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Stretchable silicon could be next wave in electronics

Physics : December 15, 2005

The next in wave electronics could be wavy electronics. Researchers the University of Illinois at **Urbana-Champaign** have developed a fully stretchable form of single-crystal silicon with micron-sized, wave-like geometries that can be used to build high-performance electronic devices on rubber substrates.

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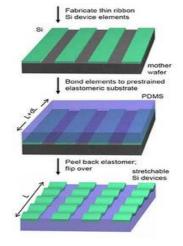
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Image: Scanning electron micrograph of 'wavy' single crystal silicon ribbons on an elastomeric substrate. This form of silicon has the unusual property that it is fully stretchable, with mechanics similar to an accordion bellows.

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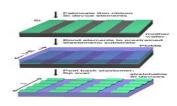


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Schematic illustration of the process for building stretchable single crystal silicon devices on rubber substrates.

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