

# Artificial cilia for microfluidics

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exploring the use of a  
horizontally micro-structured  
ferromagnetic PDMS composite

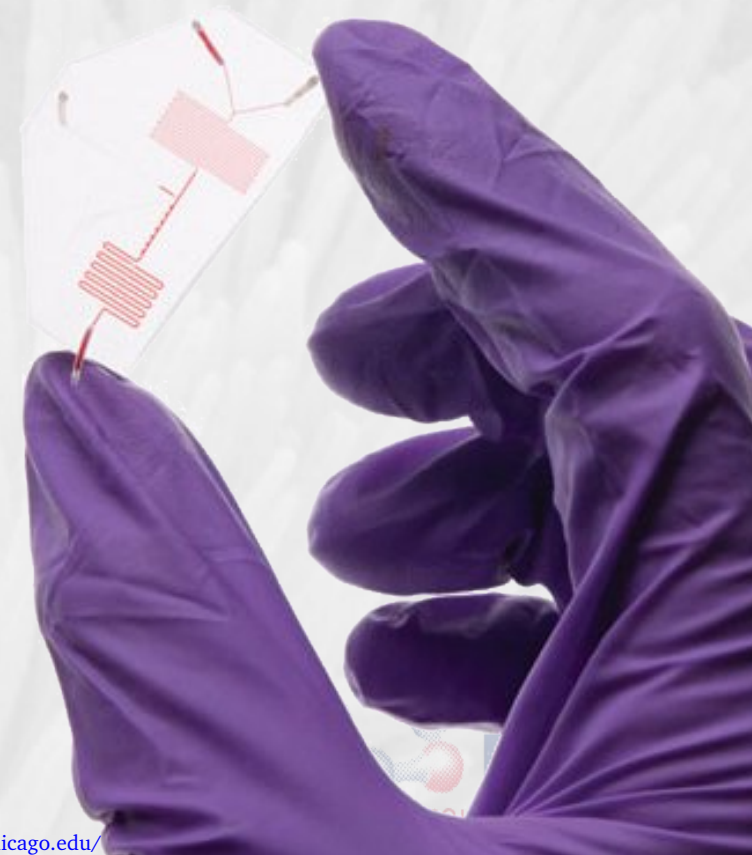
graduation talk of  
**Willem van Engen**

Eindhoven University of Technology  
Department of applied physics  
Molecular biosensors for medical diagnostics

# Microfluidics

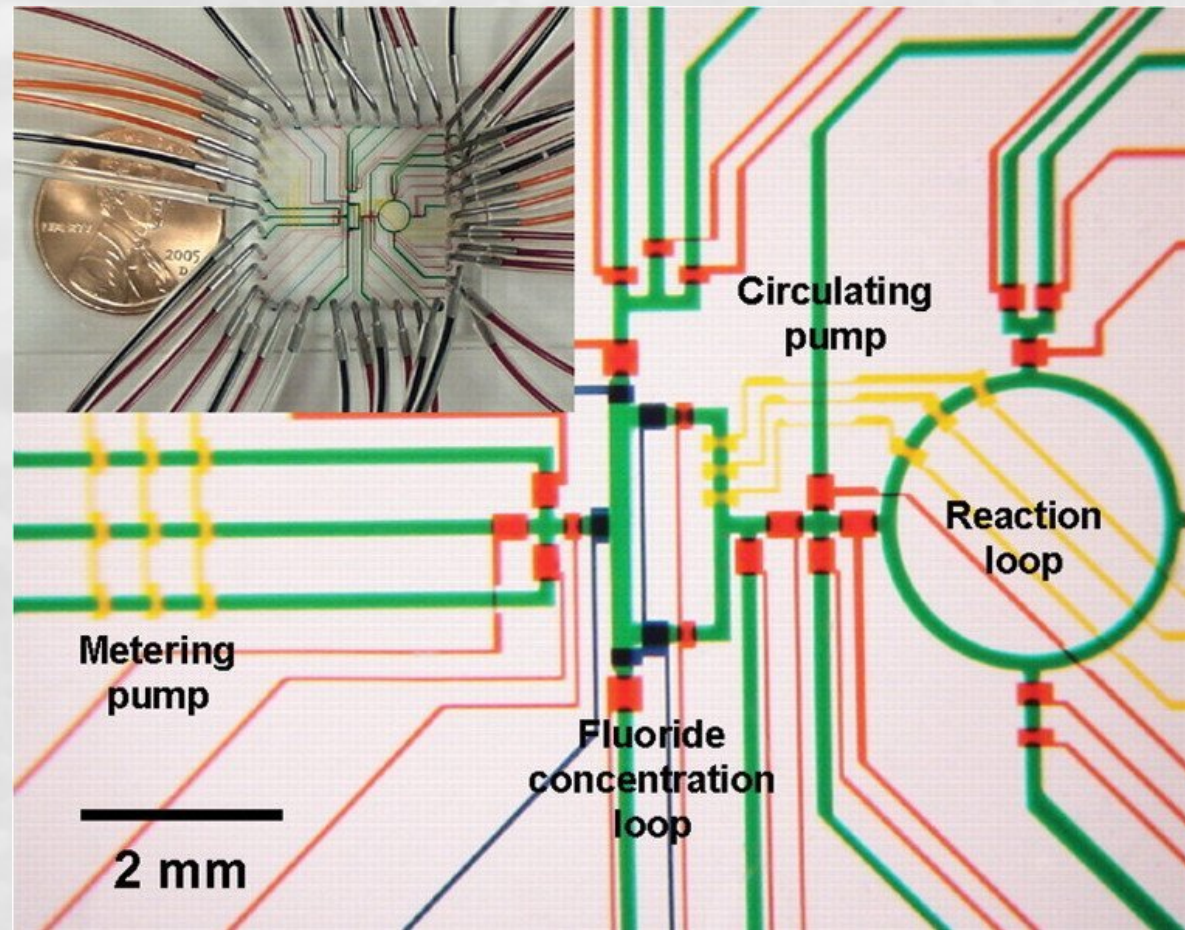
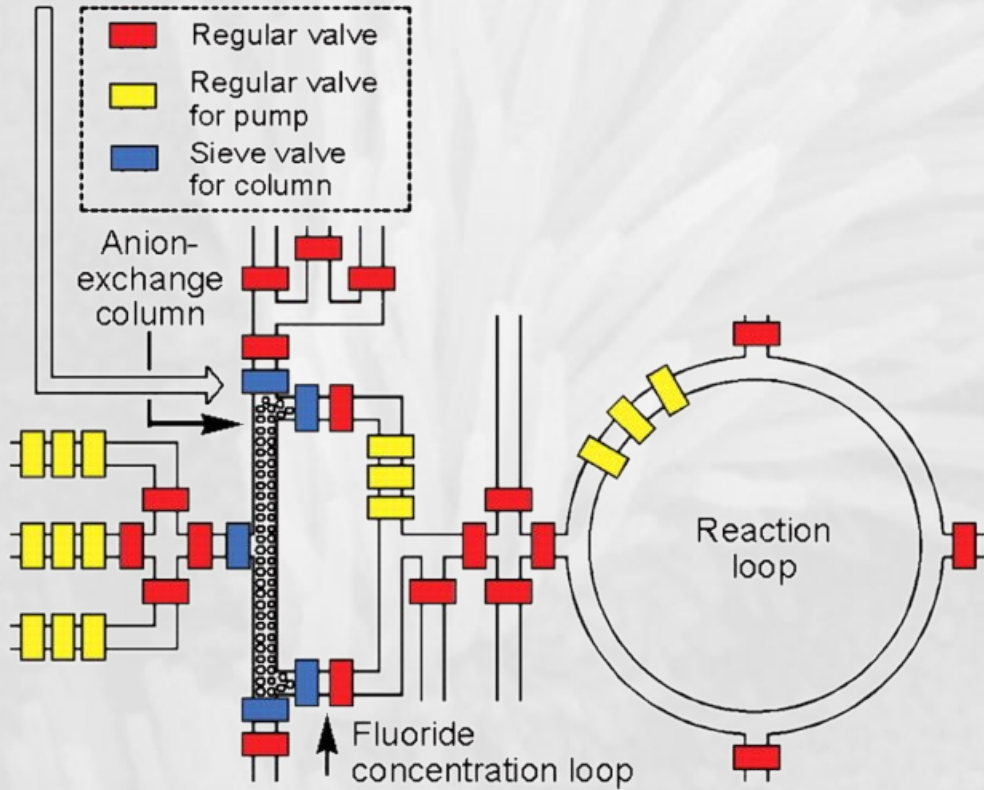


an Europa Valve plant site





# Microfluidic chip



Lee et al. in Science (2005) doi:10.1126/science.1118919

# Microfluidic mixing

$$Re = \frac{v_s L}{\nu} > 2300 \rightarrow \text{turbulence}$$

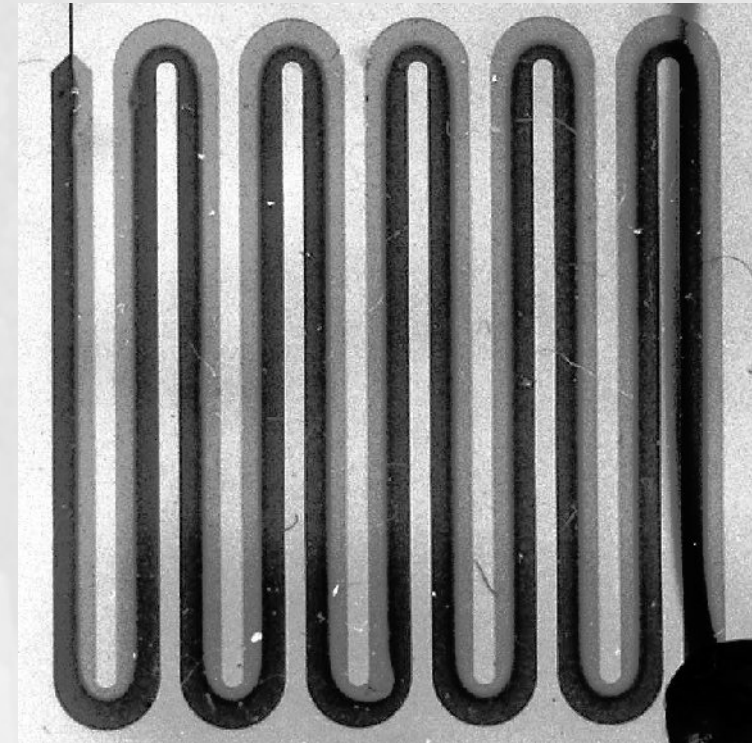
Macroscopic:

$$v_s = \frac{\nu Re}{L} \approx 2.3 \text{ mm/s}$$

Microscopic:

$$v_s = \frac{\nu Re}{L} \approx \cancel{22} \text{ m/s}$$

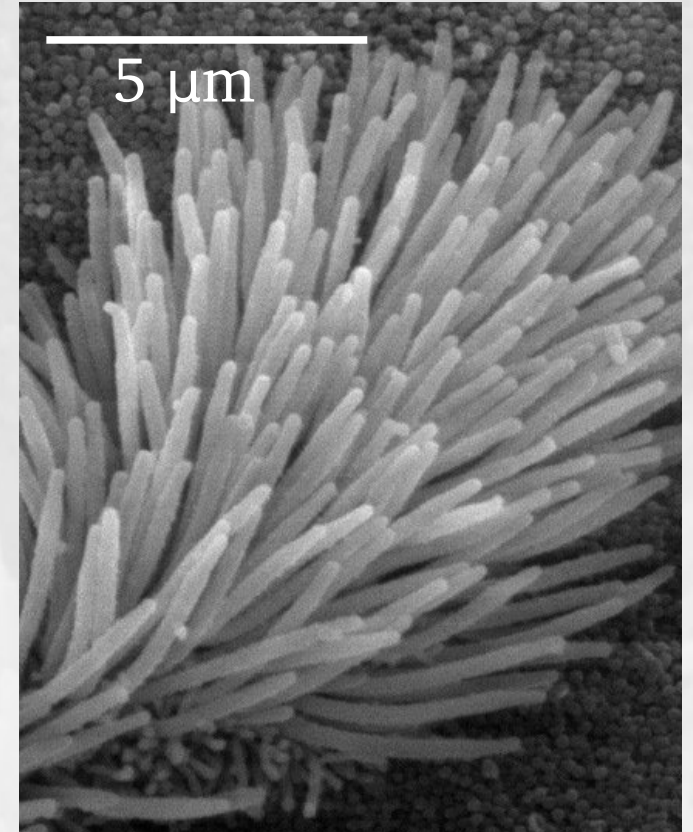
so only mixing by diffusion  
slow



Green in Int. Jnl. of Multiphysics (2007)  
doi:10.1260/175095407780130544



# Cilia in nature



Dartmouth Electron Microscope Facility  
Mammalian lung SEM

Nikon MicroscopyU [digital video gallery](#), Paramecium (protozoan)  
Khatavkar et al. in Phys. Fluids (2007) [doi:10.1063/1.2762206](#)

# Artificial cilia for microfluidics

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## Goal

→ use artificial cilia to achieve  
pumping & mixing in microfluidics

# Artificial cilia for microfluidics

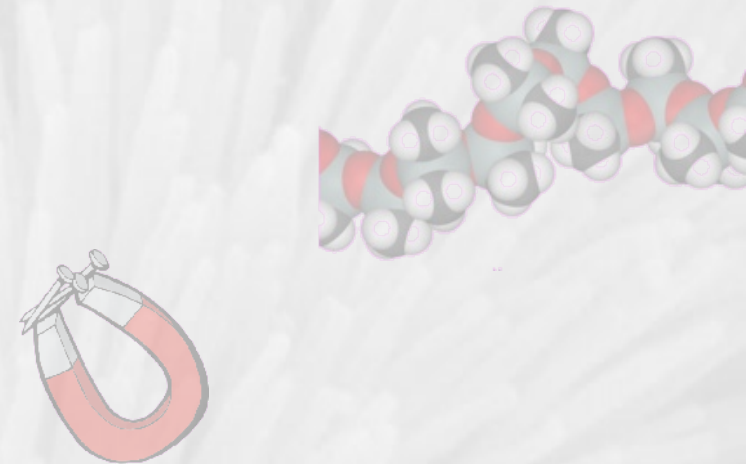
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## Goal

→ use artificial cilia to achieve pumping & mixing in microfluidics

## How?

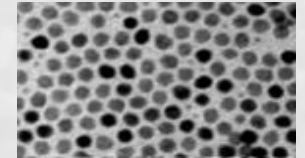
- high aspect-ratio
- polymer material
- magnetic actuation



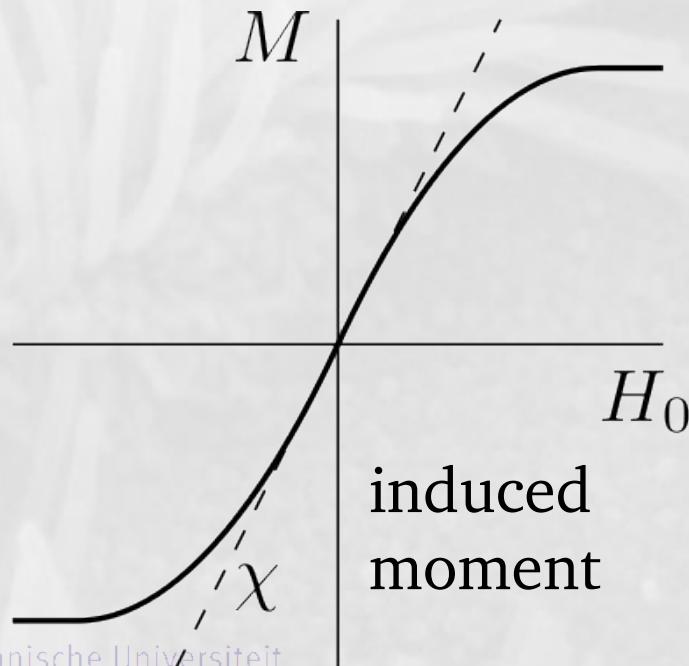
# Magnetic artificial cilia

- Actuation by magnetic field
- Magnetic iron-polymer composite

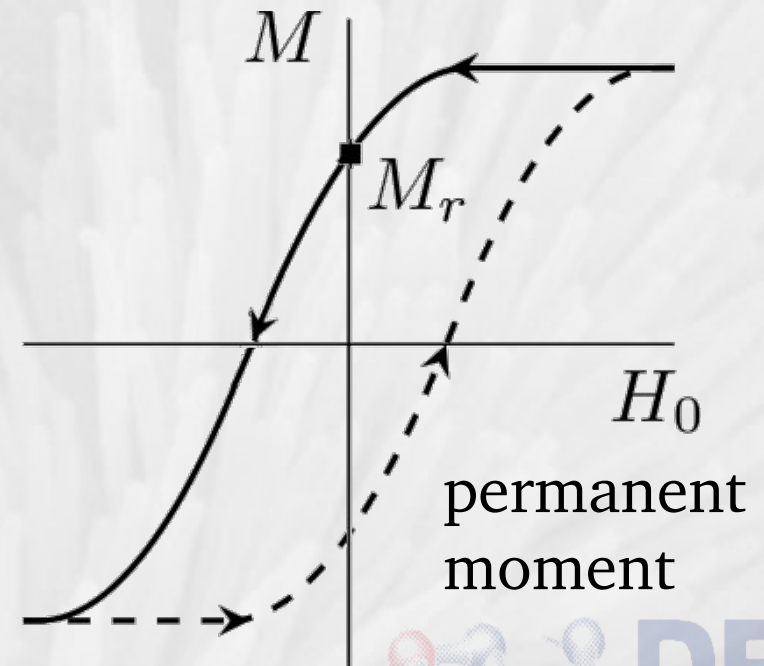
Huber in Small (2005)  
[doi:10.1002/sml.200500006](https://doi.org/10.1002/sml.200500006)



small particles ( $\phi < 20\text{nm}$ )  
superparamagnetic



large particles ( $\phi > 20\text{nm}$ )  
ferromagnetic





# Magnetic actuation forces

gradient force

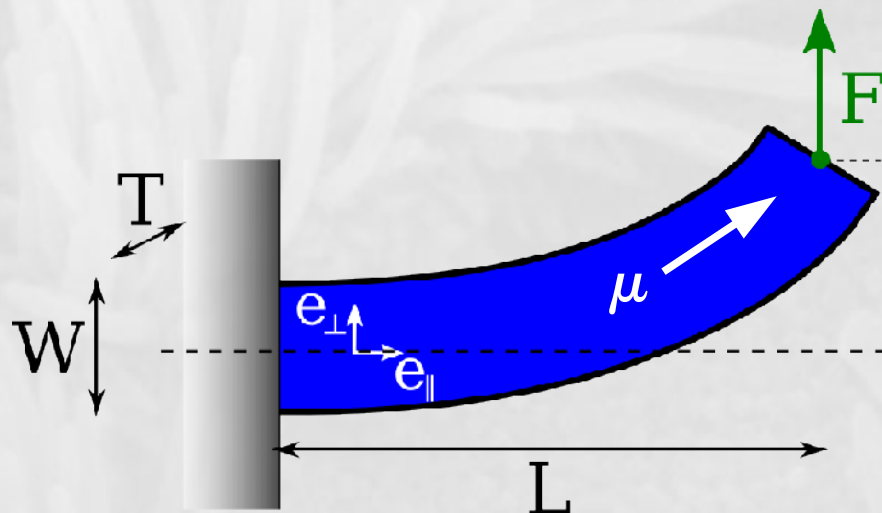
$$\vec{F}_i = \mu_0 (\vec{\mu} \cdot \nabla) \vec{H}_0$$

and

torque

$$\vec{\tau} = \mu_0 \vec{\mu} \times \vec{H}_0$$

$$\rightarrow \vec{F}_p = \frac{\mu_0}{L} (\vec{\mu} \times \vec{H}_0) \times \vec{e}_{\parallel}$$



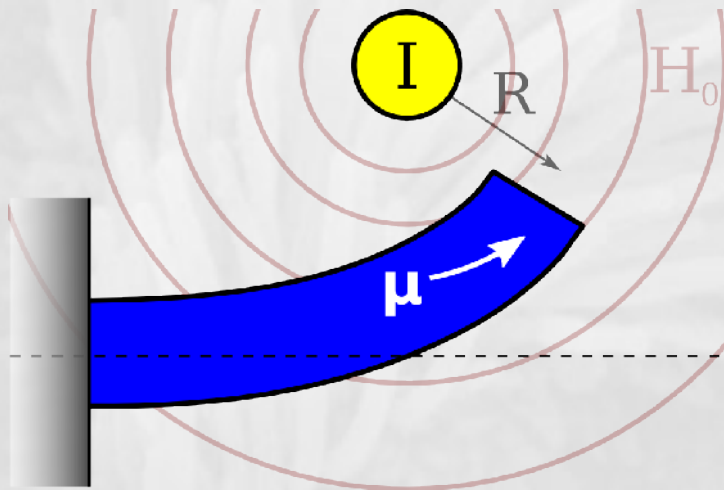
$$\delta = \frac{4 L^3 F}{E T W^3}$$

(for small deflection)

# Induced versus permanent

superparamagnetic material,  
induced magnetic moment

$$\vec{M} = \chi \vec{H}_0$$



$$\vec{F}_i \propto \chi (\vec{H}_0 \cdot \nabla) \vec{H}_0, \quad \vec{\tau} \approx 0$$

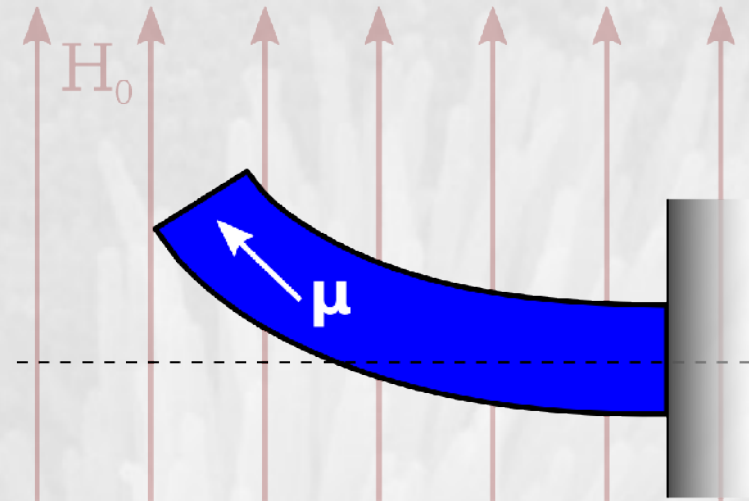
$$\frac{\delta_i}{W} = \frac{\mu_0 \chi j^2}{E \pi^2} \cdot \frac{L^3 r^4}{W^2 R^3}$$

$$\vec{F}_i = \mu_0 (\vec{\mu} \cdot \nabla) \vec{H}_0$$

$$\vec{\tau} = \mu_0 \vec{\mu} \times \vec{H}_0$$

ferromagnetic material,  
permanent magnetic moment

$$\vec{M} = \vec{M}_r$$



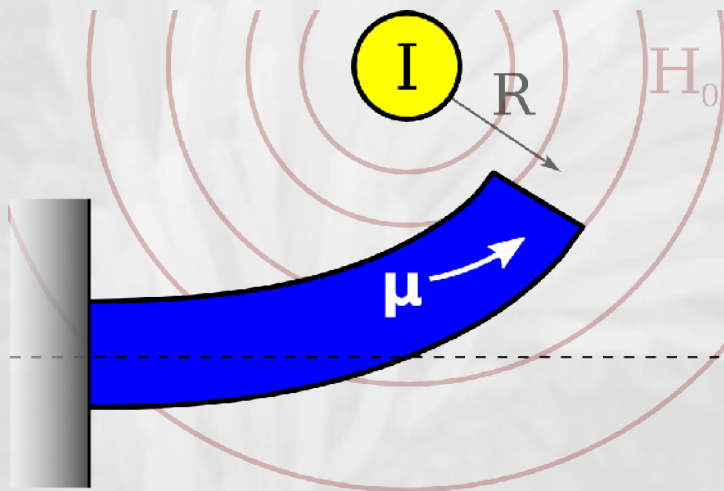
$$\vec{F}_i = 0, \quad \vec{\tau} \propto \vec{M} \times \vec{H}_0$$

$$\frac{\delta_p}{W} = \frac{4 \mu_0 M H_0}{E} \cdot \frac{L^3}{W^3}$$

# Induced versus permanent

superparamagnetic material,  
induced magnetic moment

$$\vec{M} = \chi \vec{H}_0$$



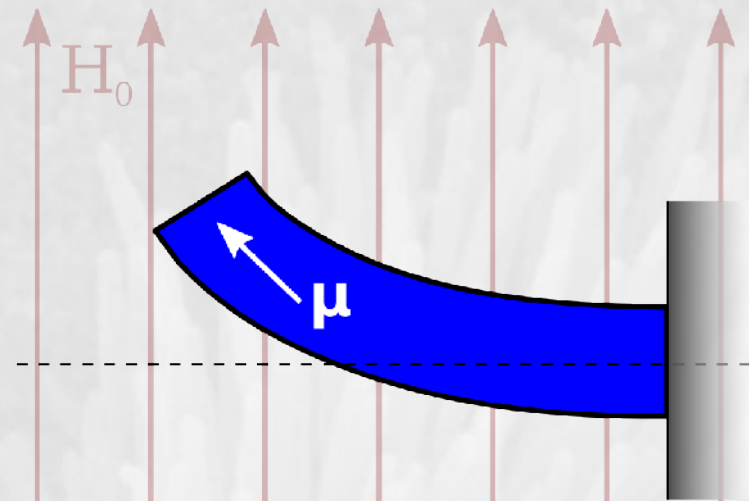
$$\vec{F}_i \propto \chi (\vec{H}_0 \cdot \nabla) \vec{H}_0, \quad \vec{\tau} \approx 0$$

$$\frac{\delta_i}{W} = \frac{\mu_0 \chi j^2}{E \pi^2} \cdot \frac{L^3 r^4}{W^2 R^3}$$

scale-dependent

ferromagnetic material,  
permanent magnetic moment

$$\vec{M} = \vec{M}_r$$



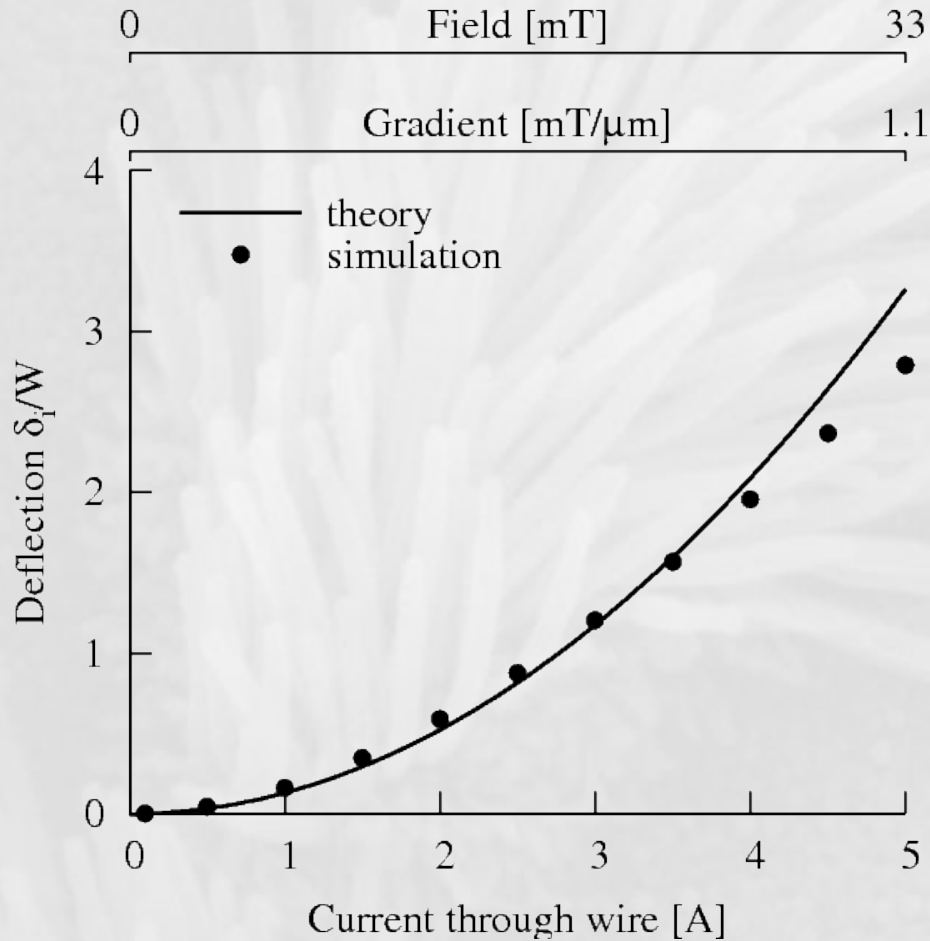
$$\vec{F}_i = 0, \quad \vec{\tau} \propto \vec{M} \times \vec{H}_0$$

$$\frac{\delta_p}{W} = \frac{4 \mu_0 M H_0}{E} \cdot \frac{L^3}{W^3}$$

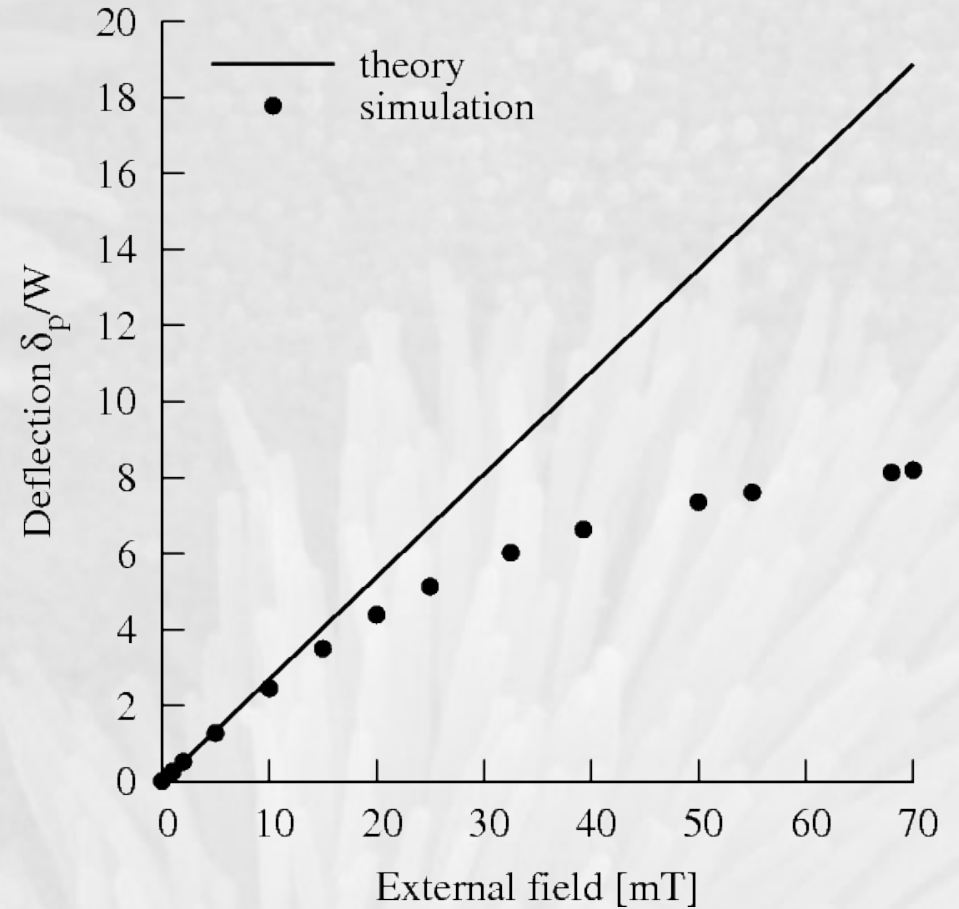
scale-invariant



# Validity



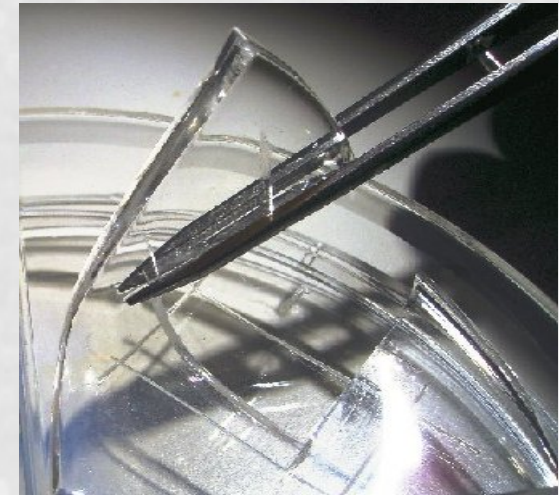
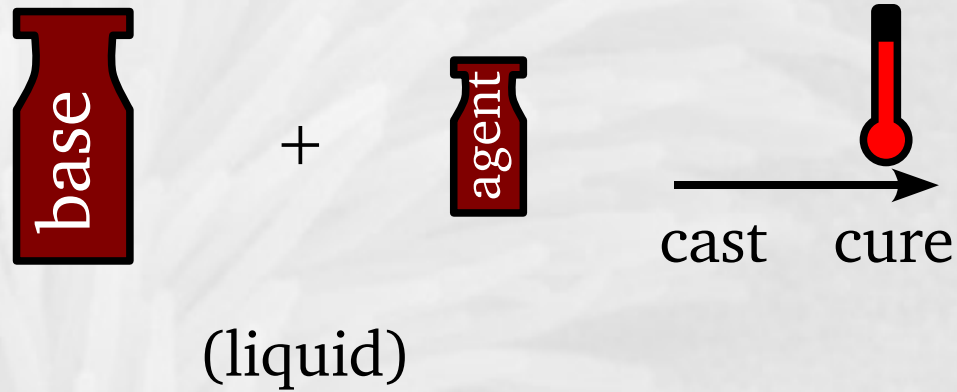
$$\frac{\delta_i}{W} = \frac{\mu_0 \chi j^2}{E \pi^2} \cdot \frac{L^3 r^4}{W^2 R^3}$$



$$\frac{\delta_p}{W} = \frac{4 \mu_0 M H_0}{E} \cdot \frac{L^3}{W^3}$$

# Large artificial cilium – fabrication

Polymer polydimethylsiloxane



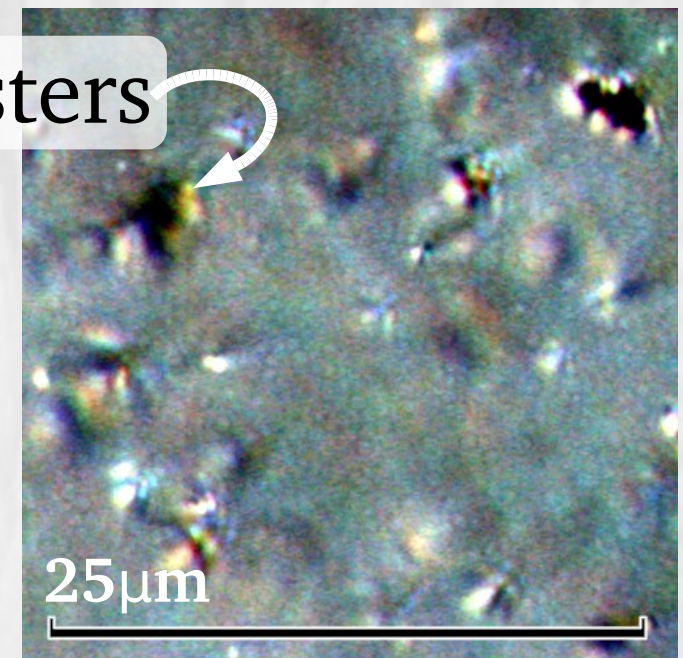
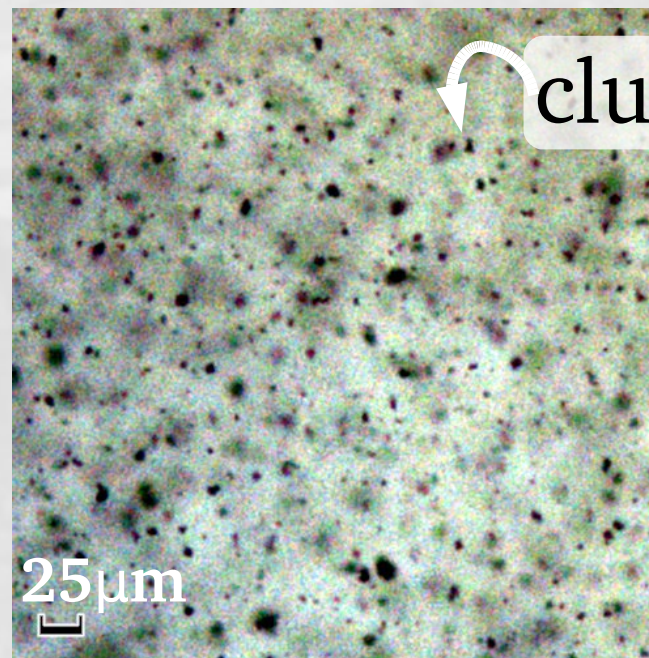
(solid silicone resin)

Sylgard-184

# Large artificial cilium – fabrication

Polymer polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS)

... made permanently magnetic by doping with ferromagnetic particles, 70nm Fe@C



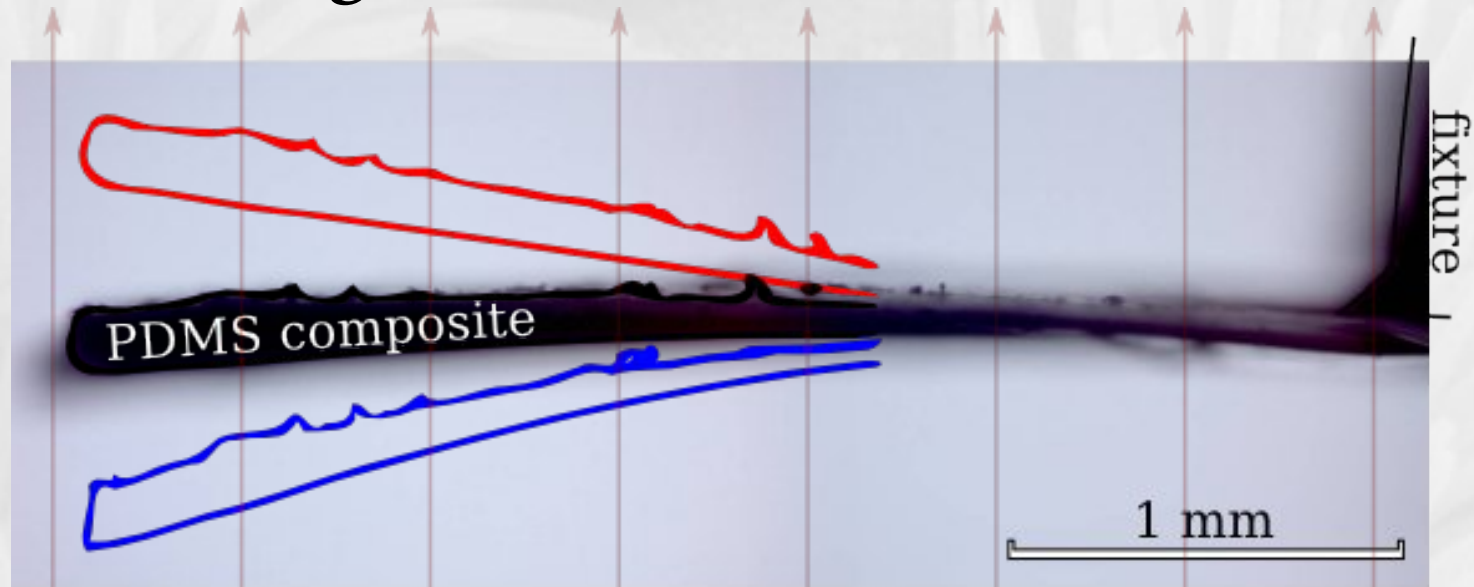


# Large artificial cilium – fabrication

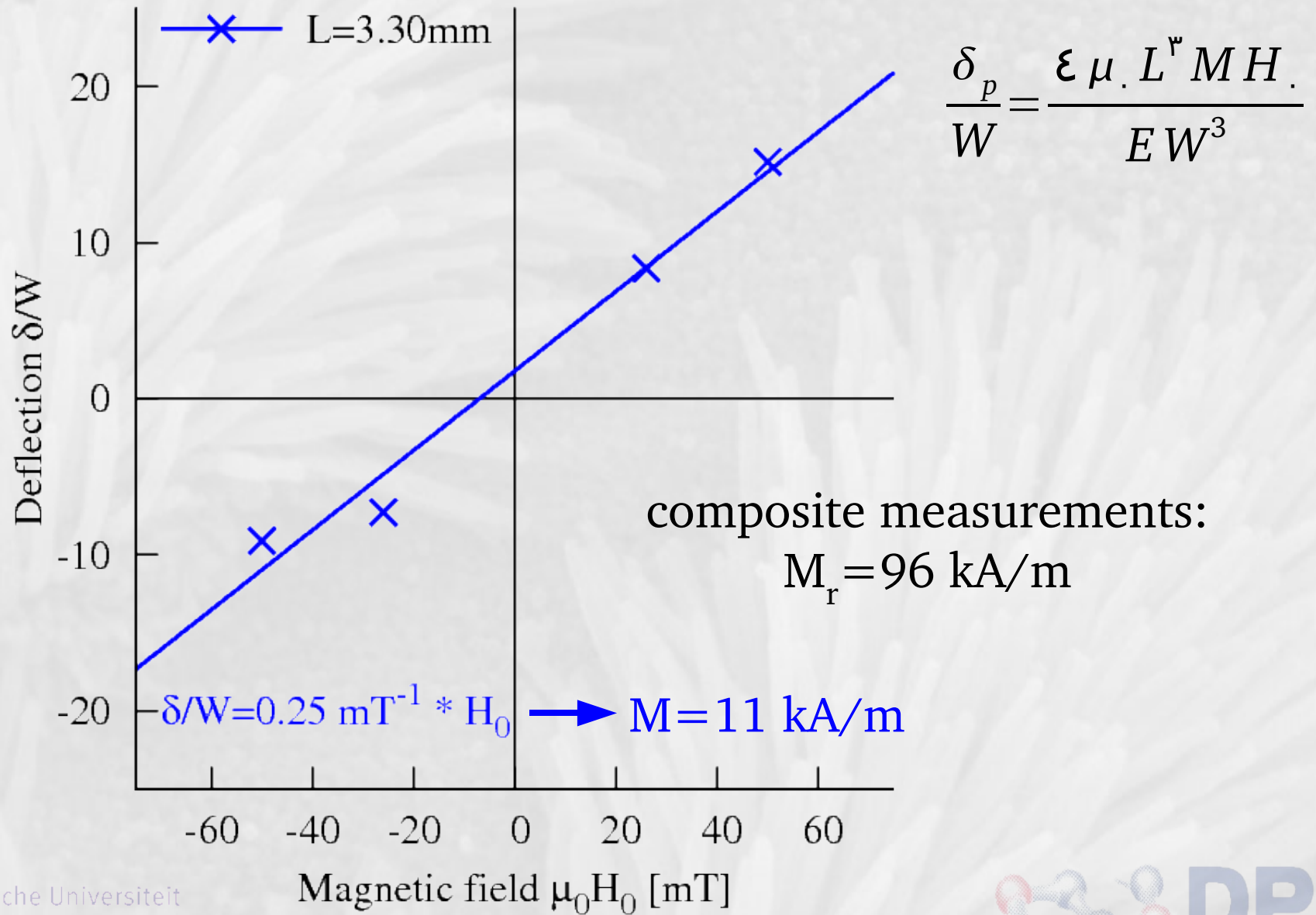
Polymer polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS)

... made permanently magnetic by doping with ferromagnetic particles, 70nm Fe@C

Cut out a rectangular slab



# Large artificial cilium – response



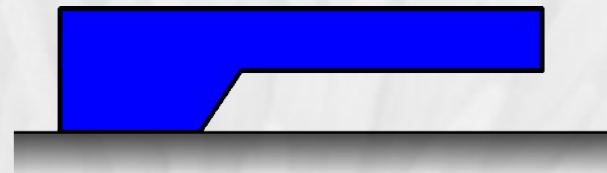
# Micro-fabrication

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High aspect-ratio for high deflection

$$\frac{\delta}{W} \propto \left(\frac{L}{W}\right)^3$$



Horizontal fabrication by  
sacrificial layer lift-off technique



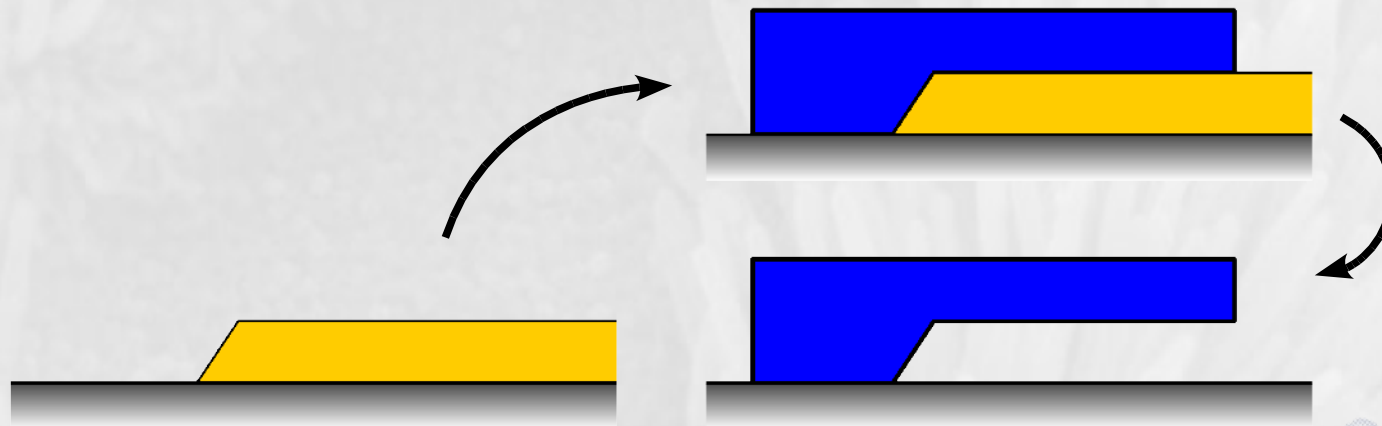


# Micro-fabrication – procedure

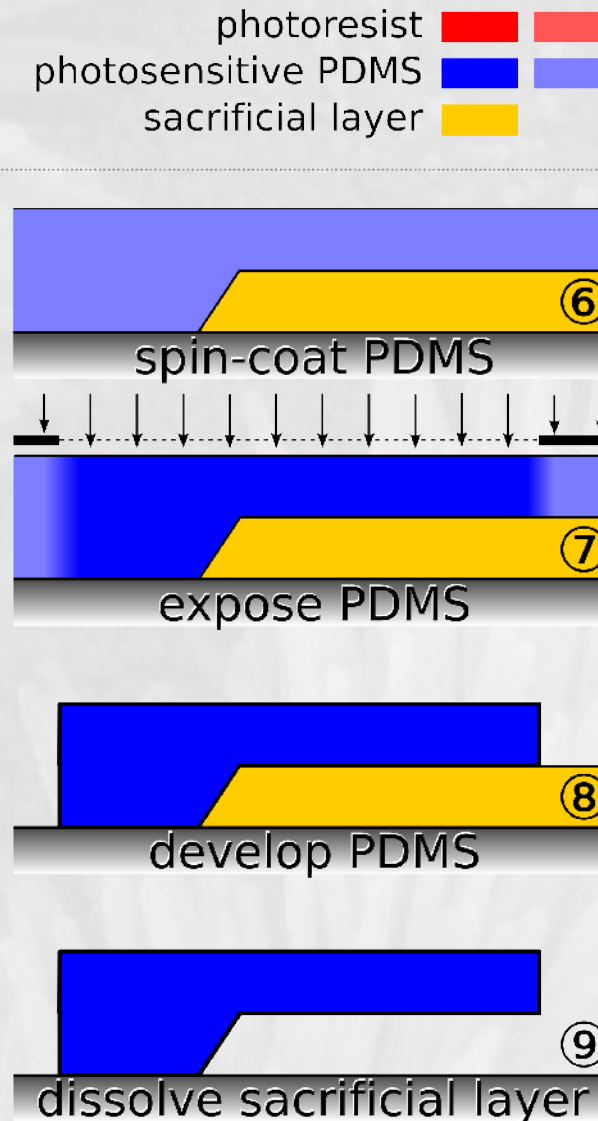
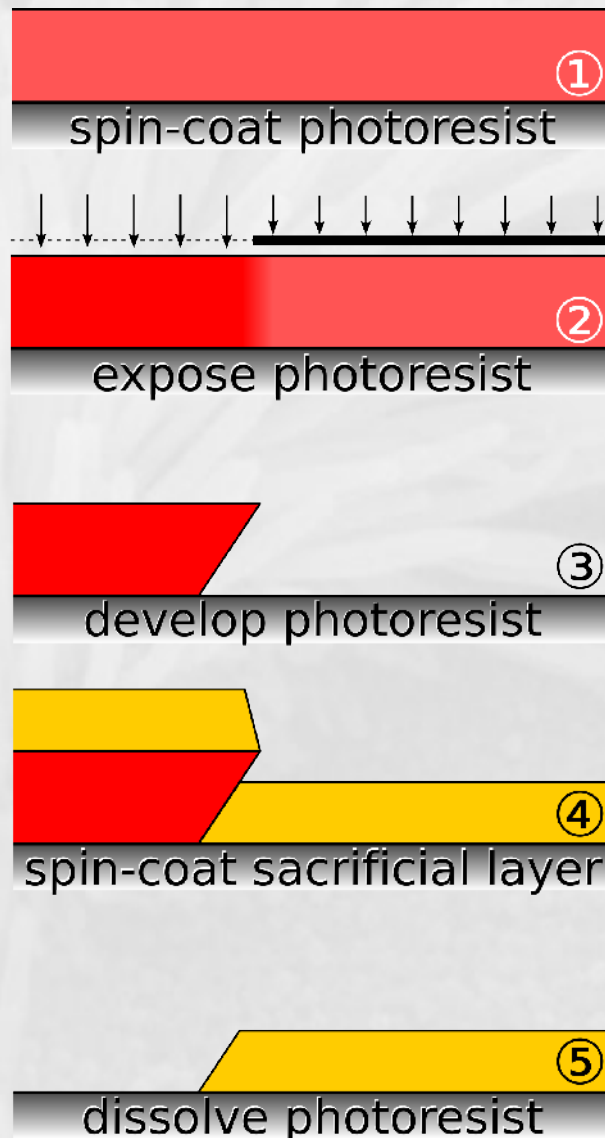
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PDMS   
sacrificial layer 

Horizontal fabrication by  
sacrificial layer lift-off technique

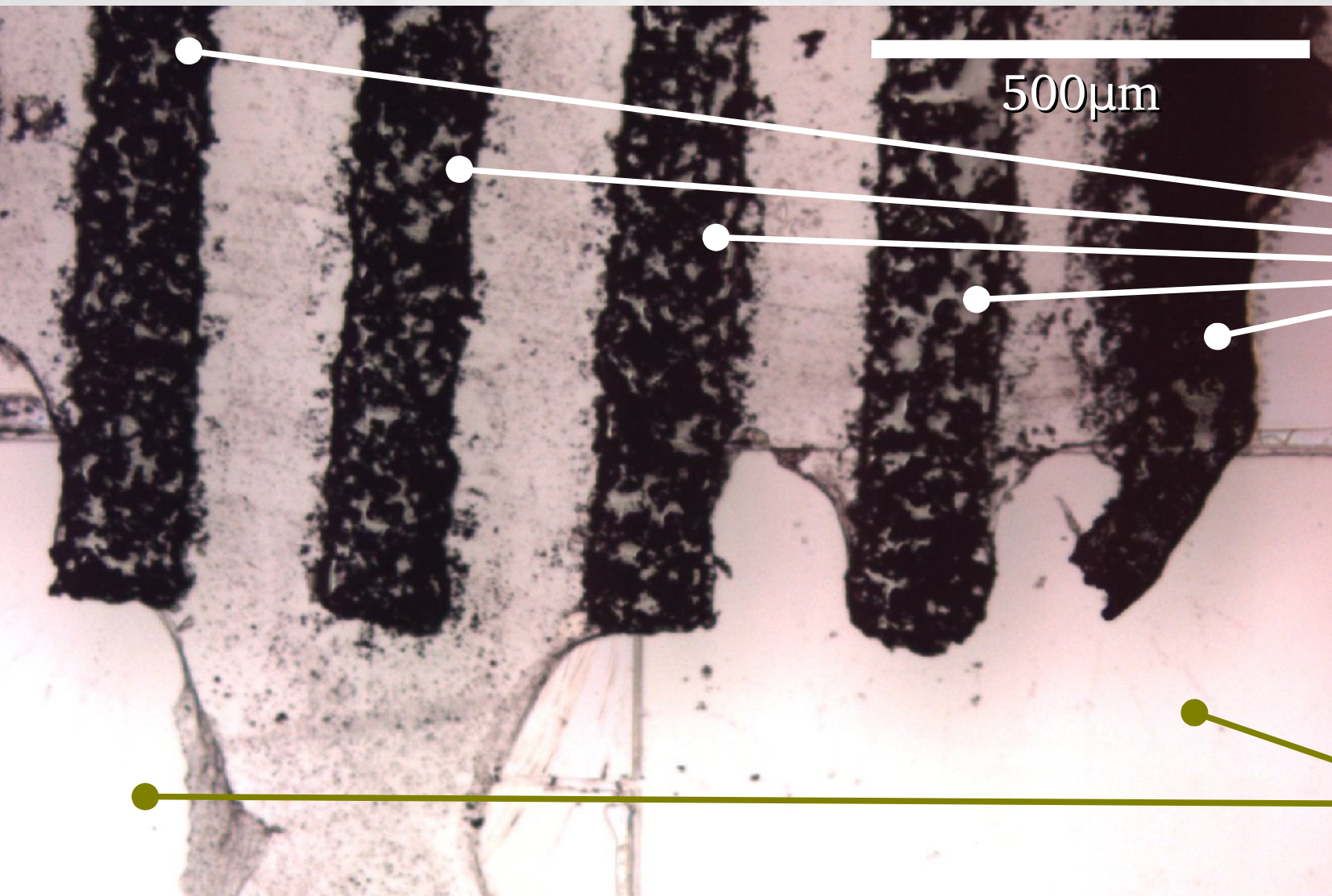


# Micro-fabrication – procedure



photoresist    
photosensitive PDMS    
sacrificial layer 

# Micro-fabrication – result



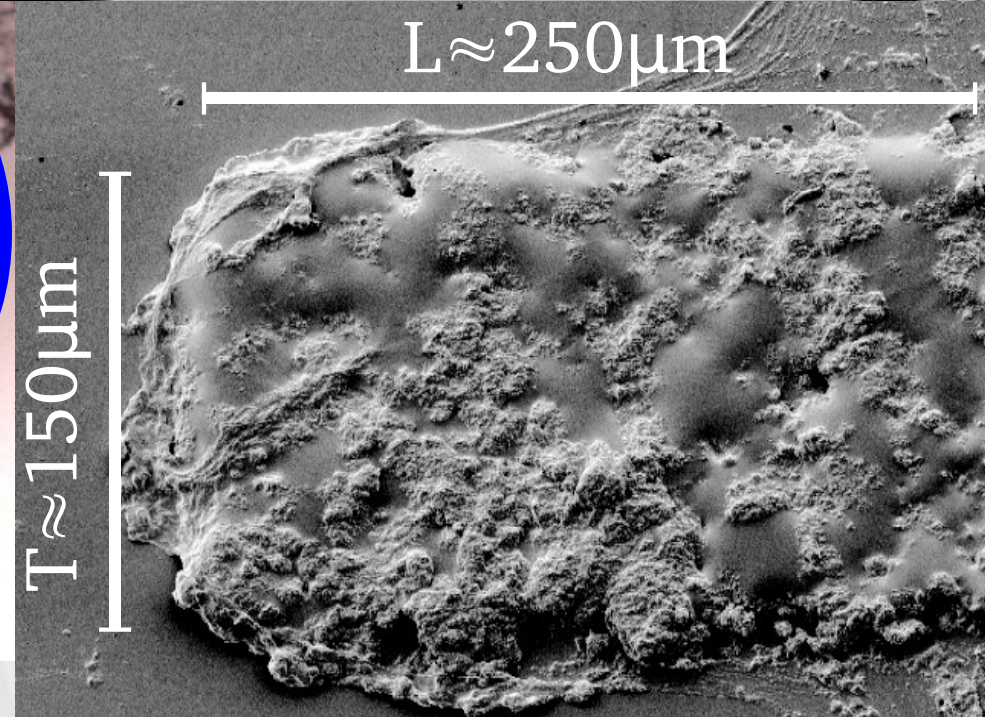
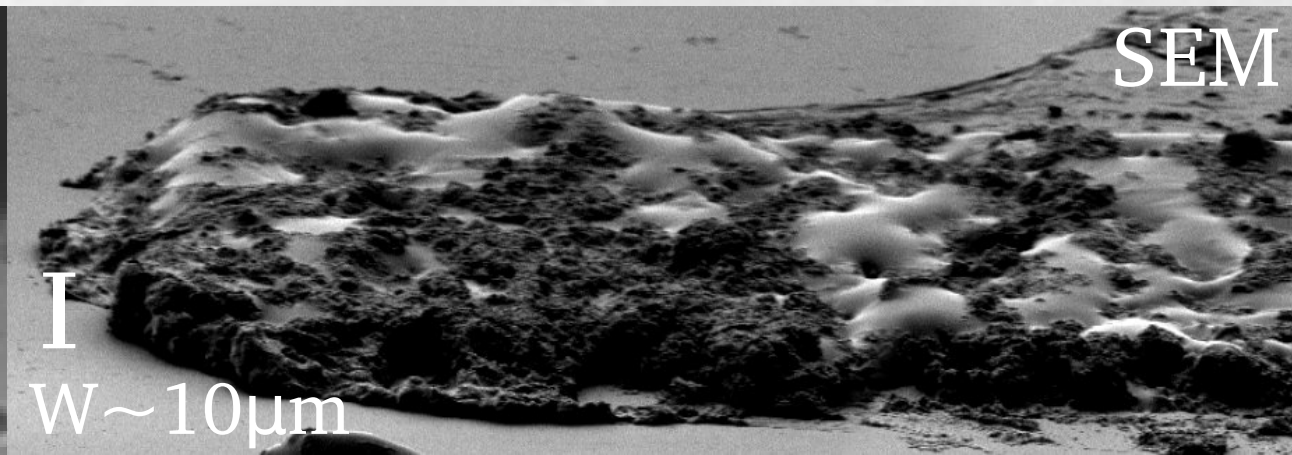
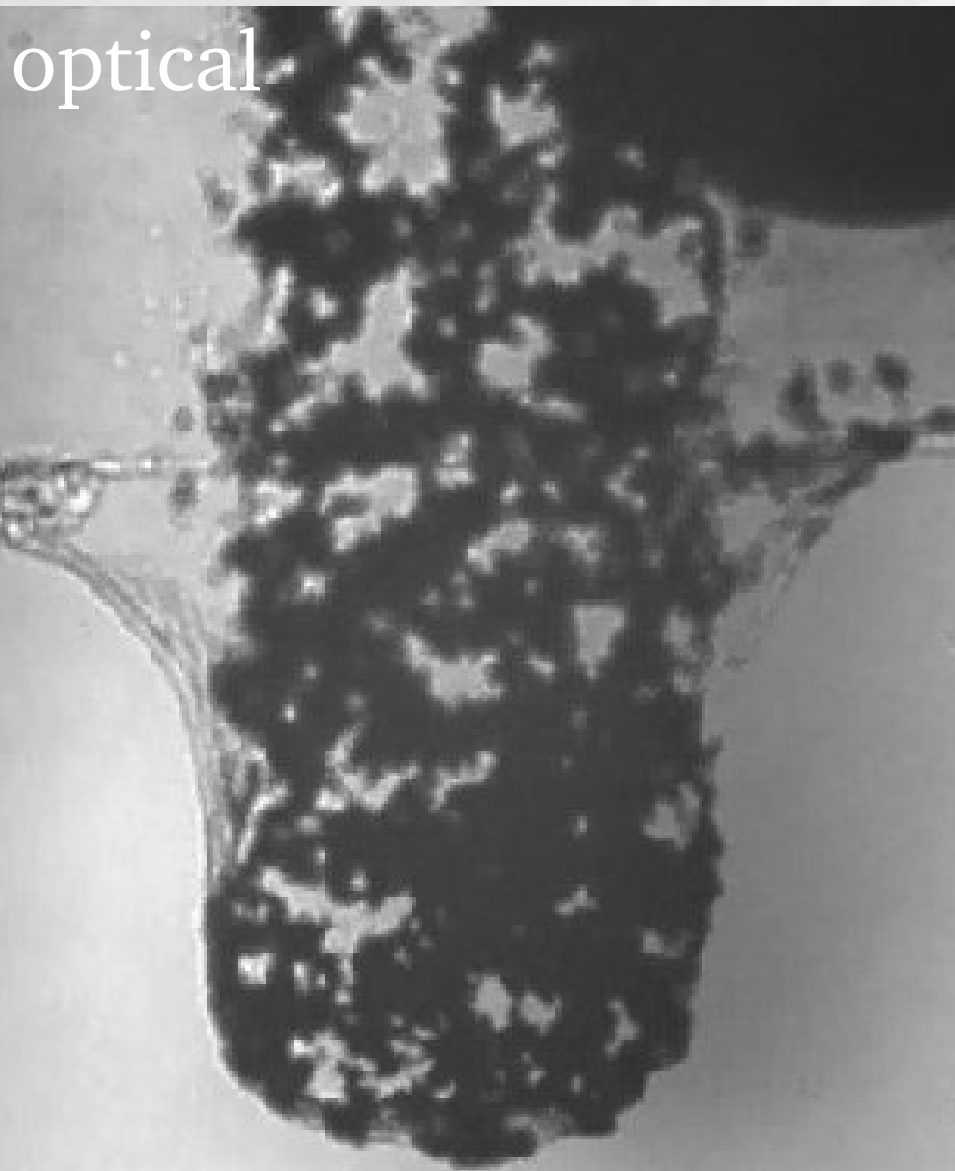
500μm

**PDMS  
composite**

**glass substrate  
once sacrificial layer**



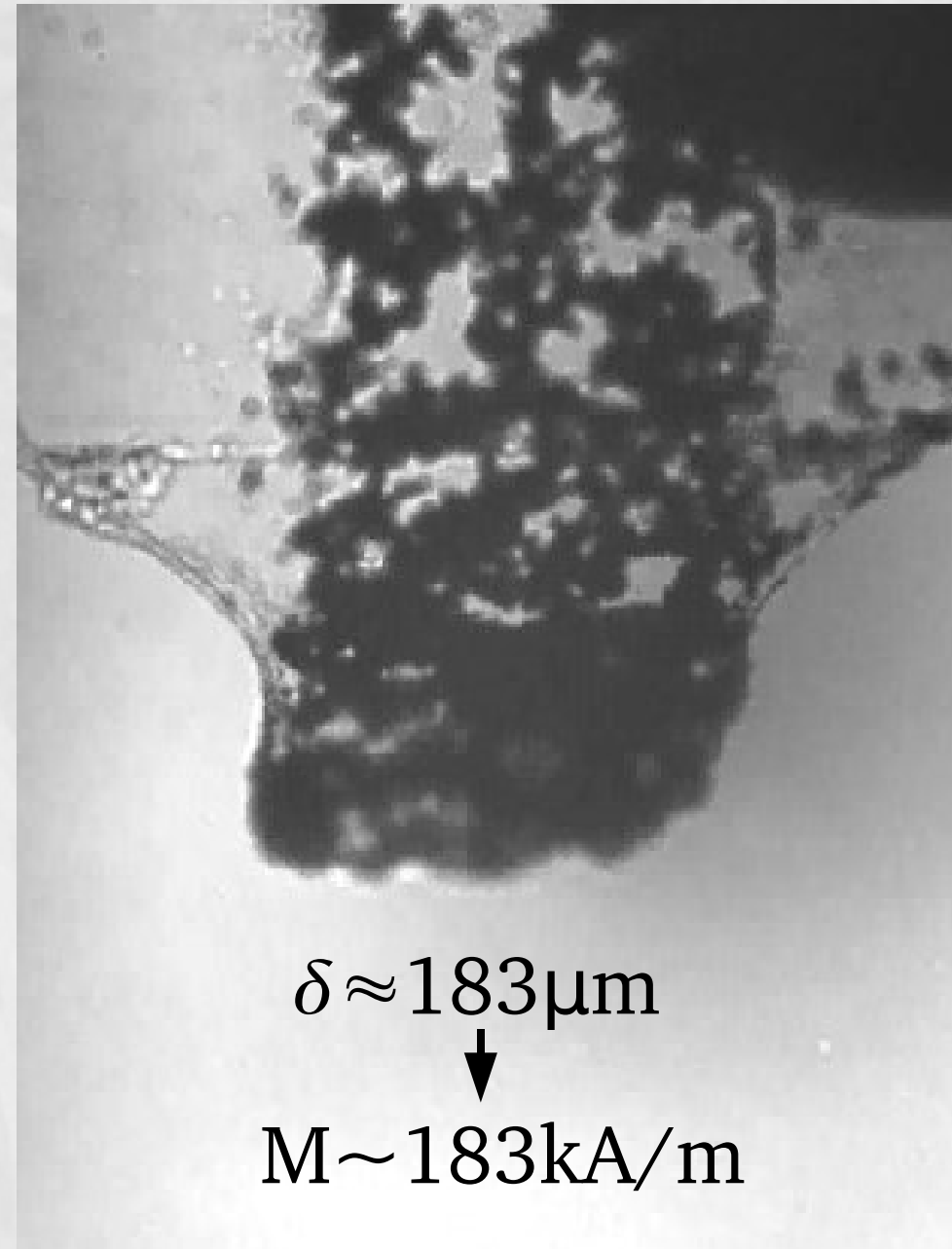
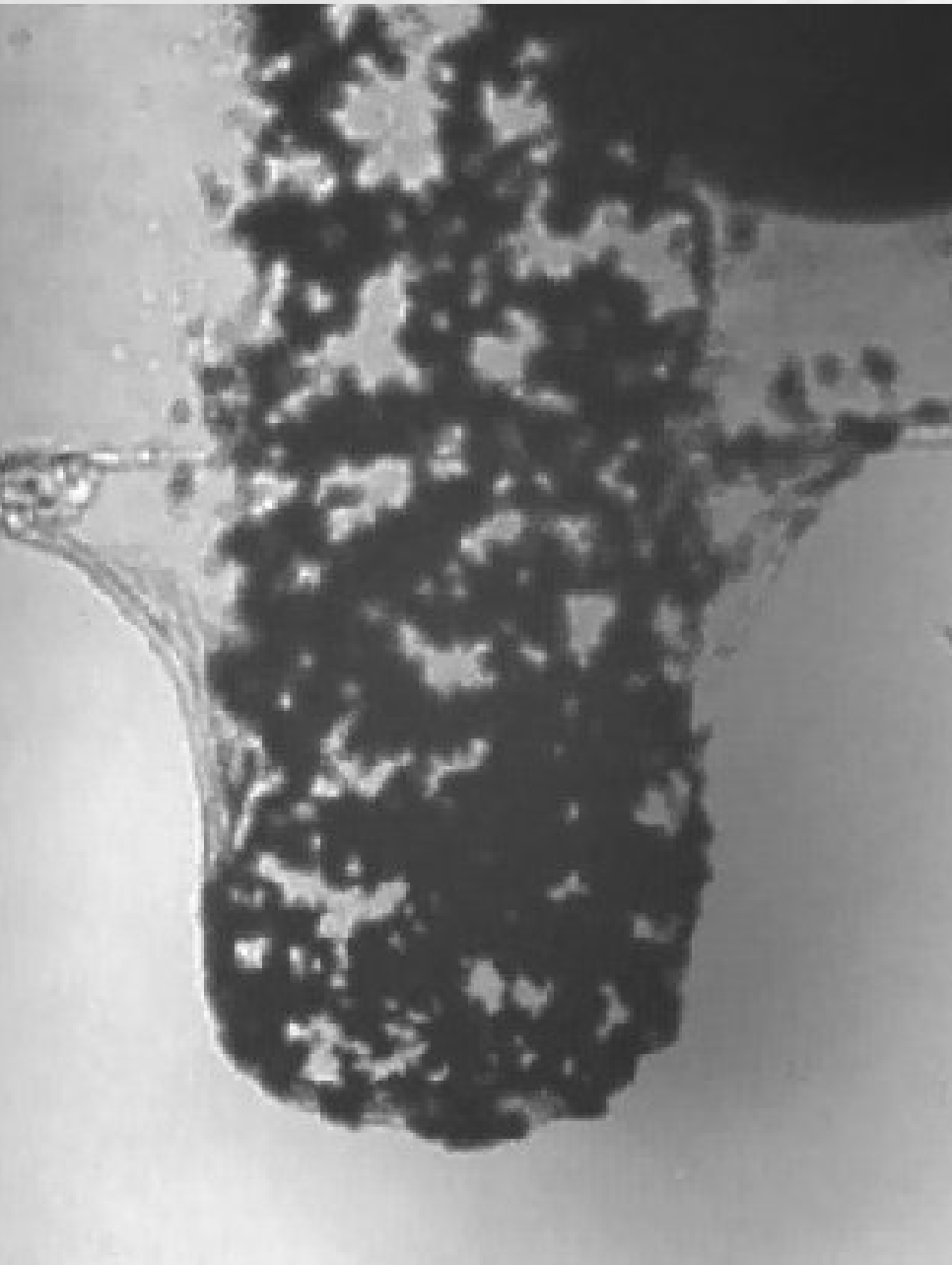
# Micro-fabrication – result



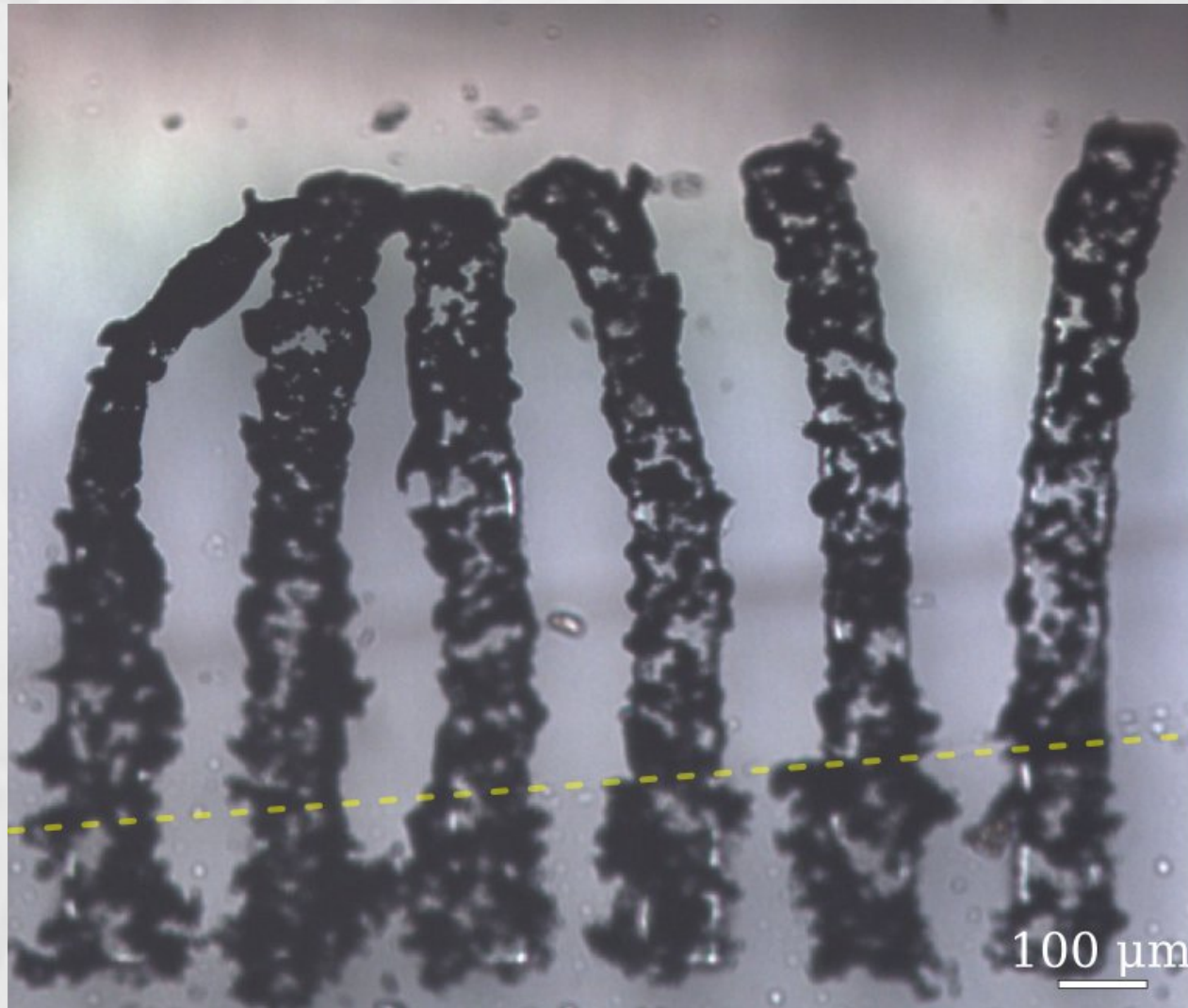


# Micro-fabrication – result

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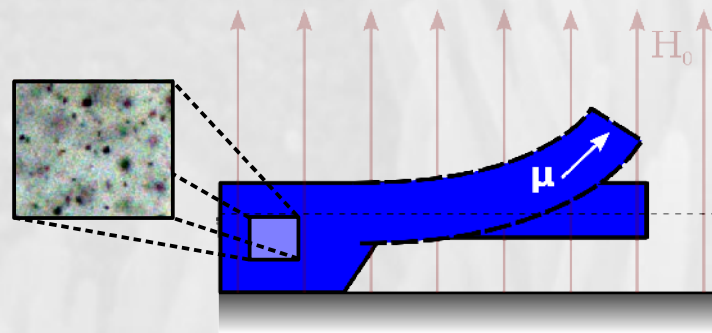


# Micro-fabrication – long cilia



# Conclusion

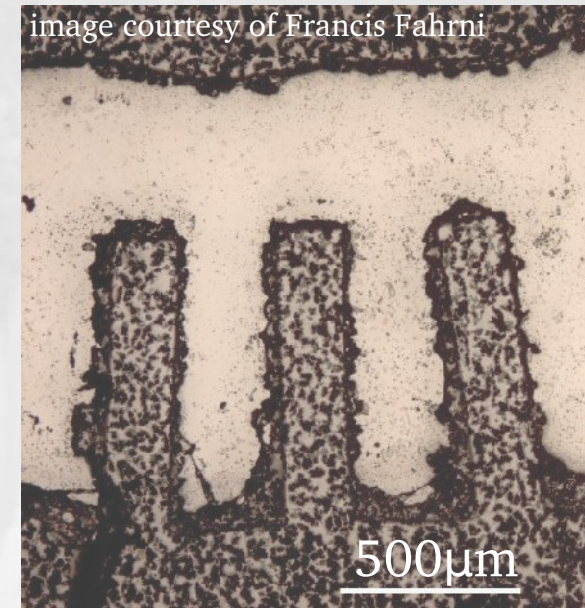
- Permanently magnetic artificial cilia bend in a perpendicular magnetic field
  - scaling independent
  - $p^3$  aspect-ratio dependence
  - perform better than cilia with induced moment
- Experiment confirms order-of-magnitude theory
- Micro-fabrication of artificial cilia was shown



# Outlook

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- Details of fabrication procedure
  - parameters
- Multiple cilia in a microfluidic channel
  - mask design
- Actuation for mixing and pumping





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*thank you for your attention*