

Multi-Gas Sensors for Enhanced Reliability of SOFC Operation

DOE/NETL Cooperative Agreement: DE-FE0031653



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20th Annual SOFC Project Review Meeting, April 29 - May 01, 2019, Crystal City, Virginia, USA

Project goal and objectives

Goal:

to build gas sensors for in situ monitoring of H₂ and CO gases of SOFC systems

Objectives:

to achieve multi-gas monitoring capability with a single multivariable sensor and to achieve its long-term sensor performance

Real-time knowledge of H₂/CO ratio of anode tail gases:

will allow control of efficiency of reforming process in the SOFC system and will deliver a lower operating cost for SOFC customers

Project Team



GE Global Research

- Design rules for multivariable sensors
- Sensor fabrication with multi-material lamella
- Sensor-stability optimization



SUNY Polytechnic Institute

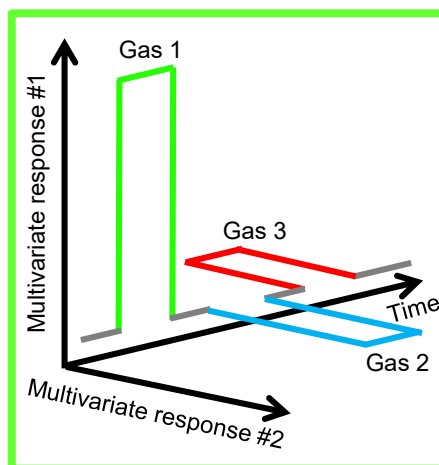
- Design rules for catalytic control of selectivity
- Sensor fabrication
- Characterization of sensing nanomaterials



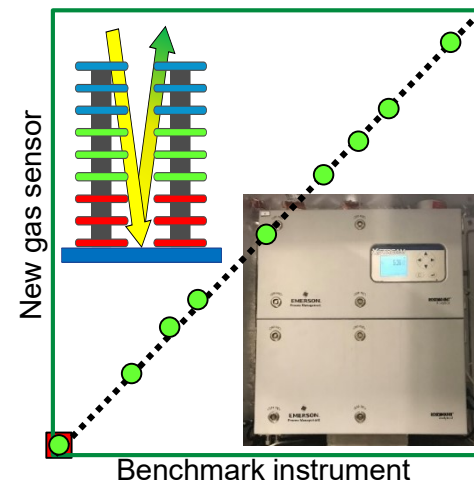
GE Fuel Cells

- Optimized sensor flange design
- Benchmark instrumentation
- Sensor validation on 20 kW SOFC

Multivariable Gas Sensor



Field Test Correlation



Status quo of conventional gas sensors

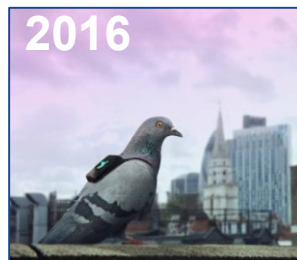
- Mature technologies
- Widely available
- Interchangeable
- Inexpensive



pre-sensor.com
alphasense.com
hub360.com.ng
engineersgarage.com
cooking-hacks.com
amphenol-sensors.com
aepacific.co.nz
mipex-tech.com



2009
<https://www.treehugger.com/clean-technology/air-quality-sensor-makes-a-fashion-statement.html>



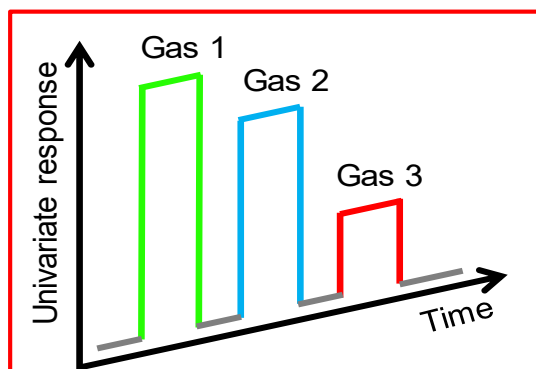
2016
<https://techcrunch.com/2017/01/03/plume-labs-flow-is-an-air-quality-tracker-to-avoid-pollution/>



2018
<https://plumelabs.com/en/>



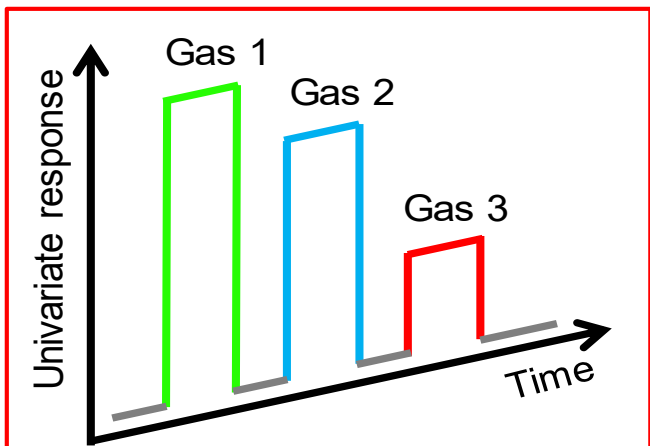
2019
<https://www.itri.org.tw/eng/>



The biggest headaches are caused by interfering chemicals
Lewis, Edwards, *Nature* 2016

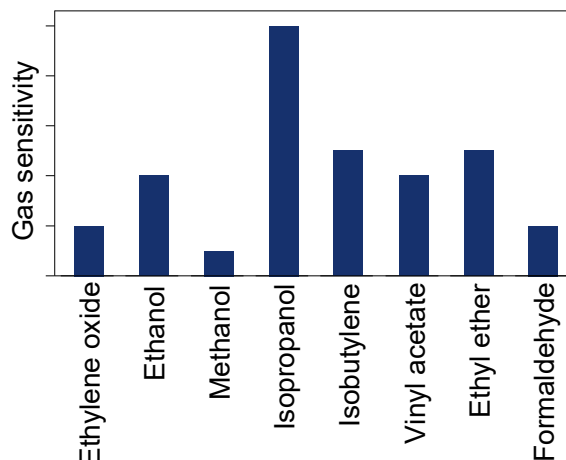
For the gas sensors revolution to take off, accuracy must improve

Gas cross-sensitivity of conventional gas sensors

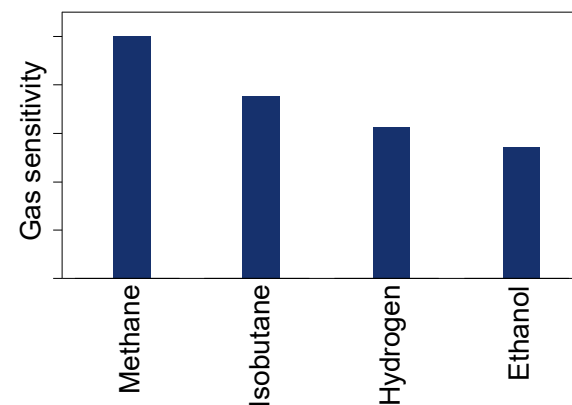


Potyrailo, *Chem. Rev.* 2016
 Potyrailo, *Chem. Soc. Rev.* 2017

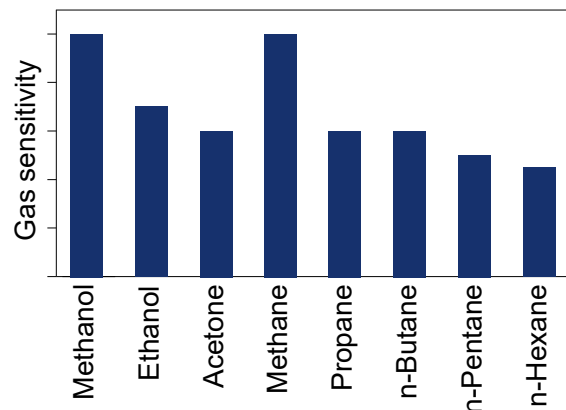
Electrochemical



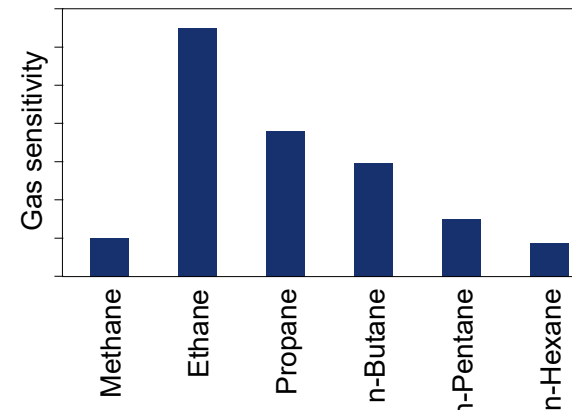
Metal oxide



Catalytic

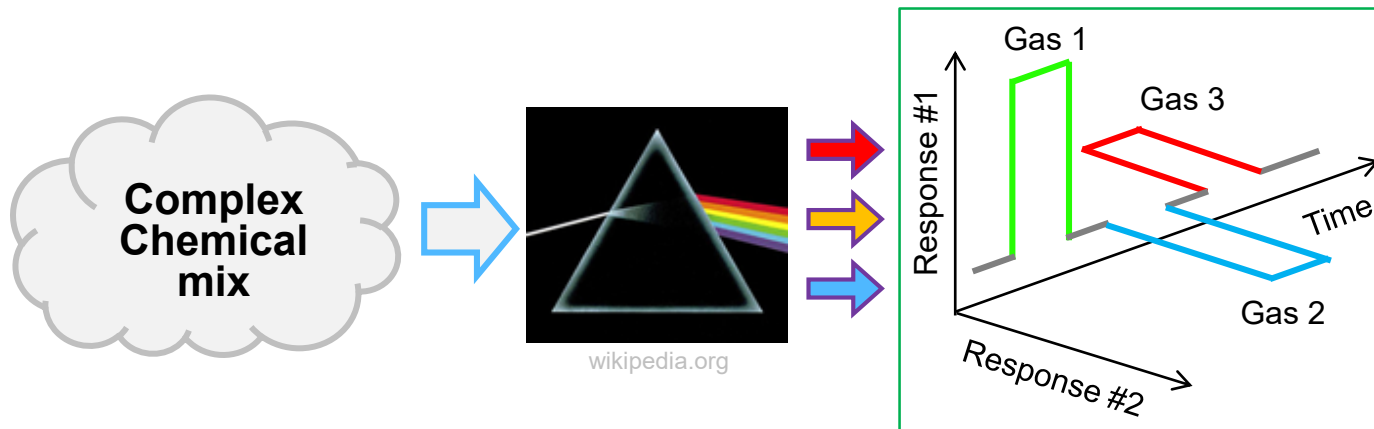


Non-dispersive IR



For the gas sensors revolution to take off, accuracy must improve

Mature gas-detection analytical technologies: accurate, multi-gas



Gas chromatography



afciintl.com

Mass spectrometry



Cooks, Purdue U.

Laser spectroscopy

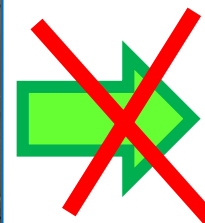


alliedscientificpro.com

Multi-detector system



emersonprocess.com



Field deployments in SOFC systems

Mature analytical technologies:
Significant technology accumulation is needed for their unobtrusive deployments

Our technical approach for multi-gas detection

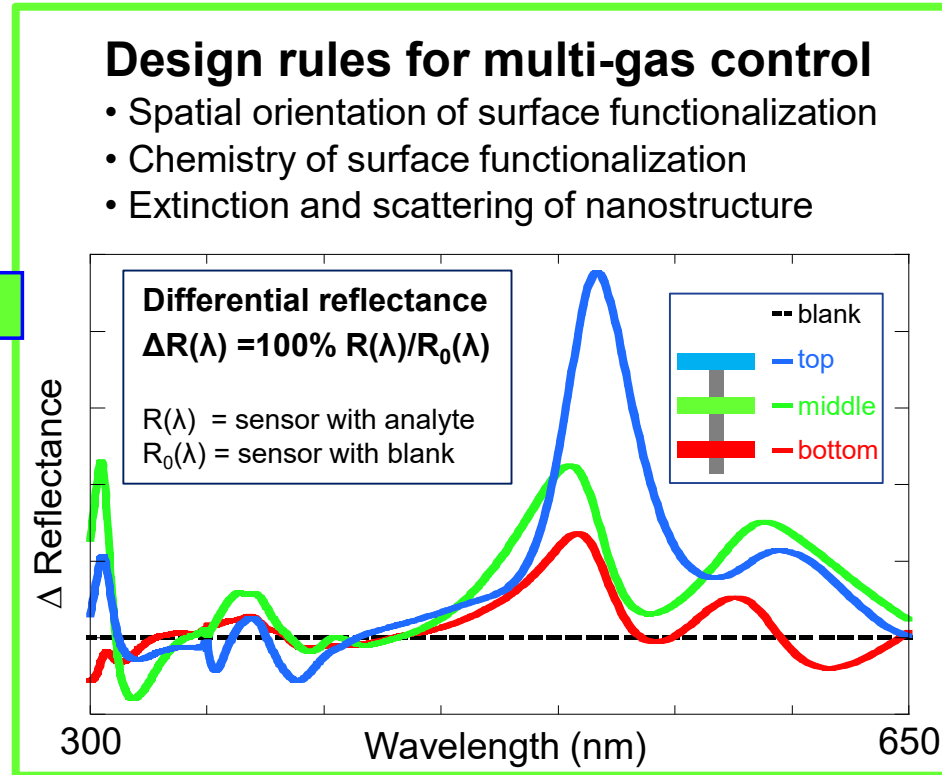
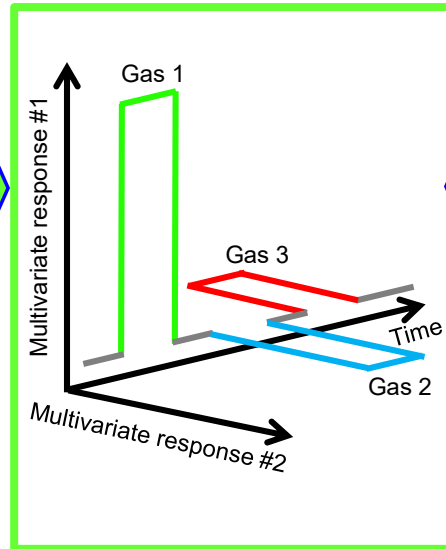
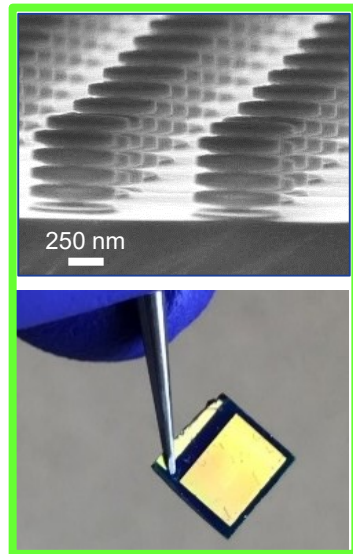
Bio-inspired multivariable photonic sensors:
sensors with several outputs for accurate detection of diverse gases

Our approach:
Multivariable
gas sensors

Performance need:
Multi-gas
discrimination

Design rules for multi-gas control

- Spatial orientation of surface functionalization
- Chemistry of surface functionalization
- Extinction and scattering of nanostructure

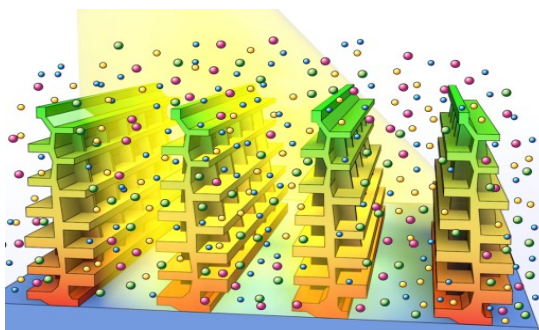


Potyrailo et al. *Nature Photonics* 2007
Potyrailo et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 2013
Potyrailo et al. *Nature Communications* 2015
Potyrailo, Carpenter, et al., *J. Opt.*, 2018

Solving existing need for real-time monitoring of H₂ and CO gases
with unobtrusive, cost-effective solution

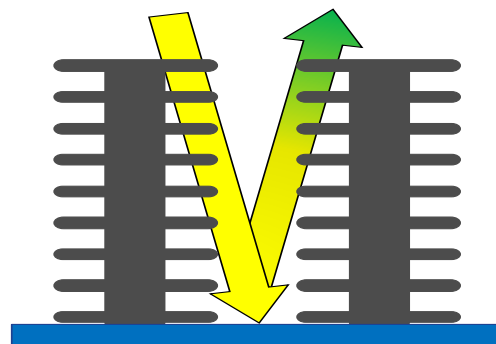
Advancing design rules of nanostructures for high temperature gas-sensing applications

Selectivity control for vapors at room temp.



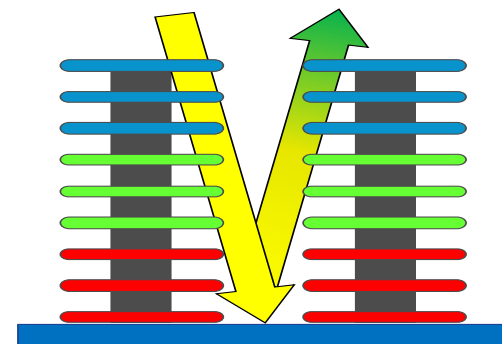
- Polymeric nanostructure
- Absorption and adsorption of vapors

Selectivity control for gases at high temp.



- Inorganic nanostructure
- Catalytic reactions of gases

Interference rejection control



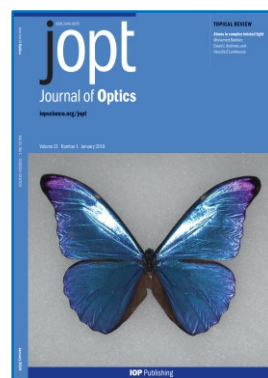
- Multi-material inorganic nanostructure
- Catalytic reactions of gases



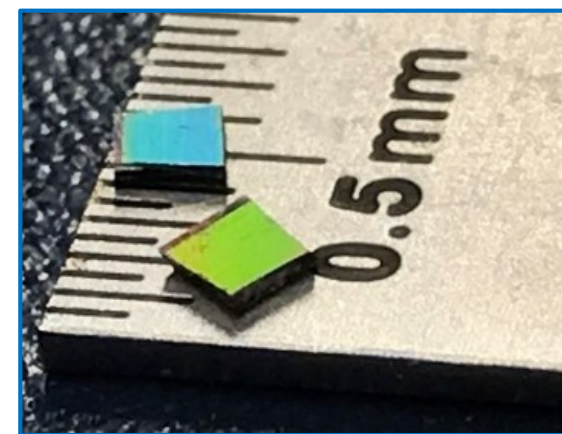
Potyrailo et al. *Nature Photonics* 2007



Potyrailo *Chem. Soc. Rev.* 2017

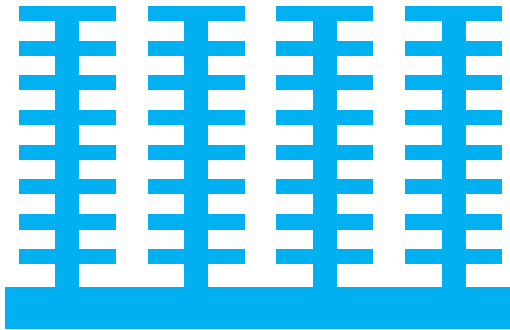


Potyrailo, Carpenter, et al., *J. Opt.* 2018



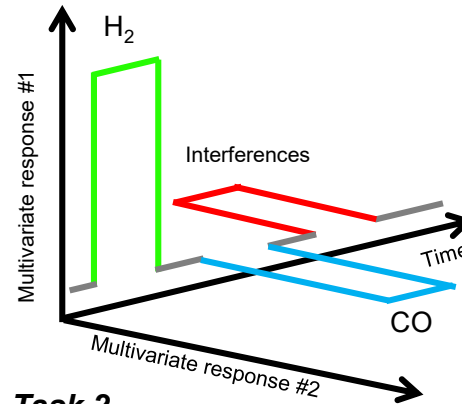
Technical tasks of the project

Fabrication of optical transducer



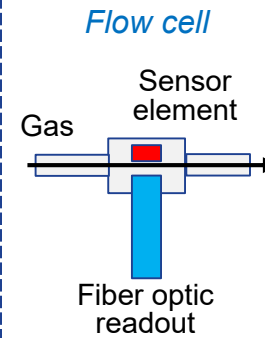
Task 1

Laboratory validation



Task 2

Field validation

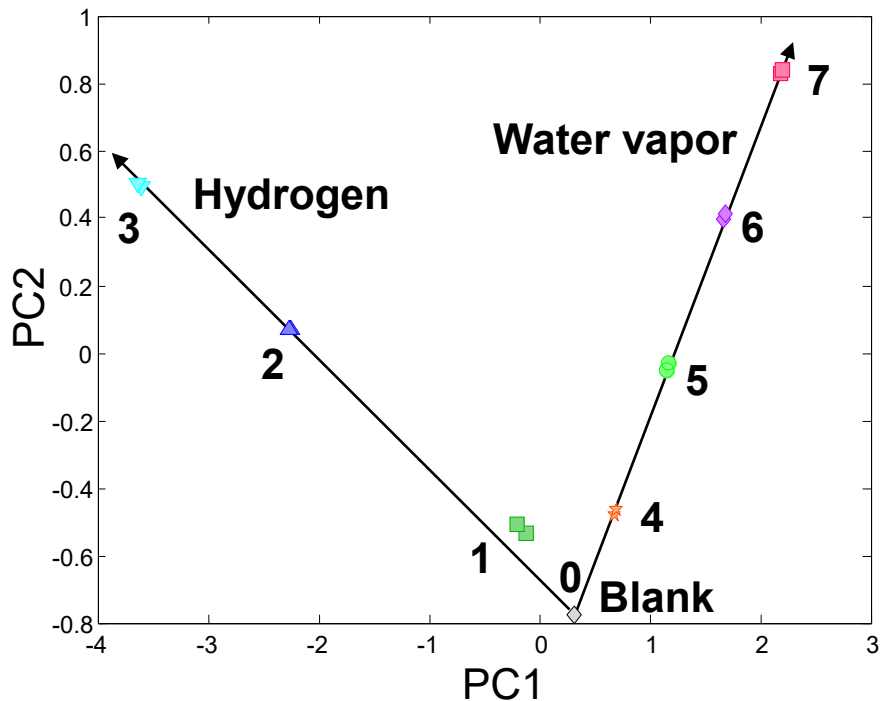


Task 3

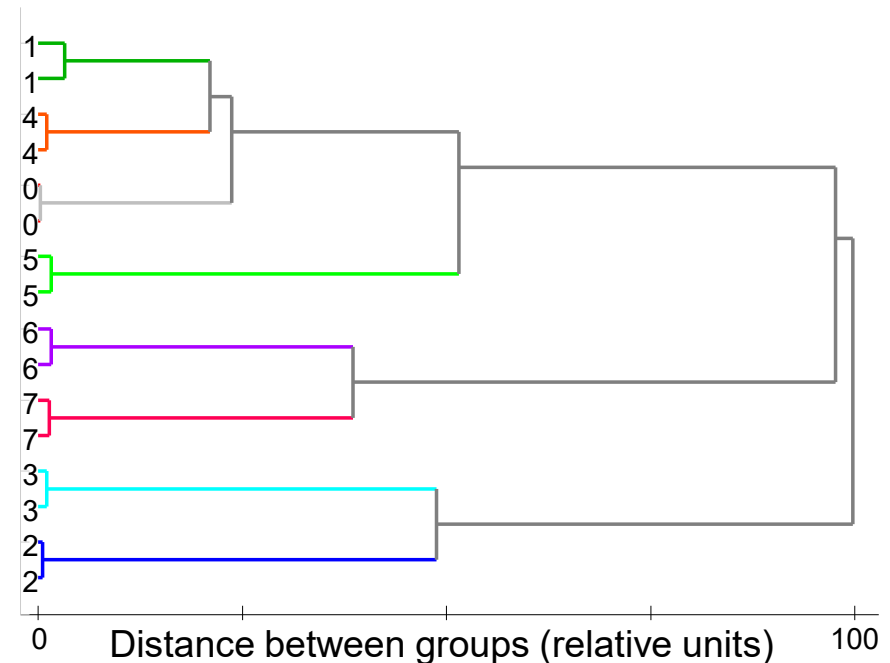


Example of sensor operation: Discrimination between hydrogen and water vapor

Principal components analysis



Hierarchical cluster analysis

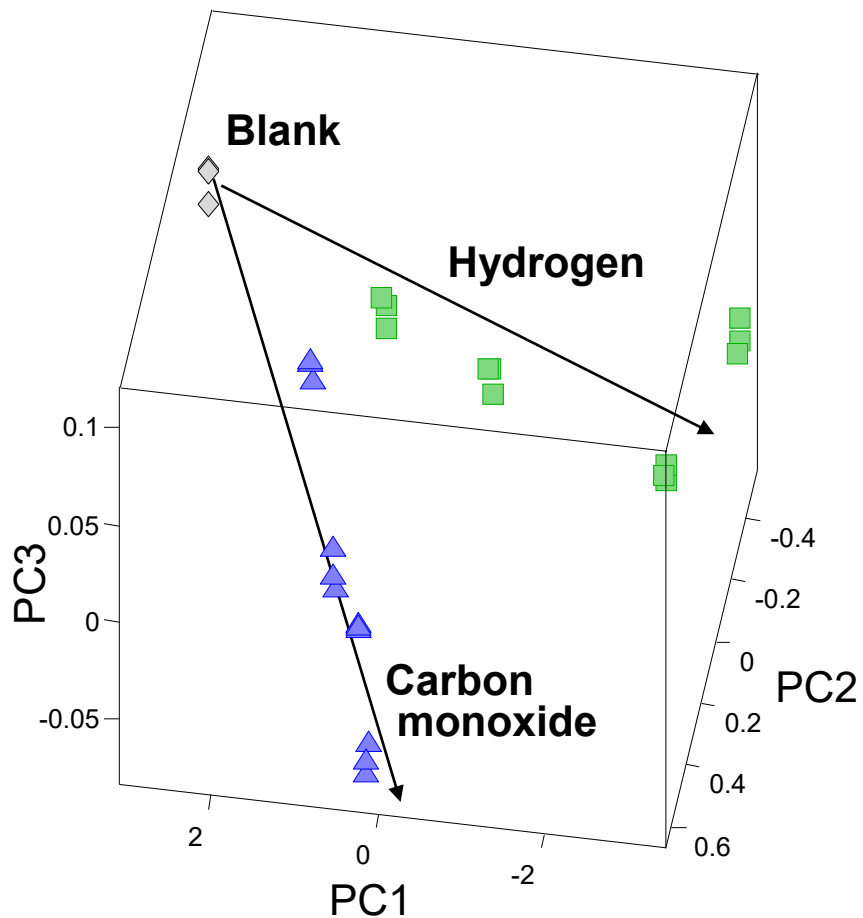


Resolution between individual concentrations of H_2 and H_2O

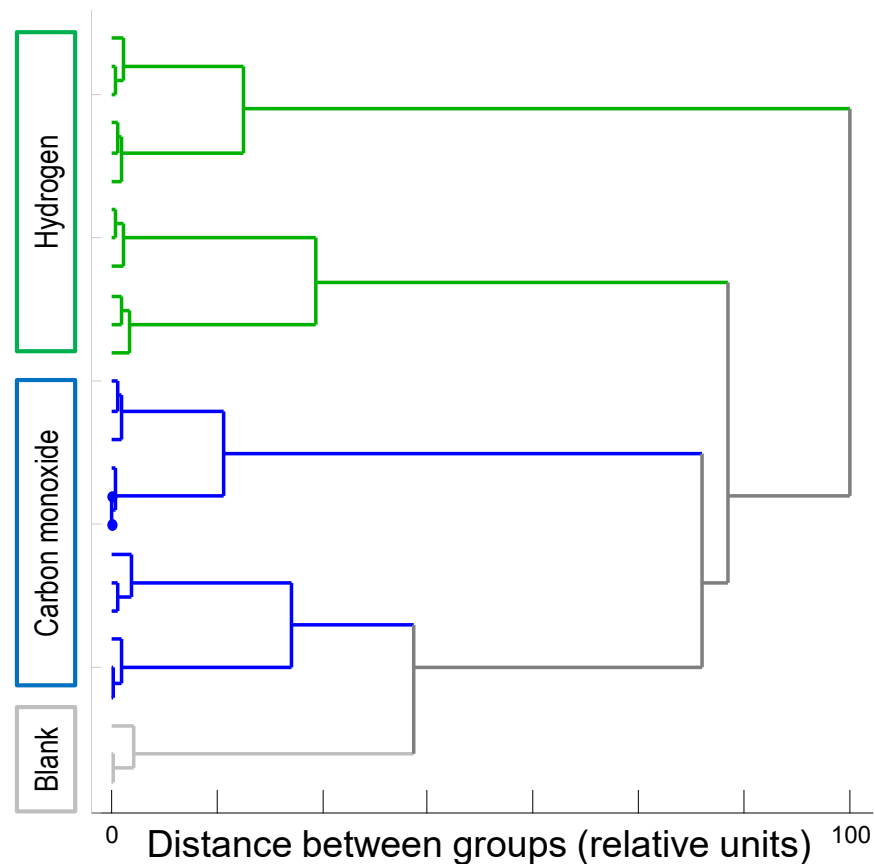
Example of sensor operation:

Discrimination between hydrogen and carbon monoxide

Principal components analysis



Hierarchical cluster analysis



Resolution between individual concentrations of H₂ and CO

Setup at GE Fuel Cells factory

for field validation of the bio-inspired multivariable photonic sensor

Example of two SOFCs



Benchmark and sensor systems



Acknowledgements

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