

MAS.S62:

# Ocean IoT

Technologies, Industries, Sustainability

Lecturer

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TA

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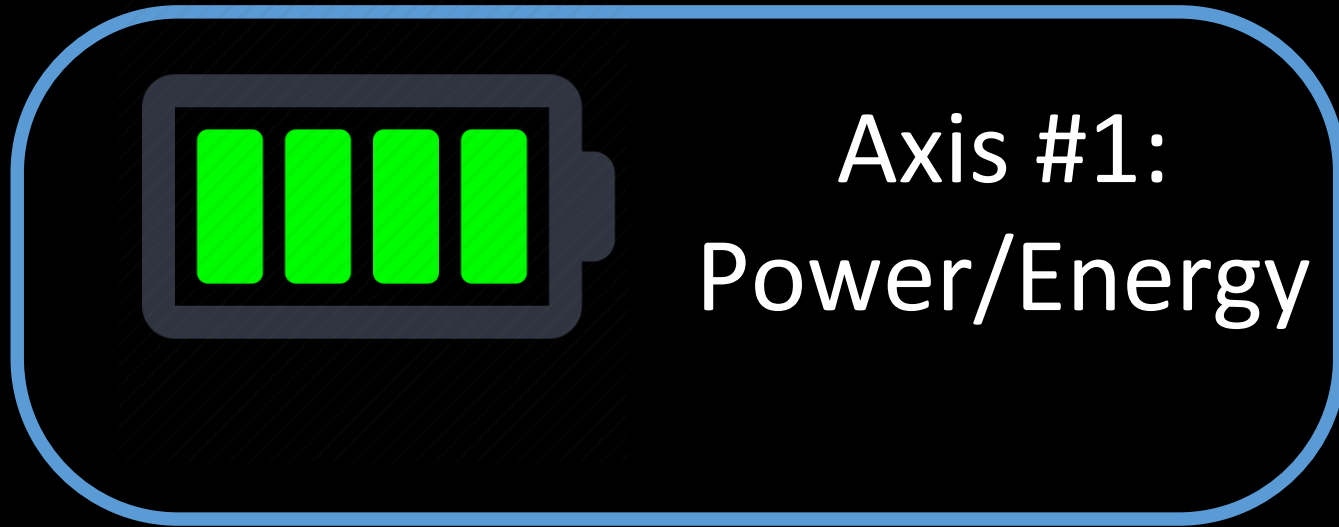
Website

<http://www.mit.edu/~fadel/courses/MAS.S62/index.html>



# Main Components of (Ocean) IoT Systems

## This Lecture



Axis #2: Connectivity



Axis #3:  
High-level-Task  
(Sensing, Actuation)



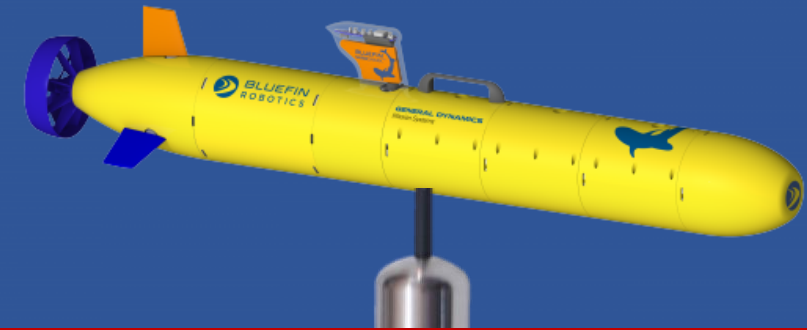
# Objectives of Today's Lecture

Learn **fundamentals** of energy harvesting, backscatter, end-to-end system design

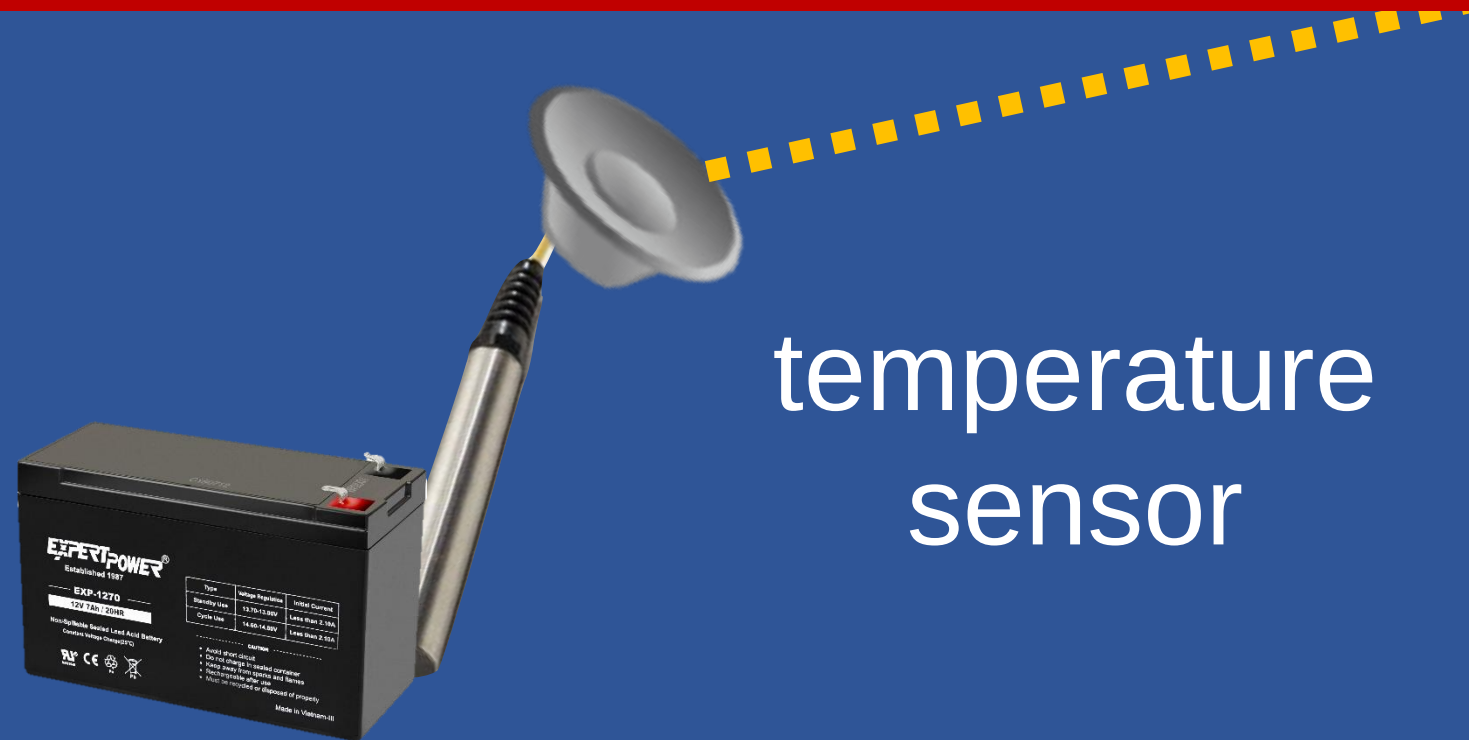
1. Why is it not feasible to use batteries with underwater IoT sensors?
2. What are underwater backscatter systems, why do they consume net-zero power?
3. What are the different components that make an end-to end underwater backscatter system?
  - The physical, mathematical, engineering, and design fundamentals
  - Why are these systems designed the way they are

# Traditional Approach

## Underwater Drone



Sensor generates its own acoustic signal



Why is it not feasible to use batteries with underwater IoT sensors?

# Using batteries with underwater IoT sensors

Pollution via battery leakage



Cost of replacing batteries



Insulation of Batteries/Electrical Shortage





# Problem: Battery life of underwater sensors is extremely limited

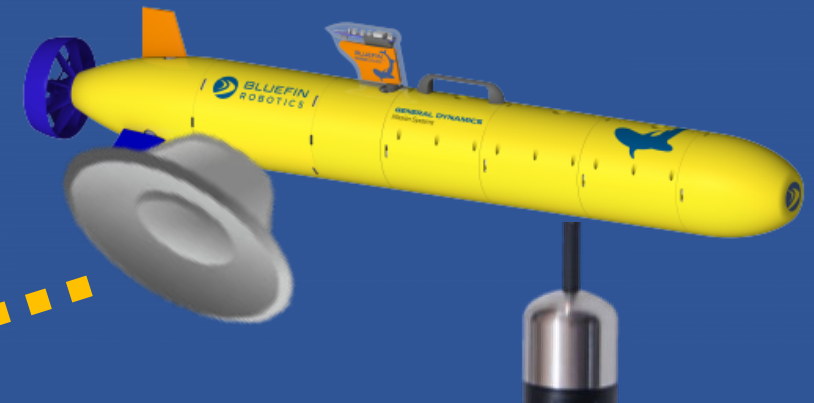
Low-power underwater transmitters consume 100s of Watts  
(e.g., WHOI low-power micro-modem 2019)



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

[Animal Biotelemetry'15, Scientific Reports'17]

# Underwater Backscatter : Basic Principle of Operation



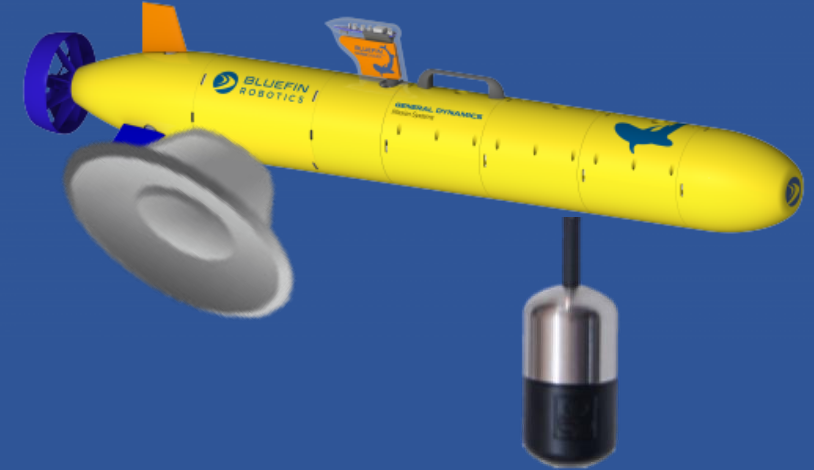
Sensor reflects an existing acoustic signal





How can we control the reflections of acoustic signals?

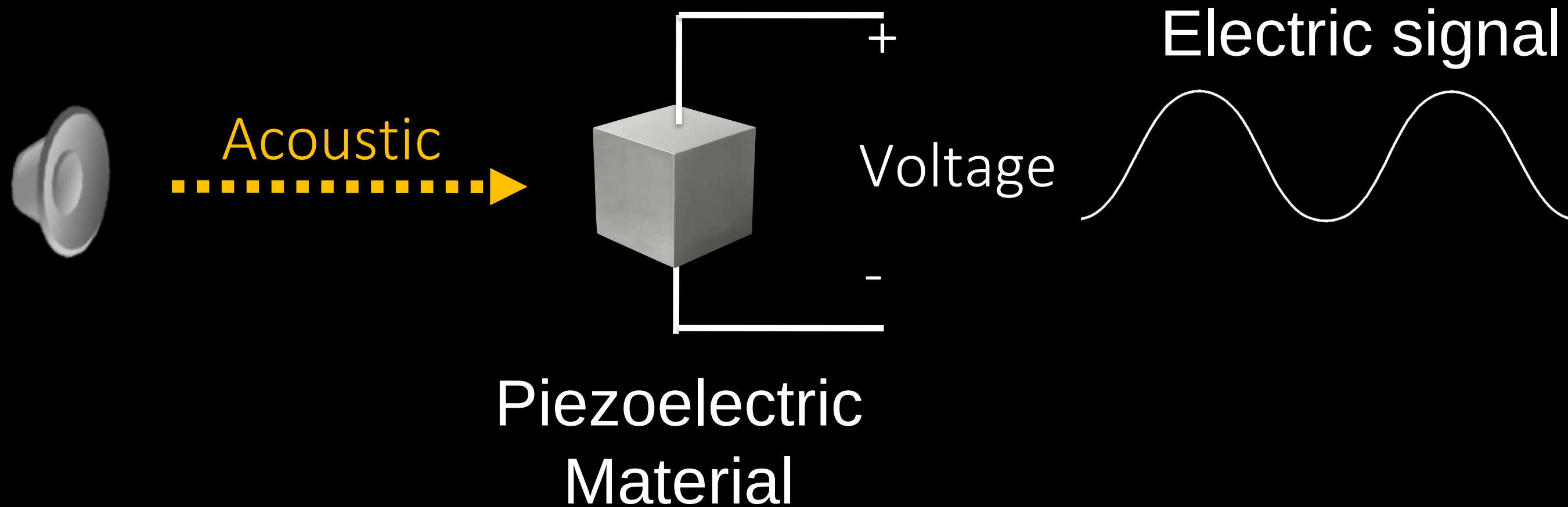
# Underwater Backscatter : Backscatter Node



Acoustic  
Reflector

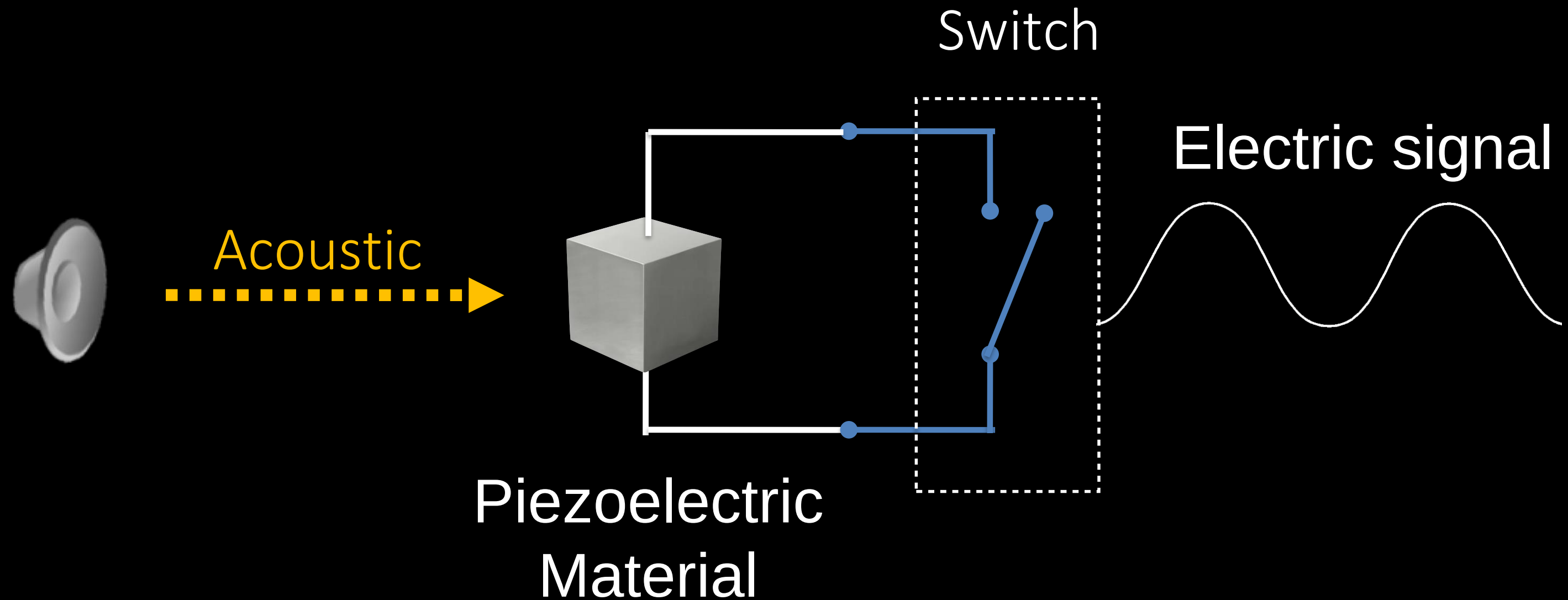
Key Idea: Use piezoelectricity to design programmable acoustic reflectors

Piezoelectric materials transform mechanical to electrical energy



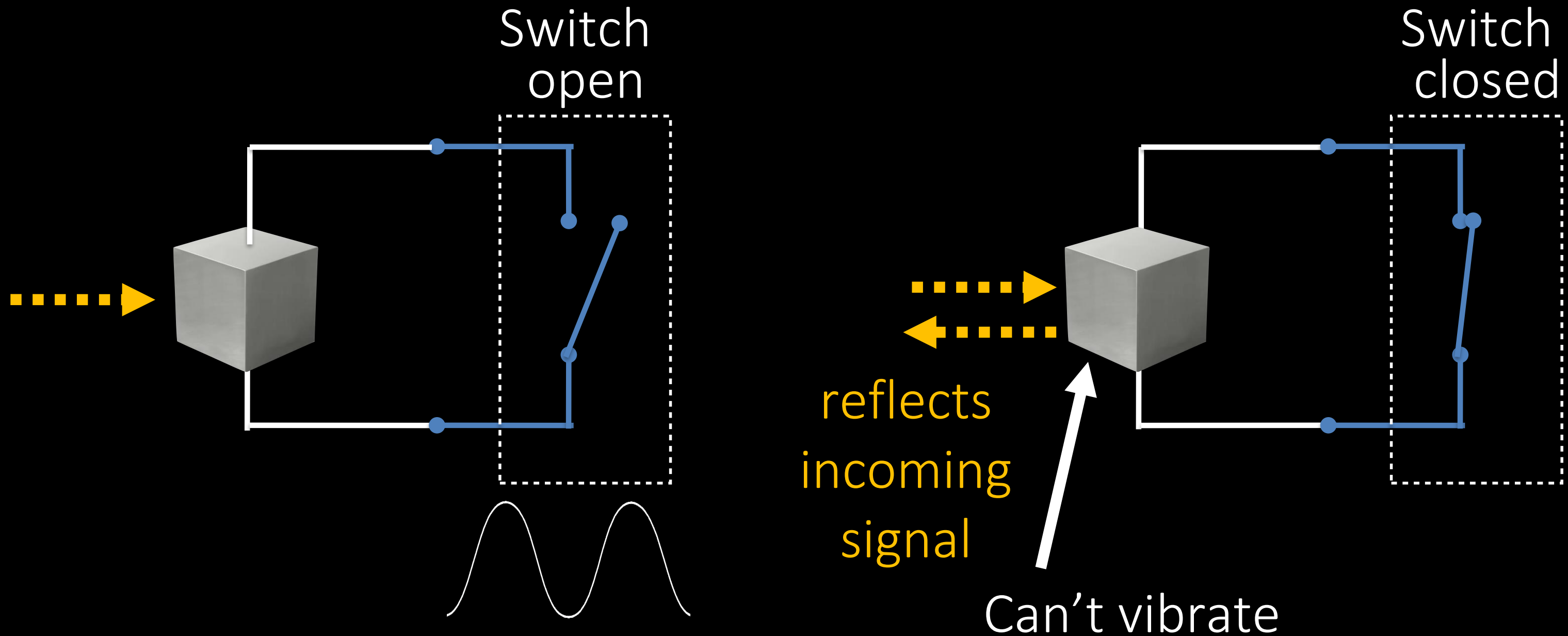
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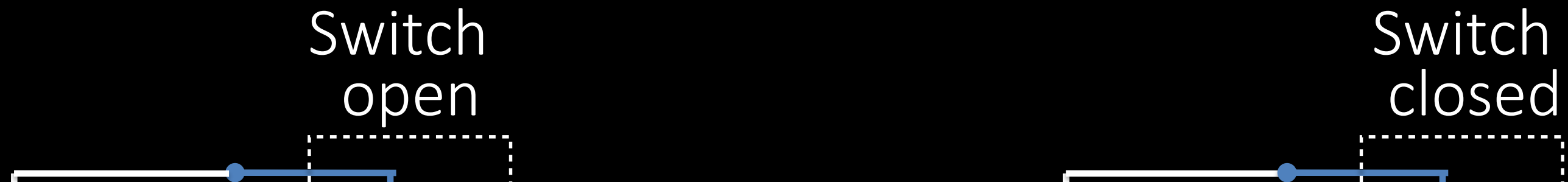


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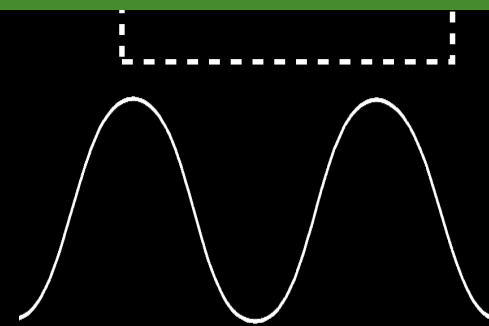


# Piezo-Acoustic Backscatter



PAB 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

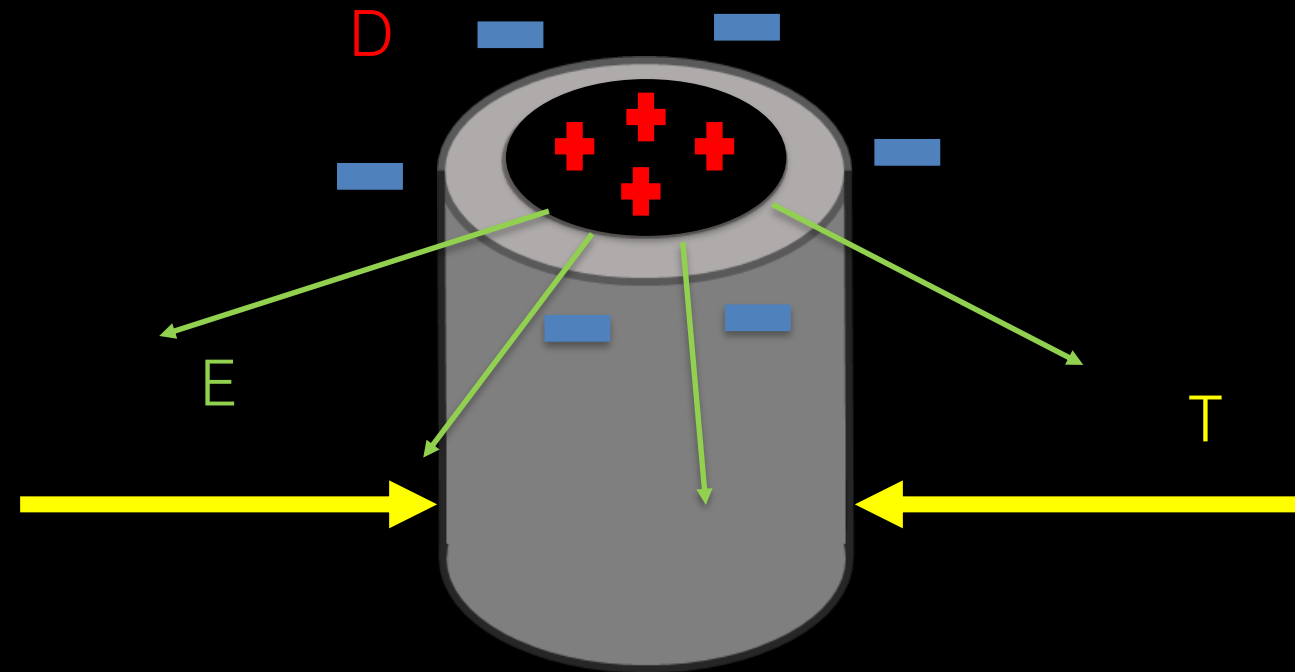


# Piezoelectric Transducers (Physics)

Stress, Strain, Resonance frequency, Impedance matching

$$D = dT + \epsilon^T E$$

Charge Displacement      Stress      Electric Field

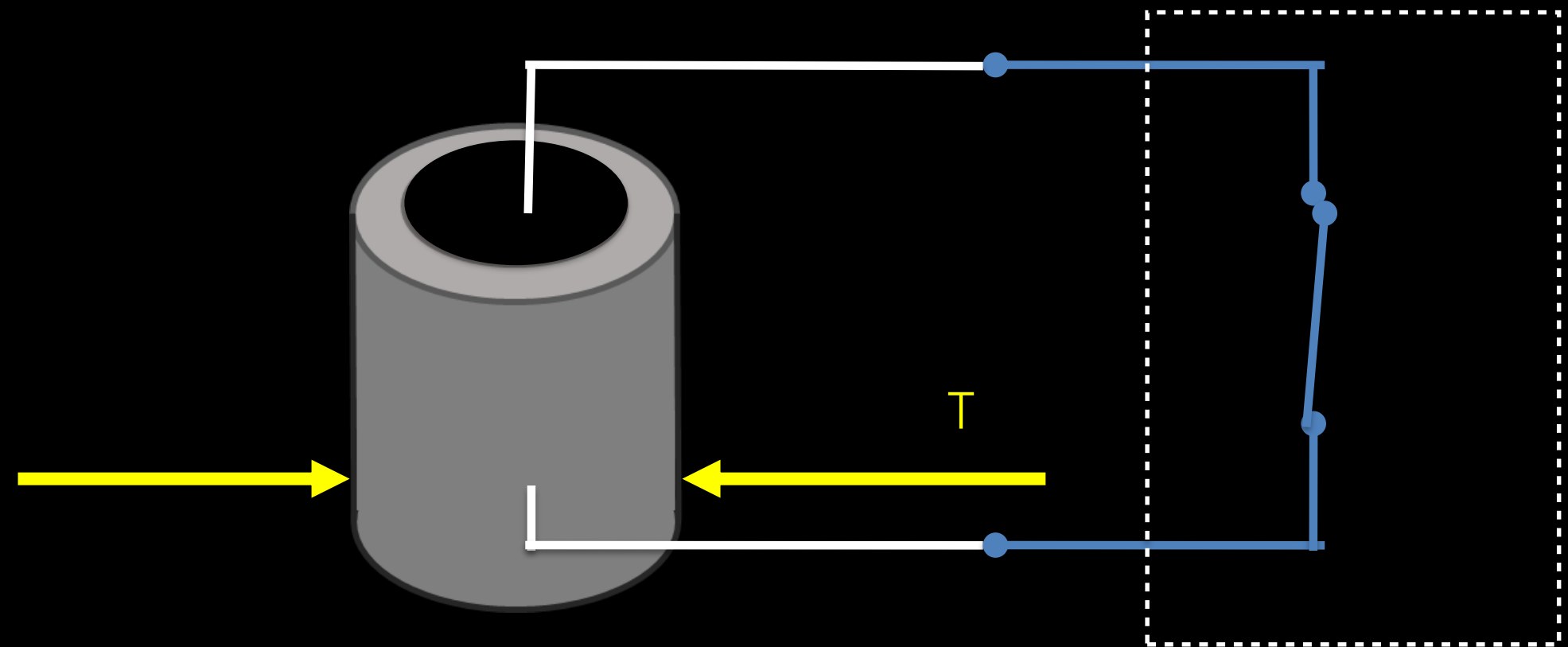




# Piezoelectric Transducers (Physics)

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$$D = dT + \epsilon^T E$$



$$T = 0$$

# Piezoelectric Transducers (Physics)

Stress, Strain, Resonance frequency, Impedance matching

$$D = dT + \epsilon^T E$$

$$T = 0 \longleftarrow \text{Net Stress}$$

$$T = P_{ref} + P_{in} \qquad P_{in} = P_o \sin(2\pi f t)$$

$$P_{ref} = -P_o \sin(2\pi f t) \longleftarrow \text{The same signal gets reflected back}$$

# Piezoelectric Transducers (Physics)

Stress, Strain, Resonance frequency, Impedance matching

$$D = dT + \epsilon^T E$$

$$S = s^E T + dE$$

Total Deformation (strain)

Compliance coefficient

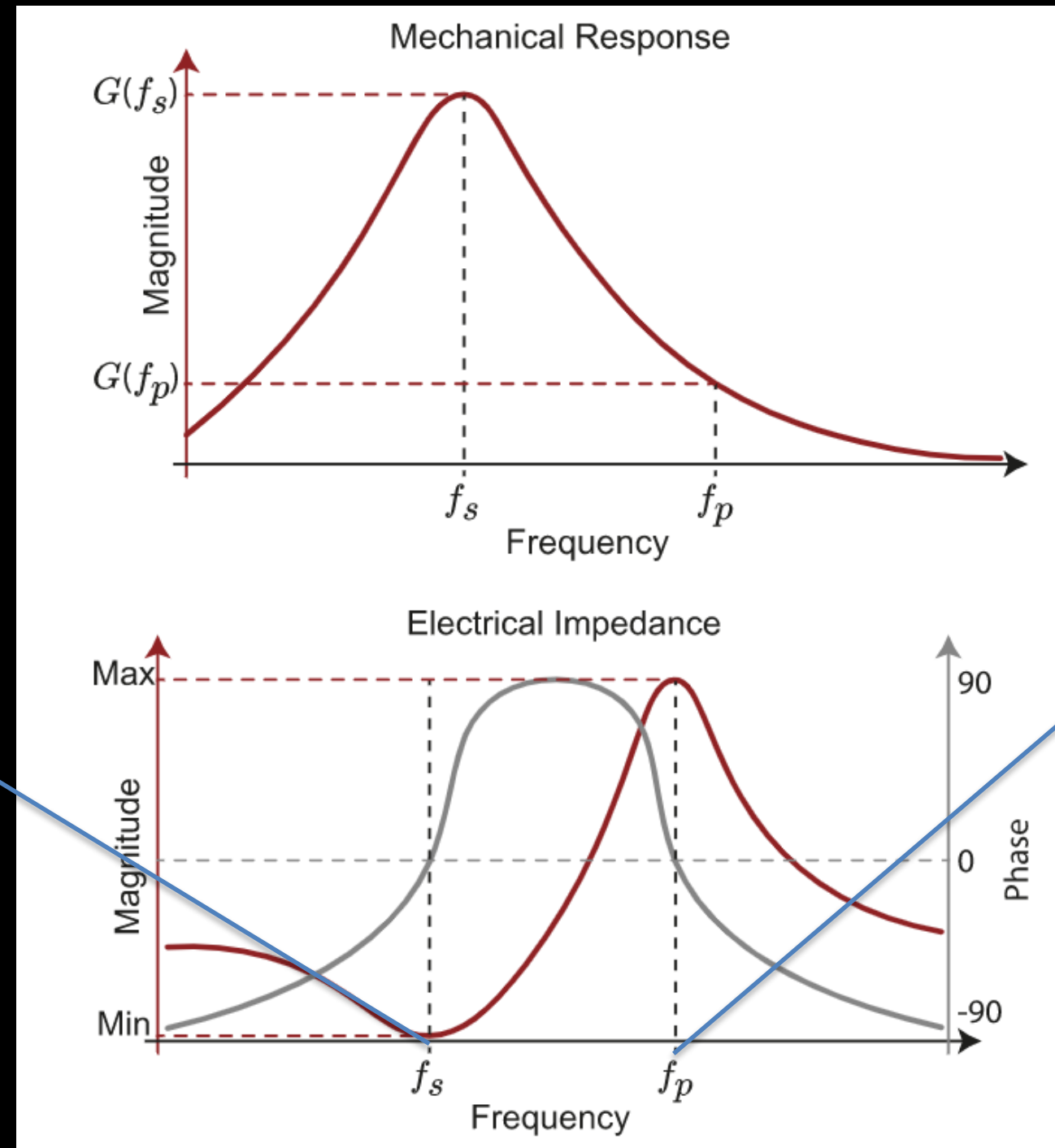
$$T = 0, E = 0$$

Strain = 0, the material cannot deform

# Piezoelectric Transducers (Physics) -- Continued

Stress, Strain, Resonance frequency, Impedance matching

Resonance



Anti-Resonance

# Piezoelectric Transducers (Physics) -- Continued

Stress, Strain, Resonance frequency, Impedance matching

- Resonance is a function of frequency, to get maximum power transfer, we need to match impedance of our circuit to the impedance of the piezo transducer (at resonance)

$$Z_L = Z_S^*$$

- Impedance matching can also improve SNR, reflected power:

$$P_r = \left| \frac{Z_L - Z_S^*}{Z_L + Z_S} \right|^2$$

# Piezoelectric Transducers (Physics) -- Continued

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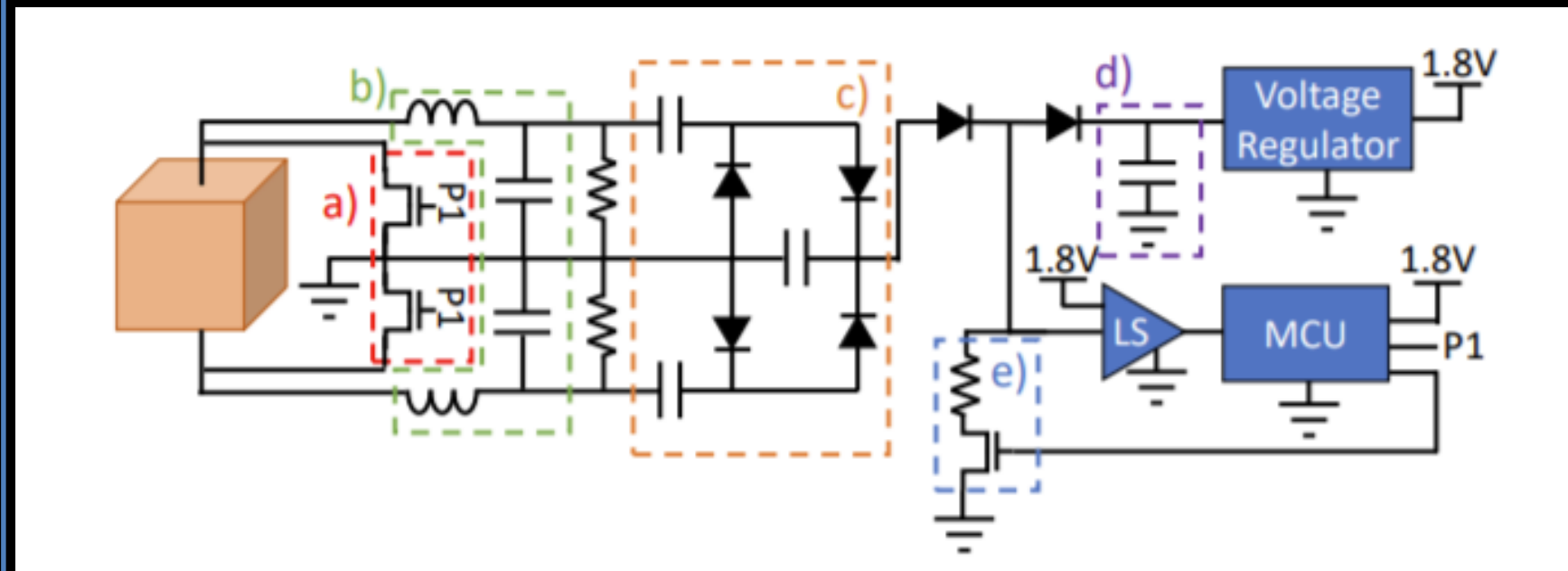
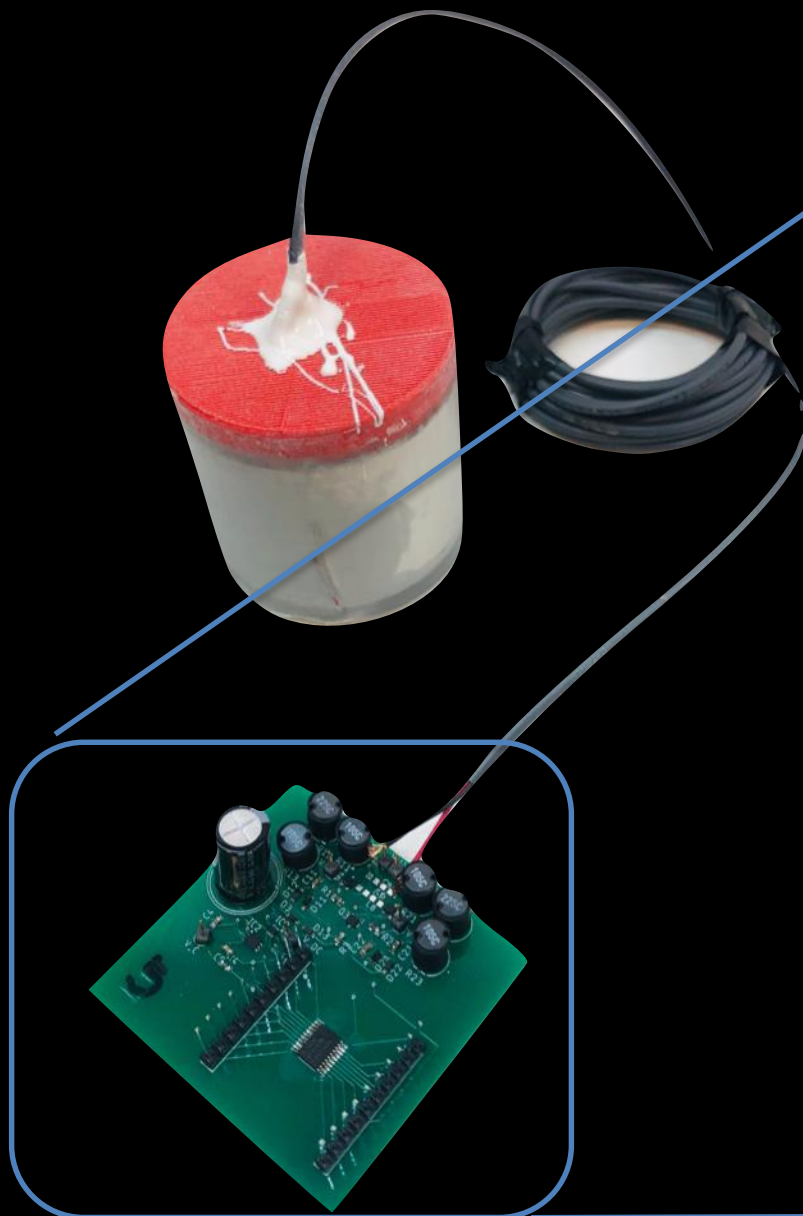
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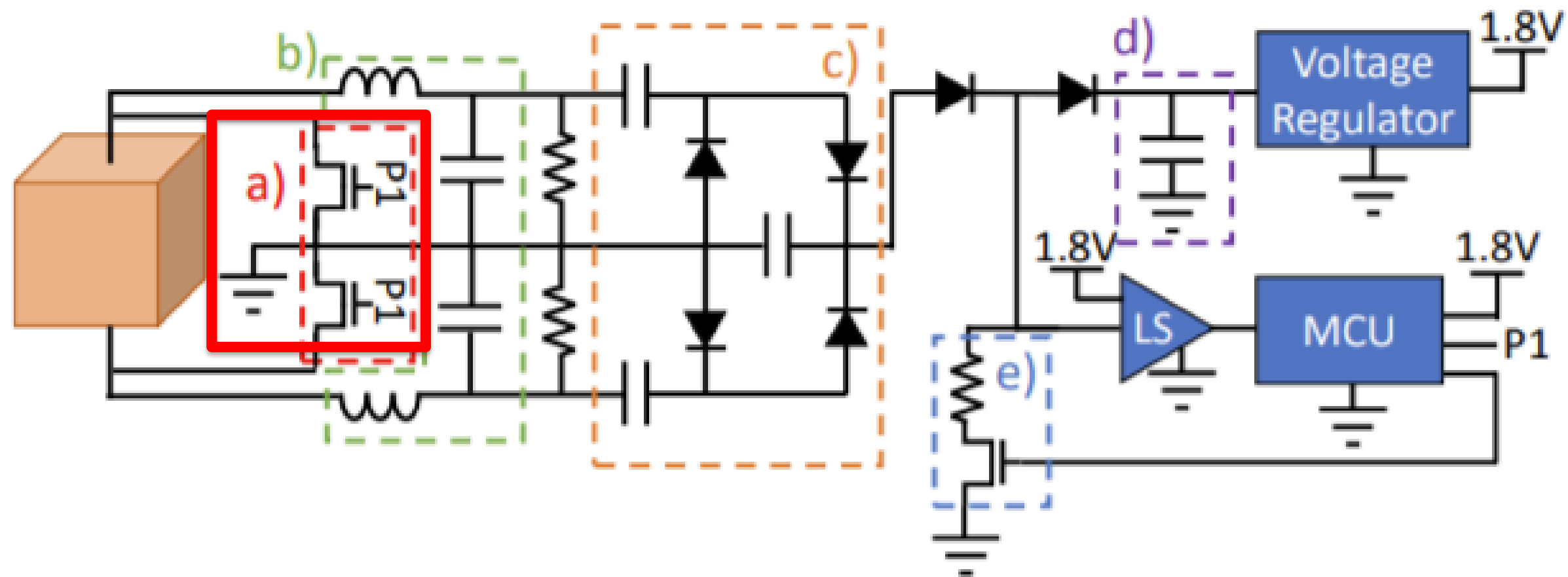
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# Piezo Acoustic Backscatter -- Circuit Design

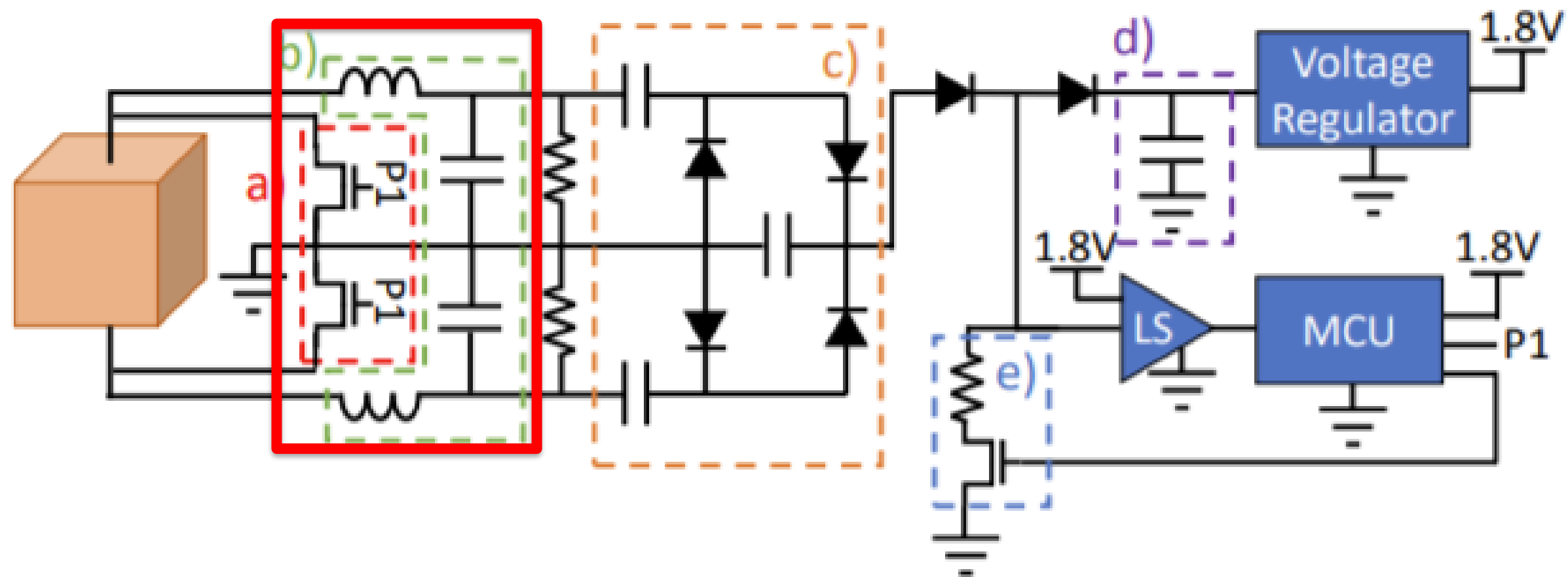


## Piezo Acoustic Backscatter -- Circuit Design (Continued)

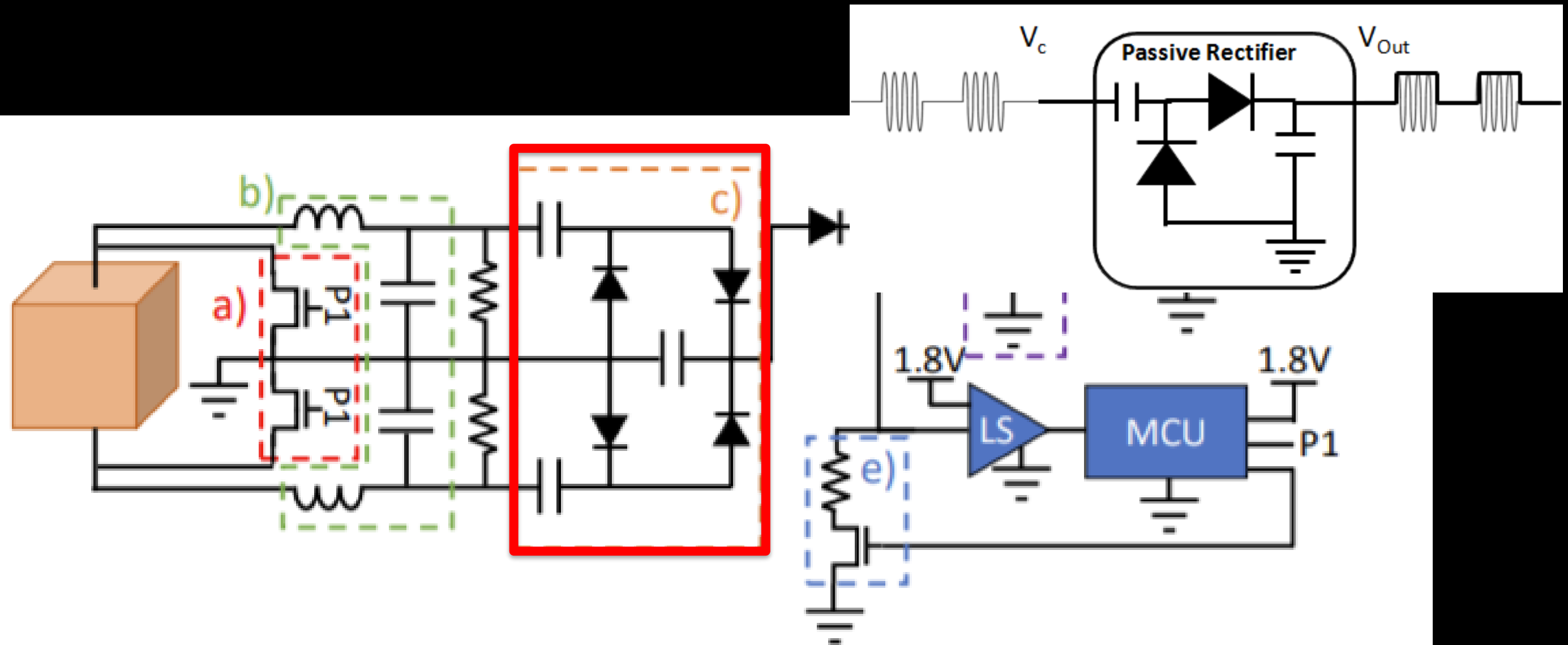




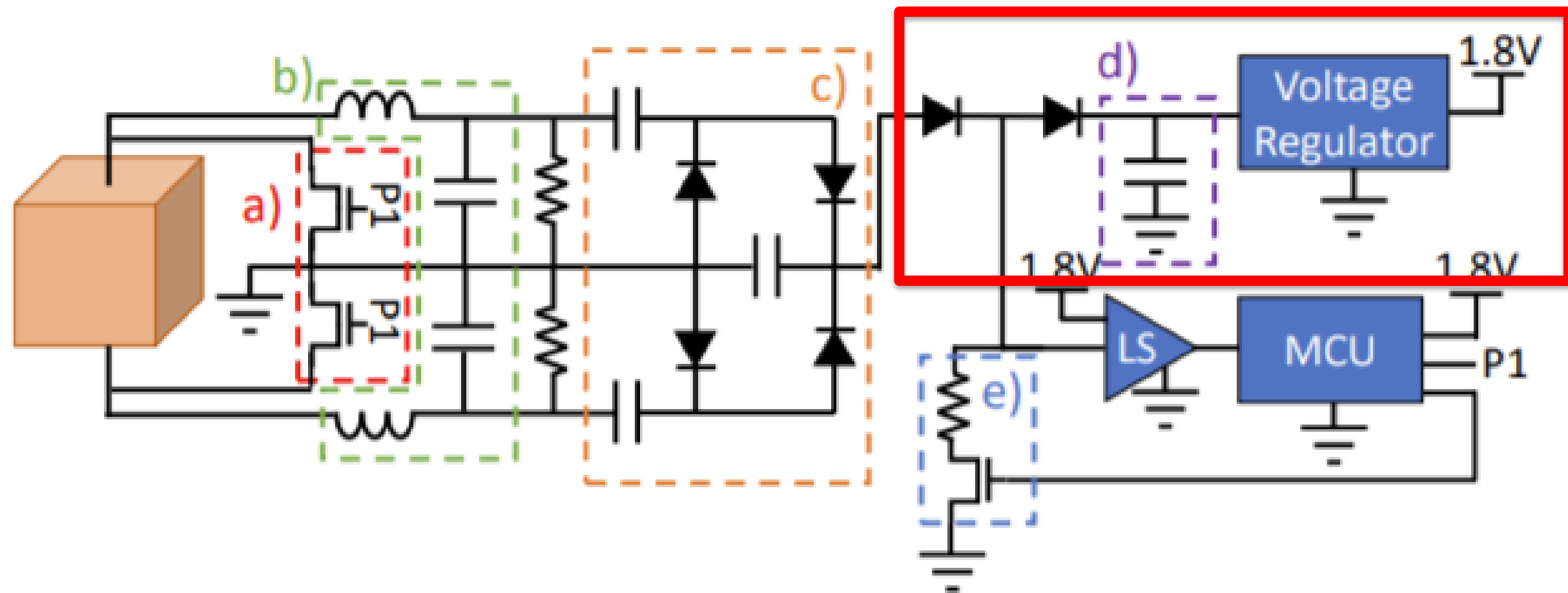
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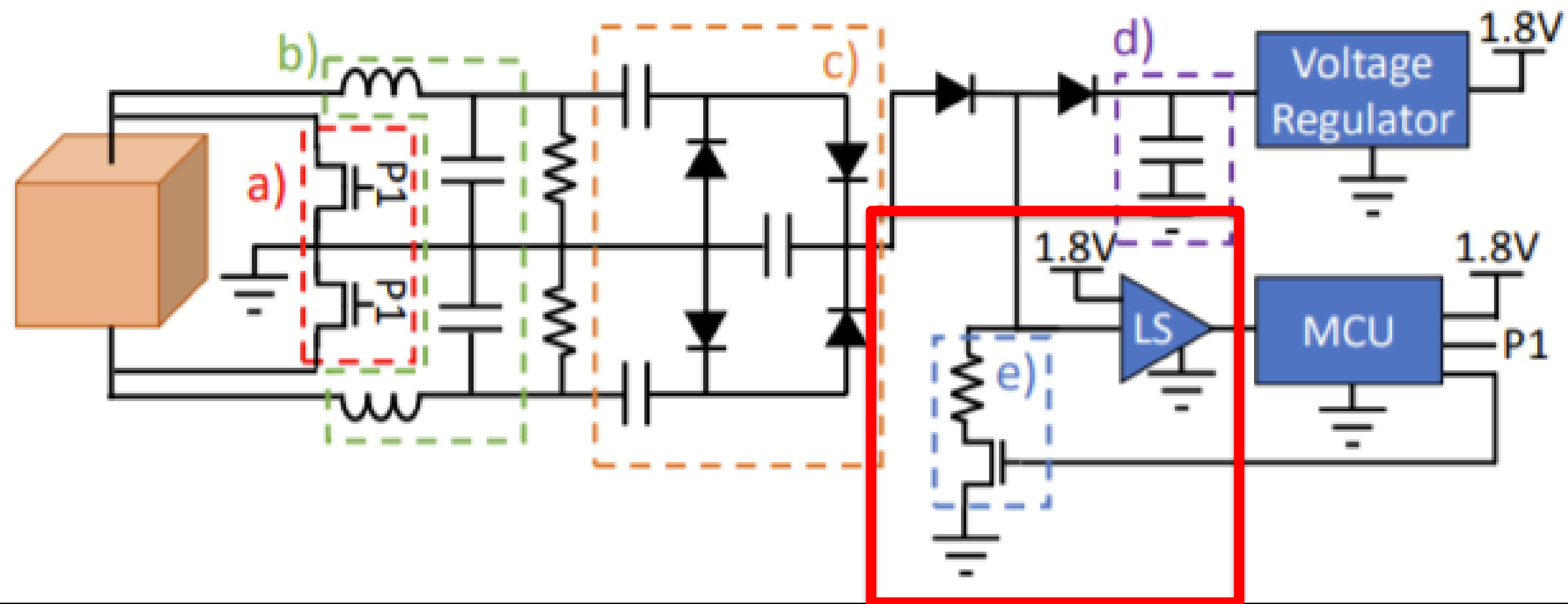
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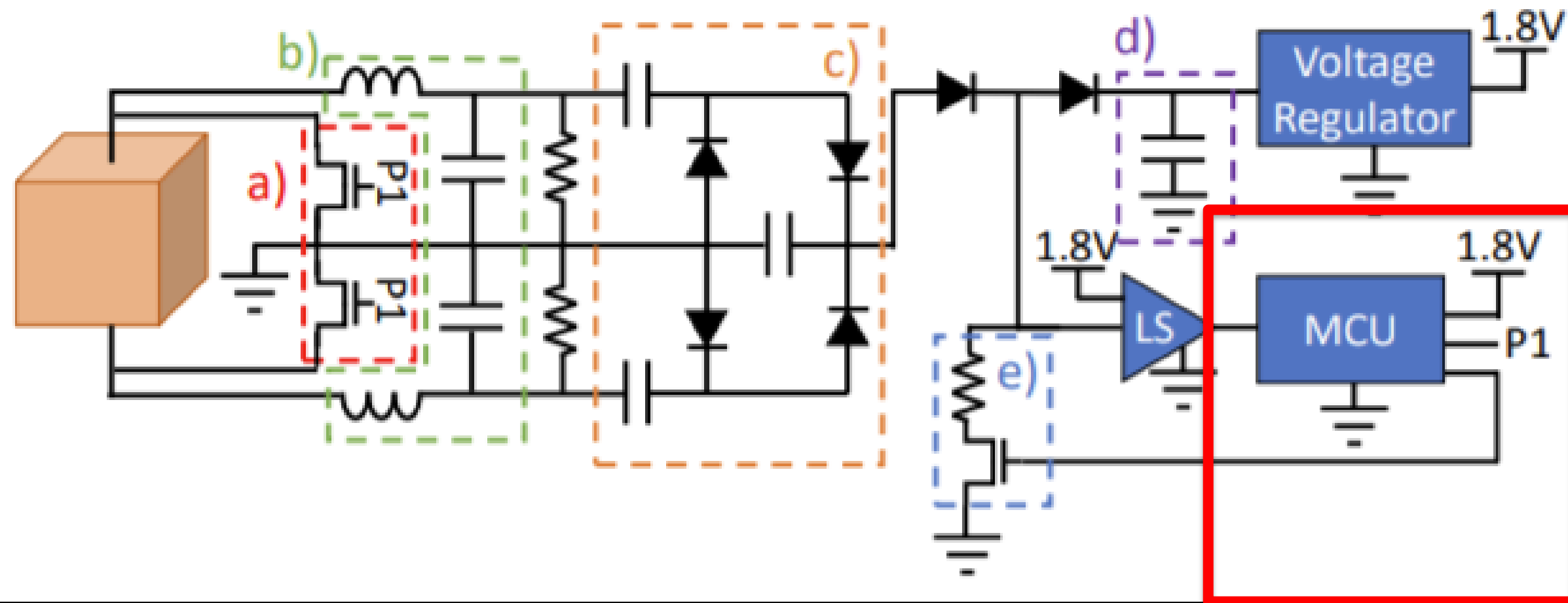
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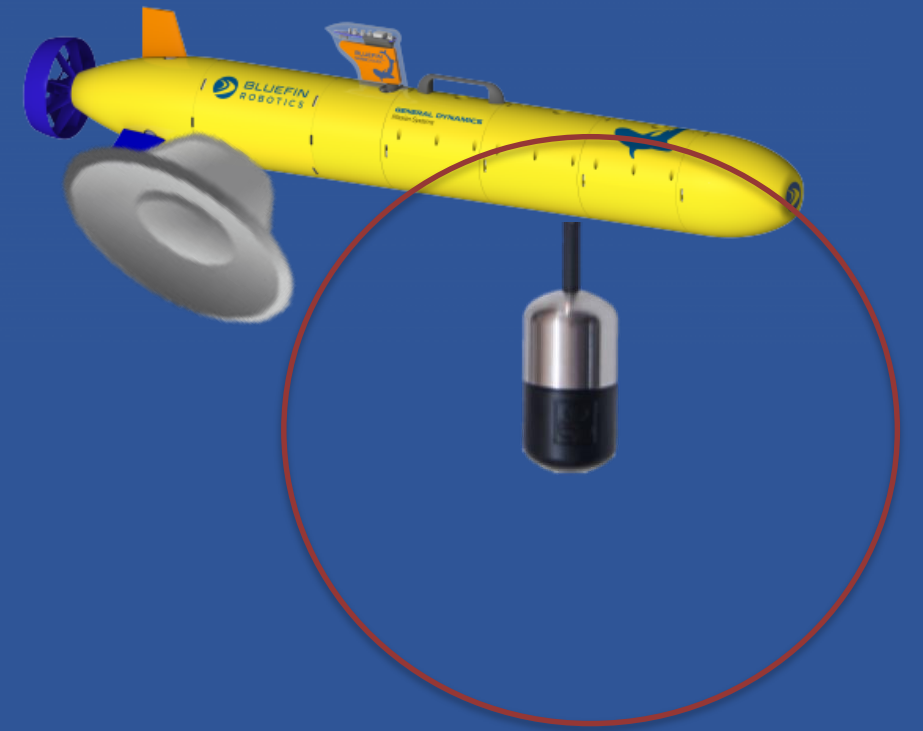
## Piezo Acoustic Backscatter -- Circuit Design (Continued)



# Underwater Backscatter : Hydrophone

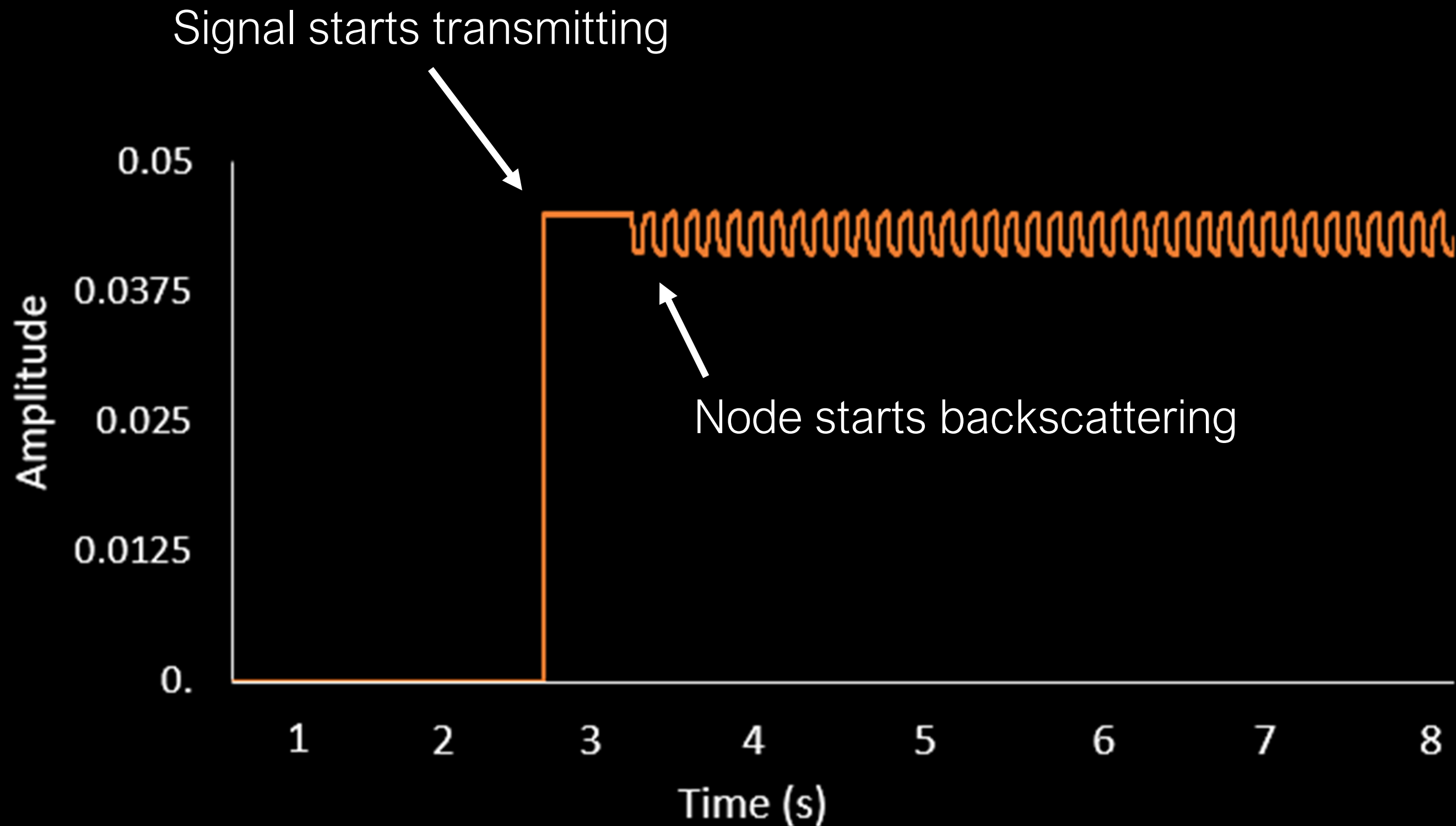


Acoustic  
Reflector





# Measuring the Backscatter Signal (by Hydrophone)



# Channel Estimation (Math)

$$y = h_2 \sin(2\pi f t) + h_1 h_3 p \sin(2\pi f t)$$

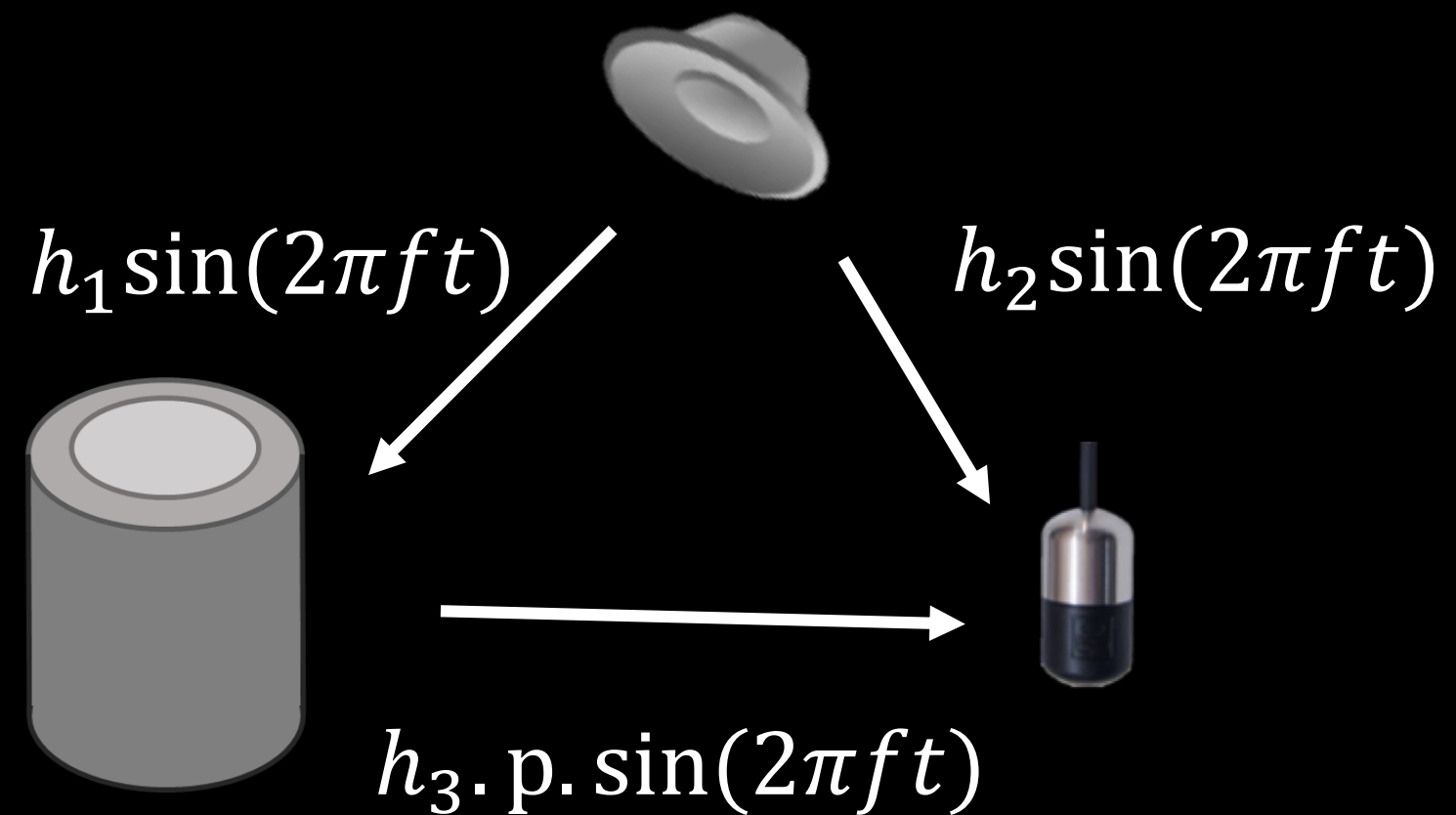
$$y = h_2 \sin(2\pi f t) + h.p.\sin(2\pi f t)$$

$$y_d = LPF(y * \sin(2\pi f t))$$

$$y_d = h_2 + h.p$$

If preamble is zero mean then:

$$h = \frac{\sum (h_2 + h.p)p}{\|p\|^2}$$

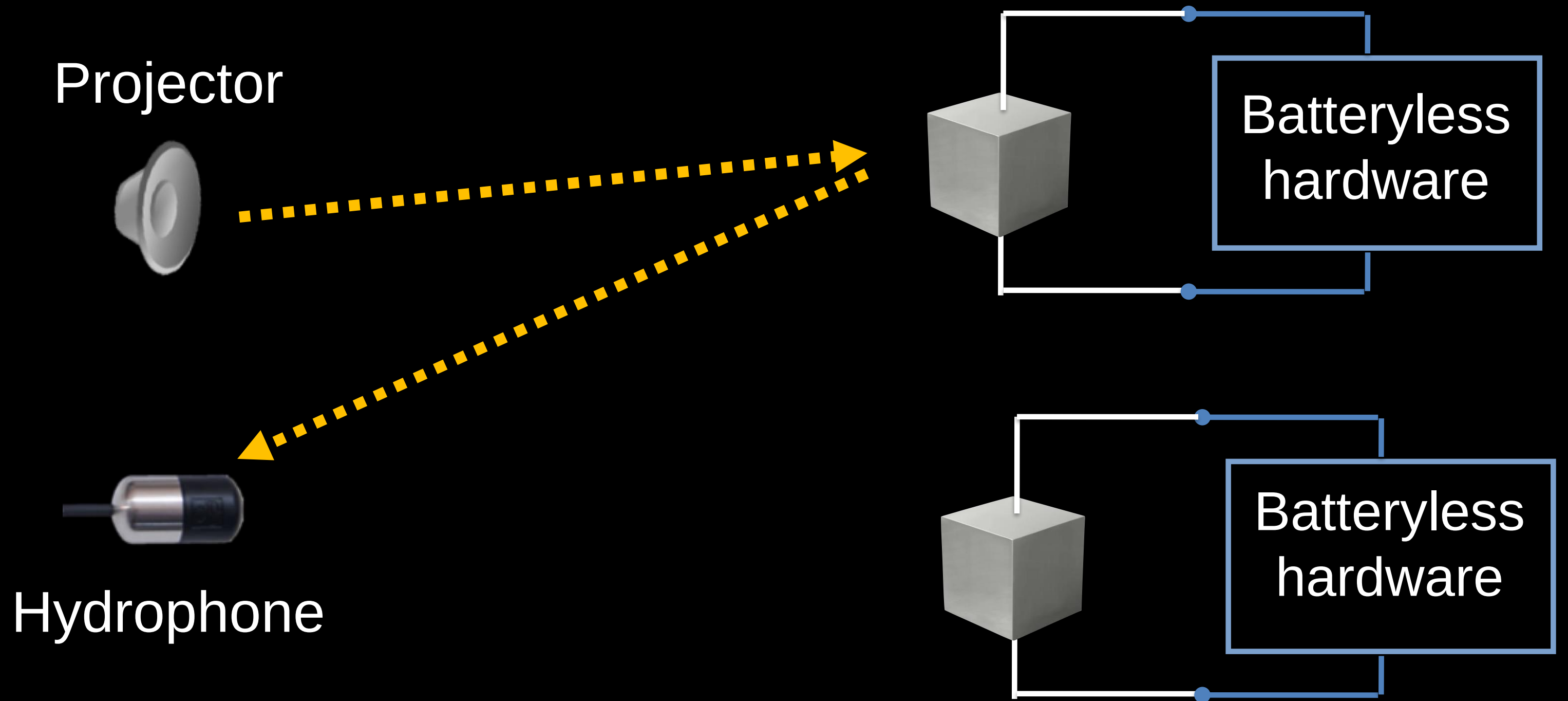




# Extending to Multiple Nodes

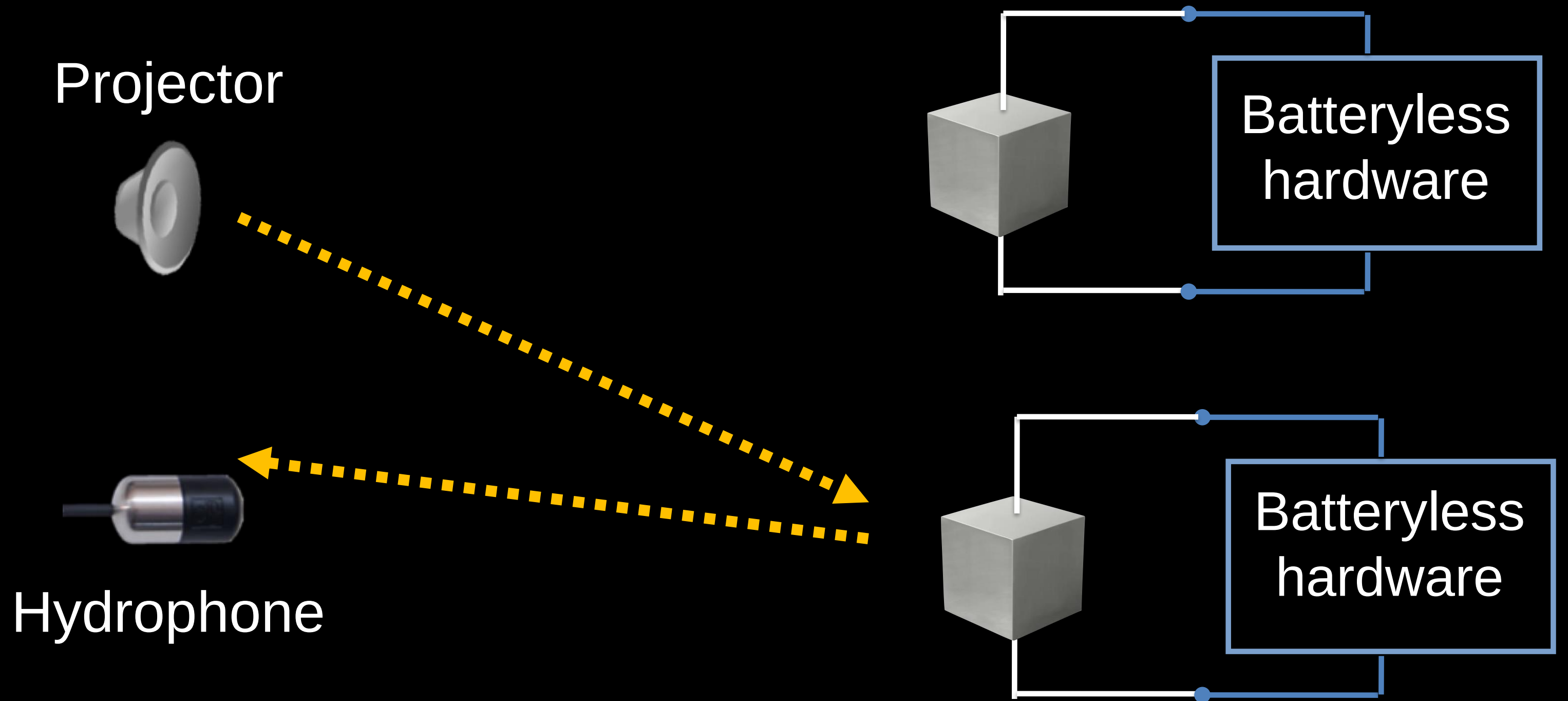
# Extending to Multiple Nodes

## Option 1: Time Division Multiplexing



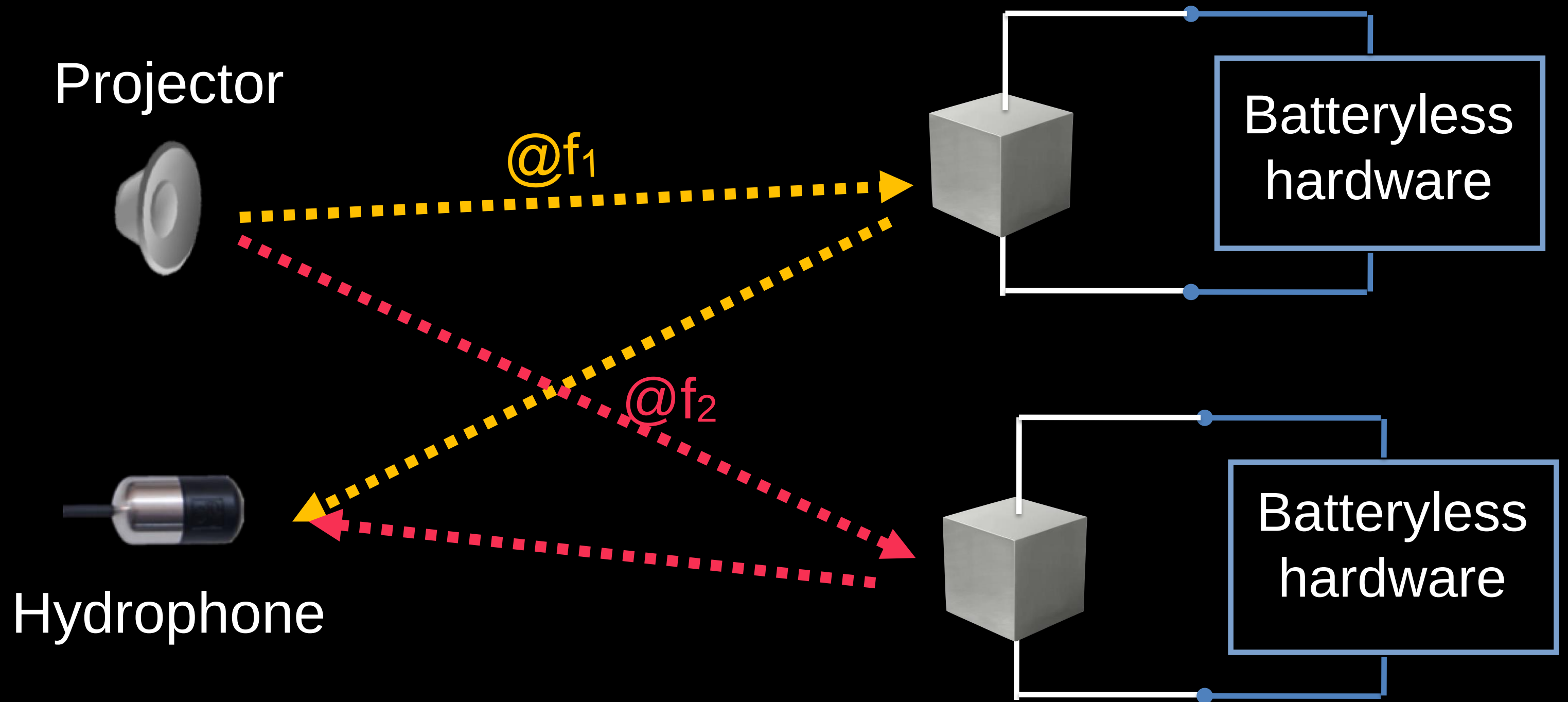
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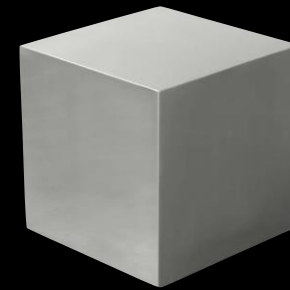
# Extending to Multiple Nodes

## Option 2: Frequency Division Multiplexing



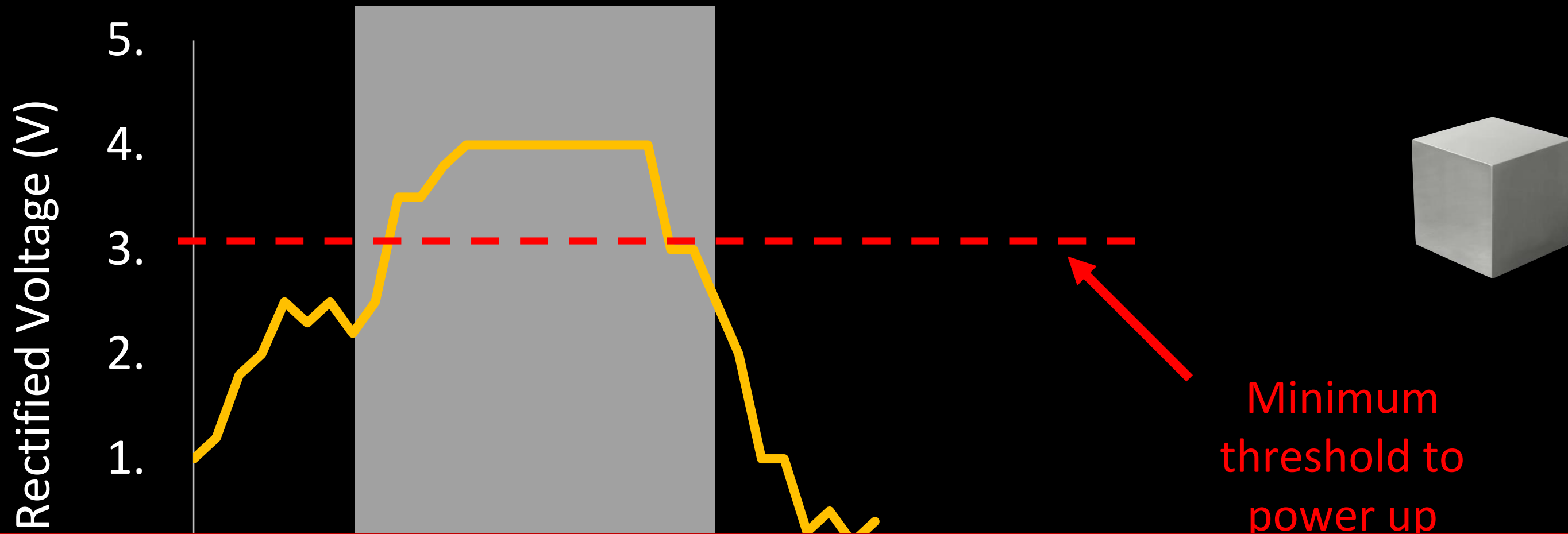
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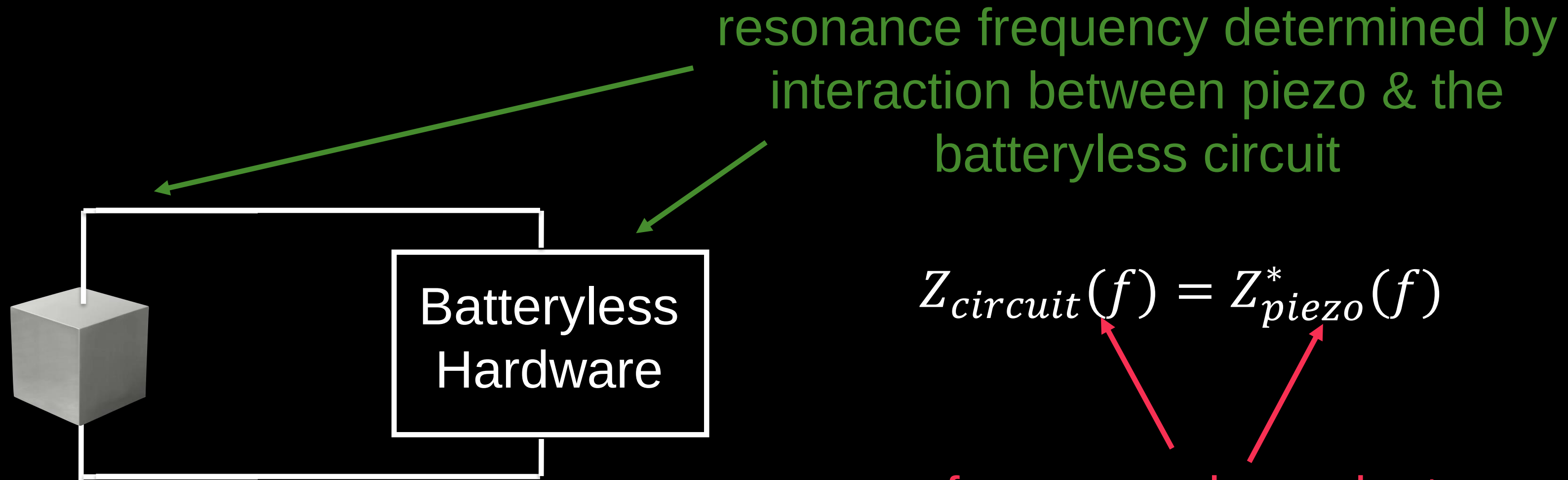


Operating at resonance maximizes energy harvesting but limits concurrent transmissions (and FDMA)



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

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

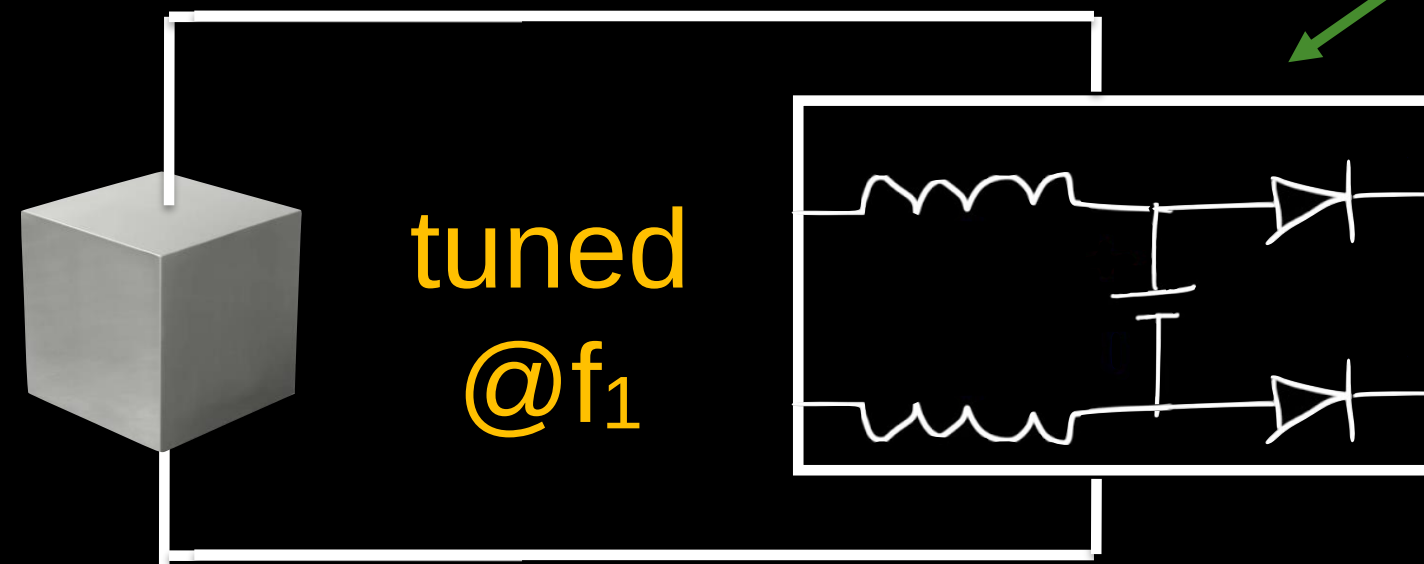
frequency dependent

→ 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

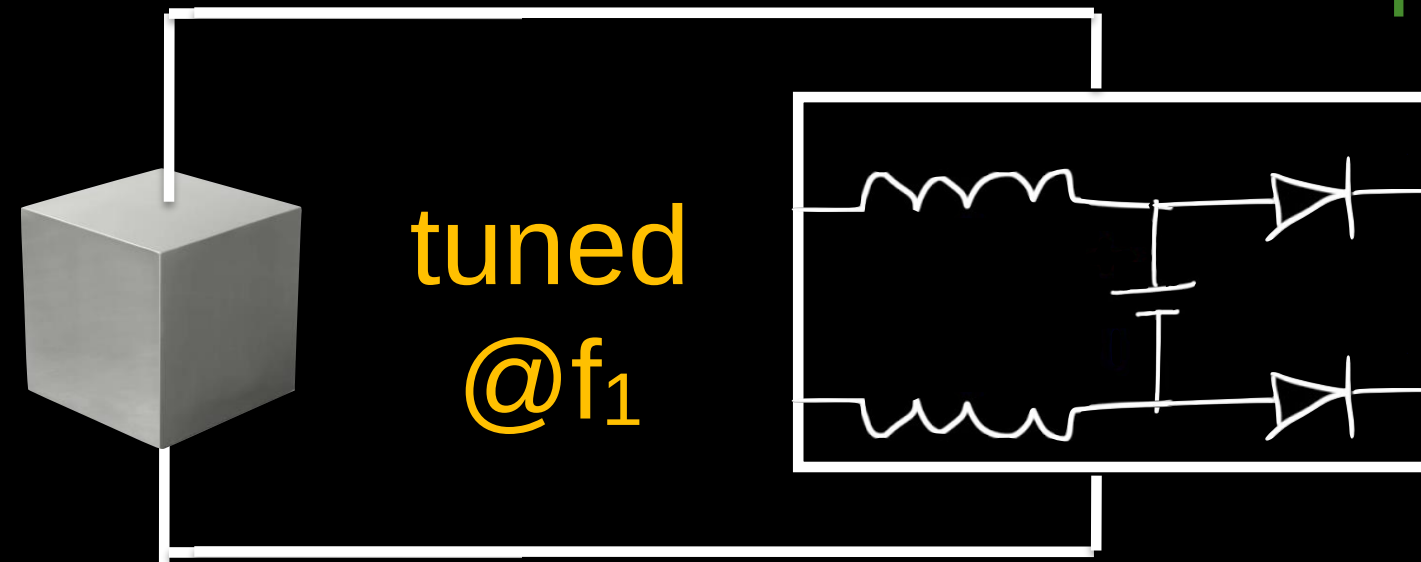


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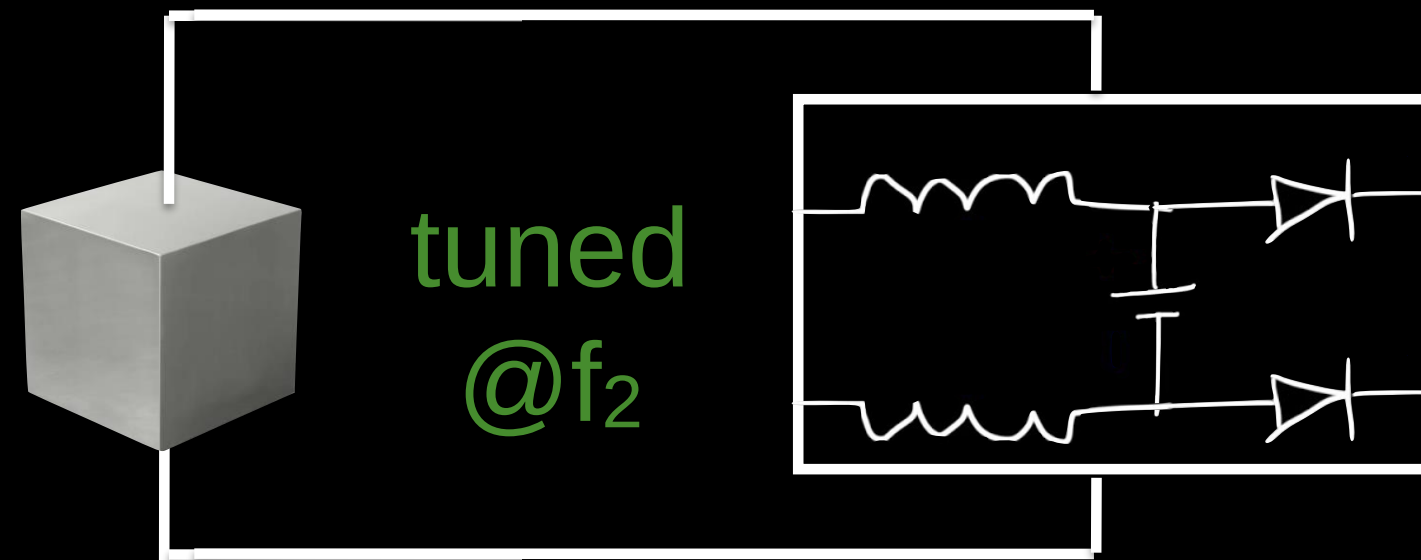


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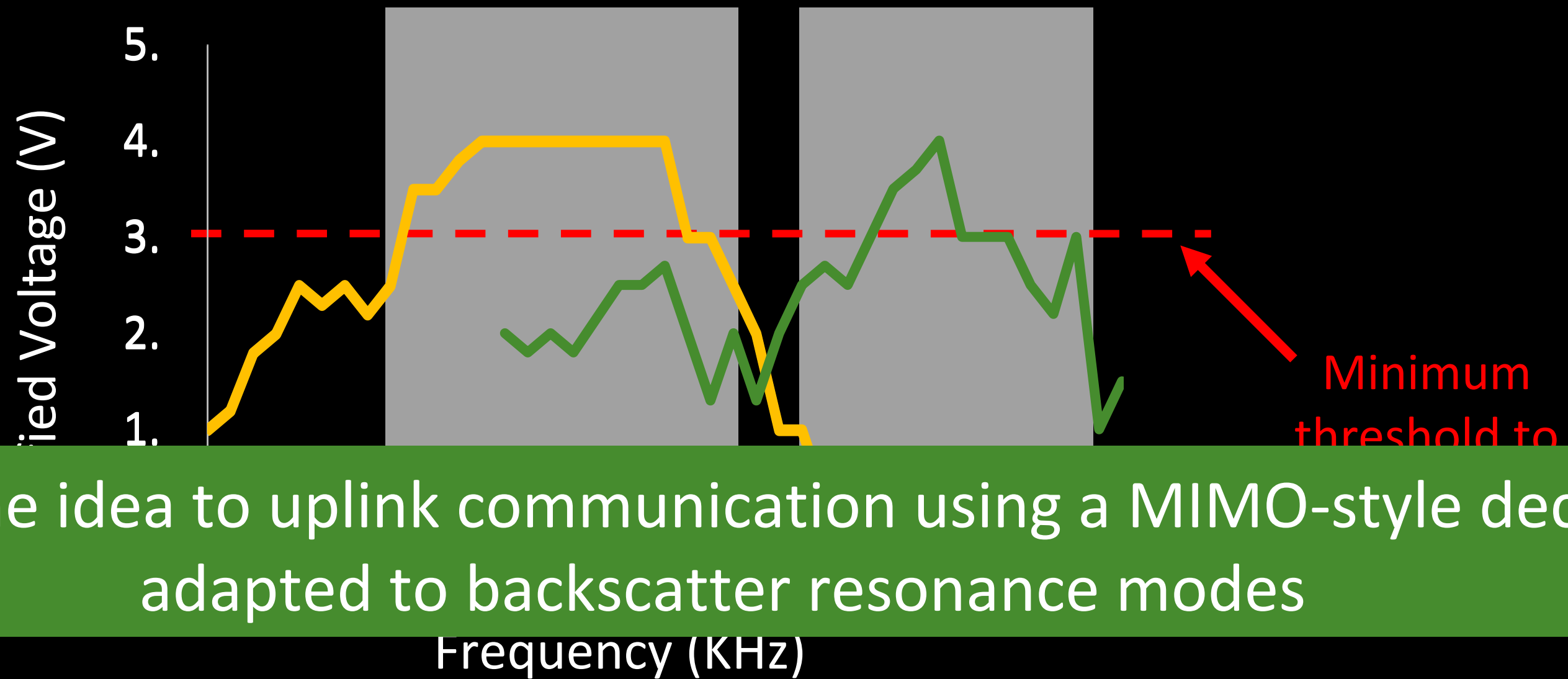
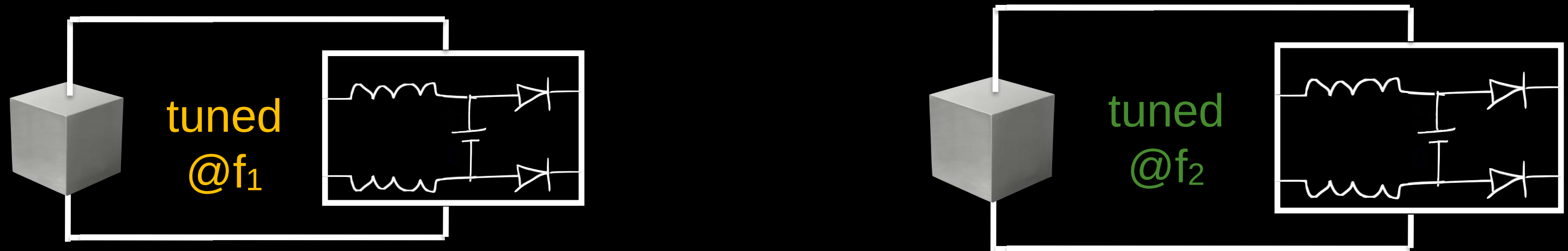
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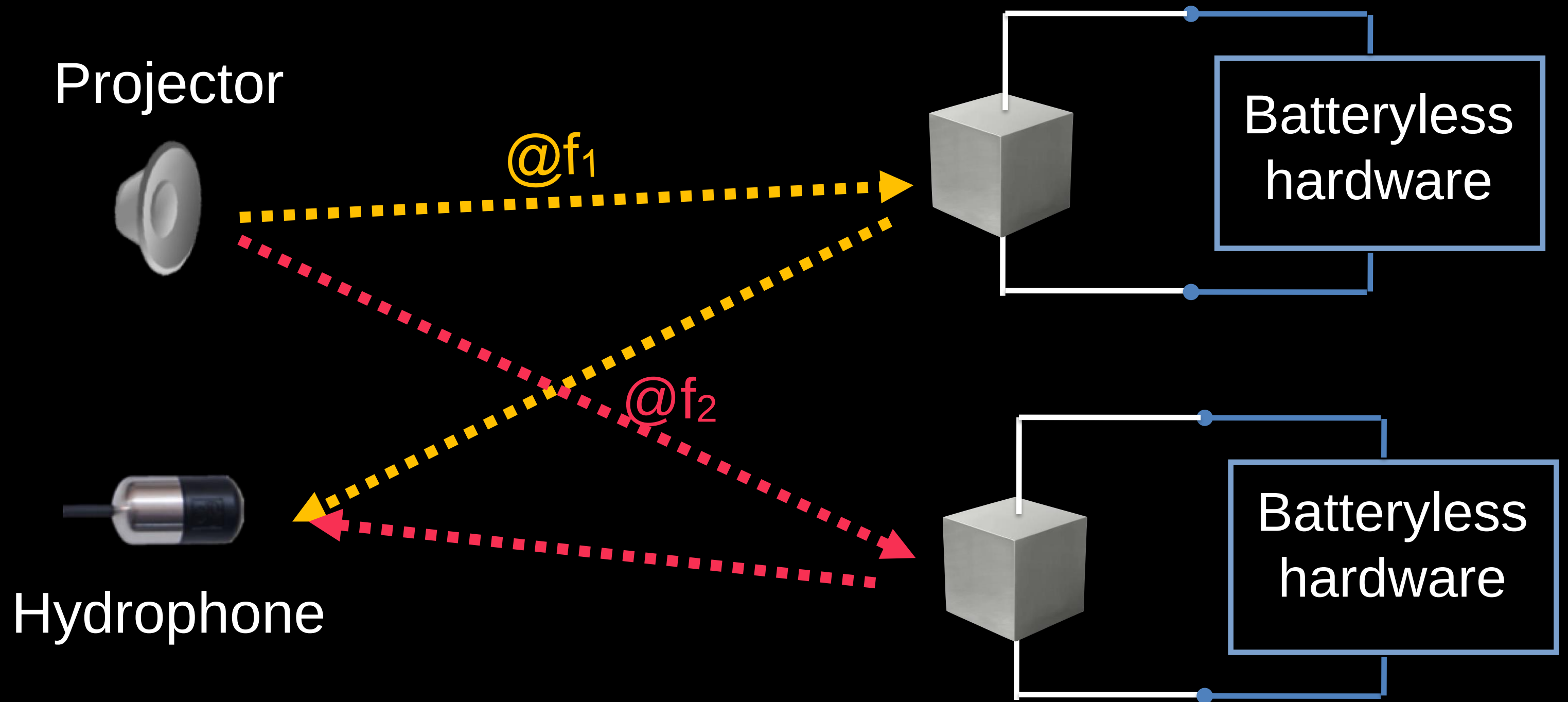
# Solution Idea: Shift the resonance frequency *itself* to a different channel



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

# Extending to Multiple Nodes

## Option 2: Frequency Division Multiplexing

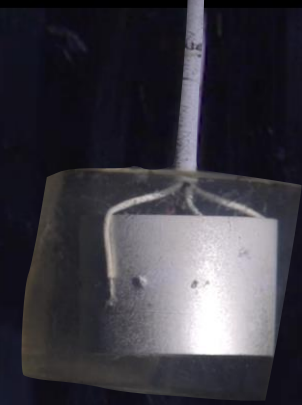


# Implementation

Hydrophone



Projector



Uplink (FM0)

Downlink (PWM)

Batteryless  
PAB sensor



# Objectives of Today's Lecture

Learn **fundamentals** of energy harvesting, backscatter, end-to-end system design

- ✓ 1. Why is it not feasible to use batteries with underwater IoT sensors?
- ✓ 2. What are underwater backscatter systems, why do they consume net-zero power?
- ✓ 3. What are the different components that make an end-to end underwater backscatter system?
  - The physical, mathematical, engineering, and design fundamentals
  - Why are these systems designed the way they are



# Next Class (Underwater Localization)

## 1) Required (Reviews)

- Inverted Ultra-short baseline Localization

## 2) Optional Readings

- Underwater backscatter localization



Following week pitch projects in the class (slack)

# Feedback on Reviews