## Origami in Robotics: Fabrication and Self-Folding

Sam Felton 22Mar2017



### Autonomous Folding



## Origami Engineering



Mathematically...

We can fold anything

Computationally... We can generate fold patterns automatically

Physically...

It's fast and inexpensive







### **Folded Fabrication**





Sreetharan et al. JMM 2012

#### **Printable Machines**





## **Folded Fabrication**



#### Rapidly built from digital blueprints with minimal cost and equipment





## Origami-Style Robot Features





Onal et al. IEEE Trans Mech 2015





#### Origami-inspired printed robots

#### Cagdas D. Onal, Michael T. Tolley, Robert J. Wood, Daniela Rus

Supplemental Video S2

Onal et al. IEEE Trans Mech 2015

#### Folded Design

#### Mechanisms



Sung et al., JMR 2015

#### **Machines**



Mehta et al., ISRR 2013





#### Origami-inspired printed robots

#### Cagdas D. Onal, Michael T. Tolley, Robert J. Wood, Daniela Rus

Supplemental Video S3

Onal et al. IEEE Trans Mech 2015

## Multi-Layered Folded Machines

#### Advantages

Tailored mechanical properties Better hinge behavior Asymmetric behavior Additional functional properties Multi-layer fold patterns

10 cm



#### **Common Design**

Rigid Adhesive Flexural Adhesive Rigid





#### **Alternative Layers**

#### **Flexible Circuit Boards**



#### **Active Materials**





#### **Inelastic Materials**









#### **Discontinuous** Layers



### **Fabrication Process**



## **Pop-Up Folding**









### Pop-Up Book MEMS



## Self-Assembly through Folding

#### **Autonomous Assembly**

#### Malachowski et al., Nano 2014





Zirbel et al., J Mech Des 2013

#### **Fast, Parallel Assembly**



Hand folded

**3D** 

hour Onal et al. IEEE Trans Mech 2015

#### Selffolded 5 minutes

Felton et al., Science 2014

### **Prior Self-Folding**

Hydrogel Swelling Guan et al. 2005

Magnetic Field Yi et al. 1999

Prestressed Layers Laflin et al. 2012

Shape Memory Polymers Liu et al. 2012

Capillary Forces Antkowiak et al. 2012

Shape Memory Alloys Hawkes et al. 2010





10 mm





### **Robotic Self-Folding**

- 1. Bidirectional Folds
- 2. Sequential Folding
- 3. Angular Control
- 4. Flexural Hinges
- 5. Centimeter Scale





## **Prior Self-Folding**

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#### Shape Memory Polymers

Mechanically programmed **shape change triggered** by environmental stimulus like **heat**.





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## **Self-Folding Parameters**







#### **Improved Composite**

Stiffer



## Design Rules through Models



fold angle

#### thermo-mechanical model



- Accuracy
- Precision
- Max angle



- Hinge torque
- Fold time



#### Model: Fold Angle



Felton et al., Science 2014



#### Model: Max Angle



 $\theta = 2\cos^{-1}(C)$ 



### **Model: Material Properties**





Stress 
$$\sigma = \begin{cases} 0 & T \leq T_g - T_r \\ \sigma_c \left(\frac{T - T_g + T_r}{2T_r}\right) & T_g - T_r \leq T \leq T_g + T_r \\ \sigma_c & T \geq T_g + T_r \end{cases}$$

Felton et al., Soft Matter 2013



#### Model: Hinge Torque





## Model: Hinge Torque

#### Polystyrene: viscoelastic



#### **Feature Size**



#### Max Face Length:

$$\tau_s = \tau_g = g\rho_A W \frac{L^2}{2}$$

$$L_{max} = 97 \text{ mm}$$

Effective range of feature sizes: 10 mm – 100 mm

#### Min Face Length:



10 mm:	Minimum size
5 mm:	folded, then delaminated
3 mm:	failed to activate



#### Example – Crane



### Design Rules

Contractile stress Contractile thickness Contractile offset

Adhesion strength -

Current Material properties Composite geometry

Hinge geometry }

Hinge geometry Contractile shrink ratio

**Maximum Size** 

**Minimum Size** 

**Fold Time** 

**Fold Angle** 

Max Angle

Complexity

## **Self-Folding Machines**





"M-TRAN" by Distributed System Design Group, Intelligent Systems Institute, AIST

## **Self-Folding Machines**



Machine-level capabilities: 1. Complex geometries 2. Complex mechanisms 3. Autonomous folding



Origamizing Polyhedral Surfaces, Tachi 2010



"Strandbeest" by Jared Tarbell

"M-TRAN" by Distributed System Design Group, Intelligent Systems Institute, AIST



## **Arbitrary Geometries**

**Requirements:** 

- 1.Controlled
- 2. Bidirectional
- 3. Cyclic Folds







Origamizing Polyhedral Surfaces, Tachi 2010

#### Cyclic Folds





#### Miura Pattern



Four edge – single

vertex

One degree of freedom





Rigid-foldable thick origami, Tachi 2010

## Cyclic Folds





A Method for Building Self-Folding Machines, Felton et al. 2014

### **Arbitrary Mechanisms**







Alberthyang, Wikimedia Commons

Generalizations of Kempe's Universality Theorum, Abbott 2008: Proof that  $O(n^d)$  linkage bars needed to trace a **polynomial curve** of power *n* in *d* dimensions.

Computational Design of Mechanical Characters, Coros et al. 2013: Algorithm that **approximates a sketched curve** in two

dimensions.



## Self-Folding Linkages





#### **Actuator Coupling**





### Autonomous Folding

Requirements: 1.Onboard Power 2.Onboard Controls



Si998





8x

## Autonomous Folding

- 1. Outer Leg Folding
- 2. Motor Alignment
- 3. Body Folding
- 4. Stand Up
- 5. Inner Leg Folding

1: Outer Leg Folding

00:00



#### Self-Folding Sensors





### Self-Folding Lamp



#### Swarm Self-Folding



#### Self-Folding Swarm Bot



Nisser et al. in prep



### Swarm Self-Folding







Nisser et al. in prep



Other self-folding methods

#### **Cheaper Composites**

#### **Centimeter-Scale Machines**

#### **Reversible Folding**



#### `Easy-Bake' Self-Folding







#### `Easy-Bake' Self-Folding

# Self-Folding and Self-Sealing Icosahedron









#### Bumblebee







#### **Pneumatic Folding**





#### **Pneumatic Folding**

#### A Self-folding Dodecahedron



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**WPI** 

Prof. Cagdas Onal



-Expedition in computing for Compiling Printable Programmable Machines

-Programmable Origami for Integration of Self-Assembling Systems in Engineered Structures



### Questions?

