## Shape-controlled fabrication of micron-scale surface chemical gradients via electrochemically activated copper(I) "click" chemistry

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## **Supporting Information**



**S1** Graphs of A) Current vs. Time for a solution of 1mM CuSO<sub>4</sub> in DMSO and B) current vs. potential for a solution of 1mM CuSO<sub>4</sub> in DMSO ( $\bullet$ ) and only DMSO ( $\bullet$ ).



**S2** Fluorescence microscopy images after A) 24 hours and B) 96 hours incubation of an azide functionalized substrate in 1mM solution of **1**, 10uM CuSO<sub>4</sub> and 1mM ascorbic acid in tert-butanol/water=1/2. C) Intensity profile of the images A) and B).

[Cu(II)] (mM)	Ligand / [ligand] (mM)	Supporting electrolyte (mM)	Potential (V)	Reaction time (min)	Gap size (μm)	<i>m</i> (μm⁻¹)	R <sup>2</sup>	Linear range [µm]	I <sub>max</sub>
1. 0.2	TBTA/0.2	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 0.8	1.0	4	100	0.042	0.995	13.7	0.917
2. 0.2	TBTA/0.2	$Na_2SO_4 0.8$	1.0	8	100	0.052	0.998	16.3	1.142
3. 1.0	TBTA/1.0	/	1.0	1	100	0.030	0.998	22.8	0.920
4. 1.0	/	/	1.0	4	100	0.007	0.993	42.3	0.477
5. 1.0	/	/	1.0	2	100	0.006	0.983	34.5	0.416
6. 1.0	/	/	1.0	1	100	0.004	0.975	24.7	0.188
7. 0.2	TBTA/0.2	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 0.8	1.0	2	50	0.045	0.999	9.8	0.710
8. 0.2	TBTA/0.2	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 0.8	1.0	1	50	0.028	0.993	8.5	0.363
9. 1.0	TBTA/1.0	/	1.0	1	50	0.026	0.984	16.3	0.620
10. 0.2	TBTA/0.2	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 0.8	1.0	1	25	0.014	0.984	10.4	0.382
11. 0.2	TBTA/0.2	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 0.8	1.0	2	25	0.029	0.991	8.5	0.575
12. 0.2	TBTA/0.2	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 0.8	1.0	1	10/50	0.036	0.987	6.5	0.436
13. 0.2	TBTA/0.2	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 0.8	1.0	1	10/5	0.072	0.968	3.2	0.455
14. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	/	0.4	4	100	0.013	0.996	13.0	0.304
15. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	/	0.6	4	100	0.023	0.991	14.3	0.604
16. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	/	0.8	4	100	0.017	0.997	40.3	1.114
17. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	/	1.0	4	100	0.018	0.998	47.5	1.130
18. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	/	0.4	4+8	100	0.017	0.997	22.8	0.622
19. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	/	0.4	4+8+16	100	0.022	0.998	26.0	0.997
20. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	/	0.4	28	100	0.022	0.998	32.5	1.095
21. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	/	0.6	4+8	100	0.020	0.996	32.5	1.043
22. 0.2	2,6-lut./20	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 0.8	1.0	4	100	0.020	0.972	7.8	0.291
23. 0.2	2,6-lut./20	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 0.8	1.0	8	100	0.044	0.967	4.6	0.522
24. 0.2	2,6-lut./20	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 0.8	1.0	16	100	0.032	0.995	9.8	0.558
25. 5.0	2,6-lut./500	/	1.0	1	100	0.018	0.998	20.8	0.713
26. 5.0	2,6-lut./500	/	1.0	2	100	0.024	0.997	34.5	1.163
27. 5.0	2,6-lut./500	/	1.0	4	100	0.021	0.998	47.5	1.267
28. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	nBu <sub>4</sub> NBF <sub>4</sub> 100	1.0	2	100	0.007	0.997	12.4	0.160
29. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	nBu <sub>4</sub> NBF <sub>4</sub> 100	1.0	4	100	0.007	0.994	29.9	0.329
30. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	nBu <sub>4</sub> NBF <sub>4</sub> 100	1.0	8	100	0.010	0.998	39.7	0.563
31. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	nBu <sub>4</sub> NBF <sub>4</sub> 100	1.0	16	100	0.011	0.996	31.9	0.610
32. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	nBu <sub>4</sub> NBF <sub>4</sub> 100	1.0	32	100	0.013	0.997	37.1	0.828
33. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	/	1.0	4	100	0.034	0.997	5.9	0.318
34. 1.0	2,6-lut./100	/	1.0	4	100	0.008	0.998	65.1	0.702

**Table S1** Table of the slope, correlation coefficient ( $R^2$ ), linear range and maximum of intensity near the cathode (Imax) as function of the reaction conditions.



**S3** Fluorescence microscopy images of surface chemical gradients of **1** obtained using 1mM of **1** and 1 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub> in DMSO, at the potential difference of 1.0 V for various reaction time: A) 1 min; B) 2 min; C) 4 min; and D) 8 min.



S4 Fluorescence microscopy images of surface chemical gradients of 1 obtained using 1mM of 1 and 1 mM  $CuSO_4/TBTA$  in DMSO, at the potential difference of 1.0 V for various reaction time: A) 1 min; B) 2 min; C) 4 min; and D) 8 min.



**S5** Fluorescence microscopy images of surface chemical gradients of **1** obtained using 1mM of **1** in DMSO, at the potential difference of 1.0 V for 4 min reaction time and different  $CuSO_4/TBTA$  concentrationc; A) 0.05 mM  $CuSO_4/TBTA$  and 0.95 mM  $Na_2SO_4$ ; B) 0.2 mM  $CuSO_4/TBTA$  and 0.8 mM  $Na_2SO_4$ ; C) 1.0 mM  $CuSO_4/TBTA$ ; D) 5.0 mM  $CuSO_4/TBTA$ .



**S6** Fluorescence microscopy images of surface chemical gradients of **1** obtained using 1mM **1** in DMSO, 0.2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub> and TBTA and 0.8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, at the potential difference of 1.0 V for A) 4 min, B) 8 min, C) 16 min reaction time.



**S7.** Fluorescence microscopy images obtained reacting 1 mM of **2** in the presence of 1.0 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub> and 1.0 mM TBTA in DMSO at the potential difference of 1.0 V for various reaction time: A) 0 sec; B) 30 sec; C) 1 min; D) 2 min; E) 4 min; F) 8 min. Images were recorded at an excitation wavelength of 350 nm and an emission wavelength of 420 nm (long pass filter); exposure time: 1000 ms. G) Intensity profiles of the surface chemical gradients obtained reacting 1 mM of **2** in in the presence of 1 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub> and 1 mM TBTA in DMSO at the potential difference of 1.0 V upon various reaction time.



**S8** Fluorescence microscopy image recorded after electrochemically activated CuAAC in the presence of 1mM **1** in DMSO (without CuSO<sub>4</sub>) upon application of 1.0V for 4 min ( $\lambda_{ex}$ =460-490nm,  $\lambda_{em}$ =520nm, exposure time 400 ms)



**S9** Fluorescence microscopy images after reaction of 1 mM **1**, 1 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM TBTA, at the potential difference of 1.0 V for 4 min in A) glycerol/DMSO=99/1; B) DMSO/water=1/1; C) acetonitrile. D) Intensity profile of the previous images.



**S10** Fluorescence microscopy images of surface chemical gradients of **1** obtained using 1mM of **1** in DMSO, and 1.0 V for 50  $\mu$ m gap width at A) 1.0 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>/TBTA for 1 min; B) 0.2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>/TBTA (0.8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) for 1 min; C) 0.2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>/TBTA (0.8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) for 2 min; for 25  $\mu$ m gap width at D) 0.2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>/TBTA (0.8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) for 2 min; E) 0.2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>/TBTA (0.8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) for 2 min; for 10  $\mu$ m gap width (and 10  $\mu$ m electrode width) at F) 0.2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>/TBTA (0.8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) for 1 min; G) 1.0 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>/TBTA (0.8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) for 1 min; G) 1.0 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>/TBTA (0.8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) for 1 min; G) 1.0 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>/TBTA (0.8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) for 1 min; for 10  $\mu$ m gap width (and 50  $\mu$ m electrode width) at H) 0.2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>/TBTA (0.8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) for 1 min; I) 1.0 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>/TBTA (0.8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) for 1 min;



**S11** Fluorescence microscopy images obtained reacting 1 mM of **1** in the presence of 1 mM  $CuSO_4$  and 100 mM 2,6-lutidine in DMSO for 4 min reaction at potential difference: A) 0.4 V; B) 0.6 V; C) 0.8 V; D) 1.0 V; E) 1.2V.



**S12** Fluorescence microscopy images obtained reacting 1 mM of **1** in the presence of 1 mM  $CuSO_4$  and 100 mM 2,6-lutidine in DMSO at the potential difference of 0.4 V for: A) 4 min; B) 4+ 8 min; C) 4+8+16 min; D) 28 min; E) 60 min.



**S13** Fluorescence microscopy images obtained reacting 1 mM of **1** in the presence of 1 mM  $CuSO_4$  and 100 mM 2,6-lutidine in DMSO at the potential difference of 0.6 V for: A) 4 min; B) 4+ 8 min; and 0.8 V: C) 4 min; D) 4+8 min.



**S14** Fluorescence intensity profiles of the surface chemical gradients obtained reacting **1** in DMSO at a potential difference of 1.0 V in the presence of A) different  $CuSO_4/2$ ,6-lutidine concentrations for 4 min reaction; B)  $CuSO_4/2$ ,6-lutidine at 1.0/100 mM for different concentrations of **1** for 4 min reaction. C) 1.0/100 mM and 100 mM of n-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBF<sub>4</sub> at different reaction times; and for different reaction times in the presence of different  $CuSO_4/2$ ,6-lutidine concentrations A) 0.2/20 mM; B) 1/100 mM; C) 5/500 mM. (see Figure S15-20, for the fluorescence images);



**S15** Fluorescence microscopy images obtained reacting 1 mM of **1** in the presence of 0.2 mM  $CuSO_4$ , 0.8 mM  $Na_2SO_4$  and 20 mM 2,6-lutidine in DMSO for various reaction time at the potential difference of 1.0 V: A) 4 min; B) 8 min; C) 16 min; D) 60 min.



**S16** Fluorescence microscopy images obtained reacting 1 mM of **1** in the presence of 1.0 mM  $CuSO_4$  and 100 mM 2,6-lutidine in DMSO for various reaction time at the potential difference of 1.0 V: A) 1 min; B) 2 min; C) 4 min; D) 8 min.



**S17** Fluorescence microscopy images obtained reacting 1 mM of **1** in the presence of 5.0 mM  $CuSO_4$  and 500 mM 2,6lutidine in DMSO for various reaction time at the potential difference of 1.0 V: A) 1 min; B) 2 min; C) 4 min.



**S18** Fluorescence microscopy images obtained reacting 1 mM of **1** in DMSO at the potential difference of 1.0 V for 4 min in the presence of A) 0.2 mM  $CuSO_4$  and 20 mM 2,6-lutidine; B) 1.0 mM  $CuSO_4$  and 100 mM 2,6-lutidine; C) 5.0 mM  $CuSO_4$  and 500 mM 2,6-lutidine.



**S19** Fluorescence microscopy images obtained reacting **1** in the presence of 1.0 mM  $CuSO_4$  and 100 mM 2,6-lutidine in DMSO for various reaction time at the potential difference of 1.0 V for 4 min at different concentration of 1: A) 0.2 mM ; B) 1 mM; C) 5 mM.



**S20** Fluorescence microscopy images obtained reacting 1 mM of **1** in the presence of 1.0 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>, 100 mM 2,6-lutidine and 100 mM n-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBF<sub>4</sub> in DMSO at the potential difference of 1.0 V for various reaction time: A) 2 min; B) 4 min; C) 8 min; D) 16 min; E) 32 min.



**Fig. S21.** A) Graph of the maximum fluorescence intensity,  $I_{max}$ , near the cathode and the steepness, *m*, under different working conditions. Graphs  $I_{max}$  vs. *m* highlighting the effects of B) Cu(I)-stabilizing ligand; C) Cu(II) concentration; and D) electrode gap under different reaction conditions.



**S22** Surface analysis by means of Tof-SIMS of an azide monolayer on glass, in (A) positive and (B) negative mode. The most intense signals were recorded in the region with mass below 60 u, belonging to  $(CH_2)_x N_x$  fragments, typical of the azide monolayer (Si(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub>).



**S23** Surface analysis by means of Tof-SIMS of an azide monolayer on glass after functionalization with **1** (1 mM **1**, 10uM CuSO<sub>4</sub> and 1mM ascorbic acid in tert-butanol/water=1/2 for 24 h), in (A) positive and (B) negative mode. The typical peaks for the monolayer of **1** in positive mode are: 332 ( $C_{20}H_{12}O_5^+$ ), 374 ( $C_{21}H_{12}O_4NS^+$ ) and 390 ( $C_{21}H_{12}O_5NS^+$ ) Dalton; and in negative mode are 300, 310 and 325.