

化学と機械工学の融合が拓くエネルギーハーベスティングの未来

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Future of energy harvesting opened up by fusion of chemistry and mechanical engineering
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Energy harvesting from human walking is a suitable power supply for powering battery-less wearable devices. Due to the fact that low-frequency 3-D vibration with 3-axis rotation is dominant for human motion, rotational energy harvesters (EHs) have advantages over vibration EHs. Among various transduction mechanisms, electret generators are advantageous in terms of higher output power at low frequencies and their low-profile structures. In this talk, after giving the overview of energy harvesting technologies, developments of new materials for electret EHs and their application to rotational electret EH are introduced.

In the present study, a novel high-performance amorphous fluorinated polymer electret based on quantum chemical analysis is proposed. With a 15 μm -thick film, a record-high surface charge density of -4 mC/m^2 with extremely-high thermal stability of implanted charged has been obtained. In addition, when nematic liquid crystal with anisotropic permittivity is introduced between electrets and electrodes, the output power is much enhanced by increasing the device capacitance while suppressing the parasitic capacitance. Importance of developing new functional materials for energy harvesting is discussed.

Keywords : Energy harvesting; Vibration; Electret; Fluorinated polymer; Anisotropic permittivity

歩行からの環境発電（エネルギーハーベスティング）は、電池レス・ウェアラブルデバイスに適した電源である。特に、低周波数・3次元の振動・回転が主であるので、単振動型よりも回転型の発電機が向いていると考えられる。低周波数領域かつ低背サイズの発電原理としては、エレクトレットが他の原理よりも優れている¹⁾。本報では、環境発電技術について概観したのち、エレクトレット発電機のための新しい材料の開発²⁻⁴⁾、およびその回転型発電機への応用⁵⁾について報告し、環境発電における機能材料開発の重要性について議論する。

本研究では、量子化学計算を用いて、新規性の高い高性能アモルファスフッ素樹脂のエレクトレット材料を提案した²⁻⁴⁾。15 μm 厚さの膜に対して、これまでの最高の -4 mC/m^2 の表面電荷密度と、非常に高い電荷の熱的安定性を実現した。また、異方性誘電率を持つネマチック液晶を電極・エレクトレット間に挿入すると、デバイスの容量は増加させつつ寄生容量を抑制することによって、発電量を顕著に増大させることができることを明らかにした⁶⁾。環境発電における新しい機能性材料開発の重要性について解説する。

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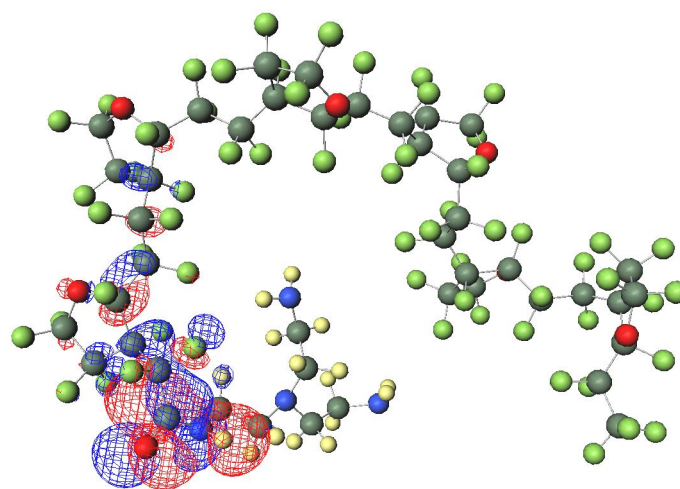


Figure 1: Distribution of excess electron in amorphous fluorinated polymer electret showing localized charge trap near the end group⁴⁾.

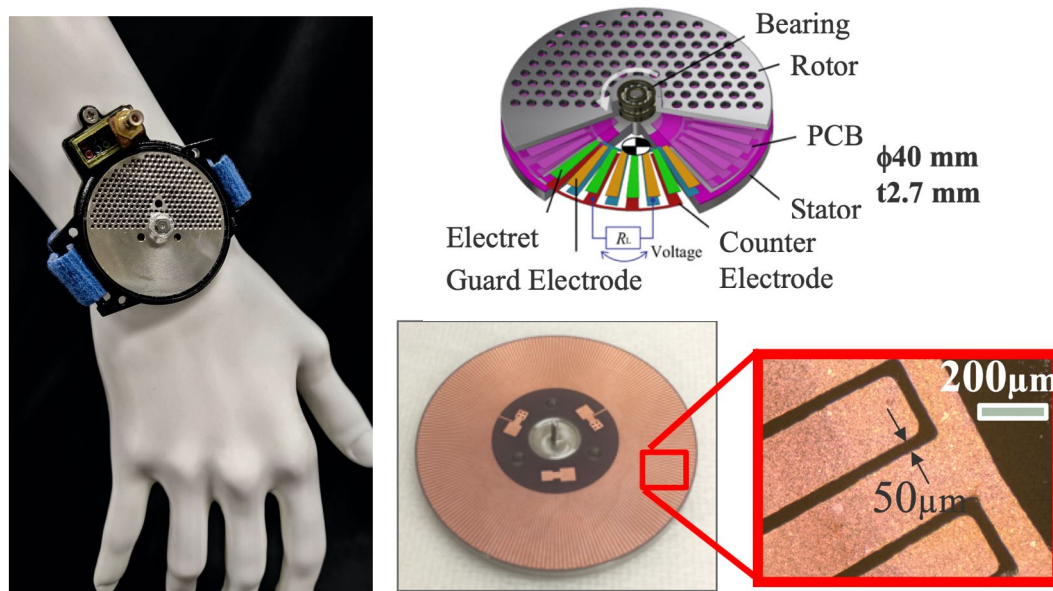


Figure 2: Rotational electret energy harvester⁵⁾.