



Mechanics of encapsulated three-dimensional structures for simultaneous sensing of pressure and shear stress

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ABSTRACT

Flexible, large-area tactile sensors capable of simultaneously measuring in real time both the normal pressure and the tangential shear stress have many important applications, including those in artificial skin for uses in robotics, medicine and rehabilitation. Previously reported sensors exhibit responses to pressure and shear stress that are coupled, mainly due to non-linearities, in ways that can be difficult to separate. A recently developed sensor based on techniques in mechanics-guided, deterministic three-dimensional (3D) assembly provides a route to decouple these responses such that the pressure and the shear stress can be determined explicitly and linearly from the change in resistance of multiple strain gauges integrated at carefully selected locations on the 3D structure. A clear understanding of the mechanics of this 3D structure-based sensor is essential for its optimization and application. Here analytic models, validated by finite element analysis, are presented for the deformation of such structures under pressure and shear stress. Analytic solutions in concise forms are derived for a buckled wavy ribbon encapsulated in a soft elastomer, which reveal the effect of the geometry and material parameters on the sensitivity, therefore establishing design guidelines for these devices.

1. Introduction

Stretchable electronic systems that integrate high performance materials and functional components serve as the technology foundations for artificial skins that can mimic the mechanical properties and many of the sensory capabilities of human skin (Rogers et al., 2010; Chortos et al., 2016; Someya et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2017; Ma et al., 2018; Yao et al., 2018; Chung et al., 2019; Kim et al., 2019; Yang et al., 2019; Yu et al., 2019; Ma et al., 2020; Xie et al., 2020), including responsiveness to multiple external stimuli such as lateral strain (Yao and Zhu, 2014; Jang et al., 2015; Ma et al., 2016; Ma and Zhang, 2016; Pan et al., 2017; Chen et al., 2018; Zhu et al., 2019), bending strain (Lu et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2016a; Chen et al., 2017), pressure (Lipomi et al., 2011; Yao and Zhu, 2014; Bae

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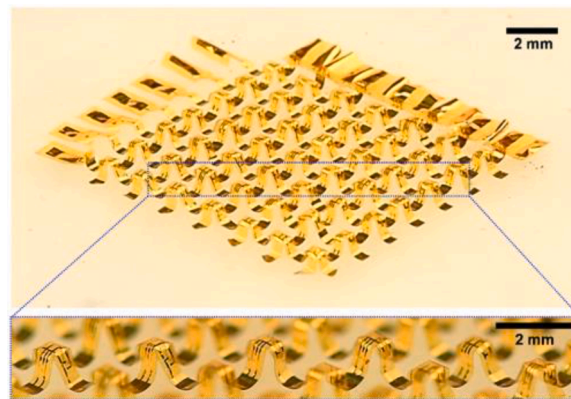


Fig. 1. An experimental image of a 7×7 3D sensor array fabricated by mechanics-guided, deterministic 3D assembly and encapsulated in PDMS elastomer. Source: Won et al. (2019), reprinted with permission of American Chemical Society, copyright (2019).

et al., 2018; Wu et al., 2018), shear force (Mu et al., 2018; Yang et al., 2018), vibration (Kang et al., 2014; Ha et al., 2019; Lee et al., 2019a) and temperature (Zhang et al., 2015a; Hong et al., 2016; Cui et al., 2019; Jeong et al., 2019). For many applications, it is important to differentiate and detect mechanical stimuli from both the normal direction (pressure) and the tangential direction (shear stress) (Scheibert et al., 2009; Dahiya et al., 2010; Heyneman and Cutkosky, 2016). For example, gentle grasping and dexterous manipulation of objects requires continuous tactile feedback on the pressure and shear stress, which occurs naturally and accurately across a human hand, but remains a challenge for robotic hands equipped with artificial skin (Birznies et al., 2001; Crowder, 2006; Delmas et al., 2011; Yousef et al., 2011; Heyneman and Cutkosky, 2016; Yang et al., 2019). Although pressure and shear sensors are available based on various mechanisms including piezoresistive (Wang and Beebe, 2000; Gong et al., 2014; Park et al., 2014a; Park et al., 2014b; Kim et al., 2017), capacitive (Mannsfield et al., 2010; Takei et al., 2010; Dobrzynska and Gijs, 2012; Sun et al., 2014; Boutry et al., 2018), piezoelectric (Ting et al., 2016; Yu et al., 2016), triboelectric (Lin et al., 2013; Dong et al., 2018; Ha et al., 2018), optical (Ohka et al., 2005; Al-Mai et al., 2017) and magnetic (Tomo et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2016b), and many materials including doped single crystalline silicon nanomembranes (Kim et al., 2014; Won et al., 2019), conductive nanomaterials (Park et al., 2014c; Kim et al., 2015; Ma et al., 2015; Park et al., 2015; Mu et al., 2018), conductive textiles (Viry et al., 2014; Ge et al., 2016), conductive elastomers (Charalambides and Bergbreiter, 2017; Park et al., 2018), piezoelectric polymers (Ting et al., 2016; Yu et al., 2016; Ha et al., 2018), ionic gels (Sun et al., 2014; Cho et al., 2017; Choi et al., 2019) and liquid metals (Vogt et al., 2013; Gao et al., 2017), it is difficult to simultaneously determine the pressure and shear stress when they are applied on the sensor at the same time, because one sensor output cannot determine two unknowns (pressure and shear stress). In addition, many of these pressure/shear stress sensors rely on microstructures and thin films of inorganic materials (Chu et al., 1996; Kane et al., 2000; Wang and Beebe, 2000) that are rigid and have low thresholds for fracture; they cannot be applied easily in wearable devices and human-machine interfaces. Some biomimetic sensors capable of differentiating the pressure and the shear stress adopt designs that mimic interlocked epidermal-dermal ridge microstructures (Pang et al., 2012; Park et al., 2014b; Park et al., 2018; Choi et al., 2019; Lee et al., 2019b), but they are unable to decouple the pressure and shear stress in real time, because they provide only one signal output. Multiple signal outputs have been realized in elastomer-based sensors (Lee et al., 2008; Cheng et al., 2010; Hu et al., 2011; Dobrzynska and Gijs, 2012; Viry et al., 2014; Charalambides and Bergbreiter, 2017; Boutry et al., 2018; Yang et al., 2018), but they are limited to small pressures and shear stresses (e.g., ~ 10 kPa in Boutry et al., 2018), beyond which the relations between the signal outputs and the pressure/shear stress become nonlinear and coupled such that the pressure and shear stress cannot be obtained analytically in terms of the signal outputs. Moreover, multi-component structures of elastomer-based sensors involve complexity in fabrication (Charalambides and Bergbreiter, 2017; Yang et al., 2019).

Recent work shows that mechanics-guided, deterministic three-dimensional (3D) assembly techniques (Xu et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2015b; Yan et al., 2016; Ning et al., 2017; Fu et al., 2018; Ning et al., 2018; Xue et al., 2018; Han et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2019a; Won et al., 2019) can yield a multimodal sensor based on a table-like 3D structure encapsulated in soft elastomer (Fig. 1). With four integrated piezoresistive strain gauges (silicon-nanomembranes, Si-NMs for short), the sensor can detect both pressure and shear stress in real time (Won et al., 2019). A significant advantage of this sensor is that the changes in resistance of the Si-NMs are linearly proportional to the pressure (P) and shear stress (τ) in a large range, such that P and τ can be determined explicitly in terms of the signal outputs (i.e., resistance changes). Furthermore, the 3D assembly technique allows the formation of sensor arrays in efficient and low-cost manner, for spatially mapping the distribution of pressure and shear stress.

The sensitivity of such 3D structure-based sensors largely depends on the geometry and material parameters, such that an analytic model is essential for an optimized design. Past studies focused on the buckling of two-dimensional (2D) precursors on a pre-stretched substrate for a variety of geometries (Jiang et al., 2007a; Song et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2010; Su et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2016; Fan et al., 2018; Shi et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2018; Li et al., 2019b; Liu et al., 2019a; Liu et al., 2019b; Luo et al., 2019), as well as deformation of the encapsulated 3D buckled structure subjected to in-plane stretching (Jiang et al., 2008; Kim et al., 2009; Wu et al., 2011; Li et al., 2019a). These models all assume that 1) shear stresses at the interface between the substrate/encapsulation and the

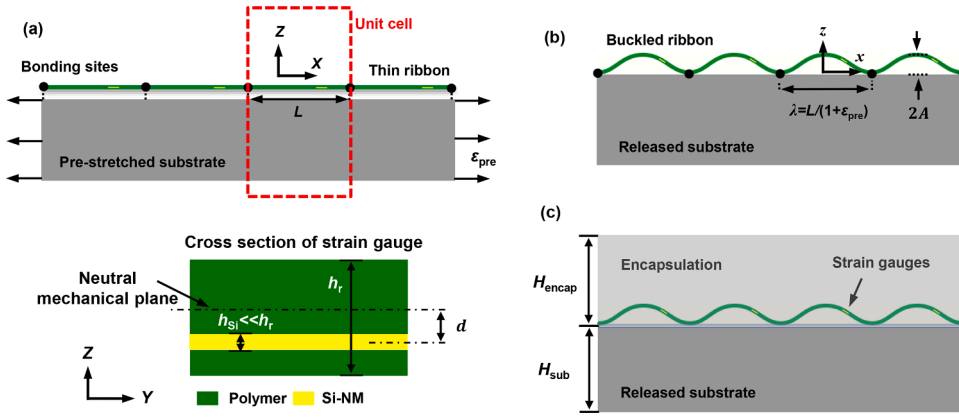


Fig. 2. Schematics of the process for fabricating the encapsulated wavy ribbon. (a) 2D precursor of a straight, strain-free ribbon with integrated strain gauges (Si-NMS), periodically bonded to the pre-strained elastomeric substrate. The Si-NMs are perfectly bonded with two polymer layers (e. g. polyimide). (b) After releasing the pre-strain, the ribbon transforms into a wavy configuration with wavelength λ and amplitude A . (c) The wavy ribbon is encapsulated with an elastomeric layer.

buckled structure vanish, which clearly does not hold when the shear stress and pressure are applied normal to the ribbon; and 2) encapsulation-ribbon and substrate-ribbon interfaces remain flat after buckling in order to calculate the elastic energy in the encapsulation and substrate, which is clearly inaccurate as the buckle amplitude of the ribbon can be orders of magnitude larger than the ribbon thickness.

Analytic models are developed in this paper for buckled wavy ribbon structures encapsulated in the soft elastomer subjected to remote pressure and shear stress. The analytic models do not involve the two assumptions 1) and 2) discussed above; specifically the assumption 1) of vanishing shear stress at the interface is replaced by the displacement continuity across the interface; and the assumption 2) of flat interfaces after buckling is no longer necessary as the wavy interfaces can be accurately accounted for. The strains (signal outputs) are obtained analytically in terms of both the pressure and shear stress, and they agree well with finite element analysis (FEA) without any parameter fitting. The analytic models are useful to optimize the sensor design for simultaneous determination of the pressure and shear stress.

2. Pressure sensing

2.1. The encapsulated wavy ribbon

Fig. 2a~c provides a schematic illustration of the mechanics-guided, deterministic 3D assembly technique. A stress-free, straight ribbon (elastic modulus E_r and thickness h_r) integrated with piezoresistive strain gauges (Si-NMs) is bonded to a pre-stretched (pre-strain ϵ_{pre}) substrate at patterned bonding sites to the substrate surface (Fig. 2a). The distance between two bonding sites on the pre-stretched substrate is L . Upon release of pre-stretch in the substrate, the straight ribbon buckles into a wavy shape (Fig. 2b), and the distance between two bonding sites becomes $\lambda = L/(1 + \epsilon_{pre})$. The buckle amplitude A has been determined as $A = \frac{L}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_{pre}}{1 + \epsilon_{pre}}} - \epsilon_c \approx \frac{L}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_{pre}}{1 + \epsilon_{pre}}}$, where $\epsilon_c = \frac{\pi^2 h_r^2}{3L^2}$ is the critical strain of buckling that is usually orders of magnitude smaller than ϵ_{pre} (Ko et al., 2009; Song et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2010). The dashed box in Fig. 2a shows a single unit cell (length L), consisting of the ribbon and substrate between two bonding sites, with periodic boundary conditions; and X is its coordinate along the ribbon. The bonding sites (as indicated by the black dots) are usually much smaller than the ribbon in length (Sun et al., 2006; Shi et al., 2018) such that their length is neglected. The ribbon is modeled as an elastic beam of thickness h_r . The Si-NM strain gauge is neglected in the analysis as it is much thinner (thickness $h_{Si} \sim 100$ nm) than the ribbon (thickness $h_r \sim 5$ μ m). For small and moderate levels of pre-strain (e.g., $\epsilon_{pre} \sim 20\%$), the out-of-plane displacement $w_0(X)$ and in-plane displacement $u_0(X)$ of the ribbon have been derived by an energy method (Ko et al., 2009; Song et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2010) as

$$w_0(X) = A \left[\cos\left(\frac{2\pi X}{L}\right) + 1 \right], \quad u_0(X) = \frac{\pi A^2}{4L} \sin\left(\frac{4\pi X}{L}\right) - \frac{\epsilon_{pre}}{1 + \epsilon_{pre}} X. \quad (1)$$

The membrane strain in the ribbon is simply $-\epsilon_c$.

The buckled, wavy ribbon is then encapsulated by coating and thermally curing the prepolymer (Fig. 2c), which also completely fills the gaps between the wavy ribbon and the released substrate but does not induce further deformation in the ribbon (Sun et al., 2006; Jiang et al., 2008; Kim et al., 2009; Won et al., 2019). For the stress-free state of the encapsulation, the period (along the X direction) is $\lambda = L/(1 + \epsilon_{pre})$, and the coordinate in the same direction is $x = X + u_0(X)$. The out-of-plane displacement of the ribbon in Eq. (1) can be expressed in terms of x as (See Appendix A for details)

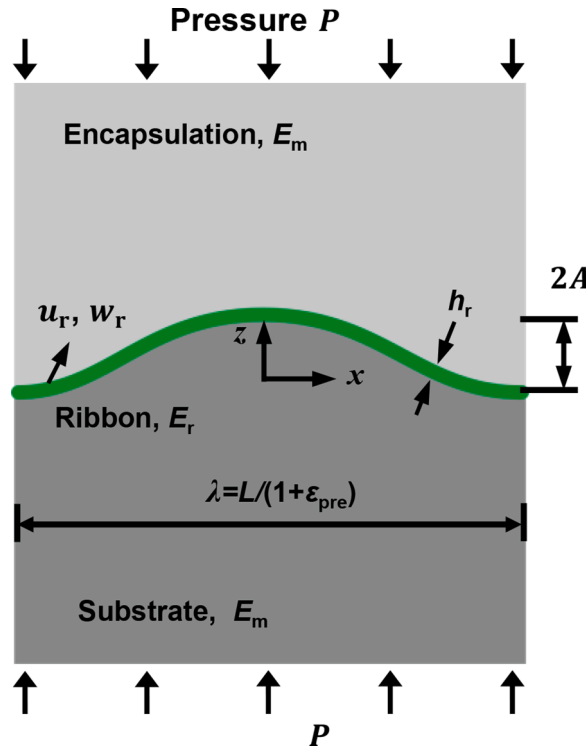


Fig. 3. Schematic of the model of a single unit cell under pressure.

$$w_0(x) = A \left[\cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + 1 + O\left(\frac{A^2}{L^2}\right) \right] \approx A \left[\cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + 1 \right]. \quad (2)$$

Here $O\left(\frac{A^2}{L^2}\right)$ is neglected for small and moderate levels of pre-strain (Jiang et al., 2007b; Song et al., 2009) as $\frac{A^2}{L^2} = \frac{\epsilon_{pre}}{\pi^2(1+\epsilon_{pre})}$ which is $\sim 2\%$ for $\epsilon_{pre} \sim 20\%$. Similarly, the in-plane displacement of the ribbon in Eq. (1) can be expressed in terms of x as (Jiang et al., 2007b)

$$u_0(x) = \frac{\pi A^2}{4\lambda} \left[\sin\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + O\left(\frac{A^2}{L^2}\right) \right] - \epsilon_{pre}x \approx \frac{\pi A^2}{4\lambda} \sin\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) - \epsilon_{pre}x. \quad (3)$$

2.2. Encapsulation and substrate of the same material

As the pressure is applied on the top surface of the encapsulation (and bottom surface of the substrate, Fig. 3), the wavy ribbon deforms and the integrated piezoresistive strain gauge converts the mechanical signal (strain) into an electrical signal (resistance change). Most encapsulations and substrates are much thicker than the ribbons (Sun et al., 2006; Kim et al., 2009; Li et al., 2019; Won et al., 2019), therefore can be considered as semi-infinite. For simplicity the encapsulation and substrate are first assumed to have the same linear elastic modulus E_m , and the Poisson's ratio is $\nu_m = 0.5$ for incompressible elastomers. Fig. 3 shows a representative unit cell (periodic along the x -direction) of the encapsulated ribbon under pressure P . The wavy ribbon (modulus E_r and thickness h_r) is perfectly bonded with the elastomeric encapsulation and substrate such that the displacements are continuous across the ribbon/elastomer interfaces. The deformation is plane-stress in the x - z plane (Fig. 3), where z denotes the normal direction.

For the applied pressure much smaller than the elastic modulus of the encapsulation and substrate, $P \ll E_m$, the induced displacement is small and linearly elastic. FEA (see Appendix B for details) suggests that the out-of-plane displacement (z direction) of the wavy ribbon is well approximated by

$$w_r = \frac{P}{E_m} \alpha A \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right), \quad (4)$$

where the dimensionless parameter α is to be determined and is independent of P . Because the encapsulation/ribbon and ribbon/substrate interfaces are wavy, the shear stresses at these interfaces are not zero even under the applied pressure, but they are opposite and approximately equal (for thin ribbons). Force equilibrium then requires the membrane strain to be uniform in the ribbon, which is

confirmed by FEA (See Figs. B1a and B1b in Appendix B). This uniformity of the membrane strain $\epsilon_{11} = \frac{d(u_0 + u_r)}{dx} + \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{d(w_0 + w_r)}{dx} \right]^2$ gives the

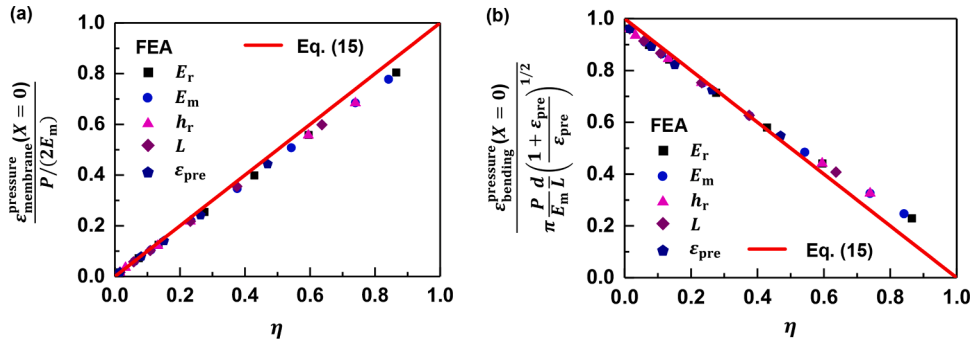


Fig. 4. The membrane strain $\epsilon_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{pressure}}$ (a) and bending strain $\epsilon_{\text{bending}}^{\text{pressure}}$ (b) in Si-NM located at $X = 0$ (midpoint between two bonding sites) versus η , to validate the analytic model for semi-infinite encapsulation/substrate under pressure. The encapsulation and the substrate are of the same material. The Si-NM is located at the bottom of the ribbon with $d = 0.5h_r$. The symbols denote FEA results for a range of material and geometric parameters as well as the pre-strain, and the lines denote analytic results.

in-plane displacement u_r as

$$u_r = \frac{P}{E_m} \left[\frac{\pi}{2} \alpha \frac{A^2}{\lambda} \sin\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \beta x \right], \quad (5)$$

where only terms that are linearly proportional to P are kept, and the dimensionless parameter β is to be determined. The displacements in Eqs. (4) and (5) give the membrane energy and bending energy in the ribbon per period as (See Appendix C for details)

$$U_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{pressure}} = \frac{P^2}{E_m^2} E_r h_r \lambda \left(\frac{2\pi^4 A^4}{\lambda^4} \alpha^2 + \frac{2\pi^2 A^2}{\lambda^2} \alpha \beta + \frac{1}{2} \beta^2 \right), \quad (6)$$

$$U_{\text{bending}}^{\text{pressure}} = \frac{P^2}{E_m^2} E_r h_r^3 \frac{\pi^4 A^2}{3\lambda^3} \alpha^2. \quad (7)$$

The displacements u and w in the encapsulation and substrate satisfy the following equations of force equilibrium

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{1 - \nu_m}{2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} + \frac{1 + \nu_m}{2} \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial z} = 0, \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial z^2} + \frac{1 - \nu_m}{2} \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{1 + \nu_m}{2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial z} = 0. \quad (9)$$

The boundary conditions are the applied pressure P and zero shear remotely ($z = +\infty$ and $-\infty$ for the encapsulation and substrate, respectively), and continuity of displacements

$$u = u_r, \quad w = w_r \text{ at } z = w_0(x) \quad (10)$$

at the interfaces with the wavy ribbon. Equation (10) is different from prior works (Huang et al., 2005; Jiang et al., 2008; Wu et al., 2011) as it does not assume zero shear at the interfaces, and the interfaces are no longer flat. The solutions of Eqs. (8)–(10) for both the encapsulation and substrate are given in Appendix D. In principle, the strain energy $U_{\text{encap}}^{\text{pressure}}$ in the encapsulation and $U_{\text{sub}}^{\text{pressure}}$ in the substrate (per period) are quadratic functions of α and β . The external work due to pressure P is the $W_{\text{encap}}^{\text{pressure}}$ and $W_{\text{sub}}^{\text{pressure}}$ on the top surface of the encapsulation and bottom surface of the substrate, respectively, and they are linear with respect to α and β (see Appendix C for details). The total potential energy is

$$\Pi^{\text{pressure}}(\alpha, \beta) = U_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{pressure}} + U_{\text{bending}}^{\text{pressure}} + U_{\text{encap}}^{\text{pressure}} + U_{\text{sub}}^{\text{pressure}} - W_{\text{encap}}^{\text{pressure}} - W_{\text{sub}}^{\text{pressure}}, \quad (11)$$

where the first two terms of the right hand side are given in Eqs. (6) and (7). Minimization of the total potential energy gives α and β as

$$\alpha = -\frac{1 - \eta}{4\epsilon_{\text{pre}}(1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})}, \quad \beta = \frac{1}{2}, \quad (12)$$

where η is given by

$$\eta = \frac{5\pi^3 \frac{E_r h_r^3}{E_m L^3} (1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})^3 + 8}{30\pi \frac{E_r h_r}{E_m L} \epsilon_{\text{pre}} (1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})^2 + 5\pi^3 \frac{E_r h_r^3}{E_m L^3} (1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})^3 + 8}. \quad (13)$$

It should be pointed out that η approaches to 1, therefore α in Eq. (12) remains finite, at the limit $\epsilon_{\text{pre}} \rightarrow 0$.

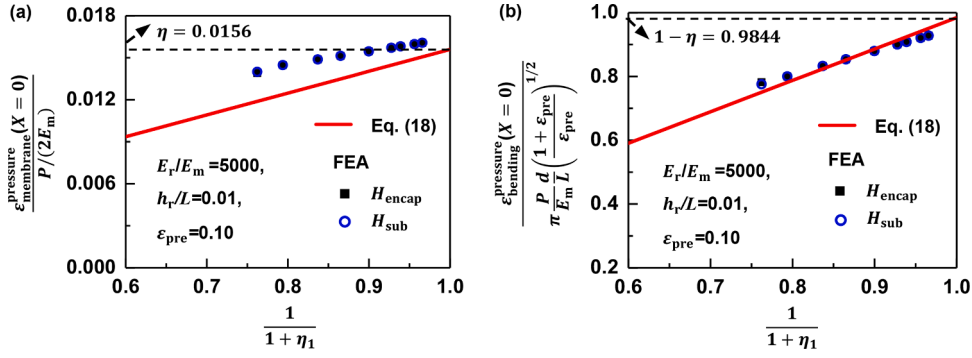


Fig. 5. The membrane strain $\epsilon_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{pressure}}(X=0)$ (a) and bending strain $\epsilon_{\text{bending}}^{\text{pressure}}(X=0)$ (b) in Si-NM located at $X=0$ (midpoint between two bonding sites) versus $\frac{1}{1+\eta_1}$, to validate the analytic model for finite-thickness encapsulation/substrate under pressure. The Si-NM is located at the bottom of the ribbon with $d = 0.5h_r$. The symbols denote FEA results for a range of encapsulation/substrate thickness, and the lines denote analytic results.

The strain in Si-NM (piezoresistive strain gauge) depends on its location (specifically, the distance d from the neutral mechanical plane of the ribbon) and is given by

$$\epsilon_{\text{sensor}}^{\text{pressure}} = \epsilon_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{pressure}} + \epsilon_{\text{bending}}^{\text{pressure}}, \quad (14)$$

and the membrane and bending strains are

$$\epsilon_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{pressure}} = \frac{P}{2E_m} \eta, \quad \epsilon_{\text{bending}}^{\text{pressure}} = \pi \frac{P}{E_m} \frac{d}{L} \left(\frac{1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}}}{\epsilon_{\text{pre}}} \right)^{1/2} (1 - \eta) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi X}{L}\right), \quad (15)$$

where d is the distance of the Si-NM to the neutral mechanical plane (Fig. 2a, $d = \frac{1}{2}h_r$ when the Si-NM is on the bottom of the ribbon). The bending strain in the above equation vanishes at the limit $\epsilon_{\text{pre}} \rightarrow 0$. As shown in Fig. 4, the membrane and bending strains in the above equation are validated by FEA without any parameter fitting, for the Si-NM location $X=0$ (crest of the wavy ribbon) and $d = \frac{1}{2}h_r$ (the bottom of the ribbon), and a wide range of material and geometry parameters and pre-strain with the baseline values $E_r = 2.5$ GPa, $E_m = 500$ kPa, $h_r = 5 \mu\text{m}$, $L = 500 \mu\text{m}$ and $\epsilon_{\text{pre}} = 0.10$ that are representative in experiments (Sun et al., 2006; Xu et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2015b; Won et al., 2019).

2.3. Encapsulation and substrate with finite thickness

The encapsulation and substrate with the finite thickness H_{encap} and H_{sub} are studied in this section. For simplicity they are still assumed to have the same elastic properties. The analysis in Section 2.2, specifically Eqs. (4)–(10), still hold, but the remote boundary conditions of applied pressure P and zero shear are imposed at $z = H_{\text{encap}}$ and $z = -H_{\text{sub}}$. The parameters α and β in Eqs. (4) and (5) become (see Appendix C for details)

$$\alpha = -\frac{1 - \eta}{4\epsilon_{\text{pre}}(1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})(1 + \eta_1)}, \quad \beta = \frac{1}{2(1 + \eta_1)}, \quad (16)$$

which are simply Eq. (12) for the semi-infinite encapsulation and substrate multiplied by $\frac{1}{1+\eta_1}$ to account for the effect of finite thickness, where η_1 is given by

$$\eta_1 = \frac{E_r h_r}{E_m (H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})} \eta, \quad (17)$$

and η in the above equation and Eq. (16) is still given in Eq. (13).

The strain in Si-NM is still given by Eq. (14), and the membrane and bending strains are the same as Eq. (15), except by a factor $\frac{1}{1+\eta_1}$ to account for the effect of finite thickness. i.e.,

$$\epsilon_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{pressure}} = \frac{P}{2E_m} \frac{\eta}{1 + \eta_1}, \quad \epsilon_{\text{bending}}^{\text{pressure}} = \pi \frac{P}{E_m} \frac{d}{L} \left(\frac{1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}}}{\epsilon_{\text{pre}}} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1 - \eta}{1 + \eta_1} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi X}{L}\right). \quad (18)$$

As shown in Fig. 5, the membrane and bending strains in the above equation are validated by FEA without any parameter fitting, for the Si-NM location $X=0$ (the crest of the wavy ribbon) and $d = \frac{1}{2}h_r$ (the bottom of the ribbon), and a range of encapsulation and substrate thickness, with the baseline values $H_{\text{encap}} = 1$ mm and $H_{\text{sub}} = 1$ mm. The baseline values for the other material and geometry properties and pre-strain are the same as those in Section 2.2. Some deviation is observed in the membrane strain (Fig. 5a) since the membrane strain is assumed to be strictly uniform in the theoretical model. This deviation does not affect the total strain (membrane

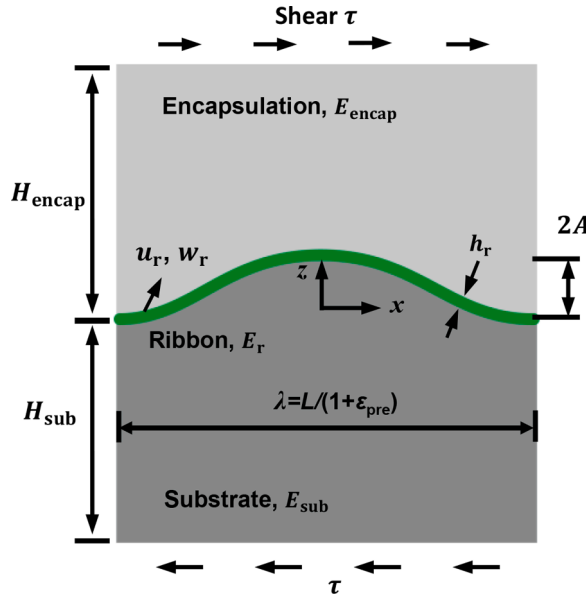


Fig. 6. Schematic of the model of a single unit cell under shear stress.

strain + bending strain) in Si-NM greatly, as for typical parameters around the baseline values, the membrane strain is usually much smaller than the bending strain.

2.4. Encapsulation and substrate of different materials

For the encapsulation and substrate with the different elastic moduli E_{encap} and E_{sub} (Kim et al., 2009; Li et al., 2019; Won et al., 2019), the analysis in Section 2.2 is modified to reflect the effect of different elastic moduli (see Appendix C for details). For simplicity, the elastomer that fills the gap between the ribbon and the substrate is assumed to have the same elastic properties as the substrate, and the error due to this assumption is a few percent (See Fig. B2a in Appendix B). The strain in Si-NM is still given by Eq. (14), and the membrane and bending strains now become

$$\epsilon_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{pressure}} = \frac{P}{2 \frac{E_{\text{encap}} H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}} H_{\text{sub}}}{H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}}}} \frac{\eta}{1 + \eta_1}, \quad (19)$$

$$\epsilon_{\text{bending}}^{\text{pressure}} = \pi \frac{P}{\frac{E_{\text{encap}} H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}} H_{\text{sub}}}{H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}}}} \frac{d}{L} \left(\frac{1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}}}{\epsilon_{\text{pre}}} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1 - \eta}{1 + \eta_1} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi X}{L}\right), \quad (20)$$

where η and η_1 are given by

$$\eta = \frac{5\pi^3 \frac{E_r h_r^3}{\frac{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}}{2} L^3} (1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})^3 + 8}{30\pi \frac{E_r h_r}{\frac{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}}{2} L} \epsilon_{\text{pre}} (1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})^2 + 5\pi^3 \frac{E_r h_r^3}{\frac{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}}{2} L^3} (1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})^3 + 8}, \quad (21)$$

$$\eta_1 = \frac{E_r h_r}{E_{\text{encap}} H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}} H_{\text{sub}}} \eta - \frac{(E_{\text{encap}} - E_{\text{sub}}) A}{E_{\text{encap}} H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}} H_{\text{sub}}}, \quad (22)$$

where $A = \frac{L}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_{\text{pre}}}{1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}}}} - \epsilon_c \approx \frac{L}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_{\text{pre}}}{1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}}}}$ is the amplitude after pre-strain release (before the pressure is applied). The above two equations degenerate to Eqs. (13) and (17) for the encapsulation and substrate of the same material.

3. Shear stress sensing

The analytic model is developed for the encapsulated wavy ribbon under remote shear. The processes to form the encapsulated wavy ribbon are the same as those in Section 2.1, and the representative unit cell is the same as that in Section 2.4, except that the pressure is replaced by the remote shear stress τ , as shown in Fig. 6.

For the applied shear stress much smaller than the elastic modulus of the encapsulation and substrate, $\tau \ll E_{\text{encap}}, E_{\text{sub}}$, the induced displacement is small and linearly elastic. FEA (see Appendix B) suggests that the out-of-plane displacement of the wavy ribbon under

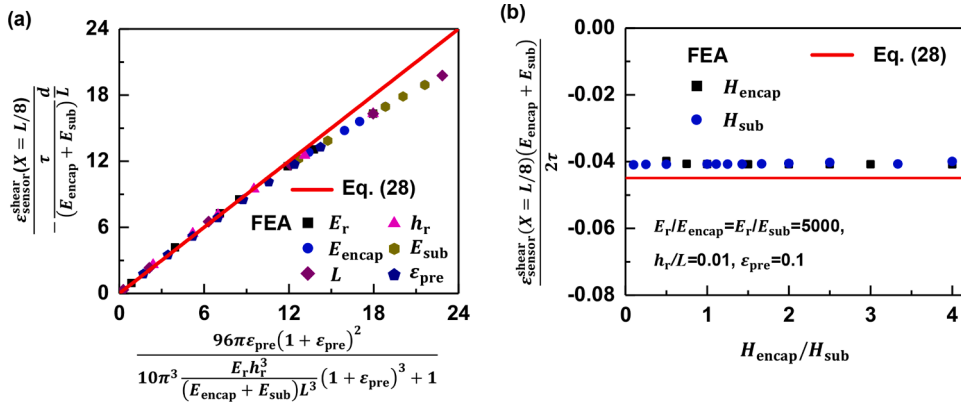


Fig. 7. (a) Validation of the analytic solution for shear given in Eq. (28). The Si-NM is located at $X = L/8$ and at the bottom of the ribbon with $d = 0.5h_r$. (b) The strain in Si-NM versus the encapsulation and substrate thickness. The symbols denote FEA results for a range of material and geometric parameters as well as the pre-strain, and the lines denote analytic results.

shear stress is well approximated by

$$w_t = \frac{2\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \omega \text{Asin}\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right), \quad (23)$$

where the dimensionless parameter ω is to be determined and is independent of τ . For the same reason discussed in Section 2.2, the membrane strain is almost uniform in the ribbon, which is confirmed by FEA (See Figs. B1c and B1d in Appendix B). The uniformity of the membrane strain in the ribbon $\varepsilon_{11} = \frac{d(u_0 + u_t)}{dx} + \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{d(w_0 + w_t)}{dx} \right]^2$ gives the in-plane displacement u_t as

$$u_t = \frac{2\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \left[2\pi\omega \frac{A^2}{\lambda} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) - \frac{2\pi}{3} \omega \frac{A^2}{\lambda} \cos\left(\frac{6\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \psi x \right], \quad (24)$$

where the dimensionless parameter ψ is to be determined, and only terms that are linear with τ are kept. The membrane energy and the bending energy in the ribbon per period are (See Appendix E for details)

$$U_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{shear}} = \frac{2\tau^2}{(E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}})^2} E_r h_r \lambda \psi^2, \quad U_{\text{bending}}^{\text{shear}} = \frac{\tau^2}{(E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}})^2} E_r h_r^3 \frac{64\pi^4 A^2}{3\lambda^3} \omega^2, \quad (25)$$

respectively.

The displacements u and w in the encapsulation and substrate satisfy the equations of force equilibrium given in Eqs. (8) and (9). The continuity conditions of displacements across the encapsulation/ribbon and ribbon/substrate interfaces are the same as Eq. (10) with u_t and w_t given in Eqs. (23) and (24). The remote boundary conditions are the applied shear stress τ and zero normal stress at the top of the encapsulation ($z = H_{\text{encap}}$) and the bottom of the substrate ($z = -H_{\text{sub}}$). The solutions to the displacements of the encapsulation and substrate are given in Appendix F, which lead to the strain energy $U_{\text{encap}}^{\text{shear}}$ and $U_{\text{sub}}^{\text{shear}}$ (quadratic functions of ω and ψ) in the encapsulation and substrate, and the external work $W_{\text{encap}}^{\text{shear}}$ and $W_{\text{sub}}^{\text{shear}}$ (linear functions of ω and ψ) due to the applied shear stress τ on the top of the encapsulation and on the bottom of the substrate, respectively (See Appendix E for details). The total potential energy is

$$\Pi^{\text{shear}}(\omega, \psi) = U_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{shear}} + U_{\text{bending}}^{\text{shear}} + U_{\text{encap}}^{\text{shear}} + U_{\text{sub}}^{\text{shear}} - W_{\text{encap}}^{\text{shear}} - W_{\text{sub}}^{\text{shear}}, \quad (26)$$

where the first two terms are given in Eq. (25). Minimizing the total potential energy via $\frac{\partial \Pi^{\text{shear}}}{\partial \omega} = \frac{\partial \Pi^{\text{shear}}}{\partial \psi} = 0$ gives the two variables ω and ψ as (see Appendix F for details)

$$\omega = \frac{3[\varepsilon_{\text{pre}}(1 + \varepsilon_{\text{pre}})]^{1/2}}{10\pi^3 \frac{E_r h_r^2}{(E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}) L^3} (1 + \varepsilon_{\text{pre}})^3 + 1}, \quad \psi = 0. \quad (27)$$

Here $\psi = 0$ gives zero membrane strain $\varepsilon_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{shear}}$ (see Appendix E) such that the strain in Si-NM results only from the bending deformation, and is given by

$$\epsilon_{\text{sensor}}^{\text{shear}} = \epsilon_{\text{bending}}^{\text{shear}} = -\frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{d}{L} \frac{96\pi\epsilon_{\text{pre}}(1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})^2}{10\pi^3 \frac{E_r h_r^3}{(E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}) L^3} (1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})^3 + 1} \sin\left(\frac{4\pi X}{L}\right). \quad (28)$$

As shown in Fig. 7a, the strain in Si-NM is validated by FEA without any parameter fitting, for the Si-NM location $X = L/8$ and $d = \frac{1}{2}h_r$ (the bottom of the ribbon), and a wide range of material and geometry parameters and pre-strain. The baseline values of geometry and material parameters and pre-strain are the same as those in Section 2. The strain in Si-NM is independent of the encapsulation/substrate thickness, which is validated by FEA (Fig. 7b).

4. Concluding remarks and discussions

This paper presents analytic solutions for encapsulated, buckled ribbons under remotely applied pressure and shear stress. The solution, which accounts for the wavy (buckled) structure and is validated by FEA, is obtained in terms of the ribbon, encapsulation and substrate material and geometric properties, as well as the pre-strain applied to the substrate. The results are useful for the simultaneous measurement of the pressure and shear stress via two Si-NMs placed on a flat ribbon before its buckling, which is important to the development of tactile sensors.

For simultaneously applied pressure P and remote shear stress τ , the strain in the Si-NM is the linear superposition¹ of those in Eqs. (14) and (28). This suggests the determination of P and τ via two Si-NMs (sensors). The first Si-NM (sensor 1) is placed at $X = 0$ (midpoint between two bonding sites), which is most sensitive (with respect to X) to pressure P , and is independent to the shear stress τ (See Figs. B1b and B1d) such that P can be determined from sensor 1. The second Si-NM (sensor 2) is placed at $X = L/8$ (or $X = -L/8$, $\pm 3L/8$) (1/8 of the spacing between bonding sides, measured from the midpoint or a bonding site), which is most sensitive to the shear stress τ (See Fig. B1d) such that τ can be determined (after P is determined from sensor 1).

In a more general case, the shear stress has two in-plane components (τ_x along X -direction and τ_y along Y -direction, see Fig. G1), which can be measured, together with the normal pressure P , by the sensor based on an array of table-like 3D structures (Won et al., 2019). The analytic solutions presented in this work, although are developed for 2D wavy ribbon structure, can be extended to scaling laws to account for the complexity of 3D structure.

In practical applications, the pressure/shear stress may be non-uniform. Based on the analytic model proposed in this manuscript, a design to determine the non-uniform pressure/shear stress is presented in Fig. G2. The device consists of several units (pixels). The deformation of these units is not coupled such that each unit can determine the average pressure/shear stress applied on top of the encapsulation, without the interfering from other units. Each unit consists of a few periods of the wavy ribbon and the strain gauges are integrated in the middle period, such that the periodic boundary conditions adopted by the analytic model in Section 2 and 3 apply and the analytical solutions may provide design guidelines to this design.

The design/analytic solution/FEA presented in the manuscript may also be extended to account for the effect of the soft and curved surface (e.g. skin, see Fig. G3) below the sensor, which is common in applications. Further discussions with theoretical models (e.g. scaling laws) and FEA will be published in a future paper.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interests

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Appendix A. $u_0(x)$ and $w_0(x)$ in the deformed configuration

Substitution of the coordinate X in the undeformed configuration by $X = x - u_0$ into u_0 in Eq. (1) yields

$$u_0 = \frac{\pi A^2}{4L} \sin\left[\frac{4\pi(x - u_0)}{L}\right] - \frac{\epsilon_{\text{pre}}}{1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}}}(x - u_0). \quad (A.1)$$

Its Taylor Series expansion with respect to u_0 leads to the solution in Eq. (3), after the terms $O\left(\frac{A^2}{L^2}\right)$ are neglected (with respect to 1). Similarly, substitution of $X = x - u_0$ into w_0 in Eq. (1) yields the solution in Eq. (2).

¹ FEA suggests that the strain in Si-NM is nearly linear with the pressure for $P \leq 0.1 \frac{E_{\text{encap}} H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}} H_{\text{sub}}}{H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}}}$ and with the shear stress for $\tau \leq 0.025(E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}})$ (see Fig. B3). Beyond the ranges, the linear superposition no longer holds.

Appendix B. Finite element analysis

The FEA software ABAQUS is used to determine the deformation of the encapsulated wavy ribbon. Periodic boundary conditions are applied on the two sides of the unit cell at $x = \pm\lambda/2$, as shown in Figs. 3 and 6. The linear-elastic elastomeric encapsulation and substrate are modeled by the four-node plane-stress elements (CPS4), whereas the linear-elastic wavy ribbon is modeled by the two-node linear beam elements (B21) with all degrees of translational freedom constrained to those of the plane-stress elements at the encapsulation/ribbon and ribbon/substrate interfaces.

For remotely applied pressure, Fig. B1a shows that the shear tractions at the encapsulation/ribbon and ribbon/substrate interfaces are almost equal and opposite such that the net shear force on the ribbon is nearly zero. This leads to the nearly uniform membrane strain in the ribbon due to force equilibrium, as shown in Fig. B1b. The same conclusions also hold for the remotely applied shear, as shown in Figs. B1c and B1d.

Fig. B2 a justifies the assumption in Sections 2.4 and 3 that the elastomer filling the gap between the ribbon and the substrate has the same elastic properties as the substrate. It shows the sensor strain under remote pressure obtained by FEA without this assumption,

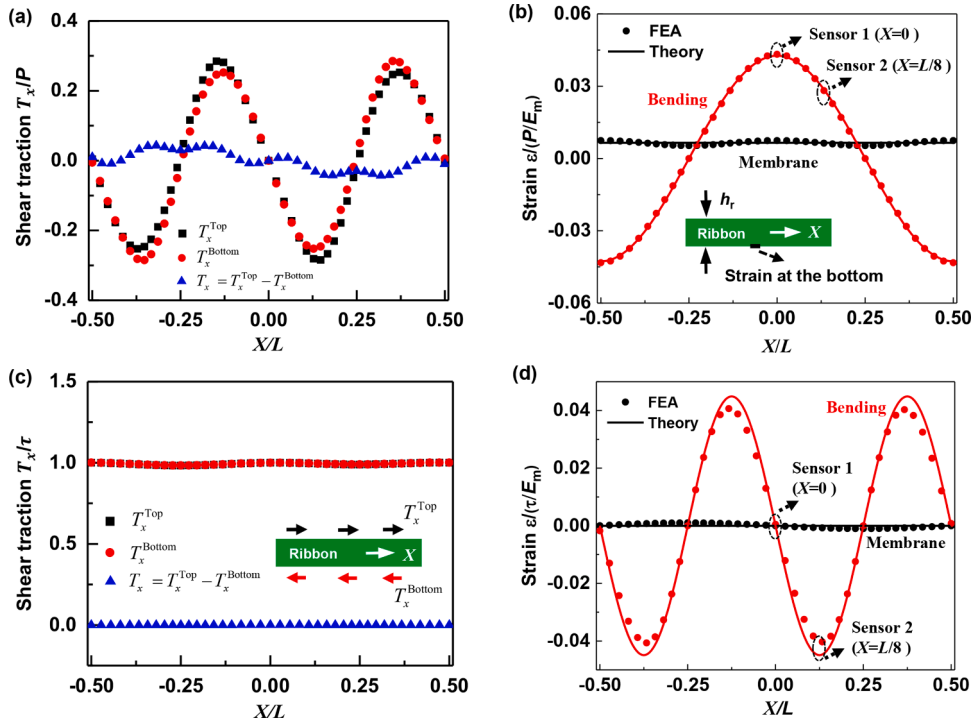


Fig. B1. Justification for the assumption of uniform membrane strain in the ribbon: (a, b) pressure; (c, d) shear. The shear tractions applied on the top (solid squares) and bottom (solid circles) of the ribbon are approximately equal and are opposite for both (a) pressure and (c) shear. The membrane strains in the ribbon are uniform and are much smaller than the bending strains for both (b) pressure and (d) shear. Here baseline values for the material and geometry properties and pre-strain are used.

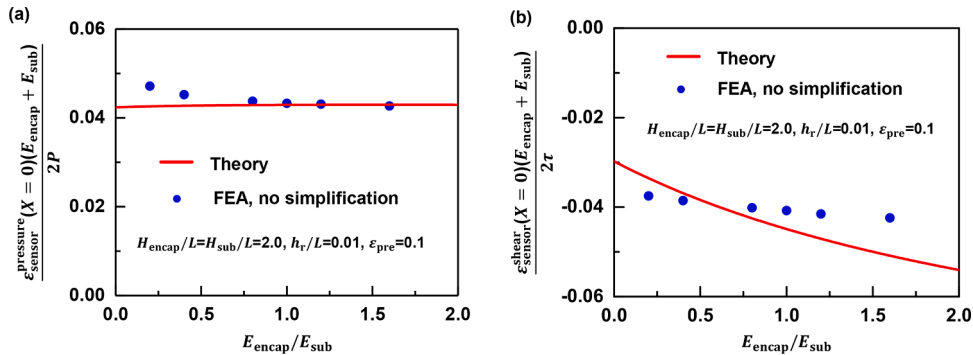


Fig. B2. Justification for the assumption that the elastomer between the ribbon and substrate is the same material as substrate: (a) pressure; (b) shear. Here baseline values for the material and geometry properties and pre-strain are used.

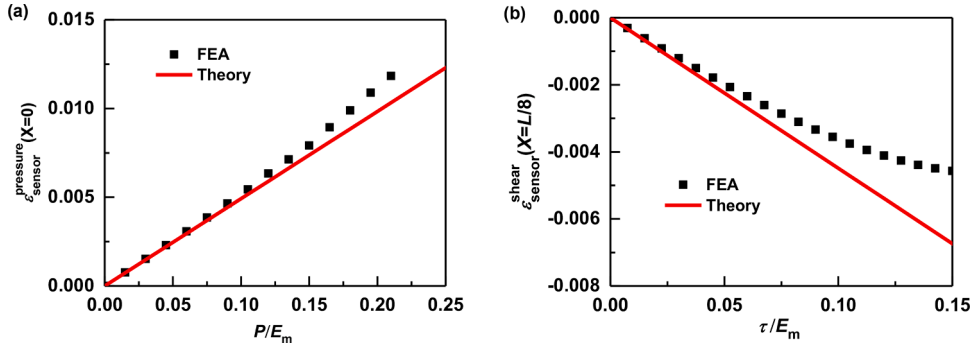


Fig. B3. The strain in Si-NM versus the applied (a) pressure P and (b) shear stress τ . Here baseline values for the material and geometry properties and pre-strain are used.

which agrees reasonably well with the analytic model (under this assumption) for various $E_{\text{encap}}/E_{\text{sub}}$. Similar conclusions hold for the remotely applied shear, as shown in Fig. B2b.

Fig. B3 shows that the relationship of the strain in Si-NM versus normal pressure P and shear stress τ is in the linear range when $P \leq 0.1E_m$ and $\tau \leq 0.05E_m$. For baseline values ($E_m = 500$ kPa), the linear ranges for pressure P and shear stress τ are 0~50 kPa and 0~25 kPa, respectively, which are larger than those of previous flexible pressure/shear sensors (0~10 kPa in Boutry et al., 2018) and sufficient for practical use.

Appendix C. The total potential energy of the unit cell under pressure

For the encapsulation (modulus E_{encap} , Poisson's ratio $\nu_{\text{encap}} = 0.5$, thickness H_{encap}) and substrate (modulus E_{sub} , Poisson's ratio $\nu_{\text{sub}} = 0.5$, thickness H_{sub}) of different materials and finite thickness, the ribbon displacements have the same forms as Eqs. (4) and (5) with E_m replaced by $\frac{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}}{H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}}}$, i.e.

$$u_r = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \left[\frac{\pi}{2} \alpha \frac{A^2}{\lambda} \sin\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \beta x \right], \quad (\text{C.1})$$

$$w_r = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \alpha A \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right). \quad (\text{C.2})$$

The membrane energy of the wavy ribbon per period is obtained by

$$\begin{aligned} U_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{pressure}} &= \int_{-\lambda/2}^{\lambda/2} \frac{1}{2} E_r h_r \left(\frac{du_r}{dx} + \frac{dw_0}{dx} \frac{dw_r}{dx} \right)^2 \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dw_0}{dx} \right)^2} dx \\ &\approx \frac{P^2 (H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})^2}{(E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}})^2} E_r h_r \lambda \left(\frac{2\pi^4 A^4}{\lambda^4} \alpha^2 + \frac{2\pi^2 A^2}{\lambda^2} \alpha \beta + \frac{1}{2} \beta^2 \right), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.3})$$

where the curve length $\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dw_0}{dx} \right)^2} dx = \left[1 + O\left(\frac{A^2}{\lambda^2} \right) \right] dx \approx dx$. Similarly, the bending energy of the wavy ribbon is obtained by

$$U_{\text{bending}}^{\text{pressure}} = \int_{-\lambda/2}^{\lambda/2} \frac{1}{24} E_r h_r^3 \left(\frac{d^2 w_r}{dx^2} \right)^2 \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dw_0}{dx} \right)^2} dx \approx \frac{P^2 (H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})^2}{(E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}})^2} E_r h_r^3 \frac{\pi^4 A^2}{3\lambda^3} \alpha^2. \quad (\text{C.4})$$

The membrane strain and bending strain in Eq. (C.3) and Eq. (C.4) are derived from the von Karman elastic plate theory (Landau and Lifshitz, 1959) by neglecting high-order terms. For the encapsulation and substrate of finite thicknesses, their displacements induced by the pressure are presented in Appendix D. The strain energies in the encapsulation and substrate are then given by

$$\begin{aligned} U_{\text{encap}}^{\text{pressure}} &= \frac{P^2 (H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})^2}{(E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}})^2} E_{\text{encap}} \lambda^2 \left(\frac{4\pi A^2}{15\lambda^2} \alpha^2 + \frac{H_{\text{encap}} - A}{2\lambda} \beta^2 \right) \\ &+ \frac{\pi}{10} \frac{P^2 (H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{(E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}})} \lambda A (2\alpha + \beta) + \frac{3}{8} \frac{P^2}{E_{\text{encap}}} \lambda (H_{\text{encap}} - A), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.5})$$

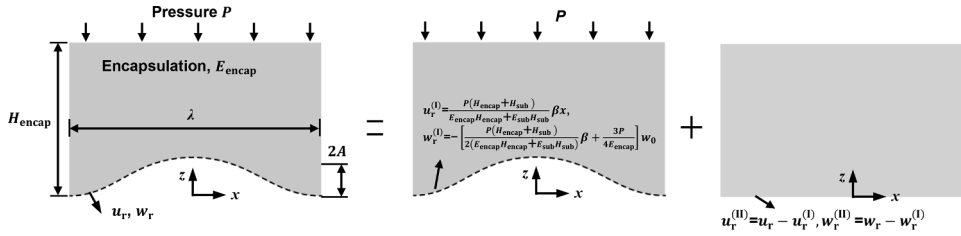


Fig. D1. Decomposition of the deformation of the encapsulation under remote pressure into two parts.

$$U_{\text{sub}}^{\text{pressure}} = \frac{P^2 (H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})^2}{(E_{\text{encap}} H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}} H_{\text{sub}})^2} E_{\text{sub}} \lambda^2 \left(\frac{4\pi A^2}{15\lambda^2} \alpha^2 + \frac{H_{\text{sub}} + A}{2\lambda} \beta^2 \right) - \frac{\pi}{10} \frac{P^2 (H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{(E_{\text{encap}} H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}} H_{\text{sub}})} \lambda A (2\alpha + \beta) + \frac{3}{8} \frac{P^2}{E_{\text{sub}}} \lambda (H_{\text{sub}} + A), \quad (\text{C.6})$$

where the terms that induce errors $O\left(\frac{A^2}{\lambda^2}\right)$ to α and β (as compared to 1) are neglected.

The external works due to the pressure on the top of the encapsulation and the bottom of the substrate are obtained by

$$W_{\text{encap}}^{\text{pressure}} = \int_{-\lambda/2}^{\lambda/2} (-P) \cdot w(z = H_{\text{encap}}) dx = \frac{P^2 (H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{2(E_{\text{encap}} H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}} H_{\text{sub}})} \lambda (H_{\text{encap}} - A) \beta + \frac{3P^2}{4E_{\text{encap}}} \lambda (H_{\text{encap}} - A), \quad (\text{C.7})$$

$$W_{\text{sub}}^{\text{pressure}} = \int_{-\lambda/2}^{\lambda/2} P \cdot w(z = -H_{\text{sub}}) dx = \frac{P^2 (H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{2(E_{\text{encap}} H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}} H_{\text{sub}})} \lambda (H_{\text{sub}} + A) \beta + \frac{3P^2}{4E_{\text{sub}}} \lambda (H_{\text{sub}} + A). \quad (\text{C.8})$$

The total potential energy of the system Π^{pressure} consist of the above energies and works as shown in Eq. (11). Minimizing the total potential energy Π^{pressure} via $\frac{\partial \Pi^{\text{pressure}}}{\partial \alpha} = \frac{\partial \Pi^{\text{pressure}}}{\partial \beta} = 0$ gives

$$\alpha = -\frac{1 - \eta}{4\varepsilon_{\text{pre}}(1 + \varepsilon_{\text{pre}})(1 + \eta_1)}, \quad \beta = \frac{1}{2(1 + \eta_1)}, \quad (\text{C.9})$$

where η and η_1 are given in Eqs. (21) and (22), respectively. With $\cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) = \cos\left(\frac{2\pi X}{L}\right) + O\left(\frac{A^2}{L^2}\right) \approx \cos\left(\frac{2\pi X}{L}\right)$, the membrane and bending strains in Si-NM induced by the pressure are obtained from (Landau and Lifshitz, 1959)

$$\varepsilon_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{pressure}} = \frac{du_r}{dx} + \frac{dw_0}{dx} \frac{dw_r}{dx}, \quad \varepsilon_{\text{bending}}^{\text{pressure}} = d \frac{d^2 w_r}{dx^2}, \quad (\text{C.10})$$

and are given in Eq. (18).

For the encapsulation and substrate of the same material ($E_{\text{encap}} = E_{\text{sub}} = E_m$), α and β in Eq. (C.9) become the same as Eq. (16) with η and η_1 in Eqs. (21) and (22) degenerating to Eqs. (13) and (17), respectively. Their limits $H_{\text{encap}} \rightarrow +\infty$ and $H_{\text{sub}} \rightarrow +\infty$ yield α and β in Eq. (12), with η given in Eq. (13), for semi-infinite encapsulation and substrate.

Appendix D. The displacements in the encapsulation and substrate under pressure

This appendix focuses on deformation in the encapsulation under pressure, and that in the substrate can be obtained similarly. The boundary conditions at the top of the encapsulation are

$$\sigma_z = \frac{E_{\text{encap}}}{1 - \nu_{\text{encap}}^2} \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial z} + \nu_{\text{encap}} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) = -P, \quad \tau_{xz} = \frac{E_{\text{encap}}}{2(1 + \nu_{\text{encap}})} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) = 0 \text{ at } z = H_{\text{encap}}. \quad (\text{D.1})$$

The continuity of displacements across the encapsulation/ribbon interface requires the displacements at the wavy boundary $z = w_0(x)$ to be the same as those in Eqs. (C.1) and (C.2).

The displacements are decomposed into two parts (See Fig. D1), i.e. $u = u^{(I)} + u^{(II)}$ and $w = w^{(I)} + w^{(II)}$, where the first part

$$u^{(I)} = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}} H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}} H_{\text{sub}}} \beta x, \quad w^{(I)} = - \left[\frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{2(E_{\text{encap}} H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}} H_{\text{sub}})} \beta + \frac{3P}{4E_{\text{encap}}} \right] z \quad (\text{D.2})$$

corresponds to a uniform stress and strain field that satisfies the equilibrium Eqs. (8) and (9), remote boundary conditions in Eq. (D.1), and the change of horizontal displacement over each period being consistent with Eq. (C.1) for the ribbon, i.e., $u^{(I)}\left(x = \frac{\lambda}{2}\right) - u^{(I)}\left(x = -\frac{\lambda}{2}\right) = \lambda \beta$.

$\frac{\lambda}{2}) = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \beta \lambda$. The second part ($u^{(\text{II})}$ and $w^{(\text{II})}$) satisfies the equilibrium Eqs. (8) and (9) and vanishing remote tractions

$$\sigma_z^{(\text{II})} = 0, \quad \tau_{xz}^{(\text{II})} = 0 \text{ at } z = H_{\text{encap}}. \quad (\text{D.3})$$

The displacement continuity across the encapsulation/ribbon interface in Eq. (10) gives $u^{(\text{II})}(z = w_0) = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \frac{\pi A^2}{2\lambda} \alpha \sin\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right)$ and $w^{(\text{II})}(z = w_0) = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} A \alpha \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \left[\frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{2(E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}})} \beta + \frac{3P}{4E_{\text{encap}}}\right] w_0$. They can be approximately imposed at $z = 0$, instead of $z = w_0(x)$, i.e.

$$u^{(\text{II})} = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \frac{\pi A^2}{2\lambda} \alpha \sin\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) \text{ at } z = 0, \quad (\text{D.4})$$

$$w^{(\text{II})} = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} A \alpha \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \left[\frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{2(E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}})} \beta + \frac{3P}{4E_{\text{encap}}}\right] w_0 \text{ at } z = 0. \quad (\text{D.5})$$

It can be shown that the errors in the membrane and bending strains of the Si-NM due to the above approximation are on the order of $O\left(\frac{A^2}{\lambda^2}\right)$ (as compared to 1), which are negligible, consistent with the analyses in this paper.

The solution of Eqs. (8), (9), (D.3)~(D.5) is

$$u^{(\text{II})} = C_1 z e^{-\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + (C_2 + C_3 z) e^{-\frac{4\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right), \quad (\text{D.6})$$

$$w^{(\text{II})} = C_1 \left(z + \frac{5}{6\pi} \lambda\right) e^{-\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \left[C_2 + C_3 \left(z + \frac{5}{12\pi} \lambda\right)\right] e^{-\frac{4\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \left[\frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{2(E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}})} \beta + \frac{3P}{4E_{\text{encap}}}\right] A, \quad (\text{D.7})$$

where

$$C_1 = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \frac{3\pi A}{5\lambda} (2\alpha + \beta) + \frac{P}{E_{\text{encap}}} \frac{9\pi A}{10\lambda}, \quad (\text{D.8})$$

$$C_2 = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \frac{\pi A^2}{2\lambda} \alpha, \quad (\text{D.9})$$

$$C_3 = -\frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \frac{6\pi^2 A^2}{5\lambda^2} \alpha. \quad (\text{D.10})$$

Here the encapsulation thickness $H_{\text{encap}}/\lambda > 0.5$ such that the errors in Eqs. (D.6)~(D.10) are less than 0.05%.

The displacements of the substrate are similarly obtained as $u = u^{(\text{I})} + u^{(\text{II})}$ and $w = w^{(\text{I})} + w^{(\text{II})}$, with

$$u^{(\text{I})} = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \beta x, \quad w^{(\text{I})} = -\left[\frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{2(E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}})} \beta + \frac{3P}{4E_{\text{sub}}}\right] z, \quad (\text{D.11})$$

$$u^{(\text{II})} = C_1 z e^{\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + (C_2 + C_3 z) e^{\frac{4\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right), \quad (\text{D.12})$$

$$w^{(\text{II})} = -C_1 \left(z - \frac{5}{6\pi} \lambda\right) e^{\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) - \left[C_2 + C_3 \left(z - \frac{5}{12\pi} \lambda\right)\right] e^{\frac{4\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \left[\frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{2(E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}})} \beta + \frac{3P}{4E_{\text{sub}}}\right] A, \quad (\text{D.13})$$

where

$$C_1 = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \frac{3\pi A}{5\lambda} (2\alpha + \beta) + \frac{P}{E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{9\pi A}{10\lambda}, \quad (\text{D.14})$$

$$C_2 = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \frac{\pi A^2}{2\lambda} \alpha, \quad (\text{D.15})$$

$$C_3 = \frac{P(H_{\text{encap}} + H_{\text{sub}})}{E_{\text{encap}}H_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}H_{\text{sub}}} \frac{6\pi^2 A^2}{5\lambda^2} \alpha. \quad (\text{D.16})$$

Appendix E. The total potential energy of the unit cell under shear stress

For the ribbon displacements in Eqs. (23) and (24), the membrane energy in the wavy ribbon per period is

$$U_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{shear}} = \int_{-\lambda/2}^{\lambda/2} \frac{1}{2} E_r h_r \left(\frac{du_r}{dx} + \frac{dw_0}{dx} \frac{dw_r}{dx} \right)^2 \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dw_0}{dx} \right)^2} dx = \frac{2\tau^2}{(E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}})^2} E_r h_r \lambda \psi^2, \quad (\text{E.1})$$

where $\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dw_0}{dx} \right)^2} dx = \left[1 + O\left(\frac{A^2}{\lambda^2} \right) \right] dx \approx dx$. The bending energy of the wavy ribbon is

$$U_{\text{bending}}^{\text{shear}} = \int_{-\lambda/2}^{\lambda/2} \frac{1}{24} E_r h_r^3 \left(\frac{d^2 w_r}{dx^2} \right)^2 \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dw_0}{dx} \right)^2} dx \approx \frac{\tau^2}{(E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}})^2} E_r h_r^3 \frac{64\pi^4 A^2}{3\lambda^3} \omega^2. \quad (\text{E.2})$$

For the encapsulation and substrate of finite thickness, their displacements induced by the shear stress are provided in Appendix F. The strain energies in the encapsulation and substrate are given by

$$U_{\text{encap}}^{\text{shear}} = \frac{\tau^2}{(E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}})^2} E_{\text{encap}} \lambda^2 \left(\frac{32\pi A^2}{15\lambda^2} \omega^2 + 2 \frac{H_{\text{encap}} - A}{\lambda} \psi^2 \right) - \frac{\tau^2}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{32\pi^2 A^3}{5\lambda} \omega + \frac{3}{2} \frac{\tau^2}{E_{\text{encap}}} (H_{\text{encap}} - A) \lambda, \quad (\text{E.3})$$

$$U_{\text{sub}}^{\text{shear}} = \frac{\tau^2}{(E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}})^2} E_{\text{sub}} \lambda^2 \left(\frac{32\pi A^2}{15\lambda^2} \omega^2 + 2 \frac{H_{\text{sub}} + A}{\lambda} \psi^2 \right) - \frac{\tau^2}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{32\pi^2 A^3}{5\lambda} \omega + \frac{3}{2} \frac{\tau^2}{E_{\text{sub}}} (H_{\text{sub}} + A) \lambda, \quad (\text{E.4})$$

where the terms that induce errors $O\left(\frac{A^2}{\lambda^2}\right)$ to ω and ψ (as compared to 1) are neglected. The external works due to the shear stress on the top of the encapsulation and the bottom of the substrate are obtained by

$$W_{\text{encap}}^{\text{shear}} = \int_{-\lambda/2}^{\lambda/2} \tau \cdot u(z = H_{\text{encap}}) dx = \frac{3\tau^2}{E_{\text{encap}}} \lambda (H_{\text{encap}} - A), \quad (\text{E.5})$$

$$W_{\text{sub}}^{\text{shear}} = \int_{-\lambda/2}^{\lambda/2} (-\tau) \cdot u(z = -H_{\text{sub}}) dx = \frac{3\tau^2}{E_{\text{sub}}} \lambda (H_{\text{sub}} + A). \quad (\text{E.6})$$

The total potential energy per period Π^{shear} consists of the above energies and works as shown in Eq. (26). Minimizing the total potential energy Π^{shear} via $\frac{\partial \Pi^{\text{shear}}}{\partial \omega} = \frac{\partial \Pi^{\text{shear}}}{\partial \psi} = 0$ determines ω and ψ in Eq. (27). With $\sin\left(\frac{4\pi X}{L}\right) = \sin\left(\frac{4\pi X}{L}\right) + O\left(\frac{A^2}{L^2}\right) \approx \sin\left(\frac{4\pi X}{L}\right)$, the membrane strain and the bending strain in the ribbon induced by the shear stress are

$$\epsilon_{\text{membrane}}^{\text{shear}} = \frac{du_r}{dx} + \frac{dw_0}{dx} \frac{dw_r}{dx} = 0, \quad (\text{E.7})$$

$$\epsilon_{\text{bending}}^{\text{shear}} = d \frac{d^2 w_r}{dx^2} = - \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{d}{L} \frac{96\pi \epsilon_{\text{pre}} (1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})^2}{10\pi^3 \frac{E_r h_r^3}{(E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}) L^3} (1 + \epsilon_{\text{pre}})^3 + 1} \sin\left(\frac{4\pi X}{L}\right), \quad (\text{E.8})$$

respectively.

Appendix F. The displacements in the encapsulation and substrate under remote shear

This appendix focuses on the deformation in the encapsulation under shear, and that in the substrate can be obtained similarly. At the top of the encapsulation, the stress boundary conditions are

$$\sigma_z = 0, \quad \tau_{xz} = \tau \text{ at } z = H_{\text{encap}}. \quad (\text{F.1})$$

The displacements at the encapsulation/ribbon interface $z = w_0(x)$ are given in Eq. (10) with u_r and w_r in Eqs. (23) and (24).

The displacements are decomposed into two parts (See Fig. F1), i.e. $u = u^{(\text{I})} + u^{(\text{II})}$ and $w = w^{(\text{I})} + w^{(\text{II})}$, where the first part

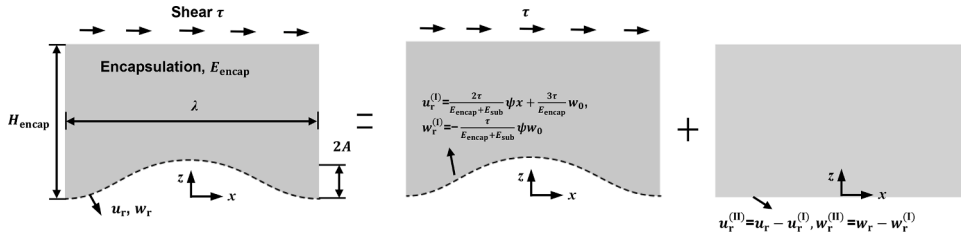


Fig. F1. Decomposition of the deformation of the encapsulation under remote shear stress into two parts.

$$u^{(I)} = \frac{2\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \psi x + \frac{3\tau}{E_{\text{encap}}} z, \quad w^{(I)} = -\frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \psi z \quad (\text{F.2})$$

corresponds to a uniform stress and strain field that satisfies the equilibrium Eqs. (8) and (9), remote boundary conditions in Eq. (F.1), and the change of horizontal displacement over each period being consistent with Eq. (24) for the ribbon, i.e., $u^{(I)}(x = \frac{\lambda}{2}) - u^{(I)}(x = -\frac{\lambda}{2}) = \frac{2\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \psi \lambda$. The second part ($u^{(II)}$ and $w^{(II)}$) satisfies the equilibrium Eqs. (8) and (9), vanishing remote tractions given below, and the displacement continuity across the encapsulation/ribbon interface in Eq. (10) but imposed at $z = 0$, i.e.

$$\sigma_z^{(II)} = 0, \quad \tau_{xz}^{(II)} = 0 \text{ at } z = H_{\text{encap}}, \quad (\text{F.3})$$

$$u^{(II)} = \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{4\pi A^2}{\lambda} \omega \left[\cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) - \frac{1}{3} \cos\left(\frac{6\pi x}{\lambda}\right) \right] - \frac{3\tau}{E_{\text{encap}}} w_0 \text{ at } z = 0, \quad (\text{F.4})$$

$$w^{(II)} = \frac{2\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} A \omega \sin\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \psi w_0 \text{ at } z = 0. \quad (\text{F.5})$$

The solution of Eqs. (8), (9), (F.3)~(F.5) is

$$u^{(II)} = (C_1 + C_2 z) e^{-\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + C_3 z e^{-\frac{4\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + (C_5 + C_6 z) e^{-\frac{6\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{6\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + C_4 z e^{-\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) - \frac{3\tau}{E_{\text{encap}}} A, \quad (\text{F.6})$$

$$w^{(II)} = -\left[C_1 + C_2 \left(z + \frac{5}{6\pi} \lambda \right) \right] e^{-\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) - C_3 \left(z + \frac{5}{12\pi} \lambda \right) e^{-\frac{4\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) - \left[C_5 + C_6 \left(z + \frac{5}{18\pi} \lambda \right) \right] e^{-\frac{6\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{6\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + C_4 \left(z + \frac{5}{6\pi} \lambda \right) e^{-\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \psi A, \quad (\text{F.7})$$

where

$$C_1 = \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{4\pi A^2}{\lambda} \omega - \frac{3\tau}{E_{\text{encap}}} A, \quad (\text{F.8})$$

$$C_2 = -\frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{24\pi^2 A^2}{5\lambda^2} \omega + \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}}} \frac{18\pi A}{5\lambda}, \quad (\text{F.9})$$

$$C_3 = -\frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{24\pi A}{5\lambda} \omega, \quad (\text{F.10})$$

$$C_4 = \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{6\pi A}{5\lambda} \psi, \quad (\text{F.11})$$

$$C_5 = -\frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{4\pi A^2}{3\lambda} \omega, \quad (\text{F.12})$$

$$C_6 = \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{24\pi^2 A^2}{5\lambda^2} \omega. \quad (\text{F.13})$$

The displacements of the substrate are similarly obtained as $u = u^{(I)} + u^{(II)}$ and $w = w^{(I)} + w^{(II)}$, with

$$u^{(I)} = \frac{2\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \psi x + \frac{3\tau}{E_{\text{sub}}} z, \quad w^{(I)} = -\frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \psi z. \quad (\text{F.14})$$

$$u^{(II)} = (C_5 + C_6 z) e^{\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + C_4 z e^{\frac{4\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + (C_2 + C_3 z) e^{\frac{6\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{6\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + C_1 z e^{\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) - \frac{3\tau}{E_{\text{sub}}} A, \quad (\text{F.15})$$

$$w^{(II)} = \left[C_5 + C_6 \left(z - \frac{5}{6\pi} \lambda \right) \right] e^{\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + C_4 \left(z - \frac{5}{12\pi} \lambda \right) e^{\frac{4\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{4\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \left[C_2 + C_3 \left(z - \frac{5}{18\pi} \lambda \right) \right] e^{\frac{6\pi z}{\lambda}} \sin\left(\frac{6\pi x}{\lambda}\right) - C_1 \left(z - \frac{5}{6\pi} \lambda \right) e^{\frac{2\pi z}{\lambda}} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{\lambda}\right) + \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \psi A, \quad (\text{F.16})$$

where

$$C_1 = \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{6\pi A}{5\lambda} \psi, \quad (\text{F.17})$$

$$C_2 = -\frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{4\pi A^2}{3\lambda} \omega, \quad (\text{F.18})$$

$$C_3 = -\frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{24\pi^2 A^2}{5\lambda^2} \omega, \quad (\text{F.19})$$

$$C_4 = -\frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{24\pi A}{5\lambda} \omega, \quad (\text{F.20})$$

$$C_5 = \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{4\pi A^2}{\lambda} \omega - \frac{3\tau}{E_{\text{sub}}} A, \quad (\text{F.21})$$

$$C_6 = \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{encap}} + E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{24\pi^2 A^2}{5\lambda^2} \omega + \frac{\tau}{E_{\text{sub}}} \frac{18\pi A}{5\lambda}. \quad (\text{F.22})$$

Appendix G. Schematics in the concluding remarks and discussions section

Fig. G1 illustrates a unit cell of the pressure/shear sensor based on a 2D array table-like 3D structures with three integrated Si-NMs. The model is periodic along two in-plane (X- and Y-) directions. Fig. G2 shows the device consisting of several units (pixels) with the bottom attaching to a rigid base. Each unit (pixel) consists of a few periods of the wavy ribbon. Fig. G3 illustrates the pressure/shear sensor placing on the soft and curved skin that is commonly encountered in practical applications.

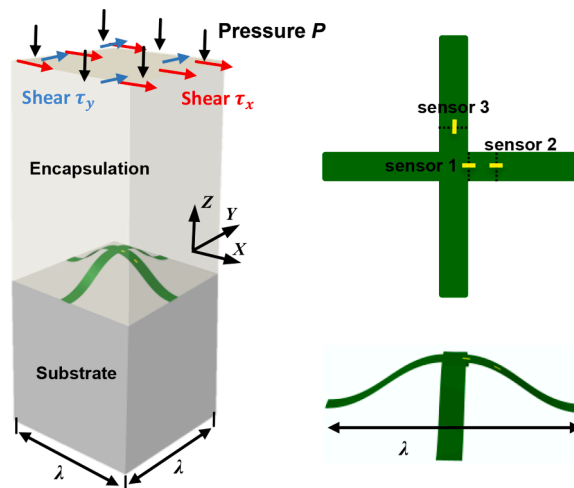


Fig. G1. Schematic of unit cell of the pressure/shear sensor based on a 2D array of table-like 3D structures with three integrated strain gauges.

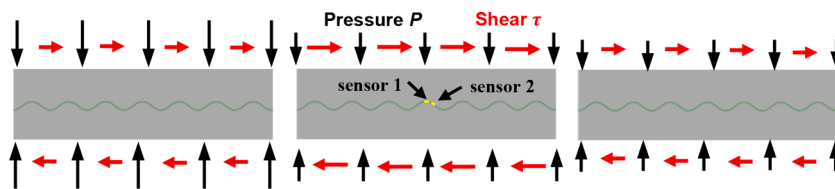


Fig. G2. Schematic of the device consisting of several units (pixels) for determining the non-uniform pressure/shear stress.

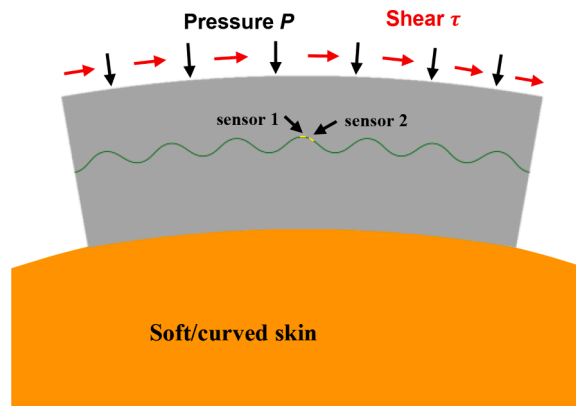


Fig. G3. Schematic of the pressure/shear sensor placed on the soft and curved skin.

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