

# **Fundamentals of Biosensors and Electronic Biochips. EE515 EPFL Master**

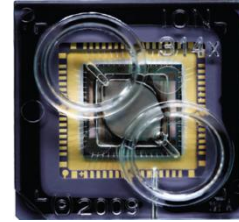
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Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

# Bioanalytics. Key issues 1/2

## Continuous demand for higher throughput

Large number of sequences to be read

*Eg DNA/RNA sequencing*

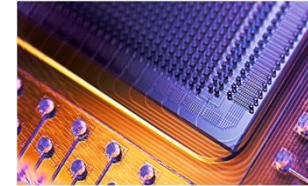


*Next generation sequencing*

*Ion Proton, Life Technologies*

Extreme parcellization of samples

*Eg Digital PCR*



*Digital PCR*

*Fluidigm*

In-flow manipulation of biological elements

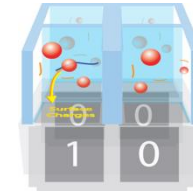
*Eg Cell separation, droplet formation*

# Bioanalytics. Key issues 2/2

Targeting ultimate **sensitivity/resolution** in analytical samples

Single-copy detection in nanoliter wells

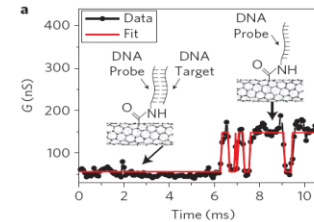
*Eg: Digital PCR*



C. Guiducci, et al.  
*Nature Methods*

Single-molecule kinetics observation

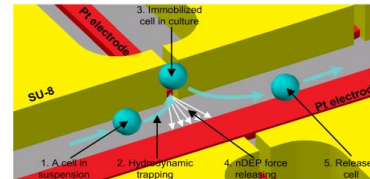
*Eg: DNA hybridization on a nanodevice*



Sorgenfrei et al.,  
*Nature Nanotechnology*

Precise manipulation and measurement of single cells

*Eg: Single-cell level analysis*



A. Hierlemann, ETH,  
*Lab on a Chip*

# **Drivers for the development of Biosensors and electronic biochips**

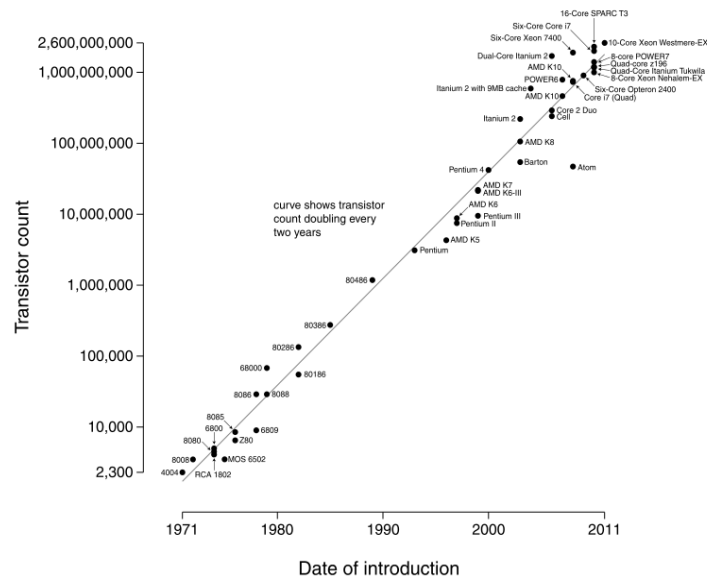
- Multi-target/screening systems
- Sensitivity and robustness to interfering agents
- Miniaturization and adapted packaging for wearable and portable applications

# **Integration and complexity from electronic chips to biochips**

# Genesis. Electronic chips

- Gordon E. Moore. “Cramming more components onto integrated circuits“. Electronics, 1965

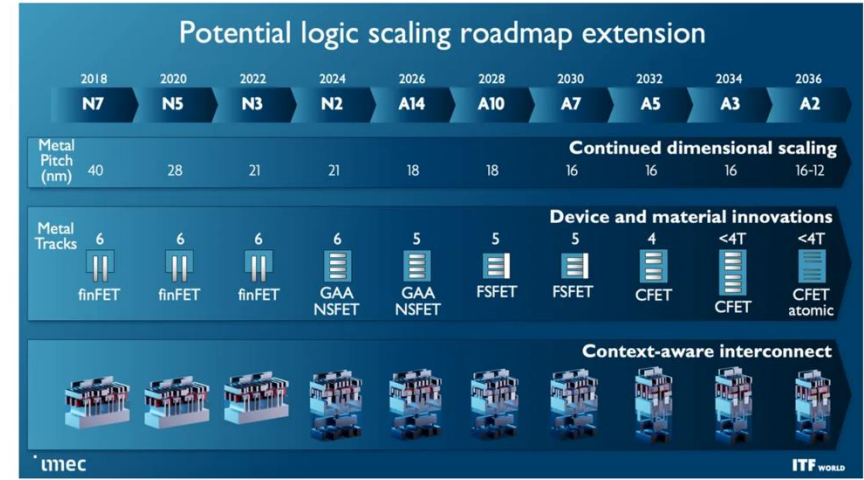
The Moore's law is a prediction on Complexity (number of transistors per IC), foreseeing it would have increased of a factor of 2 approx. every 18 months.



1950, first planar transistor

# Scaling

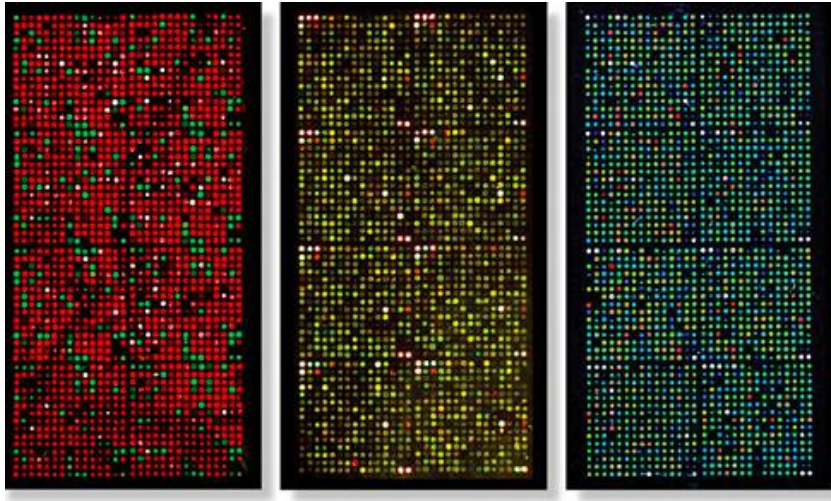
## Transistor Innovations Enable Technology Cadence



# Advantages of increasing integration/complexity in electronics

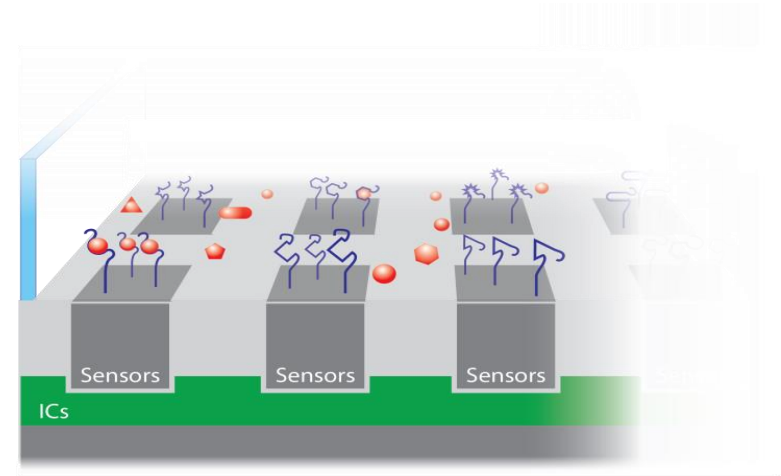
1. Improving complexity through integration by keeping costs steady
2. Reducing size of transducer without scaling the signal
3. Integration grants lower noise and parasitics

# Complexity in biochips



DNA microarrays on glass or silicon substrates.

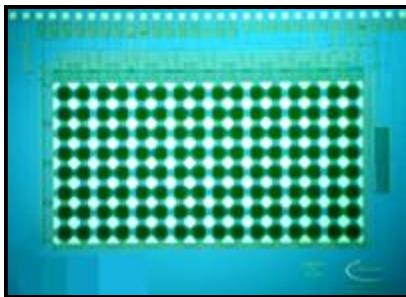
External readout systems (optical)



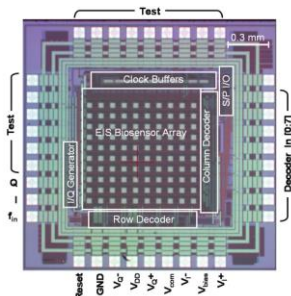
Molecular affinity arrays on sensing arrays

Integrated readout systems

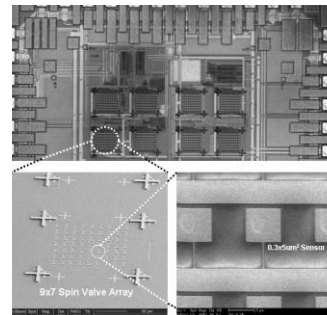
## Examples of Molecular affinity arrays on sensing arrays



Infineon Technologies  
**CAPACITIVE**



Austin U  
**ELECTROCHEMICAL**



Stanford U.  
**MAGNETIC**

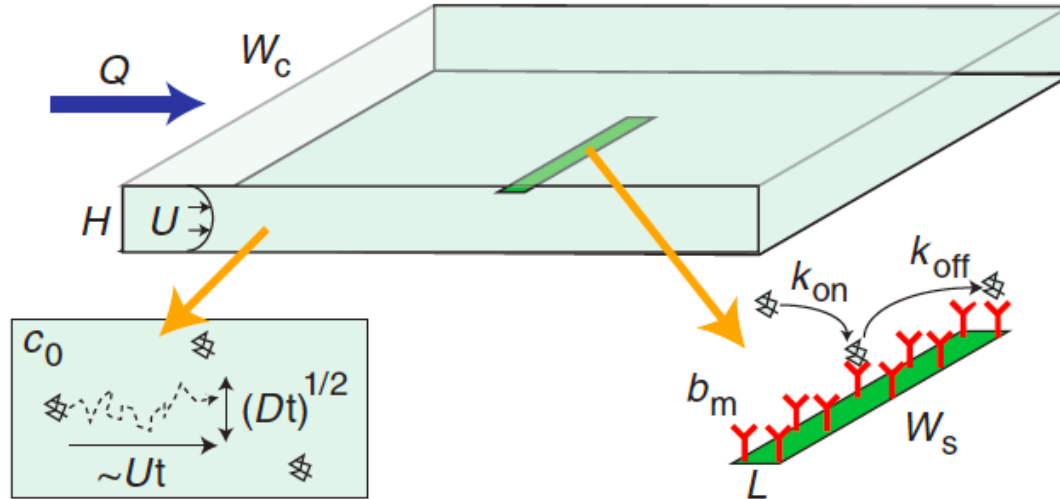


## ELECTROCHEMICAL i-Stat. Abbott

## Biochips. Discussion on the Intrinsic limitations to complexity

Surface sensor, in flow injection of sample.

Role of the sensor surface size



Squires T.M. et al, Nat.Biotech. 2008

## Surface sensor, in flow injection of sample.

### Role of the sensor surface size

Collection rate:  $J_D = D C W_s L / \delta$

$$1/J_D \approx 208 \text{ min}$$

$$1/k_{\text{off}} \approx 17 \text{ min} !!!$$

Collection is  
a rare event!

D diffusion constant  $10 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$

C concentration 10 fM

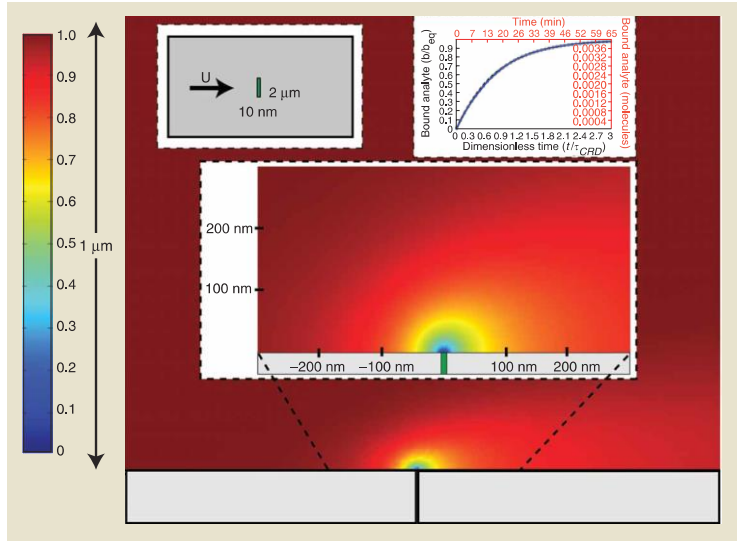
$W_s$  width of sensor  $2 \mu\text{m}$

L length of sensor 10 nm

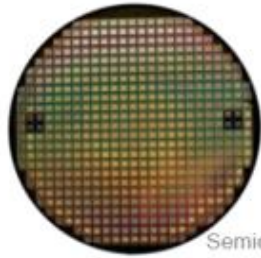
$\delta$  depletion region

$J_D$  collection rate  $8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}$

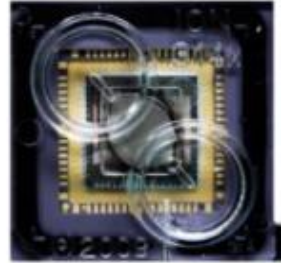
Mass transport issue!



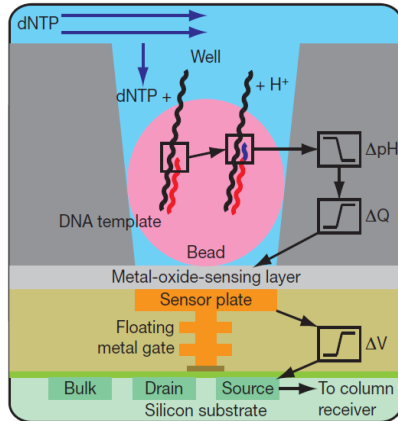
# DNA sequencing: large-scale pH-based systems. Overcoming mass transport issues



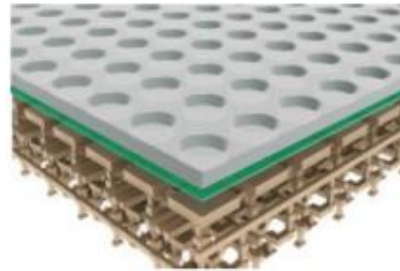
Wafer  
Semiconductor Manufacturing



Chip  
Semiconductor Packaging



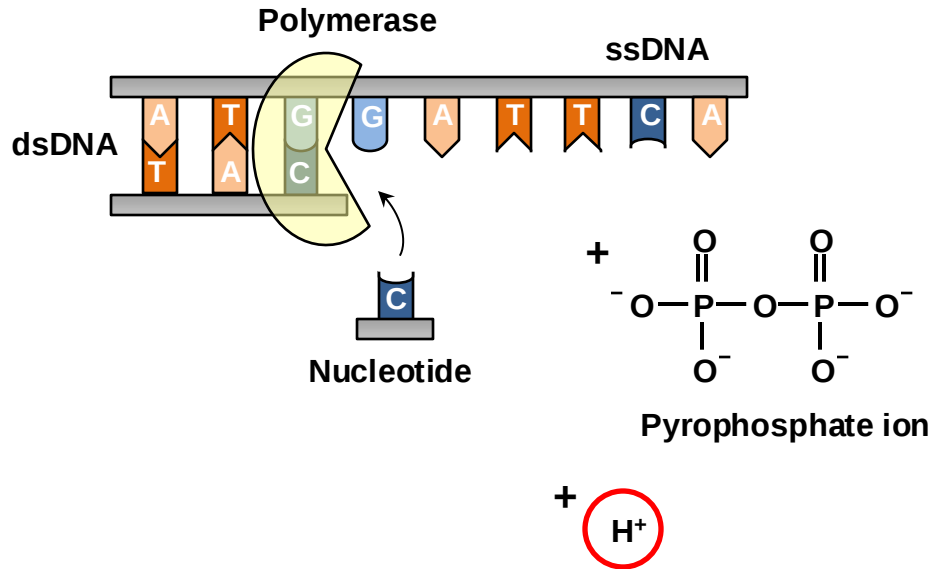
TCGTACC...  
Single Sensor  
Chemical to Digital Sequence



Millions of Sensors  
Semiconductor Design

# Biochemical Readout of strand elongation

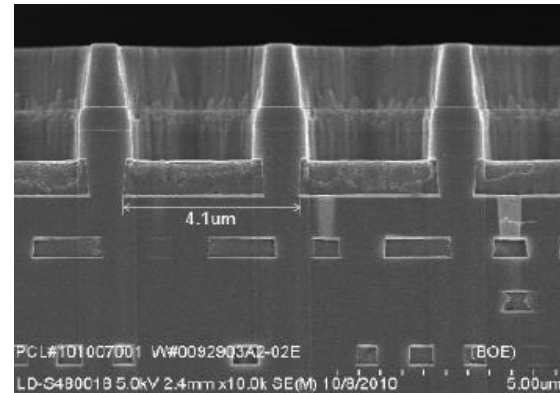
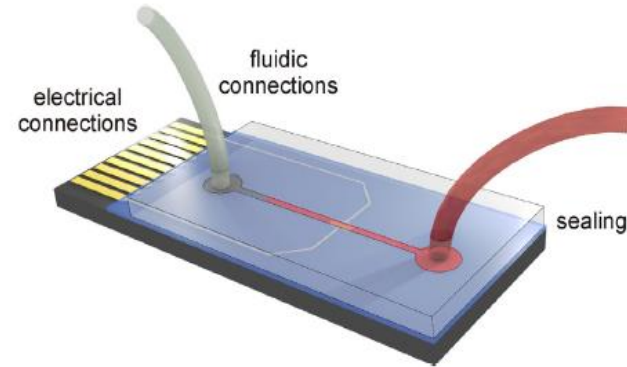
Electrical readout (by-product)



# Translation of lab-on-chip technologies. Cost drivers

interfacing, robustness and user friendliness

Increased costs when deviating from standard microfabrication processes



*Ion Torrent*

# **System configuration and Sample manipulation strategies**

## Example: Impedance-based cytometry

Multiple wells



xCelligence

Flow cytometry, single cells through a channel



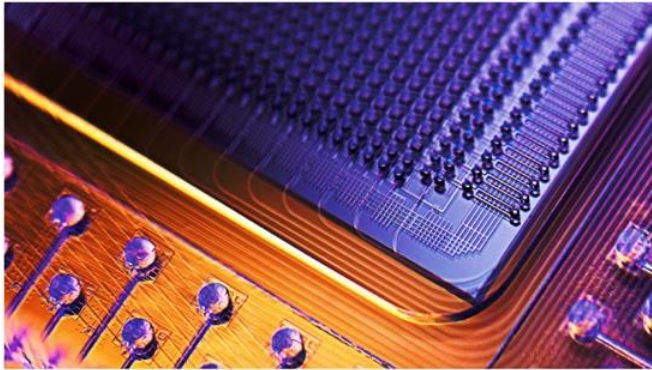
Fluigent

## Sample isolation/parcellization

**Sample parcellization down to nliter volume per chamber.**

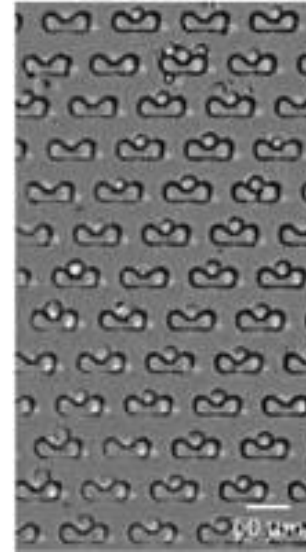
Issues of

- evaporation
- complex microfluidics



FLUIDIGM Quake lab

**Cell isolation in flow.**  
Challenges to retrieve single cells



Hydrodynamic traps