

Wireless Passive SAW Identification Marks and Sensors

Leonhard M. Reindl

Institute of Electrical Information Technology
Clausthal University of Technology



Technische Universität Clausthal

Acknowledgement

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Thanks to A. Kirmayr from the **University of Applied Sciences, Munich**, for his

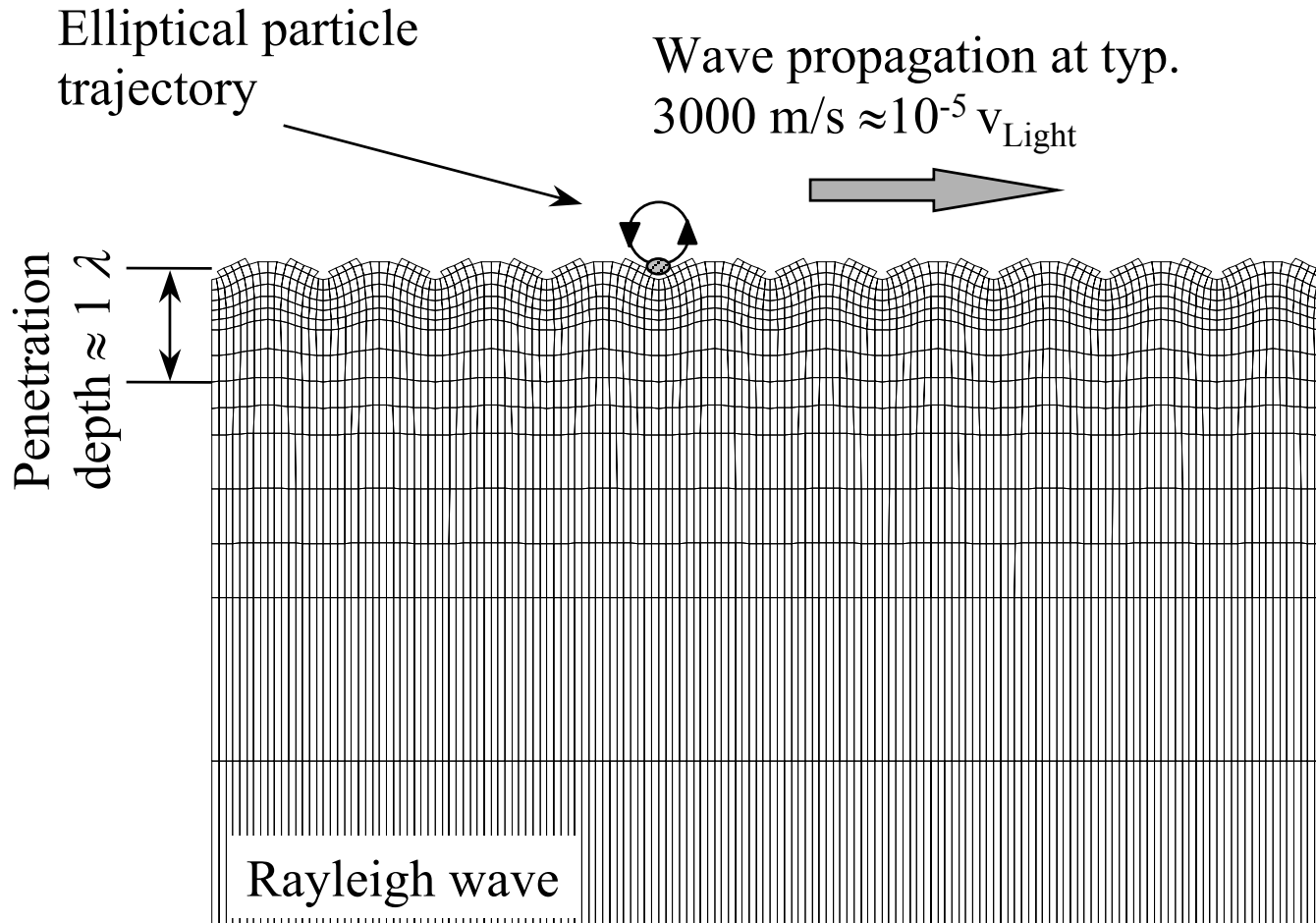


Outline

- **Introduction: Classical SAW Sensors**
- **SAW Radio Read Out**
- **SAW Identification Tags**
- **SAW Radio Readable Sensors**
- **Application Examples**
- **Conclusion**



Surface Acoustic Waves (SAW's)



At the same frequency, the acoustic wavelength is 10^{-5} times that of electromagnetic waves.

Seismologic surface acoustic wave

San Francisco, City Hall



April 17, 1906

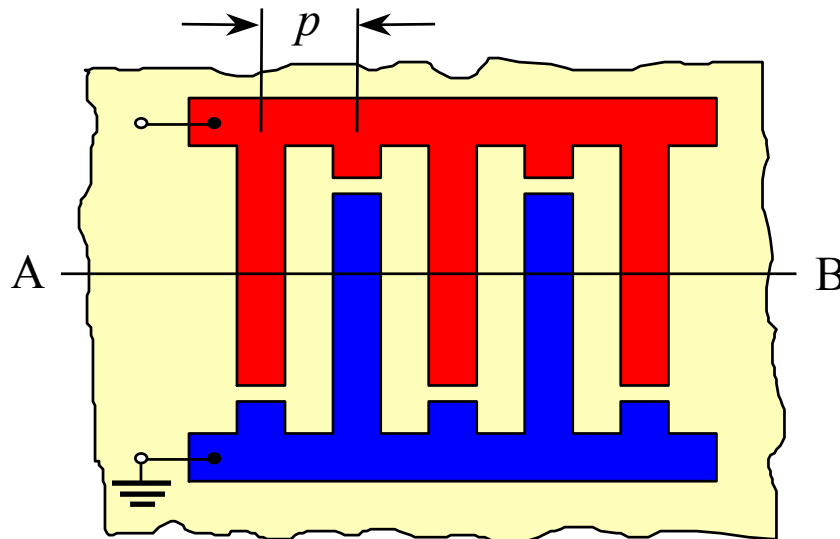


April 18, 1906

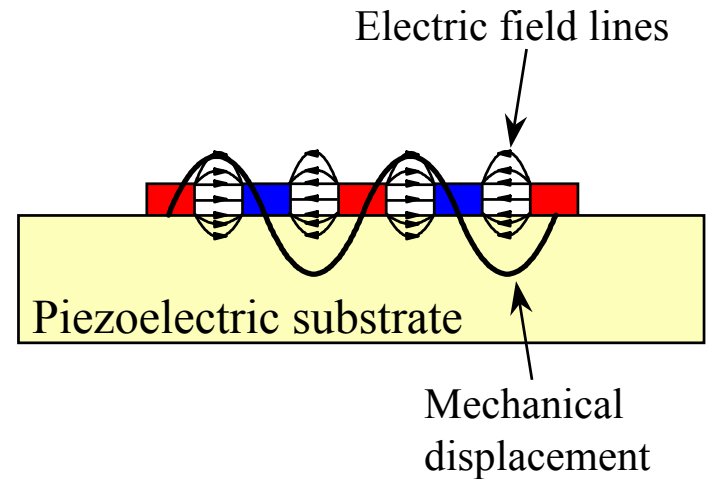
History of SAW

- 1885 Lord Rayleigh characterizes Surface Acoustic Waves (earth quake)
- 1965 Invention of the Interdigital Transducer (White/Voltmer)
- 1970 First applications: pulse expansion and compression in radar systems
- 1985 SAW filters replace LC filter in TVs and VCRs
- 1990 SAW filters allow for miniaturization of mobile phones

Wave Excitation and Detection: IDTs



Top view



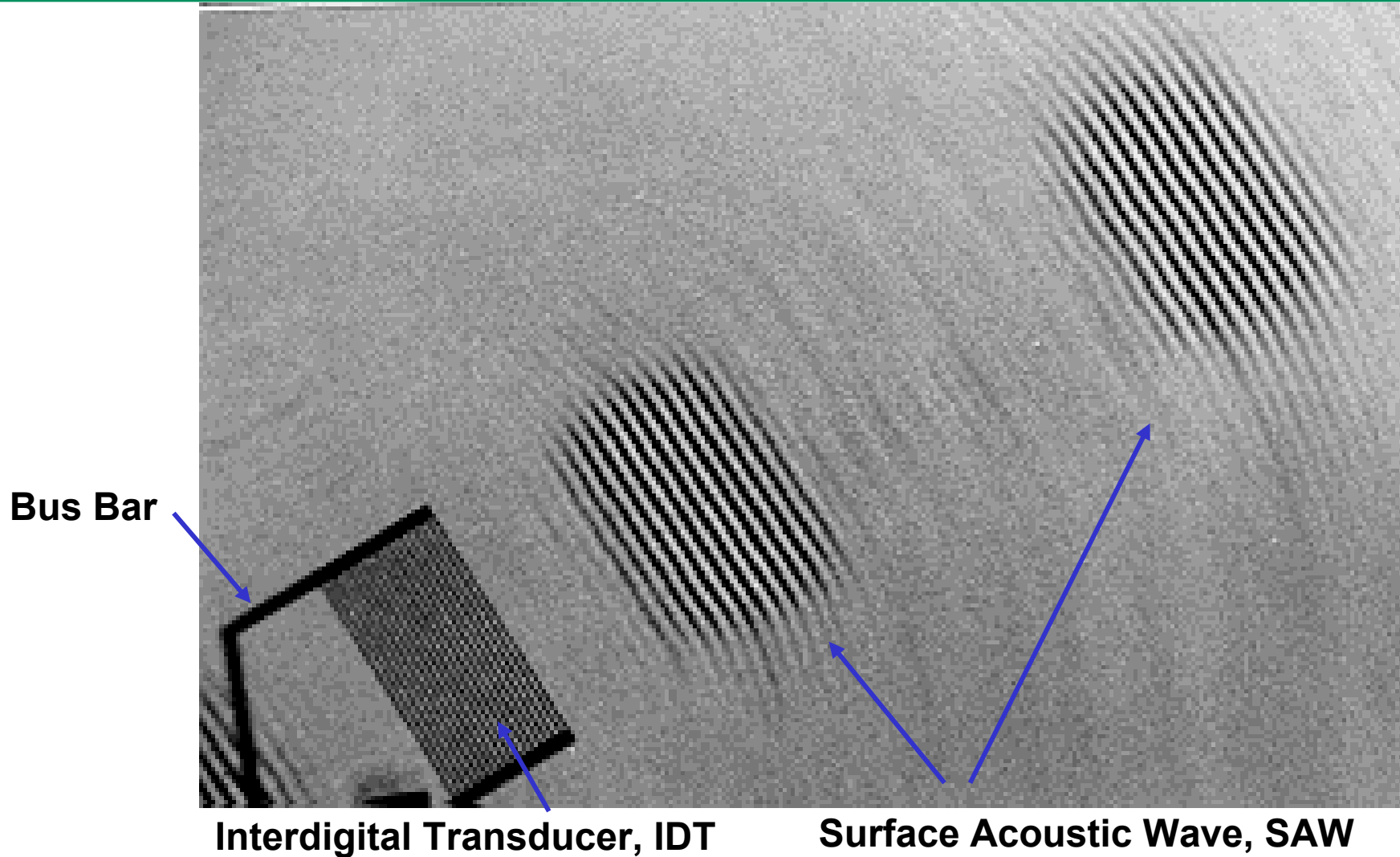
Cross sectional view A-B

Interdigital Transducer (IDT) as

- transmitter: converse piezoelectric effect \Rightarrow electric RF field generates SAW
- receiver: piezoelectric effect \Rightarrow SAW generates electric RF field

In both cases maximum coupling strength for $\lambda_{\text{SAW}} = v_{\text{SAW}} / f = 2 \cdot p$ ($\sim 1 \dots 10 \mu\text{m}$)

SEM-photo of an interdigital transducer and two SAW pulses



Properties of some commonly used substrata materials

Material	Orientation ¹⁾		Wave type	v_{ph} (m/s)	k^2 (%)	TCD (ppm/°C)	Loss (db/μs)	
	Cut	Prop.					433 MHz	2.45GHz
Quartz	ST	X	gen. RW	3158	0.1	0	0.75	18.6
	37°rotY	90°rotX	SH wave	5094	≈ 0.1	0	- 3)	- 3)
LiNbO ₃	Y	Z	pure RW	3488	4.1	94	0.25	5.8
	41°rotY	X	leaky SH wave	4750	15.8	69	- 3)	- 3)
	128°rotY	X	gen. RW	3980	5.5	75	0.27	5.2
LiTaO ₃	36°rotY	X	leaky SH wave	4220	≈6.6	30	1.35	20.9
	X	112°rotY	gen. RW	3301	0.88	18	-	-

- 1) Cut = crystalline orientation of the substrate surface normal;
- 2) Prop. = crystalline orientation of the wave propagation direction.
- 3) Depends on metallization.

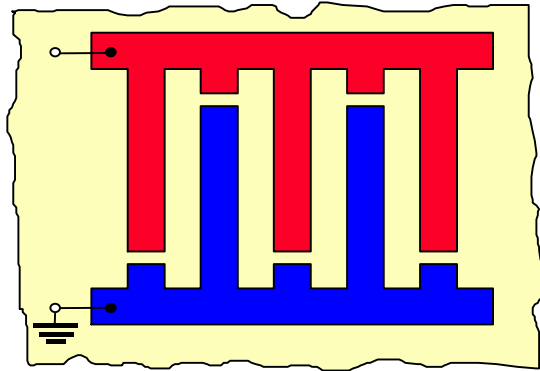
Design of SAW filters

The design of SAW devices is based on

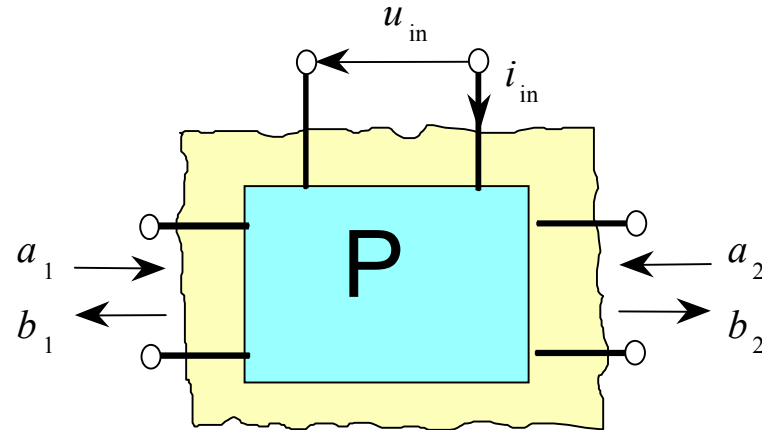
- **signal theory** (e.g. Impulse response modelling)
- **network theory** (e.g. P-Matrix-formalism, coupling of modes, equivalent circuit, angular spectrum of straight-crested waves)
- **field theory** (e.g. FEM)



P-Matrix Formalism



Top view



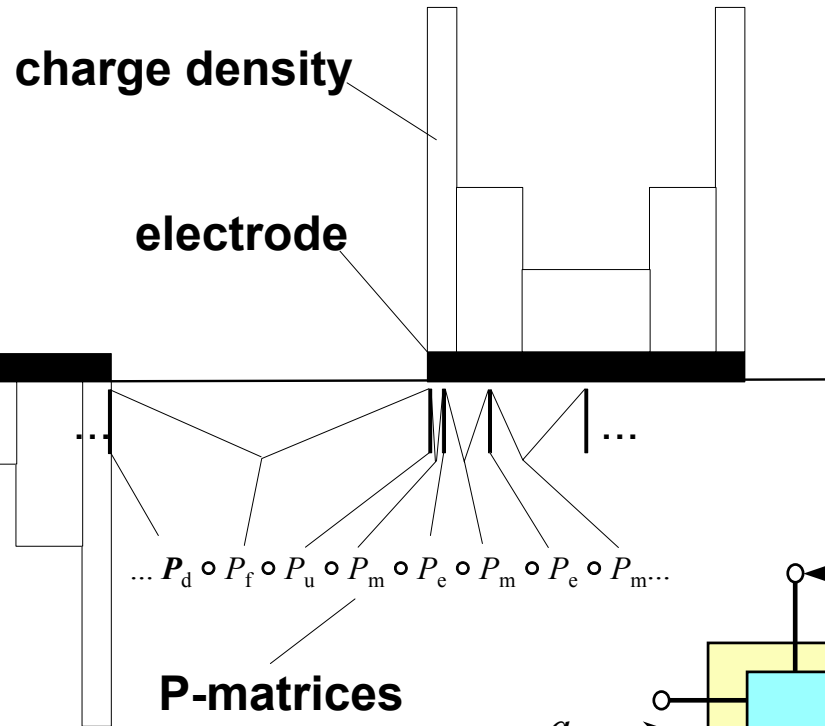
$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ i \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{P} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ u \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} P_{11} & P_{12} & P_{13} \\ P_{21} & P_{22} & P_{23} \\ P_{31} & P_{32} & P_{33} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ u \end{pmatrix}$$

with

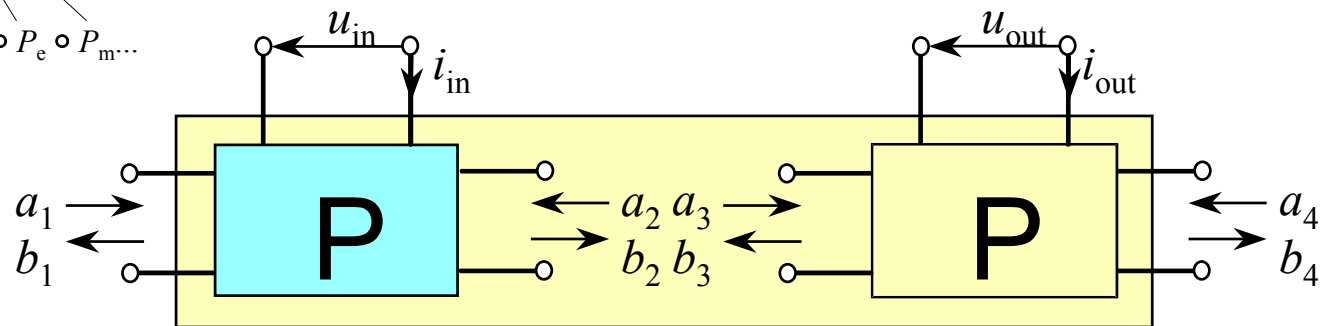
P_{33} : transducer admittance [conductance],
 P_{13} and P_{23} : stimulation elements [$\sqrt{\text{conductance}}$],
 P_{11} and P_{22} : reflection elements [],
 P_{12} and P_{21} : transmission elements [].

SAW Device Modelling

Basic cells for the P-matrix model

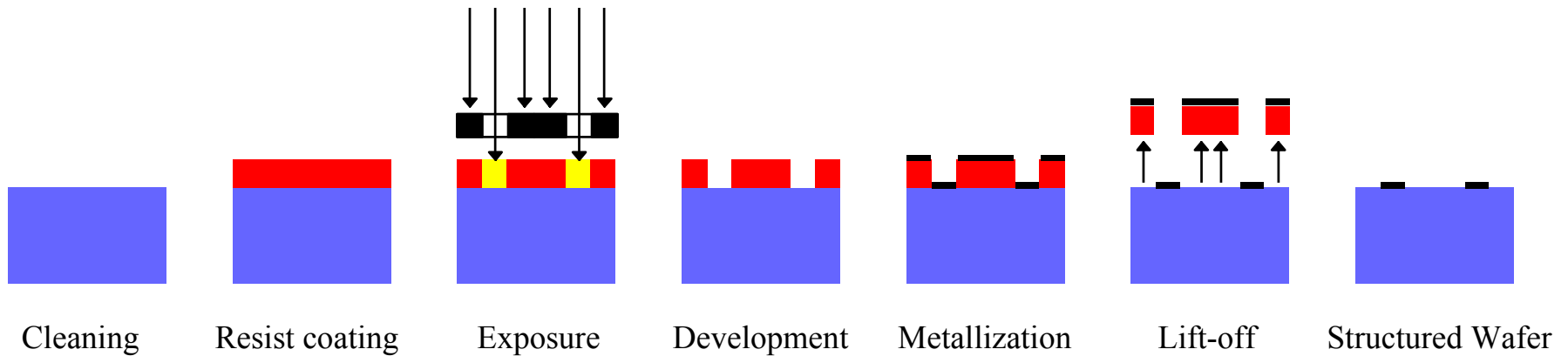


Device Modelling

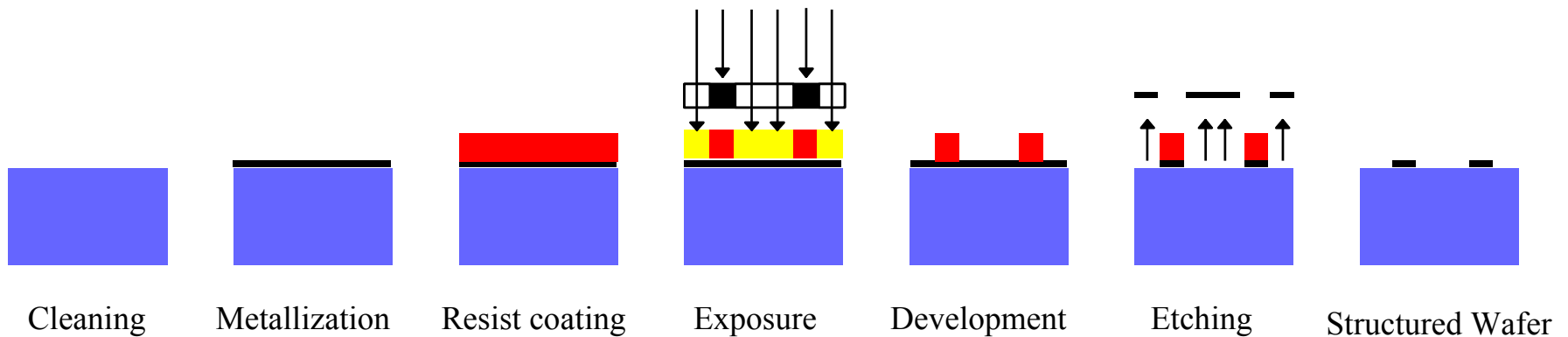


SAW Fabrication

Lift-off Technique



Etching Technique



Fabrication - Electrode Widths

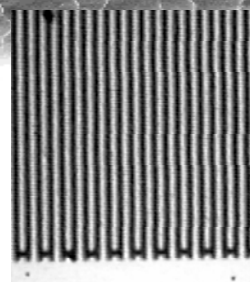


100 MHz:
finger width = 8 μm

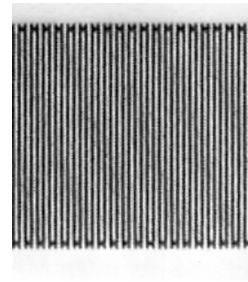


250 MHz:
finger width = 3 μm

human hair:
60 μm thick



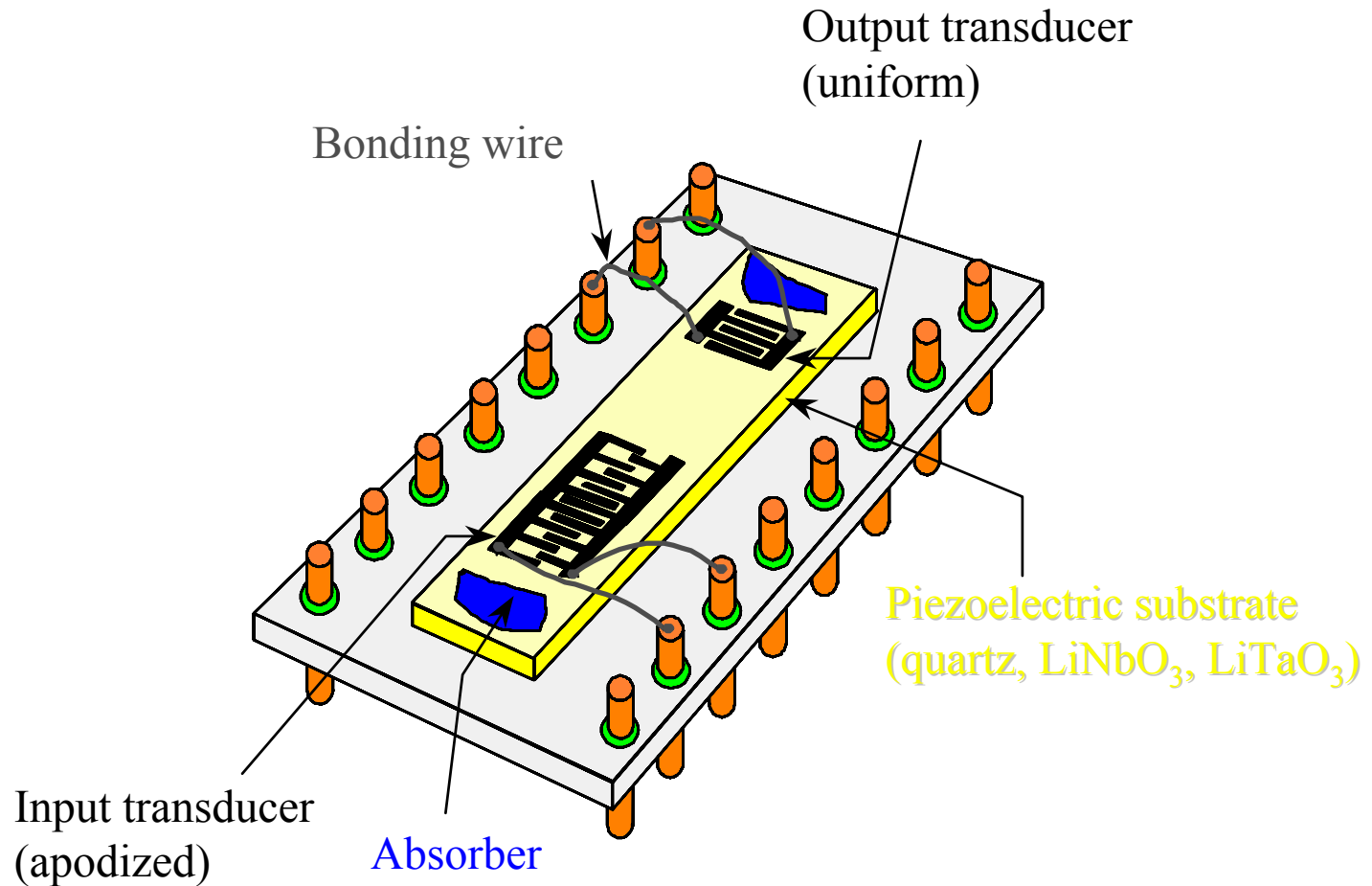
900 MHz:
finger width = 1 μm



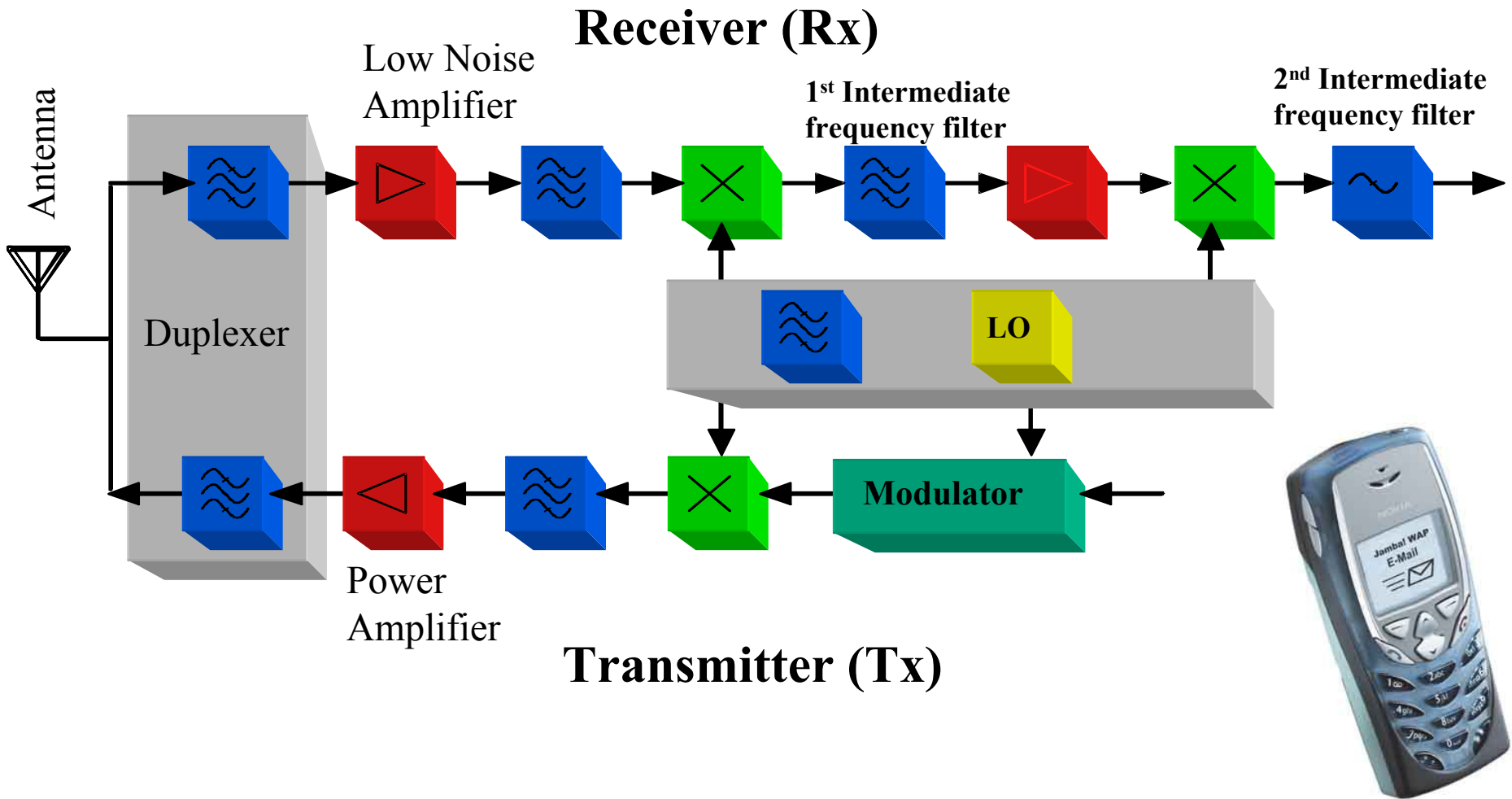
1800 MHz:
finger width = 0.5 μm

European ISM bands: 434 MHz, 869 MHz, 2.45GHz, 5,8GHz

Classical SAW Band pass Filter



Block Diagram of a Typical Transceiver



Sensitivity

A delay line with centre-to-centre transducer spacing L exhibits a delay time τ of $\tau=L/v$.

Hence, a small variation Δ in a measurand x , like a variation of the temperature ΔT results in change of the delay time change $\Delta\tau$ of

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\Delta \tau}{\tau}(\Delta \mathcal{G}) &= \frac{\Delta L}{L}(\Delta \mathcal{G}) - \frac{\Delta v}{v}(\Delta \mathcal{G}) \\ &= \frac{1}{L} \cdot \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathcal{G}} \cdot \Delta \mathcal{G} - \frac{1}{v} \cdot \frac{\partial v}{\partial \mathcal{G}} \cdot \Delta \mathcal{G} \\ &= \left(S_T^L - S_T^v \right) \cdot \Delta \mathcal{G} \equiv S_T^\tau \cdot \Delta \mathcal{G} \equiv TCD \cdot \Delta \mathcal{G}\end{aligned}$$

Sensitivity

The sensitivity S_y^x gives the change of the parameter x on the quantity y

$$S_y^x = \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial y}$$

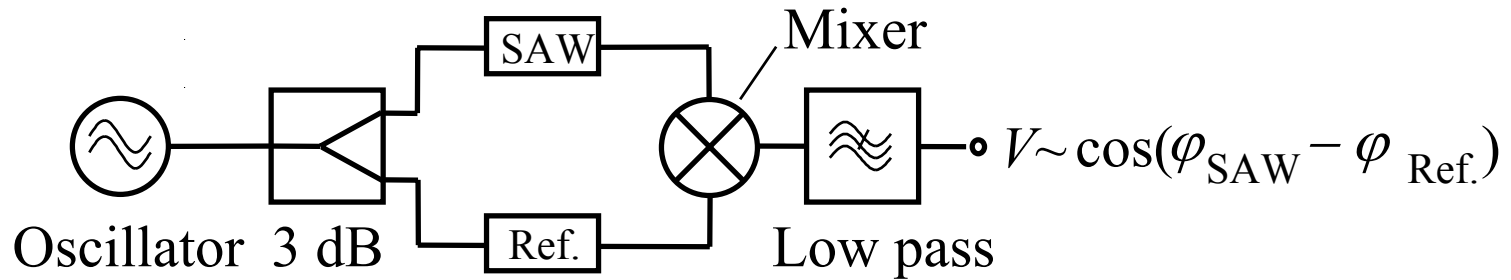
For SAW devices a change of velocity v or delay length L results in a change of the electrical measurable quantities

delay time τ ,
$$\tau(y_0 + \Delta y) = \tau(y_0) \cdot [1 + S_T^\tau \cdot \Delta y]$$

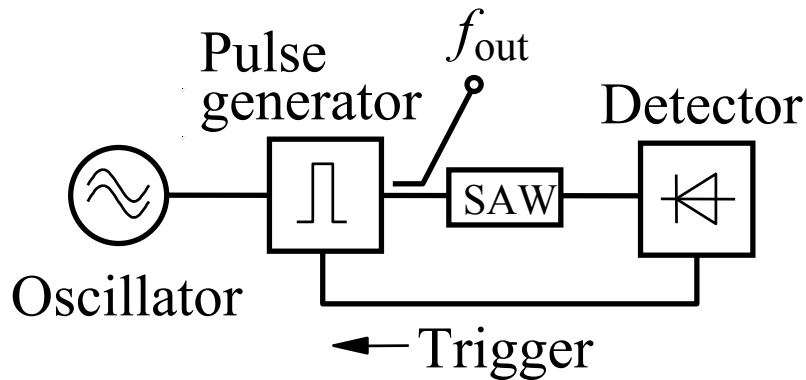
corresponding phase φ ,
$$\varphi(y_0 + \Delta y) = \varphi(y_0) \cdot [1 + S_T^\tau \cdot \Delta y]$$

and the centre frequency f :
$$f(y_0 + \Delta y) = f(y_0) \cdot [1 - S_T^\tau \cdot \Delta y]$$

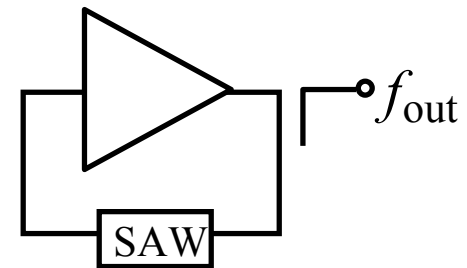
Basic electronic circuitry for **active** SAW sensing



Direct phase measurement



"Sing-around" arrangement



Oscillator

Measurand	Device	Freq. (MHz)	Substrate	Sensitivity	
				Value	Unit
Pressure	DL	105	Quartz	3.8	ppm/kPa
	DL	90	AlN/Si	27	ppm/kPa
Force	DL	8.3	LiNbO ₃	10.8	ppm/kN
Strain	R	140.2	Quartz	1.28	ppm/10 ⁻⁶
	DL	10.9	PZT	21	ppm/10 ⁻⁶
Position (linear)	DL	8.3	LiNbO ₃	120.5	ppm/ μm
Position (angular)	R	434	Quartz	2.86	ppm/mrad
Acceleration	DL	251	Quartz	45	ppm/(m/s ²)
	DL	10.9	PZT	8.7	ppm/(m/s ²)
Rotation rate	DL	10.9	PZT	25.7	ppm/s ⁻²
Flow rate (gas)	DL	73	LiNbO ₃	204	ppm/(cm ³ /s)
Flow rate (liquid)	DL	68	LiNbO ₃	105	ppm/(mm ³ /s)
Liquid viscosity	DL	30	LiNbO ₃	2.7	ppm/cP
Liquid density	DL	6	ZnO /Si _x N _y	30000	ppm/(g/cm ³)
Electric field (normal)	DL	900	LiNbO ₃	141	ppm/(V/ μm)
	R	85	Li ₂ B ₄ O ₇ on piezoceramic	300	ppm/(V/ μm)
Electric field (transv.)	DL	1000	LiNbO ₃	120	ppm/(V/ μm)
Voltage	DL	900	LiNbO ₃	0.93	ppm/V
Liquid conductivity	DL	51	LiTaO ₃	13400	ppm/(S/m)
Magnetic field	DL	140	Fe-B/ Quartz	0.38	ppm/(A/m)
Temperature	DL	43	LiNbO ₃	92.13	ppm/°C
Radiation dose	R	199	Quartz	0.48	ppm/(J/kg) ^{0.5}
Thin film thickness	DL	75	LiNbO ₃	9.25	ppm/nm

Selected SAW physical sensors from literature

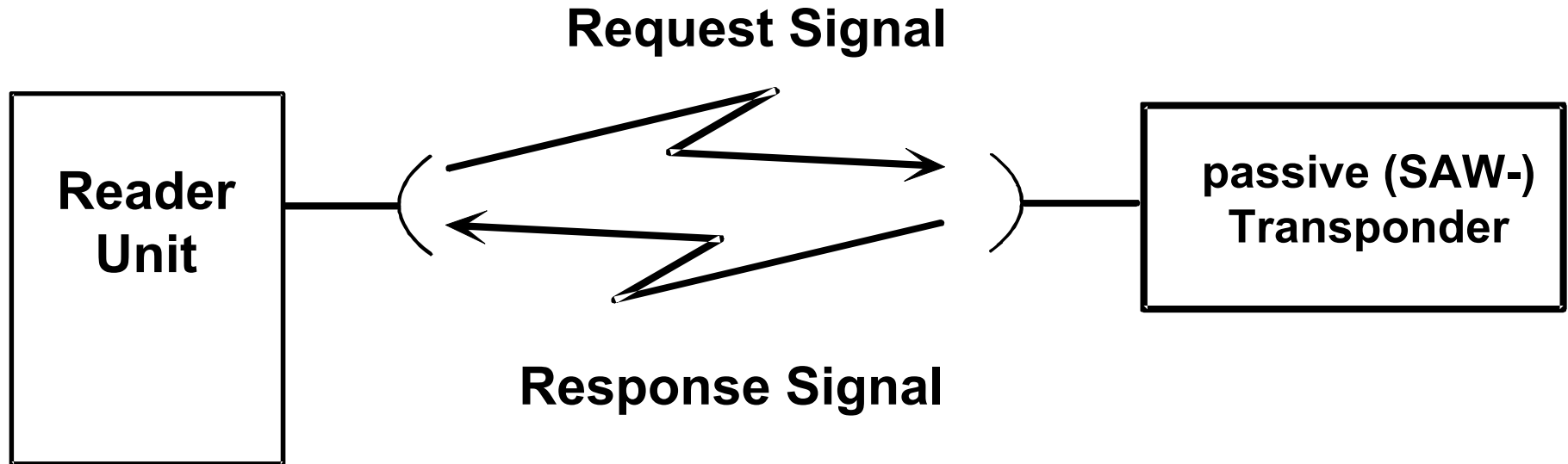
From :
G. Fischerauer, "Surface Acoustic Wave Devices,"
in: W. Göpel, J. Hesse, J. N. Zemel, H. Meixner,
R. Jones (Eds.),
Sensors. A Comprehensive Survey, Vol. 8. Weinheim:
VCH, 1995
(References: see there)

Outline

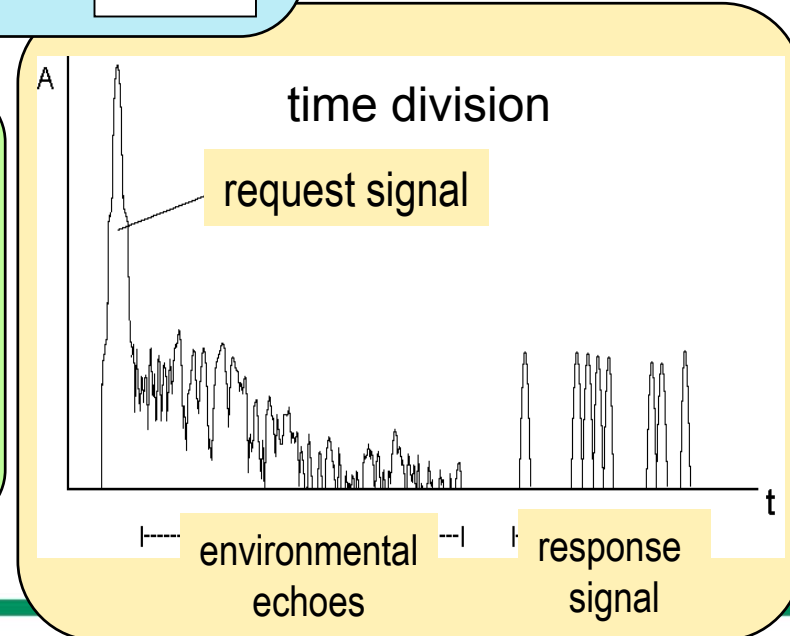
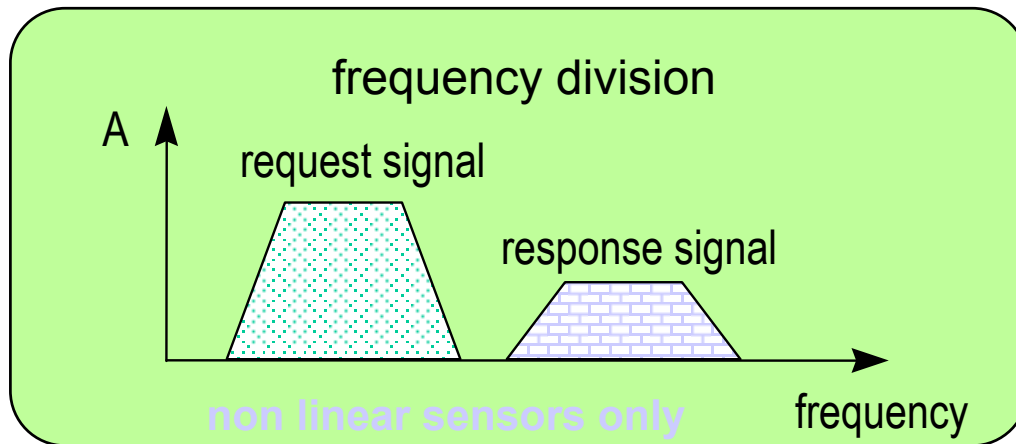
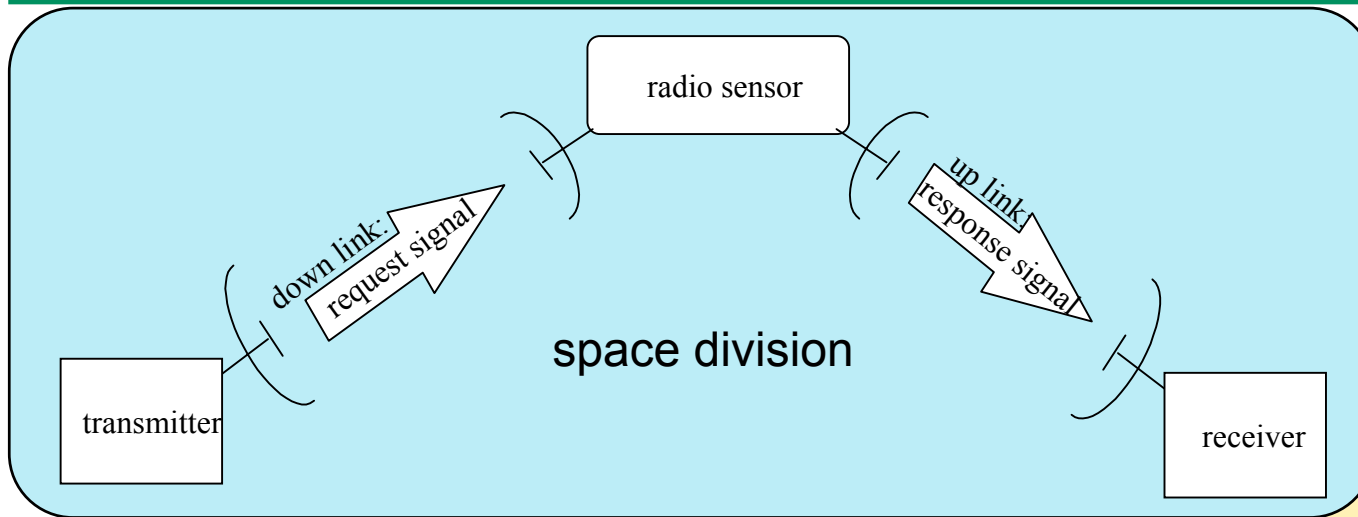
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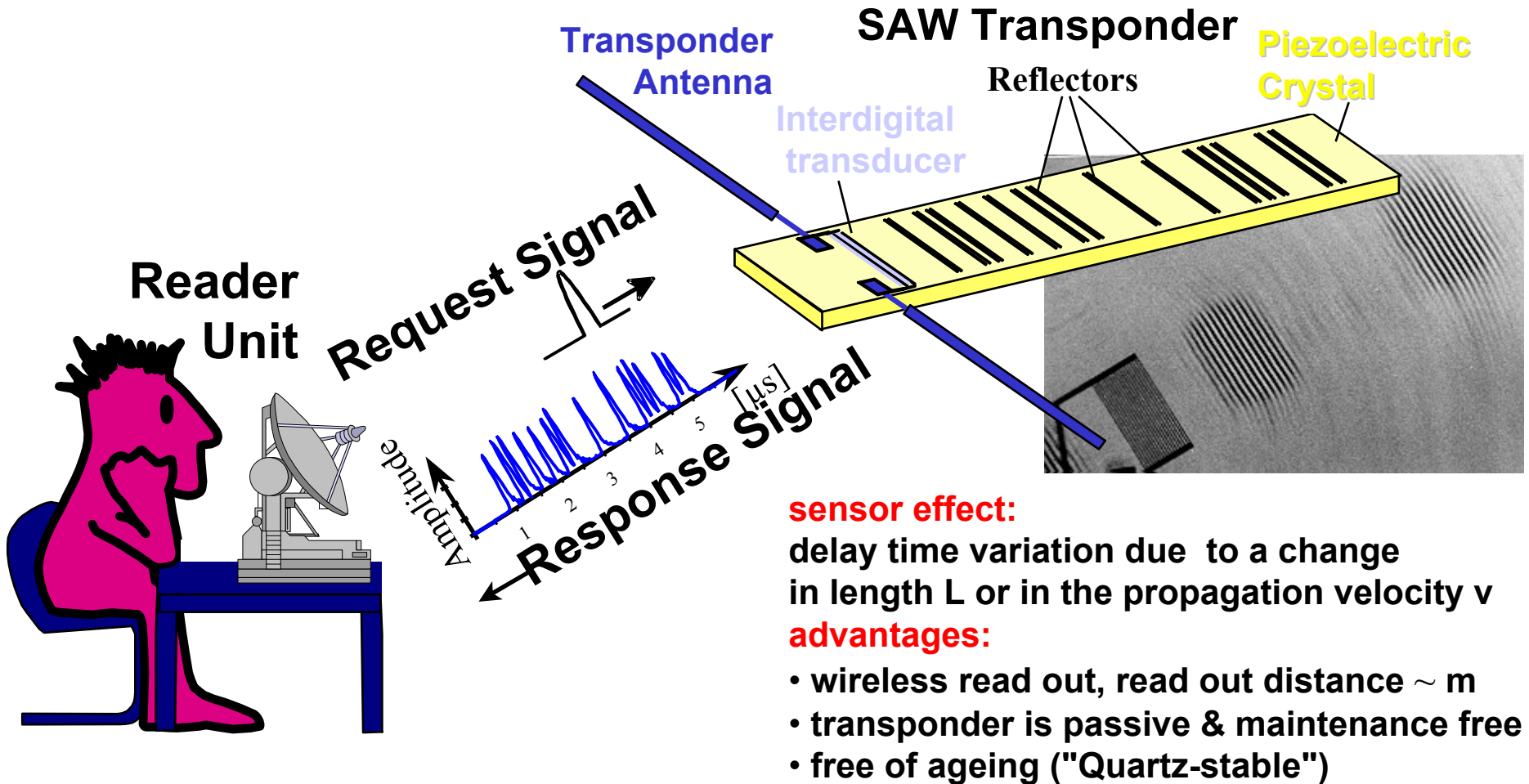
Operating Principle of Wireless Identification or Sensor Systems



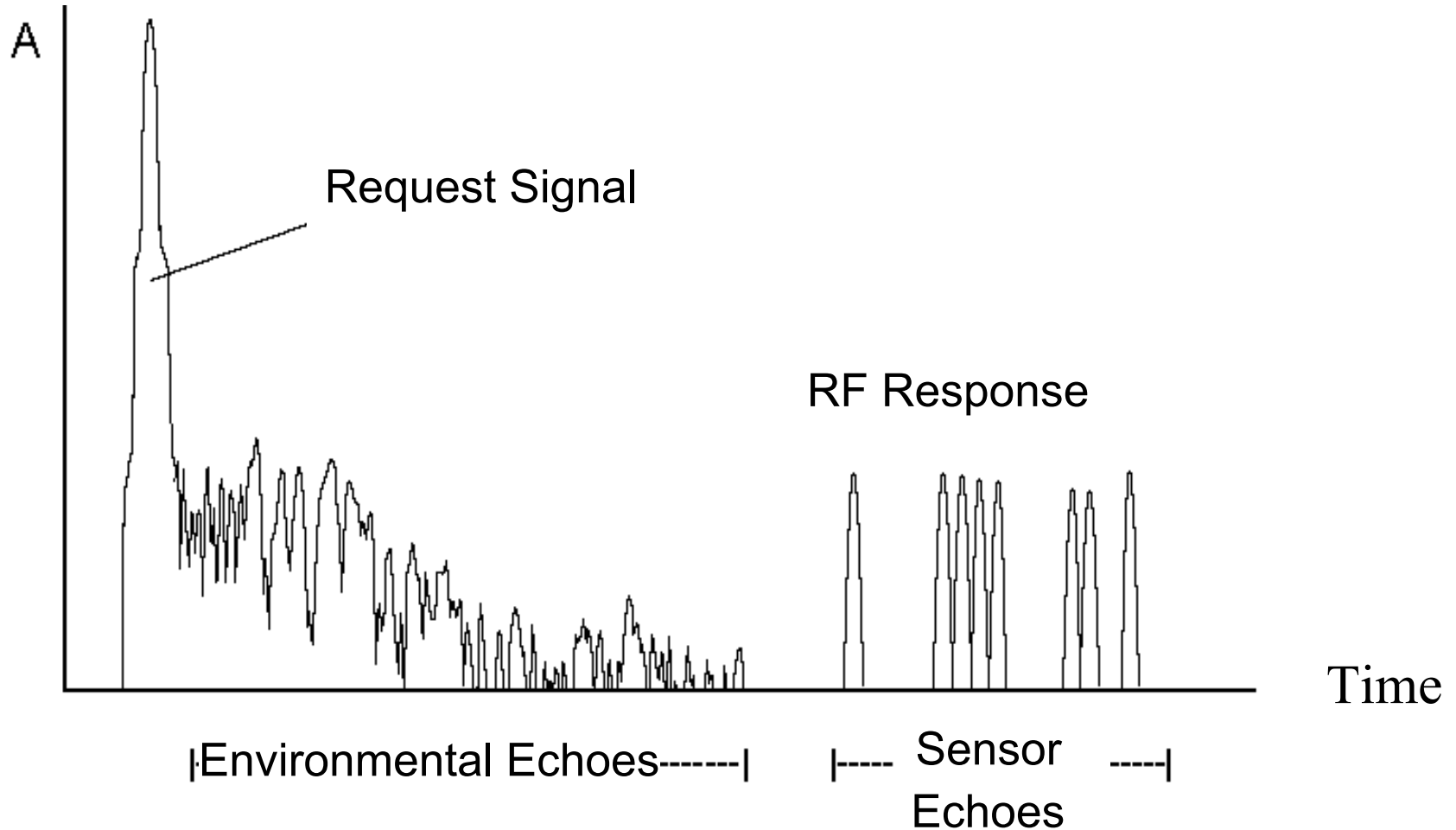
Separation of the sensor response from the request signal



Operating Principle of Wireless SAW - Identification or Sensor Systems



The time division of the RF response of a SAW transponder



Design of Reader Units

The reader units of wireless SAW identification or sensor systems applications resemble those used in traditional radar, and all designs used in radar technologies can be applied:

◆ **Time domain sampling using pulse radar**

- + suitable for measuring with a high dynamic resolution of fast changing or moving objects
- + very simple duplexer by using a switching device
- expensive due to the necessity of fast sampling and fast signal processing devices
- low range due to a low duty cycle

◆ **Time domain sampling using a chirp radar**

- + same as a pulse radar, but with an increased range, because the TB-product improves the duty cycle
- Restriction:** Only medium processing gains are possible: B is restricted by the operating bandwidth of the SAW transponders, and T is restricted by the initial delay of the transponders

◆ **Frequency domain sampling using a network analyser structure**

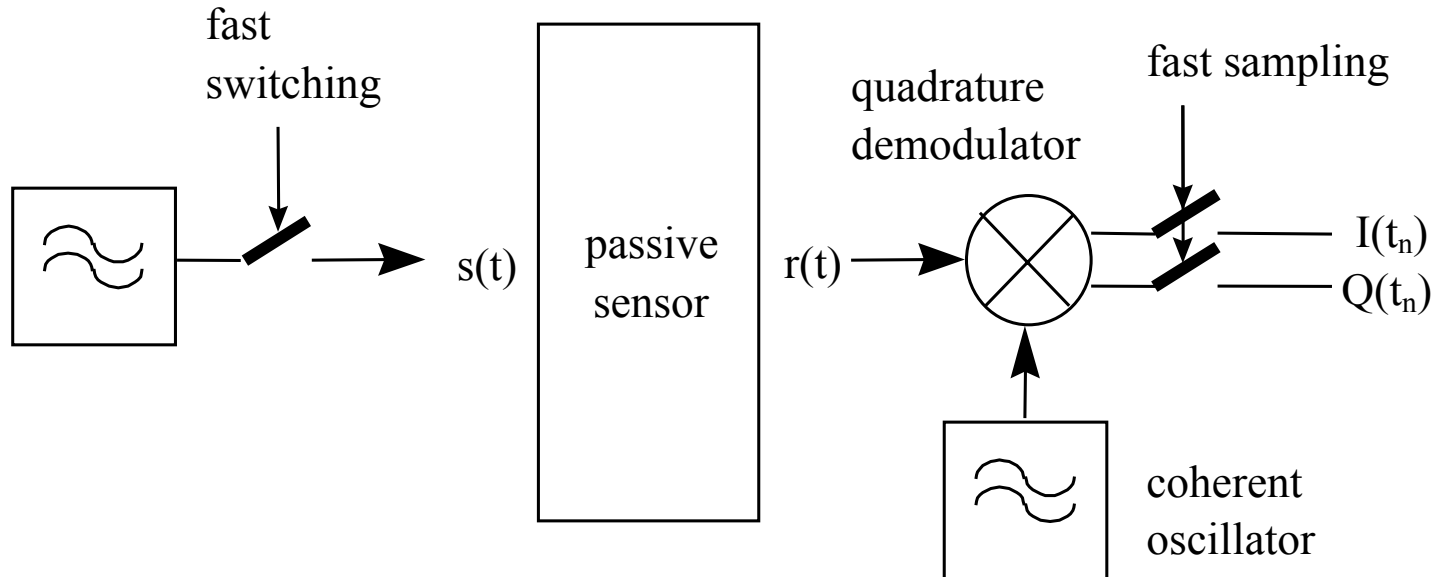
- + low cost and low speed standard components
- + lower demand on the signal processing devices
- + high range due to maximum duty cycle
- suitable only for measuring low speed changing or moving objects
- only a circular device or two separated antennas as duplexer is possible
- a high dynamic range of the receiver architectures is necessary

◆ **Frequency domain sampling using a FMCW design**

- same as a network analyser structure, but with a higher dynamic resolution due to the improved measuring speed
- But:** A high speed Fourier Transform is needed

Reader units utilizing time domain sampling

High speed, but high cost
due to fast components

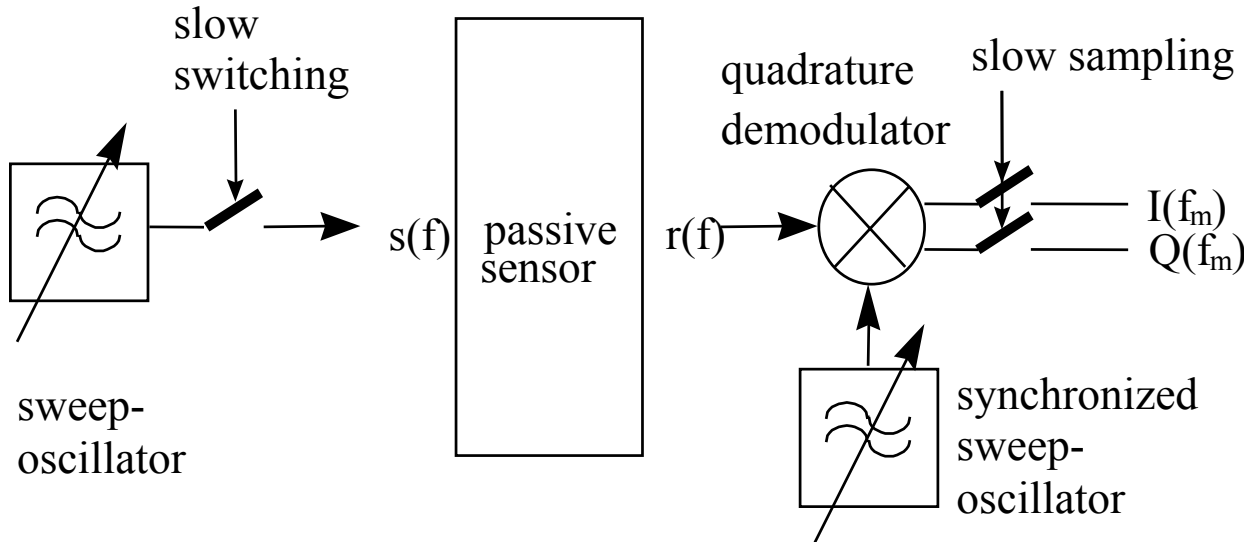


... assuming fast changing measurands:

- the frequency band is transmitted in one burst
- the duty cycle may be enhanced by using chip signals
- need a fast sampling of the response signal

Reader units utilizing frequency domain sampling

very low speed, low cost
standard components

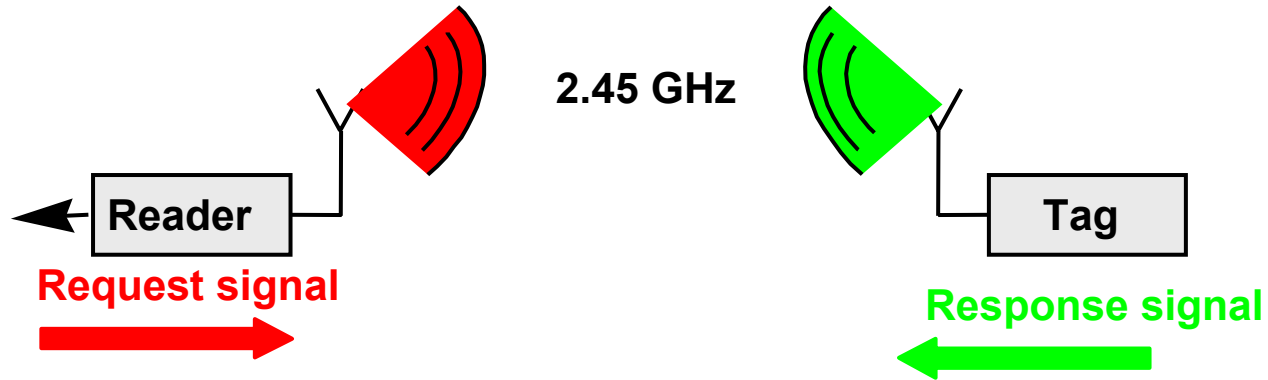


... assuming slowly changing measurands:

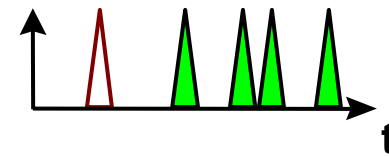
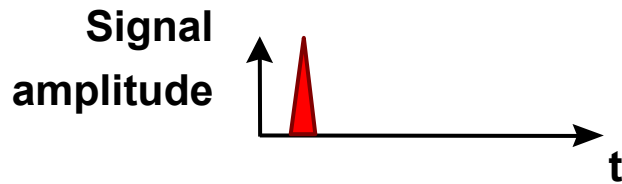
- the frequency of the transmitted bursts is varied step by step

Circuitry is like a
network analyser

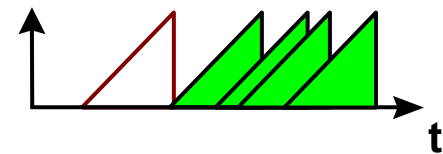
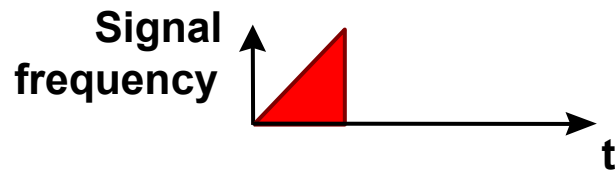
Reader units utilizing a FMCW principle



Pulsed read out



FMCW read out



Modular structure of reader units in a FMCW radar system

DSP Unit

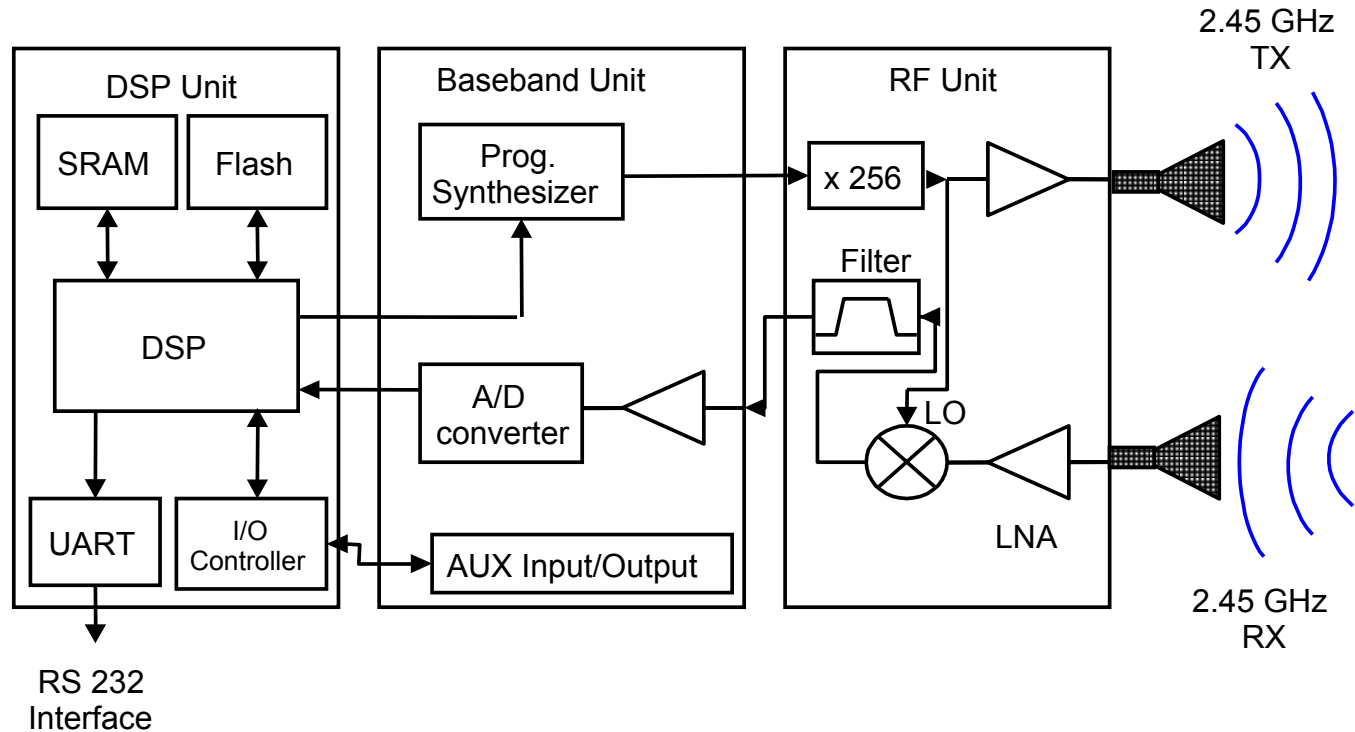
- FFT
- Communication
- System configuration
- FPGA programming

Baseband Unit

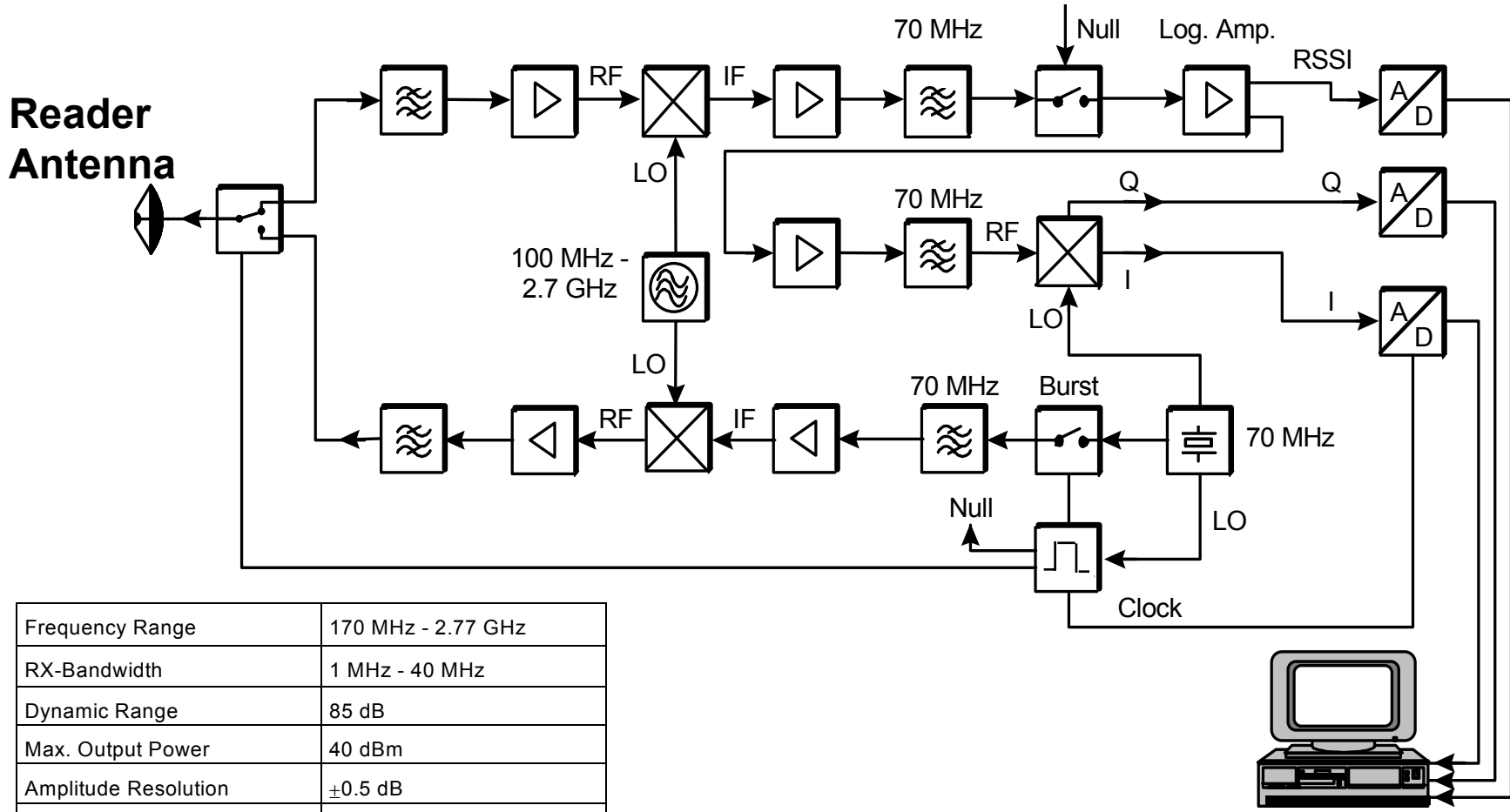
- generates the frequency modulation
- A/D converter of the echo signal (time domain)
- controls Aux I/O

RF Unit

- transmits (Tx) and receives (Rx) in the 2.45 GHz ISM Band
- mixing of Tx / Rx



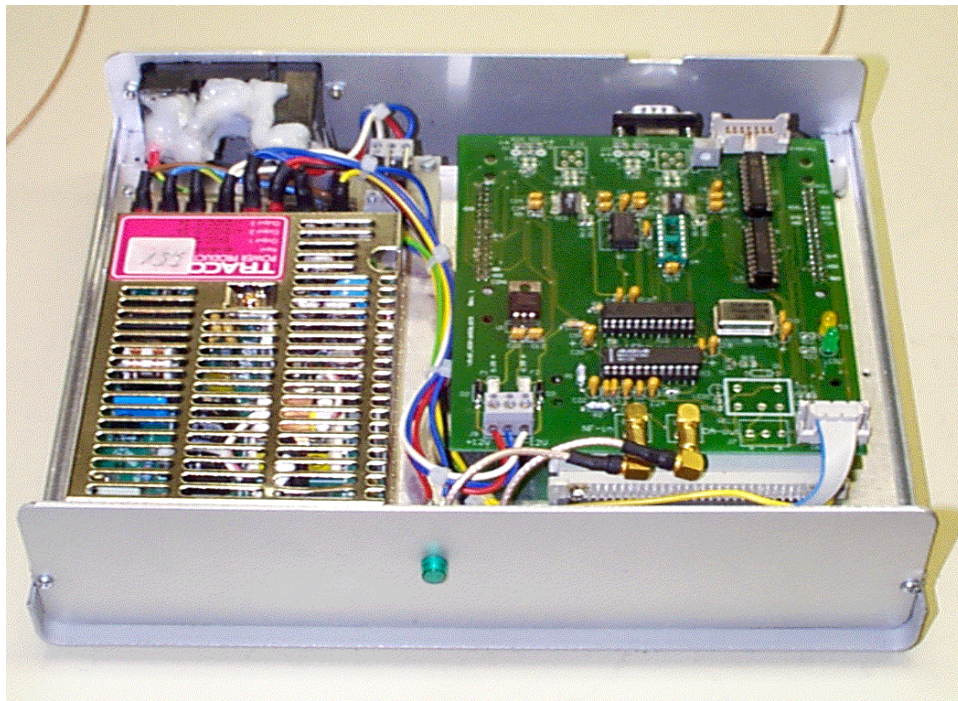
Extended Block diagram of a time domain sampling reader unit



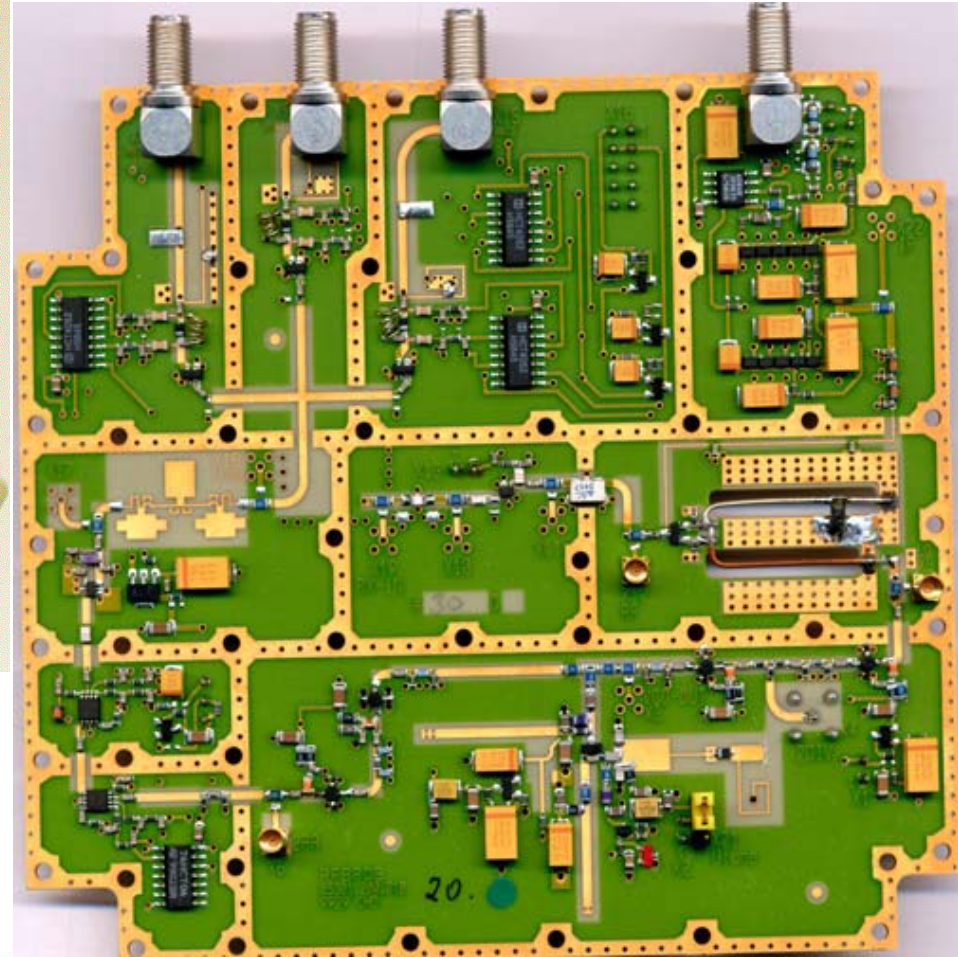
Frequency Range	170 MHz - 2.77 GHz
RX-Bandwidth	1 MHz - 40 MHz
Dynamic Range	85 dB
Max. Output Power	40 dBm
Amplitude Resolution	±0.5 dB
Phase Resolution	± 1°
Noise Figure	5 dB

Reader Unit operating at 2.45GHz, built up using standard ICs.

RF printed circuit board



Open card chassis

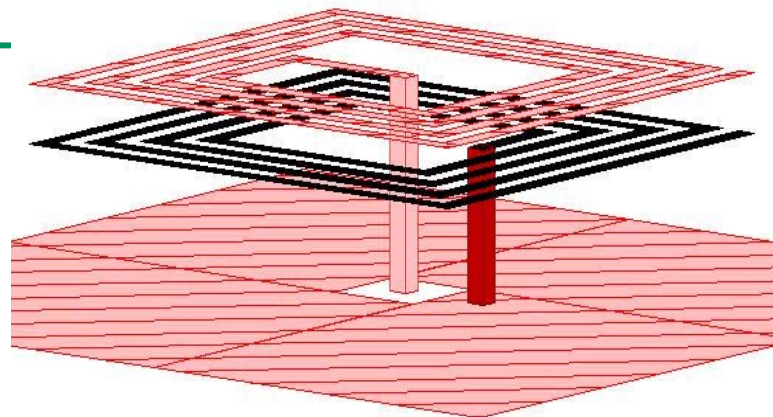
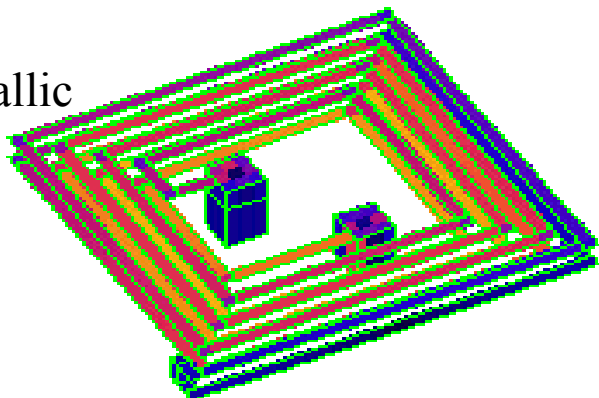


RF part of a Reader Unit operating at 434MHz



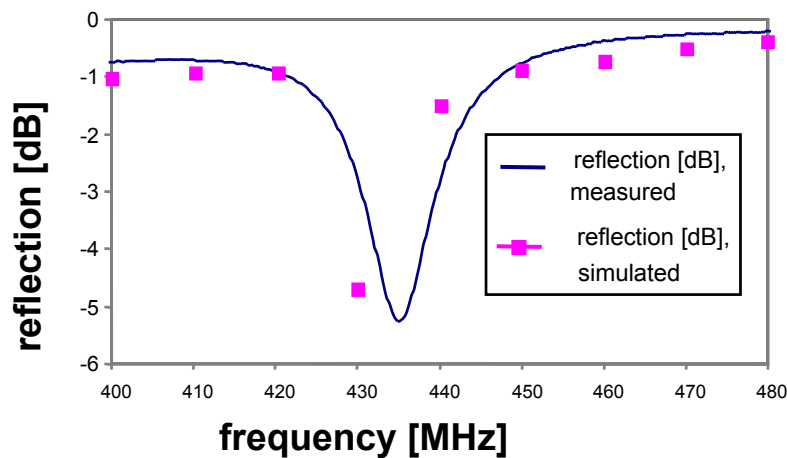
Folded spiral antenna for the 434 MHz band

Current density map of the metallic spiral layers



Geometry with ground plane

Reflection Coefficient



Antenna in a steel package filled with polymer (diameter = 20mm).

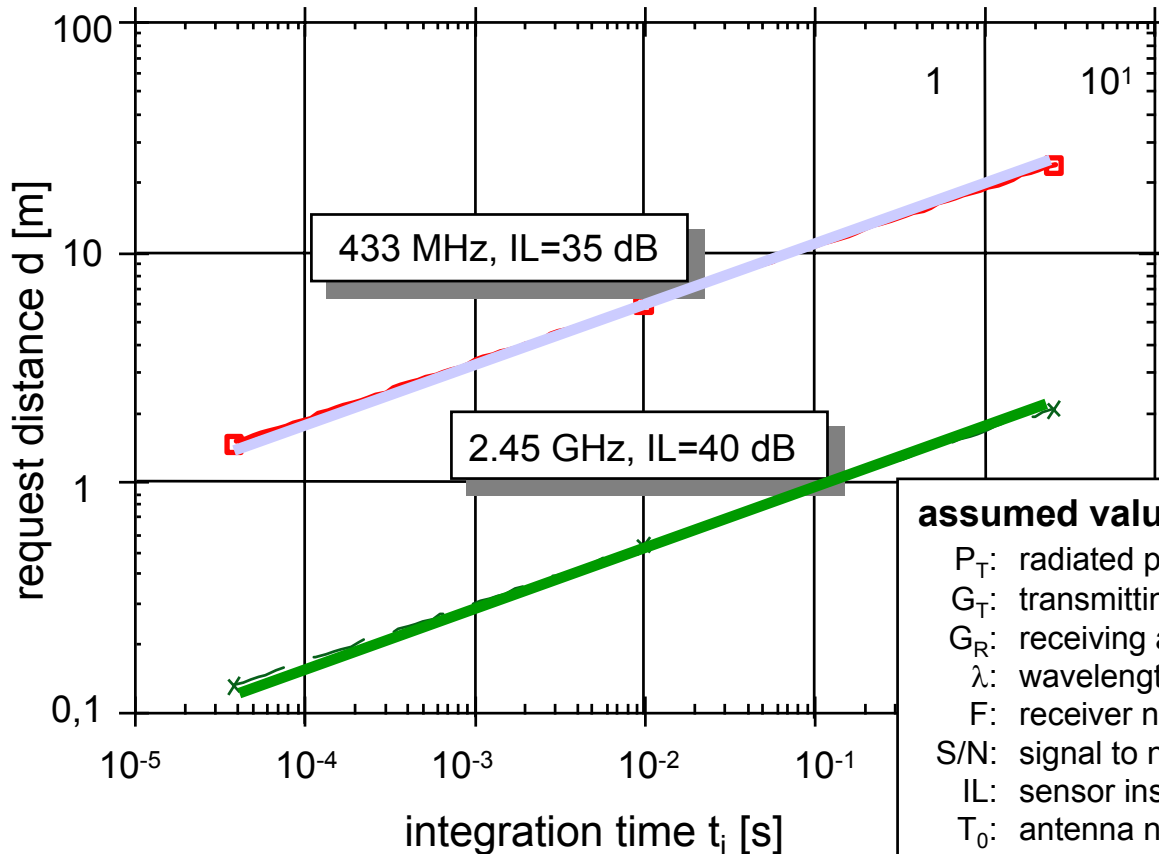
ID System OIS-W

Baumer // *IDENT*



**A company of the
Baumer electric Group**

Estimation of the request distance



radar equation

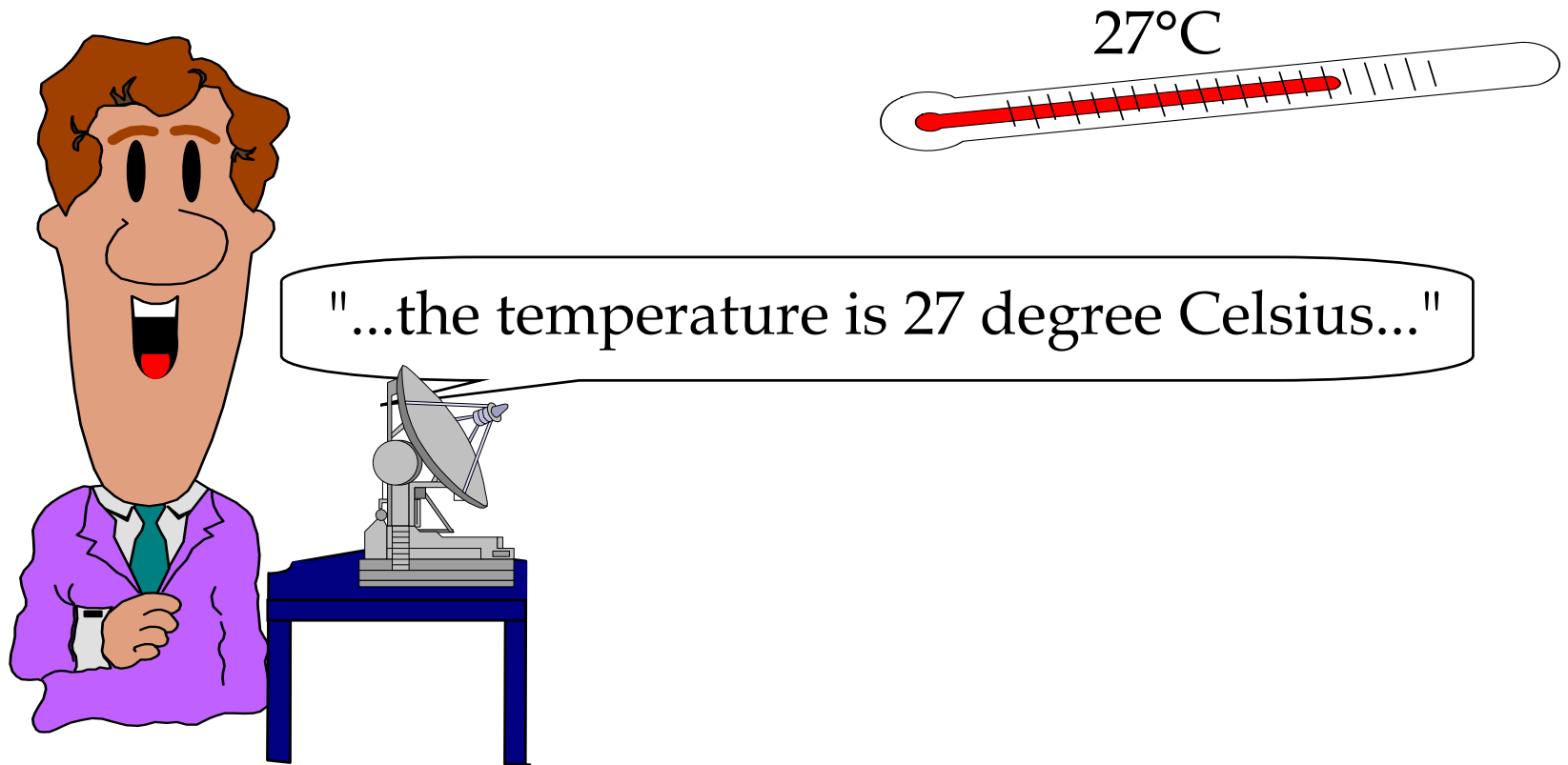
$$d = \sqrt[4]{\frac{P_T G_T^2 G_R^2 \lambda^4 t_i}{k T_0 F \frac{S}{N} IL}}$$

assumed values for estimations

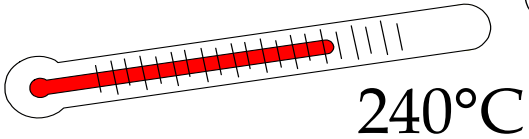
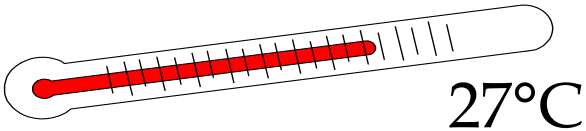
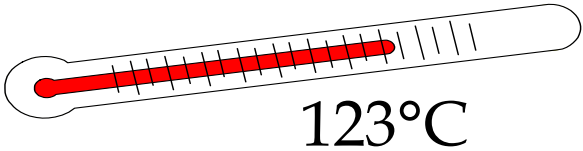
P_T : radiated power	14 dBm
G_T : transmitting antenna gain	0 dB
G_R : receiving antenna gain	-3 dBi / 0 dBi
λ : wavelength	70 cm / 12 cm
F: receiver noise figure	12 dB
S/N: signal to noise ratio for detection	20 dB
IL: sensor insertion loss	35 dB / 40 dB
T_0 : antenna noise temperature	300 K
t_i : integration time	

Multiple access of SAW radio sensors

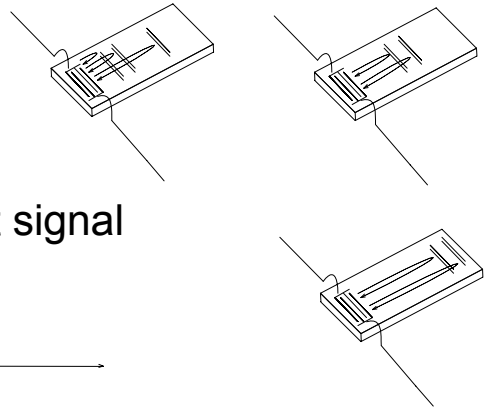
With only one sensor in the beam of the reader unit, everything is fine:



More than one... ???



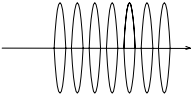
Example for a TDMA-sample



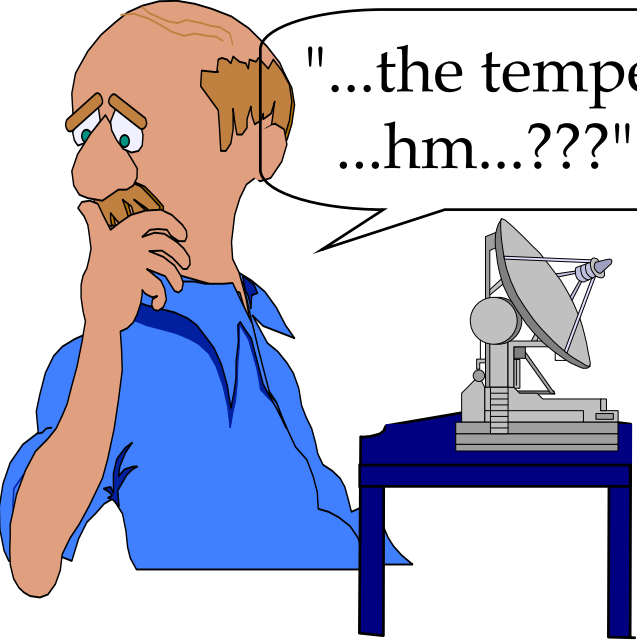
Request signal



Sum of response signals



"...the temperature is
...hm...???"

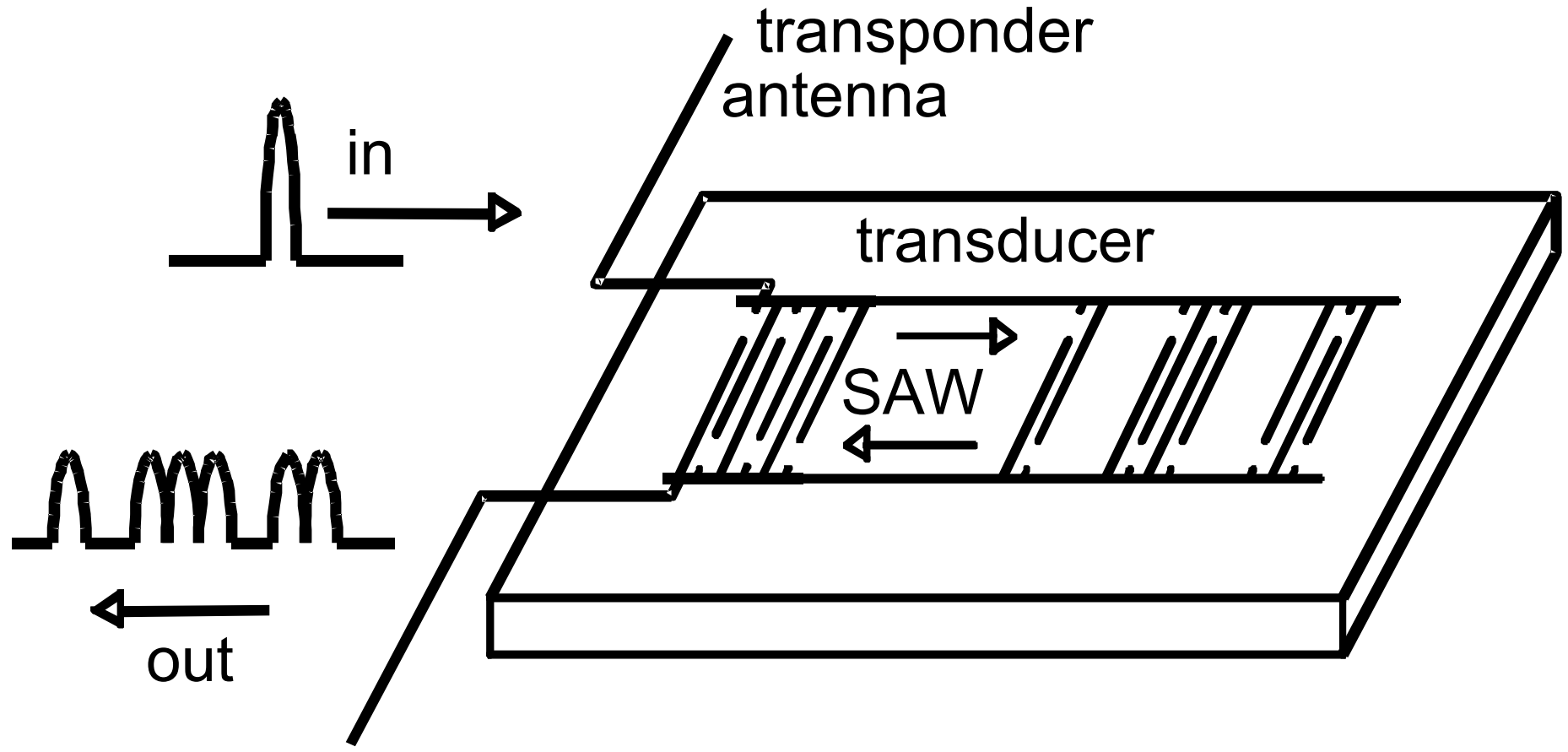


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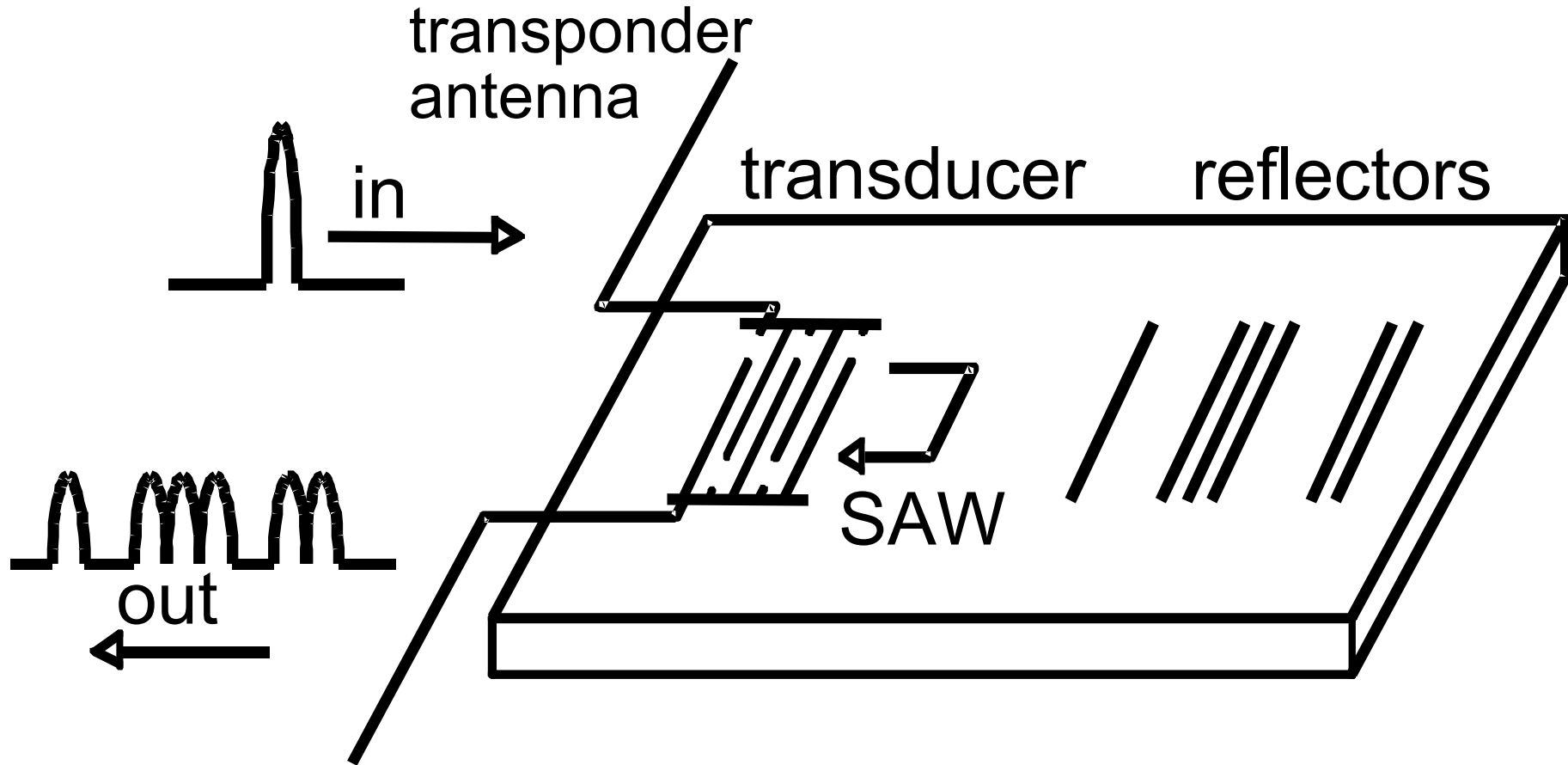


Schematic layout of a SAW ID tag with several transducers wired together to a common bus bar



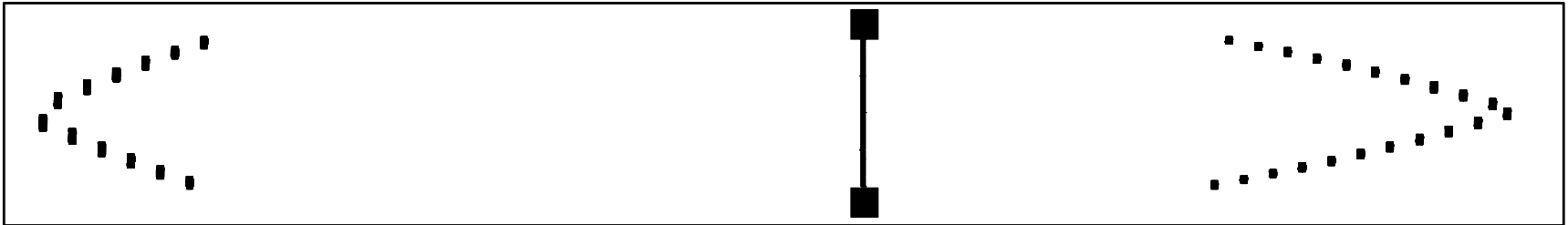
Good design for quartz materials and other substrates with small dielectric and piezoelectric constants

Schematic layout of a reflective SAW tag



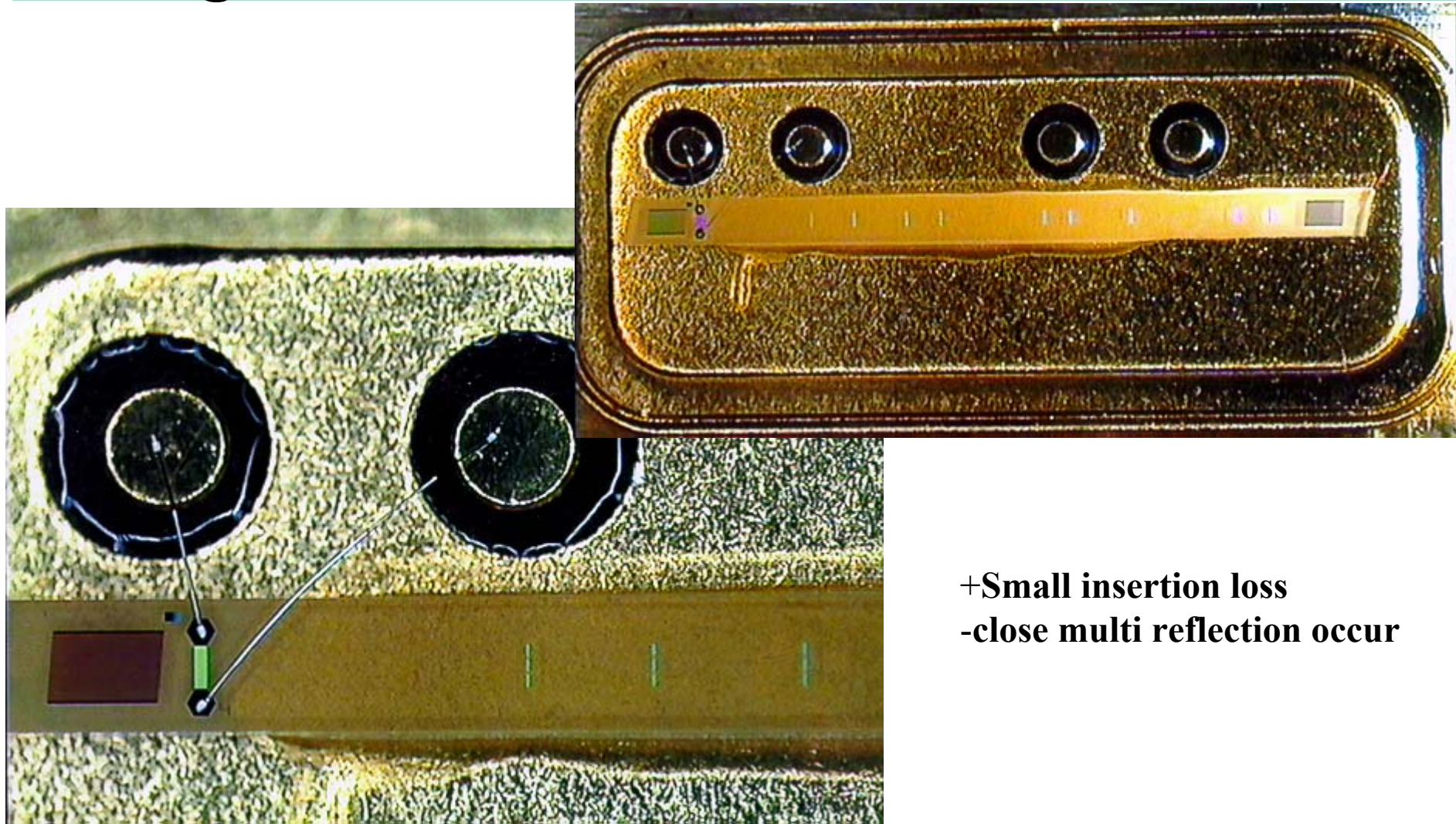
Good design for LiNbO_3 materials and substrates with a high dielectric and piezoelectric constants, half the chip size!

SAW ID tag with every reflector arranged in a separate track



- +No close multi reflections
- +No dependence of actual bit level on precursors
- need reflectors with high reflectivity
- need a transducer with a huge aperture

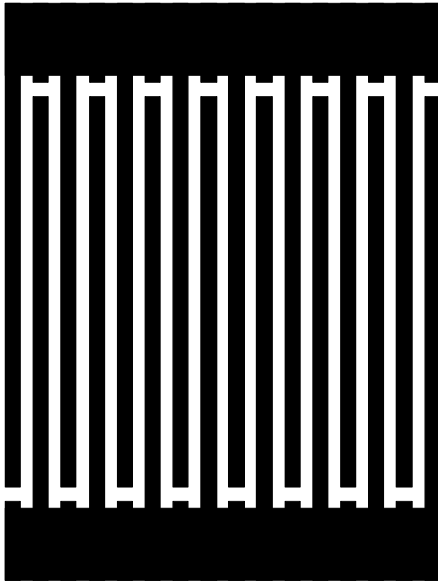
SAW ID tag where all reflectors are arranged in the same acoustic track



- +Small insertion loss
- close multi reflection occur

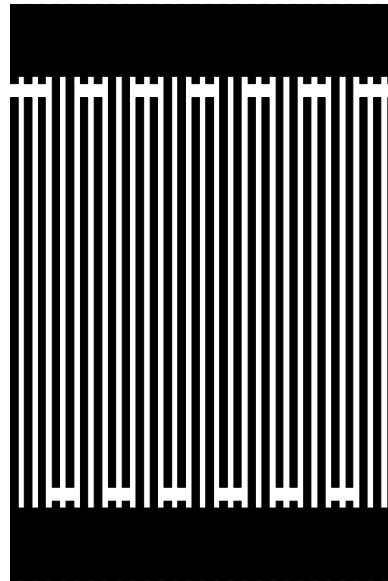
Layout of typical transducers for SAW ID tags and radio requestable sensors

uniform transducer



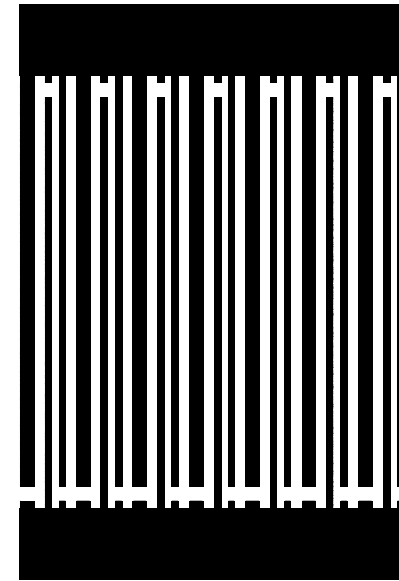
pitch: $\lambda/4$

split finger transducer



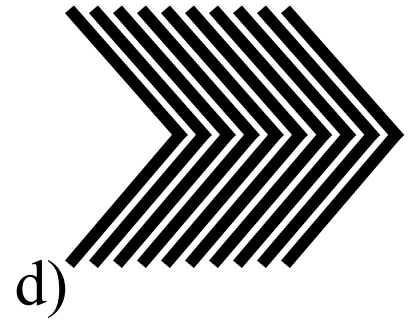
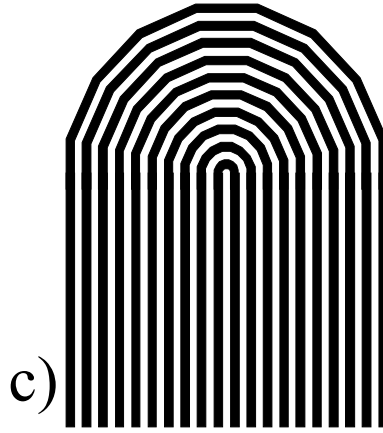
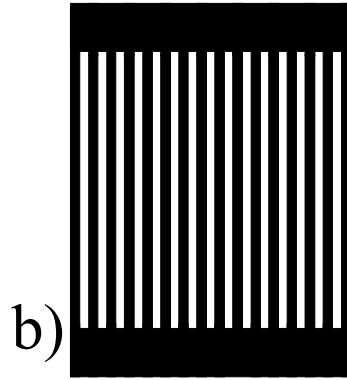
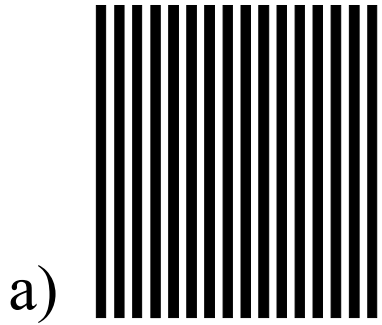
pitch: $\lambda/8$

unidirectional transducer



pitch: $\lambda/4$ and $\lambda/8$

Layout of reflectors



uniform open

shorted

multistrip
coupler

chevron-type

multistrip coupler
effects may occur

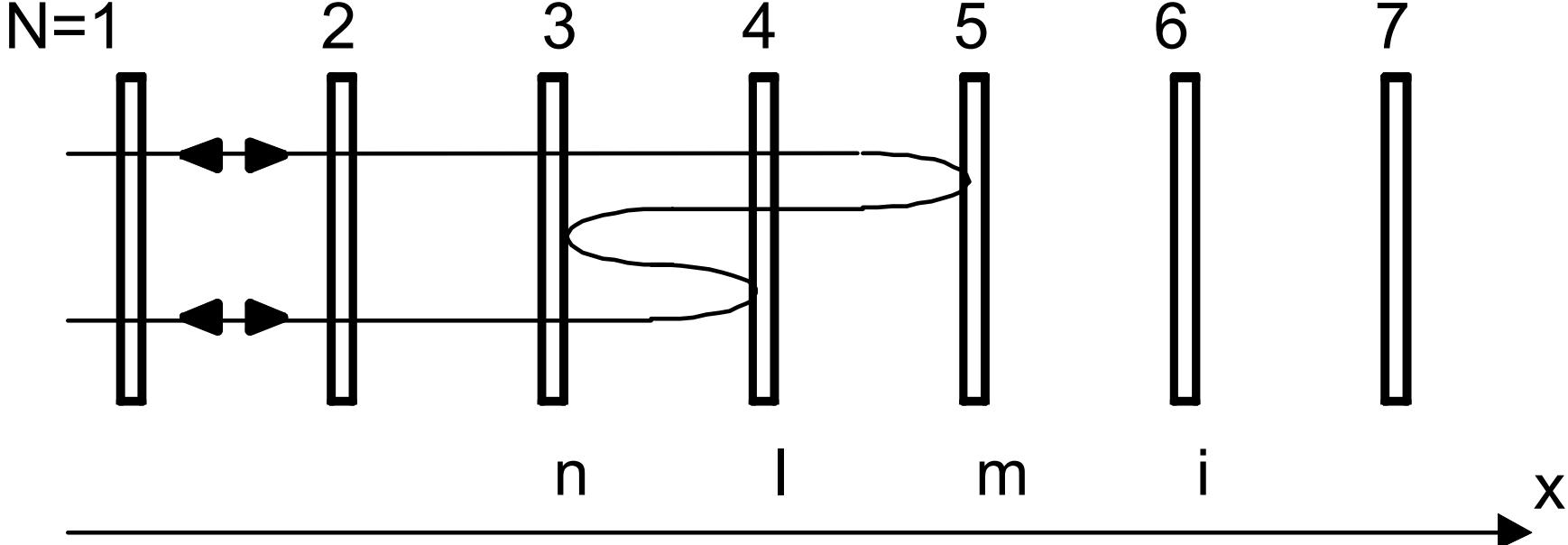
huge demand
of wasted space
per track

no multi reflections,
but high loss

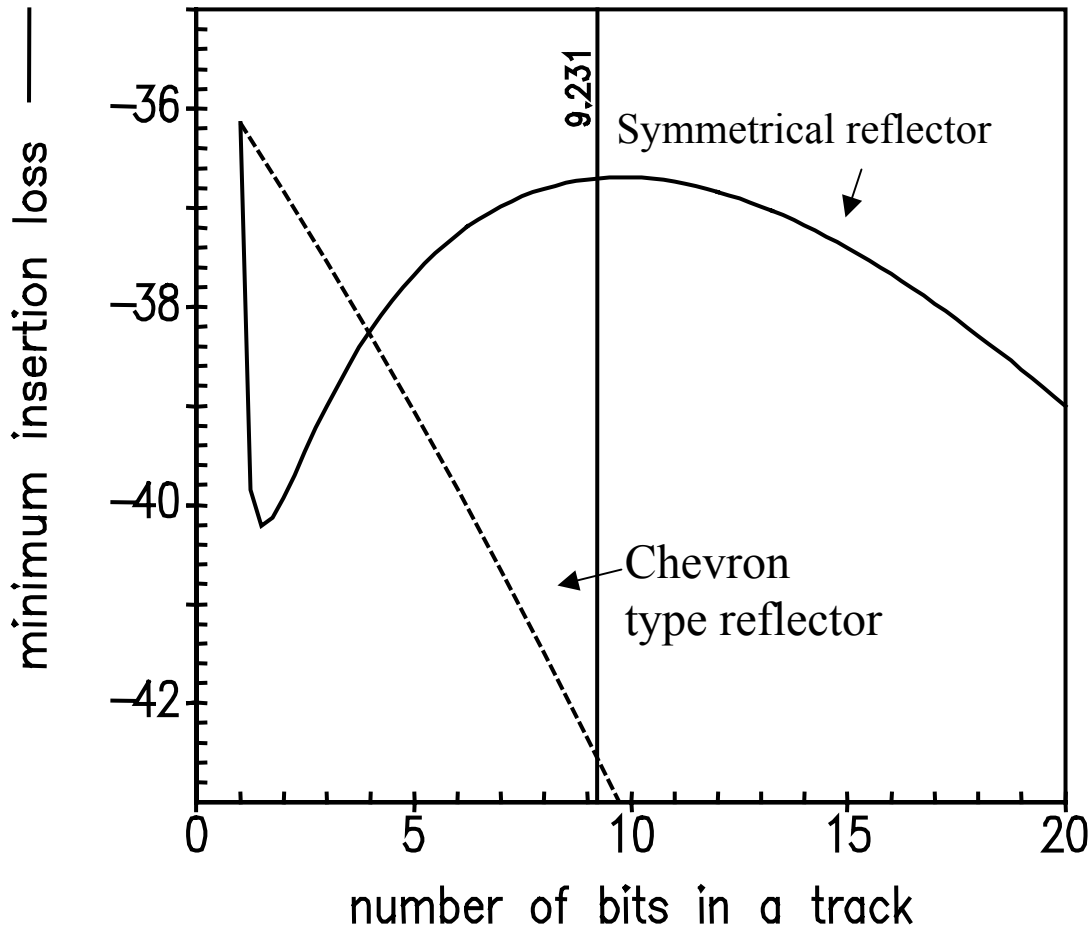
symmetrical acoustic reflection

**non-symmetrical
reflection**

Schematic of triple reflection resulting in a delayed spurious signal



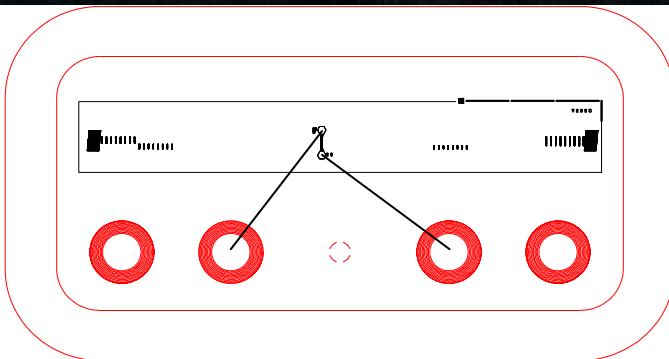
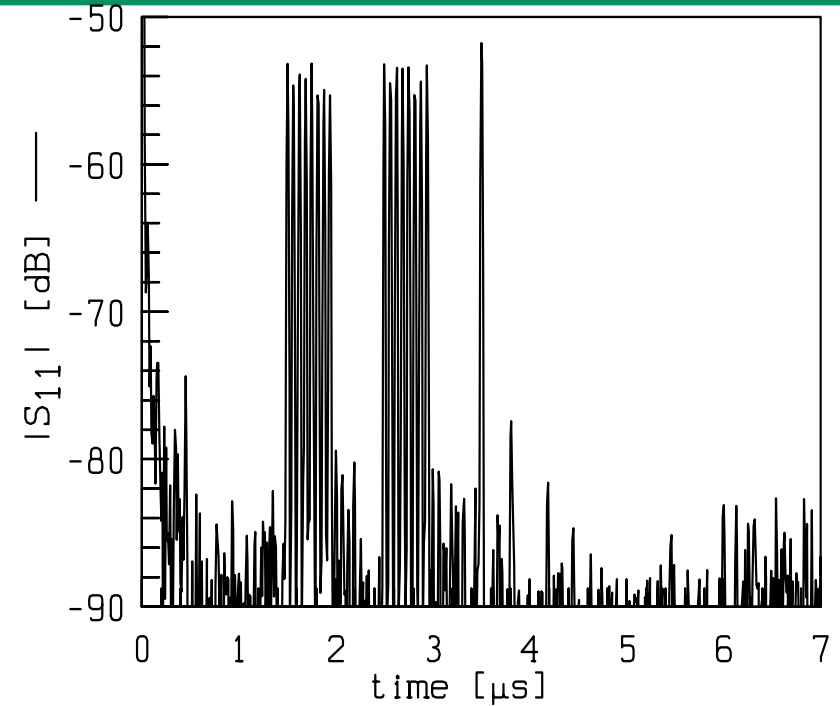
Loss of a 33 bit ID-tag as a function of the number of reflectors lined up in one track



Design parameter:

- Amplitude weighting (ON/OFF)
- 33 bits
- dynamic (IL(ON)/IL(OFF)>20dB)
- propagation loss between two contiguous reflectors 0.38dB
- loss due to passing twice a reflector 0.75dB

Layout, Photo and measurements of a mounted SAW ID tag comprising 33 reflectors in 4 tracks ($f_0 = 2.45$ GHz) (Amplitude Coded)



Measurements: 8 "ON", 8 "OFF",
8 "ON", 8 "OFF", 1 "ON"

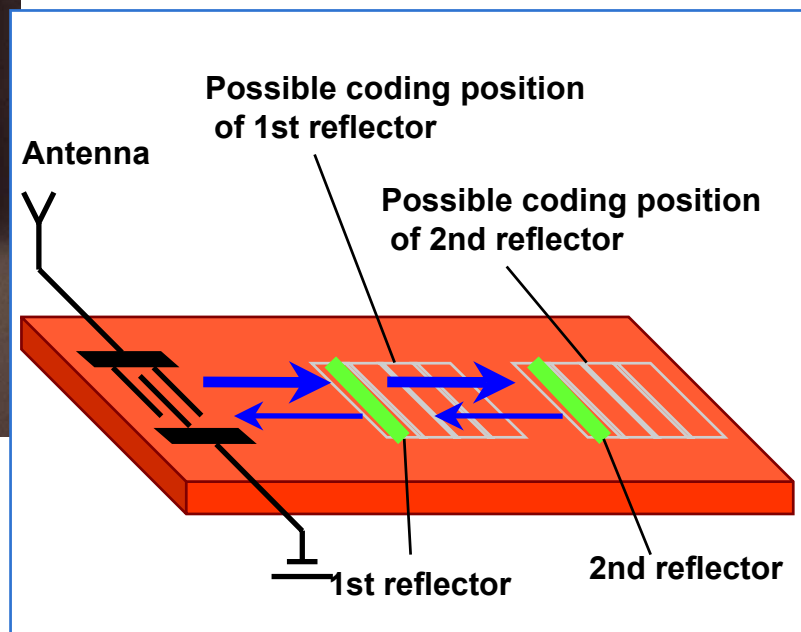
Coding Schemes

- **Amplitude Coding (ON/OFF)**
 - + insensitive on small velocity variations
 - + temperature effects can be eliminated using a start and stop bit
 - ± problems with the uniformity can be avoided by using special OFF structures with the same damping but no reflective properties than ON structures
 - high insertion loss due to the high amount of reflectors (and also due to the OFF structures)
- **Phase Coding**
 - + 2PSK: lower bit error rate by using a 2-PSK coding scheme than by ON/OFF-amplitude coding with the same signal-to noise-ratio
 - + 4-PSK and higher coding schemas are possible, which reduces the total amount of reflectors / symbols
 - very sensitive to small velocity variations
 - temperature effects have to be cancelled very carefully
- **Pulse Position Coding**
 - + higher coding schemas are possible
 - + insensitive on small velocity variations and temperature variations
 - + small insertion loss due to the small amount of reflectors used

Layout and Photo of a mounted SAW ID tag comprised of 5 reflectors in one tracks ($f_0 = 2.45$ GHz) using pulse position coding



Pulse position coding schema

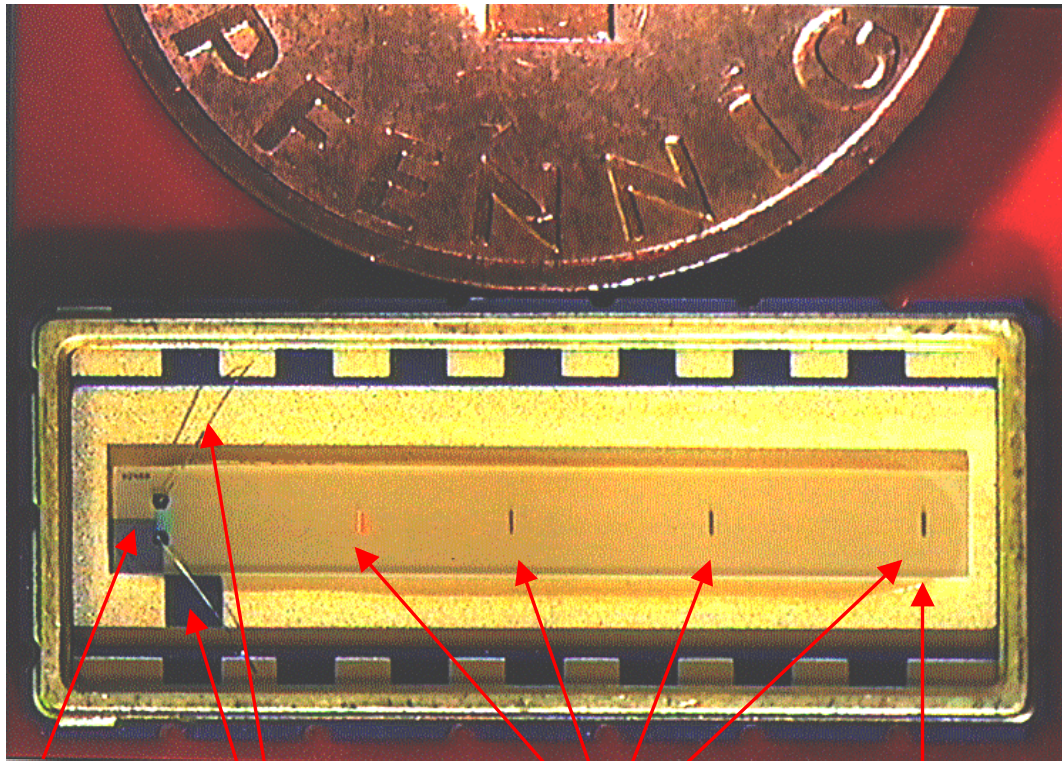


Outline

- **Introduction: Classical SAW Sensors**
- **SAW Radio Request**
- **SAW Identification Tags**
- **SAW Radio Requestable Sensors**
 - **(Reflective) Delay Lines**
 - **Resonators**
 - **(Reflective) Dispersive Delay Lines**
 - **Non-linear Sensors**
- **Application Examples**
- **Conclusion**



Photo of a mounted SAW radio readable temperature sensor and corresponding time domain response



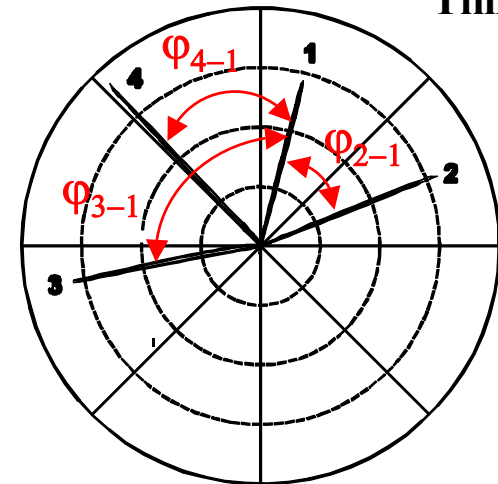
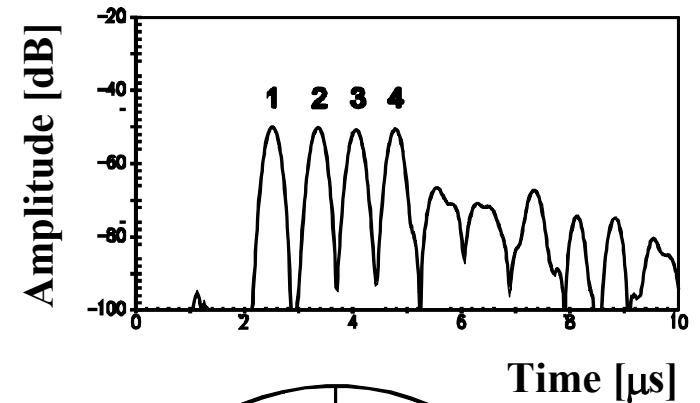
Interdigital
Transducer

bonding wires

reflectors

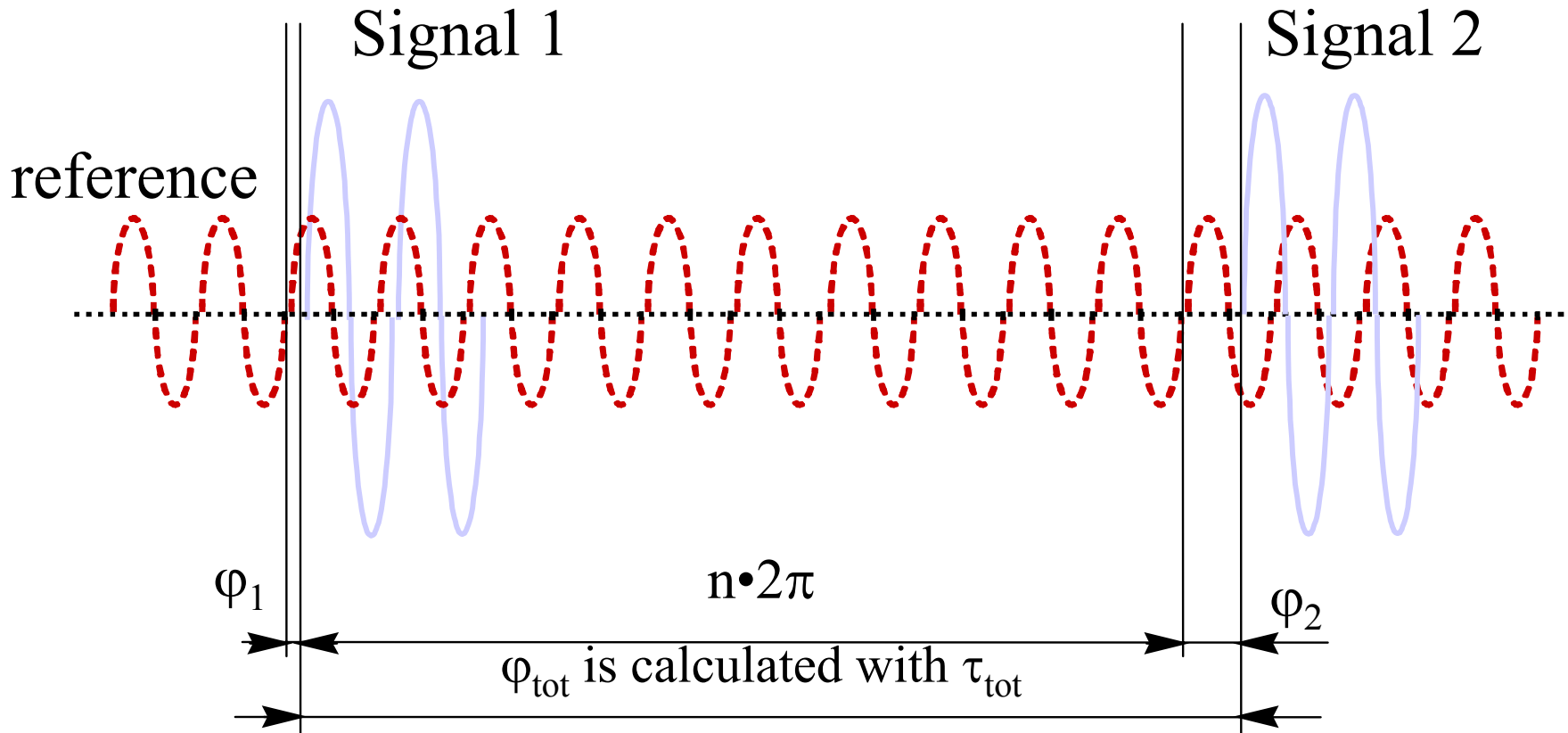
LiNbO₃ chip

Time domain response



phases in a polar chart

Evaluation of the phase difference



... enhances the time resolution by a factor of 100 and
yields to a relative resolution of 10^{-5} to 10^{-6} .

SAW Sensors using a Delay Line Configuration

In most sensing applications using a delay line a differential arrangement is applied and the change Δ in the difference of

$$\tau_{2-1} = \tau_2 - \tau_1$$

or

$$\varphi_{2-1} = \varphi_2 - \varphi_1$$

between two signals (#1) and (#2) is evaluated.

For $\Delta \tau_{2-1}$ and $\Delta \varphi_{2-1}$ we get:

$$\Delta \tau_{2-1} = \left[\tau_2(y_0) S_{y,2}^\tau - \tau_1(y_0) S_{y,1}^\tau \right] \Delta y$$

$$\Delta \varphi_{2-1} = \left[\varphi_2(y_0) S_{y,2}^\varphi - \varphi_1(y_0) S_{y,1}^\varphi \right] \Delta y$$

SAW Sensors using a Delay Line Configuration

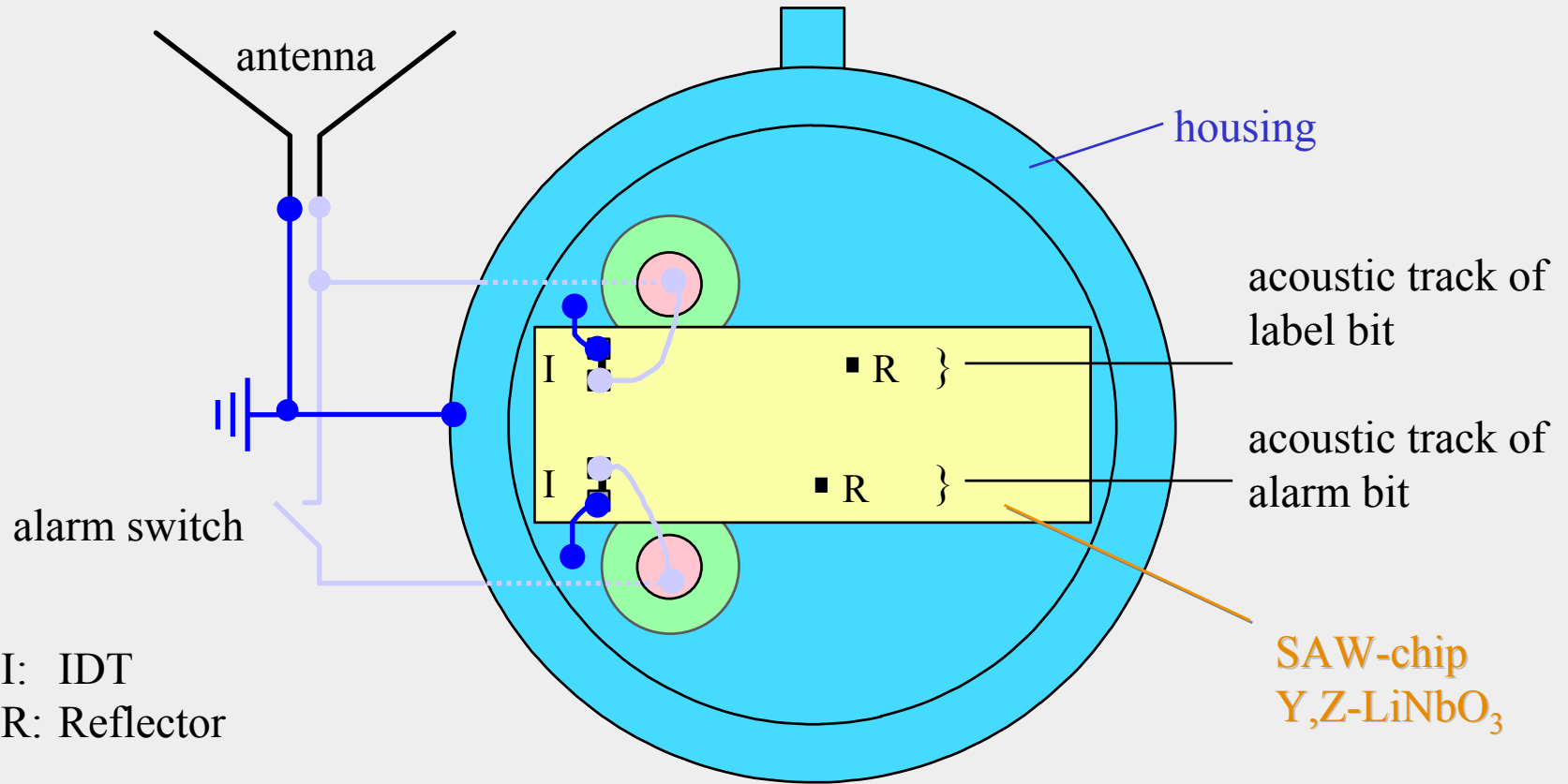
If the sensitivities $S_{y,2}^\tau$ and $S_{y,1}^\tau$ for the signals (#1) and (#2) are equal, we get

$$\Delta \tau_{2-1} = \tau_{2-1} \cdot S_y^\tau \cdot \Delta y$$
$$\Delta \varphi_{2-1} = 2\pi f \Delta \tau_{2-1} = 2\pi \cdot f \Delta \tau \cdot S_y^\tau \cdot \Delta y$$

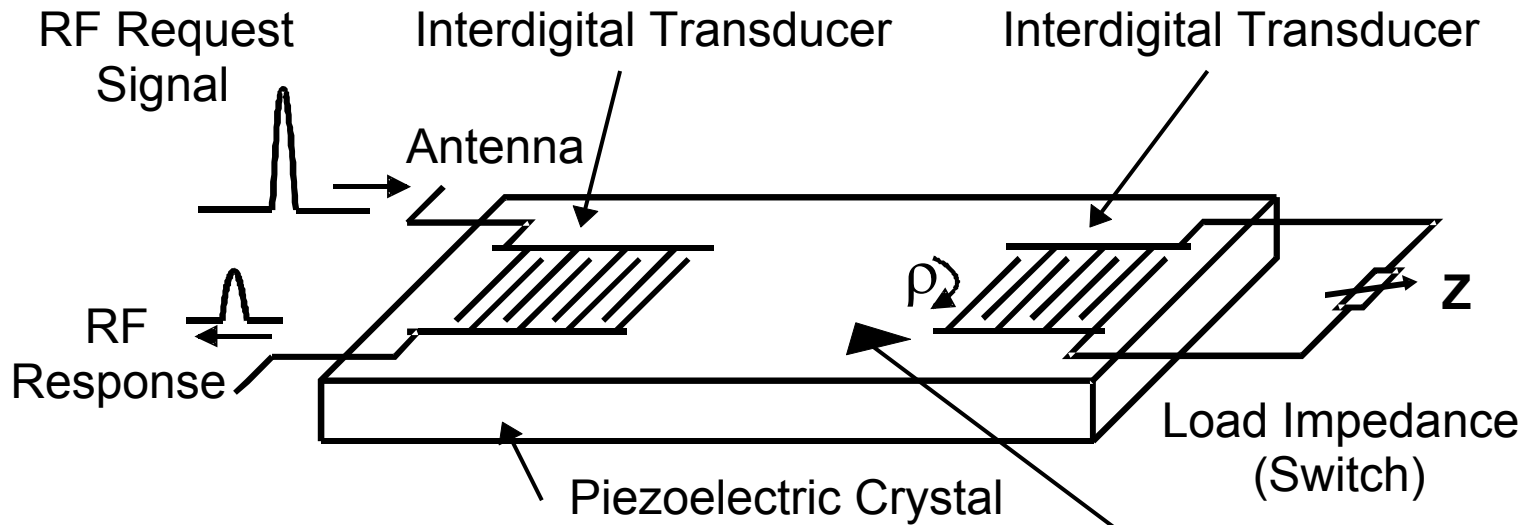
2 • (number of acoustic wave-lengths between both reflectors),
typical several hundreds

The phase difference can be determined and measured very accurately. Thus the evaluation of the phase provides a high sensitivity.

Switch able SAW Tag operating at 2,45 GHz



Special reflective delay line: SAW device combined with an external classical sensor

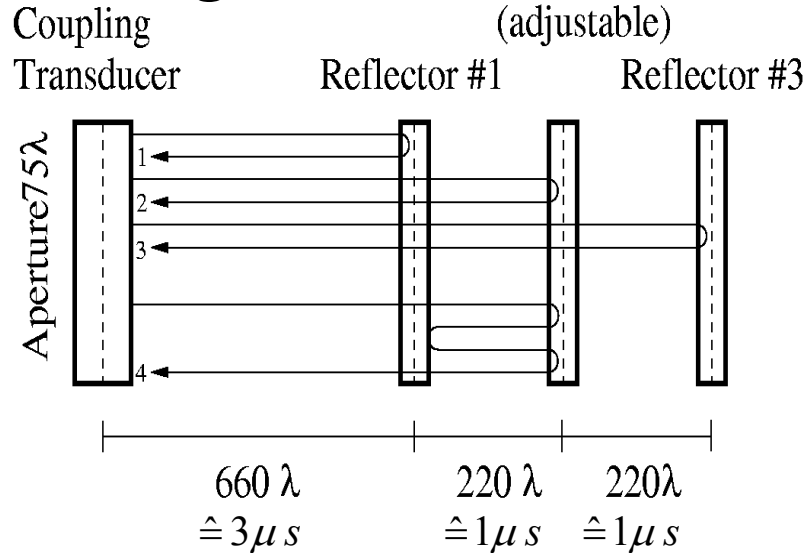


$$P_{11}(Y) = P_{11,sc} + \frac{2 \cdot P_{13}^2}{P_{33} + Y}$$

Only one reflector is shown!

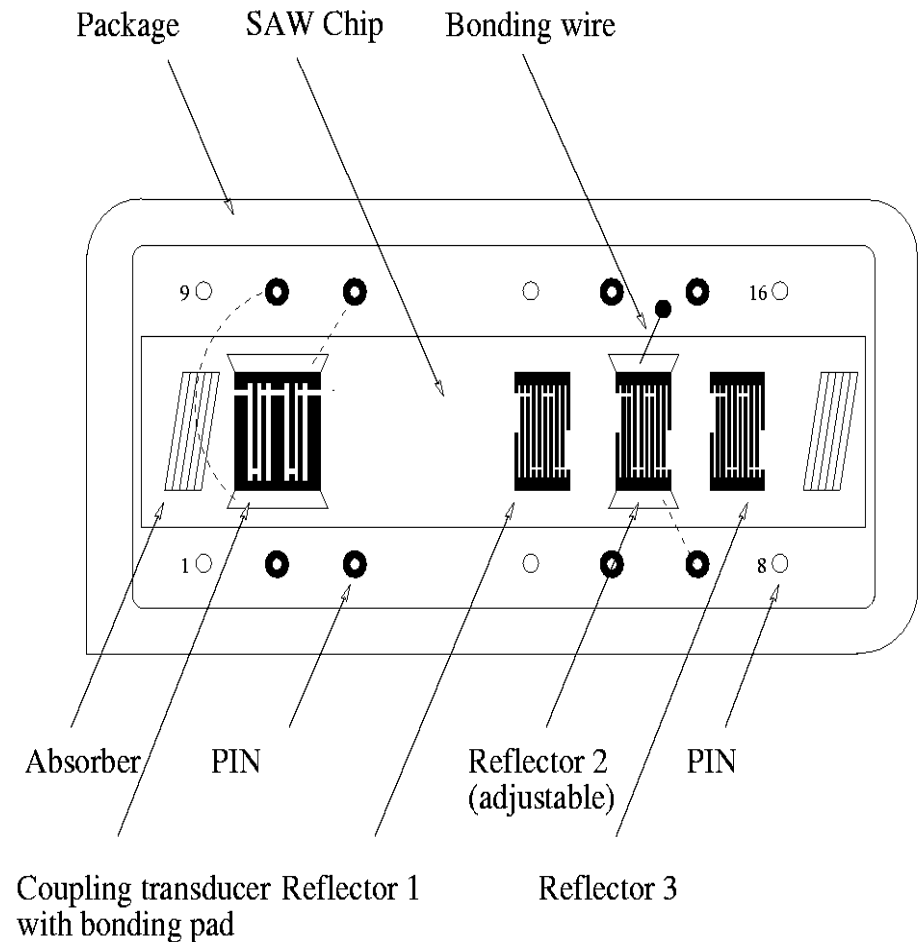
Layout of a SAW Device which can be combined with an external classical sensor

Timing

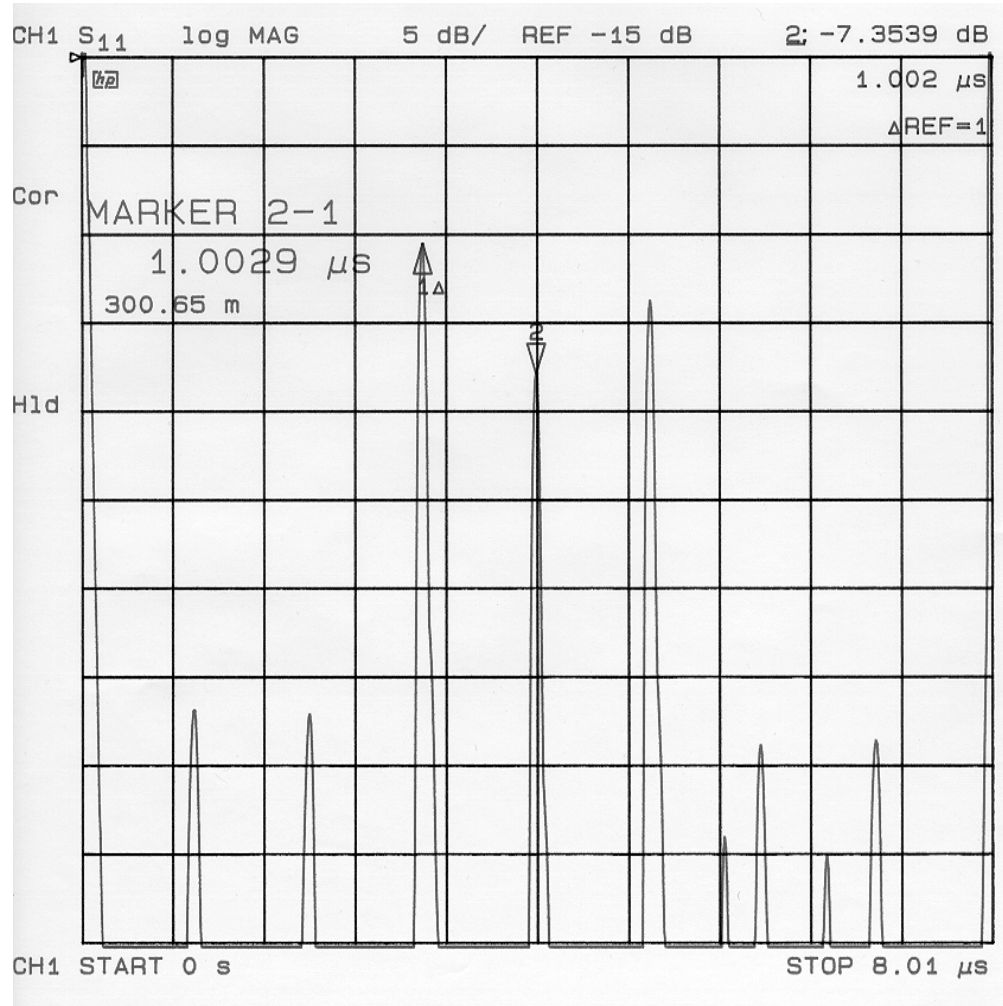


Reflector #2 is built up as transducer. The electrical port of the transducer can be loaded with the impedance of an external classical sensor. Therefore, the acoustical reflection of reflector #2 becomes a function of the applied complex load impedance, which is given by the external sensor element.

Housed SAW Chip



Typical Impulse Response

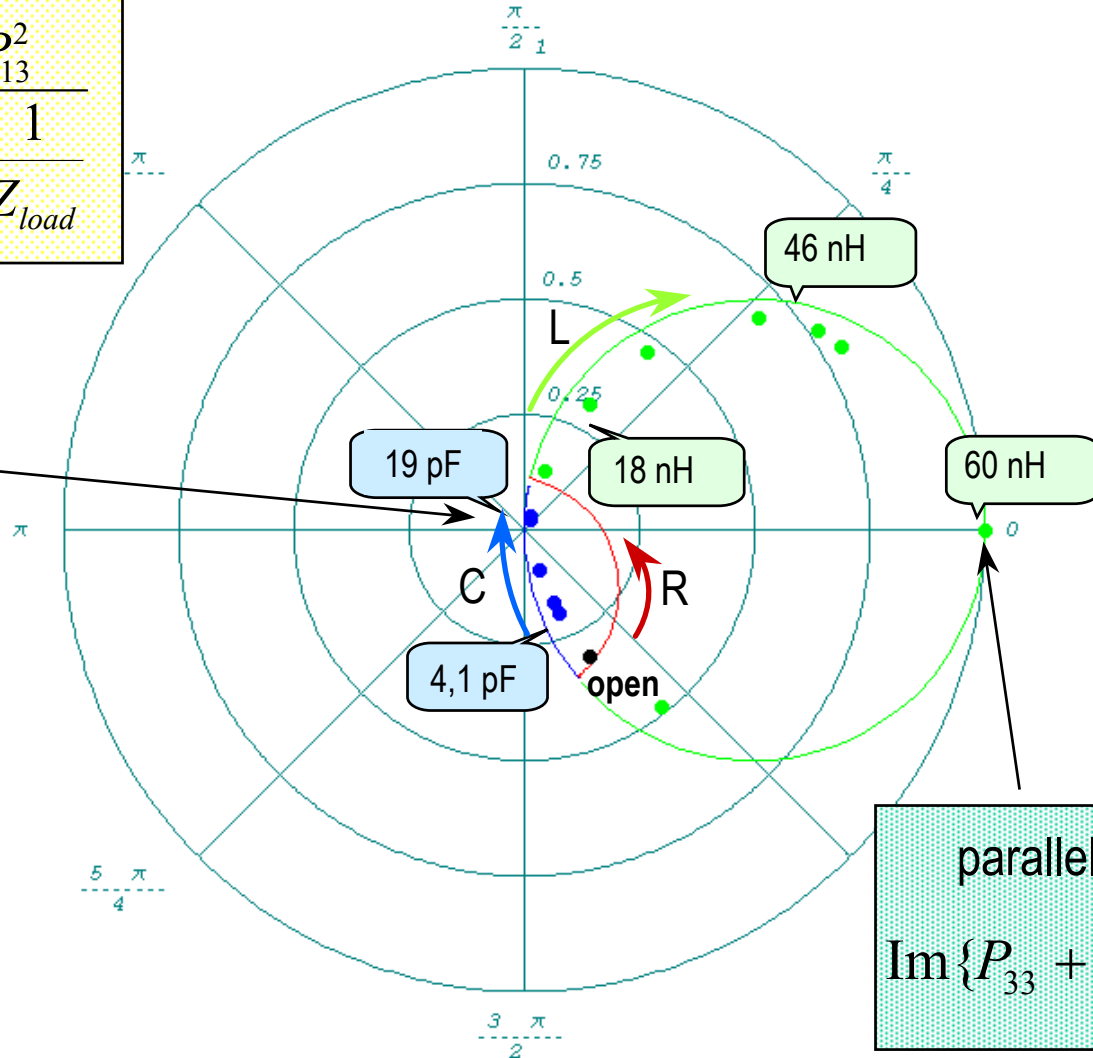


Measured acoustic reflectivity of a split finger IDT as a function of the applied electrical load

$$P_{11}(Z_{load}) = P_{11}^{sc} + \frac{2 \cdot P_{13}^2}{P_{33} + \frac{1}{Z_{load}}}$$

serial resonance:

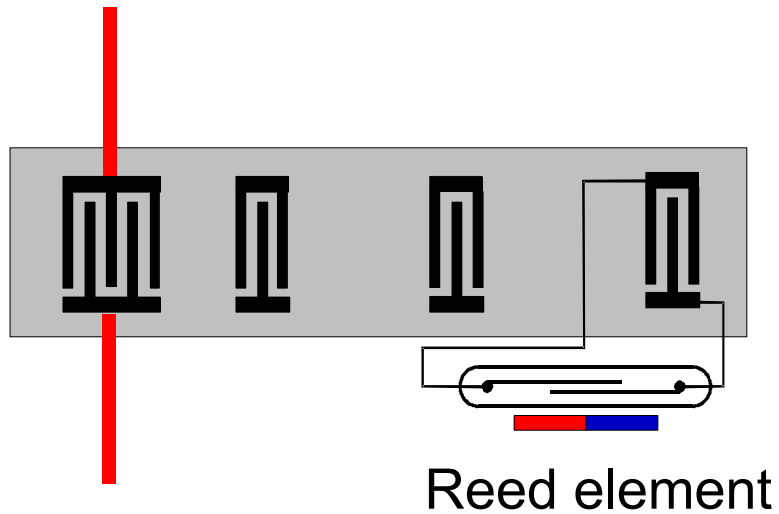
$$P_{11}(Z_{load}) = P_{11}^{sc} \approx 0$$



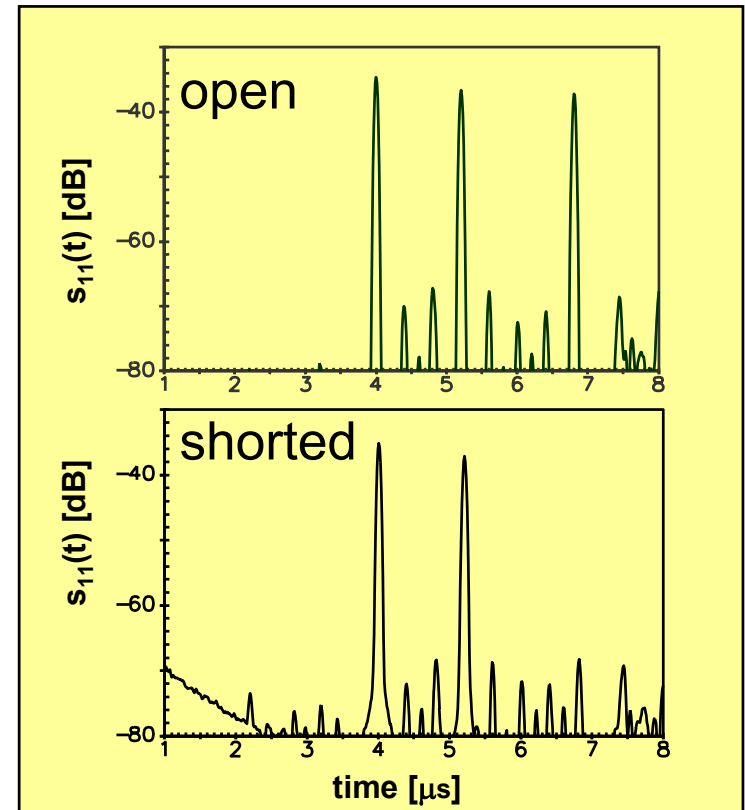
parallel resonance:

$$\text{Im} \left\{ P_{33} + \frac{1}{Z_{load}} \right\} = 0$$

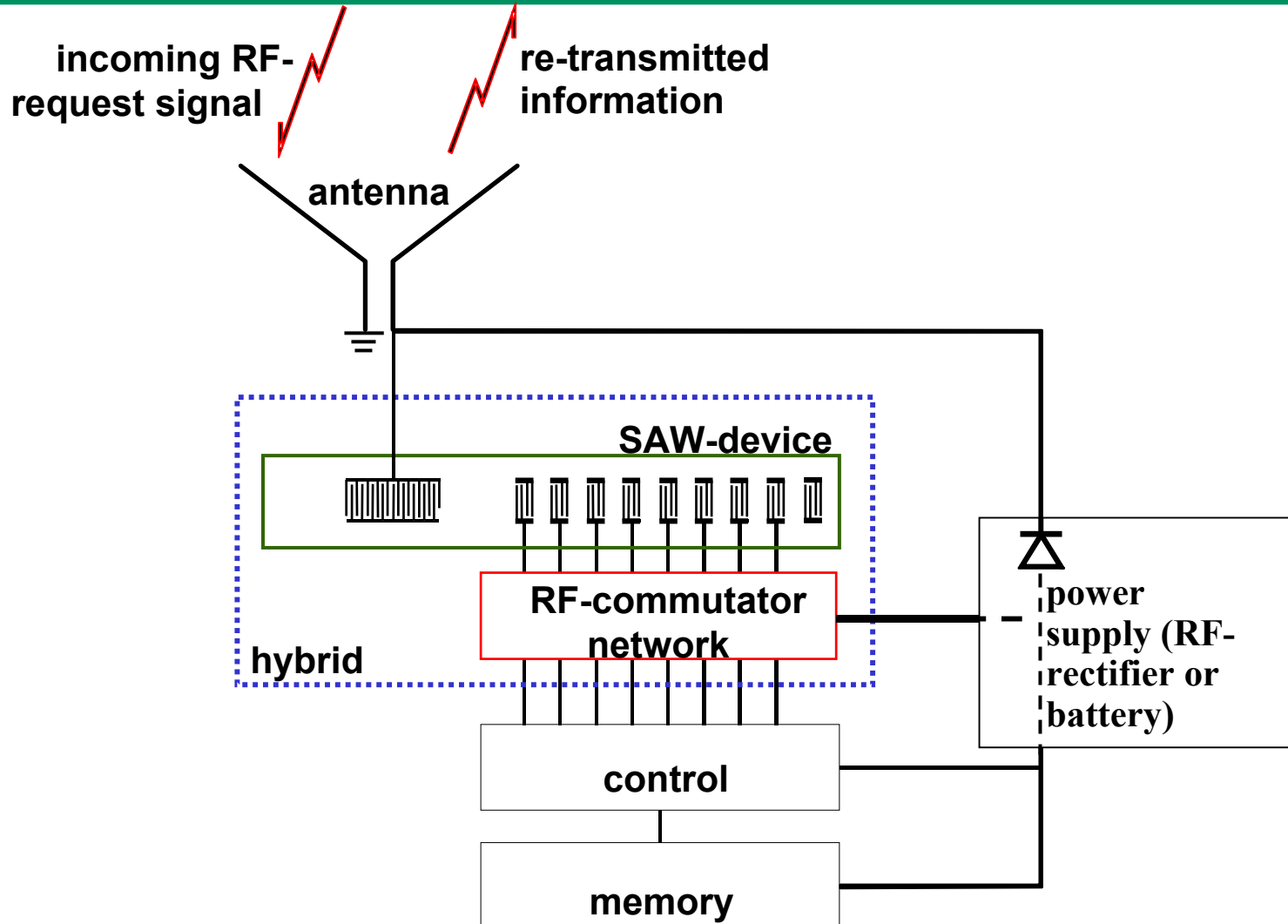
Binary SAW Sensors



- sector alignment indicators
- radio accessible switches
- readout of classical sensors with varying impedance



Schematic block diagram of a semi-active SAW tag using IDT reflectors



Circuitry for dynamic switching of one IDT reflector

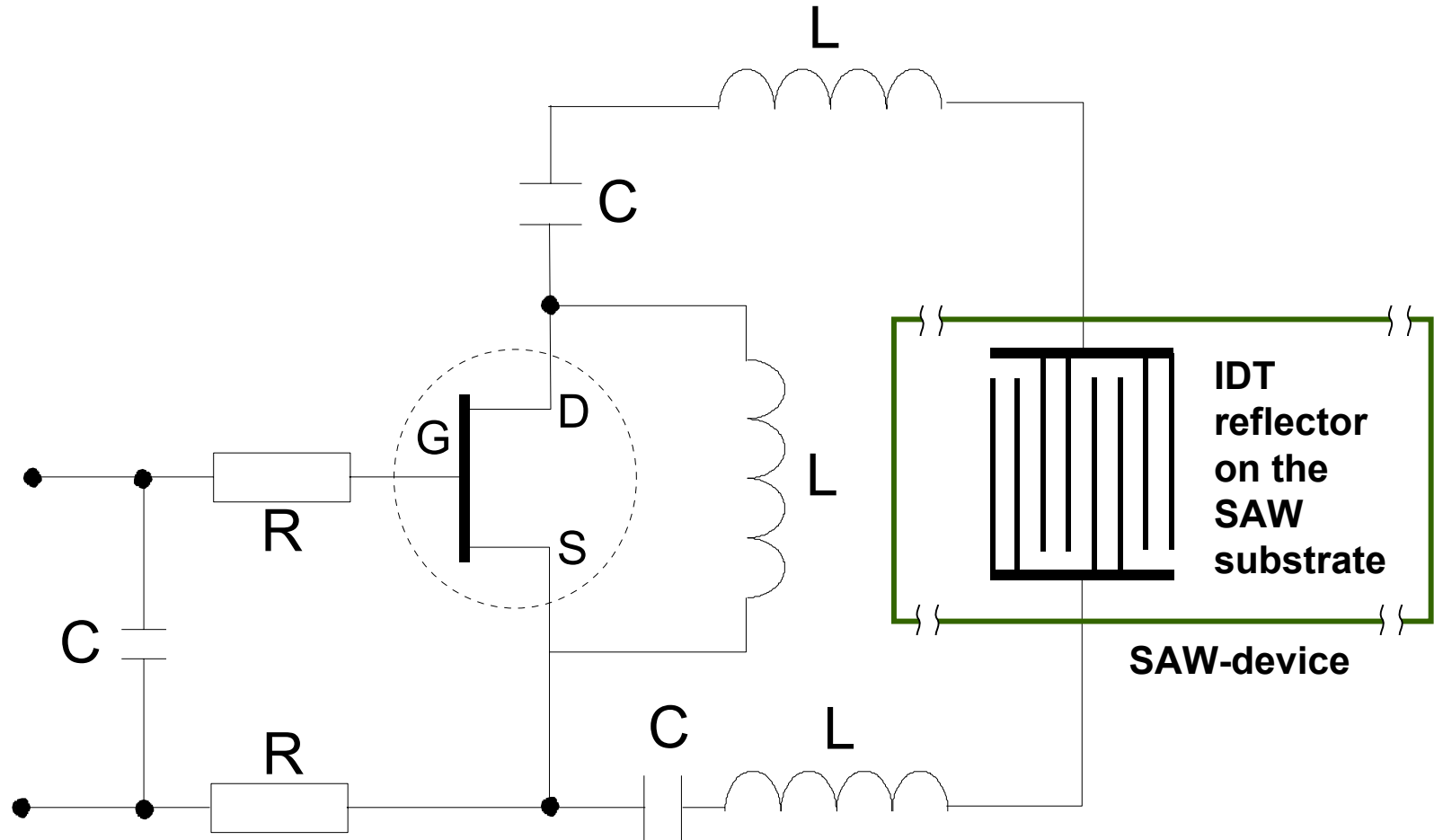
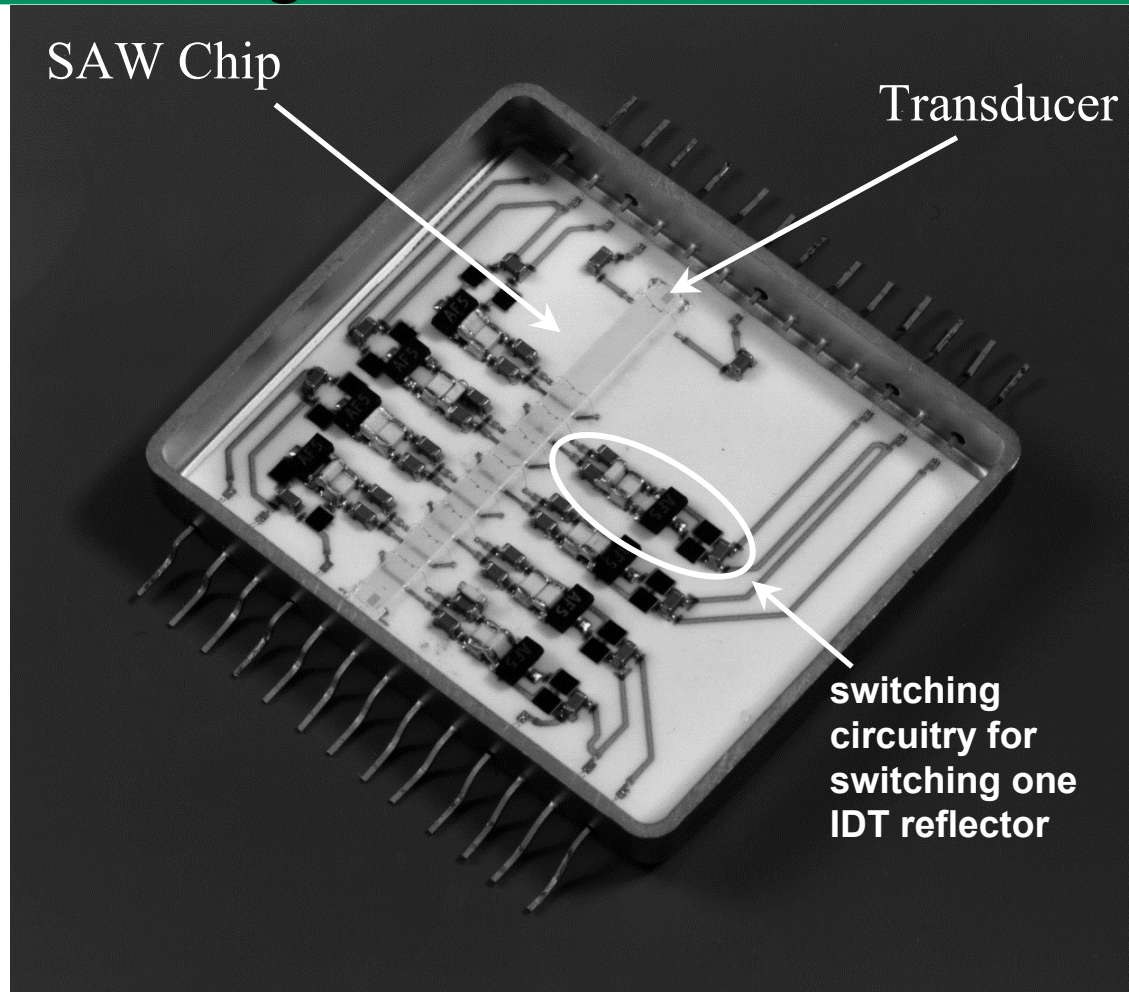
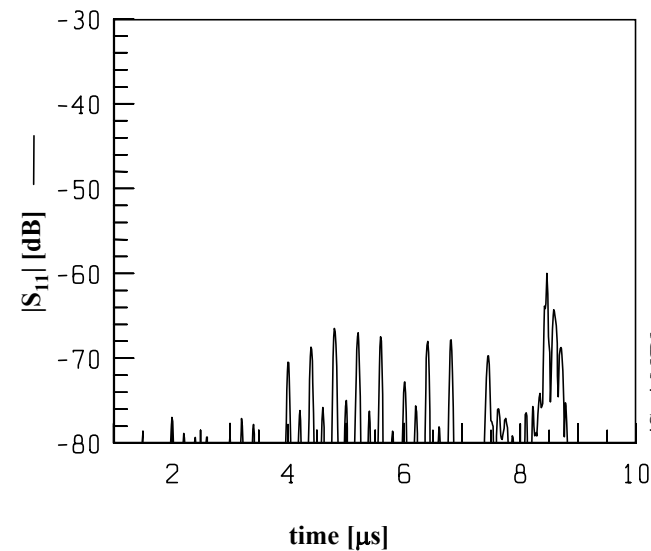


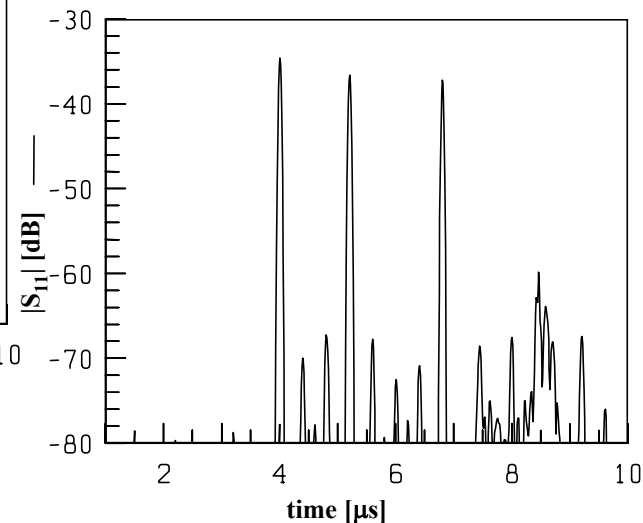
Photo of a mounted SAW chip in a hybrid commutator network for switching 8 IDT reflectors



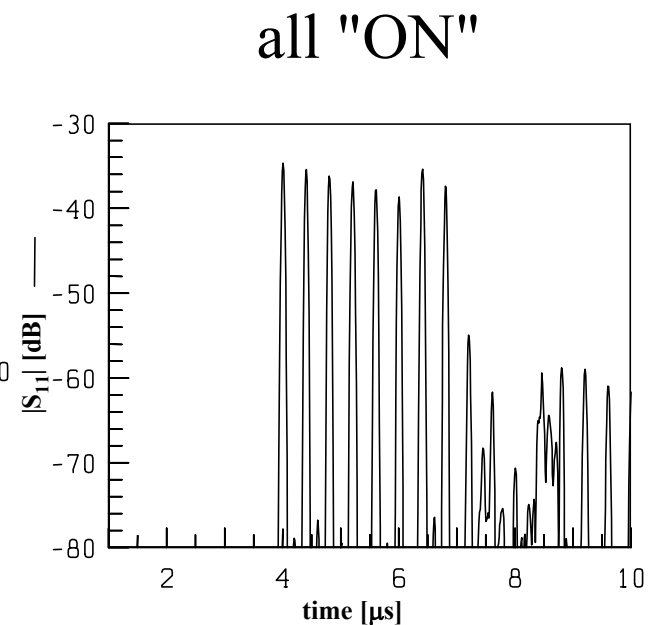
Measurements of the switching states of the switchable SAW ID-Tag shown in the last chart



all IDT reflectors
"OFF"

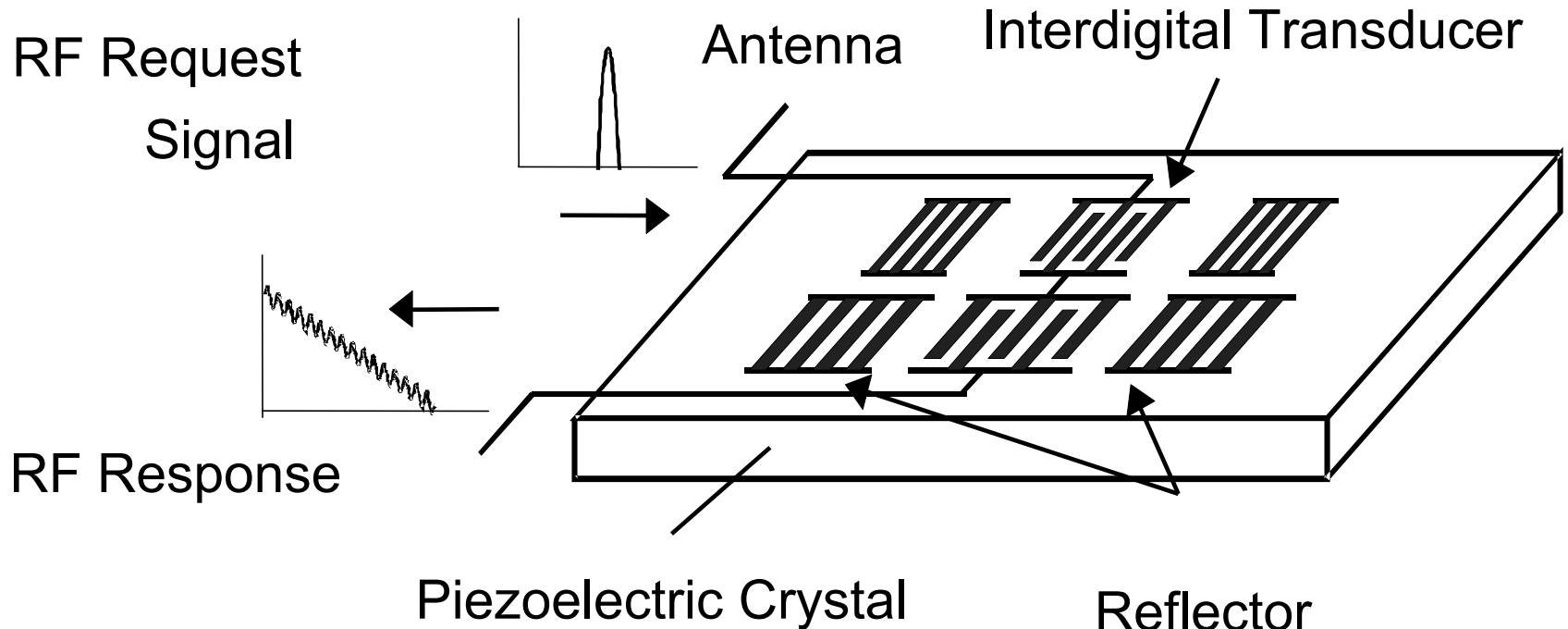


3 "ON"



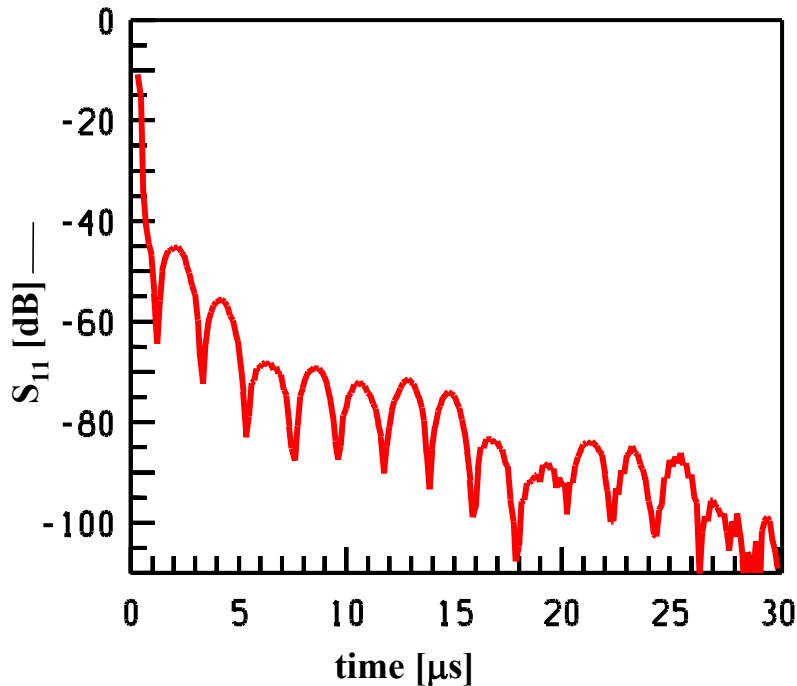
all "ON"

Schematic drawing of a SAW resonator used as radio requestable sensor



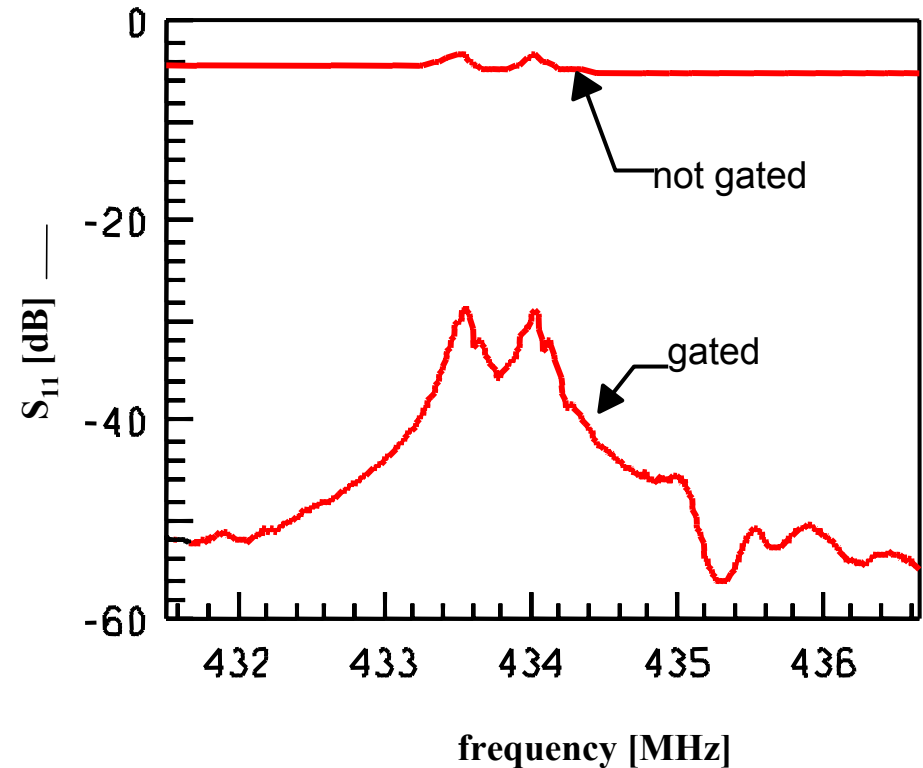
Number of stored wavelengths $n_{\lambda} \sim Q_{\text{loaded}}$

Signal Processing: Evaluating the Resonant Frequency of Resonators



time domain

Frequency domain



Resonator Mathematics

The change in centre frequency f and phase φ is given by:

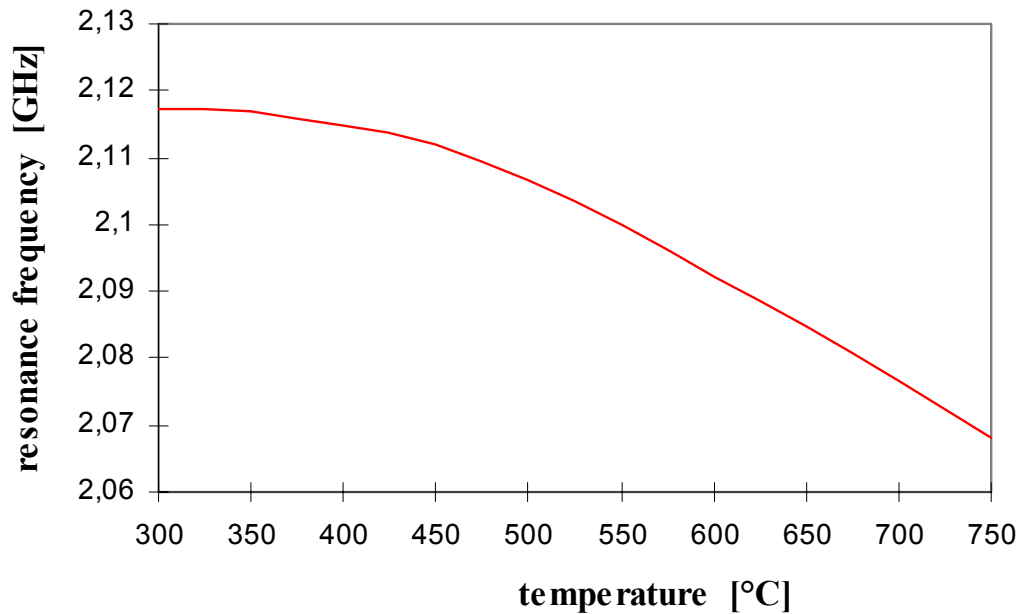
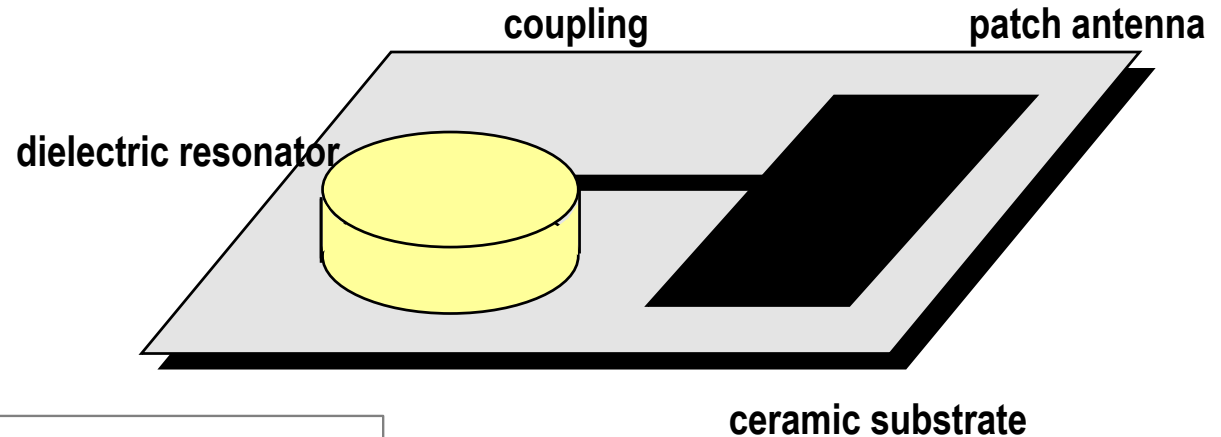
$$\Delta f = - f_0 \cdot S_y^\tau \cdot \Delta y$$

$$\Delta \varphi = 2\pi Q \cdot S_y^\tau \cdot \Delta y$$

$$Q_{OFW} \approx 10\,000$$

**Same sensitivity as a delay line,
but significant reduction of chip size**

High-Q Dielectric Resonators

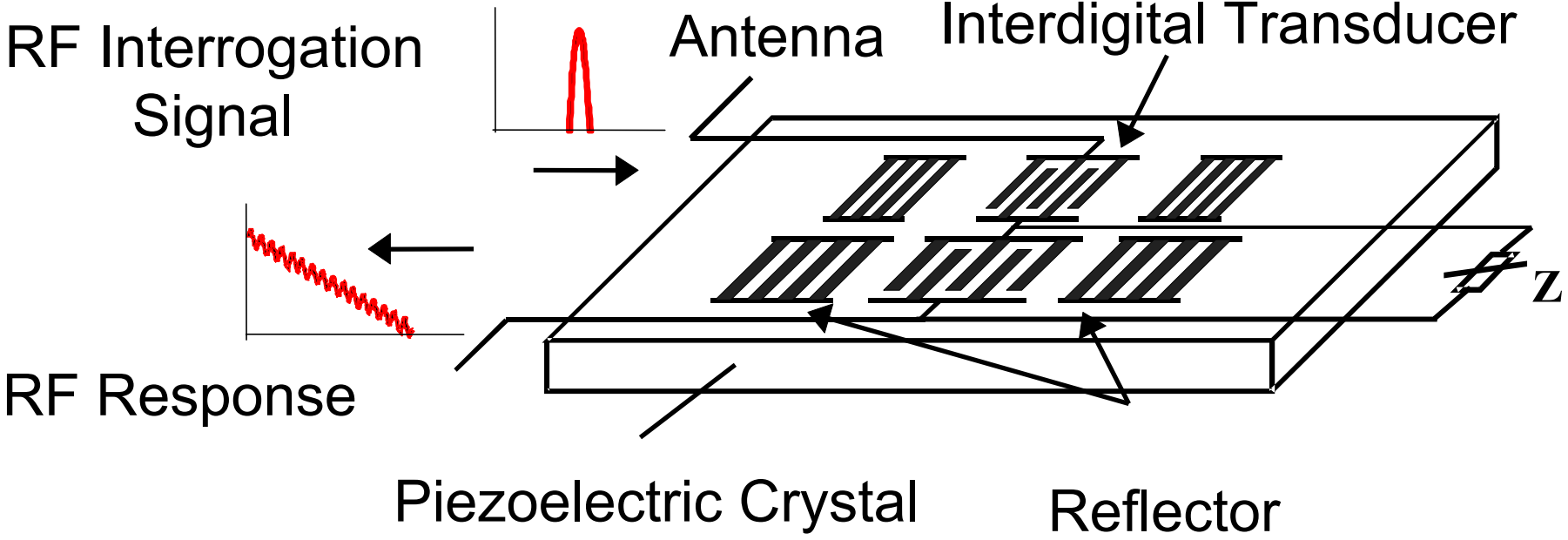


The resonator is stimulated by a RF signal, the decaying signal is detected after switching off the stimulus.

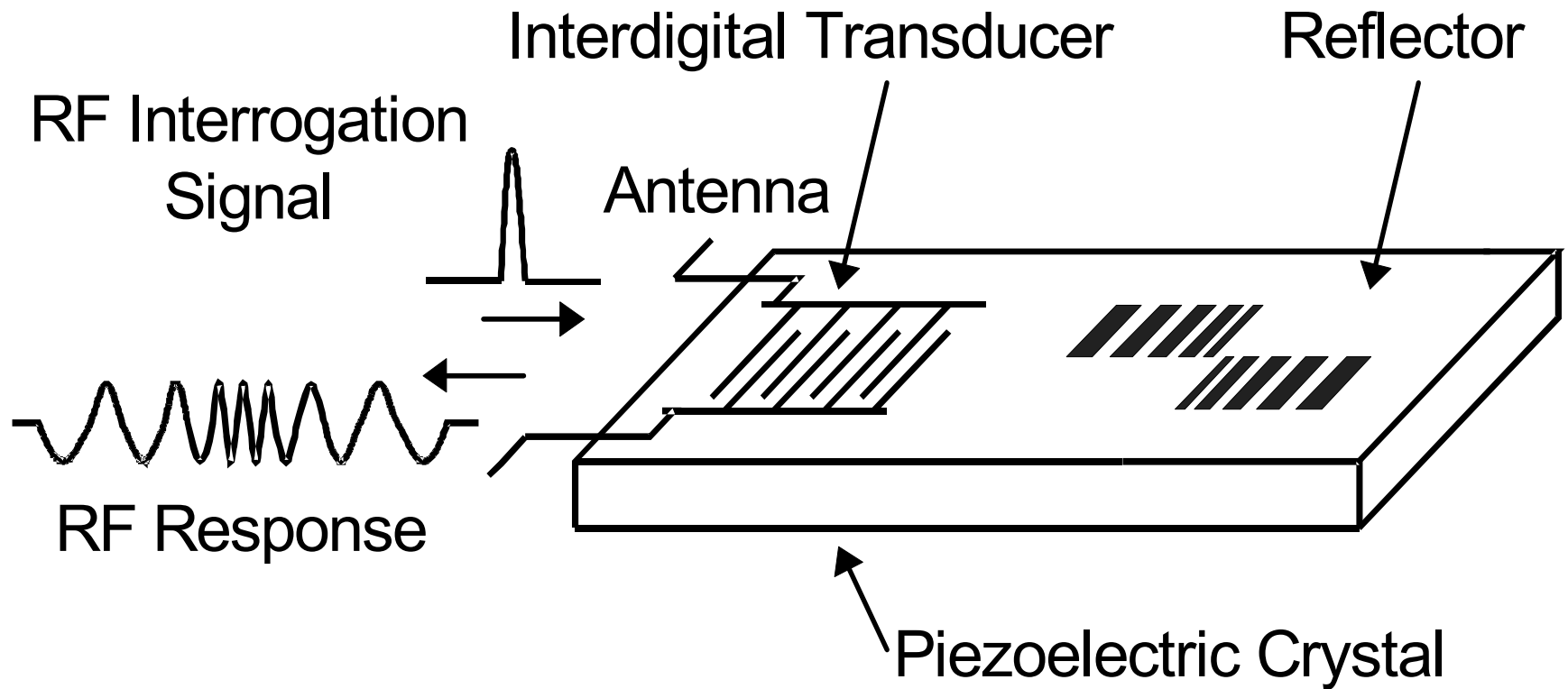
e.g. for high temperature measurements

... utilizing the temperature shift of the resonance of a dielectric microwave resonator.

Special Radio Readable Resonator: Pulling of the SAW Resonator with an External Sensor



Dispersive Delay Line - Principle



Dispersive Delay Line - Mathematics

$$\Delta \tau (\Delta y) = \tau_0 S_y \Delta y \pm \frac{T}{B} \Delta f (\Delta y)$$

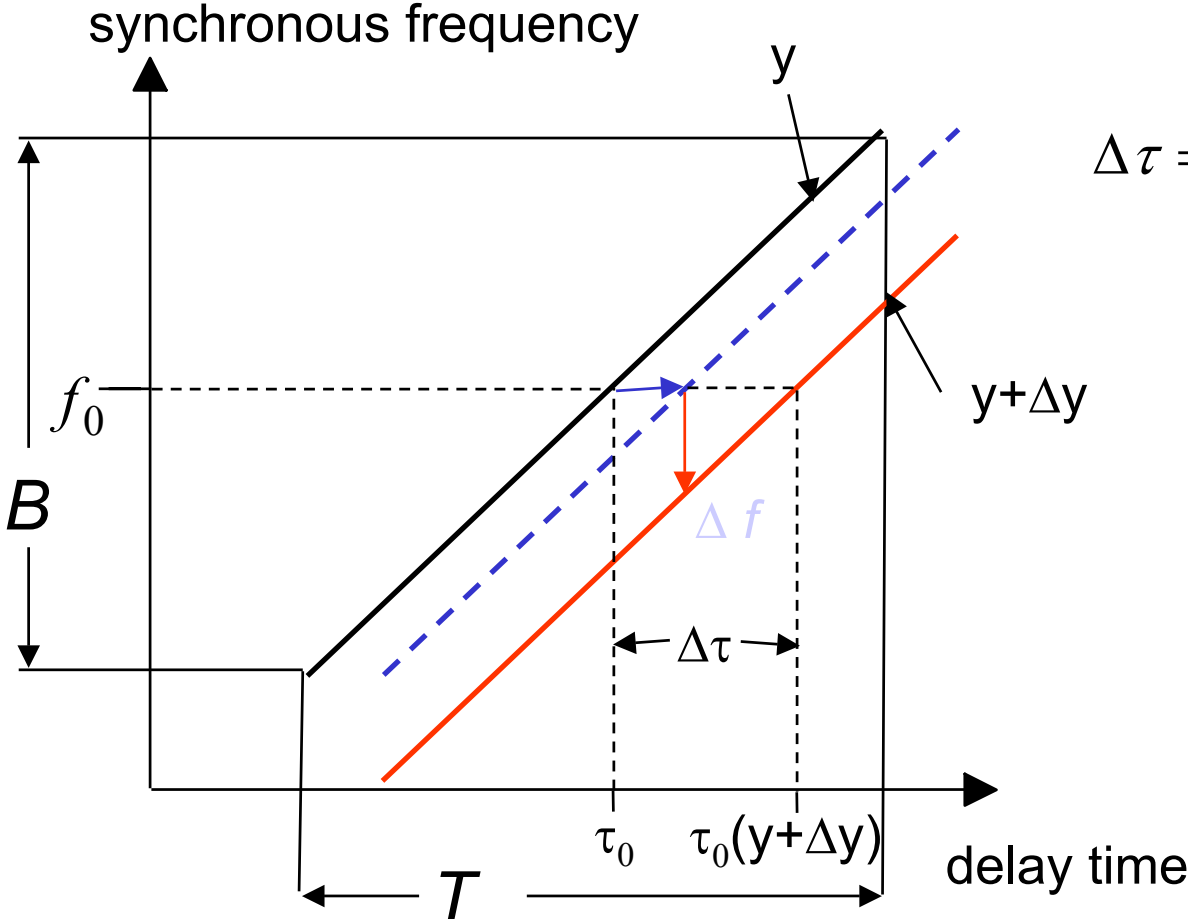
$$= \tau_0 \left[\boxed{1} \mp \frac{\frac{T}{\tau_0} \frac{f_0}{B}}{S_y} \right] S_y^\tau \Delta y$$

sensitivity of a delay line

may be 10 - 100 times of the
sensitivity of a delay line

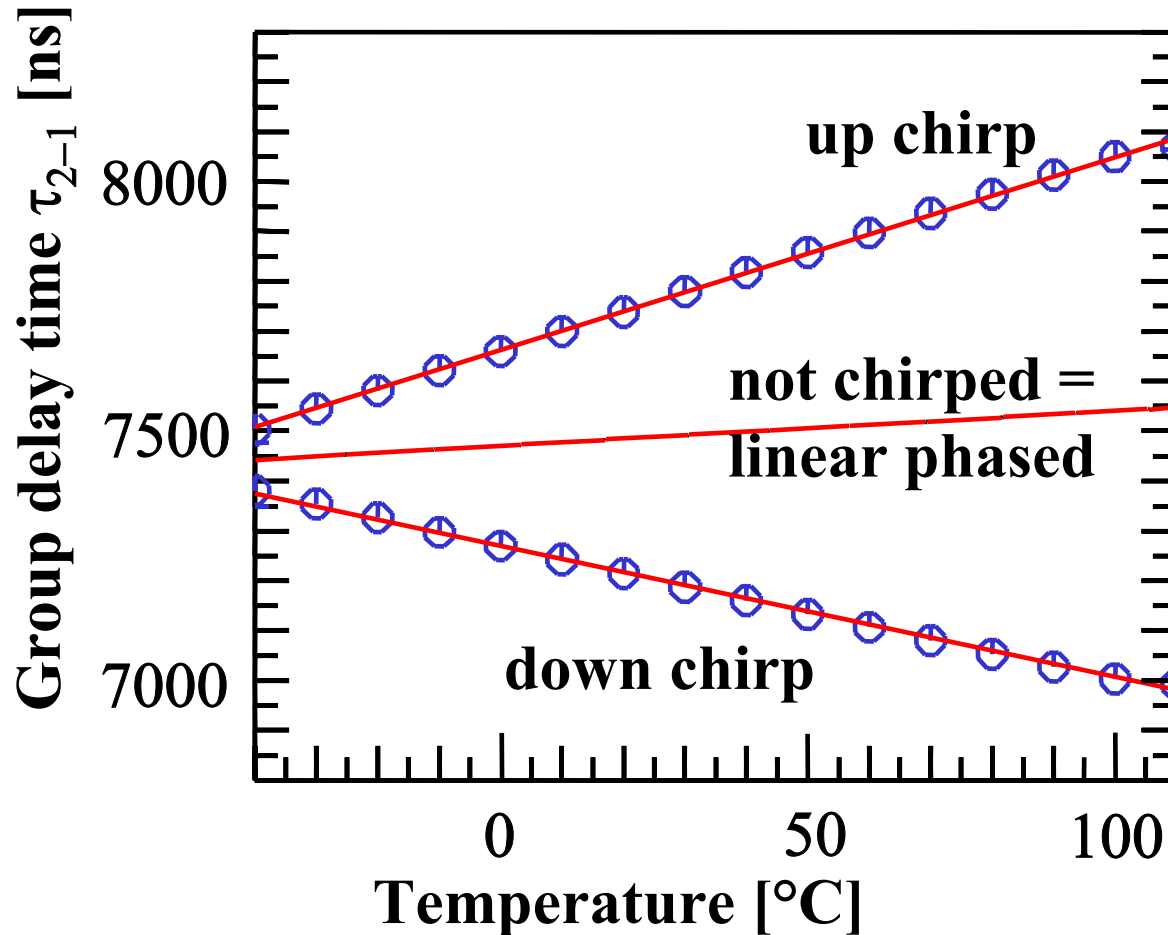
$$\Delta \varphi_{2-1} = S_{delay\ line} \cdot S_y^\tau \cdot \Delta y$$

Dispersive Delay Line - Effect



$$\Delta \tau = \left(1 \pm \frac{T}{\tau} \cdot \frac{f}{B} \right) \cdot \tau \cdot S_y^\tau \cdot \Delta \tau$$

Dispersive Delay Line - Measurement

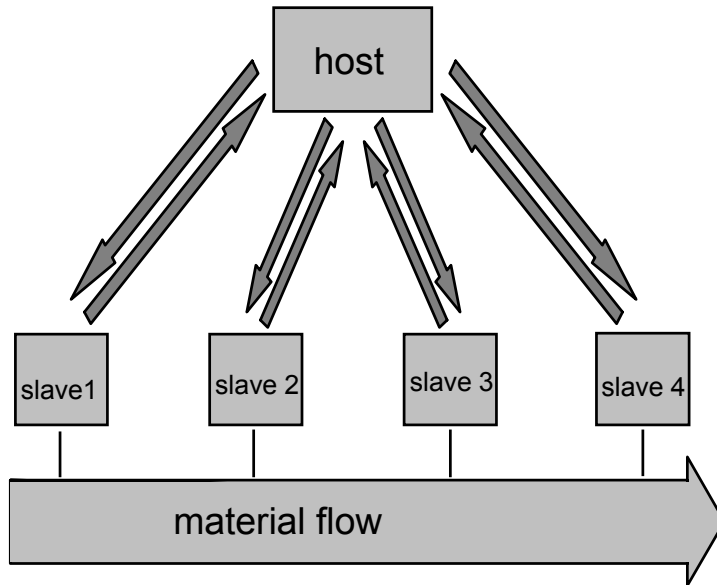


Outline

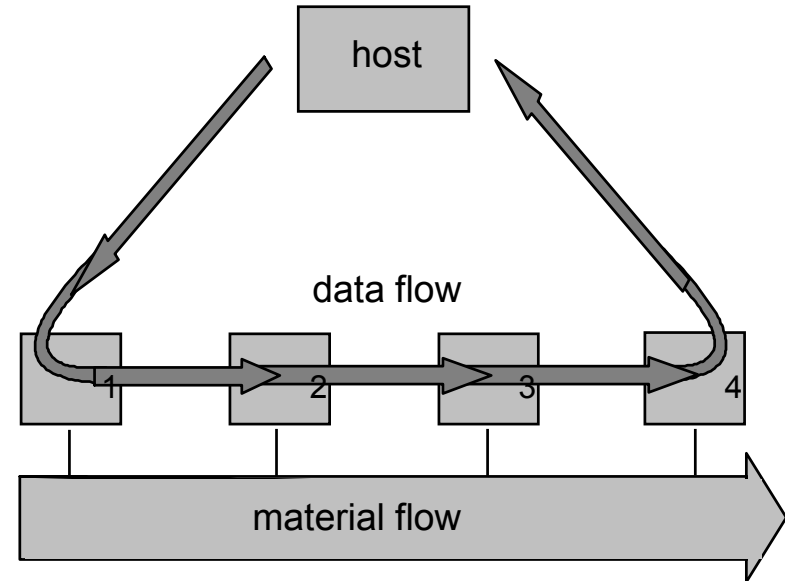
- **Introduction: Classical SAW Sensors**
- **SAW Radio Request**
- **SAW Identification Tags**
- **SAW Radio Requestable Sensors**
- **Application Examples**
 - **ID Tags**
 - **Temperature Sensors**
 - **Mechatronic Sensors**
 - **Current Sensors**
 - **Water Sensors**
- **Conclusion**



Application of fixed coded or writeable tags



Schematic of a master-slave control system:
fixed coded tags are sufficient

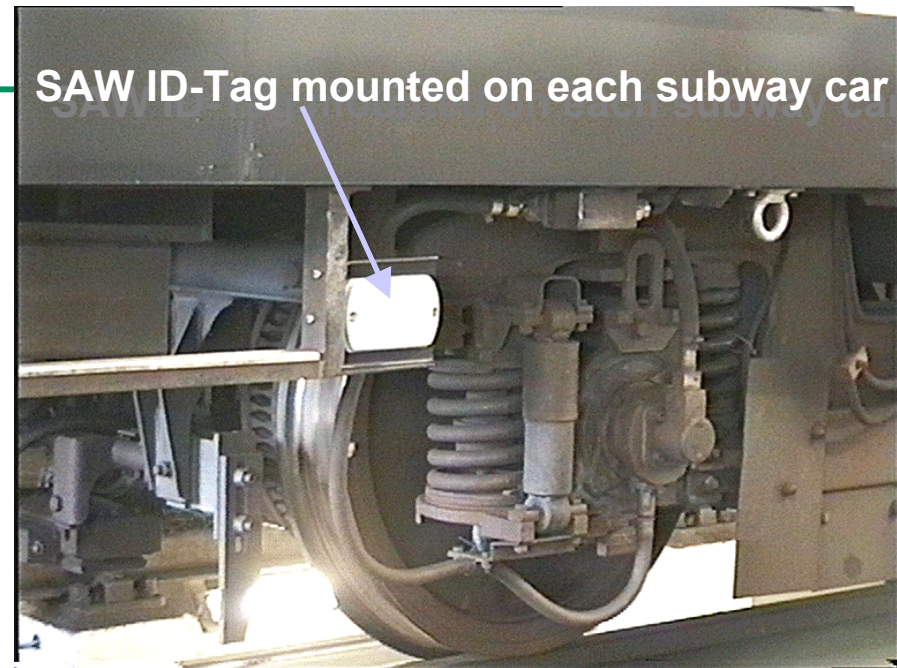


Schematic of a material accompanying control system:
write able tags are needed

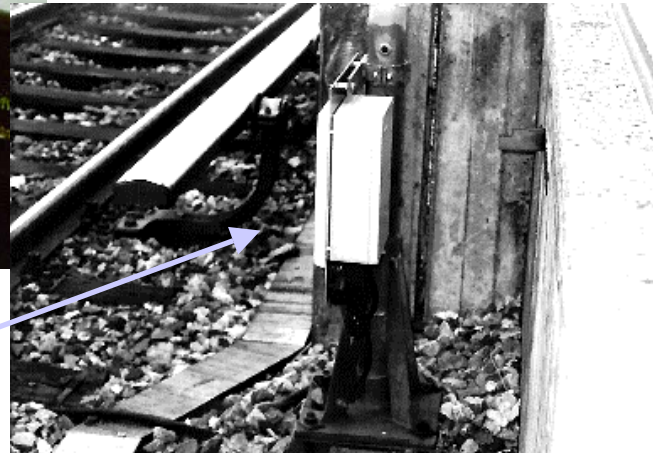
Application of SAW ID-Tags a Norway Toll System



OFW ID System **SOFIS** installed on the Munich Subway System



antenna of the 2.45 GHz interrogation unit



Tag housing

SAW Identifikation Systems for Manufacturing/ Logistics Management

SAW ID-Tags



Reader Unit



long readout distance,
high temperature stability

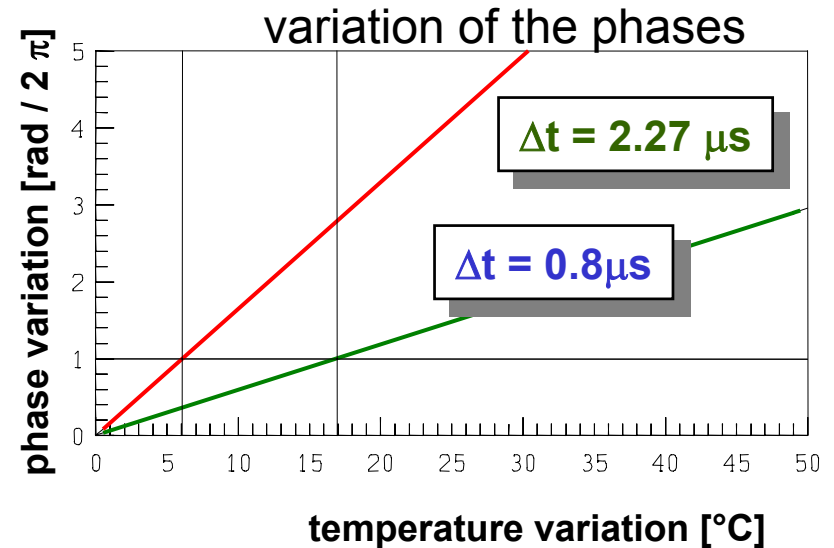
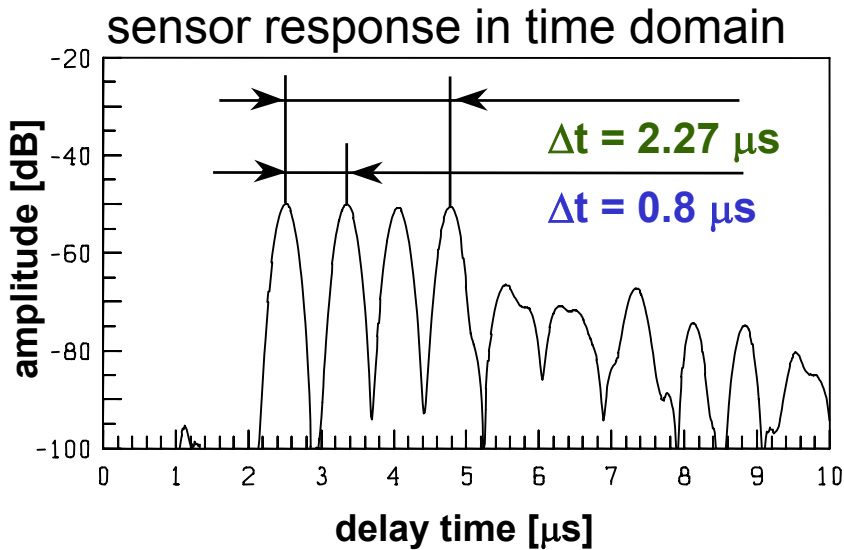


- highly flexible assembly set-up,
- only one single ID system for entire
production process

SAW Temperature Sensors

$$\frac{\Delta \tau}{\tau} = \left(\frac{1}{l} \frac{\Delta l}{\Delta T} - \frac{1}{v} \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta T} \right) \Delta T = \text{TCD}_1 \cdot \Delta T$$

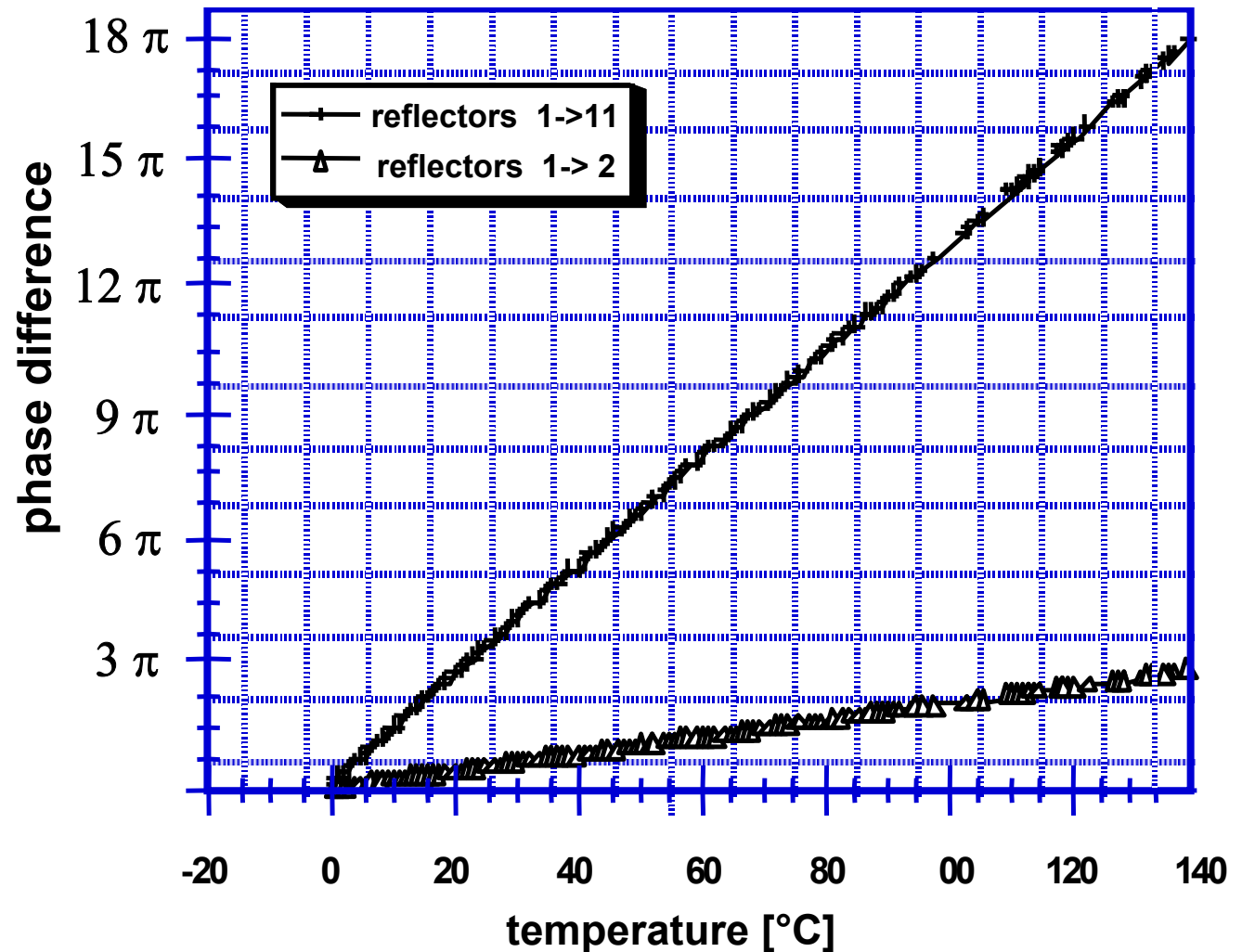
$$\Delta \varphi = 2 \pi f_0 \Delta \tau$$



$\Delta t_{\text{max}} = 2.27 \mu\text{s} \rightarrow$ accuracy: $0.02 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, but small range of unambiguity

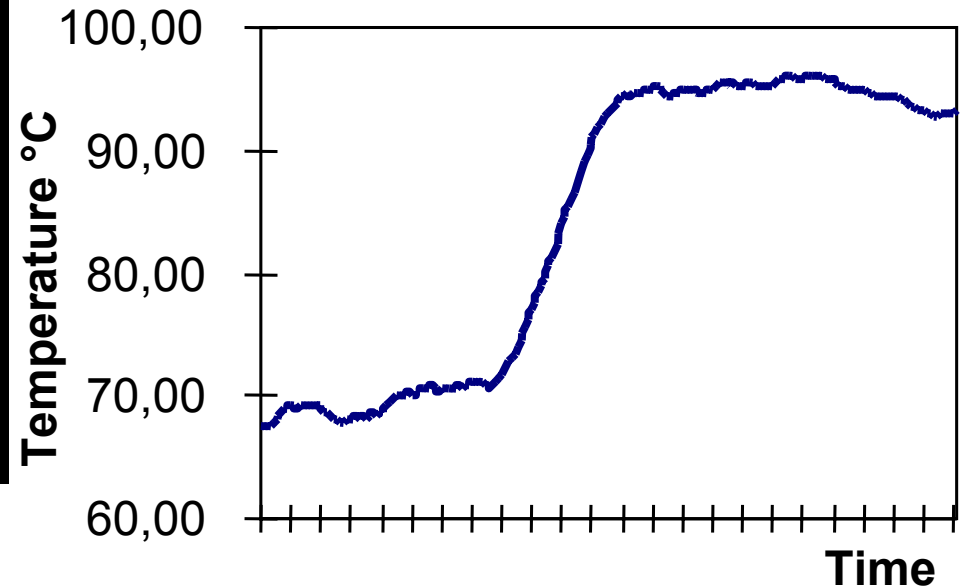
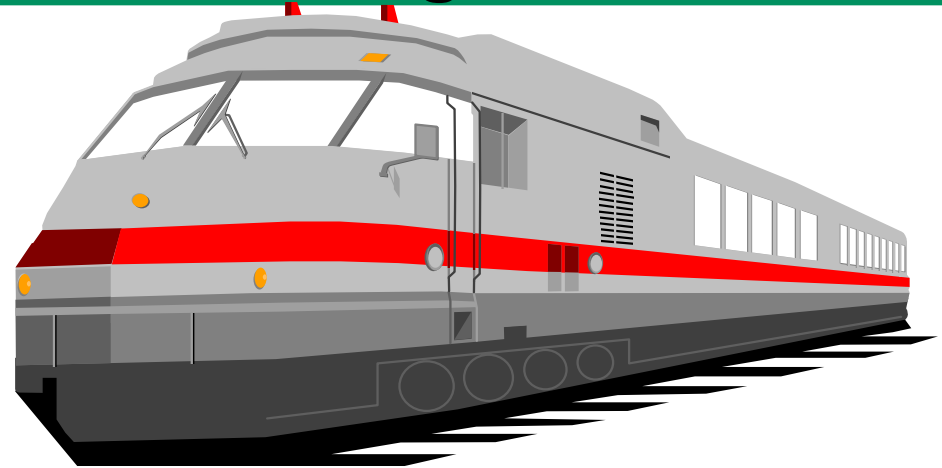
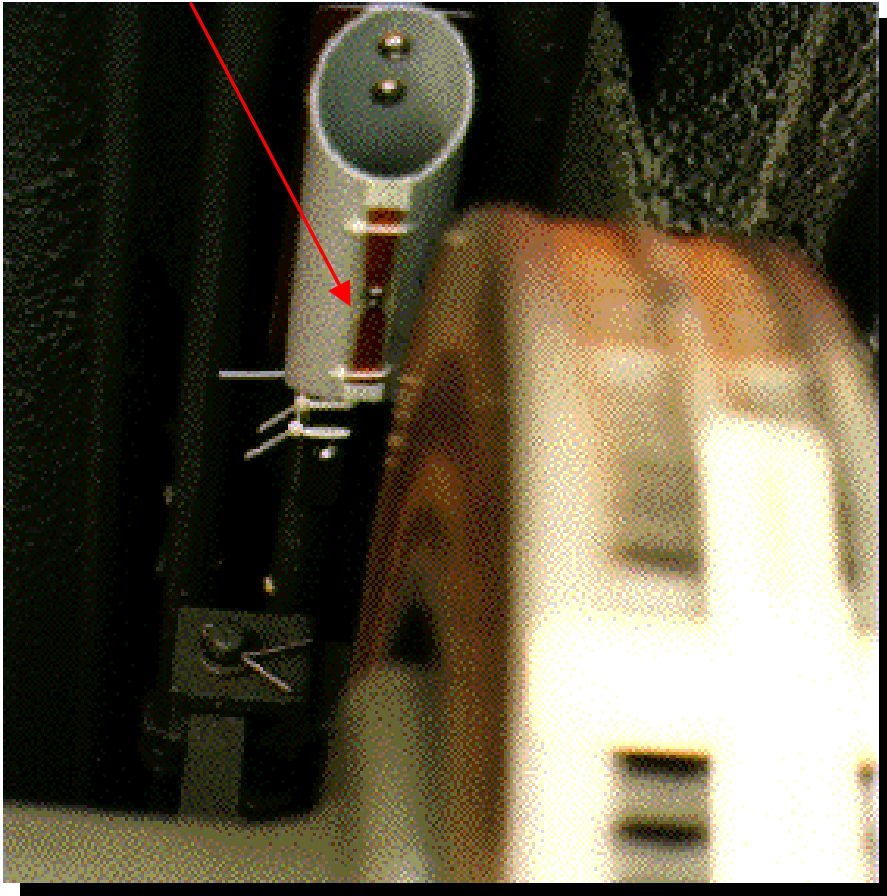
$\Delta t_{\text{min}} = 0.03 \mu\text{s} \rightarrow$ range: $450 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

Phase difference between 3 selected reflectors on LiNbO₃-YZ-Cut versus temperature



Brake temperature of a train entering a station

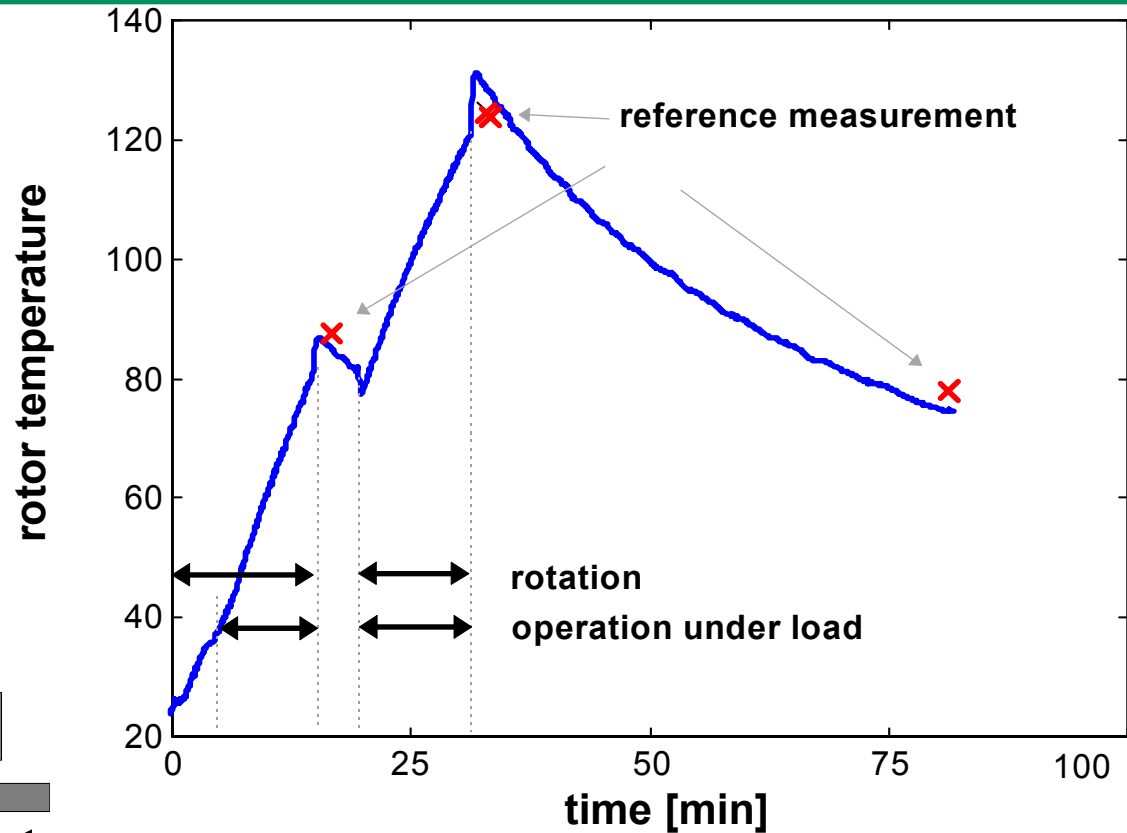
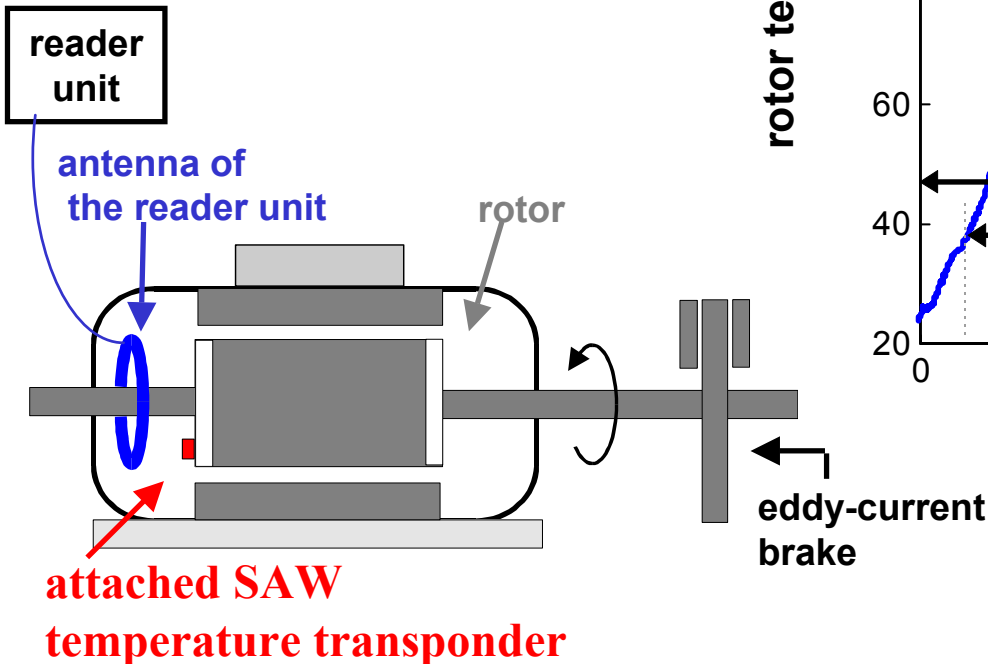
reader antenna



Brake (with attached SAW temperature transponder, not seen)

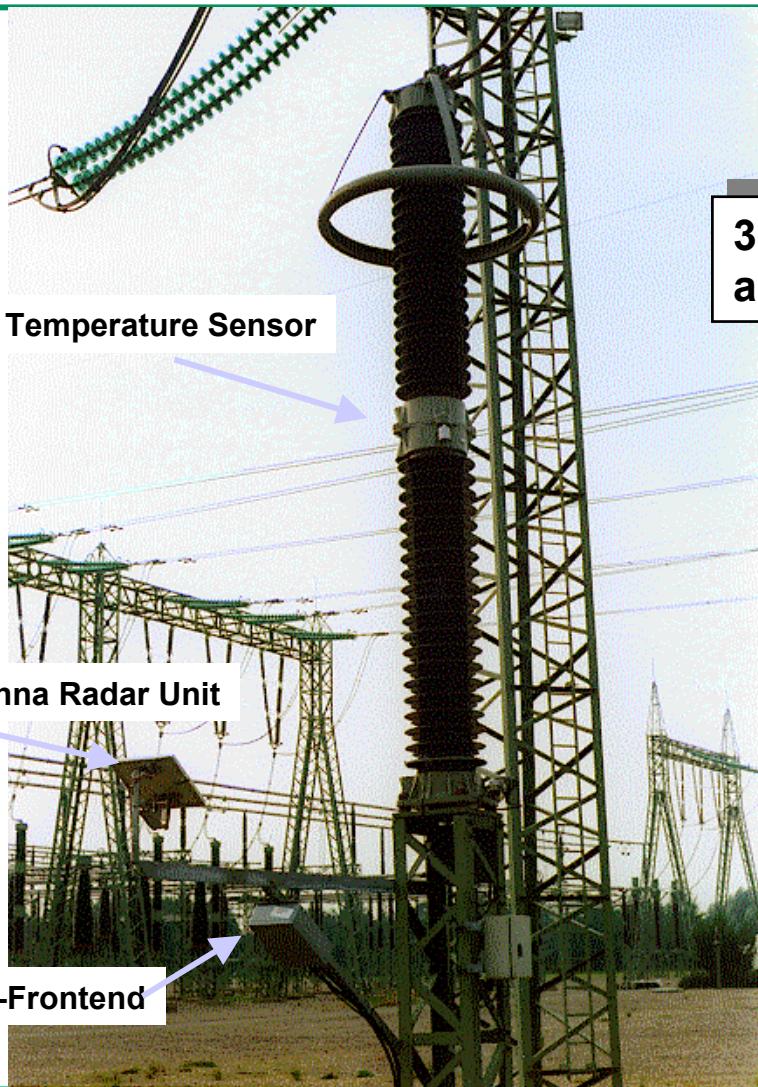
Measurement of the rotor temperature in a 11 kW asynchronous motor

Sketch of the set-up



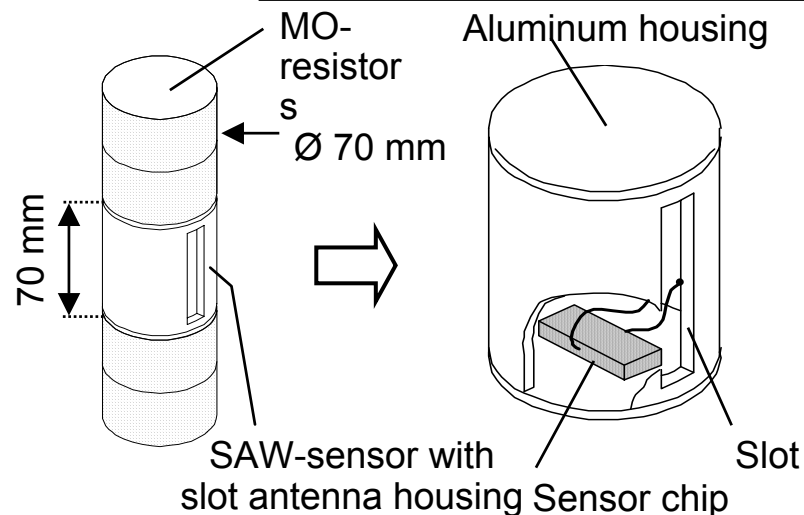
measurement curve

Online Temperature Monitoring System for High-Voltage Surge Arresters

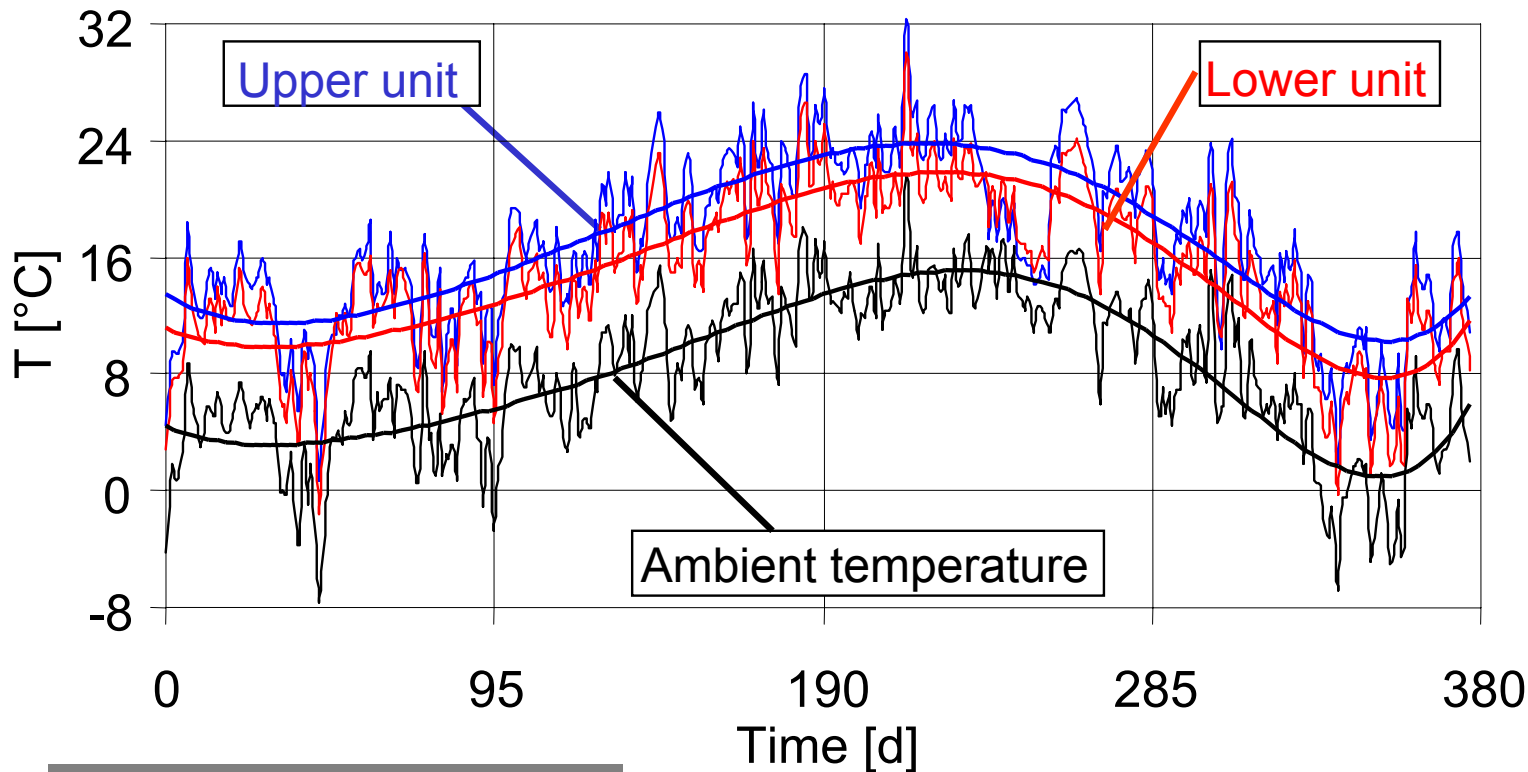


360 kV surge arresters equipped with a SAW temperature monitoring system

SAW temperature sensor in a stack of MO varistors



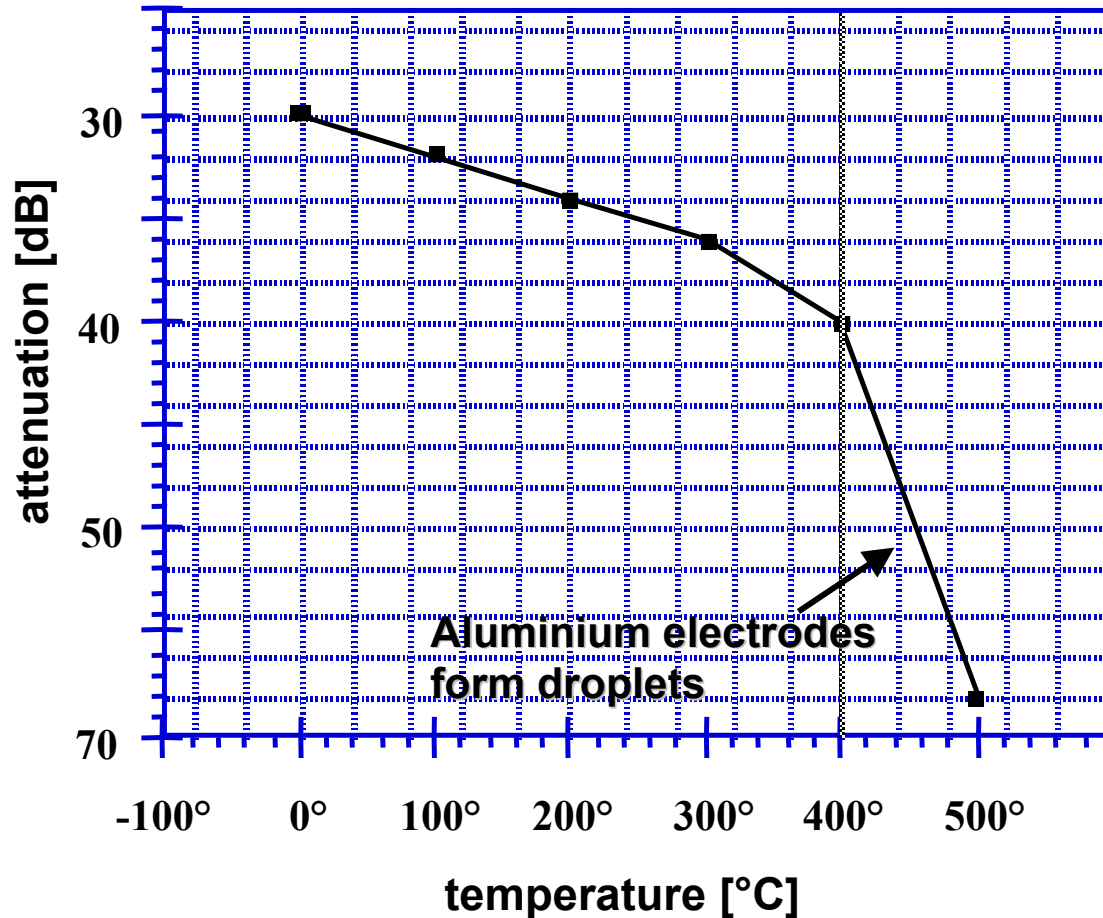
Field Test Results



the main features

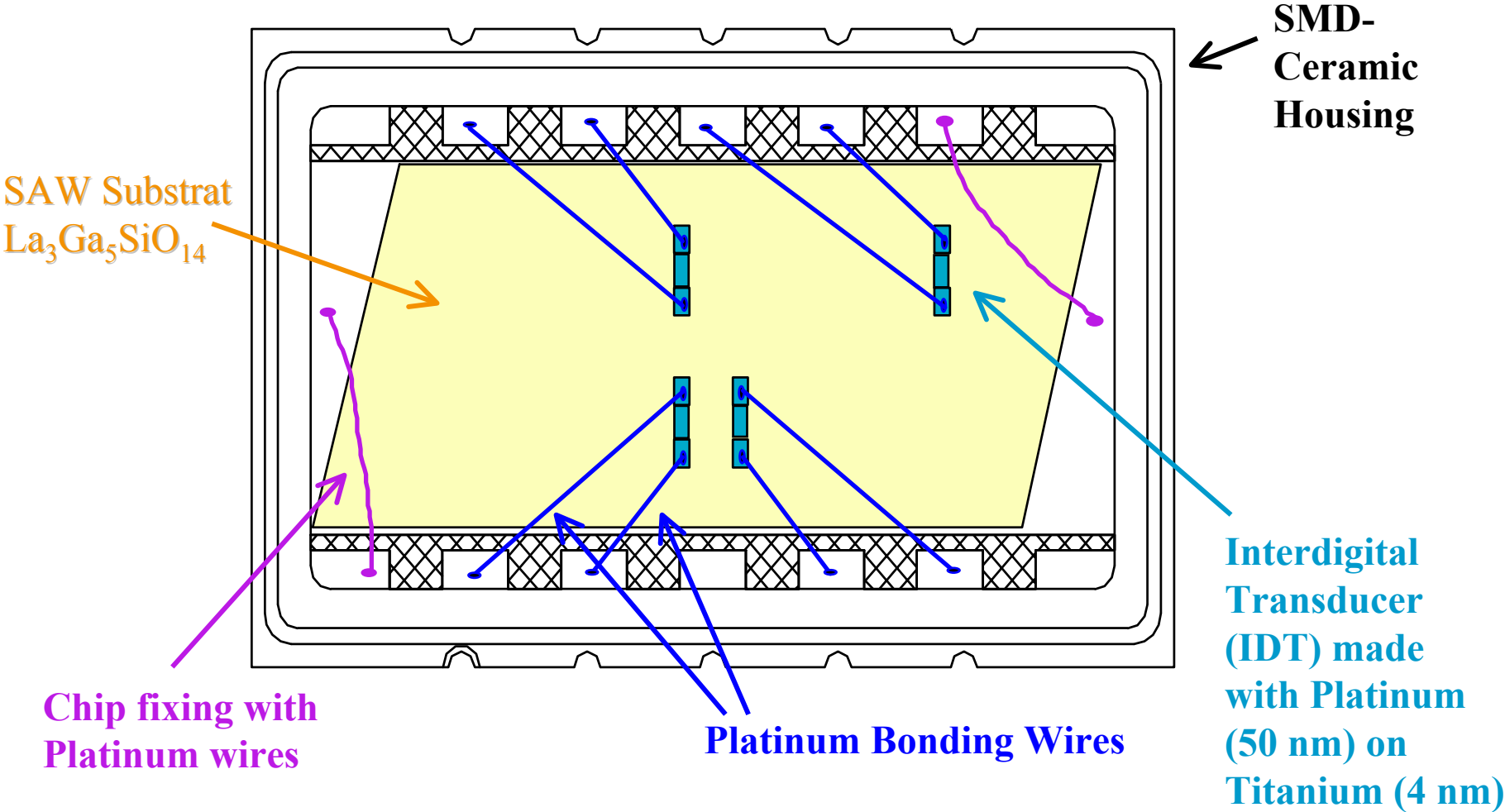
- **aging:** long term temperature increase
- **event counter:** sudden temperature rises
- **energy monitoring:** due to a simple correlation between temperature and absorbed energy

Signal attenuation versus temperature on LiNbO₃-YZ

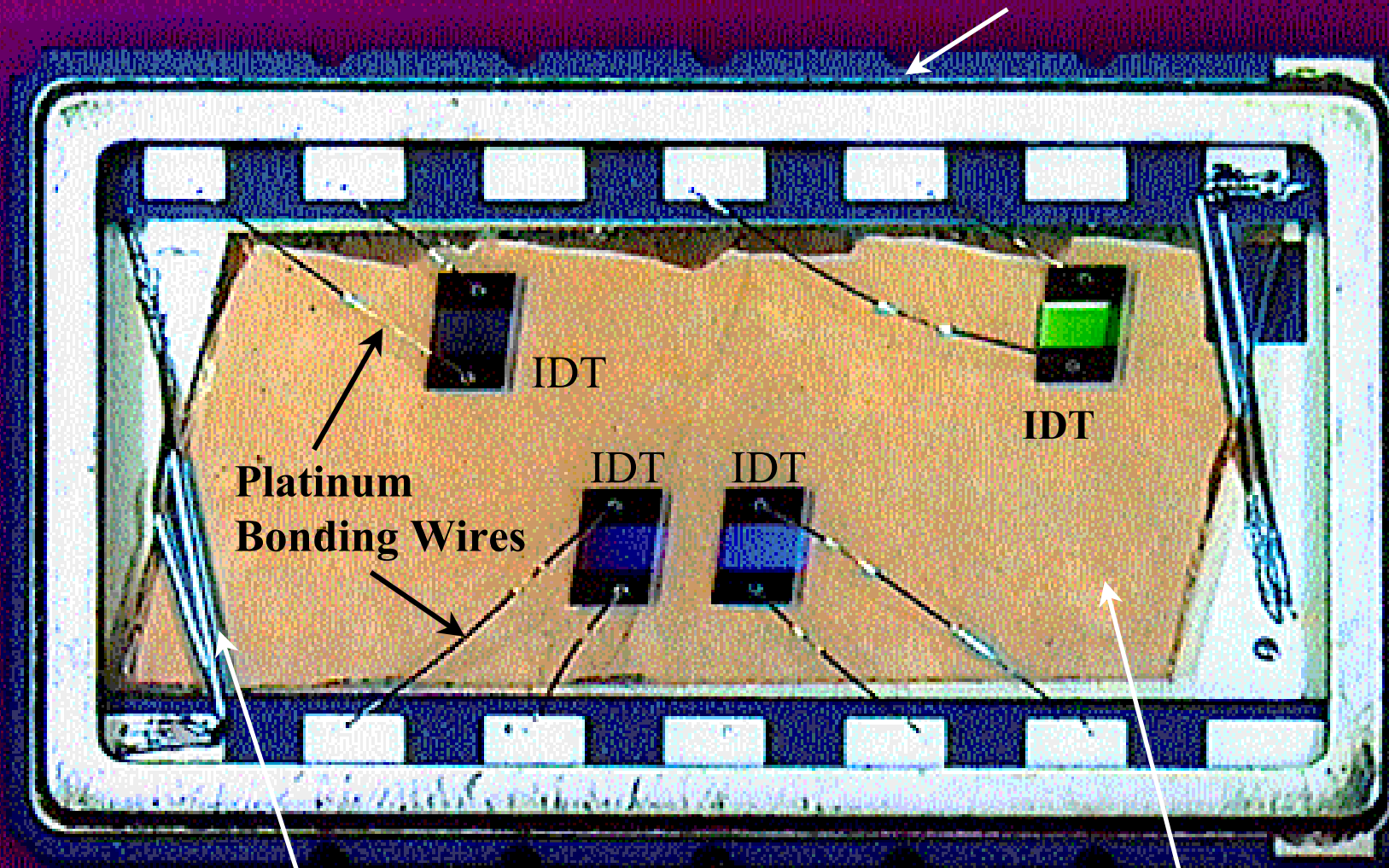


- Up to 200°C standard assembly, interconnect and package techniques can be used.
- Up to 350°C aluminium can be used for electrodes material
- LiNbO₃ can not be used for temperatures higher than 400°C for short time and 300°C for long time operation.

Delay line for testing the high temperature features of Langasit ($\text{La}_3\text{Ga}_5\text{SiO}_{14}$)



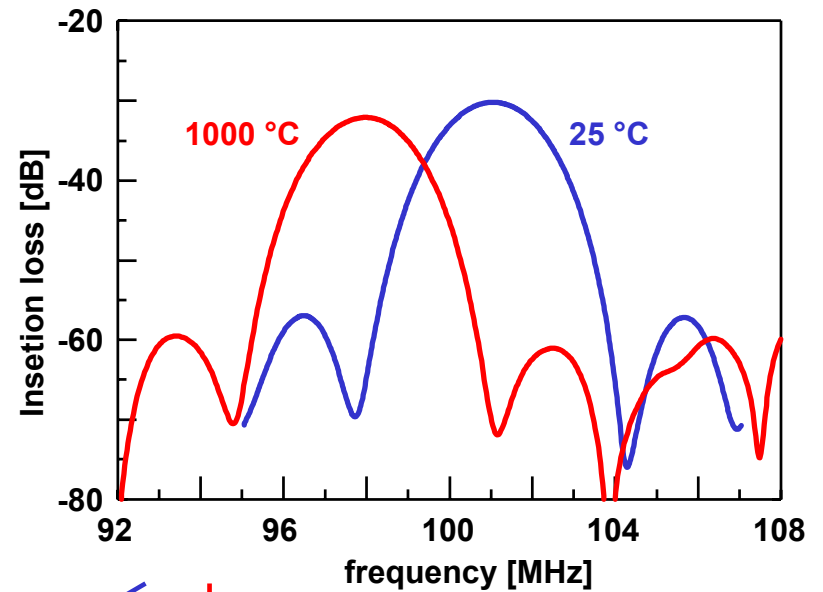
IDTs made with 50 nm Platinum on 4 nm Titanium



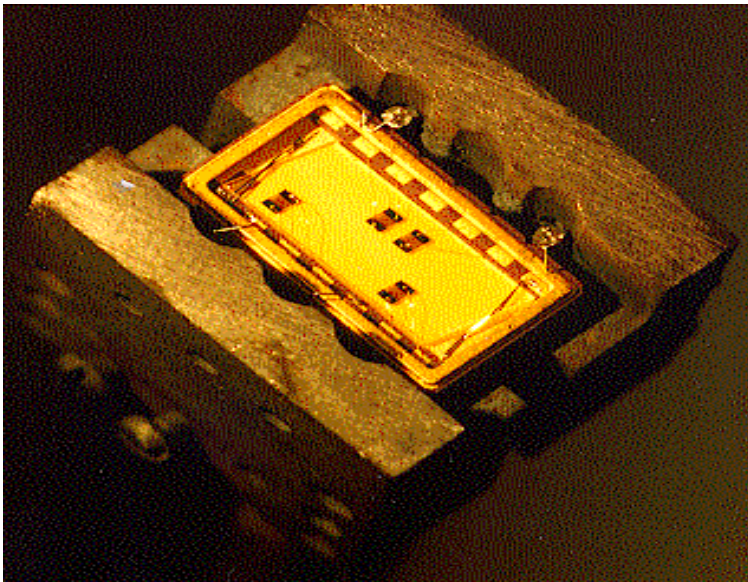
Chip fixing with
Platinum wires

Chip made from
 X,Y -Langasit ($\text{La}_3\text{Ga}_5\text{SiO}_{14}$)

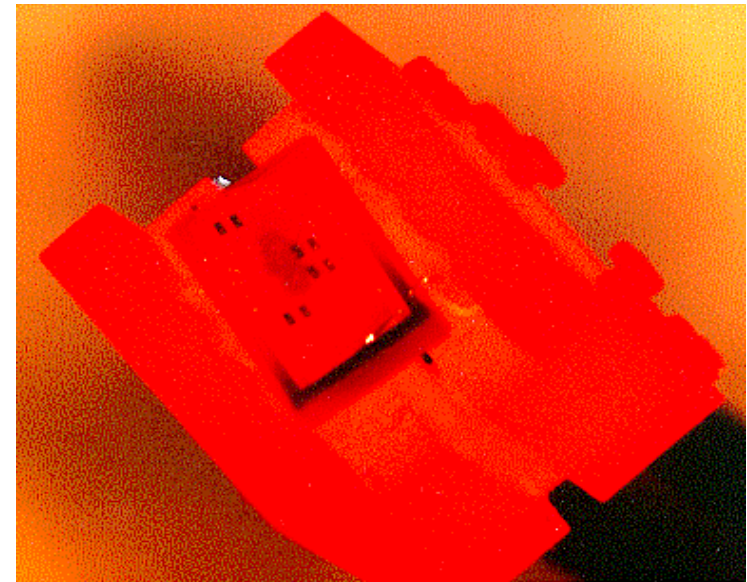
High Temperature SAW Sensors with Platinum Electrodes on Langasit ($\text{La}_3\text{Ga}_5\text{SiO}_{14}$)



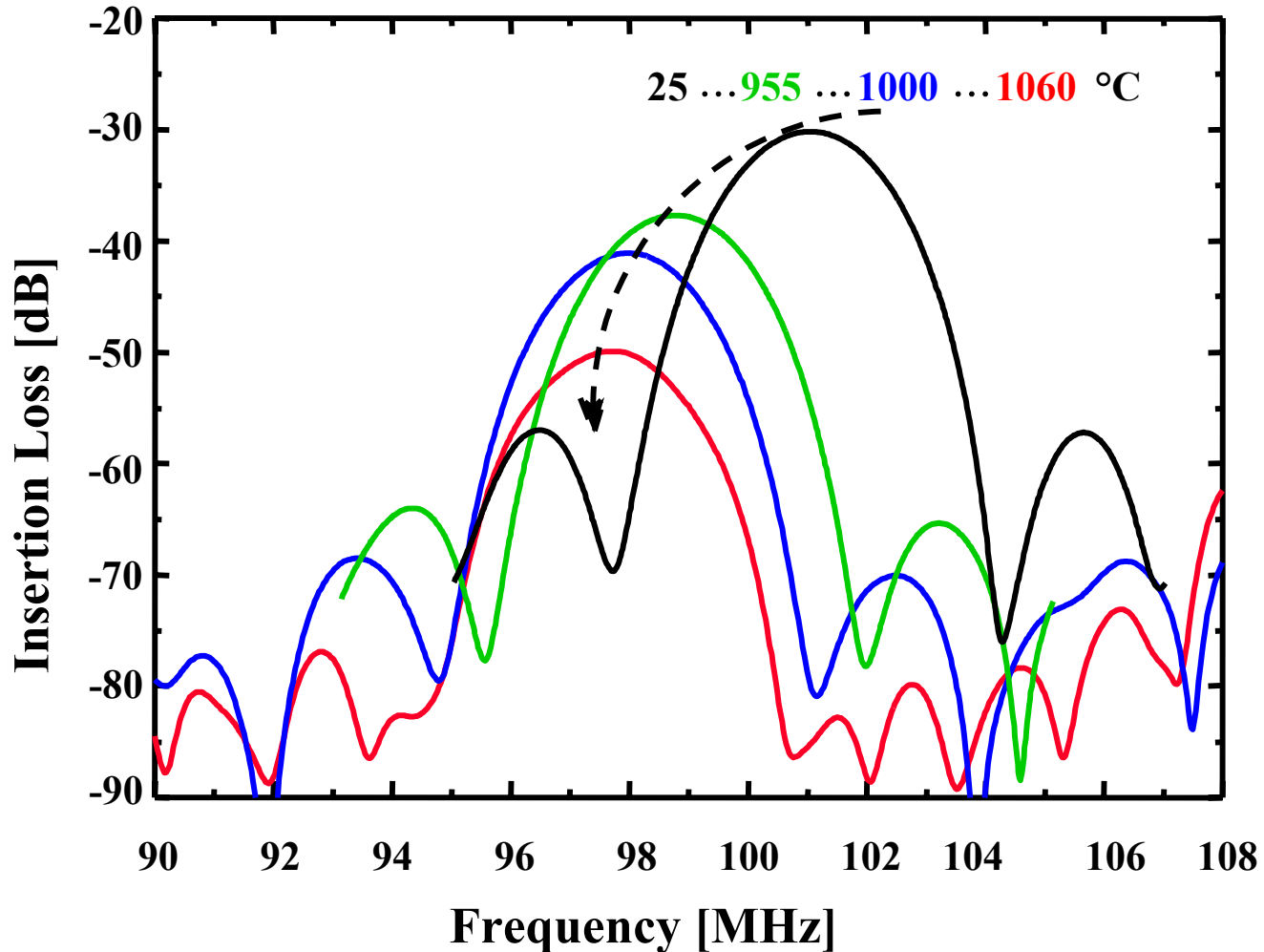
Test chip at room temperature



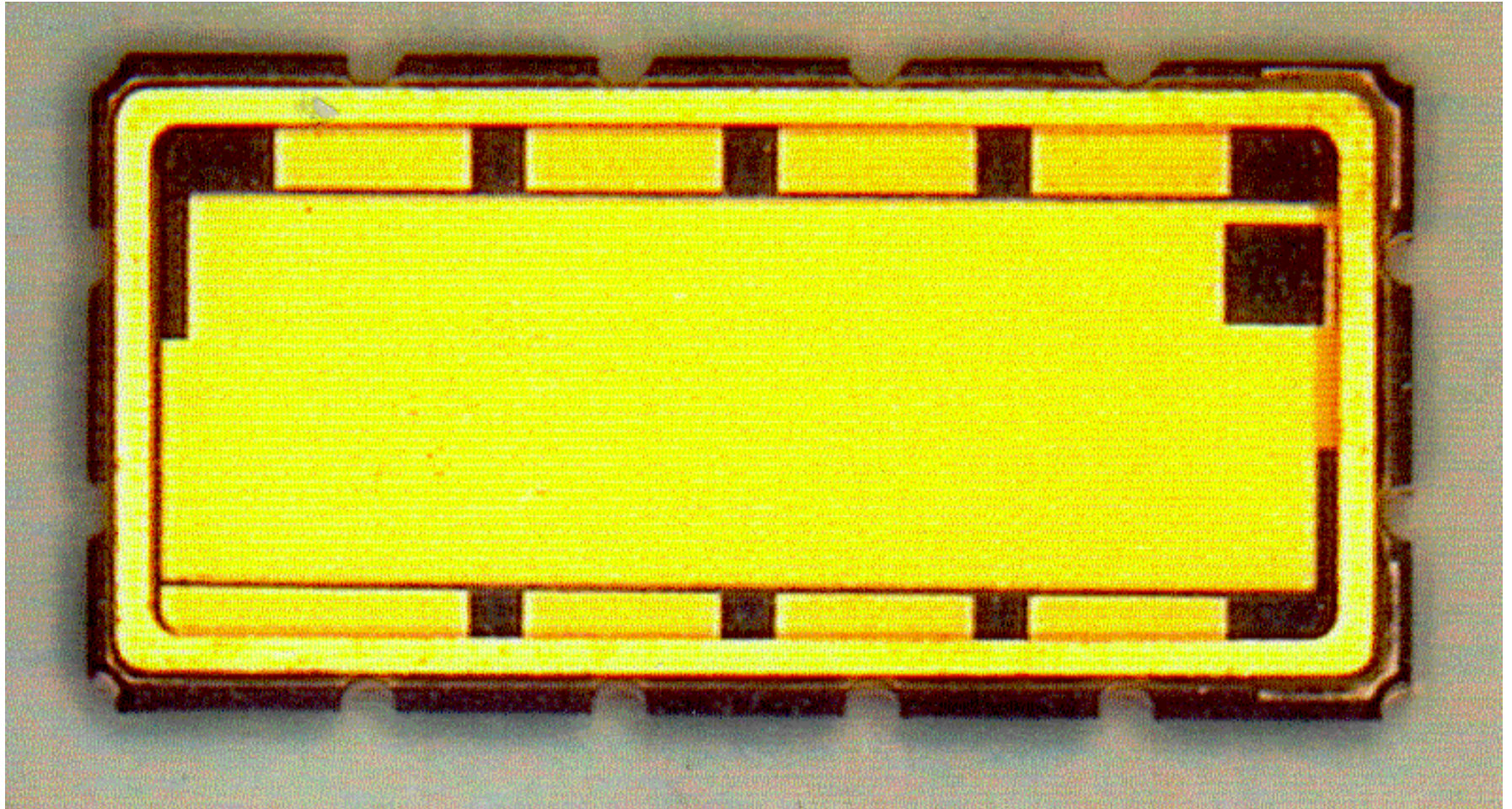
Test chip at 1000 °C

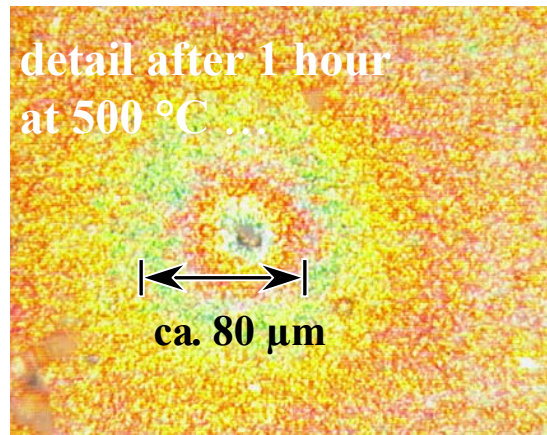
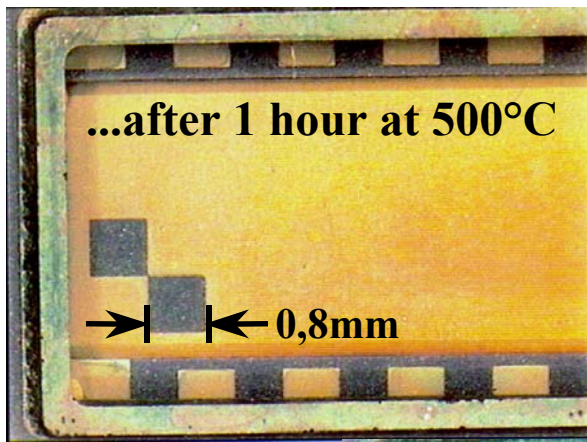


Increase in Insertion Loss of a Delay Line on X,Y-Langasit ($\text{La}_3\text{Ga}_5\text{SiO}_{14}$) with Pt-electrodes with Increasing Temperature

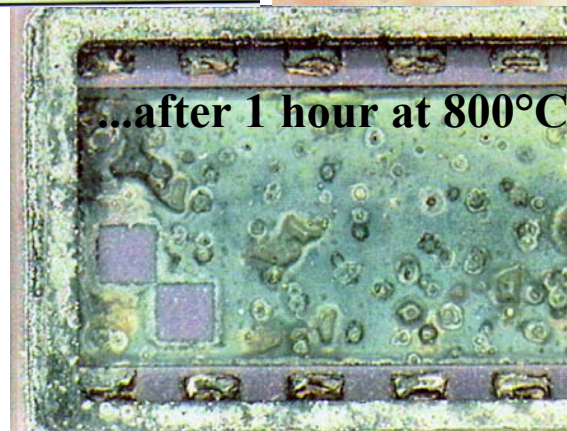
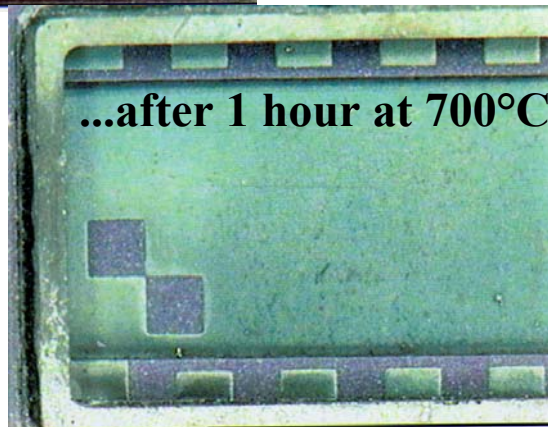


SMD - packaging with W/Ni/Au-metallization before heating

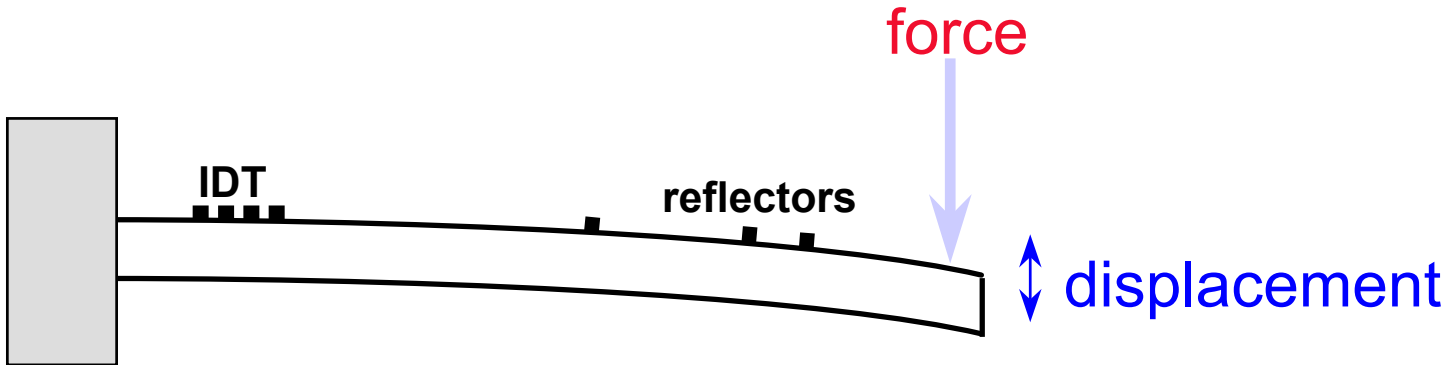




... and after heating at higher temperatures

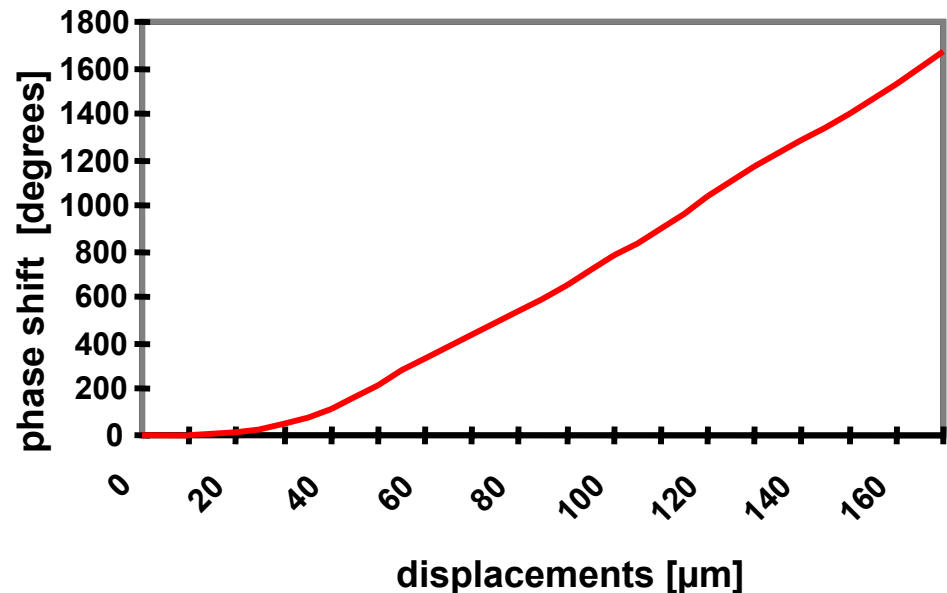


Wirelessly Readable Passive Sensors for Force and Mechanical Displacement



... if a mounting is chosen, which lets forces act on the SAW chip to bend it, we get a wirelessly readable passive sensor for force or mechanical displacement.

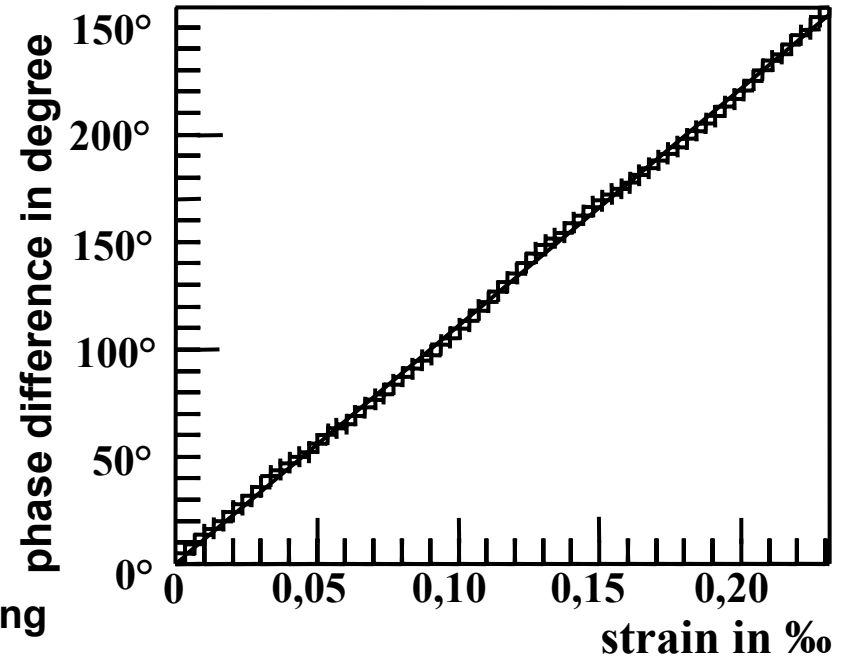
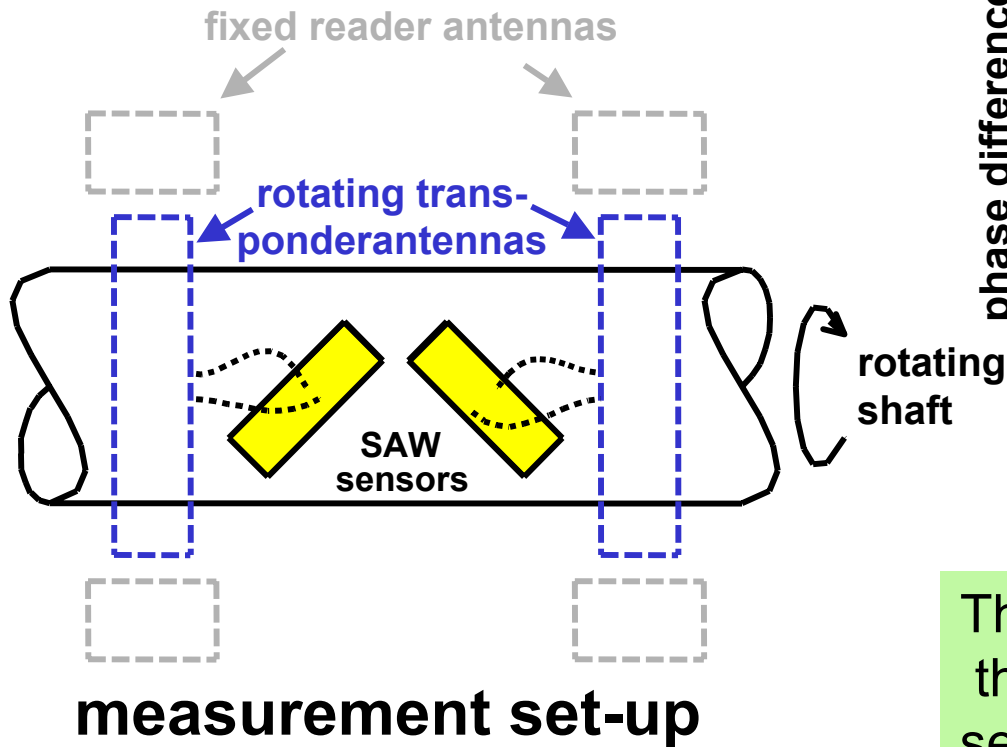
... due to the bending of the substrate, both the surface's length and the elasticity constants are changed.



The dynamic range of monitoring the forces with SAW can be up to several tenths of kHz

SAW Torque Sensor

An applied torque induces a stretching of one and a corresponding compressing of the other sensor.

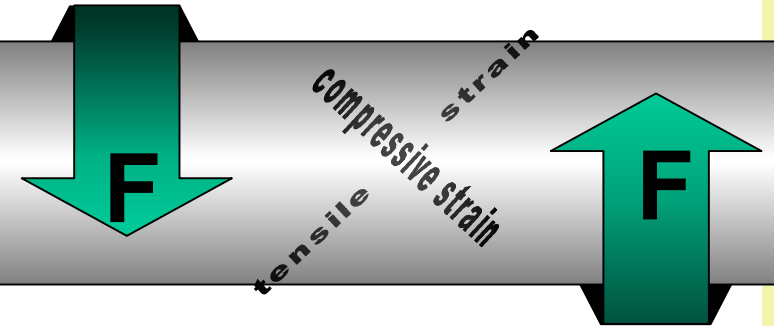


The torque is calculated from the phase differences.

The dynamic range of monitoring the torque with SAW can be up to several tenths of kHz

SAW Rotary Torque Sensor

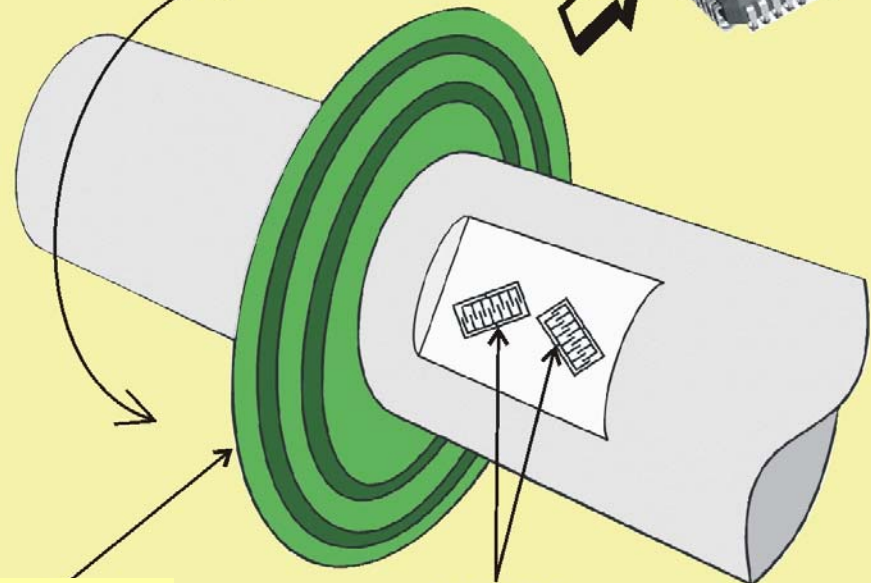
www.sensors.co.uk



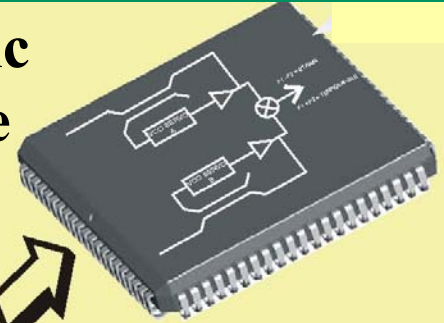
Surface strain due to torque acting on a shaft



Rotational stresses



Electronic interface

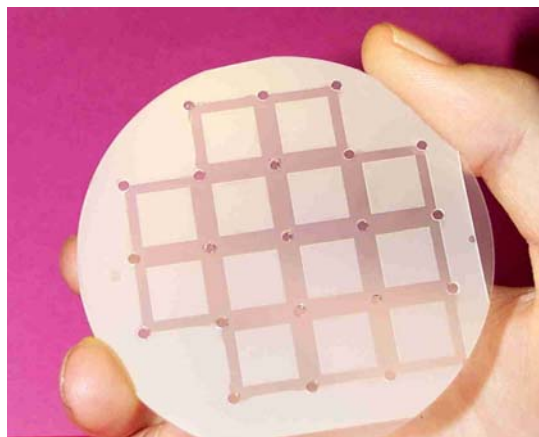
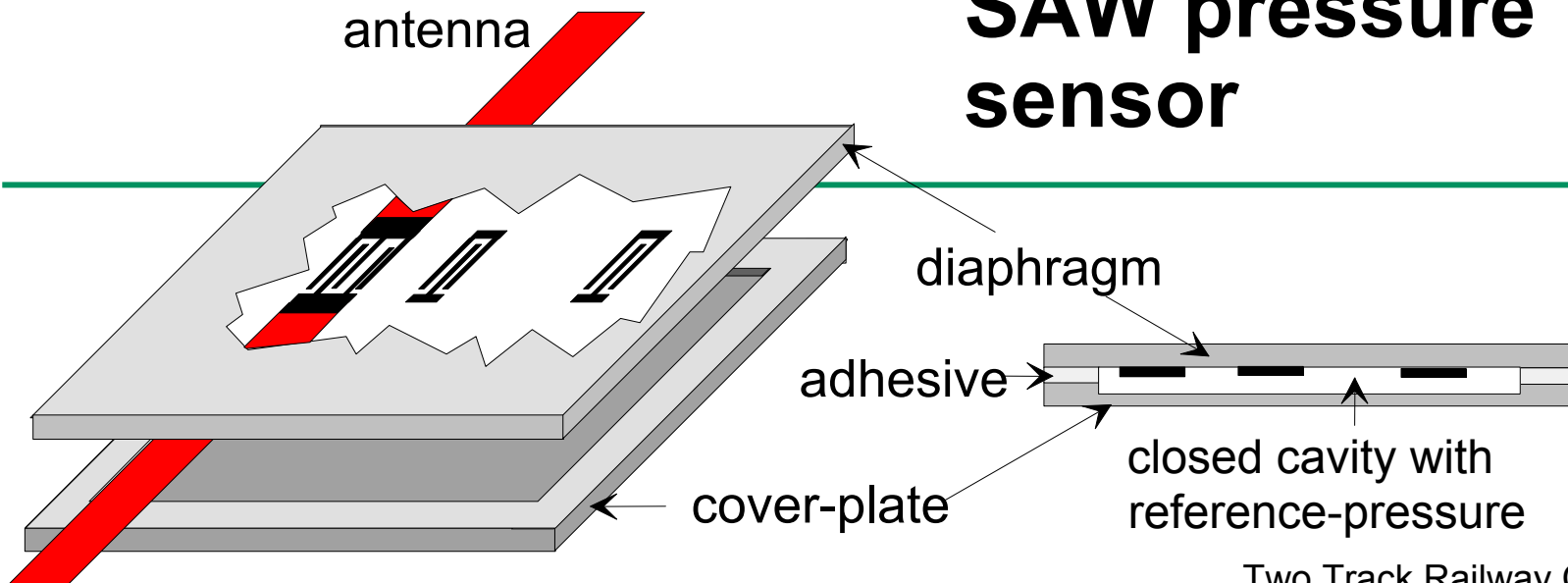


RF-couple

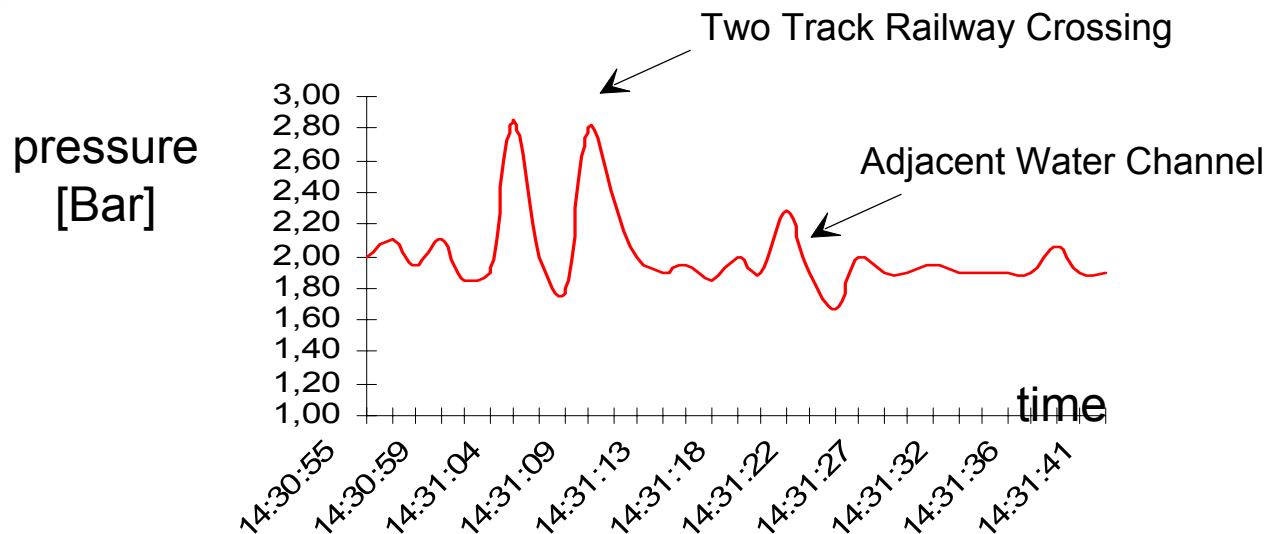
SAW

www.sensors.co.uk

SAW pressure sensor



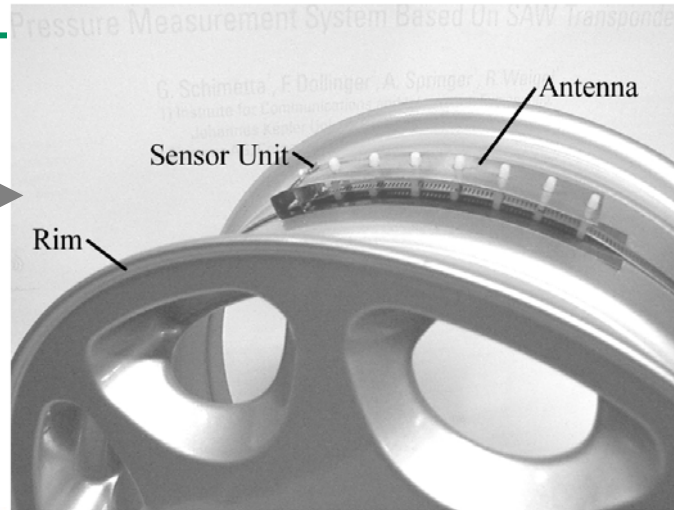
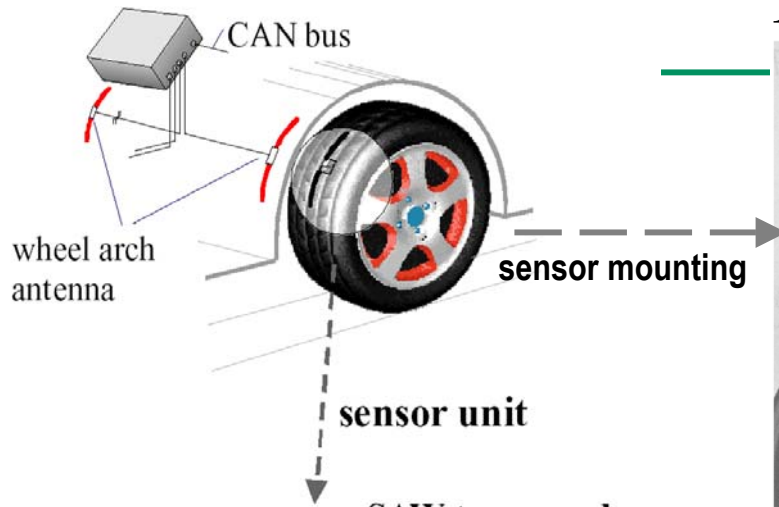
Wafer processing of SAW pressure sensors



A SAW pressure sensor type, which uses a direct bending of the SAW chip, results in a resolution of about 1% of full range.

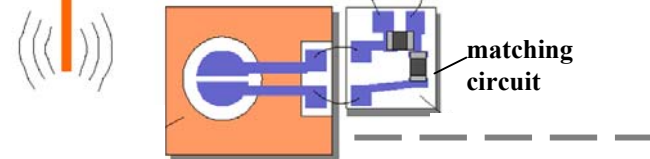
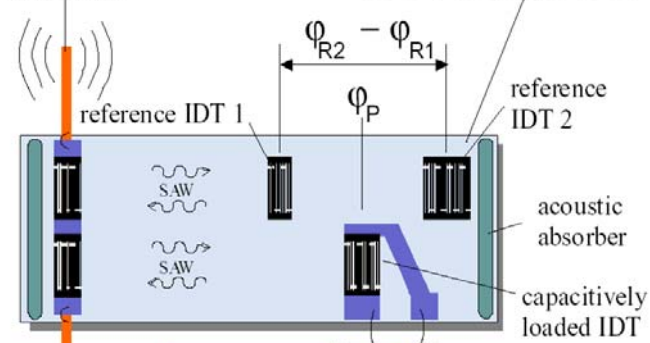
tire pressure sensor, presented by G. Schimetta

transceiver unit

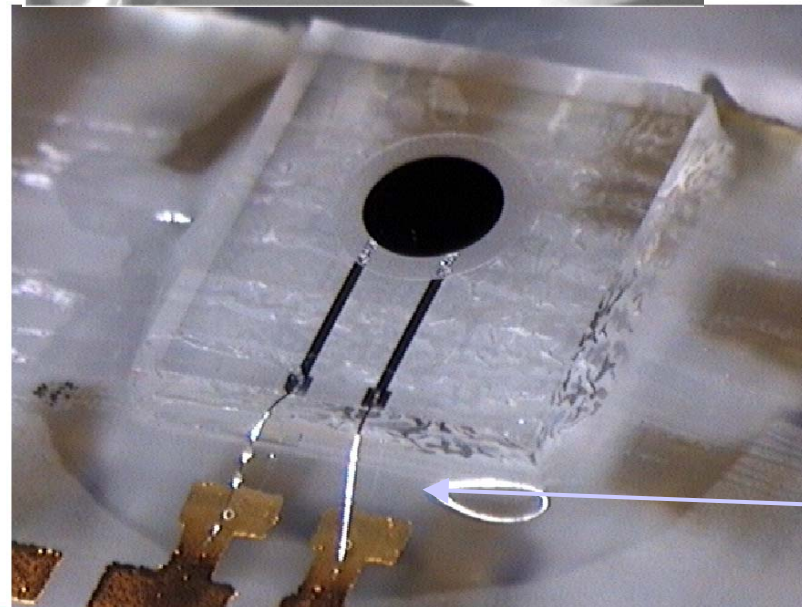


The patch antenna with the integrated sensor board is mounted on the rim with a stress ribbon.

antenna

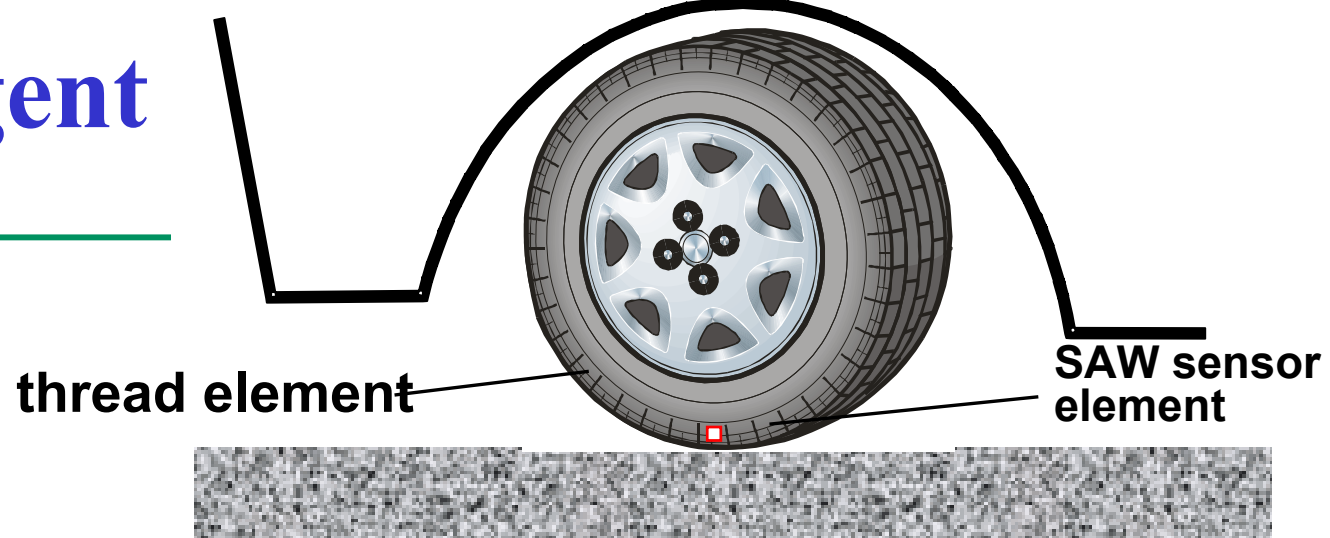


capacitive micro-machined pressure sensor

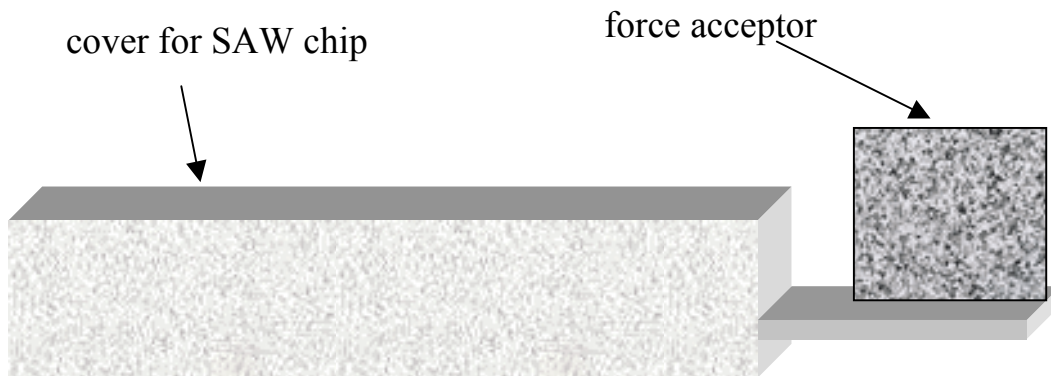


bond wires

The intelligent tire



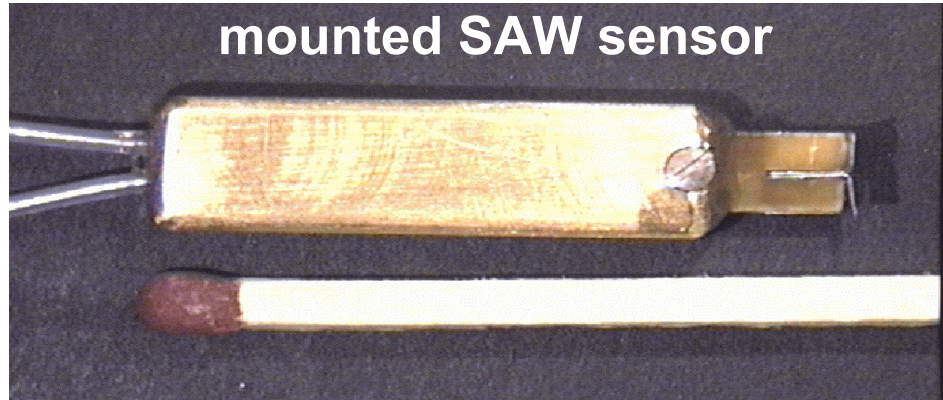
Schematic drawing of an experimental SAW bending beam



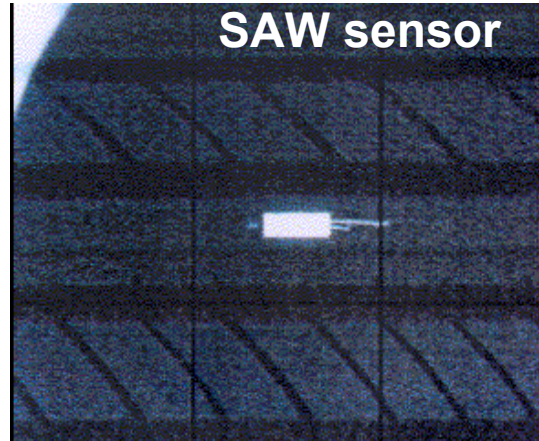
The friction coefficient between a car tire and the road surface, which is a key parameter when stabilising a vehicle in critical situations, can be measured by evaluating the mechanical strain in the tire surface contacting the road. This can be done by monitoring the deforming of the tread elements.

→ Intelligent tire due to a sensor in the tire / road contact area

SAW sensor for tire friction control



Radiography of a
tire with integrated
SAW sensor



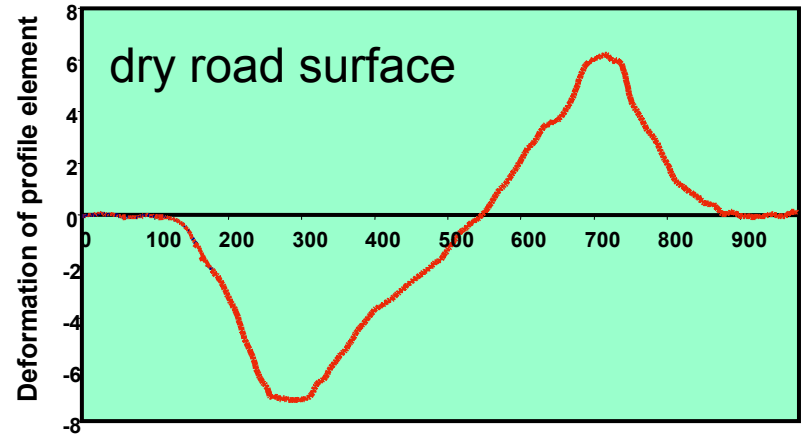
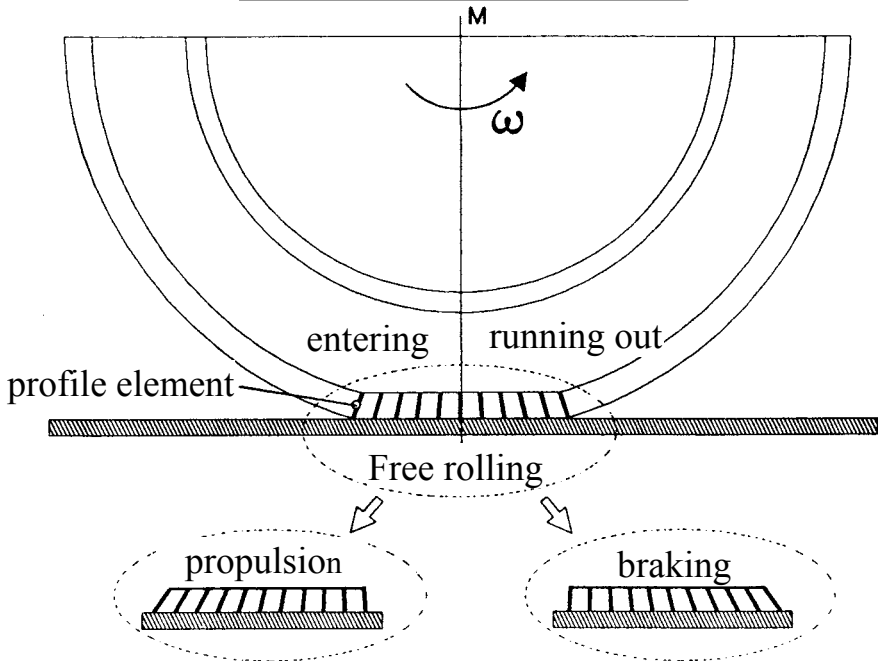
SAW sensor integrated
into a standard tire



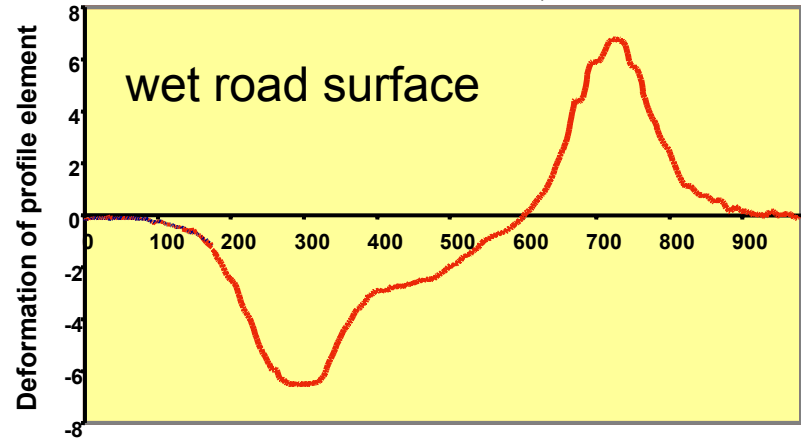
SAW sensor for tire friction control

The deformation of a profile element gives information of the friction coefficient between tire and road

bristle model



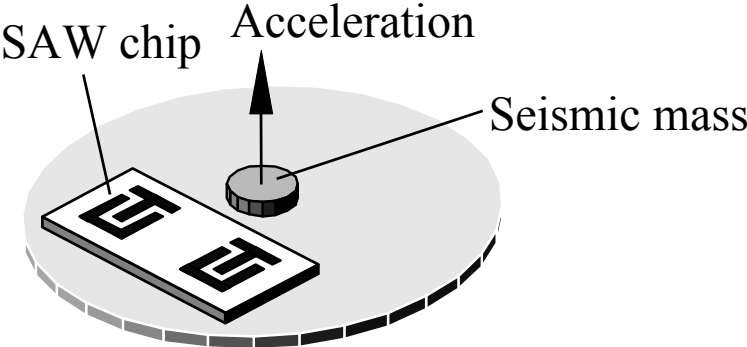
time / 25 μ s



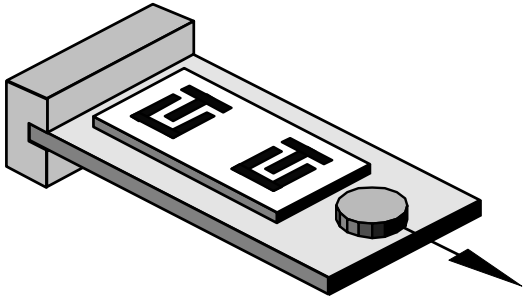
time / 25 μ s

A radio requestable SAW accelerometer can be attained if seismic mass is added

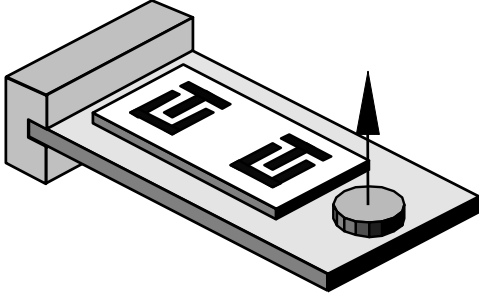
SAW accelerometer configurations:



Circular diaphragm

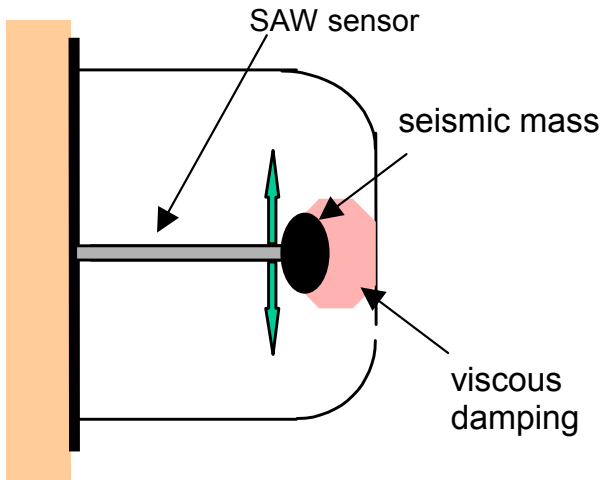


Tensioned cantilever beam



Flexured cantilever beam

Wireless Measurement of Deceleration

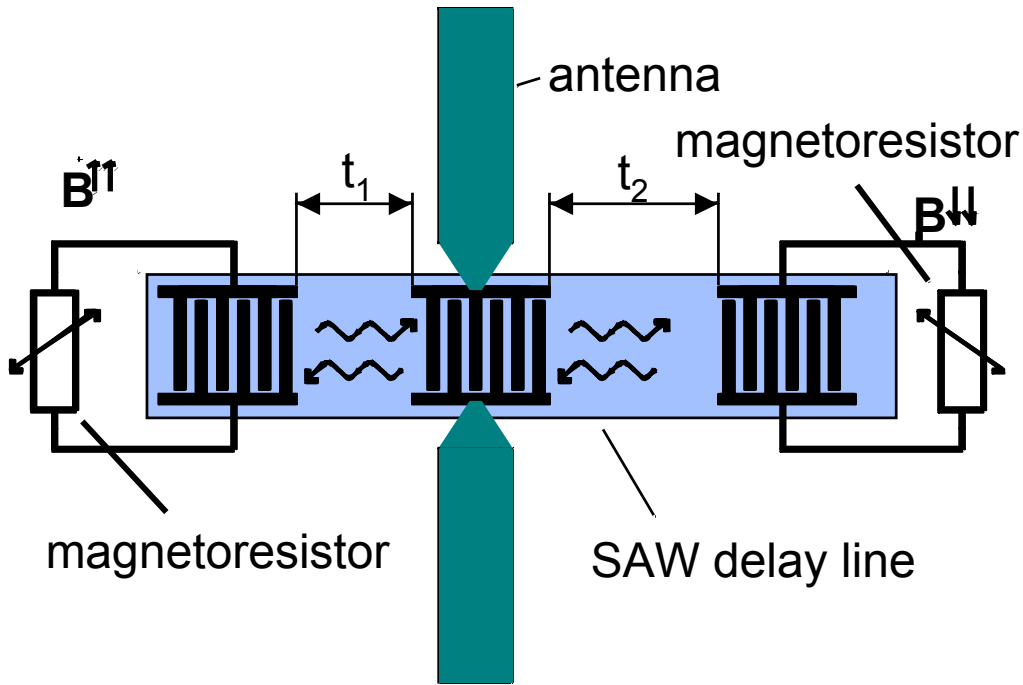


SAW accelerometer using a seismic mass and a flexured SAW cantilever beam

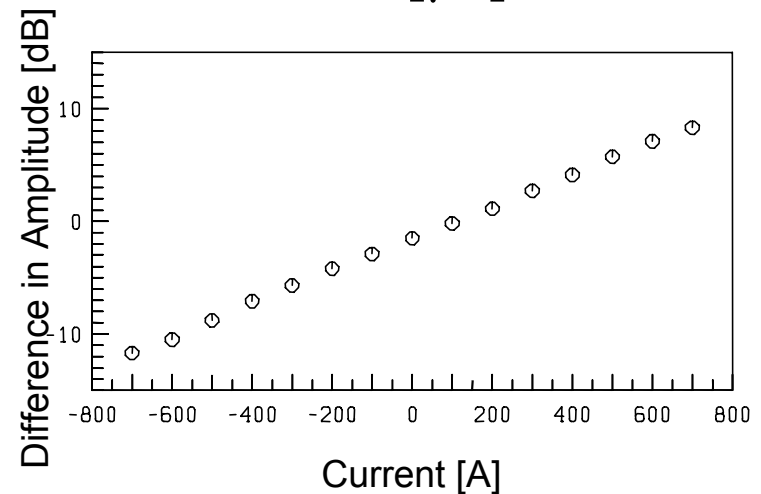
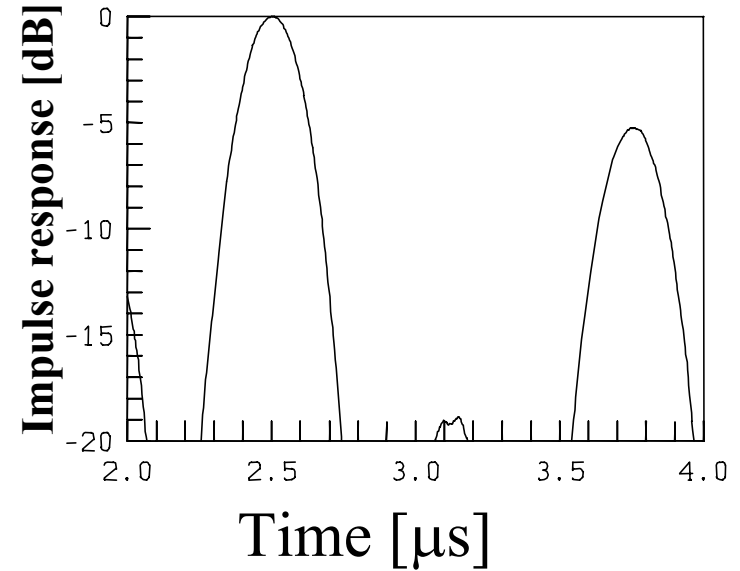


Passive SAW sensor fixed to a dDart arrow, invading the target

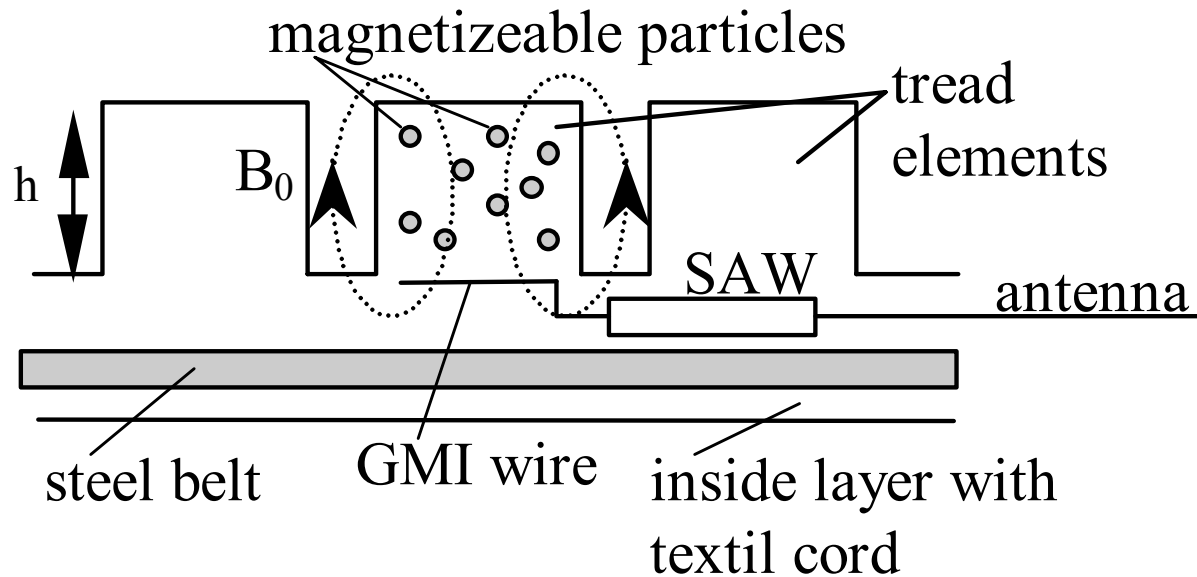
SAW Current Sensors



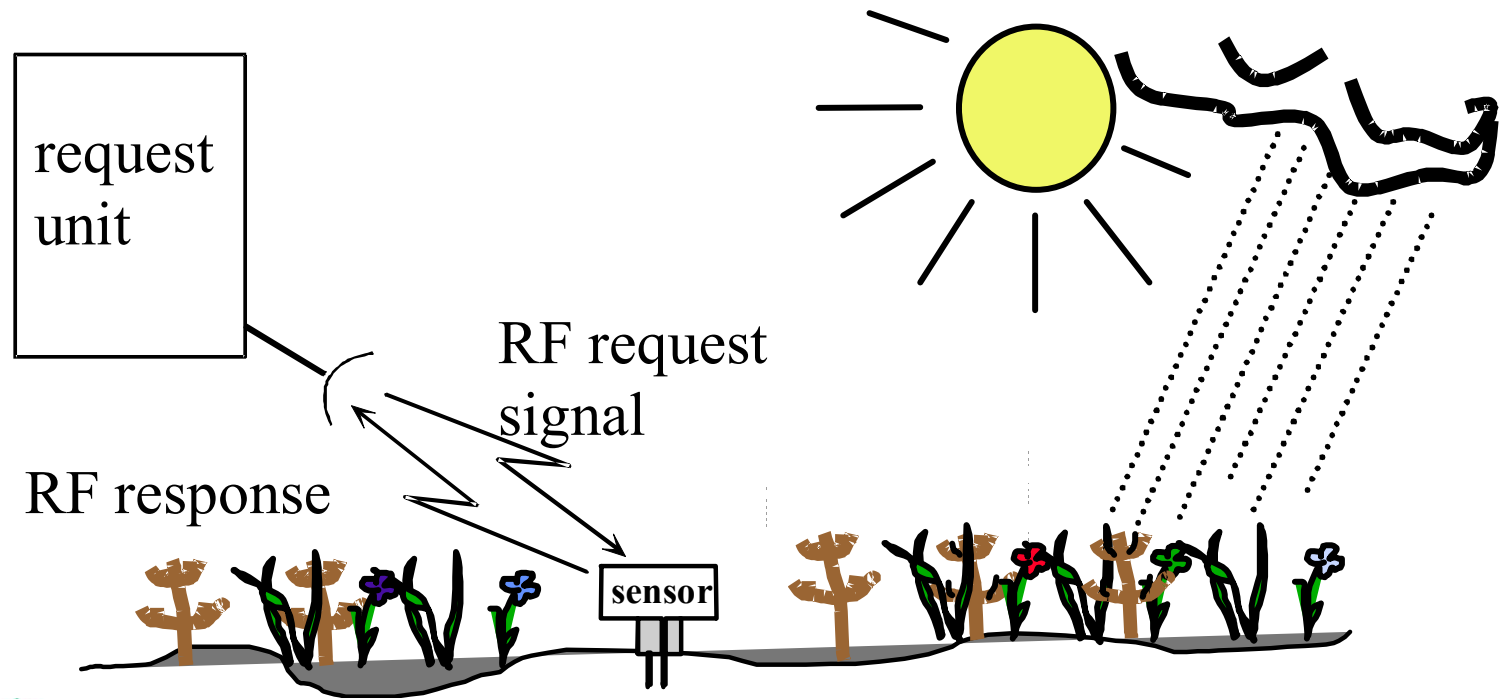
resolution $\sim 5\%$ of full scale



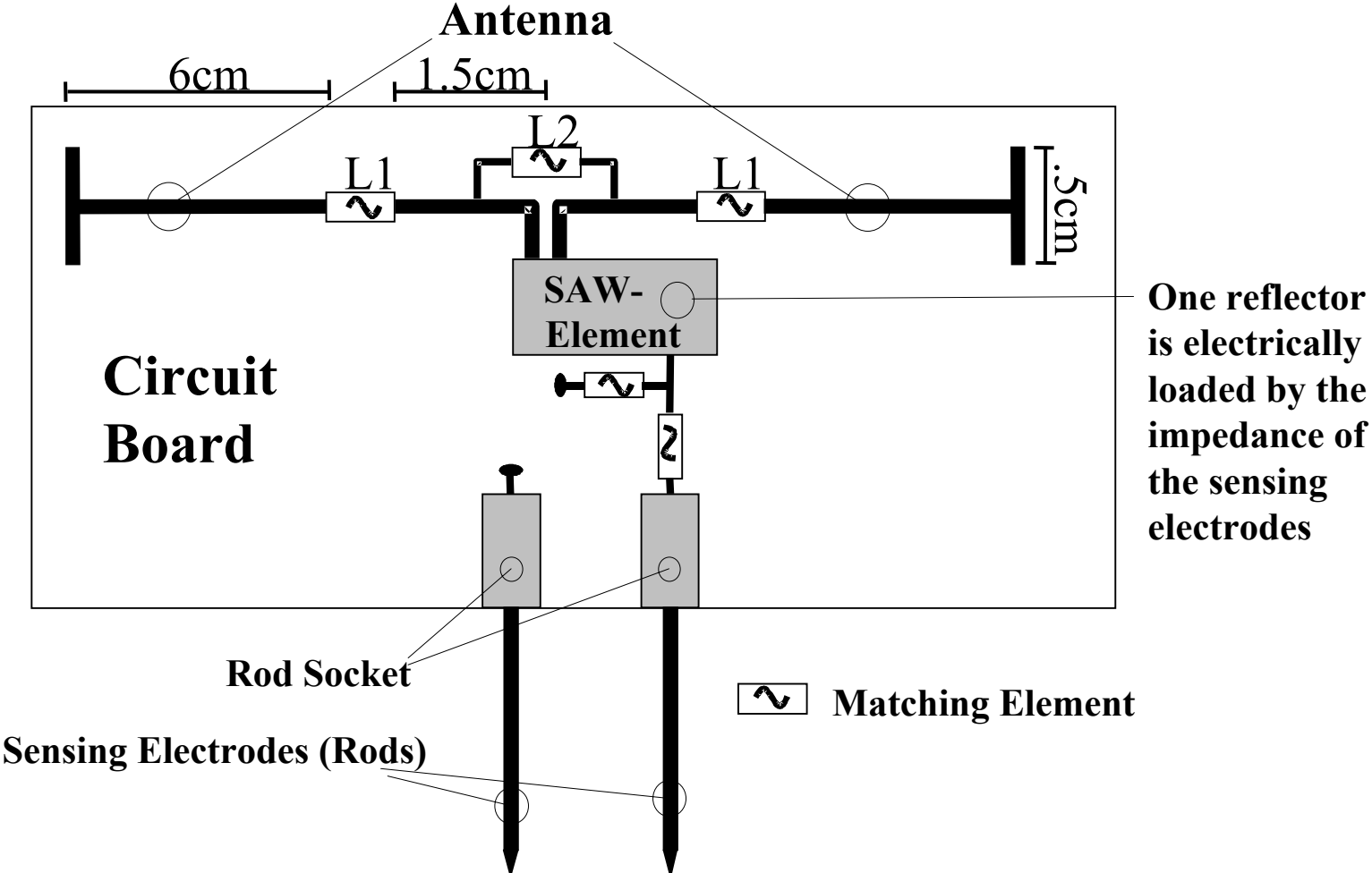
Sketch of a tire wear sensor using a GMI wire and magnetize able particles



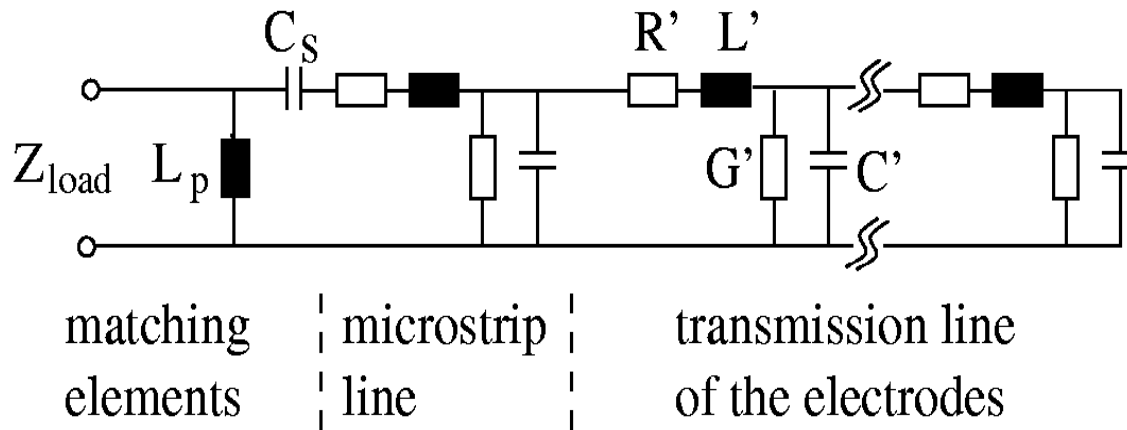
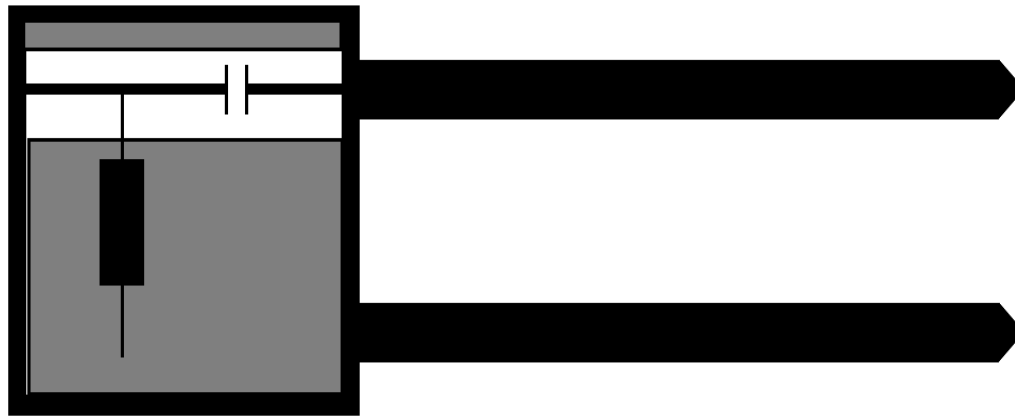
Water Content Sensor: Scenario



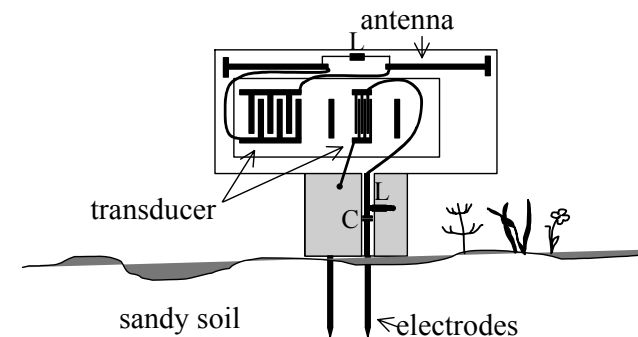
Schematic of the SAW Water Content Sensor



Schematic of the Water Content Sensor Electrodes (Rods) and Corresponding Matching Circuitry

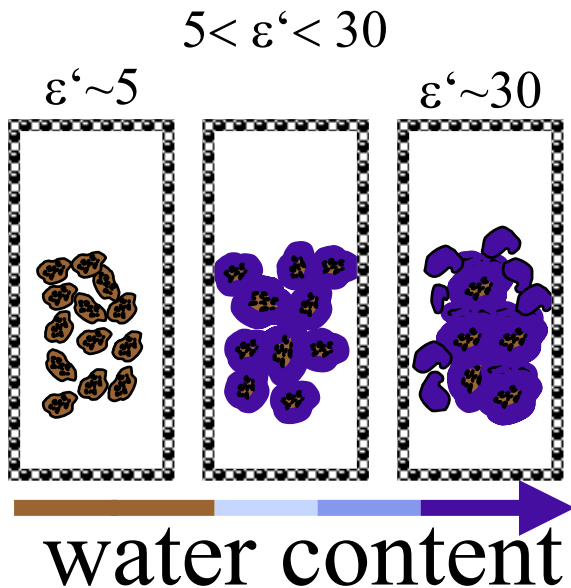


Overall sensor circuitry

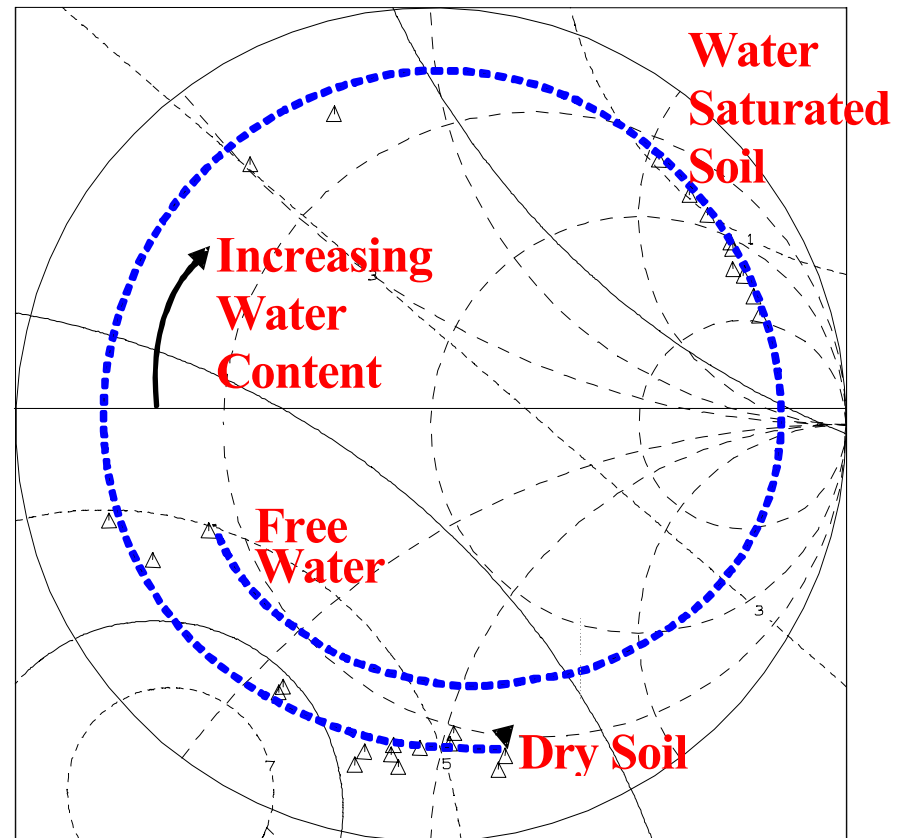


Electrical Reflection Coefficient of the Sensor Electrodes (including Matching Circuitry) versus Water Content

Change of the permittivity ϵ' of sandy soil with increasing water content

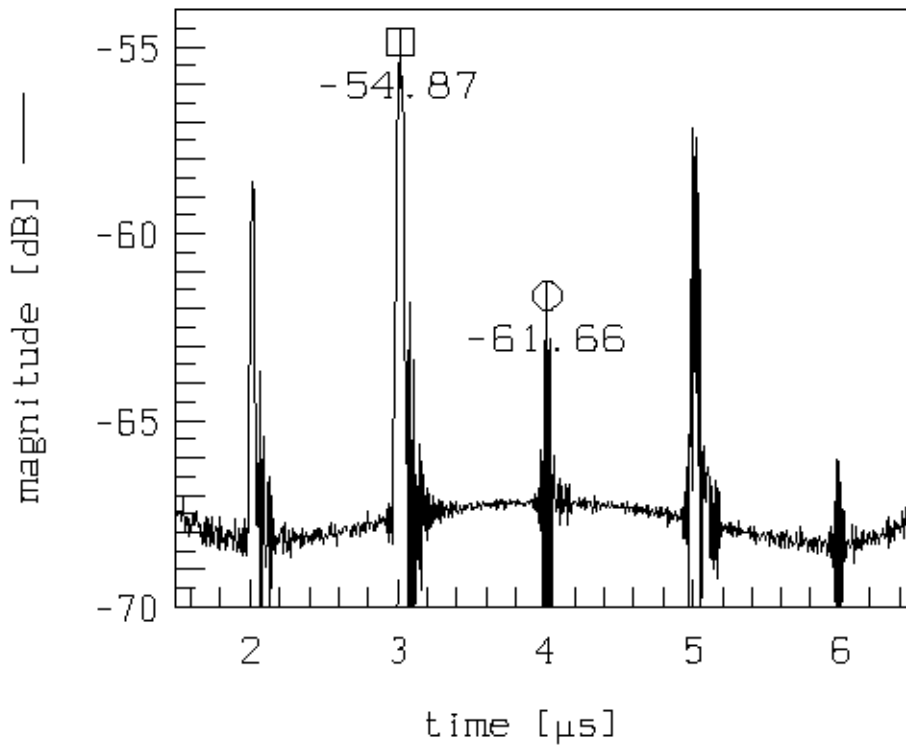


$$\Delta\varphi = -\sqrt{\epsilon'} \cdot \frac{4\pi \cdot l \cdot f}{c_0}$$

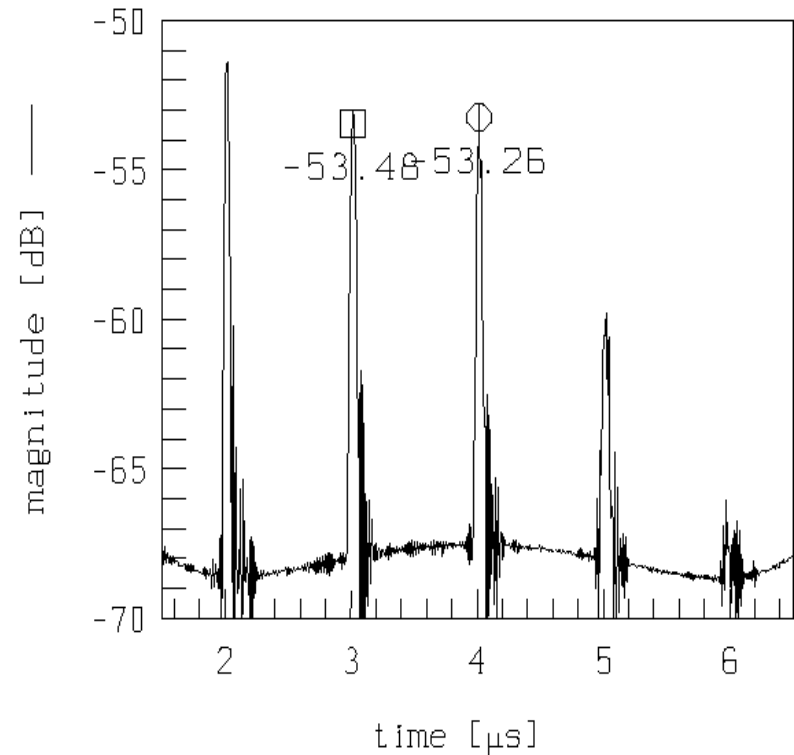


Two Measurements

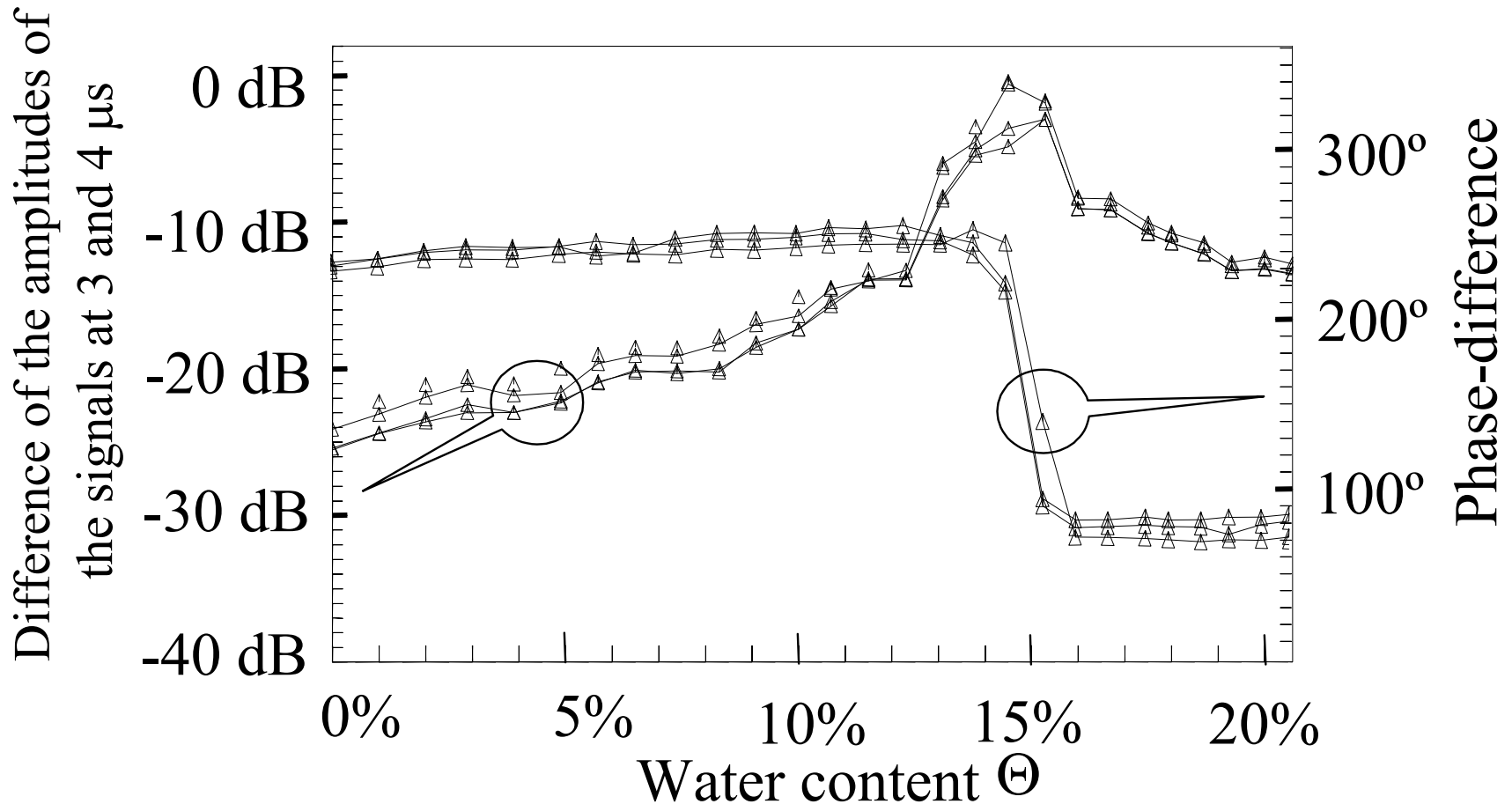
Dry Soil (7 %)



Moist Soil (21 %)



Amplitude and Phase Differences of the Echo Signals of Reflector #2 and #1



Outline

- **Introduction: Classical SAW Sensors**
- **SAW Radio Request**
- **SAW Identification Tags**
- **SAW Radio Requestable Sensors**
- **Application Examples**
- **Conclusion**



The potential of remotely read SAW sensors

Monitoring of physical and chemical quantities in inaccessible or hazardous zones (heat, cold, moving parts, high voltage, radiation, vacuum, poison, behind concrete, danger of explosion).

Examples:

- Identification marks (cars, persons, ...)
- Temperature of moving parts (drives, turbine blades, rotating anodes) or in vivo
- Torque of a rotating shaft
- Force, pressure, light, corpuscular radiation, contamination, current, voltage, humidity, ...
- Burning off in high-power switches
- Chemical concentration in closed containers or in waste water
- Numbered sensors (identification function), "read-me flag", positioning sensors
- Hybrid devices comprising variable-impedance elements and SAW devices



Resolution of SAW Passive Wireless Remote Sensing

measurand	physical effect	resolution
identification	analysis of signal	32 Bit
temperature	variation of SAW velocity	0.1 K
mechatronic measurands (pressure, torque, acceleration, tire-road friction)	variation of elastic constants	1% of full scale
impedance sensors	variation of amplitude and phase of reflected signal	5% of full scale
distance	signal delay	20cm
relative position	continuous measurement of Doppler phase	2cm
angular positioning	measurement of Doppler phase	3 degrees



Conclusion

- The generation and the physical properties of SAWs,
- the operating of a SAW identification system,
- the design of SAW ID tags and radio sensors
- applications of SAW ID tags
- and SAW radio readable sensors has been presented.

