

BENG 207 Special Topics in Bioengineering

# Neuromorphic Integrated Bioelectronics

## Week 6: Low-Noise Bioelectronics

Gert Cauwenberghs

Department of Bioengineering  
UC San Diego

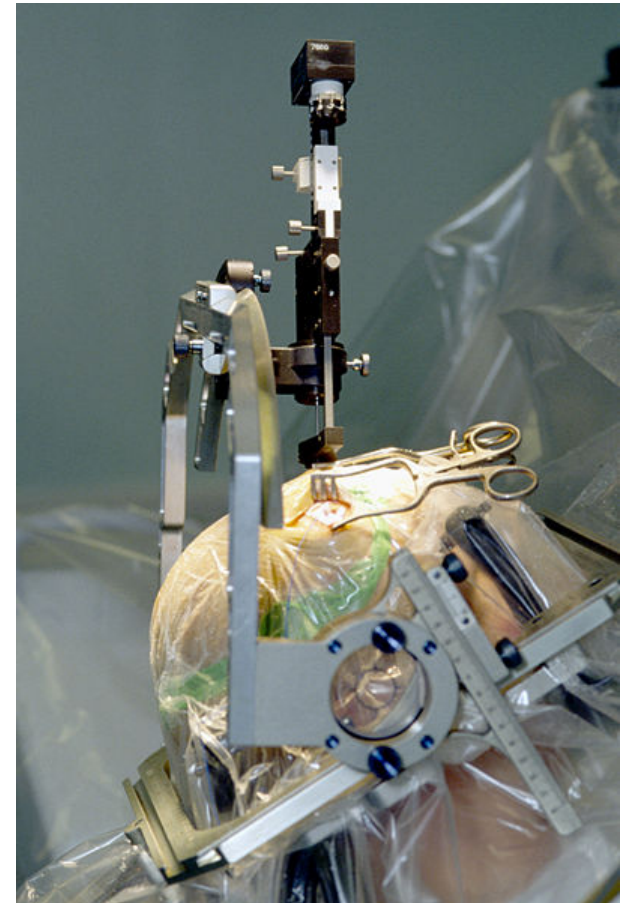
<http://isn.ucsd.edu/courses/beng207>

# BENG 207 Neuromorphic Integrated Bioelectronics

Date	Topic
9/27, 9/29	Biophysical foundations of natural intelligence in neural systems. Subthreshold MOS silicon models of membrane excitability. Silicon neurons. Hodgkin-Huxley and integrate-and-fire models of spiking neuronal dynamics. Action potentials as address events.
10/4, 10/6	Silicon retina. Low-noise, high-dynamic range photoreceptors. Focal-plane array signal processing. Spatial and temporal contrast sensitivity and adaptation. Dynamic vision sensors.
10/11, 10/13	Silicon cochlea. Low-noise acoustic sensing and automatic gain control. Continuous wavelet filter banks. Interaural time difference and level difference auditory localization. Blind source separation and independent component analysis.
10/18, 10/20	Silicon cortex. Neural and synaptic compute-in-memory arrays. Address-event decoders and arbiters, and integrate-and-fire array transceivers. Hierarchical address-event routing for locally dense, globally sparse long-range connectivity across vast spatial scales.
10/28, 11/1	Review. Modular and scalable design for neuromorphic and bioelectronic integrated circuits and systems. Design for full testability and controllability.
11/1, 11/3	Midterm due 11/2. Low-noise, low-power design. Fundamental limits of noise-energy efficiency, and metrics of performance. Biopotential and electrochemical recording and stimulation, lab-on-a-chip electrophysiology, and neural interface systems-on-chip.
11/8, 11/10	Learning and adaptation to compensate for external and internal variability over extended time scales. Background blind calibration of device mismatch. Correlated double sampling and chopping for offset drift and low-frequency noise cancellation.
11/15, 11/17	Energy conservation. Resonant inductive power delivery and data telemetry. Ultra-high efficiency neuromorphic computing. Resonant adiabatic energy-recovery charge-conserving synapse arrays.
11/22, 11/24	Guest lectures
11/29, 12/1	Project final presentations. All are welcome!

# Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) for Parkinson's Disease Remediation

- Intrusive intervention
  - *"Brain's pacemaker"*
  - *Electrode is implanted in the deep brain's thalamus*
  - *Periodic (130-185Hz) activation of electrical impulses delivered by the electrode to suppress Parkinson-induced tremor*
- Highly invasive procedure
  - *Surgical insertion of electrode and stimulation electronics*
  - *Battery needs to be replaced*
- Open-loop
  - *Adaptation (e.g. Medtronic Activa PC+S) limited to user-mediated control of stimulation amplitude*



Surgery to insert electrode deep in the brain. Parkinson's patient remains awake during surgery.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep\\_brain\\_stimulation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_brain_stimulation)

# Distributed Brain Dynamics of Human Motor Control

G. Cauwenberghs, K. Kreutz-Delgado, T.P. Jung, S. Makeig, H. Poizner, T. Sejnowski, M. Arnold, F. Broccard, Y.M. Chi, J. Iversen, C. Maier, E. Neftci, D. Peterson, A. Akinin, S. Das, N. Govil, S. Hsu, T. Mullen, A. Ojeda, C. Stevenson

NSF EFRI-1137279: Mind, Machines and Motor Control (M3C)

### EEG brain dynamics and Parkinson's

**Cortical EEG sources**  
point left point right  
lock left lock right

**Independent sources**

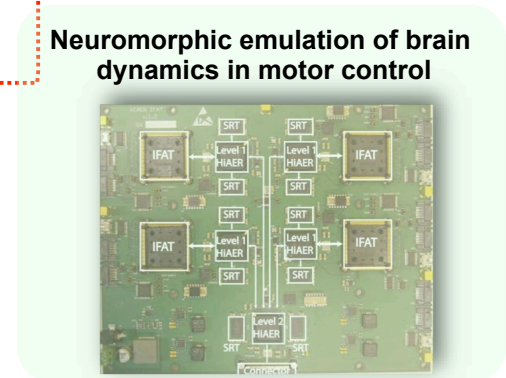
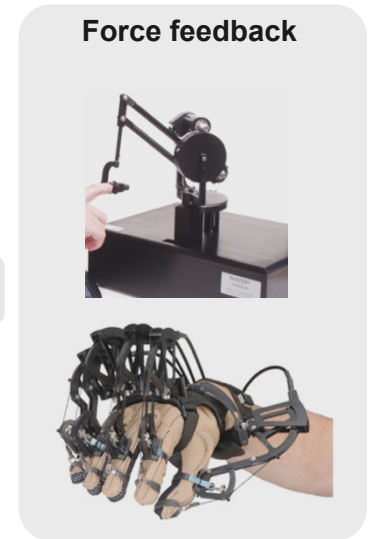
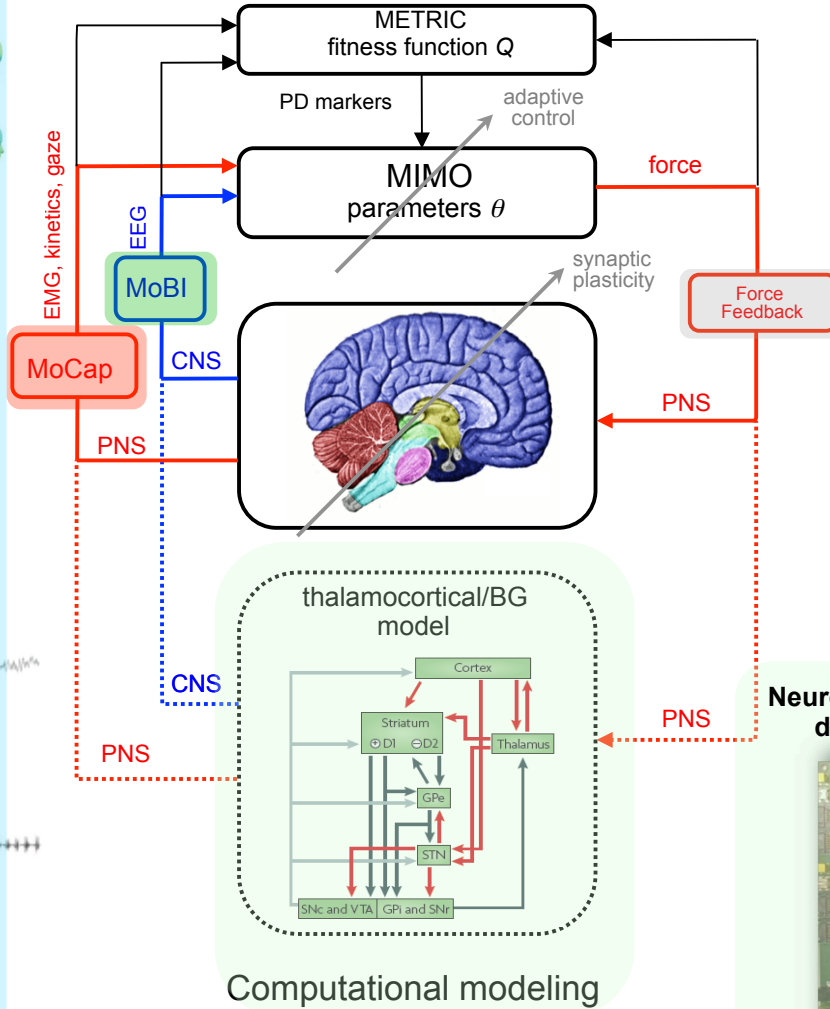
**Neck EMG sources**  
point left point right  
lock left lock right

**Experimental Setup**  
Grasp coordination in Virtual Reality  

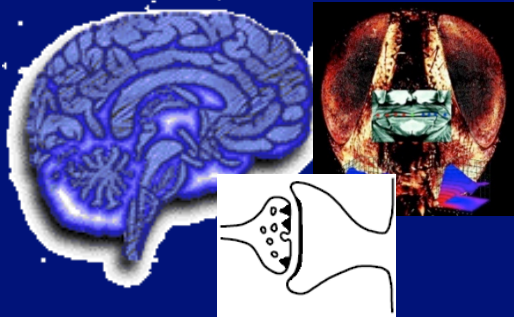
- Haptic robots (Phantom, 1500Hz position and force)
- Eye tracking system (EyeLink 3000, 1000Hz)
- EEG (BioSemi 64 cortical electrodes, 8 external EMG, 512Hz)

**MoBi**  
Analog/Digital Data Chain  
Wireless Transmitter

**MoCap**

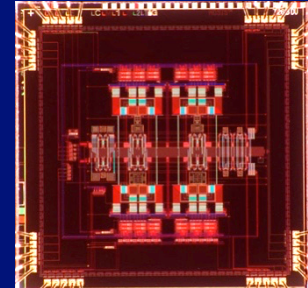


# Closing the Loop: Interactive Neural/Artificial Intelligence



*Neuromorphic Engineering*

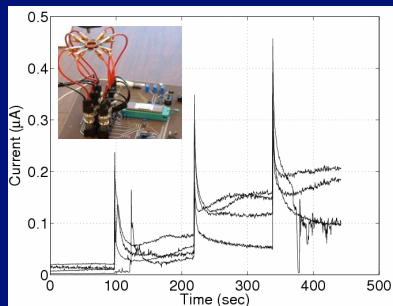
Adaptive Sensory Feature Extraction and Pattern Recognition



**Neuro Bio**

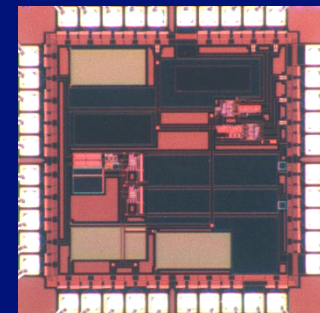
Learning & Adaptation

**Micropower Mixed-Signal VLSI**



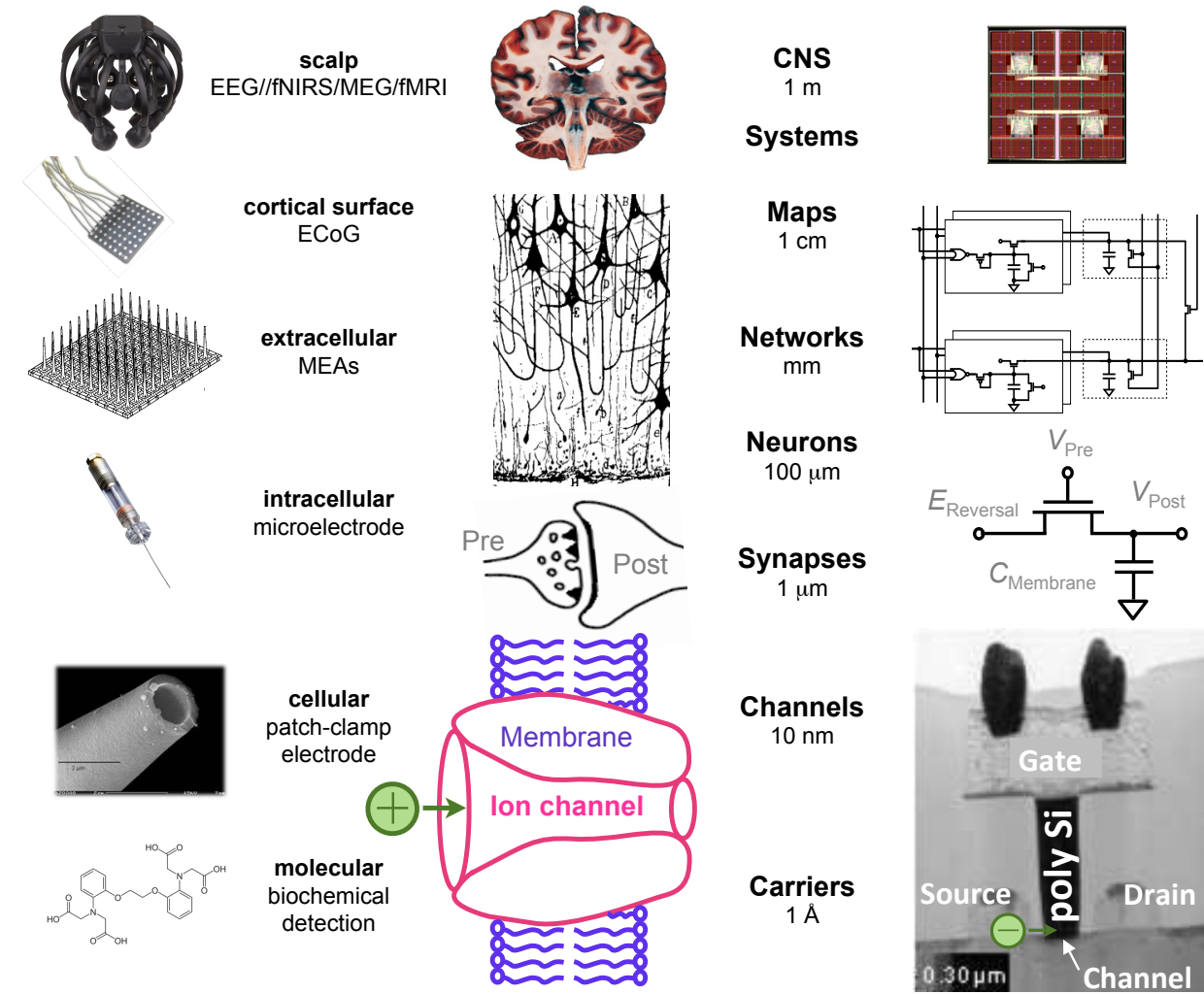
*Neurosystems Engineering*

Biosensors, Neural Prostheses and Brain Interfaces



# Computational Systems Neuroscience

Analysis

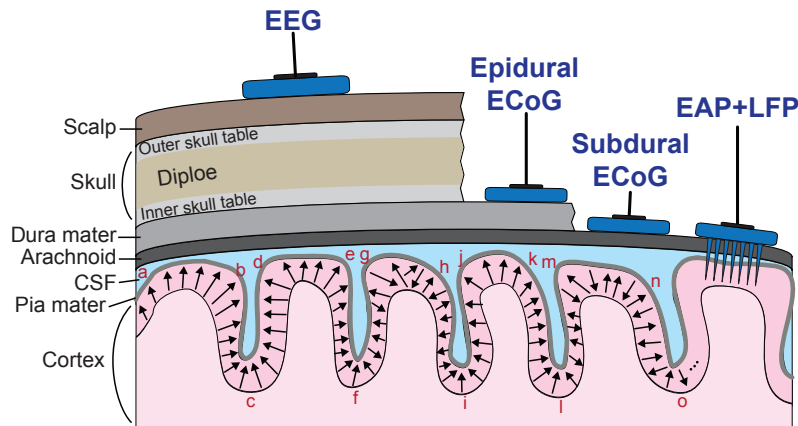
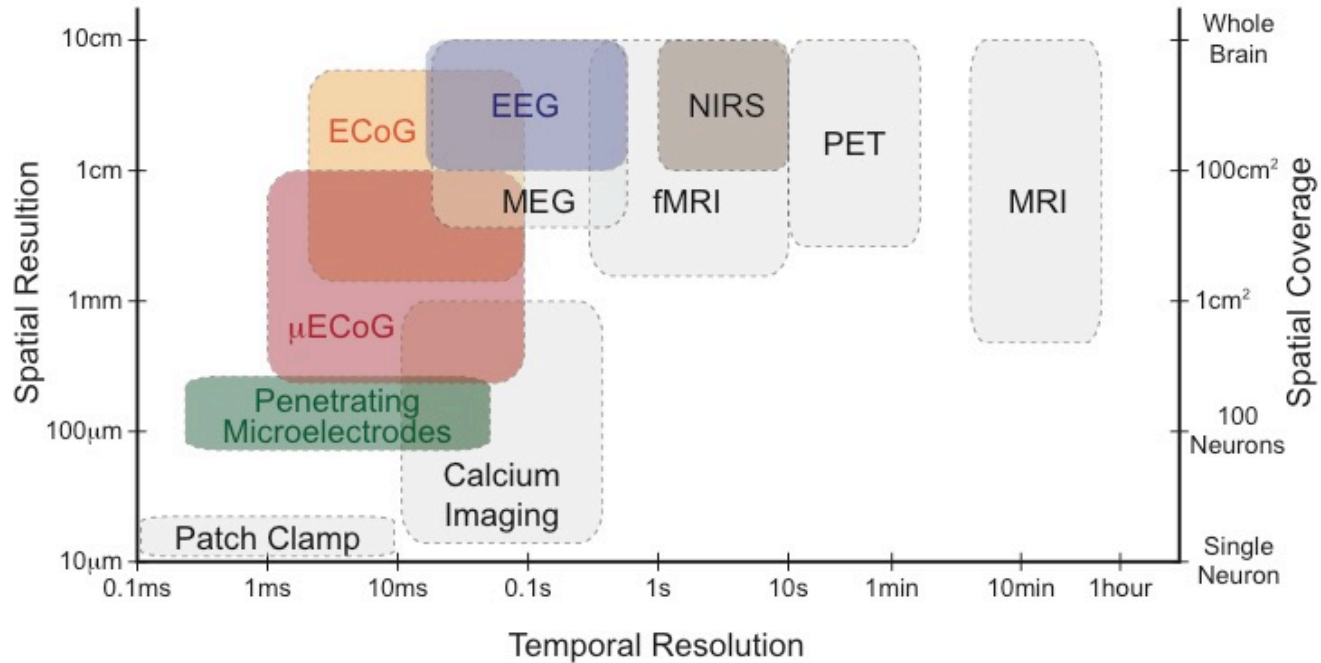


Synthesis

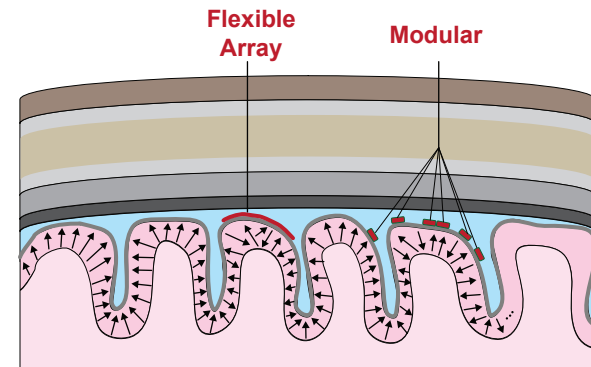
# Neuromorphic Systems Engineering

F. Broccard, S. Joshi, J. Wang and G Cauwenberghs, "Neuromorphic neural interfaces: from neurophysiological inspiration to biohybrid coupling with nervous systems," *JNE*, 2017

# Minimally Invasive Neurotechnologies

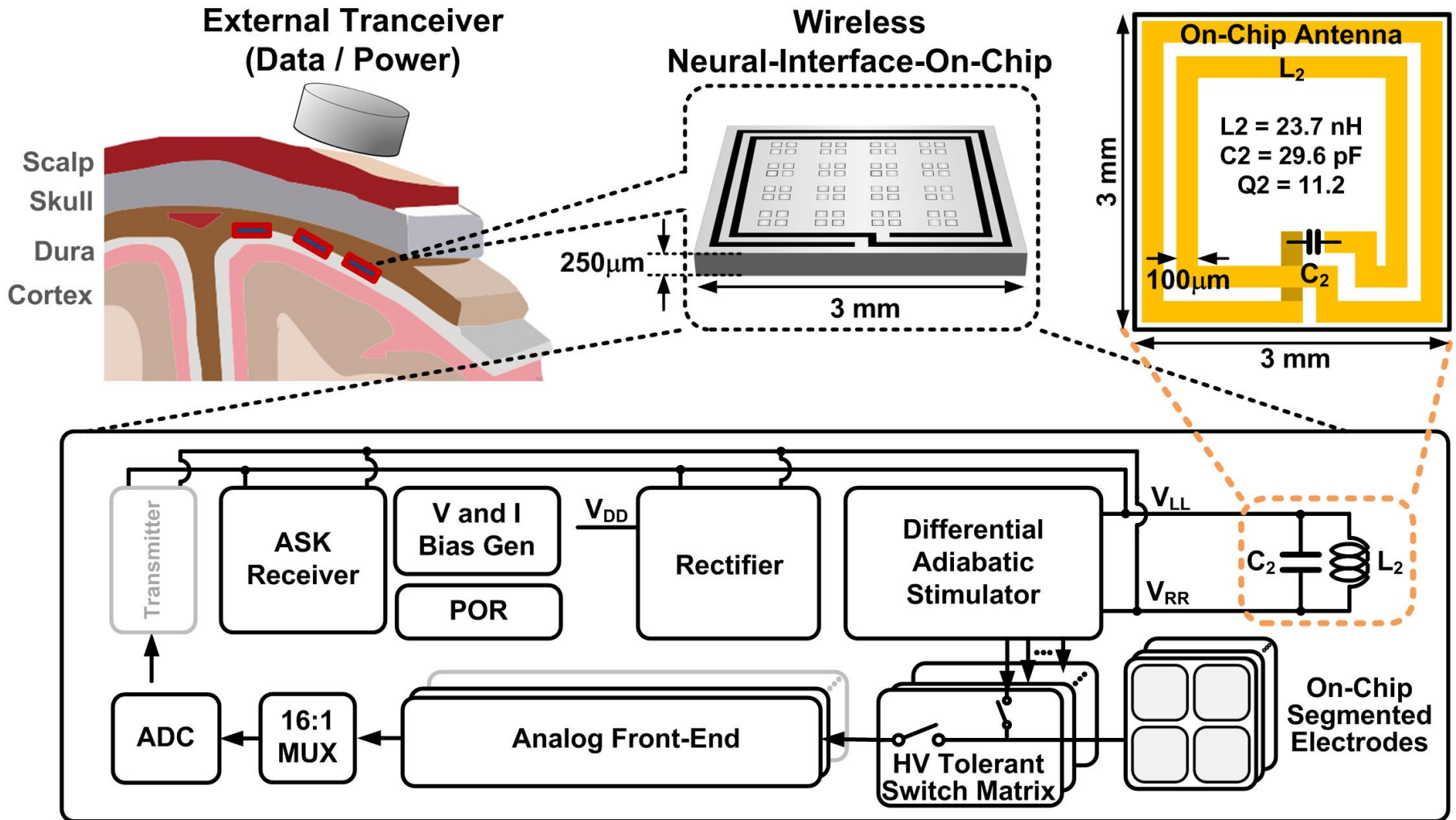


## Emerging µECoG Technologies



S. Ha, C. Kim, A. Akinin, J. Park, H. Wang, C. Maier, P. Mercier and G. Cauwenberghs, "Silicon Integrated High-Density Electrocortical Interfaces," *Proceedings of the IEEE*, vol.105 (1), pp. 11-33, 2017.

# ENIAC: Encapsulated Neural Interfacing and Acquisition Chip



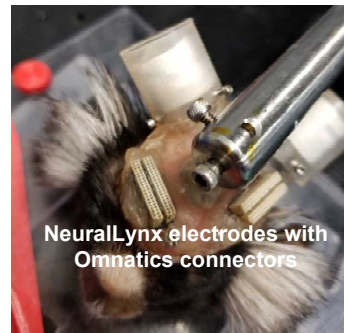
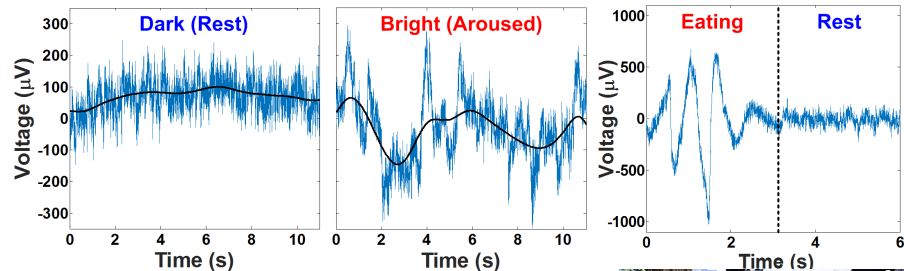
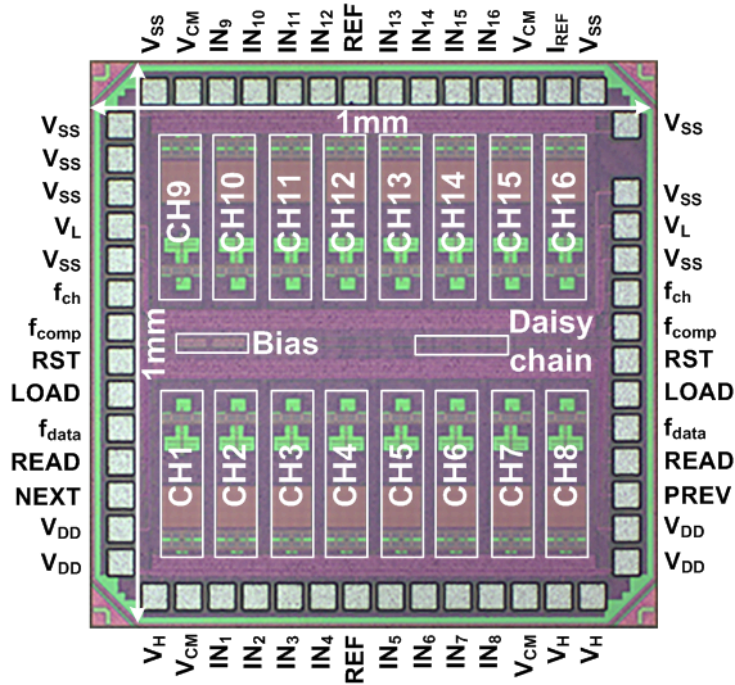
S. Ha, C. Kim, A. Akinin, J. Park, H. Wang, C. Maier, P. Mercier and G. Cauwenberghs, "Silicon Integrated High-Density Electrocortical Interfaces," *Proceedings of the IEEE*, vol.105 (1), pp. 11-33, 2017.



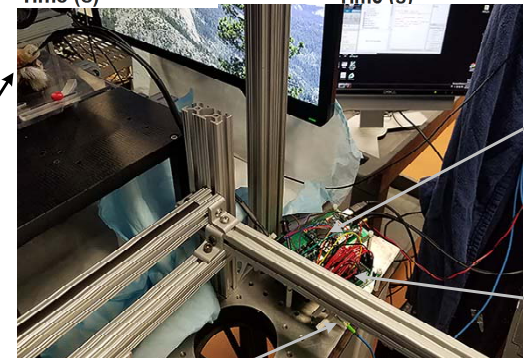
# Highly Sensitive, Low-Noise Low-Power Integrated Biopotential Sensing and Acquisition

Kim, Joshi, Courellis, Wang, Miller, and Cauwenberghs, 2018

- First biopotential integrated ADC to deliver greater than **90dB dynamic range**, lower than  **$1\mu\text{V}_{\text{rms}}$  input-referred noise**, and faster than **1ms settling to  $200\text{mV}_{\text{pp}}$  input transients**, at less than  **$1\mu\text{W}$  power per channel**, with 16 recording channels integrated within **1 sq. mm in 65nm CMOS**:



Marmoset  
(Callithrix jacchus)



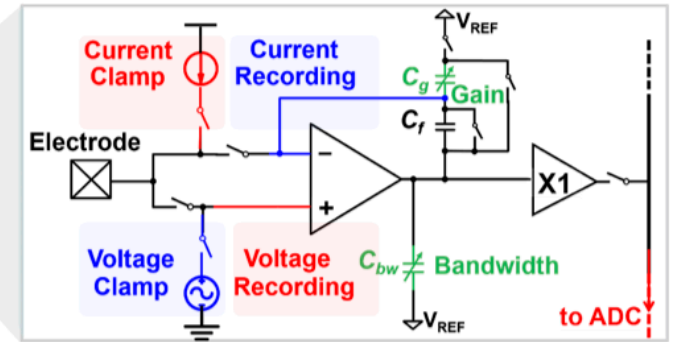
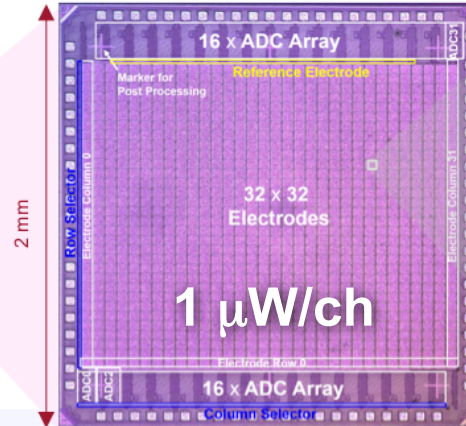
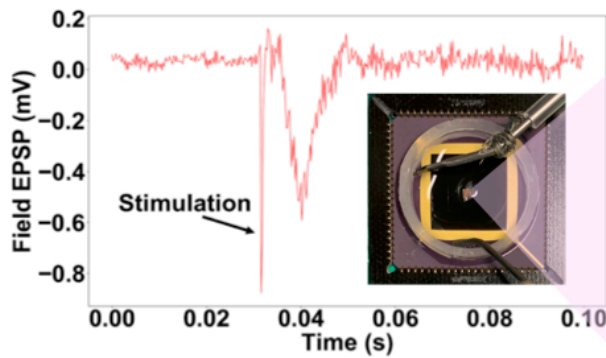
Commercial Benchmark  
(Intan RHD 2000 systems)

Opal Kelly  
(XEM6010)

DUT  
(this work)

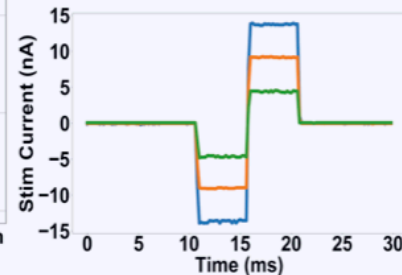
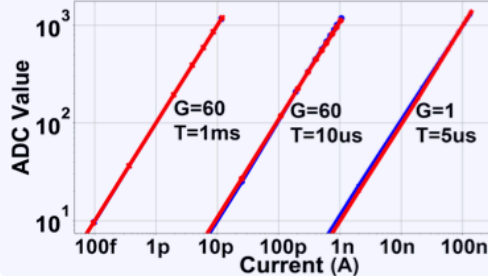
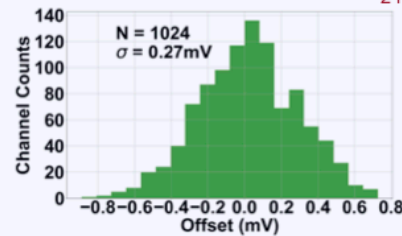
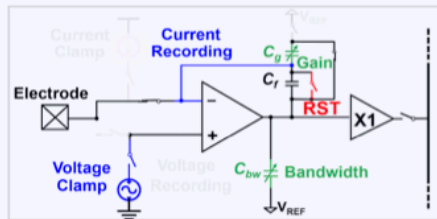
Kim, Joshi, Courellis, Wang, Miller, and Cauwenberghs, "A 92dB Dynamic Range sub- $\mu\text{V}$  rms-noise  $0.8\ \mu\text{W}/\text{ch}$  Neural-Recording ADC Array with Predictive Digital Autoranging," IEEE ISSCC 2018.

# Electrophysiology Lab-on-a-Chip



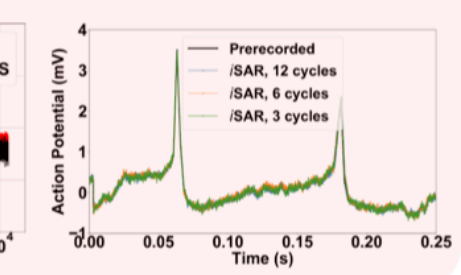
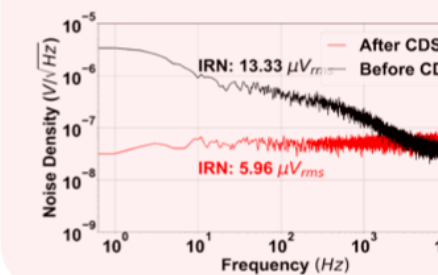
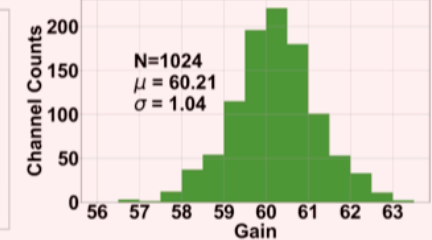
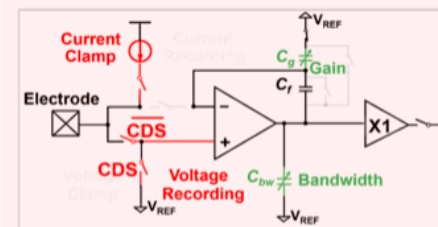
20 fA @ 10Hz

Voltage Clamp Current Recording



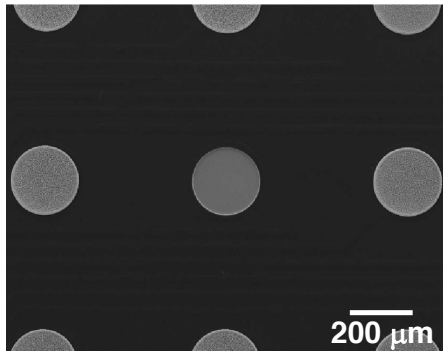
6  $\mu$ Vrms @ 25kHz

Current Clamp Voltage Recording

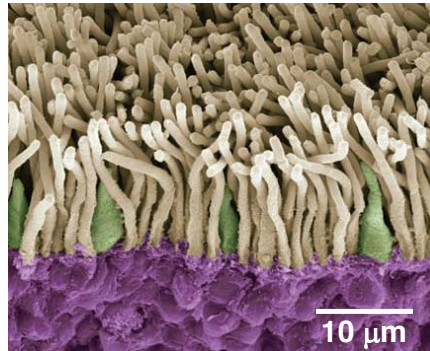


J. Wang, A. Paul, D. Zhang, J. Wu, Y. Xu, Y. Zou, C. Kim, and G. Cauwenberghs, "1024-Electrode Hybrid Voltage/Current-Clamp Neural Interface System-on-Chip with Dynamic Incremental-SAR Acquisition," 2020 IEEE Symposium on VLSI Circuits (VLSI-Circuits), Honolulu HI, June 14-19, 2020.

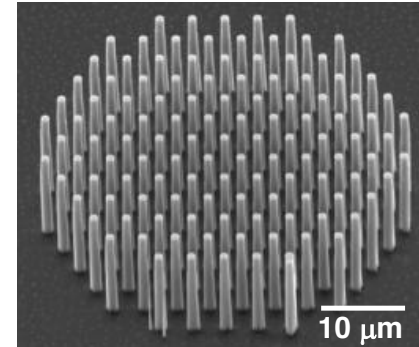
# Nanoengineered Retinal Prosthesis



**Argus II Electrodes**  
(Conventional retinal prosthesis)

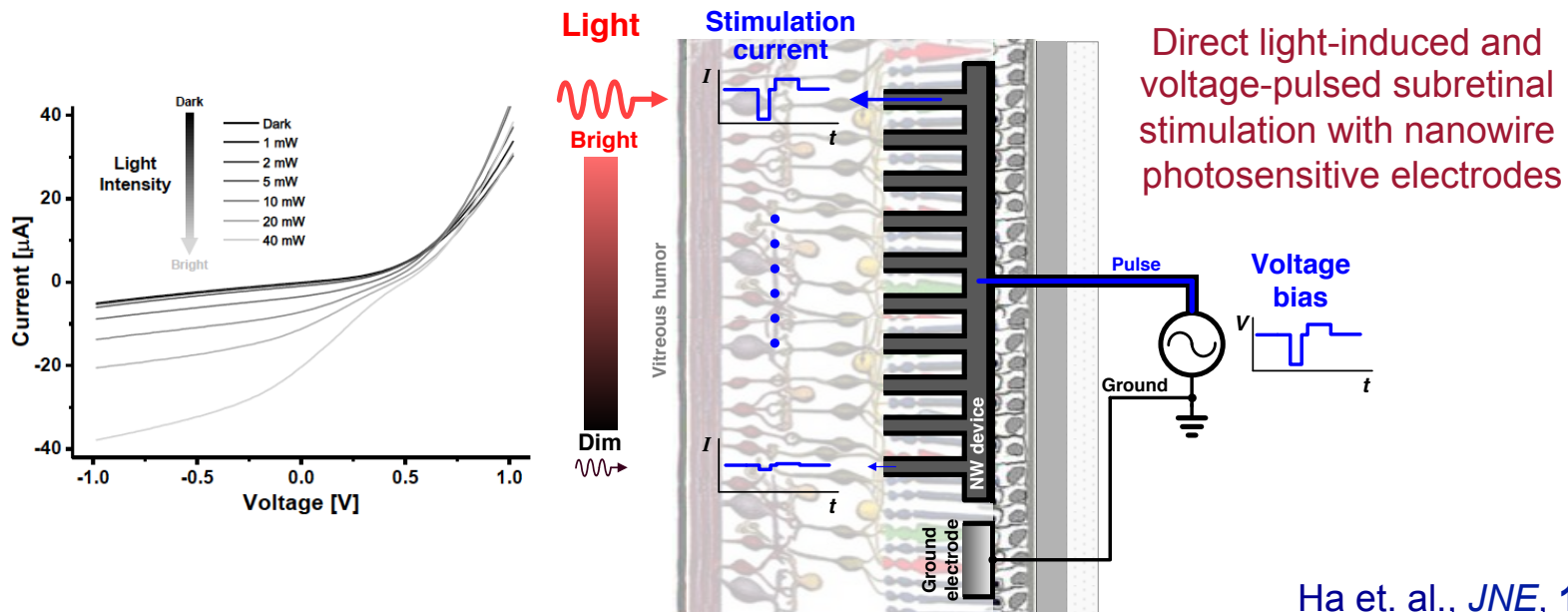


**Human Retina**  
(rods and cones)



**UCSD/Nanovision  
Nanowire Array**

## Visual Acuity 20/20: 5 μm resolution

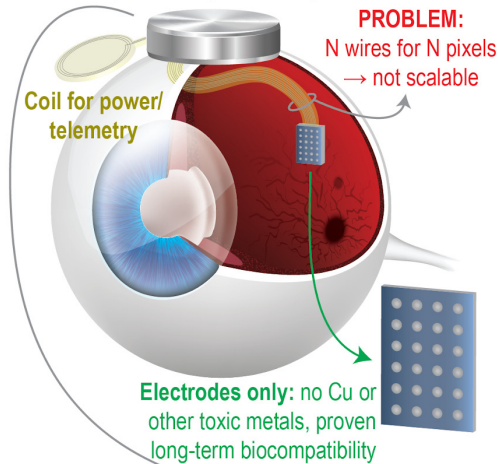


Ha et. al., *JNE*, 13(5), 2016

# Optically-Addressed Nanowire-Based Retinal Prosthesis

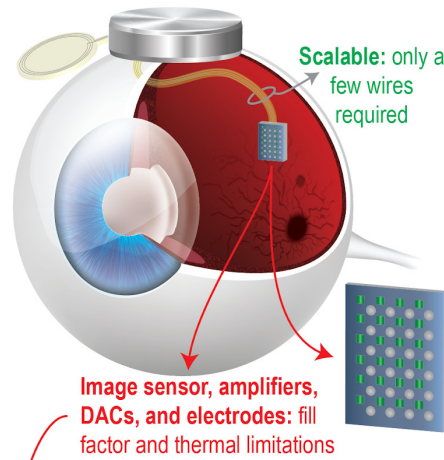
**Current Clinical Practice:**  
Hermetic can w/ leads to MEA

All circuits in hermetic housing:  
proven long-term safety



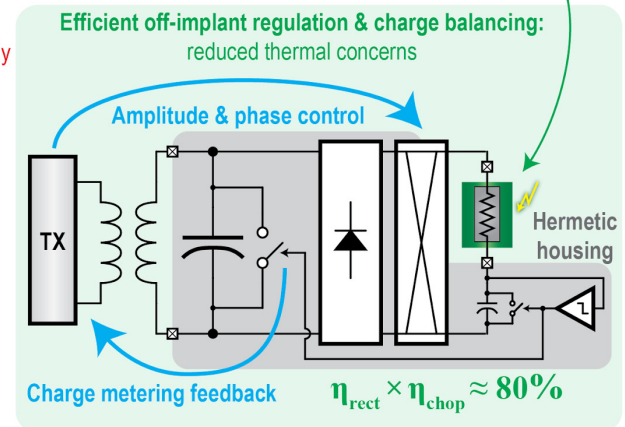
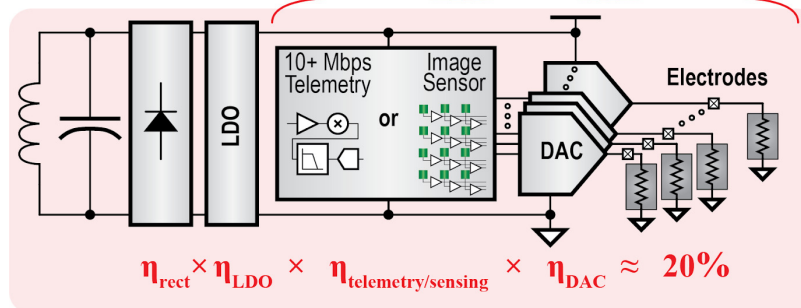
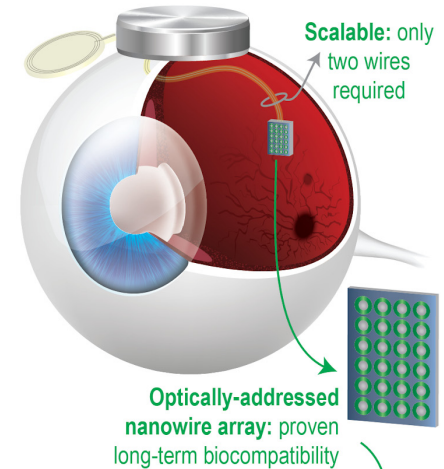
**Possible Approach:**  
CMOS imager w/ leads to power management

Only power circuits in hermetic housing



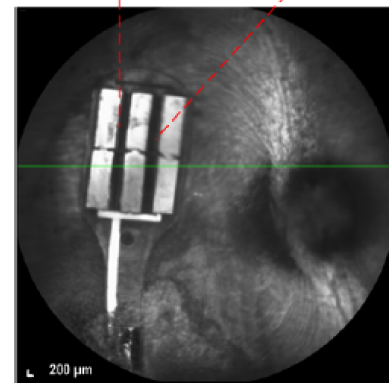
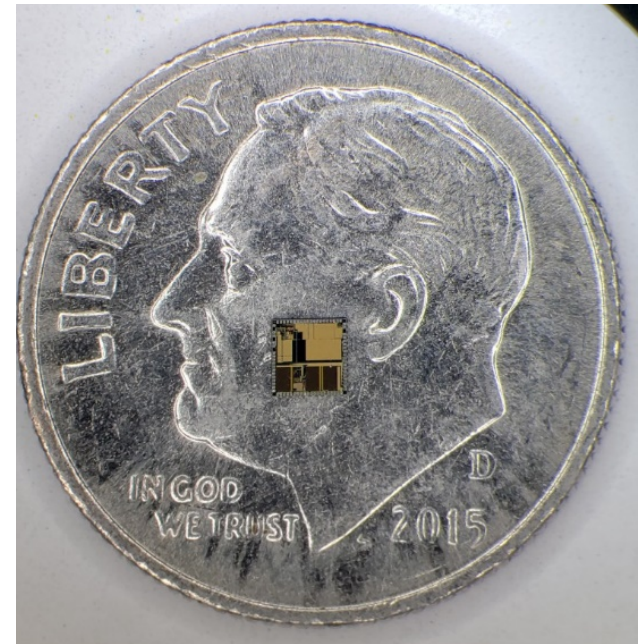
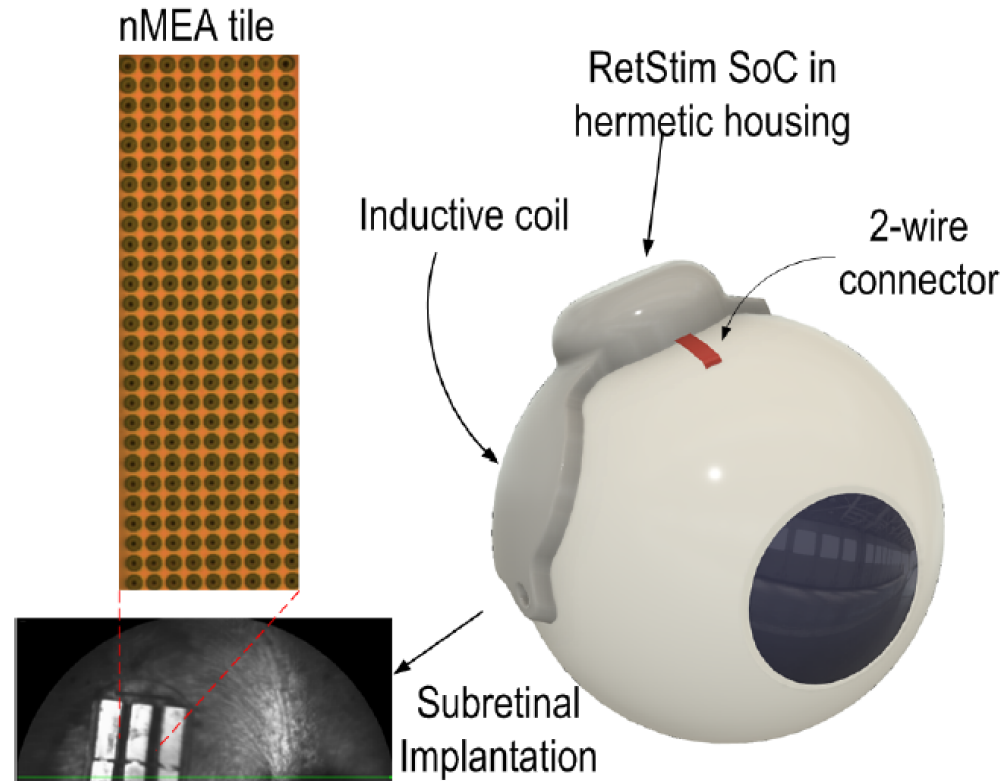
**Proposed: Optically-Addressed Nanowire Array with Charge-Metered Off-Implant Regulation**

All circuits in hermetic housing

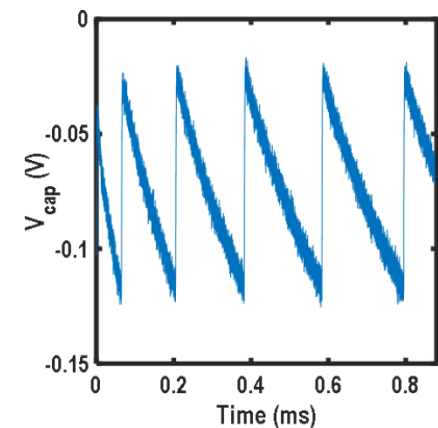


Akinin et al, "An Optically-Addressed Nanowire-Based Retinal Prosthesis with 73% RF-to-Stimulation Power Efficiency and 20nC-to-3μC Wireless Charge Telemetry," IEEE Int. Solid-State Circuits Conf. (ISSCC), 2021.

# Energy-Efficient RF Powered Charge-Balanced Stimulation



Retinal Stimulator (RetStim) SoC



OCT cross section

Akinin et al, "An Optically-Addressed Nanowire-Based Retinal Prosthesis with 73% RF-to-Stimulation Power Efficiency and 20nC-to-3 $\mu\text{C}$  Wireless Charge Telemetry," IEEE Int. Solid-State Circuits Conf. (ISSCC), 2021.

# Distributed Brain Dynamics of Human Motor Control

G. Cauwenberghs, K. Kreutz-Delgado, T.P. Jung, S. Makeig, H. Poizner, T. Sejnowski, M. Arnold, F. Broccard, Y.M. Chi, J. Iversen, C. Maier, E. Neftci, D. Peterson, A. Akinin, S. Das, N. Govil, S. Hsu, T. Mullen, A. Ojeda, C. Stevenson

NSF EFRI-1137279: Mind, Machines and Motor Control (M3C)

### EEG brain dynamics and Parkinson's

**Cortical EEG sources**  
point left point right  
lock left lock right

**Independent sources**

**Neck EMG sources**  
point left point right  
lock left lock right

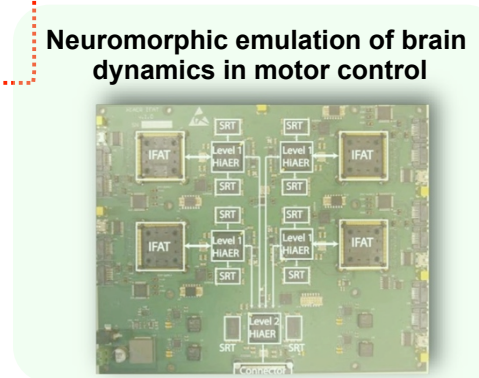
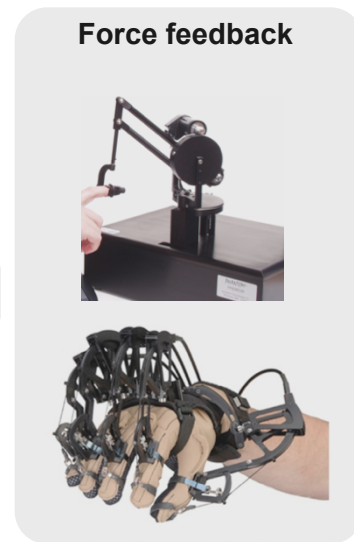
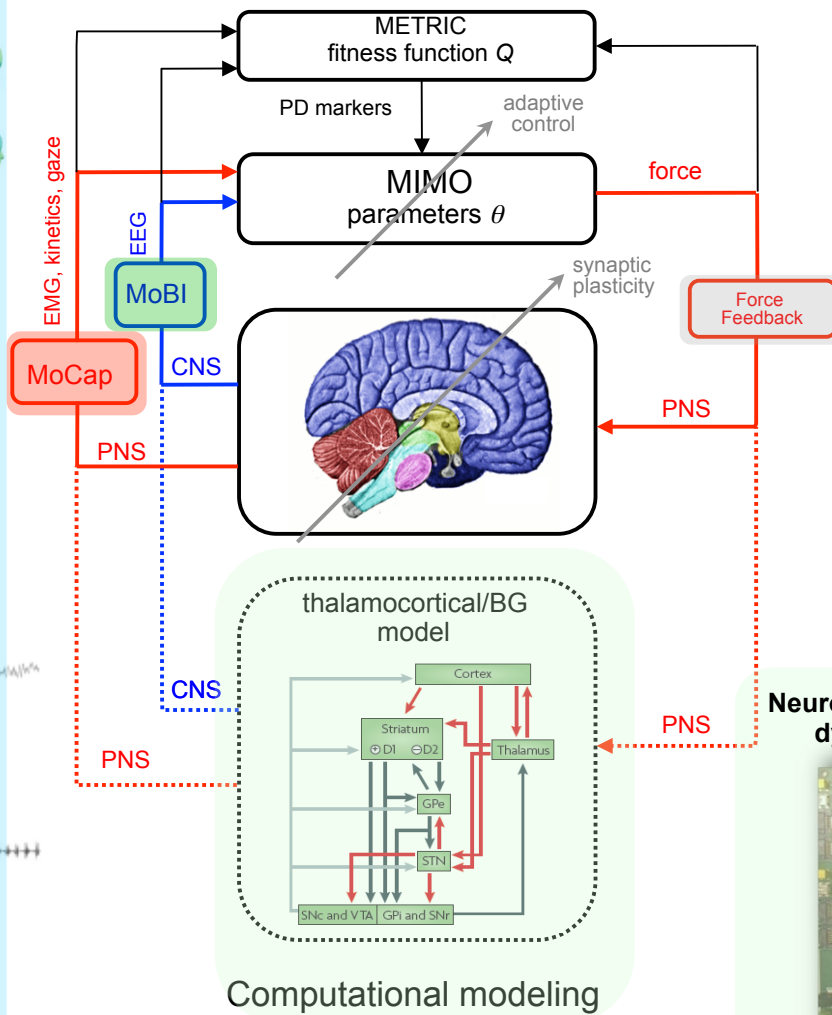
**Experimental Setup**  
Grasp coordination in Virtual Reality  

- Haptic robots (Phantom, 1500Hz position and force)
- Eye tracking system (EyeLink 1000, 1000Hz)
- EEG (BioSemi 64 cortical electrodes, 8 external EMG, 512Hz)

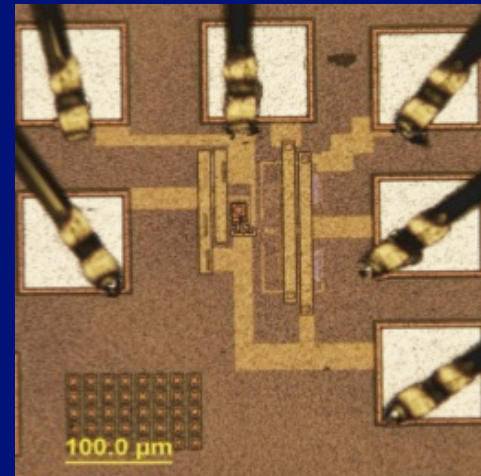
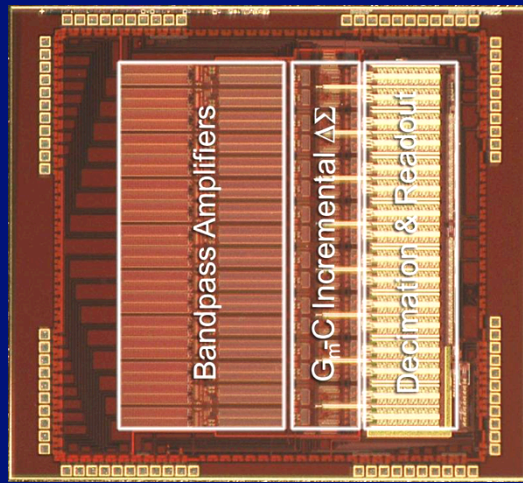
**MoBi**  

- EEG
- Analog/Digital Data Chain
- EMG
- Wireless Transmitter

**MoCap**



# Noise-Energy Efficiency



**Digitization**  
**Wireless Telemetry**  
**Energy and noise efficiency metrics**

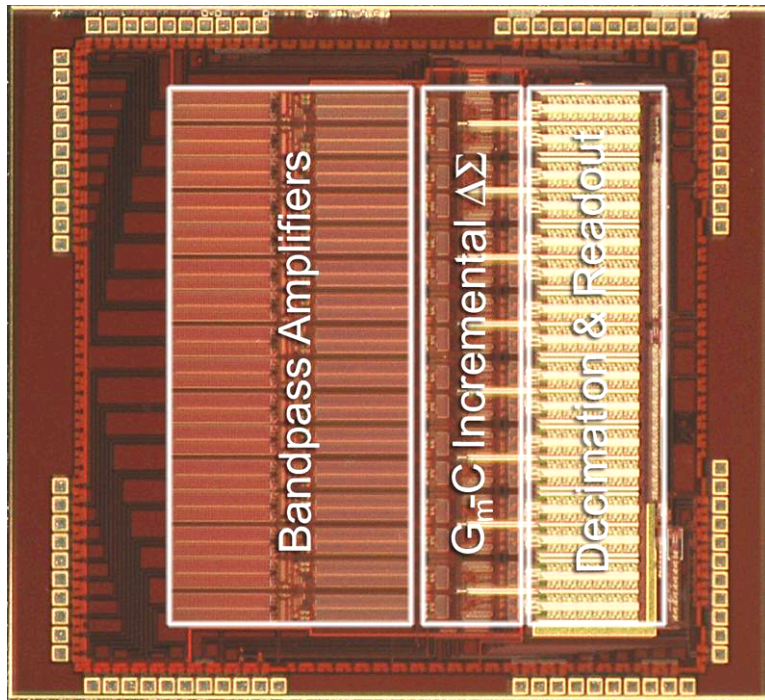
# Energy and Noise Efficiency Metrics

- **Noise Efficiency Factor (NEF):**
  - Relative measure of energy cost of a biopotential amplifier, relative to that of an ideal amplifier with same input referred noise power
  - Thermal noise fundamental limit:  $NEF = 1$
  - Practical limit for  $CMRR > 80$  dB:  $NEF > 2$  (2.3 demonstrated)
- **Energy per Conversion Level Figure of Merit (FoM):**
  - Energy cost of an analog-to-digital converter, per conversion, and divided by the number of quantization levels
  - State of the art:  $FoM = \sim 10$  fJ at 10b and 100ksps
- **Range Efficiency:**
  - Energy per bit, per squared meter of wireless transmission
  - Depends on target BER and power at the receiver
  - State of the art:  $\sim 10$  fJ/m<sup>2</sup>

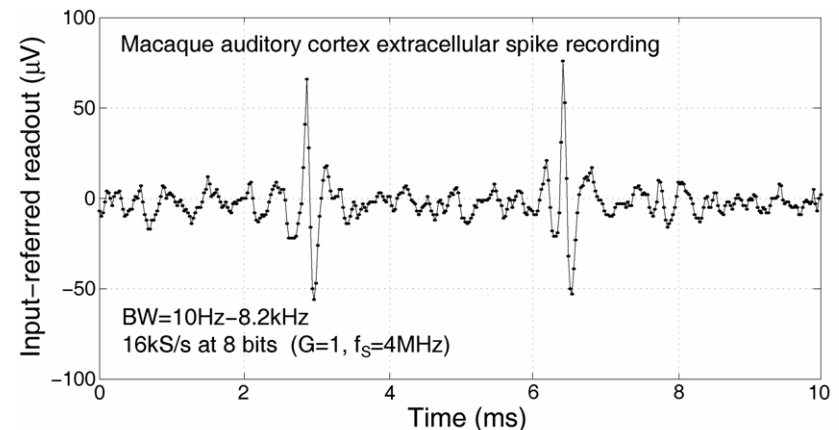
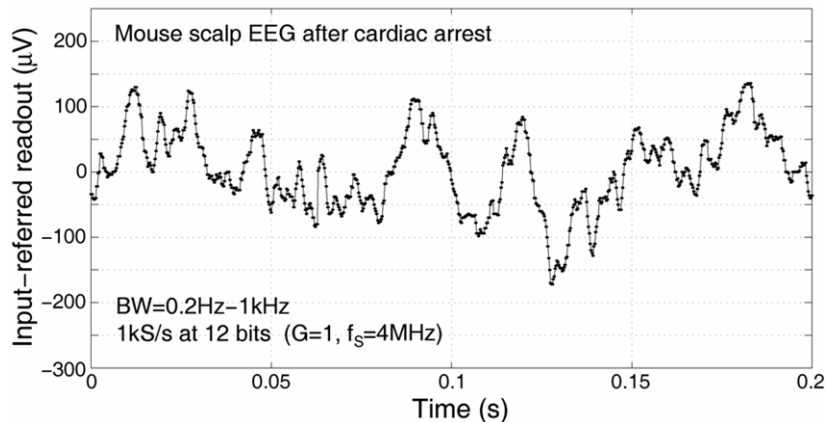


# EEG/ECoG/EMG Amplification, Filtering and Quantization

*Mollazadeh, Murari, Cauwenberghs and Thakor (2009)*



- Low noise
  - $21\text{nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$  input-referred noise
  - $2.0\mu\text{V}_{\text{rms}}$  over  $0.2\text{Hz}$ - $8.2\text{kHz}$
- Low power
  - $100\mu\text{W}$  per channel at  $3.3\text{V}$
- Reconfigurable
  - $0.2$ - $94\text{Hz}$  highpass, analog adjustable
  - $140\text{Hz}$ - $8.2\text{kHz}$  lowpass, analog adjustable
  - $34\text{dB}$ - $94\text{dB}$  gain, digitally selectable
- High density
  - 16 channels
  - $3.3\text{mm} \times 3.3\text{mm}$  in  $0.5\mu\text{m}$   $2\text{P}3\text{M}$  CMOS
  - $0.33\text{ sq. mm}$  per channel



# Implantable Wireless Telemetry and Energy Harvesting

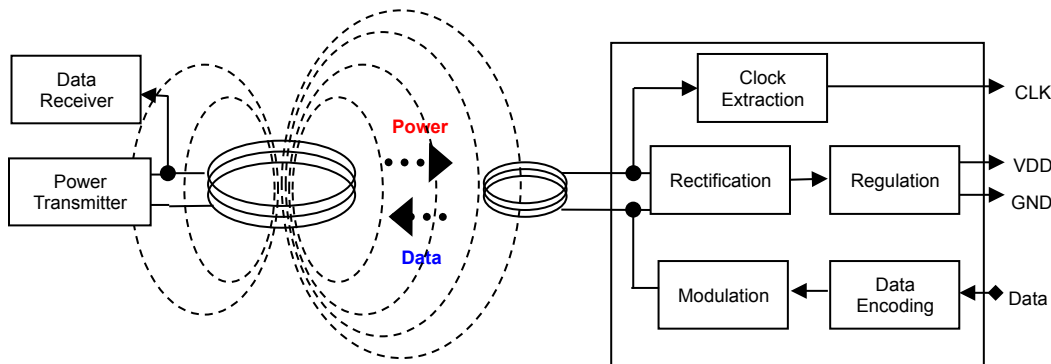
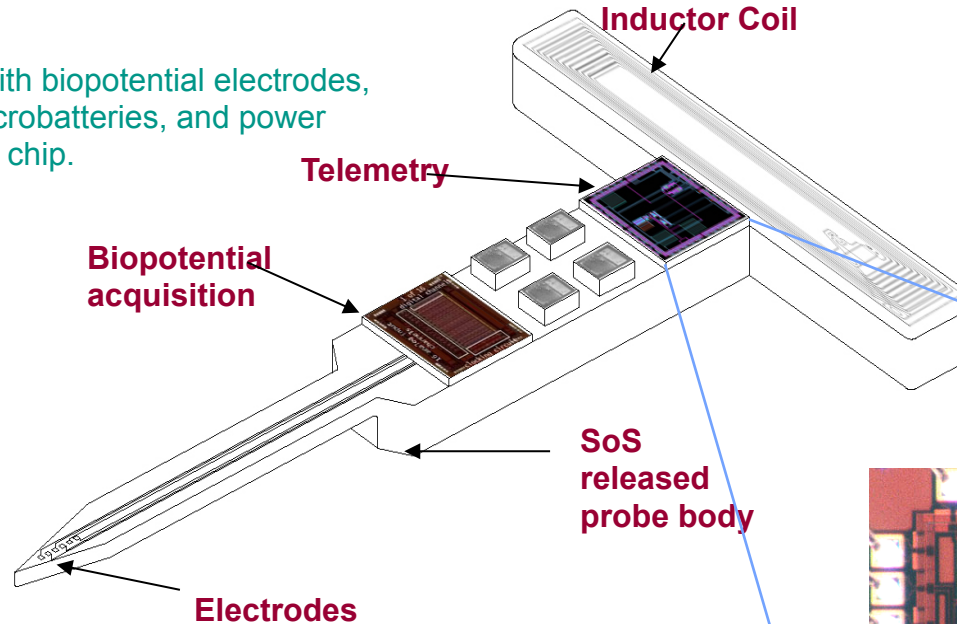
- **Transcutaneous wires limit the application of implantable sensing/actuation technology to neural prostheses**
  - Risk of infection
    - *Opening through the skin reduces the body's natural defense against invading microorganisms*
  - Limited mobility
    - *Tethered to power source and data logging instrumentation*
- **Wireless technology is widely available, however:**
  - Frequency range of radio transmission is limited by the body's absorption spectra and safety considerations
    - *Magnetic (inductive) coupling at low frequency, ~1-4 MHz*
    - *Very low transmitted power requires efficient low-power design*

Sauer, Stanacevic, Cauwenberghs, and Thakor, 2005

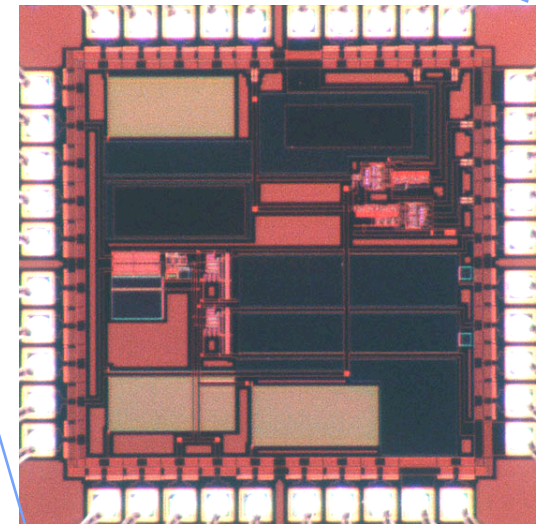
# Sensor Interface Conditioning Telemetry

Sauer, Stanacevic, Cauwenberghs, and Thakor (2005)

Implantable probe with biopotential electrodes, VLSI acquisition, microbatteries, and power harvesting telemetry chip.

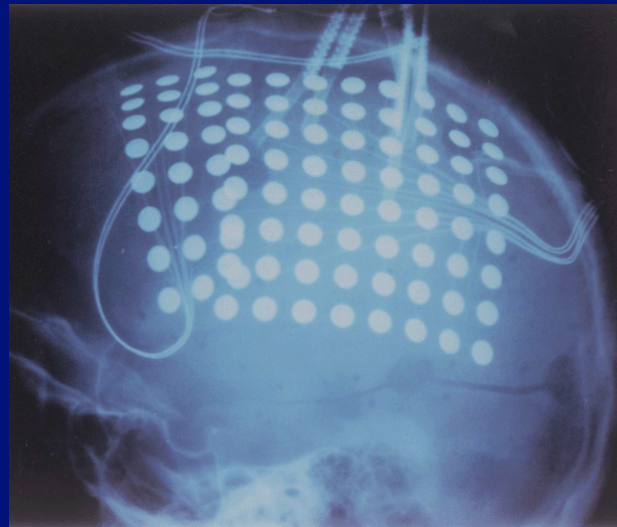


Power delivery and data transmission over the same inductive link



Telemetry chip (1.5mm X 1.5mm)

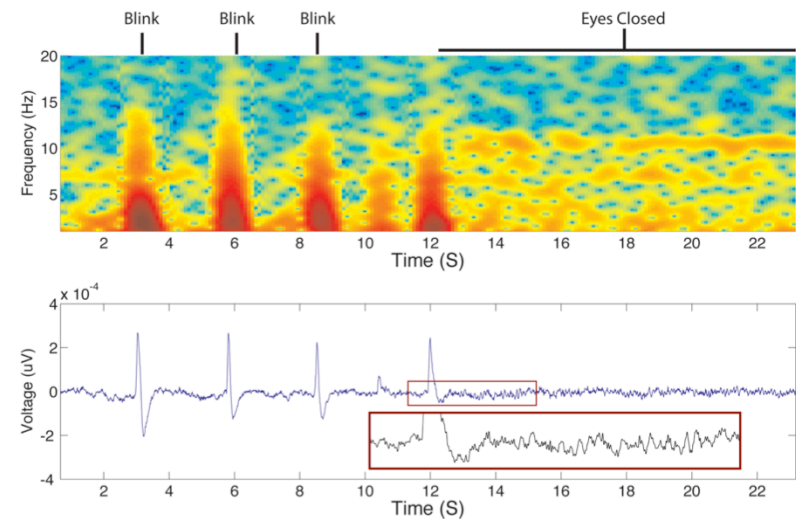
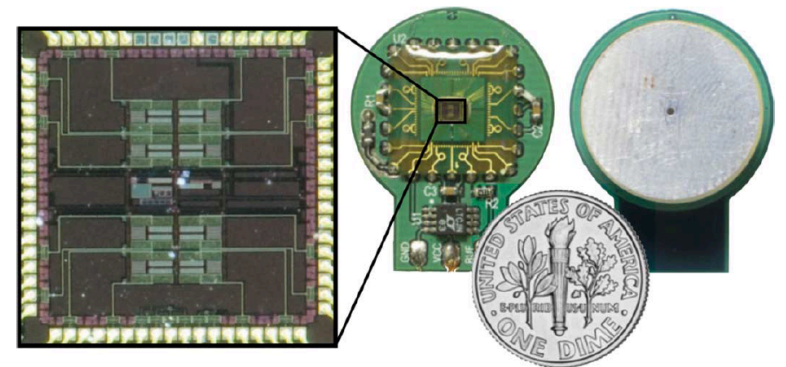
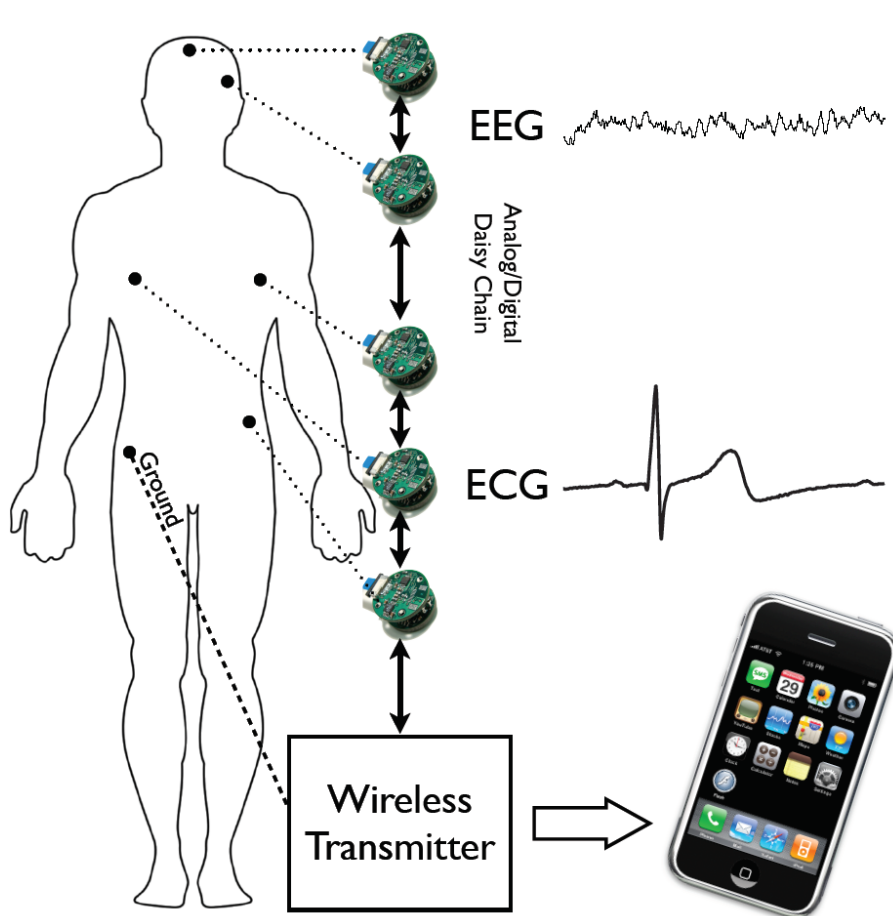
# Non-Invasive and Minimally Invasive Biopotential Recording



**Electrodes**  
**Amplifiers**  
**Signal Conditioning**

# Wireless Non-Contact Biopotential Sensors

Chi et al, 2010-



EEG alpha and eye blink activity recorded on the occipital lobe over haired skull

Chi, Maier, Cauwenberghs, "Ultra-high input impedance, low noise integrated amplifier for noncontact biopotential sensing," IEEE JETCAS 1(4), 526-535, 2011.

Joshi, Kim and Cauwenberghs, "A 6.5- $\mu\text{W}/\text{MHz}$  Charge Buffer With 7-fF Input Capacitance in 65-nm CMOS for Noncontact Electropotential Sensing," IEEE TCAS-II, 63(12), 1161-1165, 2016.

Chi, Wang, Wang, Maier, Jung, and Cauwenberghs, "Dry and Noncontact EEG Sensors for Mobile Brain-Computer Interfaces," IEEE TNSRE 20(2), 228-235, 2012.

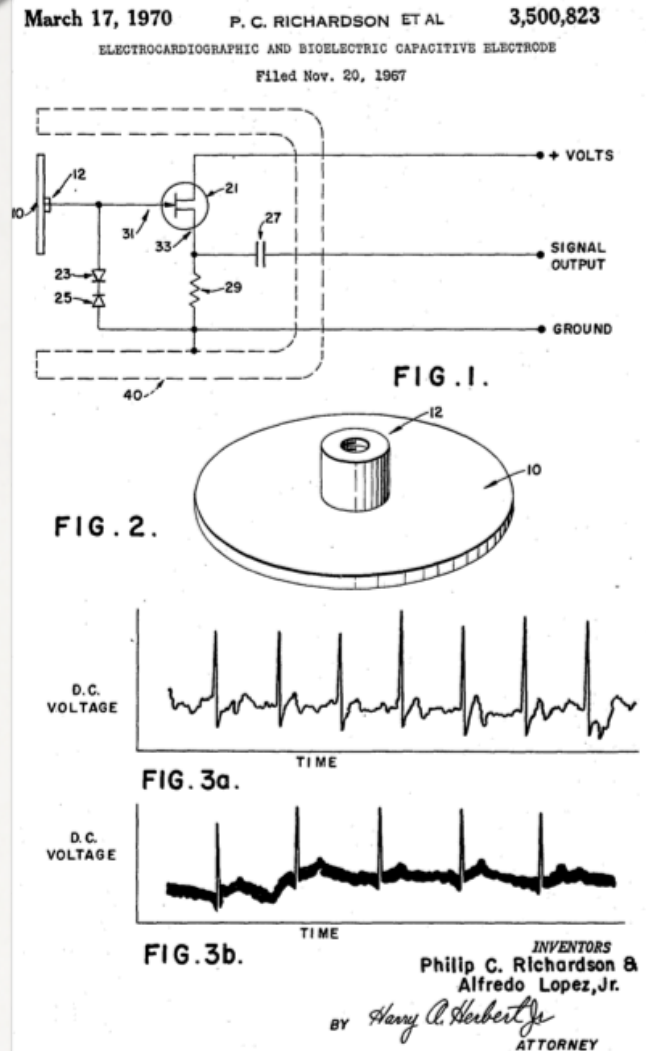
# Capacitive Non-Contact Electrodes

- **Senses biopotential signals without contact**
  - Capacitive signal coupling
  - No electro-gel
  - Through clothing and hair
- **Basic idea is well-known**
  - First patent in 1968 (Richardson)
  - Several groups (Prance) and one company (Quasar) have pursued this
- **Technology still problematic**
  - Noise, interference pickup, artifacts
  - Circuit complexity, materials, construction, cost
  - Nothing beyond 'lab prototype'

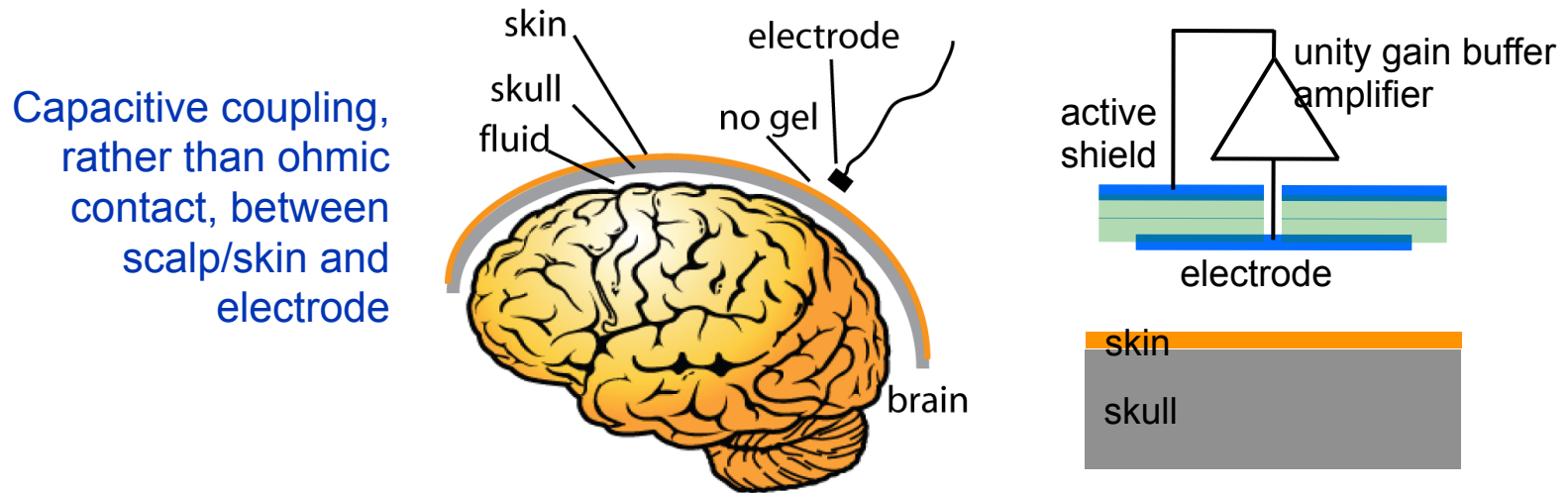
[1] C.J. Harland, T.D. Clark, and R.J. Prance. Electric potential probes - new directions in the remote sensing of the human body. *Measurement Science and Technology*, 2:163–169, February 2002.

[2] A. Lopez and P. C. Richardson. Capacitive electrocardiographic and bioelectric electrodes. *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*, 16:299–300, 1969.

[3] P. Park, P.H. Chou, Y. Bai, R. Matthews, and A. Hibbs. An ultra- wearable, wireless, low power ECG monitoring system. *Proc. IEEE International Conference on Complex Medical Engineering*, pages 241–244, Nov 2006.



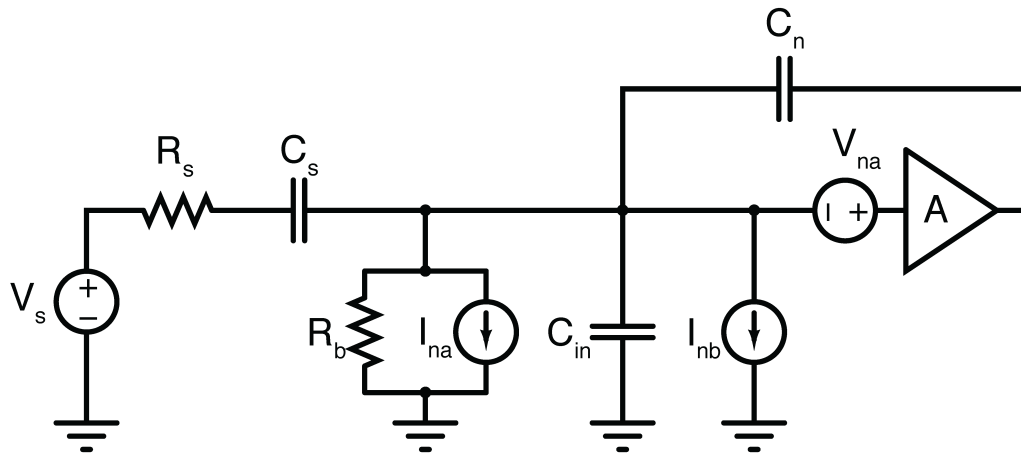
# Challenges in Non-Contact Sensors



- **Amplifier parasitic input capacitance**
  - Reduces gain as electrode-skin distance changes
  - Severely degrades CMRR
  - Increases the effect of amplifier voltage noise
- **Integrates current noise at biopotential signal frequencies**
  - Amplifier input biasing
  - Large resistance required for adequate low frequency response adds further current noise

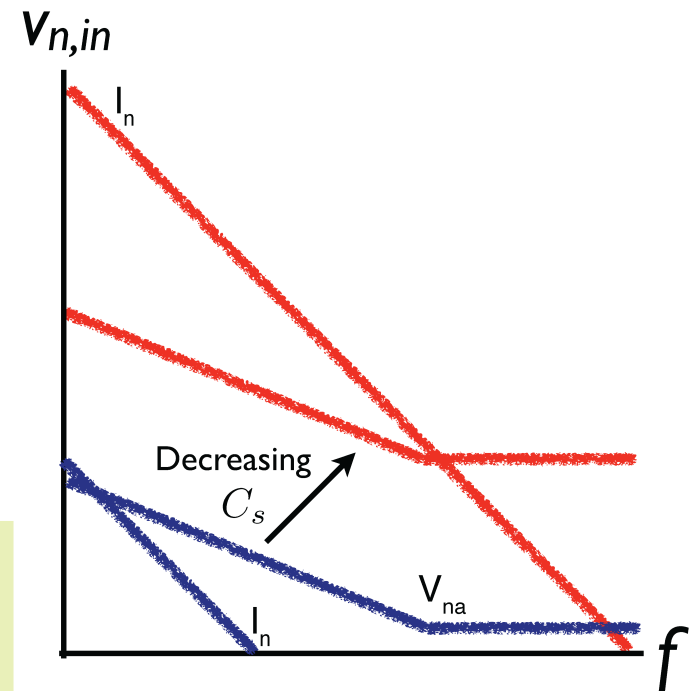
# Non-Contact Sensor Noise

Generic Capacitive Sensor Noise Model:



Input Referred Noise:

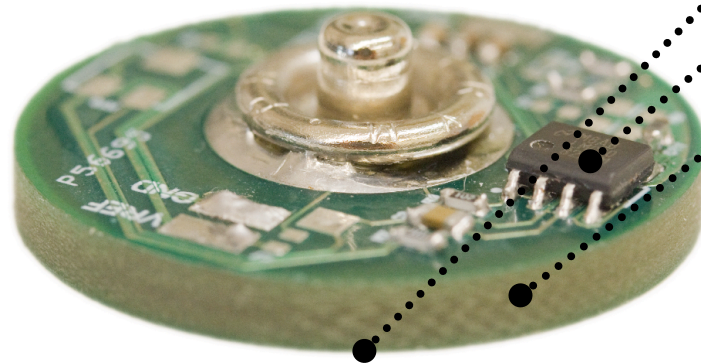
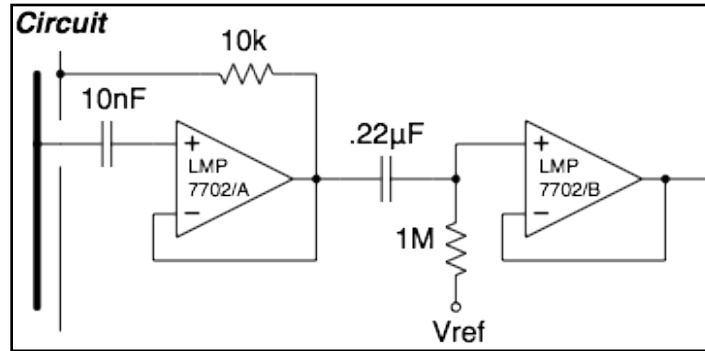
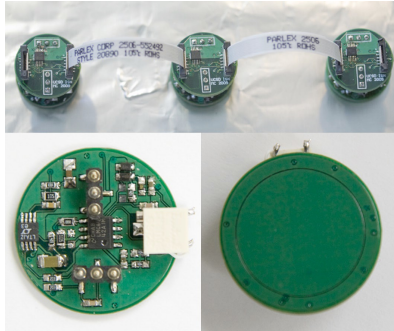
$$v_{n,in}^2 = v_{na}^2 \left(1 + \frac{C_{in} + C_n}{C_s}\right)^2 + \frac{i_{na}^2 + i_{nb}^2}{\omega^2 C_s^2}$$





# Non-Contact Sensor Design

- Non-contact sensor fabricated on a printed circuit board substrate



Sensing Plate

Active Shield

Amplifier

- **Advantages:**

- Robust circuit
- Inexpensive production
- Safe, no sharp edges or fingers, can be made flexible
- Very low power ( $<100\mu\text{W}/\text{sensor}$ )
- Strong immunity to external noise

Standard 4-layer PCB

*Chi and Cauwenberghs, 2010*

# Wearable Wireless EEG/ECG System

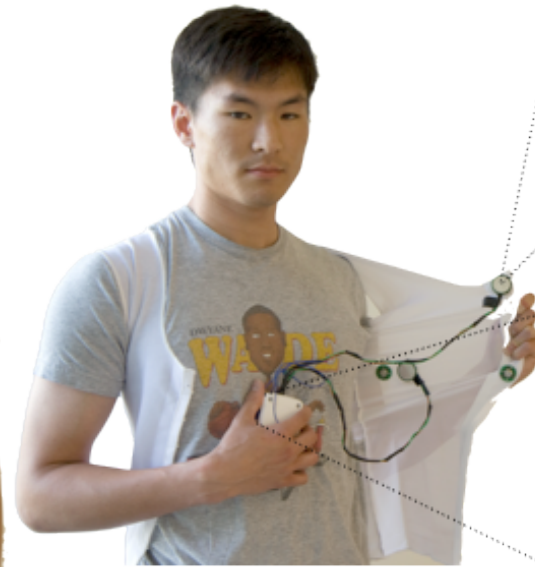
*Y. M. Chi, E. Kang, J. Kang, J. Fang and G. Cauwenberghs, 2010*

- **Prototype non-contact sensor system with 4-channels**
  - Bluetooth wireless telemetry and microSD data storage
  - Rechargeable battery
- **Mounted in both head and chest harnesses**

EEG Hand-band



ECG Chest Harness

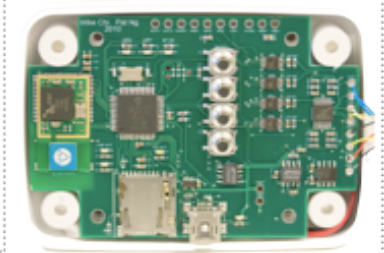


Electronics

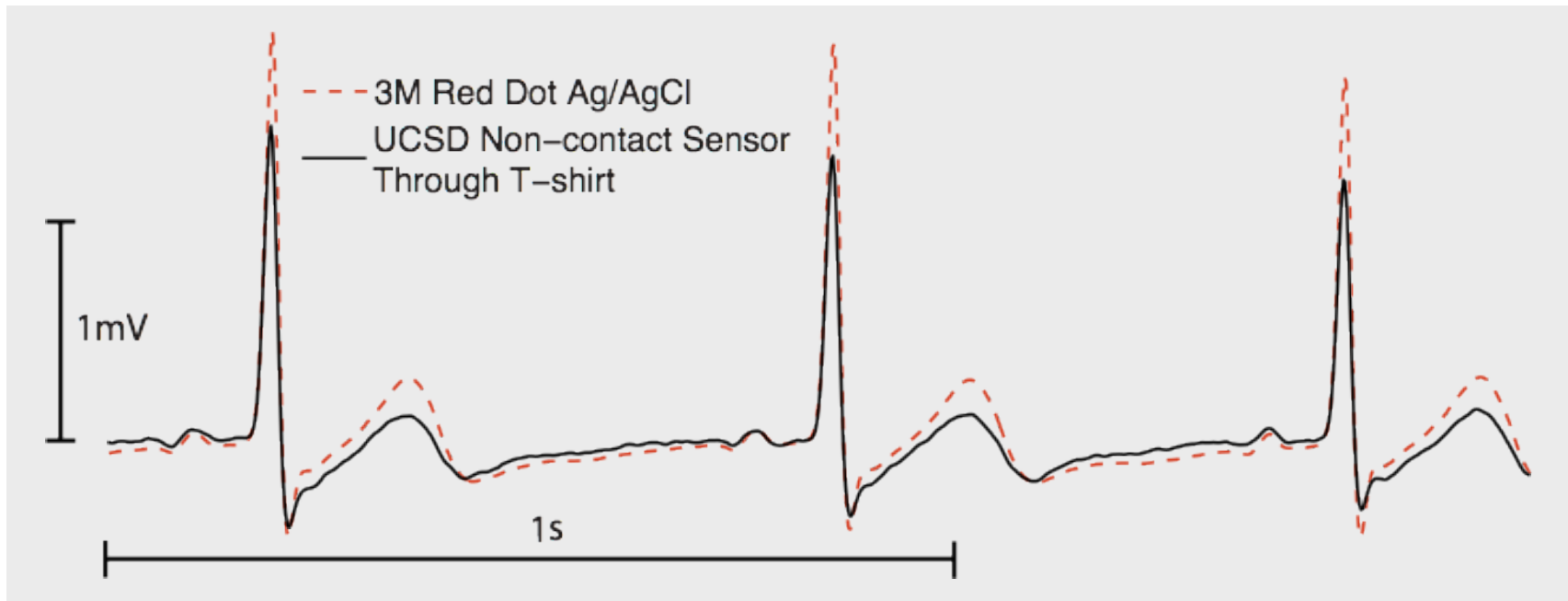
Sensor



Wireless Base



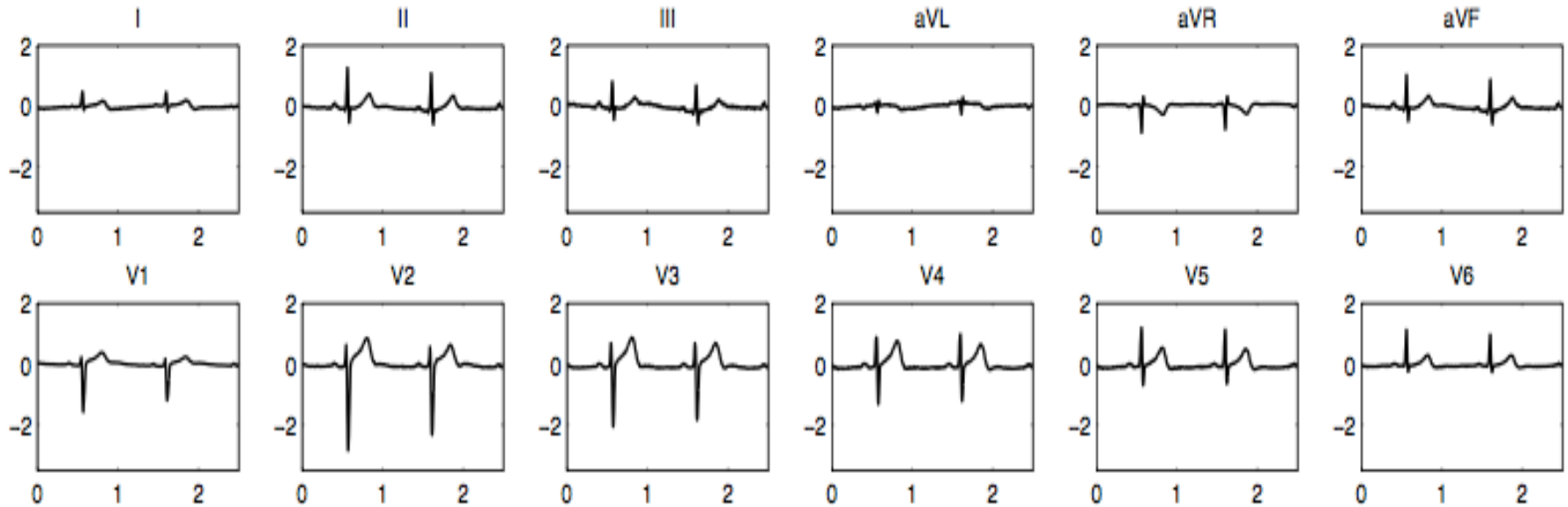
# ECG Comparison



Simultaneously acquired ECG in laboratory setting  
No 60Hz Filter

*Y. M. Chi, E. Kang, J. Kang, J. Fang and G. Cauwenberghs, 2010*

# Sample ECG Data

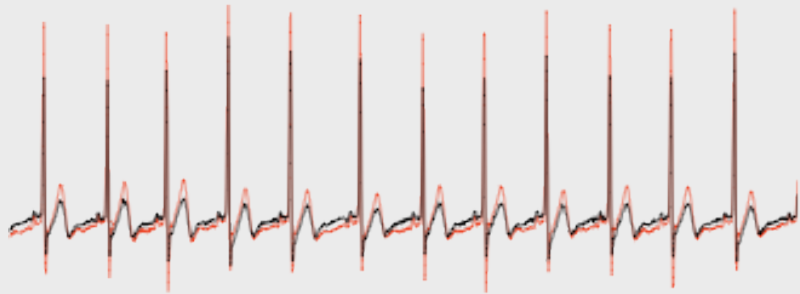


Derived 12-lead ECG from 4 electrodes mounted in chest harness

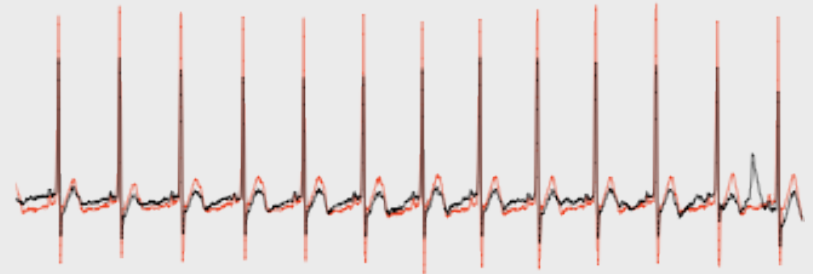
*Y. M. Chi, E. Kang, J. Kang, J. Fang and G. Cauwenberghs, 2010*

# ECG Under Motion

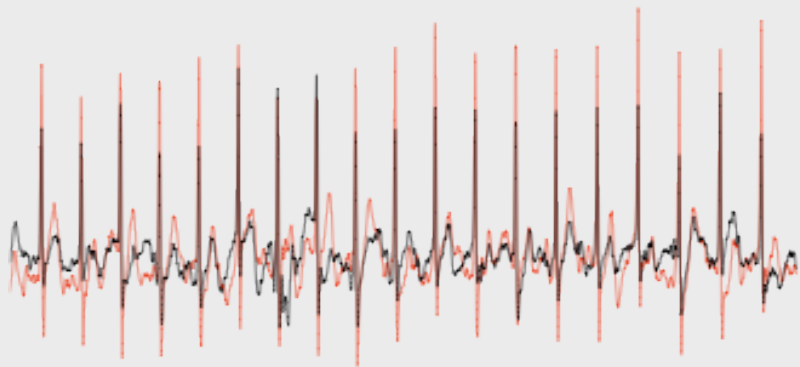
**Sitting**



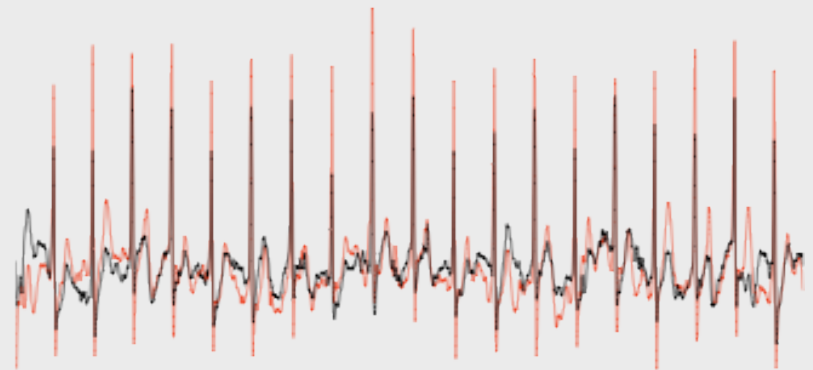
**Walking**



**Running**



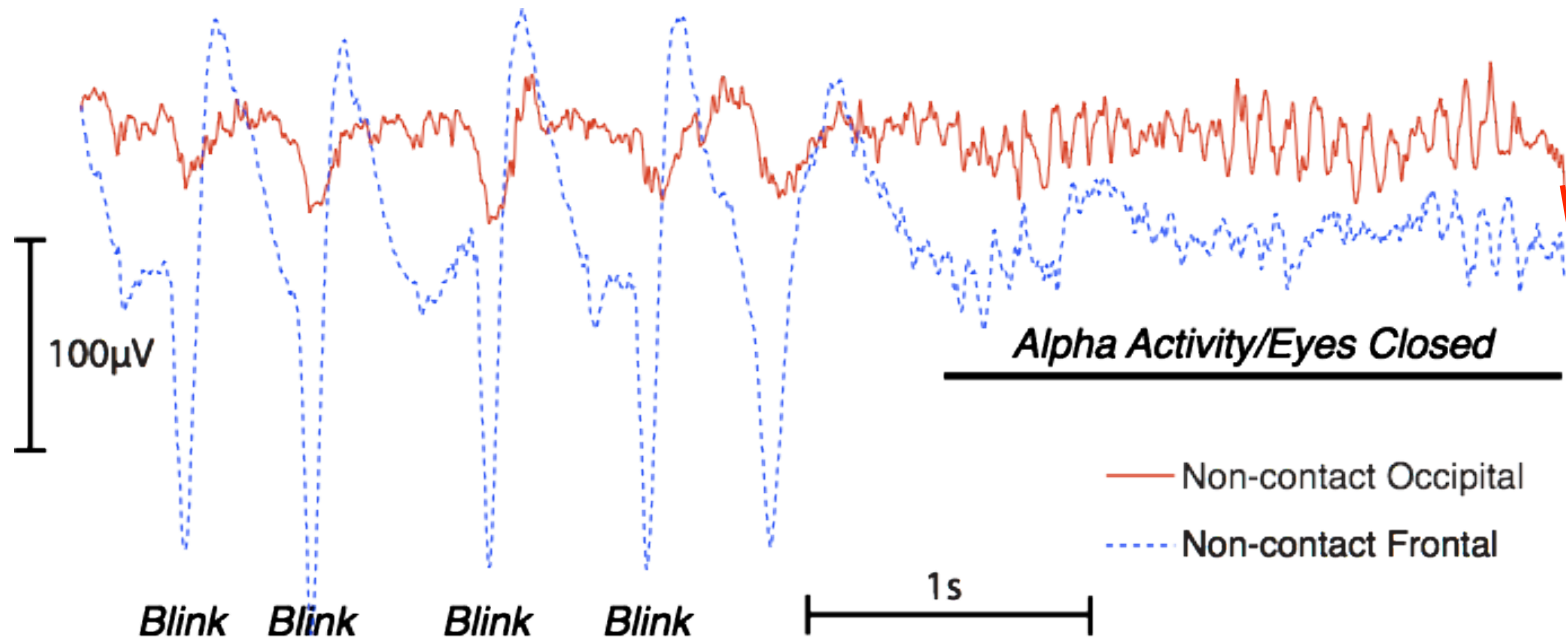
**Jumping**



*Y. M. Chi, E. Kang, J. Kang, J. Fang and G. Cauwenberghs, 2010*

# Non-Contact EEG Recording over Haired Scalp

Y. M. Chi, E. Kang, J. Kang, J. Fang and G. Cauwenberghs, 2010

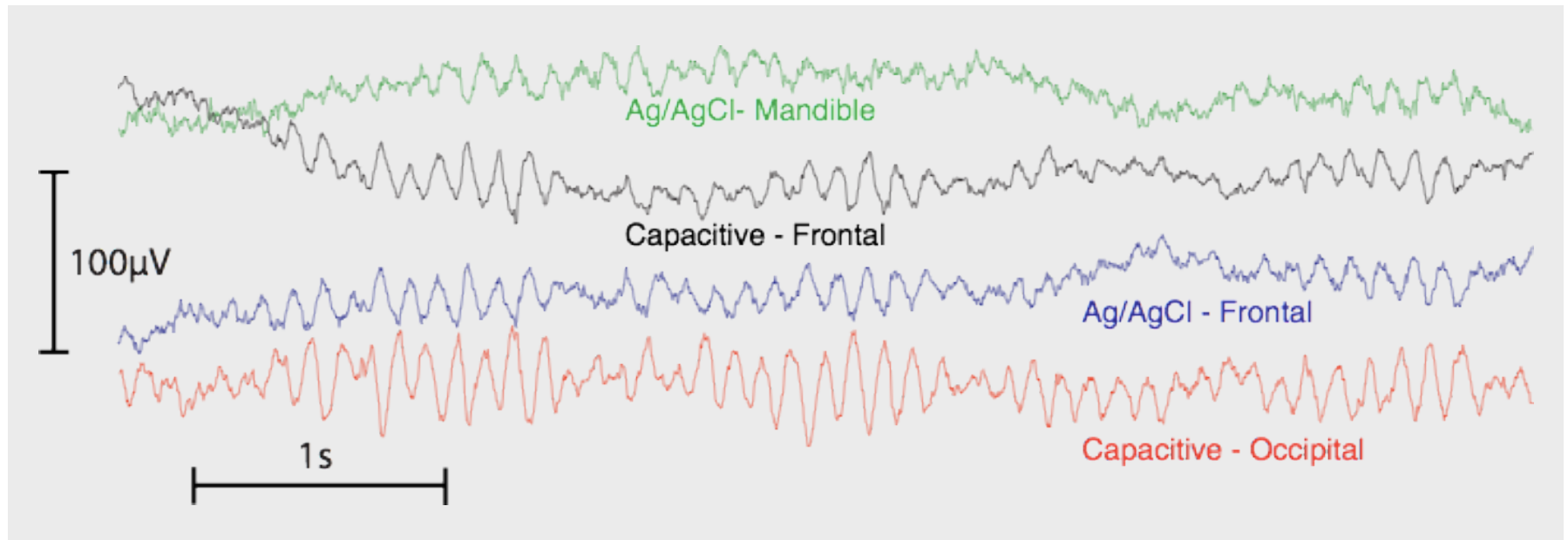


- Easy access to hair-covered areas of the head without gels or slap-contact
- EEG data available only from the posterior
  - P300 (Brain-computer control, memory recognition)
  - SSVP (Brain-computer control)



# Non-Contact vs. Ag/AgCl Comparison

*Y. M. Chi, E. Kang, J. Kang, J. Fang and G. Cauwenberghs, 2010*



Subject's eyes closed showing alpha wave activity  
Full bandwidth, unfiltered, signal show (.5-100Hz)

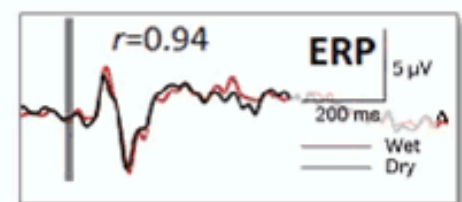


# Unobtrusive Dry-EEG Functional Brain Imaging

Mullen, Kothe, Chi, Ojeda, Kerth, Makeig, Jung, and Cauwenberghs, 2015

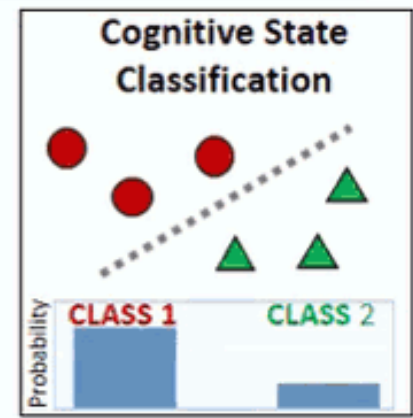
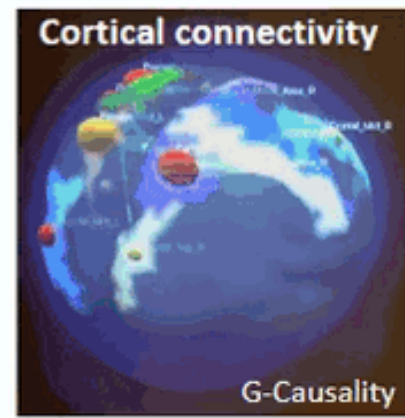
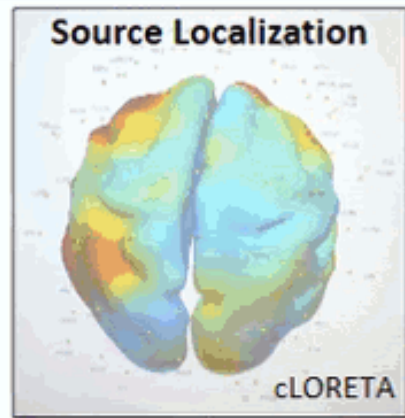
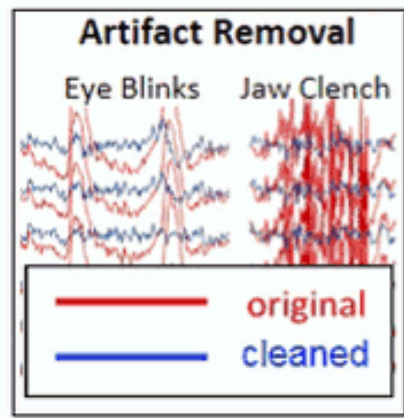
**Dry EEG electrode**      **Wearable form-factor**      **64-channel dry-electrode wireless streaming EEG**

Conductive Elastomeric Base

Ag/AgCl Tips



## BCILAB / SIFT Online Data Analysis Pipeline



Mullen et al, Real-time Neuroimaging and Cognitive Monitoring Using Wearable Dry EEG. *IEEE TMBE*, 2015.



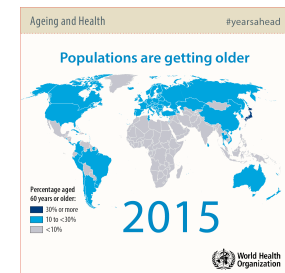
# Opportunities for In-Ear Health Sensing

- **Prevalence of wireless personal audio devices:**



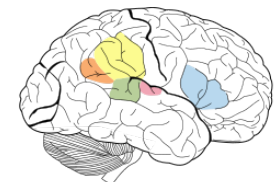
- **Rapidly aging global population:**

- Over the next few decades, people 65 years and older will account for **20% of the global population**, an unprecedented shift. New healthcare challenges and opportunities will arise for which **reliable and continuous high-bandwidth health data will be critical.**



- **In-Ear Health Sensing Platform**

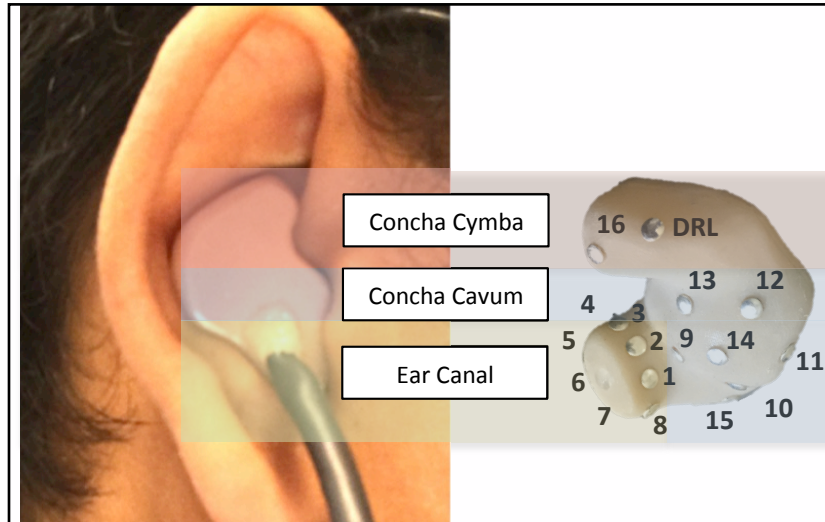
- An in-ear healthcare platform has the convenience, comfort, and discretion of a consumer audio device, while offering valuable electrophysiological and biochemical data.



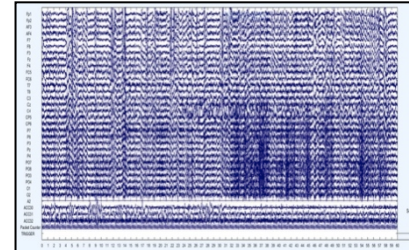
# In-Ear Electrophysiology

Paul et al, IEEE NER 2019; IEEE EMBC 2019

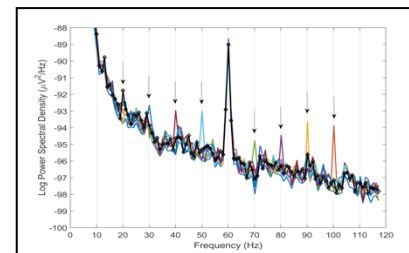
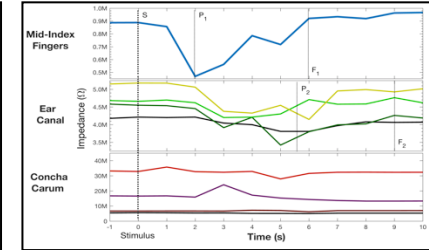
## High-density dry-contact electrodes capture a wealth of physiological information from an integrated in-ear device



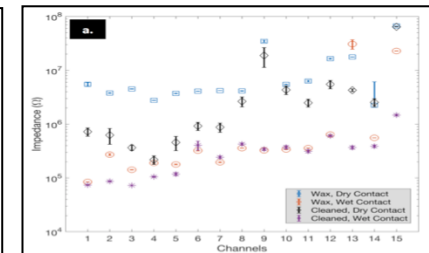
Auditory ERP



Electrodermal Activity



ASRR PSD



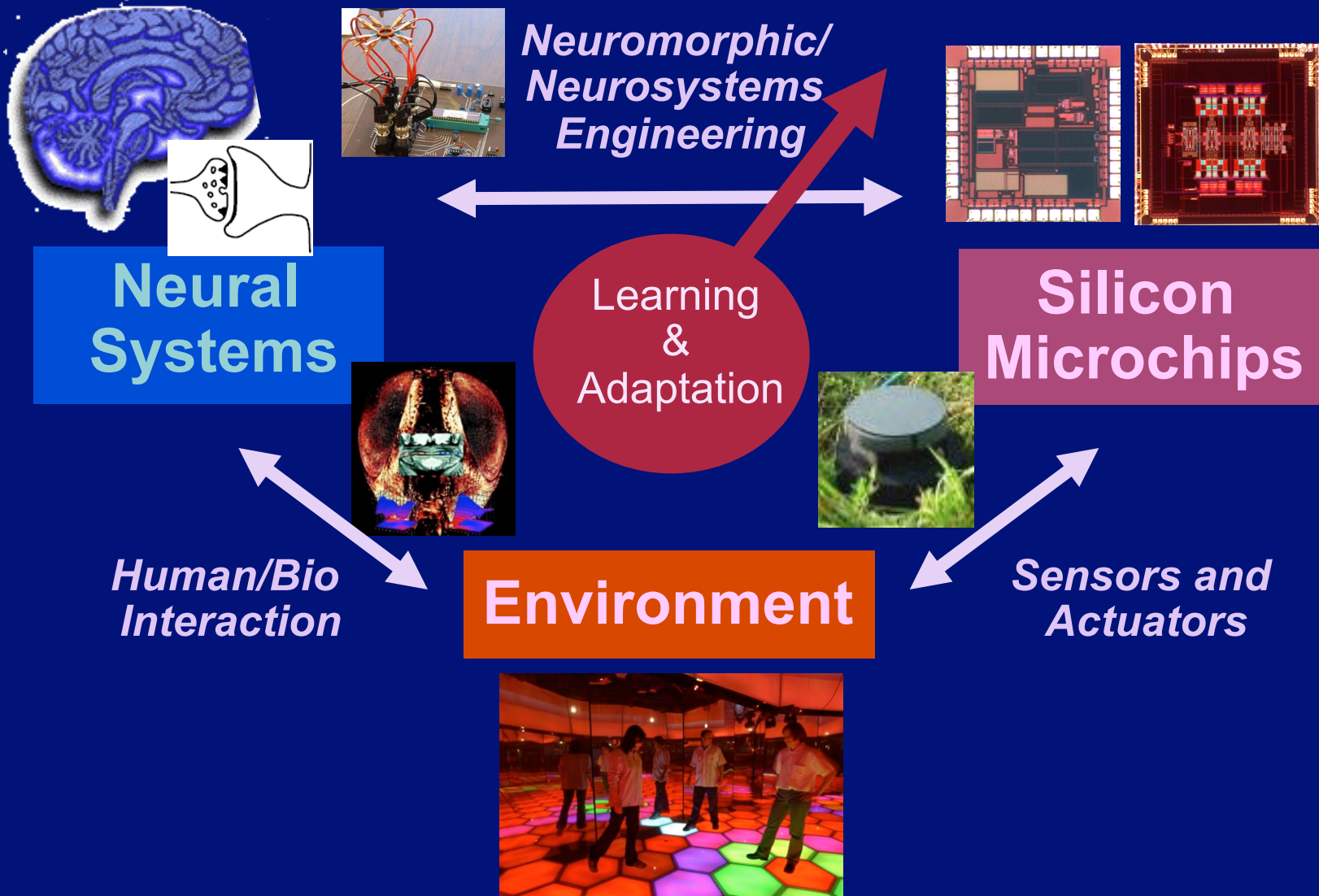
Impedance Imaging

- In-ear, high-density dry-contact electrode recording platform records electroencephalography (EEG) signals from the brainstem, temporal, and visual cortexes with quality comparable to commercial scalp EEG.
- Electrical impedance measurement provides electrodermal activity (EDA).
- Opportunities for closed-loop auditory neurofeedback (tinnitus, insomnia, apnea, etc).

Paul, A., Deiss, S., Tourtelotte, D., Klefner, M., Zhang, T., and Cauwenberghs, G. Electrode-Skin Impedance Characterization of In-Ear Electrophysiology Accounting for Cerumen and Electrodermal Response. IEEE EMBS Int. Conf. Neural Engineering (NER'19), 2019.

Paul, A., Akinin, A., Cauwenberghs, G. Integrated In-Ear Device for Auditory Health Assessment. 2019 41st Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society (EMBC'19), 2019.

# Integrated Systems Neuroengineering



# BENG 207 Neuromorphic Integrated Bioelectronics

Date	Topic
9/27, 9/29	Biophysical foundations of natural intelligence in neural systems. Subthreshold MOS silicon models of membrane excitability. Silicon neurons. Hodgkin-Huxley and integrate-and-fire models of spiking neuronal dynamics. Action potentials as address events.
10/4, 10/6	Silicon retina. Low-noise, high-dynamic range photoreceptors. Focal-plane array signal processing. Spatial and temporal contrast sensitivity and adaptation. Dynamic vision sensors.
10/11, 10/13	Silicon cochlea. Low-noise acoustic sensing and automatic gain control. Continuous wavelet filter banks. Interaural time difference and level difference auditory localization. Blind source separation and independent component analysis.
10/18, 10/20	Silicon cortex. Neural and synaptic compute-in-memory arrays. Address-event decoders and arbiters, and integrate-and-fire array transceivers. Hierarchical address-event routing for locally dense, globally sparse long-range connectivity across vast spatial scales.
10/28, 11/1	Review. Modular and scalable design for neuromorphic and bioelectronic integrated circuits and systems. Design for full testability and controllability.
11/1, 11/3	Midterm due 11/2. Low-noise, low-power design. Fundamental limits of noise-energy efficiency, and metrics of performance. Biopotential and electrochemical recording and stimulation, lab-on-a-chip electrophysiology, and neural interface systems-on-chip.
11/8, 11/10	Learning and adaptation to compensate for external and internal variability over extended time scales. Background blind calibration of device mismatch. Correlated double sampling and chopping for offset drift and low-frequency noise cancellation.
11/15, 11/17	Energy conservation. Resonant inductive power delivery and data telemetry. Ultra-high efficiency neuromorphic computing. Resonant adiabatic energy-recovery charge-conserving synapse arrays.
11/22, 11/24	Guest lectures
11/29, 12/1	Project final presentations. All are welcome!