Energy harvesting at micro scale

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NiPS Laboratory
Noise in Physical Systems

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Perugia

NiPS Laboratory
Noise in Physical Systems

WISEPOWER

Plan of the presentation

1) Some motivations
2) Some modeling
3) Some considerations
4) Some conclusions

Some motivations

Energy required to operate the electronic devices

We need to bridge the gap by acting on both arrows

Necessary knowledge is in the **micro-scale energy management**

Energy available from various sources

Some modeling

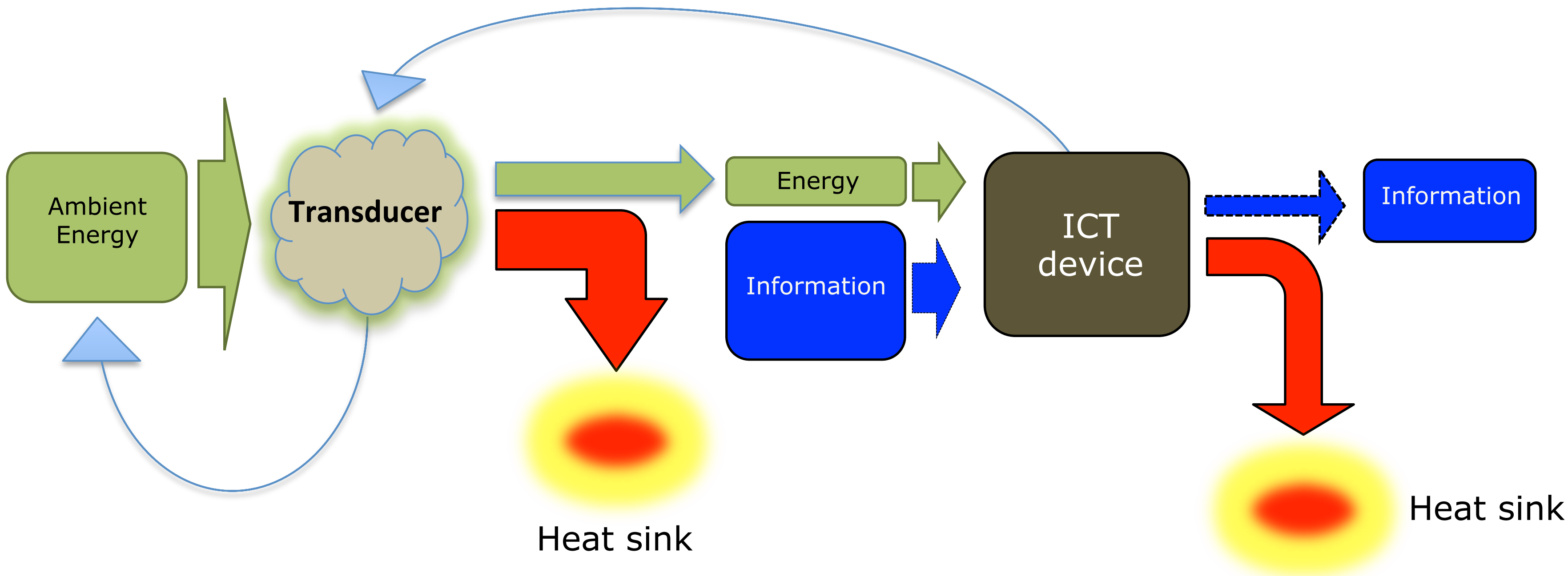
The device powering issue:

1) How much energy is needed to power a device ?

2) Where does the device get the needed energy ?

We consider devices at MEMS scale and below

We consider "ICT devices": i.e. devices mainly devoted to computing task

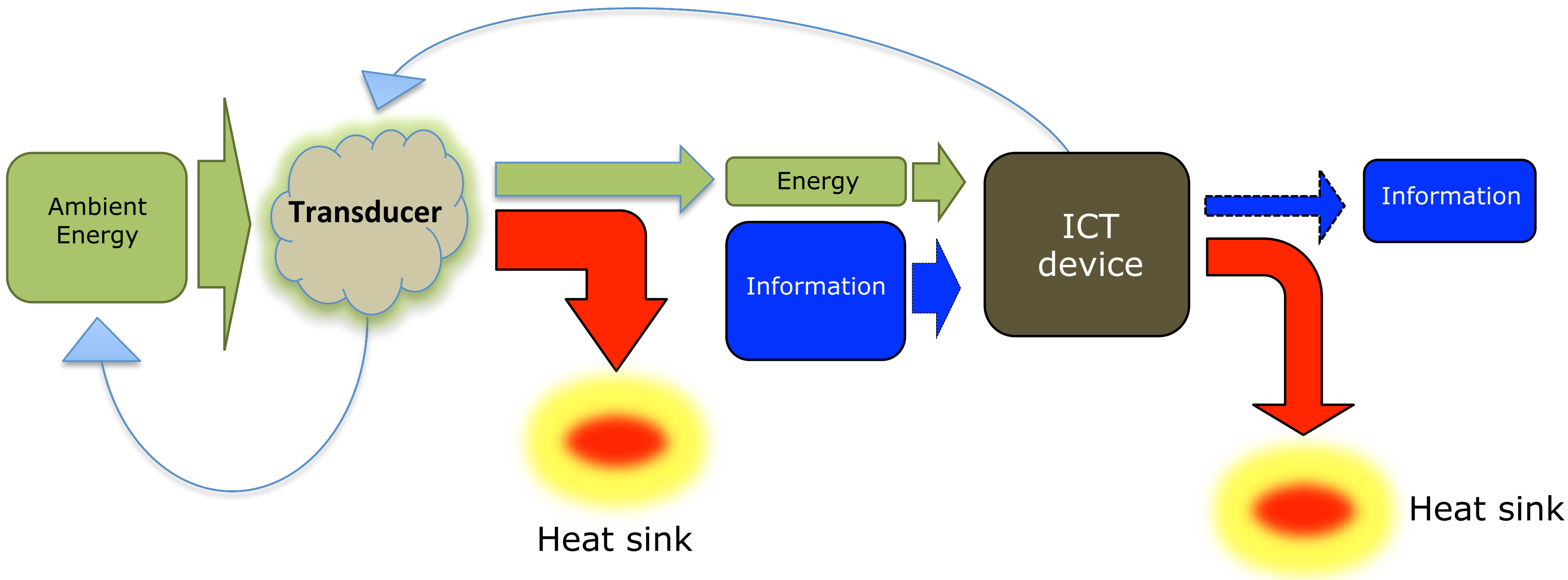


An **ICT device** is an info-thermal machine that inputs information and energy (under the form of work), processes both and outputs information and energy (mostly under the form of heat).

Some interesting questions:

Why all the energy ends up in heat? What does it mean "energy dissipation"? Can be avoided?

What is the role of information? Is this a physical quantity that affects the energy transformations?



We need a physical model…

Two physical systems:

They transform energy

They have many d.o.f. (presence of fluctuations)

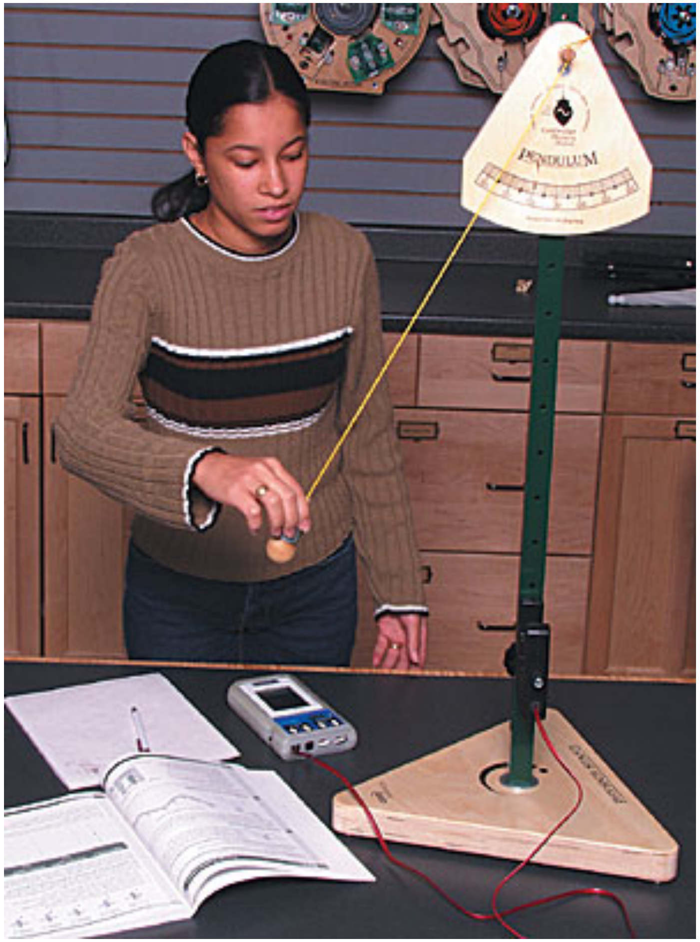
They are operated in a changing environment

~~Thermodynamics~~ ~~Statistical mechanics~~ Non-equilibrium statistical mechanics

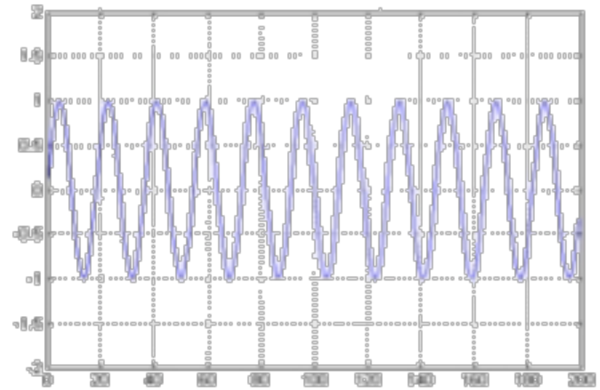
In this framework we can describe the device behavior in terms of few relevant d.o.f. via a procedure called “adiabatic elimination” or “coarse graining approach”: we exchange the dynamics of a *not small isolated system* with *small not isolated system.*

Let’s see an example…

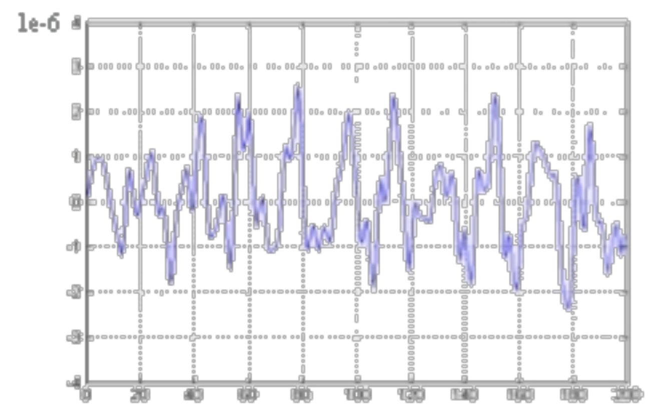
Example: physical system pendulum



Focus on the pendulum angle

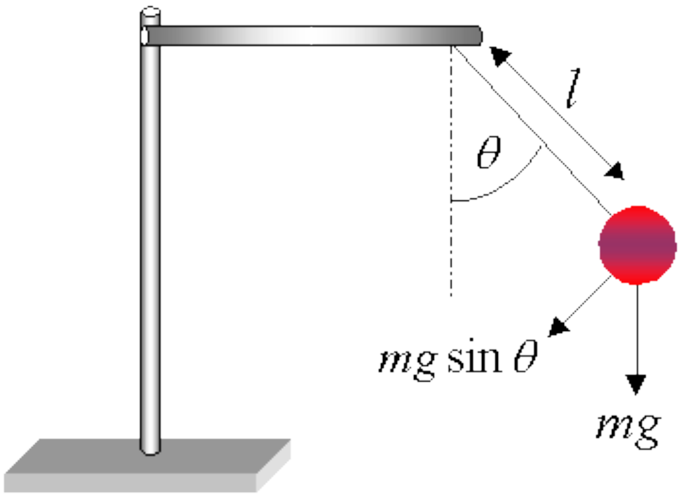


If we come back after a while..



Mass m= 1 Kg, Length l = 1 m, **rms motion = 2 10^{-11} m**

How to model such a behavior?



Motion equation for the angle variable:

$$m\,l^2\,\ddot{\theta} + mgl\sin\theta = 0$$

This is clearly an approximation that does not describe the whole phenomena:

1) Amplitude decay is missing
2) Zero amplitude fluctuation is missing

Improved motion equation for the angle variable $$m\,l^2\,\ddot{\theta} - \gamma\,\dot{x} + mgl\sin\theta + \zeta(t) = 0$$

They come from the neglected N-1 d.o.f.

$$< \zeta(t)\,\zeta(0) > = 2\,K_B T\,\gamma\,\delta(t)$$

The viscous drag expression can be generalized in order to describe a wider class of damping functions $$-\int_{-\infty}^{t} \gamma(t-\tau)\,\dot{x}\,d\tau \quad \Rightarrow \quad \left\langle \zeta(t)\zeta(0) \right\rangle = kT\,\gamma(|t|)$$

Fluctuation – Dissipation theorem

Two physical systems whose dynamical behavior can be described in the framework of non-equilibrium statistical mechanics.

Langevin equation approach

Transducer

ICT device

$$m\ddot{x} = -\gamma \dot{x} + \zeta + F_{ext}$$

$$F_{ext} = -\frac{dU(x,t)}{dx} + \zeta_z$$

Deterministic force depending on *x, t*

Random force depending on *t*

If $F_{ext} >> \zeta$ then the thermal noise contribution can be ignored

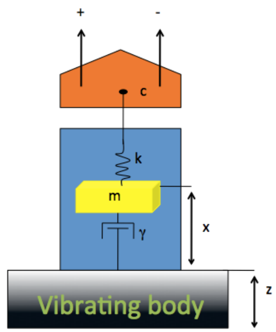
$$m\ddot{x} = -\frac{dU(x,t)}{dx} - \gamma \dot{x} + \zeta_z$$

Two physical systems whose dynamical behavior can be described in the framework of non-equilibrium statistical mechanics.

Langevin equation approach

Two physical systems whose dynamical behavior can be described in the framework of non-equilibrium statistical mechanics.

Langevin equation approach



ICT device

(example from vibration harvester)

$$m\ddot{x} = -\frac{dU(x)}{dx} - \gamma\dot{x} - c(x,V) + \zeta_z + \zeta$$

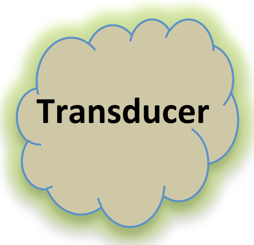
$$\dot{V} = F(\dot{x},V)$$

$$< \zeta(t)\ \zeta(0) > = 2\ K_B T\ \gamma\ \delta(t)$$

See e.g. L. Gammaitoni, There's plenty of energy at the bottom (micro and nano scale nonlinear noise harvesting), Contemporary Physics, Volume 53, Issue 2, 2012

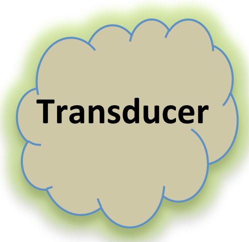
Two physical systems whose dynamical behavior can be described in the framework of non-equilibrium statistical mechanics.

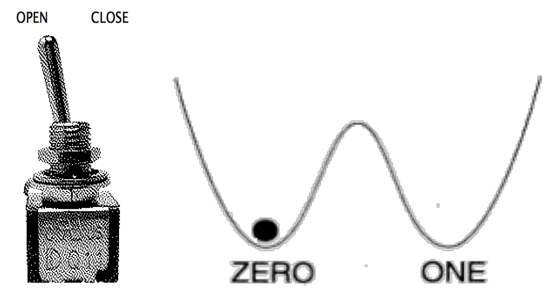
Langevin equation approach



Two physical systems whose dynamical behavior can be described in the framework of non-equilibrium statistical mechanics.

Langevin equation approach





(example from a digital binary switch)

$$m\ddot{x} = -\frac{dU(x)}{dx} - \gamma\dot{x} + F_{sw} + \zeta$$

$$< \zeta(t)\ \zeta(0) > = 2\ K_B T\ \gamma\ \delta(t)$$

Transducer

Langevin equation approach

$$m\ddot{x} = -\frac{dU(x,t)}{dx} + \zeta_z - \gamma\dot{x} + \zeta$$

ICT device

This is a stochastic dynamics whose solution $x(t)$ appears like

We need to introduce a staistical description.

Probability density $P(x,t)$.
$P(x,t)dx$ represents the probability for the observable x to be in (x , $x+dx$).

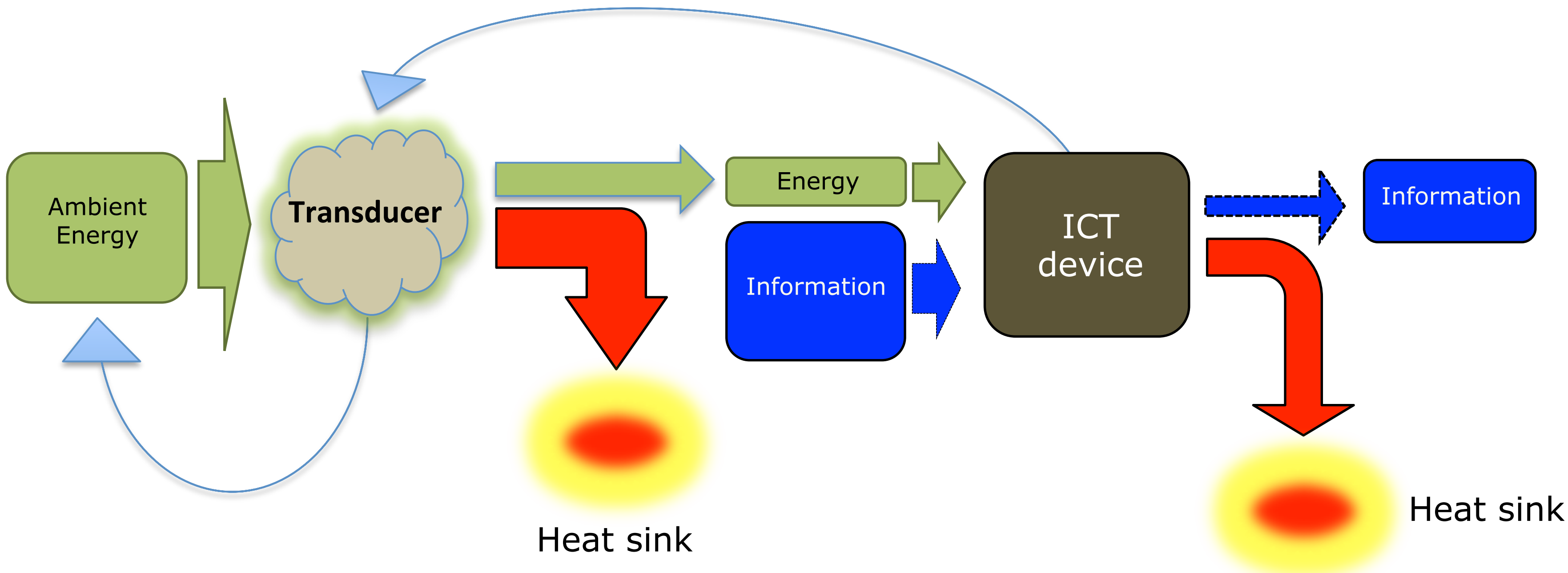
$P(x,t)$ is a deterministic quantity and its time evolution of can be described in terms of the associated Fokker-Planck equation.

Some considerations

The device powering issue:

1) How much energy is needed to power a device ?

2) Where does the device get the needed energy ?



An **ICT device** is an info-thermal machine that inputs information and energy (under the form of work), processes both and outputs information and energy (mostly under the form of heat).

The device powering issue:

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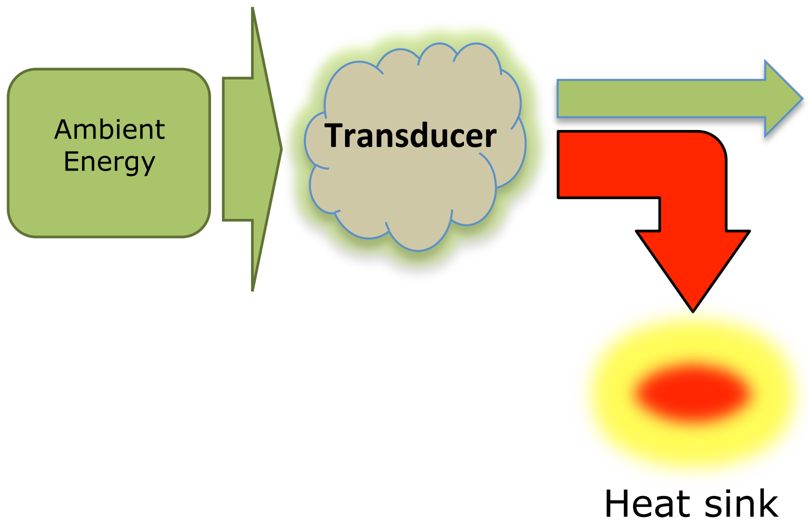
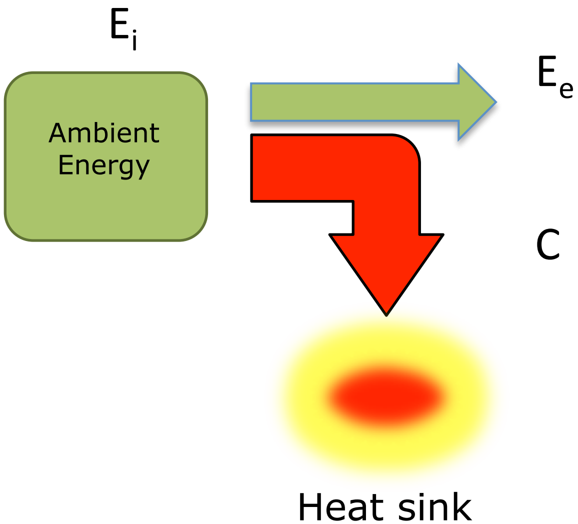


Clearly this energy is obtained from the ambient…

The device powering issue:

1) How much energy is needed to power a device ?

2) Where does the device get the needed energy ?



Energy is conserved....

$$E_e = E_i - C$$

Question: can we make C = 0 ?

C is the energy dissipated during the transformation.

$$m\ddot{x} = -\frac{dU(x,t)}{dx} + \zeta_z - \gamma \dot{x} + \zeta$$

C=C(γ) and γ is associated with the relaxation to equilibrium and depends on the characteristics of the device/material.

The device powering issue:

1) How much energy is needed to power a device ?

2) Where does the device get the needed energy ?

C is the energy dissipated during the transformation. $m\ddot{x} = -\frac{dU(x,t)}{dx} + \zeta_z - \gamma\dot{x} + \zeta$

The usual solution is to go very slow, i.e. to minimize $\dot{x}$

Good news: In principle there is no physical law that forbids to make C = 0

Bad news: This affects the power we can use in the device

C=C(γ) can be a function of time and change with the dissipation process.
Viscous damping, thermo-eleastic damping, structural damping, …

Generalized Langevin equation $$m\ddot{x} = -\frac{dU(x,t)}{dx} + \zeta_z - \int_{-\infty}^{t} \gamma(t-\tau)\,\dot{x}\,d\tau + \zeta$$

The device powering issue:

1) How much energy is needed to power a device ?

2) Where does the device get the needed energy ?

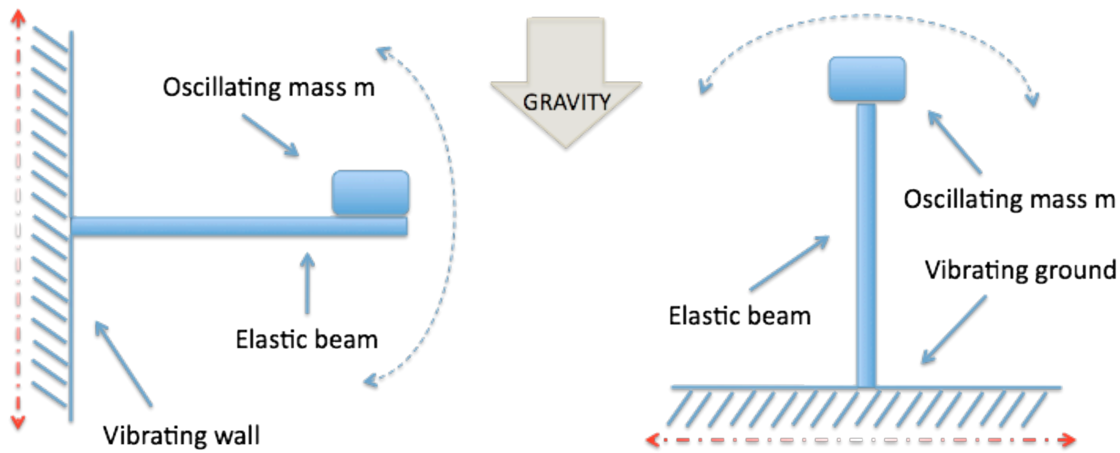
$$m\ddot{x} = -\frac{dU(x,t)}{dx} + \zeta_z - \gamma\dot{x} + \zeta$$

Finally, the role of the potential energy *U(x,t)*

linear oscillator approach

$$U(x) = \frac{1}{2}ax^2$$

cantilever

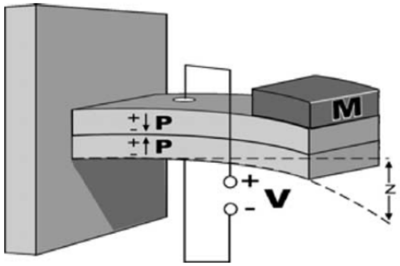


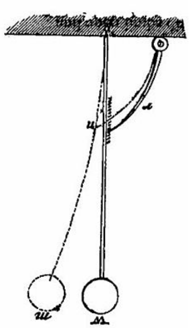
Left: configuration for harvesting vertical vibrations.
Right: configuration for harvesting horizontal vibrations.

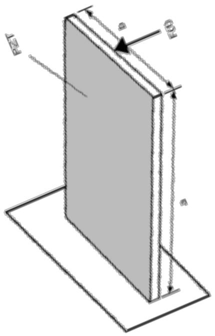
When $U(x) = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$ it is called a linear system

Linear systems have some interesting features… (and engineers like them most)

1) There exist a simple math theory to solve the eq.s
2) They have a resonant behaviour (resonance freq.)
3) They can be "easily" realized with catilevers and pendula

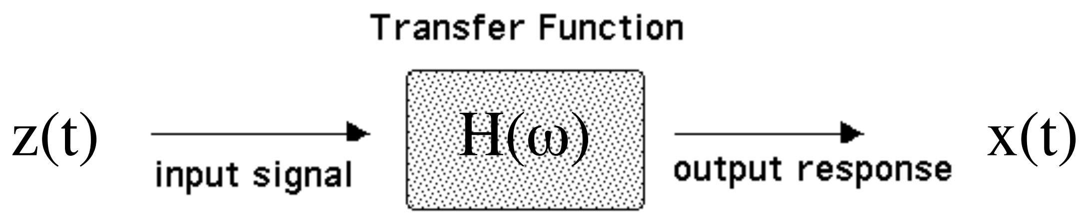


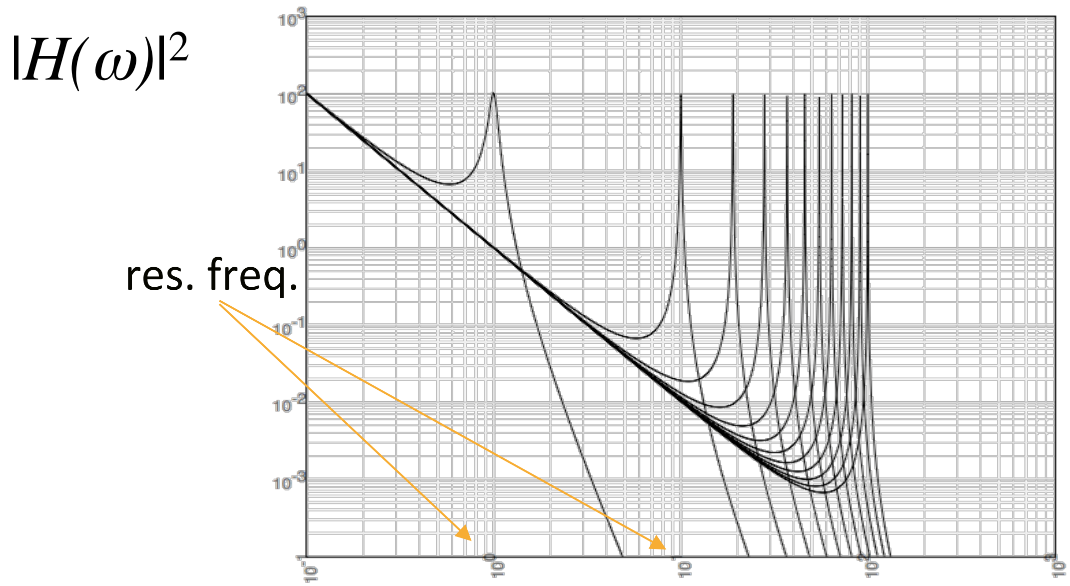




Linear systems

In a linear system, thanks to the transfer function $H(\omega)$, the output spectrum can be obtained from the input spectrum through a simple multiplication…





Output power spectrum

$$S_x(\omega) = |H(\omega)|^2 S_z(\omega)$$

Input power spectrum

Output power spectrum

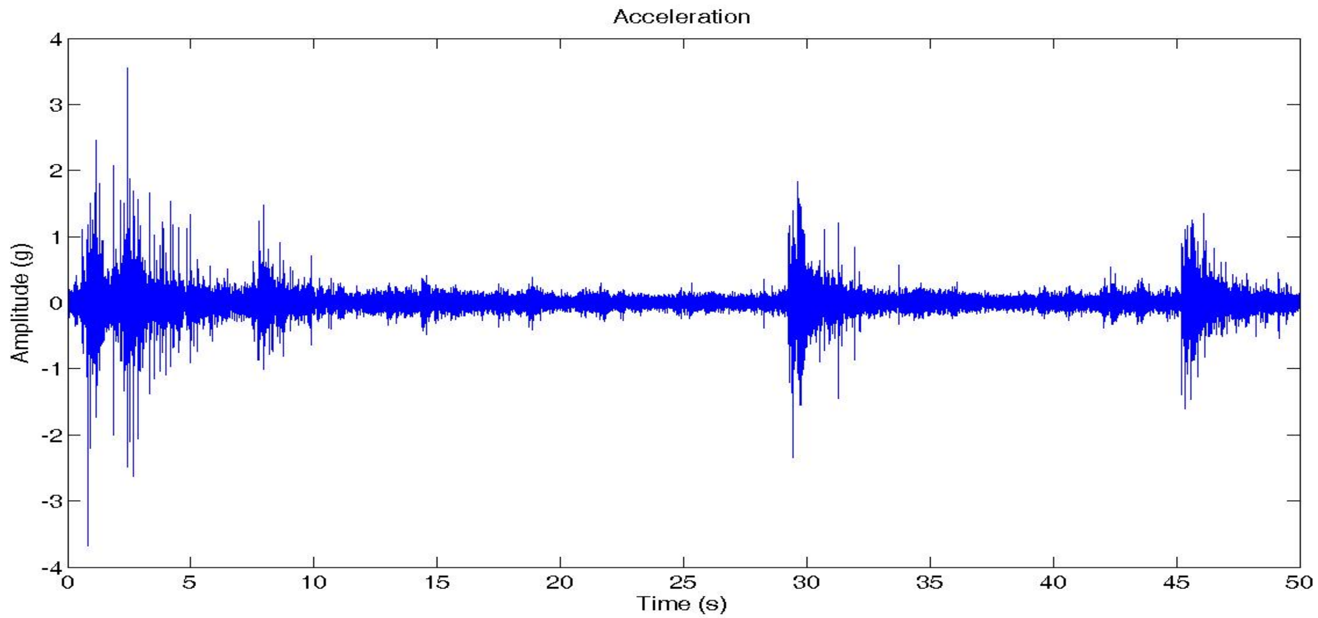
$$S_x(\omega) = |H(\omega)|^2\, S_z(\omega)$$

Input power spectrum

It is important to focus on the characteristics of the input energy

What it looks like ?

The input energy has often a random character



Random vibrations / noise

Thermal noise
Acoustic noise
Seismic noise
Ambient noise (wind, pressure fluctuations, …)
Man made vibrations (human motion, machine vibrations,…)

All different for intensity, spectrum, statistics

Vibration database: RealVibrations

It is very important that we can characterize the spectral features of the vibration we want to harvest…

Vibration sources digital library

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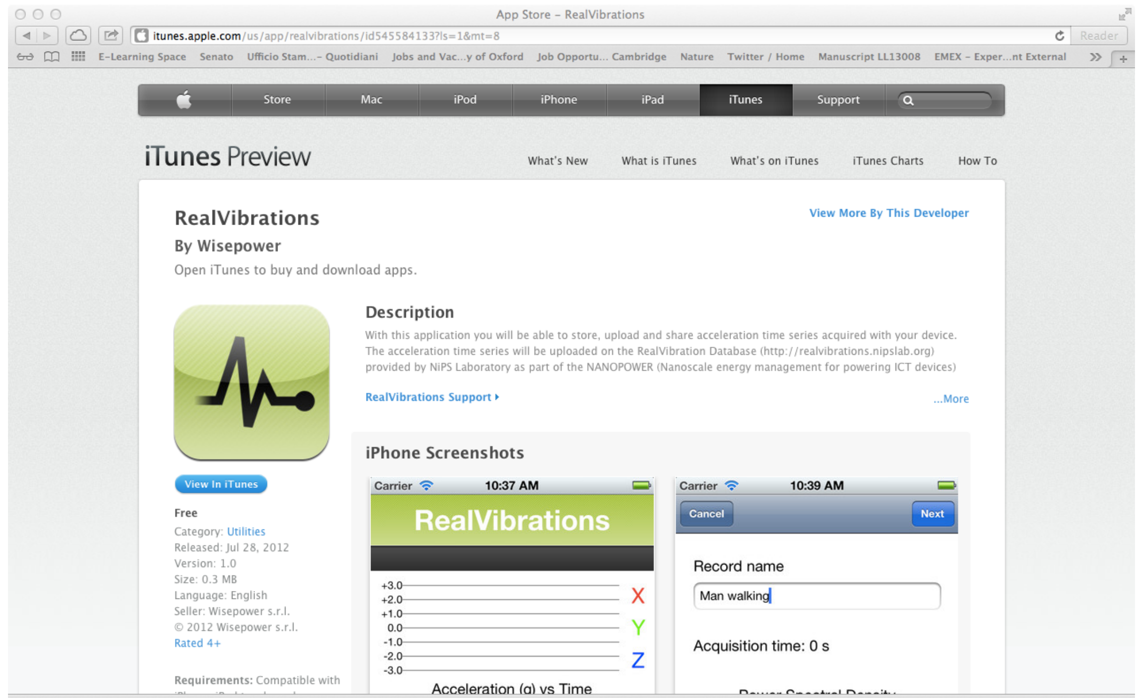
www.nipslab.org

Signal presentation:
- Description
- Power spectrum
- Statistical data
- Time series download (authorized users)

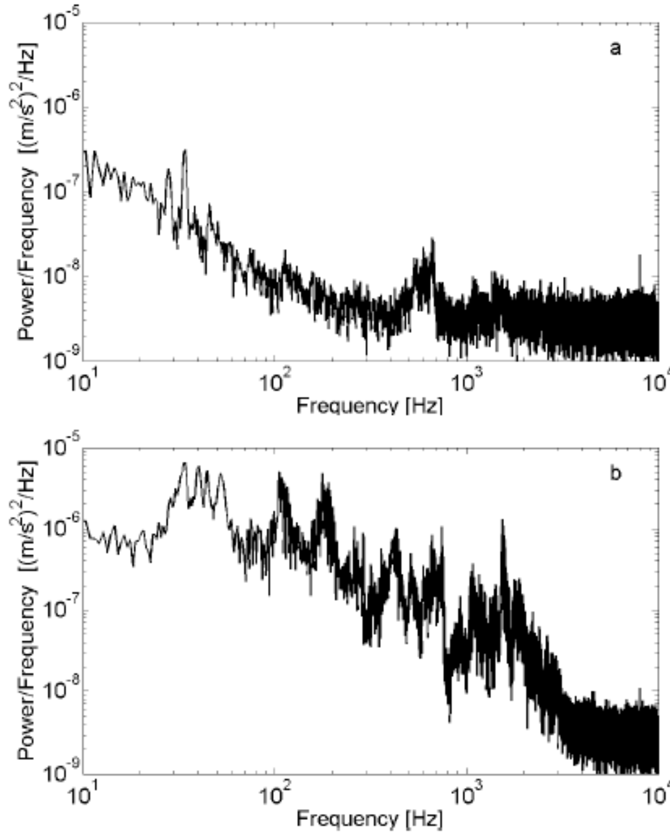
realvibrations.nipslab.org

New App for contributing to the database



Available for free on the App Store: **RealVibrations**

Bridge vibrations



realvibrations.nipslab.org

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Noise in Physical Systems

Chicago North Bridge

Submitted by admin on Mon, 08/20/2012 - 11:22 | Ave | Bridge | Chicago | chicago north | Chicago River | Michigan | michigan ave | North | north bridge

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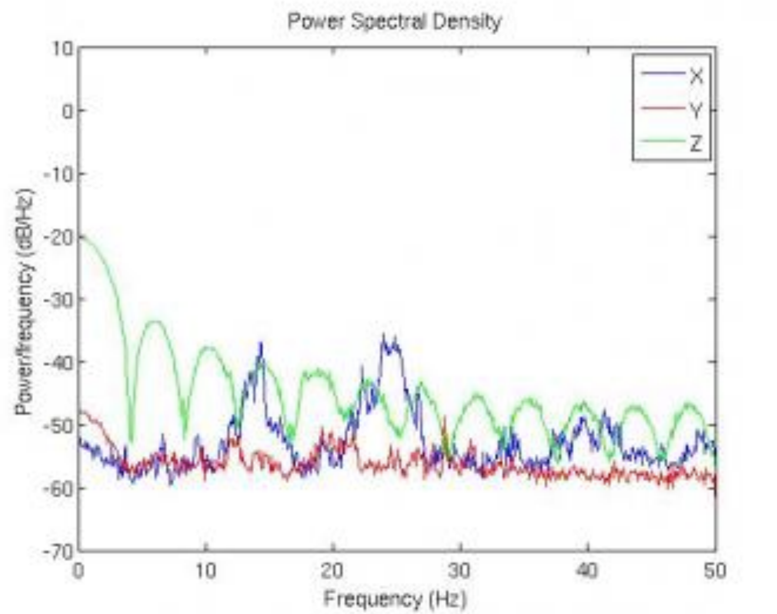
Chicago North Bridge over Chicago River on Michigan Ave. 400 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

Length: 358s

Sampling Rate: 100Hz

Acquisition Kit: EVAL-ADXL345Z



RMS	STD	Mean
X: 0.03113800 g	**X:** 0.02632800 g	**X:** 0.01662700 g
Y: 0.03565100 g	**Y:** 0.01086900 g	**Y:** -0.03395400 g
Z: 0.89531800 g	**Z:** 0.01795200 g	**Z:** 0.89513800 g

Woman walking

Submitted by admin on Mon, 03/17/2014 - 10:26

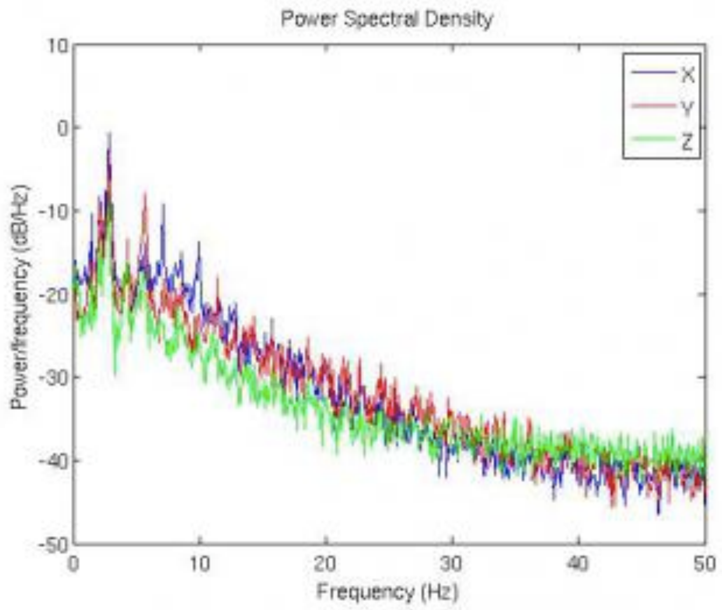
‹ previous 4 of 313 next ›

Woman walking, accelerometer in the pocket

Length: 104s

Sampling Rate: 100Hz

Acquisition Kit: EVAL-ADXL345Z



RMS	STD	Mean
X: 1.07838600 g	**X:** 0.63895600 g	**X:** 0.86872900 g
Y: 0.69502700 g	**Y:** 0.55951600 g	**Y:** 0.41235300 g
Z: 0.48628000 g	**Z:** 0.36751500 g	**Z:** -0.31845600 g

Child walking

Submitted by admin on Mon, 03/17/2014 - 10:26

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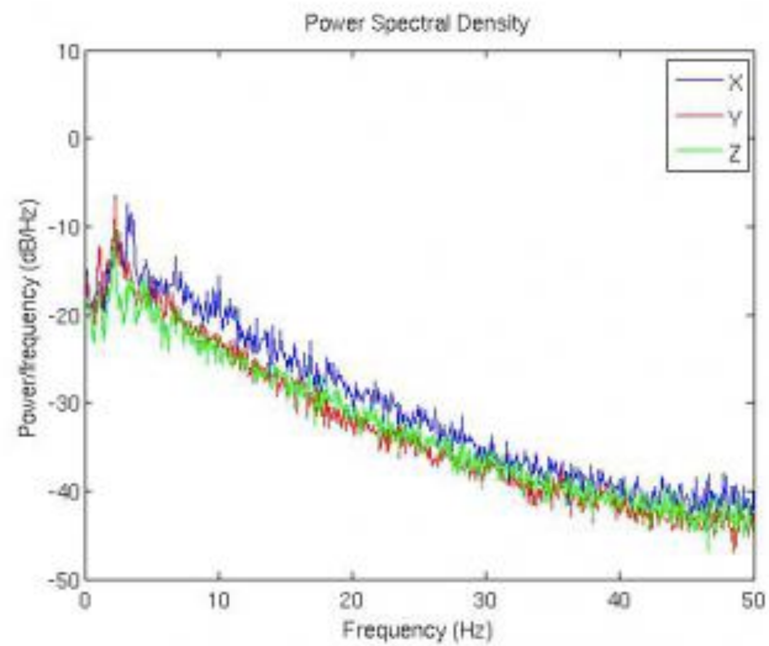
Child walking, accelerometer in the pocket

Length: 192s

Sampling Rate: 100Hz

Acquisition Kit: EVAL-ADXL345Z



RMS	STD	Mean
X: 1.07091700 g	**X:** 0.66398100 g	**X:** 0.84024700 g
Y: 0.68002500 g	**Y:** 0.57957400 g	**Y:** 0.35573300 g
Z: 0.49744100 g	**Z:** 0.37653900 g	**Z:** -0.32507400 g

realvibrations.nipslab.org

NiPS Laboratory Noise in Physical Systems

Running BMW X3

Submitted by igor.neri on Thu, 05/02/2013 - 15:57

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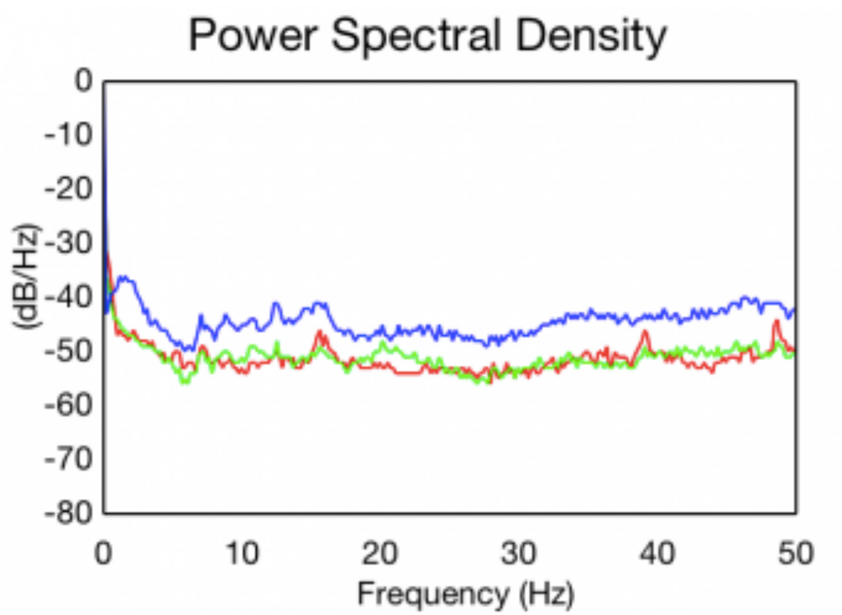
Ventura Freeway - CA, at the speed of 65 mi/hr. Sensor on the front dash.

Length: 308s

Sampling Rate: 100Hz

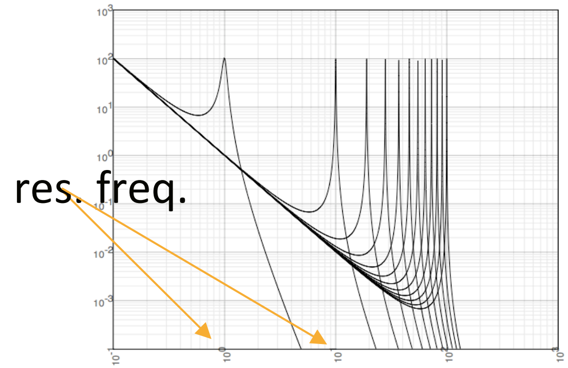
Acquisition Kit: iPhone



RMS	STD	Mean
X: 0.00567000 g	X: 0.00292000 g	X: -0.05242000 g
Y: 0.00901000 g	Y: 0.00252000 g	Y: -0.08053000 g
Z: 0.99528000 g	Z: 0.00488000 g	Z: -0.99519000 g

Vibrations energy harvesting

Linear systems



For a linear system the transfer function presents one or more peeks corresponding to the resonace frequencies and thus it is efficient mainly when the incoming energy is abundant in that regions…

This is a serious limitation when you want to build a small energy harvesting system…

Vibrations energy harvesting

Whish list for the perfect vibration harvester

1) Capable of harvesting energy on a broad-band
2) No need for frequency tuning
3) Capable of harvesting energy at low frequency

1) Non-resonant system
2) “Transfer function” with wide frequency resp.
3) Low frequency operated

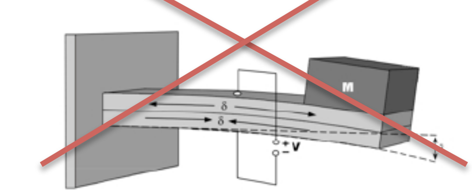
Vibrations energy harvesting

$$\begin{cases} m\ddot{x} = -\dfrac{dU(x)}{dx} - \gamma\dot{x} - K_V V + \zeta_z \\ \dot{V} = K_c\dot{x} - \dfrac{1}{\tau_p}V \end{cases}$$

The oscillator dynamics

$U(x)$ Represents the Energy stored

~~$U(x) = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$~~



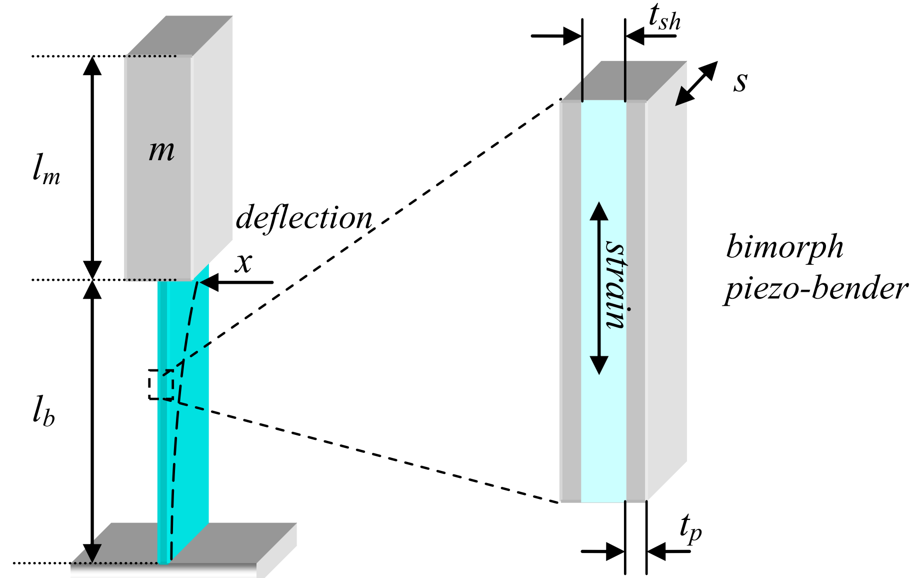
$$U(x) \neq \frac{1}{2}kx^2$$

NON-Linear mechanical oscillators

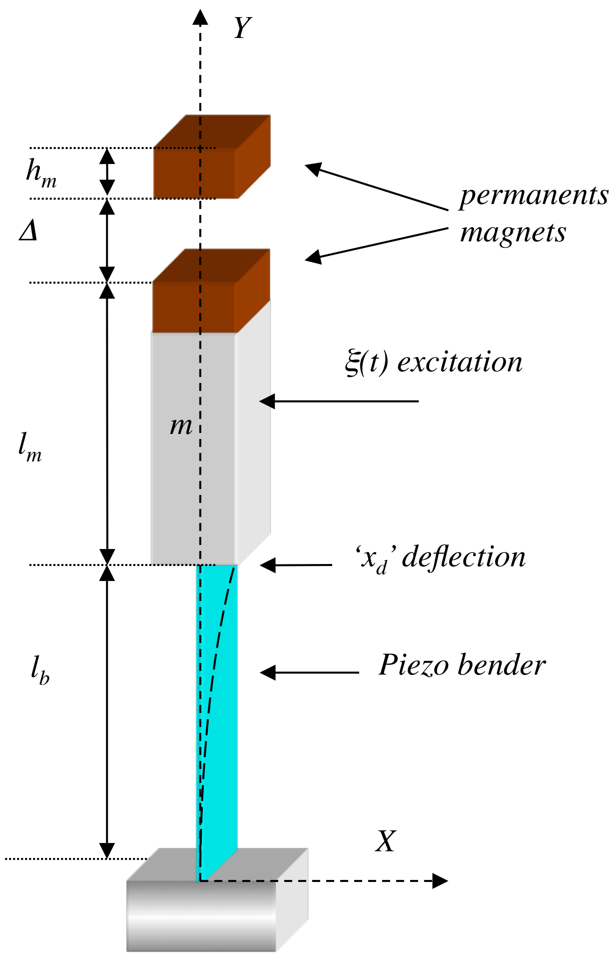
1) Non-resonant system
2) "Transfer function" with wide frequency resp.
3) Low frequency operated

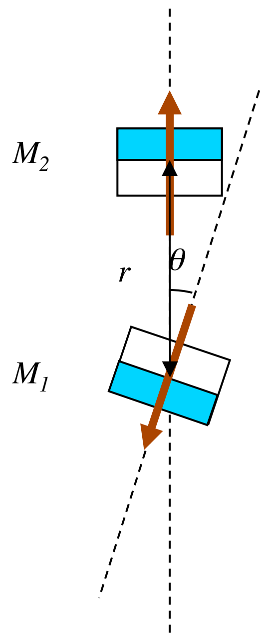
Example…

Modified inverted pendulum

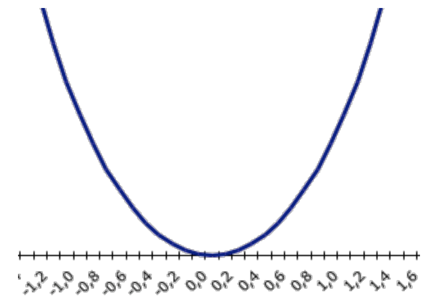


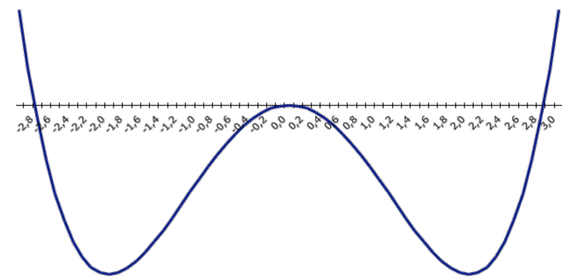
NON-Linear Inverted pendulum



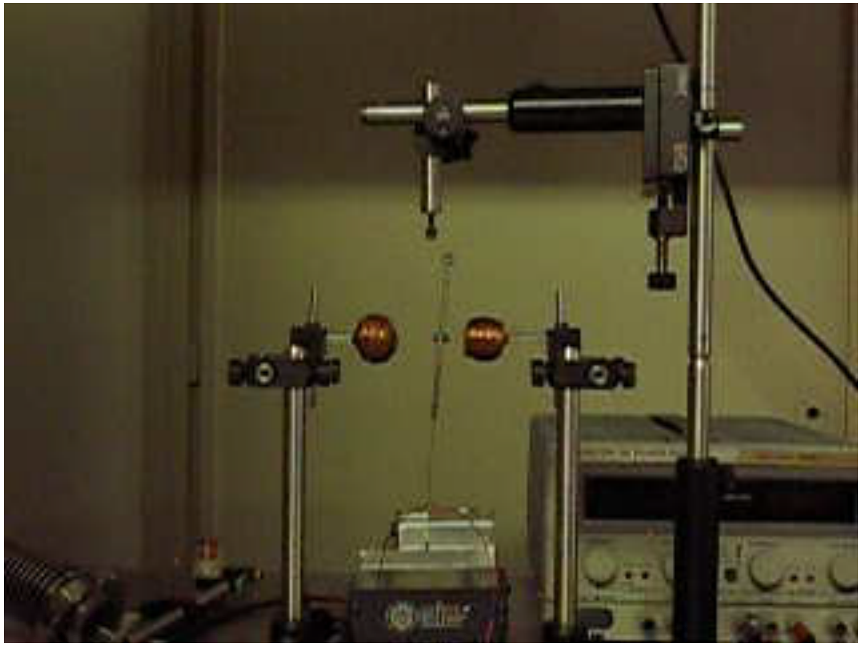


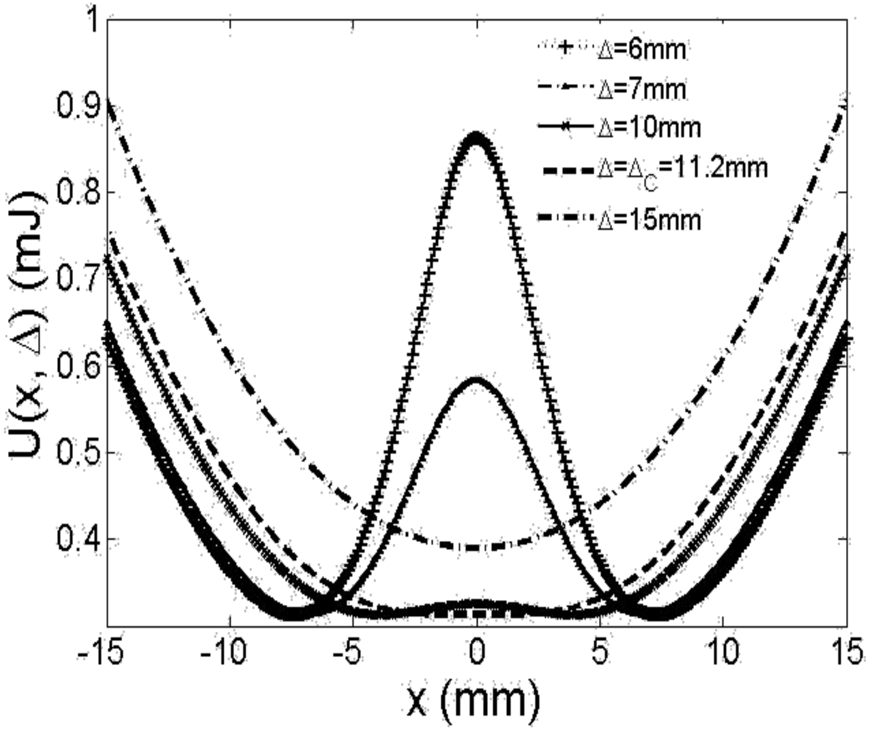
b)





NON-Linear mechanical oscillators





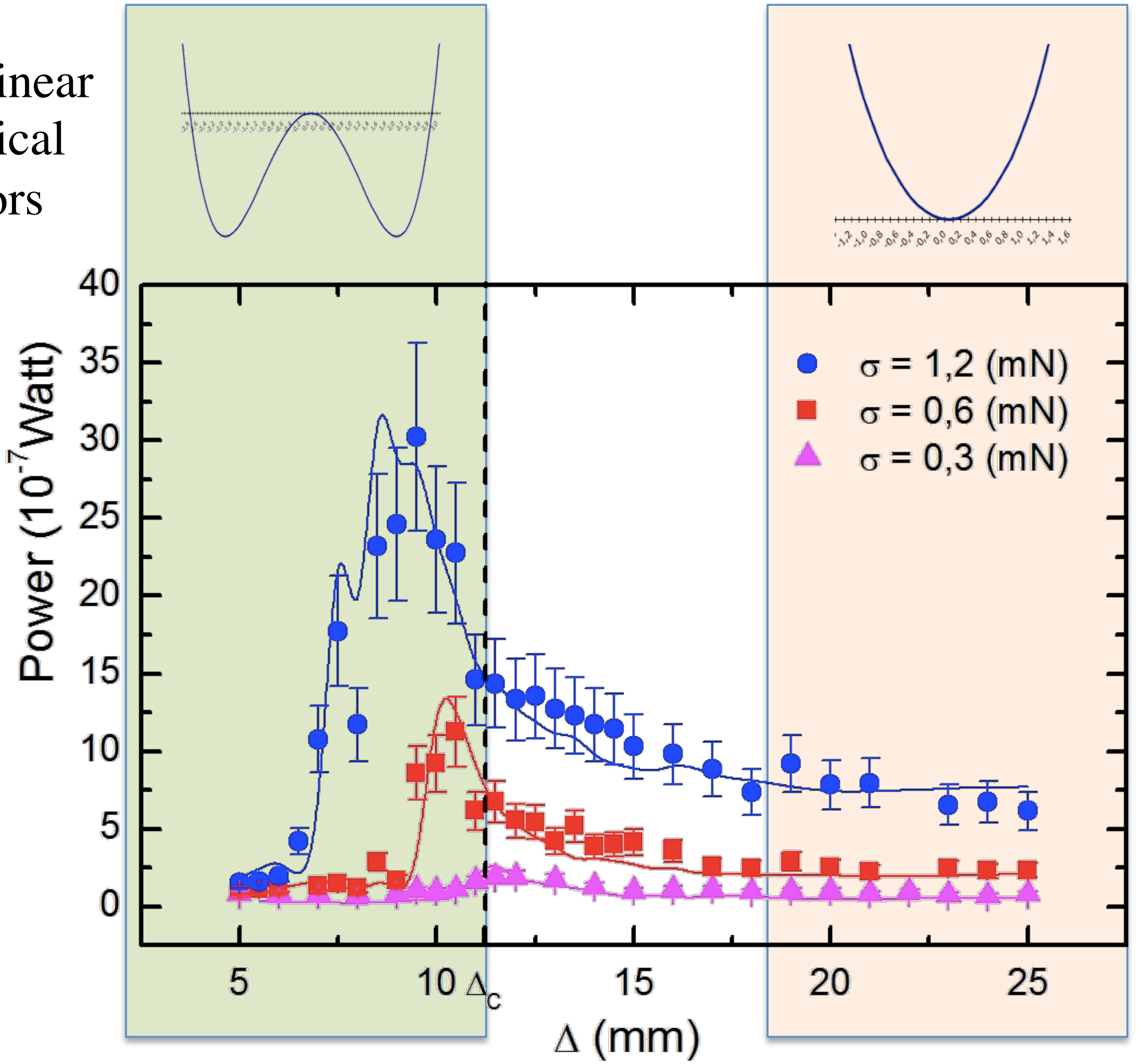
http://www.nipslab.org/node/1676

Nonlinear Energy Harvesting, F. Cottone; H. Vocca; L. Gammaitoni
Physical Review Letters, 102, 080601 (2009)

Power response

NON-Linear mechanical oscillators

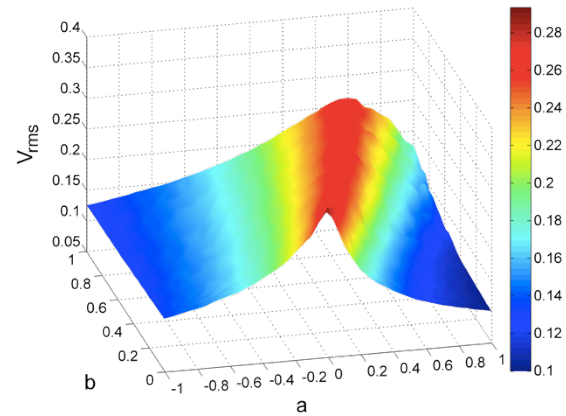
Linear mechanical oscillators



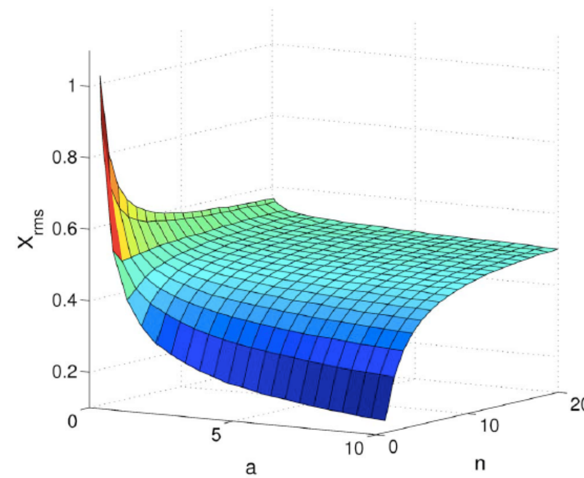
Nonlinear Energy Harvesting, F. Cottone; H. Vocca; L. Gammaitoni , Physical Review Letters, 102, 080601 (2009)

Non-linear systems

$$U(x) = -\frac{1}{2}ax^2 + \frac{1}{4}ax^4$$ Duffing potential



$$U(x) = ax^{2n}$$ Monostable nonlinear potentials



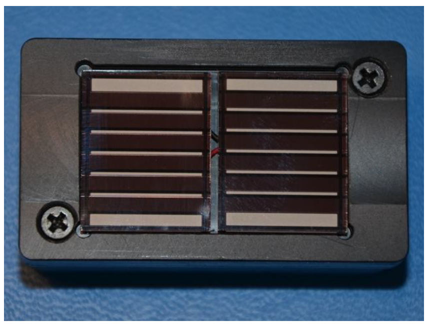
L. Gammaitoni, I. Neri, H. Vocca, Appl. Phys. Lett. 94, 164102 (2009)

Shrinking size

HAT (Hybrid Autonomous Transceiver)

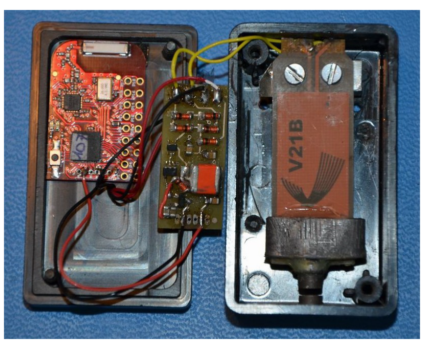
(Courtesy of Wisepower srl, www.wisepower.it)

50 mm



35 mm

20 mm

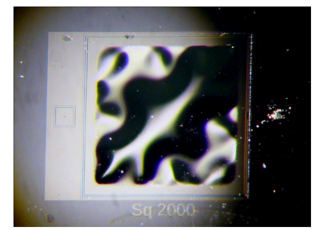


Few mW range

Prototype Vibration Harvester

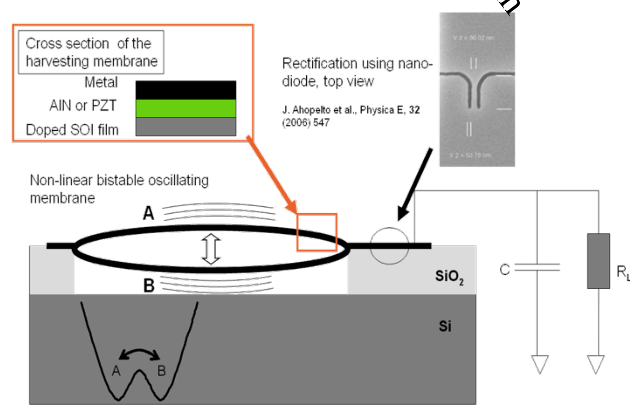
(NANOPOWER FET Proactive – G.A. 256959, www.nanopwr.eu)

0.5 mm



0.5 mm

800 nm

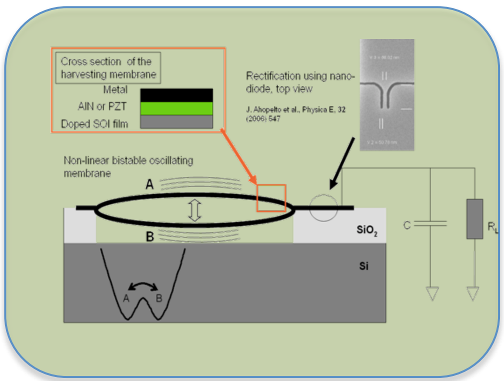


Few 0.1 μW range

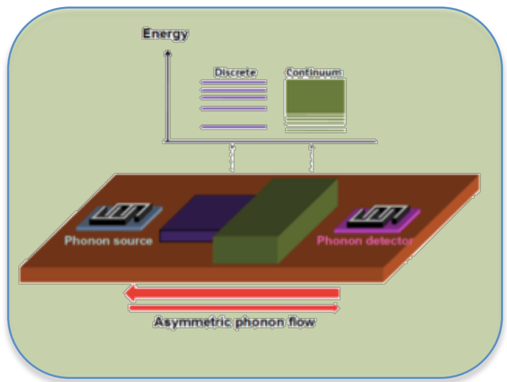
This research has been developed in the framework of the project

NANOPOWER

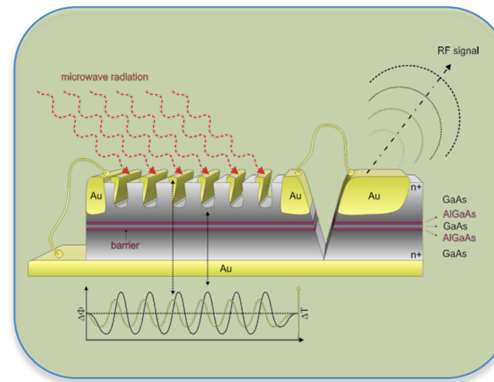
Three classes of potential nanoscale energy harvester devices have been studied.



Nonlinear nano oscillators



Heat rectification harvester



Quantum harvester

"NANOPOWER: Nanoscale energy management for powering ICT devices" acknowledges the financial support of the Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) programme within the ICT theme of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research of the European Commission (Grant Agreement n. 256959).

Some conclusions

The future of powering for small mobile electronic devices

Present solution: - ~~disposable batteries~~

- rechargeable batteries **energy storage issue**

Future solution: - energy harvesting + storage

Take-home message:

1) Focusing **only** on energy harvesting produces misconception. The focus should be on energy transformation processes.
2) Both ends of the gap should be addressed if we want to move from labs to market.

ICT-Energy - Co-ordinating Research Efforts of the ICT-Energy Community (Project number 611004)

www.ict-energy.eu

The community of researchers interested in these topics

www.ict-energyletters.eu

Next events:

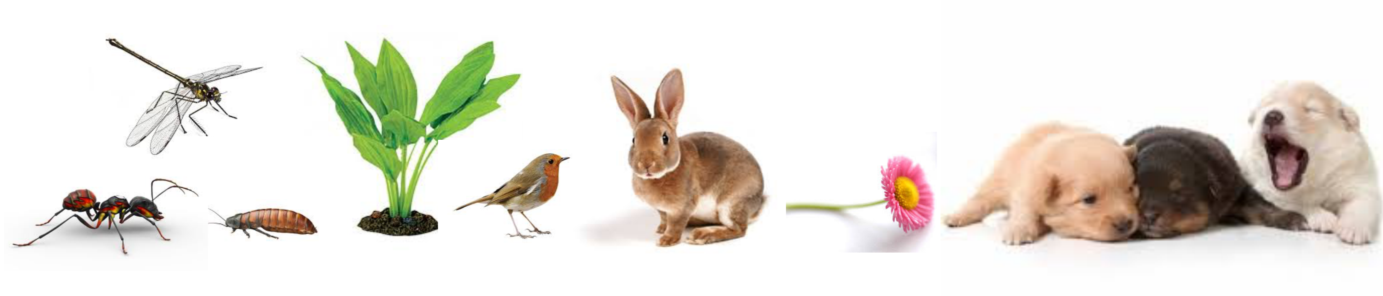
- Summer school (Aalborg – Aug 13-16, 2016)
- ICT-Energy2016 (Aalborg – Aug 16-19, 2016)

NiPS Laboratory
Noise in Physical Systems

What future for the subject of **energy harvesting / autonomous devices** ?

Bright!

The problem of powering small (and not so-small) autonomous devices has been already addressed and solved by nature. There is plenty of devices that process information (and actuate) while transforming energy from low entropy sources into heat.



None of them carries disposable batteries !

To know more

- web: www.nipslab.org, www.ict-energy.eu

- paper: L. Gammaitoni, There's plenty of energy at the bottom (micro and nano scale nonlinear noise harvesting), Contemporary Physics, Volume 53, Issue 2, 2012

- Book: *ICT - Energy - Concepts Towards Zero - Power Information and Communication Technology*, InTech, February 2, 2014.

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