

mm

Center for Wearable Sensors

Additive Printing of Flexible Electronics for Sensing

Tse Nga (Tina) Ng Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept., UC San Diego tnn046@ucsd.edu



Advantages and limitations of printing

Deposit film resist ∕mask₄

Photolithography



- Low-temperature process, low ink consumption (<10µL to cover a 4"wafer)
- Trade-off in resolution and printing speed inkjet: ~35 micron resolution, web speed ~5miles/hr; Imprint ~nm resolution, 20 eight-inch wafers/hr





Vacuum deposition

Solution printing in air

Applications for printed sensors



- Scalable to large-area, flexible, tunable materials Human-computer interface (touch, imager, etc.)
- Multi-component arrays that increase selectivity Low-cost, high-volume for distributed sensing



Jacobs School of Engineering

Solution processed sensors comparable to conventional Ge



Tunable organic materials with infrared detectivity comparable to commercial Newport Ge diode





Printed TFTs for local sensor control

M x N lines, interconnect takes more space than sensors



Simple signal conditioning/processing



With TFTs, M + N lines only





TFT integrated circuits provides signal conditioning before Si chip



Key challenge for integrated TFT circuits

Challenge for implementation: Designs that tolerate variations in OTFTs



- Variation leads to circuit error
- Controlling variation is key to practical yield



Monte Carlo Simulation for 100 samples -for a gain + latch circuit with 7 TFTs



Printed vs photolithographic OTFTs



Sci. Rep (2012) 2, 585.

Similar level of variations: main source of variation is semiconductor, less impact from channel W/L



Modify channel surface to adjust V_T

- Important to control threshold voltage V_T
- Back-channel interface affects V_T : electronic dipole, film morphology, etc.



Jacobs School of Engineering

8

Material structures that reduce disorder

Polymers: Reduce tail states by rigid backbone that reduces torsion



Small molecules: Suppressing thermal disorder by side chain location



Jacobs School of Engineering

Reduced variations in printed OTFTs



Uniformity can be improved in both polymer and small molecules



From materials to circuit fabrication



IEEE Elec. Dev. Lett. (2013) 34, 271.



Other examples of printed circuits

Shift register

Voltage multiplier



Temperature dose tag





Sci Rep (2015), 5, 13457.

UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering

IEEE Elec. Dev. Lett., **34** (2013) 271.

Time [ms]

Flexible Printed Electronics (2016) 1, 015002.

Desirable to digitize signal near sensor

Amplitude signal prone to attenuation error; frequency signal more reliable Need to add digitizing circuit near sensor

low frequency





Attenuation affects amplitude measurement

Same freq as before, will get same readout



Voltage-controlled oscillator



Jacobs School of Engineering

Using printed components to mimic skin mechanoreceptor



Jacobs School of Engineering

Need to augment spasticity diagnosis



Score	Modified Ashworth Scale (MAS)
0	No increase in muscle tone
1	Slight increase in muscle tone, with a catch and release at the end of the range of motion (ROM)
1+	Slight increase in muscle tone, followed by minimal resistance throughout the remainder of ROM
2	More marked increase in muscle tone through most of the ROM, but affected parts easily moved
3	Considerable increase in muscle tone, passive movement difficult
4	Affected part is rigid in both flexion and extension

Spatiscity -involuntary activation of muscle, very common in patient with neurological disorders such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, etc. affect 764K in US; 17M world wide



Issue with reliability in MAS ratings

- 5 patients and 12 tasks: each doctor gave 60 MAS ratings
- Only 27% of the ratings were the same; poor inter-rating reliability, yet dosage is based on this rating



Two doctors' MAS ratings on the same patients

In collaboration with Dr. Garudadri (Calit2) and Dr. Skalsky at UCSD School of Medicine



Prototype glove to quantify spasticity







UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering

Glove worn by the doctor during assessment: -measure force (printed pressure sensor by Tekscan) and angular velocity (gyroscope) -Power to move a limb P=F*v

Mock patient to calibrate sensor glove





-calibrate sensor glove with a mock patient with changeable resistance (2-20kg)

- load cell to measure force
- potentiometer to measure angular velocity
- the power P=F*v to move the mock limb is recorded



Better resolution than MAS scale



- Quantitative glove measurement allows comparison between rating trials, less dependence on rater perception
- Glove sensor improves the resolution of the spasticity assessment





- Apply additive printing to demonstrate organic TFT circuits
 - 1. increase tolerance to device variation issues
 - 2. integrated local digitizing circuits near sensors
- Example application of printed pressure sensor to achieve quantitative assessment in spasticity diagnosis









Acknowledgment

UCSD colleagues:

Leanne Chukoskie Harinath Garudadri Andrew Skalsky Michael Yip

Students:

Fei Deng, Padmaja Jonnalagedda, Zhenghui Wu, Weichuan Yao, Hyunwoong Kim, Kaiping Wang, Udit Parekh, Moran Amit

Collaborators:

PARC colleagues Antonio Facchetti, Northwestern Zhenan Bao, Stanford Iain McCollouch, Imperial/KAUST

Funding:









