Wide Range and Low Detection Limit Flexible Magnetic Sensors for Electronic Skin

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Abstract

Electronic skins (e-skins) which are conformably situated on biological tissue, readily following all its natural motions and distortions have shown broad application prospects in consumer electronics, WIT120, and other fields. Flexible magnetic sensors are an important component of e-skins, they provide the " sixth sense " -non-contact detection of static or dynamic magnetic fields. But the simultaneous realization of high flexibility, low detection limit, and wide range has become a core problem of current magnetic sensors used in e-skins. Amorphous wires have many special effects like giant magnetic impedance effect (GMI) and giant stress impedance effect (GSI). In this work, we have combined GMI and GSI effects in a single device, to realize low detection limit and wide range simultaneously. The amorphous wires and magnetic particle are encapsulated in Eco-flex elastomer. GMI effect of amorphous wires works well at the low magnetic field but at higher magnetic field values, GMI effect saturates and elastomer starts deforming due to the interaction between the magnetic field and magnetic particles inside. Elastomer deformation also drives the amorphous wire to deform, thus generating stress and continuously changing its impedance. By this method, we can measure the magnetic field from 1nT to 0.4T in a single device. The current sensor can also stretch upto 15% perpendicular to the amorphous wire, thus can be applied to navigation, motion tracking in robotics and regenerative medicine.



Figure1: The response of the magnetic sensor on the magnetic field

References

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