

# CMOS Biochips: The Good, the Bad, and the Hype

Arjang Hassibi  
Founder/CEO, InSilixa, Inc.



InSilixa

QUESTION 1:

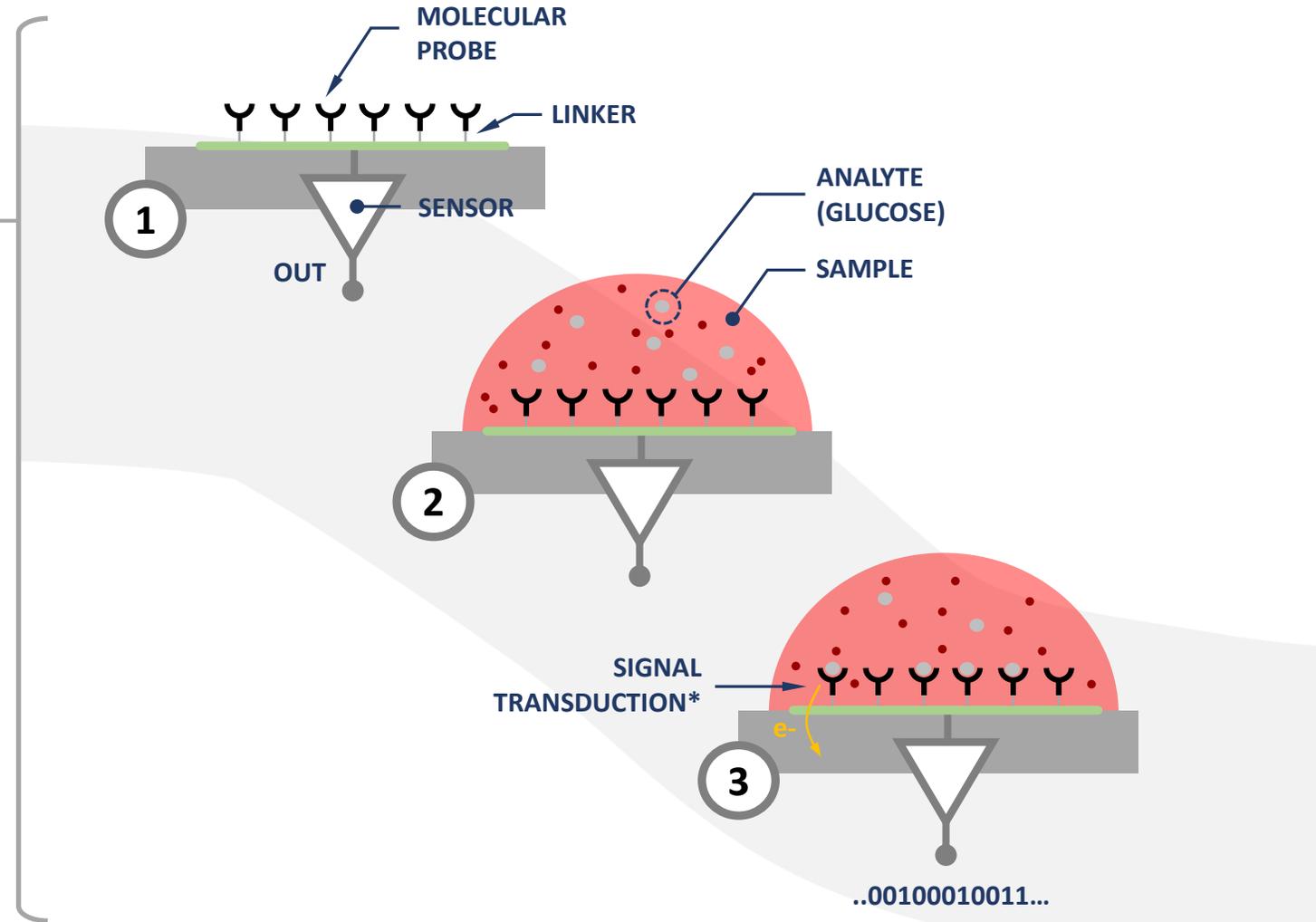
**What is a Biosensor?**



# Biosensors: Basic Concept



Detecting analytes in (aqueous) samples using “electronic” devices



\* Transduction can be electronic, optical, mechanical, etc.

# Biosensors: Analytes

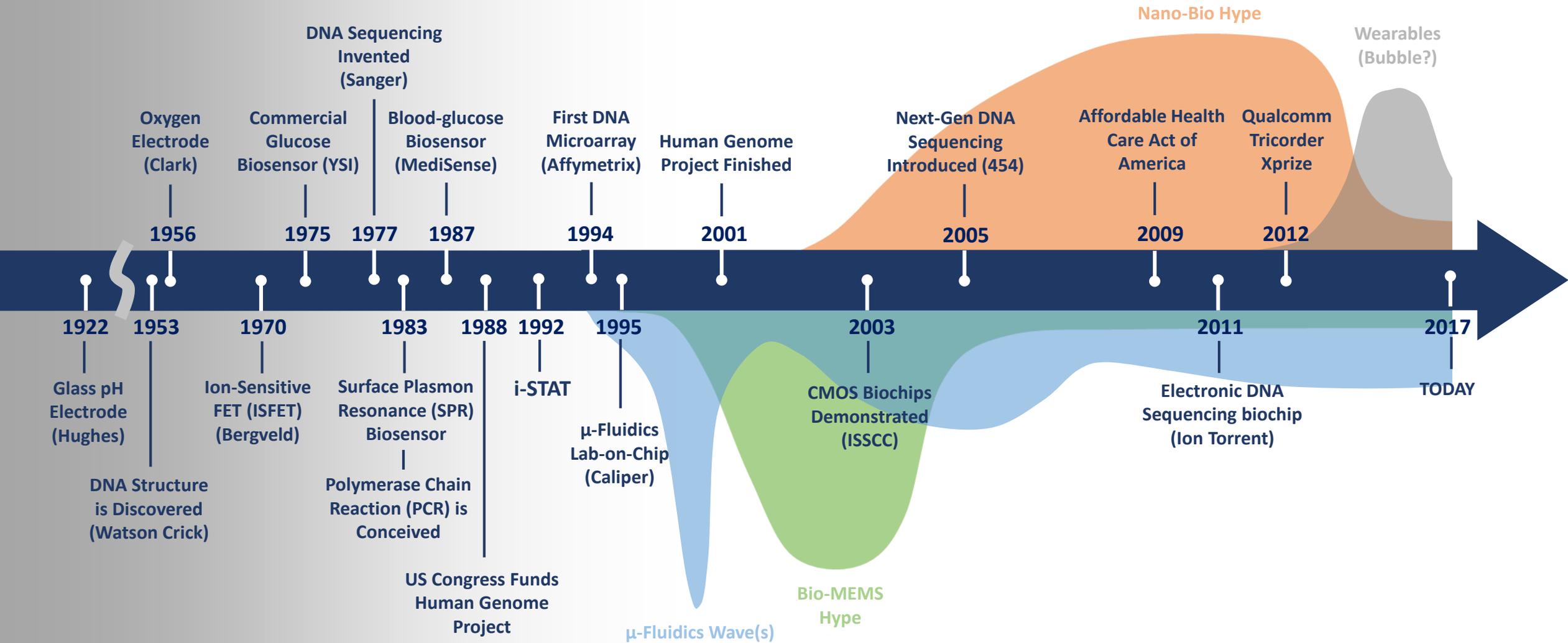


Detecting analytes in (aqueous) samples using “electronic” devices

Examples	Concentration (Copies/ml)	Types/Strains*
<b>Water</b>	$3.3 \times 10^{22}$	-
<b>Glucose</b>	$10^{18}$	1
<b>Cholesterol</b>	$8 \times 10^{17}$	2
<b>Antibodies/Hormones</b>	$10^8$	> 10,000
<b>DNA for Forensics</b>	$10^7$	20
<b>Upper Respiratory Viruses</b> ( <i>Flu A, Flu B, Rhinovirus, etc.</i> )	$10^4$	> 50
<b>HIV Virus in Blood</b>	$4 \times 10^2$	> 50
<b><i>M. Tuberculosis</i> Bacteria</b>	$10^2$	> 300
<b>Bacteria in Blood</b>	10	> 1000
<b>Food Poisoning Bacteria</b> ( <i>Salmonella, Listeria, E. Coli</i> )	1	> 50

\* Including genotypes

# History



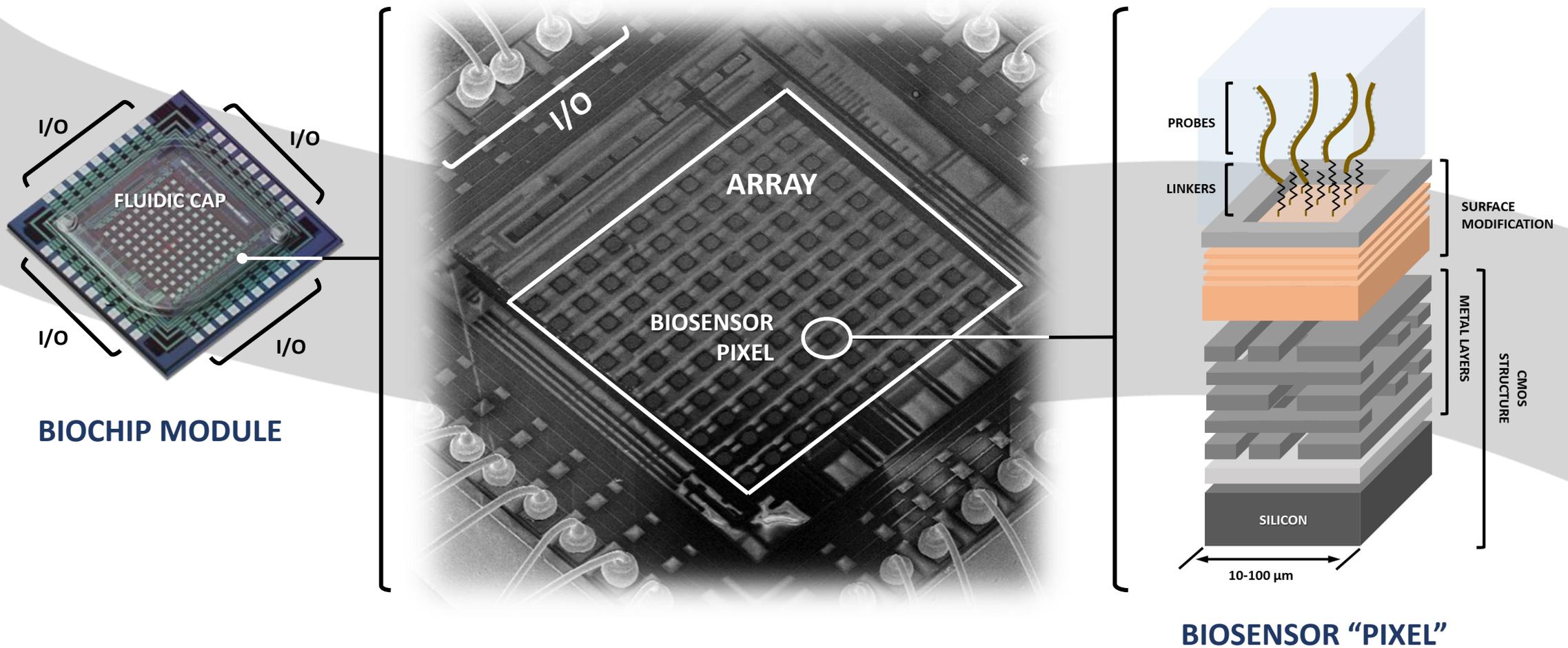
## QUESTION 2:

**What is a CMOS biochip (biosensor)?**



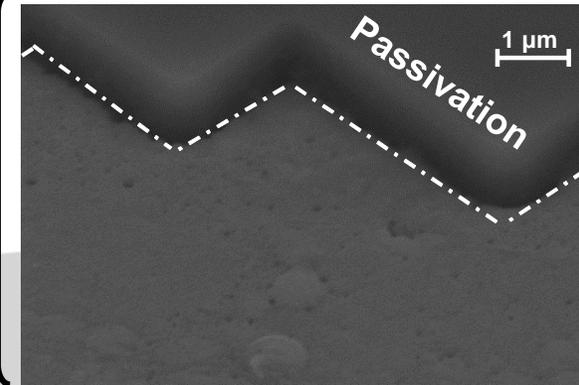
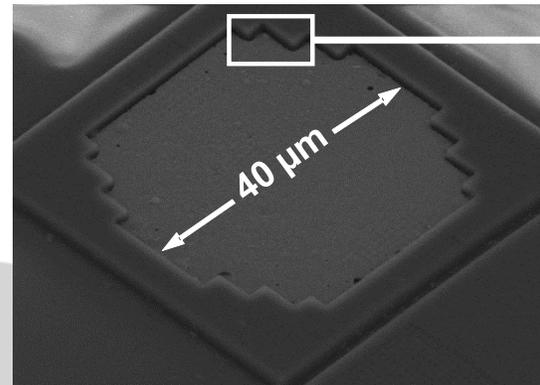
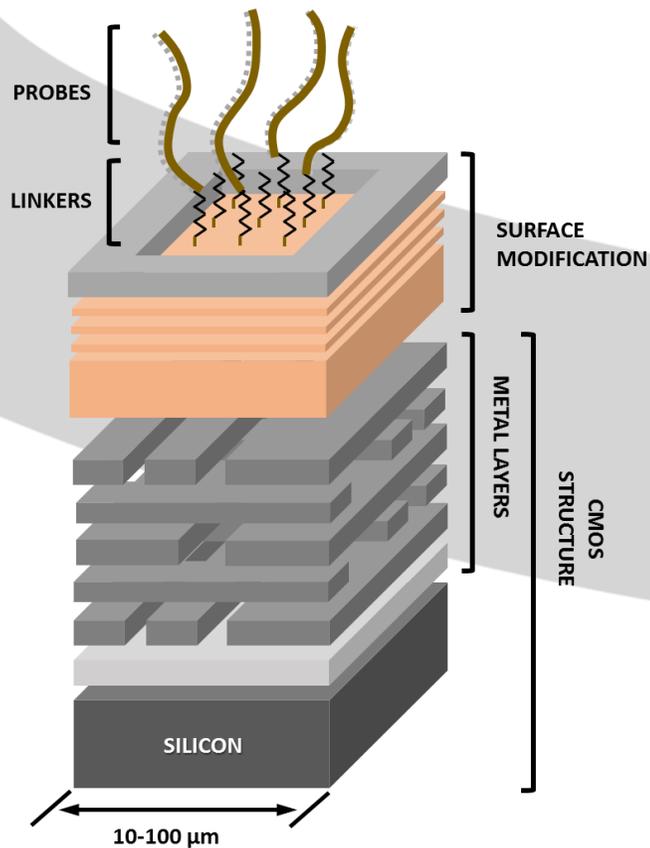
# CMOS Biochip Anatomy

Modified CMOS chips capable of parallel biosensing

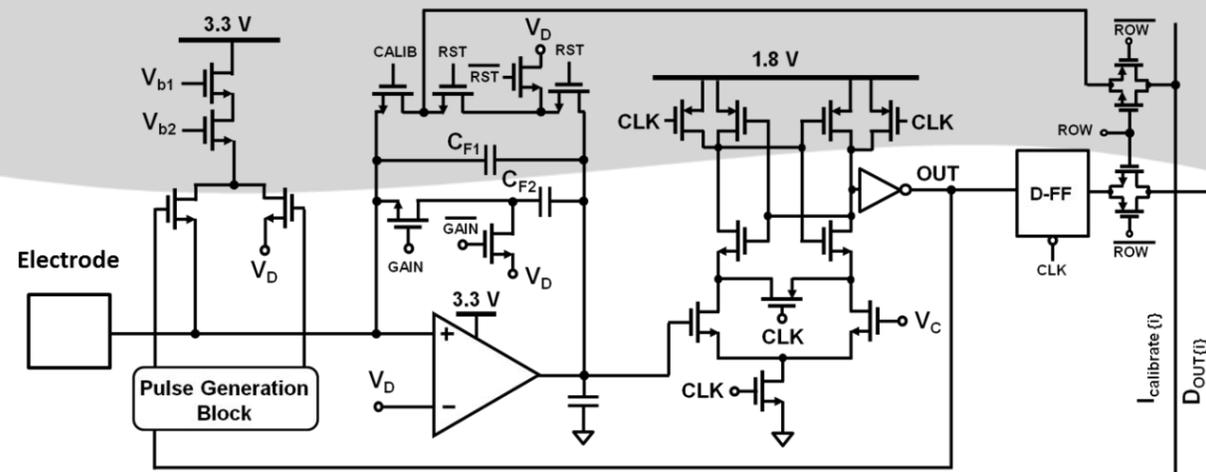


# Biosensing "Pixel" Structure

"Pixels" include bio-recognition elements (probes), transducer, and CMOS-integrated sensor



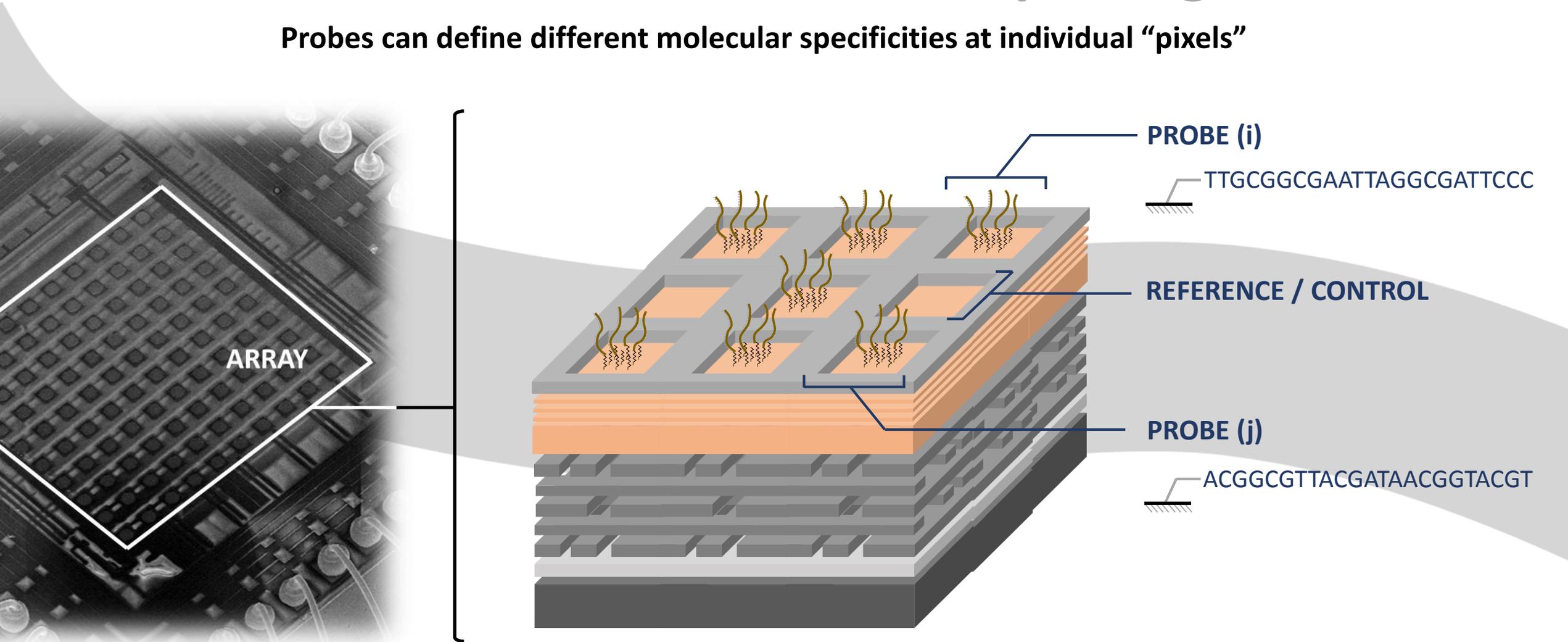
**CMOS-COMPATIBLE  
TRANSDUCER**



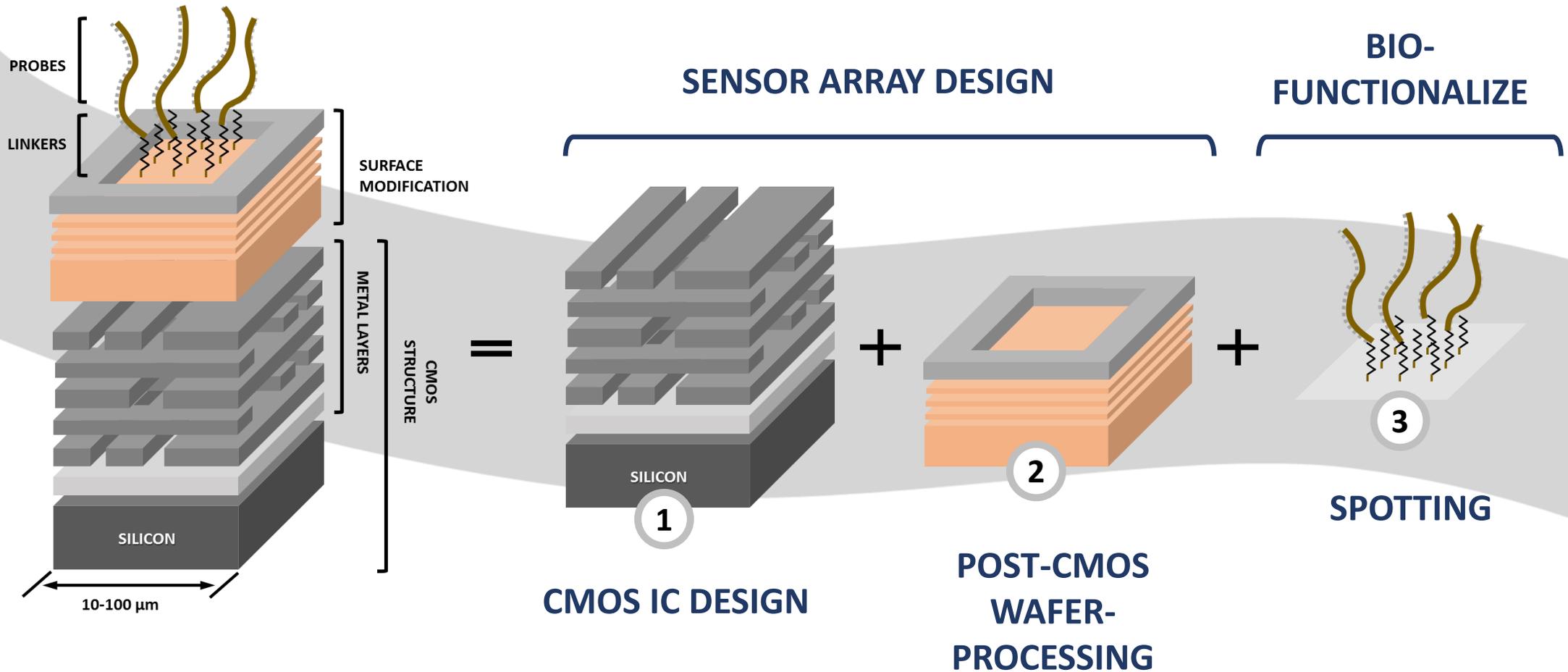
**CMOS-  
INTEGRATED  
SENSOR**

# Parallel Detection: Multiplexing

Probes can define different molecular specificities at individual "pixels"

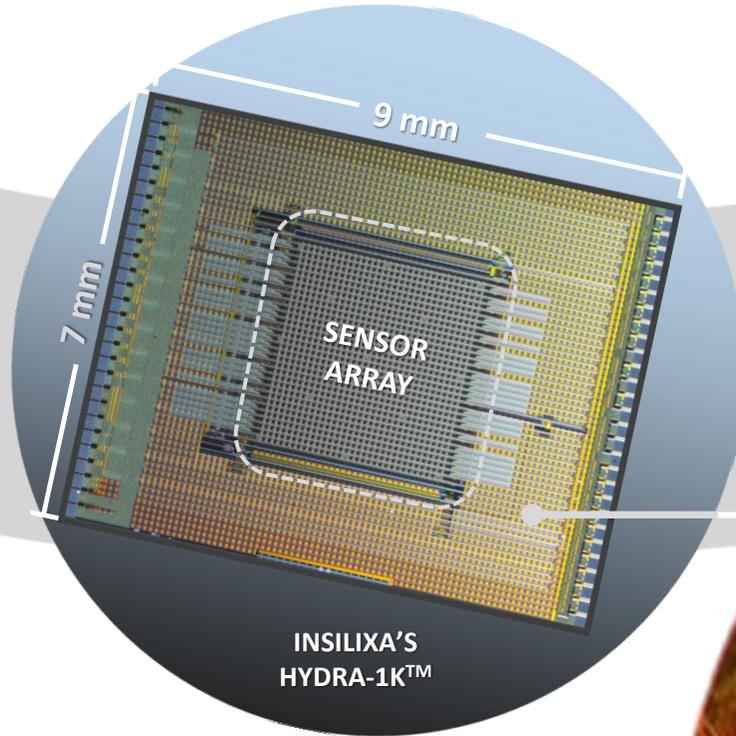
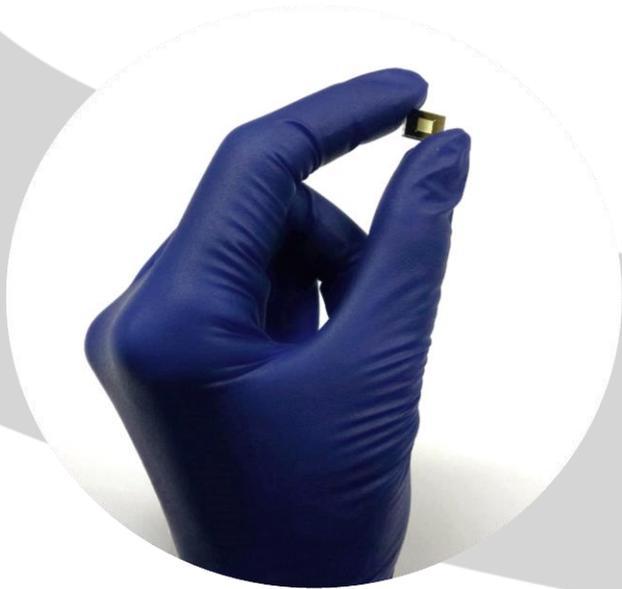


# Creating CMOS Biochips



# Manufacturing

CMOS chips are fabricated (steps ① and ②) in semiconductor “eco-system”



CMOS CHIP  
(200-300 per wafer)

8" Wafers  
TSMC 180nm CIS Process

# Manufacturing

Bio-functionalization (step ③) is performed using automated assembly/spotting equipment

CVD SYSTEM



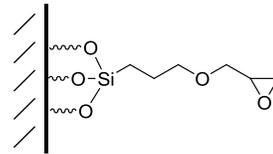
NON-CONTACT SPOTTING



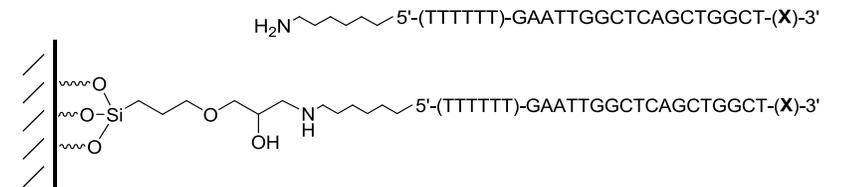
PLASMA  
TREATMENT



SILANATION



IMMOBILIZATION



## QUESTION 3:

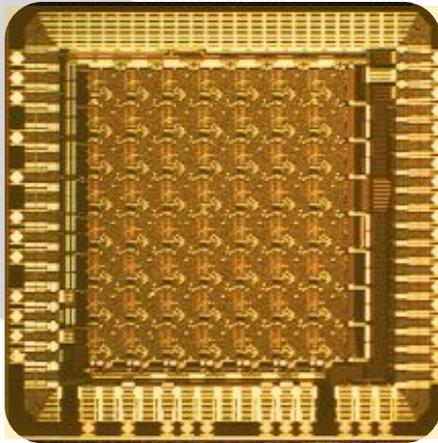
**Are biosensing detection modalities CMOS-compatible?**



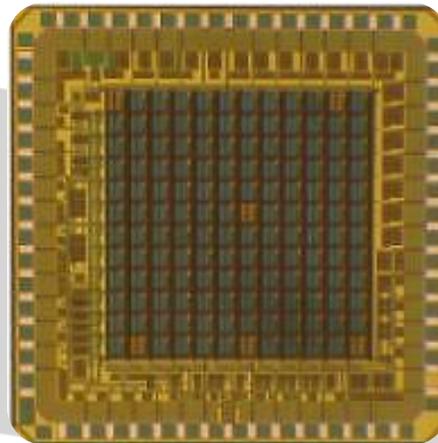
# Versatility of CMOS

All relevant detection modalities are CMOS-compatible

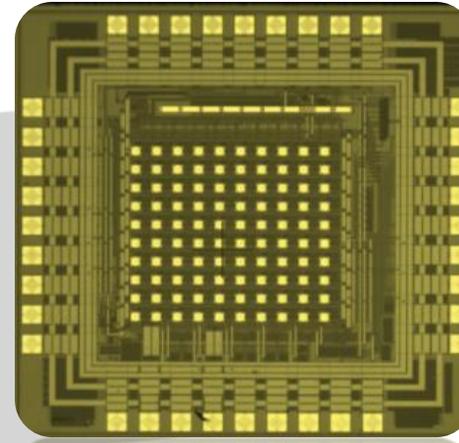
FLUORESCENCE



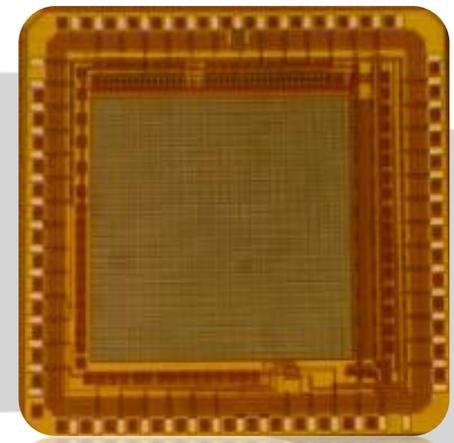
BIOLUMINESCENCE



IMPEDANCE SPECTROSCOPY



CHARGE-BASED



YEAR	ISSCC 2009	VLSI 2011	ISSCC 2010	VLSI 2012
APPLICATION	Microarrays NAAT <sup>1</sup>	Immunoassays DNA Sequencing	Microarrays	DNA Sequencing

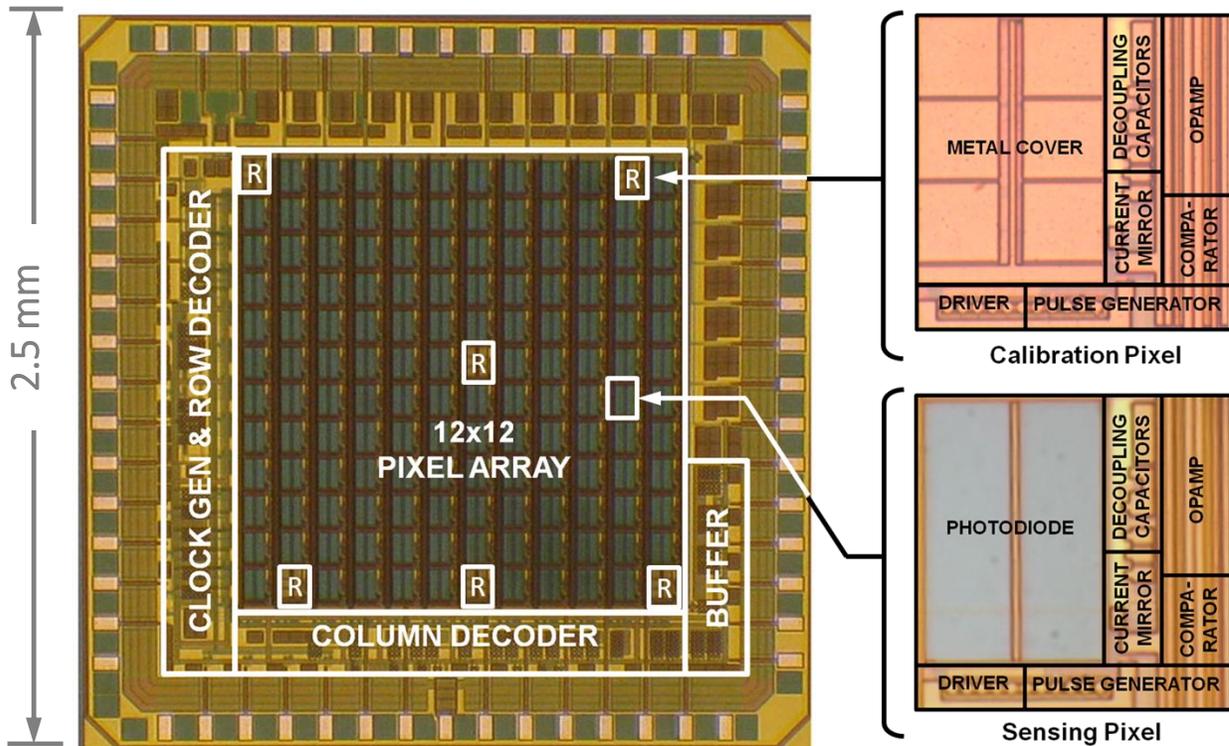
<sup>1</sup> Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing



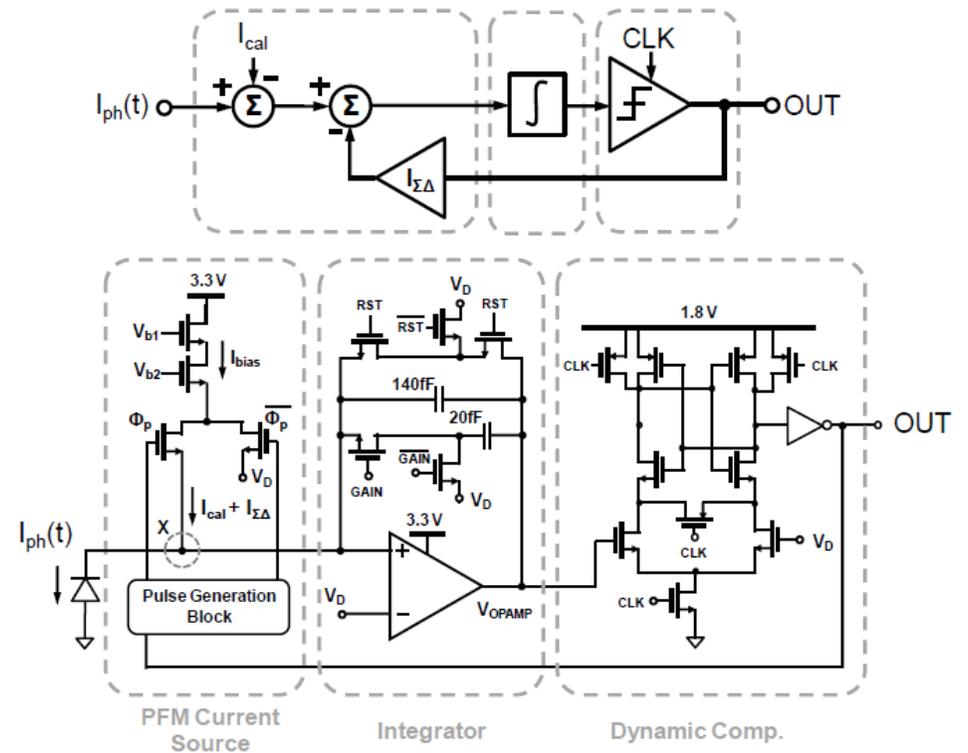
# Example [1]

CMOS biochip tailored for high-dynamic range (HDR) bioluminescence detection

## CMOS BIOCHIP



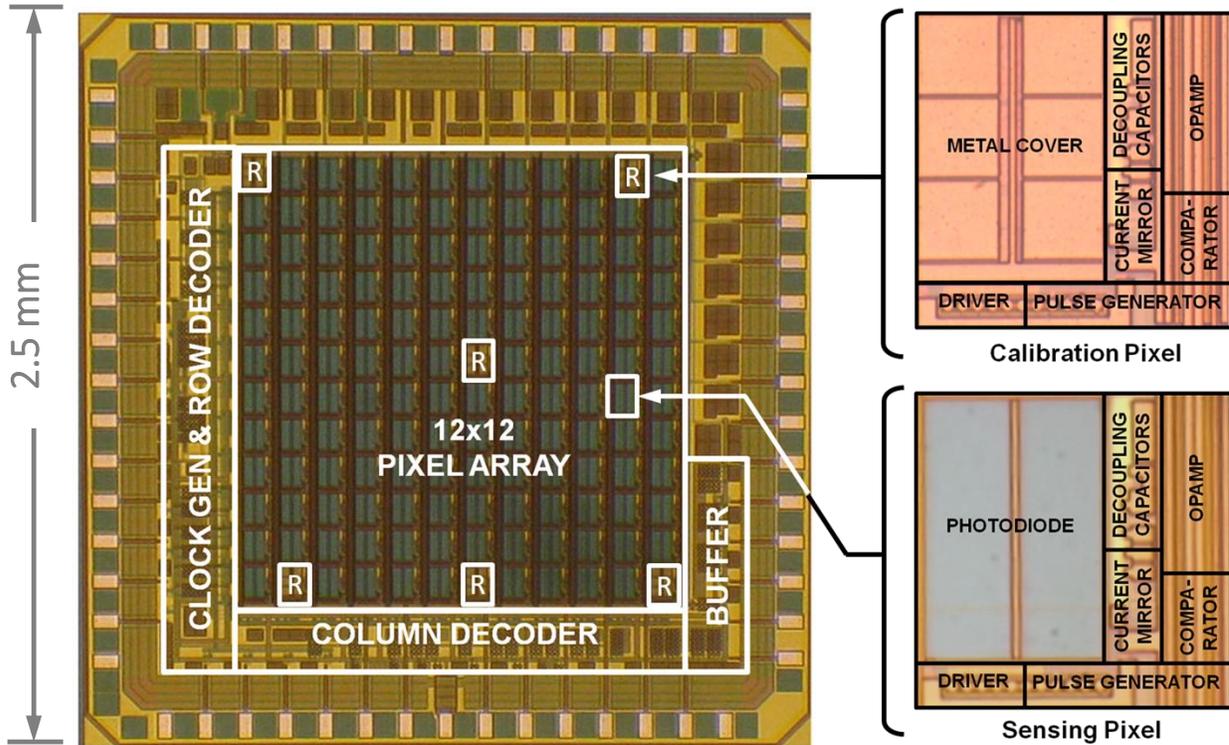
## HDR $\Delta\Sigma$ Photosensor



# Example [1]

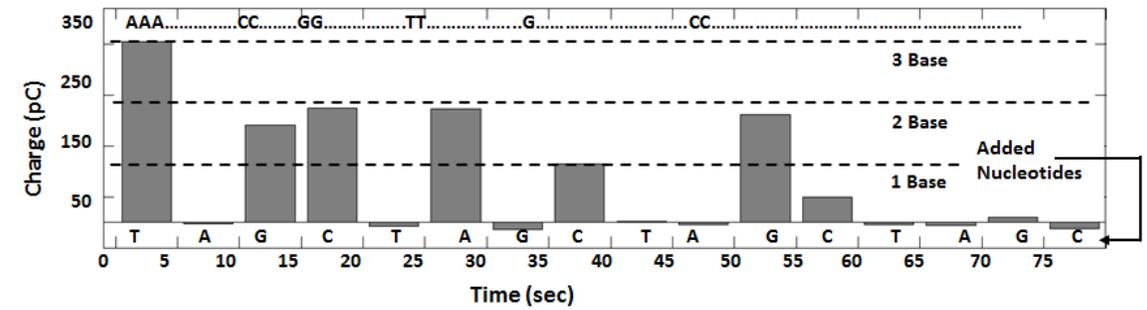
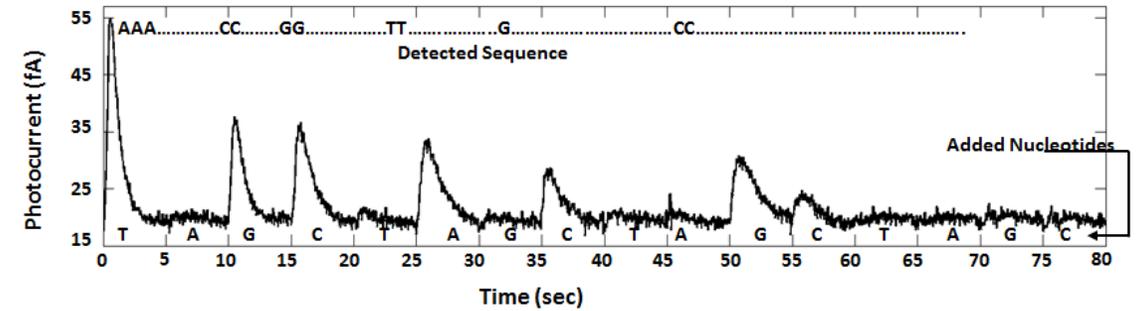
## CMOS biochip tailored for high-dynamic range (HDR) bioluminescence detection

Micrograph



Bioluminescence DNA Sequencing

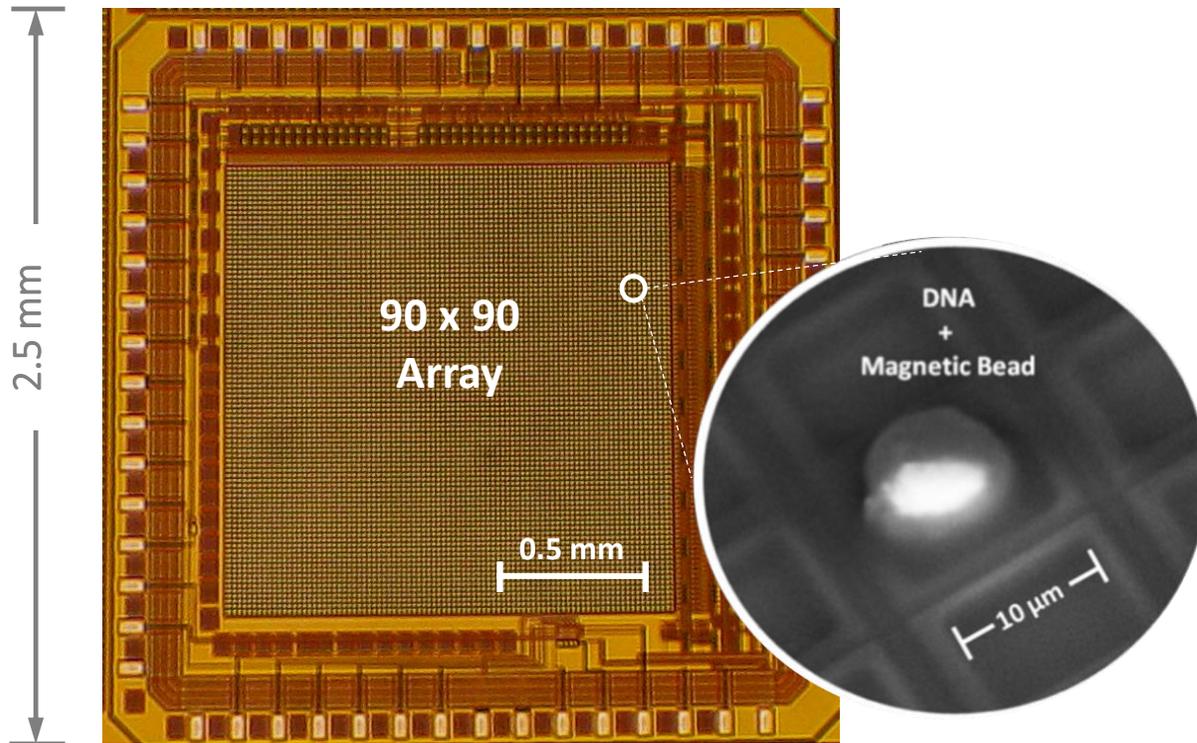
5'- CGTTGTA~~AA~~ACGACGGC  
 3'- GCAACATTTTGCTGCCG~~AA~~ACCGGTTGCC



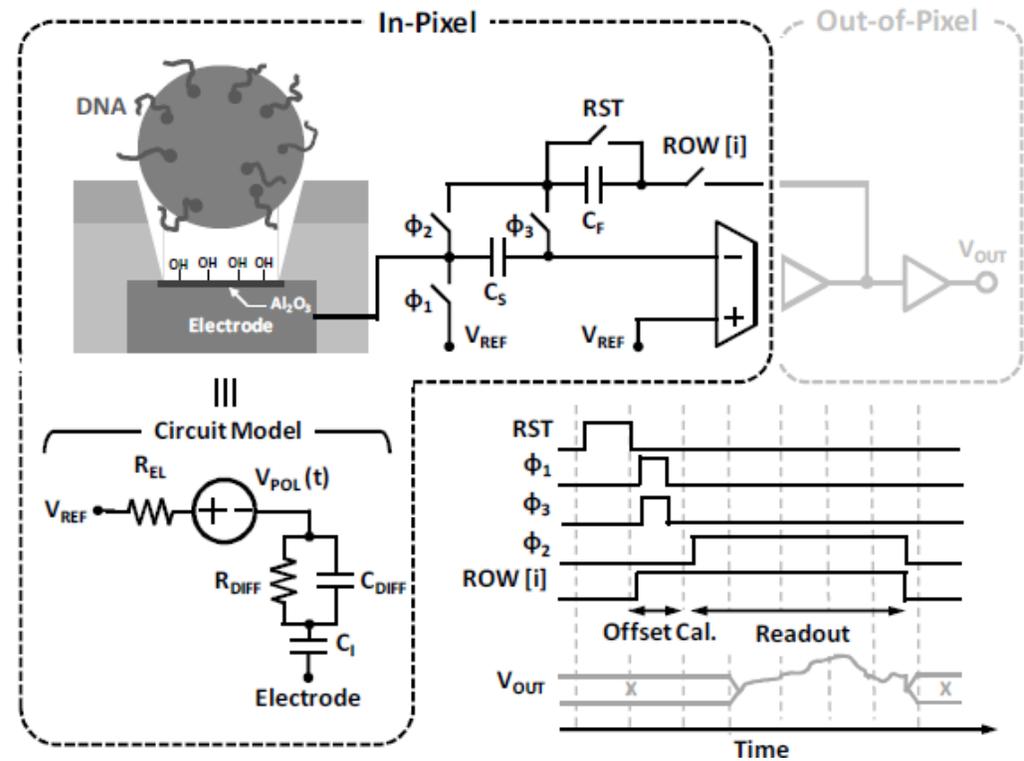
# Example [2]

## CMOS biochip with low noise charge sensor array

Micrograph



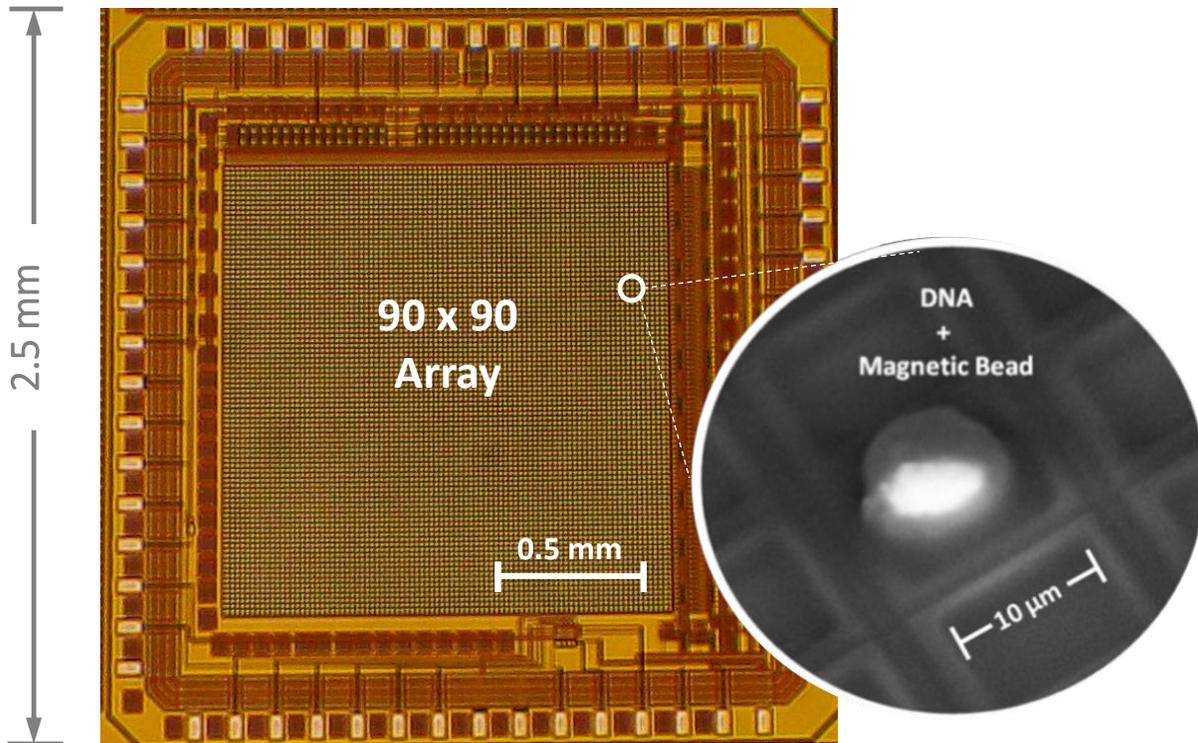
Switch-Capacitor Charge integrator w/ CDS



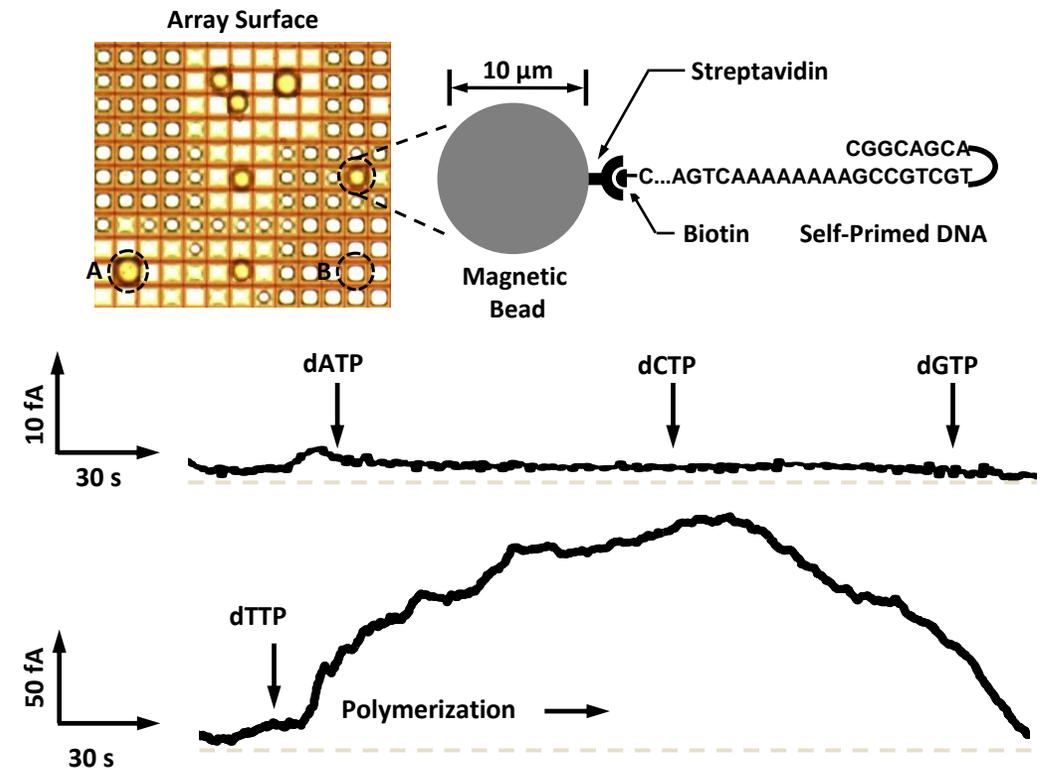
# Example [2]

## CMOS biochip with low noise charge sensor array

Micrograph



Charge-based DNA Sequencing

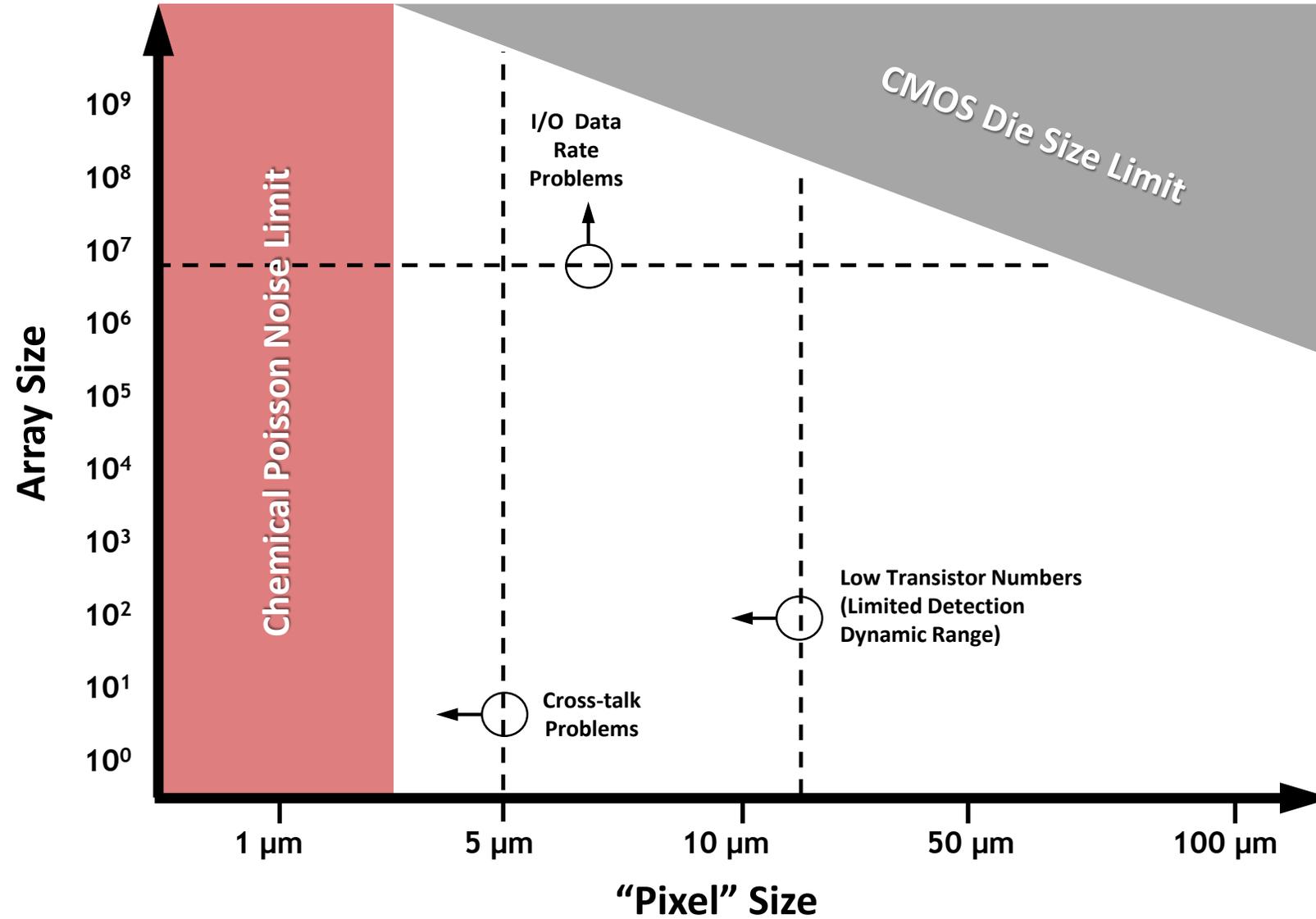


## QUESTION 4:

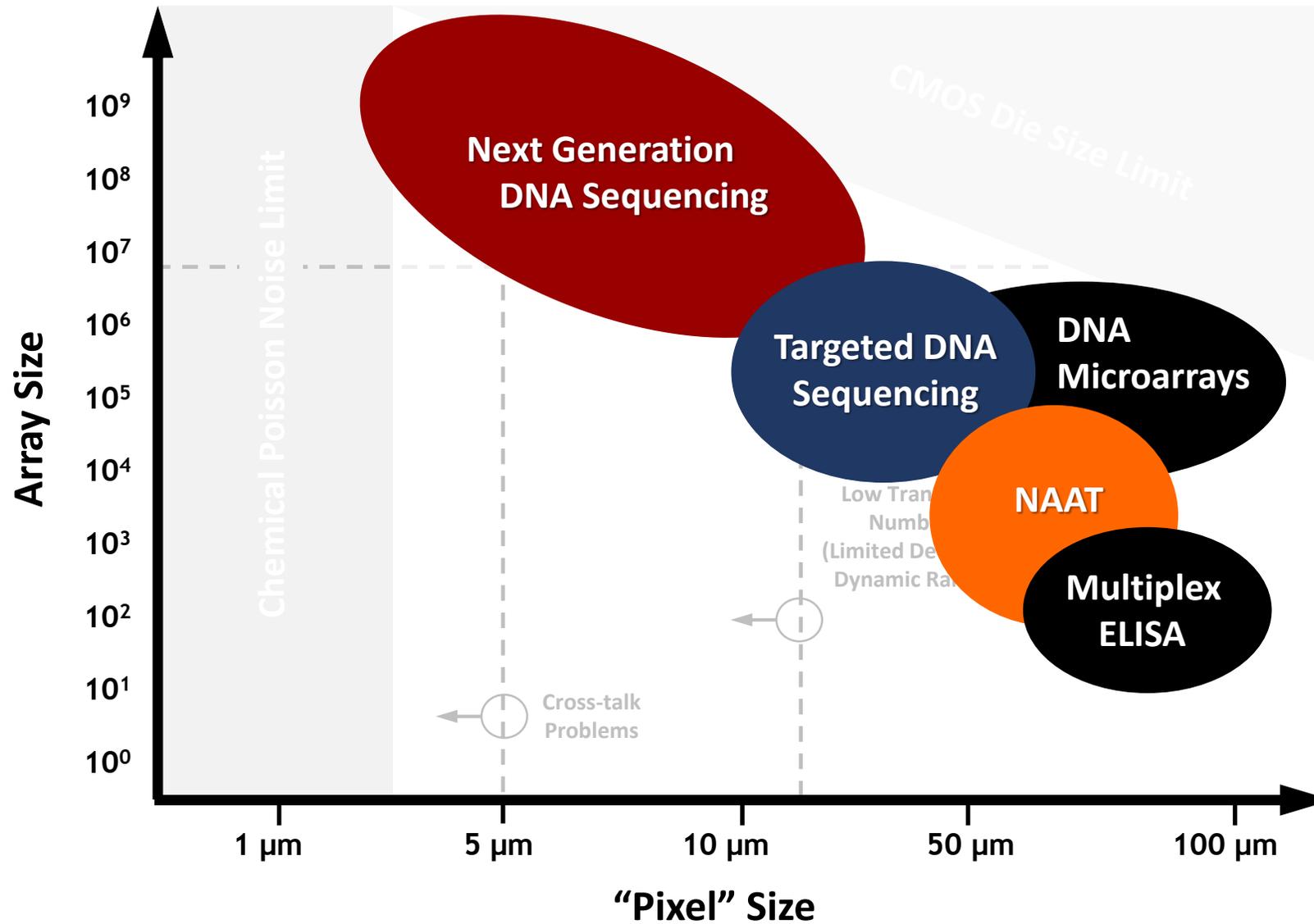
**What array densities and pixel sizes are required?  
What are the implications on performance?**



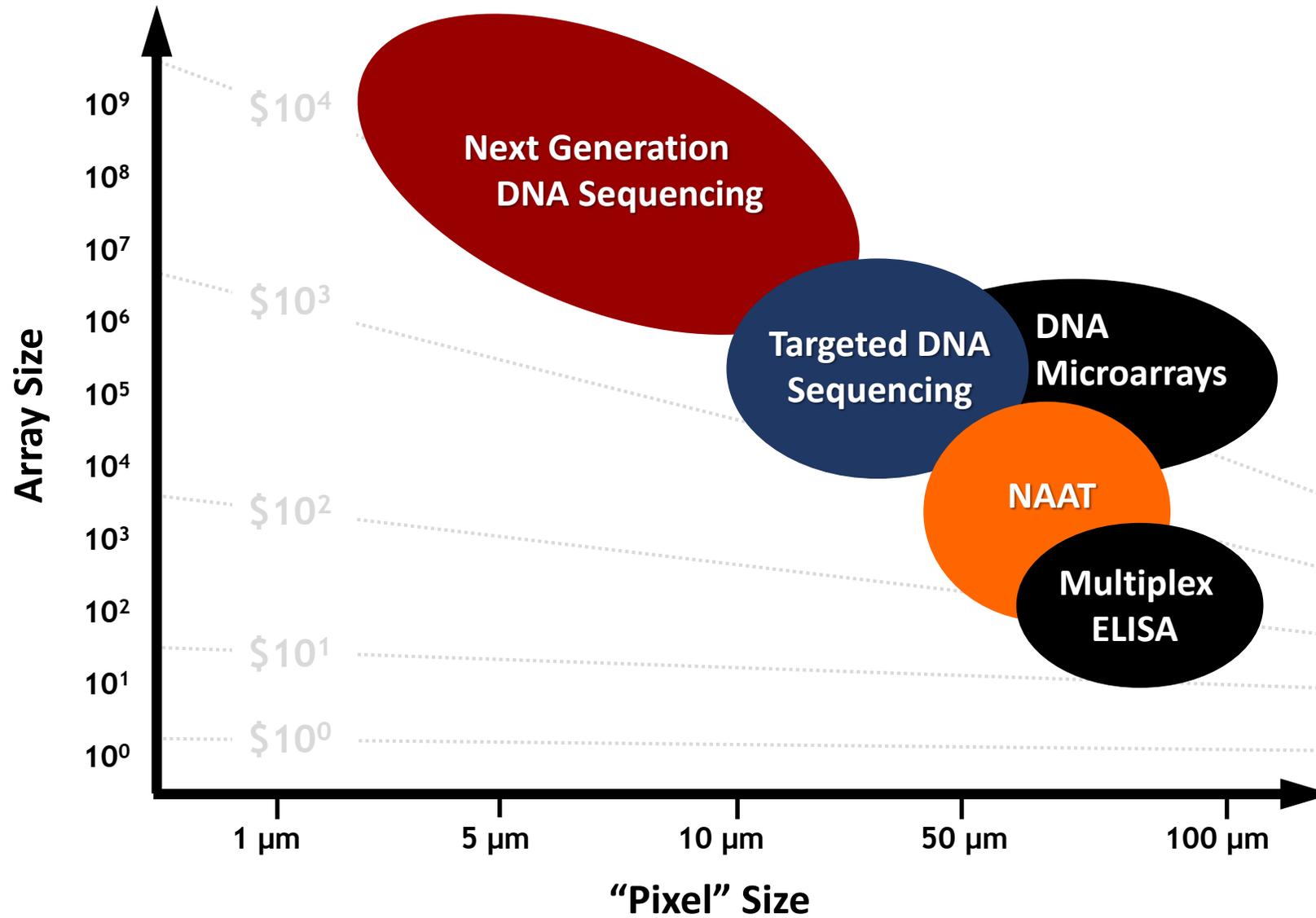
# Fundamental Limits



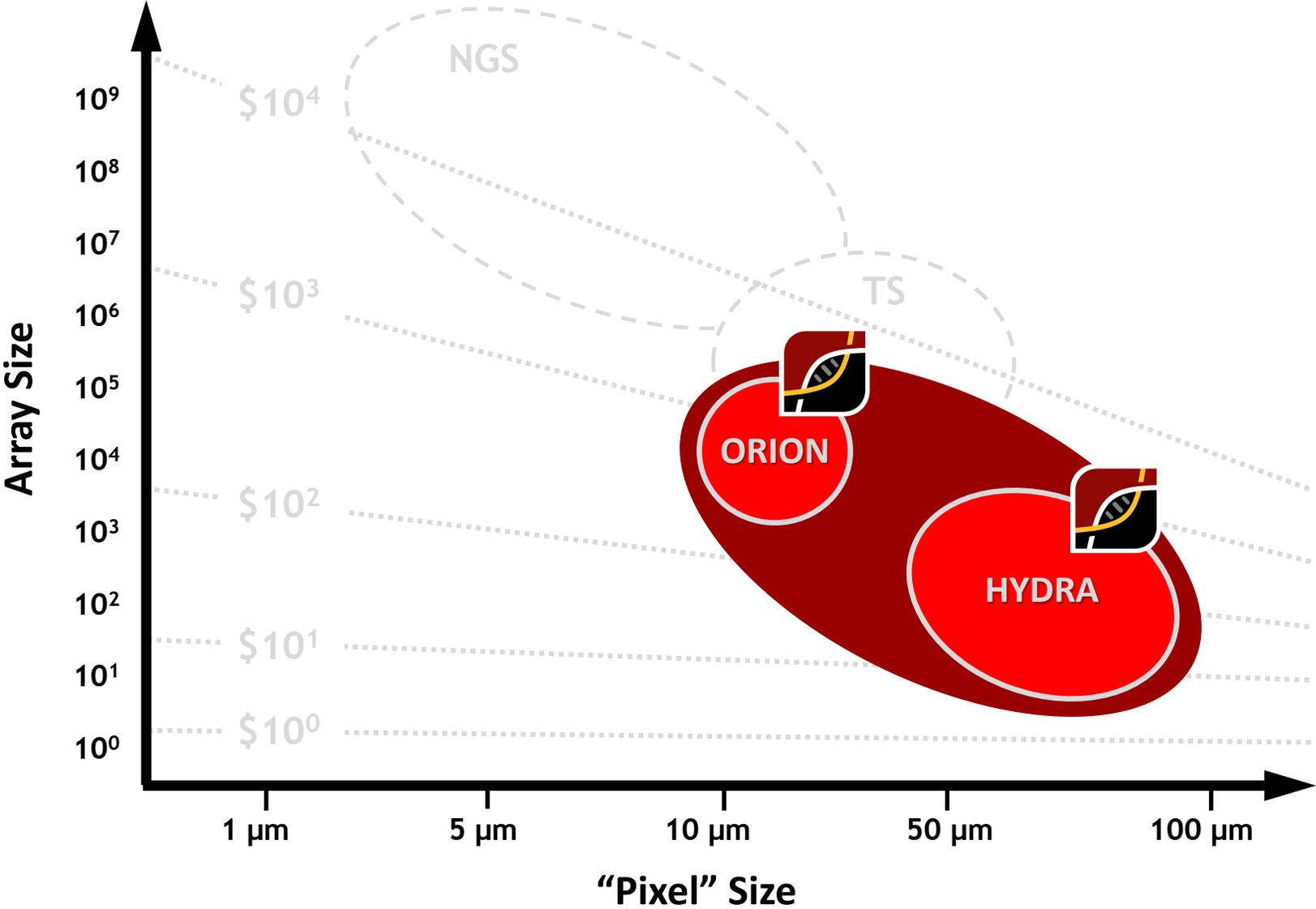
# Application Overlay



# Cost Overlay



# Ideal Target Applications



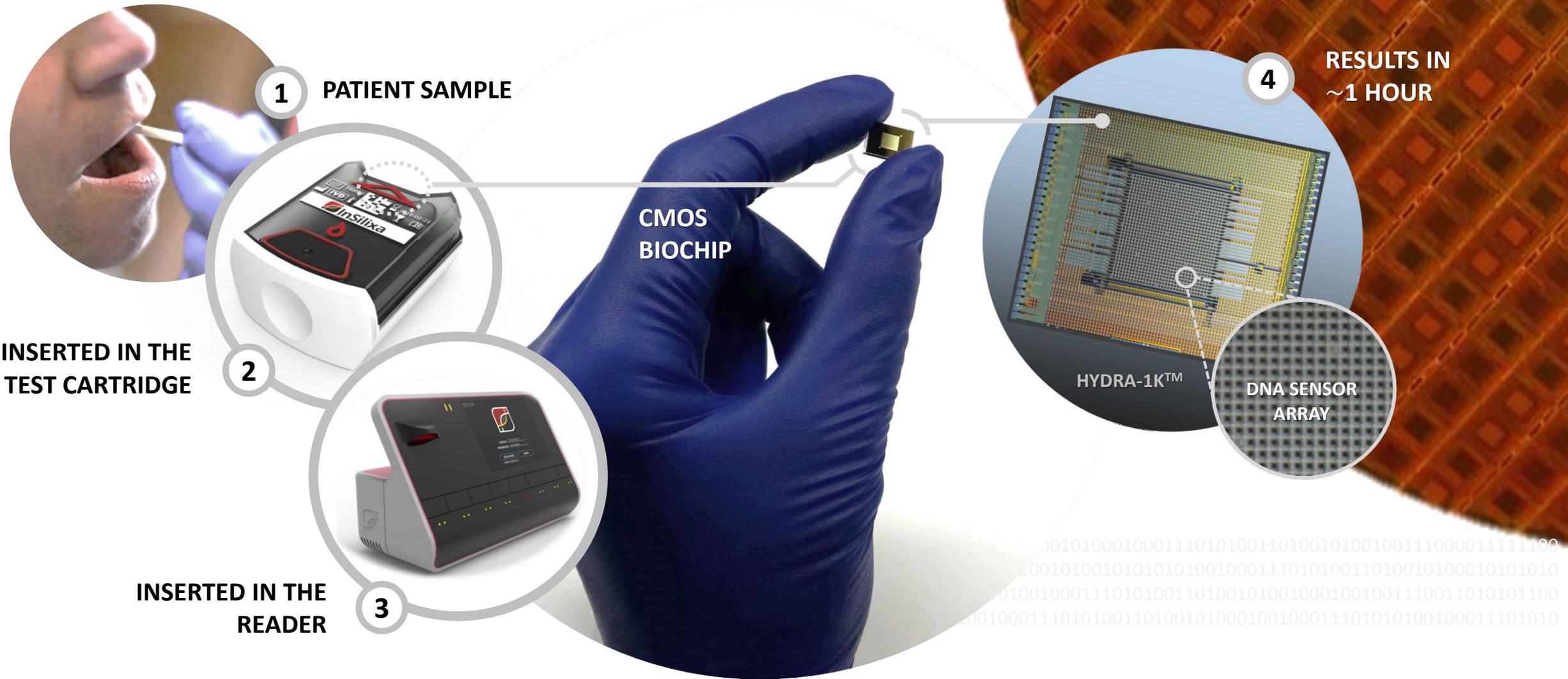
## QUESTION 5:

**What is the HYDRA platform?**

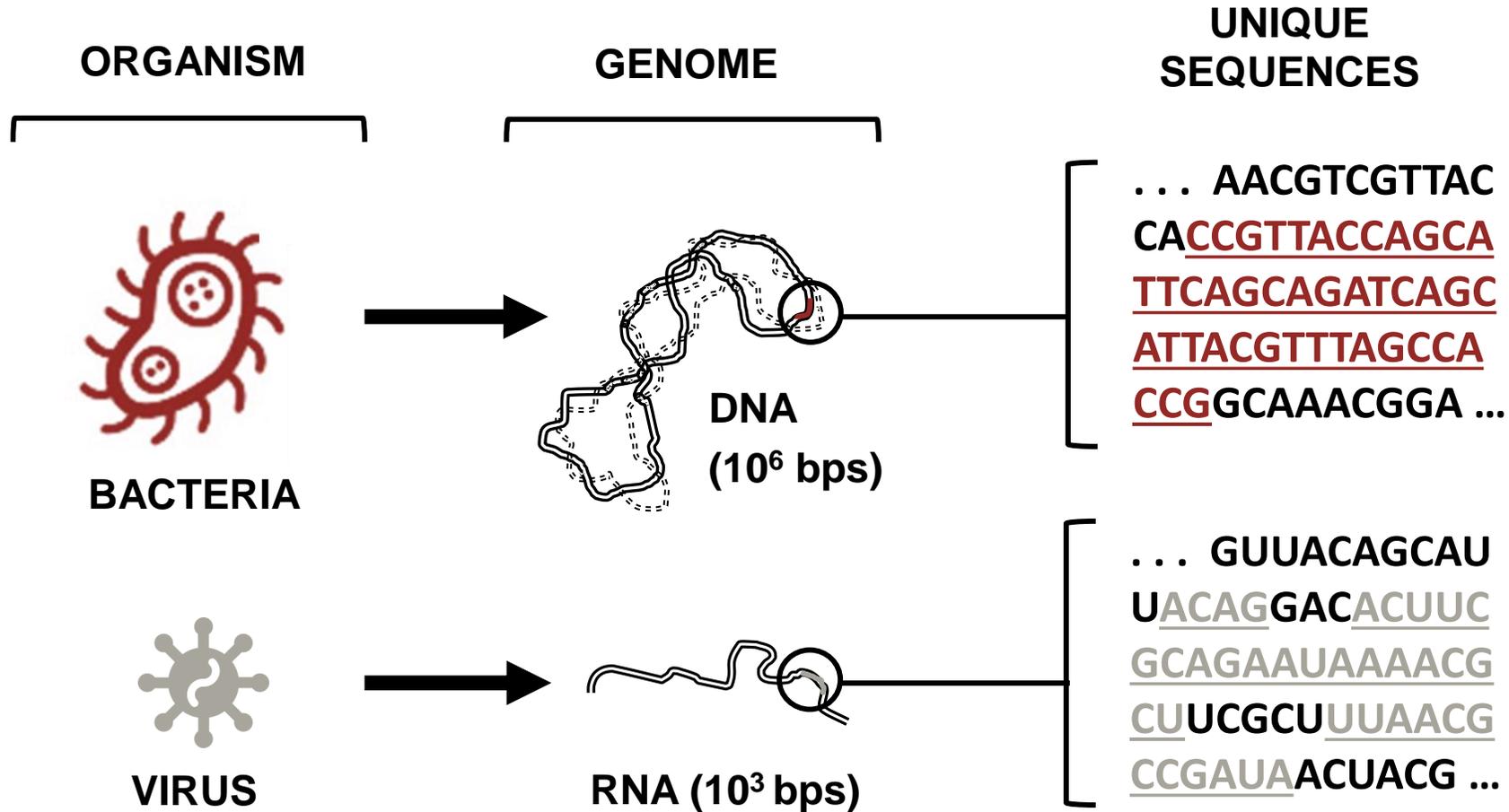


# HYDRA Platform

Detection pathogens (viruses and bacteria) through DNA analysis

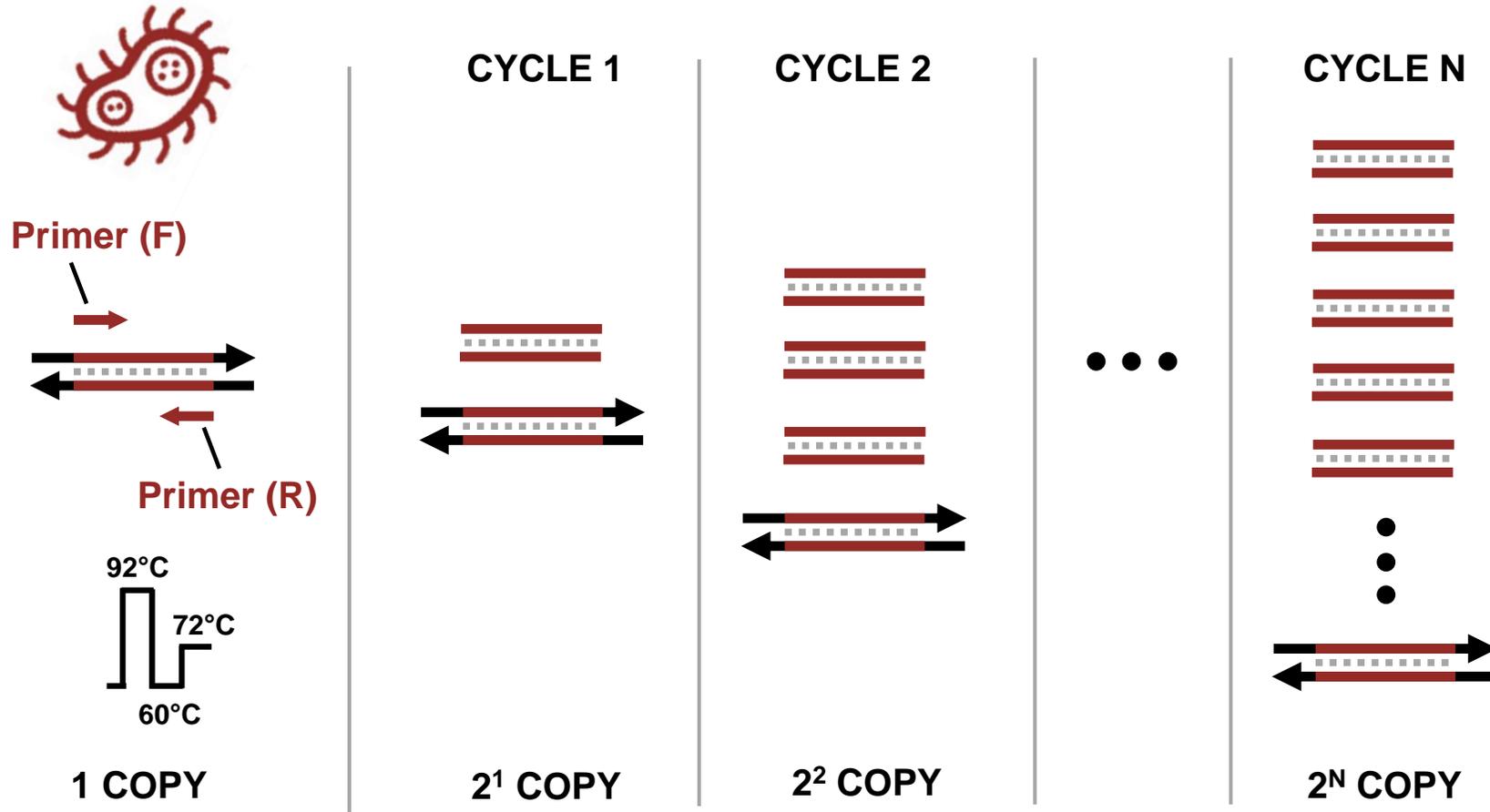


# Identification Method



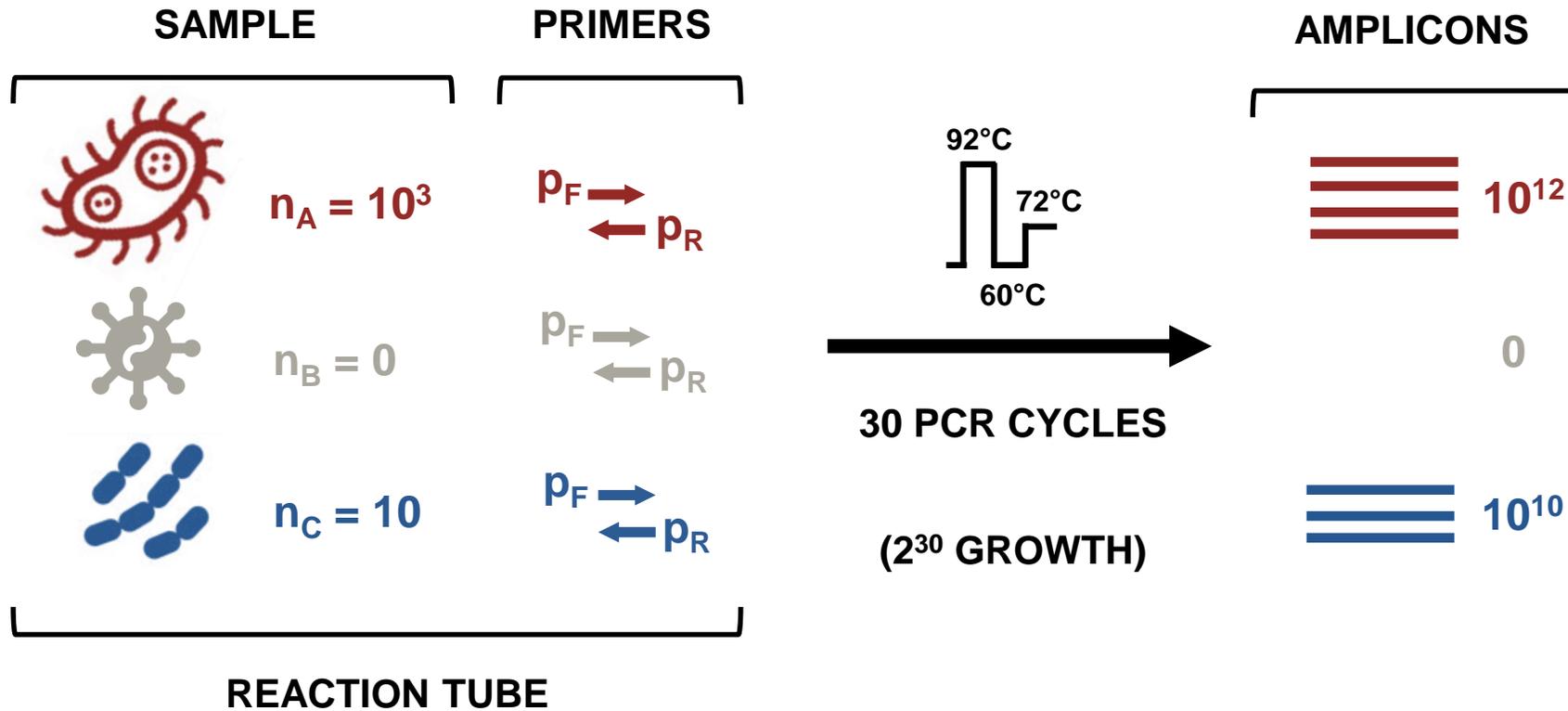
# “Amplifying” the Signal Biochemically

Known DNA sequences can be exponentially replicated through PCR thermo-cycling processes



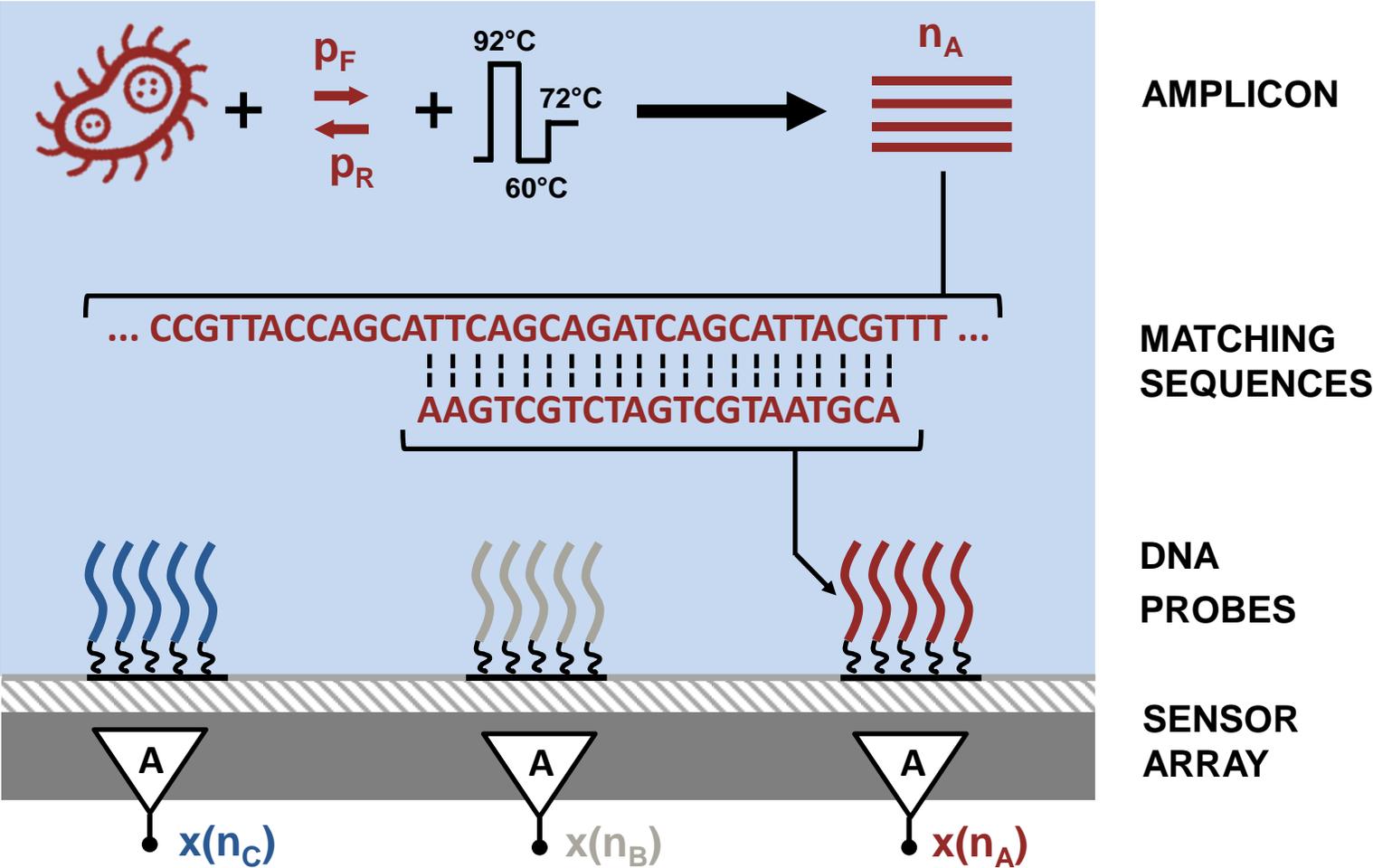
# Parallel Detection (Multiplexing)

Multiple PCR reactions in a single chamber to identify multiple sequences (organisms)



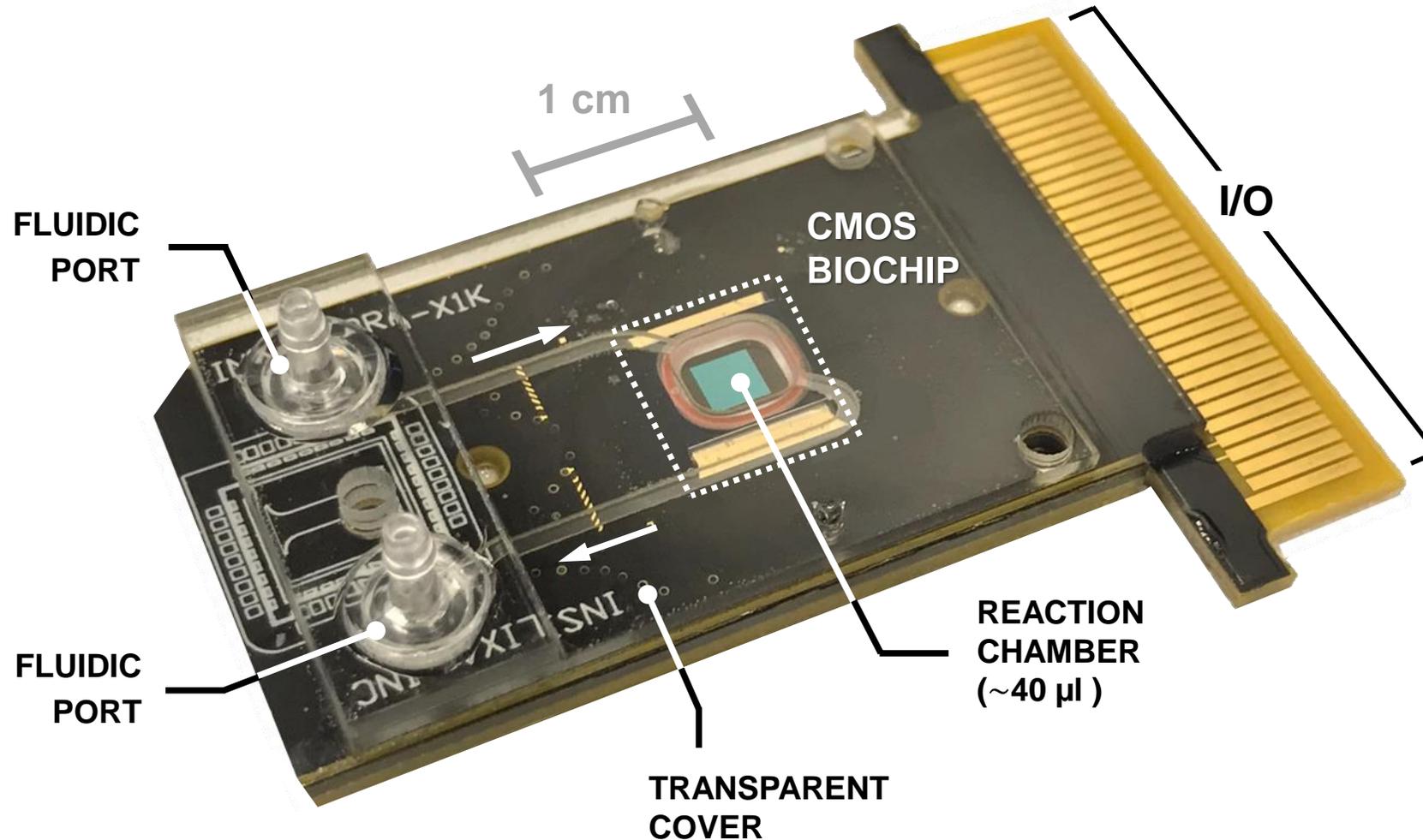
# Biochip Concept

A biosensor array to detect all of the generated amplicons



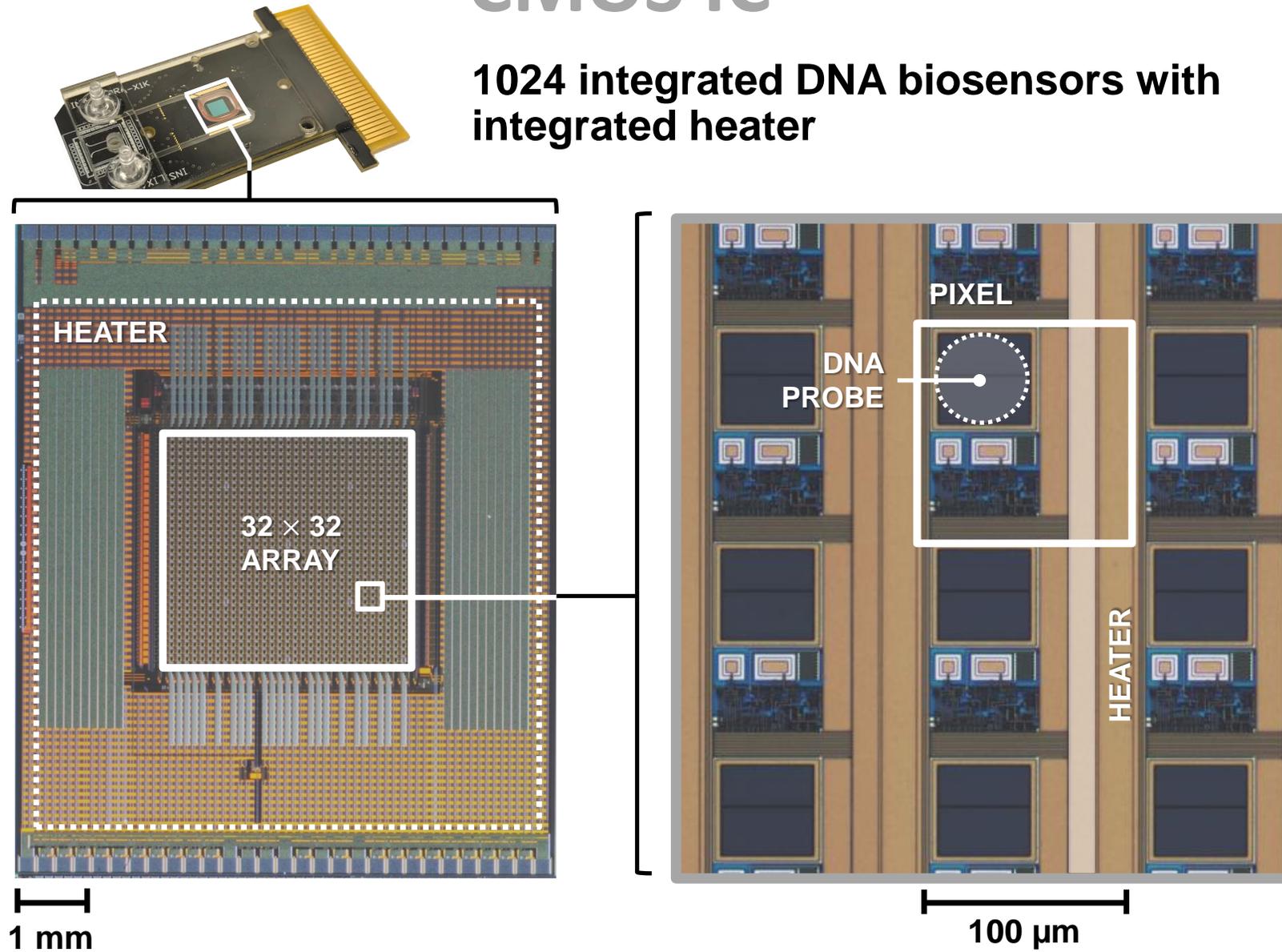
# HYDRA-1K Biochip Module

A disposable CMOS biochip module with flow-through fluidic system



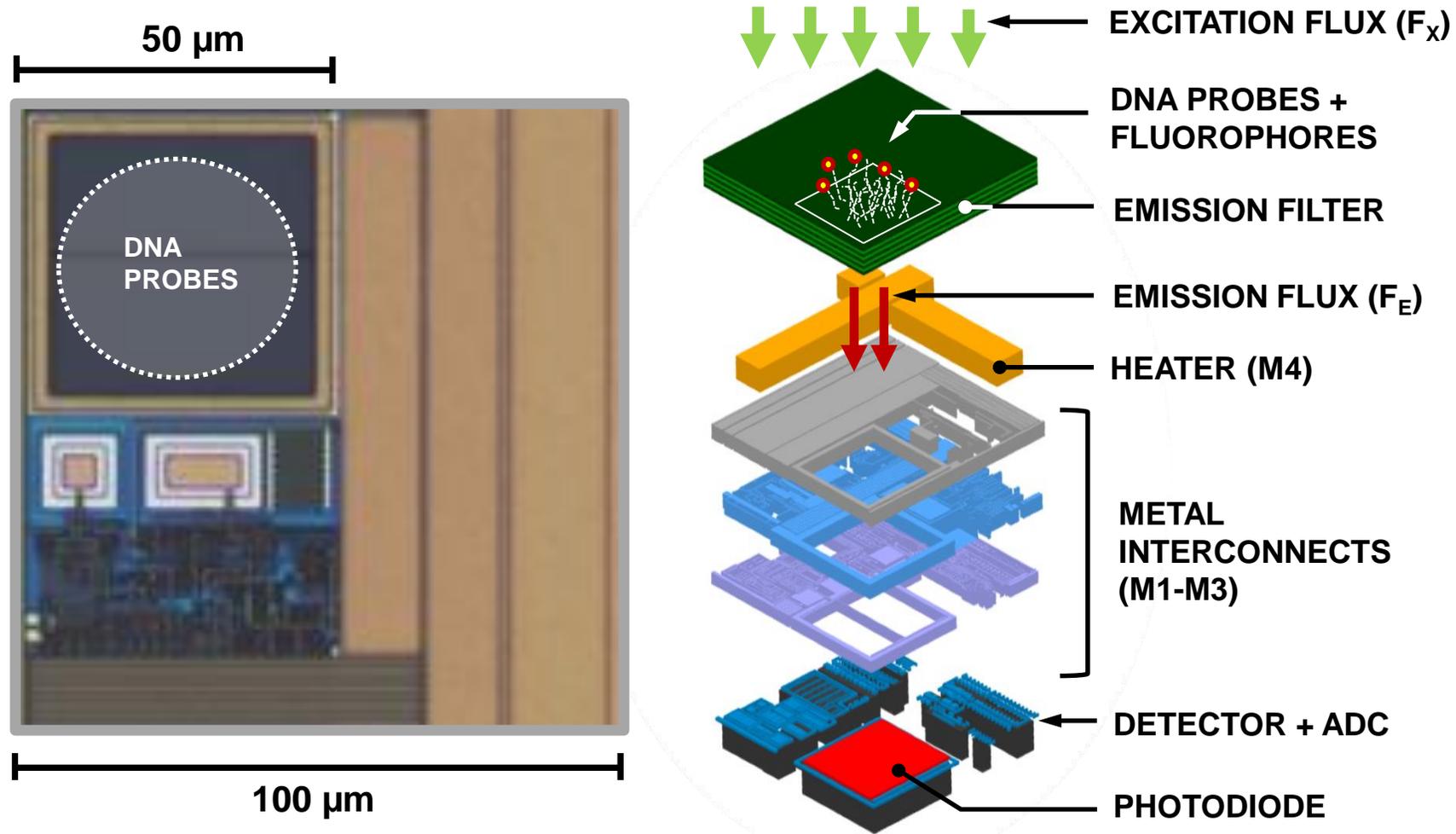
# CMOS IC

1024 integrated DNA biosensors with integrated heater



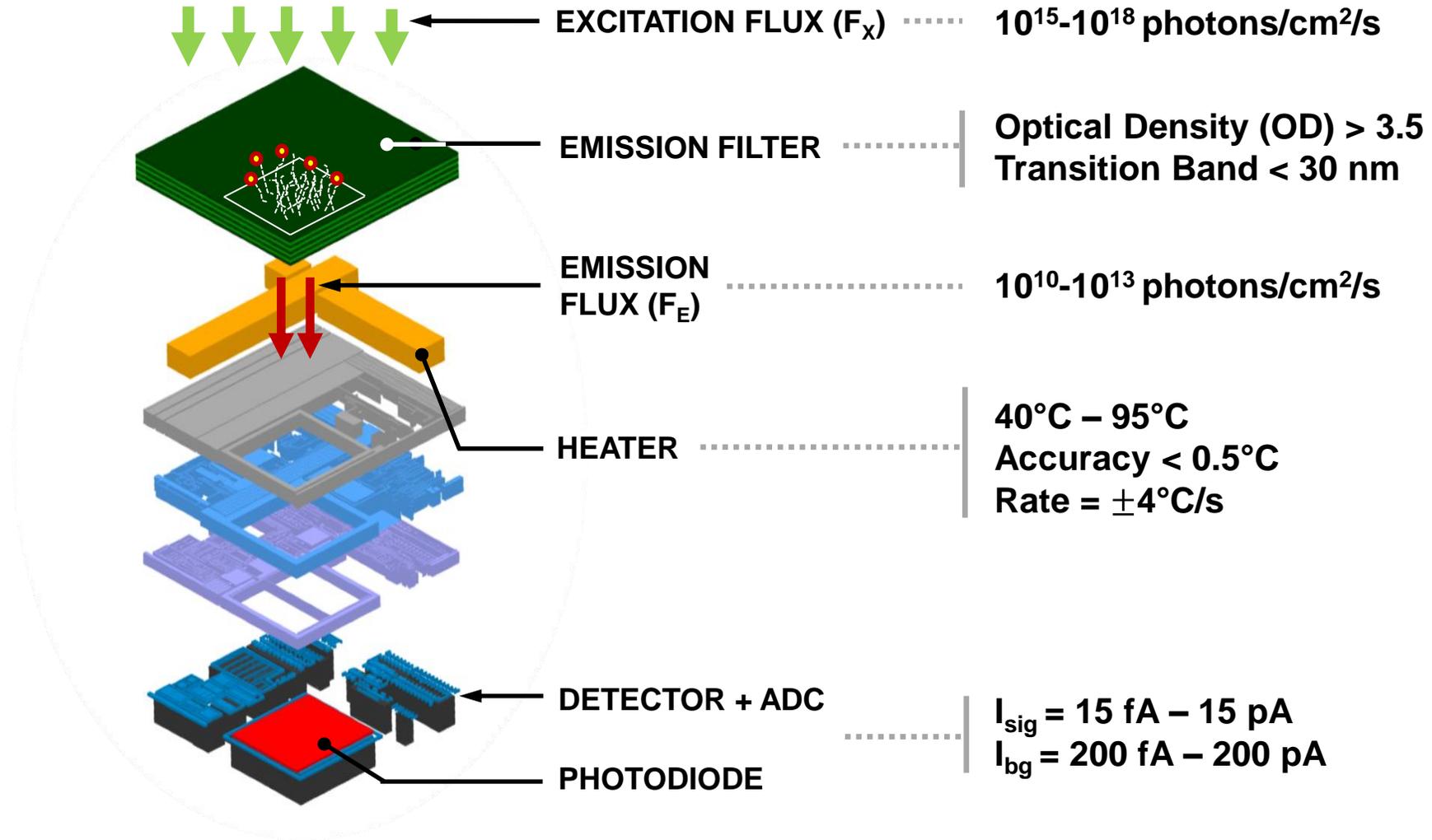
# Pixel Structure

## Continuous wave (CW) fluorescence detection for biosensing



# Specifications

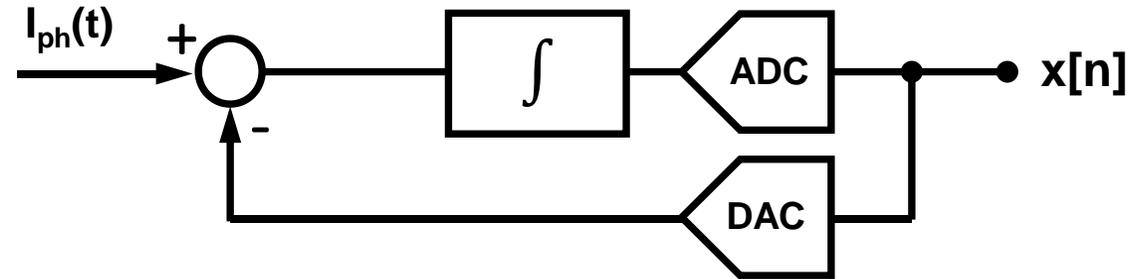
Fluorescence biosensing requires a high dynamic range detector



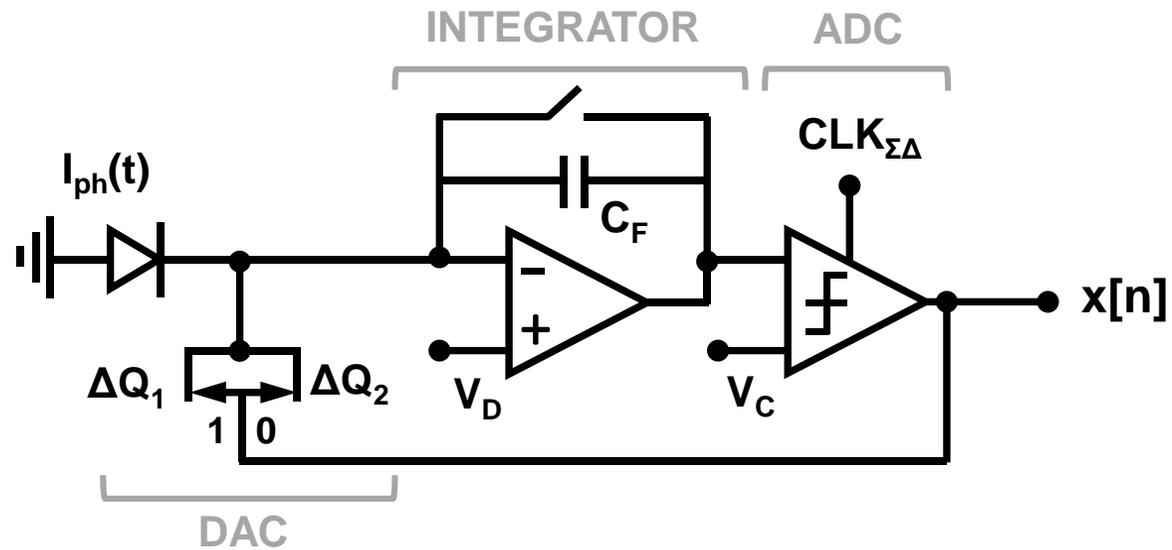
# Pixel Architecture

Photocurrent ( $I_{ph}$ ) detection using a 1<sup>st</sup>-order  $\Sigma\Delta$  current sensor

BLOCK  
DIAGRAM

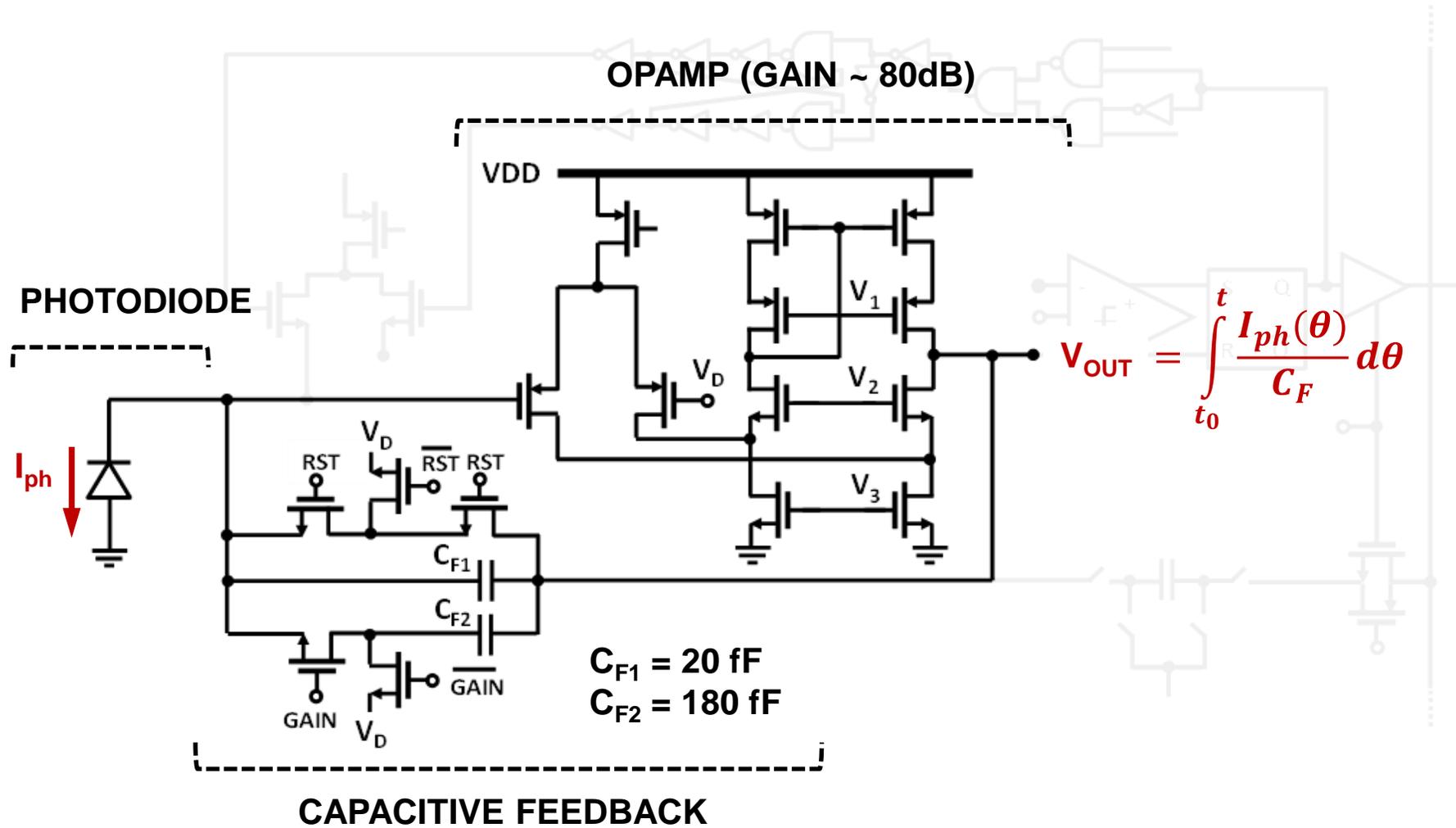


CIRCUIT  
TOPOLOGY

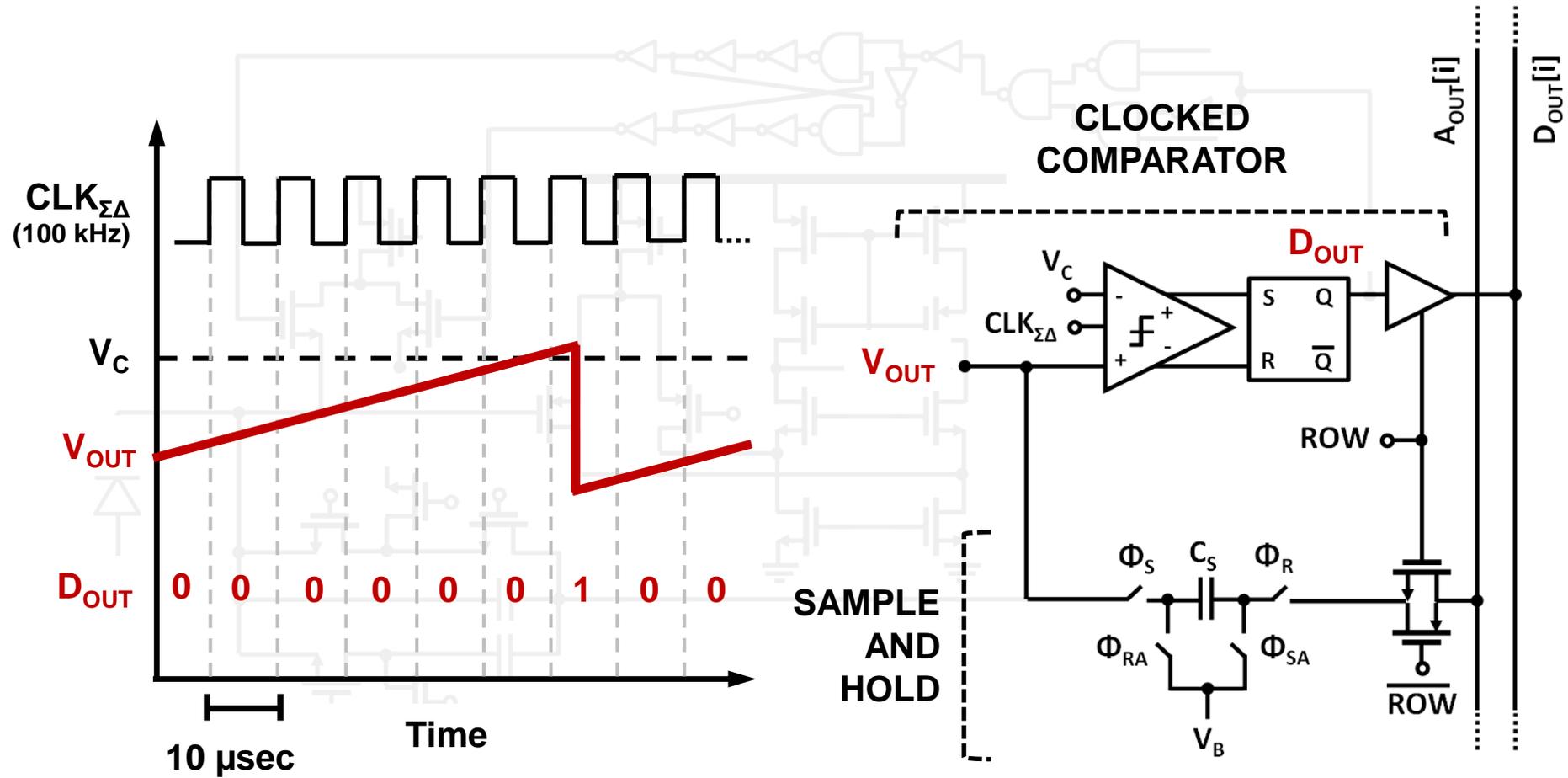




# Pixel: Current Integrator



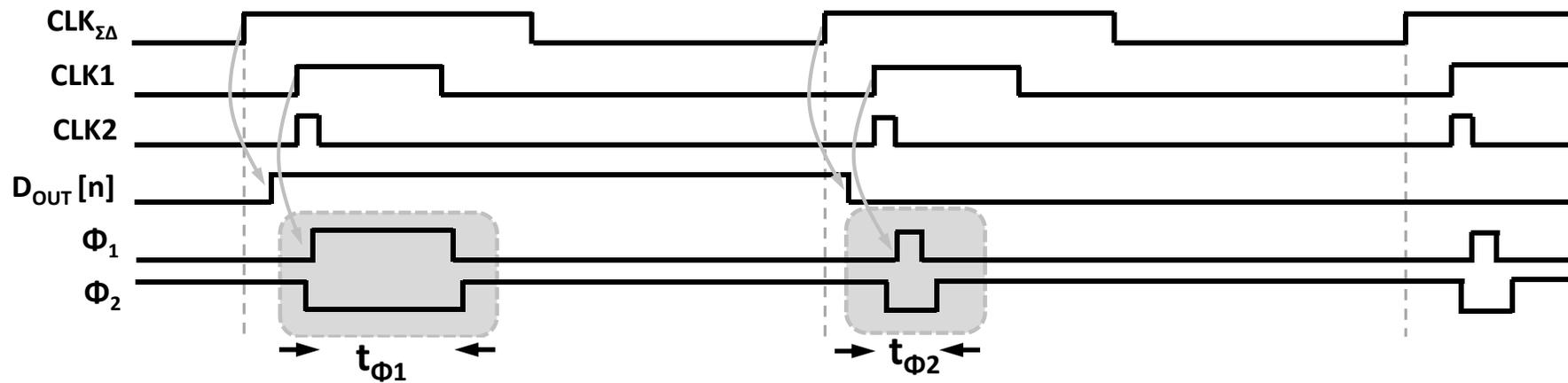
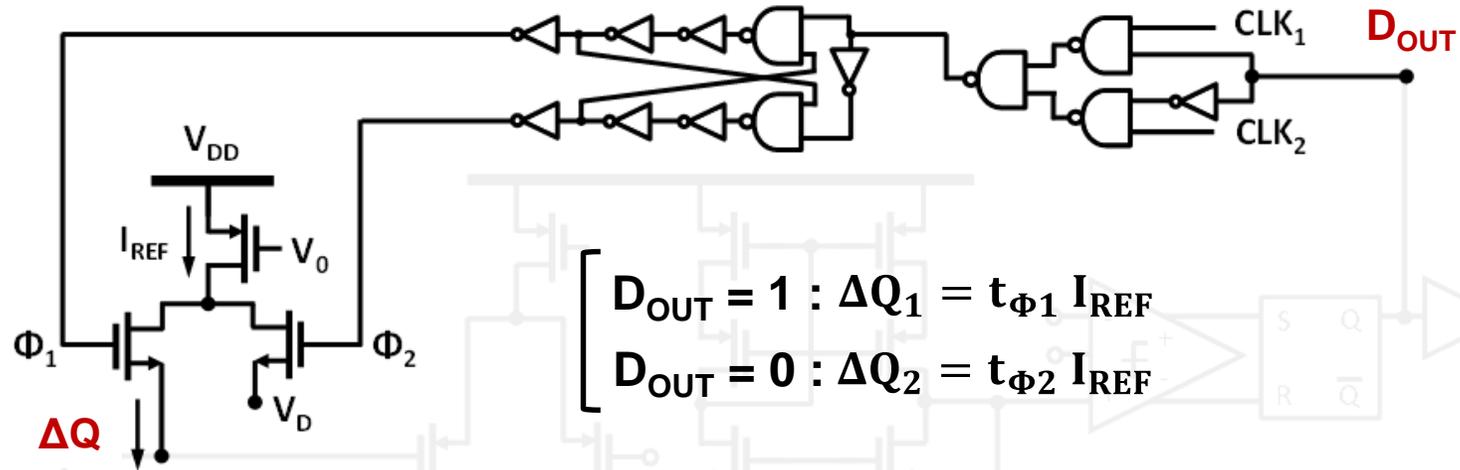
# Pixel: Quantizer and S&H



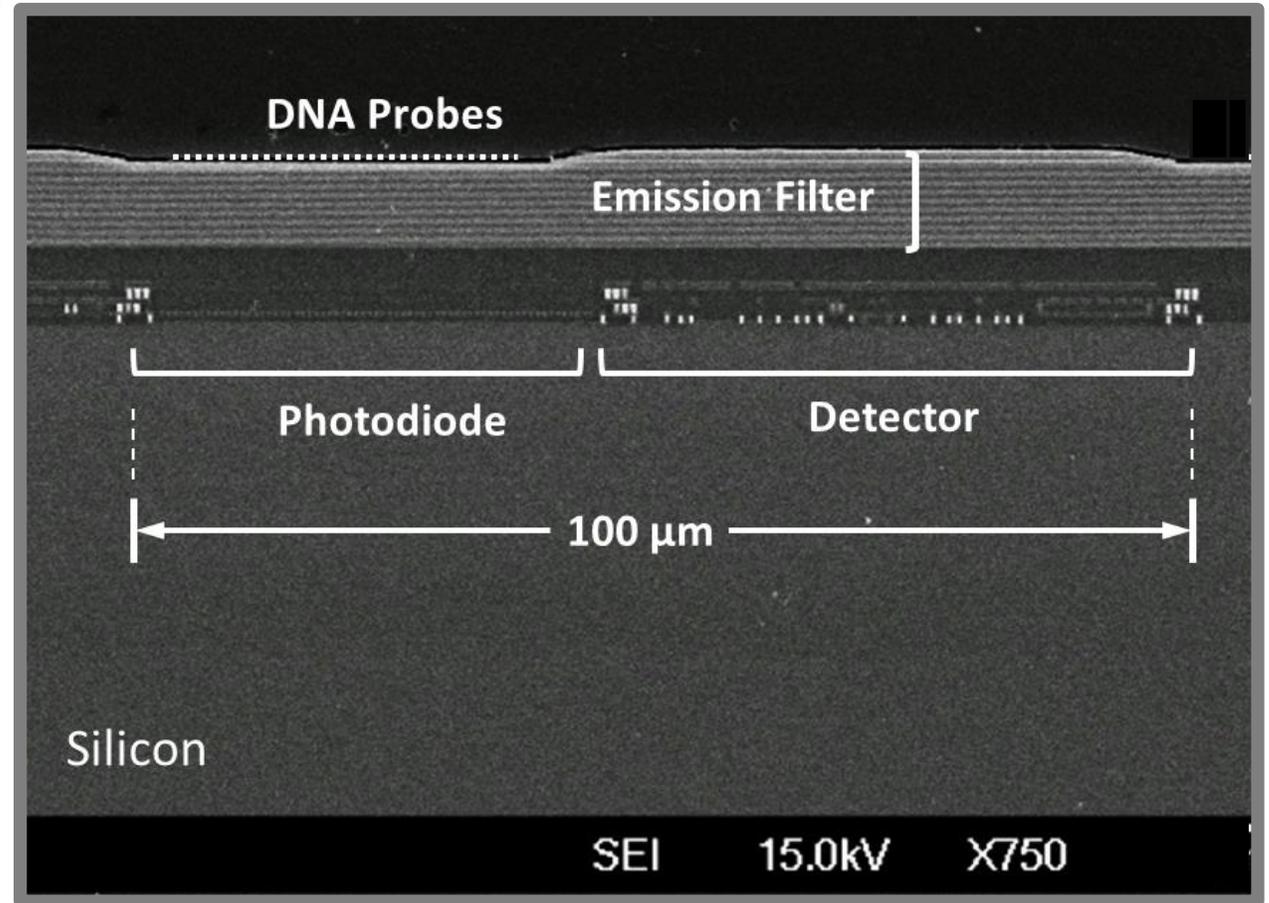
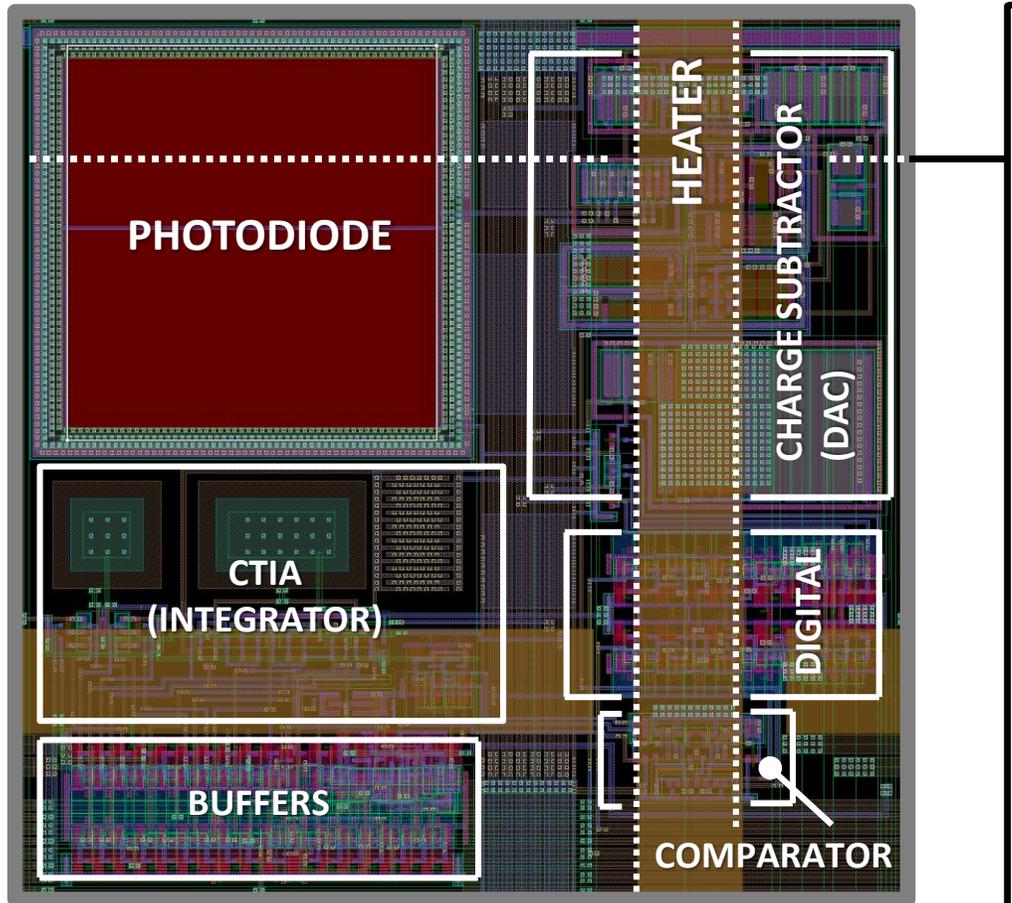
# Pixel: DAC

NON-OVERLAPPING  
PULSE GEN.

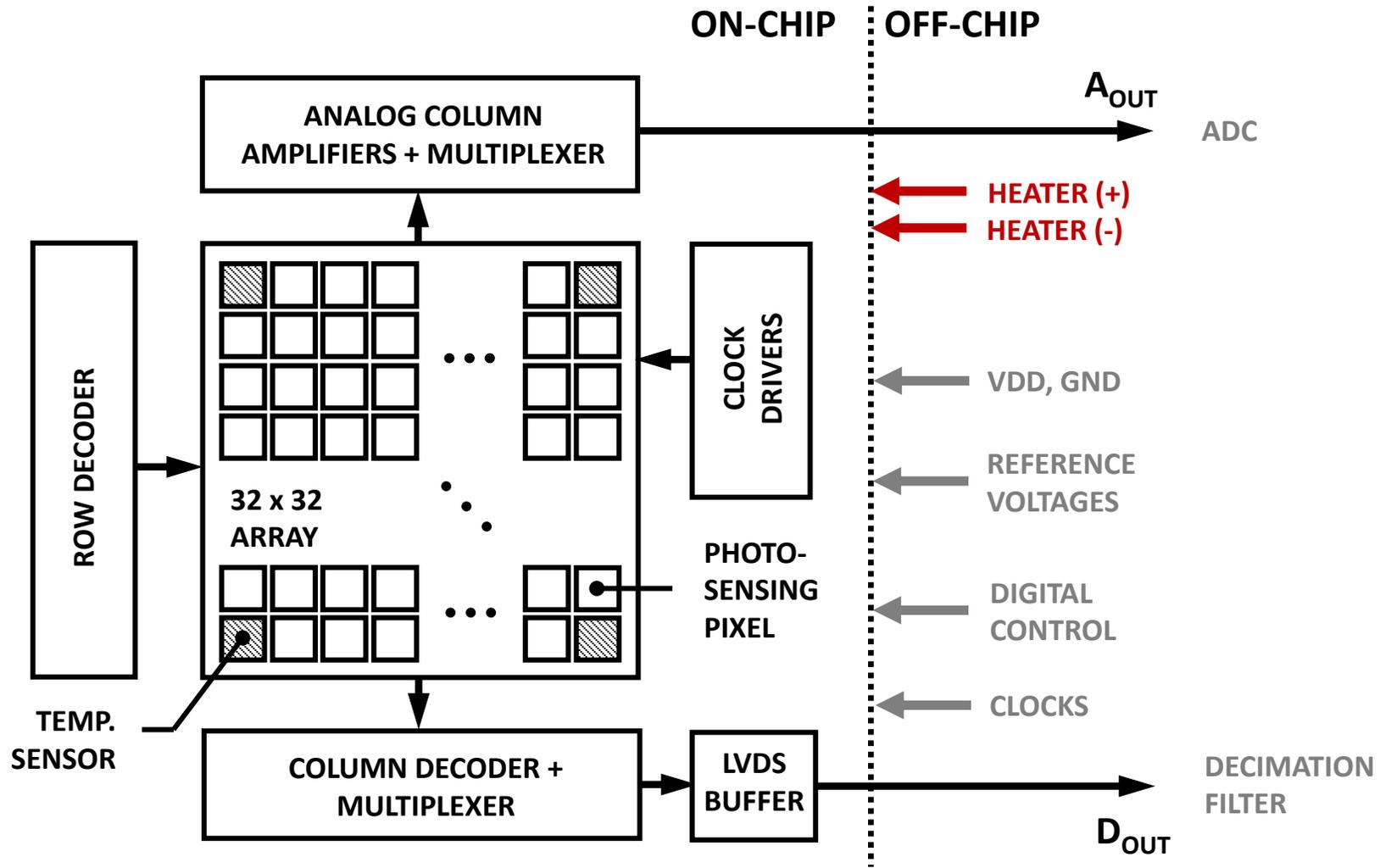
PULSE  
SELECTION



# Pixel: Layout and SEM Cross Section

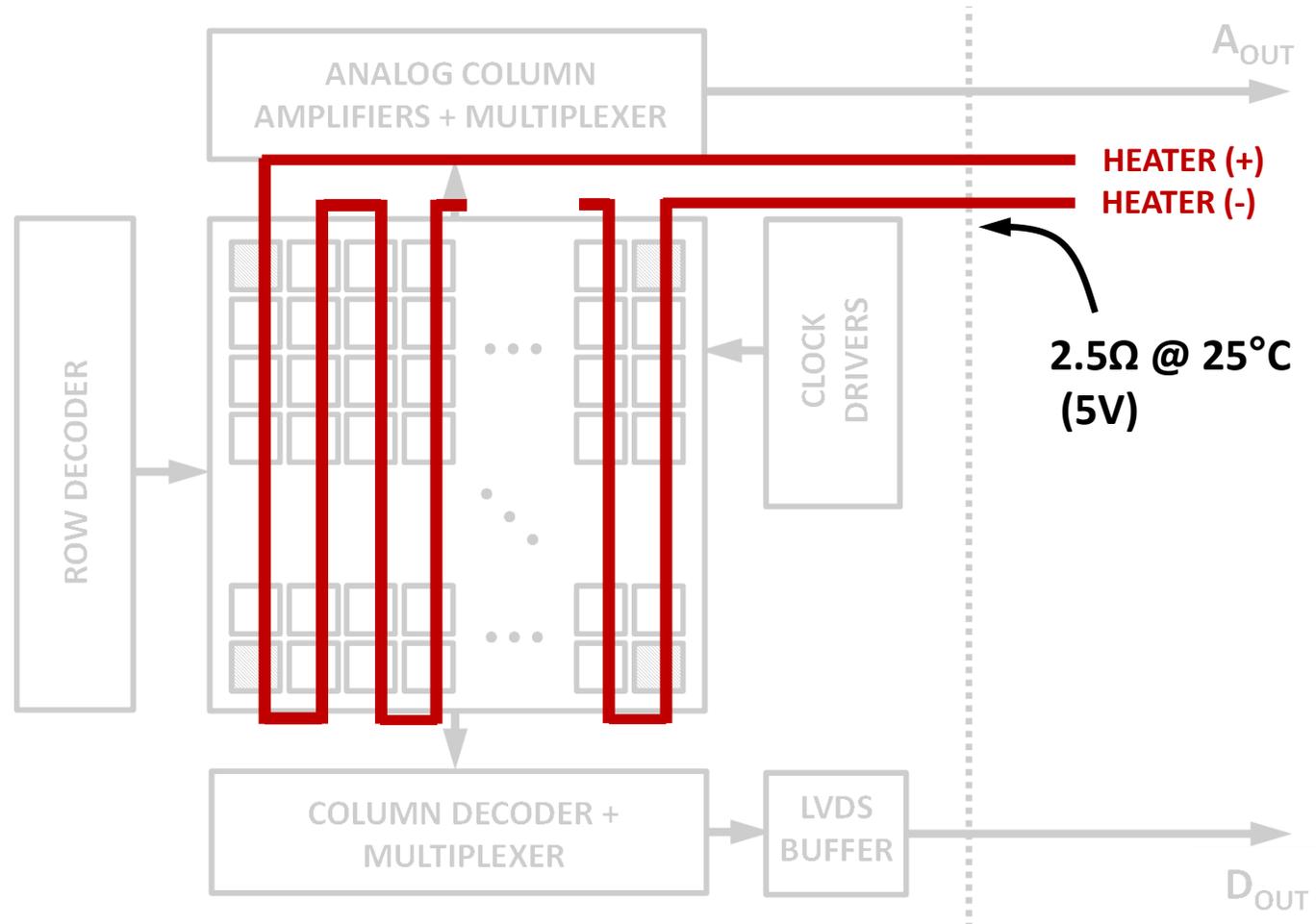


# Array Architecture

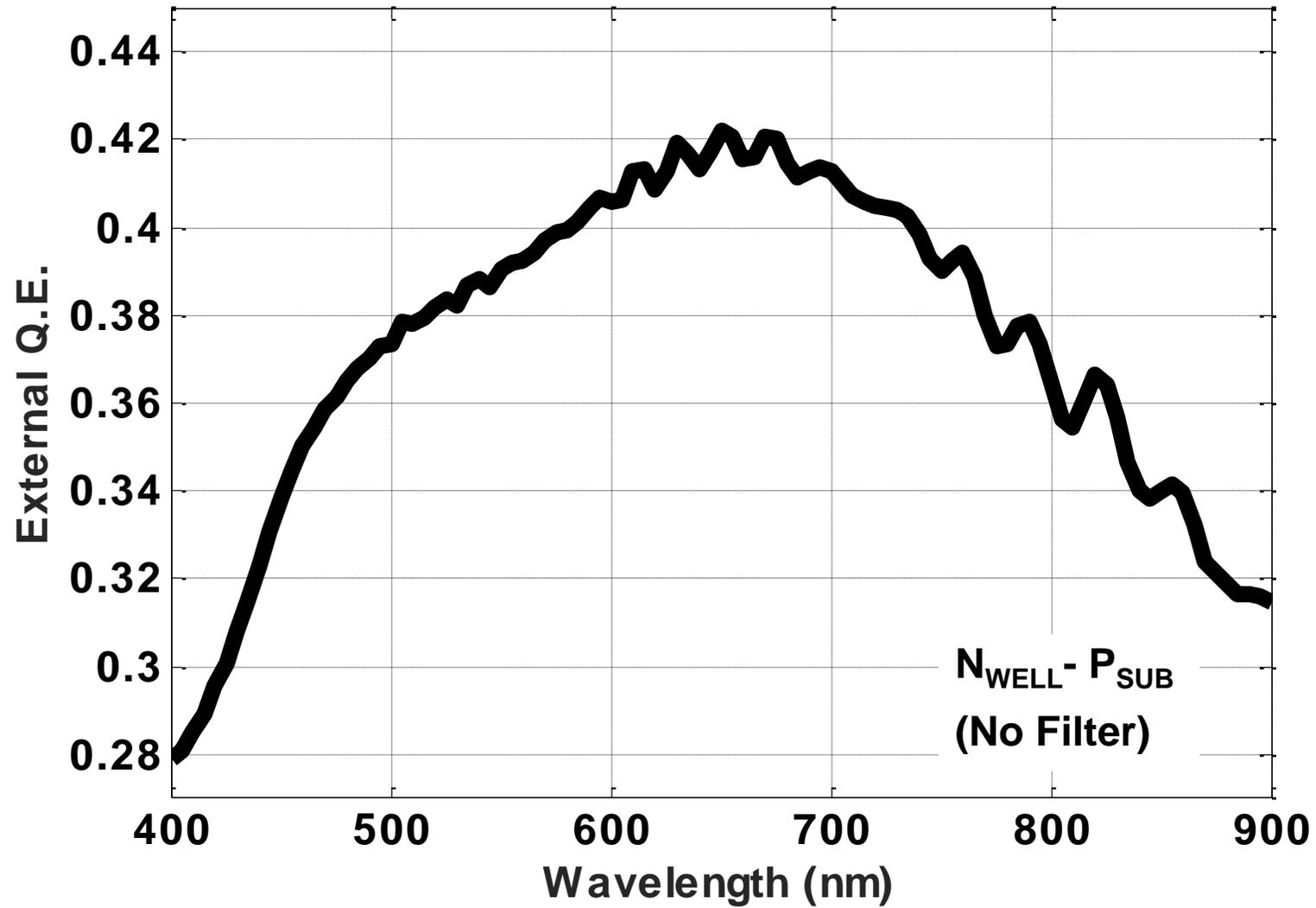


# Temperature Sensor

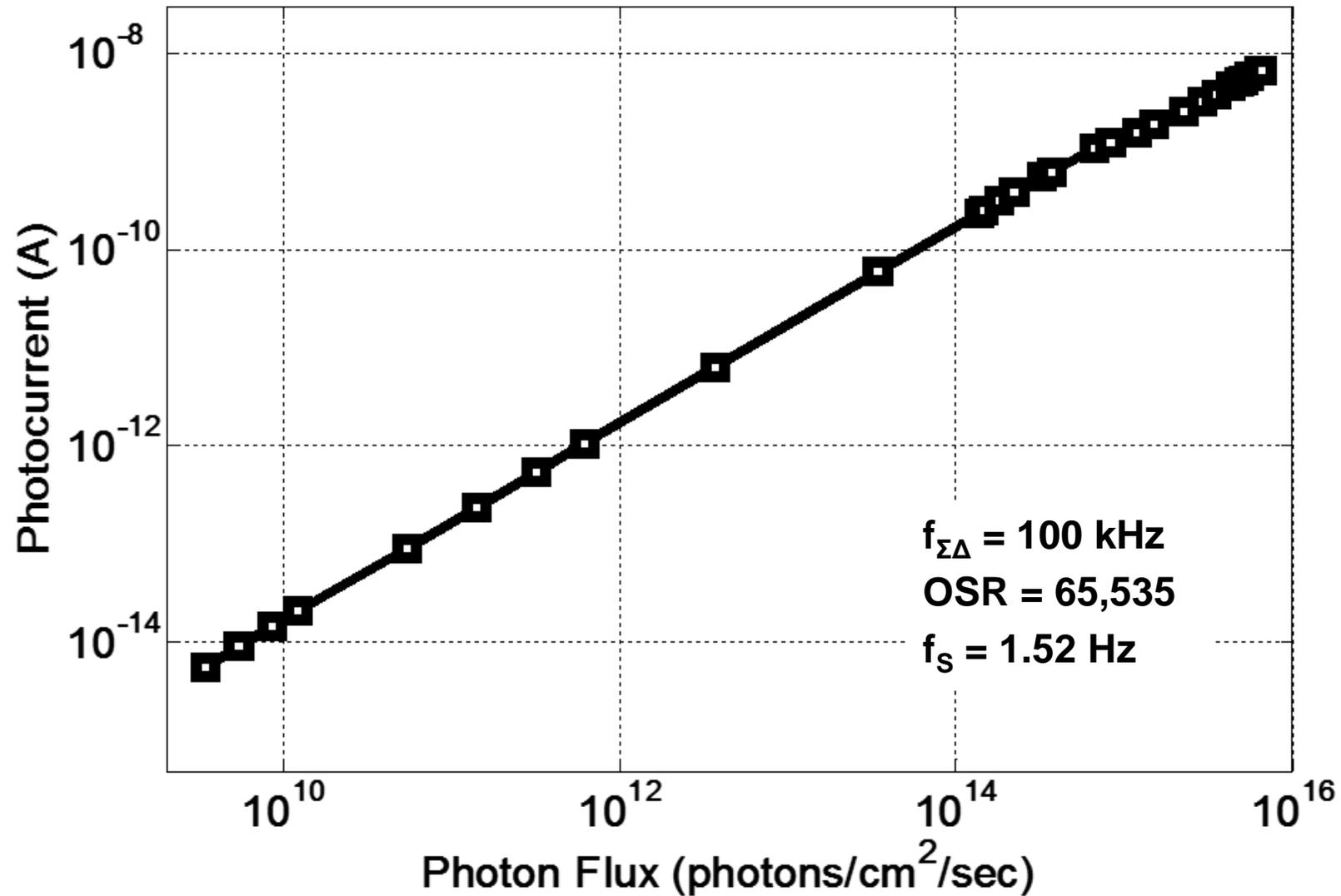
Resistive heater structure to uniformly heat the entire chip



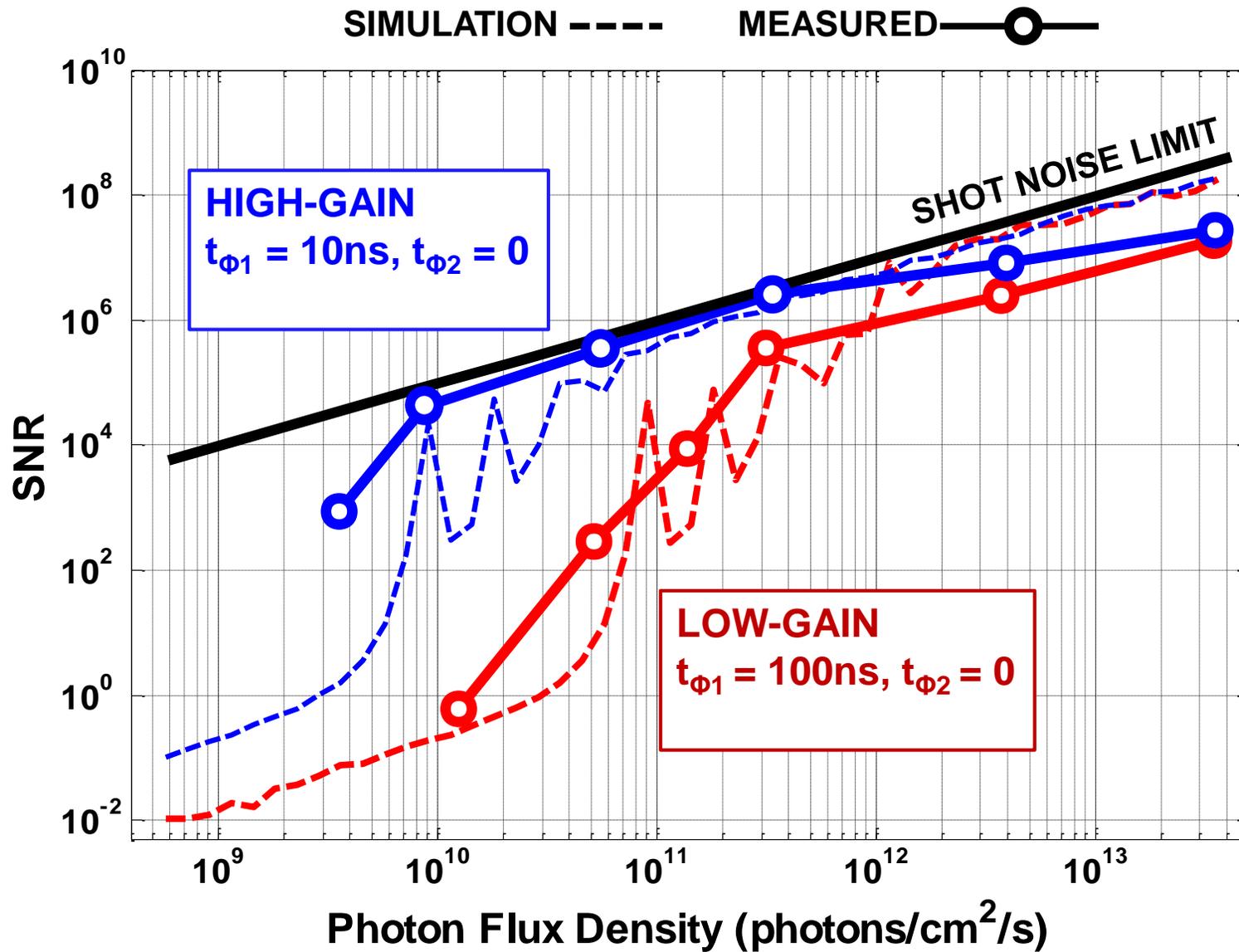
# Photodiode Q.E.



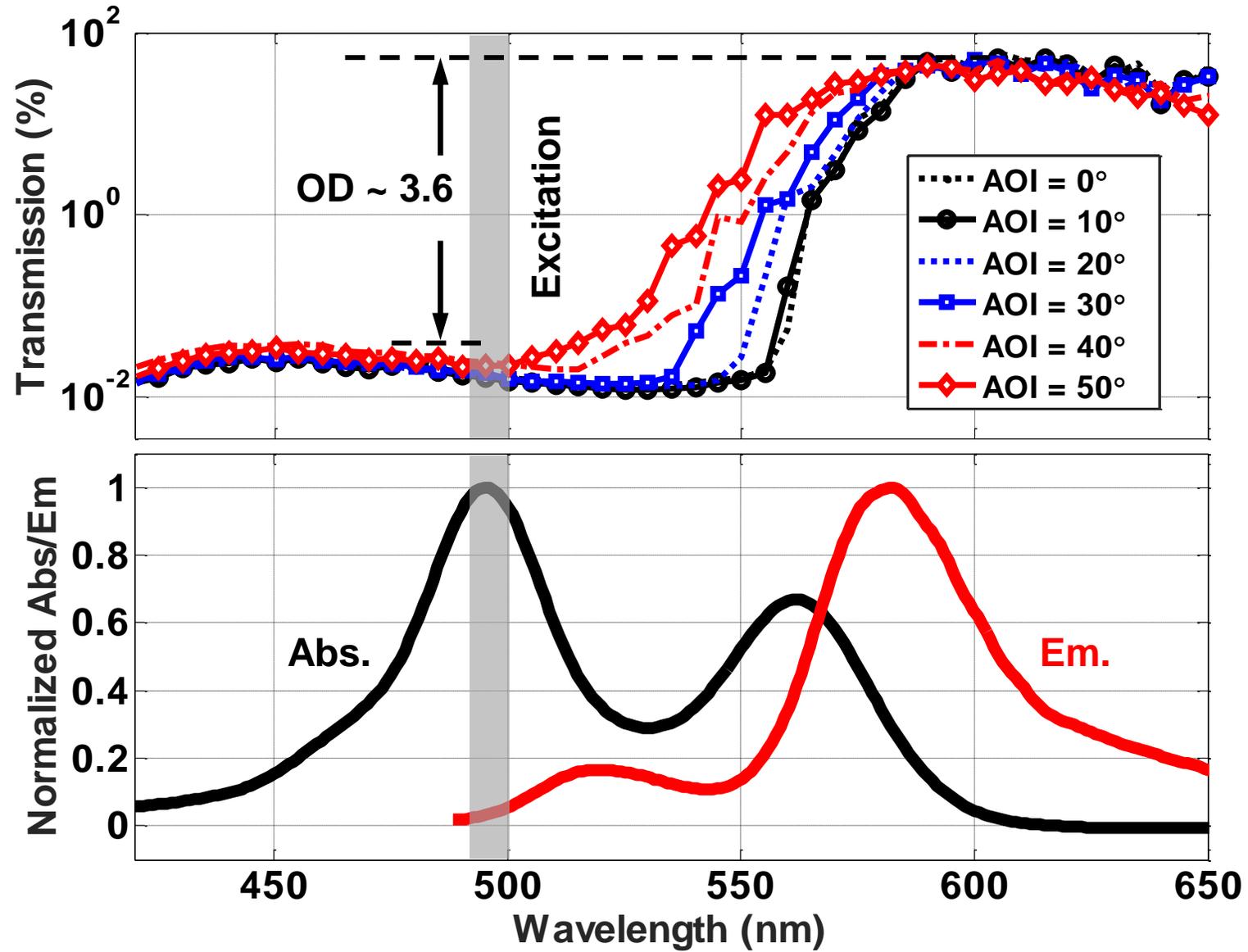
# Linearity ( $\lambda_x = 495 \text{ nm}$ )



# SNR vs. Shot Noise



# Filter Response



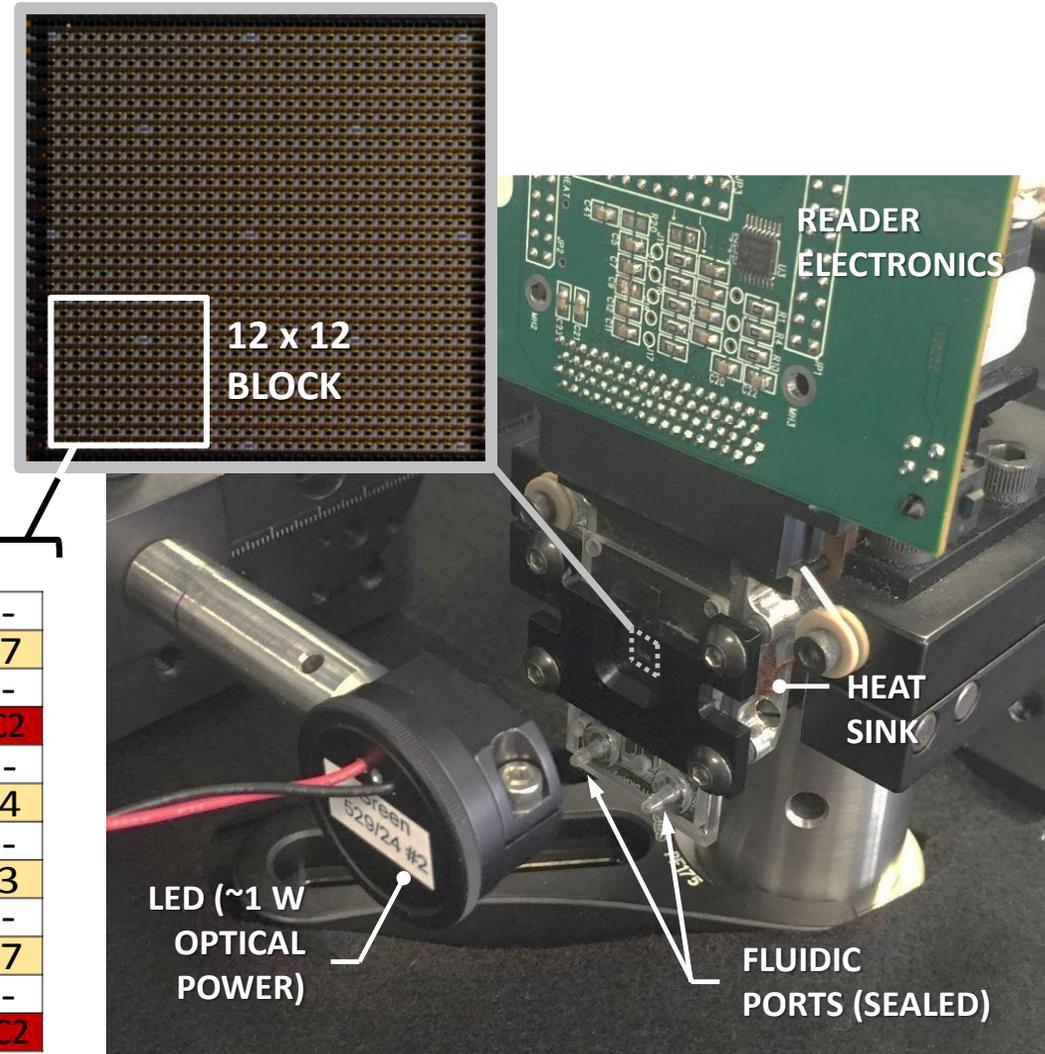
# Experimental Setup

## PROBES

1. Influenza A (FluA)
  2. Influenza B (FluB)
  3. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
  4. Parainfluenza virus (PIV)
  5. Adenovirus C (AdVC)
  6. Adenovirus E (AdVE)
  7. Polio 1 (+ Control)
- C1/C2:** Manufacturing quality controls

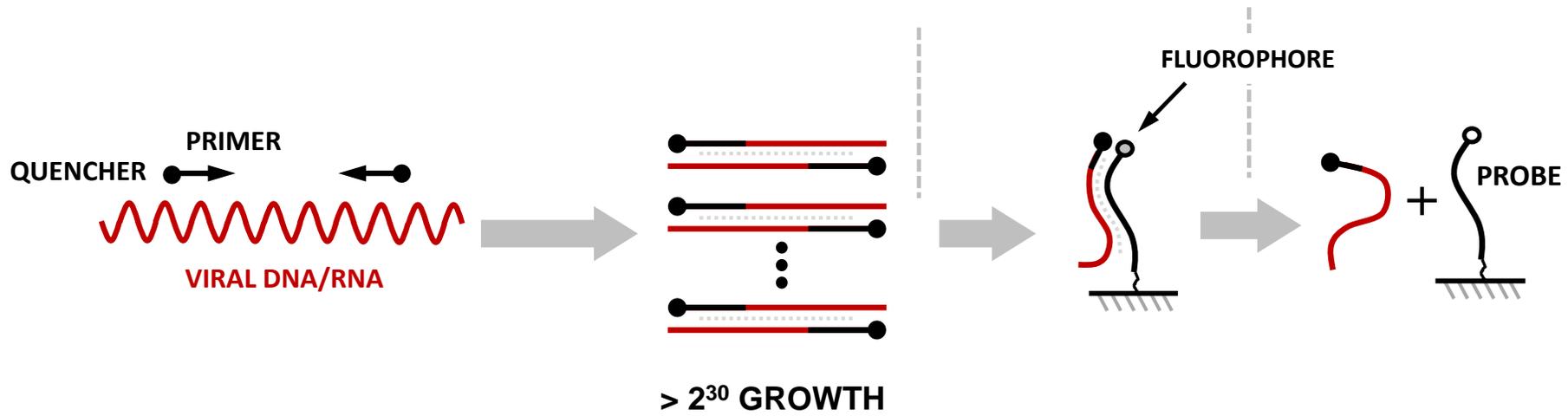
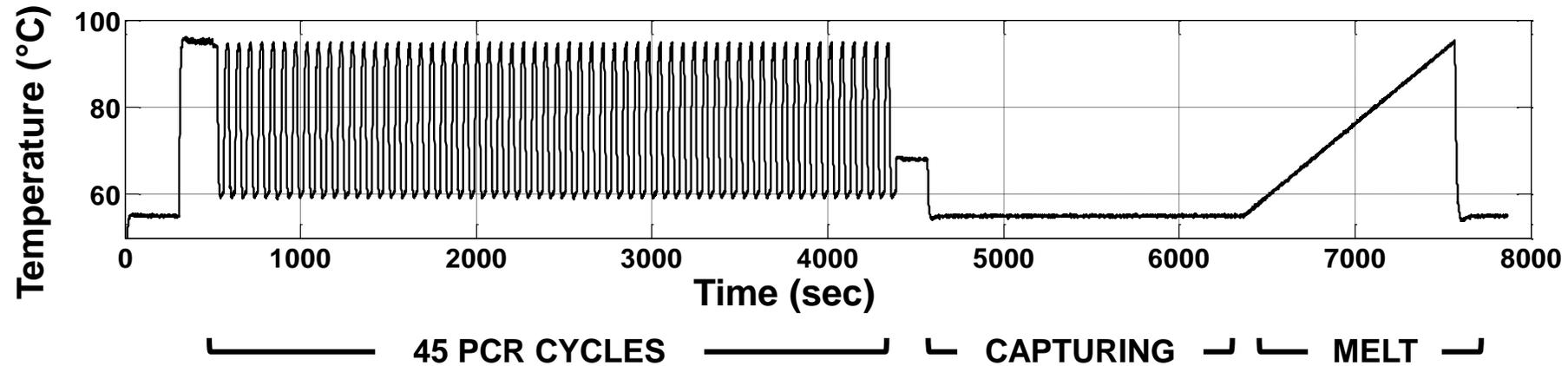
## PROBES MAP

C1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3	4	4	6	6	5	5	5	6	C2	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C2	C2	C2	1	1	2	3	3	4	4	7	C2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3	1	2	6	1	1	C2	2	3	3	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	C1	4	4	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	5	5	C2	6	2	3	3	4	4	7	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	3	C1	1	1	4	4	3	3	1	2	C2



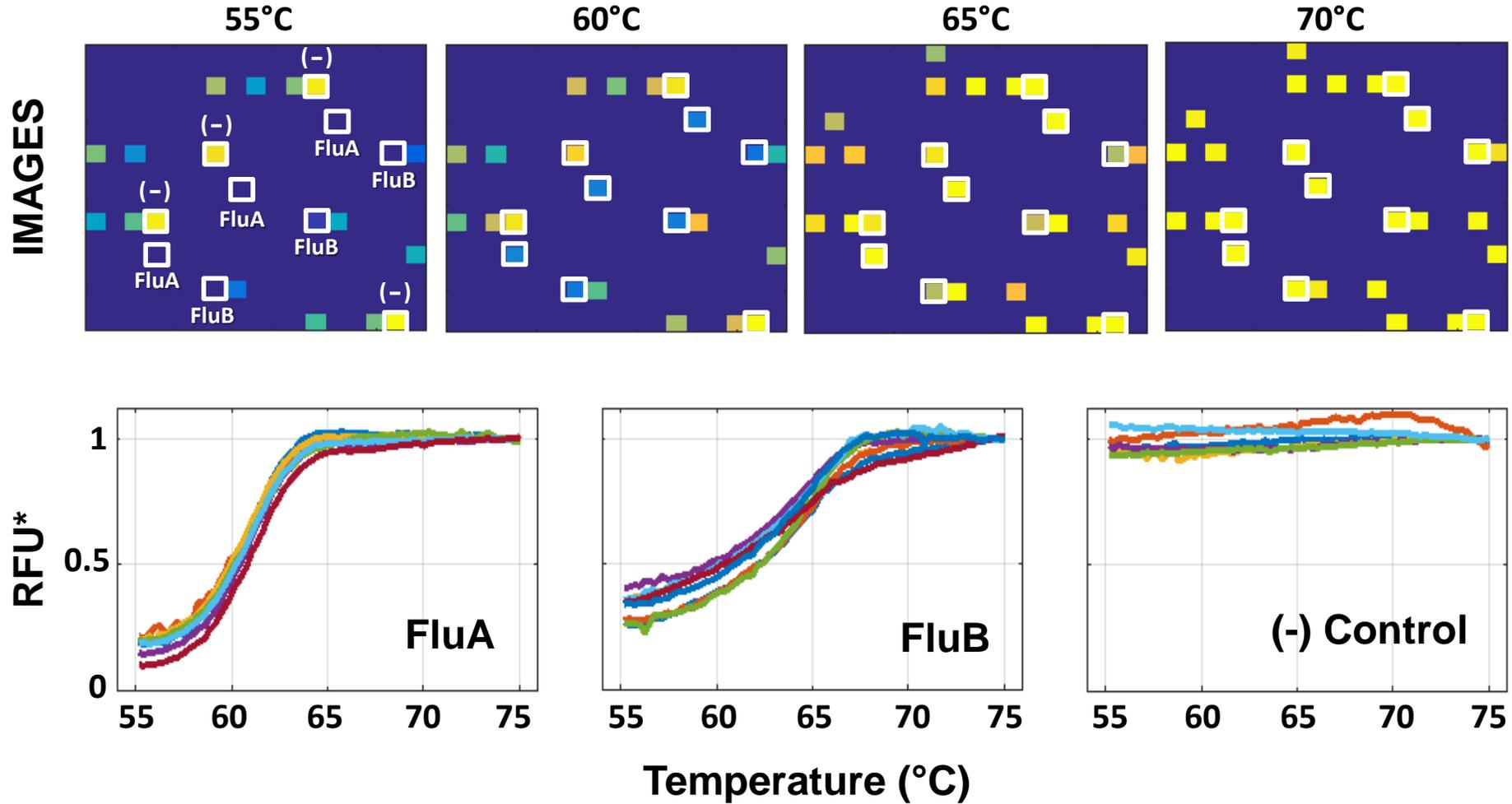
# Multiplex PCR Setup

Multiplex PCR, capture and detection in ~2 hours



# Melt Curve Results

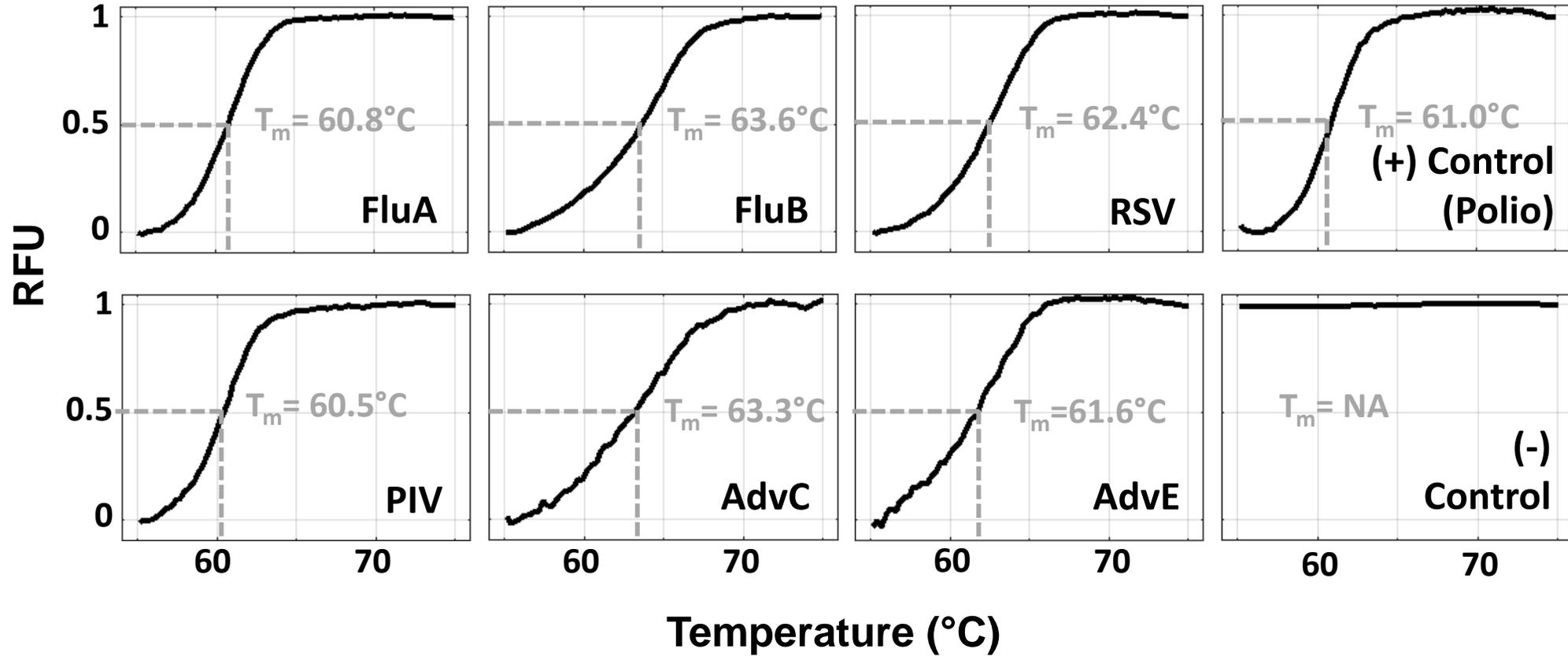
Melt results for ~100 copies/ $\mu$ l of FluA and FluB virus input



\*Relative fluorescence unit

# Viral Signatures

Measured melt signature for all inputs



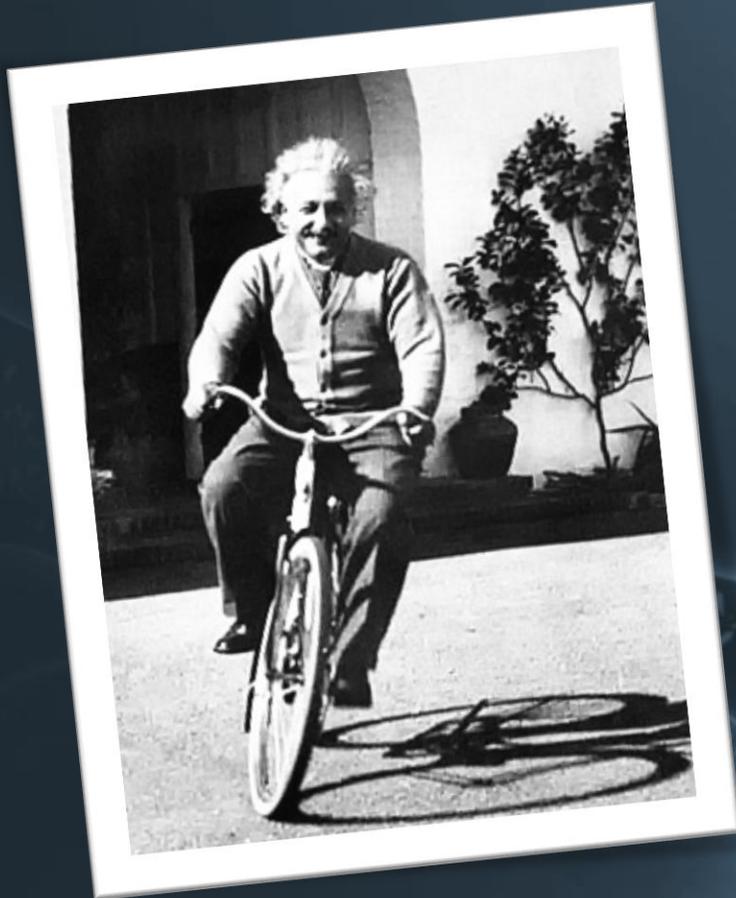
# Conclusion

**The Good: Ideal technology for point-of-care (PoC) and mass deployment molecular diagnostics?**

**The Bad: Complex and capital intensive manufacturing/assembly processes; requires convergence of multiple disciplines beyond engineering**

**The Hype: An overpromised field with lots of unproven technologies and failed projects, and limited successful commercial products**

# Small Differences Matter



**Albert Einstein  
(1879-1955)**

—



**Bobo the Chimp  
(1995-Now)**

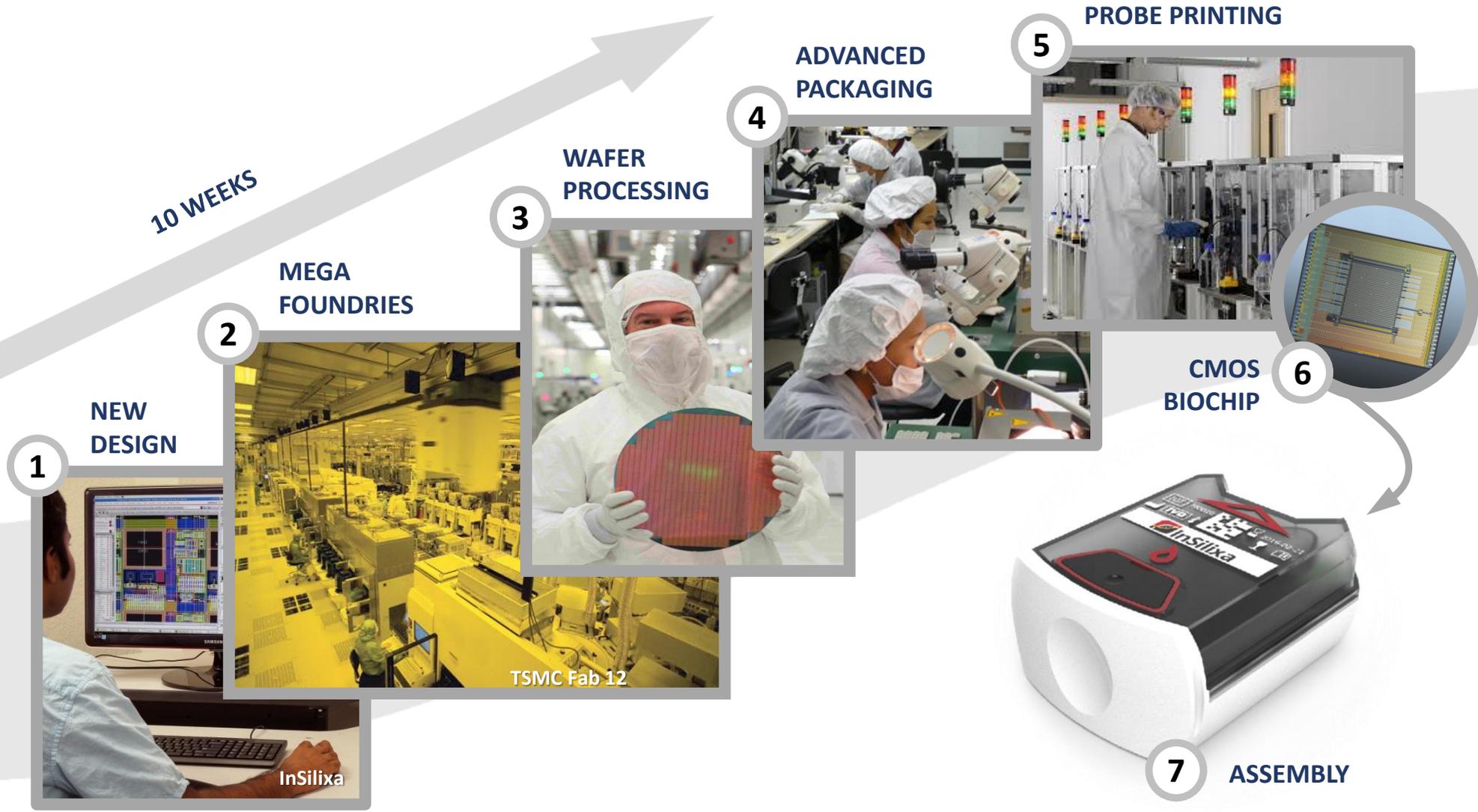
— 1.5% DNA  
— Difference

# Biosensors: Random Numbers

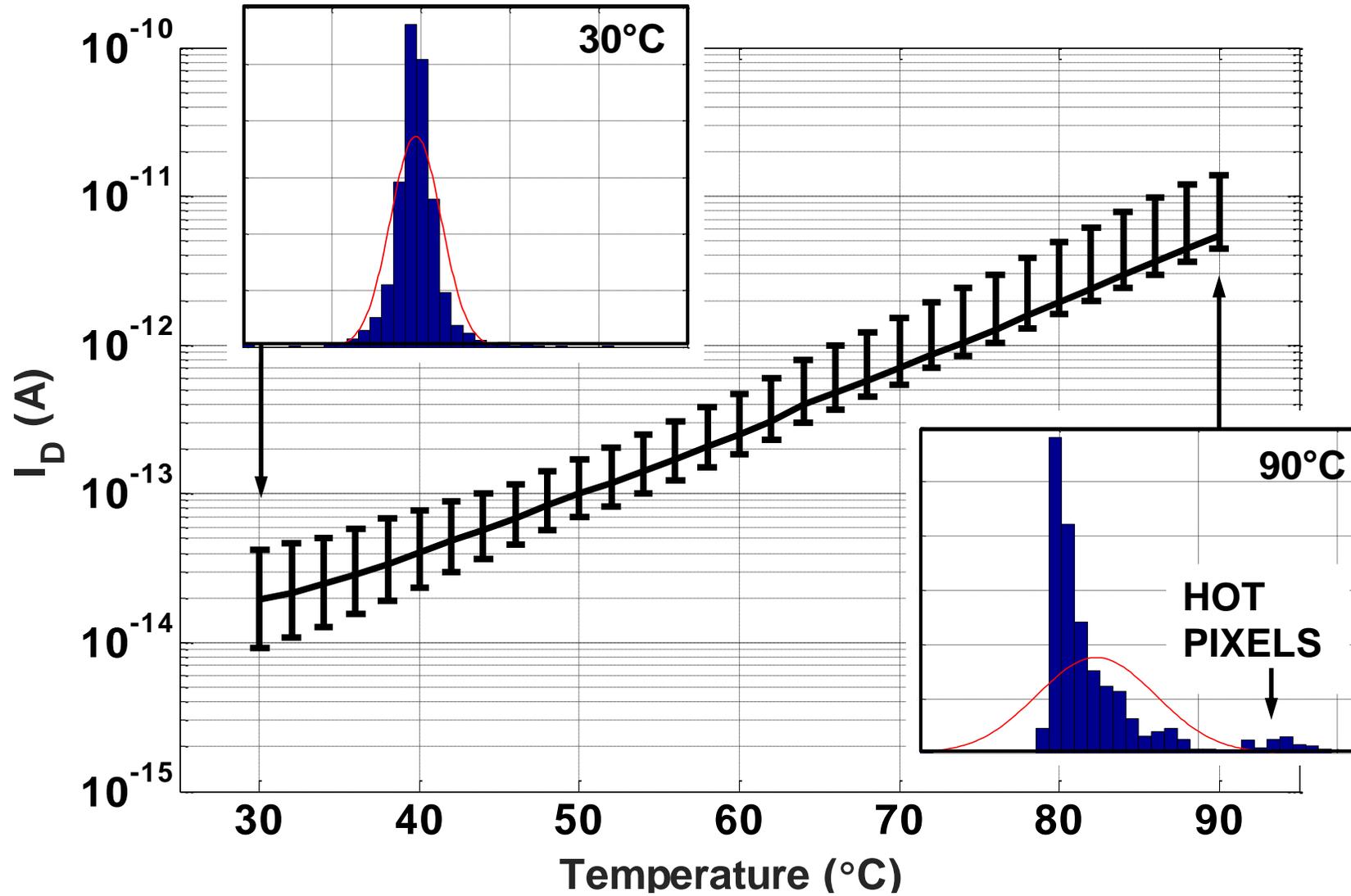
Examples	Concentration (Copies/ml)	Types/Strains	Reimbursement (US)	Tests per Year (US) (Millions)	Consumer Application	"Electronic" Solution
Water	$3.3 \times 10^{22}$	-	-	-	-	-
Glucose	$10^{18}$	1	\$10	700	+++	Green
Cholesterol	$8 \times 10^{17}$	2	\$15	> 500	+/-	
Antibodies/Hormones	$10^8$	> 10,000	\$15 - \$100	> 2000	++	Yellow
DNA for Forensics	$10^7$	20	\$500	50	-	Red
Upper Respiratory Viruses (Flu A, Flu B, Rhinovirus, etc.)	$10^4$	> 50	\$550	10	+++	Yellow
HIV Virus in Blood	$4 \times 10^2$	> 50	> \$100	25	+/-	Red
<i>M. Tuberculosis</i> Bacteria	$10^2$	> 300	NA	0.2	+/-	
Gram Negative Bacteria in Blood	10	> 1000	> \$200	50	-	
Food Poisoning Bacteria ( <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Listeria</i> , <i>E. Coli</i> )	1	> 50	> \$100	100	++	



# (Almost) Fabless Manufacturing



# Measured Dark Current ( $I_D$ )



# Measurement Process

Correlated double sampling (CDS) to measure  $I_D$  and signal

