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Micro droplet driven by thermocapillary and capillary valve

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Key Words : Micro droplet (), Thermocapillary (), Capillary valve (),
Bifurcation channel (), Meniscus ()

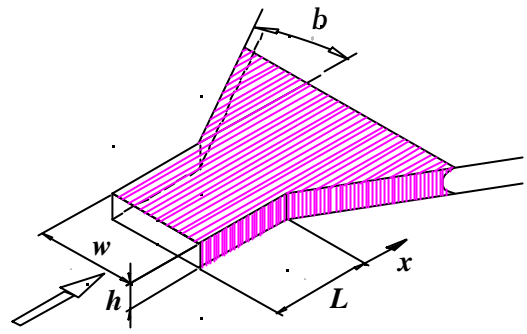
Abstract

This paper presents the design, fabrication, and testing of the capillary-induced pressure drop valve, thermocapillary pumping of liquid droplet in hydrophilic channels and the splitting of droplet. The capillary-induced pressure drop is derived with thermodynamic approach considering three-dimensional meniscus shape which is essential for calculating pressure drop in the diverging shape channel when the aspect ratio is close to one. The micro channel is fabricated via MEMS processes, which consists of the liquid stop valve to retard the liquid droplet, thermocapillary pumping region and the bifurcation region. Also the micro heaters are fabricated to drive the droplet by thermocapillary. The theoretical approaches agree well with the experimental data. The functionality of capillary valve is confirmed to be valid when the aspect ratio is smaller than one. To overcome the difficulty in splitting of the droplet due to the pressure drop in the general Y-shape channel, the protrusion shape is employed for easy splitting in the bifurcation channel.

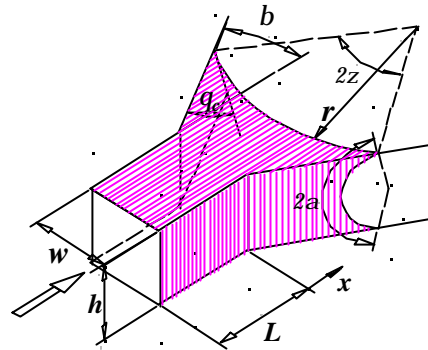
w :		a :	
h :		b :	
x :		a :	
r :		s :	
L :		l :	
w/h :	(aspect ratio)		
P :			1.
			(MEMS)
g :			가
q_c :			
z :			

* ,
 ** ,
 † ,
 (conductive liquid)
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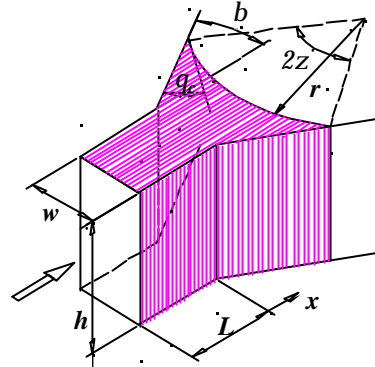
(2,3) 가 가
 (electro-wetting) (4-5)
 (Teflon) 가 가
 (irreversibility) 가 (6)
 (thermocapillary) (7,8)
 (droplet)
 가 (thermocapillary pump)
 (hydrophilic)
 OTS (octadecyltrichlorosilane)⁽⁹⁾,
 (hydrophobic patch)⁽¹⁰⁾
 (11)
 Man (12)
 (capillary valve)
 (aspect ratio)가 Man
 가 (micro
 fabrication) 가
 (critical aspect ratio)



(a) $w/h \gg 1$



(b) $w/h \approx 1$



(c) $w/h \ll 1$

Fig. 1 Meniscus shapes in diverging channels at various aspect ratio

Fig. 1(a)

(capillary

region)
 (meniscus)

channel)

(bifurcation

가

가

Fig. 1(c)

가

fig. 1(a)

Fig. 1(b)

가 1 가

2.

가

가

3

Fig. 1

가

(capillary pressure)
(Thermodynamic approach)⁽¹²⁾

x 가
Young-Laplace

Fig. 1 가

Fig. 2(b)

$w/h \gg 1$

$$P = \frac{g_{la} \cos q_c \left[4x \tan b + 2w + \frac{2h}{\cos b} \right] - g_{la} \frac{2ah \tan b}{\sin a}}{wh + 2xh \tan b - 2 \left[\frac{a}{4} \left(\frac{h}{\sin a} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{h}{2} \right)^2 \frac{\cos a}{\sin a} \right] \tan b} \quad (1)$$

$w/h \ll 1$

$$P = \frac{g_{la} \cos q_c \left[4x \tan b + 2w - \frac{2(w + 2x \tan b) \tan b}{\sin V} \left(\frac{V}{\sin V} - \cos V \right) + \frac{2h}{\cos b} \right] - g_{la} \frac{2Wh \tan b}{\sin V}}{wh + 2xh \tan b - \frac{(w + 2x \tan b) h \tan b}{\sin V} \left(\frac{V}{\sin V} - \cos V \right)} \quad (2)$$

$w/h \approx 1$

$$P = \frac{g_{la} \cos q_c \left[4x \tan b + 2w - \frac{2(w + 2x \tan b) \tan b}{\sin V} \left(\frac{V}{\sin V} - \cos V \right) + \frac{2h}{\cos b} \right] - g_{la} A'_{la}}{wh + 2xh \tan b - \frac{h \tan b (w + 2x \tan b)}{\sin V} \left(\frac{V}{\sin V} - \cos V \right) - v'} \quad (3)$$

A'_{la}, v'

0°

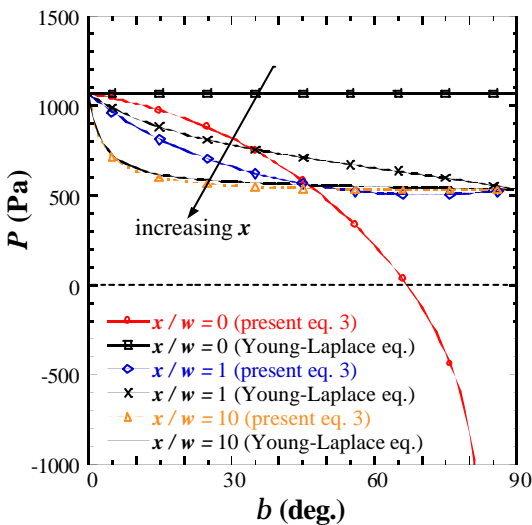
Fig. 2 (diverging angle) 가 200 mm 가 20 °C 가 1 가 1

$x = 0$

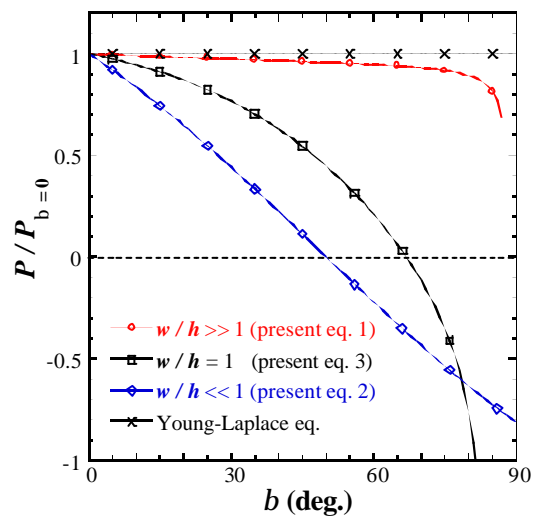
70°

가

가 1



(a) Calculated capillary pressure for $w/h = 1$



(b) Non-dimensional pressure at various aspect ratio

Fig. 2 Calculated pressure versus diverging angle

3.

(micro heater)
 Fig. 3(a)
 (wafer) 가 500 μ m
 10cm
 5000 Å TEOS (tetraethoxysilane)
 5000 Å
 (Polysilicon) LPCVD (low pressure vapor
 chemical deposition)

가 (phosphorous dopping)
 6000 Å TEOS 가
 (Sputtering)
 (contact pad)

500 μ m
 200 μ m
 200 μ m, 200 μ m SOG (Silicon On
 Glass)

Fig. 3(b)
 500 μ m 가 Pyrex
 200 μ m 가
 SOG DRIE (Deep Reactive Ion
 Etching)
 (sand blast)

Fig. 4

(power supply)

CCD

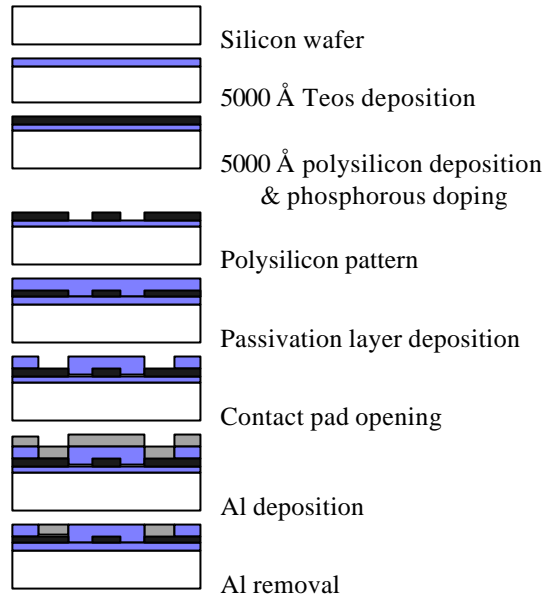
4.

4.1

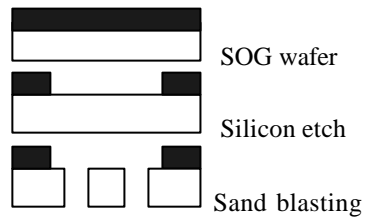
Fig. 5(a) 가

Fig. 5(b)

가



(a) Fabrication process of heater.



(b) Fabrication process of channel

Fig. 3 Fabrication process

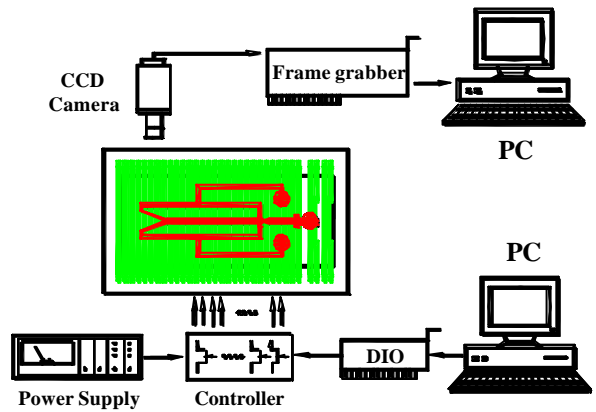


Fig. 4 Experimental setup

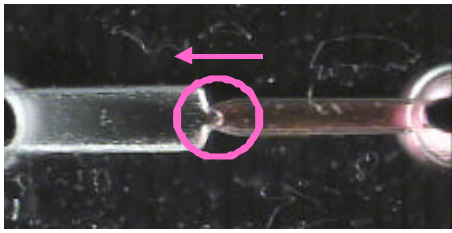
Fig. 5

70° 50°

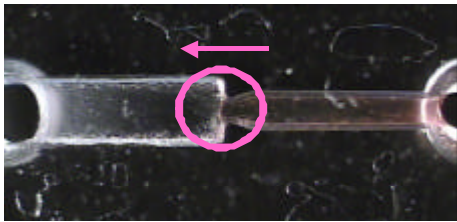
Fig. 6

50°

가 Fig. 6(a)

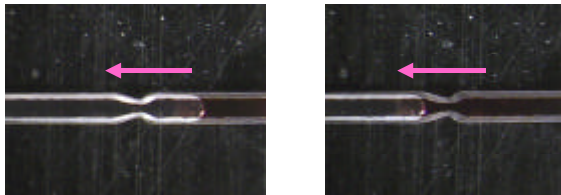


(a) Liquid wets into the channel

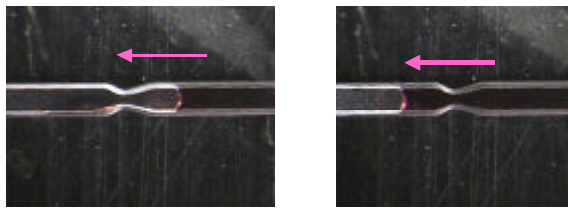


(b) Liquid stops at neck

Fig. 5 Capillary driven stop valve



(a) Capillary valve at $b = 50^\circ$



(b) Capillary valve at $b = 70^\circ$

Fig. 6 Capillary valve

가

가 70° Pa Pa

Fig. 6(b)

가

가

가

가

가 1mm
200 Pa

가

70°

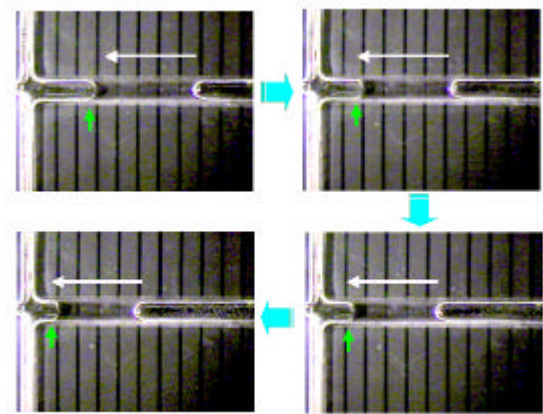


Fig. 7 Thermocapillary pumping

가

4.2

Fig. 7

(contact angle hysteresis)가

4.3

가 200 mm

Pa

Y

300 mm

900

700 Pa

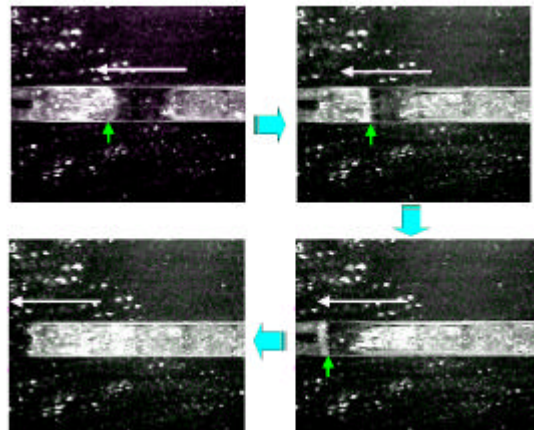
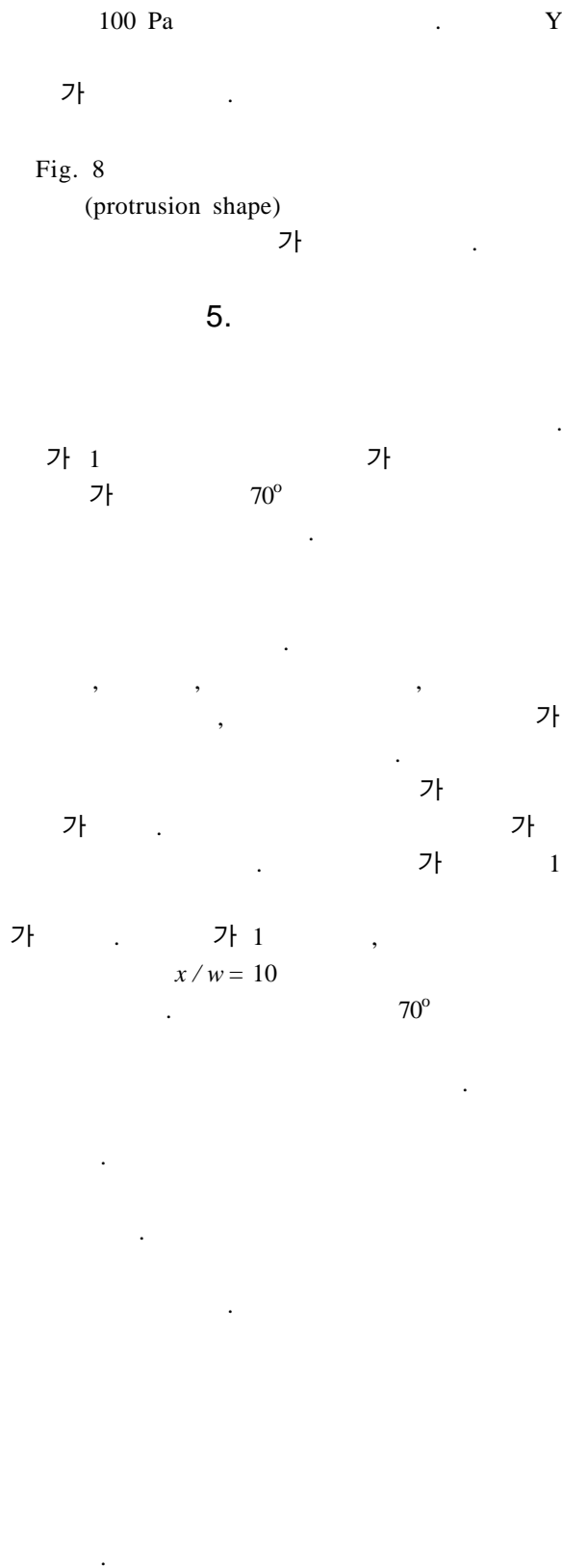


Fig. 8 Bifurcation of droplet



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