Introduction to Lab-on-a-chip

Polymer-based microfluidic sensors 塑膠基材之微流體感測器

December 14th, 2018

Introduction

Micro/Nano Technologies

Biochips

microfluidics & lab-on-a-chip microarrays (gene, protein, tissue) <u>BioMEMS</u> silicon-based sensors actuators (implants, needles, etc.) <u>Nanoparticles</u> (Q dots, C nanotubes, etc) imaging, detection drug delivery

Chemistry

Combinatorial synthesis Microreactors

Biomaterials

Tissue engineering & organ regeneration e.g. scaffolding

Medicine

<u>Therapeutics</u> Drug Target discovery Compound screening Drug release Targeted delivery

Diagnostics Biomarker discovery Sensing platforms Biology

Analysis of DNA, RNA, proteins, metabolites...interactions & networks

"translational medicine"

Lab-on-a-Chip vs. Microfluidics

Microfluidics is a microtechnological <u>field</u> dealing with the precise transport of fluids (liquids or gases) in small amounts (e.g. microliters, nanoliters or even picoliters).

A Lab-on-a-Chip (LOC) is a <u>device</u> that integrates one or several laboratory functions on a single chip of only millimeters to a few square centimeters in size.

LOCs deal with the handling of extremely small fluid volumes down to less than pico liters. <u>Lab-on-a-Chip devices are a subset</u> of MEMS devices and often indicated by "Micro Total Analysis Systems" (µTAS) as well.

However, strictly regarded "Lab-on-a-Chip" or "µTAS" indicate generally the scaling of single or multiple lab processes to perform chemical analysis.

The term "Lab-on-a-Chip" was introduced later on when it turned out that µTAS technologies were more widely applicable than only for analysis purposes.

History

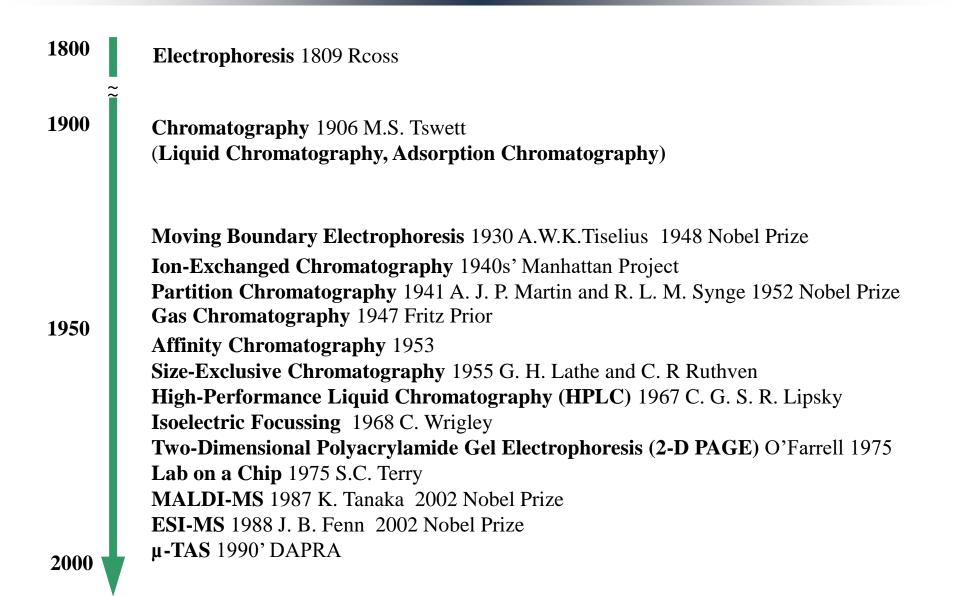
At beginning of the 1990's, the LOC research started to seriously grow as a few research groups in Europe developed micropumps, flowsensors and the concepts for integrated fluid treatments for analysis systems.

These µTAS concepts demonstrated that integration of pretreatment steps, usually done at lab-scale, could extend the simple sensor functionality towards a <u>complete laboratory analysis</u>, including e.g. additional cleaning and <u>separation steps</u>.

A big boost in research and commercial interest came in the mid 1990's, when µTAS technologies turned out to provide interesting tooling for genomics applications, like <u>capillary electrophoresis</u> and <u>DNA microarrays</u>. A big boost in research support also came from the military, especially from DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency), for their interest in <u>portable</u> <u>bio/chemical warfare agent detection systems</u>.

Point of care diagnostics.

Timeline



Global Health Program



http://www.fiscalliteracy.com



http://science.howstuffworks.com



http://www.h2o2.com/



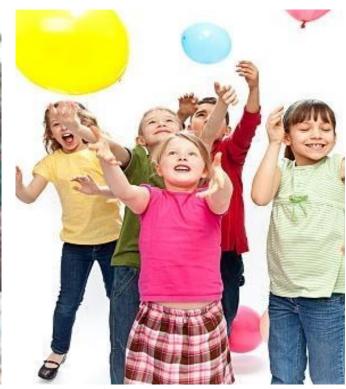
http://aglaw.blogspot.tw



http://pocd.com.au/



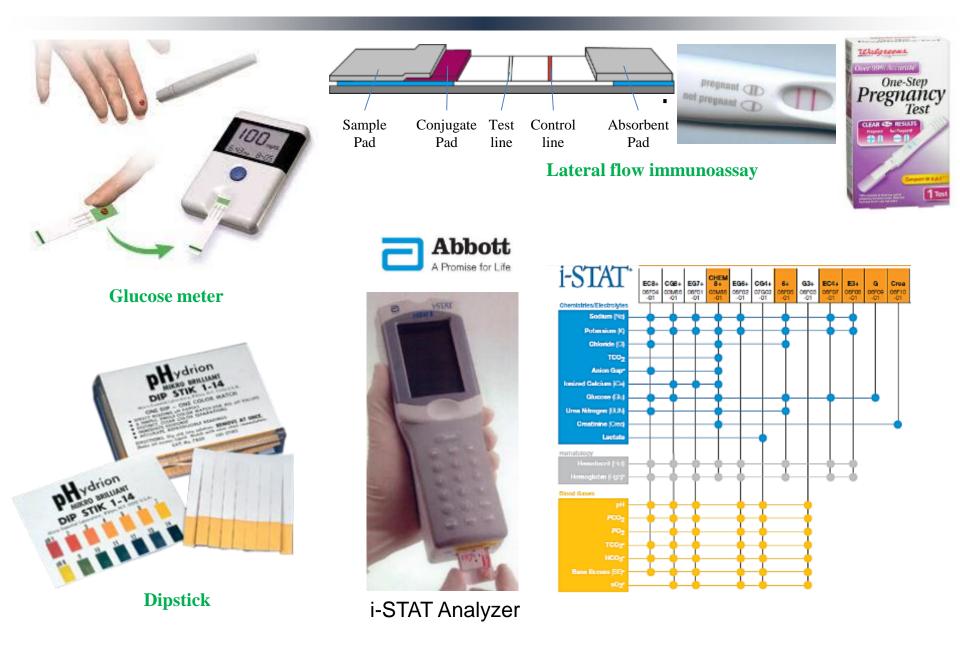


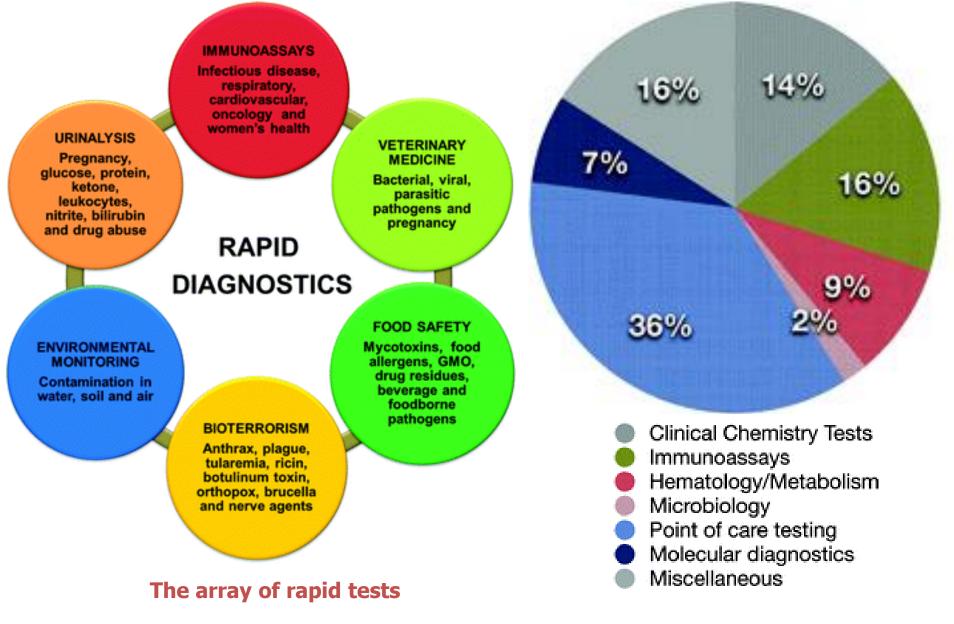


http://www.agilent.com

www.birthday-party-resource.com

Point of Care - Commercial Available Products





In vitro Diagnostics Market Segments

Lab-on-a-Chip Integration



- Low fluid volumes consumption
- Faster analysis and response times
- Better process control
- Compactness of the systems
- Lower fabrication costs
- Safer platform
- Miniaturize
 - Automate
 - Integrate

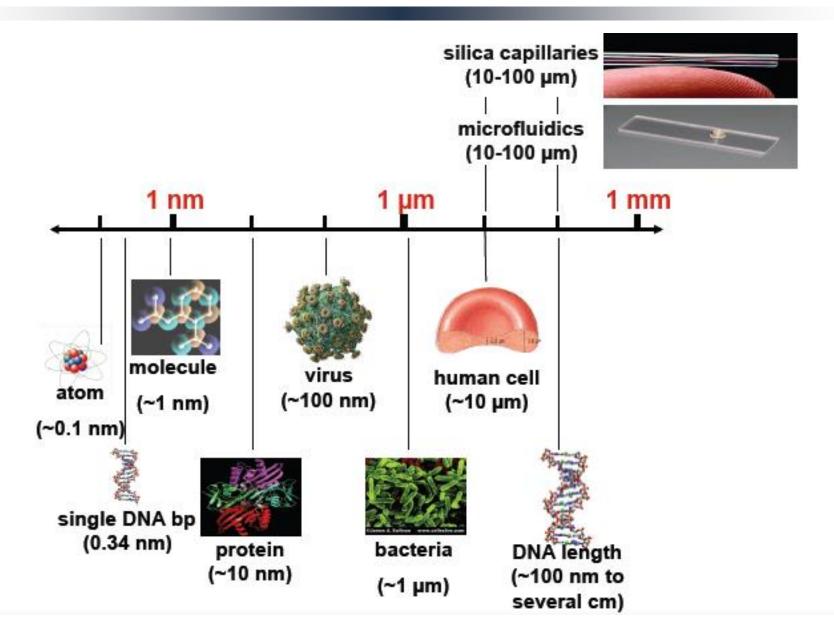
- Silicon

- Glass

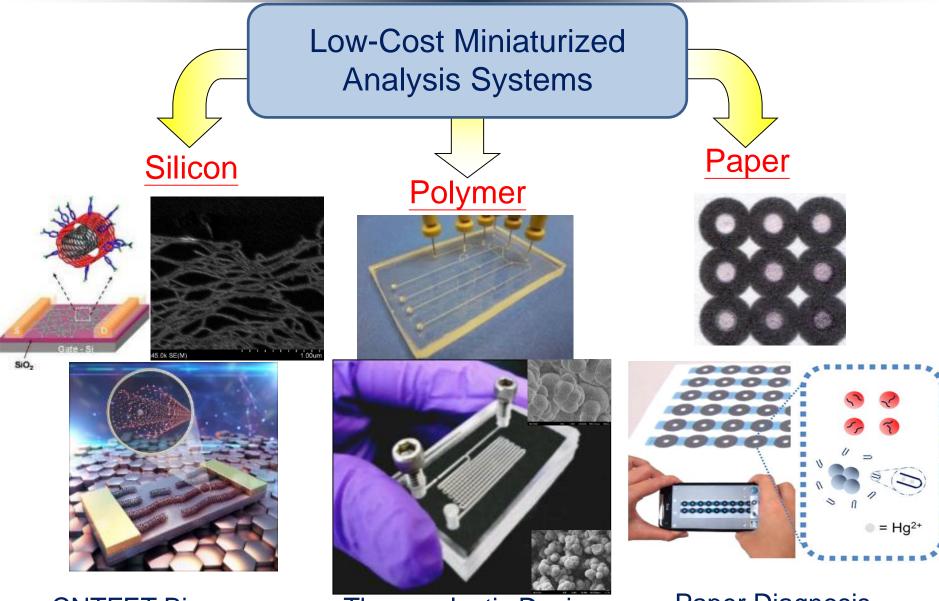
- Polymer

- Paper

Size Scale



Portable Miniaturized Analytical System



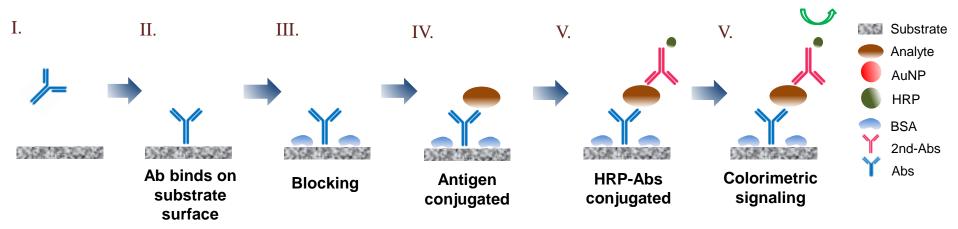
CNTFET Biosensor

Thermoplastic Device

Paper Diagnosis

Basic Principles - Molecular Diagnostics

Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

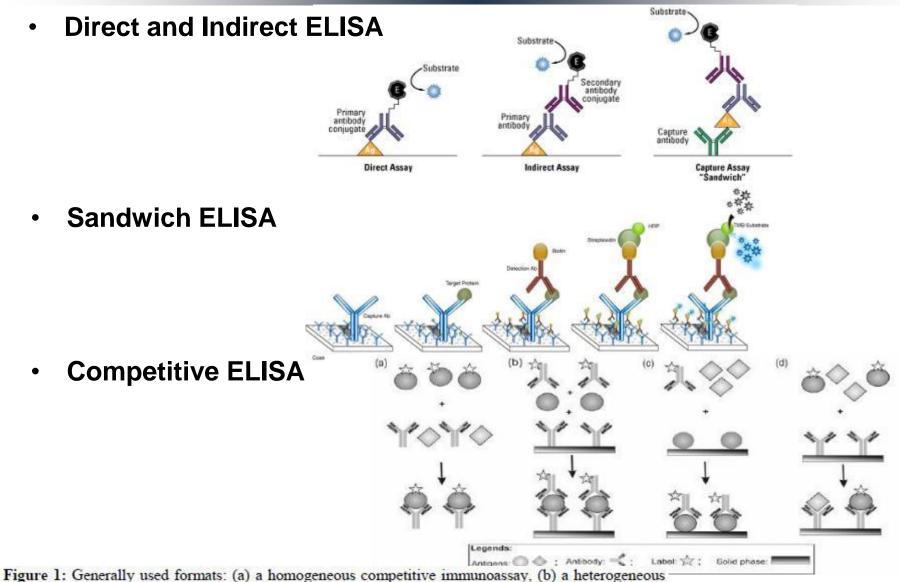


DNA hybridization or Aptamer binding

	 alth	+			
Extracted DNA		Detection ssDNA	 Denature	 Anneal	

MTBC

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)



non-competitive immunoassay, (c) a heterogeneous competitive immunoassay and (d) a heterogeneous competitive immunometric assay.

Commercial POC NAT Platforms

Platform	Manufacturer	Sample prep included?	Amplification	Detection	Time to result (min) ^a	Website
GeneXpert	Cepheid	Y	PCR	RTF	<120	www.cepheid.com
Liat Analyzer	lQuum	Y	PCR	RTF	<60	www.iquum.com
MDx	Biocartis	Y	PCR	RTF	Unknown	www.biocartis.com
FL/ML	Enigma	Y	PCR	RTF	<45	www.enigmadiagnostics.com
FilmArray	Idaho technologies	Y	PCR	RTF	60	www.idahotech.com
Razor	Idaho technologies	N	PCR	RTF	<60	www.idahotech.com
R.A.P.I.D.	Idaho technologies	N	PCR	RTF	<30	www.idahotech.com
LA-200	Eiken	N	Isothermal (LAMP)	RTT	< 60	www.eiken.co.jp
Twista	TwistDX	N	lsothermal (RPA)	RTF	< 20	www.twistdx.co.uk
BART	Lumora	N	Isothermal (LAMP)	RTB	< 60	lumora.co.uk/
Genie II	Optigene	N	Isothermal (LAMP)	RTF	< 20	www.optigene.co.uk
SAMBA	Diagnostics for the Real World	N	lsothermal (similar to NASBA)	NALF	> 60	Not available
BESt Cassette ^b	BioHelix/ Ustar Biotech	N	Not included, but typically isothermal	NALF	N/A	www.biohelix.com; www.bioustar.com

^aTime to result depends upon the particular assay. Longer times may be required for assays with a reverse transcriptase step.

^bDevice sold by BioHelix in the USA; manufactured and sold by Ustar Biotech in China. Abbreviations: RTB real-time bioluminescence; RTF real-time fluorescence; RTT real-time turbidimetry.

Example POC NAT platforms that are commercially available or close to market.

Polymer

Disposable Analytical Chips

0 µm

\$0 \$0

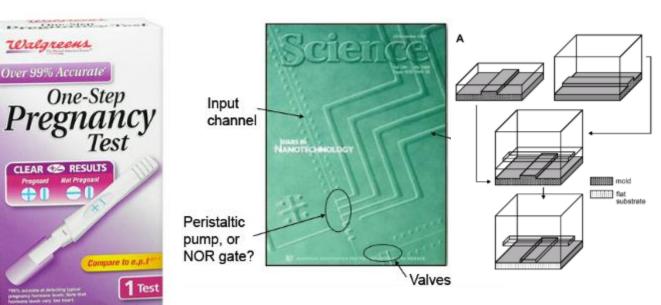
Examples

- Point-of-care systems
- PoC can accurately cover ~70% of requested tests.





i-STAT Analyzer



Fluidigm—the largest commercial µTAS technology company currently in the market build their microfluidic systems using deformable elastomers (NanoFlex valves).

Advantages

Scalable

- Simple fabrication
- Rapid diagnosis
- Real time
- Cost effective
- Portable
- Disposable
- Multiplex diagnosis (arrays)
- User friendly
- High sensitive (Automatic, digital readout)
- Flexible
- Easy to store
- Avoid damage during transportation
- The wettablility of paper help biosensing without external follow control systems
- Directly sensing (not depends on enzyme reaction)
- Enhance the healthcare in extreme places such as developing world and battle fields.

- 2.2. Selection of Polymer Materials
- 2.2.1. Polydimethylsiloxane
- 2.2.2. Cyclic Olefin Copolymer
- 2.3. Fabrication of Polymer Devices
- 2.3.1. Structure Formation
- 2.3.1.1. Soft Lithography
- 2.3.1.2. Injection Molding
- 2.3.1.3. Hot Embossing
- 2.3.1.4. Nanoimprint Lithography
- 2.3.1.5. Direct Machining
- 2.3.1.6. Laser-Printed
- 2.3.2. Device Sealing
- 2.3.2.1. Adhesive Bonding
- 2.3.2.2. Thermal Bonding
- 2.3.2.3. Solvent Bonding
- 2.3.2.4. Welding
- 2.3.3. World-to-Chip Interface
- 2.4. Fluidic Control Components
- 2.4.1. Valve
- 2.4.2. Pump
- 2.4.3. Mixer

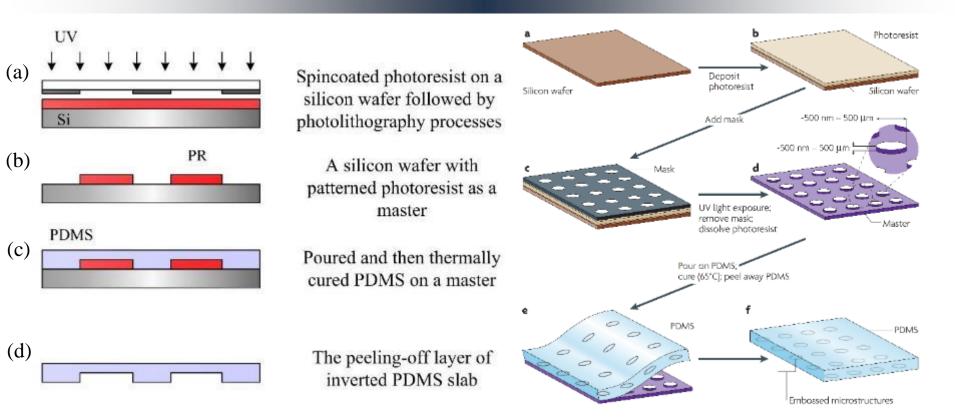
Properties of Common Polymeric Materials

Polymer	Acronym	Tg (⁰C)	CTE (10 ⁻⁶⁰ C- ¹)	Water absorption (%)	Solvent resistance	Acid/base resistance	Biocompatibility	Optical transmissivity	
								Visible	UV
Polydimethylsiloxane	PDMS	-125122	300-310	0.03	Poor	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cyclo olefin polymer	СОР	70-163	60-70	0.01	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Cyclic olefin copolymer	COC	80-180	60-70	0.01	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Poly(methyl methacrylate)	PMMA	100-122	70-150	0.3-0.6	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Polycarbonate	РС	140-148	60-70	0.12-0.34	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Poor
polystyrene	PS	92-106	10-150	0.02-0.15	Poor	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Poor

CTE: coefficient of thermal expansion

The variance of these parameters is based on the different grades of polymer.

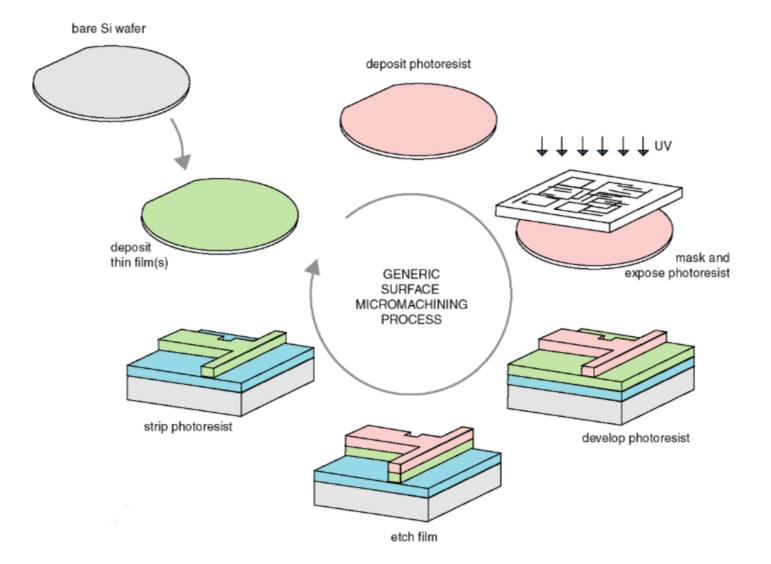
Soft Lithography



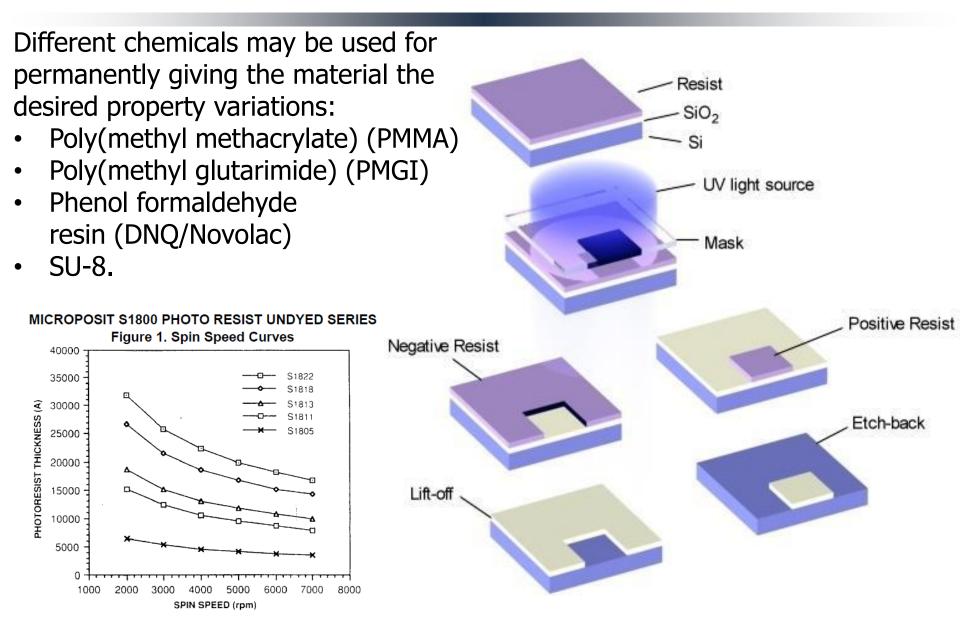
The fabrication of PDMS slab using soft lithography. (ab) Master is first formed by spincoated photoresist on a silicon wafer followed by photolithography processes. (c) PDMS mixture is then poured on the master and cured thermally. (d) The peeling-off layer of PDMS slab has invert microstructures to the master.

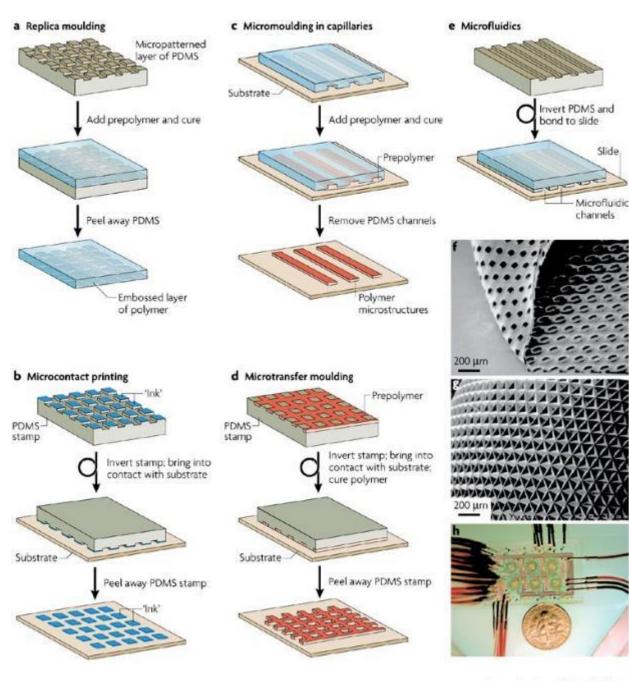
The fabrication of micropatterned slabs of PDMS. (a–d) Photoresist is spincoated on a silicon wafer followed by photolithography processes. As a result, the master consists of a silicon wafer with features of photoresist in bas-relief. (e) PDMS is poured on the master and then cured thermally. (f) The peeling-off layer of PDMS has invert microstructures embossed in its surface. D. B. Weibel, W. R. DiLuzio and G. M. Whitesides, *Nature Reviews Microbiology*, 2007, **5**, 209-218.

Typical Micromachining Process



Positive and Negative Photoresist



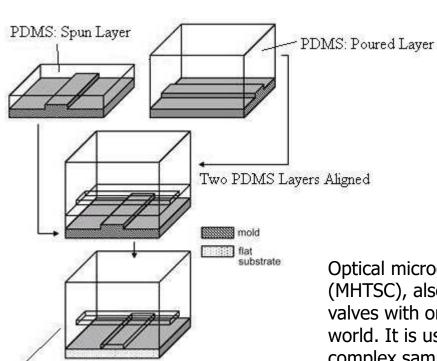


The key stages of each of the following techniques are shown: a | replica moulding; b | microcontact printing; c | micromoulding in capillaries; d | microtransfer moulding; and e microfluidics. f | A PDMS membrane with microfabricated holes created by replica moulding from a master with circular posts. g | A curved layer of micropatterned polyurethane created by bending a micropatterned layer of PDMS and then replica moulding against it. h | A microfluidic chemostat for the growth and culture of microbial cultures. The device incorporates six reactors with an intricate network of plumbing, in a footprint that is approximatley 5 cm². PDMS, poly(dimethylsiloxane).

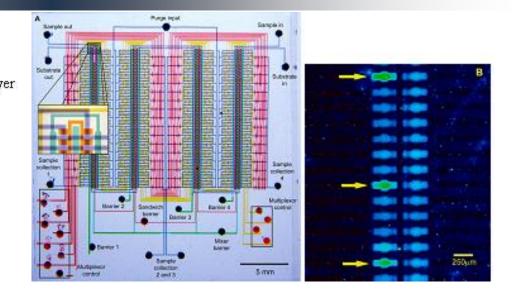
D. B. Weibel, W. R. DiLuzio and G. M. Whitesides, *Nature Reviews Microbiology*, 2007, **5**, 209-218.

Nature Reviews | Microbiology

Quake Valve by Steven Quake

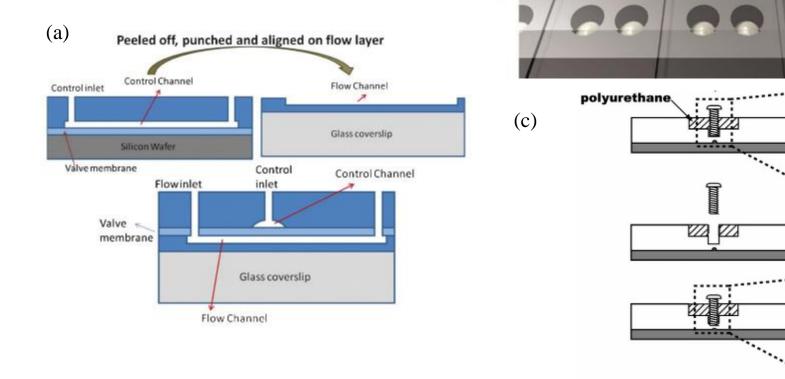


The Final Device: Flow and Control Layer on Glass Substrate



Optical micrograph of the Multiwell High Throughput Screening Chip (MHTSC), also referred to as a comparator array. This chip has 2,056 valves with only 18 valve control lines needed to interface to the outside world. It is used in high throughput screening applications and allows a complex sample to be segmented into many compartments; each compartment can then be assayed individually by pairwise mixing with another set of compartments containing, for example, fluorescent substrate. The chip occupies a total area of one square inch. This chip (without food dyes) was shown on the cover of the October 18, 2002 issue of Science . B. Portion of an image of the MHTSC chip taken with a DNA array scanner. A dilute sample of E. Coli bacteria expressing cytochrome C peroxidase (CCP) was segmented and then allowed to mix pairwise with the substrate Amplex Red.

PDMS Valve Actuation Mechanisms



(a) Intermediate fabrication steps (top) and cross section (bottom) of the three-layer PDMS valve integration. There are three types of actuation mechanisms utilized to enclose the PDMS channels, they are gas, (b) braille display and (c) screws, respectively.

(b)

valve (closed)

valve (open

1. EmreáAraci, Lab on a Chip, 2012, 12, 2803-2806.

2. W. Gu et al, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 2004, 101, 15861-15866.

3. D. B. Weibel et al, Analytical chemistry, 2005, 77, 4726-4733.

On-Chip CE/LC

Capillary Electrophoresis (CE)

Flux électrophorétique

$$\mu_{ep}=\frac{q}{6.\pi.\eta.r}$$

- q : charge de l'ion
- /: rayon de l'ion
- η : viscosité de la solution

(1003)(WK)

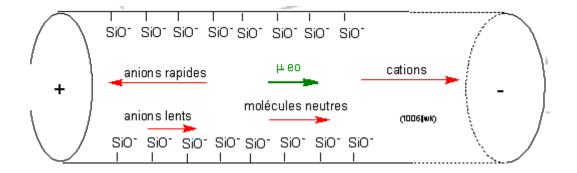
Flux électrosmotique

$$\mu_{e0} = \frac{\varepsilon.\zeta}{4\pi.\eta}$$

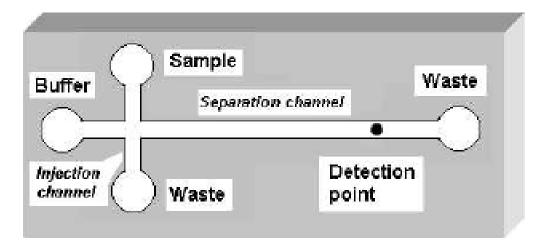
E: constante diélectrique

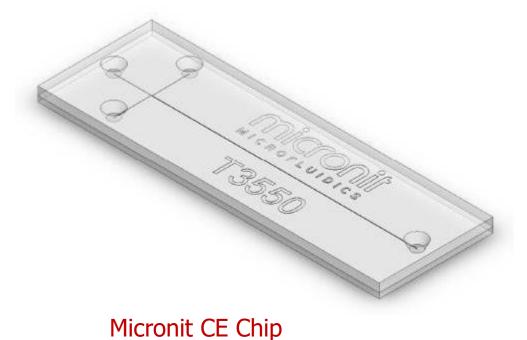
ζ: potentiel zetâ (ΟΟΟ 4106)

 η : viscosité de la solution



Lab-on-a-Chip for Electrophoresis

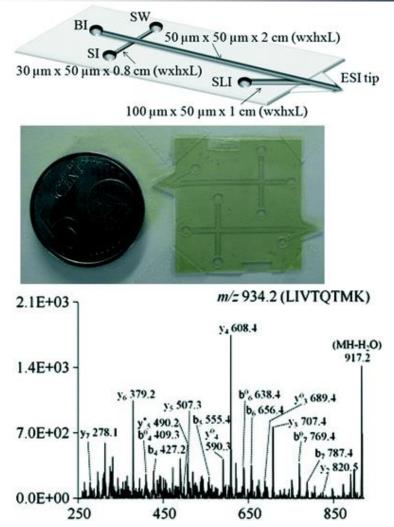




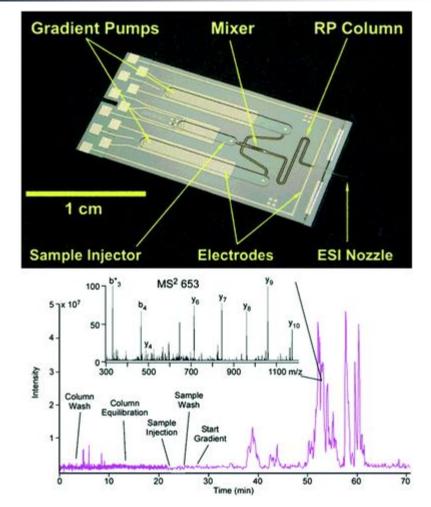


http://www.berkeley.edu/

Lab-on-a-Chip-Based Mass Spectrometry

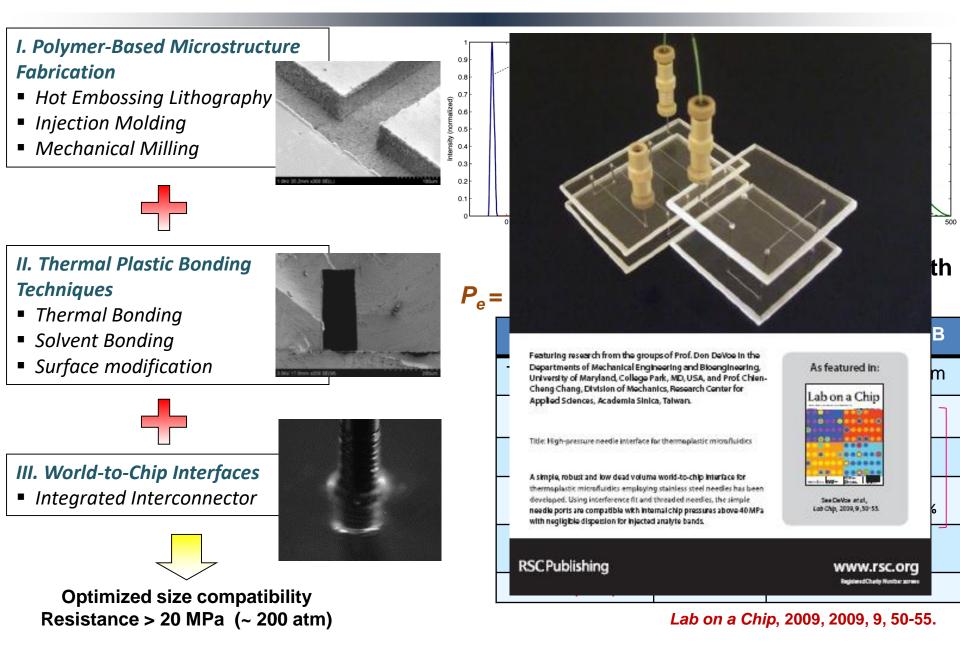


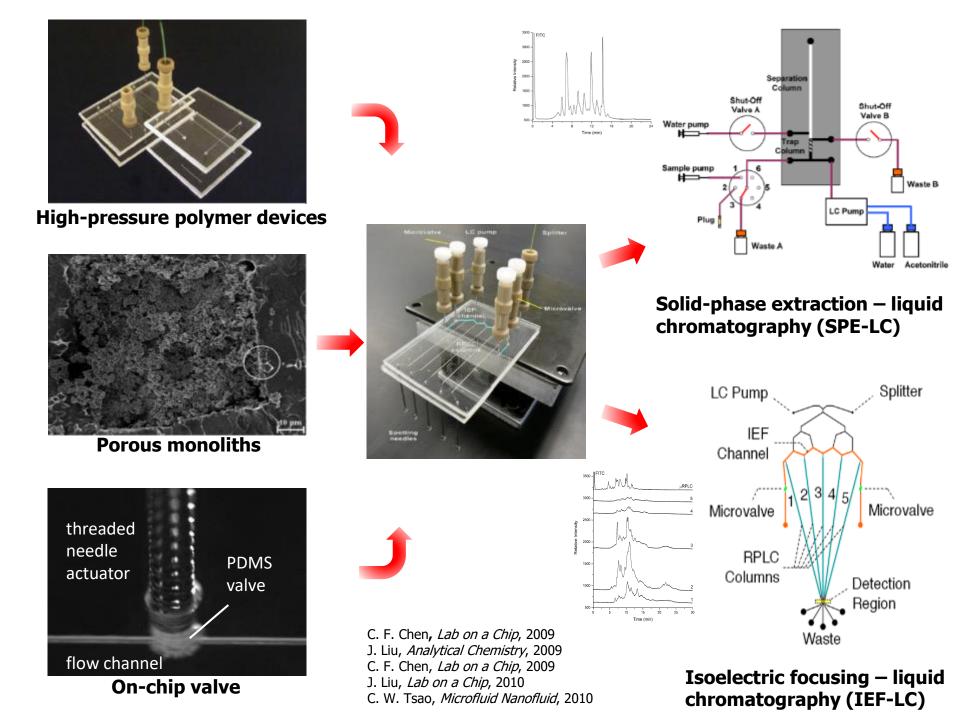
All-SU-8-based CZE-ESI chip. Top: description of chip. Middle: the SU-8 chip showing inlets, channels and ESI tip. Bottom: mass spectrum obtained from the study using the peptide β -lactoglobulin.



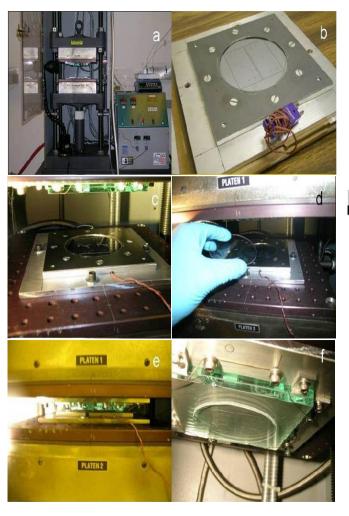
ESI chip using a multi-material approach including SU-8 as a structural component. Top: the chip and its components. Bottom: base peak chromatogram obtained from the study. The inset shows the MS/MS spectrum.

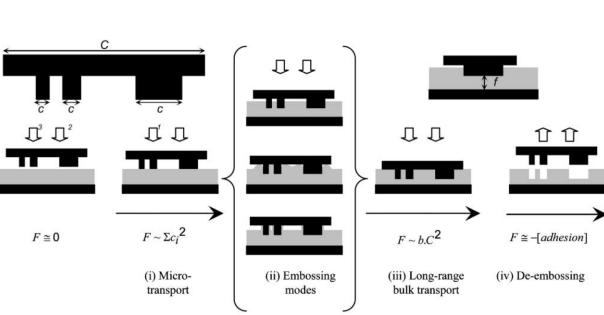
High-Pressure Thermoplastic Device Fabrication





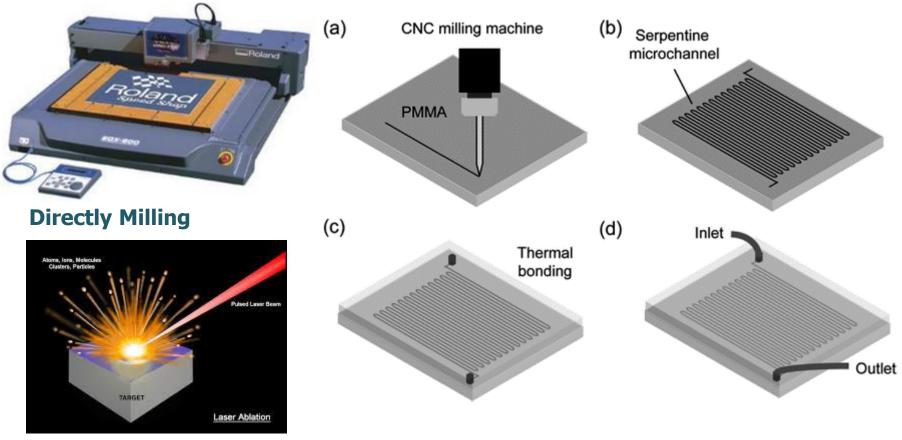
Hot embossing process





The schematic hot embossing process. The total force (F) required to emboss a thermoplastic polymer depends on the polymer's viscosity, contact area of the stamp features with the polymer (c), surface area of the entire stamp (C) and temperature. N. S. Cameron, H. Roberge, T. Veres, S. C. Jakeway and H. J. Crabtree, *Lab on a Chip*, 2006, **6**, 936-941.

Directly Milling & Laser Ablation



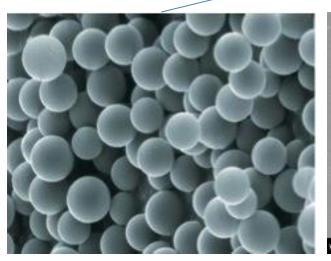
Laser Ablation

(a) Fabrication of a serpentine microchannel on PMMA using a CNC milling machine. (b) Serpentine microchannel engraved on one PMMA substrate. (c) Punching inlet and outlet ports on a flat PMMA substrate, followed by thermal bonding. (d) Insertion of silicone tubes into the inlet and outlet ports.

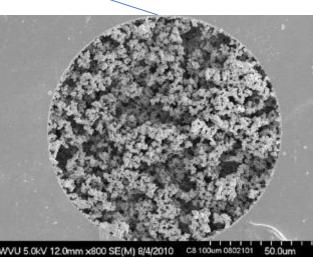
2015 Lab Chip

Stationary Phase

Commercial Available

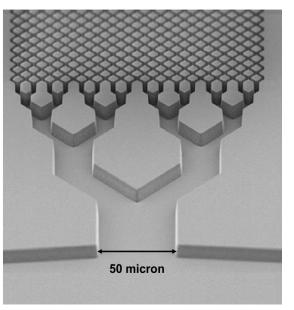






Porous monoliths

Formed via water bath, UV irradiation or microwave etc.



Micropillar

(micromachined pillars of 5 µm diameter which were coated with a monolayer of C18)



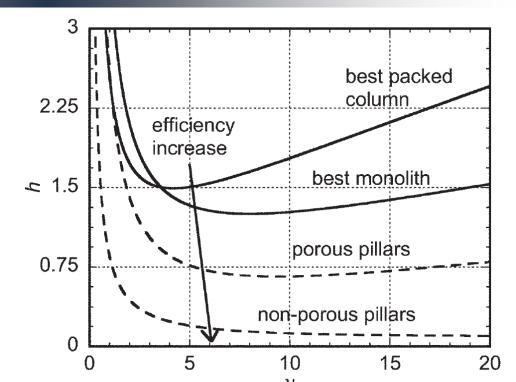
They found reduced plate heights between 0.2 (k' = 0) and 1.0 (k' = 2.17), i.e. close to the theoretical minimum for non-porous pillar columns

A Perfect Column - a Perfectly Ordered Column

$$h = \frac{B}{v} + Av^{1/3} + Cv$$

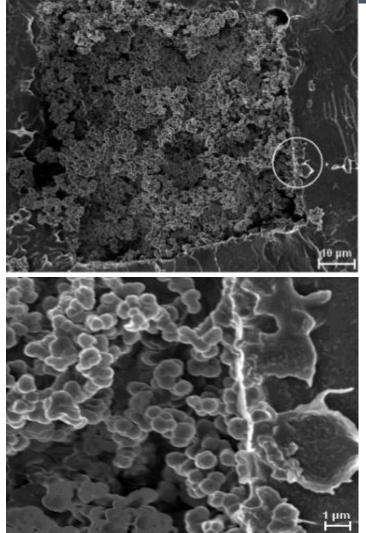
A, B and C are constants and v is the reduced velocity equal to ud_p/D_m with u (m s⁻¹) the mobile phase flow velocity, d_p (m) the particle diameter and D_m (m² s⁻¹) the diffusion coefficient of the analyte in the mobile phase. The value of B is determined by analyte diffusion in the axial direction of the column, the value of A by packing inhomogeneities that cause different flow paths for the mobile phase and the value of C by slow mass transfer in the stationary zone (either in pores or in the stationary phase)

Lab Chip, 2007, 7, 815-817

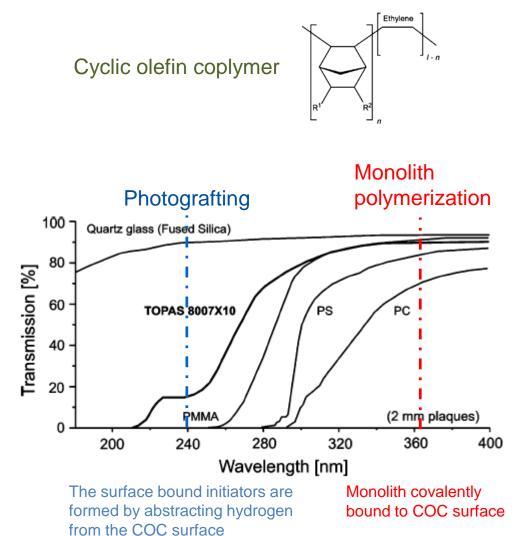


Curves showing the reduced plate height h versus the reduced mobile phase flow velocity v. Measured curves (drawn lines) for the best packed column (A = 0.5, B = 2 and C = 0.05) and the best monolith with a porosity of 0.8 (A = 0.32, B = 3.3 and C = 0.025); calculated curves (dotted lines) for a porous pillar array with a porosity of 0.8 and k' = 1.25 (A = 0.094, B = 2.495 and C = 0.021)13 and for an array of non-porous pillars with a porosity of 0.4 (A = 0.014, B = 0.84 and C = 0.001).

Porous Photopolymerized Monoliths

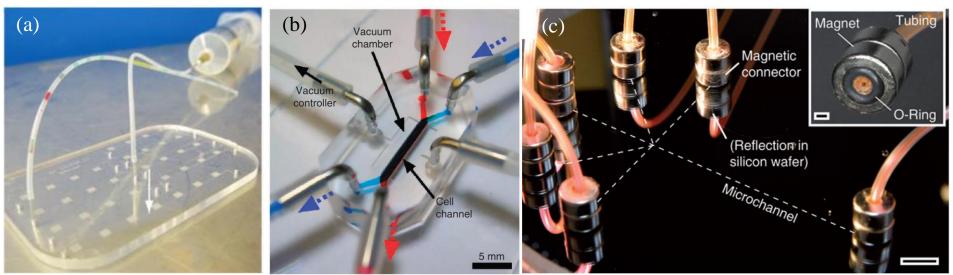


SEM images of BMA-TMPTMA monolith. Magnification of the circular area revealing apparent covalent attachment of monolith to the COP channel surface.



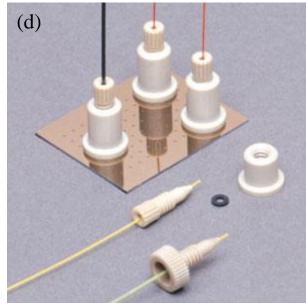
P. S. Nunes, Microfluid Nanofluid, 2010

World-to-Chip Interfaces

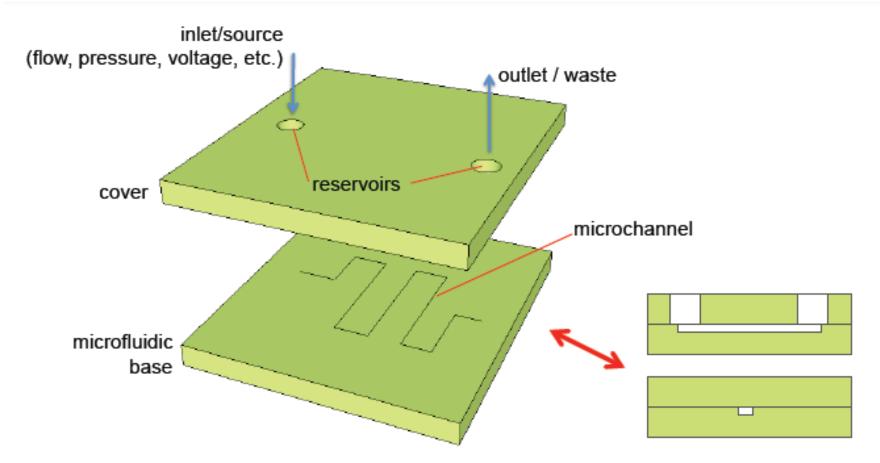


(a) Tubing is directly inserted into polymeric chip or (b) connected to polymer chip using a stainless steel tubing first to connect to external pumping systems. (c) A removable connector design is to use magnetic connector made of a ring magnet with a hole that accommodates tubing or a needle and second magnet placed on the back side of the chip to prevent leakage. (d) NanoPorts[™] for Lab-on-a-Chip.

- 1. C. D. Chin et al, *Nature medicine*, 2011, **17**, 1015-1019.
- 2. D. Huh et al, *Nature protocols*, 2013, **8**, 2135-2157.
- 3. J. Atencia et al, *Lab on a Chip*, 2010, **10**, 246-249.

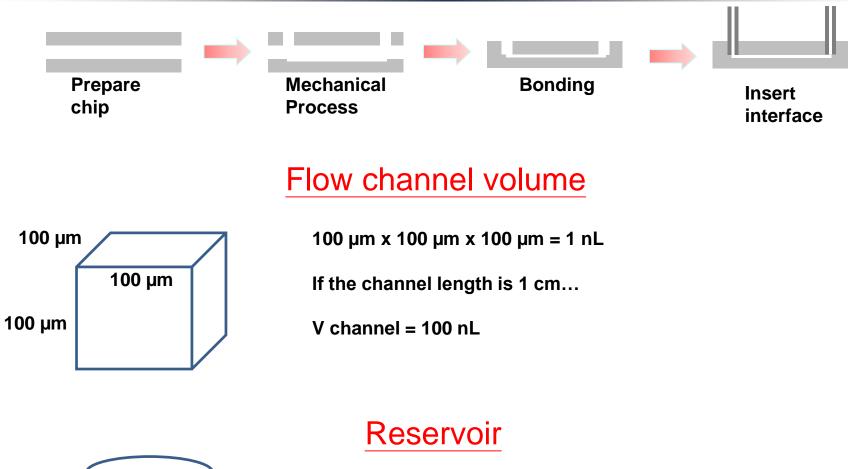


Anatomy of a simple microfluidic chip

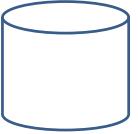


- Channels must (typically) be sealed with a cover plate
- high surface/volume ratio in microchannel
- large reservoirs (world-to-chip interfacing is a challenge

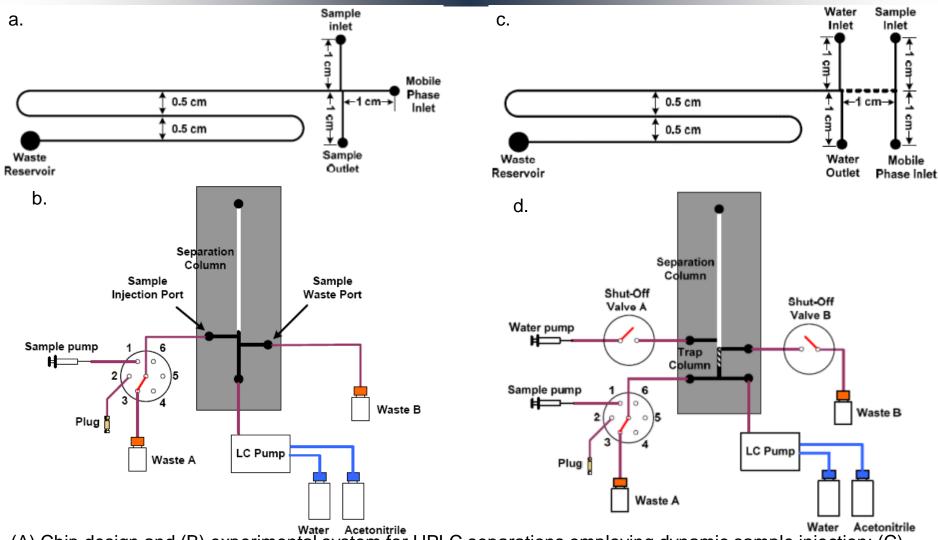
World-to-chip Interface



 $V = \pi x (1 mm)^2 x (2 mm) = 6 \mu L$

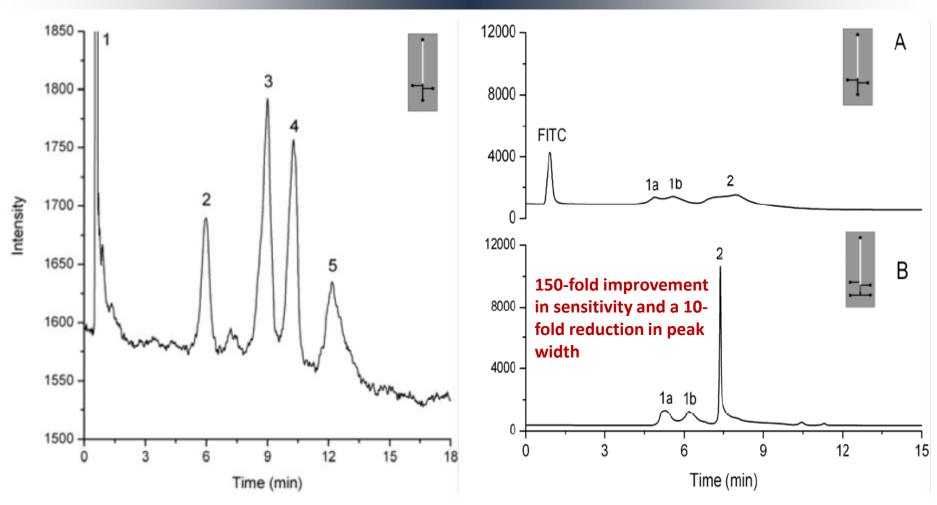


Chip Base Solid Phase Extraction – Liquid Chromatography System



(A) Chip design and (B) experimental system for HPLC separations employing dynamic sample injection; (C) Chip design and (D) experimental system for on-line sample cleanup/enrichment-HPLC separations, with an integrated 5 mm long SPE trap column used for on-line sample cleanup and enrichment. The total length of the serpentine separation channels is 17 cm in both chip designs.

Separation Result of Model Peptides

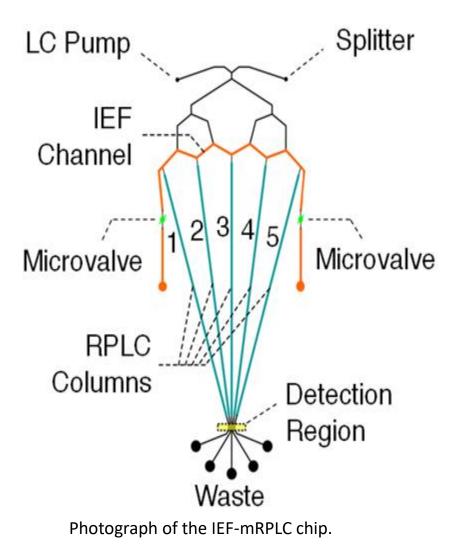


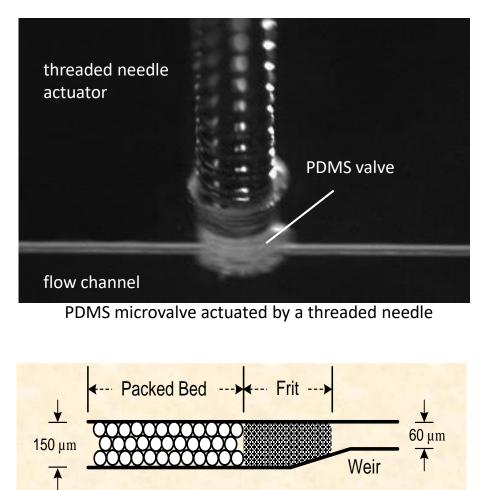
Separation of a mixture of 4 FITC labeled model peptides. Peak elution order is: (1) FITC, (2) angiotensin II, (3) [leu5]-enkephalin, (4) neurotensin, and (5) bradykinin.

HPLC separation of FITC labeled ribonuclease A (1a, 1b) and cytochrome C (2) using (A) dynamic sample injection and (B) online sample cleanup/enrichment prior to HPLC separation.

J. Liu et al., Analytical Chemistry, 2009

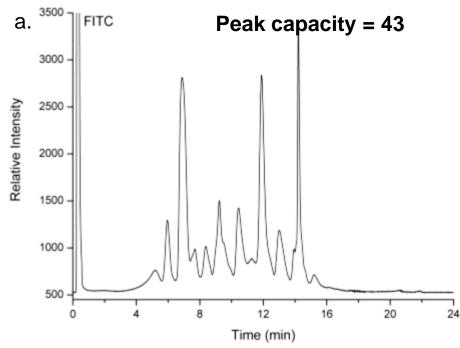
IEF-mRPLC Polymer Chip



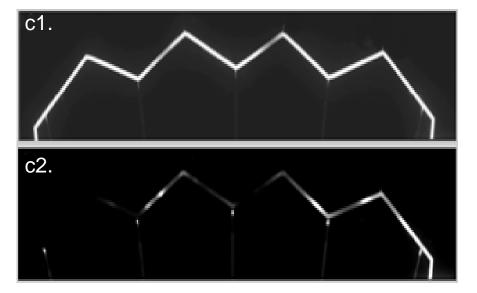


Silica beads packed against monolith frit

Test Results of µRPLC and IEF

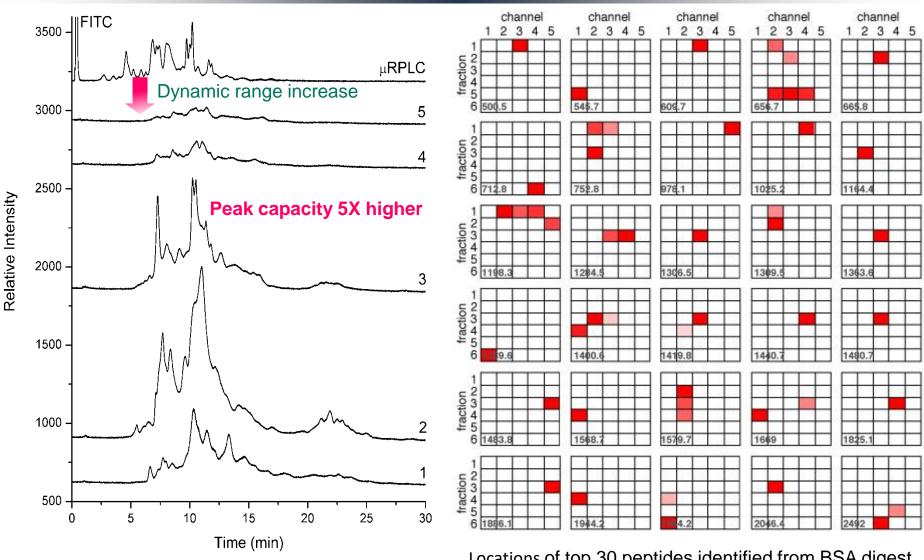


(a) μRPLC separation of 0.2 mg/mL FITC-cytochrome c digest. 0.4% HPMC was used to coat the IEF channel in order to reduce non-specific interactions between the channel walls and sample components.



(c) Focusing of FITC-BSA digest in the IEF channel.
(c1) Sample introduction; (c2) 30 min IEF of the digest. Catholyte: 35 mL of 0.5 M NaOH; anolyte 35 mL of 0.5 M H₃PO₄; power: 1000 V

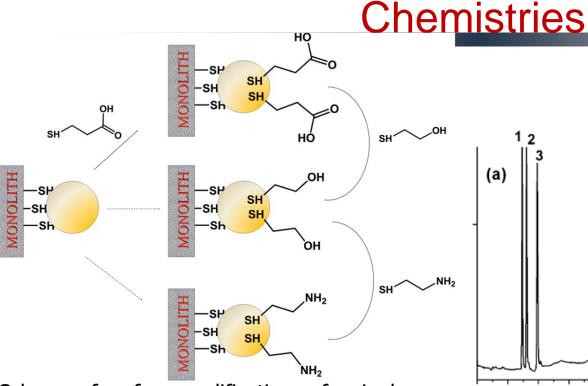
Test Results of IEF-mRPLC



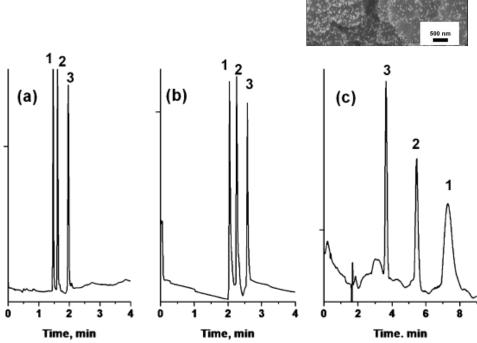
 $\mu RPLC$ and $\mu IEF\mbox{-mRPLC}$ of 0.25 mg/mL FITC-BSA digest.

Locations of top 30 peptides identified from BSA digest by mRPLC fraction and channel. Mass tolerance: 1Da, m/z cut-off: 500 Da.~80% coverage

Polymer Monoliths with Exchangeable



Scheme of surface modifications of a single poly(glycidyl methacrylate-co-ethylene dimethacrylate) monolith reacted with cysteamine and containing gold nanoparticles. First, the column is treated with 3-thiopropionic acid, then with mercaptoethanol, and finally with cysteamine. The dashed arrow indicates that the same functionality can also be prepared via direct reaction of the gold nanoparticles containing the monolith with the respective thiol group containing compound.

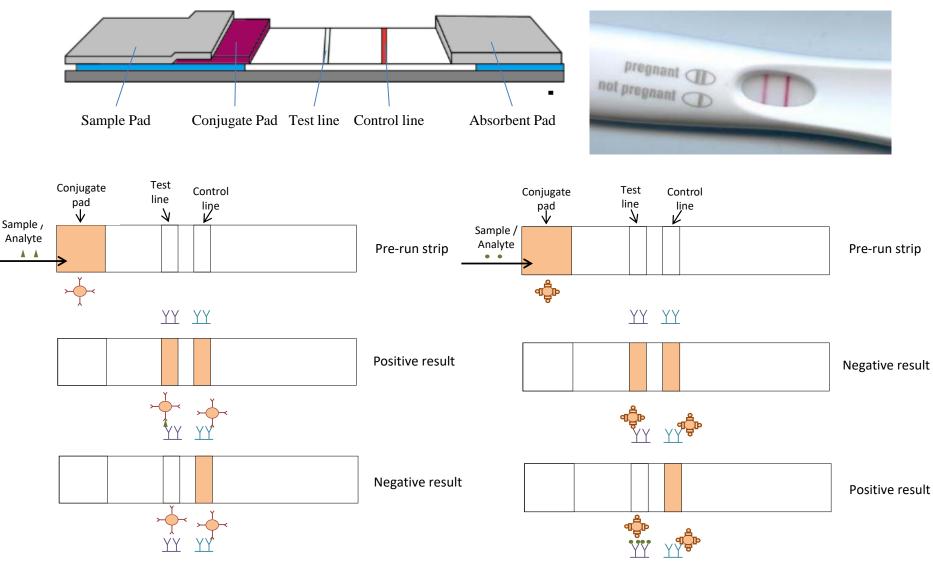


Separation of peptides in capillary electrochromatographic mode using a single poly(glycidyl methacrylate-co-ethylene dimethacrylate) monolithic column reacted with cysteamine and containing gold nanoparticles functionalized consecutively with 3-thiopropionic acid (a), mercaptoethanol (b), and cysteamine (c).

Anal. Chem. 2010, 82, 7416–7421

Immunoassay

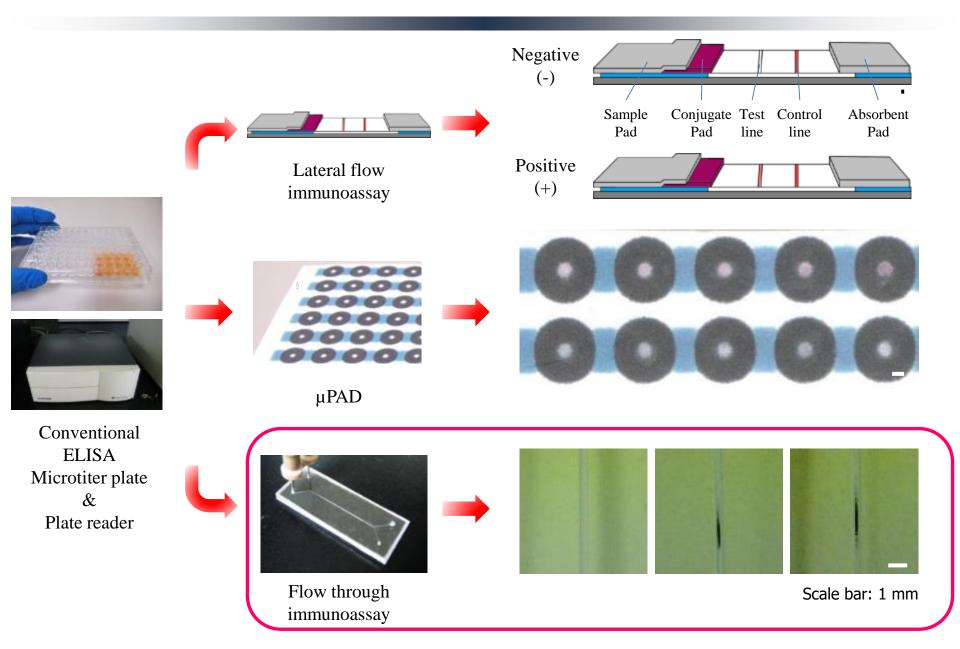
Lateral Flow Immunoassay (LFA; LFIA)



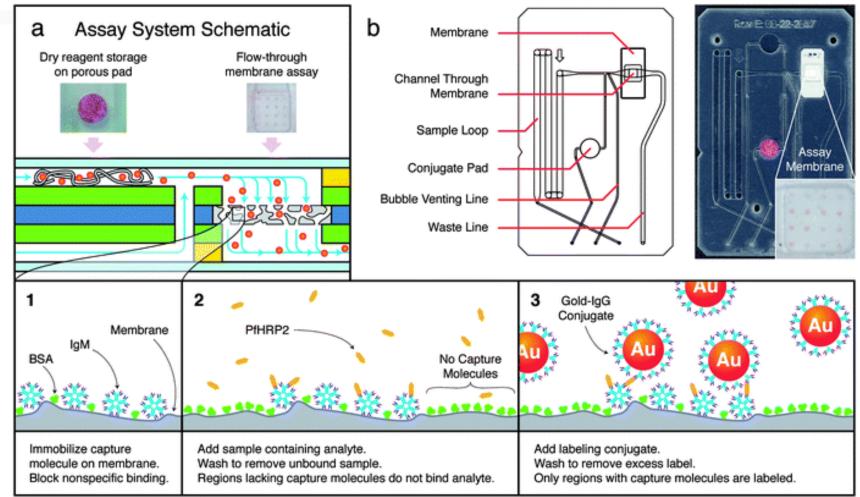
Direct solid-phase immunoassay

Competitive solid-phase immunoassay

Immunoassay Detection Platforms



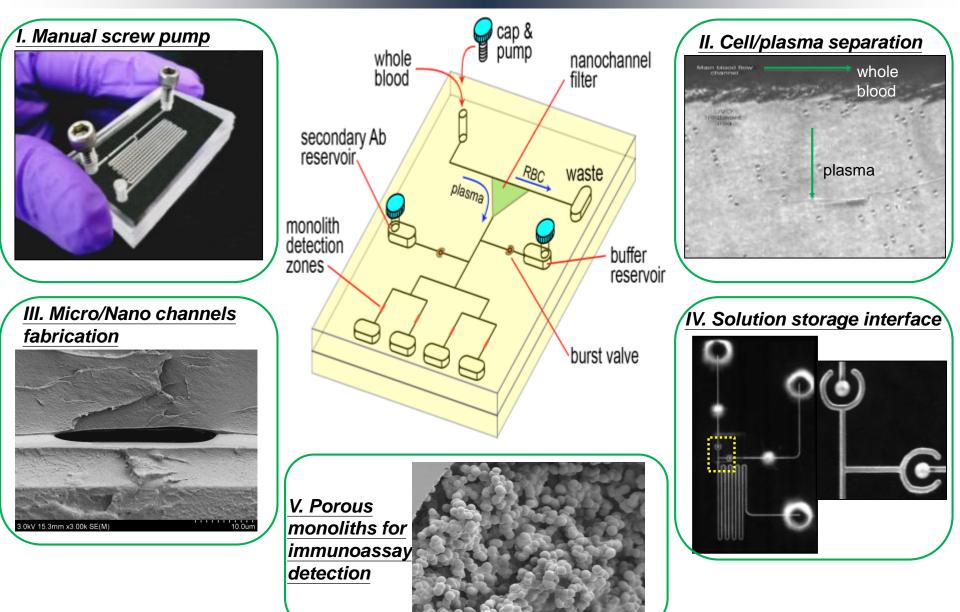
Flow Through Immunoassay



(a) Cross-section and close-up schematic of the flow-through membrane assay format. (b) Design and image of assembled, 10-layer assay card. The card is pictured before use, with the red gold–antibody conjugate present in the pad. The inset image shows the pattern of capture regions visible on the membrane after completion of the assay.

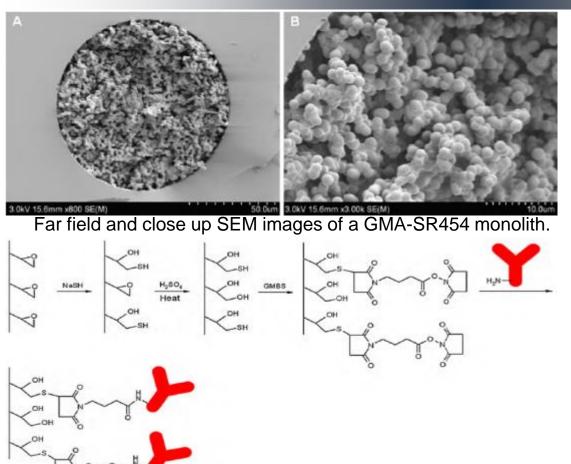
D. Y. Stevens, C. R. Petri, J. L. Osborn, P. Spicar-Mihalic, K. G. McKenzie and P. Yager, Lab on a Chip, 2008, 8, 2038-2045.

Disposable Immunoassay Chips for Infectious Diseases Monitoring

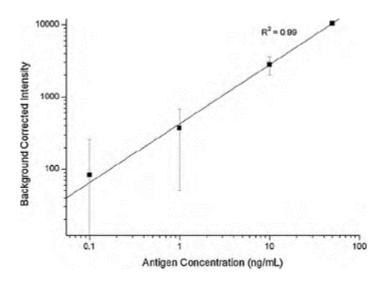


3.0kV 15.6mm x3.00k SE(M)

Flow-Through Immunosensors Using Antibody-Immobilized Polymer Monoliths



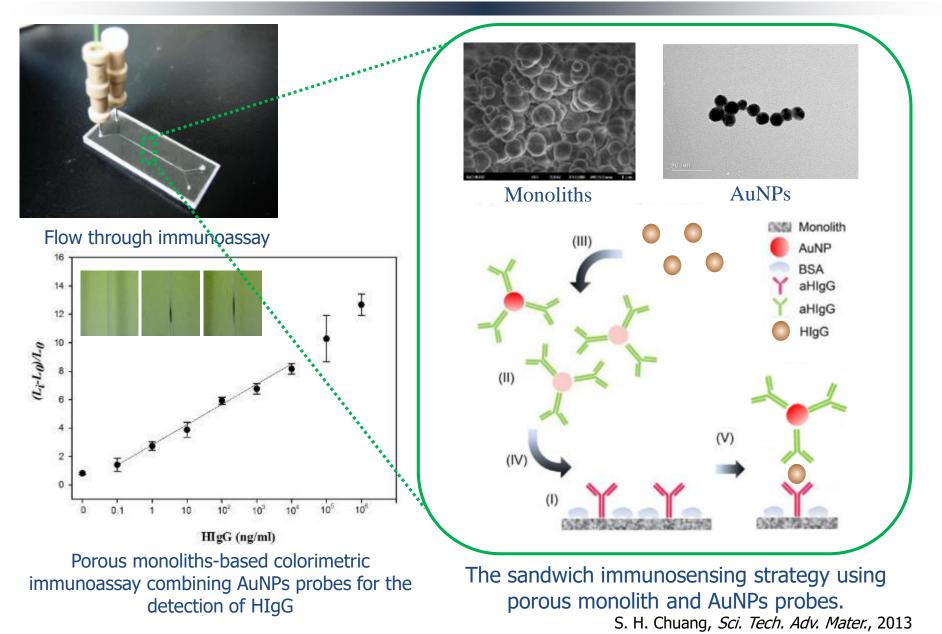
Immobilization of antibodies on GMA-SR454 monolith surface. Thiol groups are introduced by attacking epoxide groups with NaSH, and residual epoxide groups are eliminated in the following acid hydrolysis. GMBS spacer is then grafted to the thiolated monolith, enabling antibody capture through the reaction of succinimidyl ester functionality in GMBS with primary amine of antibodies.



Dilution study using FITC-labeled rabbit IgG as an antigen to monolith immobilized anti-rabbit IgG. The intensity in the fitted linear equation yields a predicted concentration limit of detection (LOD) of 5 ng/mL for the chosen flow rate and infusion time.

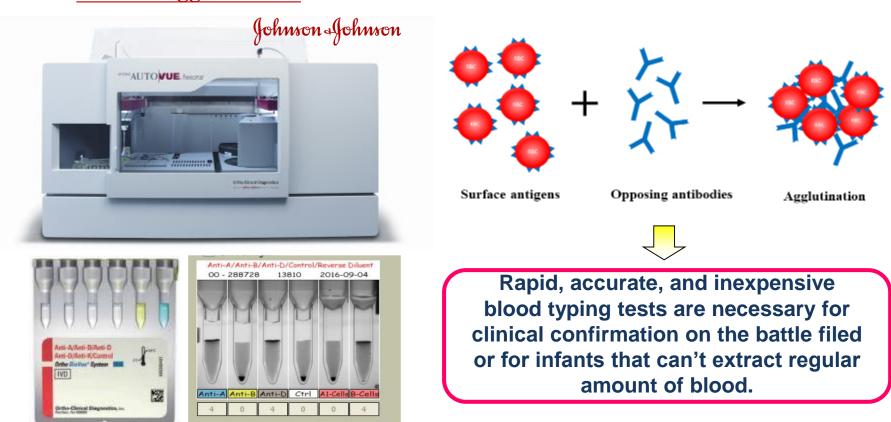
J. Liu, Biosensor and Bioelectronics, 2010

Colorimetric Immunosensing Using Surface-Modified Porous Monoliths and Gold Nanoparticles



Traditional Blood Typing Tests in Hospital

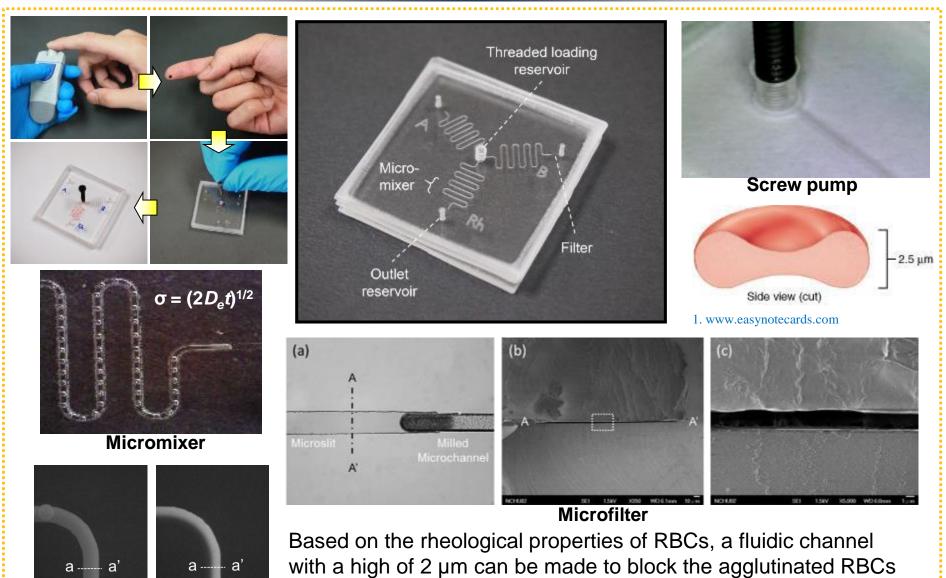
- Conventional blood typing tests are reliable and accurate, but they also require welltrained personnel and sophisticated equipment to obtain results.
- In addition, typical agglutination tests require a blood sample of more than 1 mL, which cannot be obtained using low invasive methods, such as finger pricking.



<u>Column agglutination</u>

2 USD

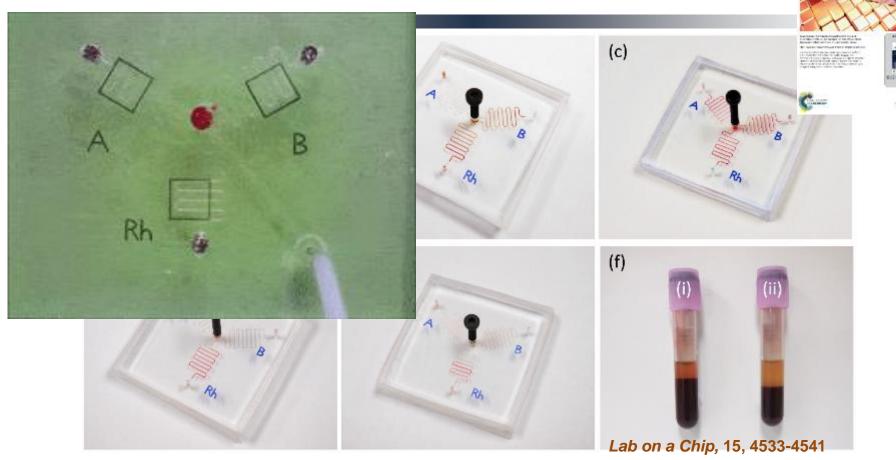
The Proposed On-Site ABO and Rhesus **Blood Typing Device**



With and without mixers

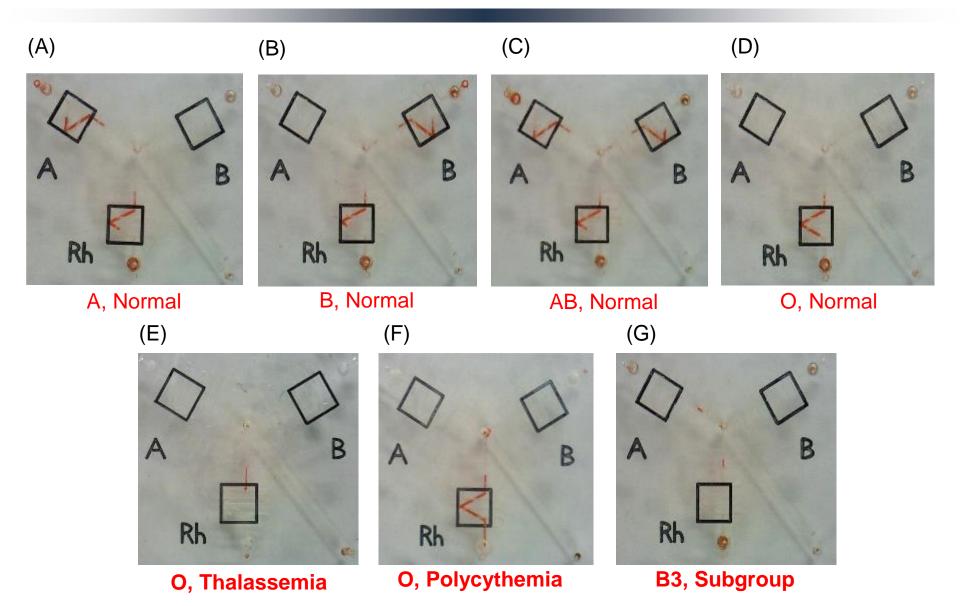
and the free RBCs can pass through the gap.

Blood Typing Test Results



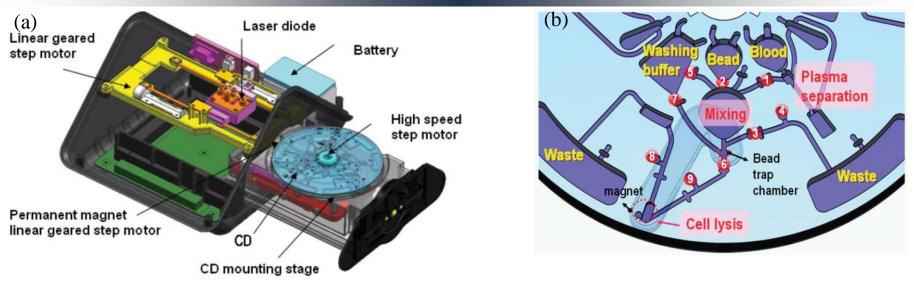
Representative chip test results are shown for (a) A Rh⁺, (b) B Rh⁺, (c) AB Rh⁺ and (d) (e) O Rh⁺ blood types. These visualized results are clearly indicated by the red lines and the corresponding A, B, and Rh symbols on the top of the chip which label the antibody locations. (e) (f(ii)) Thalassemia samples with smaller RBCs and lower hematocrit were also successfully verified, displayed as a clear but shorter agglutinated RBC line compared to the (d) (f(i)) healthy blood sample.

"Distance matters"



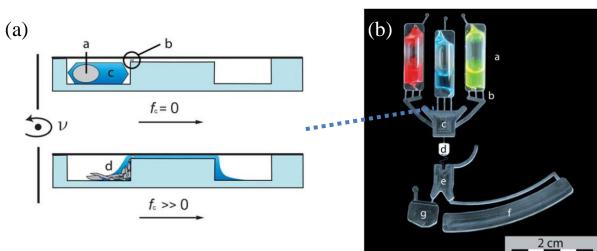
Unpublished.

Lab on a Disk



(a) Schematic diagram of the portable lab-on-a-disc device. (b) The detailed microfluidic layout and functions of the polymeric disc.

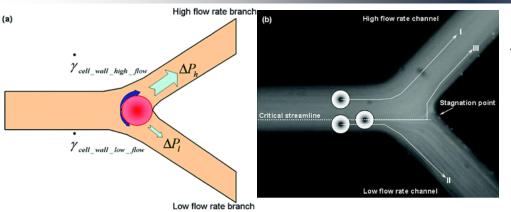
Y.-K. Cho, J.-G. Lee, J.-M. Park, B.-S. Lee, Y. Lee and C. Ko, Lab on a Chip, 2007, 7, 565-573.



(a) Schematics of storage and release within a centrifugally operated LoaC system. Reagents can be long term stored in the glass ampoule before usage. (b) Image of the cartridge for on-chip DNA extraction featuring required buffers pre-stored in three glass ampoules.

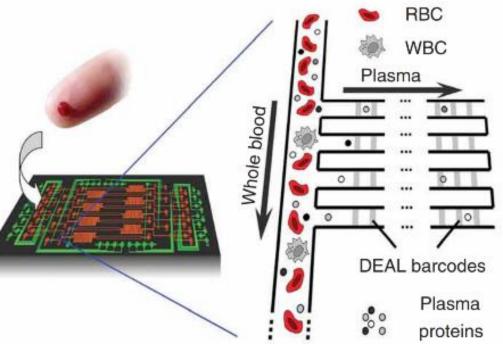
1. J. Hoffmann et al, *Lab on a Chip*, 2010, **10**, 1480-1484.

Cell/Plasma Separation

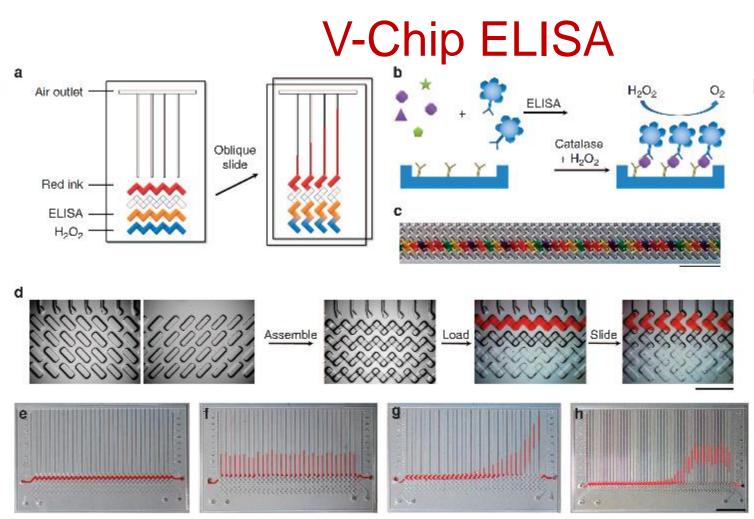


(a) Schematic of the Zweifach–Fung effect; red blood cells have a tendency to travel into the higher flow rate daughter vessel with no cells travelling to the lower flow rate daughter vessel when the flow rate ratio is more than 2.5 and the cell-to-vessel diameter ratio is of the order of 1. The primary reason for this effect are because of differential pressure drops and shear forces acting on a cell. (b) An illustration of the critical streamline; A particle (I) whose centroid is beyond the critical streamline will travel into the high flow rate channel. Scheme depicting plasma separation from a finger prick of blood by harnessing the Zweifach-Fung effect. Multiple DNA-encoded antibody barcode arrays are patterned within the plasma-skimming channels for in situ protein measurements.

R. Fan et al, *Nature biotechnology*, 2008, 26, 1373-1378.



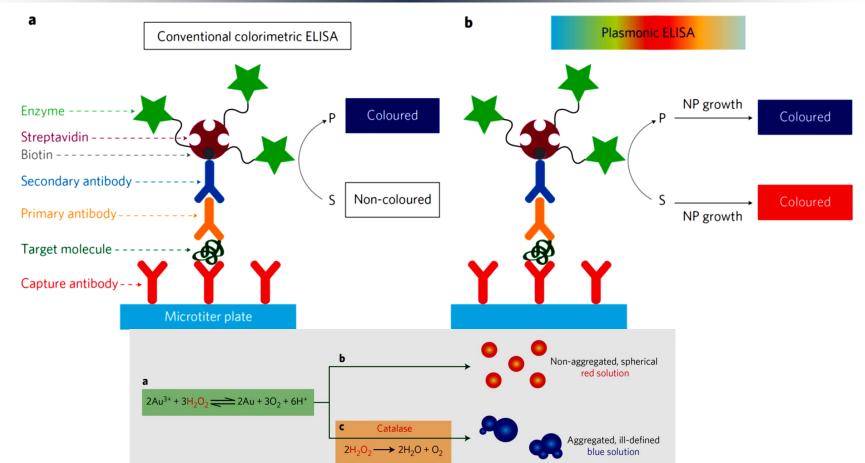
2006, Lab Chip



 Y. Song et al, *Nature* communications, 2012, **3**, 1283.

(a) Schematic view of a typical V-Chip. On the left is an assembled V-Chip with the flow path at the horizontal position. Ink and H_2O_2 can be preloaded and the ELISA assay can be performed in the designated lanes. An oblique slide changes the flow path on the right, causing catalase and H_2O_2 to react and push the inked bars. (b) V-Chip ELISA reaction scheme. (c) Image of sample wells loaded with different colored food dyes. Scale bar is 0.5 cm. (d) Zoomed microscopic images of asfabricated bottom and top plates, device assembly, reagent loading and assay operation in a V-Chip. Scale bar is 2.5 mm. (e) A V-Chip loaded with the red ink and reagents. (f) Uniform ink advancement image resulting from the application of equal concentrations of catalase. (g,h) Visualized ink advancement in 30- and 50-channel V-Chips generated by the 3- and 6-h diffusion of catalase from the drilled holes on the right to the ELISA lane. Scale bar, 1 cm in e, f, g and h.

Plasmonic ELISA for the ultrasensitive detection of disease biomarkers with the naked eye



Schematic representation of the sandwich ELISA format used here and two possible signal generation mechanisms. a, In conventional colorimetric ELISA, enzymatic biocatalysis generates a coloured compound. b, In plasmonic ELISA the biocatalytic cycle of the enzyme generates coloured nanoparticle solutions of characteristic tonality (S, substrate; P, product; NP, nanoparticle).