

Kris L. Dorsey
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MIT Media Lab

Assoc. Prof.
Elec. and Comp. Eng.
Northeastern University

Who I am...



College:
Olin College of Engineering



Grad School:
Carnegie Mellon University



Postdoc Research:
UC Berkeley & UC San Diego



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Wearable mechanical sensors for healthcare, rehabilitation, and assistance

Purpose:

Monitor limb swelling (edema)

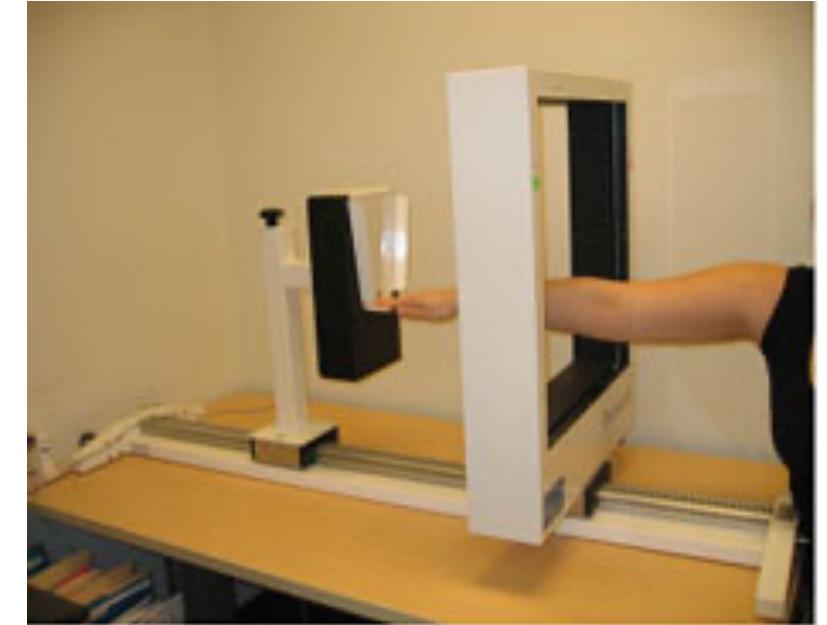
- Can affect limb function and threaten life
- Warning sign for cardiac conditions, DVT, etc.



MD Anderson Cancer Center

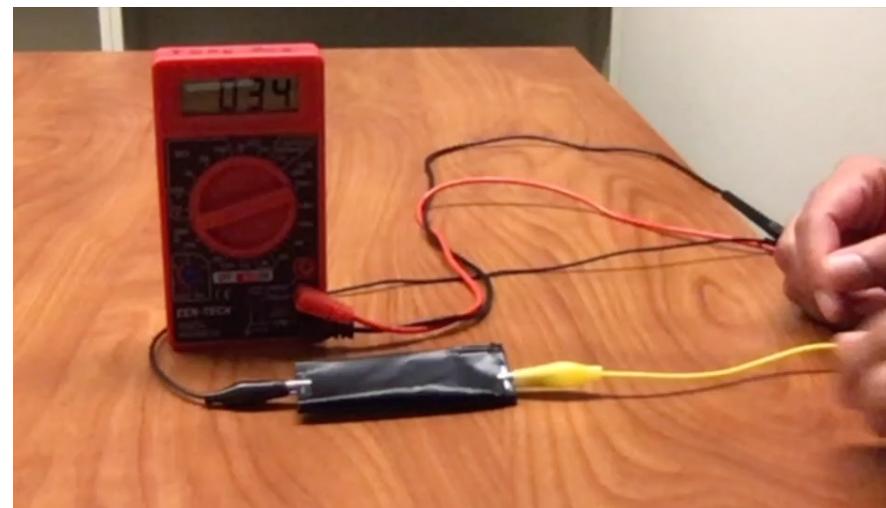
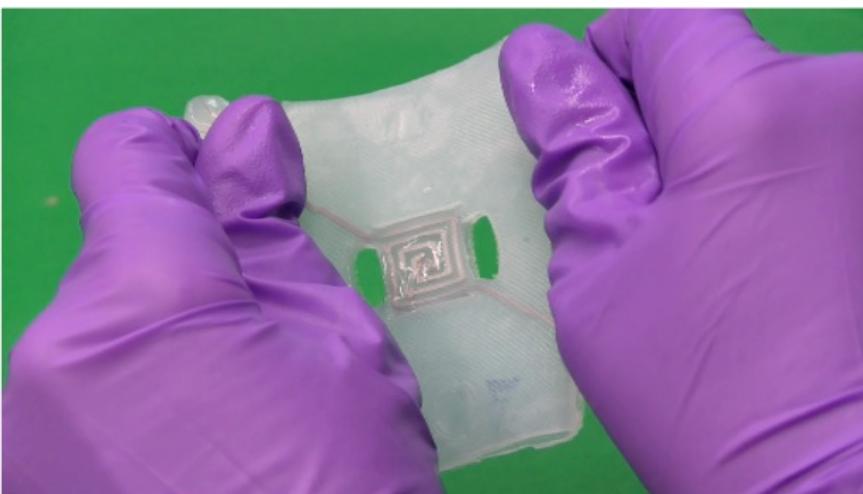
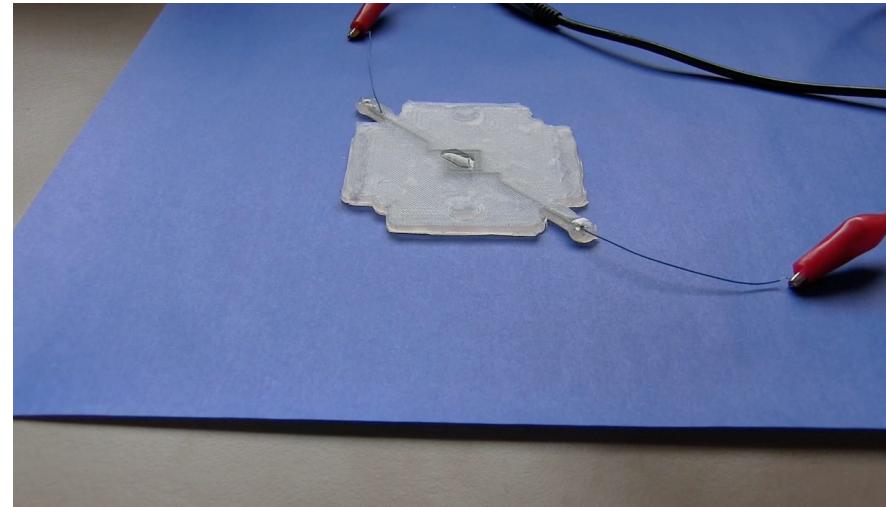
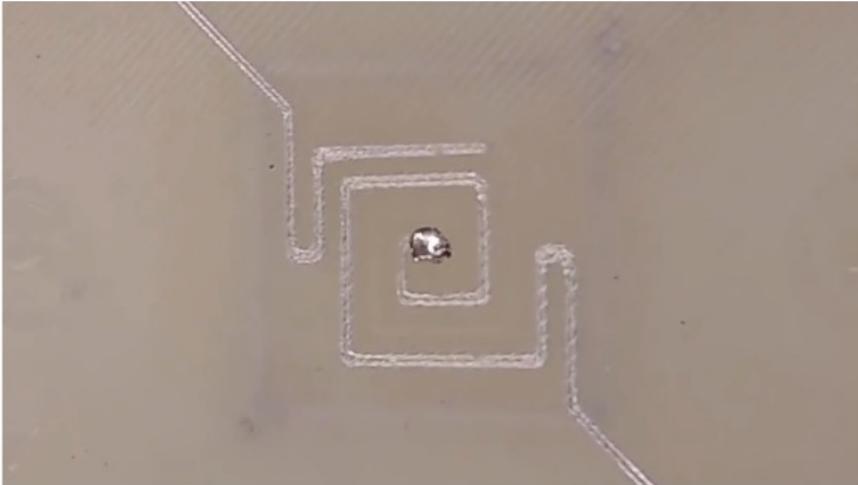


Mark Bugnaski

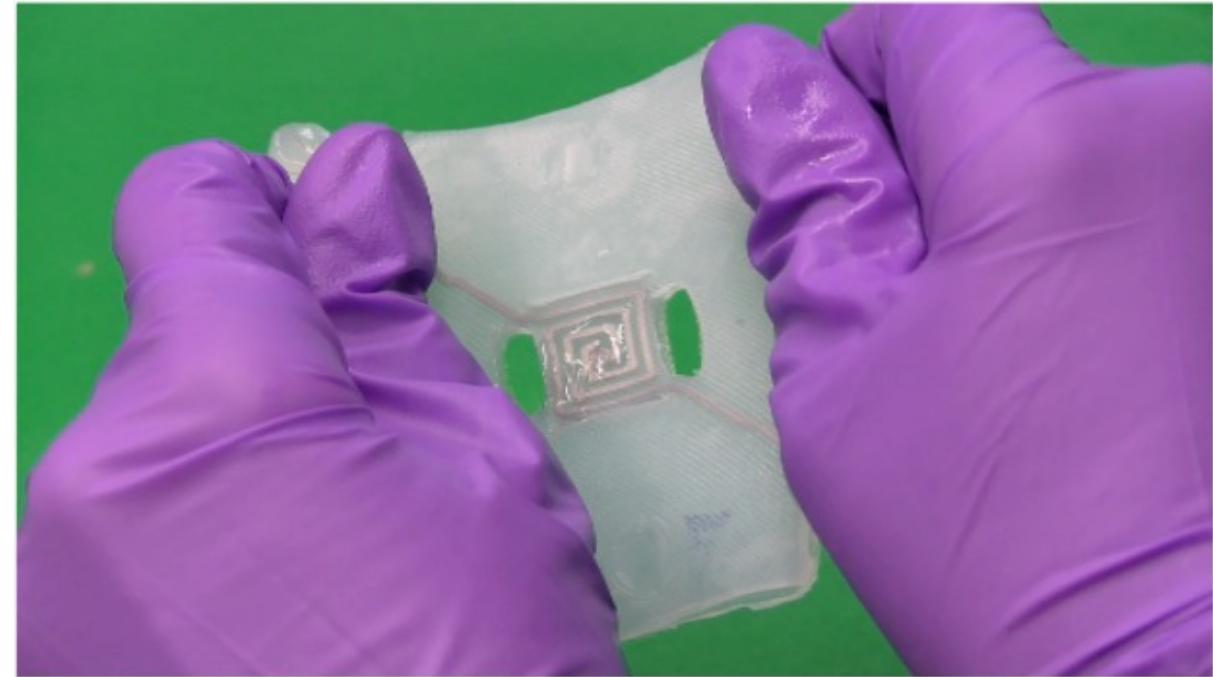
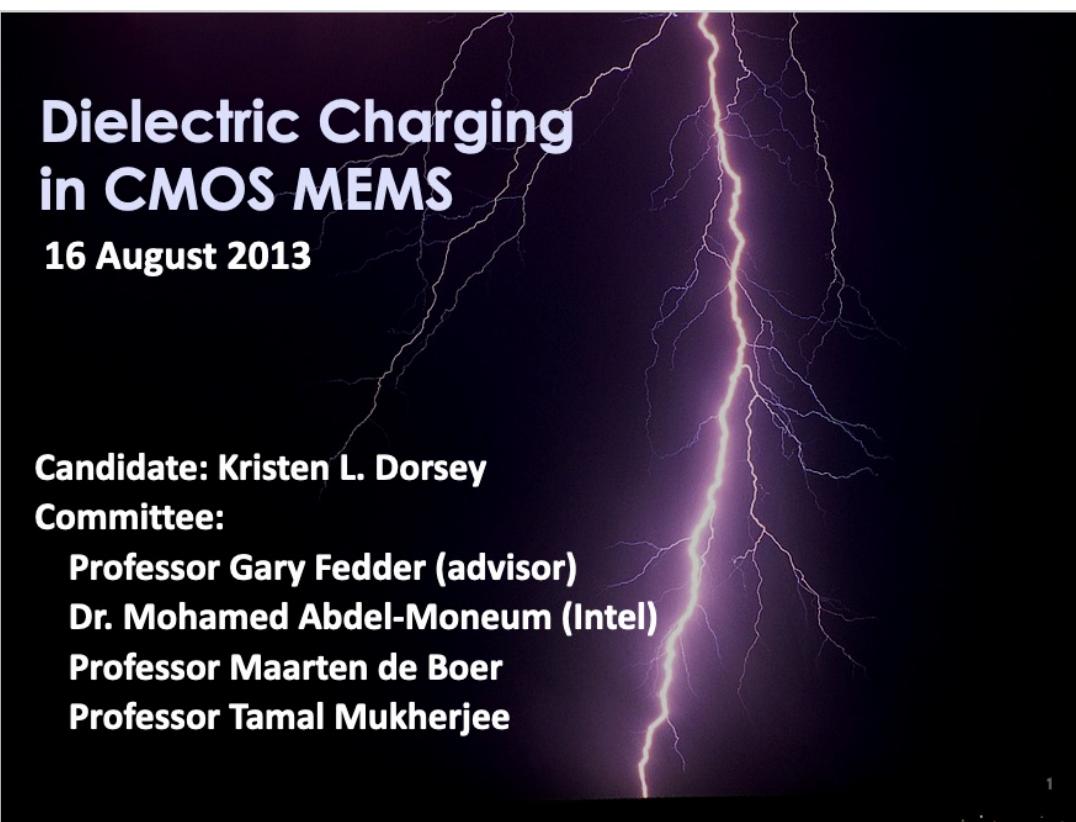


Mass General Hospital

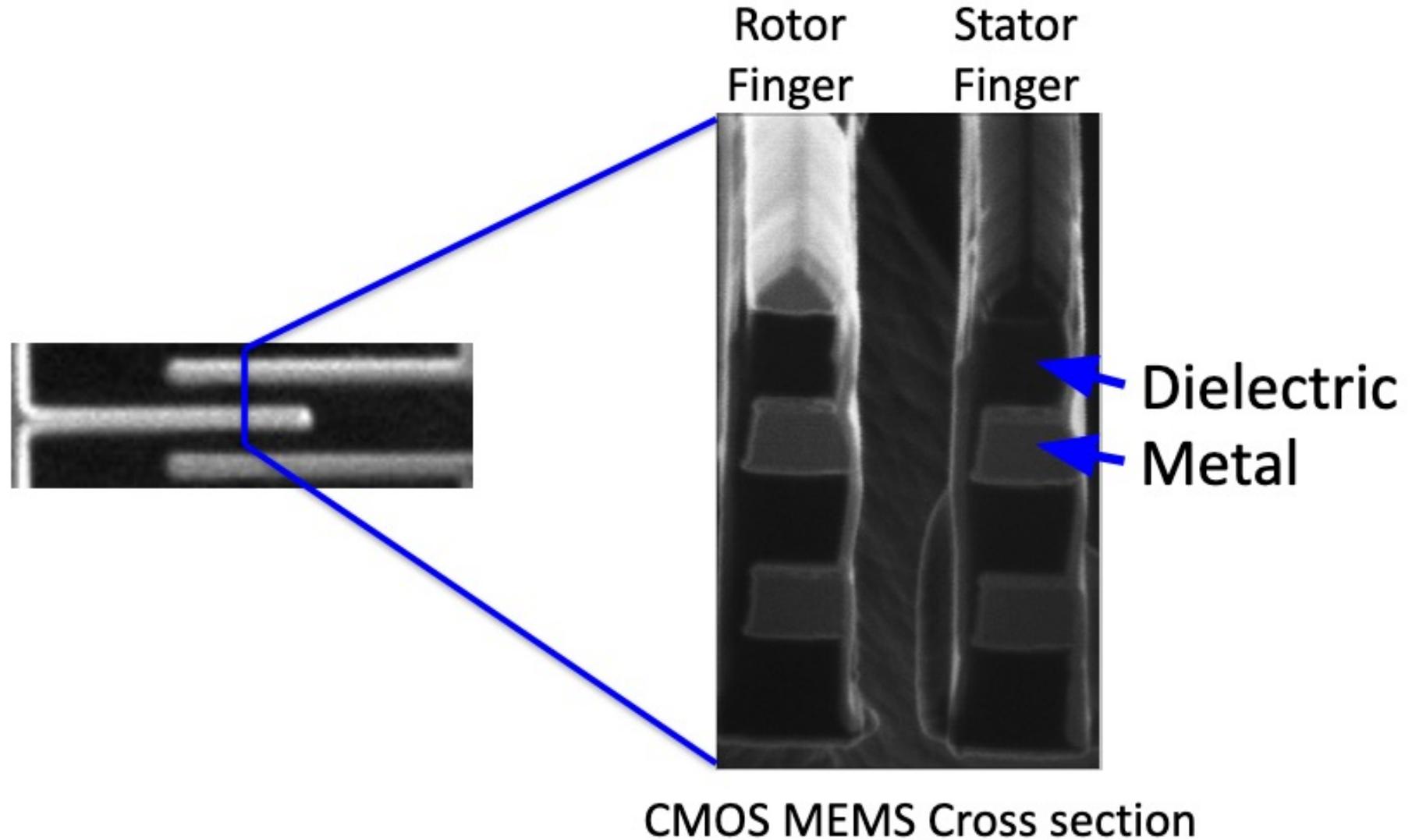
Soft, elastic sensors can sense deformations but are not inherently selective or tunable



What I'll talk about: How I got from MEMS to robotics

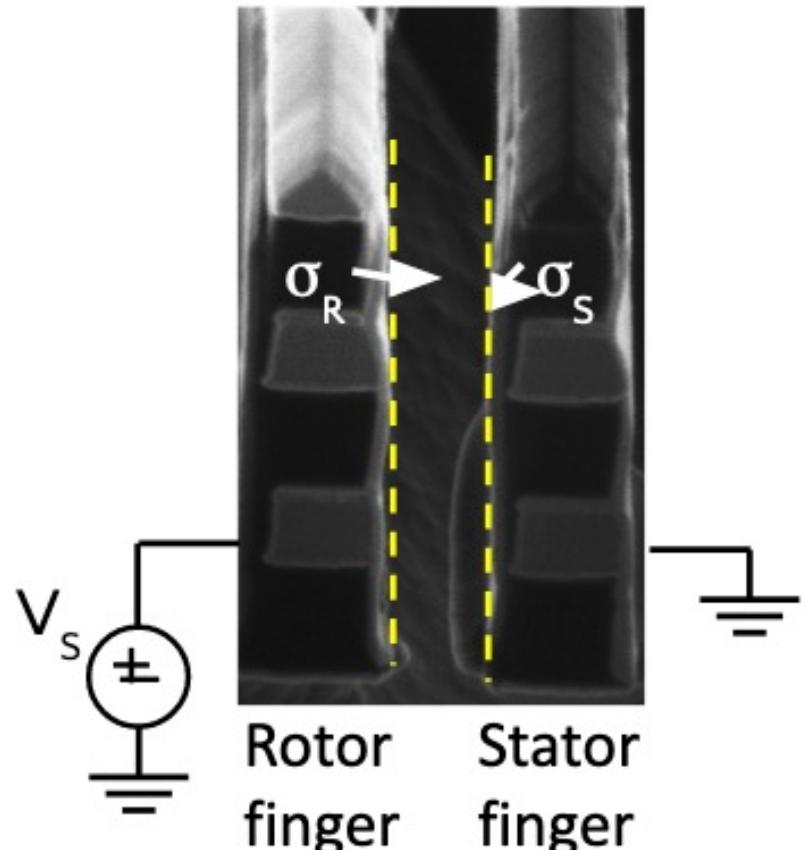


Comb Drive Cross Section





Charge and Built-in Voltage



- Trapped charge in dielectrics
- Map charge to the surface
- Summarize charge as built-in voltage, ΔV

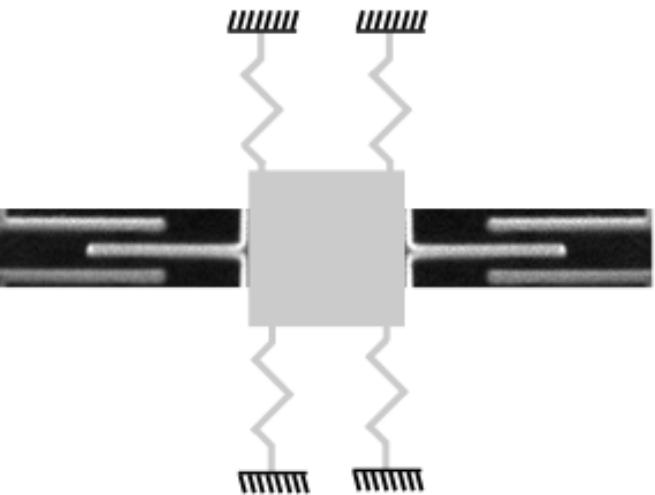
$$\Delta V \propto \sigma_R - \sigma_S$$

$$V_{GAP} = V_S + \Delta V$$

Built-in Voltage Effects



$$f \approx \sqrt{\frac{k - \gamma_s (V_s + \Delta V)^2}{m}}$$



Voltage Sensitivity
(i.e., spring softening) **+** **Transient Built-in Voltage**
(e.g., trapped charge) **=** **Unstable Resonant**
Frequency

Yes, My Dream Job Summer Internship!

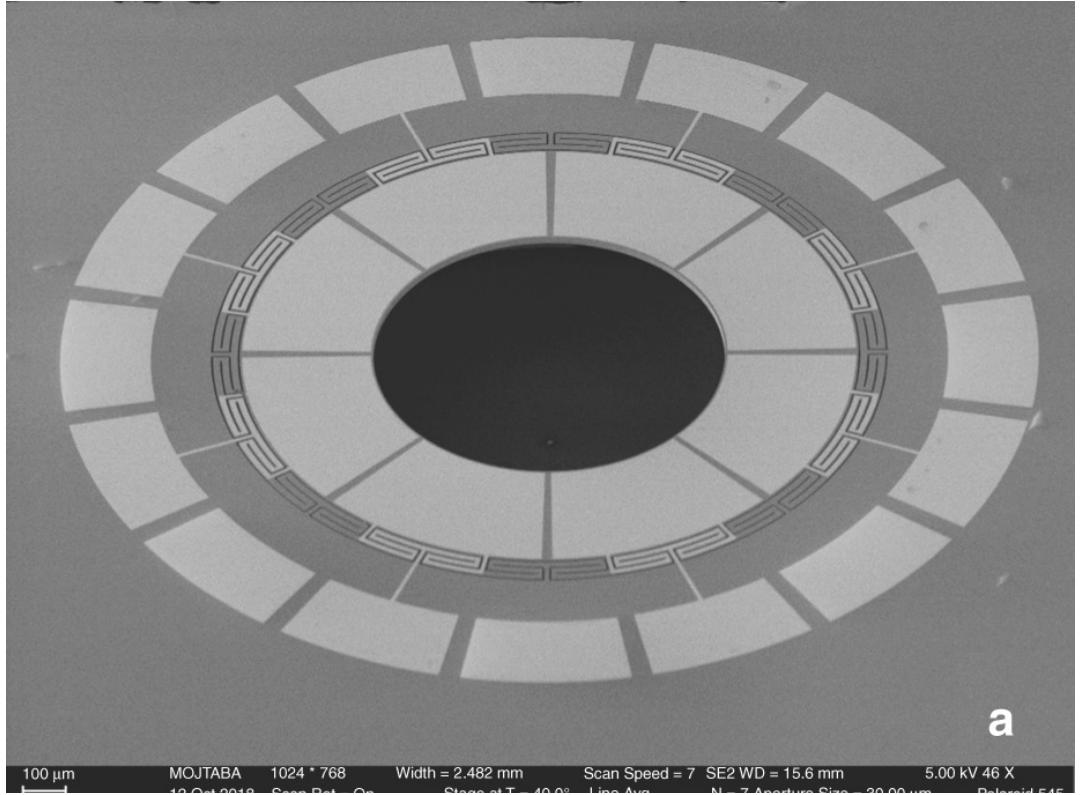
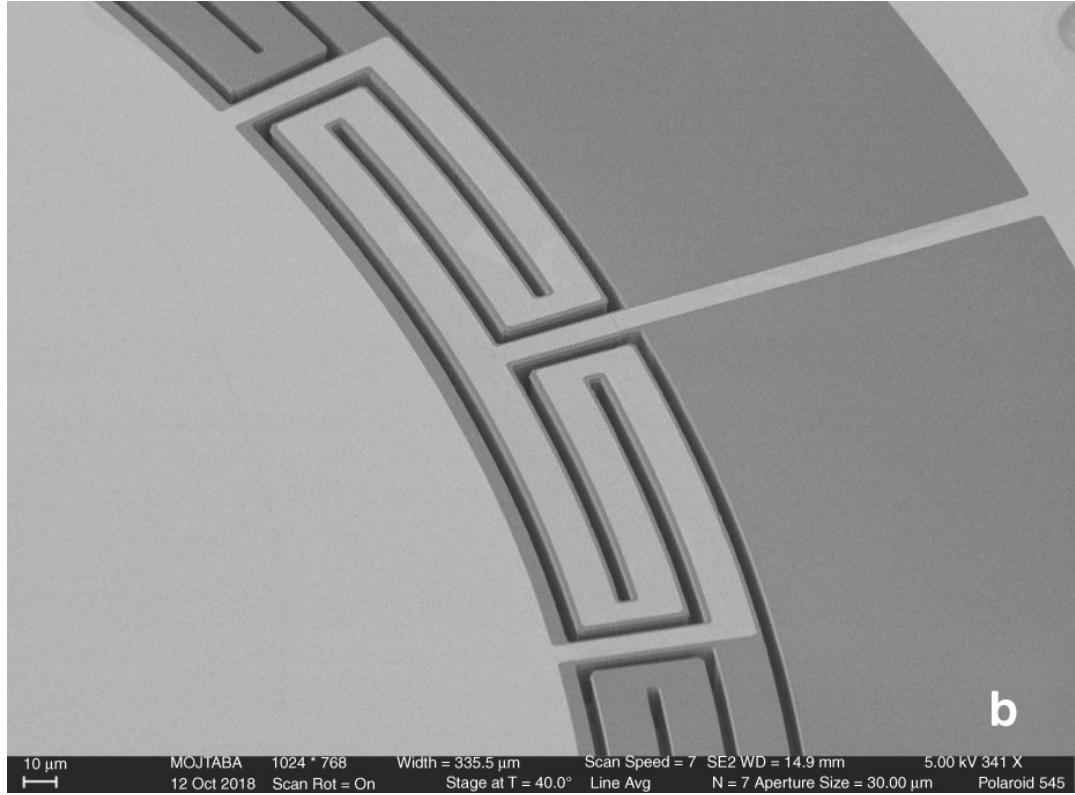


Oh [bleep], I think I want to be a professor?



- Industry wasn't what I wanted
- Didn't have the publication record I wanted for academia
- ...let's do a postdoc!

The Plan: study frequency stability in /different/ MEMS



M. Hodjat-Shamami and F. Ayazi, Microsystems and Nanoengineering, 2020

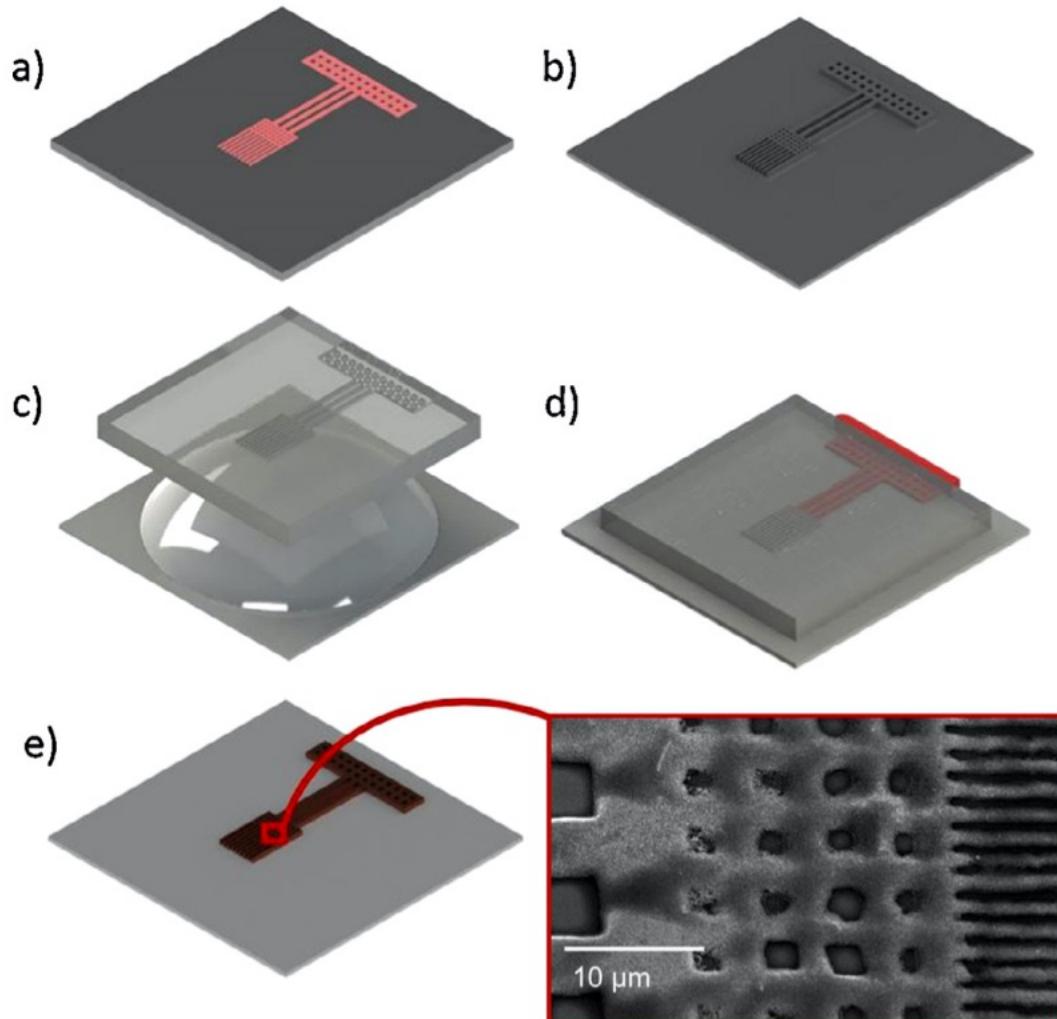
The Wrench: the lab was moving to San Diego



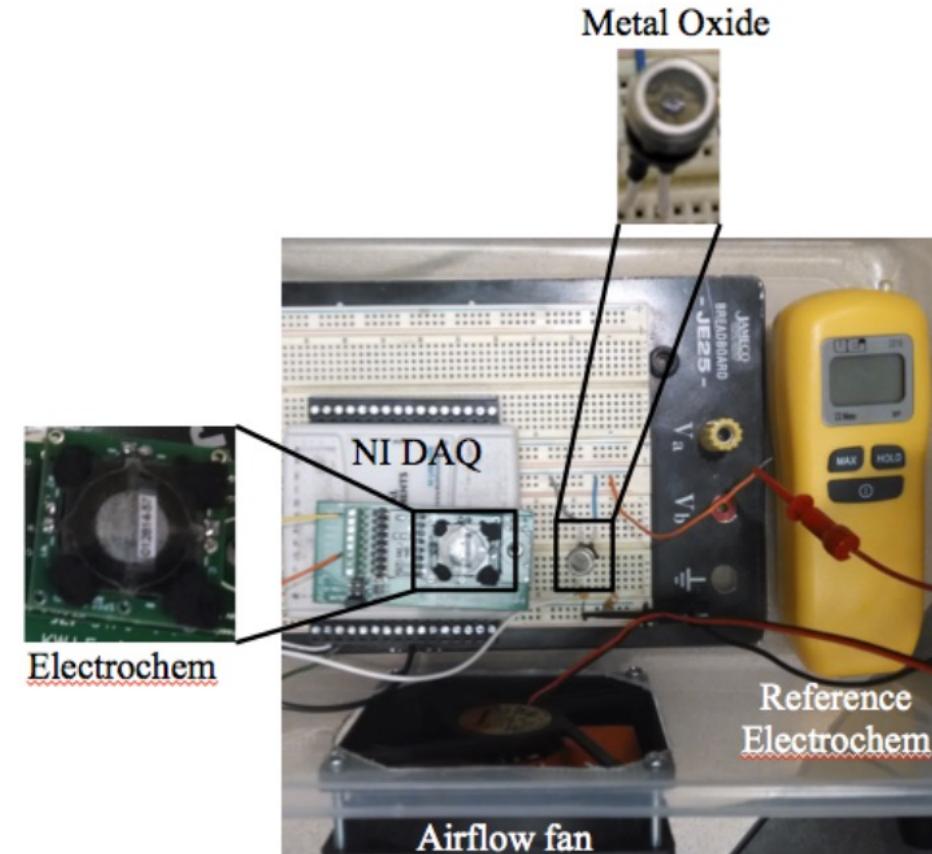
Nano @ Stanford



When life gives you lemons...



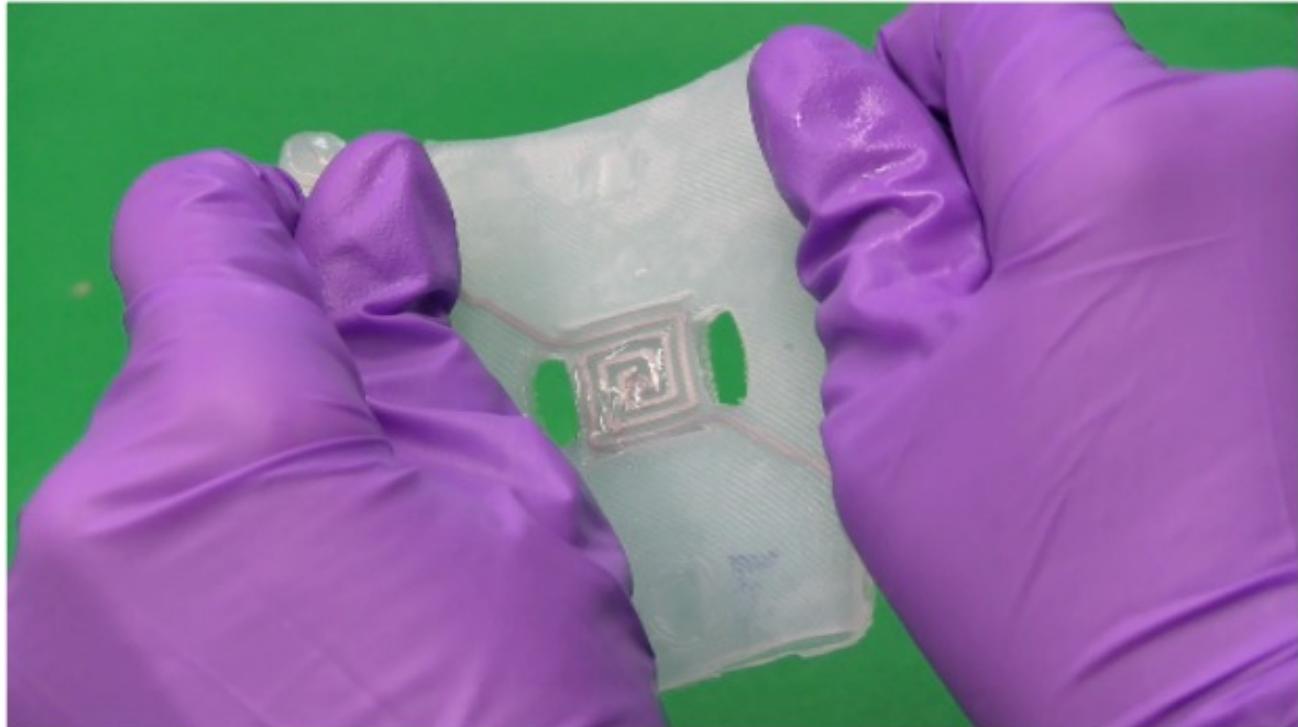
Template Printing



Chemical sensing

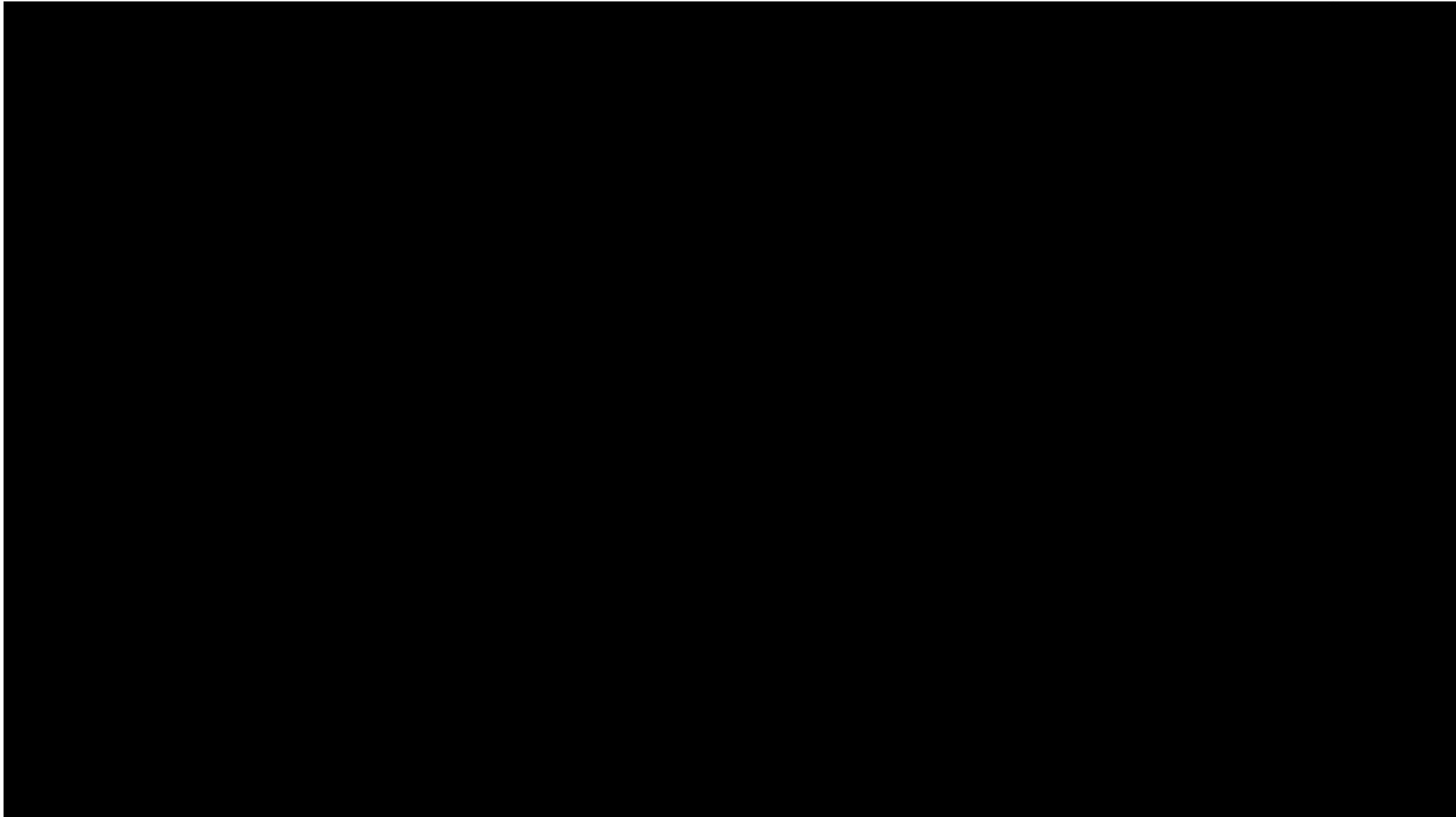


Movin' on up, to the east side (of the US)

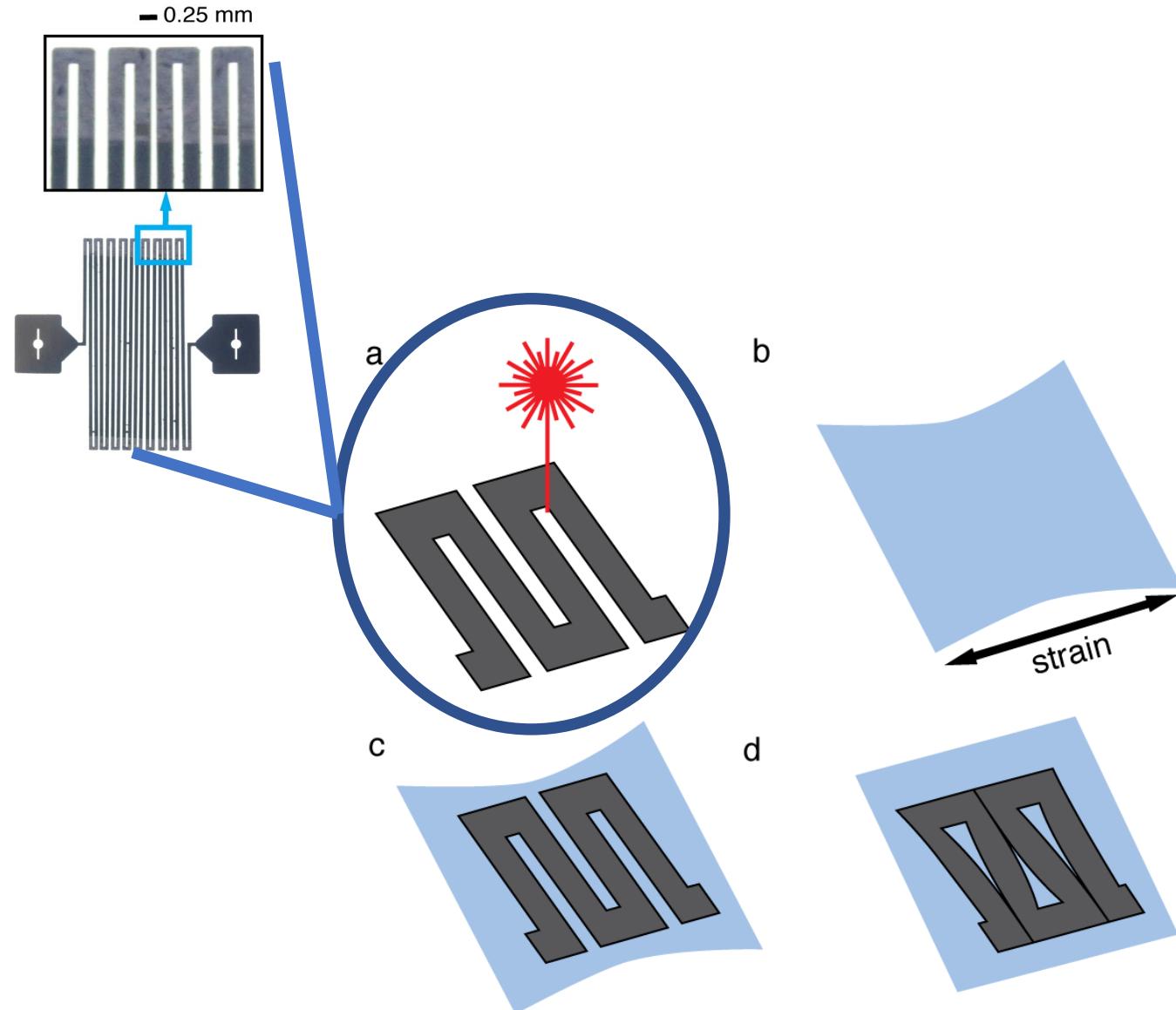


- Knew how to work with silicones
- No cleanroom? No problem!
- Excited to work with undergrad students
- Get to work on a “hot” topic

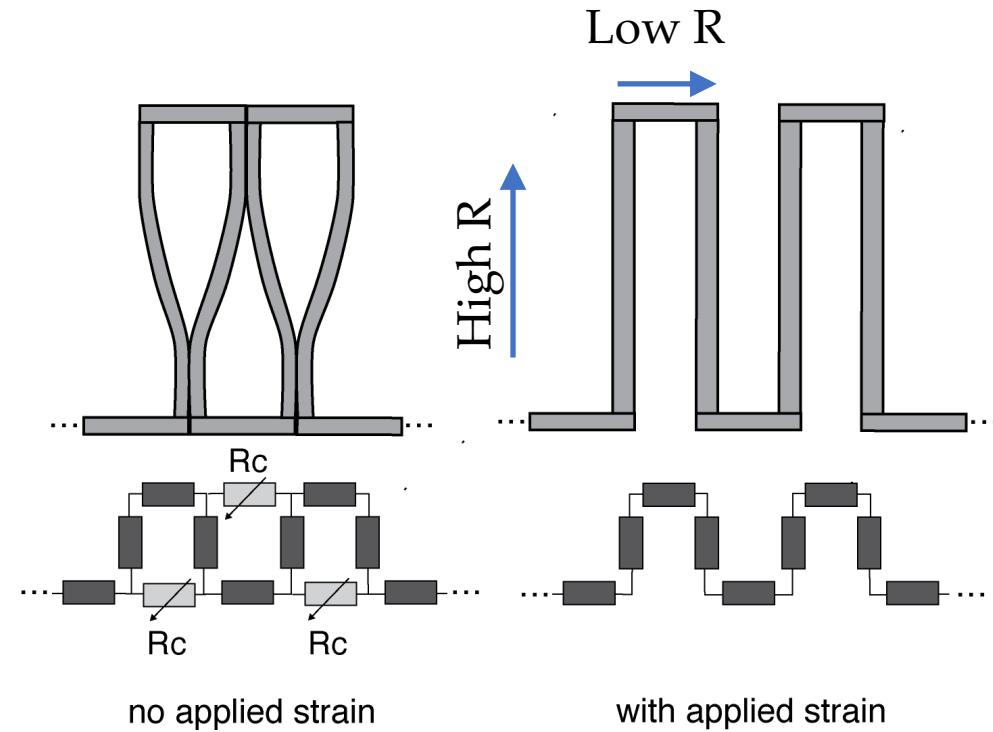
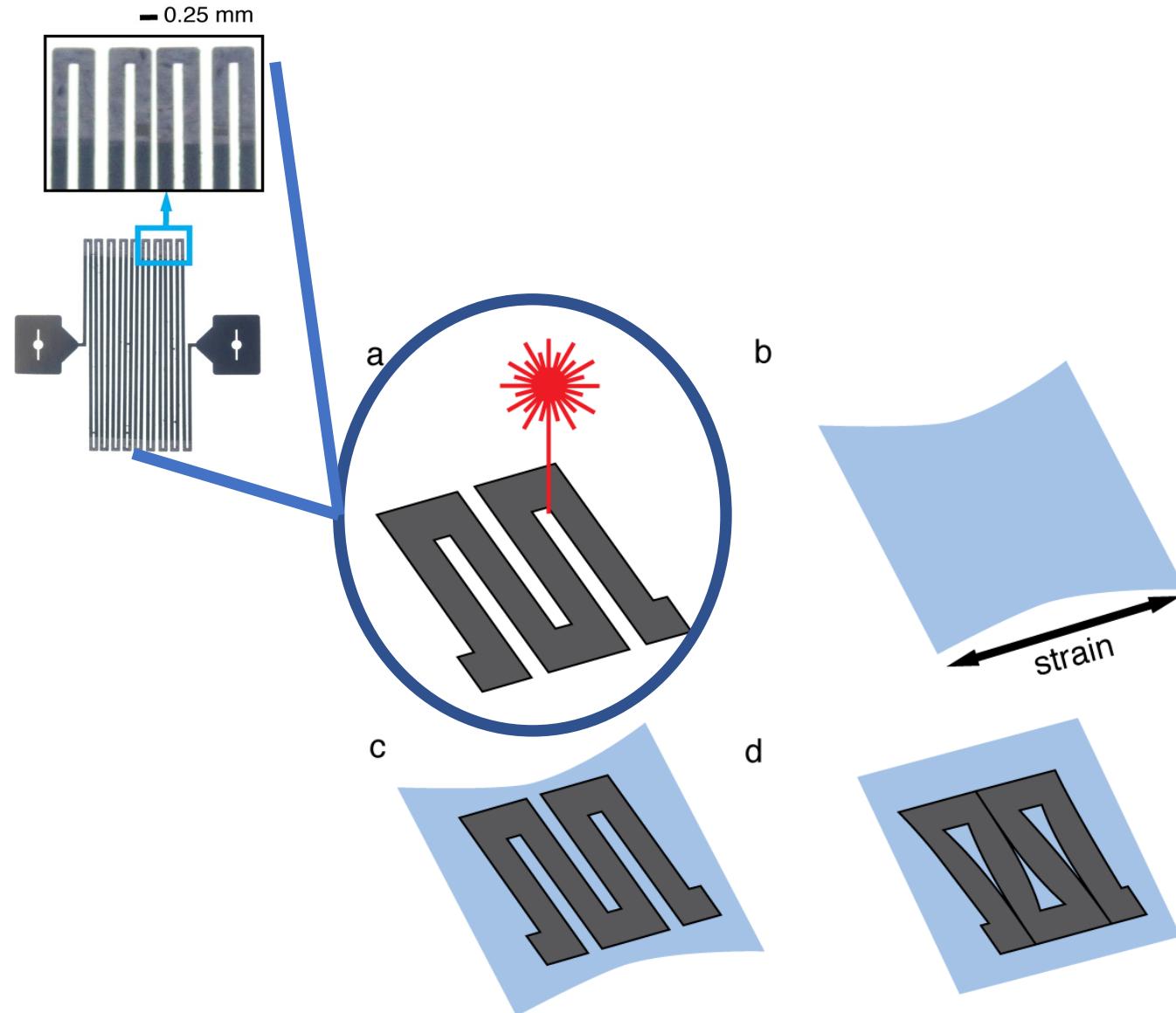
SCARS: A flexible, sensitive, robust strain sensor



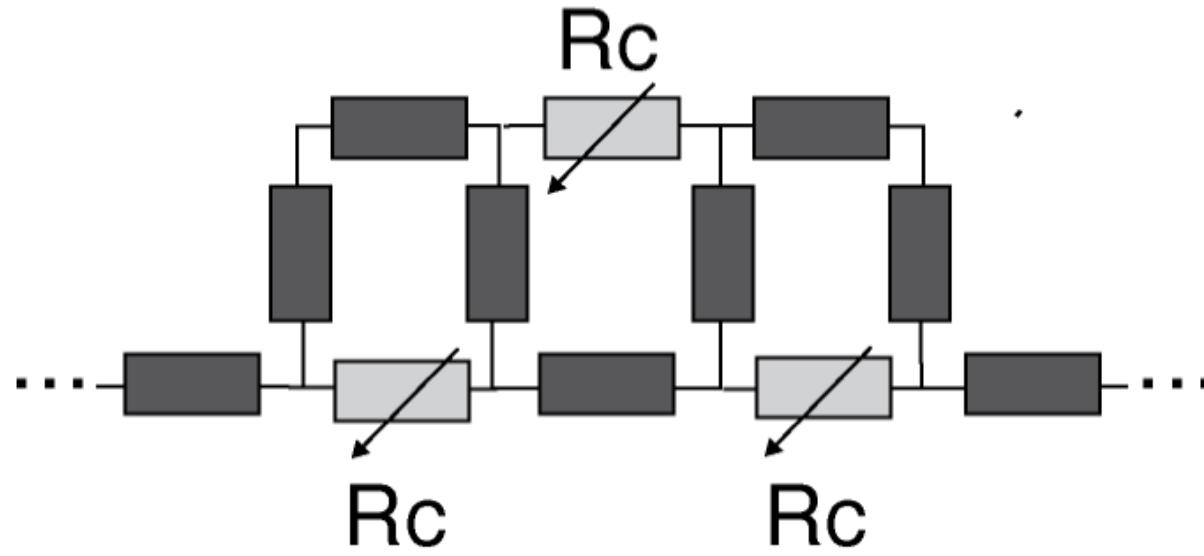
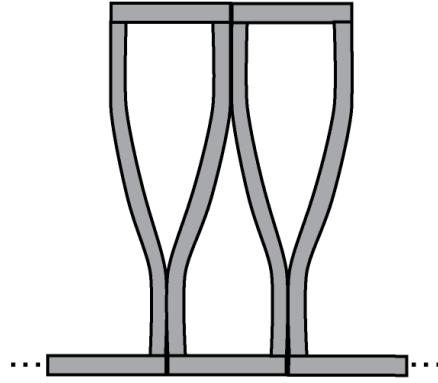
Selective electrical contact between beams of a flexible carbon fiber serpentine transduces strain



Selective electrical contact between beams of a flexible carbon fiber serpentine transduces strain



The sensor is modeled as a network of large fixed and small variable resistors that represent contact

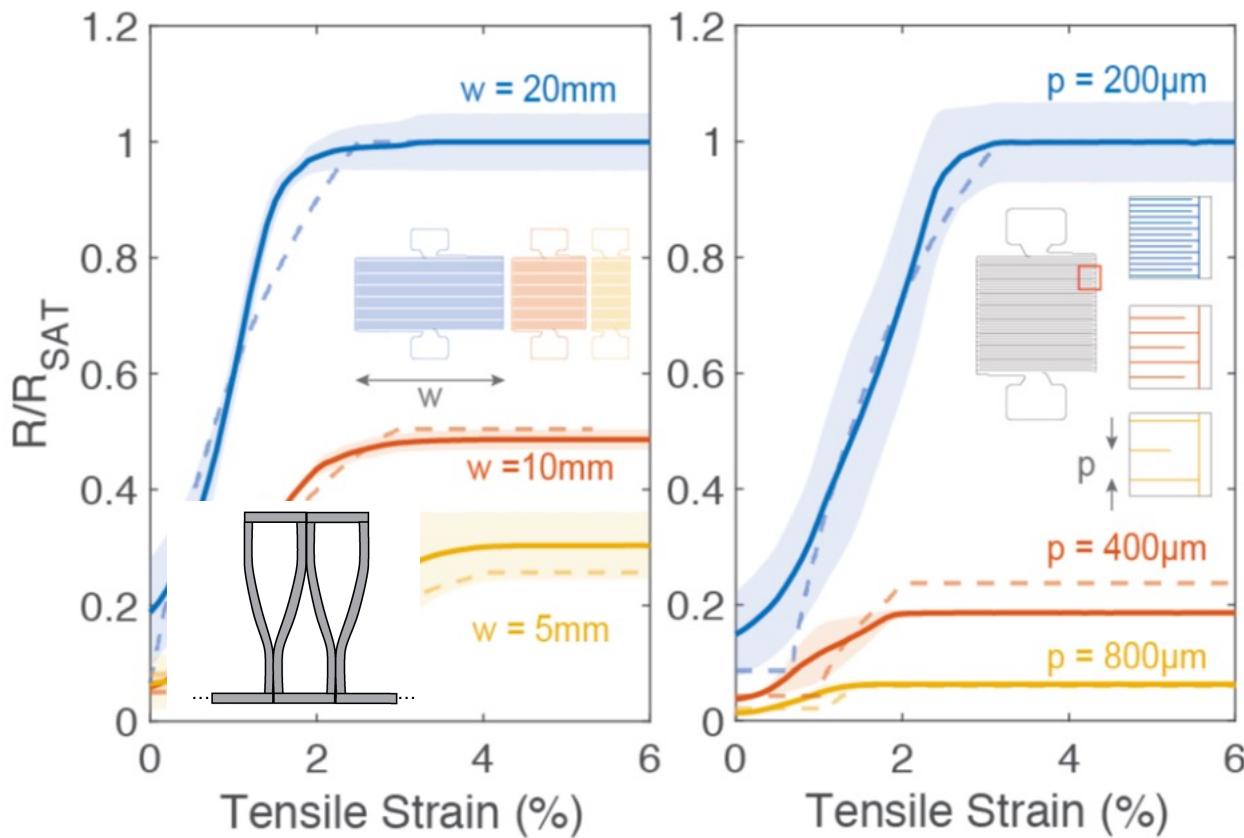


$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{-1}{R_{c1}} - \frac{1}{R_L + R_S} & \frac{1}{R_L + R_S} \\ \frac{1}{R_L + R_S} & \frac{-1}{R_L} + \frac{1}{R_L} + \frac{1}{R_{c2}} \\ \frac{1}{R_{c1}} & \frac{1}{R_L} \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{R_{c2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

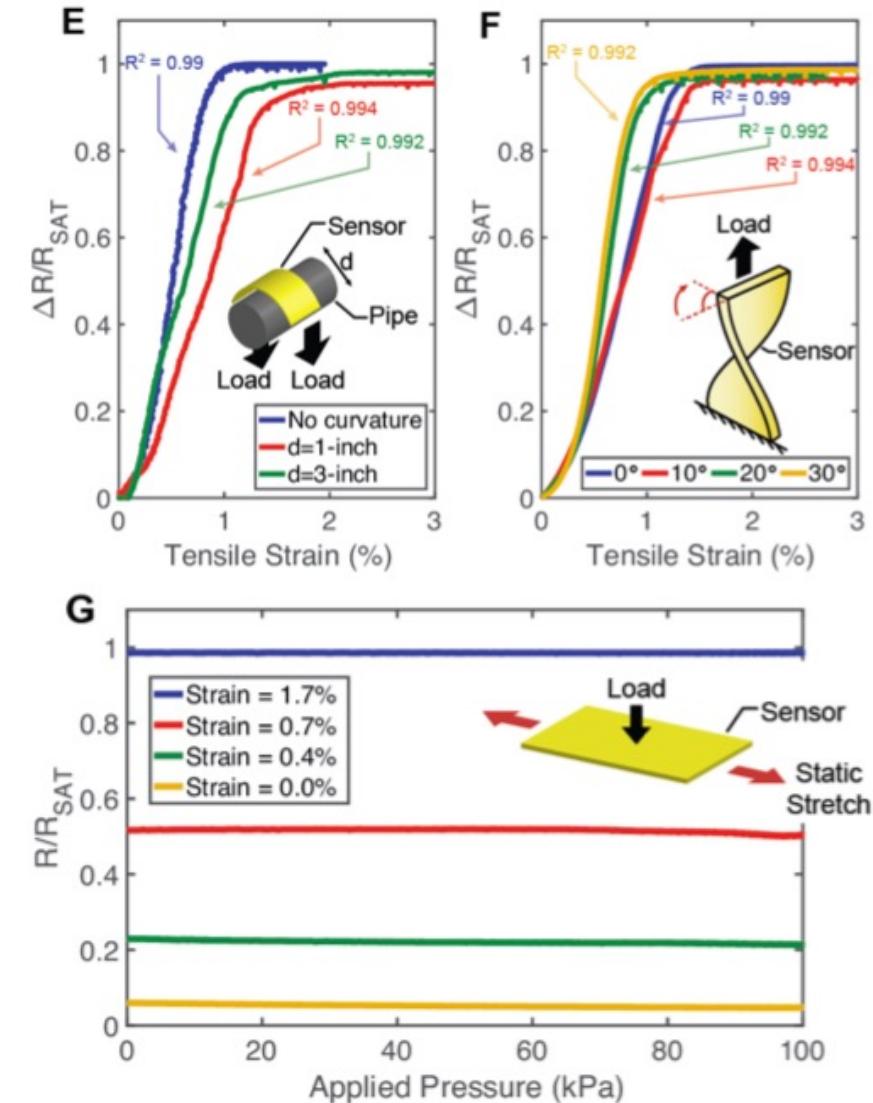
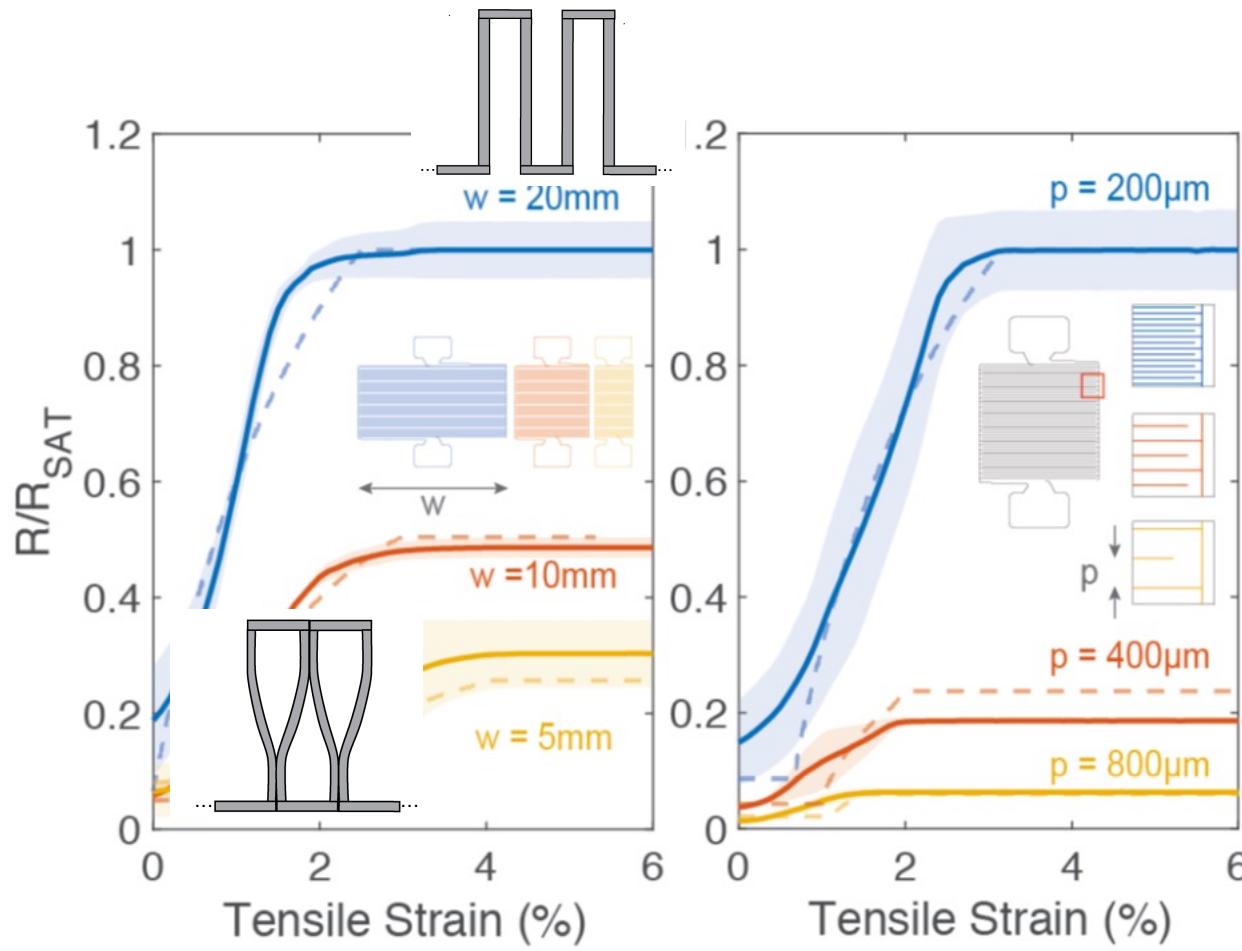
$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{-1}{R_L} + \frac{1}{R_{c1}} + \frac{-1}{R_S} & \frac{1}{R_S} \\ \frac{1}{R_S} & 0 \\ \frac{-1}{R_S} + \frac{-1}{R_{c3}} + \frac{-1}{R_L} & \frac{1}{R_L} \\ \frac{1}{R_L} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{R_{c2}} & \begin{bmatrix} V_A \\ V_B \\ V_C \\ V_D \\ V_E \end{bmatrix} \\ 0 & \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} V_A \\ V_B \\ V_C \\ V_D \\ V_E \end{bmatrix}$$

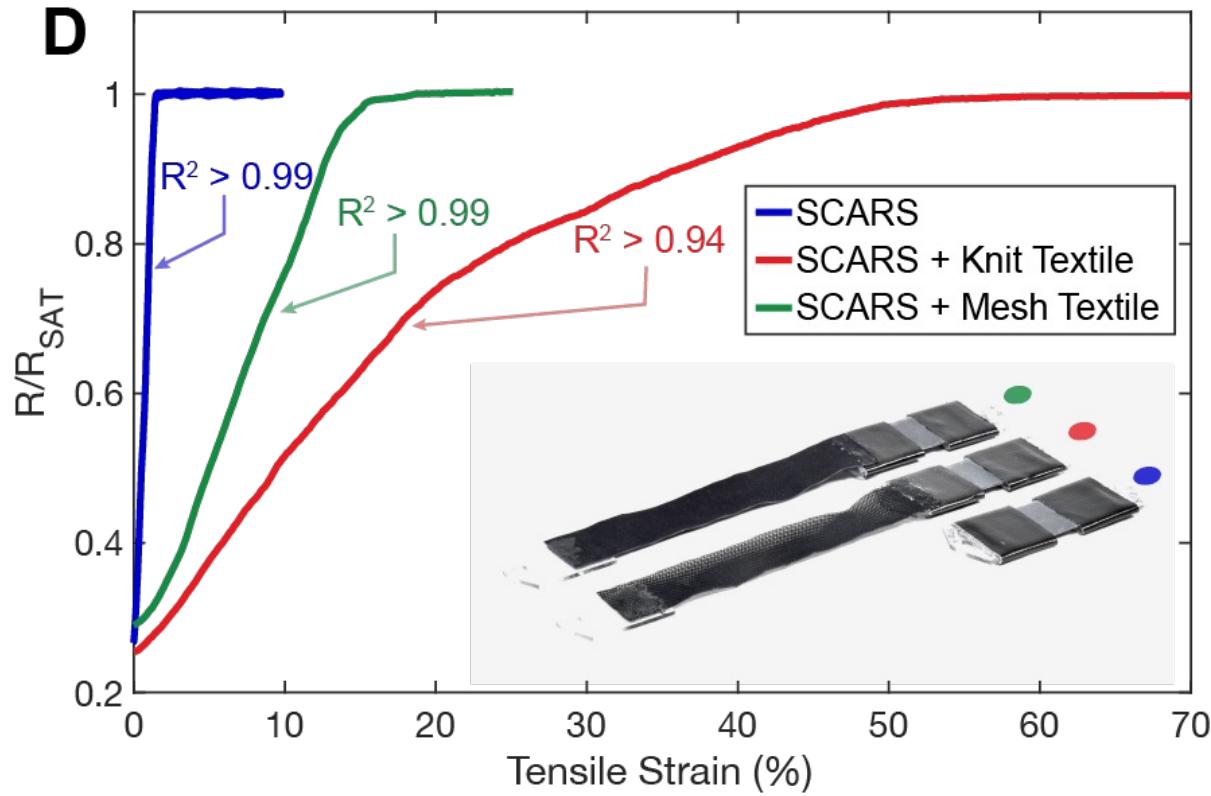
The resistance is tunable through the CF geometry. Strain sensitivity can be predicted from beam bending + electrical model.



The sensor is selective to strain over bending, torsion, and pressure because contact is maintained



The substrate stiffness and pre-stretch ratio permits control over sensor mechanical response



Use prestretch to tune for:

- body size
- limb placement
- sensitivity

$$U_{tot} = q \int_0^L (x - x_{pre})^2 d\xi + \int_0^L \frac{M^2}{2EI} d\xi$$

- Pre-stretch gradient
- Substrate compliance

The versatility of the transduction methodology allows for a variety of stretchable encapsulation materials to be used, such as knit textiles.

We incorporate these textile-integrated sensors into a custom smart sleeve.

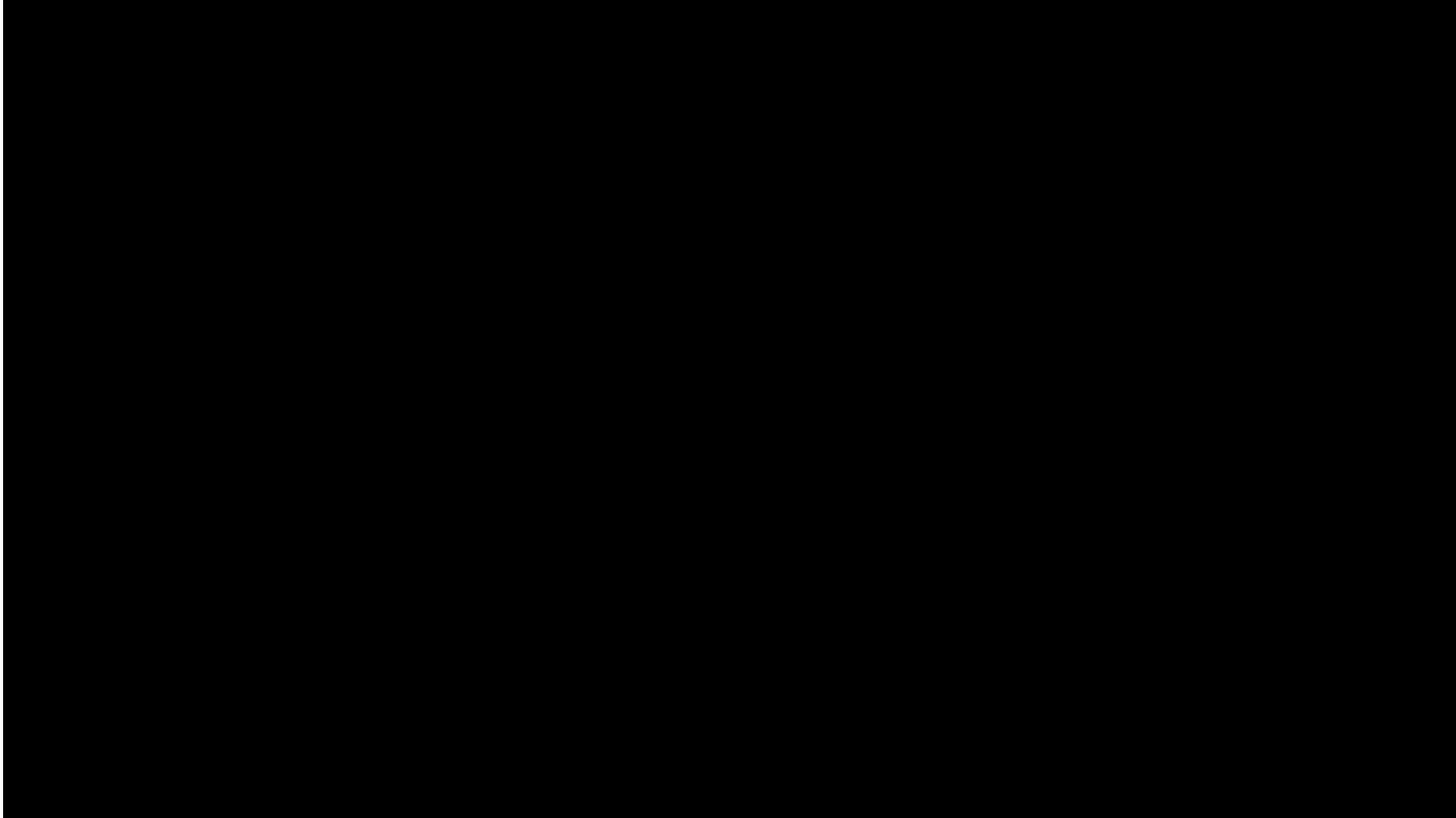


Applications to edema robotics and healthcare

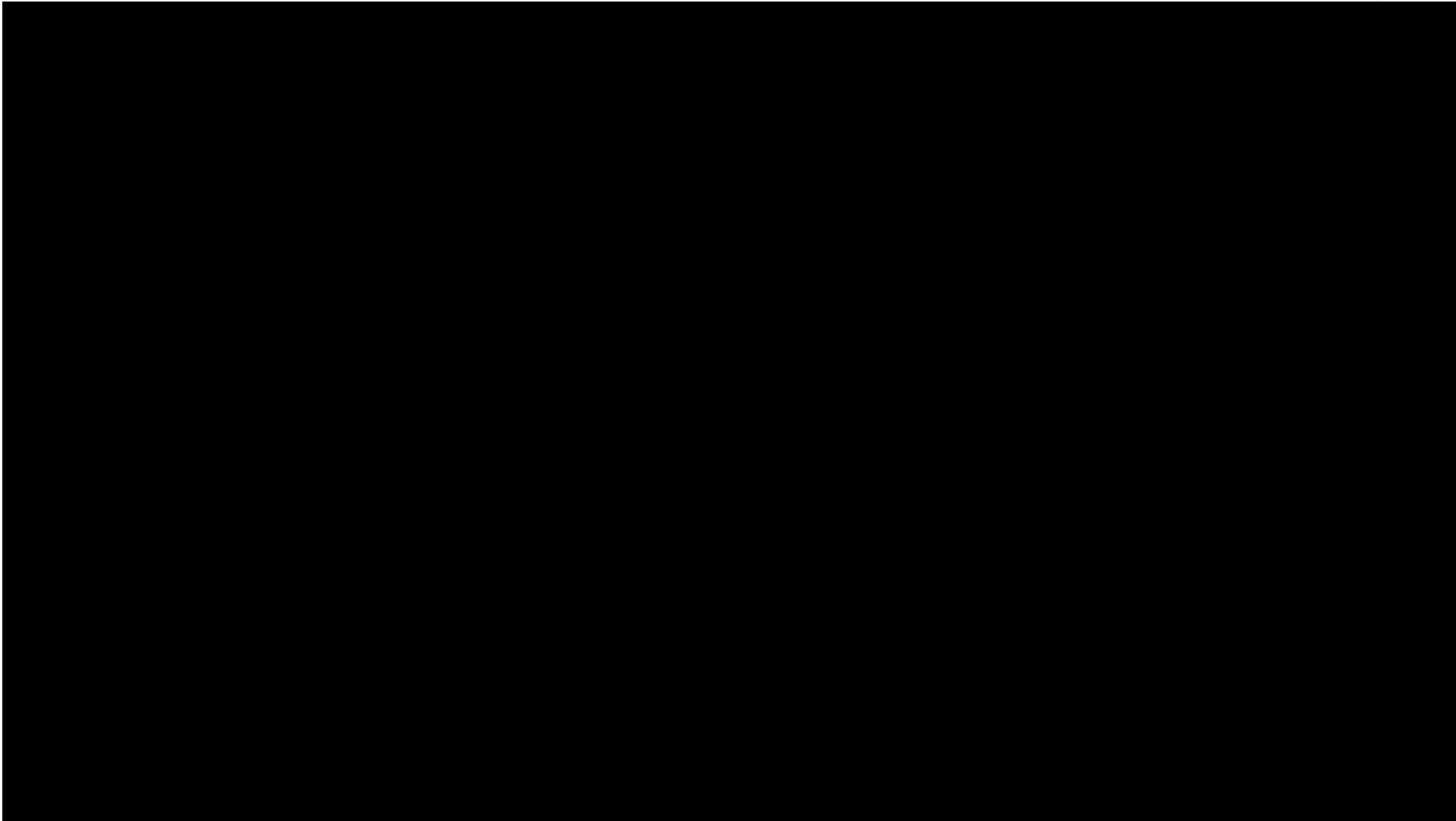


- Detecting changes in limb size with fine temporal resolution
- Informing "high-risk" activities that trigger edema episodes
- Determining when to seek more aggressive treatment, or when to apply active compression or lymph drainage techniques

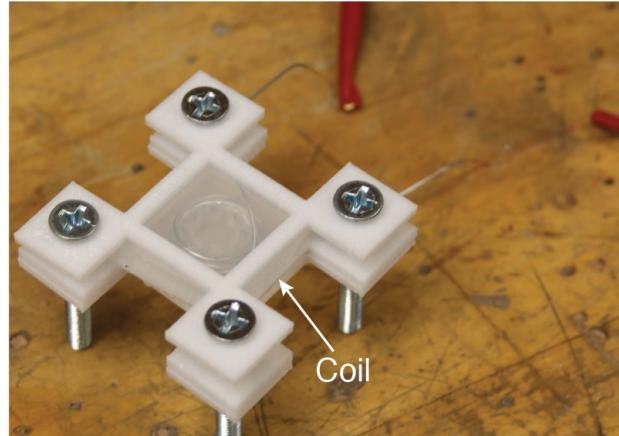
SCARS: Selective contact sensors



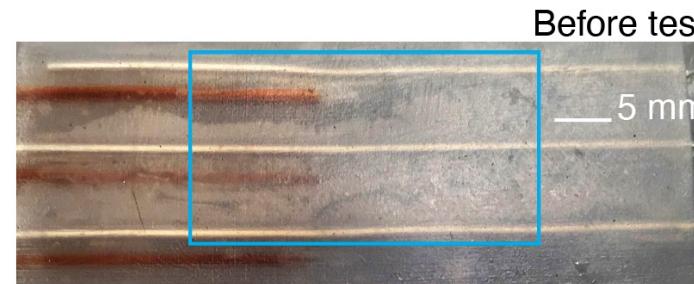
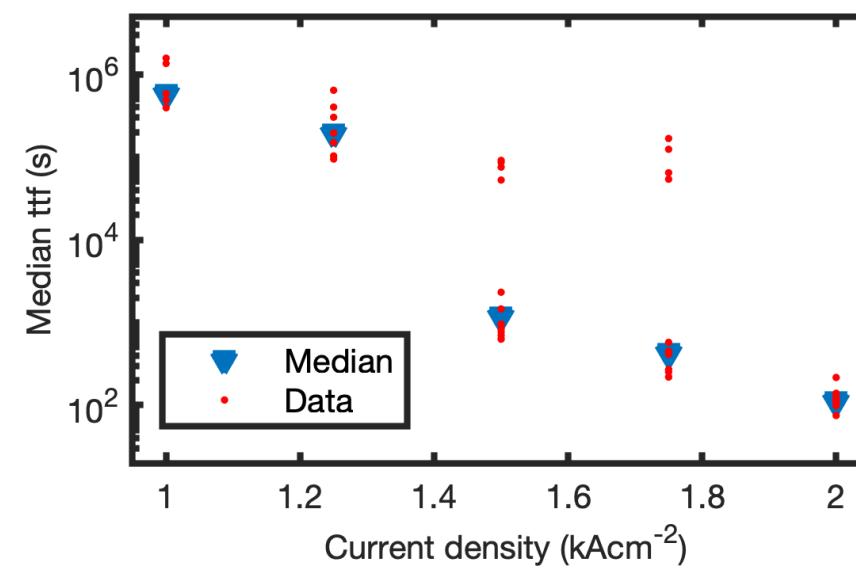
Sensor and actuator properties can also be reconfigured by reversible stiffness change



Problem: Liquid metals used in many soft sensors and actuators have poor lifetime (~ 5 h) at high current



Use gallium alloys for:
Stretchable heaters
Flexible antennas
Electromagnetic valves



1 kAcm^{-2}
3 days after test



1 kAcm^{-2}
6 days after test



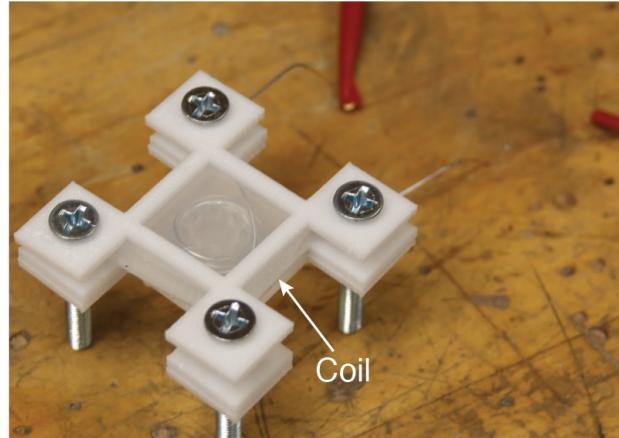
1.25 kAcm^{-2}



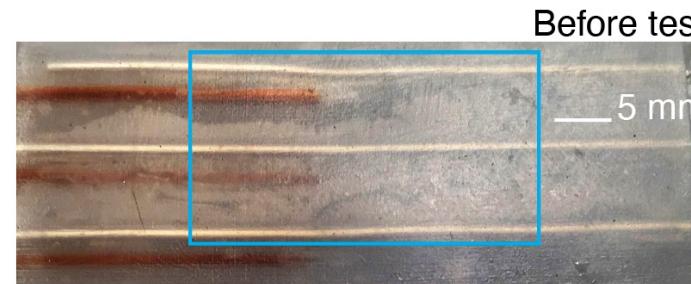
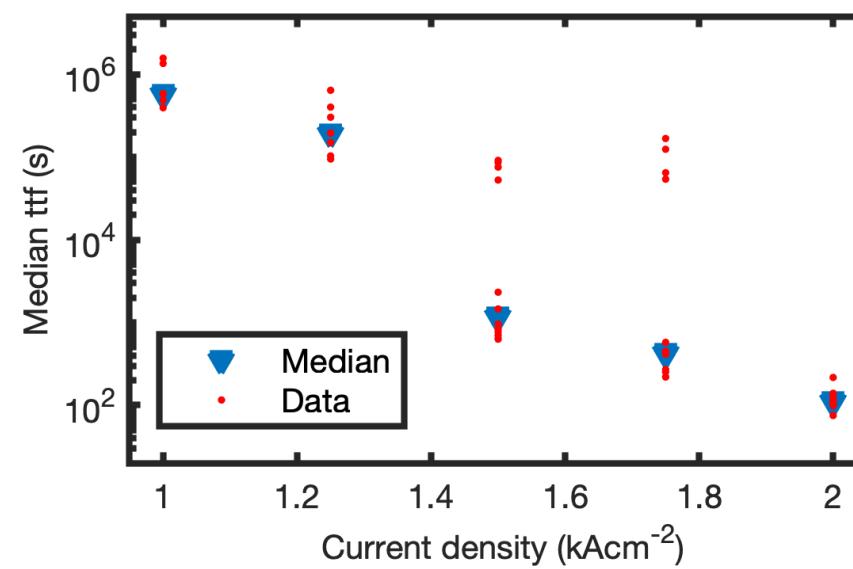
1.75 kAcm^{-2}



Studying samples at high currents shows voids and buckling



Use gallium alloys for:
Stretchable heaters
Flexible antennas
Electromagnetic valves



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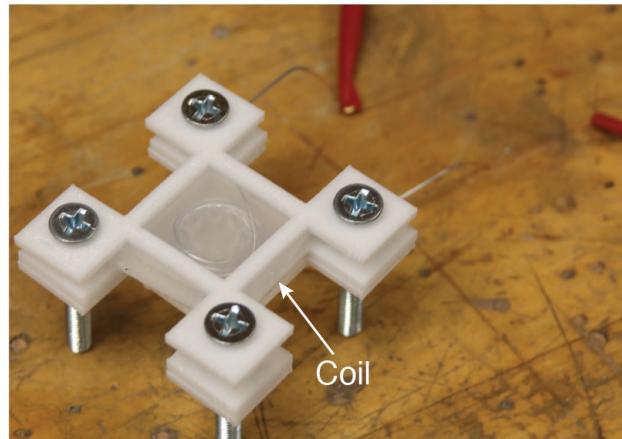
1 kAcm^{-2}
6 days after test



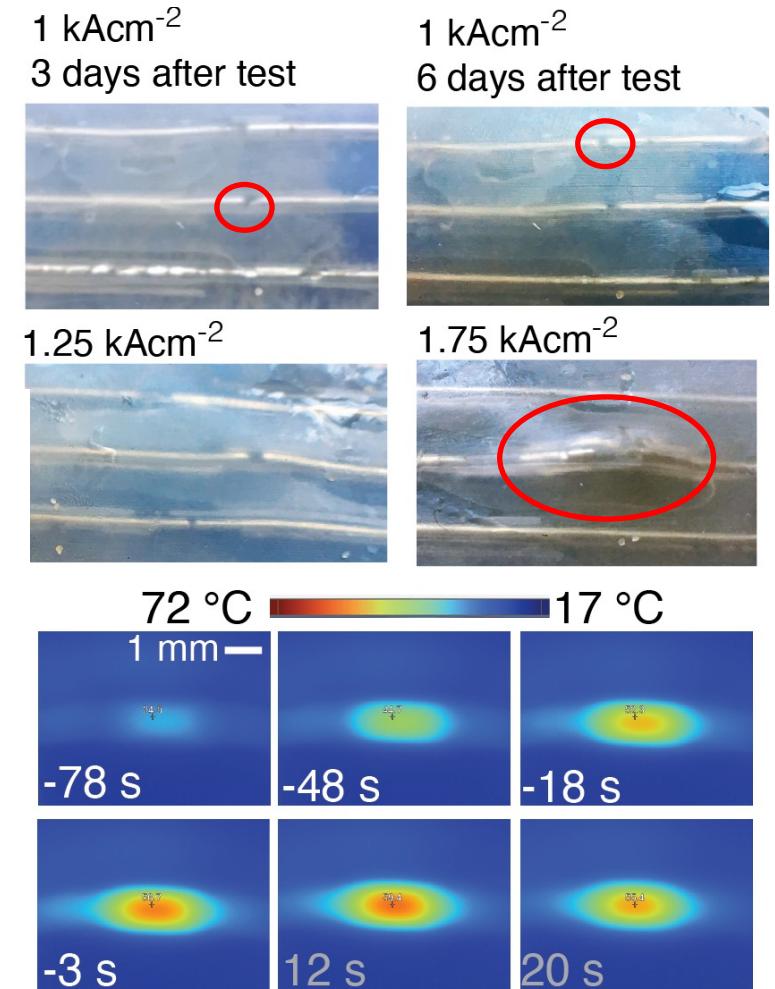
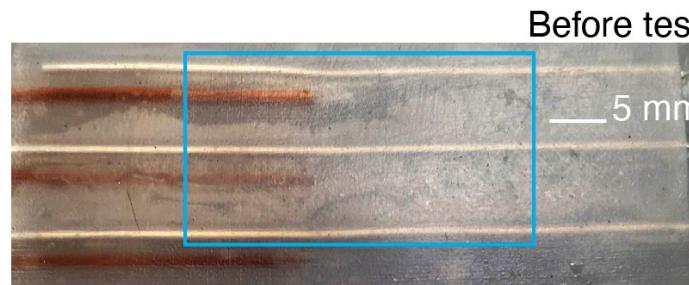
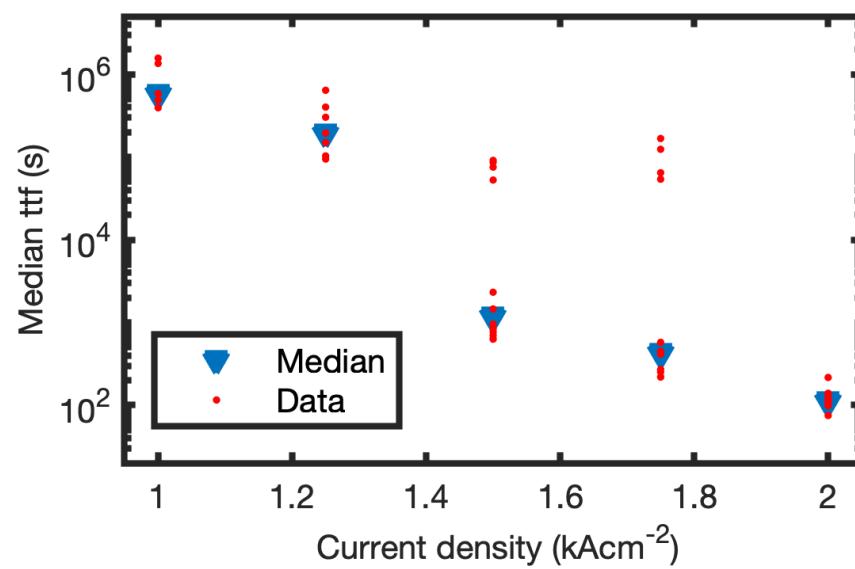
1.75 kAcm^{-2}



Studying samples at high currents shows voids and buckling with development of hot spots in wires



Use gallium alloys for:
Stretchable heaters
Flexible antennas
Electromagnetic valves



Failure could be caused by
electromigration or thermal exp

1 kAcm^{-2}

3 days after test



1.25 kAcm^{-2}

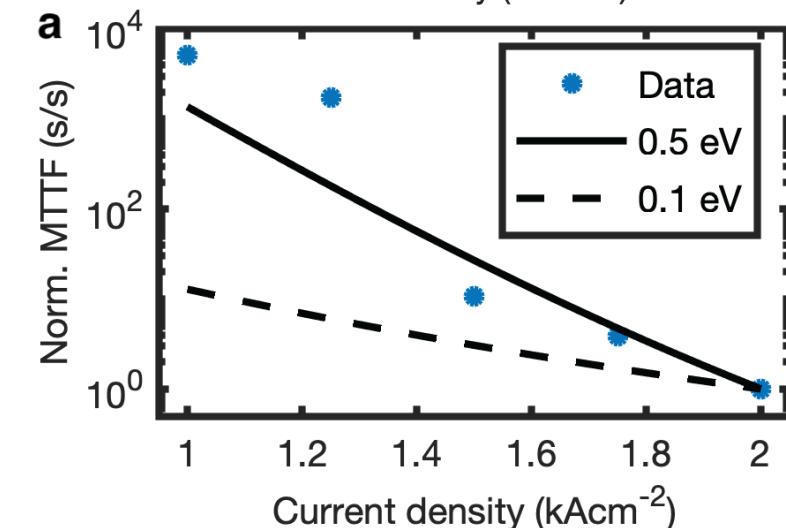
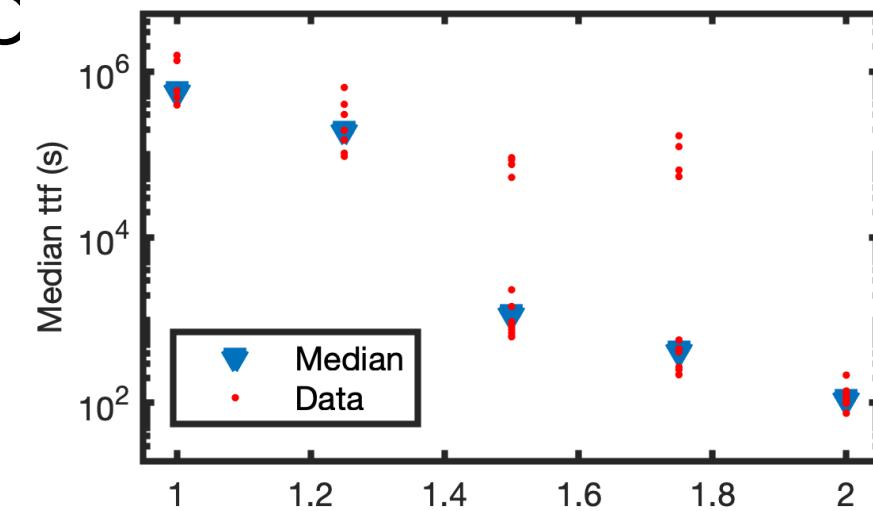


1 kAcm^{-2}

6 days after test



1.75 kAcm^{-2}



$$\text{MTTF} = ACJ^{-2} \exp(E_a / kT)$$

Failure could be caused by electromigration or thermal expansion

1 kAcm^{-2}

3 days after test



1.25 kAcm^{-2}



1 kAcm^{-2}

6 days after test

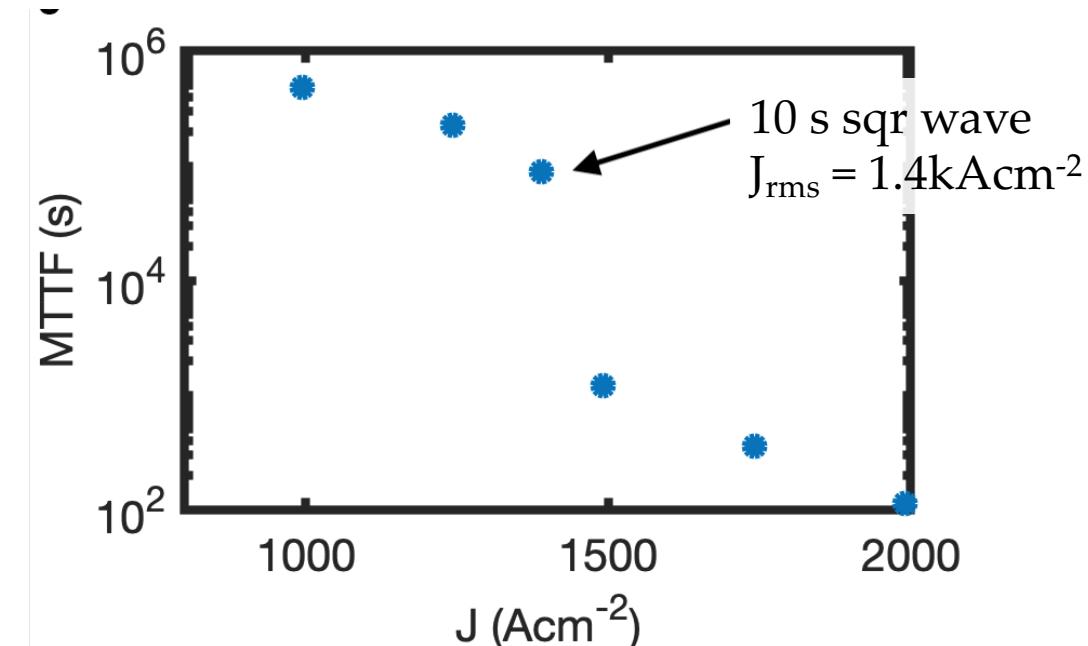


1.75 kAcm^{-2}



Failure time with:

- 2 kAcm^{-2} DC (112 s)
- Heat sink (138 s)
- Pelletier cooling (39900 s)
- 0.1 Hz sqr wave(50600 s)



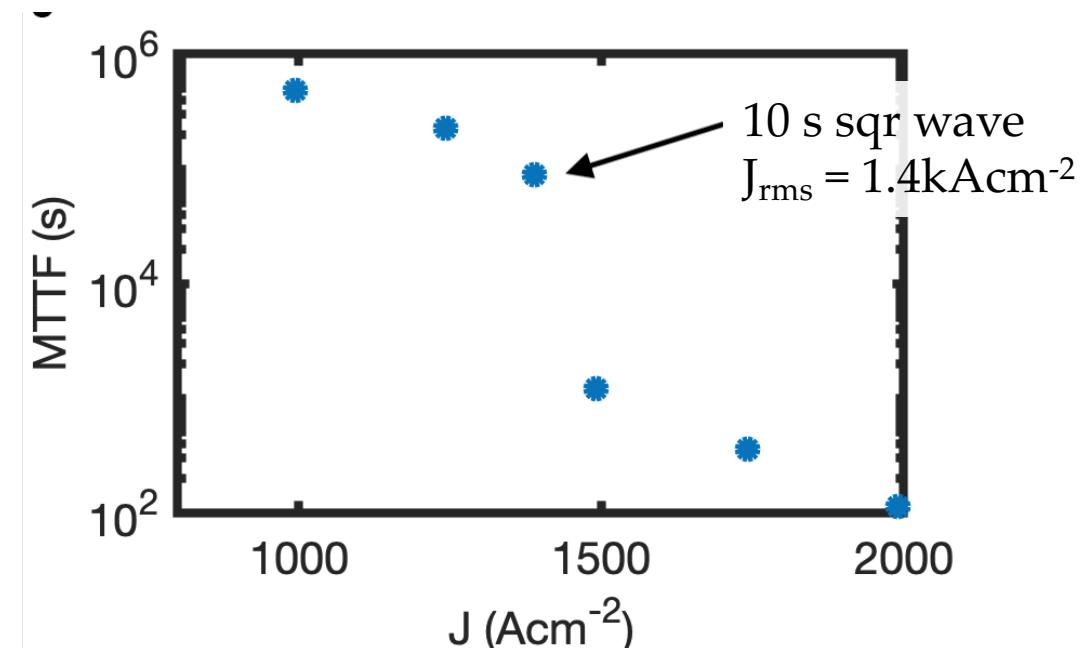
Failure is likely caused by expansion of elastomer

Mitigate failure by:

- Increasing passive cooling
- Pulsing power
- Avoid CTE mismatch between elastomer and liquid metal

Failure time with:

- 2 kAcm⁻² DC (112 s)
- Heat sink (138 s)
- Pelletier cooling (39900 s)
- 0.1 Hz sqr wave(50600 s)



Smith College for 6 years



It's time for a change!

Principal Investigator

Kris L. Dorsey, PhD

Associate Professor

[Personal website](#)



Research Staff

Sonia F. Roberts, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

[Personal website](#)



Grad Researchers

Ibrahim Abubakar

PhD Student (2022-)



Ugrad Researchers

Musheera Khandaker

Joined 2022



Damla Leblebicioglu

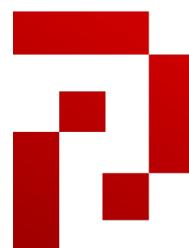
PhD Student (2022-)

[Personal website](#)



Lilly A. Rizvi

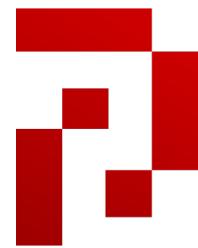
PhD Student (2022-)



PARSES



What's new? What's next?



PARSES



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Kris L. Dorsey, PhD

Associate Professor

[Personal website](#)



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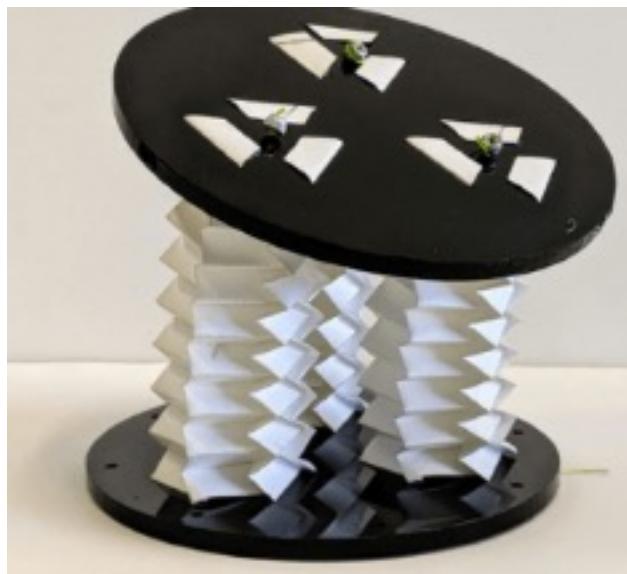
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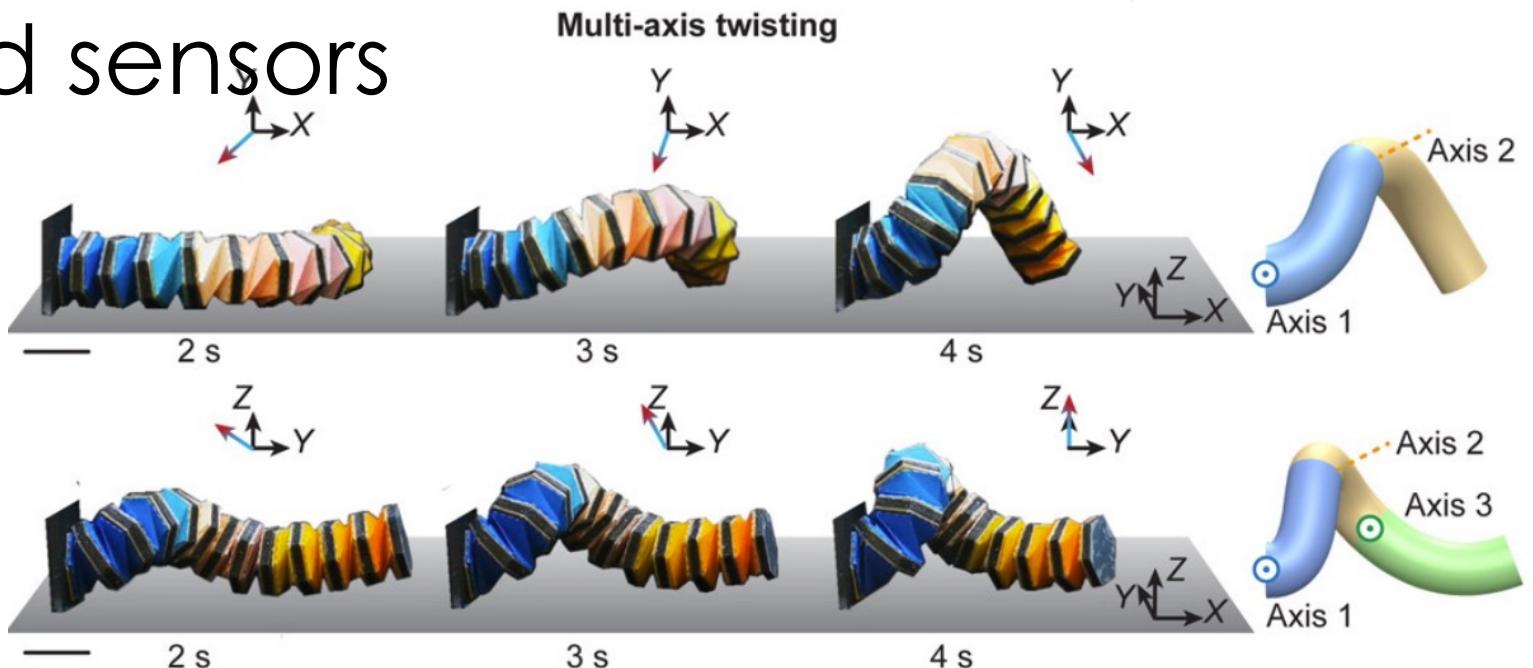
Origami inspiration has been demonstrated in **many** actuators and sensors



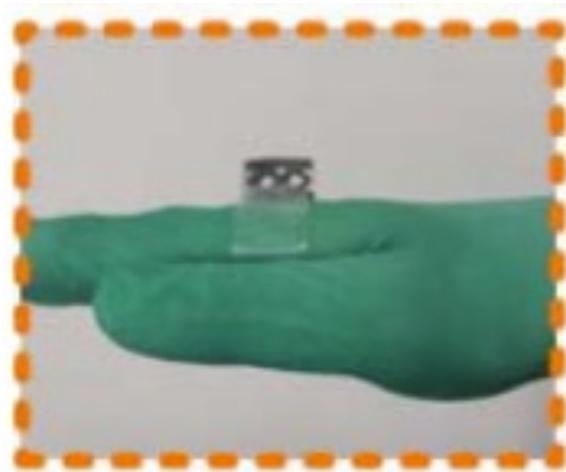
M. Mete and J. Paik, IEEE RAL, 2021



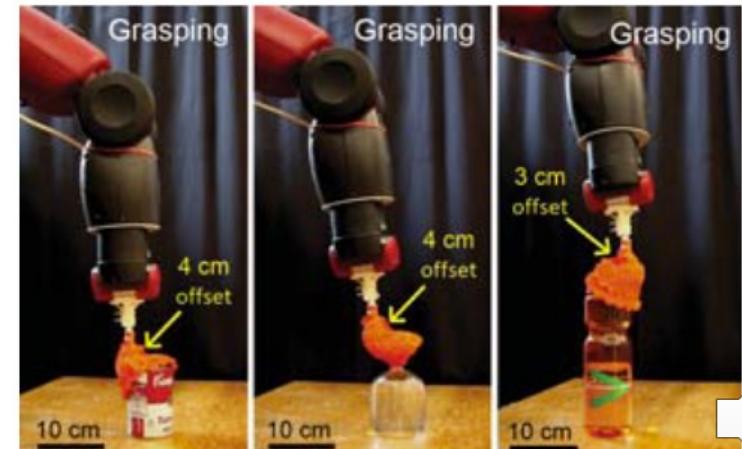
Chen, et. al., IEEE RAL, 2020



S. Wu, et al., PNAS, 2021

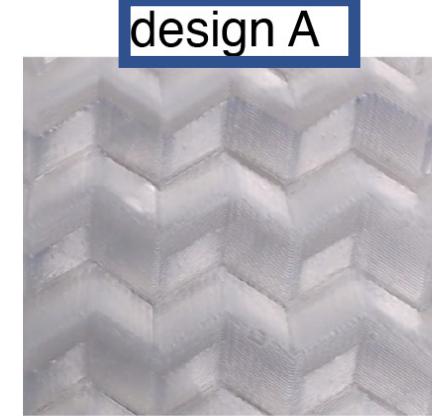


X. Liu, et. al., IEEE J Sensors, 2021

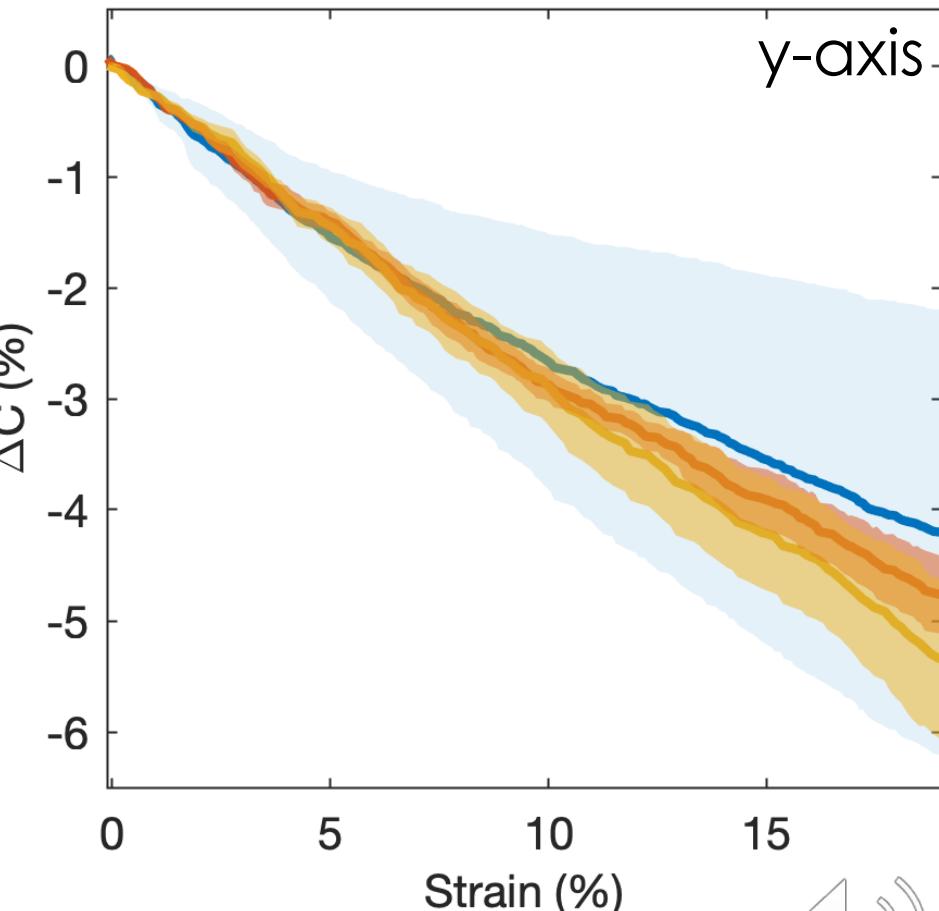
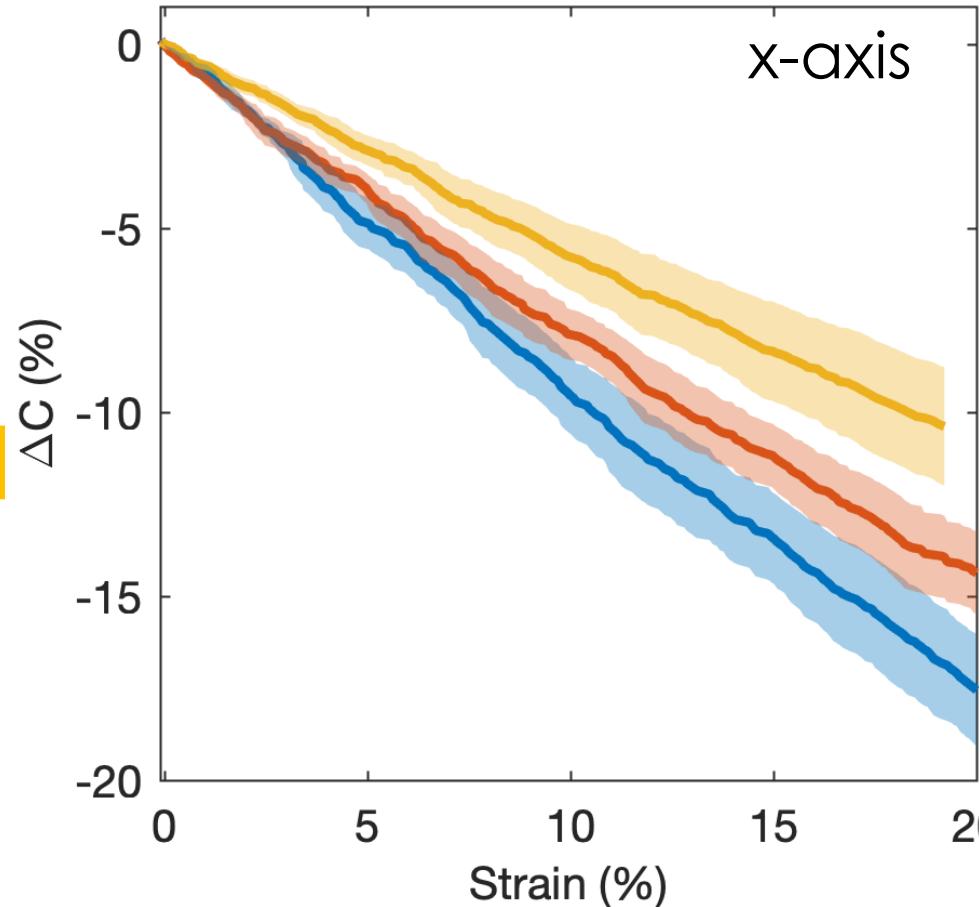


S. Li, et. al., ICRA, 2019

Even with stretching, a tuning ratio of 1.8 exists in the x-axis, but sensitivity relationship is inverted



— 1 cm



What do YOU want to know?

tinyurl.com/doorcMay16