Dynamic optoelectric trapping and deposition of multiwalled carbon nanotubes

Avanish Mishra¹, Katherine Clayton¹, Vanessa Velasco², Stuart J. Williams² and Steven T. Wereley¹

In the path toward the realization of carbon nanotube (CNT)-driven electronics and sensors, the ability to precisely position CNTs at well-defined locations remains a significant roadblock. Highly complex CNT-based bottom–up structures can be synthesized if there is a method to accurately trap and place these nanotubes. In this study, we demonstrate that the rapid electrokinetic patterning (REP) technique can achieve these tasks. By using laser-induced alternating current (AC) electrothermal flow and particle–electrode forces, REP can collect and maneuver a wide range of vertically aligned multiwalled CNTs (from a single nanotube to over 100 nanotubes) on an electrode surface. In addition, these trapped nanotubes can be electrophoretically deposited at any desired location onto the electrode surface. Apart from active control of the position of these deposited nanotubes, the number of CNTs in a REP trap can also be dynamically tuned by changing the AC frequency or by adjusting the concentration of the dispersed nanotubes. On the basis of a calculation of the stiffness of the REP trap, we found an upper limit of the manipulation speed, beyond which CNTs fall out of the REP trap. This peak manipulation speed is found to be dependent on the electrothermal flow velocity, which can be varied by changing the strength of the AC electric field.

Keywords: carbon nanotube; deposition; optoelectrical tweezers; patterning; trapping

INTRODUCTION

Owing to their extraordinary chemical, electrical and mechanical properties, carbon nanotubes (CNTs) have been widely explored as transistors, ion¹ and gas sensors²–³, biosensors¹ and field emission devices⁴–⁶. These applications often require individual CNTs or groups of CNTs to be positioned on an electrode surface⁷–⁹. Presently, patterned CNTs are fabricated using two sets of methods: the conventional direct-growth chemical vapor deposition (CVD) methods and the post-growth methods (where CNTs are deposited from a solution onto a substrate⁴⁰). Being free of growth constraints, such as temperature or substrate material, post-growth methods offer versatility and can be used with purified metallic or semiconducting CNTs¹¹,¹². Alternatively, direct-growth CVD methods produce a mixture of metallic and semiconducting CNTs and use high-temperature processes, which limit their applicability in microelectronic device fabrication¹³. Thus, various post-growth methods, such as Langmuir–Blodgett¹⁴, Langmuir–Schaefer¹⁵, contact printing¹⁰, chemical assembly¹⁶, evaporation-driven self-assembly¹⁷, electrophoretic deposition¹⁸,¹⁹, dielectrophoresis¹³,²⁰,²¹, optical tweezers²²–²⁶ and optoelectronic tweezers (OET)²⁷, have been proposed for the alignment, assembly and trapping of CNTs at room temperature.

Among these methods, both optical tweezers²²–²⁶ and optoelectronic tweezers (OET)²⁷ invoke special interest owing to their ability to dynamically trap and translate CNTs via optical patterns. These approaches allow for highly controllable placement. However, a few limitations restrict the widespread application of both of these methods. For example, optical tweezers have been used to trap bundles of single-wall carbon nanotubes. However, trapping single nanotubes remains a challenging task²²–²⁶.

In contrast, OET can trap individual nanotubes, but this technique requires a photoconductive substrate, limiting its implementation in device fabrication. In this study, we present a post-growth optoelectric method, referred to as rapid electrokinetic patterning (REP) that can trap both a single CNT and hundreds of vertically oriented CNTs by focusing a laser beam onto an electrode surface in the presence of a uniform alternating current (AC) electric field²⁸–³⁰. Unlike OET, REP does not require a photoconductive substrate and is more flexible than optical tweezers, as it can trap either individual or multiple nanotubes.

We demonstrate the potential of REP by showing reversible trapping and manipulation of multiwalled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs), which are observed via dark-field microscopy. Apart from reversible trapping, the trapped MWCNTs are electrophoretically deposited⁵,¹⁸,¹⁹,³¹, allowing us to rapidly assemble a desired number of vertically oriented nanoelectrodes at a selected location on the electrode surface.

Operational principle

A REP chip is composed of two transparent featureless indium tin oxide (ITO)-coated parallel-plate electrodes separated by a 100-μm thick spacer (Figure 1). The space between electrodes is filled with an aqueous particle-laden solution. The REP mechanism uses a combination of electrokinetic effects, such as electroorientation³², laser-induced electrothermal flow³³,³⁴ and particle–electrode interactions³⁵, for reversible particle trapping. In the presence of an AC electric field, particles in the solution are polarized, causing them to experience dipole–dipole repulsion from one another, orthogonal to the direction of the electric field³⁶,³². Focusing an...
infrared laser beam on the bottom electrode surface heats the irradiated region owing to partial absorption of the radiation by the 700-nm thick ITO layer. The laser-heated region warms the liquid in its vicinity, resulting in a temperature gradient, which in turn produces gradients in the electrical conductivity and permittivity of the liquid. This variance, coupled with the uniform AC electric field, generates a toroidal electrothermal vortex that sweeps particles into a stagnation zone located at the center of the vortex on the electrode surface. Particles are trapped in this region with the assistance of particle-electrode interactions. The trapped particles can be relocated relative to the electrode surface by translating the REP chip on a microscope stage, while keeping the laser spot fixed. The stage displacement creates an electrothermal vortex at a new position on the REP chip within a fraction of a second. Consequently, the trapped particles are swept to the new spot. Disabling the laser and electric field releases the captured particles from the trap.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
REP chip preparation
To prepare a REP chip, two 700-nm ITO-coated glass (SPI Supplies Inc., West Chester, PA, USA) pieces that measured 25.4 mm × 25.4 mm were selected. Two 1-mm holes were drilled in one of the ITO glass pieces to provide inlet and outlet ports for the MWCNT solution. Both the ITO glass pieces were ultrasonicated for 3 min each in acetone, isopropanol and methanol. The solvent-cleaned glass pieces were rinsed with deionized water and then dried with nitrogen gas. Next, two layers of 50-μm thick double-sided tape were cut in the shape of the channel geometry and then sandwiched between the two ITO cover slips. The inlet and outlet ports were sealed with 1.6-mm thick adhesive silicone rubber pads (CS Hyde Company, Lake Villa, IL, USA), through which polyethylene tubes were inserted for supplying the MWCNT dispersion. Two strips of copper tape were adhered to the exposed ITO to provide electrical connections for the application of the AC electric field.

Optoelectrical tweezers for carbon nanotubes
A Mishra et al.

Apparatus
A continuous wave 1064-nm Nd:YVO₄ laser was coupled into an inverted Nikon TE2000U microscope (Nikon Instruments Inc., Melville, NY, USA). MWCNTs were observed via dark-field microscopy, which was performed using a dark-field air condenser (0.80–0.95 numerical aperture (NA)) and a Nikon 40 × ELWD objective (0.6 NA). The MWCNTs are visible under dark-field microscopy because of Rayleigh scattering. The 40 × objective was additionally used to focus a slightly diverging laser beam 25 μm above the focal plane of the objective lens. This approach resulted in a beam waist radius of 15 μm within the imaging plane. Dark-field images of MWCNTs were recorded using a 16-bit grayscale PCO.1600 CCD camera (PCO AG, Kelheim, Germany) controlled with Camware software (PCO AG, Kelheim, Germany).

A motorized microscope stage (Prior Scientific, Inc., Rockland, MA, USA) was used for translating the REP chips to demonstrate MWCNT manipulation. An AC electric field was applied between the electrodes using a function generator (Model 625A, Berkeley Nucleonics Corporation, San Rafael, CA, USA). The applied electric field and frequency were monitored using an oscilloscope (Model 54610B, Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). For REP trapping, the laser power was kept at 20 mW, while the electric field and frequency were varied in the ranges of 100–140 kV m⁻¹ and 10–100 kHz, respectively. In this manuscript, the electric field magnitudes are reported as peak-to-peak values.

Carbon nanotube sample preparation
An aqueous dispersion of MWCNTs (3.0% by weight) was purchased from US Research Nanomaterials, Inc. (Houston, TX, USA). The outer diameter and length of the MWCNTs were in the ranges of 50 to 80 nm and 10 to 20 μm, respectively. Aliquots of 100 μl of the stock solution were diluted 50-fold in deionized water. One milliliter of the diluted solution was ultrasonicated for 1 min, followed by centrifugation for 15 min at 12,000 × g to remove large bundles of nanotubes, which were collected in a pellet. After centrifugation, the supernatant samples were inspected using dark-field microscopy for nanotube bundles. The samples containing particles circular in appearance and radii > 2.5 μm were discarded. The supernatant solution was further diluted with deionized water to achieve CNT concentrations of 1.3 × 10⁴ CNTs per ml and 1.6 × 10⁵ CNTs per ml to demonstrate REP trapping of a single MWCNT and an ensemble of MWCNTs, respectively. For the purpose of demonstrating control over the number of nanotubes contained in a REP trap, two CNT concentrations of 2.3 × 10⁵ CNTs per ml and 7.8 × 10⁶ CNTs per ml were used. The conductivity of the supernatant was measured to be 0.37 ± 0.04 mS m⁻¹ using a Zetasizer Nano ZS (Malvern Instruments Ltd, Malvern, UK).

Particle tracking velocimetry and particle counting
The velocity profile of a single nanotube moving into the REP trap was measured to determine the peak manipulation velocity. The images of the nanotubes were recorded at the following trapping conditions: a laser power of 20 mW, electric field strengths of 100 and 140 kV m⁻¹, and an AC frequency of 15 kHz. The nanotubes were tracked using the Manual Tracking plugin in the image analysis software, ImageJ (http://rsb.info.nih.gov/ij/). The number of nanotubes collected in the REP trap was determined using the Analyze Particles tool in ImageJ.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Trapping and manipulation of a single MWCNT
To demonstrate flexible trapping and manipulation of a single nanotube in a REP trap, a diluted aqueous dispersion of MWCNTs (1.3 × 10⁴ particles per ml) was used. Figure 2 and Movie M1 in the Supplementary Information show the trapping process. In the
Optoelectrical tweezers for carbon nanotubes
A Mishra et al

Figure 2 REP trapping and manipulation of a single MWCNT. (a-f) Schematics illustrating the steps of the REP trapping process. (a) In the absence of the AC electric field and the laser beam, the MWCNT is unaligned. (b) Application of the electric field (140 kV m⁻¹, 55 kHz) aligns the nanotube parallel to the field. (c) Projecting the laser beam in the presence of the electric field creates an electrothermal vortex that traps the vertically oriented nanotube at the center of the vortex. (d) The trapped nanotube is manipulated by moving the REP chip, while keeping the laser at a fixed spot. (e) Switching the laser off stops the electrothermal flow, and the nanotube remains in a vertical orientation at the transported position. (f) Nanotube loses its vertical orientation upon removal of the field. (g) and (h) Dark-field images corresponding to the schematic diagrams in a-c and f. (g) A dark-field image of an unaligned nanotube. (h) An image of the nanotube in a vertical orientation under the application of the electric field. (i) An image of the trapped nanotube in the presence of the electric field and laser. (j) An image of the released nanotube.

absence of an electric field and a laser, a single, untrapped MWCNT sampled various orientations, as shown in Figures 2a and g. The application of an AC electric field (140 kV m⁻¹, 55 kHz) resulted in an induction of a dipole moment around the nanotube. The polarized nanotube experienced an aligning torque that oriented it in the vertical direction, parallel to the applied field within 1 s (Figures 2b and h).

Focusing a 20-mW laser beam on the bottom electrode surface resulted in the trapping of the nanotube at the center of the electrothermal vortex on the bottom electrode (Figures 2c and i). The trapped nanotube was manipulated by moving the REP chip on a motorized sample stage while keeping the laser spot fixed (Figure 2d). After REP manipulation, the nanotube was released from the trap by switching-off the laser beam and electric field. Closing the laser shutter stopped the electrothermal flow (Figure 2e), and the removal of the electric field caused the MWCNT to lose its orientation (Figures 2f and j). These observations demonstrate that REP can be used to reversibly trap and manipulate a single MWCNT.

Considering a REP trap as a potential well with a constant stiffness, the overdamped equation of the motion of the MWCNT under manipulation in the x direction can be expressed by Equation (1)⁵⁹⁻⁶².

\[ \beta(x - x_{\text{drive}}) + \alpha_x x = F(t) \]  

(1)

Owing to the ultralow Reynolds number (~10⁻⁵) of the flow around the MWCNT, inertial forces are negligible compared with viscous forces. In Equation (1), \( x_{\text{drive}} \) is the microscope stage velocity in the x direction, \( \beta \) is the hydrodynamic drag coefficient of the MWCNT, \( x \) is the position of the MWCNT from its equilibrium position, \( \alpha_x \) is the stiffness of the trap in the x direction, and \( F(t) \) is the random time-dependent force due to thermal fluctuations. A similar equation can be written for the nanotube manipulation in the y direction. To estimate the trap stiffness, we used the Equipartition theorem, which states that:²⁷

\[ \frac{1}{2}k_B T = \frac{1}{2} \alpha_x \langle x^2 \rangle \]  

(2)

\[ \frac{1}{2}k_B T = \frac{1}{2} \alpha_y \langle y^2 \rangle \]  

(3)

where \( \alpha_x \) is the trap stiffness in the y direction, \( k_B \) is the Boltzmann constant, \( T \) is the temperature of the medium (293 ± 1 K), and \( \langle x^2 \rangle \) and \( \langle y^2 \rangle \) are the variance in the position of the MWCNT in the x and y directions, respectively. Therefore, the REP trap stiffness can be determined by estimating the position variance from the microscope images (see the Supplementary Information file for further discussion). For a 2-μm long MWCNT, \( \langle x^2 \rangle \) and \( \langle y^2 \rangle \) are found to be 0.093 ± 0.002 μm² and 0.104 ± 0.002 μm², respectively. Consequently, the trap stiffness in the x and y directions were calculated to be 43.3 ± 0.9 and 38.6 ± 0.8 fN μm⁻¹, respectively. The REP trap stiffness values are same order of magnitude as the trap stiffness reported for the trapping of an MWCNT by OET²⁷. The small difference in the \( \alpha_x \) and \( \alpha_y \) values can be attributed to a slight variation in the velocity profile of the electrothermal flow around the axis of symmetry.

During REP manipulation, the nanotube acquires an offset with respect to the trap center. The effect of manipulation speed on the offset can be explained by the rearranged form of Equation (1), \( \beta x_{\text{drive}} - \alpha_x x = \beta x - F(t) \). At an offset \( x \), the drag force on the nanotube owing to the trapping chamber movement \( \beta x_{\text{drive}} \) is equal and opposite to the trapping force \( \alpha_x x \). Increasing the
manipulation velocity \( x_{\text{drive}} \) causes the nanotube to move to a higher offset, where an increased drag force is balanced by a higher trapping force, as shown in Figure 3b. Beyond a peak manipulation velocity, the nanotube cannot be translated while remaining in the REP trap as the drag force \( \beta x_{\text{drive}} \) becomes greater than the maximum trapping force \( \alpha x_{\text{max}} \). This process results in a net force on the nanotube, causing it to move away from the trap center at a velocity of \( v_{\text{drive}} \). As a result, the nanotube falls out of the REP trap. For the 140 kV m\(^{-1}\) AC electric field, the peak manipulation velocity and the corresponding offset \( x_{\text{max}} \) were experimentally determined to be \( \approx 95 \mu m \cdot s^{-1} \) and \( \approx 11.5 \mu m \), respectively. Following the treatment proposed by Pauzauskie et al.\(^{27}\), the drag force on the MWCNT at the peak manipulation velocity is found to be 503 fN, which is close to the value of the expected maximum trapping force \( \alpha x_{\text{max}} \) (\( \approx 498 fN \)).

The trapping force in REP is caused by the radially inward flow of the electrothermal vortex. The radially inward velocity of the electrothermal flow increases with radial position until a peak velocity is reached (Figure 3b). Hence, the trapping force will achieve a maximum value corresponding to the position of the maximum electrothermal velocity, which is validated by comparing the manipulation velocity and the corresponding offset positions with the velocity profile owing to electrothermal flow (Figure 3b). As expected, the maximum manipulation offset \( x_{\text{max}} \) corresponds with the position of peak electrothermal velocity, and both the sets of data points overlap with each other.

The greater the peak manipulation velocity, the faster the nanotubes are moved to a desired area on the REP chip. Therefore, it is desirable to control the peak manipulation velocity to improve overall MWCNT throughput. Changing the electric field strength can vary the peak manipulation velocity because of the dependence of electrothermal body force on the field strength\(^{33,37}\). Figure 3b demonstrates that the measured velocity profile for the electric field of 140 kV m\(^{-1}\) is higher than the velocity values for 100 kV m\(^{-1}\).

**Trapping and manipulation of an ensemble of MWCNTs**

Trapping a single nanotube provides the ability to control and arrange individual nanotubes on a substrate. However, conventional applications, such as chemical and biosensors, use an ensemble of nanotubes to improve the signal-to-noise ratio\(^4,8\). Therefore, in addition to single-nanotube trapping, parallel trapping of MWCNTs in a REP trap must be investigated. A concentrated sample of MWCNTs (\(1.6 \times 10^8 \) particles per ml) was used to demonstrate the trapping of multiple nanotubes. Figure 4 and Movie M2 in the Supplementary Information show the trapping process. The application of an AC electric field (140 kV m\(^{-1}\), 15 kHz) induced an electric dipole around the nano-
Electrophoretic deposition of the MWCNTs

The trapped nanotubes can be permanently fixed at any desired location onto an electrode surface. In conventional electrophoretic deposition, nanotubes are uniformly deposited over the electrode. Alternatively, by using REP, the density of the deposited nanotubes can be varied over the substrate, allowing us to pattern these nanotubes. This patterning was achieved by increasing the electric field strength to 200 kV m$^{-1}$ and applying a direct current (DC) offset of 12 kV m$^{-1}$. Figure 5 and Movie M3 in the Supplementary Information show this deposition process. During reversible trapping (Figure 4f), the nanotubes lost their vertical orientation upon removal of the electric field. In contrast, after performing the electrophoretic deposition process, the vertically aligned MWCNTs remained adhered to the substrate, even after the laser beam and electric field were disabled.

Controlling the number of nanotubes in a REP trap

Control over the number of nanotubes in a REP trap is governed by two parameters (Figure 6a): (1) the electrical frequency and (2) the concentration of dispersed nanotubes. With regard to (1), as the AC frequency was lowered from 75 kHz to 15 kHz, the number of nanotubes in a REP trap increased. Figures 6b and c show dark-field images of the cluster of nanotubes at AC frequencies of 15 and 75 kHz, respectively. From these images, the increase in the number of nanotubes at low-AC frequency is clearly observable. This increase can be attributed to improved particle–electrode interactions at the lower AC frequencies$^{35}$. With respect to (2), Figures 6c and d show an REP cluster for both the diluted ($7.8 \times 10^7$ CNTs per ml) and concentrated ($2.3 \times 10^8$ CNTs per ml) samples at an AC frequency of 15 kHz. The number of trapped nanotubes was quadrupled by a threefold increase in the concentration of nanotubes.

OUTLOOK

The ability to position purified carbon nanotubes at well-defined locations on a substrate remains a challenge for the fabrication of CNT-driven electronics and sensors. In this study, we presented a post-growth, bottom–up technique, called REP, for the trapping and deposition of CNTs on an electrode surface. By using laser-induced electrothermal flow and particle–electrode interactions, REP can trap a range of CNTs, from a single CNT to an ensemble of CNTs, on an electrode surface. The trapped nanotubes are translated by moving the laser beam, and the CNTs are deposited at a desired region by applying an asymmetrical AC electric field with a net DC component. Using the Equipartition theorem, the stiffness of the REP trap in the x direction was determined to be $43.3 \pm 0.9 \mu$N $\mu$m$^{-1}$. In addition, we demonstrated that the peak manipulation speed of a trapped nanotube is dependent on the electrothermal flow velocity, which is changed by varying the AC electric field. REP offers various advantages in patterning CNTs on an electrode surface. REP can be applied to purified CNT samples, and the number of CNTs in a REP trap can be dynamically tuned by either changing the AC frequency or tuning the concentration of the suspended nanotubes. As REP utilizes electric-field-induced effects, we expect to observe similar results for the trapping and deposition of various nanowires.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AM is thankful to Professor Aloke Kumar (University of Alberta, Canada) for guidance on calculating the REP trap stiffness. AM thanks the School of Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University for the 2015 Summer Research Grant and Lambert Fellowship. We thank Anurag Kumar for the discussion on the patterning of the CNTs. KC thanks the Purdue University Life Science Microscopy Facility for use of their transmission electron microscope.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

REFERENCES

1 Liu G, Lin Y, Tu Y et al. Ultrasensitive voltammetric detection of trace heavy metal ions using carbon nanotube nanoelectrode array. Analyst 2005; 130: 1098–1101.
2 Kaufmann DR, Star A. Carbon nanotube gas and vapor sensors. Angewandte Chemie International Edition 2008; 47: 6550–6570.
3 Li J, Lu Y, Ye Q et al. Carbon nanotube sensors for gas and organic vapor detection. Nano Letters 2003; 3: 929–933.
4 Lin Y, Lu F, Tu Y et al. Glucose biosensors based on carbon nanotube nanoelectrode ensembles. Nano Letters 2004; 4: 191–195.
5 Fan S, Capline MG, Franklin NR et al. Self-oriented regular arrays of carbon nanotubes and their field emission properties. Science 1999; 283: 512–514.
6 Jo SH, Tu Y, Huang ZP et al. Effect of length and spacing of vertically aligned carbon nanotubes on field emission properties. Applied Physics Letters 2003; 82: 3520.
7 Tu Y, Lin Y, Yantasee W et al. Carbon nanotubes based nanoelectrode arrays: Fabrication, evaluation, and application in voltammetric analysis. Electromicroscopy 2005; 17: 79–84.
8 Tu Y, Lin Y, Ren ZF. Nanoelectrode arrays based on low site density aligned carbon nanotubes. Nano Letters 2003; 3: 107–109.
9 Oh SJ, Zhang J, Cheng Y et al. Liquid-phase fabrication of patterned carbon nanotube field emission cathodes. Applied Physics Letters 2004; 84: 3738.
10 Liu H, Takagi D, Chiashi S et al. Transfer and alignment of random single-walled carbon nanotube films by contact printing. ACS Nano 2010; 4: 933–938.
11 Franklin AD. Electronics: The road to carbon nanotube transistors. Nature 2013; 498: 443–444.
12 Krupke R. Separation of metallic from semiconducting single-walled carbon nanotubes. Science 2003; 301: 344–347.
13 Vijayaraghavan A, Blatt S, Weissmberger D et al. Ultra-large-scale directed assembly of single-walled carbon nanotube devices. Nano Letters 2007; 7: 1556–1560.
14 Li X, Li Z, Wang X et al. Langmuir-blodgett assembly of densely aligned single-walled carbon nanotubes from bulk materials. Journal of the American Chemical Society 2007; 129: 4890–4891.
15 Cao Q, Han S, Tulevski G et al. Arrays of single-walled carbon nanotubes with full surface coverage for high-performance electronics. Nature Nanotechnology 2013; 8: 180–186.
16 Diao P, Liu Z. Vertically aligned single-walled carbon nanotubes by chemical assembly–methodology, properties, and applications. Advanced Materials 2010; 22: 1430–1449.
17 Shastry TA, Seo JW, Lopez JJ et al. Large-area, electronically monodisperse, aligned single-walled carbon nanotube thin films fabricated by evaporation-driven self-assembly. Small 2013; 9: 45–51.
18 Santhanagopalan S, Teng F, Meng DD. High-voltage electrophoretic deposition for vertically aligned forests of one-dimensional nanoparticles. Langmuir 2011; 27: 561–569.
19 Bocaccini AR, Cho J, Roether JA et al. Electrophoretic deposition of carbon nanotubes. Carbon 2006; 44: 3149–3160.
20 Krupke R, Henrich F, Weber HB et al. Simultaneous deposition of metallic bundles of single-walled carbon nanotubes using Ac-dielectrophoresis. Nano Letters 2003; 3: 1019–1023.
21 Shekhar S, Stokes P, Khodadker SJ. Ultrahigh density alignment of carbon nanotube arrays by dielectrophoresis. ACS Nano 2011; 5: 1739–1746.
22 Plewa J, Tanner E, Mueth DM et al. Processing carbon nanotubes with holographic optical tweezers. Optics Express 2004; 12: 1978.
23 Tan S, Lopez HA, Cai CW et al. Optical trapping of single-walled carbon nanotubes. Nano Letters 2004; 4: 1415–1419.
24 Zhang J, Kim H, Oh CH et al. Multidimensional manipulation of carbon nanotube bundles with optical tweezers. Applied Physics Letters 2006; 88: 053123.
25 Maragó OM, Gucchiardi PG, Bonacorso F et al. Optical trapping of carbon nanotubes. Physica E: Low-dimensional Systems and Nanostructures 2008; 40: 2347–2351.
26 Maragó OM, Jones PH, Bonacorso F et al. Femtowatt force sensing with optically trapped nanotubes. Nano Letters 2008; 8: 3211–3216.
27 Pauzauskas PJ, Jamshidi A, Valley JK et al. Parallel trapping of multivalved carbon nanotubes with optoelectronic tweezers. Applied Physics Letters 2009; 95: 113104.
28 Williams SJ, Kumar A, Wereley ST. Electrokinetic patterning of colloidal particles with optical landscapes. Lab on a Chip 2008; 8: 1879–1882.
29 Williams SJ, Kumar A, Green NG et al. A simple, optically induced electrokinetic method to concentrate and pattern nanoparticles. NanoScale 2009; 1: 133–137.
30 Kumar A, Kwon JS, Williams SJ et al. Optically modulated electrokinetic manipulation and concentration of colloidal particles near an electrode surface. Langmuir 2010; 26: 5262–5272.
31 Kim S-K, Lee H, Tanaka H et al. Vertical alignment of single-walled carbon nanotube films formed by electrophoretic deposition. Langmuir 2008; 24: 12936–12942.
32 Morgan H, Green NG. AC electrokinetics: Colloids and Nanoparticles. Microtechnologies and Microsystems Series 2. Research Studies Press LTD, 2003.
33 Green NG, Ramos A, Gonzalez A et al. Electrothermally induced fluid flow on microelectrodes. Journal of Electrostatics 2001; 53: 71–81.
34 Green NG, Ramos A, Gonzalez A et al. Electric field induced fluid flow on microelectrodes: The effect of illumination. Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics 2000; 33: L13–L17.
35 Williams SJ, Kumar A, Green NG et al. Optically induced electrokinetic concentration and sorting of colloids. Journal of Micromechanics and Microengineering 2010; 20: 1–11.
36 Mishra A, Kwon J-S, Thakur R et al. Optoelctroelical microfluidics as a promising tool in biology. Trends in Biotechnology 2014; 32: 414–421.
37 Ramos A, Morgan H, Green NG et al. AC electrokinetics: A review of forces in microelectrode structures. Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics 1998; 31: 2338–2353.
38 Polin M, Ladavac K, Lee SH et al. Optimized holographic optical traps. Optics Express 2005; 13: 5831.
39 Neuman KC, Block SM. Optical trapping. Review of Scientific Instruments 2004; 75: 2787–2809.
40 Kumar A, Gorti VM, Wang H et al. Optical diffusometry techniques and applications in biological agent detection. Journal of Fluids Engineering 2008; 130: 114011.
41 Florin E-L, Pralle A, Stelzer EKH et al. Photonic force microscope calibration by thermal noise analysis. Applied Physics A: Materials Science & Processing 1998; 66: 575–578.
42 Li D, Zhou J-H, Hu X-Y et al. In situ calibrating optical tweezers with sinusoidal-wave drag force method. Chinese Physics B 2015; 24: 118703.
43 Work AH, Williams SJ. Characterization of 2D colloids assembled by optically-induced electrohydrodynamics. Soft Matter 2015; 11: 4266–4272.
44 Kumar A, Williams SJ, Chuang H-S et al. Hybrid opto-electric manipulation in microfluidics—opportunities and challenges. Lab on a Chip 2011; 11: 2135.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article’s Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in the credit line; if the material is not included under the Creative Commons license, users will need to obtain permission from the license holder to reproduce the material. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Supplementary Information for this article can be found on the Microsystems & Nanoeengineering website: http://www.nature.com/micronano.