Two-photon microscopy for in vivo functional imaging

Serena Bovetti



Department of Neuroscience and Brain Technologies Italian Institute of Technology Genova, Italy

Analyzing structure and function

1900



Ramon y Cajal (1852-1934)



2016



2P microscopy (1990-present)



Analyzing structure and function

Living cells

Small elements

High number

3D

> 14 millions glutamatergic cells just into the mouse neocortex

and the overall complexity of NS

Light <u>scattering</u> tissue

→ d

deflection of a light «ray» from its original direction and depend on refractive index of the structures that interact with the ray

Fast signalling

Non-stationary

2016



Analyzing structure and function



Multiphoton microscopy is a powerful technique based on *non-linear* interactions between photons and matter. The most commonly used multiphoton imaging procedure is the *two-photon* excitation microscopy.

Linear microscopy: one photon is adsorbed by a fluorescence molecule and one single fluorescent photon is emitted

Non-Linear microscopy: uses «higher order» lightmatter interactions involving multiple photons



2P: rare event in which 2 photons interact with the same molecule at the same time (interval less then 10^{-18} s)



Maria Goppert-Mayer (1906-1972) Nobel prize 1963



Multiphoton absorption: rare event...how do we get around this problem?



The efficiency of multiphoton absorption depends on:

- The physical properties of the molecule (so called *«cross-section»:* the likelihood that an absorption event will occur)
- 2) The *temporal* and *spatial* distribution of the excitation light: an high number of photons (10²⁰ -10³⁰ photons/ (cm²s) have to be concetrated in time (0.5 fs) and space.



Winfried Denk 1990

concentration in *space* (focusing): high NA obj that concentrates the light in a diffraction limited focal volume Focusing



concentration in *time* (pulsed excitation): ultrashort light pulses (~ 100 fs) with a repetition rate of ~ 100MHz (every 10 ns)



Why non-linear in more than linear?





810nm 694nm 595nm 576nm 532 nm

Longer wavelengths = less energy Longer wavelengths = less subjected to scattering Longer wavelengths = deeper penetration

Near-infrared light penetrates deeper into scattering tissue and is generally less phototoxic







Because a 2P exitation event requires two photons to interact on the <u>same molecule</u> at the <u>same time</u>, the probability of an absorption event has a supralinear dependency on the density of photons and is proportional to the square of the instantaneous laser intensity:

 $\mathbf{P} \propto \mathbf{I}^2$



- Absence of multiphoton absorption in out-of-focus planes
- Since excitation in confined there is No need of a pinhole in detection

Light scattering in biological tissue

Scattering: deflection of a light «ray» from its original direction; it depends on refractive indeces of the structures that interact with the ray. Both excitation and emitted light is scattered BUT:





Two-photon fluorescence microscopy



In vivo functional two-photon imaging

A first necessary step toward elucidating the basic principles underlying brain function is to *precisely map the activity* of individual cellular elements in space and time *in vivo*

Electrophysiology has long been the preferred method for studying the central nervous system, however the final goal is to record from large networks at cellular resolution

In the last 20 years, the development of *nonlinear microscopy* in combination with *fluorescent activity reporters* has provided a valuable tool to reach this goal

Detect supra- and sub- threshold activity Fast kinetics **BUT** Dim Small signal-to-noise ratio: ΔF/ stdev of baseline noise

Detect supra-threshold activity Slower kinetics

Voltage indicators

Calcium indicators

BUT

Higher brightness Higher SNR Both neurons and glia display increase calcium concentration in response to neuronal activity

[Ca2+] at rest **30-200 nM** VGCC, calcium-permeable receptor-operated channels

[Ca2+] x 10 - x 100

One way to measure free cytosolic calcium variations optically is using molecules that change their fluorescence or absorbance properties upon calcium binding



Bulk loading



Bulk loading



Both neurons and glia display increase calcium concentration in response to neuronal activity

One way to measure free cytosolic calcium variations optically is using molecules that change their fluorescence or absorbance properties upon calcium binding





Calmodulin

cpGFP



GCaMP structure





Synthetic indicators

-Invasive -No cell specificity

-Fast kinetics

GECI

-Less invasive -Cell specificity ______ -Allow chronic imaging

-Kinetics ~ synthteic indicators







Bovetti et al., 2014

M13 domain of the myosin light chain

Calmodulin

cpGFP



Transgenic mouse lines

Promoter specific expression

Thy1-GCaMP6 CAMKII-GCaMP6



Cre-dependent expression (cre-lox technology)

Promoter-lox-STOP-lox-GCaMP6 (i.e. CAG)





Viral vector delivery

Each virus has characteristic **tropism** (targeting of cells) and **spread** from injection sites, in some cases via **retrograde or anterograde** transport of viral particles, which are important to consider when designing experiments.

Adeno-associated virus (AAVs)

Small (25 nm), Single-stranded DNA Different serotypes that influence virus tropism Now mix serotypes are available Small capacity for effective packaging (4.7 kb)



Both anterograde and retrograde (depending on serotypes) transport

Do not integrate into the host genome, remain as an episome (extragenomic circular DNA)

M13 domain of the myosin light chain

Calmodulin

cpGFP



Transgenic mouse lines

Promoter specific expression

Thy1-GCaMP6 CAMKII-GCaMP6



Cre-dependent expression (cre-lox technology)

Promoter-lox-STOP-lox-GCaMP6 (i.e. CAG)

Х

Cre mouse line

Flox-GCaMP6



Viral vector delivery

Promoter specific expression

AAV1.Syn.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40 serotype promoter indicator

Cre-dependent expression (cre-lox technology)

AAV1.Syn.flex.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40

WT or

Cre mouse line

~10¹³ GC/ml (tirtrate!!!)

very low inj rate (20-50 nl/min)

Ca2+

M13 domain of the myosin light chain

Calmodulin

cpGFP



Transgenic mouse lines

Advantages:

More homogeneous expression across brain regions

Disadvantages: Low expression Advantages: Higher expression



Viral vector delivery



Disadvantages: Less homogeneous expression across brain regions



How to choose a calcium indicator





Quantum yield: Number of fluorescence photons emitted per excitation photon absorbed.

Photobleaching: Destruction of the excited fluorophore. Not reversible

OTHERS: Quenching: Loss of fluorescence signal due to short-range interactions between the fluorophore and the local molecular environment, including other fluorophores. <u>Reversible</u>

Lifetime: The excited state exists for a finite time (typically 1–10 nanoseconds).

In vivo functional two-photon imaging



Kd: concentration of Ca²⁺ at which half the indicator molecules are bound with Ca²⁺ at equilibrium

Dynamic range $R = \frac{F_{\text{max}}}{F_{\text{min}}}$ Kine Koff: i

Relative fluorescence change

$$\Delta F/F = (Ft - F0)/F0$$

Signal-to-noise ratio

 $\Delta F/SD$ baseline noise

Kinetics: strongly depend on indicator affinity

Koff: influence the shape of the calcium transient Kon: scaling factor for indicator response

Selectivity: [Ca2+] = nM [Mg2+] = μM - mM

Competition on calcium binding sites

Comparison of biophysical properties between different calcium indicators

	$\begin{array}{c} \lambda \text{ for } 2P \\ excitation (nm) \end{array}$	$_{(nm)}^{\lambda_{em}}$	Rise time (ms)	Decay time (ms)		Dynamic range	Kd (nM)
OGB-1	$810 - 850^{a,b}$	$520^{\mathrm{a,b}}$	8^{b}	$\tau_1 = 56^{\rm b}; \tau_1 = 77^{\rm c}$	7 ^b		
GCaMP3	920°	$510 - 520^{\circ}$	83°				
GCaMP6s	$940^{\rm d}$	$510 - 520^{d}$	$179^{\rm d}$	$610^{ m c}$ $550^{ m d}$	GCaM	IP6s 63	144
GCaMP6m	940^{d}	$510 - 520^{d}$	80^{d}	$270^{\rm d}$			
GCaMP6f	940^{d}	$510 - 520^{d}$	45^{d}	142^{d}	GCaM	IP6f 52	375
^a Yasuda et al. (2004).				<u> </u>			
^b Grewe et al. (2010). ^c Tian et al. (2009).				Lower affinity, faster kinetics			

Bovetti et al., 2013

^dChen et al. (2013).

Detecting single cell action potential from calcium recording in vivo



Chen et al. Nature 2013





In vivo two-photon calcium imaging

Layer 2/3 cortical neurons expressing GCaMP6s (somatosensory cortex)

Layer 4 cortical neurons expressing GCaMP6s. Selective expression has been obtained injecting the AAV carrying the flex GCaMP construct in the Scnn1a-cre mouse line (somatosensory cortex)







From functional imaging to 2P-circuit manipulation

 In vivo two-photon functional imaging allows to study the complex spatial and temporal structure of neuronal activation that is fundamental for information processing within neuronal networks



Modified from Grewe et al Nat Methods 2010

To causally test the role of specific circuitry we need a method that allows us to artificially manipulate cellular activity



Francis Crick, 1979

"The major challenge facing neuroscience is the need to control one type of cell in the brain while leaving others unaltered [...] **light** might have these properties" in Scientific American, 1979

2005 Optogenetics: combination of genetic and optical methods to cause or inhibit well defined events in specific cells or living tissue and behaving animals

Deisseroth, 2015

Optogenetics needs:

- 1) Microbial opsins: proteins that directly elicits electrical current across cellular membranes in response to light
- 2) Methods for targeting sufficiently strong and specific opsin gene expression to well-defined cellular elements in the brain
- *3) Methods for guiding* sufficiently strong and precisly timed *light* to specific brain regions, cells or parts of cells

3 technologically dinstinct branches that are still evolving indipendently and that must be combined for optogenetics experiments

Microbial opsins (type I): transduce photons into electrical current



Each opsin protein requires the incorporation of a *retinal* to enable light sensitivity opsin + retinal : rhodopsin

All-*trans* \longrightarrow 13-*cis* configuration: translocation of proton/cl-/cations

Microbial opsins (type I): transduce photons into electrical current



Microbial opsins (type I): are known since decades because their role in energy generation, flagellar beating and rotation, phototaxis, mantainement of membrane potential etc.

Why it took so long to apply these molecules in neuroscience?

1) *Biophysical properties* that influences the performence of opsins at the single-molecule level:

- Efficiency of light absorption (cross-section) defined in term of *extinction coefficient* (ε_{max} : how strongly a substance absorbs light at a given wavelength) and *quantum efficiency* (Φ : the fraction of absorbed photons that are efficacious in driving the relevant conformational change)

- Kinetics defined in term of turnover time of the photocycle. For inhibitory pumps 10-20 ms but it depends on membrane voltage For ChR2 current is coupled to occupancy of the conducting state that depends on many factors



Mutation at different residues change the biophysical properties of opsins

DB_Catalog_082715.pdf

Microbial opsins (type I): are known since decades because their role in energy generation, flagellar beating and rotation, phototaxis, mantainement of membrane potential etc.

Why it took so long to apply these molecules in neuroscience?

2) *Cell biological properties* (effective transcription, translation, folding, membrane trafficking, targeting) and *opsin construct characteristics*

Methods for targeting sufficiently strong and specific opsin gene expression to well-defined cellular elements in the brain



Microbial opsins (type I): are known since decades because their role in energy generation, flagellar beating and rotation, phototaxis, mantainement of membrane potential etc.

Why it took so long to apply these molecules in neuroscience?

3) Methods for guiding sufficiently strong and precisly timed *light* to specific brain regions, cells or parts of cells



 λ (nm) Excitation Wavelength

To consider for light delivery:

- Wavelength (most common 473, 532, 561, 594, 638 nm)

sufficient, adjustable and stable output power
 (1 to 10 mW/mm² is need at the target)

- No photodamage

- rise/fall times and modulation of the light pulse

Microbial opsins (type I): are known since decades because their role in energy generation, flagellar beating and rotation, phototaxis, mantainement of membrane potential etc.

Why it took so long to apply these molecules in neuroscience?

3) Methods for guiding sufficiently strong and precisly timed *light* to specific brain regions, cells or parts of cells



Expensive but stable, higher power, spatially precise, can collect emitted fluorescence

Cheap but warm up the tissue, often not enough power is delivered, less precise in space, no back collection
A simple introduction to optogenetics

In vivo application of 1P optogenetics

Too many application to be listed: See Deisseroth, 2015

Optogenetics: 10 years of microbial opsins in neuroscience Karl Deisseroth

Stimulation of the right anterior motor cortex in a Thy1::ChR2-EYFP transgenic mouse with 20-Hz blue light flashes elicits contralateral circling.

torinodic15\nn.4091-sv1.mov

Cortex commands the performance of skilled movement

Jian-Zhong Guo, Adam W Hantman Elife 2015

What is the role of cortex in skilled voluntary movements? Testes by optogenetics inhibiting cortical activity trough the expression of ChR2 in all inhibitory interneurons

torinodic15\elife_poa_e10774_Video_1.mov torinodic15\elife_poa_e10774_Video_9.mov

In vivo 2P-optogenetics



In vivo 2P-optogenetics can be used to selectively activate specific cells with high temporal and spatial resolution

In vivo 2P-optogenetics

Why is it difficult to perform 2P optogenetics in vivo? **1-Opsin biophysical properties :** The 2P cross section of many opsins has been evaluated and many new opsins have been **ChR2** (920 nm) **C1V1** (1040 nm) developed to make them more suitale for near infrared λ excitation 2P cross-section ++++single-photon two-photon 2P allows to be very precise in the stimulation volume, Conductance ++however this restrict Many opsins (thus a large portion of the cell) the number of must be activated near simultaneously to induce a cell to fire molecules that we are activating Zipfel et al. 2003 **Kinetics** ++ Longer deactivation time is better

2- Opsin molecular properties

expression level, membrane trafficking...

3- Optical tool and light delivery:

Selectively activate a group of cells with high spatial precision (and, eventually, simultaneously record the activity of the same/other cells

Two-photon optogenetic toolbox for fast inhibition, excitation and bistable modulation

Rohit Prakash¹, Ofer Yizhar¹, Benjamin Grewe^{2,3}, Charu Ramakrishnan¹, Nancy Wang¹, Inbal Goshen¹, Adam M Packer⁴, Darcy S Peterka⁴, Rafael Yuste⁴, Mark J Schnitzer^{2,3,5,6} & Karl Deisseroth^{1,5-7}



Prakash et al., 2012

In vivo 2P-optogenetics



 λ (nm) Excitation Wavelength

Two-photon excitation of channelrhodopsin-2 at saturation

John Peter Rickgauer^{a,b,c} and David W. Tank^{a,b,c,d,1}

^aDepartment of Molecular Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544; ^bThe Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544; ^cPrinceton Neuroscience Institute, Carl Icahn Laboratory, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544; and ^dDepartment of Physics, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544



TECHNICAL REPORTS



In vivo 2P optogenetics and 2P imaging

Simultaneous cellular-resolution optical per and imaging of place cell firing fields

John Peter Rickgauer¹⁻⁴, Karl Deisseroth⁵⁻⁸ & David W Tank¹⁻⁴

BRAIN MICROCIRCUITS

Imprinting and recalling cortical ensembles

Simultaneous all-optical n Luis Carrillo-Reid,* Weijian Yang, Yuki Bando, Darcy S. Peterka, Rafael Yuste neural circuit activity with cellular resolution *in vivo*

Adam M Packer^{1,2}, Lloyd E Russell^{1,2}, Henry W P Dalgleish^{1,2} & Michael Häusser^{1,2}

Two-photon optogenetic manipulation

BRAIN MICROCIRCUITS

Imprinting and recalling
cortical ensembles2016

Luis Carrillo-Reid,* Weijian Yang, Yuki Bando, Darcy S. Peterka, Rafael Yuste



Two-photon optogenetic manipulation

BRAIN MICROCIRCUITS

Imprinting and recalling cortical ensembles

Luis Carrillo-Reid,* Weijian Yang, Yuki Bando, Darcy S. Peterka, Rafael Yuste

More than 60 years ago, Hebb proposed that repeated coactivation of a group of neurons might create a memory trace through enhancement of synaptic connections (12). Because of technical limitations, this hypothesis has been difficult to test with single-cell resolution in awake animals. By combining novel imaging and photostimulation techniques (14, 15) and analytical tools (19), our work can be interpreted as a confirmation of the Hebbian postulate and as a demonstration that cortical microcircuits can perform pattern completion.



References

- Helmchen and Denk. 2005. Deep tissue two-photon microscopy
- Ustione and Pston 2011. A simple introduction to multiphoton microscopy
- Bovetti et al., 2014. Mapping brain circuit function in vivo using two-photon fluorescence imaging
- Zhang et al., 2011. The microbial opsin family of optogenetic tools
- Deisseroth 2015. Optogenetics: 10 years of microbial opsins in neuroscience
- Yizhar et al., 2011. Microbial opsins. A family of single-component tools for optical control of neural activity
- Guo et al., 2015 Cortex commands the performance of skilled movement
- Bovetti and Fellin 2015. Optical dissection of brain circuits with patterned illumination through the phase modulation of light
- Gradinaru et al., 2010. Molecular and Cellular Approaches for Diversifying and Extending Optogenetics

Temporal scale of neuronal network dynamics



Spatial and temporal complexity of neuronal network dynamics

Laser scanning two-photon microscopy

- imaging large field of view
- attaining high spatial resolution
- discriminating between different cell types



Genetically-encoded calcium indicators

• Limited temporal resolution

Sensory information is encoded in spatiotemporal patterns of neuronal activation



Which code does the mammalian brain use to drive perception?

Mapping and manipulating the activity of neuronal networks in space and time *in vivo* is crucial for understanding the role of spatiotemporal codes in brain functions

Laser scanning imaging of GCaMP6-expressing layer 2/3 neurons in the somatosensory cortex in vivo

How to improve to improve the acquisition speed



Bovetti et al., 2016

Development of a structured light microscope for fast imaging in vivo



Building a structured light microscope



Dal Maschio et al., Optics Express, 2010

Scanless imaging of neuronal networks with structured light





Scannless configuration



3- Phase mask



4- Illumination



Higher SNR of GCaMP signals in scanless than scanning imaging





Validation of the structured light microscope

- Photobleaching
- Photodamage
- Spatial resolution
- Temporal resolution

No significant photobleaching and photodamage in scanless imaging









Spatial resolution



Spatial resolution

Effect of scattering on detection





Temporal resolution and sensitivity



Estimate of first action potential: 8.4 ± 5.3 ms

Fast functional mapping of synchronous cortical dynamics in vivo



Acknowledgements





Tommaso Fellin, Pl

Claudio Moretti Andrea Antonini Angelo Forli Stefano Zucca

Dania Vecchia Francesca Succol Angela De Stasi Marco Brondi Noemi Binini Stefano Varani

Marco Dal Maschio Pasqualina Farisello Giulia D'Urso



Paolo Bonifazi

Thanks for your attention