

Additive Micro-Manufacturing @ EPFL

Materials, Tools, and Systems

Vivek Subramanian
Institute of Microengineering
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

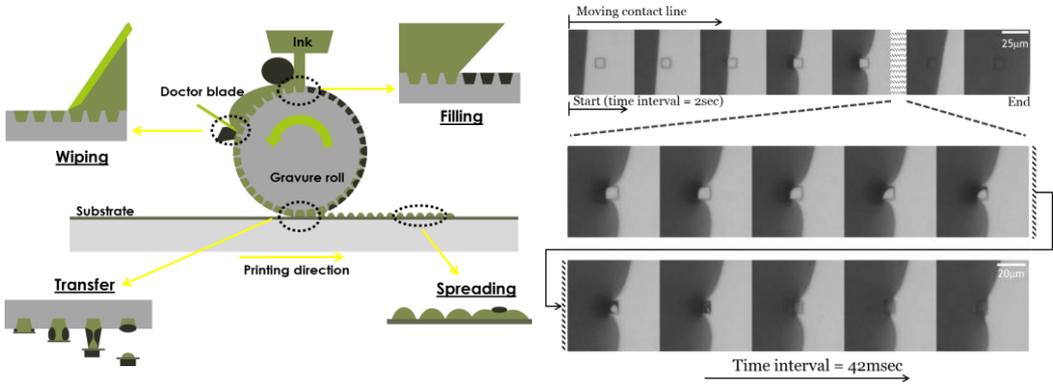
The challenge...

How do we get from this...

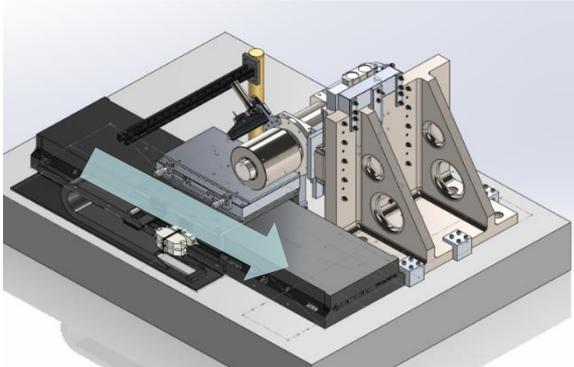


To this?

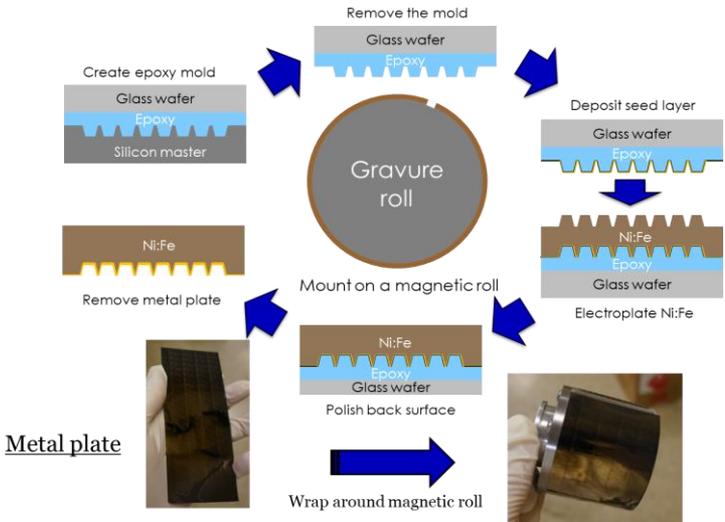
Science-driven tool development



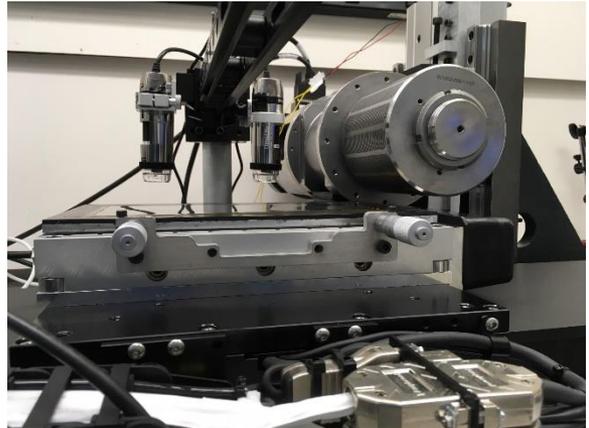
Deep understanding process physics



Science-driven tool design

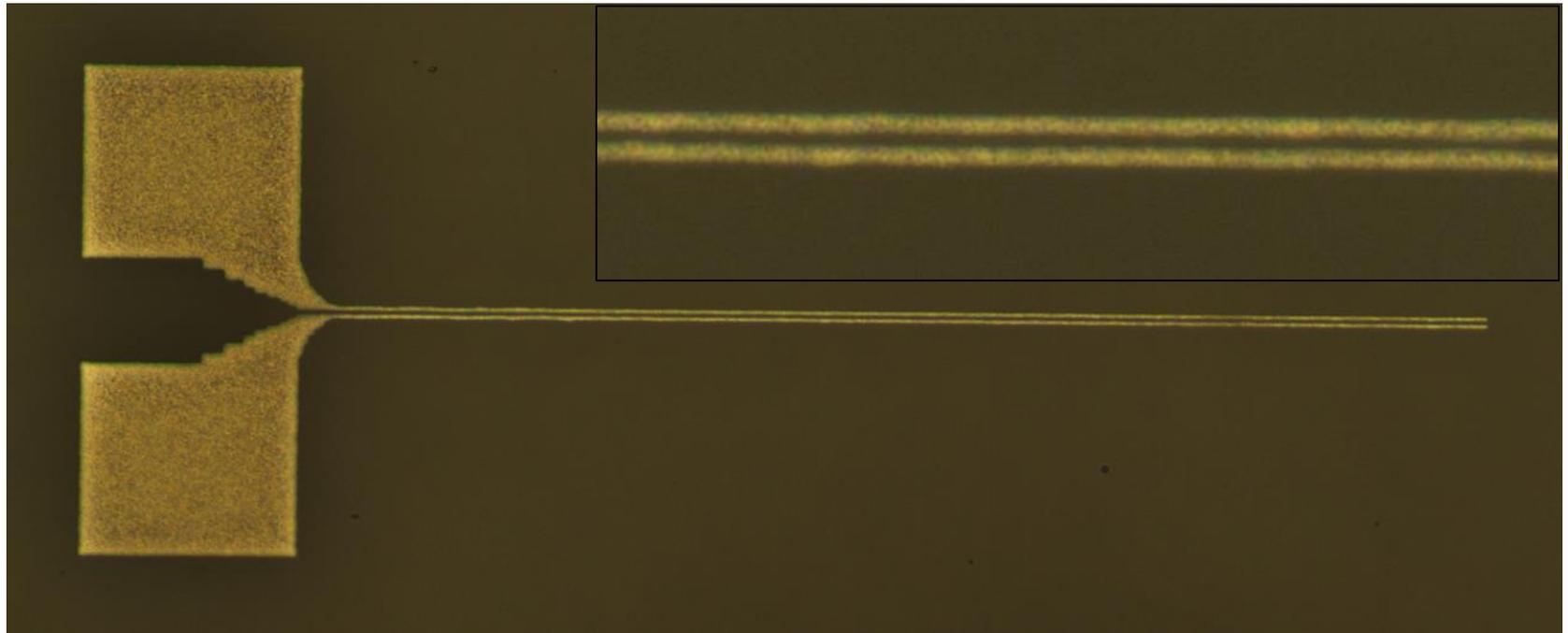


Coupled process technology development



Precision tool development

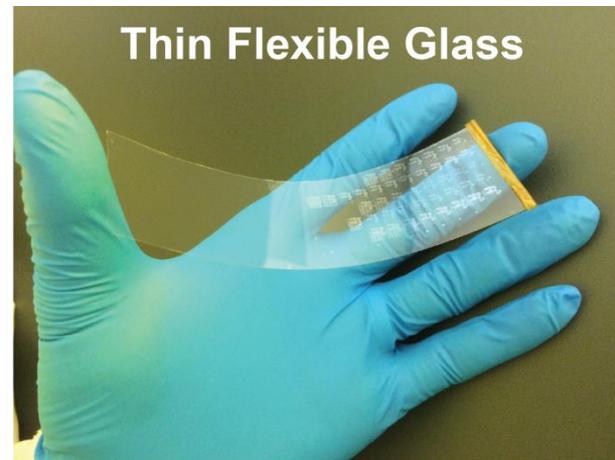
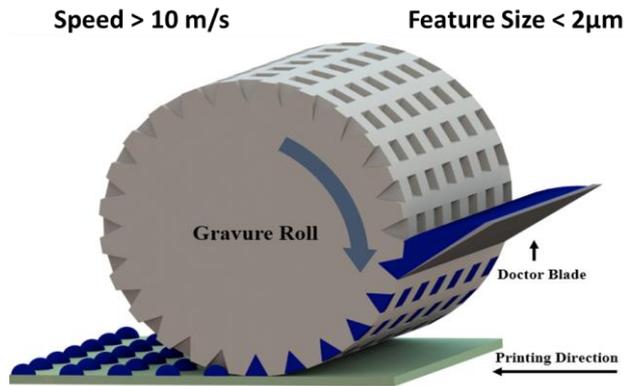
~1 μm Printed Channel



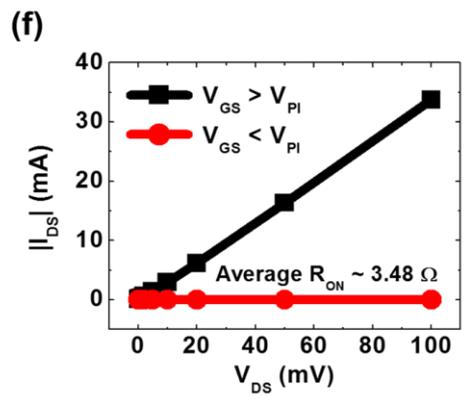
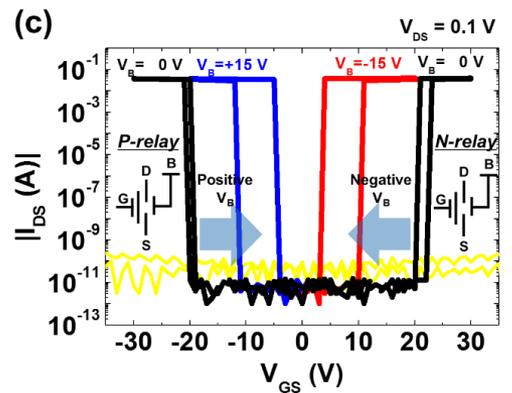
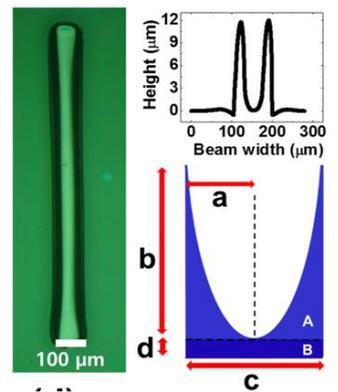
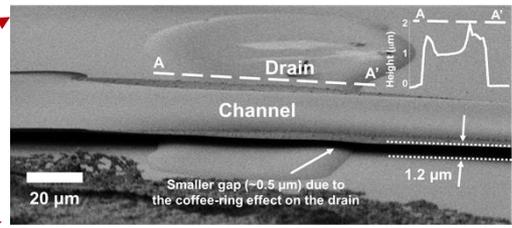
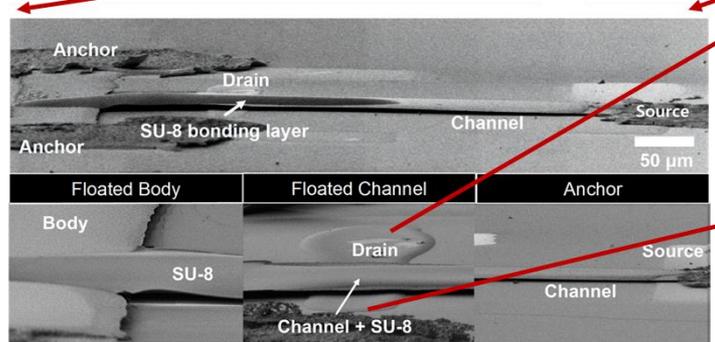
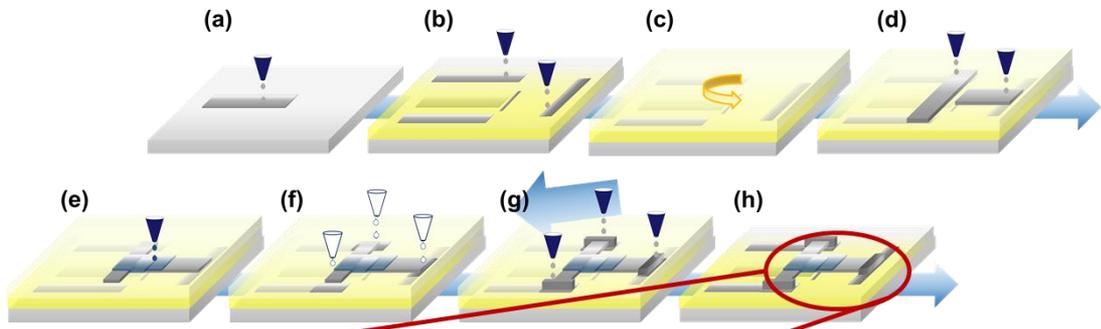
40 μm

Example: Conformal Electronics

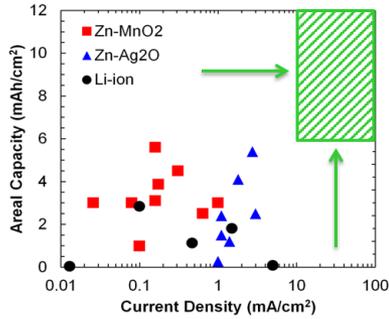
Gravure allows high speed additive patterning at a high-resolution



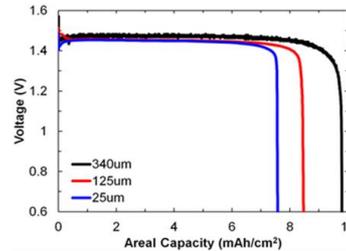
Printed 3D MEMS



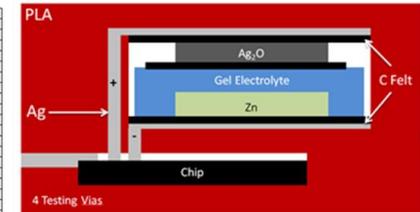
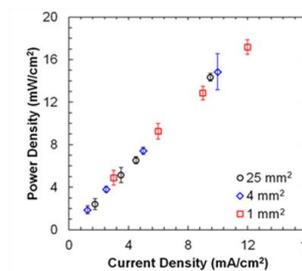
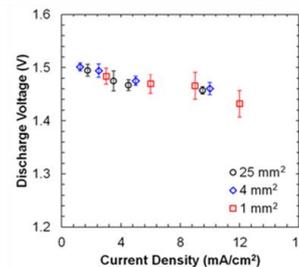
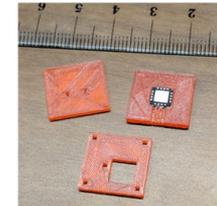
Example: Chip-integrated batteries for autonomous motes



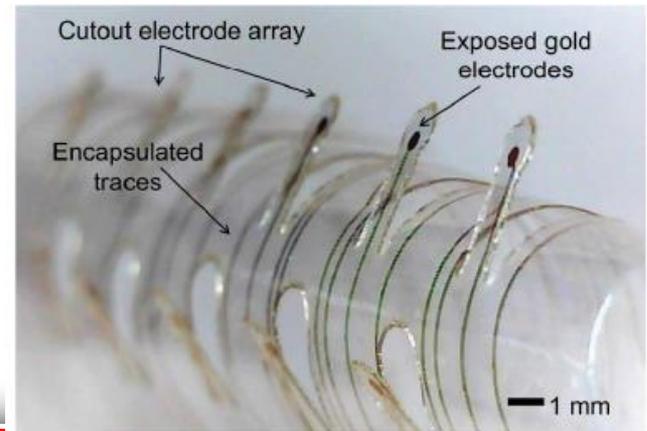
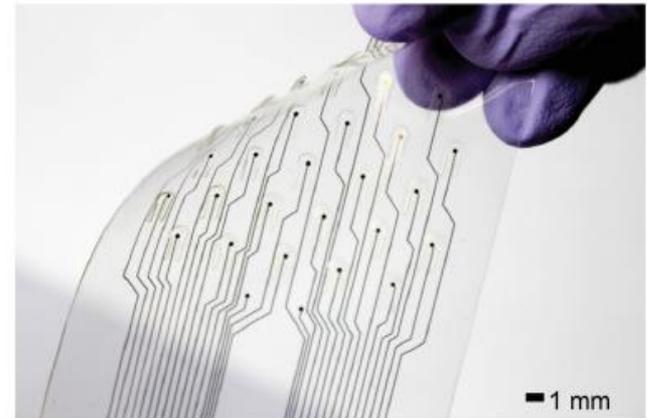
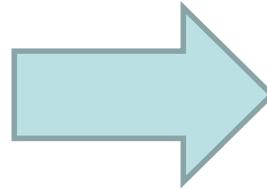
- Understand the application needs
- Develop the materials and processes
- Integrate to realize the target device



Electrode Thickness (µm)	Ag ₂ O Utilization (%)	Internal Resistance (Ω)
340	78	27.0
125	86	19.3
25	77	14.2



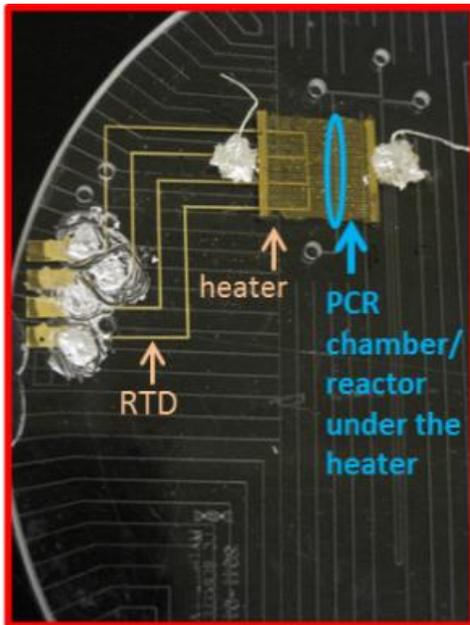
Precision Bio-interfaces



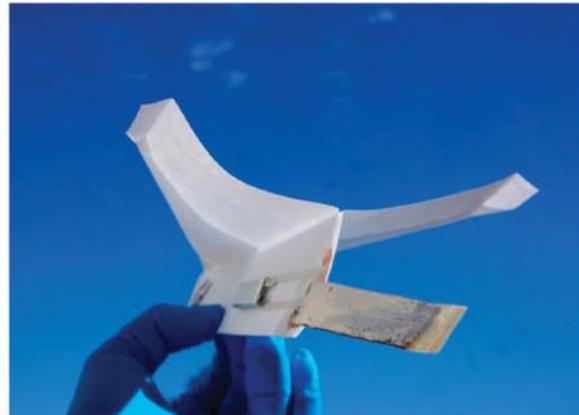
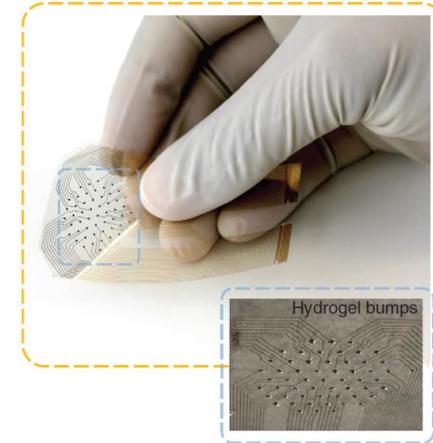
Swisher et al. *Nature communications* 6 (2015).
Khan, Yasser, et al. *Advanced Functional Materials* (2015).

Additive Integration of Intelligence

Additive Bioreactor
with integrated
printed valves, flow
channels, and
sensors



Printed pressure ulcer
detector (already in
clinical trials)



Intelligent
glider with
printed battery,
actuator, and
electronics

Where will additive micromanufacturing take us?

New complex precision systems with dense integration of functionality offering

- Lighter and more robust systems
- More cost-effective manufacturing
- New form-factors
- Design freedom