Electronic Supplementary Information

## Polar coordinate active-matrix digital microfluidics for high-

## resolution concentration gradient generation

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| Lap Number | Number of<br>Electrodes | Electrodes<br>Width (um) | Electrodes<br>Area (μm²) | Droplet<br>Volume (nL) | Lap Number | Number of<br>Electrodes | Electrodes<br>Width (um) | Electrodes<br>Area (μm²) | Droplet<br>volume (nL) |
|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 0          | 1                       | 50.0                     | 1519                     | 0.03                   | 17         | 60                      | 208.7                    | 43346                    | 0.87                   |
| 1          | 4                       | 39.2                     | 2127                     | 0.04                   | 18         | 64                      | 216.2                    | 46450                    | 0.93                   |
| 2          | 8                       | 50.4                     | 2852                     | 0.06                   | 19         | 68                      | 223.4                    | 49552                    | 0.99                   |
| 3          | 12                      | 59.9                     | 3756                     | 0.08                   | 20         | 72                      | 230.5                    | 52696                    | 1.05                   |
| 4          | 16                      | 68.5                     | 4751                     | 0.1                    | 21         | 72                      | 250.6                    | 62557                    | 1.25                   |
| 5          | 20                      | 76.3                     | 5789                     | 0.12                   | 22         | 76                      | 258.1                    | 66301                    | 1.33                   |
| 6          | 24                      | 83.5                     | 6865                     | 0.14                   | 23         | 80                      | 265.5                    | 70099                    | 1.40                   |
| 7          | 24                      | 105.4                    | 11262                    | 0.23                   | 24         | 84                      | 272.7                    | 73913                    | 1.48                   |
| 8          | 28                      | 114.0                    | 13053                    | 0.26                   | 25         | 88                      | 279.7                    | 77728                    | 1.55                   |
| 9          | 28                      | 139.5                    | 19936                    | 0.4                    | 26         | 88                      | 299.7                    | 89483                    | 1.79                   |
| 10         | 32                      | 149.5                    | 22715                    | 0.45                   | 27         | 92                      | 307.1                    | 93909                    | 1.88                   |
| 11         | 36                      | 159.0                    | 25548                    | 0.51                   | 28         | 96                      | 314.4                    | 98377                    | 1.97                   |
| 12         | 40                      | 168.0                    | 28415                    | 0.57                   | 29         | 96                      | 335.0                    | 111943                   | 2.24                   |
| 13         | 44                      | 176.7                    | 31326                    | 0.63                   | 30         | 96                      | 356.9                    | 127339                   | 2.55                   |
| 14         | 48                      | 185.1                    | 34279                    | 0.69                   | 31         | 96                      | 380.1                    | 144780                   | 2.90                   |
| 15         | 52                      | 193.2                    | 37264                    | 0.75                   | 32         | 96                      | 405.0                    | 164669                   | 3.29                   |
| 16         | 56                      | 201.1                    | 40293                    | 0.81                   | /          | /                       | /                        | /                        | 1                      |

## **Table. 1** Electrode parameters of the AM-EWOD chip



Fig.S1 The gap size data for 20 AM-EWOD chips.

The results shows that the average thickness is around 20.8 um over 20 different chips, the coefficient of variation is 8.56%, which is within our design requirements.



Fig.S2 Pixel circuit driving logic.



**Fig.S3** The photograph of fluorescence detection system, including drive power, two-axis control system, main controller, control software, 20X objective lens, miniature fluorescence module, the AM-EWOD chip.



Fig.S4

The system structure diagram of absorbance detection system, including spectrometer, twoaxis control system, main controller, the AM-EWOD chip, drive power, control software, optic fiber, lens probe, LED light.



**Fig.S5** (a) The pixel area of the 10-32 laps on the AM-EWOD chip. (b) The droplets footprint of the 10-32 laps on the AM-EWOD chip. Their trends are consistent.