# Visual detection of glucose based on the QDs aerogel in microfluidic chips

Tao Hu,<sup>a</sup> Yi Ye,<sup>a</sup> Ke Chen,<sup>a</sup> Feifei Long,<sup>c</sup> Wen San,<sup>a</sup> Yunlong Zhou, <sup>b\*</sup> Dongke Sun,<sup>a\*</sup> Zhonghua Ni,<sup>a\*</sup>

a)School of Mechanical Engineering, and Jiangsu Key Laboratory for Design and Manufacture of Micro–Nano Biomedical Instruments, Southeast University, Nanjing 211189, China. E-mail: nzh2003@seu.edu.cn

b)Wenzhou Institute of Biomaterials and Engineering, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wenzhou 325000, P. R. China. E-mail: zhouyl@wibe.ac.cn

c)Nanjing Foreign Languages School, Nanjing, 210096, China. E-mail: dksun@seu.edu.cn

Corresponding Author: nzh2003@seu.edu.cn, zhouyl@wibe.ac.cn, dksun@seu.edu.cn

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#### 1. Materials and methods

# 1.1 Materials

All chemicals were analytical grade.  $CdCl_2 \cdot 2.5H_2O$ , NaBH<sub>4</sub>, L-Glutathione(L-GSH) and Na<sub>2</sub>TeO<sub>3</sub> were purchased from Alfa Aesar (Shanghai, China). NaOH and isopropanol (C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O) were purchased from KESHI (Chengdu, China). Glucose Oxidase (GOx) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, USA). Ultrapure water ( $\geq 18 M\Omega \cdot cm^2$ ) was prepared by a Millipore water purification system. Urine samples were collected from healthy volunteers. Serum samples were provided by Zhongda Hospital (Nanjing, China).

## 1.2 Appratus

Fluorescence spectra was recorded by Lengguang Tech F96 pro fluorescence spectrophotometer (Lengguang Tech, Shanghai, China). The morphology of the synthesized CdTe-GOx aerogel was analyzed by a FEI Sirion field emission scanning electron microscope (FEI, Hillsboro, America). Fluorescence images were taken with a Canon 7D® digital camera (Canon, Tokyo, Japan), using a Qinke ZF-7A UV lamp (Qinke, Shanghai, China) as a light source.

## 1.3 Fabrication of microfluidic chips

We used CAD software to draw the pattern of the microfluidic chip channel shape and made into a photolithographic mask. A layer of positive photoresist was dumped on silicon wafer and solidified in high temperature (the thickness of the photoresist is 50µm), then it was exposed on the lithography machine and developed through the developer solution. The remaining photoresist and silicon were used to form a male mold. The surface of the mold was cleaned by ethanol and drying. PDMS matrix was mixed with the curing agent at mass ratio of 10:1 and placed in a vacuum oven to remove air bubbles from the solution. The mixed solution without bubbles was then placed on the hot plate curing at 80°C for 1h, and was taken out and cooled to room temperature. The PDMS was separate from the mold and produced a PDMS microfluidic chip structure with a flat surface. After the PDMS and glass substrate are treated with plasma cleaning agents and bonded to each other, it was placed in an oven at 120°C for 2h. Finally, we got the microfluidic chip we need.

The reactor design consists of a 12 mm long, 0.5 mm wide and 0.05 mm deep channels with 2 in/outlets to the chip periphery. The reactor design is placed five times on the reactor chip to enable five parallel measurements. The deep packed bed reactor chips have the outer dimensions of a microscope slide, 76 mm'26 mm'1 mm.

1.4 Preparation of CdTe QDs solution

103 mg of  $CdCl_2 \cdot 2.5H_2O$  and 184 mg of GSH were first mixed in 55 mL of ultrapure water, stirred and adjusted to a pH of 10.5. Then, 22 mg of Na<sub>2</sub>TeO<sub>3</sub> and 3.8 mg of Na<sub>BH4</sub> were added to the mixed solution and again was stirred for until the color of the solution change from colorless to pale green. After stirring, the solution was put into three necked flasks, and heated by oil bath at 110°C for 2.5h. The fabricated CdTe QDs were characterized using a fluorescence microscope. An emission peak at 605 nm is observed.

#### 1.5 Preparation of CdTe microfluidic glucose sensor

First, 1 mL QDs were purified by precipitation with isopropanol and dispersed in 0.545 mL PBS with 100 U GOx. Then the mixed solution was injected into the flow channel of the microfluidic chip by micro-injector, the microfluidic chip was put into refrigerator at -20°C for 48h. Finally, the chip was freeze-dried in a freeze dryer, and the microfluidic glucose sensor is obtained.

#### 1.6 Characterization

Different concentrations of glucose were dissolved in PBS buffer. Then, 0.8 µL solutions of each concentration were injected into the flow channel of the microfluidic chip by a microinjector. After 5 minutes, the microfluidic chip was put in the same place of ultraviolet analyzer and taken photos under a 254 nm UV lamp. Subsequently, the gray value of the flow channel was obtained by detecting the photos. I is the gray

value of the flow channel with different concentrations of glucose.  $I_0$  is the gray value of the flow channel with PBS. C is the concentration value of glucose. Calculate the value of  $I/I_0$  and  $log_{10}$  (C) and draw the curve of  $I/I_0$  with  $log_{10}$ (C).

# 1.7 Determination Glucose in serum and urine

Fluorescent detection of glucose in urine: Different concentrations of glucose were dissolved in urine samples, which were collected from volunteers. Then, 0.8  $\mu$ L solution was injected into the flow channel of the microfluidic chip by microinjector. After 5 min, the microfluidic chip was put in the same place of ultraviolet analyzer and taken photos under a 254 nm UV lamp. Subsequently, the gray value of the flow channel was obtained by detecting the photos. I, I<sub>0</sub> and C is same as defined in section 1.8 Calculate the value of I/I<sub>0</sub> and log<sub>10</sub> (C) and draw the curve of I/I<sub>0</sub> with log<sub>10</sub>(C).

Fluorescent detection of glucose in serum: Different samples of serum supported by Zhongda Hospital was injected into the flow channel of the microfluidic chip by microinjector until there was  $0.8 \mu$ L solution in per channel and then treated as above procedure. The gray value of the flow channel was obtained by detecting the photos.

## 1.8 Ethics statement

This study was performed with the approval of the IEC for Clinical Research of Zhongda Hospital, Affiliated to Southeast University. ALL human urine and human serum were treated as the guidelines of the IEC for Clinical Research of Zhongda Hospital and informed consent was obtained.

Figure S1. The photographic images of the microfluidic chip with QDs-GOx based aerogel under indoor light (a) and 254 nm UV light (b).



Figure S2. The photograph of the glucose microfluidic sensor with  $H_2O$  (left) and the response to  $H_2O_2$  (right).



sample	detected by our method(mM)	detected by hospital(mM)	Photo
1	3.63	-	
2	3.74	-	
3	6.46	-	
4	11.58	+	
5	13.73	+++	
6	15.69	+++	

Table S1. The urine glucose value obtained by commercial instrument(Uritest-500B Automated Urine Chemistry Analyzer, URIT Corporation, China ) and by glucose microfludic sensor

sample	blood glucose(mM)	found(mM)	Recovery
a	2.72	2.80	99.11%
b	5.65	5.64	96.21%
С	8.49	9.17	104.18%
d	10.98	12.16	106.81%
е	20.49	20.13	94.74%

Table S2. The blood glucose value obtained by commercial instrument (Synchron LX-20 automatic biochemical analyzer, Beckman Coulter Inc.,CA, USA) and by glucose microfludic sensor

analytical system	range	LOD	reaction place	reaction volume	reactiom Time	visual detection	measurement equipment	Reference
GOx/HRP-luminol	0.1-100mM	0.0948mM	cloth	10µL	5.5min	Yes	camera	1
GQD-chitosan	1.2-120µM	0.3pM	solution	not given	not given	No	electrochemistry workstation	2
GOx-Mn3(PO4)2	0.1-20mM	0.01mM	paper	8µL	10min	Yes	camera	3
GOx&CCP/QDs	0.1-5mM	0.05mM	solution	not given	3h	Yes	fluorescence spectrometer	4
fiber-based scheme	0-270mg dL <sup>-1</sup> 300-3000mg dL <sup>-1</sup>	3mg dL-1	fiber	not given	not given	No	Mach-Zehndr interferometer	5
GOx-CdTe	0-12mM	0.135mM	microfludic chip	0.8µL	5.5min	Yes	camera	This work

Table S3. The comparison among our sensor and recently reported methods for detection of glucose

Brand	ACCU-CHEK®	Onetouch	Our sensor	
Model	Active	UltraEazy		
Instrument price	¥131	¥247	Unwanted	
Instrument weight	46g	40g	Unwanted	
Test type	blood	blood	blood/urine	
Test range	0.6-33.3mM	1.1-33.3mM	0.14-12mM	
Accuracy	≤15%	≤15%	≤8%	
Test time	5s	5s	5.5min	
Test cost	¥3.85/time	¥4.56/time	¥0.46/time	

Table S4. The comparison among our sensor and commercial glucose meters for detection of glucose.



Fig. S3 The approval of ethics committee to this experiments

Notes and references

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