ENHANCEMENT OF RING AND RIPPLE MICROELECTRODES DESIGN USING DIELECTROPHORESIS (DEP) FOR BIOCHIP APPLICATION

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Master of Science

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I hereby declare that I have checked this thesis and in my opinion, this thesis is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of Master of Science

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STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

- 3
- Permittivity Conductivity σ
- Micro μ
- Angular frequency Newton ω
- Ν

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

2D	Two-dimensional
3D	Three-dimensional
AC	Alternating current
DC	Direct current
CM	Clausius-Mossoti
DEP	Dielectrophoresis
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
EF	Electric field
EP	Electrophoresis
ID	Interdigitated
LOC	Lab-on-chip
MEMS	Microelectromechanical systems
nDEP	Negative dielectrophoresis
pDEP	Positive dielectrophoresis
RF	Radio frequency
SIBC	Sandwiched insulator with back contact
UV	Ultraviolet
POC	Point-of-care

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ABSTRAK

Pada masa kini, keperluan untuk analisis sel-sel biologi telah menjadi platform bagi para penyelidik untuk membangunkan teknologi dan peranti yang berkaitan untuk melakukan manipulasi yang sesuai seperti menangkap, menyaring dan menyusun. Ini kerana analisis sel-sel biologi boleh memberi manfaat kepada pemahaman yang lebih baik mengenai sifat-sifat sel biologi dalam mencari penyelesaian dan rawatan dalam aplikasi perubatan. Pelbagai teknik manipulasi telah dibangunkan untuk memanipulasi sel-sel biologi seperti teknik manipulasi dalam medan kimia, mekanikal, akustik dan elektrik. Daya DEP digunakan untuk memanipulasi sel-sel terhasil daripada penjanaan medan elektrik AC yang tidak seragam dan corak elektrod memainkan peranan penting dalam menghasilkan medan elektrik yang diperlukan. Reka bentuk semasa mempunyai batasan dari segi corak taburan medan elektrik yang dihasilkan dan data simulasi yang diperlukan untuk pembangunan biochip masih tidak mencukupi. Terdapat dua elektrod baru yang terdiri daripada mikroelektrod corak cincin dan mikroelektrod corak riak telah dibangunkan dalam kajian ini. Objektif utama kerja ini adalah untuk menyiasat pengagihan medan elektrik yang dihasilkan dari mikroelekrod. Semua analisis yang dilakukan dalam kajian ini adalah berdasarkan simulasi. Simulasi telah dijalankan menggunakan perisian COMSOL Multiphysics, yang menyediakan platform simulasi dan analisis yang sesuai untuk kajian ini. Pengoptimuman elektrod telah dilakukan membuat beberapa pengubahsuaian terhadap dimensi elektrod dengan dan disimulasikan dengan nilai potensi elektrik yang berlainan. Ini dilakukan untuk meningkatkan prestasi elektrod untuk memerangkap sel tunggal. Berdasarkan hasil simulasi yang diperoleh, kekuatan tertinggi pengagihan medan elektrik dihasilkan oleh corak elektroda cincin adalah 5.22×10^6 V/m dan daya DEP adalah 1.42×10^{-13} N. Elektrod corak riak menghasilkan 2.04×10^7 V/m medan elektrik dan daya DEP yang dihasilkan ialah 4.19×10^{-11} N lebih tinggi daripada elektrod cincin. Adalah didapati bahawa isu kenaikan suhu boleh dikawal berdasarkan hasil simulasi dengan mengurangkan voltan sebanyak separuh, namun medan elektrik dapat menghasilkan kekuatan medan elektrik yang lebih tinggi. Peratusan peningkatan kekuatan medan elektrik mikroelektrik cincin dan mikroelektrik riak masing-masing adalah 86.86% dan 47.55%. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa jarak antara mikroelektrod dan mikro-rongga memberikan impak yang lebih besar dalam kekuatan pengagihan medan elektrik berbanding dengan perubahan dimensi mikroelekrod. Kekuatan medan elektrik yang dihasilkan adalah tinggi di antara hujung mikroelektrod dan pinggir rongga mikro. Penangkapan sel juga boleh berlaku di bahagian tengah rongga mikro dengan dielekroforesis negatif (nDEP) di mana sel-sel tertarik ke kawasan medan elektrik yang rendah. Sebaliknya, apabila menggunakan dielekroforesis positif (pDEP), sel-sel akan tertarik ke pinggir mikro-rongga di mana kawasan medan elektrik yang tinggi berlaku. Dengan simulasi dan analisis yang diperolehi, mikroelektrod direka mampu untuk memerangkap sel-sel. Kerja penyelidikan ini akan menjadi satu usaha untuk mencari reka bentuk biochip, untuk mendapatkan pola reka bentuk elektrod yang lebih baik vang menawarkan kecekapan yang lebih tinggi dalam memanipulasi dan menjebak selsel biologi.

ABSTRACT

Nowadays, the need for the analysis of biological cells has become a platform for researchers to develop related technologies and devices for conducting appropriate manipulation such as trapping, screening, and sorting. This is because the analysis of biological cells can be beneficial to better understand the properties of biological cells and find the solution and treatment in medical applications. Various manipulation techniques have been developed to manipulate biological cells such as manipulation technique in chemical, mechanical, acoustic and electric fields. The DEP was force used to manipulate the cells resulting from the generation of a non-uniform AC electric field and electrode patterns play a major role in producing the required electric field. The current design has limitations in terms of the distribution pattern of the electric field generated and insufficient simulation data required for the development of biochip. There were two new electrodes which are ring pattern microelectrode and ripple pattern microelectrode developed in this study. The main objective of this work is to investigate the electric field distribution resulted from the microelectrodes. All analyses performed in this study were based on simulations. Simulations were carried out by using COMSOL Multiphysics software, which provides suitable simulation and analysis platform for this study. The optimisation of an electrode was done by making some modifications to the dimensions of the electrodes and simulated with different electrical potential values. This was done to improve the performance of the electrodes to trap a single cell. Based on the simulation results obtained, the highest strength of the electric field distribution was generated by the ring electrode pattern 5.22×10^6 V/m produced and the DEP force was 1.42×10^{-13} N. The ripple pattern electrode generated 2.04×10^{7} V/m of electric field and the DEP force produced was 4.19×10^{-11} N which was higher than the ring electrode. It was found that the temperature rise issues can be controlled based on simulation results by reducing the voltage by half, yet electric field can generate higher electric field strength. The percentage increase in electric field strength of ring microelectrode and ripple microelectrode was 86.86% and 47.55%, respectively. The results showed that the distance between the microelectrodes and micro-cavity provided more impact in electrical field distribution strength compared to the change of the microelectrodes dimension. The resulting electrical field strength was high between the microelectrodes tip and edge of the micro-cavities. Cell trapping may also occur in the central part of the micro-cavities with nDEP where the cells were attracted to the areas of low electric field. On the other hand, when pDEP was used, cells were attracted to the edge of micro-cavities where the high electric field region occurred. With the simulation and analysis obtained, designed microelectrode was able to trap the cells. This research work became an attempt to find a biochip design, in order to get the better electrode design patterns which offered higher efficiency in manipulating and trapping the biological cells.

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