


Redefining Neuroimaging
Standard Of Care :
An Implantable Ultrasound
For Real-time
Diagnosis Of Brain Diseases



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Neuroplastic Surgery Center

Goal: An Implantable Ultrasound Device For Real-time
Diagnosis Of Brain Diseases

- To Develop the first implantable ultrasound device for long-term post-neurosurgical monitoring.
- The primary aim is to monitor the potential regrowth of brain tumor in real-time using an app. The ultrasound smart device will also assist physicians to monitor bleeding, cyst, growing tumor, etc., of the over 11 million patients that are affected annually with brain diseases.

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An Implantable Wireless Ultrasound Device for Real-Time Diagnosis of Brain Diseases

Ultrasound probe

Bluetooth

Battery

Micro-processor

Coronal view : Diagrammatic drawing

Source: Dr. Ma

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An Implantable Wireless Ultrasound Device for Real-Time Diagnosis of Brain Diseases

Proposed Approach: Capacitive Micromachined Ultrasound Transducer

Ultrasound (Traditional)


- produced sound waves by utilizing piezoelectric crystal technology
- high production cost

CMUT

- silicon chips that convert voltage to resonance
- customizable with electronics
- small in size
- can be mass produced
- low cost

Source: Philips, Fraunhofer IPMS



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



An Implantable Wireless Ultrasound Device for Real-Time Diagnosis of Brain Diseases

Selected Papers:


Miniature ultrasound ring array transducers for transcranial ultrasound neuromodulation of freely-moving small animals
 Hyunggug Kim ^a, Seongyeon Kim ^a, Nam Suk Sim ^b, Cristina Pasquinelli ^{c, d}, Axel Thielscher ^{c, d}, Jeong Ho Lee ^b, Hyunjoo J. Lee ^{a, *}

 *micromachines* 

Review
Advances in Capacitive Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducers

Kevin Brenner ^{1,†} , Arif Sanli Ergun ^{1,2,†} , Kamyar Firouzi ^{1,†} , Morten Fischer Rasmussen ^{1,†} , Quintin Stedman ^{1,†}  and Butrus (Pierre) Khuri-Yakub ^{1,*,†} 

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CMUT Background

- Each CMUT element consists of parallel cells
- flexible top plate and fixed bottom plate forms a capacitor
- interacts with a medium like air or water to radiate or sense ultrasound





Figure 1. Capacitive micromachined ultrasonic transducer (CMUT) cell illustration. (a) A CMUT cell is composed of a flexible top plate and a fixed bottom plate. (b) A direct current (DC) bias is applied during the operation that deflects the top plate.

Source: Brenner K, Ergun A, Firouzi K, et al.

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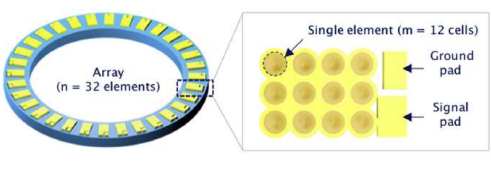


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Selected Paper: Miniature Ultrasound Ring Array Transducer for Transcranial Ultrasound Neuromodulation of Freely-Moving Small Animals

- Problem: Due to bulky curved transducers, small animals have been limited to stimulation under anesthesia in a stereotactic fixation
- Key result: Neuromodulation using a light-weight CMUT ring array for non-invasive brain stimulation for acute and awake in vivo mice

A



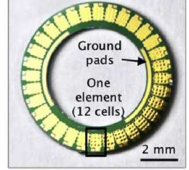
Array (n = 32 elements)

Single element (m = 12 cells)

Ground pad

Signal pad

B




Ground pads

One element (12 cells)

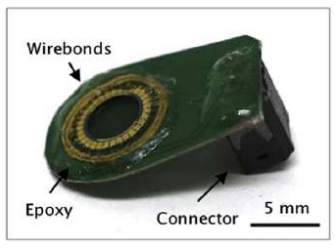
2 mm

Source: Kim H, Kim S, Sim N, et al.

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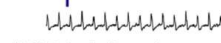
Wirebonds

Epoxy

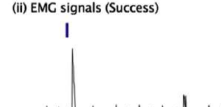
Connector

5 mm

(i) EMG signals (Fail)

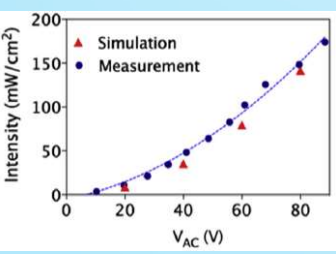


(ii) EMG signals (Success)



200 mV

0.5 s

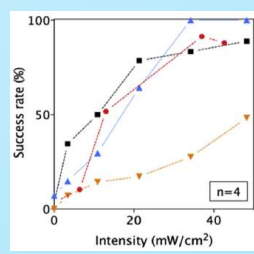


Intensity (mW/cm²)

V_{AC} (V)

Simulation

Measurement




Success rate (%)

Intensity (mW/cm²)

n=4


Source: Kim H, Kim S, Sim N, et al.

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Demonstration of Functional CMUT Array with Fixed Mice




Source: Kim H, Kim S, Sim N, et al.

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An Implantable Wireless Ultrasound Device for Real-Time Diagnosis of Brain Diseases

Demonstration of Functional CMUT Array with Moving Mice



Source: Kim H, Kim S, Sim N, et al.

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An Implantable Wireless Ultrasound Device for Real-Time Diagnosis of Brain Diseases

Assessment


Importance: first in vivo neuromodulation of freely moving mice

Relevance: fabrication of the MR conditional CMUT array

Remaining problems: entire device is not completely MR conditional, does not perform any beamforming

Next steps: Integrate with beamforming circuits and dynamic focusing

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Advantages of CMUT – Imaging On a Chip

Integrating CMUTs with circuitry on a single chip is a revolutionary path to low cost, actually portable ultrasound systems.

- Integrating with wireless communication and battery technology can create flexible, wearable or even ingestible US systems



Source: Brenner K, Ergun A, Firouzi K, et al., Butterfly iQ Network

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