

# The Science Behind NanoDays: Part 2



**NanoDays™**  
The Biggest Event for the Smallest Science!

March 29 to April 6<sup>th</sup> 2014

Digital kits available @  
<http://nisenet.org/nanodays/NanoDays-2014-digital-kit>

# Activities We'll Cover Today

## Exploring Properties— Capillary Action

*Can liquid defy gravity?*



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## Exploring Properties— Electric Squeeze

*How does movement  
make electricity?*



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# Capillary Action

## Exploring Properties— Capillary Action

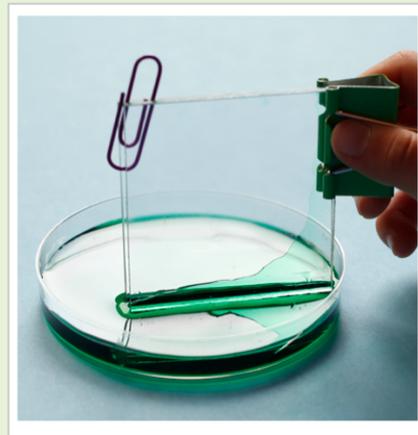
*Can liquid defy gravity?*



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**Capillary action** is the ability of a liquid to flow in narrow spaces—even against gravity.

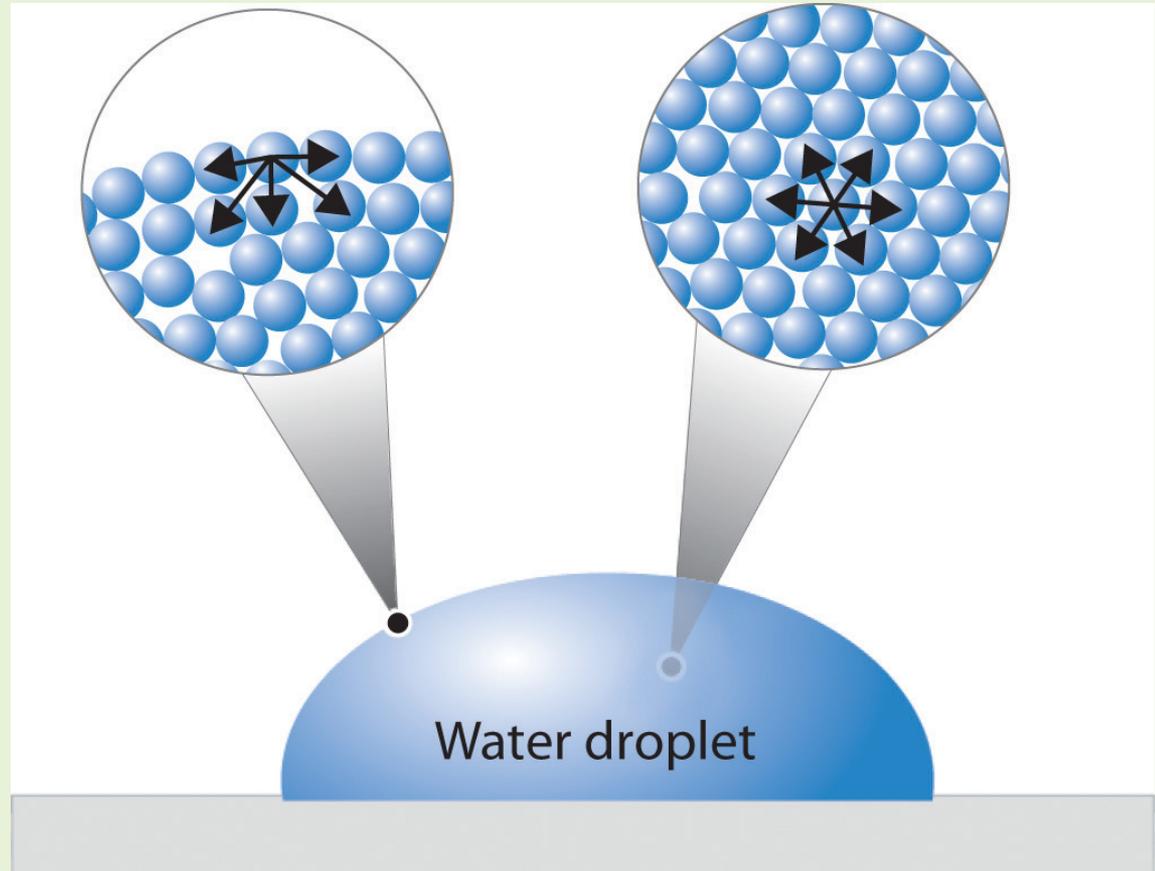


**Color moving on paper**

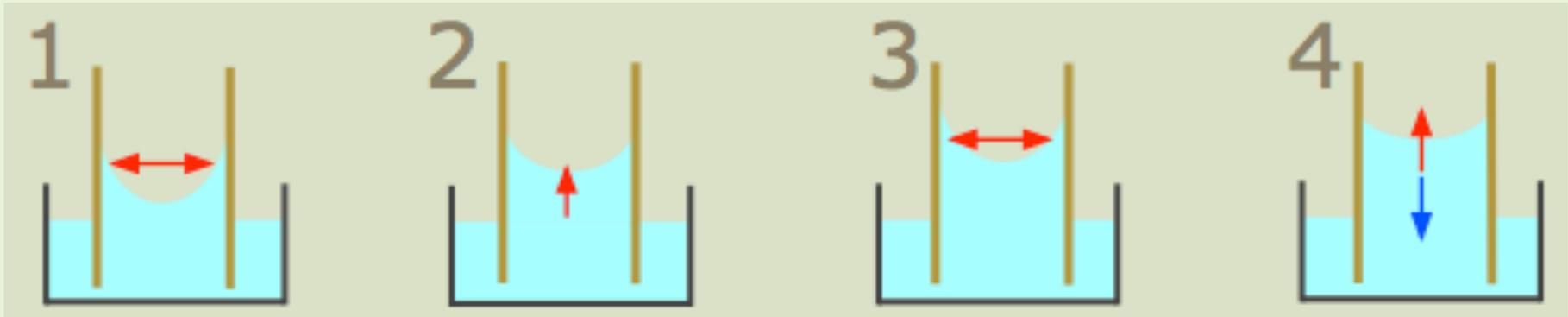
# Capillary Action in Nature



# Surface Tension



# Capillary Action



1  
Liquid wets walls of tube, increasing surface area.

2  
**Surface tension** acts to decrease surface area, pulling liquid up.

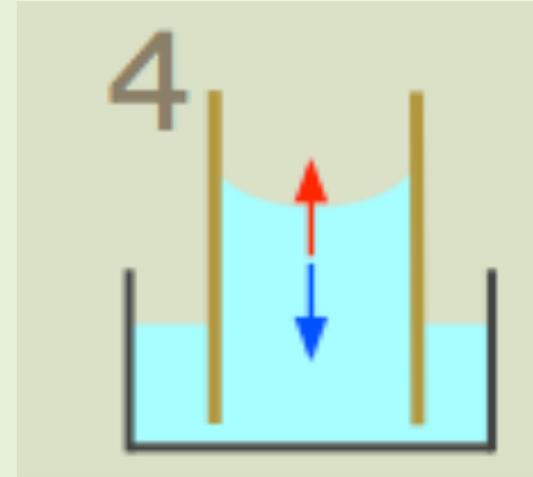
3  
Wetting continues from a higher level, causing liquid to continue rising.

4  
Eventually the liquid reaches a height at which **its weight is balanced by surface tension**. After this, the height stays constant.

# Capillary Action – Size Matters!

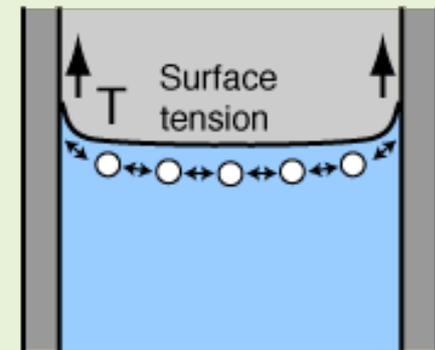
Surface tension pulls fluid up

Gravity pulls fluid down (as usual)



*So why is the radius ( $r$ ) important?*

- Gravity is proportional to  $r^2$
- Surface tension is proportional to  $r$



# Capillary Action – Size Matters!

Surface tension pulls fluid up



Gravity pulls fluid down



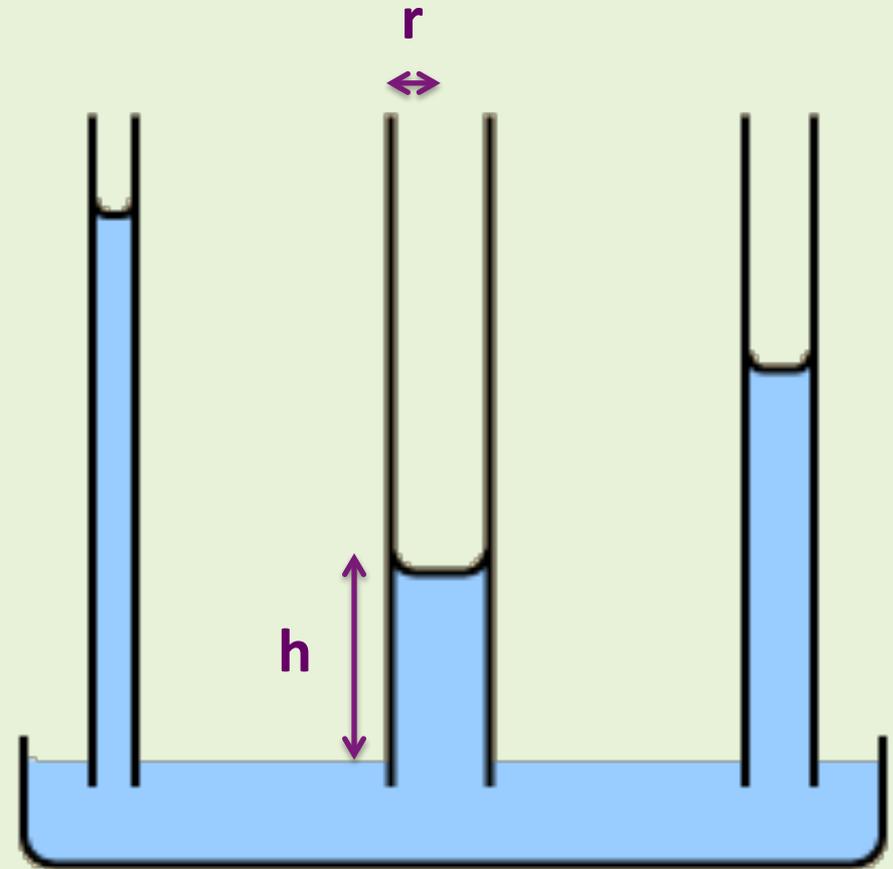
$$(T_{surf})(Circum) = (mass)g$$

$$(T_{surf})(2\pi r) = (\rho \cdot \pi r^2 h)g$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{g}\right)\left(\frac{T_{surf}}{\rho}\right)\left(\frac{2}{r}\right) = h$$

*How this relates to Nanodays activity*

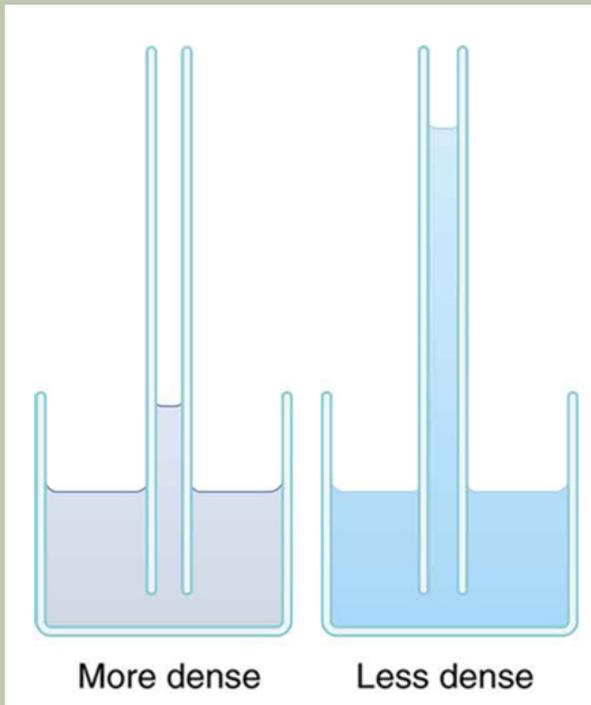
This explains why the water level in the acrylic setup is higher on the side where the pieces are closer together.



<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/surten2.html>

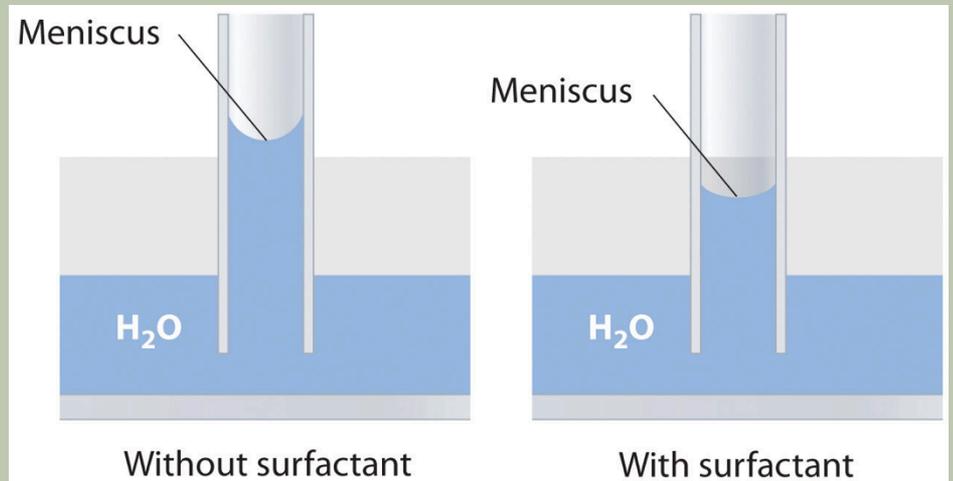
# More on Capillary Action

Density ( $\rho$ ) matters, because it affects the force from gravity

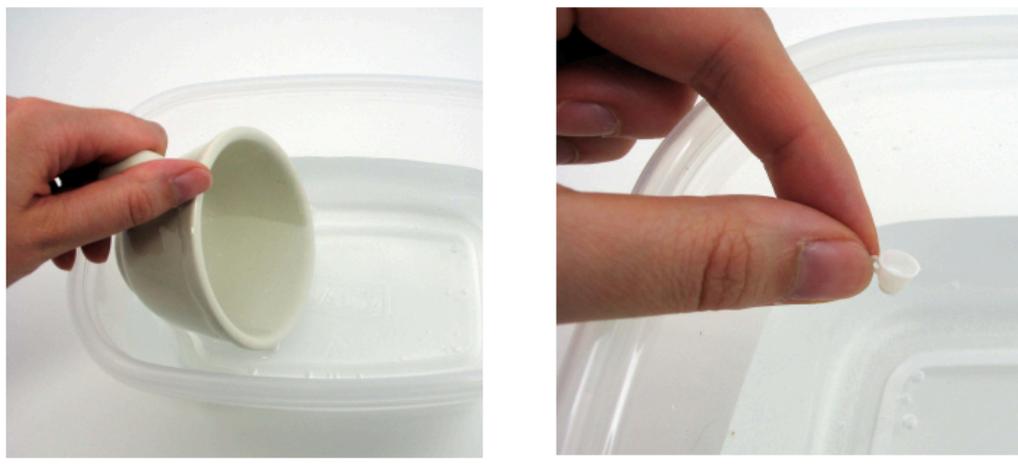


$$\left(\frac{1}{g}\right)\left(\frac{T_{surf}}{\rho}\right)\left(\frac{2}{r}\right) = h$$

Adding a surfactant decreases the surface tension ( $T_{surf}$ )

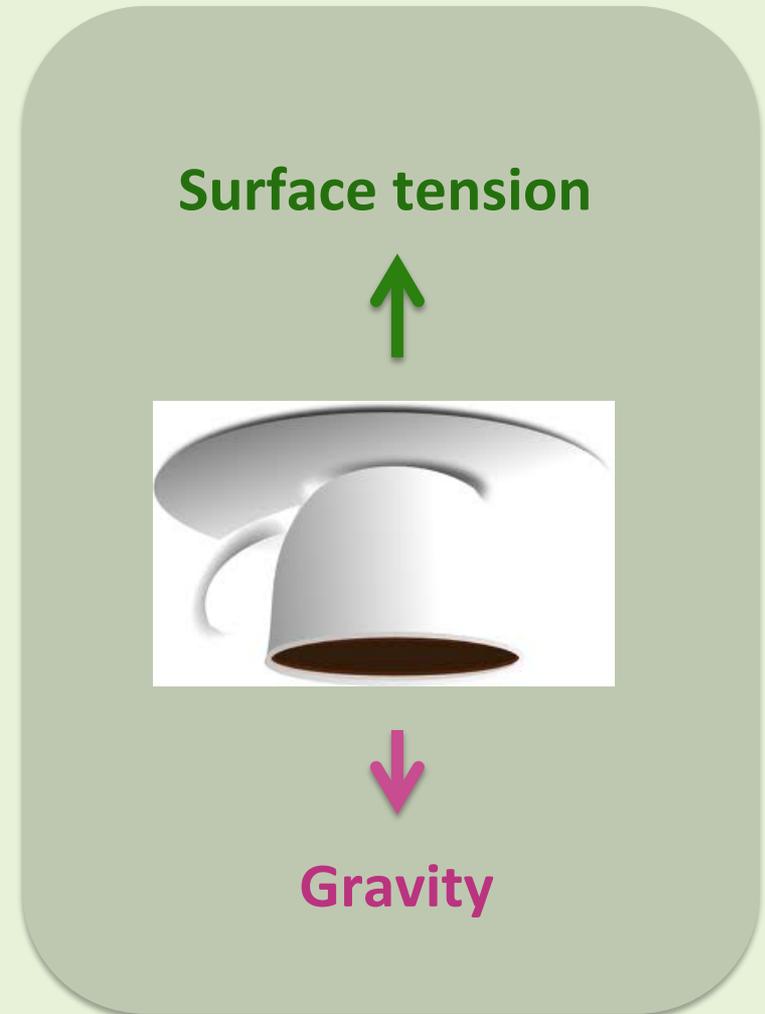


# Does Surface Tension Sound Familiar?



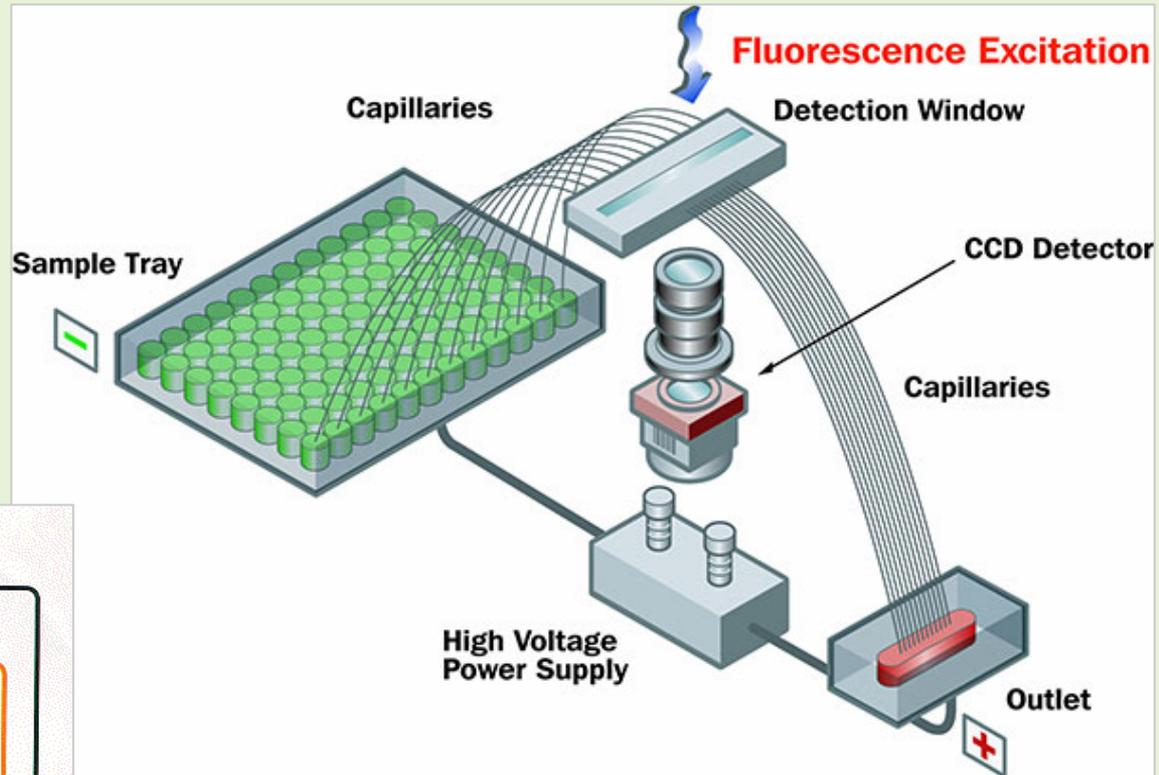
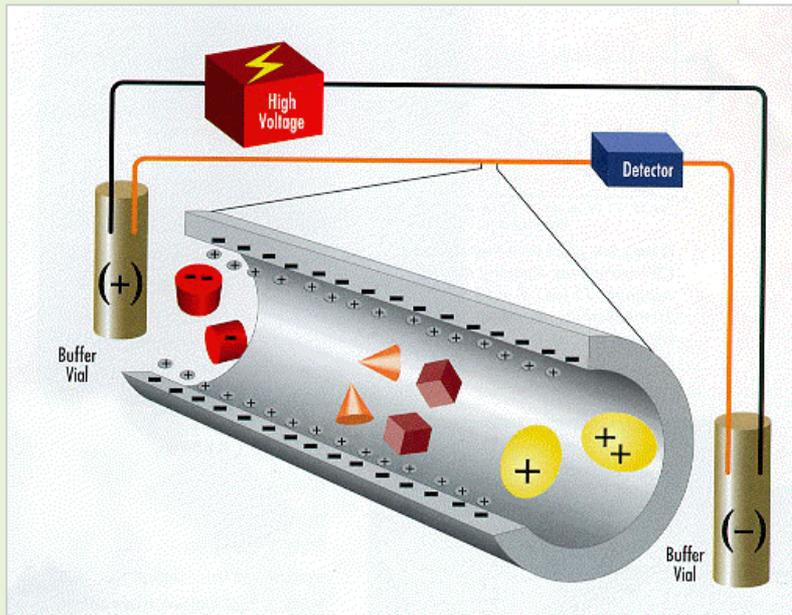
## Exploring Forces – Gravity

What does the *Exploring Forces – Gravity* NanoDays activity have to do with this one?



# DNA Sequencing

## Capillary Electrophoresis



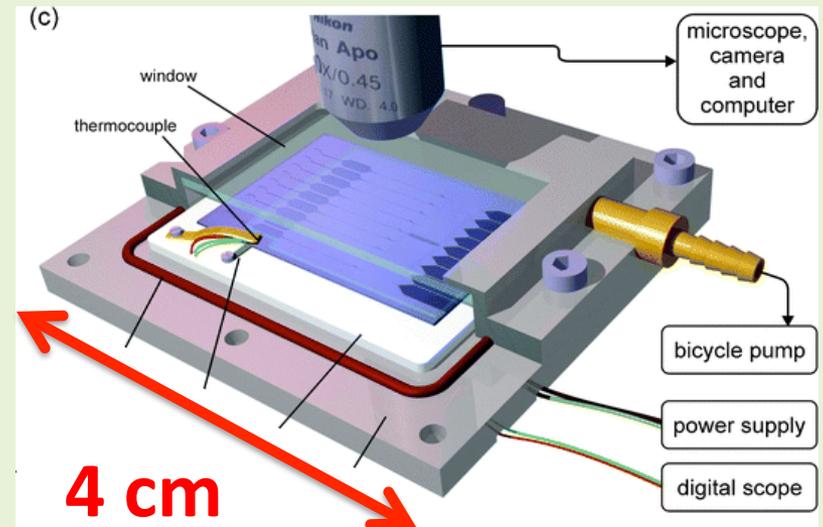
# Lab-on-a-Chip: Point-of-Care Testing

These are “self-contained, portable devices that can be used by non-specialists to detect and diagnose disease”

As a result of these devices, “the way in which doctors care for patients will change dramatically and the role patients take in their own health care will increase. Health care will become more personalized through tailoring of interventions to individual patients.” *NIH*

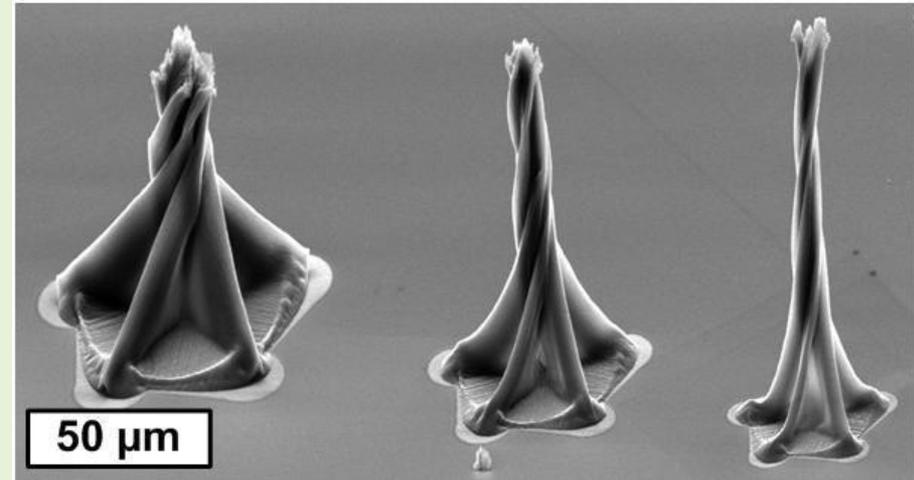
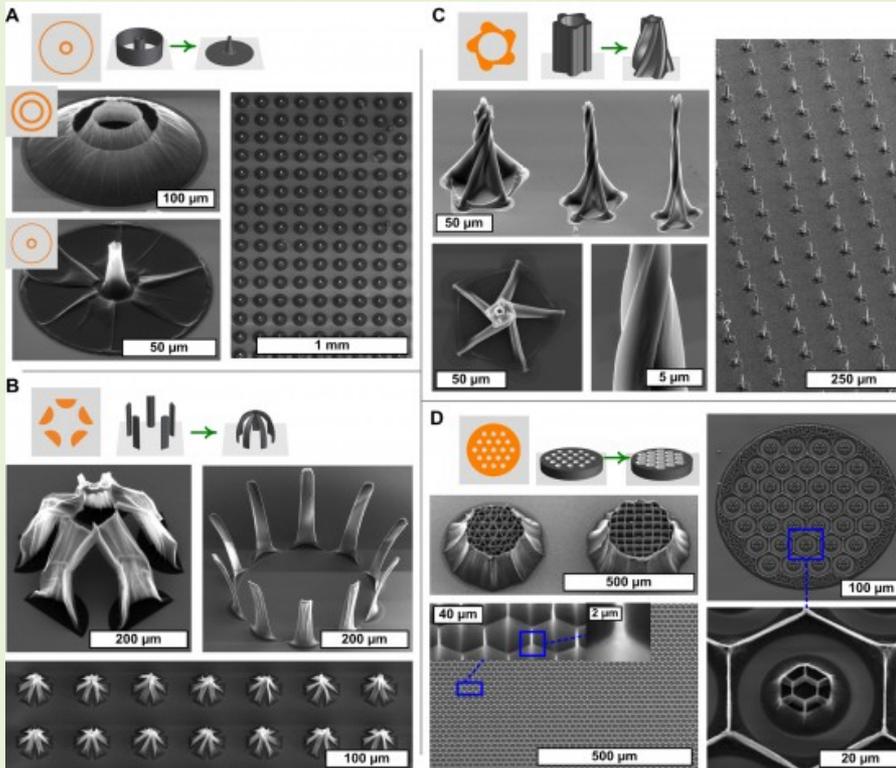
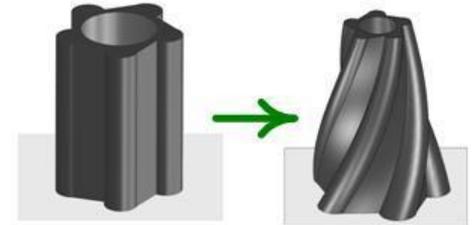


[http://www.zurich.ibm.com/news/09/lab\\_on\\_a\\_chip.html](http://www.zurich.ibm.com/news/09/lab_on_a_chip.html)

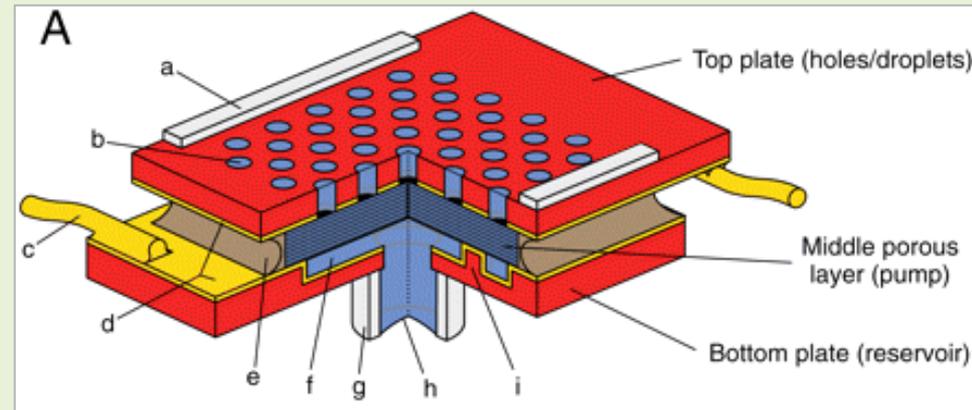
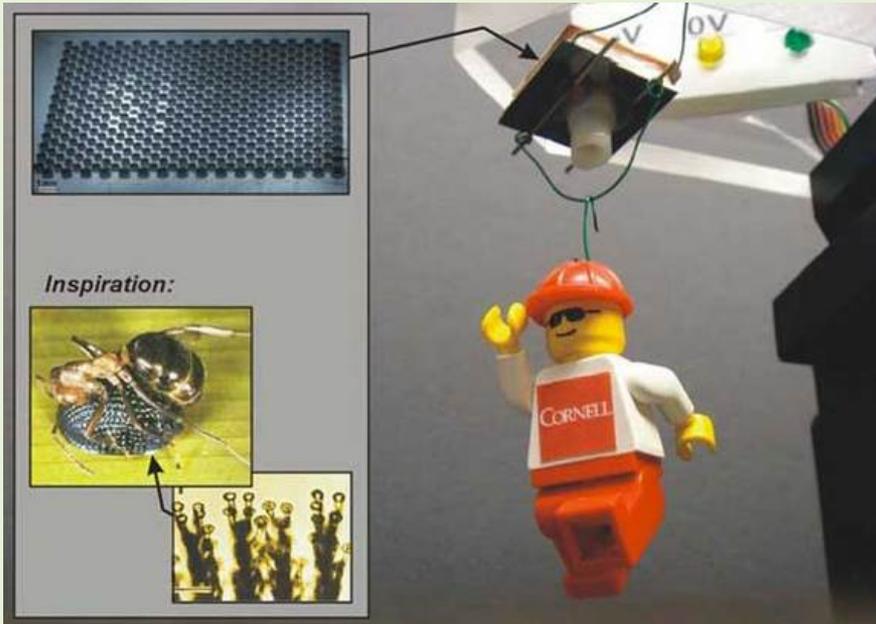


<http://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlehtml/2012/lc/c2lc00015f>

# Capillary Forming – A New Manufacturing Process

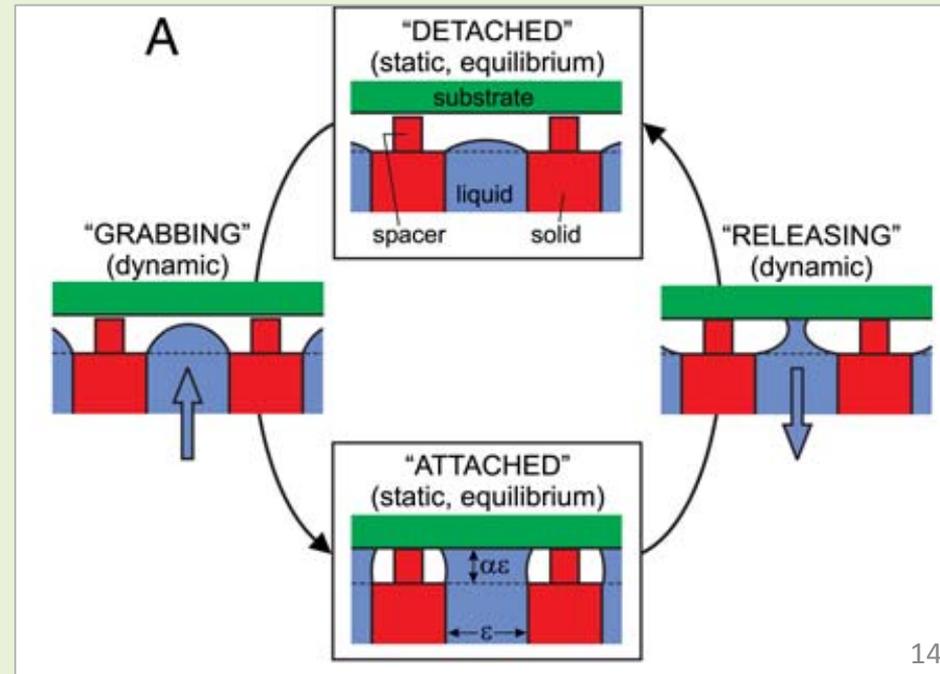


# Switchable Adhesives



Uses capillarity-based adhesion

Switchable: contacts can be quickly made or broken with electronic control



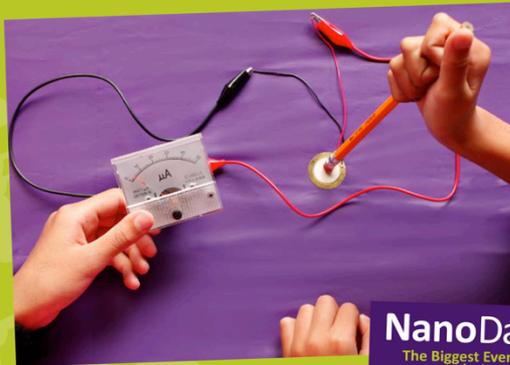
# A New Type of Calendar



# Piezoelectric Effect

## Exploring Properties— Electric Squeeze

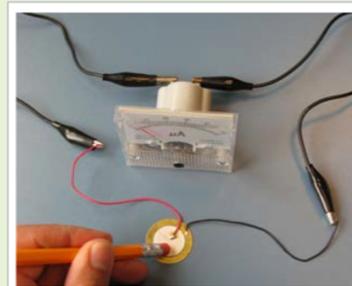
*How does movement  
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When you squeeze a piezoelectric crystal, the length of the crystal may only change a few nanometers, but that small change is enough to generate electricity.



Piezo disk



Piezo buzzer



Floor tiles generate electricity by  
walking on them

# What is Piezoelectricity?

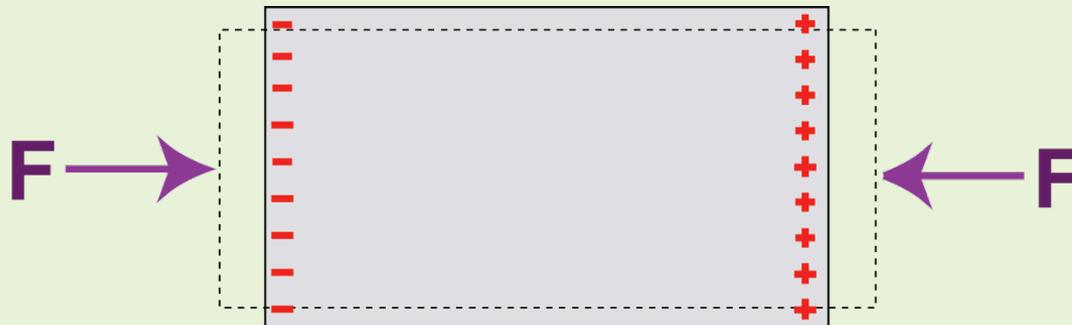
- Piezo: to squeeze or press (Greek)
- Piezoelectric materials produce a voltage when they change their shape (by being stretched or squeezed) *and they change their shape when a voltage is applied across them.*
- But, *why* do piezoelectric materials produce a voltage when squeezed?

# What Creates Voltages?

Voltages are created when...

*Electrical charges of opposite signs are separated*

Examples: a battery has a voltage due to chemical reactions  
a solar cell has a voltage due to energy from the sun  
piezoelectrics have a voltage due to mechanical force

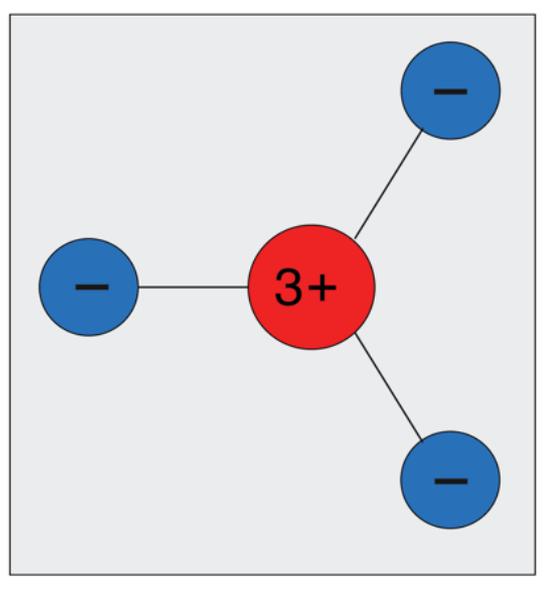


*What makes these charges become separated?*

Small shifts in atomic positions (at the nano scale)

# Piezoelectrics at the Nanoscale

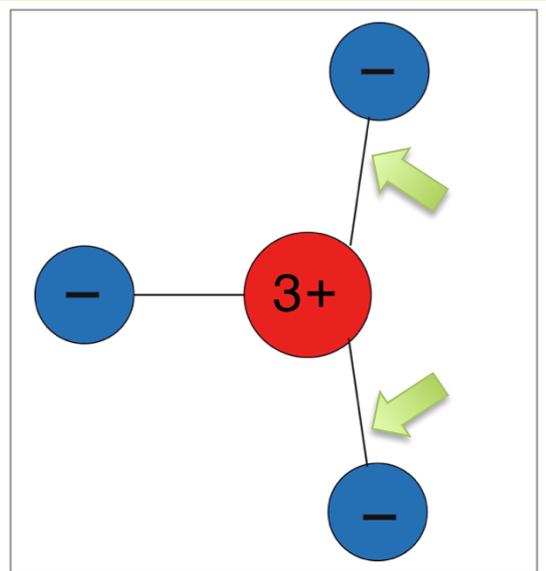
Before force



**When a force is applied, the atomic positions shift**  
-- This changes the distribution of charges

# Piezoelectrics at the Nanoscale

After force



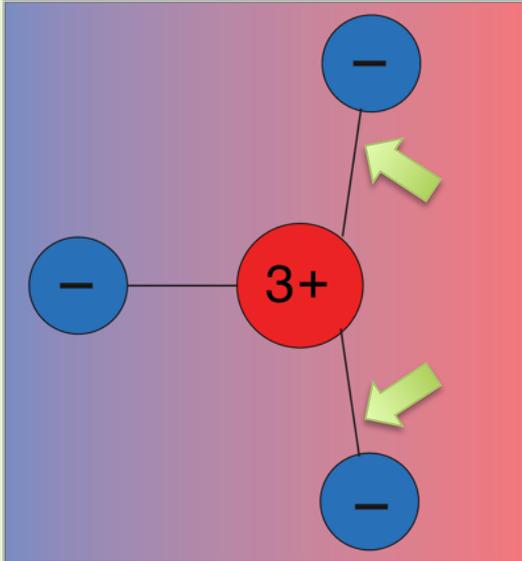
**When a force is applied, the atomic positions shift**  
-- This changes the distribution of charges

Initially the charge distribution was symmetric around the center point

But now the charge distribution is *not symmetric*

-- *Some regions are more positively charged, some are more negatively charged*

# Piezoelectrics at the Nanoscale

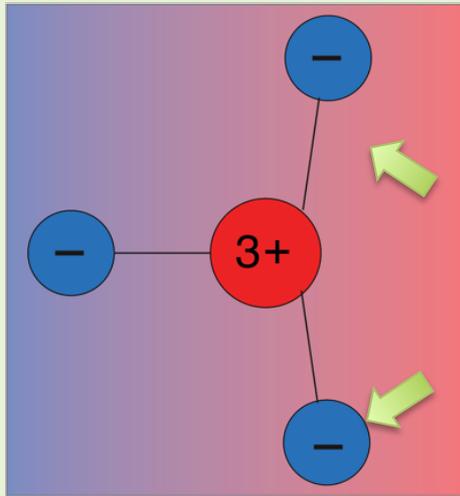


Background shading indicates regions that are more positively (*red*) or negatively (*blue*) charged

Because there are regions that are more positively charged, and others that are more negatively charged, there's now a *voltage across the material*

This process (of atoms shifting due to force) happens throughout the material, producing effects we see at the macroscale

# Piezoelectricity: A review



**Nanoscale**



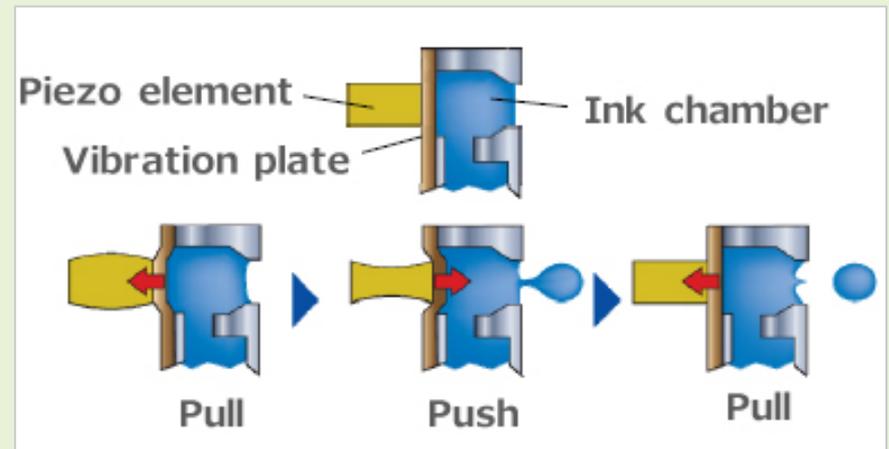
**Macroscale**

Piezoelectrics produce a voltage when their shape is changed.

*The way a material behaves on the macroscale is affected by its structure on the nanoscale.*

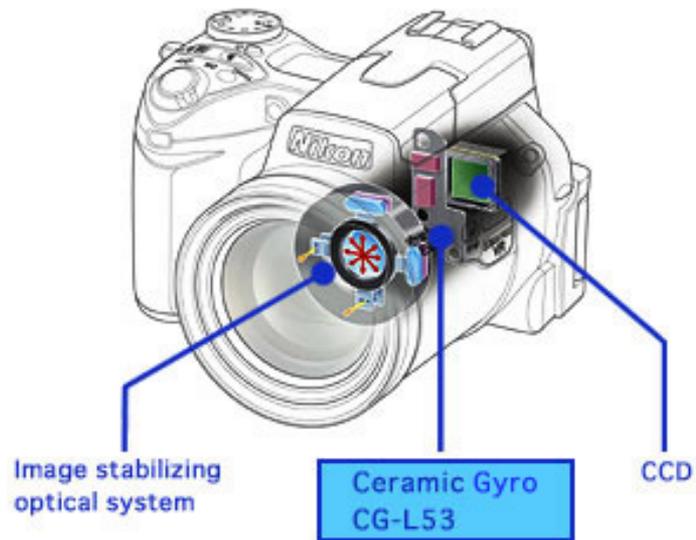
# Wide Range of Applications

- Generators (mechanical  $\rightarrow$  electrical): sensors
  - Can sense changes in force, acceleration, pressure
- Actuators (electrical  $\rightarrow$  mechanical): motors



# Gyroscopes

COOLPIX 8800 by NIKON CORPORATION

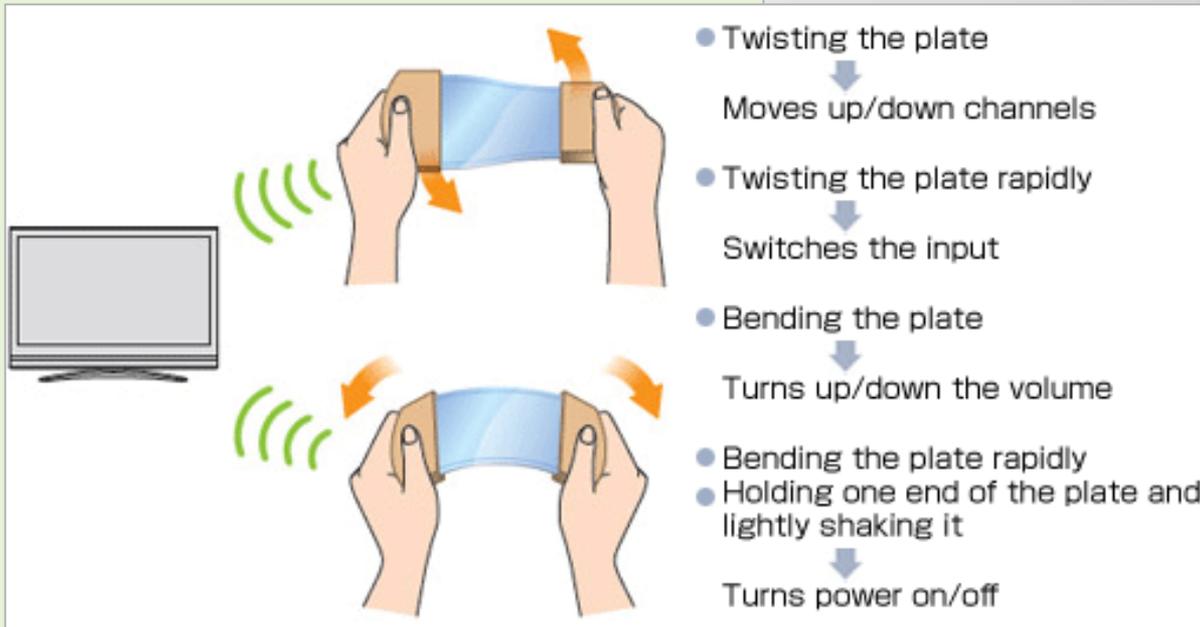


# Sensors for Detecting Concussions

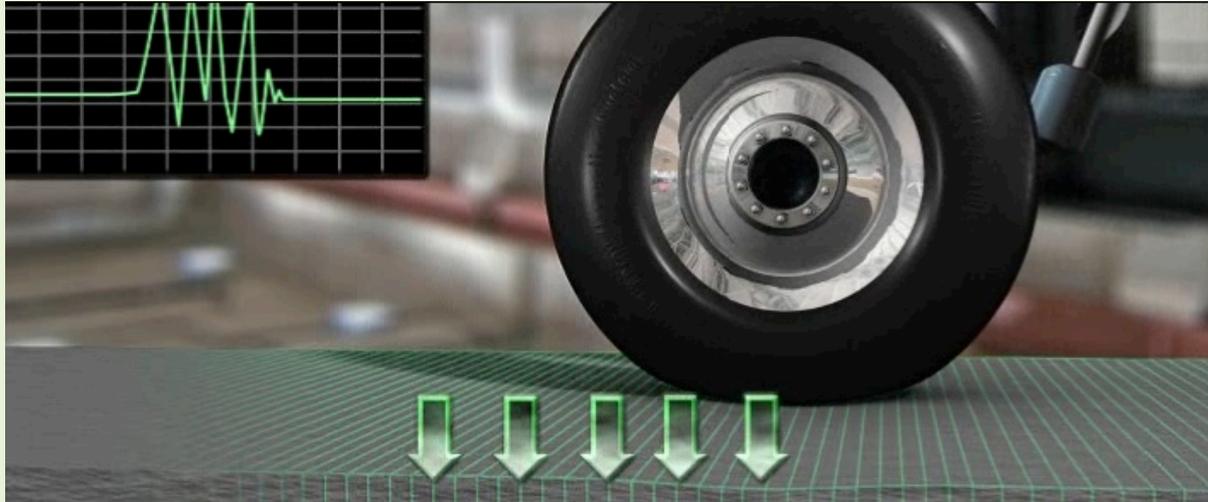


# TV Remote Control

“Conventional piezoelectric films are usually subject to a **pyroelectric** effect, which is a disadvantage because they cannot detect bending and twisting vibrations separately from changes in temperature.”



# Harvesting Energy From Roads



Innowattech has already done pilot projects in Israel

- They estimate 200 kW/hour along a 1 kilometer stretch of road
- Per kilometer: 3,000 generators (\$30 each)

Innowattech thinks they'd get a return on their investment in 4-7 years

# Other Examples of Energy Harvesting

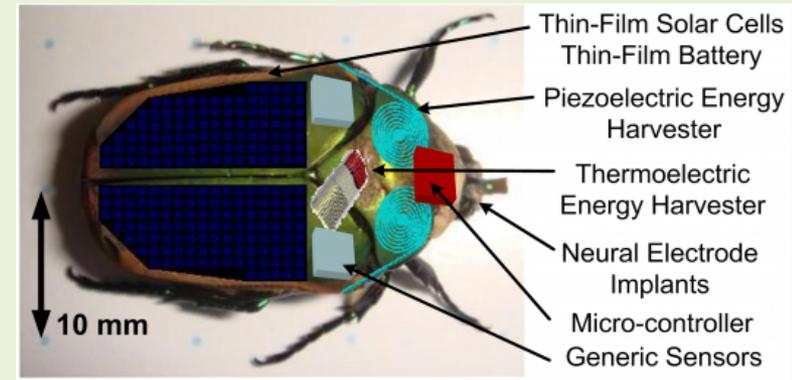


**Floor tiles generate electricity by walking on them**

<http://www.gizmag.com/in-shoe-energy-harvester/19623/>  
<http://inhabitat.com/green-a-go-go-at-londons-first-eco-disco/>

# Creative Fun

There are so many other possibilities for energy harvesting – what can your visitors think of?



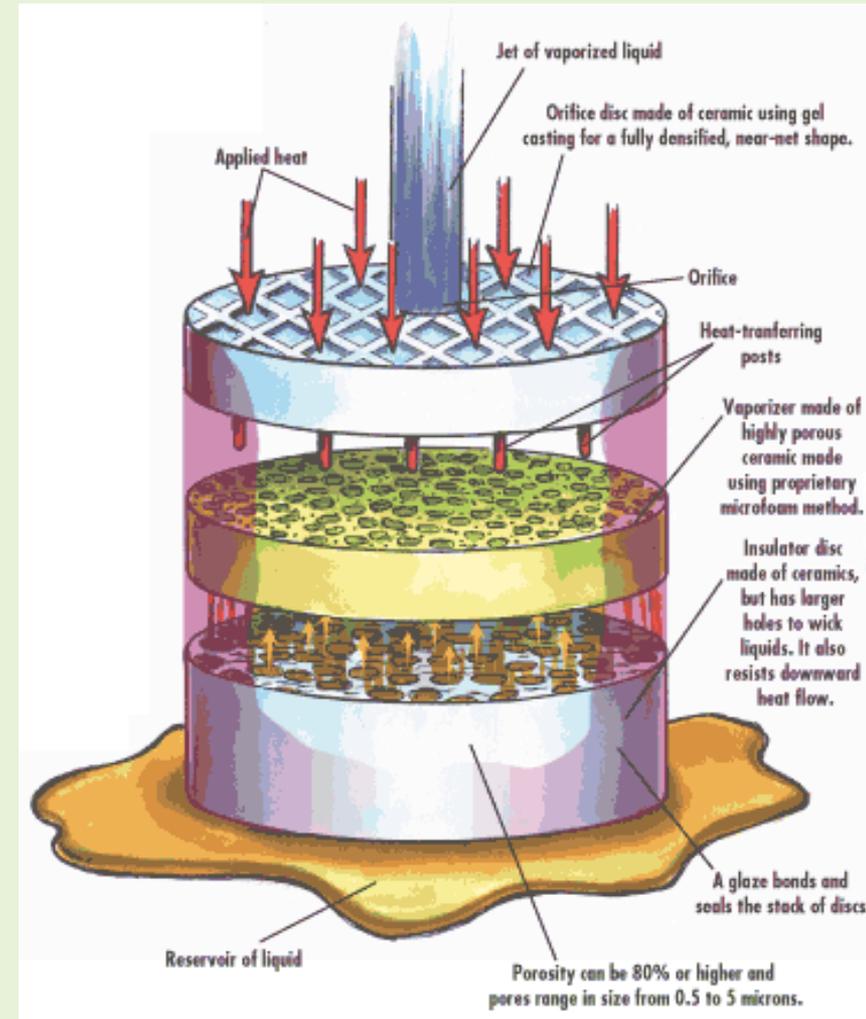
# Related Topics

- **Gravity (related to Capillary Action)**
  - Exploring Forces: Static Electricity (2012)
  - Exploring Forces: Gravity (2010)
- **Smart Materials (related to Piezoelectric Effect)**
  - Exploring Materials: Oobleck (2014)
  - Exploring Products: Liquid Crystal Display (2013)
  - Exploring Materials: Memory Metal (2013)

# Fuel Vaporizer



Uses capillary action to pull the fuel up through pores; uses heat to vaporize the fuel



# More on Capillary Action

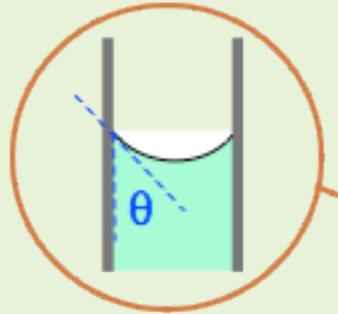
$$\theta_{\text{water/glass}} = 0^\circ$$

$$\theta_{\text{mercury/glass}} = 140^\circ$$

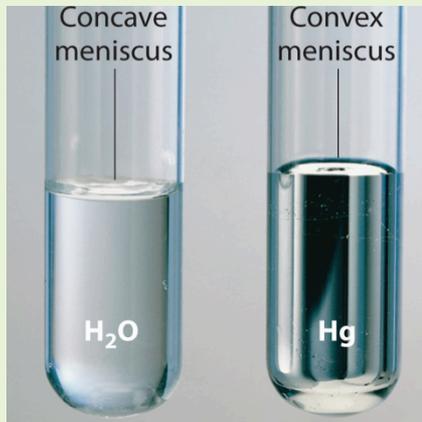
$$\left(\frac{1}{g}\right)\left(\frac{T_{\text{surf}}}{\rho}\right)\left(\frac{2}{r}\right) = h$$

$$\frac{2T_{\text{surf}}}{g\rho r} = h$$

$$\frac{2T_{\text{surf}} \cos\theta}{g\rho r} = h$$

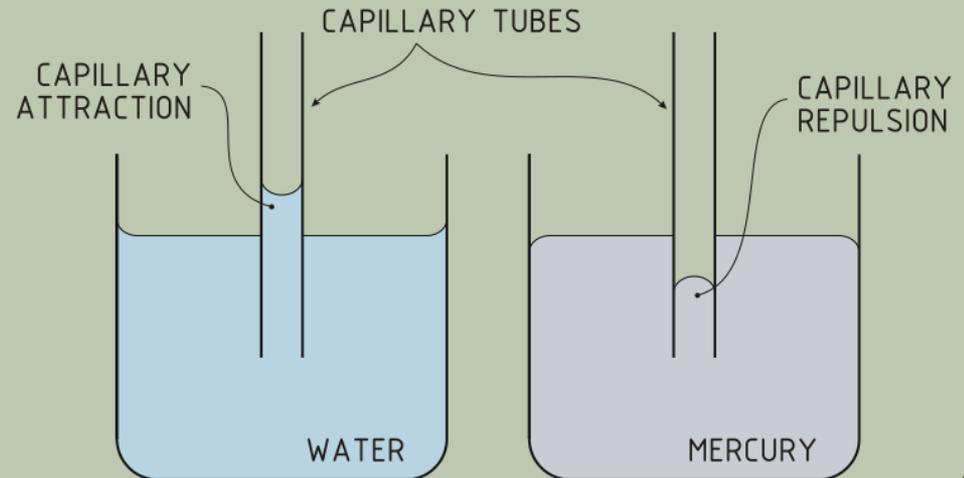


$$\theta < 90^\circ, h > 0$$

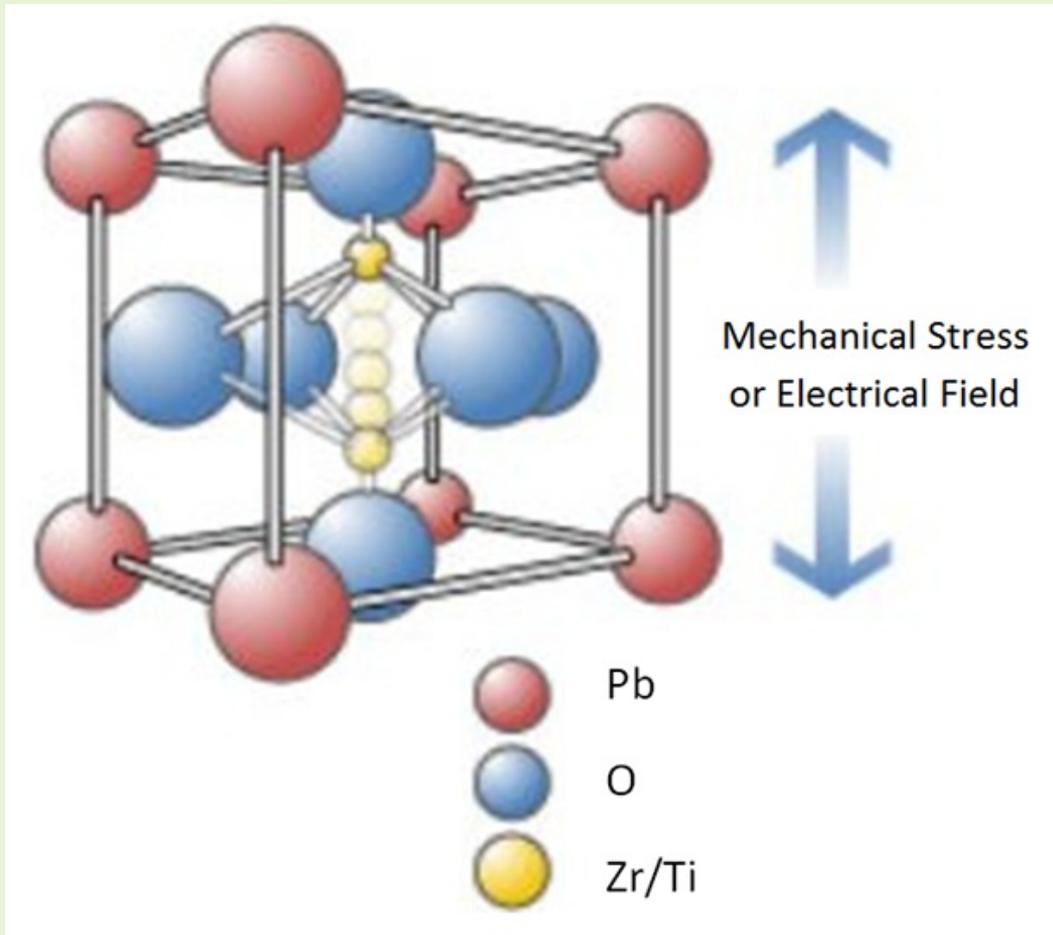


*Mercury undergoes very strong metallic bonding, so it prefers to bond with itself*

**Capillary action doesn't always make fluids rise!**



# More on Dipoles



PZT is asymmetric, since Zr/Ti is not in the center

Since Zr/Ti carries a 4+ charge, when it moves it creates a dipole

## Example: water dipole

