Tactile sensor using patterned ionic gel

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Wearable electronics and robotics are attracting attention as health concerns grow. Most devices consist of a power source, an actuator, and a sensor. Among these, we have studied tactile sensors that detect signals. The advantages of ionic gels are that they are flexible, biocompatible, and conductive, and thus can be used in wearable devices. However, since conventional ionic gels are produced in water environment, the modulus is so small that it is difficult to make various shapes with micro size. In this work, we present how to make an ionic gel without water and make various microstructures. Furthermore, we showed the possibility that the ionic gel could be used as a tactile sensor.