MAR14-2014-020858

Abstract for an Invited Paper for the MAR14 Meeting of the American Physical Society

Mechanics analysis and design of fractal interconnects for stretchable batteries YONGGANG HUANG, Northwestern University

An important trend in electronics involves the development of materials, mechanical designs and manufacturing strategies that enable the use of unconventional substrates, such as polymer films, metal foils, paper sheets or rubber slabs. The last possibility is particularly challenging because the systems must accommodate not only bending but also stretching. Although several approaches are available for the electronics, a persistent difficulty is in power supplies that have similar mechanical properties, to allow their co-integration with the electronics. Here we introduce a set of materials and design concepts for a rechargeable lithium ion battery technology that exploits thin, low modulus silicone elastomers as substrates, with a segmented design in the active materials, and unusual "self-similar" interconnect structures between them. The result enables reversible levels of stretchability up to 300%, while maintaining capacity densities of ~ 1.1 mAh cm⁻². Stretchable wireless power transmission systems provide the means to charge these types of batteries, without direct physical contact.