

Supporting Information

Fibrous Strain Sensor with Ultra-sensitivity, Wide Sensing Range, and Large Linearity for Full-Range Detection of Human Motion

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1. Supplementary Table

Table S1 The performance comparison of strain sensors

Resistive-type strain sensors	Maximum sensing range	Limit of detection	Average gauge factor	Reference
FPC strain sensor	150%	0.1%	80-350	This paper
Fragmentized graphene foam based sensor	70%	0.08%	29	S1
Carbonized cotton fabric based sensor	140%	0.02%	64	S2
graphene-based fiber with “compression spring” architecture	200%	0.2%	3.5	S3
Multilayered Au nanosheet films based sensor	70%	a	36	S4
ultrathin CPC layer-decorated PU yarn based sensor	1%	0.1%	39	S5
Parallel micro-cracked graphite film-based sensor	50%	0.5%	500	S6
Silver nanowire elastomer nanocomposite based sensor	70%	a	8	S7
Carbon nanotubes-Ecoflex nanocomposites based sensor	500%	a	2	S8
Aligned single-walled carbon nanotubes based sensor	300%	a	1	S9
ZnO nanowire/Polystyrene hybridized film based sensor	50%	1.5%	120	S10
Embedded 3D printing sensor	400%	a	5	S11
Graphene/natural rubber composite based sensor	800%	a	32	S12
Nanoscale cracked Pt/PET film	2%	0.5%	2000	S13
AuNWs/PANI film based sensor	100%	a	20.4-61.4	S14
AgNWs-PEDOT:PSS/PU nanocomposite sensor	100%	1.5%	1.07-12.4	S15
AuNWs/Latex rubber film based sensor	350%	0.5%	6.9-9.9	S16
CNT/PEDOT:PSS/PU nanohybrid based sensor	100%	a	8.7-62.3	S17
Graphene nanoplatelets coated yarn based sensor	150%	a	2	S18
Graphene-nanocellulose paper based sensor	100%	6%	8	S19
Graphene mesh fabric on stretchable tape	7.5%	a	20	S20
Fabricated by pencil drawn	0.6%	0.13%	536.6	S21
Laser scribed graphene on PDMS	10%	a	9.5	S22
Fish scale-like rGO/tape film	82%	0.1%	16.2	S23

Table S2 The GF values of FPC strain sensors integrated into the sensing fabric and the resistance variation during clenching and “victory” gesture (X and Y are designed according to Fig. S12)

	Measured GF	Clenching		“Victory” Gesture	
		$\Delta R/R_0$	Calculated Strain (%)	$\Delta R/R_0$	Calculated Strain (%)
X₁₁	75	1.27	1.7	1.22	1.63
X₁₂	67	0.94	1.4	0.95	1.42
X₁₃	76.4	0.81	1.06	0.31	0.41
X₂₁	63	0.68	1.08	0.39	0.62
X₂₂	82	0.67	0.82	0.34	0.42
X₂₃	71	0.78	1.1	0.05	0.07
X₃₁	74	0.67	0.91	0.27	0.37
X₃₂	86	0.63	0.73	0.086	0.1
X₃₃	78	0.77	0.99	0.04	0.05
Y₁₁	69	2.5	3.6	1.66	2.4
Y₁₂	71	2.7	3.8	0.327	0.46
Y₁₃	70	2.59	3.7	0.006	0.009
Y₂₁	76	2.2	2.9	1.39	1.83
Y₂₂	67	2.08	3.1	0.35	0.52
Y₂₃	78	1.87	2.4	0.009	0.012
Y₃₁	76	1.6	2.1	1.14	1.5
Y₃₂	73	1.6	2.2	0.08	0.11
Y₃₃	83	1.33	1.6	0.002	0.003

2. Supplementary Figures

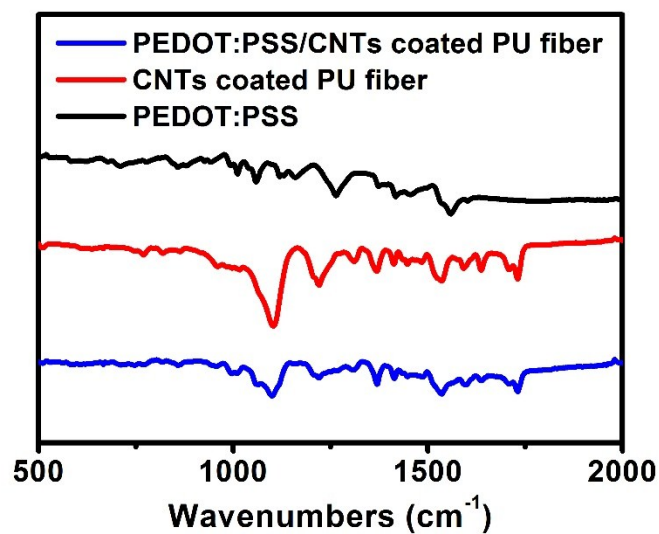


Fig. S1 IR spectra of PEDOT:PSS, CNTs coated PU fiber, and PEDOT:PSS/CNTs coated PU fiber

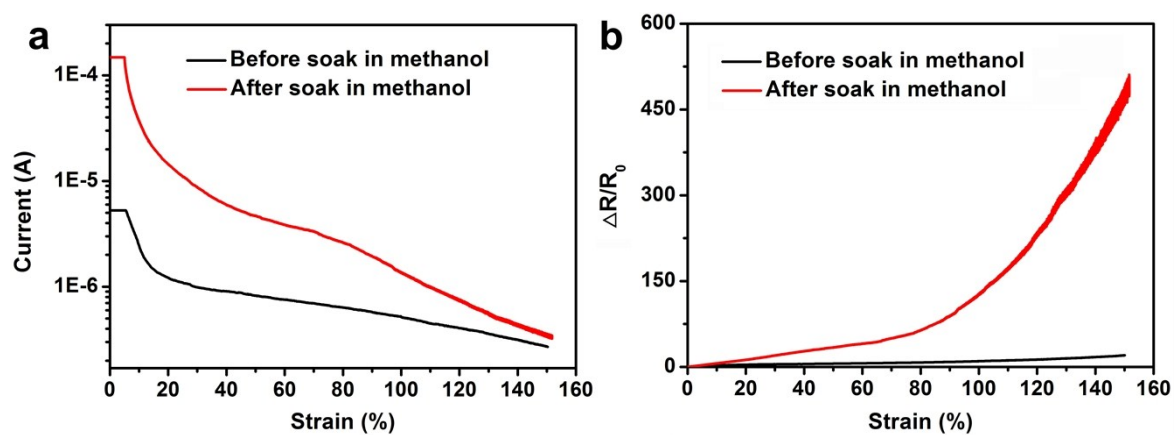


Fig. S2 (a) Variation of current with strain of FPC strain sensors before and after the treat by methanol. (b) Relative resistance performance of FPC strain sensors before and after the treat by methanol.

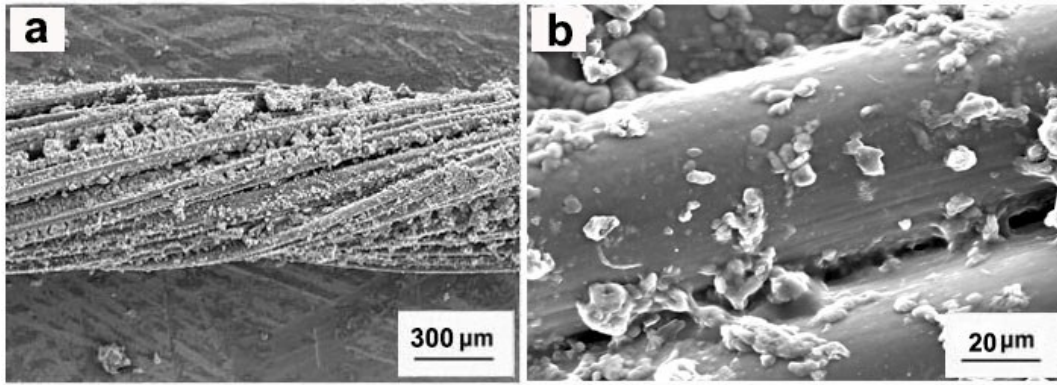


Fig. S3 (a) SEM image of PEDOT:PSS/CNTs coated PU fiber core substrate; (b) magnified SEM image of PEDOT:PSS/CNTs coated PU fiber core substrate: the bottom of CNTs agglomerates are covered and fixed by the PEDOT:PSS layer.

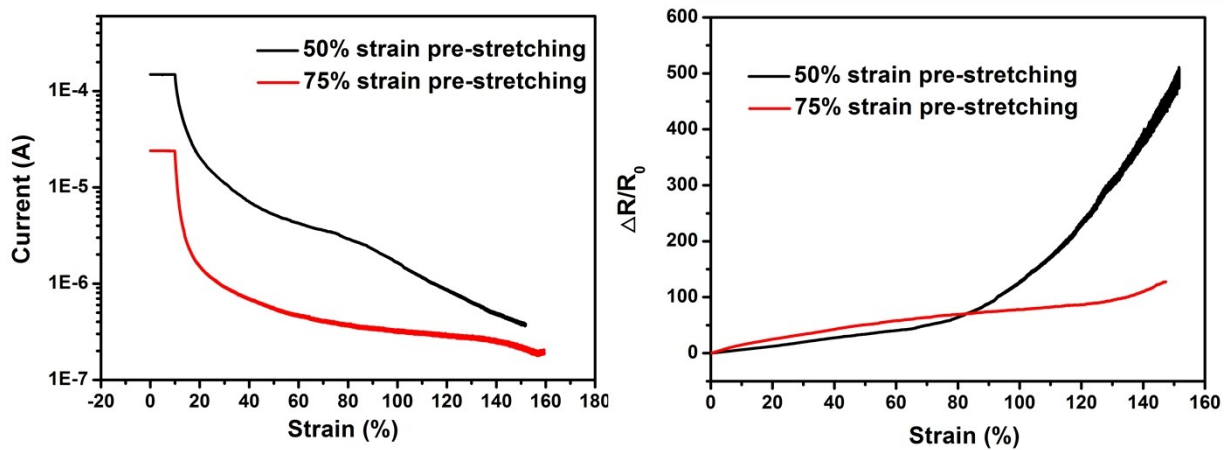


Fig. S4 (a) Variation of current with strain of FPC strain sensors with 50% elongation of pre-stretching. (b) Relative resistance performance of FPC strain sensors with 75% elongation of pre-stretching.

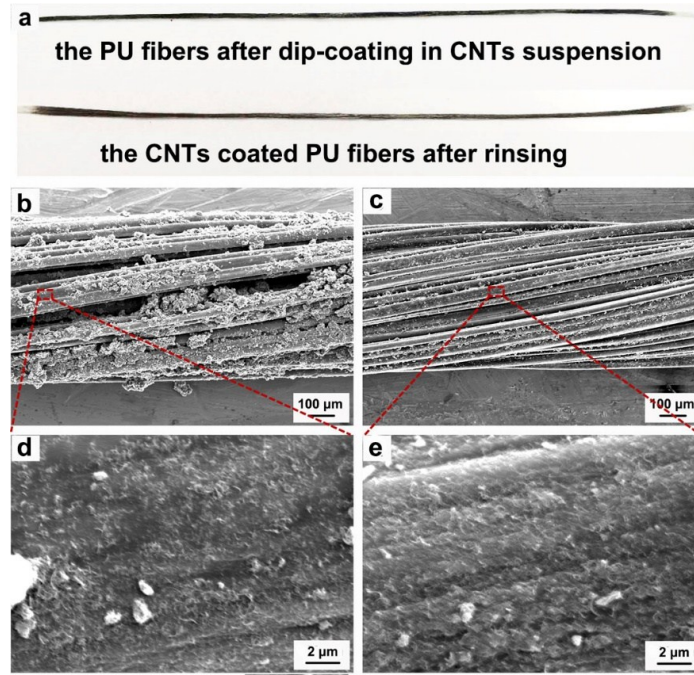


Fig. S5 (a) Comparison of the morphologies of PU fiber cores with and without attachment of CNTs agglomerates. (b) SEM image of PU fiber cores with CNTs agglomerates. (c) SEM image of PU fiber cores without CNTs agglomerates. (d) Magnified SEM image of PU fiber cores with CNTs agglomerates. (e) Magnified SEM image of PU fiber cores without CNTs agglomerates.

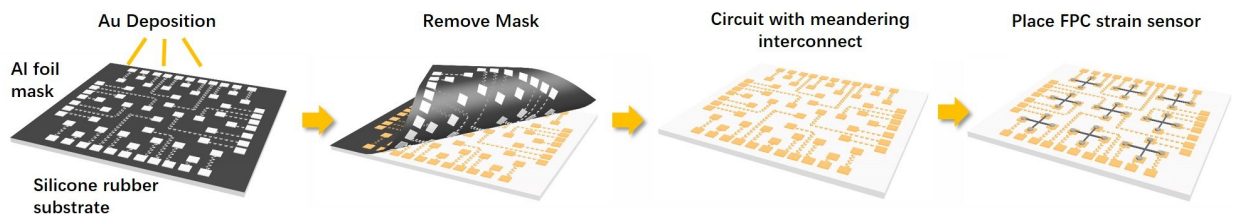


Fig. S6 Fabrication process of the multi-pixel sensor array based on the FPC strain sensors

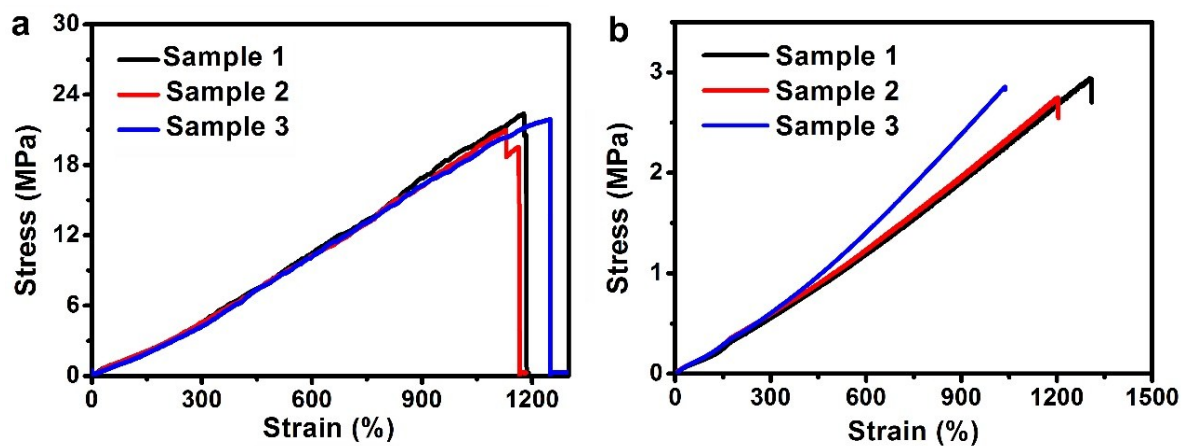


Fig. S7 Mechanical behavior of (a) PU fiber; (b) Dragon Skin elastomer

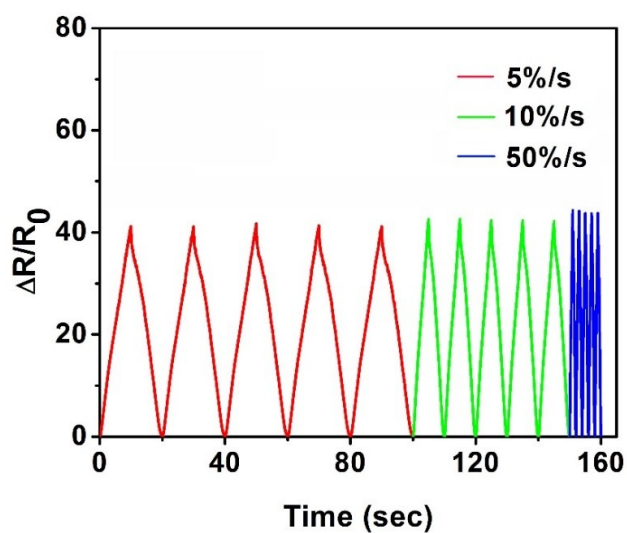


Fig. S8 Variations of relative resistance of FPC strain sensor during the stretching-releasing process for 50% at the rate of 5% s^{-1} , 10% s^{-1} , 50% s^{-1} , respectively.

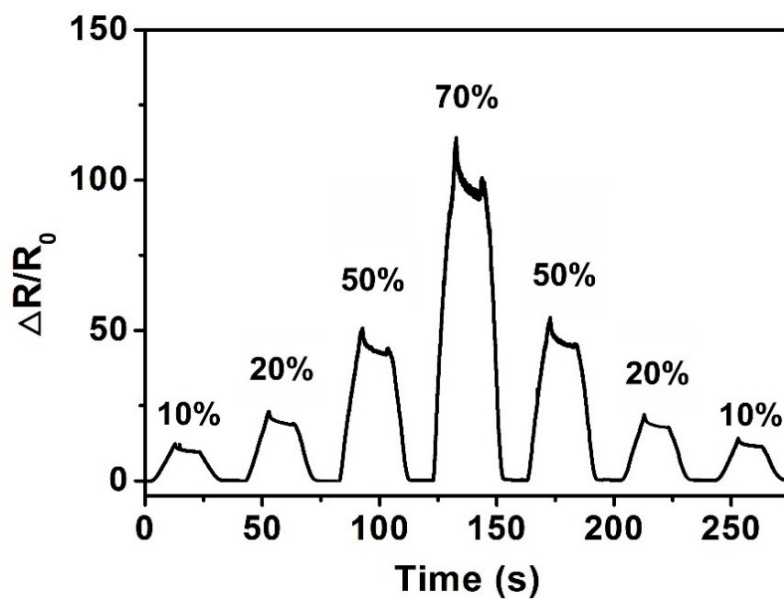


Fig. S9 Relative resistance response of the strain sensor to different strains after a stepped strain change.

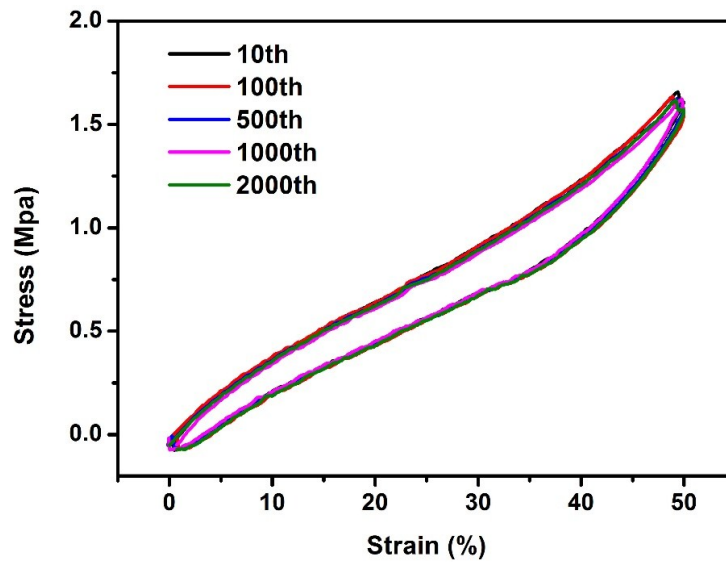


Fig. S10 Mechanical stability of the PEDOT:PSS-CNTs/PU composite fiber upon cyclic stretching/releasing to 50% for 2000 cycles.

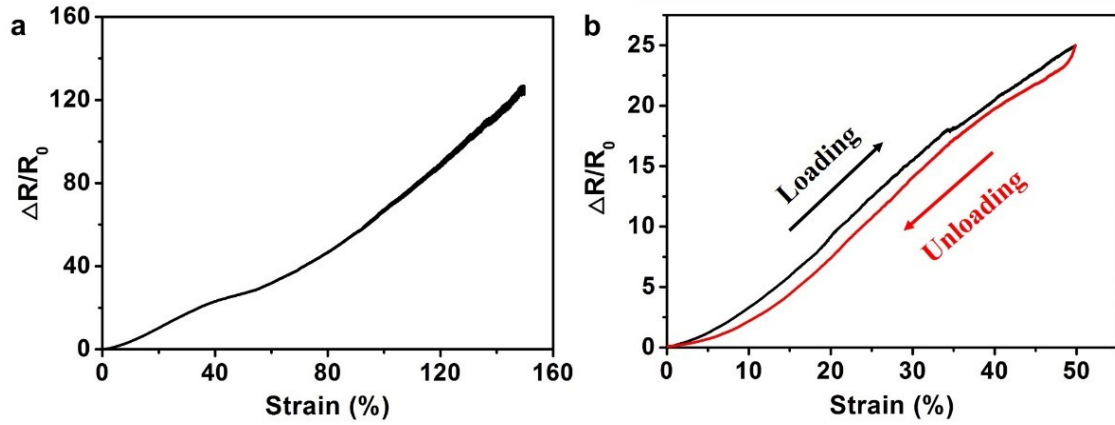


Fig. S11 Electromechanical behaviors of the fibrous strain sensor with only CNTs as the sensing layer. (a) $\Delta R/R_0$ - ε curve of the sensor recorded at a stretching rate of $1\% \text{ sec}^{-1}$. (b) Variation in $\Delta R/R_0$ of the sensor under a 50% strain loading-unloading cycle.

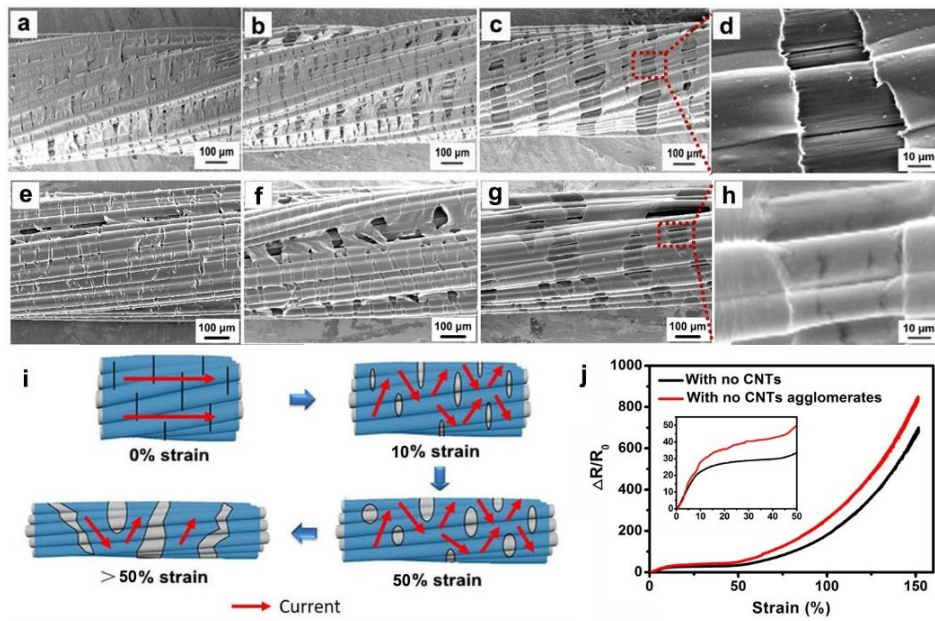


Fig. S12 SEM image of the fibrous strain sensor without addition of CNTs at (a) 0% strain. (b) 30% strain. (c) 70% strain. (d) Magnified SEM image of the fibrous strain sensor without addition of CNTs at 70% strain. SEM image of the fibrous strain sensor without CNTs agglomerates at (e) 0% strain. (f) 30% strain. (g) 70% strain. (h) Magnified SEM image of the fibrous strain sensor without CNTs agglomerates at 70% strain. (i) Schematic illustration of the fibrous strain sensor without CNTs agglomerates upon stretching. (j) $\Delta R/R_0$ - ε curves of fibrous strain sensors with no CNTs and without CNTs agglomerates. The inset reproduces the curves within 0-50% strain range.

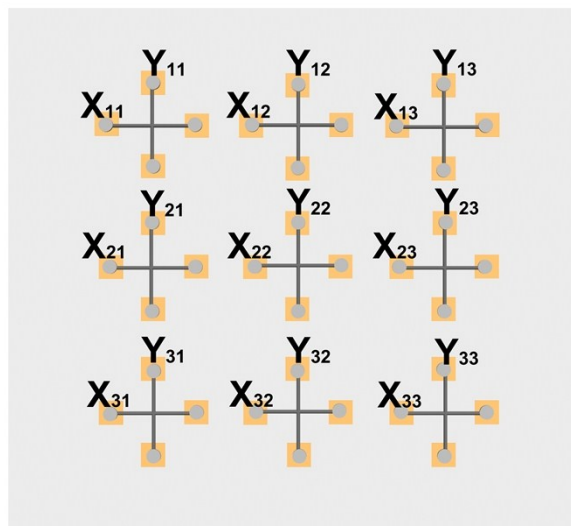


Fig. S13 FPC strain sensors integrated on the electronic fabric with 3×3 pixel array

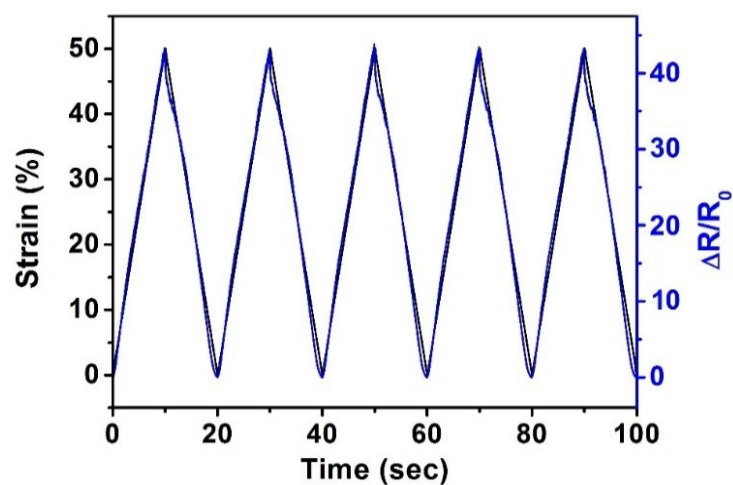


Fig. S14 Cycling test of FPC strain sensor at a stretching/releasing rate of $1\% \text{ s}^{-1}$; its relative resistance changes synchronously with strain.

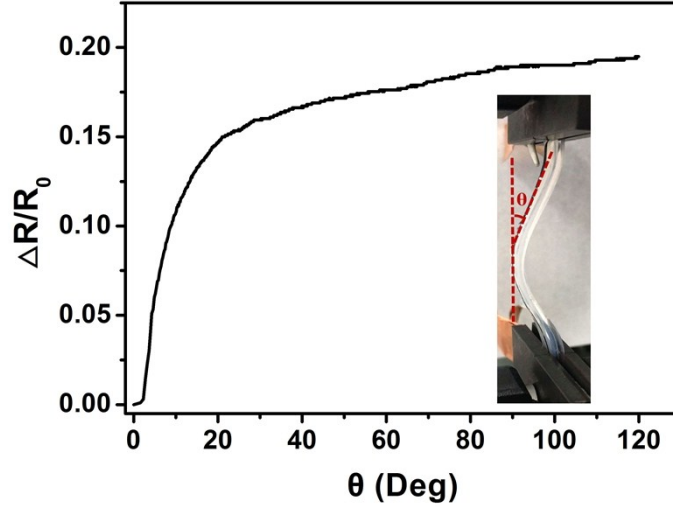


Fig. S15 Plot of relative resistance as a function of bending degree. Inset: FPH strain sensor in bending testing.

3. Simulation of the sensing mechanism

Based on the microstructure variation of the FPC strain sensor, the resistance variation of the strain sensor was simplified into a network circuit model (Fig. 3d). In this model, total resistance of the sensor consists of the resistance of the PEDOT:PSS fragments wrapped on each PU fibers ($R_1, R_2 \dots R_x, R_1', R_2' \dots$ in Fig. 3d) and the contact resistance between PEDOT:PSS fragments and CNTs agglomerates (R_c in Fig. 3d). During uniaxial stretching, the resistance of every PEDOT:PSS fragments are approximated to be constant, and the increase in the resistance of the sensor is mainly attributed to the change of R_c . We simplified the change in R_c as the result of the stochastic break of the conductive path, and the proportion of the break is proportional to the strain.

By inputting the model into NI Multisim™, the currents of the circuit with a specified proportional of the break can be calculated (spots in Fig. 3e). Based on our assumption that

the proportion of break is proportional to the strain, the variation of current with extensional strain can be simulated. Thus, the change of the $\Delta R/R_0$ with the strain (ε) is simulated, and fitted by using $\Delta R/R_0 - \varepsilon$ curves, as shown in Fig. 3e. Through changing the number of the conductive path (n in Fig. 3d), the $\Delta R/R_0 - \varepsilon$ curves of the FPC strain sensor with different PU fibers (m in Fig. 3d) can be obtained.

The simulated results show that the sensing architecture of FPC strain sensors will provide a good linear relationship between $\Delta R/R_0$ and ε at low strain, consistent well with the experimental results (Fig. 2d). However, this linear relationship will be terminated with the increase in the extensional strain, especially for the sensors with less PU fibers. In addition, the simulated curves show that GF (the slopes of $\Delta R/R_0 - \varepsilon$ curves) increases with the decrease of the PU fibers, consistent well with the experimental results in Fig. 2a. This could be attributed to the stronger influence of a quantitative break in the whole conductive network.

Supplementary References

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