Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Materials Horizons. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2019

1	Supplementary Materials for
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3	An ambient-stable and stretchable ionic skin with multimodal sensation
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25	generated signals to control the movement of a greedy snake.



28 Fig. S1. Two-step synthesis of Alskin.



Fig. S2. Mechanical performance of the Alskin. (A) Pure-shear test for measuring the toughness 30 of an Alskin. A piece of hydrogel with a notch was stretched until the crack propagates. (B) Stress-31 strain curve of the Alskin. (C) Five successive tensile loading-unloading cycles of an Alskin at the 32 maximum strain of 100%. (D) Five successive compression loading-unloading cycles of an AIskin 33 at a maximum strain of 80%. (E) Peeling adhesion test. Digital photo showing the Alskin under 34 180-degree peeling test, in which two surfaces of hydrogel were glued to a PET film to eliminate 35 energy dissipation in regions away from the crack tip. Two open ends of hydrogel with grip were 36 stretched with a universal testing machine. 37



Fig. S3. Rectification effect of an Alskin at different conditions. (A) Voltage-current curves for 40 the hydrogel skin with the same charge density. (B) Voltage-current curves and (C) Rectification 41 ratio of an AIskin at different sweeping rates. (D) Voltage-current curves for an ambient stable 42 Alskin with 50 v/v % glycerol on day 0 and day 3. (E) Voltage-current curves for an ambient stable 43 Alskin with 50 v/v % EG on day 0 and day 3. (F) Rectification ratio is compared between two 44 hygroscopic materials on day 0 and day 3. (G) Voltage-current curves for ambient stable Alskin 45 with different EG concentrations on day 0. (H) Voltage-current curves for ambient stable Alskin 46 with different EG concentrations on day 3. (I) Rectification ratio is compared between ambient 47 stable Alskin with different concentrations of EG on day 0 and day 3. 48



50 Fig. S4. Capacitance-voltage (C-V) response of different types of biolayer hydrogels. (A)
51 Comparison between AIskin, bilayer PSS hydrogel and bilayer PDAC hydrogel when the scan
52 frequency is 100 Hz. (B) Comparison of the C-V responses of the same AIskin under low (100 Hz)
53 and high (10000 Hz) scan frequencies. All the devices were washed for 4 h before tests.



Fig. S5. Transmittance of EG-laden AIskin at the wavelength of 700 nm with different experimental conditions. (A) RH = 88%, and thickness varies from 2 mm to 4 mm. (B) Optical photographs showing the transparency of samples with different thicknesses. (C) Thickness = 3mm, RH varies from 33% to 88%. (D) Optical photographs showing the transparency of samples under different RH values. All the samples were stored in humidity chambers for at least 3 days before transmittance measurement.





63 Fig. S6. Measurement of water loss as a function of RHs. The mass of Alskin is normalized with

64 its initial mass (N = 3).



Fig. S7. Rectifying effect of AIskin at different RHs and strains. (**A**) Rectification ratios of AIskin at different RHs after storage for 3 days (N=9). NS: not significant. (**B**) Voltage-current curves of an AIskin without EG after 3-day storage at RH 13%. (**C**) Repeated I-V testing results of an AIskin under the laboratory environment (21 °C and relative humidity of 60~65%). Between each measurement, the device was electrically shorted for 60 s. (**D**) Rectification ratio of an AIskin under different strains (N=3). (**E**) Voltage-current curves of an AIskin under different strains. The AI skin used in **Fig. S7.** C-D was washed for 2 h.





Fig. S8. Resistance-strain relations of the AIskin, PSS hydrogel and PDAC hydrogel. (A)
Resistance-strain curves of the AIskin, PSS and PDAC DN hydrogels (N=3-4). The compressive
strains vary from 10% to 50%. (B) Resistive gauge factors (GF_R) among the AIskin, bilayer PSS
and bilayer PDAC hydrogels.



Fig. S9. Capacitance-strain relations of the AIskin, PSS hydrogel, and PDAC hydrogel. (A)
Capacitance-strain curves of the ambient stable AIskin at the RH of 65% (N=3). The compressive
strains vary from 10% to 50%. The capacitance is normalized by the area of electrode-hydrogel
contact. (B) Capacitance-strain curves of the AIskin, PSS and PDAC DN hydrogel (N=3-4). The
compressive strains vary from 10% to 40%. (C) Capacitive gauge factors (GF_C) among the AIskin,
bilayer PSS and bilayer PDAC hydrogels.



89 Fig. S10. Schematic mechanism of OCV change with applied deformation on an Alskin.



Fig. S11. Self-generating capability of the AIskin, PSS hydrogel, and PDAC hydrogel. (A)
Relative OCV of the AIskin, bilayer PSS and bilayer PDAC hydrogels. (B) Relative SCCD of the
AIskin, bilayer PSS and bilayer PDAC hydrogels. The compressive strain is 50% and the strain
speed is 10% s⁻¹ for all three devices.



Fig. S12. Durability and stability of the AIskin for the use of strain sensor. OCV is measured
as a representative signal in this study. (A) Durability of OCV signals after ~1000 cycles of repeated
loading-unloading steps at the RH of 13%. The strain is 50%. (B). Zoom-in plot of Fig. S12. A. (C)
Stability of OCV signals over one-month storage at the RH of 65% (N=3).



Fig. S13. Sensing robustness of AIskin under different strain rates. (A) Resistance curve at specific strain rates (2.5% s⁻¹,5% s⁻¹, 10% s⁻¹ and 20% s⁻¹). (B) Capacitance curve at specific strain rates (2.5% s⁻¹,5% s⁻¹, 10% s⁻¹ and 20% s⁻¹). (C) Relative OCV at specific strain rates (5% s⁻¹, 10% s⁻¹ and 20% s⁻¹). (D) Relative SCCD at specific strain rates (5% s⁻¹, 10% s⁻¹ and 20% s⁻¹). The compressive strain is set at 50%.



Fig. S14. Comparison of the response and recovery time between our AIskin and a commercial hygrometer (B0778C8C9L, AMIR). (A) Relative conductance changes of an EGladen AIskin with a thickness of 300 μ m with repeated human breath applied. (B) Zoomed-in view of one response cycle (response time: 3s, and recovery time: 94s) in Fig. S14A. (C) The response (response time: 30s, and recovery time: 419s) of the commercial hygrometer to one human breath.

- 117 **Movie S1.** Pure shear test to show the stretchability and toughness of the AIskin.
- 118 Movie S2. Alskin sandwiched between VHB films mounted on a finger joint to show high 119 transparency and stretchability.
- Movie S3. Human-machine interaction by using a four-button artificial skin with self-generatedsignals to control the movement of a greedy snake.