

# Challenge of Understanding Structure-odor Relationships and Development of Olfaction Inspired Odor Sensor Based on Molecular Imprinted Materials

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# Introduction

## Smell or olfaction

Chemical sense

Odorants

To understand environment

A large gene family (1,000 genes)

1 trillion olfactory stimuli



## Purposes



Food foraging



Mating

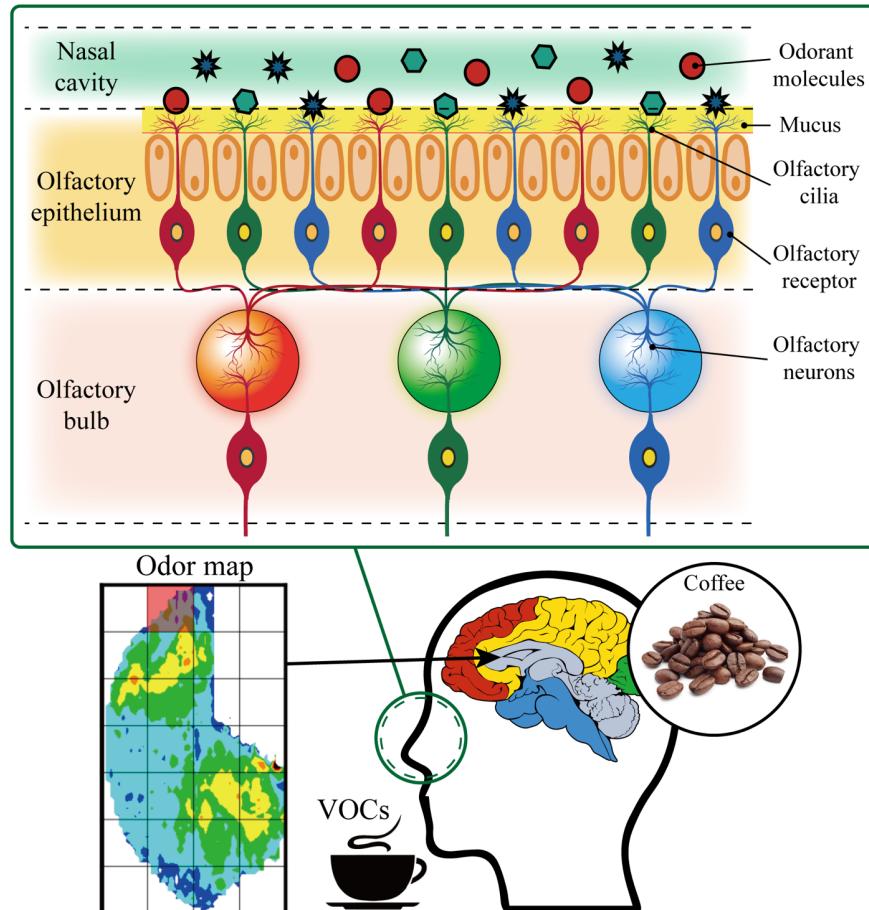


Detection of threats



Trail following

# Olfaction and olfaction system



## Understand bio-olfaction system

**Molecular features for odorants  
(Molecular parameters)**

**Response pattern on olfaction bulb  
(Odor map)**

**Odor feelings/descriptions  
( Perceptual intelligence )**

Studying the relationship between odor maps and the structural features of odorants can be helpful for understanding the mechanisms underlying olfactory perception.

# Olfaction and olfaction system

Odorants with a comparable structure would be smelled similarly

→ **Molecular descriptors**

→ **Mass spectra**

→ **Infrared spectra**

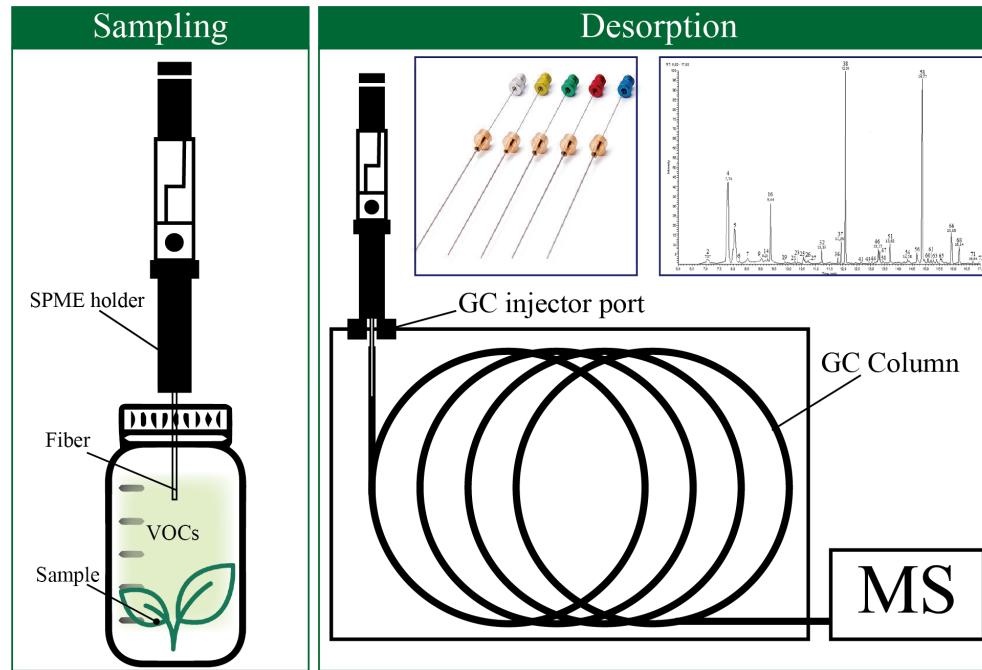


To measure  
odorants

The relationship between molecular features and perceptual feelings are still not clear because of its complexity and nonlinearity

# Odor detection method

## Gas chromatography/mass spectrometer



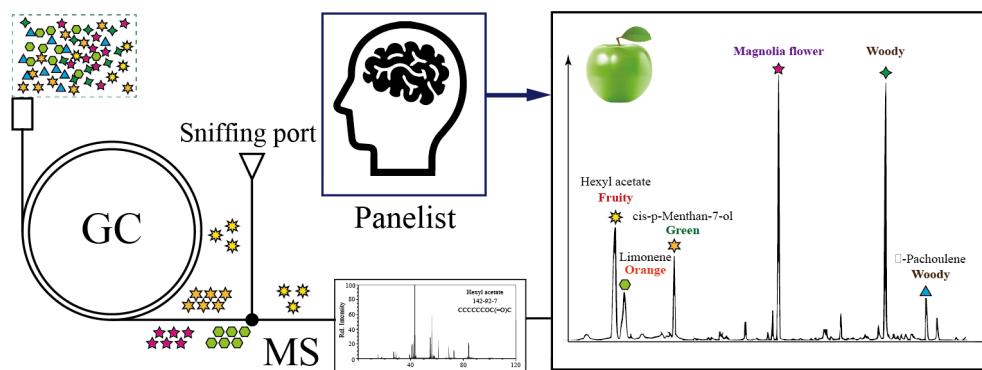
High sensitivity

Mature technology

High-cost

Not portable

Time-consuming

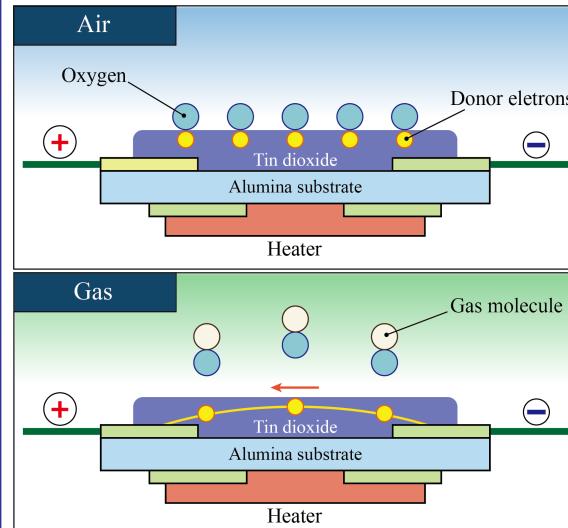


Not suitable for real-time monitoring

# Odor detection method

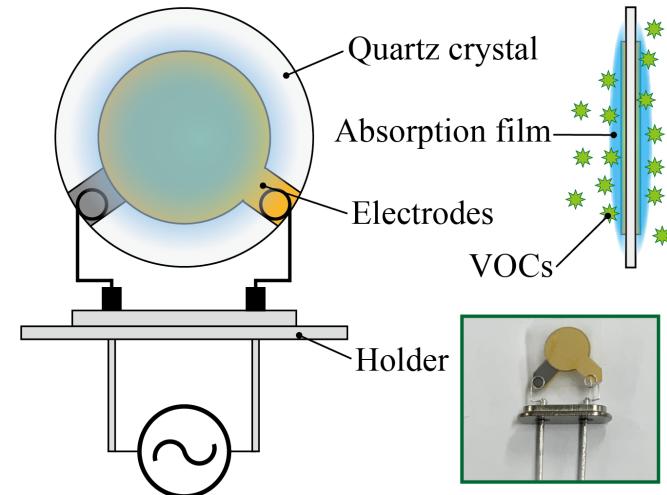
## Gas sensors and chemical sensors

### Metal Oxide Semiconductor



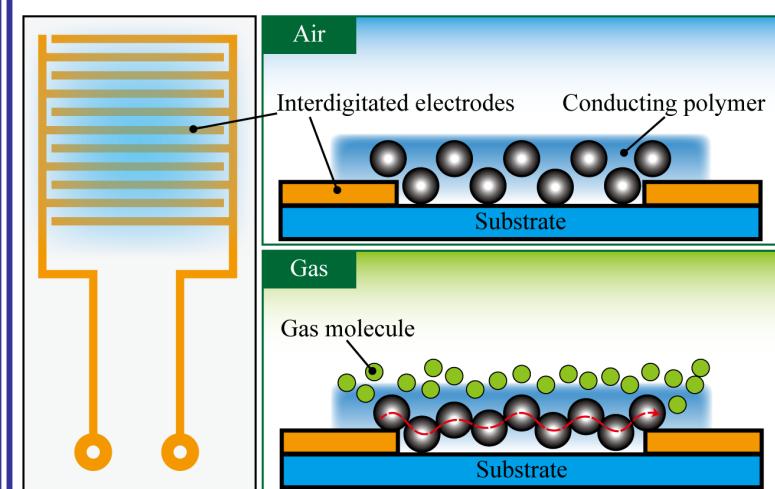
High operating temperatures

### Quartz Crystal Microbalance



Easily effected by noise and humidity

### Chemiresistors

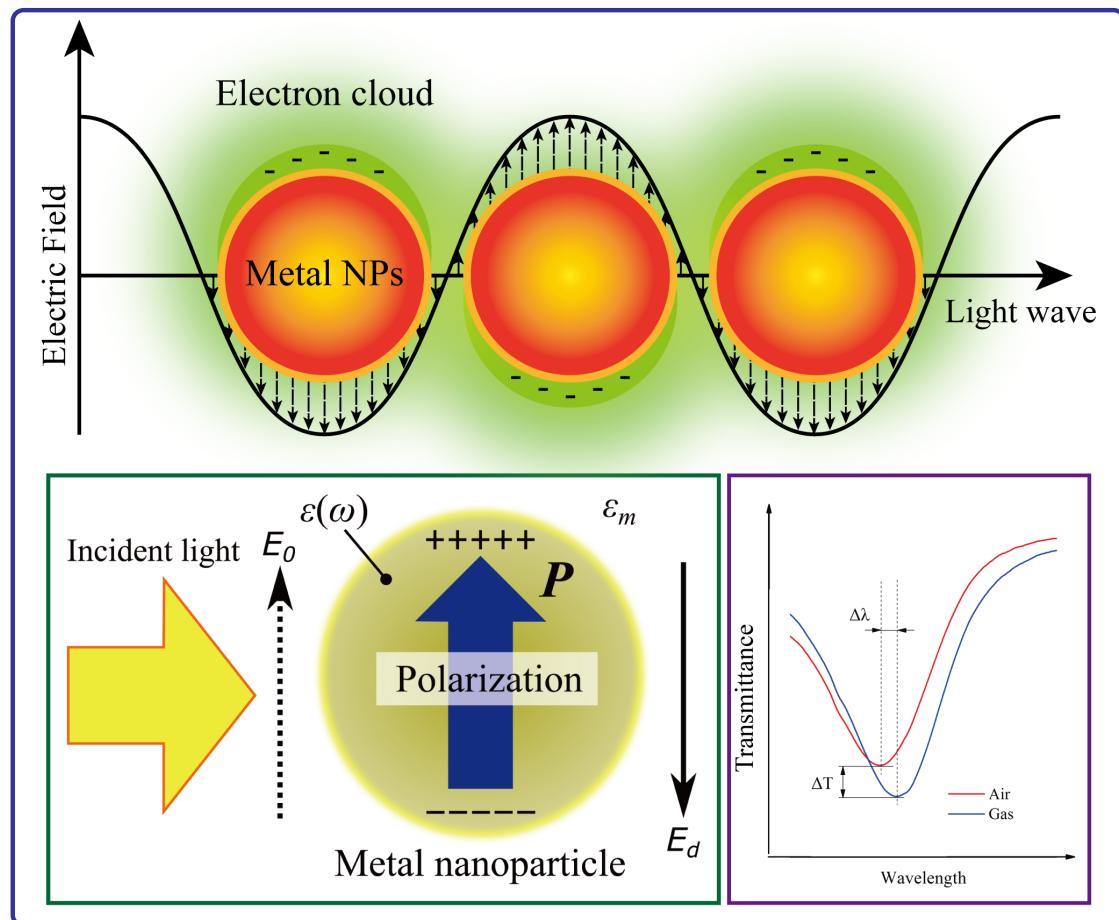


Aging problem

Novel sensors should be developed for VOCs detection with **low cost, high response speed and sensitivity.**

# LSPR

## Localized surface plasmon resonance (LSPR)



$$P = \frac{3}{4\pi} \frac{\epsilon_m[\epsilon(\omega)-1]}{\epsilon(\omega)+2\epsilon_m} E_0$$

**Absorption spectra**

**Particle size, shape, composition**

**Surrounding media**

**Merit & drawback**

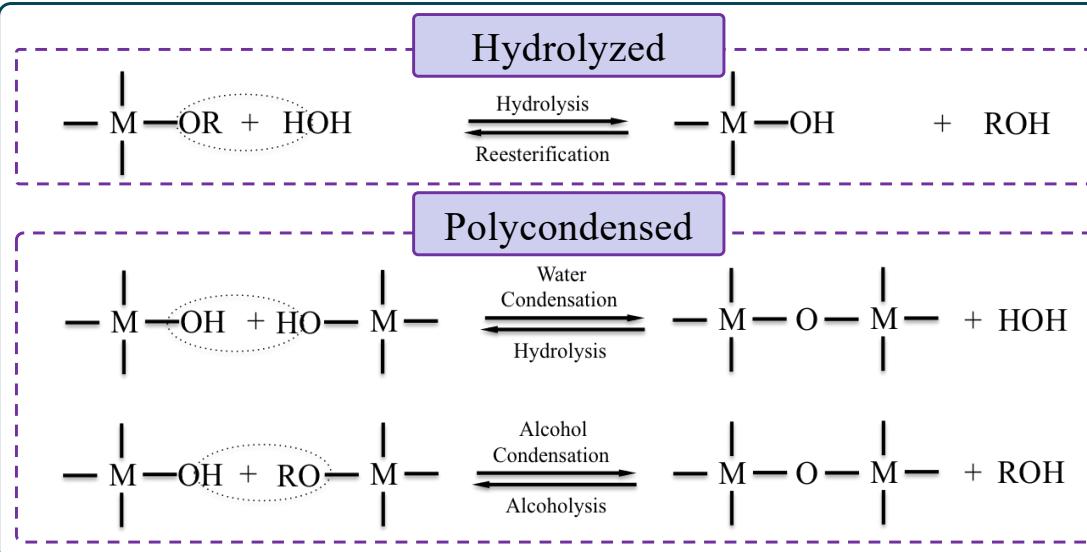
**Fast response/recovery speed**

**Non specificity**

# MISGs

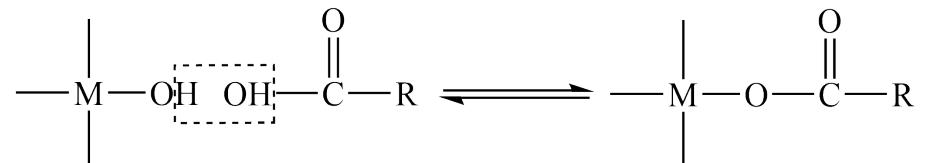
## Molecularly Imprinted Sol-gel (MISG)

### Reaction principle

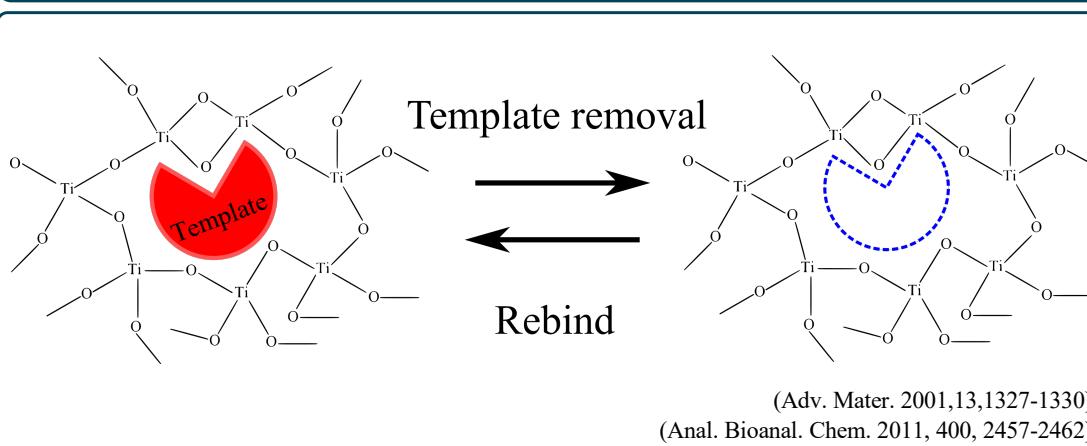
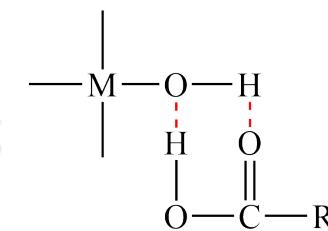


### Imprinting method

#### Covalent bonding



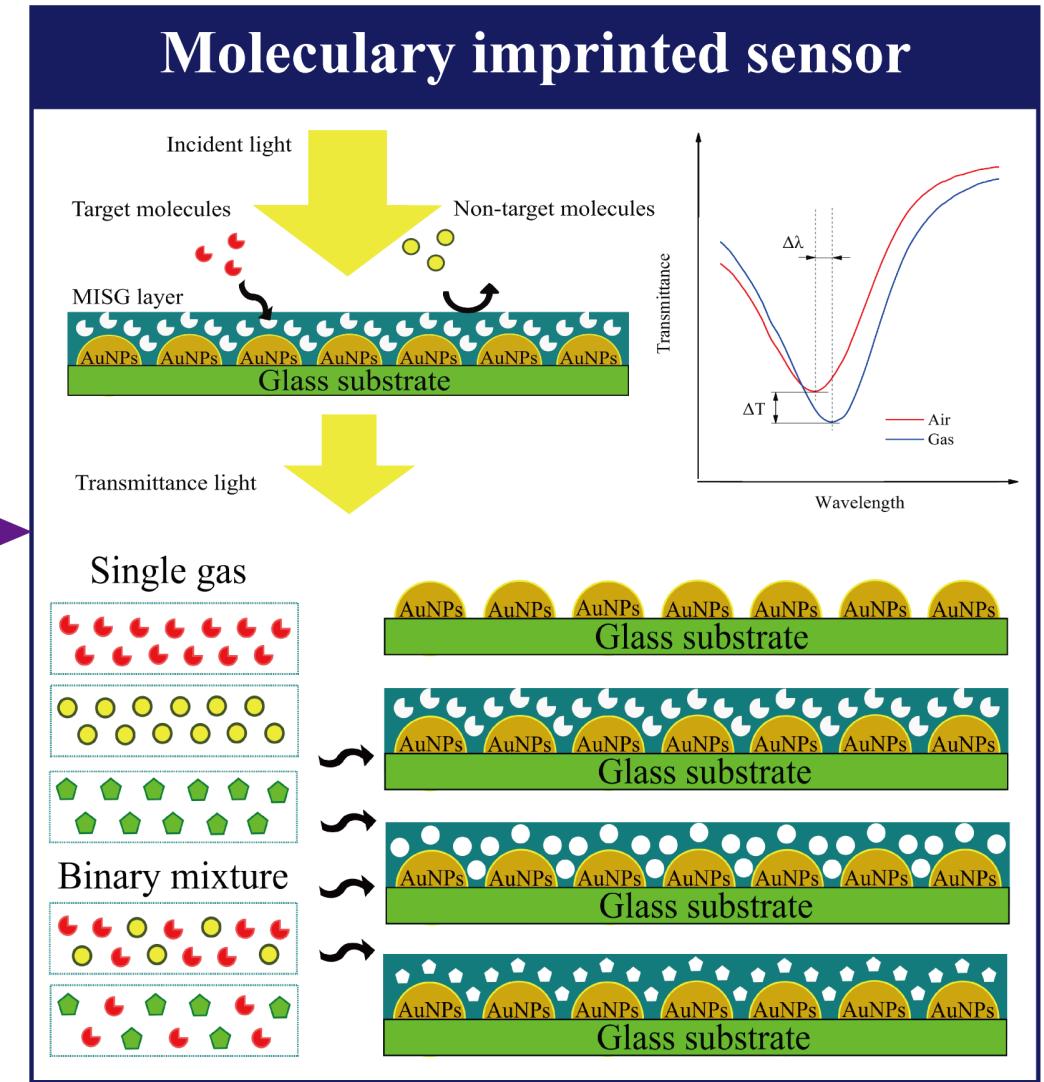
#### Hydrogen bonding



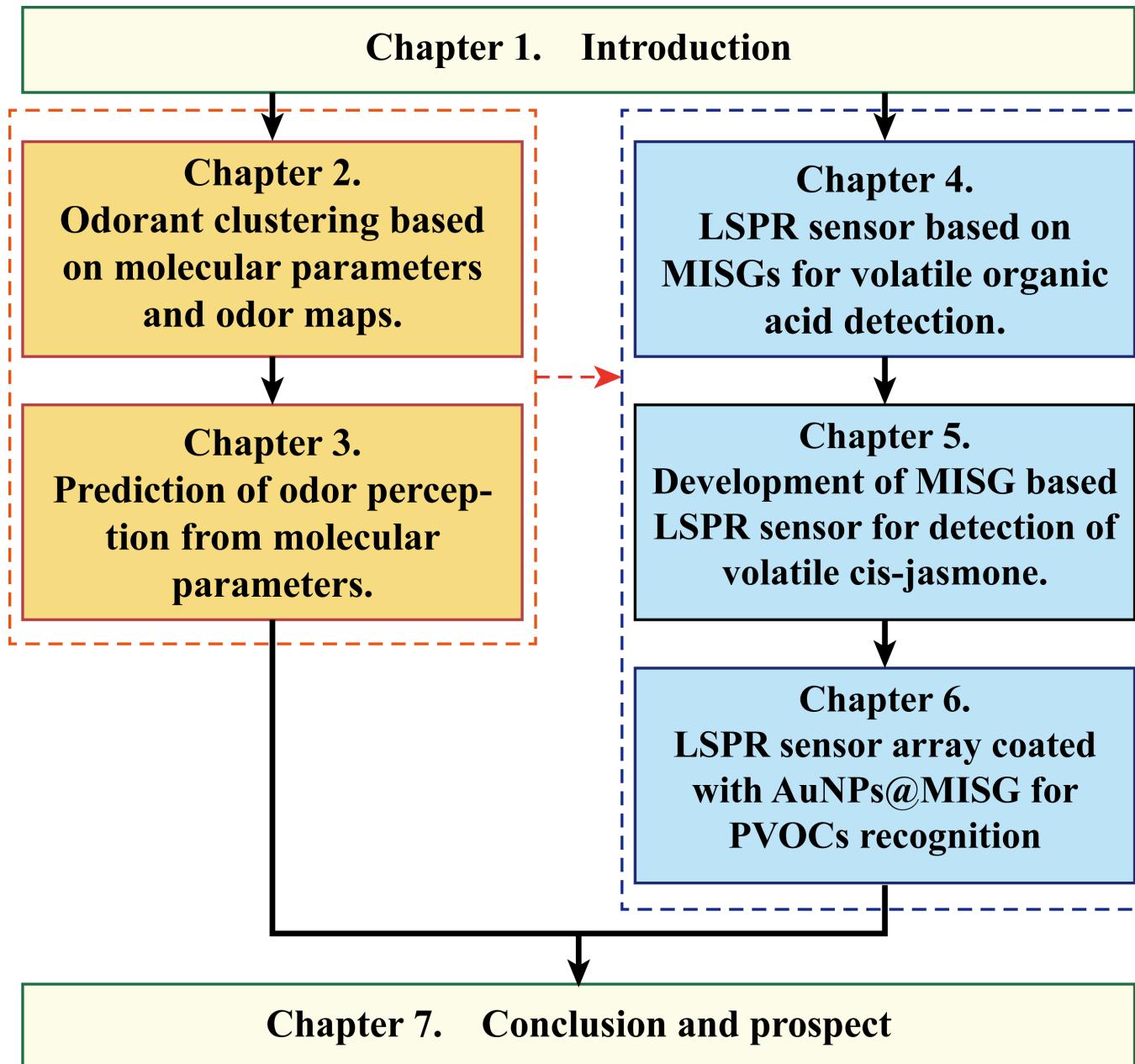
### Compared with other MIP

Stability of  
chemical and thermal

# Motivation and objectives



# Organization of dissertation



# Chapter 2

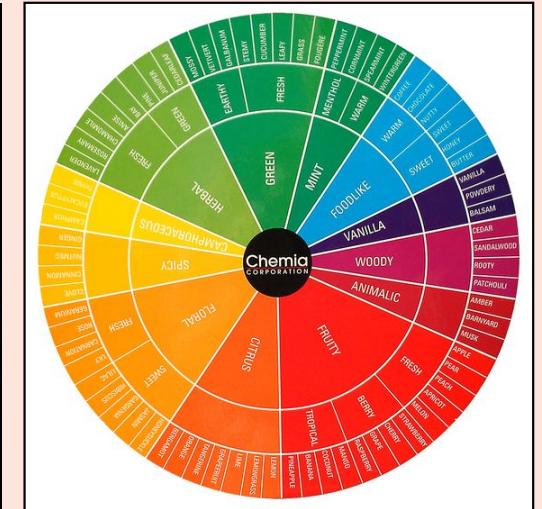
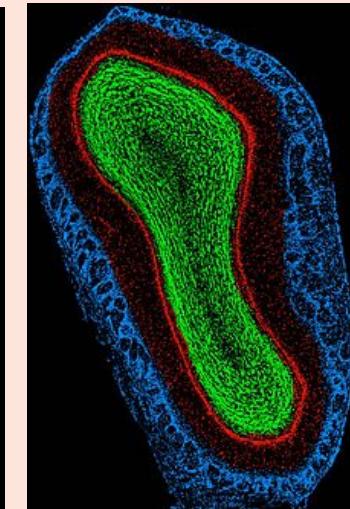
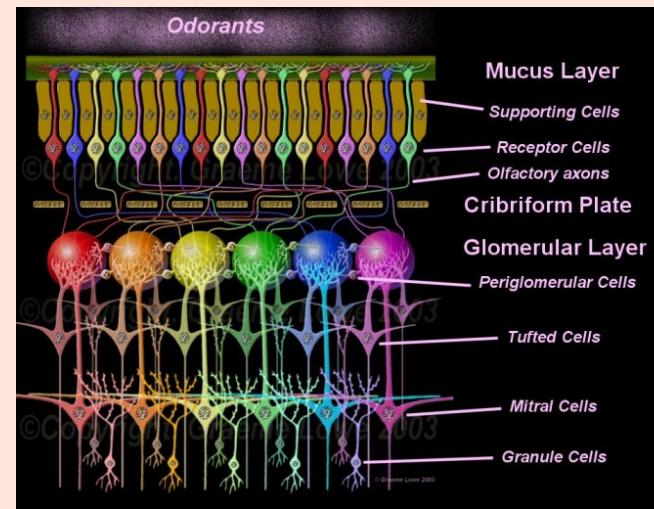
## Odorant Clustering Based on Molecular Parameters and Odor Maps



# Introduction



## The mechanism of biological olfaction has become clearer



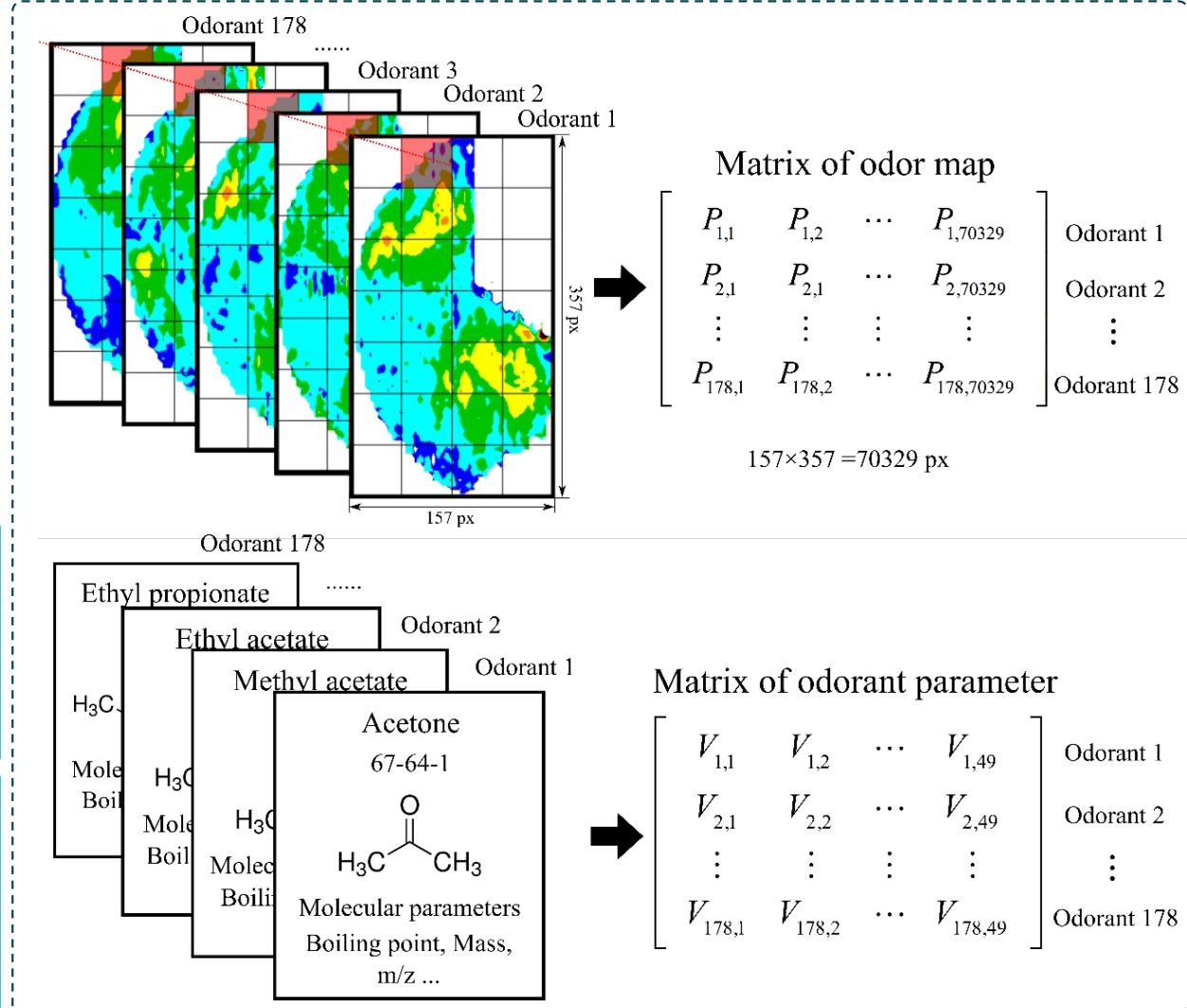
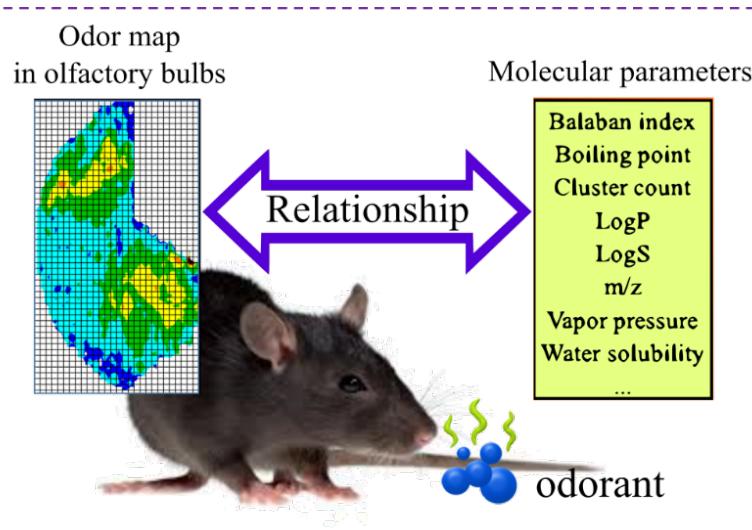
# Molecular features for odorants

# Compress

# Response pattern on olfaction bulb

To explore the relationship between odor patterns and their molecular features.

# Data description



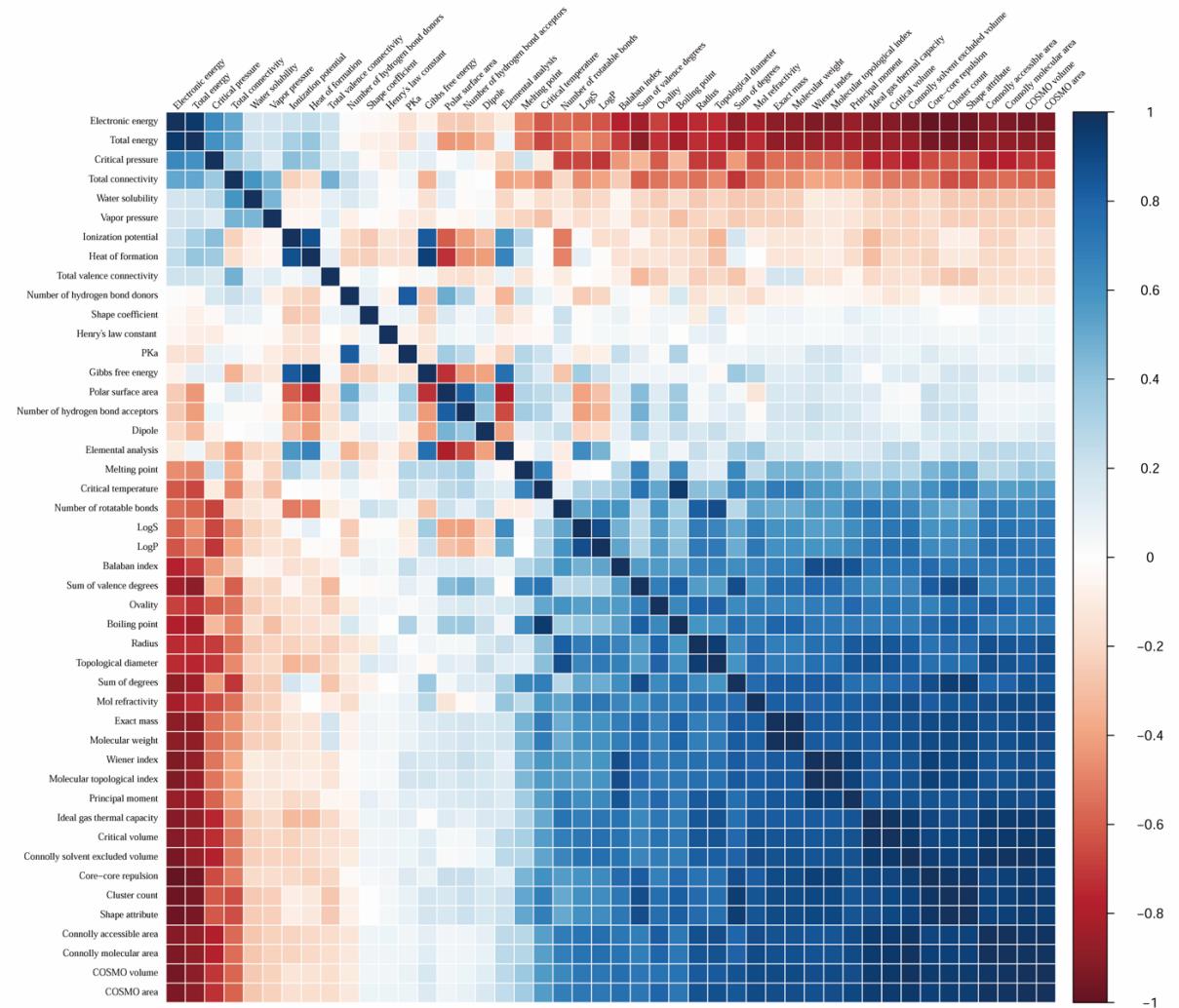
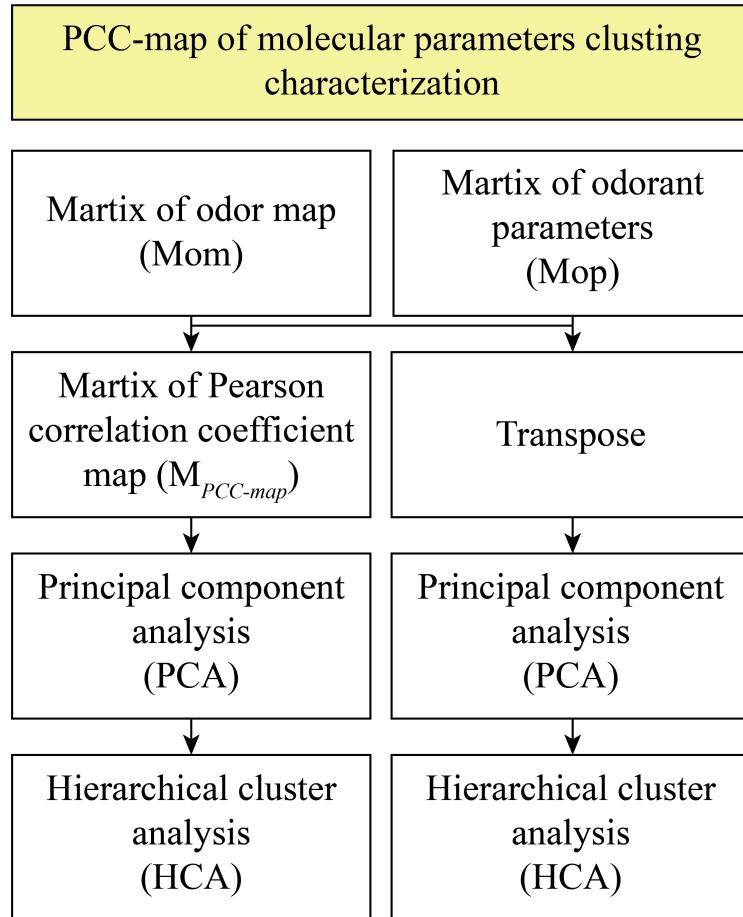
Odor maps:

<http://gara.bio.uci.edu/>

Molecular parameters:  
Calculated by ChemBio 3D

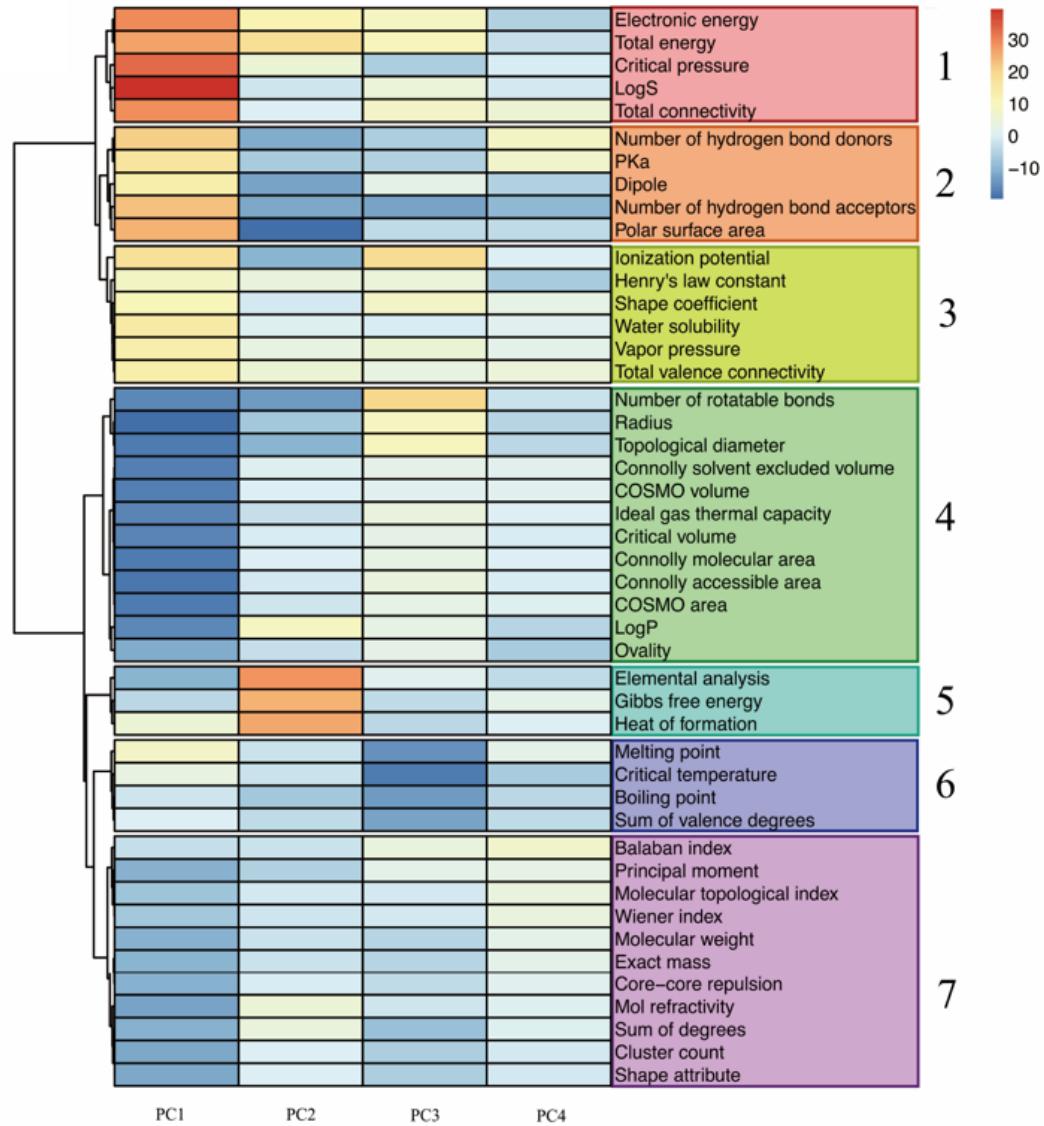
Here, we will talk about these 2 matrixes:  
olfaction information and molecular information.

# Method

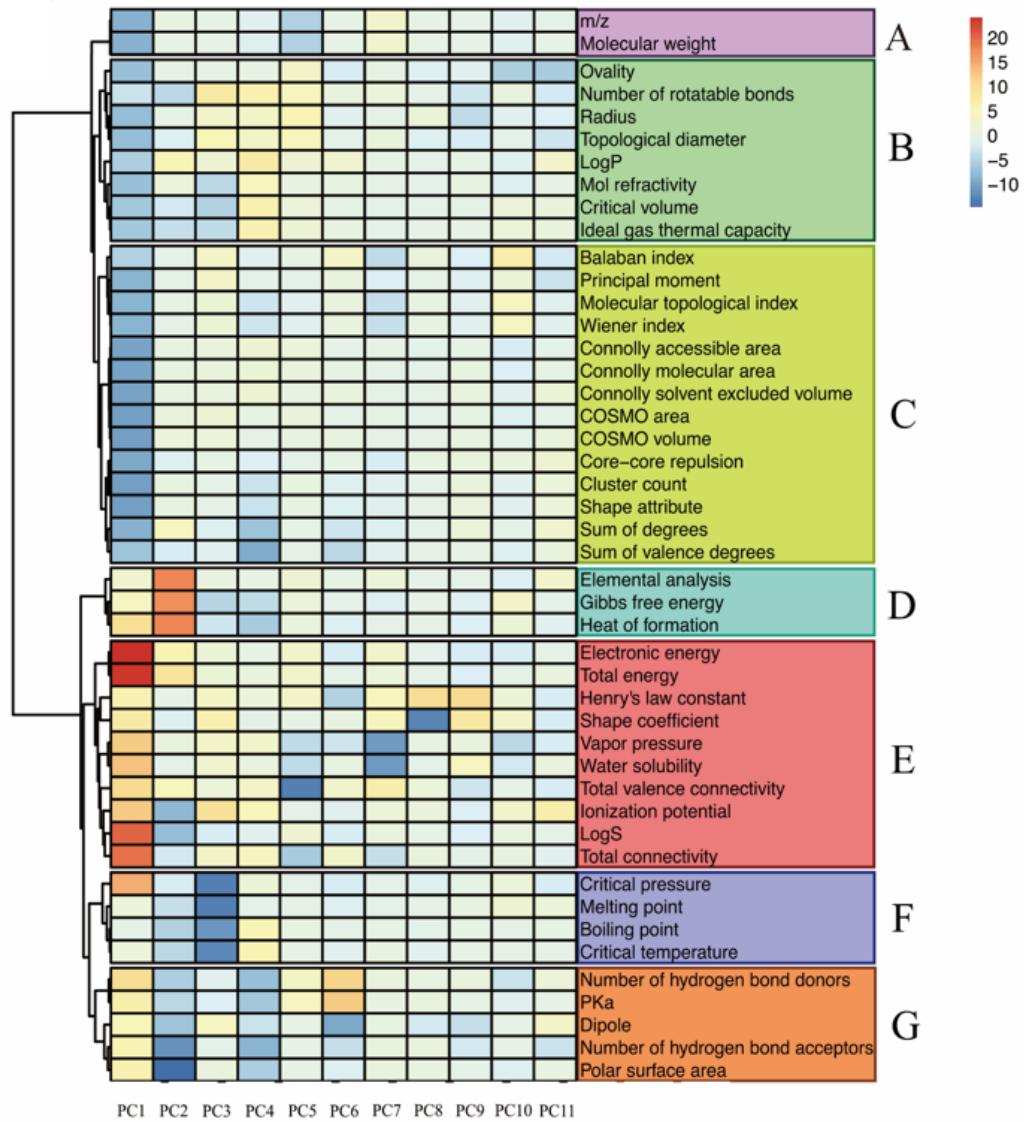


Some parameters are linearly related and that some **similar information** is included in the molecular parameter matrix.

# PCC-maps

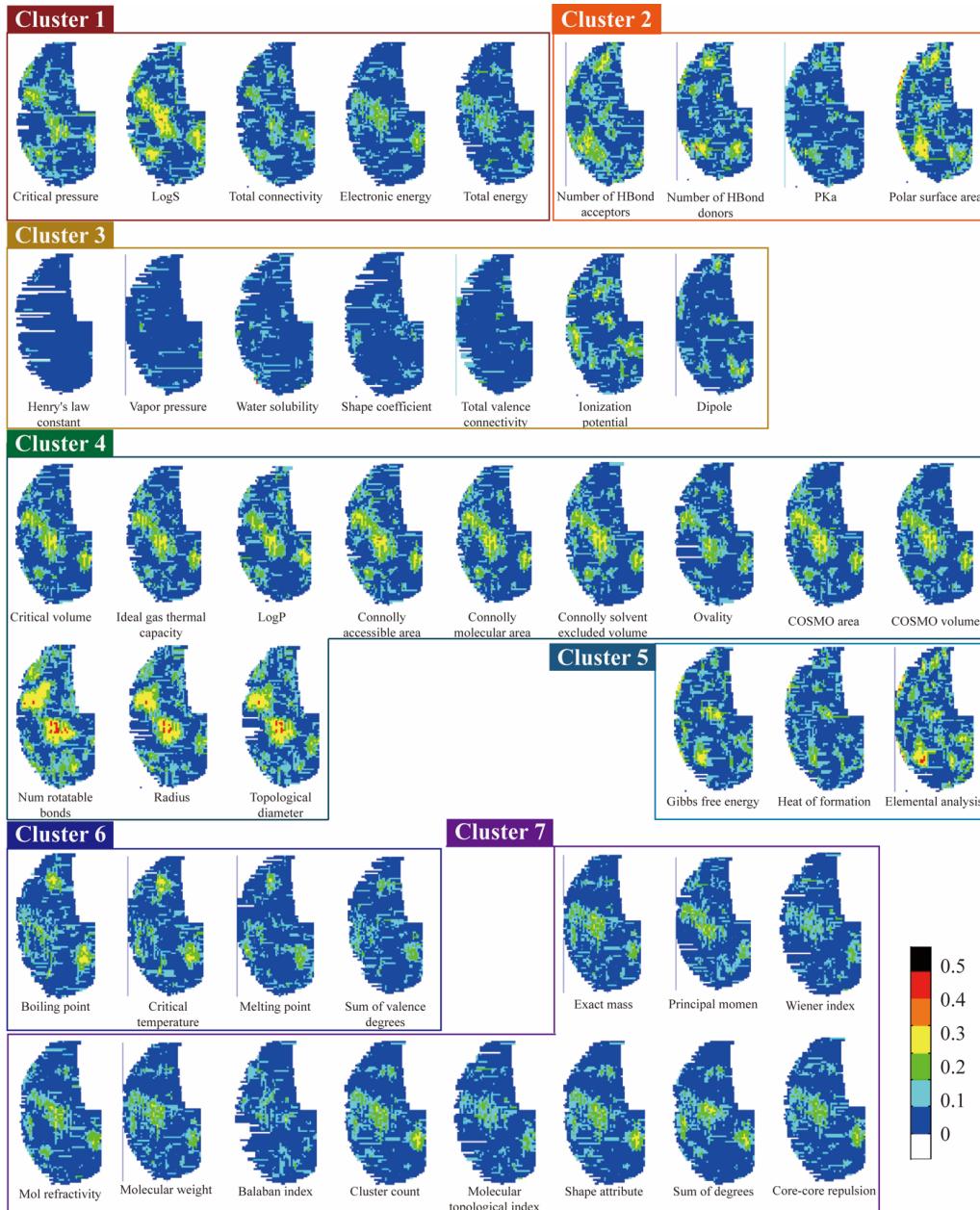


# Molecular parameters



- 46 MPs are clustered into 7 clusters.
- Groups visualized by these heat maps shared some similarities to the PCC maps.  
(cluster 2 and cluster G, cluster 5 and cluster D, and cluster 6 and cluster F)
- Some parameters are clustered differently.

# Results and discussion

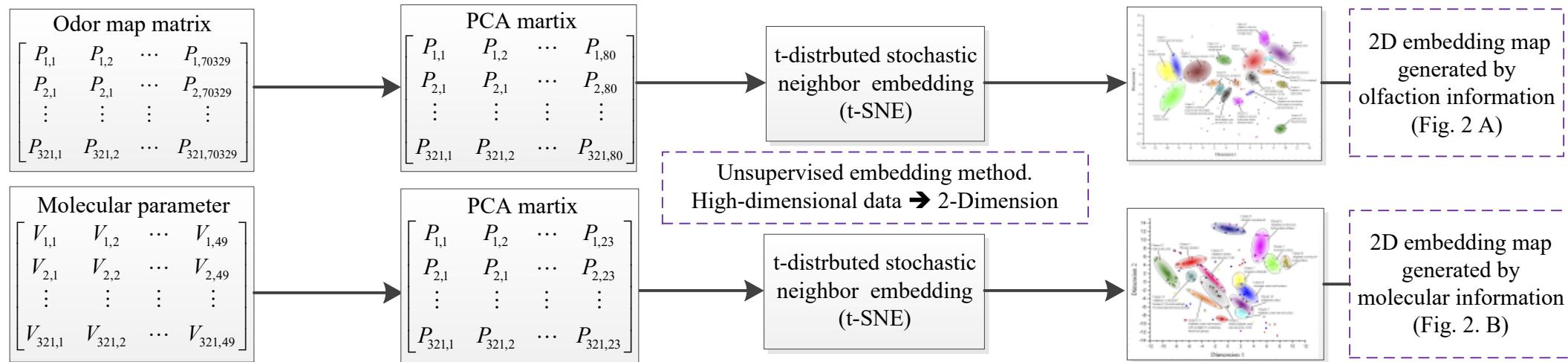


## Discussion

- Similar response pattern is shown in each group.
- MPs in the same group could contribute the similar information to OMs.
- Energy information (Cluster 1).
- Polarity information (Cluster 2).
- Low correlation coefficients indicated that the relationships are non-linear.

# Method

## To establish 2D artificial cluster maps



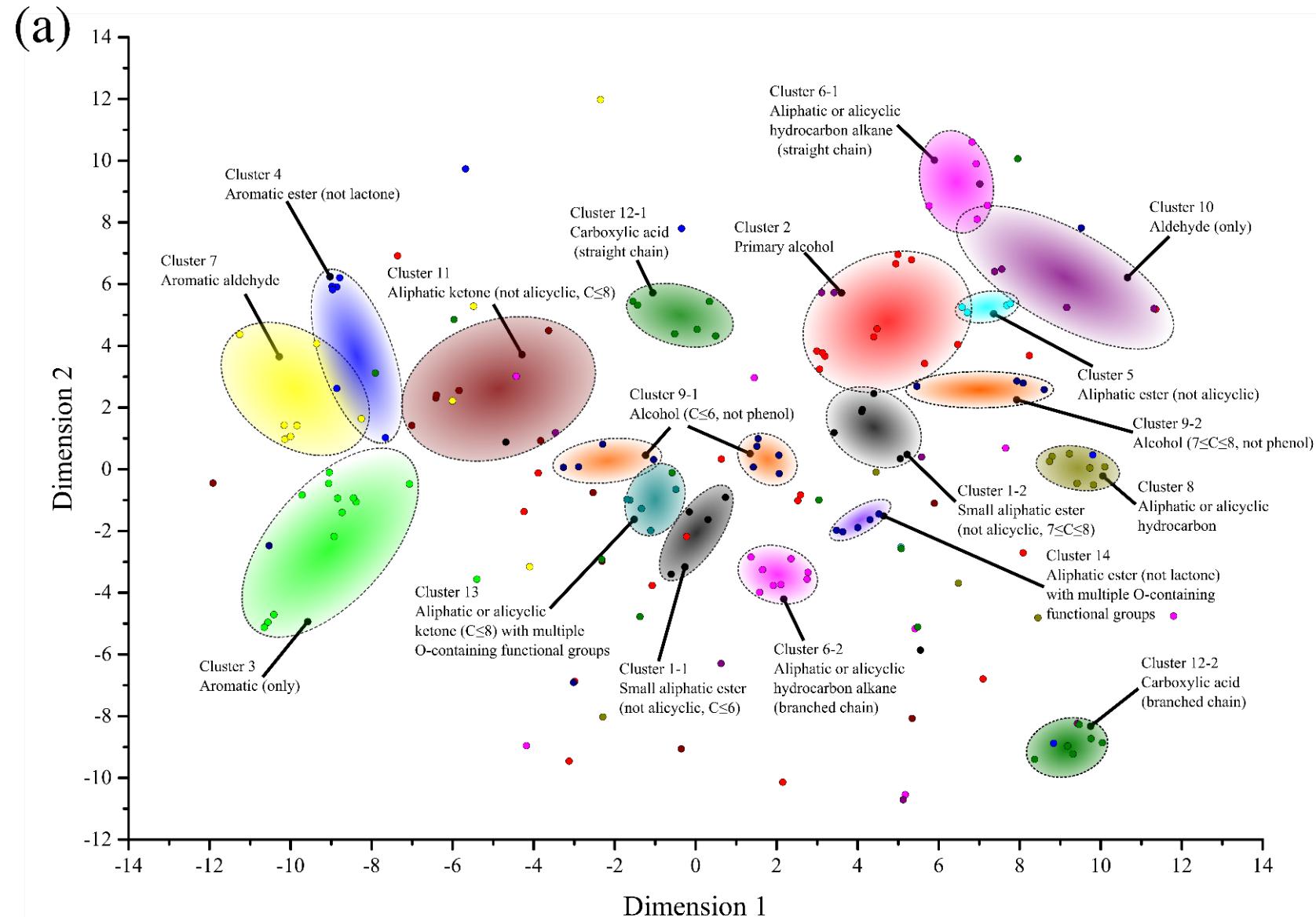
## t-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding (t-SNE)

- Nonlinear, unsupervised (Self supervised)
- Information compression method.

Based t-SNE, high dimensional data would be expressed in a 2D space.

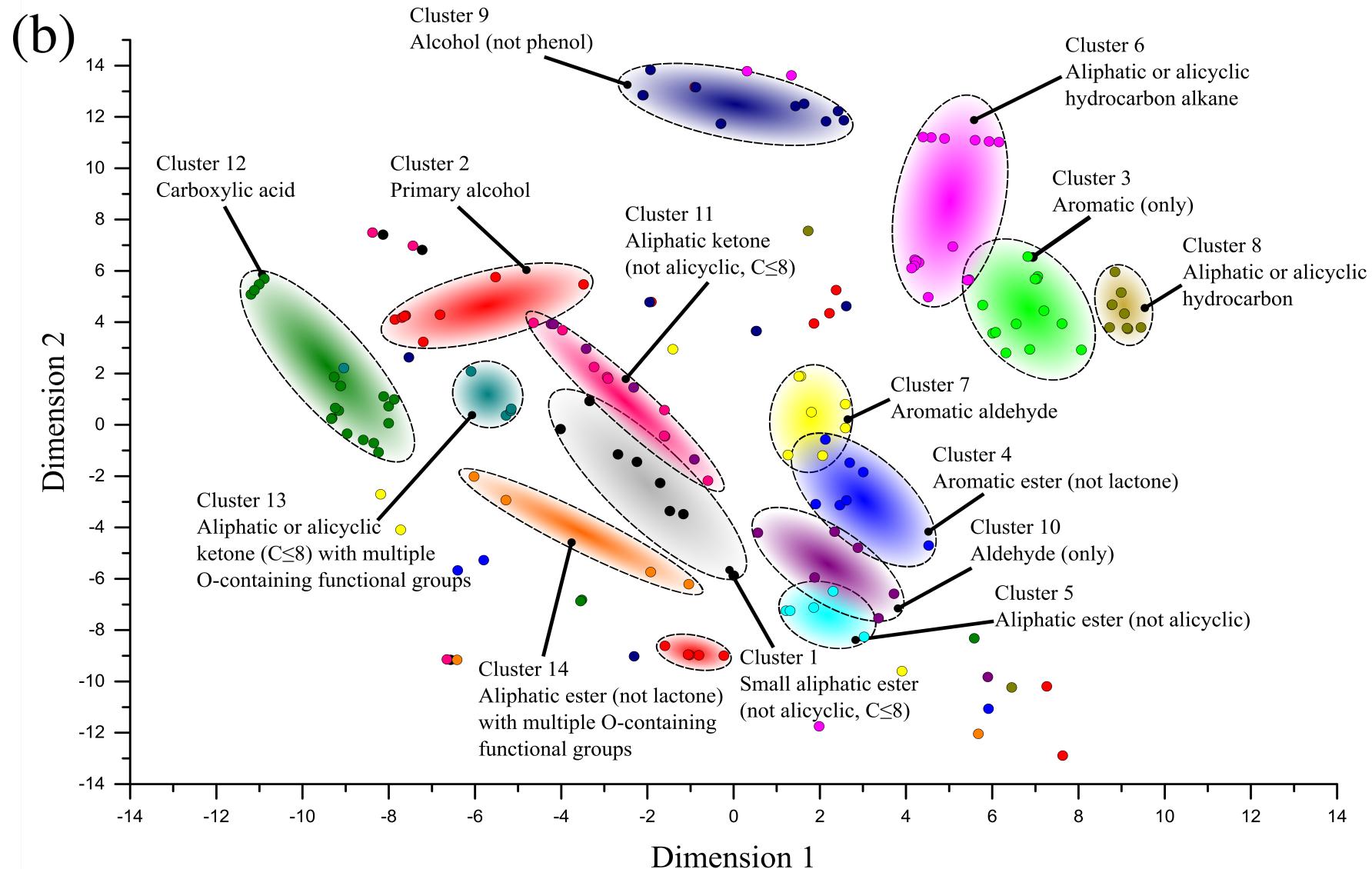
# Results and discussion

## 2D embedding map based on olfaction information



# Results and discussion

## 2D embedding map based on molecular information



# Method

To establish functional group discriminating model

## Data set

Odor map matrix

Molecular information matrix

## Feature extraction method

Principal component analysis (PCA)

T-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding (t-SNE)

Principal component analysis (PCA)

T-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding (t-SNE)

## Modeling method (Supervised)

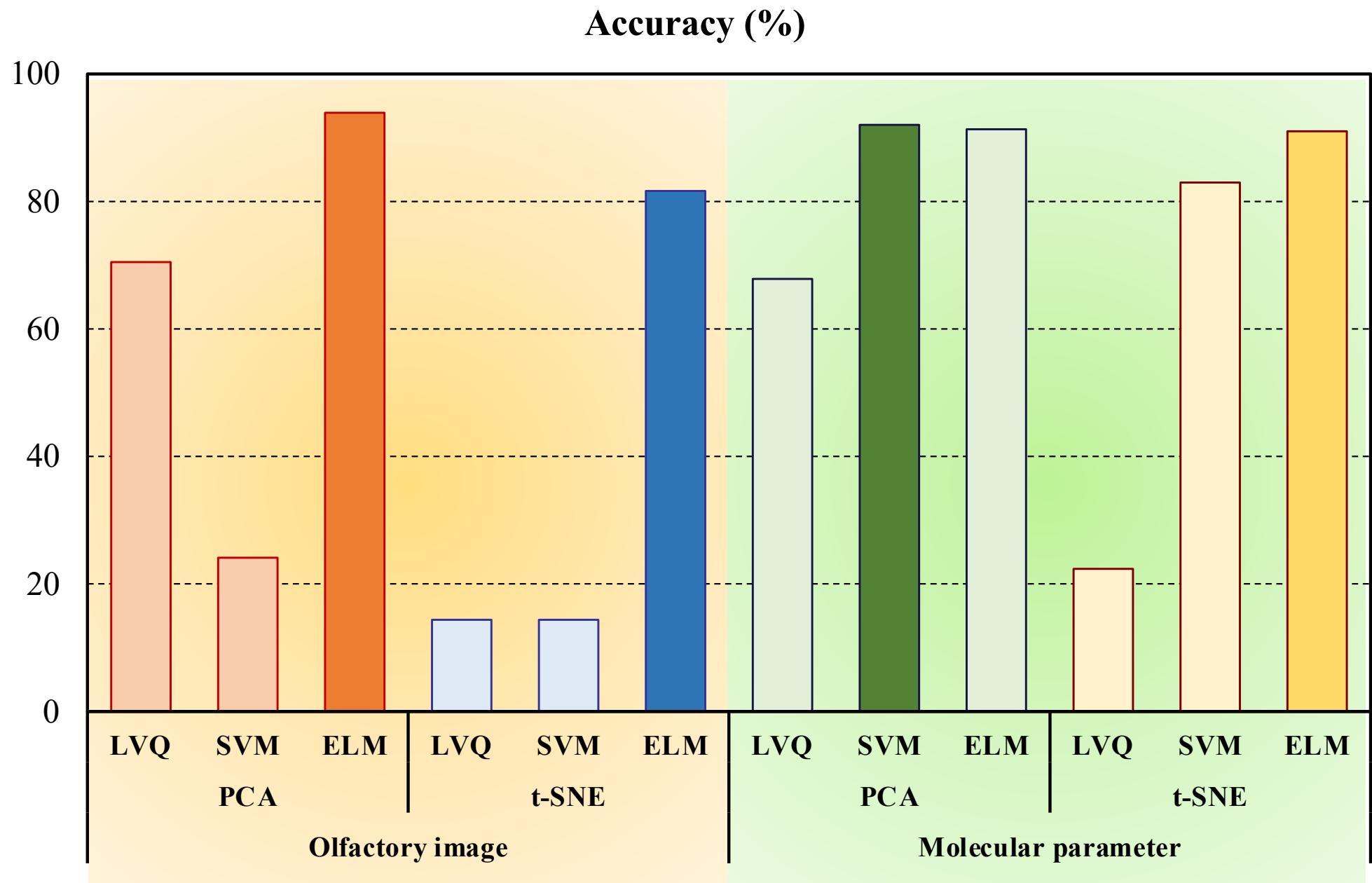
Learning vector quantization (LVQ)

Support vector machine (SVM)

Extreme learning machine (ELM)

Comparation

# Results and discussion



# Conclusion

- 2D artificial map was established by odor maps or MPs based on t-SNE method.
- It indicated that 46 MPs were mostly to instead of olfaction ideally.
- Functional groups identification models were calibrated.
- Although models calibrated by MPs were weaker than odor maps, a comparative model would be established based on more enough molecular features.

# Chapter 3

## Prediction of Odor Perception from Molecular Parameters



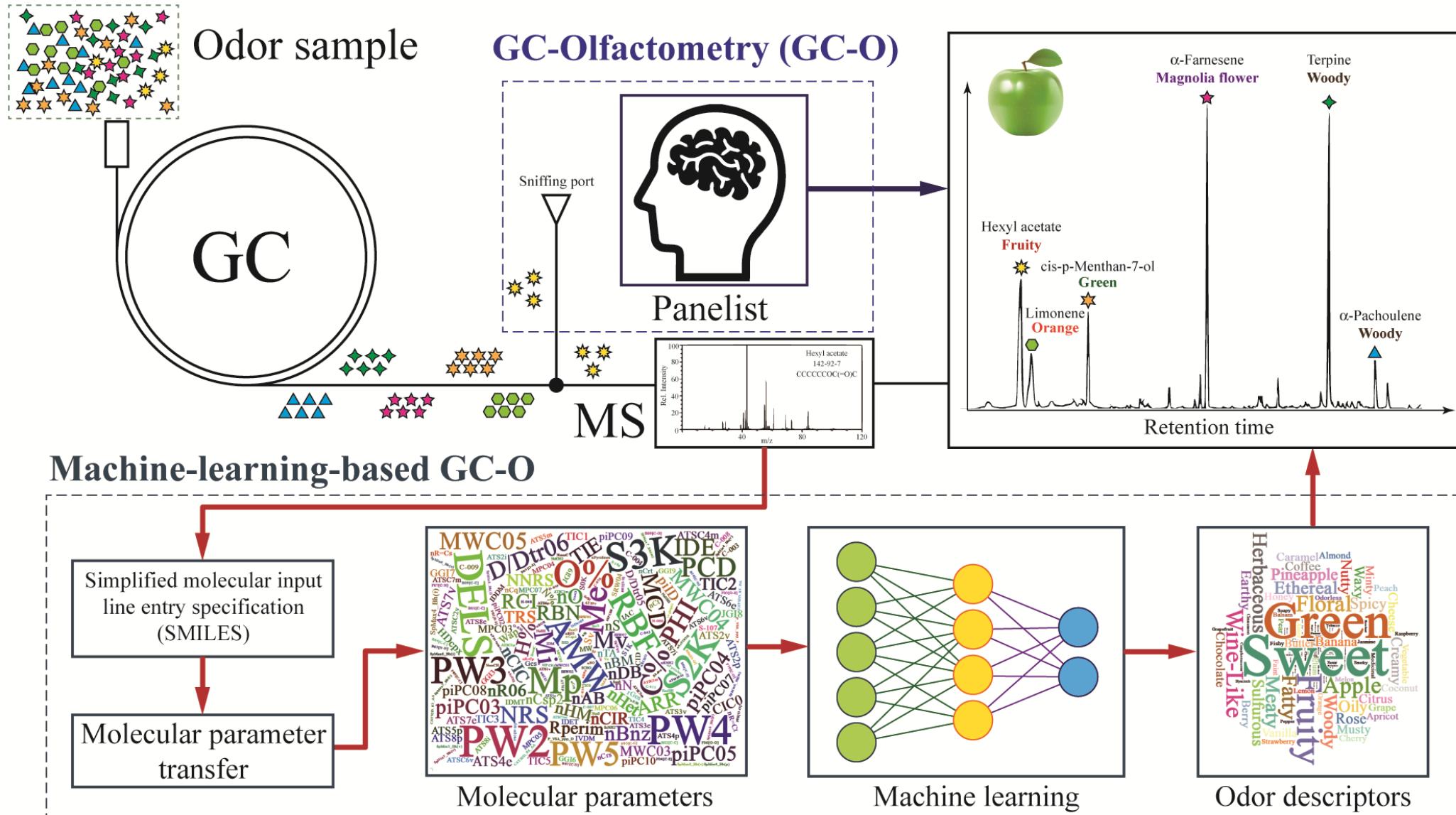
九州大学  
KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

# Introduction

We want to know the sensory description in an aroma.

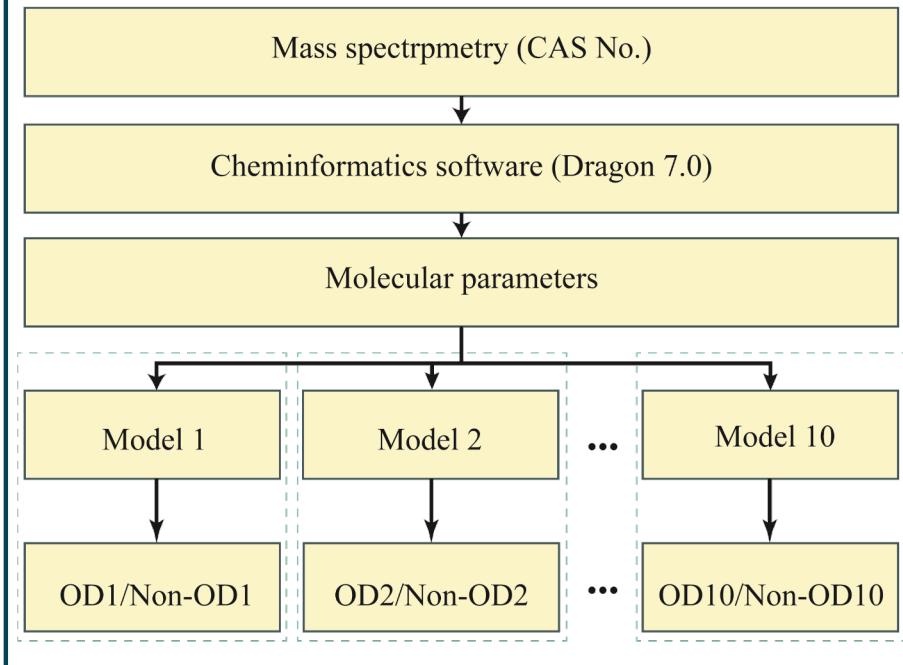


# Machine-learning GC-O



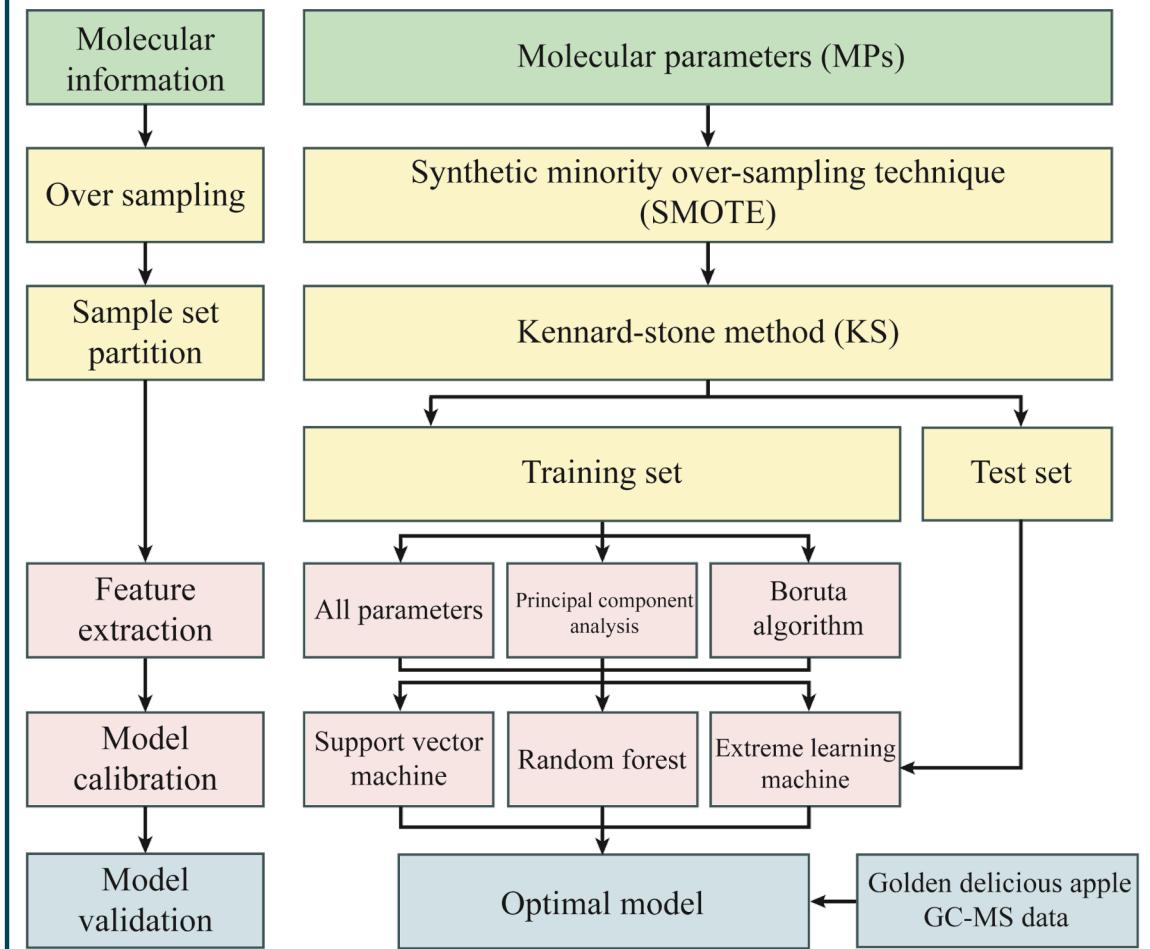
# Concept model

## Concept diagram



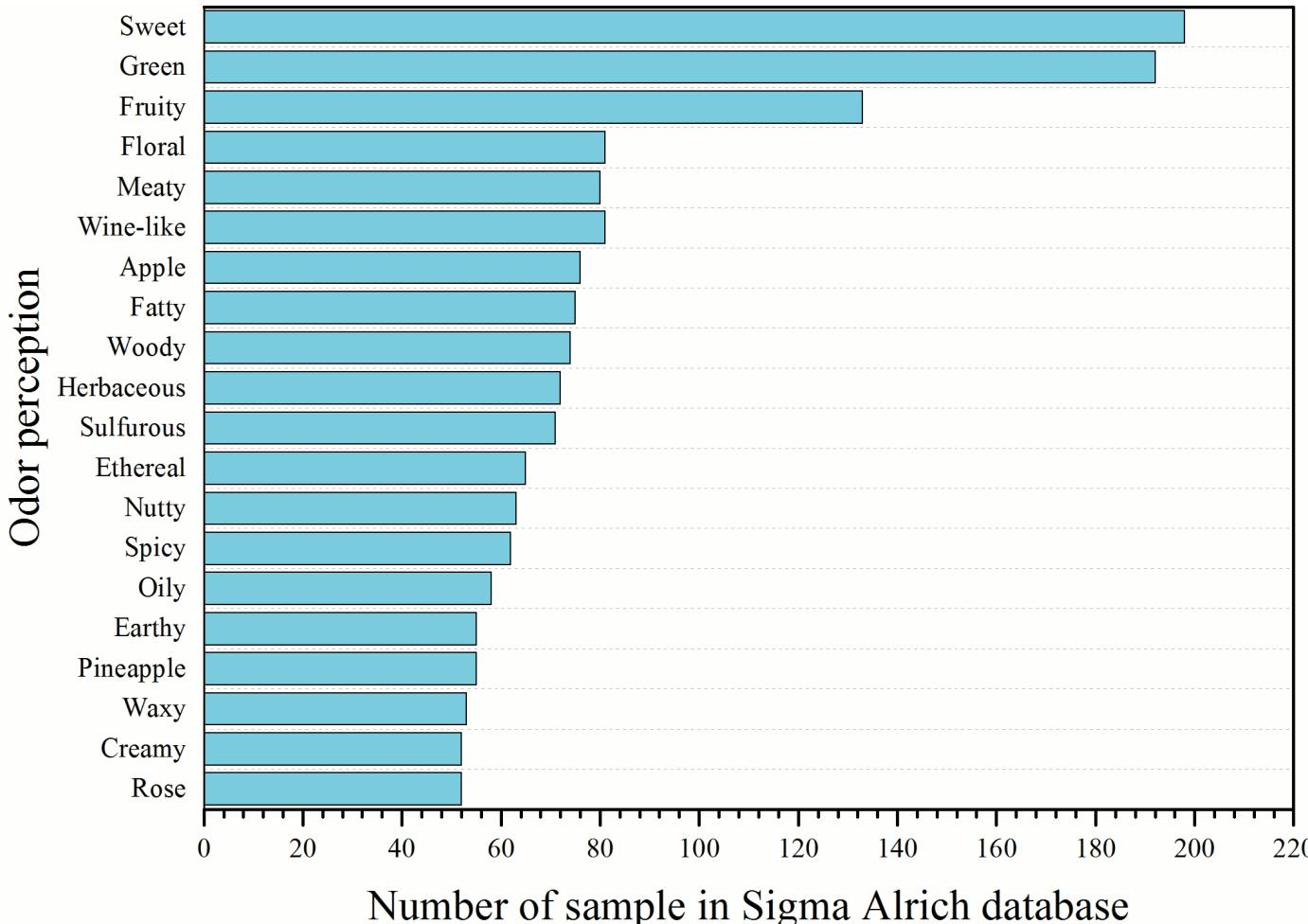
1006 types of molecular parameters.  
 1037 odorants in Sigma-Aldrich  
 (2016). By Dragon 7.0.

## Data processing diagram



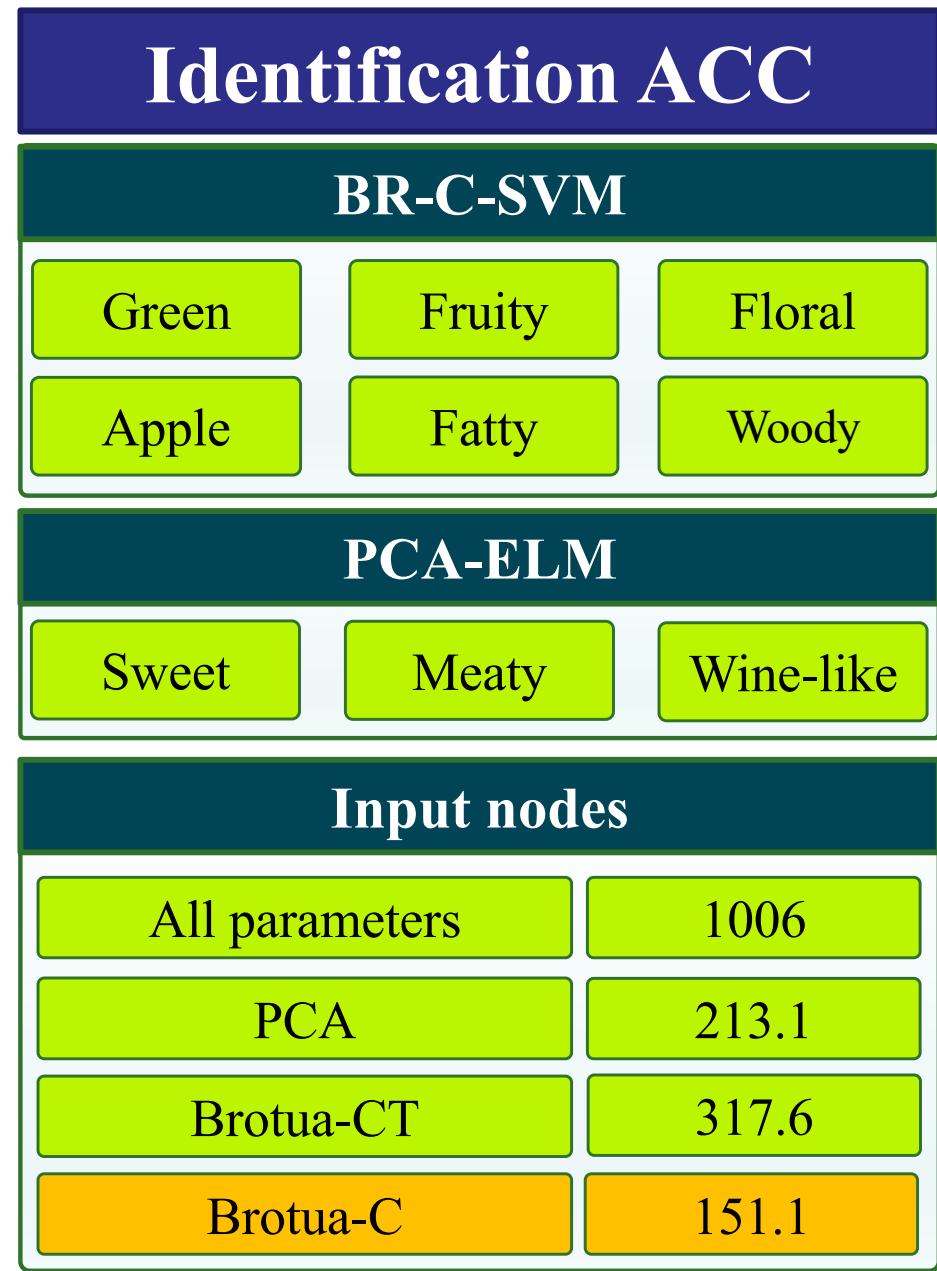
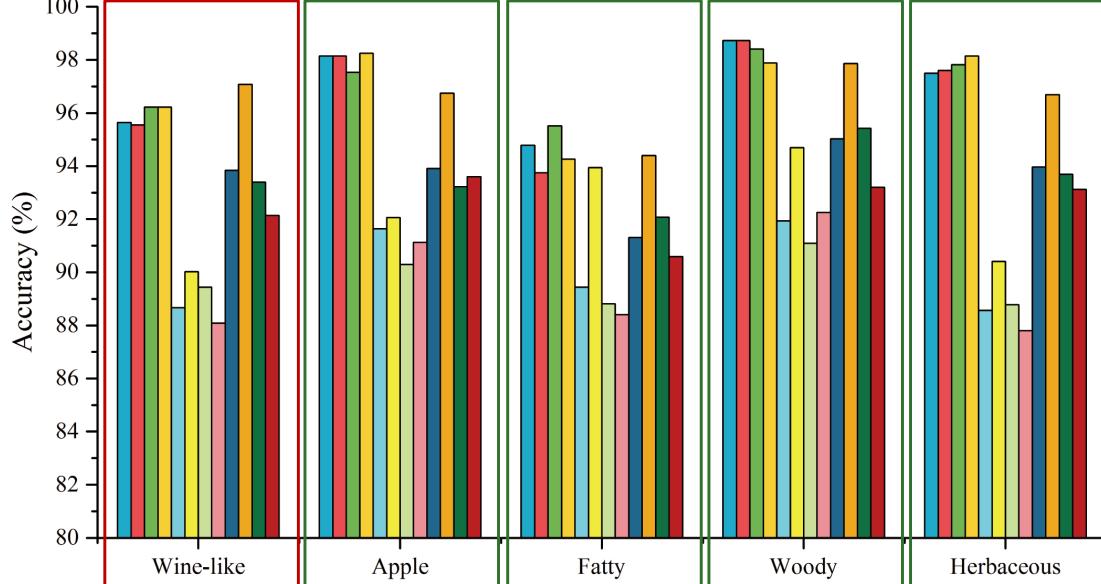
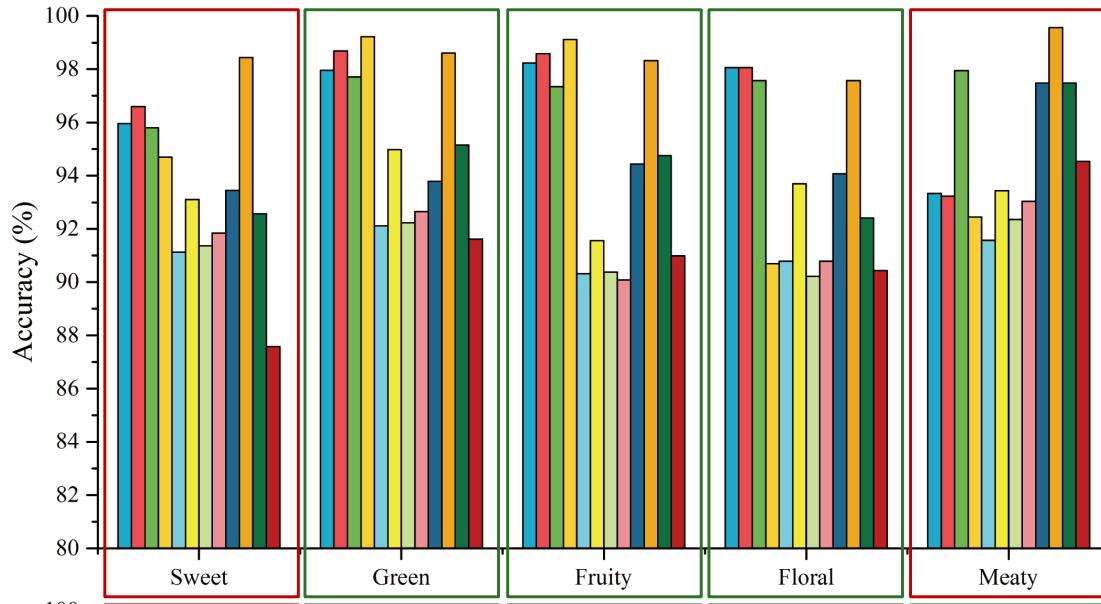
Apple's GC-MS was used to validate the models

# Results and discussion



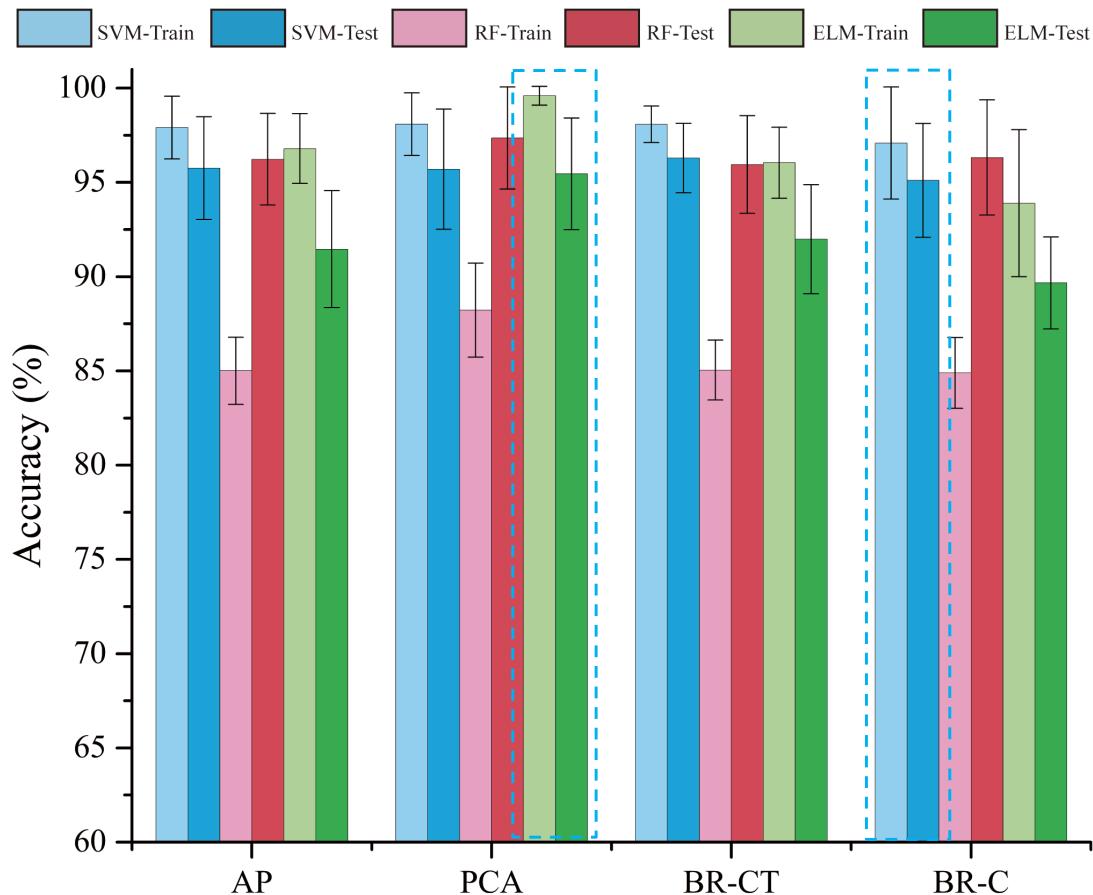
- Twenty most frequent ODs in Sigma–Aldrich database.
- The first 10 odor descriptors were considered in this study.

# Results and discussion



# Results and discussion

## Comparation the performances of models



### Optimal model

- PCA did better jobs than Boruta in RF and ELM models.
- The accuracy of PCA-ELM model is the highest ( $97.53 \pm 1.35\%$ ).
- Based on BR-C method, 15.01 % (151.1) parameters can be extracted to instead all MDs (1006).
- It is suggested that BR-C-SVM, was the optimal model ( $97.19 \pm 0.93\%$ ).

# Results and discussion

## Model Validation by Golden Delicious Apple Sample

No.	Volatile Organic Compound	Odor descriptor from database*	Predicted odor descriptor	No.	Volatile Organic Compound	Odor descriptor from database*	Predicted odor descriptor
1	2-propanol	Alcohol; butter	-	16	Butyl propanoate	Banana; ethereal	Apple
2	1-propanol	Alcohol; <u>apple</u> ; musty; earthy; peanut; pear; sweet	<u>Apple</u>	17	Amyl acetate	<u>Fruity</u> ; banana; earthy; ethereal	<u>Fruity</u> , apple
3	1-butanal	Apple; chocolate; creamy; <u>green</u> ; meaty; ethereal; pear; pungent	<u>Green</u> , fruity	18	(E)-2-hepten-1-al	<u>Fruity</u> ; rose; <u>fatty</u> ; almond-like	Green, <u>fruity</u> , apple, <u>fatty</u>
4	Ethyl acetate	Solvent-like; fruity; anise; ethereal; pineapple	-	19	6-methyl-5-hexen-2-one	Fruity; citrus-like; strawberry	-
5	2-methyl-1-propanol	<u>Fruity</u> ; whiskey; <u>wine-like</u> ; solvent-like	<u>Fruity</u> , <u>wine-like</u>	20	Butyl butanoate	<u>Apple</u> ; banana; berry; peach; pear	<u>Apple</u>
6	1-butanol	Banana; vanilla; fruity	-	21	Hexyl acetate	<u>Apple</u> ; banana; cherry	<u>Apple</u> , fatty
7	Propyl acetate	<u>Fruity</u> , floral	<u>Fruity</u>	22	2-ethyl-1-hexanol	Oily; rose; sweet	Woody, herbaceous
8	2-methyl-1-butanol	Onion; malty	-	23	Butyl 2-methyl butanoate	<u>Apple</u> ; chocolate	<u>Apple</u>
9	1-pentanol	Sweet; vanilla; balsamic	-	24	1-octanol	<u>Fatty</u> ; citrus; waxy; <u>woody</u>	<u>Fatty</u> ; <u>woody</u>
10	Isobutyl acetate	<u>Apple</u> ; banana; ethereal; pear; pineapple	<u>Apple</u>	25	1-nonanal	Apple; coconut; <u>fatty</u> ; fishy	<u>Fatty</u>
11	1-hexanal	<u>Fatty</u> ; <u>green</u>	<u>Green</u> , <u>fatty</u>	26	Hexyl butanoate	Green; <u>fruity</u> ; <u>apple</u> ; waxy	<u>Fruity</u> , wine-like, <u>apple</u> , fatty
12	Butyl acetate	Banana; <u>green</u> ; sweet	<u>Green</u>	27	P-allylanisole	Alcohol; <u>green</u> ; minty; <u>sweet</u> ; vanilla	Sweet; <u>green</u> ; floral
13	(E)-2-hexen-1-al	Almond; <u>apple</u> ; <u>green</u> ; vegetable	<u>Green</u> , <u>apple</u> , fatty	28	Hexyl 2-methyl butanoate	<u>Green</u> ; <u>fruity</u> ; <u>apple</u> ; grapefruit-like	<u>Green</u> ; <u>fruity</u> ; <u>apple</u> ; herbaceous
14	1-hexanol	<u>Green</u> ; <u>herbaceous</u> ; <u>woody</u>	<u>Green</u> , fatty, <u>woody</u> , <u>herbaceous</u>	29	Hexyl hexanoate	<u>Green</u> ; vegetable; <u>fruity</u> ; <u>apple</u> ; cucumber-like	<u>Green</u> ; <u>fruity</u> ; fatty
15	2-methyl-1-butyl acetate	Banana; peanut; fruity, apple-like	-	30	(E, E)- $\alpha$ -farnesene	Green; herbaceous	-

# Results and discussion

- It indicated that 70% (21/30) of compounds were predicted accurately.
- The other seven compounds were shown to be unpredictable, which can be explained by the **insufficient number of OD models** calibrated in presented research.
- Some ODs, such as peanut and balsamic, were not considered in the present study because of their smaller samples.
- Additionally, the predicted accuracy would be increased by consideration of **more odorant samples** and establishment of **enough OD models**.

# Chapter 4

## LSPR Sensor Based on MISGs for Volatile Organic Acid Detection

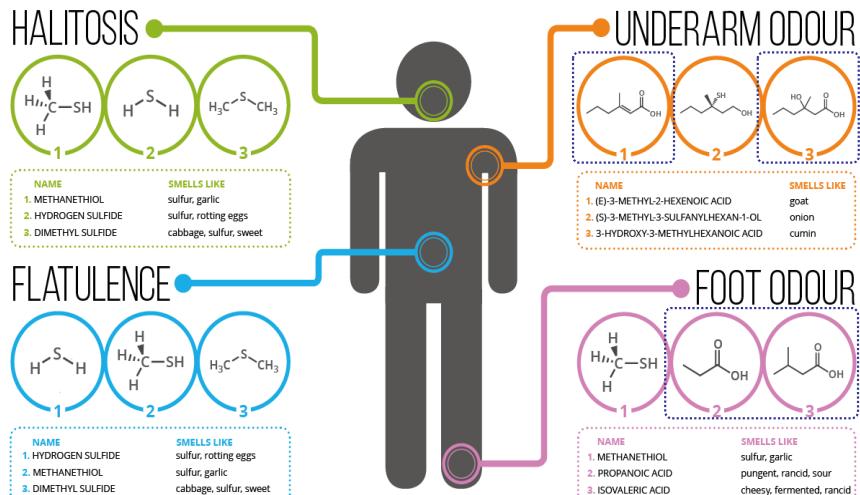


# Introduction

## Body odor

### THE CHEMISTRY OF BODY ODOURS

Body odour is the result of bacterial activity producing odorous compounds. Here, we look at some of the main compounds in particular odours.



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## Application



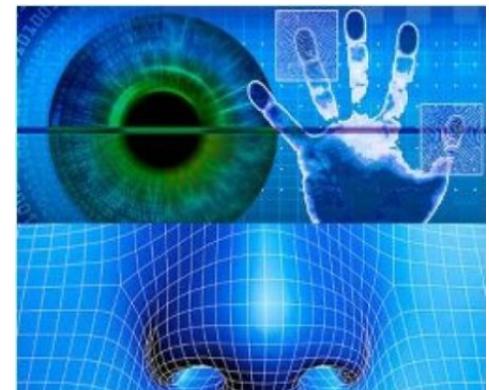
### Medical diagnosis



### Physiological condition



### Forensic



### Body odor fingerprint

### Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Fatty acids

Alcohols

Aldehydes

Esters

Ketones

Amines

# Concept

## MISG-LSPR sensor array

**MISG layer**

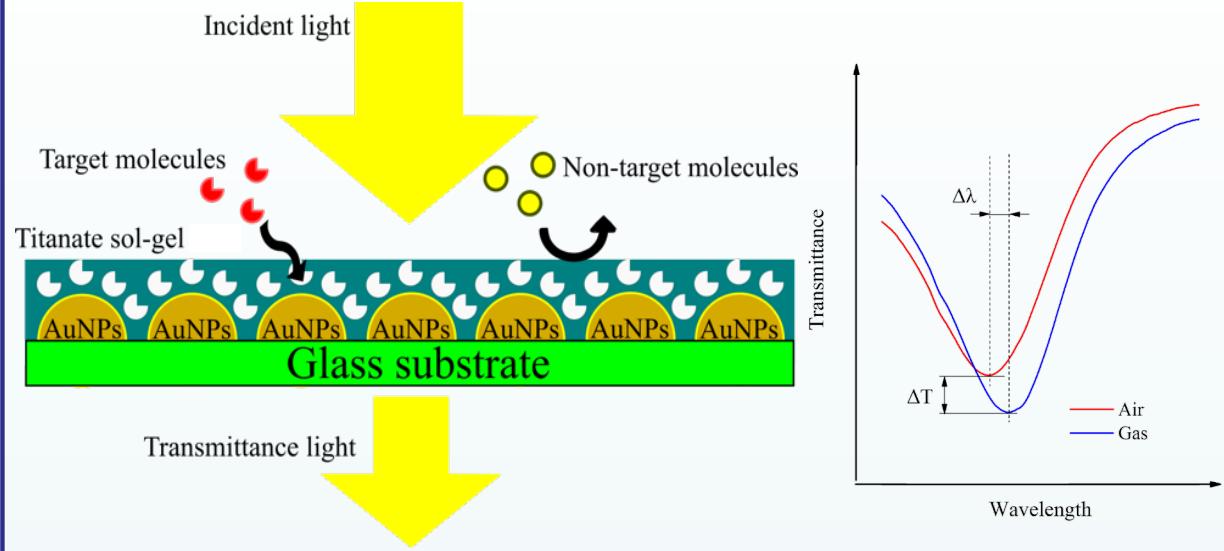
**Selective adsorption layer**

**AuNPs layer**

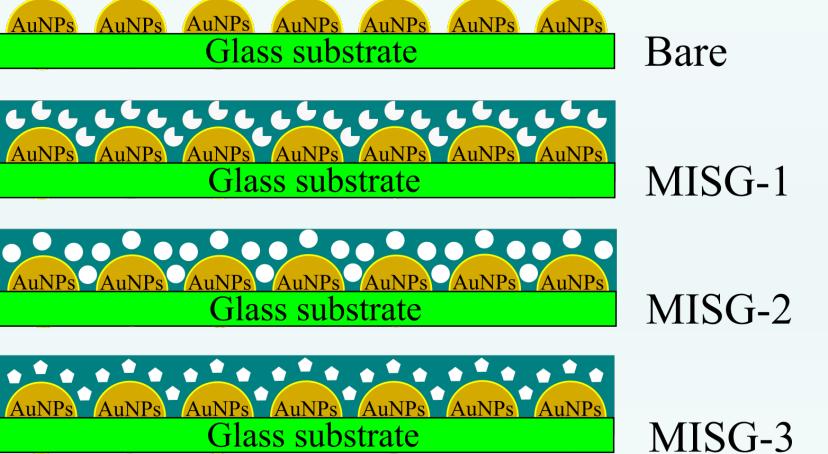
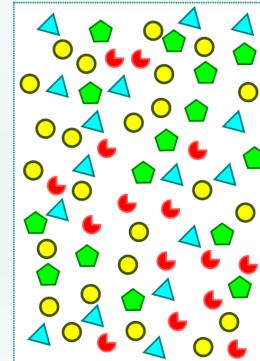
**LSPR sensing layer**

**Detecting the change of transmittance light**

**The target fatty acid vapor would be selective detected.**



Gas mixture



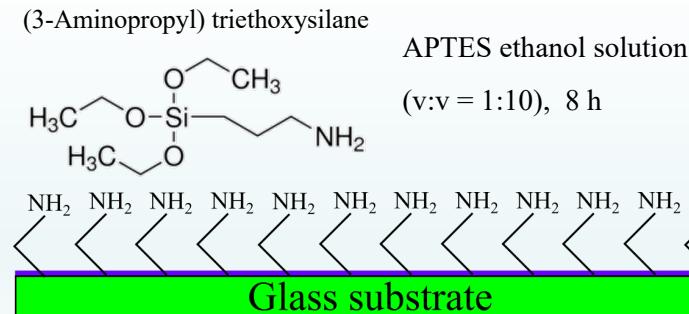
# Experiment

## MISG material

Iso-propanol	2 mL
Ti(OBu) <sub>4</sub>	136 $\mu$ L
APTES	24 $\mu$ L
Template	50 $\mu$ L
TiCl <sub>4</sub>	25 $\mu$ L

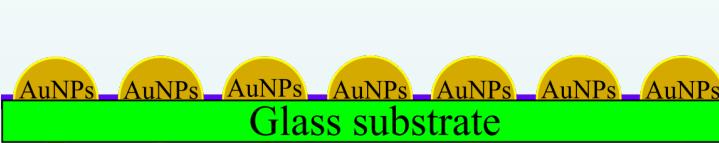
## MISG-AuNPs film fabrication

### Step 1 APTES modification



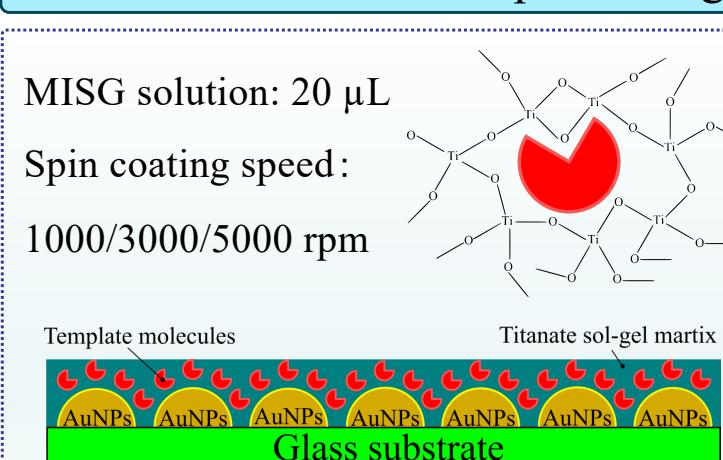
### Step 2 Sputtered AuNPs and anneal

Sputtering AuNPs thickness: 3nm  
Anneal: 200 °C, 5h, air

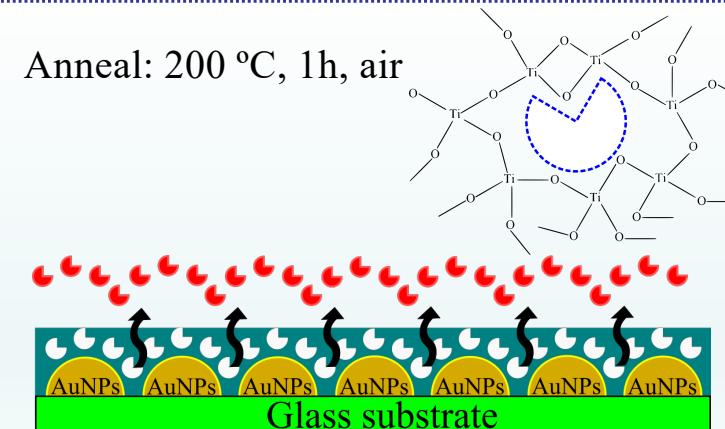


### Step 3 MISG reaction solution spin coating

MISG solution: 20  $\mu$ L  
Spin coating speed:  
1000/3000/5000 rpm



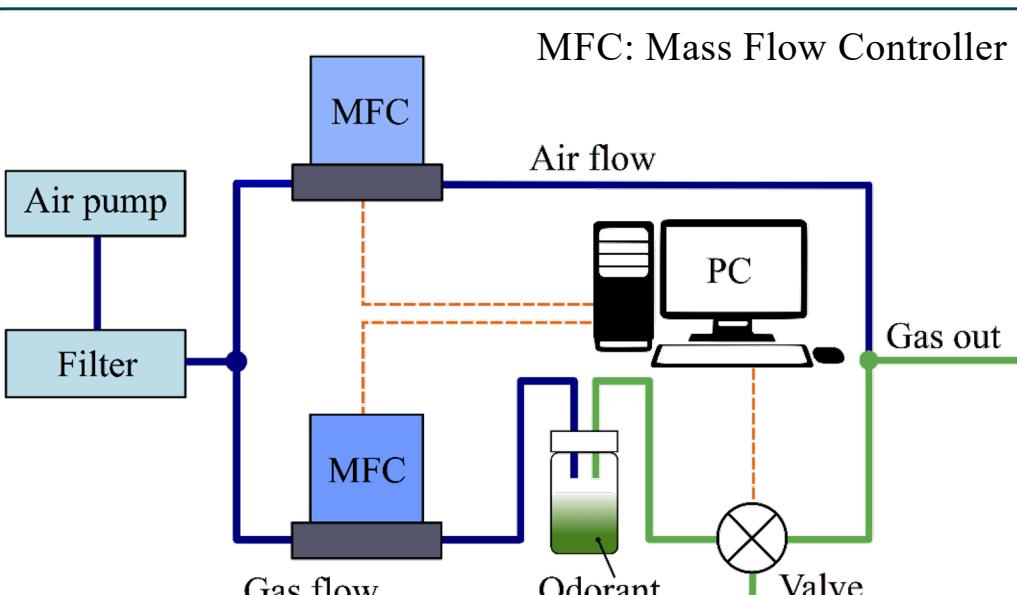
### Step 4 Annealed for removing templates



70 °C water bath, 1h

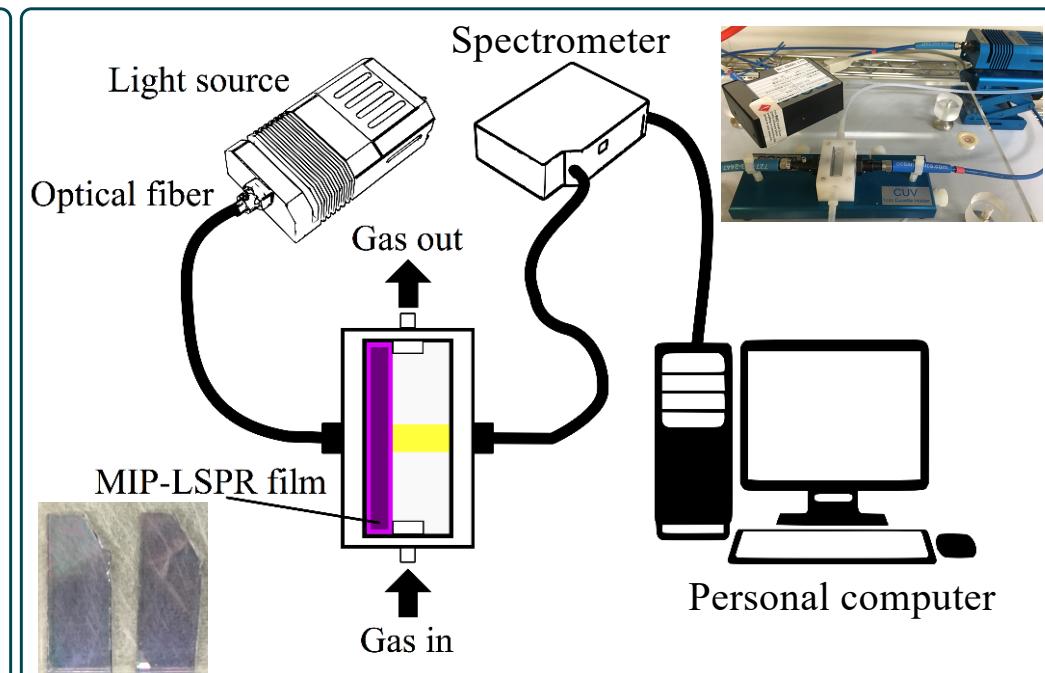
# Experiment

## Testing system



Gas generate system

$$k = \frac{22.4 \times (273 + t) \times 760}{M \times 273 \times P}$$



Transmittance spectra testing system

t – Thermodynamic temperature (°C)

M – Molecular weight (g/mol)

P – Atmosphere (mmHg)

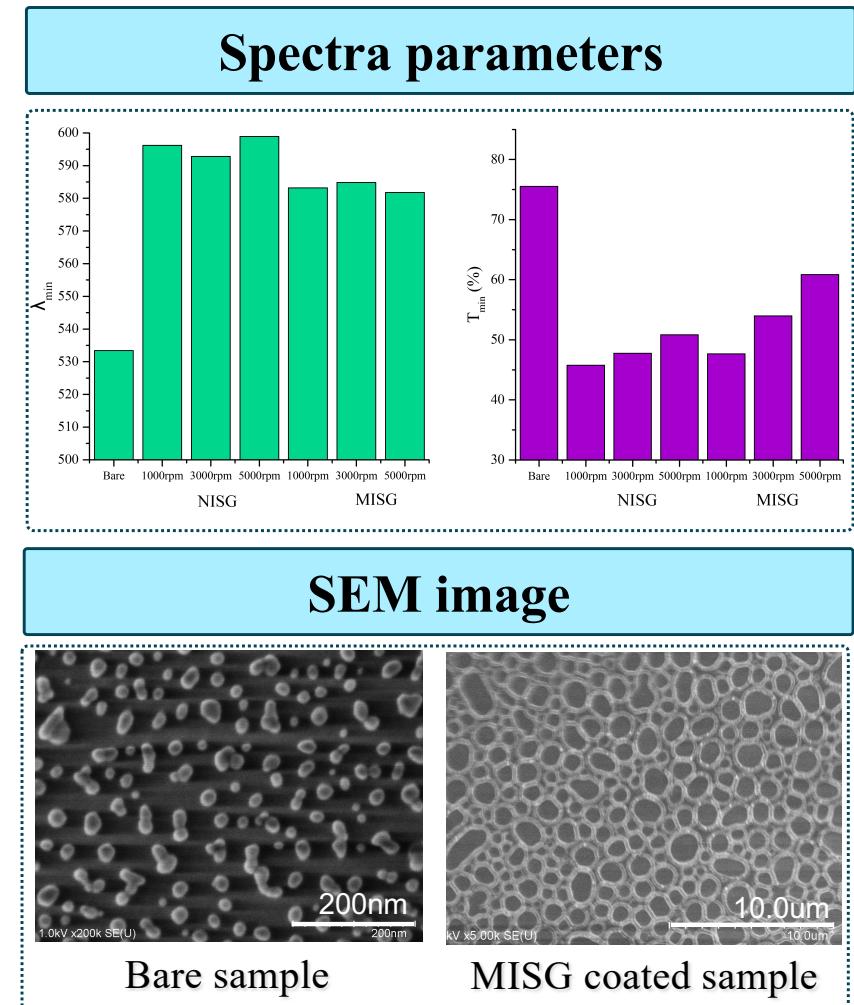
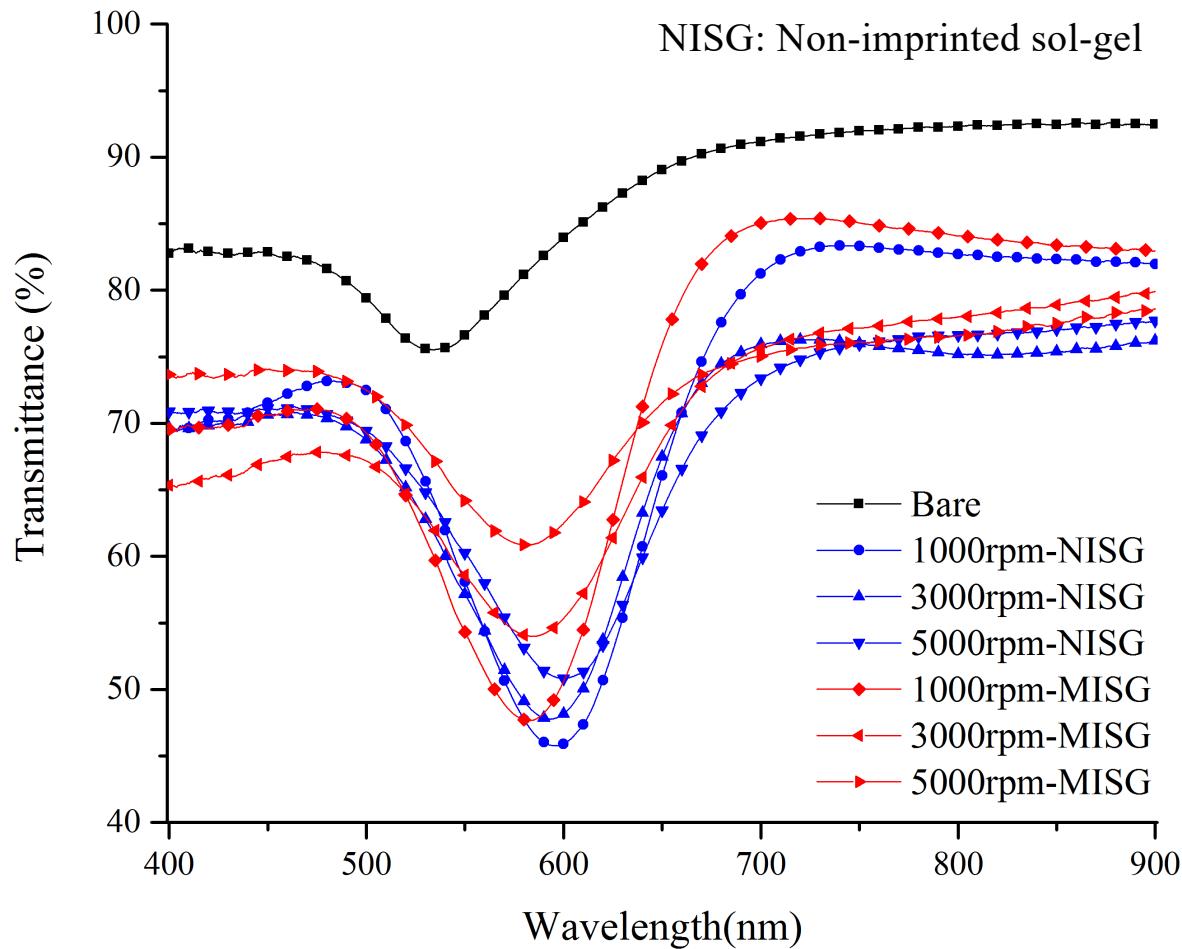
$$C = \frac{k \times D_r \times 10^3}{F}$$

Dr – Diffusion rate ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{min}$ )

F – Flow rate of dilute gas (ml/min)

# Results and discussion

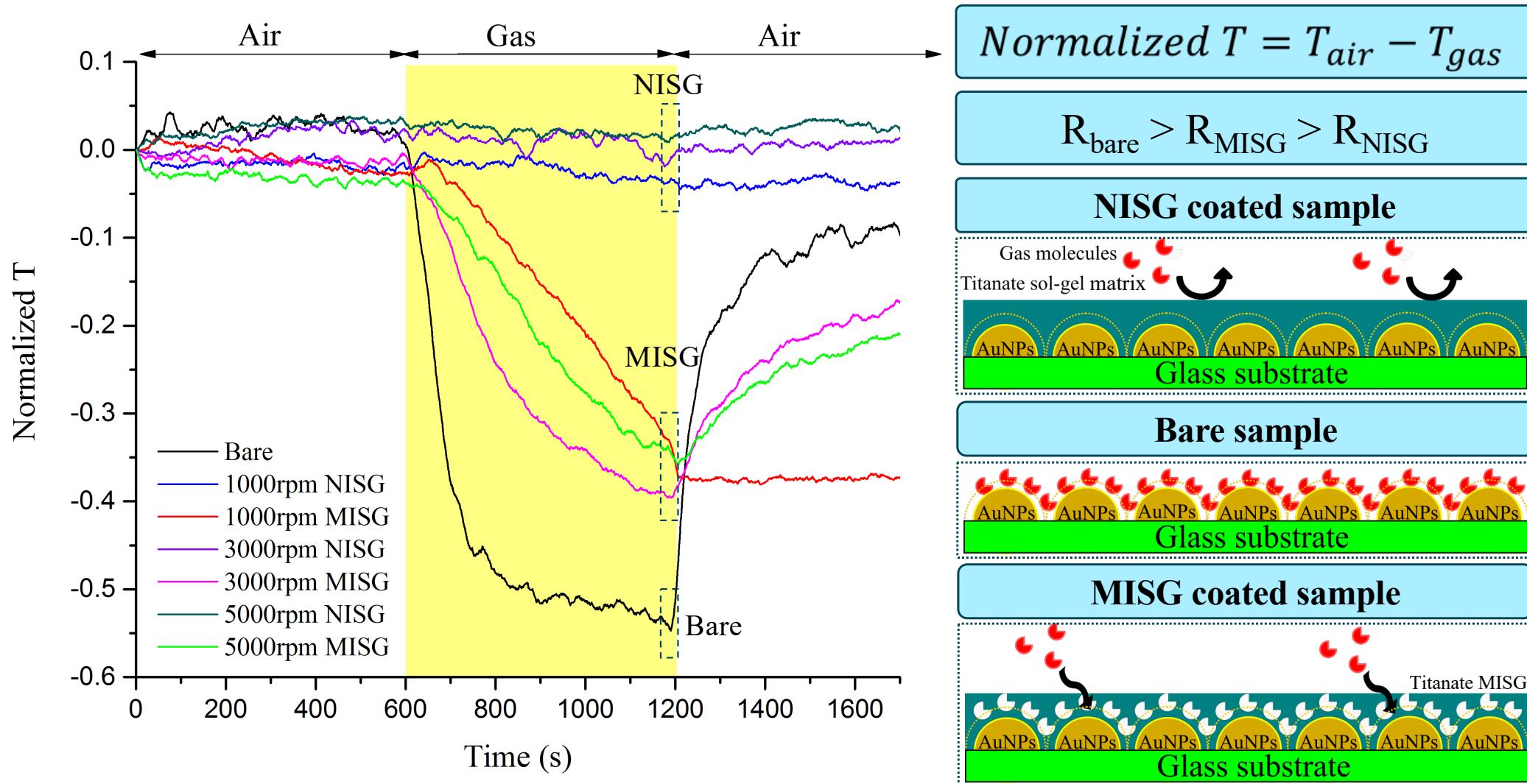
## ■ Transmittance spectra of MISG-LSPR sensors.



The changes of transmittance spectra are affected by their different surface features.

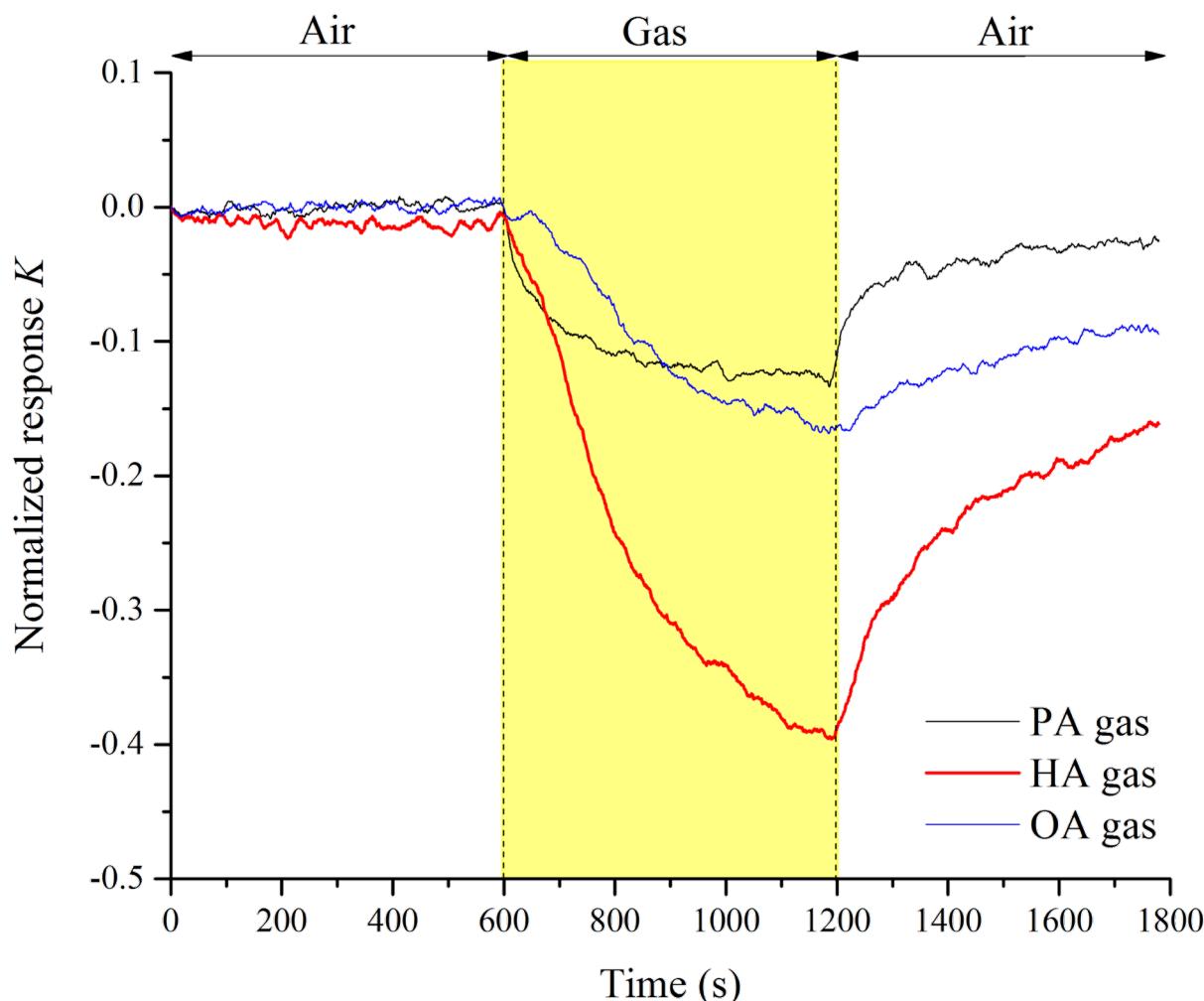
# Results and discussion

## ■ Real-time response of HA-MISG and NISG with different coating speeds to HA vapors (Transmittance at $\lambda_{\min}$ )



# Results and discussion

## ■ Real-time response of HA-MISG-LSPR sensor to three fatty acid vapors (PA/HA/OA)



**HA-MISG-LSPR sensor**

Template molecule: HA

Spin coating speed: 3000 rpm

PA: Propanoic acid (40.93 ppm)

HA: Hexanoic acid (21.05 ppm)

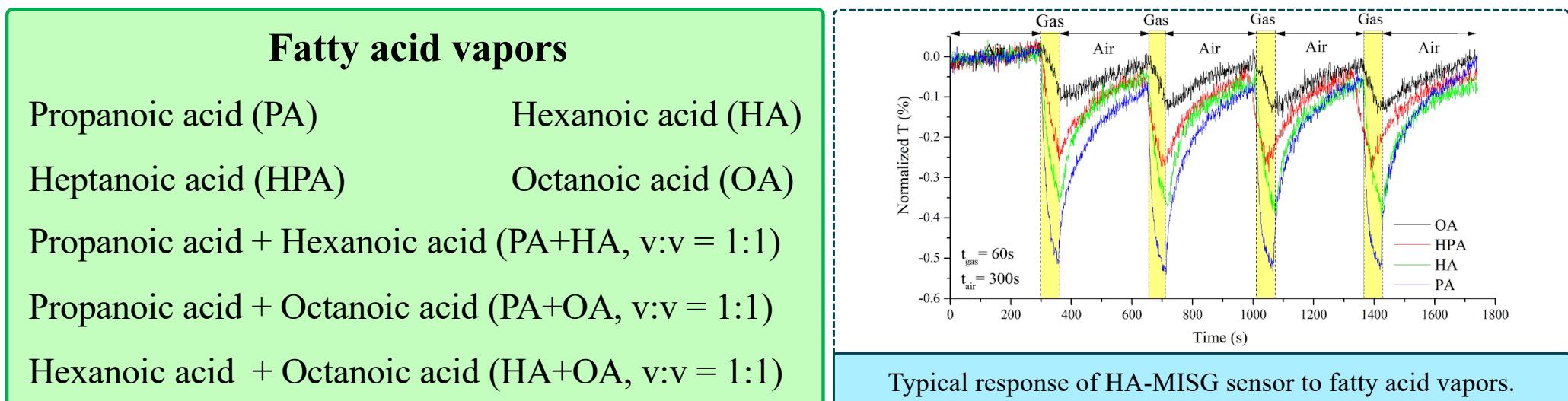
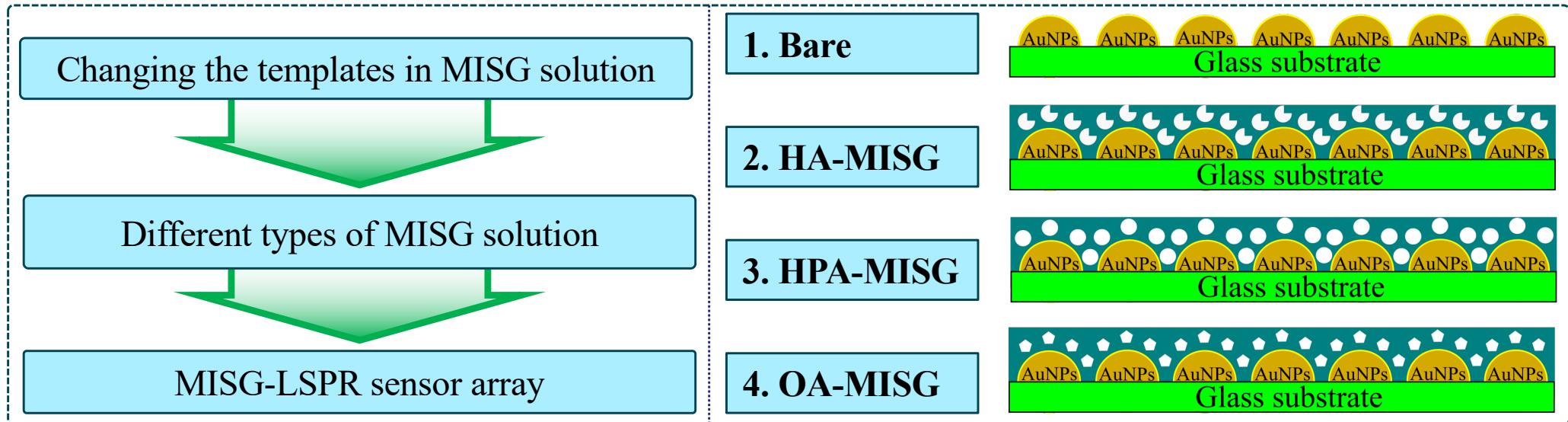
OA: Octanoic acid (11.23 ppm)

$$K = \text{Normalized } T/C_{gas}$$

A specific selectivity to HA vapors was obtained

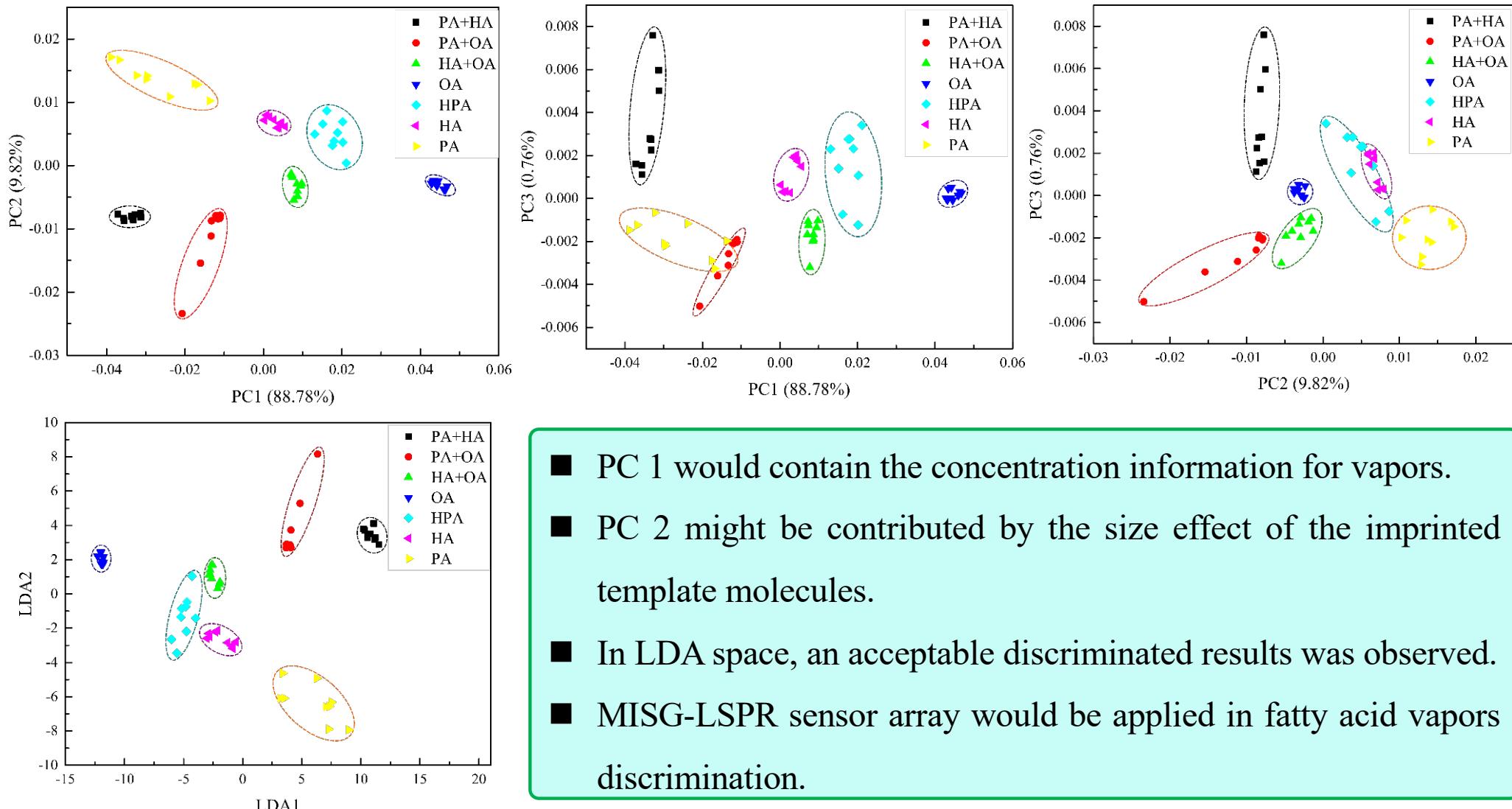
# Results and discussion

## ■ MISG-LSPR sensor array for fatty acid vapors discrimination.



# Results and discussion

## ■ PCA and linear discriminant analysis (LDA) results for diverse fatty acid vapors



- PC 1 would contain the concentration information for vapors.
- PC 2 might be contributed by the size effect of the imprinted template molecules.
- In LDA space, an acceptable discriminated results was observed.
- MISG-LSPR sensor array would be applied in fatty acid vapors discrimination.

# Conclusion

- An AuNPs film combined with MISG was utilized for the determination of **fatty acid** vapors **selectively**.
- The **adsorption capacity** of pure titanate sol-gel matrix is **weak**.
- Molecules with similar structure to imprinted molecules (with carboxyl group, different carbon-chain length) were selected for MISGs selectivity evaluation.
- It indicated that **molecular information** can be obtained by MISGs.

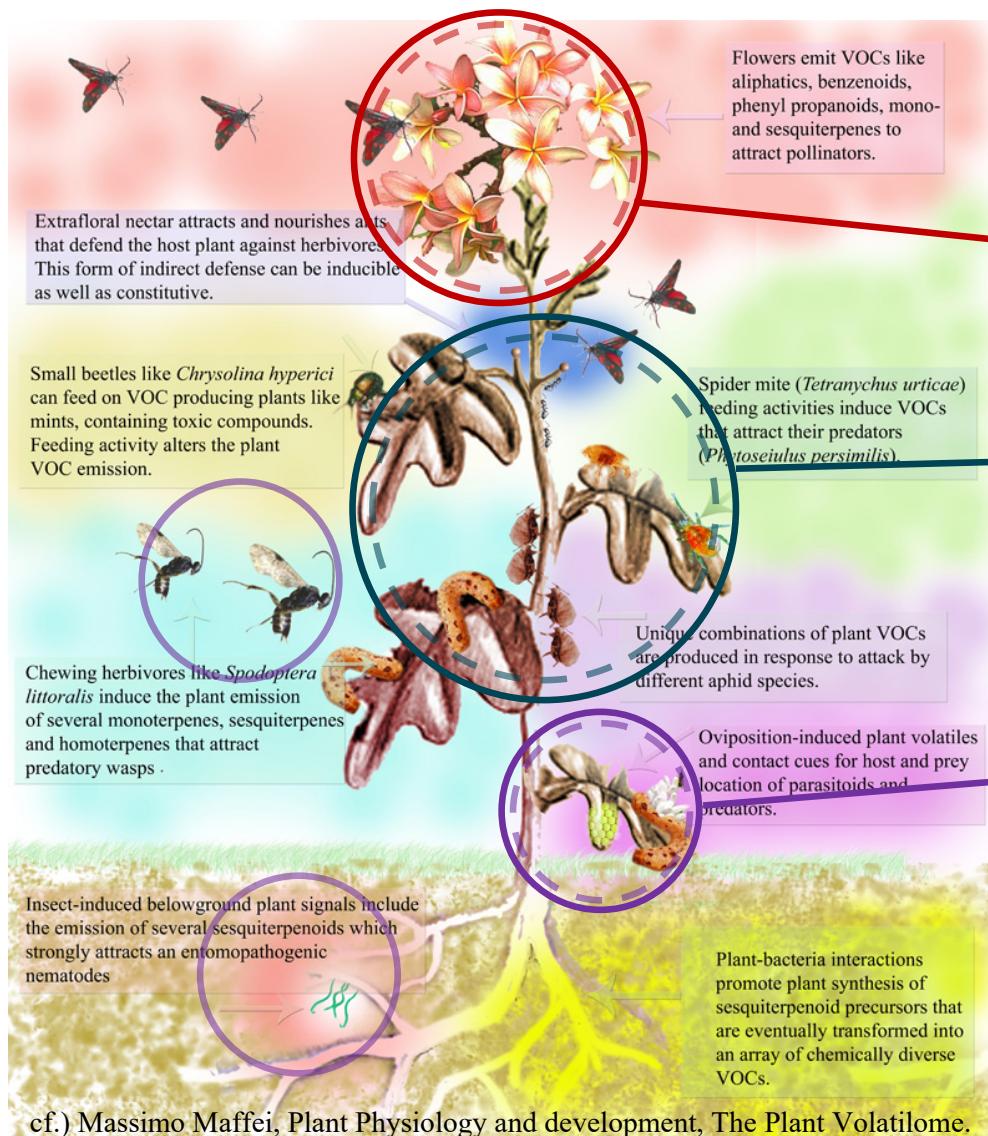
# Chapter 5

Development of MISG based  
LSPR sensor for detection of volatile  
cis-jasmone



# Introduction

## Plant Volatile Organic Compounds (PVOCS)



**Released from flowers, leaves, roots.**

**Attract pollinators**

**Plants self-protection**

**Spider mite**

**Small beetles**

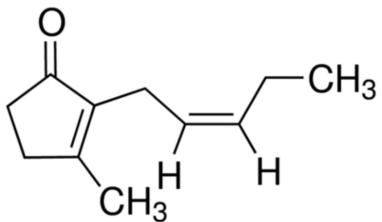
**Act as wound sealers**

**Attract predators**

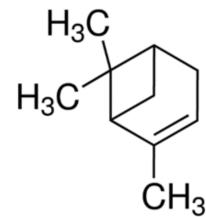
**Plant–plant communication**

# Introduction

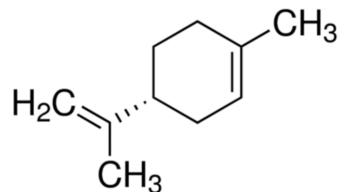
## PVOCs



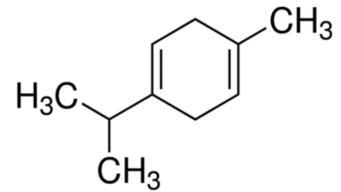
*cis*-Jasmone



$\alpha$ -Pinene



Limonene



$\gamma$ -Terpinene



## Application



Pest detection



Plant monitoring



Agriculture ICT

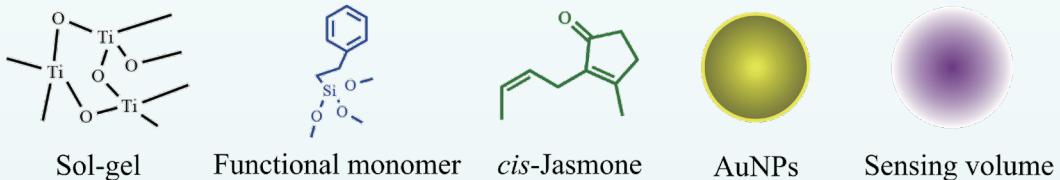
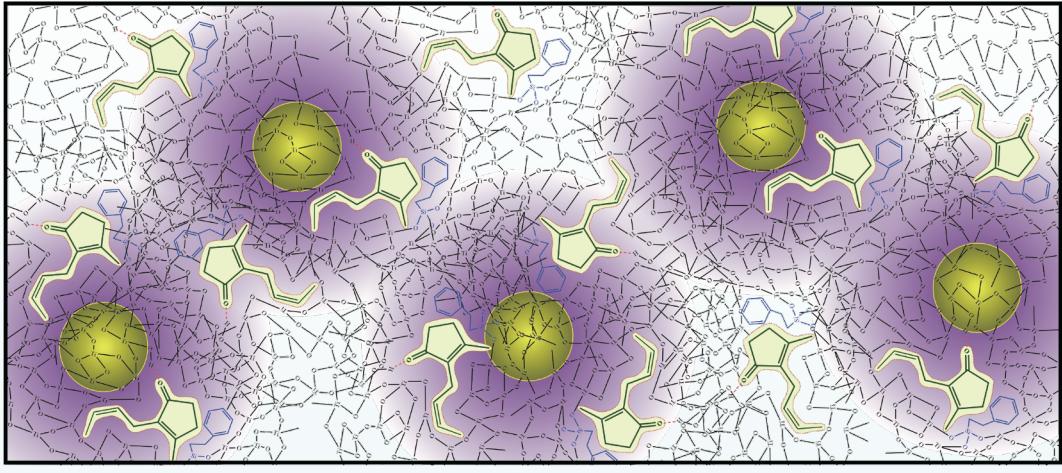
We need a translator for plants!

Gas chromatography/mass spectrometry  
GC/MS

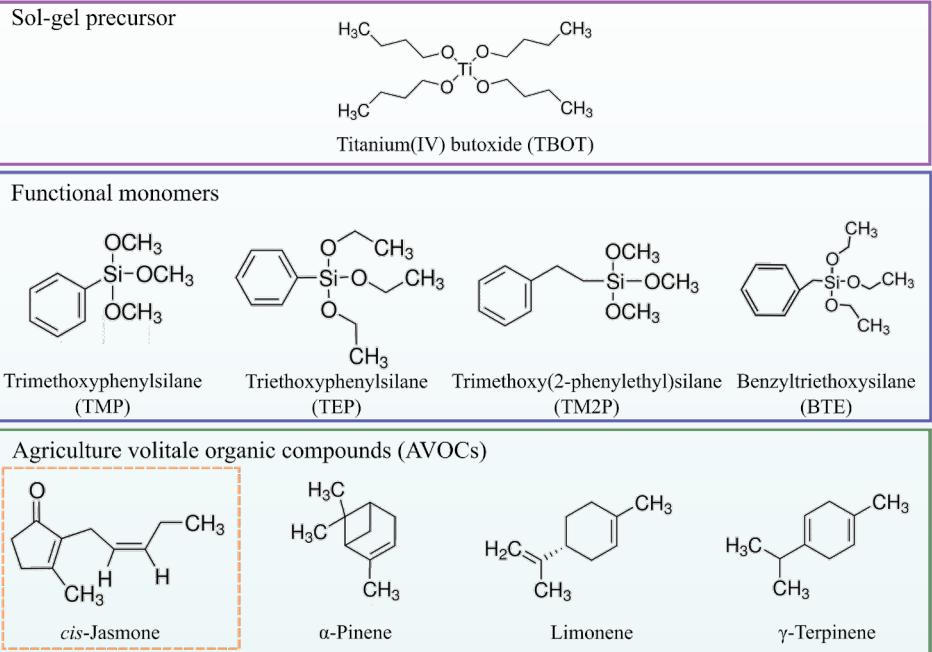
High-cost, not portable and  
time-consuming

Not suitable for PVOCs real-time  
monitoring

# Concept



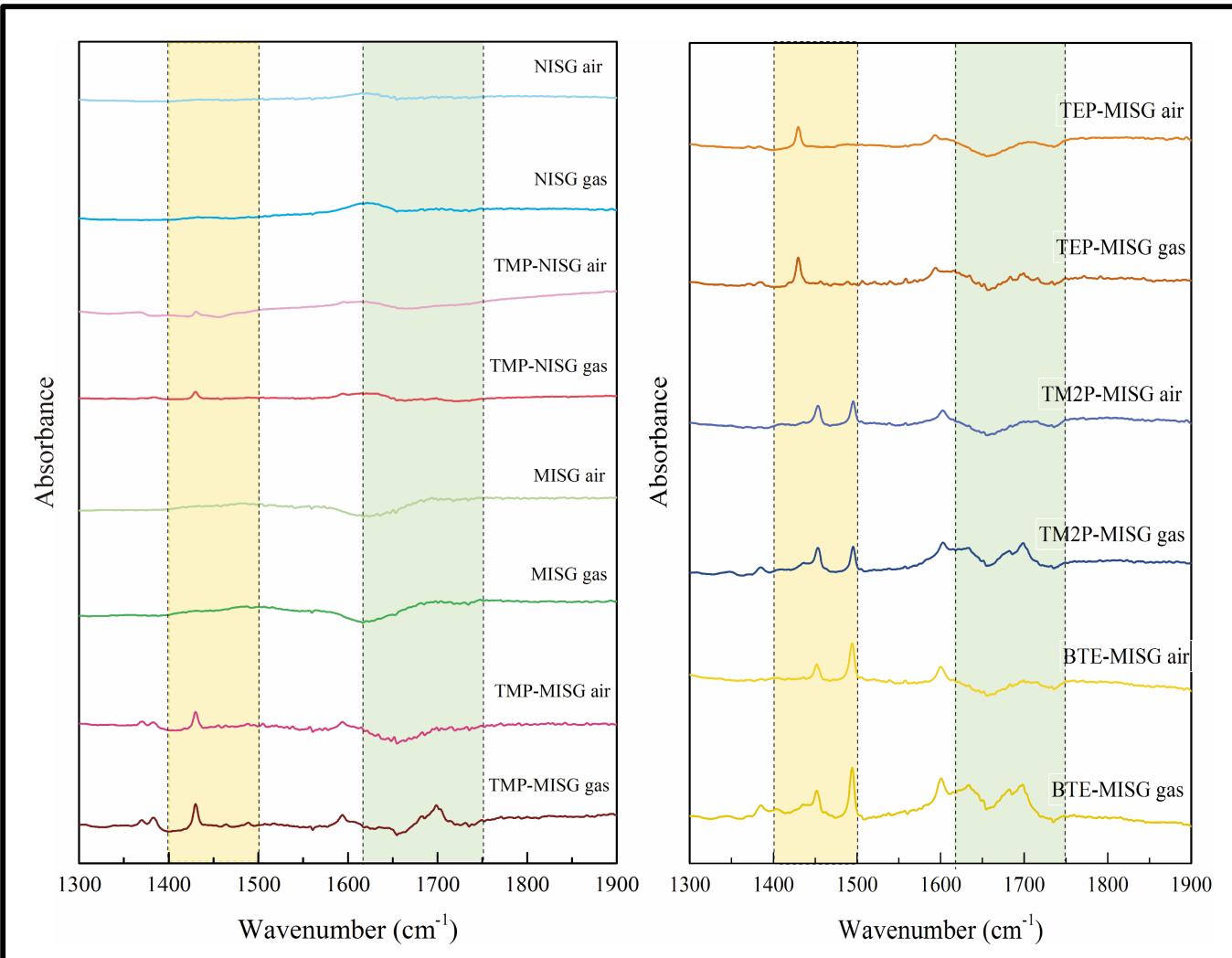
**Schematic of MISG-coated Au nano-islands with functional monomers for selective CJ vapor detection.**



**Chemical structures of the matrix precursor, four functional monomers, and four types of PVOCS.**

- The **functional monomer** was a critical for MISGs preparation.
- Functional monomers with **aromatic rings** would be appropriate for cavity generation in the MISGs via–electron, Van der Waals, and hydrogen-bond interactions.

# Results and discussion



FT-IR spectra of NISG-, TMP-NISG-, MISG-, TMP-MISG-, TEP-MISG-, TM2P-MISG-, and BTE-MISG-coated samples before and after CJ vapor absorption.

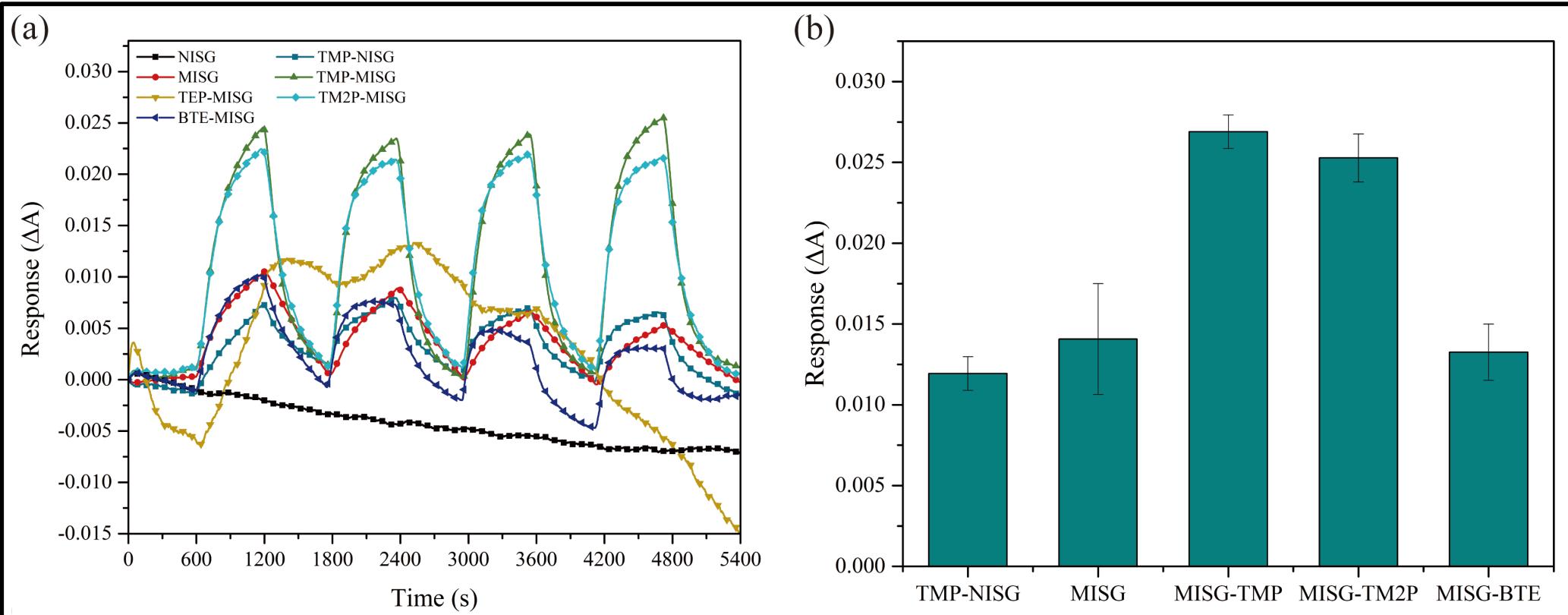
## Benzoid ring peaks

- The monomers were polymerized in the sol-gel films.

## C=O stretching

- Peak was observed in MISG-TMP- and MISG-TM2P-coated samples after gas absorption.
- Lower energy peaks appeared in the MISG- and MISG-BTE-coated samples.
- No peaks in the NISG-modified samples, which indicated less gas absorption.

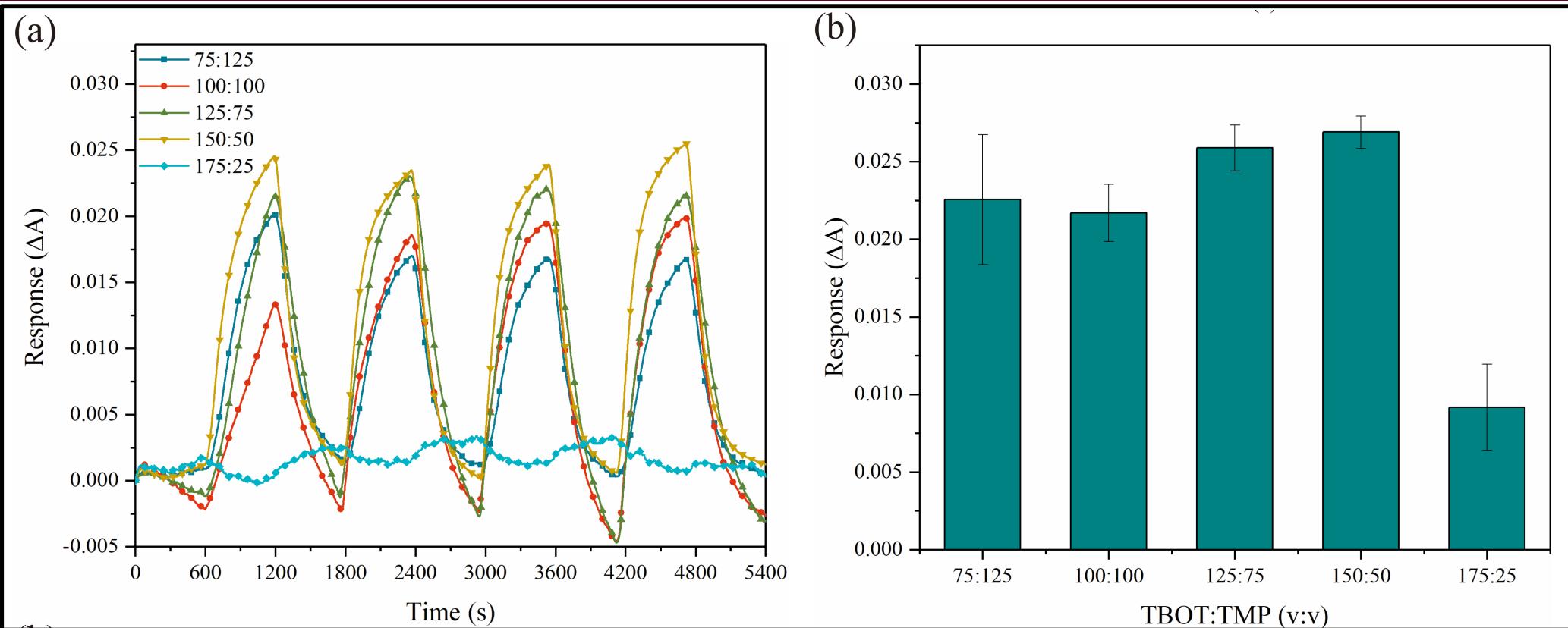
# Results and discussion



Real-time responses for NISG-, MISG-, TMP-MISG-, TEP-MISG-, TM2P-MISG-, and BTE-MISG-coated samples (a) and their quantitative responses (b).

- No responses to CJ vapor were observed for NISG-modified sensors.
- MISGs without functional monomers exhibited lower.
- TMP appeared to be the optimal functional monomer.

# Results and discussion

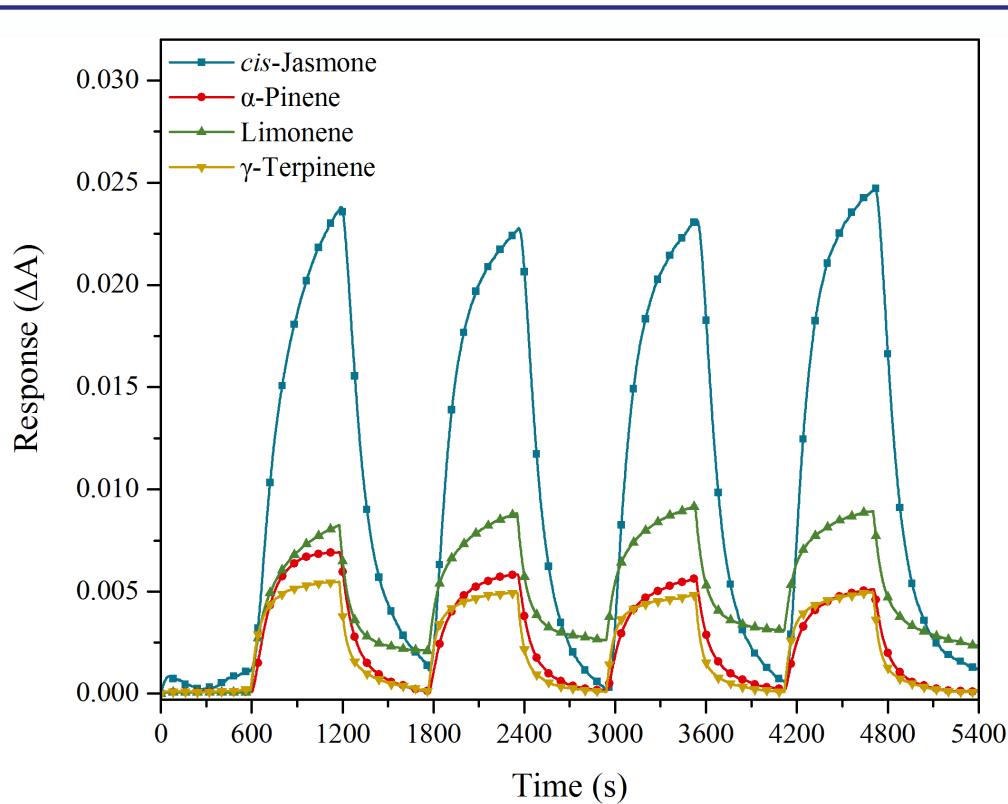


Real-time responses of samples coated with TMP-MISG at TBOT/TMP = 75/125, 100/100, 125/75, 150/50, 175/25 (v/v) (a) and their response summary (b).

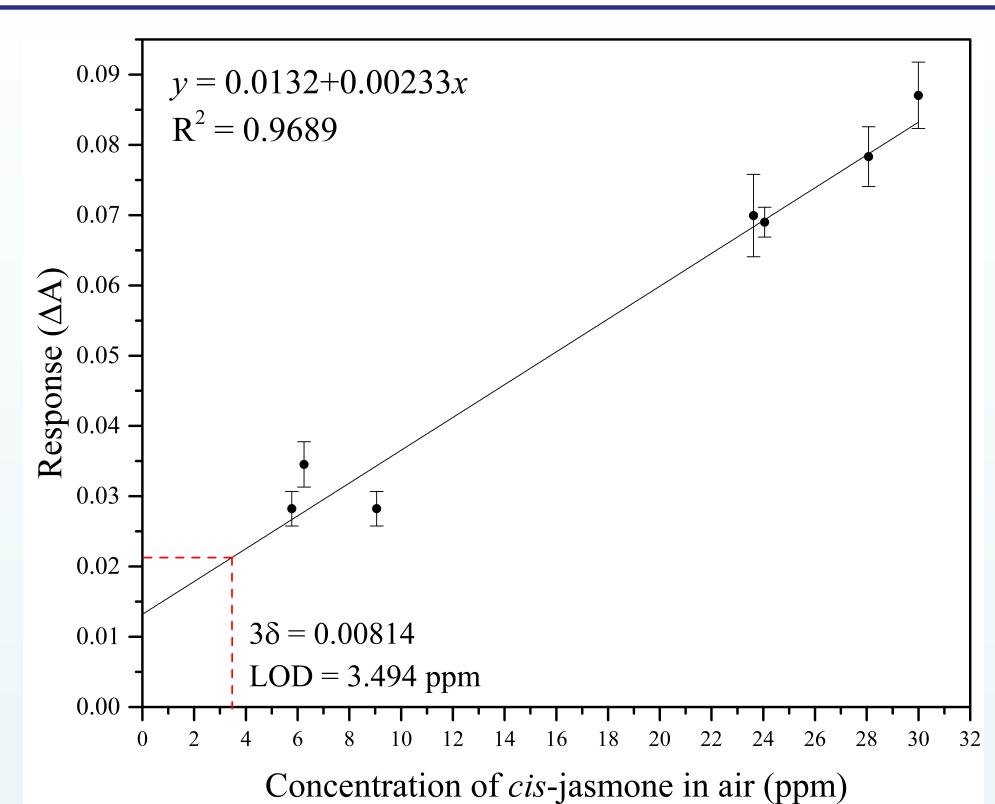
- Imprinting with MIP materials was affected by the ratio of the matrix/functional monomers.
- AuNPs coated by MISG-TMP with the ratio TBOT/TMP=150/50 had the highest CJ sensitivity.

# Results and discussion

## MISG-LSPR sensor



Real-time responses of TMP-MISG-LSPR sensor to 4 PVOCs.



The limit of detection (LOD) for *cis*-jasmine sensor was 3.494 ppm.

A specific selectivity to *cis*-jasmine vapors was obtained.

# Conclusion

- LSPR sensors based on MISG-modified Au nano-islands was demonstrated for CJ vapor detection.
- Under optimal conditions, the volume ratio **TBOT/TMP = 150/50** resulted in a **3.494-ppm** LOD for CJ vapor.
- Real-time responses of the sensors displayed good selectivity, broad linearity, and repeatability.
- This study indicated that by adding FMs, the interaction between MISGs and molecules can be controlled, which can be applied for extracting functional group/polar information for VOCs.

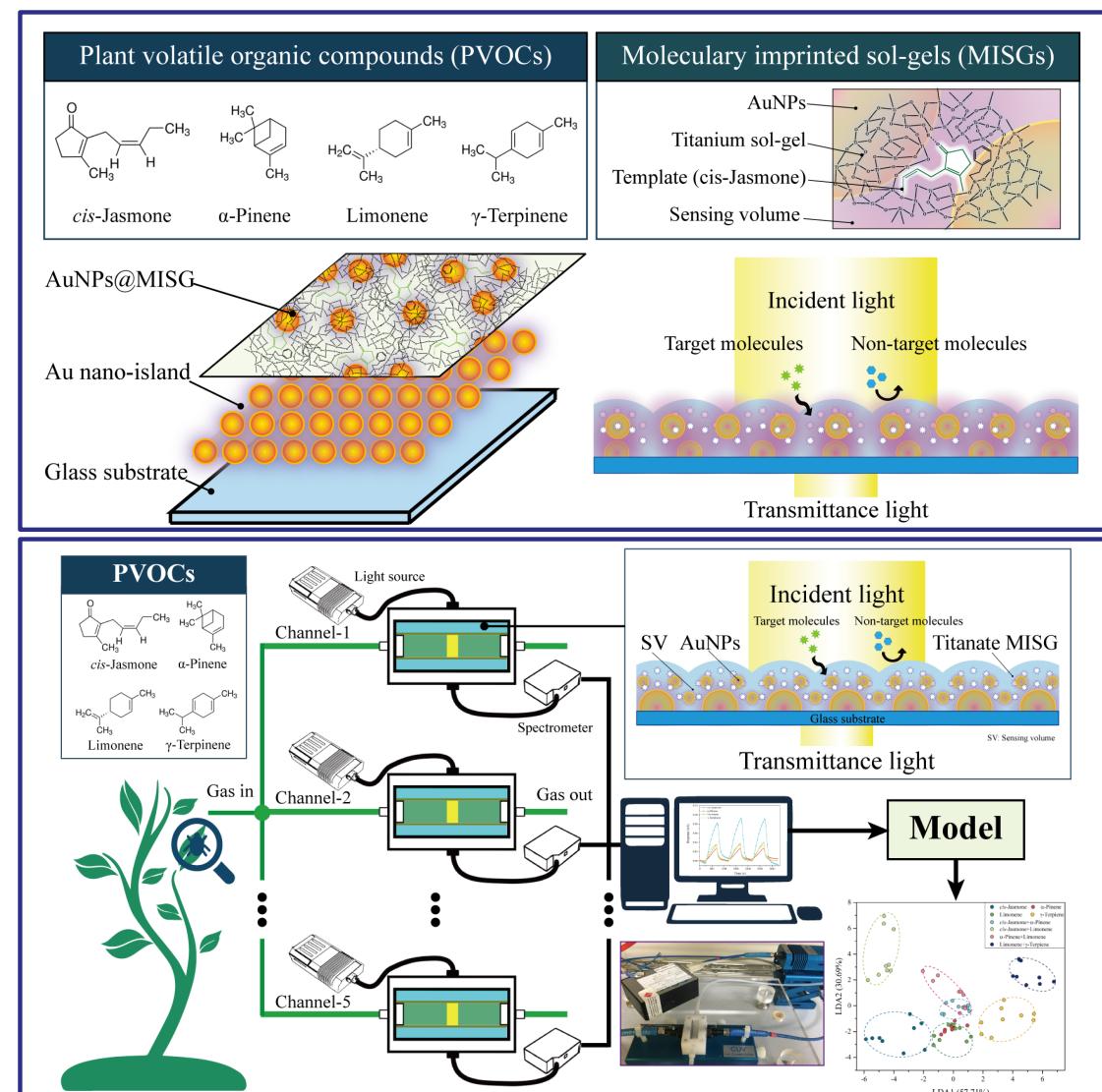
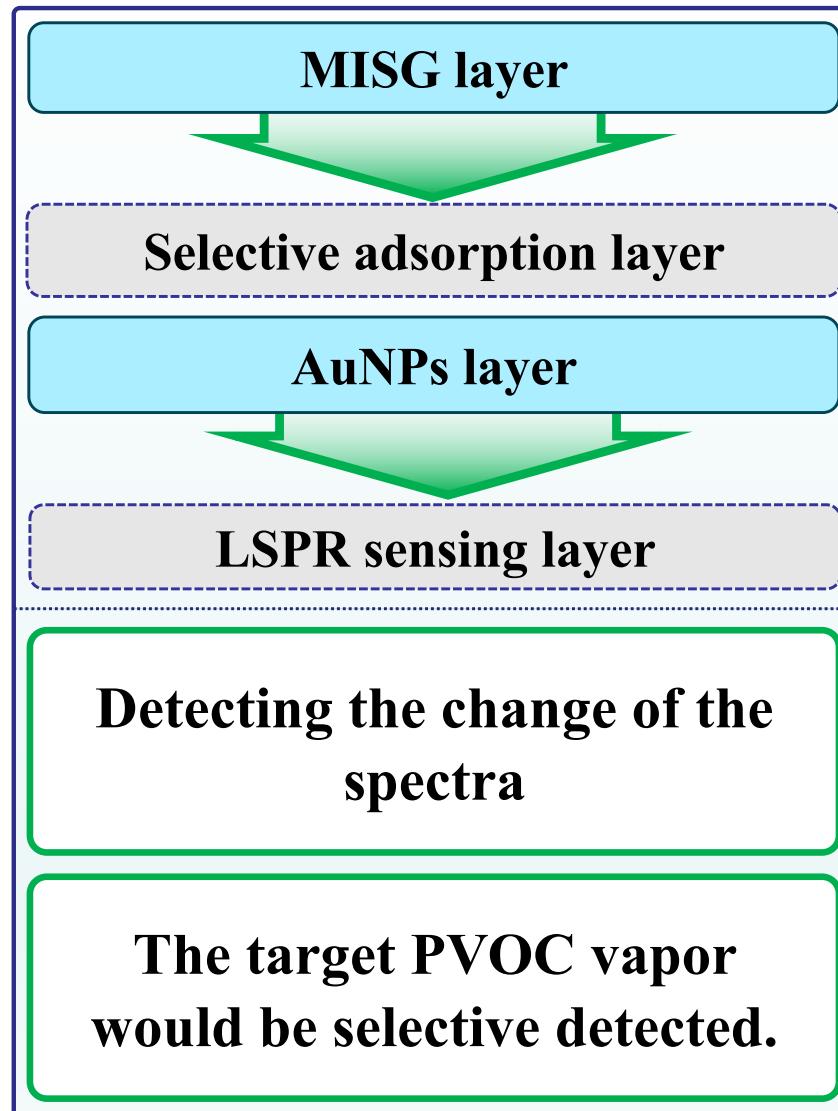
# Chapter 6

## LSPR Sensor Array Coated AuNPs@MISGs for PVOCs Recognition



# Concept

## MISG-LSPR sensor (AuNPs/MISG/AuNPs)



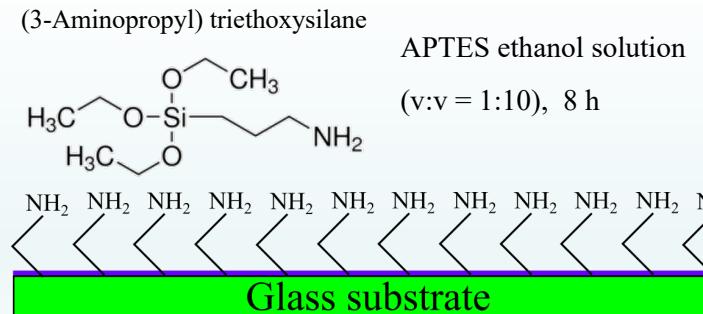
# Experiment

## MISG-AuNPs

Iso-propanol	2 mL
Ti(OBu) <sub>4</sub>	150 $\mu$ L
TMP	25 $\mu$ L
Template	50 $\mu$ L
TiCl <sub>4</sub>	25 $\mu$ L

## MISG-AuNPs film fabrication

### Step 1 APTES modification



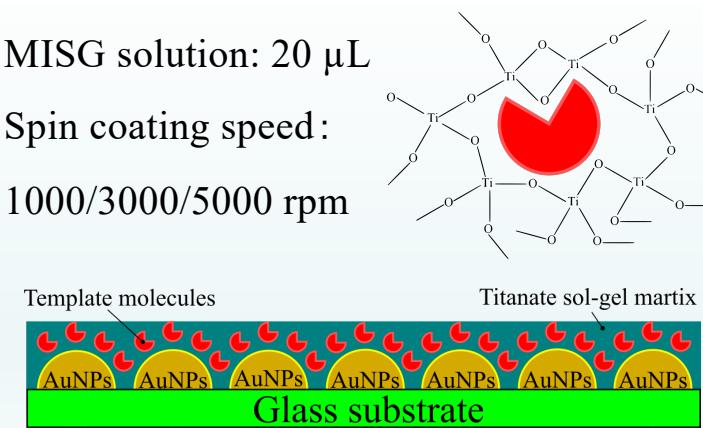
### Step 2 Sputtered AuNPs and anneal

Sputtering AuNPs thickness: 3nm  
 Anneal: 500 °C, 2 h, 2 times, air



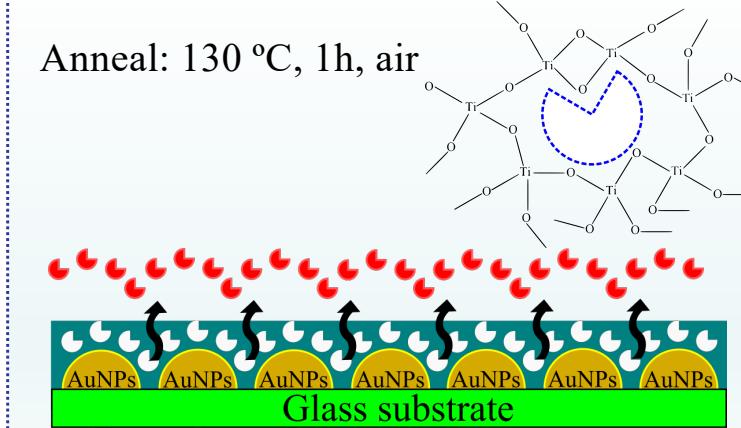
### Step 3 MISG reaction solution spin coating

MISG solution: 20  $\mu$ L  
 Spin coating speed:  
 1000/3000/5000 rpm



### Step 4 Annealed for removing templates

Anneal: 130 °C, 1h, air

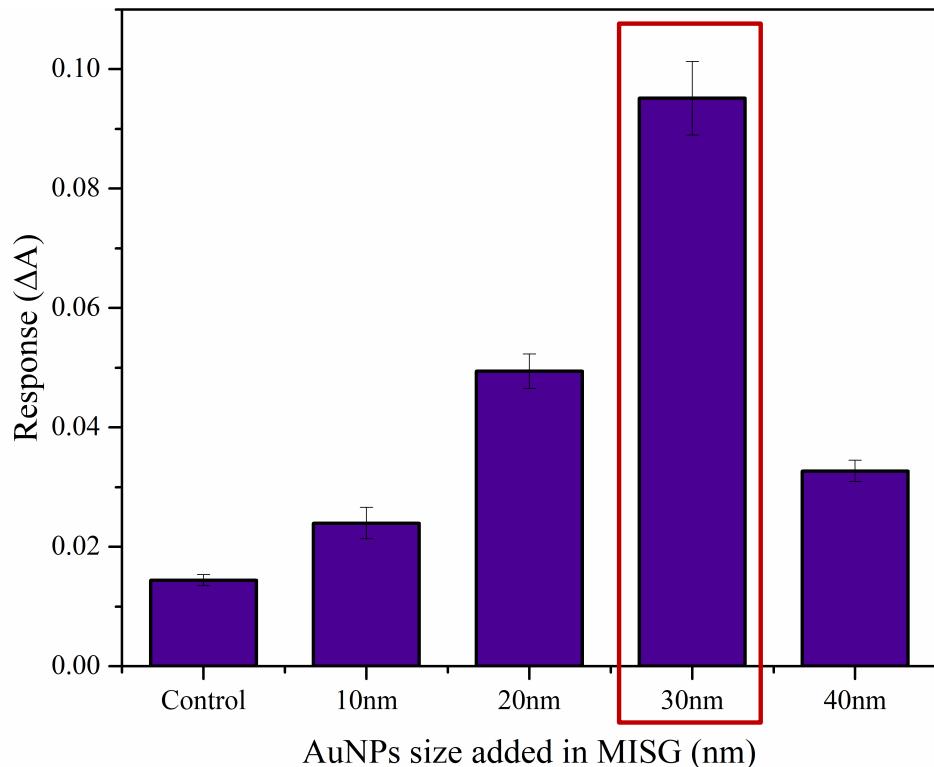


60 °C water bath, 1h

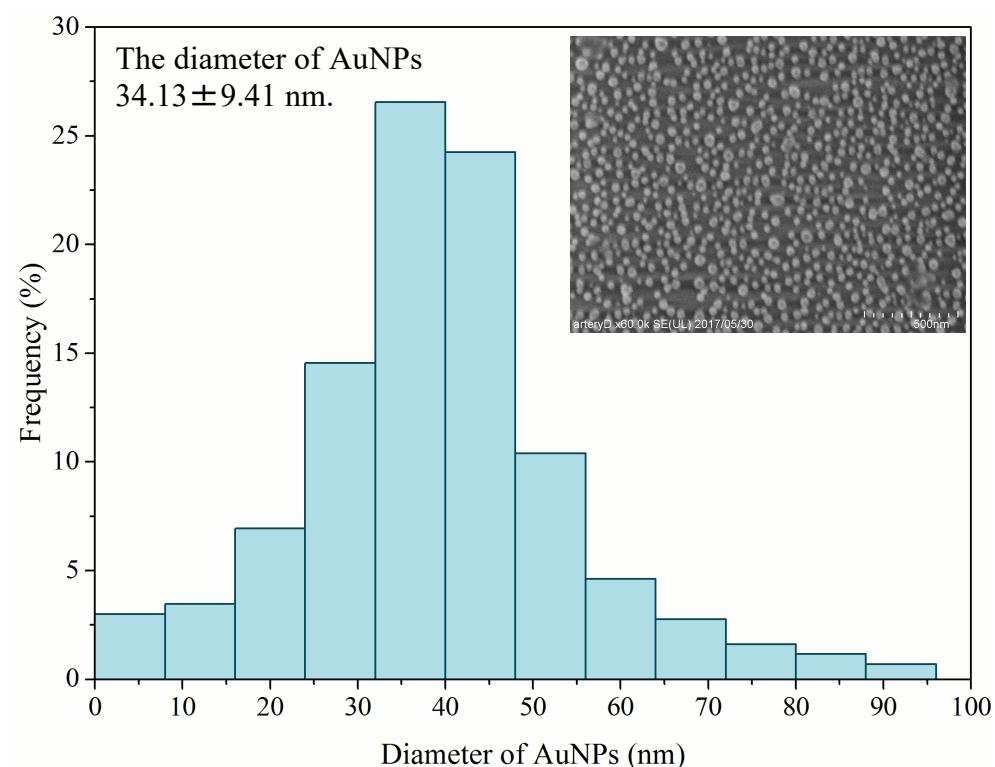
AuNPs solution

Stirring 4h

# Results and discussion



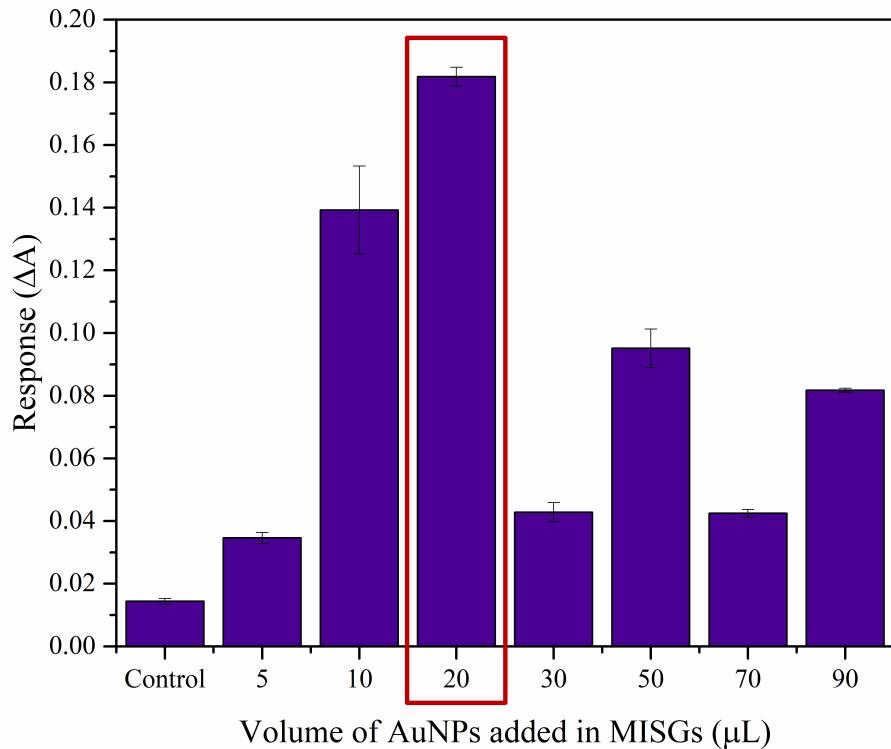
Response effected by AuNPs size in MISGs.



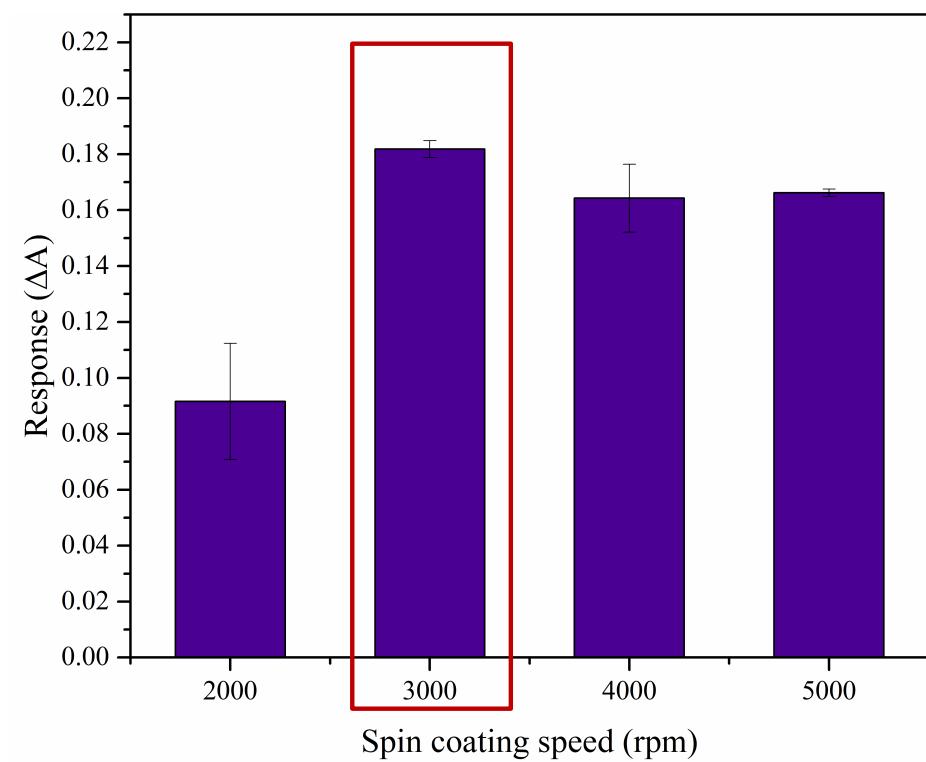
Particle size distribution histogram of spherical AuNPs determined from bare sample.

- Response of AuNPs@MISG-coated with 30-nm AuNPs was 6.33 times that of the one without NPs.
- The diameter of the AuNPs on the substrate is close to that of the AuNPs in the MISG (30 nm).
- The high sensitivity of the sensor was contributed by hot-spot coupling.

# Results and discussion



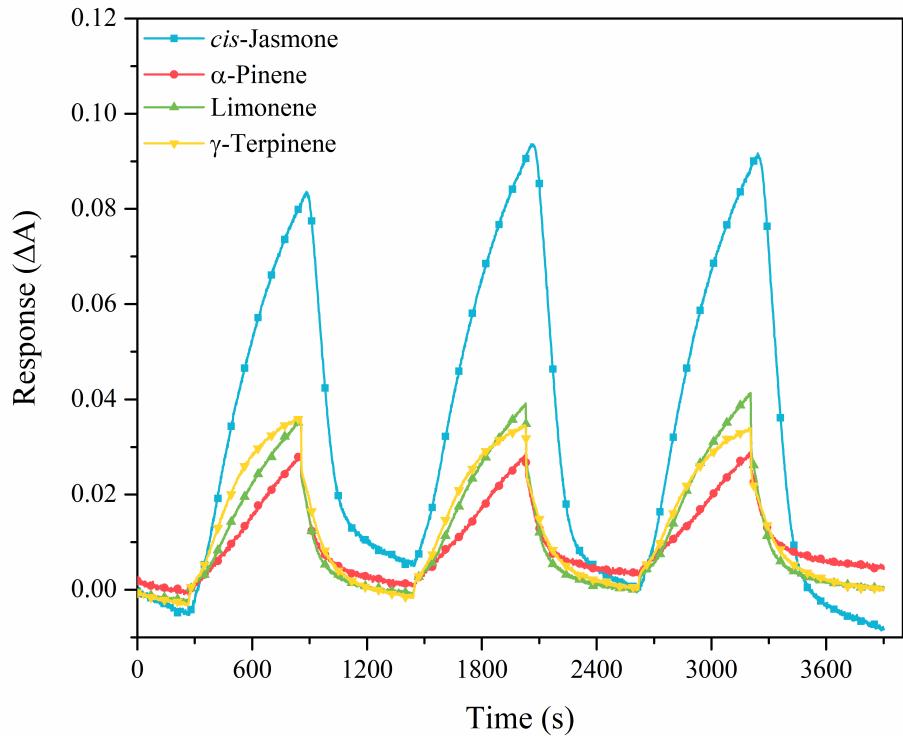
Response effected by AuNPs (30 nm) amount in MISGs.



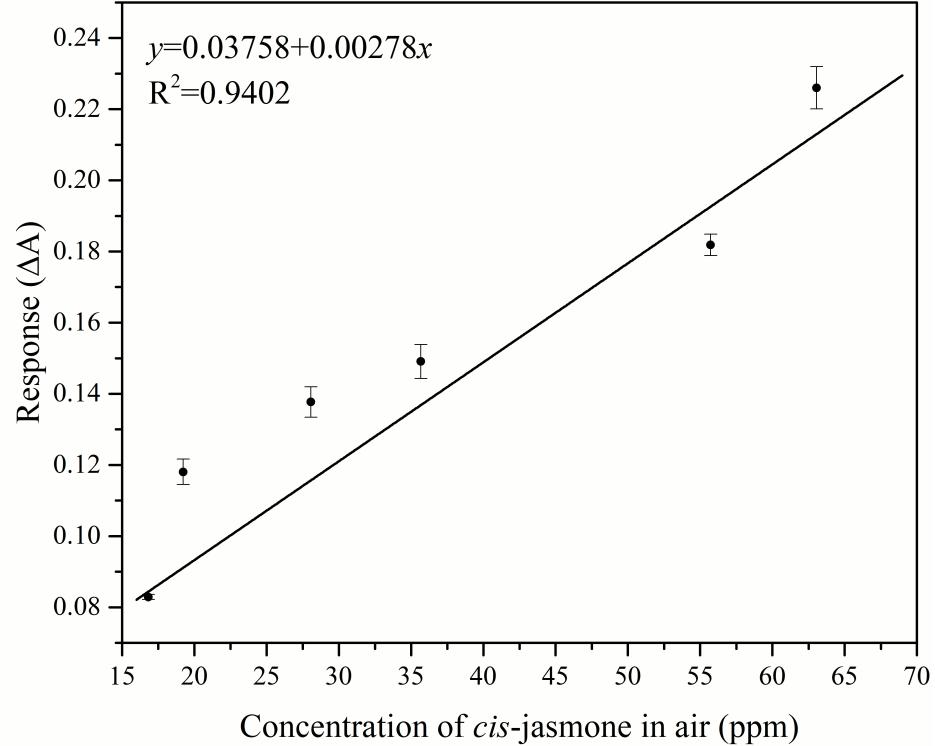
Response effected by spin coating speed.

- Sensitivity of the sensors increased with the AuNP concentration initially and then decreased.
- Sensor coated with the MISG containing 20  $\mu\text{L}$  AuNPs had the highest sensitivity.
- The thickness of the sensing film influences the sensitivity of LSPR sensors.
- Optimal spin coating speed was selected as 3000 rpm in the present study.

# Results and discussion



Real-time responses of AuNPs@MISG-modified Au-islands to 4 PVOCs.



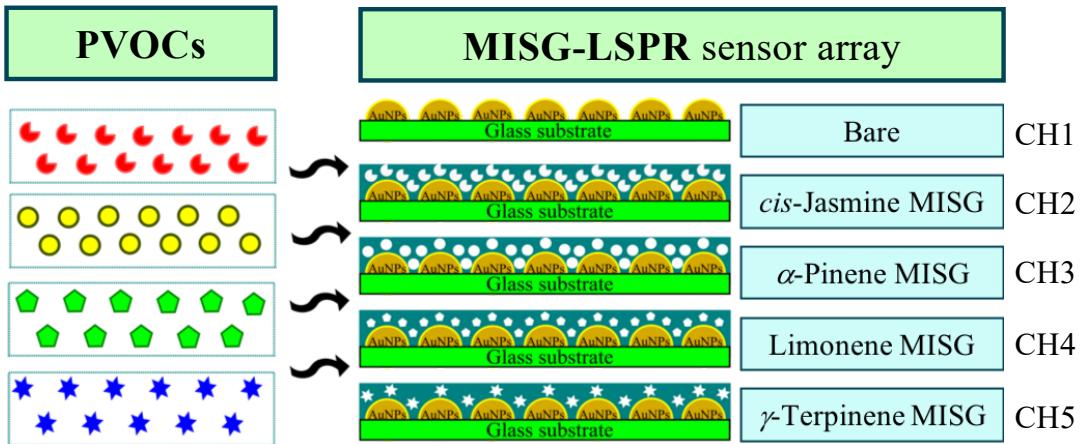
Linear response vs. CJ concentration in air.

- Response to CJ was much higher than that to the interfering plant VOCs (Interference immunity).
- The limited of detection (LOD) was calculated as 3.07 ppm (S/N=3).
- The developed sensor has sufficient interference immunity for use in agricultural applications.

# Results and discussion

## Sensor response matrix to PVOCS

### MISG-LSPR sensor array



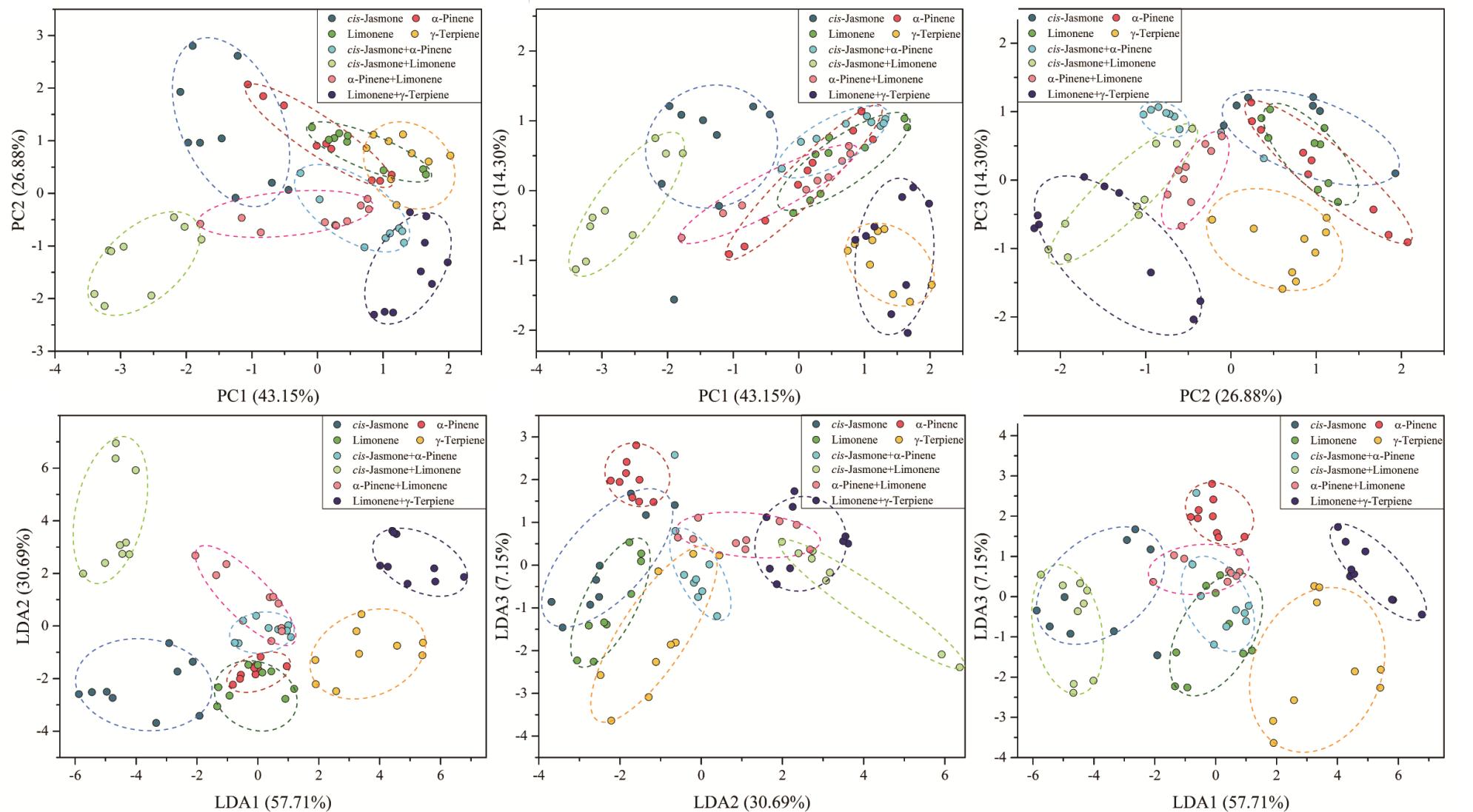
- By changing the flow rates (0.3, 0.5 and 0.7 L/min), PVOCS with different concentrations would be obtained.
- 72 samples (8 PVOCS  $\times$  3 flow rates  $\times$  3 repeats) were obtained in this study.
- All responses were scaled for former processing.

### Correlation matrix for channels

	CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5
CH1	1	0.06	-0.05	-0.17	-0.34
CH2	0.06	1	0.53	0.31	0.06
CH3	-0.05	0.53	1	0.59	0.1
CH4	-0.17	0.31	0.59	1	0.51
CH5	-0.34	0.06	0.1	0.51	1

- Low correlation between each channels.
- More information can be obtained in MISG sensor array.

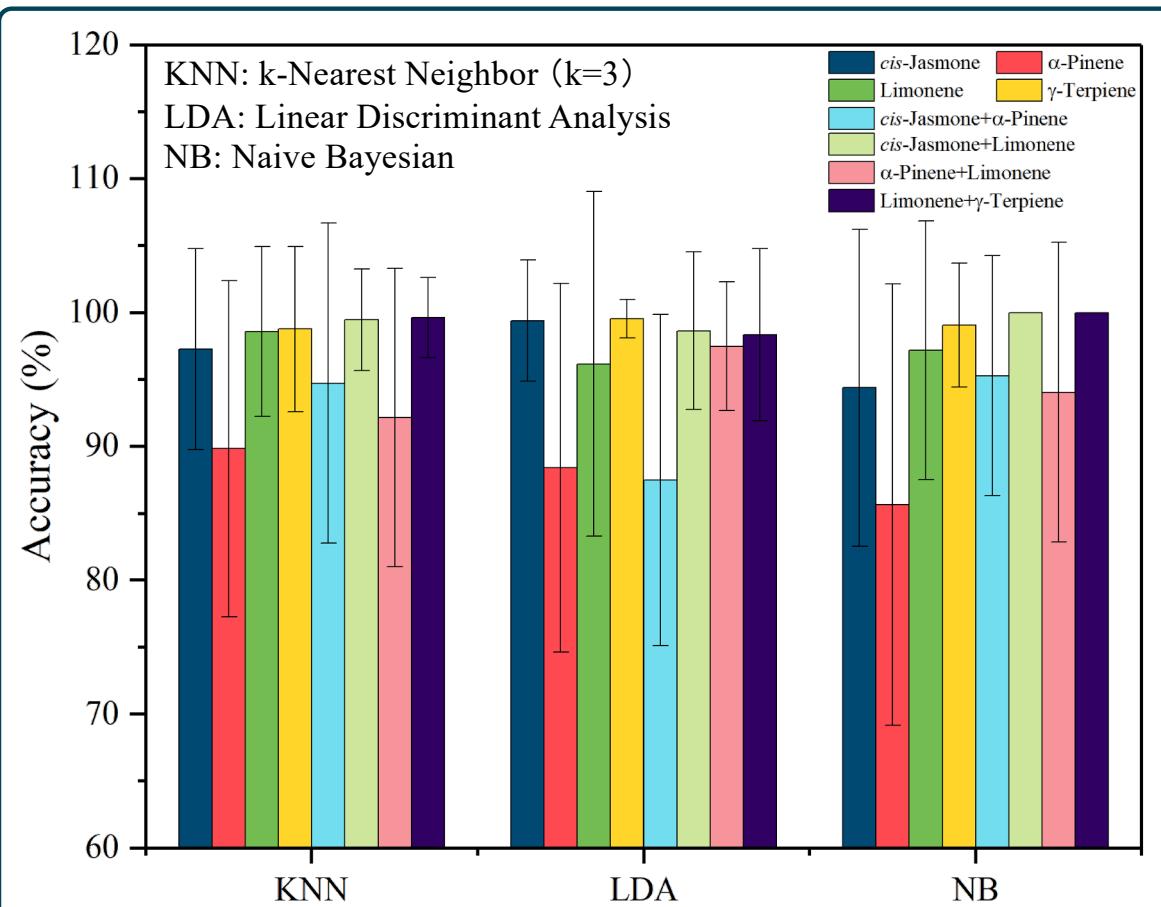
# Results and discussion



Mapping samples in PCA space and LDA space

# Results and discussion

## Models established by KNN, LDA, and NB.



- Data sets were divided by random selection method.
- Train set : test set = 7:3. Repeat 100 times.

## Models evaluation

Model	Accuracy	SD.
KNN	96.76 %	9.36 %
LDA	95.67 %	11.06 %
NB	95.72 %	11.48 %

## Discussion

- PVOCS from single or mixture can be recognized and classified.
- Low accuracy in detecting  $\alpha$ -pinene.
- In summary, KNN shown the best result than other models.
- Better result would be obtained by more samples.

# Conclusion

- An **LSPR sensor** coated with an **MISG containing AuNPs** to amplify the sensing signal was developed for plant VOC detection.
- The sensitivity of the **AuNPs@MISG-coated sensor** was **12.33 times** higher than that of the sample without AuNPs.
- The real-time responses of the sensor displayed good **interference immunity and repeatability**.
- A five-channel **AuNPs@MISG LSPR sensor array** was designed to detect and identify **four plant VOCs alone and in binary mixtures**.
- A large sensor array coated different MISGs would be developed for molecular information extraction.

# Chapter 7

## Conclusion



# Conclusion

## Structure–odor relationship

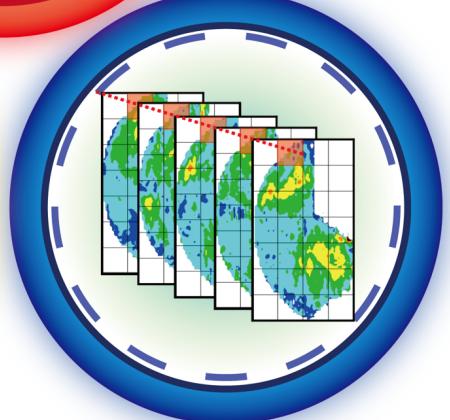
- Chapter 2 explored the correlation between odor maps and the molecular parameters.
- A comparative model could be established if it was based on enough molecular features.

- Chapter 3 present a model by which odor information can be obtained by machine-learning-based prediction from MPs of odorant molecules.
- Molecular parameters associated with machine-learning models can be adopted for odor perceptual senses identification.

Odor descriptions



Molecular parameters



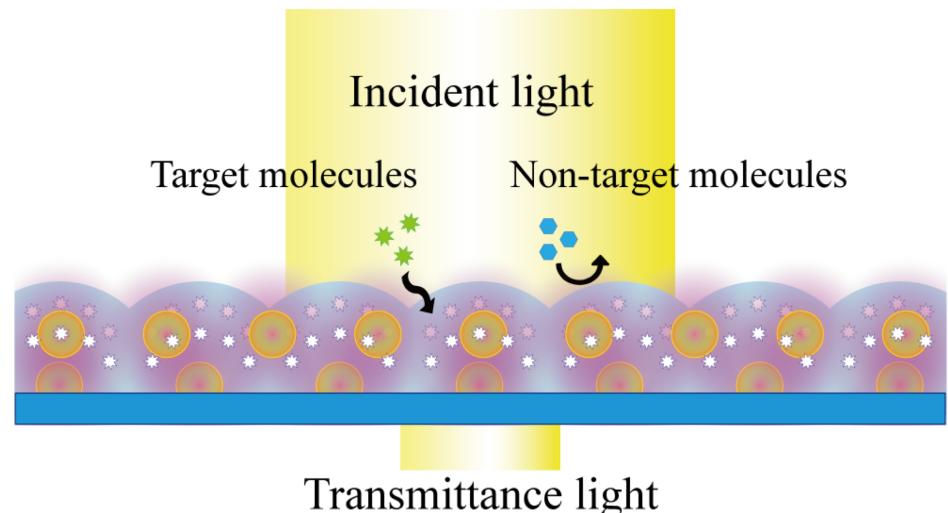
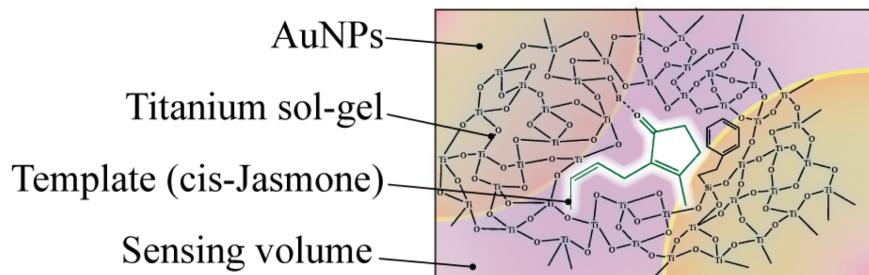
Odor maps

# Conclusion

## Molecular imprinted material coated optical odor sensor

- Chapter 4-6 explored the MISGs-LSPR sensor for determination of organic vapors selectively.
- The selectivity of MISGs can be controlled by functional monomers and template molecules.
- Furthermore, AuNPs were doped in MISGs for enhancing response intensity by hot spots generation.
- A multi-channel sensor platform was developed to detect VOCs in single and binary mixtures.
- The molecular parameters such as carbon chain length, size, polar and functional group can be detected.

### Molecularly imprinted sol-gels (MISGs)



# Thank you for your attention



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KYUSHU UNIVERSITY