

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



Scientific thesis for the attainment of the academic degree
Master of Science (M.Sc.)
of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
at the Technical University of Munich.

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1. Theoretical Prerequisites

The main measurement principle by a GMR (giant magneto resistance)-Sensor has been already described and characterized exhaustively by Helou [1], Reisbeck [2] and Brenner [3]. Therefore, this theoretical part will focus on (bio-)physical aspects of a cell rolling motion inside a microfluidic channel and surface modification chemistry.

1.1. Microfluidics

The main experiments of this work were carried out in microfluidic environments, which exhibit favorable properties compared to common turbulent systems. From a fluid-mechanical standpoint, shrinking the scales makes interfacial as well as electrokinetic phenomena much more significant, and reduces the importance of pressure and gravity.[4] However, electrodynamics, chemistry and fluid dynamics are intricately intertwined, so that fluid flow can create electric fields (and vice versa), with a degree of coupling driven by the surface chemistry. Many of the resulting phenomena arise or can be explained by Cauchy-Momentum equation (eq. 1.3) and the resulting Navier-Stokes equation for incompressible fluids (eq. 1.4).

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \iiint \rho dV = - \iint \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{n}} dA \quad (1.1)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad (1.2)$$

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} + \sum_i \mathbf{f}_i \quad (1.3)$$

$$\underbrace{\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t}}_{\text{Transient}} + \underbrace{\rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}}_{\text{Convection}} = \underbrace{-\nabla p}_{\text{Pressure}} + \underbrace{\eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}}_{\text{Viscous}} + \underbrace{\sum_i \mathbf{f}_i}_{\text{Body Forces}} \quad (1.4)$$

conservation of mass, momentum reynolds number

1.1.1. Flow Field inside Microchannels

The foremost characteristic of a microchannel is the laminar flow behavior, which causes deterministic pathlines. Mathematically this is described by the reynolds number, which compares the inertia to shear forces. If it results below a certain threshold of 2000,

laminar flow can be assumed. This holds true for the utilized microfluidic with the dimensions $12\,000\,\mu\text{m} \times 700\,\mu\text{m} \times 150\,\mu\text{m}$ ($l \times w \times h$) and aqueous buffer solutions, where the channel width was used as characteristic length l . Hence, the Navier-Stokes equation can be applied to our system.

$$Re = \frac{2\rho|\bar{u}|l}{\eta} \quad (1.5)$$

The step from the Cauchy momentum equation to the Navier-Stokes equation is complex and harbors several sources of error. First, an incompressible newtonian fluid as well as channel is assumed. The used water suspensions can be approximated with negligible compressibility, which is not true for the real case. Also, for blood or other shear-thinning fluids some deviations are prone for high errors. This happens due to the fact that the τ (surface stress tensor) is decomposed into pressure and viscous contributions as shown in the equations 1.6. Then, the divergence relation of the respective viscous stress (eq. 1.7) does not hold for non-uniform viscosity η .

$$\tau = \tau_{viscous} + \tau_{pressure} = 2\eta\epsilon - p\mathbf{I}_{3 \times 3} \quad (1.6)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \tau_{viscous} = \nabla \cdot 2\eta\epsilon = \nabla \cdot \eta \nabla \mathbf{u} \stackrel{\substack{\text{only if } \eta \\ \text{uniform}}}{=} \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} \quad (1.7)$$

Second, the channel height varies in reality as a result of fabrication inaccuracies. In the model case of a flow through a rectangular channel, no analytical solution of the Navier-Stokes equation exists, but a Fourier Series expansion if channel width is larger than channel height. [5] The equation 1.8 shows that height deviations can have prominent influence on a channel velocity simulation as it is proportional to h^2 . Further, the flow rate (which is the velocity integral over the channel cross section) depends even on h^3 .

$$u_x(y, z) = \frac{4h^2\Delta p}{\pi^3\eta l} \sum_{n, \text{odd}} \frac{1}{n^3} \left(1 - \frac{\cosh(n\pi\frac{y}{h})}{\cosh(n\pi\frac{w}{2h})} \right) \sin(n\pi\frac{z}{h}) \quad (1.8)$$

Third, the transient term (eq. 1.4) was neglected in all simulations, but a connected syringe pump possesses a slow rise time (Fig. 1a) and a remaining “pulsation error” in steady state (Fig. 1b). In effect, another error adds to the simulation, which is only valid after several ten seconds of the last flow rate change.

For later studies in a matlab model, the flow velocity and shear stress computations

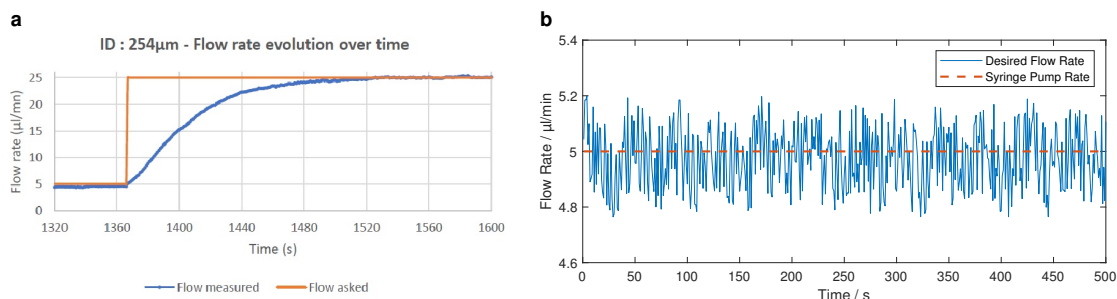


Figure 1: Syringe Pump error sources

Set flow rate: —, Real Flow Rate: — **a**, Transient step answer of a syringe pump through a microtube with 254 μm inner diameter. **b**, Steady state flow rate error around the desired $5 \mu\text{L min}^{-1}$ dispensing rate. A sinusoidal behaviour caused by the microstepping can be observed. [6]

were carried out with the error sources considered.

1.1.2. Particles in Microfluidics

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

1.1.3.

1.2. Surface Chemistry

Molecules can be immobilized through various mechanisms on surfaces to achieve a desired functionality. The most simple is physisorption. Here, a biomolecule is bonded only by weak electrostatic, van-der-Waals or dipole-dipole interaction with an adsorption enthalpy below 50 kJ mol^{-1} . In contrast, this yields fast reaction rates, because no activation energy has to be overcome. Although a large number of molecules can be captured with this method, several drawbacks have been identified. [7], [8] For example, immobilized receptors can start to desorb or change their position, which in turn reduces sensitivity or causes false-positive results. [9], [10]

Therefore, most functionalization approaches rely on chemisorption where molecules are covalently bound to a surface. Due to the higher activation energy barrier this bonding mechanism works slower in comparison to physisorption though higher temperatures or catalysts can promote an equilibrium. One of the most well-known strategies to achieve reproducible thin films on surfaces is the formation of SAMs (self-assembled monolayers)

[11]

Weiterhin kann es zu Verschiebungen der adsorbierten Rezeptoren kommen, wodurch es zu falsch-positiven Ergebnissen kommen kann.[9] Daher basieren die meisten Funktionalisierungsmethoden nicht auf der Physisorption, sondern auf der Chemisorption. Hierbei werden Moleküle kovalent an die Oberfläche gebunden. Aufgrund der dabei zu überwindenden Aktivierungsbarriere läuft diese Reaktion langsamer im Vergleich zur Physisorption ab. Bei erhöhten Temperaturen kann das Einstellen des Gleichgewichtes jedoch begünstigt werden. Eine der bekanntesten Strategien dünne Filme auf Oberflächen zu erzeugen, ist die Bildung von selbstorganisierenden Monoschichten (SAM),[46-48] wobei eine kovalente, sehr stabile Bindung zwischen den organischen Komponenten und dem Substrat ausgebildet wird.[49] SAM bilden sich spontan beim Eintauchen in oberflächenaktive Lösungen. Hierzu gehören die Bindung von Alkanthiolen auf Goldoberflächen und die Bindung von Silanen auf Siliziumoberflächen (Abbildung 6).

1.2.1. Silane Chemistry

By the use of silane chemistry a surface is rendered organofunctional with alkoxysilane molecules. Since glass, silicon, alumina, titania, and quartz surfaces, as well as other metal oxide interfaces, are rich in hydroxyl groups, silanes are particularly useful for modifying these materials. These groups attack and displace the alkoxy groups on the silane thus forming a covalent — Si — O — Si — bond. [12]

A silane molecule contains a central silicon atom bonded to two types of groups - alkoxy groups and organo-functional groups. These two types exhibit different reactivity allowing sequential reactions and have the ability to form a durable bond between organic and inorganic materials. The final result of reacting an organosilane with a substrate ranges from altering the wetting or adhesion characteristics of the substrate, utilizing the substrate to catalyze chemical transformation at the heterogeneous interface, ordering the interfacial region, and modifying its partition characteristics. Significantly, it includes the ability to effect a covalent bond between organic and inorganic materials. Especially in optical or biological sensors, silane modifications open a broad range of applications. [13]

Die Einführung von neuen Funktionalitäten durch die Silanisierung der Oberfläche hat eine große Bedeutung in der Biosensorik. Die Hydroxylgruppen können hierbei durch

die Reinigung der Oberfläche mit Piranha-Lösung oder UV/Ozon aufgebaut werden kann. Die so erzeugten reaktiven Hydroxylgruppen reagieren anschließend in einer Kondensationsreaktion mit dem Silan (Abbildung 7). Häufig beschrieben wird die Umsetzung von Glasoberflächen oder Siliziumoberflächen mit 3-Aminopropyltrimethoxysilan (APTMS) oder Aminopropyltriethoxysilan (APTES).

Unterschiede bei der Verwendung von APTES und APTMS liegen in der Reaktivität der Verbindungen. Aufgrund der großen Reaktivität von APTMS werden die Reaktionen in reinen organischen Lösungsmitteln durchgeführt. Dadurch lassen sich dünnere und kontrollierte Schichten mit Aminopropylgruppen erzeugen. Bei der Bildung von Monoschichten mit APTES muss die Reaktion mit Wasser katalysiert werden.[51] Weiterhin wird in der Literatur beschrieben, dass es zu Reaktionen zwischen den Aminogruppen des Silans und den Hydroxylgruppen der Oberfläche kommen kann, wobei keine geordnete Schicht erhalten muss die Reaktion mit Wasser katalysiert werden.[51] Weiterhin wird in der Literatur beschrieben, dass es zu Reaktionen zwischen den Aminogruppen des Silans und den Hydroxylgruppen der Oberfläche kommen kann, wobei keine geordnete Schicht erhalten

Oxidation^{H₂}

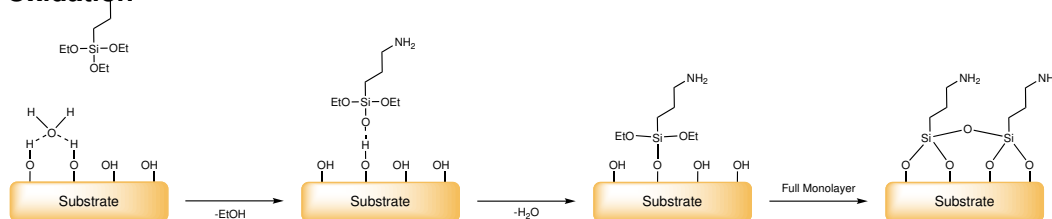


Figure 2: APTES

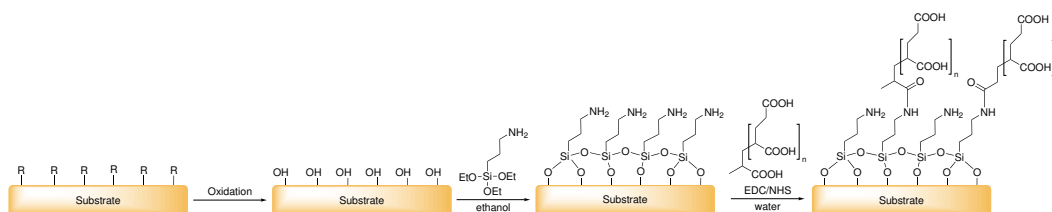
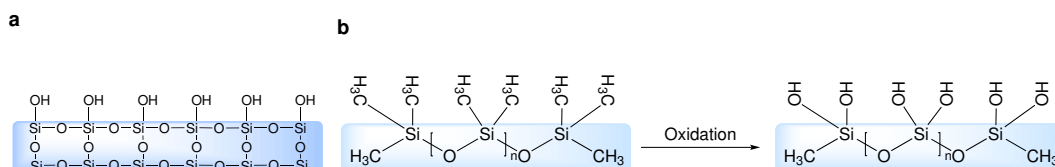


Figure 3:



Nam dui ligula, fringilla a, euismod sodales, sollicitudin vel, wisi. Morbi auctor lorem non justo. Nam lacus libero, pretium at, lobortis vitae, ultricies et, tellus. Donec aliquet, tortor sed accumsan bibendum, erat ligula aliquet magna, vitae ornare odio metus a mi. Morbi ac orci et nisl hendrerit mollis. Suspendisse ut massa. Cras nec ante. Pellentesque a nulla. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Aliquam tincidunt urna. Nulla ullamcorper vestibulum turpis. Pellentesque cursus luctus mauris.

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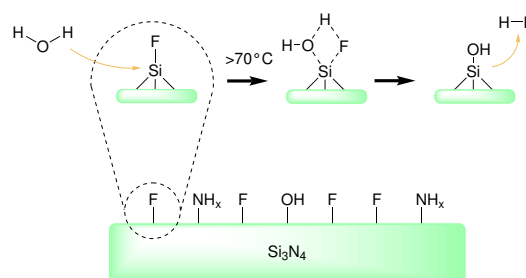


Figure 5: Silicon nitride etching with hydrofluoric acid

1.2.2. Carbodiimide Crosslinker Chemistry

EDC-NHS-Activation sulfo-NHS vs. NHS

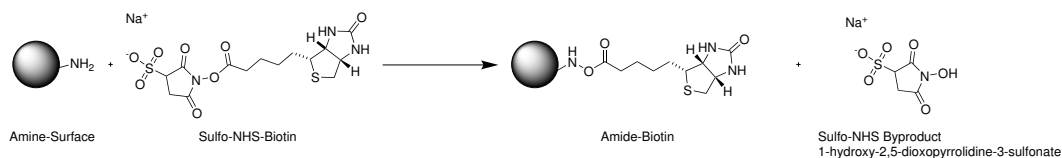


Figure 6: TestSvg

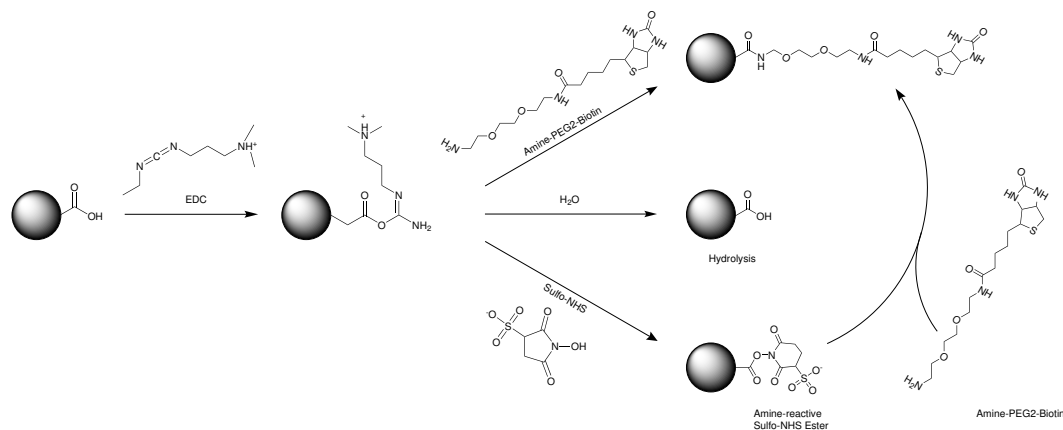


Figure 7: TestSvg

1.2.3. Microscopic Particle Surface Physics

1.2.4. The Biotin-Avidin-System

1.3. MRCyte

Short intro over MRCyte Foto of setup with arrows to necessary parts Microscope

Stages PEEK holder Helmholtz coils Kepco MFLI DAQ

1.3.1. Focusing Structures

test,test Loss because of reduced velocity and magnetic drag

1.3.2. GMR

Different produced GMR stacks Wheatstone Bridge setup Magnet alignment

1.3.3. Electrical Circuit

Ground PCB Stacked PCBs with spacer

1.3.4. Electronic Readout

test,test

Hysteresis Alignment

test,test

Single GMR

test,test

Dual GMR

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

2. Results

test,test

2.1. 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

2.1.1. Single Cell Signal

2.1.2. Cell Aggregates

2.2. Reference Bead Surface Functionalization

2.2.1. Amine-Surface Biotinylation

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

Magnetic Polystyrene Bead

Non-Magnetic Polystyrene Bead

2.2.2. Carboxy-Surface Biotinylation

2.3. Concentration Measurements in MRCyte

2.3.1. Count Stability

Measurement over 1h Measurement of Syringe Tubing Losses

2.3.2. Velocity Measurement

2.3.3. 2-Chip-Setup for Macro Measurements

Sensitivity Calibration

Concentration Measurements

2.4. Protein Immobilization On The Microfluidic Channel

Bottom

2.4.1. Physisorption

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

2.4.2. Covalent Attachment

Plasma-Based Approach

Water-Based Approach

Sonicate in Acetone and Water 5' 1:1 HCl (hydrochloric acid):Methanol H₂SO₄ (sulfuric acid) Treat for 30 min in light boiling water

List of Abbreviations

Symbols

τ - surface stress tensor.....	
η - dynamic viscosity.....	
μF - microfluidic.....	
ρ - density	
$\sum_i \mathbf{f}_i$ - body forces.....	

A

AAF - artificial Anti-Ferromagnet.....	
AcOH - acetic acid.....	
AFM - Anti-Ferromagnetism.....	
APTES - (3-aminopropyl)triethoxysilane	

D

diH ₂ O - deionized water	
--	--

E

EDC - 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide	
EtOH - ethanol.....	

F

FM - Ferrimagnetism.....	
FWHM - full width at half maximum.....	

G

GMR - giant magneto resistance	
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H

H ₂ O ₂ - hydrogen peroxide	
H ₂ SO ₄ - sulfuric acid.....	
HCl - hydrochloric acid.....	
HF - hydrofluoric acid.....	

I

IPA - isopropanol.....

M

MACS - MACS running buffer.....

MeOH - methanol.....

MES - 2-(N-morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid.....

MNP - magnetic nanoparticle.....

N

N₂ - nitrogen Gas.....

NFM - non-ferro-magnetic.....

NHS - N-hydroxysuccinimide.....

O

O₂ - oxygen Gas.....

P

PAA - Poly(acrylic) Acid.....

PBS - phosphate buffered saline.....

PCB - Printed Circuit Board.....

PDMS - poly(dimethyl siloxane).....

Piranha - H₂O₂:H₂SO₄.....

PM - Paramagnetism.....

S

SAM - self-assembled monolayer.....

Si₃N₄ - silicon nitride.....



SMA - styrene maleic anhydride.....

SPM - superparamagnetism.....

U

u - flow field.....

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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.

Munich, December 4th, 2020, Signature