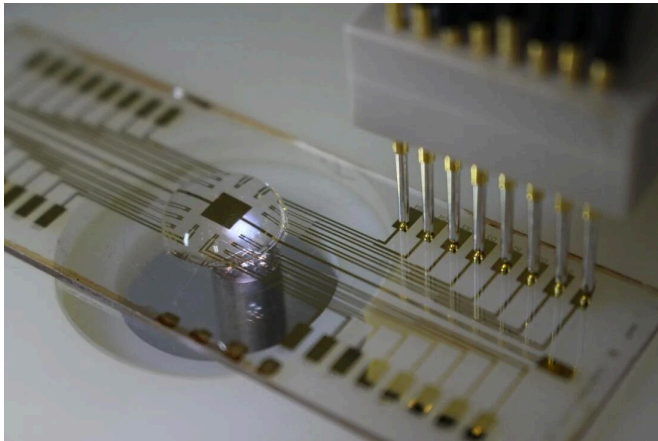


Rational design guidelines for neuromorphic devices

14 January 2022



An image of an OECT device studied in this work.
Credit: Shusuke Yamamoto

Maps are essential for exploring trackless wilderness or vast expanses of ocean. The same is true for scientific studies that try to open up new fields and develop brand-new devices. A journey without maps and signposts tends to end in vain.

In the world of "neuromorphic devices," an electronic device that mimics [neural cells](#) such as our brain, researchers have long been forced to travel without maps. Such devices will lead to a fresh field of brain-inspired computers with substantial benefits such as low-energy consumption. But its operation mechanism has remained unclear, particularly in regards to controlling the response speed control.

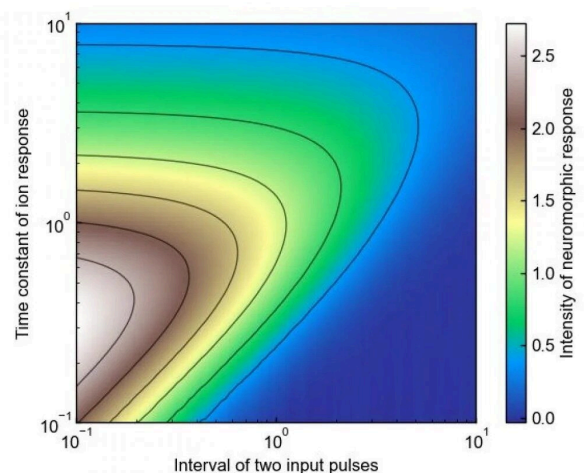
A research group from Tohoku University and the University of Cambridge brought clarity in a recent study published in the journal *Advanced Electronic Materials* on January 13, 2022.

They looked into organic electrochemical transistors (OECT), which are often applied in neuromorphic devices and control the movement

of the ion in the active layer. The analysis revealed that response timescale depends on the size of ion in the electrolyte.

Based on these [experimental results](#), the group modeled the neuromorphic response of the devices. Comparisons of the data showed that movements of the ions in the OECT controlled the response. This indicates tuning the timescale for ion movement can be an effective way to regulate the neuromorphic behavior of OECTs.

"We obtained a map that provides rational design guidelines for neuromorphic devices through changing ion size and material composition in the active layer," said Shunsuke Yamamoto, paper corresponding author and assistant professor at Tohoku University's Graduate School of Engineering. "Further studies will pave the way for application to [artificial neural networks](#) and lead to better and more precise designs of the conducting polymer materials used in this field."



An example of the "map" obtained from this work. Credit: Shusuke Yamamoto

More information: Shunsuke Yamamoto et al,
Correlation between Transient Response and
Neuromorphic Behavior in Organic Electrochemical
Transistors, *Advanced Electronic Materials* (2022).
[DOI: 10.1002/aelm.202101186](https://doi.org/10.1002/aelm.202101186)

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