
The Circuit Frontier

**Innovating and Expanding ASIC Solutions
for Enhanced Biosensing & Seamless Wireless Communications**

Rabia Tugce Yazicigil

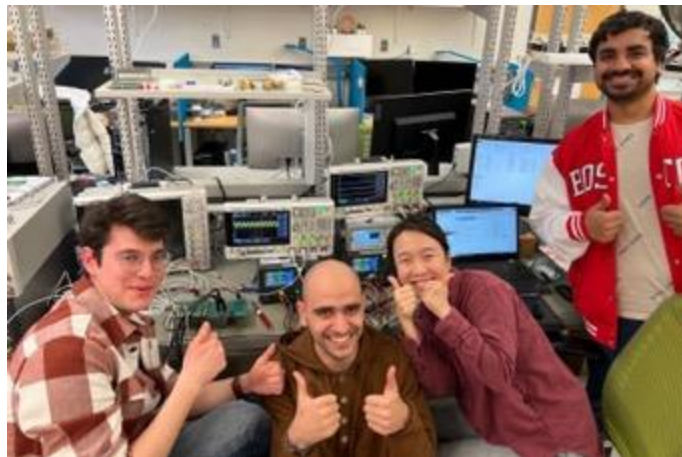
Wireless **I**ntegrated **S**ystems and **E**xtrême **C**ircuits Laboratory
Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, Boston University

Wireless Integrated Systems and Extreme Circuits WISE-Circuits Group



Energy-efficient ASICs

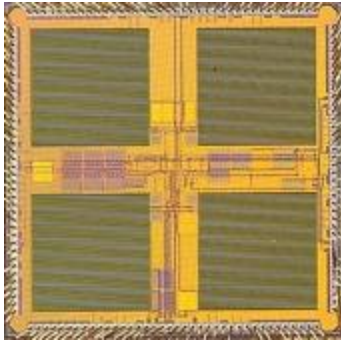
- Human Health
- Environment
- Sustainability
- Communications



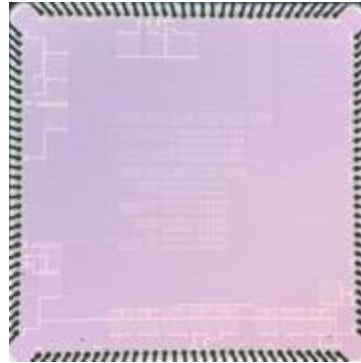
Embrace
Interdisciplinary
Collaborations

WISE-Circuits Custom-Designed Semiconductor Chips

Cyber-Secure Biological Systems



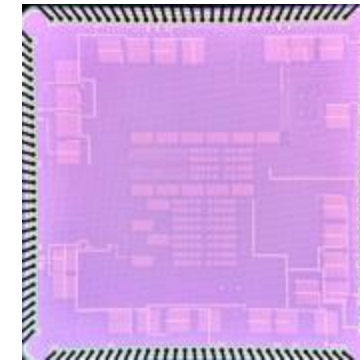
ISSCC SRP'21,
CICC'21, BioCAS'22
JSSC'23, Nature'23



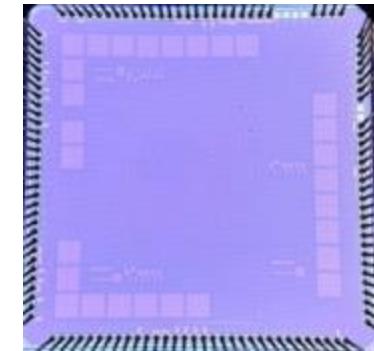
ISSCC SRP'23
Best Poster & Demo Award



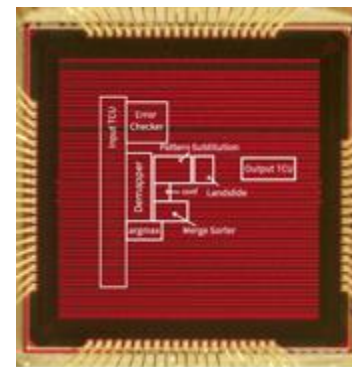
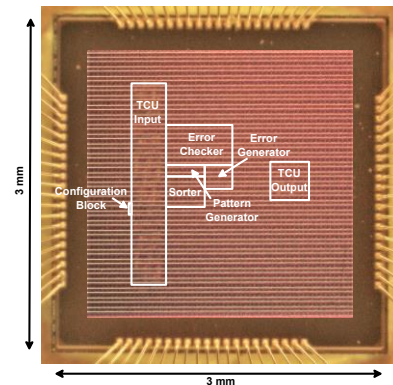
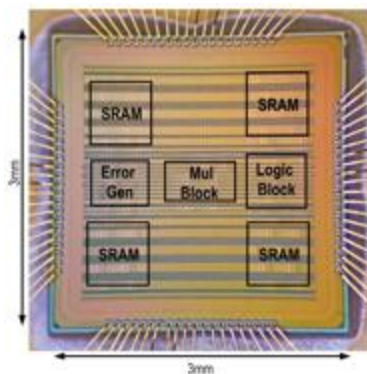
ISSCC'24
TBioCAS'24



ISSCC'24
TBioCAS'24



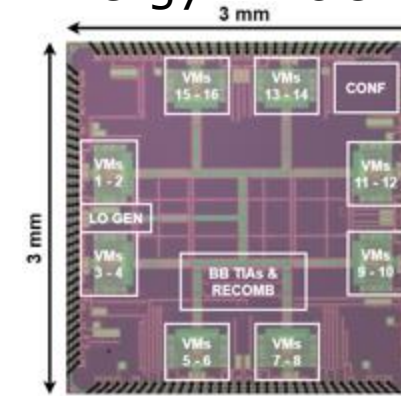
All-in-One Data Decoders



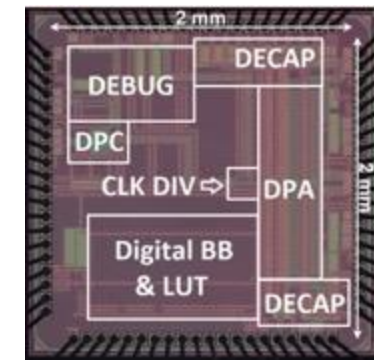
ISSCC SRP'21, ESSCIRC'21 ISSCC'23, JSSC'24 VLSI'25 - Under review

2x Best Demo Award

Energy-Efficient Wireless Systems



A-SSCC'23

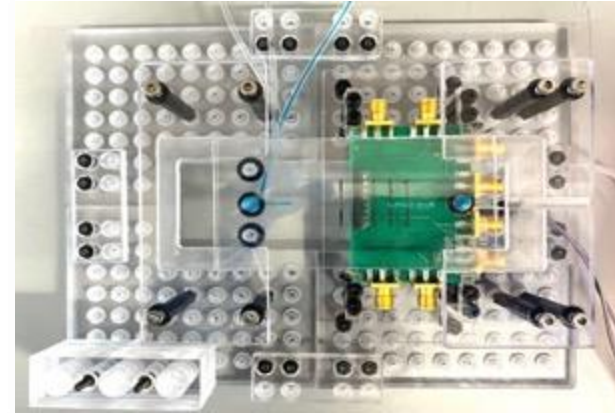


RFIC'25

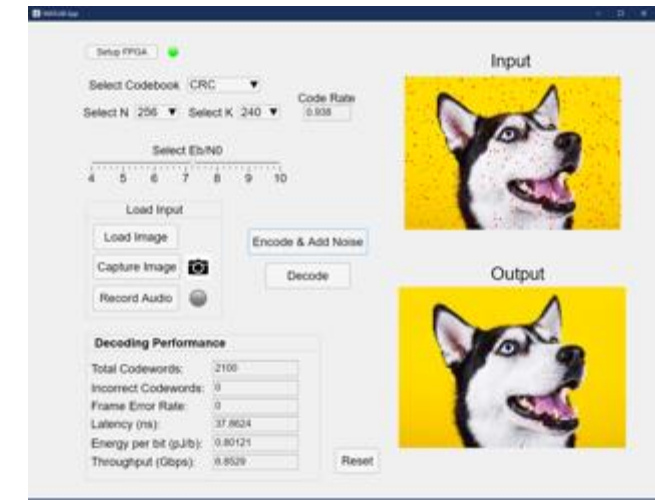
WISE-Circuits Integrated Hardware Demo Systems



ISSCC SRP'21, CICC'21, BioCAS'22
JSSC'23, Nature'23



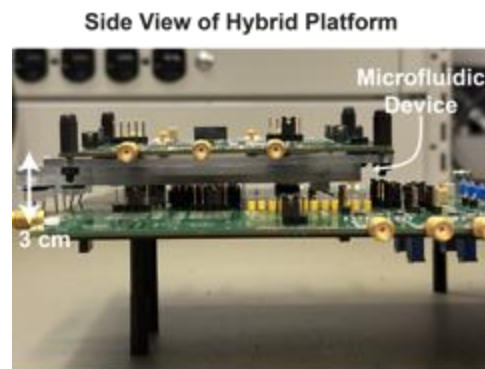
ISSCC SRP'23
Best Poster and Demo Award



ISSCC'23, JSSC'24
2x Best Demo Award



ISSCC'24, TBioCAS'24



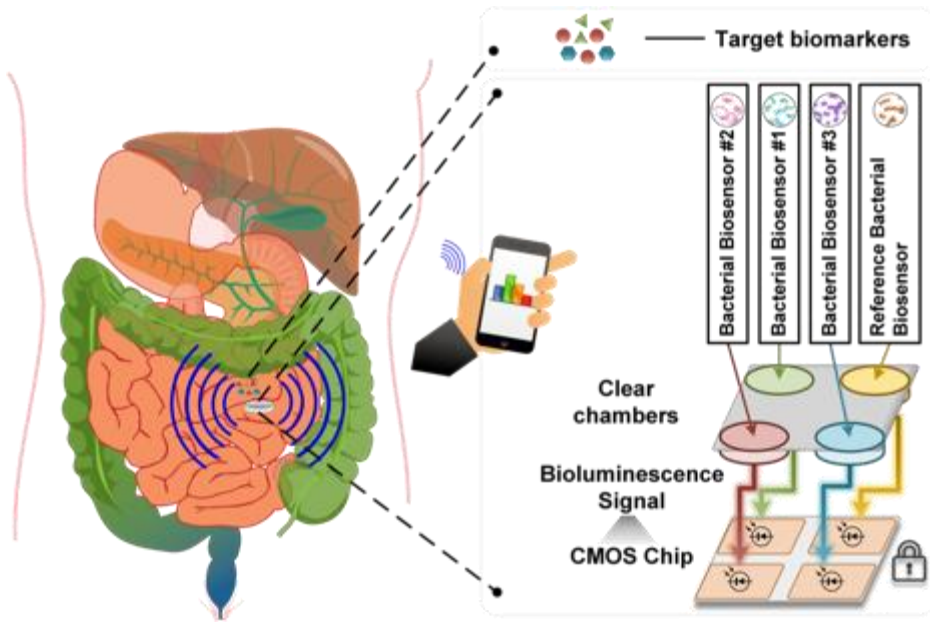
ISSCC'24, TBioCAS'24



ISSCC'24, TBioCAS'24

Cyber-Secure Biological Systems / All-in-One Data Decoders

Ingestible Bioengineered Capsule



Co-Design of Microfluidics & Custom Electronics for CSBS



Universal Decoder - GRAND



CYBER-SECURE BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS



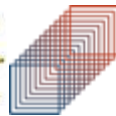
Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

THE LEONA M. AND HARRY B.
HELMSLEY
CHARITABLE TRUST



CATALYST FOUNDATION

Bridging science and electrical engineering through cross-disciplinary university-level research

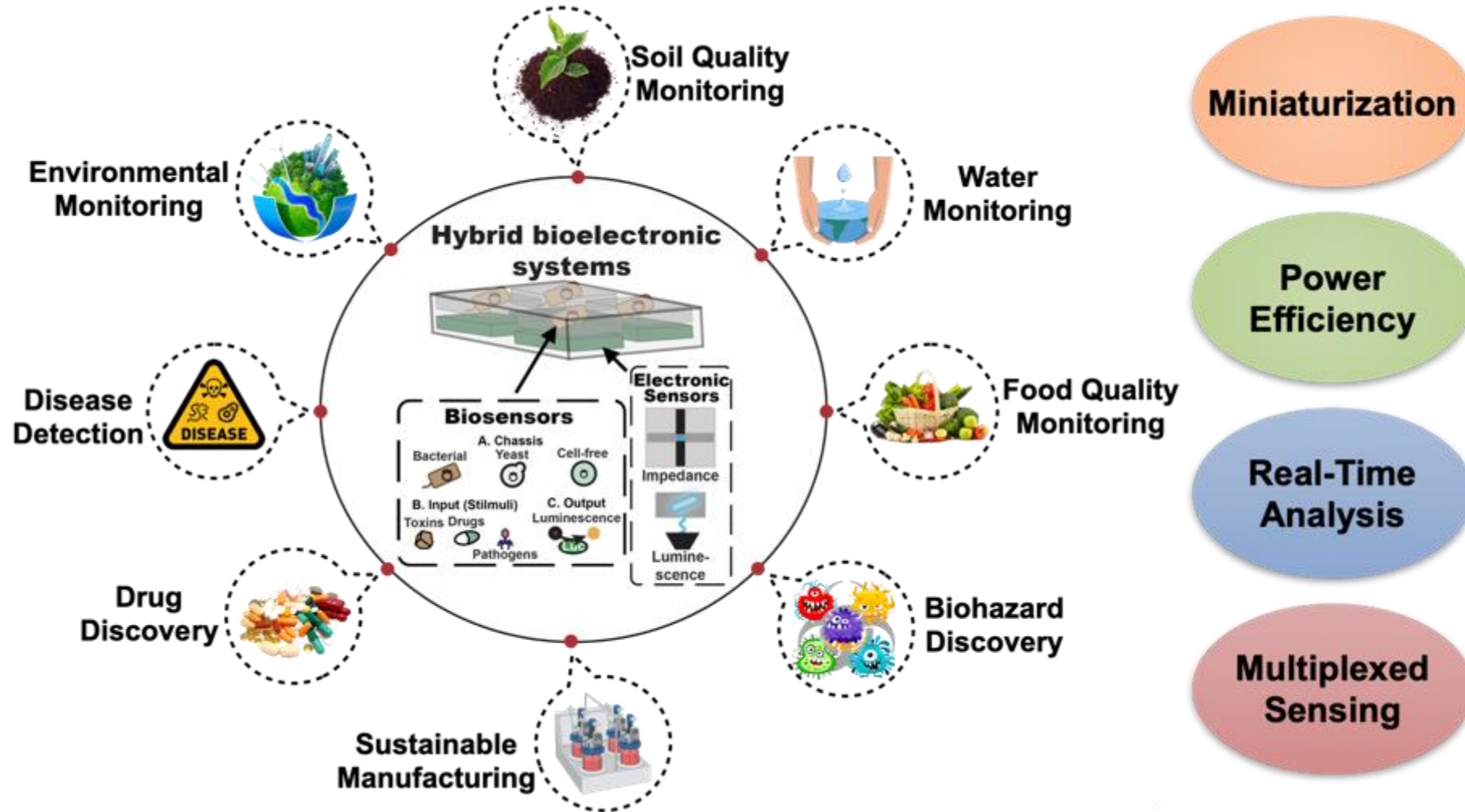


BioMADE

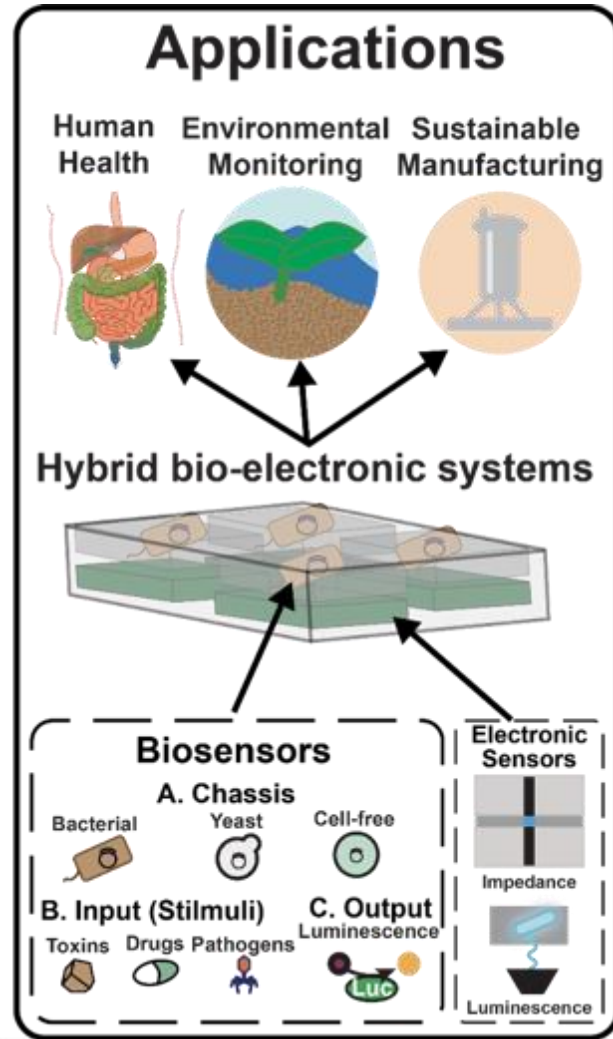


Semiconductor
Research
Corporation

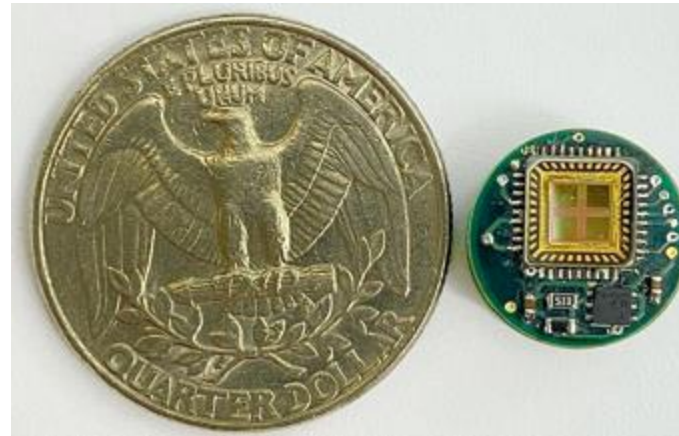
Cyber-Secure Biological Systems (CSBS)



Cyber-Secure Biological Systems (CSBS)



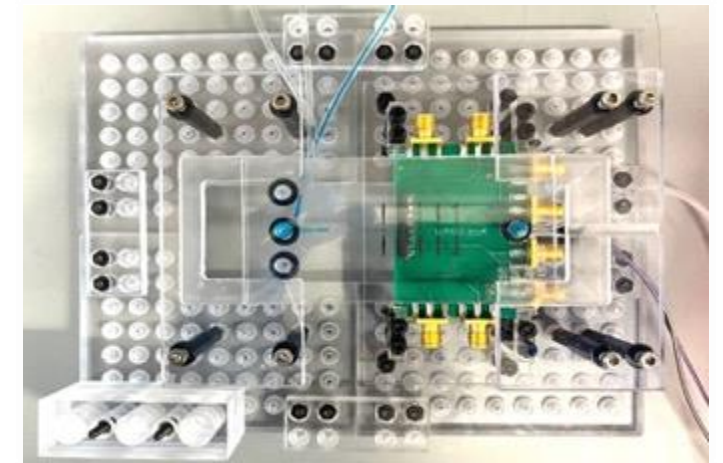
Ingestible Bioengineered Capsule



[ISSCC SRP'21, CICC' 21, BioCAS'22]
[JSSC'23, Nature'23]

Collaborators: Tim Lu (MIT BE/Senti Bio),
Gio Traverso (MIT MechE)
Funded by Helmsley Charitable Trust,
Catalyst Foundation, **NSF CAREER**

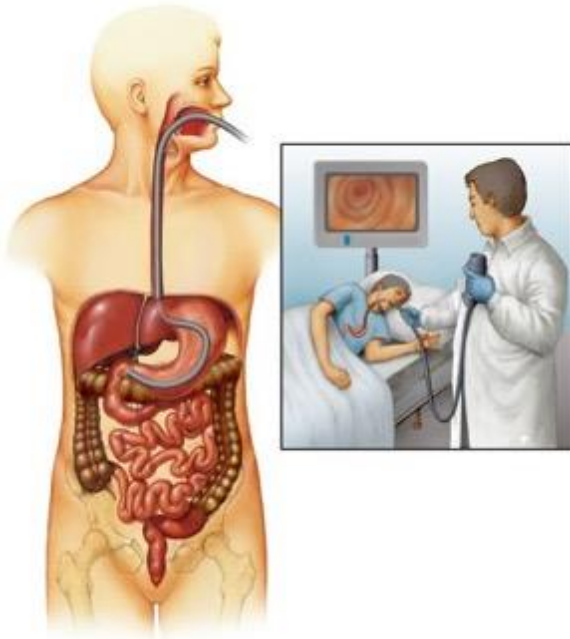
Co-Design of Microfluidics & Custom Electronics for CSBS



[ISSCC SRP'23, ISSCC'24, TBioCAS'24]

Collaborators: Douglas Densmore (BU ECE),
Mo Khalil (BU BME), Wilson Wong (BU BME)
Funded by NSF SemiSynBio-II,
Catalyst Foundation, SRC

Current Diagnostic Methods



- ☹ No biomarker measurement
- ☹ Invasive
- ☹ Non-real-time monitoring

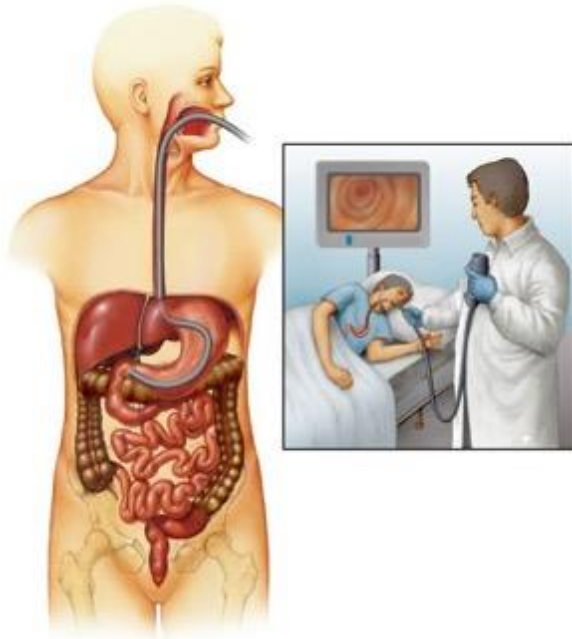


- 😊 Biomarker measurement
- 😊 Non-invasive
- ☹ Non-real-time monitoring



- ☹ No biomarker measurement
- 😊 Non-invasive
- 😊 Real-time monitoring

Current Diagnostic Methods



- ☹ No biomarker measurement
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- 😊 Biomarker measurement
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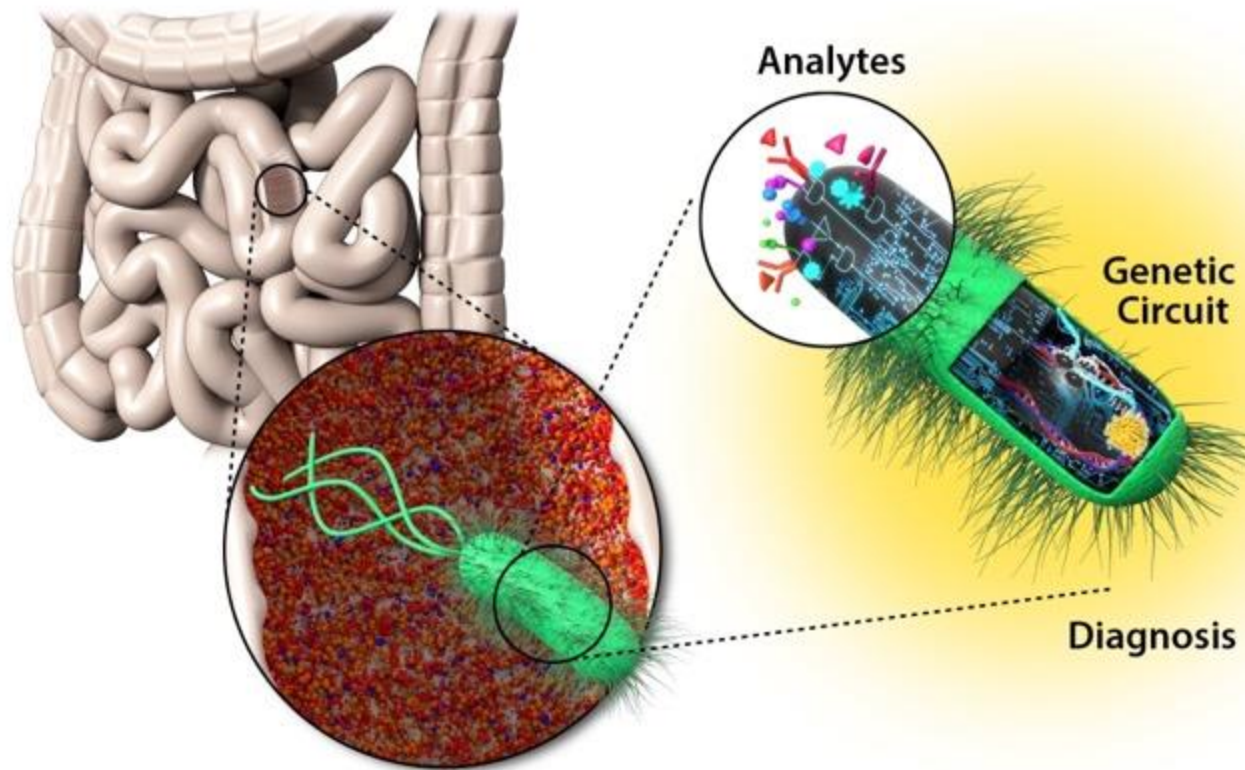
Future



Inda, et al. JACI 2019

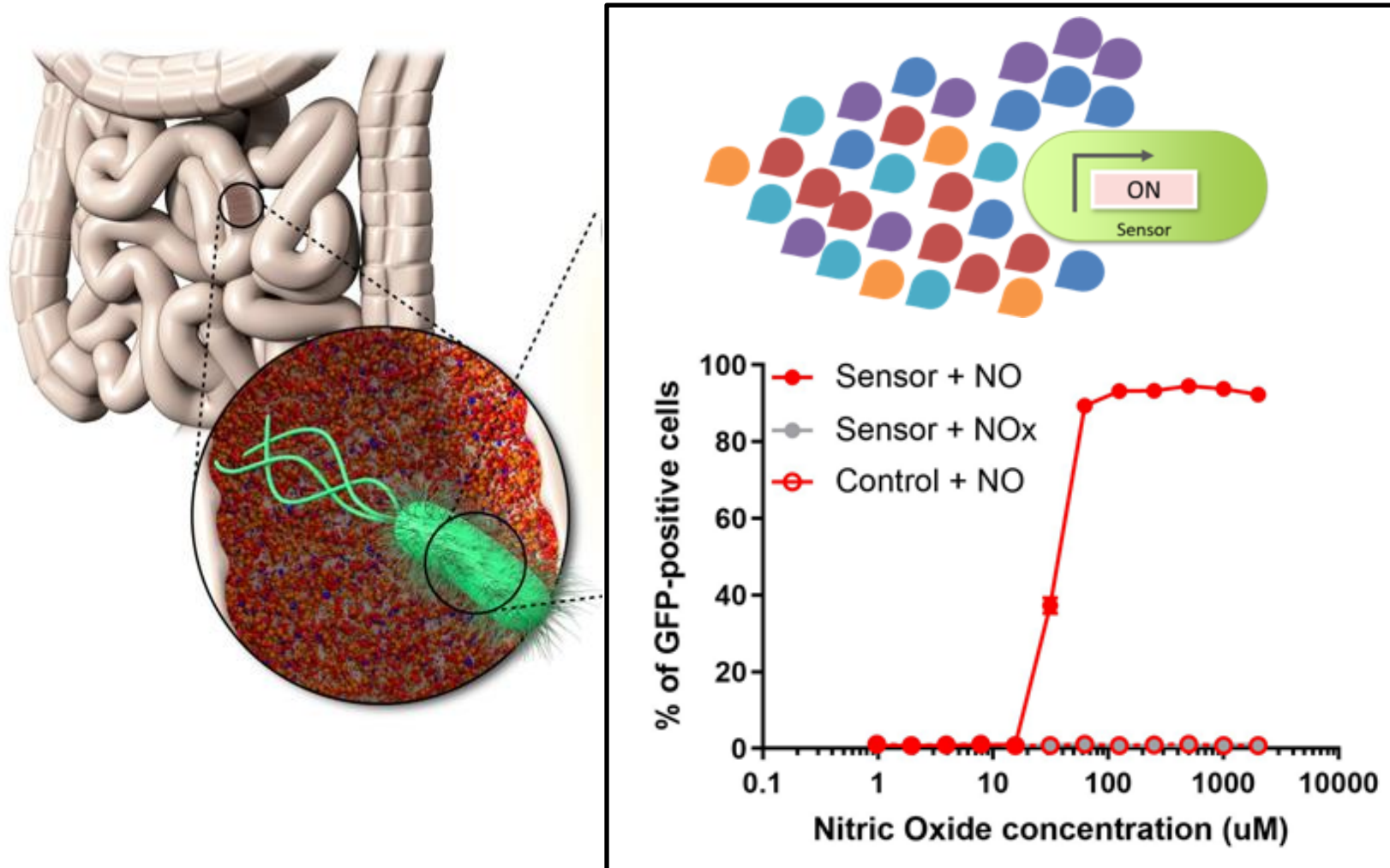
- 😊 Labile disease-mediating molecular measurement
- 😊 Non-invasive
- 😊 Real-time monitoring

Genetically-Engineered Bacterial Sensors

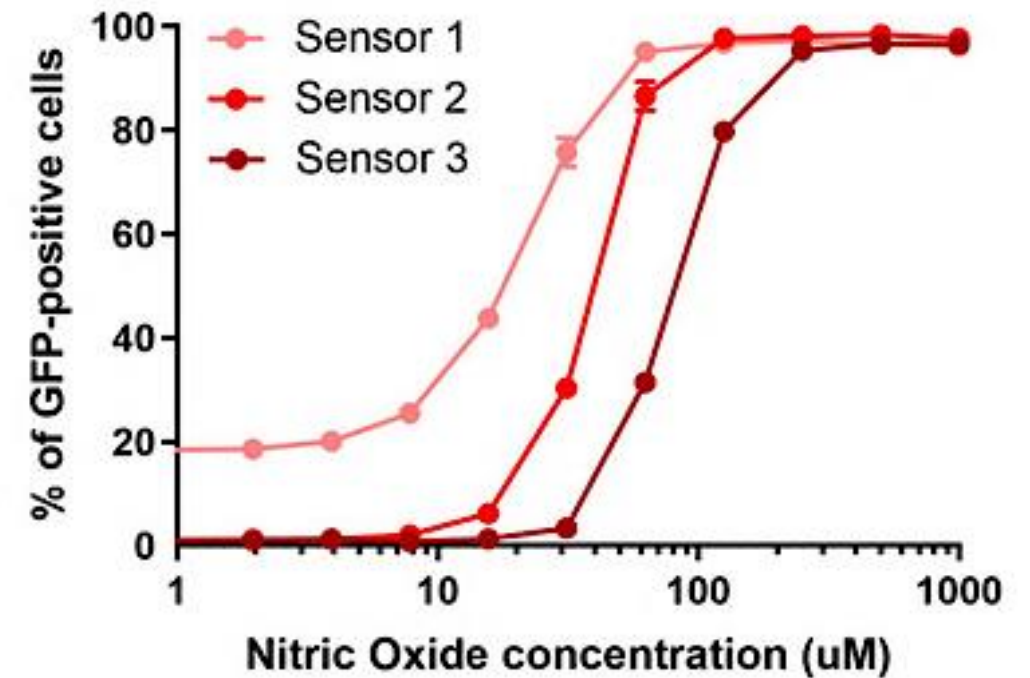
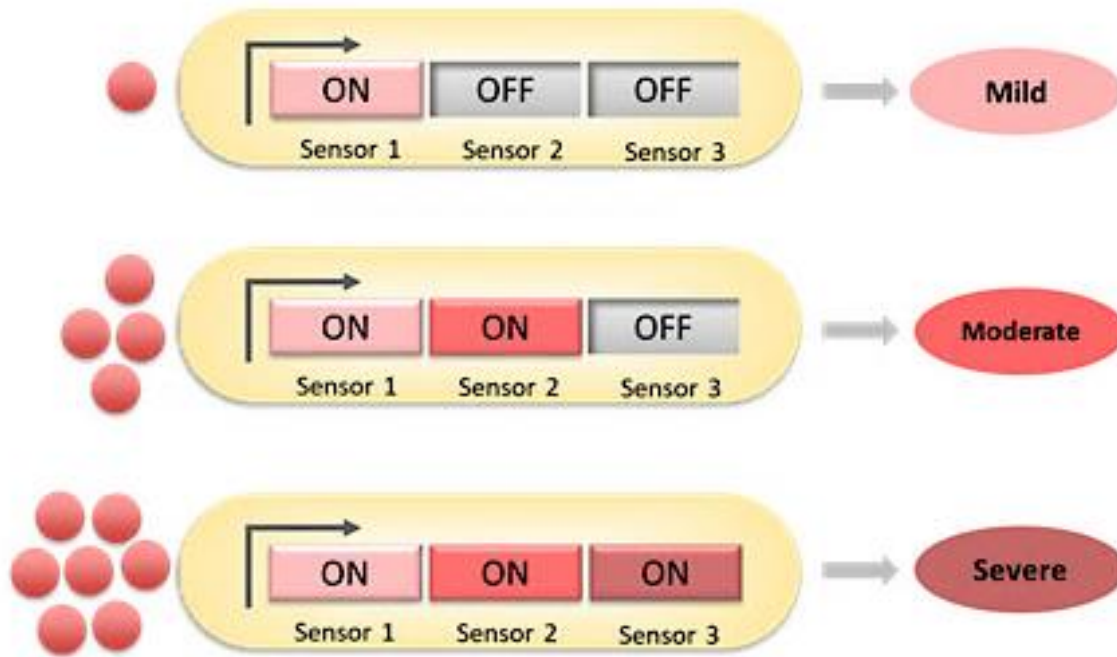




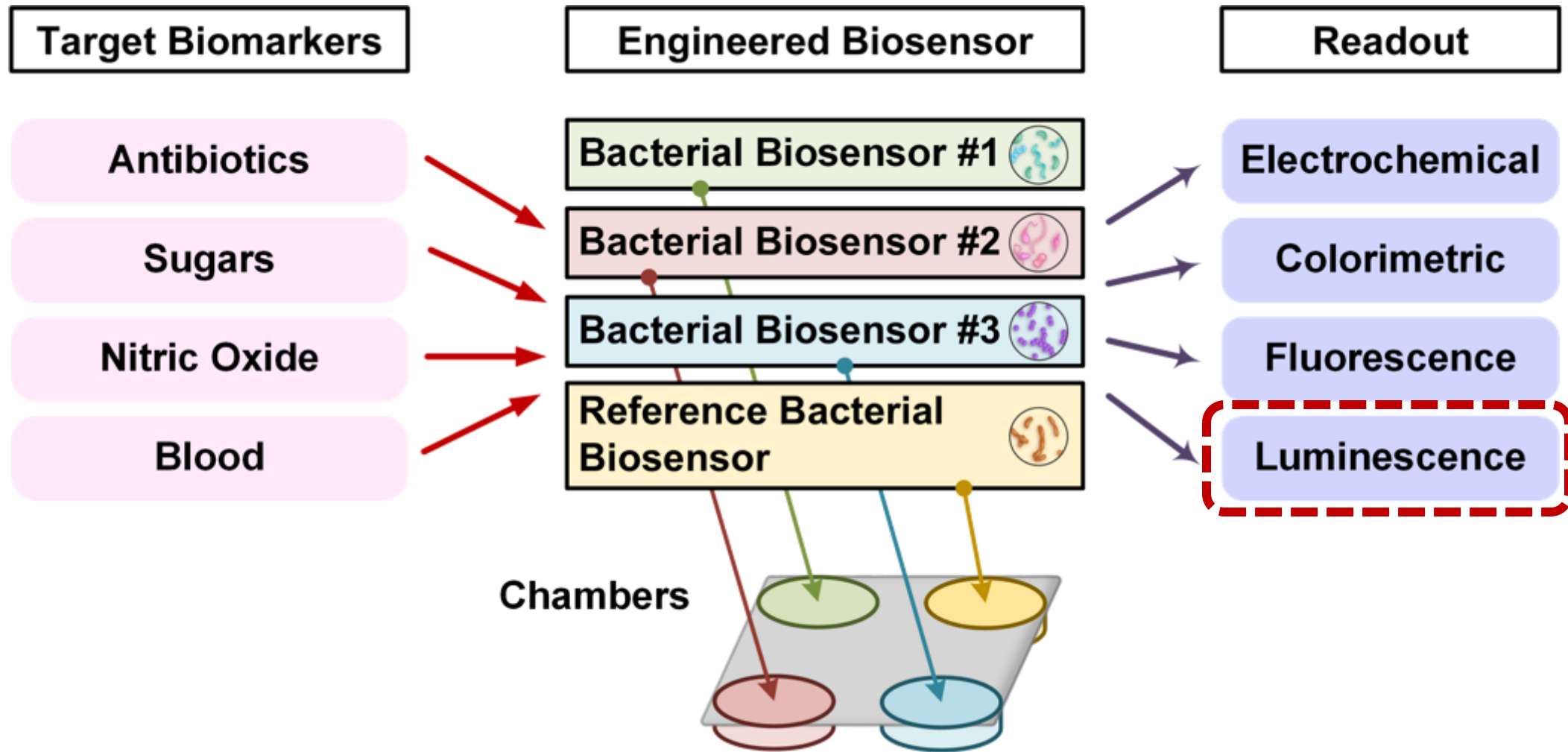
Digital Biosensor for Nitric Oxide



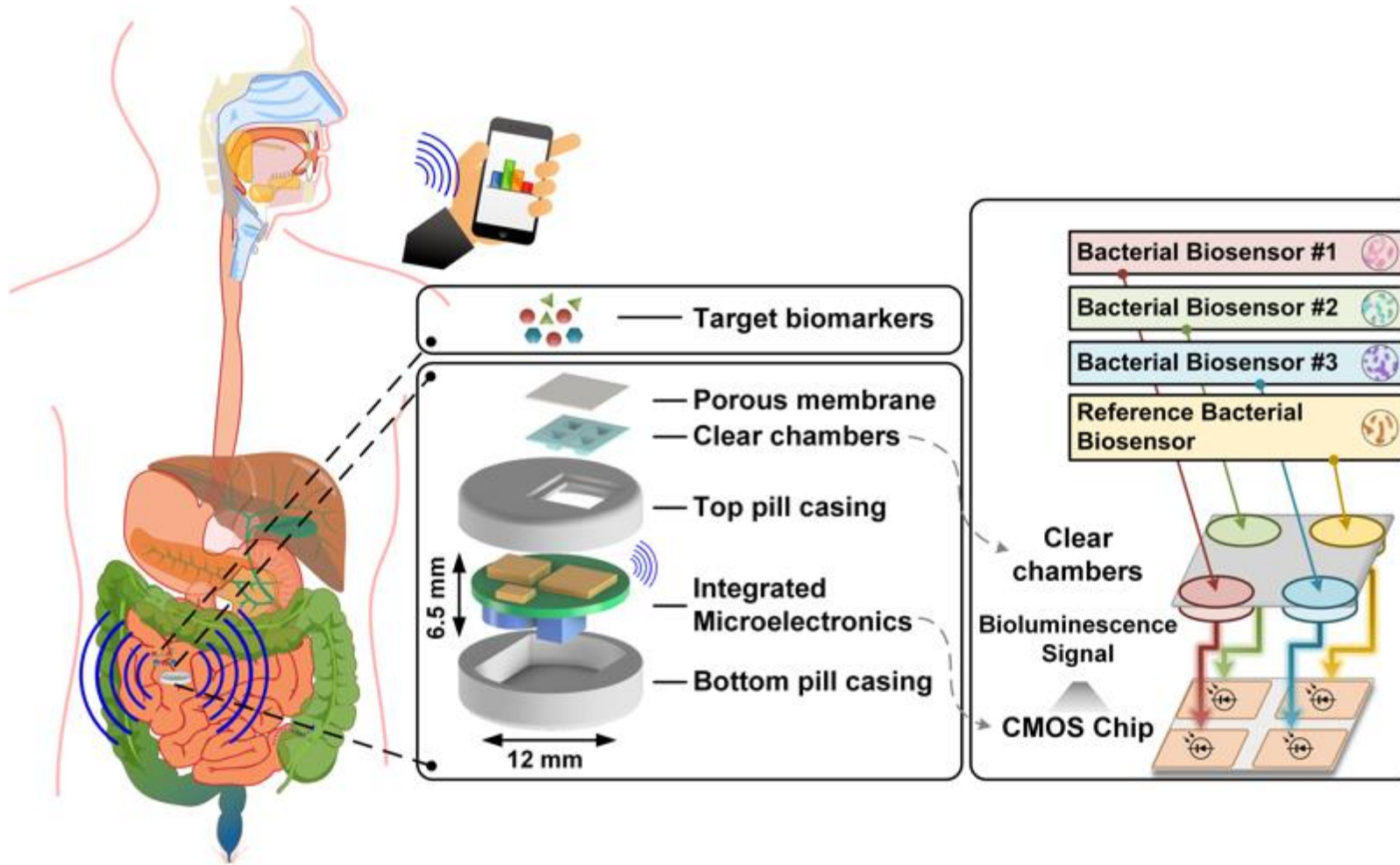
Disease-Stage Detector: Mild, Moderate, Severe



Biological Sensors and Readout



Disease Diagnosis and Monitoring Synthetic Biology & Hardware Coupling

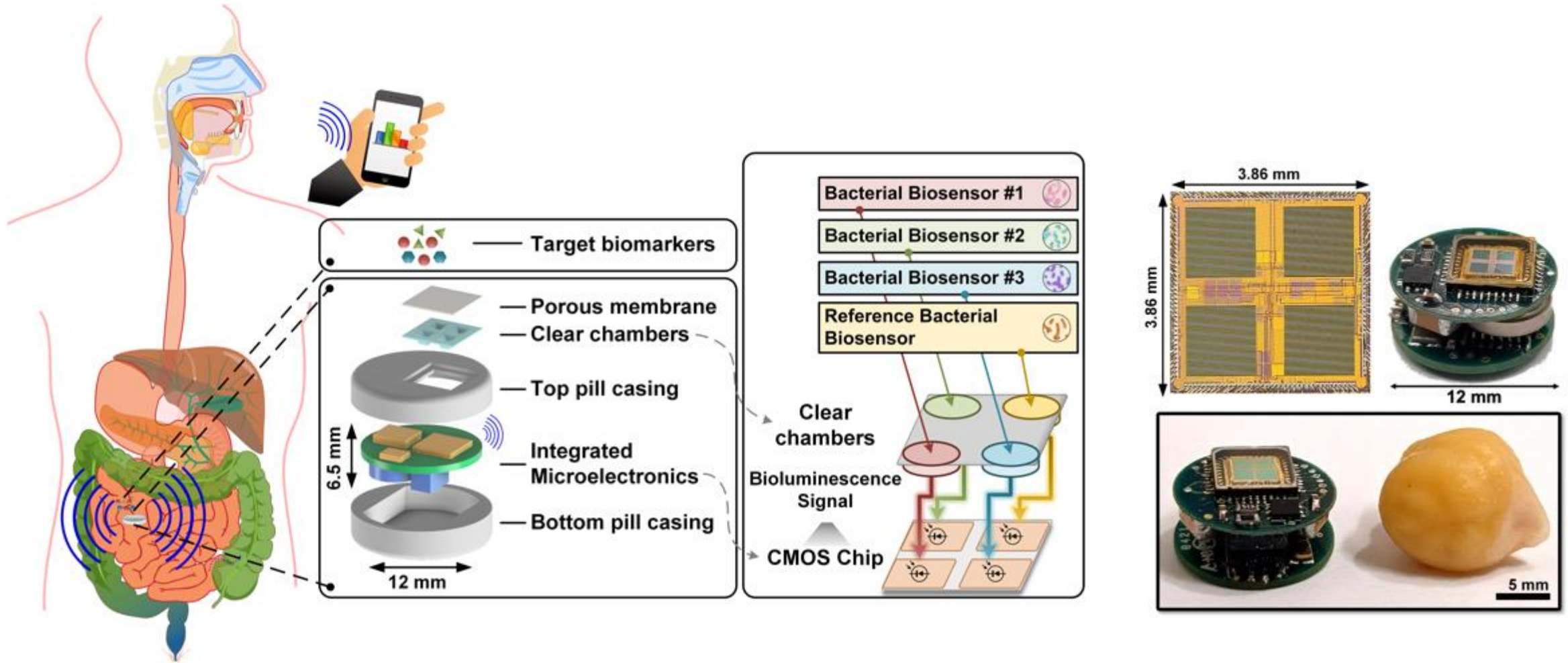


Q. Liu, et al., "Zero-Crossing-Based Bio-Engineered Sensors," IEEE CICC, 2021.

Q. Liu, et al., "A Threshold-based Bioluminescence Detector with a CMOS-Integrated Photodiode Array in 65 nm for a Multi-Diagnostic Ingestible Capsule," **IEEE JSSC**, 2023.

M.E. Inda-Webb, M. Jimenez, Q. Liu, et al., "Sub-1.4 cm³ capsule for detecting labile inflammatory biomarkers in situ," **Nature**, 2023.

Disease Diagnosis and Monitoring Synthetic Biology & Hardware Coupling



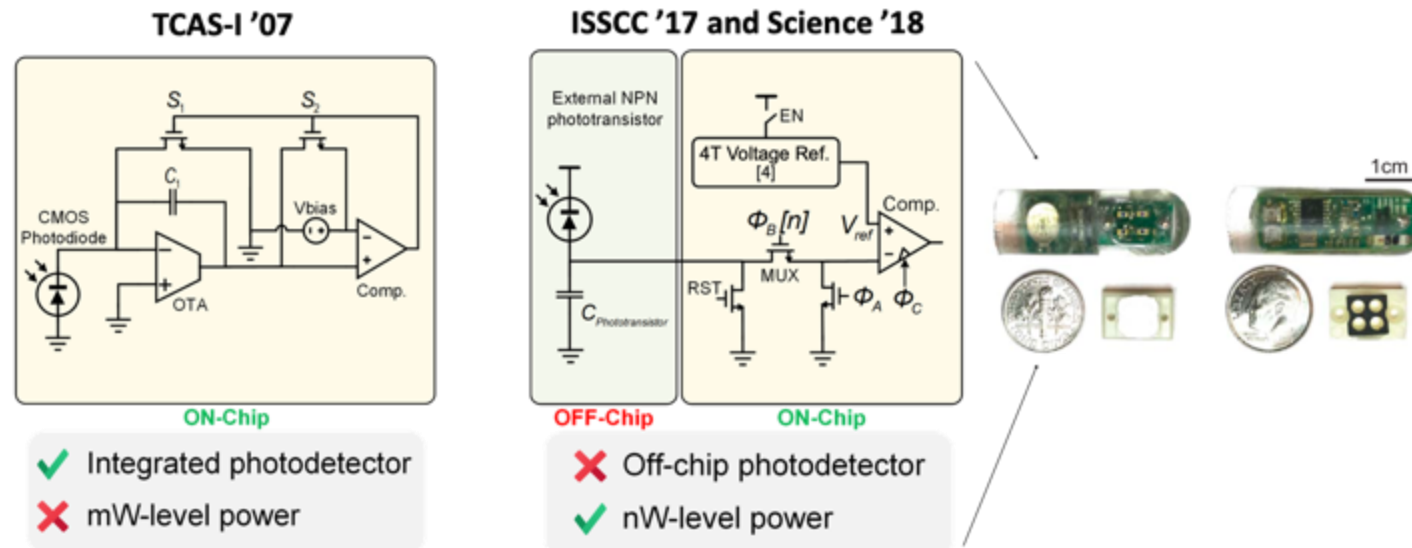
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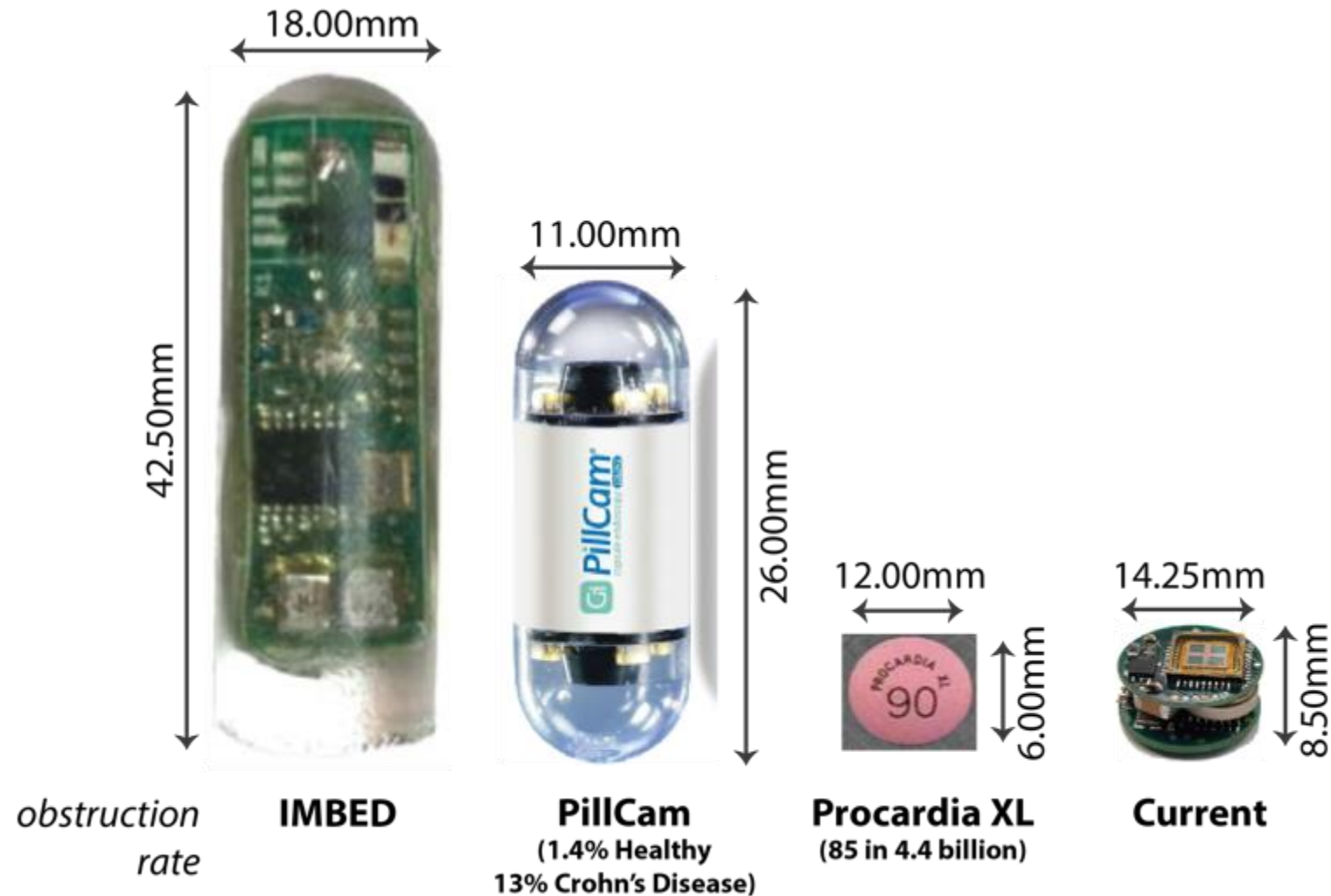
M.E. Inda-Webb, M. Jimenez, Q. Liu, et al., "Sub-1.4 cm³ capsule for detecting labile inflammatory biomarkers in situ," **Nature**, 2023.

Luminescence Readout Systems

		Power level	Source	Size
Commercial		Watt	Wall-plug	m scale
Research		Milliwatt Nanowatt	Battery	cm scale



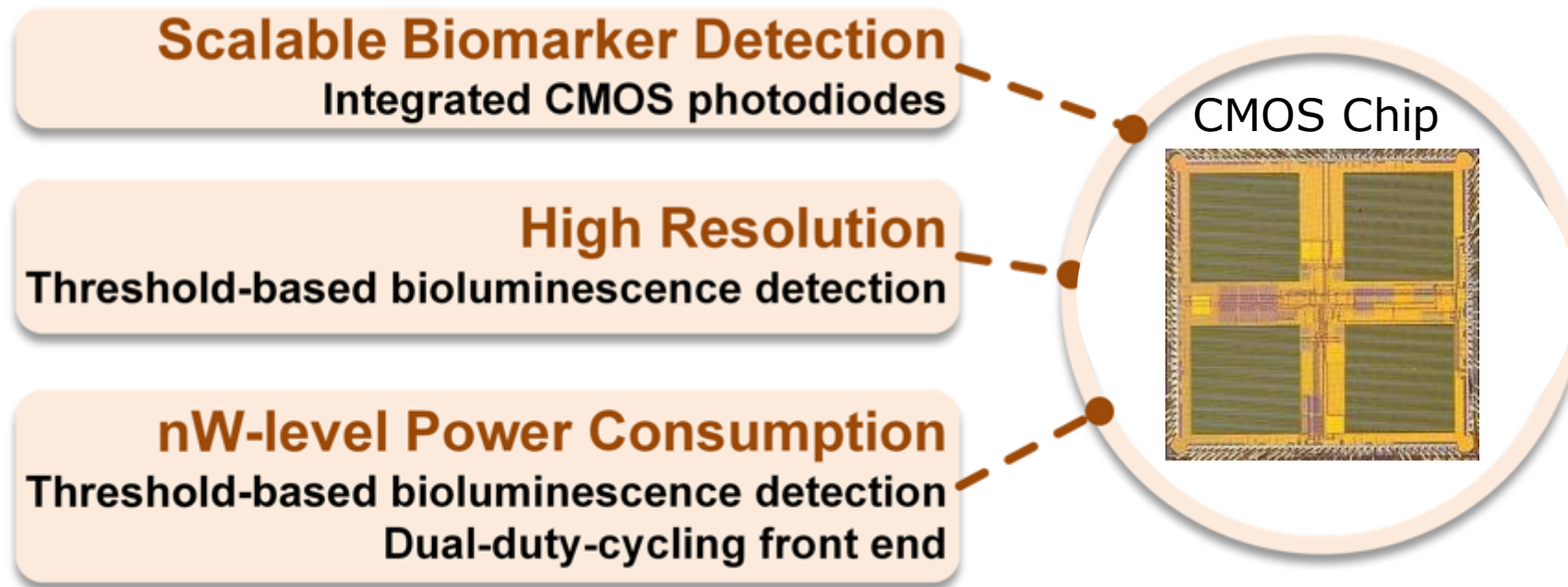
Ingestible Capsule Miniaturization



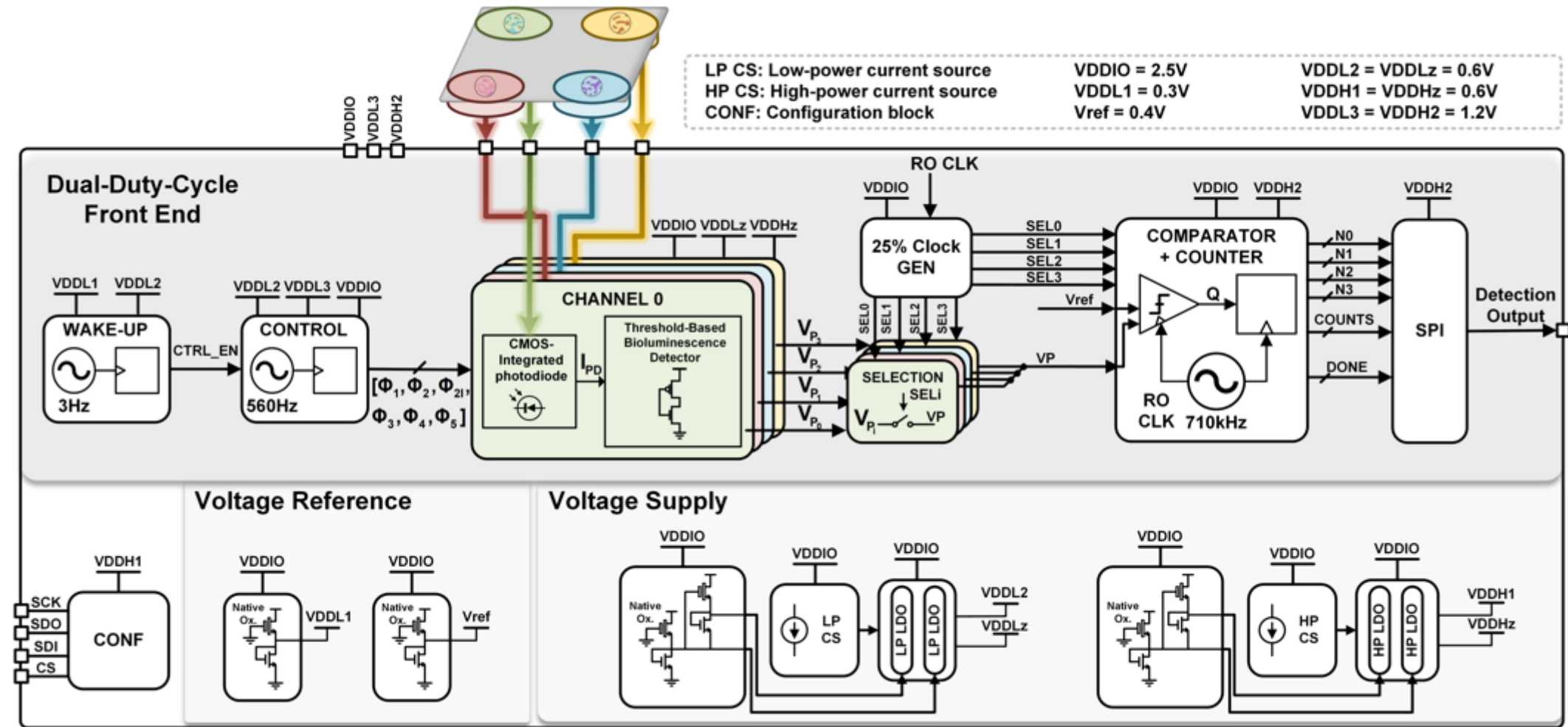
The Future is Now: Luminescence Readout Systems

		Power level	Source	Size
Commercial		Watt	Wall-plug	m scale
Research		Milliwatt Nanowatt	Battery	cm scale
Future		Nanowatt	Energy Harvesting	mm scale

Custom Integrated Bioluminescence Detector



Threshold-Based Bioluminescence Detector

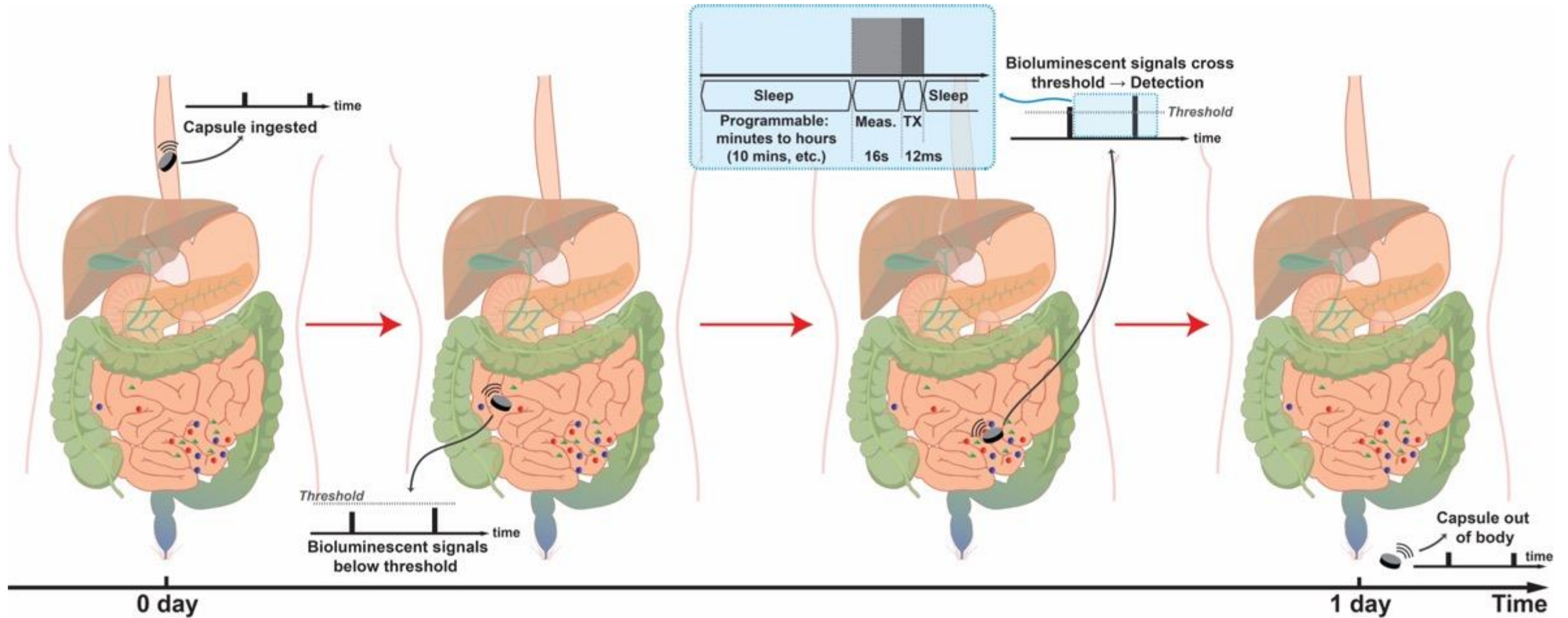


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M.E. Inda-Webb, M. Jimenez, Q. Liu, et al., "Sub-1.4 cm³ capsule for detecting labile inflammatory biomarkers in situ," **Nature**, 2023.

Dual-Duty-Cycling Front End

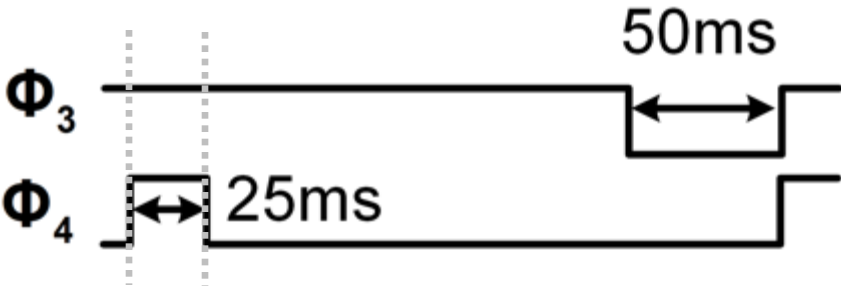


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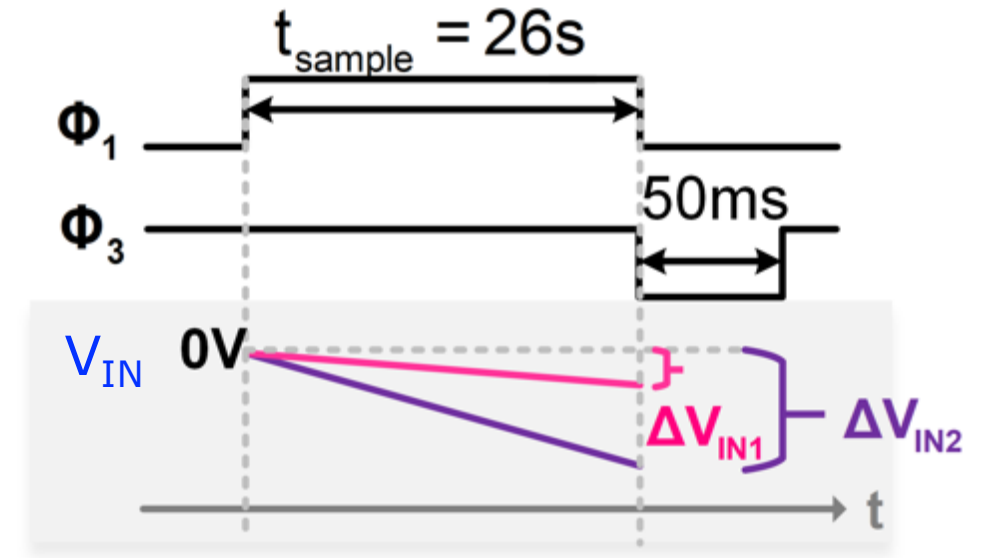
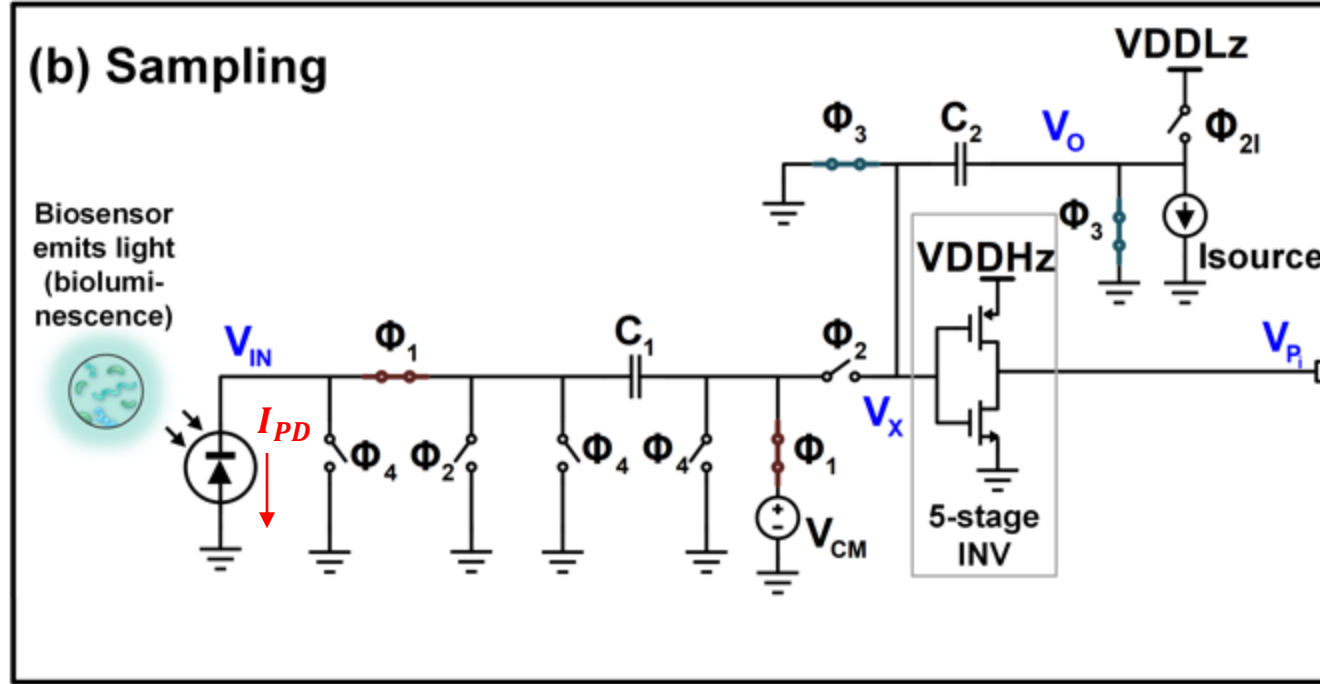
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Operational Phases: Sampling



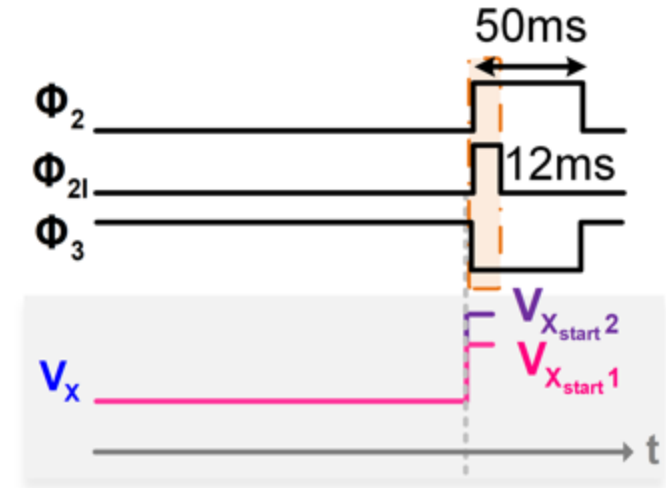
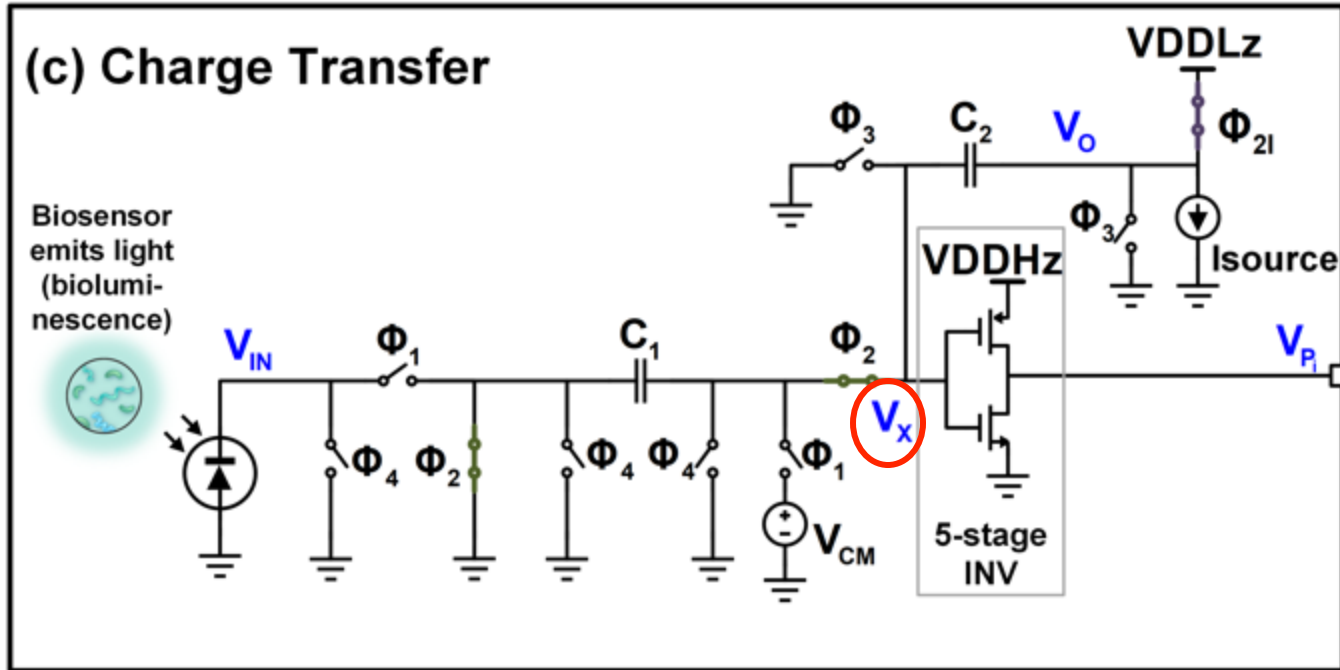
$$I_{PD1} < I_{PD2} \Rightarrow \Delta V_{IN1} < \Delta V_{IN2}$$

$$\Delta V_{IN} = \frac{I_{PD} \cdot t_{Sample}}{C_{PD}}$$

$$Q_{Sample} = C_1 \cdot (V_{CM} + \Delta V_{IN})$$

$$C_1 = 20pF \quad C_2 = 5pF$$

Operational Phases: Charge Transfer



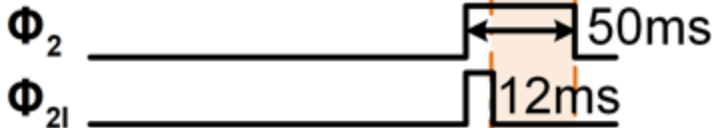
$$I_{PD1} < I_{PD2} \Rightarrow V_{Xstart1} < V_{Xstart2}$$

$$Q_{Transfer} = C_1 \cdot V_X + C_2(V_X - V_{DD})$$

$$Q_{Sample} = Q_{Transfer}$$

$$V_{Xstart} = \frac{(V_{CM} + \Delta V_{IN}) \cdot C_1 + V_{DD} \cdot C_2}{C_1 + C_2}$$

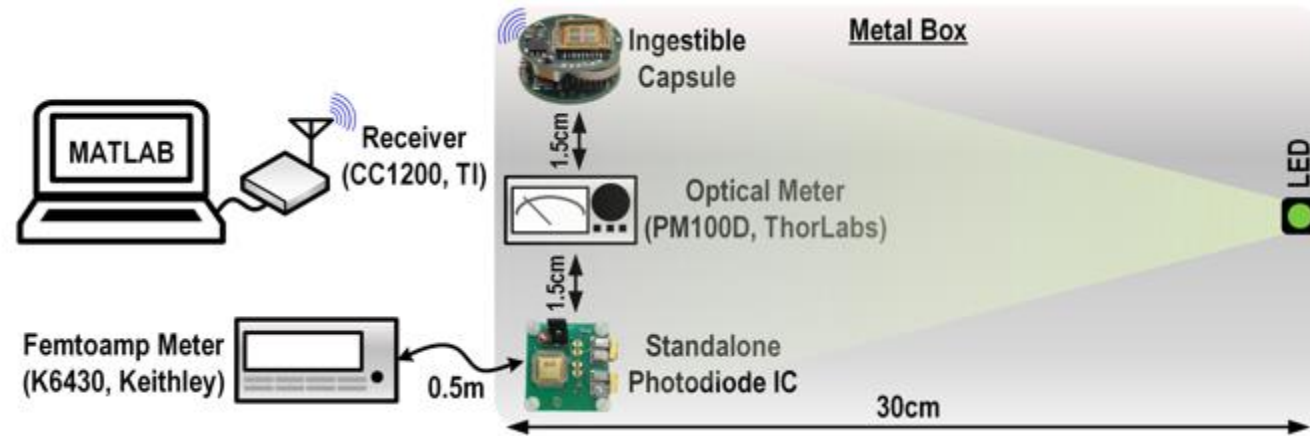
$$V_O = V_{DD} = 600 \text{ mV} \quad V_{CM} = 300 \text{ mV}$$



$$\frac{dV_o}{dt} = \frac{I_{source}}{C_1 || C_2} = \frac{I_{source}}{C_1 \cdot C_2} (C_1 + C_2)$$

$$\frac{dV_X}{dt} = \frac{I_{source}}{C_1} \quad I_{source} = 320pA$$

Optical Characterization

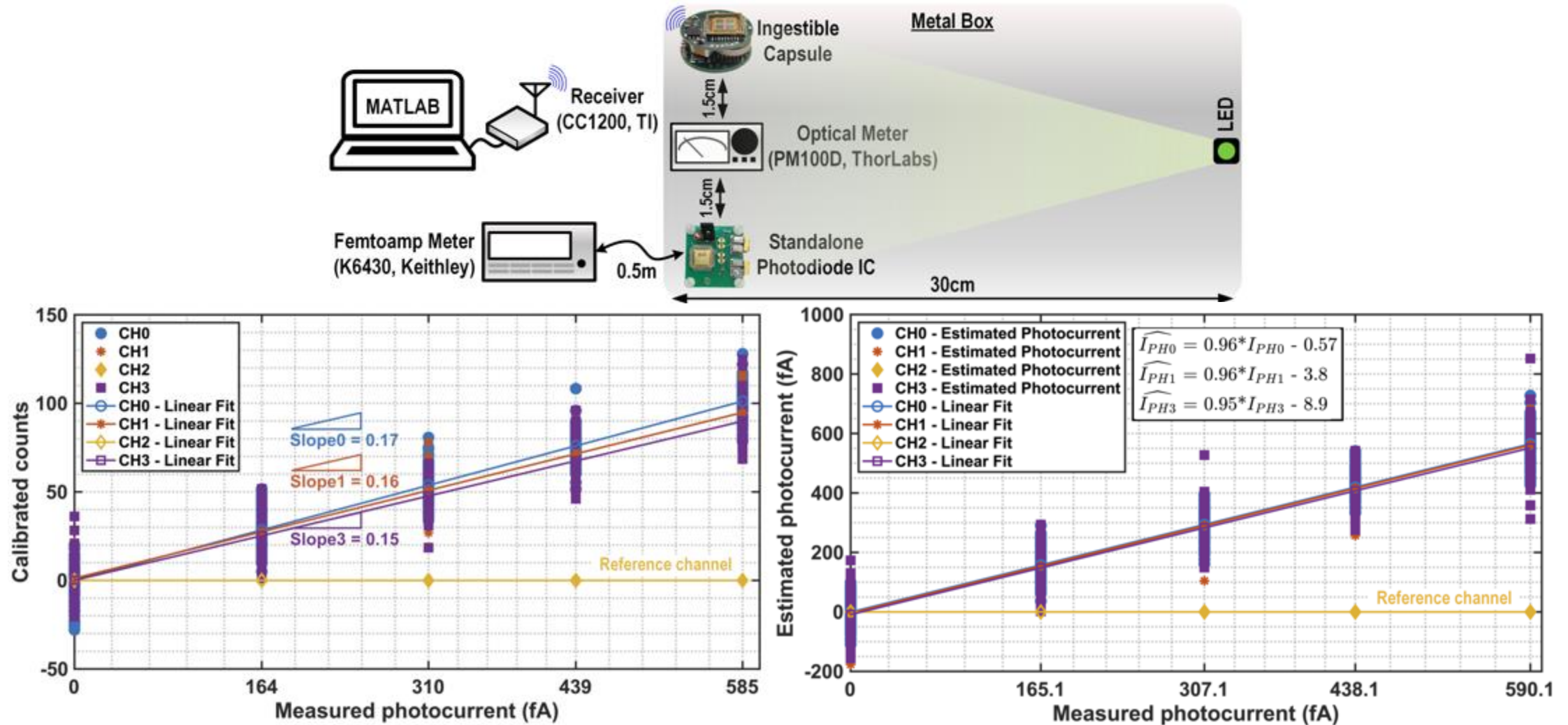


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Optical Characterization



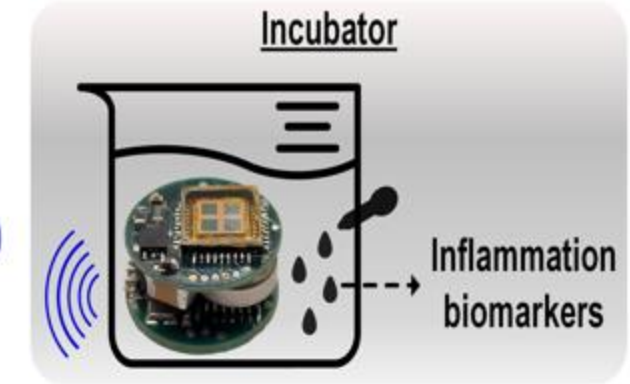
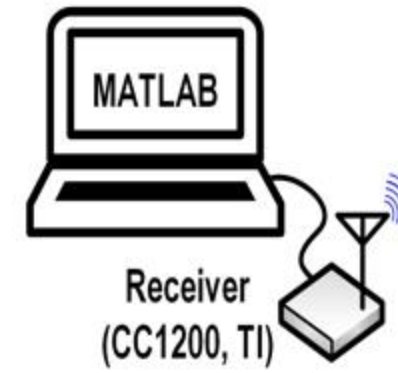
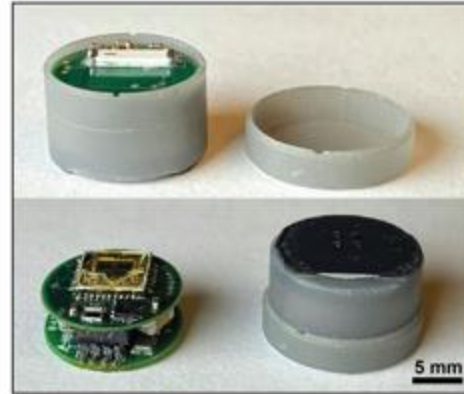
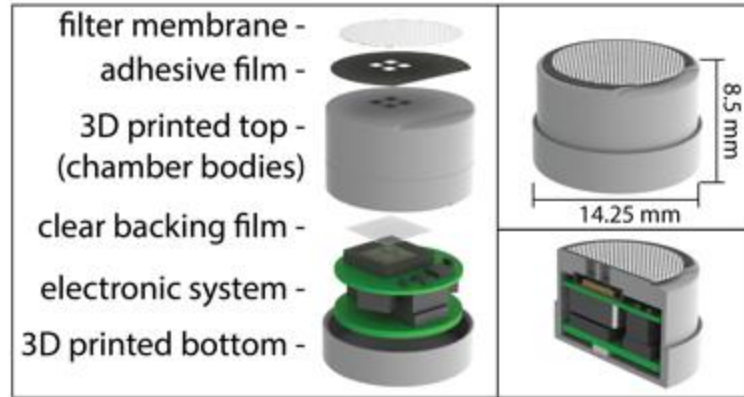
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In-Vitro Measurements

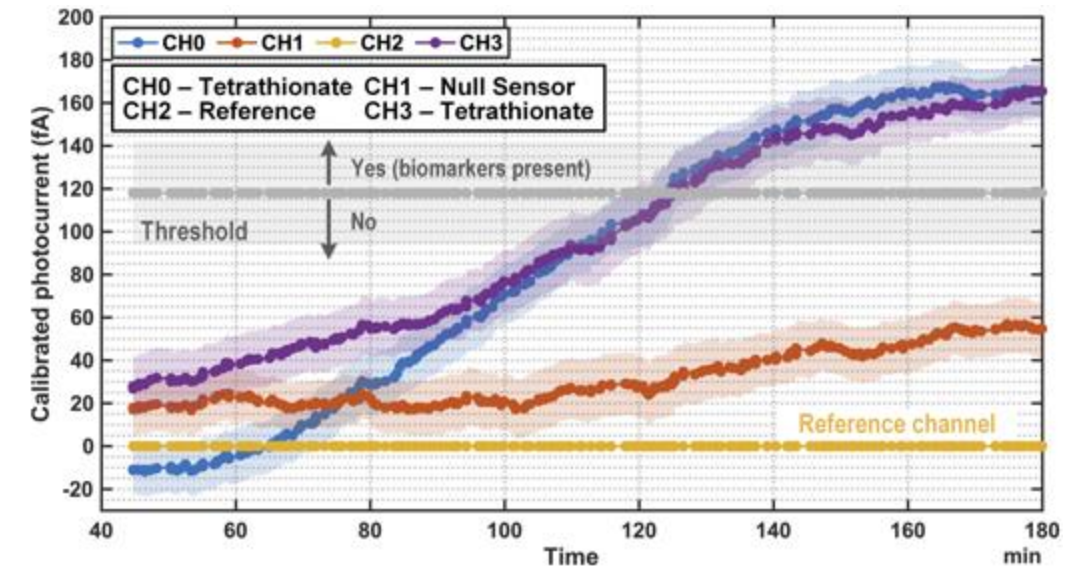
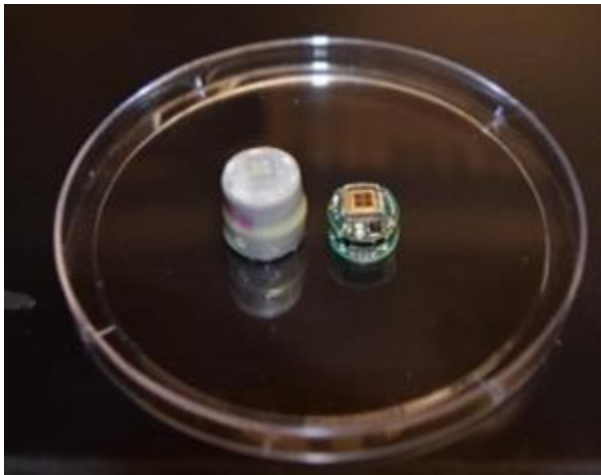
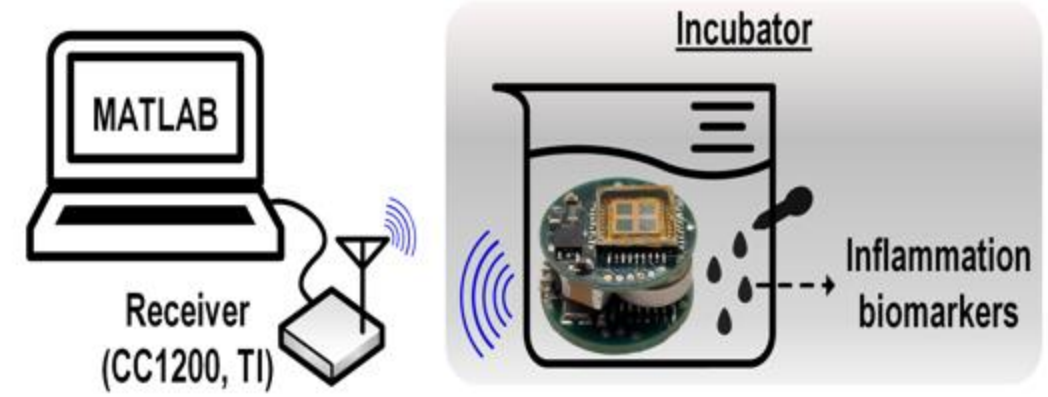
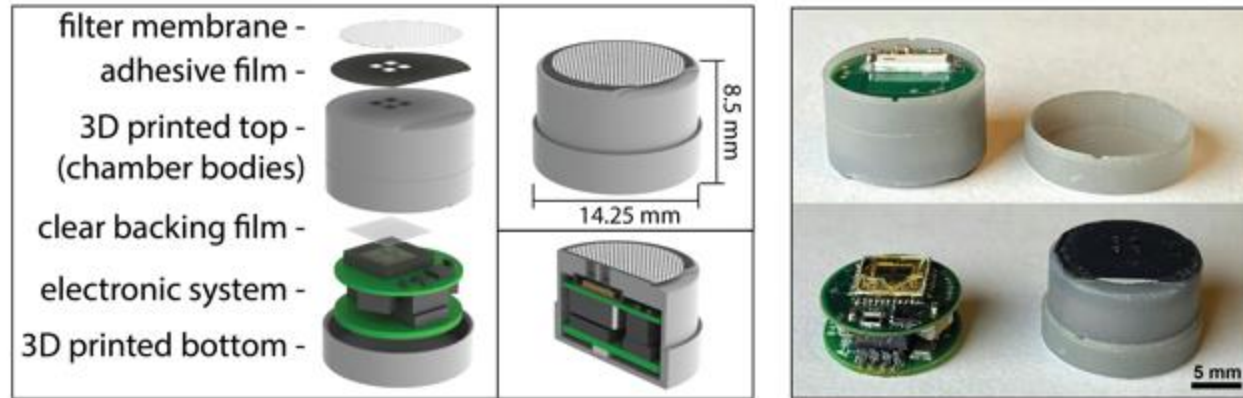


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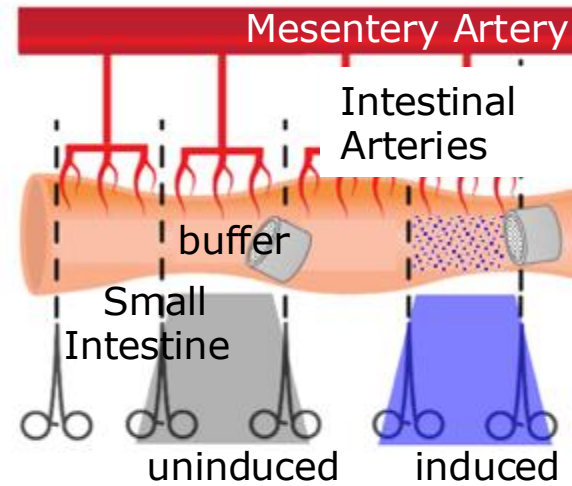
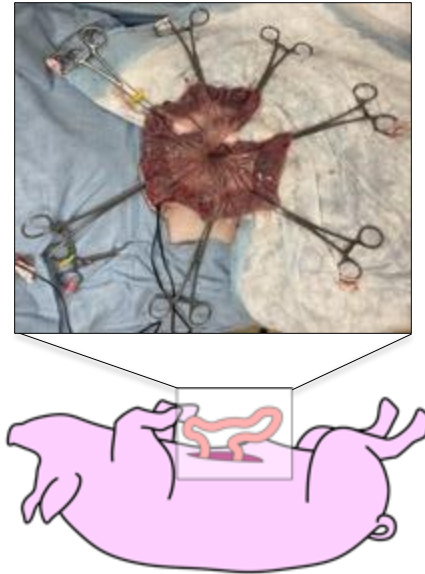


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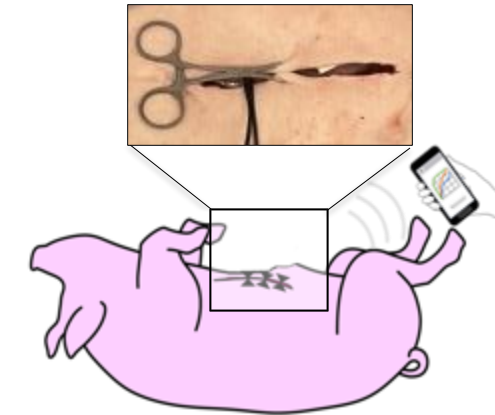
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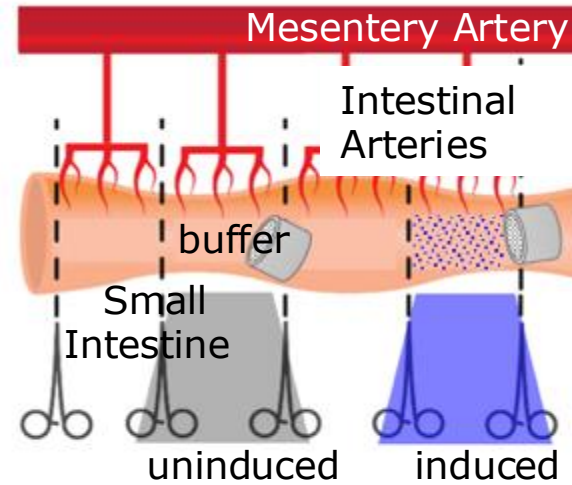
In-Vivo Measurements



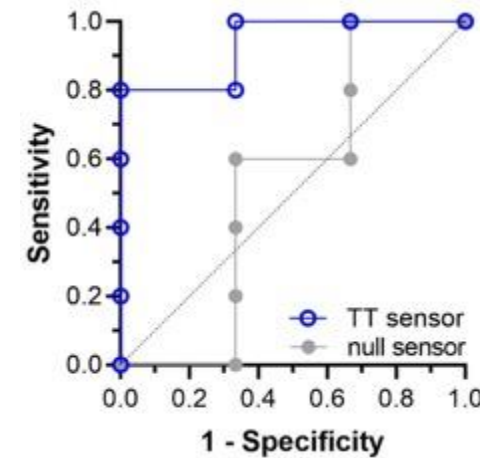
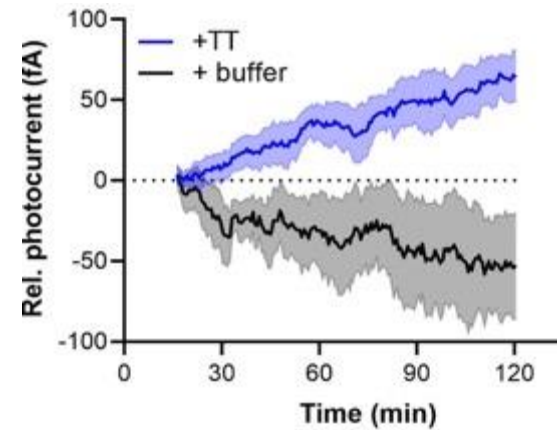
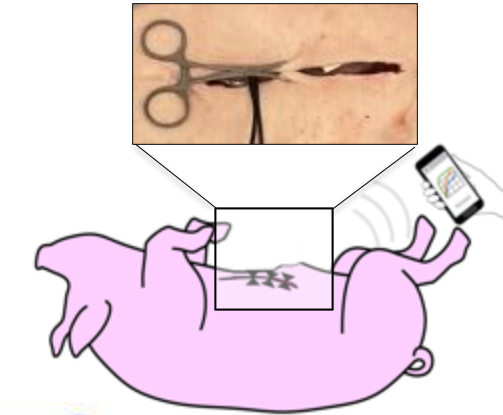
Compartmentalized intestine
with the devices inside the
abdomen
37°C



In-Vivo Measurements



Compartmentalized intestine
with the devices inside the
abdomen
37°C



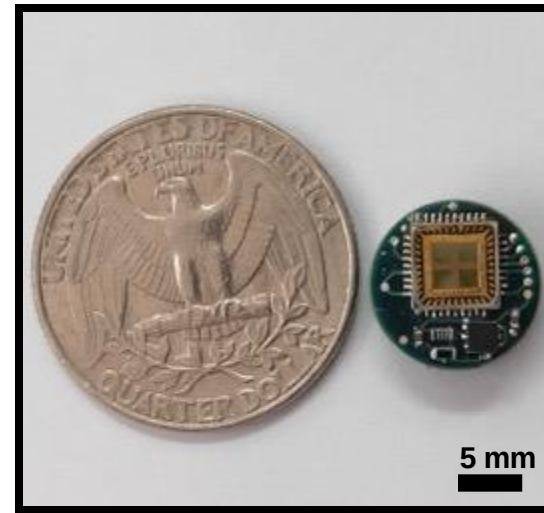
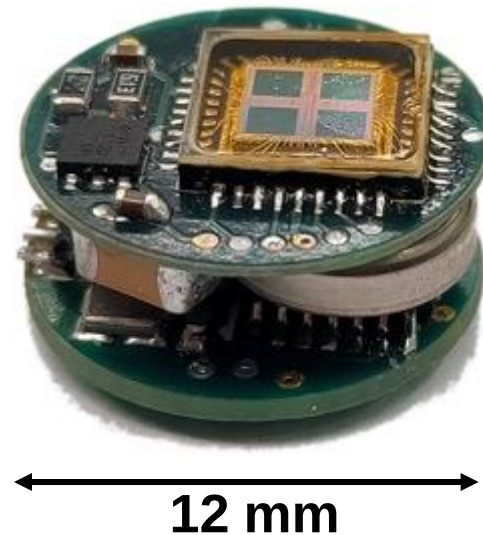
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Conclusions

- Threshold-based bioluminescence detection with a dual-duty-cycling front end
- fA-level photocurrent detection with **5.4x lower minimum detectable signal** and **2.1x higher resolution** in a mm-scale capsule (**6.4x smaller volume**)
- **59nW** active power consumption for the custom integrated photodetector readout
- **Multiplexed labile** biomarker detection via a **mm-scale capsule** for continuous and minimally-invasive disease monitoring in the gastrointestinal tract



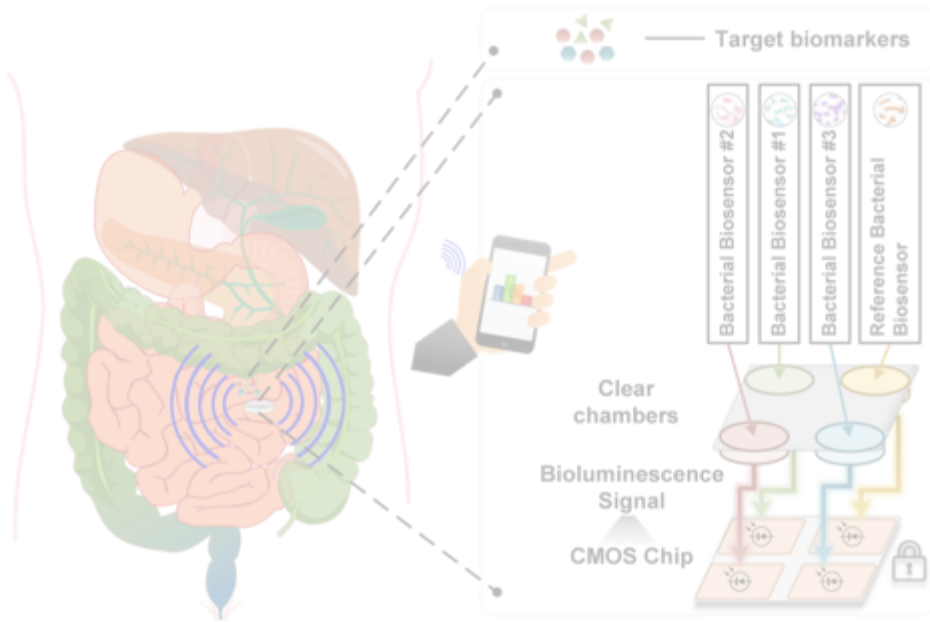
What's Next?

- Ultra-low-power custom wireless transmitter:
 - 138nW for 232 bits per 26 seconds*
 - Using a crystal-less MICS TX consuming 15.5nJ/bit at 200kb/s*
- Multi-modal sensing and calibration
- Security assessment of the ingestible devices
- Embedding security via low-power hardware solutions



Cyber-Secure Biological Systems / All-in-One Data Decoders

Ingestible Bioengineered Capsule



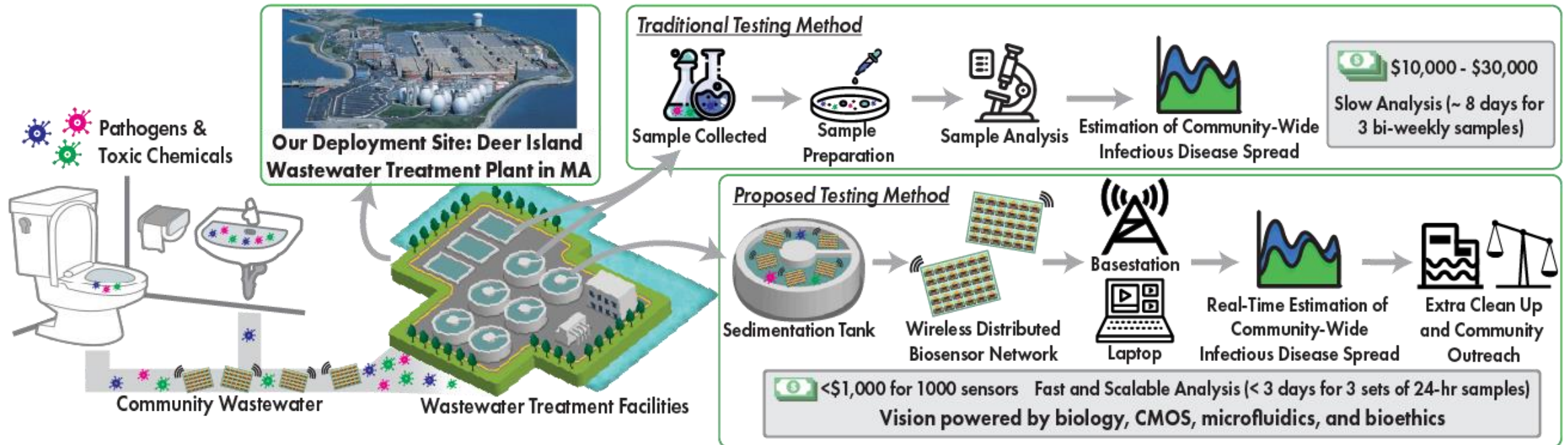
Co-Design of Microfluidics & Custom Electronics for CSBS



Universal Decoder - GRAND

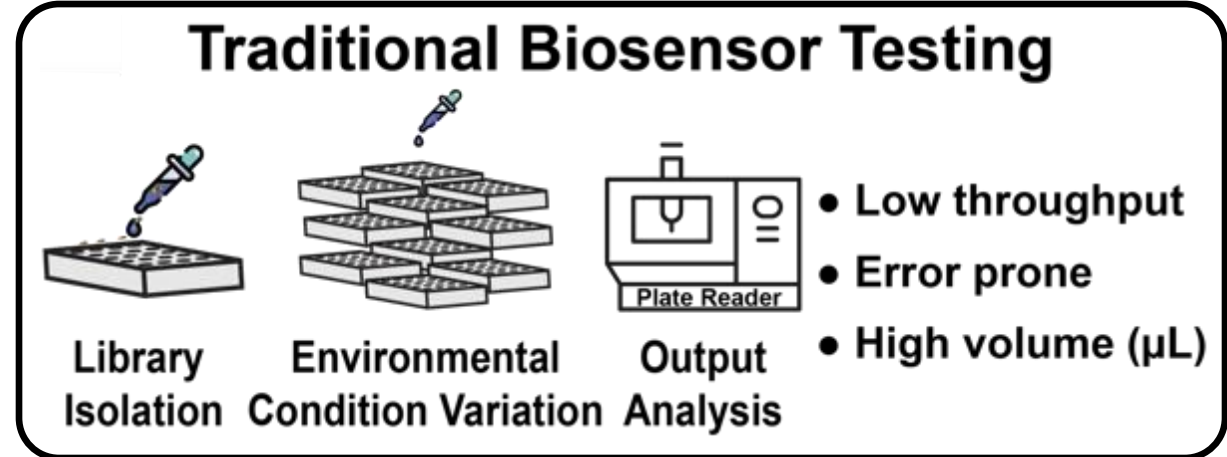
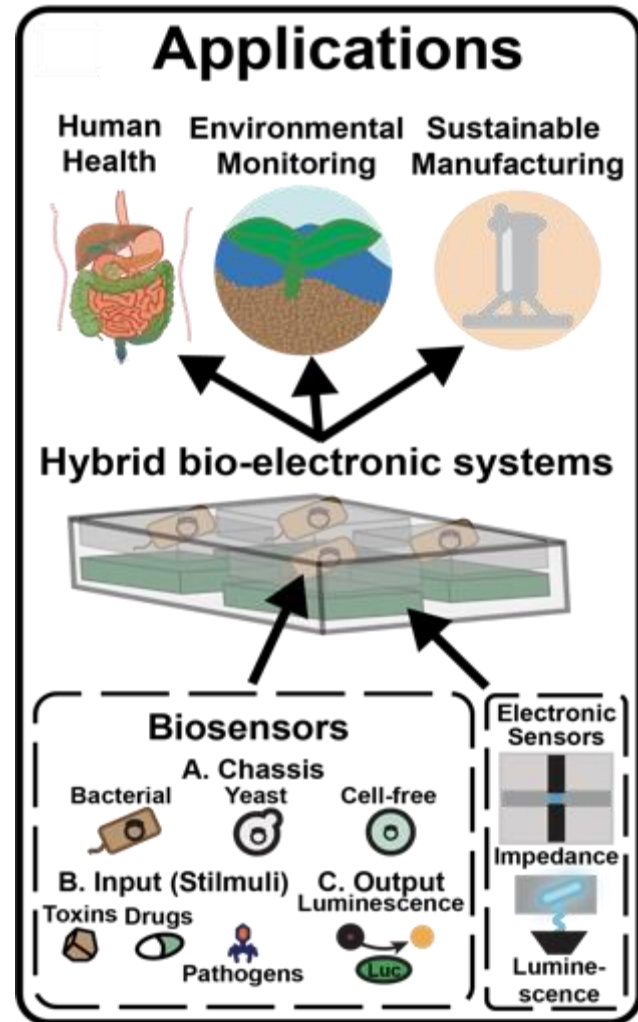


Wastewater Surveillance in MA

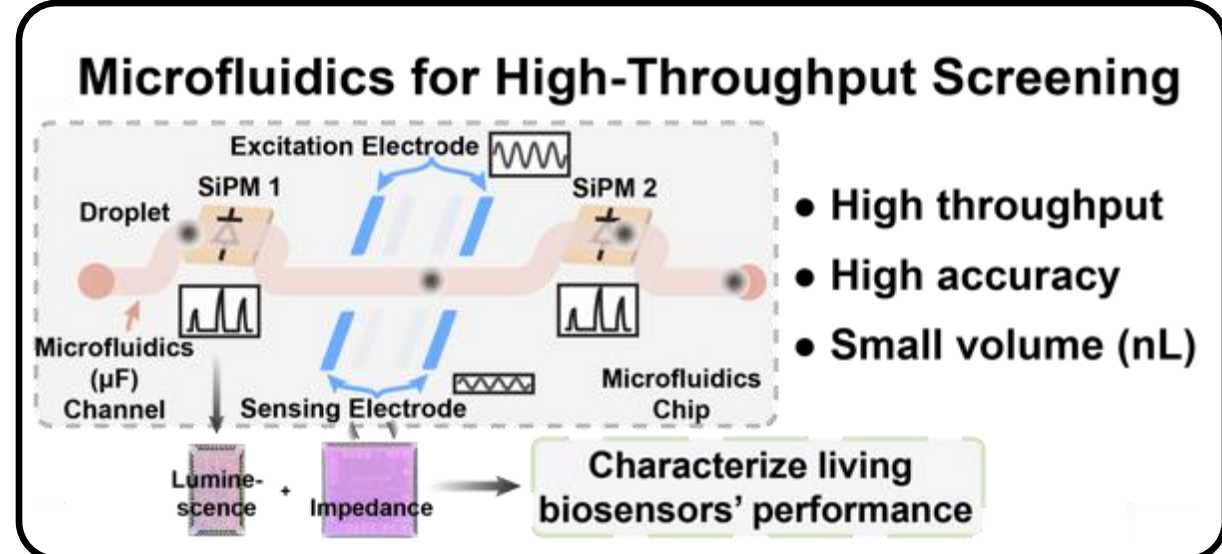
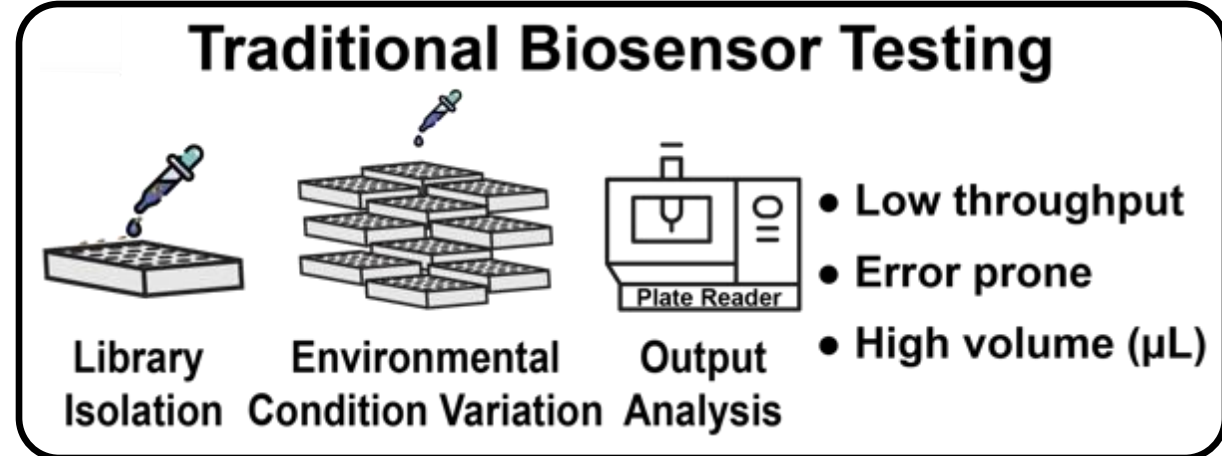
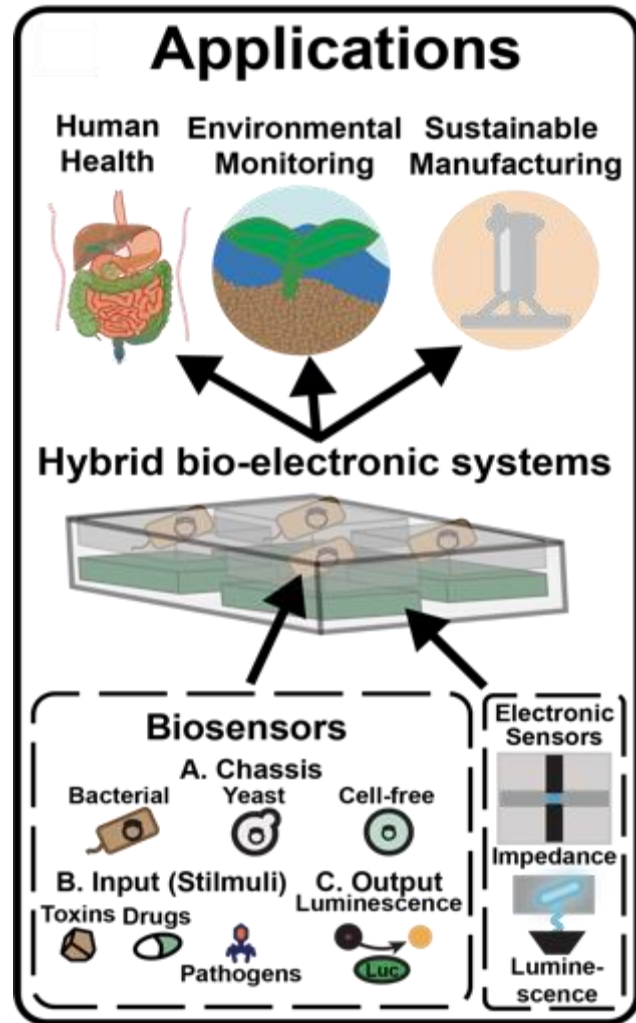


- ❑ **Real-time monitoring** of toxic chemicals & pathogens
- ❑ Wireless biosensor network for **distributed** wastewater surveillance
- ❑ **Low-cost** detection (<\$1000 for 1000 sensors)
- ❑ **Fast & scalable** analysis (<3 days for 3 sets of 24-hr samples)

Droplet Microfluidics Embedded with CMOS ICs



Droplet Microfluidics Embedded with CMOS ICs

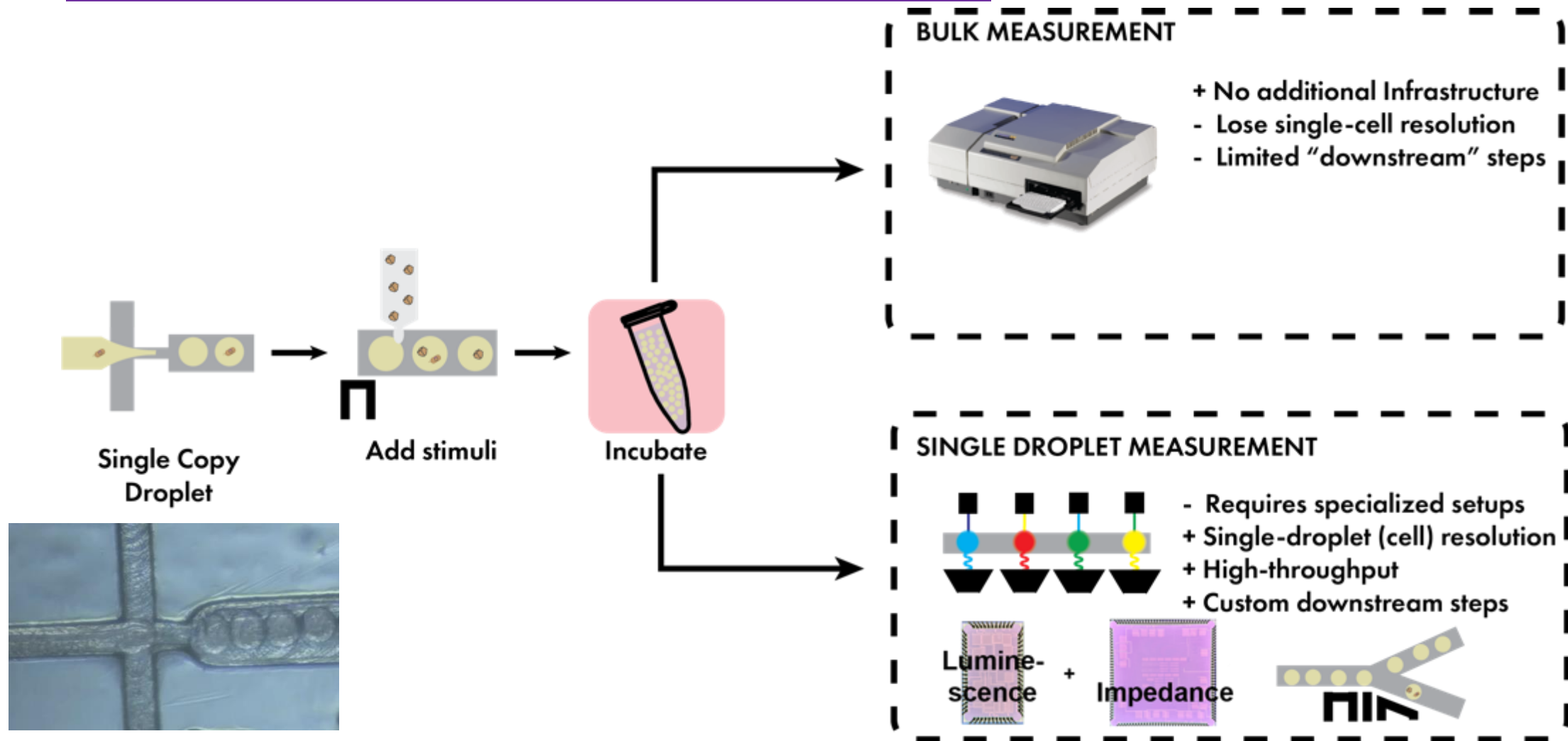


Q. Liu, et al., "Hybrid Bio-electronic Microfluidic Memory Arrays," IEEE ISSCC SRP with a demo, 2023. **ISSCC SRP'23 Best Poster Award**

Q. Liu, et al., "Droplet microfluidics co-designed with real-time CMOS luminescence sensing and impedance spectroscopy of 4 nL droplets at a 67 mm/s velocity," with a hardware demo, **IEEE ISSCC**, 2024.

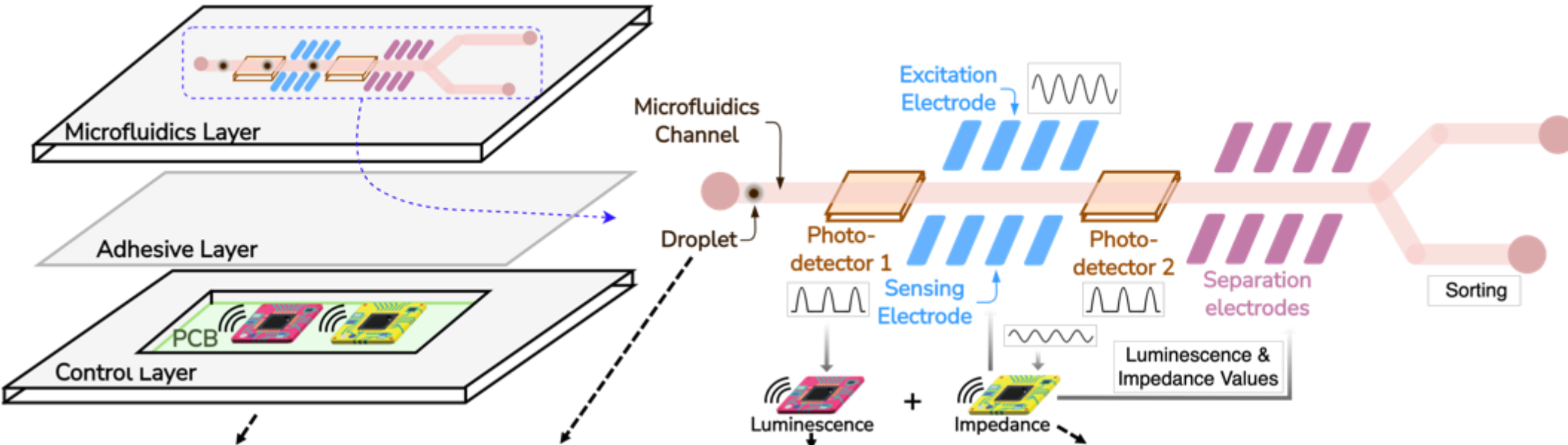
Q. Liu, et al., "Integrated Real-Time CMOS Luminescence Sensing and Impedance Spectroscopy in Droplet Microfluidics," **IEEE TBioCAS**, ISSCC 2024 Special Issue.

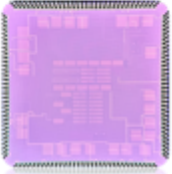
Single Droplet Sensing is Essential for HTS



Co-Design Approach

Droplet Microfluidics & Electronics for Biosensing



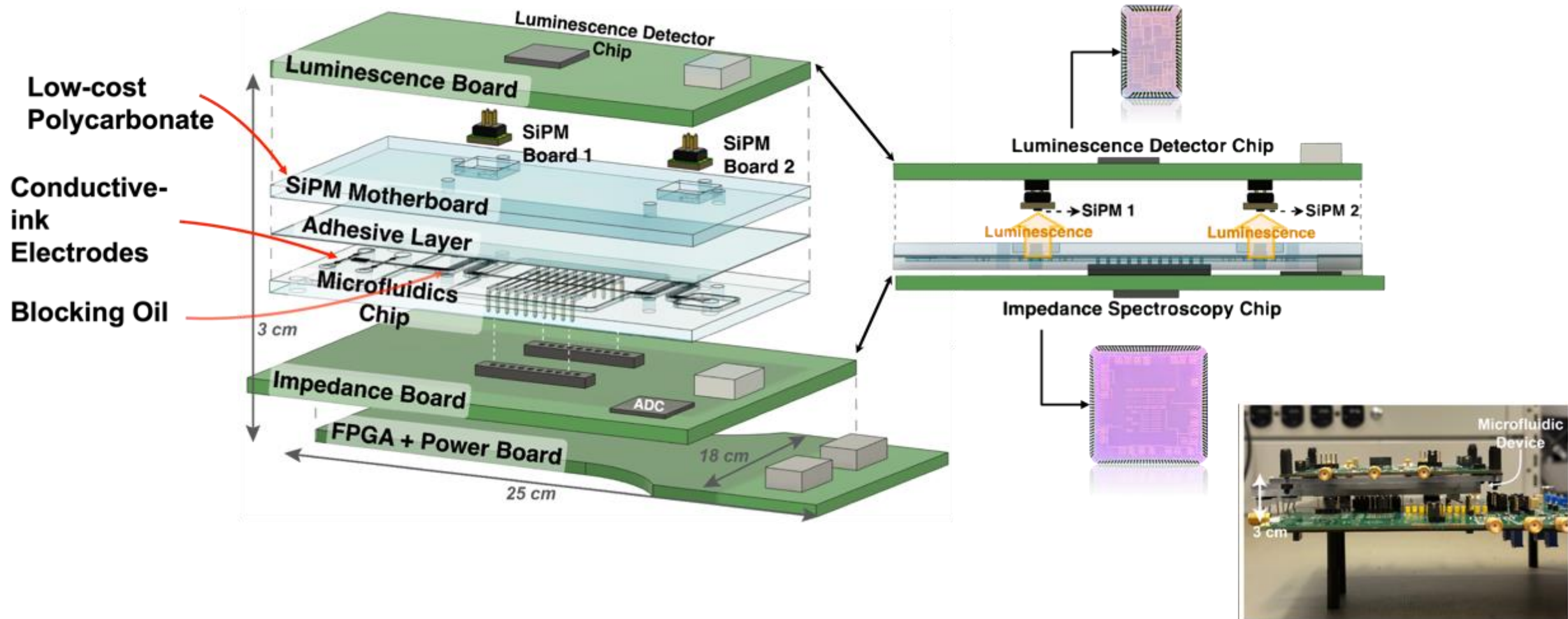
Microfluidic Device	Droplet Microfluidics	Luminescence Detection	Impedance Spectroscopy
✓ rapid-prototyped ✓ low-cost & modular ✓ conductive ink & polycarbonate	✓ real-time droplet detection in nL ✓ short residence time in ms-level	✓ high resolution (6.7 nA/count) ✓ weak light level detection from nL droplets (38.2 nL) 	✓ low noise (2.4 pA_{rms} input-referred noise @ BW=1kHz) ✓ nL-volume droplet detection (4 nL) 

Q. Liu, et al., "Hybrid Bio-electronic Microfluidic Memory Arrays," IEEE ISSCC SRP with a demo, 2023. **ISSCC SRP'23 Best Poster Award**

Q. Liu, et al., "Droplet microfluidics co-designed with real-time CMOS luminescence sensing and impedance spectroscopy of 4 nL droplets at a 67 mm/s velocity,"⁴⁰ with a hardware demo, **IEEE ISSCC**, 2024.

Q. Liu, et al., "Integrated Real-Time CMOS Luminescence Sensing and Impedance Spectroscopy in Droplet Microfluidics," **IEEE TBioCAS**, ISSCC 2024 Special Issue.

Co-Design Approach Droplet Microfluidics & Electronics for Biosensing

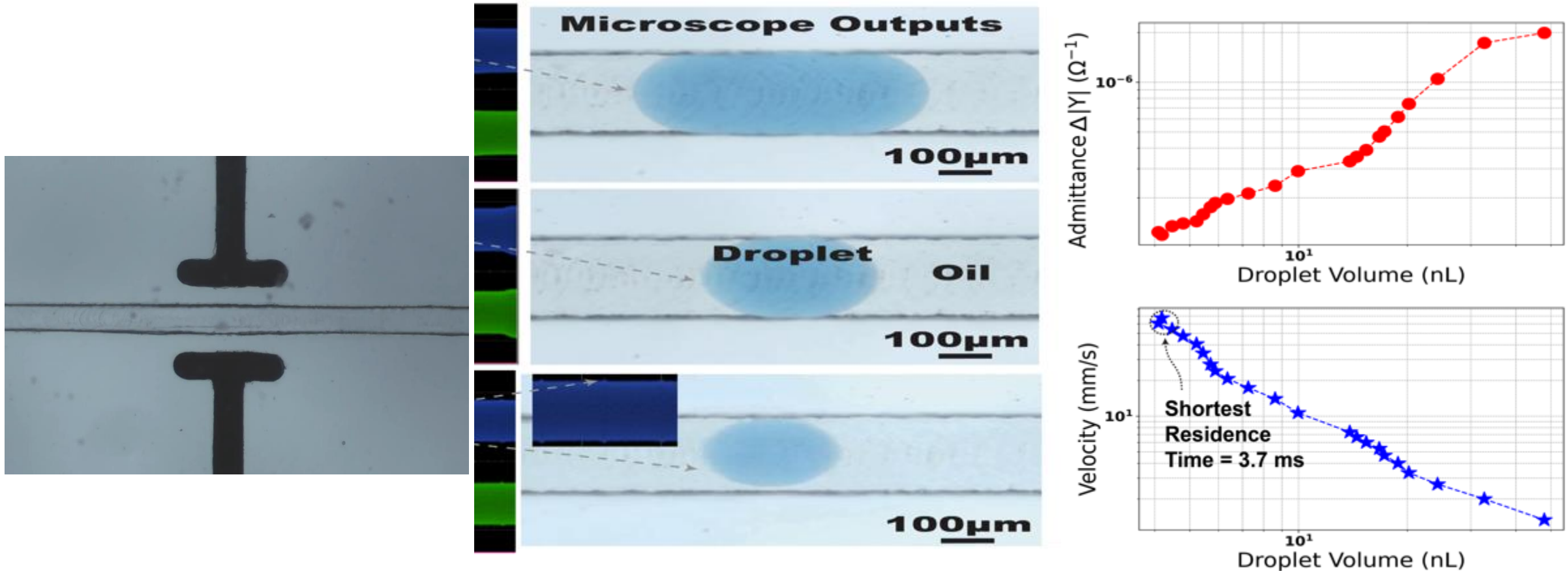


Q. Liu, et al., "Hybrid Bio-electronic Microfluidic Memory Arrays," IEEE ISSCC SRP with a demo, 2023. **ISSCC SRP'23 Best Poster Award**

Q. Liu, et al., "Droplet microfluidics co-designed with real-time CMOS luminescence sensing and impedance spectroscopy of 4 nL droplets at a 67 mm/s velocity," with a hardware demo, **IEEE ISSCC**, 2024.

Q. Liu, et al., "Integrated Real-Time CMOS Luminescence Sensing and Impedance Spectroscopy in Droplet Microfluidics," **IEEE TBioCAS**, ISSCC 2024 Special Issue.

Real-time Droplet Detection via Impedance Spectroscopy



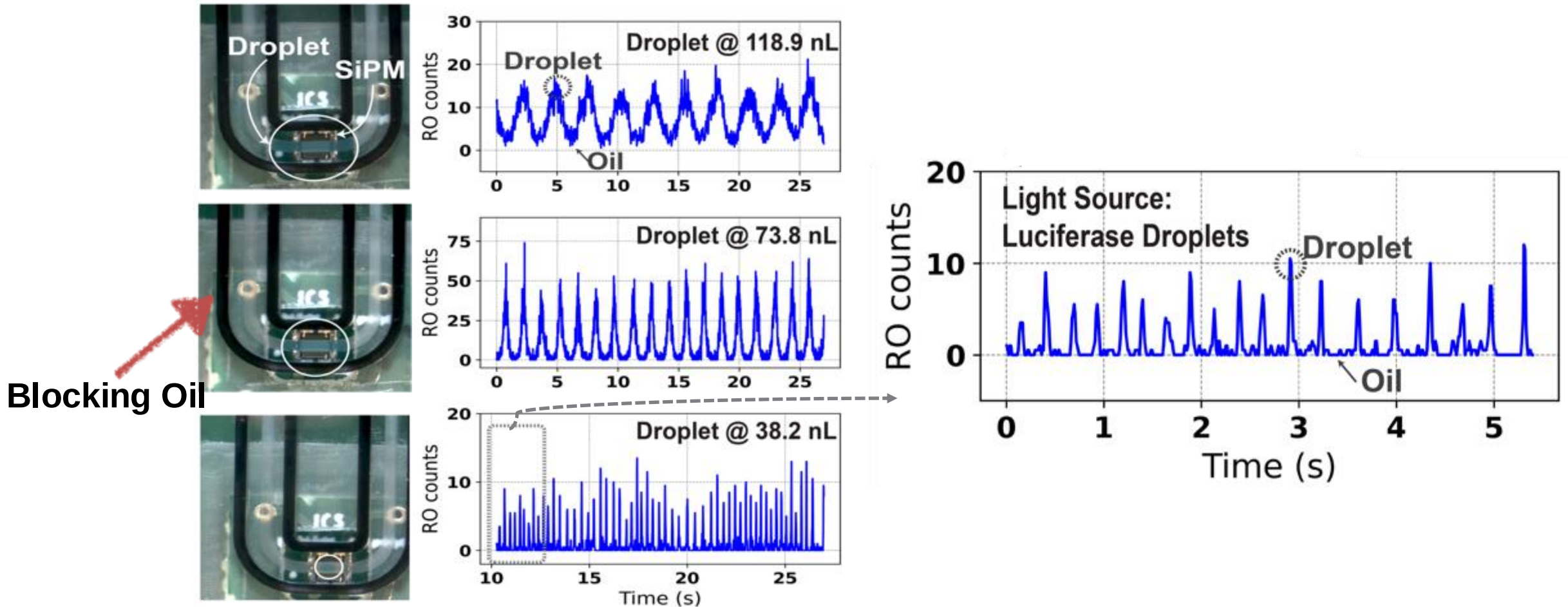
4 nL droplet with residence time of 3.7 ms

Q. Liu, et al., "Hybrid Bio-electronic Microfluidic Memory Arrays," IEEE ISSCC SRP with a demo, 2023. **ISSCC SRP'23 Best Poster Award**

Q. Liu, et al., "Droplet microfluidics co-designed with real-time CMOS luminescence sensing and impedance spectroscopy of 4 nL droplets at a 67 mm/s velocity," with a hardware demo, **IEEE ISSCC**, 2024.

Q. Liu, et al., "Integrated Real-Time CMOS Luminescence Sensing and Impedance Spectroscopy in Droplet Microfluidics," **IEEE TBioCAS**, ISSCC 2024 Special Issue.

Real-time Luminescence Droplet Detection

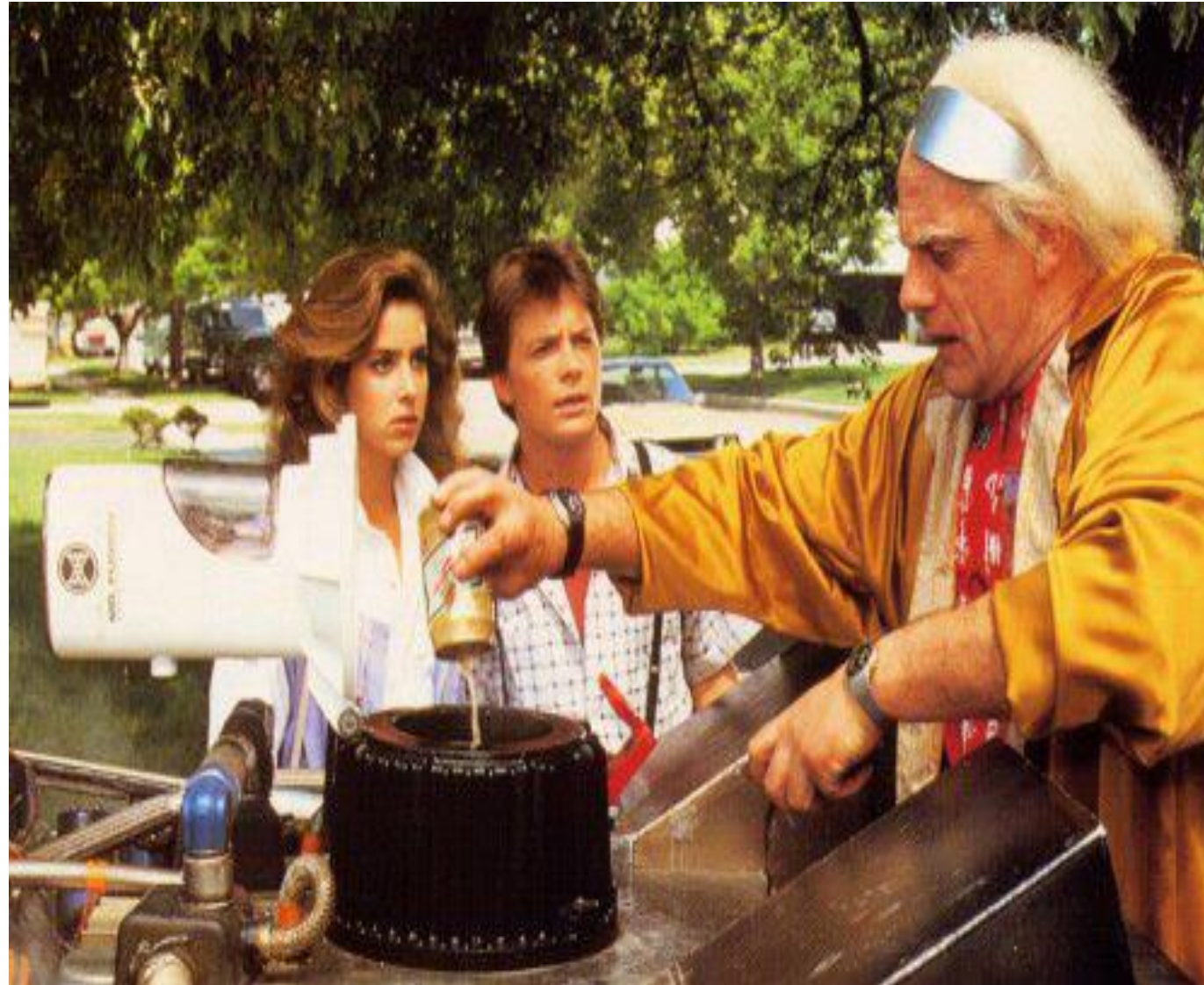


Q. Liu, et al., "Hybrid Bio-electronic Microfluidic Memory Arrays," IEEE ISSCC SRP with a demo, 2023. **ISSCC SRP'23 Best Poster Award**

Q. Liu, et al., "Droplet microfluidics co-designed with real-time CMOS luminescence sensing and impedance spectroscopy of 4 nL droplets at a 67 mm/s velocity," with a hardware demo, **IEEE ISSCC**, 2024.

Q. Liu, et al., "Integrated Real-Time CMOS Luminescence Sensing and Impedance Spectroscopy in Droplet Microfluidics," **IEEE TBioCAS**, ISSCC 2024 Special Issue.

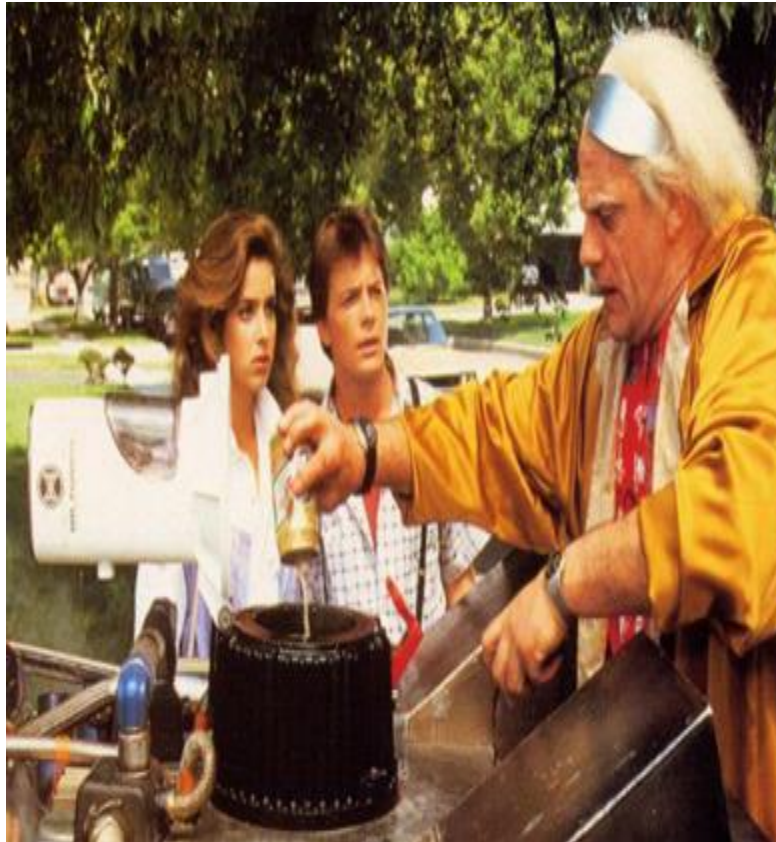
Taking in the Waste: Bioreactor Innovation



Taking in the Waste: Bioreactor Innovation



Traditional Bioreactor Monitoring



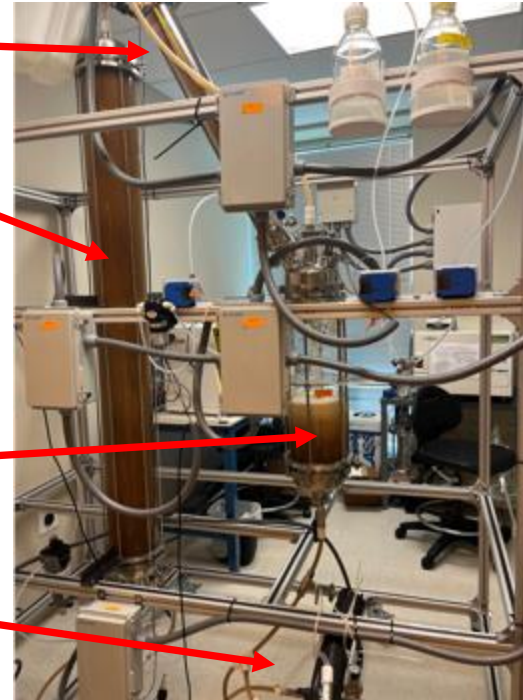
Oxygen, **\$359**

Feedstock,
**\$20,000 -
\$200,000**

Optical cell density,
\$1000

Product,
**\$20,000 -
\$200,000**

pH, Temp, **\$457**

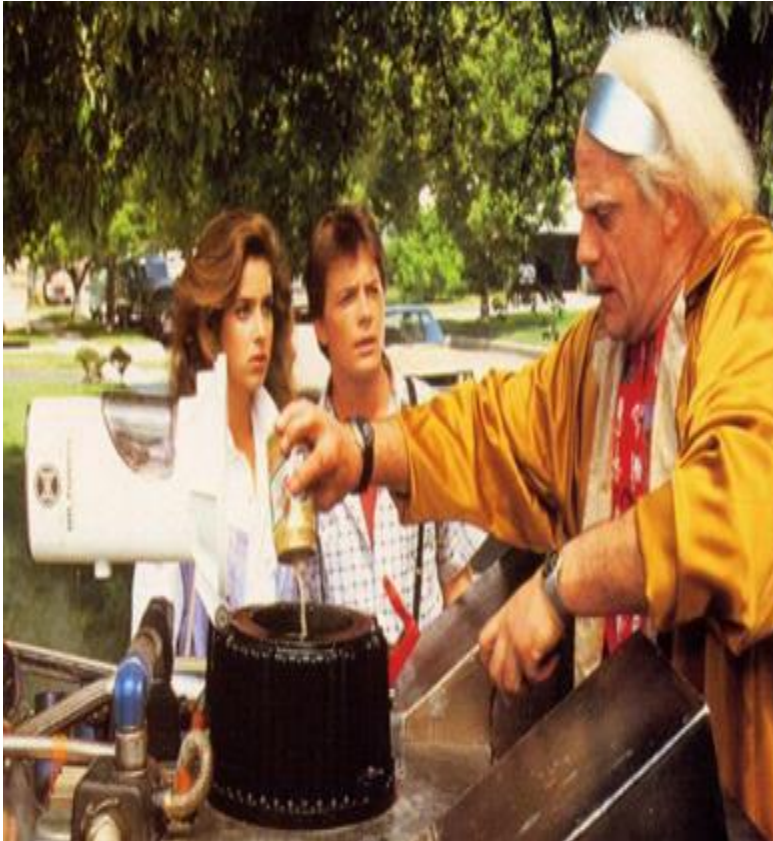


- Large form factor, wired connection
- Offline data processing
- Contamination risk
- Limited spatial coverage
- Unsecured

Taking in the Waste: Bioreactor Innovation



Traditional Bioreactor Monitoring



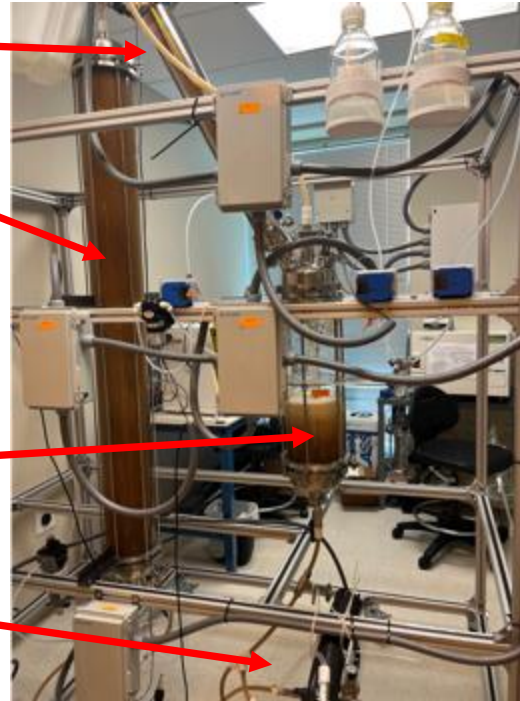
Oxygen, **\$359**

Feedstock,
**\$20,000 -
\$200,000**

Optical cell density,
\$1000

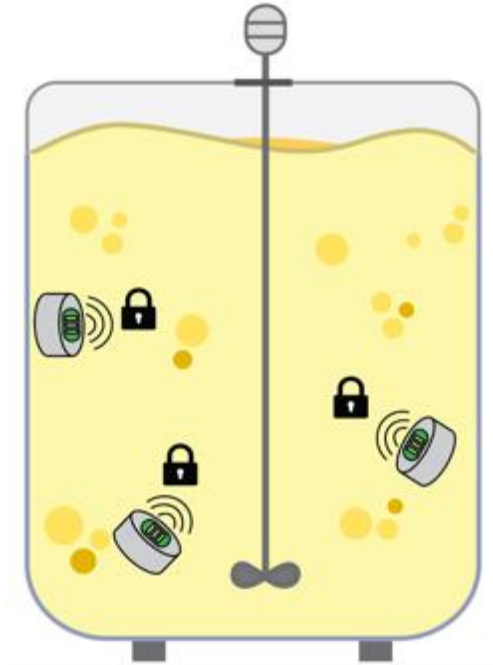
Product,
**\$20,000 -
\$200,000**

pH, Temp, **\$457**



- Large form factor, wired connection
- Offline data processing
- Contamination risk
- Limited spatial coverage
- Unsecured

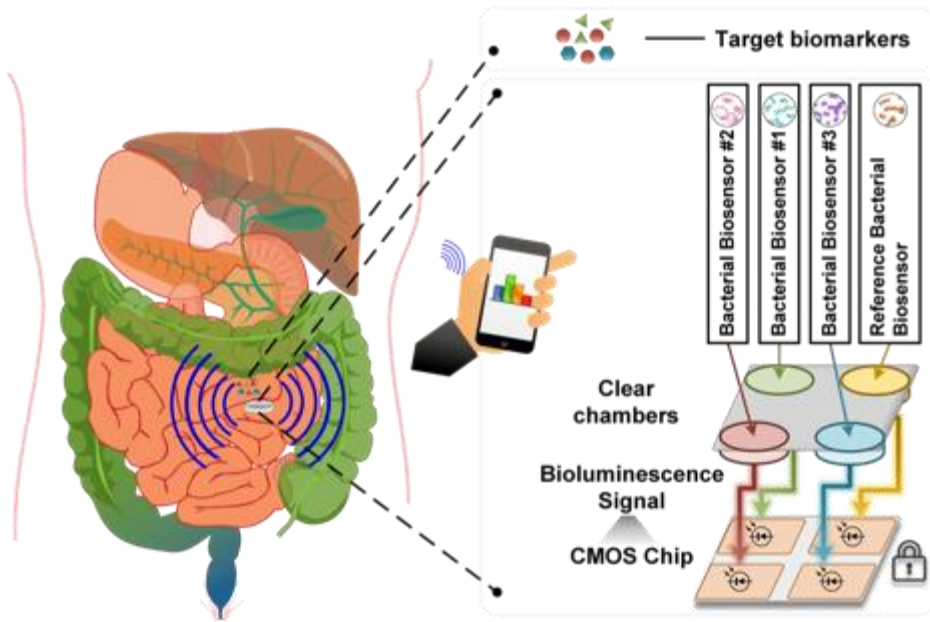
Proposed Secure, Wireless Floating Sensors for Bioreactor



- Low cost (<\$10)
- Real-time monitoring
- Miniaturized form factor
- Wide spatial coverage
- Embedded security

Cyber-Secure Biological Systems / All-in-One Data Decoders

Ingestible Bioengineered Capsule



Co-Design of Microfluidics & Custom Electronics for CSBS

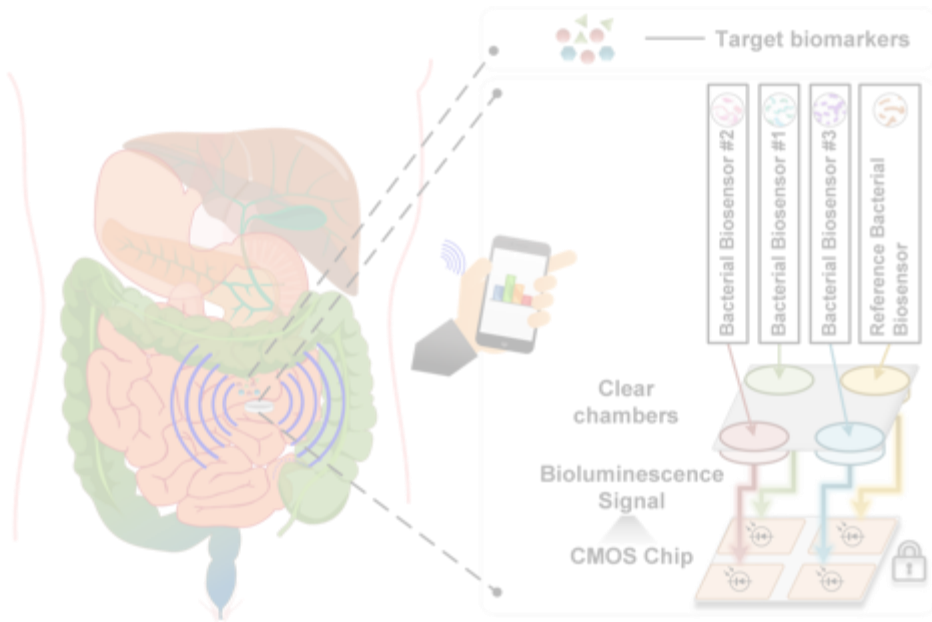


Universal Decoder - GRAND



Cyber-Secure Biological Systems / All-in-One Data Decoders

Ingestible Bioengineered Capsule



Co-Design of Microfluidics & Custom Electronics for CSBS



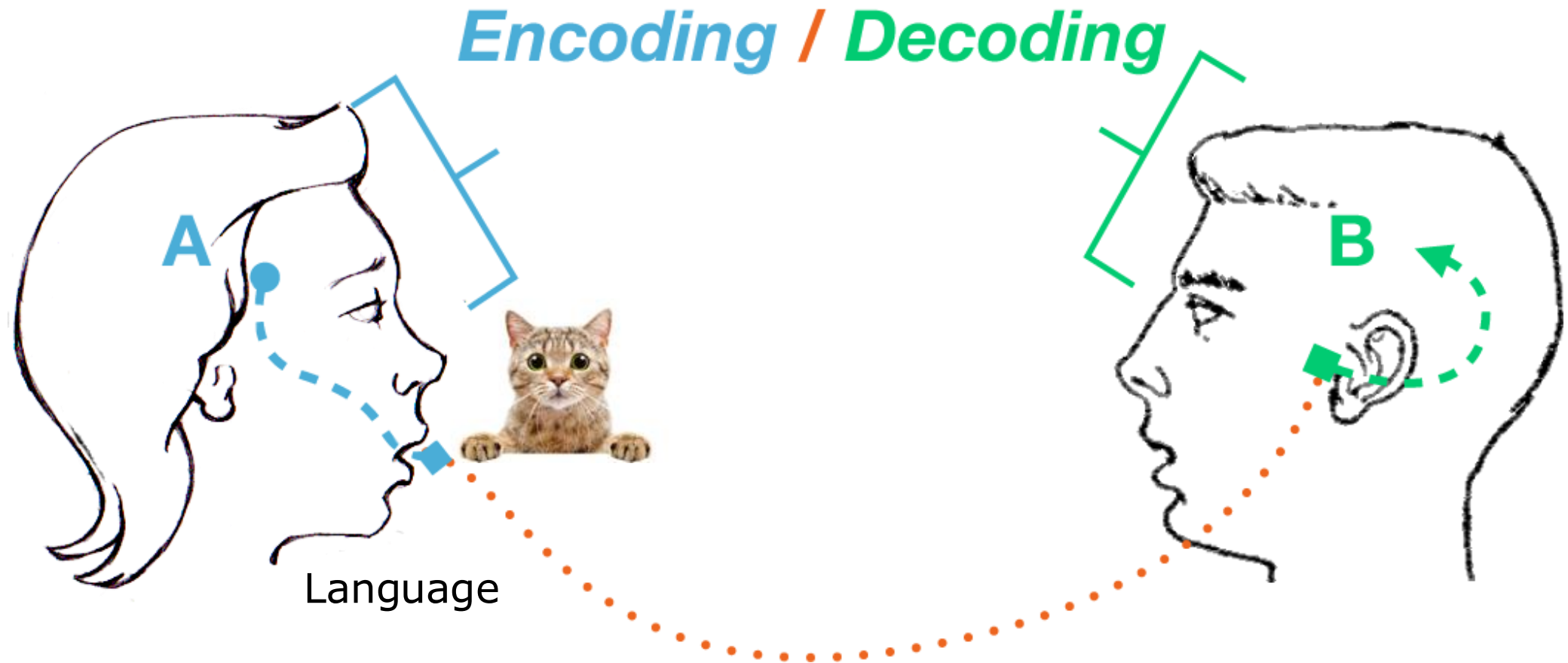
Universal Decoder - GRAND



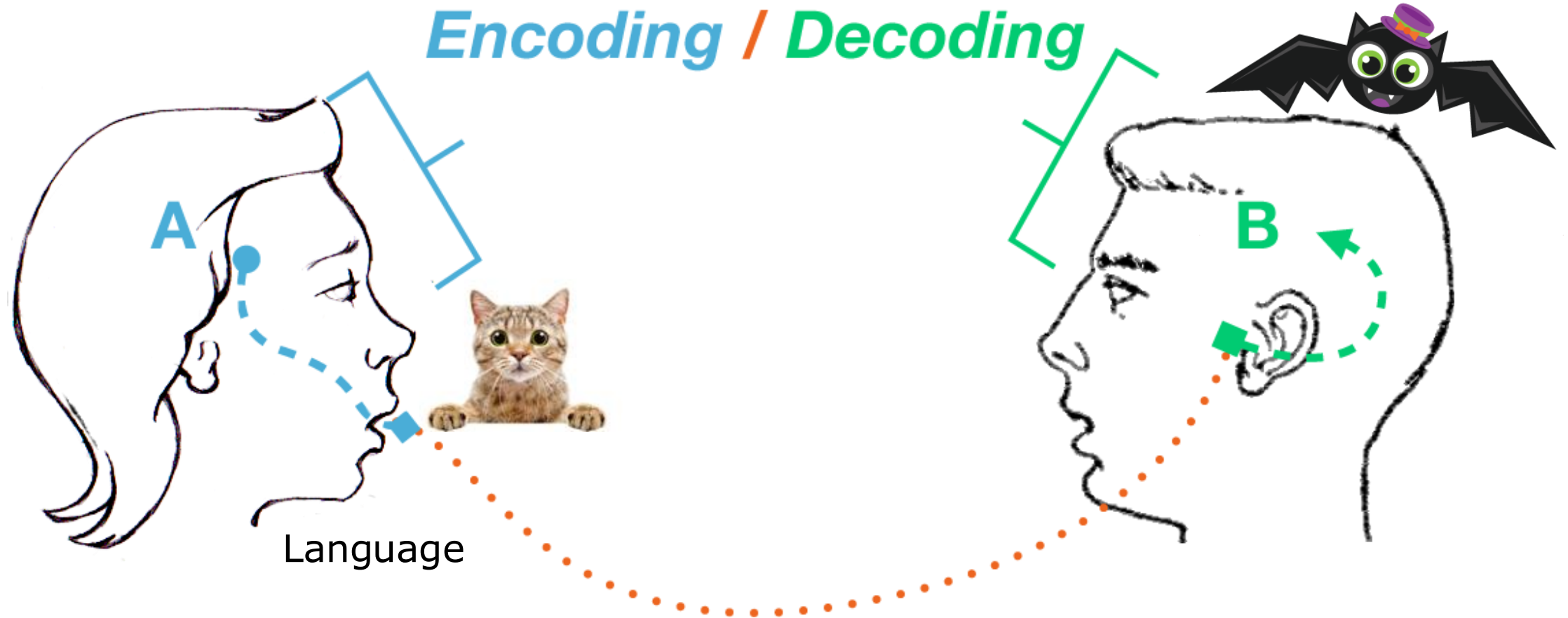
Decode **ANY** code with



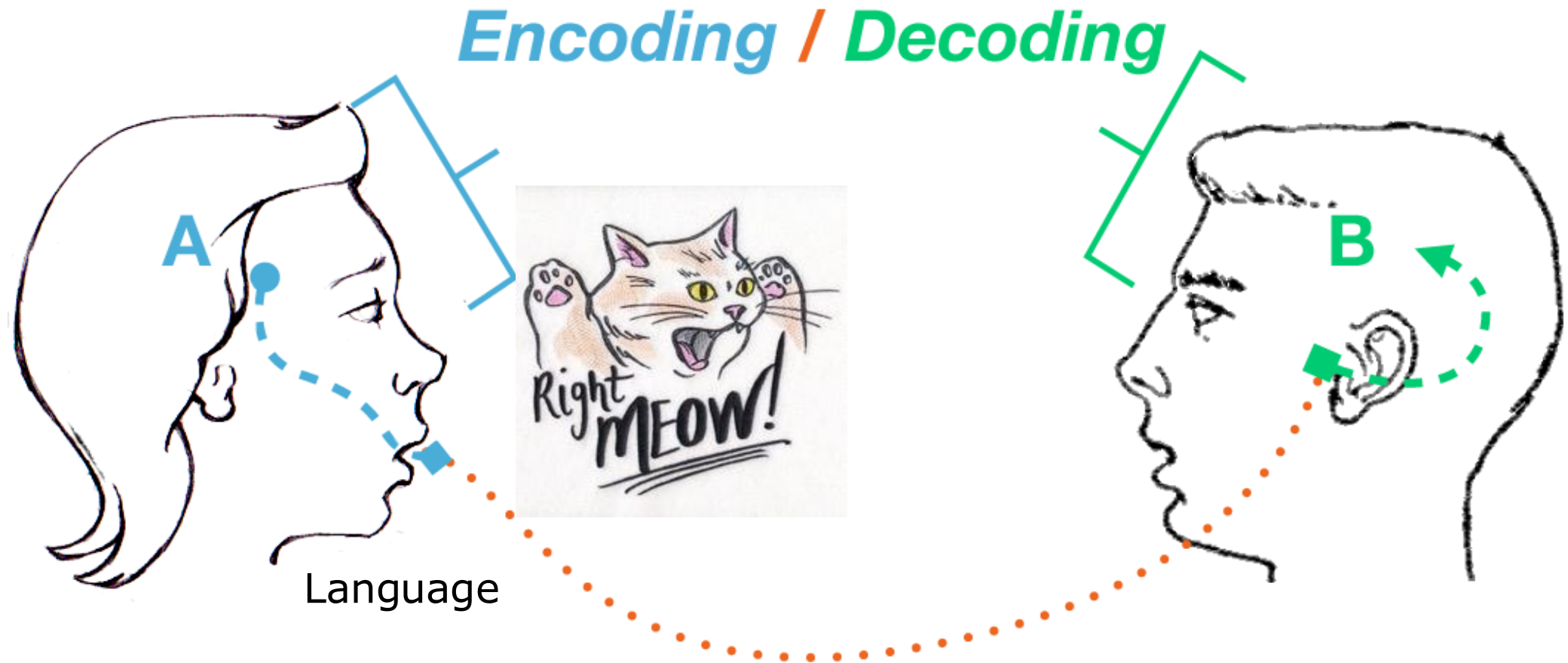
Encoding / Decoding



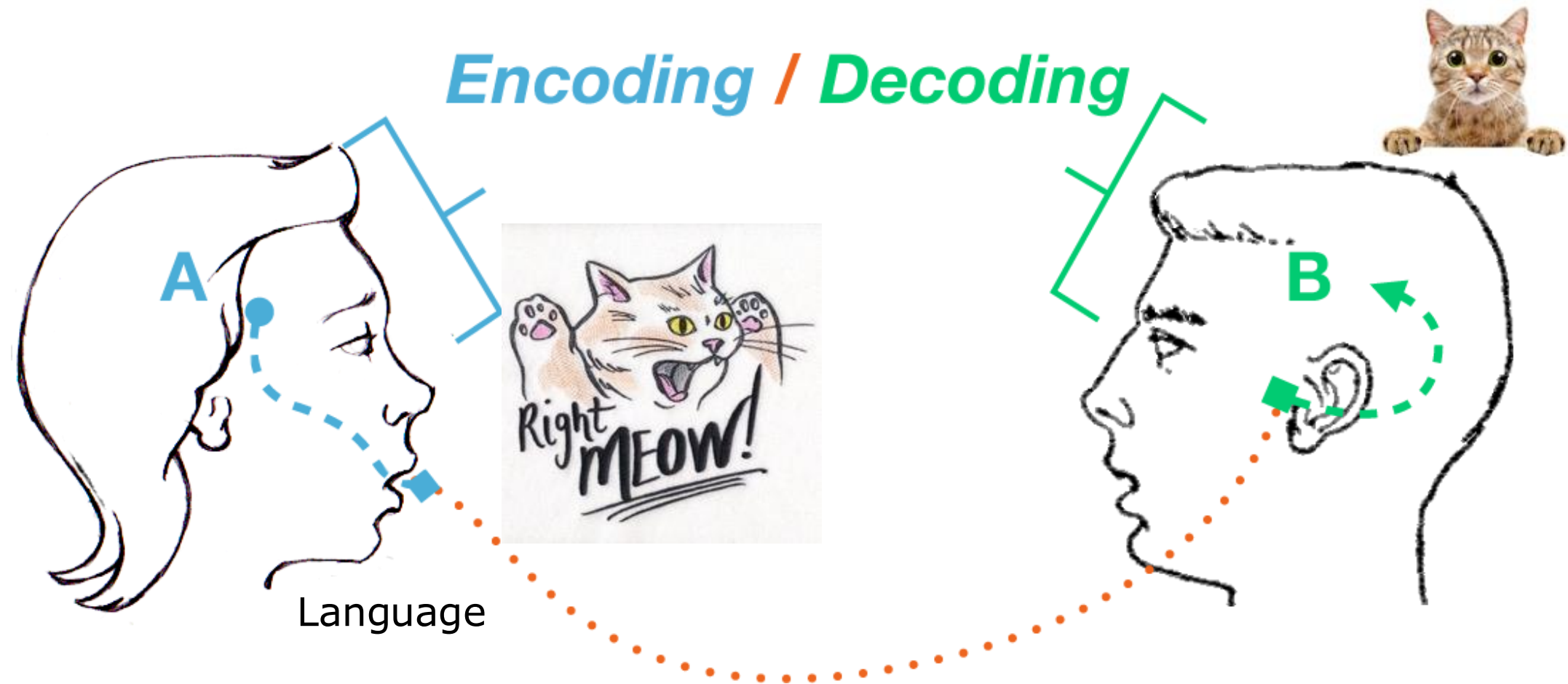
Encoding / Decoding



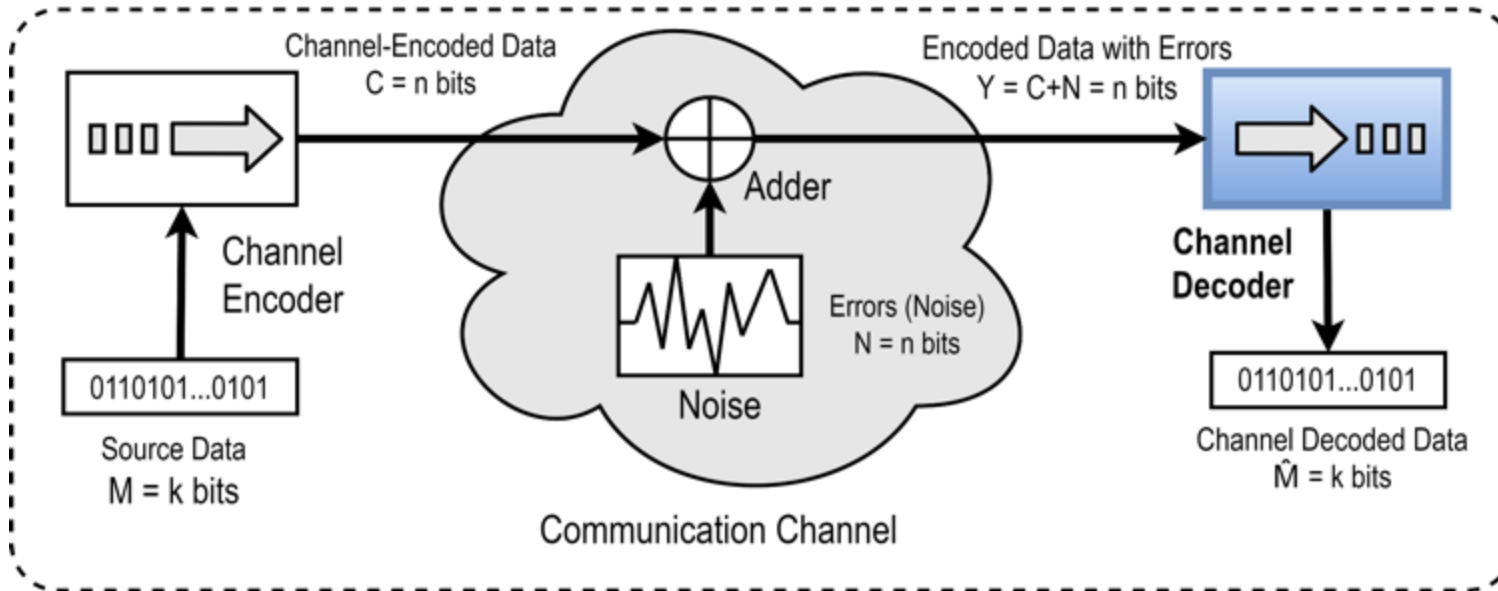
Encoding / Decoding



Encoding / Decoding



Channel Encoding / Decoding



Standard Paradigm: Co-Design of Restricted Code / Decoder Pairs

- ❑ Distinct chip required to decode each code (code-specific decoders)
- ❑ Requires standardization

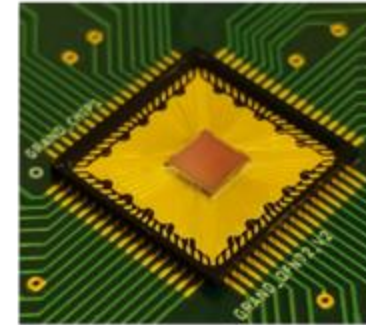
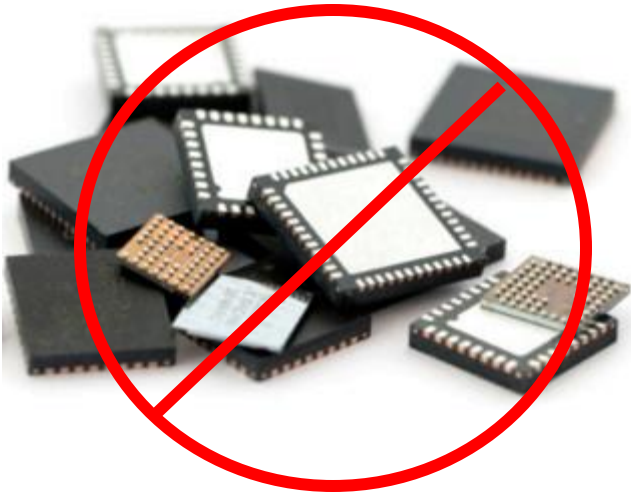


Error Detection Only	←	CRC
Majority Logic	←	RM
Berlekamp-Massey	←	BCH
CA-SCL	←	CA-Polar
No decoder	←	RLC

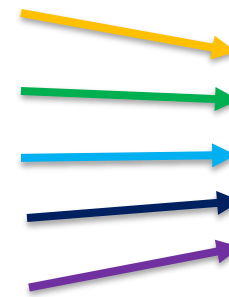


LDPC – 1960s
CA-Polar – 2010s

Universal Decoding of Any Code: GRAND



Error Detection Only	←	CRC
Majority Logic	←	RM
Berlekamp-Massey	←	BCH
CA-SCL	←	CA-Polar
No decoder	←	RLC



GRAND Algorithm

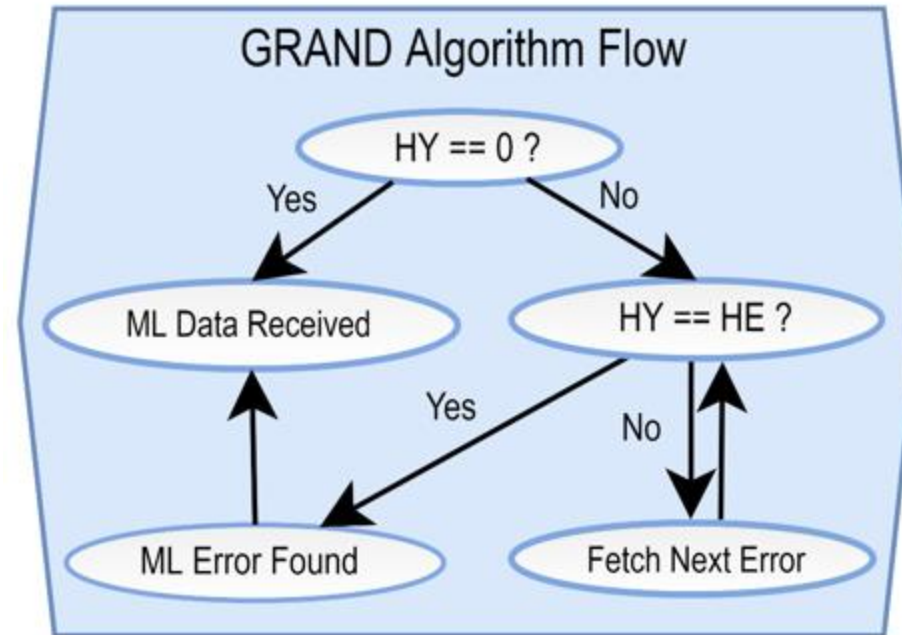
$$Y = X + E$$

Received Codeword Transmitted Codeword Effect of Noise

$$H.Y = H.X + H.E$$

Parity Matrix

$$H.Y = H.E$$



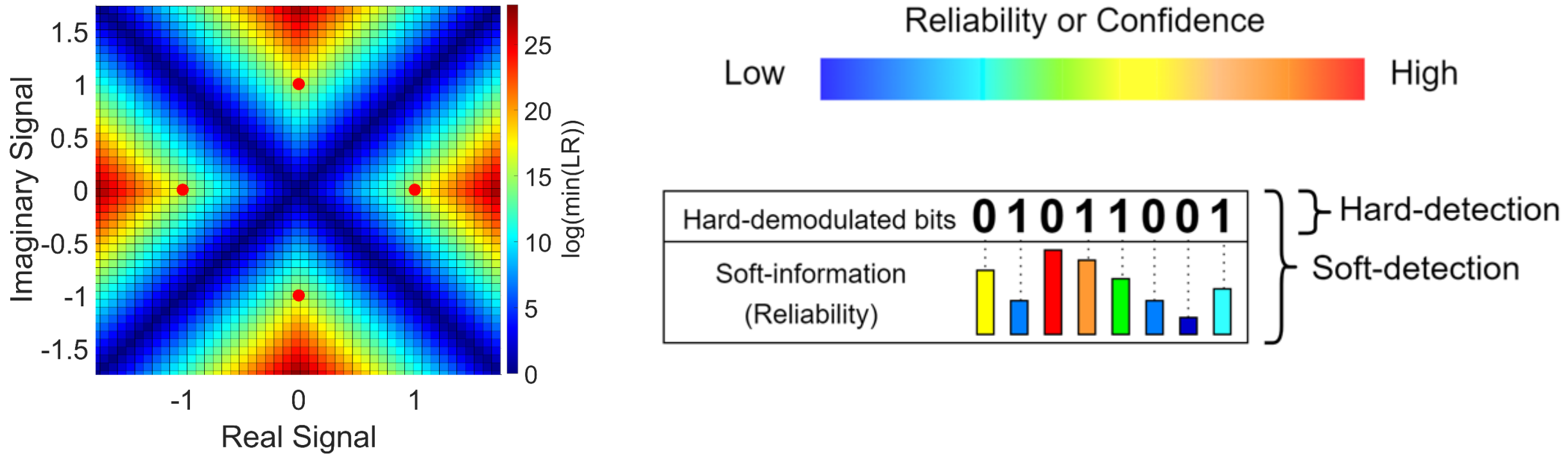
*ML: Maximum Likelihood

*H: Parity-Check Matrix

- ❑ Conventional decoders identify X from codebook structure
- ❑ GRAND directly determines effect of noise E

Universal Soft-Detection Decoder Architecture Using ORBGRAND

Soft-Detection Channel

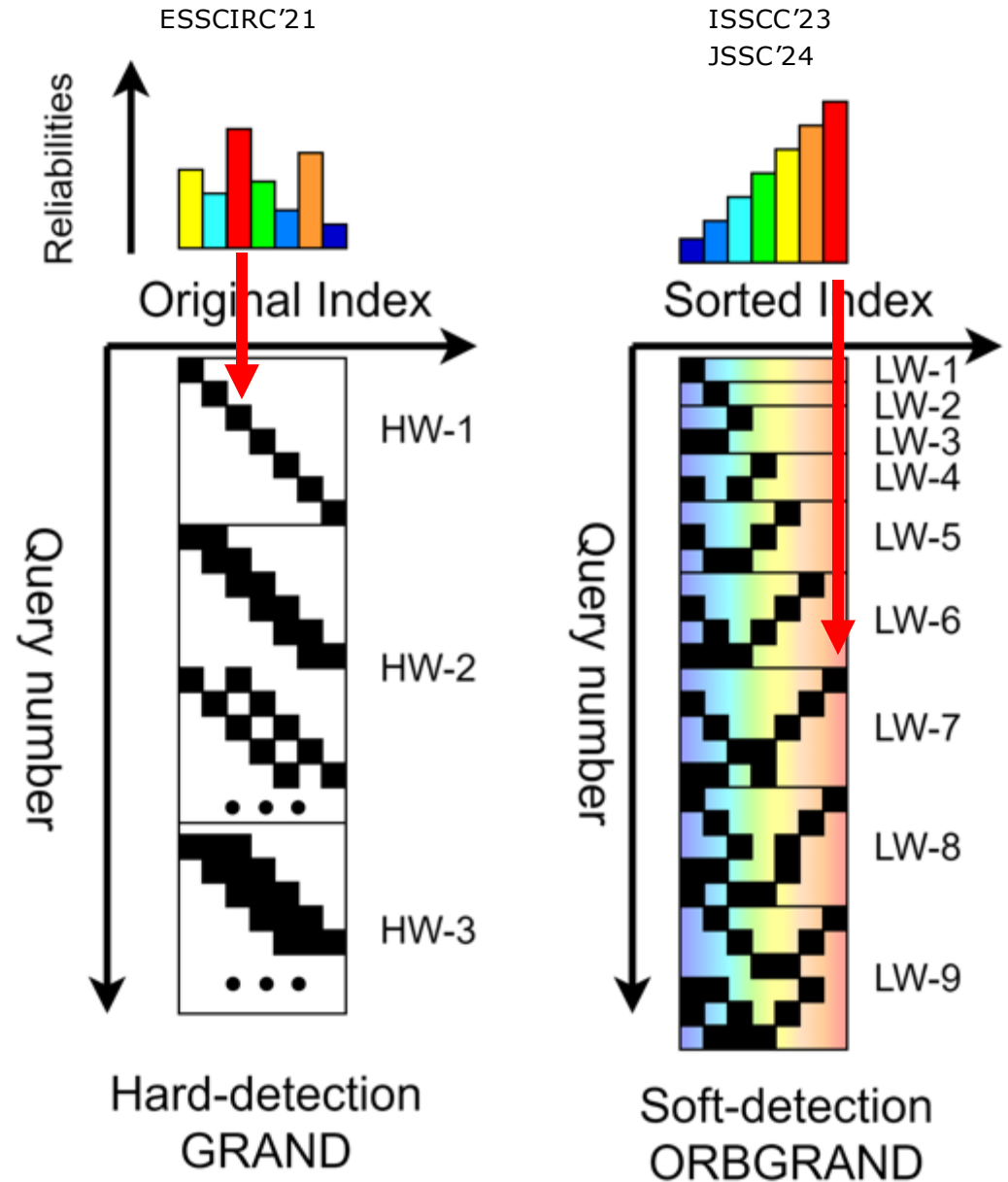


❑ Soft-detection:

- ❑ Additional soft information for each received bit
- ❑ Indicates reliability in demodulation
- ❑ ~2-3 dB gain in decoding

Logistic Weight

- ❑ Hard-detection
 - ❑ No sorting required
 - ❑ Increasing HW order
 - ❑ Same HW equally likely
- ❑ Soft-detection
 - ❑ Sort reliability
 - ❑ Increasing LW order
 - ❑ Same LW equally likely



A. Riaz, et al., "Multi-Code Multi-Rate Universal Maximum Likelihood Decoder using GRAND," IEEE ESSCIRC, 2021.

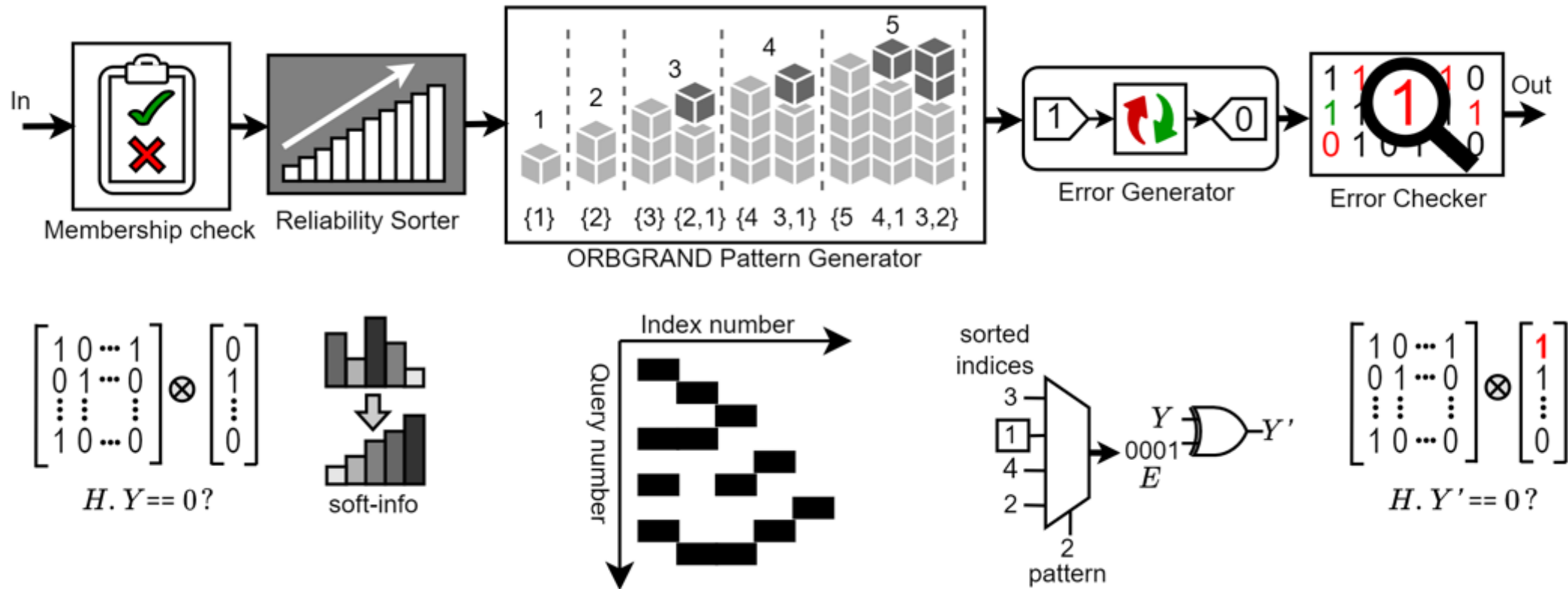
K. R. Duffy, et al., "Ordered Reliability Bits Guessing Random Additive Noise Decoding," IEEE TSP, 2022.

A. Riaz, et al., "A Sub-0.8pJ/b 16.3Gbps/mm² Universal Soft-Detection Decoder Using ORBGRAND in 40nm CMOS," IEEE ISSCC, 2023.

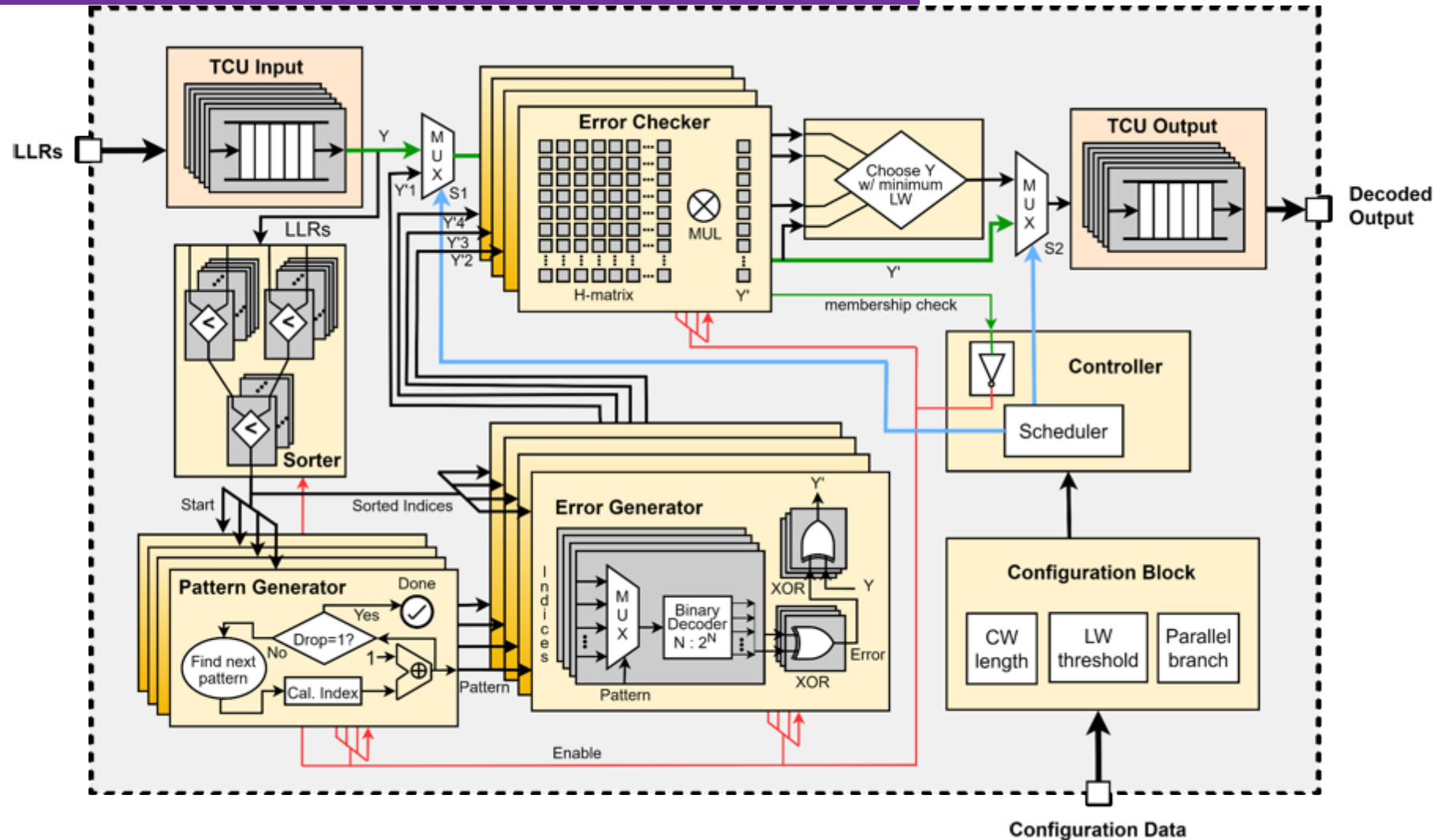
A. Riaz, et al., "A Sub-0.8-pJ/bit Universal Soft-Detection Decoder Using ORBGRAND," IEEE JSSC, 2024.

Universal Soft-Detection Decoder

ORBGRAND

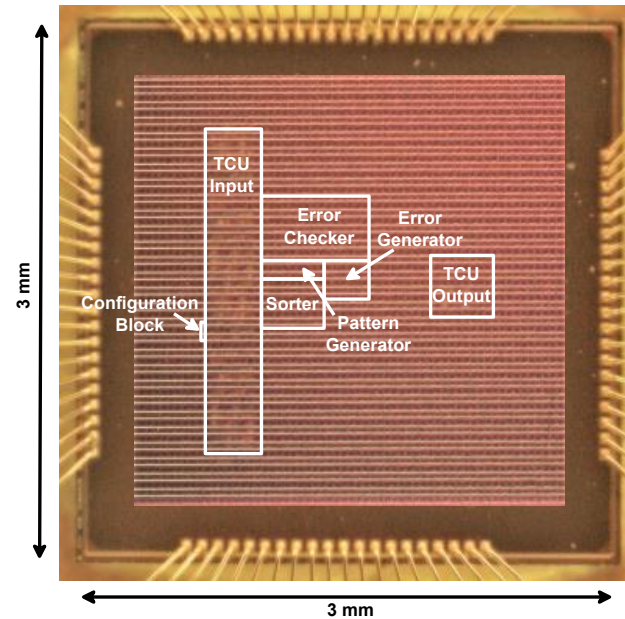


ORBGRAND Architecture

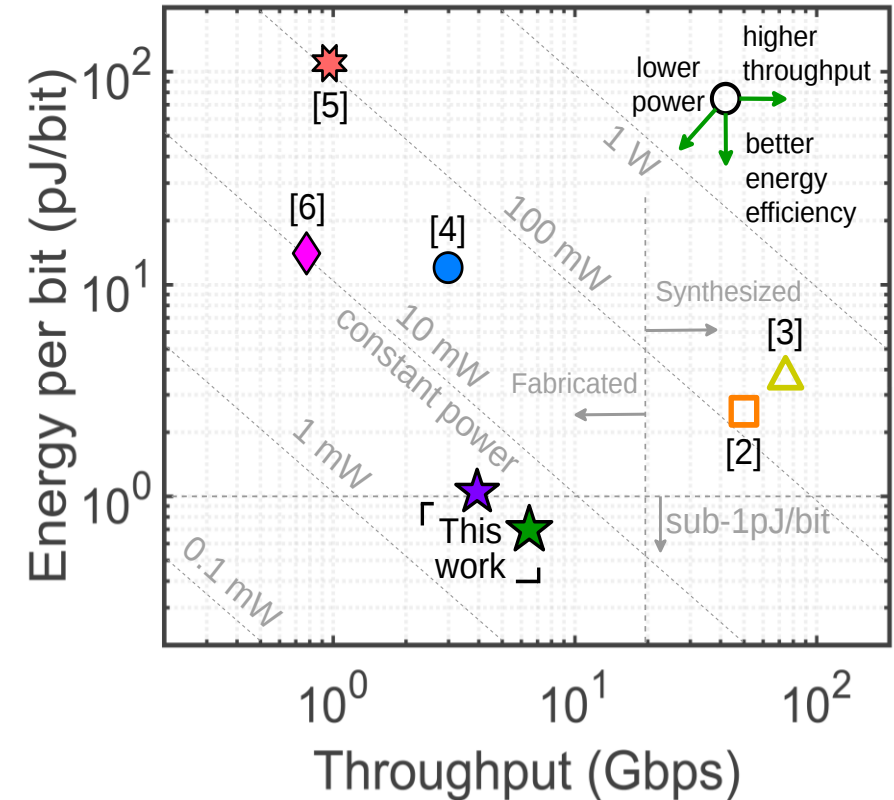


A Sub-0.8 pJ/bit Universal Soft-detection Decoder

- ❑ **Lowest** energy per bit:
Sub-0.8 pJ/bit
- ❑ **Universal** soft-detection decoder:
CA-Polar, CRC
- ❑ Area efficiency:
16.3 Gb/s/mm²
- ❑ **Ultra-low** power:
4.9mW
- ❑ **Configurable** code length/rate support



	Fabricated designs				Synthesized designs	
	This work	[4]	[5]	[6]	[2]	[3]
Node:	40nm	40nm	28nm	40nm	65nm	7nm
Target FER:	10 ⁻⁵	10 ⁻⁷	10 ⁻⁵	10 ⁻⁵	10 ⁻⁷	10 ⁻⁶



A Sub-0.8 pJ/bit Universal Soft-detection Decoder

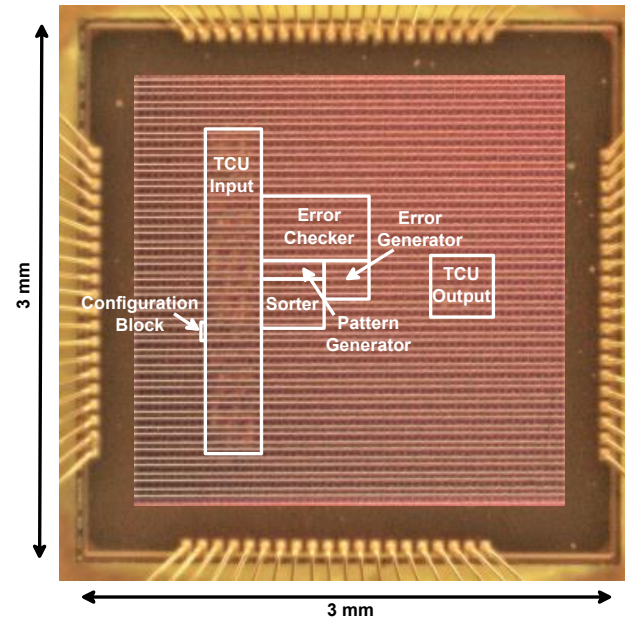
- ❑ **Lowest** energy per bit:
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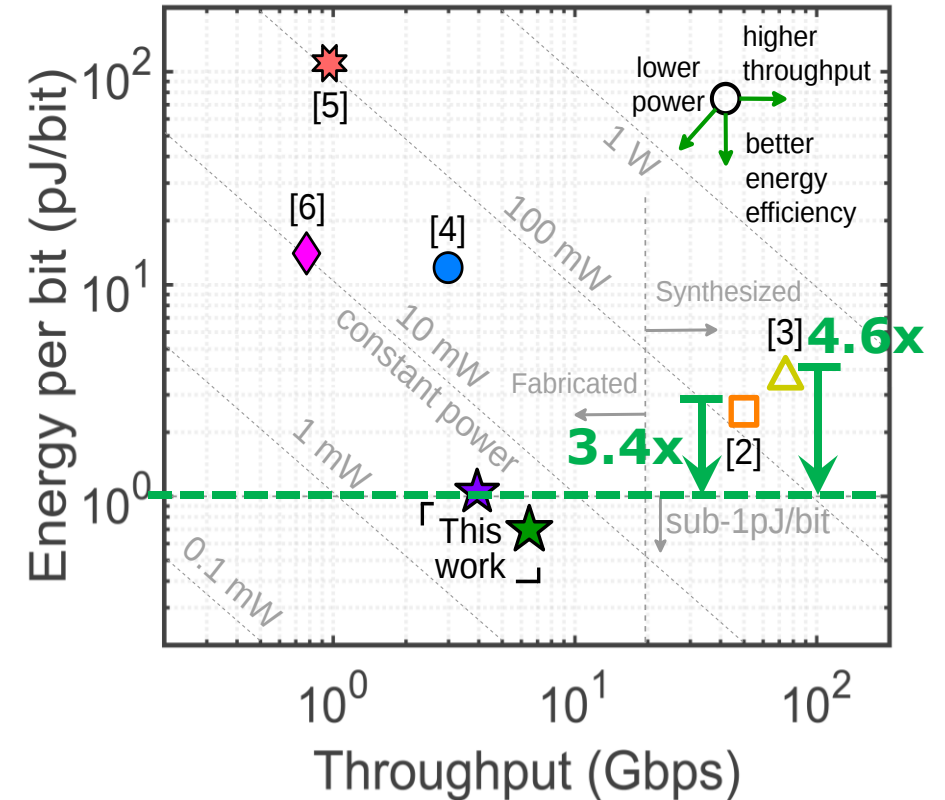
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Fabricated designs					Synthesized designs	
This work	[4]	[5]	[6]		[2]	[3]
☆	★	●	✱	◆	◻	△
Node: 40nm	40nm	28nm	40nm		65nm	7nm
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A Sub-0.8 pJ/bit Universal Soft-detection Decoder

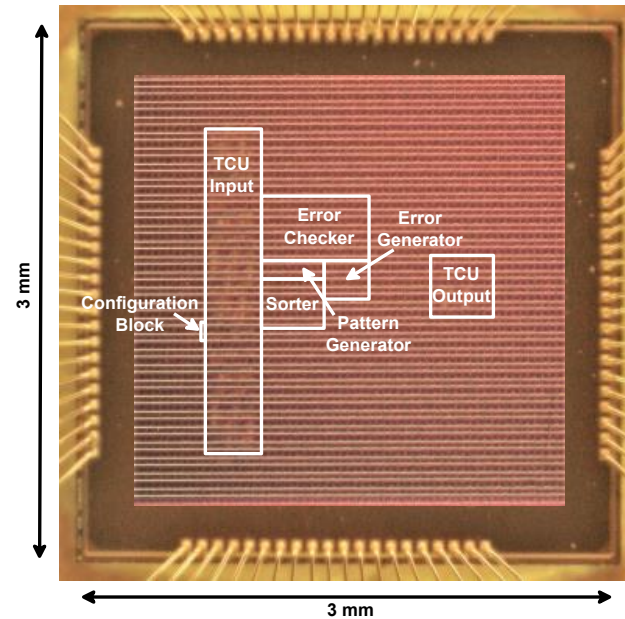
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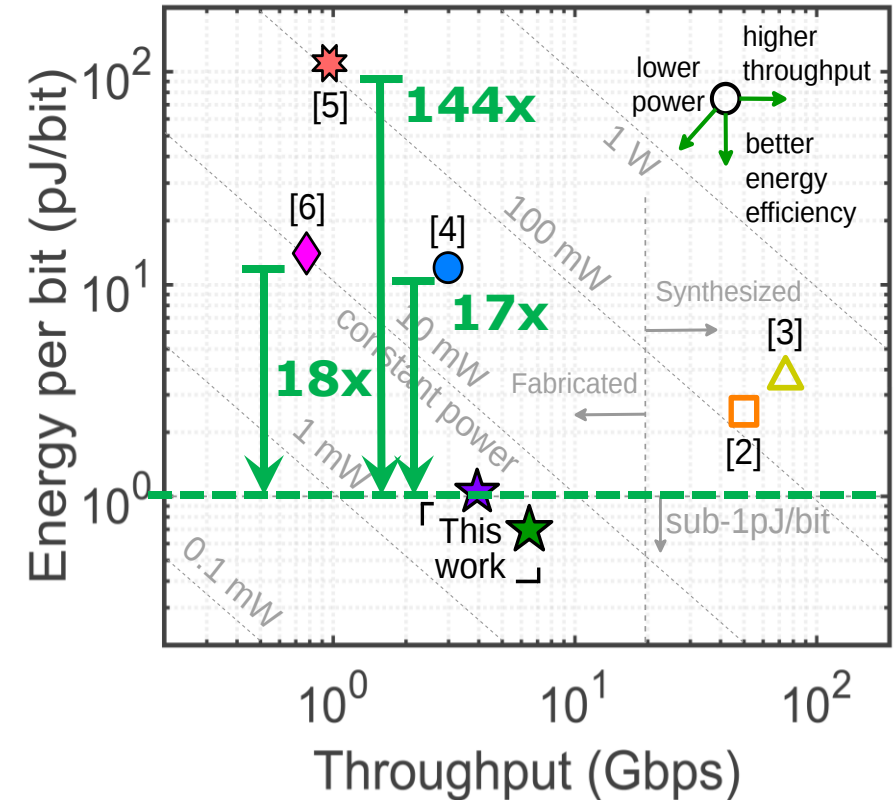
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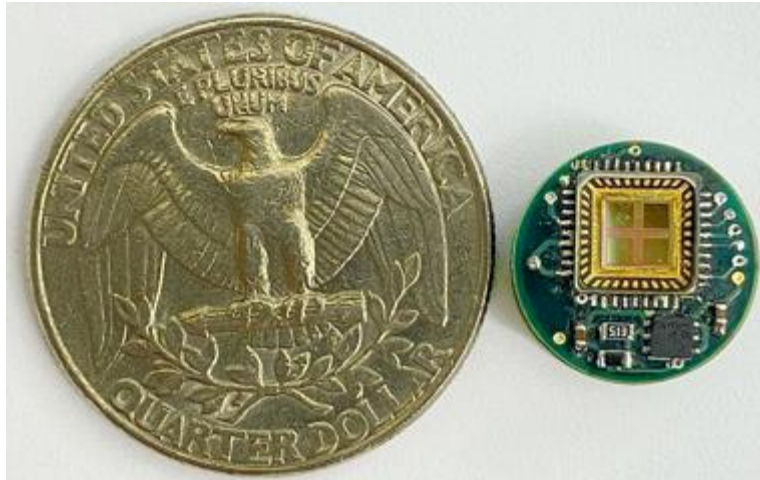
	Fabricated designs				Synthesized designs	
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Node:	40nm	40nm	28nm	40nm	65nm	7nm
Target FER:	10 ⁻⁵	10 ⁻⁷	10 ⁻⁵	10 ⁻⁵	10 ⁻⁷	10 ⁻⁶



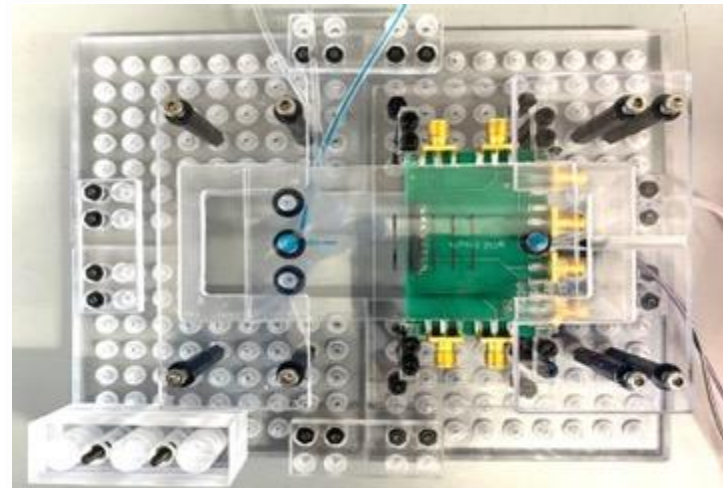
Conclusions

Revisiting WISE-Circuits Research Areas

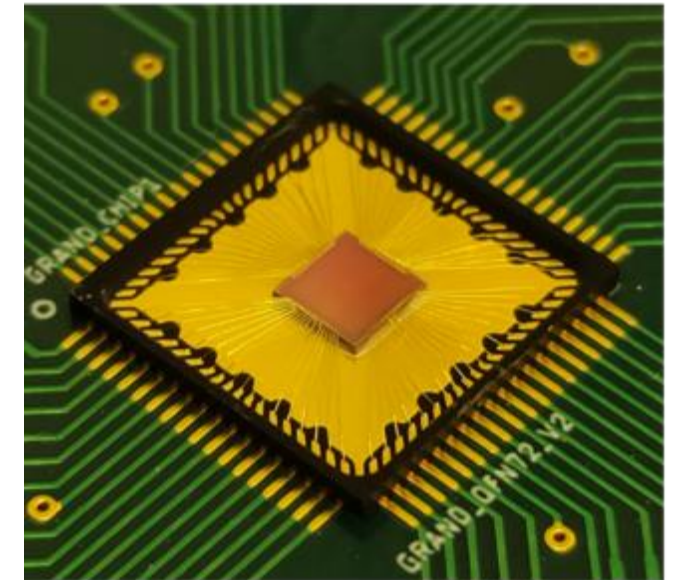
Cyber-Secure Biological Systems



ISSCC SRP'21, CICC'21, BioCAS'22
JSSC'23, Nature'23



ISSCC SRP'23 **Best Poster Award**
ISSCC'24, TBioCAS'24

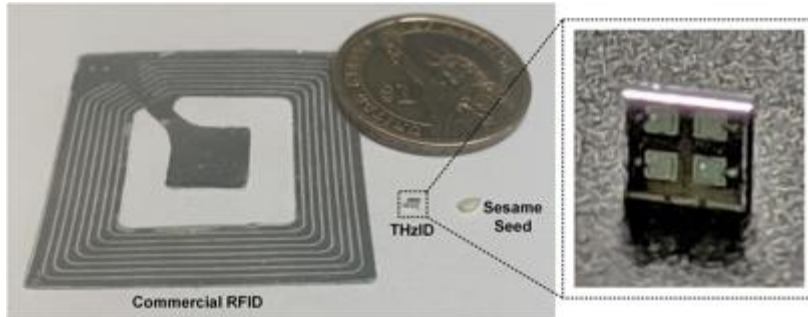


ISSCC SRP'21, **ESSCIRC'21**, Globecom'21
5G WF'21, **ICC'22**, FNWF'22, **ICC'23**
WoWMOM'23, ISIT'23, **ISSCC'23, JSSC'24**
COMSNETS'23 **Best Demo Award**
COMSNETS'22 **Best Research Demo Award**

Conclusions

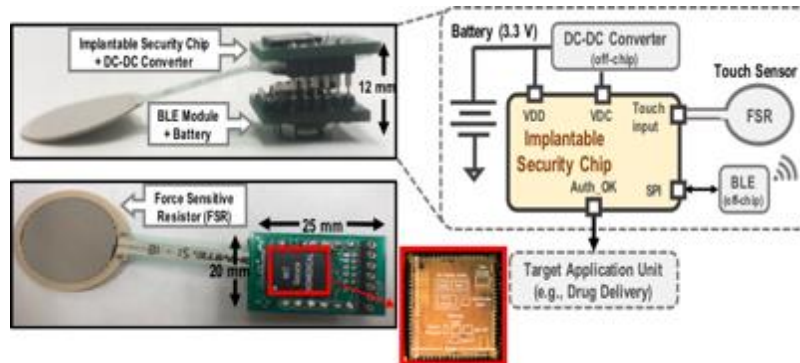
Revisiting WISE-Circuits Research Areas

Secure Package-Less THz ID



ISSCC'20, JSSC'21, SSCM'20, OJ-SSCS'23

Secure Drug Delivery

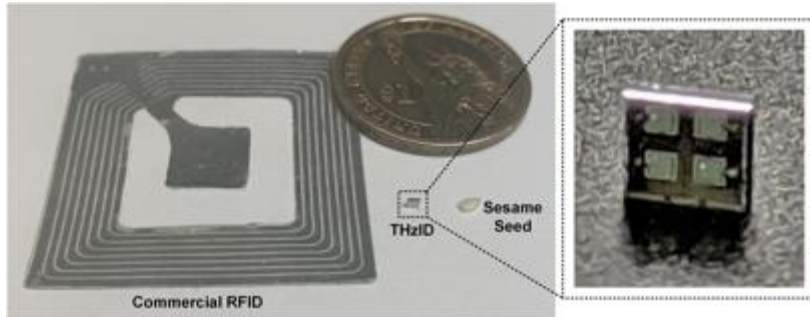


CICC'20, SSCM'20, CBMS'21, OJ-SSCS'23

Conclusions

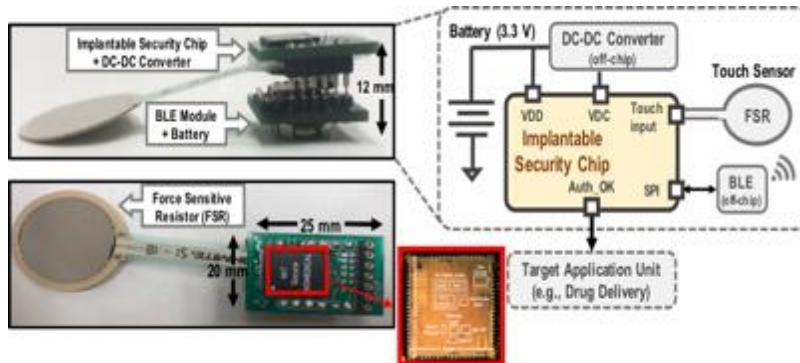
Revisiting WISE-Circuits Research Areas

Secure Package-Less THz ID



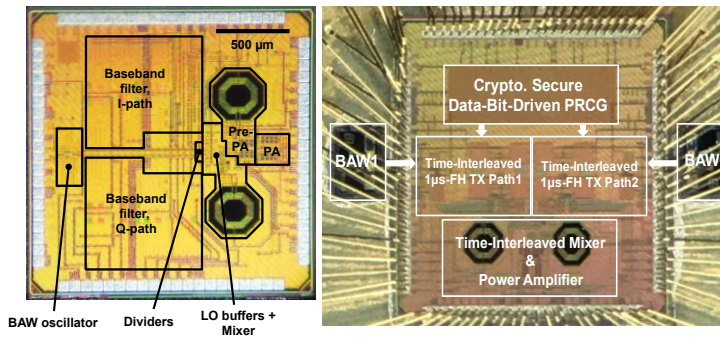
ISSCC'20, JSSC'21, SSCM'20, OJ-SSCS'23

Secure Drug Delivery



CICC'20, SSCM'20, CBMS'21, OJ-SSCS'23

Secure Wireless Communications

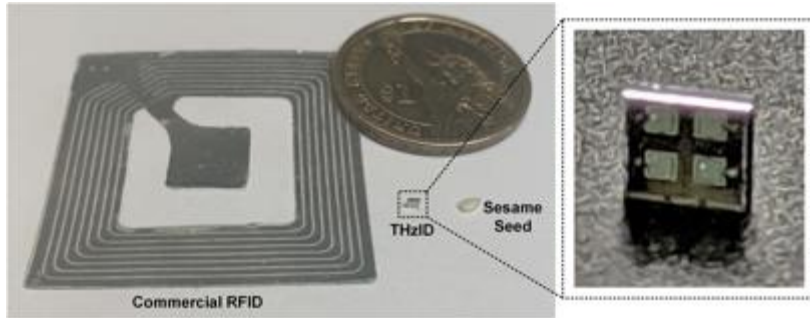


ESSCIRC'17, RFIC'18, SSCM'20, OJ-SSCS'23

Conclusions

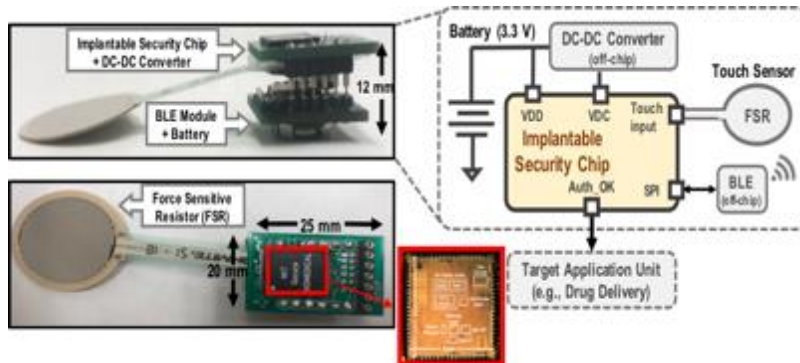
Revisiting WISE-Circuits Research Areas

Secure Package-Less THz ID



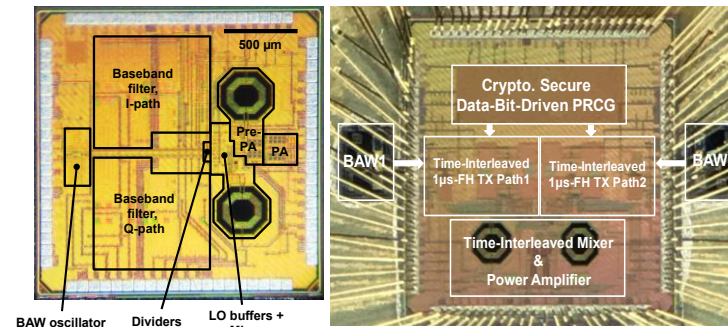
ISSCC'20, JSSC'21, SSCM'20, OJ-SSCS'23

Secure Drug Delivery



CICC'20, SSCM'20, CBMS'21, OJ-SSCS'23

Secure Wireless Communications

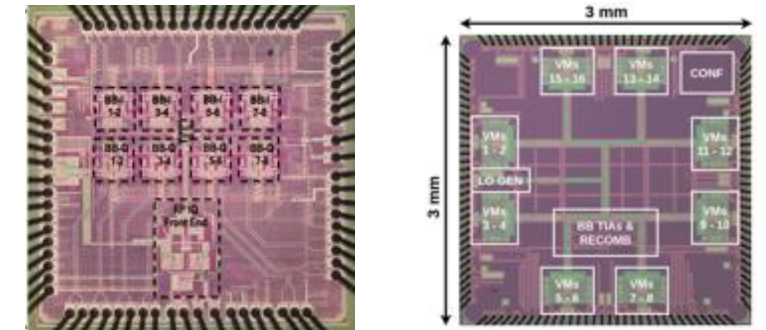


ESSCIRC'17, RFIC'18, SSCM'20, OJ-SSCS'23

Energy-Efficient Wireless Systems

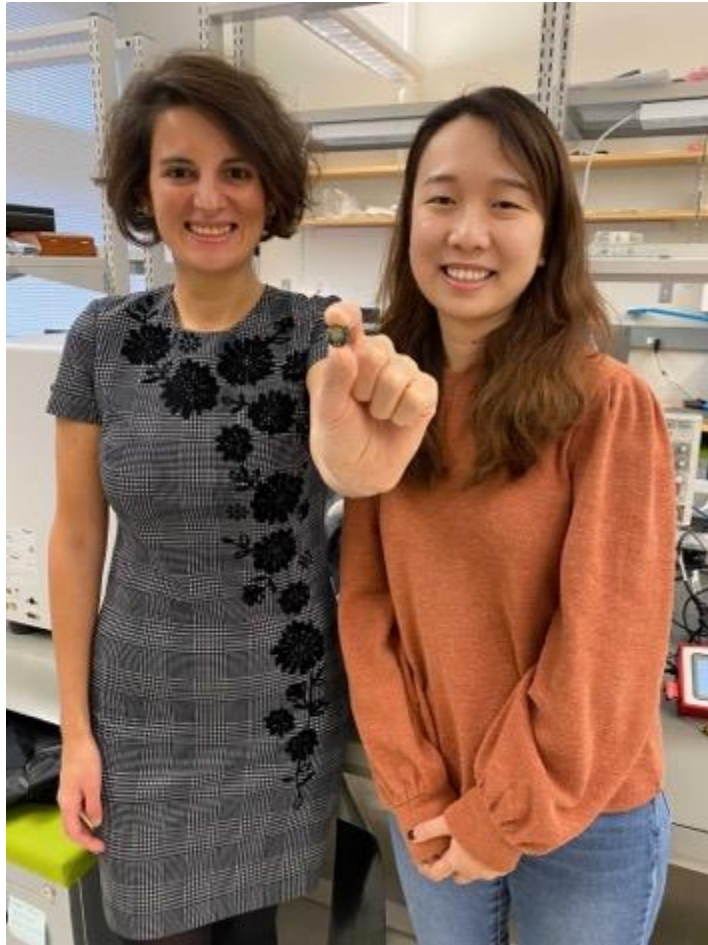
$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}_j \\ \mathbf{y}_i \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}_{m \times 1} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{p}_j(t) \\ \text{p}_i(t) \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}_{m \times N_0} \mathbf{X}_{N_0 \times 1}$$

$m < N_0$



ISSCC'15, JSSC'15, RFIC'16, TCASI'18, SPM'19, ICASSP'22, A-SSCC'23

Acknowledgements: Bioelectronics Collaborators



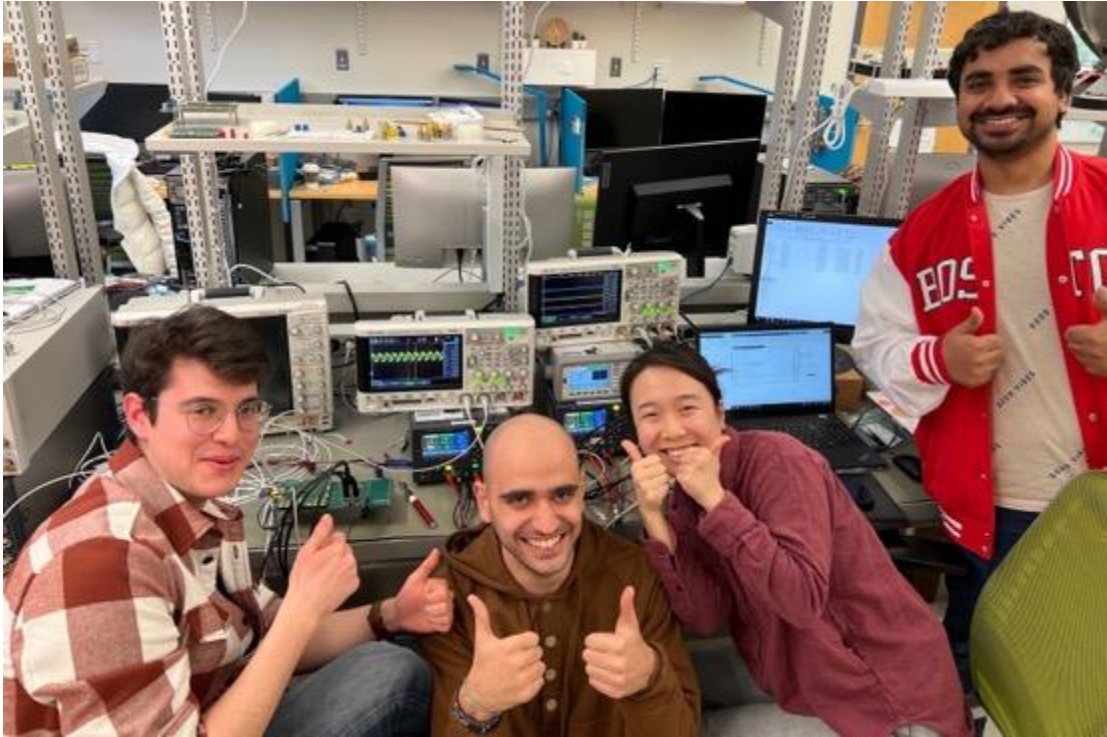
- Douglas Densmore, BU ECE
- Ahmad Khalil, BU BME
- Wilson Wong, BU BME
- James Galagan, BU BME
- Miguel Jimenez, BU BME
- Timothy Lu, MIT BE (Now Senti Bio)
- Giovanni Traverso, MIT MechE
- Phillip Nadeau, Analog Devices (ADI)
- Andrew Magyar, Liz Onderko, Capra Biosciences
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- Lu Lab: Maria Eugenia Inda, Yong Lai
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- WISE-Circuits Lab: Qijun (Mandy) Liu, Alperen Yasar, Dilara Caygara

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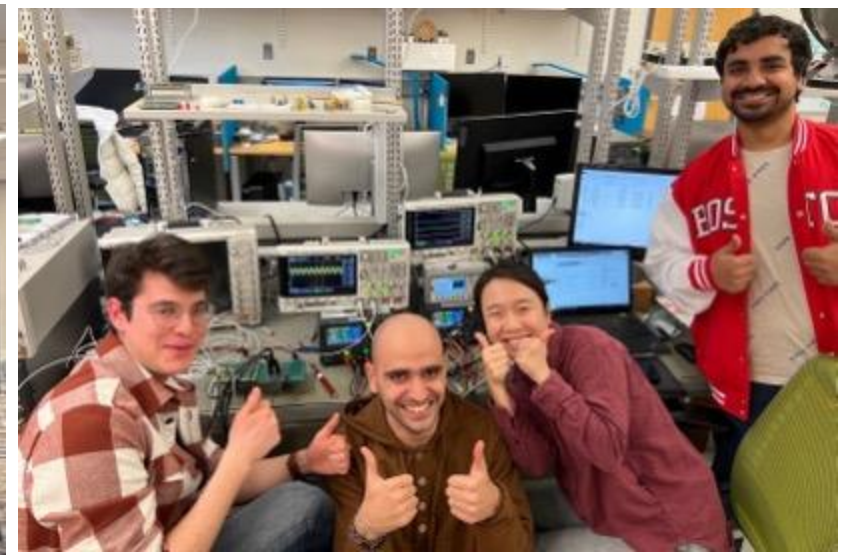
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- Starobinski Lab: Stefan Gvozdenovic
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8
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Students

2
Postdoctoral
Researchers

9
M.S.
Researchers

32
Undergraduate
Researchers

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