Components for Generic and Programmable Microfluidic Devices

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Lessons from the history of computing



Vannevar Bush and Differential Analyzer, MIT, 1931

- Single-purpose machines
- New application requires new machine
- No standard components



- General-purpose machines
- New application requires only a new program
- Made from standard components

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Standard toolkit of components (control, readout, etc.) that can be assembled into any useful circuit according to logical rules

Processors that can run many different programs using the same generic hardware



Two components for microfluidic processors



Valve-based pneumatic logic



Valve-based pneumatic logic



Valve-based pneumatic logic







The pretty picture

The reality

Off-chip controllers for on-chip pneumatic valves and pumps cost more **\$** and consume more **power** and **space** than the chip itself.

The next thing to go on-chip is the **logic** of device operation



W.H. Grover, A.M. Skelley, C.N. Liu, E.T. Lagally and R.A. Mathies, Sensors and Actuators B 89, 315 (2003).



Fluidic wafer (etched discontinuity or valve seat)

PDMS (polydimethylsiloxane) membrane

Pneumatic wafer (etched displacement chamber)



Fluidic wafer (etched discontinuity or valve seat)

PDMS (polydimethylsiloxane) membrane

Pneumatic wafer (etched displacement chamber)



4-layer monolithic membrane valves



All-glass fluidic wafer

Hybrid glass-PDMS fluidic wafer

PDMS membrane

Pneumatic wafer

W.H. Grover, A.M. Skelley, C.N. Liu, E.T. Lagally and R.A. Mathies, Sensors and Actuators B 89, 315 (2003).

Valve operation





Integrated portable genetic analysis microsystem for pathogen/infectious disease detection. E.T. Lagally et al., Analytical Chemistry **76**, 3162 (2004).



Microfabricated bioprocessor for integrated nanoliterscale Sanger DNA sequencing. R.G. Blazej et al., Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA 103, 7240 (2006).



Multichannel PCR-CE Microdevice for Genetic Analysis. C.N. Liu, N.M. Toriello, and R.A. Mathies, *Analytical Chemistry* **78**, 5474 (2006).





On-chip pressure injection for integration of infrared-mediated DNA amplification with electrophoretic separation. C.J. Easley, J.M. Karlinsey, and J.P. Landers, *Lab on a Chip* **6**, 601 (2006).



Pressure injection on a valved microdevice for electrophoretic analysis of submicroliter

samples. J.M. Karlinsey et al., Analytical Chemistry **77**, 3637 (2005).



Integrated microsystem for dielectrophoretic cell concentration and genetic detection. E.T. Lagally, S.H. Lee, and H.T. Soh, *Lab on a Chip* **5**, 2005.



Development and evaluation of a microdevice for amino acid biomarker detection and analysis on Mars.

A.M. Skelley et al., Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA **102**, 1041 (2005).



Microfluidic serial transfer circuit: Automated evolution of RNA catalysts

B.M. Paegel et al., Analytical Chemistry, in press.



An integrated microfluidic processor for single nucleotide polymorphismbased DNA computing. W.H. Grover and R.A. Mathies, Lab on a Chip 5, 1033 (2005).



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Microfabricated





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On-chip pressure injection for integration of infrared-mediated DNA amplification with electrophoretic separation. C.J. Easley, J.M. Karlinsey, and J.P. Landers, *Lab on a Chip* **6**, 601 (2006).



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A.M. Skelley et al., Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA **102**, 1041 (2005).



If we want more independent valves on-chip or reduced cost, size, or power consumption, the logic of device operation must be integrated on-chip.



Multichannel PCR-CE Microdevice for Genetic Analysis. C.N. Liu, N.M. Toriello, and R.A. Mathies, *Analytical Chemistry* **78**, 5474 (2006). Analytical Chemistry 77, 3637 (2005).



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Pneumatic Valve "Truth Table"



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Pneumatic Valve "Truth Table"



Latching valve operation

Characterizing a single latching valve

Latch valve/demultiplexer test chip

n off-chip controllers: 2^{n-1} independent on-chip valves

Latch valve/demultiplexer test chip

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Latch valve/demultiplexer test chip

190 ms P/V pulses

Set all 16 latching valves according to any pattern every **3 seconds**

W.H. Grover, R.H.C. Ivester, E.C. Jensen and R.A. Mathies, Lab on a Chip 6, 623 (2006)

Cycle number

190 ms pulses, inverted Valve 3

All errors consist of a valve changing too early, with its "Least Significant Bit" neighbor.

Need a **software** solution, a different **program**...

120 ms P/V pulses, Gray code addressing

Set all 16 latching valves according to any pattern every 2 seconds

W.H. Grover, R.H.C. Ivester, E.C. Jensen and R.A. Mathies, Lab on a Chip 6, 623 (2006)

Step number

I 20 ms P/V pulses, inverted Valve 3

No errors

60 ms P/V pulses

Set all 16 latching valves according to any pattern every second

W.H. Grover, R.H.C. Ivester, E.C. Jensen and R.A. Mathies, Lab on a Chip 6, 623 (2006)

120 ms P/V pulses, static pattern

Valve open/closed patterns can be maintained indefinitely

W.H. Grover, R.H.C. Ivester, E.C. Jensen and R.A. Mathies, Lab on a Chip 6, 623 (2006)

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$0 \times OR = 0$ Input A Input B

Output

Vacuum = 1 or TRUE Pressure = 0 or FALSE

E.C. Jensen, W.H. Grover and R.A. Mathies, submitted

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E.C. Jensen, W.H. Grover and R.A. Mathies, submitted

What do you want in a microfluidic readout component?

Doesn't require specific chemical properties like color, fluorescence, electrochemistry...

Doesn't change the fluid - just a passive "flow through"

Cleanable and reusable without cross-contamination

Many different modes of operation

The Suspended Microchannel Resonator (SMR)

10 pL channel inside a suspended silicon cantilever

Resonant frequency ~200 kHz

Density of fluid contents affects resonant frequency

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10 pL channel inside a suspended silicon cantilever

Resonant frequency ~200 kHz

Density of fluid contents affects resonant frequency

One SMR, many "programs"

- Bulk solution density measurement

T.P. Burg, M. Godin, S.M. Knudsen, W. Shen, G. Carlson, J.S. Foster, K. Babcock and S.R. Manalis, *Nature* **446**, 1066 (2007)

One SMR, many "programs"

- Bulk solution density measurement
- Surface binding measurement

T.P. Burg, M. Godin, S.M. Knudsen, W. Shen, G. Carlson, J.S. Foster, K. Babcock and S.R. Manalis, *Nature* **446**, 1066 (2007)

One SMR, many "programs"

- Bulk solution density measurement
- Surface binding measurement
- Particle counting and measurement

T.P. Burg, M. Godin, S.M. Knudsen, W. Shen, G. Carlson, J.S. Foster, K. Babcock and S.R. Manalis, *Nature* **446**, 1066 (2007)

Conventional autosampler instrument

Internal volumes can take hundreds of microliters to prime and rinse

Cost, size, and power consumption precludes use in third-world or point-of-care applications

The autosampler chip

Glass-Teflon-glass valve structure for chemical inertness

Microfluidic switchboard: Fluid from any of 16 connections can be sent to any other connection

Internal volume is rinsable between operations

Instruction set: 240 different generic, useful operations to combine into an infinite variety of programs

Autosampler chip + SMR

Autosampler chip + SMR

Rapid switching of fluid through SMR

Autosampler chip alternates between flowing water and 0.5x PBS (mostly 70 mM NaCl) across cantilever.

10 pL contents of cantilever replaced every 3 seconds, requiring only 300 ms per switch.

Autosampler chip + SMR

Automated building and removal of surfacebound multilayer

Frequency shifts after polylysine-PEG-biotin and neutravidin solutions confirm binding.

Return to 0 Hz baseline after autosampler chip delivers piranha (concentrated sulfuric acid and hydrogen peroxide) Standard toolkit of components (control, readout, etc.) that can be assembled into any useful circuit according to logical rules

Valve-based on-chip pneumatic logic

- *n* off-chip controllers: 2^{n-1} independent on-chip valves
- 1000 independent valves: only 11 off-chip controllers
- Possible because of normally-closed nature of valves
- Log₂ reduction in \$, power, space wasted by off-chip controllers
- 8-bit adder suggests any digital logic circuit is possible

Suspended Microchannel Resonator sensor

- Single component, many different modes of operation
- 100 ng/cm³ fluid density resolution
- 10 pg/cm² surface mass resolution
- 0.25 fg particle mass resolution

Processors that can run many different programs using the same generic hardware

Autosampler chip

- Fraction of cost, size, power of conventional autosampler
- Chemically generic
- 240 instructions, infinite programs

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