

# Sensing and Feedback to Promote Environmentally Sustainable Behaviors

@jonfroehlich

Virginia Tech Seminar Series

Friday, February 17, 2012






# 346

million gallons/day

2x Japan, China, Canada, Russia, Germany Combined

[Foreign Policy Magazine, Aug 2007]

An aerial photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon. The city below is silhouetted against the bright light, with numerous skyscrapers and buildings visible. Overlaid on the image is large white text.

26%

of average american CO<sub>2</sub> footprint

[Weber & Matthews, Ecological Economics, 2008]

# growing demand

in 2010, water consumption rose  
to 938 billion gallons in beijing

**water supply = 576 billion gallons**



"china melting snow to meet  
freshwater demand"



lake mead expected to  
drop below intake  
pipes in next five years

[Bloomberg News, Feb 2009]



economic



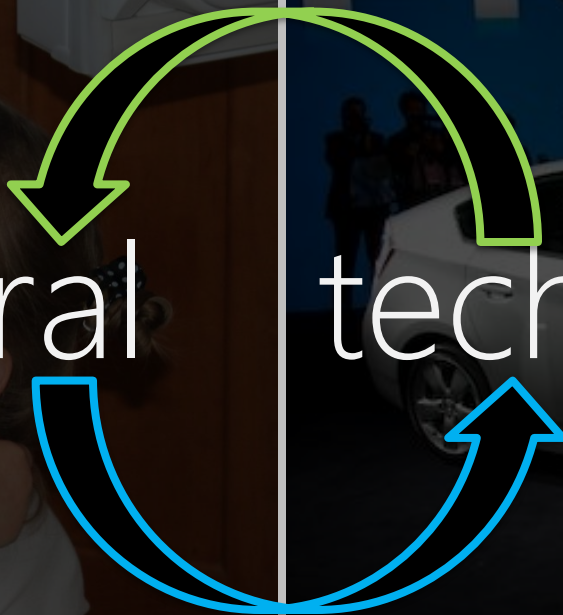
political



behavioral



technological



# toyota prius



## Consumption

50Wh Regenerated

OUTSIDE TEMP 61°F



Energy

Average

60.5 MPG

204 miles

Reset

6:22

H

M



ODO  
TRIP

km/h  
MPH

# toyota prius

## The Washington Post

washingtonpost.com > Nation > Green

More news on: [Environment](#) | [Climate](#) | [Science](#)

### For Hybrid Drivers, Every Trip Is a Race for Fuel Efficiency

By Michael S. Rosenwald  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Monday, May 26, 2008

Katie Sebastian accuses her friend Evan Hirsche of getting better mileage than she does because he lives in Bethesda and has flatter everyday trips than she encounters in hilly Takoma Park. She suspects the Hirsche family of taking frequent long drives out of town, which also helps them.

"They claim they haven't been out of town in a while," she said, "but I know they have."

Hirsche retorts: "It is well known that Katie is a lead-footer."

Their friendly rivalry stems from the Prius effect. Both drive a Prius, the Toyota hybrid with an elaborate dashboard monitor that constantly informs drivers how many miles per gallon they are getting and whether the engine is running on battery or gasoline power. That can change driving in startling ways, making drivers aware of their driving habits, then adjusting them. Hirsche's Prius averages 43 mpg, Sebastian's has 41 mpg.



Evan Hirsche averages 43 mpg with his Prius, while Katie Sebastian, shown with her son, Cole, averages 41 mpg. The drivers have friendly rivalry over their mpg scores, fueled by the Prius hybrid's real-time mileage readings. (By Kevin Clark — The Washington Post)

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USA TODAY

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DJI 11,919.97 ▼ -60.55 NASDAQ 2,701.28

### 100 mpg? For 'hypermilers,' that sounds about right

Updated 6/27/2008 2:08 PM | Comments 446 | Recommend 103 E-mail | Save | Print | Reprints & Permissions | RSS

By Chris Woodyard, USA TODAY

GILBERT, Ariz. — After a 29-mile jaunt from his Phoenix office to his home here, Louis Hudgin proclaimed his gas mileage "pitiful." He averaged just 88.3 miles per gallon.

**MAXIMIZING MPG:** What experts think of hypermiler techniques  
**TELL US:** How do you squeeze the most miles out of every gallon?  
**ACROSS THE USA:** Drivers slow down as costs accelerate

Most drivers would take a victory lap if they managed to squeeze that kind of mileage out of increasingly precious gasoline. Even on this, a bad day, Hudgin coaxed 28 mpg more out of his 2000 Honda Insight hybrid than its federal highway mpg rating.

Hudgin's disappointment — he usually averages about 100 mpg this time of year — stems from his pride in being no ordinary driver.

He's a hypermiler, part of a loose-knit legion of commuters who've made racking up seemingly unattainable mpg an art. And a sport.

Hypermilers practice such unorthodox techniques as coasting for blocks with their car's engine turned off, driving far below speed limits on the freeway, pumping up tire pressure far beyond car and tire makers' recommendations, manipulating the car's computer to show higher mpg.



By Michael Chow for USA TODAY

in of Gilbert, Ariz., squeezes as much as he can get from his 2000 Honda Insight.

#### THE DISCUSSION

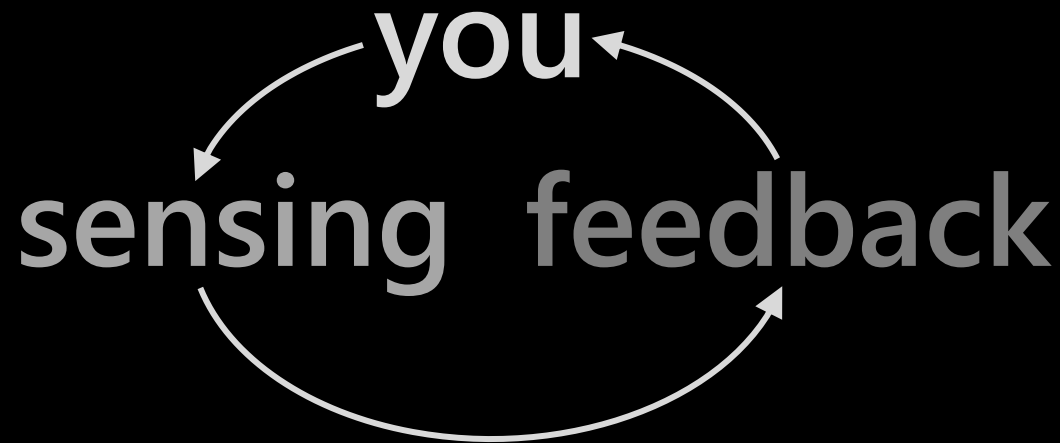
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Fuel  
stories  
g tips  
rs.





# eco-feedback

sensing and visualizing behavior to reduce environmental impact





what about  
sensing and  
feedback in the  
home?





KILOWATTHOURS

• 01200 240V 3W • TYPE J55 •

DE 4354628

# traditional bill:



Florida Power & Light Company  
PO Box 025576  
Miami, FL 33102

/ 27

Please request changes on the back.  
Notes on the front will not be detected.

The amount enclosed includes the following donation:  
FPL Care To Share \$

B 2,3,4,7,8 4118 6

#BWNDJNQ \*\*\* AUTO \*\*CO 4501  
#0148843BQ485818# 116049 Z

DELRAY BEACH FL 33445-3504

Make check payable to FPL in U.S. funds  
and mail along with this coupon to:

FPL  
GENERAL MAIL FACILITY  
MIAMI FL 33188-0001

Account number	Total amount you owe	New charges due by	Amount enclosed
	\$295.43	Jul 16 2008	\$

## Your electric statement

For: May 27 2008 to Jun 25 2008 (29 days)

Customer name:

Service address:

Account number:

Statement date: Jun 25 2008

Next meter reading: Jul 25 2008

Amount of your last bill	Payments (-)	Additional activity (+ or -)	Balance before new charges (=)	New charges (+)	Total amount you owe (=)	New charges due by
328.10	328.10 CR	0.00	0.00	295.43	\$295.43	Jul 16 2008

## Meter reading - Meter 7C18171

Current reading	52489	Amount of your last bill	328.10
Previous reading	- 50153	Payment received - Thank you	328.10 CR
kWh used	2336	Balance before new charges	\$0.00

## Energy usage

	Last Year	This Year
kWh this month	3375	2336
Service days	32	29
kWh per day	105	81

\*\*The electric service amount includes the following charges:

Customer charge:	\$5.34
Fuel:	\$135.46

(First 1000 kWh at \$0.052270)	
(Over 1000 kWh at \$0.062270)	
Non-fuel:	\$110.35
(First 1000 kWh at \$0.041340)	
(Over 1000 kWh at \$0.051660)	

<b>New charges (Rate: RS-1 RESIDENTIAL SERVICE)</b>	
Electric service amount	251.15**
Storm charge	2.59
Gross receipts tax	6.51
Franchise charge	15.75
Utility tax	14.51
Late payment charge	4.92
<b>Total new charges</b>	<b>\$295.43</b>

**Total amount you owe \$295.43**

- A late payment charge of 1.50% will apply if not paid by July 16, 2008, and your account may be subject to being billed an additional deposit.

- Would you like one less bill to think about & help the environment too? Enroll in FPL Automatic Bill Pay & your bill is always paid on time. Save time, postage, check writing & paper. Plus, cut fuel consumption of cars & trucks that transport checks. Enroll at FPL.com or see authorization form in this bill.

# opower bill:



An Exelon Company

## Home electricity report

Account number: 1234567890  
Report period: 04/10/09 - 05/08/09

We are pleased to provide this personalized report to you as part of a pilot program. The purpose of the report is to:

**Provide information** This report is an educational tool to help you understand your home's electricity use in the context of other homes.

**Track progress** We will help you learn about how your home's usage changes over time and where you likely have opportunities to save.

**Share energy efficiency tips** On the back of the report, we provide ideas for saving energy and money. You can find more tips at [www.ComEd.com/energyreport](http://www.ComEd.com/energyreport)

JOHN DOE

## Last Month Neighbor Comparison

You used **48% more** than your efficient neighbors.



### HOW YOU'RE DOING:

GREAT

GOOD

MORE THAN AVERAGE

\* kWh: A 100-Watt bulb burning for 10 hours uses 1 kilowatt-hour.

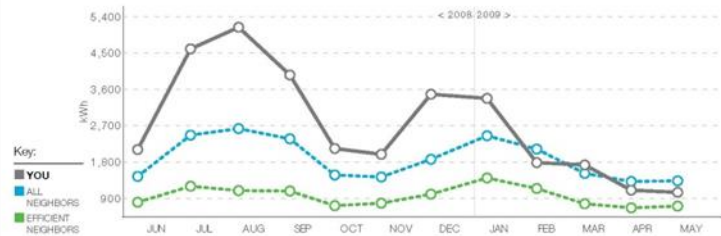
## WHO ARE YOUR "NEIGHBORS"?

**ALL NEIGHBORS**  
Approximately 60 occupied, nearby homes that are similar in size to yours (avg 5,379 sq ft)

**EFFICIENT NEIGHBORS**  
The most efficient 20 percent from the "All Neighbors" group

## Last 12 Months Neighbor Comparison

You used **45% more** electricity than your neighbors.  
This costs you about **\$1,029 extra** per year.



## Personalized Action Steps

☐ Set your thermostat for comfort and savings

☐ Choose efficient light bulbs

☐ Look for the ENERGY STAR® label

TURN OVER TO LEARN MORE

## Action Steps

☐ Set your thermostat for comfort and savings

☐ Choose efficient light bulbs

☐ Look for the ENERGY STAR® label

TURN OVER TO LEARN MORE

# November Neighbor Comparison

You used **28% MORE** energy than your efficient neighbors

EFFICIENT  
NEIGHBORS

1,450\*

YOU

1,851

ALL NEIGHBORS

2,759

HOW YOU'RE DOING

GREAT 😊😊

GOOD

MORE THAN GOOD

# 2.5%

# energy savings

WHO ARE YOUR  
"NEIGHBORS"?

EFFICIENT NEIGHBORS

Approximately 100 occupied nearby homes that are similar in size to yours (avg 2,023 sq ft) and have both electricity and natural gas service.

Neighbor Comparison

You used **74% MORE** energy than your efficient neighbors. This costs you a lot more.

20 million  
tons of coal



A photograph of a nuclear power plant featuring two large, grey, hourglass-shaped cooling towers. In the center, there is a smaller, cylindrical containment dome. The plant is situated in an open field with some trees in the background. The sky is clear and blue. Overlaid on the image is large, white, sans-serif text.

yearly output  
of 4 nuclear  
power plants

[Armel, BECC 2008]

# can we do better than paper?

Florida Power & Light Company  
P.O. Box 65075  
Miami, FL 33165

Account number: 1234567890  
Report period: 04/10/09 - 05/08/09

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- Provide information that will help you understand your home's electricity usage in the context of other homes.
- Track progress. You will help you learn about how your home's energy changes over time and where you may have opportunities to save.
- Share energy efficiency tips. On the back of this report, we provide ideas for saving energy and money. This can be even tips at [www.FPL.com/energytips](http://www.FPL.com/energytips).

**Last Month Neighbor Comparison**

You used 48% more than your efficient neighbors.

**WHO ARE YOUR "NEIGHBORS"?**

Efficient homes: 1,248  
Average homes: 1,302  
Inefficient homes: 1,352

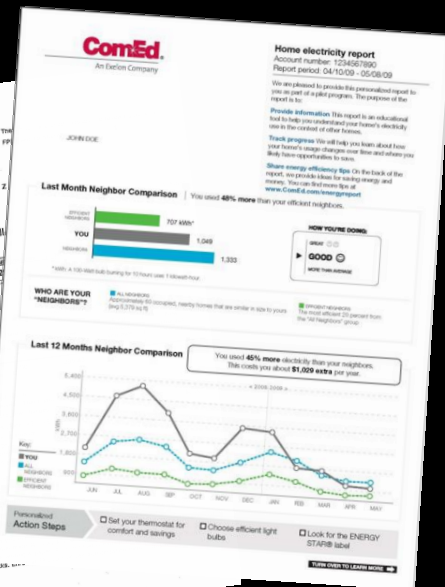
**Last 12 Months Neighbor Comparison**

You used 60% more electricity than your neighbors. This month you used \$1,029 more per year.

**Personalized Action Steps**

- Set your thermostat for comfort and savings.
- Choose efficient light bulbs.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR label.

Don't miss to learn more at [www.FPL.com/energytips](http://www.FPL.com/energytips)



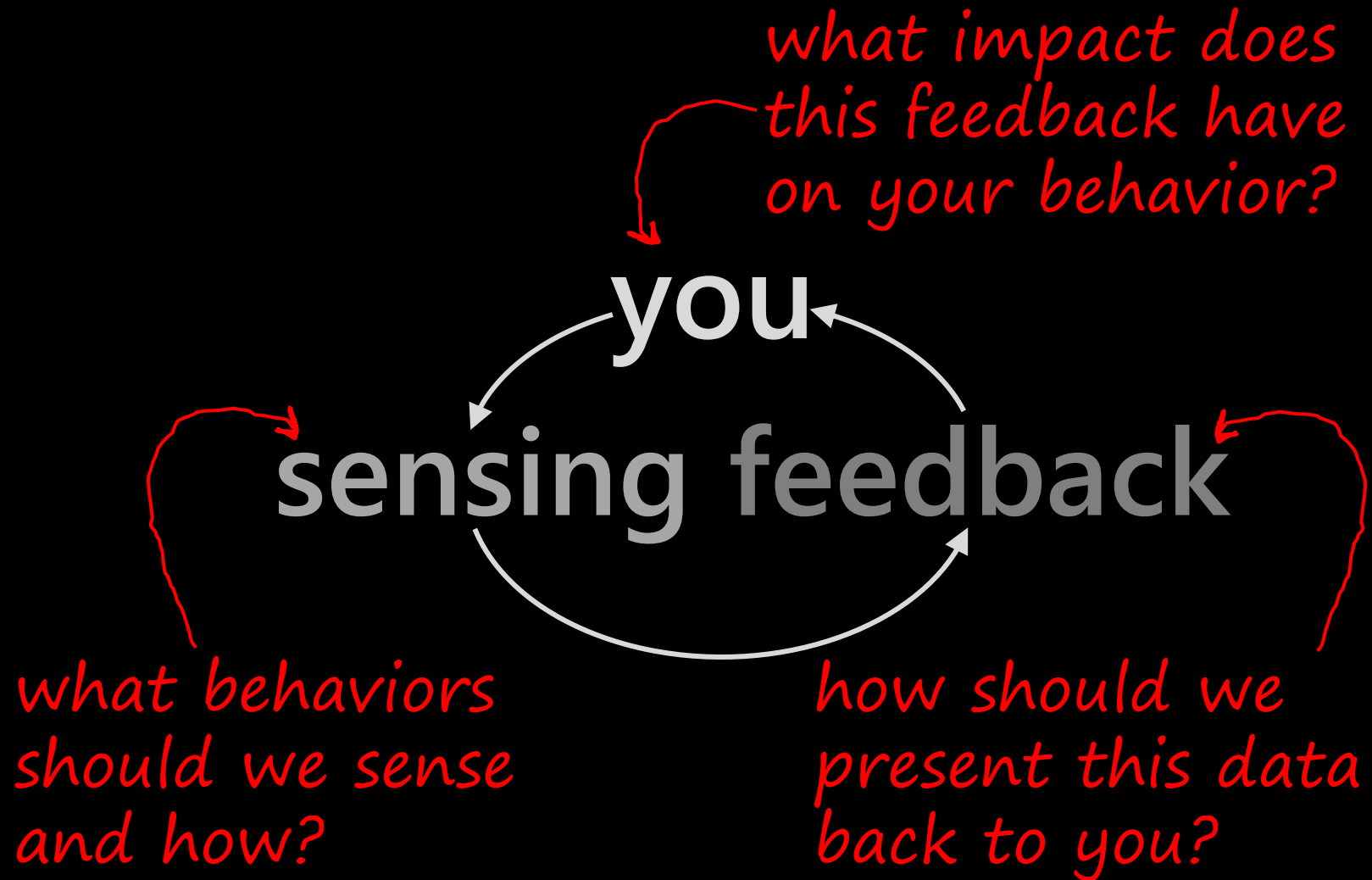
# plethora of display mediums



# advances in **sensing** and **machine learning**

philips directlife  
activity sensor

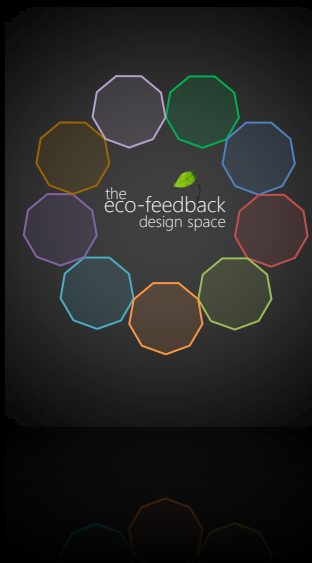




intro



design space



ubigreen



hydrosense



reflect



future work



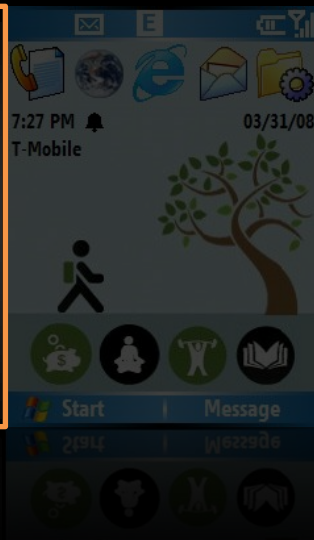
intro



design space



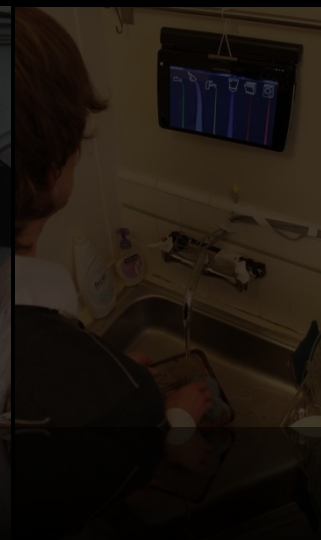
ubigreen



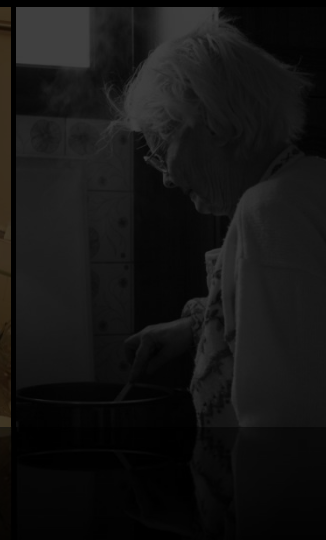
hydrosense



reflect



future work



A photograph of a desk lamp with a black adjustable arm and a black base. The lamp is turned on, casting a warm glow. A power cord is plugged into a white power strip on the desk. The power cord is illuminated with a bright blue light that pulses and varies in intensity, as indicated by the text. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# power-aware cord

cord light pulsates &  
varies in intensity  
based on power draw

[Gustafsson and Gyllenswärd, CHI2005]

# the energy detective



ibm smarter city

United States

Welcome [ IBM Sign in / Register ]

My IBM

Search

The IBM Smarter City Sustainability Model

Home | Edit your profile | News | Team chat | Pilot chat | Change password

Water report for

Anonymous

Usage Trend

15.8%

increase

Your Rank

56<sup>th</sup>

place

Green Points

0

points

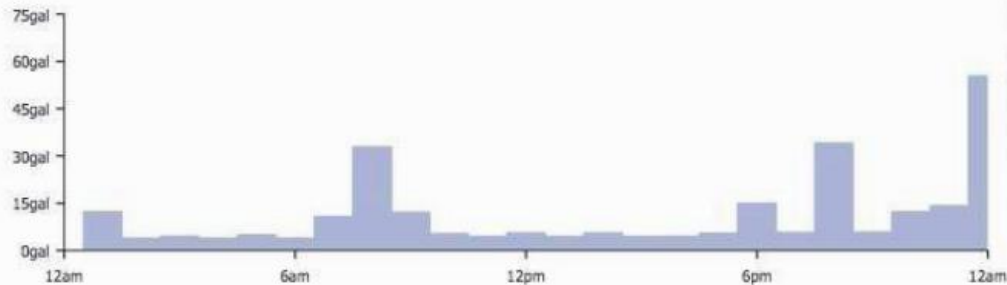
Water usage by day in gallons | dollars | lbs CO<sub>2</sub>

Hourly breakdown

Weekly Usage

Compare

This week's game

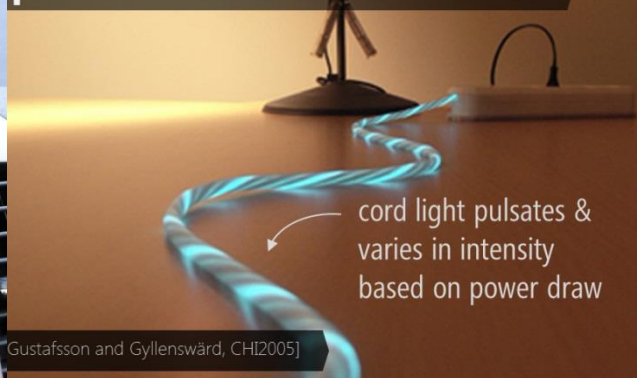


This graph depicts your hour-by-hour water usage on 2010-05-05.

toyota prius



power-aware cord



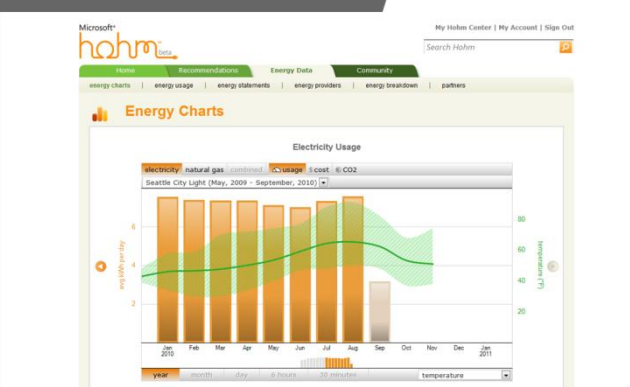
Gustafsson and Gyllenswärd, CHI2005]

jetsam



[Paulos and Jenkins, CHI2005]

microsoft hohm



the energy detective



wattson



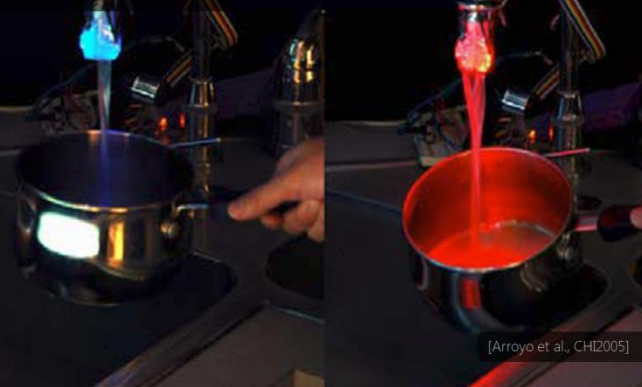
control4 dashboard



google powermeter

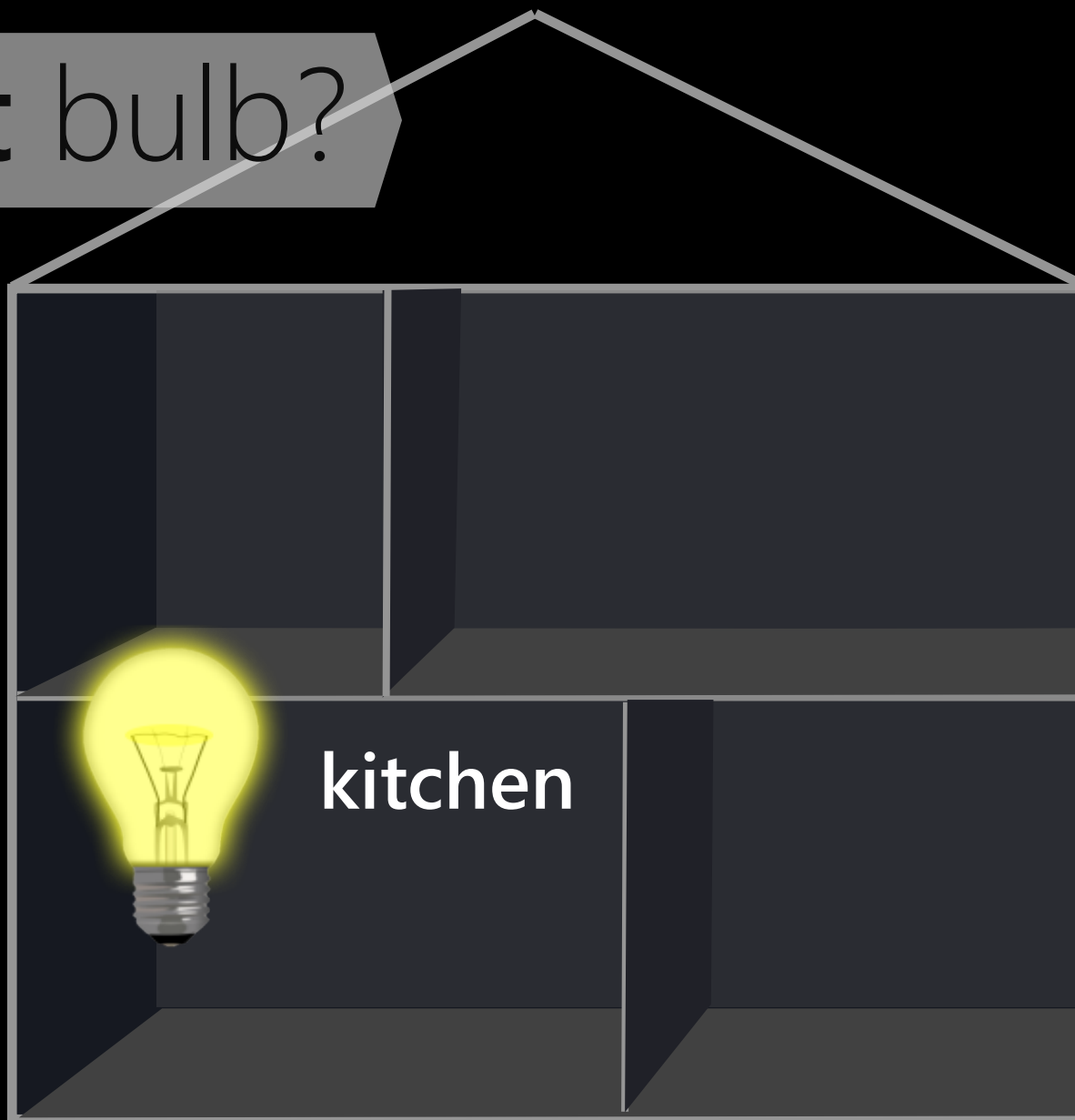


heat sink



[Arroyo et al., CHI2005]

**light bulb?**



[Kohlenberg et al., J. of Applied Behavior Analysis, 1976]

what makes an eco-feedback  
**design effective?**

how can we better understand  
the **tradeoffs, constraints, and**  
**motivational strategies** of eco-  
feedback designs?

# literature survey

## eco-feedback



**150 papers** in environmental HCI

**82 papers** in environmental psychology

also literature in: persuasive technology,  
ambient displays, information visualization,  
behavioral economics, health behavior  
change, visual design









why is the  
prius  
effective?



- Graphical
- Textual
- Temporal

data  
representation

information  
access

- Real-time
- Spatially co-located
- Constrained environment

- Real-time mpg

inputs

- In-car display

display  
medium

behavioral  
models

comparison

- Educates
- Reason to care

- To self

social

actionability

motivational  
strategies

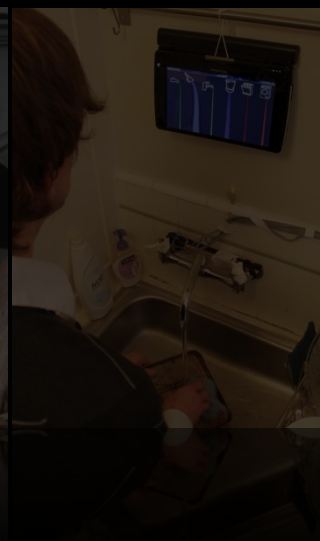
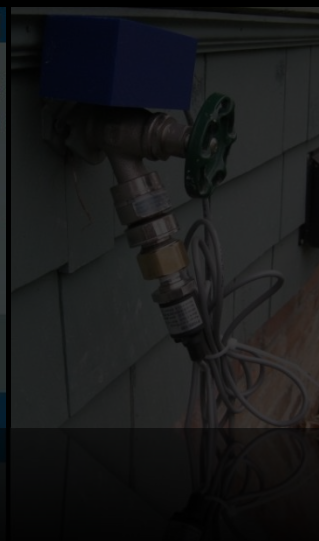
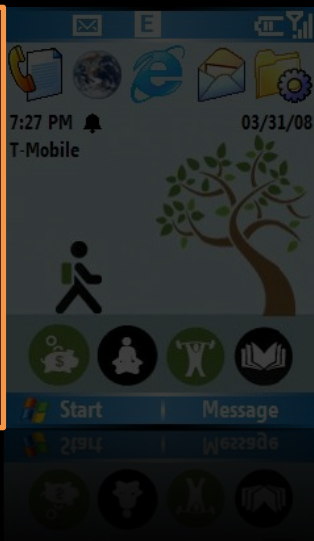
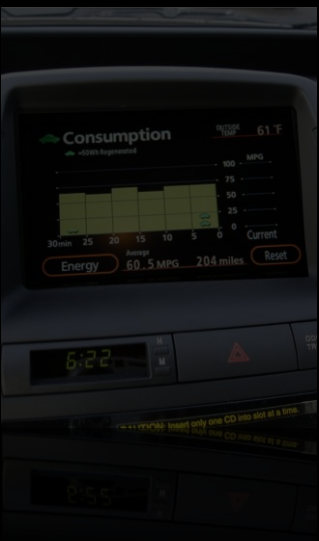
- Informs only one action











# ubigreen

## eco-feedback

### goals

increase awareness of  
transit habits

attempt to motivate  
green transit



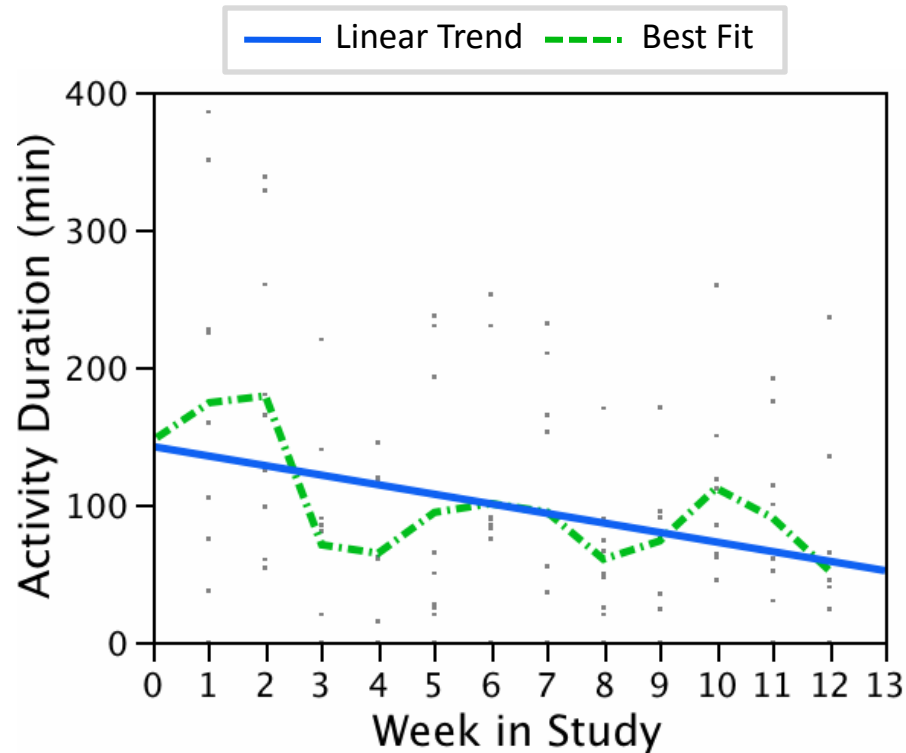
# ubifit

- fitness monitoring application
- automatically senses activity
- at-a-glance goal information

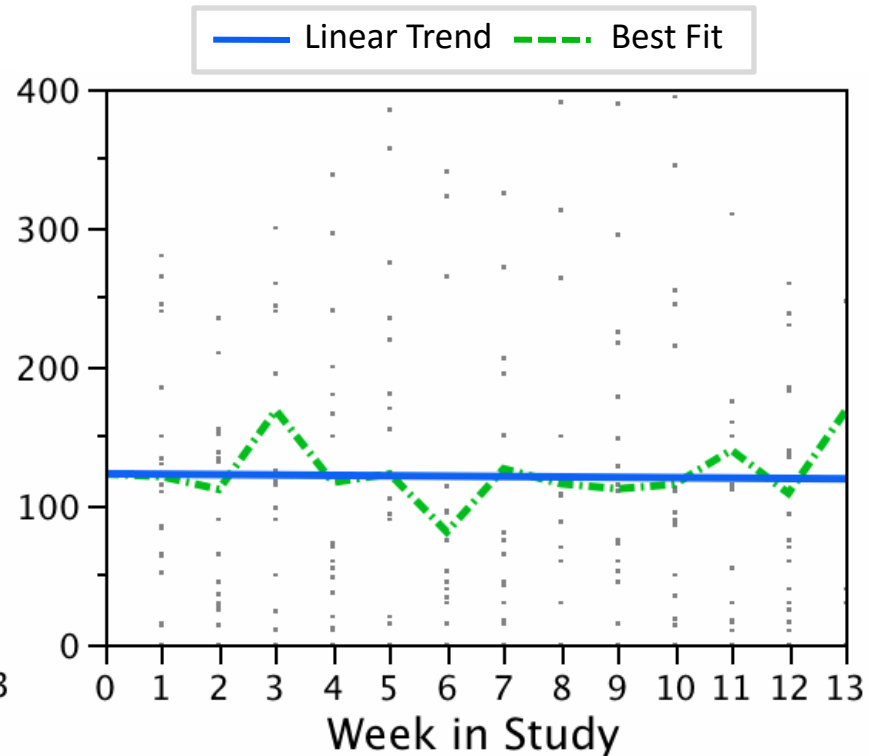


-  strength
-  cardio
-  flexibility
-  walk
-  week's goal met
-  recent goal met

# effectiveness of the ubifit glanceable display



**no glanceable display**



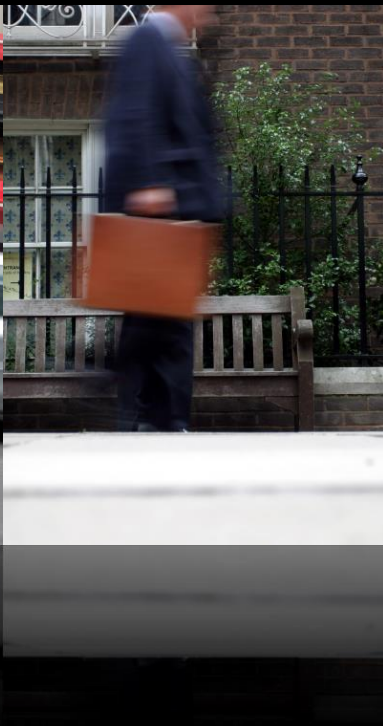
**glanceable display**

# we want to **sense**

biking



walking



taking the bus



riding the train



driving



# ubigreen

transit sensing infrastructure



walk

bike



mobile sensing platform

how should we  
visualize this data  
in an eco-feedback  
display?

# Visualizations Informed By:

- Our eco-feedback design space
- Our experiences designing and evaluating UbiFit
- We conducted two formative studies of transit usage
- Past work on feedback systems

# ubigreen

personal ambient display

current  
activity

value  
icon bar

phone  
background  
(wallpaper)

evolving  
image



ubigreen  
personal ambient display



wednesday  
thursday



everything  
resets  
on sunday

# tree



# polar bear



# 3wk field study



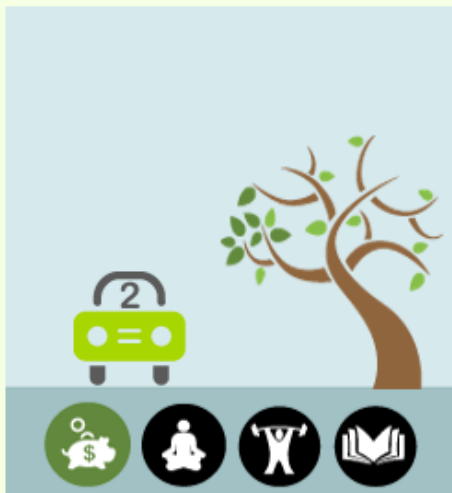
ubigreen eco-feedback

mobile sensing platform

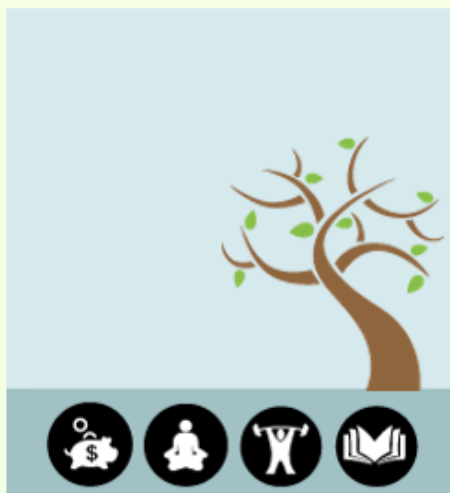


## Saturday

### RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS



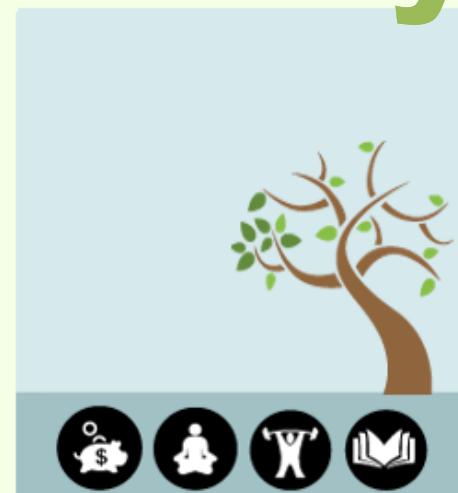
ubigreen1



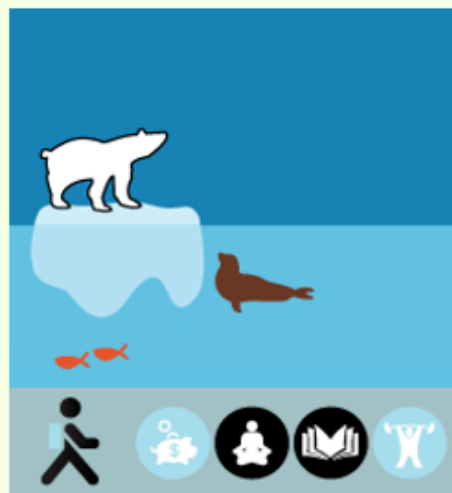
ubigreen2



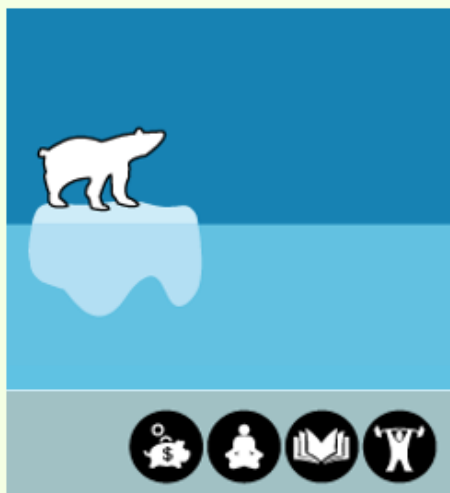
ubigreen3



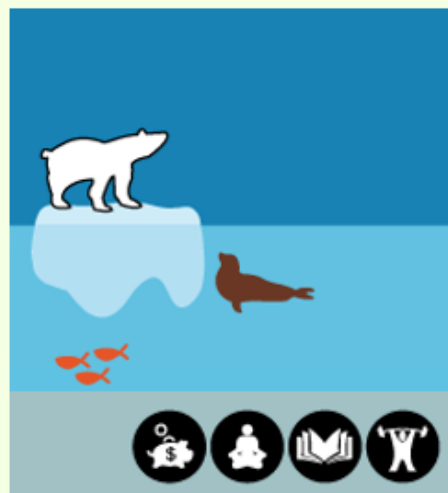
ubigreen4



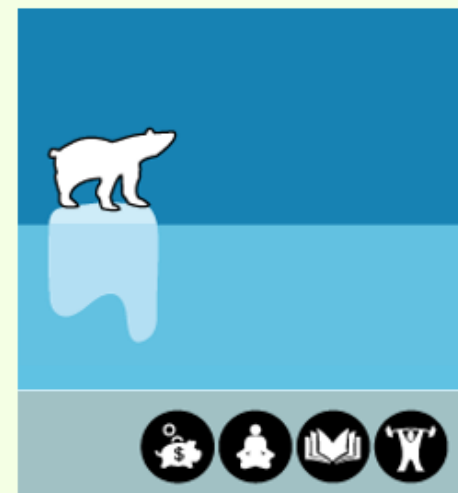
ubigreen5



ubigreen6



ubigreen7



ubigreen8

# ubigreen

## study results



"i liked the tree because it was, to my mind, a pretty progress bar. i could tell the difference at a glance" [p11]

"i liked how stories were used" [p8]

"i want different stories every week" [p8]

"i would like to see some graph or raw data—a breakdown of transit activity by type for the week" [p13]

"it would be nice to see your carbon footprint" [p15]

# ubigreen

## study results

"i liked that we didn't know what the background was going to do" [p15]

"negative feedback would also be good; maybe my polar bear should drown if i don't take green transit" [p14]

"i wanted to see the final stage i could get to" [p7]



"i don't like incentives for getting points artificially by taking unnecessary green trips" [p11]

"if i didn't get a leaf or a flower after, i felt like I was getting cheated out of my points" [p15]



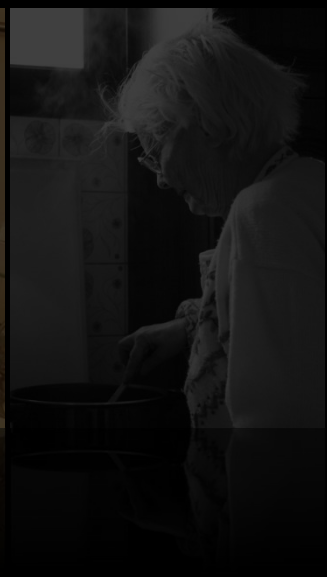
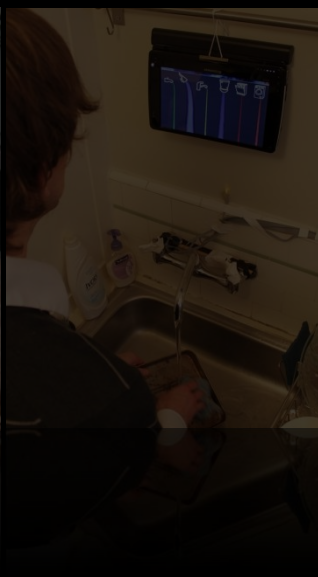
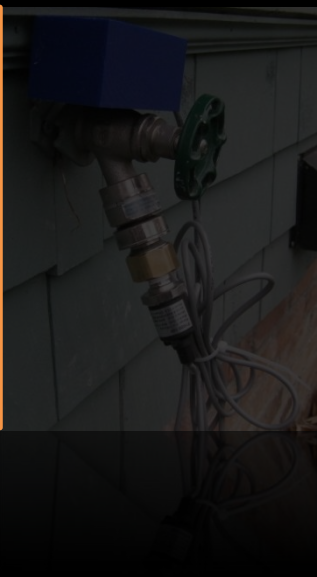
# ubigreen

## contributions

first system to semi-automatically track and feedback personal transit information

empirical findings from field deployment have implications for other eco-feedback systems:

- abstraction can make comparisons difficult
- users desire actionable feedback
- reward systems need to be carefully constructed

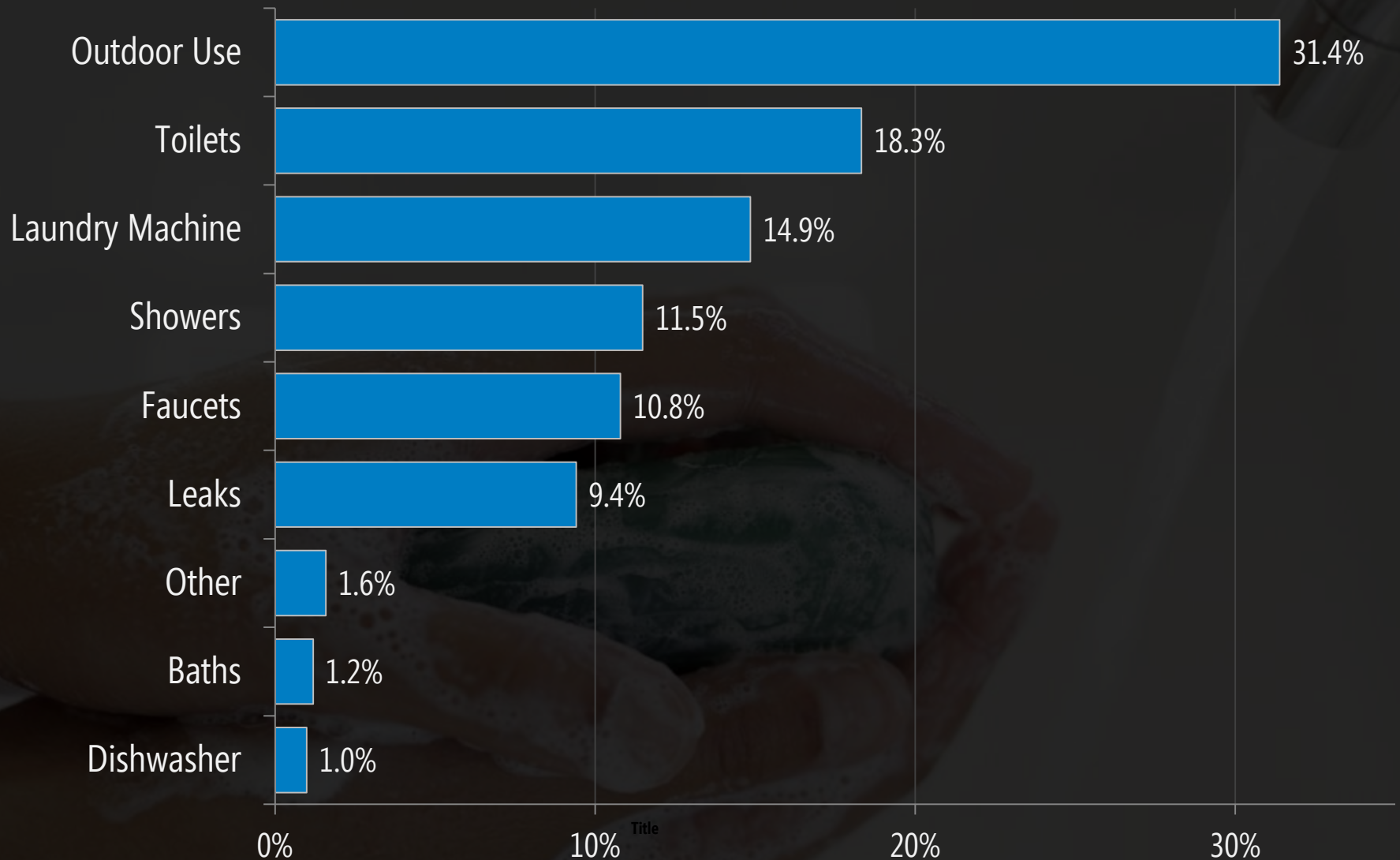


A dark, moody background image featuring a hand holding a bar of soap, with a pen visible in the upper right corner. The text is overlaid on this image.

# what

are the most **water** consuming  
activities in the average North  
American home?

# top water usage activities

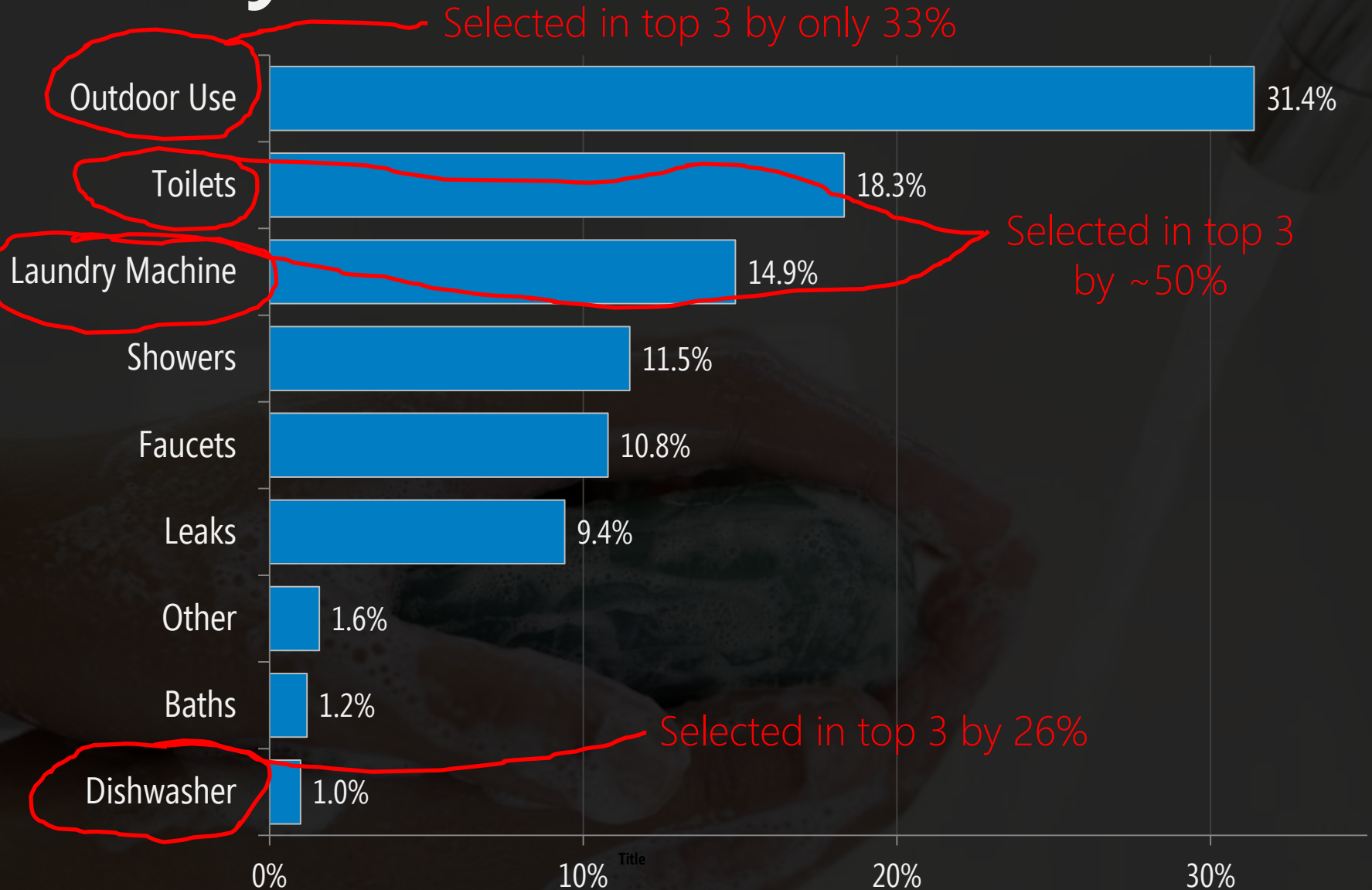


[Vickers, Handbook of Water Use and Conservation, 2001]

we asked **656 people** the same thing

select the top 3 most water consuming  
activities in an average home

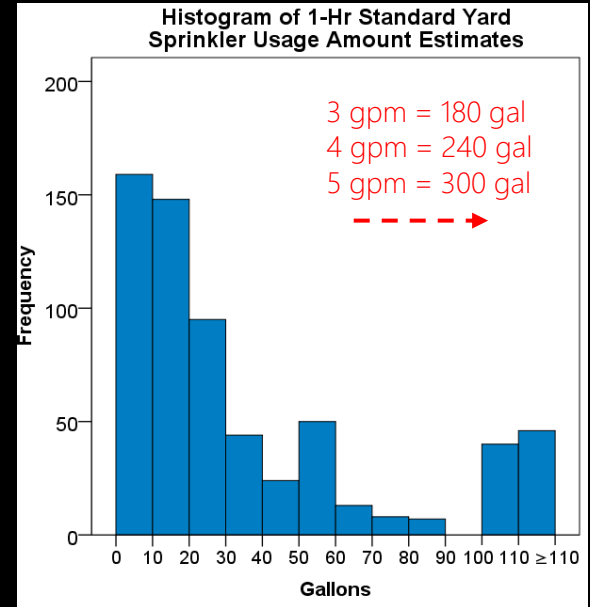
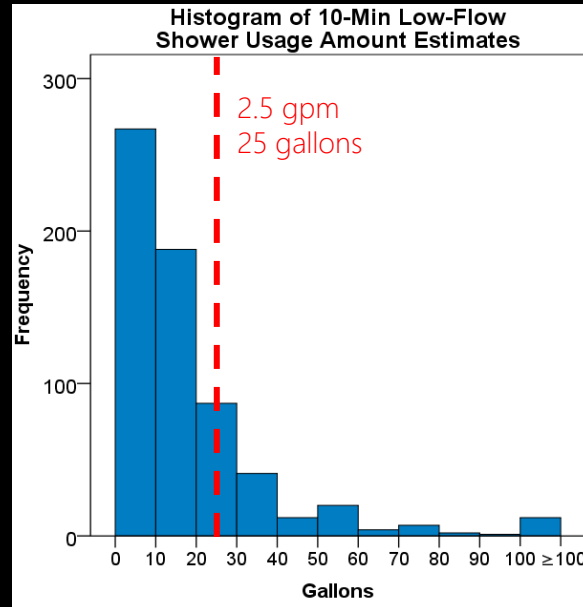
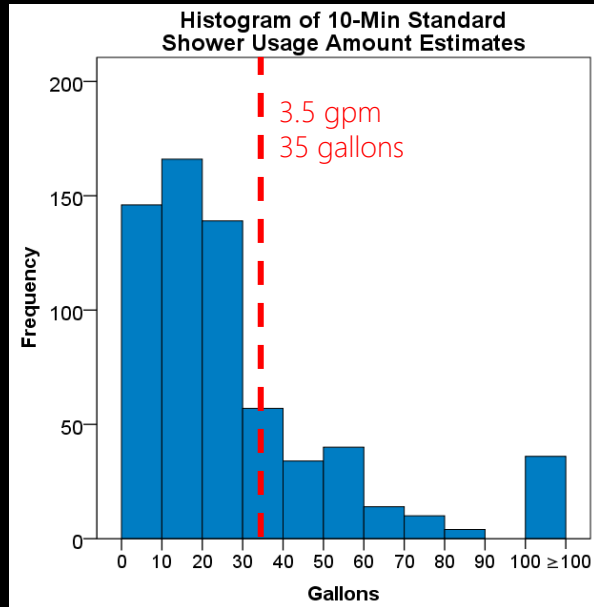
# survey results



[Vickers, Handbook of Water Use and Conservation, 2001]

how much **water** do people think  
common activities actually use?

# water usage estimates (N=656)



These were individuals greatly interested in water conservation!

88% interested in conserving water at home

84% try to limit their water usage

# SAFEWAY

SAVE MORE AT SAFEWAY

## GROCERY

SFWY PRIZLE STICK	1.50 B
RegPrice 1.79	CardSav .29
BLKBERRY PRES	3.79 B
SFY CANOLA OIL	
CEREAL PNT BUTTER	
CHILI SAUCE SWT	
CHF-B PIZZA	
LK GRCL SCE	

## REFRIG/FROZEN

LUC CHEESE	CardSav 1.
RegPrice 6.79	
SPINACH ARTICHOKE	CardSav 1
RegPrice 3.79	
3S CRWN VEG RSTD	CardSav 1
RegPrice 3.79	
202.50 SFWY SEL MEDALL FC	CardSav
RegPrice 7.58	
MARGARINE	

## GEN MERCHANDIS

#SFY BENEHIST TAB

## BAKED GOODS

LD COSMIC BROWNIES	1.29 B
OROWEAT RYE	3.14 B
CUSTARD PIE 9IN	4.99 B
RegPrice 5.99	CardSav 1.00
CHOC CREAM PIE	4.99 B
RegPrice 5.99	CardSav 1.00

**** TAX	6.76	BAL	144.25
VF MC XXXXXXXXX			144.25

CHANGE .00

TOTAL SAVINGS 16.97

NUMBER OF ITEMS = 35

# SAFEWAY

SAVE MORE AT SAFEWAY

Month: April 2006

Total Food Units: 1527

---

Total Price: **\$642**

what if you could  
get the same  
level of feedback  
in the home?

# today's usage

refrigerator  
0.3 gallons

dishwasher  
6.5 gallons

kitchen sink  
28 gallons



# today's usage

shower  
62.4 gallons

bath  
6.5 gallons

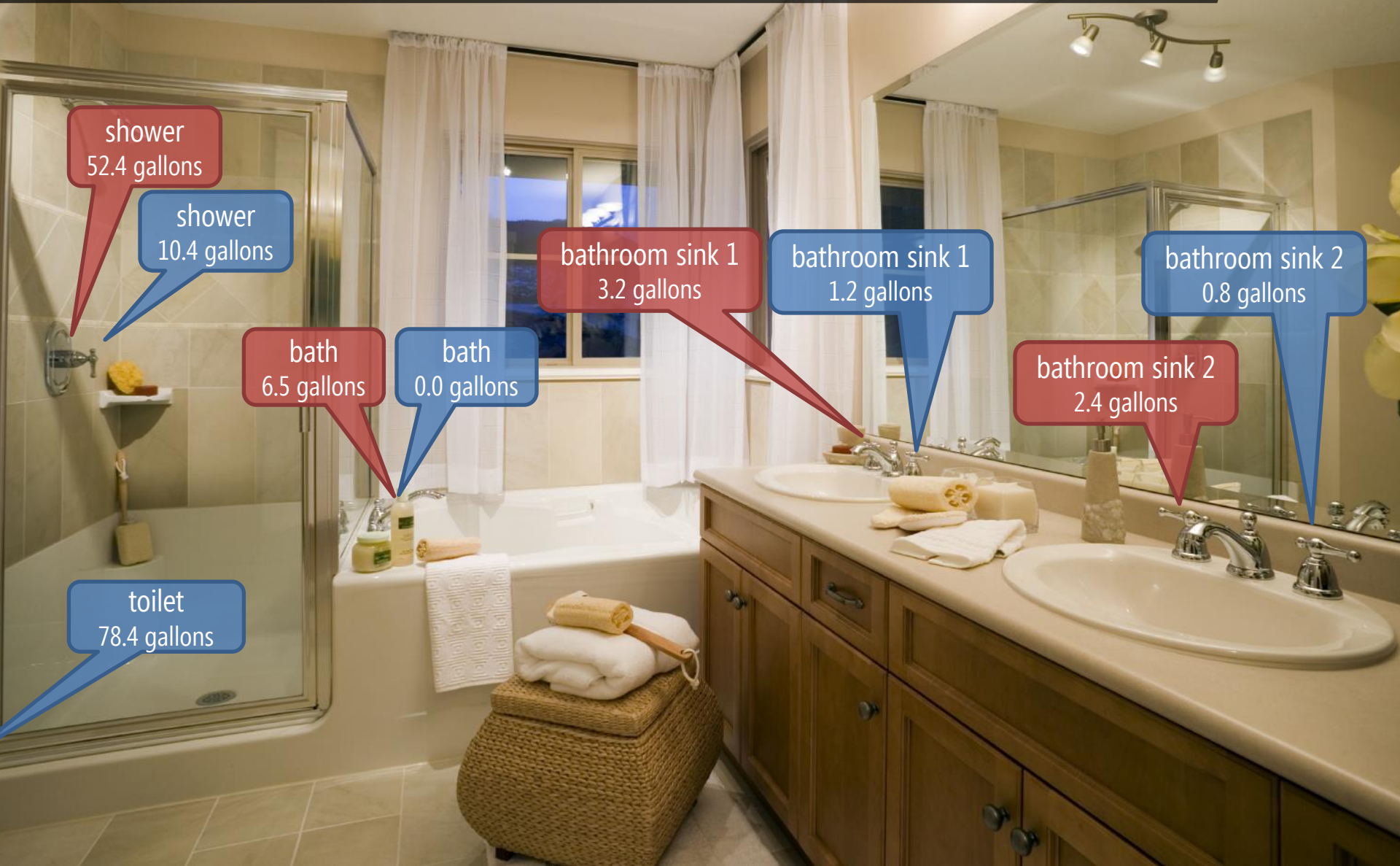
toilet  
78.4 gallons

bathroom sink 1  
4.2 gallons

bathroom sink 2  
0.8 gallons



# today's usage: hot vs. cold

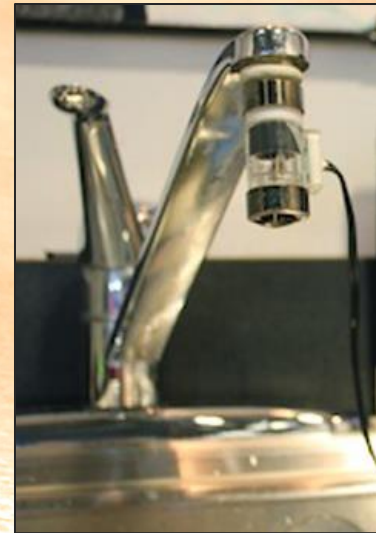
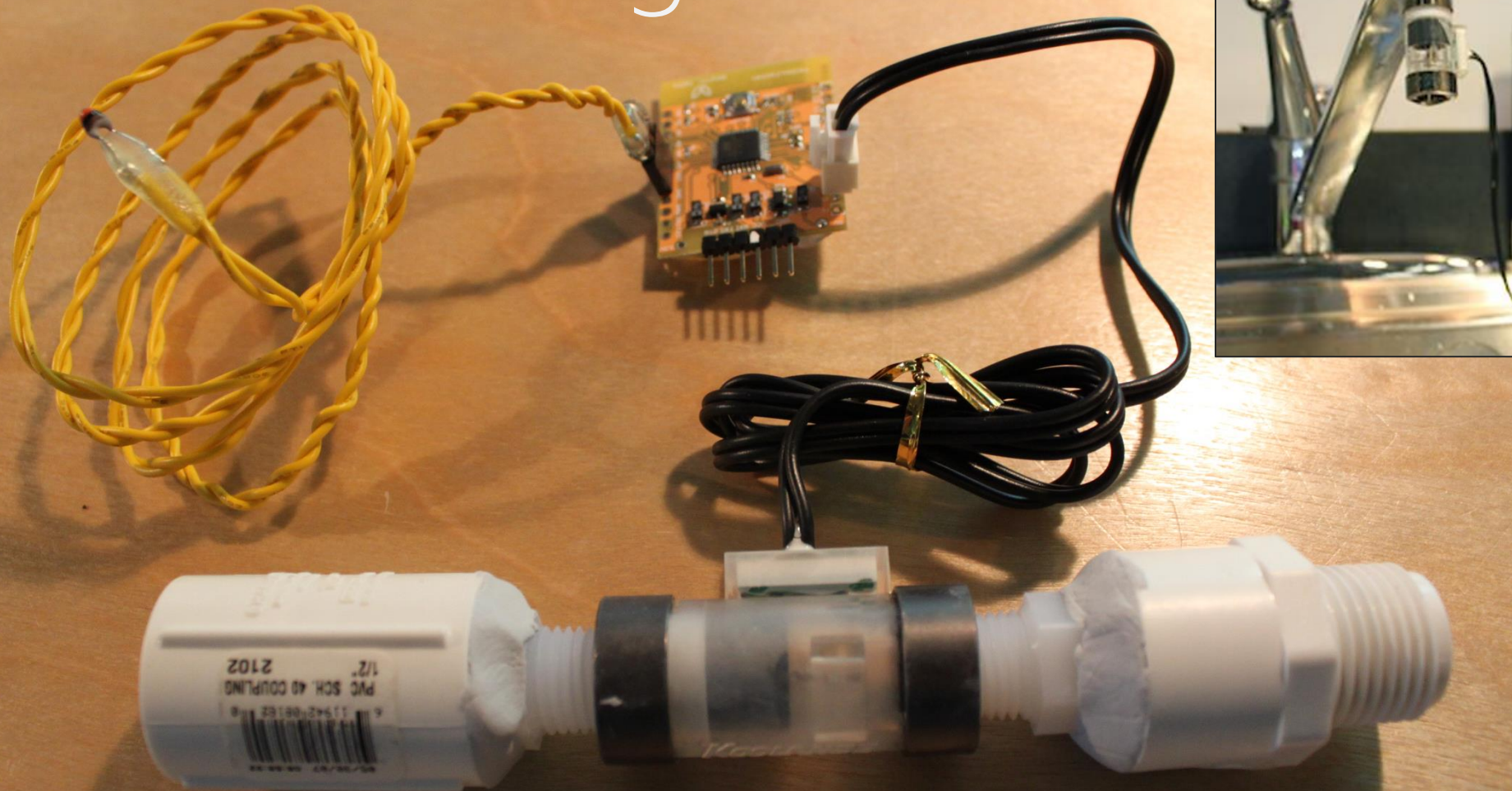


Traditional water meters measure aggregate consumption

Requires cutting into pipe to install

SERVICES	BILLING PERIOD		DAYS	METER READING			USAGE	USAGE HISTORY	
	From	To		Previous		Present		Last Month	Last Year
Water	2/9/11	3/9/11	31	238400	Actual	238900	500 CF	400 CF	400 CF
Sewer	2/9/11	3/9/11	31	238400	Actual	238900	500 CF	400 CF	400 CF
Sewer Deduct	2/9/11	3/9/11	31	95700	Actual	95700	0 CF	0 CF	0 CF

# direct sensing



# direct sensing

shower  
62.4 gallons

bath  
6.5 gallons

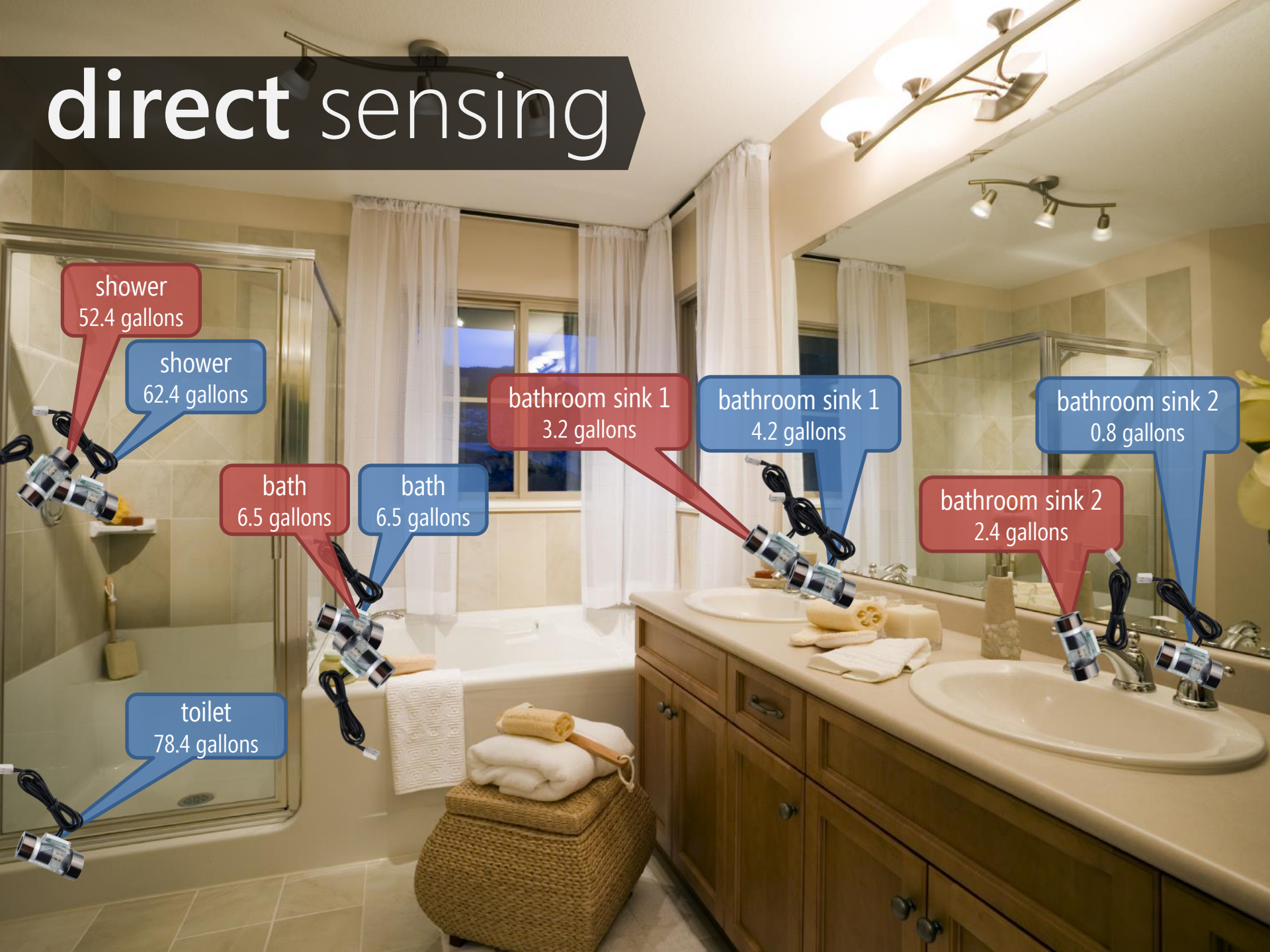
toilet  
78.4 gallons

bathroom sink 1  
4.2 gallons

bathroom sink 2  
0.8 gallons



# direct sensing



shower  
52.4 gallons

shower  
62.4 gallons

bath  
6.5 gallons

bath  
6.5 gallons

toilet  
78.4 gallons

bathroom sink 1  
3.2 gallons

bathroom sink 1  
4.2 gallons

bathroom sink 2  
2.4 gallons

bathroom sink 2  
0.8 gallons

scalable  
fixture-level sensing  
easy-to-install  
easy-to-maintain  
low-cost

# hydrosense

single, screw-on sensor  
identifies fixture usage  
estimates flow

Froehlich et al., UbiComp2009; Larson et al., PMC2010; Froehlich et al., Pervasive2011

# brief plumbing primer





water tower

# plumbing primer



water tower

# plumbing primer

incoming cold  
water from  
supply line





water tower

# pressure regulator

incoming cold  
water from  
supply line



utility water  
meter



pressure  
regulator



water tower

# plumbing layout

incoming cold  
water from  
supply line



utility water  
meter

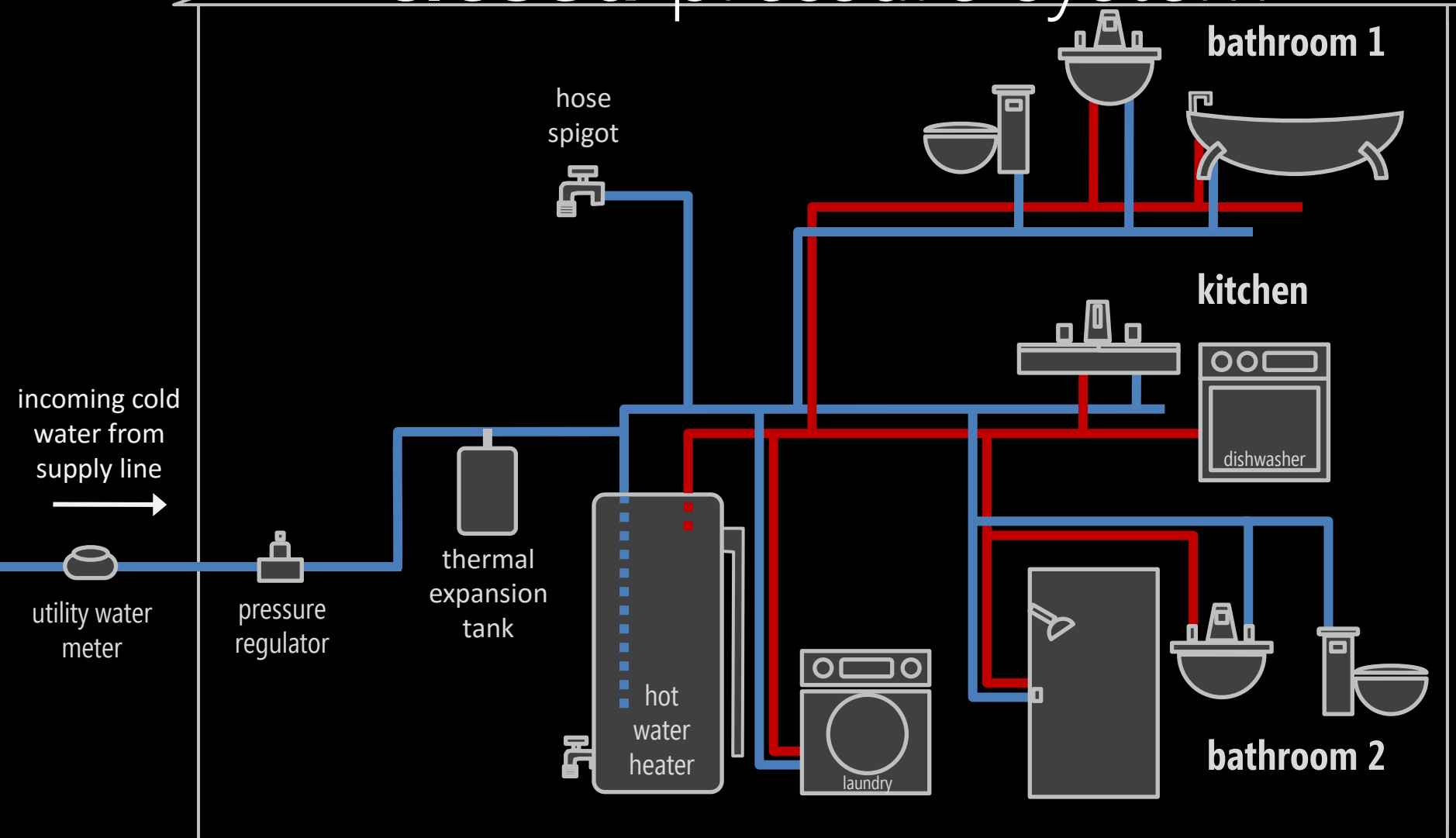


pressure  
regulator



water tower

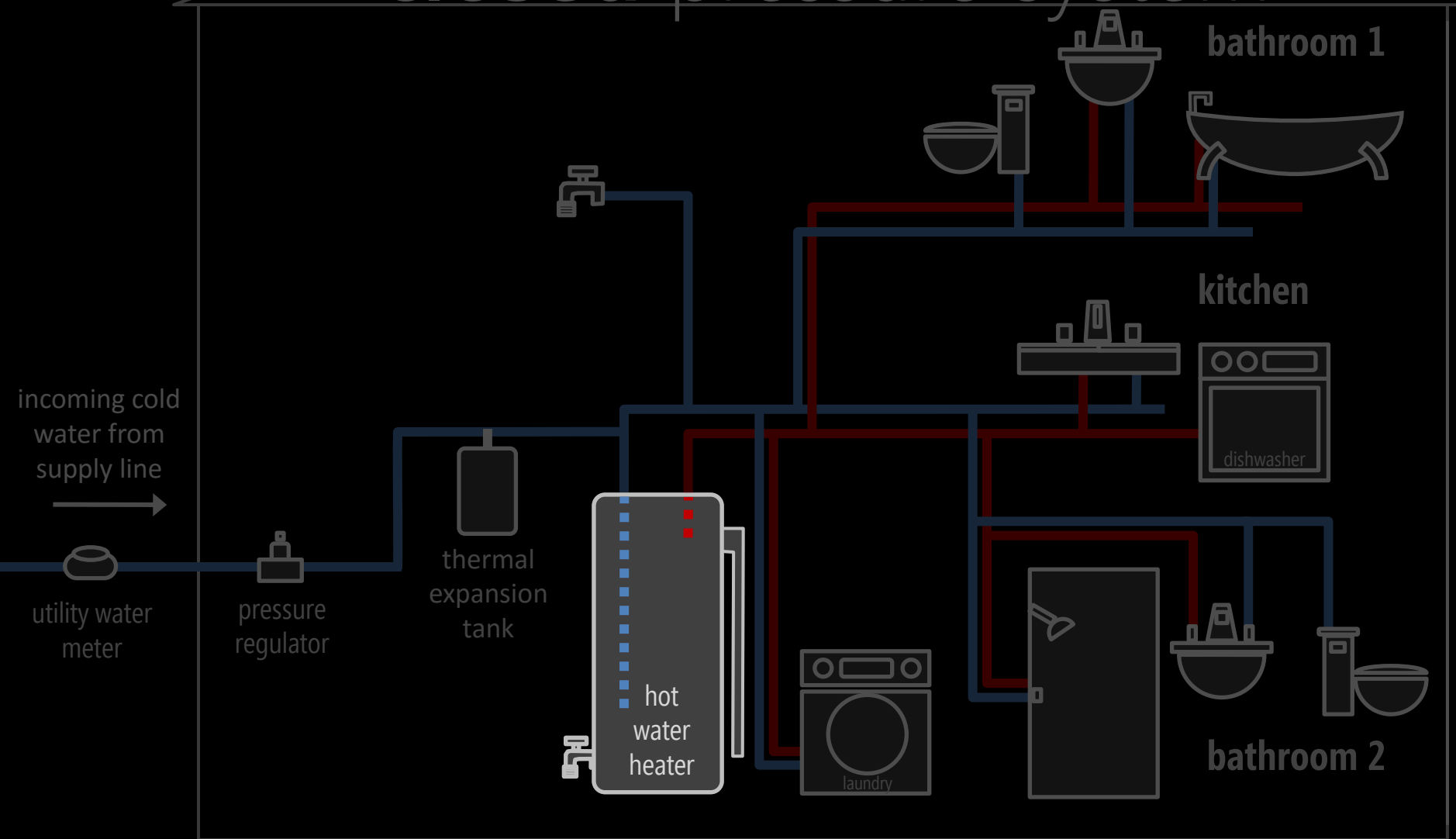
# closed pressure system

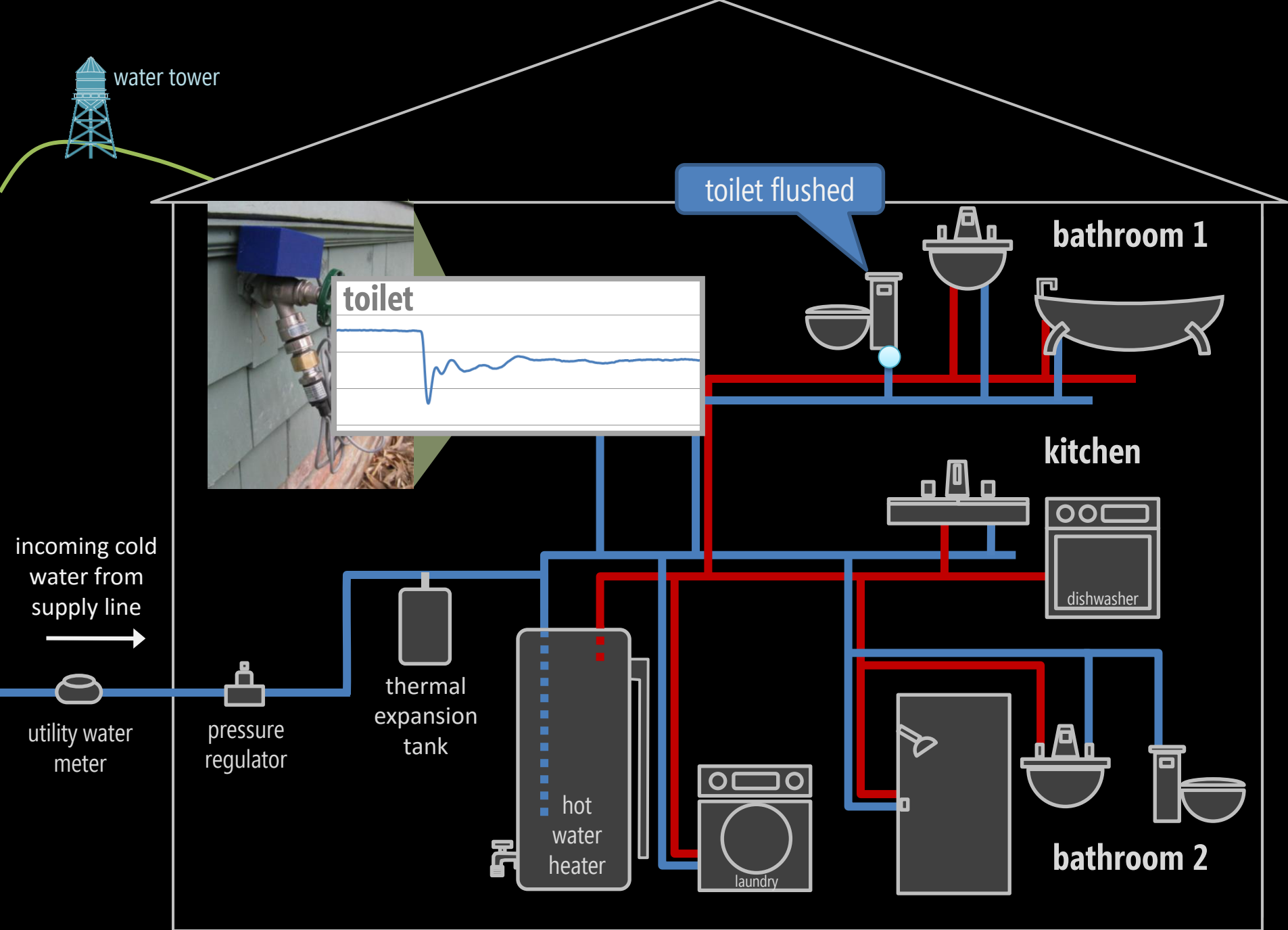


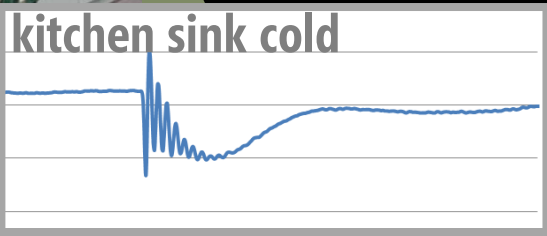
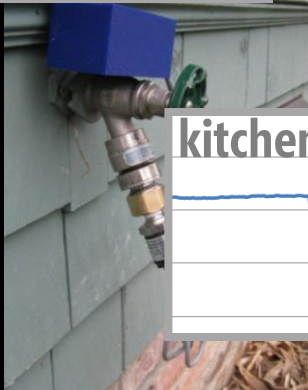
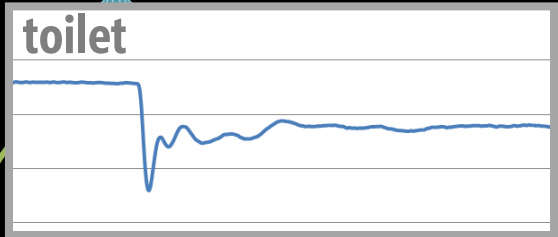


water tower

# closed pressure system







incoming cold  
water from  
supply line



utility water  
meter

pressure  
regulator

thermal  
expansion  
tank

hot  
water  
heater

laundry

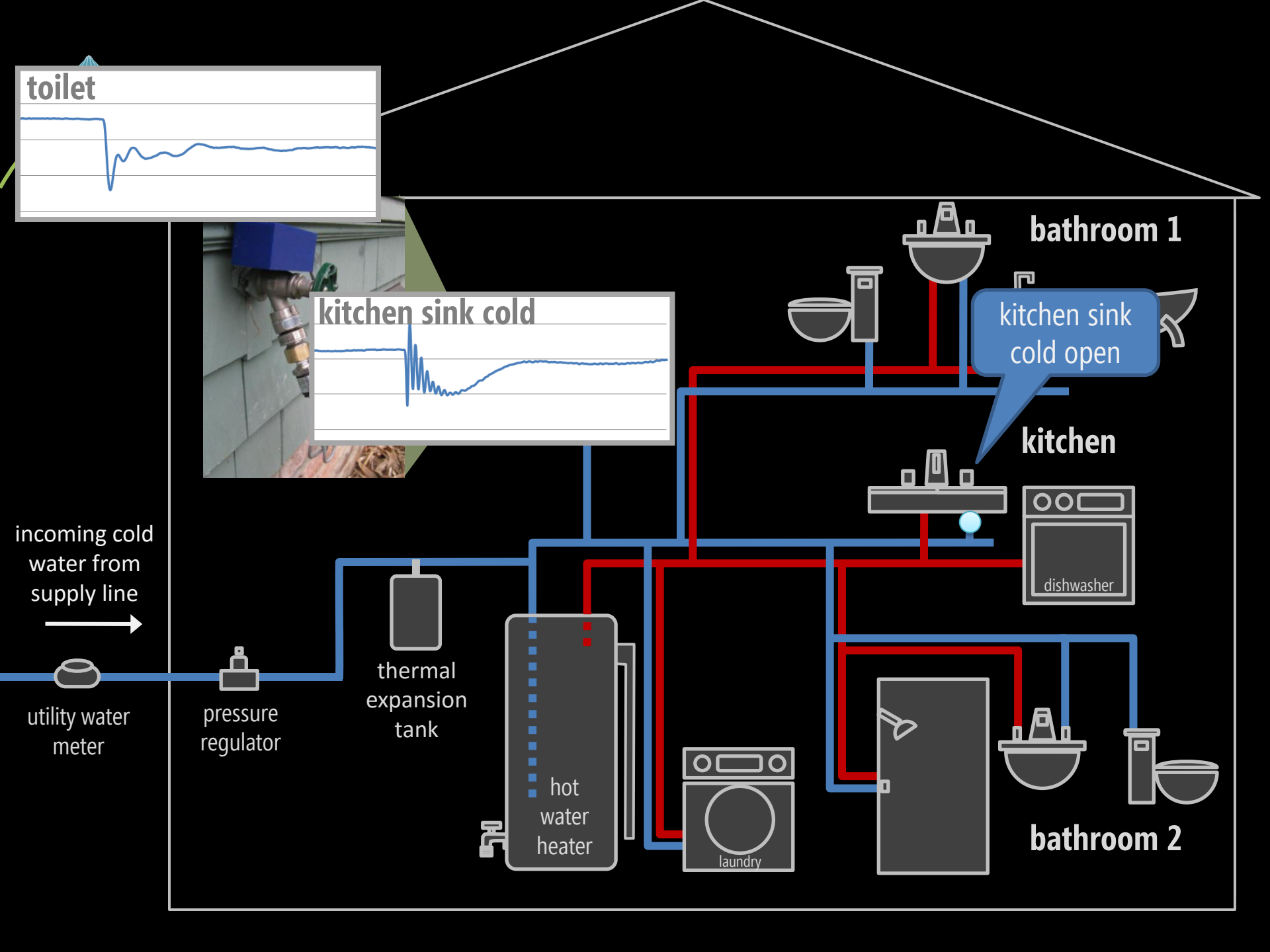
kitchen

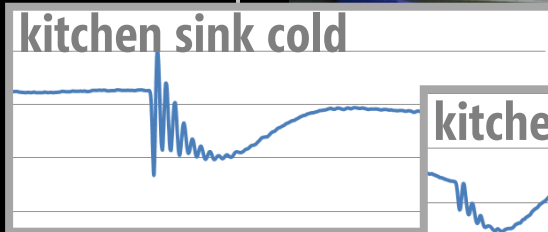
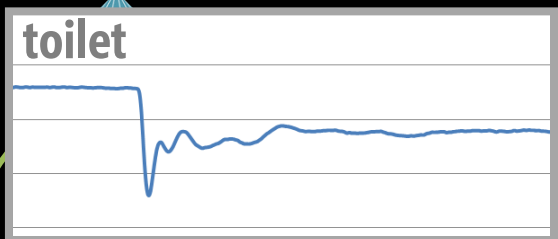
dishwasher

kitchen sink  
cold open

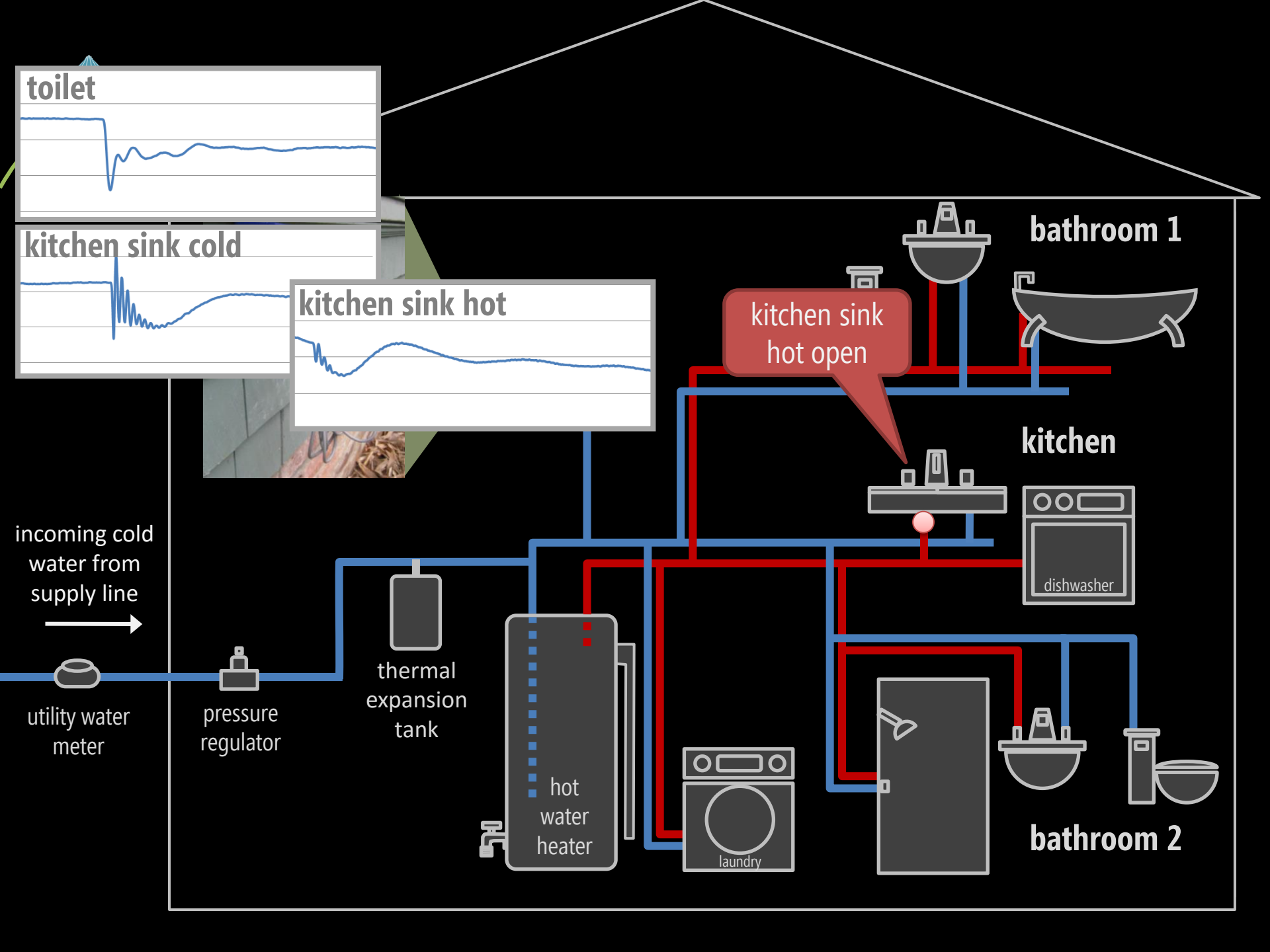
bathroom 1

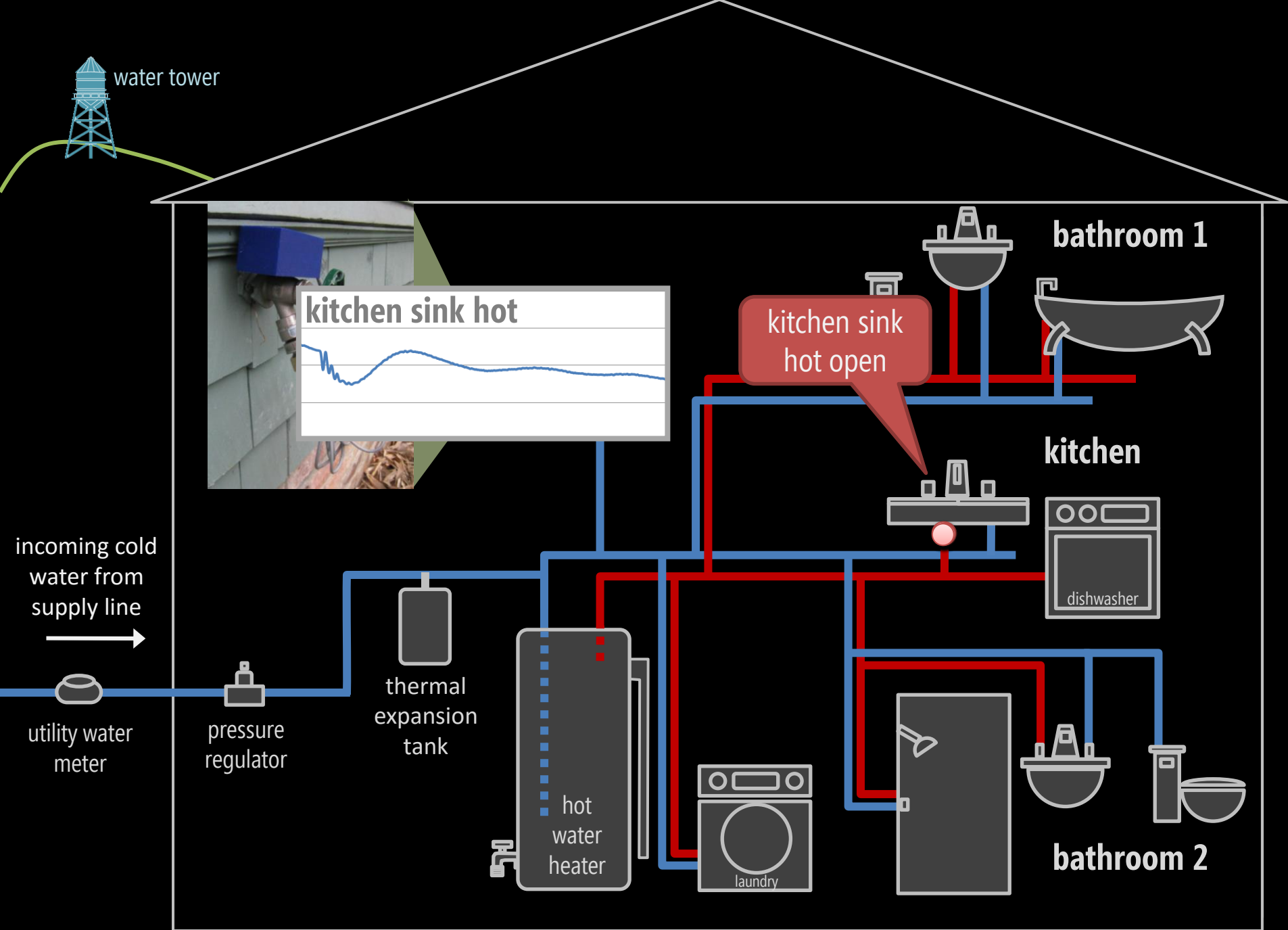
bathroom 2





kitchen sink  
hot open







water tower



bathroom 1

kitchen

dishwasher

bathroom 2

hot  
water  
heater

laundry

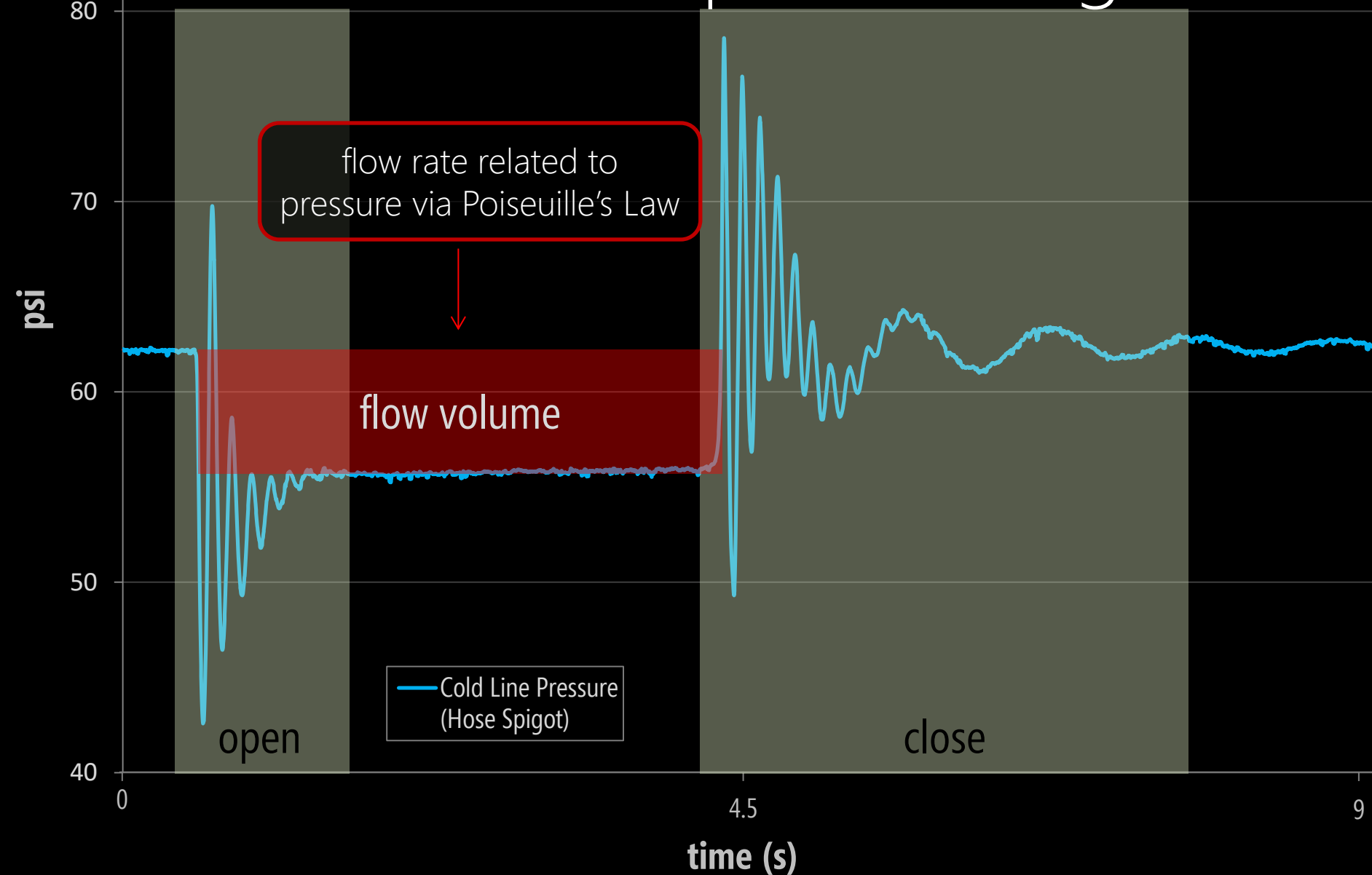
incoming cold  
water from  
supply line

utility water  
meter

# bathroom sink pressure signal



# bathroom sink pressure signal

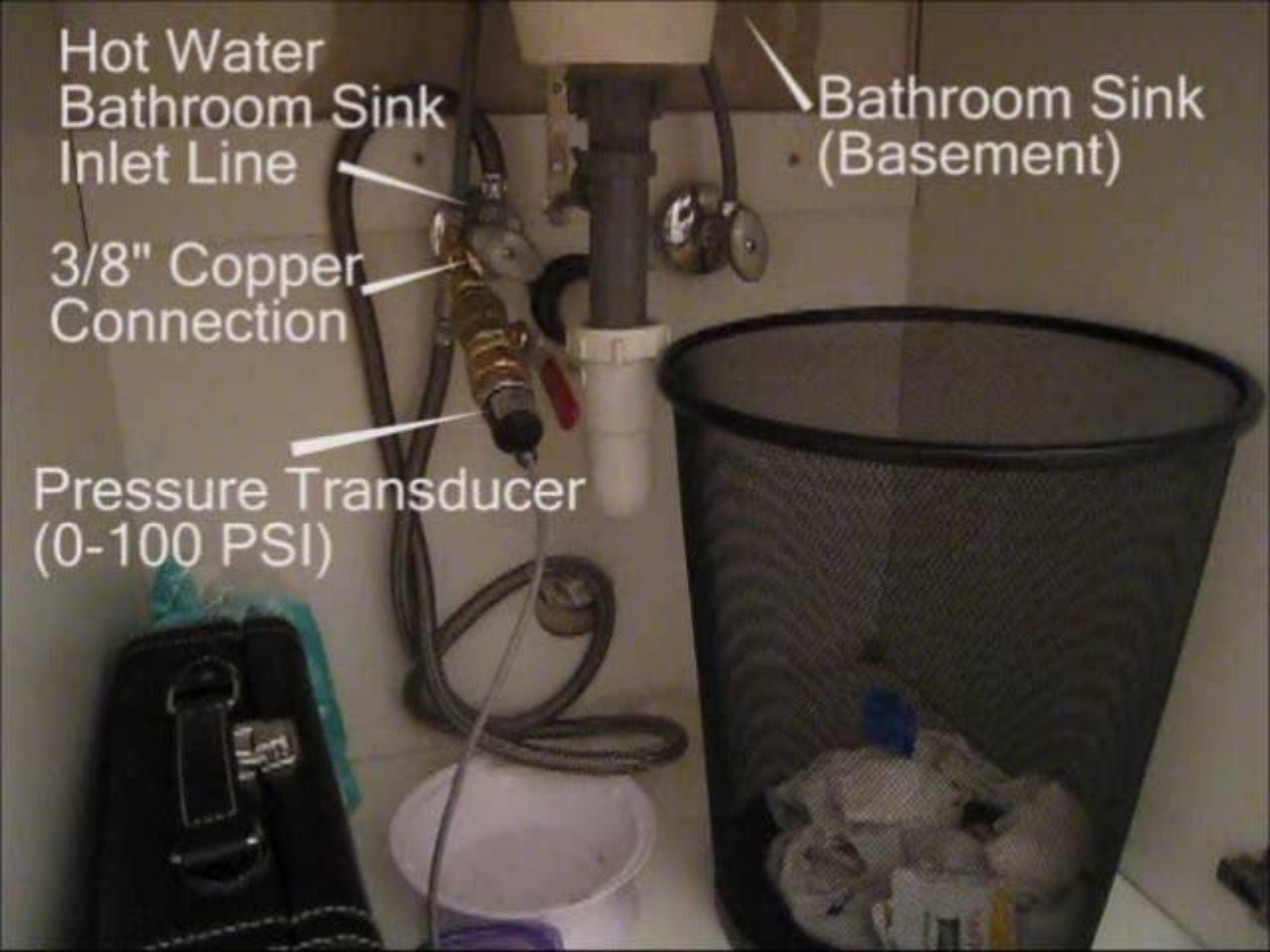


Hot Water  
Bathroom Sink  
Inlet Line

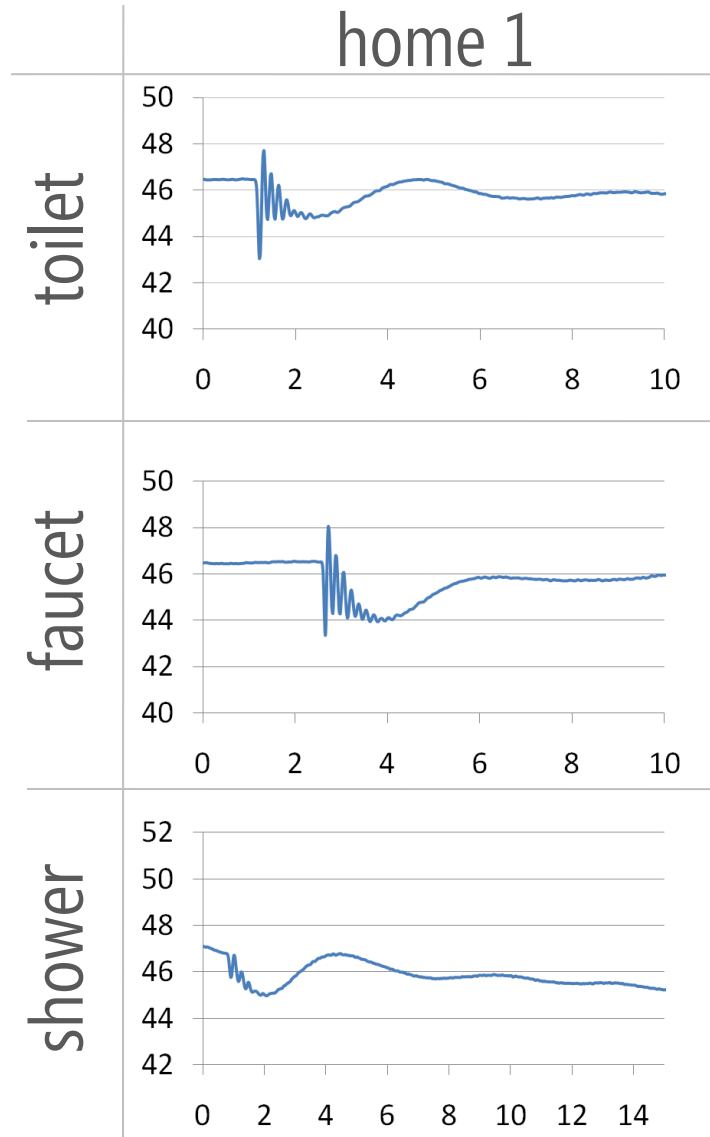
## Bathroom Sink (Basement)

3/8" Copper Connection

Pressure Transducer  
(0-100 PSI)



# example open events

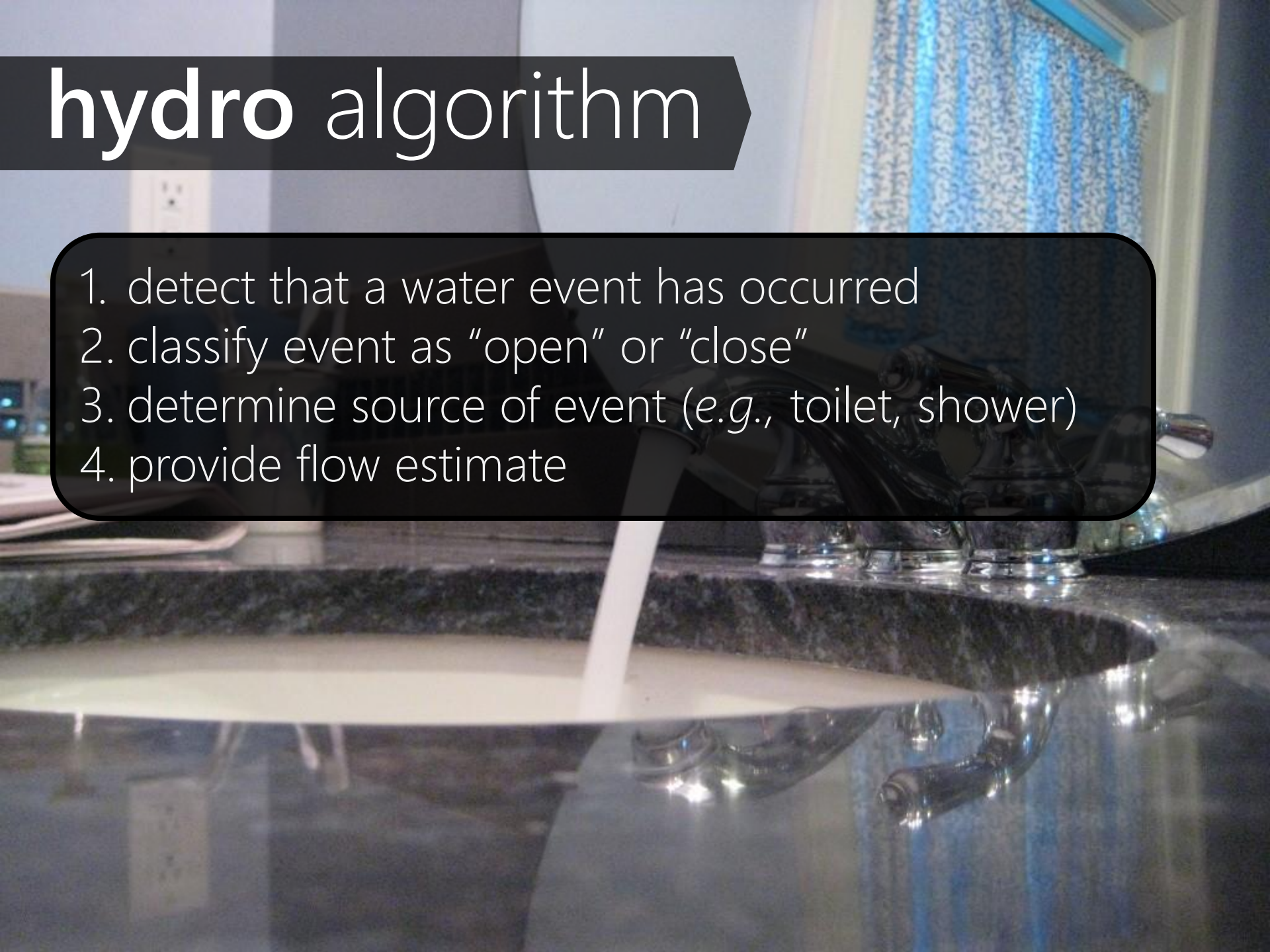


**signature dependent on:**

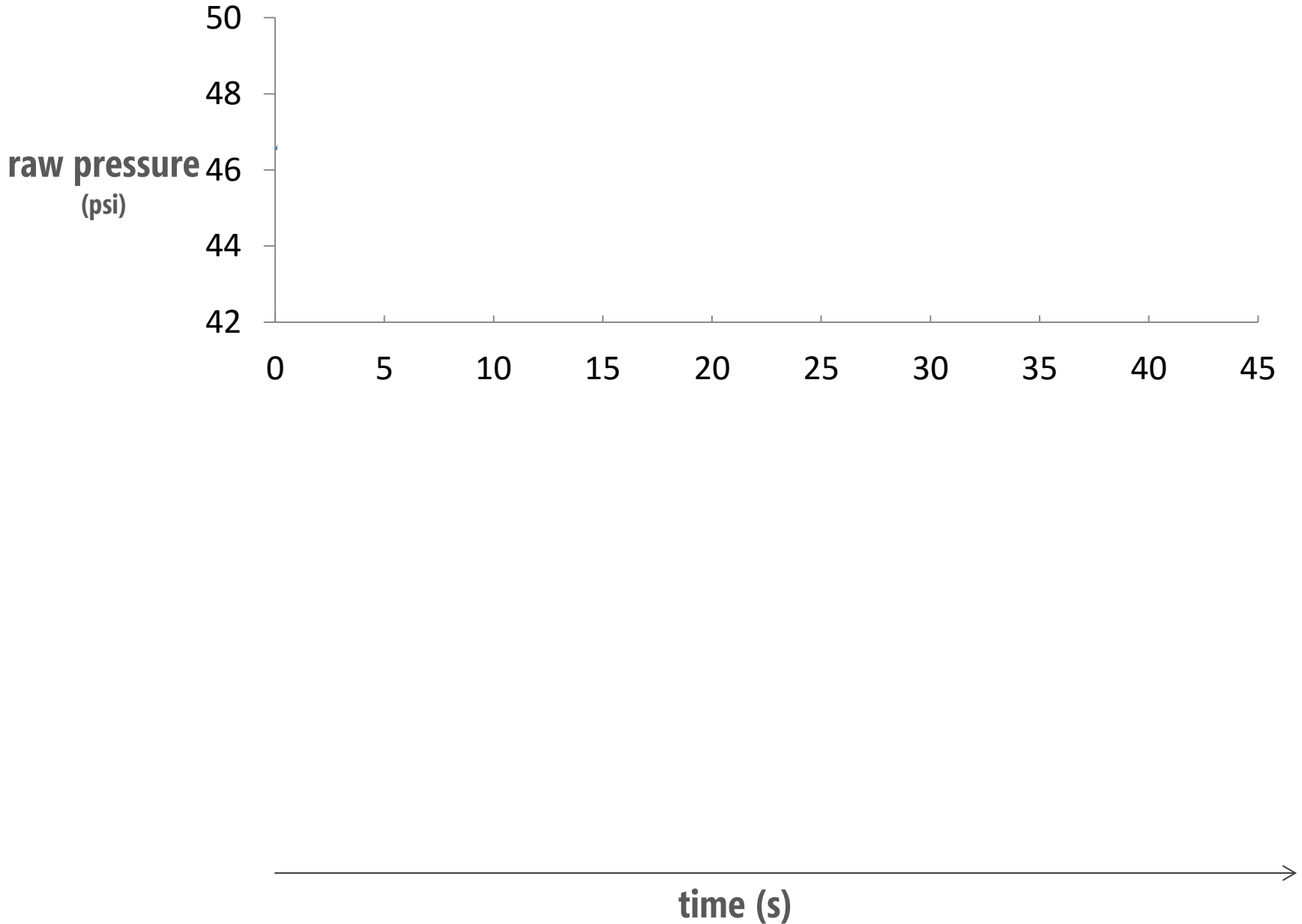
- fixture type
- valve type
- valve location in home

# hydro algorithm

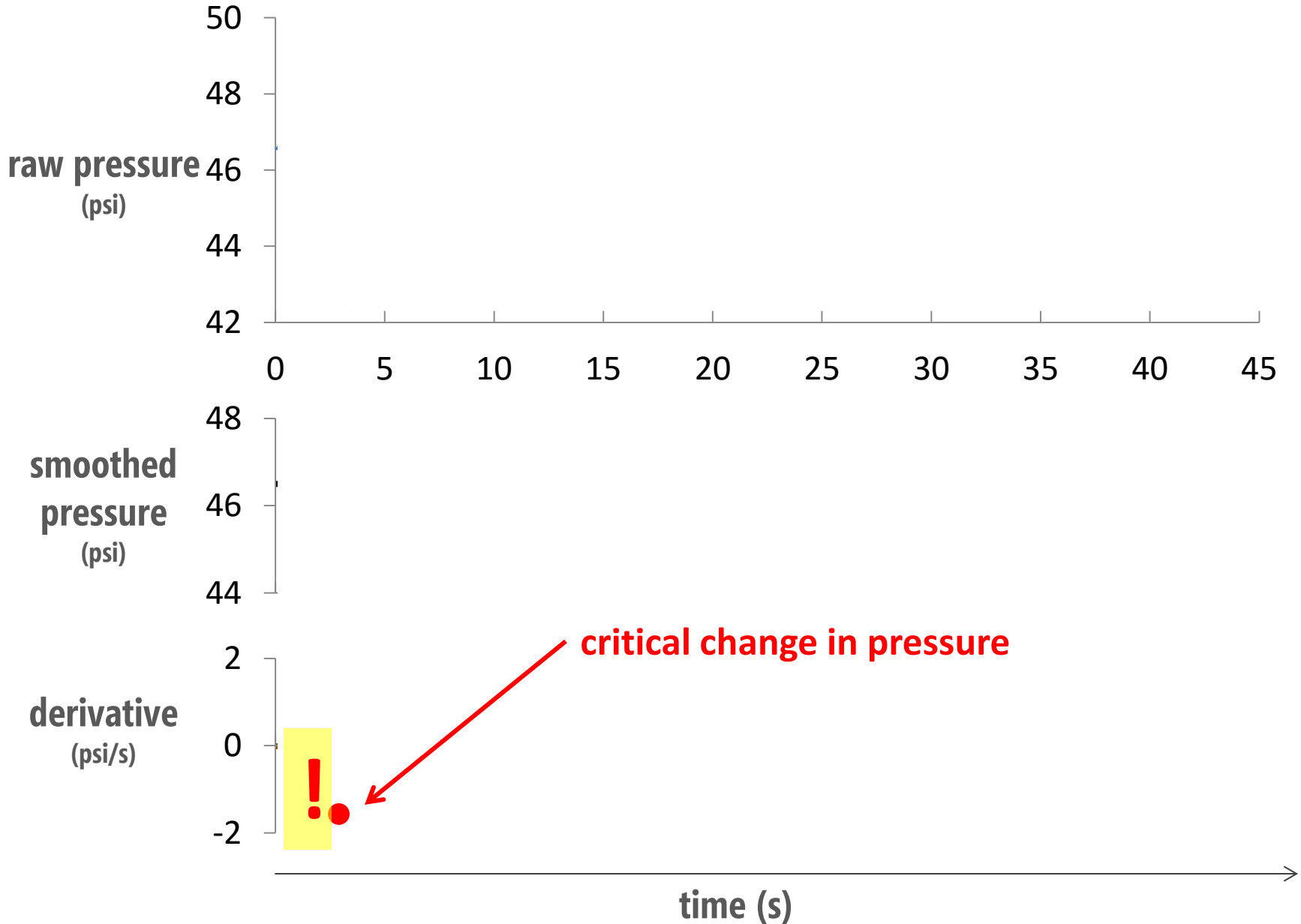
1. detect that a water event has occurred
2. classify event as "open" or "close"
3. determine source of event (e.g., toilet, shower)
4. provide flow estimate



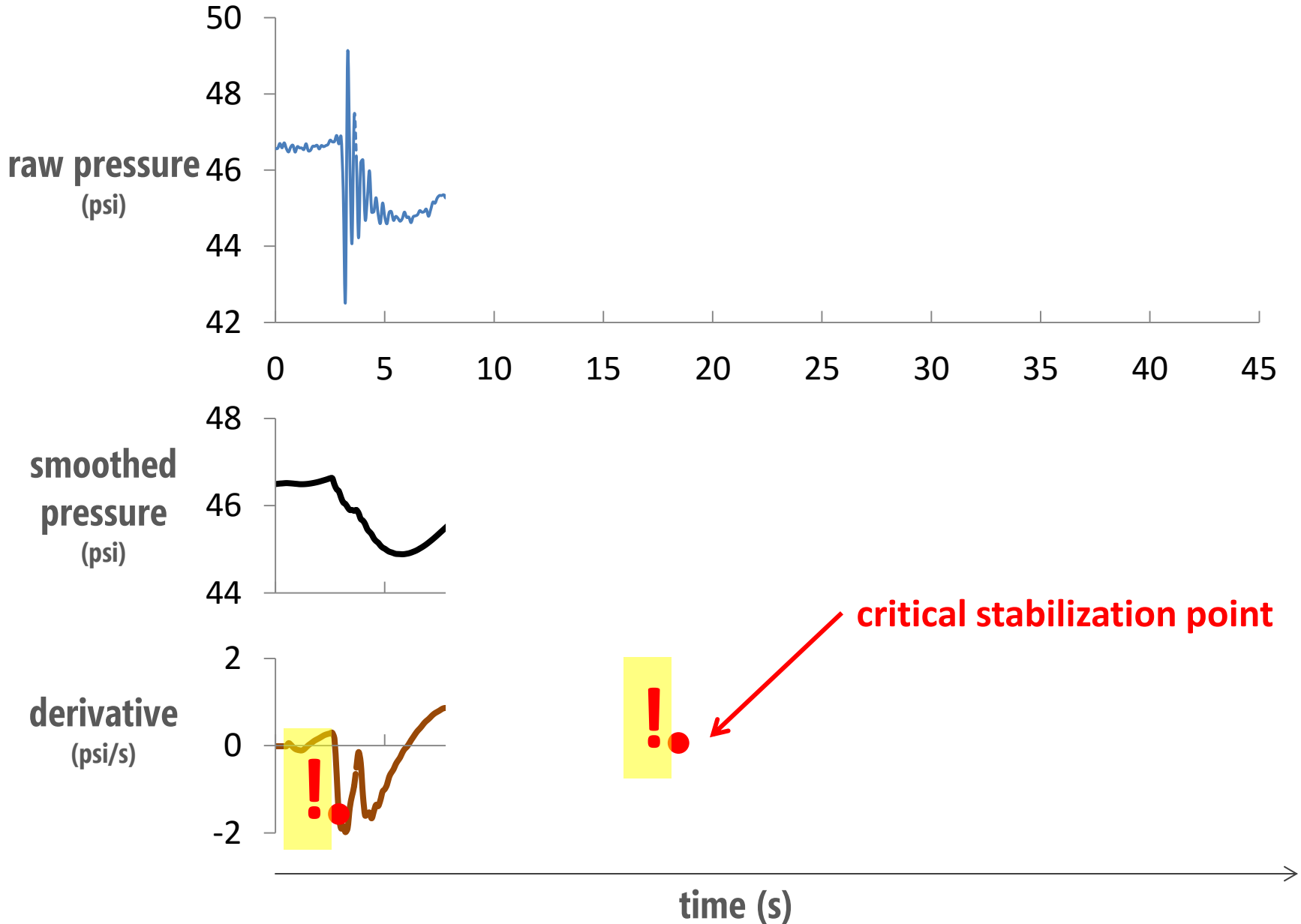
# event detection/segmentation



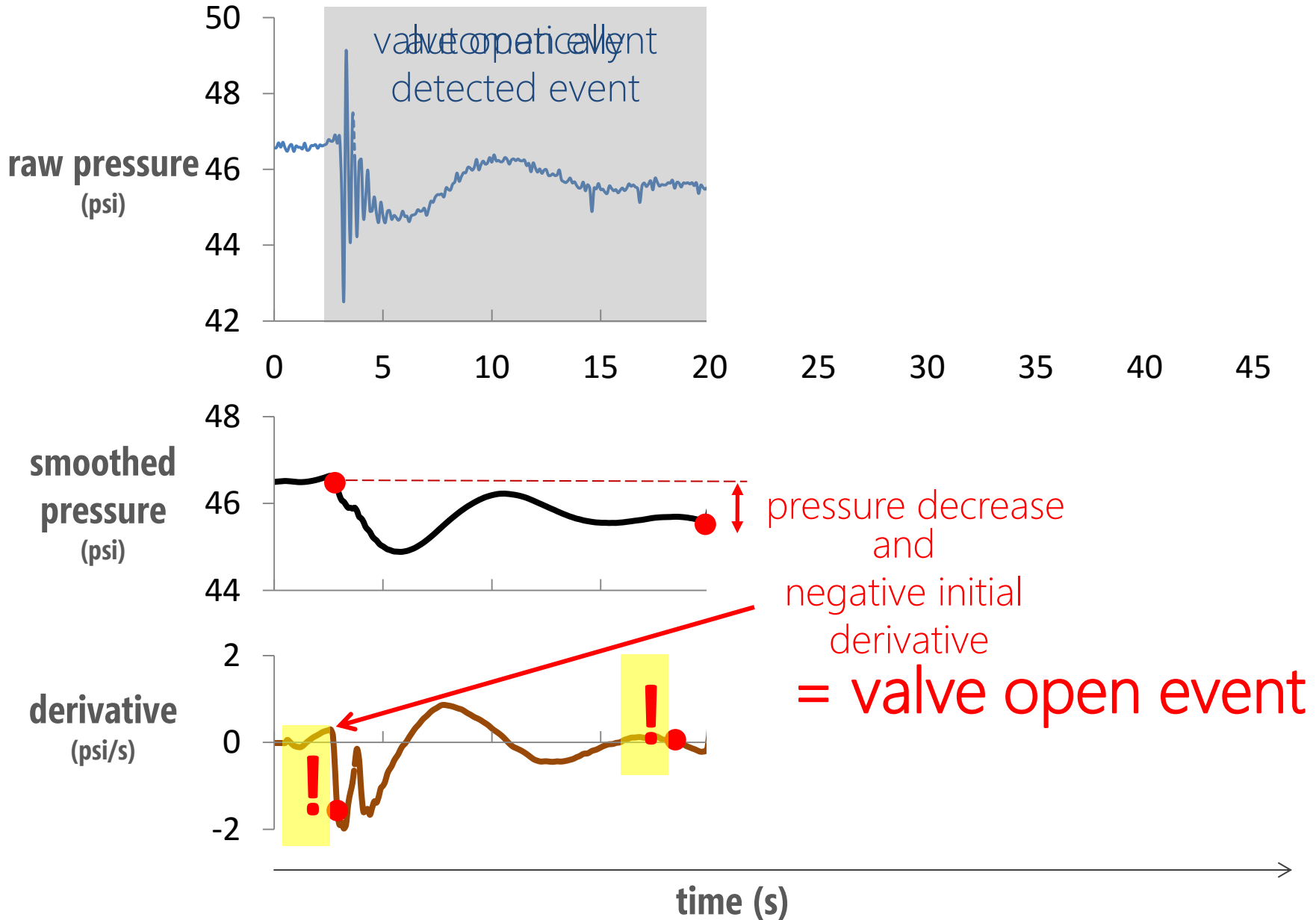
# event detection/segmentation



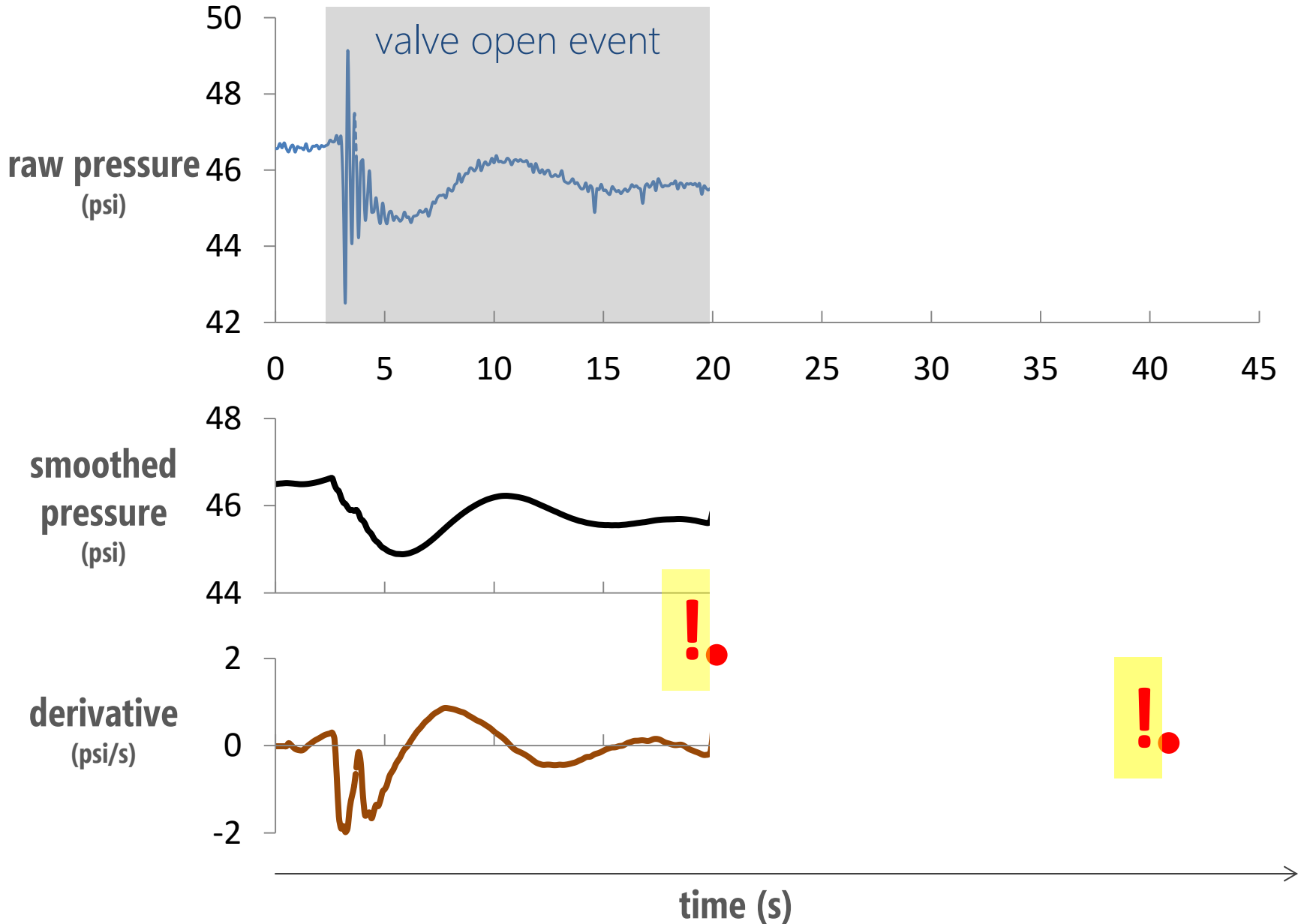
# event detection/segmentation



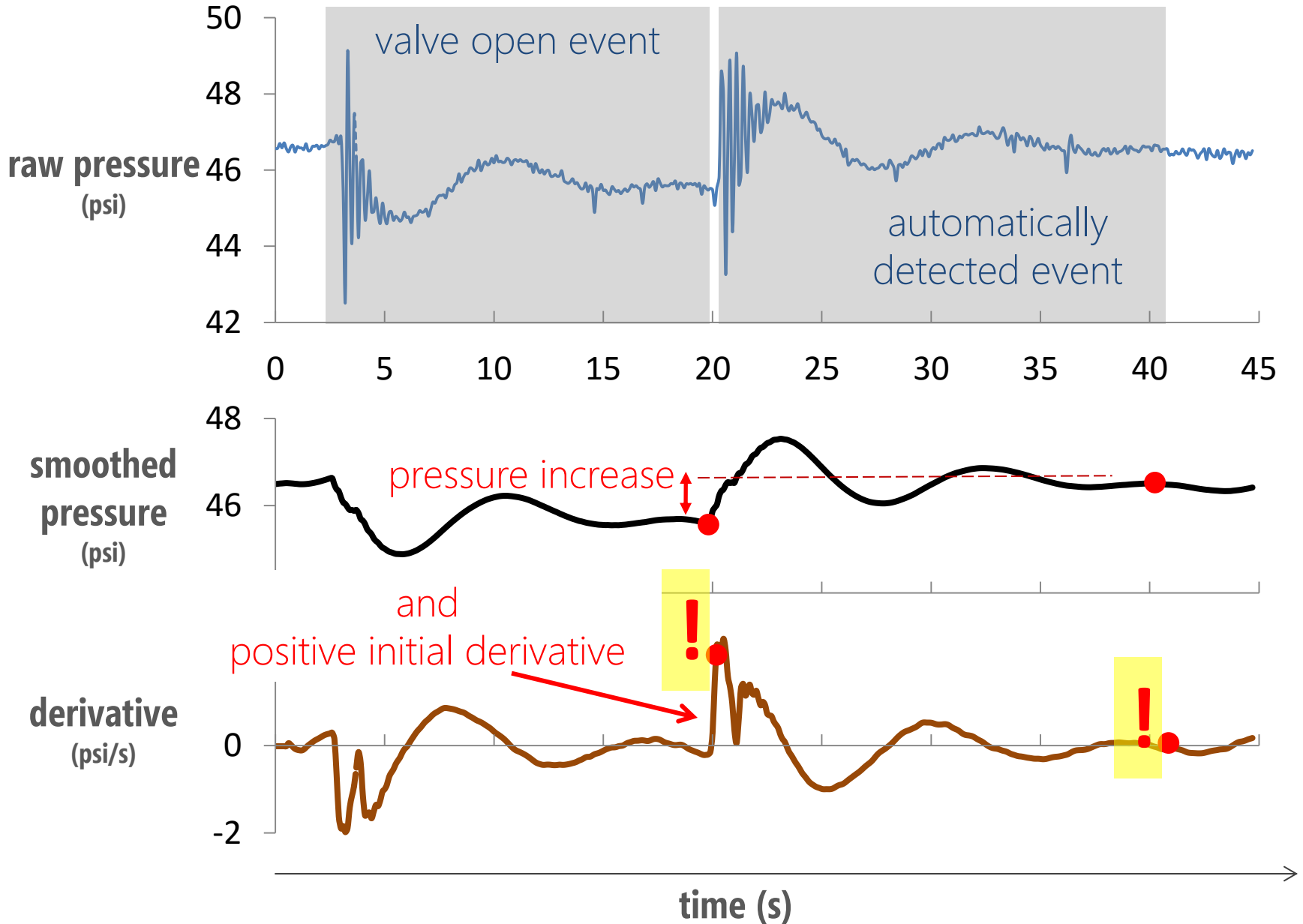
# event detection/segmentation



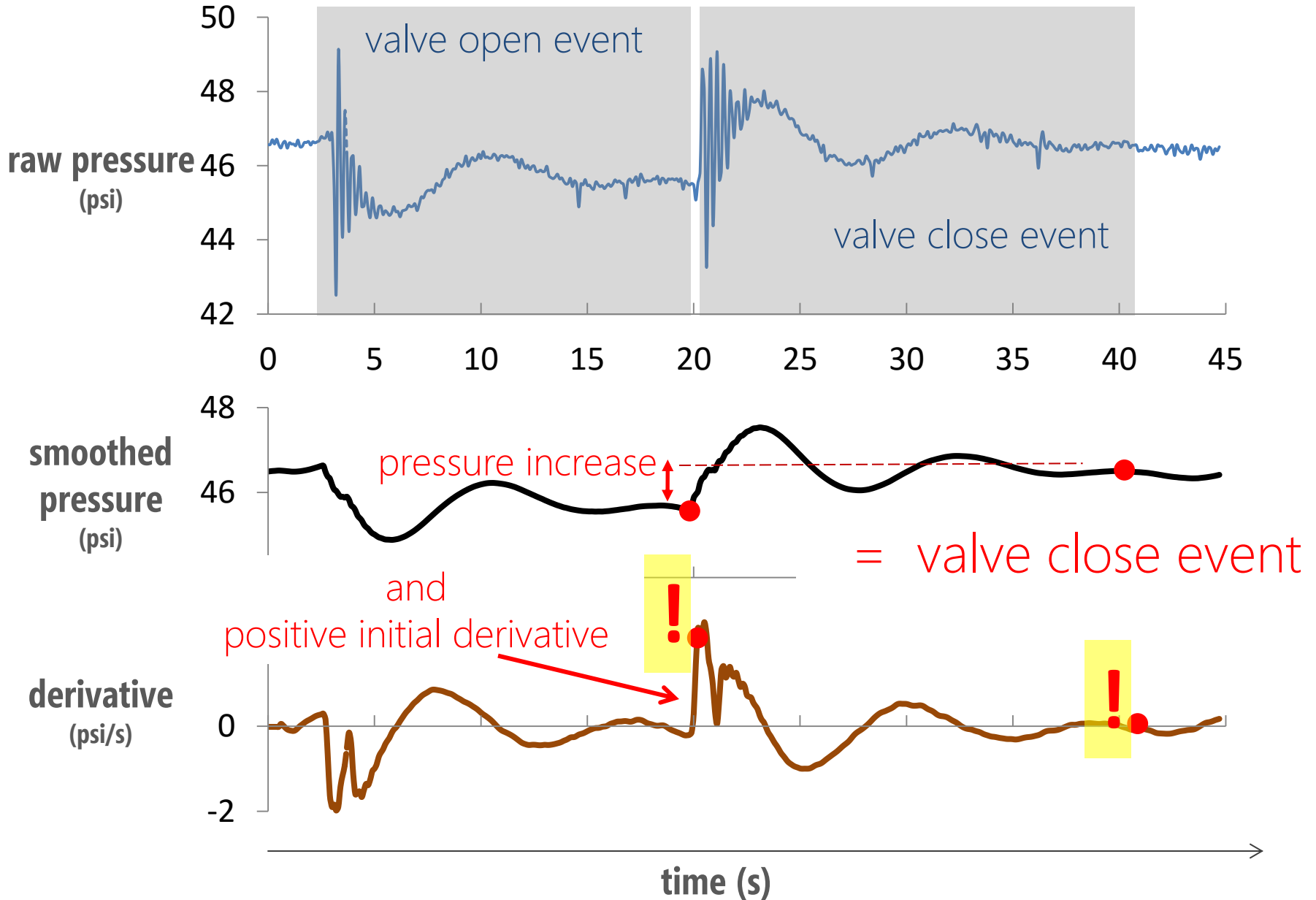
# event detection/segmentation



# event detection/segmentation

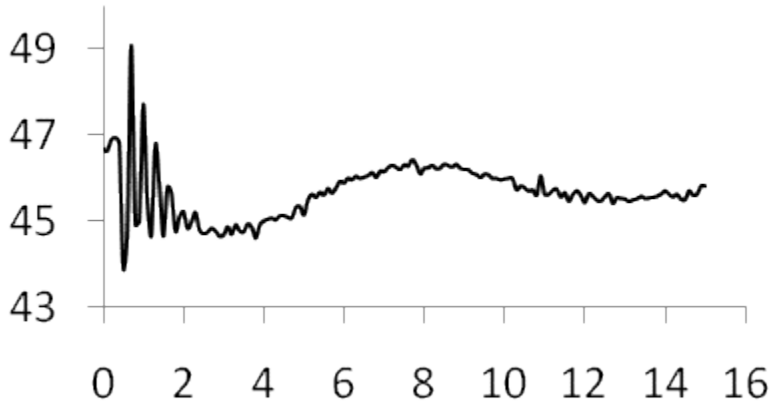


# event detection/segmentation

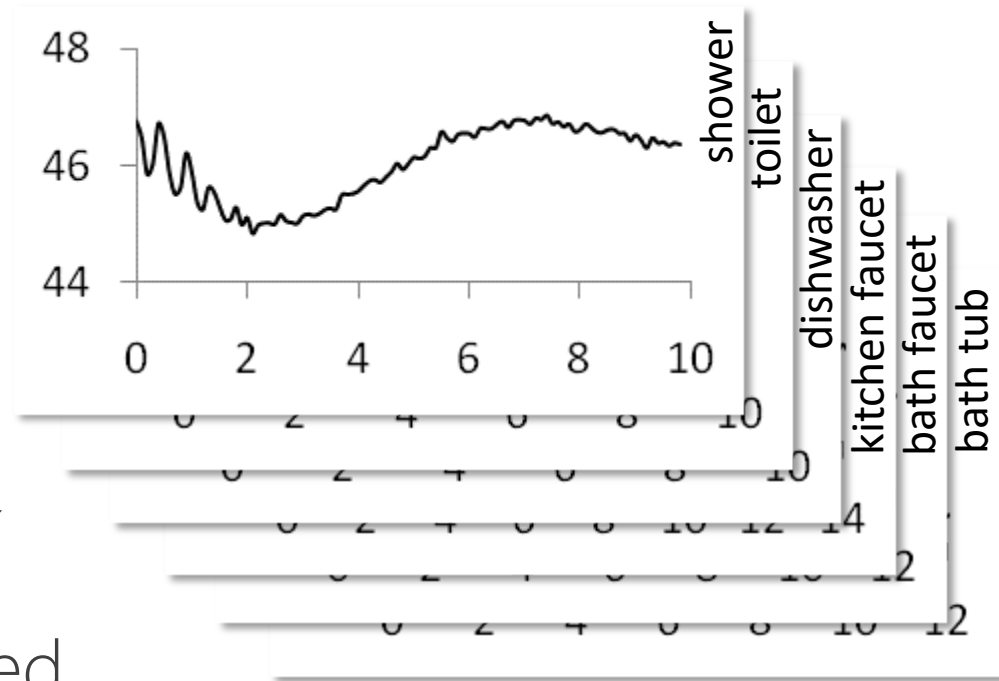


# fixture classification

unclassified open event

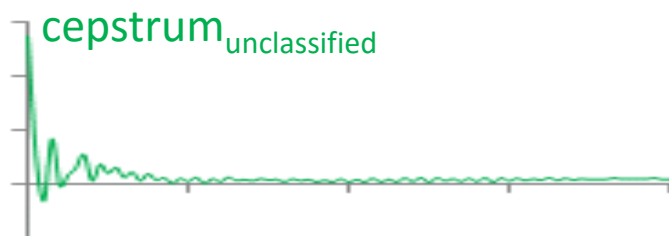
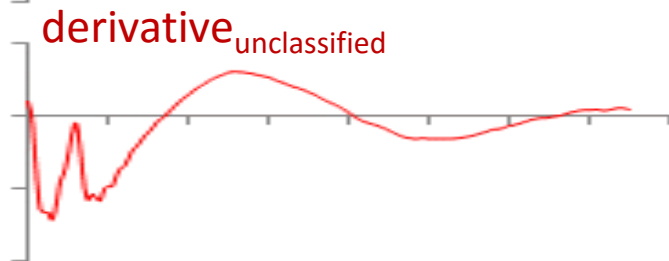
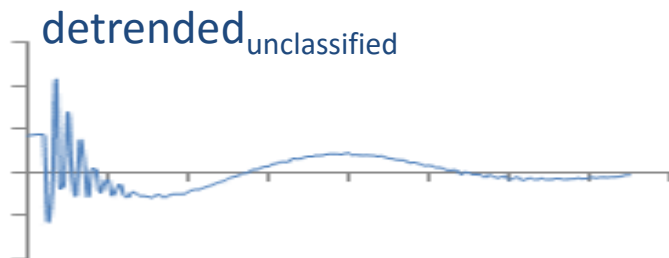
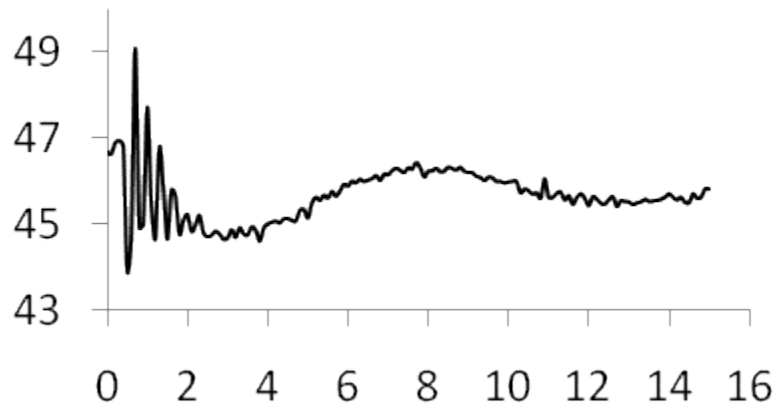


open event library

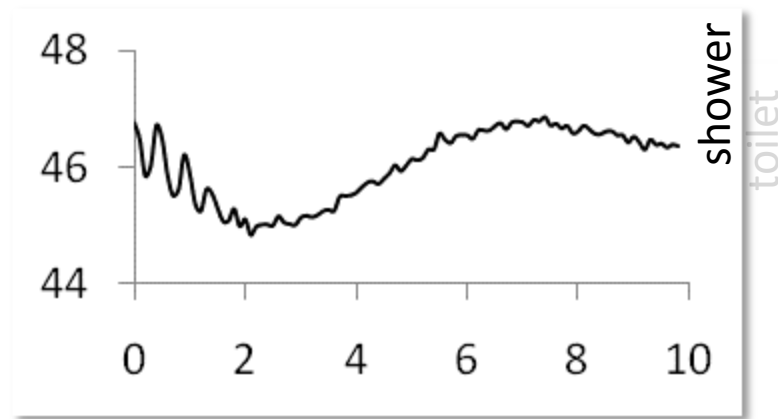


compare via matched  
filtering across multiple signal  
transformations

# unclassified open event



# open event library



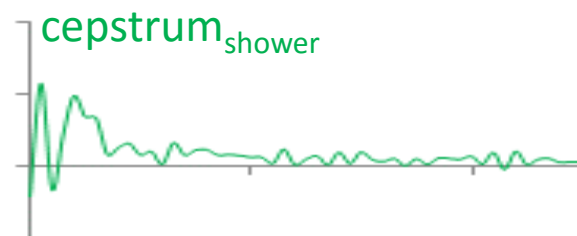
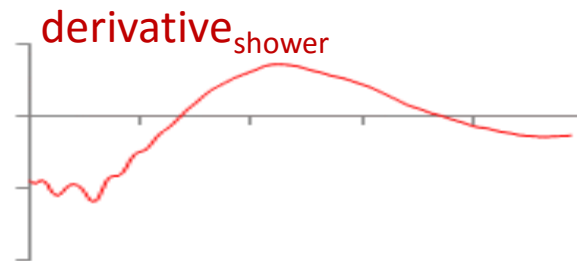
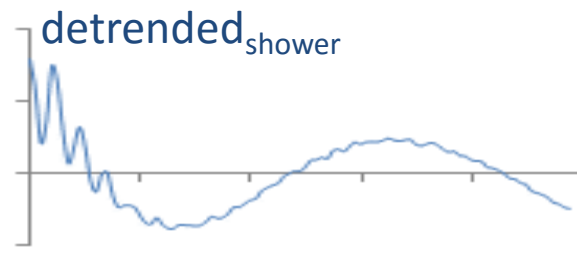
toilet

dishwasher

kitchen faucet

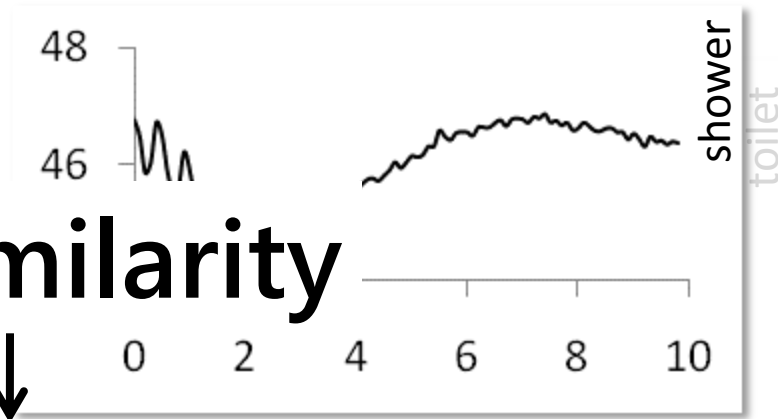
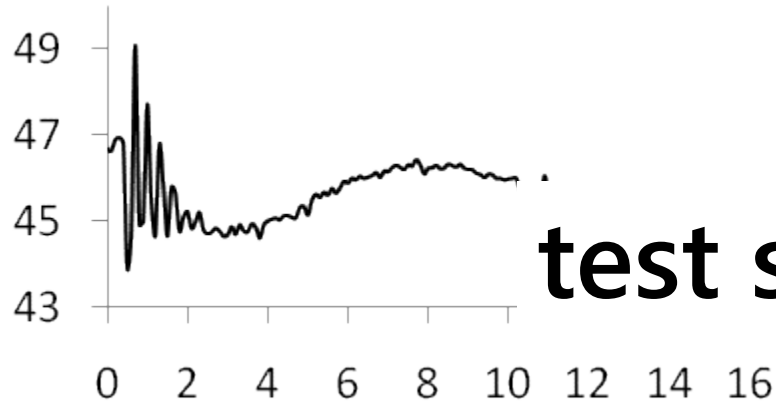
bath faucet

bath tub



unclassified open event

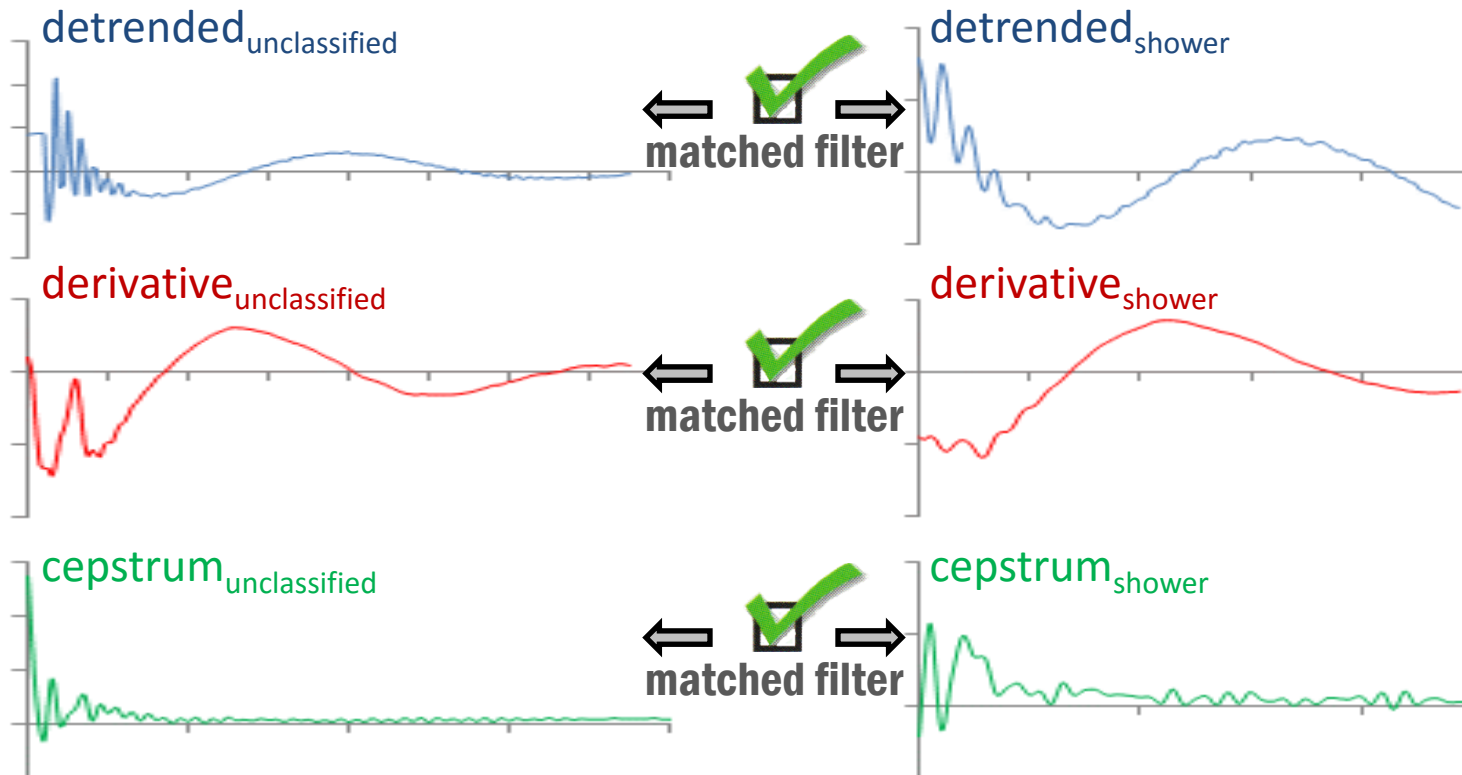
open event library



test similarity

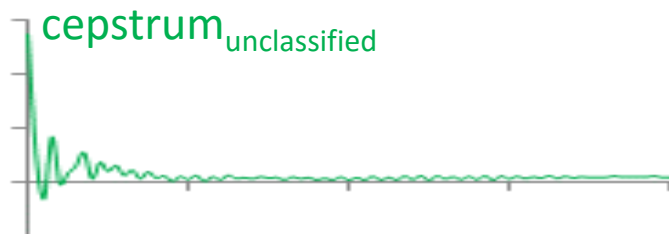
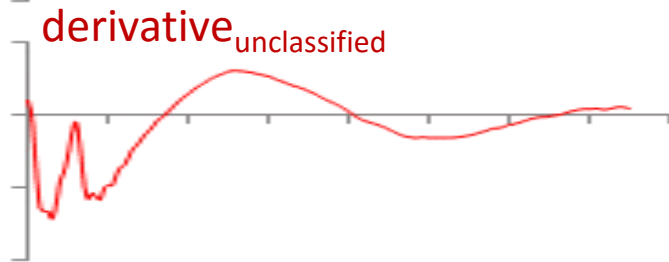
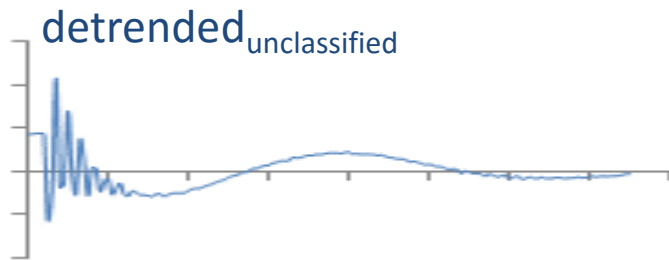
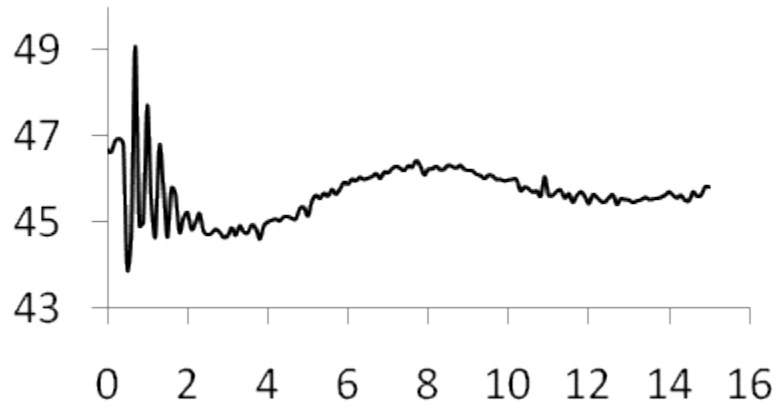


toilet  
dishwasher  
kitchen faucet  
bath faucet  
bath tub

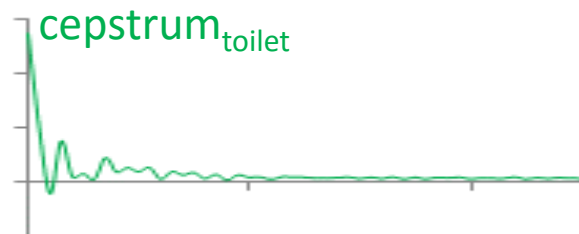
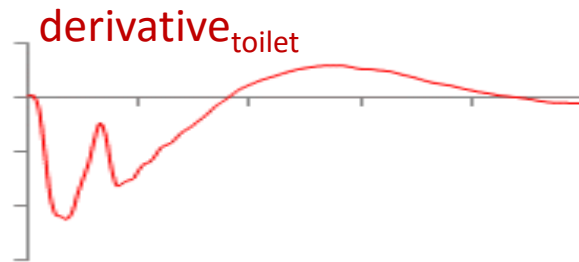
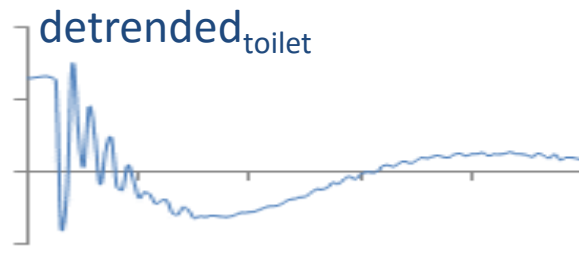
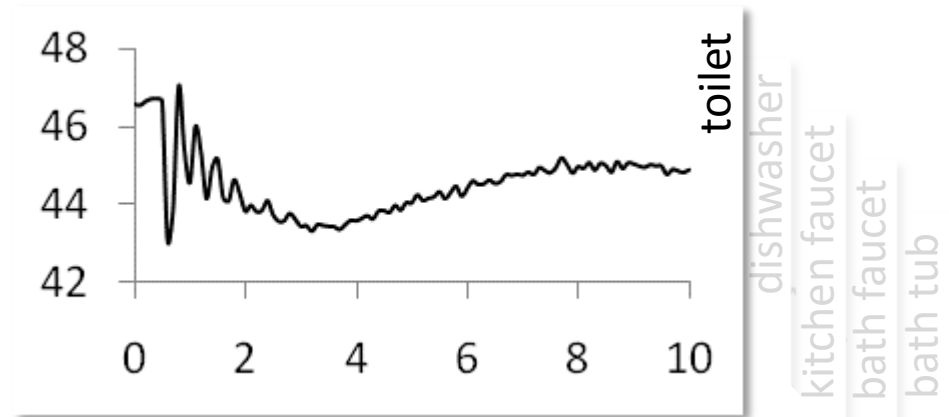


possible events

# unclassified open event



# open event library



possible events

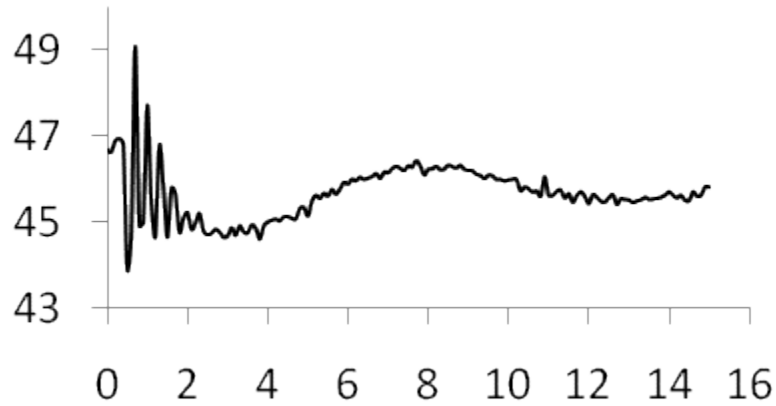
dishwasher

kitchen faucet

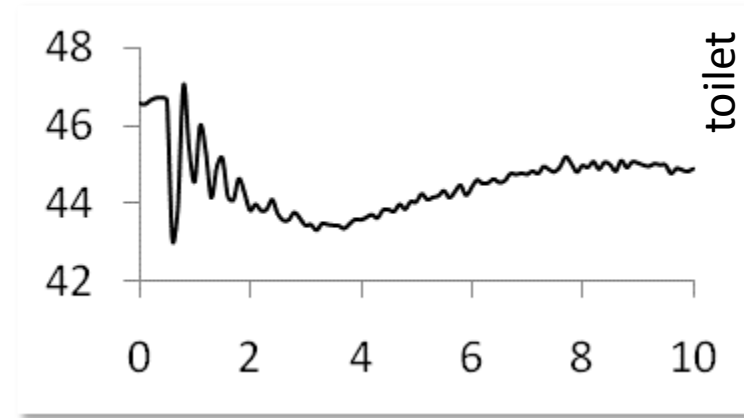
bath faucet

bath tub

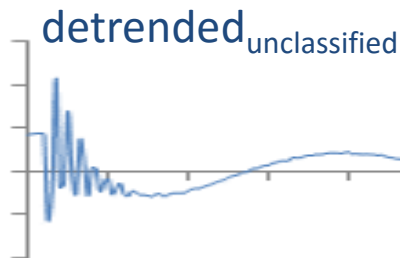
# unclassified open event



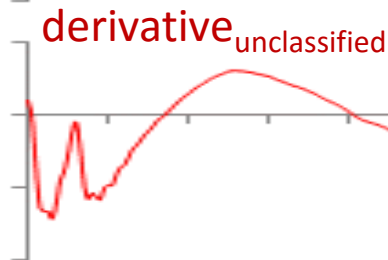
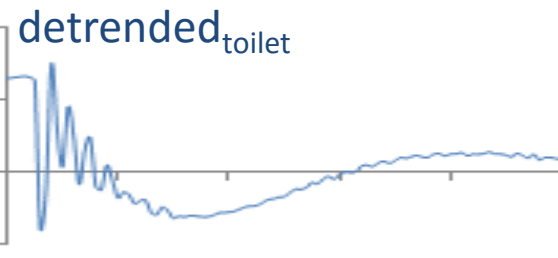
# open event library



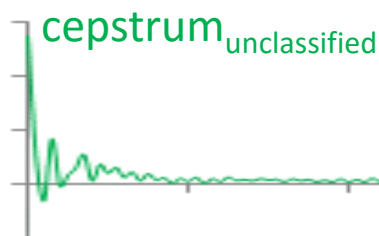
dishwasher  
kitchen faucet  
bath faucet  
bath tub



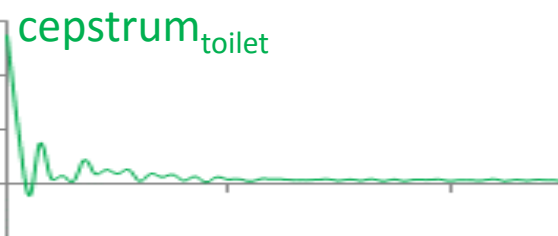
matched filter



matched filter

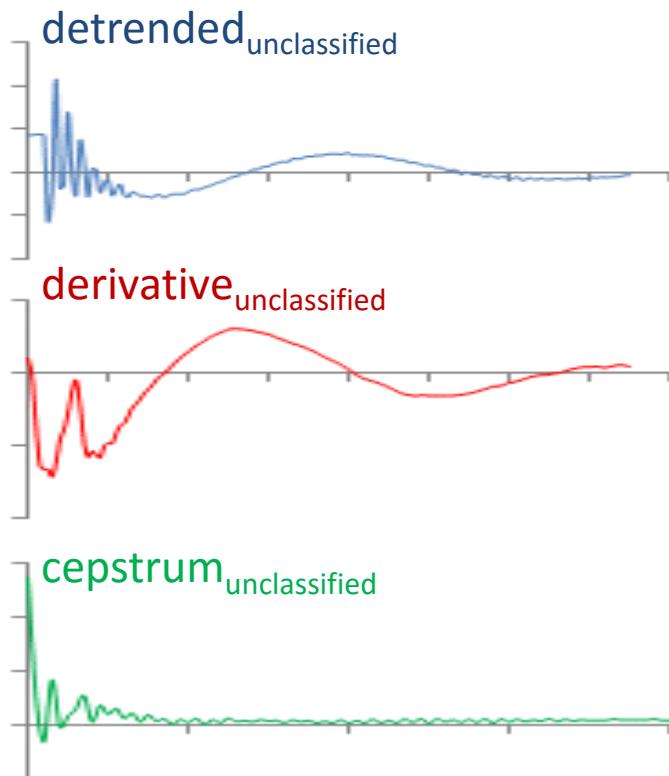
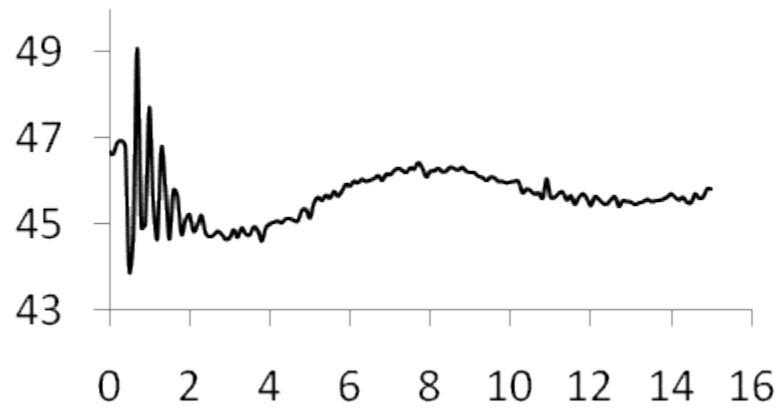


matched filter

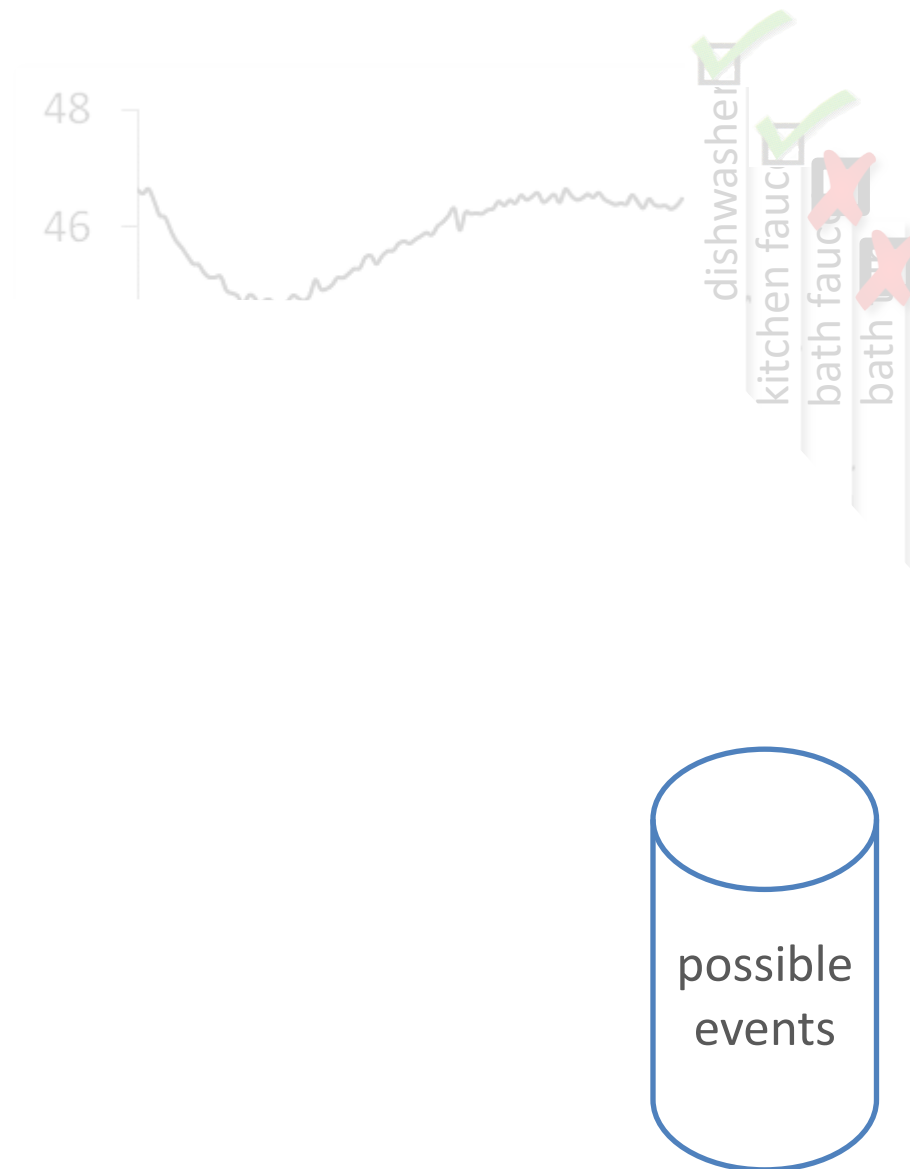


possible events

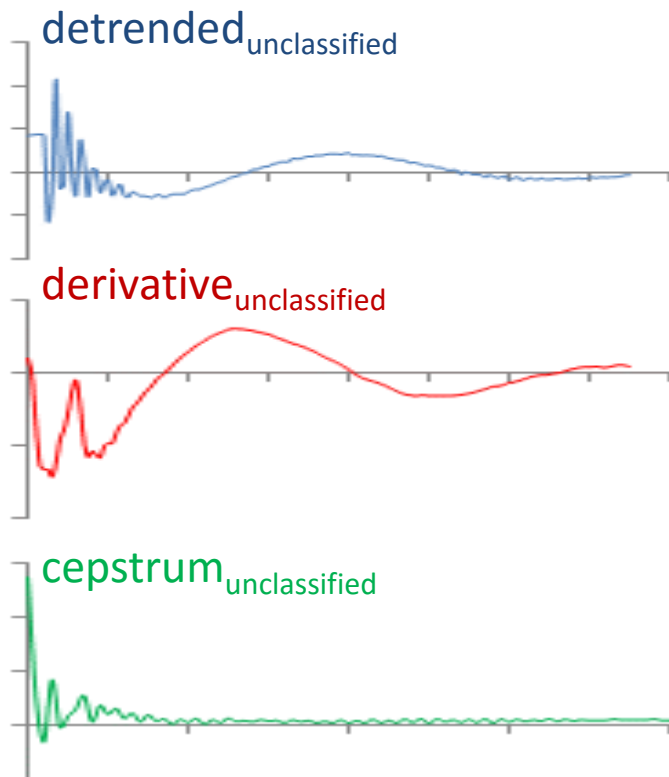
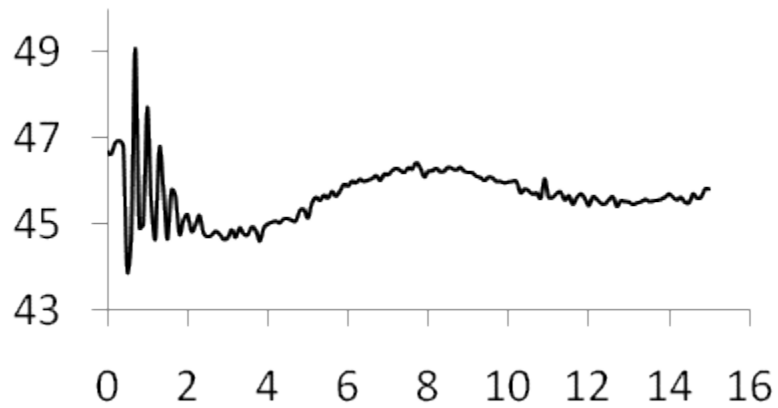
# unclassified open event



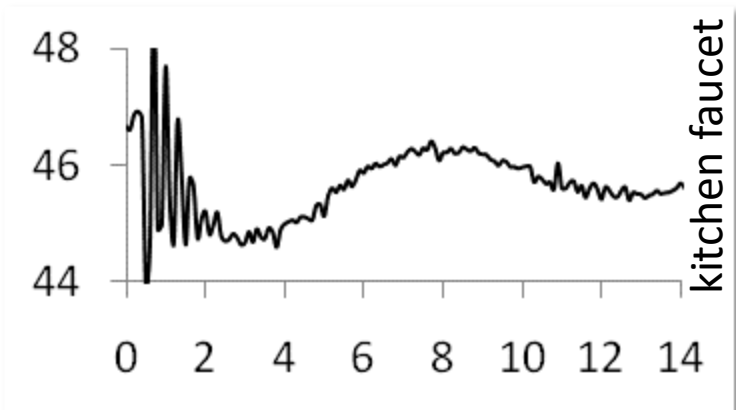
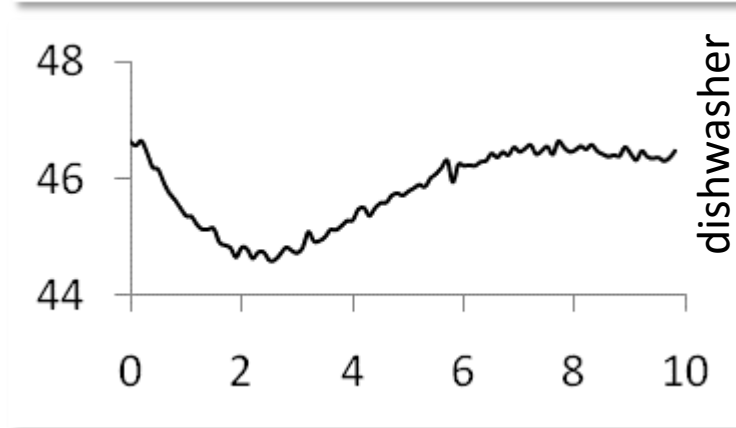
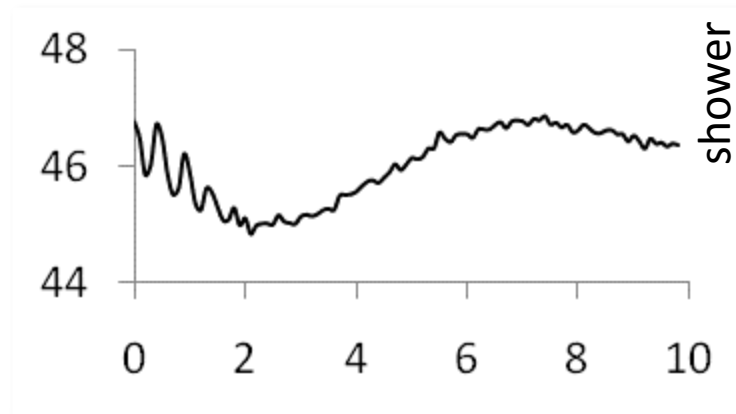
# open event library



# unclassified open event

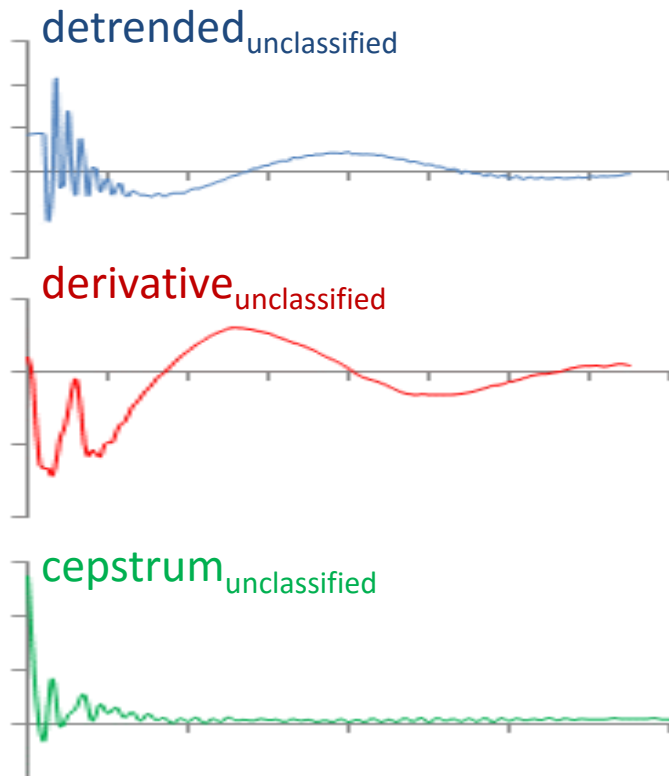
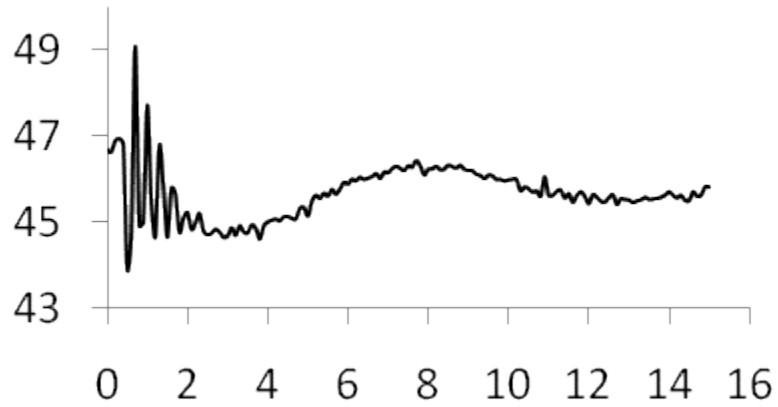


# open event library

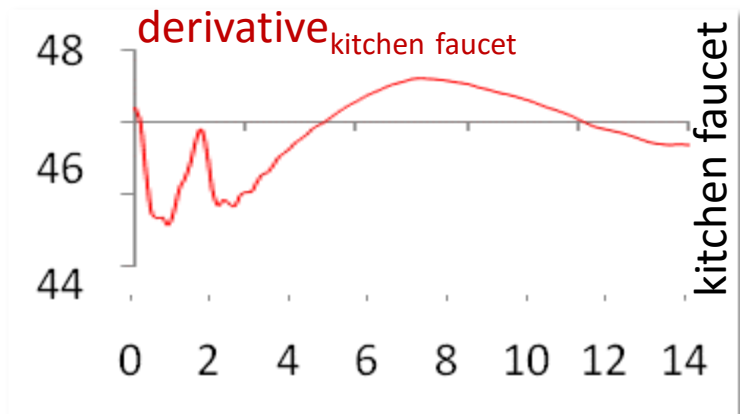
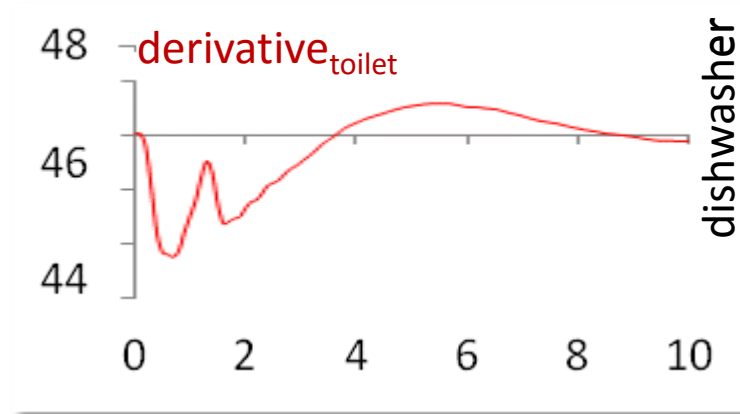
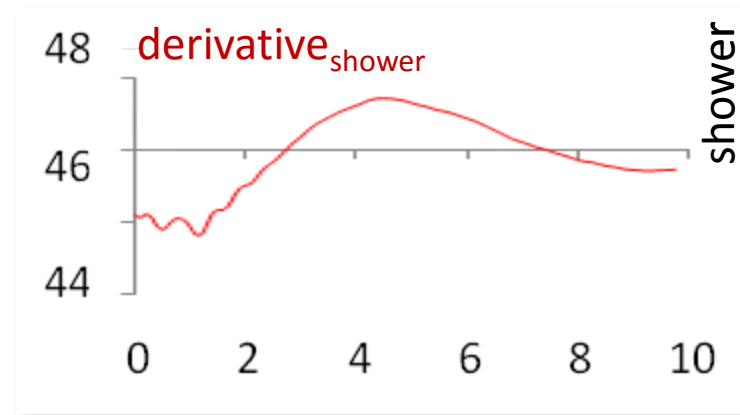


possible events

# unclassified open event

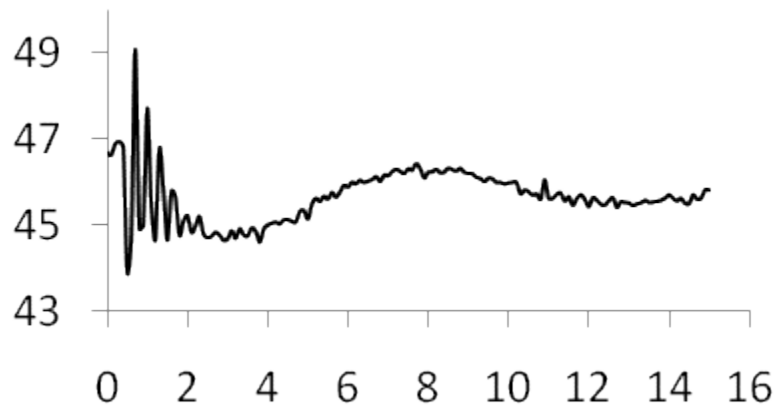


# open event library



possible events

# unclassified open event



# open event library



shower

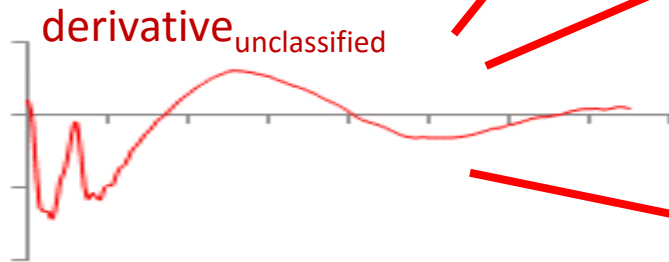


dishwasher



kitchen faucet

nearest neighbor  
match



# hydro study

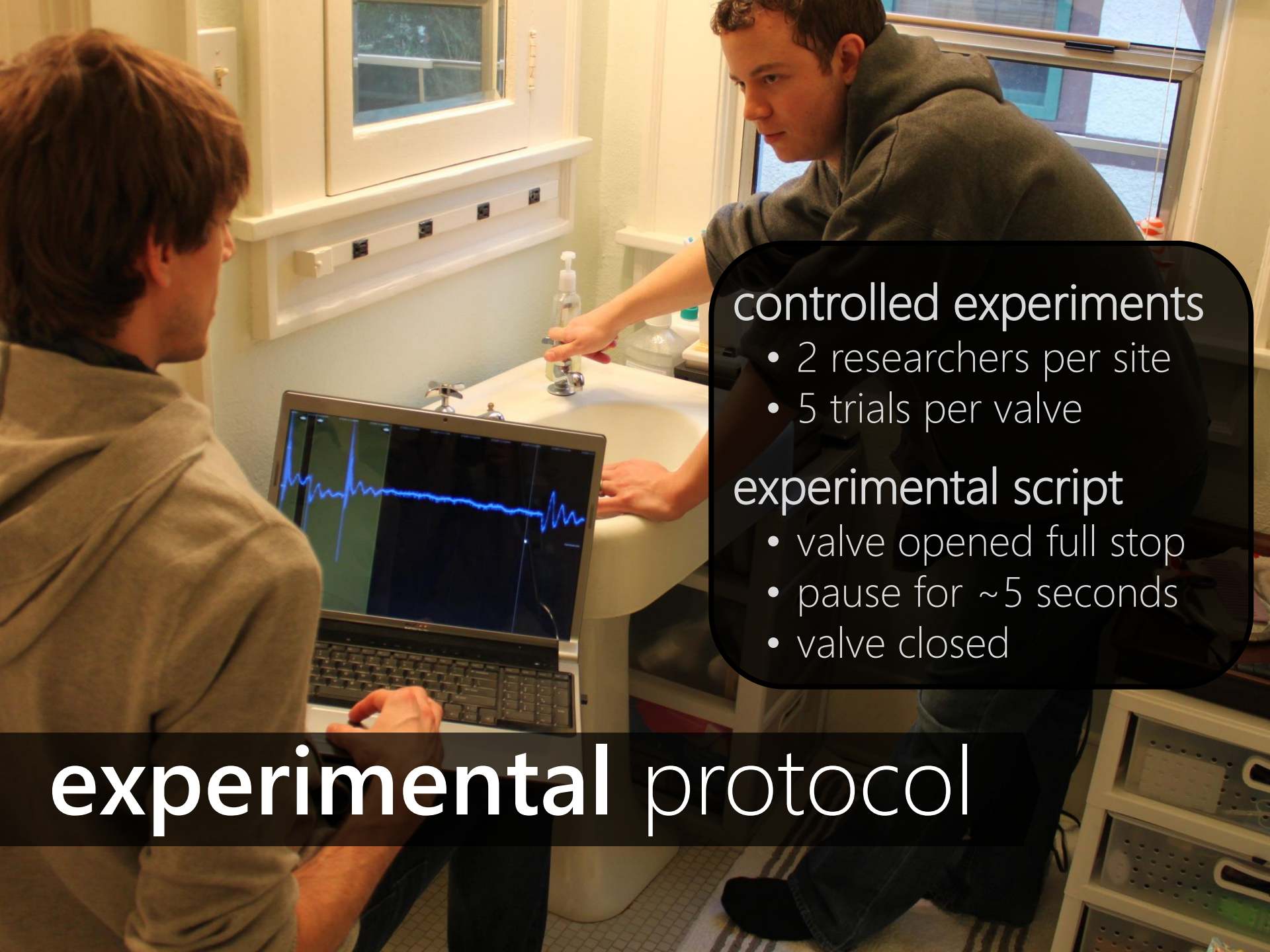
#1

goal

study feasibility of using pressure to disaggregate water usage

approach

controlled experiments across 10 homes



## controlled experiments

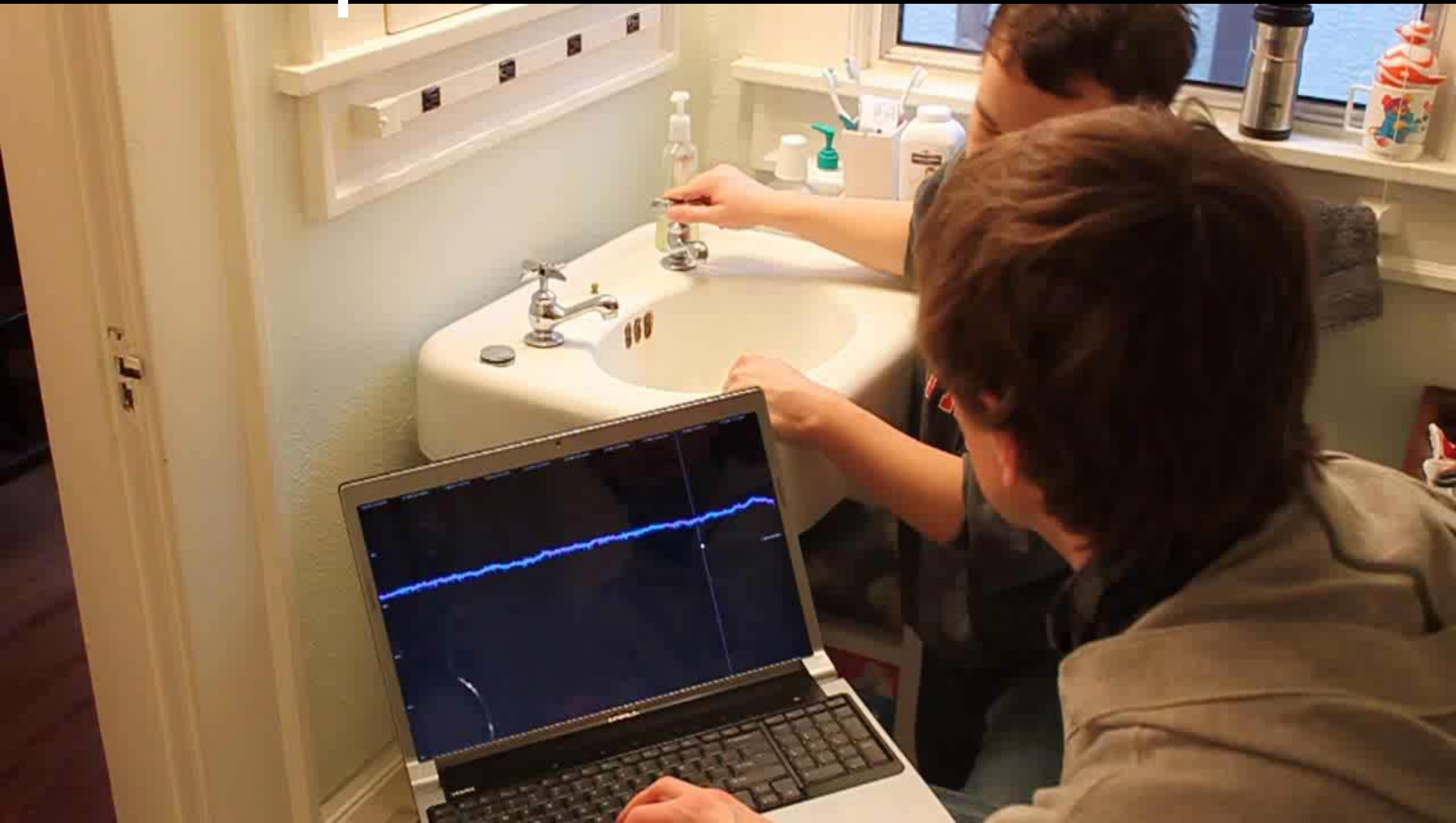
- 2 researchers per site
- 5 trials per valve

## experimental script

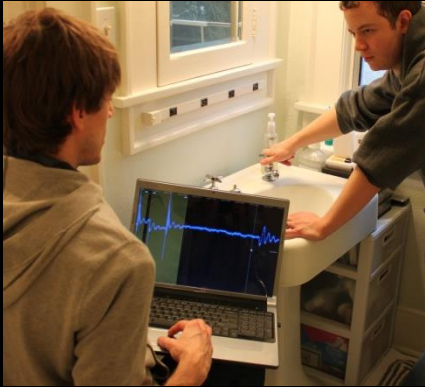
- valve opened full stop
- pause for ~5 seconds
- valve closed

# experimental protocol

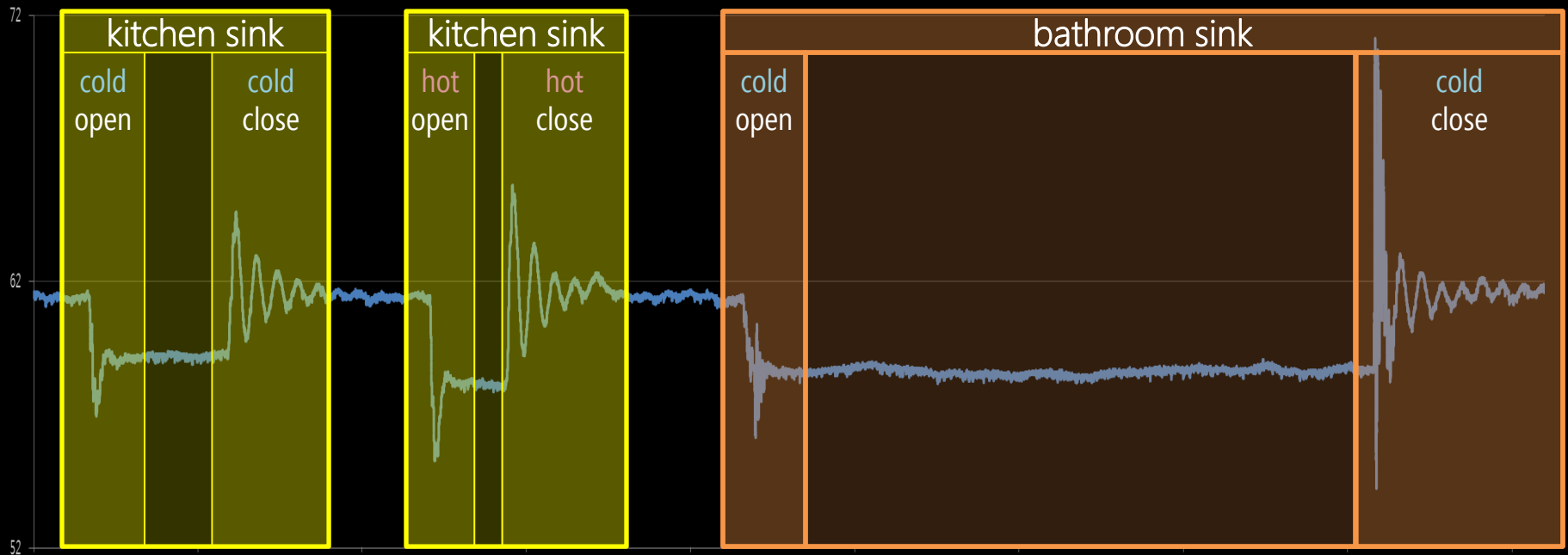
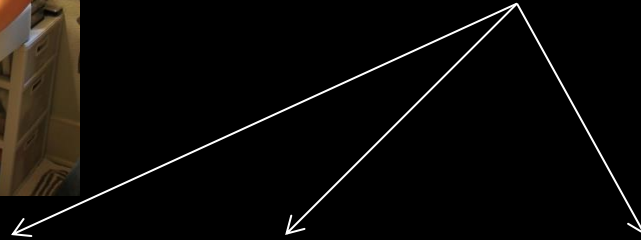
# ubicmp2009 data collection



# ground truth labels



These labels are going to help train and validate our algorithm



# collecting flow data

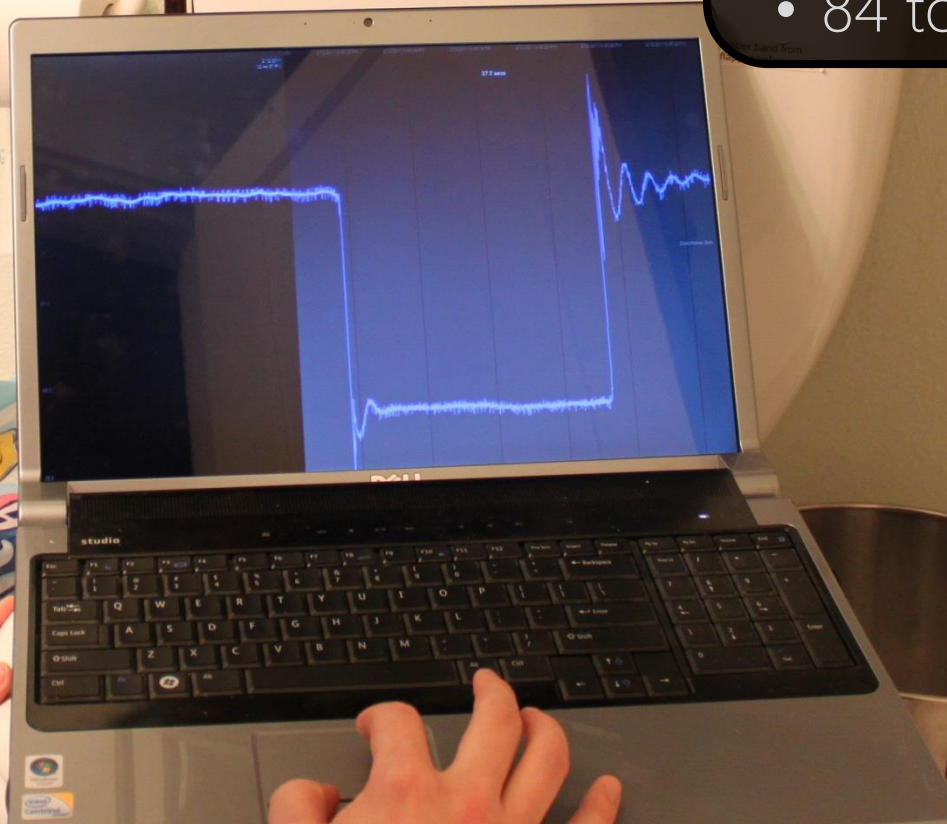
- 4 / 10 homes gathered flow data
- measure time to fill 1 gallon in a calibrated bucket



# data collection stats

## ten test sites

- 706 trials
- 155 flow trials
- 84 total fixtures tested



# **classification** experiments

## 10-fold cross validation

1. break data into 10 sets of size  $n/10$
2. train on 9 datasets and test on 1
3. repeat for each combination of datasets
4. take mean accuracy

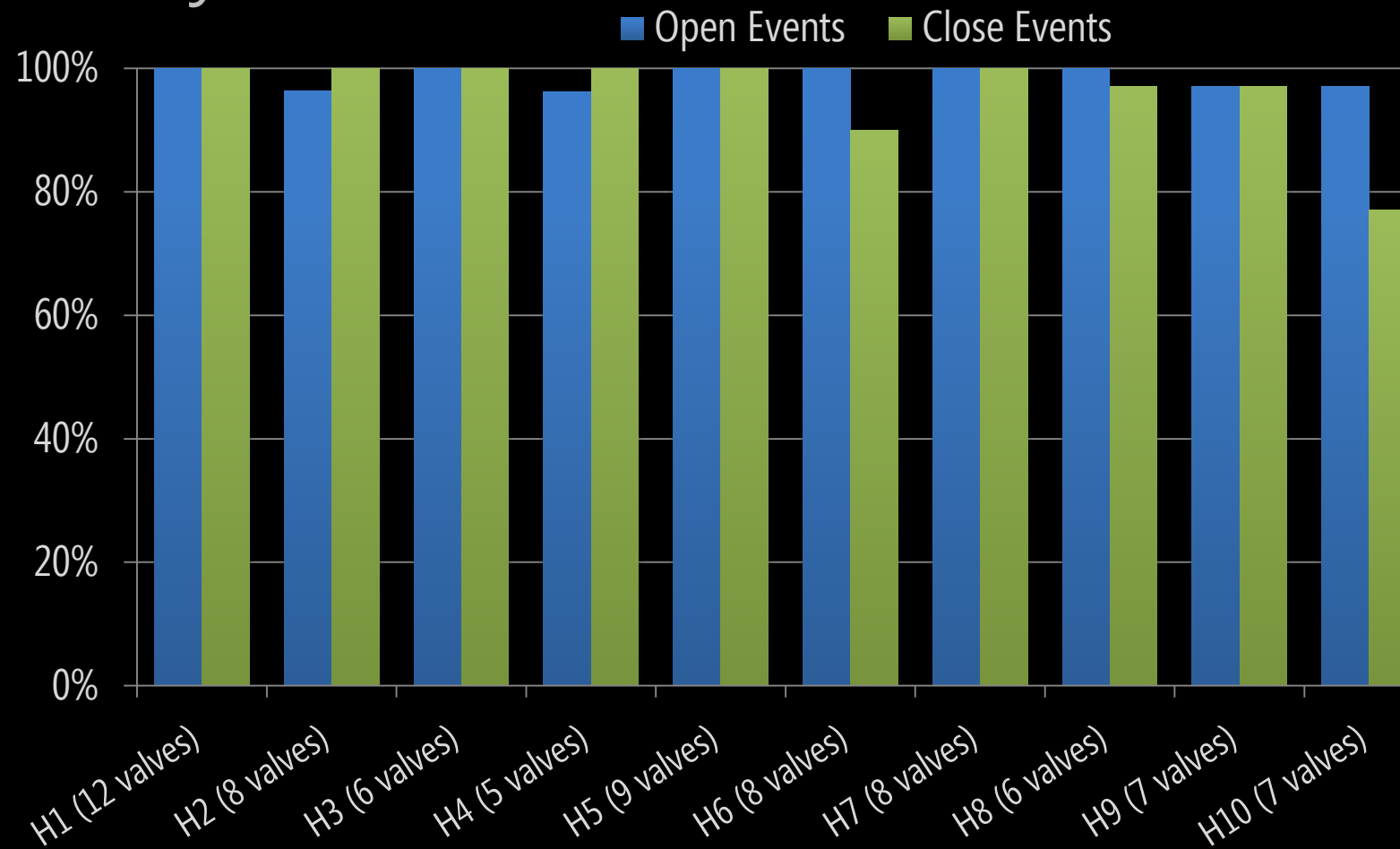
# fixture classification results by home



10-fold cross validation

# fixture classification results

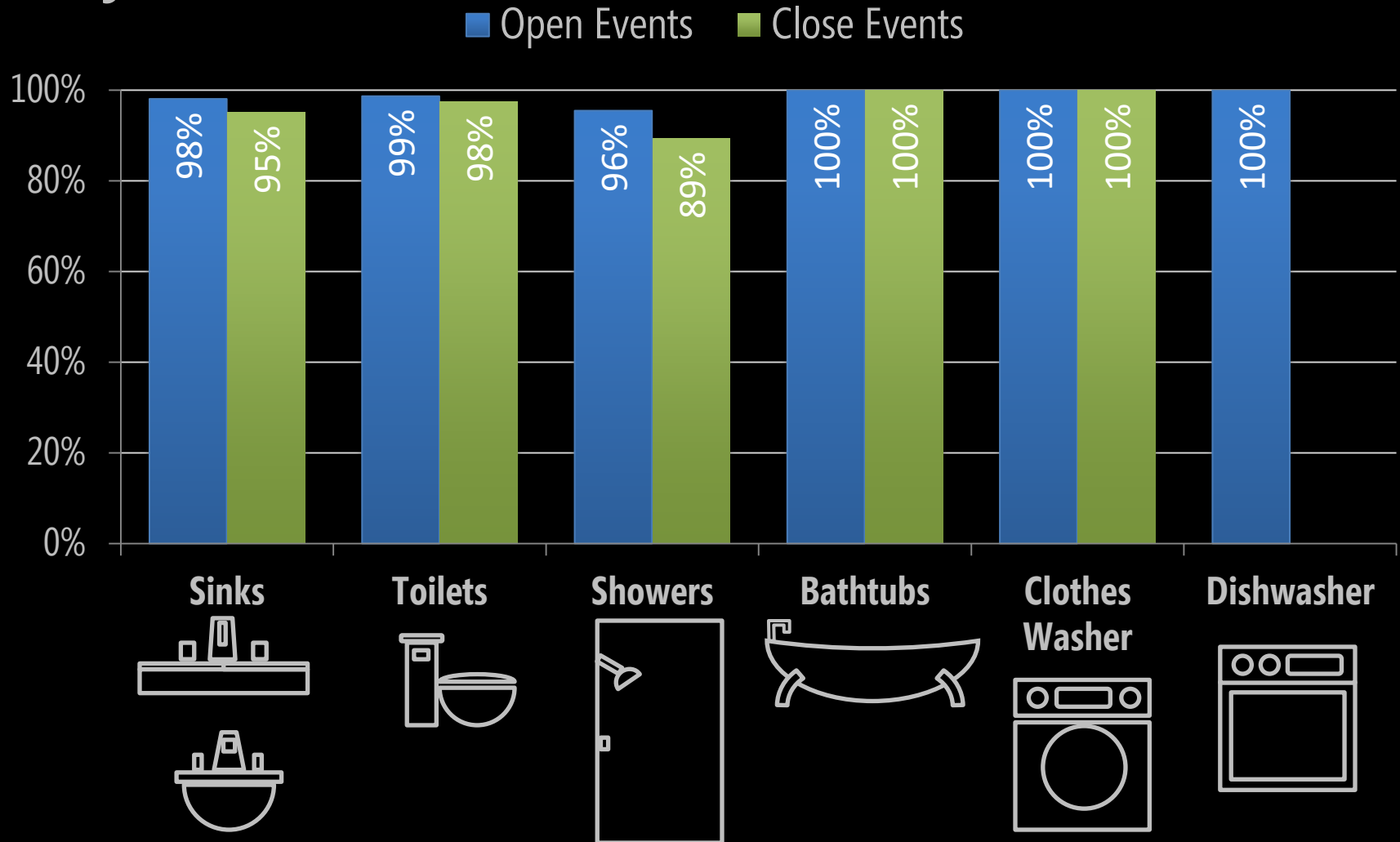
## by home



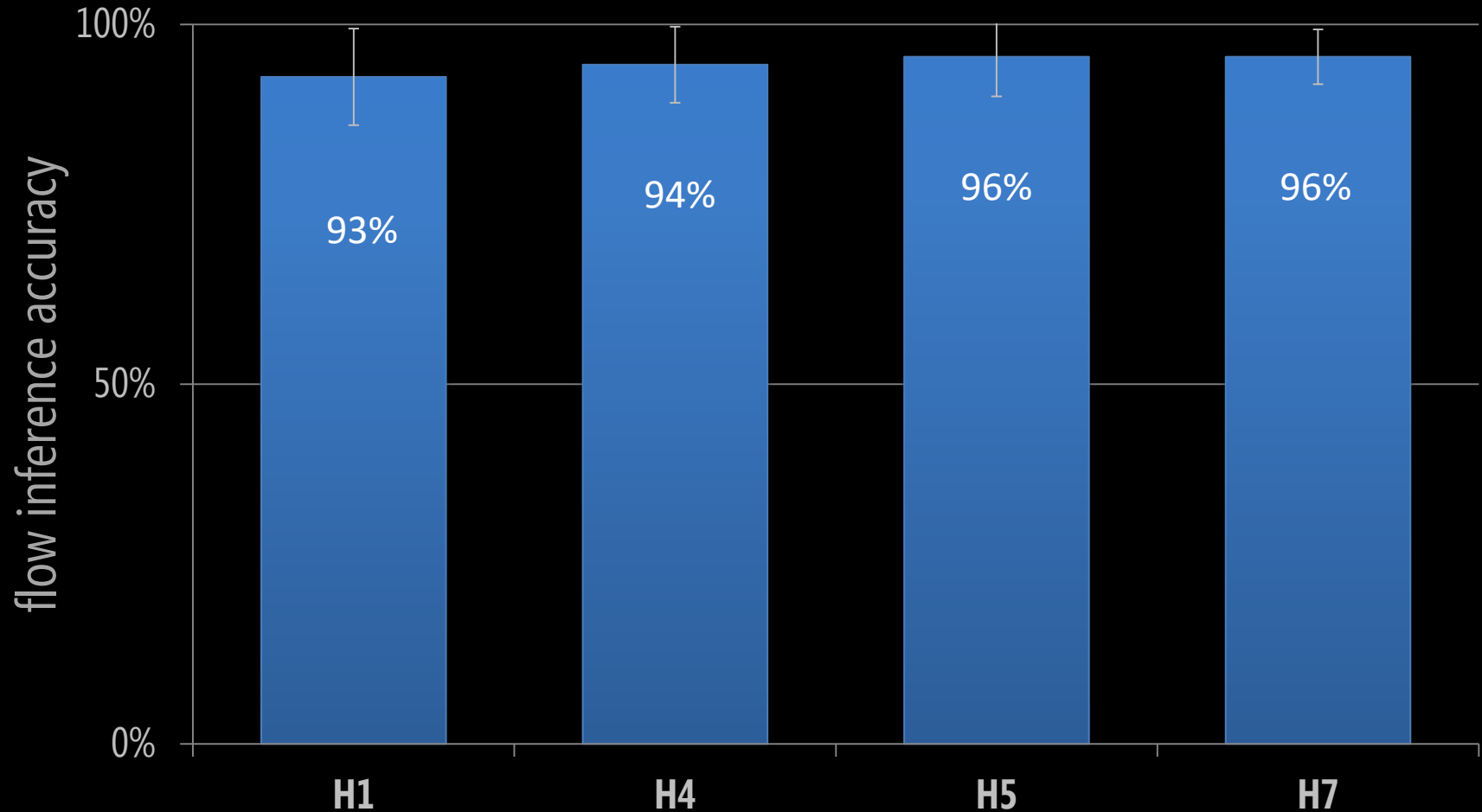
10-fold cross validation

# fixture classification results

## by fixture



# flow inference results by home



[Arregui, Evaluation of Domestic Water Meter Accuracy, 2003]

# hydro study

#1

**contributions**

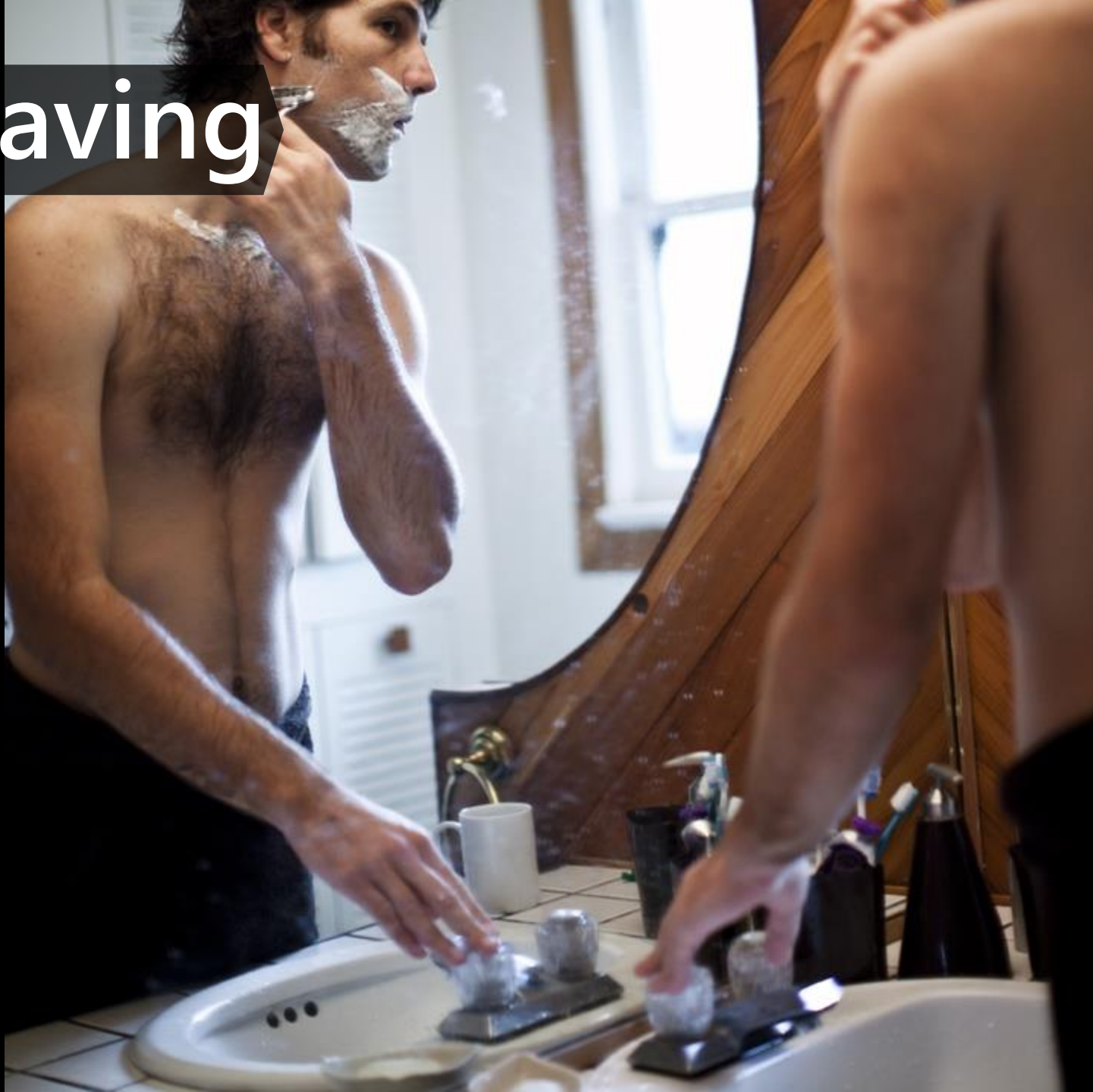
built and evaluated wireless  
pressure sensor

first to show that pressure  
could be used to disaggregate  
water usage

# brushing teeth



shaving



bathing



paw washing





# compound events

incoming cold  
water from  
supply line



utility water  
meter

pressure  
regulator

thermal  
expansion  
tank

hot  
water  
heater

laundry

bathroom 2

room 1



# hydro study

## #2

goal

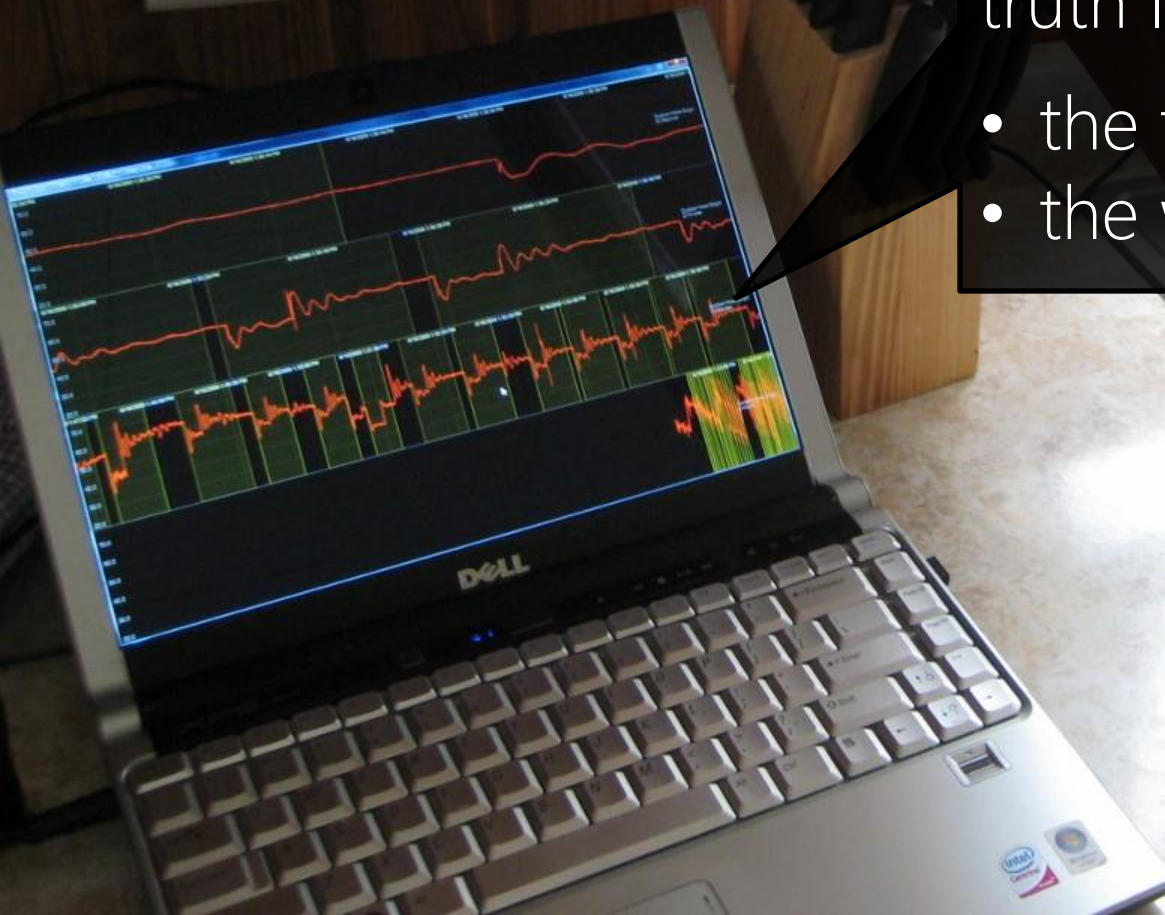
study how well hydrosense can  
classify real world water usage

approach

5 week deployment in 5 homes

in the first study, pressure waves were **manually** annotated with "ground truth labels" describing:

- the fixture used
- the water temperature





I'm about to  
flush the  
toilet!

Awesome.  
Got it. Thanks  
Mr. Johnson

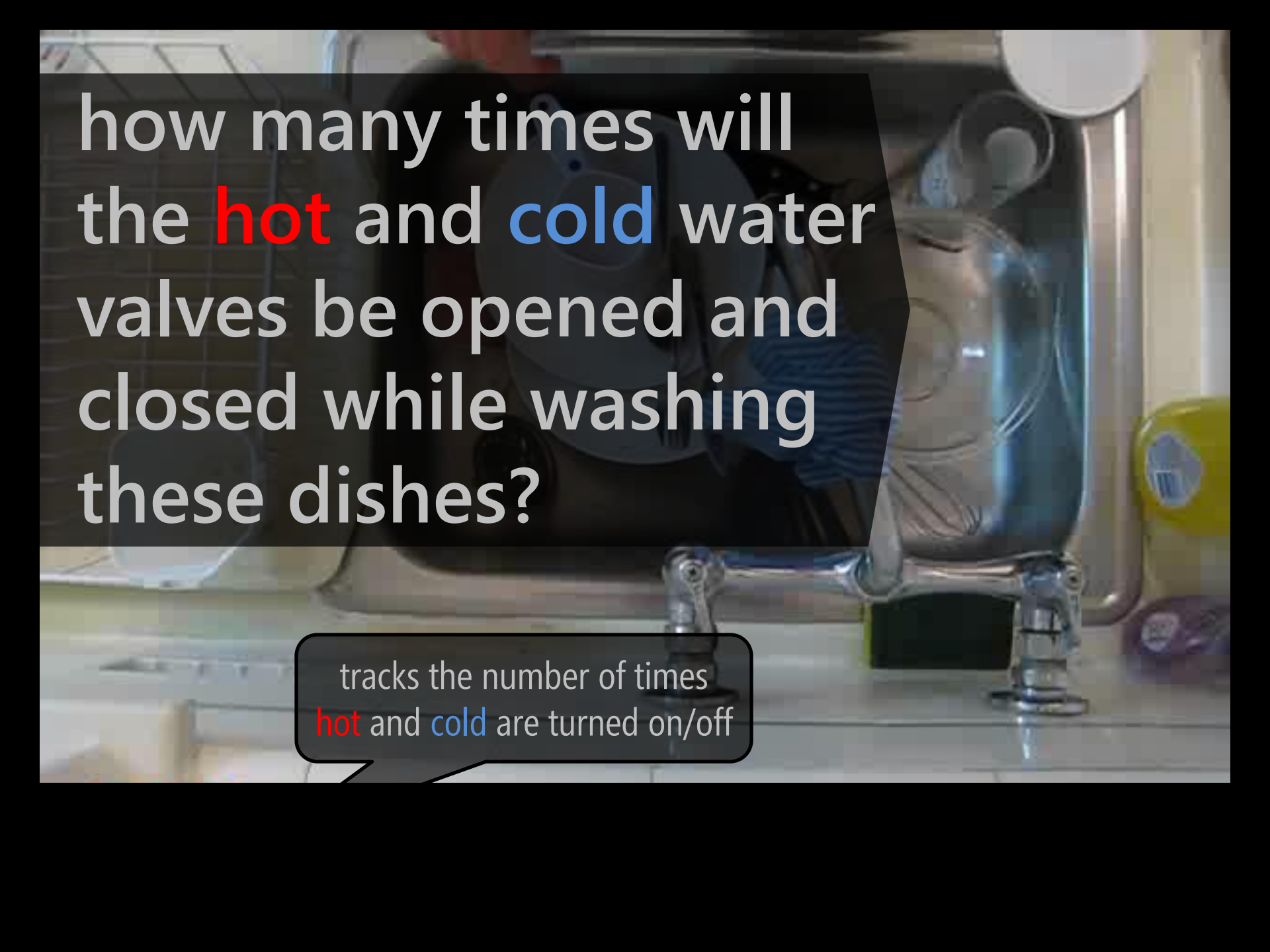
how

*collect ground truth labels of*

can we record **real-**  
**world** water usage?

# wireless buttons





how many times will  
the **hot** and **cold** water  
valves be opened and  
closed while washing  
these dishes?

tracks the number of times  
**hot** and **cold** are turned on/off



hot: 0  
cold: 0



hot: 20  
cold: 1

**after** many failed attempts



# automated ground truth labeling method

## design goals

### **hardware** capabilities

1. wireless communication
2. low-power
3. water resistant

### **sensing** capabilities

1. work across fixtures/appliances
2. detect opens/closes
3. discriminate hot/cold/mixed

# function across fixtures



**kitchen** sink



**bathroom** sink



**bath**



**shower**



**toilet**



**laundry** basin

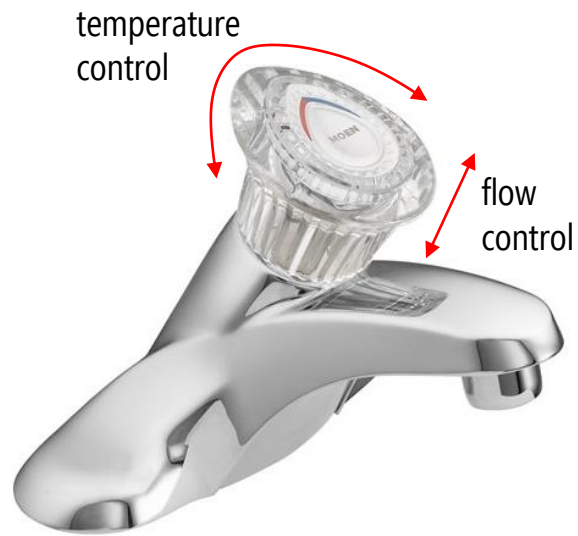


**washing** machine

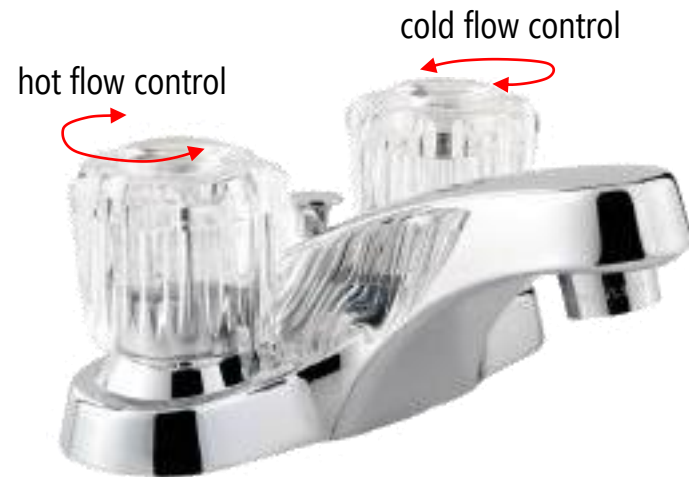


**dish**washer

# challenge: fixture diversity



single handle faucet

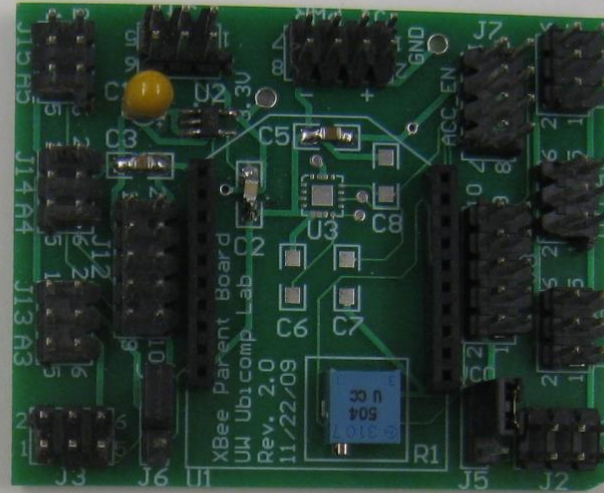


dual handle faucet

# custom ground truth data collection system



xbec wireless modem



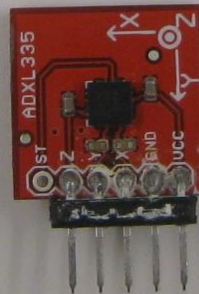
fixture usage sensor board



hall effect



reed switch



3-axis accelerometer



unidirectional ball switch

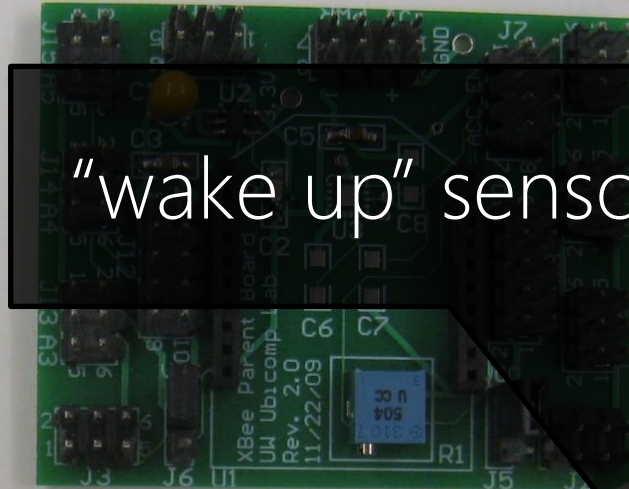


omnidirectional ball switch

# custom ground truth data collection system



xbec wireless modem



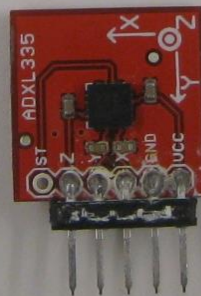
fixture usage sensor board



hall effect



reed switch



3-axis accelerometer



unidirectional ball switch



omnidirectional ball switch

# custom ground truth data collection system

fixture handle  
position sensors

xbee wireless modem

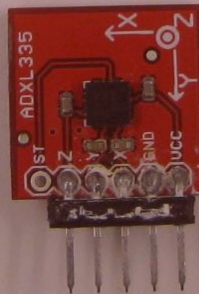
fixture usage sensor board



hall  
effect



reed  
switch



3-axis  
accelerometer



unidirectional ball  
switch

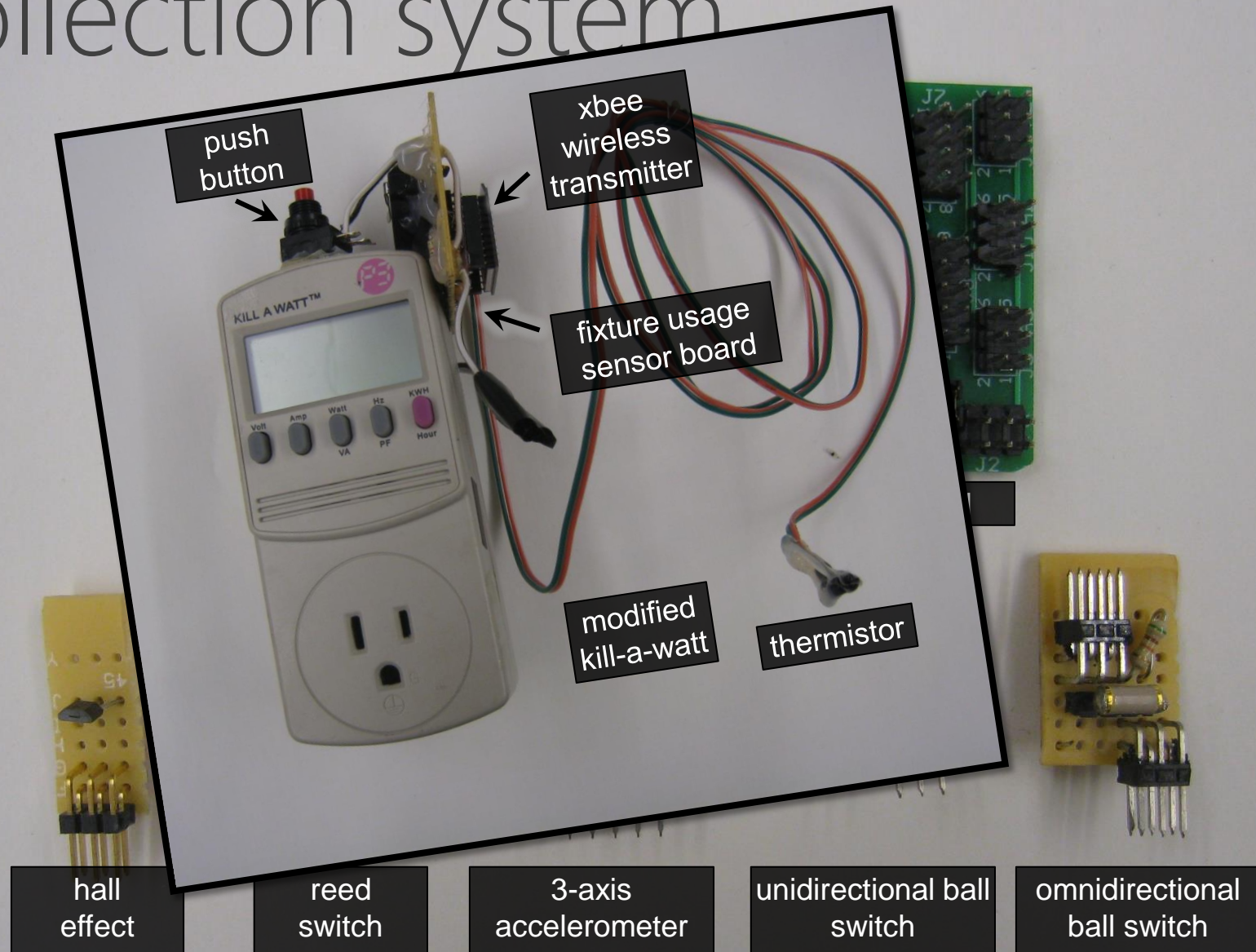


omnidirectional  
ball switch

accelerometer

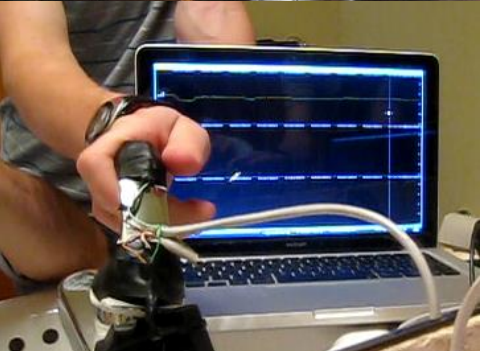


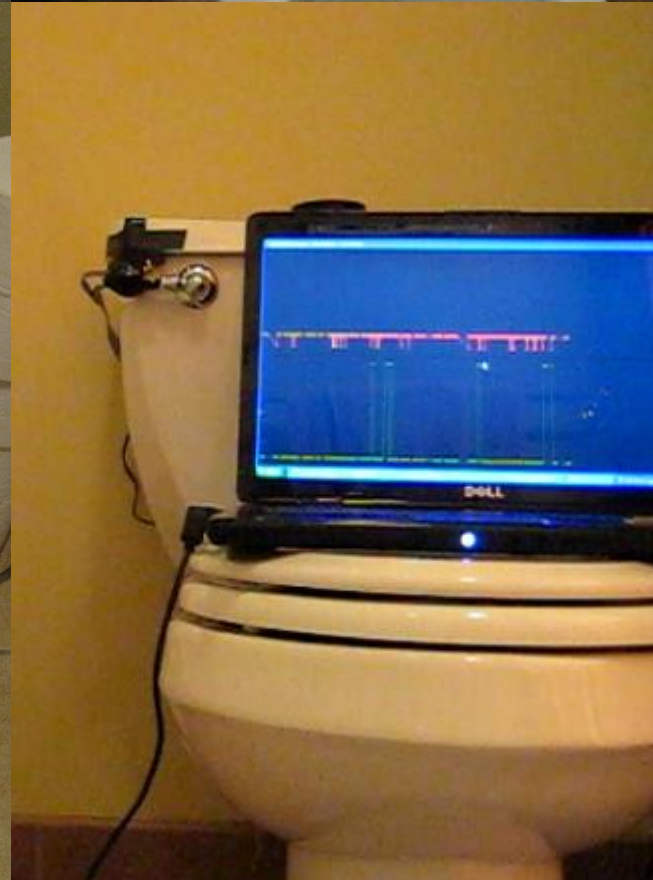
# custom ground truth data collection system



# deployment sites

					
residents	2	2	4	2	2
size	3000 sqft	750 sqft	1200 sqft	700 sqft	750 sqft
floors	3	2	2	3 <sup>rd</sup> flr	6 <sup>th</sup> flr
fixtures	17	8	13	8	8
valves	28	13	21	13	13

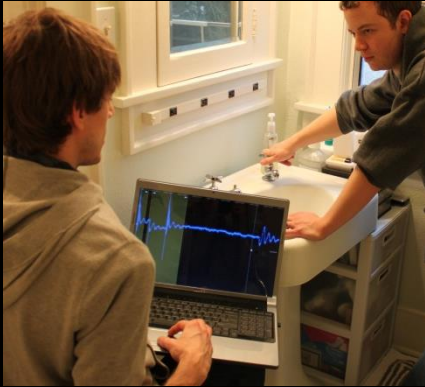




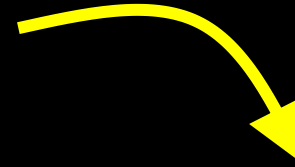




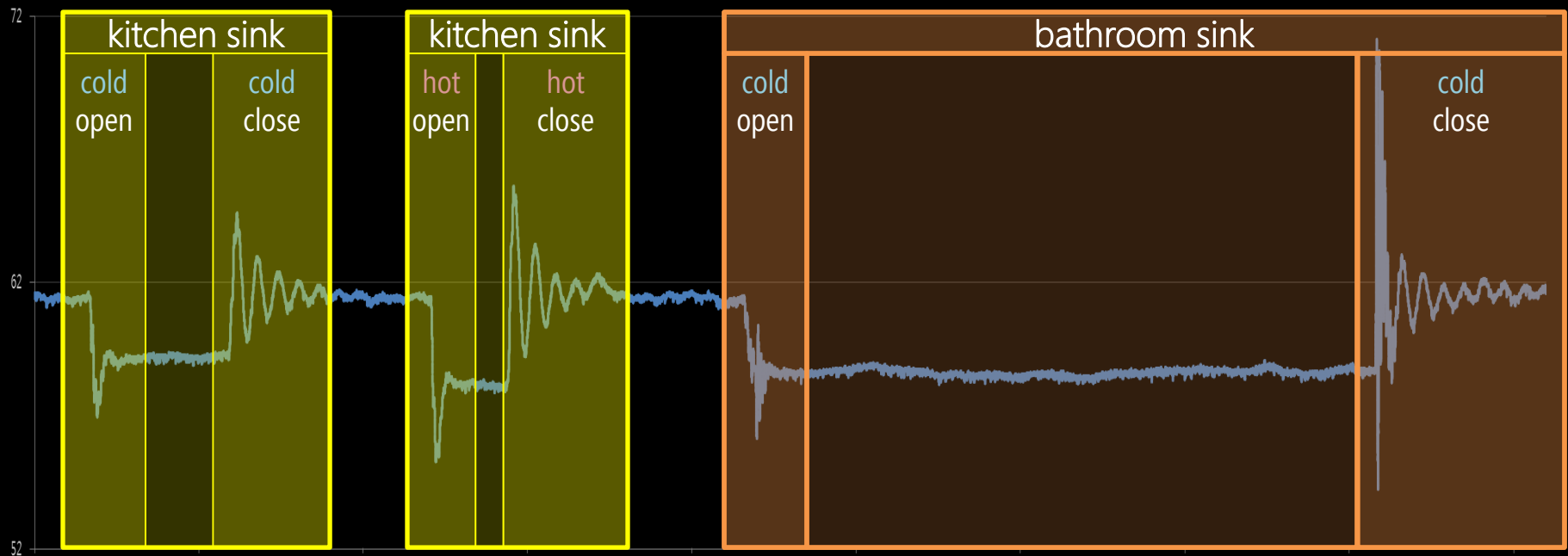
# ground truth labels



manual



automatic



# two pressure sensors per home

home 1

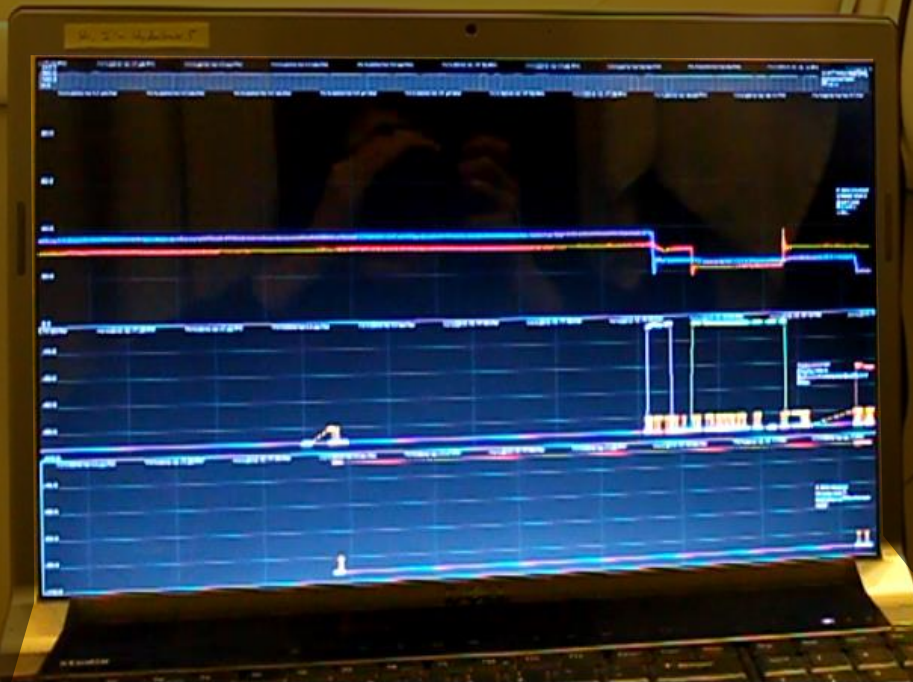
pressure  
sensor 1  
(cold point)

pressure  
sensor 2  
(hot point)



# hydrosense data logger

records ground truth sensor data plus  
two pressure streams for each home



**pressure stream**

red = hot line

blue = cold line

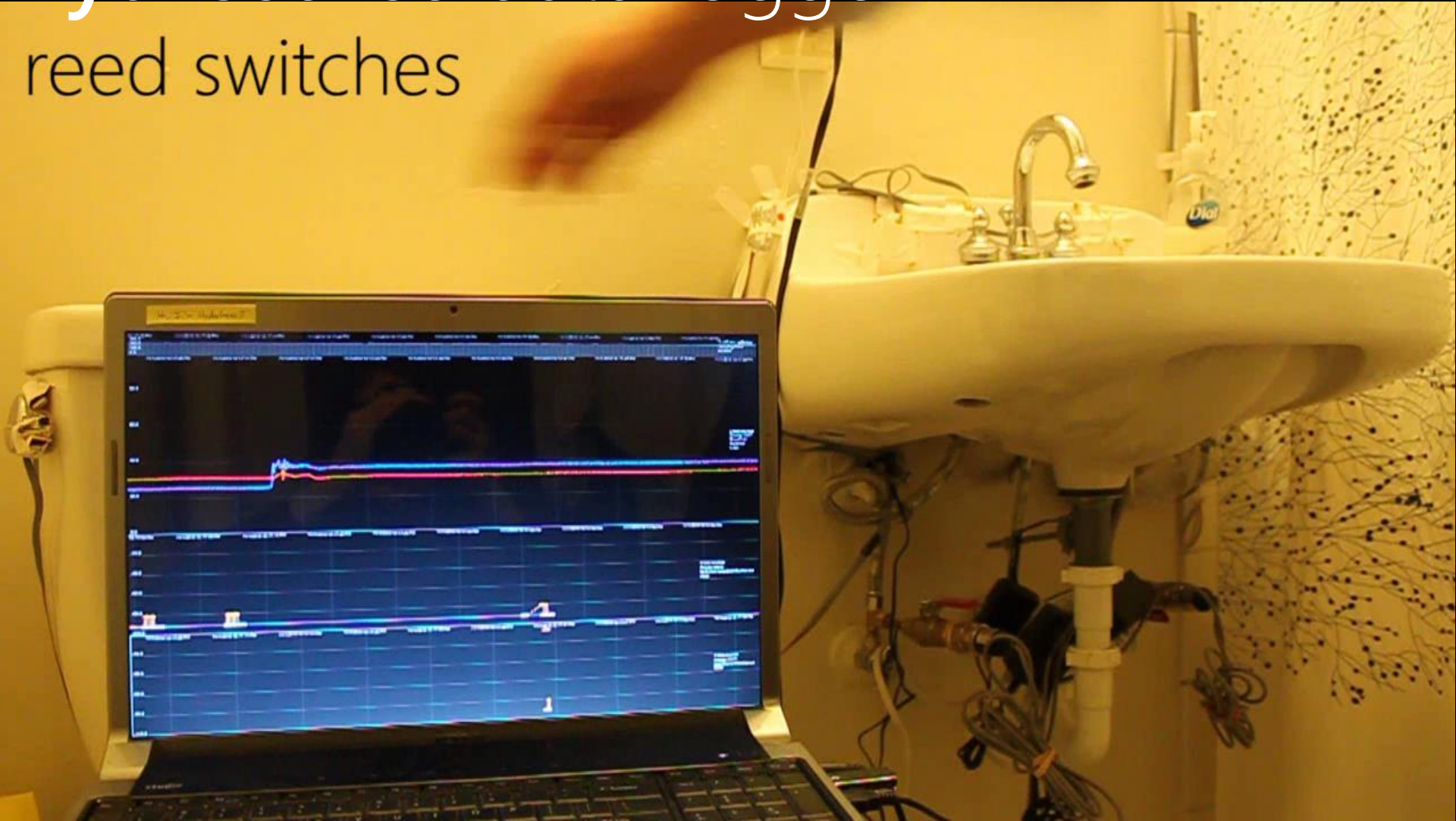
**reed switches**

high = active

low = inactive

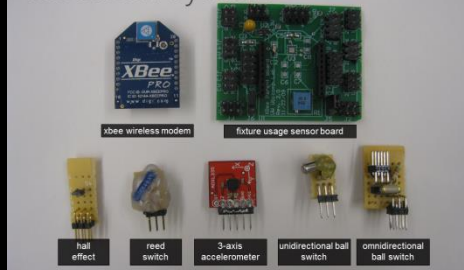
# hydrosense data logger

reed switches



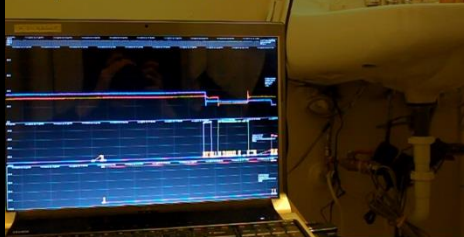
# hydro deployment infrastructure

custom ground truth data collection system



hydrosense data logger

records ground truth sensor data plus two pressure streams for each home



two pressure sensors

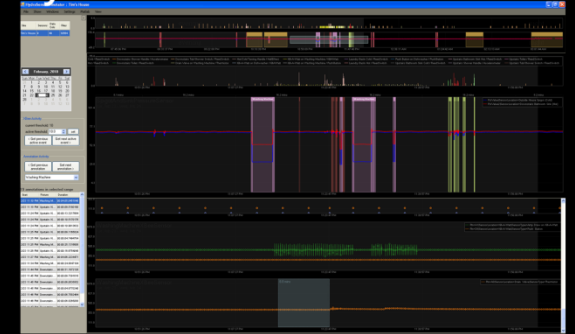


on-site sensing infrastructure

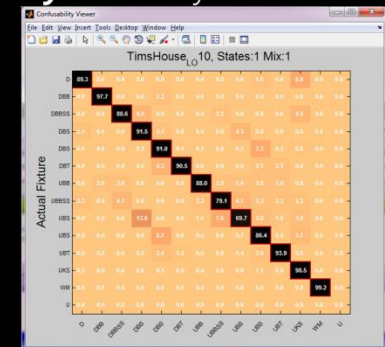


python web backend

hydrovisualizer



hydroanalyzer



c# and matlab analysis tools

# 5-week dataset



**totals**

**days**

33

33

30

27

33

156

**events**

2374

3075

4754

2499

2578

14,960

**events/day**

71.9

93.2

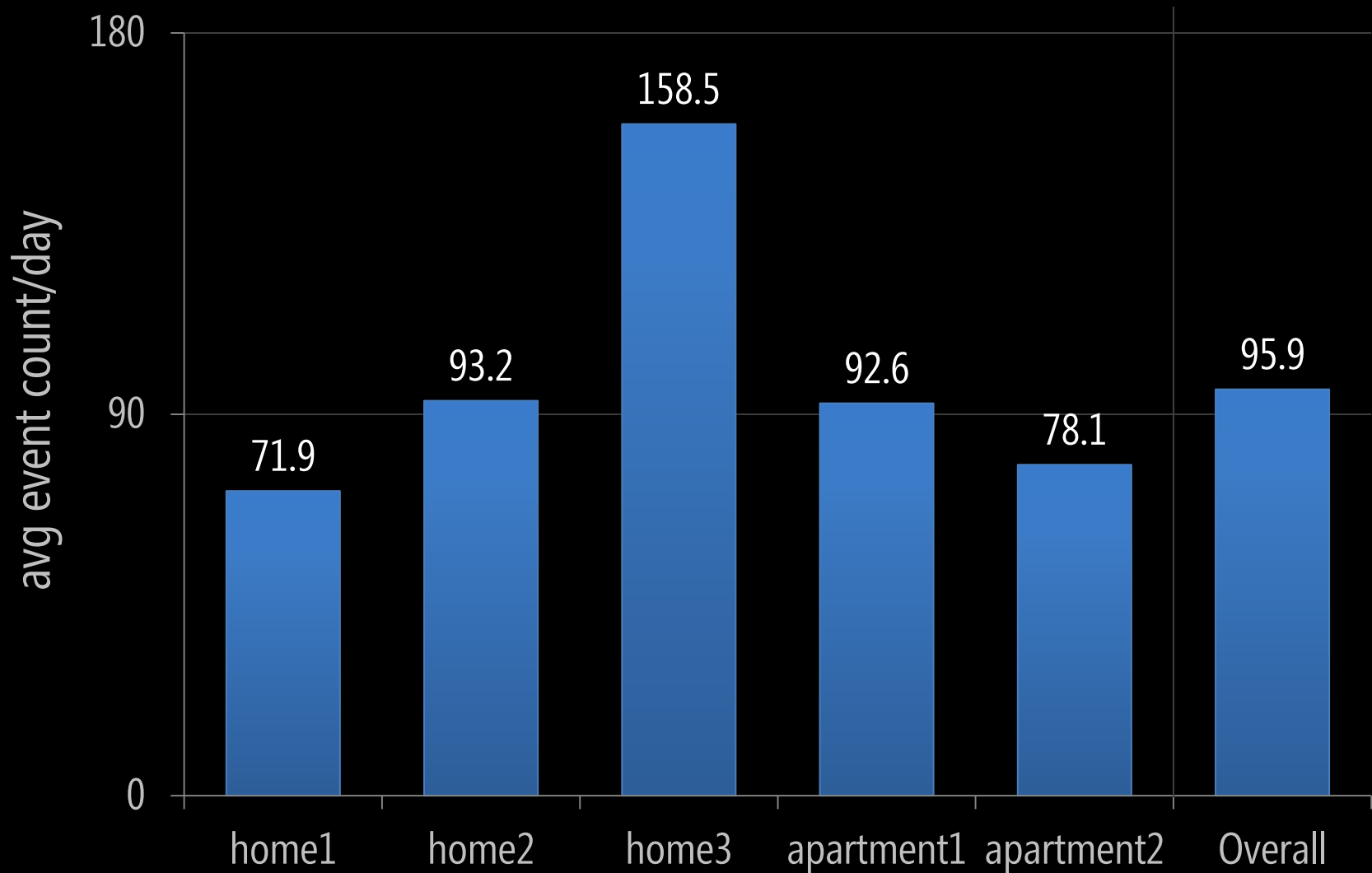
158.5

92.6

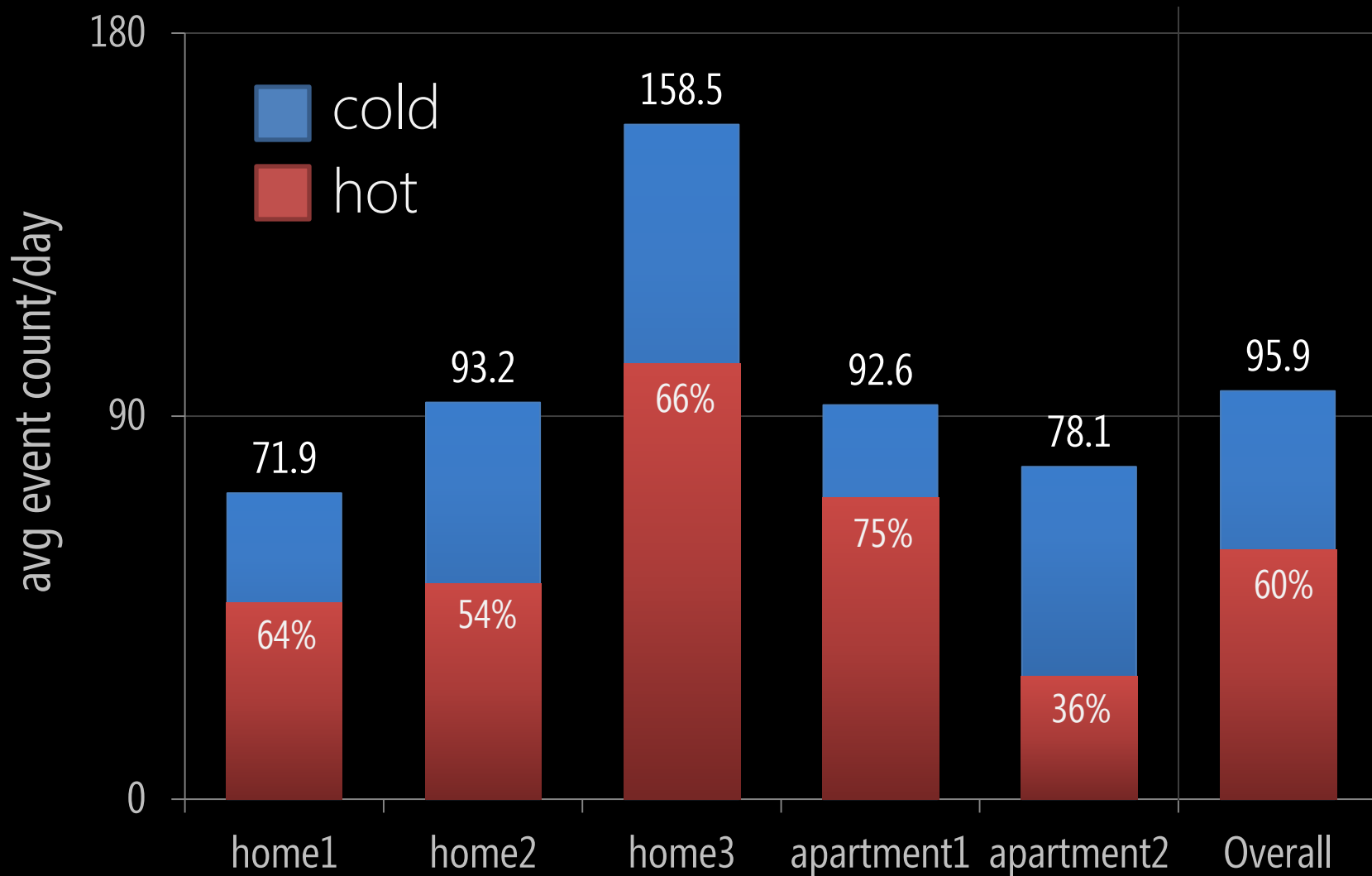
78.1

95.9

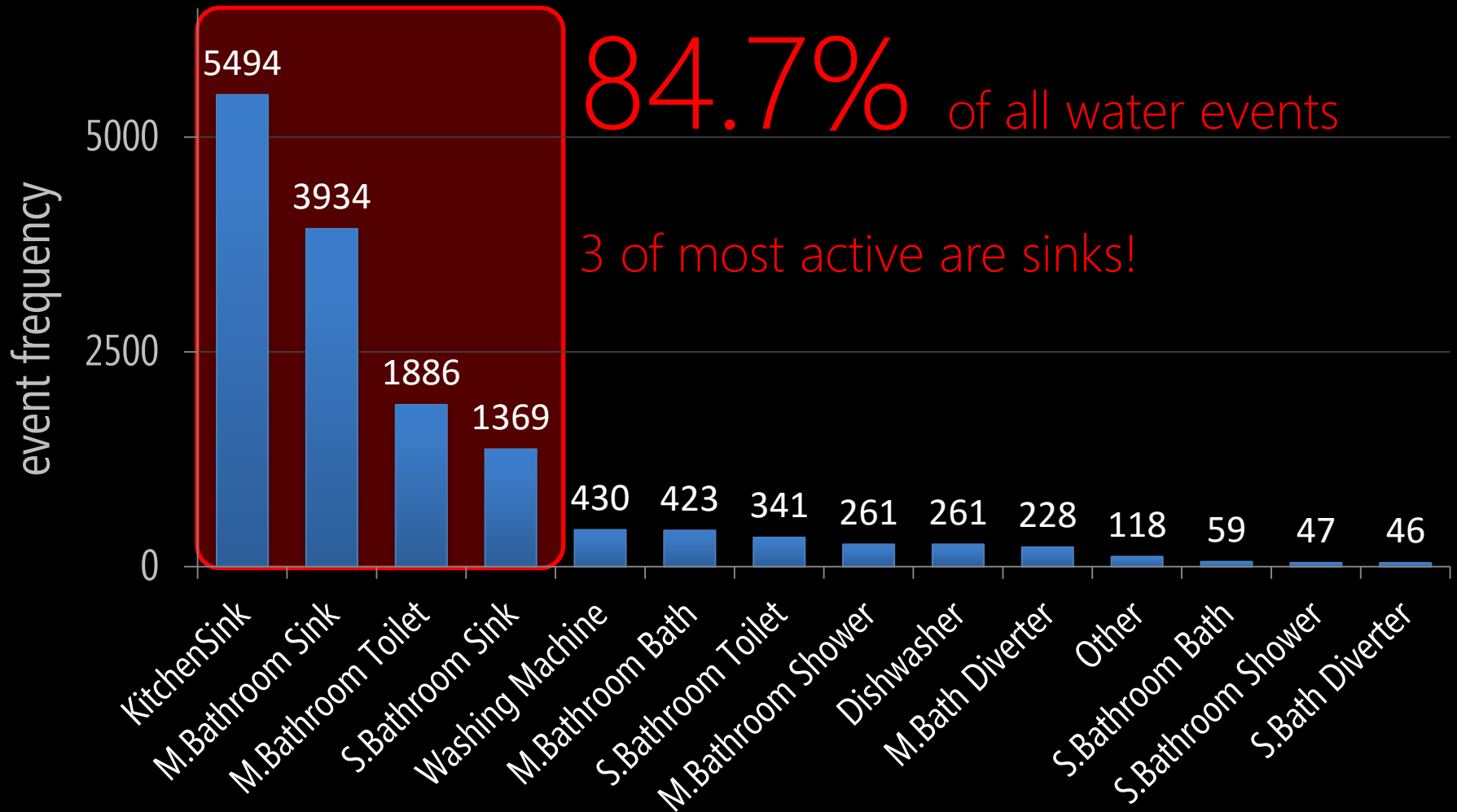
# avg num water events/day



# avg num water events/day

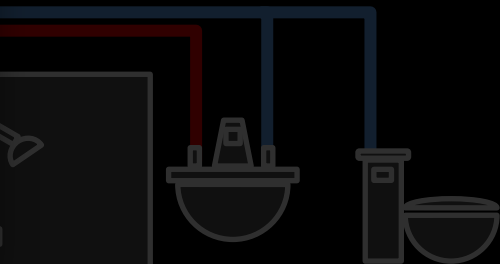
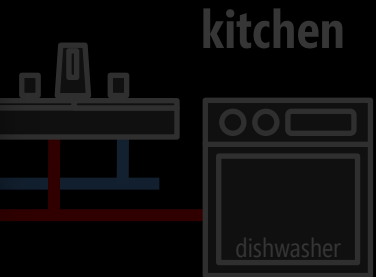
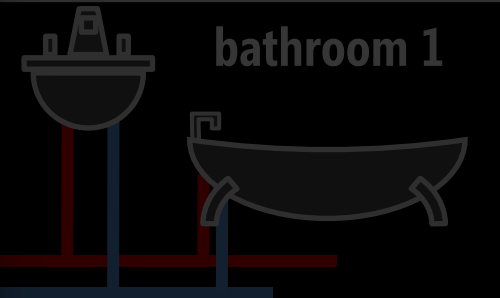


# fixture activity frequency





# compound events



incoming cold water from supply line



utility water meter

pressure regulator

thermal expansion tank

hot water heater

laundry

dishwasher

bathroom 1

kitchen

bathroom 2

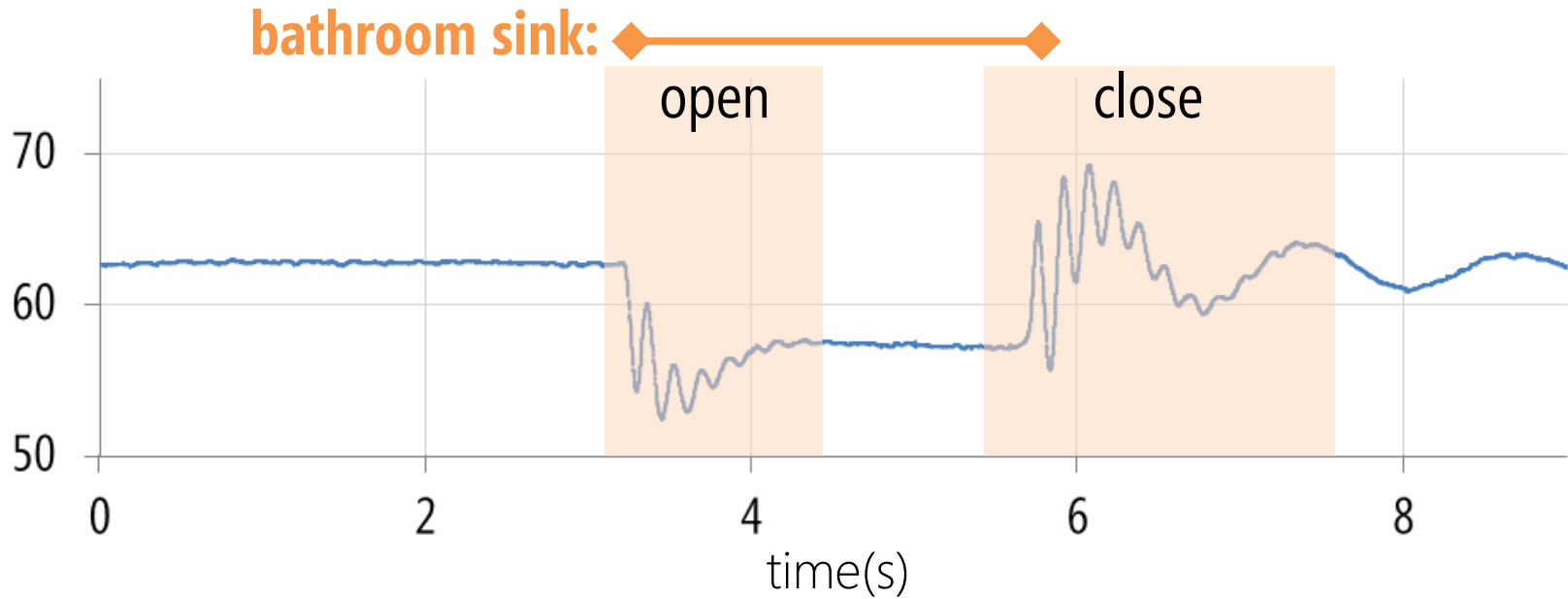
# 22%

of all **water** events were compound

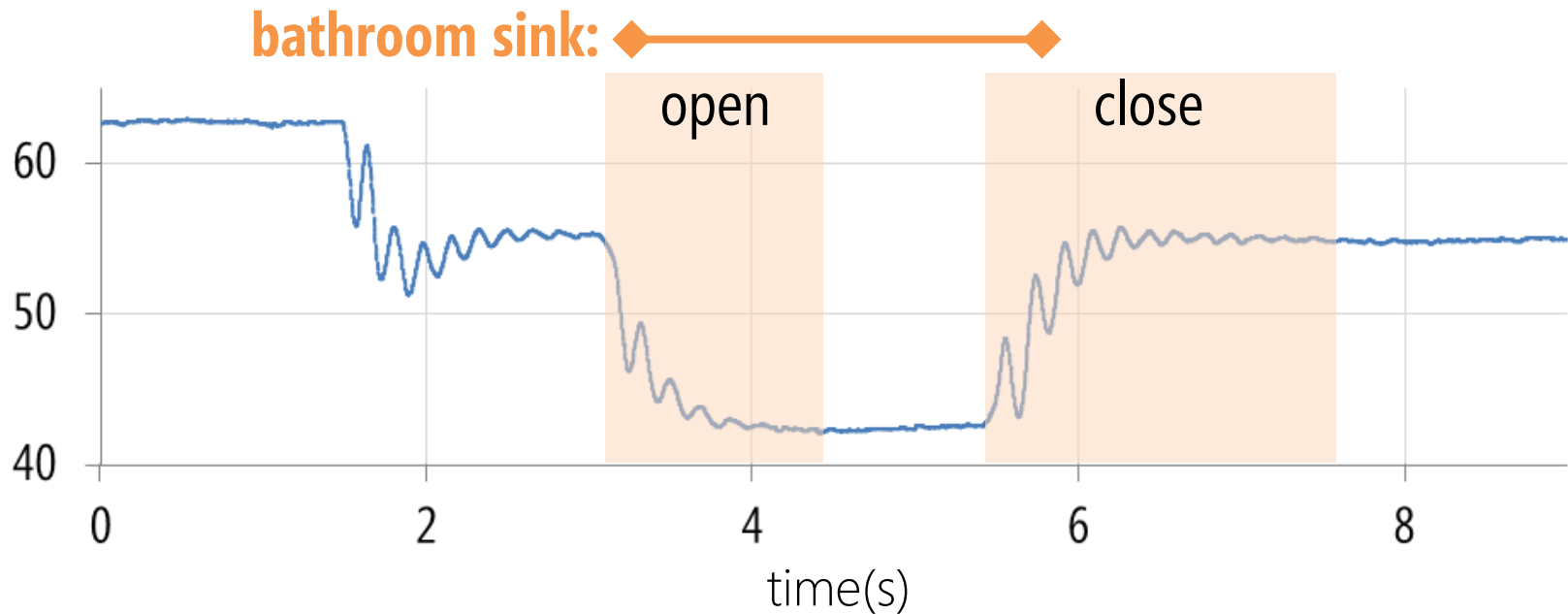
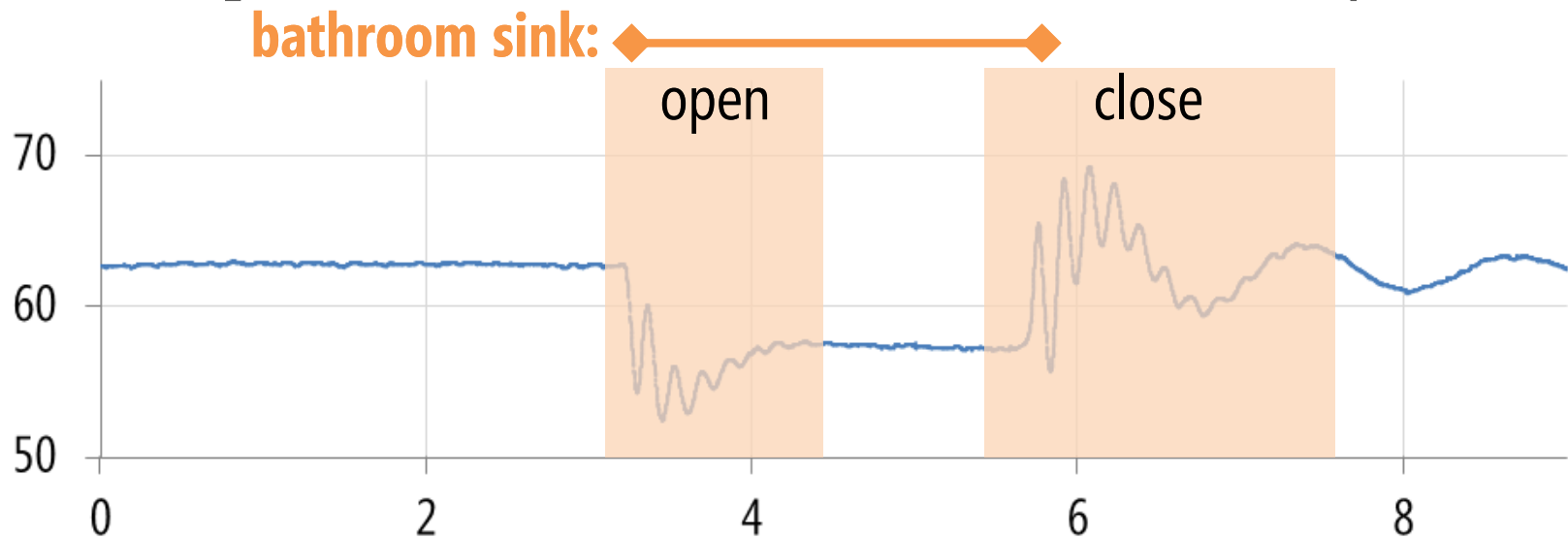
# 41.8%

of all **bathroom sink** events were compound

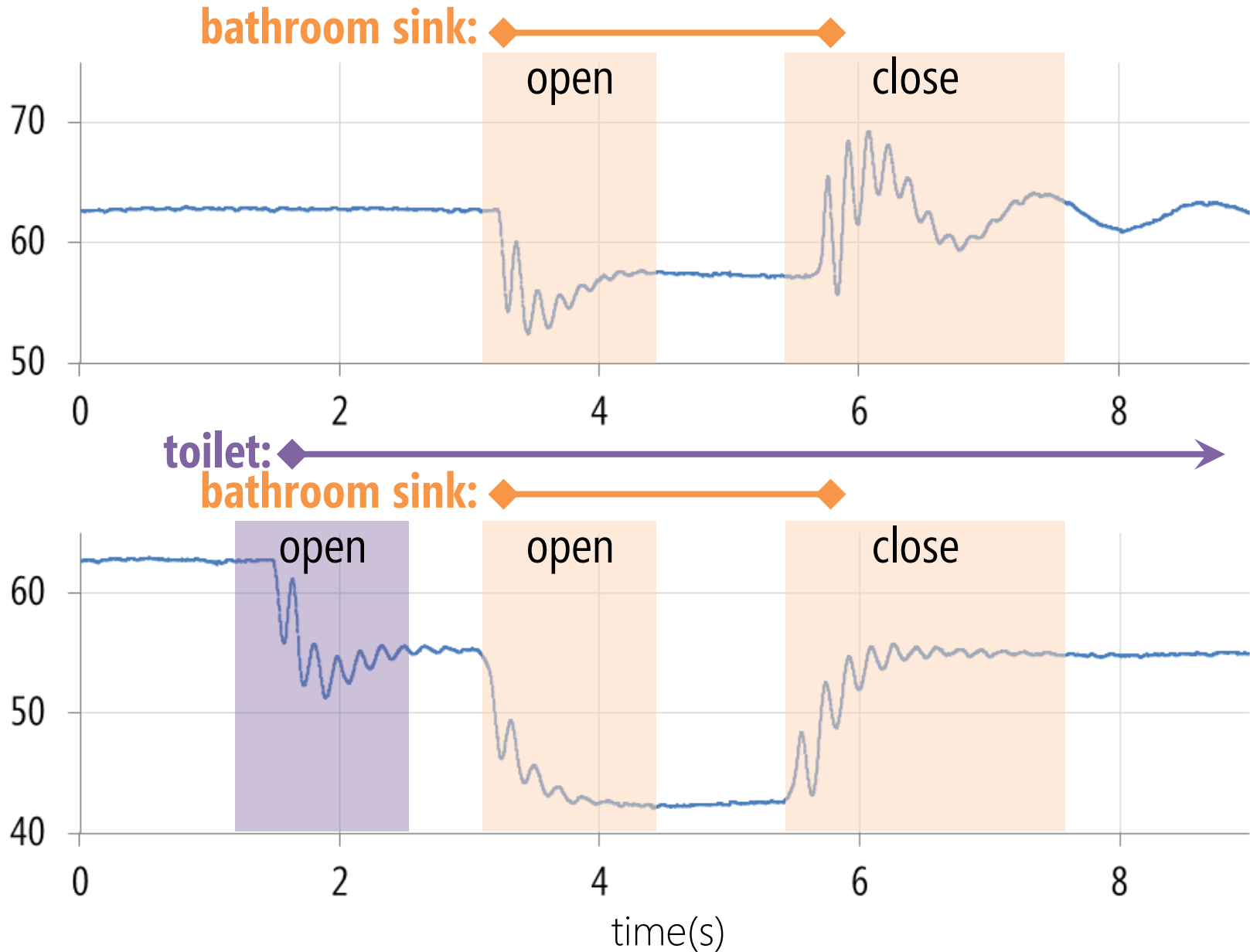
# compound event example



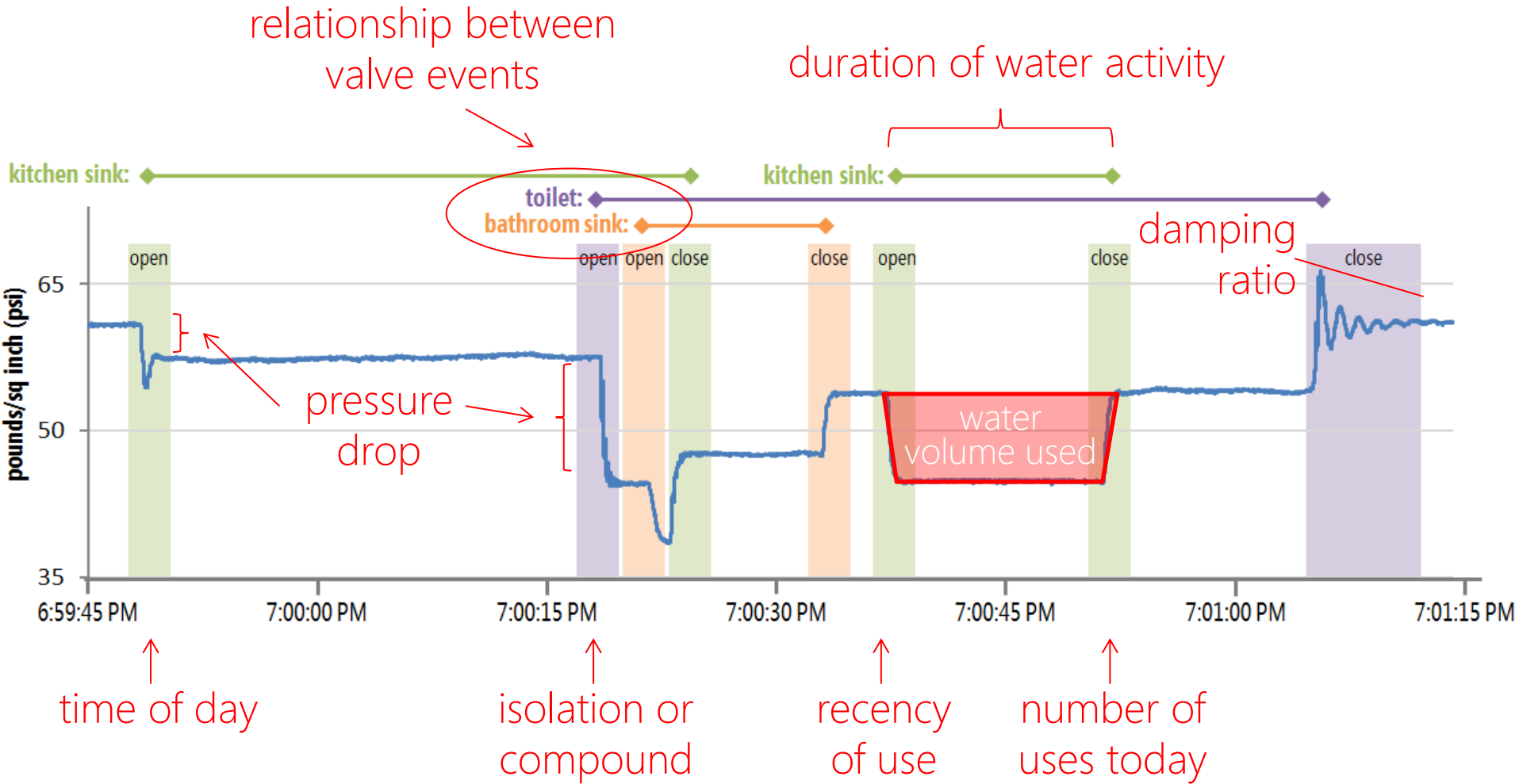
# compound event example



# compound event example



# beyond **template** matching




# bayesian approach

**V** = pressure signature library

**S** = sequence of unknown pressure transients

most likely valve sequence


$$\hat{V} = \arg \max P(\mathbf{V} | \mathbf{S}) = \arg \max \frac{P(\mathbf{S} | \mathbf{V})P(\mathbf{V})}{P(\mathbf{S})}$$

# bayesian approach

$\mathbf{V}$  = pressure signature library

$\mathbf{S}$  = sequence of unknown pressure transients

conditional  
probability term

$$\hat{V} = \arg \max P(\mathbf{V} | \mathbf{S}) = \arg \max \frac{\boxed{P(\mathbf{S} | \mathbf{V})} P(\mathbf{V})}{P(\mathbf{S})}$$

$$\overbrace{\prod_{r=0}^{R-1} f_r(\hat{\mathbf{S}}_r | \hat{\mathbf{V}}_r)}^{P(\mathbf{S}|\mathbf{V})}$$

(i) templates and  
signal features

e.g., matched filtering and  
stabilized pressure drop

# bayesian approach

$\mathbf{V}$  = pressure signature library

$\mathbf{S}$  = sequence of unknown pressure transients

prior  
probability term

$$\hat{V} = \arg \max P(\mathbf{V} | \mathbf{S}) = \arg \max \frac{P(\mathbf{S} | \mathbf{V}) \boxed{P(\mathbf{V})}}{P(\mathbf{S})}$$

$$\underbrace{\prod_{r=0}^{R-1} f_r(\hat{\mathbf{S}}_r | \hat{\mathbf{V}}_r)}_{\text{(i) templates and signal features}} \underbrace{\prod_{n=0}^{N-1} P(v_n | v_{n-1})}_{\text{(ii) bigram language model}}$$

e.g., transition probability for  
toilet open->bathroom sink open

# bayesian approach

$\mathbf{V}$  = pressure signature library

$\mathbf{S}$  = sequence of unknown pressure transients

prior  
probability term

$$\hat{V} = \arg \max P(\mathbf{V} | \mathbf{S}) = \arg \max \frac{P(\mathbf{S} | \mathbf{V}) \boxed{P(\mathbf{V})}}{P(\mathbf{S})}$$

$$\underbrace{\prod_{r=0}^{R-1} f_r(\hat{\mathbf{S}}_r | \hat{\mathbf{V}}_r)}_{\text{(i) templates and signal features}} \underbrace{\prod_{n=0}^{N-1} P(v_n | v_{n-1})}_{\text{(ii) bigram language model}} \underbrace{\prod_{i \notin \beta} f_p(v_i)}_{\text{(iii) grammar}}$$

e.g., opening of valve  $v_x$  must be followed by closing of  $v_x$

# bayesian approach

$\mathbf{V}$  = pressure signature library

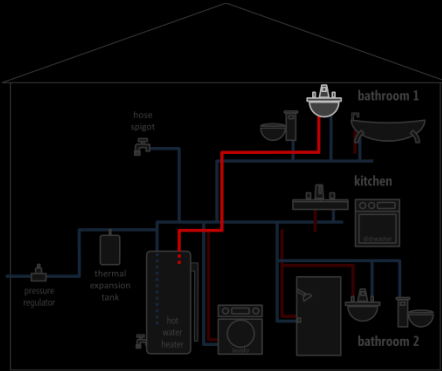
$\mathbf{S}$  = sequence of unknown pressure transients

$$\hat{V} = \arg \max P(\mathbf{V} | \mathbf{S}) = \arg \max \frac{P(\mathbf{S} | \mathbf{V}) \overbrace{P(\mathbf{V})}^{\text{prior probability term}}}{P(\mathbf{S})}$$

$$\underbrace{\prod_{r=0}^{R-1} f_r(\hat{\mathbf{S}}_r | \hat{\mathbf{V}}_r)}_{\text{(i) templates and signal features}} \underbrace{\prod_{n=0}^{N-1} P(v_n | v_{n-1})}_{\text{(ii) bigram language model}} \underbrace{\prod_{i \notin \beta} f_p(v_i)}_{\text{(iii) grammar}} \underbrace{\prod_{k=0}^{K-1} \prod_{\langle a, b \rangle \in \beta} f_k(\langle v_a, v_b \rangle)}_{\text{(iv) paired valve priors}}$$

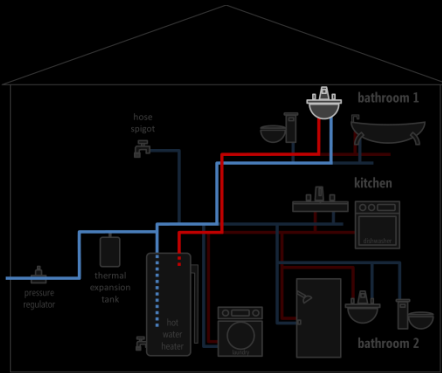
e.g., water usage duration

# three levels of granularity



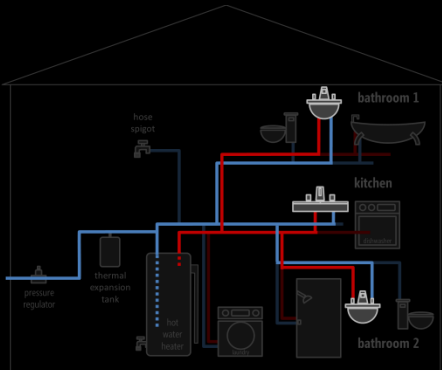
## ① **valve** level

e.g., upstairs bathroom faucet hot water activated



## ② **fixture** level

e.g., upstairs bathroom faucet activated

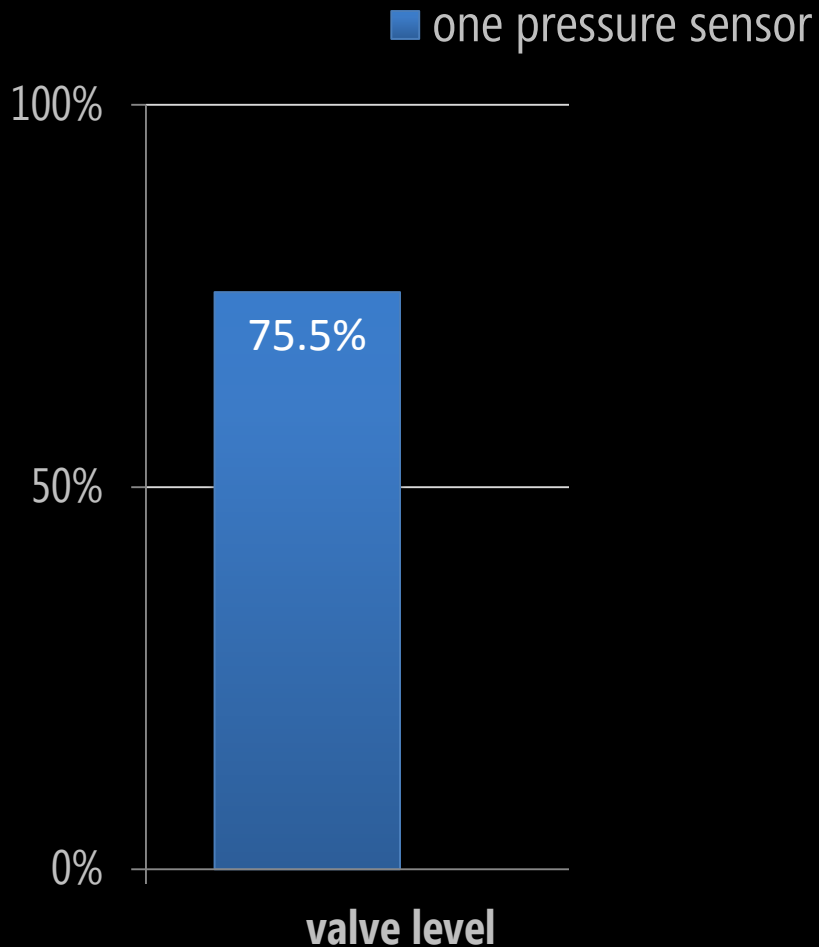


## ③ **fixture** category level

e.g., faucet activated

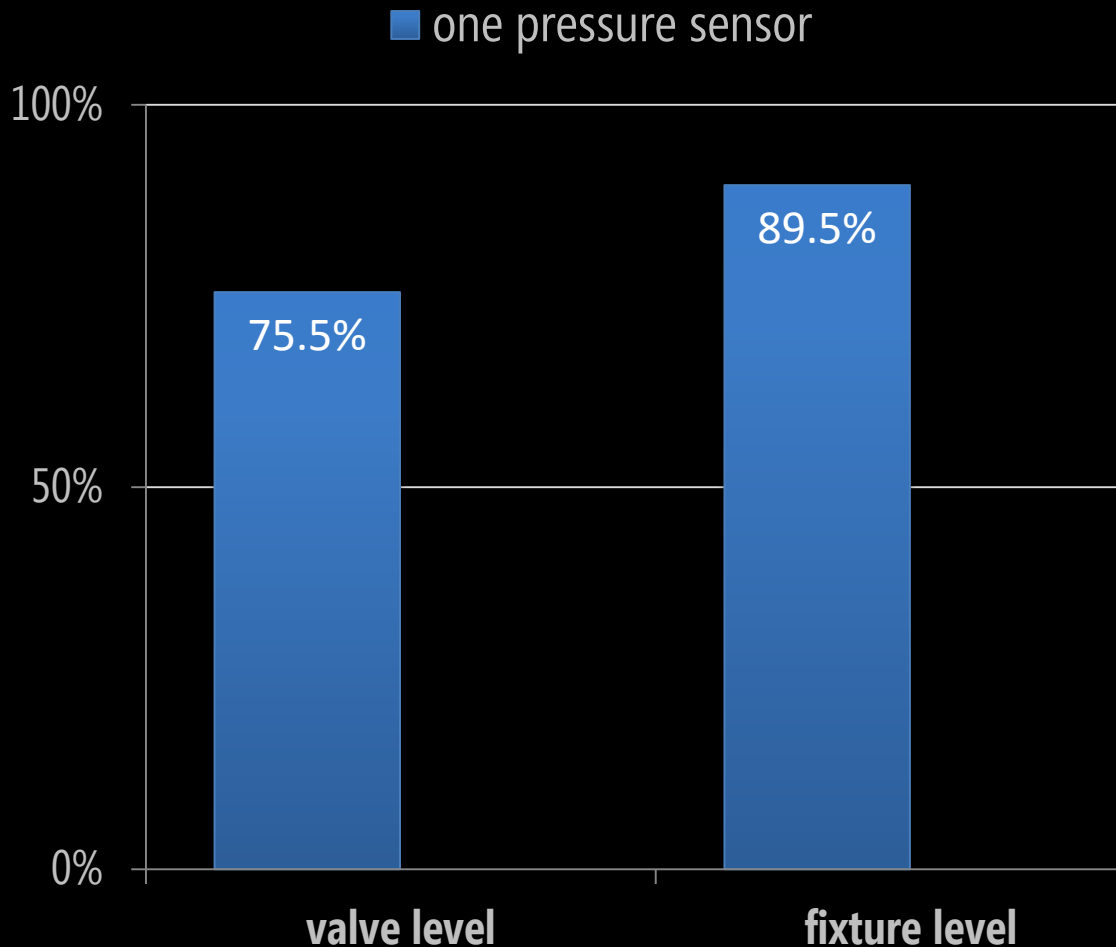
# hydrosense classification results

## real-world water usage data



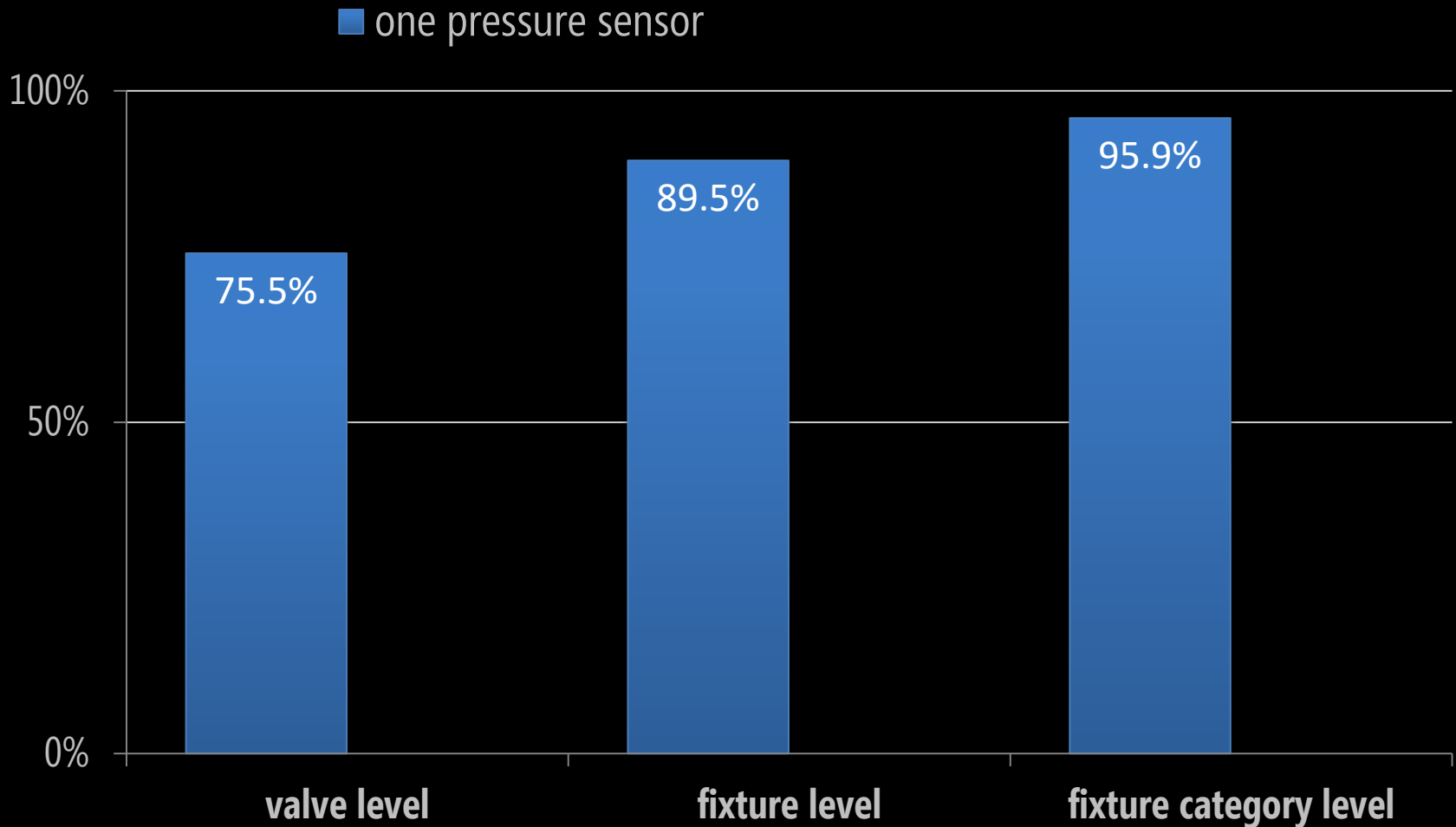
# hydrosense classification results

real-world water usage data



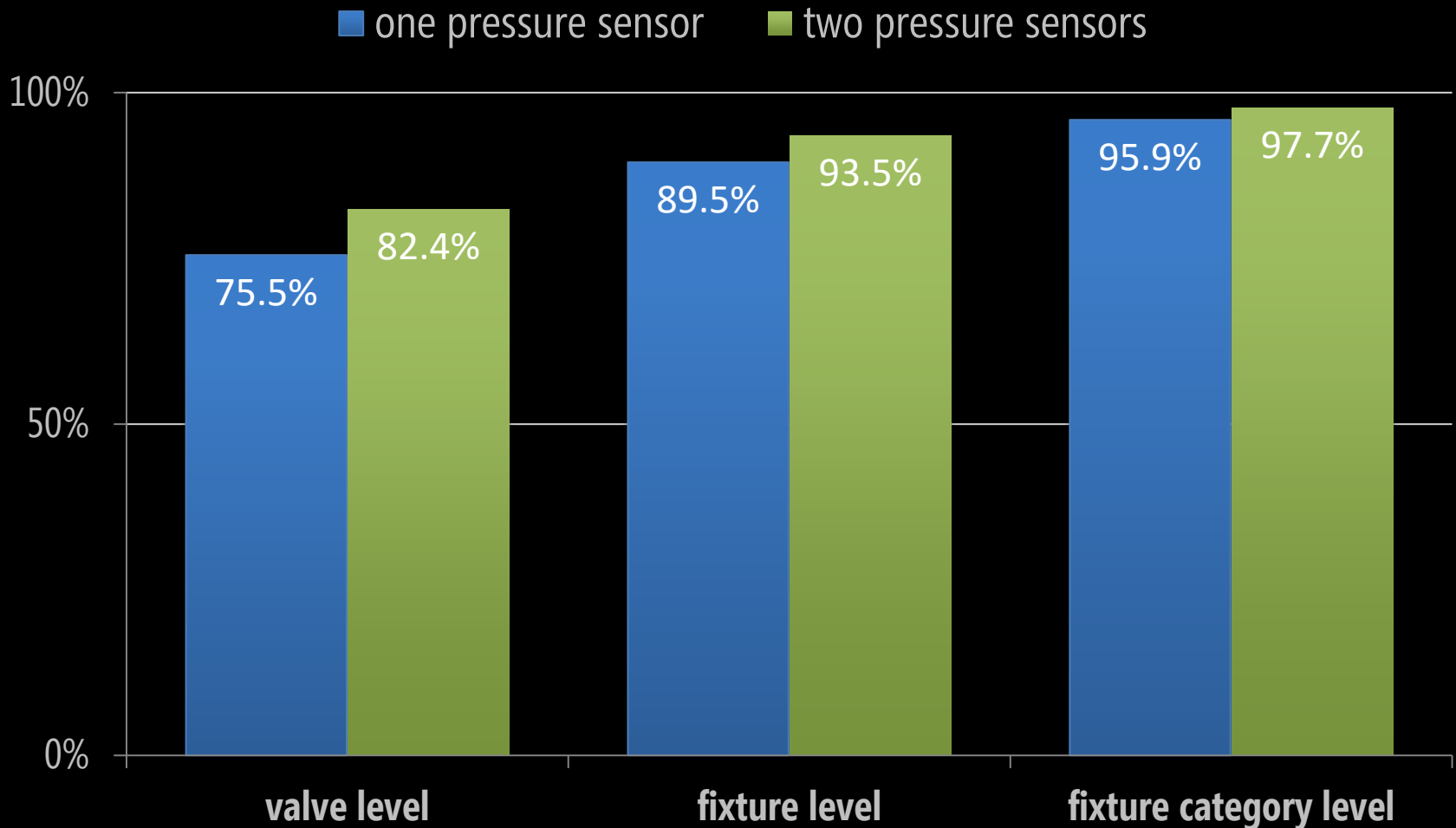
# hydrosense classification results

real-world water usage data



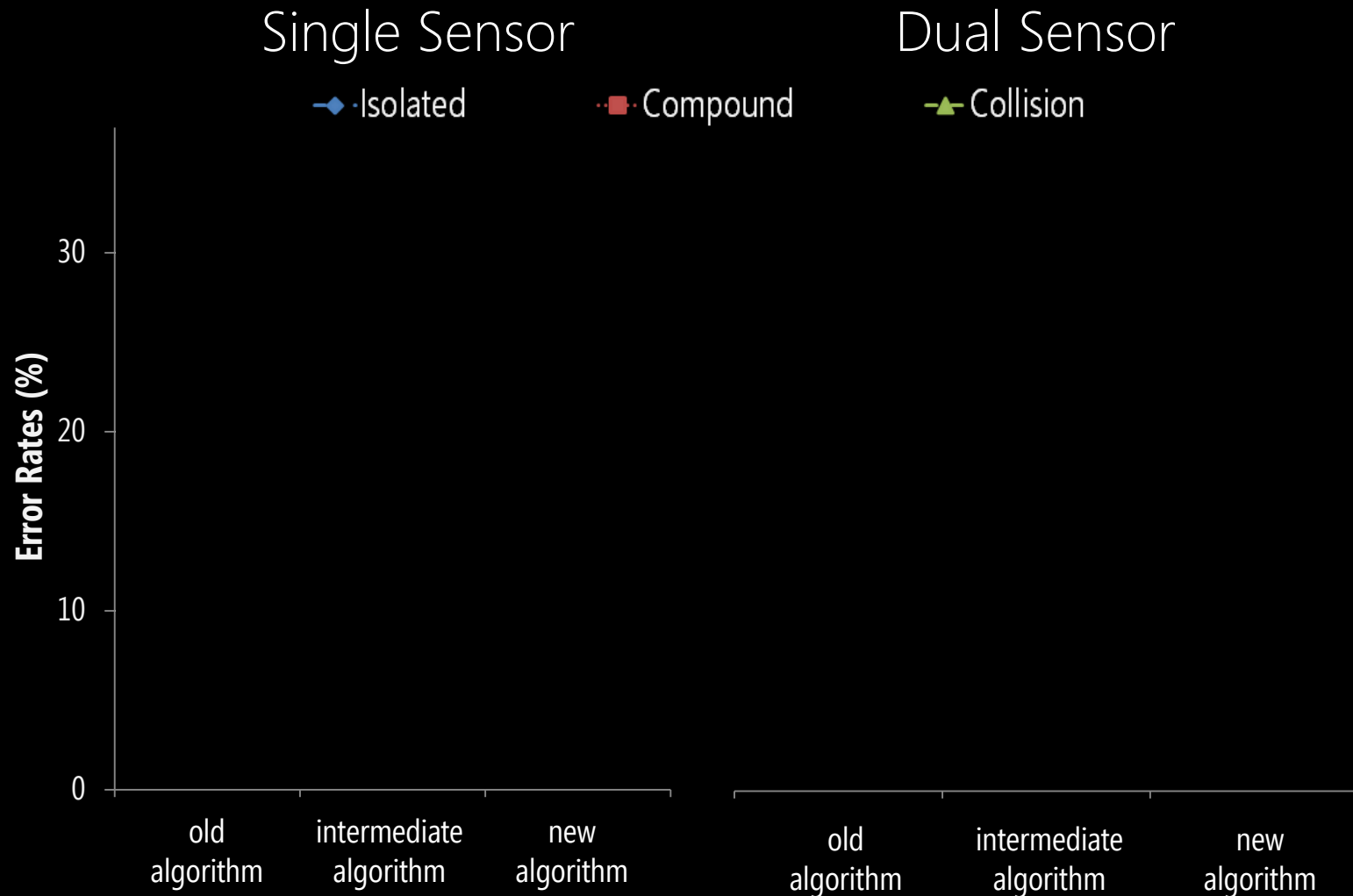
# hydrosense classification results

## real-world water usage data



# compound events results

real-world water usage data



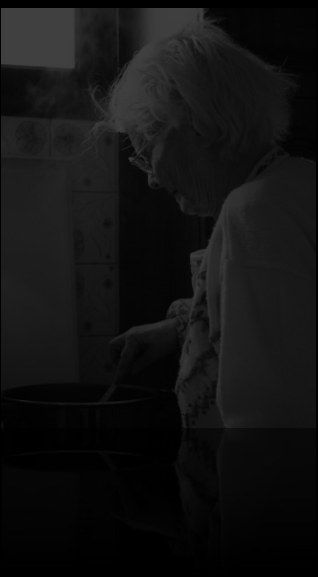
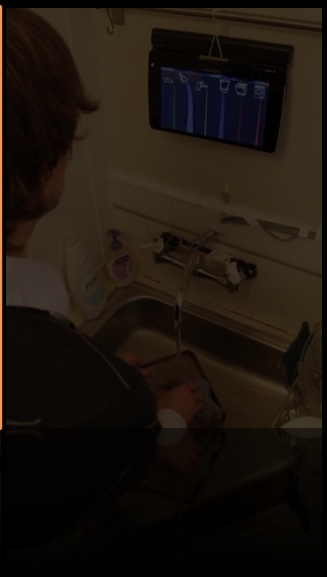
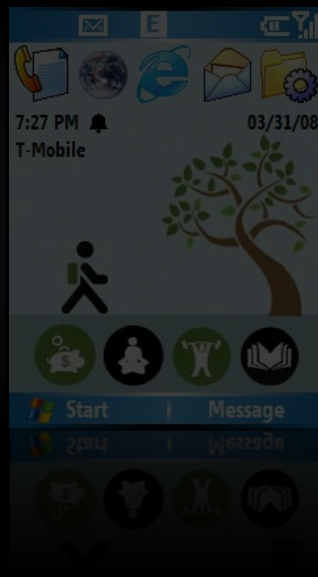
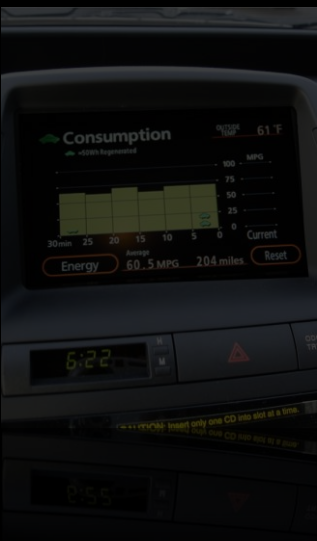
# hydro study

#2

**contributions**

demonstrated hydrosense can  
classify real-world water usage

collected one of the most  
comprehensive datasets of  
water usage in the world



# reflect water eco-feedback display

## goals

explore large design space for  
water feedback interfaces

evaluate designs both  
qualitatively and quantitatively





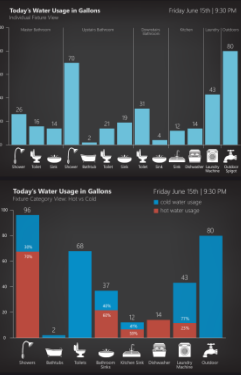
Two sets of designs:

# **1 Design Dimensions**

Isolate eco-feedback design dimensions in the context of water usage

# **2 Design Probes**

Meant to elicit reactions about how displays would fit within a household and potentially affect family dynamics

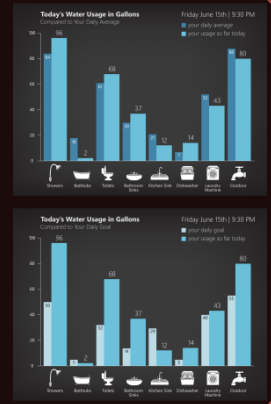


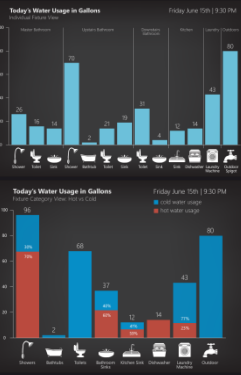
By fixture  
By fixture category  
By activity  
With temperature information



# design dimensions

To past performance  
To a goal  
To nearby neighbors  
To demographically similar neighbors





By fixture  
By fixture category  
By activity  
With temperature information



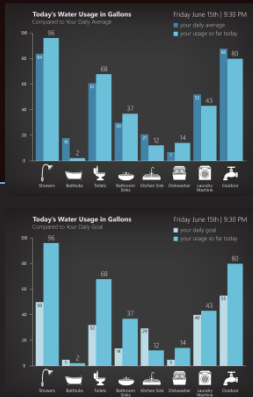
# design dimensions

To past performance

To a goal

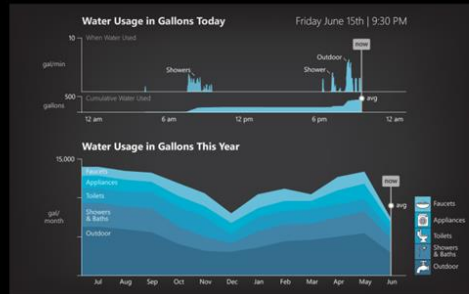
To nearby neighbors

To demographically similar neighbors



# design probes

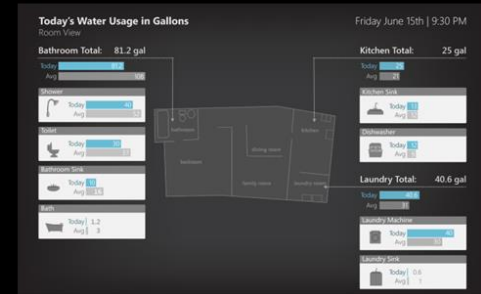
Time-Series



Per-Occupant



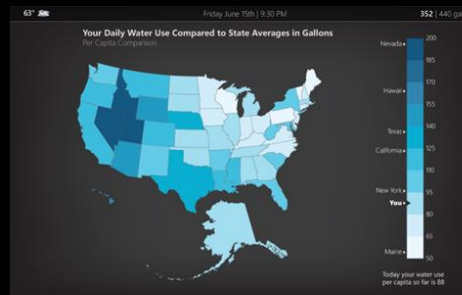
Spatial



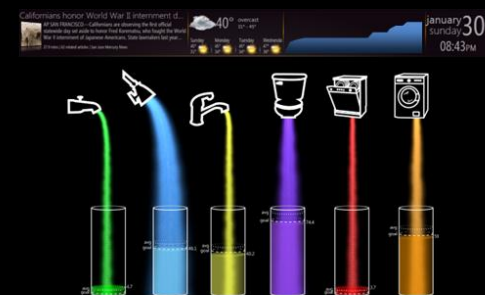
Location Preferences



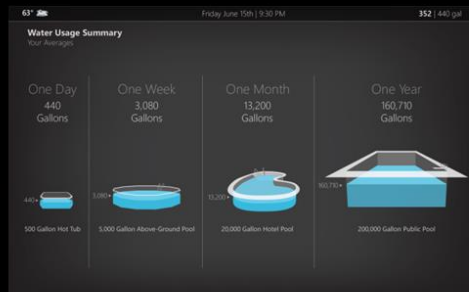
Comparison



Rainflow



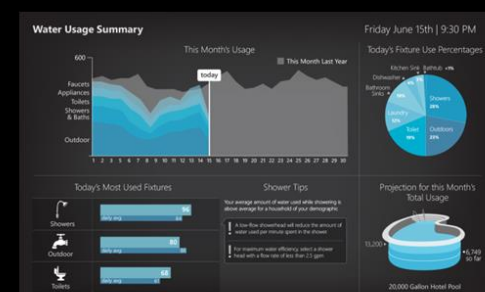
Measurement



Aquatic Eco-System



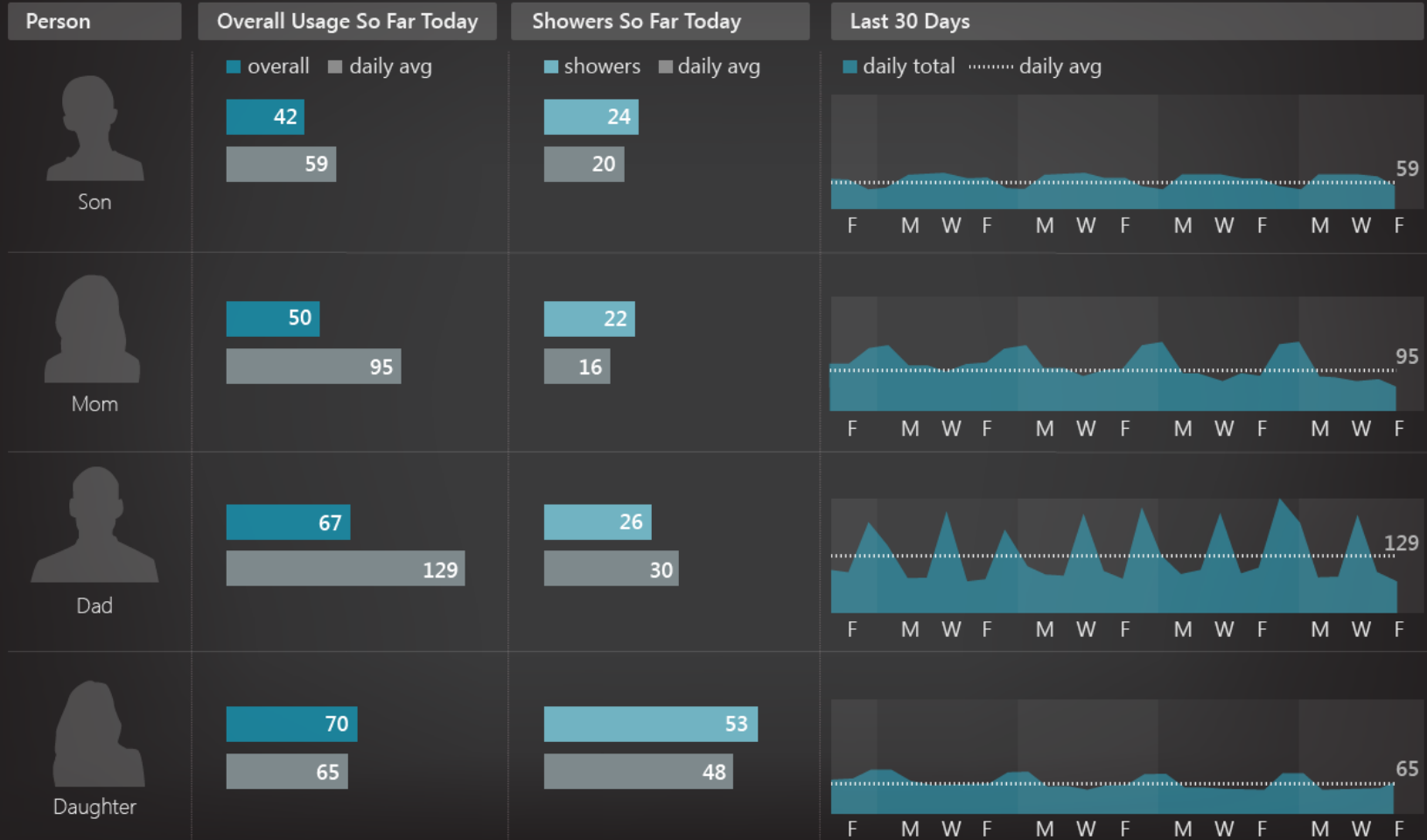
Action Recommendations



# per-occupant view

## Personal Usage Totals

Friday June 15th | 9:30 PM



# time-series year view

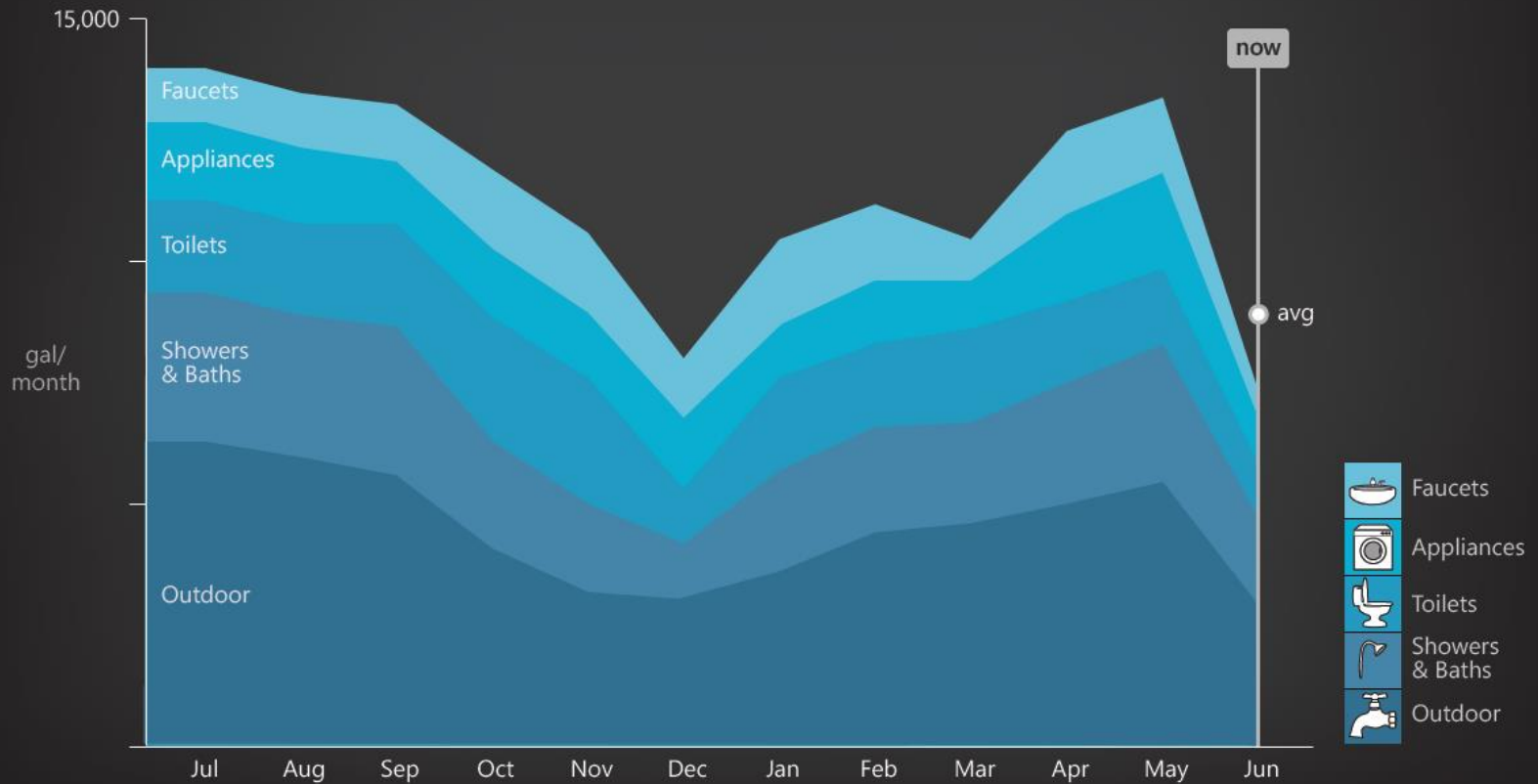
63° 

Friday June 15th | 9:30 PM

352 | 440 gal

## Water Usage in Gallons

This Year's Usage



# time-series day view

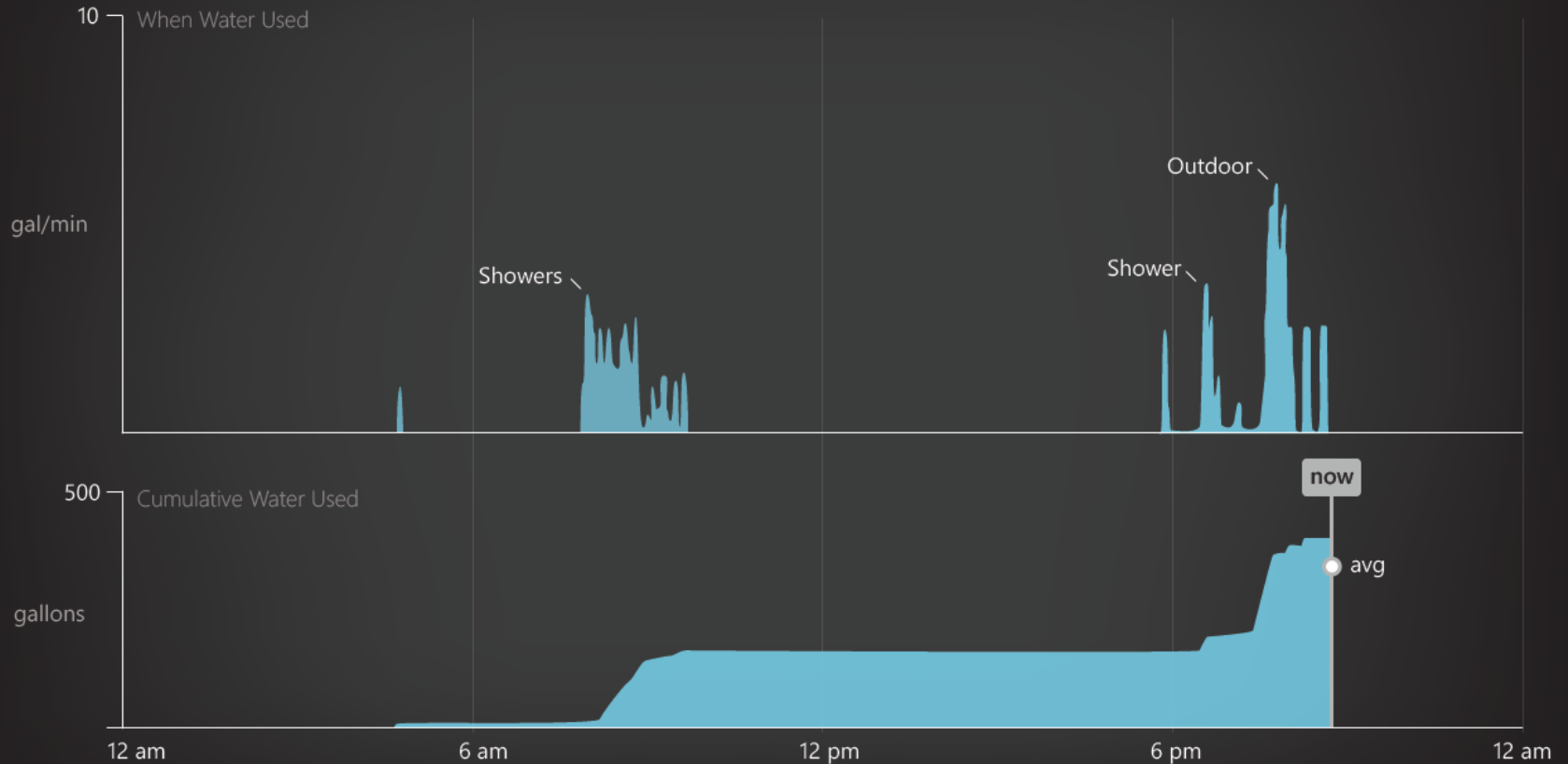
63° 

Friday June 15th | 9:30 PM

352 | 440 gal

## Water Usage in Gallons

Today's Usage



# time-series day view

## Today's Real-Time Water Usage

Fixture Category View

Friday June 15th | 9:30 PM



# spatial view

## Today's Water Usage in Gallons

Room View

Friday June 15th | 9:30 PM

**Bathroom Total:** 81.2 gal



### Shower



### Toilet



### Bathroom Sink



### Bath



**Kitchen Total:** 25 gal



### Kitchen Sink



### Dishwasher



**Laundry Total:** 40.6 gal



### Laundry Machine



### Laundry Sink



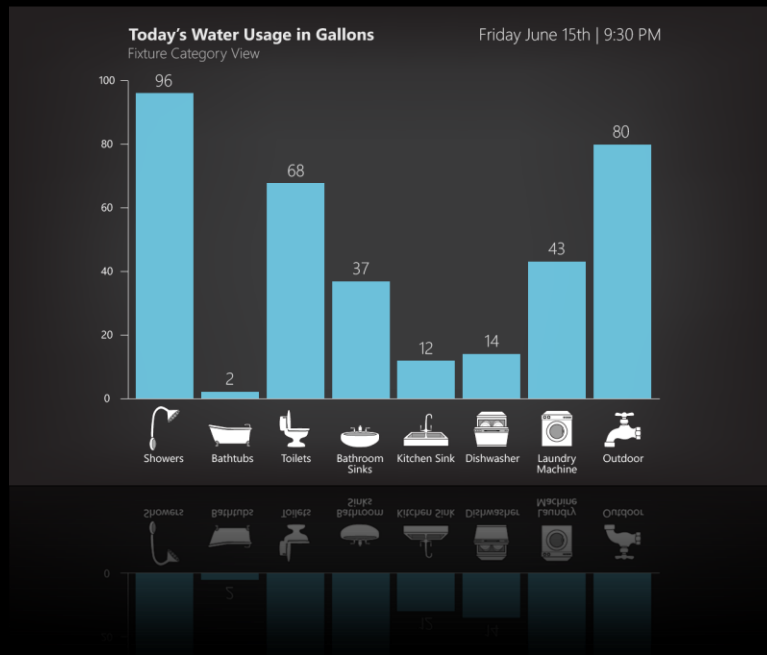
we also explored more *ambient*  
displays that were less “data-centric”  
and **more fun and playful**

# aquatic eco-system

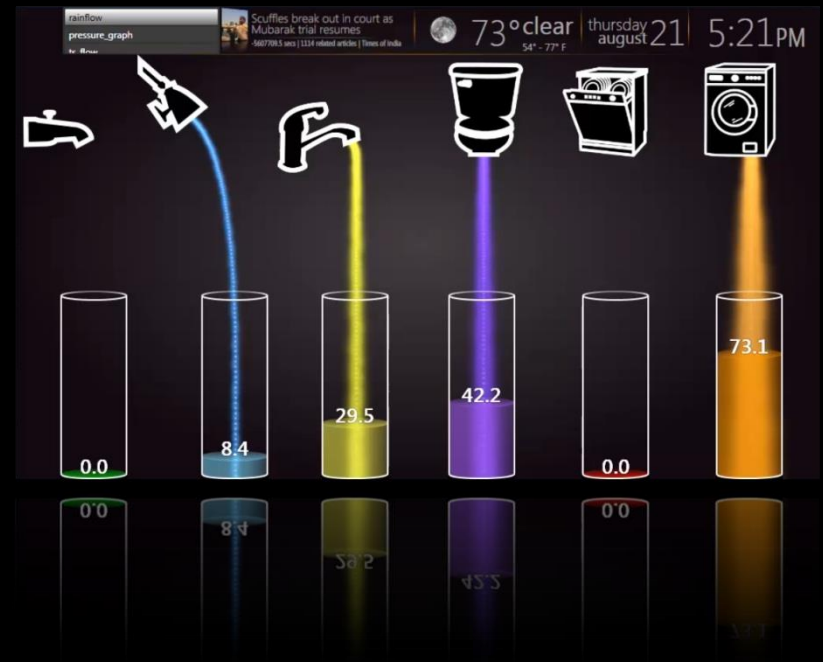


# functional vs. stylized

Bar Graph



Rainflow Bar Graph



# rainflow bar graph

```
For App.xaml
op : Application
onloading _IApplicationLoading;
etionloading apploading;
loading = apploading;

void OnStartup(StartupEventArgs e)
{
    Window window = new ReflectSimMainWindow(_IApplicationLoading);
    loading = null;
}

(e)

must be set as the startup. See: http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/x3wt538.aspx

[Attribute()]
Main(string[] args)
{
    ated = new ManualResetEvent(false);
    new Thread(ShowSplash);
    etApartmentState(ApartmentState.STA);
    sBackground = true;
    ame = "Splash Screen";
    tart();

    ated.WaitOne();
}
```



Value	Type
0.0	Double
0.0	Double

Output

Show output from: Debug

```
ReflectSim.vshost.exe (Managed v4.0.30319): Loaded 'C:\research\HydroSense\Source\Reflect\ReflectSim\bin\Release\ReflectSim.exe', Symbols loaded.
The thread 'vshost.NotifyLoad' (8x3b98) has exited with code 0 (0x0).
The thread 'vshost.LoadReference' (8x1ca4) has exited with code 0 (0x0).
'ReflectSim.vshost.exe' (Managed v4.0.30319): Loaded 'C:\research\HydroSense\Source\Reflect\ReflectSim\bin\Release\ReflectSim.exe', Symbols loaded.
'ReflectSim.vshost.exe' (Managed v4.0.30319): Loaded 'C:\research\HydroSense\Source\Reflect\ReflectSim\bin\Release\Utils.dll', Symbols loaded.
'ReflectSim.vshost.exe' (Managed v4.0.30319): Loaded 'C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_MSIL\System.Configuration\v4.0.0.0__b03f5f7f11d50a3a\System.Configuration.dll', Symbols loaded.
'ReflectSim.vshost.exe' (Managed v4.0.30319): Loaded 'C:\research\HydroSense\Source\Reflect\ReflectSim\bin\Release\Log4Net.dll', Symbols loaded.
'ReflectSim.vshost.exe' (Managed v4.0.30319): Loaded 'C:\research\HydroSense\Source\Reflect\ReflectSim\bin\Release\HydroSense.Inference.dll', Symbols loaded.
'ReflectSim.vshost.exe' (Managed v4.0.30319): Loaded 'C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_MSIL\PresentationFramework.Aero\v4.0.0.0__31bf3856ad364e38\PresentationFramework.Aero.dll', Symbols loaded.
'ReflectSim.vshost.exe' (Managed v4.0.30319): Loaded 'C:\research\HydroSense\Source\Reflect\ReflectSim\bin\Release\HydroSense.Inference.Database.dll', Symbols loaded.
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System.Windows.Data Error: 35 - Cannot convert 'null' from type 'null' to type 'System.Windows.Media.IImageSource' for 'en-US' culture with default conv...
```

# study method

- ① Online survey of 656 respondents exploring water usage attitudes, beliefs, knowledge
- ② Online survey of 651 respondents evaluating design dimensions and design probes
- ③ Interviews with 10 households examining a greater set of designs and exploring social dynamics within household

# **study** findings

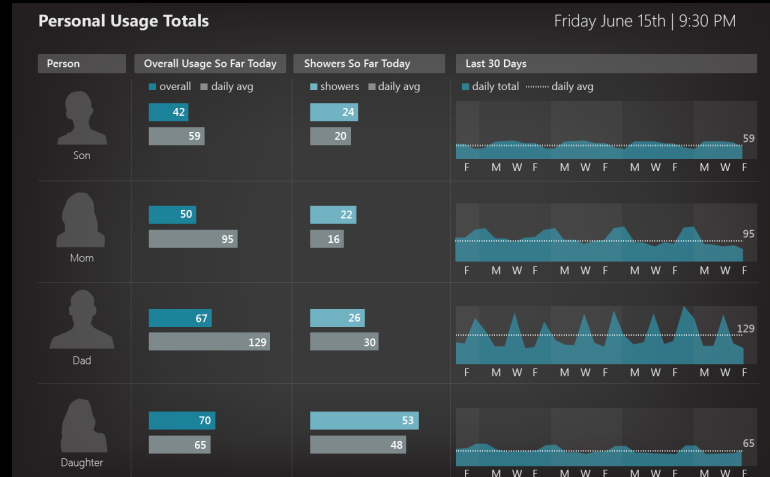
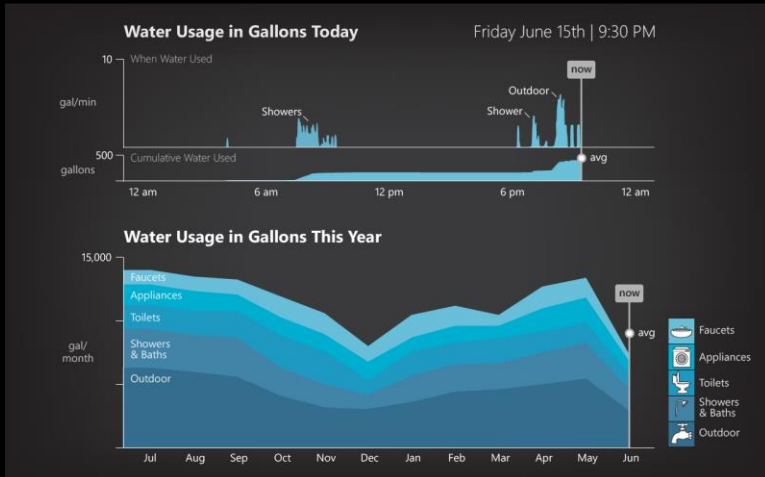
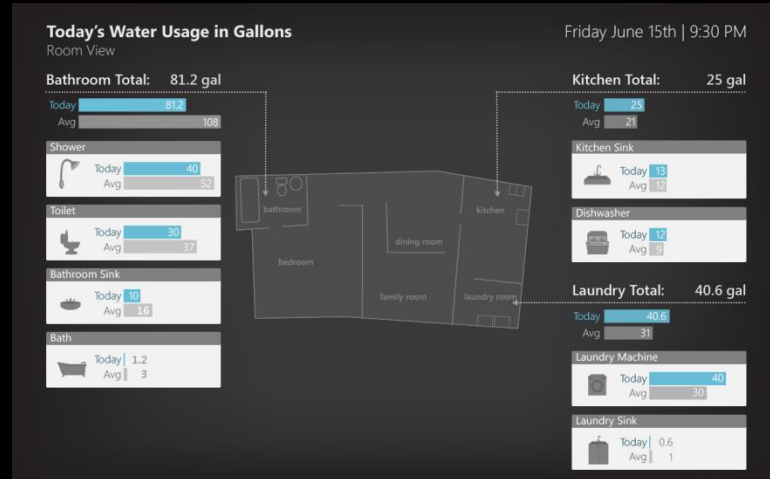
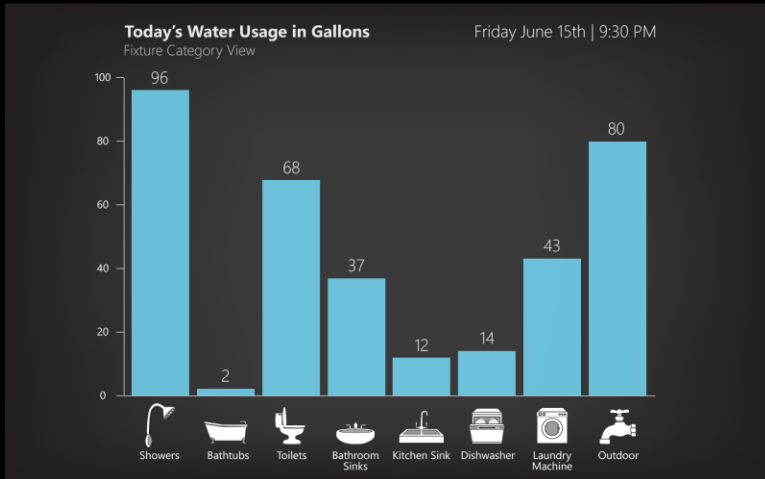
Overall preference

Privacy concerns

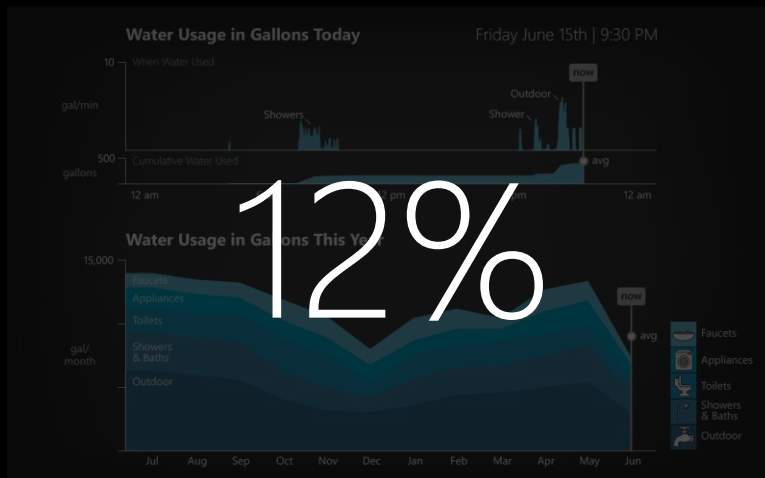
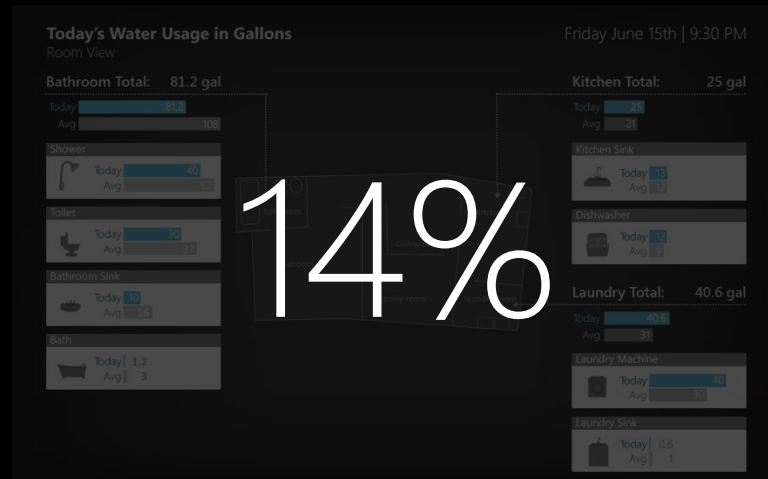
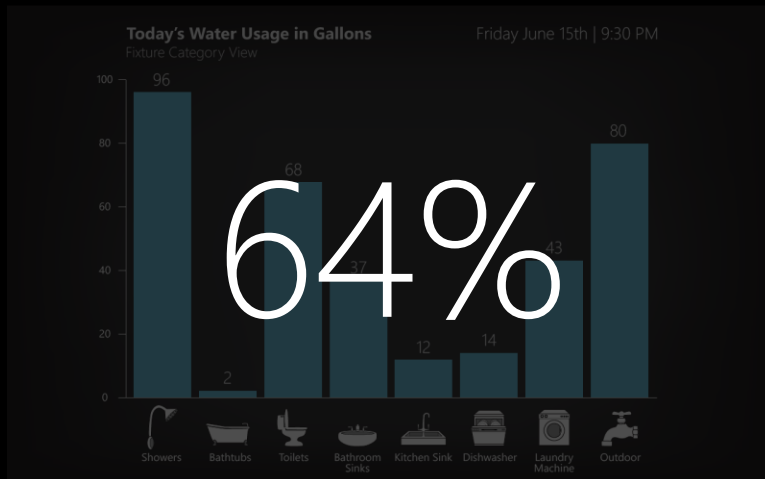
Comparison/competition

Location of display

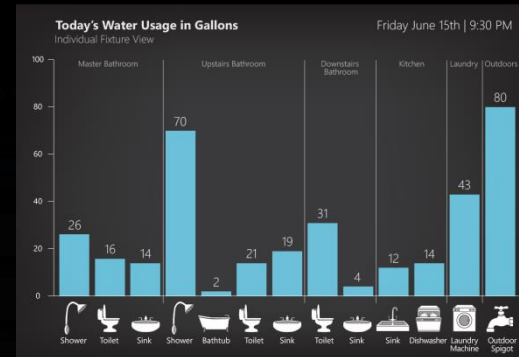
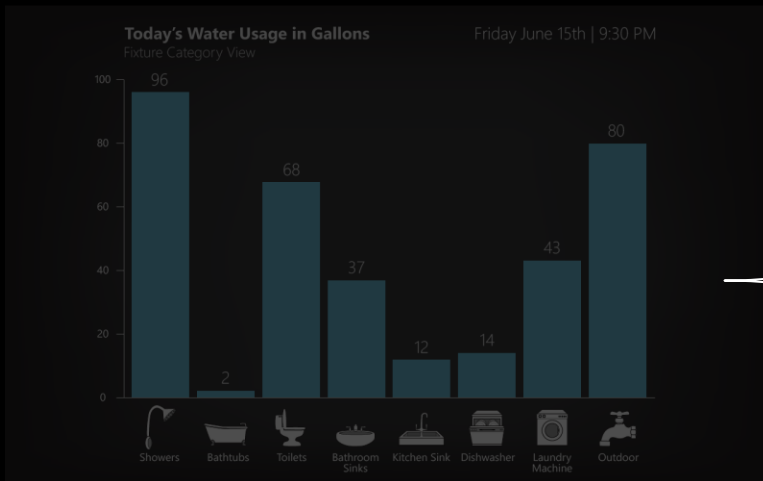
# overall preference



# overall preference

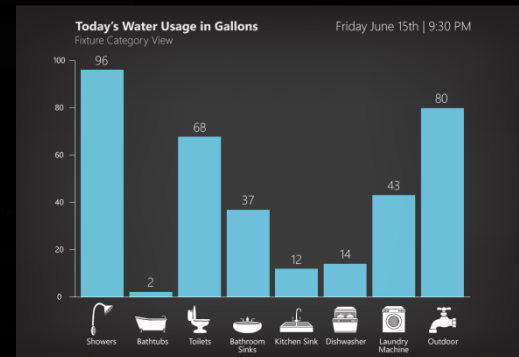


# data granularity preference



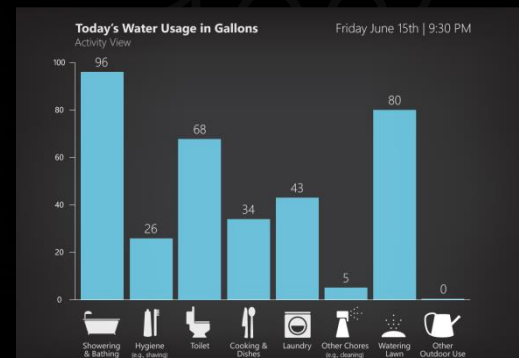
54%

Individual Fixture View



27%

Fixture Category View



19%

Activity View

# activity preference

"It's more action oriented than plumbing oriented"

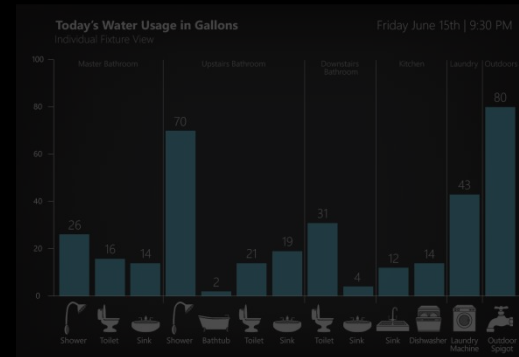
-R824

"It makes it so much easier to visualize what actions I need to take in order to reduce water usage"

-R48

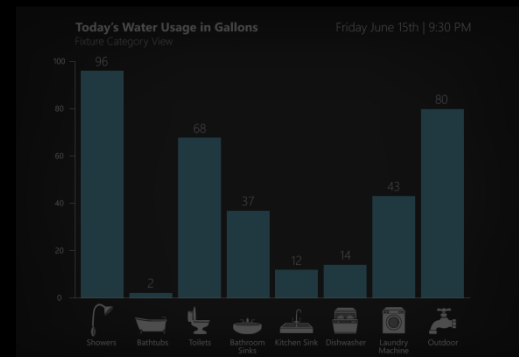
"I wouldn't trust the activity view. How do you know if I am showering or cleaning the shower?"

-R80



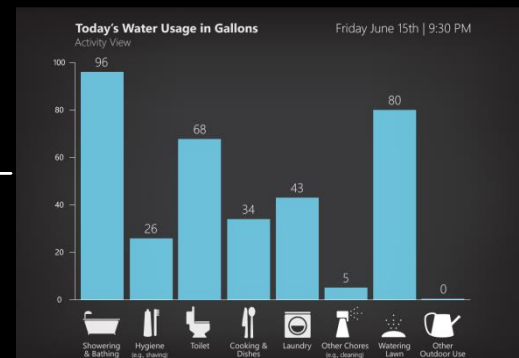
54%

Individual Fixture View



27%

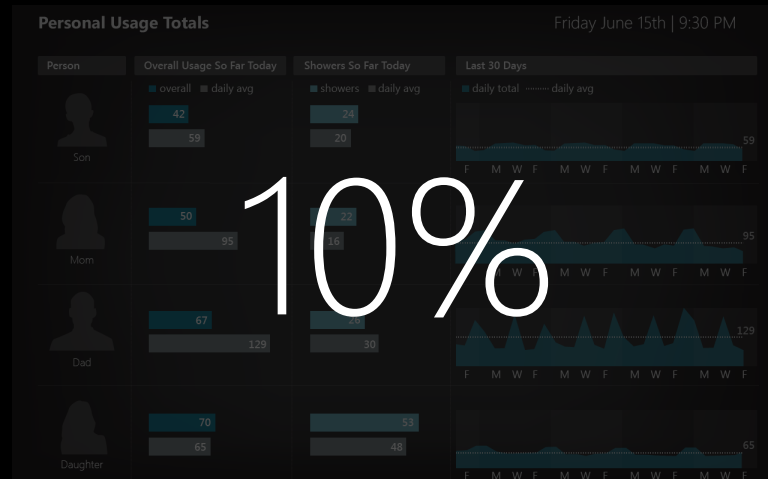
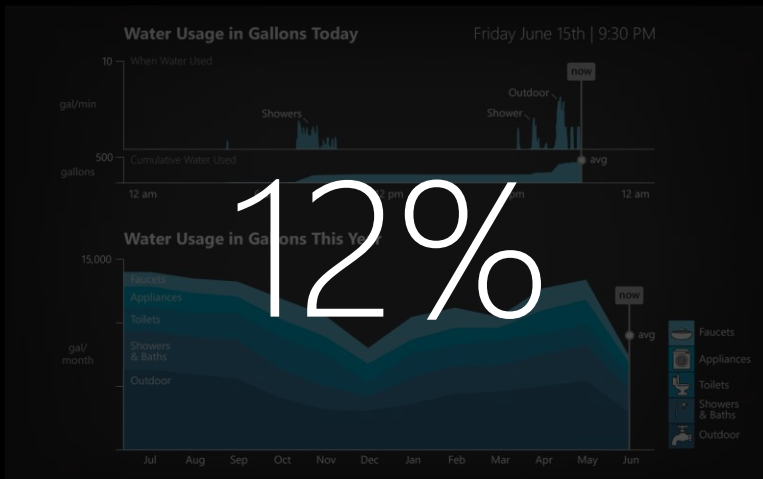
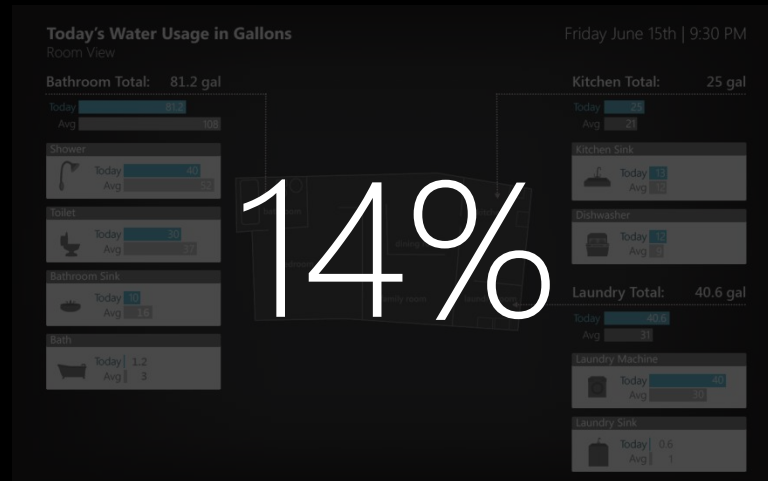
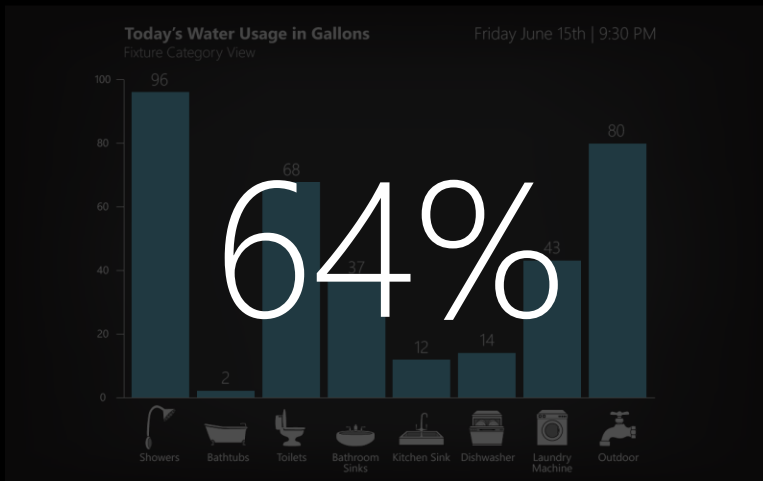
Fixture Category View



19%

Activity View

# spatial preference



# spatial preference

"The breakdown between rooms and appliances is clear and gives an intuitive sense of where water is being used"

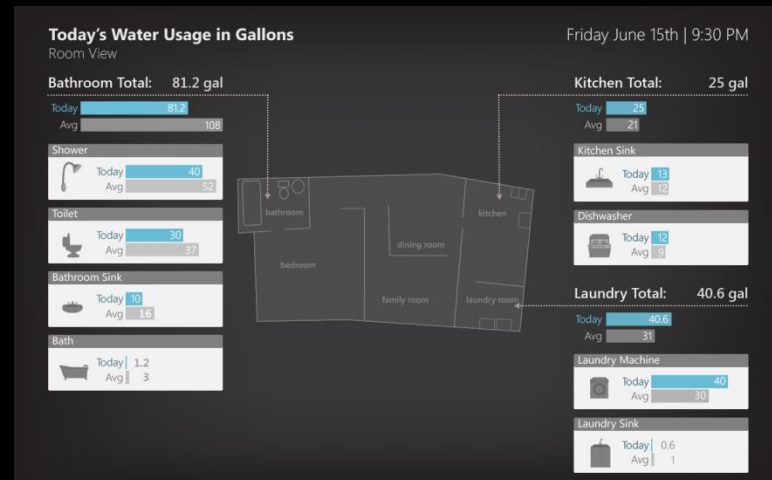
-R182

"Not sure why I'd want a map of my house here"

-R125

"We know the house layout... we don't need to see it"

-R342



# privacy concerns

It feels “creepy” (R5) or like “Big Brother” (R826)

“This display comes across more ‘big brotherish’ to me”

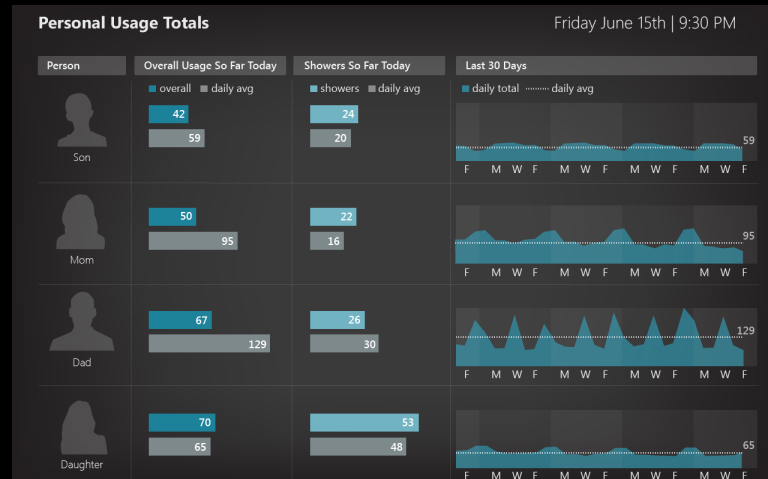
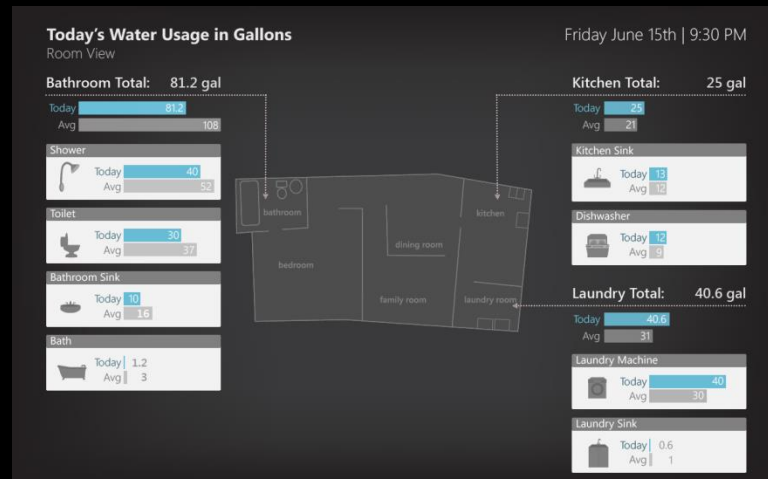
-R84

“It's incredibly invasive. And other people's water consumption is not my business”

-R25

“I feel this is an invasion of privacy within my household. I wouldn't want them to know how long I was in the shower or how many trips to the restroom I took.”

-R68



**broad** interest in comparison

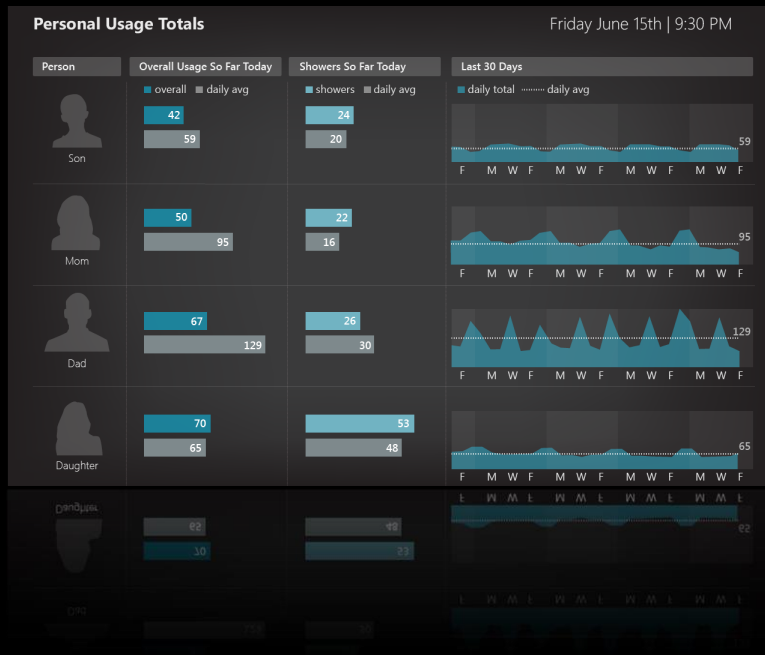
91% : self-comparison

68% : goal-comparison

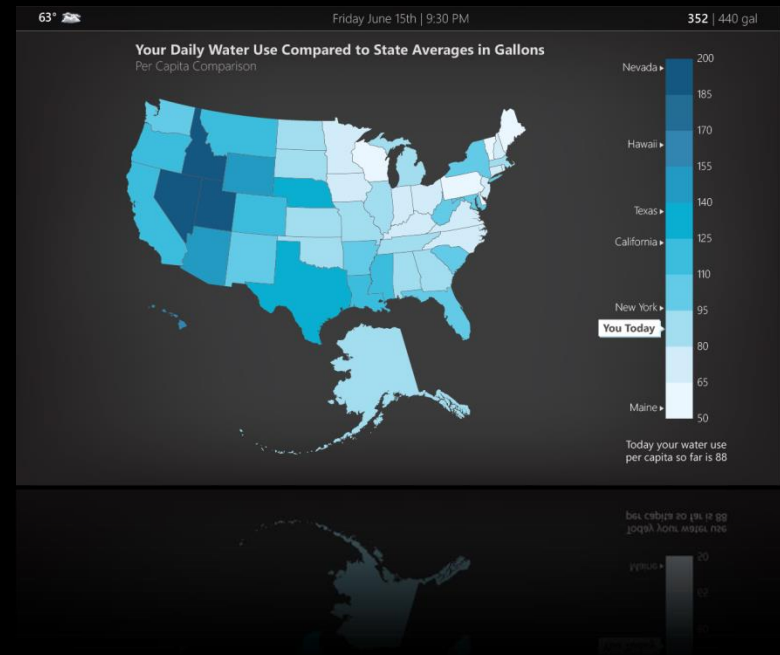
68% : social-comparison

# competition vs. cooperation

## Comparing Within Home



## Comparing Outside Home



# competition vs. cooperation

"It pits the family members together rather than encouraging collaboration."



"This display could set up a 'competitive' environment that we are trying not to create in our household."



"You can compare usage to others, and create friendly competition"

-R220

# display location preferences



# display location preferences

kitchen



near  
thermostat



high traffic  
areas

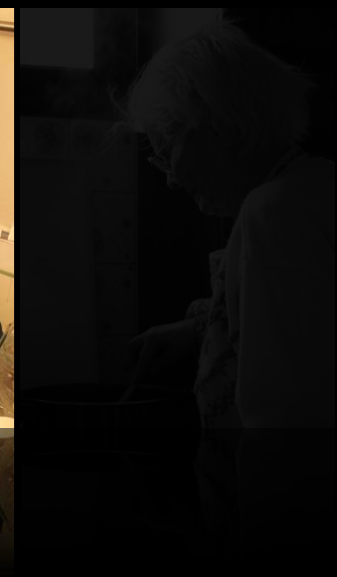
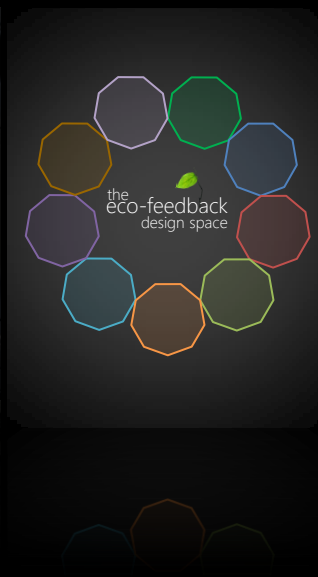


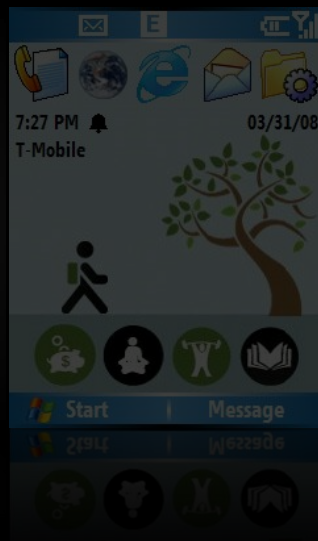
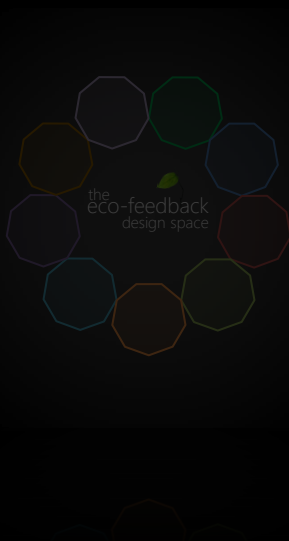
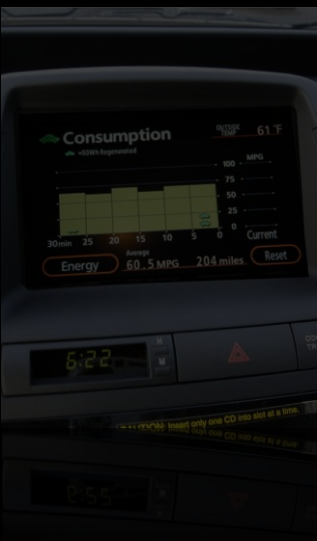
accessible  
when needed

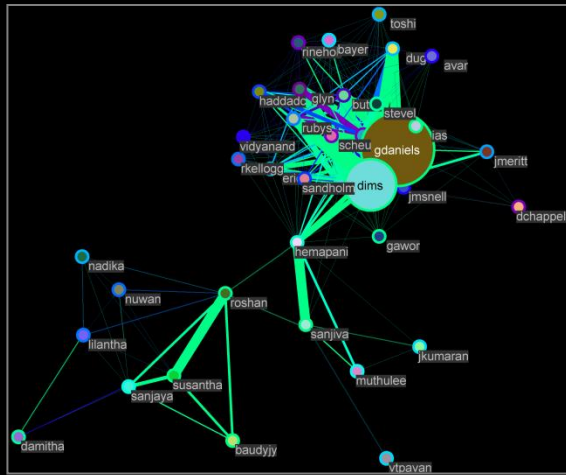


# **summary** of water vis findings

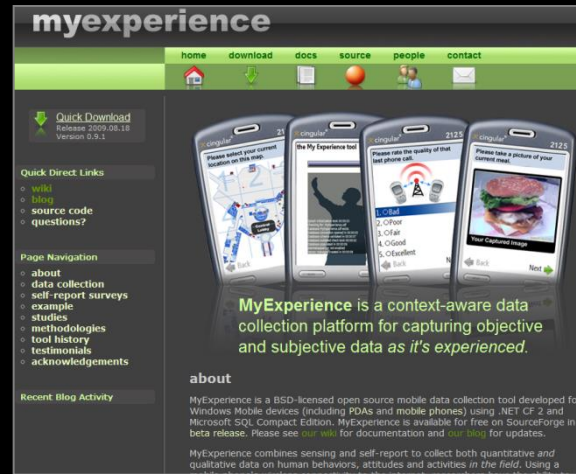
- ① Information should be simple, glanceable, easy-to-understand, actionable
- ② Comparison is important but may upset family / household dynamics
- ③ Balance between information transparency and privacy of future eco-feedback displays is likely going to affect adoption
- ④ Multiple representations of information may be necessary to satisfy different individuals in household



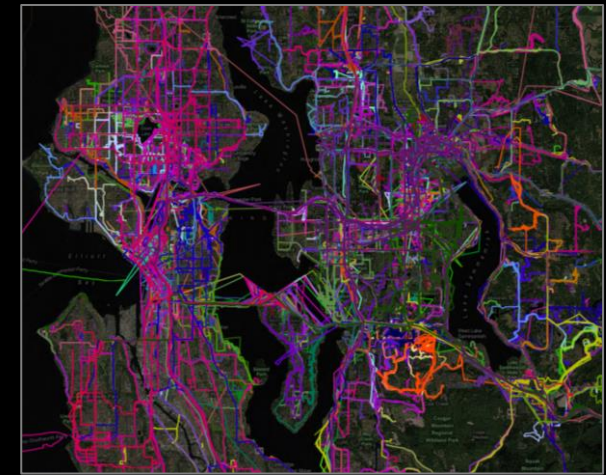




visualization and analysis tools  
of open source software teams  
[ICSE2004; GROUP2005]



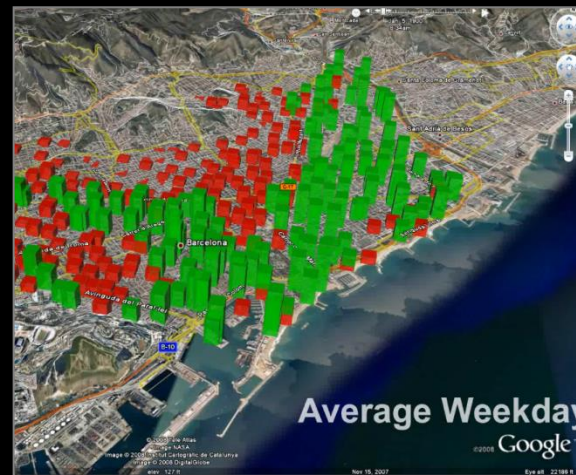
mobile tools to support field  
studies human behavior  
[MobiSys2007]



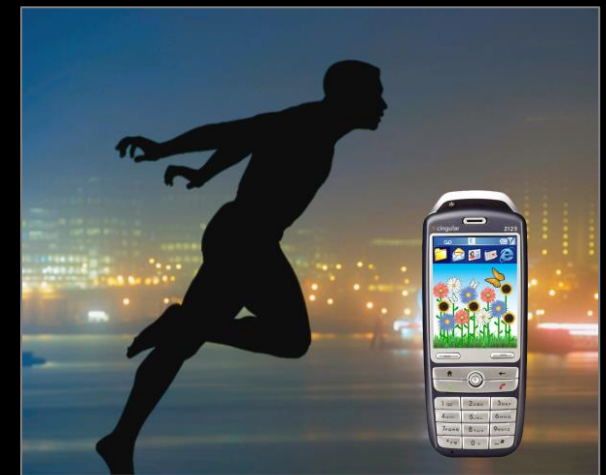
analyzing and predicting  
individual travel patterns  
[UbiComp2006; SAE2008]



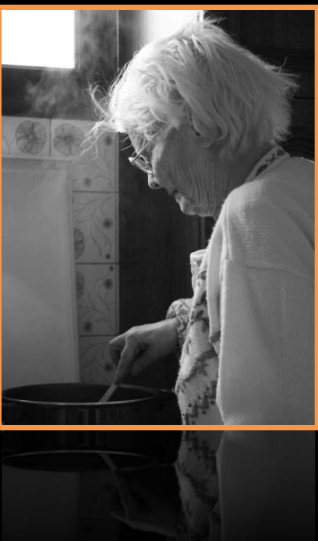
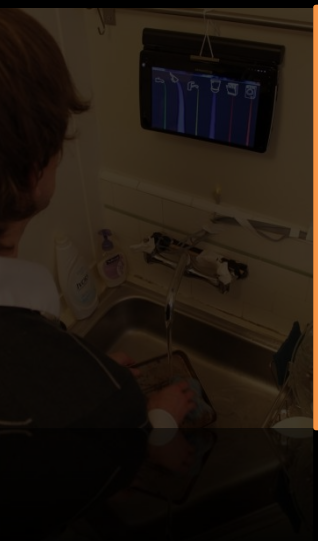
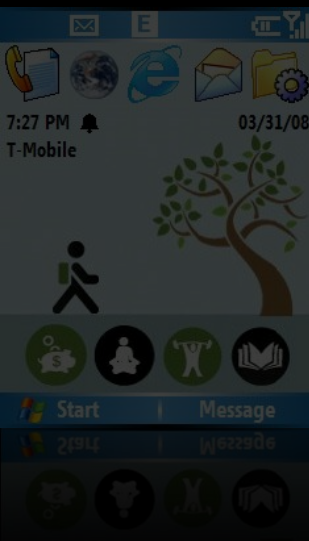
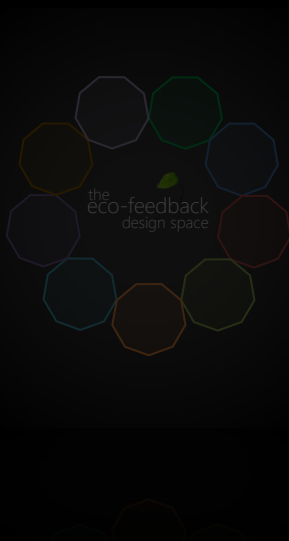
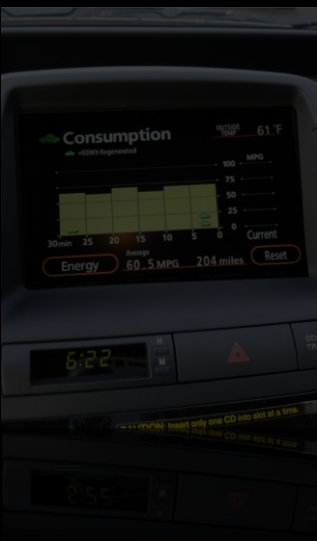
mobile device (touch screen)  
accessibility for impaired users  
[ASSETS2007; TACCESS2011]

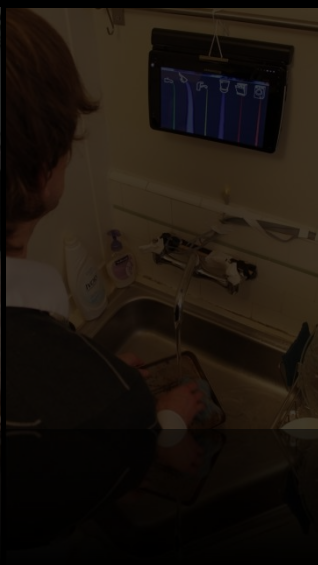
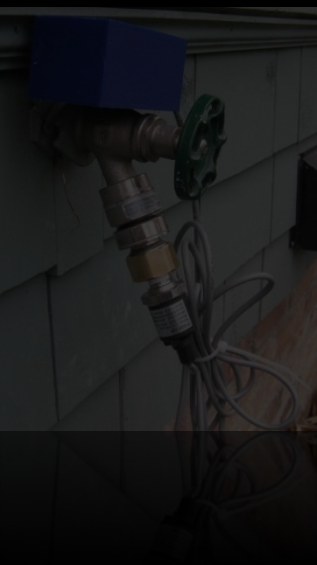
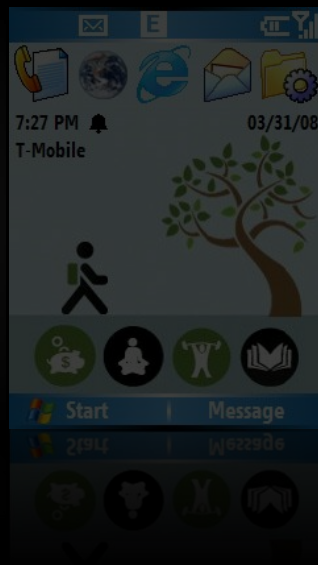
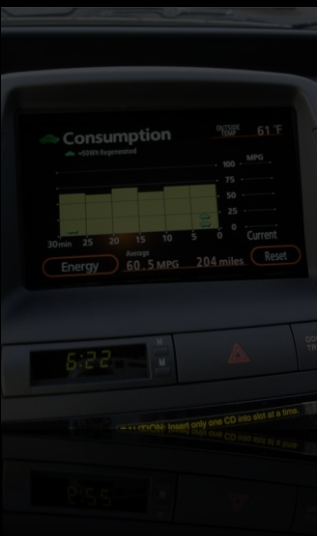


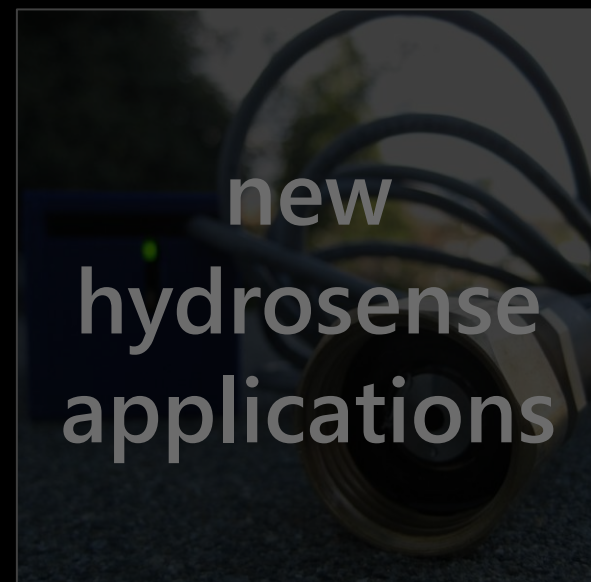
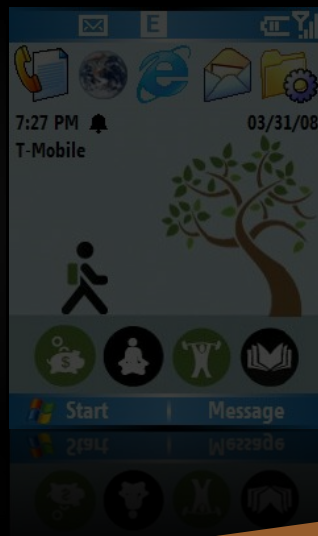
urban informatics – sensing,  
analyzing & visualizing cities  
[UrbanSense2008; IJCAI2008; ICDM2011]



sensing and feedback of health  
and wellness behaviors  
[CHI2008; UbiComp2008]

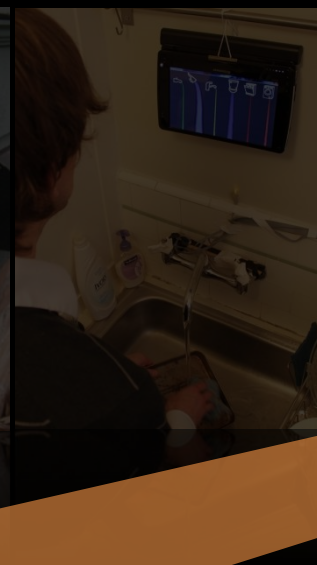
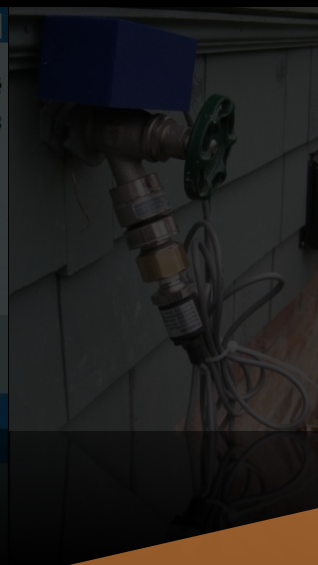
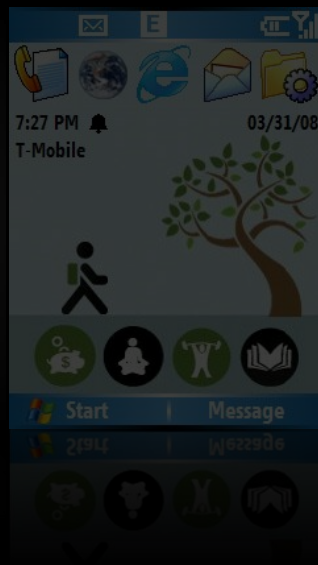
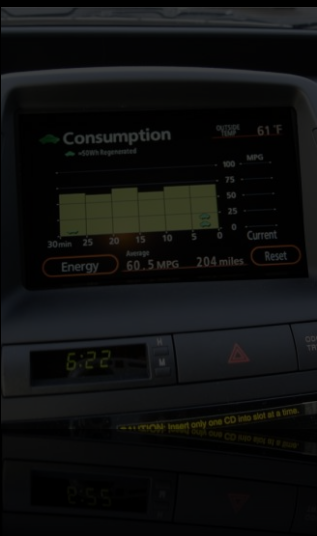






# eco-feedback future work

1. exploring lightweight field deployment study designs
2. longitudinal behavioral intervention study of water visualizations
3. applications of eco-feedback to health behaviors





sensing at a  
massive scale  
“urban informatics”

A person wearing a bright yellow jacket is riding a red shared bicycle. The bicycle has a white fender with the 'bicing' logo and the website 'www.bicing.com'. In the background, there is a large, historic stone building with arched windows and a courtyard filled with many other red shared bicycles. Another person in a dark jacket is standing near a bicycle on the right. The scene is set in an urban environment with cobblestone pavement.

sensing and  
predicting the  
movement of a  
city via shared  
bicycling

[Froehlich et al., UrbanSense2008; IJCAI2009]

# bicing

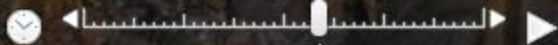
barcelona, spain

Summer 2008:

- 373 stations
- 6,000 bicycles
- 150,000 subscribers







Jul 16, 2009  
3:59am

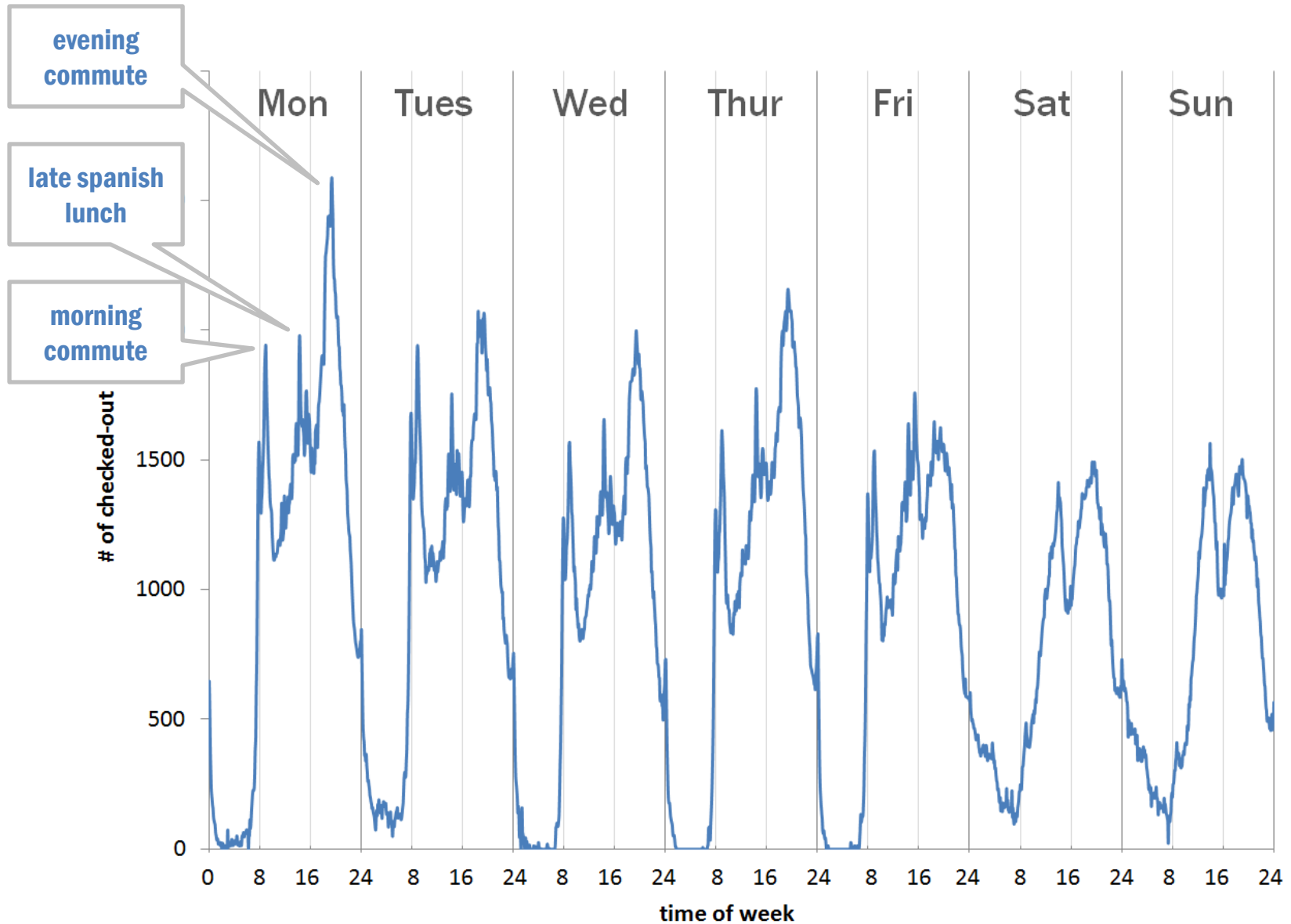


2724 m

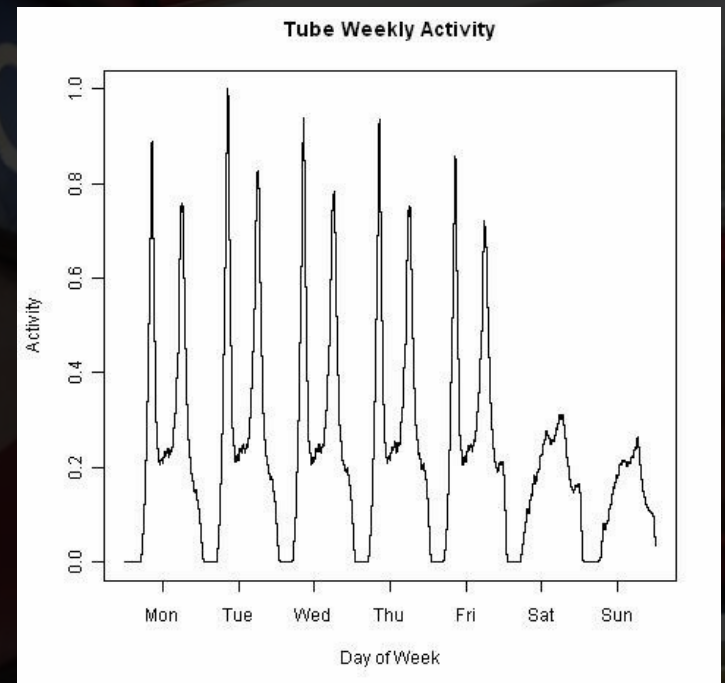
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image © 2009 Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya  
Image © 2009 TerraMetrics

©2008 Google

# num checked-out bicycles across all stations

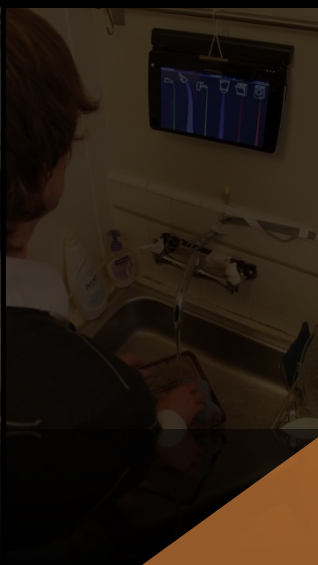
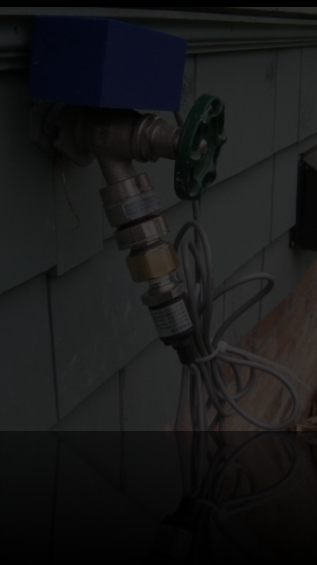
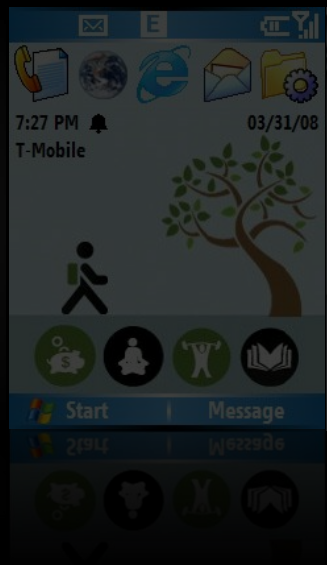


# what can we learn if we combine data from other sources?



how should this  
real-time  
information be  
visualized and  
accessed?

can we use this  
data to  
automatically  
detect events in  
the city?





63°

Friday June 15th | 9:30 PM

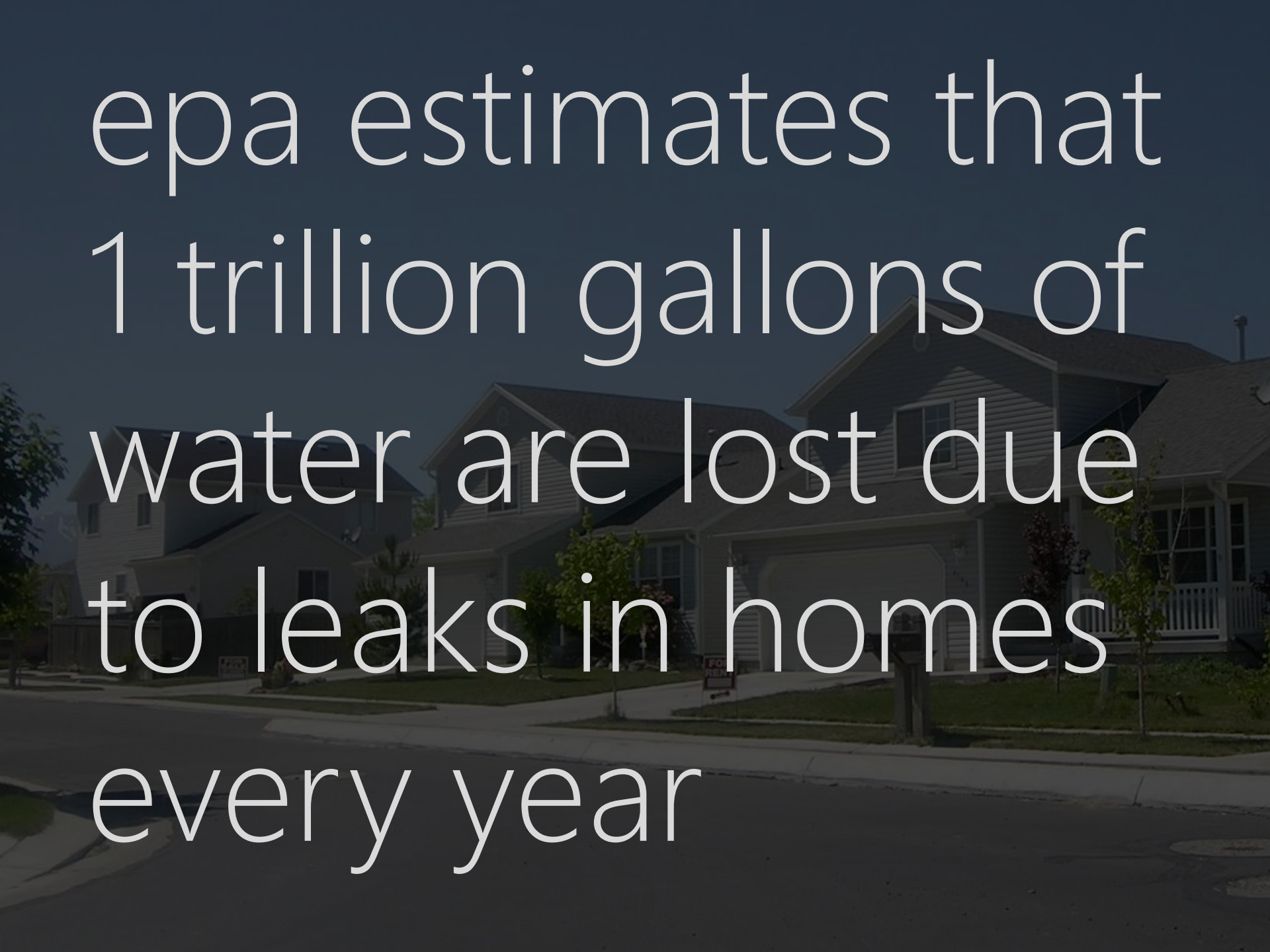
30,222 | 28,970 gal

### Today's Water Usage in Gallons

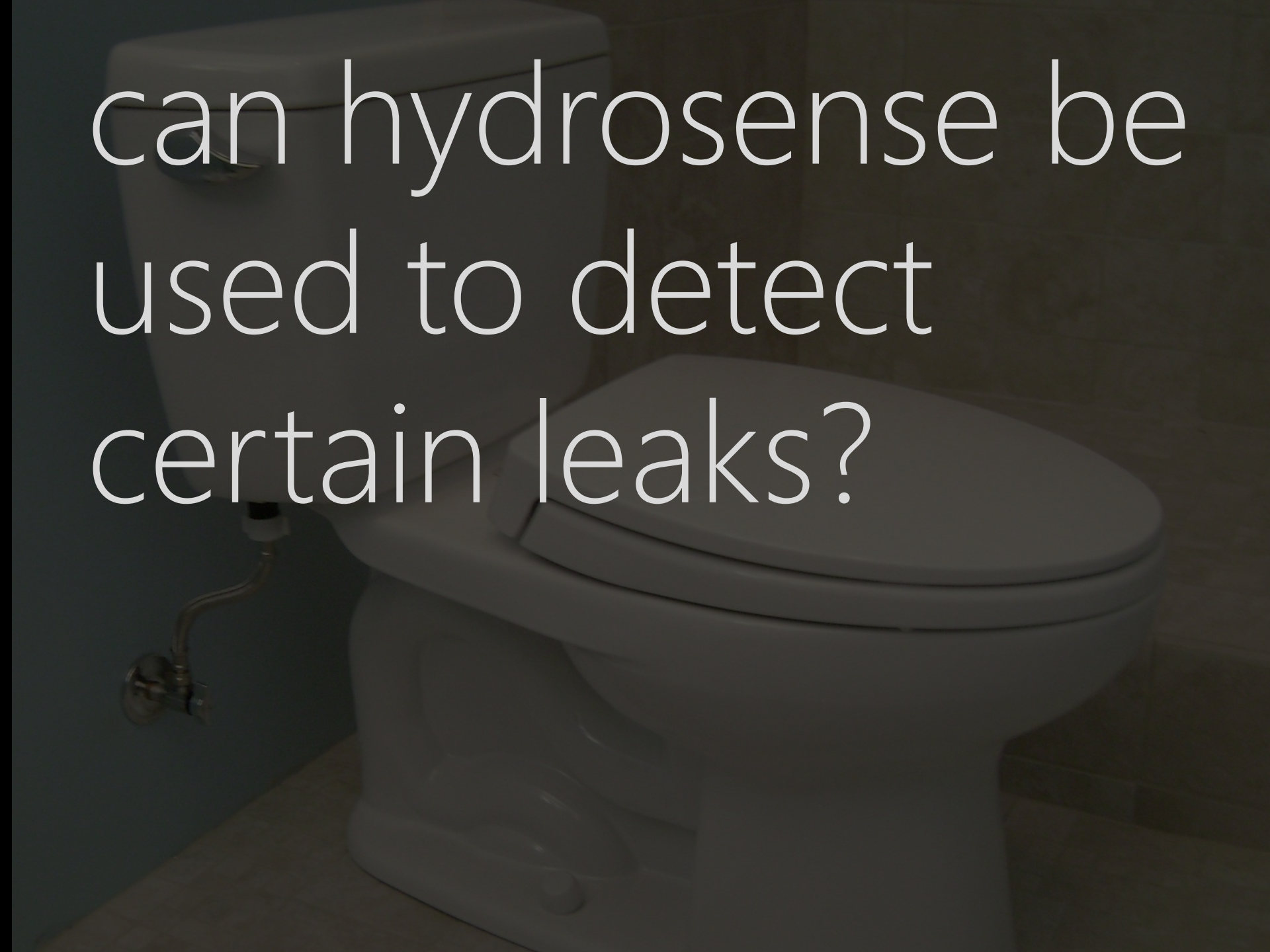
Individual Fixture View



epa estimates that  
1 trillion gallons of  
water are lost due  
to leaks in homes  
every year

A row of suburban houses with a dark overlay. The houses are two-story, light-colored with dark roofs. There are small trees and lawns in front of them. The text is overlaid in white, sans-serif font.

can hydrosense be  
used to detect  
certain leaks?

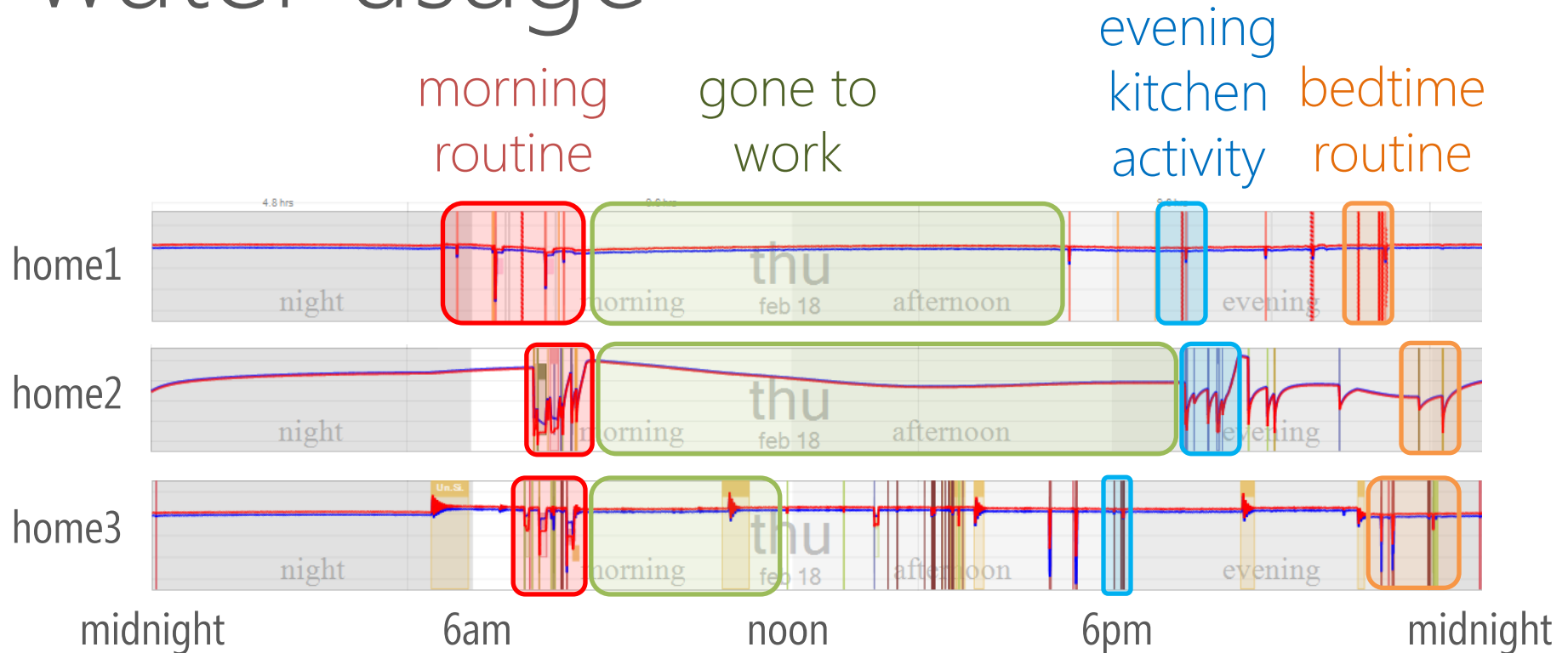


# hydrosense algorithms

1. minimal training set
2. cross-home training
3. unsupervised learning



# behavioral patterns of water usage



how predictable are home water usage patterns?

how can  
**hydrosense** be  
used to **support**  
**aging in place**  
applications?



# assisted living applications





# acknowledgements

## **uw professors**

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James Fogarty, CSE, UW  
Les Atlas, EE, UW

## **grad/post-doc/prof collaborators**

Eric Larson, EE, UW  
Gabe Cohn, EE, UW  
Sidhant Gupta, CSE, UW  
Kate Everitt, CSE, UW  
Pedja Klasnja, iSchool, UW  
Leah Findlater, iSchool, UW  
Marilyn Ostergren, iSchool, UW  
Neal Lathia, CS, UCL  
Tawanna Dillahunt, HCII, CMU  
Eric Hekler, Stanford University

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## **undergrad collaborators**

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Elliot Saba, EE, UW  
Michael Chou, EE, UW  
Conor Haggerty, Col. Env., UW  
Fabia Fu, Pre-engineering, UW  
Solai Ramanathan, Pre-engineering, UW  
Inness Wragg, Design, UW  
Josh Peterson, DxArts, UW  
Cissy Bai, Pre-engineering, UW  
Jeff Beorse, EE, UW

## **external collaborators**

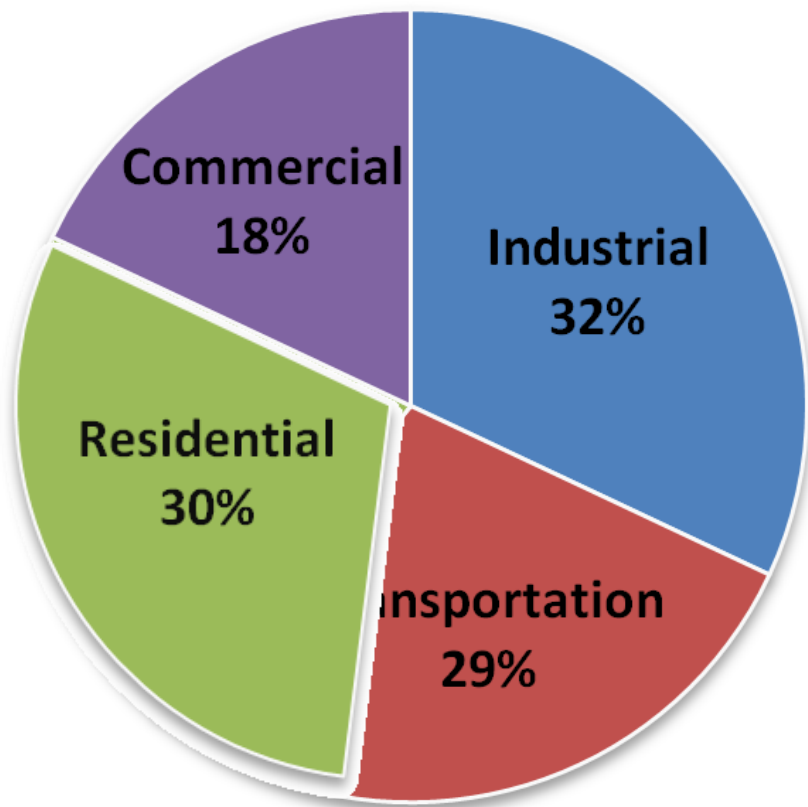
Jennifer Mankoff, HCII, CMU  
Matt Reynolds, ECE, Duke  
John Krumm, Microsoft Research  
Nuria Oliver, Telefonica Research  
Joachim Neumann, Telefonica Research  
Sunny Consolvo, Intel Labs  
Beverly Harrison, Intel Labs  
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# thank you!

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# US Energy Consumption by Sector



# US Public Water Use by Sector

