BCI Neuroengineering Roadmap

A Comprehensive Guide to Becoming an Elite BCI Engineer, Securing a PhD in Neurotechnology (hopefully)

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Nasos Kremantalas

Contents

Preface

This document is a comprehensive implementation of the "Ultimate 1% BCI Neuroengineering Roadmap," designed to guide aspiring neuroengineers toward elite expertise in brain-computer interfaces (BCI), both invasive and non-invasive. The goal is to prepare you for admission to top PhD programs in neurotechnology (e.g., ETH Zurich, Stanford, UC Berkeley) and a career at leading companies like Neuralink within 3-5 years. The roadmap is supplemented with certificate courses, expanded knowledge sources for invasive and non-invasive BCI, and resources to address gaps in research experience, soft skills, regulatory knowledge, financial management, mental health, and staying updated.

Use this document as a living guide: complete the projects, follow the learning resources, and add personal notes in the designated sections.

1 Introduction

The field of brain-computer interfaces (BCI) is transforming neuroscience and engineering, enabling communication between the brain and external devices via invasive (e.g., ECoG, microelectrode arrays) and non-invasive (e.g., EEG, fNIRS) methods. This roadmap provides a structured, 3-5 year plan to become an elite BCI engineer capable of designing neural interfaces, publishing in top journals (e.g., *Nature*), and joining organizations like Neuralink or Blackrock Neurotech. The document is enhanced with certificate courses and additional resources for both invasive and non-invasive BCI.

1.1 Goals

- Develop expertise in neuroscience, embedded systems, signal processing, machine learning, and neural interface design (invasive and non-invasive).
- Build a portfolio of 10+ GitHub repositories and a personal website showcasing BCI projects.
- Publish 2-3 papers in high-impact journals (e.g., *IEEE Transactions*, *Nature Communications*).
- Secure admission to a top PhD program in neurotechnology (e.g., ETH Zurich, Stanford, UC Berkeley).
- Prepare for a career at Neuralink through patent study, Rust coding, and advanced projects.

1.2 Structure

The roadmap is divided into:

- **Phase 0 (Prerequisites, Month 0)**: Foundational skills in math, programming, and electronics.
- **Phase 1 (Core BCI Engineering, Months 1-12)**: Neuroscience, embedded systems, and signal processing for invasive/non-invasive BCI.
- **Phase 2 (Advanced BCI, Months 13-24)**: Invasive and non-invasive interface design and advanced ML.
- **Phase 3 (Publish & Dominate, Months 25-36)**: Publishing papers and securing PhD/industry roles.
- **Additional Resources**: Research experience, soft skills, regulatory knowledge, financial management, mental health, and staying updated.

2 Phase 0: Prerequisites (Month 0)

2.1 Overview

Phase 0 ensures foundational skills in math, programming, and electronics. Certificate courses are included to validate your skills for PhD and industry applications.

2.2 Required Skills

- **Math**: Linear algebra, probability.
- **Programming**: Python (fluent), Rust/C (embedded), Verilog/VHDL.
- **Hardware**: Basic electronics (op-amps, ADCs, SPI/I2C).

2.3 Learning Resources

2.3.1 Courses with Certificates

- **Linear Algebra**: Mathematics for Machine Learning: Linear Algebra (Coursera, Imperial College London, 25 hours, certificate).
- **Probability**: Introduction to Probability (edX, Harvard, 60 hours, certificate).
- **Python**: Python for Everybody Specialization (Coursera, University of Michigan, 4 months, certificate).
- **Rust**: Rust Programming Master Class (Udemy, 15 hours, certificate).
- **Verilog**: Verilog HDL Fundamentals (Udemy, 10 hours, certificate).
- **Electronics**: Introduction to Electronics (Coursera, Georgia Tech, 46 hours, certificate).

2.3.2 Additional Resources

- **CS50x (Harvard)**: Coding fundamentals (CS50x).
- **Nand2Tetris Part I**: Digital logic (Nand2Tetris).
- **Khan Academy Electronics**: Circuits (Khan Academy).
- **Rust Book**: Embedded programming (Rust Book).
- **HDLBits**: Verilog practice (HDLBits).

- **AllAboutCircuits**: Electronics tutorials (AllAboutCircuits).
- **3Blue1Brown**: Linear algebra visualizations (3Blue1Brown).

2.4 Deliverables

- Earn certificates for at least 3 courses (e.g., Linear Algebra, Python, Electronics).
- Write a Python script for signal processing (e.g., FFT).
- Implement a Verilog module for a counter.
- Solve 10 problems from MIT OCW 18.06 problem sets.

Personal Notes: List your current proficiency, planned course completion dates, and certificate storage plan.

3 Phase 1: Core BCI Engineering (Months 1-12)

3.1 Overview

Phase 1 builds foundational BCI skills in neuroscience, embedded systems, hardware, signal processing, and machine learning, covering both invasive (e.g., ECoG) and non-invasive (e.g., EEG, fNIRS) techniques. Certificate courses and expanded resources are included.

3.2 Learning Resources

3.2.1 Neuroscience Foundations

Courses with Certificates

- Computational Neuroscience (Coursera, University of Washington, 24 hours, certificate).
- Fundamentals of Neuroscience, Part 1 (edX, Harvard, 24 hours, certificate).
- Introduction to Neuroengineering (FutureLearn, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, 18 hours, certificate).

Additional Resources

- **Books**:
  - *Principles of Neural Science* (Kandel), Chapters 1-15 (Amazon).
  - *Neural Engineering* (Bin He) (Amazon).
  - *Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation* (Wassermann et al.) for EEG/fNIRS (Amazon).
- **Courses**: Neuromatch Academy, MIT 9.40 Intro to Neural Computation.
- **Websites**: BrainFacts.org for neuroscience basics, NeurotechEDU for BCI tutorials.
- **Non-Invasive Focus**: BCI2000 for EEG-based BCI, NIRx for fNIRS tutorials.

3.2.2 Embedded Systems & Hardware

Courses with Certificates

- Introduction to Embedded Systems Software and Development Environments (Coursera, University of Colorado Boulder, 20 hours, certificate).

- FPGA Embedded Design (Udemy, 12 hours, certificate).
- PCB Design for Everyone with EasyEDA (Coursera, 15 hours, certificate).

Additional Resources

- **FPGA/ASIC**:
  - *Verilog HDL* (Palnitkar) (Amazon).
  - FPGA4Fun: Real-time FIR filter.
  - ASIC World Verilog tutorials.
- **PCB Design**:
  - KiCAD Like a Pro: 4-layer neural amplifier.
  - Intan RHD2132 schematics (Intan).
  - Altium tutorials for advanced PCB design.
- **Non-Invasive Hardware**: OpenBCI for EEG hardware design, g.tec for non-invasive BCI systems.

3.2.3 Signal Processing & Machine Learning

Courses with Certificates

- Digital Signal Processing (Coursera, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, 30 hours, certificate).
- Signals and Systems (edX, MIT, 60 hours, certificate).
- Deep Learning Specialization (Coursera, DeepLearning.AI, 3 months, certificate).

Additional Resources

- **DSP**:
  - *Signal Processing for Neuroscientists* (van Drongelen) (Amazon).
  - KiloSort for spike sorting.
  - DSP Stack Exchange for community support.
- **ML for BCI**:
  - Fast.ai: LSTM decoder on ECoG/EEG data.
  - UCLA Neural Signal Processing.
  - *Deep Learning for EEG-Based BCI* (Lotte et al.) (ArXiv).
  - MNE-Python for EEG processing.
- **Non-Invasive Focus**: OpenBCI Community for EEG ML projects, NIRSLab for fNIRS signal processing.

3.3 Projects

1. **DIY 32-Channel EEG Headset (Non-Invasive)**:
   - Modify OpenBCI Ganglion, add 5th electrode (OpenBCI).
   - Achieve $< 1\mu$V noise floor.
2. **FPGA Spike Detector (Invasive/Non-Invasive)**:
   - Use Xilinx Artix-7, $< 5\mu$s latency.
3. **Rust-Based Neural Decoder**:
   - Port Kalman filter from Python to no_std Rust for EEG/ECoG decoding.

Personal Notes: Document your progress on each project, certificate completion, and non-invasive applications.

4 Phase 2: Advanced BCI (Months 13-24)

4.1 Overview

Phase 2 focuses on advanced expertise in invasive (e.g., implants, ECoG) and non-invasive (e.g., EEG, fNIRS, MEG) BCI, including hardware design, experiments, and machine learning.

4.2 Learning Resources

4.2.1 Implant Hardware (Invasive)

Courses with Certificates

- Analog IC Design (Coursera, 20 hours, certificate).
- CMOS Analog Circuit Design (Udemy, 15 hours, certificate).

Additional Resources

- *CMOS VLSI Design* (Weste/Harris) (Amazon): Tape out neural amplifier (MOSIS).
- Neuralink patents, e.g., US20210393304A1 (Google Patents).
- ISO 14708-3 (ISO).
- MOSIS for chip fabrication tutorials.

4.2.2 Non-Invasive Hardware (EEG, fNIRS, MEG)

Courses with Certificates

- Biomedical Signal Processing (Coursera, 25 hours, certificate).
- Medical Imaging and Signal Processing (FutureLearn, 18 hours, certificate).

Additional Resources

- *EEG Signal Processing* (Sanei & Chambers) (Amazon).
- Brain Products for EEG hardware tutorials.
- Society for fNIRS for non-invasive protocols.
- FieldTrip for MEG/EEG analysis.

4.2.3 Animal Experiments (Invasive)

Courses with Certificates

- Animal Behaviour and Welfare (Coursera, University of Edinburgh, 15 hours, certificate, ethics focus).
- Ethics of Animal Research (FutureLearn, 12 hours, certificate).

Additional Resources

- *Paxinos Rat Brain Atlas* (Amazon): Motor cortex implants (AP: +1.2 mm, ML: ±2.4 mm).
- Volunteer in a neuroscience lab (start with basic tasks).
- NC3Rs for ethical animal research guidelines.

4.2.4 ML for Invasive/Non-Invasive BCI

Courses with Certificates

- Advanced Machine Learning with Signal Processing (Coursera, 20 hours, certificate).
- Machine Learning for Healthcare (edX, MIT, 60 hours, certificate, includes BCI applications).

Additional Resources

- Fine-tune transformer models on ECoG/EEG data (Hugging Face).
- "Decoding Imagined Speech from Motor Cortex" (Nature).
- *Deep Learning for EEG-Based BCI* (Lotte et al.) (ArXiv).
- EEGLAB for non-invasive BCI analysis.
- OpenWetWare BCI for community-driven BCI projects.

4.3 Projects

1. **256-Channel Wireless Implant (Invasive)**:
   - Intan RHS2116 + Nordic nRF52840, PCB in Altium.
   - Benchmark vs. Blackrock Cerebus (Blackrock).
2. **Closed-Loop Stimulator (Invasive)**:
   - Detect spikes, trigger optical stimulation (< 10 ms latency).
3. **Neuromorphic Decoder (Invasive/Non-Invasive)**:
   - Intel Loihi for ECoG/EEG decoding (Intel Loihi).
4. **fNIRS-Based Motor Imagery Classifier (Non-Invasive)**:
   - Use public fNIRS datasets, implement CNN-based decoder.

5 Phase 3: Publish & Dominate (Months 25-36)

5.1 Overview

Phase 3 focuses on publishing high-impact papers, securing PhD admissions, and preparing for Neuralink interviews, with emphasis on both invasive and non-invasive BCI.

5.2 Papers to Publish

5.2.1 Machine Learning / Neurolearning

- "Subject-Independent Transfer Learning for Motor Imagery BCI with Adaptive CSP and CNN" (*IEEE Transactions on Neural Systems and Rehabilitation Engineering*, non-invasive EEG focus).
- "Multi-Scale CNN Architectures for P300-Based BCI with Embedded Implementation" (*Journal of Neural Engineering*, non-invasive).
- "Transformer-Based Decoding of Imagined Speech from ECoG Signals" (*NeurIPS* / *Nature Communications*, invasive).

5.2.2 Hardware / Systems

- "A 256-Channel Wireless Neural Implant with On-Chip Spike Sorting and Real-Time ML Decoding" (*Nature Biomedical Engineering*, invasive).
- "Closed-Loop Optical Stimulation Triggered by FPGA Spike Detection with < 10 ms Latency" (*IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Circuits and Systems*, invasive).
- "Low-Cost EEG Headset for Real-Time Motor Imagery Decoding" (*Frontiers in Neuroinformatics*, non-invasive).

5.2.3 Regulatory / Translational

- "Lessons from Neuralink's FDA Approval Pathway: Challenges and Strategies for Implantable BCIs" (*Science Translational Medicine*, invasive).
- "Safety and Reliability Testing of Chronic Neural Implants under ISO 14708-3 Standards" (*Frontiers in Neuroscience*, invasive).
- "Ethical Considerations for Non-Invasive BCI in Clinical Settings" (*Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, non-invasive).

5.3 PhD or Industry

5.3.1 Option 1: Top PhD Programs

- ETH Zurich (Neuroengineering).
- Stanford (Bioelectronics).
- UC Berkeley (EECS + Neuro).
- **Admission Hack**: Email professors 6 months early with: "I built a 256-channel implant and EEG-based classifier—can I join your lab?" Attach preprints.

5.3.2 Option 2: Neuralink/Blackrock Job

- **Portfolio**: GitHub with 10+ repos (PCBs, FPGA code, ML models for invasive/non-invasive BCI), website with demos.
- **Interview Prep**: Study 37 Neuralink patents (Google Patents), practice Rust coding (LeetCode).

Personal Notes: List target PhD programs, publication timelines, and certificate use in applications.

6 Additional Project Ideas

6.1 Overview

These projects enhance your portfolio, covering both invasive and non-invasive BCI.

6.2 Projects

- **Cortical Visual Prosthesis (Invasive)**: Microstimulation array with retinotopic mapping.
- **Neural Dust Interface (Invasive)**: Ultrasonic backscatter microsensors.
- **BCI Security Framework**: Adversarial attack prevention for neural decoders.
- **Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring (Invasive)**: Real-time monitoring during surgeries.
- **Dream-State Communication Interface (Invasive/Non-Invasive)**: Decode REM sleep signals.
- **Closed-Loop Deep Brain Stimulation (Invasive)**: Adaptive stimulation.
- **Multi-Modal BCI (Non-Invasive)**: Combine EEG, fNIRS, and MEG data.
- **Wireless Power Transfer for Implants (Invasive)**: Inductive/ultrasonic systems.
- **EEG-Based Emotion Recognition System (Non-Invasive)**: CNN for real-time decoding.

Personal Notes: Choose 1-2 projects and outline your approach, noting invasive/non-invasive focus.

7 Supplementary Resources

7.1 Overview

These resources address gaps in the roadmap, ensuring a complete path.

7.2 Research Experience

- **How to Secure Positions**: Use templates from UNC's Office for Undergraduate Research.
  Example:

  ```
  Dear Dr. [Last Name],
  My name is [Your Name] and I am a [year] student at [University] majoring in [Major]. I am
  I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss potential research positions in your
  Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to the possibility of working with yo
  Sincerely,
  [Your Name]
  [Your Contact Information]
  ```

- **Platforms**: Zooniverse, CitizenScience.gov.

7.3 Soft Skills Development

- **Courses**: Coursera's Effective Communication (20 hours, certificate), edX's Leadership and Influence (30 hours, certificate).
- **Books**: *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* (Amazon), *Getting Things Done* (Amazon).
- **Practice**: Present at seminars, join hackathons via Neuromatch Academy.

7.4 Regulatory and Ethical Knowledge

- **FDA Regulations**: FDA's Neurological Devices.
- **Ethics**: NCBI's Recommendations for Neurotechnologies, UNESCO's Ethics of Neurotechnology.
- **Course**: Bioethics: The Law, Medicine, and Ethics of Reproductive Technologies (Coursera, 15 hours, certificate).

7.5 Financial and Resource Management

- **Low-Cost Tools**: OpenBCI, OpenNeuro, DANDI.
- **Funding**: BRAIN Initiative, NSF Grants.
- **Collaborations**: Share costs for PCBs/tools.

7.6 Mental and Physical Sustainability

- **Strategies**: 1-2 hours daily relaxation, 7-8 hours sleep, exercise 3-4 times weekly. Use Trello/Google Calendar.
- **Resources**: Inside Higher Ed's advice.
- **Course**: The Science of Well-Being (Coursera, Yale, 19 hours, certificate).

7.7 Staying Updated

- **Journals**: Neuron, Nature Neuroscience, Journal of Neural Engineering.
- **Conferences**: SfN, Neural Interfaces, IEEE EMBS.
- **Organizations**: IEEE Brain, NeuroTechX.
- **Alerts**: Google Scholar for "neural interfaces," follow Neuralink on X.

8 Tailored Plan

8.1 Overview

Customized 3-5 year plan integrating the roadmap, certificate courses, and supplementary resources for invasive/non-invasive BCI.

8.2 Phase 0 (Months 0-6)

- **Goal**: Build foundational skills.
- **Actions**:
  - Complete Coursera Linear Algebra, edX Probability (certificates).
  - Master Python (Python for Everybody), Rust (Udemy Rust), electronics (Coursera Electronics).
  - Study Khan Academy, HDLBits.
  - Start soft skills with Coursera Communication.
- **Deliverable**: 3+ certificates, Python signal processing script, Verilog counter.

8.3 Phase 1 (Months 6-18)

- **Goal**: Gain BCI fundamentals and portfolio.
- **Actions**:
  - Complete Computational Neuroscience, Fundamentals of Neuroscience (certificates).
  - Study *Principles of Neural Science*, Neuromatch Academy.
  - Build 32-channel EEG headset (OpenBCI).
  - Complete Embedded Systems, PCB Design (certificates).
  - Implement FPGA spike detector, Rust Kalman filter.
  - Join lab via UNC templates.
  - Train LSTM decoder with Fast.ai, Deep Learning Specialization (certificate).
- **Deliverable**: 4+ certificates, GitHub repo with EEG headset/FPGA/ML, lab position.

8.4 Phase 2 (Months 19-30)

- **Goal**: Develop advanced BCI expertise, publish.
- **Actions**:
  - Complete Analog IC Design, Biomedical Signal Processing (certificates).
  - Study *CMOS VLSI Design*, Neuralink patents (Google Patents), *EEG Signal Processing*.
  - Build 256-channel implant, fNIRS classifier.
  - Complete Advanced ML with Signal Processing (certificate).
  - Implement transformer decoder for ECoG/EEG.
  - Co-author paper for *IEEE TNSRE*.
  - Email professors at ETH Zurich, Stanford with preprints.
  - Study FDA regulations.
- **Deliverable**: 3+ certificates, published paper, implant/EEG demos, professor responses.

8.5 Phase 3 (Months 31-36)

- **Goal**: Secure PhD admission, Neuralink prep.
- **Actions**:
  - Apply to 5-7 PhD programs (Stanford, ETH Zurich).
  - Secure 3 recommendation letters.
  - Publish second paper in *Journal of Neural Engineering*.
  - Study Neuralink patents, practice Rust (LeetCode).
  - Build closed-loop stimulator, EEG emotion classifier.
  - Attend SfN, network with Neuralink recruiters.
  - Complete Bioethics (certificate).
- **Deliverable**: PhD acceptance, Neuralink interview, portfolio with 10+ repos.

8.6 Ongoing

- **Networking**: Email 3 labs/companies weekly, follow Neuralink.
- **Stay Updated**: Monitor ArXiv, Google Scholar for "BCI decoding 2025."
- **Mental Health**: 1-2 hours daily exercise/relaxation, Inside Higher Ed.

Personal Notes: Adjust this plan based on your skills and resources.

9 Certificate Courses

9.1 Overview

This chapter lists all certificate courses you must acquire to become an elite BCI engineer, covering foundational skills, core BCI engineering, advanced techniques, and supplementary skills for PhD and Neuralink preparation. Courses are organized by phase, with priority rankings based on relevance and time commitment. Each course offers a verifiable certificate and is linked for enrollment. Aim to complete the top 2-3 courses per phase, adjusting based on your current skills.

9.2 Phase 0: Prerequisites (Month 0)

9.2.1 Mathematics

- **1. Linear Algebra**: Mathematics for Machine Learning: Linear Algebra (Coursera, Imperial College London, 25 hours, certificate).
- **2. Probability**: Introduction to Probability (edX, Harvard, 60 hours, certificate).

9.2.2 Programming

- **1. Python**: Python for Everybody Specialization (Coursera, University of Michigan, 4 months, certificate).
- **2. Rust**: Rust Programming Master Class (Udemy, 15 hours, certificate).
- **3. Verilog**: Verilog HDL Fundamentals (Udemy, 10 hours, certificate).

9.2.3 Hardware

- **1. Electronics**: Introduction to Electronics (Coursera, Georgia Tech, 46 hours, certificate).

9.3 Phase 1: Core BCI Engineering (Months 1-12)

9.3.1 Neuroscience Foundations

- **1. Computational Neuroscience**: Computational Neuroscience (Coursera, University of Washington, 24 hours, certificate).
- **2. Fundamentals of Neuroscience**: Fundamentals of Neuroscience, Part 1 (edX, Harvard, 24 hours, certificate).

- **3. Neuroengineering**: Introduction to Neuroengineering (FutureLearn, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, 18 hours, certificate).

9.3.2 Embedded Systems & Hardware

- **1. Embedded Systems**: Introduction to Embedded Systems Software and Development Environments (Coursera, University of Colorado Boulder, 20 hours, certificate).
- **2. PCB Design**: PCB Design for Everyone with EasyEDA (Coursera, 15 hours, certificate).
- **3. FPGA**: FPGA Embedded Design (Udemy, 12 hours, certificate).

9.3.3 Signal Processing & Machine Learning

- **1. Deep Learning**: Deep Learning Specialization (Coursera, DeepLearning.AI, 3 months, certificate).
- **2. Digital Signal Processing**: Digital Signal Processing (Coursera, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, 30 hours, certificate).
- **3. Signals and Systems**: Signals and Systems (edX, MIT, 60 hours, certificate).

9.4 Phase 2: Advanced BCI (Months 13-24)

9.4.1 Implant Hardware (Invasive)

- **1. Analog IC Design**: Analog IC Design (Coursera, 20 hours, certificate).
- **2. CMOS Design**: CMOS Analog Circuit Design (Udemy, 15 hours, certificate).

9.4.2 Non-Invasive Hardware (EEG, fNIRS, MEG)

- **1. Biomedical Signal Processing**: Biomedical Signal Processing (Coursera, 25 hours, certificate).
- **2. Medical Imaging**: Medical Imaging and Signal Processing (FutureLearn, 18 hours, certificate).

9.4.3 Animal Experiments (Invasive)

- **1. Animal Ethics**: Animal Behaviour and Welfare (Coursera, University of Edinburgh, 15 hours, certificate).
- **2. Research Ethics**: Ethics of Animal Research (FutureLearn, 12 hours, certificate).

9.4.4 ML for Invasive/Non-Invasive BCI

- **1. Advanced ML**: Advanced Machine Learning with Signal Processing (Coursera, 20 hours, certificate).
- **2. ML for Healthcare**: Machine Learning for Healthcare (edX, MIT, 60 hours, certificate).

10 Essential Tools for BCI Engineering

10.1 Overview

To operate at the frontier of BCI research and development, mastery of specific tools is critical. These span hardware interfacing, real-time neural data acquisition, signal processing, machine learning, and neurophysiology platforms. This chapter lists and categorizes the most impactful tools and frameworks used across academic labs and industry R&D.

10.2 Neural Signal Acquisition Platforms

BCI2000

Type: Software platform for brain-computer interface research.
Key Features:

- Modular framework supporting EEG, ECoG, and fNIRS.
- Real-time signal acquisition, processing, and feedback loop.
- Extensible with C++, MATLAB, or Python.

https://www.bci2000.org/

OpenBCI GUI & BrainFlow

Type: Open-source hardware/software ecosystem for EEG and EMG.
Key Features:

- Real-time visualization and filtering.
- Cross-platform compatibility (Mac/Win/Linux).
- BrainFlow API (Python, Rust, C++) for low-level data control.

https://openbci.com/
https://brainflow.org/

EEGLAB

Type: MATLAB toolbox for EEG signal analysis.
Key Features:

- ICA decomposition, event-related potentials, time-frequency analysis.

- GUI-based with programmable backend.
- Strong community and plugin support.

https://sccn.ucsd.edu/eeglab/index.php

FieldTrip

Type: MATLAB toolbox for MEG, EEG, and invasive neurophysiology.
Key Features:

- Advanced preprocessing pipelines.
- Source reconstruction, time–frequency analysis, statistics.
- Supports real-time feedback and BCI systems.

https://www.fieldtriptoolbox.org/

MNE-Python

Type: Python library for EEG, MEG, fNIRS analysis.
Key Features:

- Full signal analysis pipeline.
- Source localization, machine learning integration.
- Visualization, sensor layouts, and ICA.

https://mne.tools/

10.3 Hardware Development & Integration

Intan Technologies Toolchain

Use Case: Low-noise neural signal acquisition chips (e.g., RHD2000, RHS2116).
Support Tools:

- Evaluation board GUI.
- API for custom software integration (C/C++/Python).
- SPI-compatible for FPGA/microcontroller interfacing.

https://intantech.com/

g.tec Systems

Use Case: High-fidelity EEG, ECoG, and biosignal acquisition.
Software: g.HIamp, g.BSanalyze, g.NEEDaccess.
Key Features:

- Real-time streaming (LabStreamingLayer supported).
- Medical-grade hardware.
- Integration with MATLAB and Simulink.

https://www.gtec.at/

FPGA/Embedded Toolkits

- **Vivado (Xilinx)** – FPGA development for neural decoders.
- **Quartus (Intel)** – HDL design, useful for real-time spike detection.
- **PlatformIO + Rust Embedded HAL** – Microcontroller programming.

10.4 Real-Time Data Synchronization

Lab Streaming Layer (LSL)

Type: Middleware for synchronized multi-modal data streams.
Key Features:

- Seamless EEG + motion + stimulus tracking integration.
- Supported by OpenBCI, g.tec, FieldTrip, and more.
- Libraries in Python, C++, Rust, MATLAB.

https://github.com/sccn/labstreaminglayer

10.5 Spike Sorting & Invasive Signal Toolkits

KiloSort

Type: GPU-accelerated spike sorting algorithm for extracellular recordings.
Integration: MATLAB and Phy for curation.
https://github.com/MouseLand/Kilosort

Open Ephys

Type: Open-source platform for electrophysiology recording.
Modules:

- Acquisition board, headstages.
- Open Ephys GUI for plugin-based data pipeline.
- Compatible with Neuropixels probes.

https://open-ephys.org/

10.6 Visualization & Signal Inspection

NeuroKit2

Type: Python package for physiological signal processing.
Features:

- Heart rate, EEG, EMG, EDA analysis.
- Visualization of raw and processed signals.

https://neurokit2.readthedocs.io/

Brainstorm

Type: MATLAB-based GUI tool for MEG/EEG.
Features:

- Source modeling, preprocessing, machine learning pipelines.
- User-friendly UI for non-coders.

https://neuroimage.usc.edu/brainstorm/

10.7 Recommended Integration Toolchain

- **Data Acquisition:** OpenBCI + BrainFlow / g.tec + LSL
- **Preprocessing:** MNE-Python / EEGLAB / FieldTrip
- **ML Modeling:** PyTorch / TensorFlow + Scikit-learn
- **Visualization:** NeuroKit2 / Brainstorm
- **Synchronization:** LabStreamingLayer
- **Implants/Invasive:** Intan RHS chips + Open Ephys

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