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# Internet of Things

## II. Hardware Platforms

**Prof. Dr. Torsten Braun, Institut für Informatik**

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# Internet of Things: Hardware Platforms

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# 1. Radio Frequency IDentification

> RFID tags carry identification number read by RFID reader

> Types

– Passive tags

- a few KB of memory
- consist of antenna, chip, encapsulation.
- Energy from received signal is stored in capacitor.

– Active tags

- on-board battery and memory
- stronger signal
- 20-100 m communication range

> Communication

– Near-field

- distance  $< c/2\pi f$ ,  $f < 100$  MHz
- Load modulation based on induction: change of current detected by reader coil
- ISO standard 15693

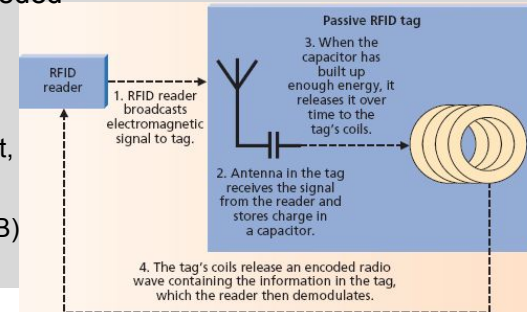
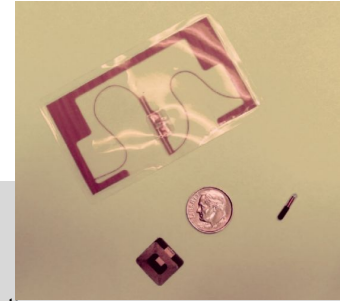
– Far-field

- 128 kHz, 13.56, 915, 2450 MHz
- Backscattering: reflection or absorption of signal by changing antenna resistance

> Collision avoidance needed

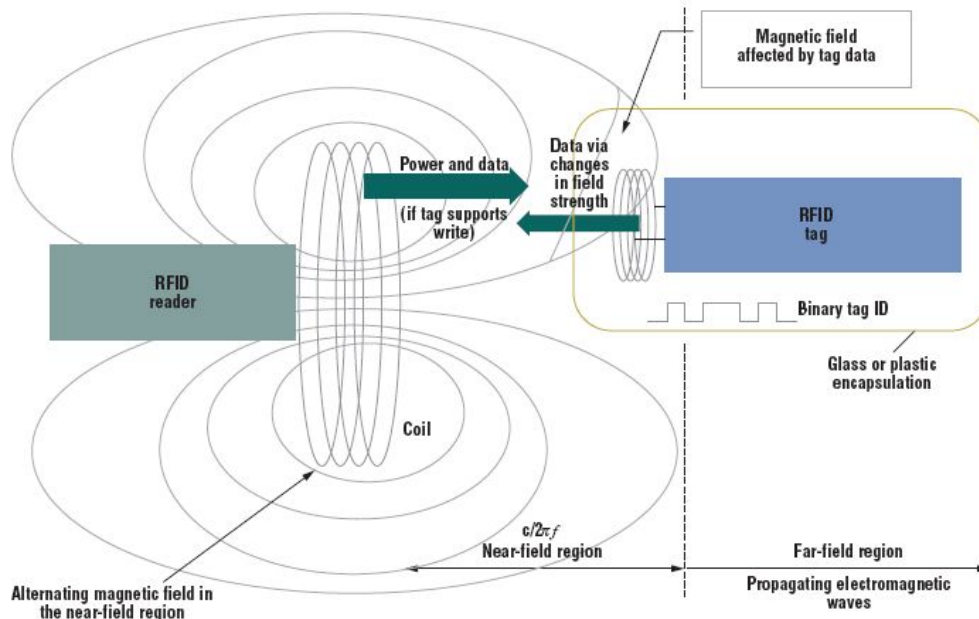
> Extensions

- Sensing by integrating tags sensitive to the environment, e.g., temperature
- EEPROM for tag IDs (size: a few KB)



# 1. Radio Frequency Identification

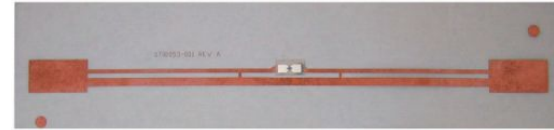
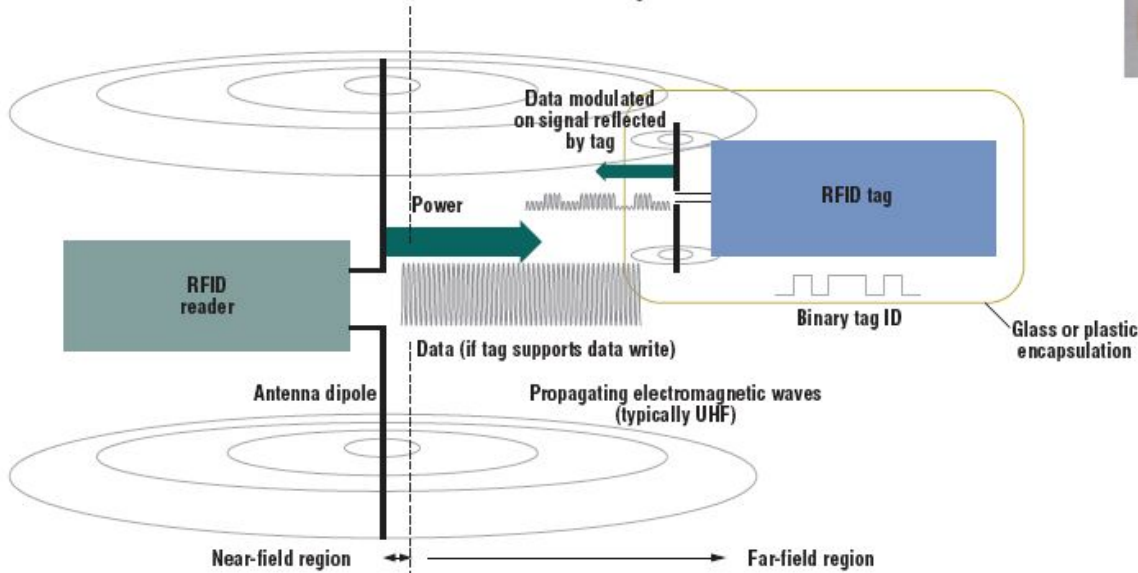
## 1. Near-Field Communication



# 1. Radio Frequency Identification

## 2. Far-Field Communication

Using electromagnetic (EM) wave capture to transfer power from reader to tag and EM backscatter to transfer data from tag to reader



# 1. Radio Frequency Identification

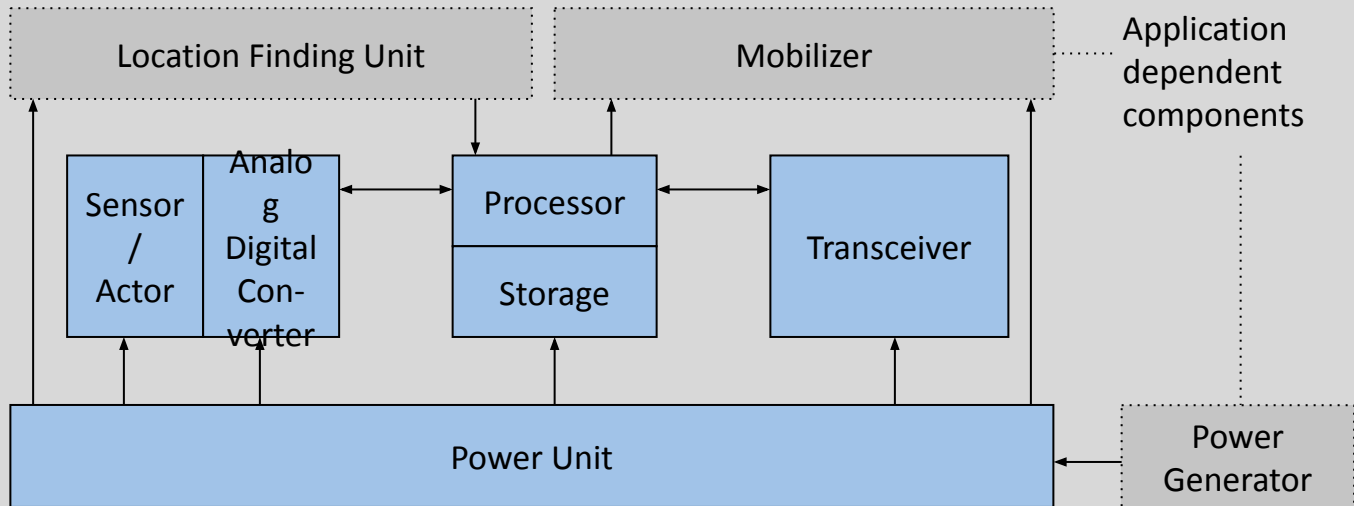
## 3. NFC vs RFID

- NFC
  - is one form of RFID.
  - operates at 13.56 MHz and extends the HF RFID standard.
  - supports two-way communications and peer-to-peer.
- Limited to close proximity, typically < 5 cm
- Industry body NFC Forum ([www.nfc-forum.org](http://www.nfc-forum.org))
  - NFC family protocols, allows storage and communication of binary data (including URLs, MIME objects).



## 2. Sensor Nodes

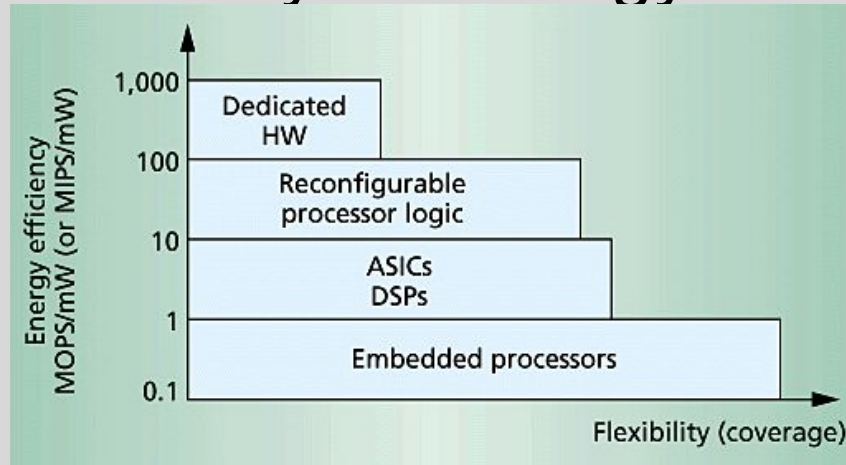
### 1. Sensor / Actor Node Architecture





## 2. Sensor Nodes

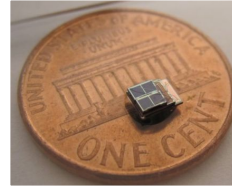
### 2. Processor Implementation: Flexibility vs. Energy-Efficiency



- Electrical power  $P = U \cdot I$ 
  - $U$ : voltage [Volt, V]
  - $I$ : current [Ampere, A]
- Energy  $W = P \cdot t$
- Battery capacity is often measured in Ah, i.e., how long a battery can supply a certain current with its nominal voltage.

## 2. Sensor Nodes

## 3. Sensor Node Hardware Classification



- System-on-Chip (SoC) nodes
  - Integration of CMOS, MEMS, and RF technologies on a single chip
  - Extremely low power and small sensor nodes
  - Special instruction sets, no software platforms available, limited support for (re)programming and configuration
  - Examples: Smart Dust, PicoNode
- Dedicated embedded sensor nodes
  - Commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) chip sets
  - Low power processing and communications
  - Full hardware access for programmers
  - Limited operating system support
  - C or assembler language programming
  - Examples: MICA, TelosB, Zolertia Re-Mote
- Augmented general-purpose computers
  - Sensor nodes based on embedded PCs or PDAs
  - Running COTS operating systems, middleware, and application software
  - Standard wireless communication technologies such as Bluetooth, WLAN, Zigbee
  - Wide range of sensors from microphones to cameras
  - Examples: Arduino, Raspberry Pi

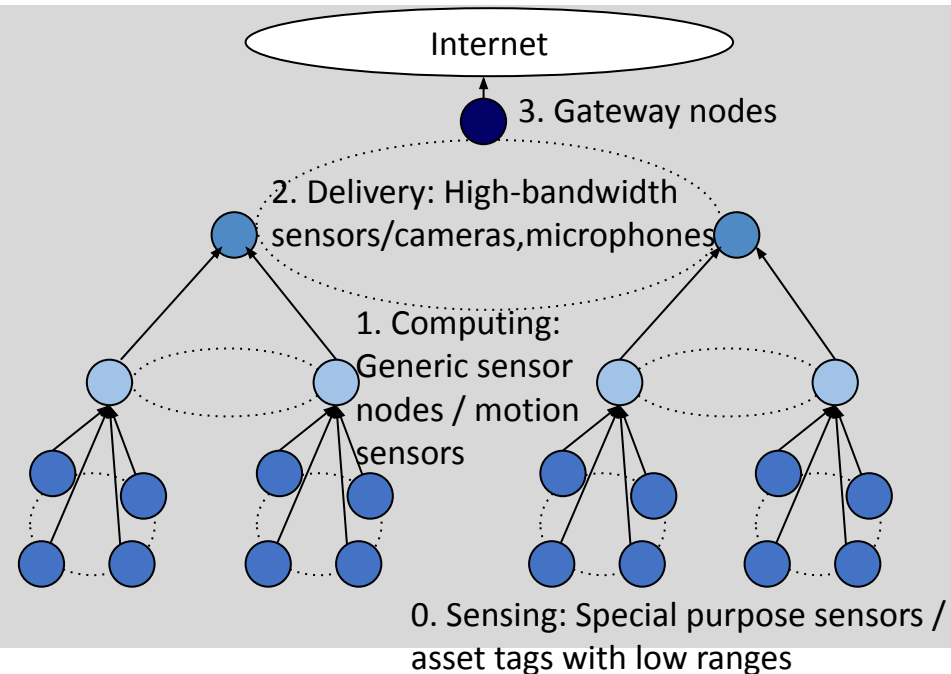


## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 4.1 Tiered Sensor Network Architecture

Compared to high-end IoT devices (e.g., smartphones, Raspberry Pis), low-end IoT devices typically

- have a factor of  $10^6$  less memory,
- $10^3$  less CPU capacity,
- consume  $10^3$  less power, and
- use networks with  $10^5$  less throughput.



## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 4.2 Tiered Sensor Network Architecture

- Sensor nodes are connected to a general-purpose network via gateway nodes.
- Sensor networks are often heterogeneous.  
Resource-intensive roles can be assigned to resource-rich nodes.

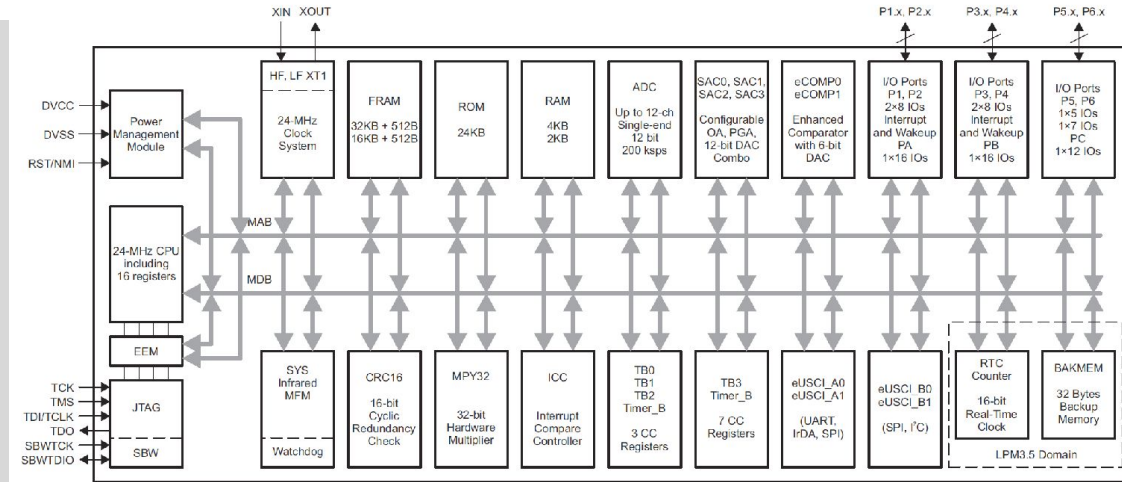
Tiered Networks with several advantages

- Cost-effectiveness
  - Special hardware required in a few nodes only
- Longevity
  - Expensive operations at nodes with line power
  - Few, simple operations by battery-powered nodes
- Scalability
  - Communication channels within a cluster
  - Interconnection of clusters by other channels

## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 5.1 TI MSP 430FR2355 MCU

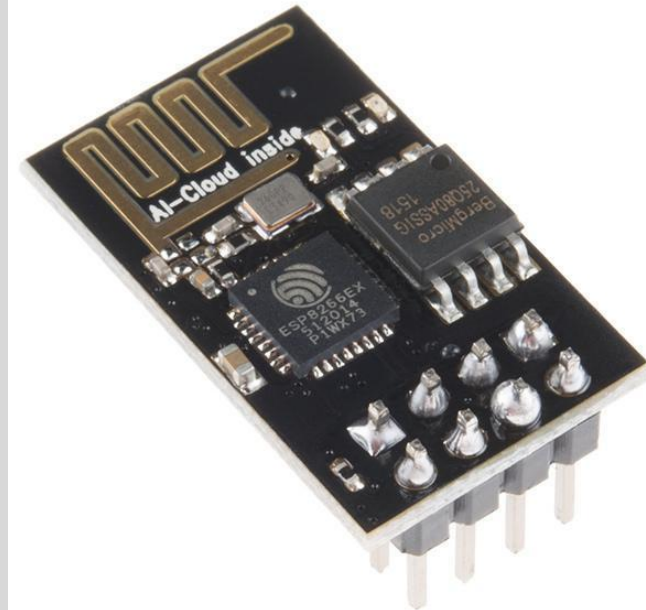
- 16 bit RISC microprocessor
- Memory
  - < 32 KB on-chip program FRAM
  - < 4KB RAM
  - 20 KB ROM library
- 12-bit A/D converters
- Multiple oscillators
  - Auxiliary clock: 32 kHz for self wake-up
  - High-speed digitally controlled oscillator (< 24 MHz)
- Operating modes at 3V (6 in total)
  - Active: 142  $\mu$ A
  - Standby: 1.43  $\mu$ A
  - Off (RAM is retained): 0.8  $\mu$ A
- List price < 10 \$



## 2. Sensor Nodes

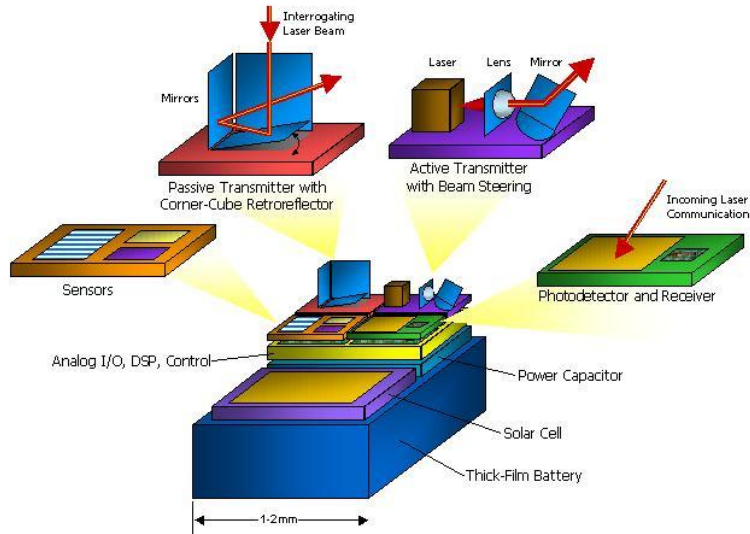
### 5.2 ESP8266

- low-cost Wi-Fi microchip
- full TCP/IP stack
- 32-bit RISC microprocessor running at 80 MHz
- Memory
  - 32 KB instruction RAM
  - 32 KB instruction cache RAM
  - 80 KB user data RAM
  - 16 KB system data RAM
  - External flash < 16 MB



## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 6.1 Smart Dust

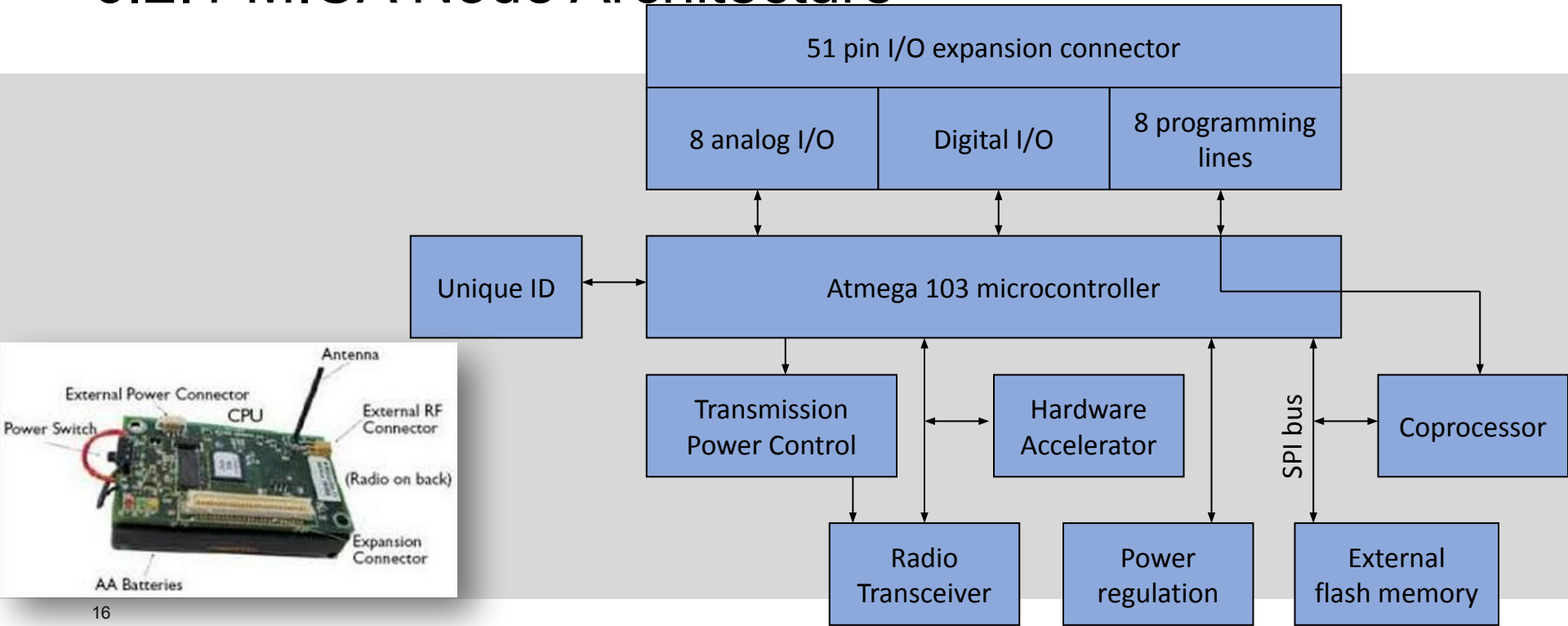


- Integrated circuit with sensor signal processing, communication, control, data storage, energy management
- Optical communications
  - Passive
    - No onboard light source
    - Dependent on mirror position, light is reflected (1) or not (0).
  - Active
    - Active steered laser uses on-board light source to send beam towards intended receiver.



## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 6.2.1 MICA Node Architecture





## 2. Sensor Nodes

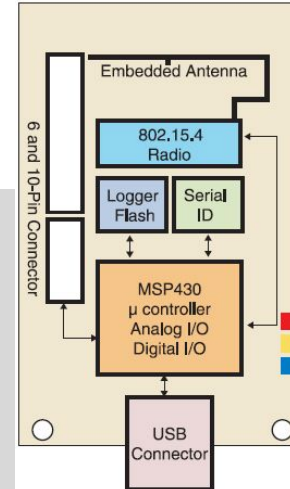
### 6.2.2 MICA Mote Power Consumption

Component	Rate	Startup time	Current consumption
MCU active	4 MHz	n/a	5.5 mA
MCU idle	4 MHz	1 $\mu$ s	1.6 mA
MCU suspend	32 kHz	4 ms	< 0.02 mA
Radio transmit	40 kHz	30 ms	12 mA
Radio receive	40 kHz	30 ms	1.8 mA
Photoresistor	2 kHz	10 ms	1.235 mA
Temperature	2 Hz	500 ms	0.150 mA

## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 6.3 TelosB

- > based on TI MSP 430 processor (8 MHz)
- > 10 KB RAM
- > IEEE 802.15.4 compliant RF transceiver, < 250 kbps
- > 1MB external Flash memory for data logging
- > Programming and data collection via USB



Operation	Telos	Mica2	MicaZ
Minimum Voltage	1.8V	2.7V	2.7V
Mote Standby (RTC on)	5.1 $\mu$ A	19.0 $\mu$ A	27.0 $\mu$ A
MCU Idle (DCO on)	54.5 $\mu$ A	3.2 mA	3.2 mA
MCU Active	1.8 mA	8.0 mA	8.0 mA
MCU + Radio RX	21.8 mA	15.1 mA	23.3 mA
MCU + Radio TX (0dBm)	19.5 mA	25.4 mA	21.0 mA
MCU + Flash Read	4.1 mA	9.4 mA	9.4 mA
MCU + Flash Write	15.1 mA	21.6 mA	21.6 mA
MCU Wakeup	6 $\mu$ s	180 $\mu$ s	180 $\mu$ s
Radio Wakeup	580 $\mu$ s	1800 $\mu$ s	860 $\mu$ s

## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 6.4 Zolertia Re-Mote

- 2 Radios for short and long range applications up to 20 km
  - ISM 2.4-GHz IEEE 802.15.4 & Zigbee compliant radio.
  - ISM 863-950-MHz ISM/SRD band IEEE 802.15.4 compliant radio.
- Processor: ARM Cortex-M3 32 MHz clock speed, 512 KB flash and 32 KB RAM
- Networking: 6LowPAN support
- 150 nA current using shutdown mode.
- supported in OSs such as Contiki and RIOT
- Sensors: Temperature and Humidity, Light, Barometer, Passive Infrared Motion, Moisture, Loudness, Rotary Angle, Rotation, Accelerometer & Gyroscope, Gas, Weather Meter, Dust (optical)



## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 6.5 Arduino nano 33 IoT

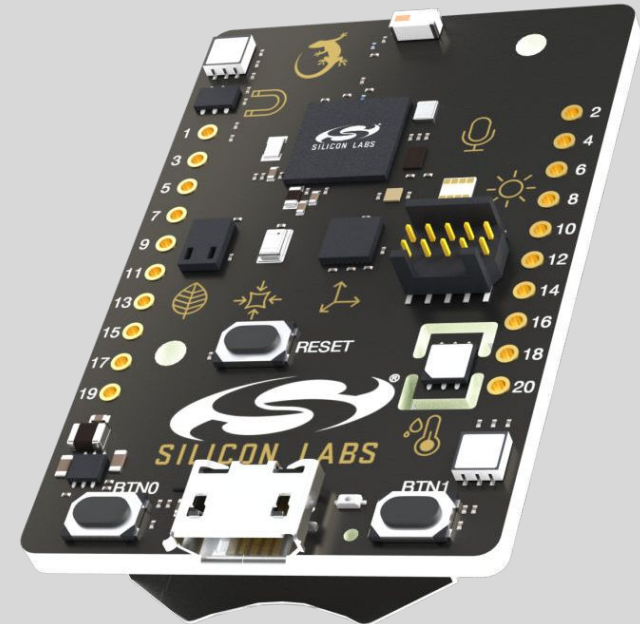
- low power 32-bit SAMD21 ARM CPU
- 48 MhZ clock speed
- WiFi and Bluetooth by NINA-W102 low power chipset operating in 2.4GHz range
- secure communication ensured by ECC608 crypto chip
- 256 KB CPU flash memory
- 32 KB SRAM
- Sensors
  - 9 axis inertial sensor
  - Humidity and temperature
  - Barometer
  - Microphone
  - Gesture, proximity, light colour and intensity



## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 6.6 Thunderboard Sense

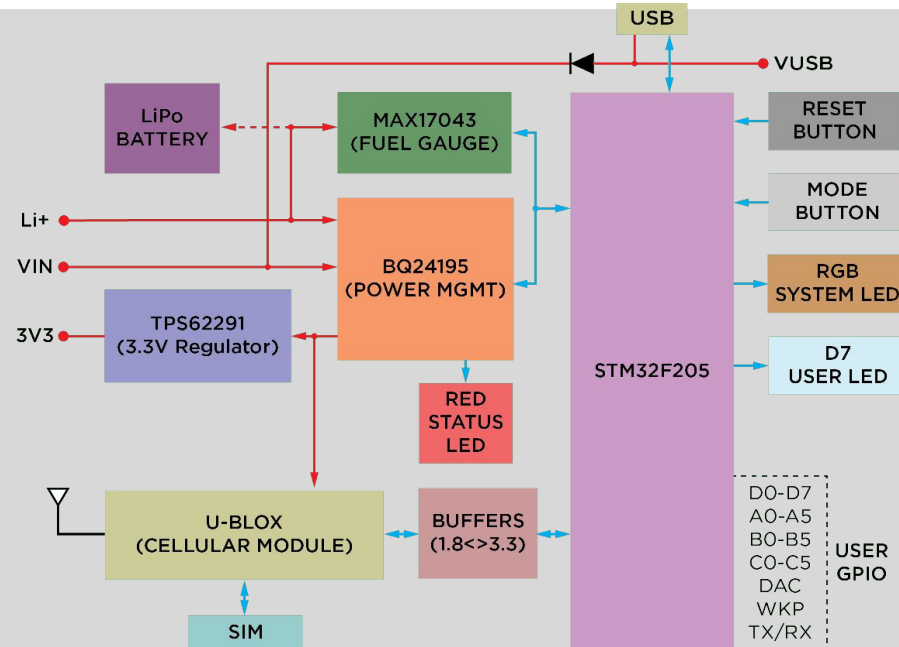
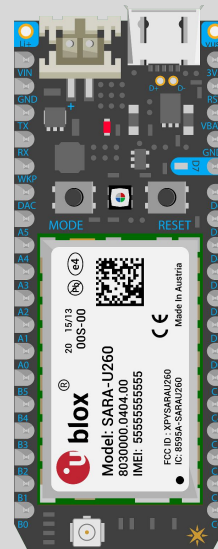
- EFR32MG12 Mighty Gecko Wireless SoC with 38.4 MHz operating frequency
- 1024 kB flash memory and 256 kB RAM
- Sensors
  - Relative humidity and temperature
  - UV index and ambient light
  - Hall effect
  - Indoor air quality gas sensor
  - 6-axis inertial sensor
  - Barometric pressure
  - MEMS microphone
- 2.4 GHz BLE



## 2. Sensor Nodes

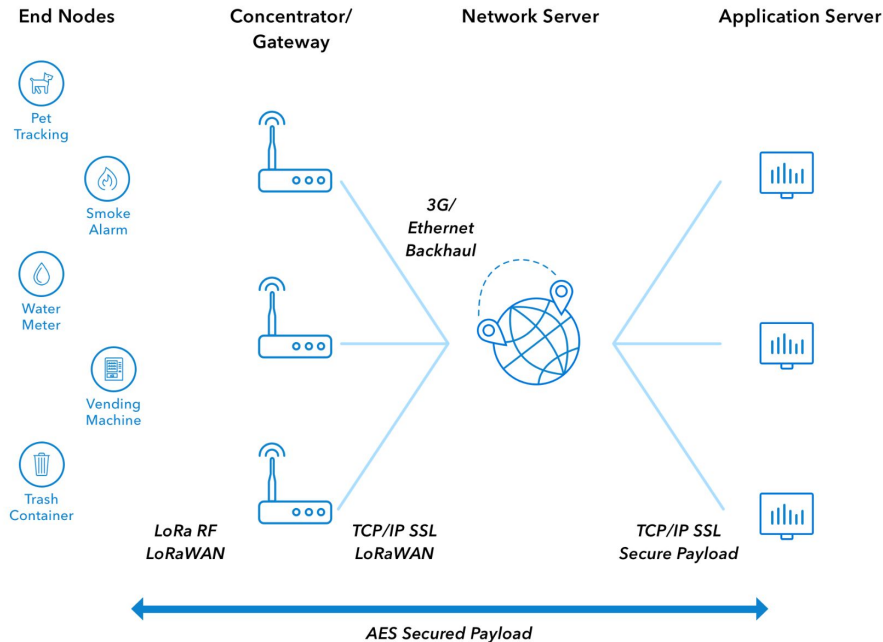
### 6.7 Particle Electron

- STM32F205RGT6  
120MHz ARM Cortex  
M3 micro-controller
- 2G/3G module
- 1 MB flash memory
- 128 KB RAM



## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 6.8 The Things Network



Things Uno is based on Arduino Leonardo with Microchip LoRaWAN module.

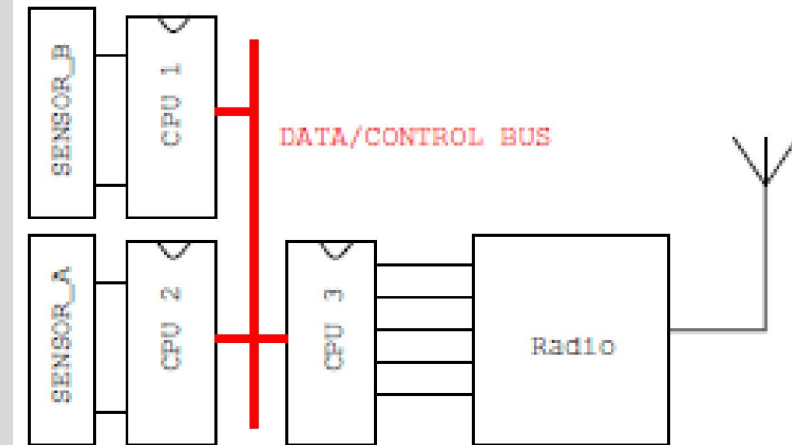


Gateways are routers equipped with a LoRa concentrator.

## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 7. Multi-Processor Sensor Nodes

- Single processor architecture is often designed for worst case and overprovisioned.
- Approach: multiple simpler processors in a multi-processor sensor node architecture
- Advantages
  - Configuration flexibility and energy savings
  - Clock speeds according to processor tasks
  - Parallel task execution

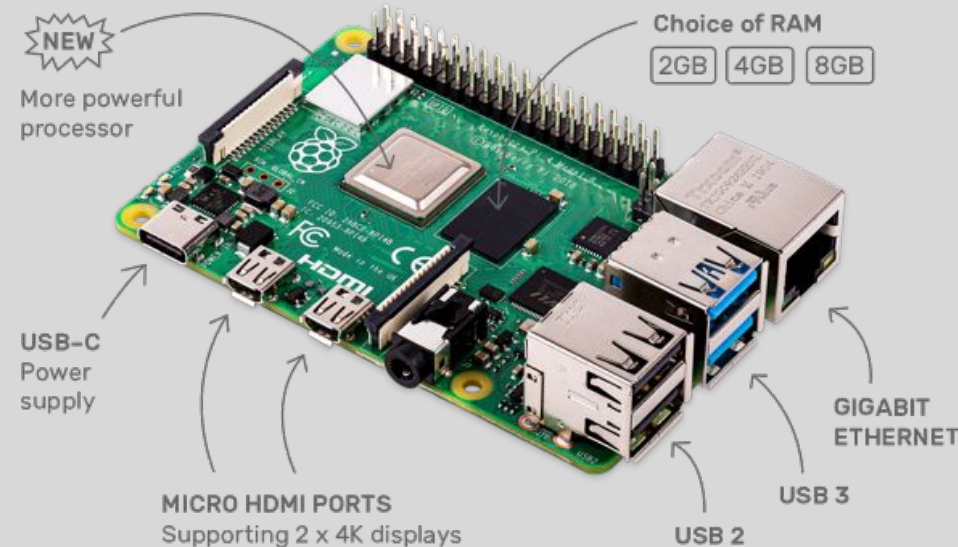




## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 7.1 Raspberry Pi 4

- Quad Core 1.5 GHz ARM 64bit CPU
- 2-8 GB SDRAM
- Wireless LAN (2.4/5 GHz) and Bluetooth Low Energy
- Gigabit Ethernet
- 40-pin extended General-Purpose I/O
- 4 USB ports
- Camera and display port
- Micro SD port for loading operating system and storing data



## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 7.2 Pycom GPy

- Processor Tensilica Xtensa dual-core 32-bit LX6, up to 600 MIPS
- Memory: RAM: 520KB + 4MB; External Flash: 8MB.
- Communication
  - Bluetooth, WiFi, Cellular: single chip for both Long Term Evolution Cat. M and Narrow Band - IoT of 3rd Generation Partnership Project release 13.
- Energy Consumption
  - 3.5-5 V input power, deep sleep 24  $\mu$ A, idle 60 mA, LTE Transmit max. 285 mA.
- Programmed in micro python; no low level programming skills required



## 2. Sensor Nodes

### 7.3 Jetson Nano

- Quad core ARM Cortex-A57 processor
- Machine learning and video encoding/decoding support
- 4 GB RAM, 16 GB flash memory
- Gigabit Ethernet, BLE or WiFi with external modules



# 3. Energy Consumption

## 1. Energy Sources

Energy source	Power density	Energy density
Batteries (zinc-air)		1050 -1560 mWh/cm <sup>3</sup>
Batteries (rechargeable lithium)		300 mWh/cm <sup>3</sup> (3 - 4 V)
Solar (outdoors)	15 mW/cm <sup>2</sup> (direct sun) 0.15mW/cm <sup>2</sup> (cloudy day)	
Solar (indoors)	0.006 mW/cm <sup>2</sup> (standard office desk) 0.57 mW/cm <sup>2</sup> (< 60W desk lamp)	
Vibrations	0.01 - 0.1 mW/cm <sup>3</sup>	
Acoustic noise	3E-6 mW/cm <sup>2</sup> at 75 Db 9.6E-4 mW/cm <sup>2</sup> at 100 Db	
Passive human-powered systems	1.8 mW (shoe inserts)	
Nuclear reaction	80 mW/cm <sup>3</sup> 1E6 mWh/cm <sup>3</sup>	

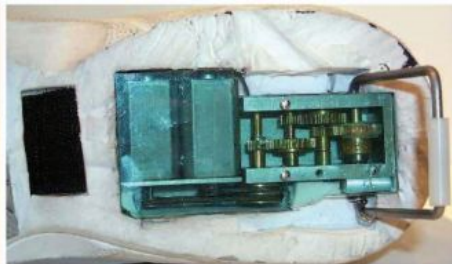
## 3. Energy Consumption

## 2. Energy Scavenging / Harvesting

- Photovoltaic
- Temperature gradients
- Vibrations
- Pressure variations
- Flow of air / liquid



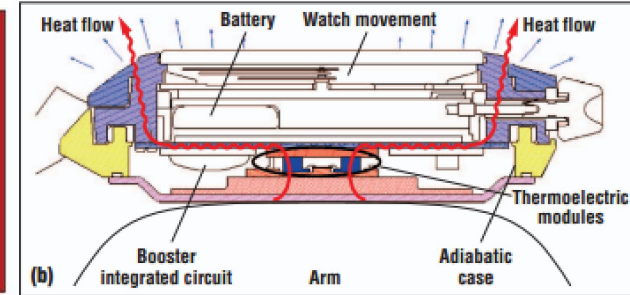
(a)



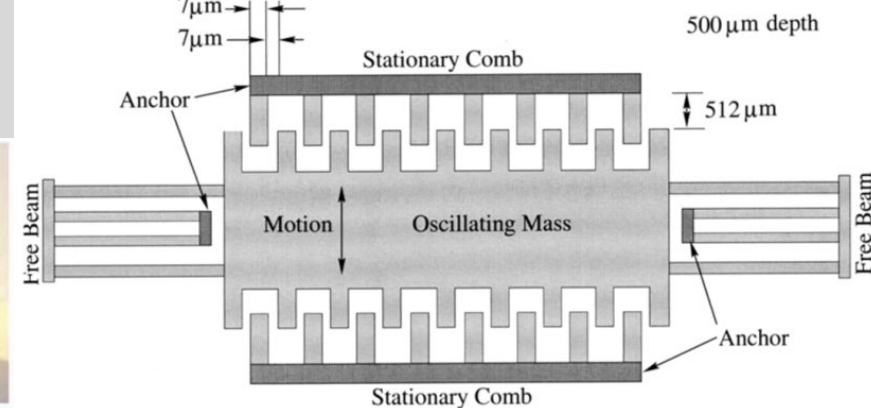
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(a)



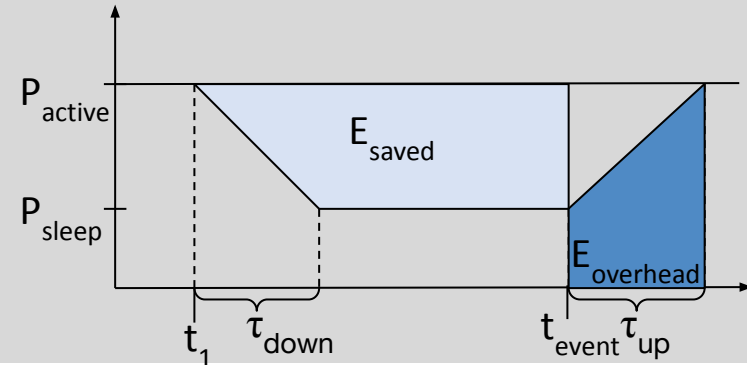
(b)



## 3. Energy Consumption

### 3.1 Energy Saving for Sleep Modes

- $E_{\text{saved}} = (t_{\text{event}} - t_1) P_{\text{active}} - (\tau_{\text{down}} (P_{\text{active}} + P_{\text{sleep}})/2 + (t_{\text{event}} - t_1 - \tau_{\text{down}}) P_{\text{sleep}})$
- $E_{\text{overhead}} = \tau_{\text{up}} (P_{\text{active}} + P_{\text{sleep}})/2$
- Sleep mode is only beneficial for  $E_{\text{saved}} > E_{\text{overhead}}$

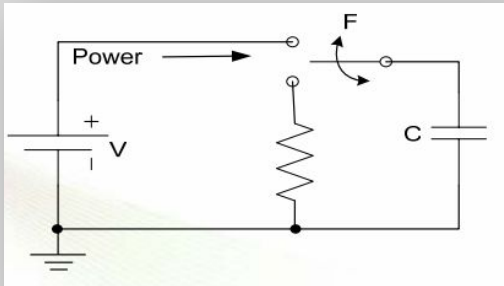


## 3. Energy Consumption

### 3.2 Energy Dissipation - Dynamic Voltage Scaling

#### Static

- Leakage of current to ground at all times
- Approach: shut down components



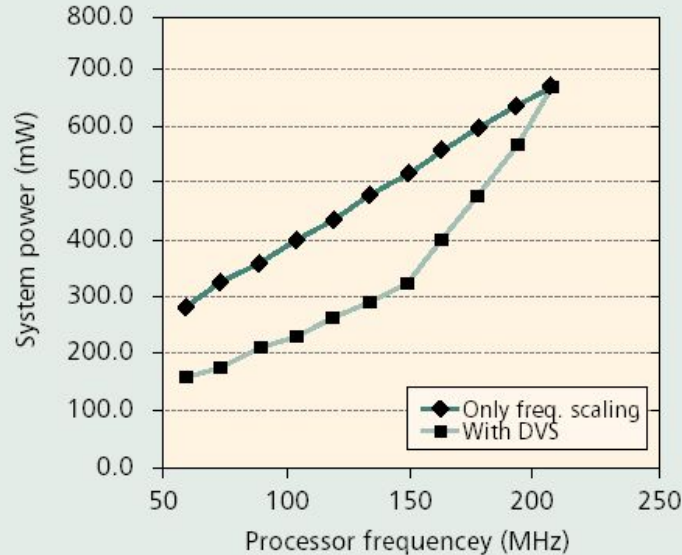
#### Dynamic

- Switching power dissipated by capacitor is  $P_{\text{dynamic}} = C \cdot F \cdot V^2$ 
  - C: capacity
  - F: frequency with which the voltage is switched across the capacitor
  - V: supply voltage
  - Power goes up by square of the voltage and linearly with frequency
  - Example: reduction of switching power by a factor of 4 by reducing the voltage by  $\frac{1}{2}$
- Approach: Dynamic Voltage Scaling
  - method of reducing the average power consumption in embedded systems
  - accomplished by reducing the switching losses of the system by reducing the frequency and voltage of the system.

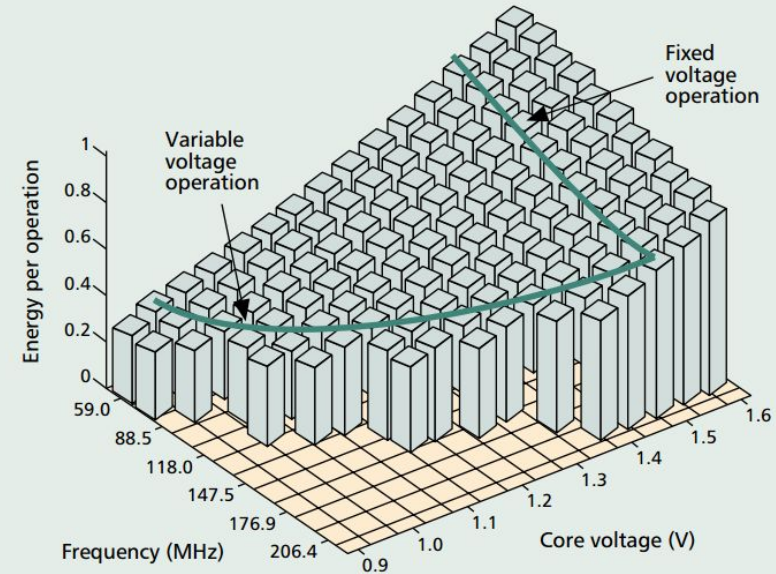


## 3. Energy Consumption

### 3.3 Dynamic Voltage Scaling



processor:  $\mu$ AMPS



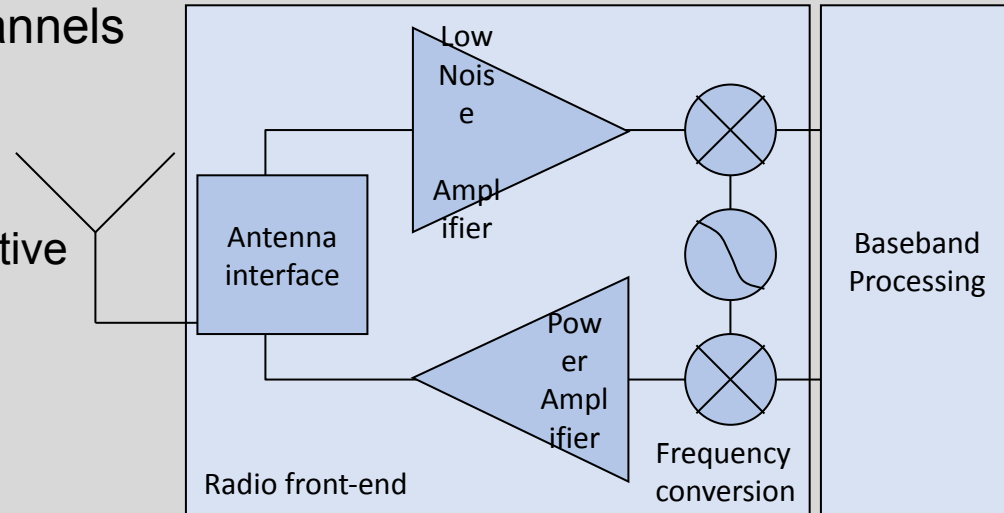
Processor: Intel StrongARM SA-1100



## 3. Energy Consumption

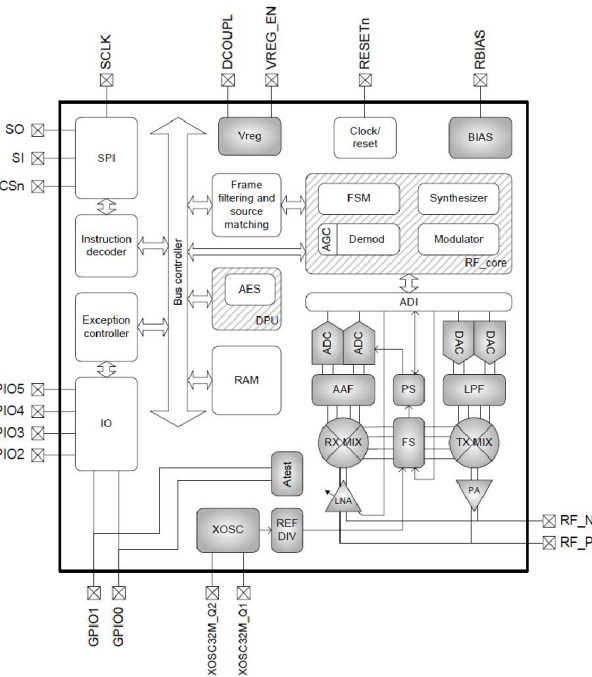
### 4.1 Transceiver Tasks

- Service to upper layer (packet, byte, bit interface)
- Support of several frequency channels
- State changes
  - Transmit: active transmit part
  - Receive: active receive part
  - Idle: ready to receive, but not active
  - Sleep: switched off
- Modulation
- Coding
- Carrier sensing

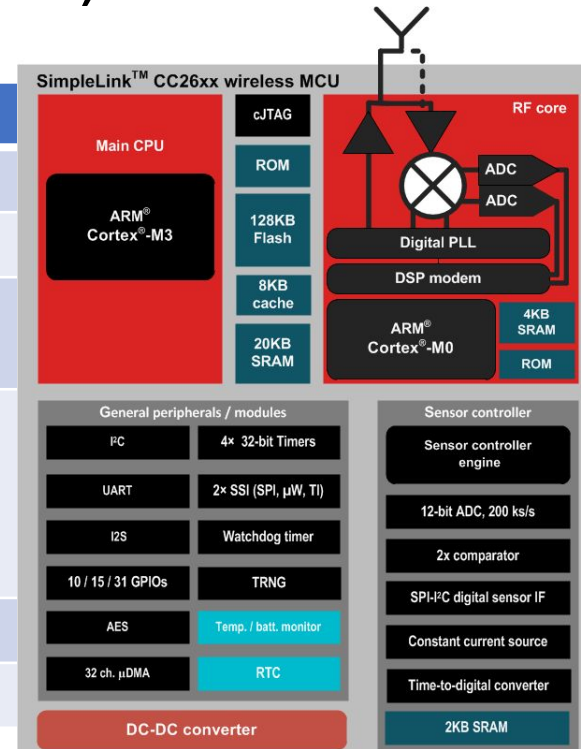


### 3. Energy Consumption

## 4.2 Zigbee Transceiver (IEEE 802.15.4)



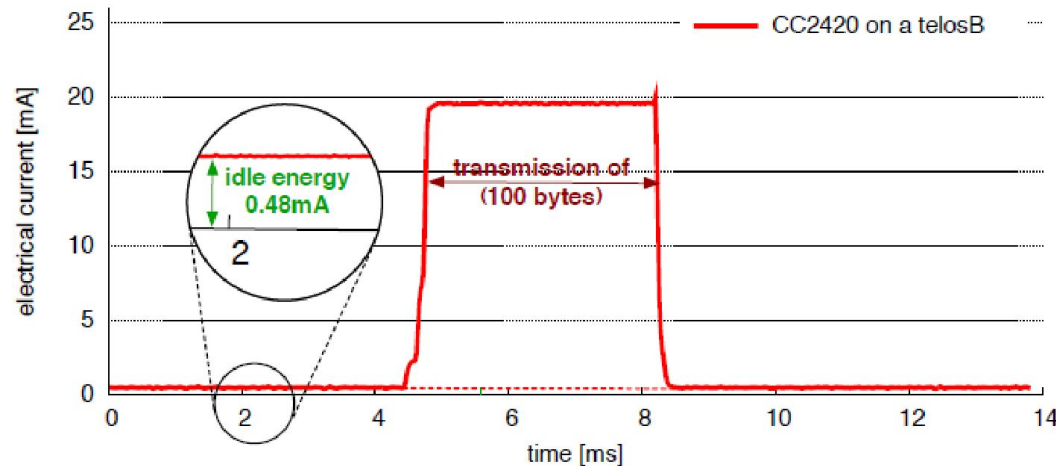
	CC2420	CC2520	CC2630
Voltage	2.1-3.6 V	1.8-3.8 V	
Tx current	17.4 mA	25.8 mA	9.1 mA
Rcv current	18.8 mA	18.5 mA	5.9 mA
Lowest power current (sleep)	0.25 $\mu$ A	0.3 $\mu$ A	0.1 $\mu$ A
LoS range	125 m	400 m	?
Bit rate	250 kbps		



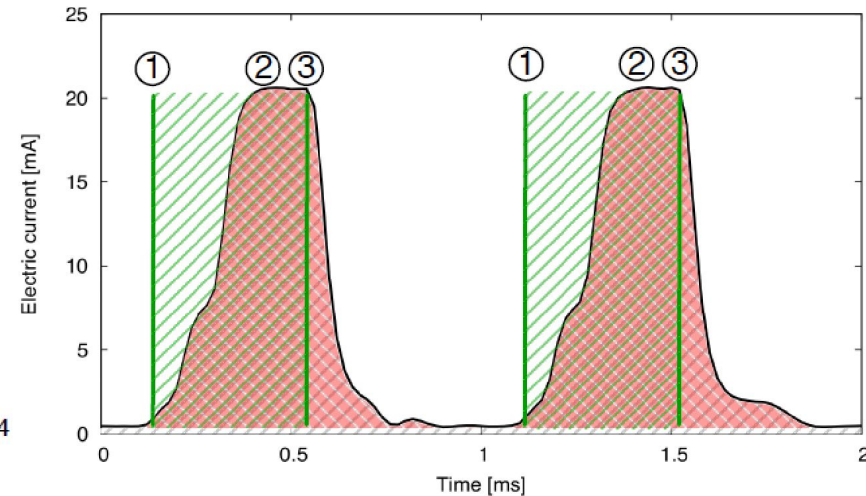
## 3. Energy Consumption

### 4.3 Energy Consumption for Transmitting/Receiving

100 bytes transmission  
(CC2420 Transceiver / TelosB)

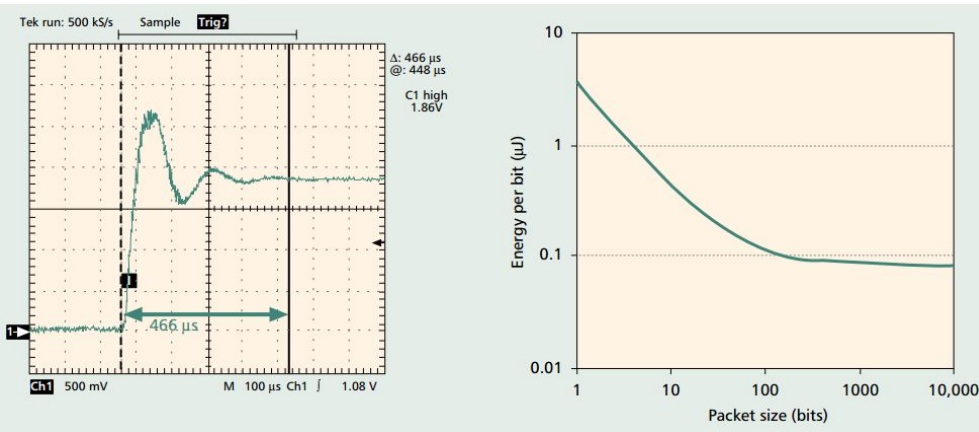


Channel Check Assessment



## 3. Energy Consumption

### 4.4 Startup Costs for Transmission



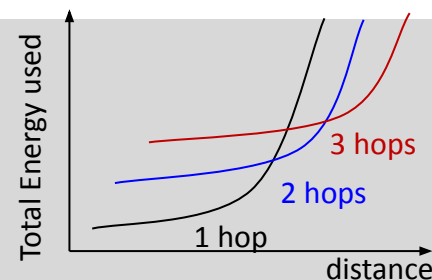
Sensor node: μAMPS

- Today's transceivers require an initial startup time on the order of hundreds of microseconds, during which transients in the analog electronics need to settle.
- Substantial amounts of energy are consumed during the startup period.  
The average energy cost per transmitted bit decreases with increasing packet size.

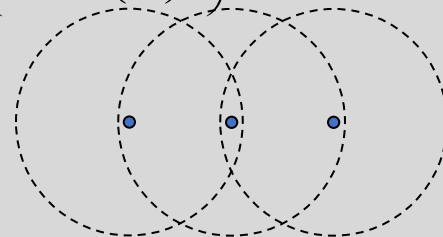
## 3. Energy Consumption

## 5. Multi-Hop Communication

- $E \sim d^n$
- $E$ : energy required for communication,  $d$ : distance,  $n$ : path loss factor
- $h$ : number of hops
- hop distance =  $d / h$
- $E(h, d)$ : Energy needed for multi-hop communication, depending on how many hops are used
- $\alpha$ : sum of distant-independent components of communication power, e.g., receiver, bias current, startup
- $\beta$ : sum of distant-dependent terms, e.g. power amplifier, path loss



$$E(h, d) = h \left( \alpha + \beta \left( \frac{d}{h} \right)^n \right)$$



# Thanks

## for Your Attention

**Prof. Dr. Torsten Braun, Institut für Informatik**

Bern, 01.03.2021

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