

# Chip-based Ion Sensing

## Trends in Micro Nano

5. Dec. 2013

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## Sensor

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



wikipedia:

“A sensor (also called detector) **converts** a measured **physical quantity** into a **signal which can be read by an observer** or by an instrument.”



# Sensor

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



wikipedia:

A sensor (also called detector) **converts** a measured **physical & chemical quantity** into a **signal which can be read by an observer** or by an instrument.



ADAM.



GlucoWatch® Monitor

- fully integrated analytical systems
- portable diagnostic capabilities (early detection)
- personalized medicine

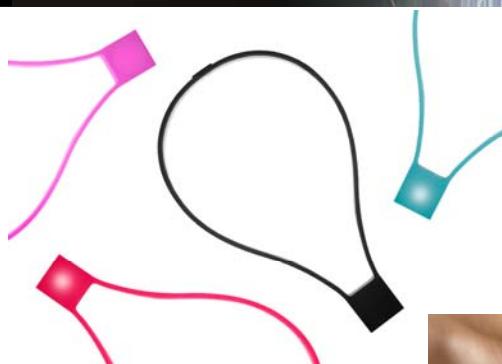
# Sensor

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



## human's sensorics

- we can see
- we can hear
- we can smell
- we can taste
- we can feel
- we may have pain
- we can think (sensor ?)
- we have emotions (sensor ?)
- we have intuition (sensor ?)
- we may be frightened (sensor ?)



VIBE from Philips



## Q Sensor 2.0

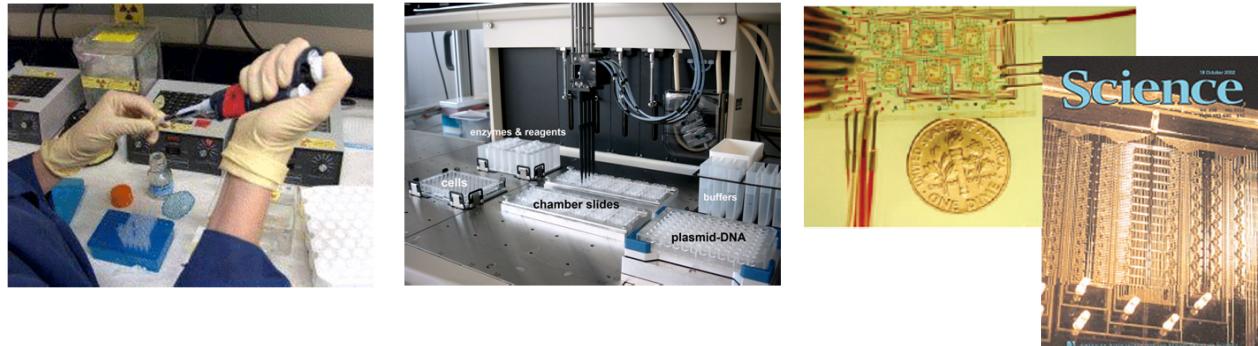
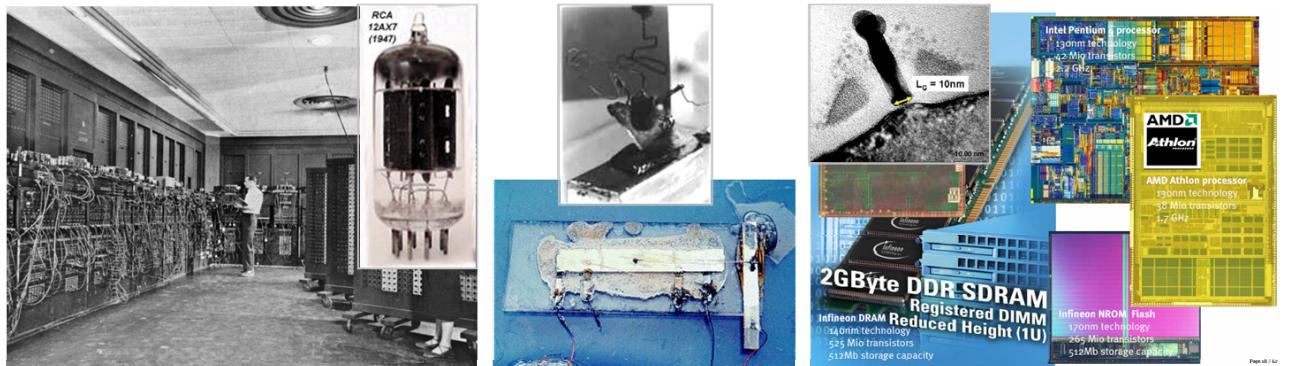
Measuring Emotion –  
Wirelessly and comfortably

Which Q is right for you?

Download Software

# Chip-based sensing

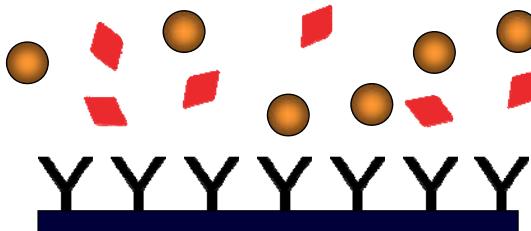
Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



## Bio- / chemical sensor

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)

a device that can **detect molecules** with some **specificity**

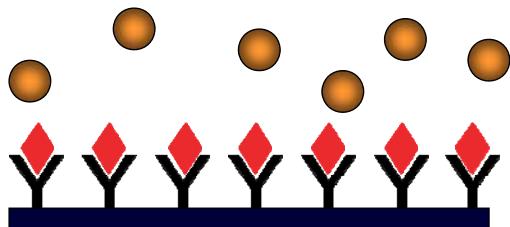


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Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



a device that can **detect molecules** with some **specificity**



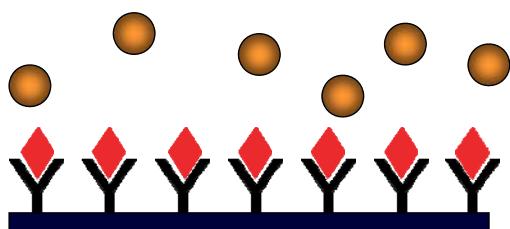
how can this information  
be read ?

# Bio- / chemical sensor

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



a device that can **detect molecules** with some **specificity**



how can this information  
be read ?

[www.q-sense.com](http://www.q-sense.com)

- mechanically
- a) mass change (QCM)
  - b) strain (cantilever)

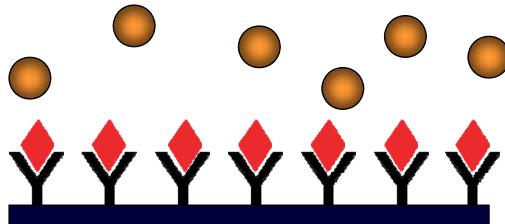


# Bio- / chemical sensor

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



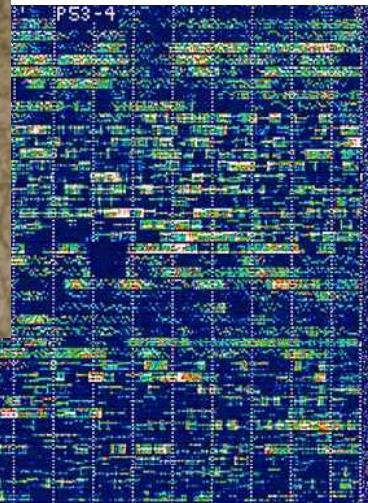
a device that can detect molecules with some **specificity**



- mechanically      a) mass change (QCM)  
                      b) strain (cantilever)
- optically        a) labelled (DNA chip)



Affymetrix

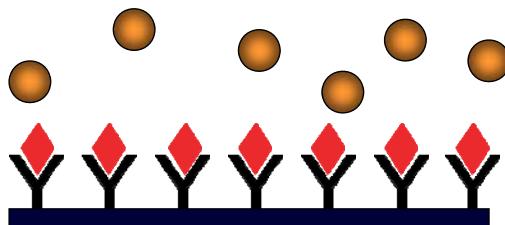


# Bio- / chemical sensor

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



a device that can detect molecules with some **specificity**



- mechanically      a) mass change (QCM)  
                      b) strain (cantilever)
- optically        a) labelled (DNA chip)  
                      b) refractive index  
                      c) Plasmonics

OWLS



OPTICAL WAVEGUIDE GRATING COUPLER SENSOR CHIP

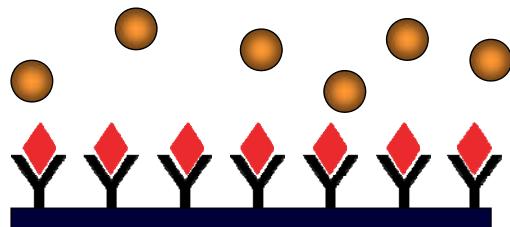


# Bio- / chemical sensor

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



a device that can detect molecules with some **specificity**



how can this information  
be read ?

mechanically      a) mass change (QCM)

b) strain (cantilever)

optically      a) labelled (DNA chip)

b) refractive index

c) Plasmonics

electrically      a) impedance spectroscopy

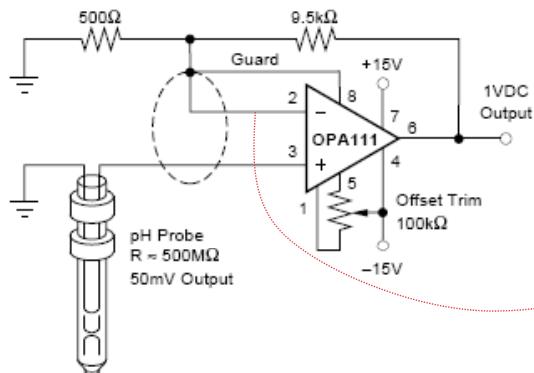
b) CV spectroscopy

c) potentiometric (e.g. zeta potential)

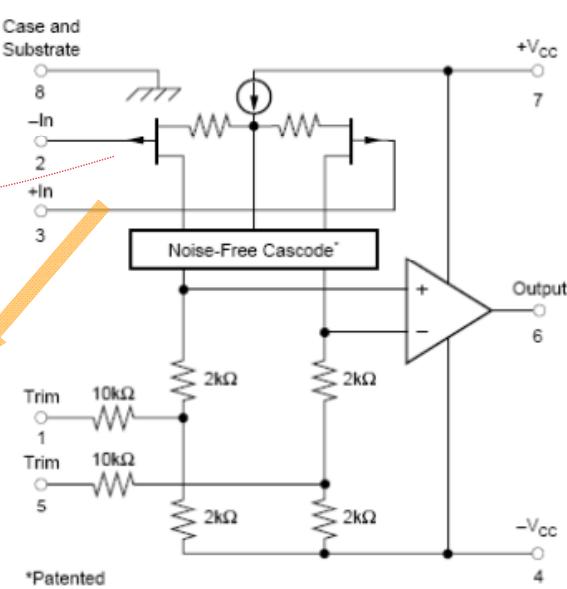
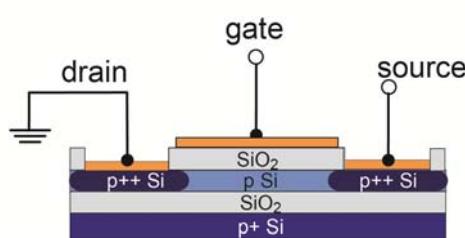


## Potentiometric sensing

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



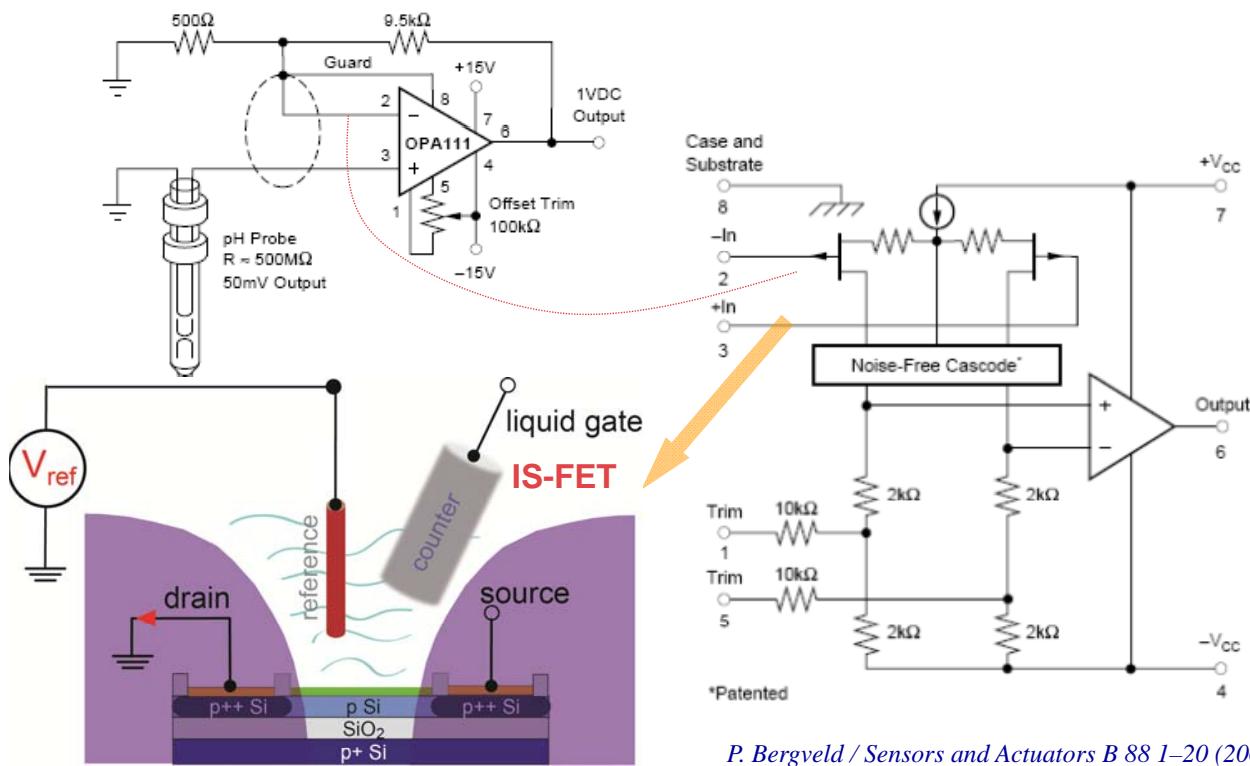
FET



\*Patented

# Potentiometric sensing

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



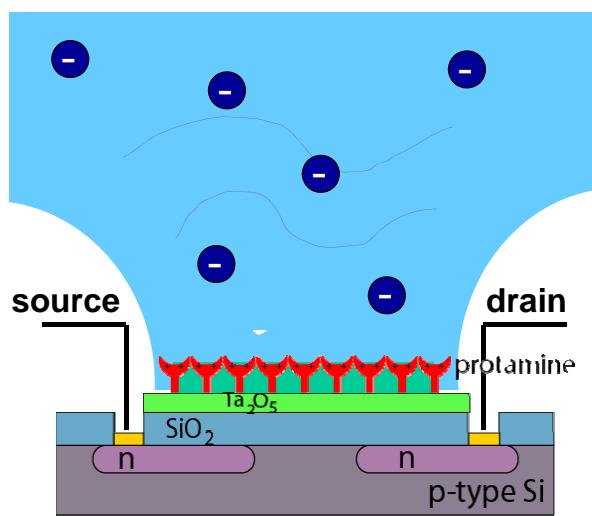
P. Bergveld / Sensors and Actuators B 88 1–20 (2003)

## Ion Sensitive FET (IS-FET)

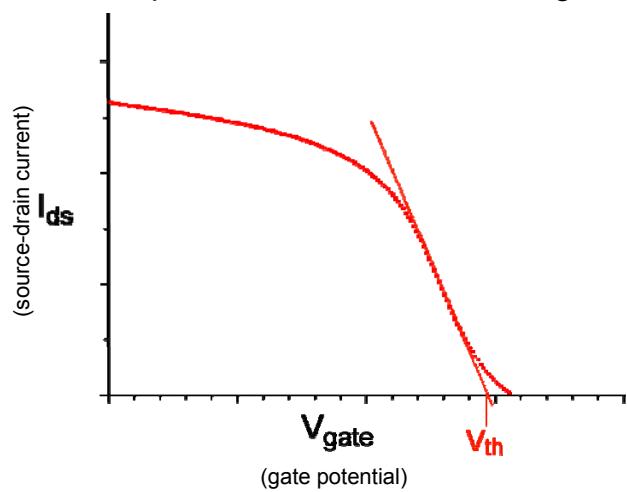
Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



channel conductance (i.e. threshold)  
depends on **gate charge**



p-channel, sub-threshold regime

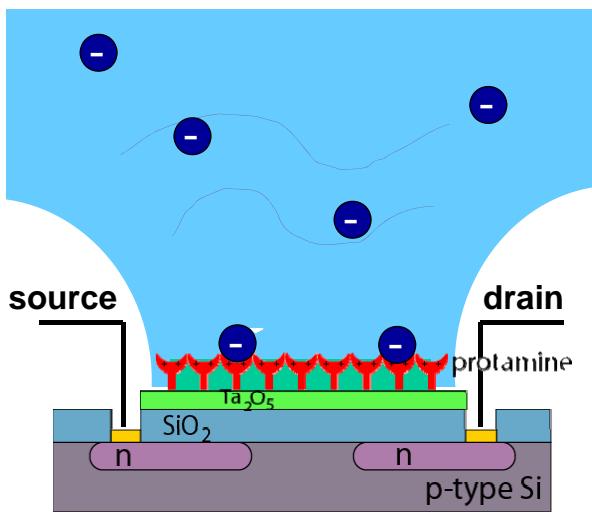


# Ion Sensitive FET (IS-FET)

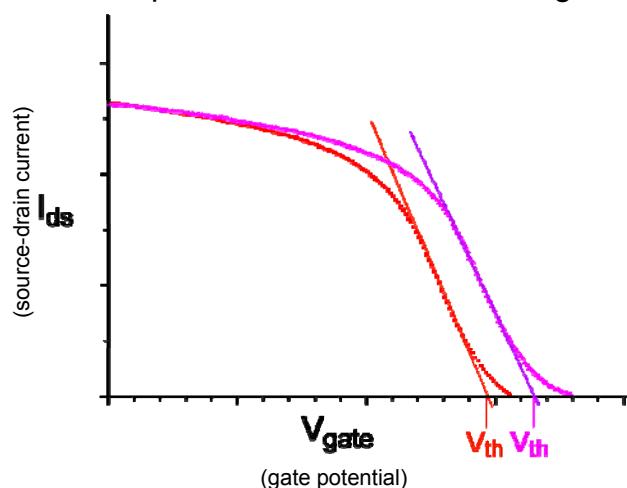
Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



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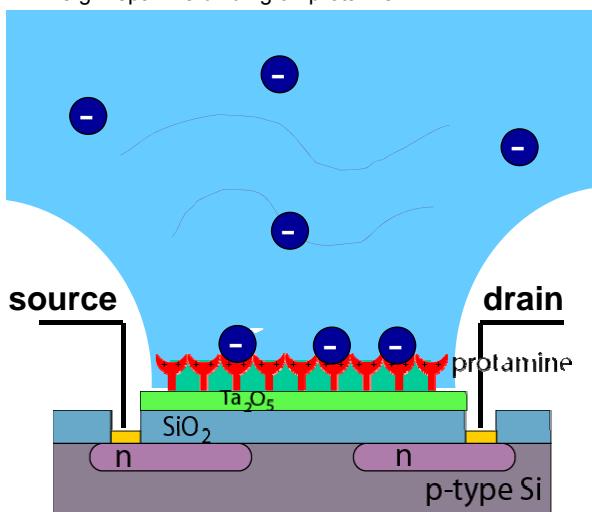
# Ion Sensitive FET (IS-FET)

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)

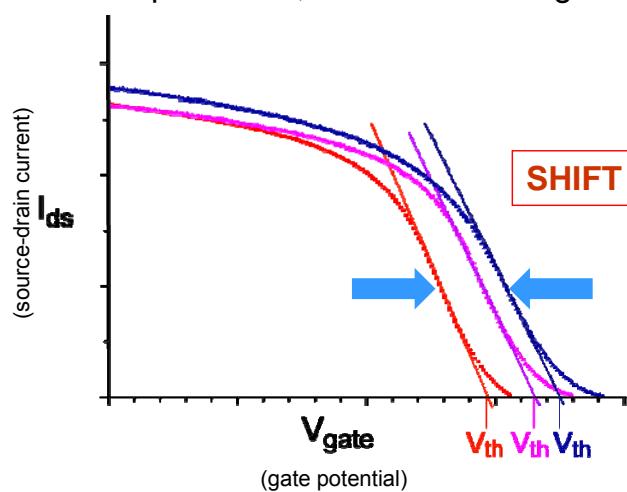


channel conductance (i.e. threshold)  
depends on **gate charge**

e.g. heparime binding on protamie



p-channel, sub-threshold regime



# IS FET for pH sensing

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



Honeywell: Durafet III

pH sensors



Endress+Hauser :CPS441 and CPS441D

taken from an application note

## The measurement of pH in cheese

Sentron Europe BV  
Postbus 125  
9300 AC Roden  
The Netherlands



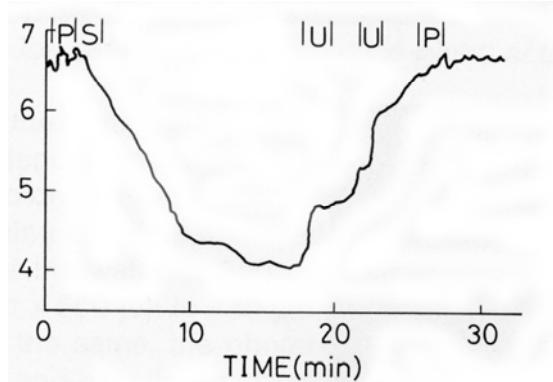
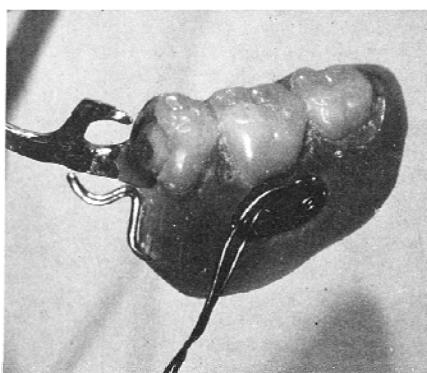
P. Bergveld / Sensors and Actuators B 88 1–20 (2003)

## Dental Application

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)



- Food components that lower pH of dental plaque cause caries



pH recording of dental plaque

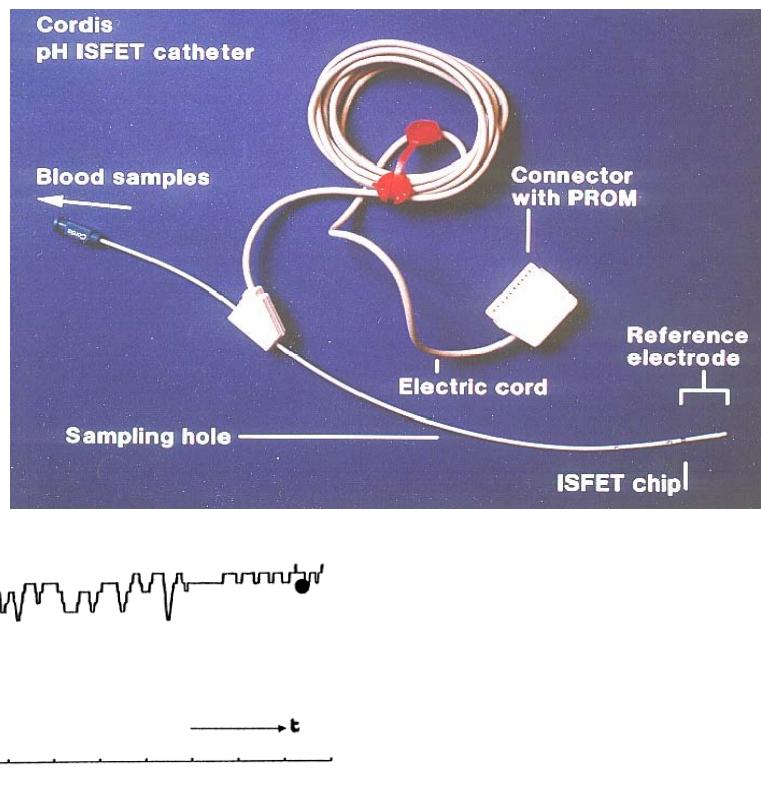
P = paraffin chewing

S = rinse with sucrose 10%

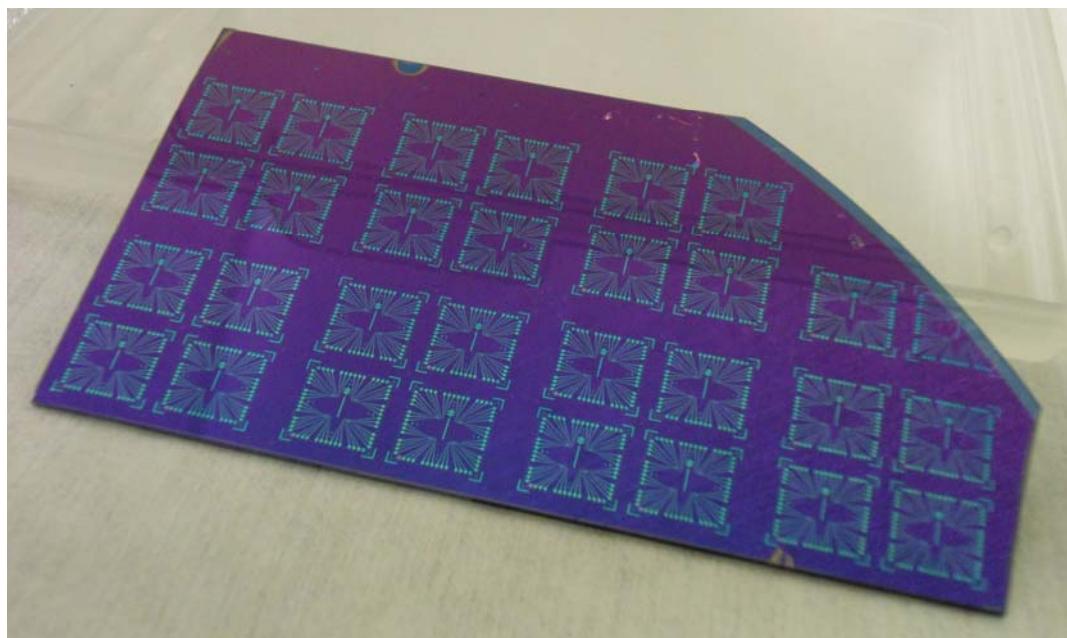
U = rinse with urea 3 %

# ISFET pH catheter

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)

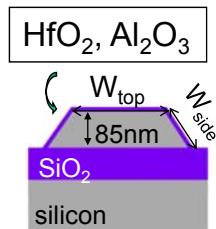
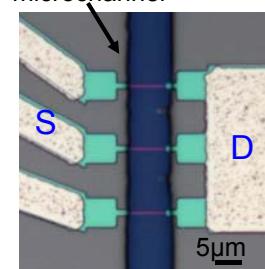
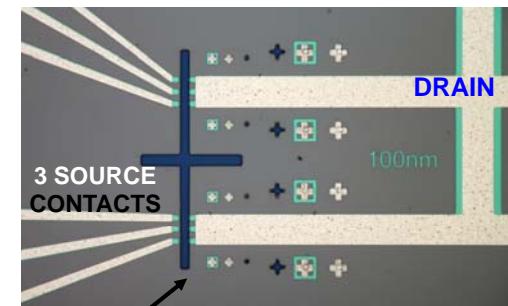
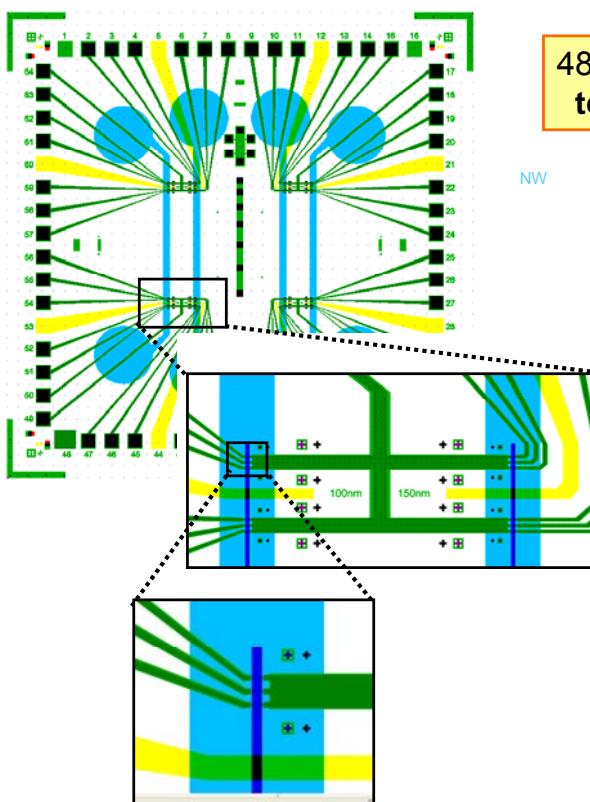


chips



# chip

INI  
SWISS NANOSCIENCE INSTITUTE



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**PSI**

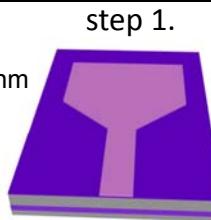
K. Bedner et al.

## electrode fabrication

Schönenberger group [www.nanoelectronics.ch](http://www.nanoelectronics.ch)

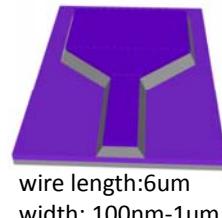
p-type (100) SOI

Si 80nm  
SiO<sub>2</sub> 145nm  
Si handle wafer



step 1.

step 2.+3.



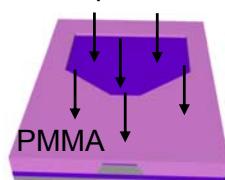
wire length: 6μm  
width: 100nm-1μm



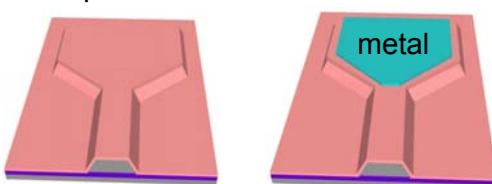
$$W_{\text{eff}} = W_{\text{top}} + 2W_{\text{walls}}$$

100nm

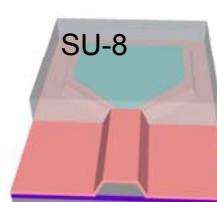
step 4.+5.



step 6.+7.



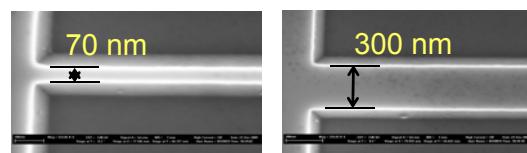
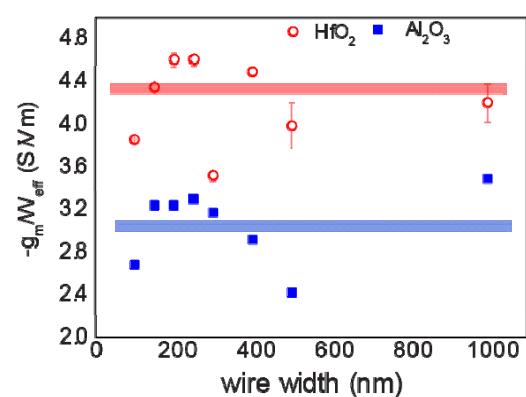
step 11.to14.



silicon  
silicon oxide  
ALD oxide  
resist  
metal  
epoxy

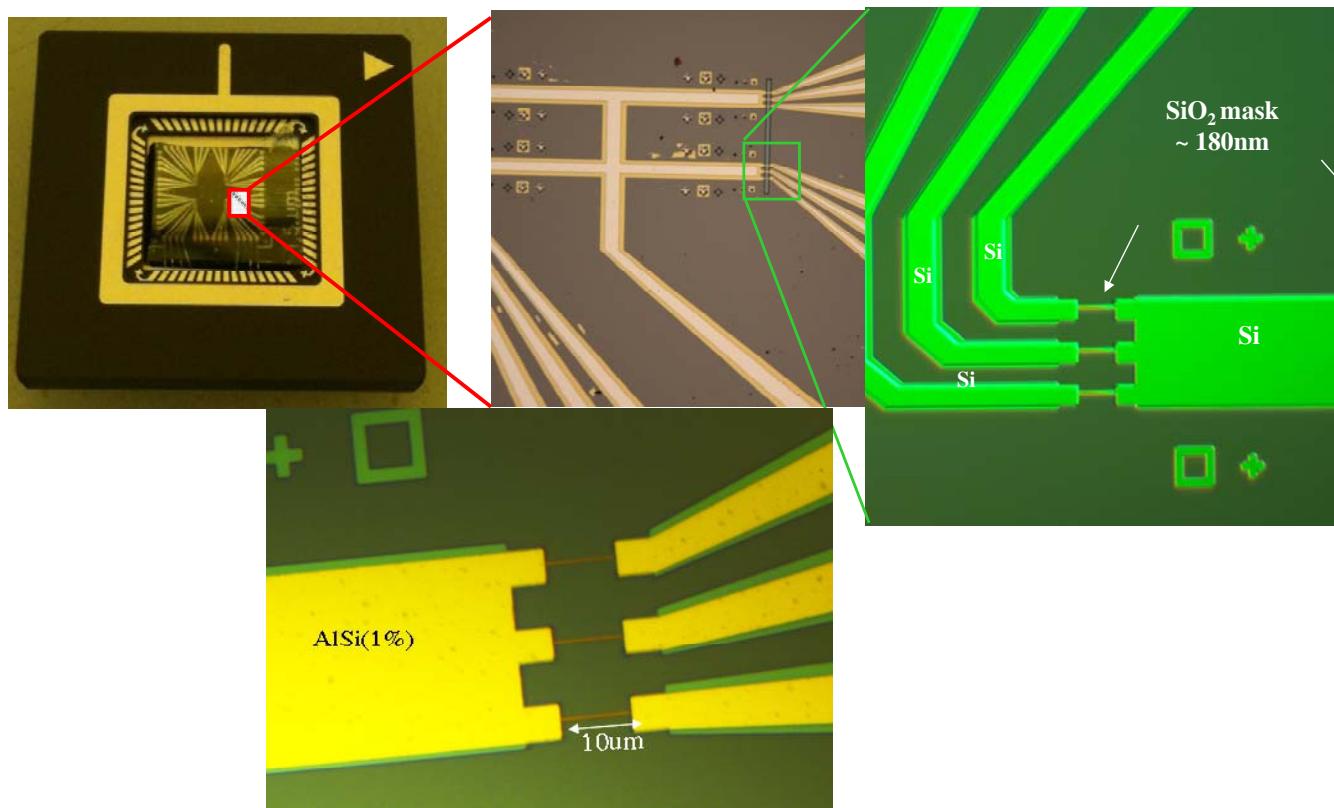
PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT  
**PSI**

Kristine Bedner et al.

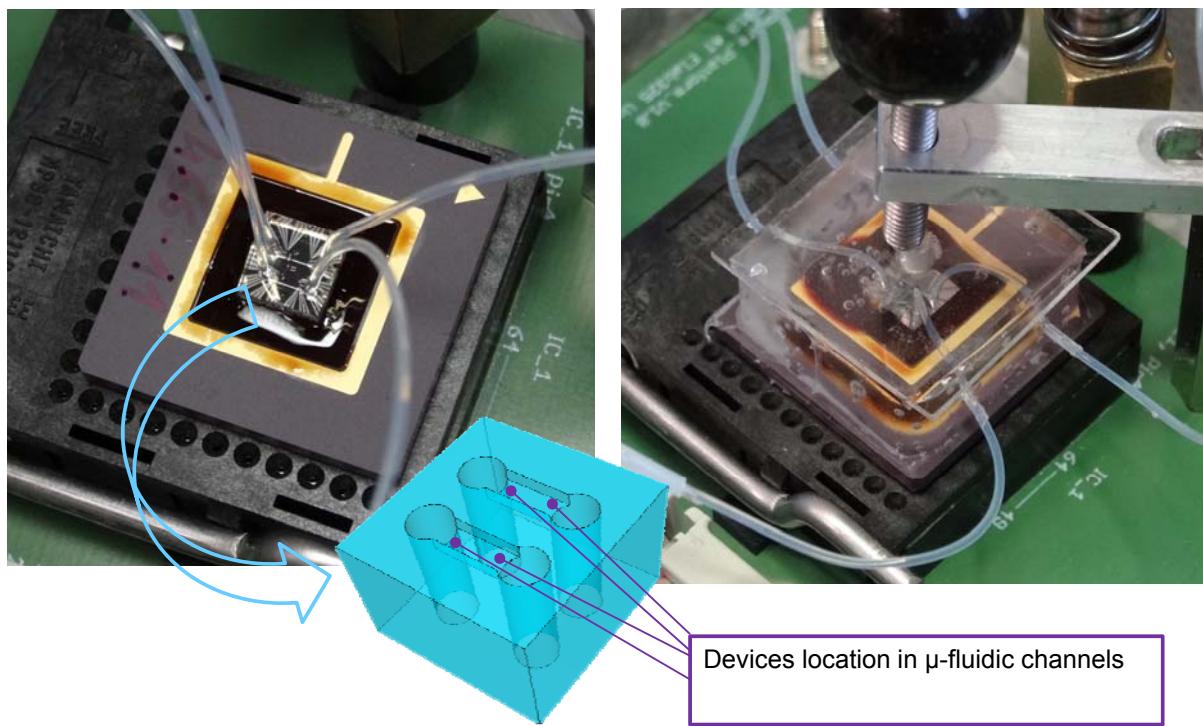


UNI BASEL  
**nano-tera.ch**

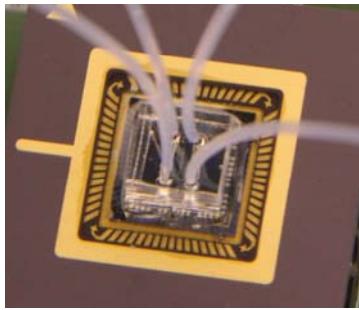
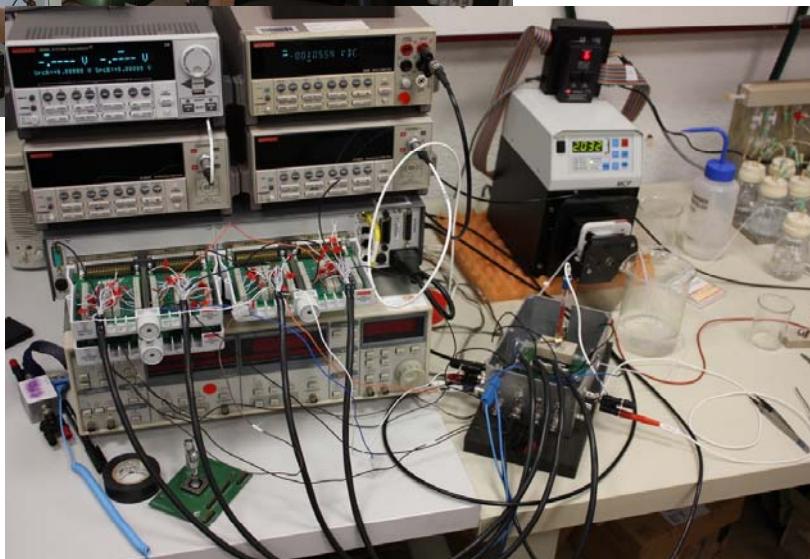
# up-scaling



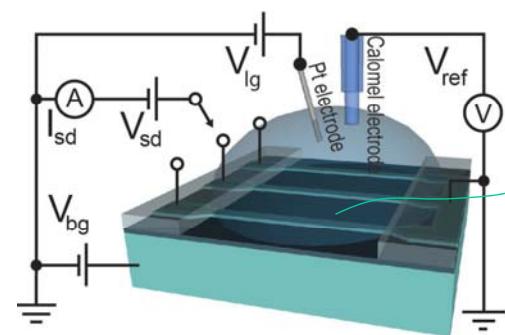
# Microfluidics



# in the lab in operation

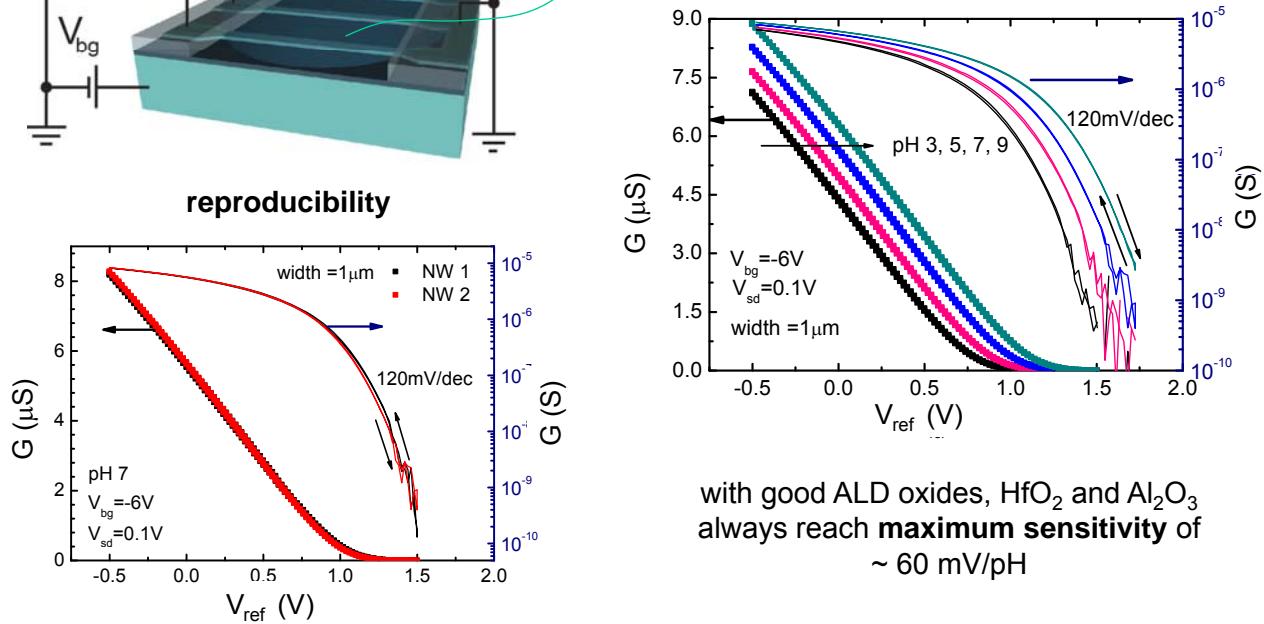


## NW-ISFET “quality”

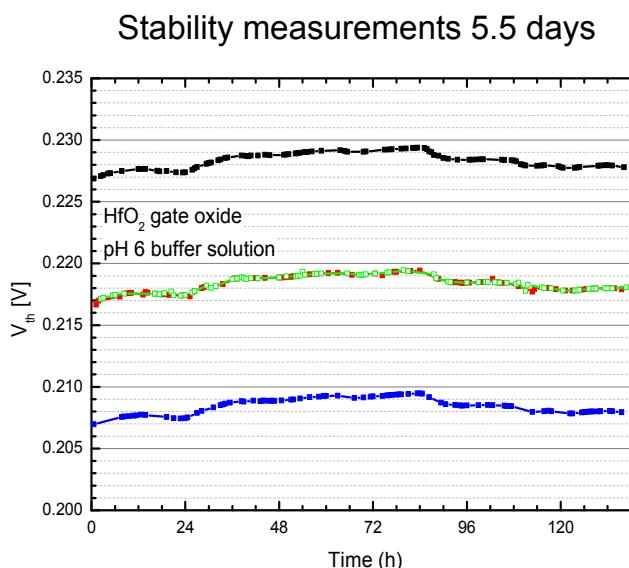
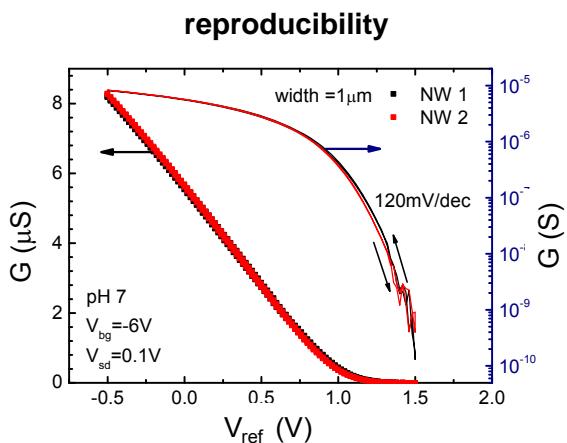
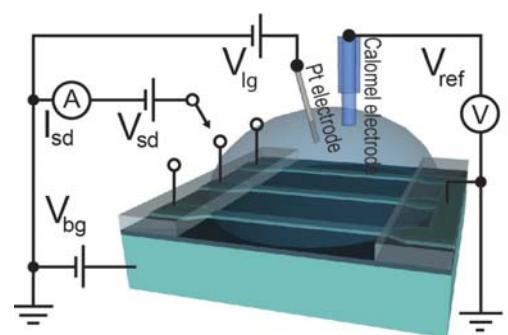


(low p-doped wires in accumulation with p+-implanted and alloyed contacts)

### pH response & sensitivity



# NW-ISFET “quality”



FinFET sample (EPFL) 8nm  $\text{HfO}_2$  gate ox  
pH 6 buffer solution

- 4 different nanowires
- Max. Drift  $\sim 2\text{mV/day}$
- differential drift  $\sim 0\text{mV}$

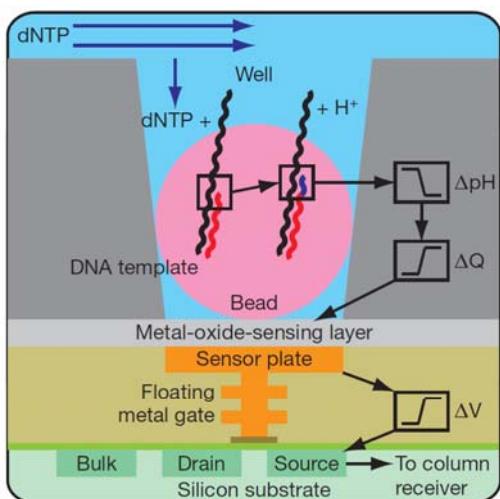
S. Rigante et al.

## Genome sequencing

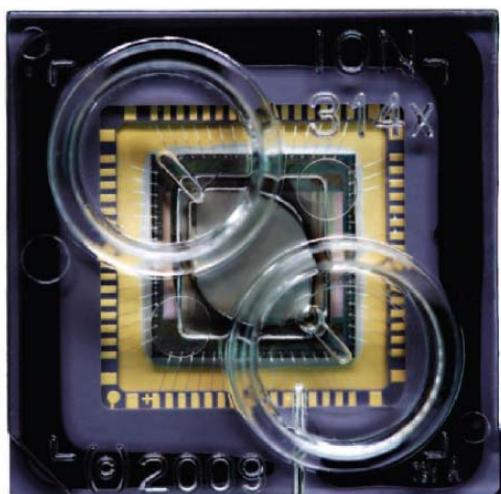
# An integrated semiconductor device enabling non-optical genome sequencing

348 | NATURE | VOL 475 | 21 JULY 2011

Jonathan M. Rothberg<sup>1</sup>, Wolfgang Hinz<sup>1</sup>, Todd M. Rearick<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan Schultz<sup>1</sup>, William Mileski<sup>1</sup>, Mel Davey<sup>1</sup>, John H. Leamon<sup>1</sup>, Kim Johnson<sup>1</sup>, Mark J. Milgrew<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Edwards<sup>1</sup>, Jeremy Hoon<sup>1</sup>, Jan F. Simons<sup>1</sup>, David Marran<sup>1</sup>, Jason W. Myers<sup>1</sup>, John F. Davidson<sup>1</sup>, Annika Branting<sup>1</sup>, John R. Nobile<sup>1</sup>, Bernard P. Puc<sup>1</sup>, David Light<sup>1</sup>, Travis A. Clark<sup>1</sup>, Martin Huber<sup>1</sup>, Jeffrey T. Branciforte<sup>1</sup>, Isaac B. Stoner<sup>1</sup>, Simon E. Cawley<sup>1</sup>, Michael Lyons<sup>1</sup>, Yutao Fu<sup>1</sup>, Nils Homer<sup>1</sup>, Marina Sedova<sup>1</sup>, Xin Miao<sup>1</sup>, Brian Reed<sup>1</sup>, Jeffrey Sabina<sup>1</sup>, Erika Feierstein<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Schorn<sup>1</sup>, Mohammad Alanjary<sup>1</sup>, Eileen Dimalanta<sup>1</sup>, Devin Dressman<sup>1</sup>, Rachel Kasinskas<sup>1</sup>, Tanya Sokolsky<sup>1</sup>, Jacqueline A. Fidanza<sup>1</sup>, Eugeni Namsaraev<sup>1</sup>, Kevin J. McKernan<sup>1</sup>, Alan Williams<sup>1</sup>, G. Thomas Roth<sup>1</sup> & James Bustillo<sup>1</sup>



ion-torrent

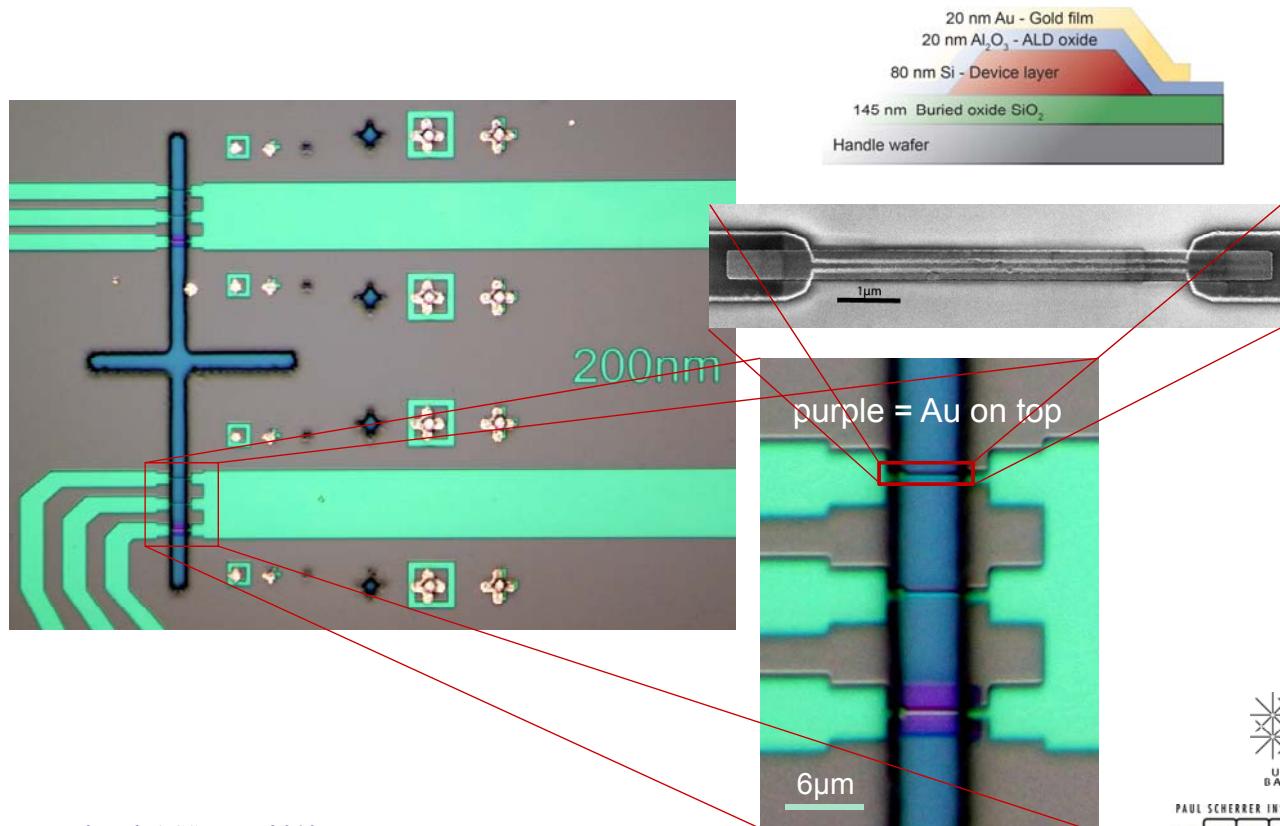


# can one measure something else ?

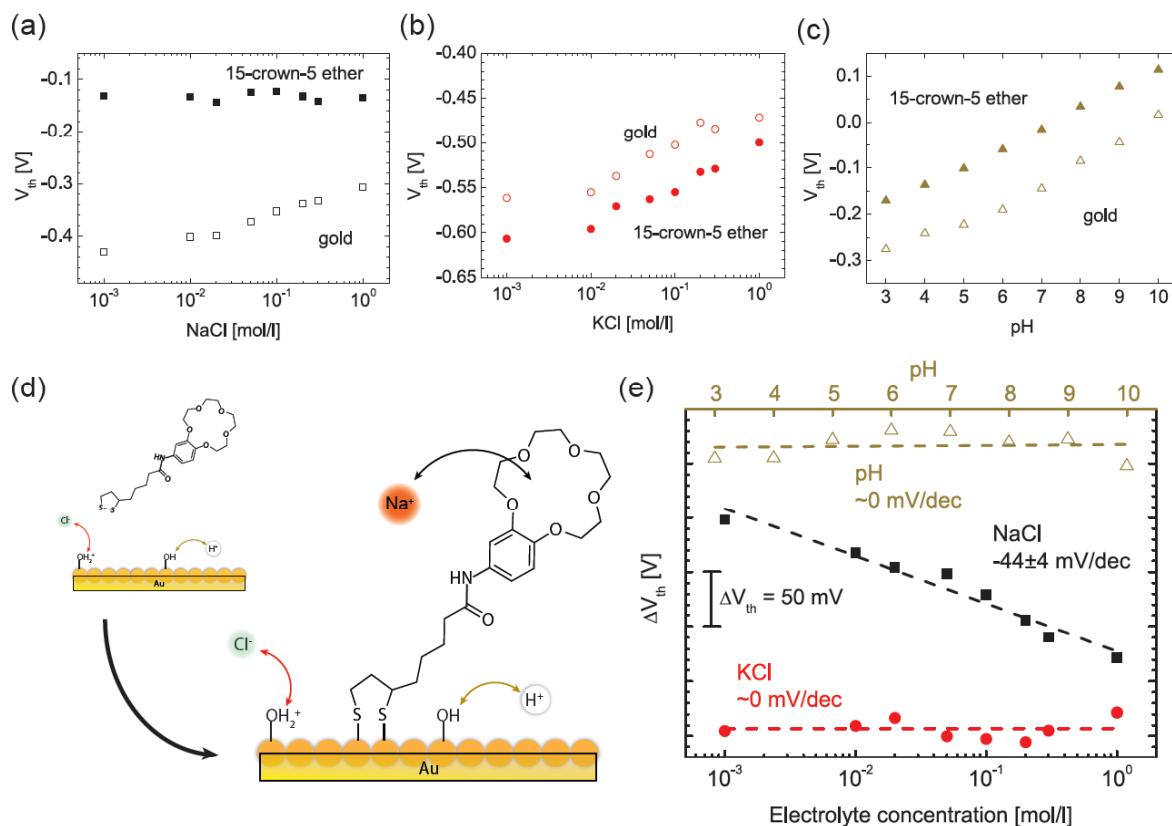
oxide surface highly sensitive to protons → Nernst limit  
sensitivity to other ions is usually very small !

if there are other reactions on the surface that can compete with the de-protonation and proton addition at OH sites, the pH sensitivity may be reduced

## NW with floating gate



# Au coated NW: Selective Sodium

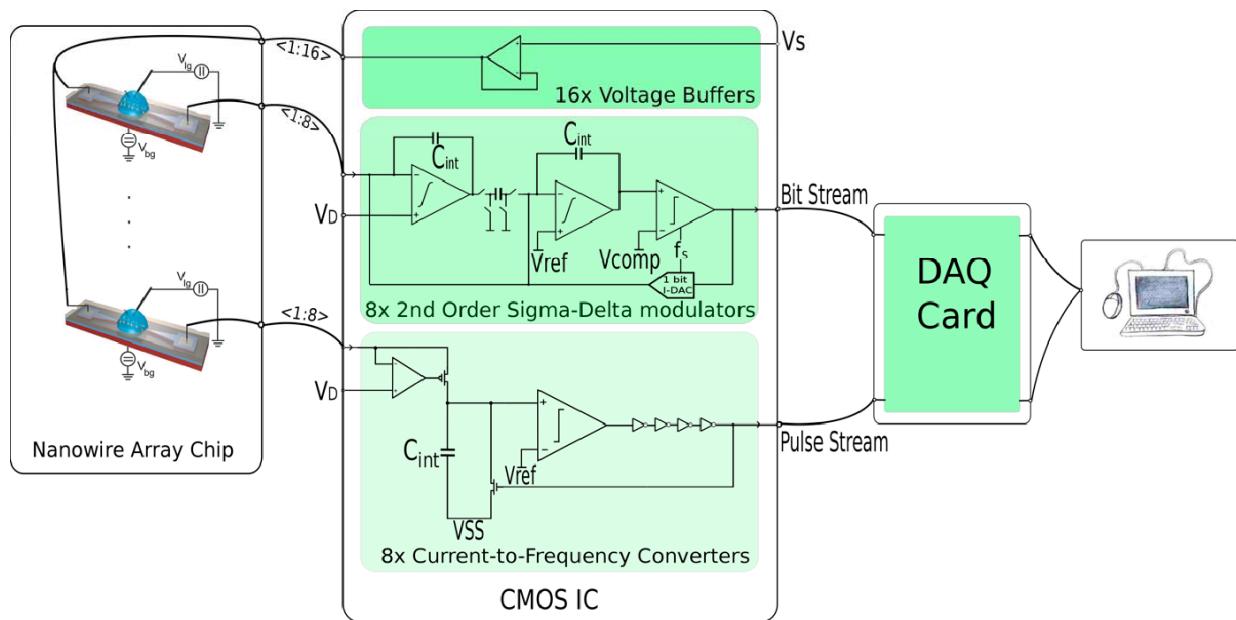


M. Wipf et al. ACS Nano 2013

## Results

- maximum sensitivity** (Nernst limit) can be achieved ( $Al_2O_3$  and  $HfO_2$ )
- oxide surfaces ( $Al_2O_3$  and  $HfO_2$ ) can be **highly selective** to protons (yielding ideal pH sensor up to buffer conc. of 10 mM)
- maximum sensitivity** also for the **narrowest nanowires**
- highest resolution in concentration** best for **wide wires**
- differential measurement** greatly improves stability
- full passivation** possible → “ideal” reference electrode
- good sensitivity with high selectivity to other ions** can be achieved
- multi-ion sensing** is promising

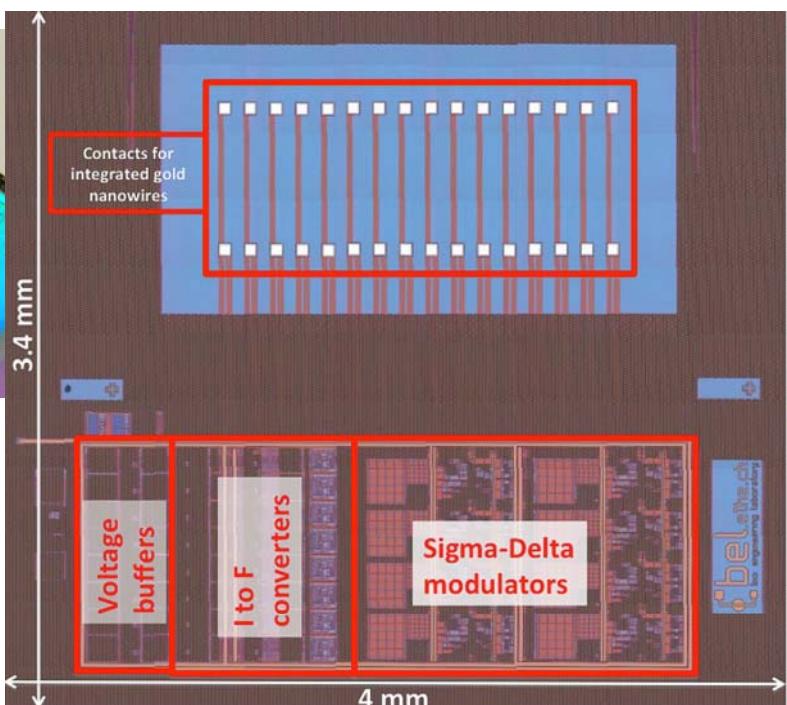
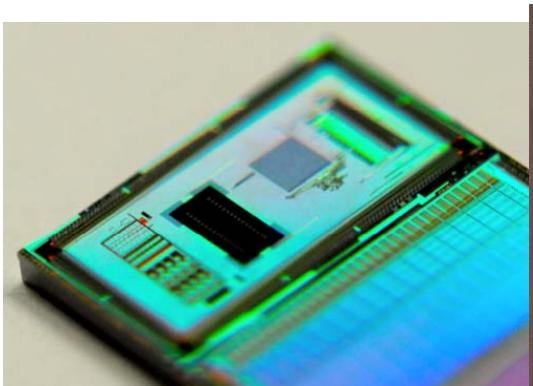
# System Architecture



- 16 nanowires can be interfaced in parallel
- voltage across each nanowire is kept constant, and the current flowing through is measured
- Two different analog-to-digital converter architectures are used (12 bits resolution)
- Current range: 1 nA to 5  $\mu$ A

Paolo Livi et al.

## CMOS readout

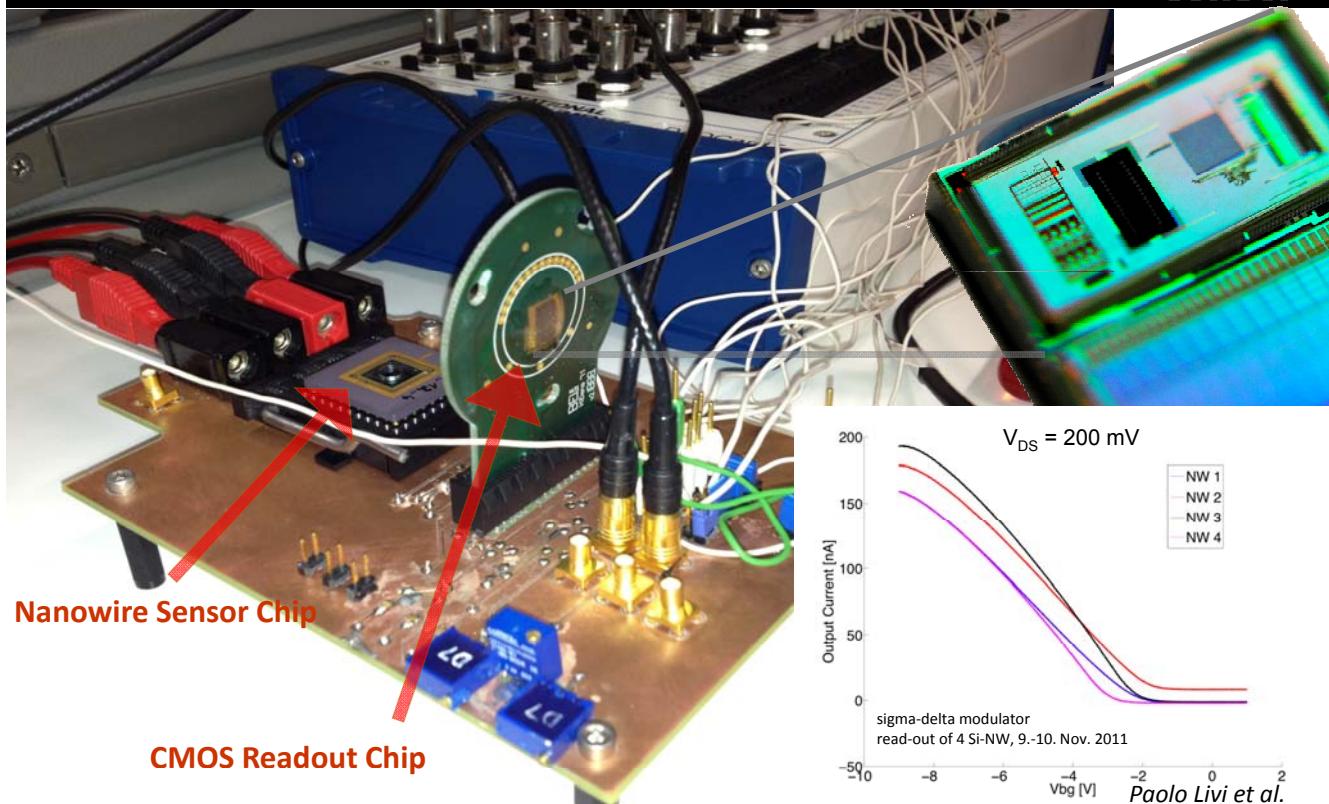


- Power consumption: 35 mW
- I<sub>2</sub>F resolution:
  - 8 bits (50 pA - 1  $\mu$ A range)
  - 10 bits (10 nA - 400 nA range)
- Sigma-Delta resolution:
  - 12 bits in the range  $\pm 2 \mu$ A

Paolo Livi et al.

# System Architecture

nanowire  
sensor



Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz  
Hochschule für Life Sciences

SENSIRION  
THE SENSOR COMPANY

35

## Thanks to....

nanowire  
sensor

Uni Basel  
physics



EPFL



ETHZ



D-BSSE



Sensirion



FHNW



Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz  
Hochschule für Life Sciences

SENSIRION  
THE SENSOR COMPANY

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