

**Kris L. Dorsey**  
MLK Visiting Assoc. Prof.  
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)

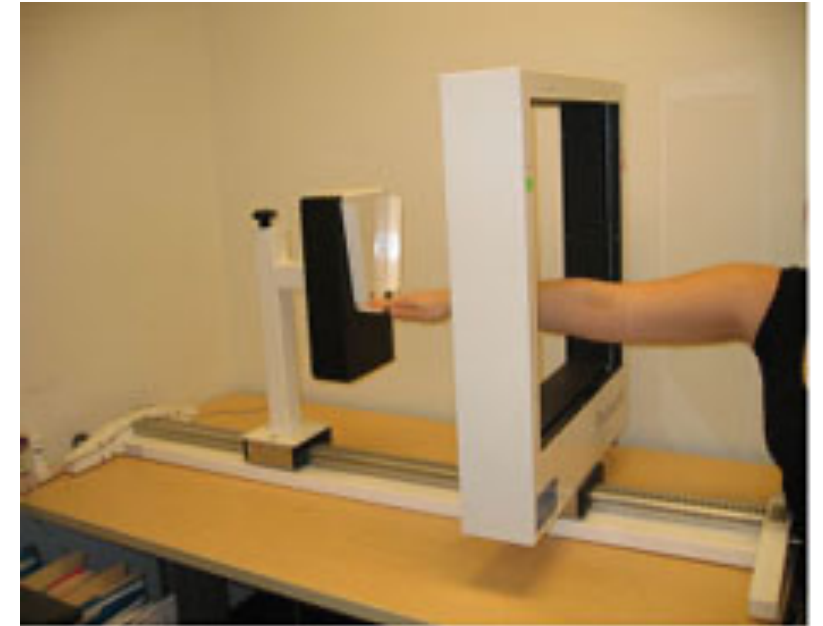
- Can affect limb function and threaten life
- Warning sign for cardiac conditions, DVT, etc.



MD Anderson Cancer Center



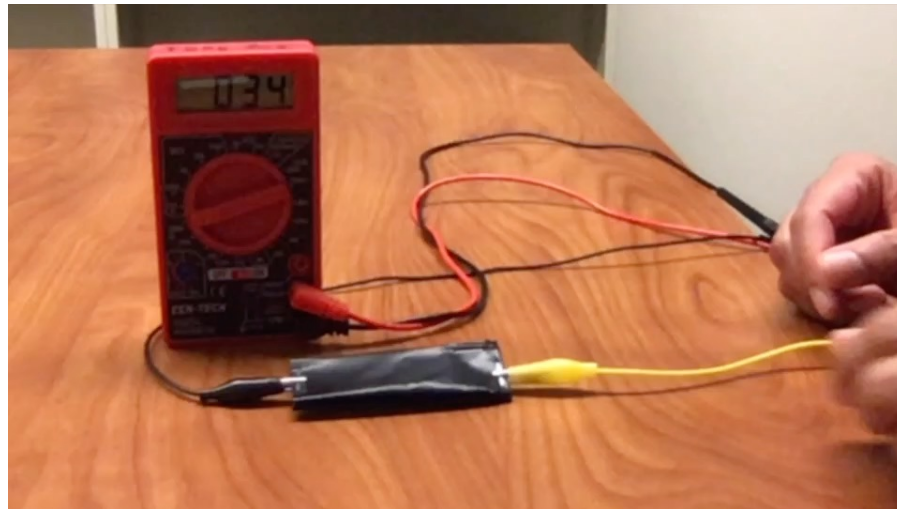
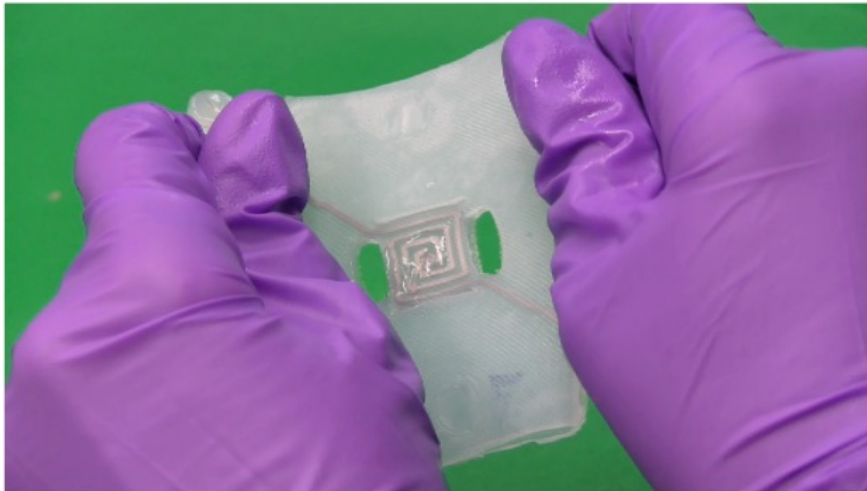
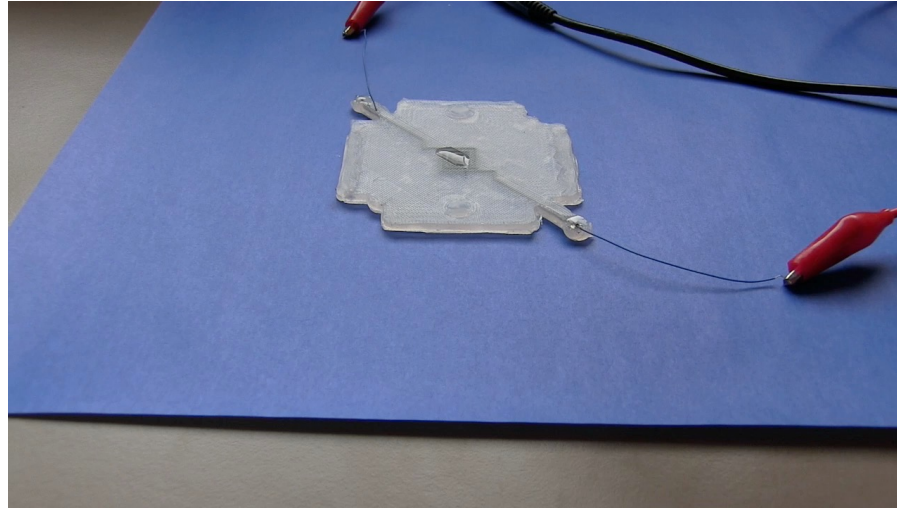
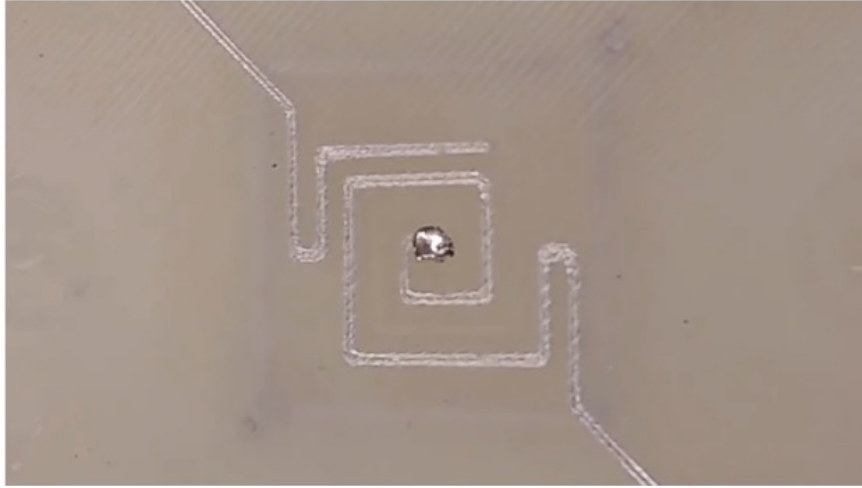
Mark Bugnaski



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



## Dielectric Charging in CMOS MEMS

16 August 2013

Candidate: Kristen L. Dorsey

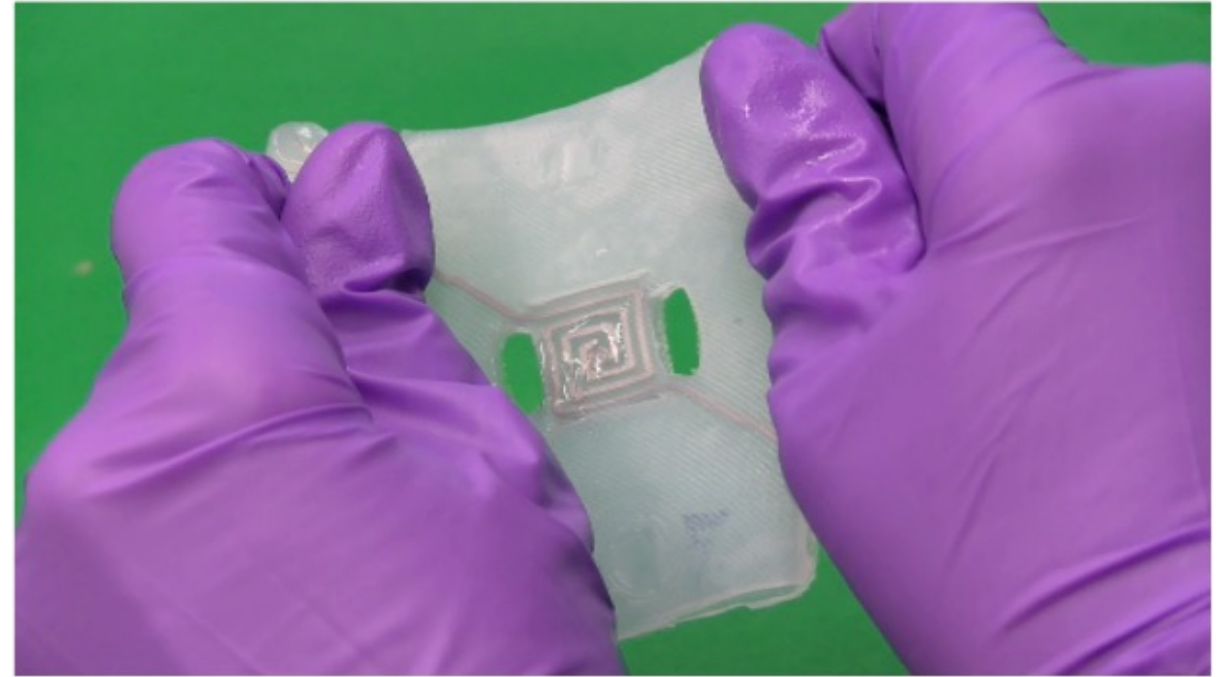
Committee:

Professor Gary Fedder (advisor)

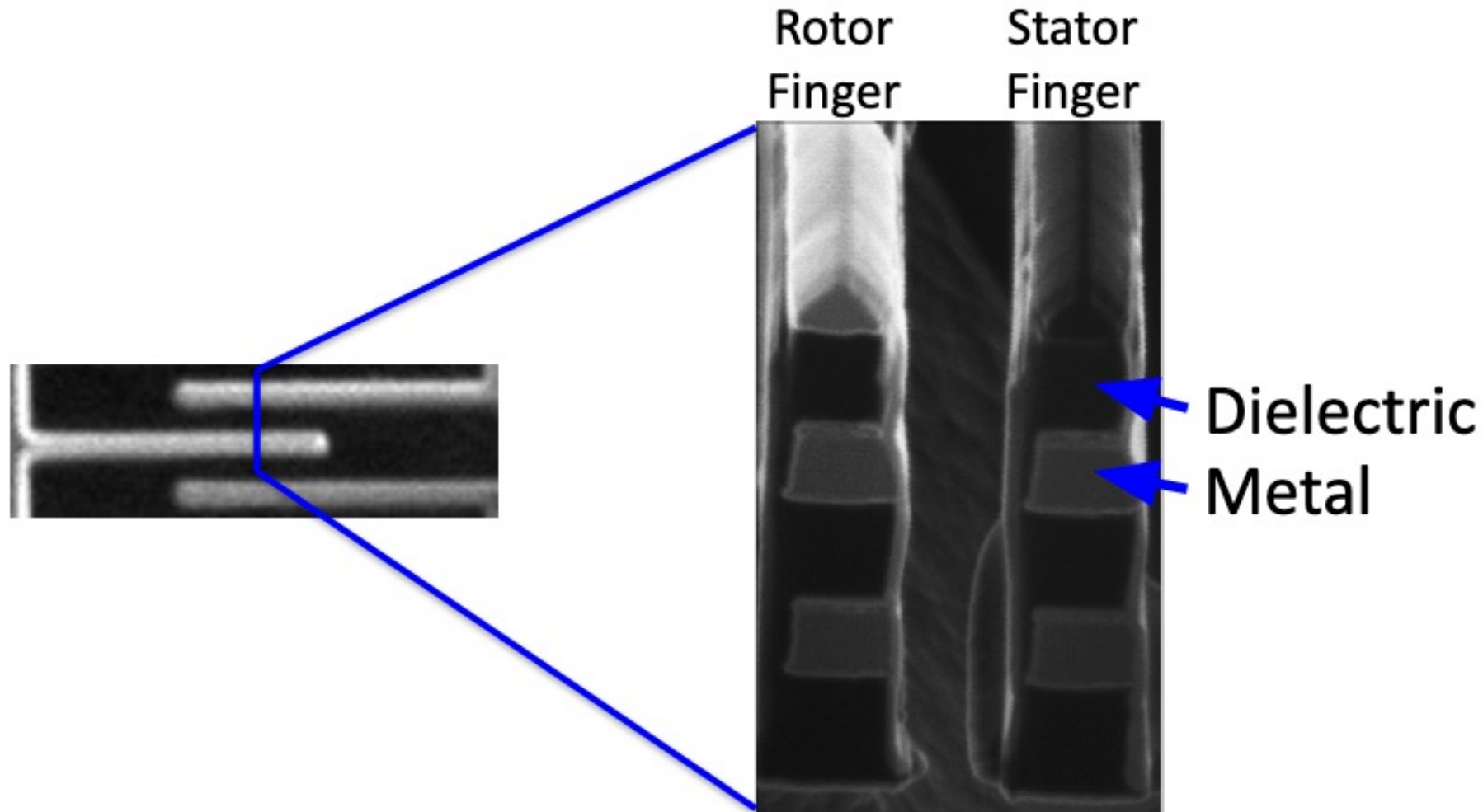
Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Moneum (Intel)

Professor Maarten de Boer

Professor Tamal Mukherjee



# Comb Drive Cross Section

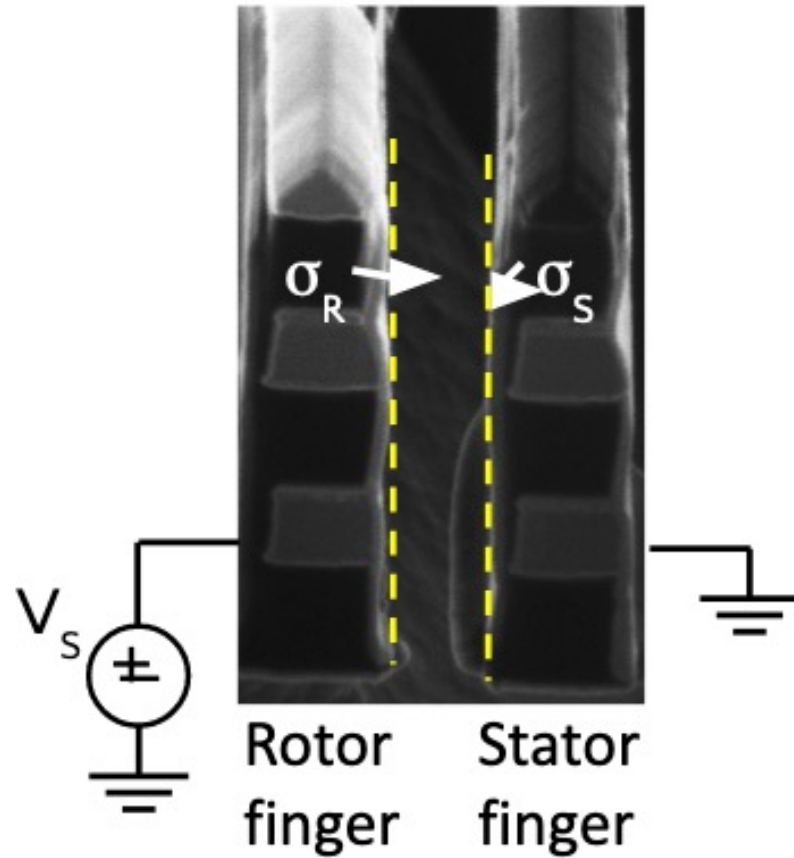


CMOS MEMS Cross section





# Charge and Built-in Voltage



- Trapped charge in dielectrics
- Map charge to the surface
- Summarize charge as built-in voltage,  $\Delta V$

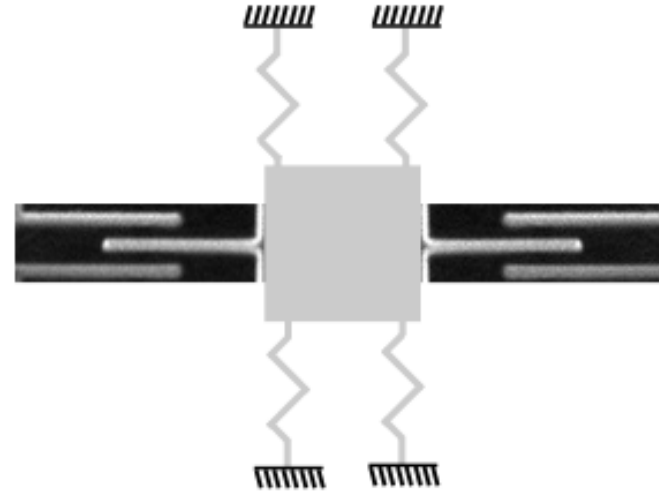
$$\Delta V \propto \sigma_R - \sigma_S$$

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

# Built-in Voltage Effects



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

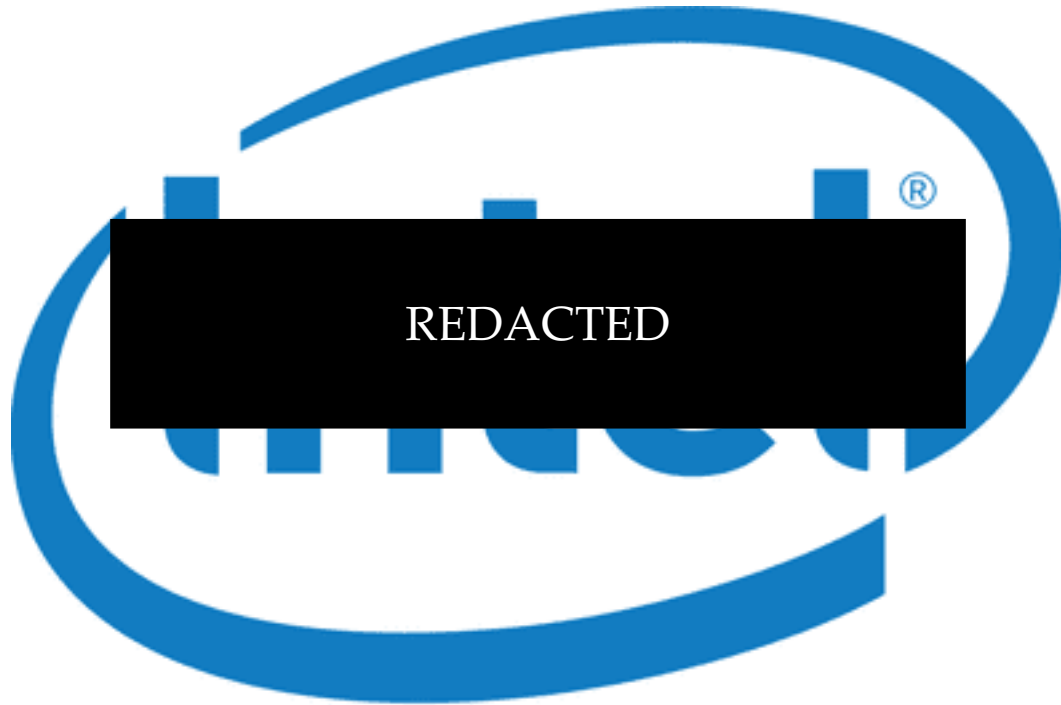


**Voltage Sensitivity**  
(i.e., spring softening)    **+**    **Transient Built-in Voltage**  
(e.g., trapped charge)

**= Unstable Resonant Frequency**



# Yes, My Dream Job Summer Internship!



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

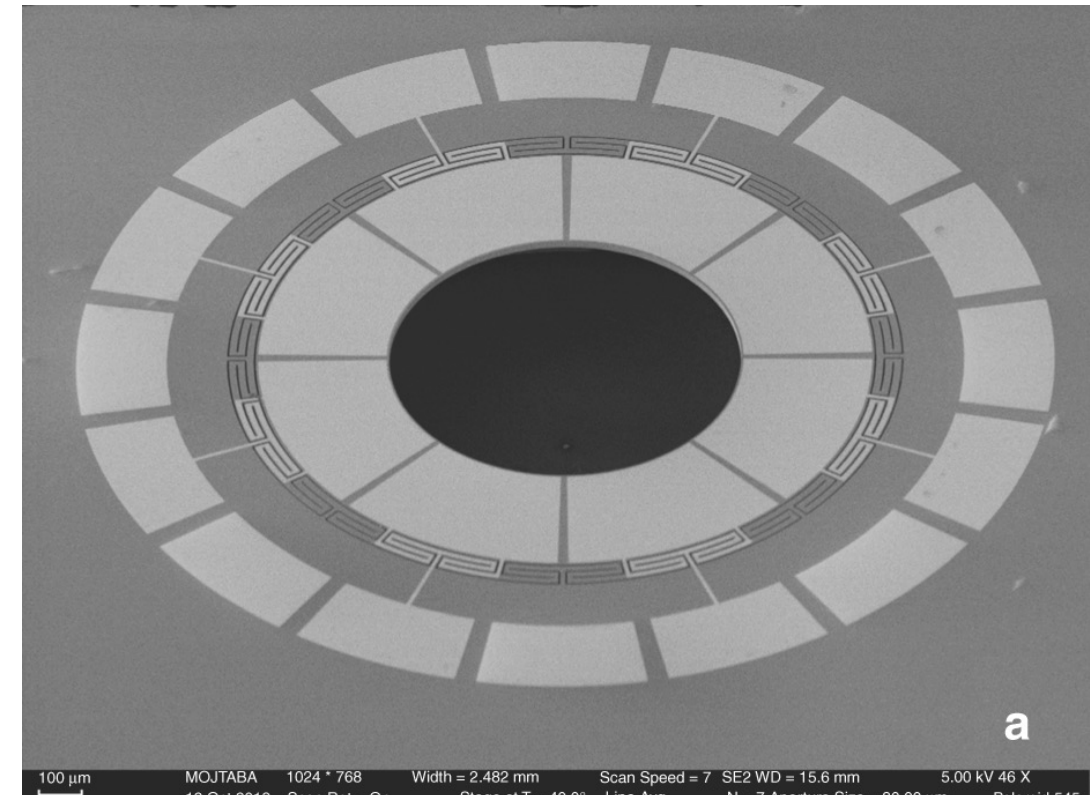
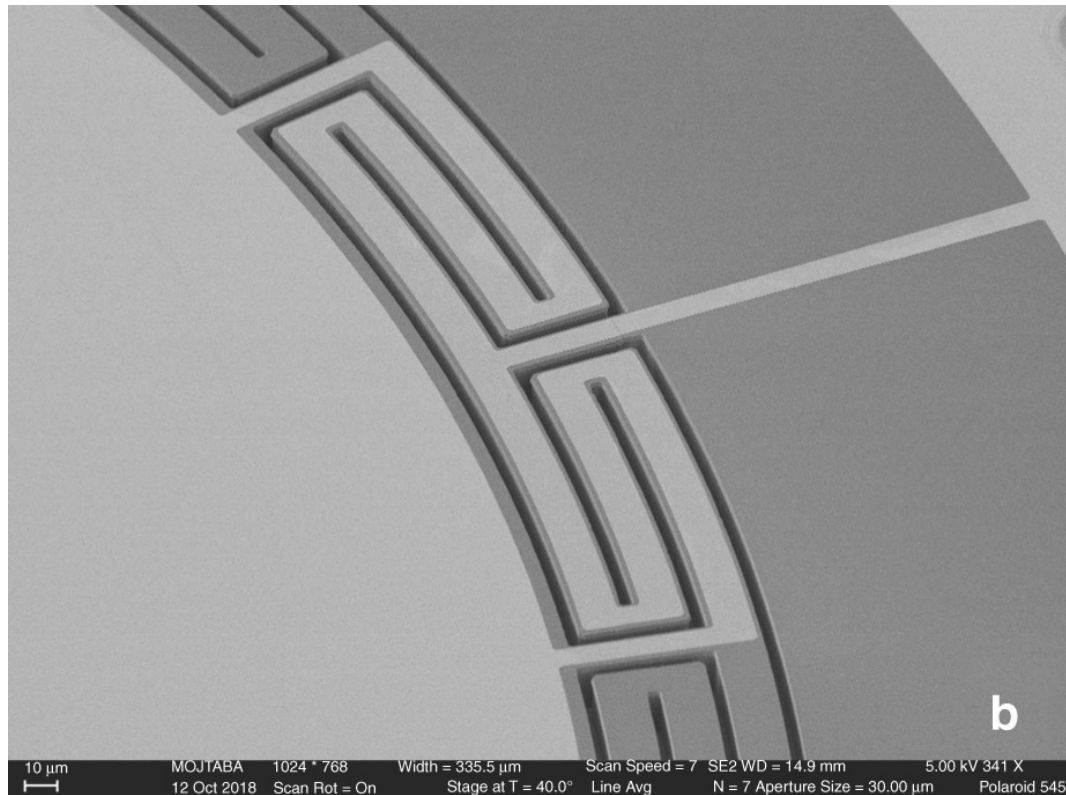


REDACTED

- 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

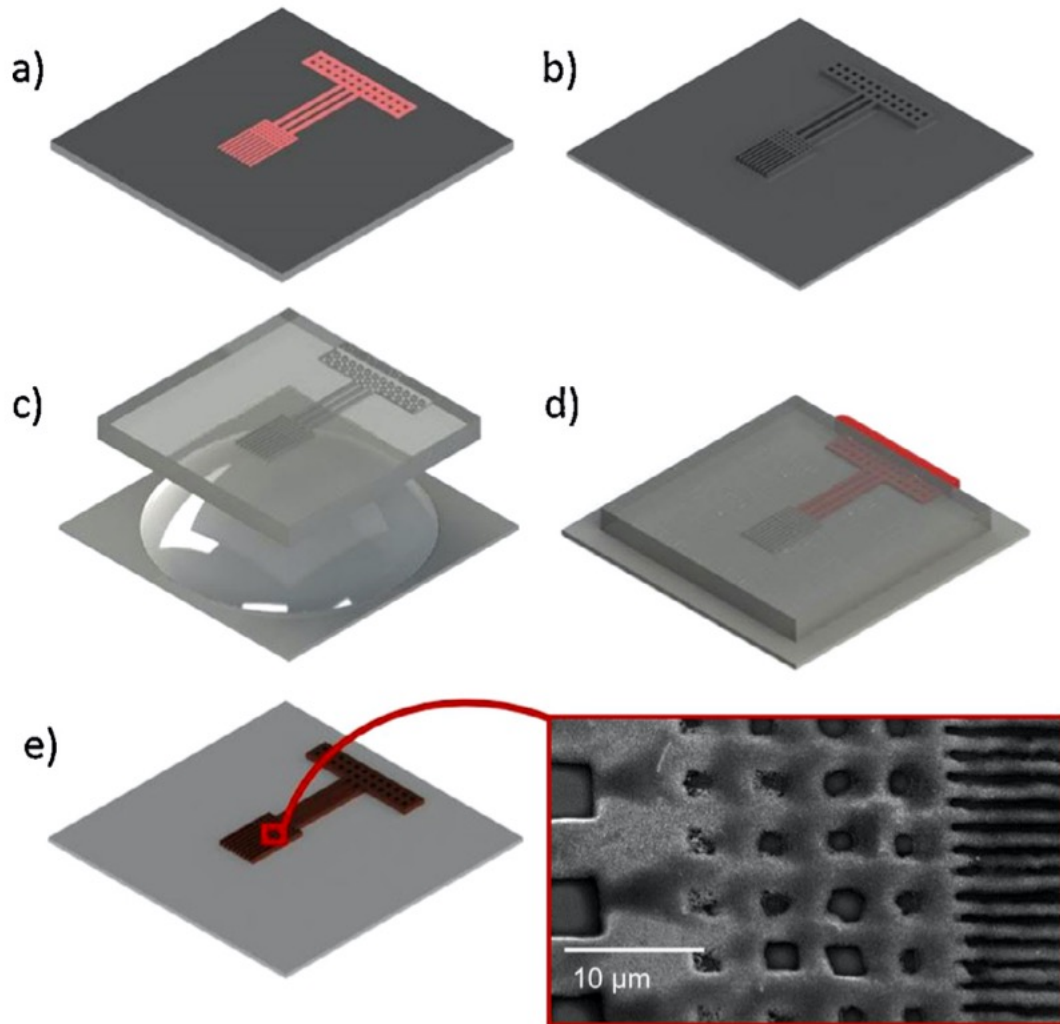


Nano @ Stanford

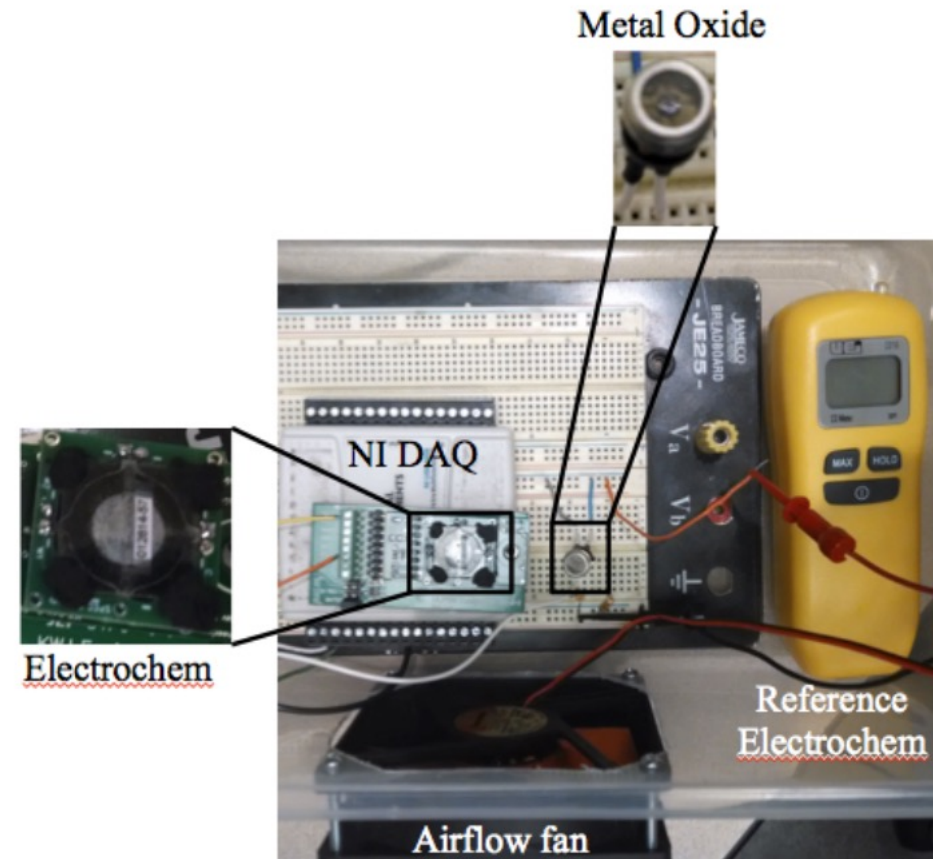




# When life gives you lemons...



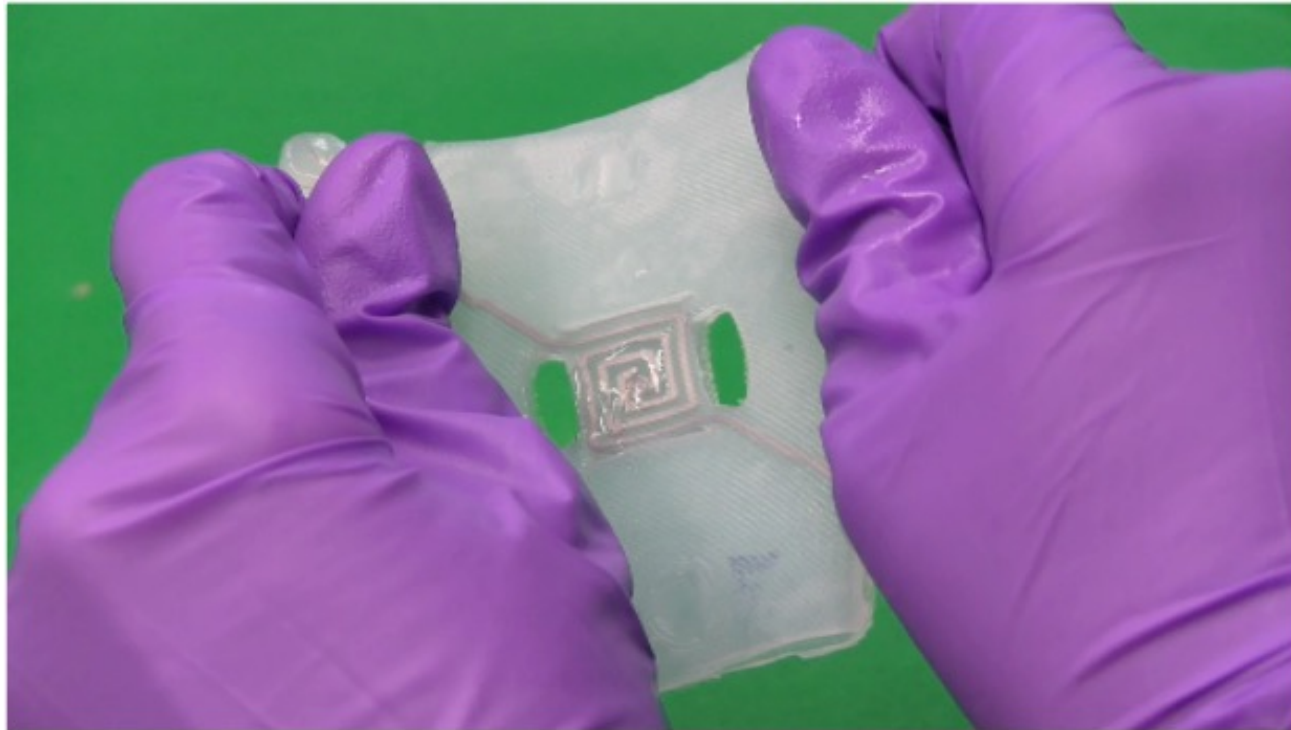
Template Printing



Chemical sensing



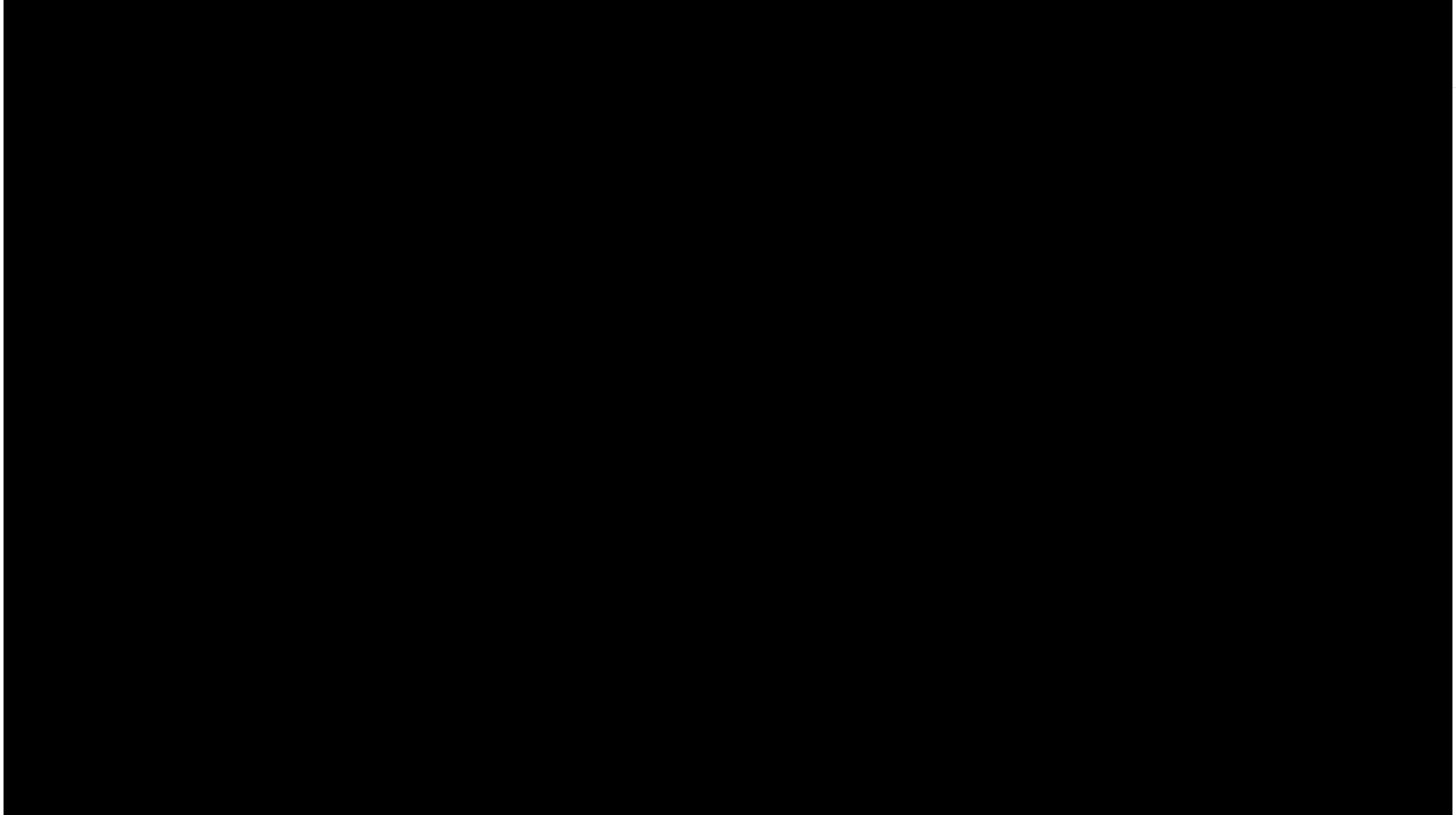
# Movin' on up, to the east side (of the US)



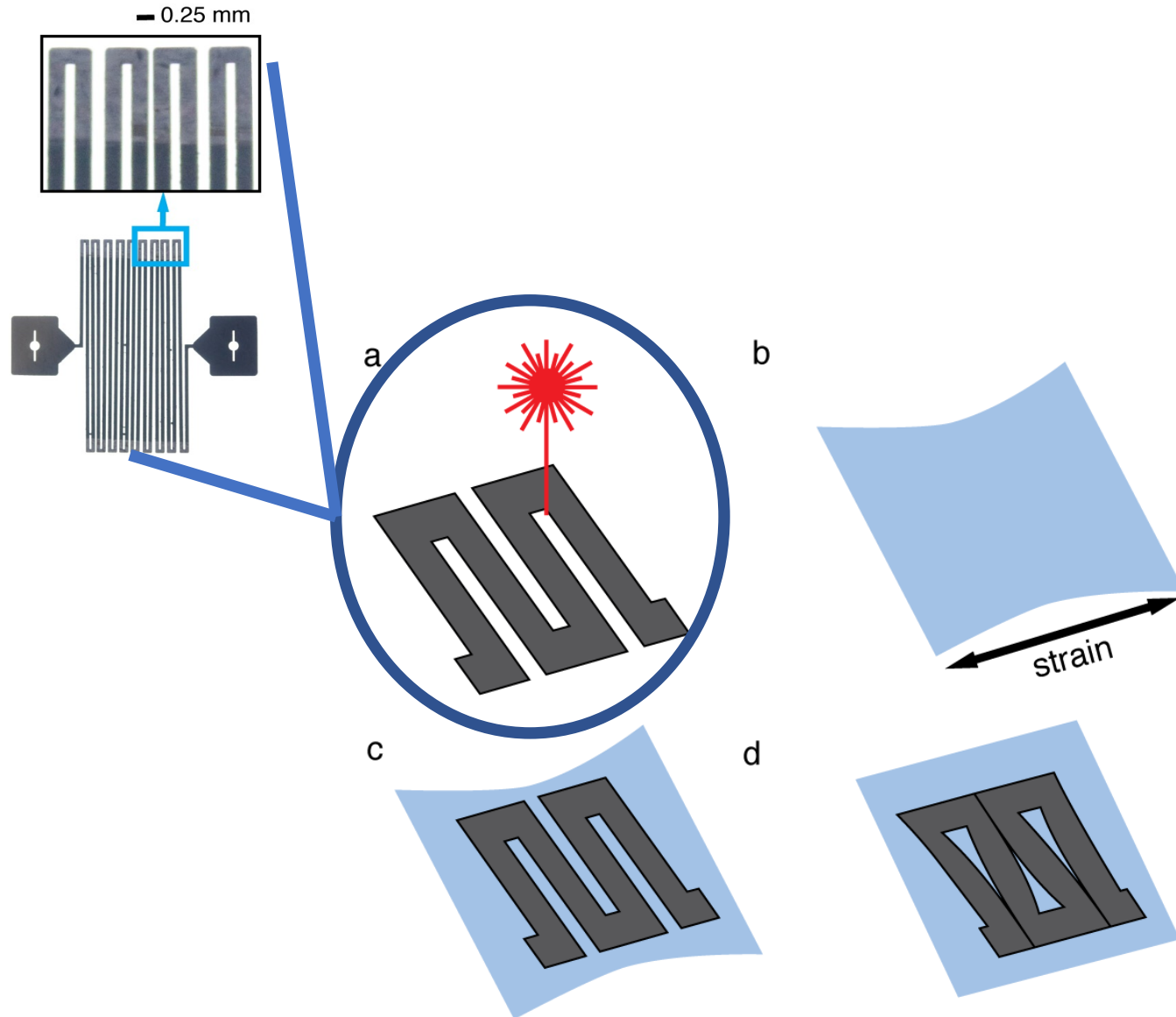
- Knew how to work with silicones
- No cleanroom? No problem!
- Excited to work with undergrad students
- Get to work on a “hot” topic



# SCARS: A flexible, sensitive, robust strain sensor

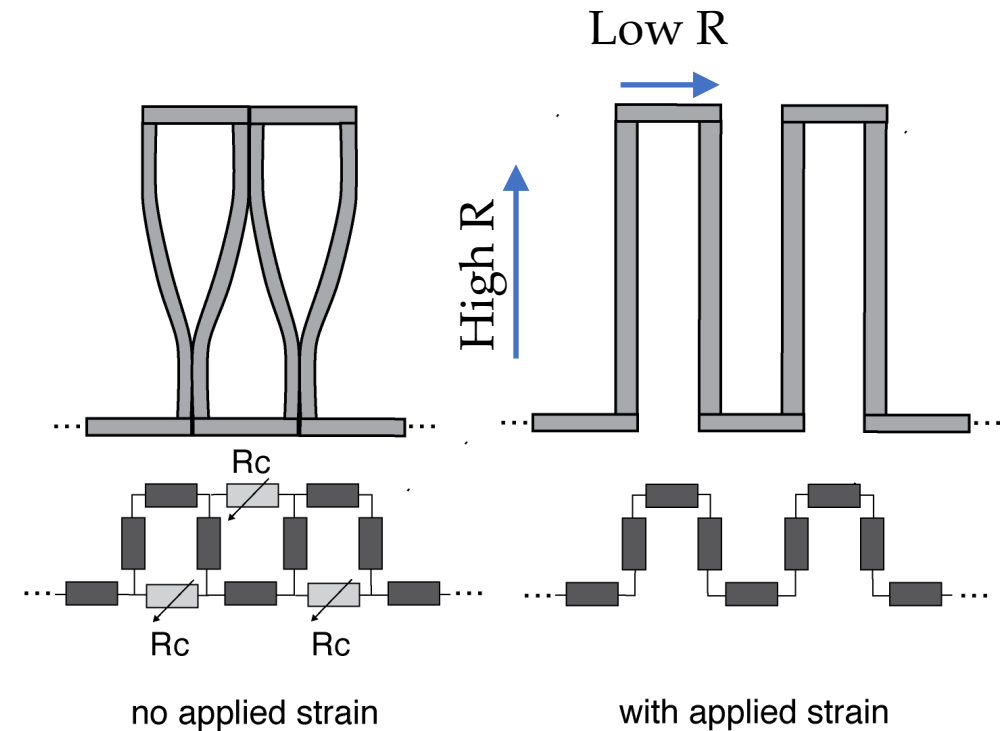
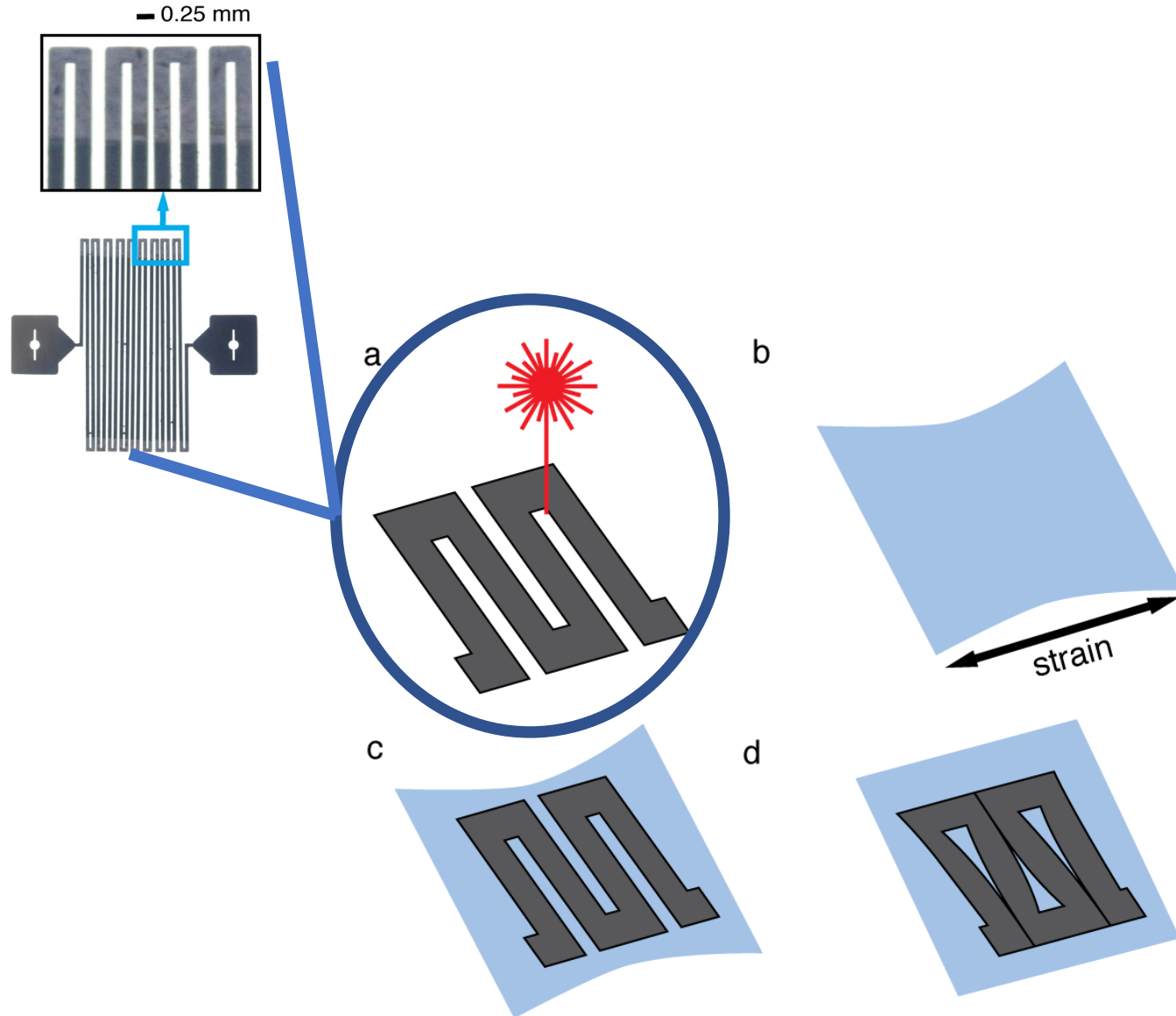


# Selective electrical contact between beams of a flexible carbon fiber serpentine transduces strain

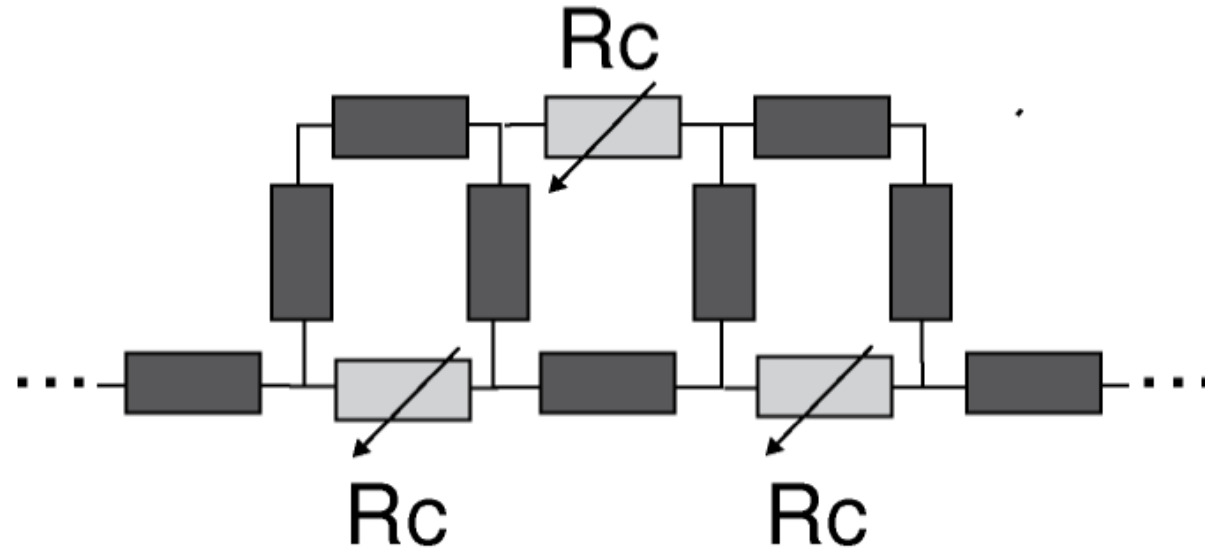
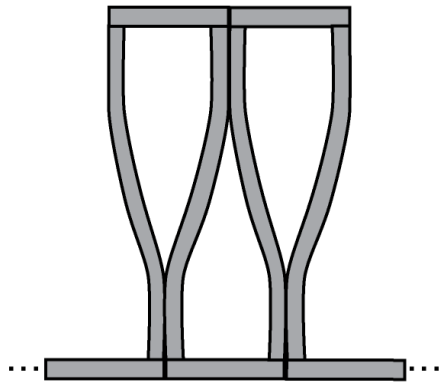




# Selective electrical contact between beams of a flexible carbon fiber serpentine transduces strain



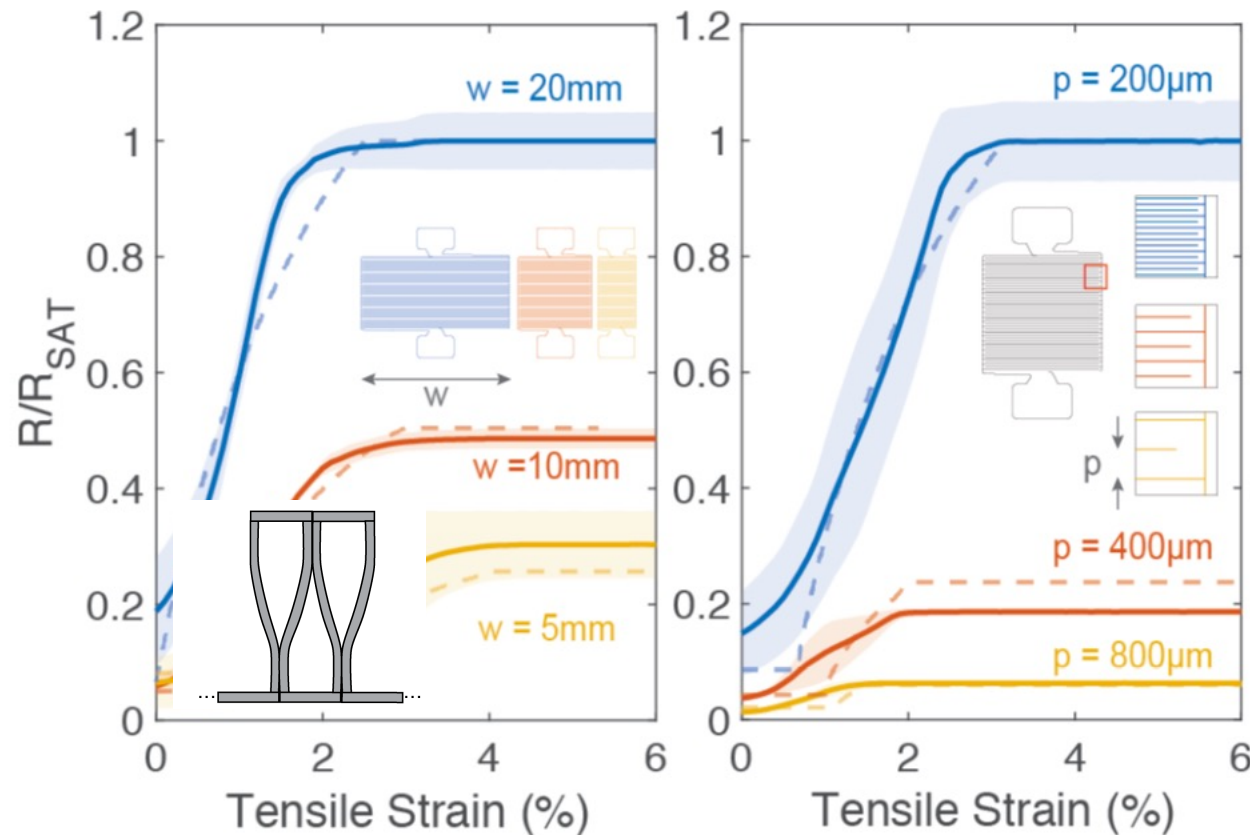
The sensor is modeled as a network of large fixed and small variable resistors that represent contact



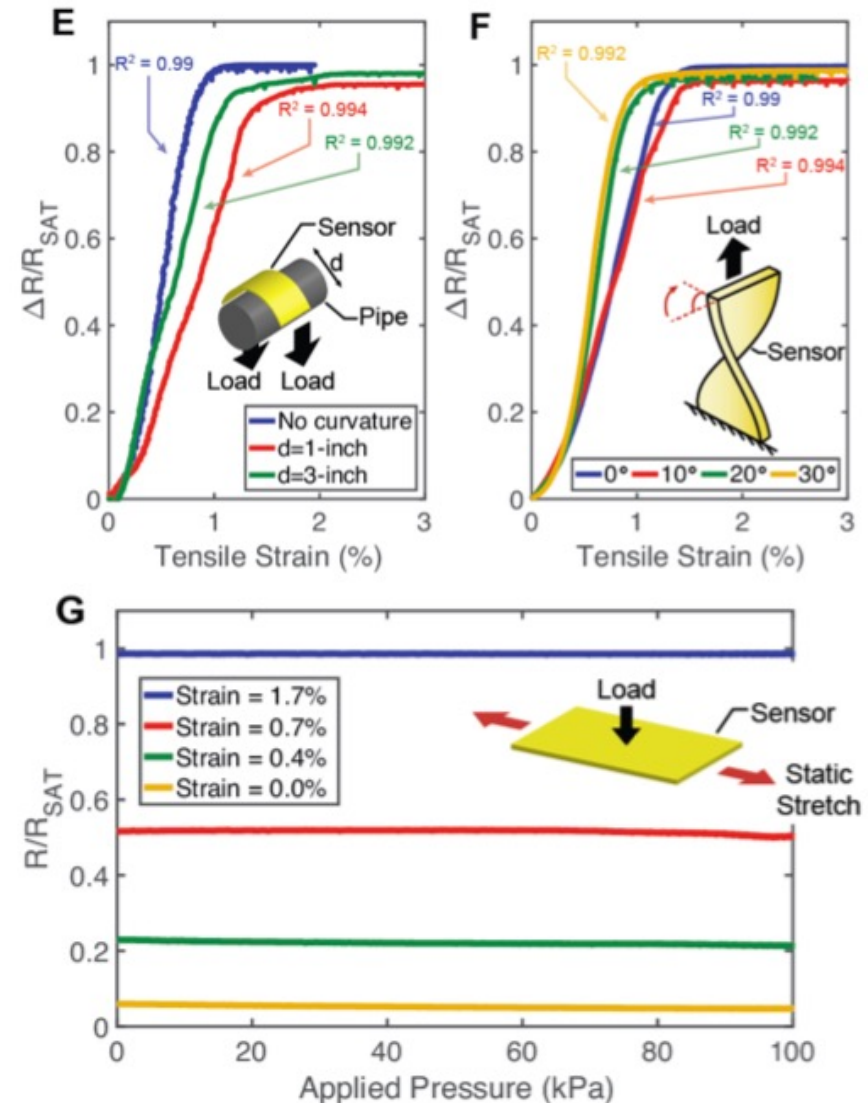
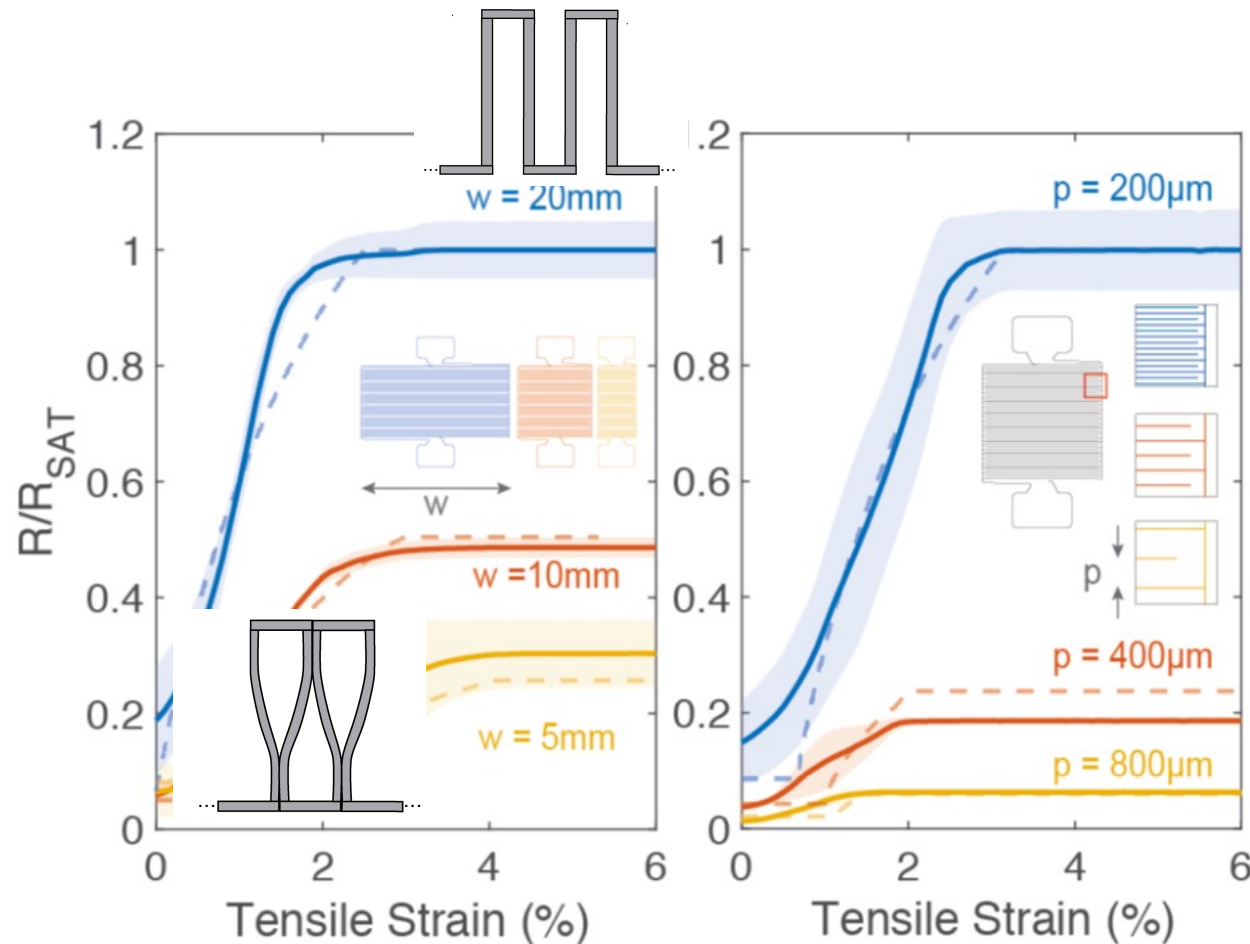
$$\begin{bmatrix}
 \frac{-1}{R_{c1}} - \frac{1}{R_L + R_S} & \frac{1}{R_L + R_S} & \frac{1}{R_L + R_S} & \frac{1}{R_L} & \frac{1}{R_{c2}} \\
 \frac{1}{R_L + R_S} & \frac{-1}{R_L + R_S} + \frac{1}{R_L} + \frac{1}{R_{c2}} & \frac{1}{R_L} & \frac{1}{R_{c1}} + \frac{1}{R_S} & \frac{1}{R_{c2}} \\
 \frac{1}{R_{c1}} & \frac{1}{R_L} & \frac{1}{R_L} & \frac{1}{R_S} & \frac{1}{R_{c2}} \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{-1}{R_S} + \frac{1}{R_{c3}} + \frac{1}{R_L} & 0 \\
 0 & \frac{1}{R_{c2}} & 0 & \frac{-1}{R_L} + \frac{1}{R_{c2}} + \frac{-1}{R_S + R_L} & 0
 \end{bmatrix}
 \begin{bmatrix}
 V_A \\
 V_B \\
 V_C \\
 V_D \\
 V_E
 \end{bmatrix}
 =
 \begin{bmatrix}
 -1 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0
 \end{bmatrix}$$



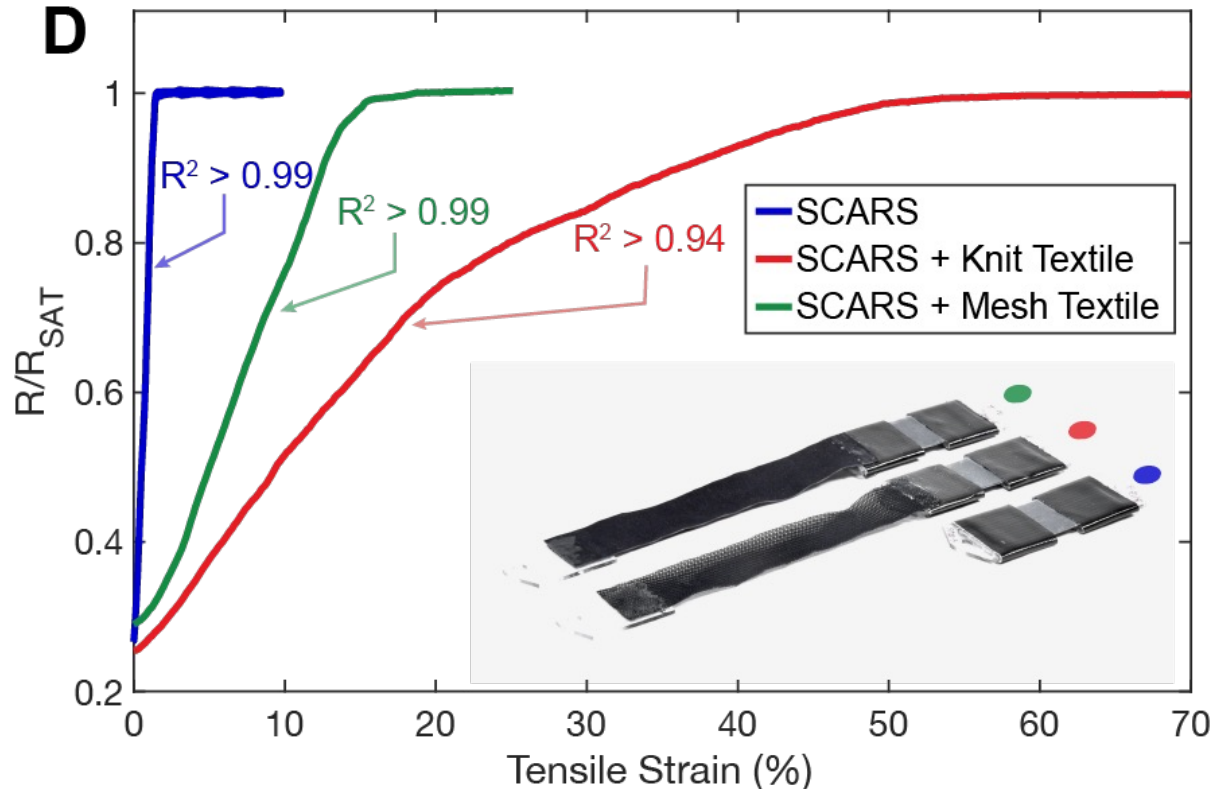
The resistance is tunable through the CF geometry. Strain sensitivity can be predicted from beam bending + electrical model.



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.

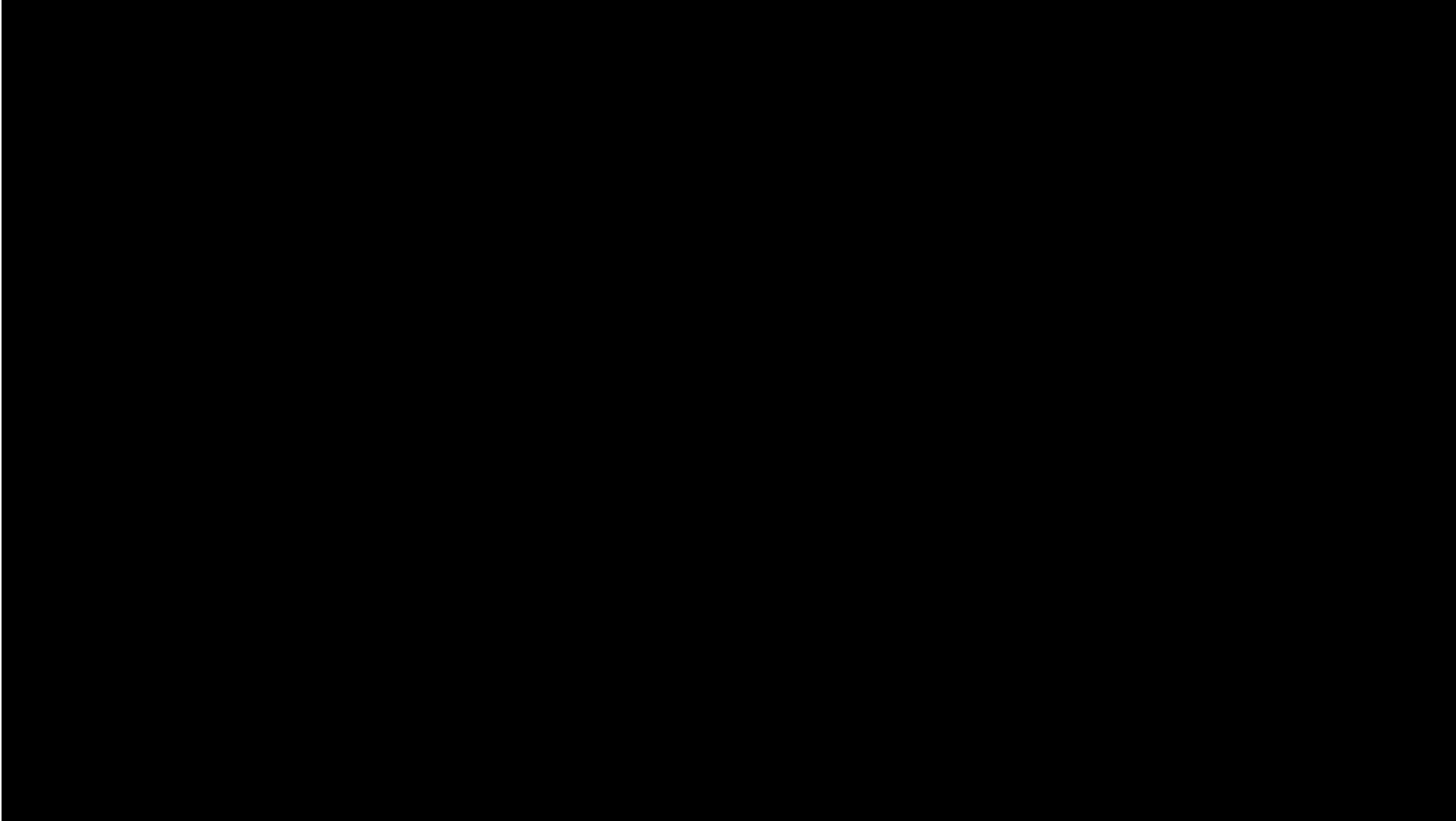


# Applications to edema robotics and healthcare



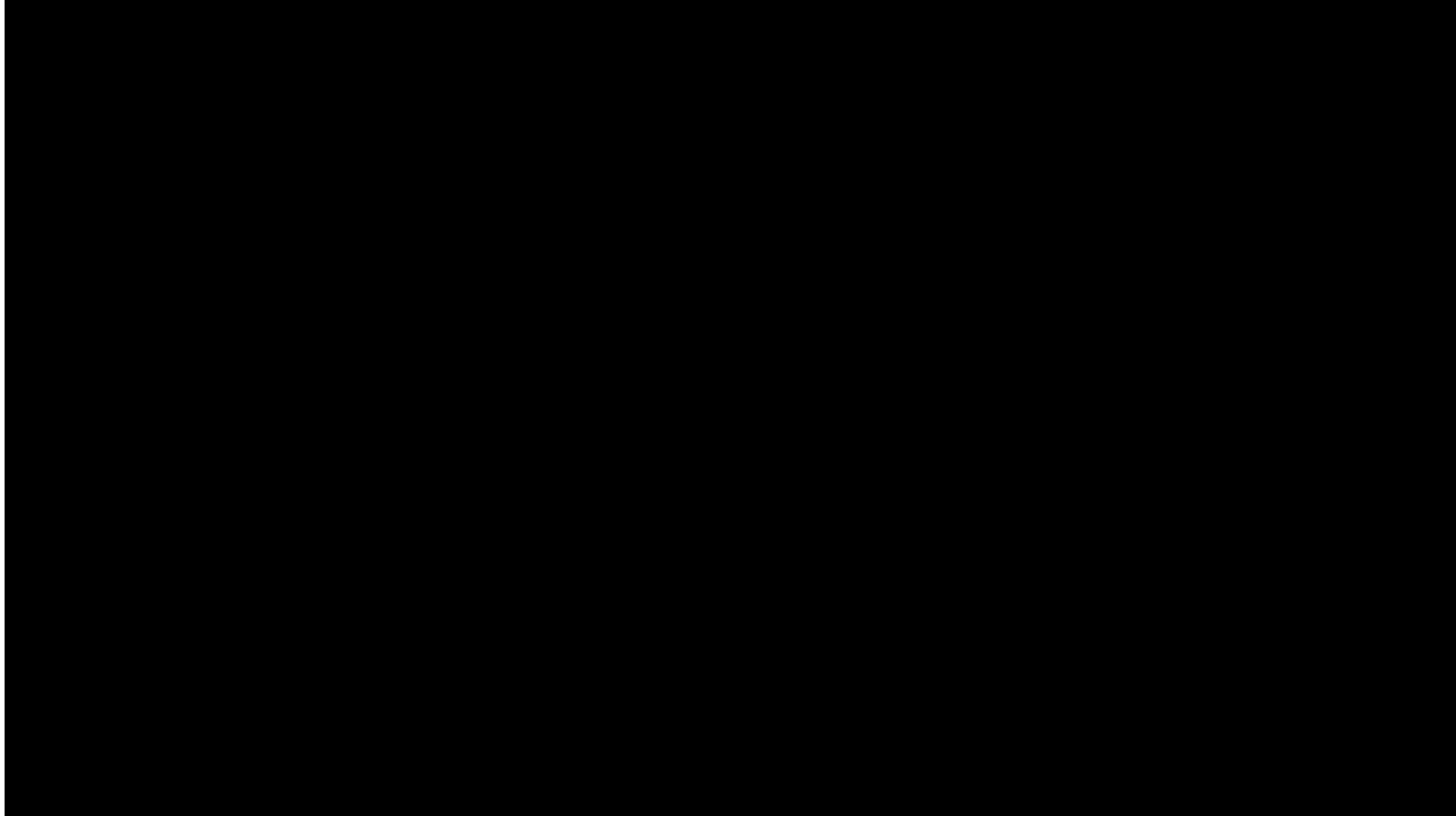
- Detecting changes in limb size with fine temporal resolution
- Informing “high-risk” activities that trigger edema episodes
- Determining when to seek more aggressive treatment, or when to apply active compression or lymph drainage techniques

# SCARS: Selective contact sensors

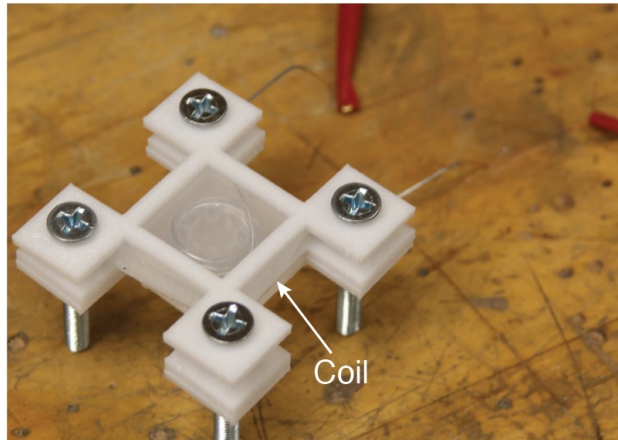




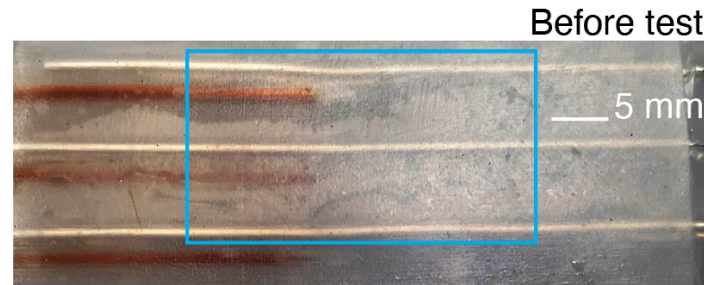
Sensor and actuator properties can also be *reconfigured* by reversible stiffness change



**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<sup>-2</sup>  
3 days after test



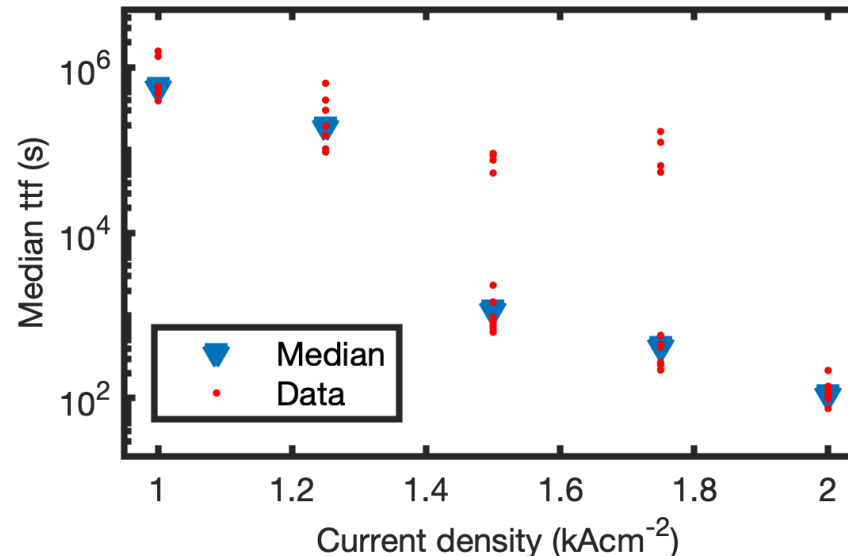
1 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>  
6 days after test



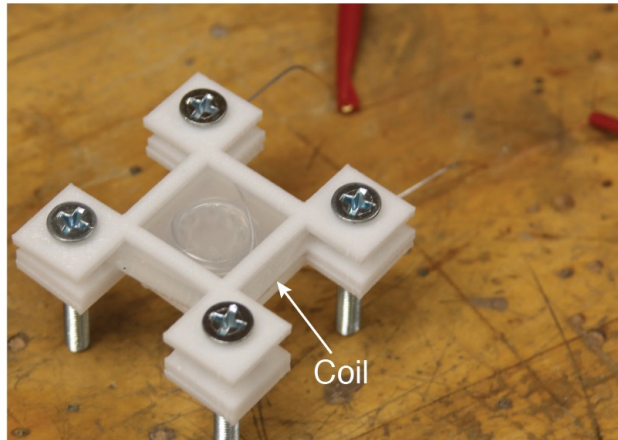
1.25 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>



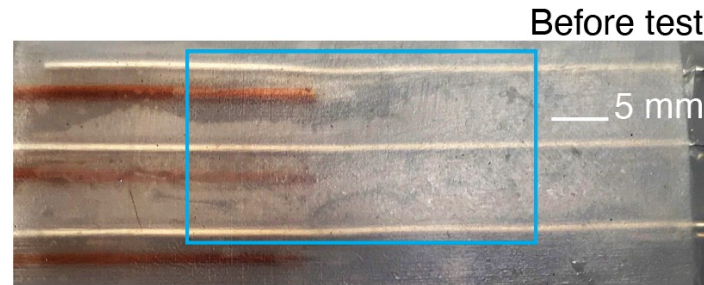
1.75 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>



# Studying samples at high currents shows voids and buckling



Use gallium alloys for:  
Stretchable heaters  
Flexible antennas  
Electromagnetic valves



1 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>  
3 days after test



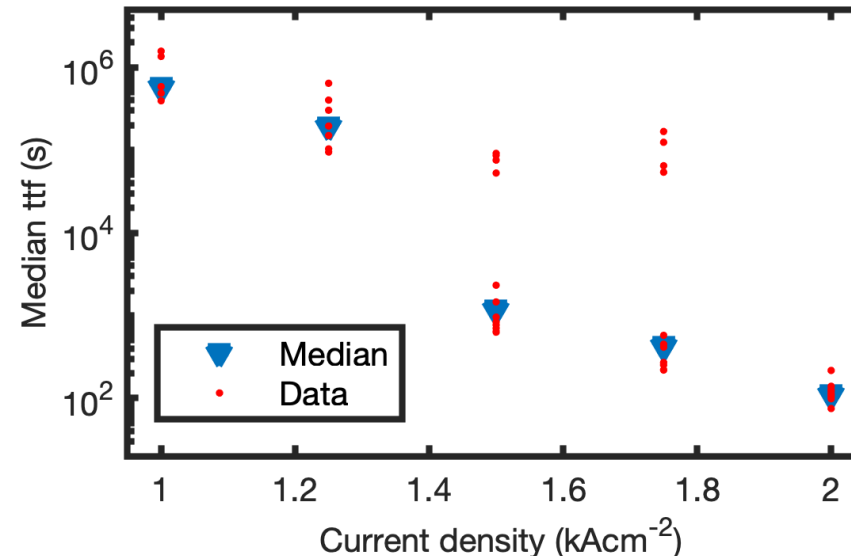
1 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>  
6 days after test



1.25 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>

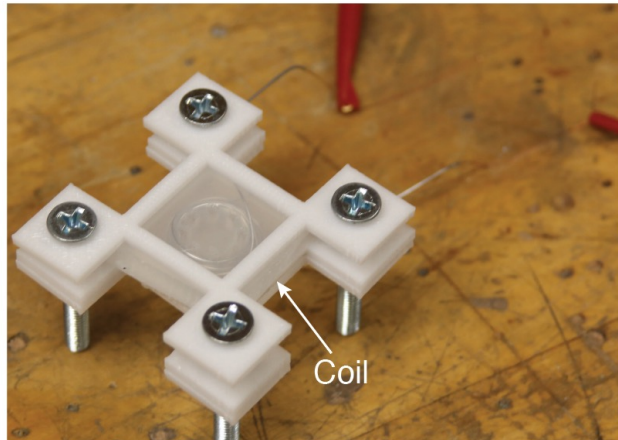


1.75 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>

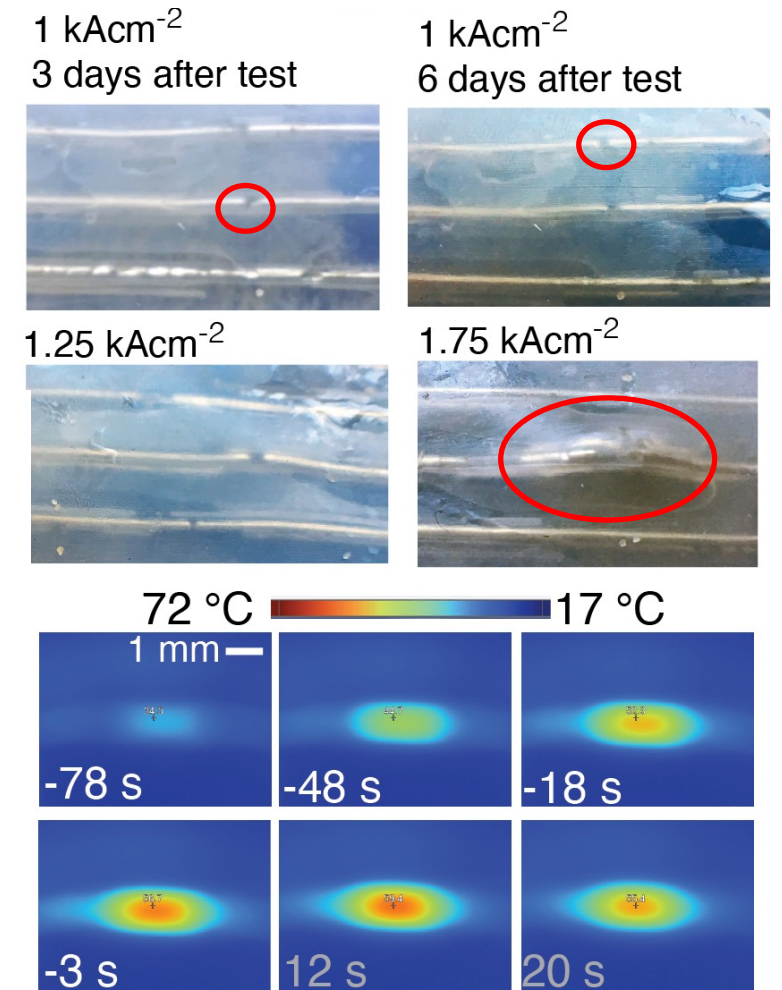
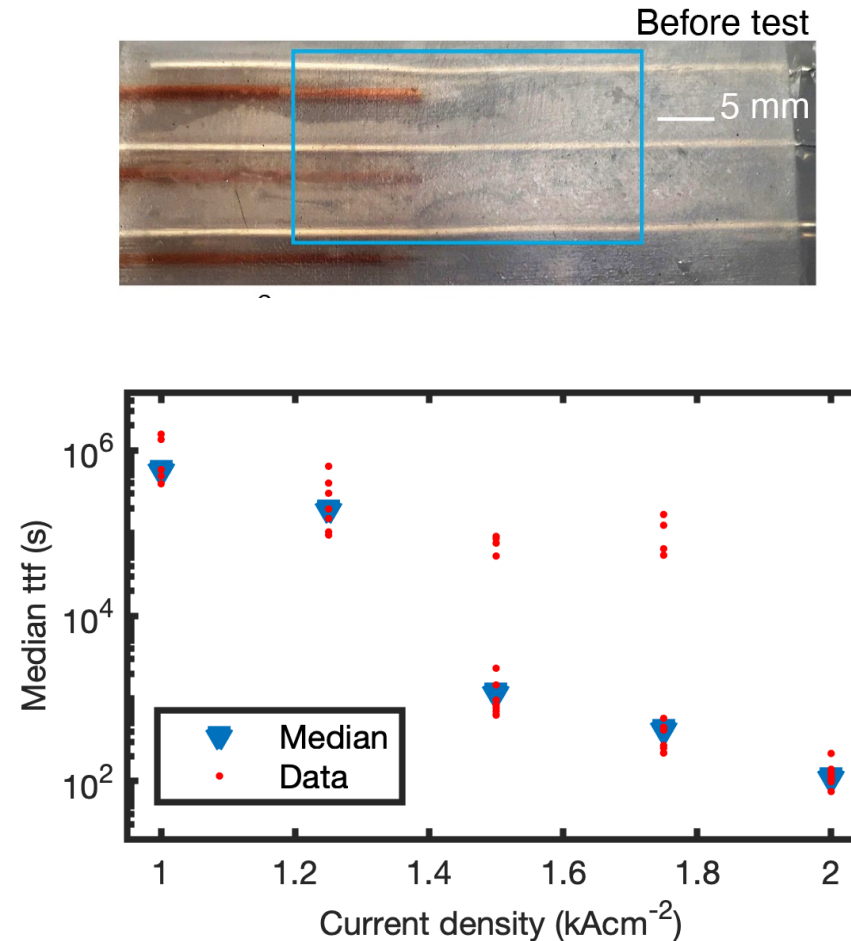




# Studying samples at high currents shows voids and buckling with development of hot spots in wires



Use gallium alloys for:  
Stretchable heaters  
Flexible antennas  
Electromagnetic valves



Failure could be caused by **electromigration** or thermal exp

1 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>

3 days after test



1 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>

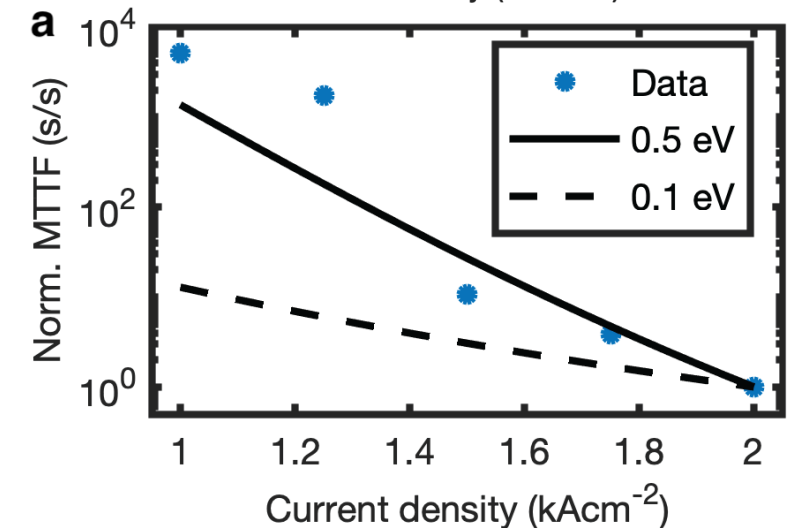
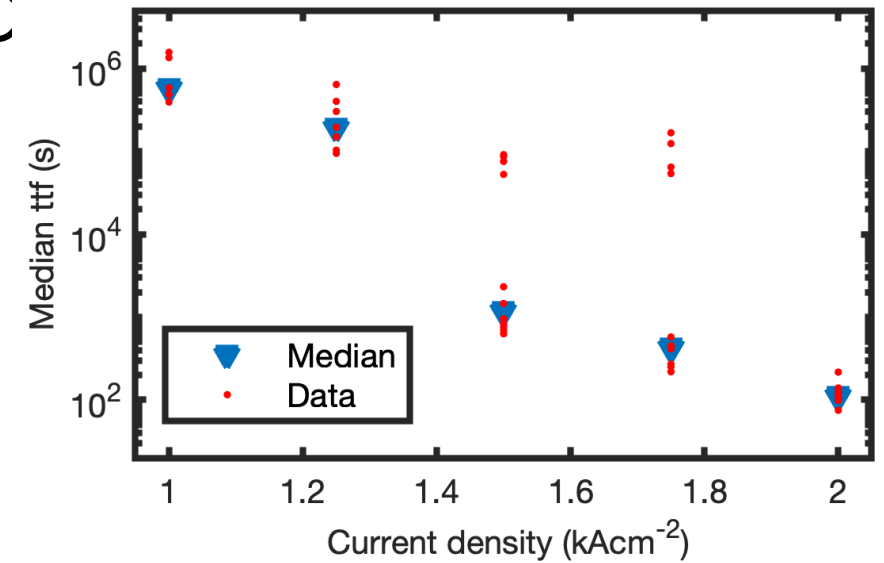
6 days after test



1.25 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>



1.75 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>



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

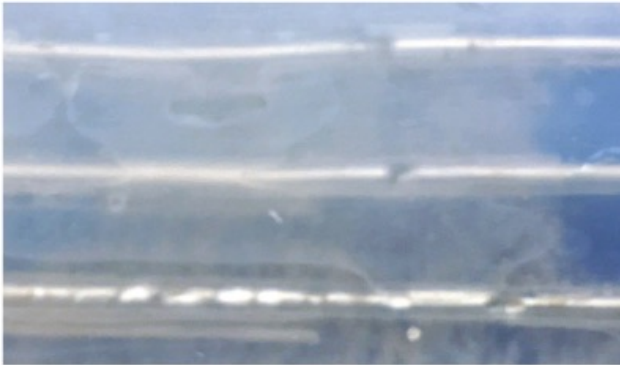
# Failure could be caused by electromigration or thermal expansion

Failure time with:

- 2 kAcm<sup>-2</sup> DC (112 s)
- Heat sink (138 s)
- Pelletier cooling (39900 s)
- 0.1 Hz sqr wave (50600 s)

1 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>

3 days after test



1 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>

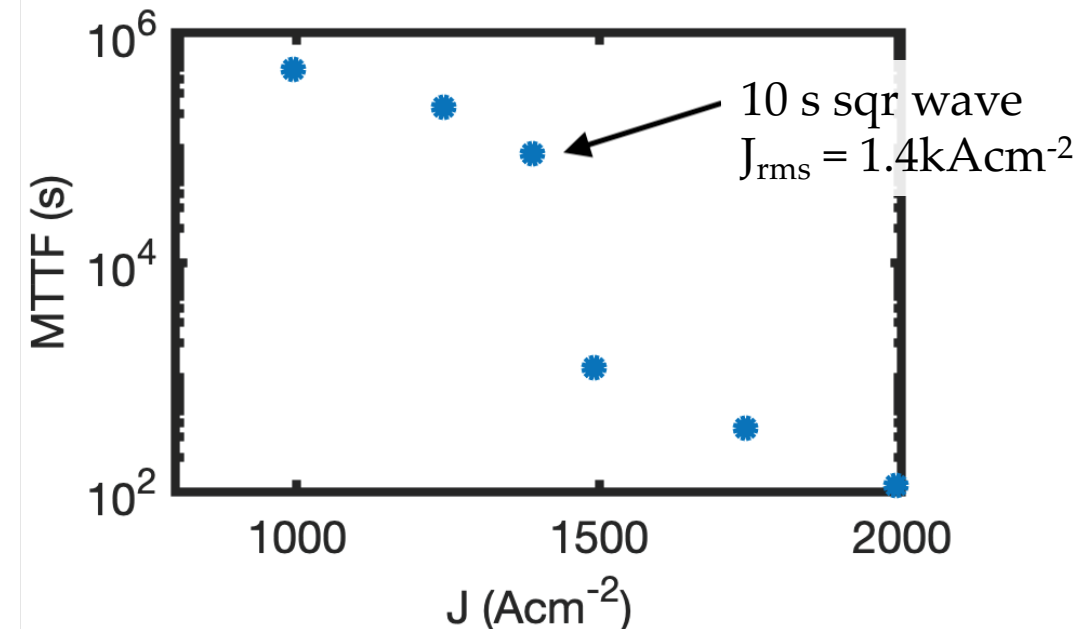
6 days after test



1.25 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>



1.75 kAcm<sup>-2</sup>





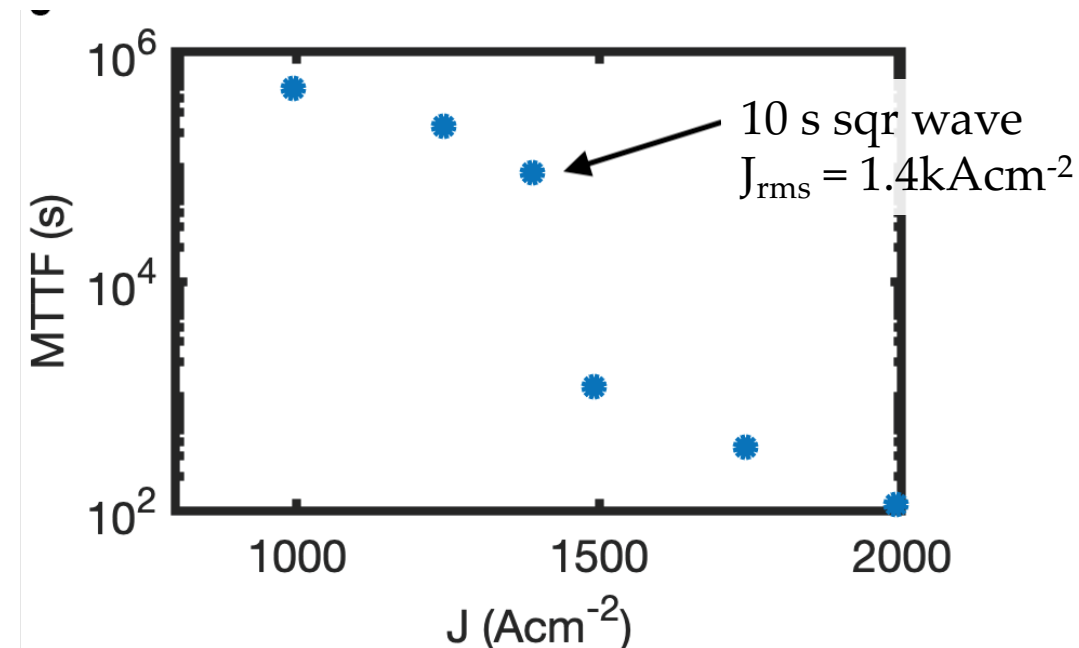
# Failure is likely caused by expansion of elastomer

Migitate failure by:

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

Failure time with:

- $2 \text{ kAcm}^{-2}$  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-)



Damla Leblebicioglu  
PhD Student (2022-)  
[Personal website](#)



Lilly A. Rizvi  
PhD Student (2022-)



## Ugrad Researchers

Musheera Khandaker  
Joined 2022





# What's new? What's next?

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Kris L. Dorsey, PhD

Associate Professor

[Personal website](#)



## Research Staff

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Musheera Khandaker

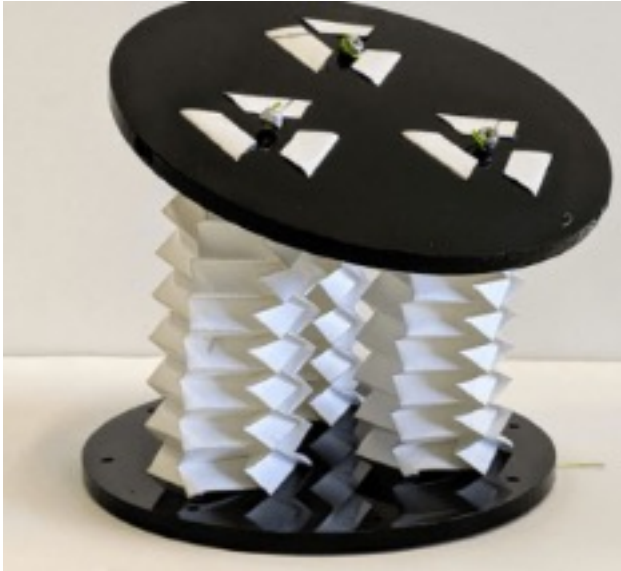
Joined 2022



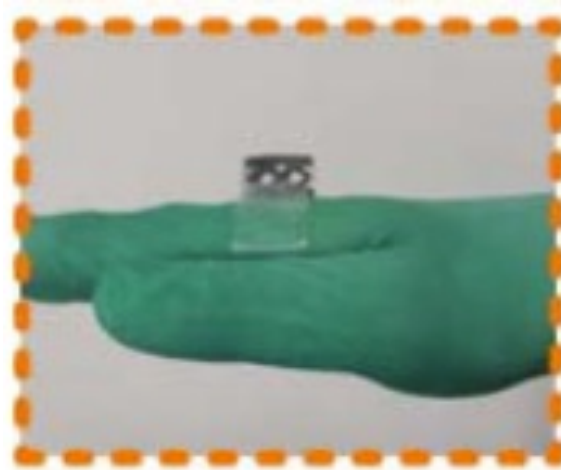
# Origami inspiration has been demonstrated in *many* actuators and sensors



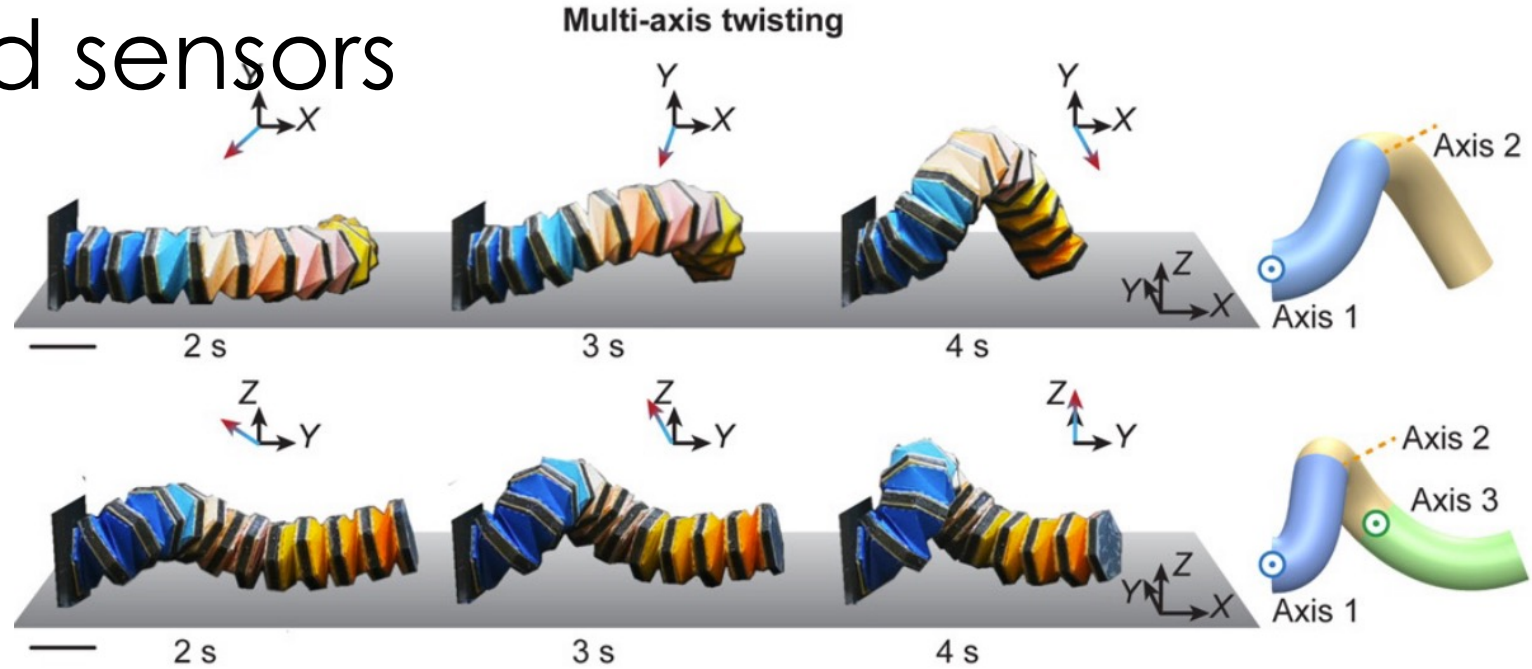
M. Mete and J. Paik, IEEE RAL, 2021



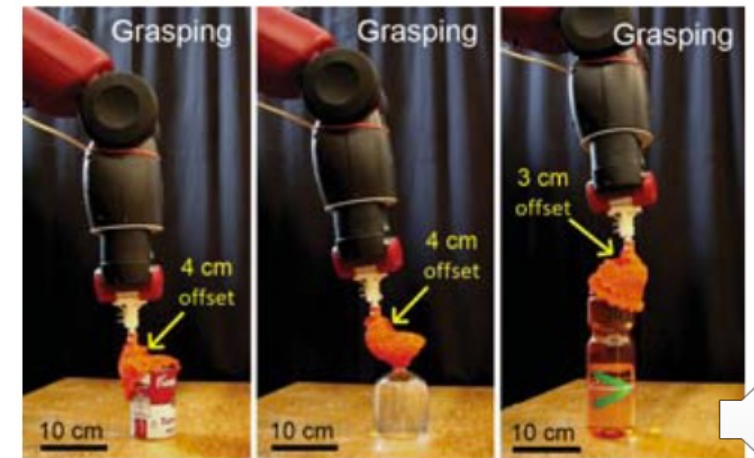
Chen, et. al., IEEE RAL, 2020



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

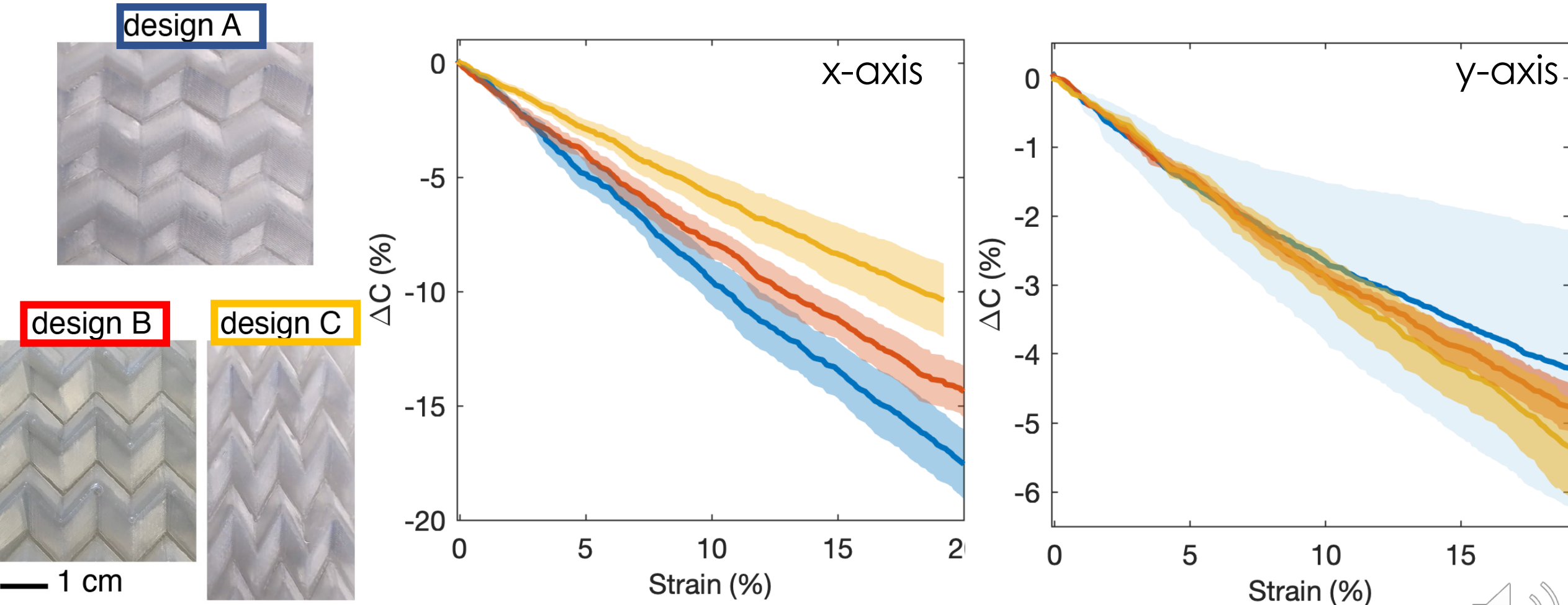


S. Wu, et al., PNAS, 2021



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





# What do YOU want to know?

**[tinyurl.com/doorcMay16](https://tinyurl.com/doorcMay16)**