

Contents

Acknowledgement	ix
Agradecimientos	xiii
Abstract	xix
Resum	xxi
Resumen	xxv
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Motivation	3
1.2 Objectives	3
1.2.1 General objective	3
1.2.2 Specific objectives	3
1.3 Manuscript Outline	4
2 State of the art	7
2.1 Chronic pain. Description, classification and treatments	7
2.2 Spinal Cord Stimulation (SCS) therapy	10
2.3 Stimulation parameters and SCS therapy concepts	19
2.4 Myelinated nerve fiber models	20
2.5 SCS computational models	24

3 SCS computational modeling. General methodology	29
4 Development of a human Aβ sensory nerve fiber model	33
4.1 Motivation	34
4.2 Nerve fiber model description	35
4.2.1 Shape of the AP	37
4.2.2 Electrical behavior of the model	44
4.2.3 Sensitivity analysis	47
4.3 The role of frequency on A β sensory nerve fibers activation in tonic stimulation.	52
4.3.1 Effect on nerve fiber activation	53
4.3.2 Patterns of activity and nerve fiber diameter	58
4.4 Discussion	60
4.4.1 New nerve fiber model	60
4.4.2 Effect of frequency on nerve fiber activation	64
4.4.3 Limitations	67
4.5 Summary	69
5 Development of a realistic generalized spinal cord volume conductor model	71
5.1 Motivation	72
5.2 Generalized SCS model description	73
5.2.1 Myelinated nerve fiber model	79
5.2.2 Model behavior	81
5.3 Sensitivity analysis	83
5.3.1 Geometric parameters of the spinal cord	83
5.3.2 Electrical conductivities of the spinal cord tissues	87
5.3.3 Geometry and electrical conductivity of the stimulation electrode	91
5.4 Effect of electrode polarity on neural activation in single-lead stimulation	95
5.4.1 Methods	95

5.4.2	Simulation results	97
5.5	Discussion	100
5.5.1	Limitations	103
5.6	Summary	104
6	Development of a patient-specific spinal cord volume conductor model	107
6.1	Motivation	108
6.2	Workflow	109
6.3	Patient-specific SCS model	110
6.4	Clinical retrospective proof-of-concept	118
6.4.1	Methods	118
6.4.2	Patient 1	119
6.4.3	Patient 2	124
6.5	Pre-implantation selection of the electrode polarity. Clinical application	128
6.6	Effect of electrode offset	131
6.7	Discussion	132
6.7.1	Limitations	136
6.8	Summary	138
7	Conclusions and perspectives	139
7.1	Contributions	139
7.1.1	On the development of a realistic human A β myelinated sensory nerve fiber computational model	140
7.1.2	On the development of a realistic generalized spinal cord volume conductor computational model	140
7.1.3	On the development of a patient-specific spinal cord volume conductor model	141
7.2	Perspectives	142
7.2.1	Future research lines	142
7.2.2	Future clinical applications	143

8 Contributions	145
A	151
A.1 Equations, geometric and electrical parameters of the A β human sensory myelinated nerve fiber model developed	151
B	155
B.1 Equations, geometric and electrical parameters of the Richardson, McIntyre and Grill (RMG) model B.	155
C	159
C.1 Dimensions of the generalized and patient-specific spinal cord models	159