

Additive Manufacturing of Functional Materials

Track Code: 2022-NEWE-69857

Categories:

- Materials and Manufacturing

Keywords:

- Additive Manufacturing
- Direct ink writing
- Electric poling-assisted additive manufacturing
- Fused deposition modeling
- Materials and Manufacturing
- Piezoelectric sensors
- Poly(vinylidene fluoride)
- Sensors

Researchers at Purdue University have developed a new method for additive manufacturing (3-D printing) of functional materials. No methods that combine additive manufacturing and electric poling currently exist, significantly limiting the range of materials that can be electrically polarized. The Purdue researchers' method allows for electric poling of complex geometric structures. The Purdue researchers electrically polarized poly(vinylidene fluoride), known as PVdF, to improve its characteristics and performance, including its piezoelectric activity, sensitivity, and beta-phase. The highest average piezoelectric activity obtained using the researchers' method was 59.2 pC/N, whereas the average piezoelectric activity of printed unpoled films was 7.13 pC/N.

Advantages

- Allows functionalizing complex 3D structures
- Allows for embedding sensing into 3D structures
- Provides piezoelectric response

Applications

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Technology Validation: Increasing the poling voltages and time provided a piezoelectric activity approximately 8 times higher than that of unpoled films.

Publications

1] <https://doi.org/10.1002/adem.202200485>

2] <https://doi.org/10.1115/SMASIS2021-67832>

3] <https://doi.org/10.1115/SMASIS2020-2245>

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Intellectual Property:

Application Date: June 16, 2022

Type: Provisional-Patent

Country of Filing: United States

Patent Number: (None)

Issue Date: (None)

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Country of Filing: United States

Patent Number: (None)

Issue Date: (None)

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