

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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14. ABSTRACT Our goal is to compute the complete functional connectivity map of a living neuronal network spontaneously assembled in culture and determine the utility of its information content as a synthetic memory trace. To date no functional connectivity map exists for living neurons at the resolution proposed here. In fact, a quantitative model of the microcircuitry at the level of the single synapse remains inaccessible with current technology. We will develop a deep learning module for diagnosing MEA patterns and establish a complete connectivity map for hippocampal cultured neurons.					
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February 7th, 2017

RE: Kosik/DARPA Final Report W911NF-15-2-0056

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached Final Report for the project titled: "*A New Tool for Local Manipulation of Neuronal Micro-Circuitry with Ions and Force*".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth S. Kosik".

Kenneth S. Kosik, M.D.

Major Technical Developments and Progress

1. Building the Neural Circuit Probe

The Neural Circuit Probe (NCP) combines probes from Scanning Probe Microscopy with multi-electrode arrays (MEAs). In this first report, we use non-contact probes with feedback based on Scanning Ion Conductance Microscopy (SICM) for mobile electrical recording, local chemical delivery and single cell harvesting from a neural circuit of dissociated hippocampal neurons grown on a commercial MEA composed of 120 electrodes. Mobile electrical recording can assign the signal recorded from the MEA to a specific neuron. Local drug delivery can transiently and reversibly modulate the electrical behavior of individually identified neurons to assess their contributions to the circuit behavior. Individual cell harvesting with a SICM probe can be used to pick up identified cells for single-cell RNA-seq analysis of physiologically defined neurons.

2. Detecting action potential propagation in single axons using multi-electrode arrays

Multi-electrode array (MEA) recording of extracellular action potentials (eAPs) is a high-throughput and non-invasive recording configuration. However, its use precludes knowing the neuronal source of any eAP. In our experiments with cultured mouse hippocampal neurons, we found surprisingly widespread co-occurrence of eAPs among groups of electrodes. Co-active electrode groups had invariant eAP sequences and inter-electrode time delays consistent with action potential propagation in unmyelinated axons. This was confirmed when we manipulated factors known to affect axonal action potential propagation. Co-detection of eAPs by multiple electrodes confirms these eAPs are from individual neurons, allowing us to unambiguously monitor the electrical behavior of single neurons within neuronal ensembles. Our methods revealed details of the expansion and contraction of axonal excitability during circuit development. These propagation signals are also present in cultures of human iPS-derived neurons and thus could be used to study axonal physiology in human disease models.

3. Using the NCP to validate predictions of an inhibitory connection based on a GLM

How external inputs to neurons in a network propagate in it and influence other parts of the network is a crucial step in understanding its internal properties and the way it functions in concert with other parts of the nervous system. We demonstrated that tools from statistical inference can be used to make predictions about how chemical intervention with the activity of neurons can propagate in a network and affect other neurons. We did this by first fitting a Generalized Linear Model (GLM) to spike trains recorded from neurons in a hippocampal culture and inferring effective interactions between these neurons. We then used the fitted

model to perform simulated *in silico* experiments in which we simulated the effect of silencing individual neurons in a network on the activity of others. We tested the predictions from these simulated silencing experiments by performing real experiments in which we applied Tetrodotoxin (TTX) using the NCP to silence neurons and demonstrate the effectiveness of our approach in detecting inhibitory interactions between pairs of neurons.

To acquire the traces for analysis by the GLM we used Multi-electrode arrays (MEAs) capable of recording extracellular action potentials (eAP) from hundreds of neurons simultaneously. Planer MEAs serve as a substrate for glial and neuronal growth in which neural ensembles self organize over multiple days. The close apposition of neurons with each recording electrode produce recordings with high signal- to-noise properties while the ease of making manipulations in the culture permits access not otherwise possible *in vivo*. Because cultured neurons self-organize into spontaneously- active synaptic circuits and because neurons fire action potentials primarily in response to synaptic input, recording extracellular action potentials can sample the connectivity phenotypes in large groups of neurons. We discovered that GLM based simulated experiments can identify inhibitory connections.

4. MEA Viewer: a High Performance Interactive Application for Visualizing Electrophysiological Data

Multi-electrode array (MEA) recordings of neuronal signals fill a vital role in the characterization of *in vitro* and *in vivo* neuronal signaling. It is now common to use MEAs to record extracellular action potentials (eAPs) simultaneously from hundreds of neurons. Because of the high sampling frequency required to adequately capture these types of events, the resulting raw data files are large and difficult to visualize with traditional plotting tools. Unbiased data exploration requires the use of tools that minimize data transforms, enabling the development of a heuristic perspective from unprocessed data. We introduce MEA Viewer, a high performance interactive application for the direct visualization of multi-channel electrophysiological data. MEA Viewer provides many high performance visualizations of electrophysiological data, including an easily navigable overview of all recorded extracellular signals overlaid with spike time stamp data and an interactive raster plot. Beyond these fundamental displays MEA Viewer can also extract sub-threshold information, which is information below the spike detection threshold, from single neurons on the array by aligning and averaging eAPs identified by that neuron's propagation signal. This is a direct visualization of both action potential propagation across the plane of the MEA, as well as other events occurring nearby in time such as excitatory post-synaptic potentials (EPSPs) and pre and post-synaptic spiking, thus opening up new and novel research applications for medium density arrays. MEA Viewer is licensed under the General Public License version 3, GPLv3, and is available at <http://github.com/dbridges/mea-tools>.

5. Construction of patterned arrays for computing neuronal ensemble behavior

We have built a patterned surface that geometrically organizes information flow and reliably controls this flow between two neural ensembles, while simultaneously recoding, visualizing and probing electrical activity within the component neural circuits. This device is illustrated below.

