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## EE C247B - ME C218 Introduction to MEMS Design Spring 2020

**Prof. Clark T.-C. Nguyen**

Dept. of Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences  
University of California at Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA 94720

Lecture Module 1: Admin & Overview

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### Instructor: Prof. Clark T.-C. Nguyen

- Education: Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley, 1994
- 1995: joined the faculty of the Dept. of EECS at the University of Michigan
- 2006: (came back) joined the faculty of the Dept. of EECS at UC Berkeley
- Research: exactly the topic of this course, with a heavy emphasis on vibrating RF MEMS
- Teaching: (at the UofM) mainly transistor circuit & physics; (UC Berkeley) 140/240A, 143, 243, 245, 247B/ME218
- 2001: founded Discera, the first company to commercialize vibrating RF MEMS technology
- Mid-2002 to 2005: DARPA MEMS program manager
  - ↳ ran 10 different MEMS-based programs
  - ↳ topics: power generation, chip-scale atomic clock, gas analyzers, nuclear power sources, navigation-grade gyros, on-chip cooling, micro environmental control

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## Course Overview

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- **Goals of the course:**
  - ↗ Accessible to a broad audience (minimal prerequisites)
  - ↗ Design emphasis
    - Exposure to the techniques useful in analytical design of structures, transducers, and process flows
  - ↗ Perspective on MEMS research and commercialization circa 2017
- **Related courses at UC Berkeley:**
  - ↗ EE 143: Microfabrication Technology
  - ↗ EE 147/247A: Introduction to MEMS
  - ↗ ME 119: Introduction to MEMS (mainly fabrication)
  - ↗ BioEng 121: Introduction to Micro and Nano Biotechnology and BioMEMS
- **Assumed background for EE C247B/ME C218:**
  - ↗ graduate standing in engineering or physical/bio sciences
  - ↗ knowledge of microfabrication technology

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## Course Overview

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- **The mechanics of the course are summarized in the course handouts, described in lecture today**
  - ↗ Course Information Sheet
    - Course description
    - Course mechanics
    - Textbooks
    - Grading policy
  - ↗ Syllabus
    - Lecture by lecture timeline w/ associated reading sections
    - Midterm Exam: Thursday, March 22
    - Final Exam: Thursday, May 11, 8-11 a.m. (Group 13)
    - Project due date TBD (but near semester's end)

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### What Should You Know?

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Typical mid-2000's CMOS Process (good down to ~0.25µm)

You should either already know or be able to learn independently & very quickly:

- How to deposit or grow those different layers.
- How to pattern or otherwise form the shapes of the layers shown.
- What determines the order by which the different layers are formed, e.g., temperature limiter, topography limits, etc...

We will review these things, but we will do this very fast!

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### What Should You Know?

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Basic Clot. Analysis & Design Using Op Amps

Ex.

Find the transfer function  $\frac{V_o}{V_i}(s)$ .

$R_f \parallel \frac{1}{sC_f} = \frac{R_f}{1 + sR_fC_f}$

Ideal Op Amp Rules: (Apply when there's neg. FB)


- $V_i = V_-$
- $R_i = \infty$  (infinite input resistance)

$i_i = \frac{V_i}{R_i}$

$$V_o = -i_i \left( R_f \parallel \frac{1}{sC_f} \right) = -\frac{V_i}{R_i} \left( R_f \parallel \frac{1}{sC_f} \right) \Rightarrow \frac{V_o}{V_i}(s) = -\frac{R_f}{R_i} \frac{1}{1 + sR_fC_f} = \frac{R_f}{R_i} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{s}{\omega_b}} = \frac{V_o}{V_i}(s)$$

$\omega_b = \frac{1}{R_fC_f}$

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## Lecture Outline

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- Reading: Senturia, Chapter 1
- Lecture Topics:
  - ↳ Definitions for MEMS
  - ↳ MEMS roadmap
  - ↳ Benefits of Miniaturization

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## MEMS: Micro Electro Mechanical System

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- A device constructed using micromachining (MEMS) tech.
- A micro-scale or smaller device/system that operates mainly via a mechanical or electromechanical means
- At least some of the signals flowing through a MEMS device are best described in terms of mechanical variables, e.g., displacement, velocity, acceleration, temperature, flow

Input:

voltage, current  
acceleration, velocity  
light, heat ...

MEMS

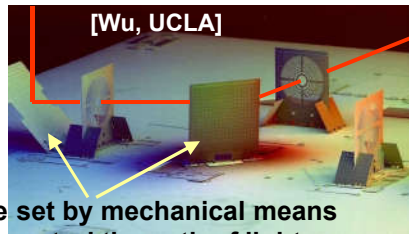
Output:

voltage, current  
acceleration, velocity  
light, heat, ...

Transducer to Convert **Control** to a **Mechanical Variable** (e.g., displacement, velocity, stress, heat, ...)

Control:

voltage, current  
acceleration  
velocity  
light, heat, ...



[Wu, UCLA]

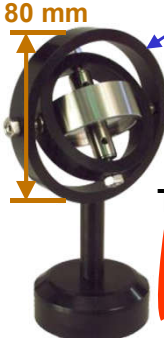
Angle set by mechanical means to control the path of light

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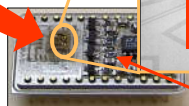
### Other Common Attributes of MEMS

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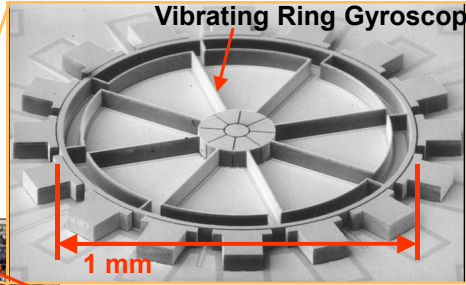
- Feature sizes measured in microns or less



80 mm  
Gimbaled, Spinning  
Macro-Gyroscope



Signal Conditioning Circuits



[Najafi, Michigan]  
Micromechanical  
Vibrating Ring Gyroscope

1 mm

MEMS Technology  
(for 80X size Reduction)

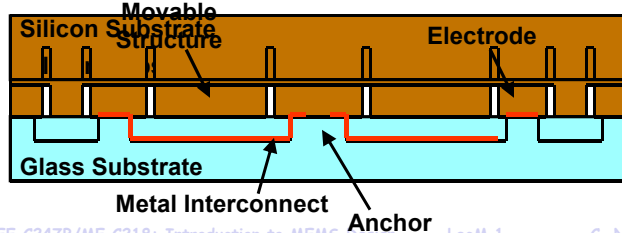
- Merges computation with sensing and actuation to change the way we **perceive** and **control** the physical world
- Planar lithographic technology often used for fabrication
  - ↳ can use fab equipment identical to those needed for IC's
  - ↳ however, some fabrication steps transcend those of conventional IC processing

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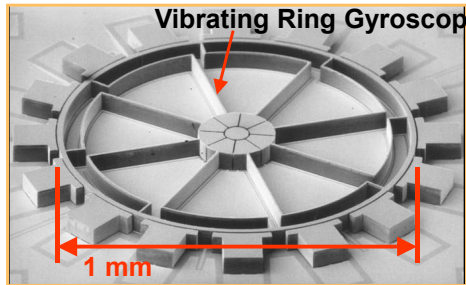
### Bulk Micromachining and Bonding

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- Use the wafer itself as the structural material
- Adv: very large aspect ratios, thick structures
- Example: deep etching and wafer bonding




Movable Structure  
Silicon Substrate  
Electrode  
Metal Interconnect  
Glass Substrate  
Anchor



[Najafi, Michigan]  
Micromechanical  
Vibrating Ring Gyroscope

1 mm



[Pisano, UC Berkeley]  
Microrotor  
(for a microengine)

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**Surface Micromachining**

The diagram illustrates the surface micromachining process in two stages. In the top stage, a silicon substrate with a pwell is covered with a sacrificial oxide layer. On top of this, a release etch barrier and structural material (e.g., polysilicon, nickel, etc.) are deposited. A hydrofluoric acid release solution is applied, which etches away the sacrificial oxide. In the bottom stage, the sacrificial oxide has been removed, leaving a free-standing resonator beam. Labels include: Release Etch Barrier, Structural Material (e.g., polysilicon, nickel, etc.), Sacrificial Oxide, Hydrofluoric Acid Release Solution, Silicon Substrate, pwell, and Free-Standing Resonator Beam.

- Fabrication steps compatible with planar IC processing

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**Single-Chip Ckt/MEMS Integration**

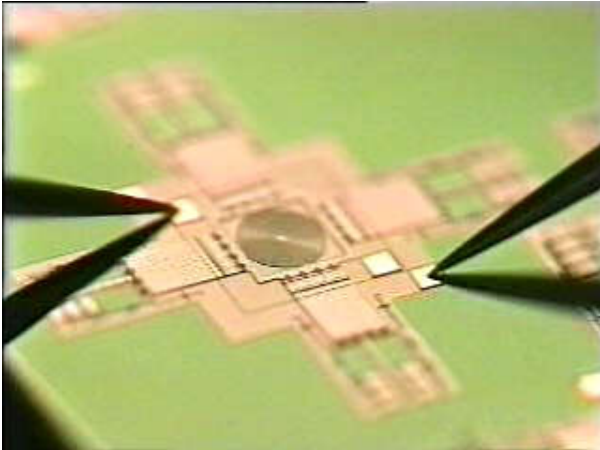
The micrograph shows a single-chip integrated circuit/MEMS device. Key components labeled include: Sustaining Amplifier, (Input) Comb-Transducer, Shuttle Mass, Folded-Beam Suspension, Anchors, and a pwell. A vertical scale bar indicates 300 μm. An inset shows an oscilloscope output waveform with the following data: CH1 P-P = 324.00, CH1 Freq = 21.50, CH1 PE = 61.20, CH1 RISE = 16.10. The waveform is a sine wave. The text "Oscilloscope Output Waveform" and "[Nguyen, Howe 1993]" are also present.

- Completely monolithic, low phase noise, high-Q oscillator (effectively, an integrated crystal oscillator)
- To allow the use of >600°C processing temperatures, tungsten (instead of aluminum) is used for metallization

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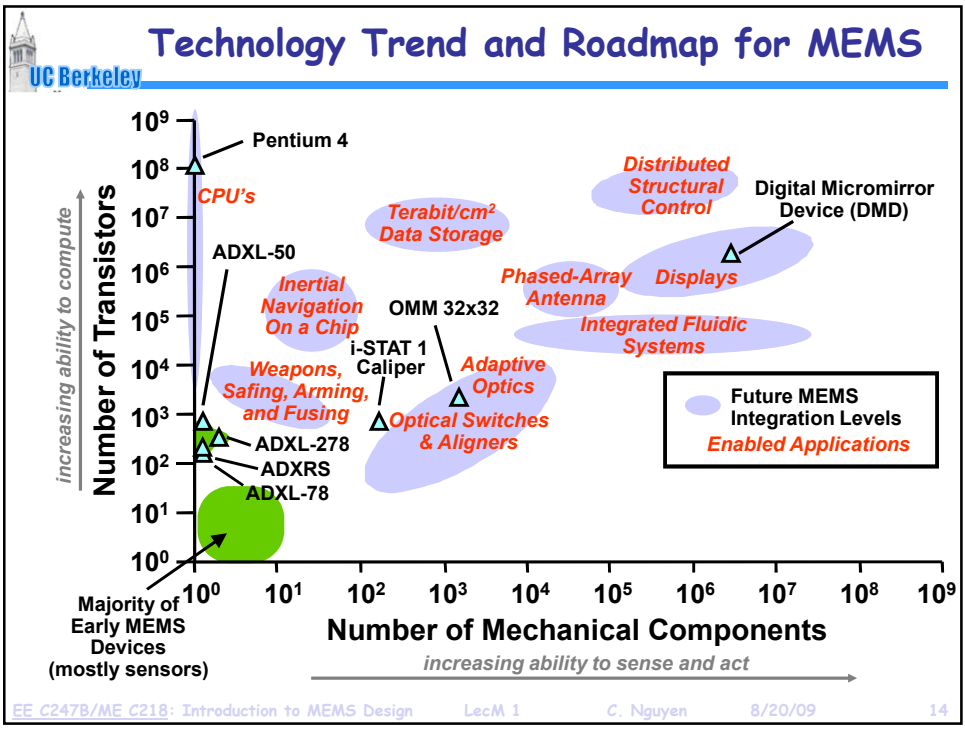
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### 3D Direct-Assembled Tunable L



[Ming Wu, UCLA]

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### Example: Micromechanical Accelerometer

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- The MEMS Advantage:**
  - >30X size reduction
  - accelerometer mechanism
  - allows integration

Tiny mass means small output  $\Rightarrow$  need integrated transistor circuits to compensate

**Basic Operation Principle**

$x \propto F_i = ma$

Displacement  
Spring  
Inertial Force  
Proof Mass  
Acceleration

400  $\mu\text{m}$

Analog Devices ADXL 78

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### Technology for MEMS

Analog Devices ADXR5 Integrated Gyroscope  
**Adv.: small size**

OMM 8x8 Optical Cross-Connect Switch  
**Adv.: faster switching, low loss, larger networks**

Digital Micromirror Device (DMD)

i-STAT 1 Caliper  
Adaptive Optics  
Optical Switches & Aligners

Caliper Microfluidic Chip  
**Adv.: small size, small sample, fast analysis speed**

TI Digital Micromirror Device  
**Adv.: low loss, fast switching, high fill factor**

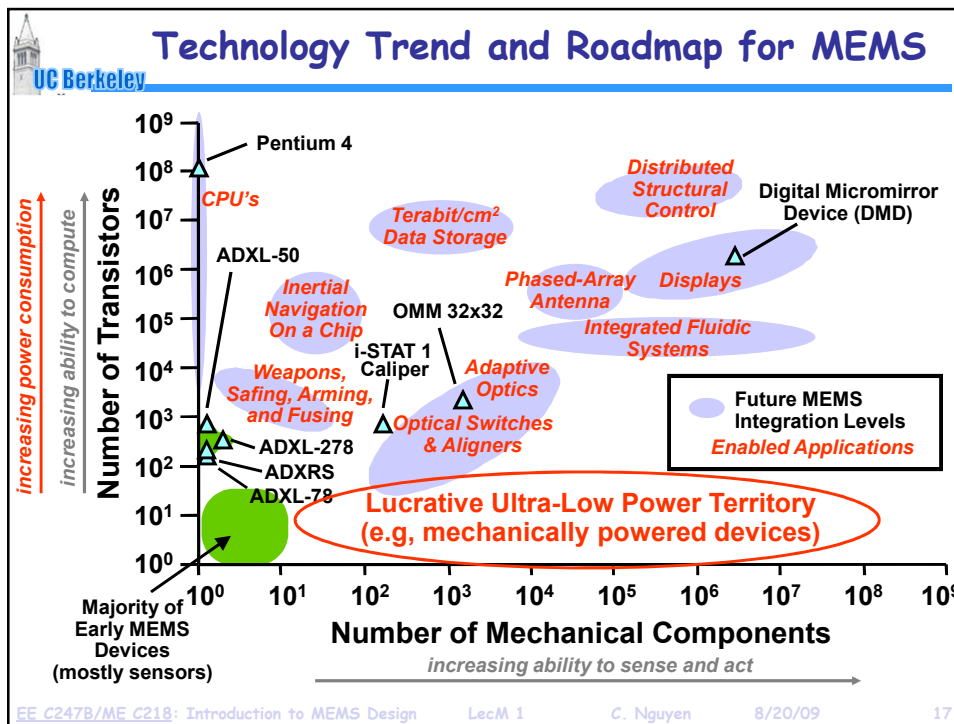
Number of Mechanical Components

Number of Mechanical Components

increasing ability to sense and act

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**Benefits of Size Reduction: MEMS**

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- Benefits of size reduction clear for IC's in elect. domain
  - ↪ size reduction ⇒ speed, low power, complexity, economy
- MEMS: enables a similar concept, but ...
  - MEMS extends the benefits of size reduction beyond the electrical domain**

↓

**Performance enhancements for application domains beyond those satisfied by electronics in the same general categories**

- Speed ⇒ Frequency ↑ , Thermal Time Const. ↓
- Power Consumption ⇒ Actuation Energy ↓ , Heating Power ↓
- Complexity ⇒ Integration Density ↑ , Functionality ↑
- Economy ⇒ Batch Fab. Pot. ↑ (esp. for packaging)
- Robustness ⇒ g-Force Resilience ↑

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