

SUMMARY

in master's programme Biomedical Engineering
Course 362.118 Biomedical Microsystems

Summary of the course

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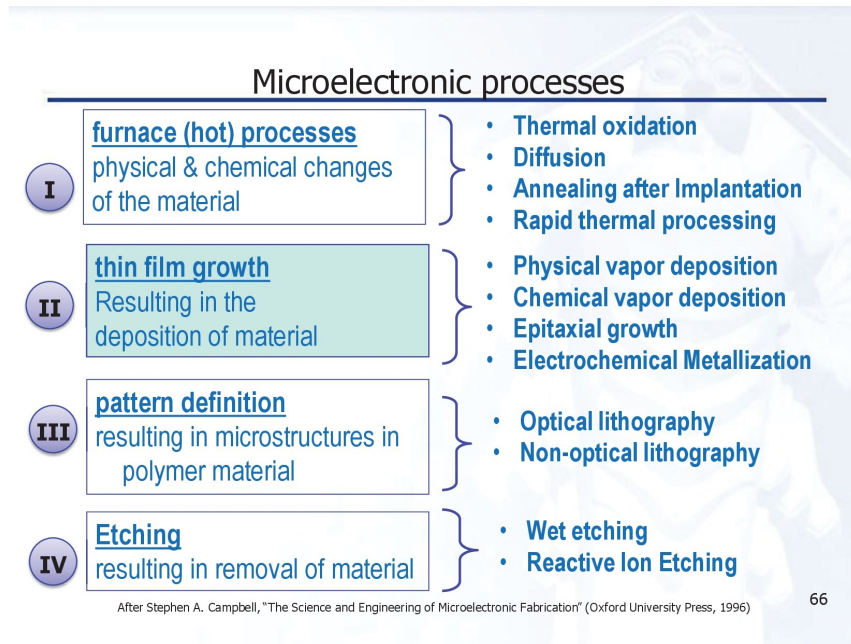


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1 Fabrication of Micro- and Nanostructures



1.1 Furnace Process

Thermal oxidation:

- Dry oxidation: $\text{Si} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{SiO}_2$
- Wet oxidation: $\text{Si} + 2 \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{SiO}_2 + 2 \text{H}_2$

1.2 Thin film growth = Deposition

A single atom appears, then a second one, they attached to each other. More atoms go to this and it grows by attaching together.

| | Physical | Chemical |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Dry (= vacuum) | Physical vapor deposition (PVD), Molecular Beam Epitaxy (MBE), Sputter deposition | Chemical vapor deposition (CVD), Atomic layer deposition (ALD) |
| Wet (= liquid) | Spin coating | Electro plating, Electro less plating |

PVD process is done by melting metal and steam it on the surface.

Sputter deposition use a High-frequency plasma.

Spin coating have we done in the laboratory exercise.

CVD Chemical reactive gases are used to synthesize thin solid films. Can be classified by

the operating pressure (atmospheric pressure, low-pressure, ultra-high vacuum).

ALD Two gases are sequentially supplied.

Electron plating/Less plating is a RedOX reaction. Non-galvanic type of plating. Use of electrical current to reduce cation of a desired material from a solution and coat a conductive object with a thin layer of the material.

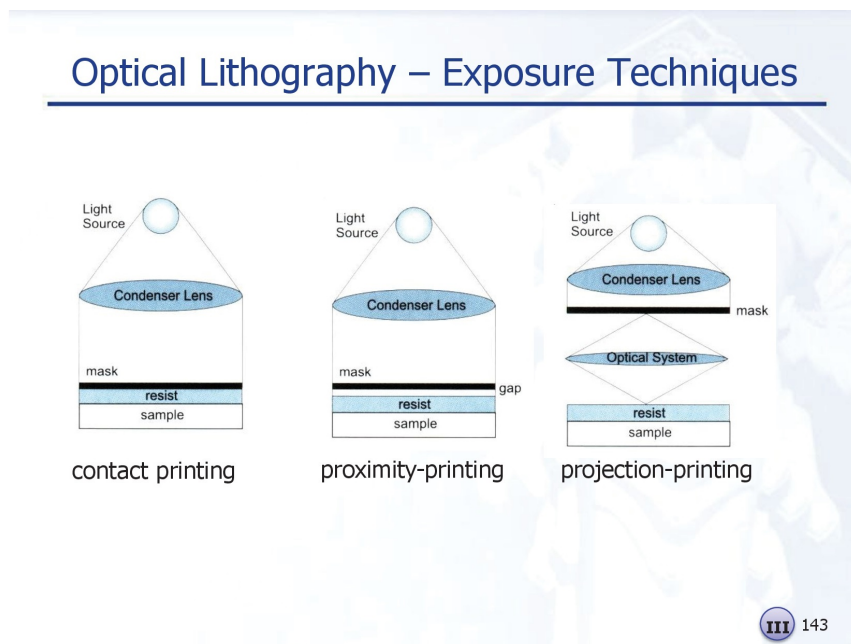
1.3 Patterning

| Lift-off | Etch-bak |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1) Pattern Photoresist | 1) Material deposition |
| 2) Material deposition | 2) Pattern Photoresist |
| 3) Lift of (= Striping) | 3) Etching |
| | 4) Striping of Photoresist with a ionic solvent |

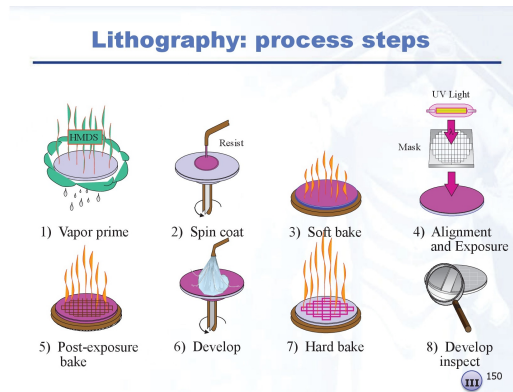
Define a pattern → Lithography

Transfer the pattern → Etching

Positive lithography is when this part, who stays during exposure in the shadow, get insoluble.



Below of 157 nm light is absorbed by all materials. UV-light changes Diazonaphthochion in Carboxyl acid.



| STEP | goal |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1.Vapor prime | Adhesion layer |
| 2.Spin coat | resist |
| 3.Soft bake | Resist drying |
| 4. Alignment and exposure | Resist exposure |
| 5.Post-exposure bake (PEB) | Resist hardening |
| 6.Develop | Removal of exposed |
| 7.Hard bake | Resist hardening |
| 8.Develop inspect | control |

1.4 Etching

Methods of Etching:

- Wet etching → Isotropic
- Plasma etching
- Ion beam etching/Ion milling

2 Principles of Microelectronic Devices

Elements of a network:

- Independent sources
- Resistors
- Capacitors
- Switches

Superposition-theorem: Each single source contributes to the overall response independently from each other source. Superposition works for voltage and currents but not for power.

→ Überlagerungsverfahren nach Helmholtz

Spannungsquelle wird zu einem Kurzschluss

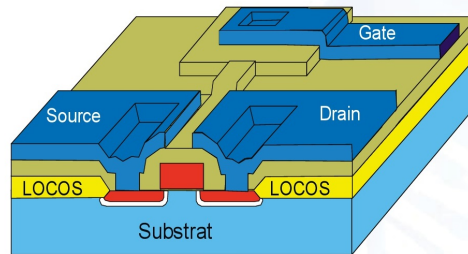
Stromquelle zu einer Unterbrechung

Microelectronic arrays (MEA) can be used for stimulation of cells and electrophysiologic recordings.

Metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor (MOSFET) are used to amplify or switch electronic signals.

Microelectronic Concepts for Biomedical Interfaces

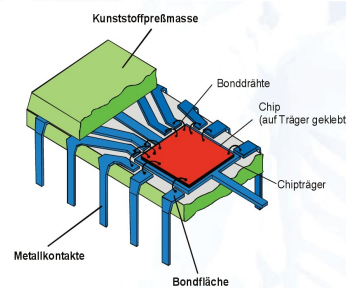
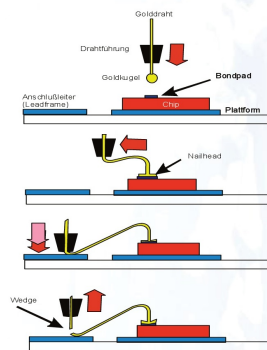
Schematic of an integrated MOSFET



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Bonding of a chip:

Microelectronic Concepts for Biomedical Interfaces



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pMOSFET have a source and drain part which is a p^+ region. The body is a n-region, as result an pnp-MOSFET. If a voltage (+) is applied by the gate the electrons (e^-) of the body are went to the gate. A brig between the source and drain appears where the e^- can travel from the source to the drain.

3 Metal-Liquid-Interfaces: inorganic and organic electrolytes

Biomedical micro devices often define a new interface between:

- metallic phase, charge carriers are electrons

- conductive solution/electrolyte, charge carriers are ions

Electrochemistry is the study of reactions in which charged particles cross the interface between two phases of matter.

Interfacial potentials can exist between any two phases in contact, even in the absence of chemical reactions. They are the result of absorption or ordered alignment of ions or molecules on the surface of a second phase.

For measuring a potential difference two contact leads of a voltmeter must be brought in contact with the object.

Water is capable to undergo oxidation and reduction. Pure water is an isolator.

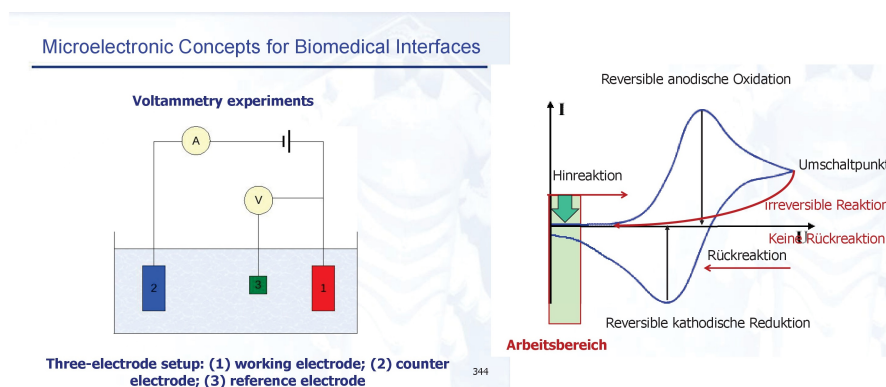
Electromotive/activity series → Similar comparison of metals made it possible to arrange them in the order of their increasing electron-donating power.

Active metals are all "attacked" by acids.

Challenges for Biomedical Micro devices:

- Charge particles may accumulate at the electrode surface
- Charged particles in the electrolyte may transfer electrons from or to the electrode surface

Voltammetry is a category of electroanalytical methods. Information about an analyte is obtained by measuring the current as the potential is varied.



4 Micro- and Nanostructured Interfaces & Microfluidics

TU WIEN Types of Experiments?

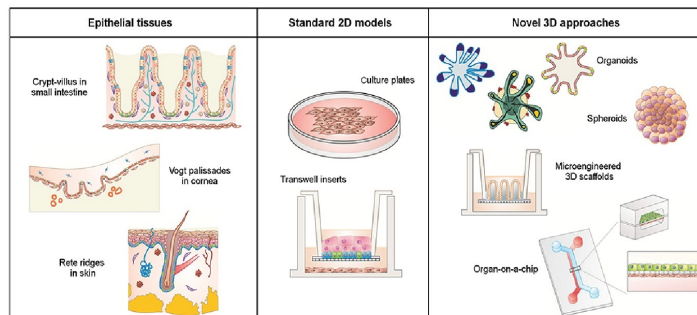
| In Silico | In Vitro | In Vivo |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Low cost ✓ Can be performed with human data = high transferability of results ✓ Ethically favored - 3Rs compliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Low cost ✓ Suitable for high throughput/large scale testing ✓ Ethically favored - 3Rs compliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Can address the complexity of organ systems ✓ Better evaluate the safety, toxicity and efficacy of a drug candidate in a complex model ✓ Higher translatability to humans |

<https://www.zclinics.com/blog/differences-between-in-vitro-in-vivo-and-in-silico-assays-in-preclinical-research/> 15 D.1

In Silico studies are biological experiments carried out entirely in a computer or via simulations. In vitro assays take place in a controlled environment, outside a living organism.

| | In-vivo | In-vitro |
|---------------|--|--|
| Advantage | Complex interactions can be studied, well defined test animals, cells in natural environment | Reduce use of animals, ease of cultur handling, cheap, less ethical problems |
| Disadvantages | ethic problems, high effort, costs | some questions need a complex test system, behaviour studies need living animals |

Primary cultures = cells cultured directly
 Immortalized cell line = cells proliferate indefinitely
 Immortal cells maintain telomere length with the aid of an enzyme telomerase.



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D.1

Liquid in which cells are grown contains factors like:

- physiologic, ph
- supraphysiologic, hormones
- nonphysiologic, antibiotics

Cell types:

- active; neuronal, heart
- passive; skin

Materials of the microchip which is interfacing with living cells have to be:

- aviable with microelectronic fabrication
- Non-corrosive
- Biocompatible

- Topography forces cells into non-natural growth shapes

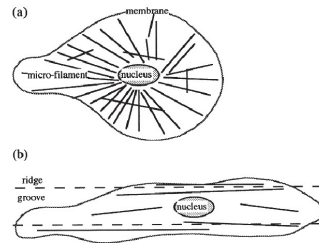


Fig. 2. Schematic of cytoskeleton. (a) shows a cell on a flat surface while (b) shows the reorganization of the micro-filaments that occurs on a grooved surface—the dashed lines show the line of discontinuity between the ridge and groove.

2002_Wilkinson-C.D.W_Curtis-A.S.G_The-use-of-materials-patterned-on-a-nano-and-micro-metric-scale-in-cellular-engineering_Mater-Sci-Eng-C_19_1-2

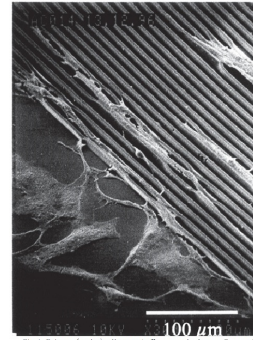


Fig. 3. Epithelial (hep2) cells on one of a grooved substrate. Grooves 7 microm wide, 3 microm deep and spaced by 14 microm.

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D.3

Patterning of surface effects cell adhesion.

The different types of cell junctions:

- Tight junctions, plasma membrane
- Adherens, actin filaments
- Desmosomes, intermediate filament
- Hemidesmosomes, intermediate filament to basal lamina
- Gyp junctions, tunnels between cells

$$Reynoldsnnumber = \frac{Interialflow}{Viscousforces} \text{ low Re = laminar flow}$$

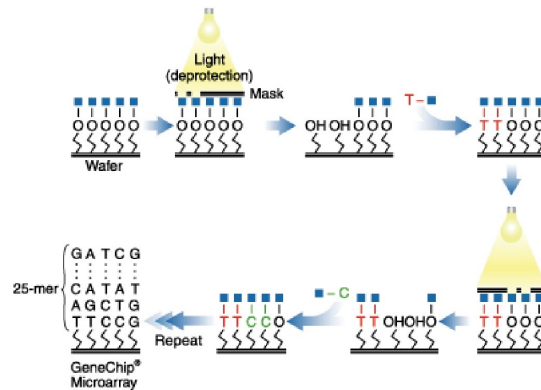
intermediate Re = transitional flow

high Re = turbulent flow

2 structuring approaches of DNA chips:

- Lithographic patterning of surface (Affymetrix)
- Drop dispersion with a micronozzle (egInkJet)

Photolithography (Affymetrix)



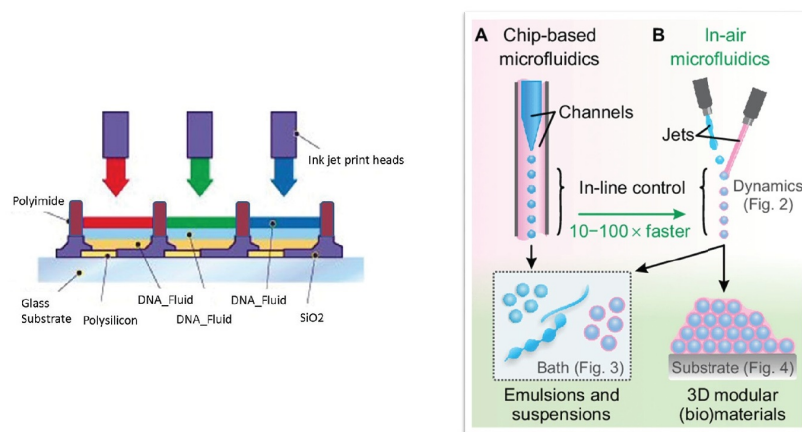
<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/cr0684467>
www.cs.tau.ac.il © Zohar Yakhini

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D.4

The so produced wafer is flooded with a solution that contains DNA. If the strands are complementary they fit together. The fluorescence target, that was attached to the sample, starts than to glow.

Inkjet Printed Microarrays



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Agilent-oligonucleotide-microarray-A-Noncontact-inkjet-printing-technology-delivers-a_fig5_26888549

Acid's (Adenin, Guanin, Thymin, Cytosin) are printing to a tower whit this technics. They use light of different wavelengths to look if the DNA have fit.

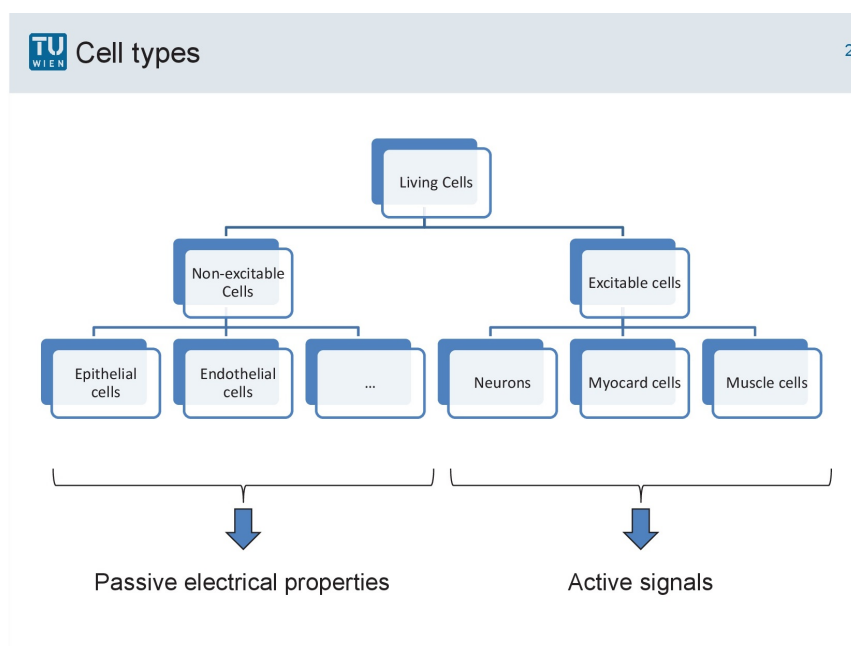
5 Cell-Monitoring and Sensing: electrically inactive cells

Communication:

- Nerve cells → ions flows through their membranes
- Electronic → electrons flows through solid metals; faster flow between silicon and metal

ISSUE: Active microelectronic in a wet environment!

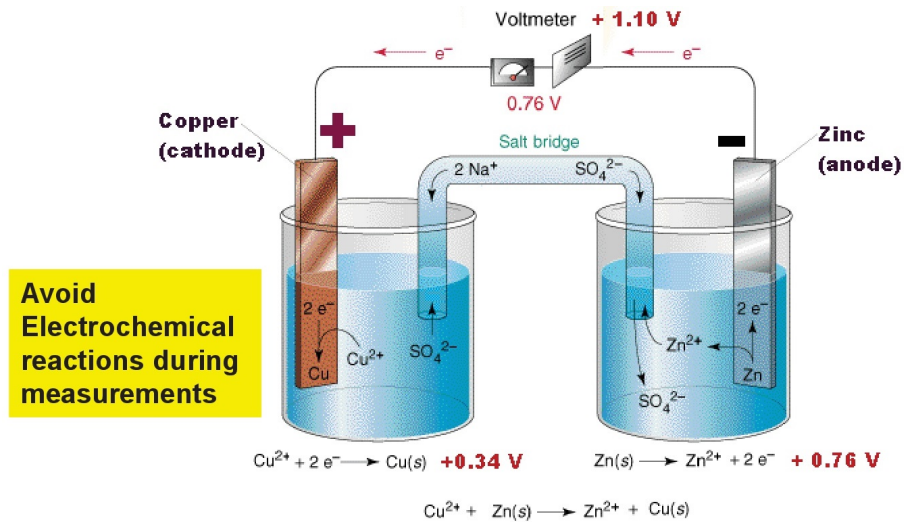
| Excitable cells | Non-excitable cells |
|--|---|
| generate action potential | no own electrical signal; external signal applying |
| cardiac cells | endothelial cells |
| drive or control electrical components | changes due to metabolic processes can be detect by electrical co |



Living cells only survive in cell medium. Which is a solution with many ionic components. The measurements are performed in a electrolyte.

Basic setup of an electrochemical cell consist of:

- electron conductor
- ion conductor



The charge transfer takes place on both plates and acts as a capacitor.

Electrical inactive cells → Bioimpedance

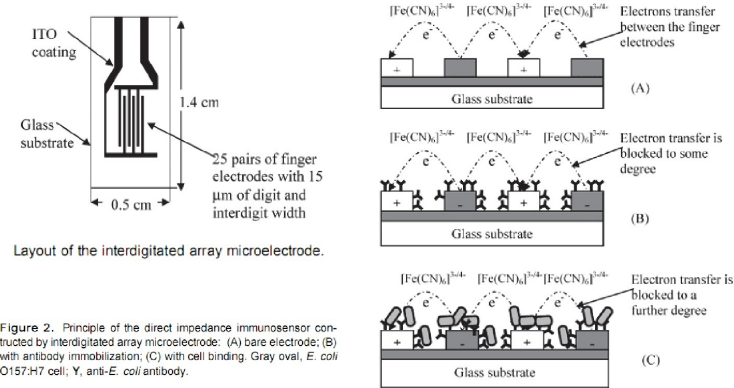
Optimum setup for electrochemical cells:

- AC current
- < 2 V
- electrodes with rough surface

Optimum setup for biochemical samples:

- AC current
- < 50 mV
- inert electrodes

Interdigitated electrodes are ideal for research and development. It can use for wet chemical applications. It makes gas detections possible. It is cheap, ultra clean and extremely efficient.



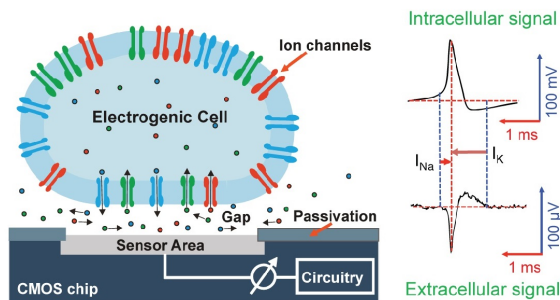
2004_Yang-L_Erf-G.F._Interdigitated-Array-Microelectrode-Based-Electrochemical-Impedance-Immunosensor-for-Detection-of-Escherichia-coli-O157-H7_Anal.-Chem._76_4_

Transepithelial Electrical Resistance (TEER) is used to measure the confluence of cell layers.

Non-excitable cells have a permittivity, which can be measured via impedance. Bioimpedance allows to measure the presence, amount and junction of cells!

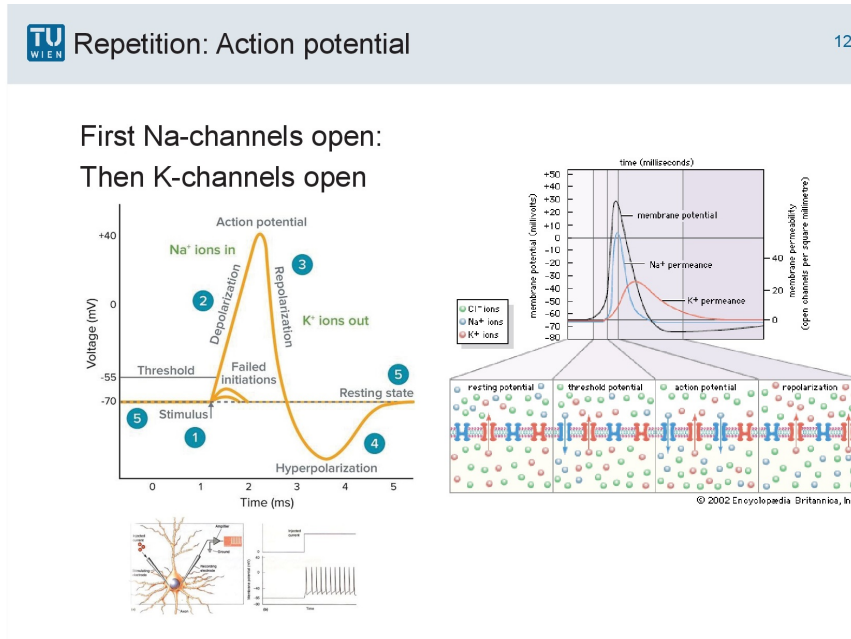
6 Cell-Monitoring and sensing: electrically active cells

- Electrogenic Cells on Chips:
 - Ions pass through the cells ion channels
 - The moving charges create an electric field that is picked up by noble-metal electrode



The membrane potential is calculated from total ion permeability of the membrane for all ions using the Goldman equation.
$$U = \frac{R \cdot T}{F} \ln \left(\frac{p_x [y]^e + \dots}{p_x [y]^i + \dots} \right)$$

| | | |
|-------|--|---------|
| U | Voltage | [V] |
| R | universal gas constant | [J/mol] |
| T | Temperature | [K] |
| F | Faradey constant | [C/mol] |
| p | Permeability | [] |
| $[X]$ | Concentration of different Ions in/out of the cell | [] |

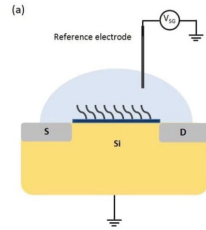


Na-channels open first, later follows the K-channels.

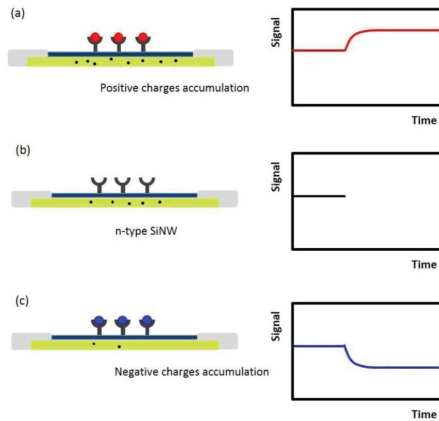
Sodium-potassium-pump maintains the Na-K-concentration gradient. It is working independent form voltage or neurotransmitter activation but it need energy like Adenosintriphosphat (ATP).

Ion selective-FET can use for DNA sequencing.

Title
Conventional ISFET



The working principle of n-type nanowire biosensors. (a) Positive charges accumulate on the surface. The electrostatic attraction force to electron carriers results in higher conductance. (b) The original state of

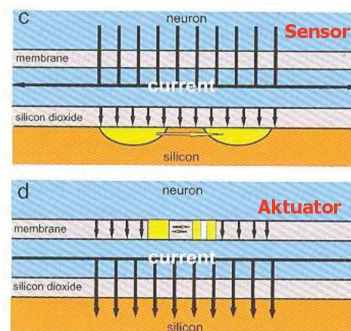


Review—Field-Effect Transistor Biosensing: Devices and Clinical Applications, Yu-Cheng Syu et al 2018 ECS J. Solid State Sci. Technol.7 Q3196

Chemical-FET, the gate is covered with a chemical selective layer that is electro-active.
 $\text{Drain current} = f(\text{Concentration})$

In principle, a direct coupling of ionic signals in a neuron and electronic signals in the semiconductor can be attained by electrical polarization. If the insulating lipid layer of the neuron is in direct contact to the insulating silicon dioxide of the chip, a compact dielectric is formed.

When nerve cells grow on a chip it does not form a compact dielectric. The cell adhesion is mediated (hält aufrecht) by protein molecules. Proteins keep the liquid membrane at a certain distance → cleft between cell and chip.



More realistic case
(c) and (d)
neuron-silicon coupling by
electrical
current.

- In (c) current through the membrane of an excited neuron leads to a Transductive Extracellular Potential in the cleft between cell and chip which polarizes the oxide and modulates the source-drain current
- In (d) capacitive current through the oxide gives rise to a Transductive Extracellular Potential, which polarizes the membrane and opens ion channels

Peter Fromherz in „Nanoelectronics and Information Technology“, Wiley-VCH (2003)

List of Abbreviations

| | |
|---------------|---|
| ALD | Atomic layer depositon |
| ATP | Adenosintriphosphat |
| CVD | Chemical vapor deposition |
| MBE | Molecular Beam Epitaxy |
| MEA | Microelectronic arrays |
| MOSFET | Metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor |
| PD | Physical deposition |
| PECVD | Plasma enhanced Chemical vapor depositon |
| PVD | Physical vapor depositon |
| TEER | Transepithelial Electrical Resistance |