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Conducting Interpenetrating Polymer Network to Sense and Actuate: Measurements and Modeling

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Abstract

This paper deals with conducting interpenetrating polymers networks (C-IPN). This class of polymers enables us to actuate and sense with the same material. It is of great interest when system integration or limited workspace are an issue. The C-IPNs allow for large displacements under low voltages (typically up to 5 V) with a reversible process. In this work, we are mainly interested in the modeling of the polymer because of its particular behavior. Experimental results are provided to better understand the behavior of the C-IPN. Based on these results, analytical functions are derived in order to predict both sensor and actuator voltage outputs with a good correlation regarding experimental data. These functions are required to use and control the C-IPNs for future applications.

Keywords: conducting polymers, soft robotics, soft sensors

1. Introduction

Actuators with integrated sensors to monitor the acting forces and movements are a challenging topic and might be useful for different kind of applications. The main challenge is to propose a single physical system with both

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