

# Intro to Lab: Modeling a Microvascular Network on a Chip

ECE 1810  
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# Lab Objectives

- To characterize simple model of microvascular system using microfluidic device
- To introduce you to microfluidics
  - Measure flow velocities within model network before and after a blockage (occlusion or clot of a blood vessel - stroke)
    - particle velocimetry
  - Show how EE concepts transfer to the design and analysis of a microfluidic network
  - Lab will be accompanied by an assignment
    - theoretically calculate pressure and velocity in each channel before and after blockage
    - compare calculated pressure and velocities with empirical velocities

# What is Microfluidics: What's in a name?

- Infer: manipulation of minute quantities of fluids (L and G) ... inside very small devices
- Applies ultra-precise fab technology to conventionally “messy” fields like biology (dishes, plates) and chemistry (vats, reaction vessels)
  - Emerged early 90s: Andreas Manz, George Whitesides, but idea has been around much longer:
    - Richard Feynman – “There’s Plenty of Room at the Bottom” – 1959
  - Why?
    - Unique physics at microscale permits novel creations
    - Permits more orderly, systematic approach to bio-related problems, reduces physical effort:
      - drug discovery
      - cytotoxicity assays
      - protein crystallization

# Background

- Aims to do for chemistry and biology what Kilby's and Noyce's invention of the IC did for the field of electronics:
  - dramatic reduction in size and cost
  - increase in performance and portability
  - lab on a chip: goal to have all stages of chemical analysis performed in integrated fashion:
    - sample prep.
    - rxns
    - analyte sep.
    - analyte purification
    - detection
    - analysis
  - $\mu$ TAS, POCT, decentralized
- Benefits: integration of functionality, small consumption of expensive reagents, automation, high throughput, reproducibility of results, parallelization, disposable

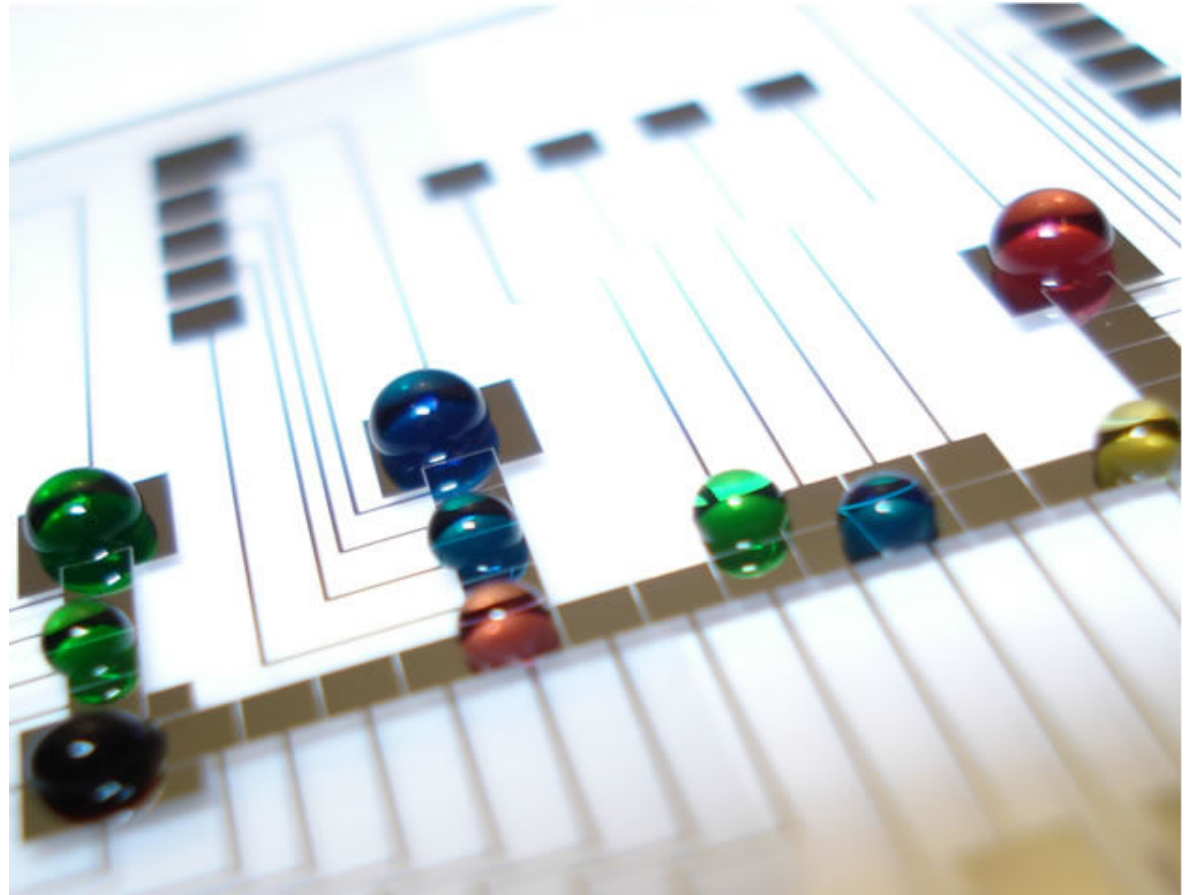
# Defining Characteristics – Surface Area

- Compare surface area to volume ratio of cubes 1 cm<sup>3</sup>, 100 μm<sup>3</sup>, and 10 μm<sup>3</sup>, 100nm<sup>3</sup>, and 10nm<sup>3</sup> on a side:

side length (l)	side area (l <sup>2</sup> )	surface area (6l <sup>2</sup> )	volume (l <sup>3</sup> )	SA/V ratio
0.01	0.0001	0.0006	0.000001	600
0.0001	0.00000001	0.00000006	1E-12	60000
0.00001	1E-10	6E-10	1E-15	600000
0.0000001	1E-14	6E-14	1E-21	60000000
0.00000001	1E-16	6E-16	1E-24	600000000

# Defining Characteristics – Surface Area

- Surface effects become dominant:
  - Surface tension
    - Disparity in intermolecular forces among molecules in bulk and at interface – leads to formation of droplets or bubbles
  - Capillary action
    - Wicking of fluid through a capillary tube (microchannel) when adhesive attraction for walls  $>$  than cohesive forces among liquid molecules



Droplets on hydrophobic surface:  
cohesive forces  $>$  adhesive forces  
fluid beads into a droplet

**Note:** More pronounced in smaller tubes

# Defining Characteristics – Laminar Flow

- Compare surface area to volume ratio of cubes  $1 \text{ cm}^3$ ,  $100 \mu\text{m}^3$ , and  $10 \mu\text{m}^3$ ,  $100\text{nm}^3$ , and  $10\text{nm}^3$  on a side. Calculate the gravitational force acting on each cube assuming it is made of silicon with a density of  $2.33 \text{ g/cm}^3$ :

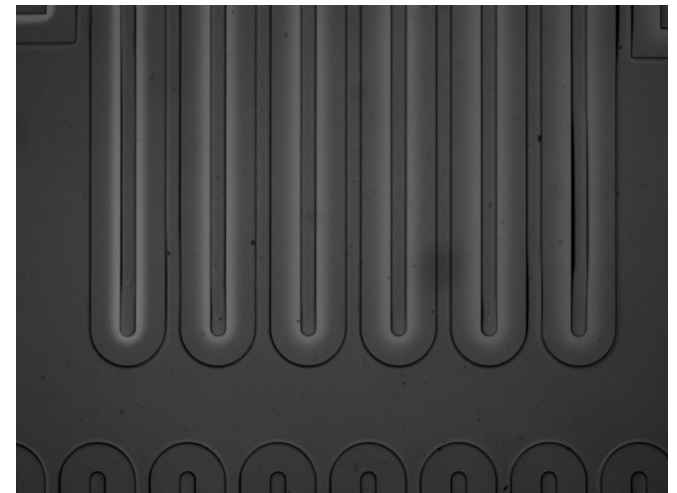
side length (l)	side area (l <sup>2</sup> )	surface area (6l <sup>2</sup> )	volume (l <sup>3</sup> )	SA/V ratio	volume in cm <sup>3</sup>	mass (g)	mass (kg)	F = ma (N)
0.01	0.0001	0.0006	0.000001	600	1	2.33	0.00233	0.022834
0.0001	0.00000001	0.00000006	1E-12	60000	0.000001	0.00000233	2.33E-09	2.2834E-08
0.00001	1E-10	6E-10	1E-15	600000	0.000000001	2.33E-09	2.33E-12	2.2834E-11
0.0000001	1E-14	6E-14	1E-21	60000000	1E-15	2.33E-15	2.33E-18	2.2834E-17
0.00000001	1E-16	6E-16	1E-24	600000000	1E-18	2.33E-18	2.33E-21	2.2834E-20

**Conclusion:** gravitational force is negligible at microscale when compared to other forces (like surface forces)

# Defining Characteristics – Laminar Flow

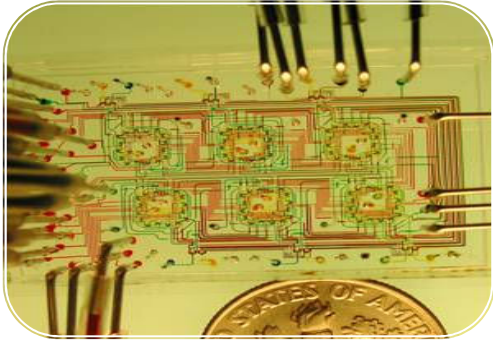
Reynolds number – compares relative strengths of different forces (inertial vs. viscous)

- small Re: laminar flow ( $< 2300$ )
- large Re: turbulent flow ( $> 2300$ )
- Re in most  $\mu$ fluidic devices  $\ll 1$ 
  - Laminar flow is both an asset and hindrance:
    - Transport of objects is predictable
    - Mixing is difficult – two parallel streams will mix only across the interface via Fickian diffusion

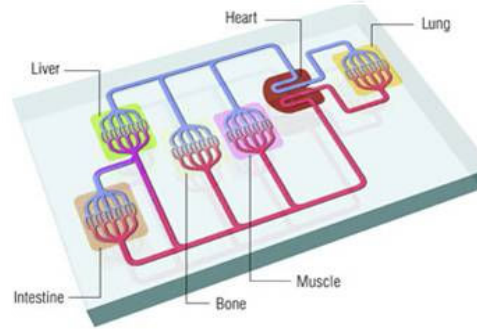




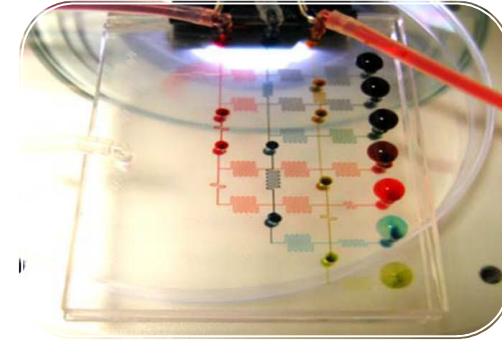
# Examples of Microfluidics



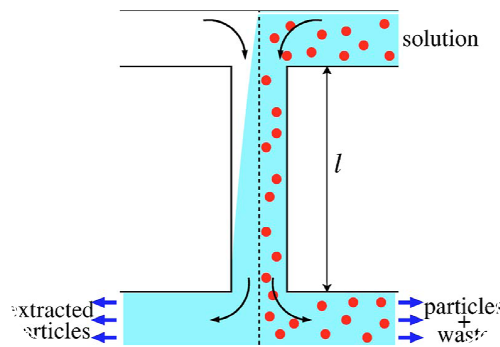
LSI



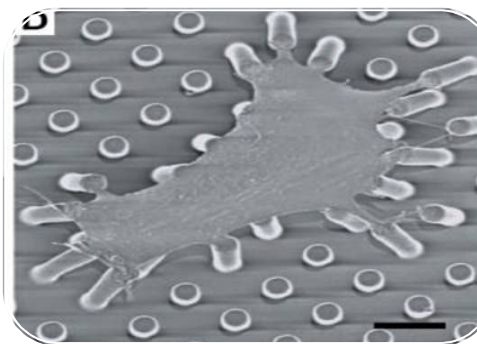
Body on chip



Concentration gradient



Filtering Without Membranes



Traction force microscopy

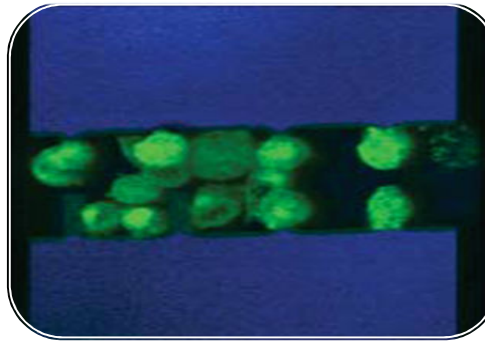


Portable medical diagnostics

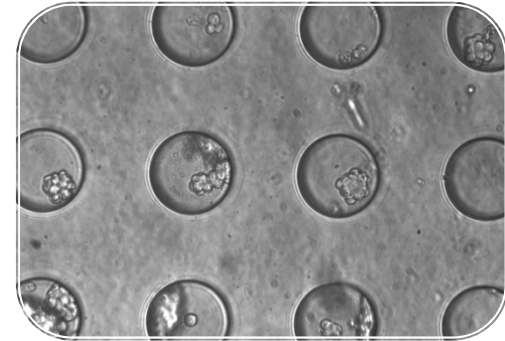
# Examples of Microfluidics



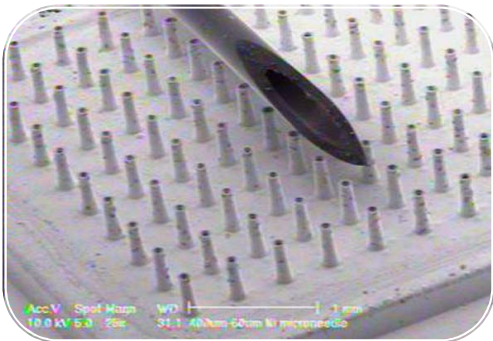
Lab on a CD /  
Centrifugal  
Microfluidics



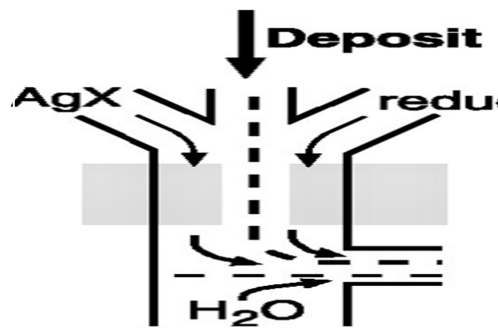
Cantilever-based  
biosensors



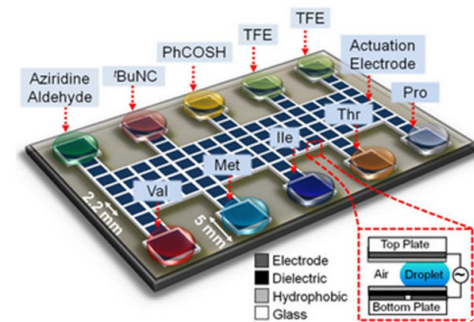
Biomimesis



Microneedle  
Array for Painless  
Drug Delivery



Microfabrication



Droplet  
Microfluidics

# Field Overview

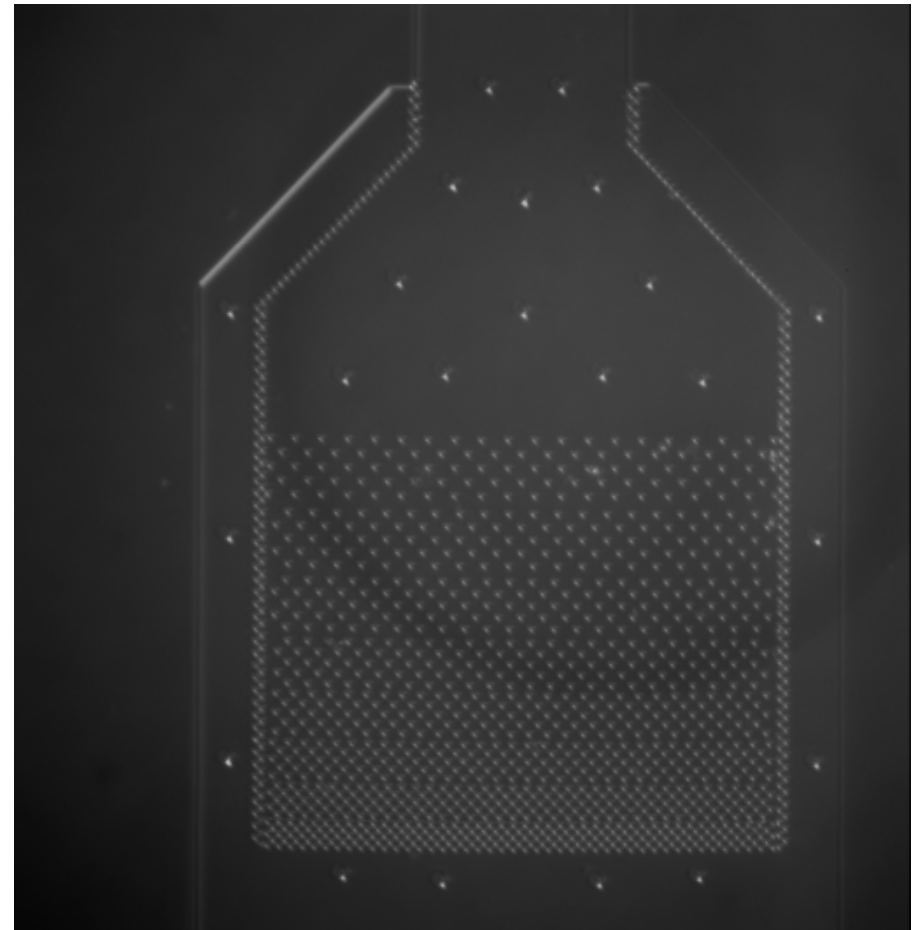
- Very low tech to very complex
- Single layer lithography to multiple layers requiring alignment
- Minimalistic (paper-based) vs. sophisticated
- Components vs. Systems (hierarchical)
- Devices vs. Applications

# Components → Systems

- Wide array of components: components together make up systems:

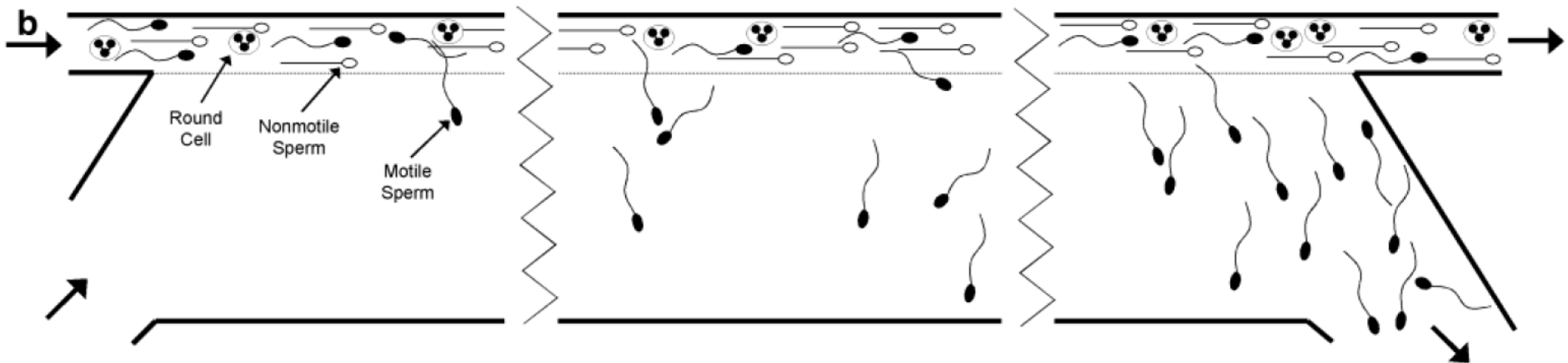
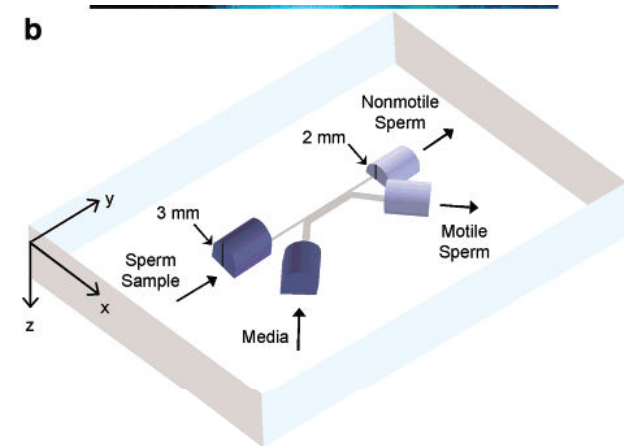
- $\mu$ reactors
- $\mu$ mixers
- $\mu$ heaters – (PCR, cell culture)
- $\mu$ filters – cell capture
- $\mu$ valves
- $\mu$ pumps

Everything at macroscale has counterpart at microscale, but microscale physics permits novel components



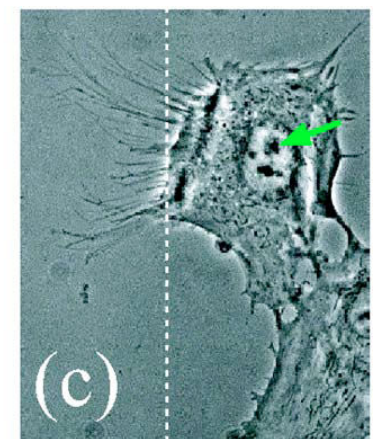
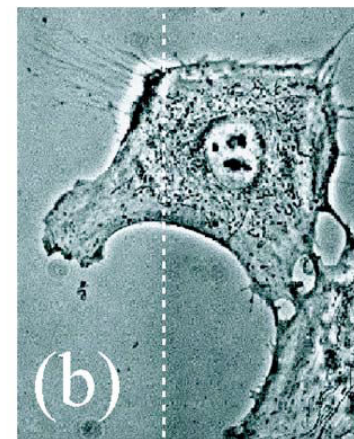
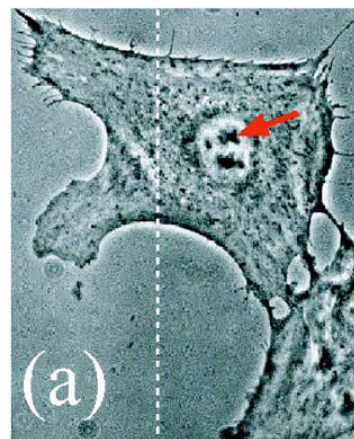
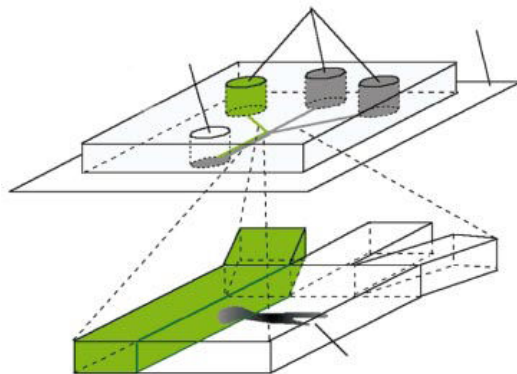
# Application 1: motile sperm sorter

- Membraneless H-filter
  - low-Re number so mixing occurs by diffusion
  - Two streams of fluid will flow alongside each other
  - Exploit this to separate particles or cells based on differences in diffusivity or motility



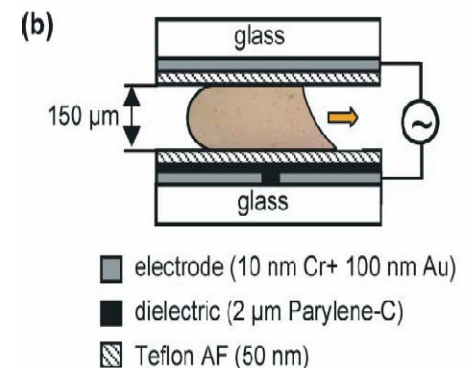
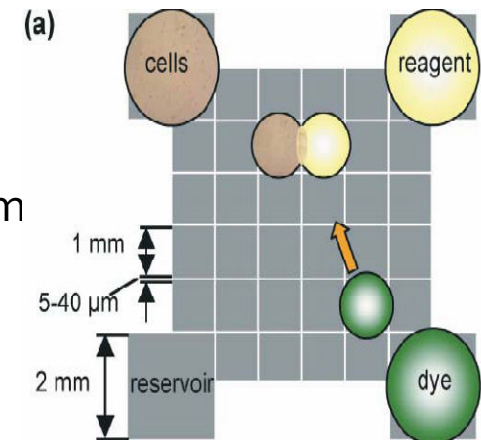
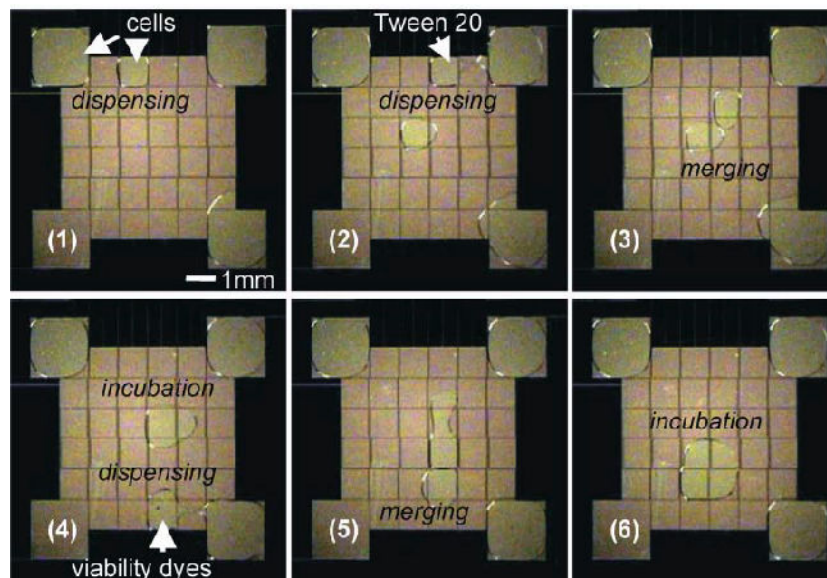
# Application 2: laminar flow to study individual cell movement

- Cellular response to stimuli can be probed
- Trypsin disrupts cell-substrate adhesion
  - causes cell to lose its hold and recoil to the trypsin-free stream



# Application 3 – drug screening

- Each droplet can serve as a reaction vessel to study a cell's response to antibiotic
  - Encapsulate bacterium into droplet
  - Droplet containing viability indicator is merged with bacterium containing droplet
  - Droplet containing antibiotic is merged with this droplet, incubated, and intensity of fluorescent agent measured



# Commercialization

- Despite being subject of ongoing research, microfluidics is being commercialized (startups, spinoffs, lucrative extensions to established)
- Microfabrication-related industries (MEMS, inkjet heads, accelerometers, gyroscopes) much more mature and profitable
  - No standards (DIP), competing paradigms, diff. materials
- Research has spawned microfluidics companies
  - high-throughput low-cost DNA sequencing
  - portable diagnostic tools
  - novel displays for E-readers



# Commercialization

**Table 1** Companies assigned microfluidic and microarray patents in the USA

Company	Assigned microfluidic and microarray patents (US only)
Caliper Lifesciences	215
Agilent	97
Affymetrix	73
Nanostream	34
Nanogen	20
GE Healthcare (formerly Amersham)	19
Zyomyx	16
Illumina	15
Gyros	14
Tecan	13
Honeywell	11
Advion	10
Cepheid	9
Beckman Coulter	8
Biacore	8
Micronics	8
Fluidigm	7
Qiagen	6
Sequenom	6
Aurora Biosciences	4
Micralyne	4
Bioforce Nanosciences	3
Eksigent Technologies, LLC	3
Evotec Technologies	3
Genomic Solutions	3
Genetix	3
Molecular Devices	3
Randox Laboratories	3
Innovadyne	2
Telechem International	2
Amnis Corporation	1
BioDot	1
Bio-Rad	1
BioTrove	1
Collectricon	1
Combimatrix	1
Perkin Elmer	1
Shimadzu	1

# Connection to EE

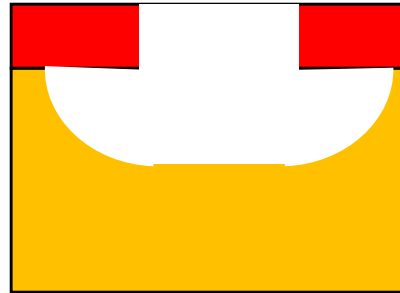
- Basic concepts have direct analogs to EE (voltage, current, resistance)
- Design and analysis of devices uses same methods used to analyze circuits (KCL, KVL, Ohm's Law)
- Fabrication of devices uses tools and techniques borrowed from semiconductor industry
- Entire electronic devices have counterparts in microfluidics:
  - shift register
  - voltage divider (drop pressure)
  - current divider (split flow)
- Control is effected in same way:
  - multiplexing
  - truth tables

# Fabrication: How Are Microfluidic Devices Made?

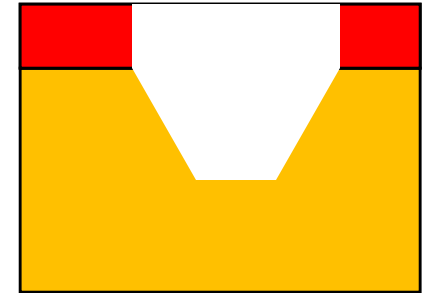
- Semiconductor fabrication methods
- Pattern is defined on surface (2D) and then transferred into vertical plane
- Process flow – depicted as a cross-sectional view, each step showing execution of one step (addition of layer, exposure, removal of layer, etc.)
- Detailed process to create master, replicas created inexpensively

# Fabrication: How Are Microfluidic Devices Made?

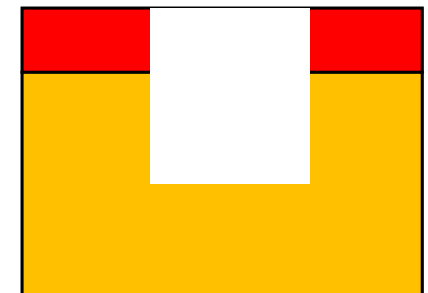
- Top-down vs. bottom-up
- Bottom-up:
  - $\mu$ contact printing for SAM
- Top-down:
  - Bulk (subtractive)
    - Isotropic etching
      - wet
    - Anisotropic etching
      - dry
    - Laser ablation
    - CMP
  - Surface (additive – structural and sacrificial layers)
    - spin coating
    - electroplating
    - oxidation
    - chemical vapor dep. – evaporation
    - physical vapor dep. – sputtering



Isotropic  
(HF)



Directional  
Crystal planes  
(KOH)



Anisotropic  
(RIE)

# Process Flow: Soft-Lithography

1) Spin SU-8



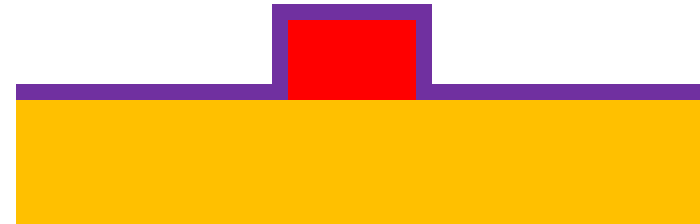
2) Expose



3) Develop



4) Apply Anti-stick monolayer



5) Cast PDMS



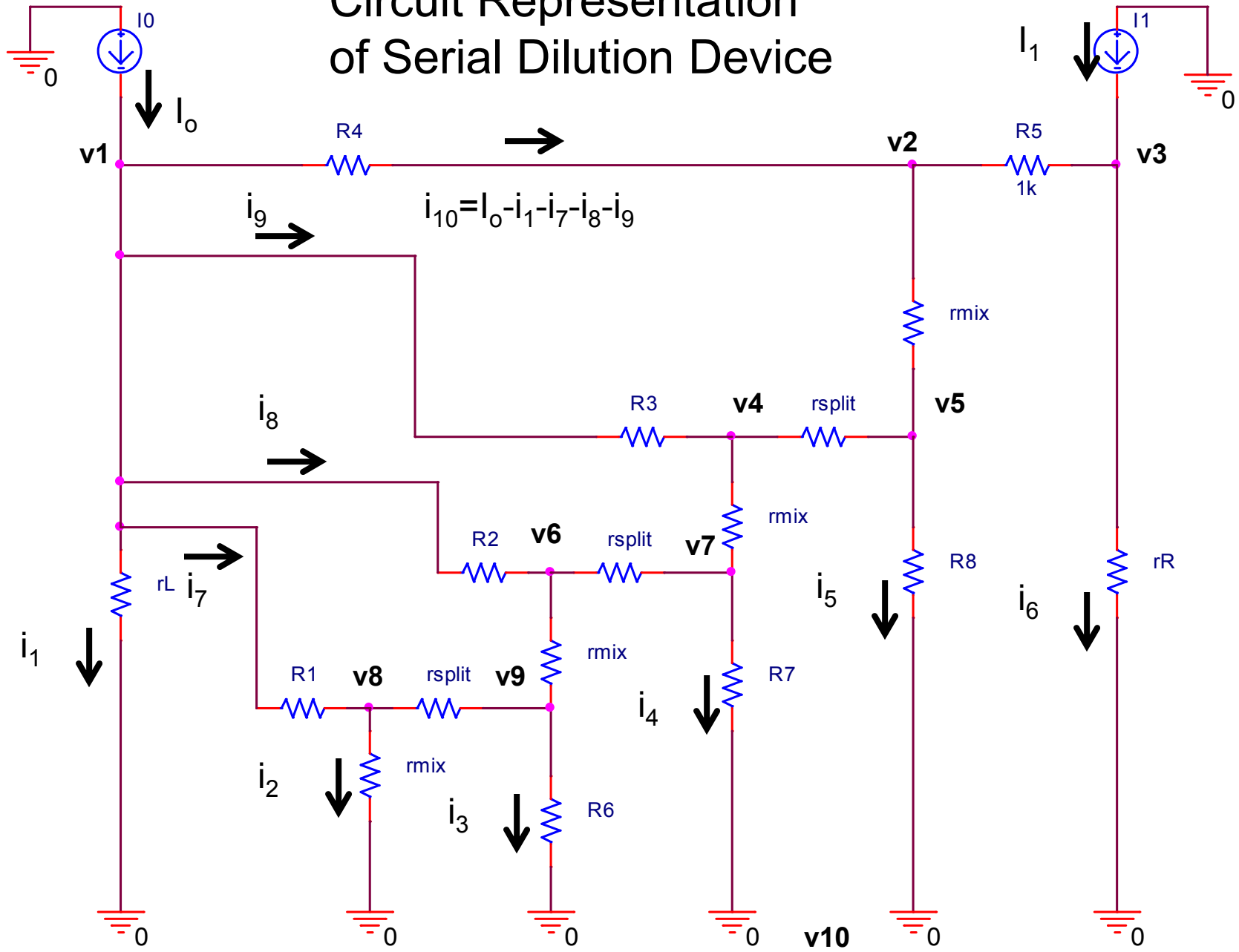
6) Plasma treat + bond



# Example: Serial Dilution Gradient Generator

- Works on laboratory practice of serial dilution:
  - Create a number of solutions, each with a unique concentration, by using a small amount of the more concentrated solution to create the next less concentrated solution:
  - More reliable
  - Log base 10 Example:
    - Stock solution consists of 1mL of solute in 9mL of solvent = 1X
    - 1mL of this into 9mL solvent yields 0.1X
    - 1mL of this into 9mL solvent yields 0.01X
- In a microfluidic implementation, the concentration of each step is determined by the ratio of two merging flow rates at the junction of the buffer and the agent
- After the chemical to be diluted is merged with the buffer at the intersection, the combined solution is passed through the mixing region
- Some portion of the diluted solution is collected at the outlet and remainder is passed on to the next intersection

# Circuit Representation of Serial Dilution Device



# Serial Dilution: Log Base 10 Profile

System of Equations to Solve (42 equations in 33 variables):

$$1. v_1/rL+(v_1-v_2)/r_4+(v_1-v_4)/r_3+(v_1-v_6)/r_2+(v_1-v_8)/r_1-i_o = 0$$

$$2. (v_2-v_1)/r_4+(v_2-v_5)/r_{mix}+(v_2-v_3)/r_5 = 0$$

$$3. -i_1+(v_3-v_2)/r_5+v_3/rR = 0$$

$$4. (v_4-v_1)/r_3+(v_4-v_5)/r_{split}+(v_4-v_7)/r_{mix} = 0$$

$$5. (v_5-v_4)/r_{split}+(v_5-v_2)/r_{mix}+v_5/r_8 = 0$$

$$6. (v_6-v_1)/r_2+(v_6-v_7)/r_{split}+(v_6-v_9)/r_{mix} = 0$$

$$7. (v_7-v_6)/r_{split}+(v_7-v_4)/r_{mix}+v_7/r_7 = 0$$

$$8. (v_8-v_1)/r_1+(v_8-v_9)/r_{split}+v_8/r_{mix} = 0$$

$$9. (v_9-v_8)/r_{split}+(v_9-v_6)/r_{mix}+v_9/r_6 = 0$$

$$10. i_o+i_1 = i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5+i_6$$

$$11. i_{10} = i_o-i_1-i_7-i_8-i_9$$

$$12. v_1-v_2 = i_{10} * r_4$$

$$13. v_1-v_4 = i_9 * r_3$$

$$14. v_1-v_6 = i_8 * r_2$$

$$15. v_1-v_8 = i_7 * r_1$$

$$16. v_1 = i_1 * rL$$

$$17. v_3-v_2 = (i_1-i_6) * r_5$$

$$18. v_2-v_5 = (i_{10}+i_1-i_6) * r_{mix}$$

$$19. v_5 = i_5 * r_8$$

$$20. v_5-v_4 = (i_{10}+i_1-i_6-i_5) * r_{split}$$

$$21. v_4-v_7 = (i_{10}+i_1-i_6-i_5+i_9) * r_{mix}$$

$$22. v_7 = i_4 * r_7$$

$$23. v_7-v_6 = (i_{10}+i_1-i_6-i_5+i_9-i_4) * r_{split}$$

$$24. v_6-v_9 = (i_{10}+i_1-i_6-i_5+i_9-i_4+i_8) * r_{mix}$$

$$25. v_9 = i_3 * r_6$$

$$26. v_9-v_8 = (i_{10}+i_1-i_6-i_5+i_9-i_4+i_8-i_3) * r_{split}$$

$$27. v_8 = i_2 * r_{mix}$$

$$28. i_2 = i_7+i_{10}+i_1-i_6-i_5+i_9-i_4+i_8-i_3$$

$$29. i_1 = i_2$$

$$30. i_1 = i_3$$

$$31. i_1 = i_4$$

$$32. i_1 = i_5$$

$$33. i_1 = i_6$$

$$34. 0.0001 = ((i_2-i_7)/i_2) * 0.001$$

$$35. 0.001 = ((i_{10}+i_1-i_6-i_5+i_9-i_4)/(i_{10}+i_1-i_6-i_5+i_9-i_4+i_8)) * 0.01$$

$$36. 0.01 = ((i_{10}+i_1-i_6-i_5)/(i_{10}+i_1-i_6-i_5+i_9)) * 0.1$$

$$37. 0.1 = ((i_1-i_6)/(i_{10}+i_1-i_6)) * 1$$

$$38. r_4 = 10000$$

$$39. r_5 = 2500$$

$$40. r_{split} = 2500$$

$$41. r_{mix} = 31446.54$$

$$42. i_o = 1$$

Node Voltage Equations

KCL

Ohm's Law

Equations stipulating flow rates of all six concentrations be equal

Equations specifying concentrations

Selected values



# Serial Dilution: Log Base 10 Profile

MATLAB Results:

Having specified:

$$R_{\text{mix}} = 31446.54$$

$$R_{\text{split}} = 2500$$

$$R_4 = 10000$$

$$R_5 = 2500$$

$$I_0 = 1$$

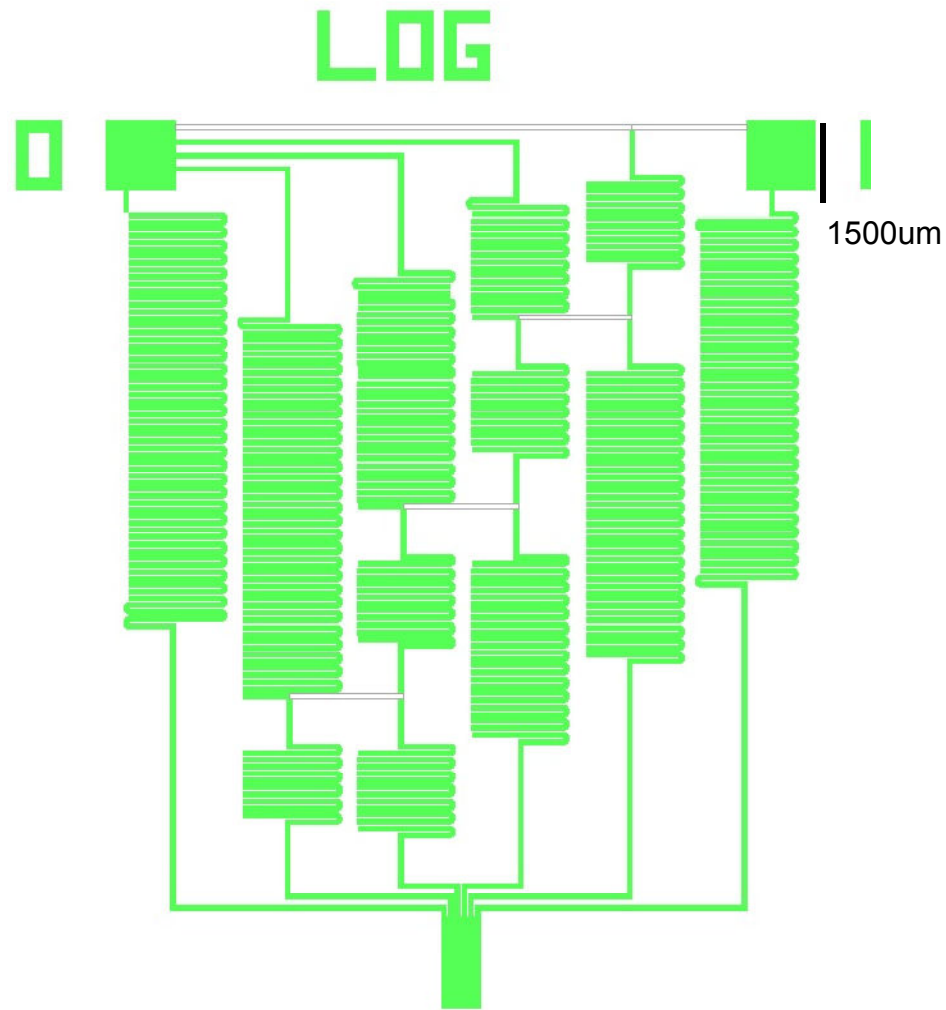
$$C's = 1, 0.1, 0.01, 0.001, 0.0001, 0$$

**Yields:**

$$I_1 = 0.2273$$

component	length (um)	multiple of $r_{\text{mix}}$
rL	146682.00	4.66
rR	136960.75	4.36
r1	128039.40	4.07
r2	81206.33	2.58
r3	45258.86	1.44
r4	10000.00	0.32
r5	2500.00	0.08
r6	31696.54	1.01
r7	66562.73	2.12
r8	101745.89	3.24
rmix	31446.54	1.00
rsplit	2500.00	0.08

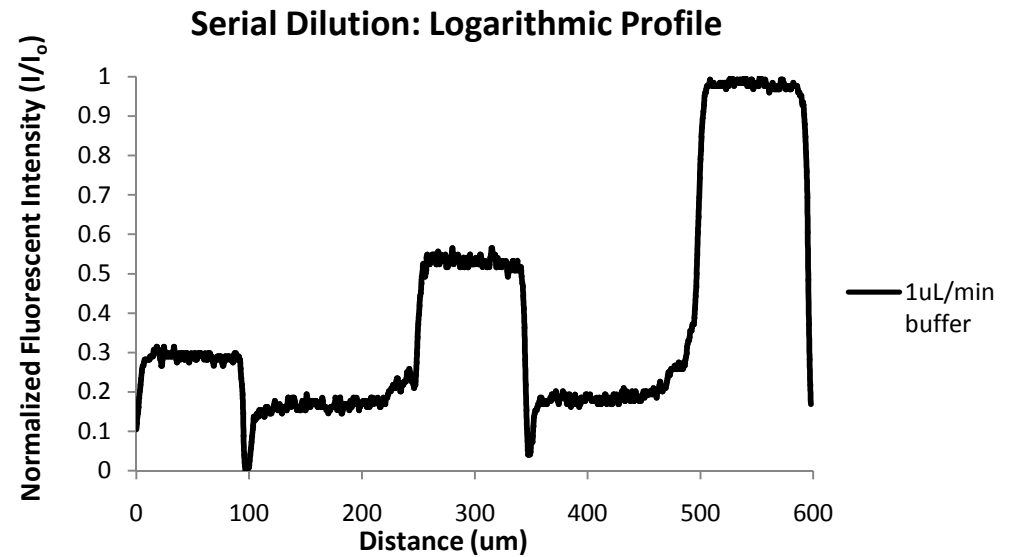
# Serial Dilution: Log Base 10 Profile CAD Image



# Experimental Results: Log Base 10 Profile



Grayscale fluorescent image of three most concentrated solutions, 40x magnification, ISO400, 10s, 35uM fluorescein solution, 1uL/min buffer flow rate

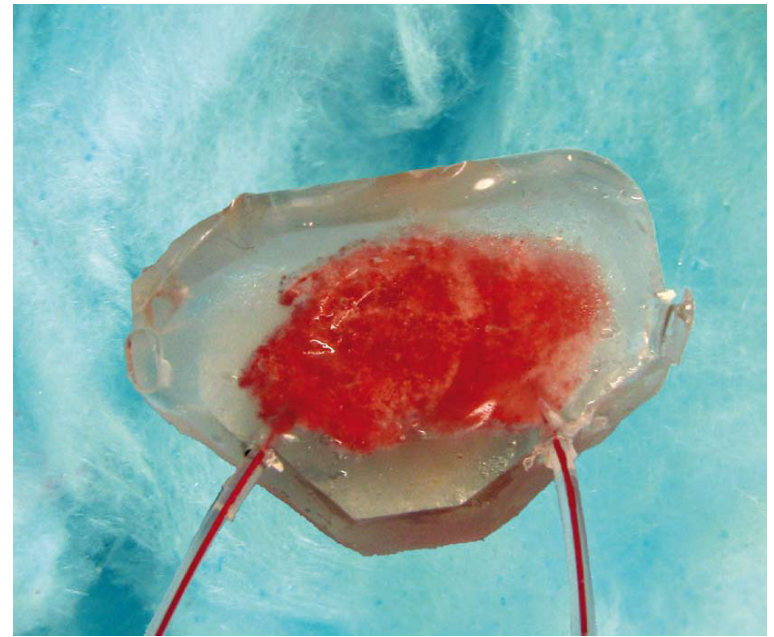


# Biological Relevance

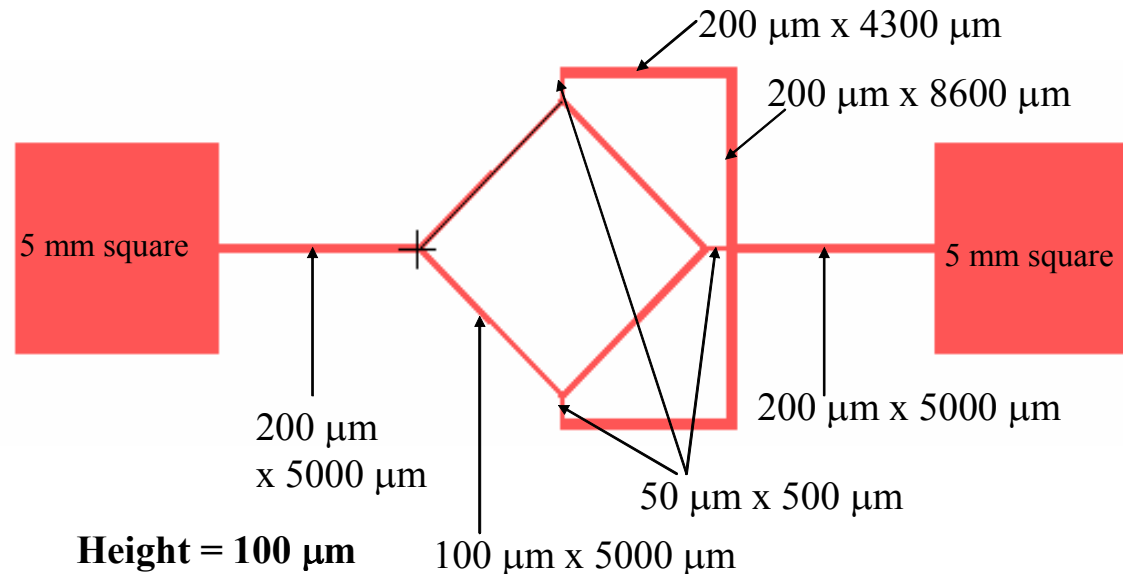
- Stroke
  - Interruption in blood supply to the brain caused by ischemia (insufficient blood flow) due to a blockage (blood clot, thrombus, embolism)
- Atherosclerosis
  - Narrowing of blood vessels due to build-up of fatty deposits
  - Leads to hypertension, which in turn exacerbates atherosclerosis
    - High blood pressure causes distension of vessels, which damages endothelium lining, which in turn attracts more fatty deposits

# Microfluidic analogs of vascular system

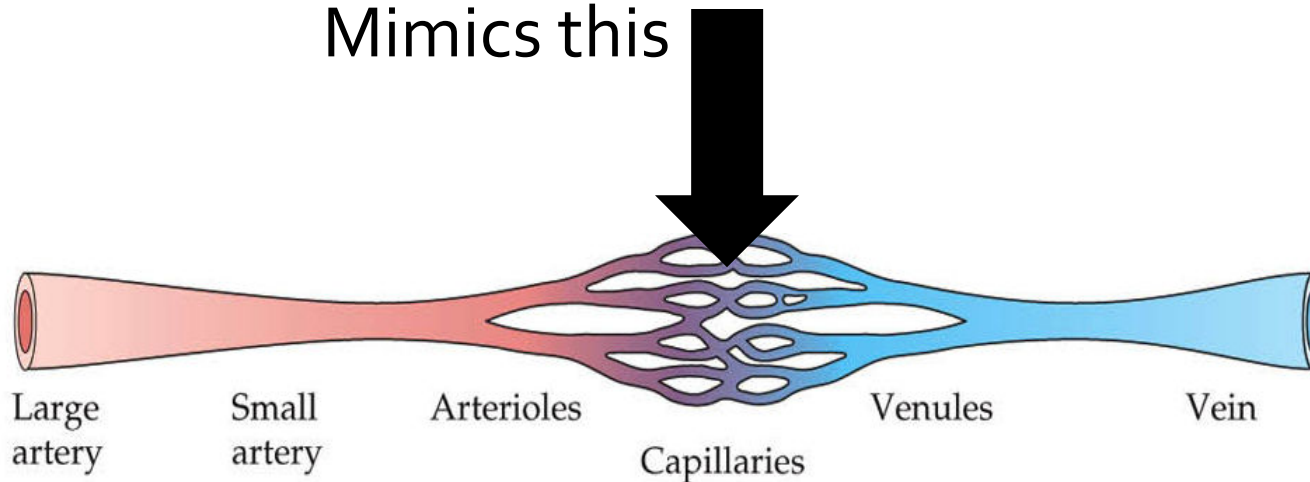
- 2008 – Harvard – investigated process of vasoocclusion (in sickle cell anemia patients) looking at geometrical, physical, chemical, biological factors that contribute
  - Channel width, total pressure difference across network, oxygen levels
  - Timed how long before an occlusion occurred
- 2008 – Cornell – created 3D vascular network using strands of molten sugar (cotton candy)
  - Sugar as sacrificial layer



# Your Microfluidic Device



Mimics this

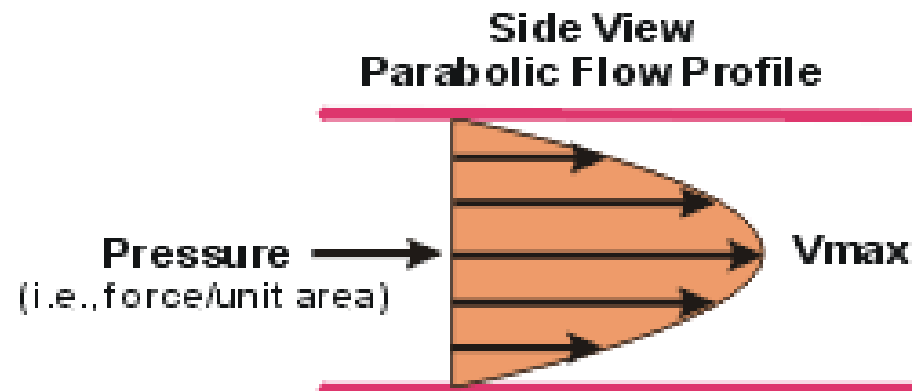


# Particle Velocimetry

- Technique to qualitatively visualize and quantitatively assess fluid flow
  - Small tracer particles (beads) are added to fluid
  - Velocity of beads assumed to be same as velocity of surrounding fluid
  - Special buffer solution used to prevent beads from aggregating / adhering to channel surfaces

# Note on Bead Motion

- In pressure-driven flow, velocity profile of fluid is parabolic
- $v$  max in center
- $v$  min near walls
- Be systematic: observe same location or take same number of beads from each location before and after blockage!





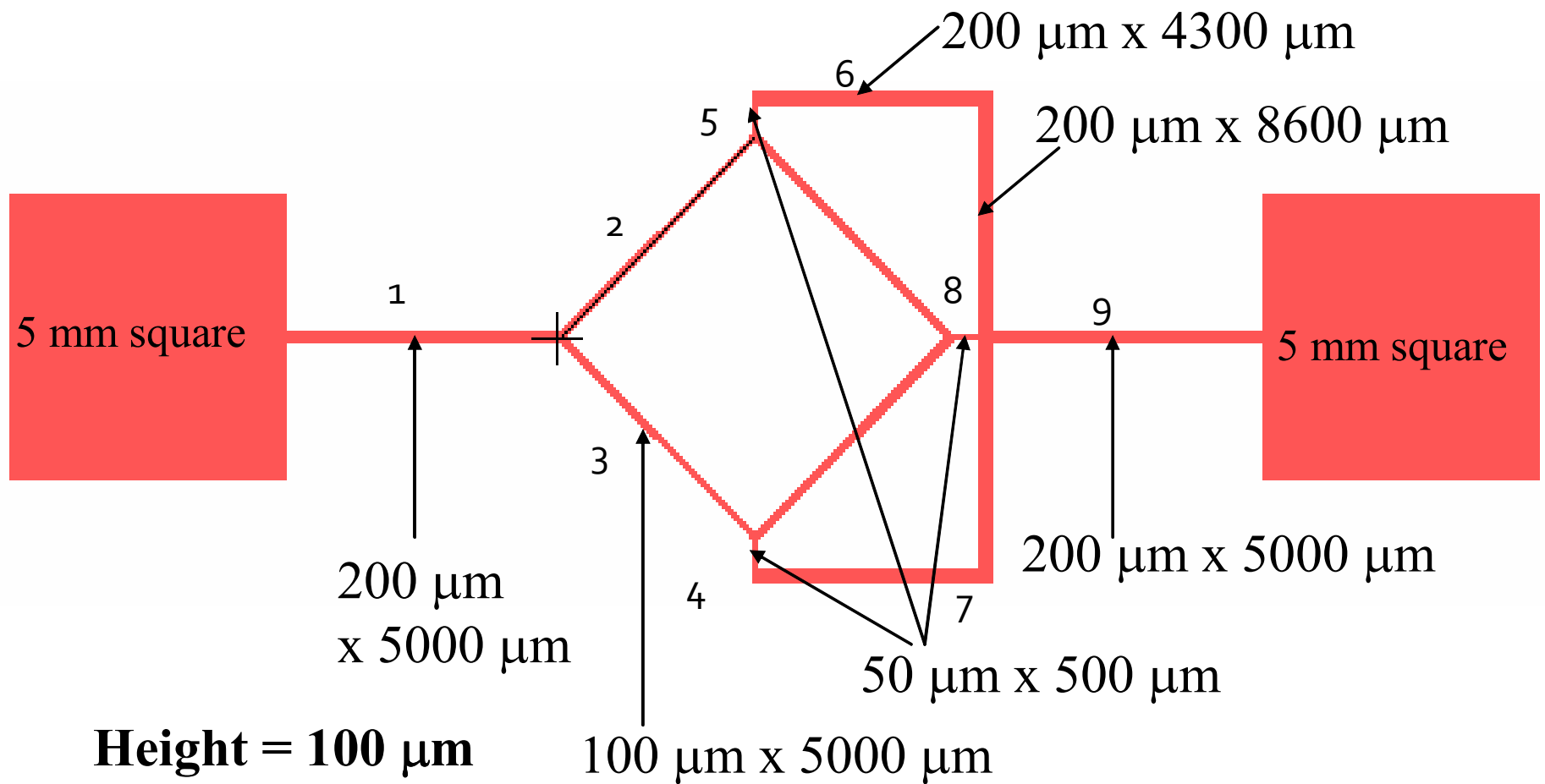
# Procedure: Before Clot

- PDMS devices made for you
- Fill syringe with bead (10um dia.) solution
- Connect needle to syringe
- Connect tubing to needle
- Place syringe in syringe pump
- Flow @ 50uL/min to flush out bubbles
- Reduce flow rate to 2uL/min
- Capture series of images to track beads in each channel of device
  - $V = d/t$

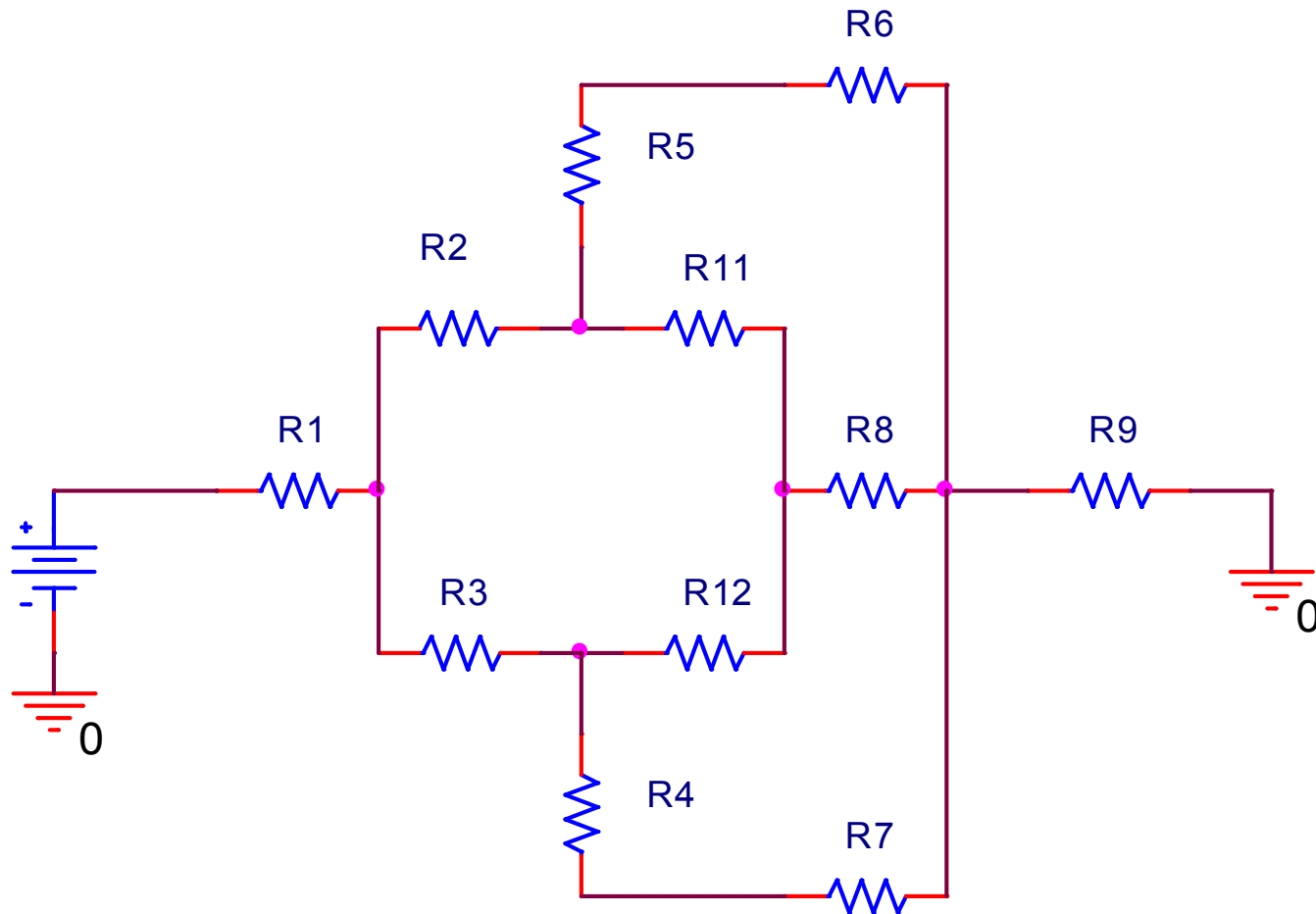
# Procedure: Clot

- Disconnect device from pump
- Using empty syringe, introduce air to dry device
- Punch hole in desired channel with punch
- Remove plug of PDMS
- Inject sealant to block channel
- Cure @ 60C for 10min
- Repeat process: track beads in each channel

# How Many Channels?



# Circuit representation of microvascular chip



# Results and Data Analysis Expected

- Average velocity for each channel before blockage
- Average velocity for each channel after blockage
- Prediction of flow pattern after channel blockage
- Bead Motion Analysis:
  - Want to track at least 10 beads in each channel
  - Track beads in each channel over several frames
  - Not interested in instantaneous velocity of beads (changes from frame to frame)
  - Interested in average velocity (total distance traveled / time observed)
  - Bin data to generate histogram (data partitioned into intervals and frequency of occurrence plotted)

# Report Guidelines – SHEN/BRUCE

# Background

- In analyzing a microfluidic device, it is useful to make an analogy to an electrical circuit:
  - Pressure → Voltage (Ground = reference potential → same pressure)
  - Flow Rate → Current
  - Hydraulic Resistance → Electrical Resistance (each channel gets represented by resistor)
    - $R = C_{\text{geometry}} * L / A^2$
    - For channel with square cross section:
      - $R = 12\mu L / [(w^2)(h^2)]$

Special cases:

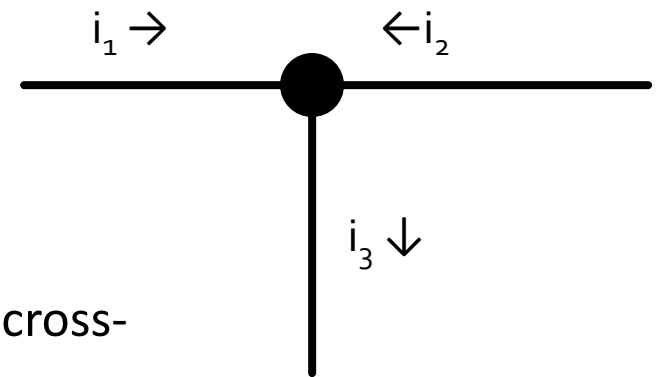
Open circuit = infinite resistance

Short circuit = zero resistance

In this lab, blocking a channel is equivalent to an open circuit = zero flow

# Analysis: Circuit Analog

- Can employ circuit analysis techniques and rules like Ohm's law, KCL, KVL to facilitate analysis
- Ohm's Law:
  - $V = iR$
  - Pressure = Volumetric Flow Rate \* Channel Resistance
  - Volumetric flow rate = average linear velocity \* cross-sectional area of channel
- KCL:
  - Conservation of charge  $\rightarrow$  conservation of mass:
    - Flow rate into a node MUST equal flow rate out of that node
    - Nothing collects at node
- KVL:
  - Conservation of energy
  - Sum of voltage drops around a closed loop equals zero



Convention:

Define flow into node as + and flow out of node as -

$$i_1 + i_2 - i_3 = 0$$

$$i_3 = i_1 + i_2$$



# Pressure Drop Along Channel

Equation valid only if  $w \gg h$

$$\Delta P = \left( \frac{-12\mu Q L}{wh^3} \right) \mapsto \text{rectangular channel}$$

$\Delta P$  – pressure drop

$\mu$  – dynamic viscosity

$Q$  – volume flow rate

$L$  – channel length

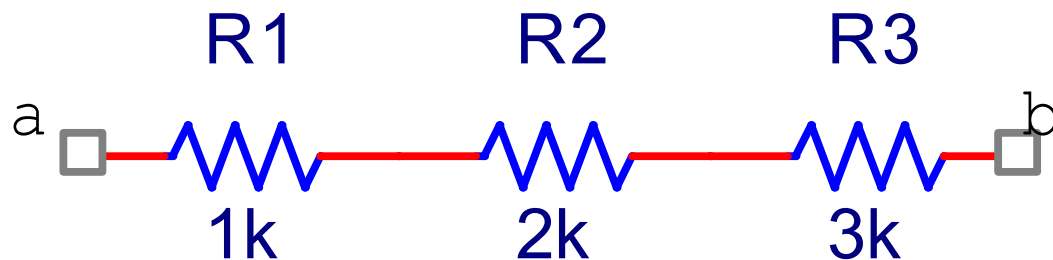
$w$  – channel width

$h$  – channel height

# Circuit Analysis

- Resistances are either in series or parallel, except for when they're not

# Resistors in Series



$$R_T = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 =$$
$$1000 + 2000 + 3000 =$$
$$6000 \text{ ohm}$$

Sum is ALWAYS  
greater than any single  
resistance

**Same current through  
each one**

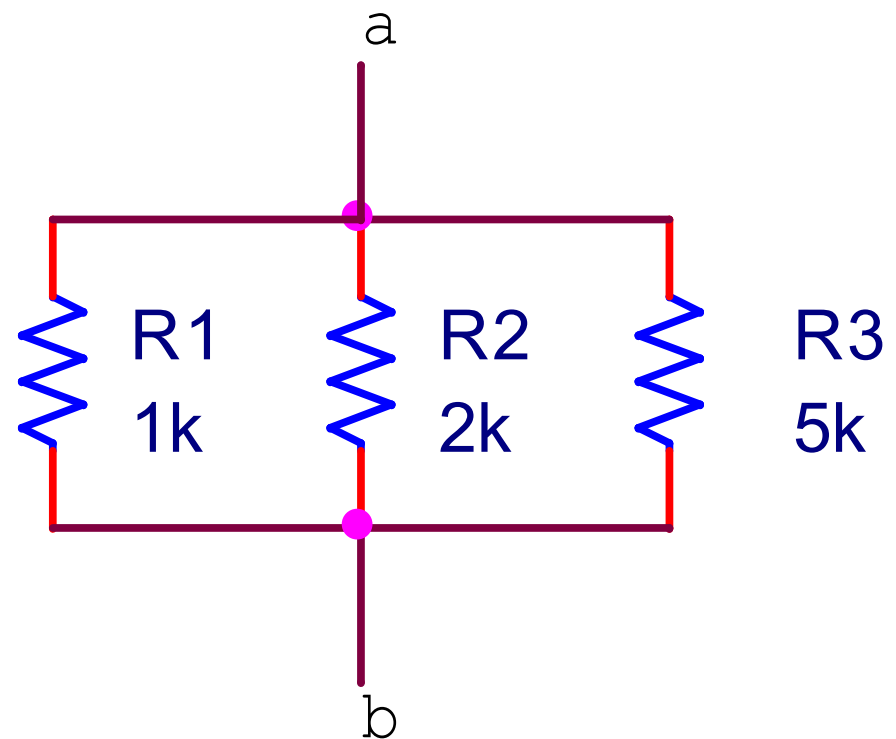
# Resistors in Parallel

$$R_T = 1 / (1/R_1 + 1/R_2 + 1/R_3) =$$
$$1 / (1/1000 + 1/2000 + 1/3000)$$
$$= 545 \text{ ohm}$$

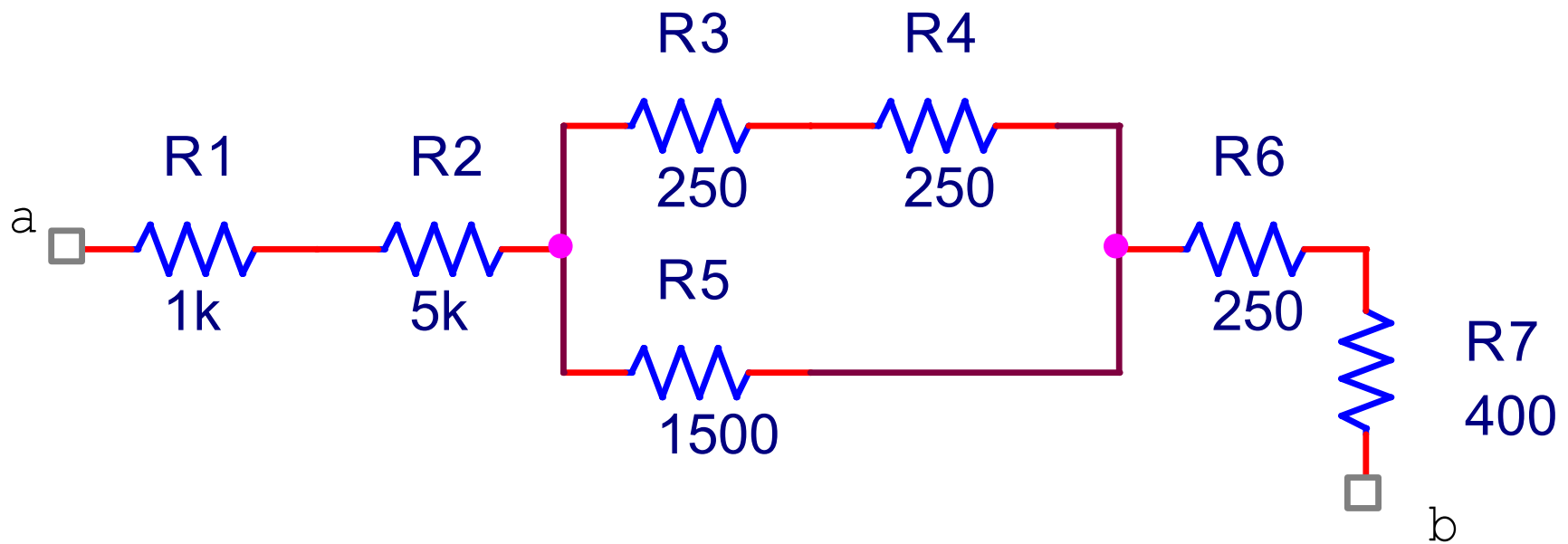
Sum is ALWAYS less than any single resistance

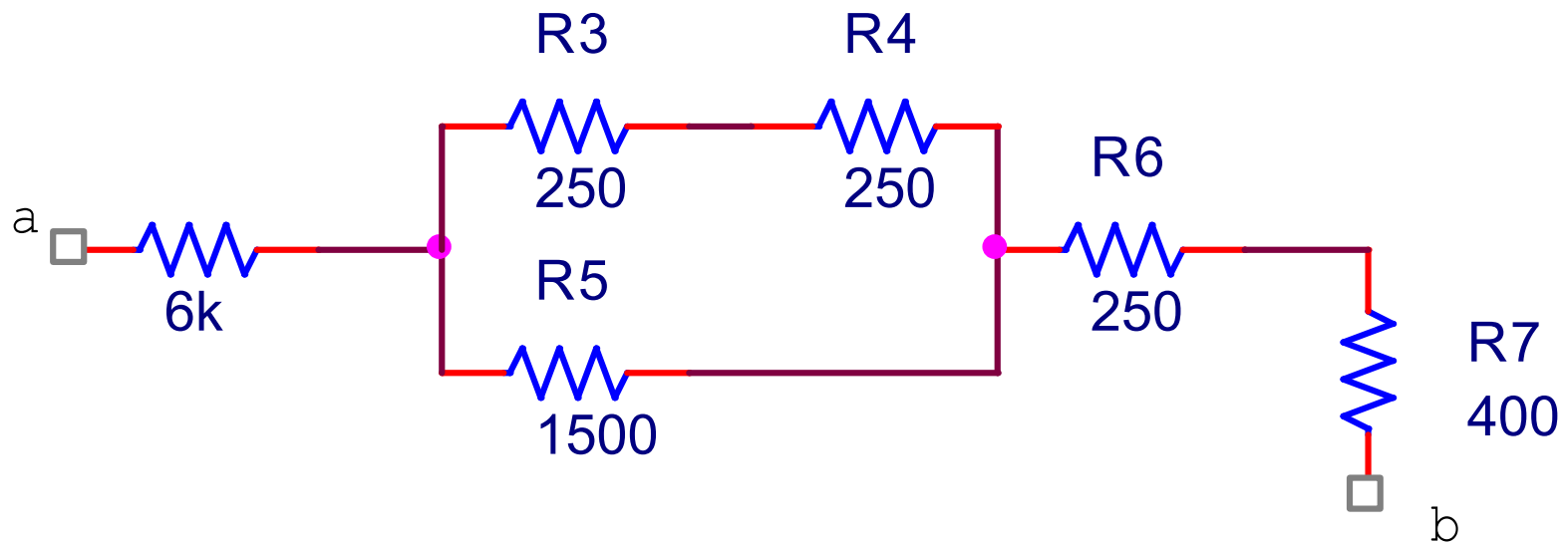
Special Case: 2 in parallel:  
 $R_T = R_1 * R_2 / (R_1 + R_2)$

**Same voltage across each one**

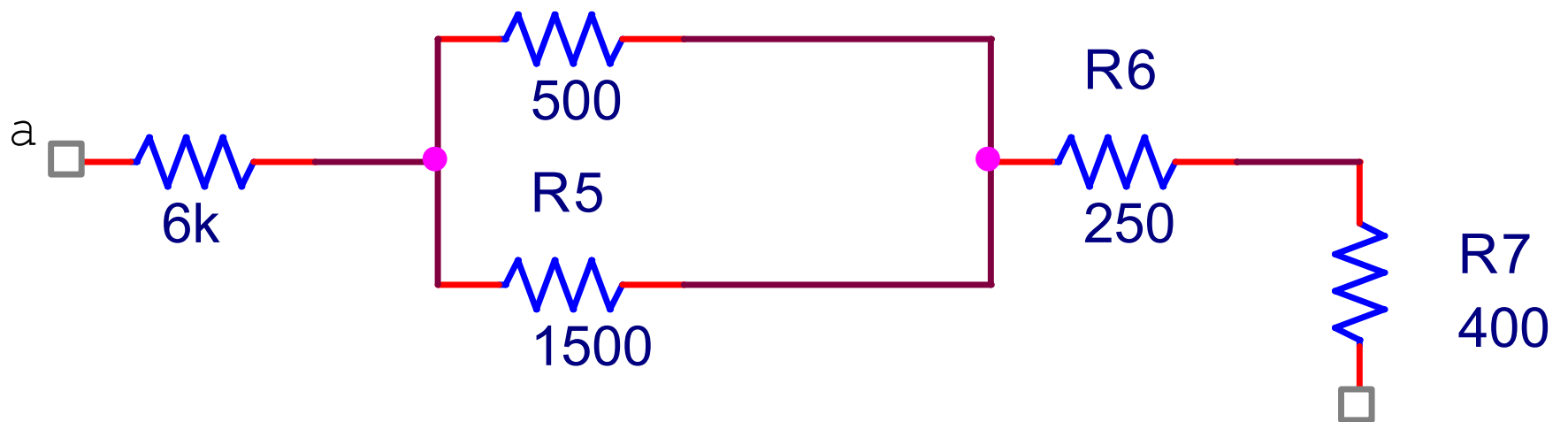


# Example: Resistance Network

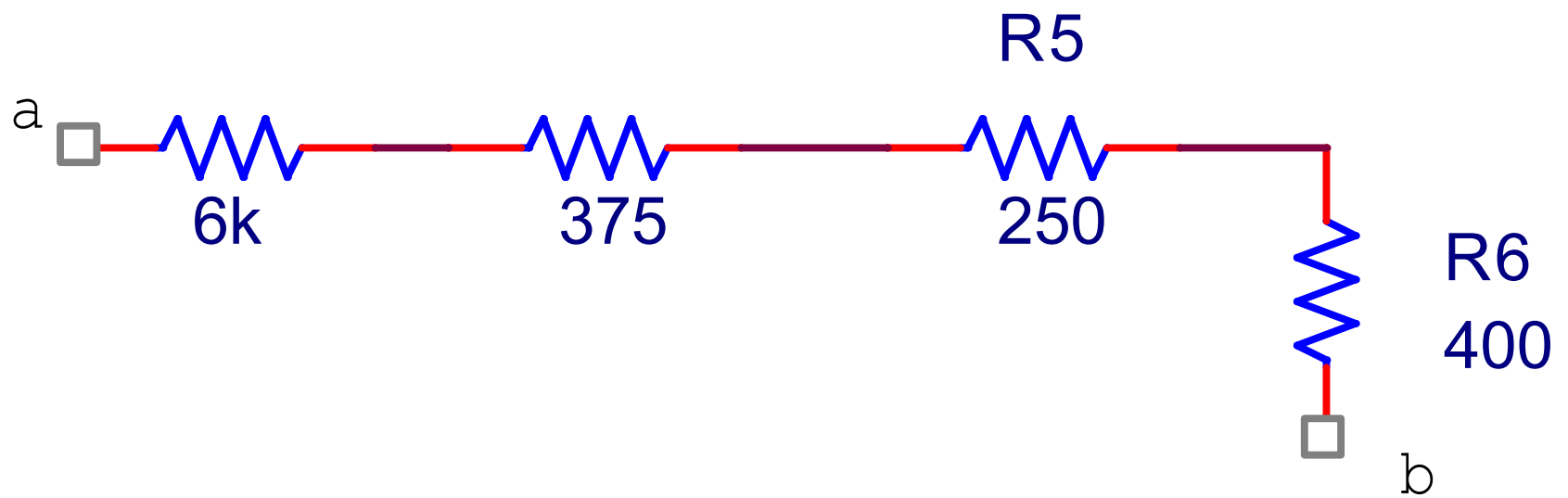




1.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  in series = 6k

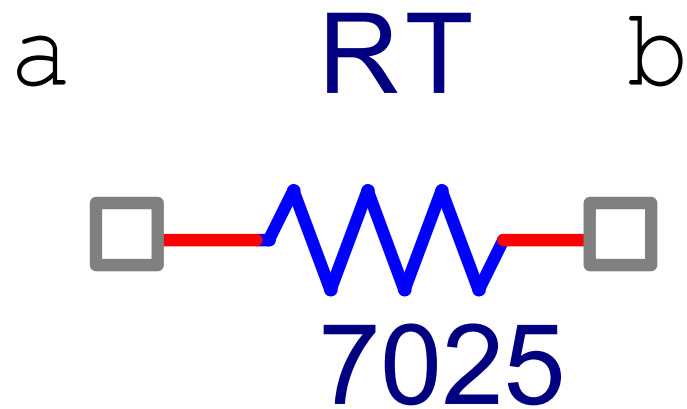


2.  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  in series = 500 ohm



3. 500 ohm in parallel with 1500 ohm = 375 ohm



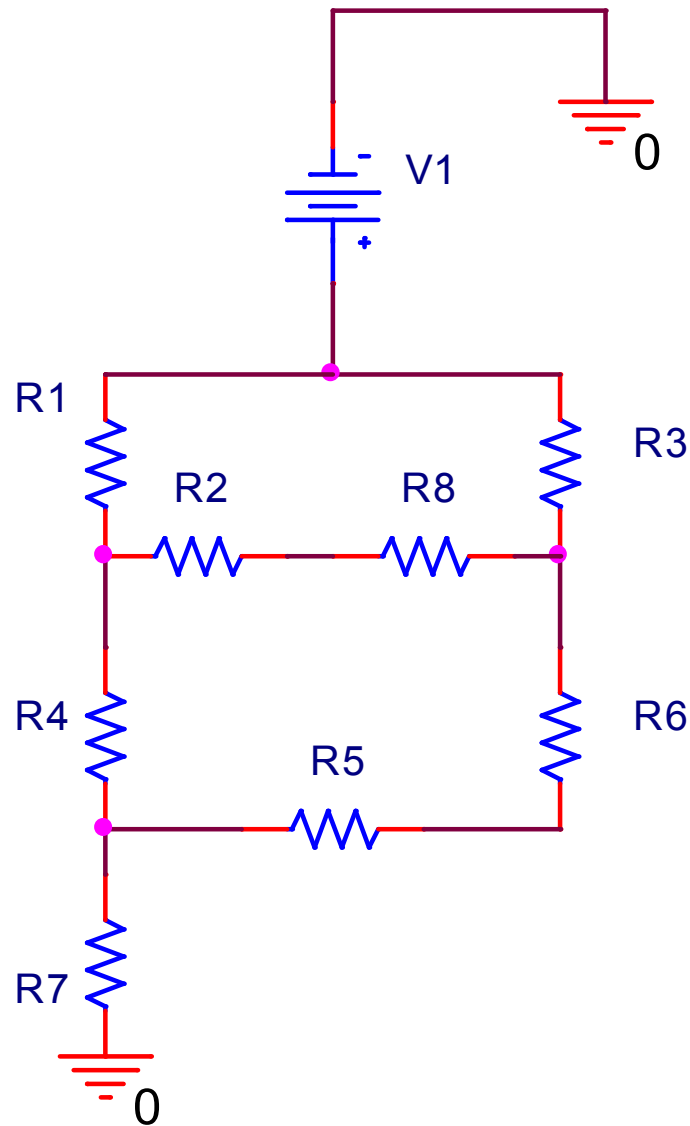


Remaining resistors in series =  $6000 + 375 + 250 + 400 = 7025$  ohm

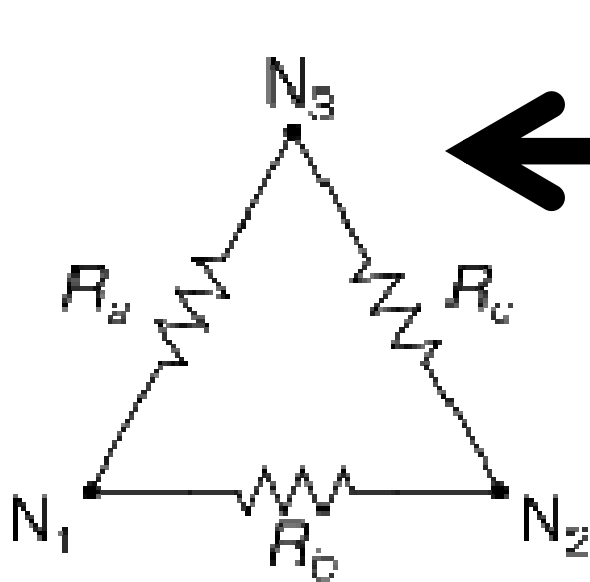
# Special Case: Delta-to-Wye ( $\Delta$ -toY) Transformation

- Used when resistors are neither in series nor parallel
- How to identify this case:
  - Sometimes two resistors look like they are in parallel but they really aren't
  - Ask: do they share nodes at both terminals?
    - If yes, they are in parallel
    - If no, they aren't

# Delta-to-Wye ( $\Delta$ -to-Y) Transformation



# Delta-to-Wye ( $\Delta$ -to-Y) Transformation

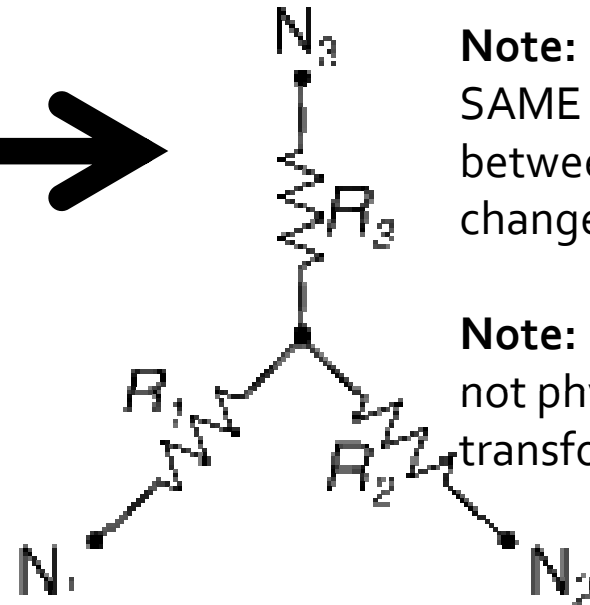


Equations for the transformation from  $\Delta$ -load to Y-load

$$R_1 = \frac{R_a R_b}{R_a + R_b + R_c},$$

$$R_2 = \frac{R_b R_c}{R_a + R_b + R_c},$$

$$R_3 = \frac{R_a R_c}{R_a + R_b + R_c}.$$



**Note:** Nodes remain SAME, connections between nodes changes

**Note:** Mathematical not physical transformation

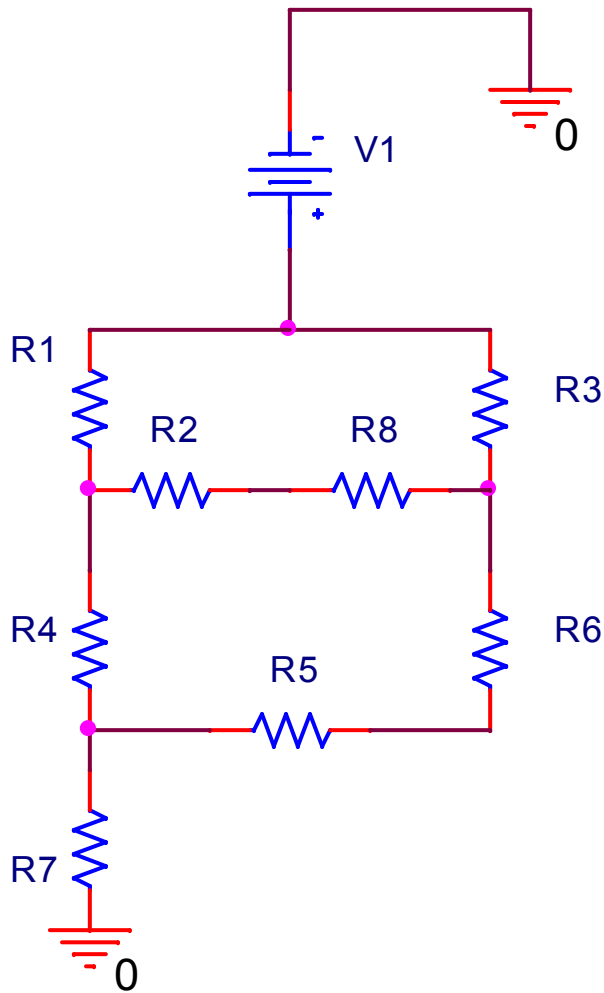
Equations for the transformation from Y-load to  $\Delta$ -load

$$R_a = \frac{R_1 R_2 + R_2 R_3 + R_3 R_1}{R_2},$$

$$R_b = \frac{R_1 R_2 + R_2 R_3 + R_3 R_1}{R_3},$$

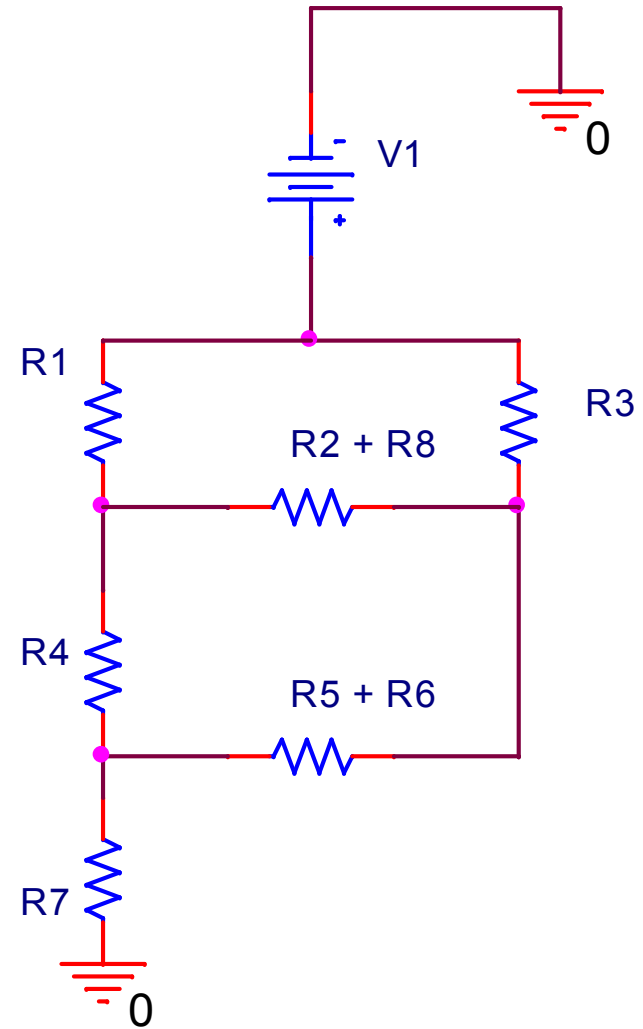
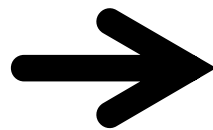
$$R_c = \frac{R_1 R_2 + R_2 R_3 + R_3 R_1}{R_1}.$$

# Example

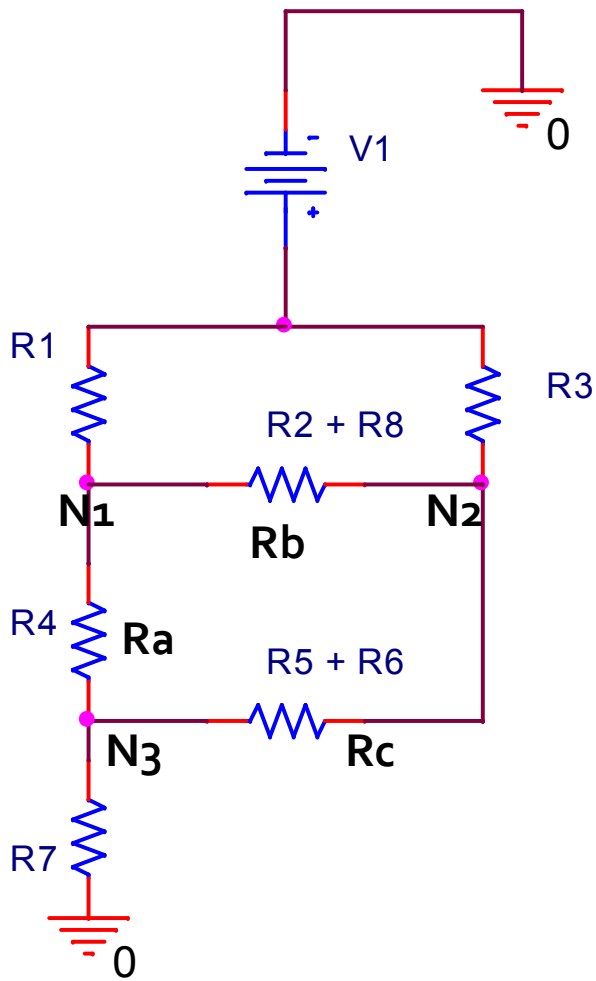


1. Realize that this network can't be simplified just through series and parallel simplifications

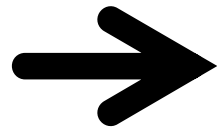
2. See  $R_2$  and  $R_8$  in series, and  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  in series



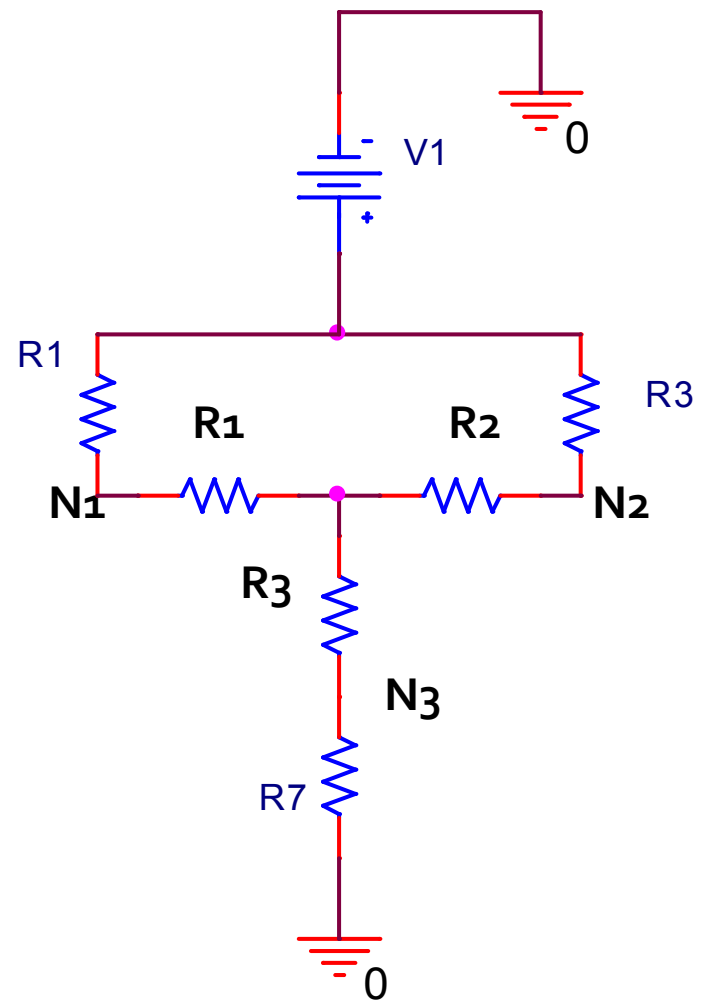
# Example



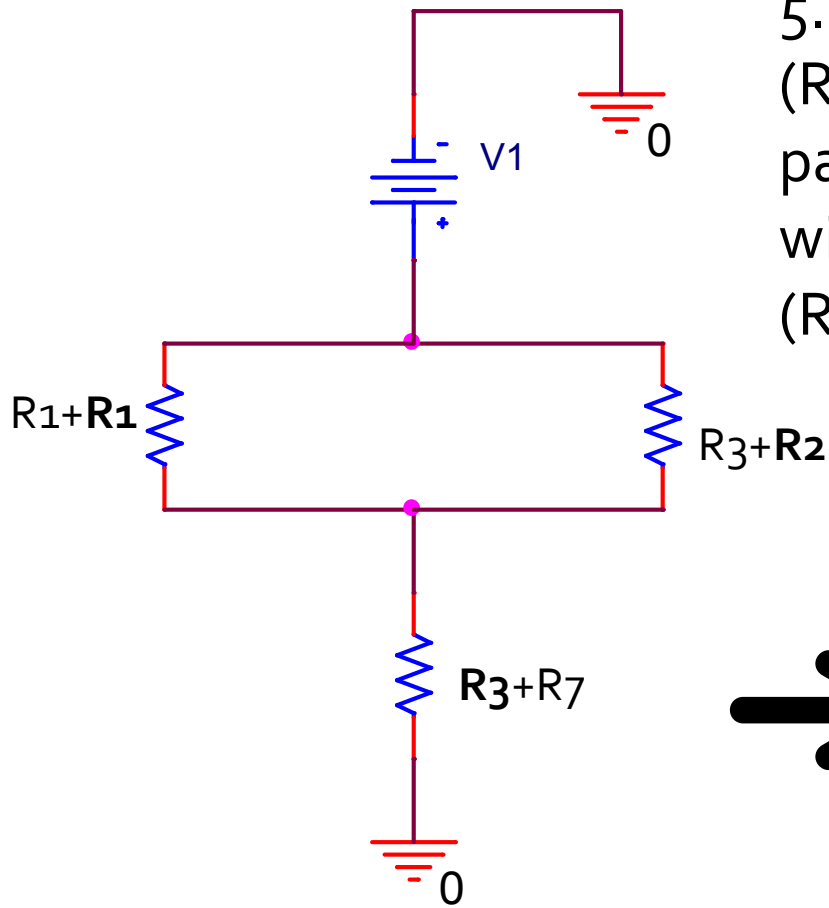
3. See that  $(R_2+R_8)$ ,  $(R_5+R_6)$ , and  $R_4$  are in a delta configuration and that further analysis can be promoted by converting to wye configuration



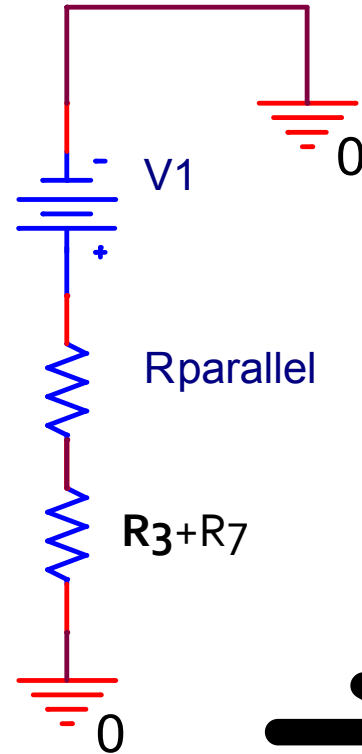
4. See  $R_1$  in series with  $R_1$  and  $R_3$  in series with  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  in series with  $R_7$



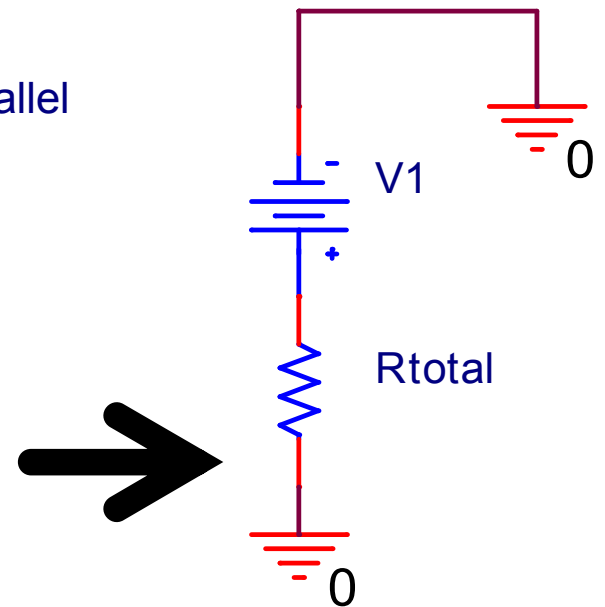
# Example



5. See  $(R_1+R_1)$  in parallel with  $(R_3+R_2)$



6. See  $R_{parallel}$  in series with  $(R_3+R_7)$

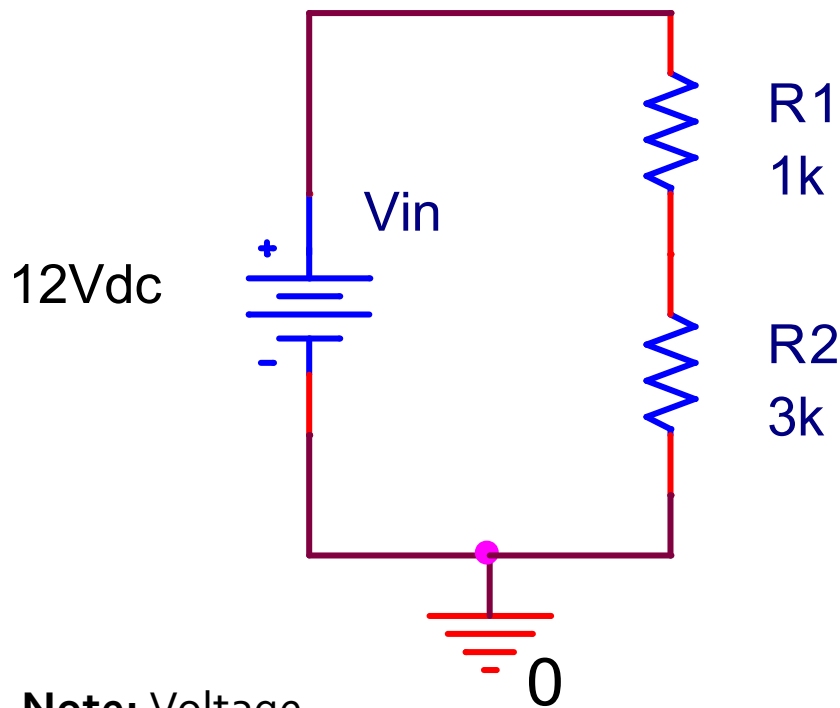


# Voltage Divider

- **Key Idea:** The voltage that appears across a resistor – “dropped across it” – is proportional to the resistance
- Intuitive: If two resistors are in series, we expect that the one with more resistance will see the majority of the voltage
  - Since resistors in series have the same current through them, we can expect the component with greater resistance will “consume” most of the voltage



# Voltage Divider



**Note:** Voltage Divider Equation is simply a proportion!

## Voltage Divider Equation:

$$V_{R_2} = V_{in} * R_2 / (R_1 + R_2) =$$
$$12 * 3 / (3 + 1) = 12V * 3 / 4 = 9V$$

$$V_{R_1} = V_{in} - V_{R_2} =$$
$$V_{in} * R_1 / (R_1 + R_2) =$$
$$12V * 1 / (1 + 3) = 12V * 1 / 4 = 3V$$

Could also solve using KVL

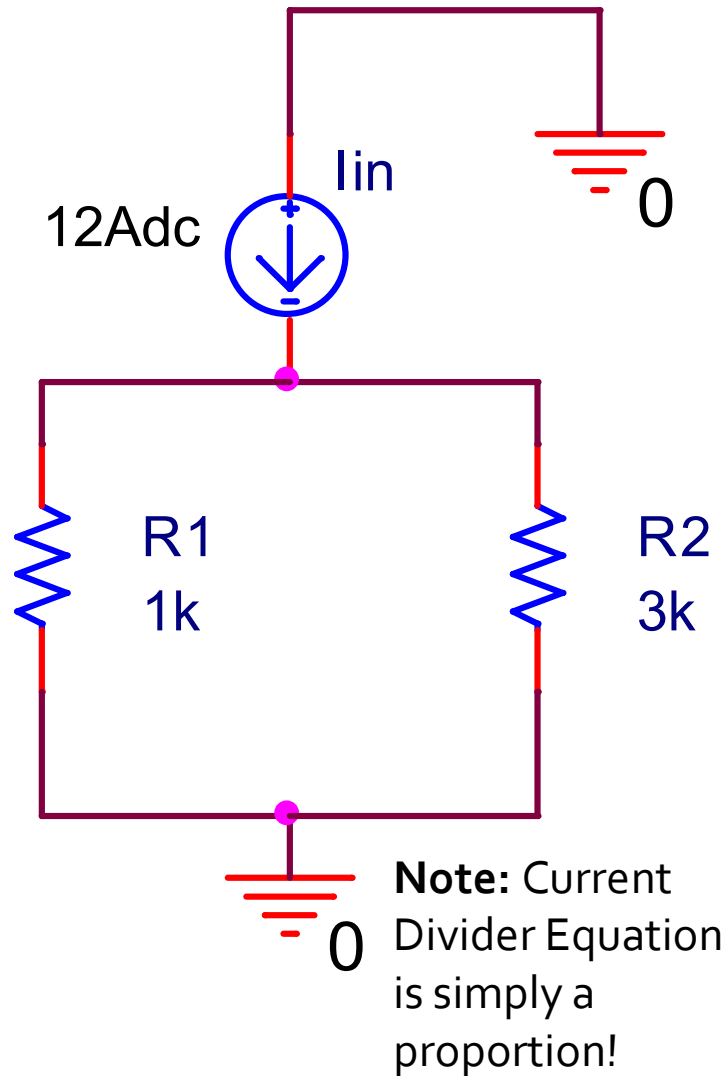
# Voltage Divider = Pressure Divider

- In a microfluidic network, same rule holds:
  - Channels with high resistances (shallow, narrow, long) will have large pressure drop across them
  - Channels with low resistances (tall, wide, short) will have small pressure drop across them

# Current Divider

- **Key Idea:** The current that flow through a resistor is inversely proportional to the resistance
- **Intuitive:** If two resistors are in parallel, we expect that most of the current will pass through the one with less resistance – “follow the path of least resistance”

# Current Divider



Current Divider Equation:

$$i_{R_1} = I_{in} * R_2 / (R_1 + R_2) = 12A * 3 / (1 + 3) = 9A$$

$$i_{R_2} = I_{in} * R_1 / (R_1 + R_2) = 12A * 1 / (1 + 3) = 3A$$

Could also solve using KCL:

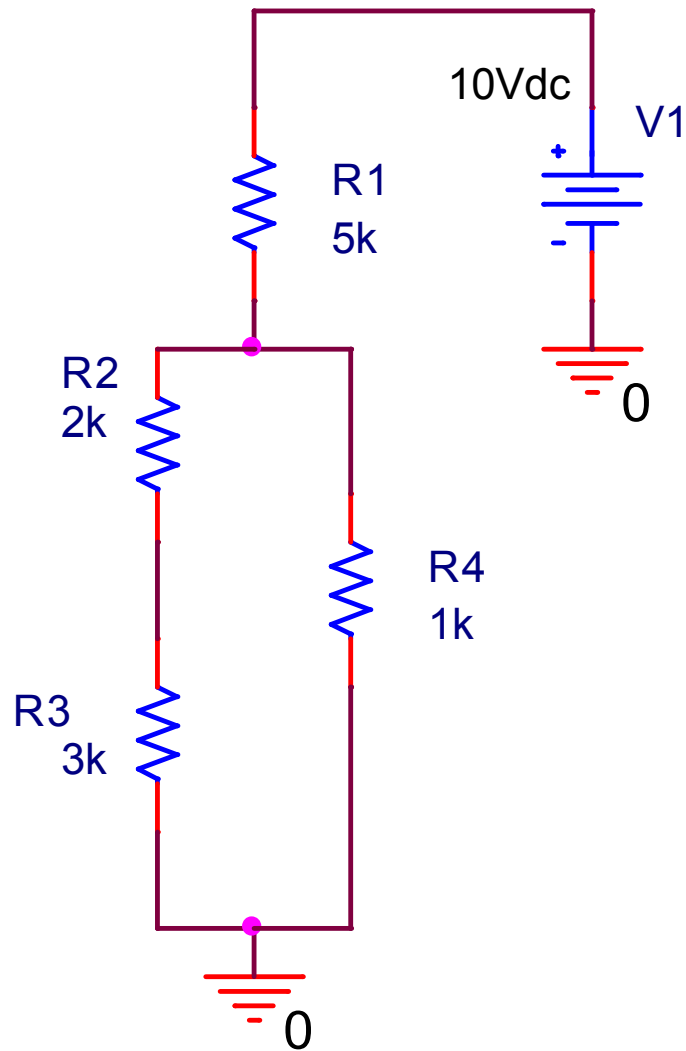
$$i_{R_2} = I_{in} - i_{R_1}$$

**Note:** Current Divider Equation is simply a proportion!

# Current Divider = Flow Divider

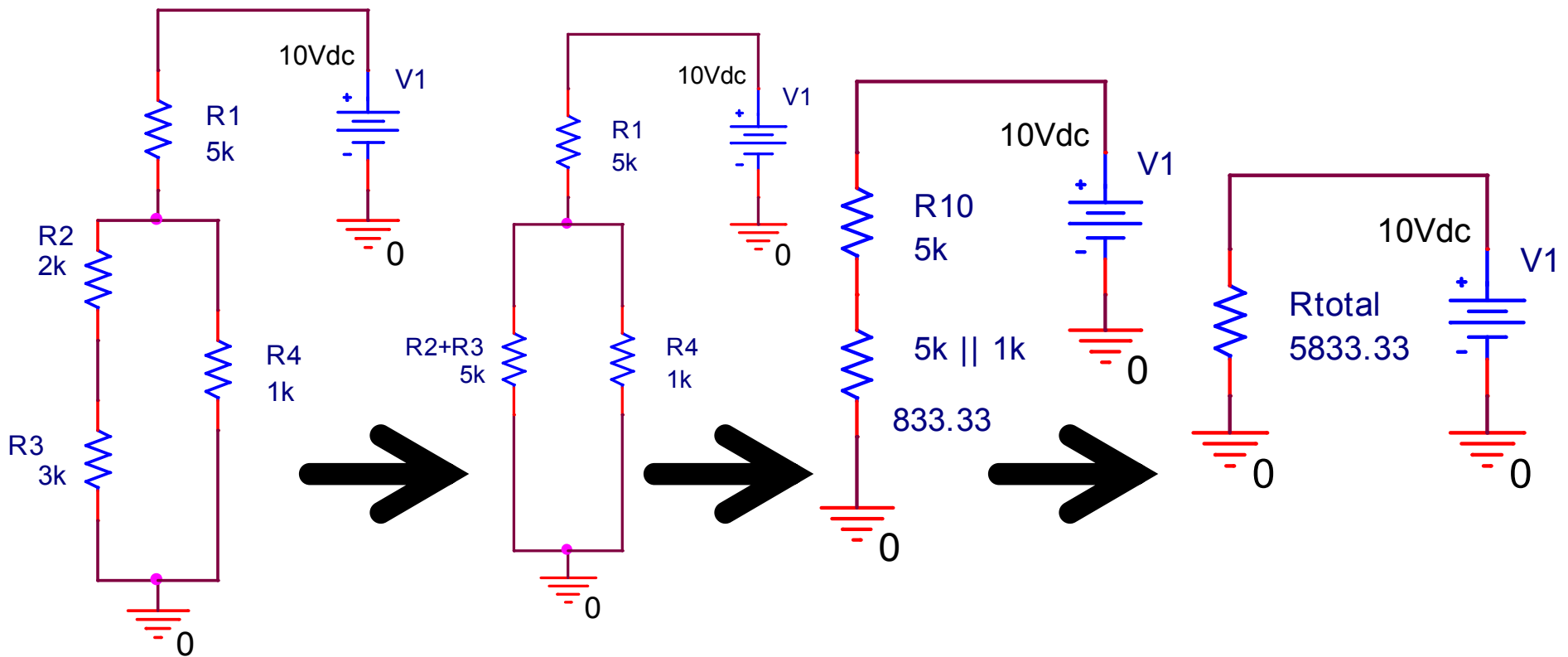
- In a microfluidic network, the same rule holds:
  - Channels with high resistances (shallow, narrow, long) will have small fluid flow through them
  - Channels with low resistances (tall, wide, short) will have large fluid flow through them

# Composite Example



Find current through each resistor and voltage drop across each resistor

# Solution: First, reduce to $R_{total}$



# Assignment

- Several questions related to your lab and to lecture content
- **Remember:** linear velocity = volumetric flow rate / cross-sectional area of channel



# Solution: Second, Find $i_T$

- Ohm's Law:
- $V=iR$
- $I_T = V/R_T = 10V/5833.33\Omega = 0.00171A = 1.71mA$

# Solution: Third, find I and V for each resistor

**Observation:** Current through  $R_1 = i_T$

**Ohm's Law:**

$$V = iR$$

$$VR_1 = i_T * R_1 = 1.71\text{mA} * 5\text{k}\Omega = 8.57\text{V}$$

**Observation:** V across  $(R_2 + R_3) = V$  across  $R_4$

$$\text{KVL: } V_{R4} = 10\text{V} - 8.57\text{V} = 1.43\text{V}$$

$$\text{Ohm's Law: } i_{R4} = V_{R4} / R_4 = 1.43\text{V} / 1\text{k}\Omega = 1.43\text{mA}$$

**Observation:**  $i_{R2} = i_{R3}$

$$\text{KCL: } i_{R2} = i_{R3} = i_{R1} - i_{R4} = 1.71\text{mA} - 1.43\text{mA} = .28\text{mA}$$

$$\text{Ohm's Law: } V_{R2} = .28\text{mA} * 2\text{k}\Omega = .56\text{V}$$

$$\text{Ohm's Law: } V_{R3} = .28\text{mA} * 3\text{k}\Omega = .84\text{V}$$