

Pressure and fluid velocity measurement

IC 231 – Measurement & Instrumentation



Overview



1. What is pressure?
2. What is the physics of pressure in different media?
3. What is the difference between different pressure types?
4. How can we measure pressure? Two principles!
5. What are applications of pressure measurement sensors?

Overview



What is pressure?

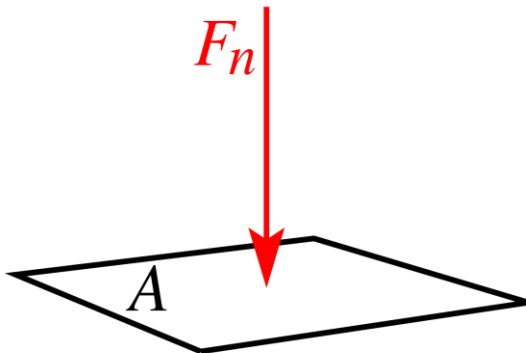


Surface of snow is stable up to a certain **force per unit area**. The function of snowshoes is to **distribute the weight force over a larger area**

→ Pressure is reduced and a person will not sink

$$\frac{\text{Force}}{\text{Area}} = \text{Pressure}$$

$$\frac{mg}{A} = \frac{F}{A} = p$$



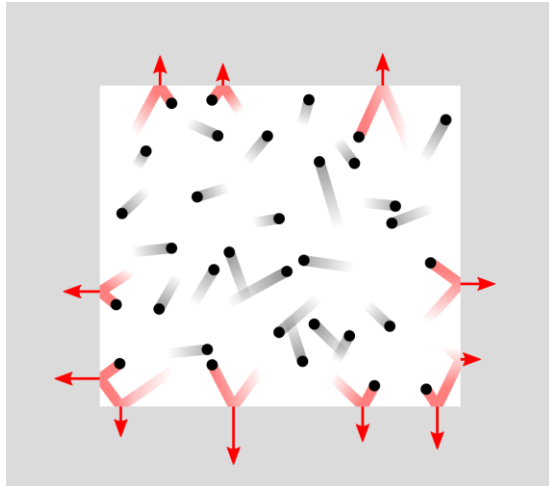
$$p = \lim_{dA \rightarrow 0} \frac{dF_n}{dA}$$

Pressure p is a:

- scalar quantity
- Proportional to force
- Inverse proportional to Area

Pressure of an ideal gas

Static pressure of an ideal gas:



$$p = \frac{nRT}{V}$$

p : pressure

n : Number of particles

R : ideal Gas constant

T : Temperature

V : Volume

Consequences for closed container:

Pressure increases with...

- increasing density ($n \uparrow$)
- Increasing temperature ($T \uparrow$)

Pressure decreases with...

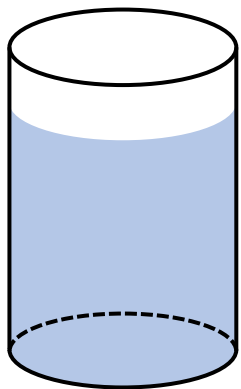
- increasing Volume ($V \uparrow$)

Assumption of an ideal gas:

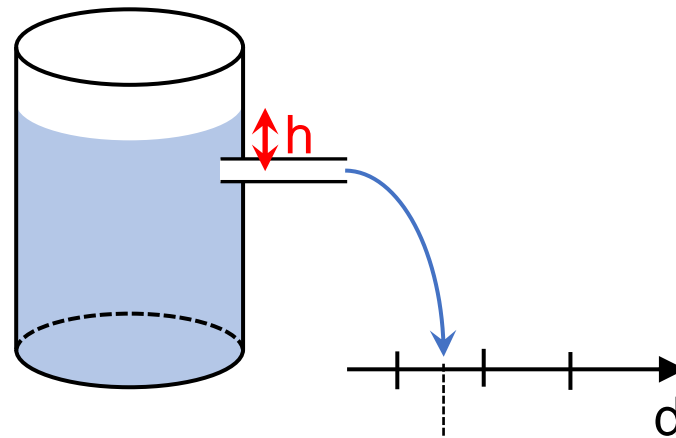
- There is no force between particles
- The collision between particles is frictionless (elastic)
- Large number of molecules

Hydrostatic pressure

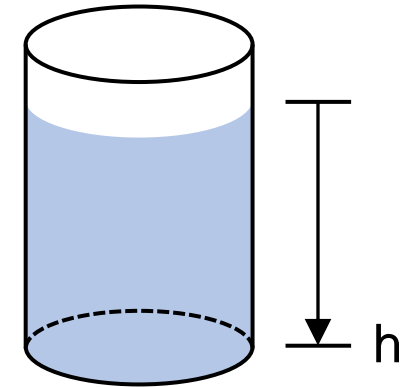
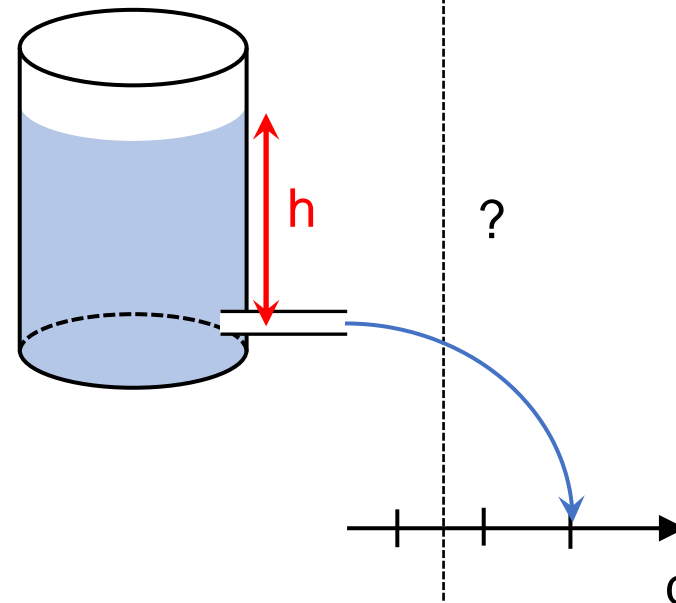
Water tank:



Case 1:



Case 2:

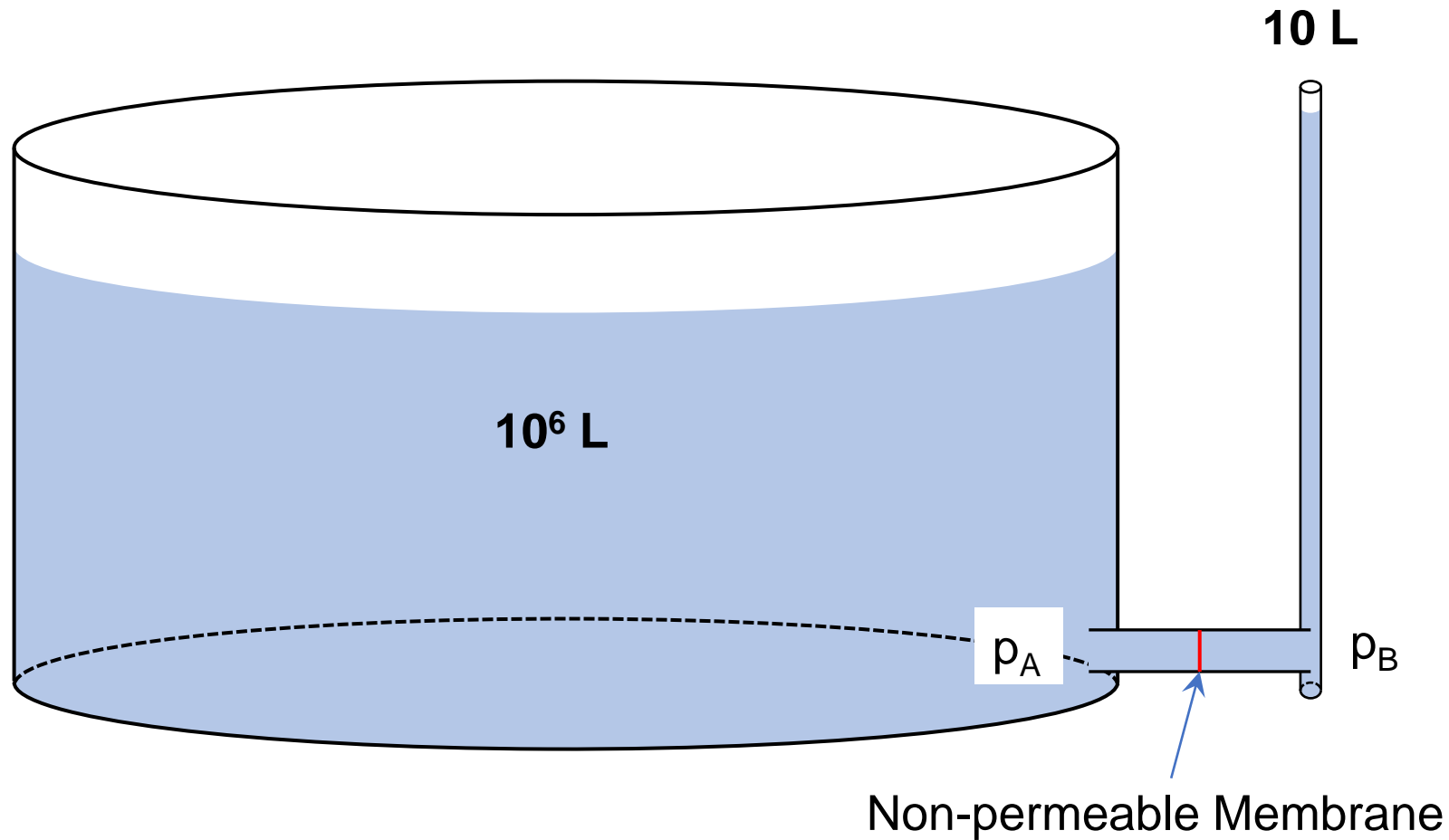


$$p(h) =$$

Assumptions:

- Liquid incompressible
- Cross section constant

Hydrostatic pressure

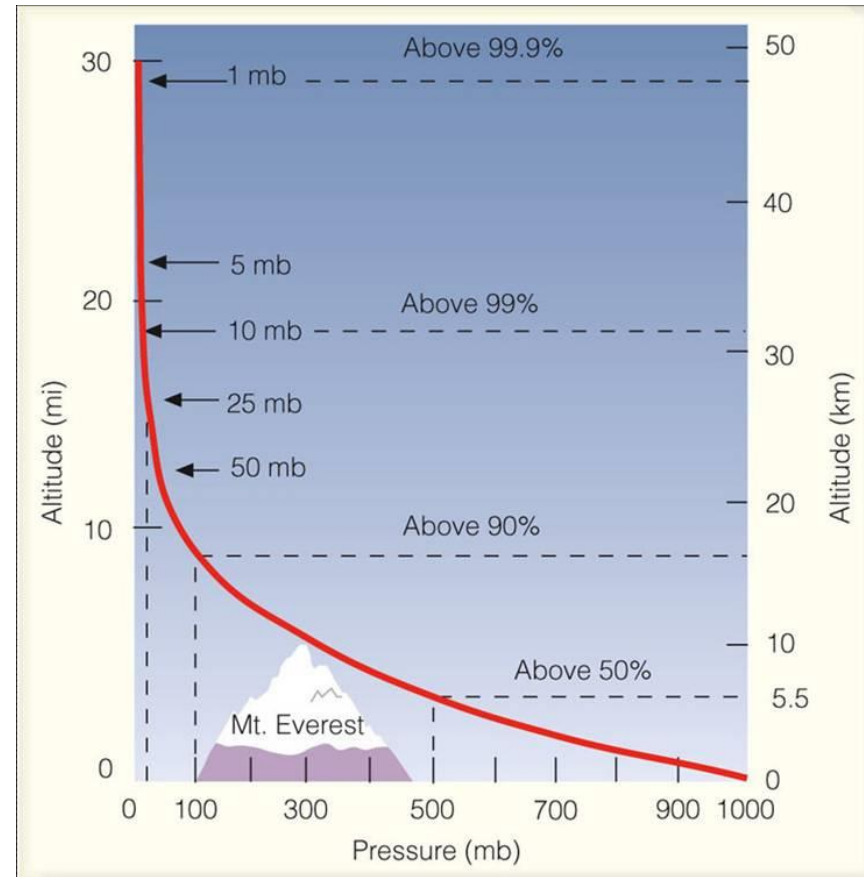
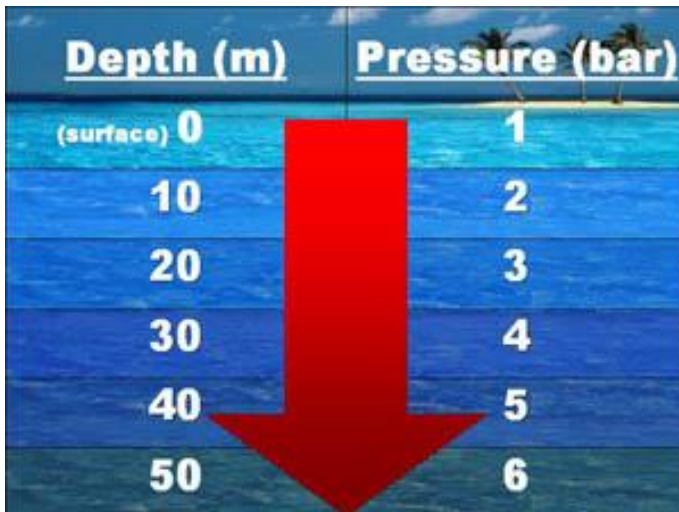


What will be the deflection of membrane?

- a) $p_A > p_B$
- b) $p_A = p_B$
- c) $p_A < p_B$

Correct answer: c)

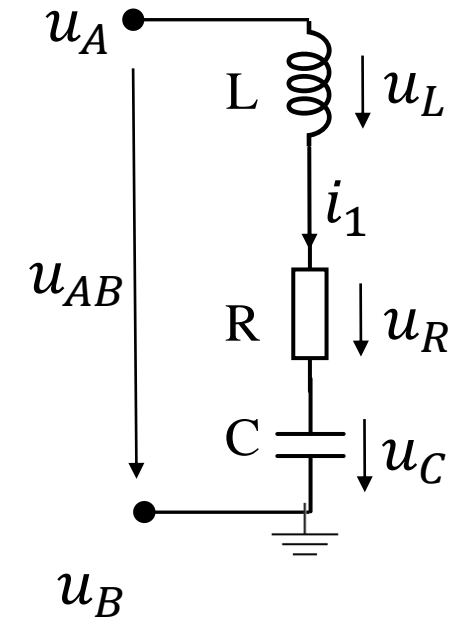
Pressure of water and atmosphere



Above ground we can assume a linear increase of atmospheric pressure with an decrease of 12 Pa per meter height.

$$1 \text{ Pa} = 1 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{m}^2}$$

Pressure and flow – Lumped models

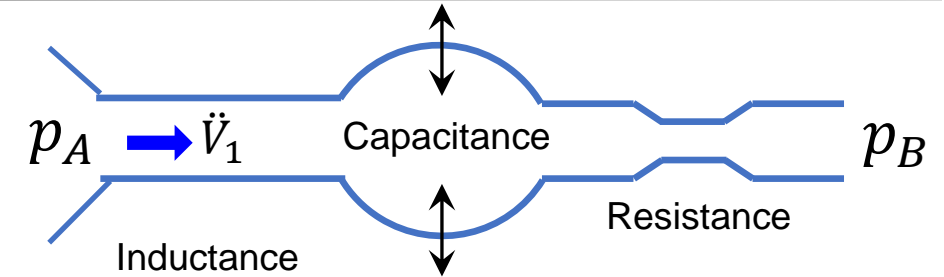


ODE:

$$L\ddot{q} + R\dot{q} + \frac{1}{C}q = u_1 \text{ with charge } q$$

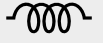





Using $i = \dot{q}$

$$L \frac{di}{dt} + Ri + \frac{1}{C} \int i dt = u_1$$



Fluid Inductance → Kinetic Energy of Mass flow
 Fluid Resistance → Pressure drop in pipes
 Fluid capacitance → Elastic elements that store fluid
 Fluidic current → Volume flow rate

→ A pressure difference between two points leads to a volume flow

Discipline	Effort	Flow	Inertance (Kinetic)			Resistance (Dissipative)			Compliance (Potential)		
			Symbol	Element	Equation	Symbol	Element	Equation	Symbol	Element	Equation
Generalized model	Ψ	$\dot{\zeta}$			$\Psi_I = M\dot{\zeta}$			$\Psi_R = D\dot{\zeta}$			$\Psi_C = K\zeta$
Electrical	Voltage u [V]	q [C] → Charge $\dot{q} = i$ [C/s = A] → current		Inductance L [H]	$u = L\ddot{q}$		Resistor R [Ω]	$u = R\dot{q}$		Capacitance C [F]	$u = \frac{1}{C}q$
Fluid	Pressure p [bar]	V [m ³] → Volume \dot{V} [m ³ /s] Volumetric flow rate*		Fluidic Inductance L [bar · (m ³ /s ²)) ⁻¹]	$\Delta p = L_h \dot{V}$		Fluidic resistance R [bar · (m ³ /s)) ⁻¹]	$\Delta p = R_f \dot{V}$		Fluidic Cap. C [m ³ · bar ⁻¹]	$\Delta p = \frac{1}{C}V$

Pressure and flow – Bernoulli equation

Balance equation for specific energy. Specific energy is the energy per unit mass ($\left[\frac{J}{kg}\right] = \left[\frac{m^2}{s^2}\right]$)

$$\frac{u^2}{2} + gh + \frac{p}{\rho} = \text{const.}$$

kinetic energy + gravitational energy + pressure energy = const

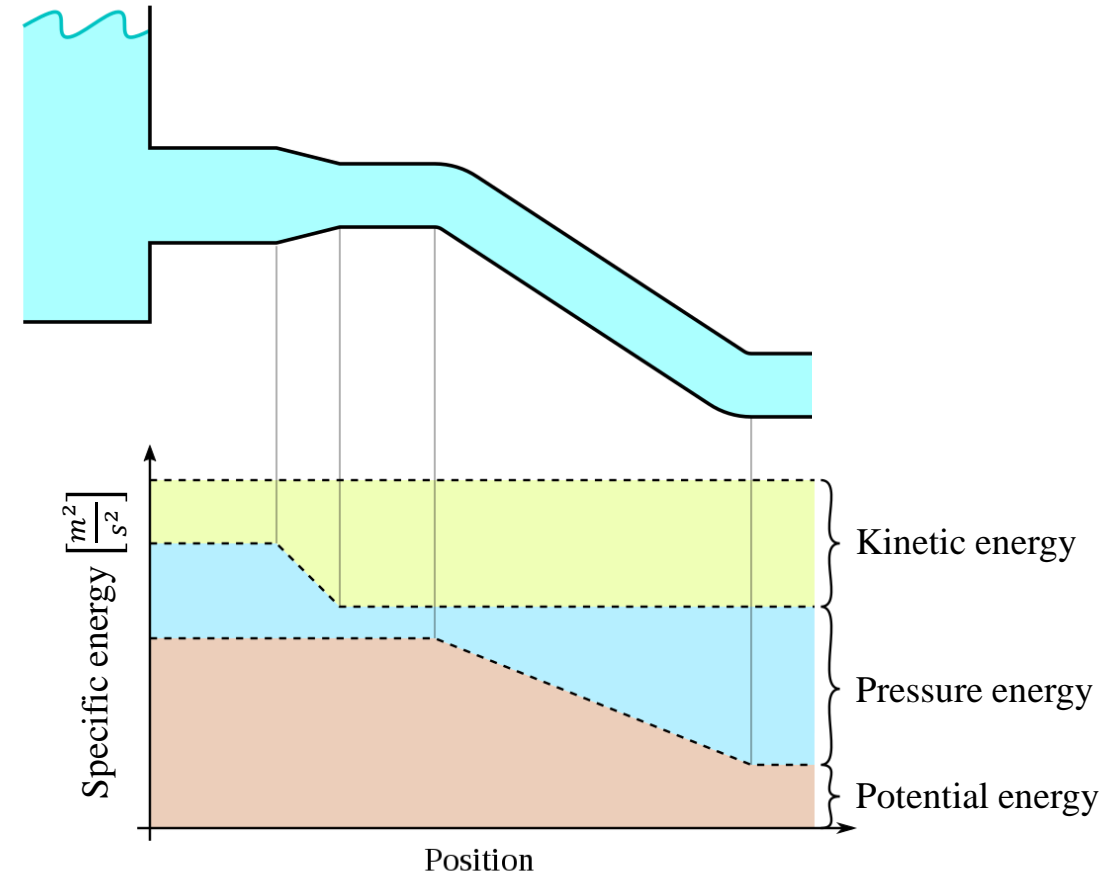
Assumptions:

- Incompressible fluid
- No friction

Multiplication with ρ yields a pressure equation:

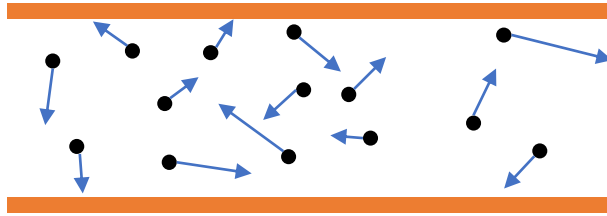
$$\rho \frac{u^2}{2} + \rho gh + p = \rho * \text{const}$$

kinetic pressure + hydrostatic pressure + internal static pressure = total pressure



Pressure and flow

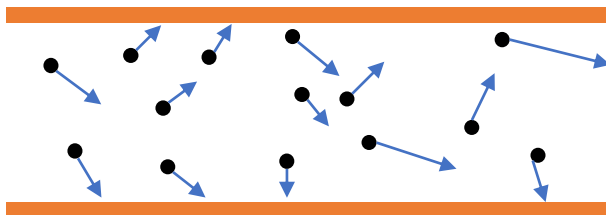
Resting fluid



→ Pressure is isotropic

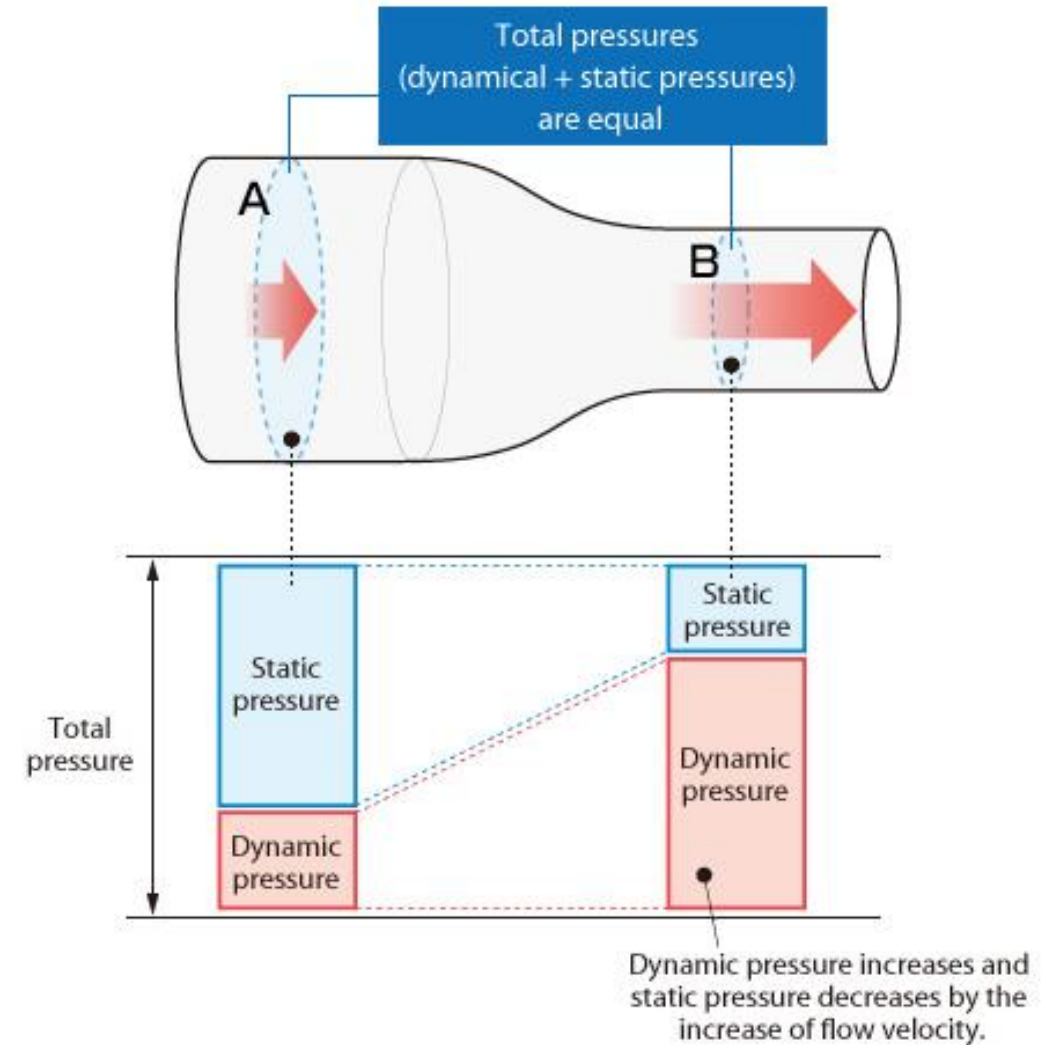
Vertical pressure \uparrow = horizontal pressure \rightarrow
Static pressure

Moving fluid

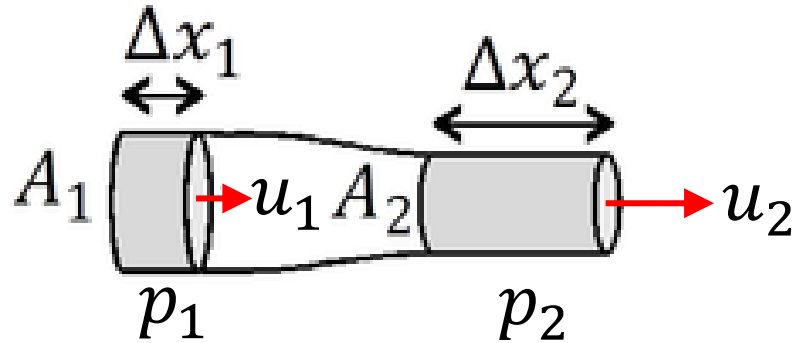


→ Pressure is anisotropic

Vertical pressure \uparrow \neq horizontal pressure \rightarrow
Static pressure Static + dynamic pressure



Pressure and flow



Incompressible fluid: Density is constant

$$\frac{\Delta m_1}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta m_2}{\Delta t} \rightarrow \frac{\rho \Delta V_1}{\Delta t} = \frac{\rho \Delta V_2}{\Delta t} \rightarrow \frac{\rho A_1 \Delta x_1}{\Delta t} = \frac{\rho A_2 \Delta x_2}{\Delta t}$$

➔ $A_1 u_1 = A_2 u_2$

$$\frac{A_1}{A_2} = \frac{u_2}{u_1}$$

u_i : Fluid velocity

25-05-2022

From Bernoulli's equation:

$$\rho \frac{u_1^2}{2} + \cancel{\rho g z} + p_1 = \rho \frac{u_2^2}{2} + \cancel{\rho g z} + p_2$$

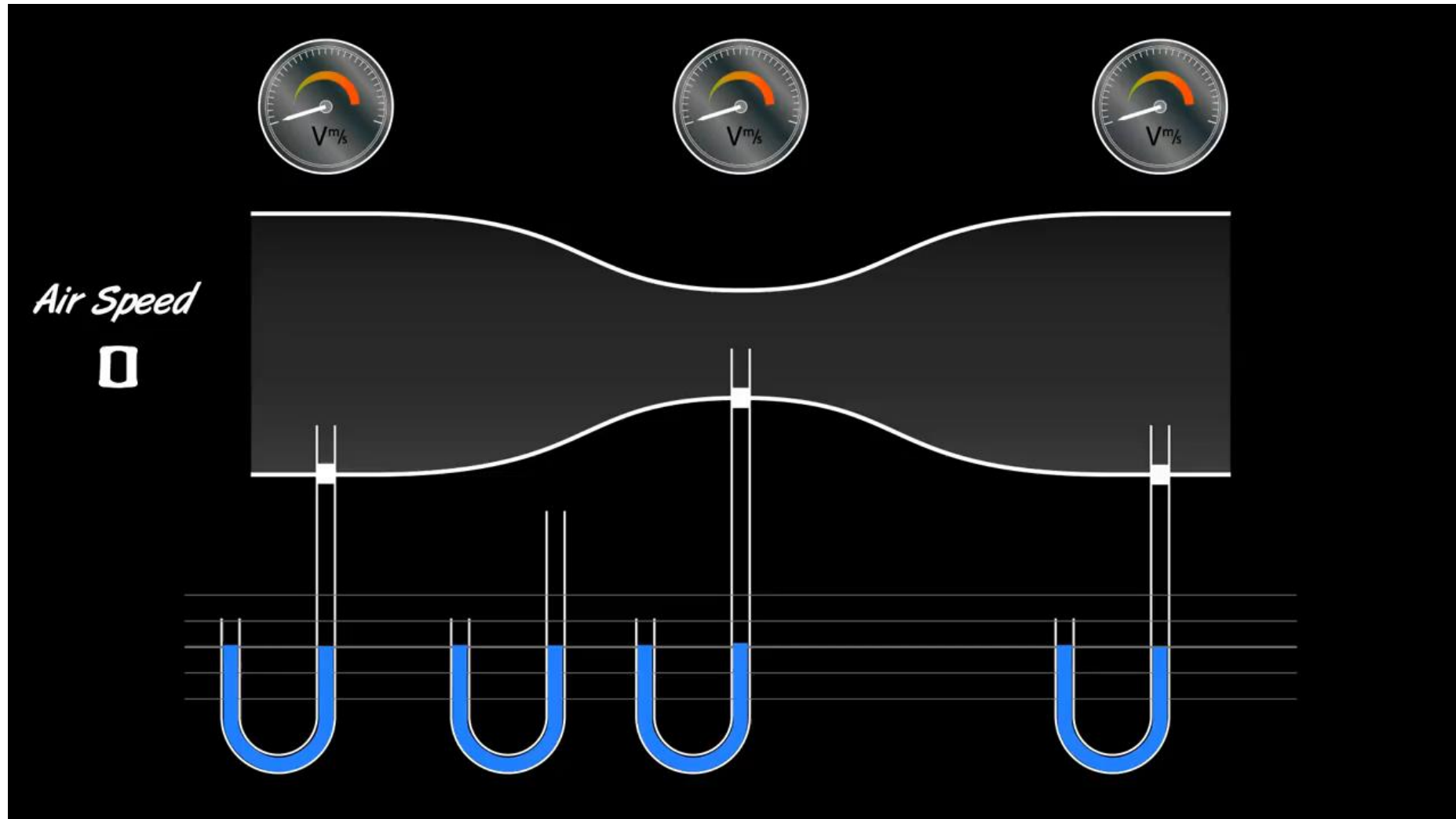
$$p_1 - p_2 = \Delta p_{12} = \frac{\rho}{2} (u_2^2 - u_1^2)$$

$$\Delta p_{12} = \frac{\rho}{2} \left(\left(\frac{A_1}{A_2} \right)^2 u_1^2 - u_1^2 \right)$$

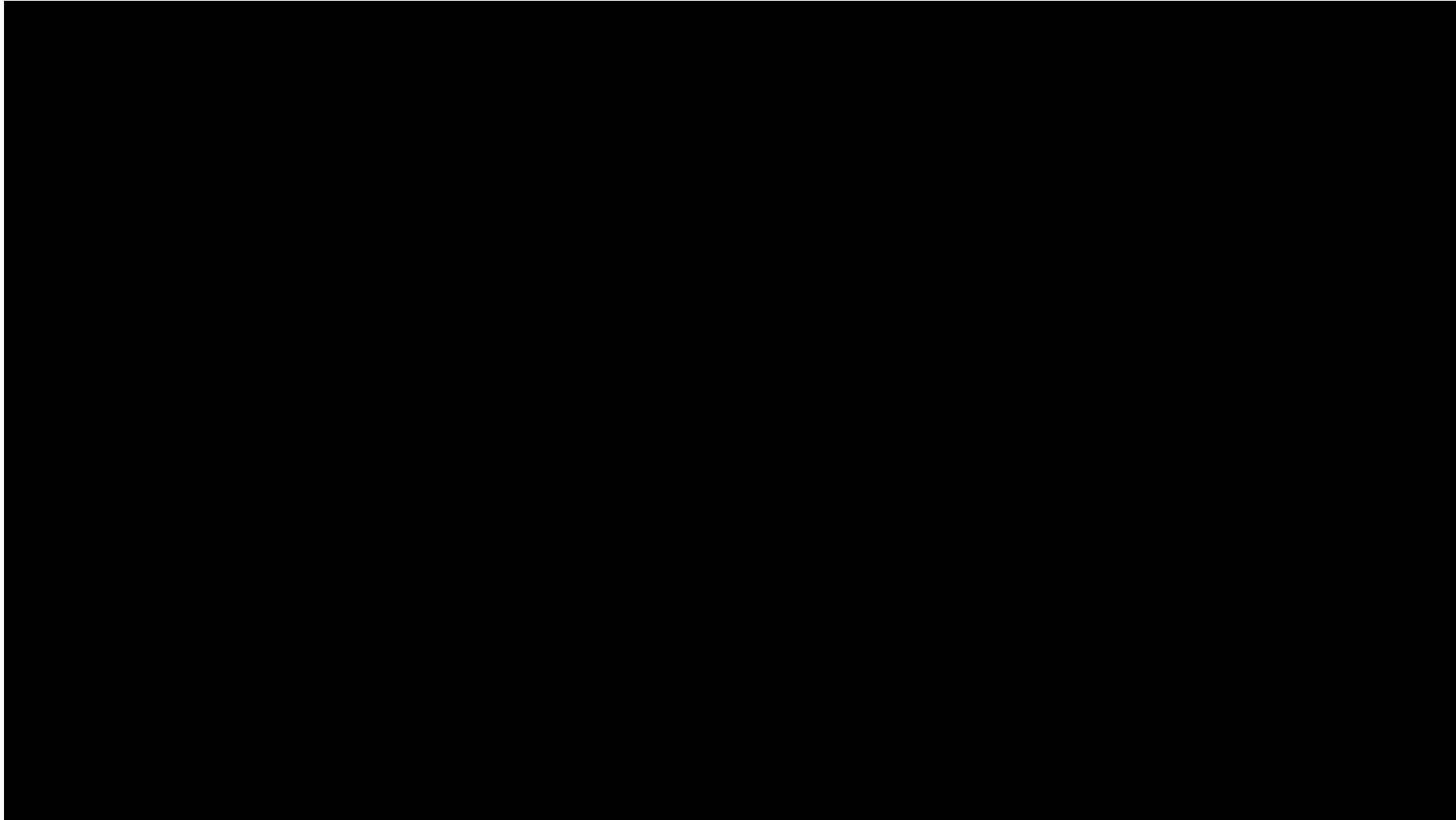
$$u_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2 \Delta p_{12}}{\rho \left(\left(\frac{A_1}{A_2} \right)^2 - 1 \right)}}$$

➔ If A_1 , A_2 and ρ is known we can measure the flow velocity u_1 by measuring the differential static pressure.

Applications: Venturi-Meter

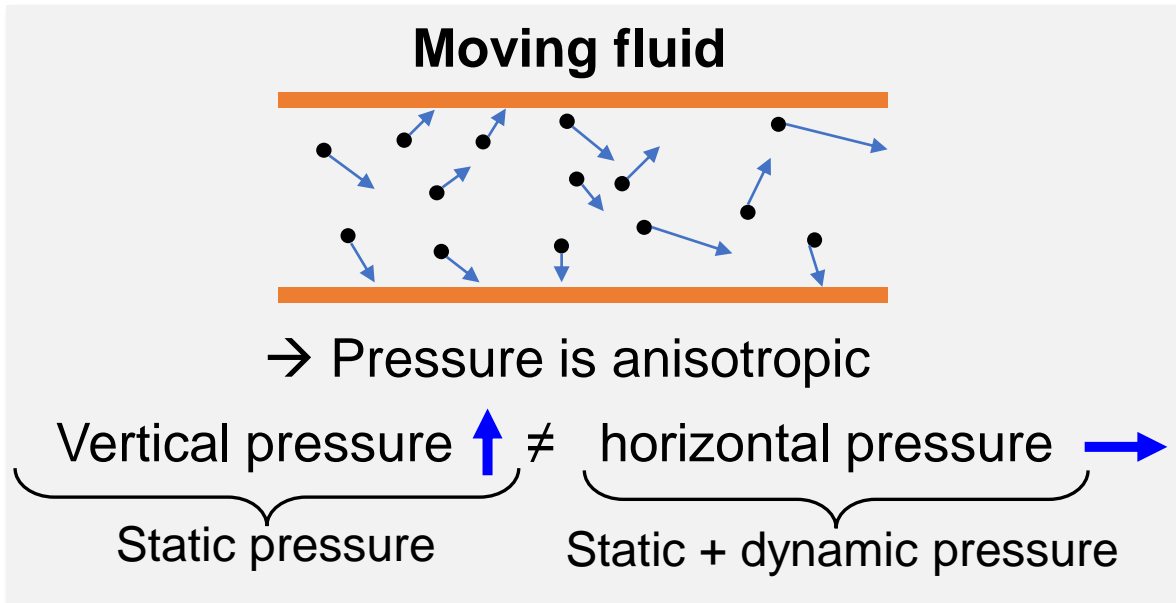


Applications: Venturi-Meter



Applications: Pitot-Tube

How else can we measure flow velocity, if we cannot have two cross sections area?

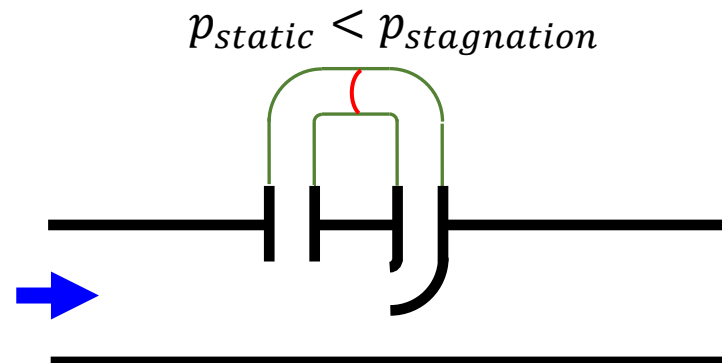


→ Simultaneous measurement of horizontal and vertical pressure

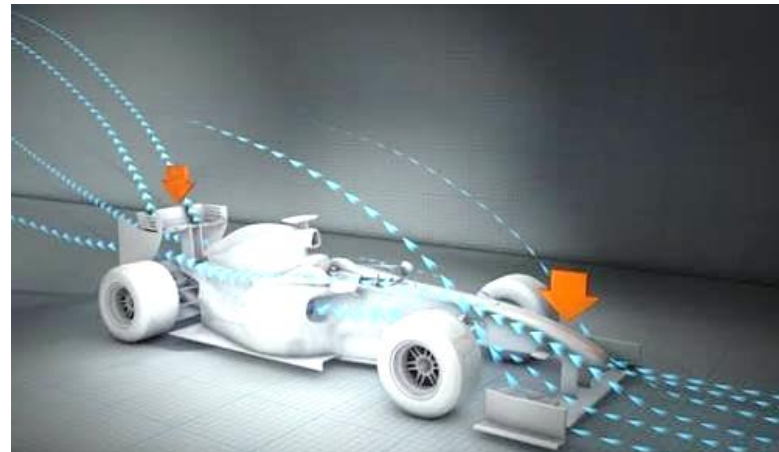
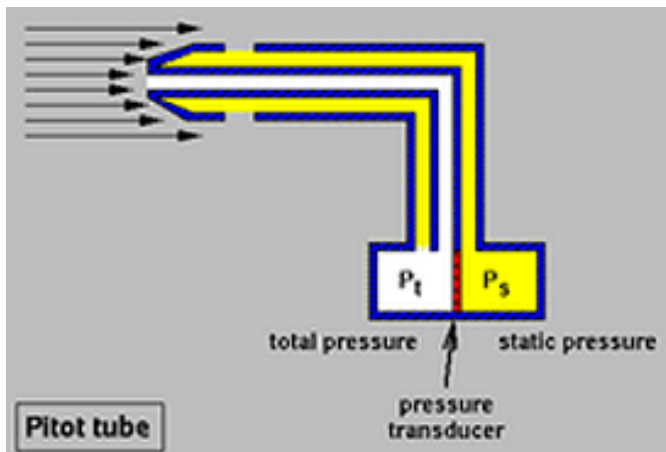
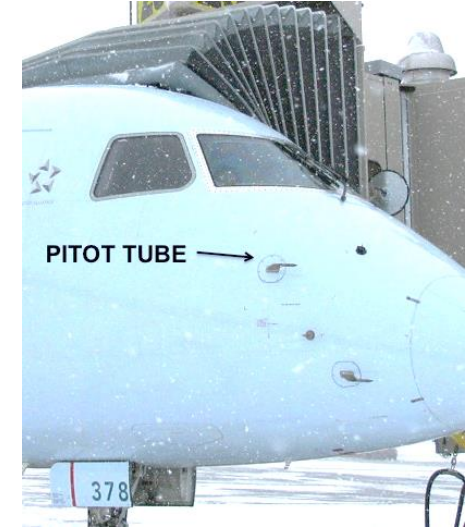
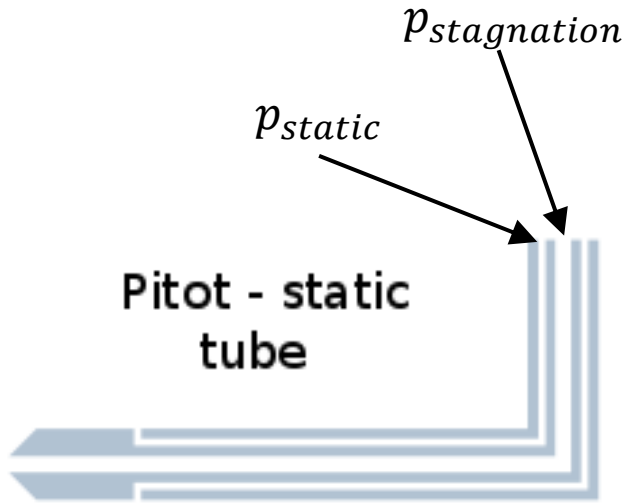
$$p_{stagnation} = p_{static} + p_{dynamic}$$

$$p_{stagnation} = p_{stat} + \frac{1}{2} \rho u^2$$

$$u = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\rho} (p_{stagnation} - p_{static})}$$



Applications: Pitot-Tube



Differential pressure MEMS sensors - Principles

MEMS: Micro-Electro-Mechanical System

What means **Micro**?

- In most cases components range from $\sim 1 \mu\text{m} - 100 \mu\text{m}$
- Devices range from $10 \mu\text{m} - \text{some mm}$

What means **Electro**?

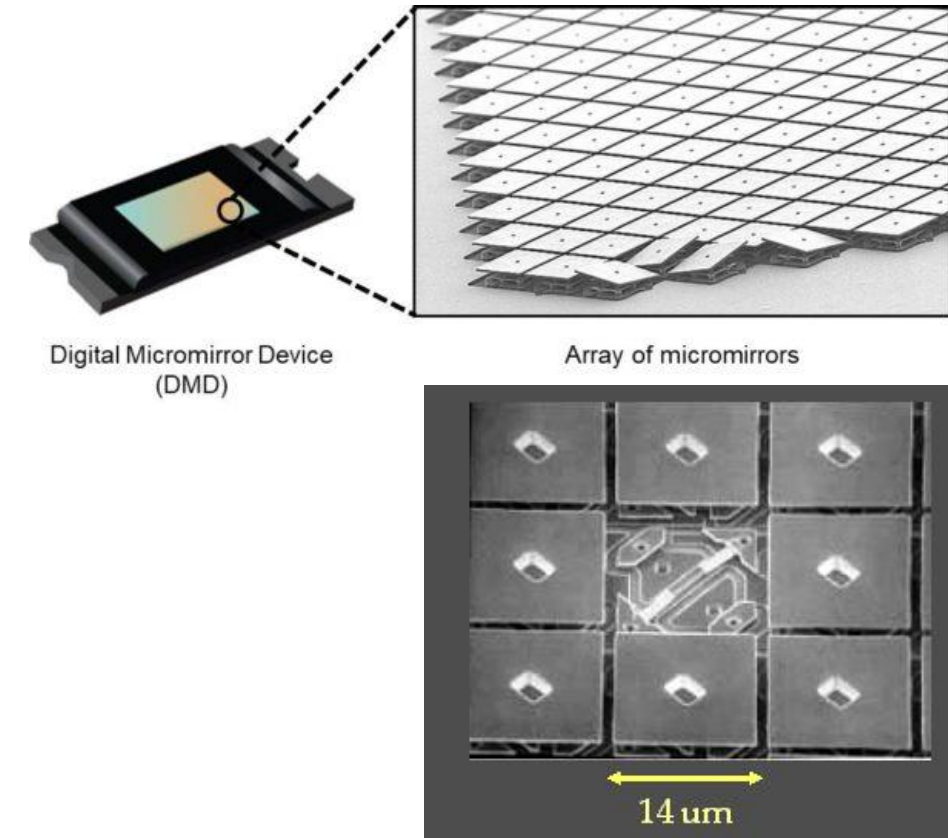
- Electronics are inbuilt...
 - as transducers
 - for signal processing (e.g., amplifier, ADC, mixer,...)

What means **Mechanical**?

- The system has mechanical components either as
 - Actuator
 - Sensor

What means **System**?

- All components are fully embedded, interfaced and optimised



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Light_Processing

Differential pressure MEMS sensors - Principles

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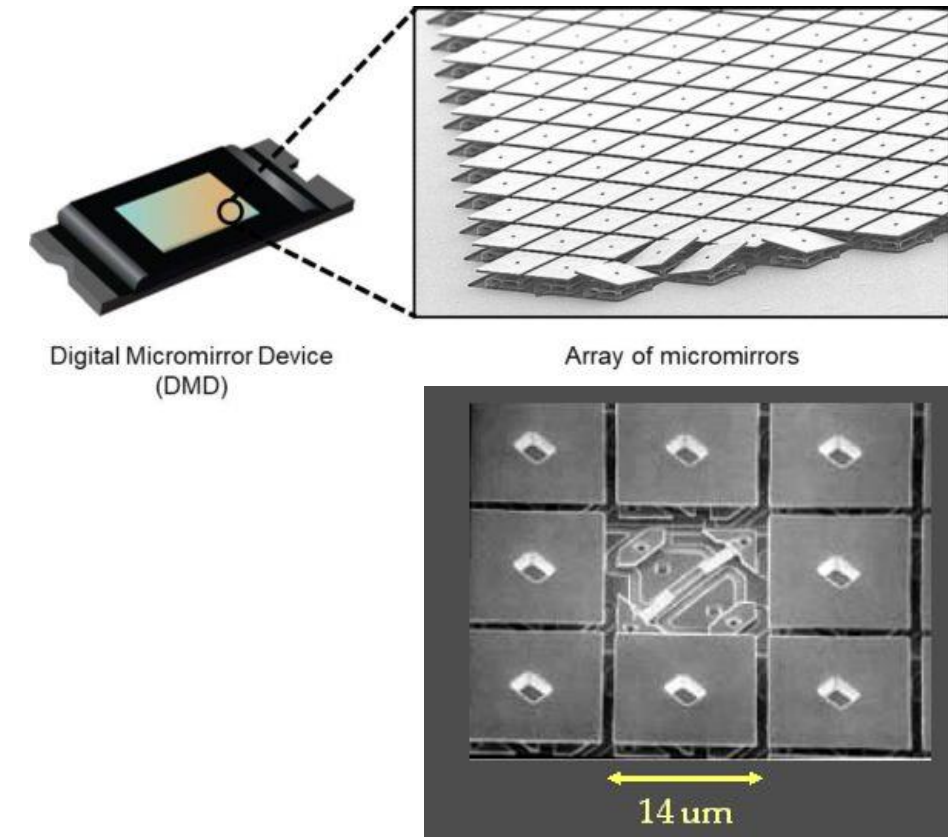
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Differential pressure MEMS sensors - Principles

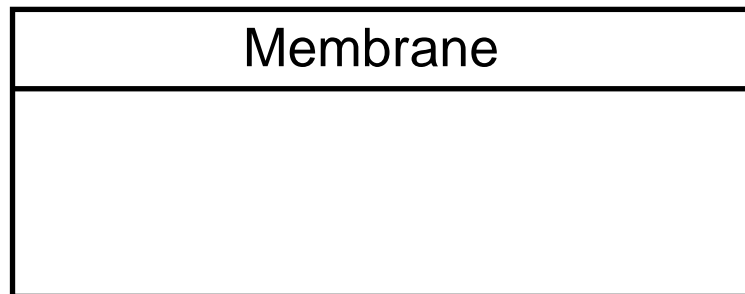
Goal of pressure sensor:

Transformation of a pressure p into an electrical signal (mostly a voltage U)

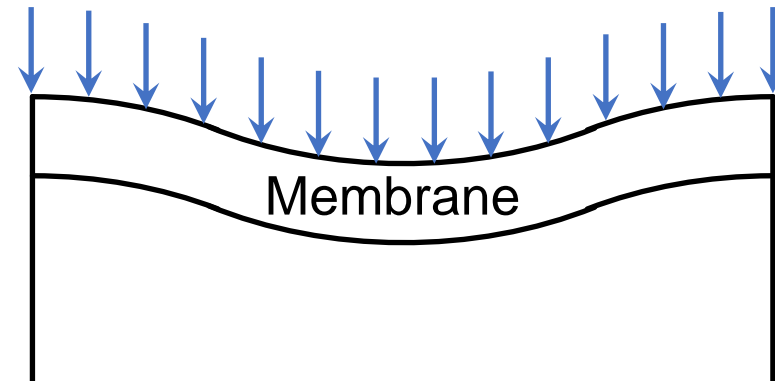
Option 1:

Measurement of an elastic deformation of a gas-tight (hermetic seal) or liquid tight membrane

Without pressure



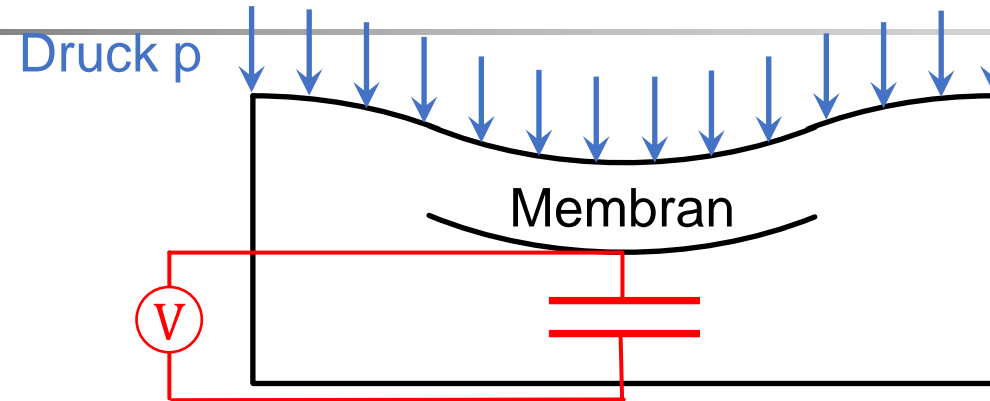
Pressure p



Differential pressure MEMS sensors - Principles

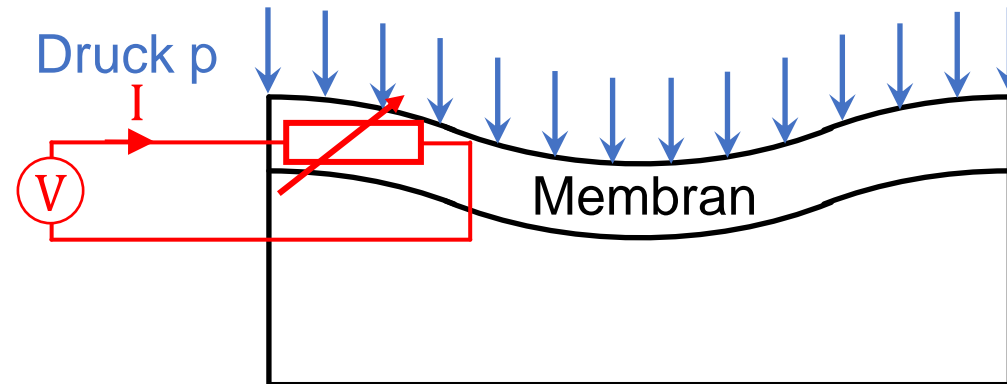
1. Capacitive

→ Measurement of the distance of two capacitor electrode plates.



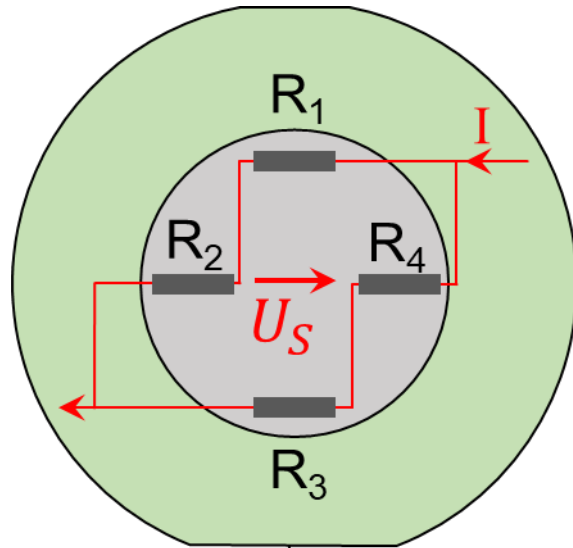
2. Piezoresistive measurement

→ Mechanical deformation leads to a change in the resistance of a material. This can be detected using an electrical circuit.

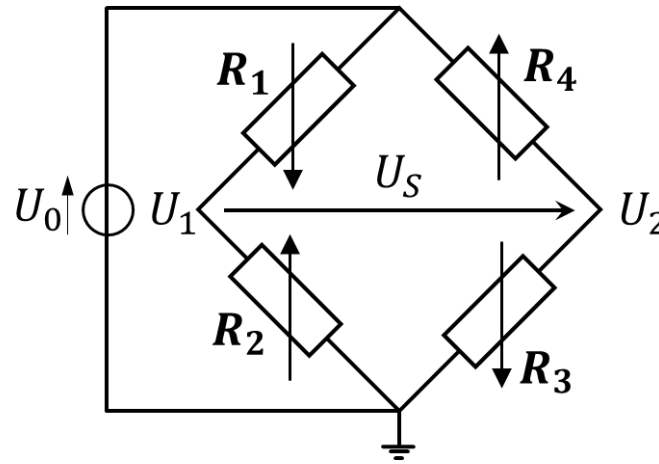


Differential pressure MEMS sensors - Principles

Top View membrane

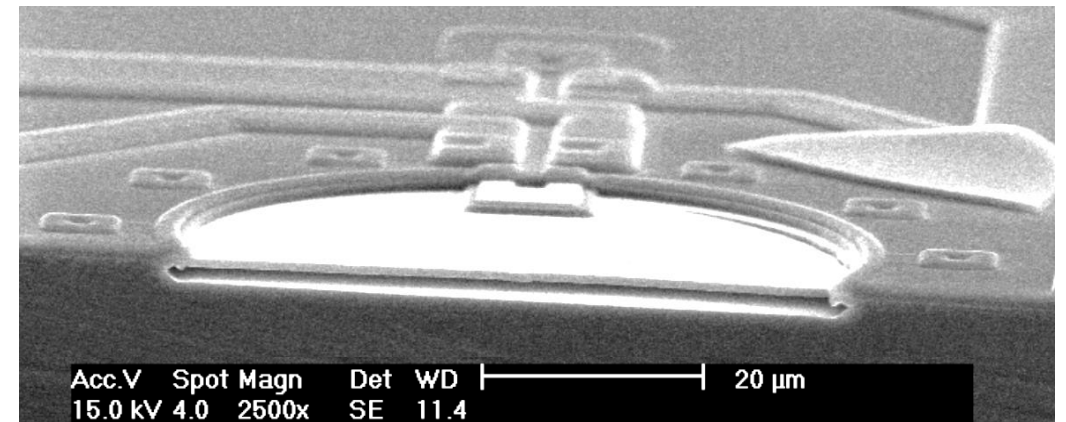


Fixed Frame
Membrane



$$S = \frac{U_S}{\Delta p} = U_0 \bar{\pi} \left[\frac{3R_M^2(1-\nu)}{4t^2} \right]$$

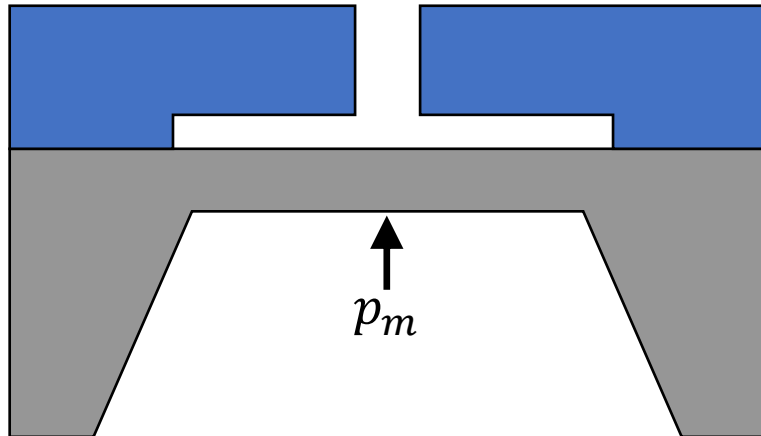
S	Sensitivity
$\bar{\pi}$	Piezoresistive coefficient
Δp	Pressure difference
R_m	Radius Membrane
ν	Poisson ratio (ratio of transverse strain to axial strain)
t	Thickness membrane



Differential pressure MEMS sensors - Principles

Sensor for relative pressure

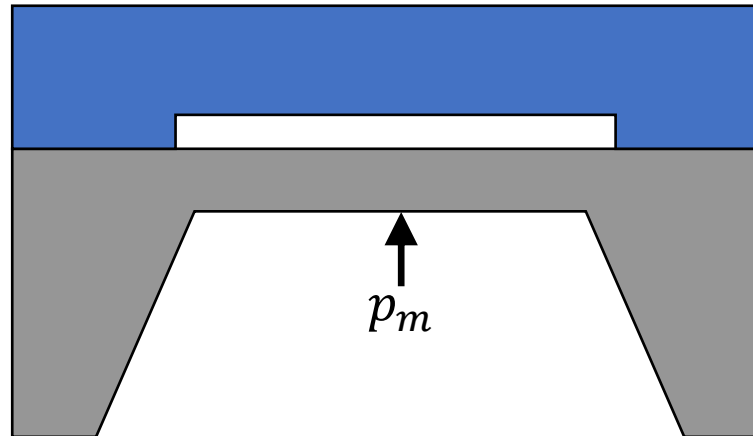
p_{ref} = environmental pressure



- Tyre pressure
- Measurement of flow (Pitot-tube)

Sensor for absolute pressure

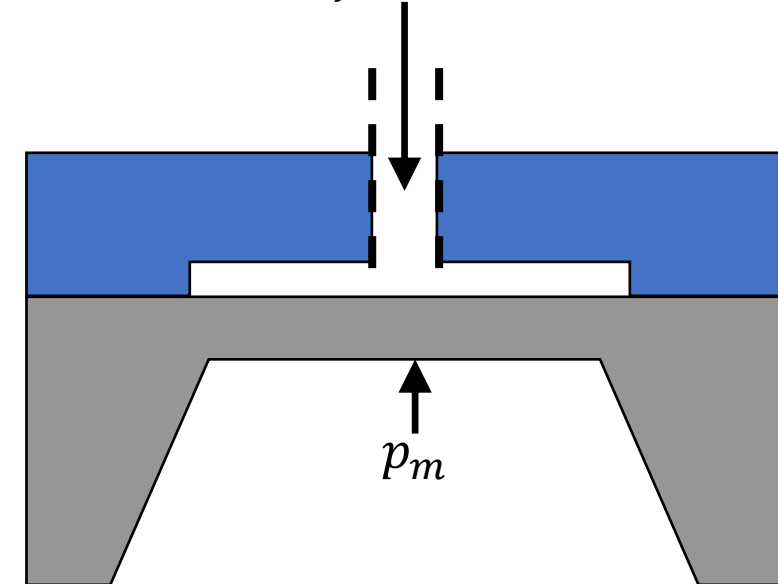
$p_{ref} = 0$ bar



- Barometric measurements
- Altitude meter
- Vacuum technology (e.g., packaging technology)

Sensor for difference pressure

$p_{ref} = x$ bar



- Medical systems
- Cooling and heating technology
- Venturi measurement

Differential pressure MEMS sensors - Principles

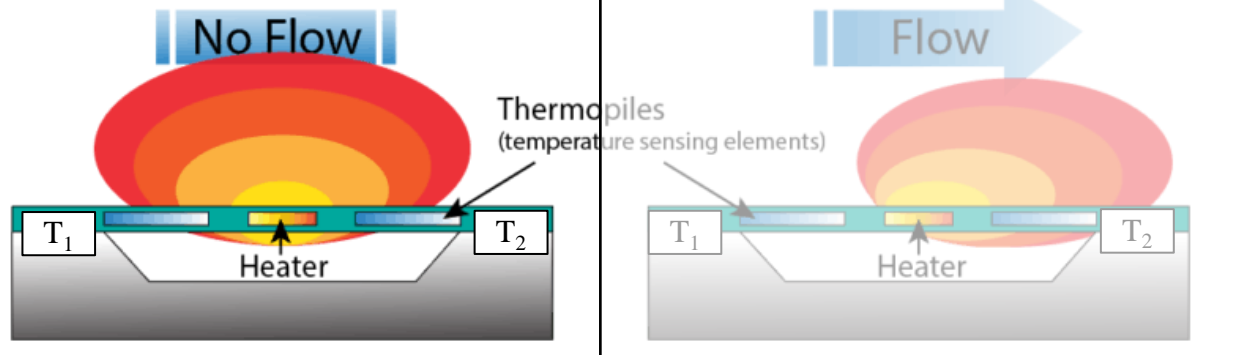
Goal of pressure sensor:

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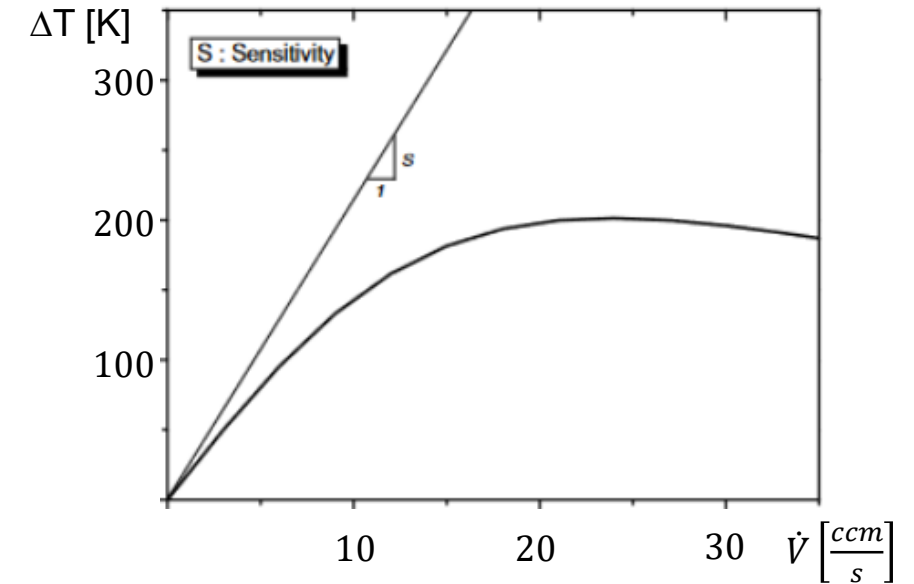
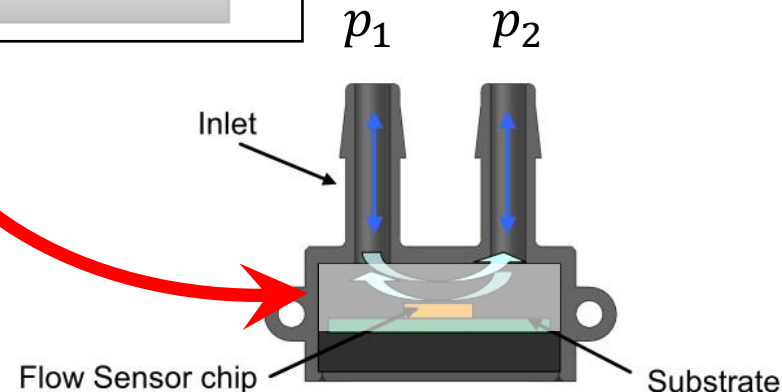
Option 2:

Thermal mass flow meter

Temperature Distribution



<https://www.alicat.com/knowledge-base/types-of-gas-flow-meters/>



From slide 8:

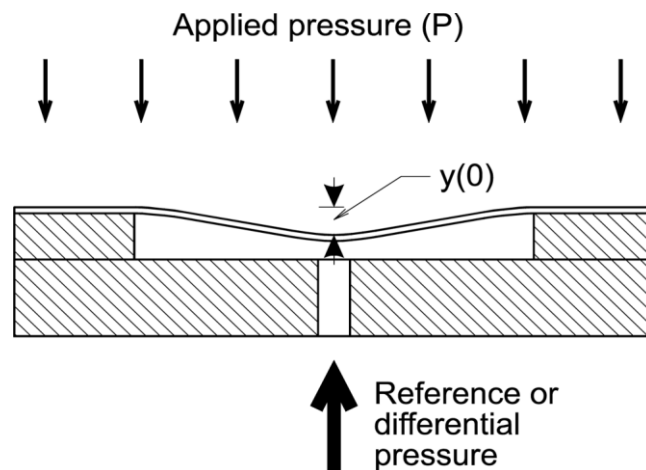
$$\Delta p = p_2 - p_1 = R_f \dot{V} (\Delta T)$$

Differential pressure MEMS sensors - Principles

Advantages:

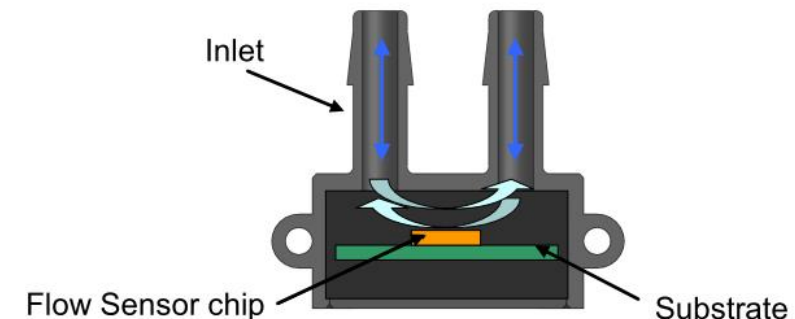
Membrane base pressure sensor

- Highly sensitive
- Absolute/Relative/Difference pressure sensor
- Measure static pressure from small reservoirs



Thermal mass flow pressure sensor

- Highly sensitive
- Mechanically stable against overpressure
- No moving parts



Differential pressure MEMS sensors - Principles

<https://www.apogeeinstruments.com/content/SB-100-manual.pdf>

https://omronfs.omron.com/en_US/ecb/products/pdf/en-D6F-PH_users_manual.pdf

