


# Lot am Matterhorn – Drahtlose Sensoren fuer die Naturwissenschaftliche Grundlagenforschung

## **Presentation**

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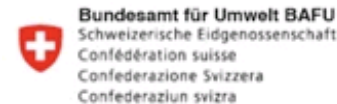
The image shows a snowy mountain peak, the Matterhorn, under a clear blue sky. A series of concentric red circles are centered on the peak, representing the range of an IoT sensor. Numerous red dots are scattered across the mountain's slopes, indicating the locations of individual sensors. In the foreground on the right, the interior of a vehicle is visible, showing a steering wheel and a coiled grey rope.

# IoT am Matterhorn

Jan Beutel, ETH Zurich & the PermaSense Team

# PermaSense

- Interdisciplinary geo-science and engineering collaboration
- Consortium of several projects, start in 2006
- Fundamental as well as applied research
  - Long-term, high-quality sensing in harsh environments
  - Better quality data, obtained online
  - Measurements that have previously been impossible
  - Enabling new science, answering fundamental questions related to decision making, natural hazard early-warning
- More than 40 people, 30 PhD students – **10+ years continuous experimental data**



# Investigating Instabilities in Steep Rock Walls

- When are vertical rock walls getting unstable?
- When is rockfall happening?
- What are its causes?
- What are the effects of climate change?
- How does this influence our environment and habitat in the Alps?



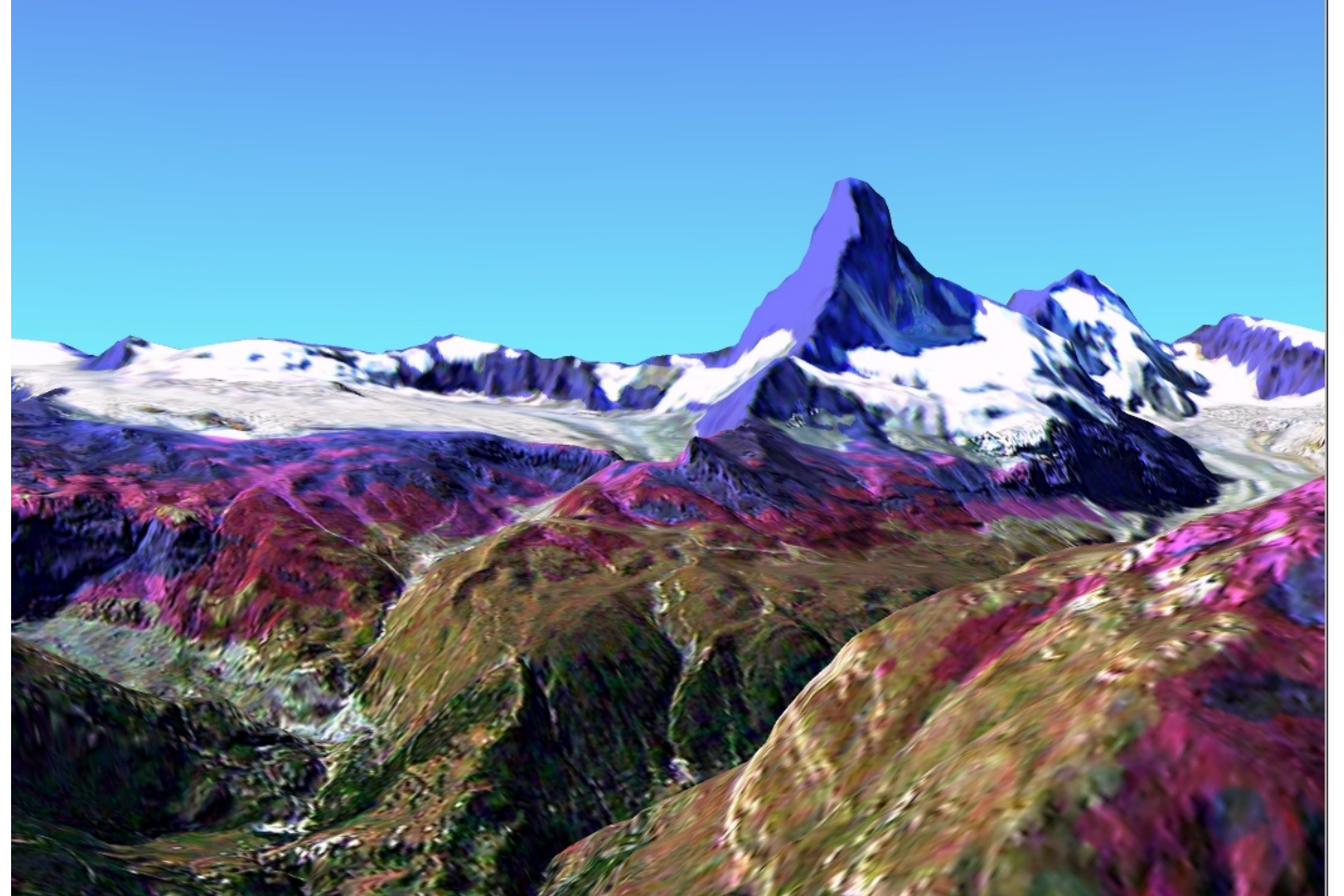


Goal:  
Understanding Root  
Causes of Catastrophes

[Bondo – Piz Cengalo rockfall incident, August 21, 2017, youtube.com]

# What is Permafrost?

- Permafrost is rock, ground and debris frozen throughout the whole year
- Permafrost is not visible
- In summer permafrost thaws at the surface



**Our patient does not  
fit into a laboratory**



So the laboratory has  
to go on the  
mountain

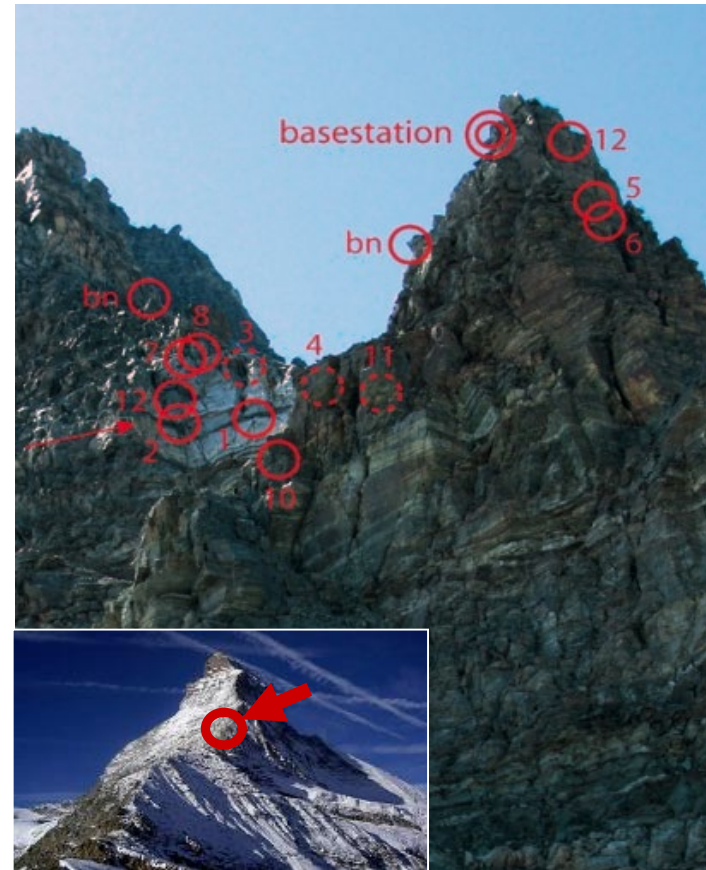






**2003 Matterhorn Hörnli ridge Rockfall**  
**15. July 2003 – 1500-2500 m<sup>3</sup> – 84 alpinists evacuated**

# Our Field Sites: Precision Scientific Instruments





The Matterhorn site  
at 3500 m in  
deep winter snow





**Perched high above the  
valley on a rocky ridge**

Snow and ice cover is missing in summer





At the core – Wireless sensors  
tough to withstand the elements

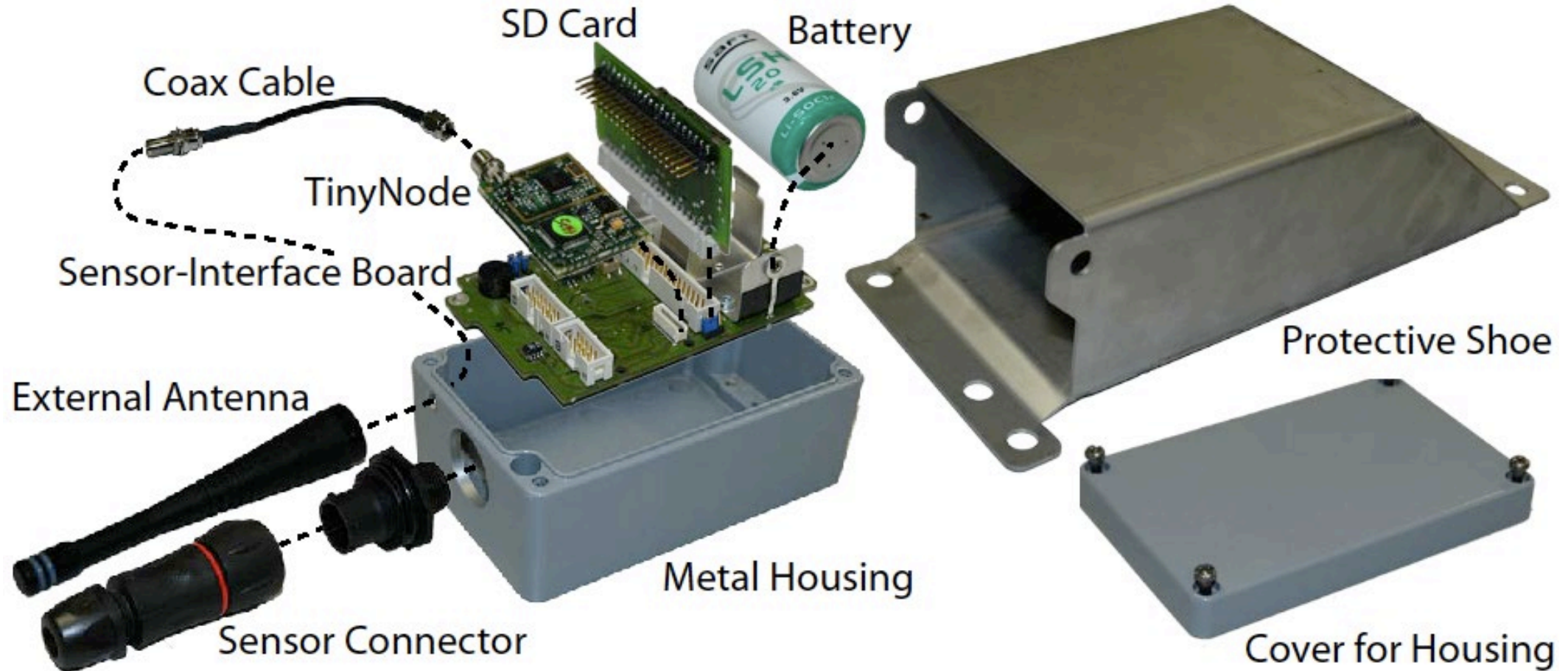
# Miniature Low-Power Wireless Sensors

- Static, low-rate sensing (120 sec)
- Simple scalar values: voltages, resistivity, digital sensors
- 4-5 years operation ( $\sim 150 \mu\text{A}$  avg. power)
- $\sim 0.1$  Mbyte/node/day
- 10+ years experience,  $\sim 3'764'408'638$  data points





# Ruggedized for Alpine Extremes



A high-altitude mountain peak with a base station and solar panels. The mountain is covered in snow and has several solar panels and electronic equipment mounted on it. The sky is a deep blue, and the Earth's horizon is visible in the background.

# A base station collects and relays the data to the valley

[J. Beutel et al: *PermaDAQ: A Scientific Instrument for Precision Sensing and Data Recovery under Extreme Conditions*. Proc. IPSN/SPOTS 09

R. Lim et al: *FlockLab: A Testbed for Distributed, Synchronized Tracing and Profiling of Wireless Embedded Systems*. Proc. IPSN/SPOTS 2013

B. Buchli, F. Sutton, J. Beutel and L. Thiele: *Dynamic Power Management for Long-Term Energy Neutral Operation of Solar Energy Harvesting Systems*. Proc. SenSys 2014.

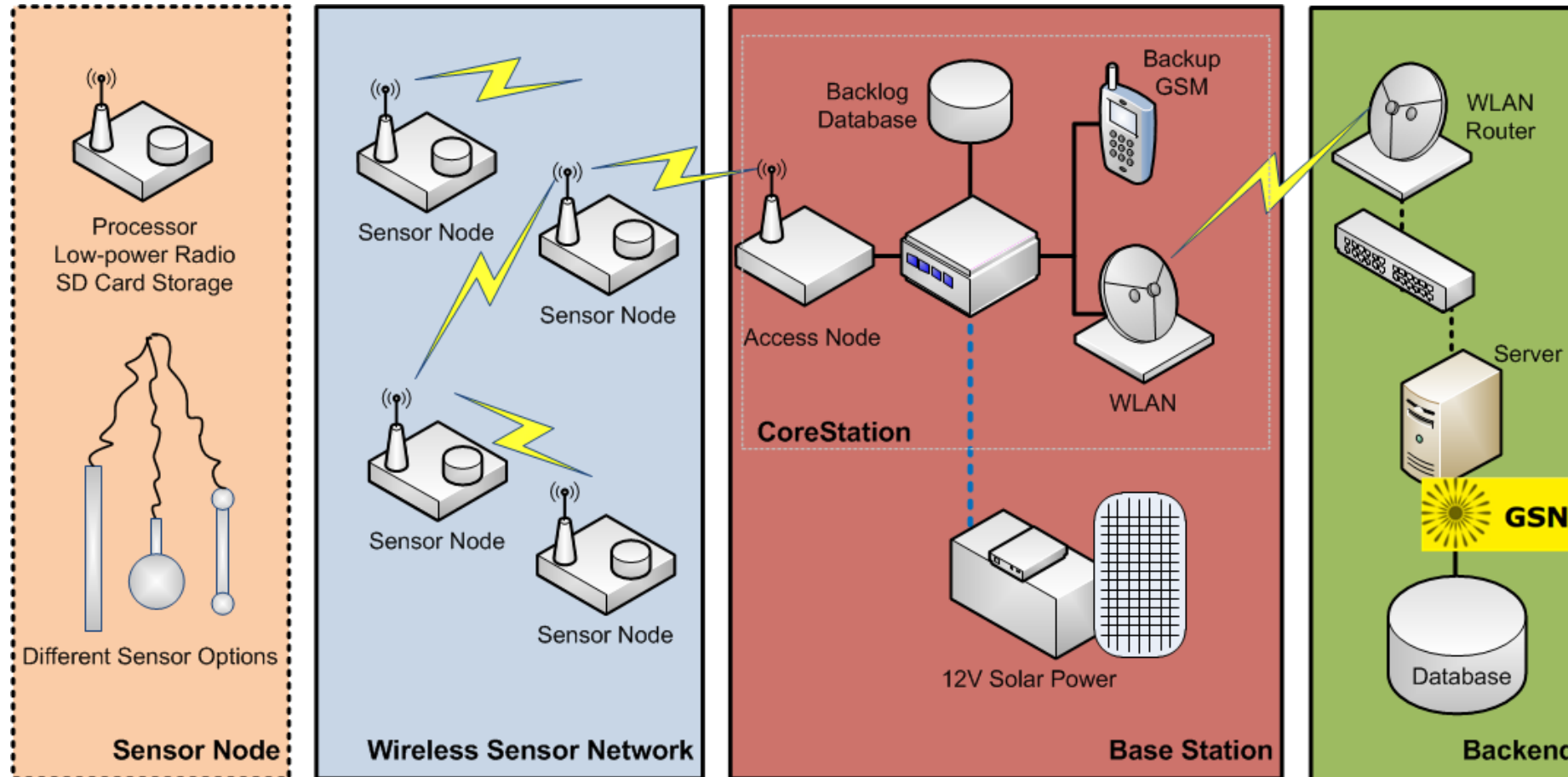
B. Buchli, F. Sutton, J. Beutel and L. Thiele: *Towards Enabling Uninterrupted Long-Term Operation of Solar Energy Harvesting Embedded Systems*. Proc. EWSN 2014

**M. Keller, J. Beutel and L. Thiele: *The Problem Bit*. Proc. DCOSS 2013 ★ Best Paper Award ★**

B. Buchli, D. Aschwanden and J. Beutel: *Battery State-of-Charge Approximation for Energy Harvesting Embedded Systems*. Proc. EWSN 2013.

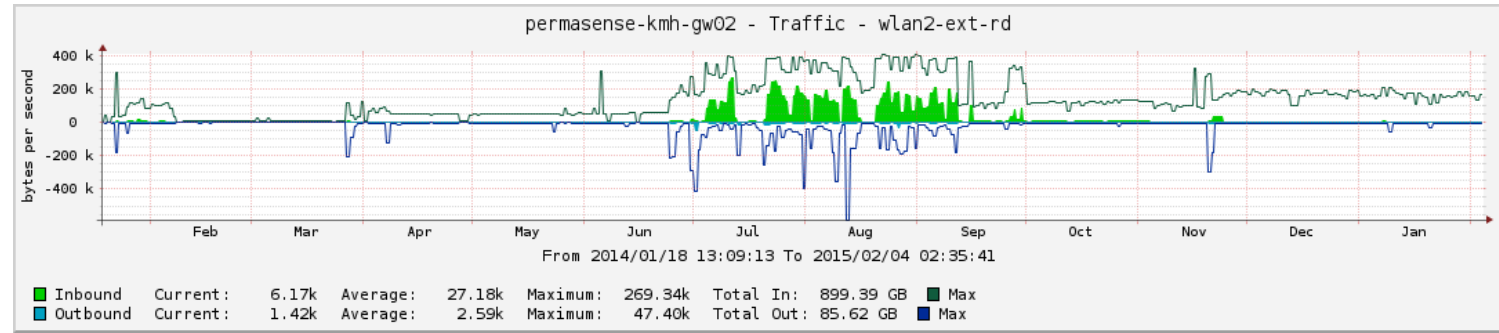
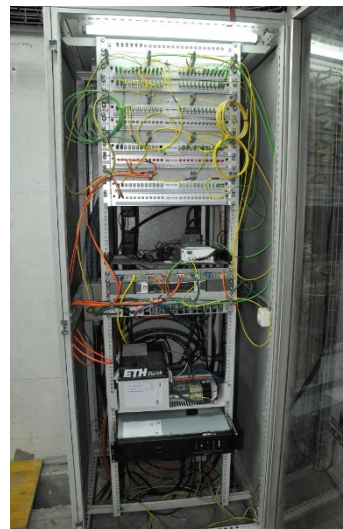
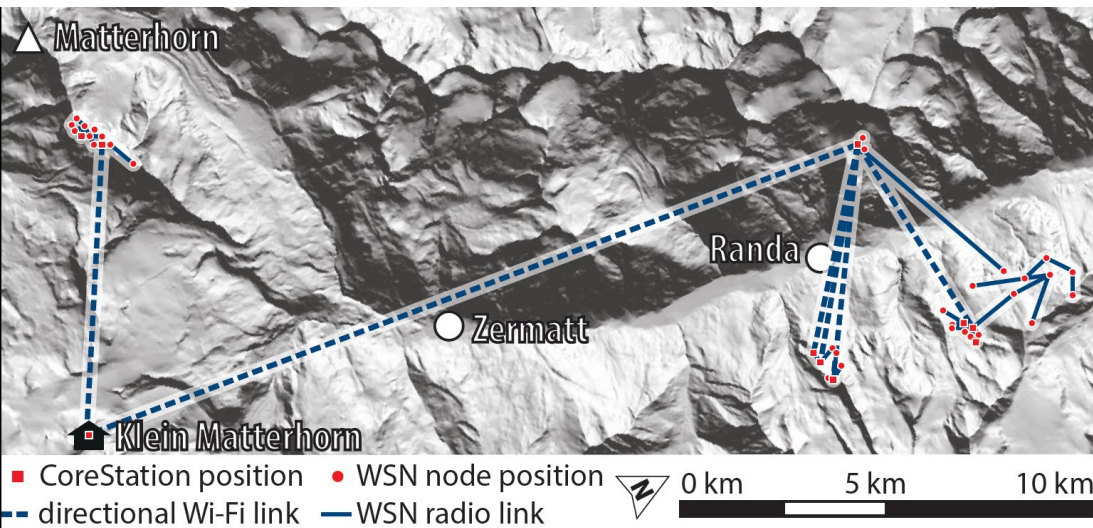
M. Keller, J. Beutel and L. Thiele: *How Was Your Journey? Uncovering Routing Dynamics in Deployed Sensor Networks with Multi-hop Network Tomography*. Proc. SenSys 2012.]

# PermaSense Core System Architecture



# WLAN Long-haul Communication

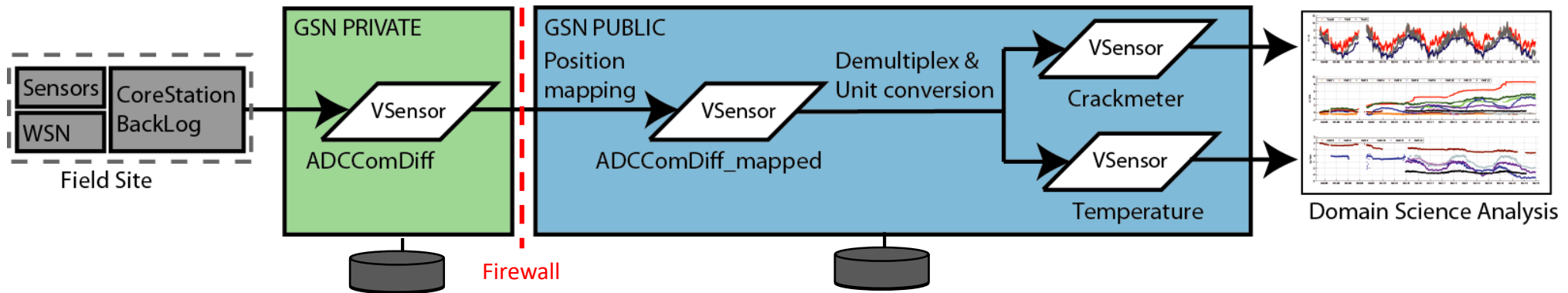
- WLAN (802.11a) backbone using directional links
- Leased fiber/DSL from Zermatt Bergbahnen AG to mountaintop



# Online Data Management & Access

- Global Sensor Network (GSN)

- Data streaming framework from EPFL (K. Aberer)
- Organized in “virtual sensors”, i.e. data types/semantics
- Hierarchies and concatenation of virtual sensors enable on-line processing
- Dual architecture translates data from machine representation to SI values, adds metadata



Data from field site is received by the private GSN server “as is” and **stored** in a primary database.



Data is passed on to a public GSN server where it is **mapped** to metadata (positions, sensor types, calibration) and **converted** to convenient data formats.



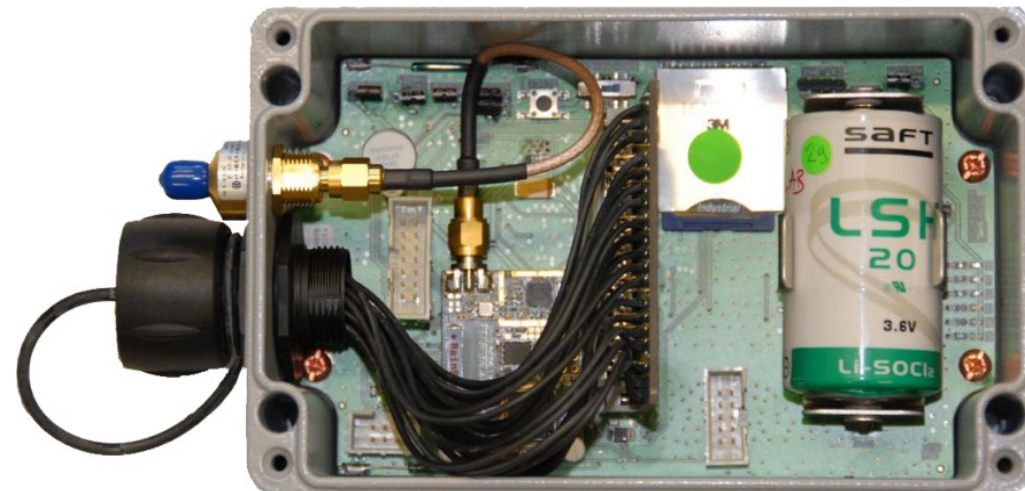
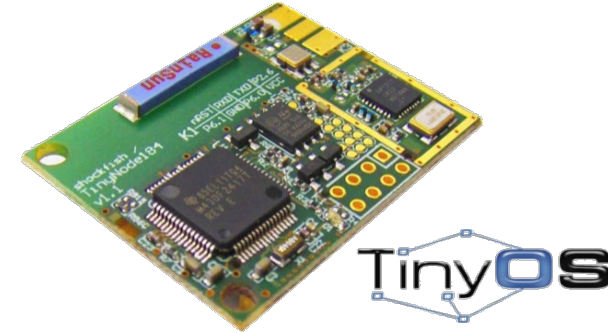
Data is available for download and analysis using **external tools**.

# Wireless sensors cover the Hörnligrat from first couloir up to Eisloch



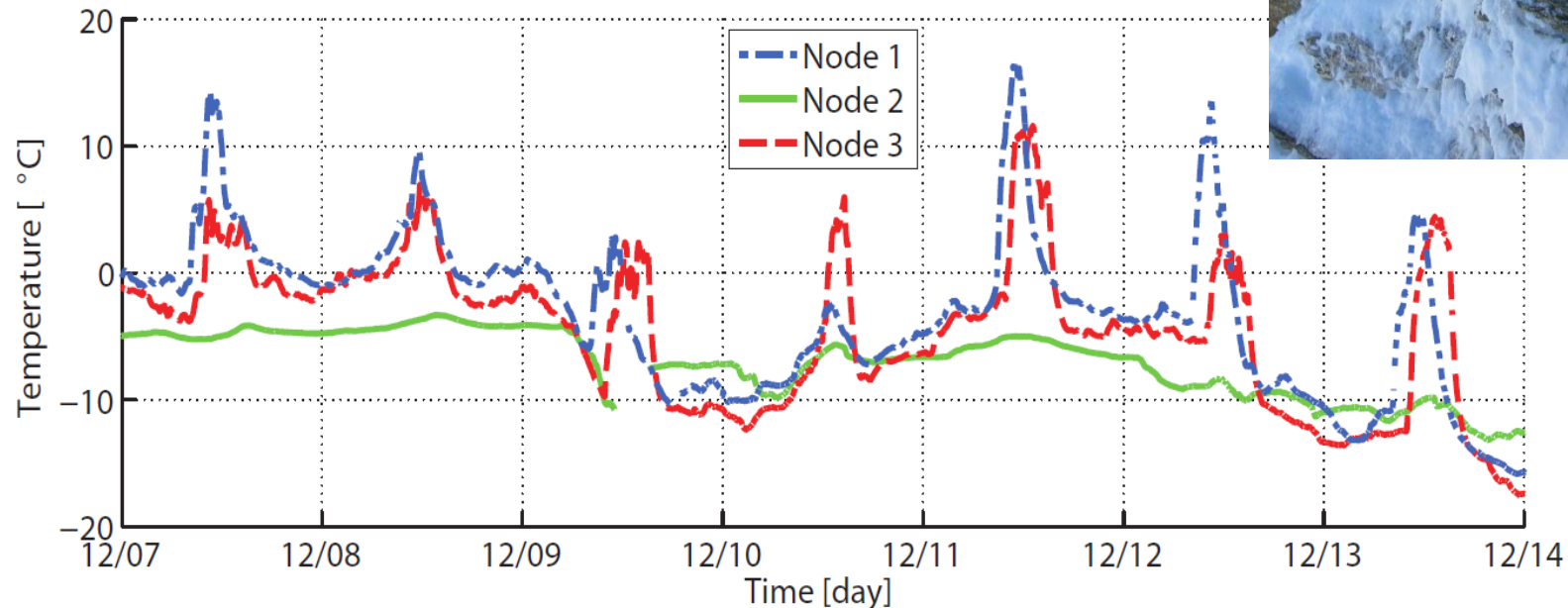
# 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Sensor Node Hardware

- Shockfish TinyNode184
  - MSP430, 16-bit, 8MHz, 8k SRAM, 92k Flash
  - LP Radio: SX1211 @ 868 MHz, +12.5 dBm
- Waterproof housing and connectors
- Sensor interface board
  - Interfaces, power control
  - Temp/humidity monitor
  - 1 GB Flash memory
- 3-year life-time
  - Single Li-SOCl<sub>2</sub> battery, 13 Ah
  - ~300  $\mu$ A power budget



# Challenge: The Physical Environment

- Strong daily variation of temperature
  - $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+40^{\circ}\text{C}$
  - $\Delta T \leq 20^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{hour}$
- Impact on
  - timing, energy availability, fatigue, **SOFTWARE**, ...

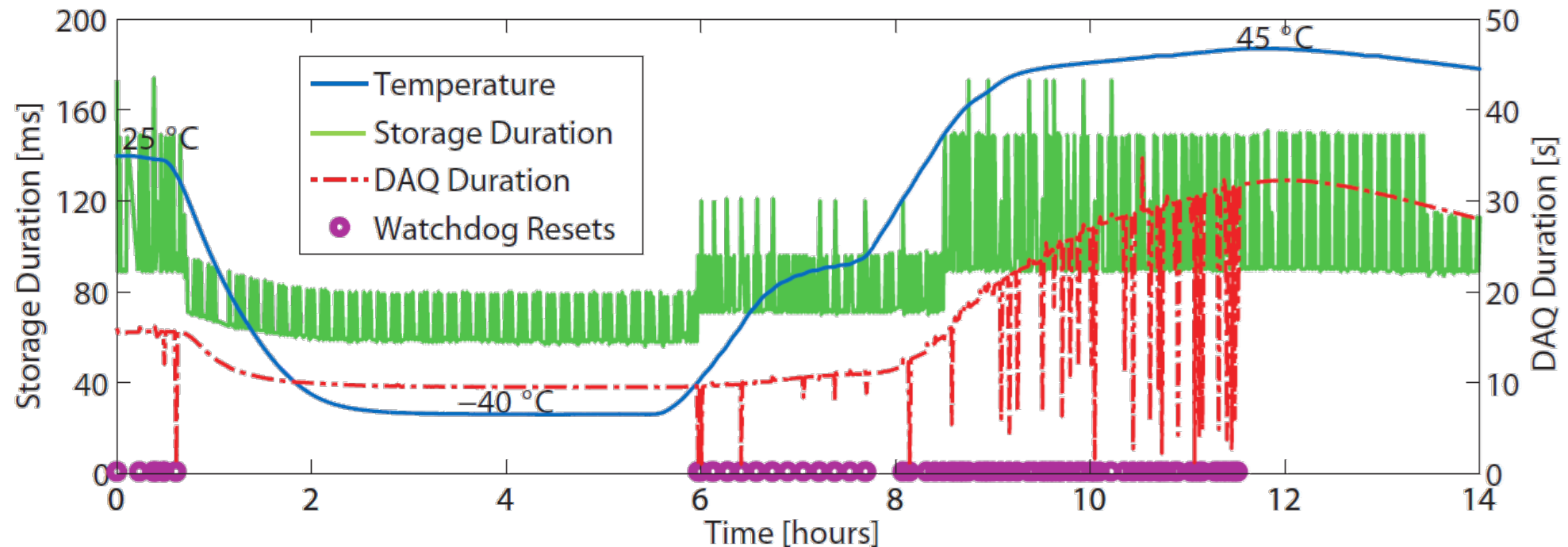




# Impact of Environmental Extremes

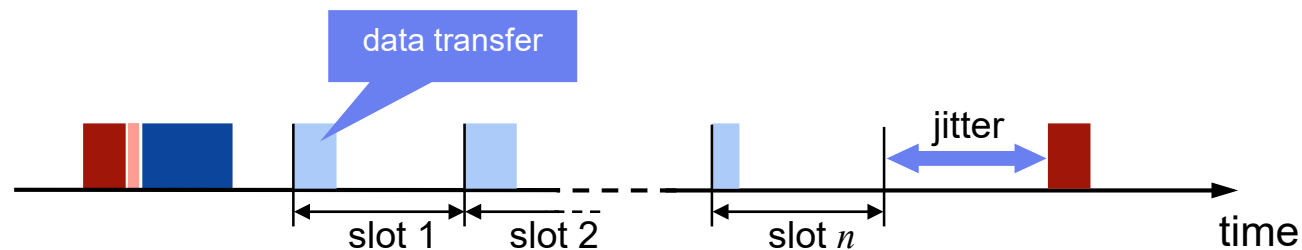
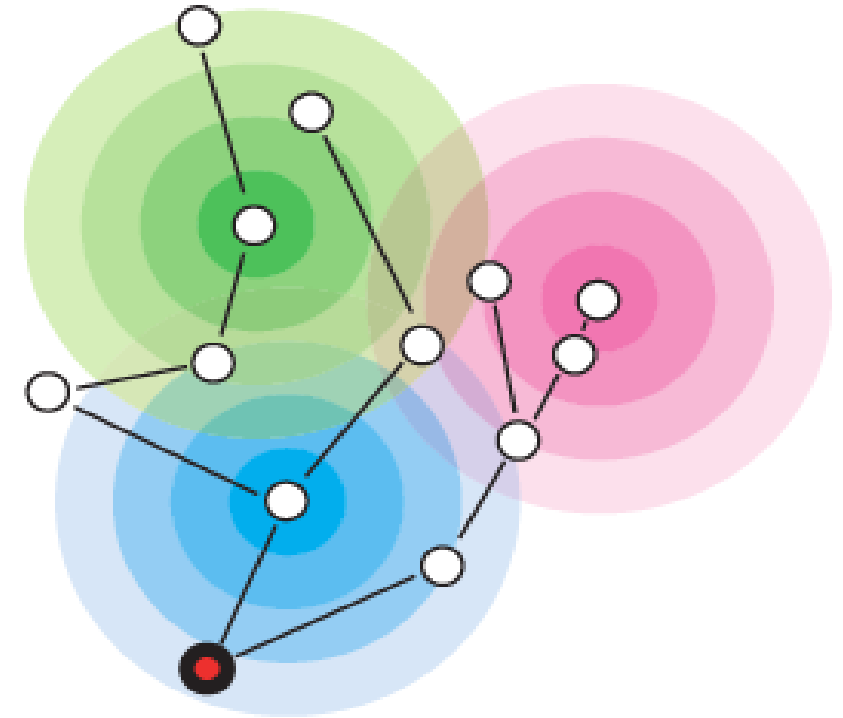


- Tighter guard times increase energy efficiency
- Software testing in a climate chamber
- Validation of correct function, clock drift compensation  $\pm 5\text{ppm}$

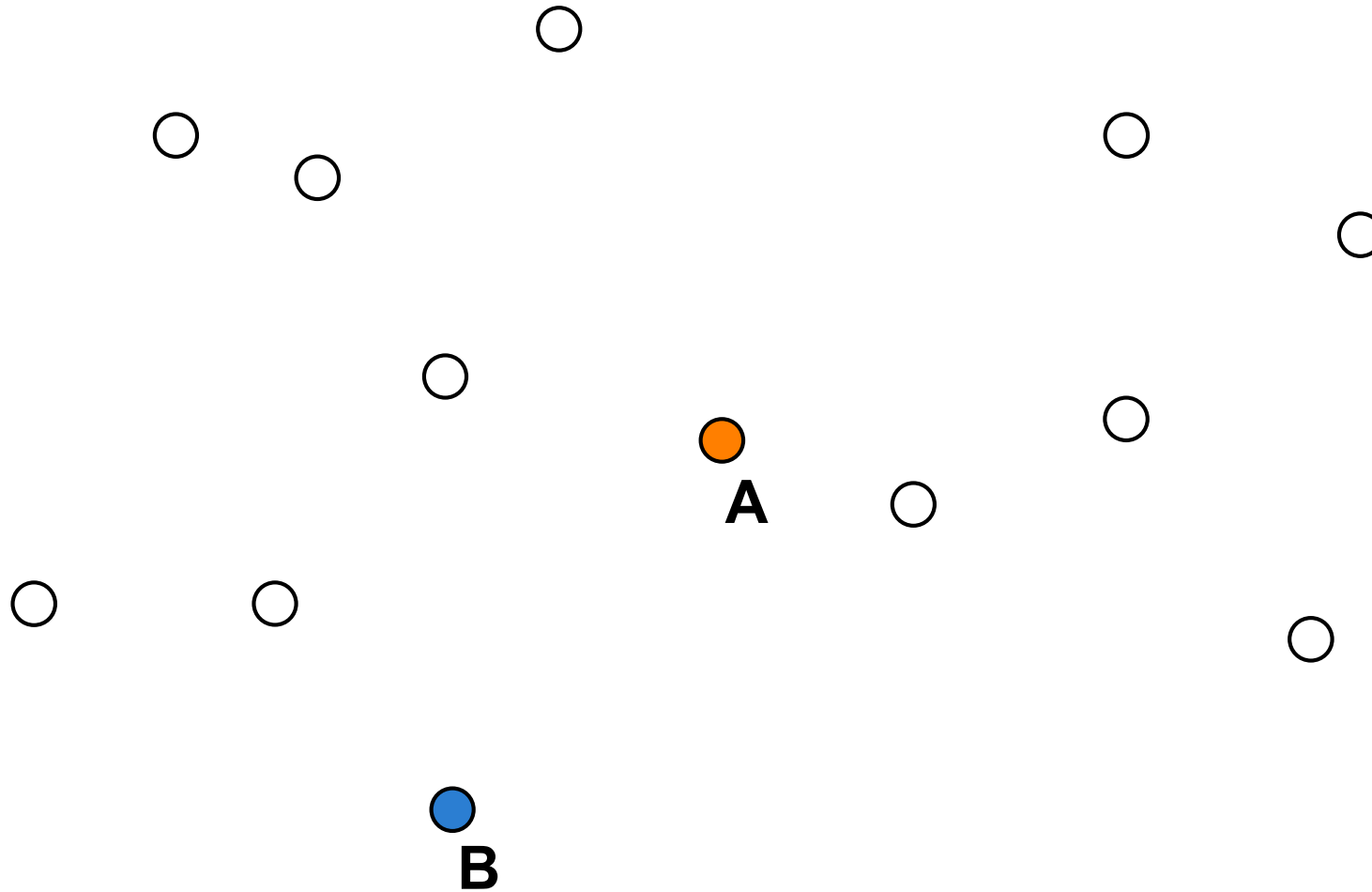


# Ultra Low-Power Data Gathering

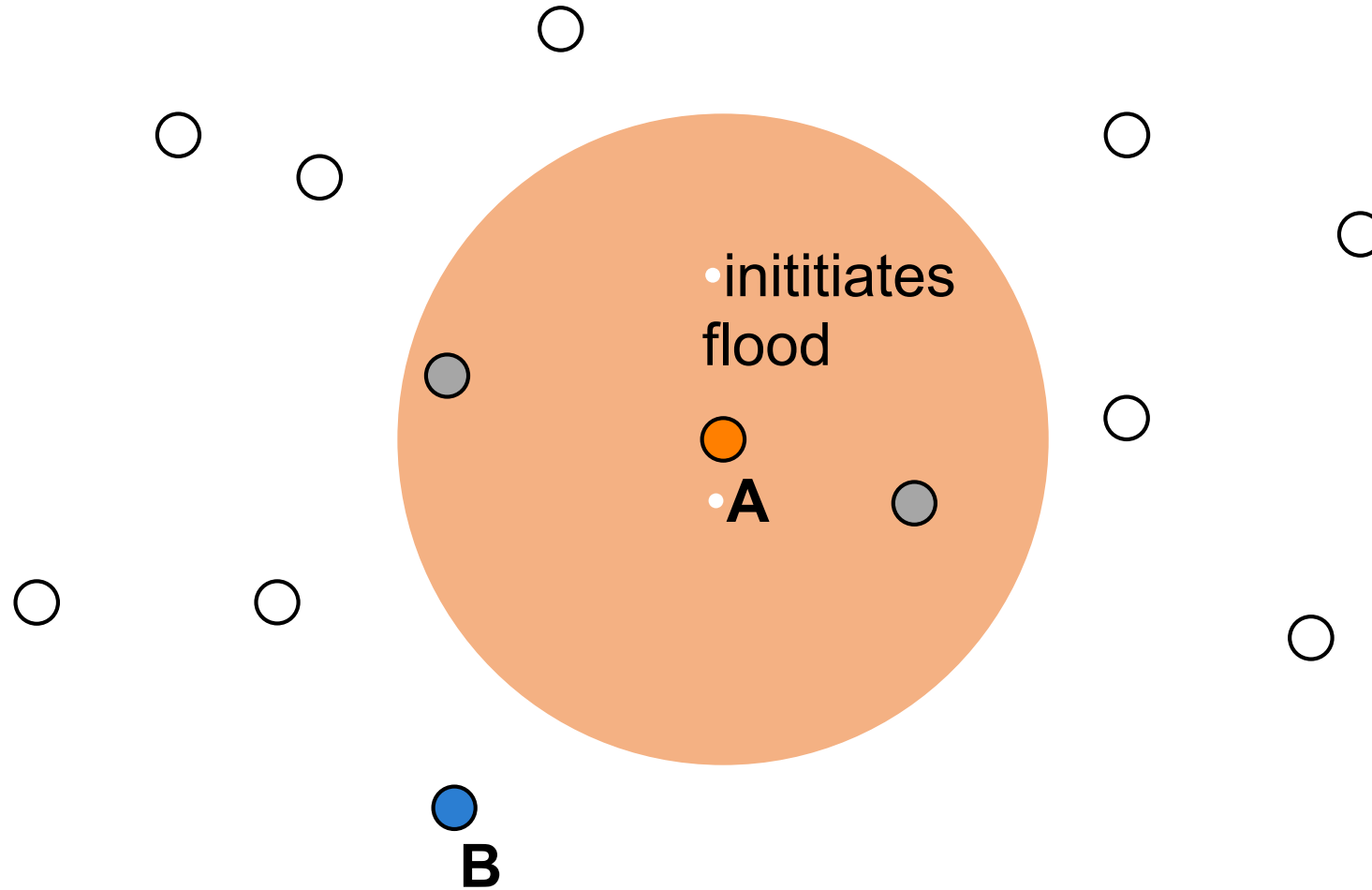
- Dozer – ultra low-power data gathering system
  - Beacon based, 1-hop synchronized TDMA
  - Tree-based routing towards a sink
  - Optimized for ultra-low duty cycles
  - **0.167%** duty-cycle, **0.032mA** (@ 30sec beacons)
- Dynamic adaptation
  - Back-off randomization for diversity
  - Jitter adaptation over multiple hops
  - Adaptive duty-cycle accounts for long-term loss of connectivity



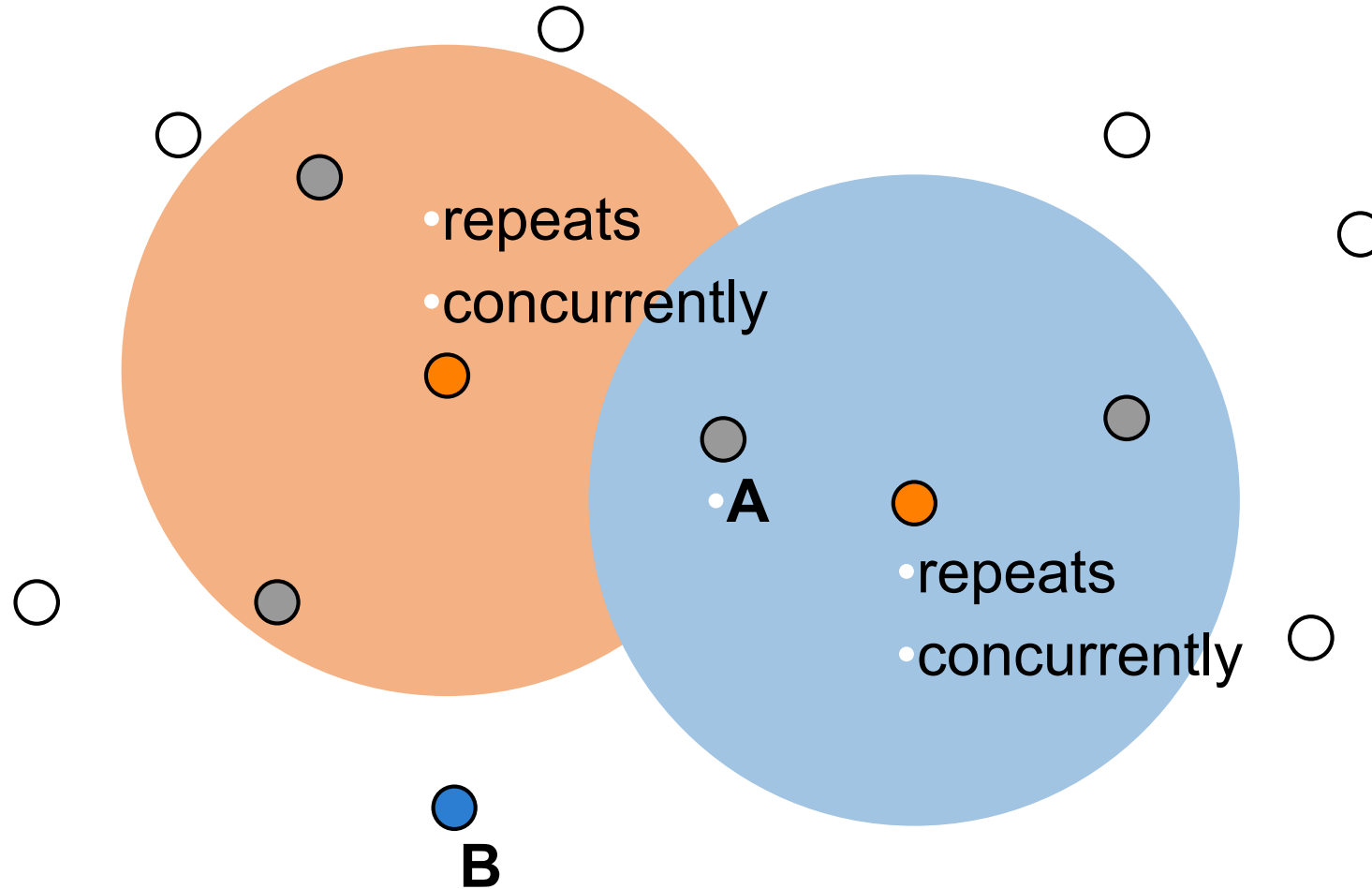
# Glossy – Reliability Through Network Flooding



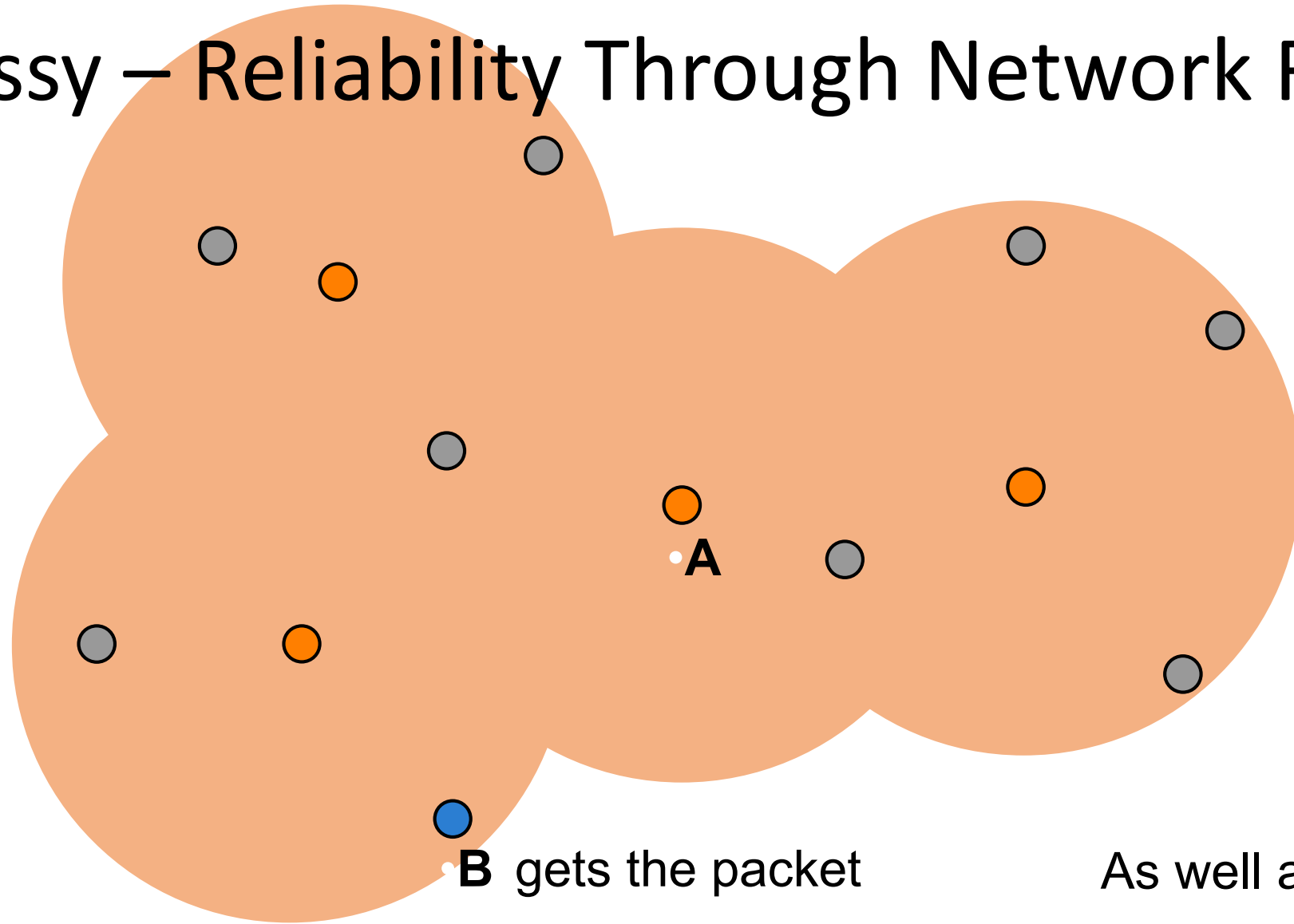
# Glossy – Reliability Through Network Flooding



# Glossy – Reliability Through Network Flooding



# Glossy – Reliability Through Network Flooding



**B** gets the packet

As well as *all* the others!

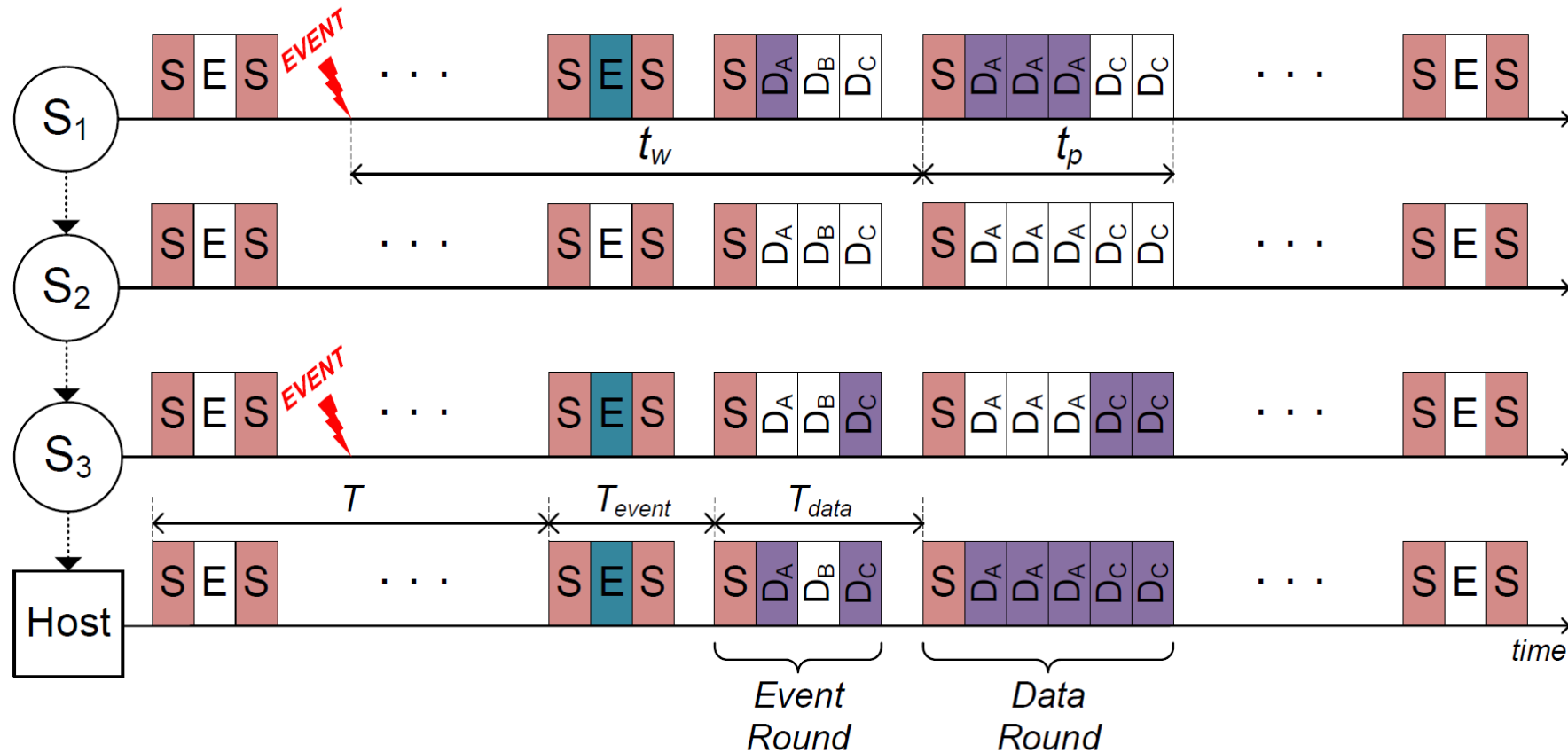
# Glossy – Reliability Through Network Flooding

- ***Stateless***
- Virtual ***single-hop*** Network
- Unicast/broadcast/multicast
- ***Synchronous***

• B gets the packet

As *all* the others!

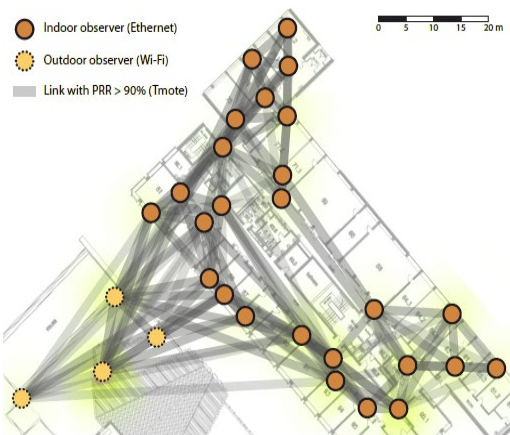
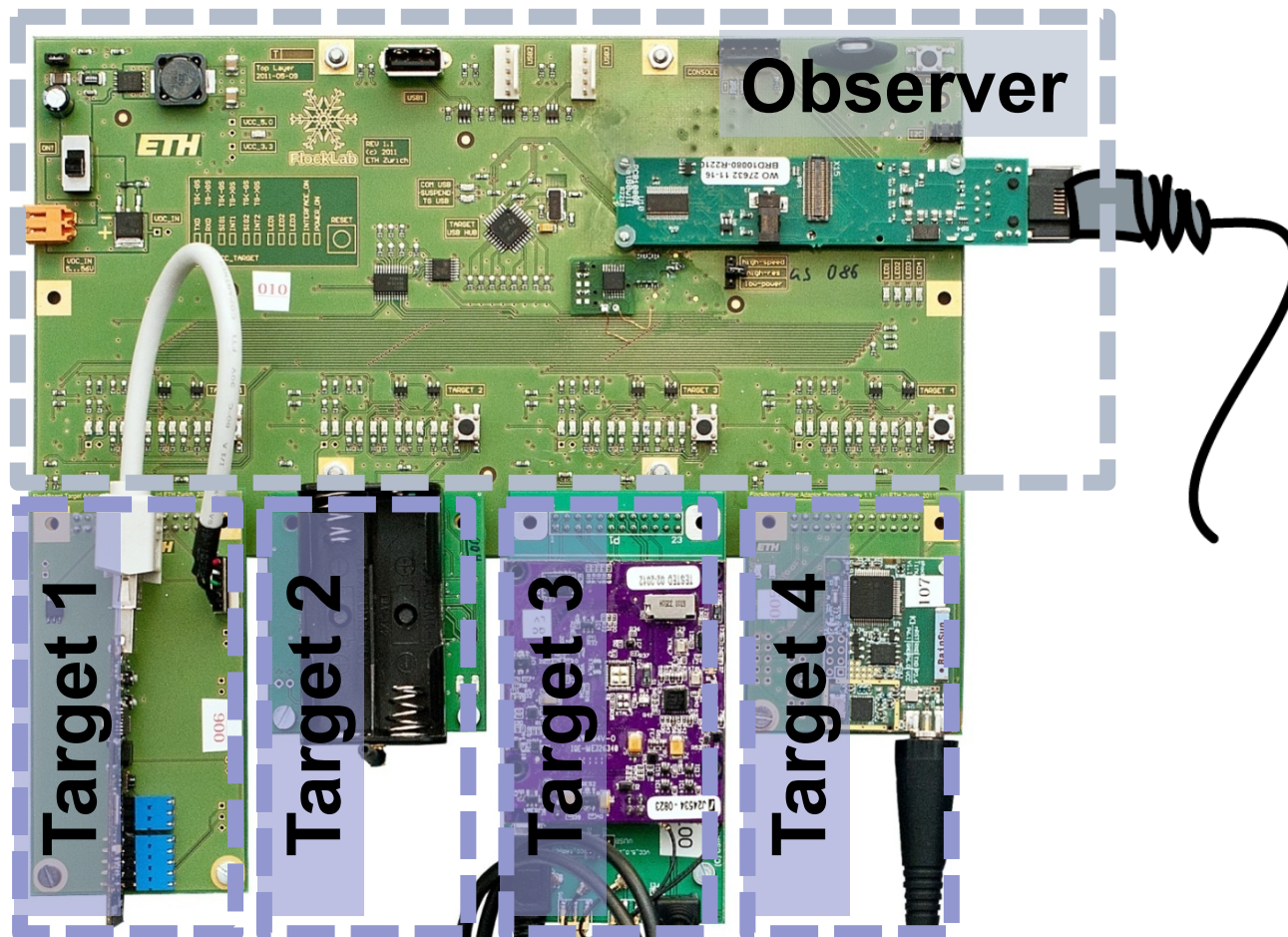
# Subsecond Latencies Consuming only $\mu\text{W}$



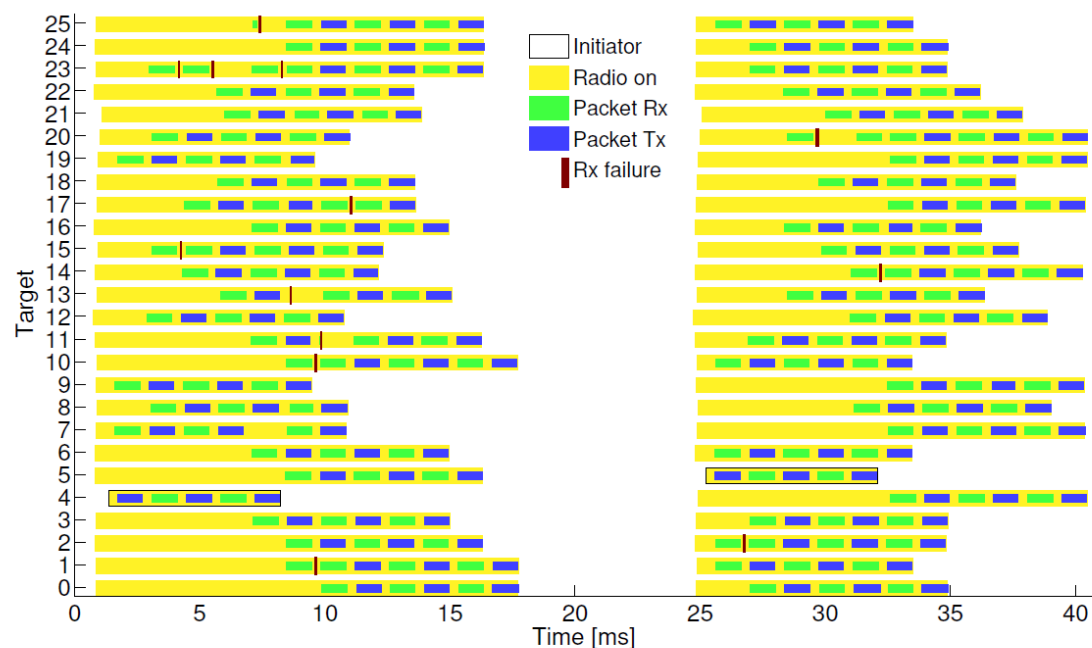


# Scaling It Up In the Lab – The FlockLab Testbed

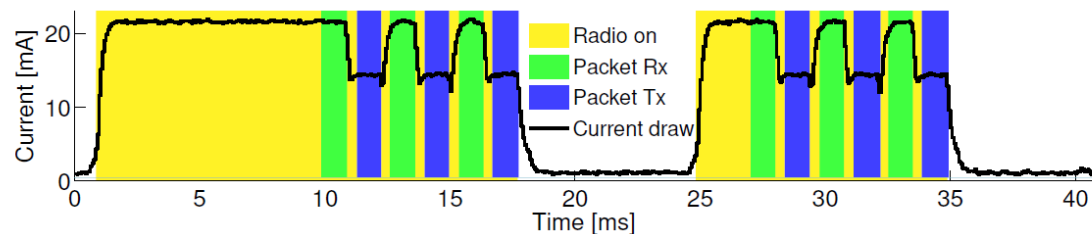
- 31 Node Testbed
  - In- & Outdoor
- Out-of-band backchannel
  - Ethernet/WLAN backbone
- 4 Target HW Architectures
- Logic and power tracing
- Synchronous Actuation



# Example Case: Synchronized Glossy Floods



(a) Radio states of 26 Tmote targets obtained from GPIO tracing.

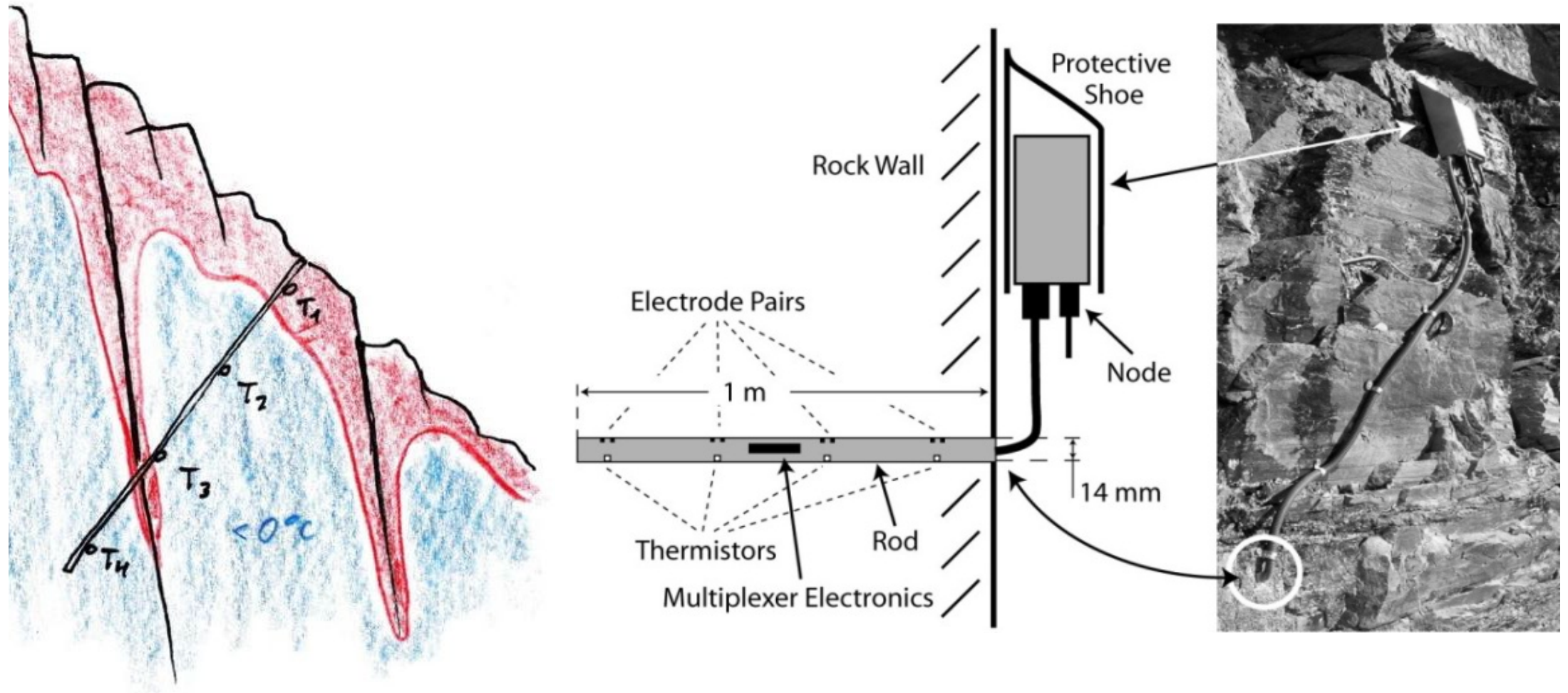


(b) Radio state and current draw of target 0 in (a).

# What is being investigated on the Matterhorn?



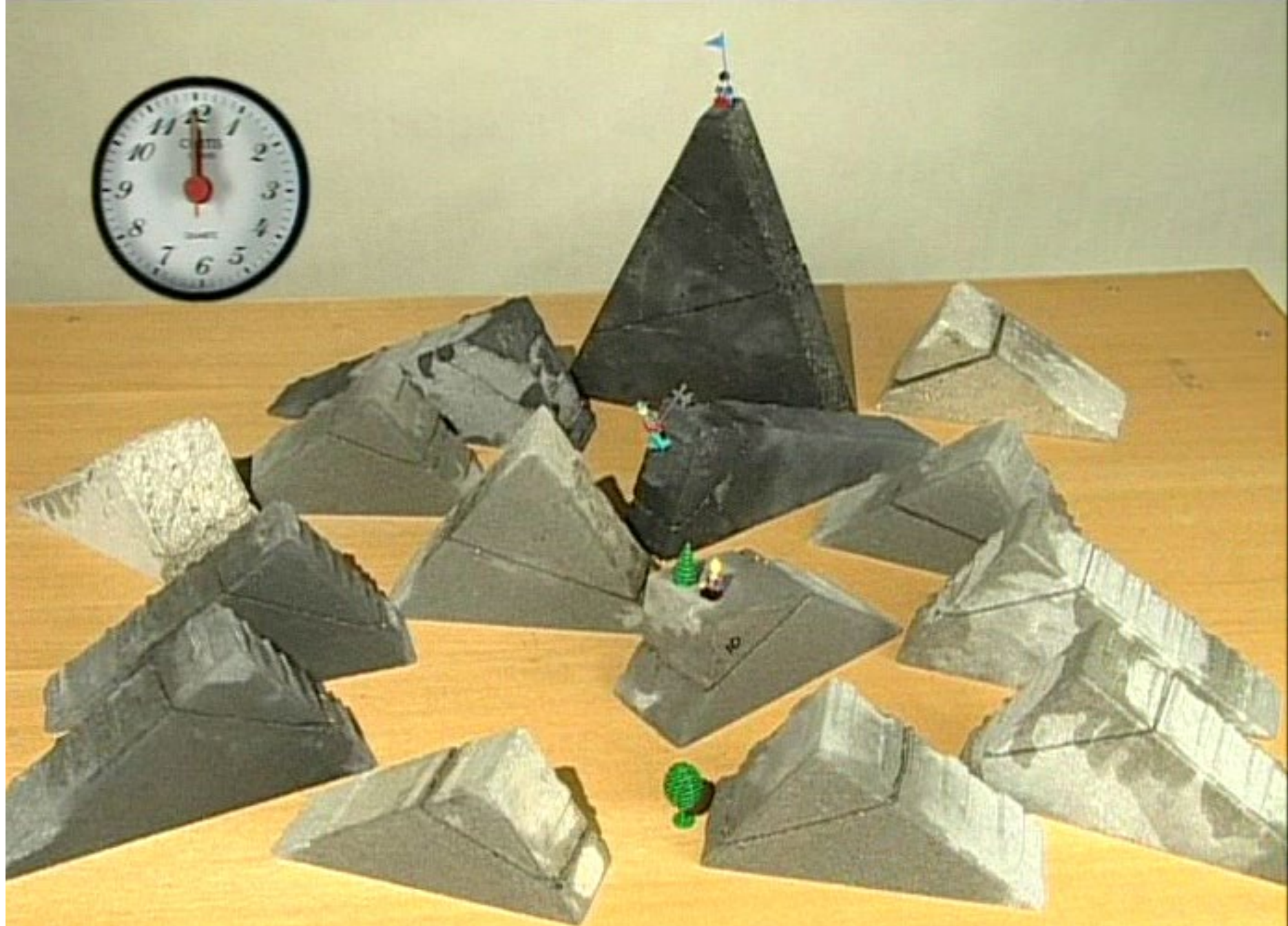
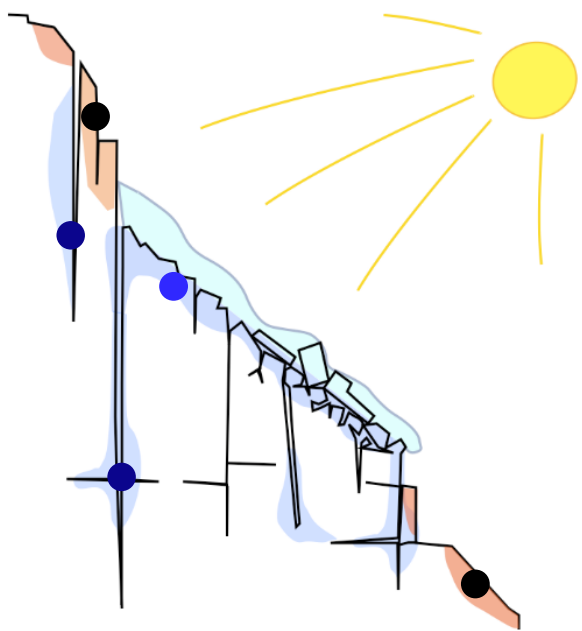
# Understanding How Ice and Water Behaves in Rock Cracks



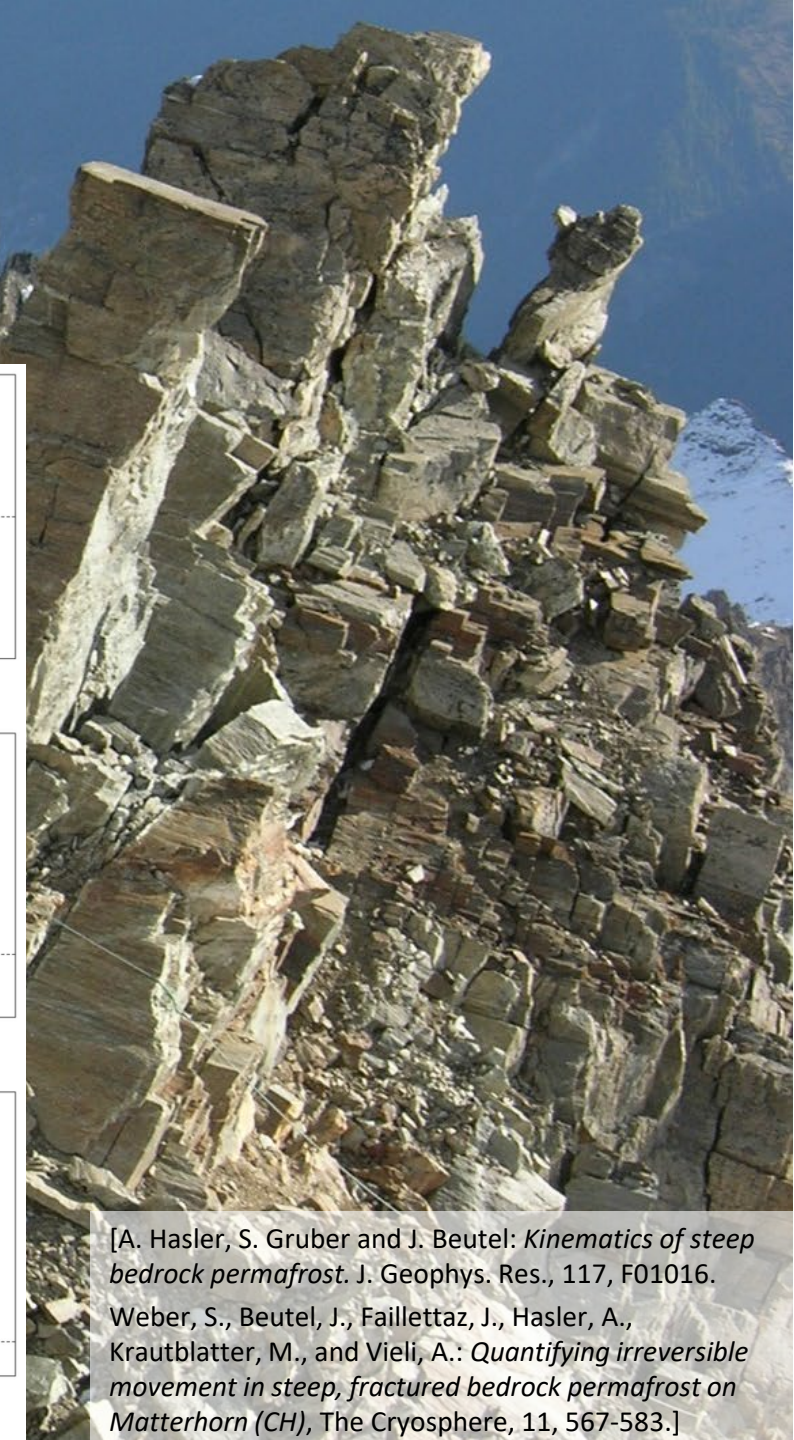
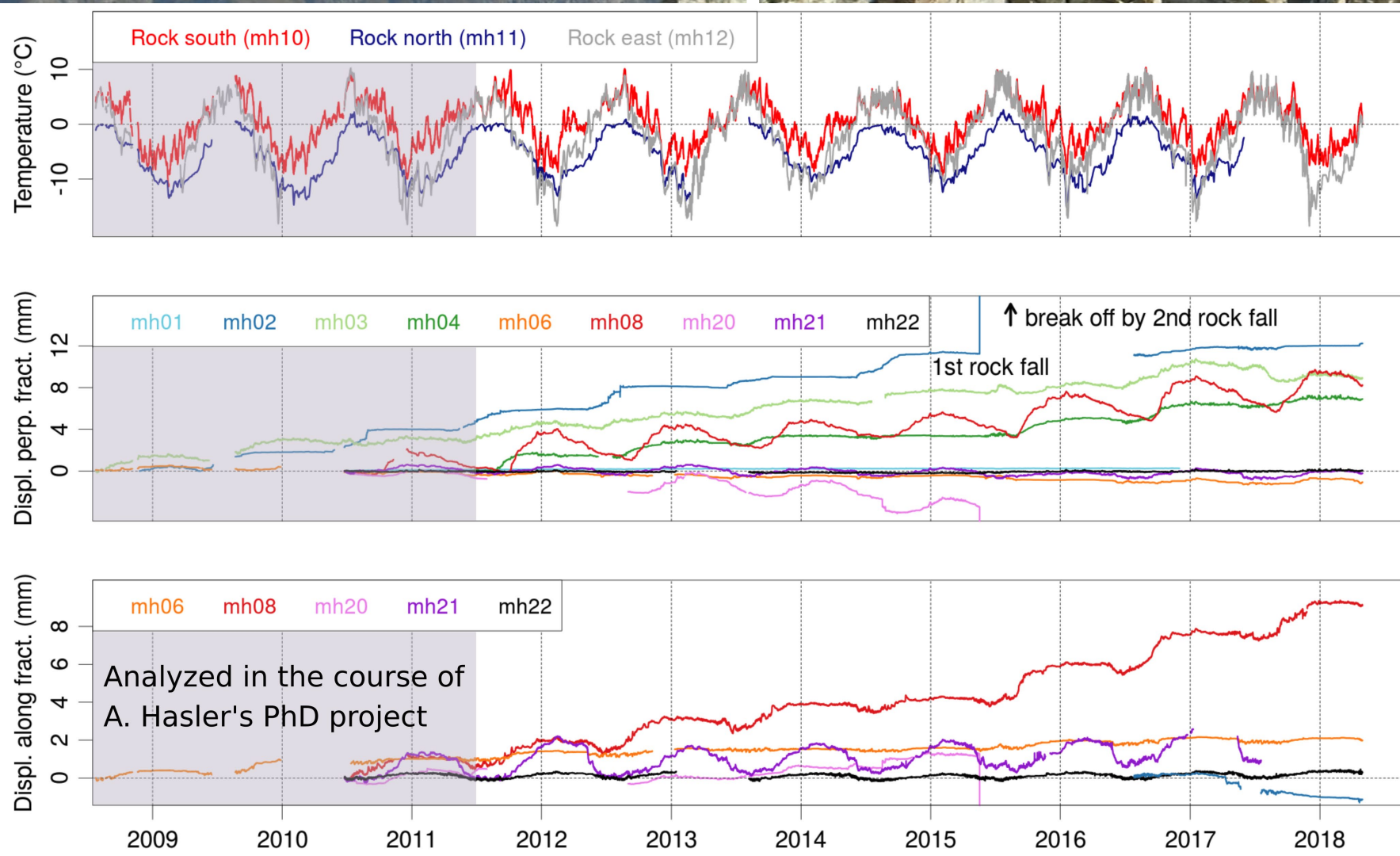
# Is Solid Ice in Fissures Acting as Glue or as a Lubricant?



What happens when mountain permafrost is thawing?

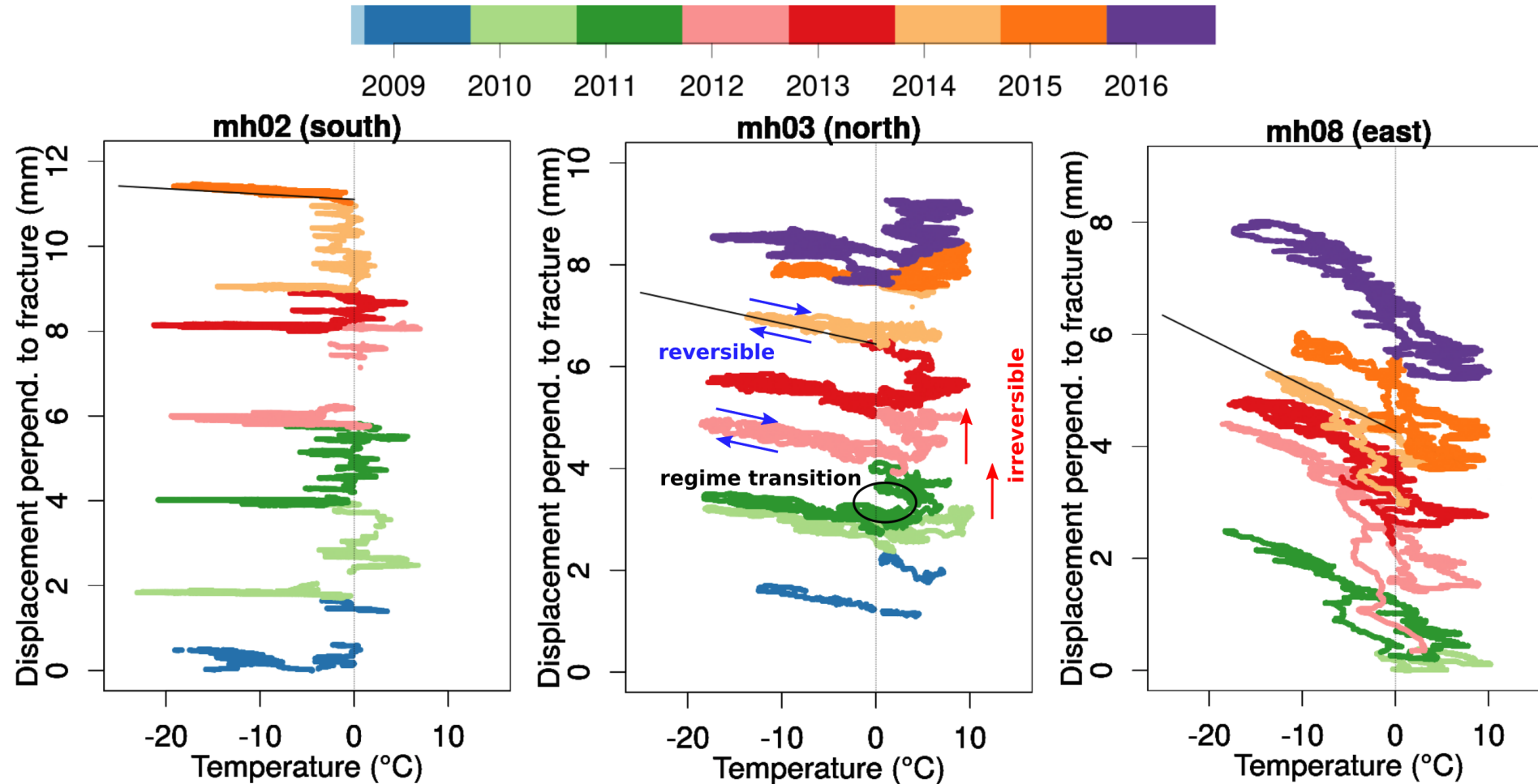


# The clefts at Hörnli ridge move in distinct patterns



[A. Hasler, S. Gruber and J. Beutel: *Kinematics of steep bedrock permafrost*. J. Geophys. Res., 117, F01016.  
Weber, S., Beutel, J., Faillettaz, J., Hasler, A., Krautblatter, M., and Vieli, A.: *Quantifying irreversible movement in steep, fractured bedrock permafrost on Matterhorn (CH)*, The Cryosphere, 11, 567-583.]

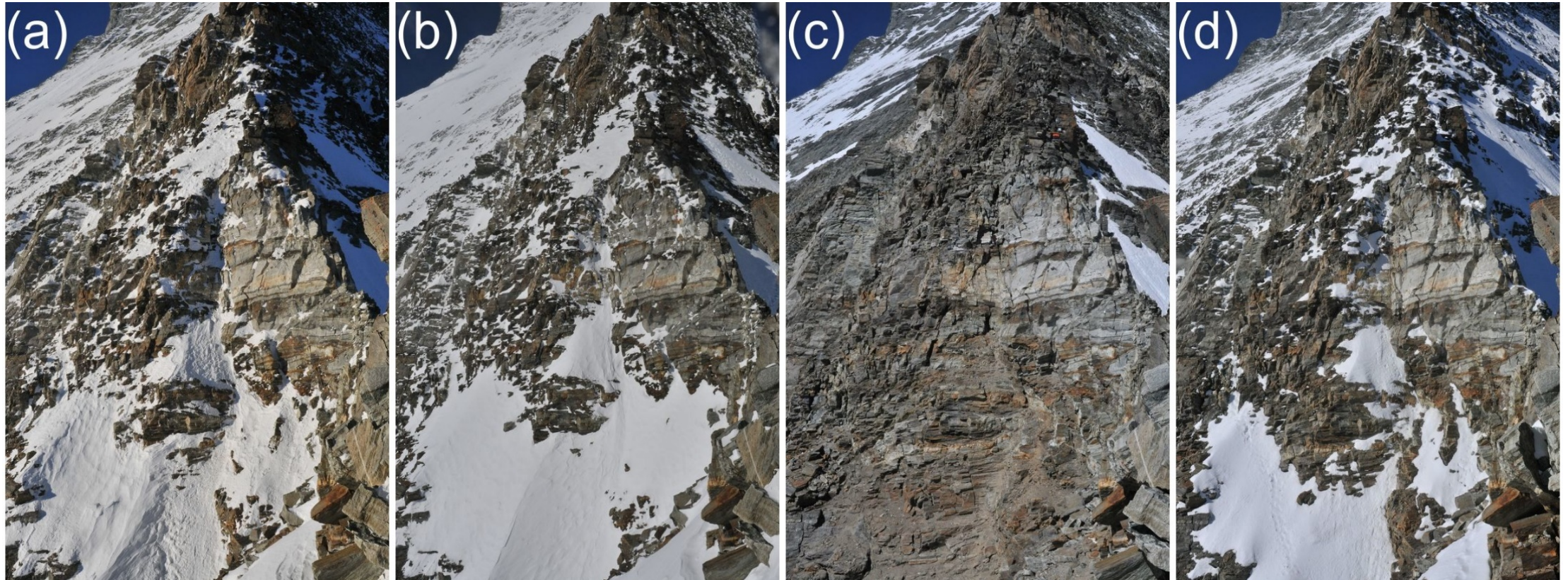
# Learning from Freezing and Thawing





# High-resolution Time Lapse Photography

- Stationary D-SLR camera with Wireless LAN data link since 2010



2009



2014



C2



18.05.2015



C2

19.05.2015



C2

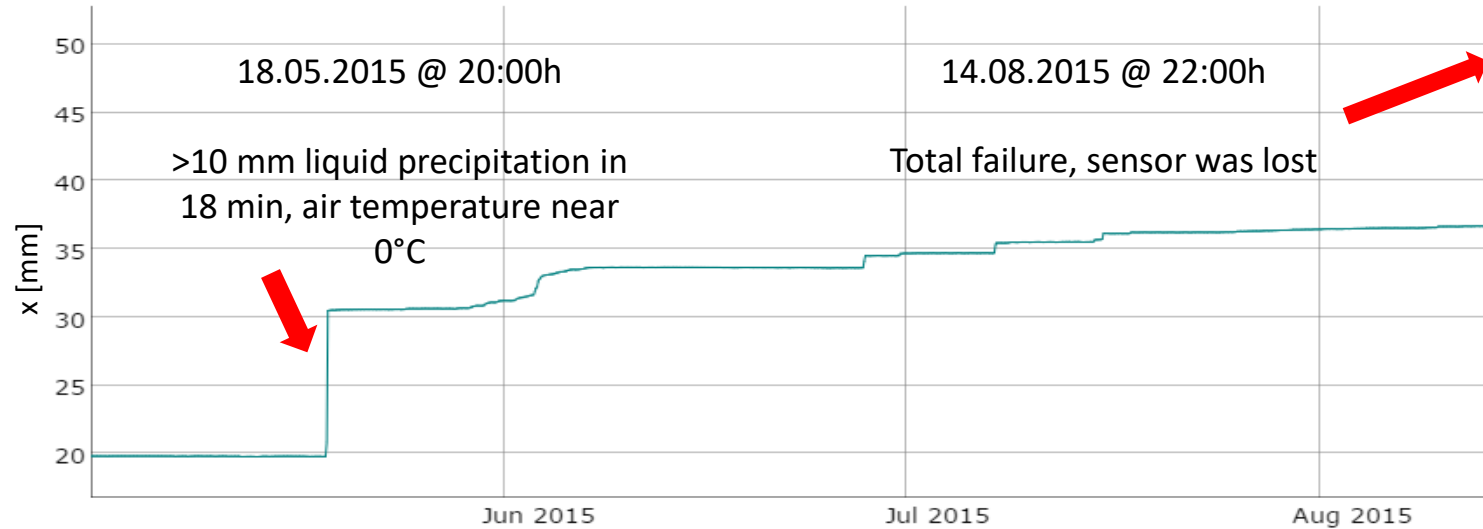
29.05.2015



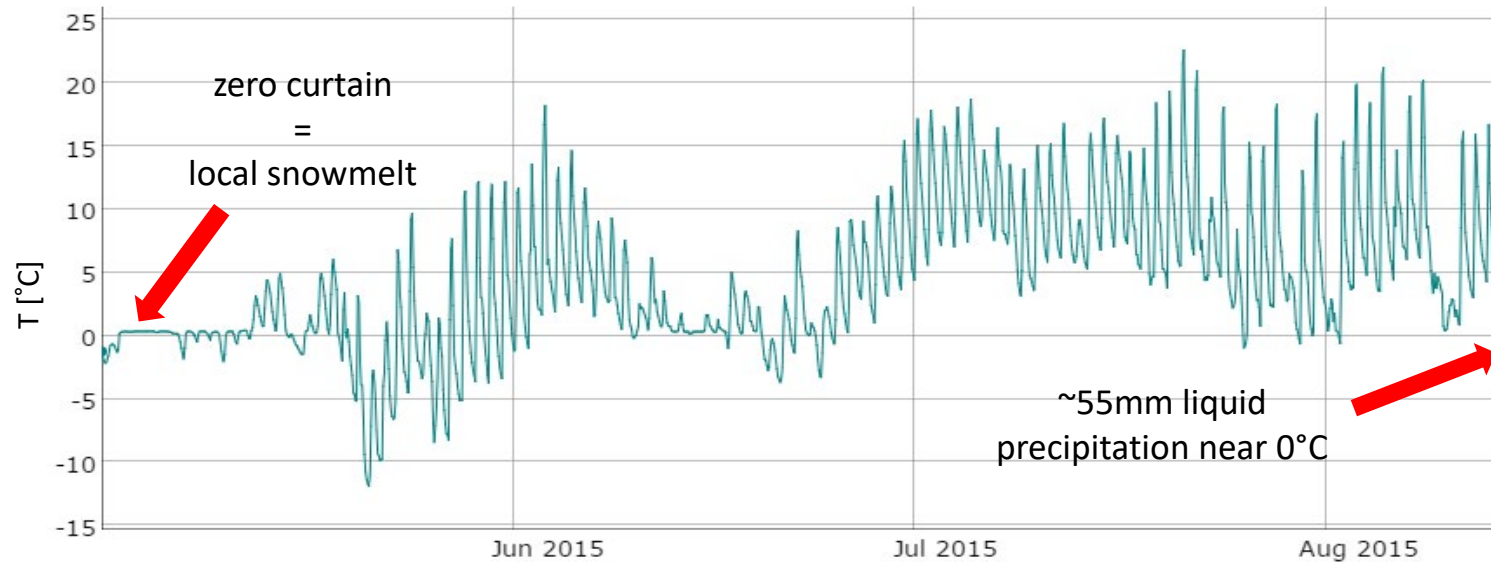
C2

# C2 Detachment Event Summer 2015

Cleft opening



Rock temperature



# Complex Sensing: Continuous L1-DGPS





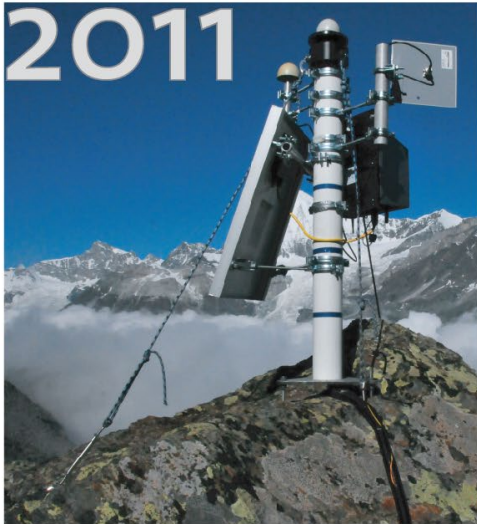
# Detecting large-scale mass movements in mountain permafrost slopes



# Wireless L1-GPS Sensors



**GPS Logger**  
Large-scale,  
early access data



**GPS CoreStation**  
Experimentation, variable use



**Wireless GPS Sensor**  
Fully integrated, low-power

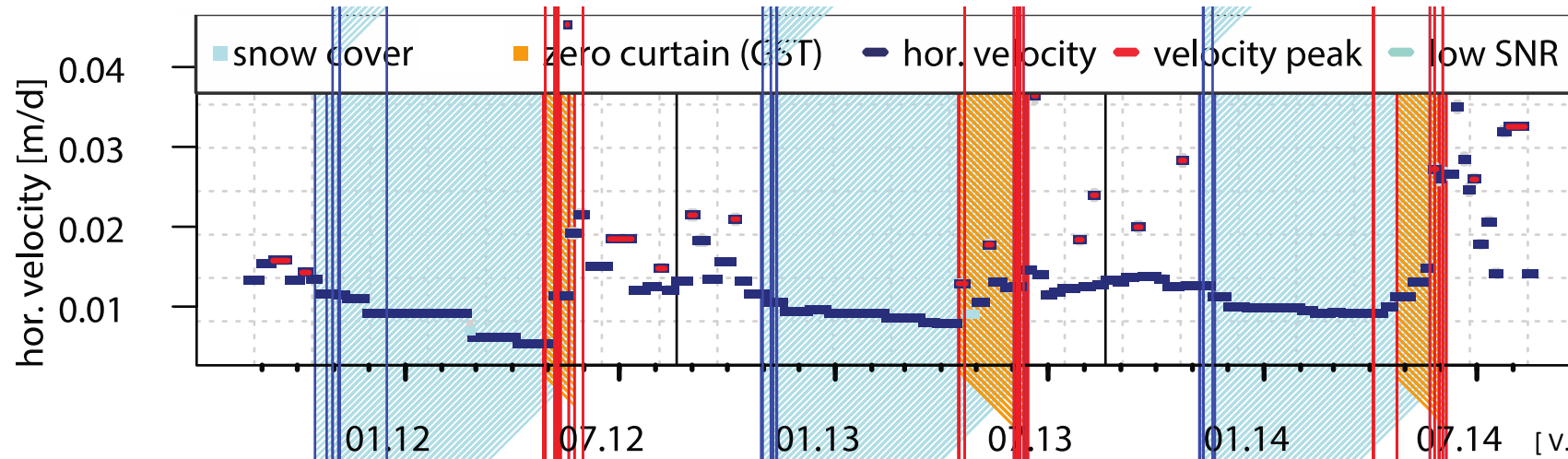
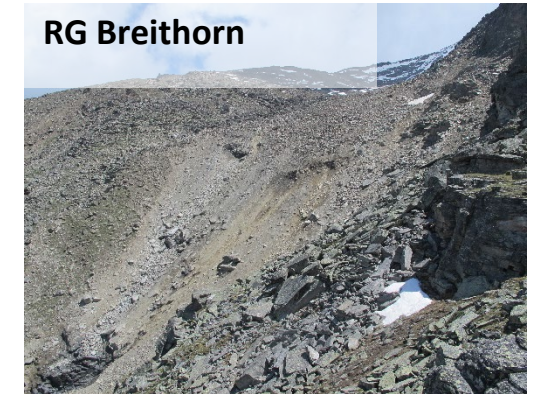
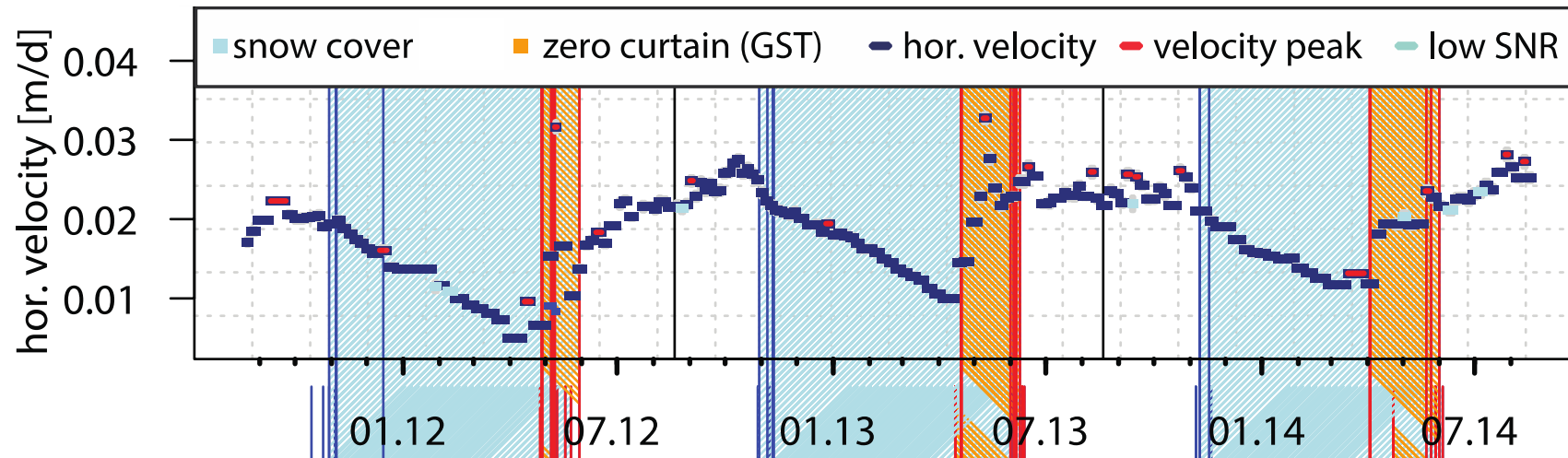
- Wireless communication
  - Wireless sensor network cluster
  - 868 MHz ultra low-power radios
  - Up to ~7km range
- Sensors
  - ublox LEA-6T L1-GPS
  - Trimble Bullet III active antenna
  - 2-axis SCA830 inclinometer
  - Ambient temp/hum/battery
- Standalone data logger functionality
  - Local 2GB data buffer
- Remote configurable
  - Duty-cycle (1-24h)
  - Sampling rate (30 sec)
- Data transfer in near real-time

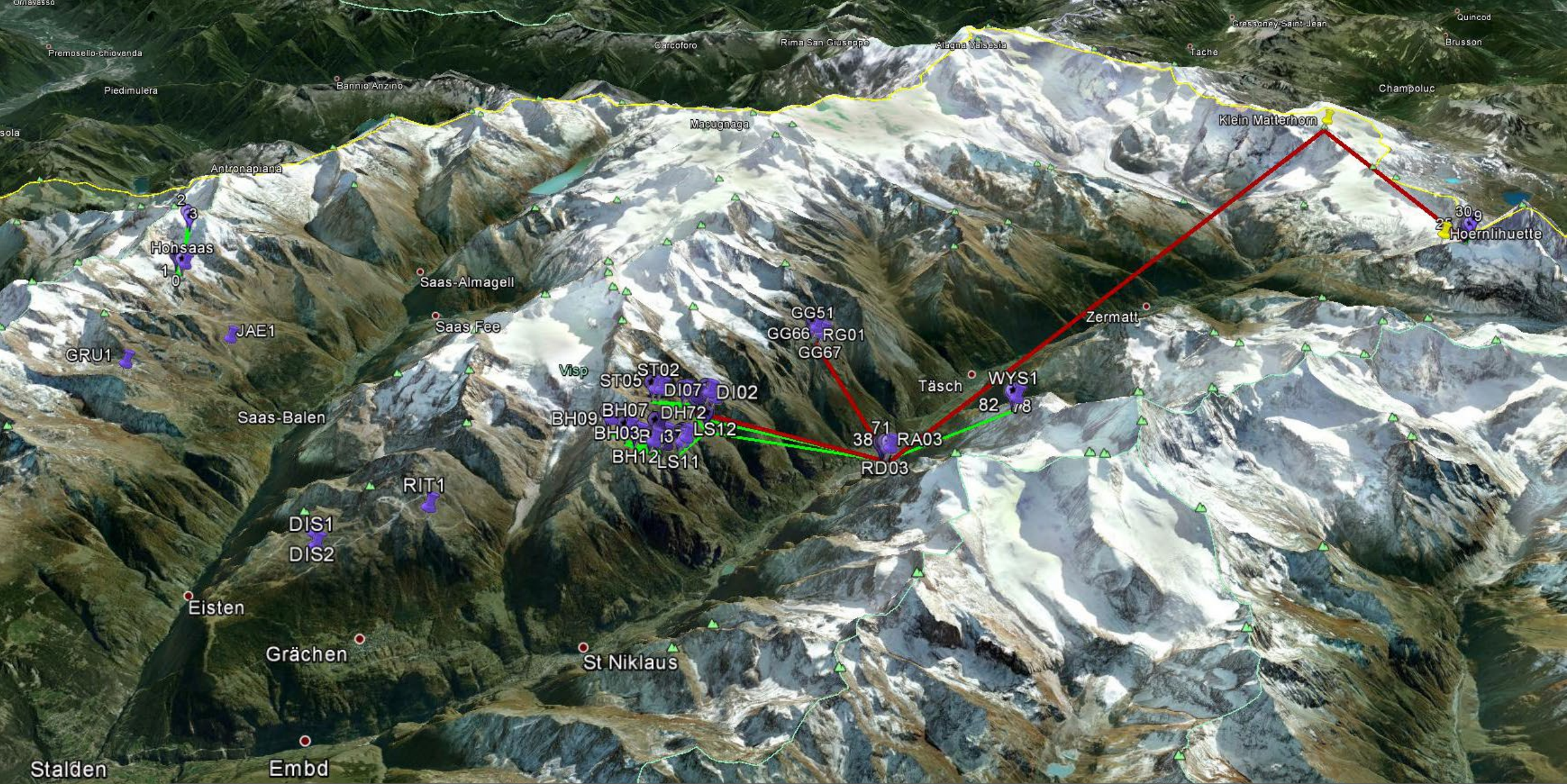
[J. Beutel et al: *X-Sense: Sensing in Extreme Environments*. Proc. Design, Automation and Test in Europe (DATE 2011)]

[V. Wirz et al: *Temporal characteristics of different cryosphere-related slope movements in high mountains*. Proc. Second World Landslide Forum, 2011.]

[B. Buchli, F. Sutton and J. Beutel: *GPS-equipped Wireless Sensor Network Node for High-accuracy Positioning Applications*. Proc. EWSN 2012.]

# Movements In the Context of Meteorological Factors



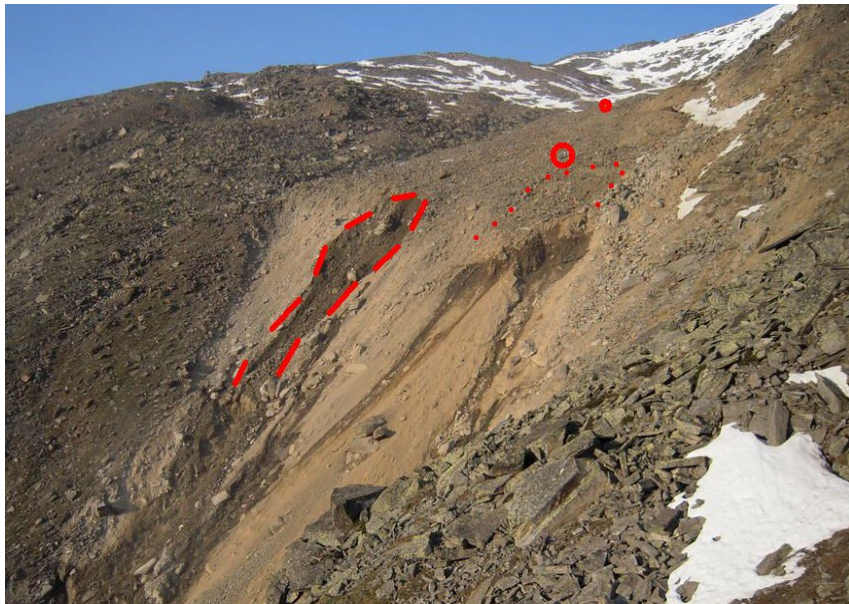


# Real-time Experimentation at Valley-Scale

# Access to Real-time Data for Early Warning Decision-making

## Bielzug Debris Flow, June 2013

- Critical natural hazard event
- Herbriggen partial village evacuation
- Closure of road and railway to Zermatt



[Bielzug/Breithorn rock glacier, C. Graf, WSL, Switzerland]

## Längschnee, Fall 2014

- Constructive measures securing rock boulders above Herbriggen
- Extension of sensor coverage in collaboration with authorities



[Willi Gitz, GFS, Stalden, Switzerland]

# Technology Transfer

## PERMOS Continuous GPS Pilot

- Pilot program to make L1-DGPS sensors developed in a research project available to PERMOS partner on their field sites
- First sensor installation in summer 2012, extensions in 2014, 2015, 2016  
(Valais: Herbruggen Bielzug, Breithorn + Längschnee, Grächen Distelhorn + Ritigraben, Saas-Balen Gruben + Jäggihorn, Wyss Schije, Randa Grossgufer)



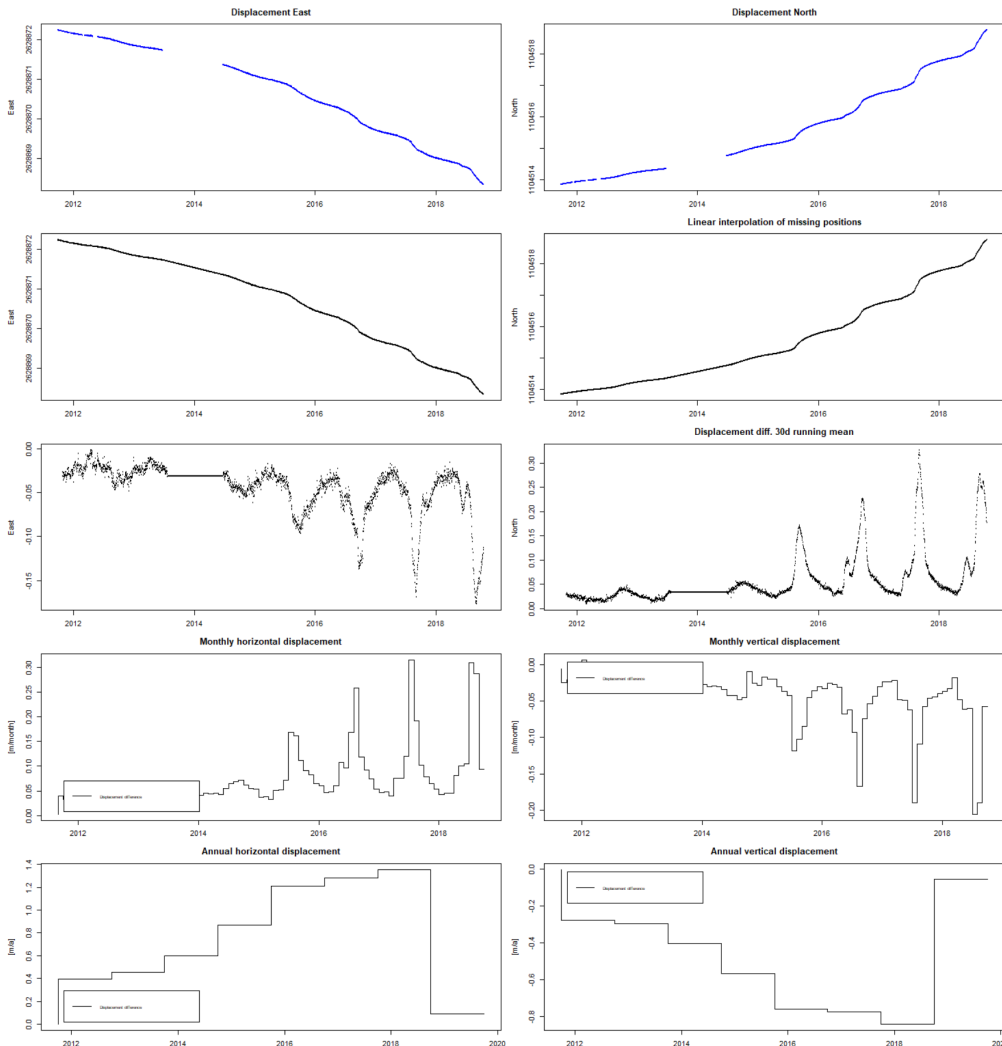
PERMOS site Largario rock glacier, Sept. 2014



Wyss Schije avalanche protection galleries, Randa, Switzerland

# Active Measures: Randa, VS, June 2018

GG02 - Position 44 - 2011-09-29 to 2018-10-19



Genfer. Der ausserordentliche Grossblock befindet sich an der Front des Druckgletschers Grabengufier und droht in Richtung Randa abzugleiten.

## Naturgefahren | Instabile Gesteinsmassen auf dem Blockgletscher Grabengufier drohen in Richtung Randa abzugeben

### Tauender Permafrost lockert Fels

Randa überhalb von Randa ist ein Freizeithotspot. Ein Gesteinsblock in der Höhe zweier Chamonixberge ist vorerst gesichert. Die Arbeiter werden in den kommenden Wochen mit 20 Metern in den Block rüber, wenn die stabilen Gesteinsmassen, die der Block zwischen dem Grabengufier und dem Grabengufier bilden, sich lösen. Die Arbeiter werden in den kommenden Wochen mit 20 Metern in den Block rüber, wenn die stabilen Gesteinsmassen, die der Block zwischen dem Grabengufier und dem Grabengufier bilden, sich lösen.



**Computerimulationen**  
Zu welchen kleineren Abgängen sei es in den zurückliegenden Jahren aufgrund von tauenden Permafrost schon gekommen. Mit Hilfe von Simulationen der Verformung der neuen Eisabdeckung im Grabengufier seien die kleineren Ereignisse keine Gefahr für die Felsmassen der Grabengufier. Die Simulationen zeigen, dass die Felsmassen durch die Gletscher nicht abgetragen werden, sondern durch die Gletscher abgetragen werden. Die Simulationen zeigen, dass die Felsmassen durch die Gletscher nicht abgetragen werden, sondern durch die Gletscher abgetragen werden.



# Complex Sensing: Acoustic Emissions and Micro-Seismics





# Frequency Profiling Experiment at Matterhorn



- AS** = acoustic sensor
- ▶ low: 5 – 30 Hz
  - ▶ high: 35 – 100 kHz
  - ▶ triggered sampling

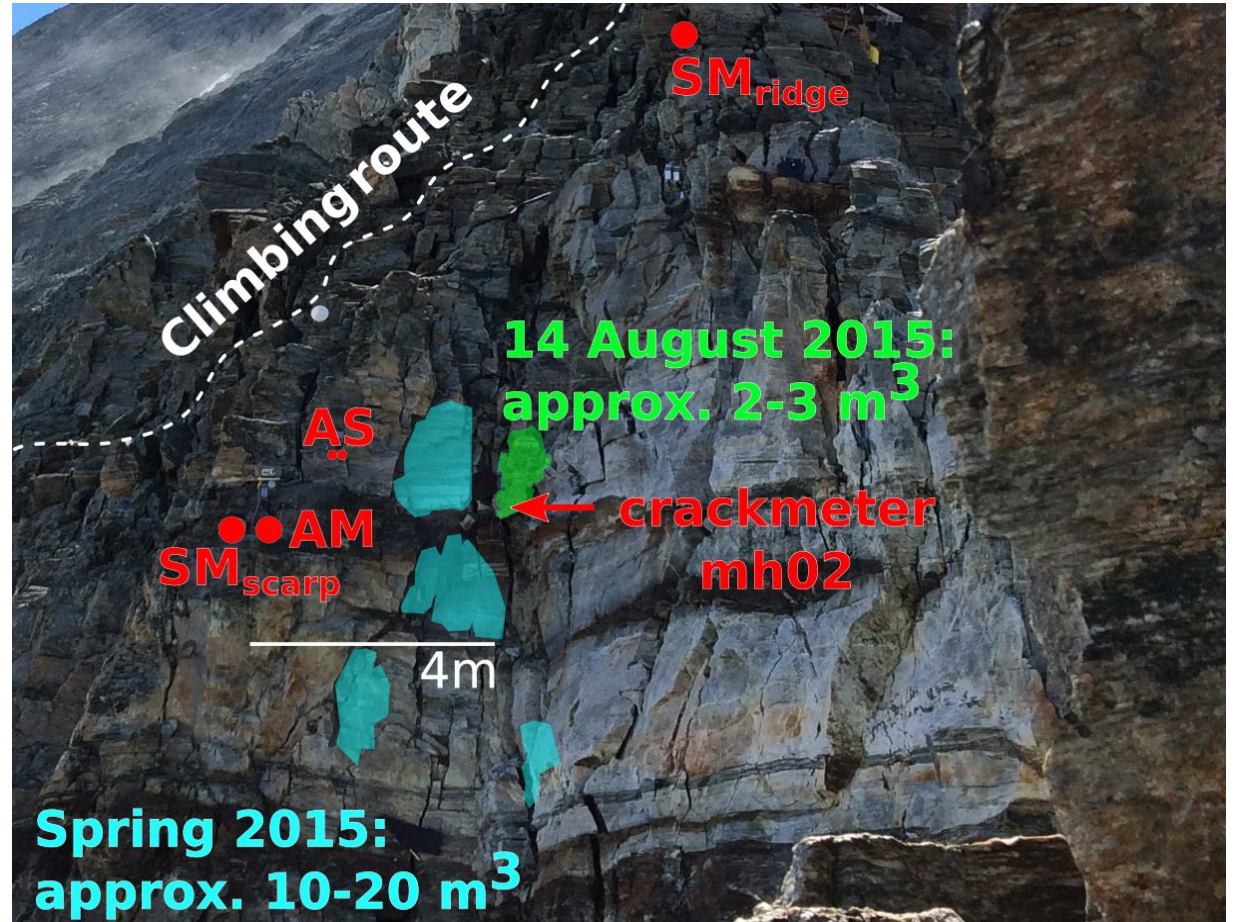


- AM** = accelerometer
- ▶ 10 – 6000 Hz
  - ▶ continuous sampling



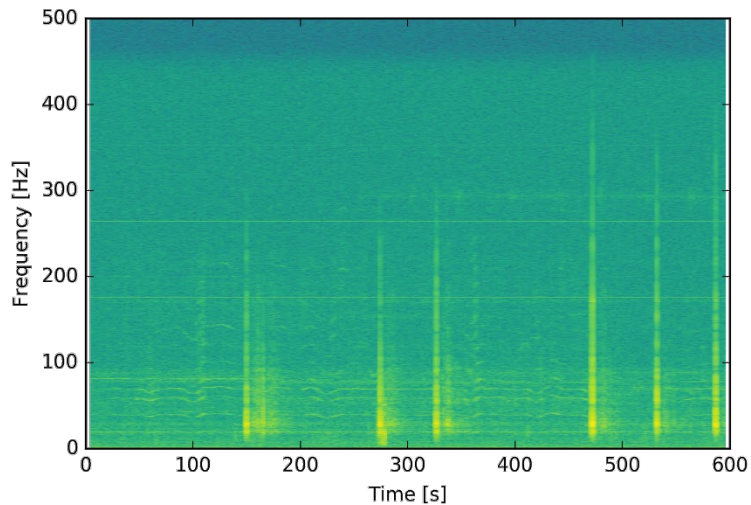
- SM** = seismometer
- ▶ 1 – 100 Hz
  - ▶ continuous sampling

frequency  
detection range

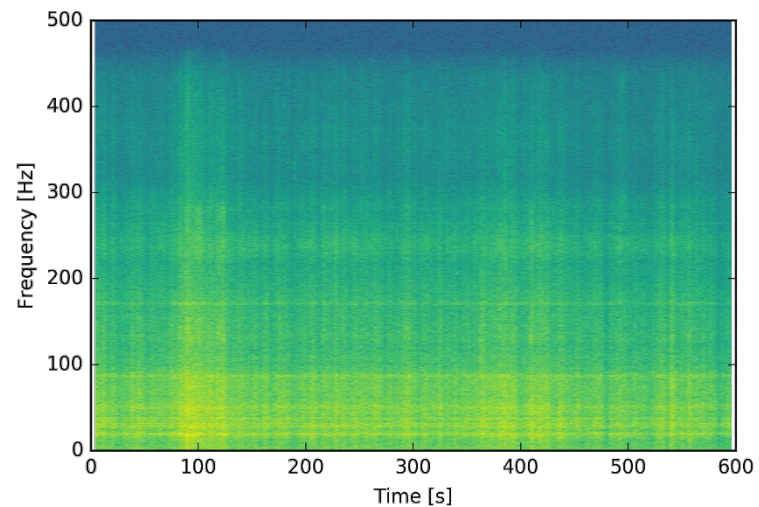


# Acoustic and Seismic Event Characterization

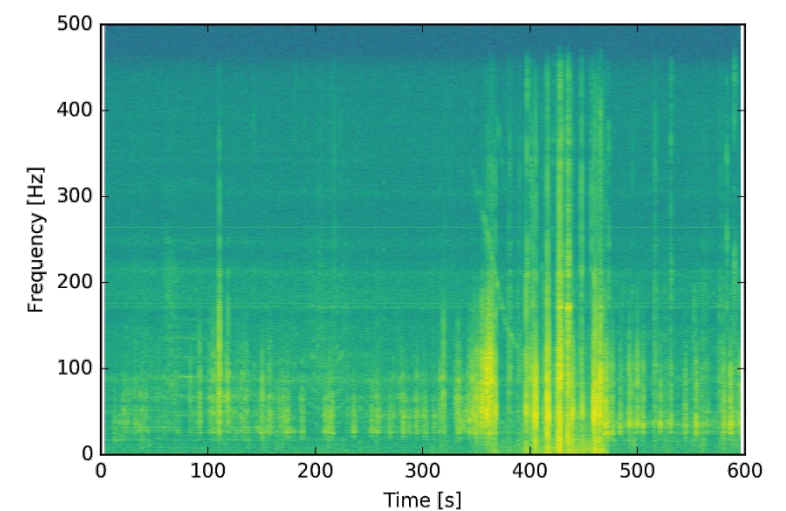
- Temporal and spectral patterns define acoustic and seismic events
- Example: Geophone waveforms



Rockfall



Strong Wind

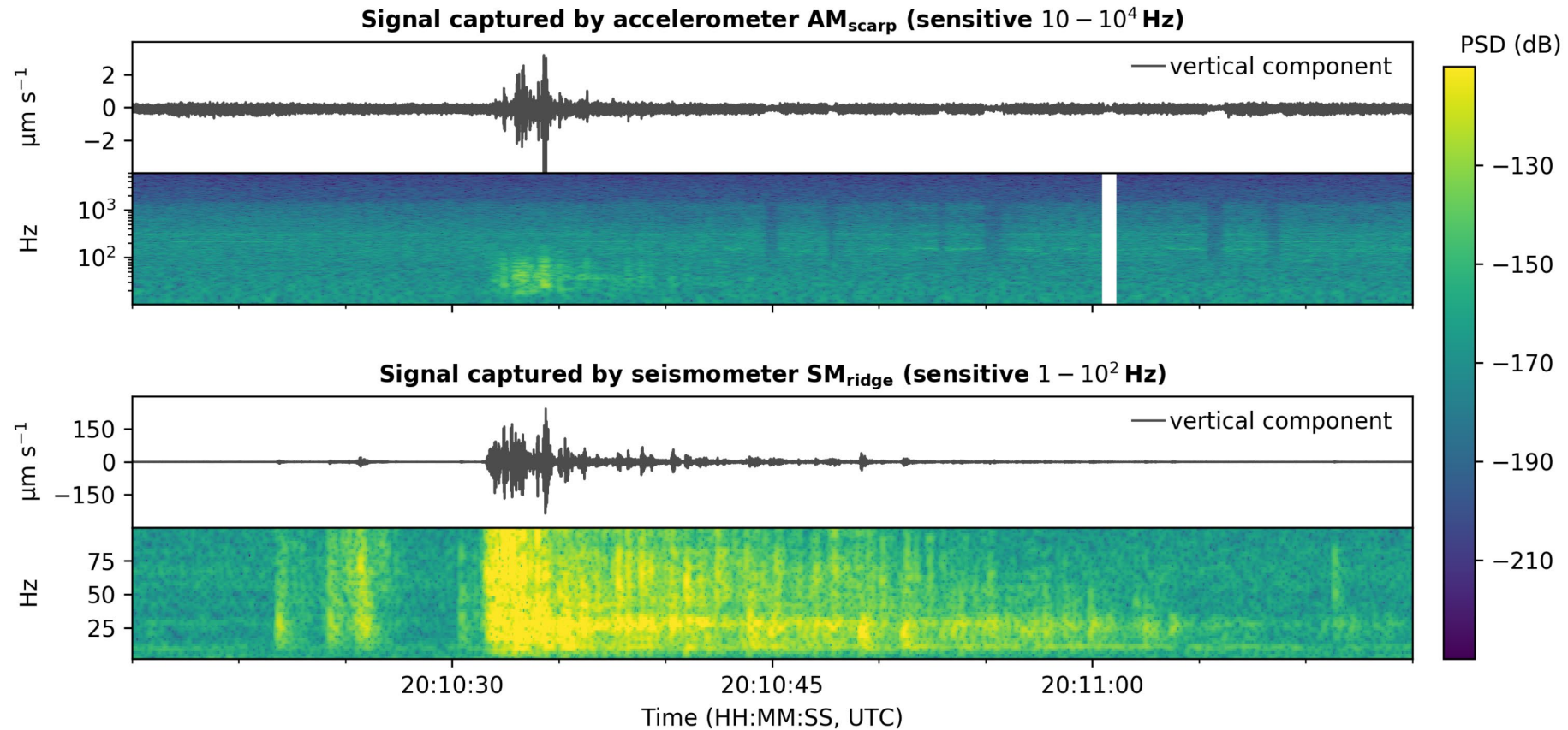


Mountaineers

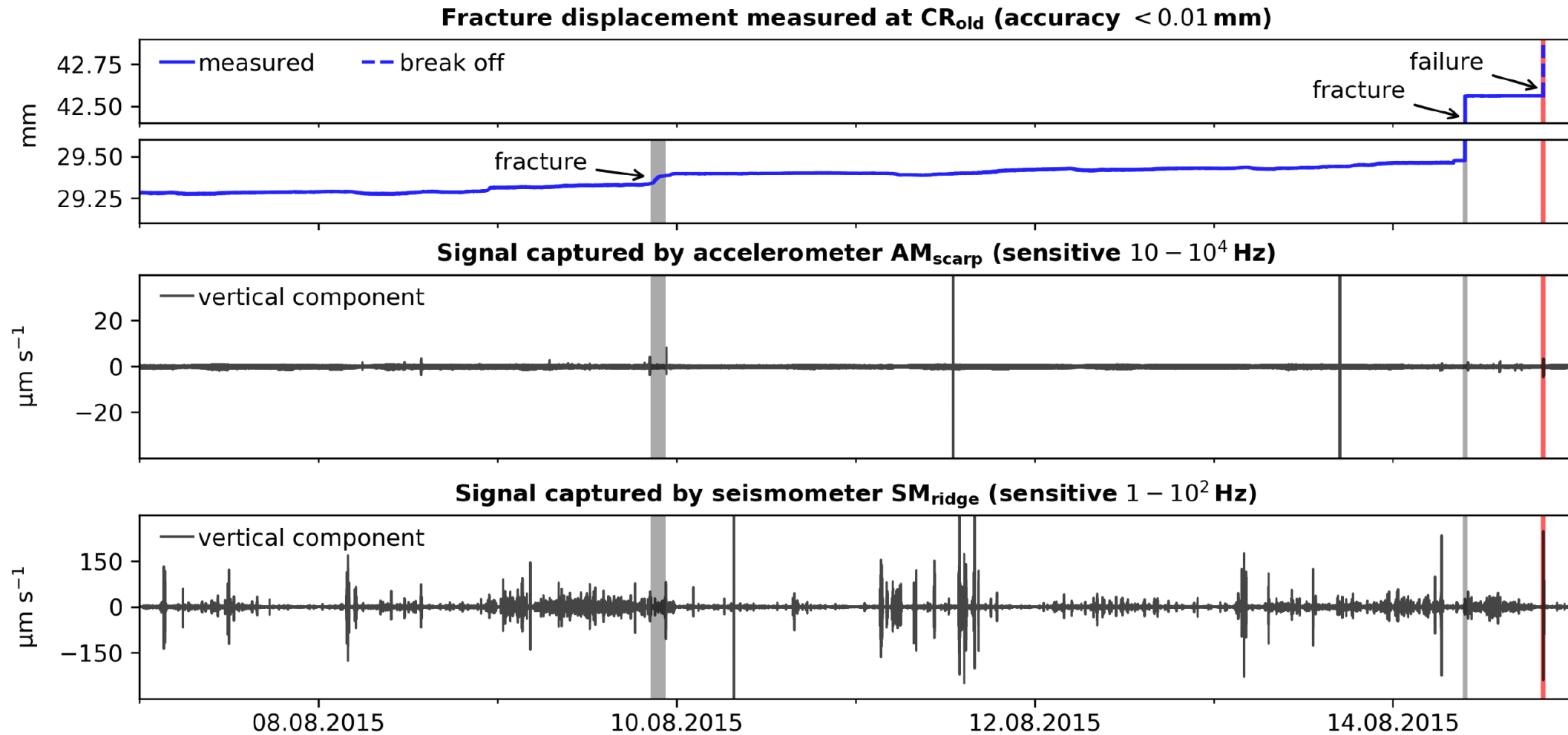
[M. Meyer, J. Beutel and L. Thiele: *Unsupervised Feature Learning for Audio Analysis*. Proc. Conf. Learning Representations, April 2017.]

Meyer, M., Weber, S., Beutel, J., and Thiele, L.: *Systematic Identification of External Influences in Multi-Year Micro-Seismic Recordings Using Convolutional Neural Networks*, Earth Surf. Dynam. Discuss., in review, 2018.]

# Detecting Fracture Events in Seismic Signals



# Combining Different Signals in the Analysis

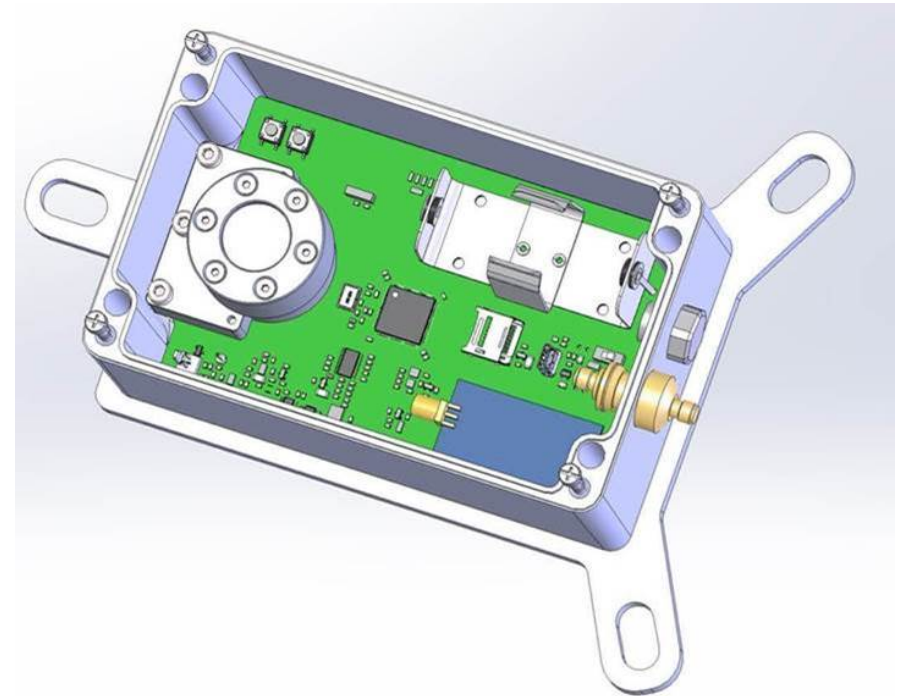
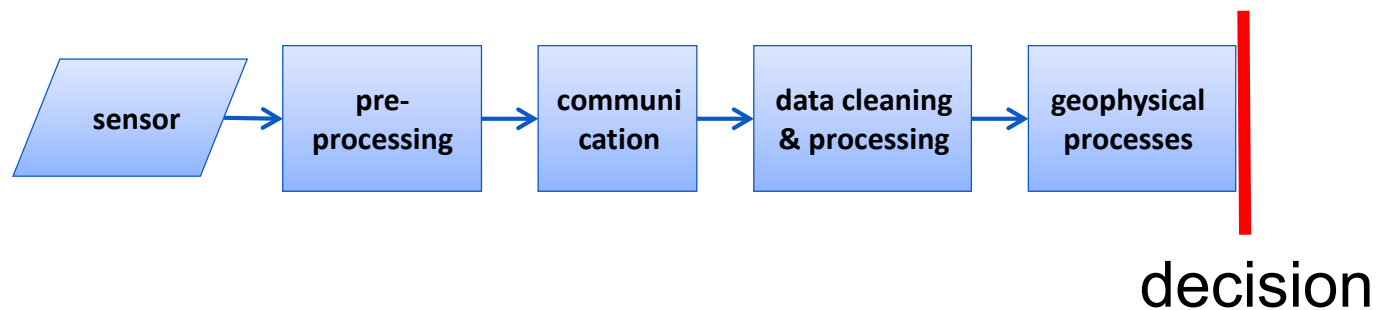


# Complex Sensing: Reducing the Data Deluge

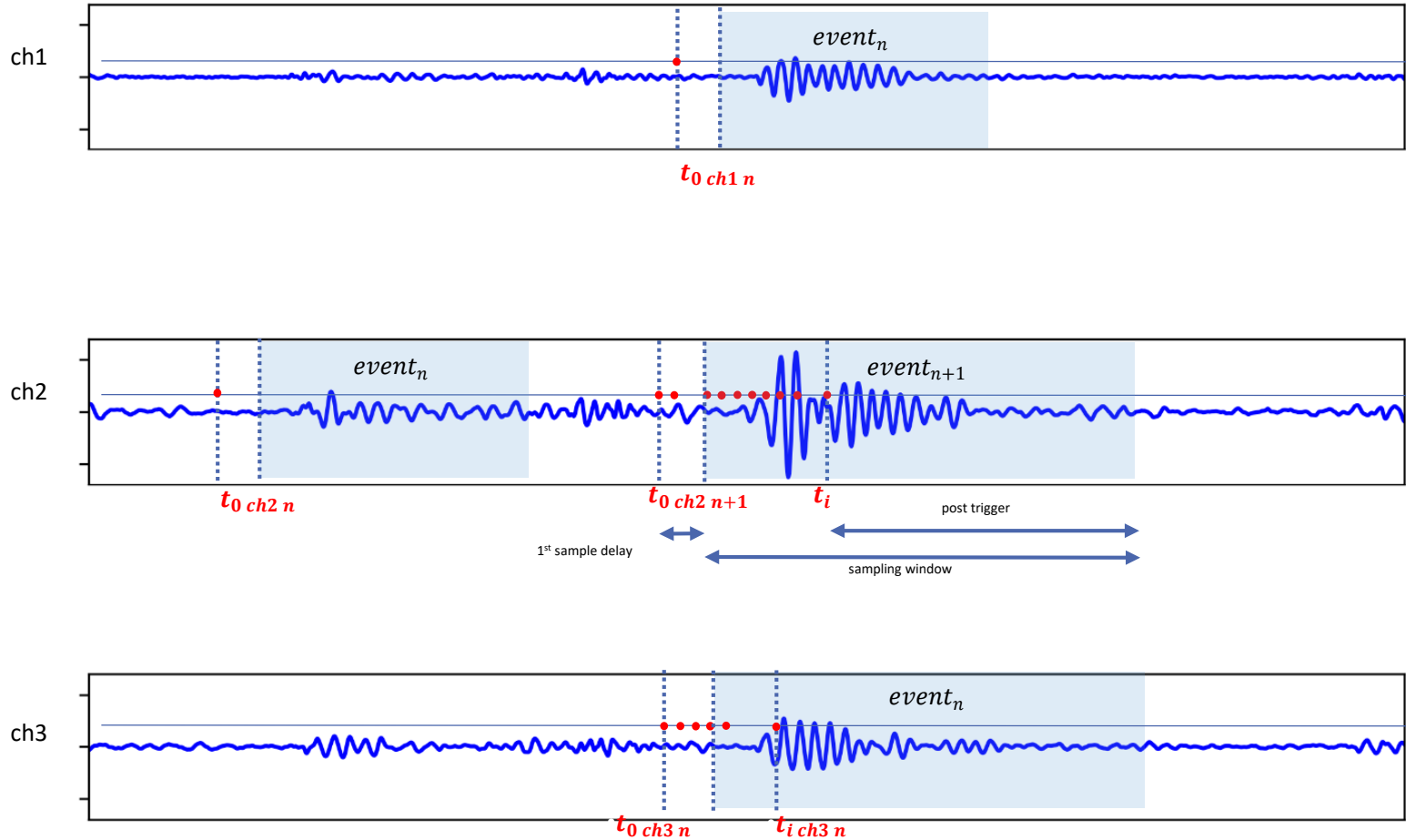


# “Intelligent” Triggered Sensors

- Moving the decision into the sensor
- Asynchronous operation, jitter
- Data: Timing and event characteristics
- Co-detection over many sensors
- Less data, less power

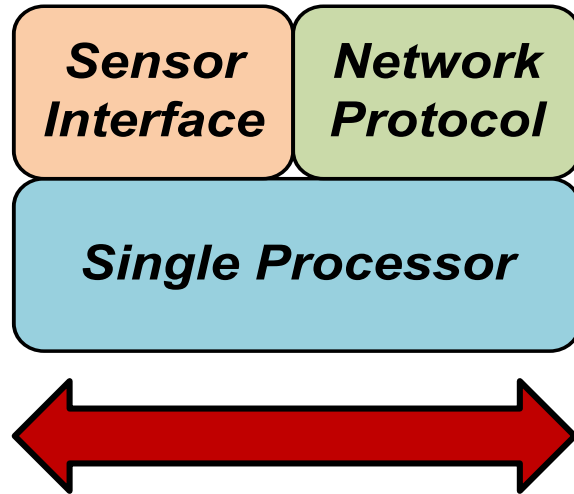


# From Spectral Analysis to Event-based Statistics



# Wireless Sensing Platform 2.0

## Classic Architecture



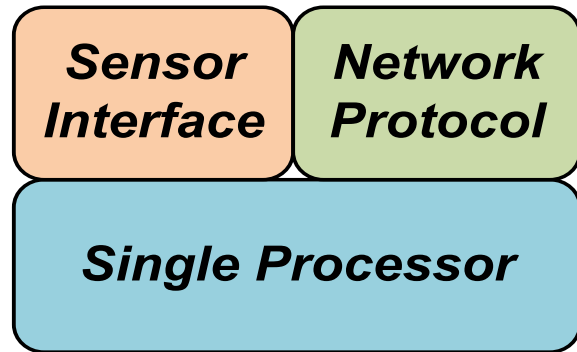
memory      time-  
interference      interference

no fine-grained power control



# Wireless Sensing Platform 2.0

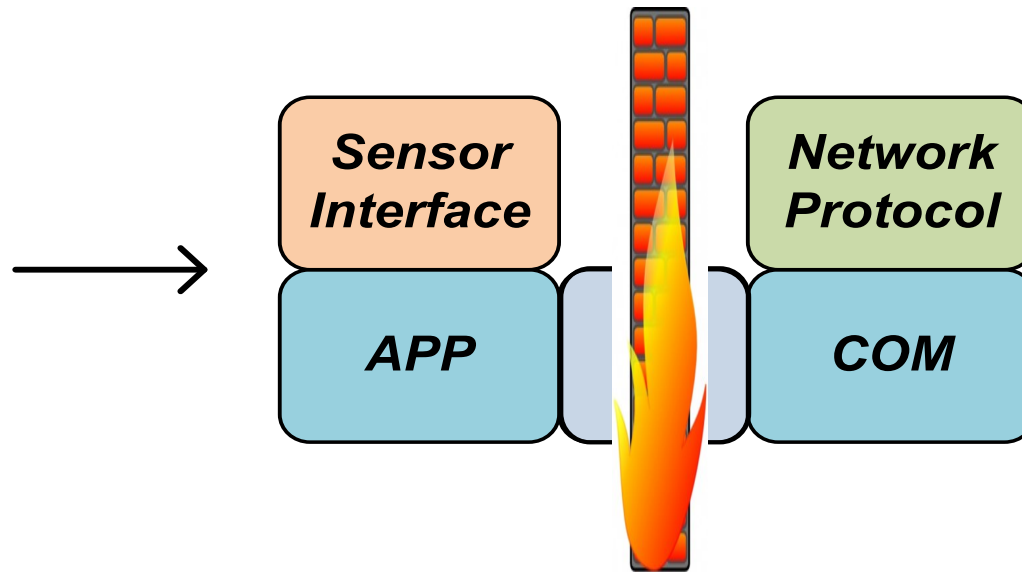
## Classic Architecture



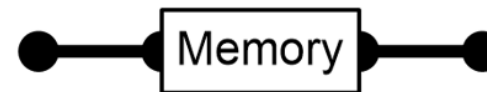
memory interference      time-interference

no fine-grained power control

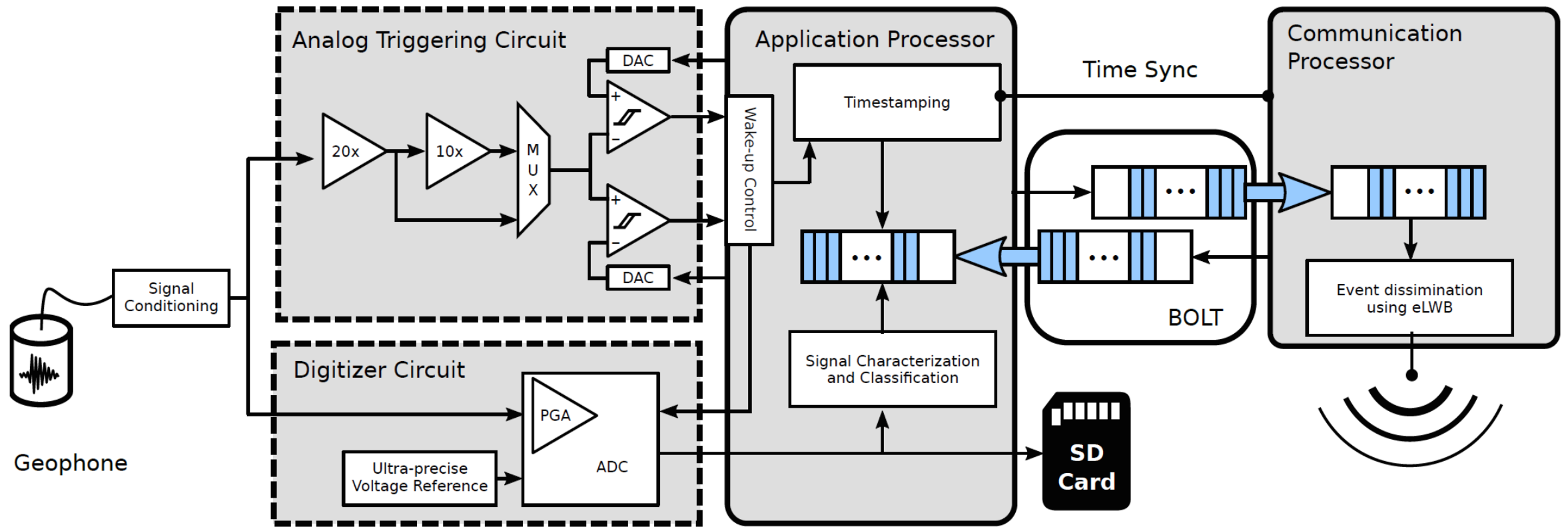
## Dual Processor Platform Architecture



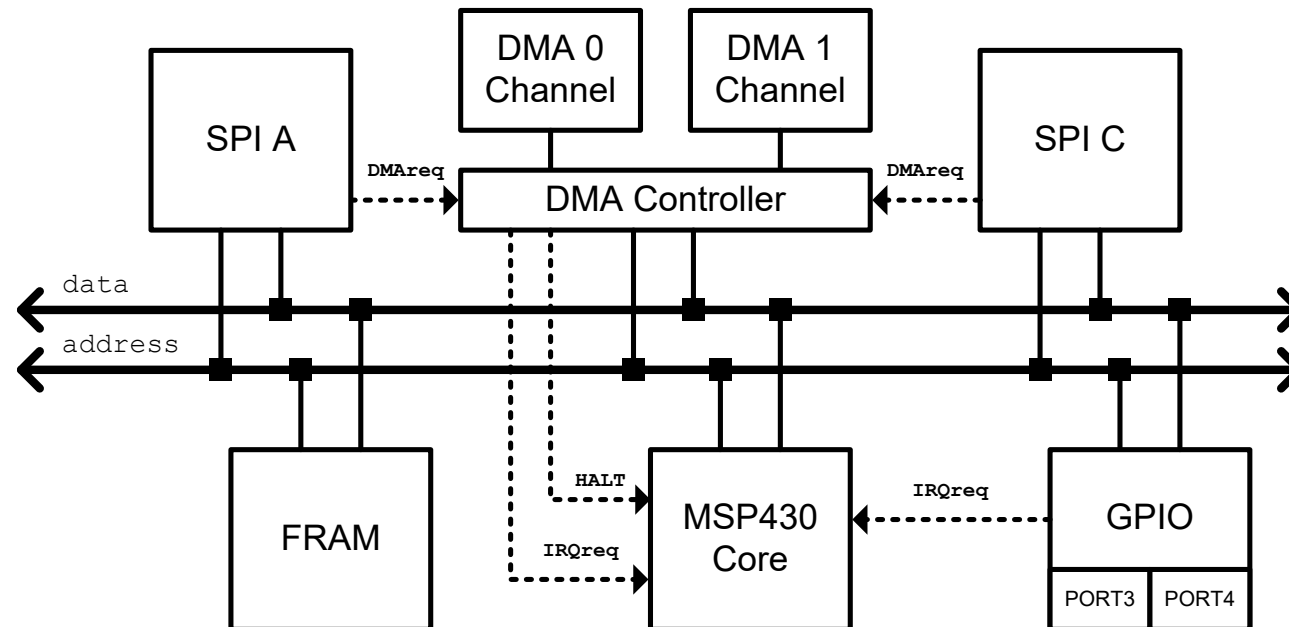
**BOLT** – A firewall for memory, clock and power



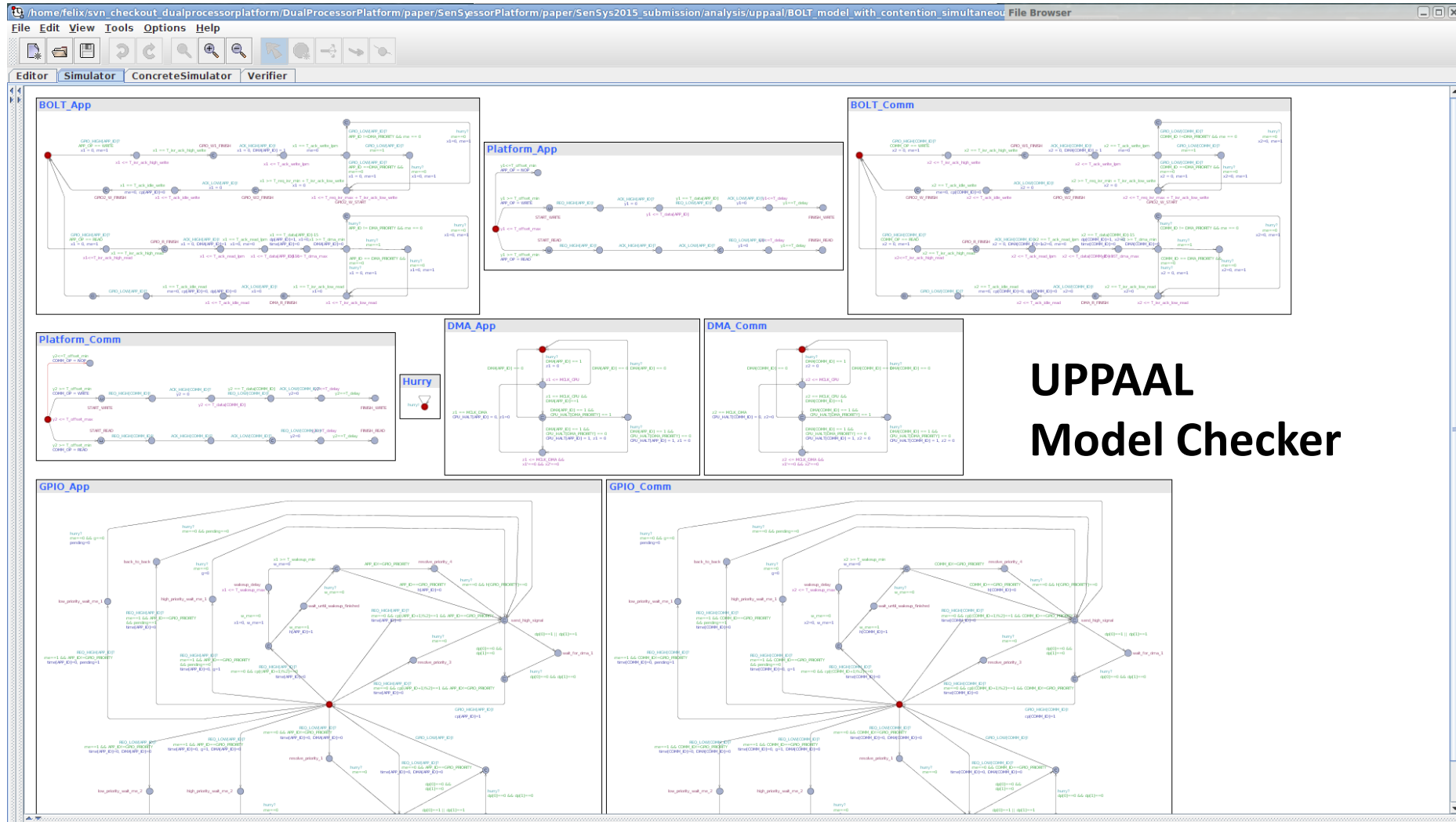
# BOLT Interface – Architecture Example



# Bolt Interface – Implementation Using a Dedicated Microcontroller

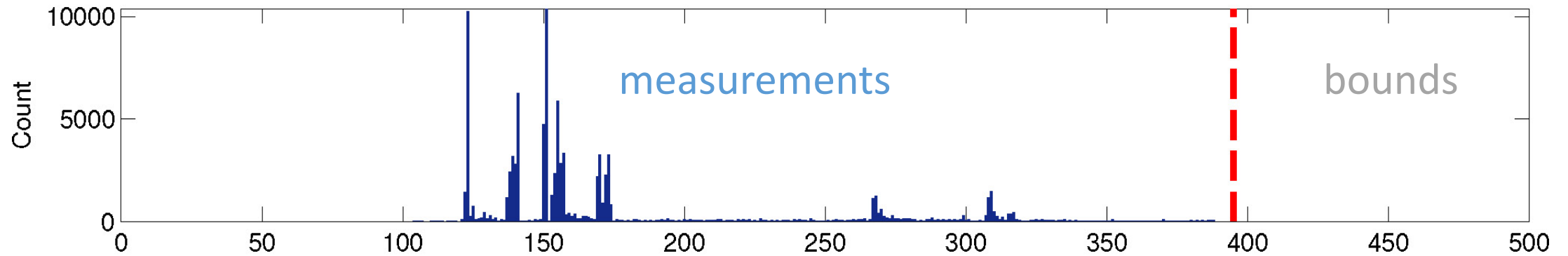


# BOLT Interface – Formal Analysis

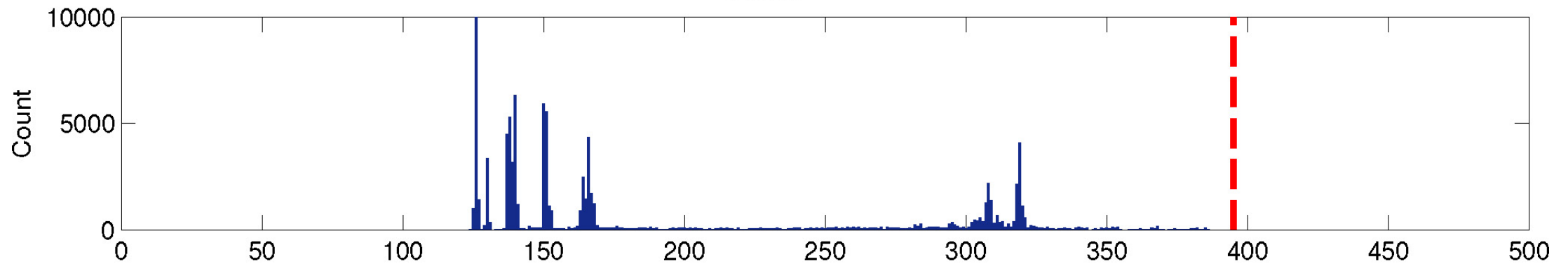


# BOLT Interface – Experimental Analysis

$T_{\text{commit}}$  on PORT3



$T_{\text{commit}}$  on PORT4



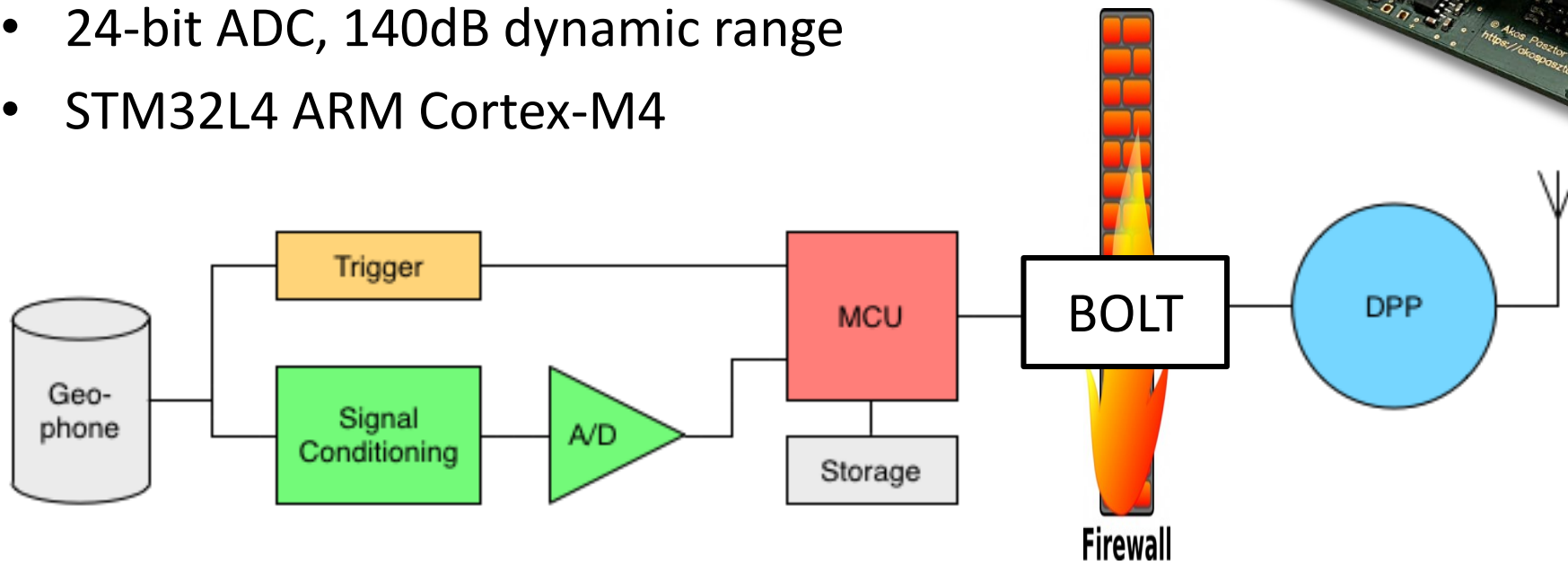
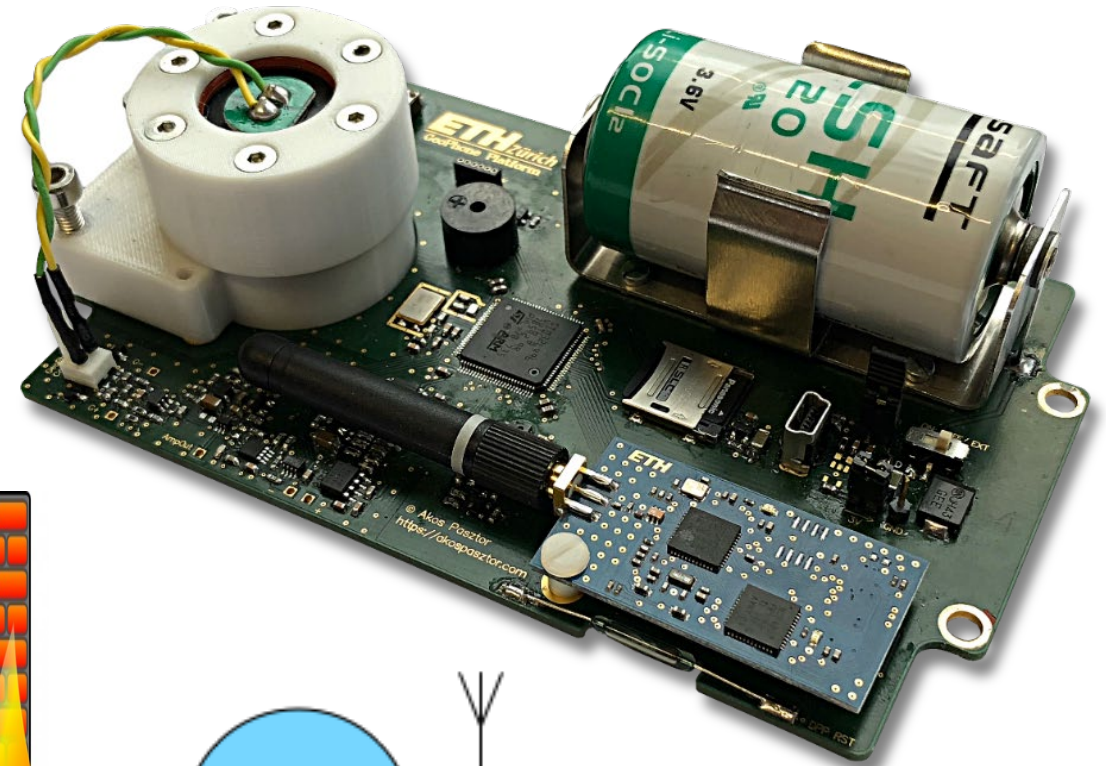
# Application: Triggered Micro-Seismic Monitoring

Continuously active seismic trigger:

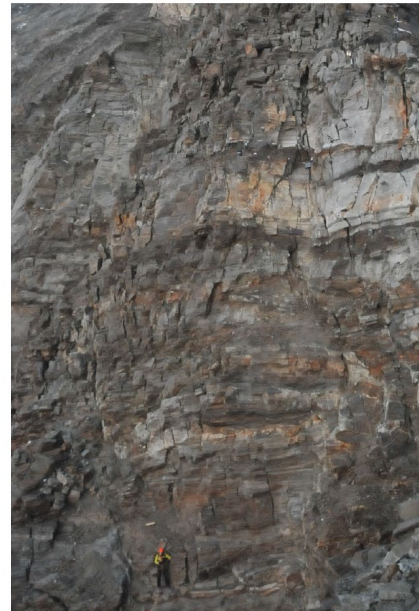
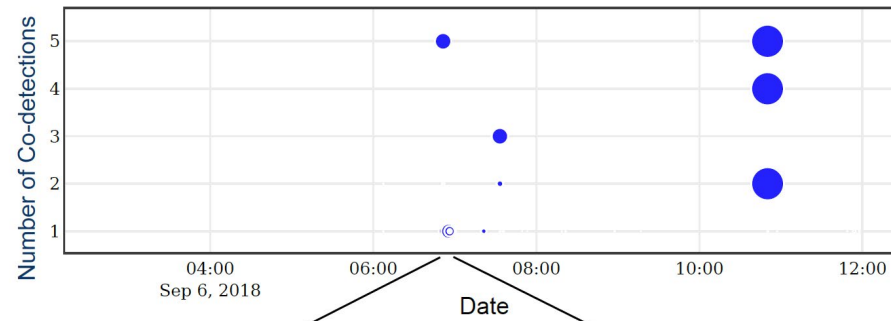
- 25  $\mu\text{A}$  @ 3.0V
- 50  $\mu\text{V}$  sensitivity

Wake-up latency <2.7 msec

- 24-bit ADC, 140dB dynamic range
- STM32L4 ARM Cortex-M4



# It Works - !?



2018-09-06T06:48:07 CEST



2018-09-06T06:52:07 CEST

[M. Meyer et.al.: *Event-triggered Natural Hazard Monitoring with Convolutional Neural Networks on the Edge*. Submitted, 2018.]

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<http://data.permasense.ch>

