



# Cyclops: A Nanomaterial-based, Battery-Free Intraocular Pressure (IOP) Monitoring System inside Contact Lens

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<sup>1</sup>University at Buffalo The State University of New York

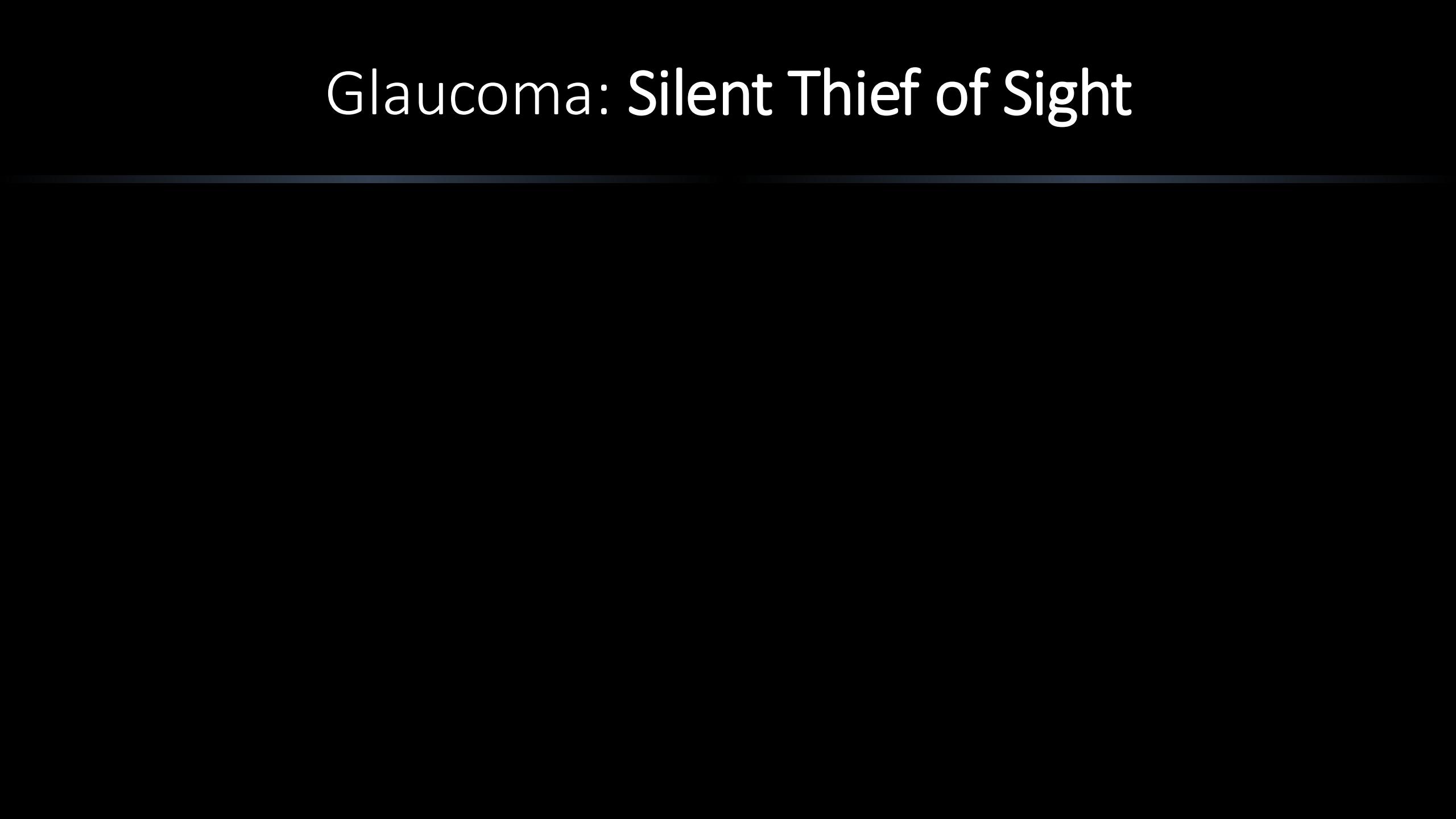
<sup>2</sup>Northwest University

<sup>3</sup>University of Massachusetts Amherst and Microsoft Research Asia

# Glaucoma: Silent Thief of Sight



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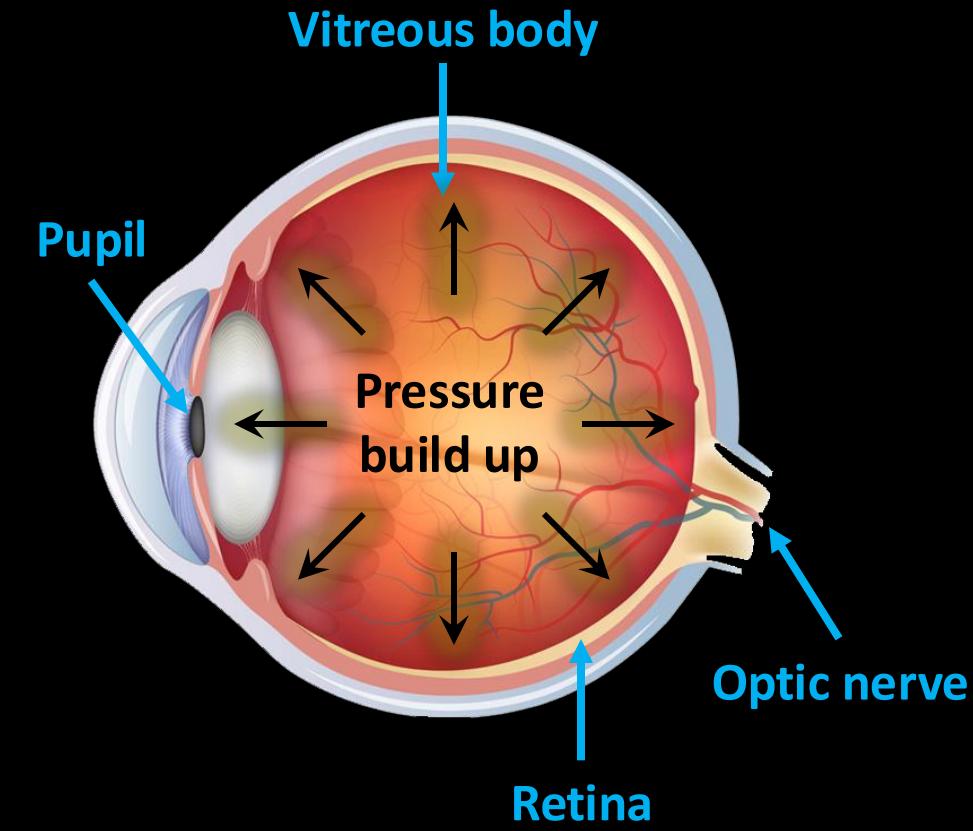
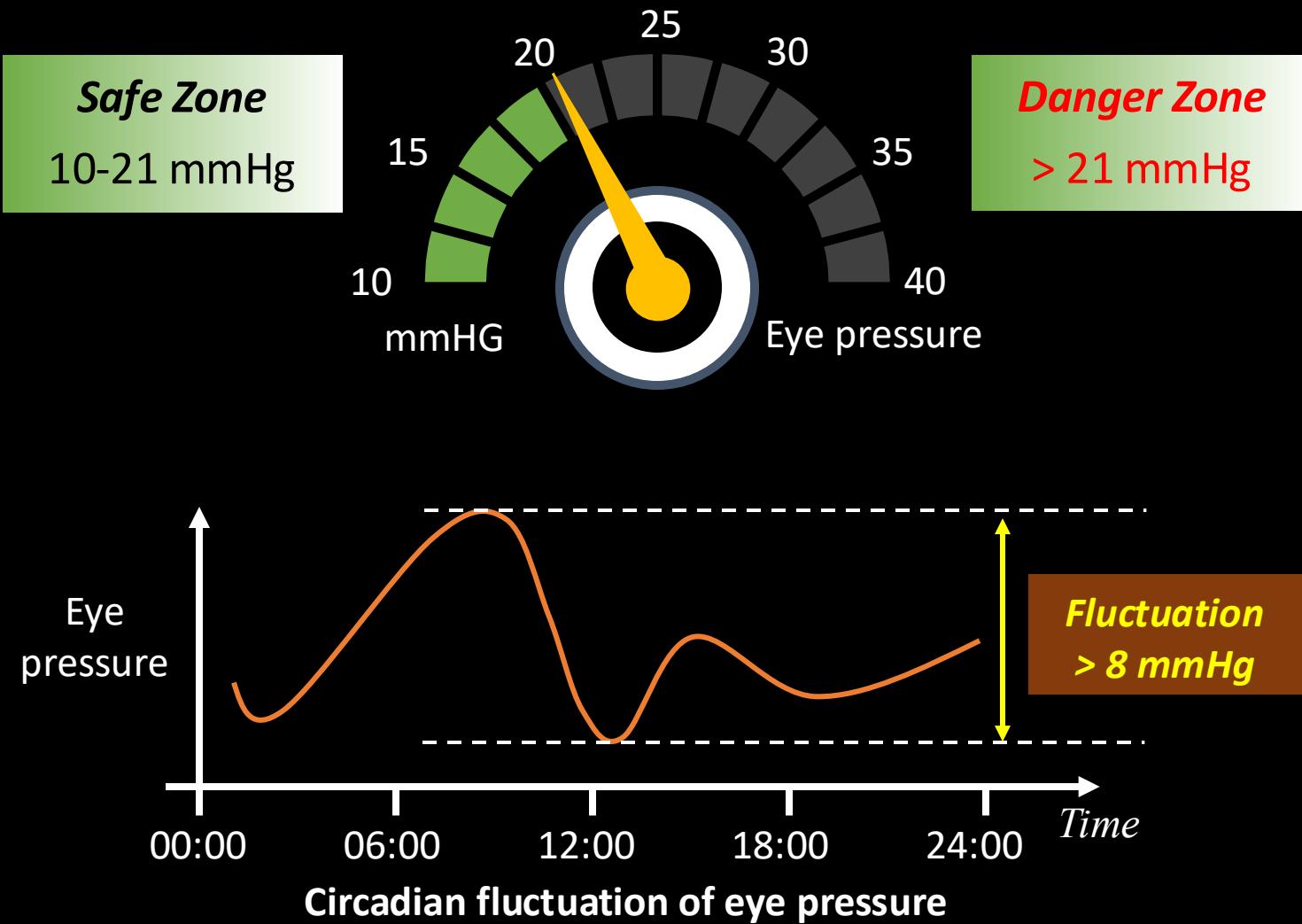


# Glaucoma: Silent Thief of Sight

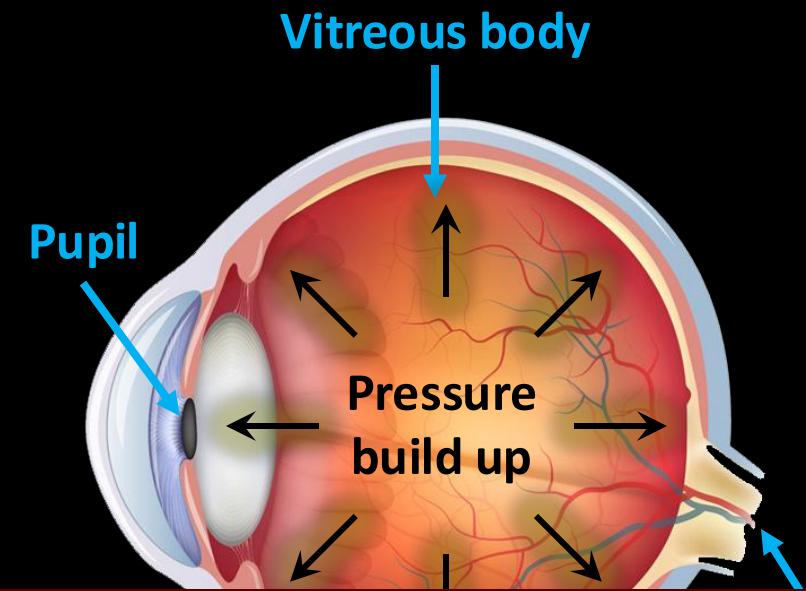
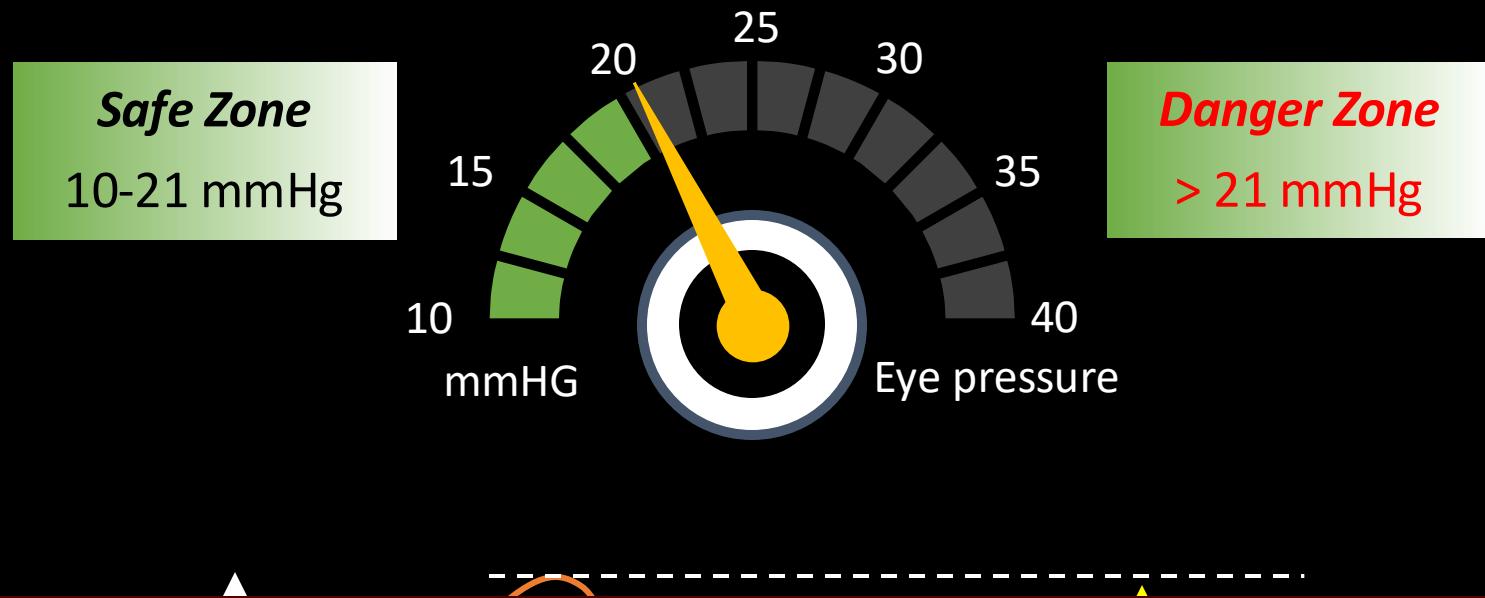
**3,000,000** in USA and **800,000,000** worldwide people have glaucoma



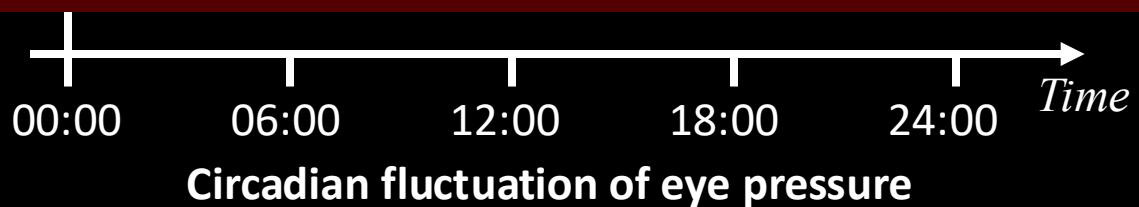
# Detecting Glaucoma by Measuring Eye Pressure



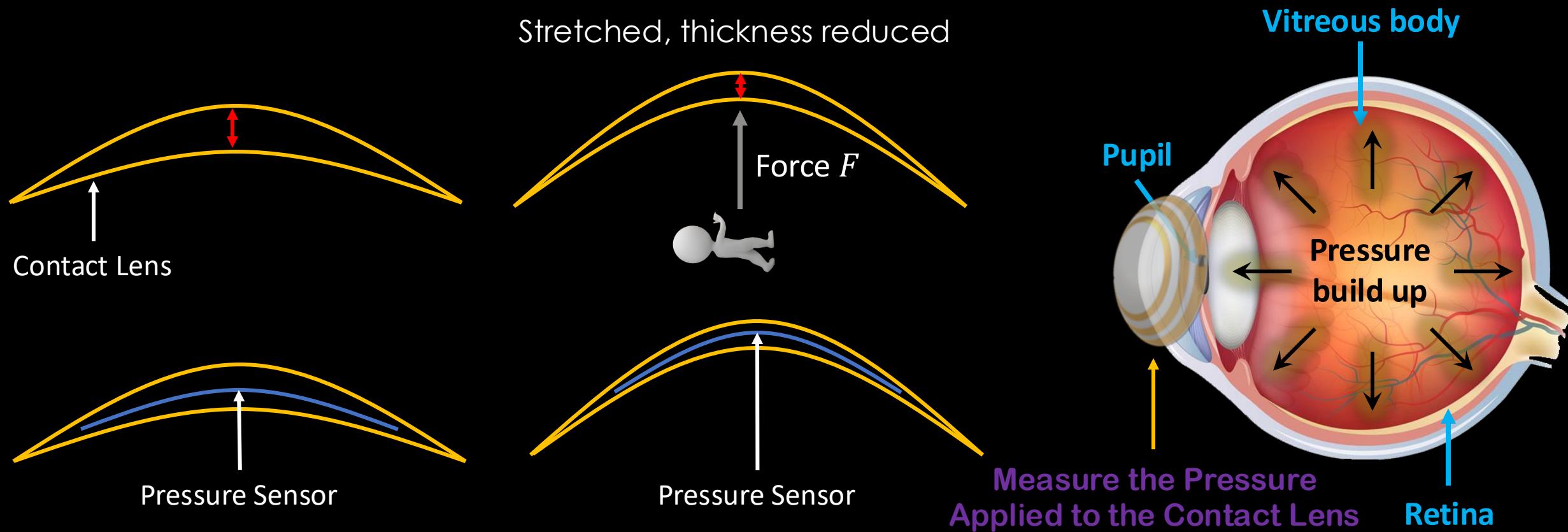
# Detecting Glaucoma by Measuring Eye Pressure



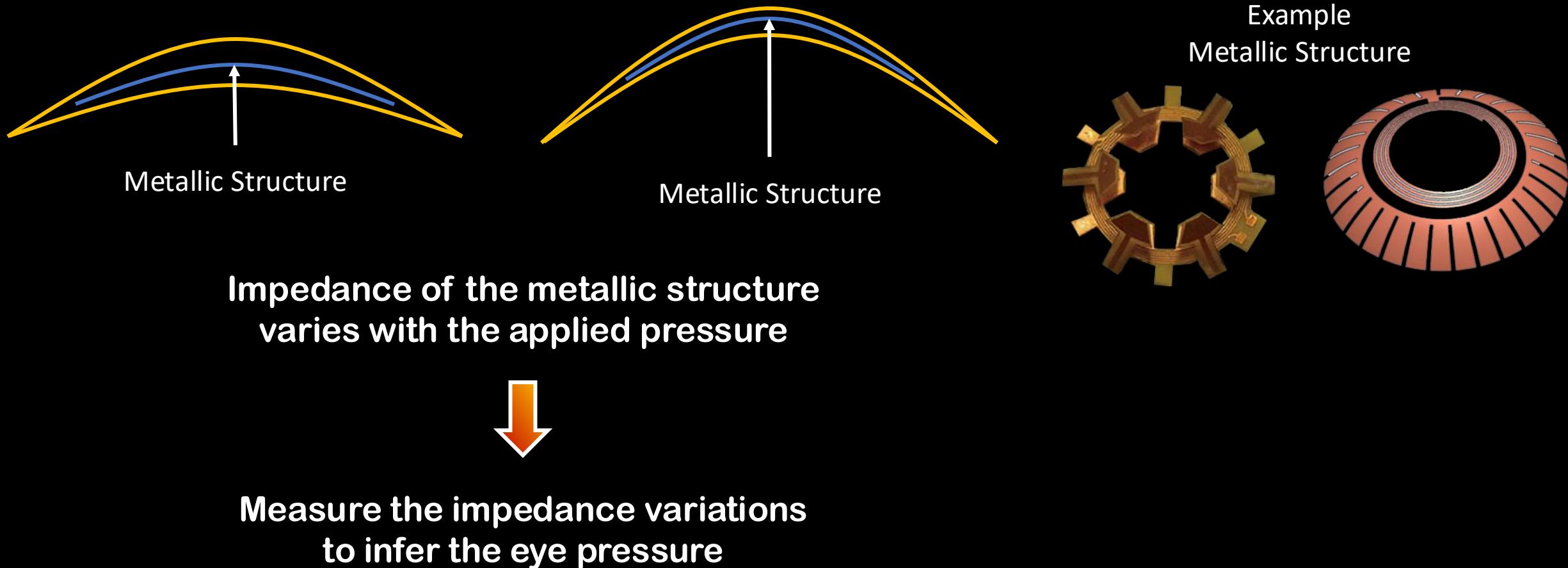
Continuous eye pressure tracking is necessary for detecting early-stage Glaucoma



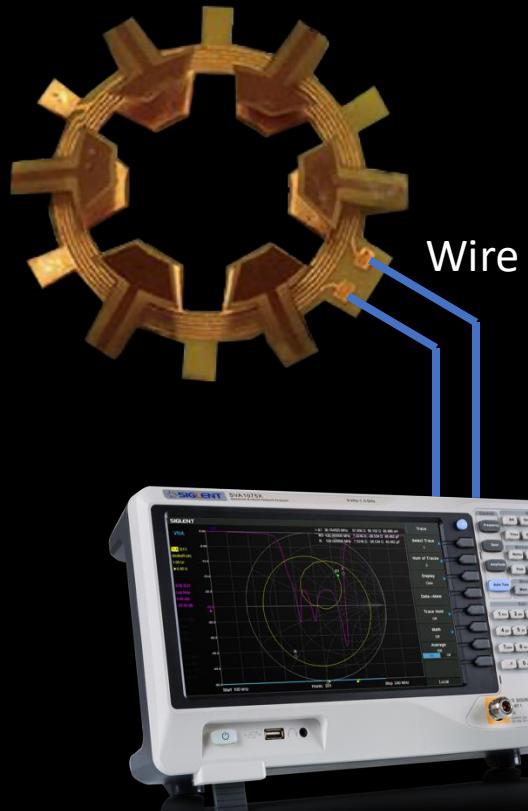
# Contact-Lens Based Eye Pressure Sensing



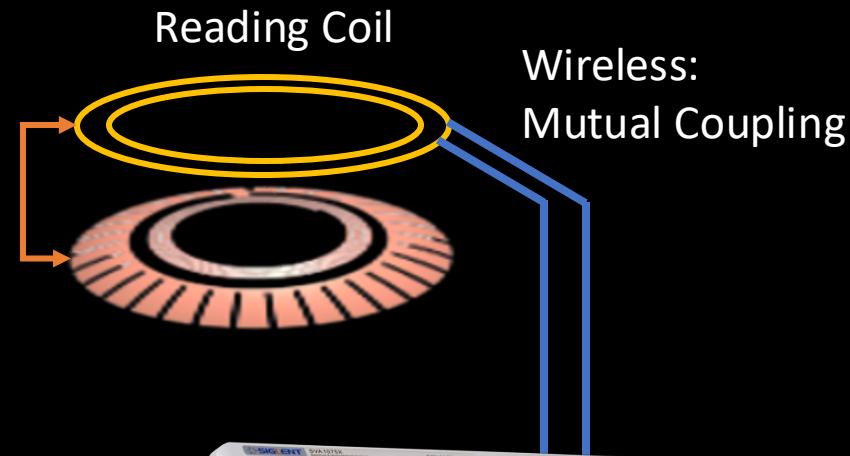
# Contact-Lens Based Eye Pressure Sensing: Impedance based Sensors



# Contact-Lens Based Eye Pressure Sensing: Measuring the Impedance



Communication range  
mm-level

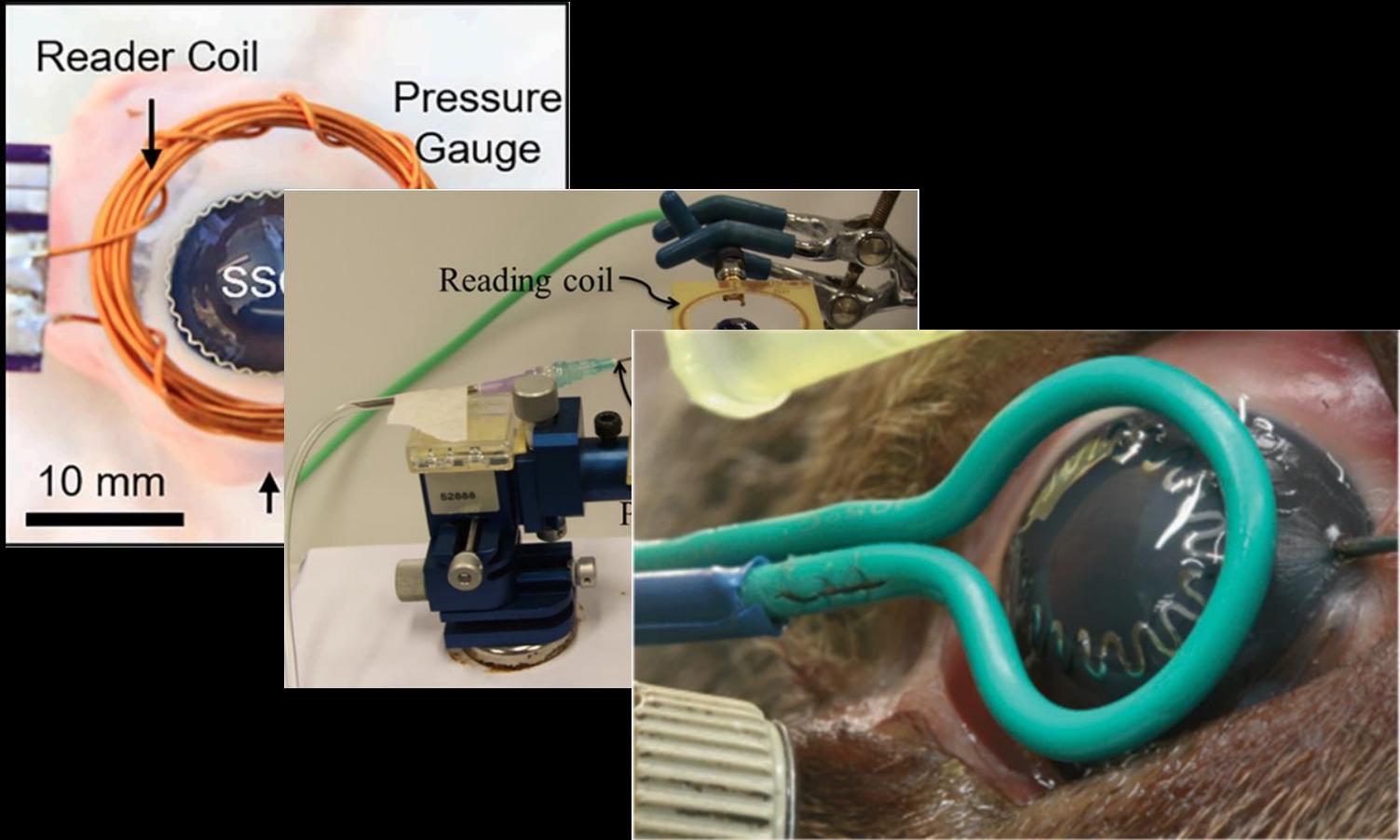
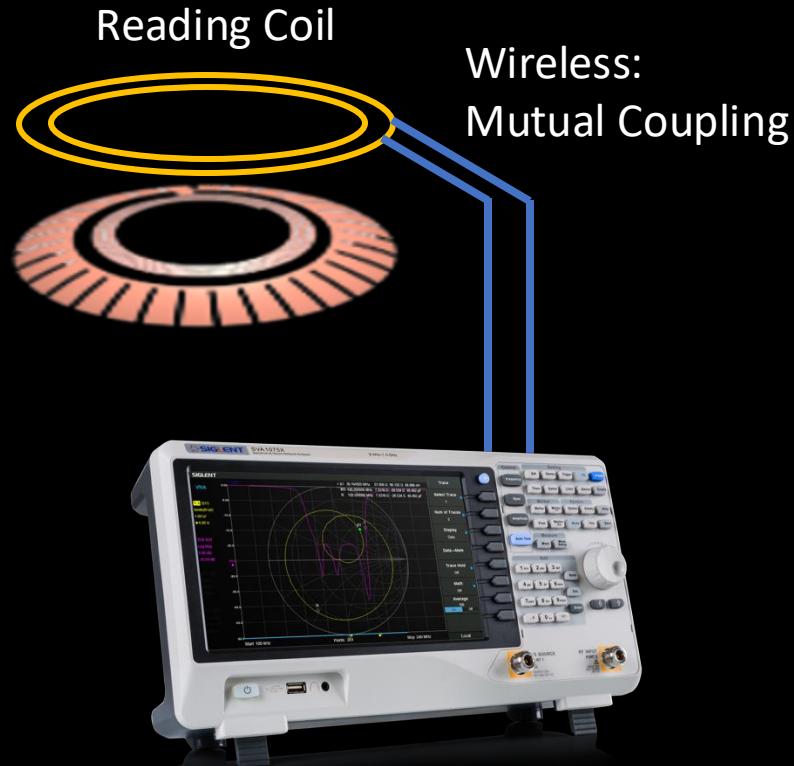


Vector Network Analyzer (VNA)  
COST: Thousands of dollar



Vector Network Analyzer (VNA)

# Contact-Lens Based Eye Pressure Sensing: Measuring the Impedance



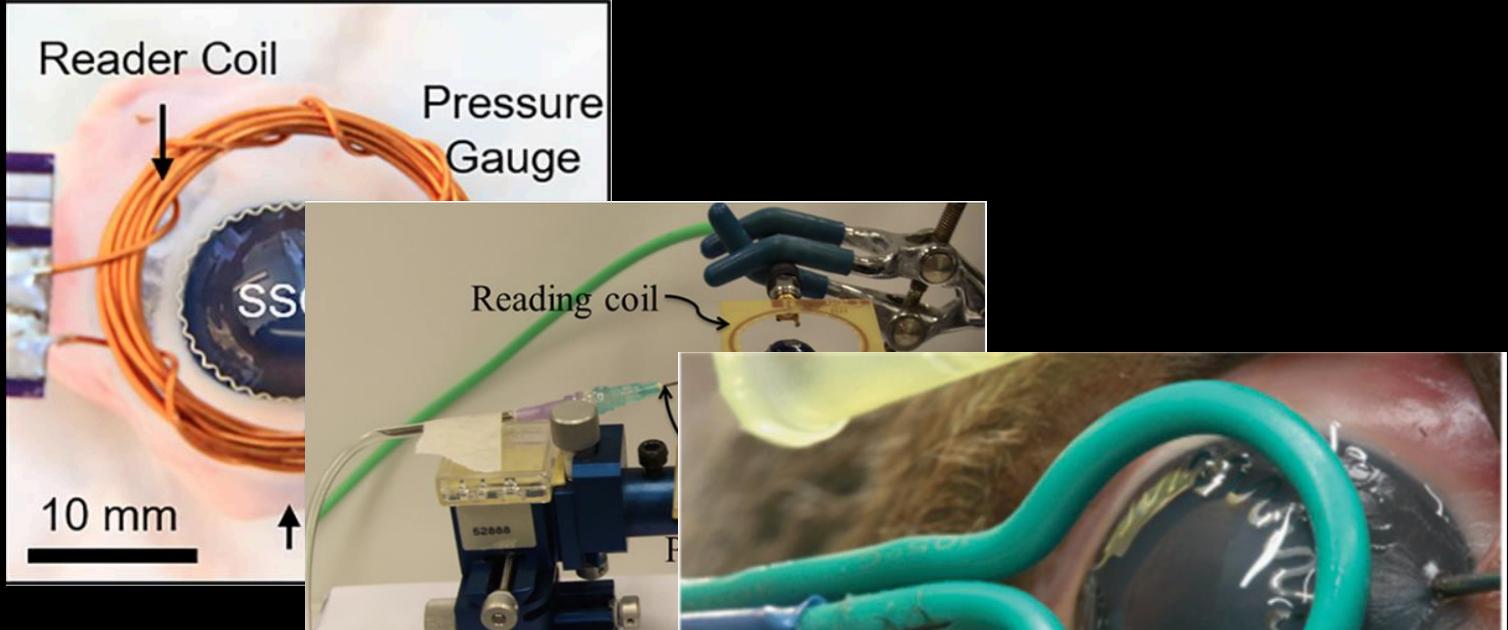
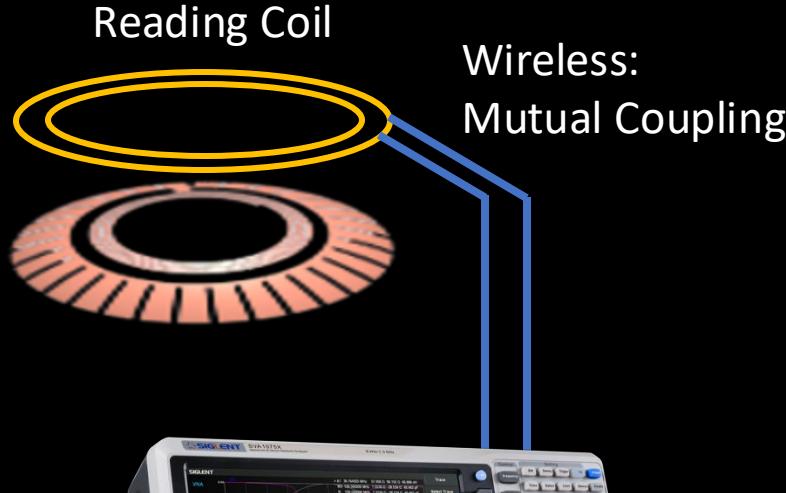
Vector Network Analyzer (VNA)

Kouhani, M. Hossein M., et al. "Wireless, passive strain sensor in a doughnut-shaped contact lens for continuous non-invasive self-monitoring of intraocular pressure." *Lab on a Chip* 20.2 (2020): 332-342.

Yang, Cheng, et al. "Intelligent wireless theranostic contact lens for electrical sensing and regulation of intraocular pressure." *Nature Communications* 13.1 (2022): 2556.

Zhang, Jinyuan, et al. "Smart soft contact lenses for continuous 24-hour monitoring of intraocular pressure in glaucoma care." *Nature Communications* 13.1 (2022): 5518.

# Contact-Lens Based Eye Pressure Sensing: Measuring the Impedance



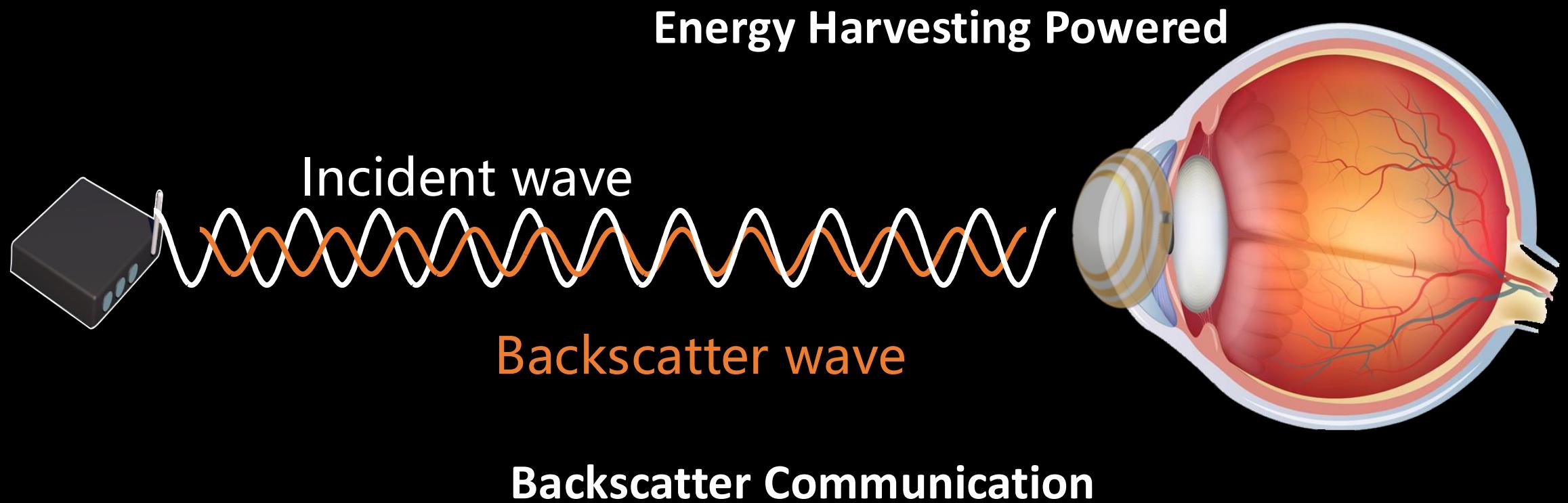
Can we design a **low-cost and battery-free** contact lens based  
eye pressure sensing system  
that supports **long-range communication**?

Kounami, Mr. Hossein Mr., et al. "Wireless, passive strain sensor in a doughnut-shaped contact lens for continuous non-invasive self-monitoring of intraocular pressure." *Lab on a Chip* 20.2 (2020): 332-342.

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# Cyclops: A **Low-cost**, **Battery-free** and **Long-range** (meter level) Eye Pressure Sensing System



# A **Low-cost**, **Battery-free** and **Long-range** Eye Pressure Sensing System: **Goals**

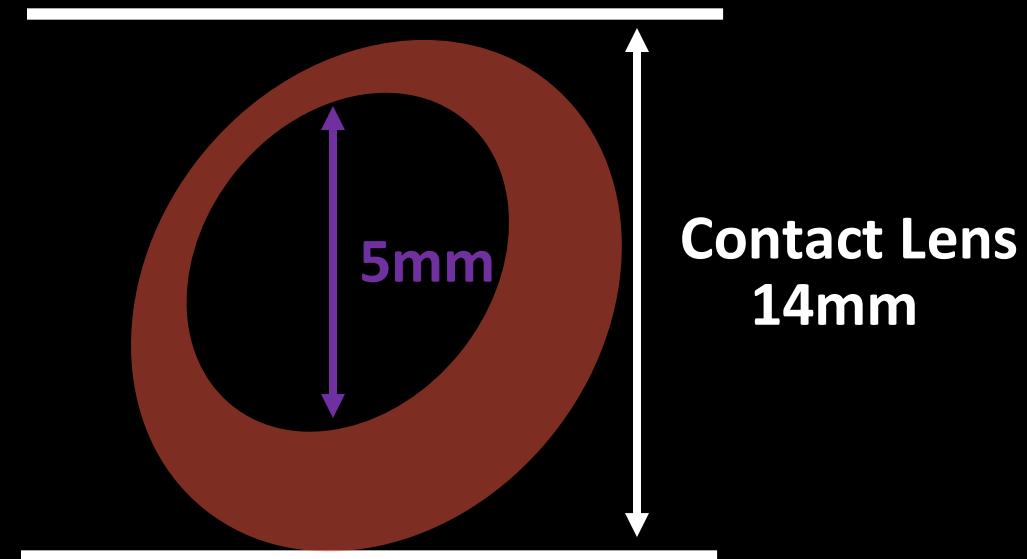
**Goals:**

- 1) Low-power but sensitive pressure sensor with thickness at  $\mu m$  level that works on energy-harvesting powered devices

# A **Low-cost**, **Battery-free** and **Long-range** Eye Pressure Sensing System: **Goals**

**Goals:**

- 1) Low-power but sensitive pressure sensor with thickness at  $\mu m$  level that works on energy-harvesting powered devices
- 2) Supporting long-range communication with contact-lens size antenna



# A **Low-cost**, **Battery-free** and **Long-range** Eye Pressure Sensing System: **Challenge**

**Goals:**

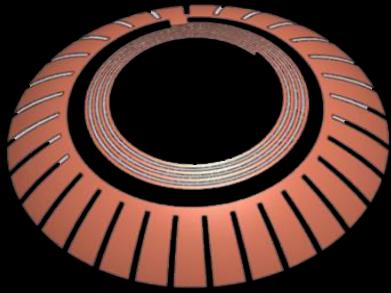
- 1) Low-power but sensitive pressure sensor with thickness at  $\mu m$  level that works on energy-harvesting powered devices
- 2) Supporting long-range communication with contact-lens size antenna

**Challenge:**

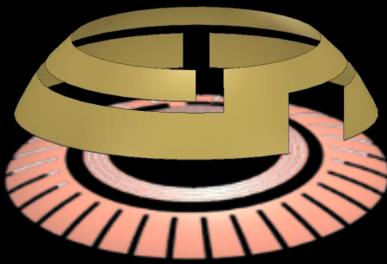
Interference between the communication antenna and the pressure sensors

# Interference between Communication Antenna and Pressure Sensors

Metallic Pressure Sensor



Mutual coupling:



Designed to maximize the sensitivity to pressure changes

Metallic Communication Antenna



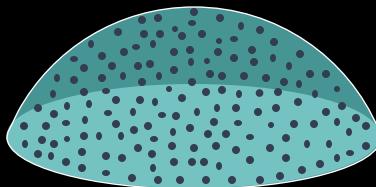
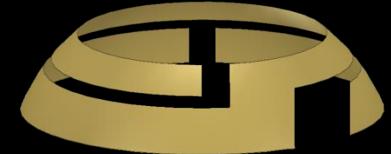
Sensitive to pressure X

Long-range communication X

Designed to maximize the communication efficiency and range

The communication antenna and the pressure sensor are **closely placed to each other** due to the limited **thickness** of the contact lens (generally  $60\mu\text{m}$  to  $100\mu\text{m}$ )

# Design the Sensing Layer using Nanomaterial



→ Communication Antenna

→ Sensing Layer using Nanomaterial

Two separate layers work together without causing mutual coupling



Decouple the design of the communication antenna and the sensing layer

# A **Low-cost**, **Battery-free** and **Long-range** Eye Pressure Sensing System: **Goals**

**Goals:**

- 1) Low-power but sensitive pressure sensor with thickness at  $\mu m$  level that works on energy-harvesting powered devices
- 2) Supporting long-range communication with contact-lens size antenna

**Challenge:**

Interference between the communication antenna and the pressure sensors

Low-power and sensitive pressure sensor with thickness at  $\mu m$  level that works on energy harvesting powered devices

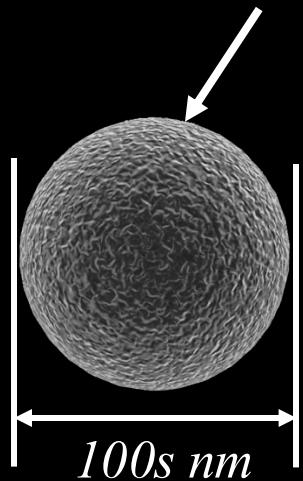
Our solution:

**Quantum Tunnelling Effect of the Nanomaterial (Hallow Carbon Sphere)**

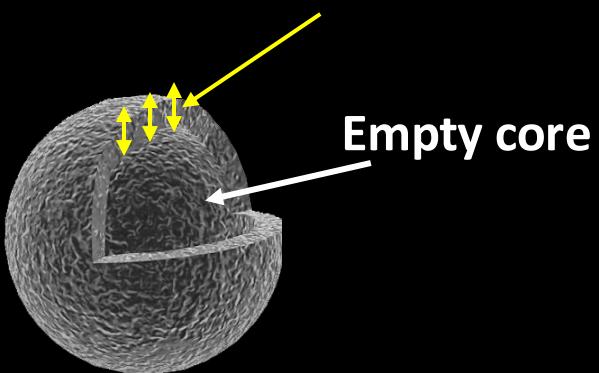
# Nanomaterial: Hollow Carbon Sphere (HCS)

Hollow Carbon Sphere

**Carbon Sphere**



Thickness: 10s nm



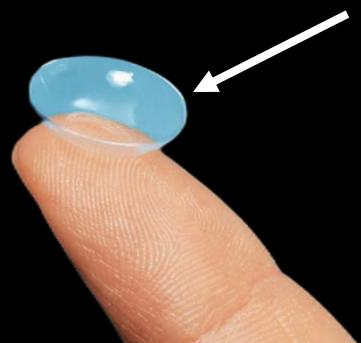
Conductor

Stability

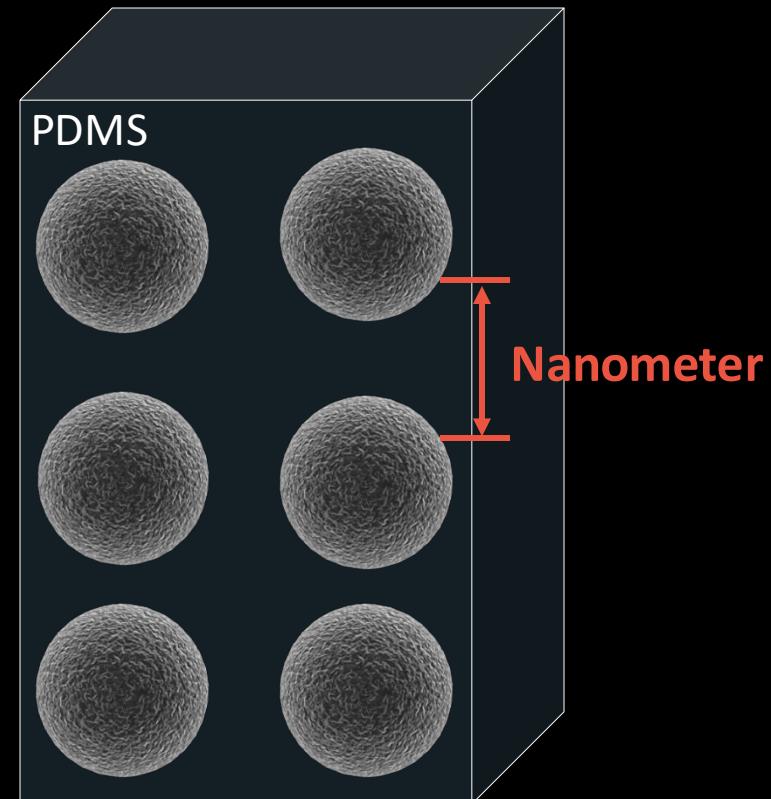
Bio Safety

# Mixing HCS with PDMS

Polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS)

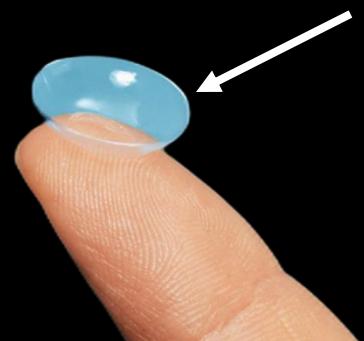


- The **most commonly used materials** for contact lenses
- Insulator with good **electrical insulation** properties



# Mixing HCS with PDMS

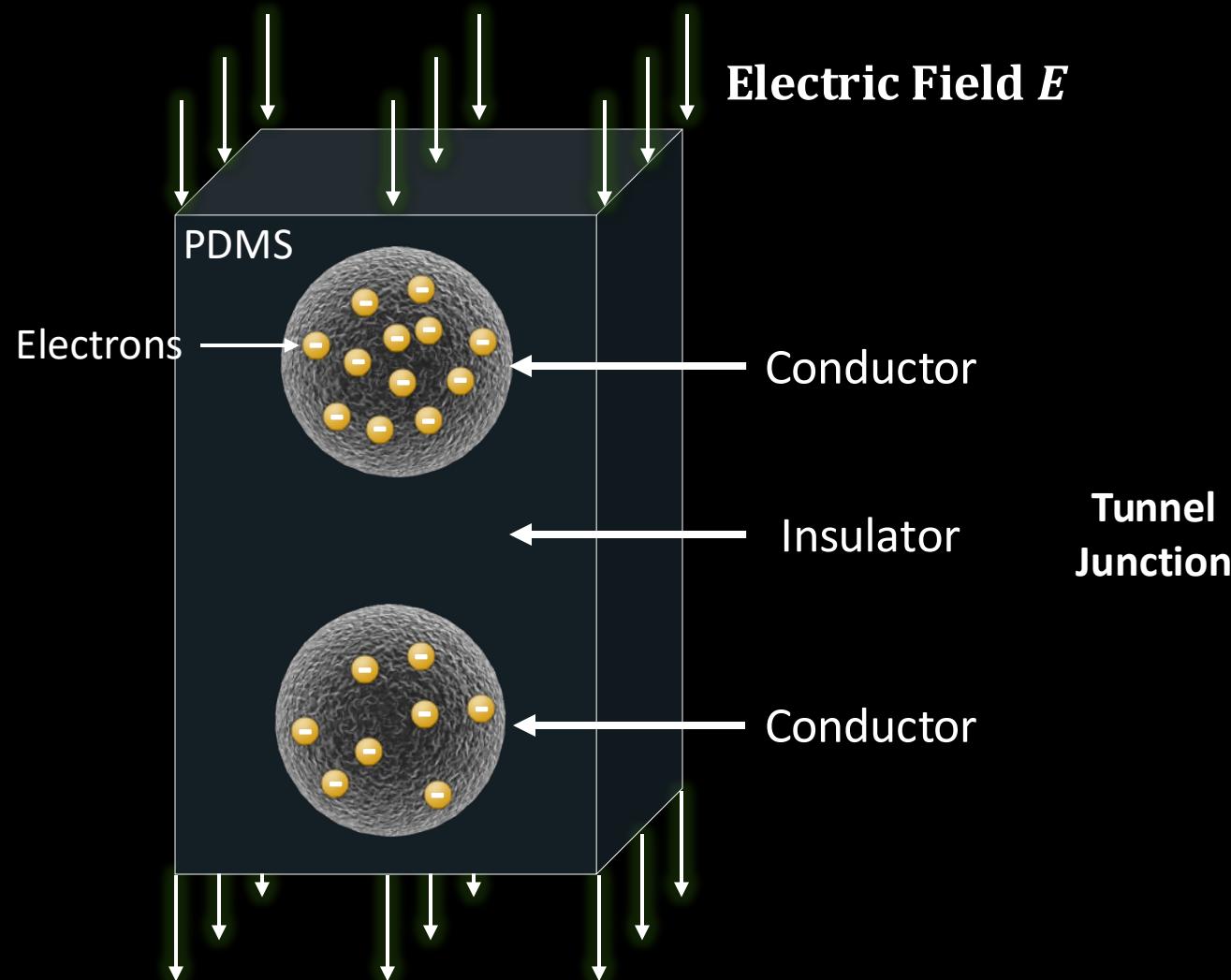
Polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS)



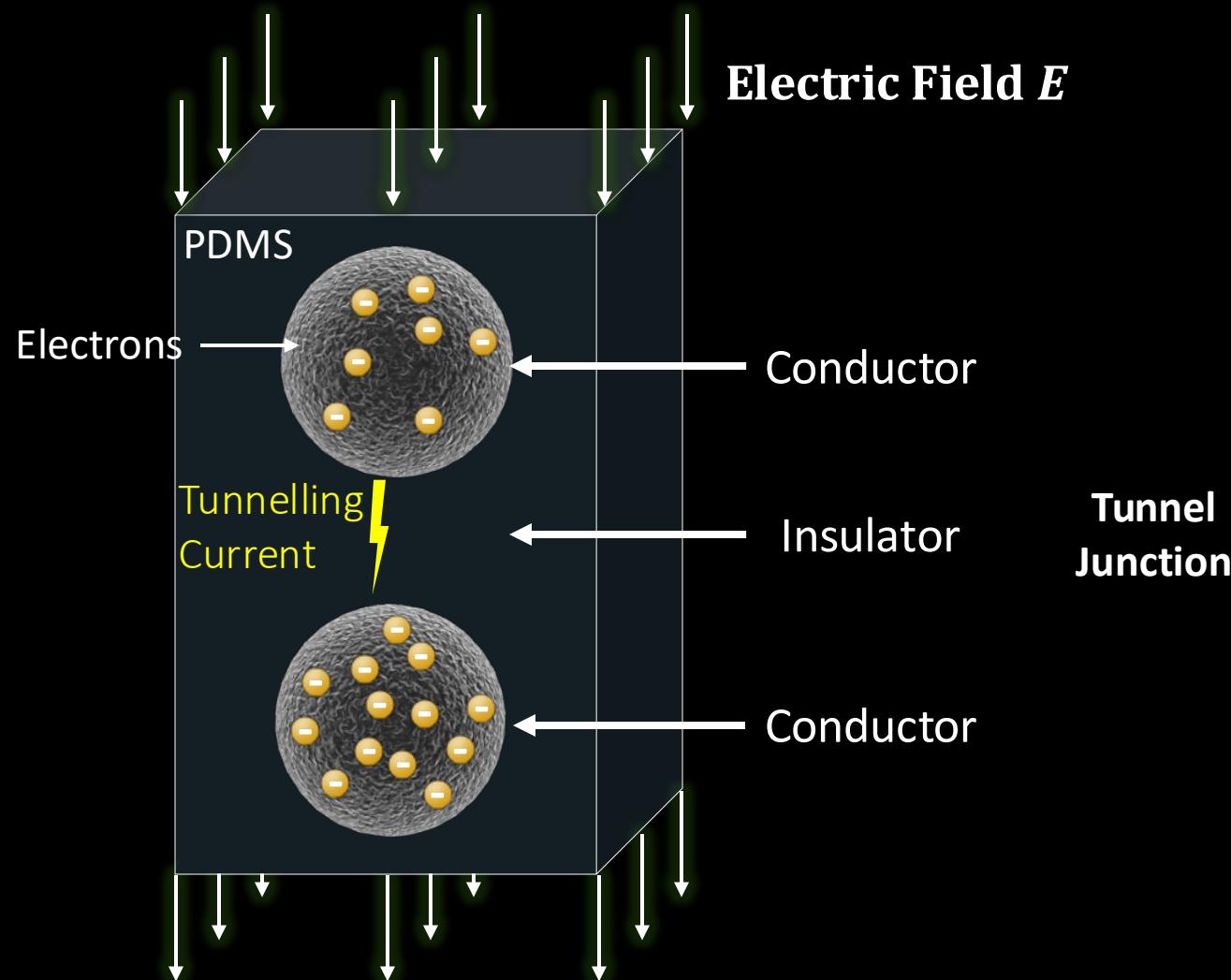
- The **most commonly used materials** for contact lenses
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# PDMS mixed with HCS



# PDMS mixed with HCS

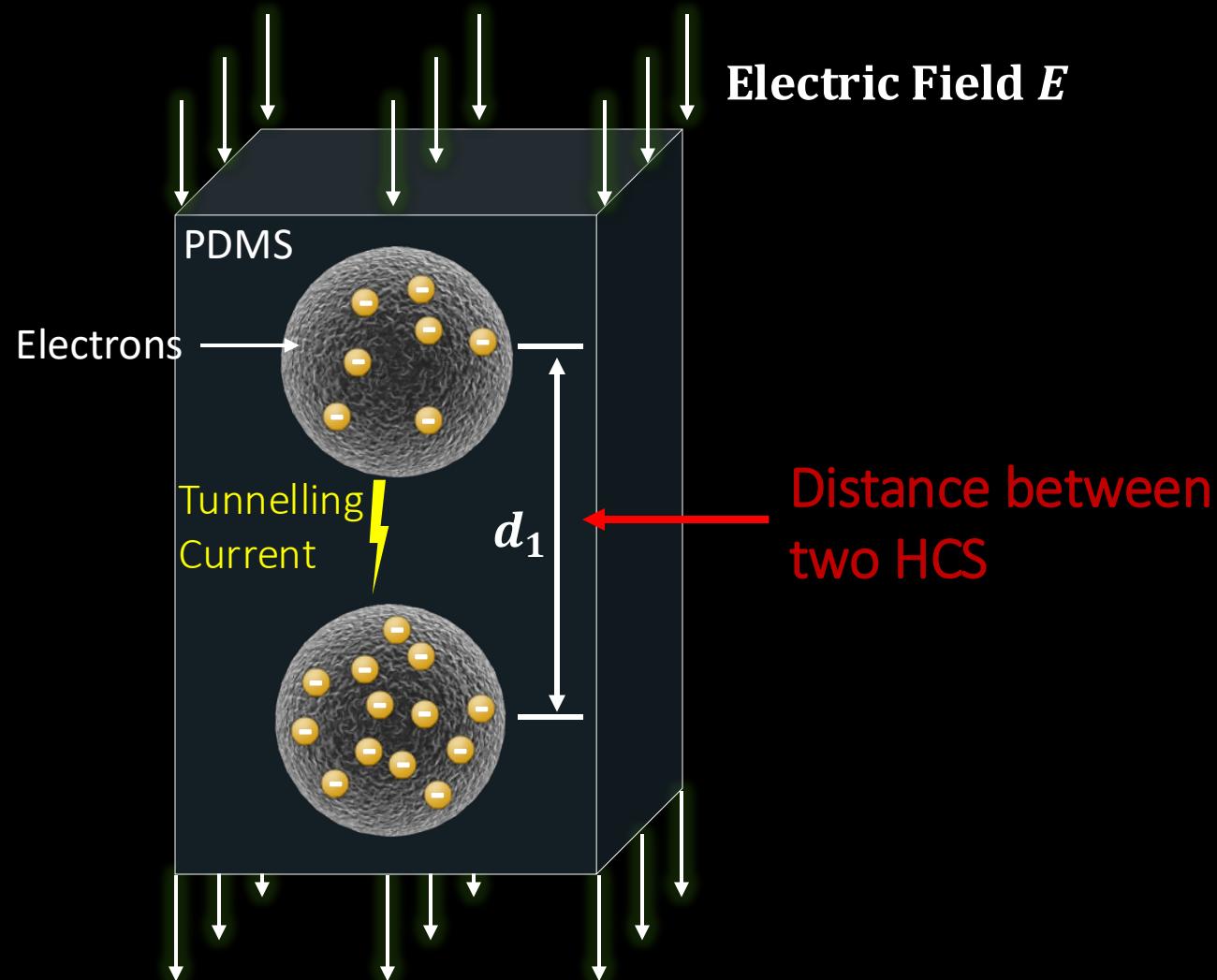


## Quantum Tunnelling Effect

### Strength of Tunnelling Current

- Strength of electric field
- Distance between conductors

# PDMS mixed with HCS

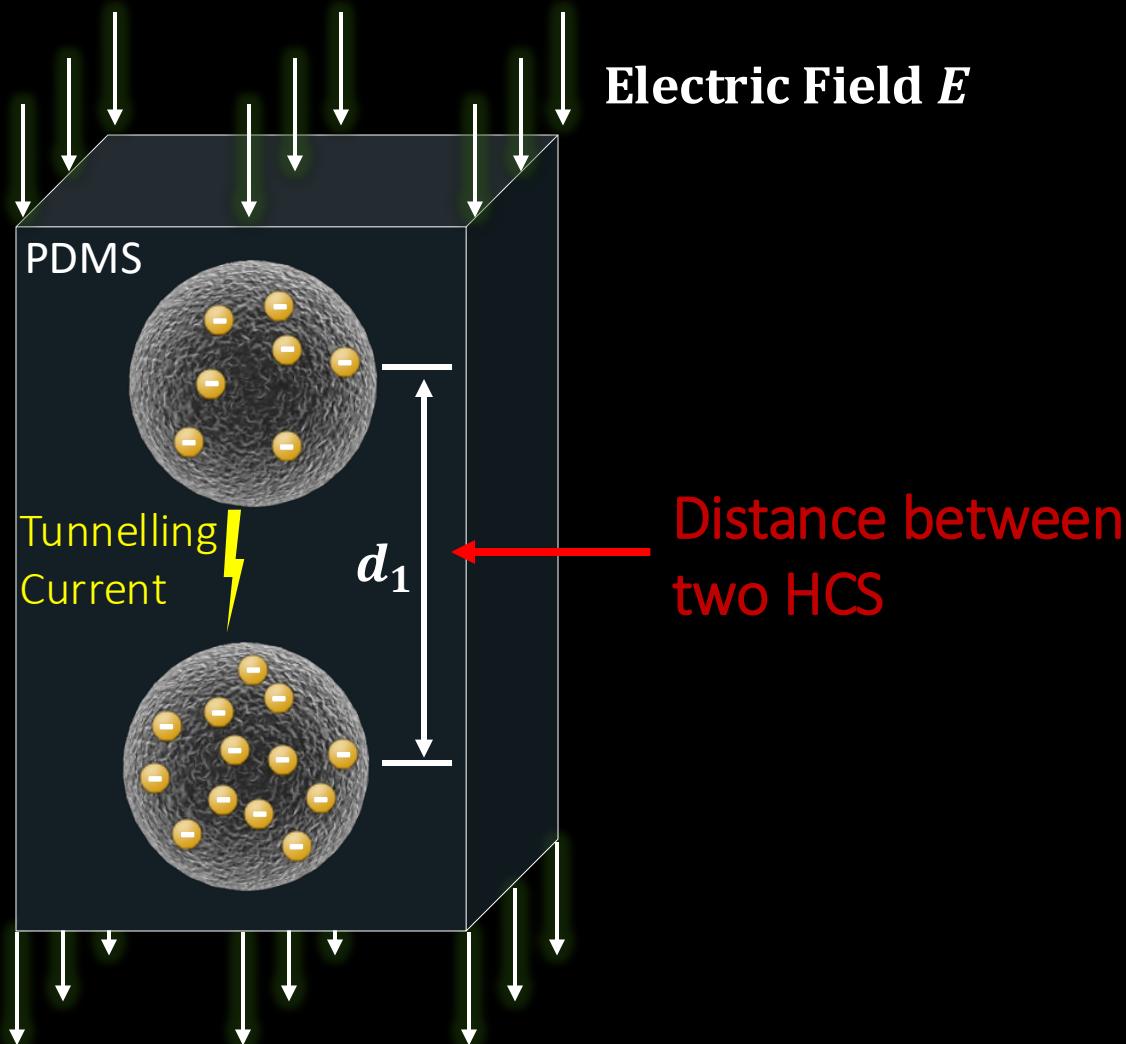


## Quantum Tunnelling Effect

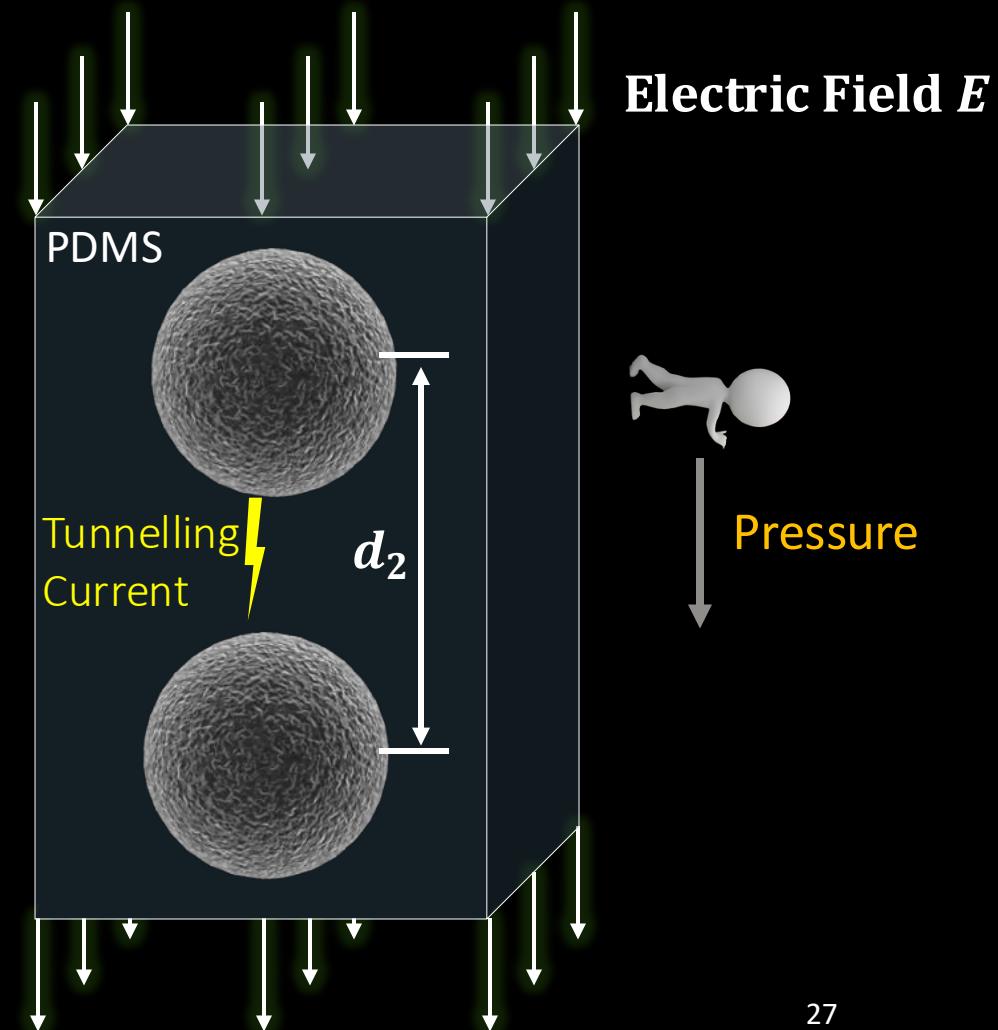
### Strength of Tunnelling Current

- Strength of electric field
- Distance between conductors

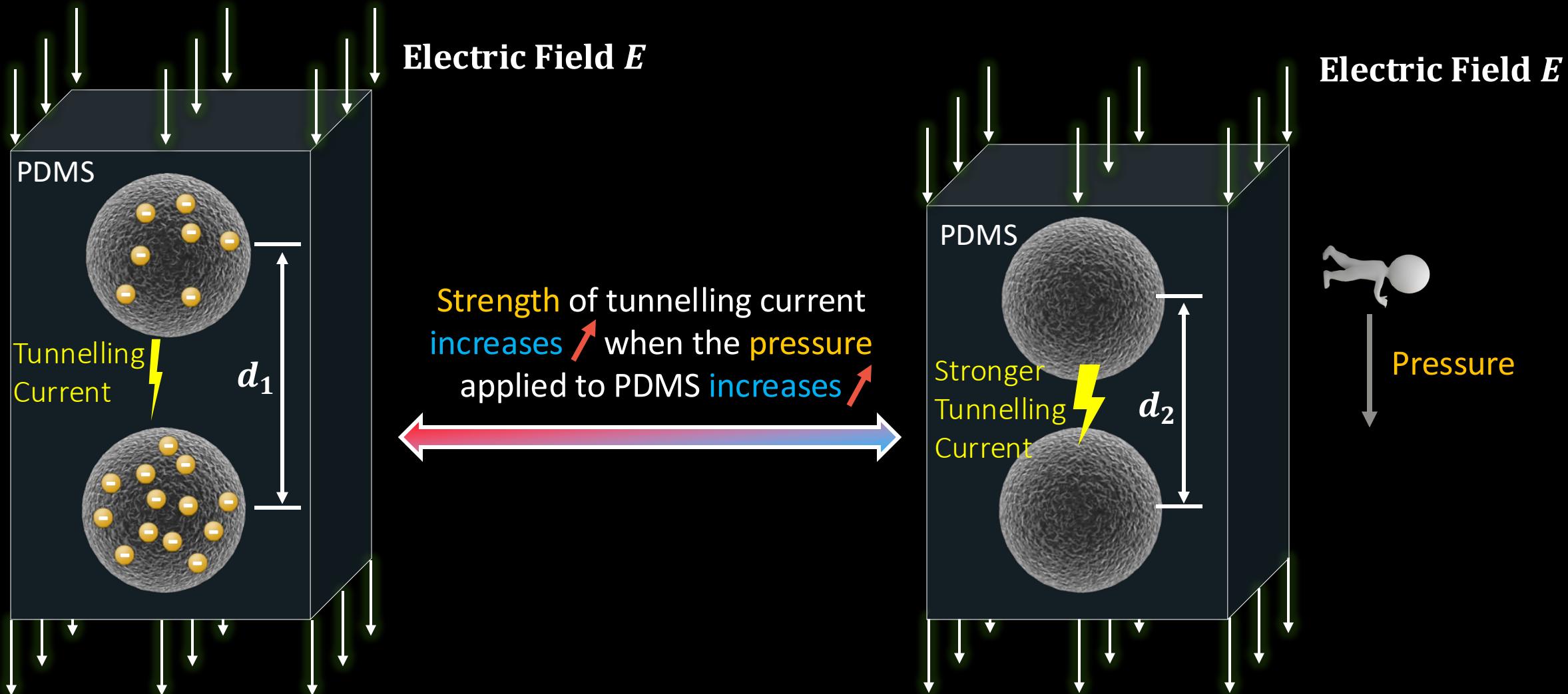
# PDMS mixed with HCS



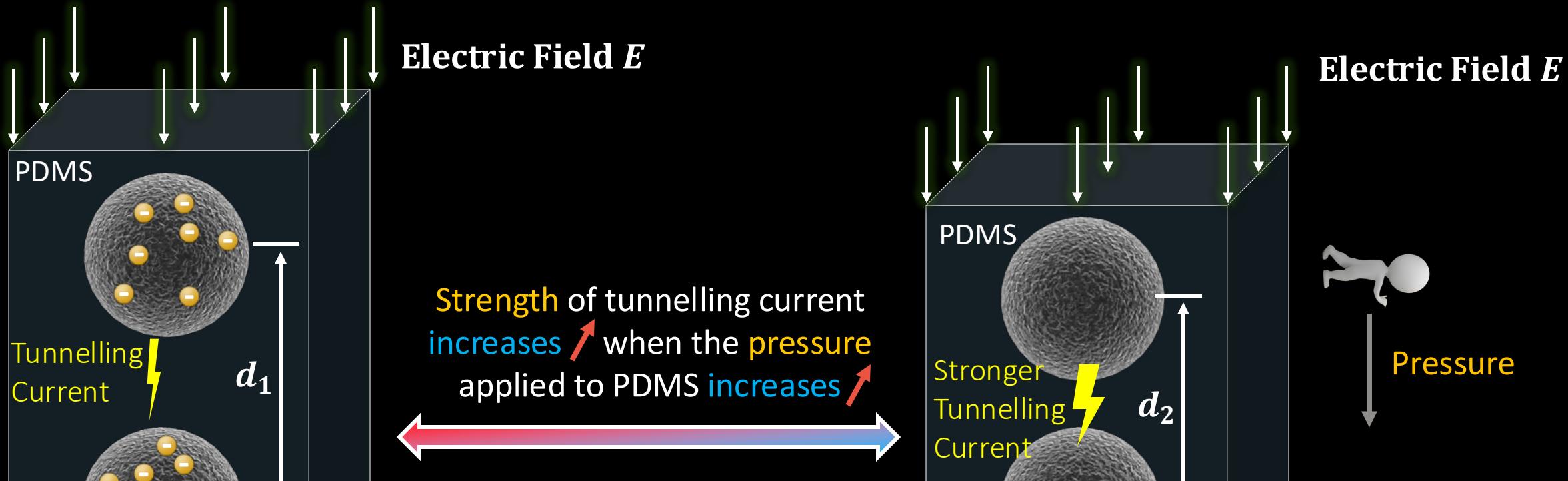
Distance between  
two HCS



# PDMS mixed with HCS



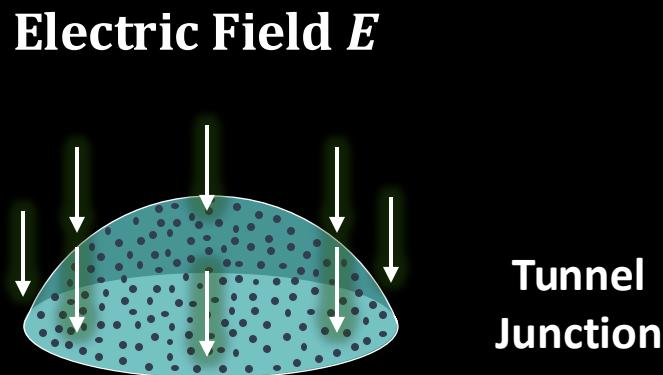
# PDMS mixed with HCS



We can measure the strength of Quantum Tunnelling Effect to measure the applied pressure!

# Enable Quantum Tunnelling Effect

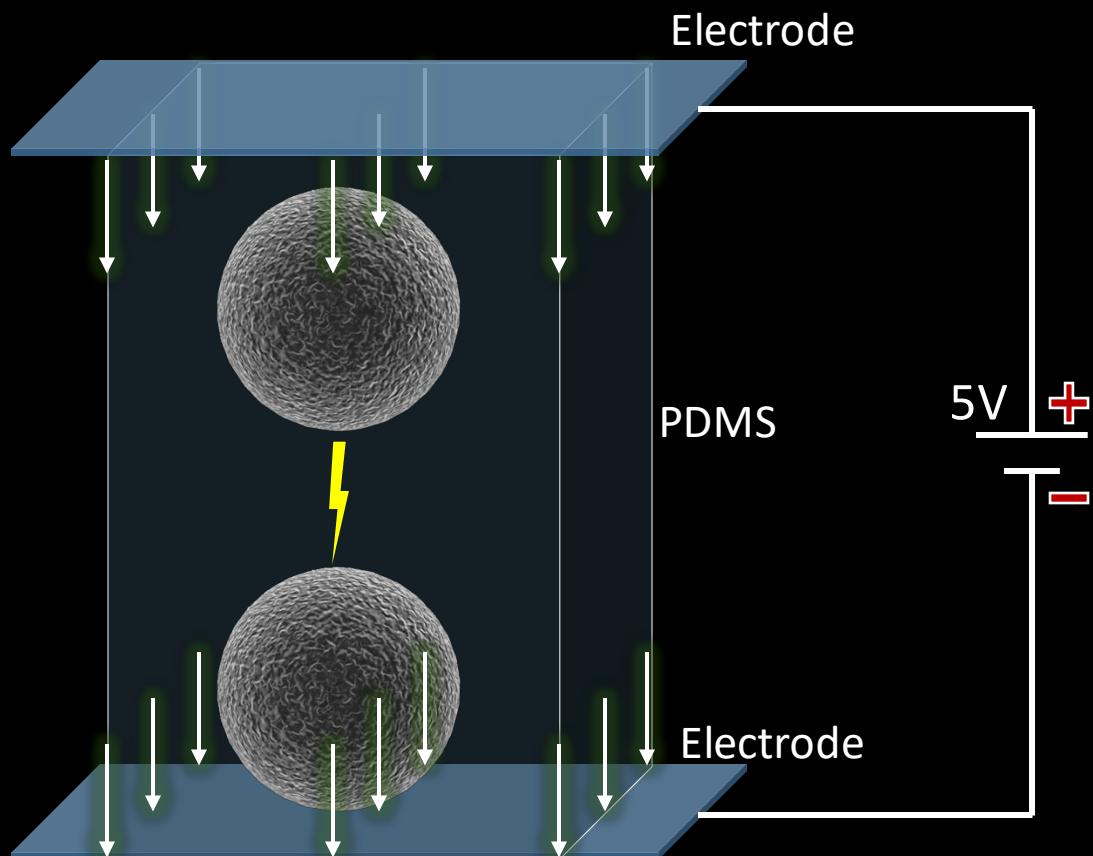
## **Missing Part:** the External Electric Field



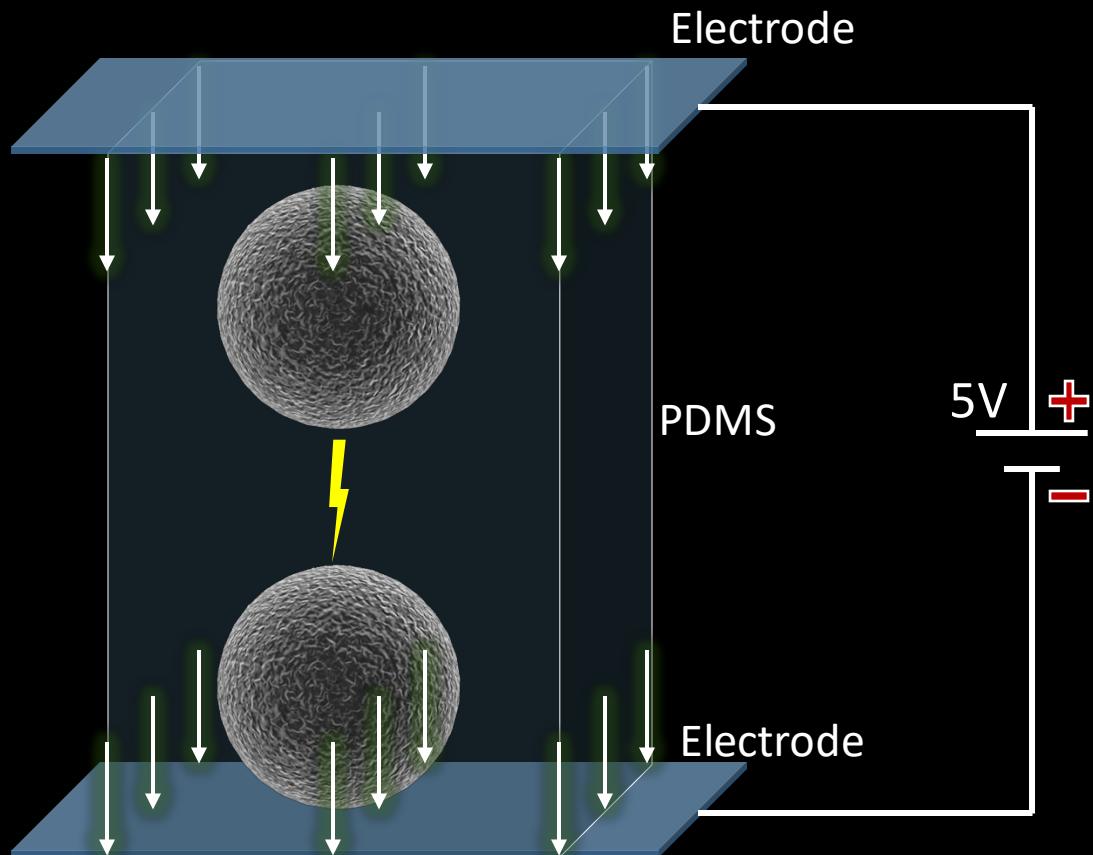
**Question:** how to apply the electric field on our energy-harvesting powered device?

# Applying the Electric Field: Electrode

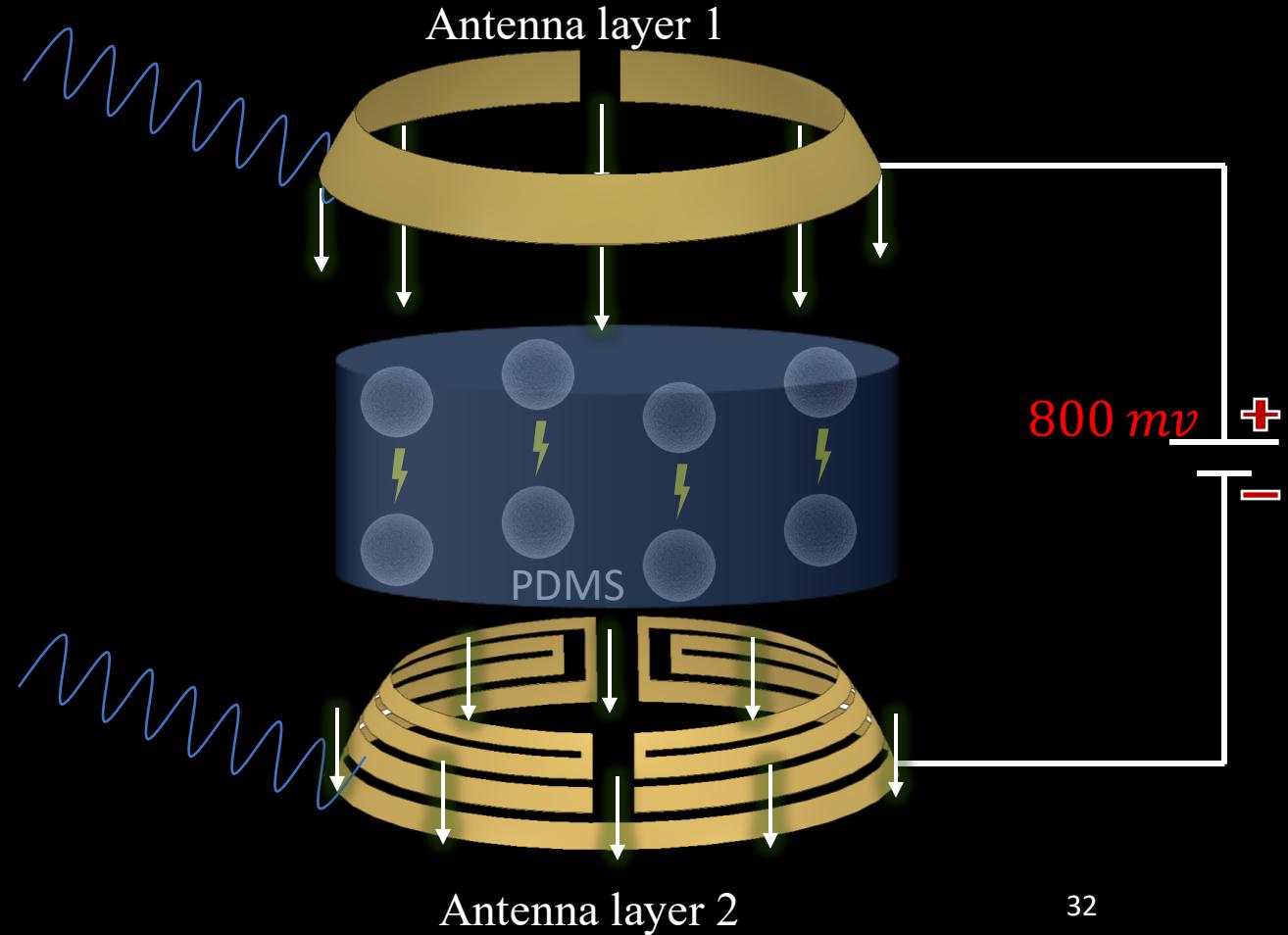
Our system is **battery free**



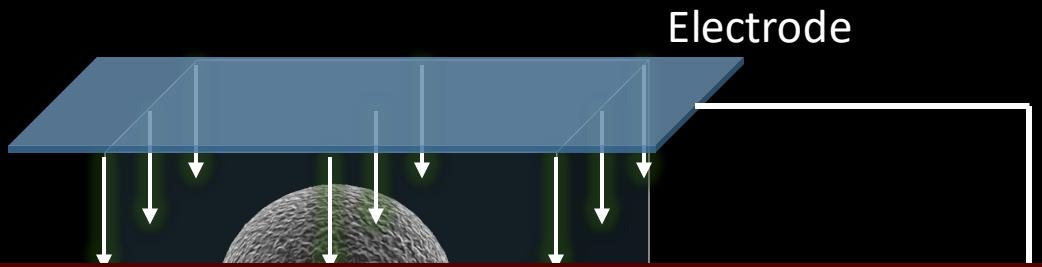
# Applying the Electric Field: Two Antenna Layers



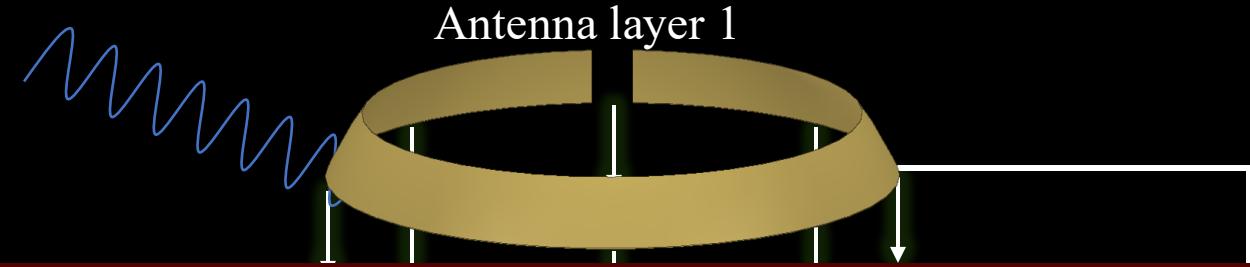
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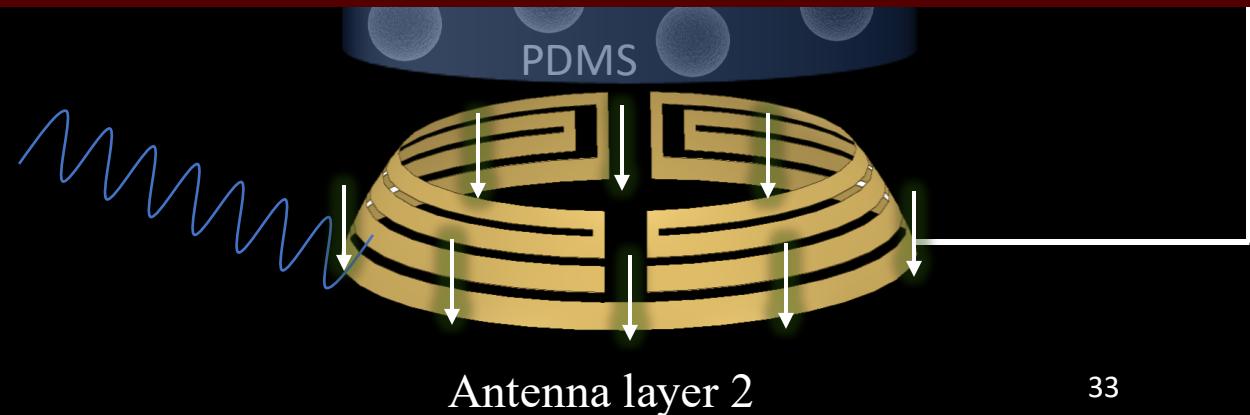
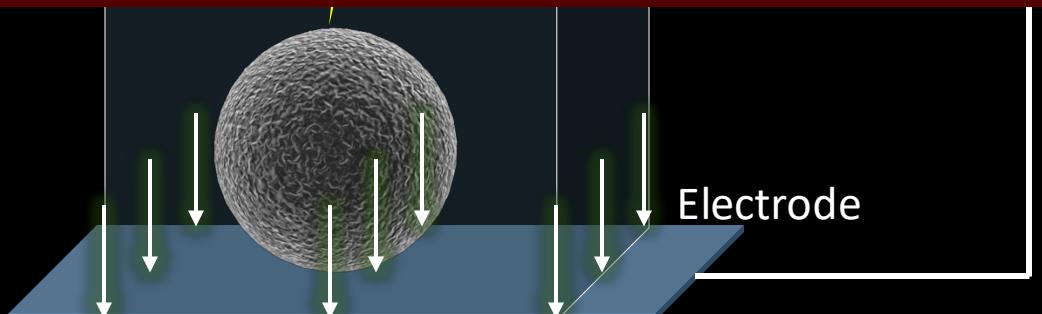
# Applying the Electric Field: Two Antenna Layers



Our system is **battery free**

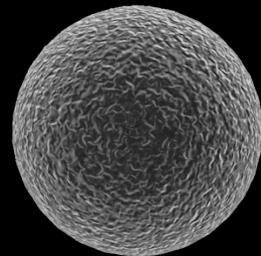


The electric field generated by **800 mv** is weak for generating  
obvious Quantum Tunnelling Effect



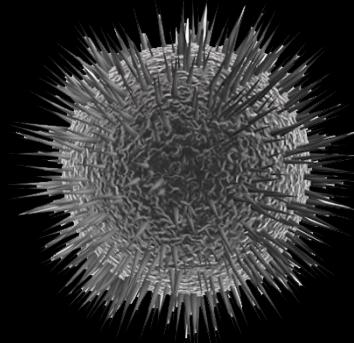
# Solution 1: Replace HCS with Urchin-like Hollow Carbon Sphere (UHCS)

Hollow Carbon Sphere (HCS)



Replace with

Urchin-like Hollow Carbon Sphere (UHCS)

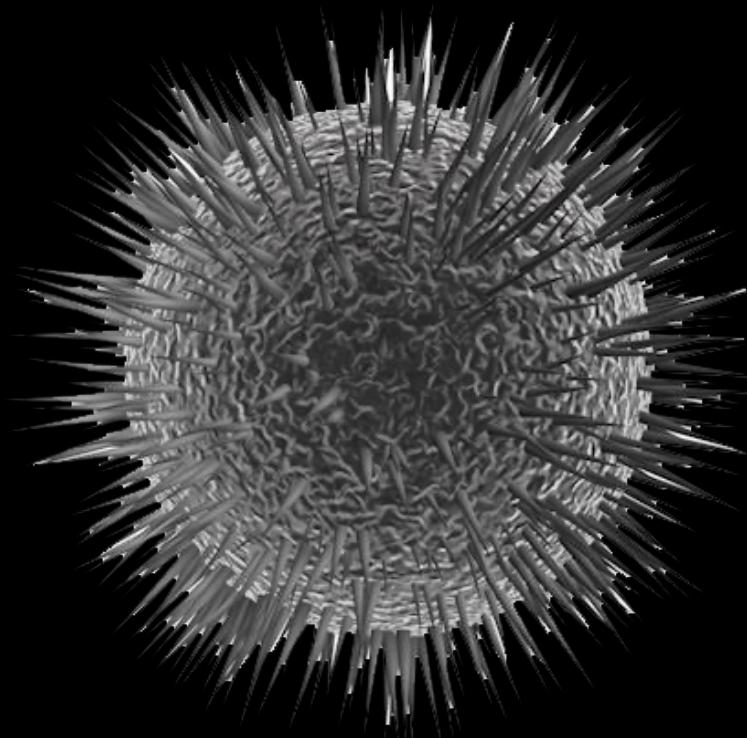


Urchin

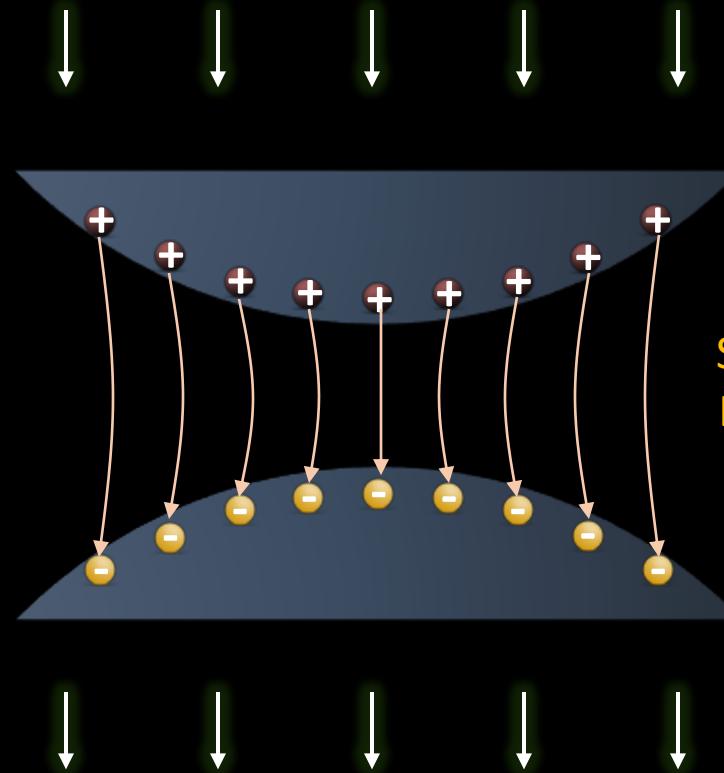


# UHCS Generates a Stronger Internal Electric Field

Urchin-like Hollow Carbon Sphere (UHCS)

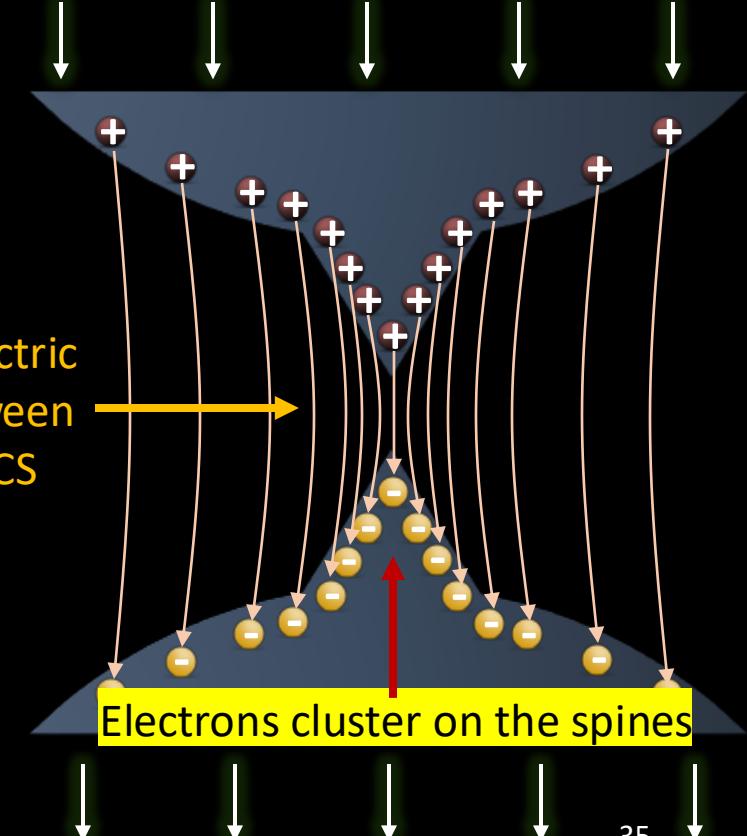


Electric Field Distribution of HCS

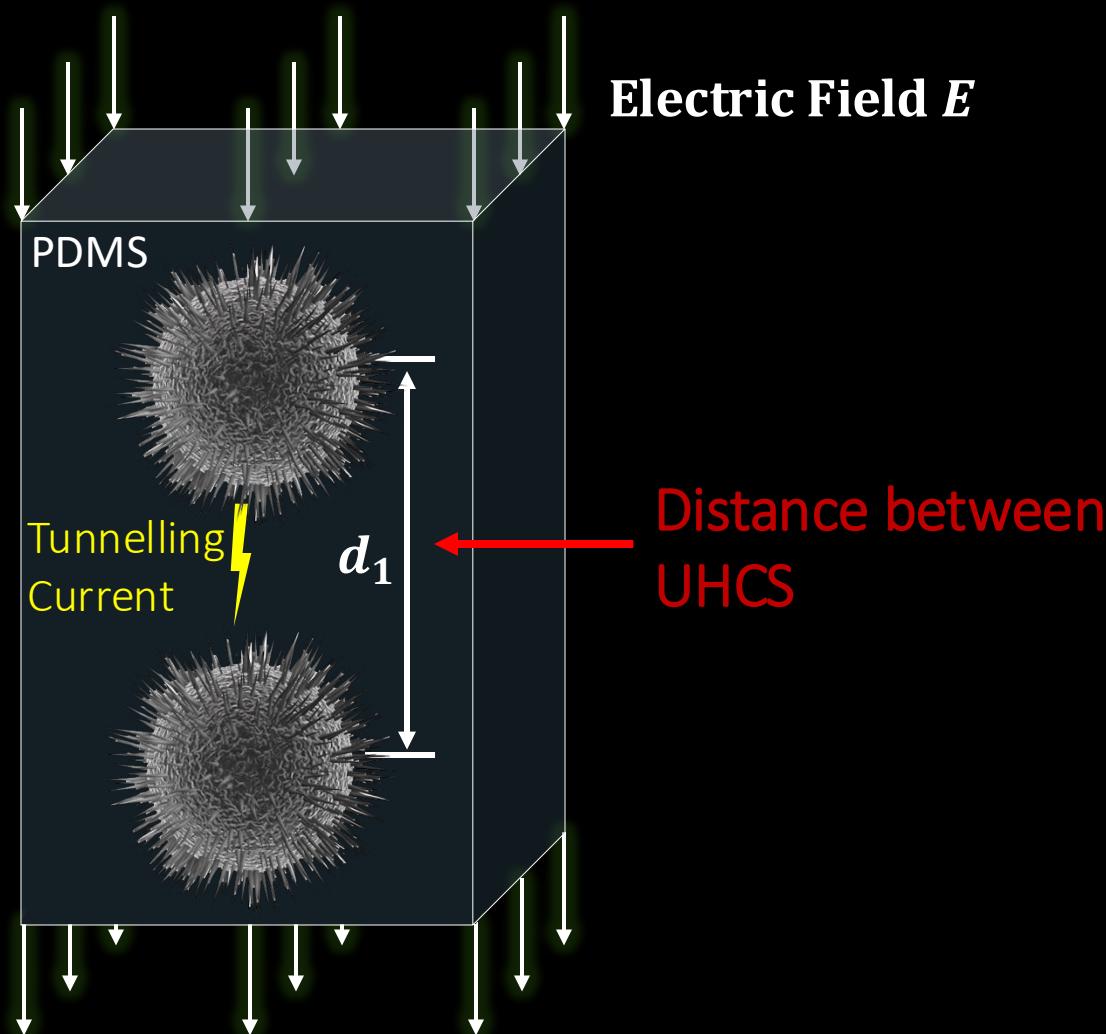


Strong Electric Field between Two UHCS

Electric Field Distribution of UHCS



# Solution 2: Decrease the Distance between Two UHCS



## Strength of Tunnelling Current

- Strength of electric field
- Distance between conductors

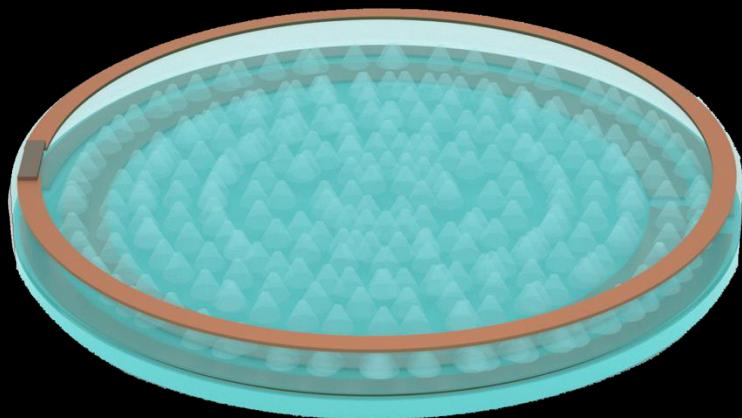
Reduce the **initial distance** between UHCS



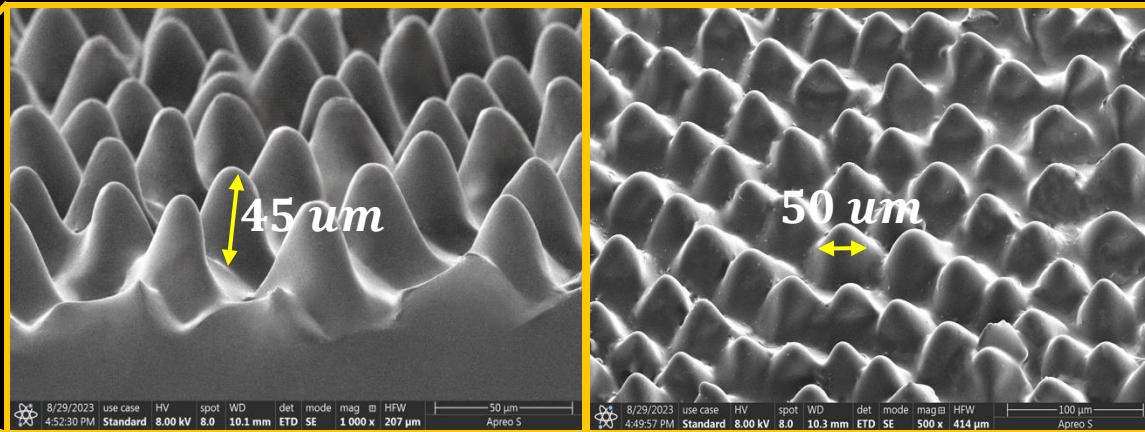
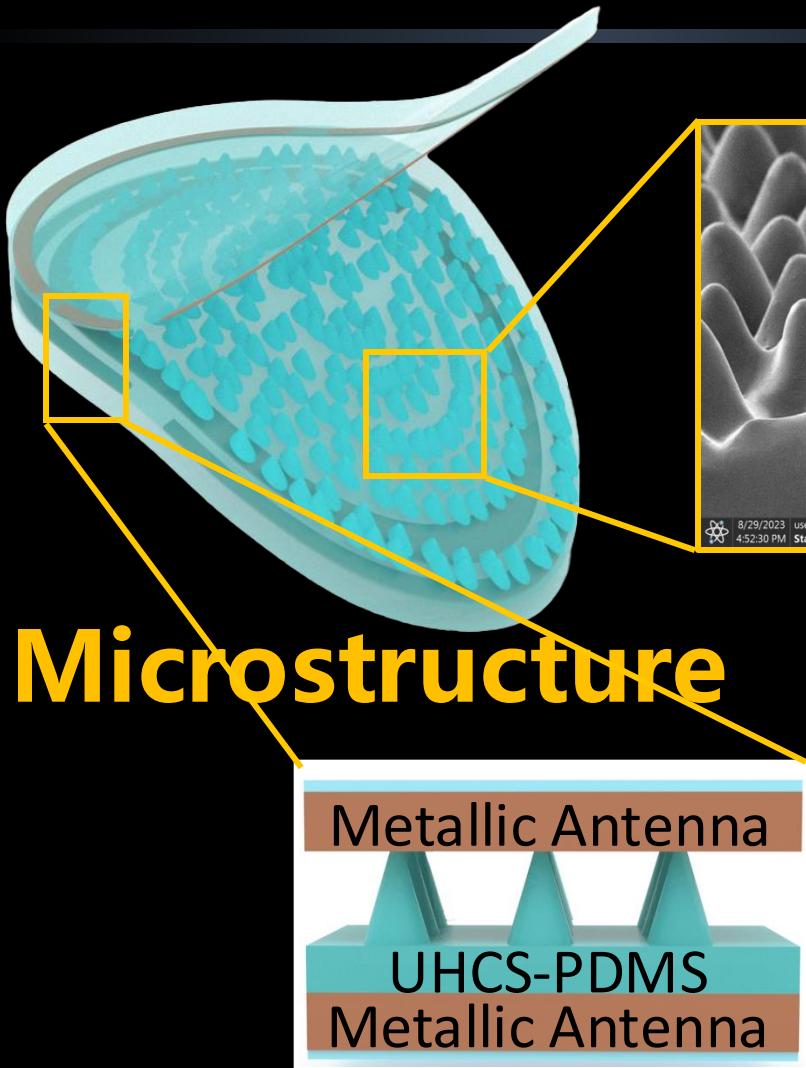
Increase the **density of UHCS** inside the PDMS

# Solution 3: Bio-inspired Microstructures

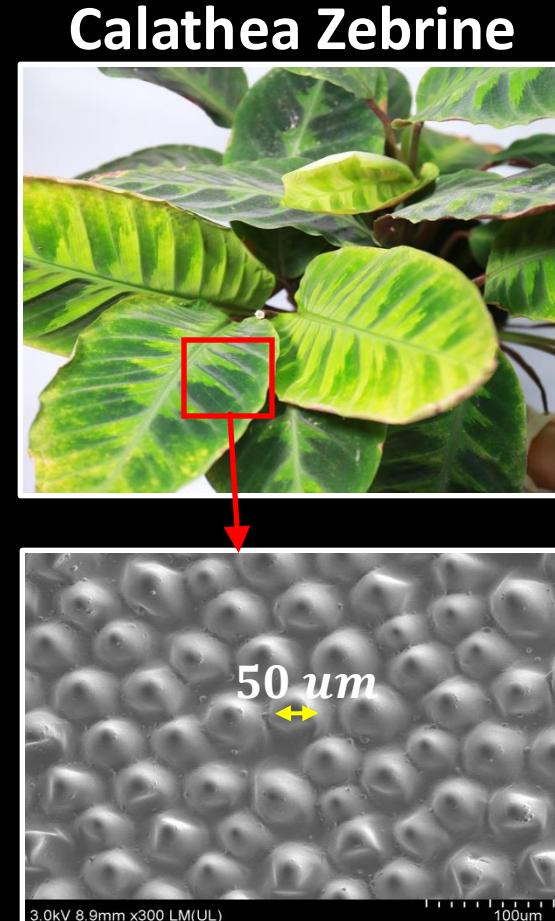
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# Solution 3: Bio-inspired Microstructures

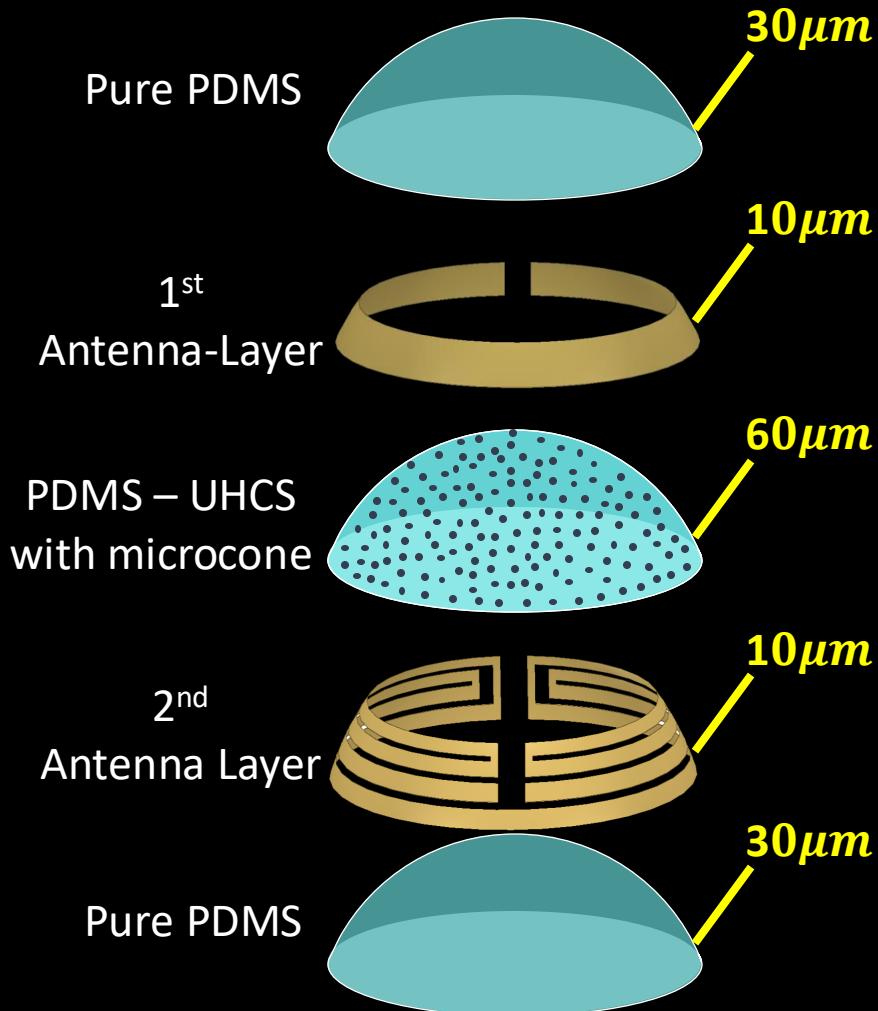


SEM of the fabricated microne  
on the UHCS- PDMS film



SEM of the leaves surface

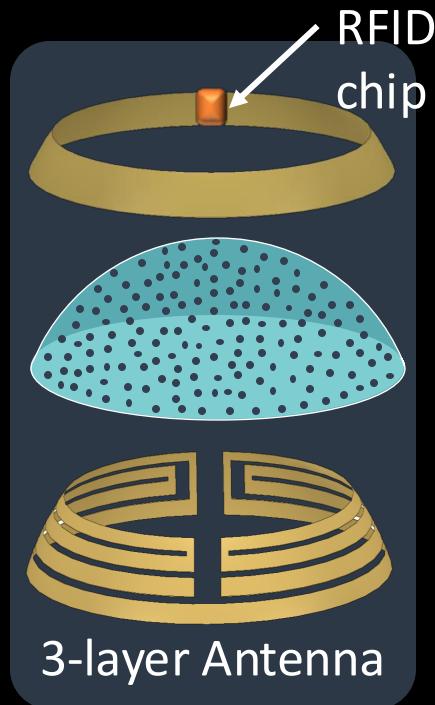
# Structure of Contact Lens



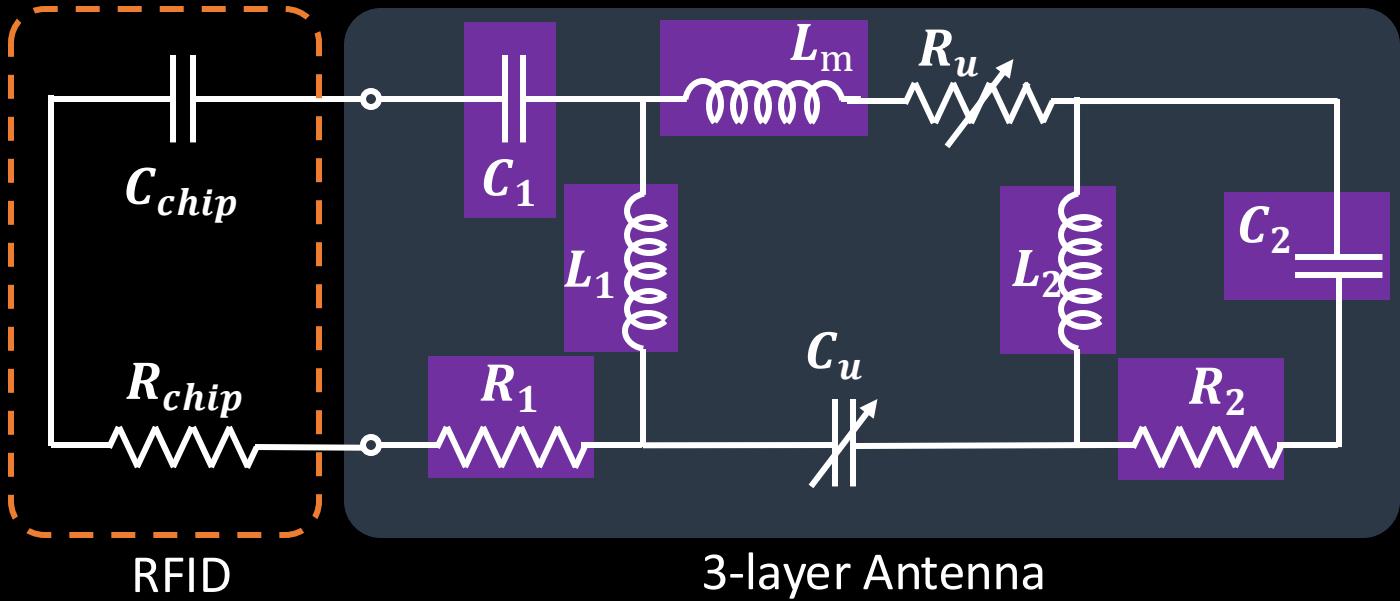
Low-power but sensitive pressure sensor with thickness at  $\mu m$  level that works on energy-harvesting powered devices



# Equivalent Circuit of the 3-layer Antenna

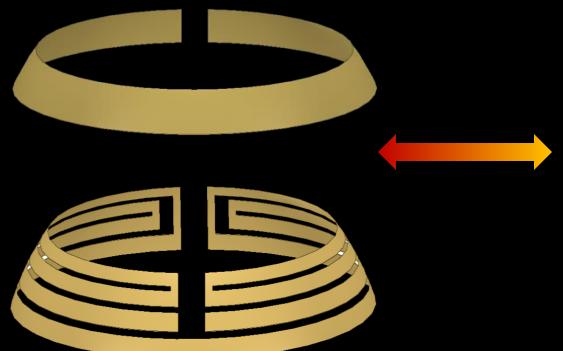


Equivalent circuit

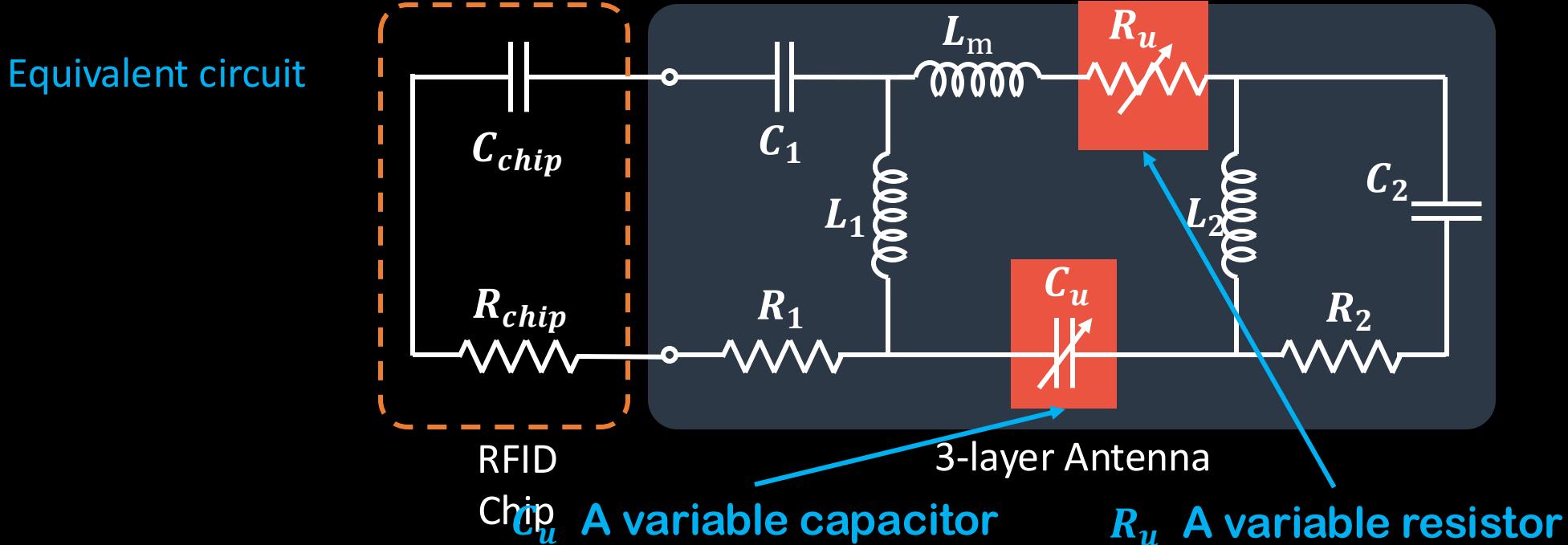
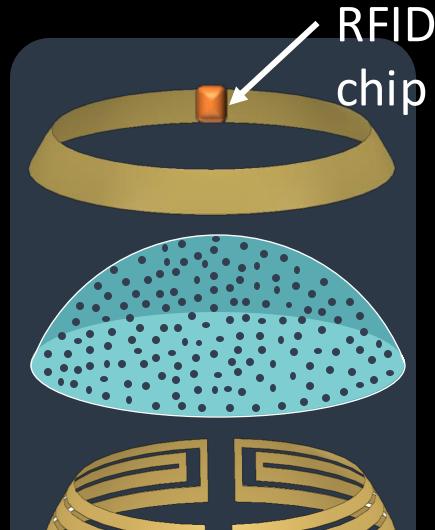


3-layer Antenna

- $C_1$  and  $C_2$**  Parasitic capacitance of two antenna layers
- $R_1$  and  $R_2$**  Parasitic resistance of two antenna layers
- $L_1$  and  $L_2$**  Self-inductance of two antenna layers
- $L_m$**  Mutual-inductance between two antenna layers



# Equivalent Circuit of the 3-layer Antenna



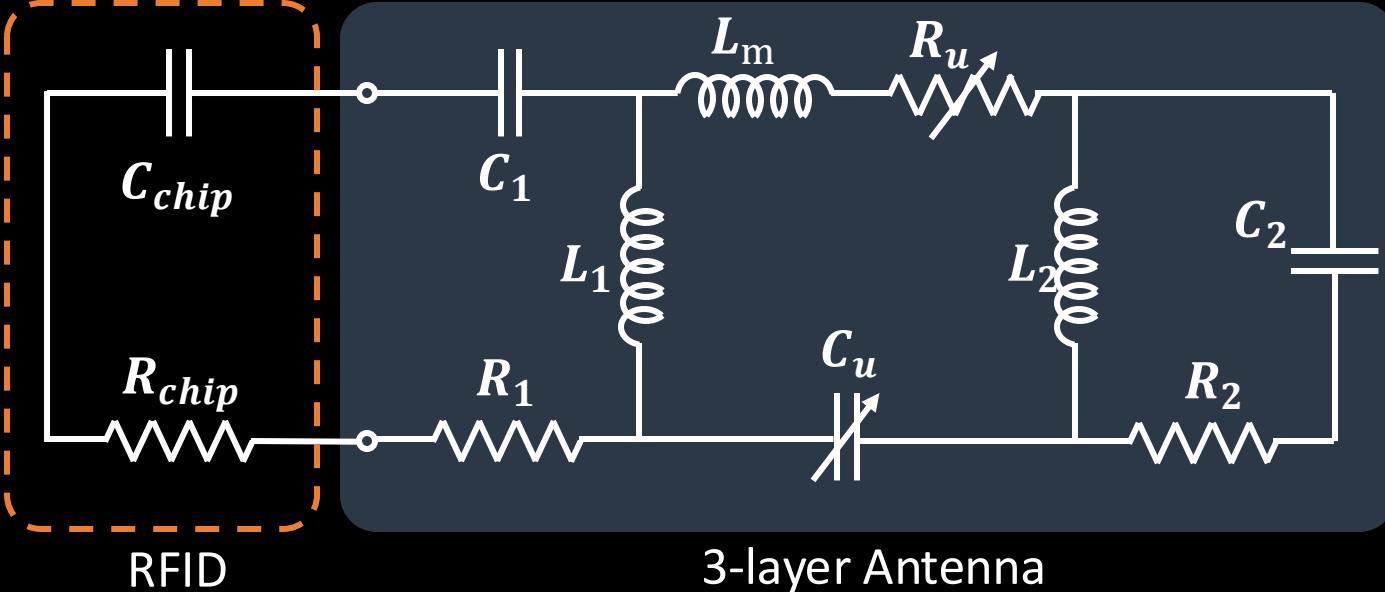
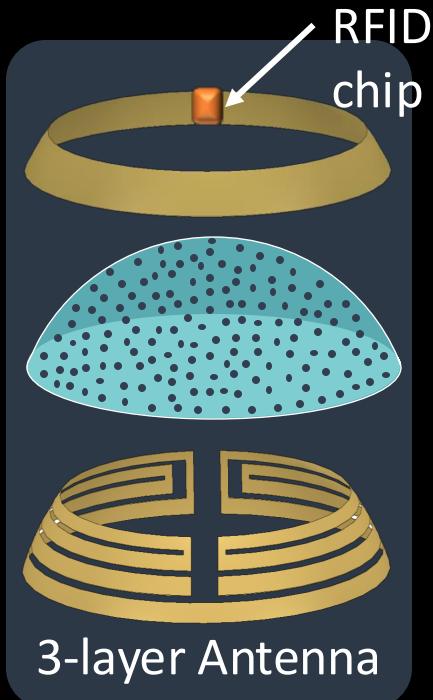
We can measure the **pressure** by measuring the **impedance variation of the antenna**

# A **Low-cost**, **Battery-free** and **Long-range** Eye Pressure Sensing System: **Goals**

**Goals:** ✓ 1) Low-power but sensitive pressure sensor with thickness at  $\mu m$  level that works on energy-harvesting powered devices  
2) Supporting long-range communication with contact-lens size antenna

**Challenge:** Interference between the communication antenna and the pressure sensors

# Maximize Communication Range: Impedance Matching



Chip  
Impedance of  
the RFID chip

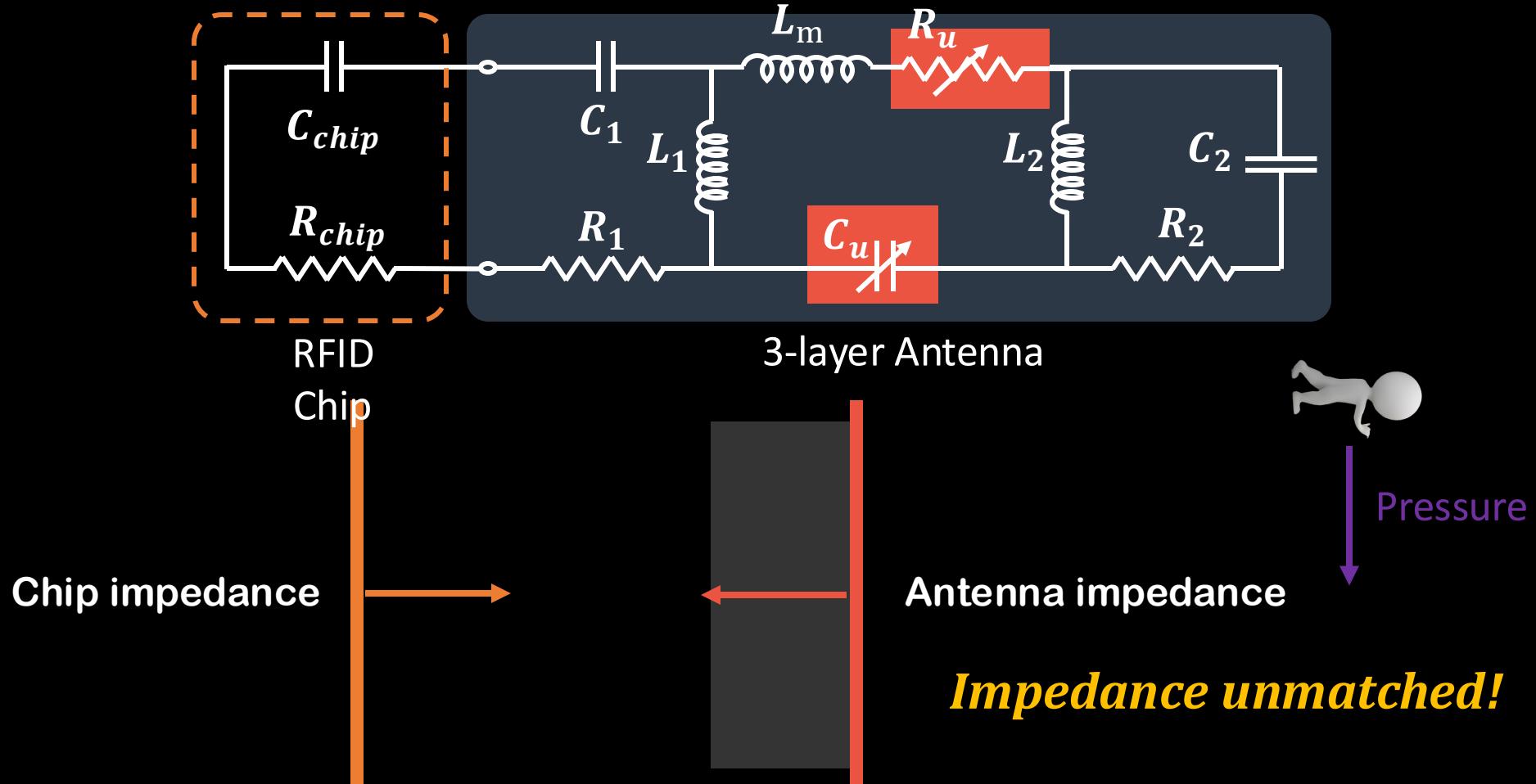
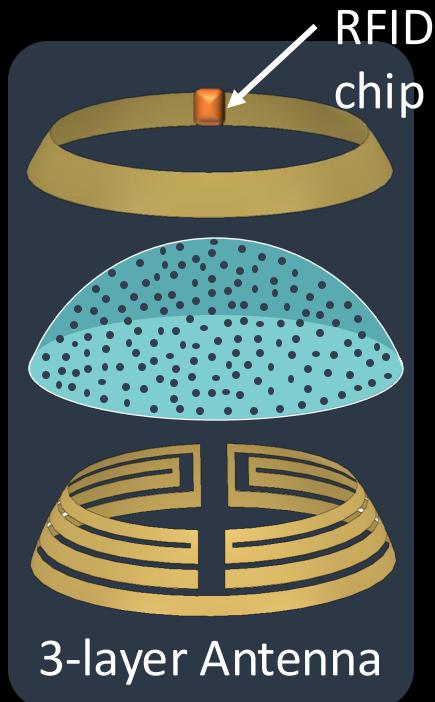


Impedance of  
the antenna

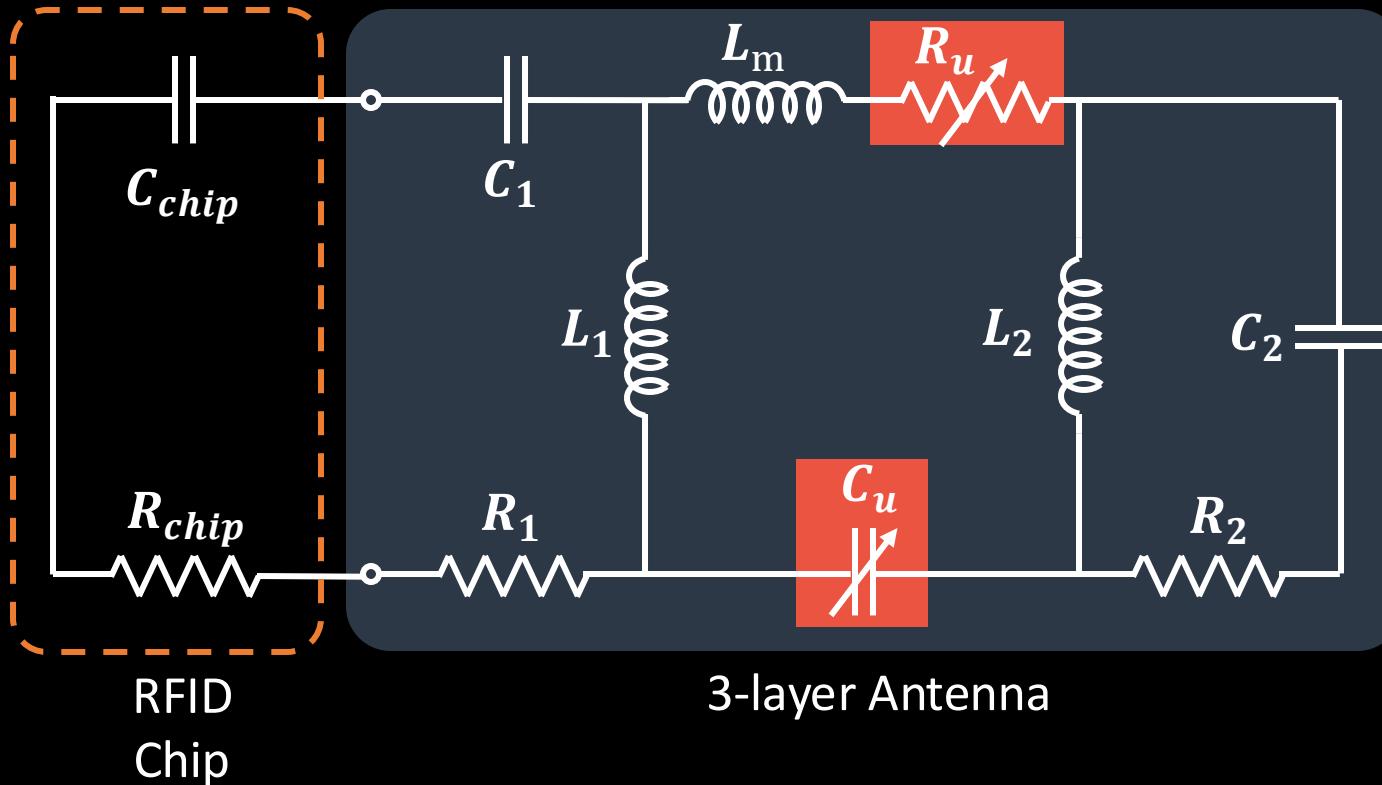
Known

Any minor modification to the  
antenna structure would  
significantly affect the  
impedance

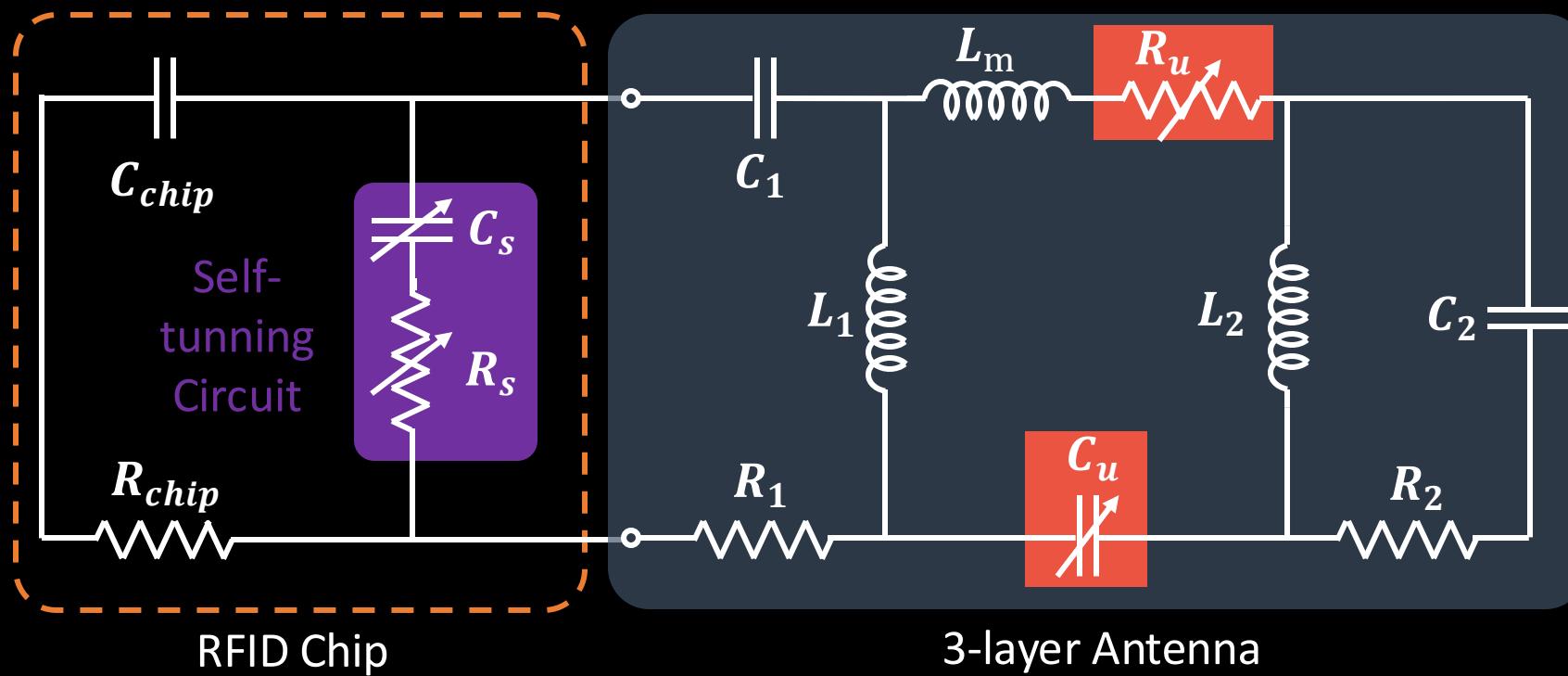
# Impedance Matching during Pressure Measurement



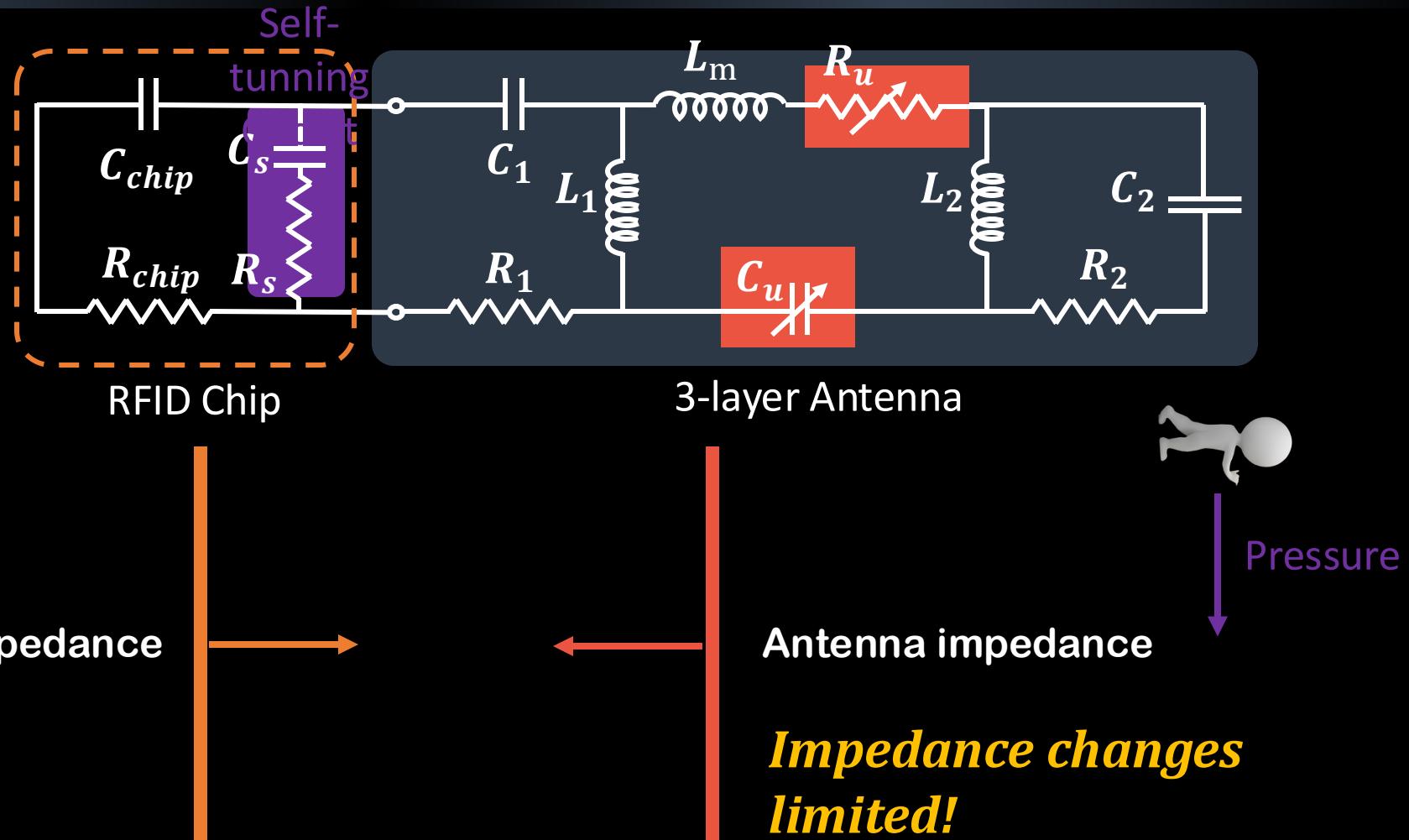
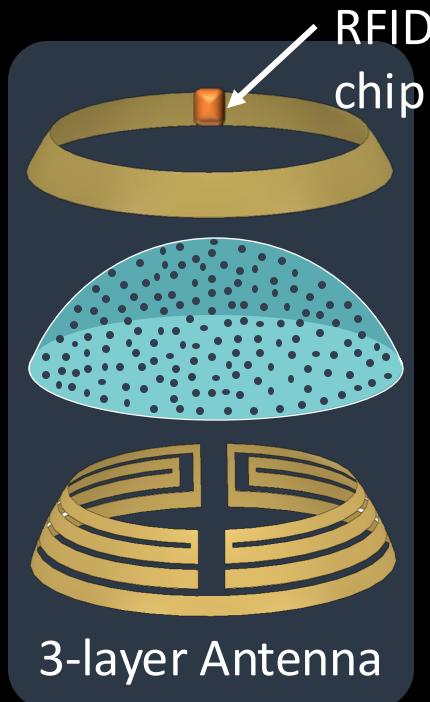
# Adjust the Impedance of the RFID chip via Self-tunning Circuit



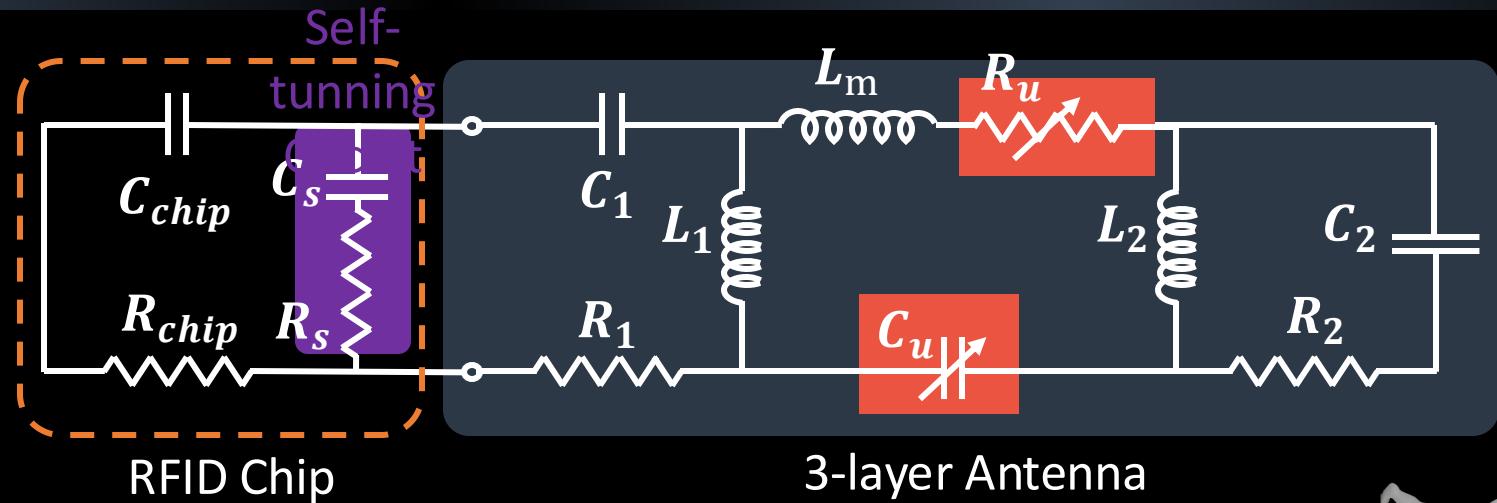
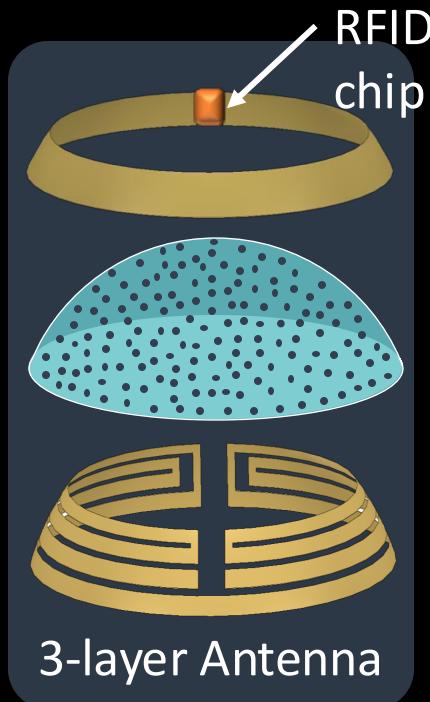
# Adjust the Impedance of the RFID chip via Self-tunning Circuit



# Impedance Matching during Pressure Measurement



# Impedance Matching during Pressure Measurement



$$Z_n = 4 - j*91$$

Chip impedance

$$Z_1 = 1 - j*59$$

3-layer Antenna



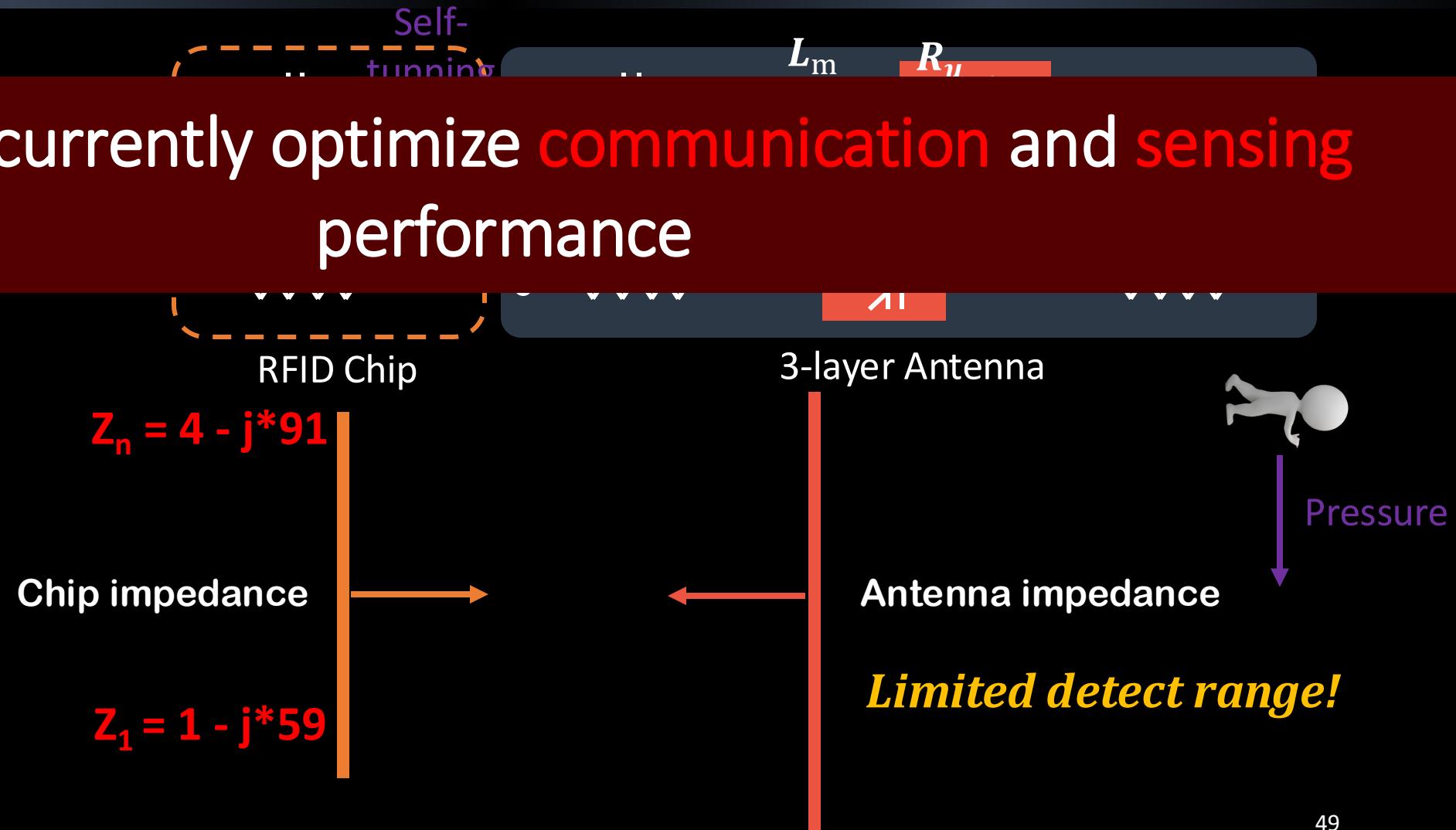
Pressure

Antenna impedance

***Limited detect range!***

# Impedance Matching during Pressure Measurement

How to concurrently optimize **communication** and **sensing** performance



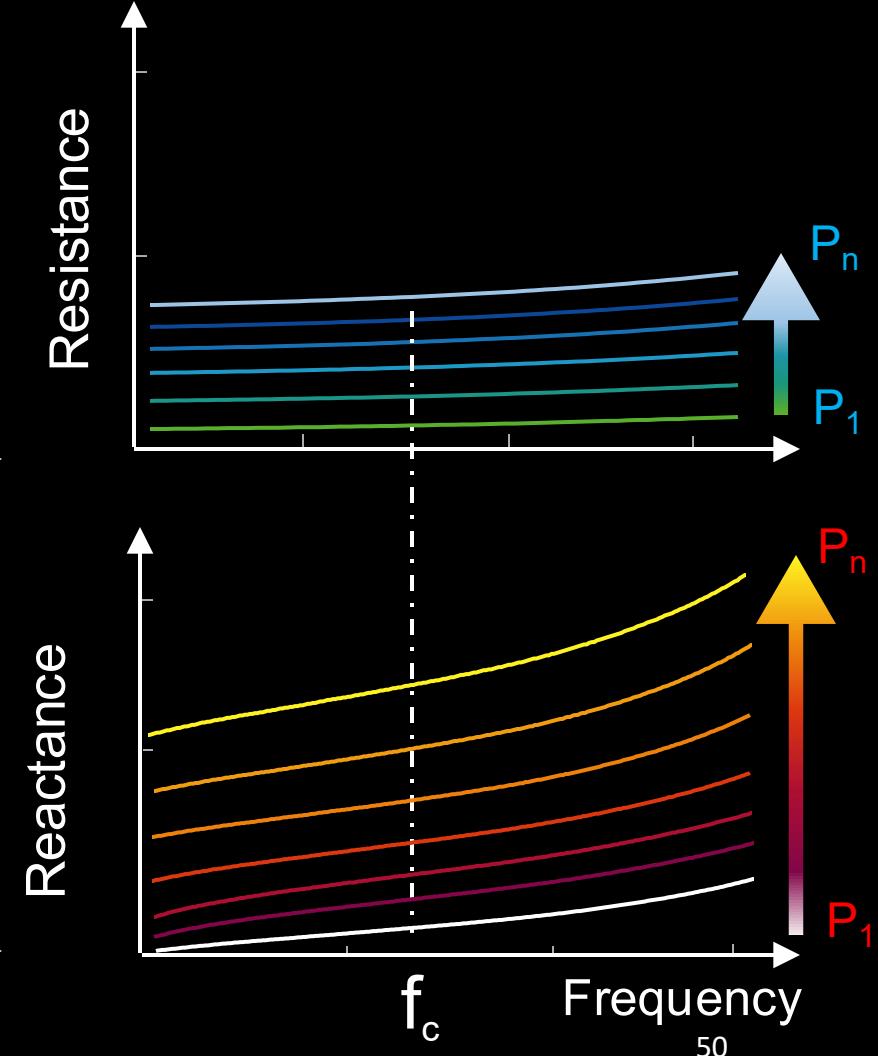
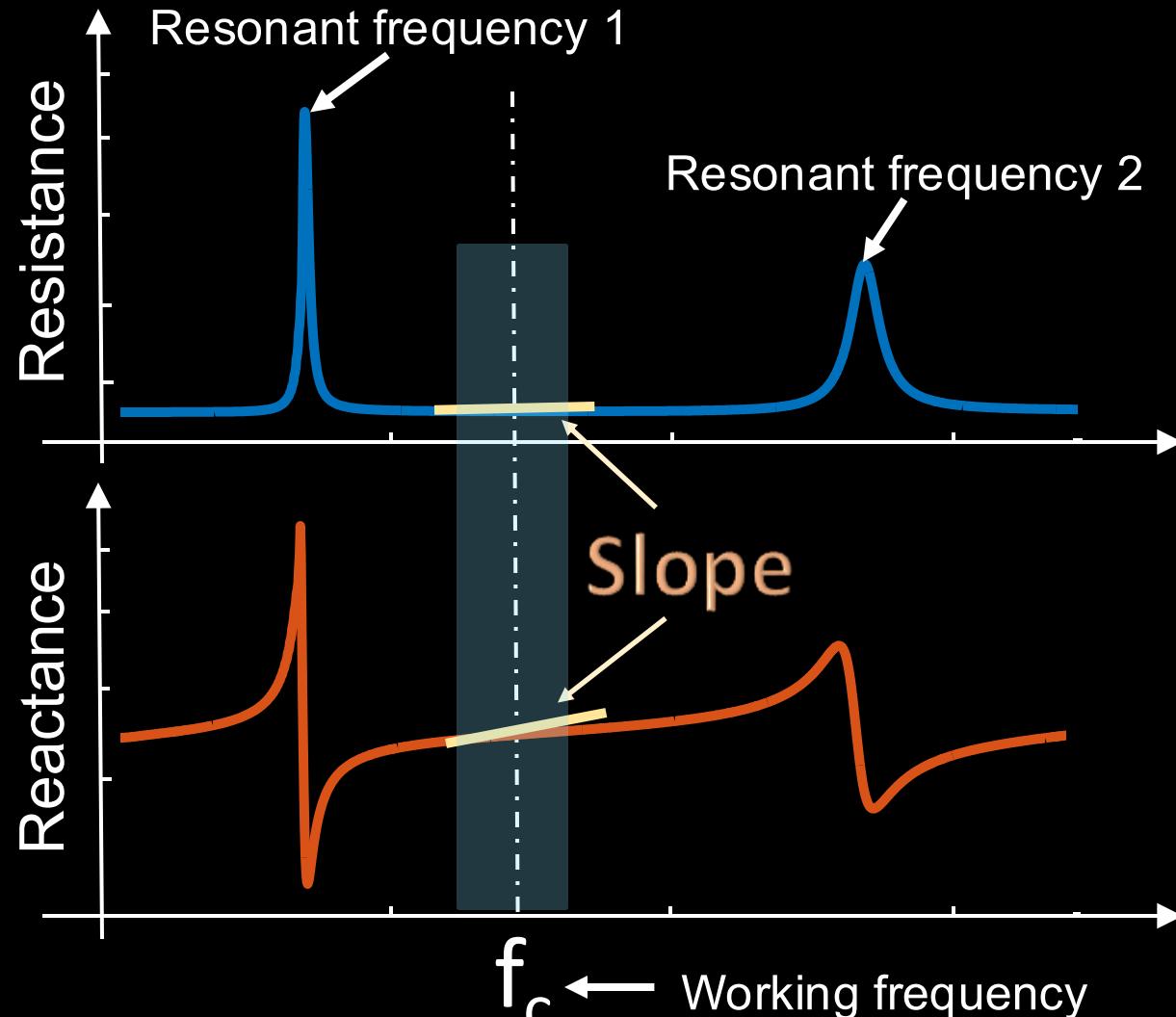
# Dual-Resonant Frequency Antenna structure



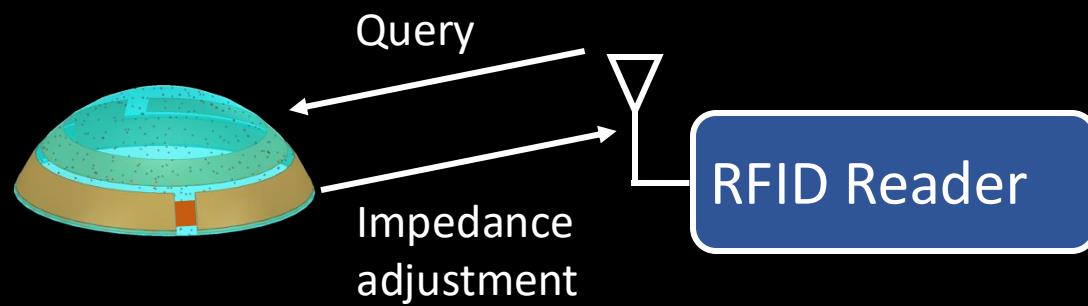
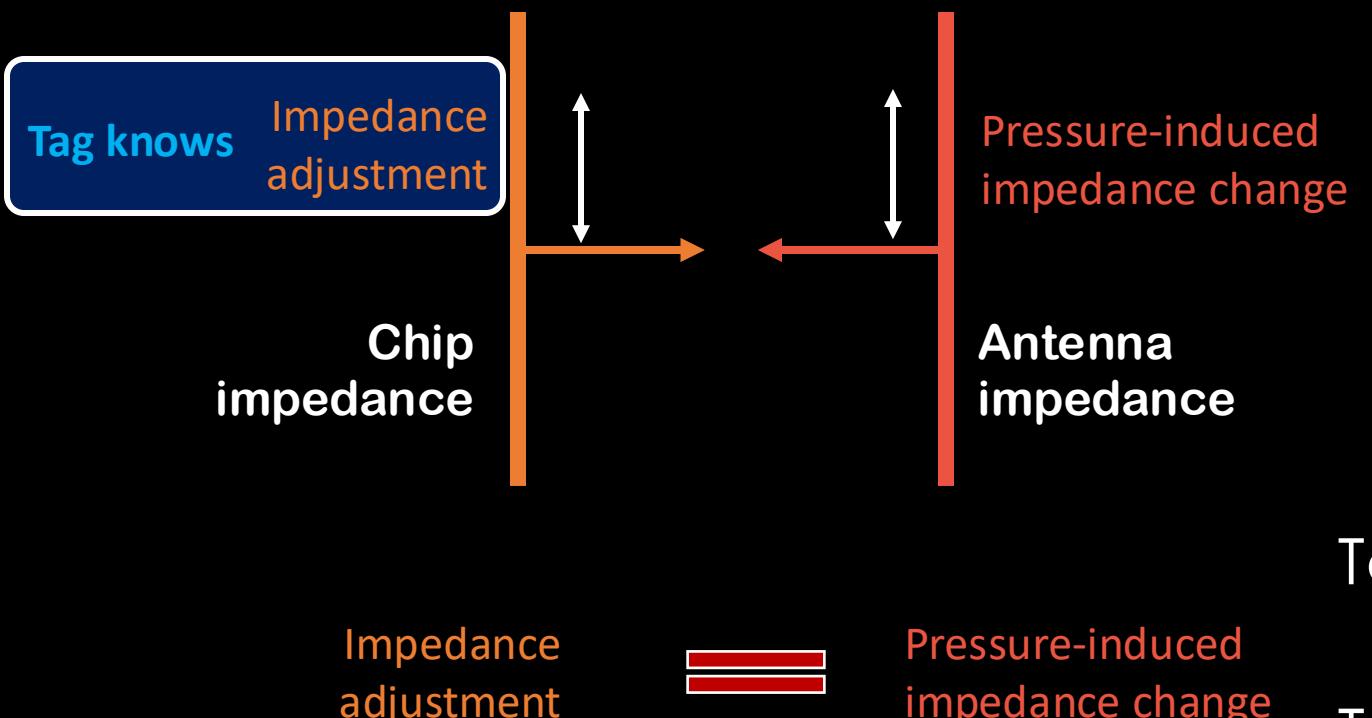
*upper*



*bottom*



# The Tag Measures the Impedance Variance of Antenna by Reading the Impedance Adjustment



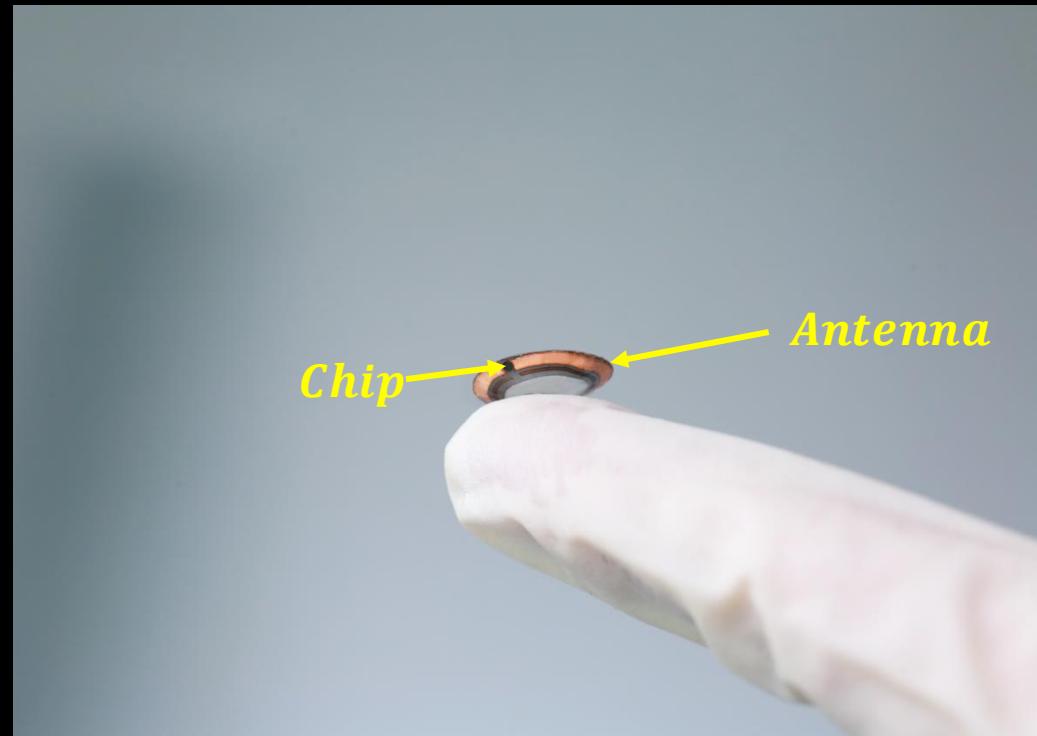
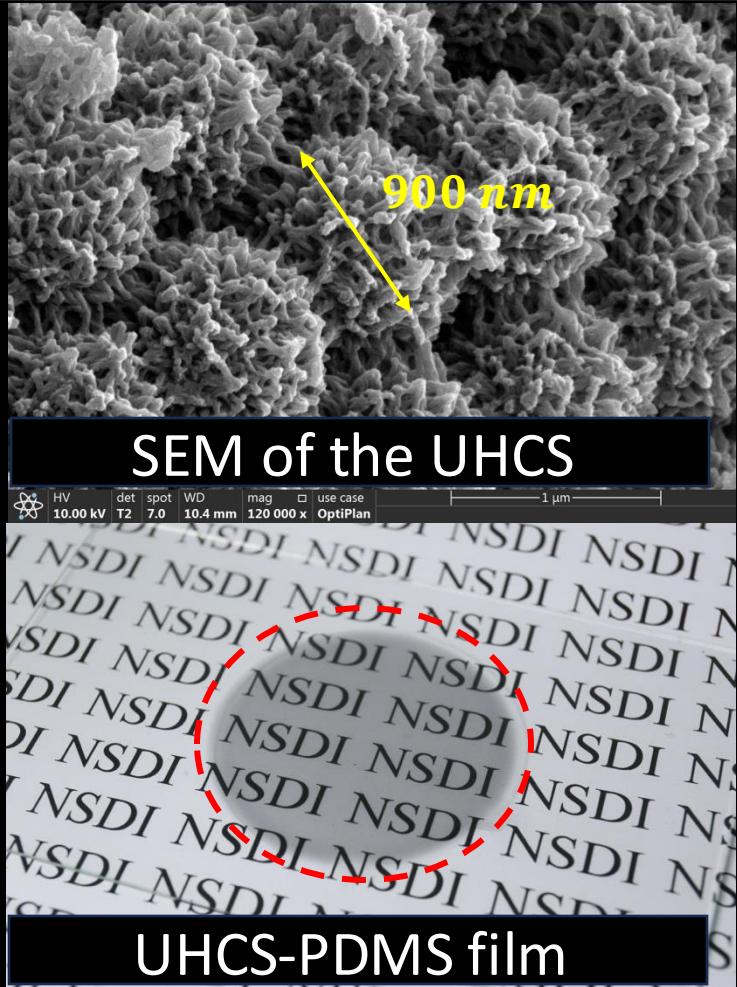
Task 1 : Impedance Match



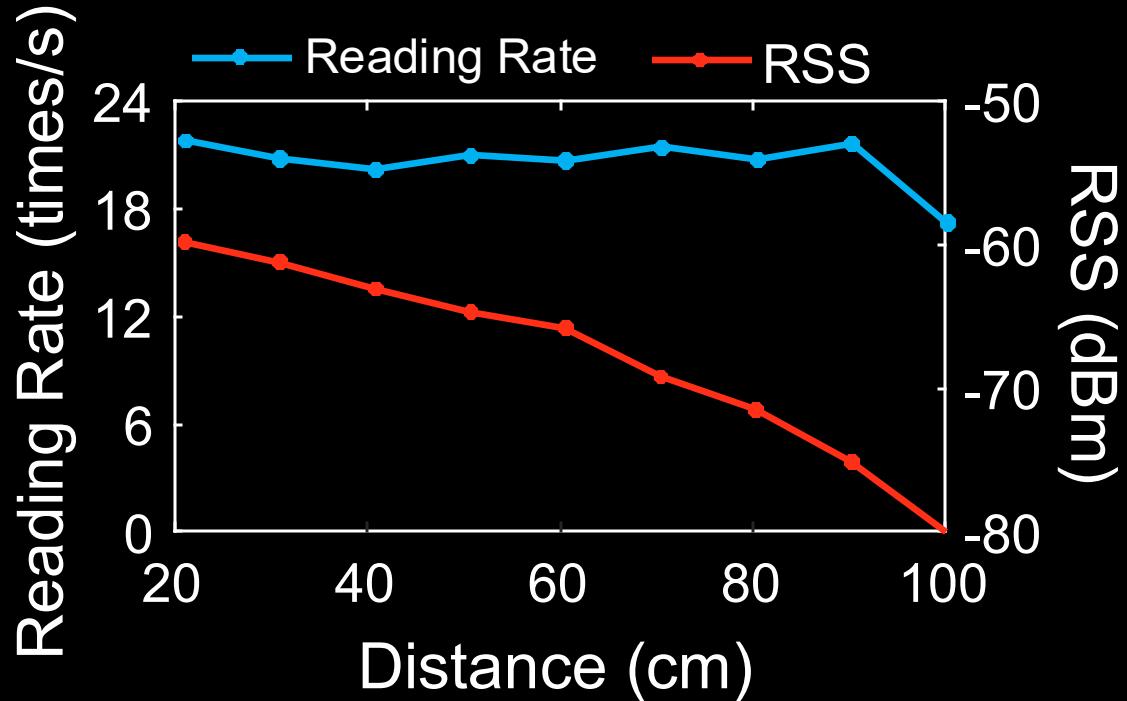
Task 2 : Impedance Measurement



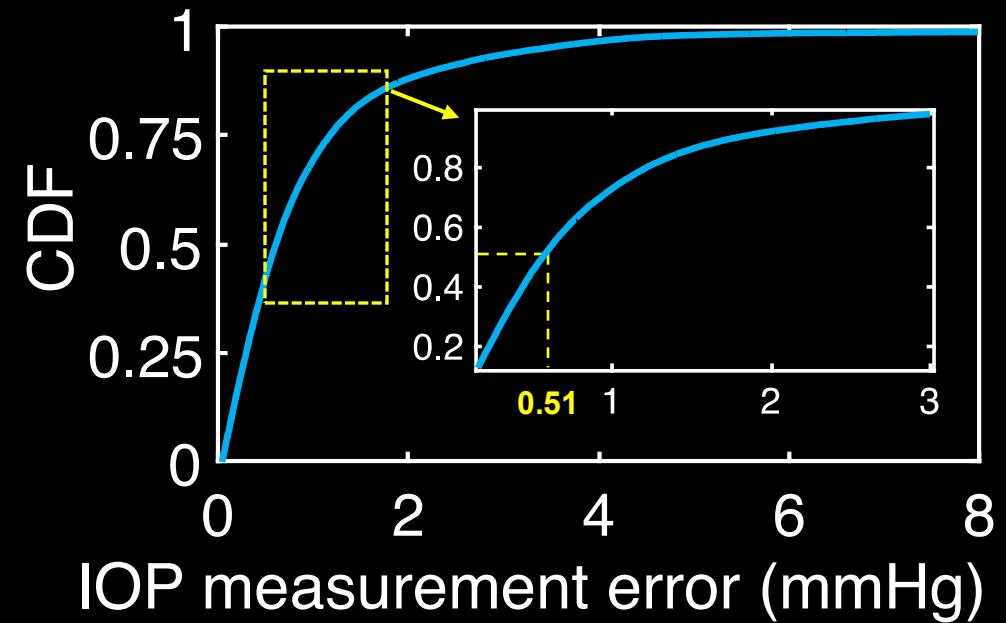
# Cyclops Lens



# End to end performance

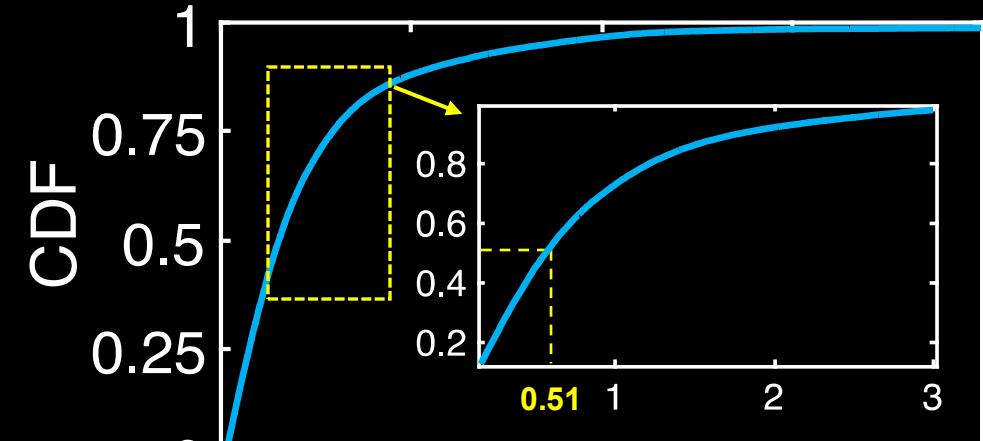
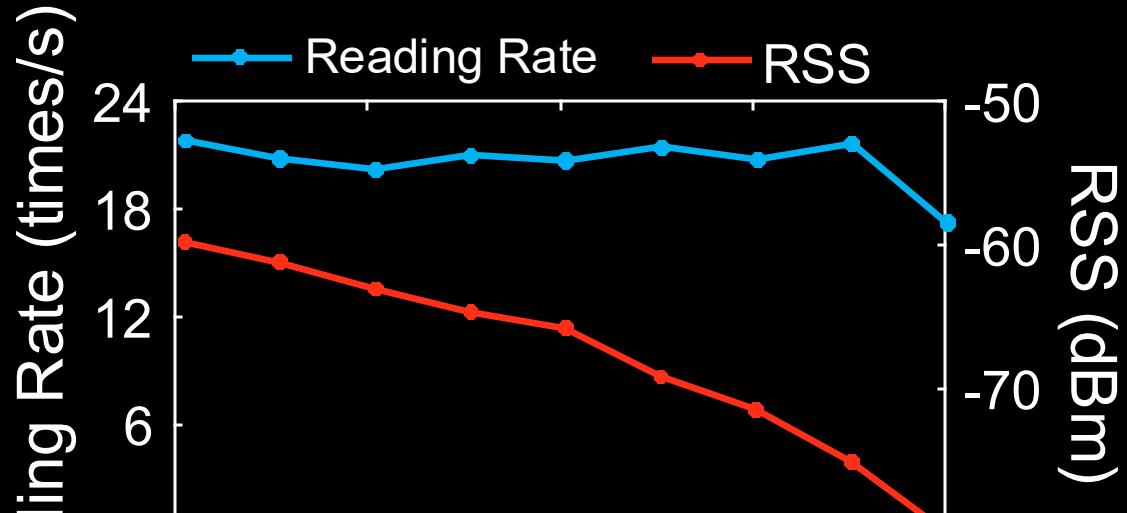


The communication range  
up to 1m



The median error is 0.51 mmHg

# End to end performance

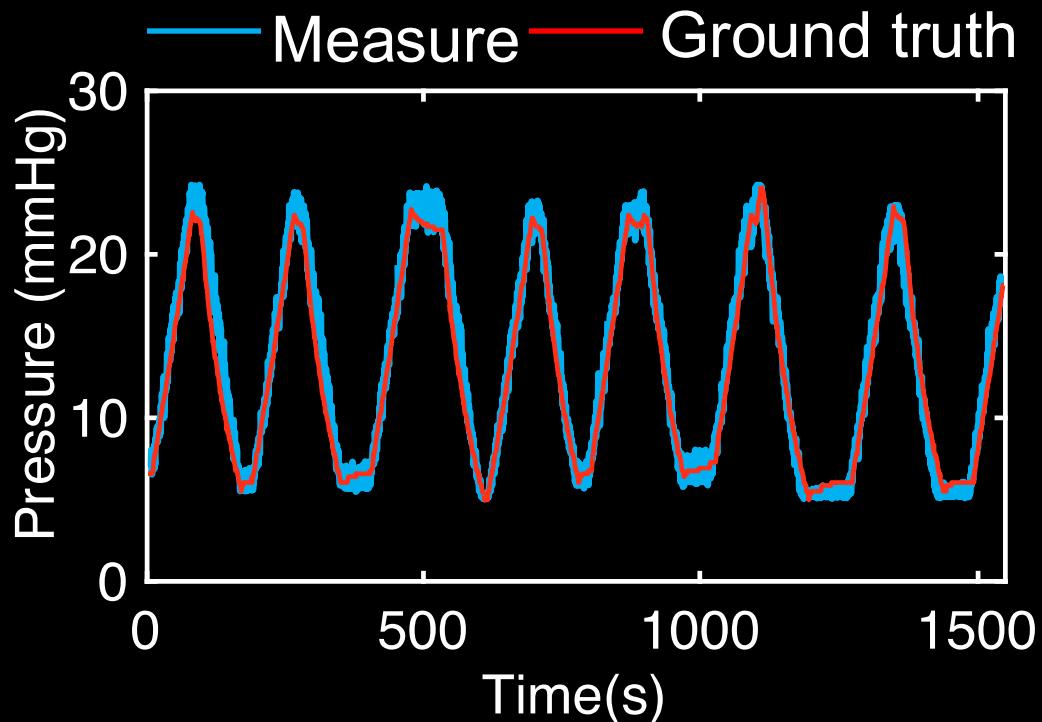


Measurement accuracy surpasses commercial portable intraocular pressure devices( $\pm 1.2\text{--}1.5\text{mmHg}$ )!

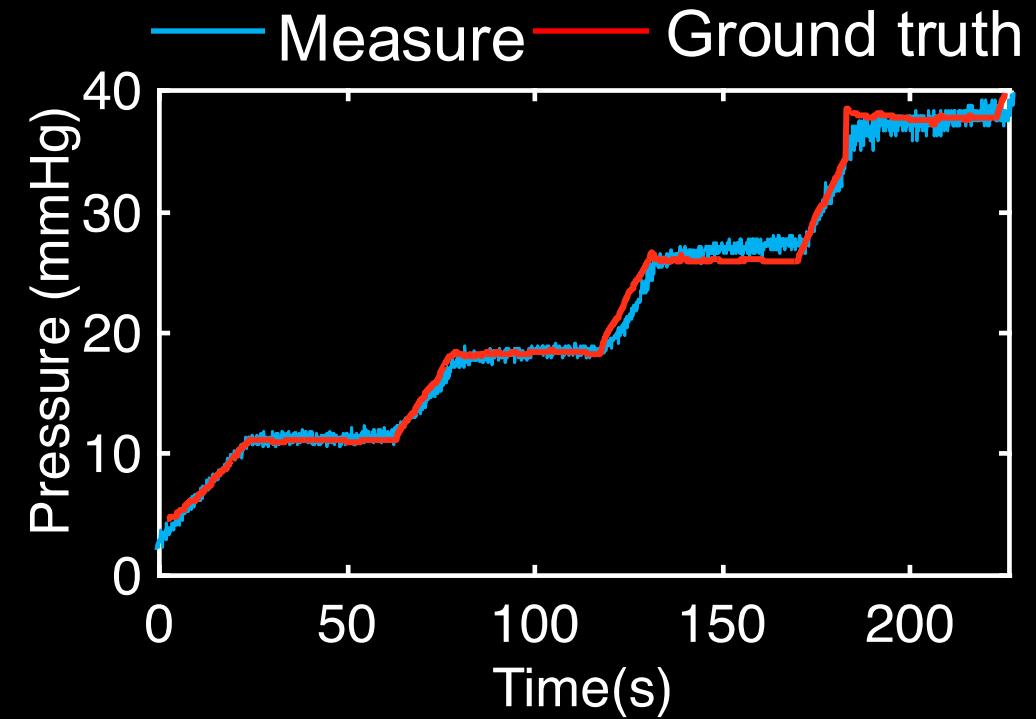
The communication range up to 1m

The median error is 0.51 mmHg

# Tracking the IOP variations



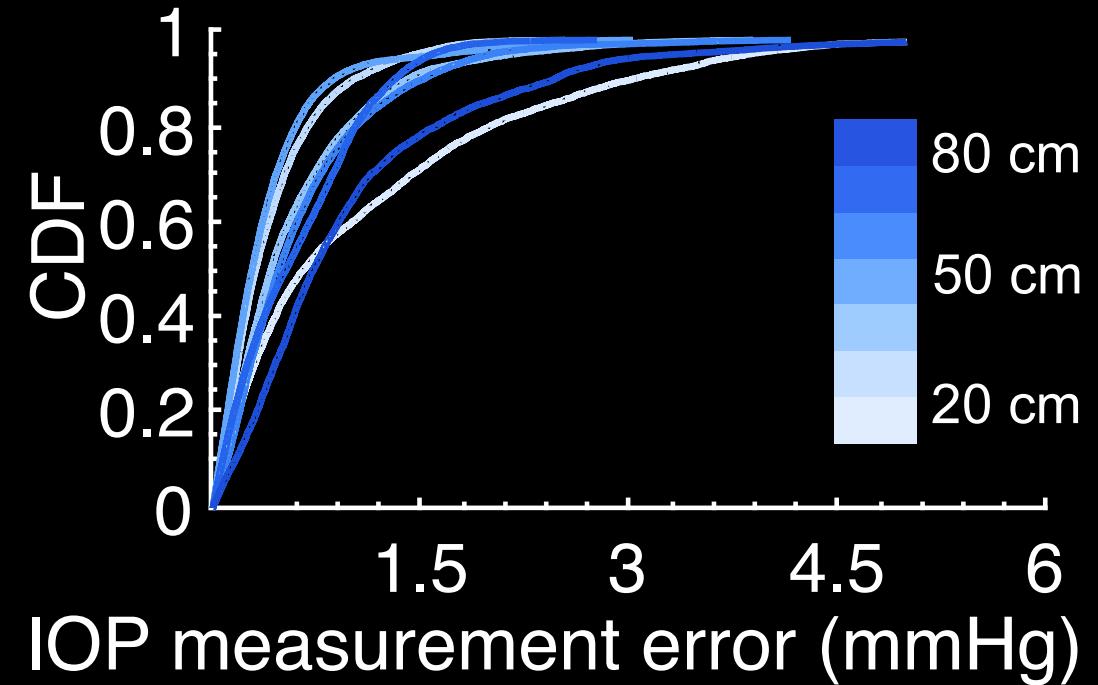
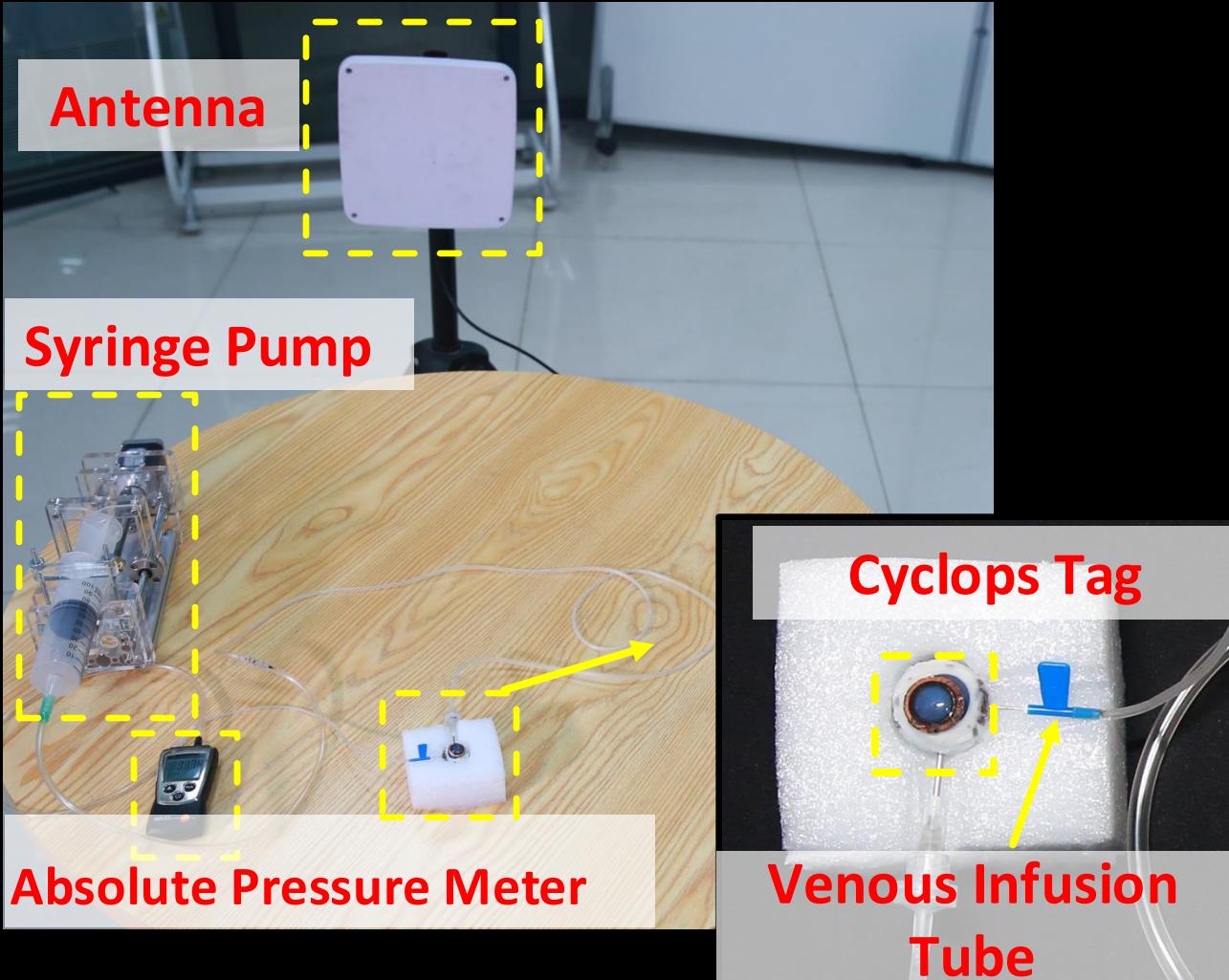
The median error is 0.53 mmHg



The median error is 0.54 mmHg

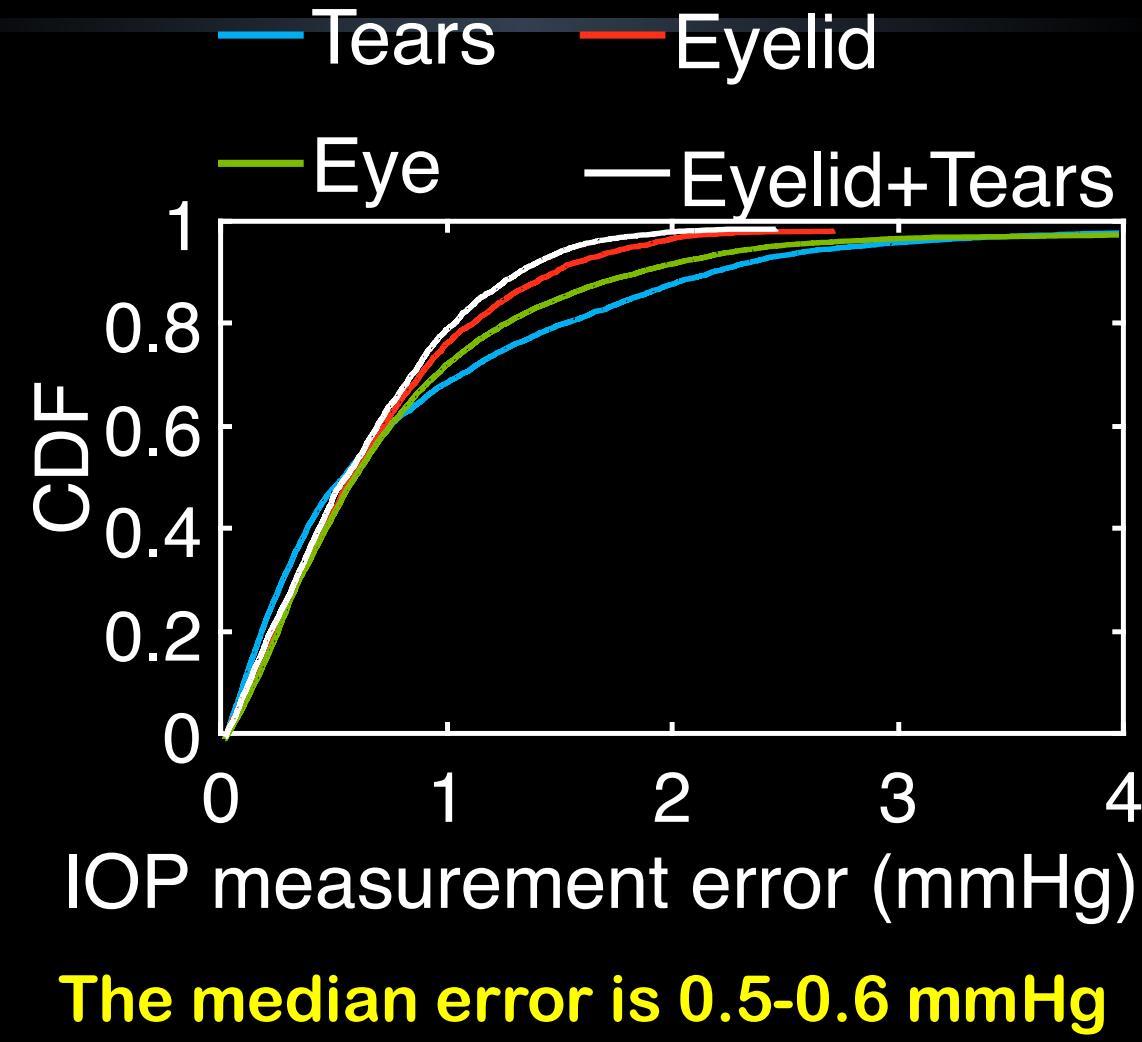
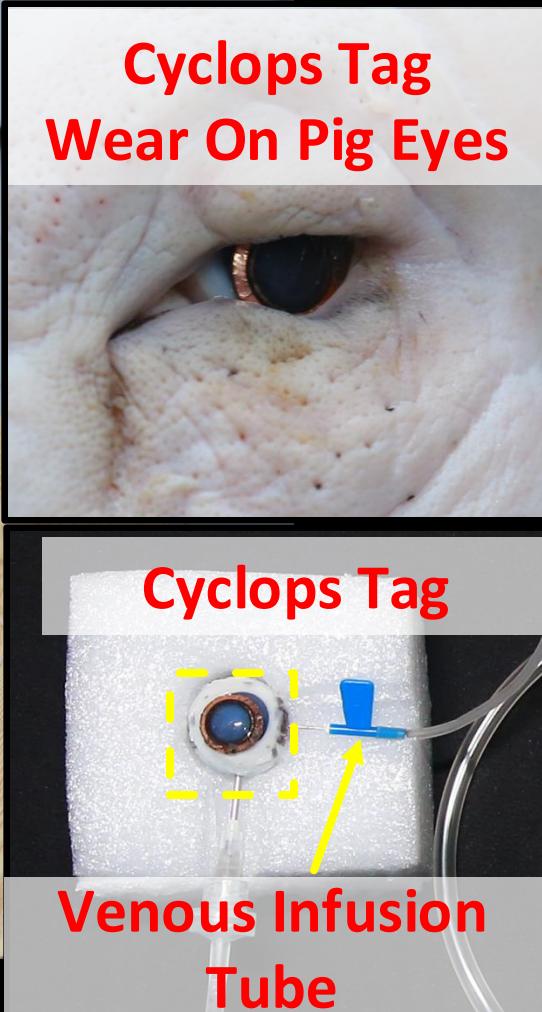
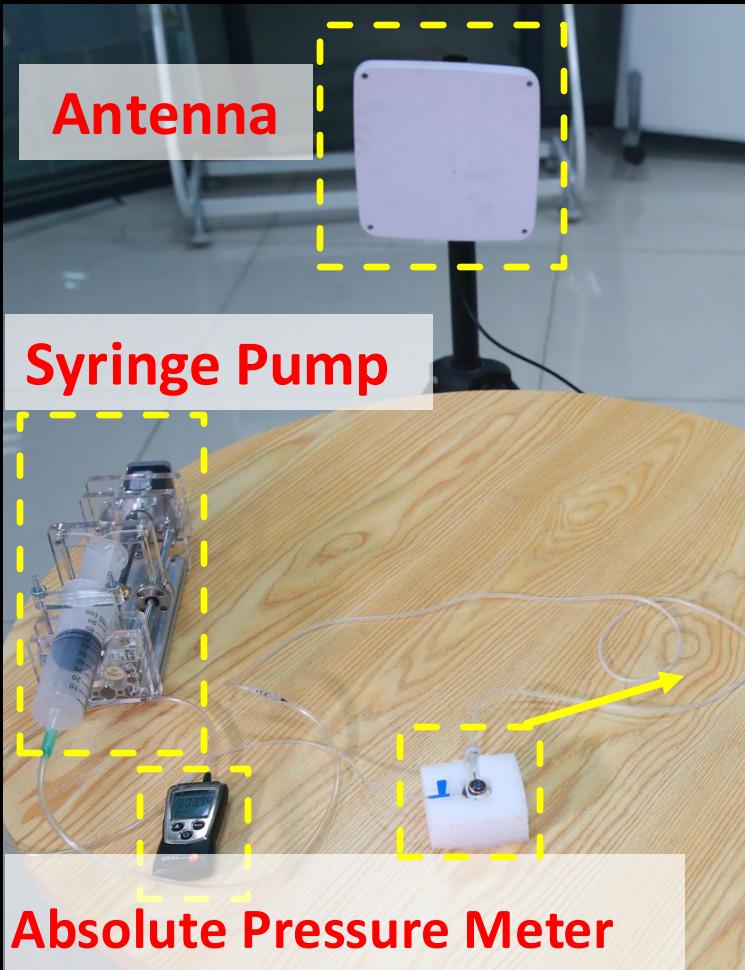
We are able to accurately track the fluctuation of the eye pressure!

# Biological impact on the performance

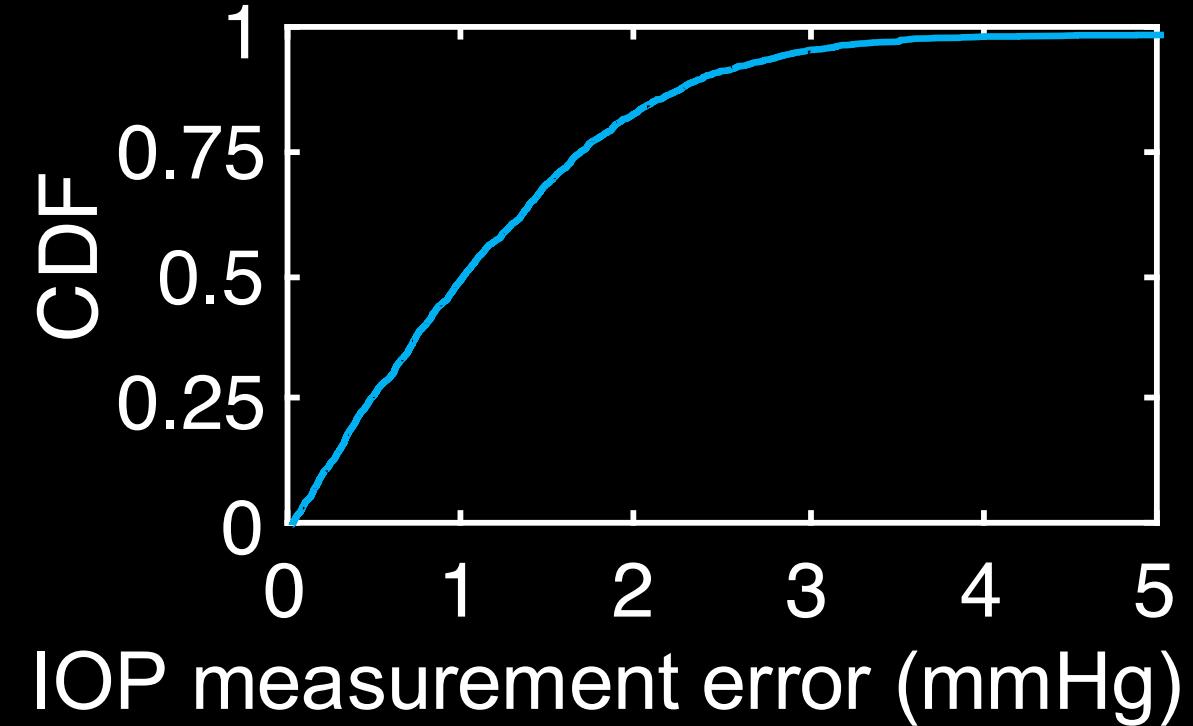
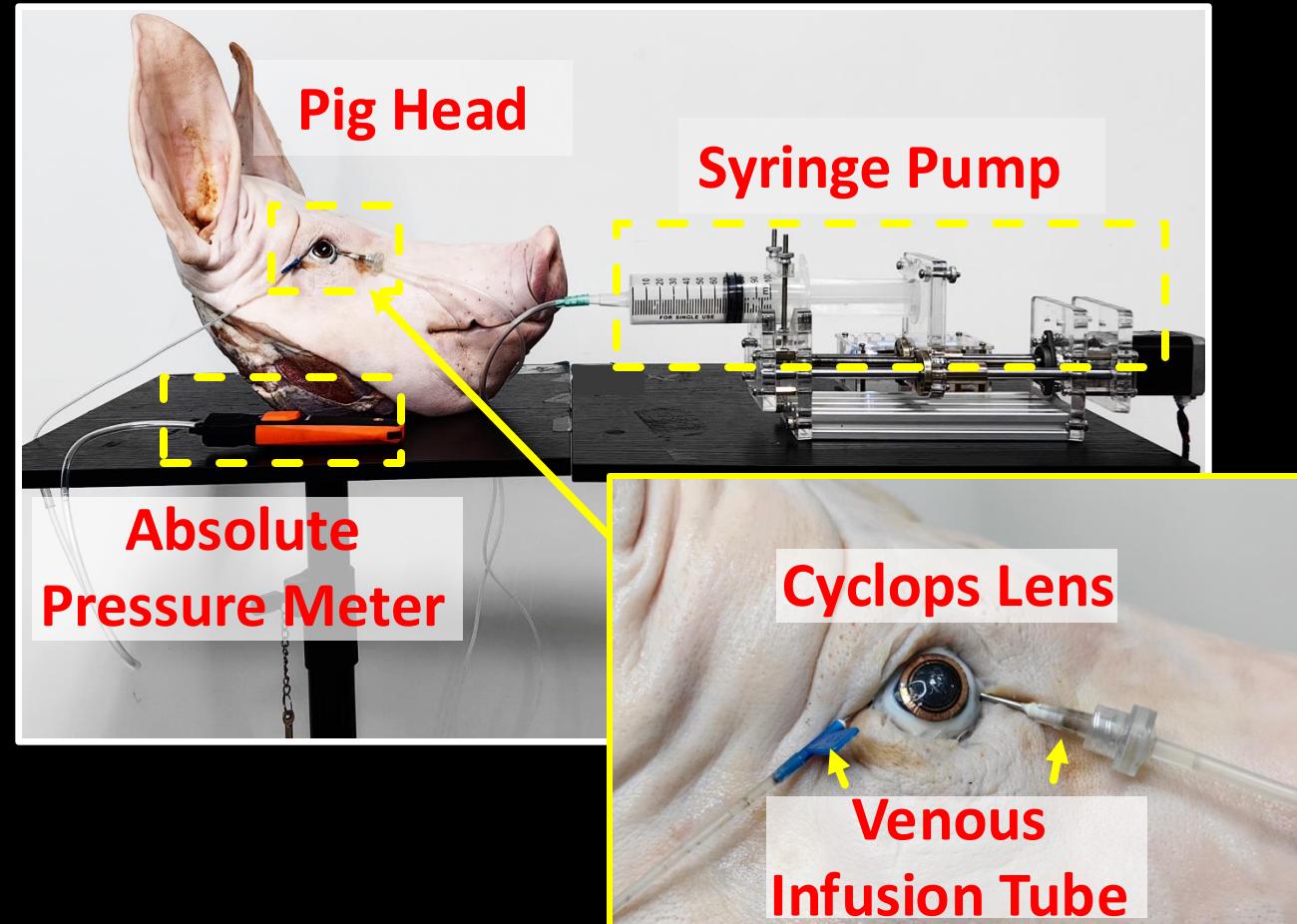


The median error is 0.33-0.85 mmHg

# Biological impact on the performance



# Biological impact on the performance



The median error is 0.97 mmHg

# Q & A

Cyclops: A Nanomaterial-based, Battery-Free Intraocular Pressure (IOP) Monitoring System inside Contact Lens



**UB** University at Buffalo  
The State University of New York



西北大学  
NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY



University of  
Massachusetts  
Amherst