Boundary-element calculations for amplification of effects of low-frequency electric fields in a doublet-shaped biological cell

著者	Sekine Katsuhisa, Takeda Takuya, Nagaomo Kaori, Matsushima Eri
journal or publication title	Bioelectrochemistry
volume	77
number	2
page range	106-113
year	2010-02-01
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/2297/19128

doi: 10.1016/j.bioelechem.2009.07.002

Boundary-element calculations for amplification of effects of low-frequency electric fields in a doublet-shaped biological cell

Katsuhisa Sekine*, Takuya Takeda, Kaori Nagaomo and Eri Matsushima

Faculty of Health Sciences, Institute of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences, Kanazawa University, 5-11-80 Kodatsuno, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, 920-0942, Japan

sekine@kenroku.kanazawa-u.ac.jp (K. Sekine)

Abstract To examine the amplification of the effects of low-frequency electric fields due to the junction between the cells, the amplitude of transmembrane potential P_{TMP0} , the time-averaged normal stress σ_n and the outward force density σ_{out} on the shell phase, and the squared intensity I_{ee} of electric fields in the inner and the outer phases induced by uniform external ac fields were calculated with the boundary-element method for doublet-shaped cell models consisting of two spheres of the same size connected by the junction; the results were compared with those in a spherical model. When the external fields were parallel to the long axis of the doublet-shaped models, P_{TMP0} , σ_n and σ_{out} at the pole were greater than those in the spherical model, and σ_{out} and I_{ee} at the junction increased with the decrease in the junction-radius. The external fields perpendicular to the long axis caused I_{ee} greater than that at the center of the spherical model and negative σ_{out} at the junction. The amplification of P_{TMP0} , σ_n , σ_{out} and I_{ee} took place within restricted frequency-regions that could be specified by the characteristic frequencies for the frequency-dependence of the polarization factor of the models.

Keywords:

Dielectric relaxation; Electric field; Maxwell stress tensor; Simulation; Transmembrane potential

K. Sekine

Faculty of Health Sciences, Institute of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences, Kanazawa University, 5-11-80 Kodatsuno, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, 920-0942, Japan

Tel: +81 76 265 2586; fax: +81 76 234 4369; sekine@kenroku.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

1. Introduction

Investigations of possible health effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields below 300 GHz have been carried out over 40 years [1-6]. These investigations have built the consensus that the major causes of the physiological effects of ac electric fields and those induced by ac magnetic fields are compulsory activation of voltage-sensitive channels by the induced transmembrane potential (TMP) below 100 kHz, and heating by the Joule heat above 100 kHz [1-6]. In addition, radical pairs and magnetite crystals are considered to be the targets of magnetic fields to provide the physiological effects [4-6]. Although these effects are established from physical and chemical viewpoints, and are obvious at high field-intensities, controversy still continues about the effects of low-intensity environmental fields even with respect to reproducibility of experiments, as pointed out in the comprehensive reports [1-6], reviews [7, 8] and recent original articles [9, 10]. This situation is attributable to lack of unified experimental protocols, and of established mechanisms to amplify the basic mechanisms to overcome inherent thermal noise [5, 6]. Amplification of TMP at the end of cell assemblies connected by the gap junction [11-14] seems to be accepted. However, other amplification mechanisms, such as the amplification of the effects of electric fields in chemical reactions within the cell membranes [15] and in neural networks [16], and that of the effects of magnetic fields in microvilli [17], are considered to need further examinations. Validity of the mechanisms of the field-effects and their amplification is expected to be evaluated from the frequency-dependence of the field-effects, as illustrated by several examples described below. Experiments by changing the field-frequency, and comparison between the experimental results and theoretical considerations provided decisive information about the mechanisms of the effects of the ac electric fields [18, 19]. The amplification of TMP in the cell assemblies takes place at low frequencies whose high thresholds are dependent on the length of the assemblies and the impedance of the gap-junction [11-14]. In addition, many of the field-effects are reported to take place within restricted frequency-ranges, which are called "windows" with respect to frequency [2, 7, 20, 21].

From electrical viewpoints, biological cell suspensions are characterized by their inhomogeneous structure consisting of conductive cytoplasm and outer medium, and the thin insulating cell membrane surrounding the cytoplasm [22-24]. When cell models of spherical,

spheroidal or ellipsoidal shapes placed in uniform low-frequency electric fields are used, analytical relations are available for the field-effects, such as the fields in the cells modified by the inhomogeneous structure [23, 25, 26], TMP [22, 23, 27, 28], and the Maxwell stress tensor (MST) at membrane-surfaces [29-31]. However, numerical methods are required in cases of the cells of non-ellipsoidal shapes [32-35] and non-uniform external fields [36-38].

In a previous study, we simulated the distribution of the scalar potential in budding and fission yeasts numerically under the assumption of the quasi-static condition for the ac electric fields [39]. This study indicated that the intensity of the electric field was quite amplified in the vicinity of the junction dependently on the frequency and the direction of the external fields; similar results were obtained in the cell assemblies connected by the gap junction [40]. From these results we expected that TMP and MST were also amplified dependently on the frequency and the direction of the fields in these cells. In the present study, we examined the amplification of the field-effects in doublet-shaped cell models relevant to budding yeasts in cell separation. These models consisted of two spheres of the same size connected by a junction, and were subjected to the calculations of the frequency-dependence of polarization factor (the Clausius-Mossotti factor) β using the boundary-element method (BEM) in a previous study [41]. In the present study, BEM was extended to calculations of TMP and MST at the shell-phase. The MST was, next, modified into mechanical forces on the shell-phase, i.e. the total normal stress and the outward force density that would cause, respectively, compression and outward movement of the shell-phase. In addition, the electric fields in the inner and the outer phases in the vicinity of the junction were calculated to examine their squared intensities, because these relate to production of the Joule heat and their non-uniform distribution yields dielectrophoresis [42]. These calculations were carried out systematically by changing the direction of the external fields (parallel and perpendicular to the long axis of the models), their frequency, the radius of the junction, and the conductivity of the outer phase. The results for the field-effects were compared with the frequency-dependence of β of the models [41] to examine whether the amplification of the field-effects could be predicted from the frequency-dependence of β .

2. Methods

2.1. Cell model

Fig. 1 shows the doublet-shaped cell model. This consists of two spheres $1.5 \mu\text{m}$ in radius R_m representing the mother and the daughter cells centered at $(0, 0, 1.1R_m)$ and $(0, 0, -1.1R_m)$ on z -axis, respectively. These spheres are connected by a junction of radius R_j represented by a ring torus. Effects of R_j were examined from the calculations for three models of different R_j : model-RDj01 ($R_j/R_m = 0.1$), -RDj02 ($R_j/R_m = 0.2$), and -RDj04 ($R_j/R_m = 0.4$). The models are surrounded by a shell-phase 7 nm in thickness T . The following values were used for the relative permittivities of the inner phase ϵ_i , the outer phase ϵ_a , and the shell-phase ϵ_s : $\epsilon_i = \epsilon_a = 80$, and $\epsilon_s = 5.5$. The electrical conductivities of the inner phase κ_i and the shell-phase κ_s were made to be $3 \times 10^{-1} \text{ S/m}$ and 0 , respectively. To examine the effects of κ_a , the calculations were carried out under the following three conditions of κ_a : $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^{-3}$, $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 1$, and $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^2$. In the BEM calculations, surface of the models was discretized into 5088 isoparametric elements each of which consisted of three nodes. Linear shape functions were used in the elements. As the reference, calculations were carried out based on the analytical relations for the potential distribution for a spherical cell model [43] corresponding to a single mother cell whose center was placed at the origin of the coordinate system.

HERE FIG. 1

2.2. BEM calculation

Under the quasi-static conditions, spatial distributions of the scalar potential and the electric field are represented by complex quantities that contain the information about the amplitude and the phase-factor dependent on position. As did in the previous study [41], BEM calculations were carried out to solve Laplace's equation $\nabla^2 \psi = 0$ to obtain the total complex potential ψ that was the sum of the external and the induced complex scalar potentials, taking account of explicit expressions for the external potential due to the external electric fields, morphology of the cell models, and the complex

permittivities of the constituent phases defined by a relation $\varepsilon^* = \varepsilon + \kappa/(i\omega\varepsilon_0)$ with the relative permittivity ε , the conductivity κ , imaginary unit i , angular frequency ω represented as $\omega = 2\pi f$ in terms of the frequency f , and the permittivity of vacuum ε_0 . In the present study, effects of the field-directions were examined using uniform external fields parallel to the long axis (z -axis) of the models and those parallel to x -axis, which were, respectively, represented as $\phi_0 = -e_{00}z$ and $\phi_0 = -e_{00}x$, where e_{00} is the field intensity.

The BEM calculations provided the values of ψ and the normal components of $\nabla\psi$ in the outer phase at the surface of the shell-phase for the nodes of the discretized cell models. These quantities at other surfaces can be obtained with the following relations:

$$p_s^{\text{sa}} = p_a^{\text{as}}, \quad (1)$$

$$p_s^{\text{si}} = p_i^{\text{is}}, \quad (2)$$

$$\varepsilon_i^* q_i^{\text{is}} + \varepsilon_s^* q_s^{\text{si}} = 0, \quad (3)$$

$$\varepsilon_s^* q_s^{\text{sa}} + \varepsilon_a^* q_a^{\text{as}} = 0. \quad (4)$$

$$p_i^{\text{is}} = p_a^{\text{as}} + T(\varepsilon_a^* / \varepsilon_s^*) q_a^{\text{as}}, \quad (5)$$

$$\varepsilon_i^* q_i^{\text{is}} + \varepsilon_a^* q_a^{\text{as}} = 0. \quad (6)$$

In these relations, i, s, and a in subscripts and superscripts denote the inner, the shell, and the outer phases, respectively. The p and q shown in the form of p_A^{AB} and q_A^{AB} represents, respectively, ψ and $\nabla\psi \cdot \mathbf{n}_{\text{BEM}}^{\text{AB}}$ in phase-A at the boundary between phase-A and -B, where $\mathbf{n}_{\text{BEM}}^{\text{AB}}$ is the unit vector

normal to the boundary directed from phase-A to -B, A and B in subscripts and superscripts being representative of i, a, and s denoting the inner, the outer, and the shell-phases, respectively. Since $\mathbf{n}_{\text{BEM}}^{\text{BA}} = -\mathbf{n}_{\text{BEM}}^{\text{AB}}$, $q_{\text{B}}^{\text{BA}} = -q_{\text{A}}^{\text{AB}}$. Eqs. (5) and (6) were derived under the assumption that $\nabla\psi$ in the shell-phase was independent of the depth from the surface and that $\mathbf{n}_{\text{BEM}}^{\text{si}} = -\mathbf{n}_{\text{BEM}}^{\text{sa}}$ because the thickness T of the shell-phase was uniform and small.

2.3. Calculation of TMP

Since TMP is the difference in the potential between the inner and the outer surfaces of the shell-phase, the complex TMP, p_{TMP} , is derived from Eqs. (5) as

$$p_{\text{TMP}} = p_{\text{i}}^{\text{is}} - p_{\text{a}}^{\text{as}} = T(\epsilon_{\text{a}}^* / \epsilon_{\text{s}}^*) q_{\text{a}}^{\text{as}}. \quad (7)$$

Amplitude of TMP represented as P_{TMP0} is given by $P_{\text{TMP0}} = \left(p_{\text{TMP}} \overline{p_{\text{TMP}}} \right)^{1/2}$ using p_{TMP} and its complex conjugate $\overline{p_{\text{TMP}}}$.

2.4. Calculation of MST

According to the formulation for MST in inhomogeneous systems [44, 45], calculations of MST at the inner and the outer surfaces of the shell-phase require normal and tangential components of the complex electric fields at the surfaces, represented as $e_{\text{n}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} \mathbf{n}_{\text{MST}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$ and $\mathbf{e}_{\text{t}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$, respectively, where A $\rightarrow$ B in superscripts denotes the quantities in phase-A at the surface of phase-B, and $\mathbf{n}_{\text{MST}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$ is the normal unit vector directed from phase-B to -A. These were evaluated for each element as follows:

Since the linear shape functions are used in the present study, the position vector $\mathbf{r}^{(\text{ele})}$, and $p_{\text{A}}^{\text{AB}(\text{ele})}$ and $q_{\text{A}}^{\text{AB}(\text{ele})}$ at positions in each of the elements are represented by the following relations:

$$\mathbf{r}^{(\text{ele})}(u, v) = u\mathbf{r}^{(1)} + v\mathbf{r}^{(2)} + (1 - u - v)\mathbf{r}^{(3)}, \quad (8)$$

$$p_A^{\text{AB(ele)}}(u, v) = up_A^{\text{AB(1)}} + vp_A^{\text{AB(2)}} + (1 - u - v)p_A^{\text{AB(3)}}, \quad (9)$$

$$q_A^{\text{AB(ele)}}(u, v) = uq_A^{\text{AB(1)}} + vq_A^{\text{AB(2)}} + (1 - u - v)q_A^{\text{AB(3)}}, \quad (10)$$

where u and v are variables that varies from 0 to 1, and superscripts (1), (2) and (3) represent the parameter-values at the three apexes of the elements. The $\mathbf{r}^{(1)}$, $\mathbf{r}^{(2)}$ and $\mathbf{r}^{(3)}$ were decided at the stage of data preparations. Values of $p_A^{\text{AB(1)}}$, $p_A^{\text{AB(2)}}$, $p_A^{\text{AB(3)}}$, $q_A^{\text{AB(1)}}$, $q_A^{\text{AB(2)}}$ and $q_A^{\text{AB(3)}}$ were obtained from BEM calculations and Eqs. (1)-(6). Using Eqs. (8)-(10), $\mathbf{n}_{\text{MST}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$, $\mathbf{e}_t^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$ and $e_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$ were calculated for each of the elements with a method described in Appendix A.

The MST $\mathbf{T}_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$ that flows from phase-A to -B through the boundary between them is represented as $\mathbf{T}_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} = \mathbf{T}_{\text{nn}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} + \mathbf{T}_{\text{nt}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$, where $\mathbf{T}_{\text{nn}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$ and $\mathbf{T}_{\text{nt}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$ are, respectively, the normal and the tangential components of the momentum contained in $\mathbf{T}_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$. Their time-averages, $\langle \mathbf{T}_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} \rangle$, $\langle \mathbf{T}_{\text{nn}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} \rangle$ and $\langle \mathbf{T}_{\text{nt}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} \rangle$, are represented by the following relations:

$$\langle \mathbf{T}_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{T}_{\text{nn}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{T}_{\text{nt}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} \rangle, \quad (11)$$

$$\langle \mathbf{T}_{\text{nn}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} \rangle = \frac{\varepsilon_A \varepsilon_0}{4} \left(e_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} \overline{e_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}} - \mathbf{e}_t^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{e}_t^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}} \right) \mathbf{n}_{\text{MST}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}, \quad (12)$$

$$\langle \mathbf{T}_{\text{nt}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} \rangle = \frac{\varepsilon_A \varepsilon_0}{8} \left[\left(e_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} + \overline{e_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}} \right) \left(\mathbf{e}_t^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} + \overline{\mathbf{e}_t^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}} \right) + \left(e_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} - \overline{e_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}} \right) \left(\mathbf{e}_t^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}} - \overline{\mathbf{e}_t^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}} \right) \right], \quad (13)$$

where ε_A is the relative permittivity of phase-A, and $\overline{e_n^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}}$ and $\overline{\mathbf{e}_t^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}}$ are the complex conjugates

of $e_n^{A \rightarrow B}$ and $e_t^{A \rightarrow B}$, respectively.

Since the time-averaged normal stresses at the inner and the outer surfaces of the shell-phase are $\langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{i \rightarrow s} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{s \rightarrow i} \rangle$ and $\langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{s \rightarrow a} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{a \rightarrow s} \rangle$, respectively, the time-averaged total normal stress σ_n on the shell-phase is given as

$$\sigma_n = \left[\left(\langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{i \rightarrow s} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{s \rightarrow i} \rangle \right) - \left(\langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{s \rightarrow a} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{a \rightarrow s} \rangle \right) \right] \cdot \mathbf{n}^{i \rightarrow a}, \quad (14)$$

where $\mathbf{n}^{i \rightarrow a}$ is the unit normal vector at the surface directed from the inner phase to the outer phase.

The shell-phase is compressed when $\sigma_n > 0$, and is expanded when $\sigma_n < 0$. Since T is small, the flow of MST into the shell-phase through its cross section is negligibly smaller than those through its surfaces.

Hence, the force to move the shell-phase in the direction normal to the element is approximately

provided by $\langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{a \rightarrow s} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{i \rightarrow s} \rangle$. The time-averaged force density (intensity of the force for unit area)

directed outward, σ_{out} , is represented as

$$\sigma_{out} = \left(\langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{a \rightarrow s} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{i \rightarrow s} \rangle \right) \cdot \mathbf{n}^{i \rightarrow a}. \quad (15)$$

2.5. Calculation of electric field

The BEM calculations of the electric fields can be carried out with the relations that have the same form as those for the potential and contain the gradient of the Green function, instead of the Green function [46, 47]. In the present study, we derived the relations of this type from those for ψ [48] and evaluated the complex electric fields $\mathbf{e}$ in the inner and the outer phases, using the values of p and q at the surfaces of the shell-phase described in section 2.2. From $\mathbf{e}$ and its complex conjugate $\bar{\mathbf{e}}$, we obtained the squared intensity of the induced field, I_{ee} , given as $I_{ee} = \mathbf{e} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{e}}$.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Frequency-dependence of polarization factor

In the previous study [41], we examined the frequency-dependence of the polarization factor β of the doublet-shaped models. This study revealed that the frequency-dependence of the component of β parallel to the long axis, β_z , was represented by a summation of three relaxation-terms, zLRD (specified by the characteristic frequency f_c^{zLRD}), zMRD (f_c^{zMRD}) and zHRD (f_c^{zHRD}) in order of increasing frequency. On the other hand, the frequency-dependence of the component perpendicular to the long axis, β_h , was represented with two relaxation-terms, hLRD (f_c^{hLRD}) and hHRD (f_c^{hHRD}) at lower and higher frequencies, respectively. The behavior of β_h was almost the same as that of the spherical models represented with LCS (f_c^{LCS}) and HCS (f_c^{HCS}) at lower and higher frequencies, respectively, independently of directions. The increase in κ_a and κ_i caused the increase in two of the three characteristic frequencies related to β_z , the two characteristic frequencies for β_h , and those for the spherical models. The remaining characteristic frequency for β_z was lower than that dependent on κ_i , and decreased with the decrease in R_j . Hence, under the condition that $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \ll 1$, κ_a affected f_c^{zLRD} , f_c^{hLRD} and f_c^{LCS} , where $f_c^{zLRD} \approx f_c^{hLRD} \approx f_c^{LCS}$, R_j did f_c^{zMRD} , and κ_i did f_c^{zHRD} , f_c^{hHRD} and f_c^{HCS} , where $f_c^{zHRD} \approx f_c^{hHRD} \approx f_c^{HCS}$. With the increase in κ_a , f_c^{zLRD} , f_c^{hLRD} and f_c^{LCS} shifted to higher frequencies. When $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 1$, $f_c^{zLRD} < f_c^{zMRD} \approx f_c^{hLRD} \approx f_c^{LCS} \approx f_c^{zHRD} \approx f_c^{hHRD} \approx f_c^{HCS}$, where f_c^{zLRD} was dependent on R_j . Under the condition that $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \gg 1$, R_j affected f_c^{zLRD} , κ_i did f_c^{zMRD} , f_c^{hLRD} and f_c^{LCS} , where $f_c^{zMRD} \approx f_c^{hLRD} \approx f_c^{LCS}$, and κ_i did f_c^{zHRD} , f_c^{hHRD} and f_c^{HCS} , where $f_c^{zHRD} \approx f_c^{hHRD} \approx f_c^{HCS}$.

In the present study, the field-effects were calculated at various positions in the cell models as the function of the frequency under the various conditions of the field-direction, κ_a and R_j . The three κ_a/κ_i -values used in the present study, $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^{-3}$, $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 1$ and $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^2$, correspond to the

conditions $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \ll 1$, $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 1$ and $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \gg 1$, respectively. The R_j was changed to examine whether R_j would cause the same effects on frequency-dependence of the field-effects as those on β . Preliminary calculations showed that marked amplification of P_{TMP0} , σ_n , and σ_{out} was found at the following positions in the shell phase: at the pole $(0, 0, 2.1R_m)$, and in the middle of junction on x -axis $(R_j, 0, 0)$ and that on y -axis $(0, R_j, 0)$. Amplification of I_{ee} in the vicinity of the junction was examined in the inner-phase at the center of the junction $(0, 0, 0)$, and in the outer-phase beside the junction on x -axis at $(0.45R_m, 0, 0)$ and on y -axis at $(0, 0.45R_m, 0)$. When the external fields were parallel to z -axis, amplitudes of the field-effects were independent of the direction in xy -plane due to the axially symmetric shape of the models.

3.2. Field-effects induced by external field parallel to z -axis under the condition $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^{-3}$

This section describes the field-effects under the conditions that the external field was parallel to z -axis and $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^{-3}$, because all of the field-effects were amplified under this condition.

The P_{TMP0} and σ_n at the pole were almost independent of R_j ; frequency-dependence of these parameters in model-RDj01 are shown in Fig. 2, which also shows P_{TMP0} and σ_n at the pole of the single spherical model represented by solid lines as the reference. In the frequency-region below f_c^{zLRD} , P_{TMP0} in the doublet-shaped models was about twice (1.8 times) as large as that in the spherical model (Fig. 2(A)). The ratio of σ_n below f_c^{zLRD} for the doublet-shaped model to that for the spherical model was about 3.0 (Fig. 2(B)), which was larger than the ratio in P_{TMP0} .

HERE FIG. 2

Fig. 3(A) shows the frequency-dependence of σ_{out} at the pole of the doublet-shaped models and that for the single spherical model. Fig. 3(B) shows the frequency-dependence of σ_{out} at the junction side, together with σ_{out} at the equator of the spherical model as the reference. At the pole shown in Fig. 3(A), σ_{out} in the doublet-shaped model was about twice (2.1 times) as large as that in the spherical

model in the frequency-region between f_c^{zLRD} and f_c^{zMRD} . At the junction side in Fig. 3(B), increase in σ_{out} took place between f_c^{zMRD} and f_c^{zHRD} , and the maximum of σ_{out} increased with the decrease in R_j . When R_j was small, the maximum of σ_{out} at the junction side exceeded that at the pole.

HERE FIG. 3

Fig. 4(A) shows the frequency-dependence of I_{ee} at the junction-center, and that at the center of the spherical model. Fig. 4(B) compares I_{ee} outside of the junction ($0.45R_m, 0, 0$) for the doublet-shaped models and that for the spherical model at an equivalent position ($0.45R_m, 0, -1.1R_m$). At both inside and outside of the junction, I_{ee} increased with the decrease in R_j in the frequency-region between f_c^{zMRD} and f_c^{zHRD} .

HERE FIG. 4

Fig. 5 shows the dependence of I_{ee} on z along z -axis in the inner phase at the frequencies where values of I_{ee} reach the maximum in each of the models: 3, 5.4, and 10 MHz for model-RDj01, -RDj02 and -RDj04, respectively. This figure shows that I_{ee} increases locally nearby the junction. Similar results were obtained in the calculations of I_{ee} in the outer phase at various positions in xy -plane (data not shown).

HERE FIG. 5

3.3. Conditions for amplification of field-effects

The results of the calculations described in the preceding section, under the condition that the external fields were parallel to the long-axis (z -axis) and $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^{-3}$, showed that the field-effects were amplified dependently on the position and the frequency. The frequency-regions in which the effects were amplified were specified by the characteristic frequencies for β_z . In addition, the results suggest that the effects of R_j on the amplified intensities are classified into two groups: the one in which the intensities are independent of R_j as shown in Figs. 2(A), 2(B) and 3(A) or reached to a

constant value independent of R_j , and the other in which the intensities increase with the decrease in R_j as shown in Figs. 3(B), 4(A) and 4(B). The same situation applied to the amplification of the field-effects under the other conditions of κ_a ($\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 1$ and $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^2$) and the field-direction (parallel to x -axis) examined in the present study, as described below.

The amplification did not take place at frequencies higher than f_c^{zHRD} and f_c^{hHRD} ($f_c^{zHRD} \approx f_c^{hHRD}$) irrespective of the κ_a -values and the field-directions. In this frequency-region, the shell-phase is considered to be short-circuited due to its capacitive component, and to cause no detectable effects arising from its deformed shape. Hence, if physiological field-effects on the cells in separation are observed in this frequency-region, these are attributable to specific interactions between molecules and the fields.

The P_{TMP0} and σ_n were amplified only at the pole under the external fields parallel to the long axis (z -axis) at frequencies below f_c^{zLRD} irrespective of the change in κ_a . The result with respect to P_{TMP0} is consistent with the simulations for the cell-assemblies connected by the gap-junctions, and is attributable to elongated shape of the models along the direction of the external field [11-14]. The high threshold f_c^{zLRD} of the frequency-region is dependent on R_j when $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \geq 1$, however, is dependent on κ_a when $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \ll 1$. Under this condition, the shell-phase at the pole is subjected to amplified electrical (P_{TMP0}) and mechanical (σ_n) turbulence that is expected to affect the function of membrane proteins.

Amplified σ_{out} at the pole ($\sigma_{out}[z, P]$) was caused under the condition in which the fields were parallel to z -axis, $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \ll 1$ and the frequencies were between f_c^{zLRD} and f_c^{zMRD} . Since $\sigma_{out}[z, P]$ was positive, the fields promote elongation of the doublet-shaped cells under this condition.

The σ_{out} at the junction-side ($\sigma_{out}[z, JS]$) and I_{ee} at the junction-center ($I_{ee}[z, JC]$) due to the fields parallel to z -axis had the same properties; these were amplified within a frequency-region whose low and high thresholds were dependent on R_j and κ_i , respectively, i.e. between f_c^{zMRD} and f_c^{zHRD} when $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \ll 1$, and between f_c^{zLRD} and f_c^{zMRD} when $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \geq 1$. The $\sigma_{out}[z, JS]$ was positive, and both $\sigma_{out}[z, JS]$ and $I_{ee}[z, JC]$ increased with the decrease in R_j . The positive $\sigma_{out}[z, JS]$ operates to

increase R_j oppositely to the decrease in R_j accompanied by the cell division. The amplified $I_{ee}[z, JC]$ causes the amplified production of the Joule heat and the dielectrophoresis due to the gradient of I_{ee} in the inner-phase near the junction. These field-effects are expected to affect the cell division, because they are amplified with the progress of the cell division.

The σ_{out} at the junction-side and I_{ee} at the junction-center were amplified also under the fields parallel to x -axis. The $\sigma_{out}[x, JSy]$ caused by these fields at $(0, R_j, 0)$ was negative and its absolute value increased with the decrease in R_j at frequencies lower than the characteristic frequencies dependent on κ_a , i.e. below f_c^{hLRD} when $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \ll 1$, and below f_c^{hHRD} when $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \geq 1$ ($f_c^{hLRD} \approx f_c^{zLRD}$ and $f_c^{hHRD} \approx f_c^{zHRD}$). The negative $\sigma_{out}[x, JSy]$ competes against the positive $\sigma_{out}[z, JS]$ in the frequency-region between f_c^{zLRD} and f_c^{zMRD} when $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \geq 1$. However, under other conditions of the frequency and the conductivity, it operates alone to compress the junction in the direction perpendicular to the field-direction. Under the condition that $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \geq 1$, the fields parallel to x -axis caused amplified $\sigma_{out}[x, JSx]$ at $(R_j, 0, 0)$ and $I_{ee}[x, JC]$ at the junction-center at frequencies between f_c^{hLRD} and f_c^{hHRD} . The $\sigma_{out}[x, JSx]$ was negative and its absolute value was about three times as large as that at $(R_m, 0, 0)$ in the spherical model subjected to the same external fields. The $I_{ee}[x, JC]$ was about three times as large as that at the center of the spherical model.

The I_{ee} in the outer medium beside the junction ($I_{ee}[z, JO]$) was amplified only under the fields parallel to z -axis at frequencies between f_c^{zMRD} and f_c^{zHRD} when $\kappa_a/\kappa_i \ll 1$. It increased with the decrease in R_j . The Joule heat produced by this amplified I_{ee} in the outer medium is considered to be much lower than that in the inner phase at the junction-center, because the production of the Joule heat in the unit volume and time is a product of I_{ee} and the conductivity, where κ_a is much smaller than κ_i . Hence, the chief effect of the amplified I_{ee} beside the junction is considered to be the dielectrophoresis due to the non-uniformity of I_{ee} caused by the locally amplified I_{ee} close to the junction.

3.4. Proposed experimental procedure to examine the significance of amplified field-effects

Physiological effects of electromagnetic fields on biological cells can be detected rather simply by measuring the cell division rate [18, 49] and/or the induction of the heat-shock proteins [50]. The present study has shown that the field-effects are amplified within specific frequency-regions divided by the characteristic frequencies for the polarization factors. This suggests that the significance of the amplified field-effects can be examined from the experiments in which the frequencies of the external ac fields are changed, as adopted in the previous studies by Glasser and Fuhr [18], and Matsuoka [19]. The experimental frequency-range is required to be wide enough so that it includes the characteristic frequencies for the polarization factor. Since the characteristic frequencies and the frequency-range in which the field-effects are amplified are dependent of the conductivity κ_a of the outer medium, additional experiments by changing κ_a are expected to provide further information, if these are experimentally practicable. The field-direction can be fixed when the specimens are cultured in agar plates [51, 52]. Use of temperature-sensitive mutants is expected to enable us to start the cell cycle at a required time by changing the temperature [49, 53, 54], and to detect the physiological changes in the cells with high sensitivity [55].

4. Conclusion

The theoretical calculations in present study showed that the amplitude of transmembrane potential P_{TMP0} , the time-averaged normal stress σ_n and the outward force density σ_{out} on the shell phase, and the squared intensity I_{ee} of electric fields in the inner and the outer phases induced by uniform ac fields were amplified in the doublet shaped cell models, dependently on the direction and the frequency of the fields, and the conductivity κ_a of the outer medium. Some of the field-effects were intensified with the decrease in the radius R_j of the junction. These effects are expected to affect the processes of the cell division accompanied by the decrease in R_j . The frequency-specific nature of the amplified field-effects was consistent with the "windows" with respect to frequency in the physiological effects of the fields. The frequency-regions where the field-effects were amplified were specified by the characteristic frequencies that characterize the frequency-dependence of the

polarization factor of the cell models. Hence, if the characteristic frequencies are obtained from separate experiments or theoretical calculations in advance, the significance of the amplified field-effects can be examined from the experiments in which the frequency is changed over the frequency-region that extends from the characteristic frequency toward low and high frequencies.

5. Symbols in the text

Letters A and B in subscripts and superscripts are representative of i, a, and s denoting the inner, the outer, and the shell phases, respectively. Letters in boldface represent vectors or tensors.

e_{00}	intensity of external electric field
$\mathbf{e}$	complex electric field
$\overline{\mathbf{e}}$	complex conjugate of $\mathbf{e}$
$e_n^{A \rightarrow B}$	complex intensity of normal component of electric field in phase-A from phase-B to -A
$\overline{e_n^{A \rightarrow B}}$	complex conjugate of $e_n^{A \rightarrow B}$
$\mathbf{e}_t^{A \rightarrow B}$	complex tangential component of electric field in phase-A at the surface of phase-B
$\overline{\mathbf{e}_t^{A \rightarrow B}}$	complex conjugate of $\mathbf{e}_t^{A \rightarrow B}$
f	frequency of external electric field
f_c^{LCS} and f_c^{HCS}	characteristic frequencies of LCS and HCS
f_c^{hLRD} and f_c^{hHRD}	characteristic frequencies of hLRD and hHRD
f_c^{zLRD} , f_c^{zMRD} and f_c^{zHRD}	characteristic frequencies of zLRD, zMRD and zHRD
hLRD and hHRD	relaxation terms at low and high frequencies for doublet-shaped model perpendicular to long axis

i	imaginary unit
I_{ee}	squared intensity of the induced field; $I_{ee} = \mathbf{e} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{e}}$
$I_{ee}[x, JC]$	I_{ee} at the junction-center due to ac fields parallel to x -axis
$I_{ee}[z, JC]$	I_{ee} at the junction-center due to ac fields parallel to z -axis
$I_{ee}[z, JO]$	I_{ee} beside the junction due to ac fields parallel to z -axis
LCS and HCS	relaxation terms at low and high frequencies for spherical model
$\mathbf{n}_{BEM}^{AB}$	unit normal vector directed from phase-A to -B
$\mathbf{n}_{MST}^{A \rightarrow B}$	unit normal vector directed from phase-B to -A
$\mathbf{n}^{i \rightarrow a}$	normal unit vector at surface of models directed from inner to outer phase
p_A^{AB}	total complex potential in phase-A at boundary between phase-A and -B
$p_A^{AB(ele)}$	p_A^{AB} in elements
$p_A^{AB(1)}$, $p_A^{AB(2)}$ and $p_A^{AB(3)}$	p_A^{AB} at apexes of each element
p_{TMP}	complex transmembrane potential
$\overline{p_{TMP}}$	complex conjugate of p_{TMP}
P_{TMP0}	amplitude of TMP
$P_{TMP0}[z, P]$	P_{TMP0} at the pole due to ac fields parallel to z -axis
q_A^{AB}	$\nabla \psi \cdot \mathbf{n}_{BEM}^{AB}$ in phase-A at boundary between phase-A and -B
$q_A^{AB(ele)}$	q_A^{AB} in elements
$q_A^{AB(1)}$, $q_A^{AB(2)}$ and $q_A^{AB(3)}$	q_A^{AB} at apexes of each element
$\mathbf{r}^{(ele)}$	position vector directed to elements
$\mathbf{r}^{(1)}$, $\mathbf{r}^{(2)}$ and $\mathbf{r}^{(3)}$	position vectors directed to apexes of each element

R_j	radius of junction
R_m	radius of mother and daughter cells
T	thickness of shell phase
$\mathbf{T}_n^{A \rightarrow B}$	Maxwell stress tensor (MST) from phase-A to -B
$\mathbf{T}_{nn}^{A \rightarrow B}$ and $\mathbf{T}_{nt}^{A \rightarrow B}$	normal and tangential components of the momentum contained in $\mathbf{T}_n^{A \rightarrow B}$
$\langle \mathbf{T}_n^{A \rightarrow B} \rangle$, $\langle \mathbf{T}_{nn}^{A \rightarrow B} \rangle$, and $\langle \mathbf{T}_{nt}^{A \rightarrow B} \rangle$	time averages of $\mathbf{T}_n^{A \rightarrow B}$, $\mathbf{T}_{nn}^{A \rightarrow B}$, and $\mathbf{T}_{nt}^{A \rightarrow B}$
u and v	variables in the linear shape function
zLRD, zMRD and zHRD	relaxation terms at low, medium and high frequencies for doublet-shaped model parallel to long axis
β	polarization factor of cell model
β_z and β_n	components of β parallel and perpendicular to long axis of doublet-shaped cell model
ϵ_0	permittivity of vacuum
ϵ_i , ϵ_a , and ϵ_s	relative permittivities of inner, outer, and shell phases
ϵ_i^* , ϵ_a^* , and ϵ_s^*	complex permittivities of inner, outer, and shell phases
ϕ_0	complex external potential
κ_i , κ_a , and κ_s	conductivities of inner, outer, and shell phases
σ_n	time-averaged total normal stress on shell phase
$\sigma_n[z, P]$	σ_n at the pole due to ac fields parallel to z-axis
σ_{out}	time-averaged outward force density on shell phase
$\sigma_{out}[x, JSx]$	σ_{out} at $(R_j, 0, 0)$ due to ac fields parallel to x-axis
$\sigma_{out}[x, JSy]$	σ_{out} at $(0, R_j, 0)$ due to ac fields parallel to x-axis
$\sigma_{out}[z, JS]$	σ_{out} at the junction-side due to ac fields parallel to z-axis

$\sigma_{\text{out}}[z, P]$	σ_{out} at the pole due to ac fields parallel to z -axis
ω	angular frequency of external electric field; $\omega = 2\pi f$
ψ	total complex potential

Acknowledgement

Authors appreciate Dr. K. Asami, Kyoto University, for critical reading of the manuscript.

Appendix A.

From Eq. (8) in the text, a unit vector $\mathbf{n}^{(\text{ele})}$ normal to the element is represented by the following relation:

$$\mathbf{n}^{(\text{ele})} = \left(\mathbf{r}_u^{(\text{ele})} \times \mathbf{r}_v^{(\text{ele})} \right) / \left| \mathbf{r}_u^{(\text{ele})} \times \mathbf{r}_v^{(\text{ele})} \right|, \quad (\text{A1})$$

where

$$\mathbf{r}_u^{(\text{ele})} = \partial \mathbf{r}^{(\text{ele})} / \partial u = \mathbf{r}^{(1)} - \mathbf{r}^{(3)}, \quad (\text{A2})$$

$$\mathbf{r}_v^{(\text{ele})} = \partial \mathbf{r}^{(\text{ele})} / \partial v = \mathbf{r}^{(2)} - \mathbf{r}^{(3)}, \quad (\text{A3})$$

The $\mathbf{n}_{\text{MST}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$ for the element, $\mathbf{n}_{\text{MST}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}(\text{ele})}$, was obtained from $\mathbf{n}^{(\text{ele})}$ with a relation $\mathbf{n}_{\text{MST}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}(\text{ele})} = \pm \mathbf{n}^{(\text{ele})}$.

Since the direction of $\mathbf{n}^{(\text{ele})}$ is dependent on the assignment of the index to the nodes decided at the stage of data preparations, the sign attached to $\mathbf{n}^{(\text{ele})}$ was chosen manually so that the direction

$\mathbf{n}_{\text{MST}}^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}(\text{ele})}$ might be suitable.

The $\mathbf{e}_t^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}}$ for the element, $\mathbf{e}_t^{\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B}(\text{ele})}$, is required to satisfy the following relations:

$$-\left(\mathbf{e}_t^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})} \cdot \mathbf{r}_u^{(\text{ele})}\right) du = p_A^{AB(\text{ele})}(u + du, v) - p_A^{AB(\text{ele})}(u, v), \quad (\text{A4})$$

$$-\left(\mathbf{e}_t^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})} \cdot \mathbf{r}_v^{(\text{ele})}\right) dv = p_A^{AB(\text{ele})}(u, v + dv) - p_A^{AB(\text{ele})}(u, v), \quad (\text{A5})$$

where $\mathbf{r}_u^{(\text{ele})}$ and $\mathbf{r}_v^{(\text{ele})}$ are given by Eqs. (A2) and (A3), respectively, and $p_A^{AB(\text{ele})}$ is represented as

Eq. (9) in the text as the function of u and v . Hence, $\mathbf{e}_t^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})}$ is represented as.

$$\mathbf{e}_t^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})} = \mathbf{e}_{tu}^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})} + \mathbf{e}_{tv}^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})} \quad (\text{A6})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{e}_{tu}^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})} &= -\frac{\left(\partial p_A^{AB(\text{ele})} / \partial v\right) r_{uv}^{(\text{ele})} - \left(\partial p_A^{AB(\text{ele})} / \partial u\right) r_{vv}^{(\text{ele})}}{\left(r_{uv}^{(\text{ele})}\right)^2 - r_{uu}^{(\text{ele})} r_{vv}^{(\text{ele})}} \mathbf{r}_u^{(\text{ele})} \\ &= -\frac{\left(p_A^{AB(2)} - p_A^{AB(3)}\right) r_{uv}^{(\text{ele})} - \left(p_A^{AB(1)} - p_A^{AB(3)}\right) r_{vv}^{(\text{ele})}}{\left(r_{uv}^{(\text{ele})}\right)^2 - r_{uu}^{(\text{ele})} r_{vv}^{(\text{ele})}} \mathbf{r}_u^{(\text{ele})}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{e}_{tv}^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})} &= -\frac{\left(\partial p_A^{AB(\text{ele})} / \partial u\right) r_{uv}^{(\text{ele})} - \left(\partial p_A^{AB(\text{ele})} / \partial v\right) r_{uu}^{(\text{ele})}}{\left(r_{uv}^{(\text{ele})}\right)^2 - r_{uu}^{(\text{ele})} r_{vv}^{(\text{ele})}} \mathbf{r}_v^{(\text{ele})} \\ &= -\frac{\left(p_A^{AB(1)} - p_A^{AB(3)}\right) r_{uv}^{(\text{ele})} - \left(p_A^{AB(2)} - p_A^{AB(3)}\right) r_{uu}^{(\text{ele})}}{\left(r_{uv}^{(\text{ele})}\right)^2 - r_{uu}^{(\text{ele})} r_{vv}^{(\text{ele})}} \mathbf{r}_v^{(\text{ele})}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A8})$$

$$r_{uv}^{(\text{ele})} = \mathbf{r}_u^{(\text{ele})} \cdot \mathbf{r}_v^{(\text{ele})}, \quad (\text{A9})$$

$$r_{uu}^{(\text{ele})} = \mathbf{r}_u^{(\text{ele})} \cdot \mathbf{r}_u^{(\text{ele})}, \quad (\text{A10})$$

$$\mathbf{r}_{\nu\nu}^{(\text{ele})} = \mathbf{r}_{\nu}^{(\text{ele})} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{\nu}^{(\text{ele})} . \quad (\text{A11})$$

The $e_n^{A \rightarrow B}$ for the element, $e_n^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})}$, was obtained from $q_A^{AB(\text{ele})}$ at the mass-center of the element. From Eq. (10) in the text, this is given as $(q_A^{AB(1)} + q_A^{AB(2)} + q_A^{AB(3)})/3$. Since

$\mathbf{n}_{\text{MST}}^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})} = -\mathbf{n}_{\text{BEM}}^{AB(\text{ele})}$, $e_n^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})}$ is represented as

$$e_n^{A \rightarrow B(\text{ele})} = (q_A^{AB(1)} + q_A^{AB(2)} + q_A^{AB(3)})/3 . \quad (\text{A12})$$

References

- [1] American National Standards Institute, American National Standard Techniques and Instrumentation for the Measurement of Potentially Hazardous Electromagnetic Radiation at Microwave Frequencies (ANSI C95.3-1973), The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, New York, 1973.
- [2] National Radiological Protection Board, Review of the scientific evidence for limiting exposure to electromagnetic fields (0-300 GHz), Doc. NRPB (2004), Vol. 15, No. 3
- [3] IEEE International Committee on Electromagnetic Safety, IEEE Standard for Safety Levels with Respect to Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields, 3 kHz to 300 GHz (IEEE Std C95.1-2005), The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, New York, 2005.
- [4] World Health Organization, 2006 WHO Research Agenda for Radio Frequency Fields, World Health Organization, Geneva, 2007.
- [5] World Health Organization, Extremely Low Frequency Fields (Environmental Health Criteria 238) World Health Organization, Geneva, 2007.
- [6] World Health Organization, 2007 WHO Research Agenda for Extremely Low Frequency Fields, World Health Organization, Geneva, 2007.
- [7] H. Berg, Problems of weak electromagnetic field effects in cell biology, *Bioelectrochem. Bioenerg.*, 48, (1999) 355 - 360
- [8] J.C. McKay, F.S. Prato, A.W. Thomas, A literature review: The effects of magnetic field exposure on blood flow and blood vessels in the microvasculature, *Bioelectromagnetics*, 28, (2007) 81 - 98
- [9] M.J.R Gómez, M.I.P. Barcia, E.R. Bogajo, M.M. Morillo, Static and 50 Hz magnetic fields of 0.35 and 2.45 mT have no effect on the growth of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Bioelectrochem.*, 64, (2004) 151 - 155
- [10] M.J.R Gómez, M.D.M. Moyano, M.G.C. Martin, M.I.P. Barcia, M.M. Morillo, No effect of 50 Hz 2.45 mT magnetic field on the potency of cisplatin, mitomycin C, and methotrexate in *S. cerevisiae*, *Electromagnetic Biol. Med.*, 27, (2008) 289 - 297
- [11] A.A. Pilla, P.R. Nasser, J.J. Kaufman, Gap junction impedance, tissue dielectrics and thermal

- noise limits for electromagnetic field bioeffects, *Bioelectrochem. Bioenerg.*, 35, (1994) 63 - 69
- [12] E.C. Fear, M.A. Stuchly, Biological cells with gap junctions in low-frequency electric fields, *IEEE Trans. Biomed. Engin.*, 45, (1998) 856 - 866
- [13] E.C. Fear, M.A. Stuchly, Modeling assemblies of biological cells exposed to electric fields, *IEEE Trans. Biomed. Engin.*, 45, (1998) 1259 - 1271
- [14] E.C. Fear, M.A. Stuchly, A novel equivalent circuit model for gap-connected cells, *Phys. Med. Biol.*, 43, (1998) 1439 - 1448
- [15] E. Neumann, Digression on chemical electromagnetic field effects in membrane signal transduction - Cooperativity paradigm of the acetylcholine receptor, *Bioelectrochem. Bioenerg.*, 52, (2000) 43 - 49
- [16] R.K. Adair, Simple neural networks for the amplification and utilization of small changes in neuron firing rates, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 98, (2001) 7253 - 7258
- [17] J. Gartzke, K. Lange, Cellular target of weak magnetic fields: Ionic conduction along actin filaments of microvilli, *Am. J. Physiol. Cell Physiol.*, 283, (2002) 1333 - 1346
- [18] H. Glasser, G. Fuhr, Cultivation of cells under strong ac-electric field - Differentiation between heating and trans-membrane potential effects, *Bioelectrochem. Bioenerg.*, 47, (1998) 301 - 310
- [19] H. Matsuoka, K. Hashimoto, S. Horikiri, M. Saito, K. Yamamoto, J. Ando, Single-cell imaging of the Ca^{2+} influx into bovine endothelial cells occurring in response to an alternating electric stimulus, *Anal. Sci.*, 18, (2002) 1205 - 1208
- [20] E. Postow, M.L. Swichord, Modulated fields and "window" effects, in: C. Polk, E. Postow (Eds.), *Handbook of Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields*, 2nd ed., CRC Press, Boca Raton, New York, London, Tokyo, 1996, pp. 535-580
- [21] V.N. Binhi, R.J. Goldman, Ion-protein dissociation predicts 'windows' in electric field-induced wound-cell proliferation, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, 1474, (2000) 147 - 156
- [22] U. Zimmermann, The effect of high intensity electric field pulses on eukaryotic cell membranes: Fundamentals and applications, in: U. Zimmermann, G.A. Neil (Eds.), *Electromanipulation of Cells*, CRC Press, Boca Raton, 1996, pp. 1-106
- [23] K.R. Foster, H.P. Schwan, Dielectric properties of tissues, in: C. Polk, E. Postow (Eds.),

- Handbook of Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields, 2nd ed., CRC Press, Boca Raton, New York, London, Tokyo, 1996, pp. 25-102
- [24] K. Asami, Dielectric relaxation spectroscopy of biological cell suspensions, in: V.A. Hackley, J. Texter (Eds.), Handbook on Ultrasonic and Dielectric Characterization Techniques for Suspended Particulates, The American Ceramic Society, Westerville, 1998, pp. 333-349
- [25] D. Wachner, M. Simeonova, J. Gimsa, Estimating the subcellular absorption of electric field energy: Equations for an ellipsoidal single shell model, *Bioelectrochem.*, 56, (2002) 211 - 213
- [26] M. Simeonova, D. Wachner, J. Gimsa, Cellular absorption of electric field energy: Influence of molecular properties of the cytoplasm, *Bioelectrochem.*, 56, (2002) 215 - 218
- [27] T. Kotnik, D. Miklavčič, Analytical description of transmembrane voltage induced by electric fields on spheroidal cells, *Biophys. J.*, 79, (2000) 670 - 679
- [28] K. Maswawat, D. Wachner, J. Gimsa, Effects of cell orientation and electric field frequency on the transmembrane potential induced in ellipsoidal cells, *Bioelectrochem.*, 74, (2008) 130 - 141
- [29] M. Winterhalter, W. Helfrich, Deformation of spherical vesicles by external fields, *J. Coll. Interface Sci.*, 122, (1988) 583 - 586
- [30] M. Kummrow, W. Helfrich, Deformation of giant lipid vesicles by electric fields, *Phys. Rev. A*, 44, (1991) 8356 - 8360
- [31] M.D. Mitov, P. Meleard, M. Winterhalter, P. Bothorel, Electric-field dependent thermal fluctuation of giant vesicles, *Phys. Rev. E*, 48, (1993) 628 - 631
- [32] C. Liu, D. Sheen, K. Huang, A hybrid numerical method to compute erythrocyte TMP in low-frequency electric fields, *IEEE Trans. Nanobiosci.*, 2, (2003) 104 - 109
- [33] S. Muñoz San Martín, J.L. Sebastián, M. Sancho, J.M. Miranda, A study of the electric field distribution in erythrocyte and rod shape cells from direct RF exposure, *Phys. Med. Biol.*, 48, (2003) 1649 - 1659
- [34] J.L. Sebastián, S. Muñoz San Martín, M. Sancho, J.M. Miranda, Modelling the internal field distribution in human erythrocytes exposed to MW radiation, *Bioelectrochem.*, 64, (2004) 39 - 45
- [35] J.L. Sebastián, S. Muñoz, M. Sancho, J.M. Miranda, Analysis of the electric field induced forces in erythrocyte membrane pores using a realistic cell model, *Phys. Med. Biol.*, 51, (2006) 6213 -

- [36] M. Pavlin, N. Pavšelj, D. Miklavčič, Dependence of induced transmembrane potential on cell density, arrangement, and cell position inside a cell system, *IEEE Trans. Biomed. Eng.*, 49, (2002) 605 - 612
- [37] T.R. Gowrishankar, D.A. Stewart, J.C. Weaver, Model of a confined spherical cell in uniform and heterogeneous applied electric fields, *Bioelectrochem.*, 68, (2006) 181 - 190
- [38] A.M. Benselama, P. Pham, P. Atten, P., Calcul de la force diélectrophorétique dans les microsystèmes biologiques: comparaison du modèle dipolaire avec le modèle du tenseur de Maxwell, *J. Electrostatics*, 64, (2006) 437 - 444
- [39] K. Asami, K. Sekine, Dielectric modelling of cell division for budding and fission yeast, *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.*, 40, (2007) 1128 - 1133
- [40] K. Asami, Dielectric properties of biological tissues in which cells are connected by communicating junctions, *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.*, 40, (2007) 3718 - 3727
- [41] K. Sekine, Y. Watanabe, S. Hara, K. Asami, Boundary-element calculations for dielectric behavior of doublet-shaped cells, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, 1721, (2005) 130 - 138
- [42] T.B. Jones, *Electromechanics of Particles*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, 1995, 29 p.
- [43] H. Pauly, H.P. Schwan, Über die Impedanz einer Suspension von kugelförmigen Teilchen mit einer Schale, *Z. Naturforsch.*, 14b, (1959) 125 - 131
- [44] F.A. Sauer, Interaction forces between microscopic particles in an external electromagnetic field, in: A. Chiabrera, C. Nicolini, H.P. Schwan (Eds.), *Interactions between Electromagnetic Fields and Cells*, Plenum, New York, 1985, pp. 181-202
- [45] F.A. Sauer, R. W. Schlögl, Torques exerted on cylinders and spheres by external electromagnetic fields: A contribution to the theory of field induced rotation, in: A. Chiabrera, C. Nicolini, H.P. Schwan (Eds.), *Interactions between Electromagnetic Fields and Cells*, Plenum, New York, 1985, pp. 203-251
- [46] Y.B. Yildir, K.M. Prasad, D. Zhen, Computer-aided design in electromagnetic systems: Boundary element method and applications, in: C.T. Leondes (Ed.), *Control and Dynamic Systems*, vol. 59,

- Academic Press, San Diego, Tokyo, 1993, pp. 167-223
- [47] C. Zimmermann, M. Stern, Boundary element solution of 3-D wave scatter problems in a proelastic medium, *Eng. Anal. Boundary Elements*, 12, (1993) 223 - 240
- [48] K. Sekine, Application of boundary element method to calculation of the complex permittivity of suspensions of cells in shape of $D_{\infty h}$ symmetry, *Bioelectrochem.*, 52, (2000) 1 - 7
- [49] H. Matsuoka, S. Matsumoto, M. Kinoshita, S. Yamada, Effective stage in the cell cycle for control of the budding direction of *cdc* mutants of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* using electric stimulus, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, 971, (1988) 255 - 265
- [50] M. Blank, R. Goodman, A mechanism for stimulation of biosynthesis by electromagnetic fields: Charge transfer in DNA and base pair separation, *J. Cell. Physiol.*, 214, (2008) 20 - 26
- [51] M. Zhao, A.A-. Fernandez, J.V. Forrester, C.D. McCaig, Orientation and directed migration of cultured corneal epithelial cells in small electric fields are serum dependent, *J. Cell Sci.*, 109, (1996) 1405 - 1414
- [52] M. Zhao, J.V. Forrester, C.D. Mccaig, A small, physiological electric field orients cell division, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 96, (1999) 4942 - 4946
- [53] K. Asami, E. Gheorghiu, T. Yonezawa, Dielectric behavior of budding yeast in cell separation, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, 1381, (1998) 234 - 240
- [54] K. Asami, E. Gheorghiu, T. Yonezawa, Real-Time Monitoring of Yeast Cell Division by Dielectric Spectroscopy, *Biophys. J.*, 76, (1999) 3345 - 3348
- [55] R.G. Guven, K. Guven, A. Dawe, J. Worthington, C. Harvell, A. Popple, T. Smith, B. Smith, D.I. de Pomerai, Effects of radio-frequency fields on bacterial cell membranes and nematode temperature-sensitive mutants, *Enzyme Microb Technol.*, 39, (2006) 788 - 795

Figure Captions

Fig. 1.

Doublet-shaped cell model used in the present study. The cell interior is covered by the shell-phase of uniform thickness T represented by a bold solid line.

Fig. 2.

Frequency-dependence of (A) the amplitude of the transmembrane potential $P_{\text{TMP}0}$ and (B) the time-averaged normal stress σ_n normalized by the field-intensity e_{00} at the pole $(0, 0, 2.1R_m)$ of model-RDj01 ($\circ$) under the condition that the external fields are parallel to the long axis of the models (z -axis) and $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^{-3}$. Solid lines in (A) and (B) represent $P_{\text{TMP}0}$ and σ_n at the pole of the spherical cell model. Vertical lines zLRD, zMRD1 and zHRD represent the characteristic frequencies for the polarization factor of model-RDj01 along z -axis.

Fig. 3.

Frequency-dependence of the time-averaged outward force densities σ_{out} (A) at the pole and (B) at the junction side $(R_j, 0, 0)$ normalized by e_{00} for model-RDj01 ($\circ$), -RDj02 ($\bullet$) and -RDj04 ($\square$), under the condition that the external fields are parallel to z -axis and $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^{-3}$. Solid lines in (A) and (B) represent σ_{out} at the pole and the equator of the spherical cell model. Vertical lines zMRD1, zMRD2 and zMRD4 represent the characteristic frequency of the relaxation term zMRD for model-RDj01, -RDj02 and -RDj04, respectively.

Fig. 4.

Frequency-dependence of the squared intensity of the induced field I_{ee} (A) inside $(0, 0, 0)$ and (B) outside $(0.45R_m, 0, 0)$ of the junction normalized by e_{00} for model-RDj01 ($\circ$), -RDj02 ($\bullet$) and -RDj04 ($\square$), under the condition that the external fields are parallel to z -axis and $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^{-3}$. Solid lines in (A) and (B) represent I_{ee} at the center and at an equivalent position in the outer phase for the spherical cell

model.

Fig. 5.

Dependence of I_{ee} on z along z -axis in the inner phase for model-RDj01 at 3 MHz ($\circ$), -RDj02 at 5.4 MHz ($\bullet$) and -RDj04 at 10 MHz ($\square$), under the conditions that the external fields are parallel to z -axis and $\kappa_a/\kappa_i = 10^{-3}$.

Fig.2 K.Sekine

Fig.3 K.Sekine

Fig.4 K.Sekine

Fig.5 K.Sekine