

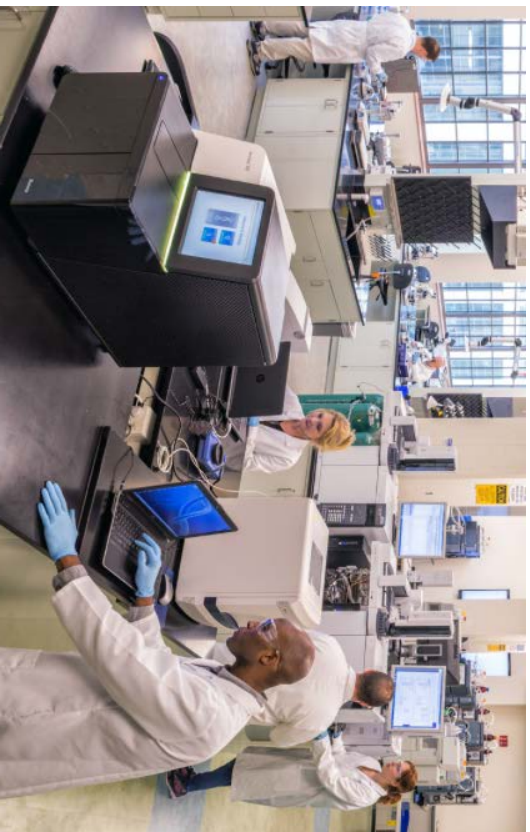
Chemical and Biological Sensors



Crossroads 2020

Timothy M. Swager, tswager@mit.edu

Why Chemical Sensors?



State of the Art Analytical Lab

- Dedicated Facility
- High Capital Costs
- Need for Skilled Technical Support



Chemical Sensors

- Relatively Inexpensive
- Portable/Field Deployable
- Distributed Sensors can Provide Spatial/Temporal Data
- Minimal Technical Training for Users

Chemical Sensors: Features and Limitations

General Feature/Definition: Enabled by Molecules/Materials

Materials Technology (Transduction) Makes for Inexpensive Hardware

Spectroscopic Methods (Hybrids Paired with Materials)

Can be Information Rich and Uniquely Identify Analytes

Devices Often Have Fixed Sampling Chambers That Can Foul
(e.g. Mass Spec)

Often More Expensive with Limited Portability

Receptor/Materials Based Methods

Often Limited by Chemical Selectivity

Can be Prone to Drift (Changing Baselines)

Can be Extremely Inexpensive

Often Can Have a Consumable (Refreshable) Interface with the Sample

Multimodal Sensing with Spectroscopic Methods is Possible

Expanding Markets

Environmental Monitoring

- Distributed Sensors for Identification Non-Point Sources

Wearable Sensors

- Occupational Safety in Manufacturing, Research, Hazmat
- Individuals Interested in Personal Exposure

Building Controls

- Integrated Distributed Air Quality Sensors

Biotech/Manufacturing

- Process Controls

Medical Diagnostics

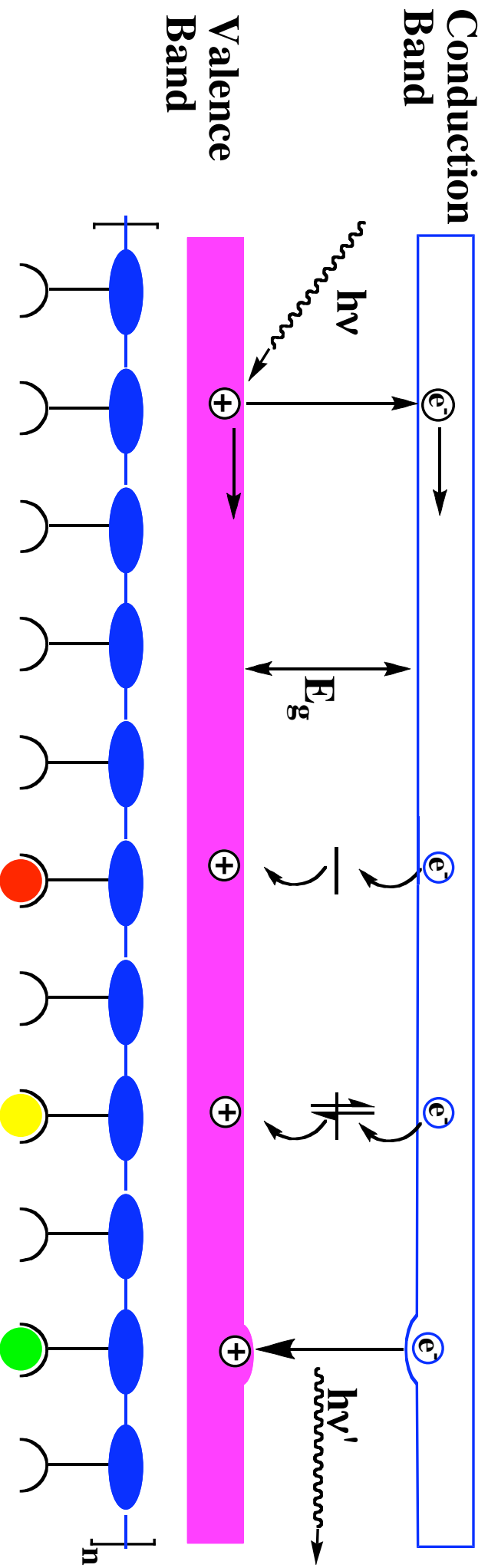
- Home Screening/Clinic

Food and Ag

- Distribution
- Production- Greenhouses
- Personal Testing of Food



Amplification by Energy Migration in Electronic Polymers



Excitations migrate along the polymer backbone and are quenched when they encounter an acceptor.

J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1995**, *117*, 12593

Accets. Chem. Res. **1998**, *31*, 201-7

- “Conjugated Polymer-Based Sensory Materials” *Chem. Rev.* **2000**, *100*, 2537-2574.
- “Chemical Sensors Based on Amplifying Fluorescent Conjugated Polymers” *Chem. Rev.* **2007**, *107*, 1339 - 1386.

Going 3D: Sensory Polymer Films

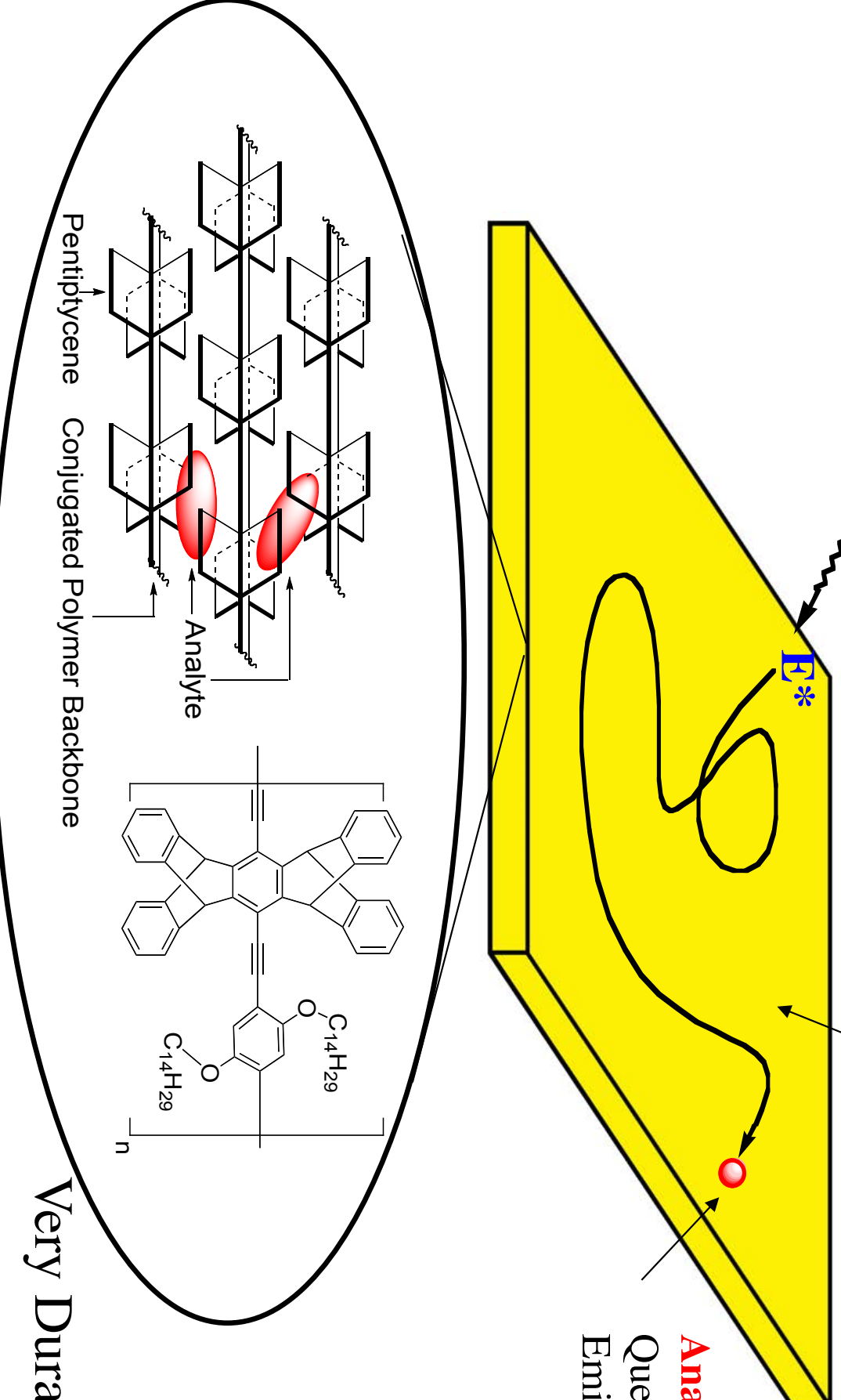
$h\nu$

Conjugated Polymer Film

• Amplification of Chemical Sensors

E^*

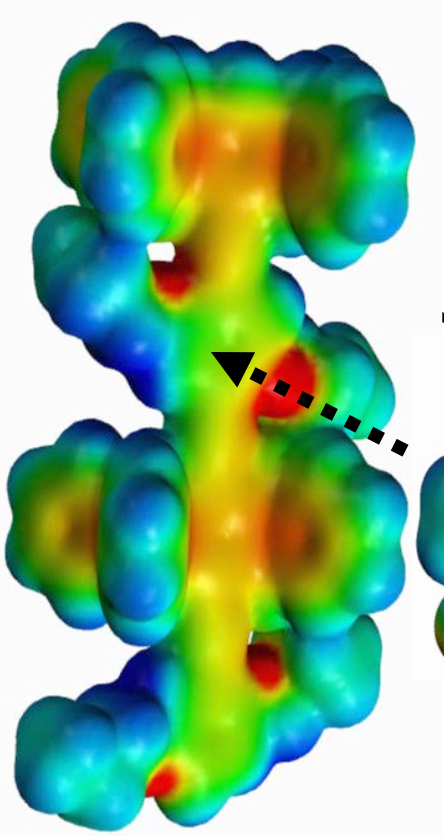
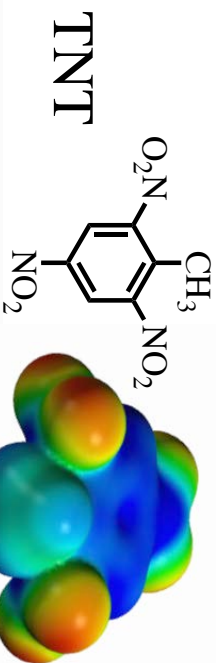
Analyte
Quencher or
Emissive Trap



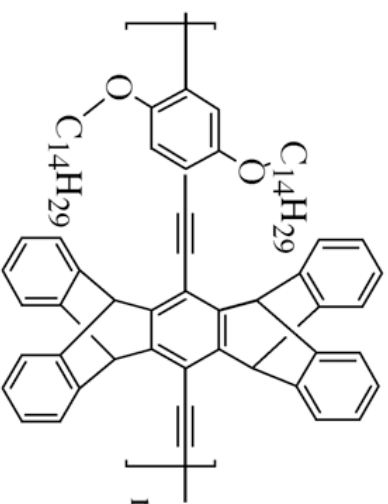
Very Durable!!

Yang, J.-S.; Swager, T. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, 120, 5321-5322.

Amplifying Polymers For Explosives Detection

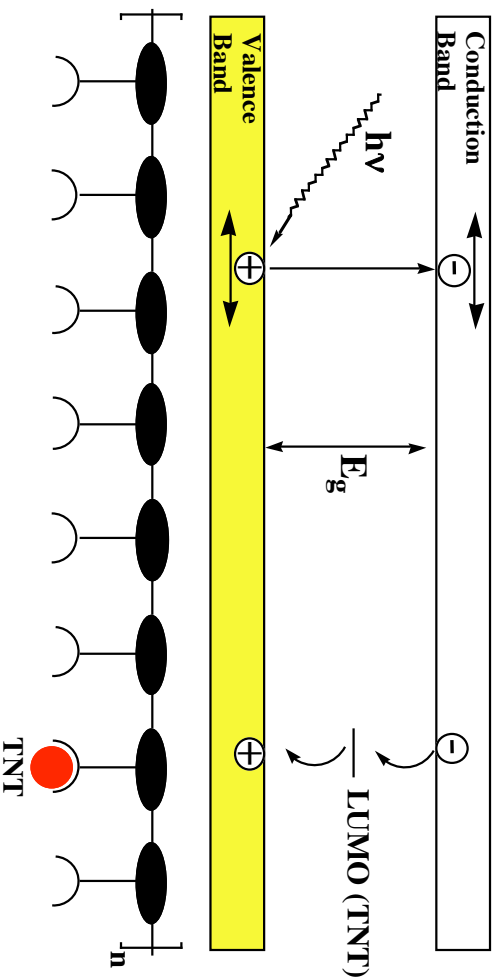


Nitroaromatics Are Ubiquitous in Explosives
 TNT has only a **5-8 ppb** Vapor Pressure

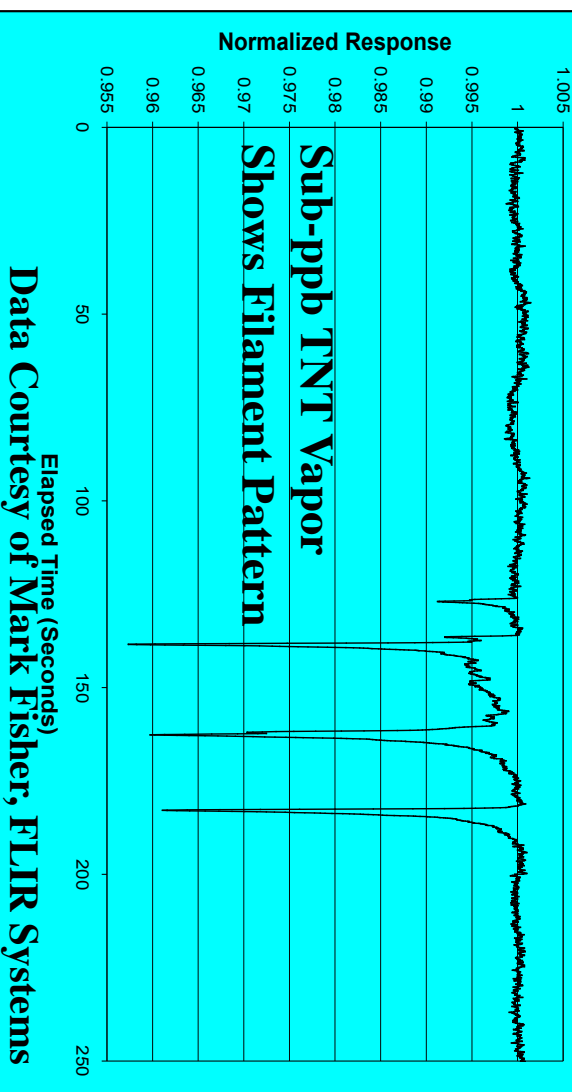


MIT Polymers Are the
 Basis of the **FLIR Fido**
 Detectors

Quenching Mechanism



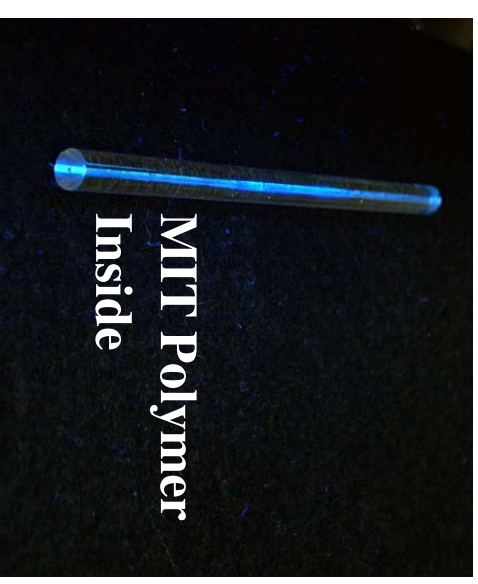
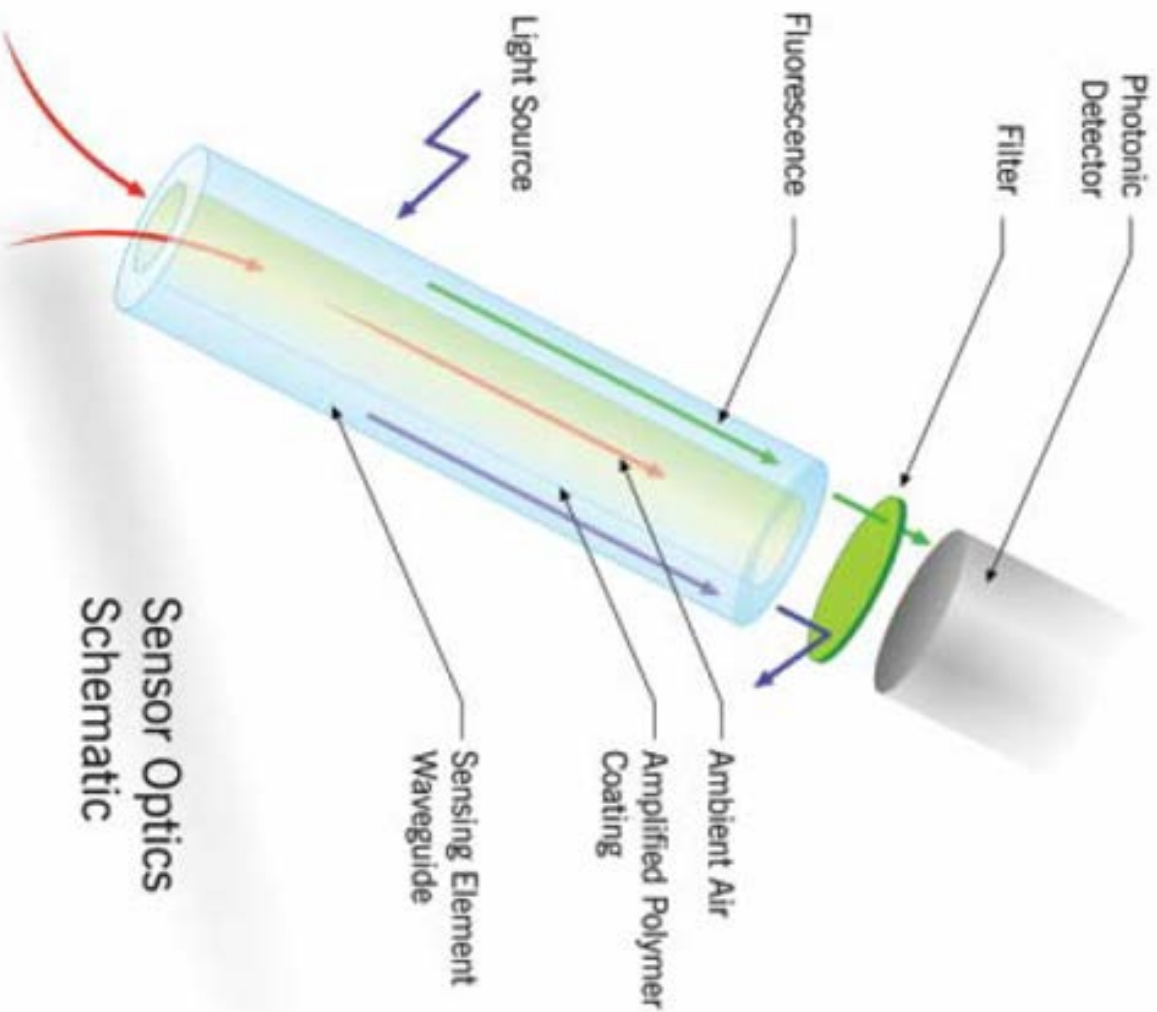
2-Meter Standoff Detection of TNT Demo-Blocks





Courtesy of FLIR Systems

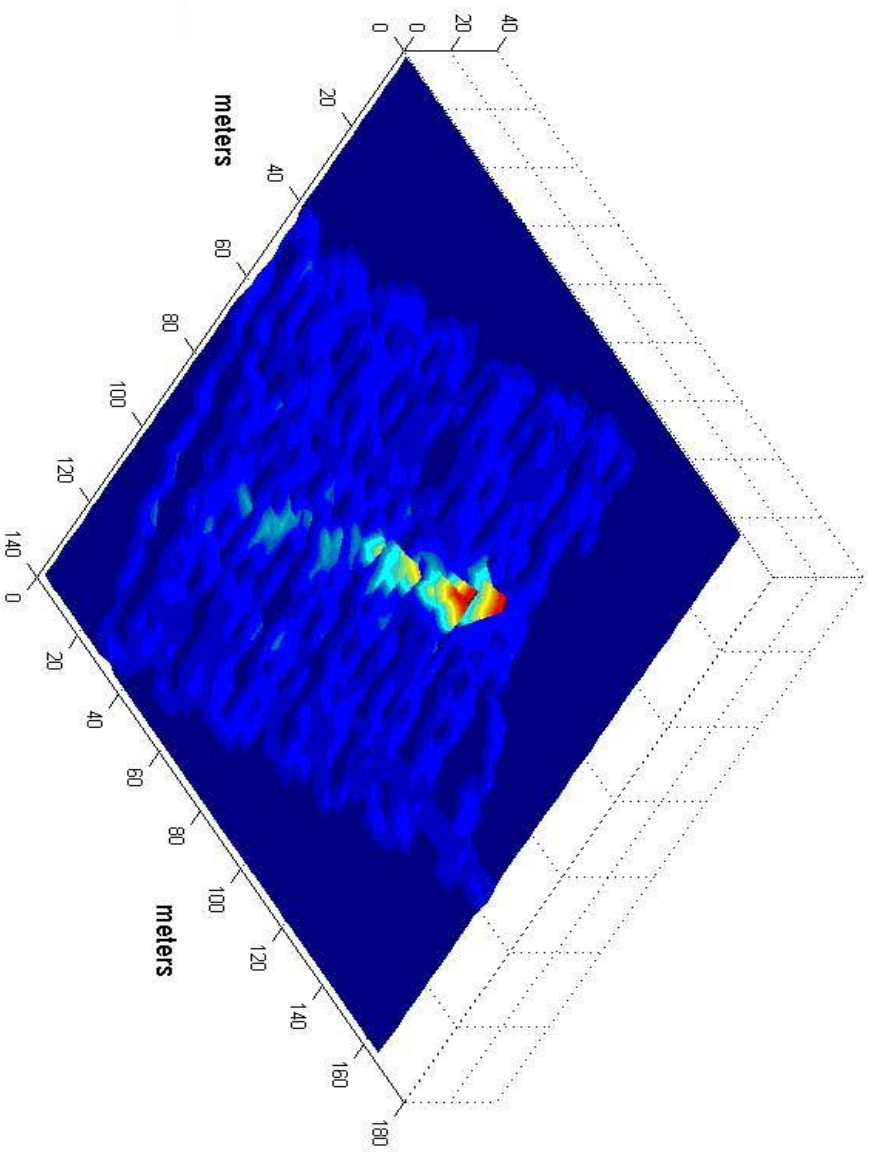
Single-Channel Fido Schematic



TNT Plume Tracing by Underwater Autonomous Vehicles



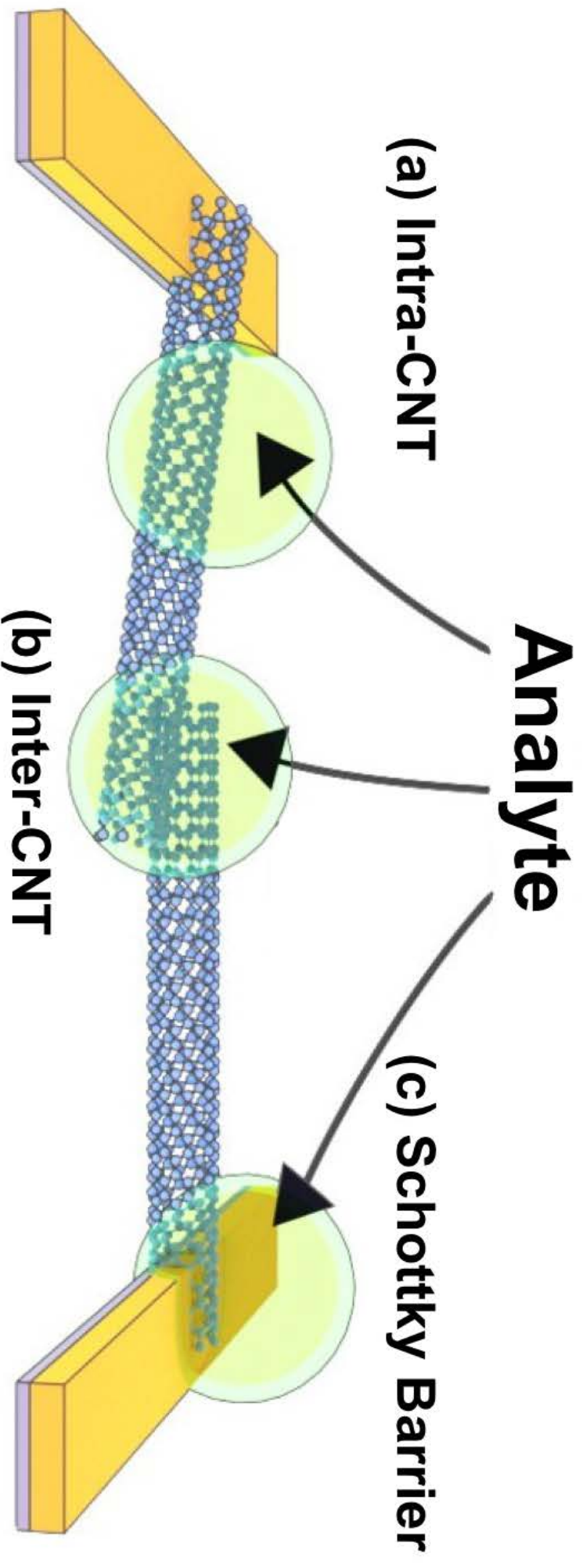
FILIR
SYSTEMS™



**GPS Tracking of ppb TNT
in Pacific Ocean**

Carbon Nanotube Sensing Mechanisms

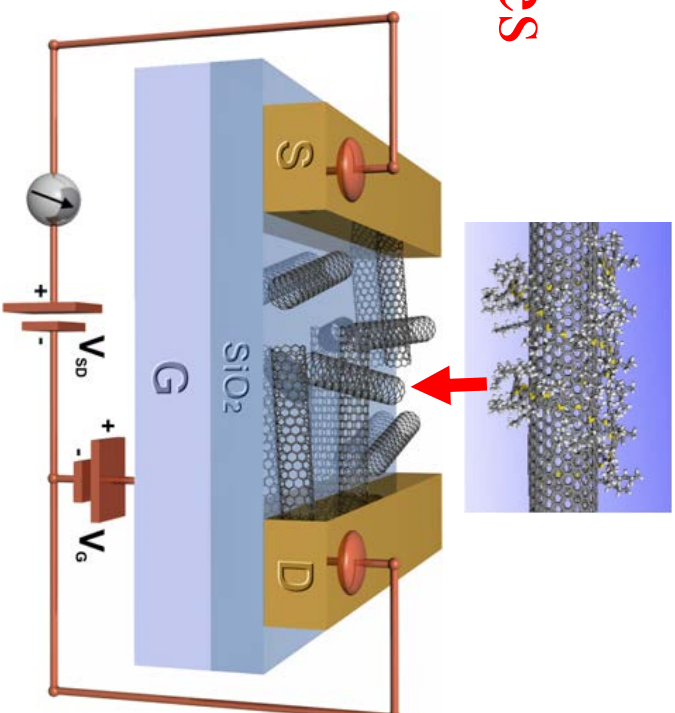
Chemiresistor/Chemicapacitance Responses are Often the Result of a Complex Mixture of Mechanisms



Schröder, V.; Savagatrup, S.; He, M.; Lin, S.; Swager, T. M. “Carbon Nanotube Chemical Sensors” *Chem. Rev.* **2019**, *119*, 599-663.

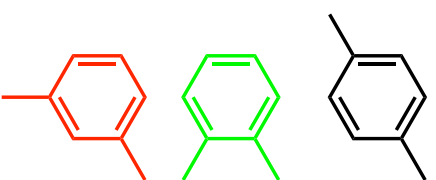
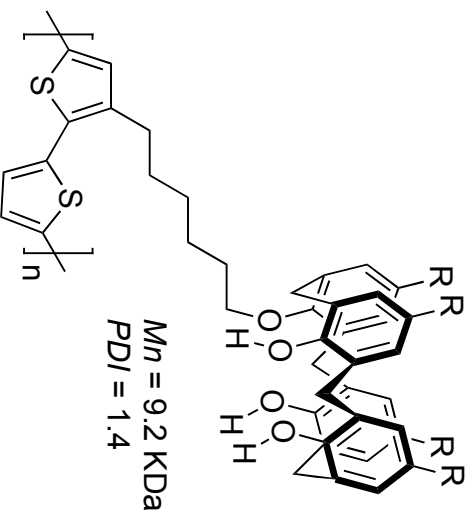
CNT Chemiresistors

Intrinsic Advantages of Chemiresistors
Low Power/Cost
Small Footprint
Wireless Network



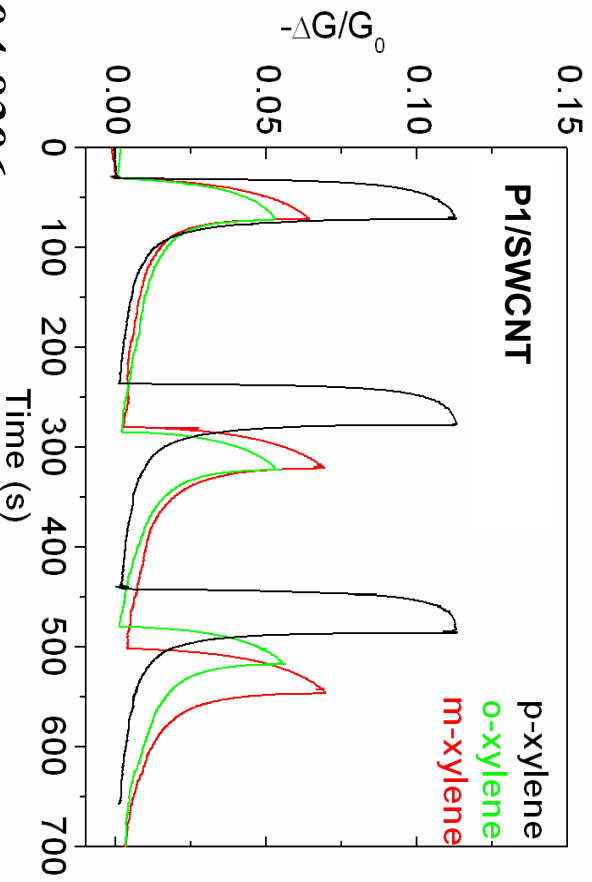
Technical Needs
High Sensitivity
Selectivity
Minimize Drift

Polymer Wrapper/Receptor

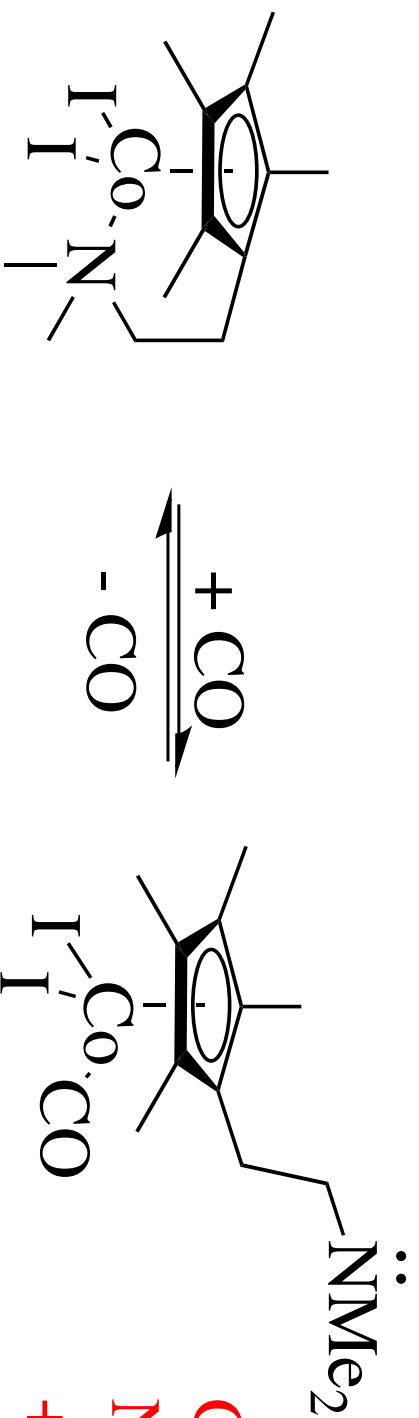
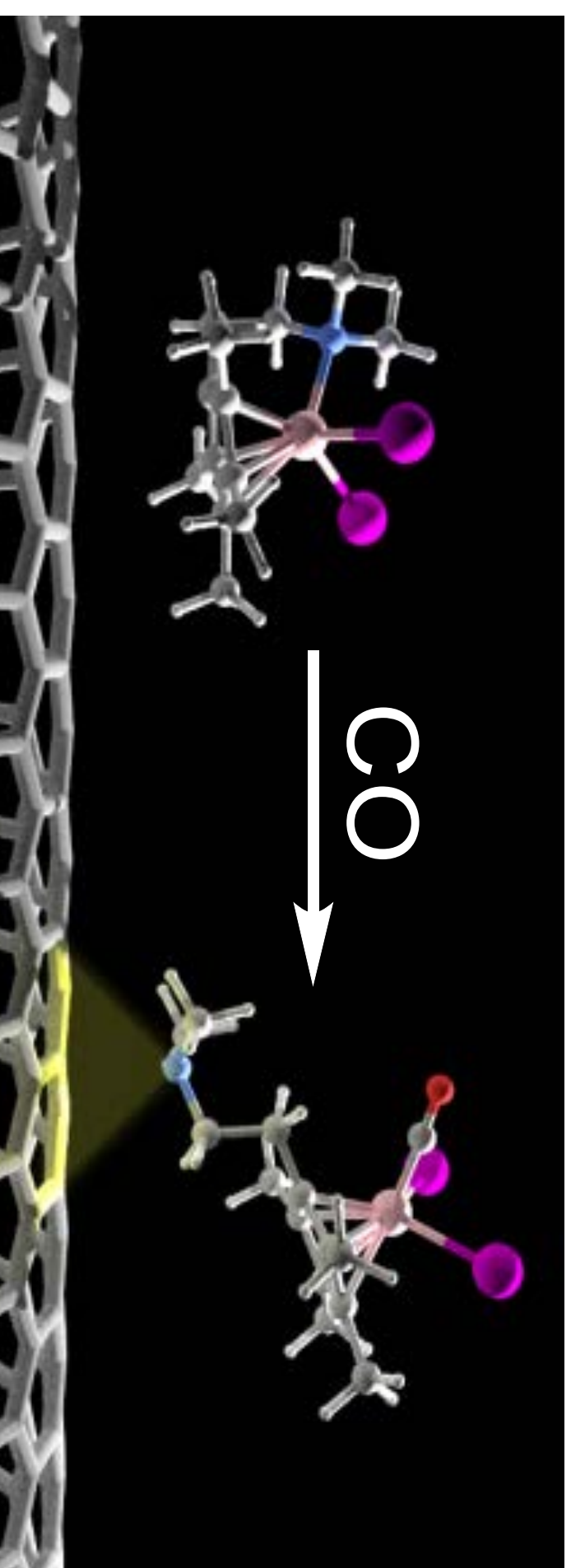


Binds in Calixarene

To Wide for
Strong Binding



Triggered Amine Release



Charge Transfer to the
Nanotube Reduces the
+ Carriers (Holes)

Liu, S. F.; Lin, S.; Swager, T. M. *ACS Sensors* **2016**, *1*, 354-357

Jutzi, P.; Kristen, M.; Dahlhaus, J.; Neumann, B.; Stammer, H.-G. *Organometallics* **1993**, *12*, 2980-2985.

Sensing for Food and Agriculture



Ripeness monitoring to determine optimum time of harvest, shipment, use

Soil monitoring to improve crop yields and optimize fertilizer use



Plant health monitoring for better crop and harvest management

Smart supply chains for fresher produce and less waste



Smart refrigerators to alert users as contents ripen or pass peak

Smart containers for food quality determination and monitoring



Spoilage detection in meat and dairy products

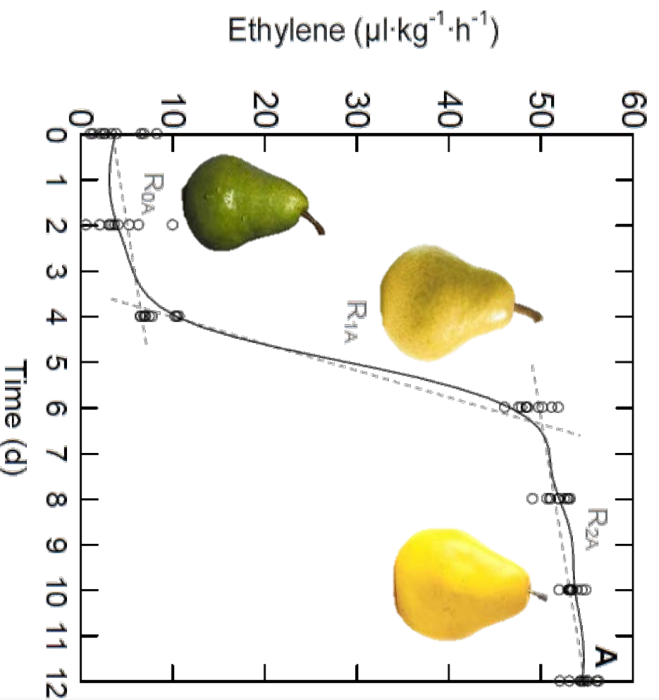
Retail inventory management for dynamic pricing



CO₂ detection for plant respiration monitoring



Importance of Gases in Food/Ag



Ethylene emission increases close to peak ripeness

Ethylene:

- **Given off by produce during ripening** (15+ climacteric fruits, e.g. avocado, banana, apple, mango)
- **Induces ripening** (35+ fruits, vegetables, and flowers respond to ethylene)
- **Indicator of plant health** (can be combined with measurement of other gases)

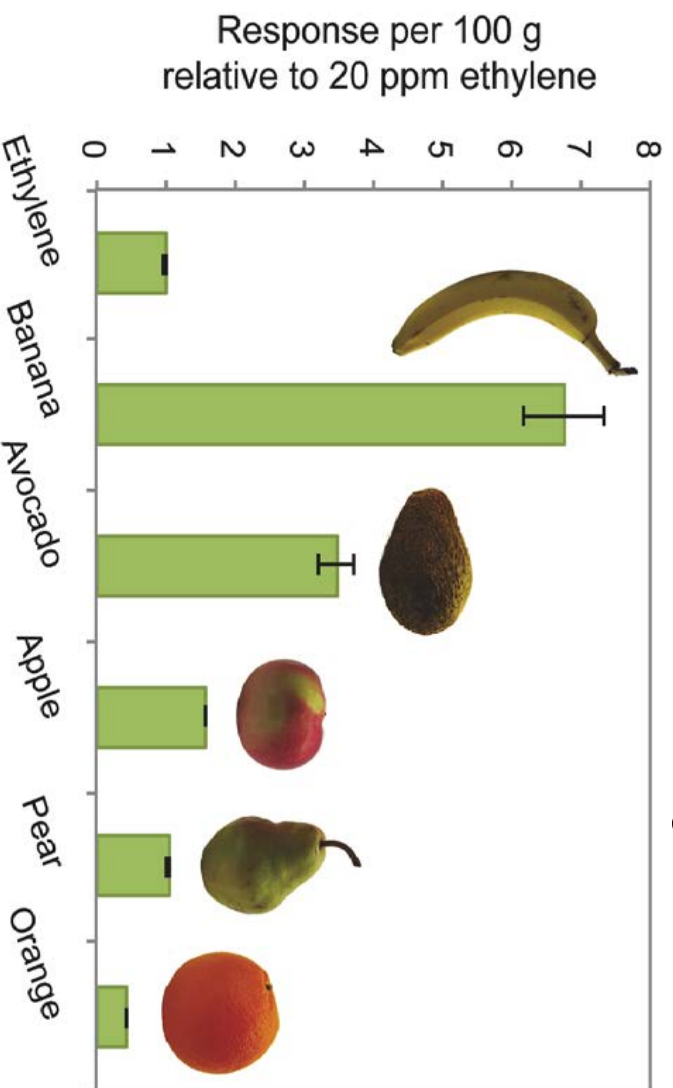
Amines:

- **Indicator of meat/fish spoilage**

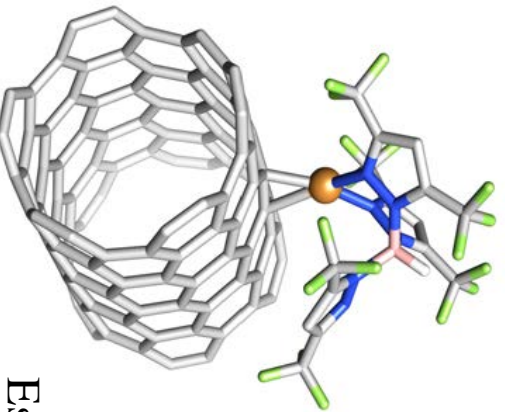
Ammonia:

- **Soil nutrient level monitoring**

Detection of Ethylene Emissions from Fruit

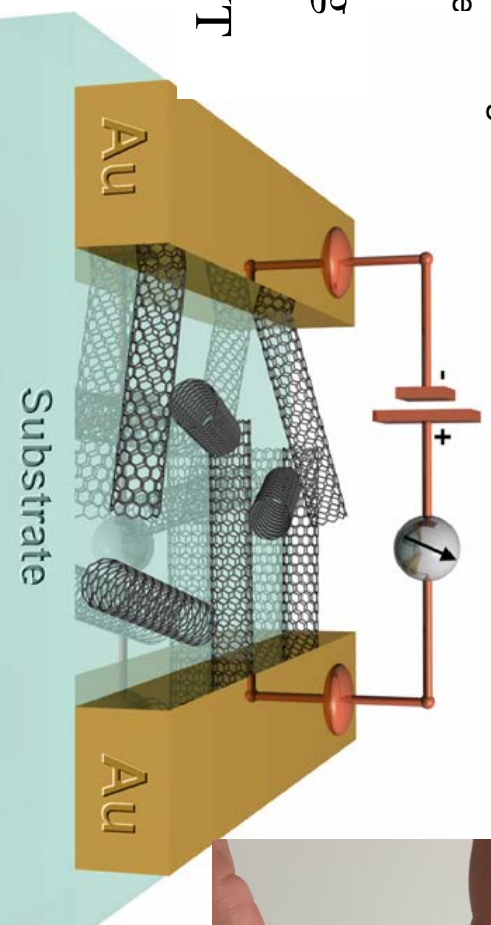


Relative response of [CuI]-SWNT devices to 100 g of fruit relative to the response to 20 ppm ethylene



Ethylene Binding
Metal Complex
Bound to SWCNT

- ## Carbon Nanotube Chemiresistors
- **Plug and Play:** variable resistor read-out
 - **Array-Capable:** 80+ analytes demonstrated
 - **Miniature:** 1-2 mm² per sensor element
 - **Low cost:** replaceable sensor chips
 - **Disposable:** paper, plastic, or glass substrates
 - **Simple Fabrication:** screen- or inkjet-printing



Substrate

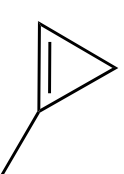


Sensors on Plastic

Real-Time Ethylene and 1-MCP Sensors for Apple Cold Storage Rooms

Pilot Product Deployed at
100 Locations in 5 Countries

AgroFresh

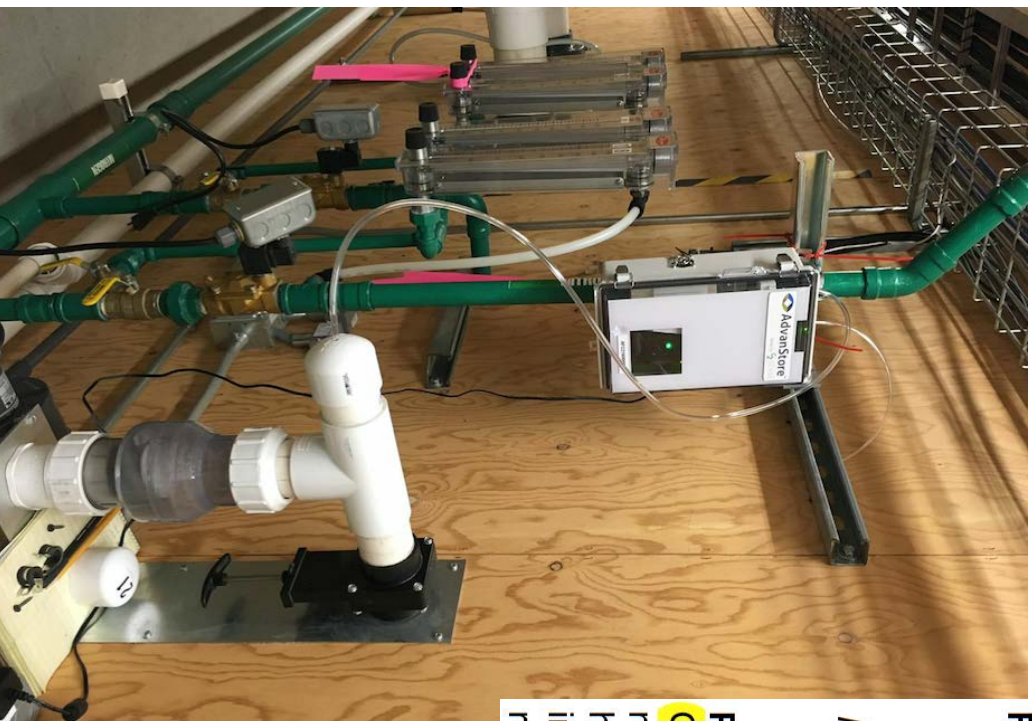


1-methylcycloprop-1-ene

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AgroFresh Introduces Novel Sensor Technology
New sensors pair with SmartFresh™ technology to provide unparalleled peace of mind to storage room operators

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 7, 2016 – AgroFresh Solutions, Inc. (NASDAQ: AGFS) and **C₂Sense, Inc.** have co-developed proprietary sensors to monitor ethylene and 1-methylcyclopropene (1-MCP), the active ingredient in patented SmartFresh™ post-harvest technology. The sensors are designed to deliver real-time information for better insights into the condition of fruit in refrigerated and controlled atmosphere (CA) storage rooms.



Apple Cold Storage Facilities: \$1M in Each Room

Protecting Plants in Greenhouses



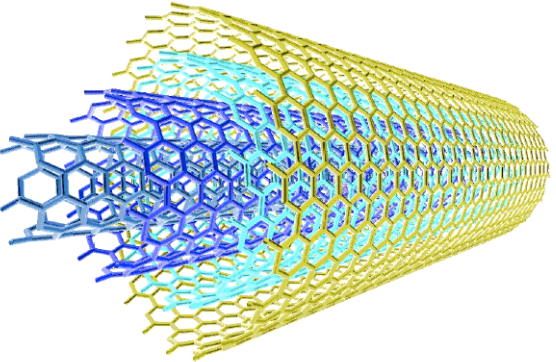
Sensor

- Ethylene:
- Given off by produce during ripening
 - Induces ripening/spoilage

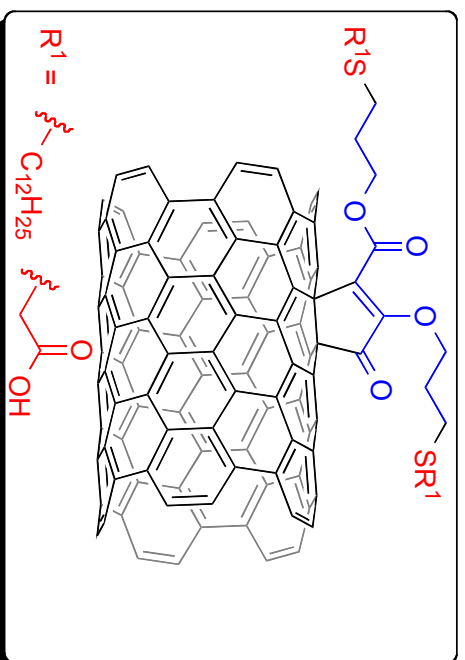
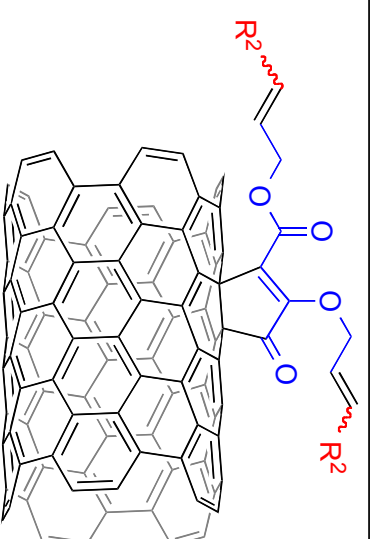
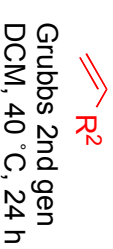
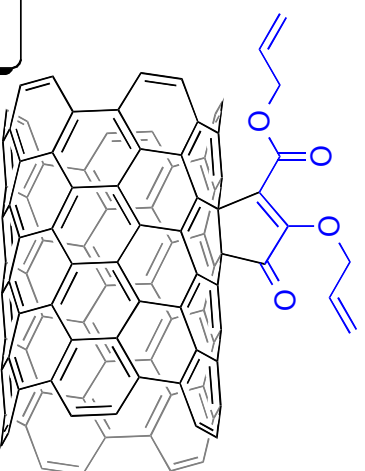
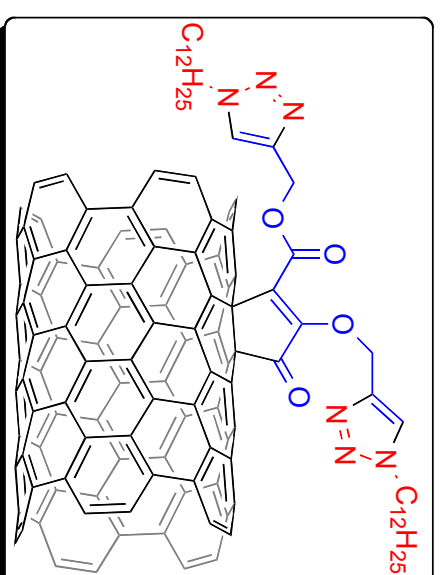
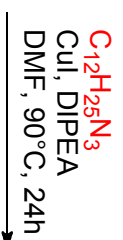
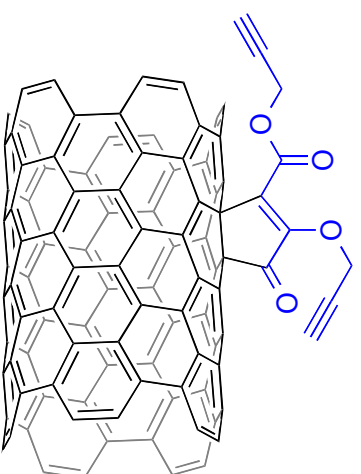
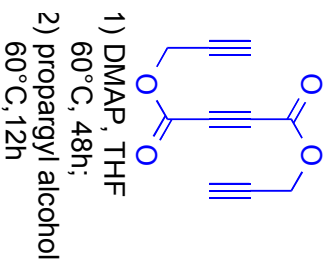


Sensor

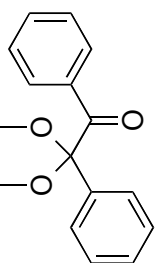
Functionalization of MWCNTs



Propargyl-MWCNT

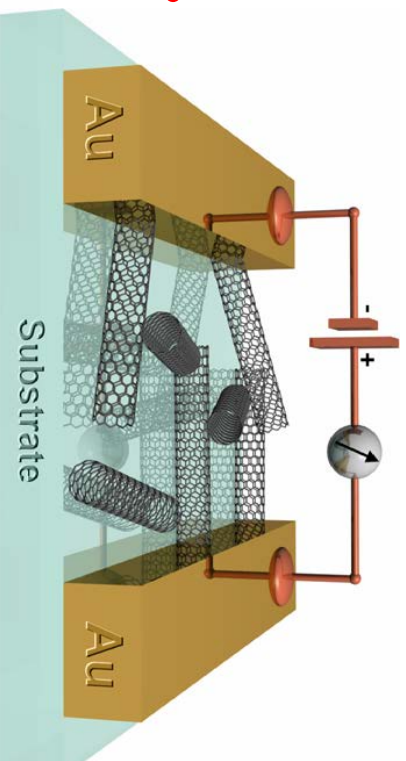


Allyl-MWCNT

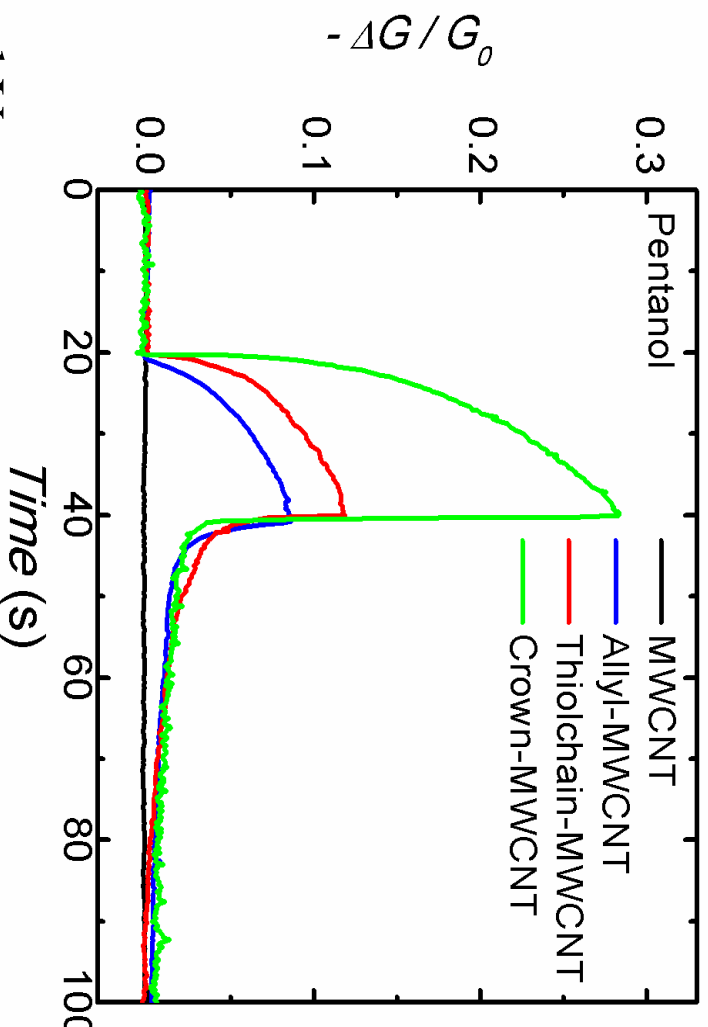
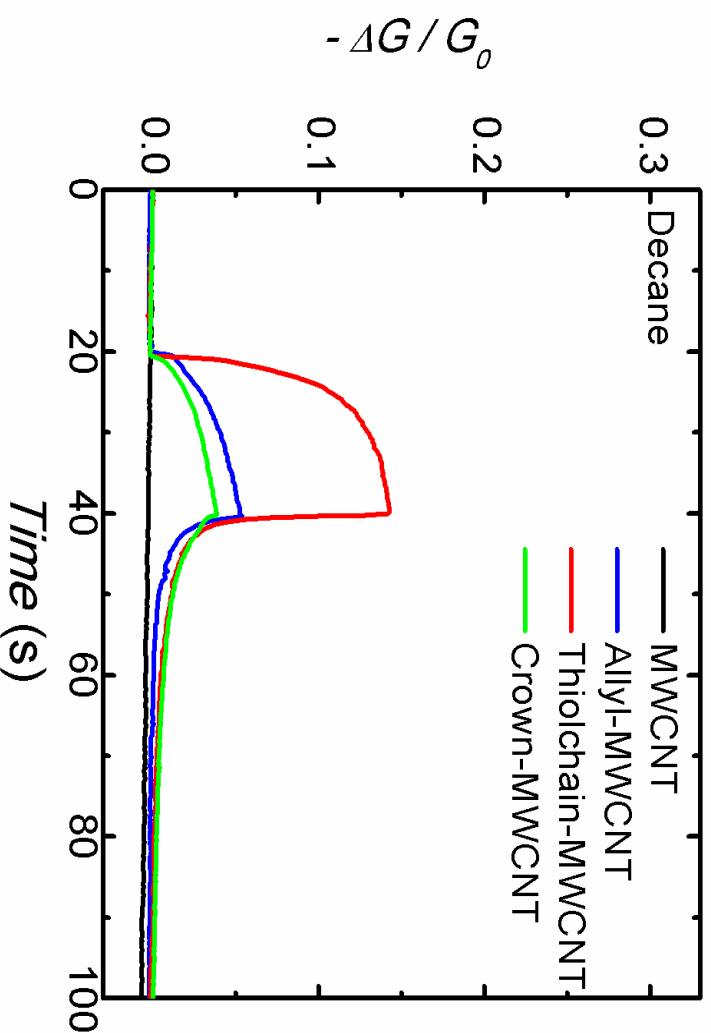


Raw Data From the Sensors

Pristine MWCNTs
Exhibit Small Responses



Reduction in
Conductance
From Increased
CNT Spacing

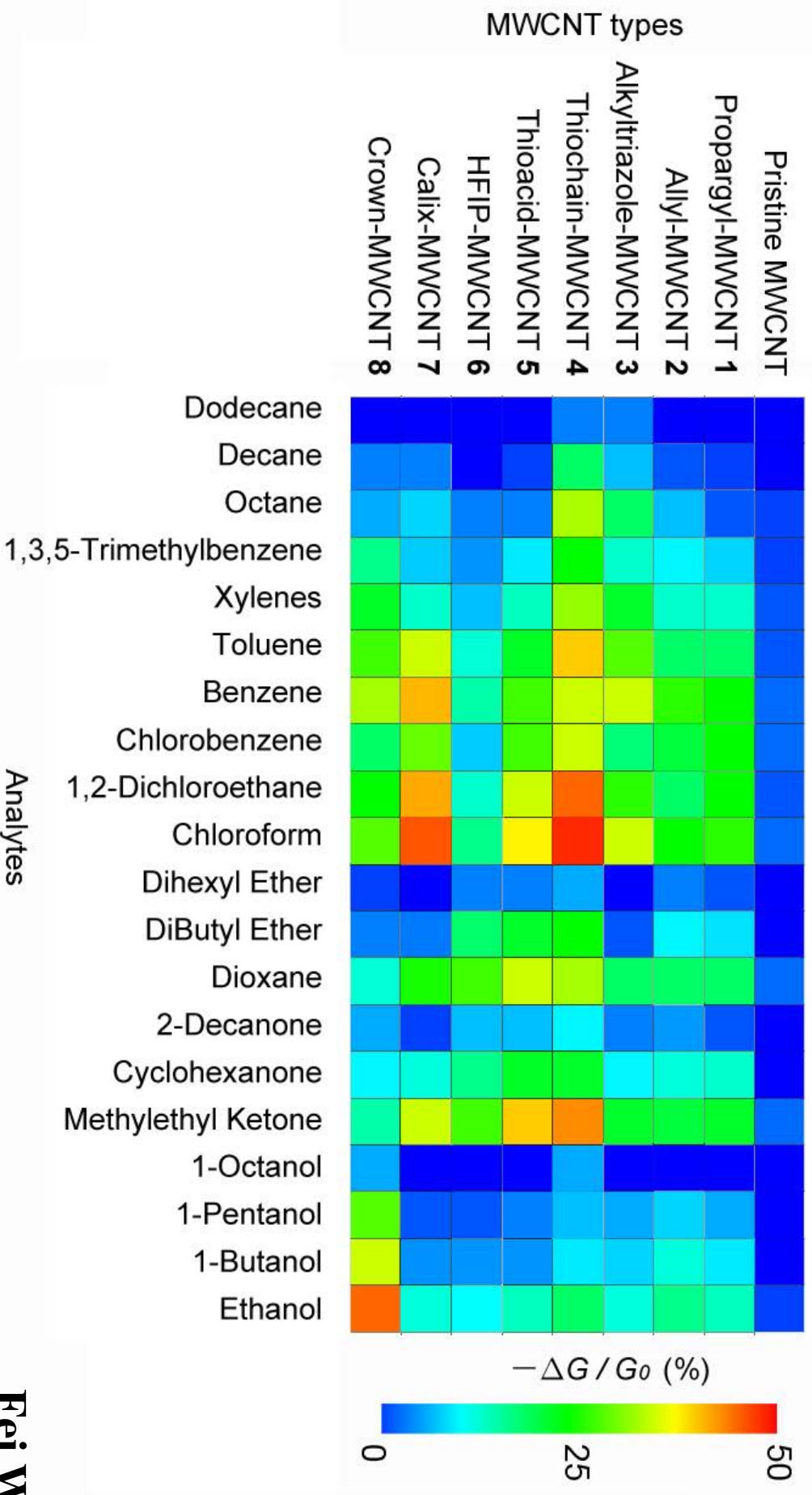


1% of Saturated Vapor
Bias Voltage (0.05 V)

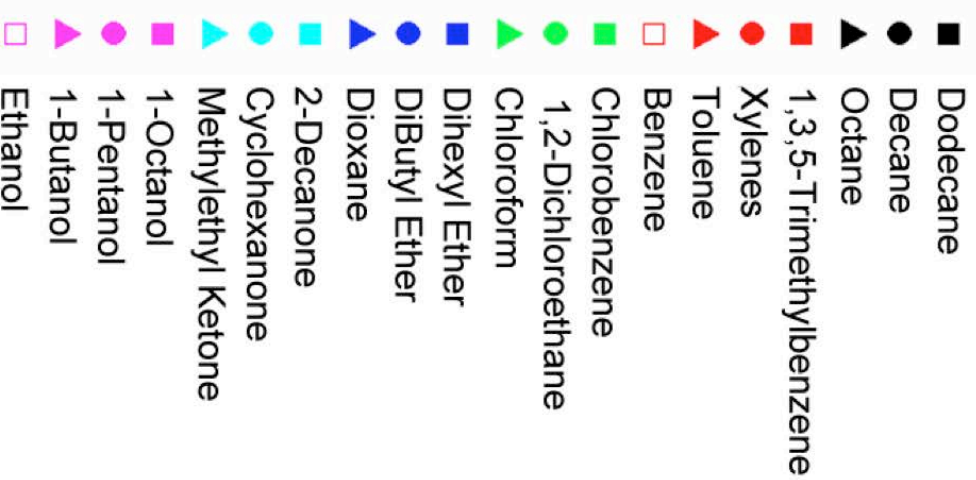
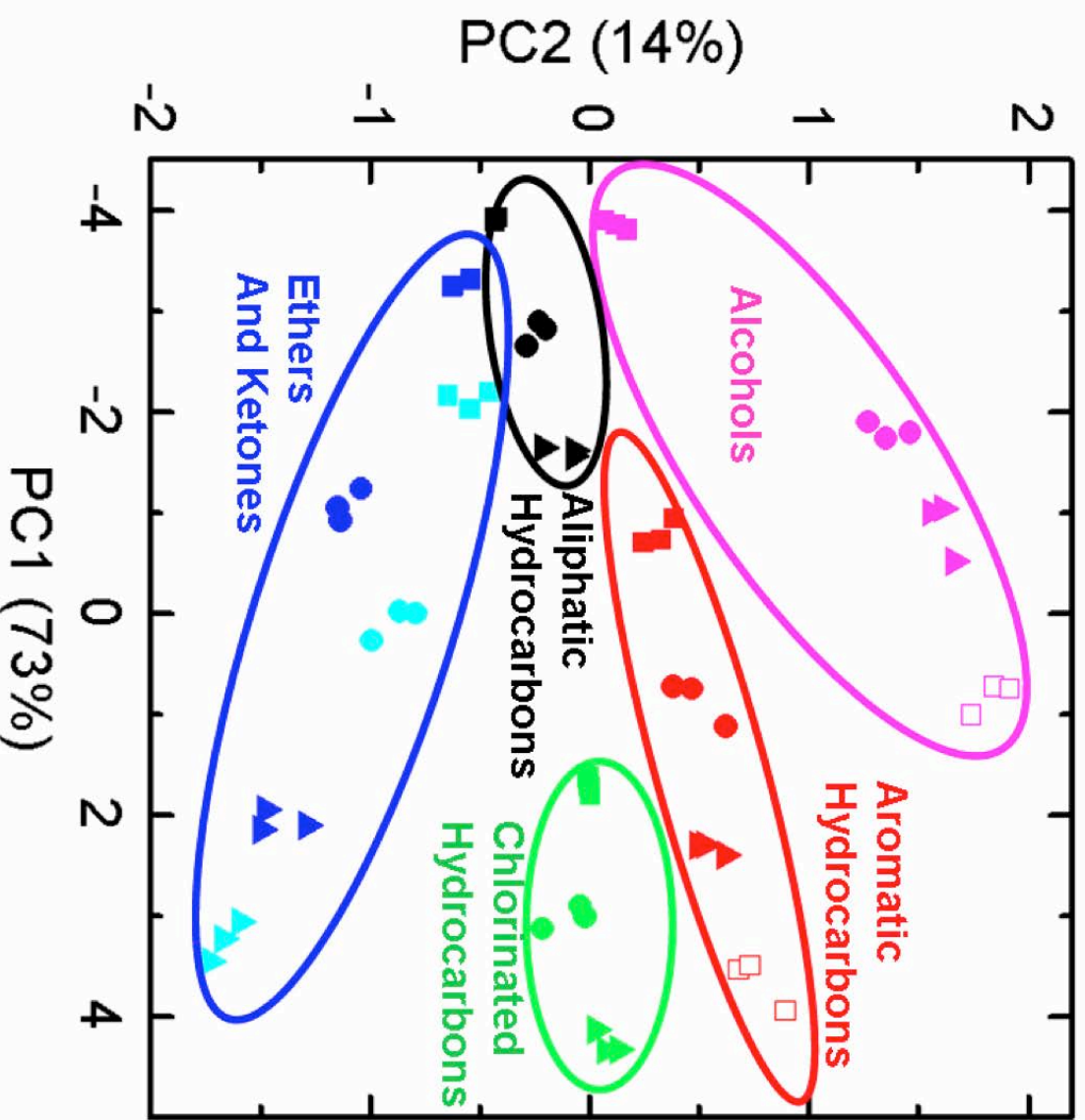
Fei Wang

Response Matrix

- Functionalization Increases Sensing Responses
- Diverse Functional Groups Lead to Cross-Sensitive Responses



Principal Component Analysis



J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2011**, *133*,

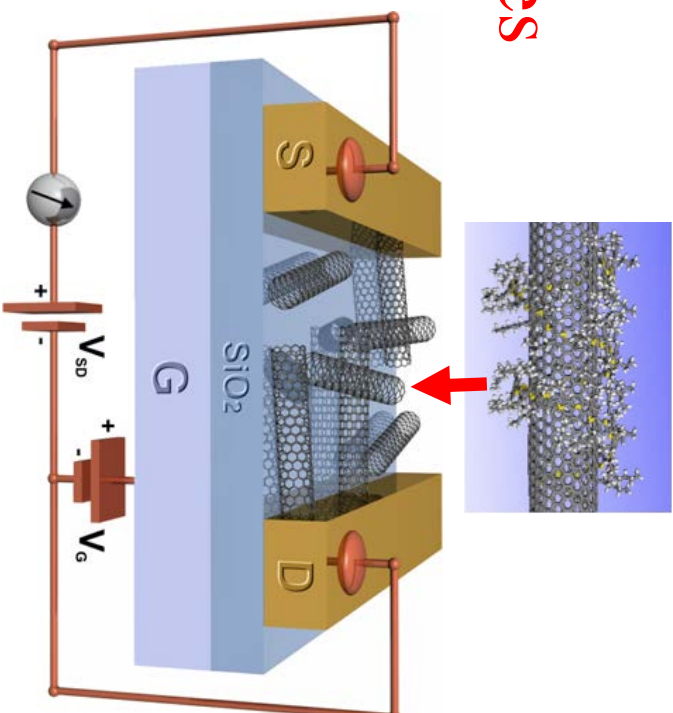
11181–11193

- 23 chemicals are well separated
- 100% Accuracy in Classification with 60 Trials
- Overlaps are result of chemical similarities

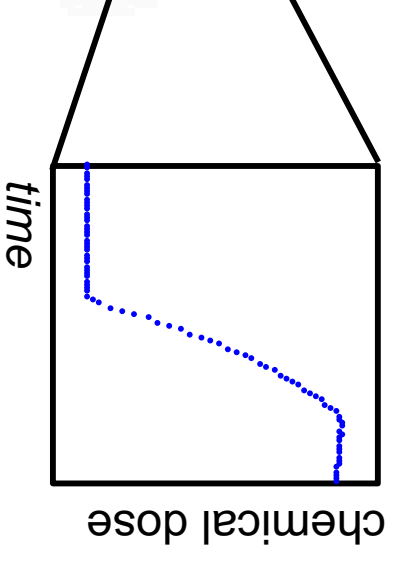
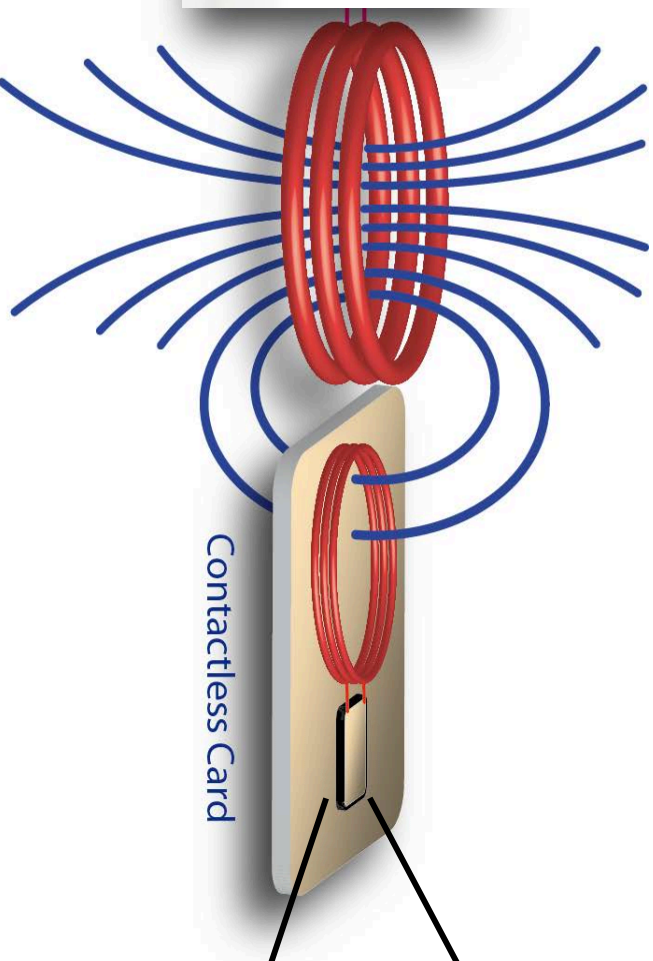
Fei Wang

CNT Chemiresistors

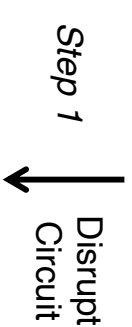
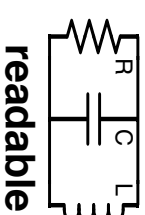
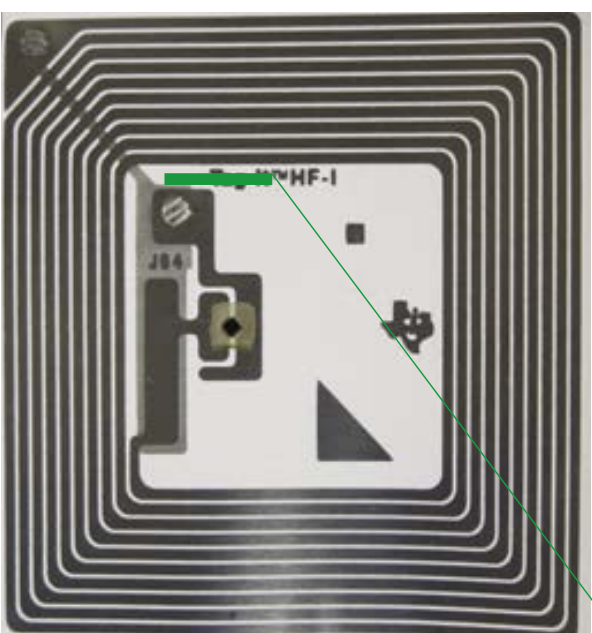
Intrinsic Advantages
of Chemiresistors
Low Power/Cost
Small Footprint
Wireless Network



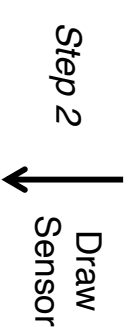
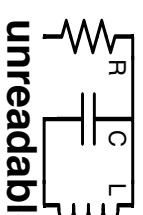
Technical Needs
High Sensitivity
Selectivity
No Calibration



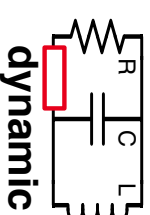
Smartphone Sensing: Ultra-Low Power Wireless Sensors



Disrupt
Circuit



Draw
Sensor



Smart Packaging



**Sensor Tags are
Inductively Powered
and Read by Smartphones**

$$f_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{1}{LC} - \left(\frac{R}{L}\right)^2}$$

Azzarelli, J. M., Mirica, K. A., Ravnsbæk, J. B.; Swagger, T. M.
Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. **2014**, *111*, 18162-18166.

Dosimeter Tags: Readable or Unreadable

readable



OR

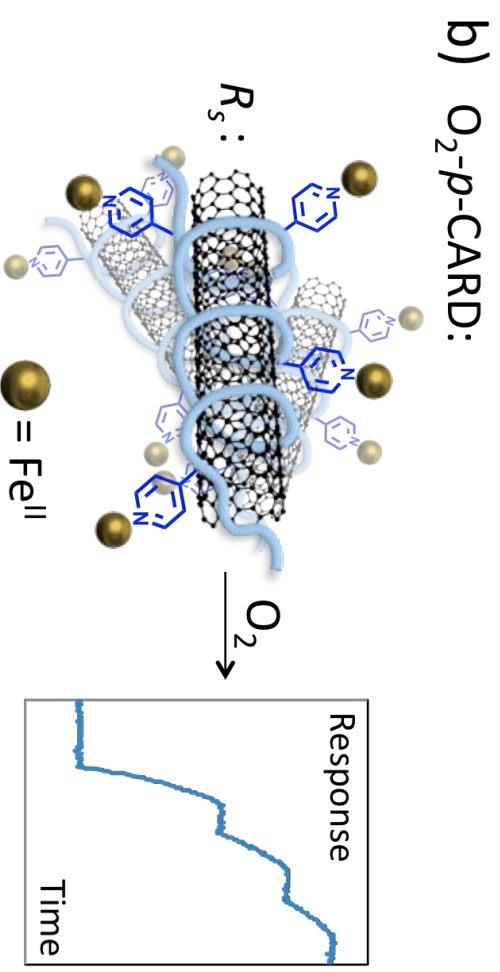
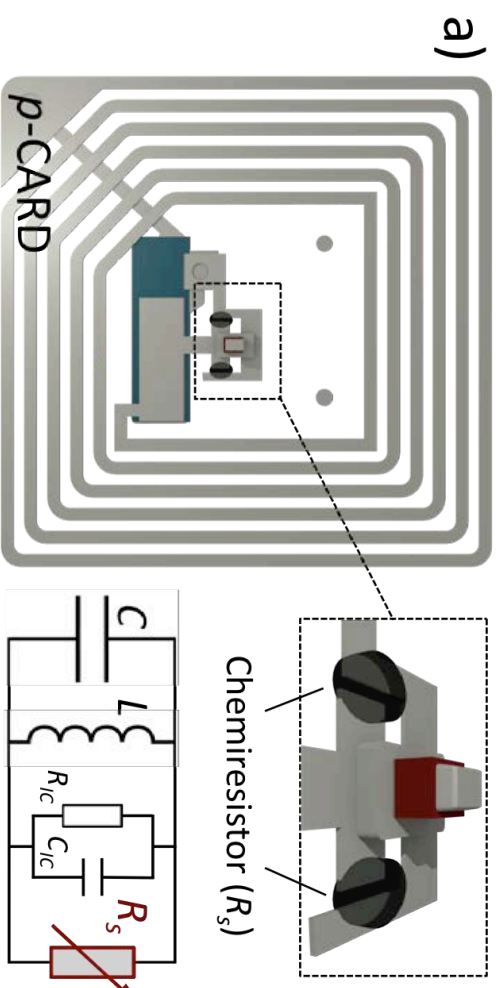
unreadable



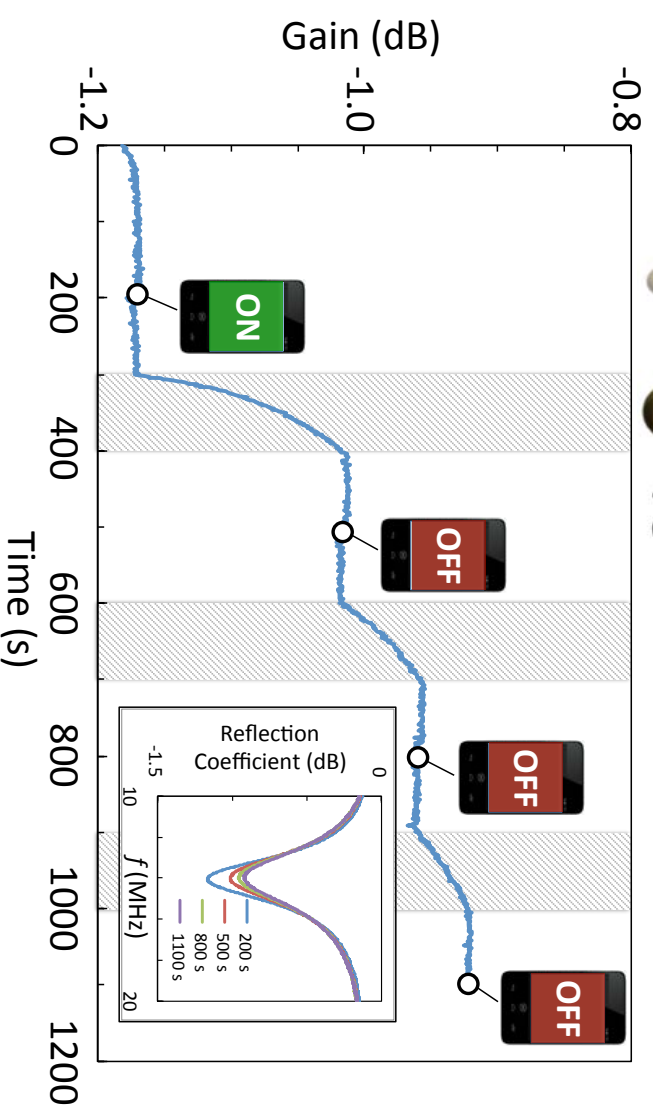
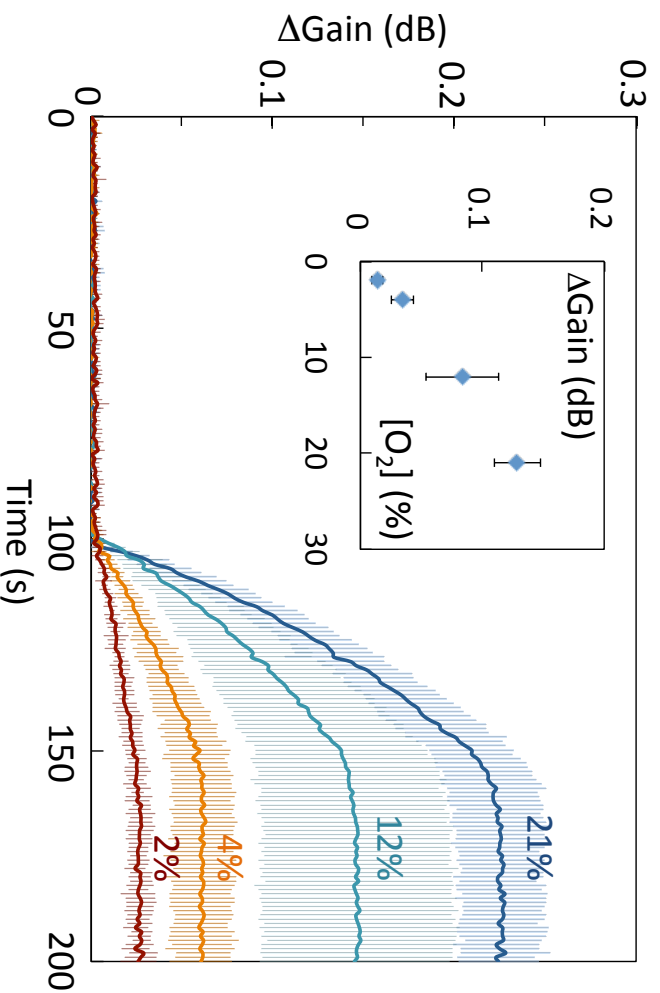
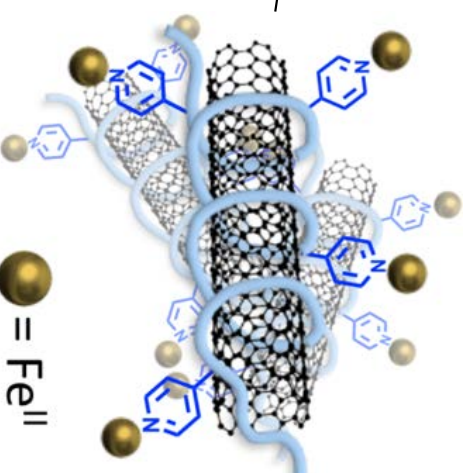
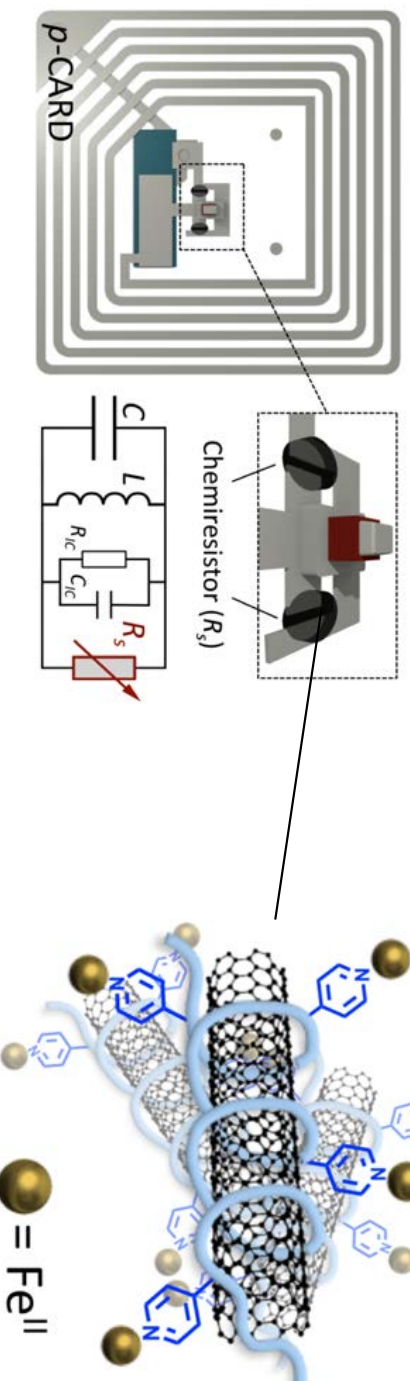
Sensor Tags For Explosives Detection

Azzarelli, J. M., Mirica, K. A., Ravensbæk, J. B.; Swager, T. M. “Wireless Gas Detection with a Smartphone via RF Communication” *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.* **2014**, *111*, 18162-18166.

Food Packaging: Non-Line-of-Sight Detection of Freshness



Passive RFID Tag Sensors and Smart Phone Digital Readout



Zhu, R.; Desroches, M.; Yoon, B.; Swager, T. M. *ACS Sensors*, **2017**, *2*, 1044-1050.

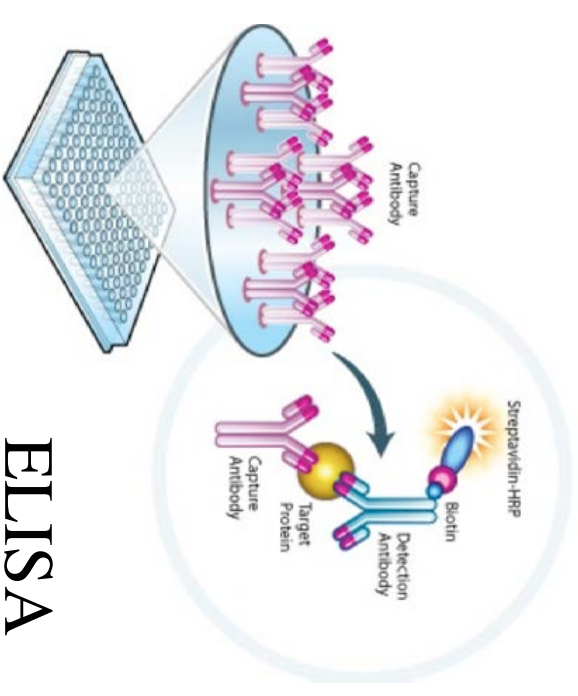
Biosensors and Medical Diagnostics

Diagnostics at Hospital -> Clinic -> Home
Telehealth, Geolocation, Disease
Surveillance, Contact Tracing
ELISA, PCR, LFA, Electrochemical

- Specificity and Accuracy are Critical
- Fidelity Requires that Protein/Antibody Presentation Should Emulate Nature



Lateral Flow Assay



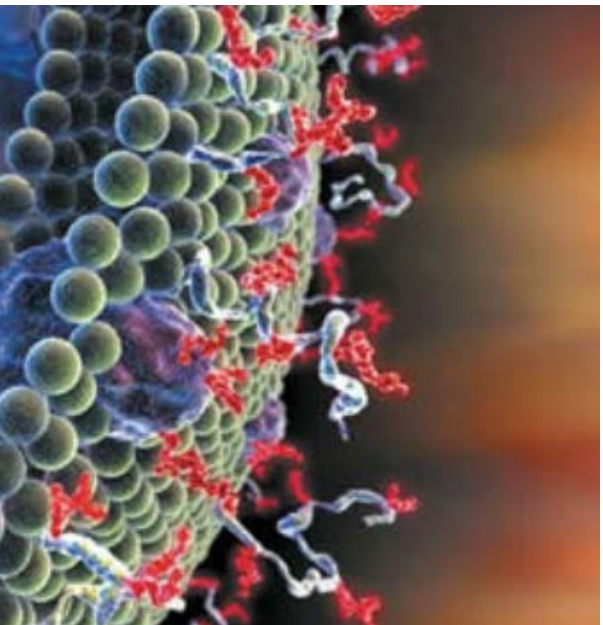
ELISA



Electrochemical

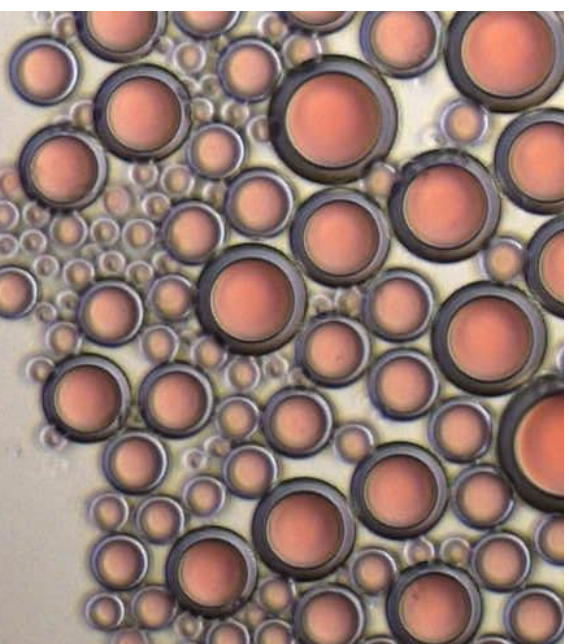
Bio-Sensing with Dynamic Colloids

Inspiration from Biology



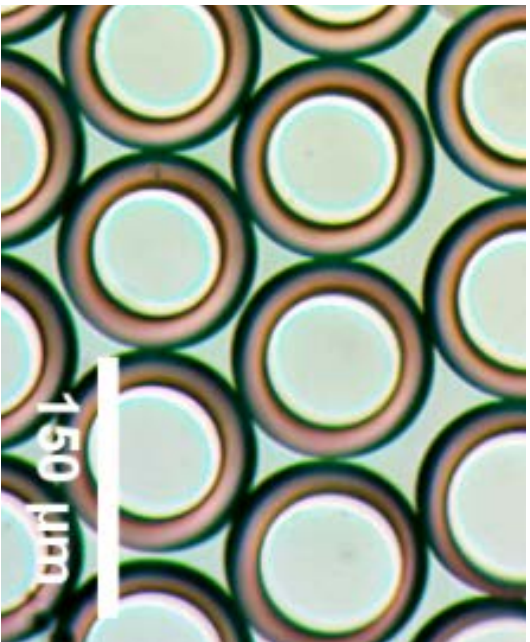
Cells have Reactive
Surfaces and Multiple
Internal Compartments

Droplets w/ Multiple Phases

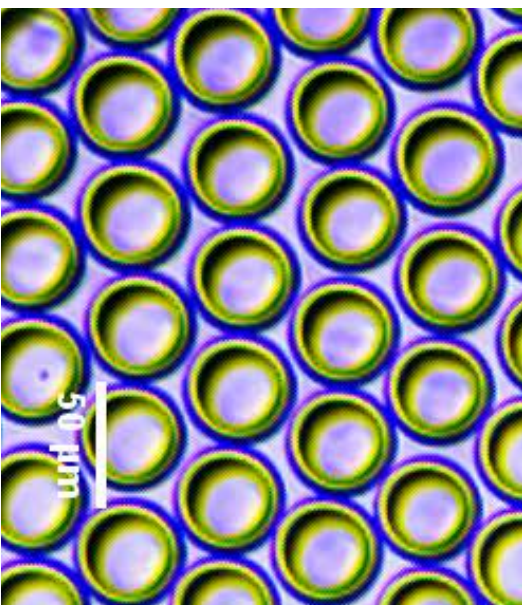


(Fluorous/Organic/Water)
(Silicone/Organic/Water)
(Fluorous/Silicone/Organic/Water)
Mechanical/Interfacial Properties
Well Matched to Living Cells

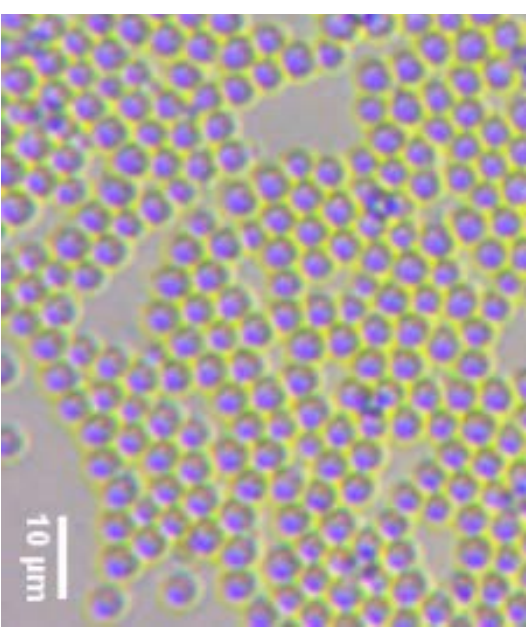
Our Methods Using Microfluidic Chips



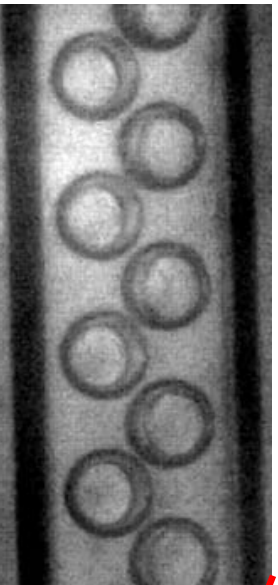
Diameter = $118.9 \pm 3.7 \mu\text{m}$



Diameter = $41.8 \pm 2.5 \mu\text{m}$

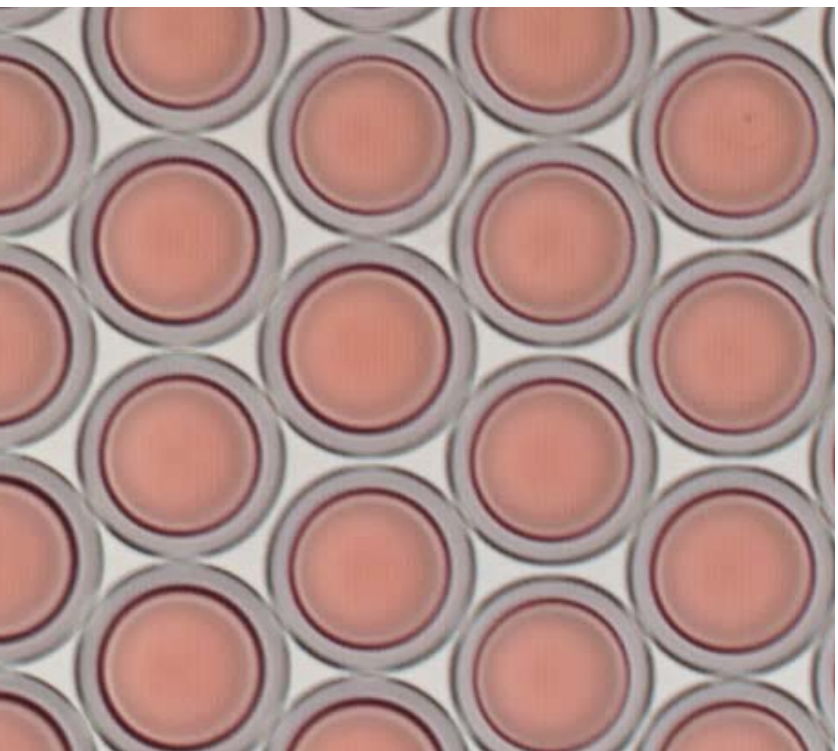
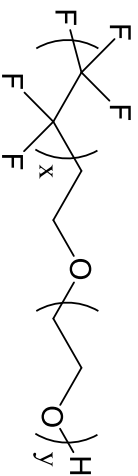


Diameter = $5.5 \pm 0.68 \mu\text{m}$



Hydrocarbon and Fluorinated Surfactants

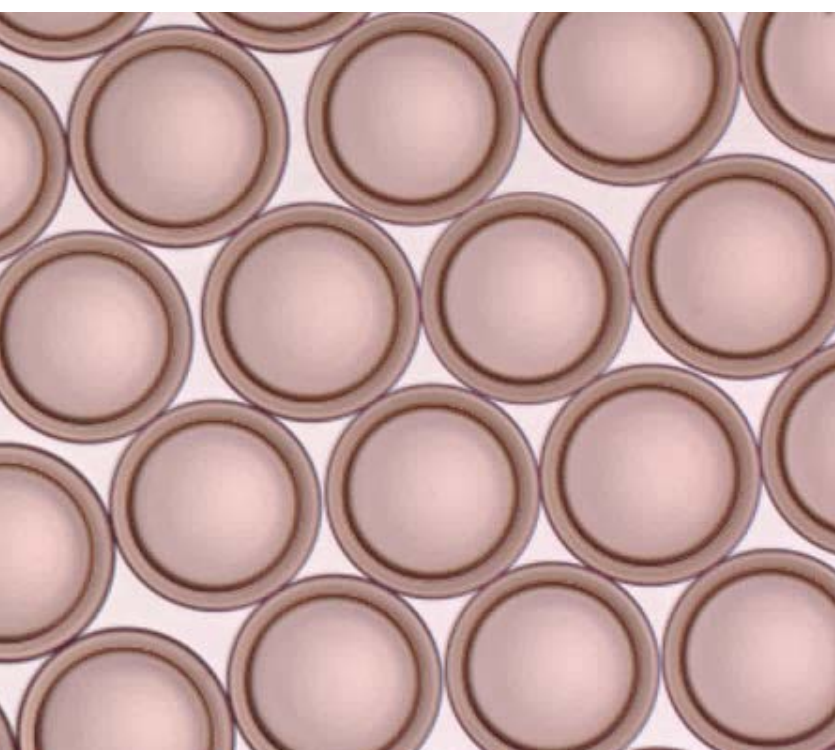
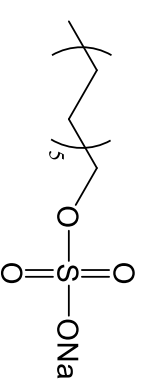
Fluorosurfactant (Zonyl FS-300)



H/F/W

Fluorous Outside

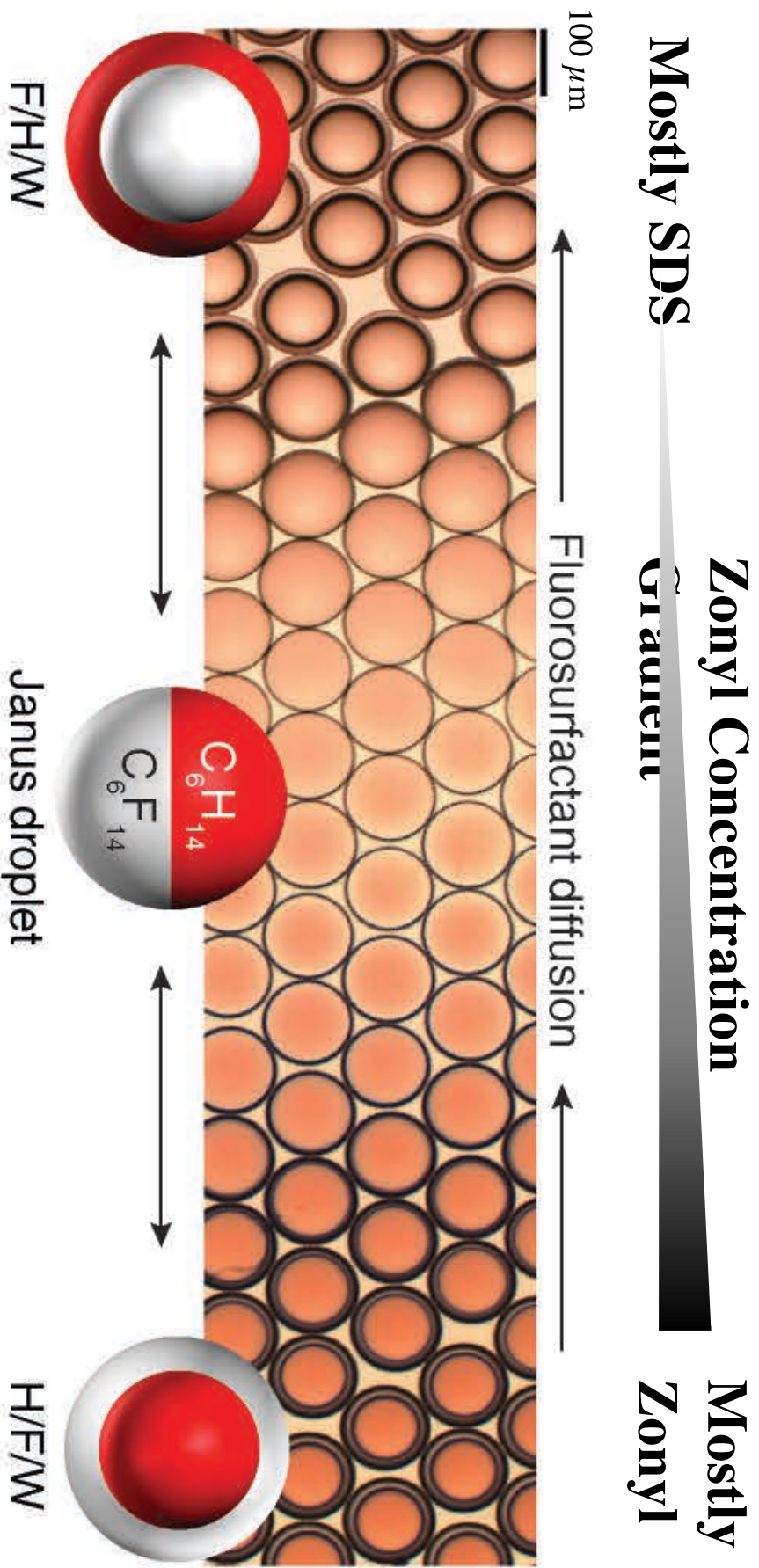
Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate, SDS



F/H/W

Hydrocarbon Outside

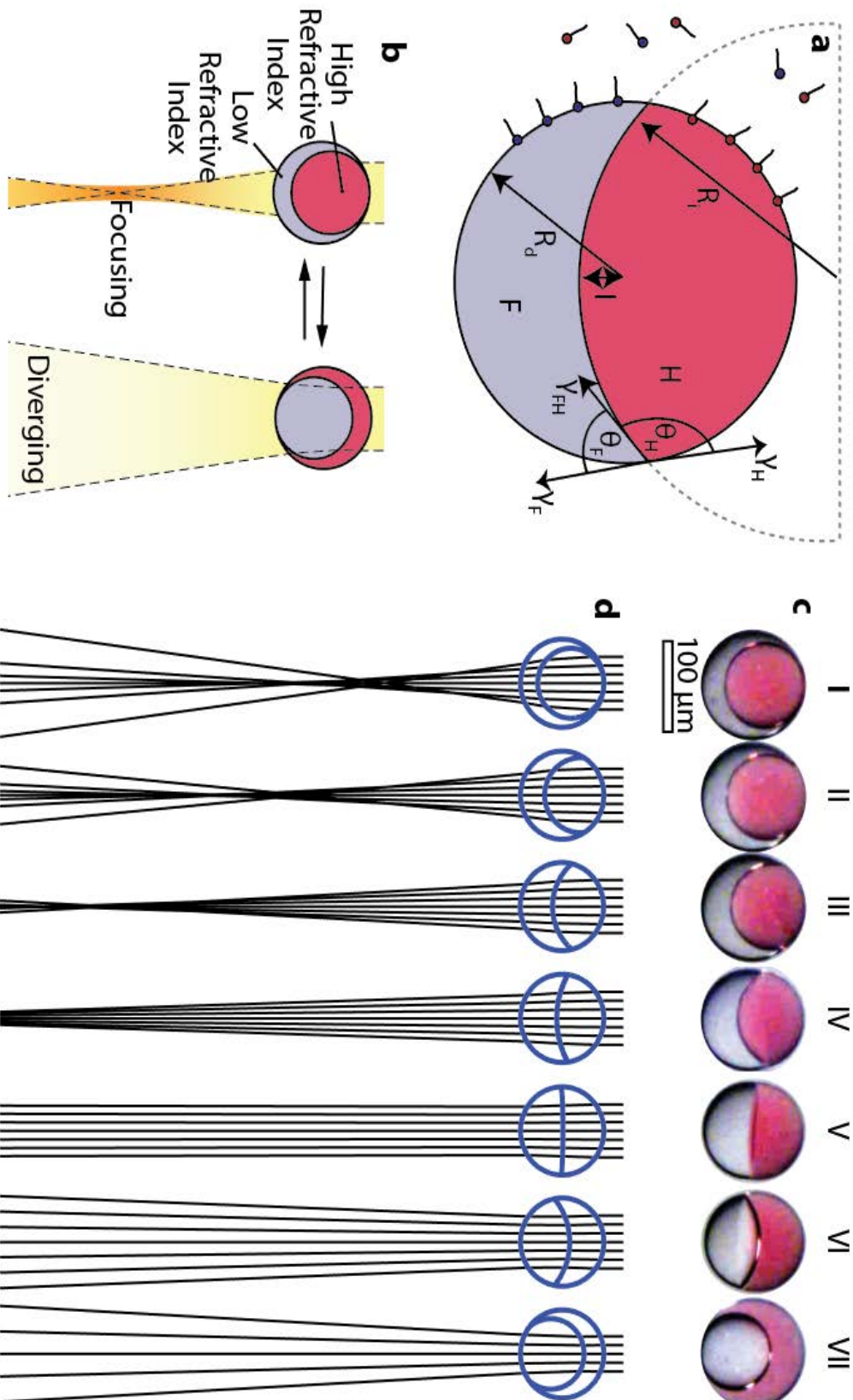
Droplets Morph in Response to Changes in Balance of Surfactant Concentrations



“Dynamically Reconfigurable Complex Emulsions via Tunable Interfacial Tensions” *Nature*, 2015, 518, 520-524.

Lauren Zarzar

Fluorocarbon/Hydrocarbon Emulsions Behave as a Dynamic Lens



Nagelberg, S.; Zarzar, L. D.; Nicholas, D.; Subramanian, K.; Kalow, K. A.; Sresht, V.; Blankschtein, D.; Barbastathis, G. Kreyising, M.; Swager, T. M.; Kolle, M. "Reconfigurable and Responsive Droplet-based Compound Micro-Lenses" *Nature Comm.* **2017**, DOI: 10.1038/ncomms14673

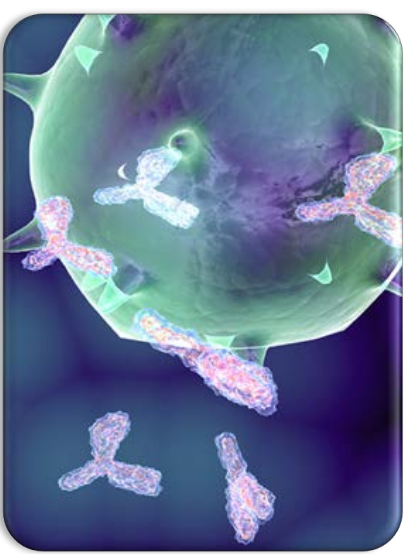
Foodborne Pathogen Detection Methods



Microorganism
Culturing



PCR and DNA
Hybridization



Antibody-Based

*These popular methods are reliable but require
expensive equipment, long analysis times, and user
training making them not ideal for rapid, on-site
analysis at food production plants*

Sensors: Transforming or Tilting the “Invisible” Janus Droplet

Aqueous Phase, $h_1 = 1.33$

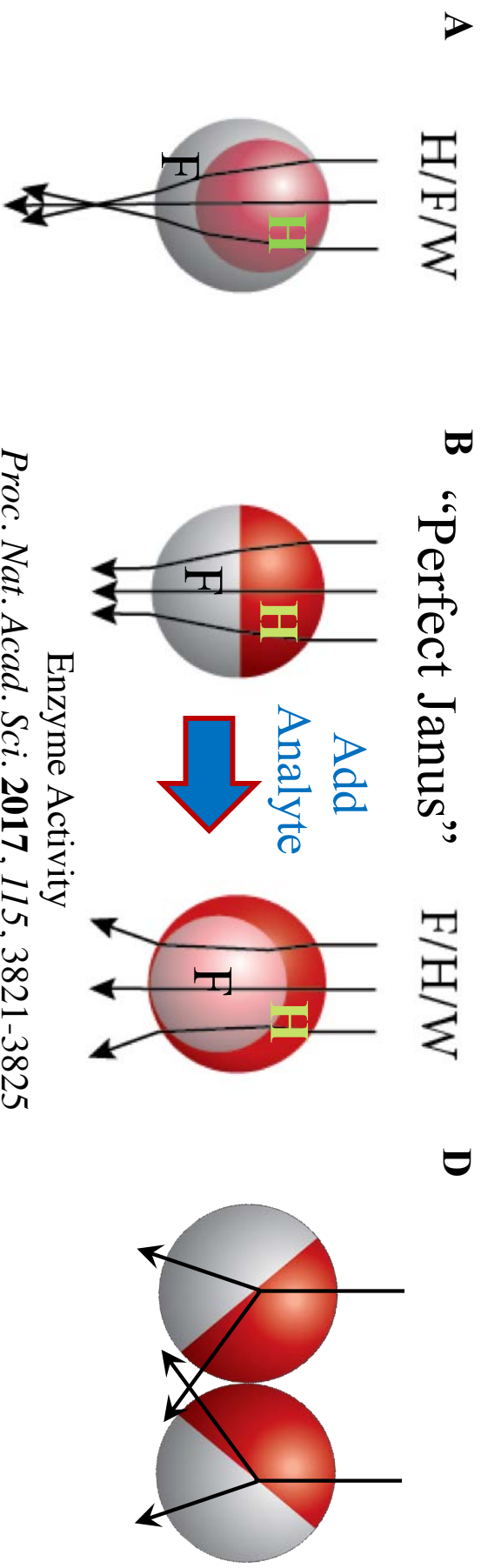
Organic Phase, $h_2 > 1.33$

Fluorous Phase, $h_3 < 1.33$

Heptane: $h_2 = 1.3876$

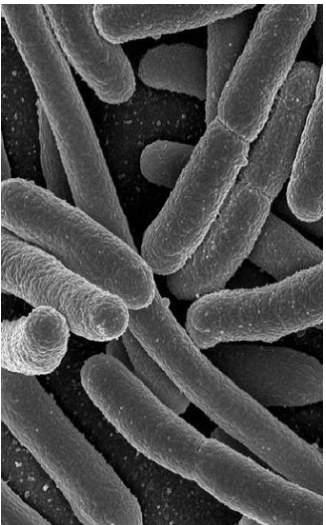
FC770: $h_3 = 1.27$

$h_1/h_2 = h_3/h_1$ For “Perfect” Case ($0.960 \approx 0.953$ is Close Enough)

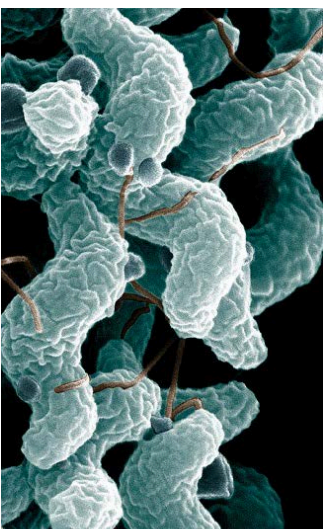


Looking down through a field of droplets forming a layer between the image below and the camera above.

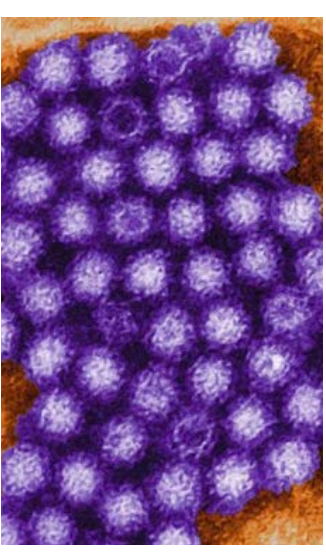
Orthogonal Carbohydrate Binding Interactions of Foodborne Pathogens



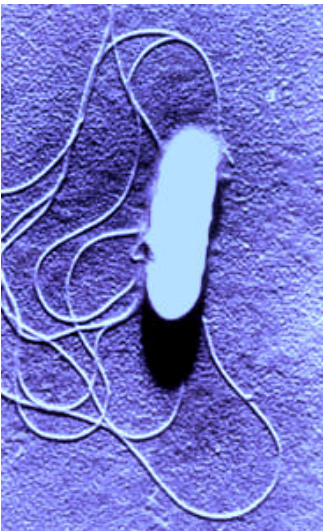
E. coli
(Man, Gb3)



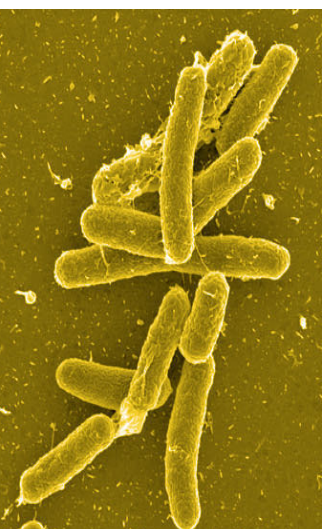
Campylobacter jejuni
(Fuc)



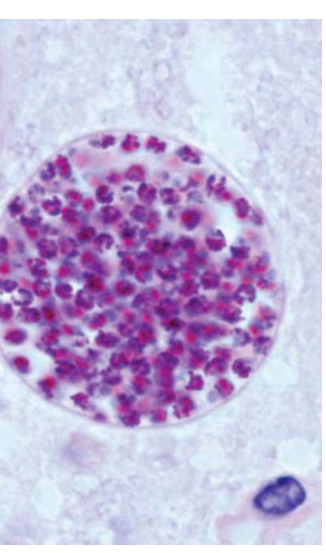
Norovirus
(Histo-blood
group antigens)



*Listeria
monocytogenes*
(GlcN, FucN)

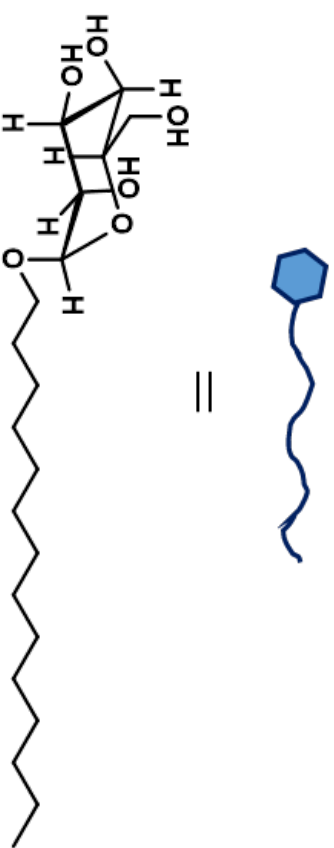
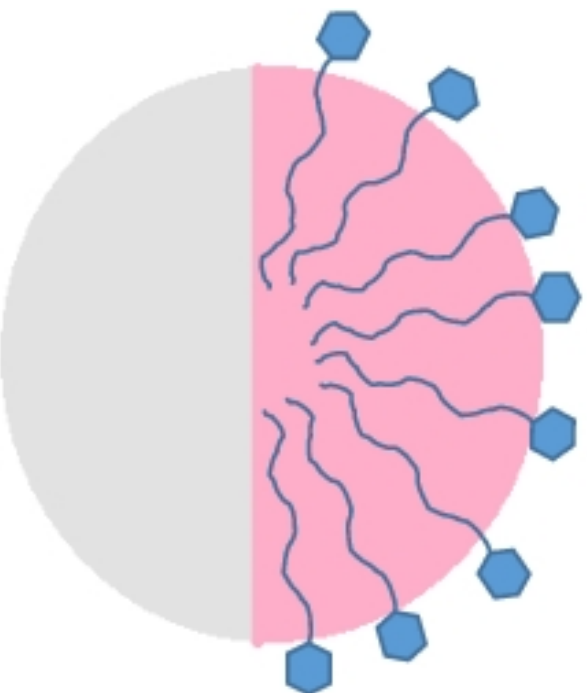


Salmonella enterica
(Man, Fuc)

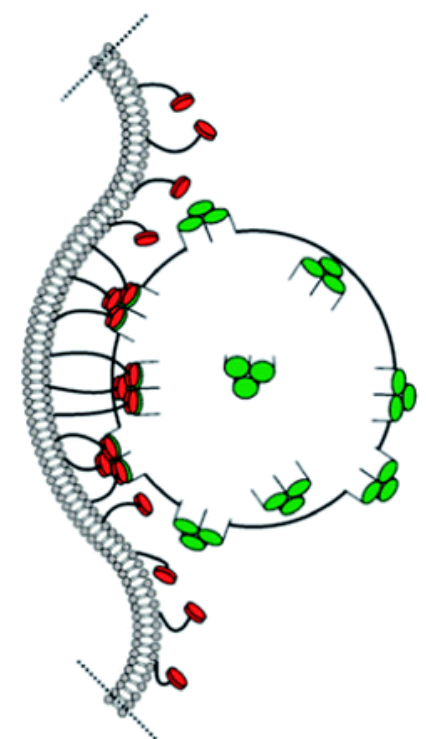


Toxoplasma gondii
(Neu5Ac, Sulfated
Glycans)

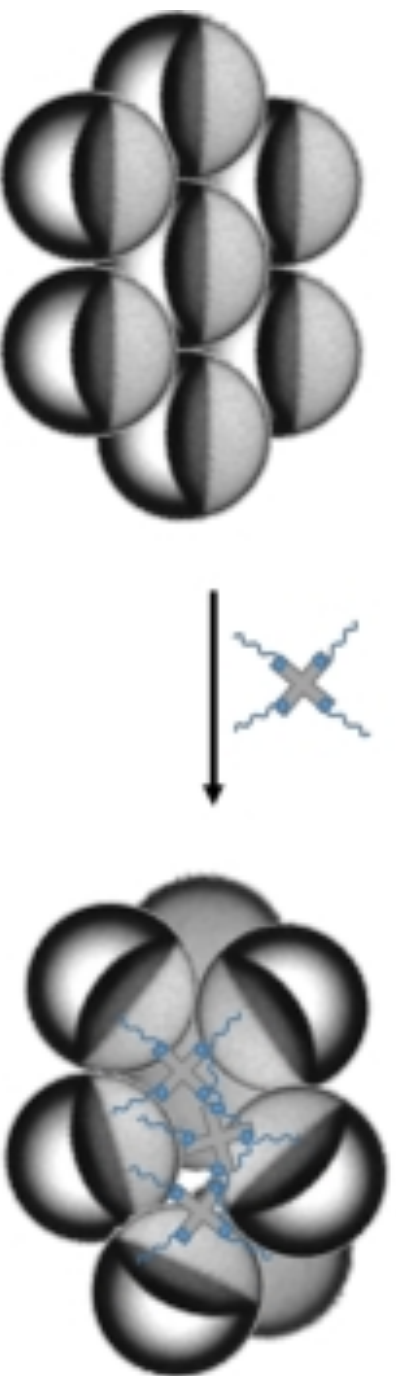
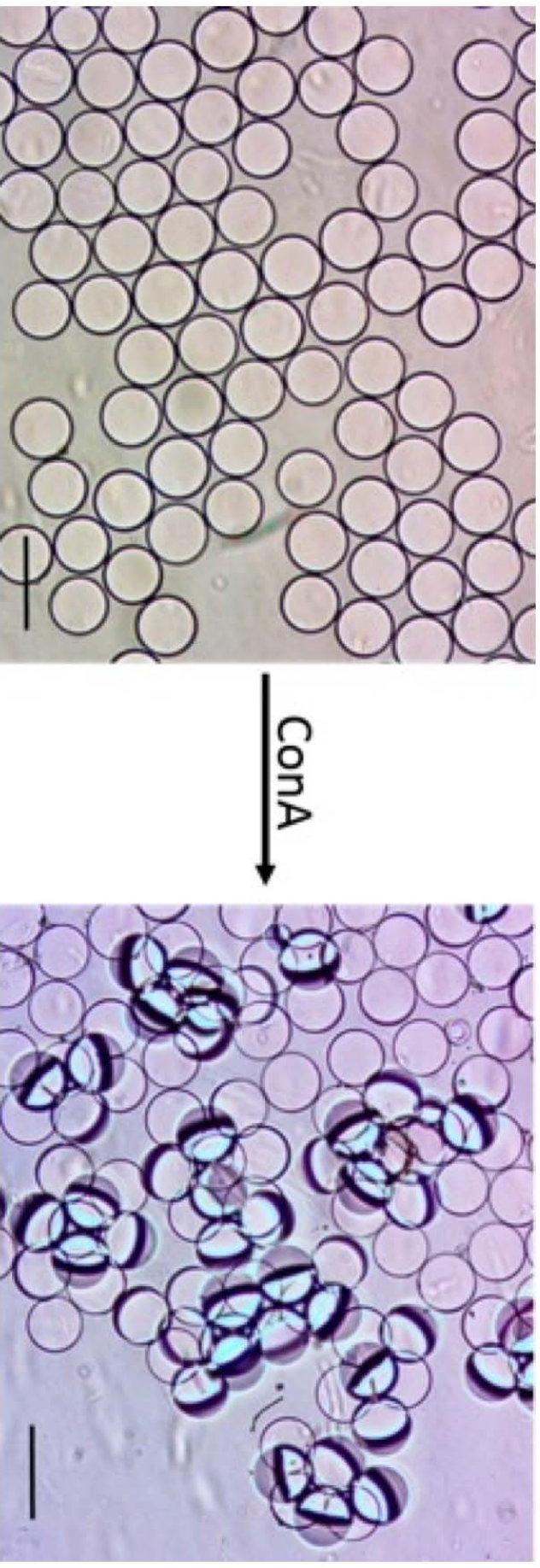
Carbohydrate-Substituted Liquid Colloidal Particles



The continuous layer of carbohydrate ligands displayed on the droplet surface simulates multiple binding interactions

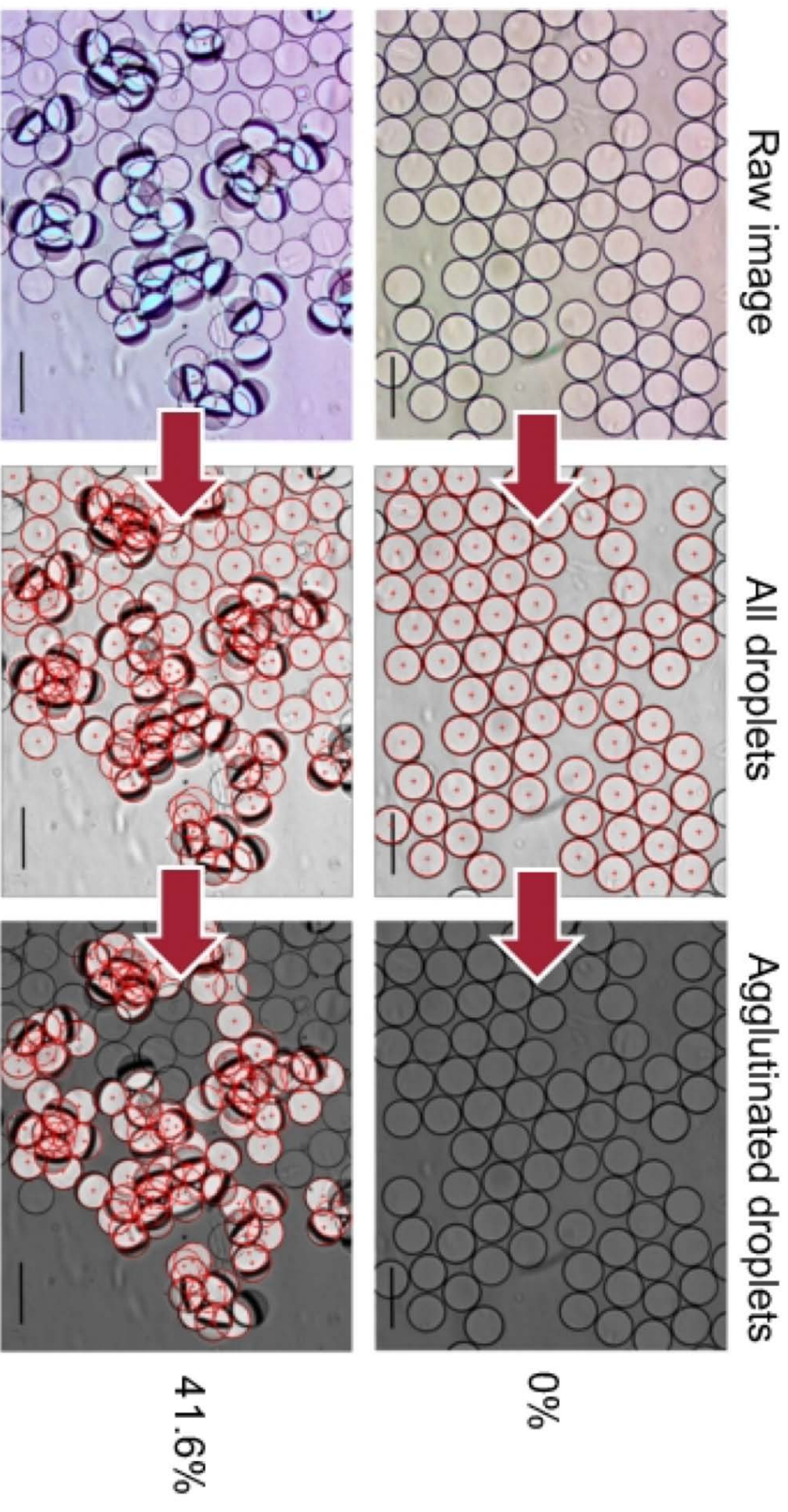


Detection of *E. Coli* Mimic: ConA



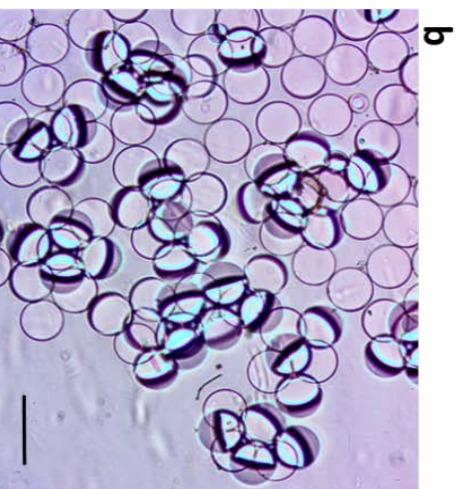
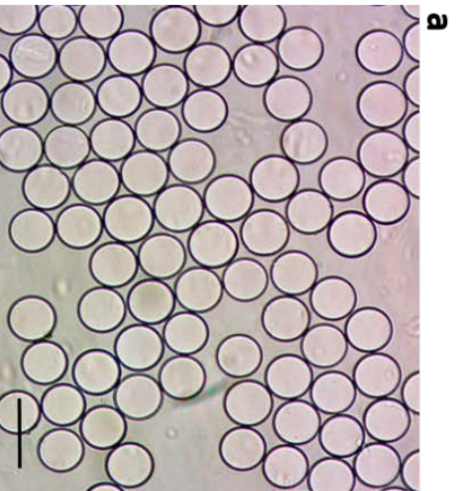
Binding of carbohydrate-substituted droplets to ConA leads to agglutination, which causes the solution to become opaque

Computational Analysis of Agglutinated Droplets Provides Quantitative Data



- Searches for overlapping droplets
- Calculate the intensity and the area covered by agglutination

Binary or Quantitative Analysis of *E. coli*



**Quick Evaluation with
Time and Location Data**



Readable

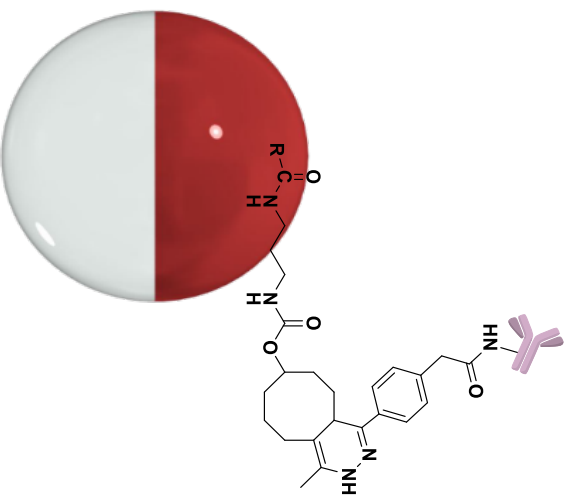
10^4
CFU
E. coli



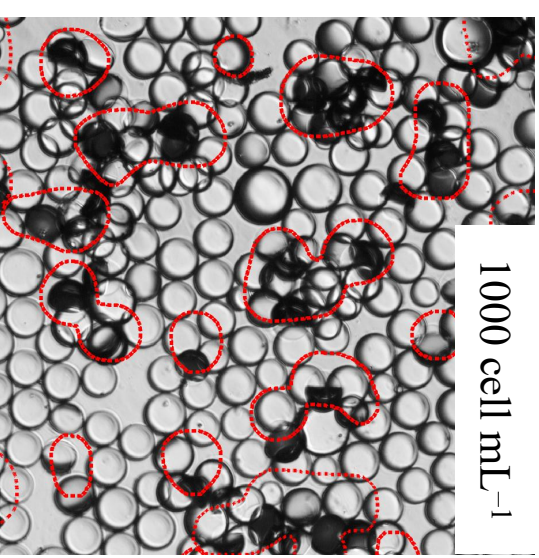
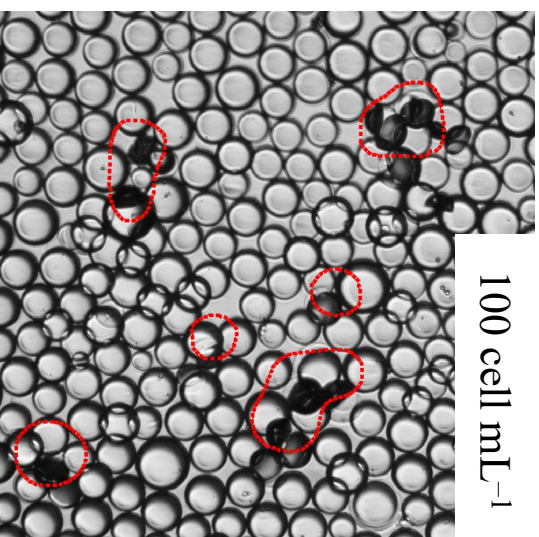
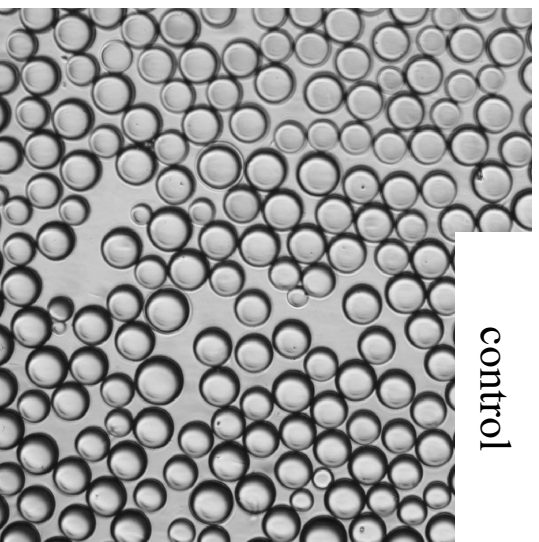
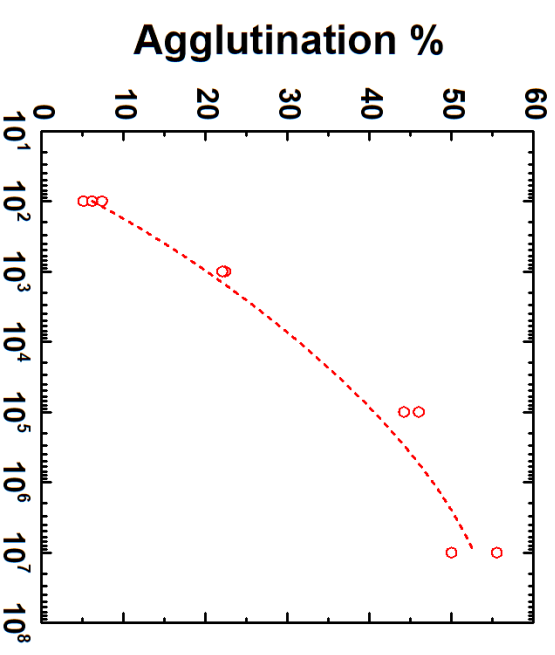
Unreadable

Zhang, Q.; Savagatrup, S.; Kaplonek, P.; Seeberger, P. H.; Swager, T. M. "Janus Emulsions for the Detection of Bacteria" *ACS Central*

Listeria Quantitation to Low CFUs

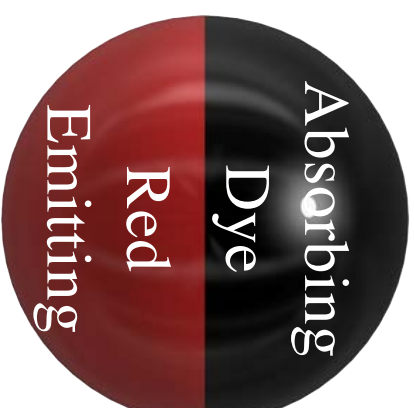
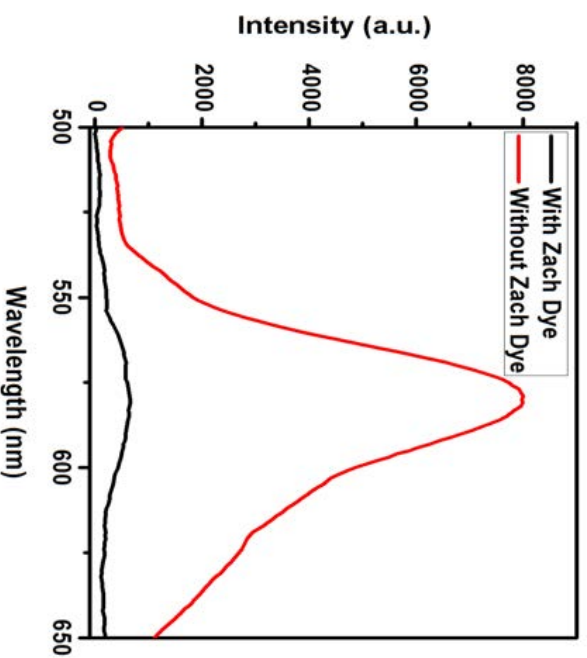
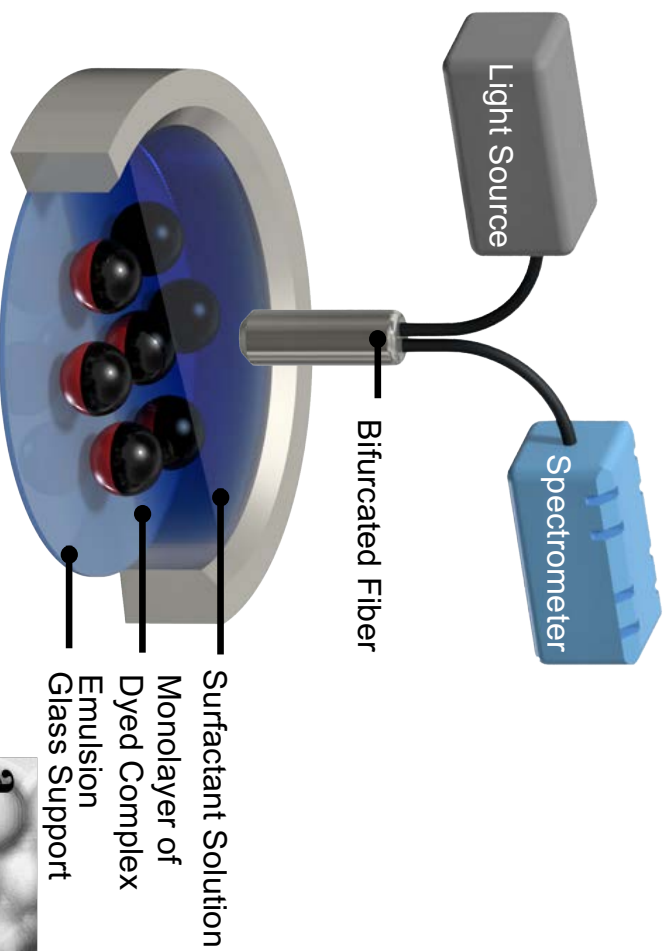


- Rapid Detection of Heat-Killed Listeria at Low Concentrations (100 cell mL^{-1})
- Transferal to Smart Phone Scheme
- Quantitative Analysis

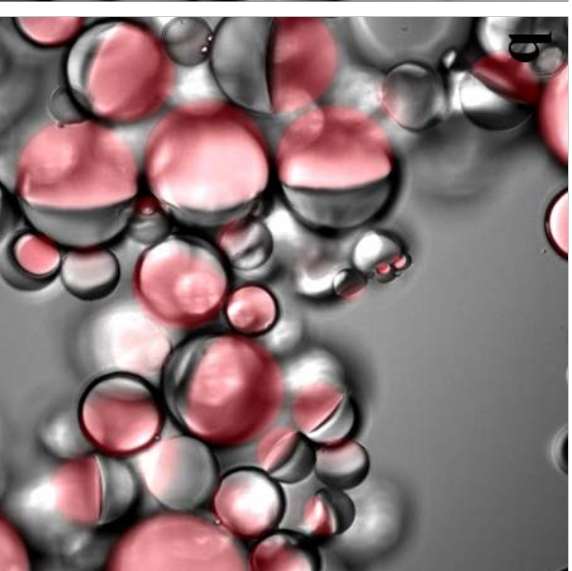
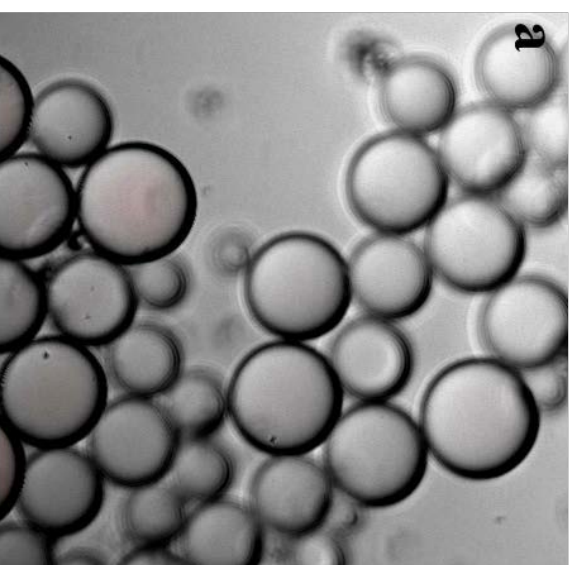


250 μm

Improved Agglutination System

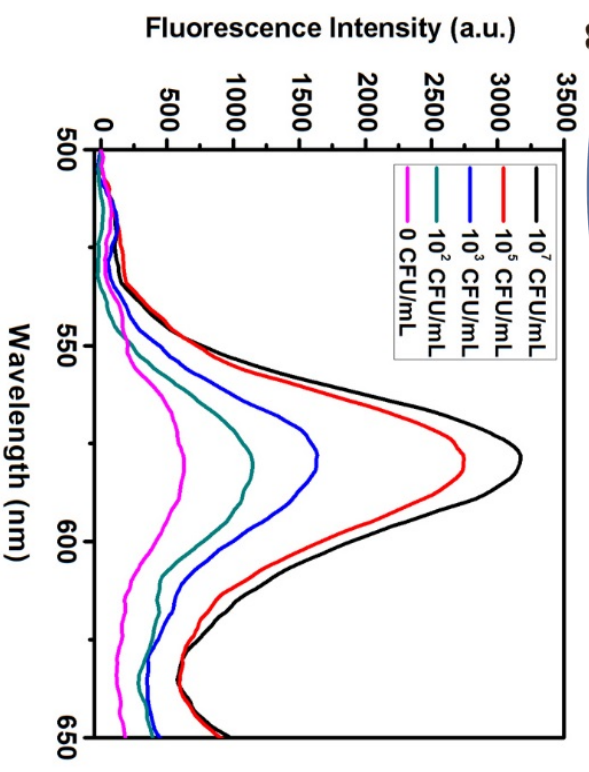
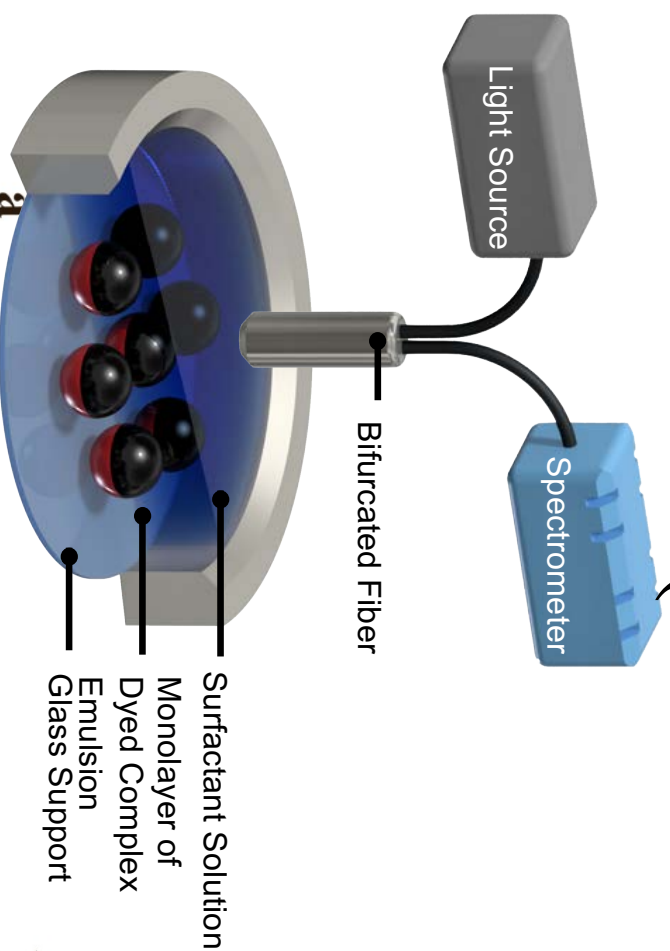


**Filter/Emitter
Combination Gives
Superior Detection**



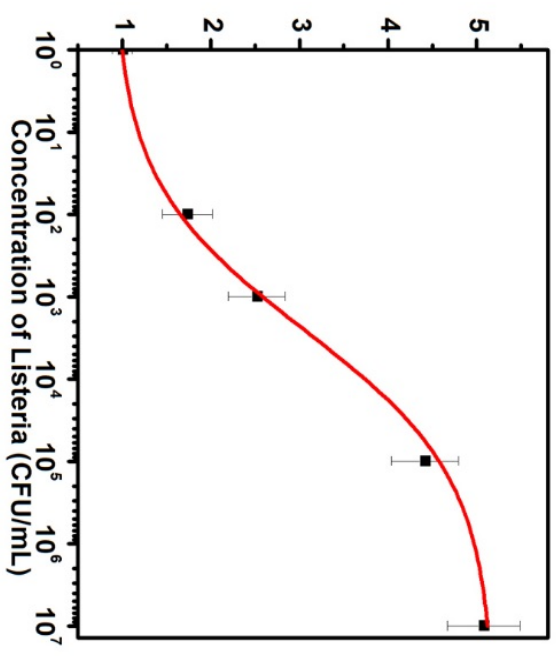
Jie Li. Zach Nelson. Kosuke

Improved Agglutination System (Batch Detection)



b

Relative Fluorescence Intensity at 580 nm (a.u.)



**Filter/Emitter
Combination Gives
Superior Detection**

Chemical/Bio Sensors

Rich with Opportunity:

Complex Materials

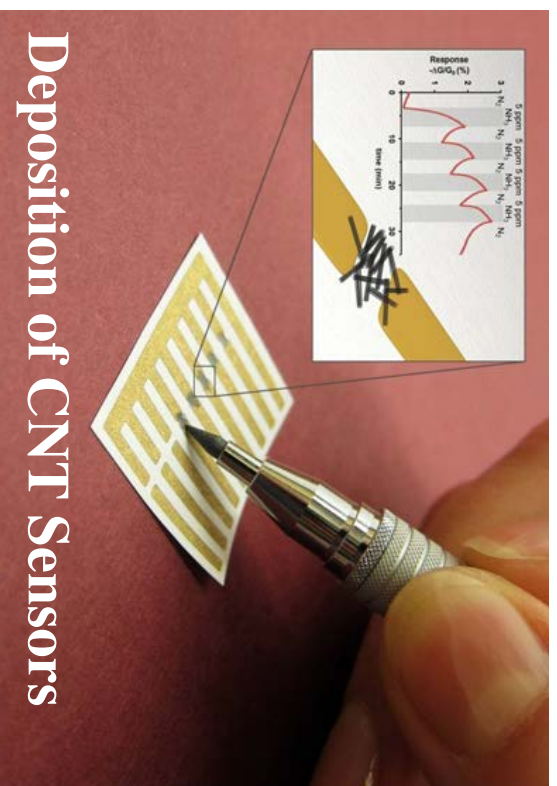
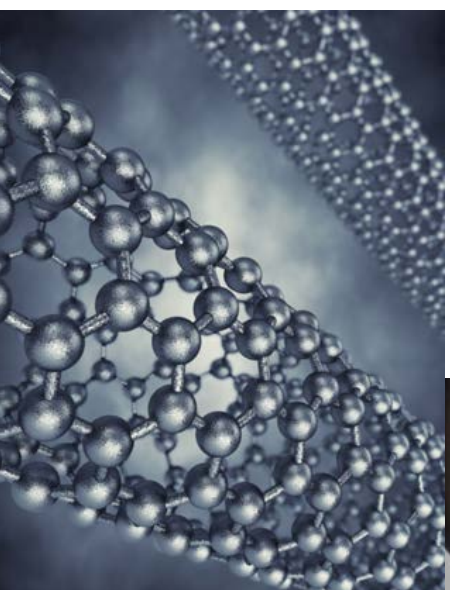
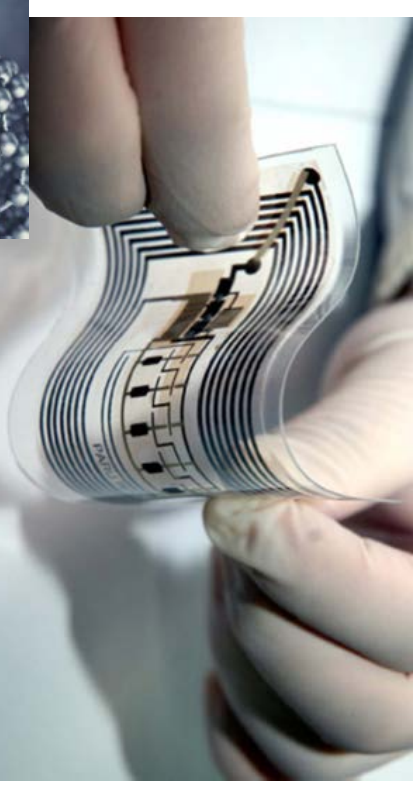
Inexpensive Hardware

IoT, Telehealth, Disease Surveillance

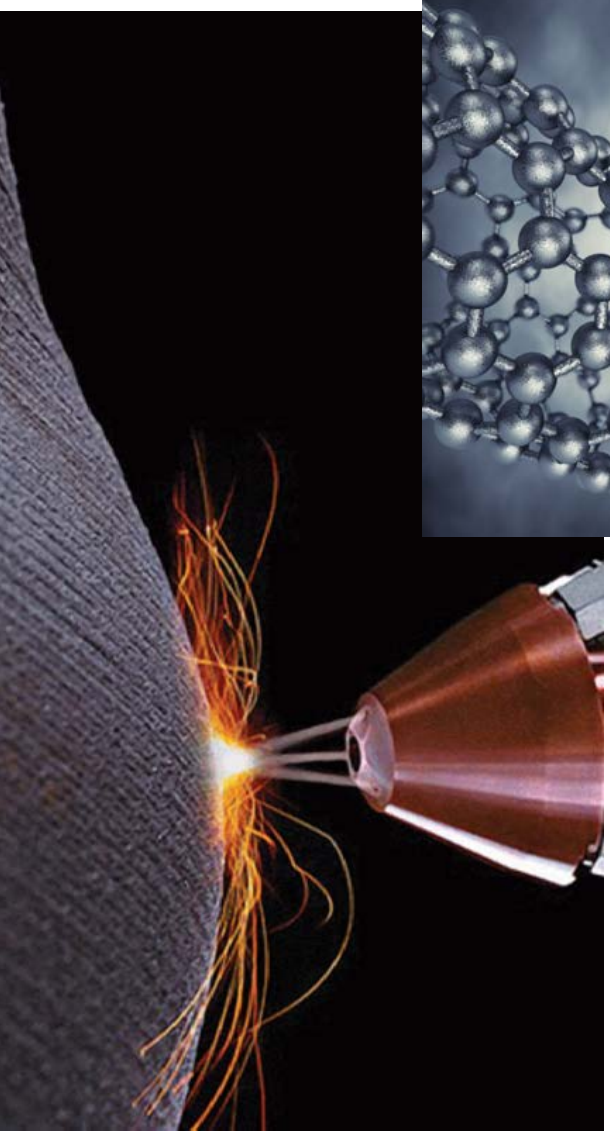
Nanomaterials

Printed Electronics

Additive Manufacturing



Deposition of CNT Sensors



Key Points/Summary

- **Transduction Materials Enable Inexpensive Chemical/Bio Sensors for Large Scale Applications**
- **Mechanisms of Chemical Selectivity are General and Transferable Between Transduction Materials**
- **Innovations in Manufacturing of Nanostructured Materials will Greatly Impact Commercialization**
- **Business Plans can be Developed that Leverage Present Methods and Expand into New Markets**