

Interactive liquid crystal polymers for haptics and soft robotics

Danqing Liu^{1,2,*}

1. Group Human Interactive Materials (HIM), Department of Chemical Engineering & Chemistry, Eindhoven University of Technology, Den Dolech 2, 5612 AZ Eindhoven, The Netherlands

2. Institute for Complex Molecular Systems (ICMS), P.O. Box 513, 5600 MB Eindhoven, The Netherlands

*Corresponding author email address: Danqing.liu@tue.nl

Abstract

We propose the integration of a haptic liquid crystal polymer network (LCN) coating into optical displays, creating a next-generation touchscreen with dynamic haptic feedback (1). This innovative approach bridges optics and haptics, enabling displays to provide real-time tactile sensations through programmable surface deformations. The LCN coating responds to external stimuli such as temperature, light, and electric fields (2), allowing for localized texture changes, friction modulation, and pressure-sensitive feedback. This seamless integration transforms smooth glass surfaces into interactive, touch-responsive interfaces, enhancing user experience in consumer electronics, augmented reality, and assistive technologies. The ability to create programmable tactile patterns makes it ideal for visually impaired users, immersive gaming, virtual training environments, and advanced medical interfaces. By merging haptics with optics, this technology redefines human-machine interaction, paving the way for smarter, more intuitive touch interfaces in the digital age.

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References

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