

Contents

Introduction.....	1
1. Physiological Background	5
1.1. The Nervous System	5
1.1.1. The Neuron	6
1.1.2. Axonal Transport.....	8
1.1.3. The Synapse.....	8
1.1.4. Excitation of the Neuron.....	9
1.1.5. Resting Membrane Potential.....	11
1.1.6. Ionic Fluxes During the Action Potential	11
1.1.7. Distribution of Ion Channels in Myelinated Neurons	12
1.1.8. Conduction of the Axon.....	12
1.1.9. Hodgkin-Huxley Model.....	14
2. Electrodes	15
2.1. Electrode-Electrolyte Interface.....	15
2.1.1. Interface Model Elements	16
2.1.2. Interface Models	20
2.1.3. Charge Transfer.....	22
2.2. PEDOT Electrodes	26
2.2.1. Selection of Polymer Deposition Method	27
2.2.2. PEDOT Electrodes Results.....	30
2.2.3. Effect of the Electropolymerization Parameters	34
2.3. Chapter Conclusion	38
3. Waveform for Stimulation	39
3.1. Simulations with a Passive Membrane Model	39
3.2. Simulations with a NMES Equivalent Electrical Circuit	45
3.2.1. TENS Stimulation Experiment.....	45
3.2.2. NMES Equivalent Circuit Model	46
3.2.3. Simulation with different Waveforms.....	52
3.2.4. Discussion.....	55
3.3. Portable Stimulator	56
3.3.1. The stimulator	56
3.3.2. USB base station	58
3.3.3. Graphical User Interface	59
3.4. In Vivo Experimentation.....	61
3.4.1. Material and Methods	61
3.4.2. Results.....	63
3.4.3. Discussion.....	68
3.5. Chapter Conclusion	69
4. Circuitry of a Neurostimulator	71
4.1. ASIC Version 1	71
4.1.1. ASIC Description.....	71

4.1.2. Experimental Results	82
4.1.3. Discussion.....	85
4.2. ASIC Version 2.....	86
4.2.1. ASIC Description.....	86
4.2.2. Experimental Results	97
4.2.3. Discussion.....	100
4.3. ASIC Version 3.....	102
4.3.1. ASIC Description.....	103
4.3.2. Experimental Results	115
4.3.3. Discussion.....	118
4.4. Chapter Conclusion	118
5. Conclusion.....	121
Appendix.....	123
A. Microelectrodes on rigid substrate.....	123
B. Electrodes on flexible substrate.....	125
B.1. Electrodes for <i>In Vivo</i> Experimentation	125
B.2. Electrodes for Experimentation	126
C. ASIC Version 1	127
D. ASIC Version 2.....	129
E. ASIC Version 3.....	133
List of Figures	137
List of Tables	141
List of Symbols and Abbreviations.....	143
References	147
Curriculum Vitae	153