## Microfluidic Bubble Logic

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## Future of materials

(chemical/biological) processing


Bubble logic Capillary ratchet Micro-slot detector

## Information is Physical

"Information is inevitably tied to a physical degree of freedom through a charge, a spin, a hole in punch card or chalk marks on a blackboard"

Rolf Landauer, 93

## Bits are Atoms

## Information processing => Material processing

## Drops and Bubbles

## I737



Young man blowing bubbles Oil on canvas $61 \times 63 \mathrm{~cm}$ Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

2007


Weitz Group, Harvard


## Control Strategies

## portability scaling



Fluidigm


RainDance
Technologies

## Fluidic Computing 1965 2003



Figure 11. Demonstration Fluidic Computer in Operation


Wall attachment - Coanda effect Jet interaction - Inertial effects large Re number systems
[Humphery et al. Fluidics 1965]

Requires non-newtonian fluids for operation
[Quake et al. Science 2003]

## Bubble Logic

## On-chip process control



- A bubble is a bit of information, but can also carry a material payload
- Integrating chemistry and computation


## Programmed generation of bubbles


$R=95 \Omega, 20 \mathrm{~V} 100 \mathrm{~ms}$ pulse

## Microfluidic Toggle Flip-Flop

- One bit memory
- If T input is "high", the flip-flop "toggles" state. If T is "low", the flip-flop holds its state

$$
\begin{aligned}
Q_{\text {next }} & =T \oplus Q \\
Q_{\text {next }} & =T \bar{Q}+\bar{T} Q
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## Device Physics


$w_{1}=100 \mu m, w_{2}=40 \mu m, h=70 \mu m$ $l_{1}=200 \mu m, l_{2}=300 \mu \mathrm{~m}$

T junction followed by two elliptical lobes, forming energy minima : Connected via a feedback channel


Switching time $\tau=8 \mathrm{~ms}$

## Surface Free Energy



## Bifurcation at T junction

Rayleigh-Plateau breakup at the T junction
$l / \pi w=1$ [H.A. Stone, PRL 2004]

Behavior independent of bubble arrival frequency
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## Trap repeatability



10 Hz bistable one-bit memory



Counting drops


## Applications

High speed switching valves


## Inverter

Designed as
NOT(A).B gate for $B=1$


Fredkin gate
(reversible logic)

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## Inverter <br> Designed as <br> 

Fredkin gate (reversible logic)

## Inverter

Designed as

## $\mathbf{A}=\mathbf{0}$ <br> $B=1$ <br> NOT(A)=I



Fredkin gate (reversible logic)


Inverter
Designed as


Fredkin gate (reversible logic)

$B=1$
NOT(A)=I


## Inverter : amplification/gain

Dependence on bubble length

- Viscous dissipation in thin continuos fluid film
- Viscous dissipation 0 in dispersed phase




## Bubble/Bit synchronizer

1000 fps<br>high speed<br>video



## Non-linear ladder network



## Parameters

- r/R relative flow resistance
- $m, n$ state of the device
- k number of channels
- I constant injected flow

$$
\begin{gathered}
U_{A}-U_{B}=f(r / R, m, n, k, I) \\
I_{j}-\bar{I}_{j}=\frac{r}{R}\left(i_{j+1}-i_{j}\right) \\
I_{j}-I_{j-1}=i_{j} \\
\bar{I}_{j}-\bar{I}_{j-1}=-i_{j} \\
I_{j}=I_{j-1}+2 \frac{R}{r} S_{j-1} \\
I_{j}=2 \frac{R+r}{r} I_{j-1}-I_{j-2}
\end{gathered}
$$

$$
\text { where } S_{j-1}=\sum I_{j-1}
$$




## Designing microfluidic circuits

What if we connect three AND gates and three delay lines .. in a ring?

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## Ring Oscillator




Frequency dependence
$f \propto 1 /\left[3\left(l / v+\tau_{d}\right)\right]$

## AND/OR gate



AND/OR gate


NOT gate


AND/OR gate


Toggle Flip-Flop


NOT gate


NOISYZANI
NIVD

AND/OR gate


Toggle Flip-Flop


NOT gate


NOISYヨANI
NIVD


CASCADABILITY
FEEDBACK

AND/OR gate


Toggle Flip-Flop


NOT gate


NOISYヨANI
NIVD


SYNC


AND/OR gate


Toggle Flip-Flop


## GEN.

## Integration

Modular elements Open source CAD Component Libraries


Random Access Chemical Memory


# Self-clocked microfluidics? 

## Capillary Ratchets Red-neck phalarope



## Capillary ratchet




$$
\begin{aligned}
& \tan \left(\pi / 4-\left(\theta_{a}-\alpha_{\min }\right) / 2\right)=\frac{3\left(x \alpha_{\min }(x+2 L)-2 V\right)}{4 \alpha_{\min }^{2}\left(L^{2}+(L+x)^{2}\right.} \\
& \tan \left(\pi / 4-\left(\theta_{r}+\alpha_{\max }\right) / 2\right)=\frac{3\left(x \alpha_{\max }(x+2 L)-2 V\right)}{4 \alpha_{\max }^{2}\left(L^{2}+(L+x)^{2}\right.}
\end{aligned}
$$

Can be solved graphically for alpha max and min Criteria for alpha when the drop just starts to move


Line tension balance

$$
\begin{array}{r}
\theta_{1}-\theta_{2}=2 \alpha \\
d \theta_{1}-d \theta_{2}=2 d \alpha
\end{array}
$$

[Prakash et al. 2007 in prepration]

Ultra-Small-Sample Molecular Structure Detection Using Microslot Nuclear Spin Resonance


Yael Maguire

- To create a technology that can get structural information from $10^{13}-10^{14}$
(I O0pmols - Inmol) biomolecules and avoid DNA/bacteria amplification.

- highest SNR for planar detector
- demonstrated detection of $\sim 10^{14}$ biomolecules
- scalable, parallel geometry to improve SNR
puv


## Maguire et al, PNAS vl04, n22 (2007)

> Ultra-small-sample molecular structure detection using microslot waveguide nuclear spin resonance
> Yael Maguire*t, ssac L. Chuang*, shuguang Zhang*t, and Neil Gershenfeld**

## $\xrightarrow{4}$ <br> .4 m

## 



## Conclusions

Internal control scheme
Material independent
KHz operation
Digital control

Combinatorial chemistry
Chemical synthesis
High throughput screening
Large scale chemical memories
Handheld diagnostics

Printing
Physical Cryptography

Playground for fluid mechanicians

