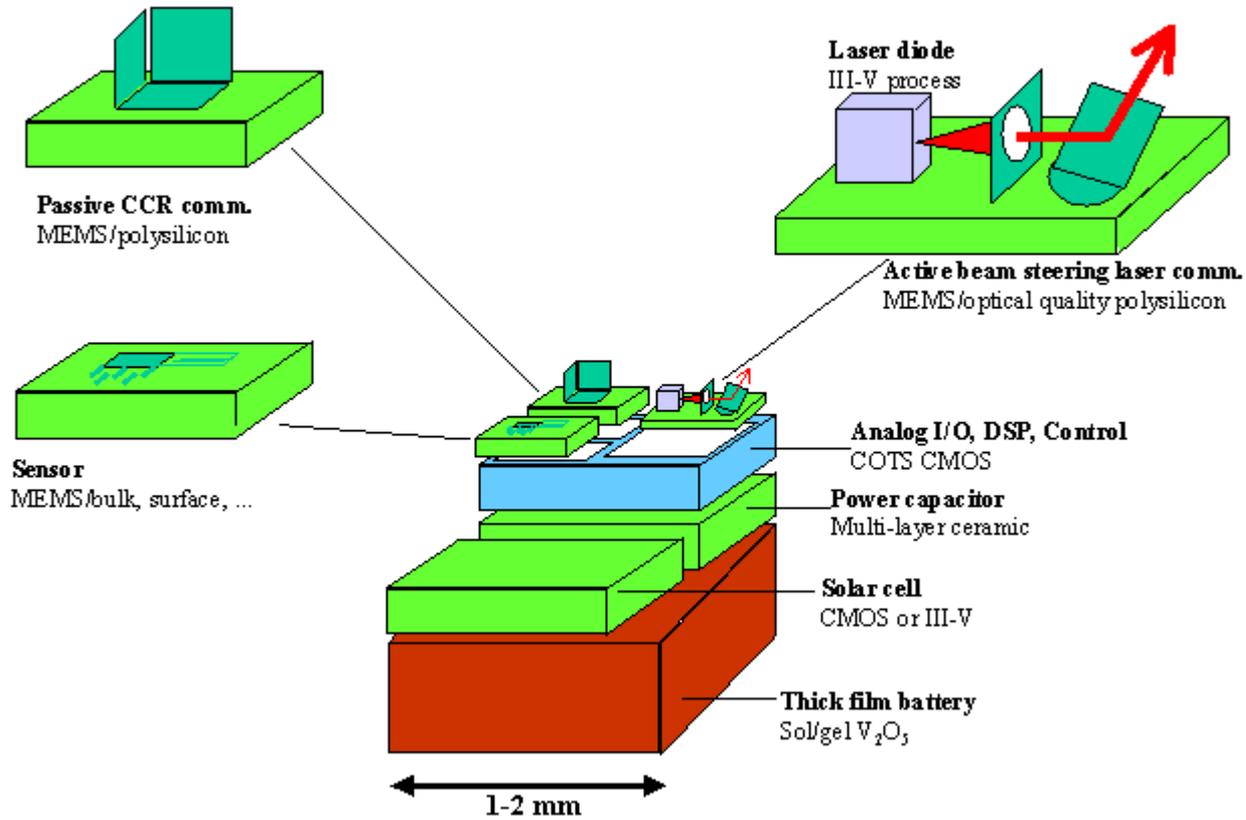
# Micro Robots, 1995



Goal: Make silicon chips that walk. (Richard Yeh)

# Smart Dust, 1997

## Smart Dust Components

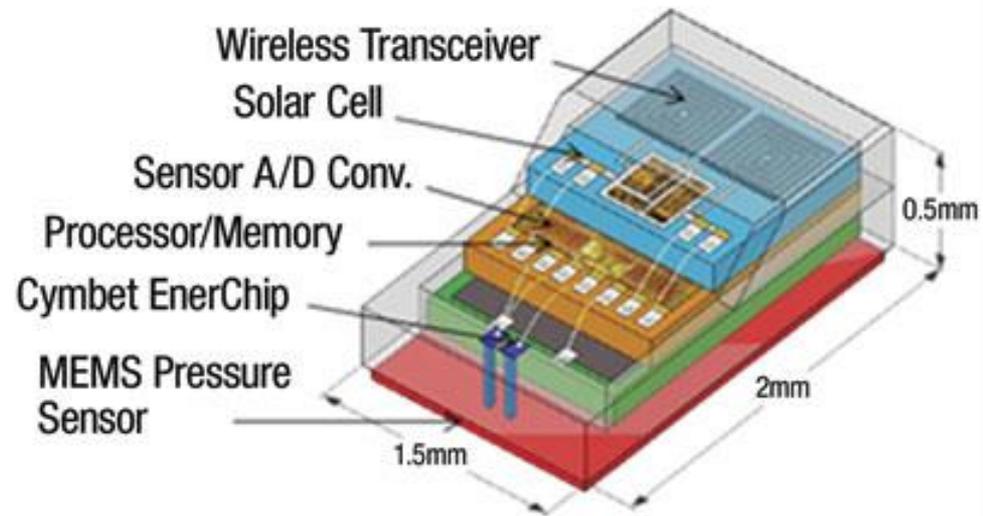
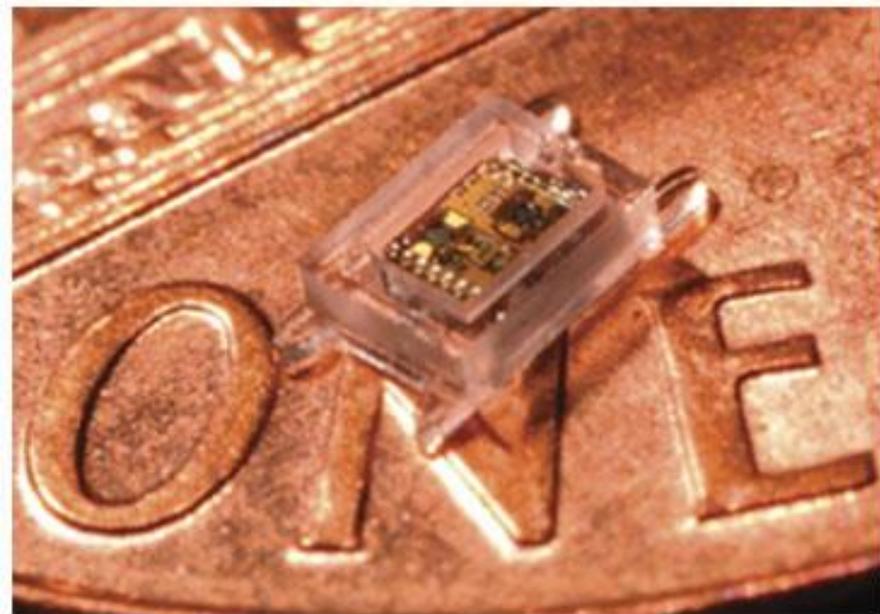


# Smart Dust, 2001



# U. Michigan, 2010

- Wireless intra-ocular pressure sensor
- $2\text{mm}^3$  !

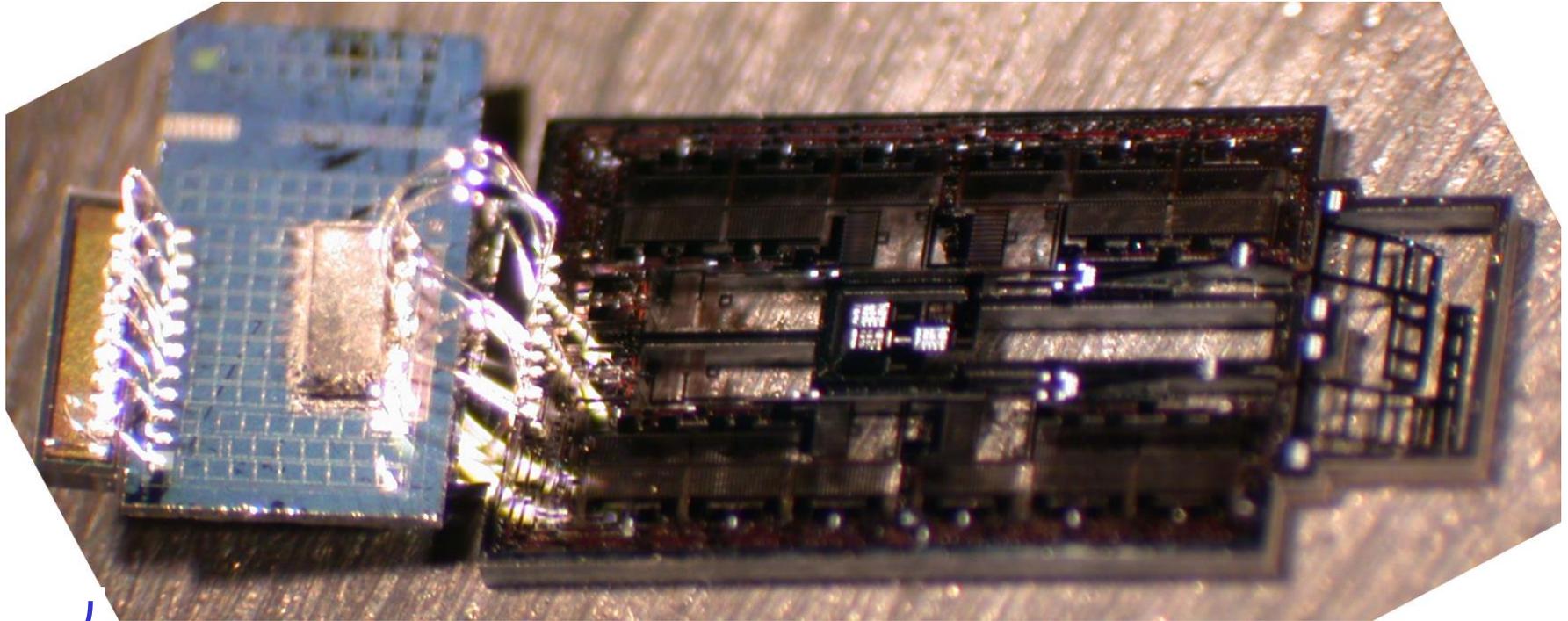


# Autonomous Microrobot (2003)

Seth Hollar, Anita Flynn, Sarah Bergbreiter

Solar Cells

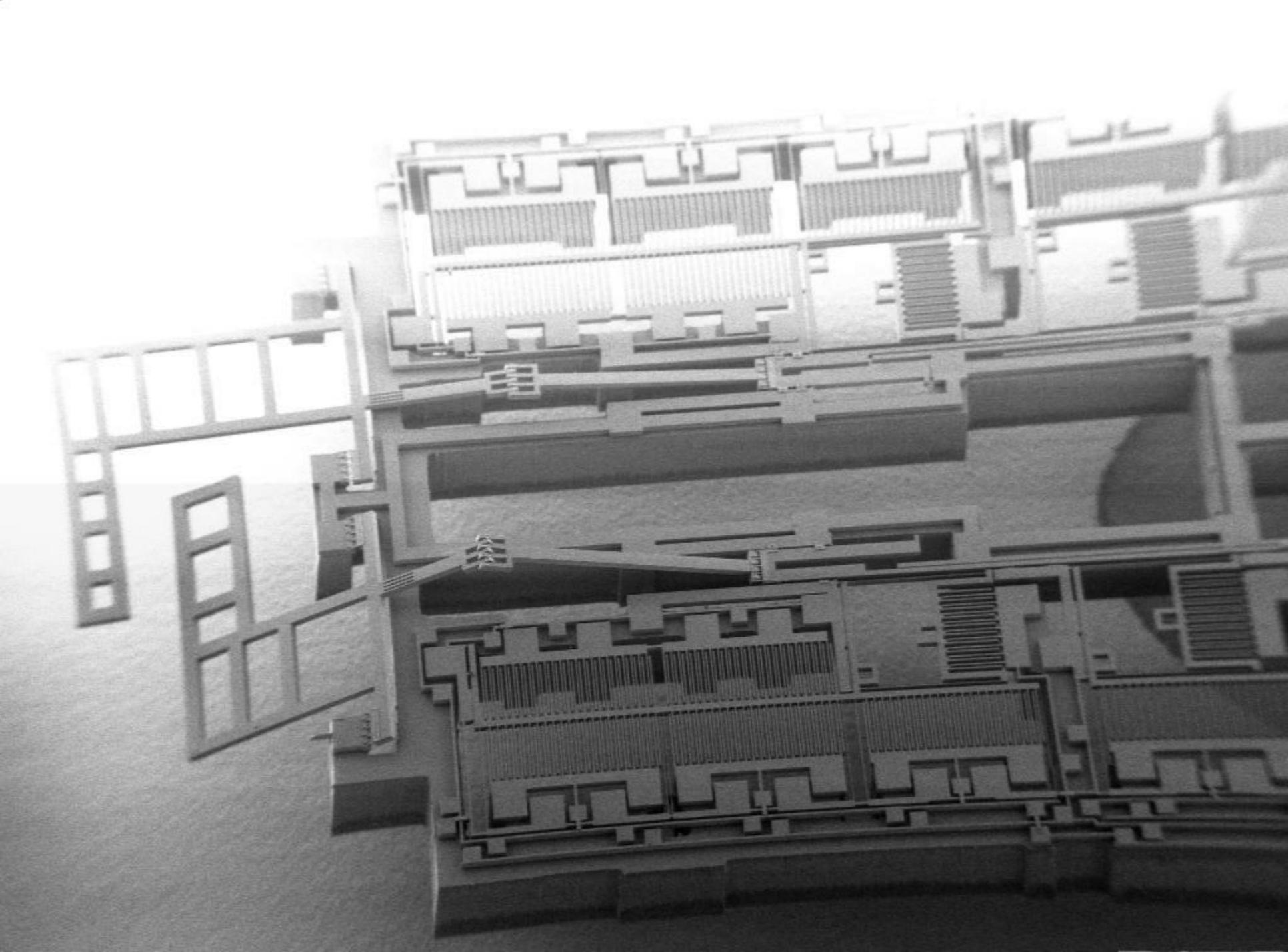
Legs

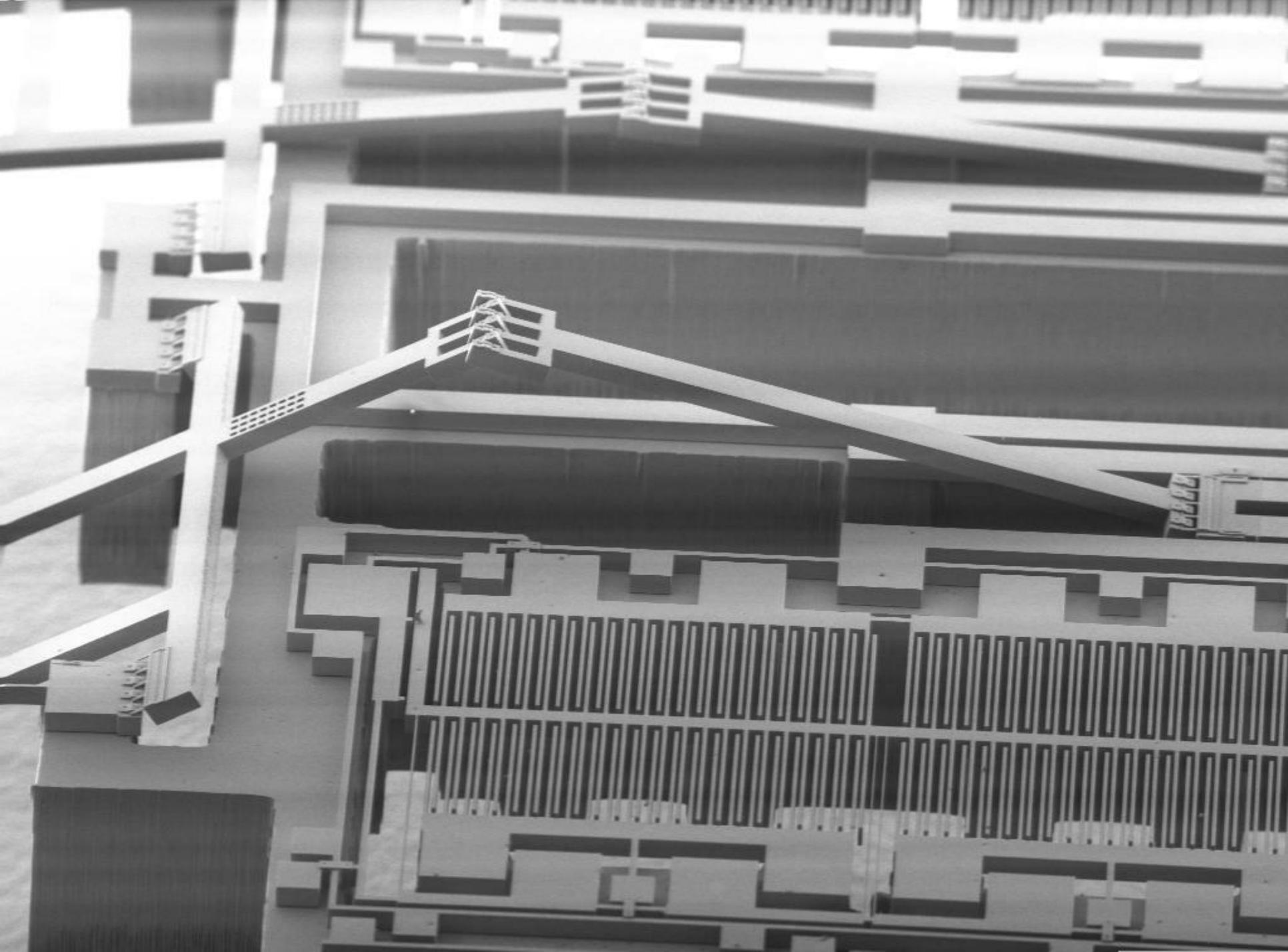


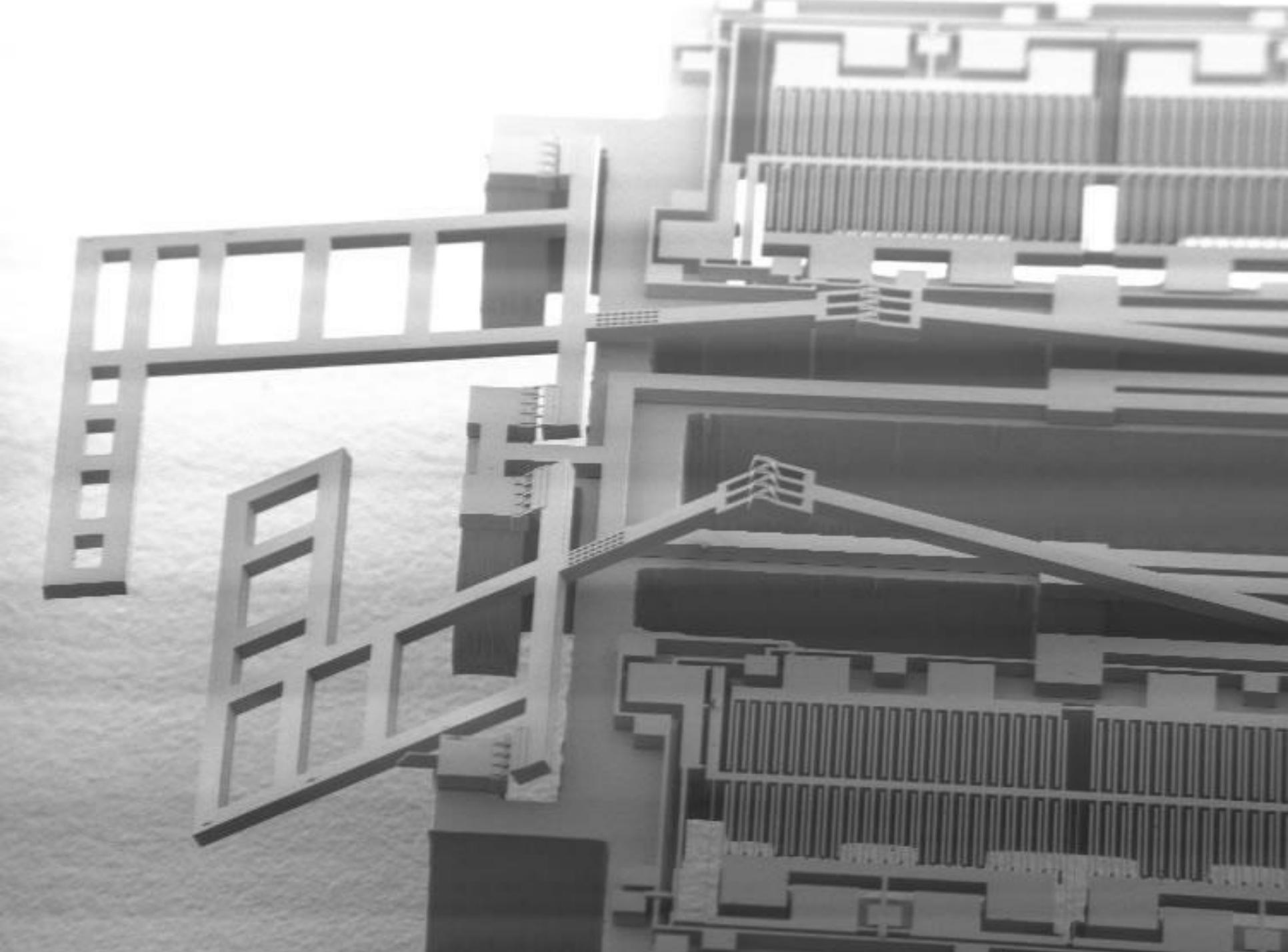
CMOS  
Sequencer

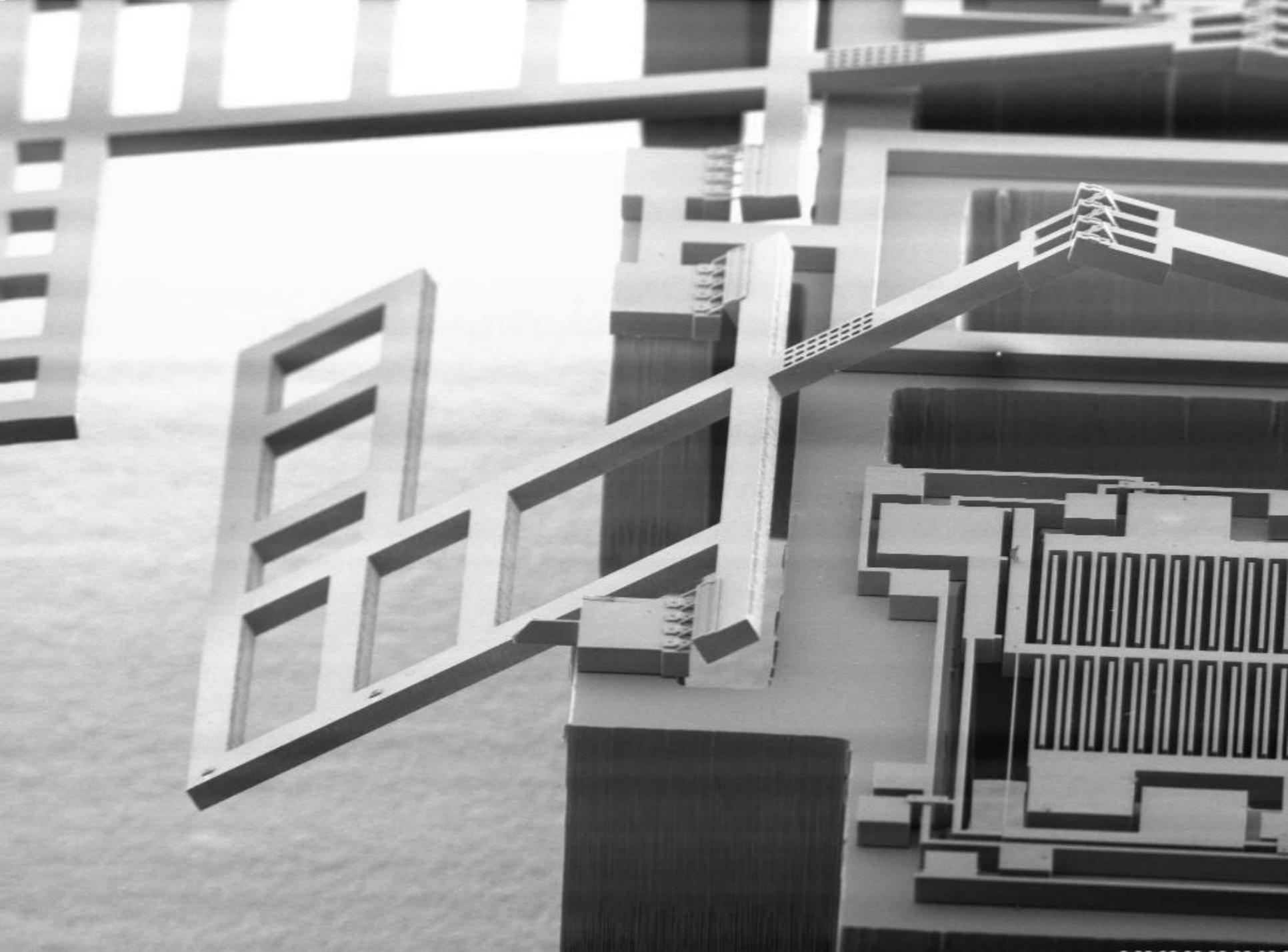
Motors

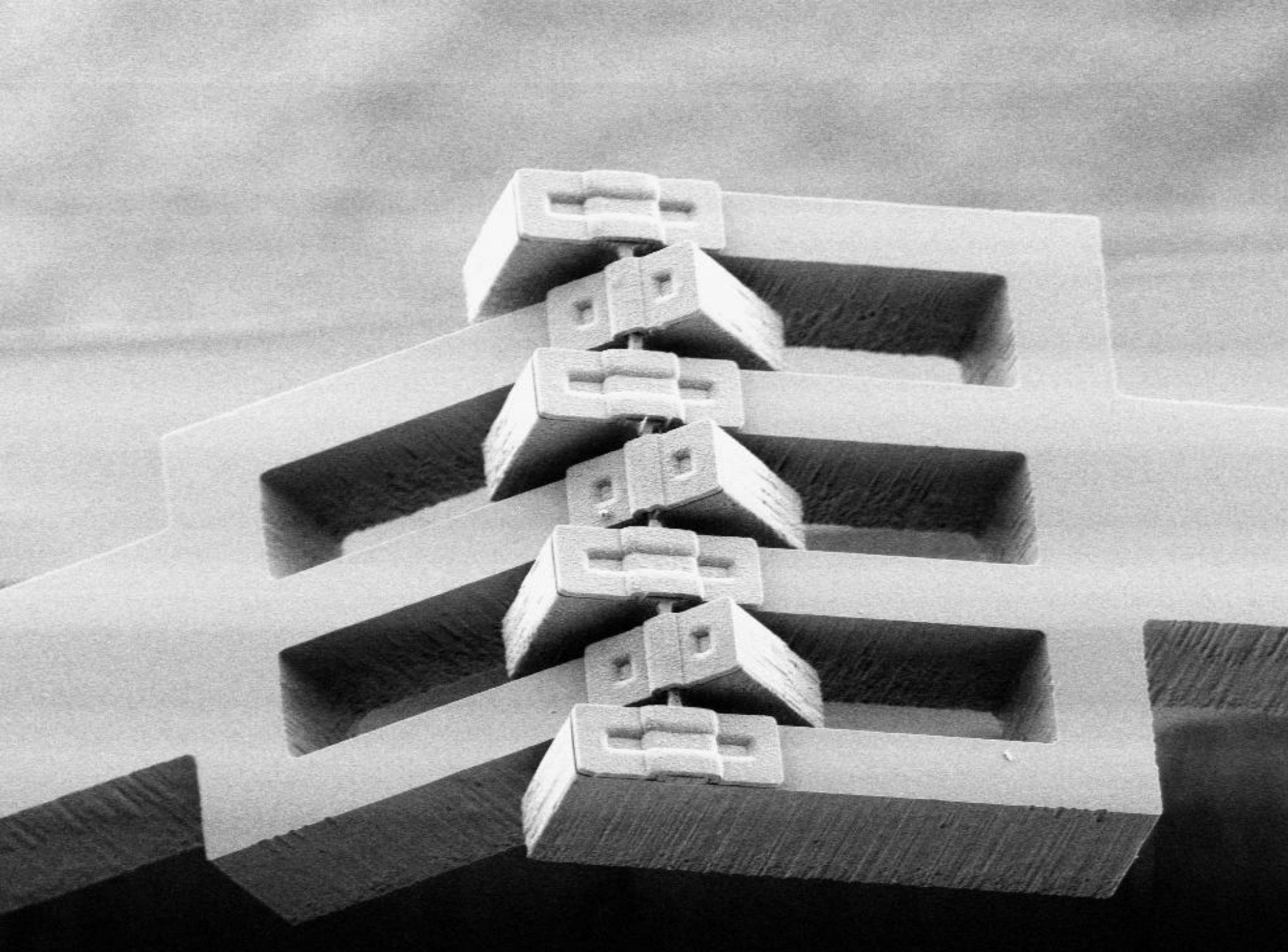
8.6 mm

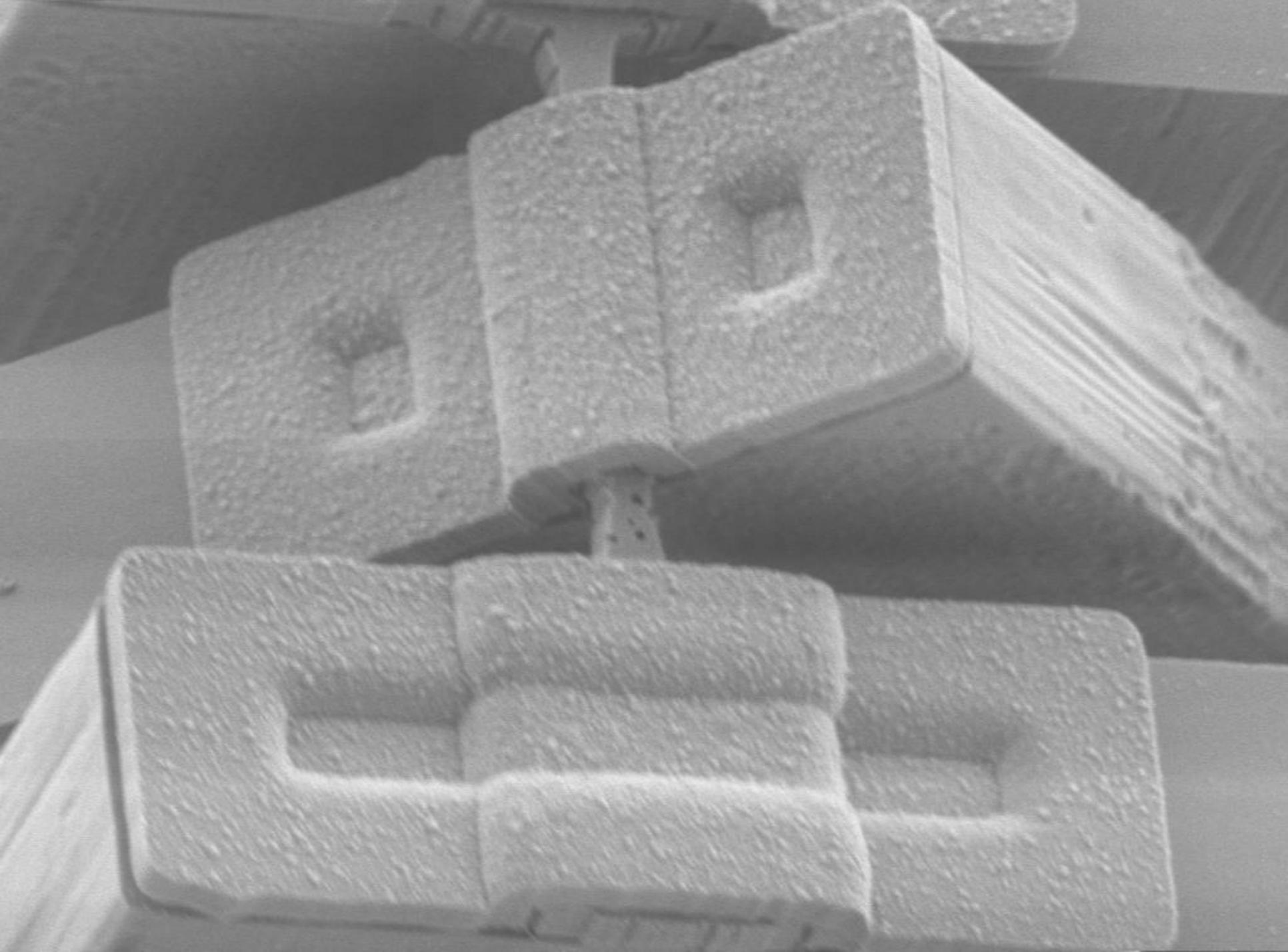


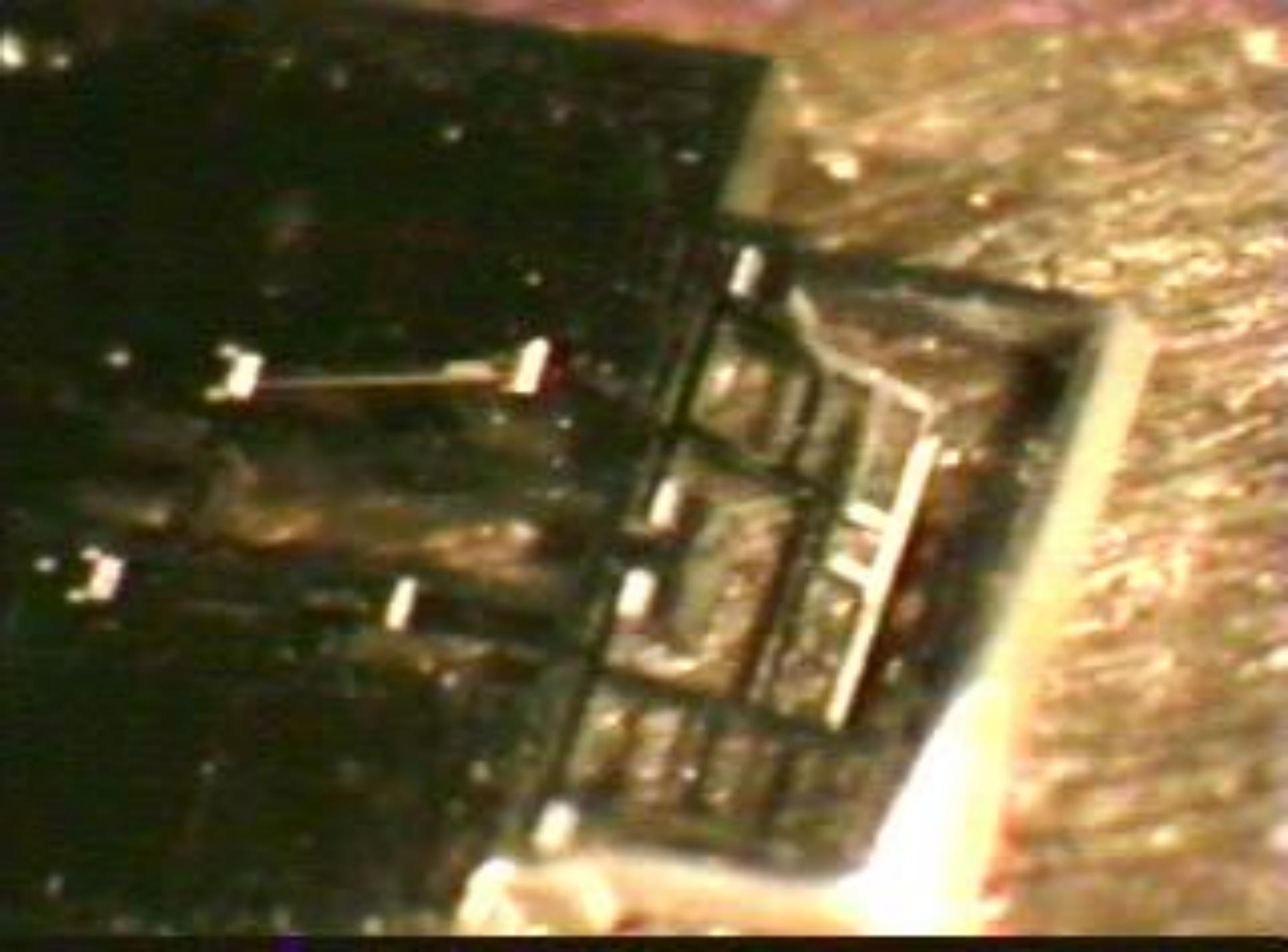


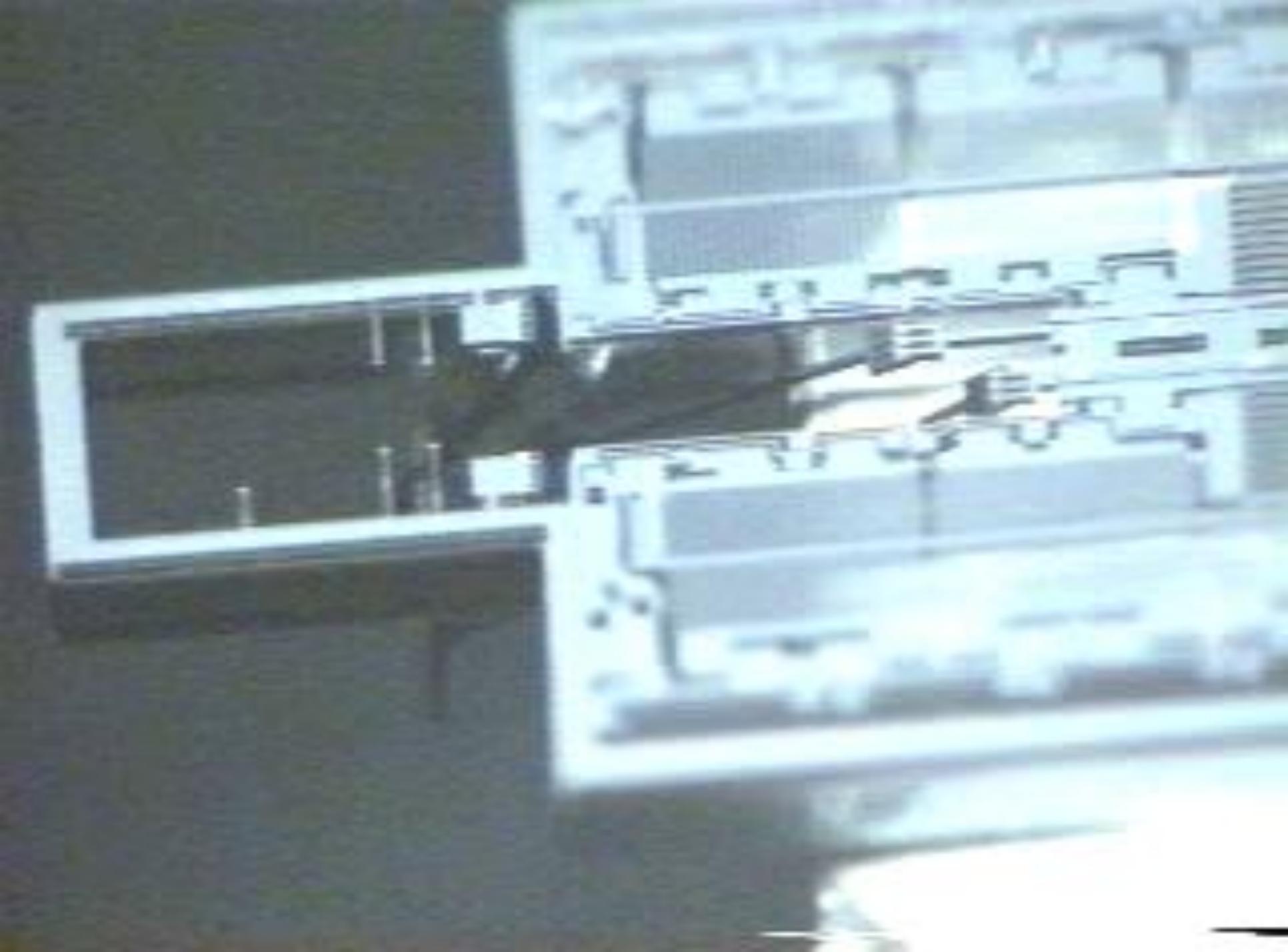




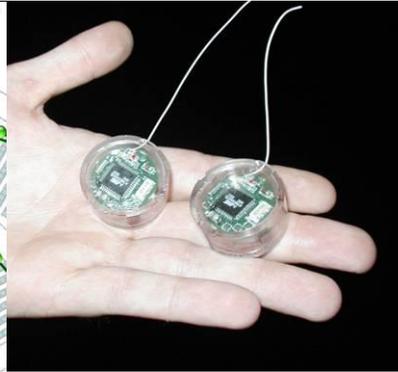
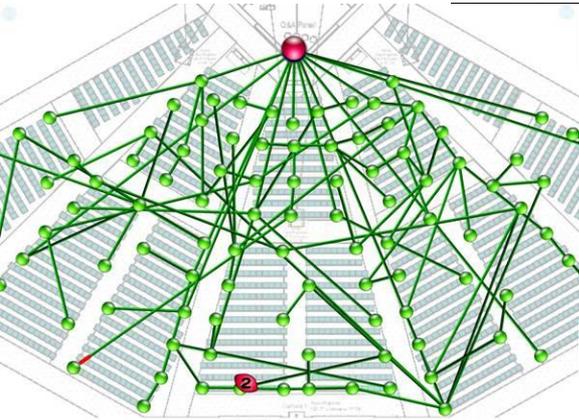








# COTS Dust – 2001



**Motes dropped from UAV, detect vehicles, log and report direction and velocity**

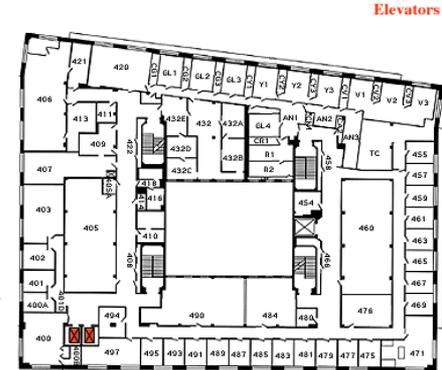
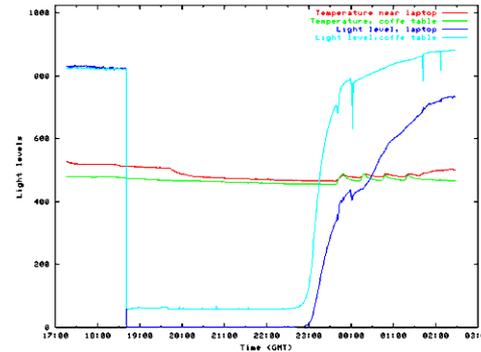
**Intel Developers Forum, live demo  
800 motes, 8 level dynamic network,**

**Seismic testing demo: real-time  
data acquisition, \$200 vs. \$5,000 per  
node**

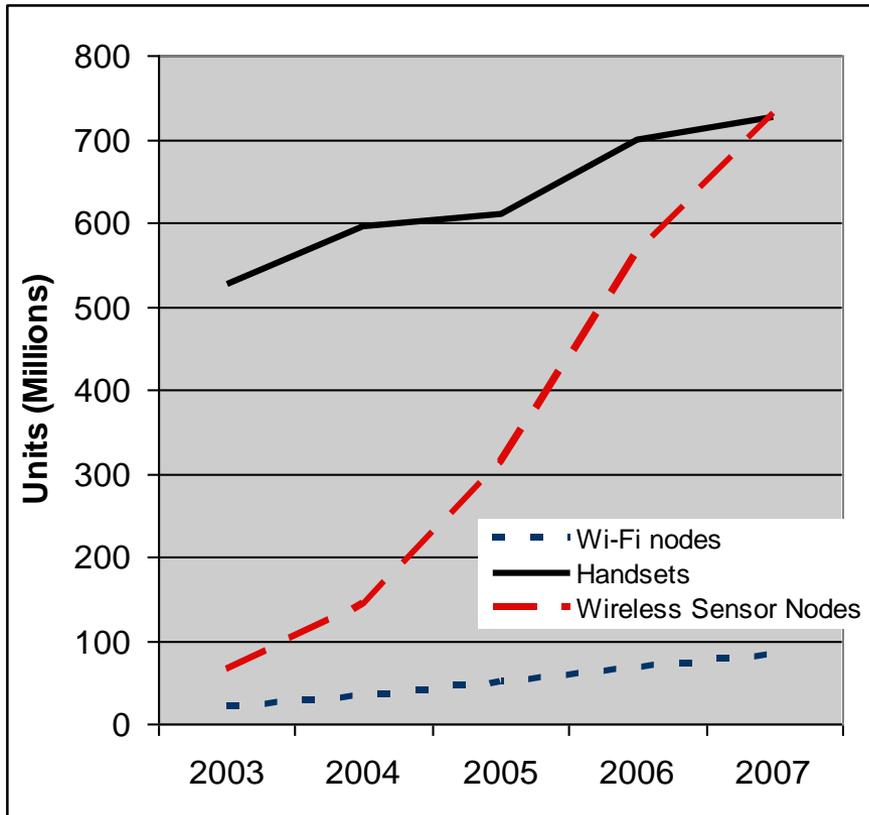
**50 temperature sensors for HVAC  
deployed in 3 hours. \$100 vs. \$800  
per node.**



**VS.**



# IoT Hype, 2003



**Predicted \$8.1B  
market for  
Wireless Sensor  
Networks  
by 2007**

Source: InStat/MDR 11/2003 (Wireless); Wireless Data Research Group 2003; InStat/MDR 7/2004 (Handsets)

## 2000--2010 IoT frenzy

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- ~100 startups
- ~\$1B in venture capital
- Almost no success stories

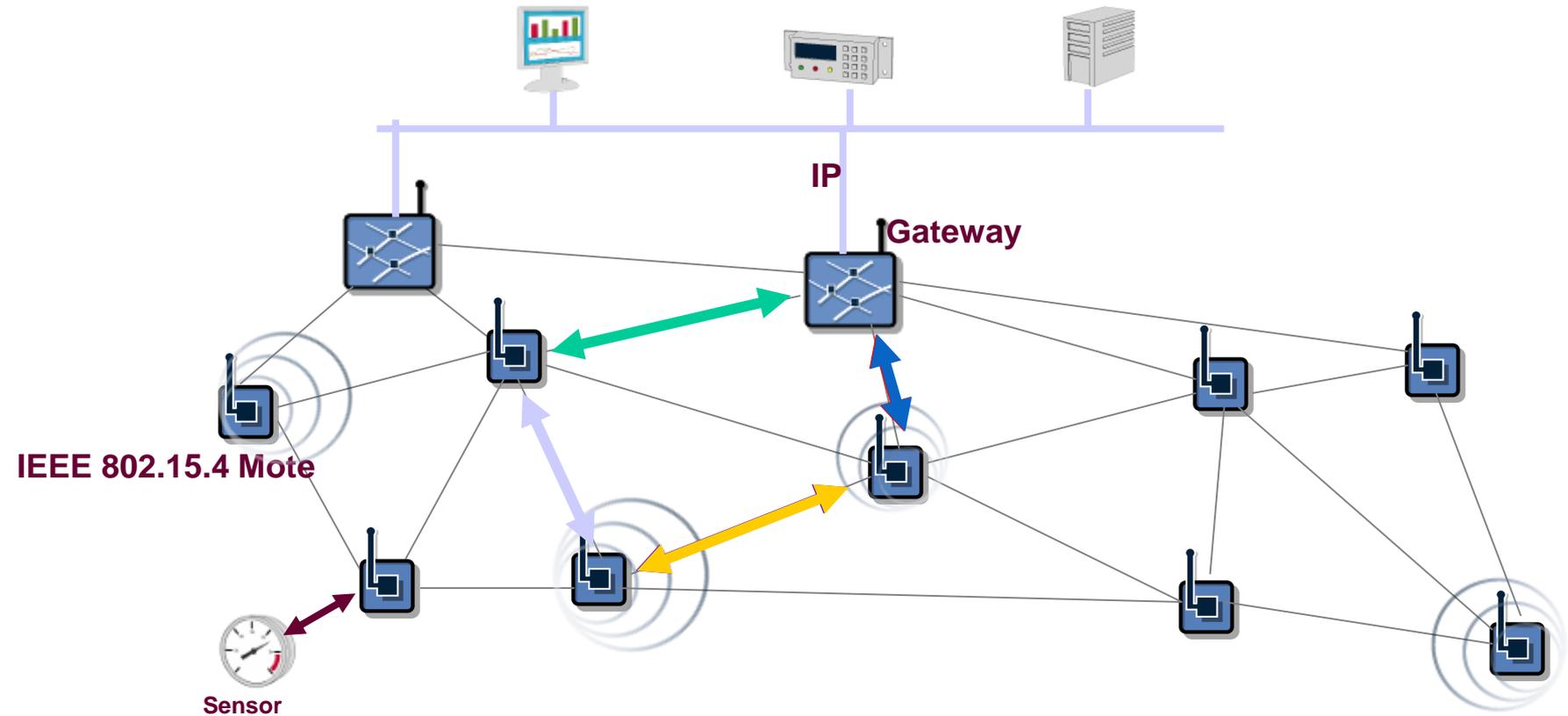
Building a *reliable* low-power wireless sensor network is **hard**.

# Dust Networks

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- Founded July 2002
- Focused on reliability, power consumption
- Developed TSMP
  - Time Synchronized Mesh Protocol
  - >99.9% reliability
  - Lowest power per delivered packet

# Mesh Networking



- Time Synchronized for **low power & scalability**
  - All nodes run on batteries, for 5-10 years
- Channel Hopping and full mesh for **reliability**
  - 99.999% “best effort” packet delivery

# Emerson Process offerings, 2007

***We Offer The Widest Portfolio Of Wireless Products In The Industry***

**Shipping Now**

**Shipping in 2008**



**Pressure**



**Temperature**



**Level**



**Flow**



**Vibration**



**Density / Viscosity**



**Multi-point  
Temperature**



**Gas Specific  
Gravity**



**Gas & Liquid  
Analysis**



**Oil & Gas Remote  
Control**



**Device 'Stranded  
Diagnostics'**



**Field Device  
Communicator**



**Discrete**



**Radar Level**



**Wireless Gateway**



**Level Switch**



**Valve Positioners**



**Asset Management  
Software**

# Middle East Desert Sand Storms



**-48 °F with a wind chill of -70 °F Wireless Transmitter  
on the North Slope of Alaska**



In Alaska,  
measures leak  
detection of  
pipeline running  
under a road  
mile from nearest  
device/gateway.



Rotating filter with DP transmitter going down in the steel tank and is sometimes immersed.



# FPSO – Floating Platform, Storage and Offloading

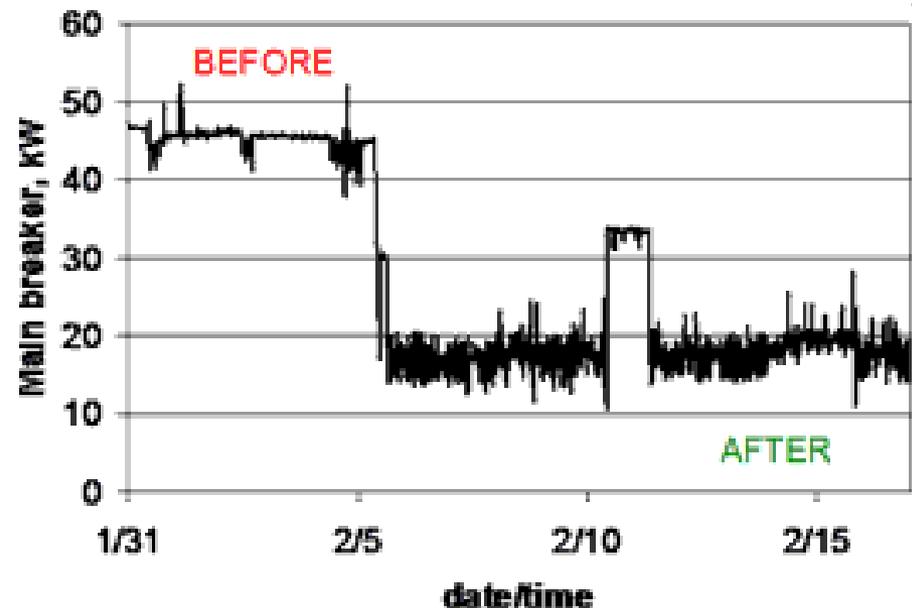
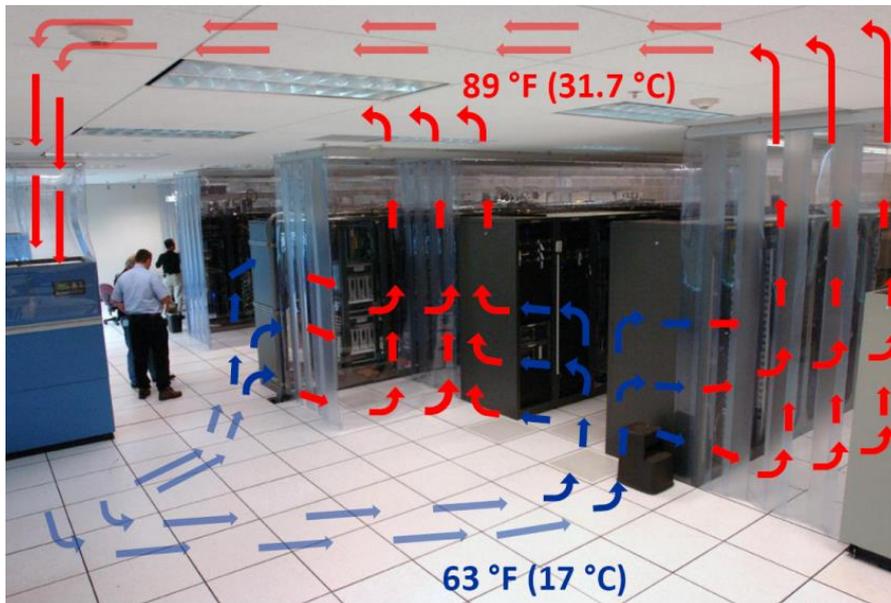


# Pharmaceutical Process Monitoring - GE

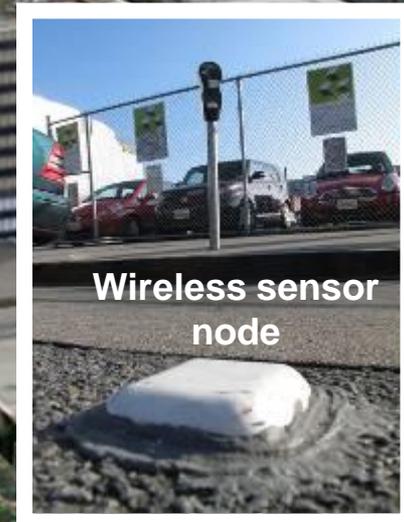


# Smart Building: Vigilant

- HVAC optimization to conserve energy
- Wireless temperature sensing
- Improved control algorithm
- No new motors/valves/control points



# Smart Cities: Streetline Networks



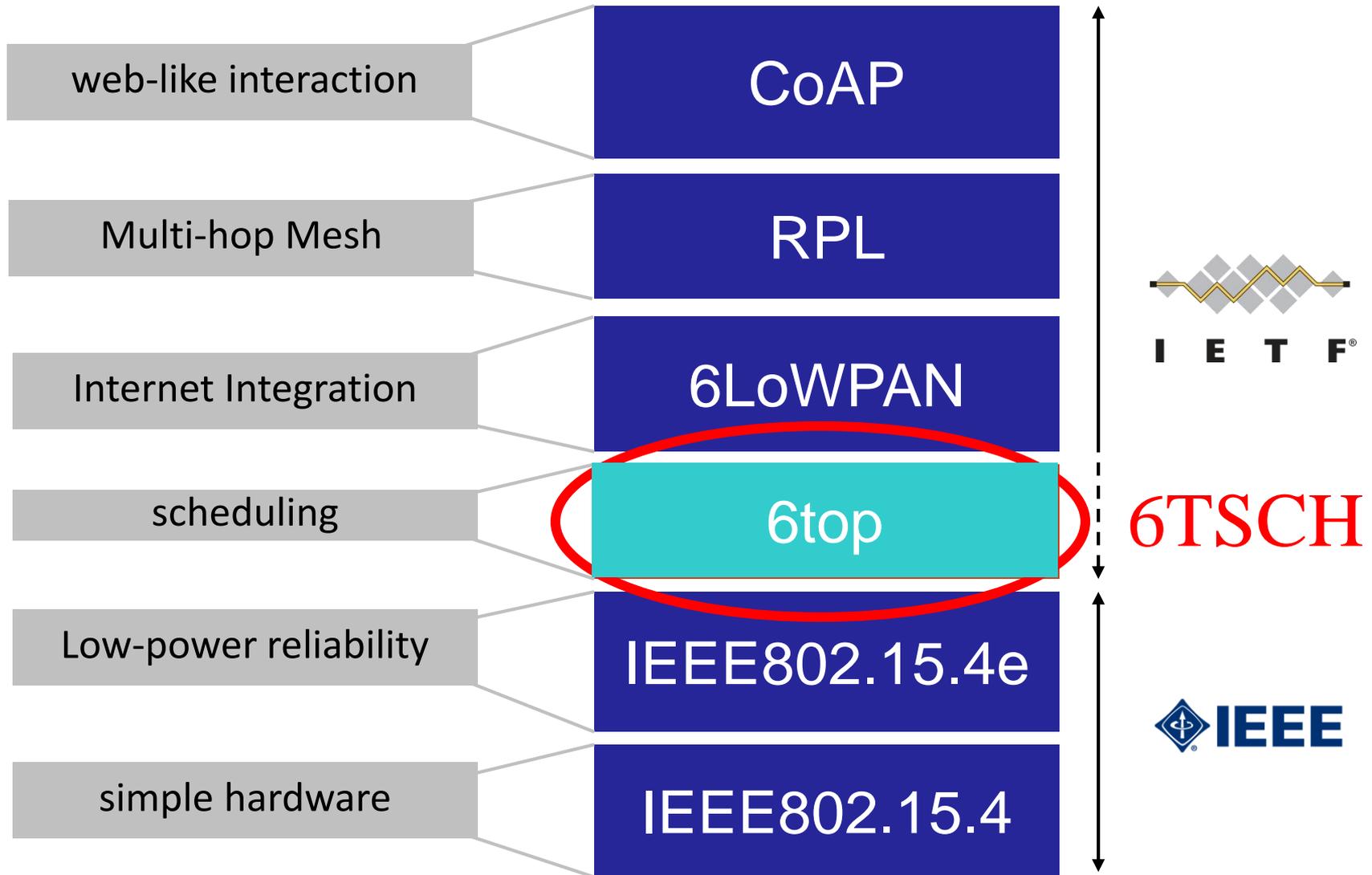
# Smart City: Parking, Streetline Networks

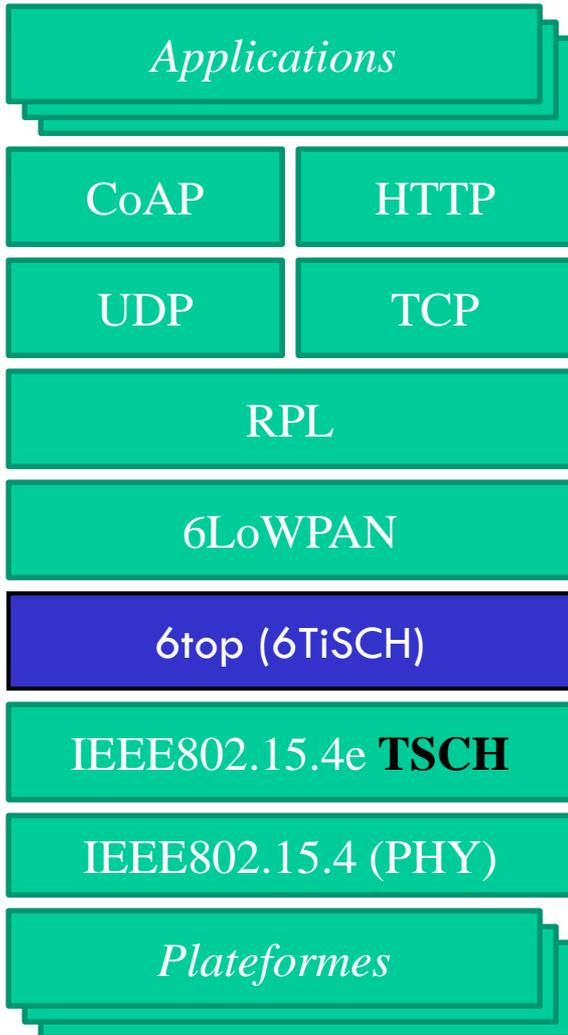


# Find parking, pay, avoid ticket, find car



# A decade of standards





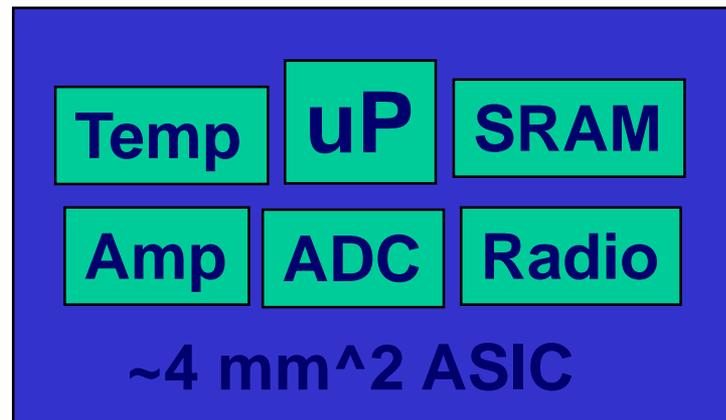
## OpenWSN is

- Cloud-based Wiki and ticketing
- Source code on GitHub
- Ported to 10 platforms

# UCB RF Mote on a Chip (1999)

- CMOS ASIC
  - 8 bit microcontroller
  - Custom interface circuits
- 4 External components

~\$1



antenna

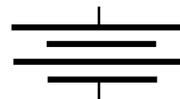


inductor



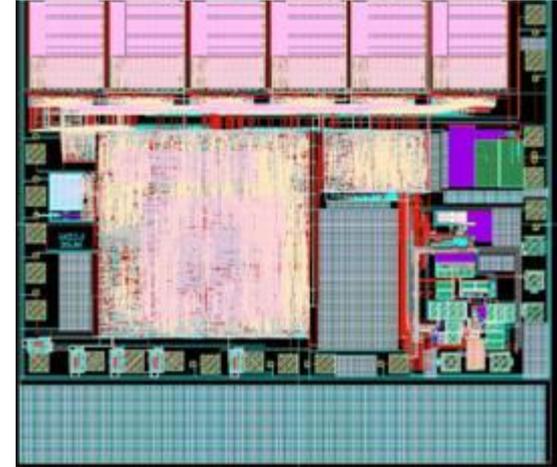
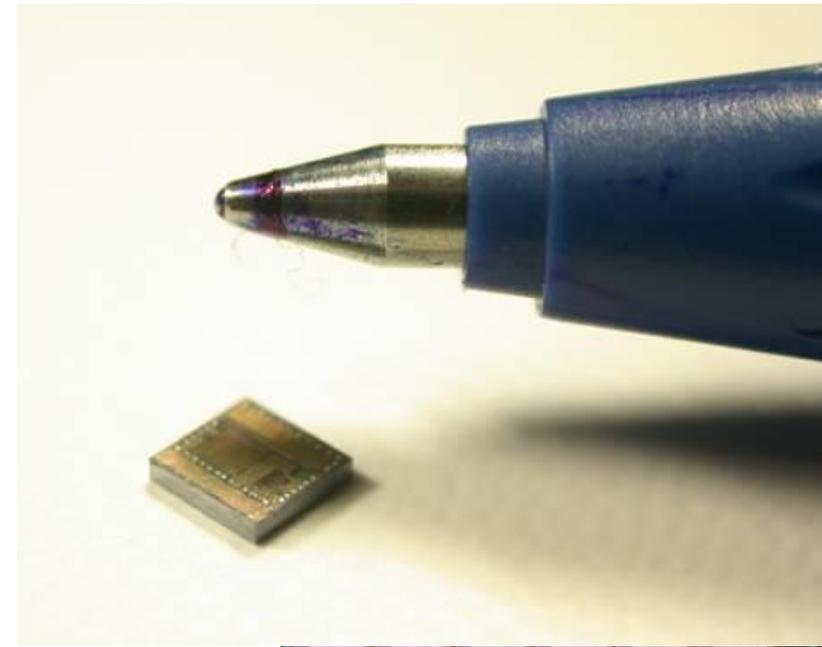
crystal

battery



# 2002 UCB Hardware Results

- 2 chips fabbed in 0.25um CMOS
  - “Mote on a chip” worked, missing radio RX (Jason Hill)
  - 900 MHz transceiver worked
- Records set for low power CMOS
  - ADC (Mike Scott)
    - 8 bits, 100kS/s
    - 2uA@1V
  - Microprocessor (Brett Warneke)
    - 8 bits, 1MIP
    - 10uA@1V
  - 900 MHz radio (Al Molnar)
    - 20kbps, “bits in, bits out”
    - 0.4mA @ 3V



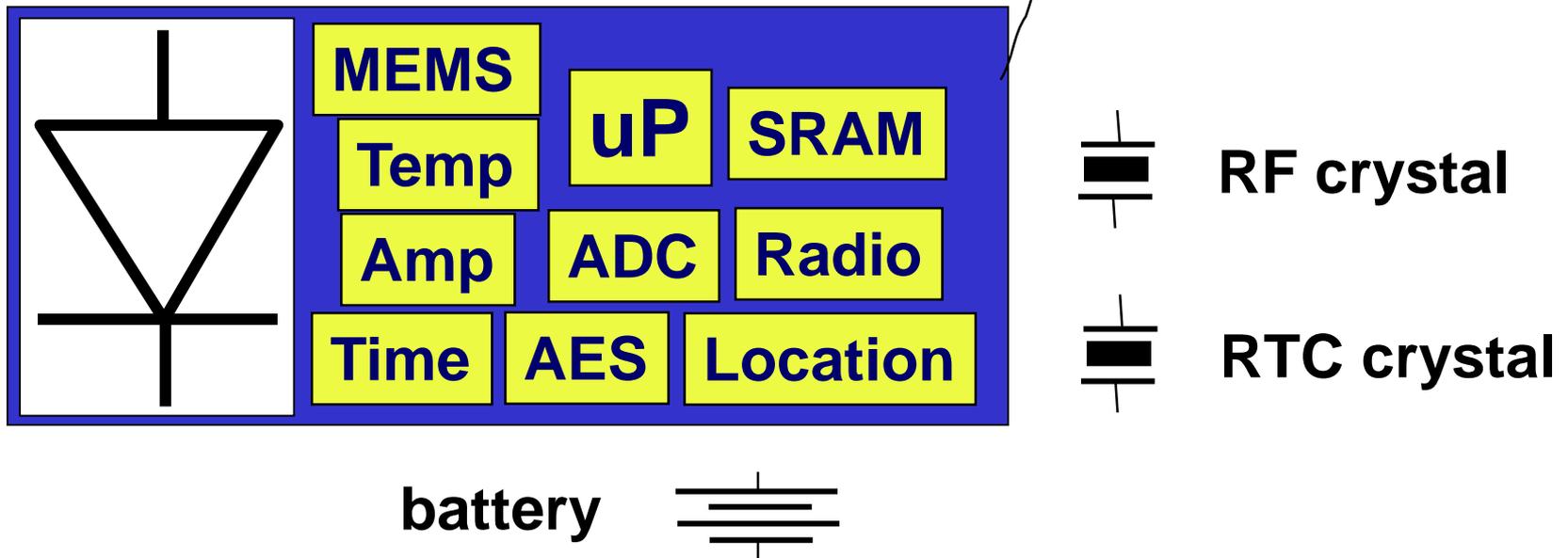
# Vendors selling single-chip motes

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- Atmel
- Freescale
- Linear (Dust)
- Silicon Labs (Ember)
- ST
- TI

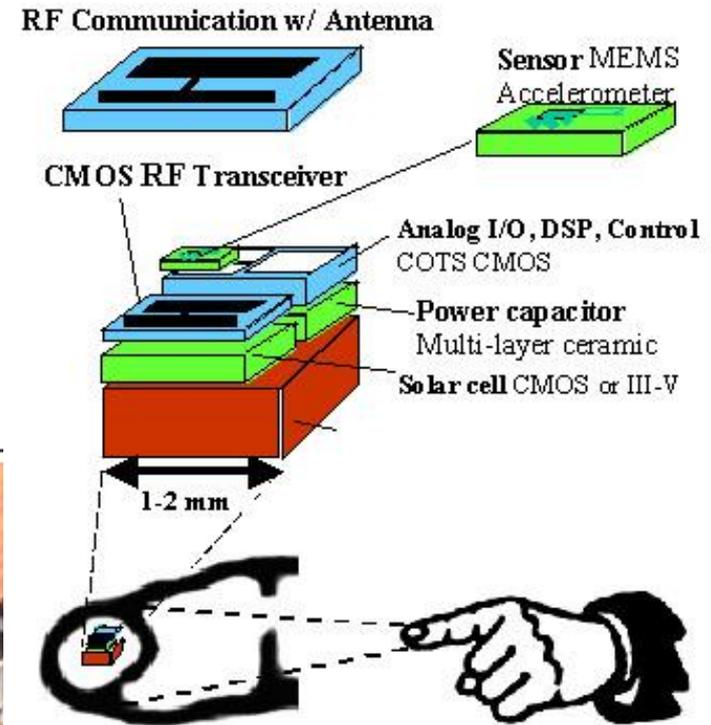
# Single-chip mote, take 2

- Goals:
  - Standard CMOS
  - Low power
  - ~~Minimal~~ external components  
Zero



# Acceleration Sensing Glove, 1999

- Accelerometers on fingertips
- Wireless on wrist
- Basic keyboard, mouse motions
- Mouse, keyboard, sign language



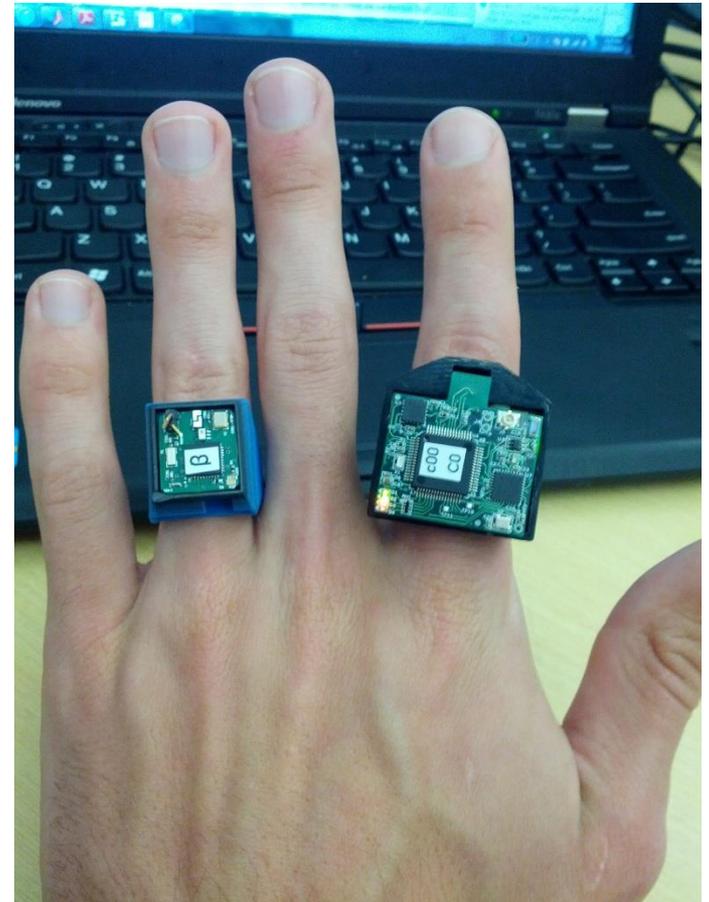
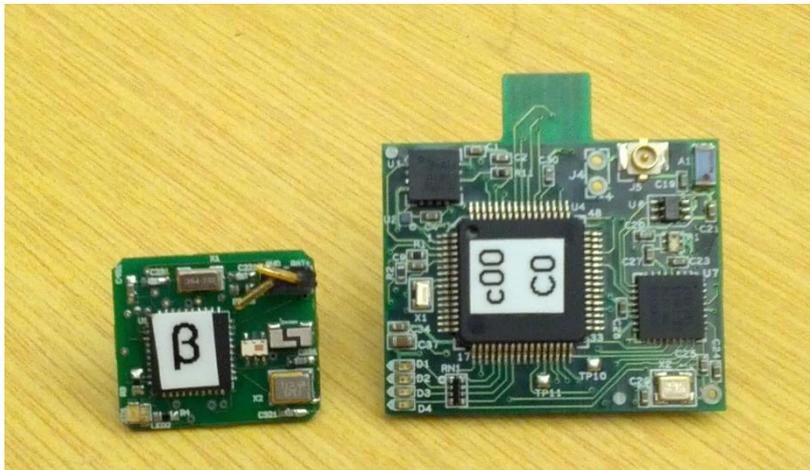
Finger accelerometer



Wrist controller,  
RF transmitter and  
battery pack

# GINA

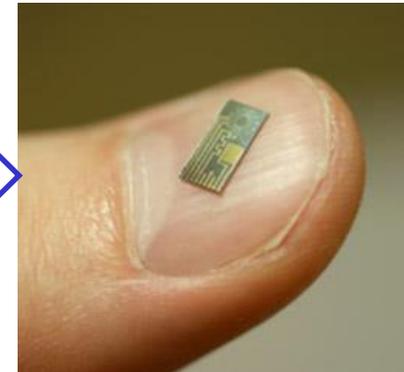
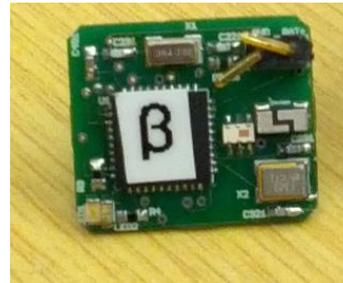
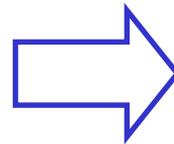
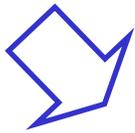
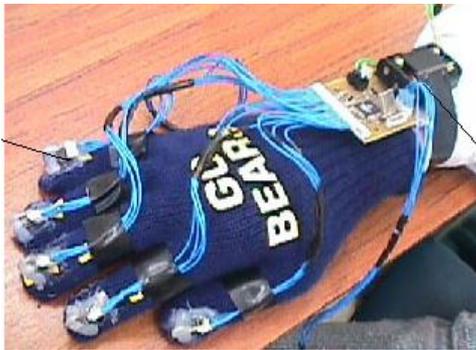
- 9 axis inertial measurement
- Ring form factor
  - Ring GINA



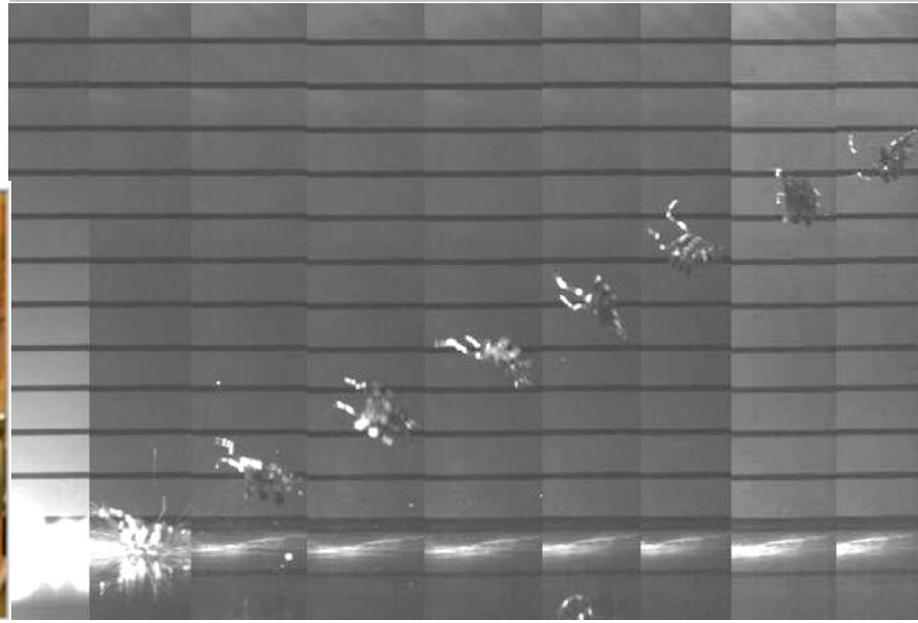
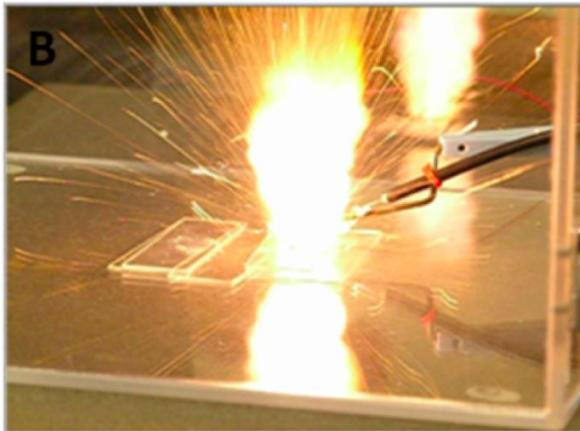
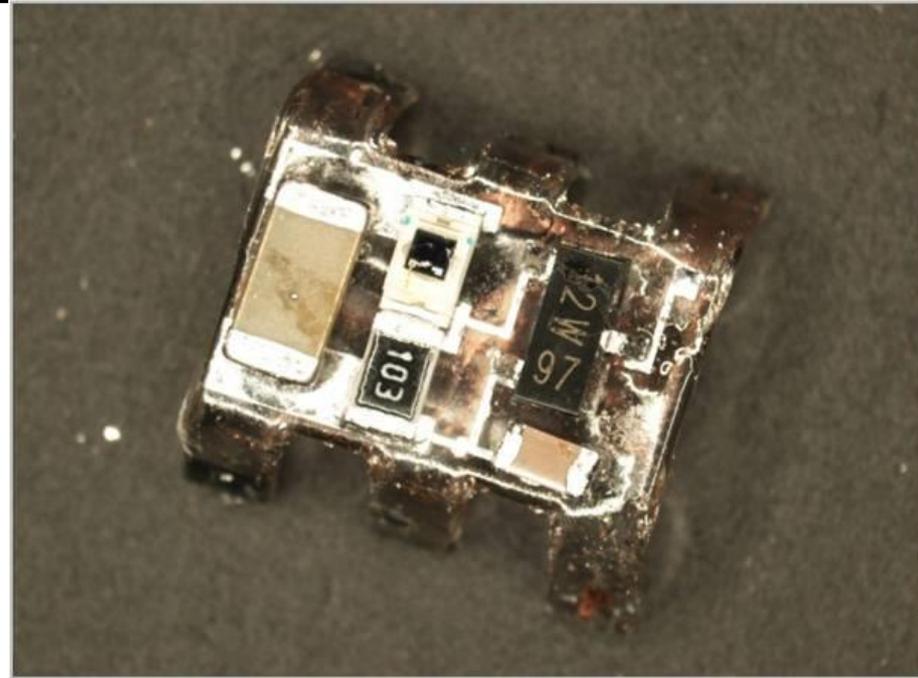
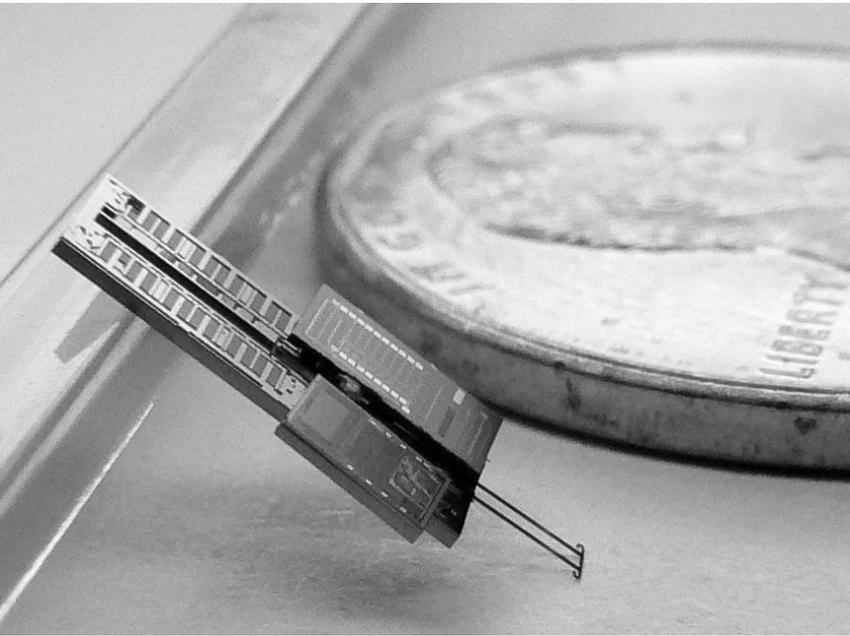
Mehta, Greenspun, Chraim

# Progression

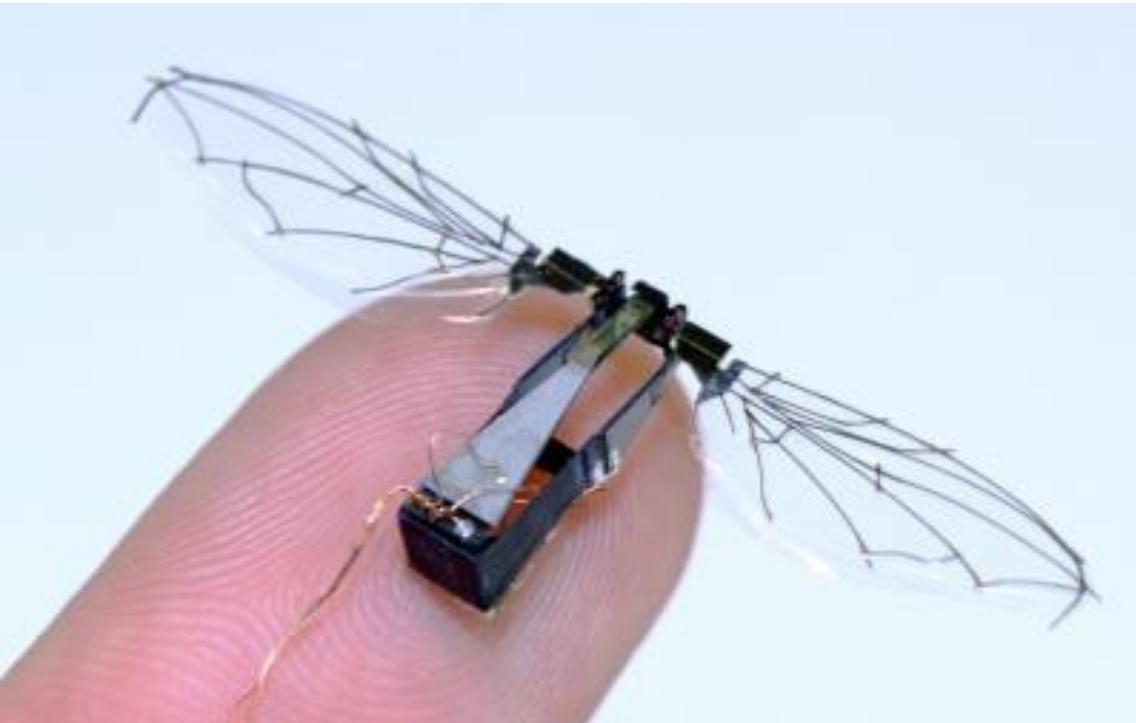
- Single chip mote
- Finger tip accelerometers
- Virtual keyboard



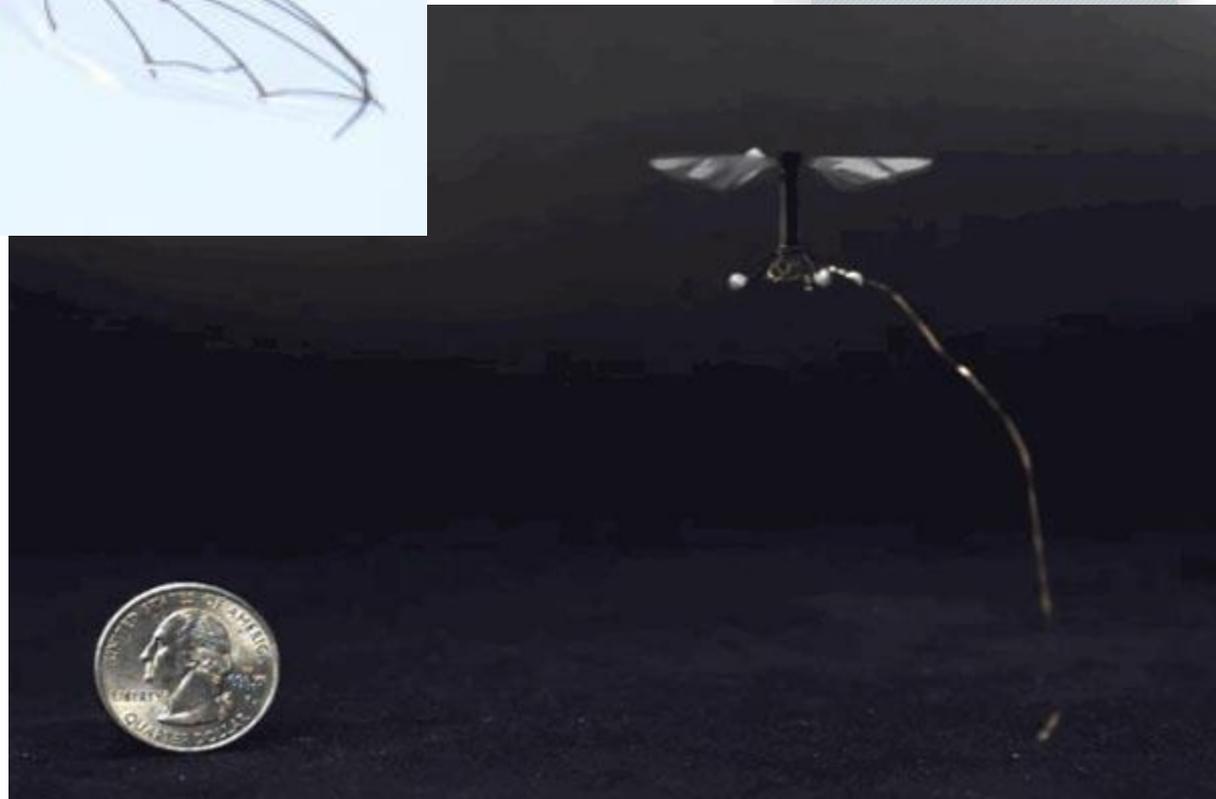
# Sarah Bergbreiter, UMD



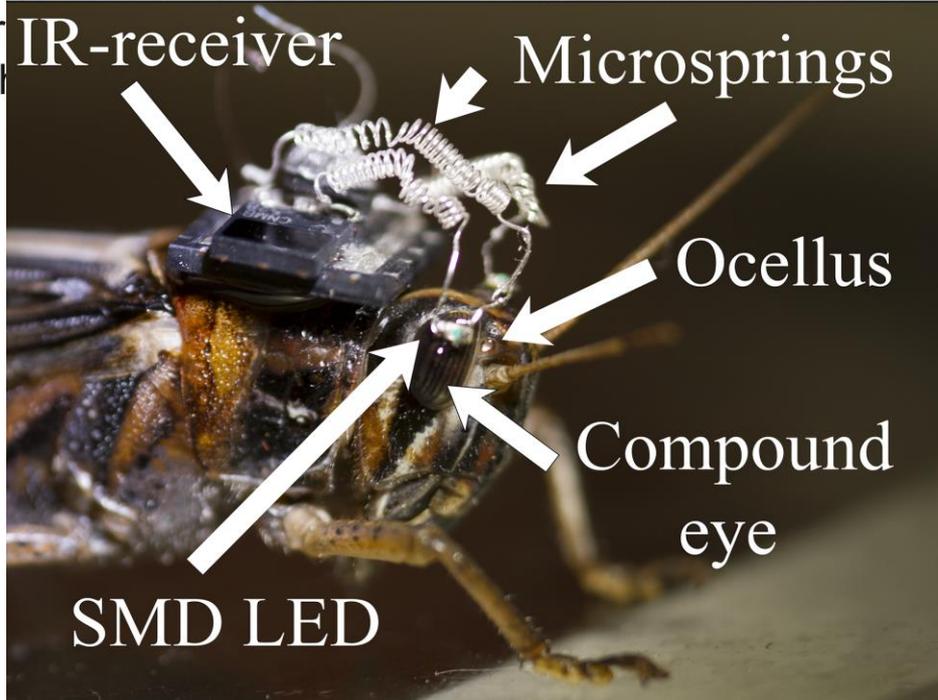
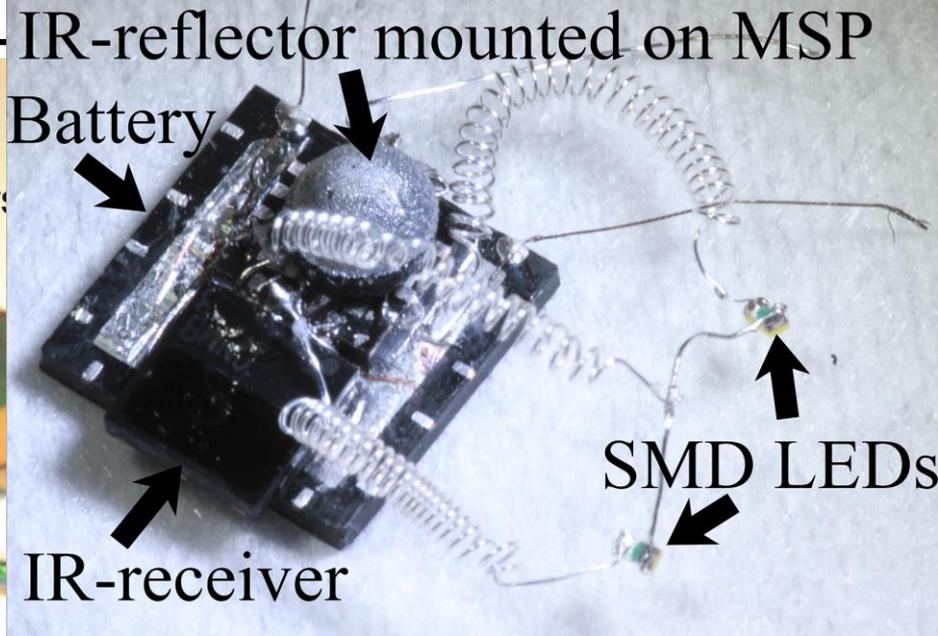
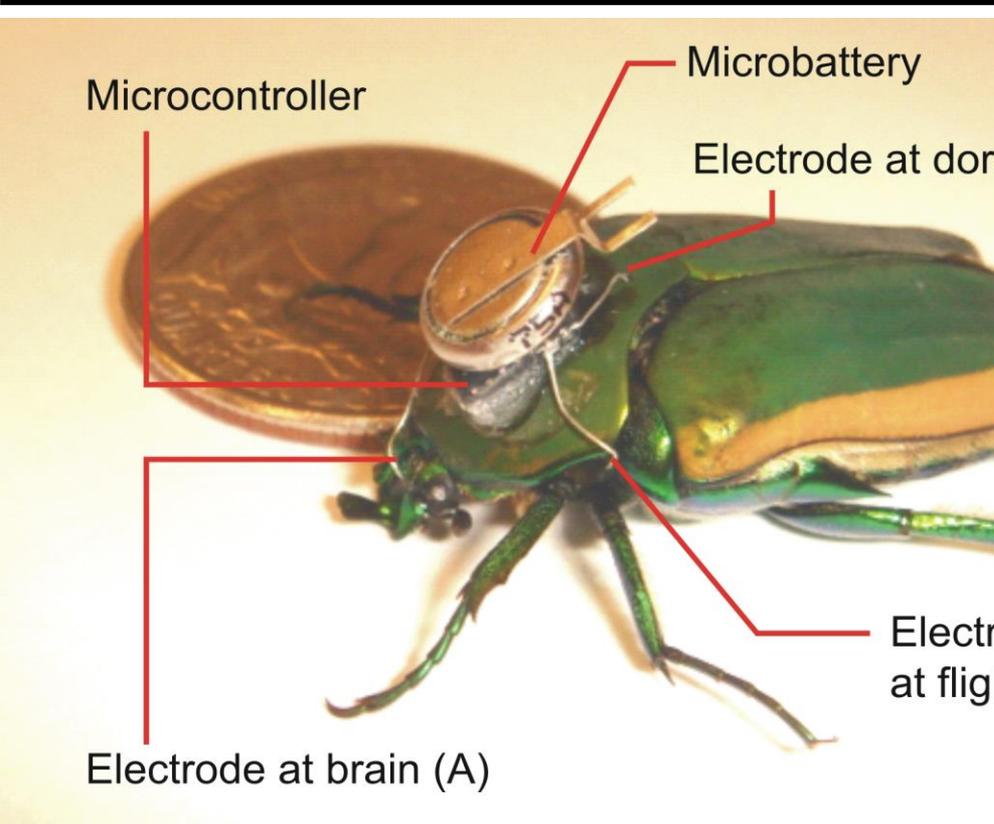
# Rob Wood, Harvard



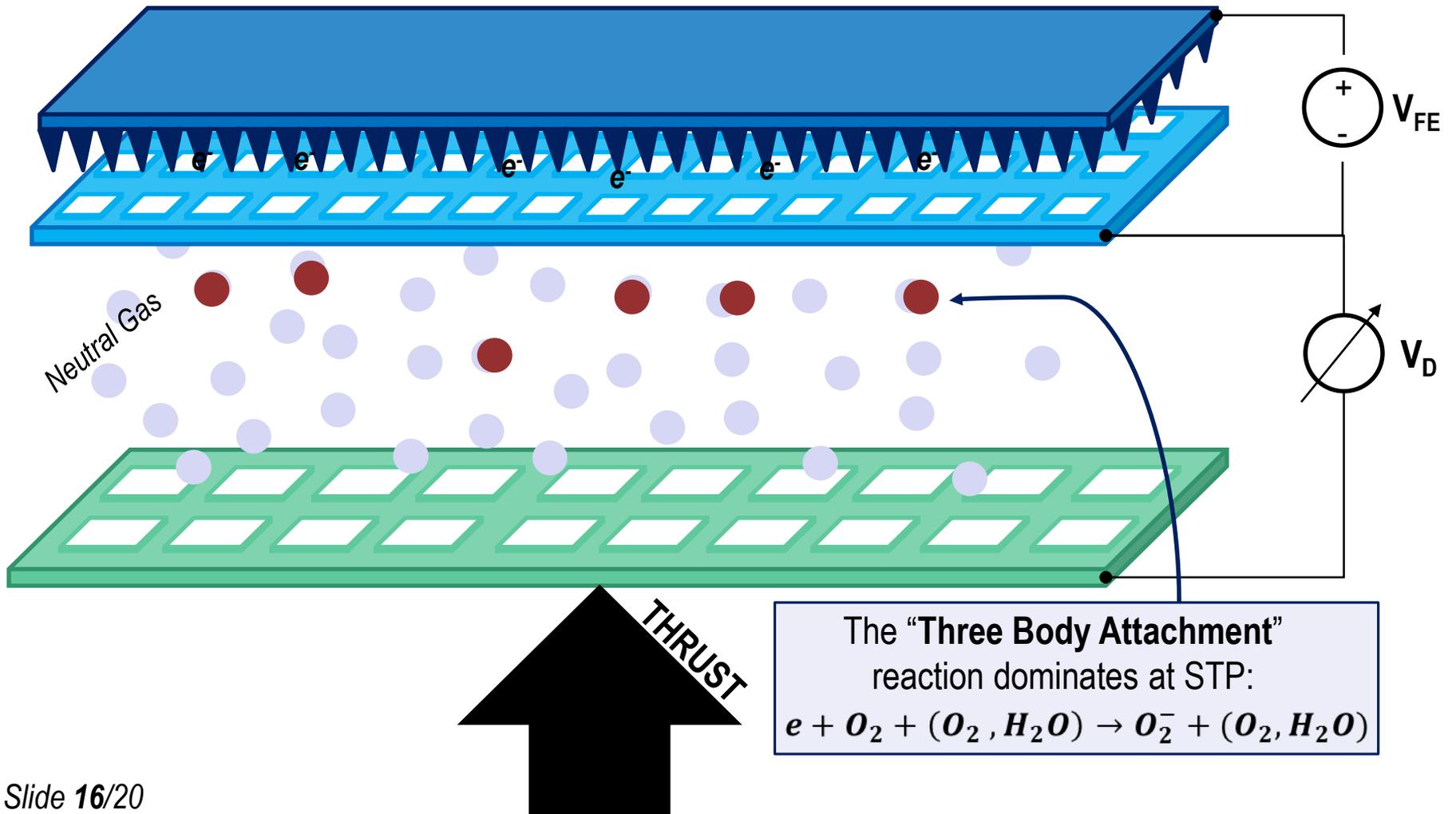
HARVARD  
MICROBOTICS  
LABORATORY



# Michel Maharbiz, Josh Van Kleef UC Berkeley

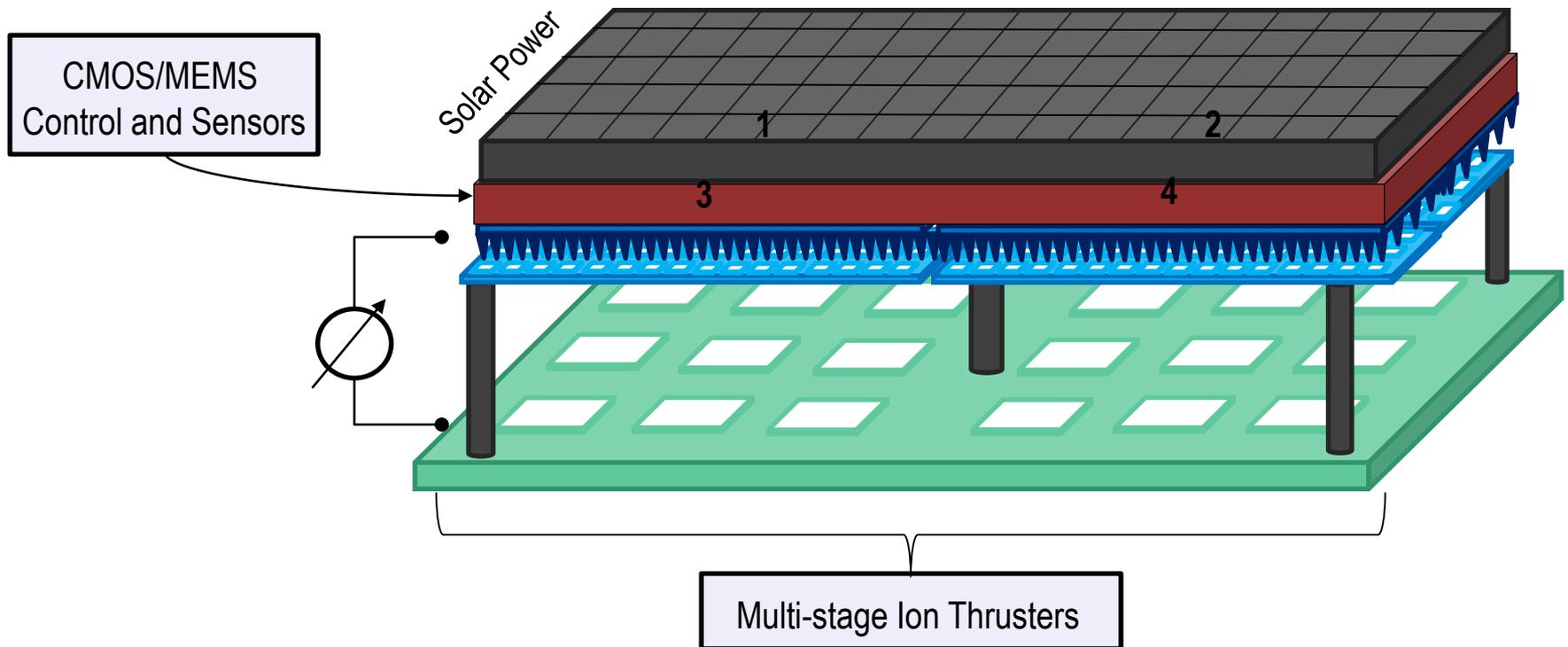


# The MEMS Ionocraft



# The Future Vision

“Quadcopter”-esque design, with individual thruster control from either field emission voltage or cathode-anode distance actuation.



# Delayed Gratification

**Nodal CAD  
For MEMS**

**Wireless Sensor Networks**

**μ-robots**

**1989**

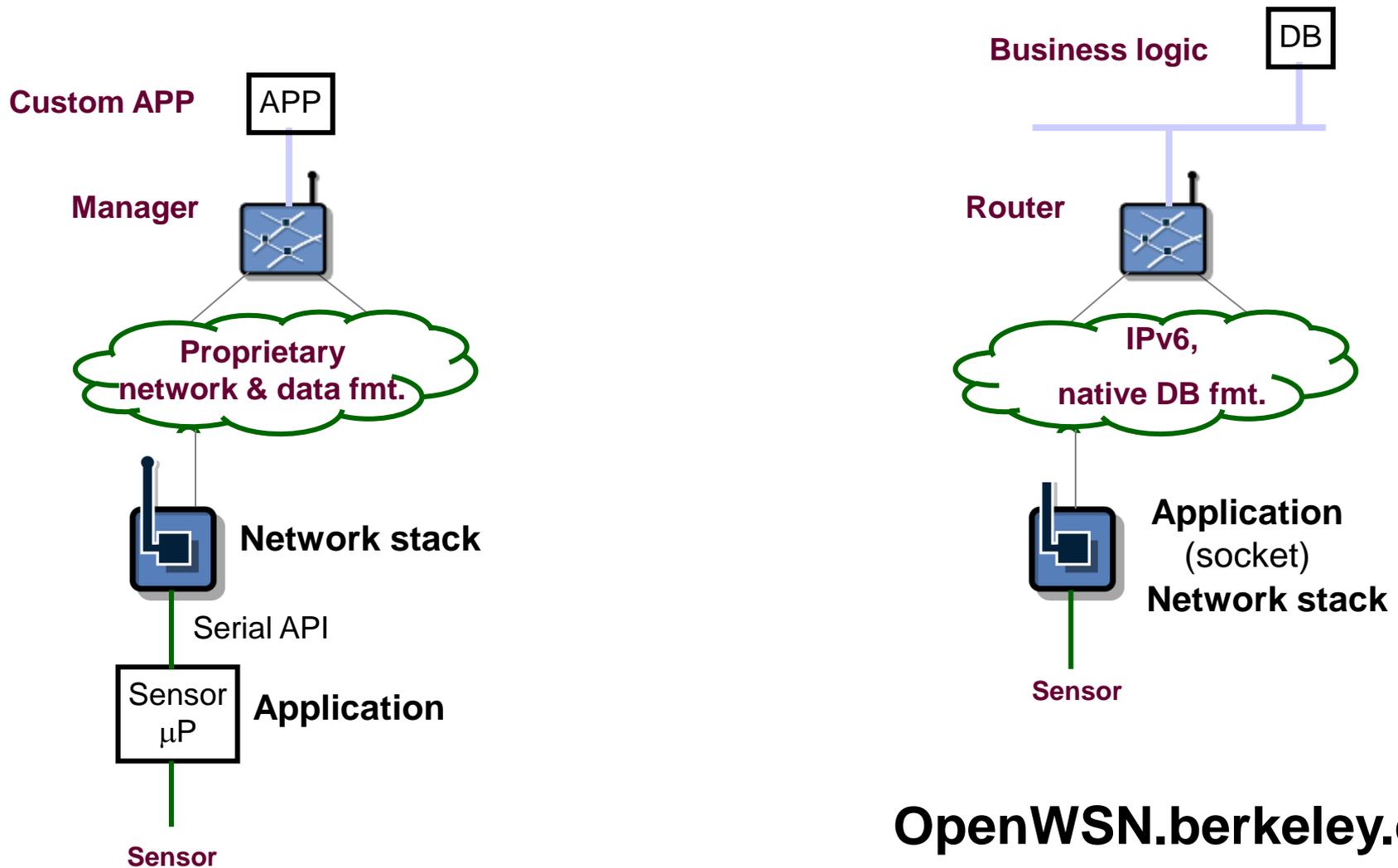
**How hard can it be?**

**XeF<sub>2</sub>**



**This time for sure!**

# Evolving information flow in WSN



OpenWSN.berkeley.edu