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FLEXIBLE ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY HEADSET

Abstract

One variation of a system for locating electrodes on a head of a user includes a headset defining a set of electrode bodies elastically interconnected by a unique set of spring elements configured to locate the set of electrode bodies at electrode positions of the international 10-20 standard, irrespective of the size of the head of the user. The spring elements are configured to carry electrical signals between interconnected electrode bodies and ultimately to a controller. An electrode tip is mechanically and electrically coupled to each electrode body. The electrode tip comprises a thin conductive probe mounted at the distal end of an elastic beam and is configured to extend from a base of the electrode tip, bypass hair, and electrically couple to the head of the user, and an insulative boss, configured to rest on and transfer the weight of the headset to the head of the user.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This Application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/530,523, filed on 6 Dec. 2023, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/220,483, filed on 11 Jul. 2023, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/882,474, filed on 5 Aug. 2022, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/229,871, filed on 5 Aug. 2021, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/256,238, filed on 15 Oct. 2021, each of which are incorporated in its entirety by this reference. [0002] This Application is related to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/351,016, filed on 14 Nov. 2016, which is incorporated in its entirety by this reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0003] This invention relates generally to the field of electro-encephalopathy and more specifically to a new and useful method for collecting electrical measurements in the field of electro-encephalopathy.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0004] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a system;

[0005] FIGS. 2A-2C are schematic diagrams of one variation of the system; and

[0006] FIGS. 3A-3B are schematic diagrams of one variation of the system.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

[0007] The following description of embodiments of the invention is not intended to limit the invention to these embodiments but rather to enable a person skilled in the art to make and use this invention. Variations, configurations, implementations, example implementations, and examples described herein are optional and are not exclusive to the variations, configurations, implementations, example implementations, and examples they describe. The invention described herein can include any and all permutations of these variations, configurations, implementations, example implementations, and examples.

1. System

[0008] Generally, a system **100** for locating electrodes on a head of a user includes a set of electrode bodies configured to locate at electrode positions of an electroencephalography (or “EEG”) standard, such as the international 10-20 system, forming an EEG headset. In one implementation, the system **100** can include an electrode body defining an electrode body **120** that can include a base, a cavity, an annulus, an electrode tip **130**, a conductive element (e.g., a flexible

PCB), an electrode interface **122**, a spring element receiver **126**, and an electrical circuit **123** (e.g., a local signal circuit). The conductive element can be electrically coupled to and configured to transmit data between the electrical circuit and a controller **102**. The housing is also configured to retain (or “lock”) a set of spring elements **104** within spring element receivers **126** of the base. The system includes a set of spring elements **104** configured to: mechanically couple adjacent electrode bodies **120**; to expand and contract to accommodate different head sizes and shapes; and to locate adjacent electrodes **120** in relative positions that approximate an EEG standard (e.g., the 10-20 system). The system can include a controller **102** configured to receive electrical signals from the set of electrode bodies **105**, process the electrical signals to produce an output, and transmit the output to an output device (e.g., a monitor or a computer) to further process, analyze, or display the output to a user or operator.

[0009] In another implementation, as shown in FIGS. **1-3B**, the system **100** includes a headset **101** defining a set of electrode bodies **105** configured to detect electroencephalographic signals from the head of the user; and a set of spring elements **104** elastically interconnecting a set of electrode bodies **105** and configured to locate the set of electrode bodies **105** on the head of the user. Each spring element **110** in the set of spring elements **104** can include a spine **111** defining: a proximal end **112** including a first arcuate section **113** extending about a first axis, configured to elastically deform about the first axis to accommodate a curvature of the head of the user, and configured to electrically couple to a first electrical circuit **123** within a first electrode body **120** in the set of electrode bodies **105**; a distal end **114** including a second arcuate section **115** extending about a second axis, configured to elastically deform about the second axis to accommodate the curvature of the head of the user, and a second electrical connector configured to electrically couple to a second electrical circuit **123** within a second electrode body **120** in the set of electrode bodies **105**; and a center section **116** defining a serpentine geometry extending between the proximal end **112** and the distal end **114**, and configured to elastically deform between the first axis and the second axis to accommodate a size of the head of the user. Each spring element **110** in the set of spring elements **104** further includes a conductive element **117**, extending between the proximal end **112** and the distal end **114**, along the center section **116**, and configured to conduct electrical signals between the first electrode body **120** and a second electrode body **120**.

[0010] In yet another implementation, as shown in FIGS. **1-3B**, the system **100** includes a headset **101** defining a set of electrode bodies **105** and a set of spring elements **104**. Each electrode body **120** in the set of electrode bodies **105** includes: a housing **121** defining an electrode interface **122** configured to receive an electrode tip **130**; and an electrical circuit **123** arranged within the housing **121** and electrically coupled to the electrode interface **122**. Each spring element **110** in the set of spring elements **104** defines a serpentine geometry extending between a first electrode body **120** and a second electrode body **120** in the set of electrode bodies **105** and is configured to: elastically deform between the first electrode body **120** and the second electrode body **120**; and communicate electrical signals between a first electrical circuit **123** in the first electrode body **120** and a second electrical circuit **123** in the second electrode body **120**. The system **100** further includes a set of electrode tips **106**, each electrode tip **130** in the set of electrode tips **106** defining: an electrode base **131** defining a conductive material, configured to transiently install on the housing **121**, and configured to electrically couple to the electrode interface **122**; an elastic beam **132** including the conductive material and extending from the electrode base **131**; a conductive probe **134** arranged on a distal end of the elastic beam **132** opposite the electrode base **131**, defining a first contact area **135** configured to contact and electrically couple to the head of the user, and configured to conduct electrical signals from the head of the user to the electrode interface **122** via the elastic beam **132** and the electrode base **131**; and a boss **136** including an insulative material, extending from the electrode base **131** opposite the electrode interface **122**, and defining a second contact area **137** greater than the first contact area **135**, configured to contact the head of the user, and to transfer a weight of the headset **101** to the head of the user.

2. Applications

[0011] Generally, the system includes a set of unique components (i.e., springs and electrodes) assemblable into a headset (e.g., an EEG headset) configured to locate a constellation of electrode bodies **106** according to an EEG standard (e.g., the **10-20** system) for a population of users exhibiting different head shapes and sizes. In particular, the system includes a set of spring elements **104** interposed between and configured to connect a set of electrode bodies **105**. The set of spring elements **104** exhibit different characteristic springs rates and are distributed across the headset **101** to absorb different head sizes.

[0012] Generally, the headset **101** includes a set of electrodes constructed from minimal parts. Electrode bodies and spring elements can be formed from an injection molded polymer. The headset **101** can be quickly assemblable and configurable by an operator with limited skill. Spring elements can attach to electrodes via interference fit. When assembled, the headset **101** requires minimal adjustment to locate electrodes according to an EEG standard. Therefore, the headset **101** can be quickly deployed to record an accurate EEG result with limited operator skill. The spring element **110** can be arranged in a serpentine shape to construct a flat spring and can include a hollow channel. The hollow channel can contain a cable within the spring element **110** connecting adjacent electrodes. The spring element **110** can be arranged such that adjacent and nominally-parallel sections of the spring element **110** are offset, and each return end of a spring element **110** maintains a gap between the adjacent section and the return end to reduce or eliminate pinch points that may catch or pull on a user's hair while wearing the headset **101**. The flat spring can rest against the user's head and distribute the weight of the headset such that the entire weight of the headset is not carried solely by the contact of the electrode tip **130s** against the user's scalp. Further, due to minimal weight and number of parts, the headset imparts minimal pressure to a user's head via the electrode tip **130s** and spring elements, allowing the user to wear the headset for an extended period of time with minimal discomfort. Additionally, the minimal construction of the headset allows a user to freely assume a variety of positions (e.g., sitting, standing, or lying down) or move their head while wearing the headset **101**. Components providing functions such as processing and power can be located in a controller **102** external from the headset.

2.1 Spring Element Longitudinal Extension and Angular Flexion

[0013] Each spring element **110** in the set of spring elements **104** is configured to elastically deform along a longitudinal axis according to a spring rate to conform to the size of a user's head when locating the set of electrode bodies **105**. The spring rate of each spring element **110** in the set of spring elements **104** is tuned such that extension of each of the spring elements **110** results in a controlled ratio of expansion between adjacent electrode bodies **120**, which corresponds to positions of electrodes as defined by an EEG standard (e.g., international 10-20 standard). Each spring element **110** interconnects two adjacent electrode bodies **120** and exhibits a spring rate matched to the expansion ratio between the two adjacent electrode bodies **120** according to the EEG standard. Generally, spring elements **110** are configured to exhibit different spring rates based on the number of loops (or turns) of the serpentine geometry. Additionally a spring element **110** can be configured to exhibit a spring rated based on the cross-sectional area of the spring element **110**, and/or the elasticity of the material of the spring element **110**. The set of spring elements **104** includes multiple spring elements **110** exhibiting multiple spring rates, and each spring element **110** in the set of spring elements **104** is configured to cooperate with other spring elements **110** in the set of spring elements **104** to locate the set of electrode bodies **105** according to an EEG standard for a range of head sizes without reconfiguration (e.g., without changing or replacing spring elements **110**.)

[0014] Spring elements **110** can additionally include a set of arcuate sections configured to elastically deform along an angular direction to conform to the curvature of a user's head. Additionally, the spring elements **110** can elastically deform through a range of angles to accommodate a range of curvatures (e.g., multiple curvatures of multiple heads, multiple local

curvatures of a single head). The set of arcuate sections can include a proximal arcuate section **113** and a distal arcuate section **115** located at opposite ends of a center section **116** of the spring element **110** defining the serpentine geometry. Spring elements **110** can elastically deform along the angular direction independent of the longitudinal axis, and vice-versa, thereby decoupling the longitudinal movement enabled by the longitudinal elastic deformation of the serpentine geometry and angular movement enabled by the angular elastic deformation of the proximal arcuate end **113**, the distal arcuate end **115**, or both. Therefore spring elements **110** can conform individually to the size and/or curvature of a user's head.

[0015] Each spring element **110** includes a spine **111** exhibiting the spring rate of the spring element **110** (longitudinal and angular) extending from a proximal end **112** to a distal end **114**, and a conductive element **117** defining a flexible PCB mounted to the spine **111**. The conductive element **117** extends between a proximal end **112** and a distal end **114** of the spine **111** and extends from the proximal end **112** to form a proximal electrical connector and extends from the distal end **114** to form a distal electrical connector. The conductive element **117** is configured to conduct electrical signals between the proximal electrical connector and the distal electrical connector while elastically deforming according to the elastic deformation of the spine **111**. Spring elements **110** including an odd number of turns of the serpentine geometry can include the conductive element **117** mounted to one side of the spine **111** of the spring element **110** to position the proximal electrical connector in an orientation to interface with the electrical receiver of a first housing **121** and position the distal electrical connector in an orientation to interface with the electrical receiver of a second housing **121**. Spring elements **110**, including an even number of turns of the serpentine geometry, can include the conductive element **117** mounted to a first side of the spine **111** and a second side of the spine **111** and include a transition from the first side to the second side. The conductive element **117** is mounted to the first face of the spine **111** to position the proximal electrical connector in an orientation to interface with the electrical receiver of a first housing and the conductive element **117** is mounted to the second face of the spine **111** to position the distal electrical connector in an orientation to interface with the electrical receiver of a second housing. Additionally, each spring element **110** is covered (e.g., dip molded, over molded, spray coated, cast) with an insulative and/or protective material to insulate and/or protect the spine **111** and conductive element **117**.

2.2 Distribution of Headset Weight via Electrode Tips

[0016] The electrode tip **130** includes an elastic beam **132**, a conductive probe **134** cantilevered on a distal end of the elastic beam **132**, and a boss **136**. The conductive probe **134** defines a first contact area **135**, configured to contact and electrically couple to the scalp of the user. The boss **136** defines a second contact area **137**, greater than the first contact area **135**. The electrode tip **130** is configured to rest against the head of the user either on the hair, on the skin of the head, (such as on the forehead) or directly on the scalp (in the case of a bald user) and carry a local portion of the weight of the headset **101** to the head of the user via the boss **136**. The conductive probe **134** is arranged cantilevered on the distal end of an elastic beam **132** exhibiting a spring rate. The elastic beam **132** is configured to drive the conductive probe **134** toward the head of the user in a resting position. The boss **136** resting on the head of the user decouples the local weight of the headset **101** from the force of the elastic beam **132**, driving the conductive probe **134** toward the head of the user, thereby limiting the force exerted by the first contact area **135** of the conductive probe **134** on the head of the user to the force exerted by the elastic beam **132** corresponding to the spring rate of the elastic beam **132**.

[0017] In one example in which the user has hair, the conductive probe **134** passes between individual hairs of the user and contacts the scalp of the user beneath the hair. The force of the elastic beam **132** is sufficient to maintain the conductive probe **134** in contact with the head of the user, thereby maintaining an electrical coupling between the conductive probe **134** and the head of the user. The weight of the headset **101** is carried to the head of the user via the larger second

contact area **137** of the boss **136**, and only the force exerted by the elastic beam **132** is applied to the conductive probe **134** and, thereby to the user.

[0018] In another example, the electrode tip **130** is positioned on a region of the head of the user devoid of hair (e.g., the forehead, a bald scalp) and includes a recess **108** arranged between a first boss **136** and a second boss **136**. The elastic beam **132** is configured to guide the conductive probe **134** into the recess **138** in response to the scalp of the user in contact with the second contact area **137** of the first boss **136**. The local weight of the headset **101** is carried to the head of the user via the second contact area **137** of the first boss **136** (and the second contact area **137** of the second boss **136**) and decoupled from the force exerted by the elastic beam **132** on the conductive probe **134** for a location on the head of a user devoid of hair.

[0019] Therefore, the headset **101** equipped with a single electrode tip configuration can be applied to several users with heads of different hair and scalp attributes, without customizing the headset **101** or interchanging electrode tips **130** for each user, thereby reducing the number of headset configurations and electrode tip configurations necessary to electrically couple an electrode tip **130** effectively to the head of a user.

[0020] In another implementation, the system **100** includes an electrode tip **130** defining a unitary structure including a conductive probe **134** formed from a conductive polymer, and a boss **136** formed from an insulative polymer. The electrode tip can be formed as a single injection molded polymer part including a first injection of the conductive polymer and a second injection of the insulative polymer, the insulative polymer bonding to the conductive polymer during the injection molding process. The insulative polymer can be selectively bonded to the conductive polymer to limit the exposed area of conductive polymer to electrical contact surfaces (such as electrode contact surfaces or an electrical interface between an electrode tip and an electrode housing.) Further, the conductive polymer can be integrated within the electrode housing to form an electromagnetic shield **124**, isolating the local contact area of an electrode tip from external electromagnetic interference, thereby increasing the clarity of an EEG signal. The electrode tip **130** can be configured to transiently install in an electrode housing via magnetic attachment allowing a rotational degree of freedom and enabling fine tuning of the placement of the conductive probe on the head of the user. In one variation, the headset **101** includes a set of mass produced, single-use sanitary electrode tips **130** that can be discarded after an EEG of each user.

3. Electrode Bodies

[0021] As shown in FIG. **1**, the EEG headset includes a set of electrode bodies **105** configured to locate at points of an EEG standard, such as the international 10-20 system. The set of electrode bodies can divide into subsets. A first subset of (e.g., two) electrode bodies can arrange five spring receivers (e.g., at 0°, 45°, 90°, 135°, and 180° positions) and a strap connector (e.g., at 270° position) and can be configured to locate at T3 and T4 locations. A second subset of (e.g., three) electrode bodies can include four spring receivers (e.g., at 0°, 90°, 180°, and 270° positions) and can be configured to locate at Fz, Cz, and Pz locations. A third subset of (e.g., two) electrode bodies can include three spring receivers (e.g., at 0°, 90°, and 180° positions) and can be configured to locate at FpZ and Oz locations. A fourth subset of (e.g., fourteen) electrode bodies can include two spring receivers (e.g., at 0° and 180° positions) and can be configured to locate at Fp1, F7, T5, O1, O2, T6, F8, Fp2, F3, F4, C3, C4, P3, P4, locations.

[0022] In one implementation, an electrode body **120** can include a base with a castellated perimeter wall encircling a cavity and defining a set of spring receivers, and an annulus facing downwardly from the cavity opposite the spring receivers and configured to receive an electrode tip **130**. An electrical circuit **123** can be arranged in the cavity over the annulus. An electrode interface **122** can be arranged on the housing **121** and is configured to electrically couple to an electrode tip **130**. The electrical circuit **123** (e.g., a local signal circuit, an amplifier circuit) can be arranged within the housing **121** and configured to read and condition an EEG signal from the electrode tip **130**. A connector can be arranged on the electrical circuit **123** and configured to transmit data

received from the electrical circuit **123** to a controller **102**, and to receive power input. A cover can be arranged over the base over the cavity and configured to enclose the electrical circuit **123** within the cavity and retain (or “lock”) a set of springs within the spring receivers of the base. For example, the cover can interface with the castellated perimeter wall of the base to construct a spring receiver, and a spring element **110** can insert into the spring receiver in an interference (or “snap”) fit. An annular cushion can be arranged on the base about the annulus and opposite the cover and configured to carry weight of the electrode to a scalp. For example, the annular cushion can be an elastic material (e.g., silicone, memory foam) and can be bonded to the base about the annulus. In one variation, the system includes a kit of the annular cushions that are interchangeable to suit different electrode sizes. An electromagnetic shield **124** can be arranged within the housing **121** between the electrical circuit **123** and the cover and configured to shield an electrode tip **130** installed on the electrode interface **122** from ambient electrical noise.

[0023] In one implementation, the electrode body is formed from a conductive polymer and an insulative polymer as a unitary structure. The electrode body can include the housing **121** enclosing the electrical circuit **123**, formed from the insulative polymer, and the electrode interface configured to receive and electrically couple to an electrode tip **130** formed from the conductive polymer. Additionally, the housing **121** can include conductive polymer arranged to form an electromagnetic shield **124** configured to shield the electrode tip **130**, and the local area of the head of the user to which the electrode tip **130** is electrically coupled, from external electromagnetic radiation.

[0024] For example, as shown in FIG. 2C, the electrode body **120** defines a unitary structure and includes a housing **121** formed from an insulative polymer; an electrode interface **122** formed from a conductive polymer; and an electromagnetic shield **124** formed from a conductive polymer, extending from the electrode interface **122** toward the head of the user, radially offset from and encircling the boss **136**, and configured to shield the conductive probe **134** from external electromagnetic radiation.

[0025] Therefore, the electromagnetic shield **124** can reduce extraneous electromagnetic noise by shielding the electrode tip **130** and the local area of the head of the user to which the electrode tip **130** is electrically coupled, thereby resulting in a higher quality signal from the electrode tip **130**. In particular, the electromagnetic shield can reduce undesirable artefacts in the EEG such as electrical mains artifacts or capacitive coupling artifacts (e.g., sudden movements, waving hands around the user).

[0026] In another implementation, the electrical circuit **123** includes a light element (e.g., a multi-color LED, a light ring) arranged on the housing **121**. A controller **102** (described below) can implement methods and techniques described in application number U.S. Ser. No. 15/351,016 which is incorporated by reference, to: track contact quality between an electrode tip **130**—installed in the electrode body **120**—and a user's scalp; set the light element to a first color (e.g., green) if contact quality of the electrode tip **130** exceeds a threshold contact quality; set the light element to a second color (e.g., yellow) if contact quality of the electrode tip **130** is varying at greater than a threshold frequency; and/or set the light element to a third color (e.g., red) if contact quality of the electrode tip **130** is less than the threshold contact quality.

3.1 Electrode Tip

[0027] Generally, an electrode tip **130** cooperates with an electrode body **120** and an electrical circuit **123** arranged within the electrode body **120** to define an “electrode.”

[0028] The electrode is configured to contact the skin of a user, to detect local neural oscillations on the user's skin, and to transmit data representing these local neural oscillations to the controller **102**. For example, the electrode can detect a high-impedance sense signal from the user's skin; convert this high-impedance sense signal into a low-impedance sense signal; and pass this low-impedance sense signal to the controller **102** via a wired connection passing through one or a series of spring elements between the electrode and the controller **102**. The electrode can be formed from

a conductive material (i.e., metal, non-metallic, conductive foam, conductive polymer). The system can include a kit of electrode tips **130** that are electrically conductive, configured to transiently install in the set of electrode bodies **105**, and defining a set of configurations such as: flat or domed (e.g., for no hair), short bristles (e.g., for short, thin, and/or straight hair), or long bristles (e.g., for long, voluminous, curly hair).

[0029] In one implementation as shown in FIGS. 2A-2C, the electrode tip **130** includes a conductive probe **134** mounted to the distal end of an elastic beam **132** configured to extend the conductive probe **134** from the electrode base **131** toward the surface of the head of the user. The conductive probe **134** is formed from a conductive material (e.g., a conductive polymer) and defines a first contact area **135** at the tip of the conductive probe **134**. The conductive probe **134** defines a small cross-section relative to the length of the conductive probe, (e.g., a needle-like structure) to pass through the hair of a user and contact the skin of the user's scalp via the first contact area **135**. The electrode tip **130** further includes a boss **136** formed from an insulative material (e.g., an insulating polymer) extending from the electrode base **131**, defining a larger cross-section relative to the length of the extension of the boss **136** from the electrode base, and defining a second contact area **137** larger than the first contact area **135**. The electrode tip **130** further includes a recess **138**, proximal the boss **136**, into which the conductive probe **134** retracts when under a load produced by contact with the head of a user.

[0030] For example as shown in FIGS. 2A-2C, the electrode tip **130** includes an elastic beam **132** coupled to the electrode base **131** via a flexion joint **133** configured to: extend the conductive probe **134** toward the surface of the head in an unloaded state; and retract the first contact area **135** of the conductive probe **134** into a recess **138** adjacent the boss **136** in a loaded state.

[0031] In another example, the system **100** includes an electrode tip **130** further including a central electrode tip: extending from the electrode base; defining a third contact area configured to contact and electrically couple to the head of the user; including the conductive polymer exposed at the third contact area and extending to and electrically coupling to the electrode base; including the insulative polymer bonded to and encasing the conductive polymer between the third contact area and the electrode base; and configured to contact and conduct electrical signals from the head of the user to the first electrode interface via the first electrode base.

[0032] In another example, the system **100** includes an electrode tip **130** including: an elastic beam **132** mounted to an electrode base **131** at a proximal end and including the conductive polymer; a conductive probe **134** mounted to the elastic beam **132** at a distal end, including the conductive polymer extending from a first contact area **135** to the elastic beam **132**, and configured to electrically couple the first contact area **135** to the electrode base **131** via the elastic beam **132**. The electrode tip **130** further includes a boss **136**: separately mounted to the electrode base **131** radially offset from the conductive probe **134** and the elastic beam **132**; including the insulative polymer; and extending from the electrode base **131**.

[0033] In another example, the electrode tip **130** defines a unitary structure including: an electrode base including the conductive polymer, configured to transiently install on the housing, and configured to electrically couple to the electrode interface; an integrated elastic beam extending from the electrode base including the conductive polymer and the insulative polymer bonded to and encasing the conductive polymer between the electrode base and a distal end; an integrated conductive probe arranged at a distal end of the elastic beam opposite the electrode base, defining a first contact area configured to contact and electrically coupled to the head of the user, configured to conduct electrical signals from the head of the user to the electrode interface via the elastic beam and the electrode base, including the conductive polymer extending from the first contact area to the distal end, and including the insulative polymer bonded to and encasing the conductive polymer between the first contact area and the elastic beam; and an integrated boss including the insulative polymer, extending from the electrode base opposite the electrode interface, and defining a second contact area greater than the first contact area, configured to contact the head of the user, and to

carry a weight of the headset to the head of the user.

[0034] In one variation, the electrode tip can include multiple conductive probes **134** cooperating to increase the surface area of the electrode tip **130** in contact with an electrically coupled to the head of a user, and multiple bosses **136** to increase the surface area transferring the weight of the headset to the head of the user. The electrode tip **130** conductive probes **134** and bosses **136** arranged in a radially symmetrical pattern, with the gaps between the bosses **136** forming the recesses **138**.

[0035] In one example, the electrode tip **130** additionally includes: a second elastic beam **132** arranged circumferential to the first elastic beam **132**, including the conductive material and extending from the electrode base **131**; and a second conductive probe arranged on a distal end of the second elastic beam opposite the first electrode base, defining a third contact area configured to contact and electrically couple to the head of the user and configured to conduct electrical signals from the head of the user to the first electrode interface via the second elastic beam and the first electrode base. The electrode tip **130** additionally includes a second boss, circumferential to the first boss: including the insulative material; extending from the first electrode base opposite the first electrode interface; and defining a fourth contact area greater than the third contact area, configured to contact the head of the user, and to carry a weight of the headset into the head of the user.

[0036] The electrode tip **130** is configured to contact the head of a user such that the boss **136** rests on the head of the user, either on the hair, on the skin of the head, (such as on the forehead) or directly on the scalp in the case of a bald user. In one example in which the user has hair, the conductive probe **134** pierces the hair of the user and contacts the scalp of the user beneath the hair. The conductive probe **134** experiences resistance as it contacts the scalp of the user. In response, the elastic beam **132** deforms under this resistance, and the conductive probe **134** retracts toward the electrode base **131** and partially into the recess **138**. The force of the elastic beam **132** is sufficient to maintain the conductive probe **134** in contact with the head of the user, thereby maintaining an electrical coupling between the conductive probe **134** and the head of the user. However, the weight of the headset **101** is transferred to the head of the user via the larger second contact area **137** of the boss **136**. The elastic beam **132** may not deform at all when the electrode tip **130** is positioned on the head of a user with particularly large volume of hair.

[0037] In another example in which the local area to which the electrode tip **130** is in contact does not include hair (e.g., the forehead, the head of a bald user), an electrode tip **130** includes a conductive probe **134** of a length equal to the length of the boss **136**, such that under a load, the conductive probe **134** will retract entirely into the recess **138**, and therefore the first contact area **135** of the conductive probe **134** and the second contact area **137** of the boss **136** will be coplanar (e.g., both resting against the scalp of the user). As the conductive probe **134** contacts the scalp of the user and experiences resistance, the elastic beam **132** deforms under this resistance in response, and the conductive probe **134** retracts toward the electrode base **131** completely into the recess **138**. The second contact area **137** of the boss **136** transfers the weight of the headset to the user, while the first contact area **135** of the conductive probe **134** is held against the head of the user by the force of the elastic beam alone. This results in a comfortable experience for the user, as the weight of the headset **101** is distributed across the larger second contact area **137**, rather than entirely concentrated at the first contact area **135** of the conductive probe **134**.

[0038] Therefore, a single electrode tip configuration can be applied to several user types with different hair and scalp attributes, or to a user with multiple hair patterns across their head (e.g., receding hairline, bald spot) without customizing the headset **101** or interchanging electrode tips **130** of different configurations, thereby reducing the number of electrode tip configurations necessary to electrically couple an electrode effectively to the head of a user.

3.2 Mechanical Coupling

[0039] In one implementation, the electrode interface **122** of an electrode body **120** defines a

retention aperture above and centered over the annulus of the electrode body **120**, and an electrical trace adjacent and/or encircling the retention aperture. In this implementation, an electrode tip **130** includes an electrode base **131** configured to seat in an annulus of an electrode body **120**, a contact end arranged on a distal end of the electrode base **131** opposite the electrode body **120** and configured to contact a scalp of a user, and a barb extending rearward from the electrode base **131** and configured to insert into and retain the retention aperture of the electrode interface **122** in the electrode body **120**. For example, the electrode base, the contact end, and the barb define a unitary elastic structure (e.g., an injection-molded polymer) autocatalytically coated with a conductive material (e.g., nickel). The barb can be elastic and can deform when inserted into the retention aperture and can expand behind the electrode interface **122** to retain the electrode within the aperture of the electrode body **120** and maintain mechanical contact and electrical connectivity between the electrode base **131** and the electrical trace adjacent the retention aperture. Therefore, the retention aperture of the electrode interface **122** and the barb of the electrode tip **130** can cooperate to mechanically retain the electrode tip **130** within the electrode body **120** and to maintain electrical contact between electrical trace on the electrode interface **122** and the electrode tip **130**. For example, to install the electrode tip **130** in the electrode body **120**, a user pushes the electrode tip **130** into the annulus of the electrode body **120** to seat the barb in the retention aperture. To replace the electrode tip **130**, a user pulls the electrode tip **130** out of the electrode body **120**. Furthermore, minimal parts are needed to construct the electrode. The barb is molded into the electrode base, and the retention aperture is fabricated directly into the electrode interface **122** at time of manufacture.

3.3 Magnetic Coupling

[0040] In another implementation, the electrode interface **122** of an electrode body **120** defines an electrical trace facing the annulus. The electrode body **120** further includes a magnet, such as centered on the electrode interface **122** over and opposite the annulus. The electrode tip **130** includes an electrode base **131** configured to seat in an annulus of an electrode body **120**, and a magnetic element (e.g., an iron insert) arranged in the electrode base.

[0041] In one example, the electrode body **120** defines a housing including a first magnetic element arranged at the electrode interface **122**; and the electrode tip **130** includes an electrode base **131** defining a second magnetic element configured to transiently couple to the first magnetic element to retain the electrode tip **130** on the housing **121** via a magnetic connection and rotate freely about an axis perpendicular to the electrode interface **122**.

[0042] In another example, the electrode base, contact end, and the magnetic element can define a unitary structure autocatalytically coated with a conductive material (e.g., nickel). The magnetic element is a magnetic material (e.g., Iron or steel). Magnetic polarity is configured such that the magnetic element is magnetically attracted to the magnet within the electrode body **120**. Magnetic attraction between magnet and magnetic element can function to retain the electrode within the aperture of the electrode body **120** and maintain mechanical contact and electrical connectivity between the electrode base **131** and the electrical trace adjacent the retention aperture. Therefore, the magnet and the magnetic element can cooperate to constrain the vertical position of the electrode tip **130** within the electrode body **120**. The annulus and the electrode base **131** can cooperate to constrain the lateral position of the electrode tip **130** within the electrode body **120**. For example, to install the electrode tip **130** in the electrode body **120**, the user places the electrode tip **130** in the annulus of the electrode body **120** to magnetically couple the magnetic element in the electrode to the magnet in the electrode body **120**. To replace the electrode tip **130**, the user pulls the electrode tip **130** out of the electrode body **120**. Furthermore, minimal parts are needed to construct the electrode. The magnetic element is permanently fixed to the electrode tip **130**, and the magnet is fixed within the electrode body **120** at time of manufacture.

3.4 Electrode Tip Geometry

[0043] In one implementation, each electrode defines a dry EEG electrode including a substrate, a

set of electrically conductive bristles (e.g., short bristles, long bristles or a flat or domed conductive end), and an amplifier coupled to the substrate opposite the electrically conductive bristles. In another implementation, the electrode tip **130** defines a conductive probe **134** configured to electrically couple to the head of the user and an insulative boss **136** configured to contact the head of the user and transfer a weight of the headset into the head of the user.

3.5 Photosensor Housing

[0044] In one variation of an electrode body **120**, the cover defines a cover aperture. The electrical circuit **123** includes a light sensor element (e.g., photodiode, bipolar phototransistor, or photoFET) proximal the cover aperture. The light sensor element is configured to detect light signals corresponding to properties of light detected (e.g., intensity, color, frequency of pulses when using a strobe, time length of exposure, etc.), to convert these light signals into electrical signals, and to transmit these electrical signals to the controller **102** configured to track and process light stimulation data, as described below. The photosensor housing can be interchanged with an electrode body **120** or bridge housing, as described below. For example, in this variation, the headset can assemble with a photosensor housing in preparation for an EEG test specifying a strobe stimulus. Later, the headset can be reassembled without the photosensor housing, such as to reduce weight of the headset, to reduce complexity of the headset, or to replace the photosensor housing with a vibratory housing including a vibrator in preparation for an EEG test specifying a tactile stimulus.

3.6 Bridge Housing

[0045] In one variation, a housing includes elements to electrically connect to a set of spring elements **104**. A bridge housing functions to connect electrode bodies **105** adjacent to the bridge housing to one another. A bridge housing can include an electrical circuit **123** configured to boost or amplify an incoming signal and transmit this boosted signal as output to the controller **102**. Generally, a bridge housing **121** includes an annular cushion similar to other electrode bodies **120**, and therefore can be used to reduce the electrode pressure exerted on a user's scalp by an adjacent electrode body **120** by supporting some of the weight of the adjacent electrode body **120**.

3.7 External Connection Housing+Chinstrap

[0046] Generally, the external connection housing includes an external connection to a controller and power source. The headset **101** includes an external connection to transmit data and receive power. An external connection cable connects the external connection housing to the controller **102**. Signals from the set of electrode bodies **105** pass through this external connection cable to the controller **102**. In one implementation, the external connection and chinstrap housing are physically coextensive, and the system includes external connection and chinstrap housings at the T3 and T4 locations.

[0047] In another implementation, the external connection housing can be placed at the O1 and O2 locations, and the external connection cable or cables routed to the controller **102**. However, the external connection housing may be placed in any location to maximize the quality of the electrical signals transmitted from the EEG headset based on the user's position.

[0048] In one variation, a body of an electrode body **120** configured for arrangement near a user's temple (e.g., a T3 or T4 position) further includes a strap receiver configured to selectively receive and retain a distal end of an adjustable chinstrap.

[0049] Generally, securing the headset to the user can be necessary during recording of an EEG. Due to the sensitivity required to accurately measure local neural oscillations on the skin to record an accurate EEG, it is desirable that electrode tips **130** do not move relative to their initial position on the head of the user during the EEG recording. To reduce undesirable movement of the electrode tips **130** during an EEG measurement, a securement strap (e.g., a chin strap, a flexible jaw strap, a chest strap) is secured to one or more electrode bodies **120** and secured to the user.

[0050] In one example, the system can include a T3 electrode body **120** defining a first strap receiver; a T4 electrode body **120** defining a second strap receiver; a first insert pivotably coupled

to a proximal end **112** of the adjustable chinstrap and configured to insert into the first strap receiver and to fixedly couple the proximal end **112** of the adjustable chinstrap to the T3 electrode body **120**; and a second insert pivotably coupled to a distal end **114** of the adjustable chinstrap; configured to insert into the second strap receiver and to fixedly couple the distal end **114** of the adjustable chinstrap to the T4 electrode body **120**.

[0051] In another example, a first electrode body **120** includes an electrode tip **130** in contact with the head of the user positioned at a first mastoid reference proximal a first ear of the user; a second electrode body **120** includes an electrode tip **130** in contact with the head of the user positioned at a second mastoid reference proximal a second ear of the user and includes an accelerometer **127**; and the controller **102** is electrically coupled to the headset **101** via the second electrode body **120**. The accelerometer is configured to measure movement of the head of the user (e.g., during a seizure or other involuntary movement) during an EEG measurement and transmit signals describing measured movement to the controller.

[0052] Therefore, by connecting the controller **102** to the headset **101** via an electrode body **120** located at the side of the head of the user (e.g., T3, T4) the system **100** enables the user to lie down on their back or their side (opposite the connection to the controller) without trapping the external connection cord between the user and the surface of the bed and causing discomfort. Thereby the user can participate in an extended EEG test, such as a sleep study, with a greater level of comfort.

3.8 Electrode Housing Position

[0053] In one implementation, the EEG headset includes a set of electrodes connected via a set of spring elements **104** and arranged in the international 10-20 pattern. A first subset of (e.g., two) electrode bodies can include five spring receivers (e.g., at 0°, 45°, 90°, 135°, and 180°. positions) and a strap connector (e.g., at 270° position) and can be configured to locate at T3 and T4 locations. A second subset of (e.g., three) electrode bodies can include four spring receivers (e.g., at 0°, 90°, 180°, and 270° positions) and can be configured to locate at Fz, Cz, and Pz locations. A third subset of (e.g., two) electrode bodies can include three spring receivers (e.g., at 0°, 90°, and 180°. positions) and can be configured to locate at FpZ and Oz locations. A fourth subset of (e.g., fourteen) electrode bodies can include two spring receivers (e.g., at 0° and 180°. positions) and can be configured to locate at Fp1, F7, T5, O1, O2, T6, F8, Fp2, F3, F4, C3, C4, P3, P4, locations. At position T3, a 5-position electrode body **120** can be connected to 4 spring elements, one chin strap, and an external connection cable. At position T4, a 5-position electrode body **120** can be connected to 4 spring elements and one chin strap. At positions Fz, Cz, and Pz, a 4-position electrode body **120** can be connected to adjacent electrodes via a spring element **110** arranged along a medial and lateral plane. In this implementation, at positions Fp1, F7, T5, O1, O2, T6, F8, and Fp2, a 2-position electrode body **120** can be connected to adjacent electrodes via a spring element **110** along a circumferential path. At positions F3, F4, C3, C4, P3, and P4, a 2-position electrode body **120** can be connected to adjacent electrodes via a spring element **110** along a lateral path. At position Fpz, a 3-position photosensor housing **121** can be connected to adjacent electrodes along the medial plane and the circumferential path. In one variation, the housing **121** located at Fpz is a 2-position photosensor housing **121** connected to adjacent electrodes along a circumferential path. In another variation, the housing **121** located at Fpz is a bridge housing **121**. In another variation, the housing **121** located at Fpz is an electrode body **120**. At position Oz, a 3-position bridge housing **121** can be connected to adjacent electrodes along the medial plane and the circumferential path. In one variation, the housing **121** located at Oz is a 2-position bridge housing **121** connected to adjacent electrodes along a circumferential path. In one variation, a 2-position electrode body **120** can be connected to adjacent electrodes via a spring element **110** arranged along a lateral plane at positions Fz, Cz, and Pz. In another variation, the housing **121** located at Oz is an electrode body **120**.

[0054] However, the EEG headset can include a set of electrodes connected via a set of spring elements **104** and arranged a pattern other than the international 10-20 standard pattern or include additional housings **121** (and necessary spring elements to support) in other locations on the head.

3.9 Additional Housing Configurations

[0055] As described above, each electrode body **120** can include a base configured for assembly within a singular electrode position or within a small subset of electrode positions. Therefore, the system can include groups of unique electrode bodies **120**.

[0056] Conversely, a first electrode body **120** of the system can include a base identical to the base of a second electrode body **120** and can include receiving element positions configured to receive and retain all permutations of spring elements, chin strap receivers, and external cable combinations to form a complete 10-20 EEG headset. For example, each electrode body **120** can include a set of receiving elements positioned in a radially-symmetrical pattern at 0°, 45°, 90°, 135°, 180°, 225°, 270°, and 315° positions. In this example, a system can further include a set of inserts configured to locate within and enclose unused receiving elements within electrode bodies of the headset, such as to prevent hair entanglement within these unused receiving elements.

[0057] In one implementation, the electrode body **120** can be configured to orient spring elements at an oblique angle to the housing **121** to accommodate the curvature of the head of the user. For example, an electrode body **120** can define a housing **121** including a spring element receiver **126** arranged at a circumferential surface **125** of the housing **121** and configured to connect a spring element **110** to the housing **121** at an oblique angle. In one variation, the oblique orientation of the spring element receiver **126** cooperates with the angle of an arcuate section of the spring element **110** to create an angle between the spring element **110** and the housing **121** that best matches the curvature of the head of a multitude of users, thereby producing a headset **101** that is more comfortable for the multitude of users.

4. Spring Elements

[0058] Generally, the system includes a set of spring elements **104** configured to: mechanically couple adjacent electrodes; to expand and contract to accommodate different head sizes and shapes; and to locate adjacent electrodes in relative positions that approximate an EEG standard (e.g., the 10-20 system).

[0059] In one implementation, a spring element **110** is arranged in a serpentine shape to construct a flat spring. In particular, the spring element **110** is arranged in a boustrophedonic pattern, with the spring element **110** extending in a first direction, curving 90°, and extending a distance in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, subsequently curving 180° and extending in a third direction parallel and opposite the second direction, subsequently curving 180° and extending in the second direction, subsequently curving 90° and extending in the first direction. Furthermore, adjacent and nominally-parallel sections of the spring element **110** are offset and each return end of a spring element **110**, characterized by a large and smooth curve, maintains a gap between the adjacent section and the return end to reduce or eliminate pinch points that may catch or pull on a user's hair while wearing the headset.

4.1 Linear Extension

[0060] In one implementation, the system **100** includes: a first spring element **110** defining a first spine **111** exhibiting a first spring rate; and a second spring element **110** defining a second spine **111** exhibiting a second spring rate, different from the first spring rate. The first spring element **110** cooperates with the second spring element **110** to constrain the spacing of the set of electrode bodies **105** to repeatably locate the set of electrode bodies **105** at a set of positions on a head of a user for a range of head sizes.

[0061] In one example, a first spring element **110** of a first spring rate is arranged between a first electrode body **120** located at the T3 electrode position and a second electrode body **120** located at the C3 electrode position, and a second spring element **110** of a second spring rate is arranged between the first electrode body **120** and a third electrode body **120** located at the T5 electrode position. The first distance between the T3 electrode position and the C3 electrode position is greater than the second distance between the T3 electrode position and the T5 electrode position. Therefore, the first spring element **110** is required to extend a greater distance than the second

spring element **110**. The lower spring rate of the first spring element **110** enables greater variation in position between the electrode body **120** located at the T3 electrode position and the electrode body **120** located at the C3 electrode position, compared to the electrode body **120** located at the T3 electrode position and the electrode body **120** located at the T5 electrode position.

[0062] In another implementation, a first spring element **110** includes a cross-section of a first thickness, and a second spring element **110** includes a cross-section of a second thickness less than the first thickness. Accordingly, the second spring element **110** exhibits a lower spring rate than the first spring element **110**.

[0063] In another implementation, a first spring element **110** includes a first number of turns and a second spring element **110** includes a second number of turns less than the first number of turns. Accordingly, the second spring element **110** extends less than the first spring element **110** when a tension force is applied to the spring element **110**, and the second spring element **110** exhibits a lower spring rate than the first spring element **110**.

[0064] In another implementation, a first spring element **110** includes a first return radius, and a second spring element **110** includes a second return radius less than the first return radius. Accordingly, the second spring element **110** exhibits a higher spring rate than the first spring element **110**.

[0065] In another implementation, a first spring element **110** includes a first length between turns, and a second spring element **110** includes a second length between turns that is less than the first length between turns. Accordingly, the second spring element **110** extends less than the first spring element **110** when a tension force is applied to the spring element **110** (e.g., exhibits a lower spring rate.)

[0066] In another implementation, a spring element **110** can incorporate a cross section with a varying thickness or varying return radii in order to produce different spring rates as a function of travel, to construct a spring element **110** with a non-uniform flex pattern.

4.2 Angular Flexion

[0067] In another implementation as shown in FIGS. 3A-3B, the spring element **110** is configured with a first arcuate section **113**, located at the proximal end **112**, of a first elasticity, and a second arcuate section **115**, located at the distal end **114**, of a second elasticity. The first arcuate section **113** and the second arcuate section **115** enable the spring element **110** to flex in a second degree of freedom (e.g., angular flexion) in addition to the first degree of freedom (e.g., longitudinal extension via the serpentine geometry of the center section). The angular flexion of the spring element **110** enables the headset **101** to conform more closely to the curvature of a user's head, increasing comfort for the user, especially during periods of extended wear (e.g., sleep study).

[0068] For example, a first spring element **110** with a first arcuate section **113** of a first elasticity and a second arcuate section **115** of the first elasticity, is arranged between a first electrode body **120** located at the C3 electrode position and a second electrode body **120** located at the Cz electrode position, and a second spring element **110** of a first arcuate section **113** of a second elasticity and a second arcuate section **115** of the second elasticity, is arranged between the first electrode body **120** and a third electrode body **120** located at the T3 electrode position. The first curvature of the head of the user between the C3 electrode position and the Cz electrode position is greater than the second curvature of the head of the user between the C3 electrode position and the T3 electrode position, therefore the first arcuate section **113** and the second arcuate section **115** of the first spring element **110** are required to flex a greater distance than the first arcuate section **113** and the second arcuate section **115** of the second spring element **110**.

[0069] In one implementation, the set of spring elements **104** includes a first spring element **110** including a first arcuate section **113** of a first elasticity; and a second arcuate section **115** of a second elasticity, greater than the first elasticity. The first spring element **110** is configured to mechanically couple to a first electrode body **120** proximal the first arcuate section **113**; locate the first electrode body **120** proximal a first location on the head of a user exhibiting a first curvature;

couple to a second electrode body **120** proximal the second arcuate section **115**; and locate the second electrode body **120** proximal a second location on the head of a user exhibiting a second curvature, greater than the first curvature.

[0070] For example, a spring element **110** includes a proximal end **112** defining a first arcuate section **113** of a first elasticity and a distal end **114** defining a second arcuate section **115** of a second elasticity, greater than the first elasticity, is arranged between a first electrode body **120** located at the T3 electrode position and a second electrode body **120** located at the C3 electrode position. The curvature of the head of the user proximal the C3 electrode position is greater than the curvature of the head of the user proximal the T3 electrode position. The spring element **110** is coupled to the first electrode body **120** at T3 via the proximal end **112** and is coupled to the electrode body **120** at C3 via the distal end **114**. The spring element **110** exhibits angular flexion at the second arcuate section **115** greater than the angular flexion exhibited at the first arcuate section **113**, based on the curvature of the head of the user. Therefore, the spring element **110** can include a first arcuate section **113** and a second arcuate section **115** configured to flex independently to different angles of flexion to conform to the curvature of the head of the user.

[0071] In another variation, the system **100** includes a set of spring elements **104** including a first spring element **110** including: a first spring element defining a first proximal arcuate section bending by a first angular amplitude, and a first distal arcuate section, bending by the first angular amplitude; and a second spring element defining a second proximal arcuate section bending by a second angular amplitude, and a second distal arcuate section, bending by the second angular amplitude. The first spring element cooperates with the second spring element to constrain the angular flexion of a set of electrodes to repeatably locate the set of electrodes at a set of positions on a head of a user for a range of head shapes (e.g., whole head curvature, local curvature).

[0072] In one example in which a local region of the head of the user exhibits a low curvature (e.g., is flatter), the electrode bodies **120** located at the Cz, and Pz electrode locations in the 10-20 system line are colinear, and the electrode body **120** at Pz is oblique to the electrode body at Cz. The spring element **100** includes a proximal end **112** with a first arcuate section **113** defining a bend of 90 degrees between the serpentine geometry of the center section **116**, and the electrode body **120** at Cz, thereby arranging the electrode body **120** at Cz and the spring element **120** colinear. The distal end **114** of the spring element **120** defines an oblique bend, and couples to the electrode body **120** at Pz to match the curvature of the head of the user.

[0073] Therefore, the first spring element **110** can flex a first angle at the first arcuate section **113** and a second angle at the second arcuate section **115** to accommodate the curvature of a user's head. The degree of freedom enabled by the angular flexion of the flexible arcuate sections of the spring element **110** can enable the headset **101** to conform to the curvature of the head of a user more closely. Further, the elasticity of the first arcuate section **113** and the second arcuate section **115** can be configured to conform to multiple curvatures to accommodate the heads of multiple users without reconfiguring the headset **101**.

[0074] In another example in which the head of the user is of a first size, the headset **101** includes: a first spring element defining a first center section extended a first linear amplitude, a proximal end including a first arcuate section bending by a first angular amplitude, and a distal end including a second arcuate end bending by a second angular amplitude; and a second spring element including a second center section extended a second linear amplitude greater than the first linear amplitude, a second proximal end including a third arcuate section bending by a third angular amplitude less than the first angular amplitude; and a second distal end including a fourth arcuate end bending by a fourth angular amplitude less than the second angular amplitude.

[0075] Therefore, the headset **101** can include the set of spring elements **104** including spring elements **110** capable of extending through a range of amplitudes that can accommodate a range of head sizes of multiple users, eliminating the need to reconfigure the headset **101** between applications to multiple users, or to customize the headset **101** for each particular user.

4.3 Spring Element Manufacturing

[0076] In one implementation, a spring element **110** can be formed from an injection molded polymer and can be arranged in a serpentine shape to form a flat spring. The spring element **110** also includes a channel that can receive a cable. In another implementation, the spring element **110** can be formed from metal, plastic, or a composite material. In another implementation, shown in FIGS. 3A-3B, the spring element **110** additionally includes an insulative layer **119** encasing the conductive element **117** and center section **116** of the spring element **110**. In one example, the insulative layer **119** is additionally water resistant. Further, the connection interface between the spring element **110** and the electrode body **120**, as well as any other gaps in the electrode body **120**, are sealed to be water resistant, thereby enabling the headset to be submerged in a liquid (e.g., soap and water, a disinfectant solution) to be cleaned without disassembly.

4.4 Cable Routing

[0077] In one implementation, the spring element **110** includes a hollow cross-section constructing a traversable cavity from a proximal end **112** of the spring element **110** to a distal end **114** of the spring element **110** opposite the proximal end **112**. A cable can be disposed within the cavity. In one variation, the spring element **110** includes a U-shaped cross-section open to the exterior of the spring element **110**. For example, the open, U-shaped cross-section can enable an assembler to insert a cable into the channel for ease of assembly, thus reducing assembly cost. In another variation, after a cable is inserted, the spring element **110** and the joint between the spring element **110** and the electrode body **120** is hermetically sealed.

[0078] In another implementation, the spring element **110** defines a spine **111** and a conductive element **117** defining a flexible PCB (e.g., flexible printed circuit/FCP) mounted to one face of the spine **111**. The conductive element **117** terminates at the proximal end **112** and the distal end **114** of the spring element **110** at an electrical coupling configured to couple the conductive element **117** to the electrical circuit **123** of an electrode body **120**. For example, as shown in FIGS. 3A-3B, the spring element **110** includes: a center section **116** defining a spine **111**; and a conductive element **117** defining a flexible printed circuit board coupled to and extending along the spine **111** between the proximal end **112** and the distal end **114**.

[0079] In another implementation, a conductive element **117** defining a flexible PCB is mounted to one face of the spine **111** of a center section **116** defining a two-loop serpentine. The flexible PCB is mounted to a first face of the spine **111**, and is connected to a first electrical coupling at the proximal end **112**. Due to the geometry of the two-loop serpentine, the flexible PCB transitions to a second face of the spine, opposite the first face, to connect to a second electrical coupling at the distal end **114**. The flexible PCB transitions at a conductive element transfer **118** located on the center section between the proximal end **112** and the distal end **114**. The conductive element transfer **118** defines a length of flexible PCB connected to a first section of the conductive element **117** extending along the spine **111** to the proximal end **112**, executing a 90 degree turn toward an edge of the spine **111**, curling over the edge of the spine to the second face, opposite the first face, executing a second 90 degree turn toward the length of the spine **111**, and connected to a second section of the conductive element **117** extending along the spine to the distal end **114**.

[0080] In one example, shown in FIG. 3B, the spring element **110** includes: a center section including a first spine defining a two-loop serpentine; and a first conductive element defining a proximal connector extending from the proximal end of the first spine and configured to electrically couple to a first electrical circuit, a proximal section coupled to a first face of the spine and extending from the proximal connector along a first face of the spine, a conductive element transfer extending between the proximal section over an edge of the spine between the first face of the spine and a second face of the spine, a distal section coupled to the second face of the spine and extending from the conductive element transfer along the second face of the spine, and a distal connector coupled to the distal section and extending from the distal end of the first spine and configured to electrically couple to a second electrical circuit. The spring element **110** can further

include an insulative layer encasing the conductive element and the spine. Additionally, the spring element **110** including a center section **116** with an even number of turns (e.g., 2, 4, 8, 12) includes a conductive element transfer **118**.

[0081] In another implementation, the spring element **110** includes a center section **116** including a spine **111** defining a three-loop serpentine. The conductive element **111** is arranged on a first face of the spine and extends between the proximal end and the distal end. The spring element **110** can further include an insulative layer encasing the conductive element and the spine. Due to the geometry of the three-loop serpentine, the conductive element transfer **118** is not required for the conductive element **117** to connect with the proximal electrical connector and the distal electrical connector. Additionally, a spring element **110** including a center section with an odd number of turns (e.g., 1, 3, 7, 11) includes the conductive element **117** mounted to only one face of the spine **111**.

4.5 Spring Element Distribution and Tuning

[0082] Generally, the system can include a set of springs configured to connect adjacent electrodes and characterized by spring rates inversely proportional to variances in the distances between adjacent electrodes necessary to achieve the electrode standard (e.g., 10-20 EEG standard) across a population of users with different head sizes and shapes. In particular, in the international 10-20 system, the electrode at position F3 can vary more than the electrode at position T5. A spring element **110** with a first spring rate can connect the electrode at position F3 to the electrodes at positions T3 and Fz, and a spring element **110** with a second spring rate greater than the first spring rate can connect the electrode at position T5 to electrodes at positions T3 and O1. Generally, an electrode located at a medial position (e.g., Fpz, Fz, Cz, Pz, and Oz) will remain on the medial plane as the headset flexes, and the spring elements connected to either side of the electrode in the lateral direction can flex equally in both directions.

[0083] In one example, the system **100** includes a first spring element **110** including a first spine **111** exhibiting a first spring rate corresponding to a first electrode spacing ratio of 10 percent of the distance across the surface of a head of a user between a first landmark and a second landmark, and a second spring element **110** including a second spine **111** exhibiting a second spring rate corresponding to a second electrode spacing ratio of 20 percent of the distance across the surface of a head of a user between the first landmark and the second landmark.

[0084] In one implementation, the EEG headset includes a set of electrode bodies connected by spring elements in a chain pattern. A chain pattern of electrode body **120** and spring element **110** connections is defined as: a proximal end **112** of a first spring element **110** connected to a first electrode body **120**, the distal end **114** of the first spring element **110** connected to a second electrode body **120**, a proximal end **112** of a second spring element **110** connected to the second electrode body **120** opposite the first spring element **110**, and a distal end **114** of the second spring element **110** connected to a third electrode body **120**, etcetera. A first set of spring elements **104** with a first spring rate can connect electrode bodies in the chain pattern as described above along a circumferential path around the user's head with the following connections: Fpz connected to Fp1, Fp1 connected to F7, F7 connected to T3, T3 connected to T5, T5 connected to O1, O1 connected to Oz, Oz connected to O2, O2 connected to T6, T6 connected to T4, T4 connected to F8, F8 connected to Fp2, and Fp2 connected to Fpz. A second set of spring elements **104** with a second spring rate less than the first spring rate can connect the electrodes along a medial path in the following pattern: Fpz connected to Fz, Fz connected to Cz, Cz connected to Pz, and Pz connected to Oz. A third set of spring elements **104** with the second spring rate can connect the electrodes along a lateral path in the following pattern: T3 connected to F3, F3 is connected to Fz, Fz connected to F4, and F4 connected to T4. A fourth set of spring elements **104** with the second spring rate can connect the electrodes along a lateral path in the following pattern: T3 connected to C3, C3 connected to Cz, Cz connected to C4, and C4 connected to T4. A fifth set of spring elements **104** with the second spring rate can connect the electrodes along a lateral path in the

following pattern: T3 connected to P3, P3 connected to Pz, Pz connected to P4, and P4 connected to T4. In one variation, the medial electrodes Fpz, Fz, Cz, Pz, and Oz are connected to adjacent electrodes along lateral paths only (e.g., Fp1, Fp2; F3, F4) In another variation, a set of spring elements **104** of another spring rate are used in the same connection patterns.

[0085] In another variation, a kit of spring elements includes a set of spring elements **104** of various spring rates and is included with the EEG headset. An operator can assemble electrode bodies and spring elements into a customized EEG headset unique to the user. However, the system can include a set of springs and electrode bodies configured in any pattern to connect the electrodes to maintain electrode position in the 10-20 EEG standard.

5. Additional Support Member

[0086] In one implementation, the system can include an elastic support member proximal to the circumference of the EEG headset maintain electrode position in the 10-20 EEG standard and arrest movement of the headset in relation to the user's scalp if the user moves. For example, the elastic support member can be attached to an electrode body **120** at Fpz, passed around the circumference of a user's head and attached to an electrode body **120** at Oz, and then passed around the opposite side of the user's head and attached to Fpz. In another variation, the elastic member can be attached to a set of electrodes at Fpz (or an adjacent electrode position) and subsequently attached to a set of electrodes at Oz (or an adjacent electrode position).

6. Controller

[0087] In one implementation, the EEG headset includes a controller **102** connected to an external connection housing **121** via the external connection cable, the controller **102** including: an electrical circuit, a processor, storage, memory, and an external device connection. The controller **102** can be configured to receive electrical signals from the set of electrodes, process the electrical signals to produce an output, and transmit the output to an output device (e.g., a monitor or a computer) to further process, analyze, or display the output.

[0088] In another example, a headset **101** worn by a user during a test can be connected to the controller **102**. The controller **102** can be connected to a monitor displaying the data output. As the test progresses, the electrodes can produce electrical signals that are transmitted to the controller **102**. The controller **102** then processes these electrical signals into an output readable by the monitor. The controller **102** then transmits the output to the monitor, and the monitor displays the data output to a technician conducting the test. Therefore, the controller **102** houses the electrical components not required proximal the electrode for the electrode to function, (e.g., signal processing, power) at a location other than the user's head, resulting in an EEG headset that is comfortable to wear for an extended period. In one variation, the controller **102** is miniaturized, lightweight, and is arranged within one of the bridge housings.

[0089] The systems and methods described herein can be embodied and/or implemented at least in part as a machine configured to receive a computer-readable medium storing computer-readable instructions. The instructions can be executed by computer-executable components integrated with the application, applet, host, server, network, website, communication service, communication interface, hardware/firmware/software elements of a user computer or mobile device, wristband, smartphone, or any suitable combination thereof. Other systems and methods of the embodiment can be embodied and/or implemented at least in part as a machine configured to receive a computer-readable medium storing computer-readable instructions. The instructions can be executed by computer-executable components integrated by computer-executable components integrated with apparatuses and networks of the type described above. The computer-readable medium can be stored on any suitable computer readable media such as RAMs, ROMs, flash memory, EEPROMs, optical devices (CD or DVD), hard drives, floppy drives, or any suitable device. The computer-executable component can be a processor but any suitable dedicated hardware device can (alternatively or additionally) execute the instructions.

[0090] As a person skilled in the art will recognize from the previous detailed description and from

the figures and claims, modifications and changes can be made to the embodiments of the invention without departing from the scope of this invention as defined in the following claims.

Claims

1. An electroencephalography headset comprising: a first electrode body configured to detect electroencephalographic signals from a head of a user; a second electrode body configured to detect electroencephalographic signals from the head of the user a first spring element: mechanically coupling the first electrode body to the second electrode body; defining a first serpentine geometry comprising an odd quantity of loops; comprising a first electrical conductor configured to electrically couple the first electrode body and the second electrode body; and configured to elastically locate and maintain a first relative position of the first electrode body and the second electrode body on the head of the user.
2. The electroencephalography headset of claim 1, further comprising a second spring element: mechanically coupling the first electrode body to a third electrode body; defining a second serpentine geometry; comprising a second electrical conductor configured to electrically couple the first electrode body and the third electrode body; and cooperating with the first spring element to elastically locate and maintain relative positions of the first electrode body, the second electrode body, and the third electrode body.
3. The electroencephalography headset of claim 2: wherein the first spring element is characterized by: a first length; and a first spring rate; and wherein the second spring element is characterized by: a second length greater than the first length of the first spring element; and a second spring rate greater than the first spring rate.
4. The electroencephalography headset of claim 2, wherein the first spring element and the second spring element cooperate to maintain relative offsets between the first electrode body, the second electrode body, and the third electrode body according to a 10-20 electroencephalography standard.
5. The electroencephalography headset of claim 2, wherein the second spring element: defines the second serpentine geometry comprising an even quantity of loops; and comprises a conductive transfer element: extending over an edge of the first spring element; and extending between a first side of the second spring element and a second side of the second spring element.
6. The electroencephalography headset of claim 1, further comprising a first electrode tip: configured to transiently locate onto and electrically couple to an electrode interface of the first electrode body; and comprising: a conductive probe configured to electrically couple to the head of the user; and an insulative boss configured to contact the head of the user and transfer a weight of the electroencephalography headset into the head of the user.
7. The electroencephalography headset of claim 1: wherein the first spring element: comprises a first non-conductive injection-molded polymer characterized by a first elasticity; and is characterized by a first spring rate; and further comprising a second spring element: coupling the first electrode body to a third electrode body; defining the first serpentine geometry; comprising a second non-conductive injection-molded polymer characterized by a second elasticity different from the first elasticity; and characterized by a second spring rate different from the first spring rate.
8. The electroencephalography headset of claim 1, wherein the first electrode body further comprises an electromagnetic shield: comprising a conductive injection-molded polymer; configured to shield the first electrode body from external electromagnetic radiation.
9. The electroencephalography headset of claim 1, further comprising a first electrode tip: electrically coupled to the first electrode body; and comprising: an electrode base: configured to transiently install on the first electrode body; and configured to electrically couple to an electrode interface of the electrode body; a conductive probe: configured to contact and electrically couple to the head of the user; and configured to conduct electrical signals from the head of the user into the

electrode interface; and a boss configured to: contact the head of the user; and carry a weight of the electroencephalography headset to the head of the user.

10. The electroencephalography headset of claim 1, wherein the first spring element further comprises: a first water-resistant insulative layer encasing the first electrical conductor; and a non-conductive injection-molded polymer forming a first flat spring defining the first serpentine geometry.

11. The electroencephalography headset of claim 1: wherein the first electrical conductor is adhered along a first side of the first spring element; and wherein the first electrical conductor and the first spring element are coated with an insulative layer.

12. The electroencephalography headset of claim 1, wherein the first electrode body comprises: an electrode interface comprising a conductive polymer; and an electromagnetic shield: comprising the conductive polymer; extending from the electrode interface toward the head of the user, radially offset from and encircling a boss; and configured to shield a conductive probe from external electromagnetic radiation.

13. The electroencephalography headset of claim 1, further comprising: a first electrode tip: electrically coupled to the first electrode body; and configured to contact the head of the user at a first reference location proximal a first ear of the user; and a second electrode tip: electrically coupled to the second electrode body; and configured to contact the head of the user at a second reference location proximal the first ear of the user and offset from the first reference location; and an accelerometer configured to measure movement of the head of the user.

14. The electroencephalography headset of claim 1: wherein the first electrode body comprises a first magnetic element; and further comprising a first electrode tip: comprising a second magnetic element configured to transiently couple to the first magnetic element to retain the electrode tip on the first electrode body; and configured to rotate about an axis of the first electrode body coaxial with the first magnetic element.

15. An electroencephalography headset comprising: a set of electrode bodies; and a set of spring elements: configured to elastically locate the set of electrode bodies on a head of a user; and comprising a first spring element: mechanically coupling a first electrode body in the set of electrode bodies to a second electrode body in the set of electrode bodies; defining a serpentine geometry; comprising a first electrical conductor configured to electrically couple the first electrode body to the second electrode body; and configured to maintain a first relative position of the first electrode body and the second electrode body on the head of the user.

16. The electroencephalography headset of claim 15, further comprising a first electrode tip: configured to transiently locate onto and electrically couple to an electrode interface of the first electrode body; and comprising: a conductive probe configured to electrically couple to the head of the user; and an insulative boss configured to contact the head of the user and transfer a weight of the electroencephalography headset into the head of the user.

17. The electroencephalography headset of claim 15, wherein the first spring element is configured to maintain the first relative position of the first electrode body and the second electrode body according to an electroencephalography standard.

18. The electroencephalography headset of claim 15, further comprising a second spring element: coupling the first electrode body to a third electrode body in the set of electrode bodies; defining a second serpentine geometry comprising an even quantity of loops; and cooperating with the first spring element to maintain relative positions of the first electrode body, the second electrode body, and the third electrode body according to an electroencephalography standard.

19. The electroencephalography headset of claim 18: wherein the first spring element is characterized by a first spring rate; and wherein the second spring element is characterized by a second spring rate greater than the first spring rate.

20. The electroencephalography headset of claim 15, further comprising: a set of electrode tips, each electrode tip in the set of electrode tips: electrically coupled to an electrode body in the set of

electrode bodies; and comprising: an electrode base: configured to electrically couple to an electrode interface of the electrode body; and a conductive probe configured to: contact and electrically couple to the head of the user; and conduct electrical signals from the head of the user into the electrode interface.
