CityTaps in Paris

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• CityTaps is a startup working to bring water to 750,000,000 of the world’s urban poor by eliminating the prohibitive initial costs required to get water piped to one’s home.

• My primary responsibility was preparing the prototype for its first field test in Niamey, Niger

• I also drafted a new iteration that could be mass-produced
Most rewarding aspect

• Agile startup pace meant we had short iterations and I constantly got to see how my work was improving the product

• The very first batch of watermeters ship to Niamey, Niger in enclosures I had finished building just hours earlier
Impact

• An algorithm I wrote used data I gathered to reduce the meter’s error by an order of magnitude, bringing it within international regulations
• The first field test used parts I designed
• I’ve modeled the groundwork for future iterations
Academic choices and career plans

• I learned I am not actually interested in ELE, but that I would like to take electives involving mechanical design

• I really liked CityTaps social mission to bring in-home water to ¾ of a billion people, which has been shown to reduce disease transmission and incidences of rape, to save money, to raise women’s income, to allow girls to attend school, etc.
I thought moldy cheese sounded revolting, but I tried it anyway because it seemed like a ‘French’ thing to do. I ended up eating ten blocks of it while in Paris.

This summer I had great experiences by trying things I wouldn’t normally do. If the French liked it, why not me?