

Materials and Mechanics for Human-Machine Interfaces via Epidermal Electronics

Hong (Woon-Hong) Yeo, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Institute for Engineering and Medicine

Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering

Virginia Commonwealth University

Web: www.people.vcu.edu/~whyeo

Outline

- Research Background and Device Design
- Surface EMG-based Human-Machine Interfaces
- EEG-based Brain-Computer Interfaces

Research Background

Past



Current



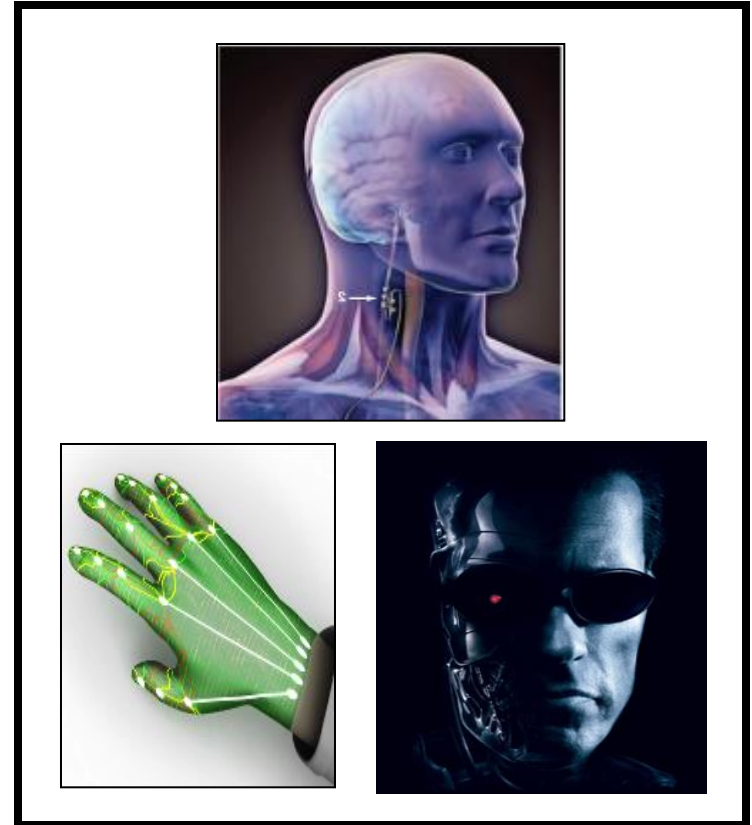
Future?



Industrial



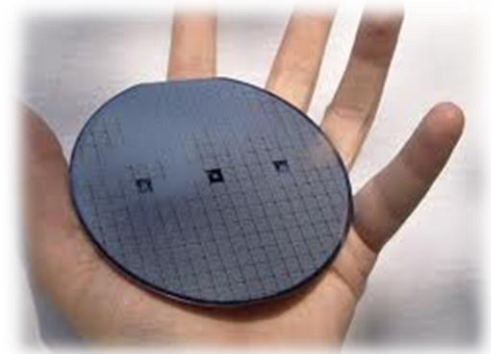
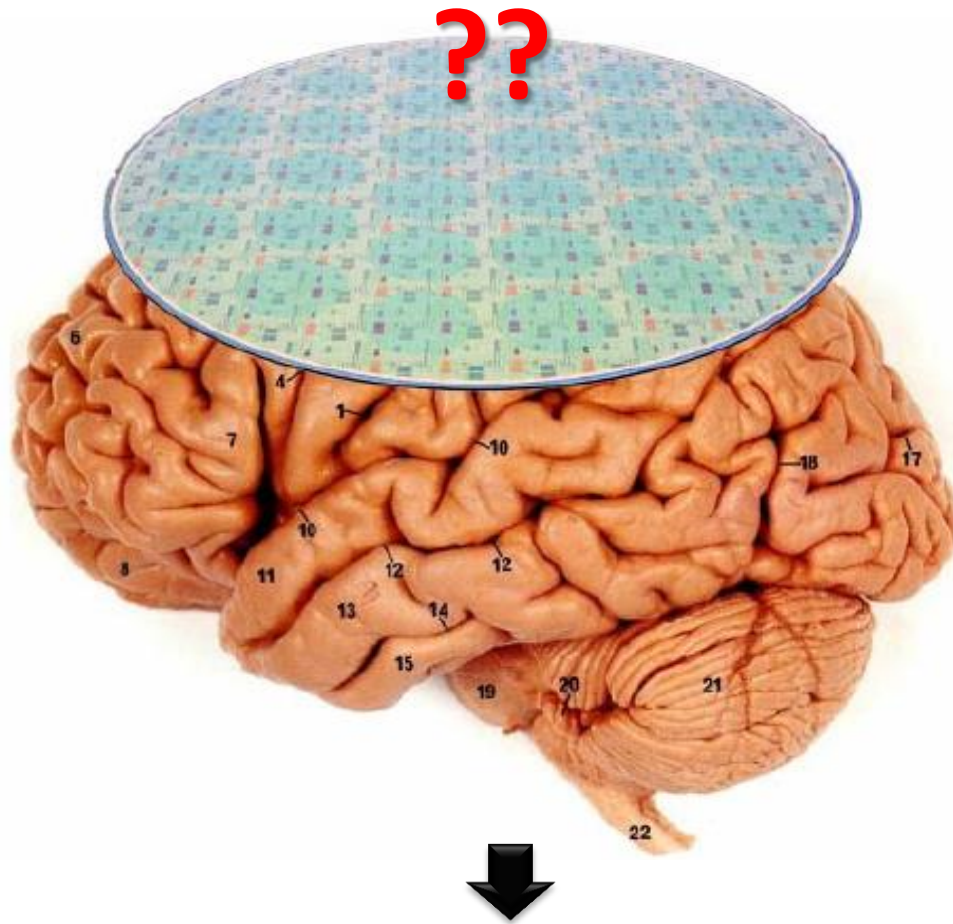
Personal



Bio-Integr. / Bio-Insp.

Research Background

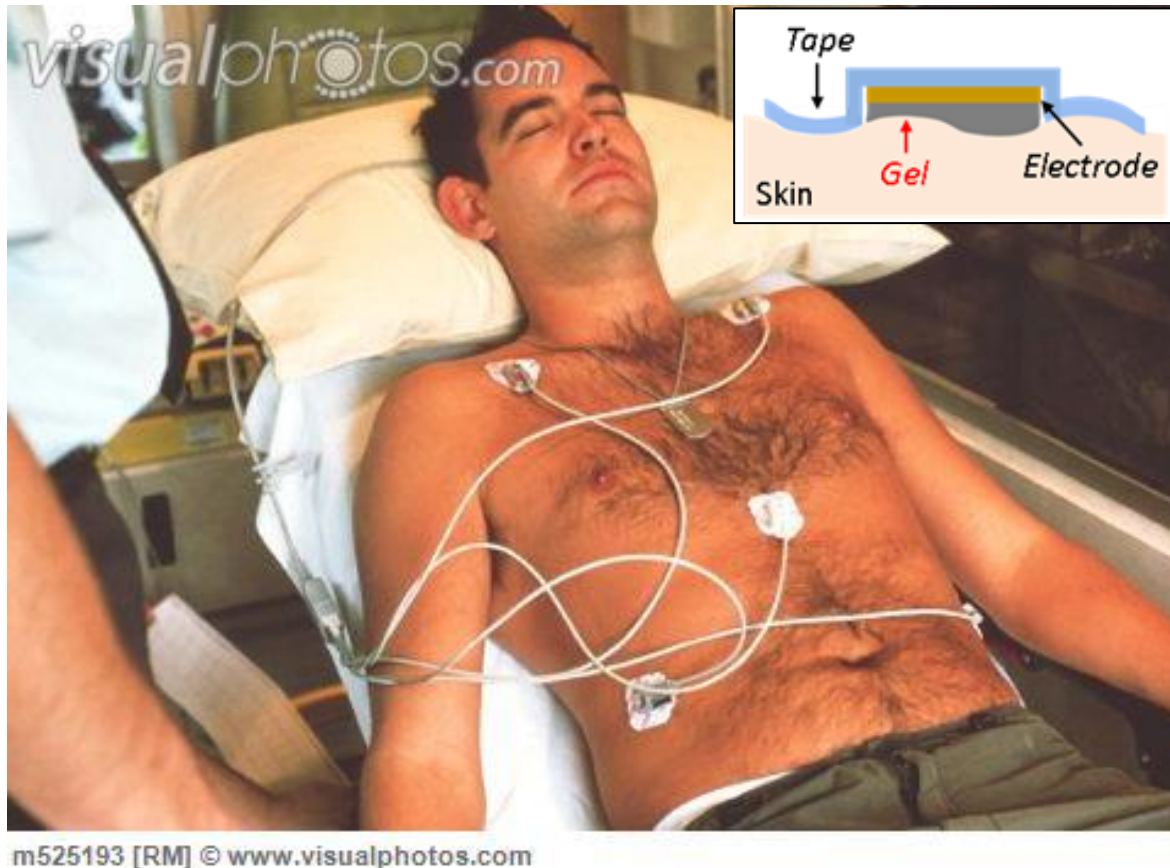
Bio-integration with Si electronics?



Soft Material based Stretchable Electronics

Research Background

Non-invasive monitoring of electrophysiological signals



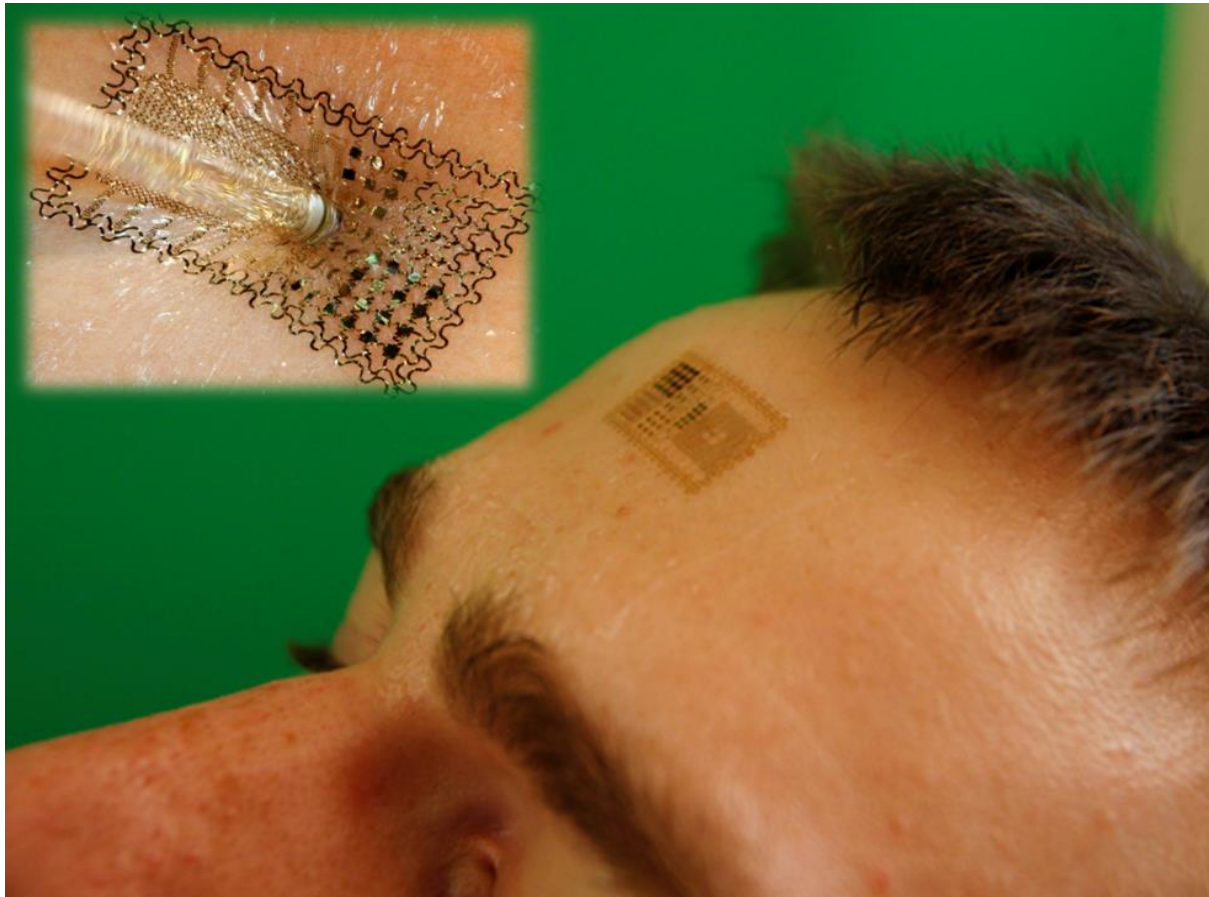
Mechanical mismatch (modulus)

Skin irritation/allergy (gel)

Uncomfortable (stiff and heavy)

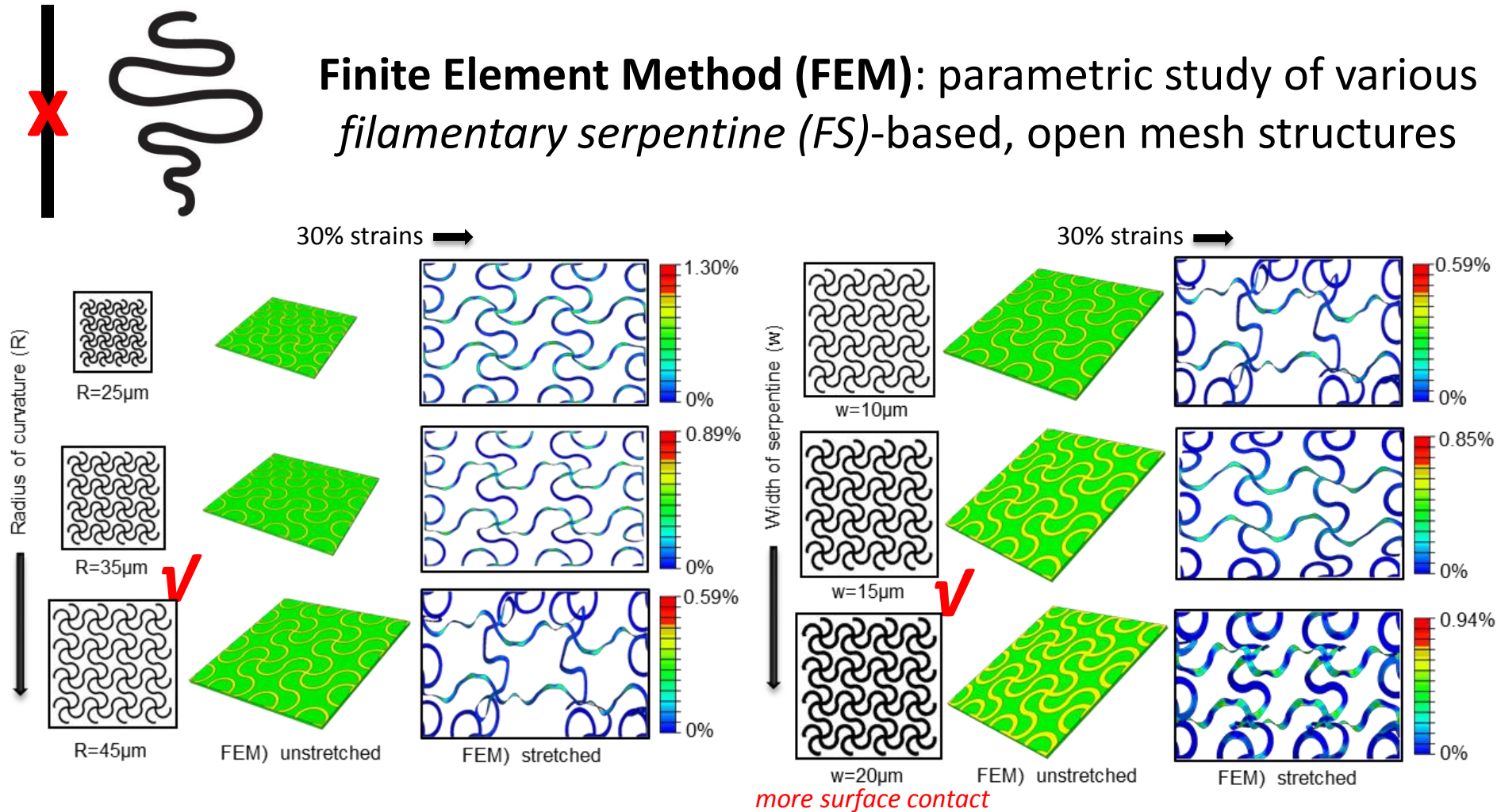
Our Method

Ultra-thin, Lightweight, Stretchable electronics system on skin
“Epidermal Electronics System (EES)”



Mechanics and Materials

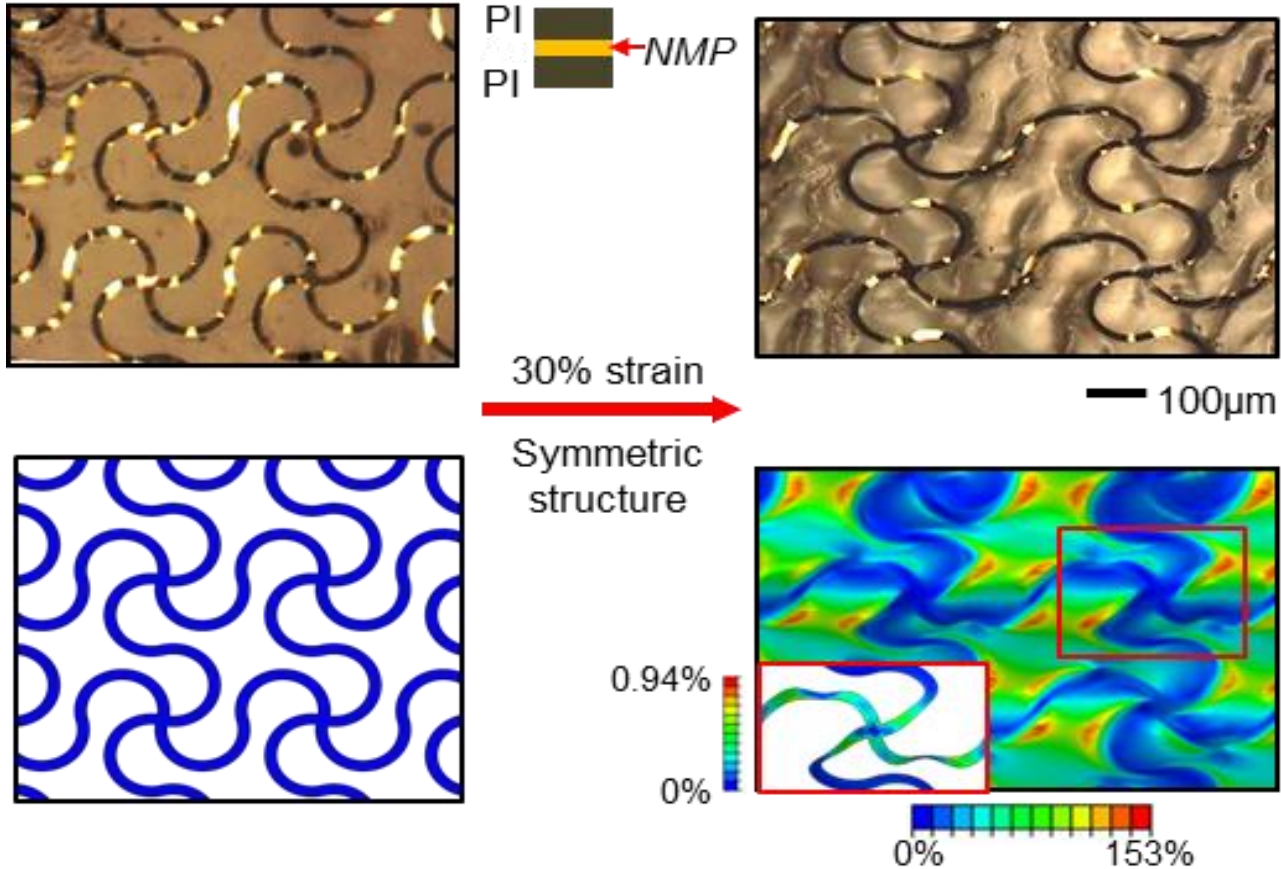
Finite Element Method (FEM): parametric study of various *filamentary serpentine (FS)*-based, open mesh structures



FEM estimates the mechanical stability upon stretching and bending
 Max. prin. strain < materials' fracture strain (1 %)

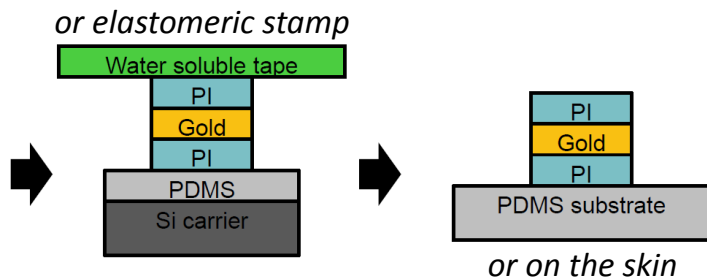
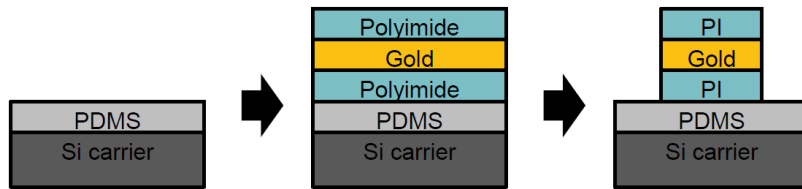
Mechanics and Materials

$R=45\mu\text{m}$, $w=20\mu\text{m}$, $t=200\text{nm}$
Gold in polyimide (PI)

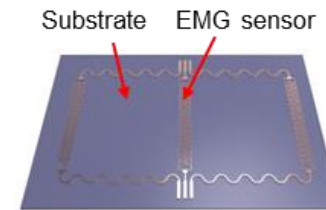


Mechanics and Materials

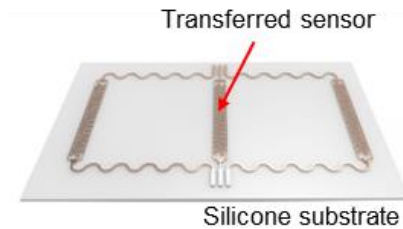
Fabrication?



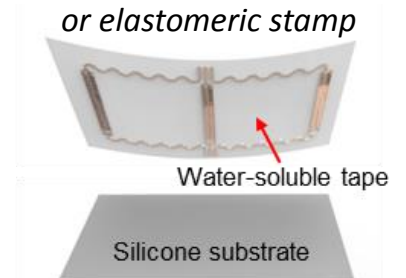
Side view of fabrication process



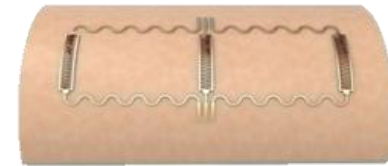
1) Fabricate an EMG sensor



3) Transfer-print the sensor on thin silicone substrate



2) Pick up the sensor for transfer



4) Laminate the device on skin

Schematics of fabrication

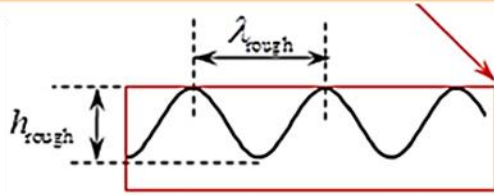
Movie) printing of stamp-mounted EES to the skin





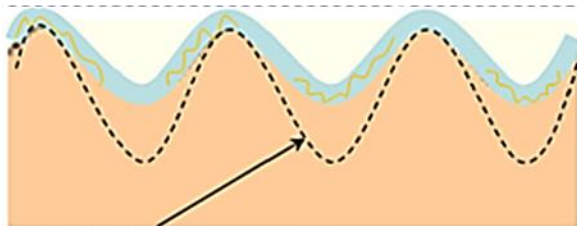
Mechanics and Materials

THICKNESS of EES for conformal and intimate contact?



$$y(x) = h_{rough} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda_{rough}} x\right)$$

Skin morphology in a sinusoidal form



Initial skin surface

On conformal lamination*,

$$U_{interface} = U_{EES \text{ bending}} + U_{skin \text{ elasticity}} + U_{adhesion}$$

$$U_{EES \text{ bending}} \propto EI_{EES} \quad \text{Bending stiffness}$$

$$U_{skin \text{ elasticity}} \propto E_{skin} \quad \text{Modulus}$$

$$U_{adhesion} \propto \gamma \quad \text{Work of adhesion}$$

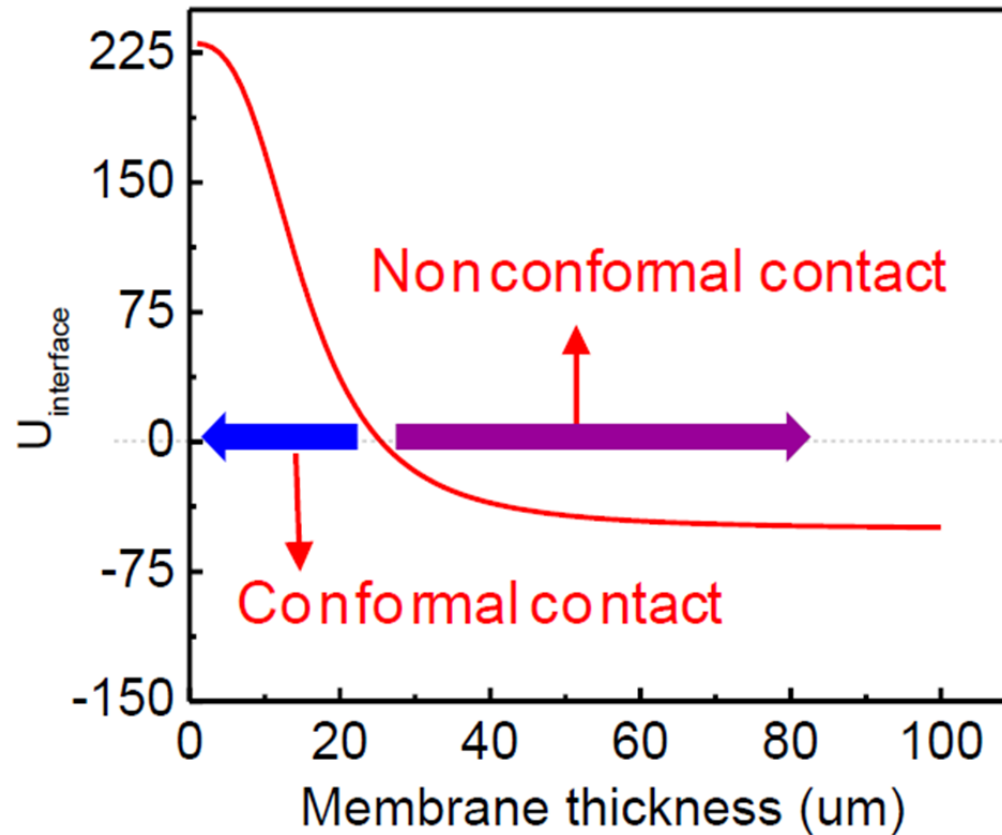
Conformal contact: when the adhesion energy is bigger than the sum of the EES bending and skin elastic energy.

$$\frac{\pi E_{skin} h_{skin}^2}{\gamma_{EES} \lambda_{skin}} - \frac{E_{skin} \lambda_{skin}^3}{\pi^3 (EI_{EES})} - 16 < 0$$

*Local deformation energy at EES edges are negligible.

Skin is regarded as a semi-infinite body

Mechanics and Materials

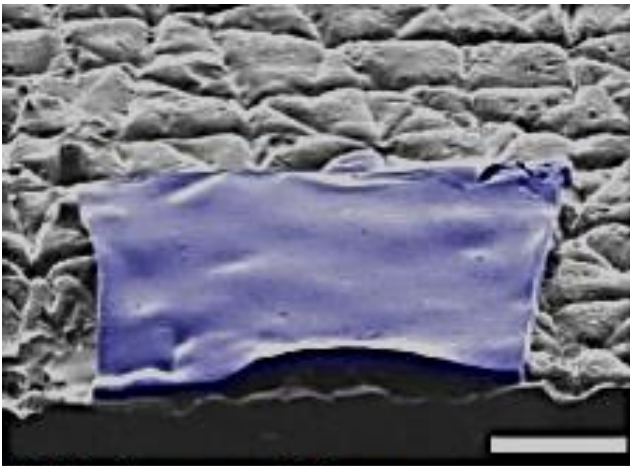


Critical thickness $\approx 25 \mu\text{m}$

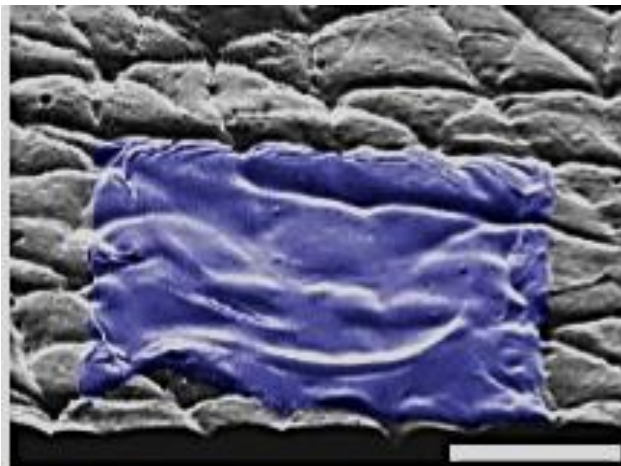
when amplitude is $100 \mu\text{m}^*$ and wavelength is $140 \mu\text{m}^{**}$ (max values)

Mechanics and Materials

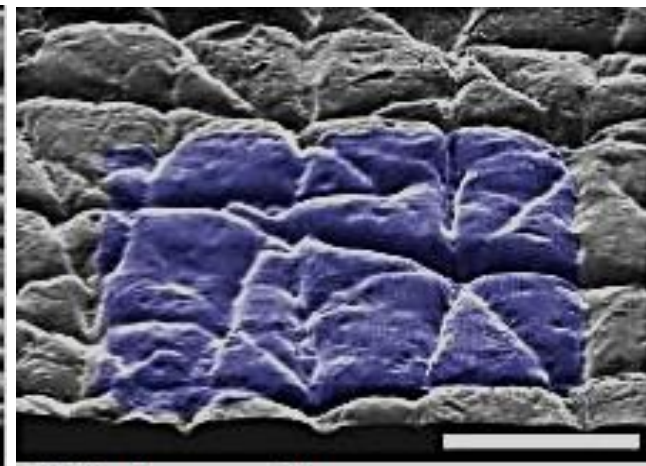
Scanning electron microscopy (tilted and x-sectional view)



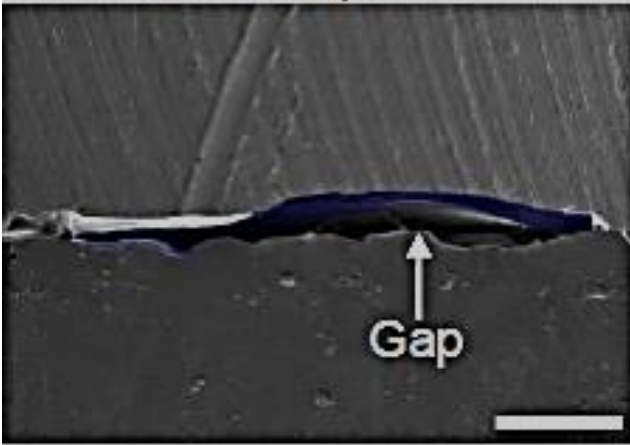
Thickness: 100 μm



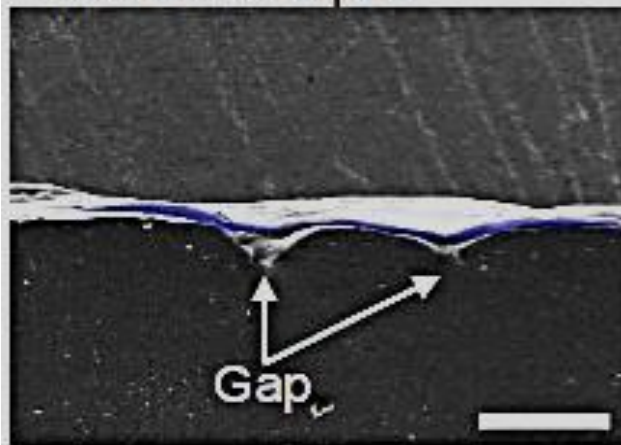
Thickness: 36 μm



Thickness: 5 μm



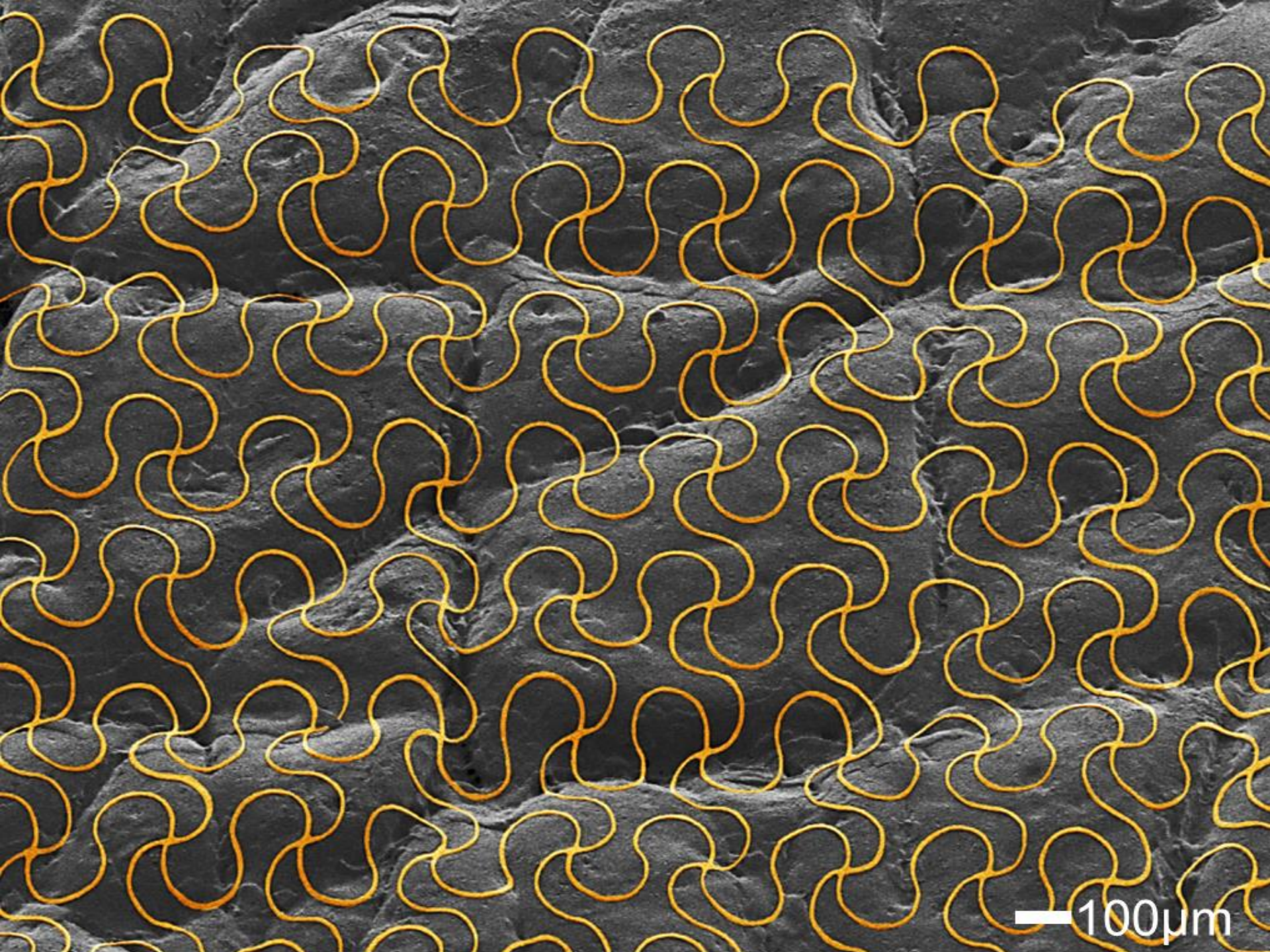
Gap



Gap



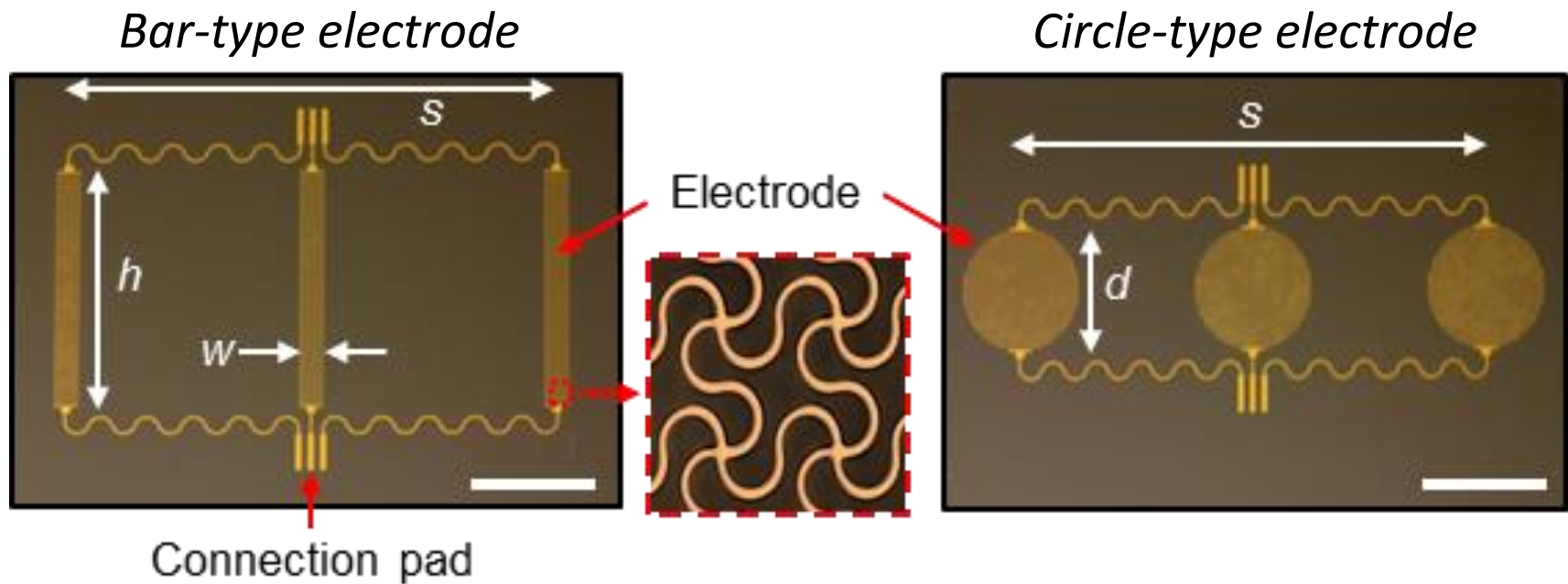
Excellent
conformality



Surface EMG-based Human-Machine Interfaces

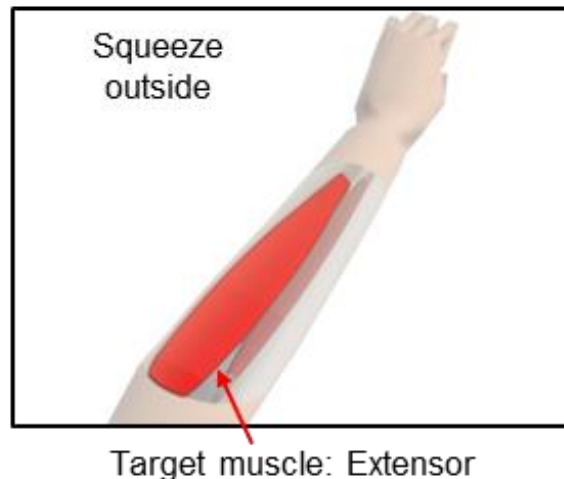
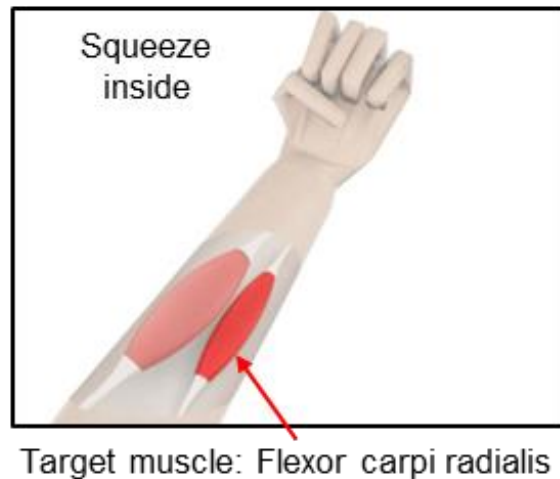
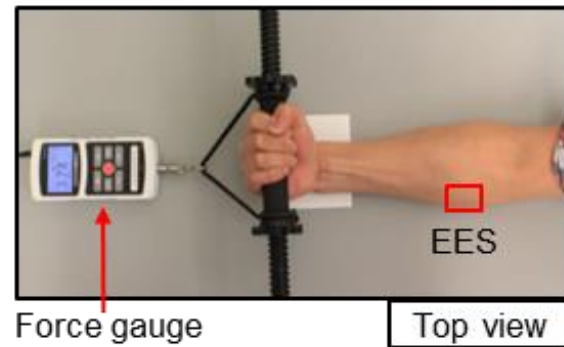
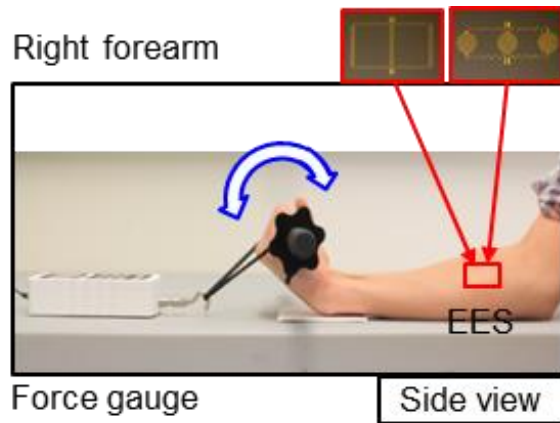
Materials and Characterization

Design optimization of EES for surface EMG recording on forearm



Materials and Characterization

surface EMG on forearm by muscle flexion



Materials and Characterization

Data acquisition with BioCapture™, Great Lakes Neurotechnologies

Electronics on forearm



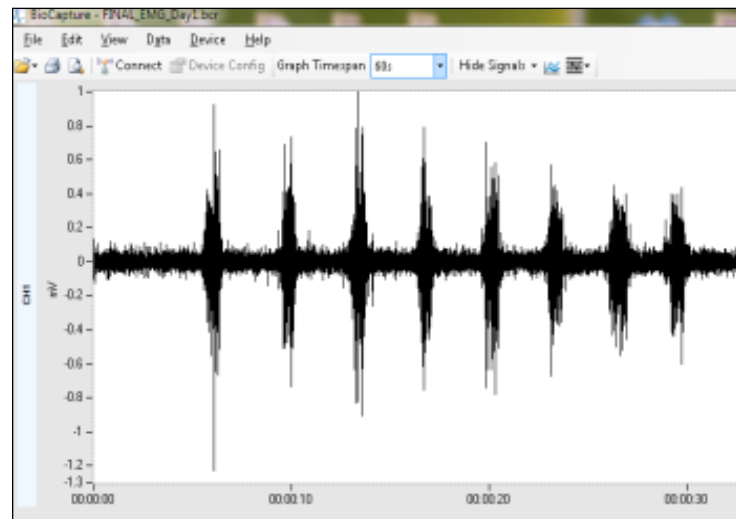
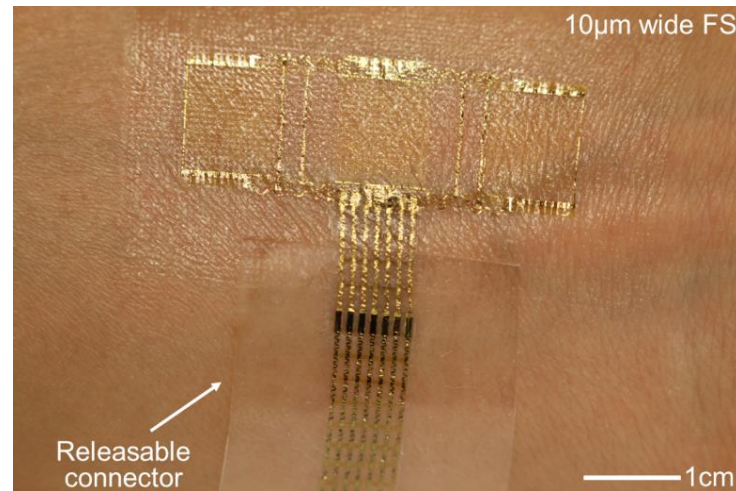
Wireless transmitter



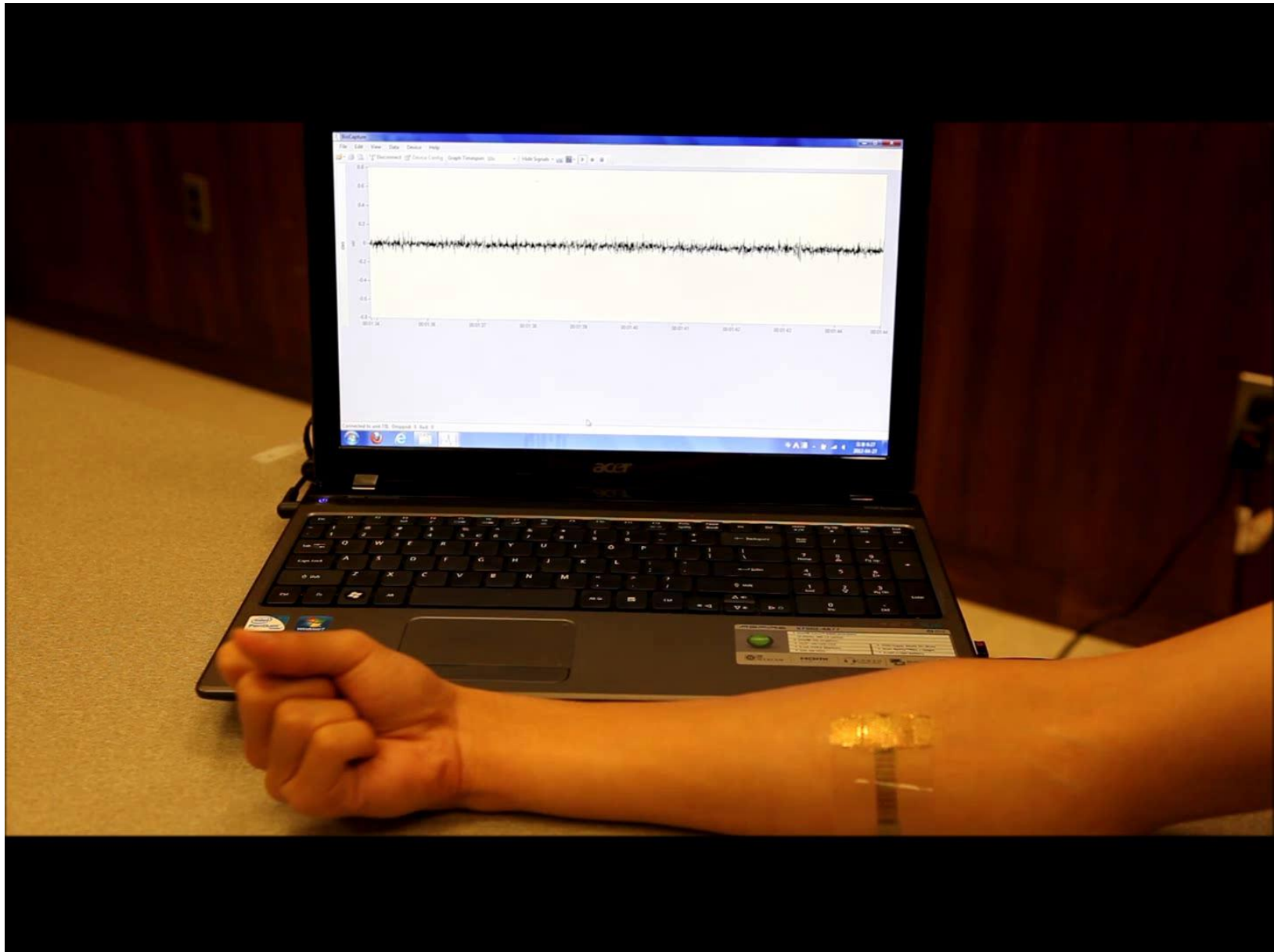
Transmitter



Receiver

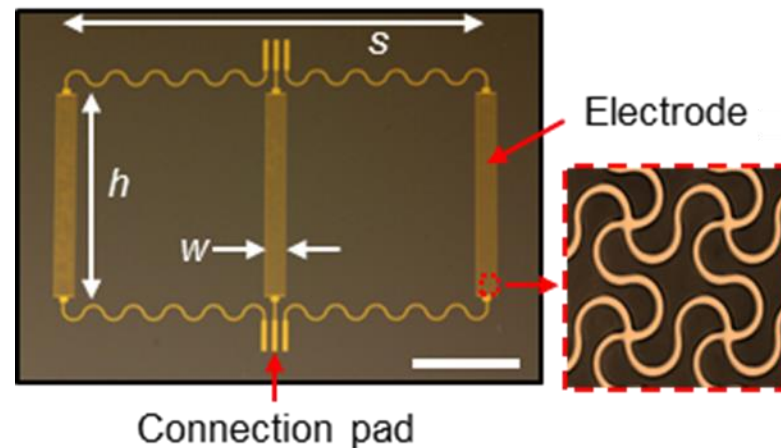
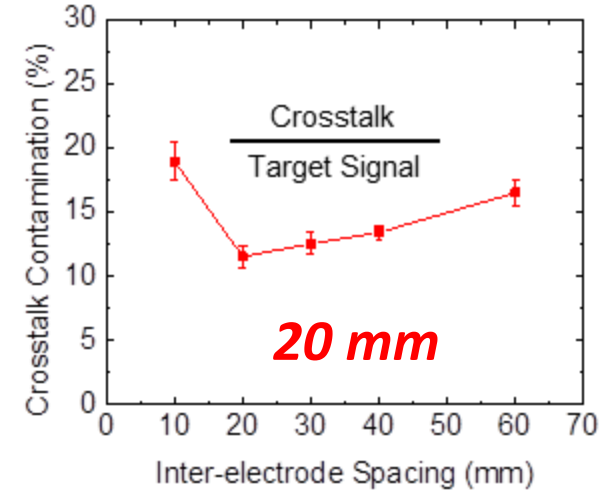
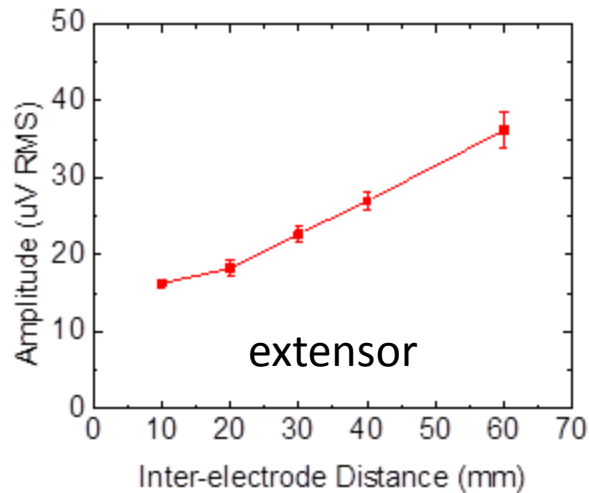
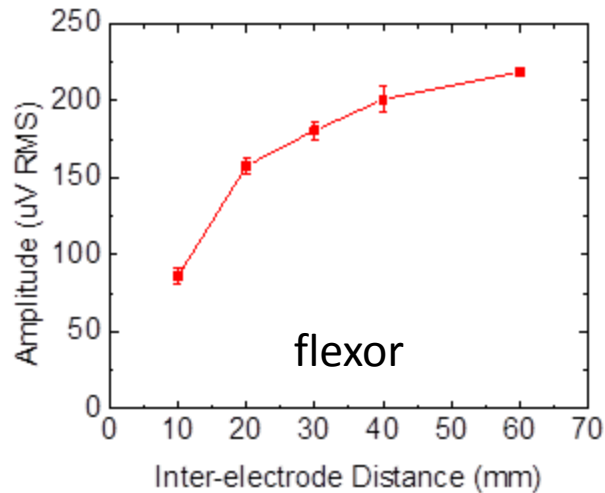


Movie) sEMG recording with EES on forearm



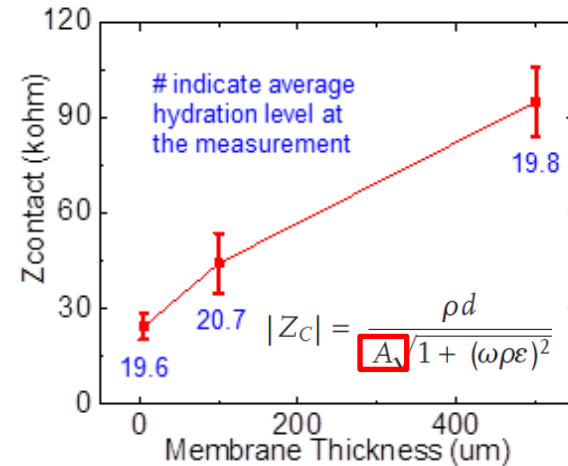
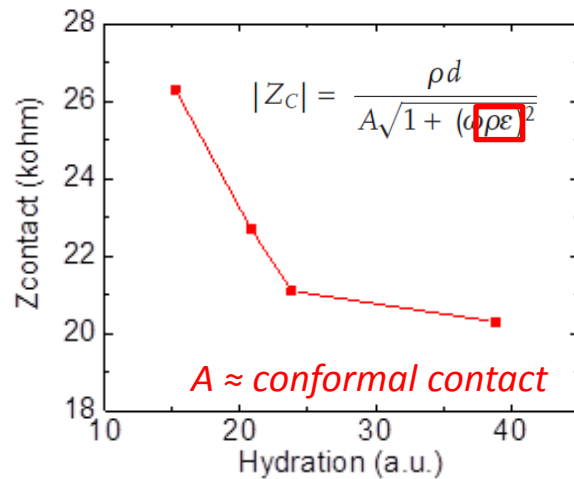
Materials and Characterization

1) Inter-electrode spacing?

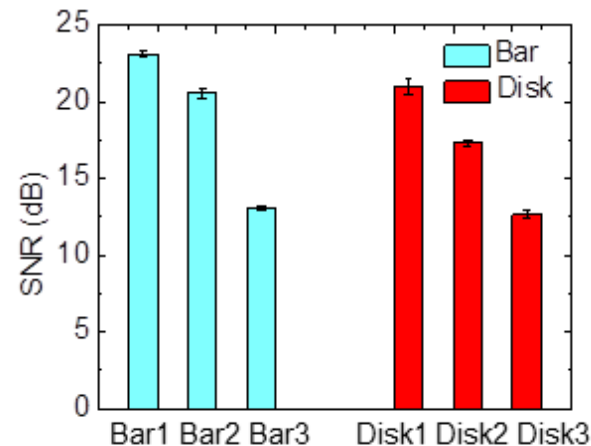
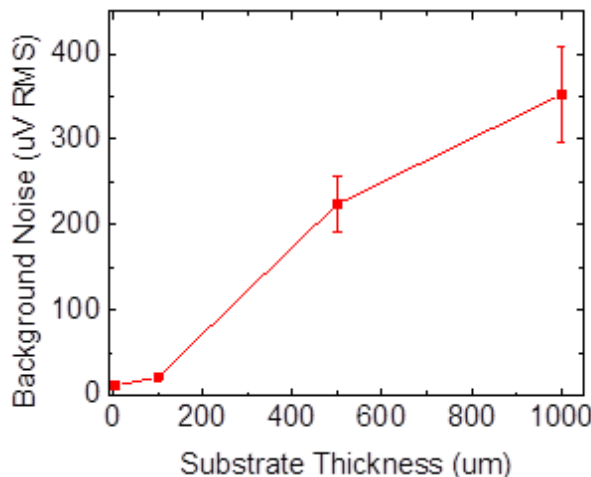


Materials and Characterization

2) Membrane thickness and 3) Device type?



***5 μm
in thickness***

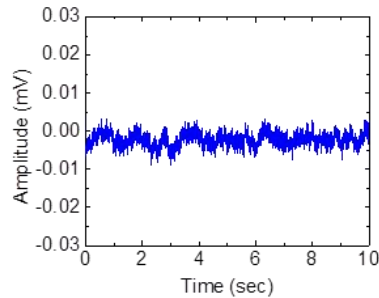
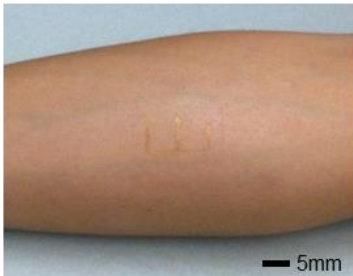


Bar 1

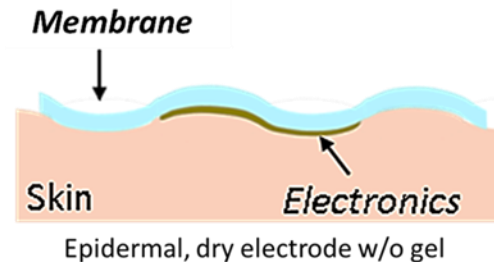
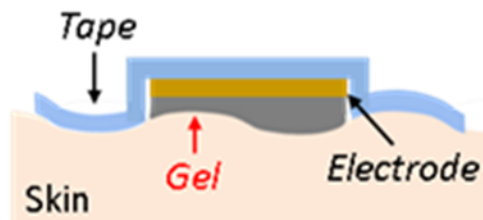
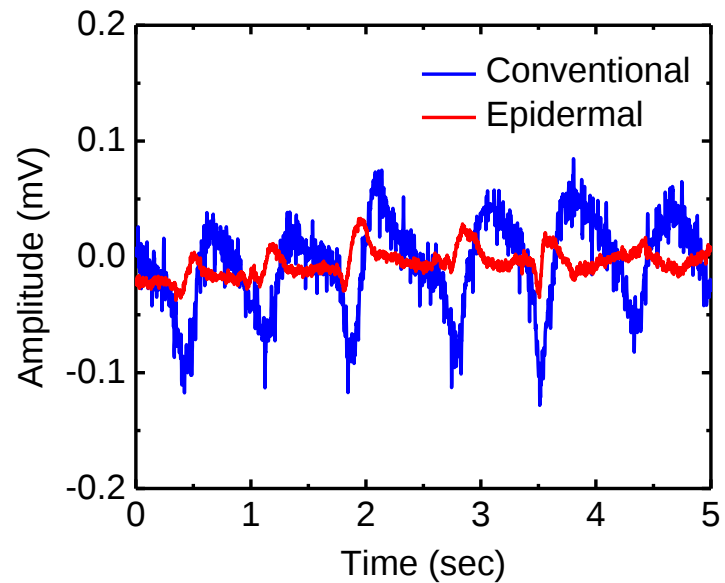
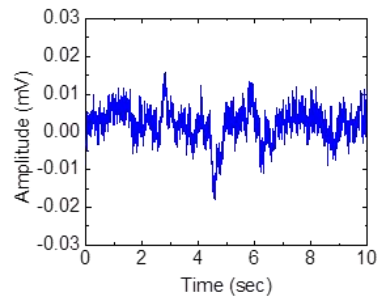
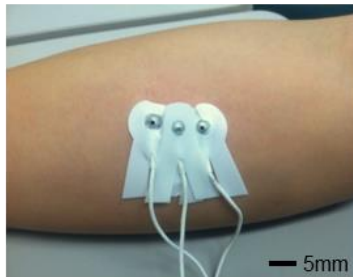
Materials and Characterization

EES vs conventional?
(signal and motion artifact)

EES (48.1% areal coverage)

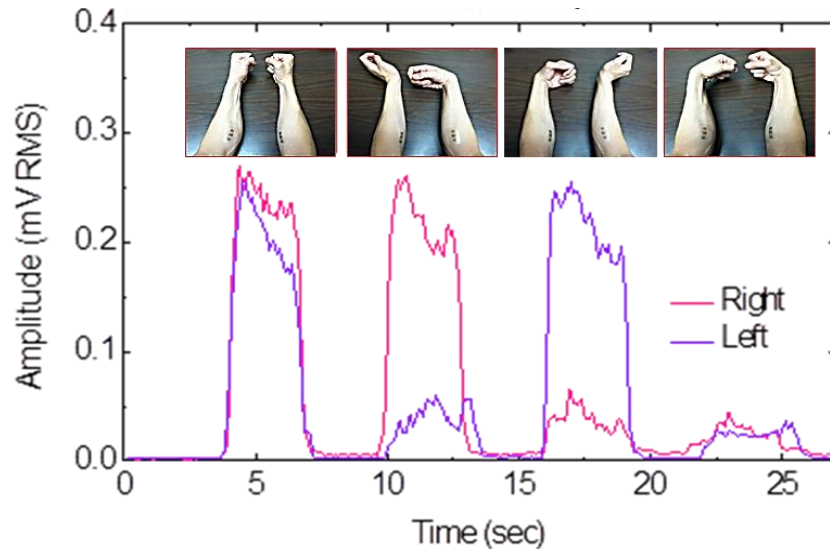
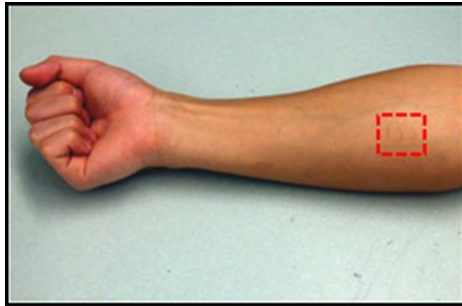


Conventional gel-electrode



Human-Machine Interfaces via EES

sEMG for quadrotor control



Rotation: 'take off' and 'land', Left: 'clockwise rotation',
Right: 'counter-clockwise rotation', Squeeze: 'fly forward'

Movie of quadrotor control



Take off

EEG-based Brain-Computer Interfaces

Unpublished data

Summary

Materials and mechanics for epidermal electronics
sEMG and EEG electrodes and applications for
human-machine interfaces



Smart Healthcare System





Thank you !



Web: www.people.vcu.edu/~whyao