Design of a Multi-Functional Smart Optrode for Electrophysiology and Optogenetics

Martins da Ponte, Ronaldo; Huang, Chengyu; Giagka, Vasso; Serdijn, Wouter

Publication date
2019
Document Version
Final published version

Citation (APA)

Important note
To cite this publication, please use the final published version (if applicable). Please check the document version above.

Copyright
Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download, forward or distribute the text or part of it, without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license such as Creative Commons.

Takedown policy
Please contact us and provide details if you believe this document breaches copyrights. We will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.
DESIGN OF A MULTI-FUNCTIONAL SMART OPTRODE FOR ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY AND OPTOGENETICS

Ronaldo M. da Ponte*, Chengyu Huang*, Vasiliki Giagka and Wouter A. Serdijn

Delft University of Technology, Microelectronics Department, Section Bioelectronics, Mekelweg 4, 2628 CD, Delft, The Netherlands.
http://bioelectronics.tudelft.nl/, e-mail: r.martinsdaponte@tudelft.nl

ABSTRACT

Optogenetics is a neuromodulation method that holds great potential for the realization of advanced neuropsychiatric devices due to its precise spatial-temporal control of neuronal activity [1]. The development of novel optogenetic implants (optrodes) may open new doors to investigate complex brain circuitry and chronic brain disorders, such as epilepsy, migraine, autism, Parkinson's disease, etc [2]. Design challenges for the optrode include interference minimization between the µLED drivers and the recording electrodes, selection of proper materials, structures and dimensions to minimize tissue damage, biocompatibility, and batch production.

In this work, we propose the construction of a multi-functional optrode to be used for physiological studies in group-housed, freely-moving rodents. It comprises commercial blue-light µLEDs for optical stimulation, an active electrode array for recording the local field potentials at different depths in the brain, and a time-domain temperature sensor.

To accomplish this, silicon bulk micromachining is the essential technique used for the device manufacture. Process steps include epitaxial growth, layers deposition, geometrical etching, ionic implantation, oxidation and diffusion.

For the interconnection of the µLEDs, flip-chip bonding is used. Light intensity and frequency can be controlled via a microcontroller interface assembled on a flexible PCB mounted on the rodent head-stage. The active microelectrode array (MEA) is constructed from a Ti/TiN layer to both meet the biocompatibility requirements and to reduce the electrode-tissue interface impedance, and by this the associated thermal noise. Using a custom, simple, robust and cost-effective BiFET in-house IC technology, the recording amplifiers are monolithically integrated into the MEA to achieve a high signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and to minimize potential crosstalk coming from the µLED drivers.

Using the same BiFET IC technology, a time-domain temperature sensor is monolithically integrated into the optrode to anticipate possible brain tissue temperature changes of more than 1°C that may come from heat dissipation in the µLEDs or circuit power dissipation.

Finally, the optrode is coated with a PDMS film to electrically protect the µLEDs from the tissue and avoid uncontrollable electrical stimulation of the brain tissue.

REFERENCES


* First author