



Aalto University  
School of Engineering

# Other actuators

*KON-C2004 Mechatronics Basics*  
*Raine Viitala 19.11.2024*

# Feedback

These exercises were really fun and interesting. The difficulty was on point in my opinion.

Exercises were ok but I didn't like the Fourier Analysis assignment. Got a mental breakdown from that one but I guess I learned something which was good.

This weeks exercise was great. I especially appreciated the fourier transform exercise, it gave me a greeat intuition for what the fourier transform does and why it is useful. P.S. can there be a whole course about only lithography and ASML machines? I volunteer as TA.

reliant on correct completion of last exercise

The exercise are amazing and great to solve them but would like more sessions so we can get the help needed.

👍 good exercise

fun and enjoyable

Very difficult but still doable

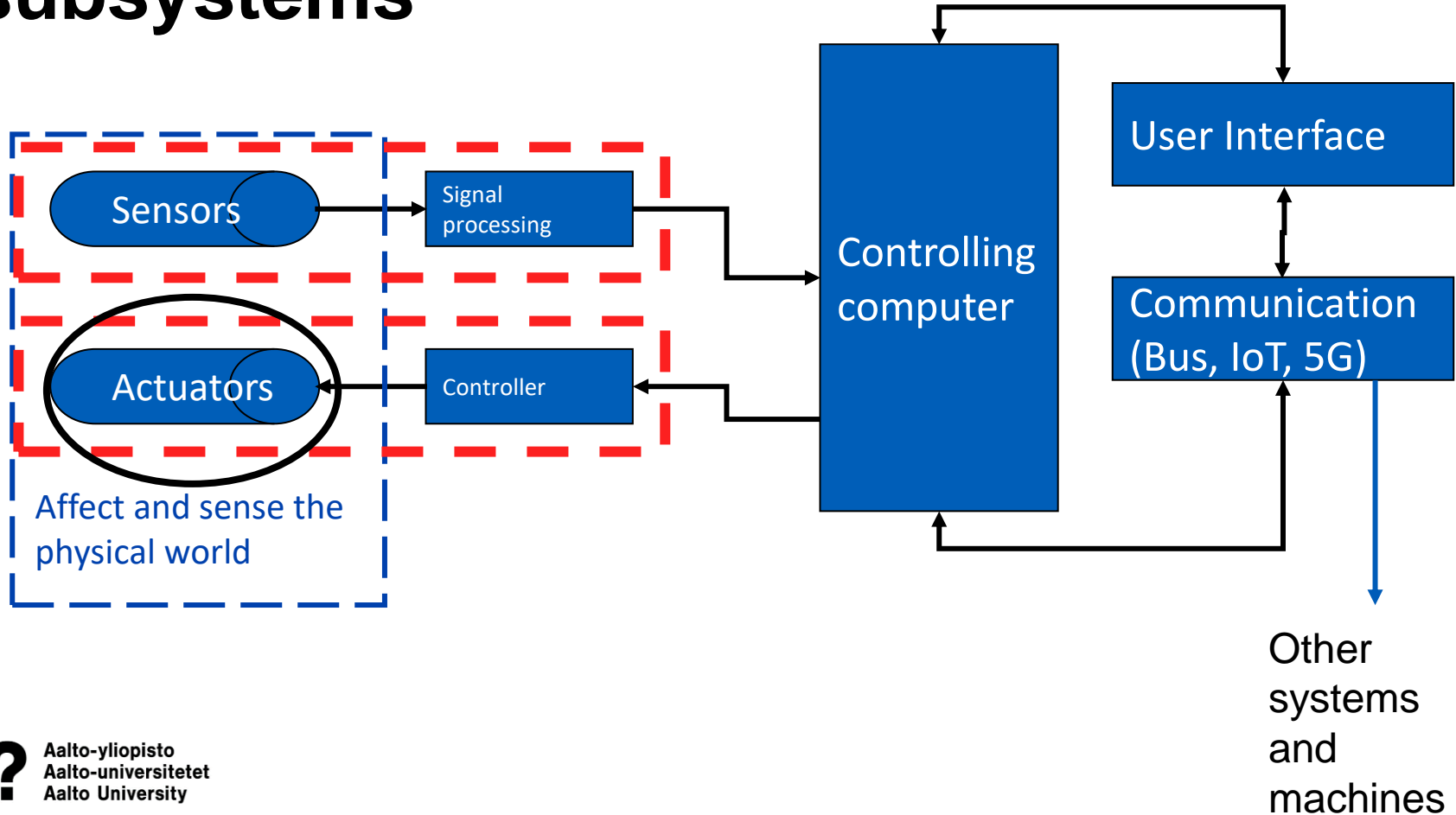
- More readable formating for the instructions, please. For example bullet points instead of wall of text.

This weeks exercises felt easier, i feel suspicious. Overall enjoyed the simulink exercise.

When do the hard exercises begin?

Sick

# Mechatronic machine - subsystems



# Lecture overview & learning outcome

## Pneumatics

### Linear motion with electromagnetic devices

- *Conversion from rotary motion*
- *Solenoid*
- *Voice coil*
- *Linear electric motors*

### Active materials

- *Piezoelectric actuators*
- *Magnetorheological fluid*

### MEMS actuators

→ Know the operating principle of multiple "other actuators"



# Pneumatics

# Pneumatics

**Cheap actuators**

**Moderate forces**

**Clean and safe**

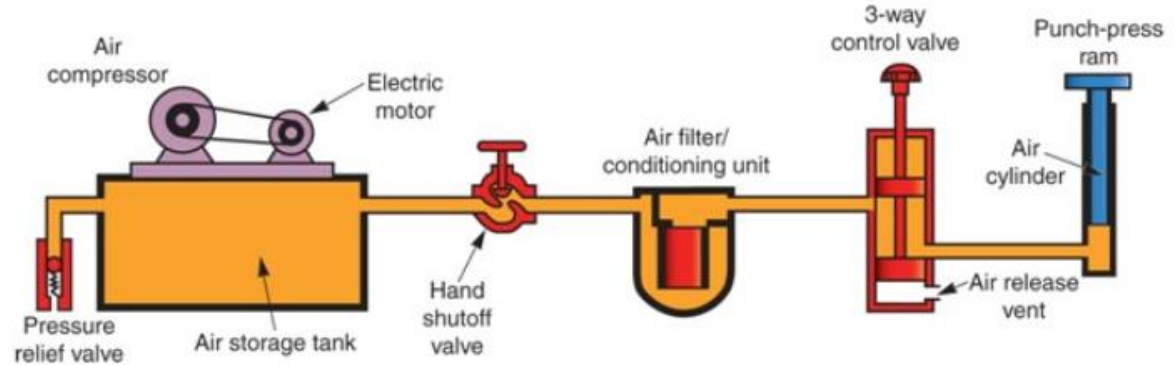
- *Food industry*
- *Oil industry*

**Fast, repetitive motions**

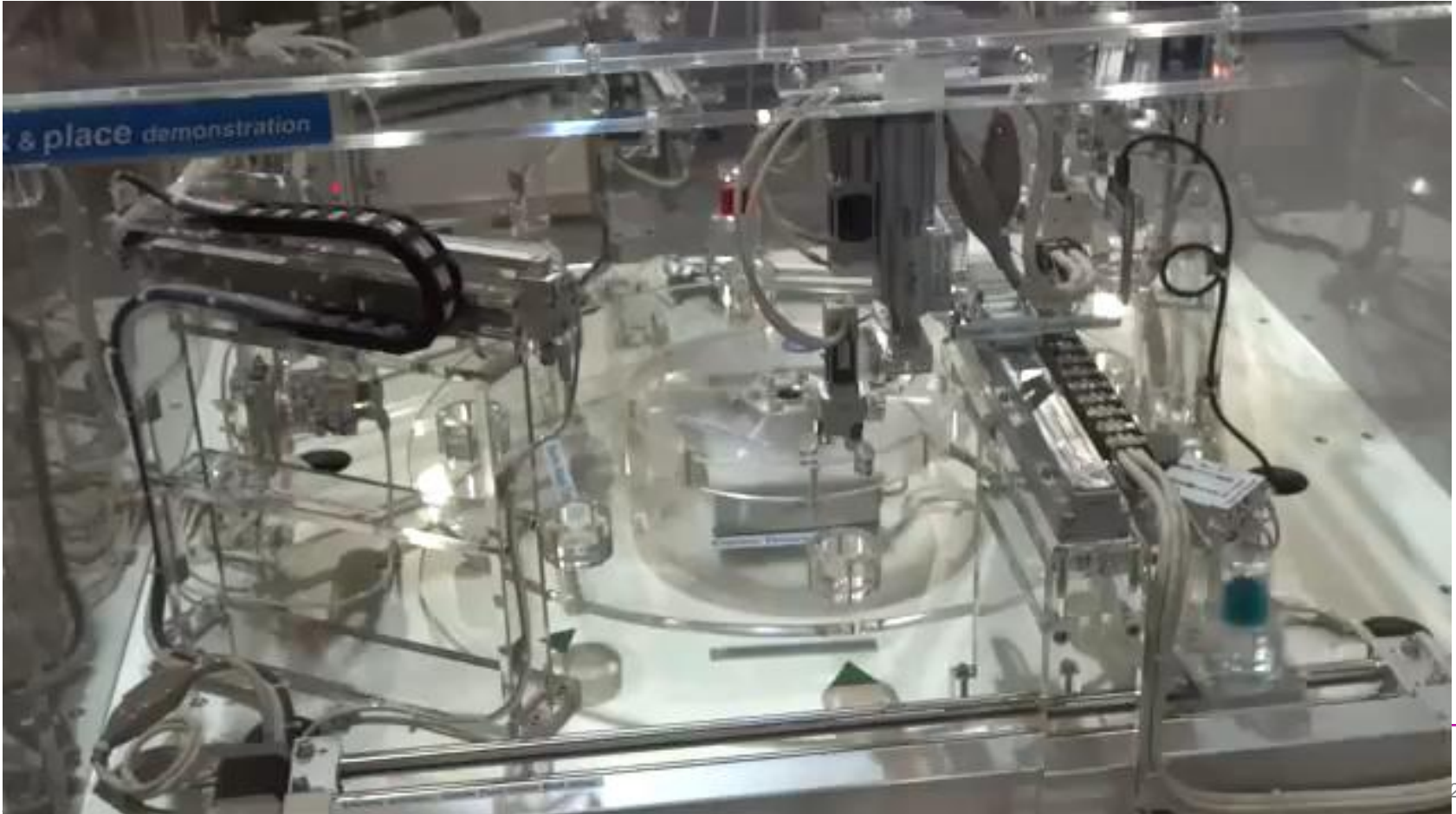
- *Gripping, stamping, valve actuators etc.*

**Usually open loop because of compressibility**

- *Movements against a mechanical stop*
- *Servosystems also possible*



# Pneumatic example



# Air supply

## Supply pressure

- *Typical range 2-10 bars (0.2-1 MPa)*
- *Usually 6-7 bars*

## Components

- *Air compressor*
- *Filter, dryer*
- *Storage tank*

## Low system efficiency

- *Heat produced by the compressor*
- *Leaks in piping*





# Pneumatic cylinders

**Force = pressure \* piston area**

**Single or double acting**

**Force usually < 10 kN**

**Stroke 1-3000 mm**

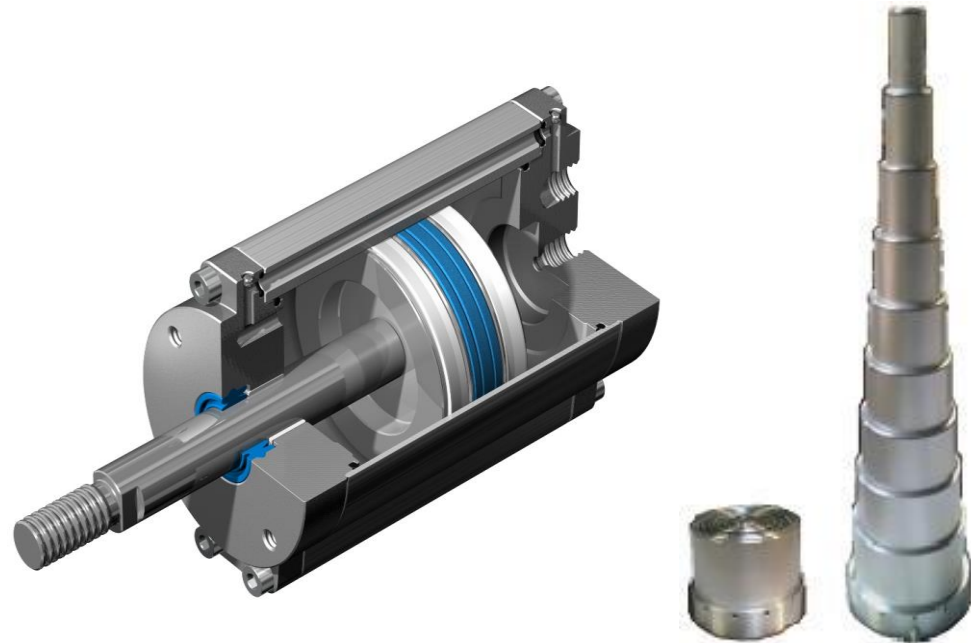
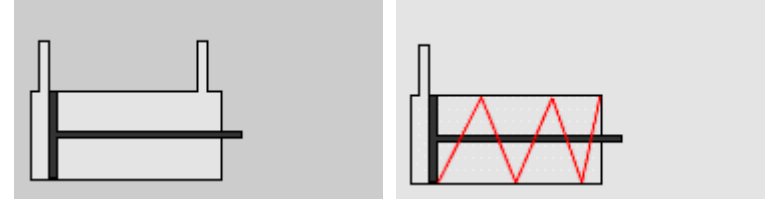
**Rodless**

- *Very long strokes*

**Telescope**

- *Long stroke, compact when retracted*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pneumatic\\_cylinder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pneumatic_cylinder)

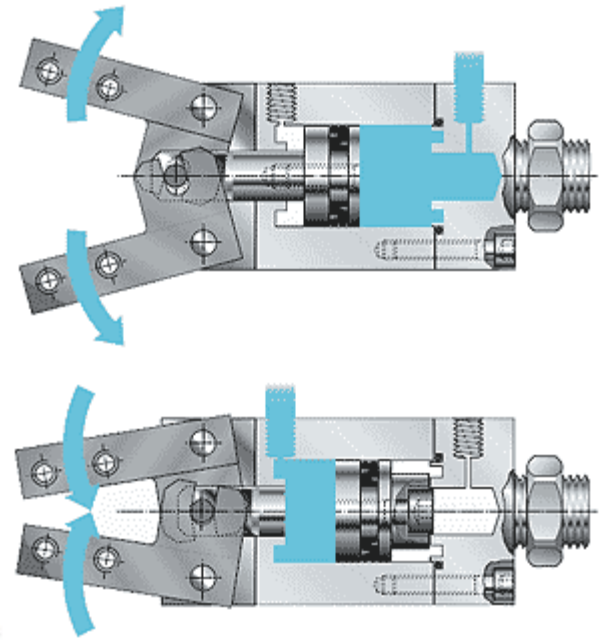


<http://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/screenshots/3366/original.jpg>

# Pneumatic grippers

## "Cylinder" grippers

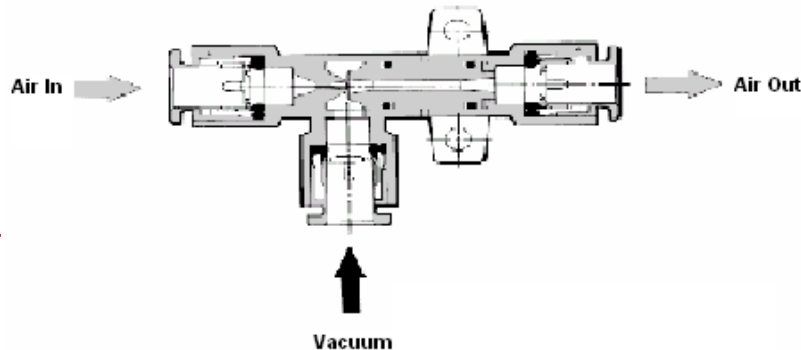
- *Clamps or tooling jaws*
- *"Fingers"*



## Vacuum grippers

- *Vacuum created with ejector*

Single Stage Ejector





# Pneumatic muscles and bellows

**Single acting**

**High force**

**Short stroke**

**Bellows**

- *Forces can be over 200 kN*
- *Short stroke <0,5 m*

**Muscles**

- *Maximum force up to a few kilonewtons*
- *Stroke ~25 % of nominal length*



<http://pneumatics-en.timmer-pneumatik.de/artikel/artbild/maxi/ZHO-SP2.jpg>



<http://www.boblan.de/pictures/FESTO-FluidicMuscleInflated.jpg>



# Pneumatic muscles





# Linear motion with electric devices

# Converting rotation to linear movement: Screws

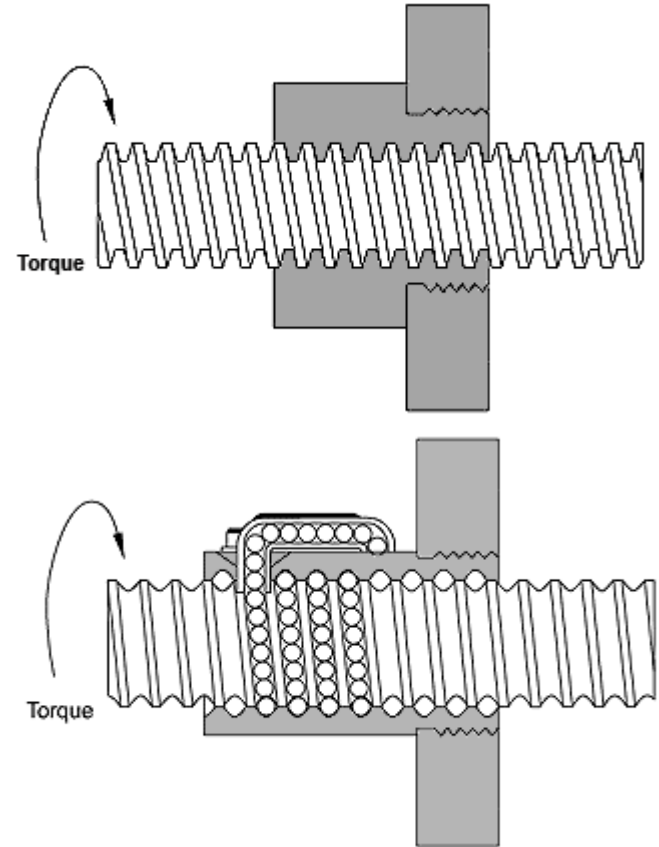
<http://www.roton.com/page.aspx?id=28>

## Lead screw

- *Nut with internal thread*
- *Friction caused by sliding*
  - Not for continuous use

## Ball screw

- *Nut with grooves and ball bearings*
  - Larger size
- *High force - minimal friction*
- *High accuracy*





# Lead screw example

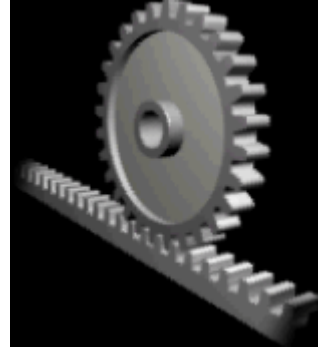


# Converting rotation to linear movement: Gears and belts

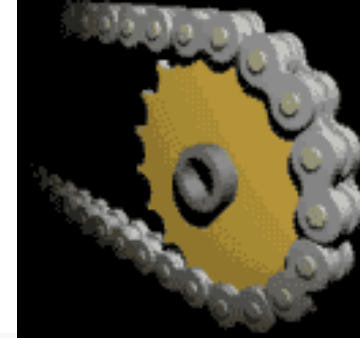
## Rack & pinion

- *Rack = linear gear*
- *Pinion = circular gear*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rack\\_and\\_pinion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rack_and_pinion)



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roller\\_chain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roller_chain)

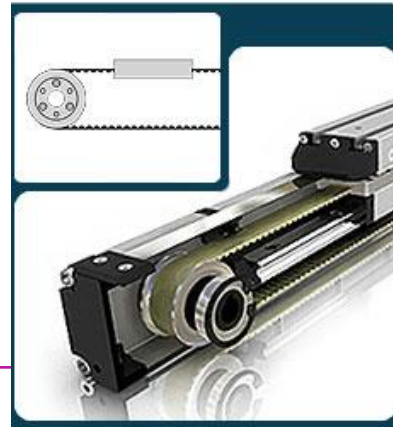


## Chain & sprocket

## Belt

- *Timing belt*
- *Flat belt*

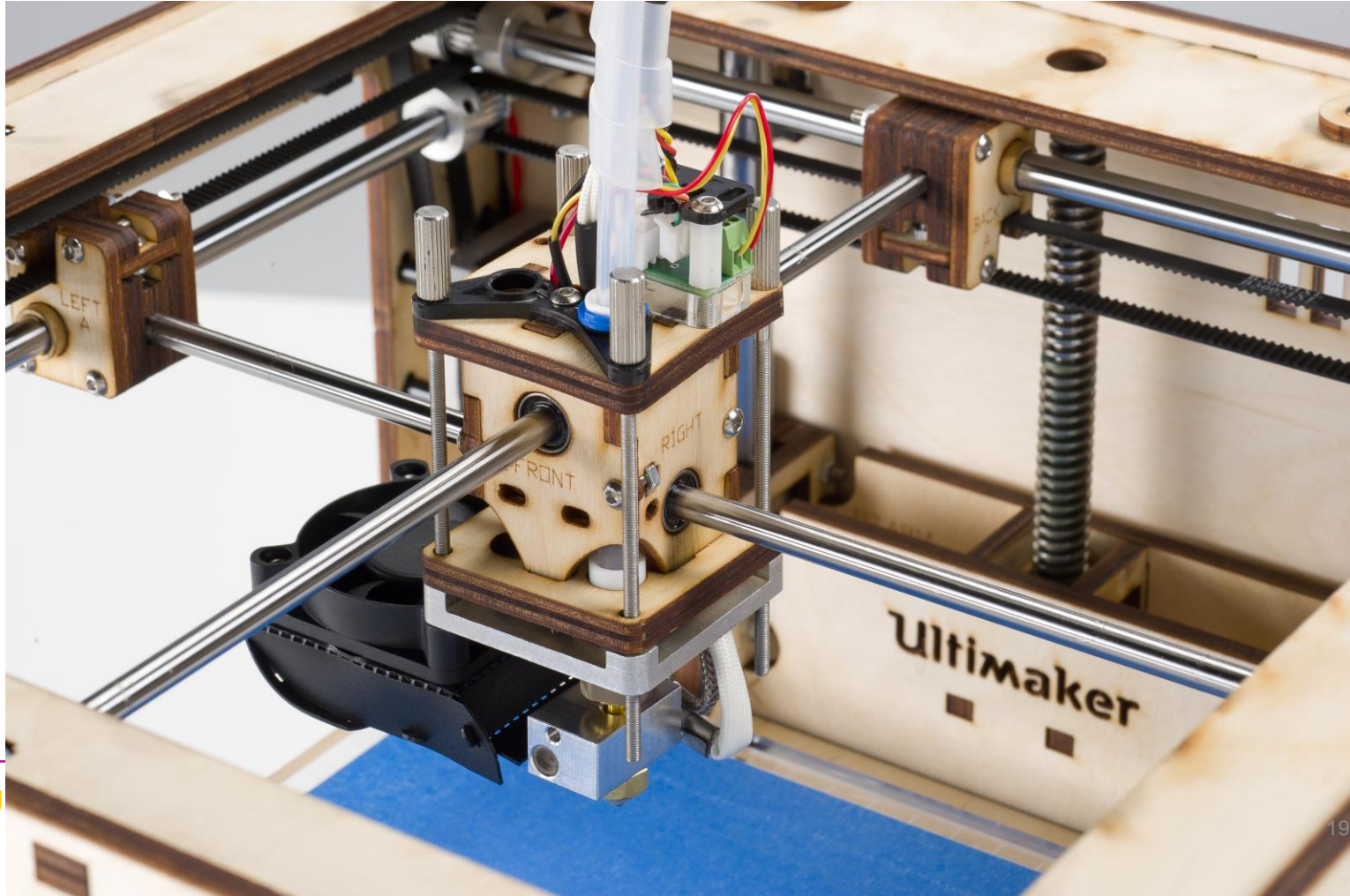
## Cam



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cam>

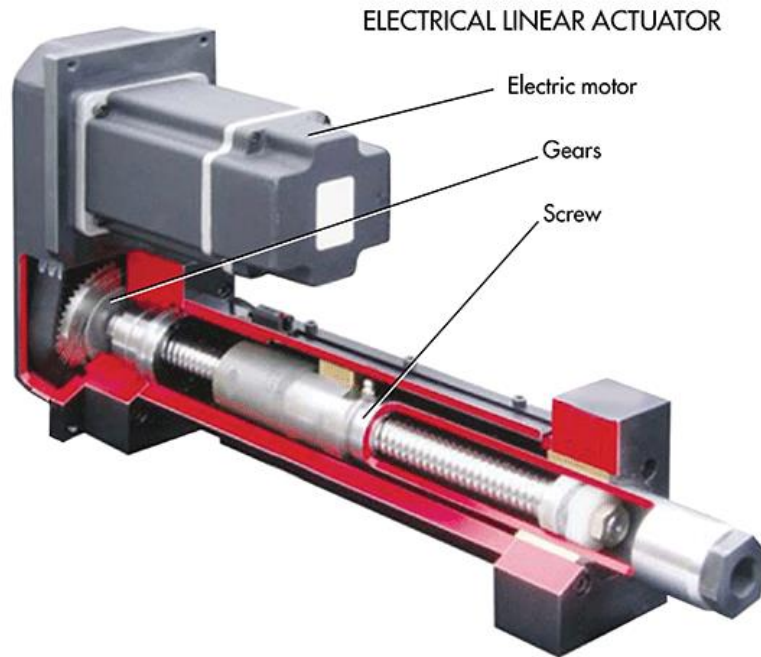
<http://www.pbcllinear.com/Blog/How-to-Adjust-Belt-Tension-on-an-MT-Series-Actuator>

# Example: Ultimaker 3D printer





# Electric linear actuator



<http://machinedesign.com/linear-motion/what-s-difference-between-pneumatic-hydraulic-and-electrical-actuators>



<http://www.iai-gmbh.de/en/press-and-media/press-information/press-informationen-newsreader/items/x-y-z-electric-cylinders-take-the-air-out-of-linear-motion.html>

19.11.2024

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# Solenoid

End to end linear movement

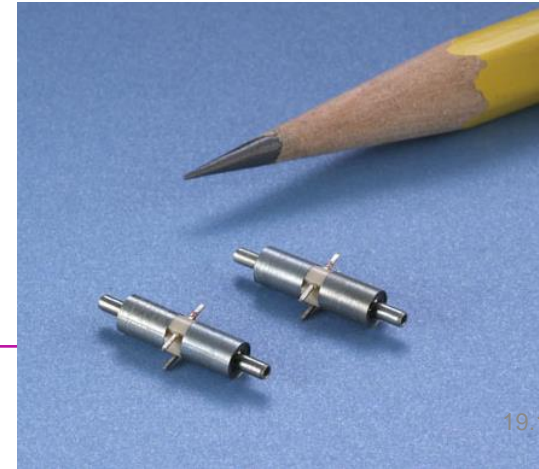
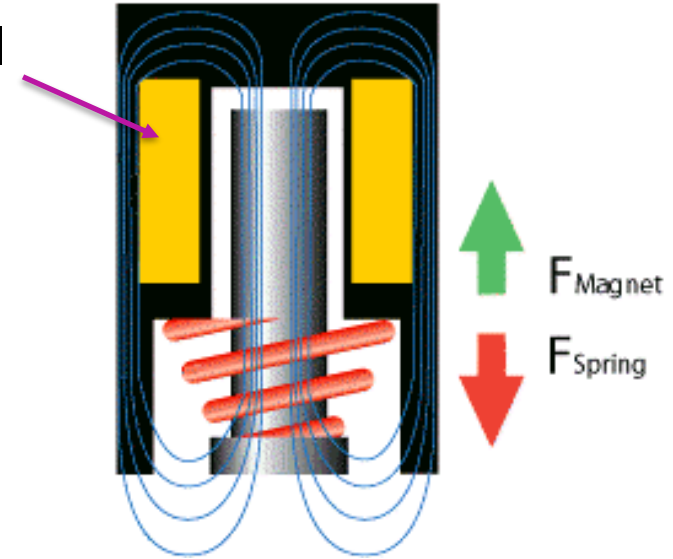
Larger movement -> smaller force

Single acting

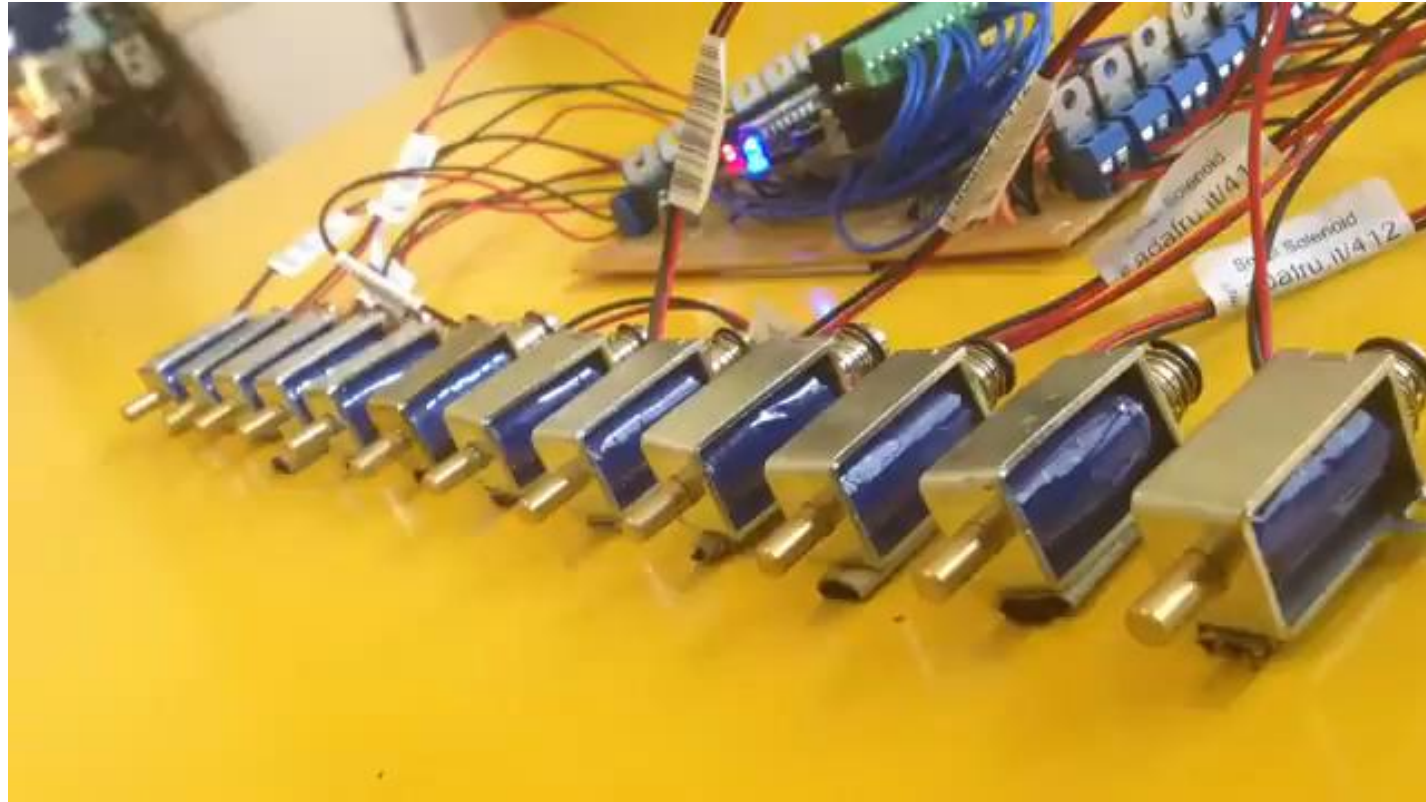
- *Other direction with a return spring  
or another solenoid*

Often used as actuators for  
hydraulic and pneumatic valves

coil



# Solenoid example



# Voice coil

**High force - up to kilonewtons**

**Stroke up to a few centimeters**

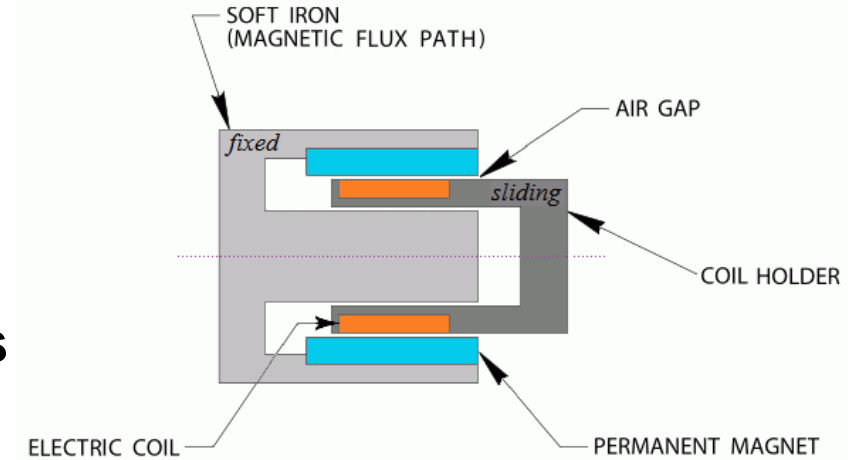
**Low moving mass – high dynamics**

**Accurate position control**

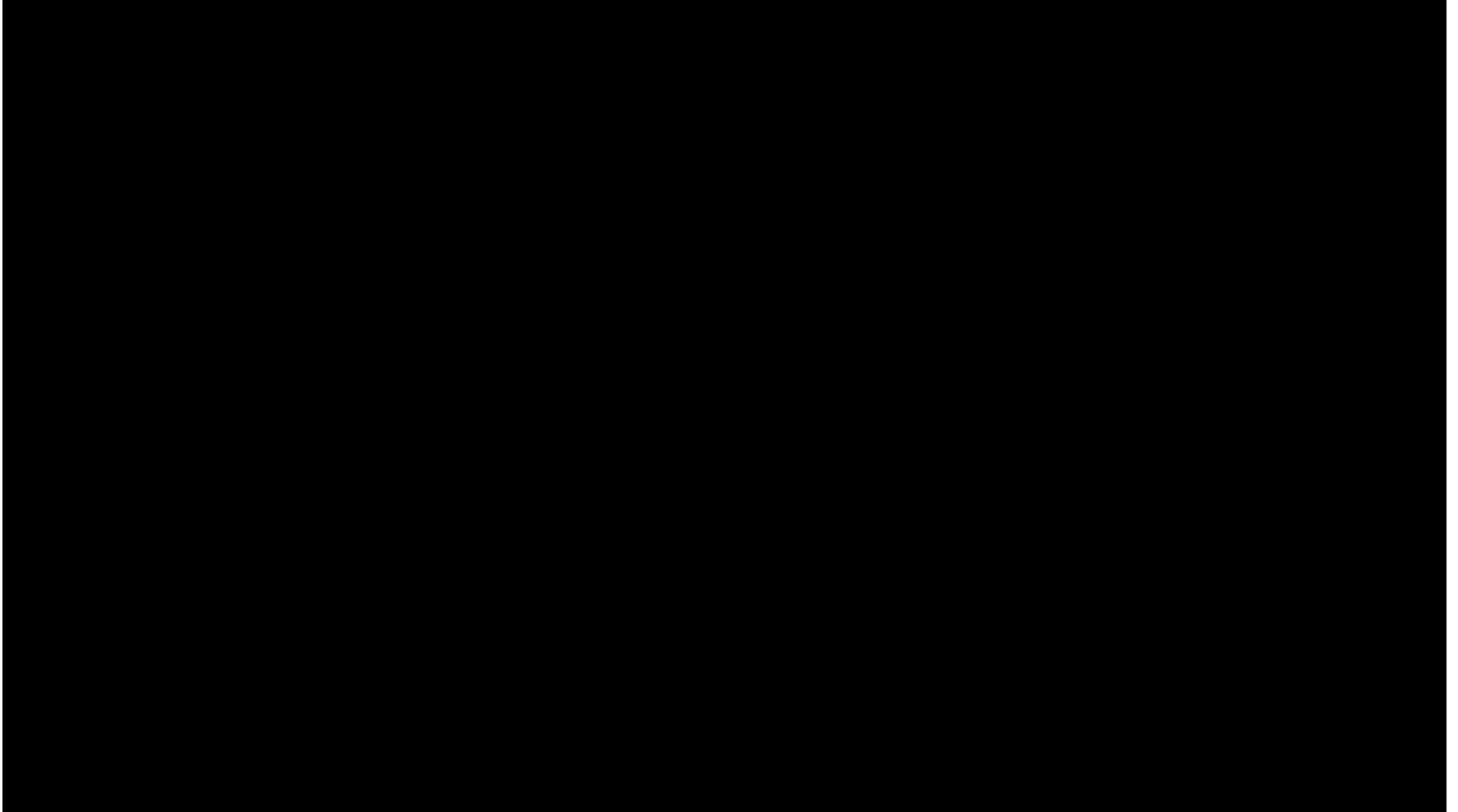
- *with internal or external position feedback sensors*

**Used for example in speakers and hard disks**

**Permanent magnet and coil**



# Voice coil example





# Voice coil principle

**PI**

# Linear motors

**Moving coils on a rail of magnets**

**High speed – up to 6 m/s**

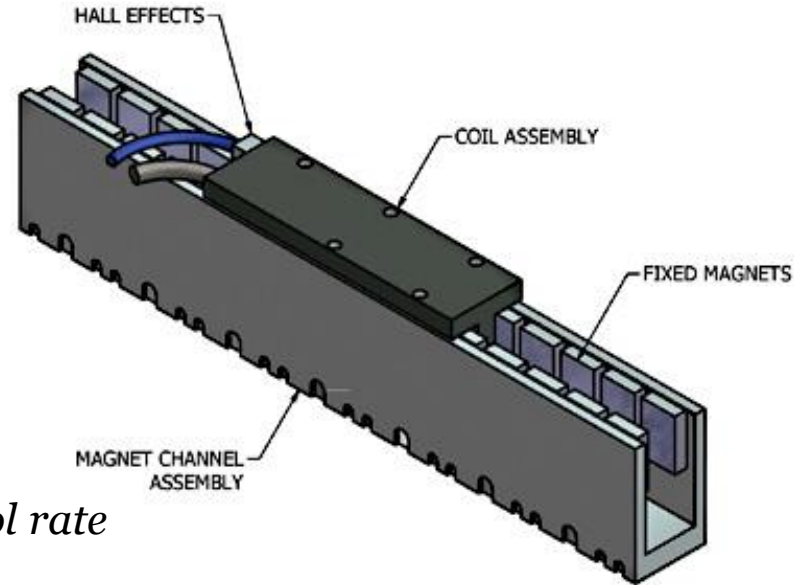
**High accuracy**

- *Depending on feedback resolution*
- *No backlash*
- *Stiffness depends on driving current and control rate*

**High reliability**

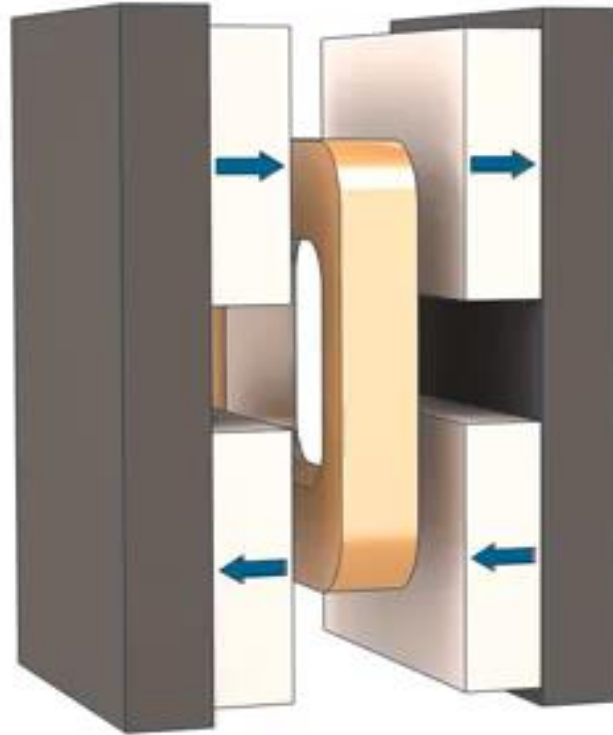
**Moderate force**

**Expensive**



# Linear motor principle

PI



# Linear motor example



# Active materials

# Piezoelectric stack actuators

## Very high force / size

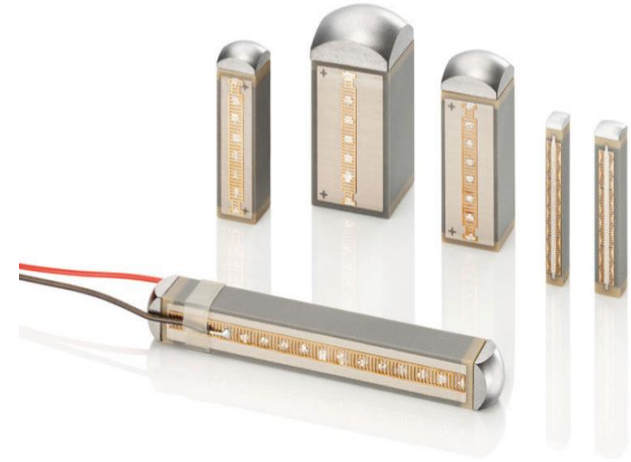
- For example  $\varnothing 10$  mm actuator  $\rightarrow 1$  kN
- Comparable to hydraulics

## Very low displacement

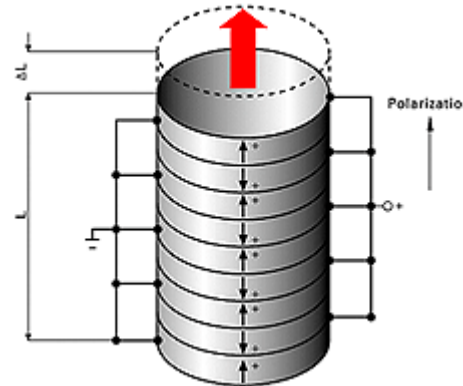
- About 0,1 % of length – 1  $\mu\text{m}$  per 1 mm
- Positioning resolution in nanometers
- Can be amplified  $\rightarrow$  reduced stiffness and dynamics

## High dynamics

- Sub-millisecond response
- Frequencies up to 100 kHz



[http://img.directindustry.com/images\\_di/photo-g/piezoelectric-actuators-linear-multilayer-13949-4710033.jpg](http://img.directindustry.com/images_di/photo-g/piezoelectric-actuators-linear-multilayer-13949-4710033.jpg)



<http://www.physikinstrumente.com/product-detail-page/p-604-202820.html>

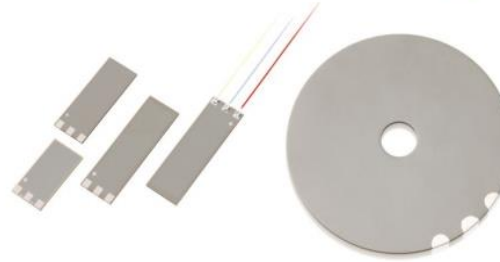
# Piezoelectric benders

## Larger movement

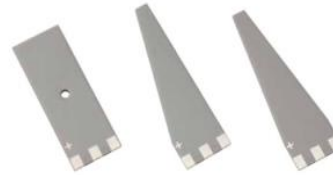
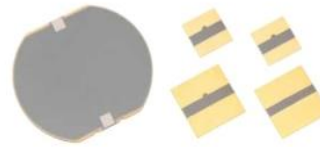
- *Up to a millimeter*

## Low force

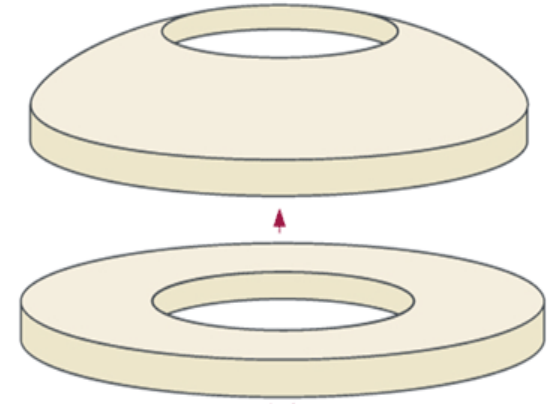
- *Benders  $< 2\text{ N}$*
- *Ring benders  $< 20\text{ N}$*



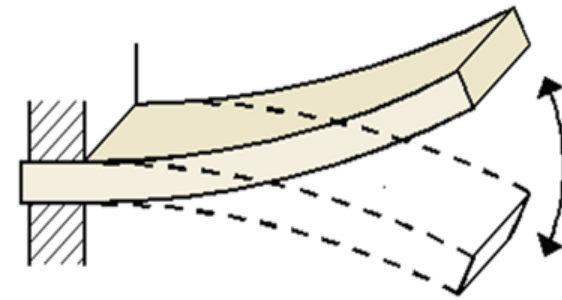
PI



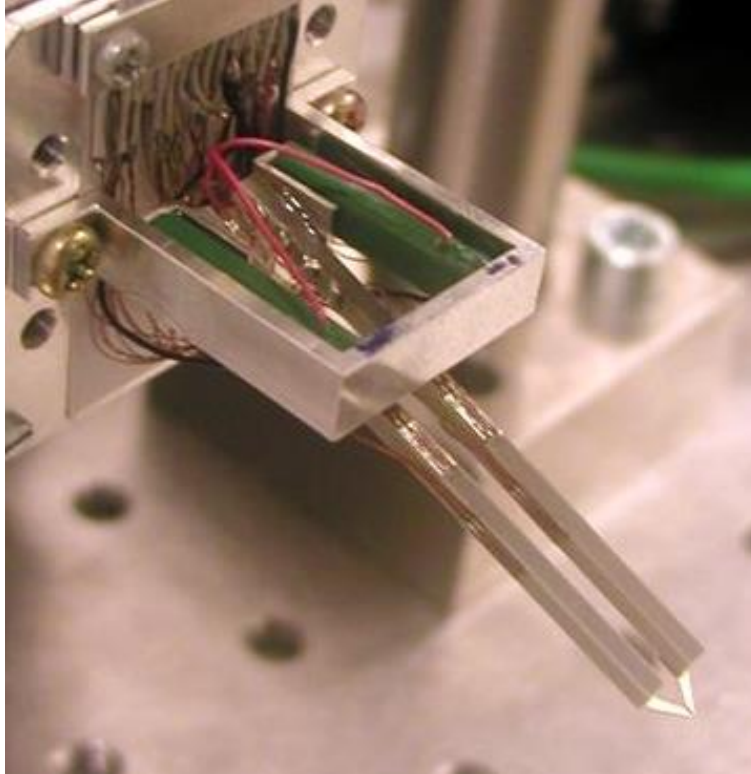
[http://www.opli.net/img/magazine/eo/2012/news/bimorph\\_pc\\_pi.jpg](http://www.opli.net/img/magazine/eo/2012/news/bimorph_pc_pi.jpg)



<http://www.noliac.com/Actuators-7787.aspx>



# Piezo example application: micro gripper



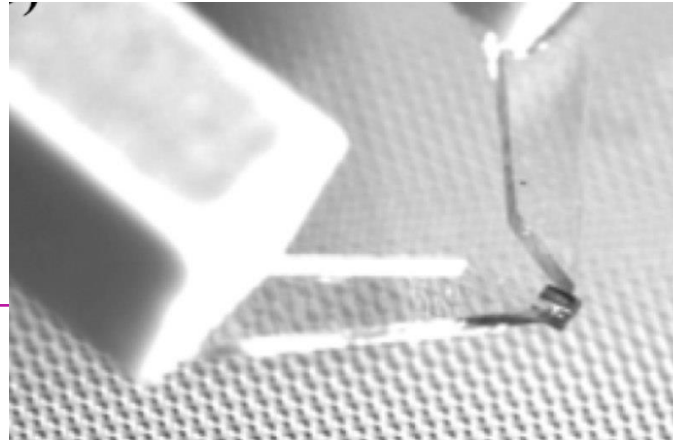
**Handles small components**

- *10-500  $\mu\text{m}$*

**2 double benders and 2 stacks**

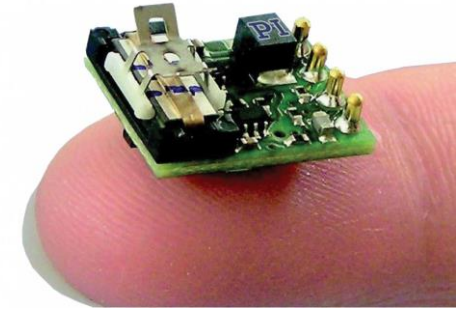
**6 degrees of freedom**

**10 strain gages  
for position feedback**





# Piezoelectric motor



## "Piezoelectric stepping motor"

- *Small steps -> high precision*

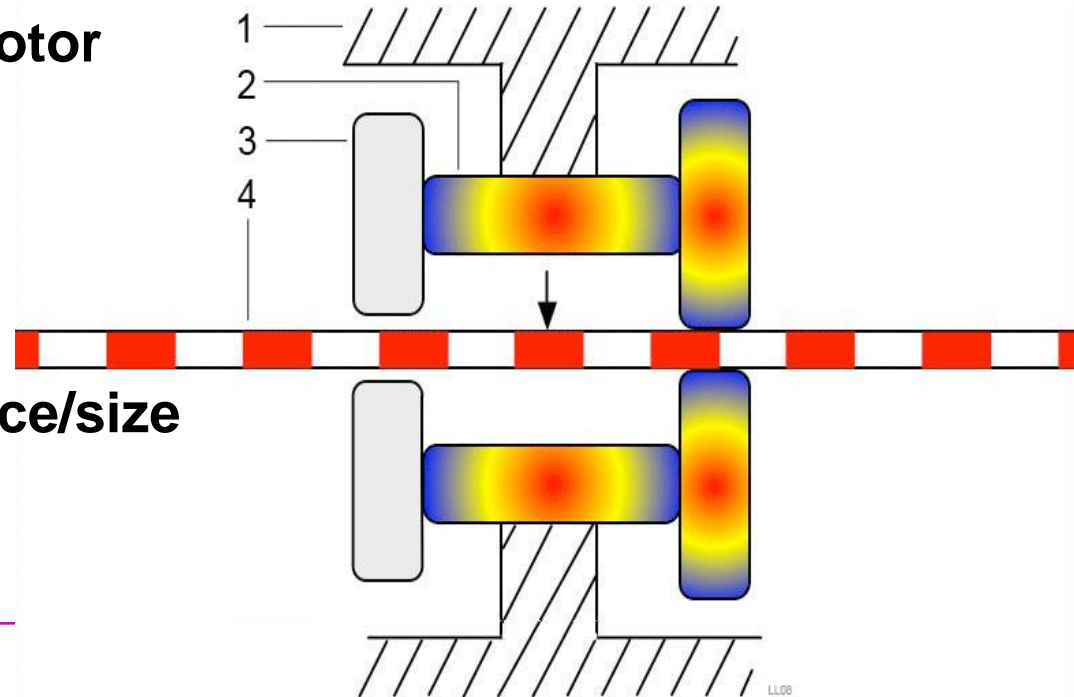
## Also known as ultrasonic motor

- *Stepping frequency >20 kHz*

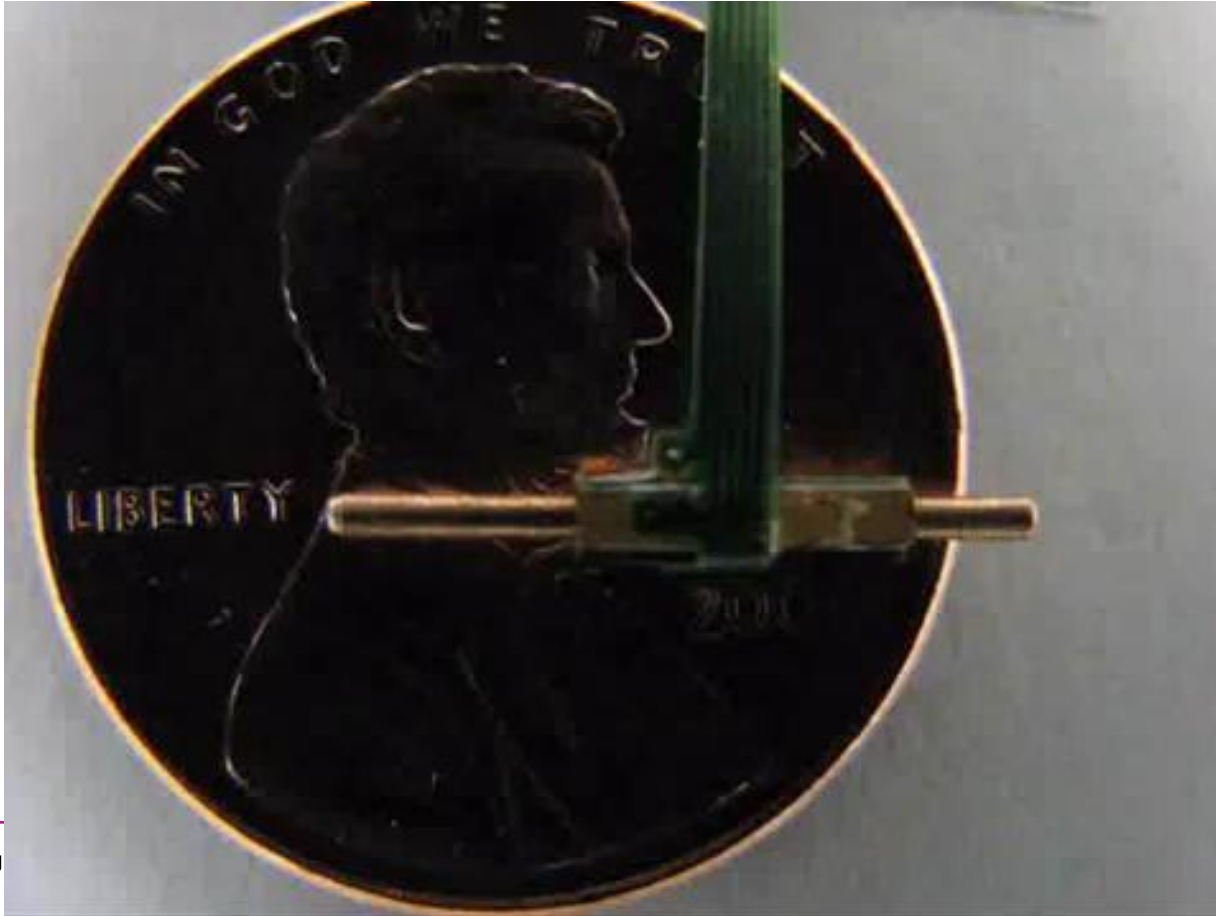
Used widely as camera  
autofocus motor

Rotating or linear

Low cost, compact, high force/size



# Miniature piezoelectric linear motor



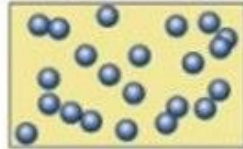
# Magnetorheological (MR) fluid

Hydraulic fluid (oil) with iron particles

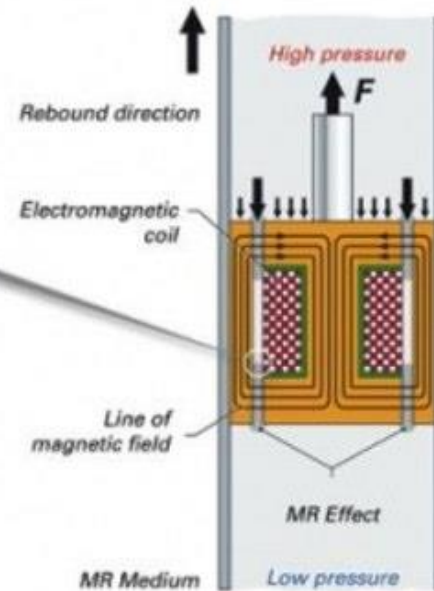
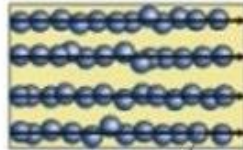
Magnetic field controls the yield stress ("viscosity") of the fluid

Applied in semiactive dampers

Magnetorheological fluid in non-magnetic state



Magnetorheological fluid in magnetic state



# Other active materials

## Magnetostrictive materials

- *Change in magnetic field – 0.1-0.2 % strain in material*
- *High force*

## Electrostrictive materials

- *Electric field*

## Shape memory alloys (SMA, memory metal)

- *Change in temperature -> change in shape*

## (Ferro-) Magnetic shape memory alloys

- *Change in magnetic field – up to 10 % change in dimensions*

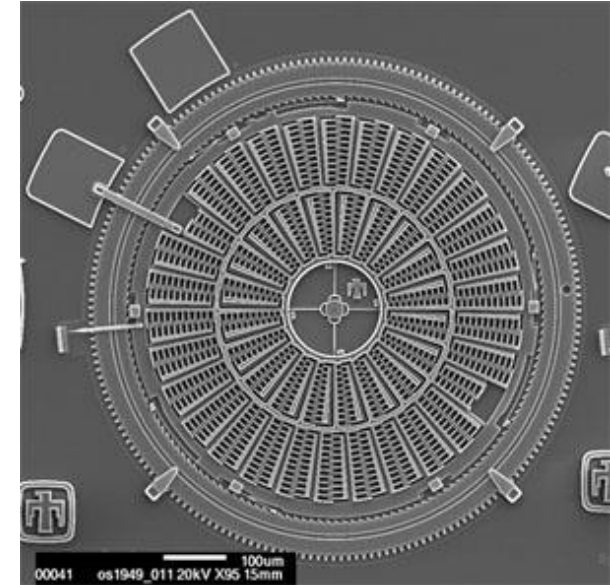
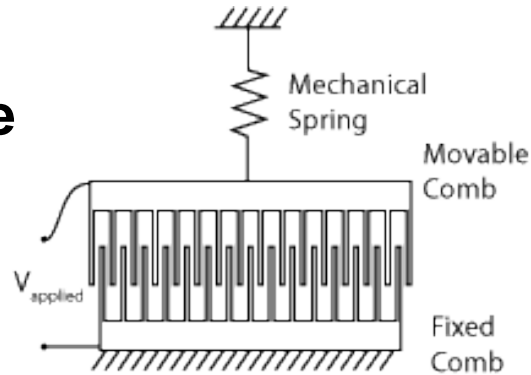
# MEMS actuators

# MEMS actuators

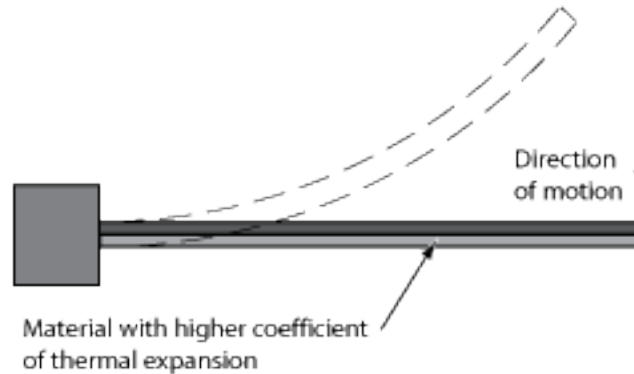
<https://www.mems.sandia.gov/about/actuators.html#ref4>

## Electrostatic comb drive

- Displacement max  
few micrometers

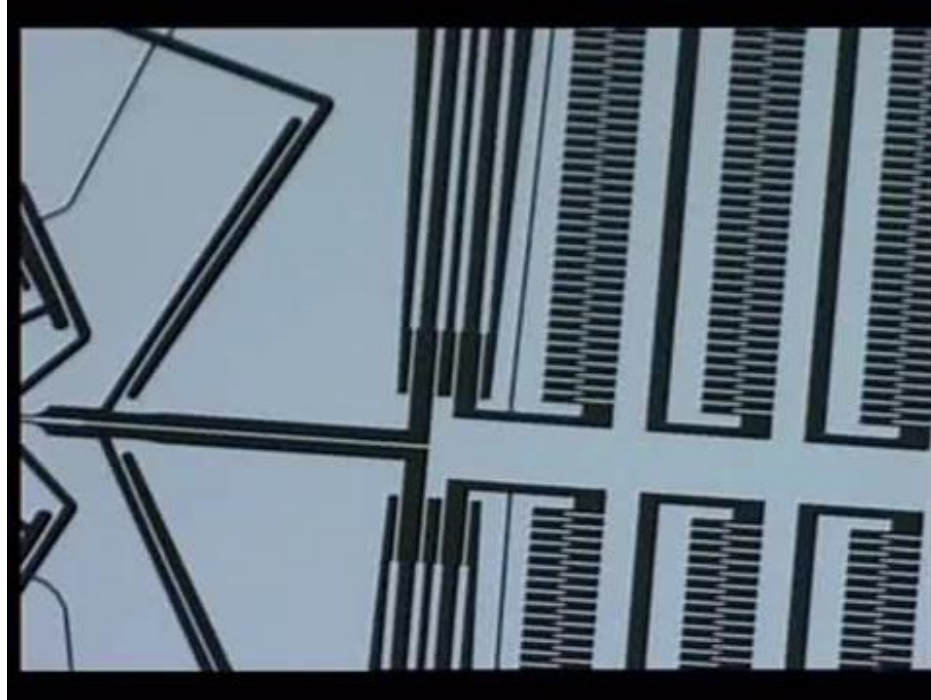


## Thermal actuators



<http://compliantmechanisms.byu.edu/content/introduction-microelectromechanical-systems-mems>

# Comb drive



# MEMS stepper with integrated position sensor

## Single-mask stepper micromotor fabricated with SOI technology

Marc Stranczl, Edin Sarajlic, Hiroyuki Fujita,  
Martin A. M. Gijs, Christophe Yamahata

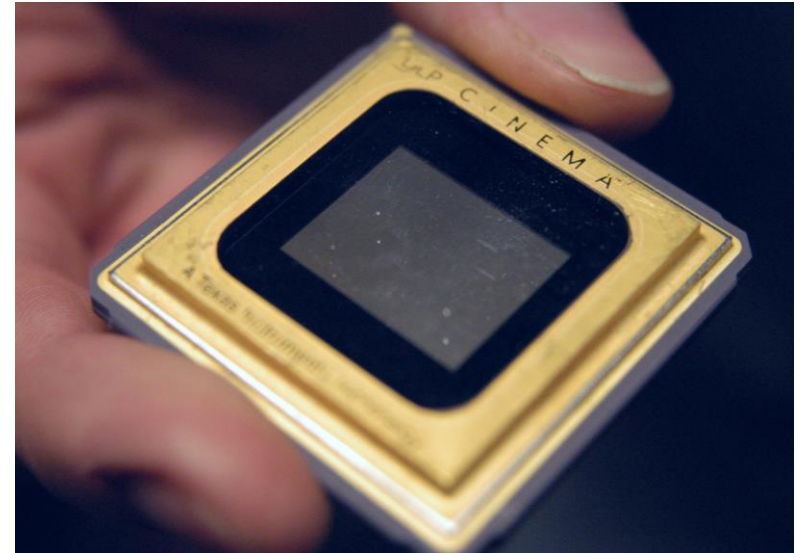
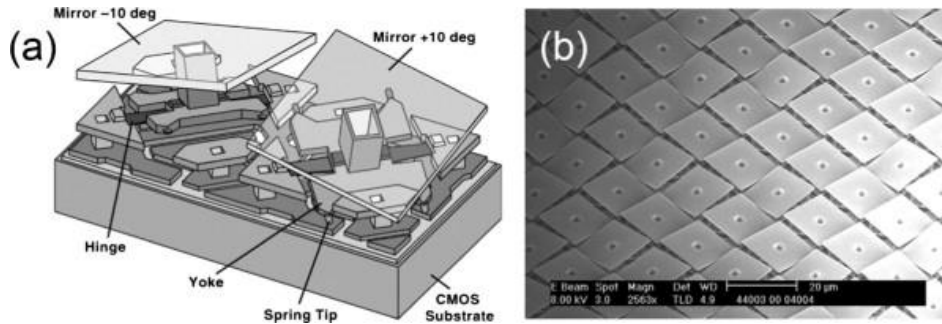
EPFL, IMT • 10/2011



# MEMS example: Digital micromirror device

## Digital micromirror device (DMD)

- *4k projector -> 8 million tiny rotatable mirrors*



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital\\_micromirror\\_device](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_micromirror_device)

# Summary

## **Pneumatics is widely used in factories**

- *Cheap, safe and robust*
- *Energy inefficient*

## **Solenoid vs voice coil**

## **Ball/lead screws vs linear motors**

## **Active materials have their niche applications**

## **MEMS open new possibilities**