

Supplementary Materials: Interfacing Digital Microfluidics with Ambient Mass Spectrometry Using SU-8 as Dielectric Layer

Gowtham Sathyanarayanan, Markus Haapala and Tiina Sikanen

1. Schematic Presentation of the DAPPI-MS Setup

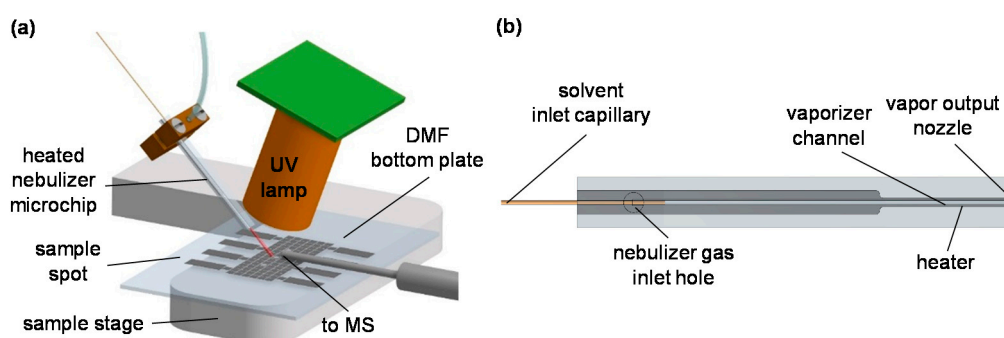


Figure S1. Schematic illustrations of (a) DAPPI-MS analysis of samples precipitated onto the DMF bottom plate, and (b) the key functions of the heated nebulizer chip.

2. Characterization of the SU-8 and OrmoComp Dielectric Layers

The dielectric properties of SU-8 were tested and compared to those of OrmoComp (a negative tone inorganic-organic hybrid polymer) using DMF driving voltages of 100–140 V_{rms} at 10 kHz. The OrmoComp dielectric layers (8 μm) were spin coated (6000 rpm, 30 s) by increasing the spinning speed in a stepwise manner (at intervals of 1000 rpm per every 6 s), prebaked at 90 °C for 10 min, and flood exposed under UV for 4 s (5000-EC Series UV flood lamp; Dymax corporation, Torrington, CT, USA; nominal intensity 225 mW/cm²). Otherwise, the chip fabrication process was identical to that of SU-8 as described in the manuscript. The differences in terms of dielectric breakdown tendency between SU-8 and OrmoComp dielectric layers are illustrated in Figure S2. The defects caused by application of the DMF voltages are clearly visible on OrmoComp, whereas SU-8 remains undamaged even after prolonged use.

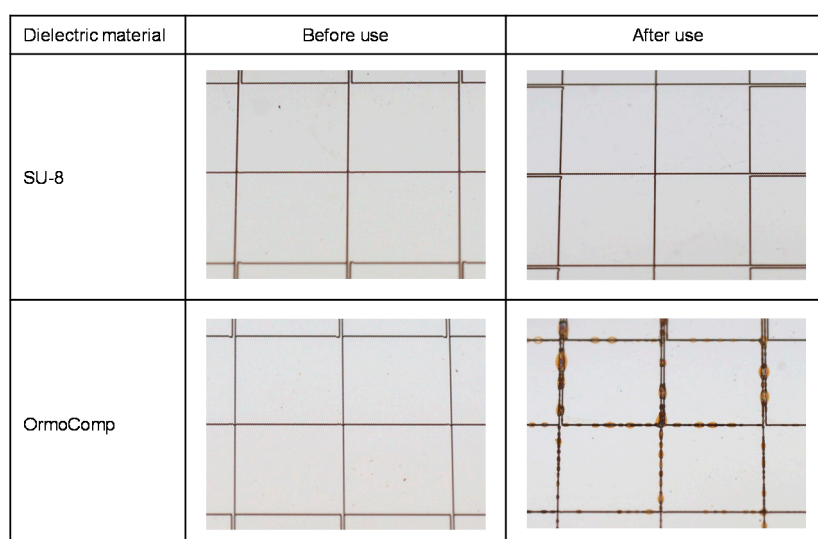


Figure S2. Comparison of SU-8 and OrmoComp dielectric layers before and after use (in DMF, driving voltages (100–140 V_{rms} at 10 kHz).

3. Comparison of the Back Spectra of SU-8 and Fluoropolymer

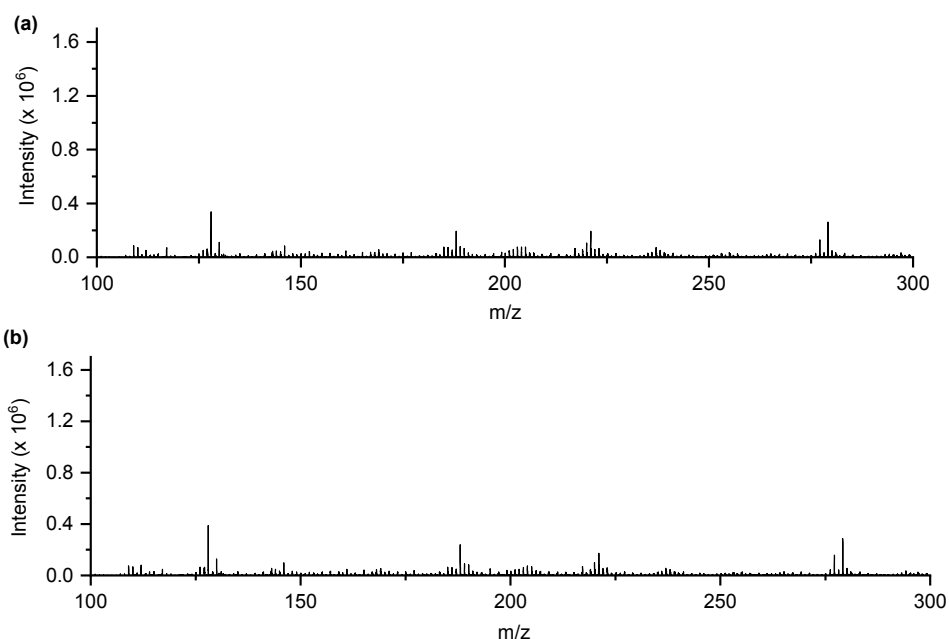


Figure S3. Background spectra measured from (a) fluoropolymer coating and (b) SU-8 surface.

4. Characterization of the Reuse Possibility of Hydrophilic SU-8 Spots for Repeated DAPPI-MS Analyses

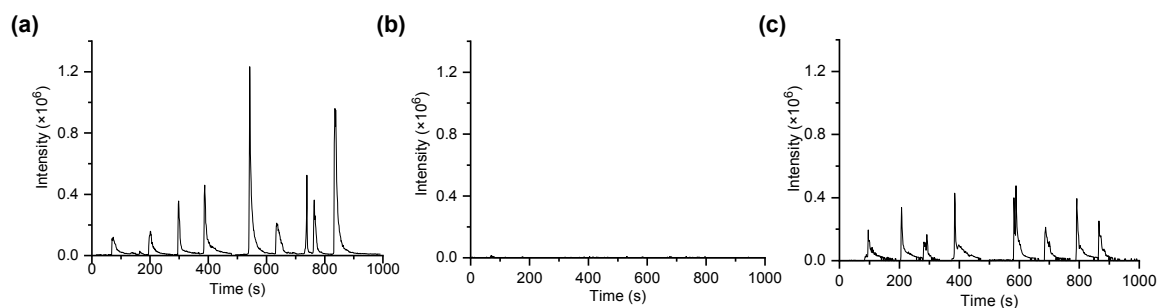


Figure S4. Extracted ion chromatograms corresponding to protonated testosterone ion ($[M + H]^+ = 289.216$) measured from eight parallel SU-8 spots following (a) first application of 70 pmol testosterone in methanol-water (1:1) per spot (fresh plate), (b) washing of the spots with methanol and water (cleaned plate), and (c) re-application of 70 pmol testosterone (cleaned and reused plate).