

# Magnetically Enhanced Microflow Cytometer for Bead- and Cell-based Immunoaffinity Measurements in Whole Blood Samples



Scientific thesis for the attainment of the academic degree  
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at the Technical University of Munich.

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## 1. Introduction and Motivation

## 2. Theoretical Prerequisites

### 2.1. Microfluidics

conservation of mass, momentum reynolds number

#### 2.1.1. Flow Field inside Microchannels

Navier-Stokes-Approximation for Hagen-Poiseuille

#### 2.1.2. Particles in Microfluidics

Stokes Drag Force Gravity Electro-static interaction Magnetic Force Friction Interface-Forces

#### 2.1.3.

### 2.2. Surface Chemistry

#### 2.2.1. Silane Chemistry

#### 2.2.2. Carbodiimide Crosslinker Chemistry

EDC-NHS-Activation sulfo-NHS vs. NHS

#### 2.2.3. Microscopic Particle Surface Physics

#### 2.2.4. The Biotin-Avidin-System

### 2.3. MRCyte

Short intro over MRCyte Foto of setup with arrows to necessary parts Microscope Stages PEEK holder Helmholtz coils Kepco MFLI DAQ

#### 2.3.1. Focusing Structures

test,test Loss because of reduced velocity and magnetic drag

#### 2.3.2. GMR


Different produced GMR stacks Wheatstone Bridge setup Magnet alignment

#### 2.3.3. Electrical Circuit

Ground PCB Stacked PCBs with spacer

#### 2.3.4. Electronic Readout

test,test



./Ressources/Chemistry/Sulfo-NHS-eps-converted-to.pdf

**Figure 1** TestSvg

./Ressources/Chemistry/EDC-NHS-eps-converted-to.pdf

**Figure 2** TestSvg

**Hysteresis Alignment**

test,test

**Single GMR**

test,test

**Dual GMR**

one MFLI supplies both at same frequency. Aux Trigger tested, but no advantage.



## 3. Materials and Methods

### 3.1. Microfluidic Fabrication

#### 3.1.1. Development of Layout

#### 3.1.2. Patterning of Photoresist

#### 3.1.3. Soft Lithography

The fabricated wafer was placed the center of a 90 cm petri dish. A PDMS (Poly(dimethyl siloxane)) mold was created by vigorous mixing of the pre-polymer base with its curing agent (Sygard 184, Dowsil) in a ratio of 10:1 (w/w). For 3" wafers, thin channels were casted from 15 g, normal channels from 20 g PDMS in the petri dish. Gas bubbles were removed from the mixture in a desiccator for 20 min at 2 hPa , and the clear PDMS was cured in an oven (Um, Memmert) for 1 h at 60 °C. After curing, the PDMS mold was released from the petri dish carefully, taken off the wafer and stored in a clean petri dish upon further processing.

#### 3.1.4. Bonding of Microfluidic

Under laminar flow, crosslinked molds were cut into pieces with the respecting single  $\mu$ F (Microfluidic) with a razor blade. Holes for in- and outlet were punched through the containing channels with a biopsy puncher (ID 0.5 mm, WellTech). The substrates and  $\mu$ Fs were sonicated in acetone and diH<sub>2</sub>O (deionized Water) for 5 min and dried with filtered N<sub>2</sub> (Nitrogen Gas) completely. For the bonding of PDMS to various substrates different protocols have been established:

#### PDMS Glueing

Here, a micron-height layer of uncured PDMS was used as an adhesive layer between  $\mu$ F and substrate. Approx. 3 mL were poured onto a 3" wafer and spun down for 5 min at  $6000 \frac{1}{\text{min}}$ . The microchannel was placed on the substrate by visual control of a stereo microscope (SMZ800, Nikon) with 8-fold magnification. Subsequently, the bonding process could be finished by a 1 h bake at 60 °C or over-night at room temperature.

#### Plasma Bonding

Due to the chemical nature of glass (or more generally oxides) and PDMS, the respective parts can be activated by the exposure to a controlled oxygen plasma which generates additional silanol (Si-OH) groups on their surfaces and removes impurities at the

same time. Bringing the activated surfaces in contact triggers the formation of covalent bonds almost immediately. First, the acetone-wiped substrates and the microchannels were centered inside the plasma cleaner (Zepto, Diener). Second, vacuum was applied to a final pressure  $<0.2$  hPa. Third, the chamber was flushed with pure  $O_2$  (Oxygen Gas) until a chamber pressure from 0.7 hPa to 0.8 hPa had been stabilized. Fourth, the plasma process was executed with 30 W (Power-Poti: 100) for 45 s to 60 s (Time-Poti: 15-20). Upon finish, the chamber was flushed for 5 s and ventilated. Immediately, the corresponding workpieces were brought into contact and pressed together gently. To ensure a durable bond, the assembled workpieces were baked for 1 h at 60 °C.

$$\text{Here goes the mass flow equation} \quad (3.1)$$

### **Reversible Bonding**

To bond the  $\mu F$  to a substrate reversibly and without residues, the channel can be brought into contact with the bottom part without any adhesion agent. For low-pressure as well as vacuum driven flows, this method is preferable due to its time and work efficiency.

## **3.2. Surface Bio-Functionalization**

### **3.2.1. Surface Activation**

To functionalize any surface with  $-OH$

#### **Hydrochloric-Sulfuric Acid Activation**

#### **Piranha Activation**

#### **Hydrofluoric Acid Activation**

### **3.2.2. Chemical Surface Functionalization**

### **3.2.3. Surface Bioconjugation**

## **3.3. Magnetic Beadometry**

### **3.3.1. Standard Parameters**

### **3.3.2. Concentration Measurement**

### **3.3.3. Whole Blood Bead Spiking**

### **3.3.4. Bead Capture Assay**

### **3.3.5. Optical Particle Tracking**

## **3.4. Tensiometry**

## 4. Results

test,test

### 4.1. Signal Similarity For Cells With Varying Bead Coverages

Cross-Correlation between single dipole with sum magnetic moment and surface covered with randomly distributed magnetic particles

#### 4.1.1. Single Cell Signal

#### 4.1.2. Cell Aggregates

### 4.2. Reference Bead Surface Functionalization

#### 4.2.1. Amine-Surface Biotinylation

Streptavidin-Atto488 reference calibration Anti-Biotin-PE working? BNF-Dextran-Streptavidin  
unspecific binding?

**Magnetic Polystyrene Bead**

**Non-Magnetic Polystyrene Bead**

#### 4.2.2. Carboxy-Surface Biotinylation

### 4.3. Concentration Measurements in MRCyte

#### 4.3.1. Count Stability

Measurement over 1h Measurement of Syringe Tubing Losses

#### 4.3.2. Velocity Measurement

#### 4.3.3. 2-Chip-Setup for Macro Measurements

**Sensitivity Calibration**

**Concentration Measurements**

### 4.4. Protein Immobilization On The Microfluidic Channel

Bottom

#### 4.4.1. Physisorption

Quantification in Plate Reader Trial with Neutravidin + Sensor (Esthis Versuch)

#### **4.4.2. Covalent Attachment**

##### **Plasma-Based Approach**

##### **Water-Based Approach**

Sonicate in Acetone and Water 5' 1:1 HCl (Hydro-Chloric Acid):Methanol H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (Sulfuric Acid) Treat for 30 min in light boiling water

## 5. Discussion

test,test

## 6. Outlook



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# Statement

I declare that I have authored this thesis independently, that I have not used other than the declared sources / resources, and that I have explicitly marked all material which has been quoted either literally or by content from the used sources.

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Munich, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Signature