

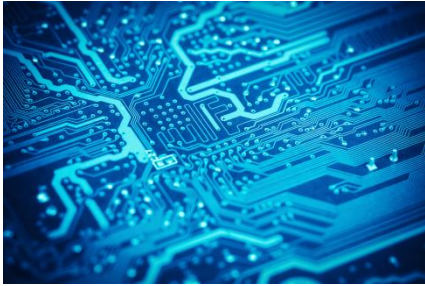
# Physical Modeling of Biosensors Based on Organic Electrochemical Transistors

Ph.D. Candidate [Shirinskaya Anna](#)

Professors: **Gilles Horowitz, Yvan Bonnassieux**

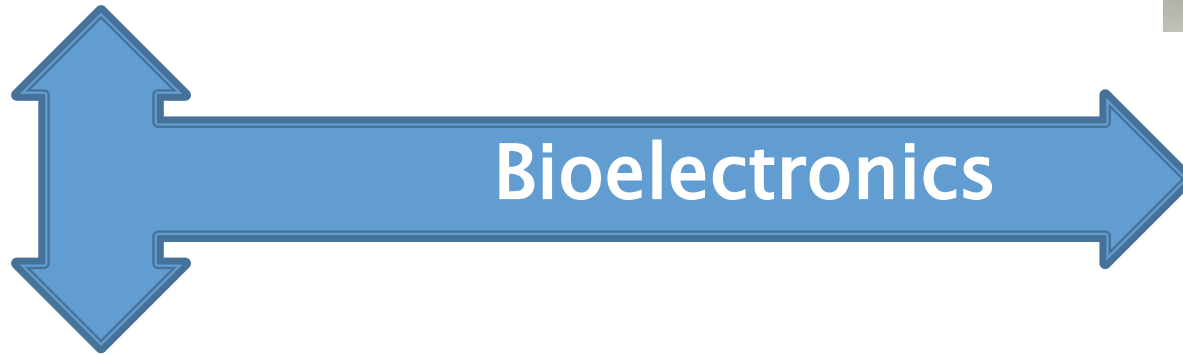
Organic Large Area Electronics (OLAE) Group, LPICM (CNRS UMR7647)  
Ecole polytechnique, Palaiseau, France

## Electronic devices

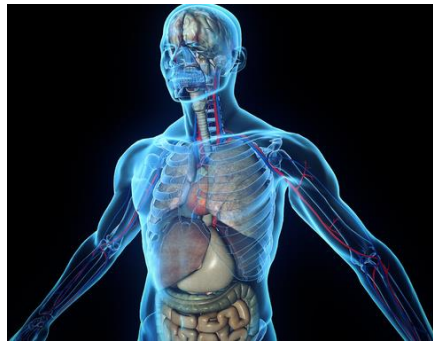


Convergence of biology  
and electronics

## Portable devices



## Biosensors



Real time monitoring  
and diagnostic

Actuation and therapy

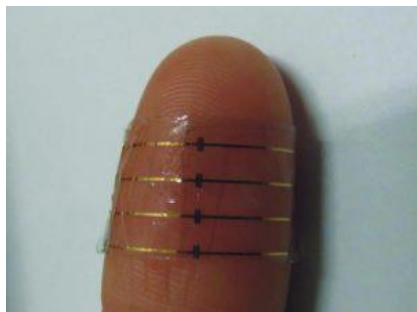
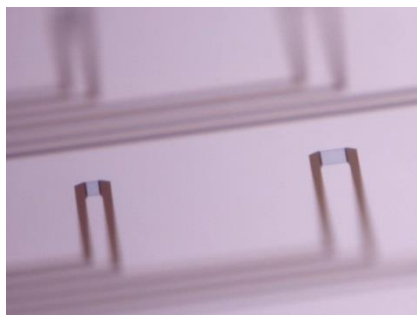


## Implantable devices

## Biological systems

# Biosensors based on Organic Electrochemical Transistor (OECT)

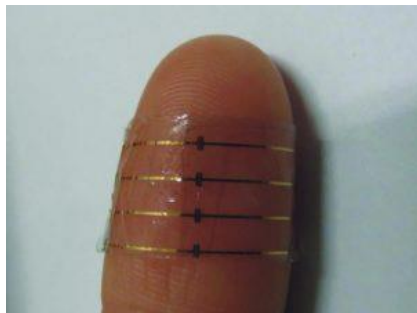
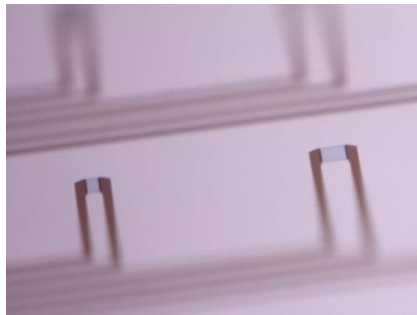
OECT-Conductive polymer based transistor consists of three electrodes (source, drain and gate) and two conducting layers: electrolyte and conducting polymer



- ✓ **Ion Sensors:** react on change of ions concentration and composition
- ✓ **Enzymatic Sensors:** react on change of local pH, on oxidation of species or transfer of electrons to the gate of the device (e.g. penicillin, glucose, ascorbic acid )
- ✓ **Immunosensors/Nucleotide Sensors:** detect presence of cells and biomolecules

# Biosensors based on Organic Electrochemical Transistor (OECT)

OECT-Conductive polymer based transistor consists of three electrodes (source, drain and gate) and two conducting layers: electrolyte and conducting polymer

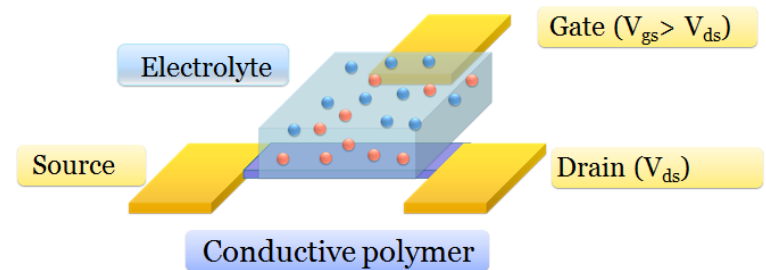
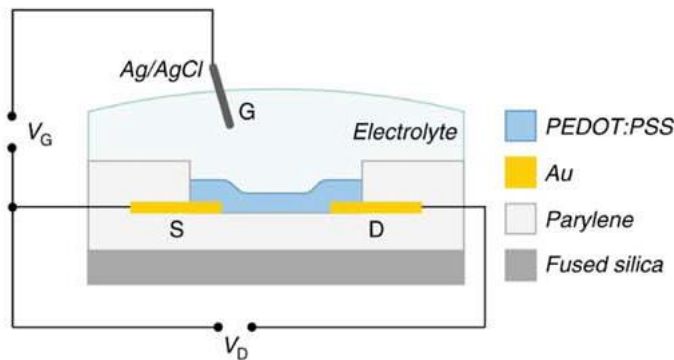


- × Wide variety of fabrication methods (also by low-cost printing techniques)
- × High current modulation
- × High sensitivity
- × High stability in aqueous solutions
- × Biocompatibility

# Typical OECT Structure

**Structure:** OECT consists of three electrodes (source, drain and gate), conductive doped polymer layer and electrolyte.

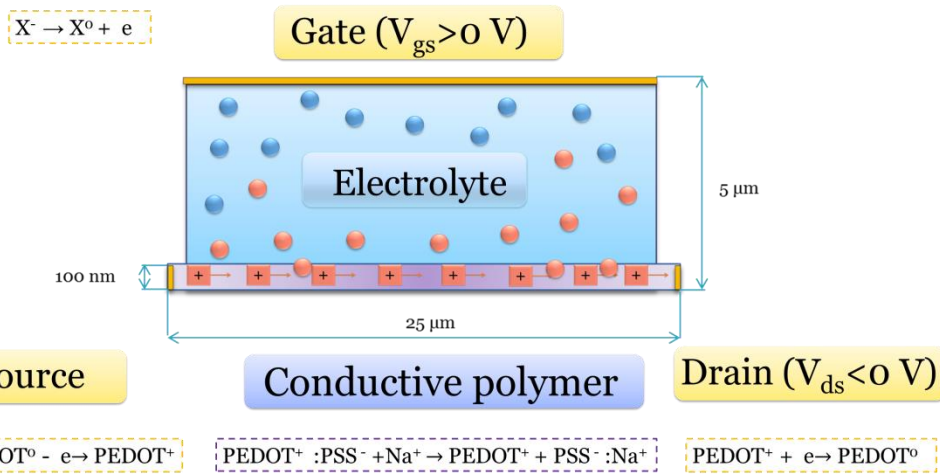
**Operation mode:** Normally-on transistor. Voltage applied between source and gate modulate the current on the drain



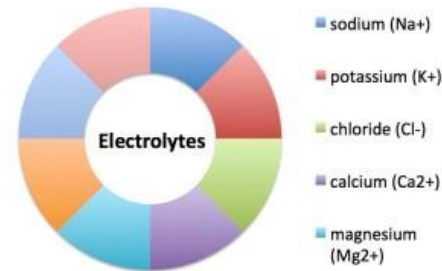
Immerced electrode structure

Planar structure

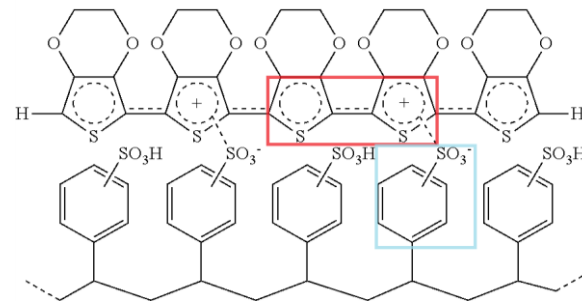
# Typical OECT Structure



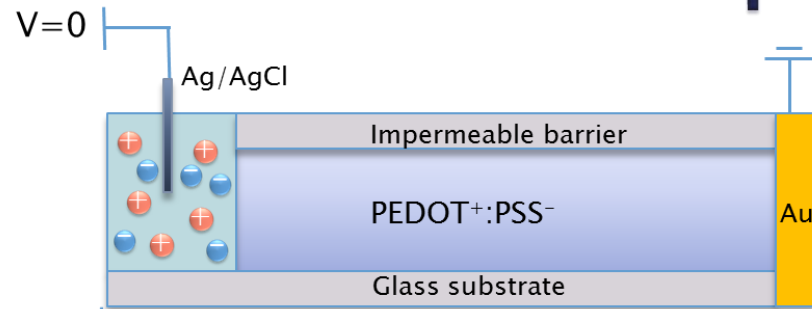
Ionic conductor: Electrolyte



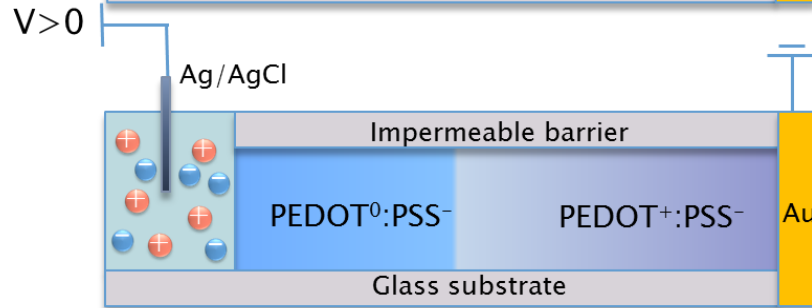
Conductive polymer:  
PEDOT :PSS p-type semiconductor



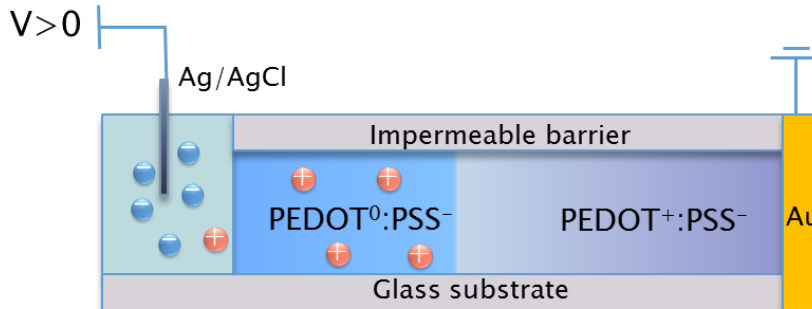
# Dedoping Process. Moving front experiment



Before voltage application



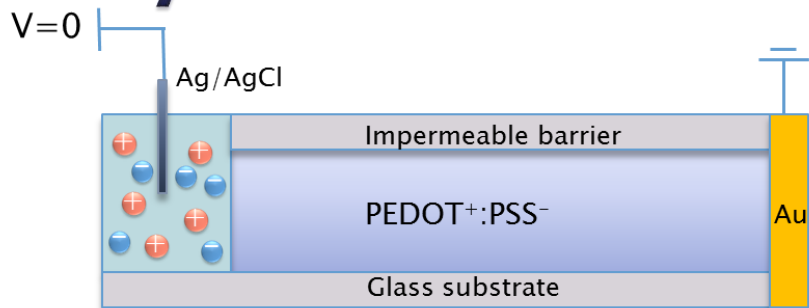
Voltage applied between gate and source electrodes reduces amount of holes by polymer reduction.



Then positive electrolyte ions penetrate inside conductive layer to maintain electro neutrality.

**Result in OECT: current is decreasing with gate voltage increasing.**

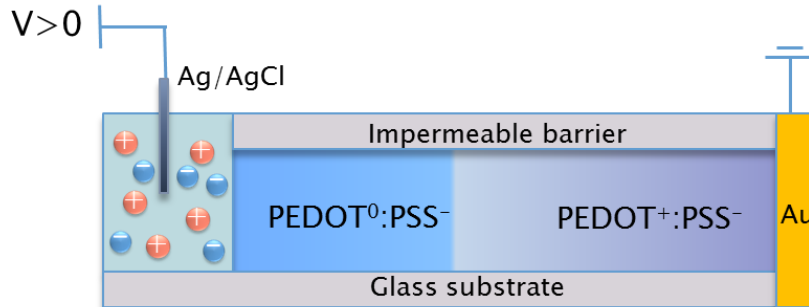
# Physics and Chemistry of process



Ions of electrolyte, electrons and holes distribution

Nernst-Planck equation 
$$J_i(x) = -D_i \frac{\partial C_i(x)}{\partial x} - \frac{z_i F}{RT} D_i C_i \frac{\partial \phi(x)}{\partial x} + C_i V(x)$$

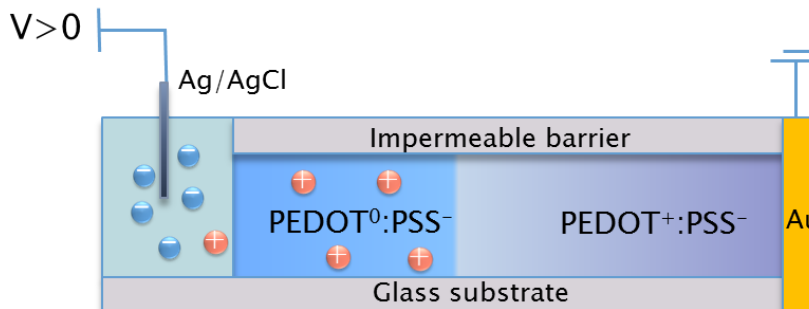
Poisson-Boltzmann equation 
$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial x} = \frac{e}{\epsilon \epsilon_0} (h - e + C - A)$$



PEDOT<sup>+</sup> reduction, positive ions injection



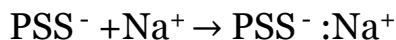
Nernst equation 
$$C_{pedot+} = \frac{C_{initial\_pedot+}}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{zF}{RT}(V_0 - V)\right)}$$



Negative ions reaction at the electrode

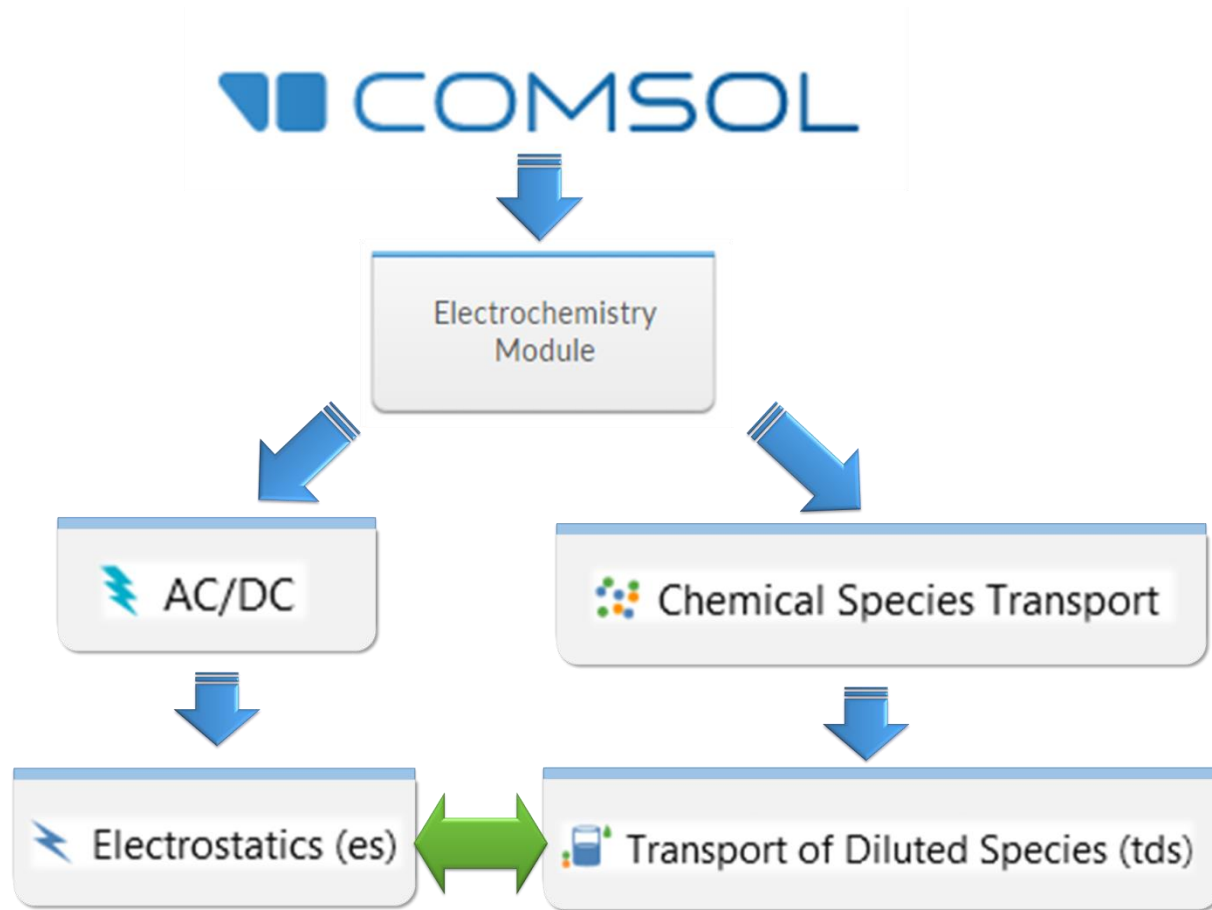


Butler-Volmer equation 
$$i = nFk^0 [C_o e^{-\left(\frac{\alpha n F}{RT}\right)(E-E^0)} - C_r e^{\left(\frac{(1-\alpha)n F}{RT}\right)(E-E^0)}]$$



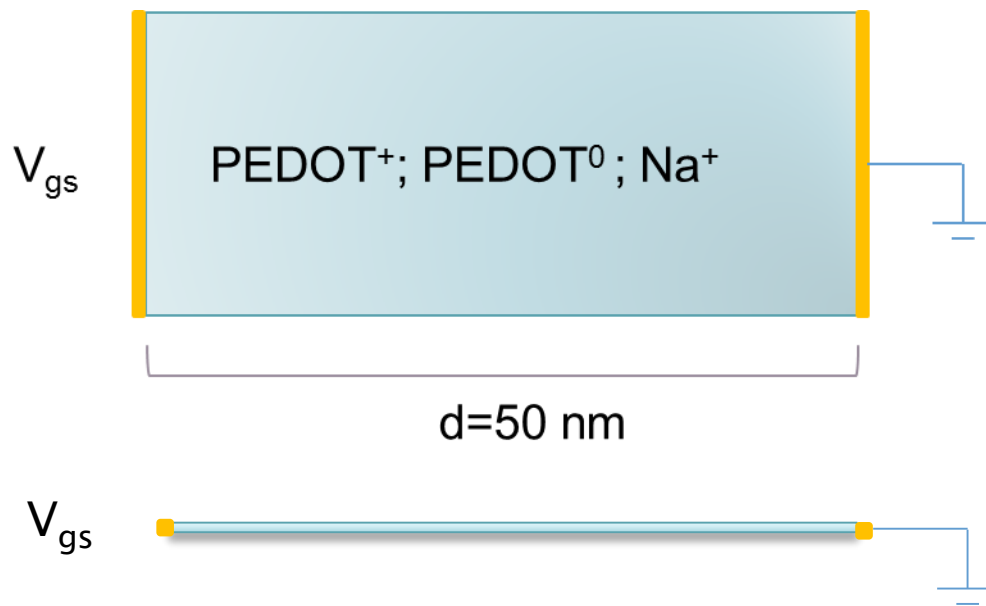


# Comsol Modelling



\*COMSOL Multiphysics® simulation software was used to obtain following results

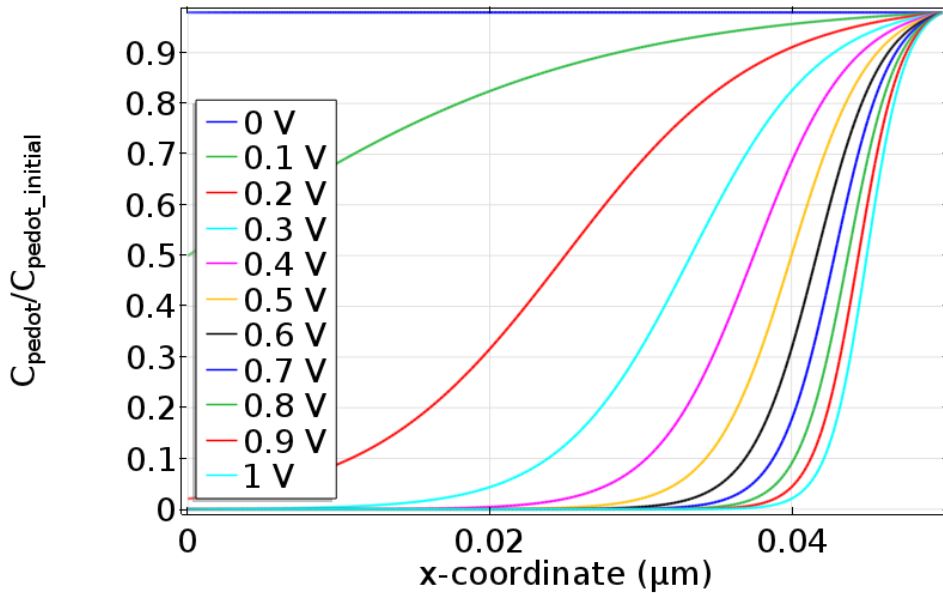
# 1D Model of Conductive Polymer dedoping and ions distribution



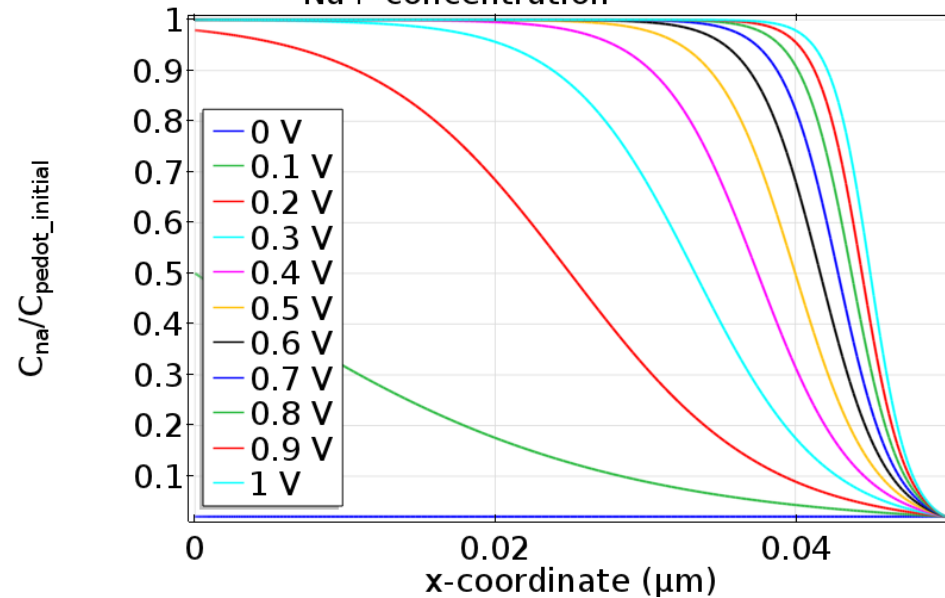
Modelled 1D structure consists of two point electrodes at both sides of line-layer of partially dedoped PEDOT:PSS with Na ions

# 1D Model results

PEDOT<sup>+</sup> Concentration

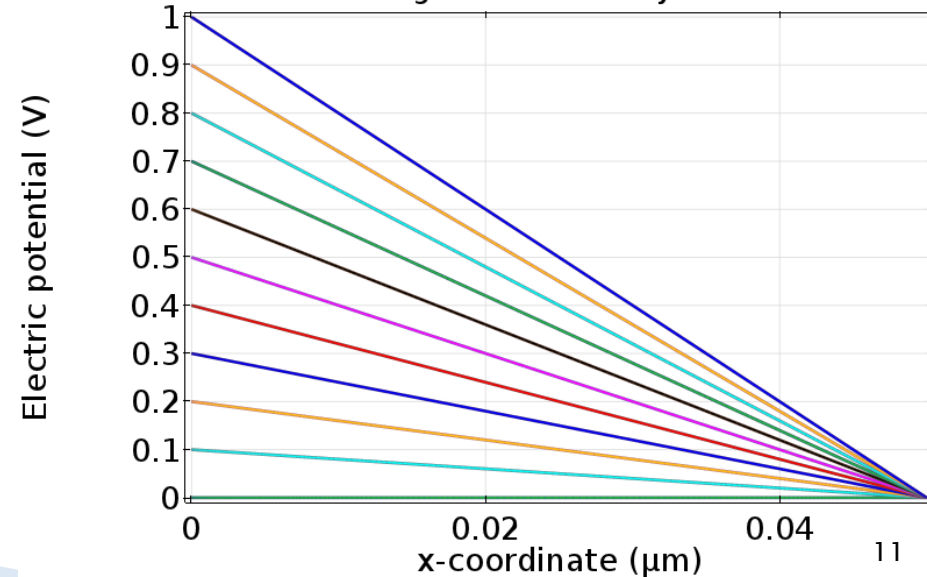


Na<sup>+</sup> concentration

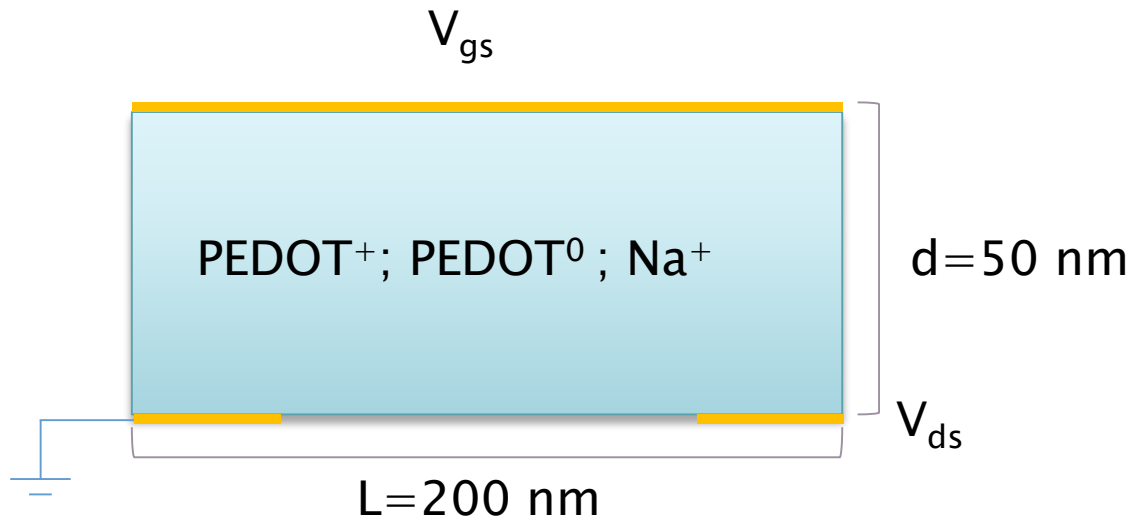


Model of moving front under applied potential

Potential along PEDOT:PSS layer



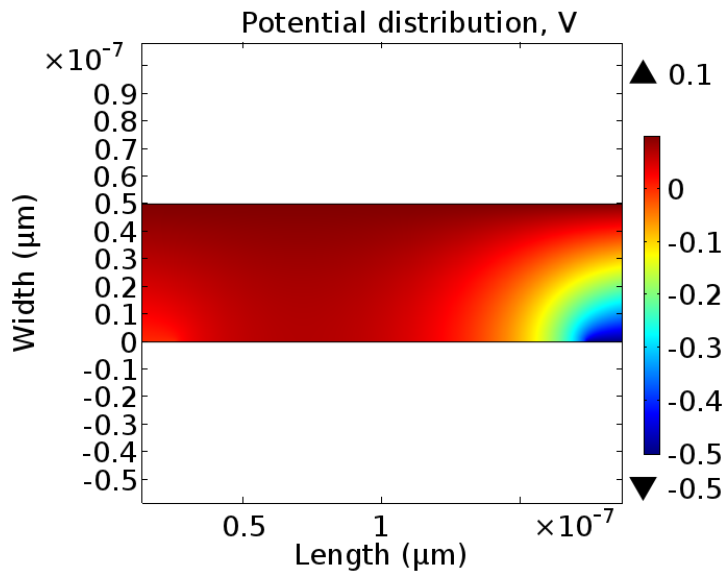
# 2D Model of Conductive Polymer dedoping and Ions distribution



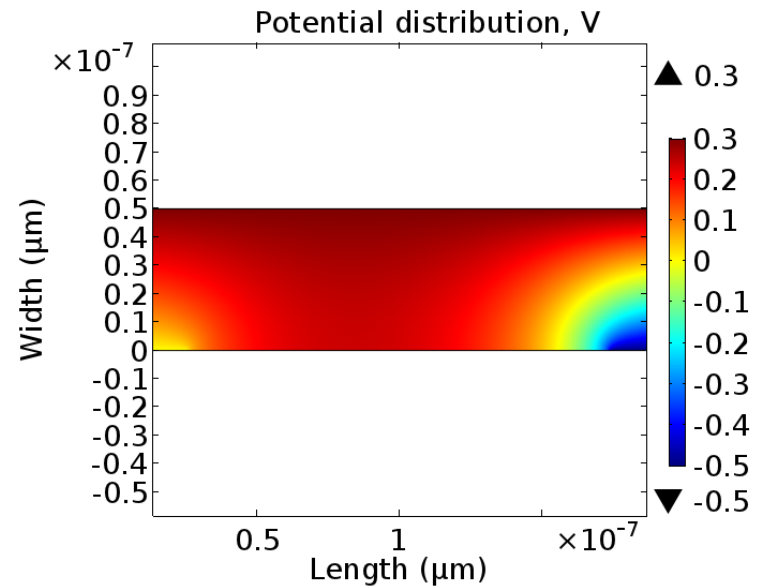
Modelled 2D structure consists of three planar electrodes: Drain and grounded Source at the bottom and Gate at the top of partially dedoped PEDOT:PSS with Na ions.

# 2D Model results

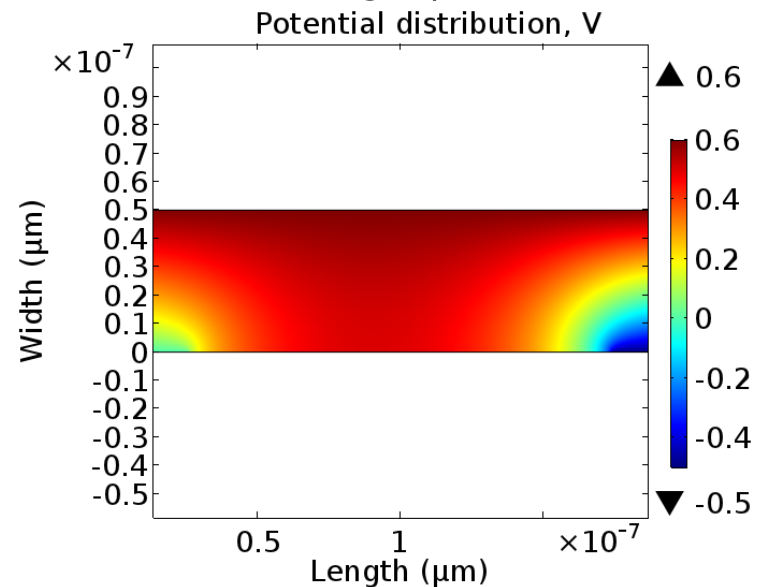
$V_{gs} = 0.1 \text{ V}$



$V_{gs} = 0.3 \text{ V}$



Potential distribution inside PEDOT:PSS layer under applied Gate-Source potential with Drain-Source potential:  $V_{ds} = -0.5 \text{ V}$

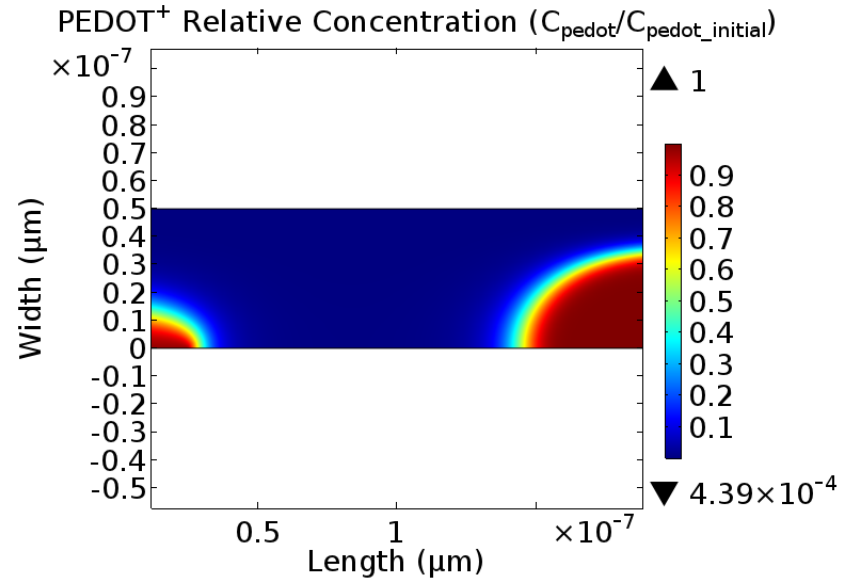
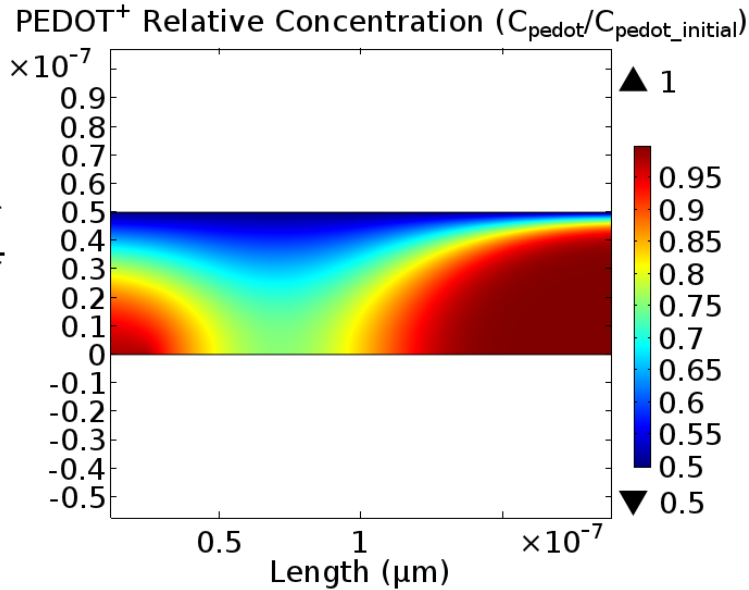


$V_{gs} = 0.6 \text{ V}$

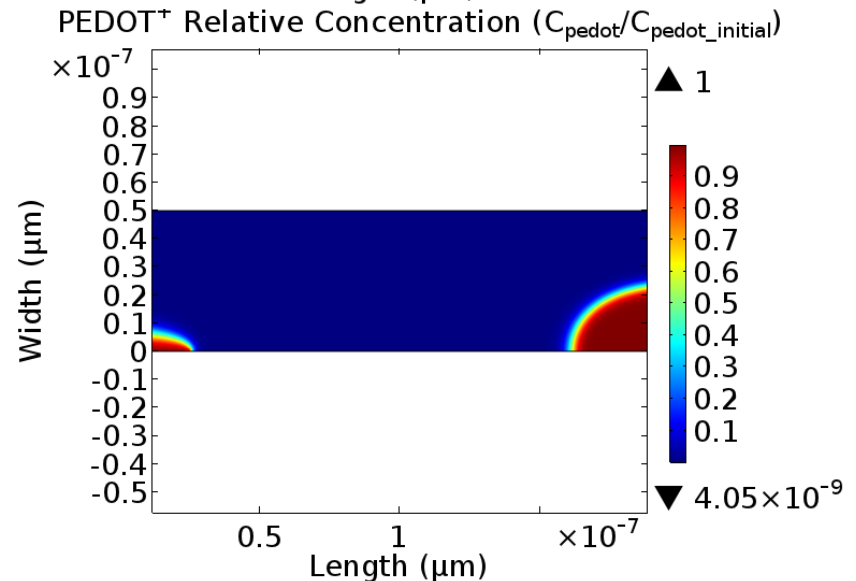
# 2D Model results

$V_{gs} = 0.1 \text{ V}$

$V_{gs} = 0.3 \text{ V}$



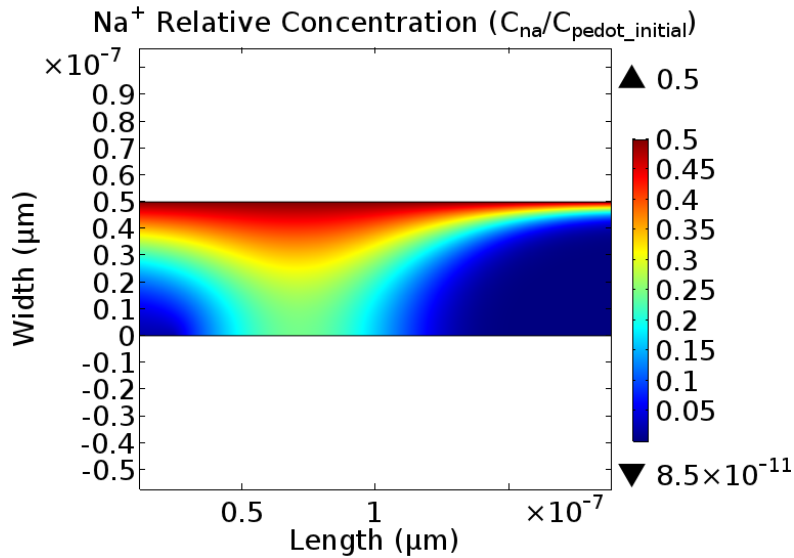
Reduction of PEDOT<sup>+</sup> in PEDOT:PSS layer under applied Gate-Source potential with Drain-Source potential:  
 $V_{ds} = -0.5 \text{ V}$



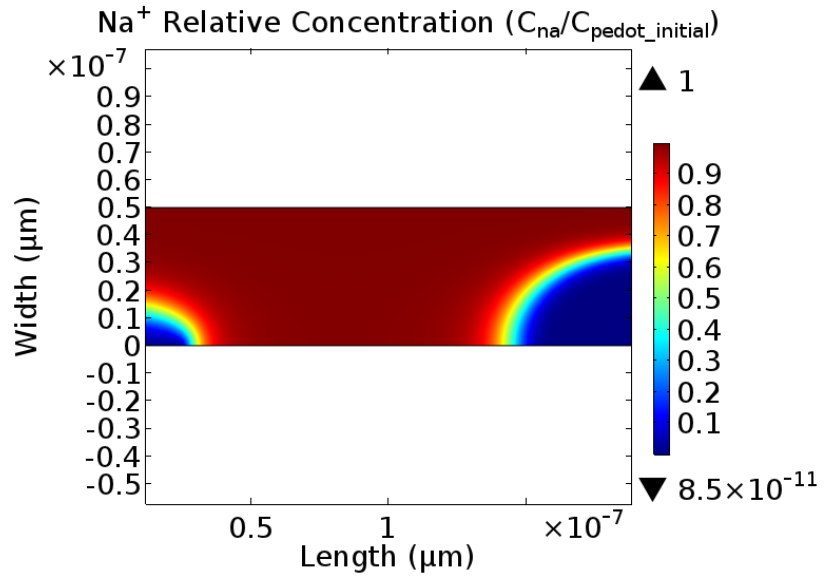
$V_{gs} = 0.6 \text{ V}$

# 2D Model results

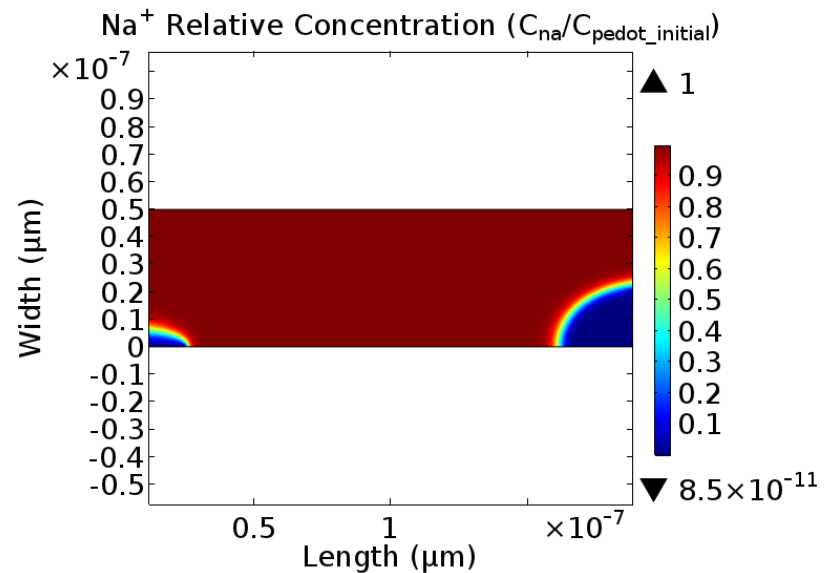
$V_{gs} = 0.1 \text{ V}$



$V_{gs} = 0.3 \text{ V}$



Penetration of Na<sup>+</sup> into PEDOT:PSS layer under applied Gate-Source potential with Drain-Source potential:  $V_{ds} = -0.5 \text{ V}$



$V_{gs} = 0.6 \text{ V}$

# Results...

- ▶ Moving front experiment was numerically modelled
- ▶ Color change of PEDOT:PSS layer could be explained by introduction of Nernst equation of redox reaction

## ... and following investigation

Further investigations would be dedicated to 3D model of full OECT transistor with different real geometries to build up a full model of this type of biosensor



