

Advantages of Miniaturization

Portable Gas Chromatograph

19"
13"
Depth = 10"

Chip-Scale Gas Chromatograph

1-2 cm
5 mm

Reduction Factors

Size	40,500 cm ³	20,000X	Size	2 cm ³
Sensitivity	1 ppb	1,000X	Sensitivity	1 ppt
Analysis Time	15 min.	225X	Analysis Time	4 sec
Energy Per Analysis	10,000 J	10,000X	Energy Per Analysis	1 J

Basic Approach: Separation Analyzer

Tiny Dimensions

- > fast time constants
- > 10,000X gain factor via multi-staging
- > enhanced sensitivity
- > lower power

Tiny Dimensions

- > faster separation
- > lower power

EE C245: LecM 2 C. Nguyen 8/20/09 40

Scaling Leads to Faster Separation

- **Example:** gas chromatograph separation column
 - ↳ unique analyte interactions with the column walls
 - ↳ different analyte velocities
 - ↳ **result:** separation after a finite distance

Wide Channel

Carrier Gas (Mobile Phase)

Conc. vs x

Miniaturize

→

Thin Channel

Carrier Gas (Mobile Phase)

Conc. vs x

Peak Stays Thin ⇒ Less Separation Needed to Resolve

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 2 C. Nguyen 8/20/09 41

Scaling Leads to Faster Separation

- **Example:** gas chromatograph separation column
 - ↳ unique analyte interactions with the column walls
 - ↳ different analyte velocities
 - ↳ **result:** separation after a finite distance

Wide Channel

Carrier Gas (Mobile Phase)

Miniaturize

→

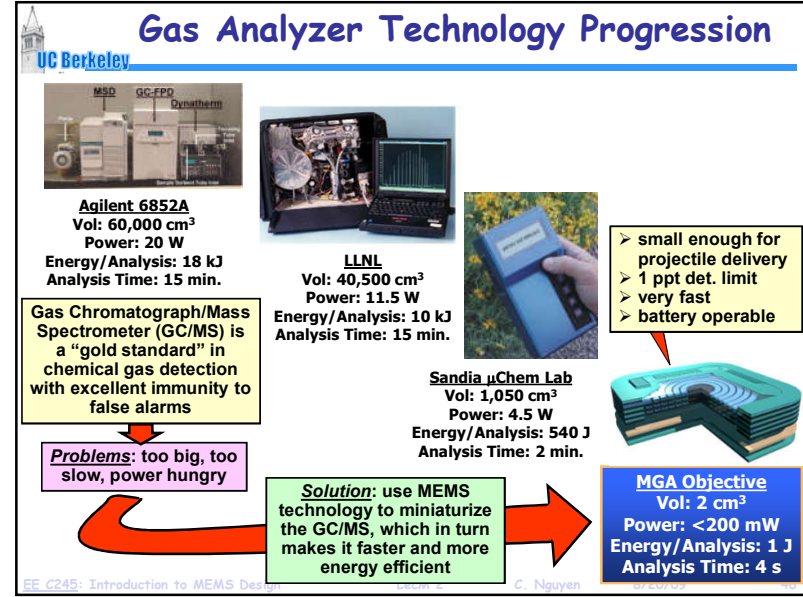
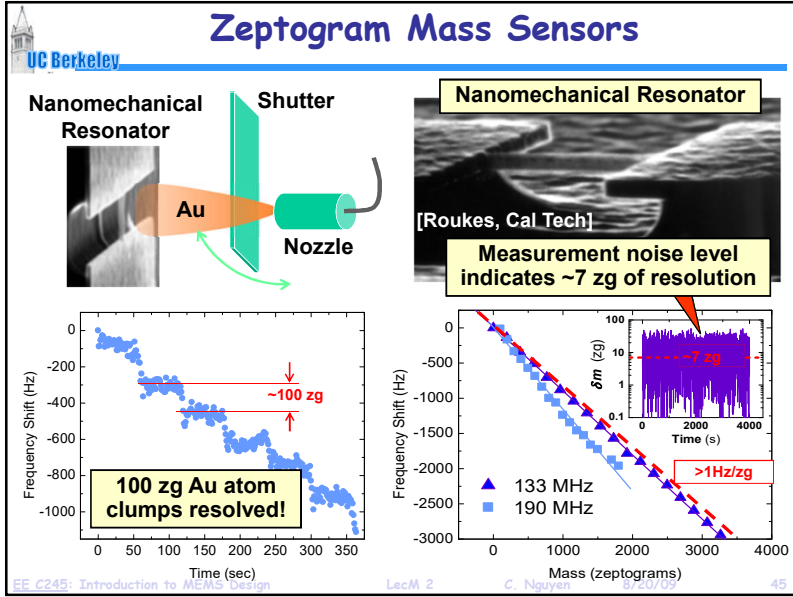
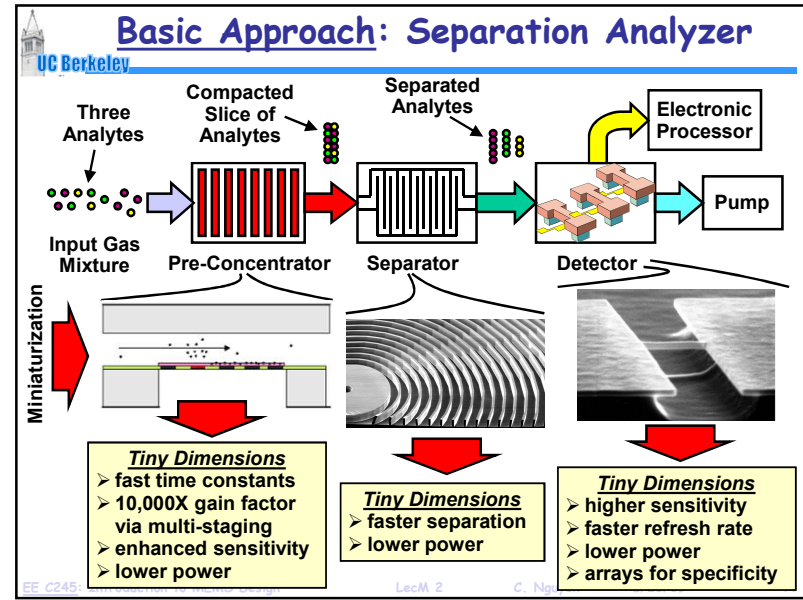
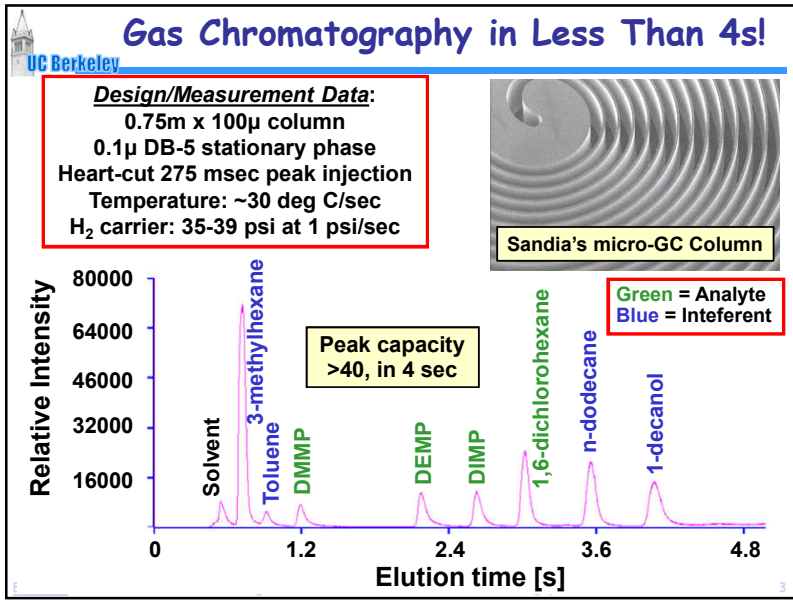
Thin Channel

Carrier Gas (Mobile Phase)

Column Width ↓ → Surface-to-Volume Ratio ↑ → Peak Spreading ↓ → Separation Distance ↓

- **Result of Scaling:** shorter column length; faster analysis time

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 2 C. Nguyen 8/20/09 42



Example: Micromechanical Accelerometer

UC Berkeley

- The MEMS Advantage:**
 - >30X size reduction
 - accelerometer mechanism
 - allows integration with

Tiny mass means small output \Rightarrow need integrated transistor circuits to compensate

Basic Operation Principle

$x \propto F_i = ma$

Labels in diagram: x_0 , x , Displacement, Spring, Inertial Force, Proof Mass, Acceleration

Analog Devices ADXL 78

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design

Messages Going Forward ...

UC Berkeley

- MEMS are micro-scale or smaller devices/systems that operate mainly via a mechanical or electromechanical means
- MEMS \Rightarrow NEMS offer the same scaling advantages that IC technology offers (e.g., speed, low power, complexity, cost), but they do so for domains beyond electronics:
 - resonant frequency \uparrow (faster speed)
 - actuation force \downarrow (lower power)
 - # mechanical elements \uparrow (higher complexity)
 - integration level \uparrow (lower cost)

Size \downarrow \Rightarrow

- Micro ... nano ... *it's all good*
- Just as important: MEMS or NEMS have brought together people from diverse disciplines \Rightarrow this is the key to growth!
- What's next? \Rightarrow Nano-nuclear fusion? Chip-scale atomic sensors?

... limitless possibilities ...

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 2 C. Nguyen 8/20/09 48