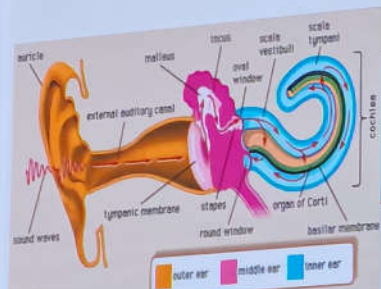


From understanding of AUDITION and VISION SENSES to biomedical and consumer applications



The mechanics of the inner ear

Georg von Békésy
Nobel laureate 1961

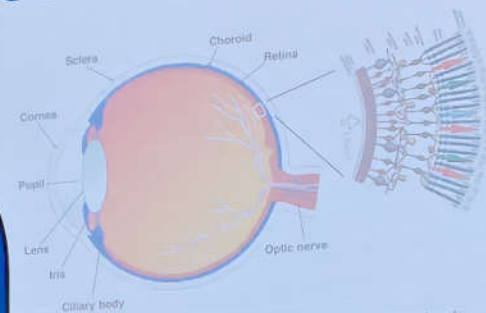
~20 kHz max
audible
frequency

Dioptrics of the eye
Allvar Gullstrand
Nobel laureate 1937

Nyquist criteria

~44 kHz
sampling
frequency

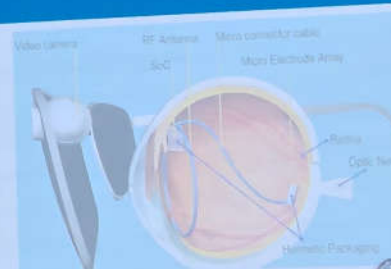
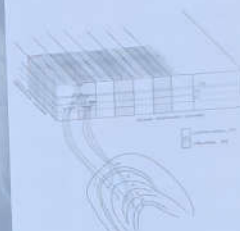
MP3
AUDIO



Primary physiological and chemical visual
processes in the eye
Haldan Hartline, George Wald, Ragnar Granit
Nobel laureates 1967



Information processing in the
visual system
David H. Hubel and Torsten N. Wiesel
Nobel laureates 1980



Most diffused and advanced consumer and medical devices
ground on science-technology synergies

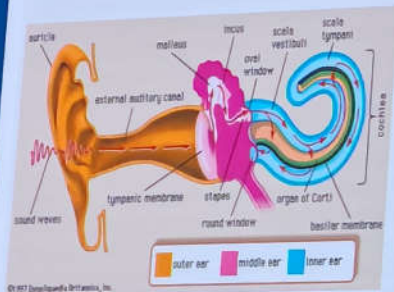
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From understanding of AUDITION and VISION SENSES to biomedical and consumer applications



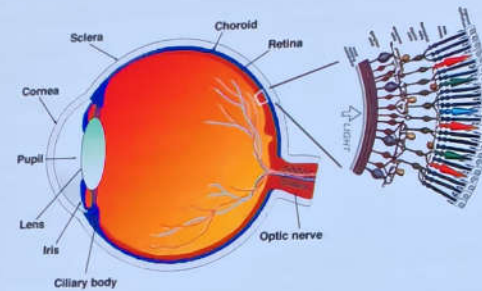
The mechanics of the inner ear

Georg von Békésy
Nobel laureate 1961



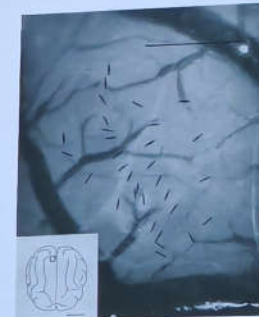
Dioptrics of the eye

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Nobel laureate 1911



Primary physiological and chemical visual processes in the eye

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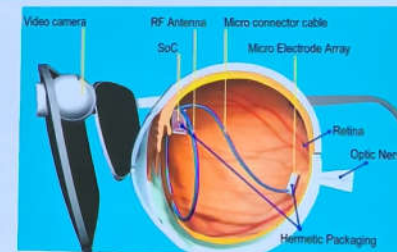
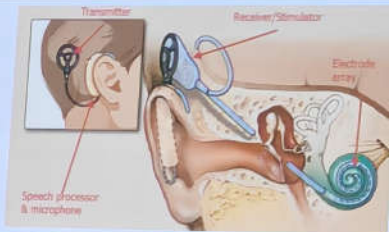


Information processing in the visual system

David H. Hubel and Torsten N. Wiesel
Nobel laureates 1980



MP3
AUDIO



Most diffused and advanced consumer and medical devices ground on science-technology synergies

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PPG 普高

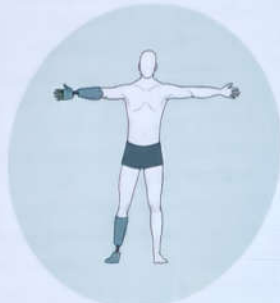
三星

三星

This is the ERA of physical human-machine interaction

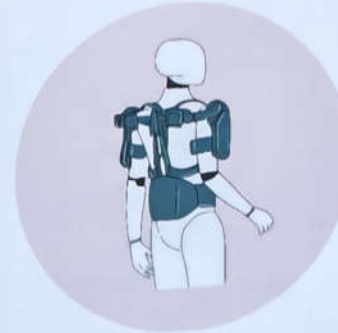


Collaborative Robots

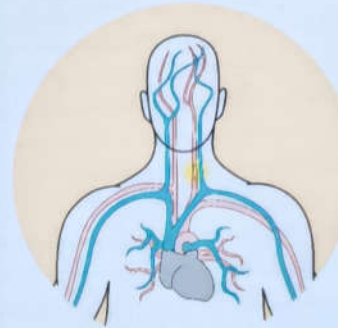


Implantable Robots

Robots need a sense of touch to interact physically with humans and the environment



Wearable Robots



Surgical Robots

Neuro-Robotic Touch Laboratory, The Biorobotics Institute
Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy (calogero.odi@unipi.it)

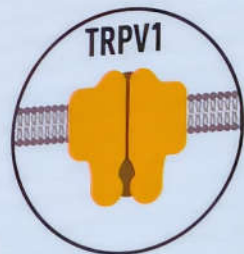
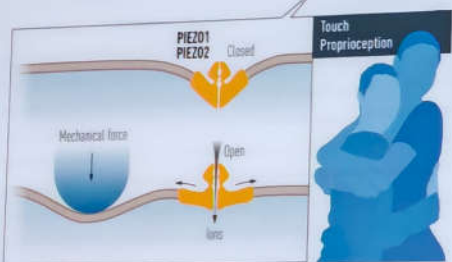
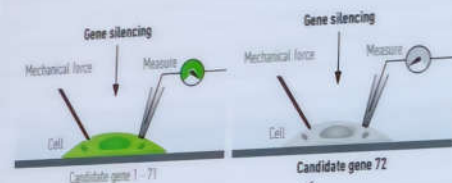
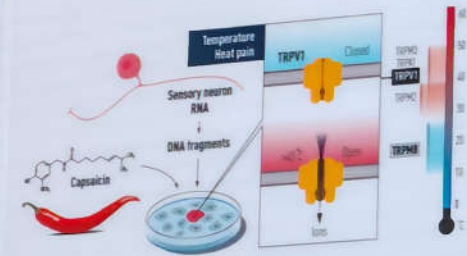
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Tactile sensing to enable interaction abilities



**Temperature
Heat pain**

Core body temperature
Inflammatory pain
Neuropathic pain
Visceral pain
Protective reflexes



**Touch
Proprioception**

Mechanical pain
Urination
Respiration
Blood pressure
Skeletal remodeling



David Julius



Ardem Patapoutian

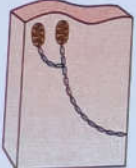
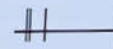
The 2021 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly awarded David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch (source: nobelprize.org)

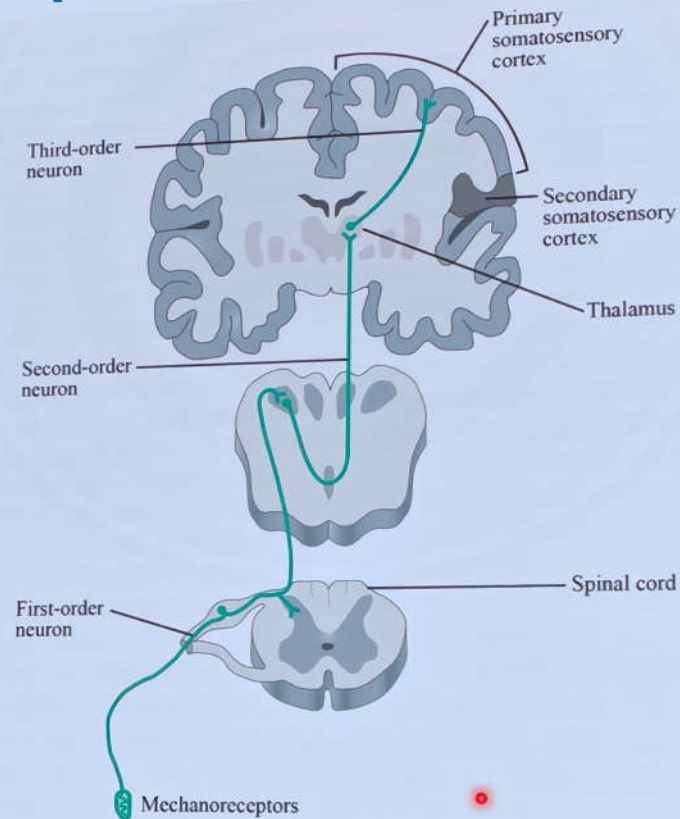
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Human tactile receptors: spatial and temporal encoding and somatosensory connectome

Receptor type				
	Meissner's corpuscle	Merkel disk	Pacinian corpuscle	Ruffini ending
Receptive field				
	Type 1	Type 1	Type 2	Type 2
Spike activity				
Stimulus				
Adaptation	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow



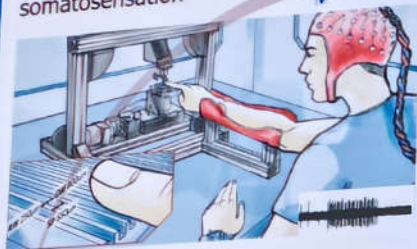
Source: Pearson Education

natureconf



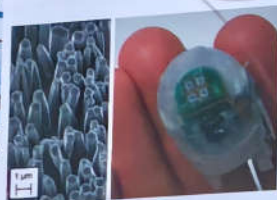
Neuroscientific Quest

Investigation of human somatosensation

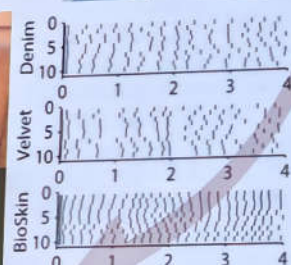
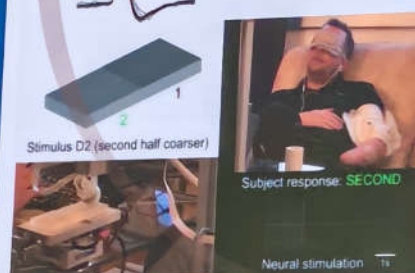


Biorobotic Engineering

Artificial model of human touch



Science-Engineering loop

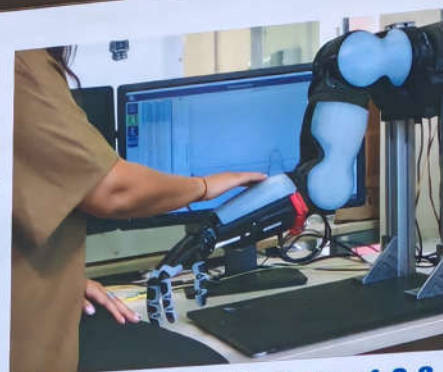


Bionic Applications

Touch restoration in amputees

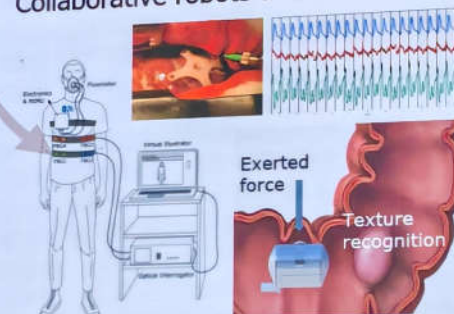
Neuromorphic Touch

Spike-based encoding



Applications in Industry 4.0 & Safety at Work

Collaborative robots and workwear



Applications in BioRobotics & Healthcare Sensors

Colonoscopes, wearable/implantable sensors for cardiorespiratory monitoring

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Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with fibre Bragg gratings and deep neural networks enables a bio-inspired large-area tactile-sensitive skin

Luca Massar^{1,2,3,4}, Giulia Fransvea^{1,2,3,4,5}, Jessica D'Abbraccio^{1,2}, Mariangela Filosa^{1,2,3,4,5}, Giuseppe Terruso^{1,2,3}, Andrea Aliperta^{1,2,3}, Giacomo D'Alesio^{1,2,3}, Martina Zaltieri^{1,2,3,4,5}, Emiliano Schena⁶, Eduardo Palermo^{6,7}, Edoardo Sinibaldi^{1,2,3} and Calogero Maria Oddo^{1,2,3,5}

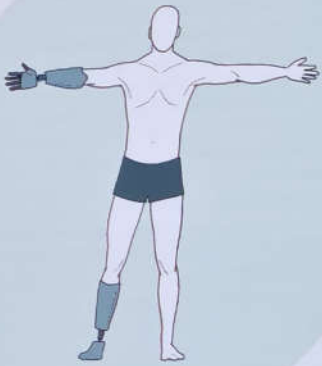
www.nature.com/naturemachineintelligence / May 2022 Vol. 4 No. 5

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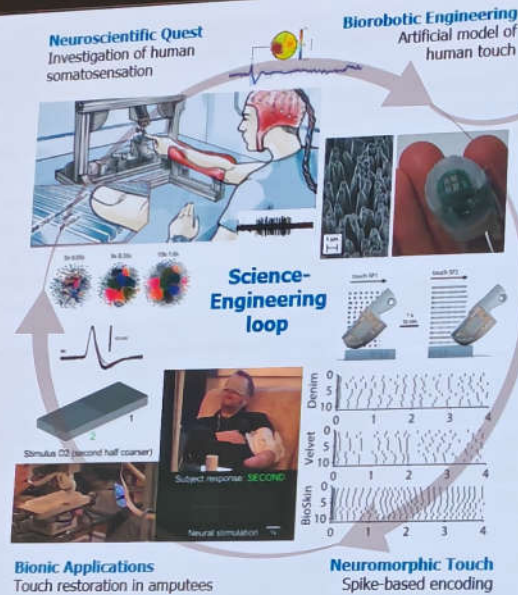
Tactile sensing in robotic skin

Neuro-Robotic Touch Laboratory, The Biorobotics Institute / Department of Excellence in Robotics & AI
Interdisciplinary Research Centre Health Science / Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy
Principal Investigator: Prof. Calogero Maria Oddo (calogero.oddo@santanna.it)

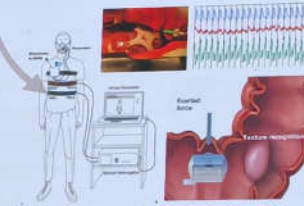


for Bionic Prostheses

TOUCH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



Applications in Industry 4.0 & Safety at Work
Collaborative robots and workwear



Applications in BioRobotics & Healthcare Sensors
Colonoscopes, wearable/implantable sensors for cardiorespiratory monitoring

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ARTICLES

OPEN
Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with fibre Bragg gratings and deep neural networks enables a bio-inspired large-area tactile-sensitive skin

Leza Manser^{1,2,3,4}, Giulia Franceschi^{1,2,3,4}, Jessica D'Alagni^{1,2,3,4}, Mariangela Fiorini^{1,2,3,4}, Giuseppe Terenzi^{1,2,3,4}, Andrea Aliperti^{1,2,3,4}, Giacomo D'Alagni^{1,2,3,4}, Martina Zaffagnoli^{1,2,3,4}, Emiliano Schena^{1,2,3,4}, Eduardo Palermo^{1,2,3,4}, Eduardo Sotillo^{1,2,3,4} and Calogero Maria DiGala^{1,2,3,4}

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Tactile sensing in robotic skin

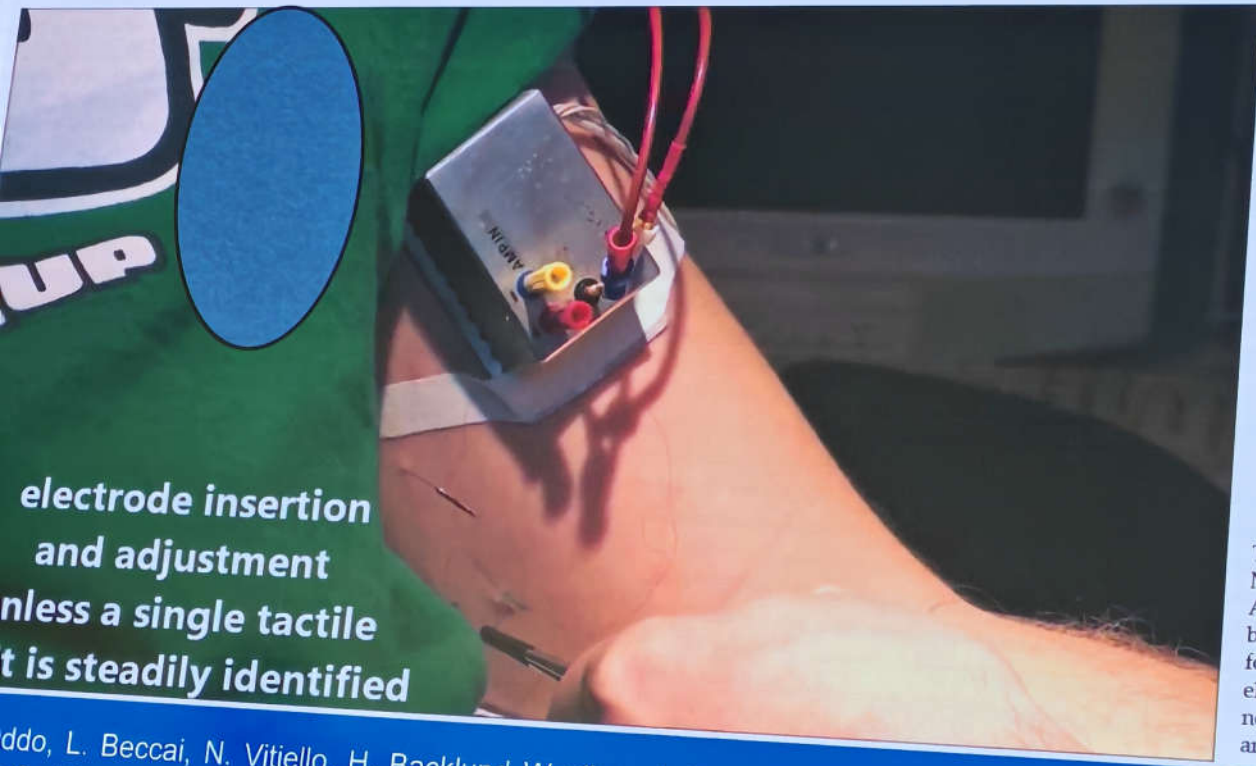
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The microneurographic technique to investigate the human somatosensory system



electrode insertion
and adjustment
unless a single tactile
stimulus is steadily identified



J. Wessberg



S. Ballanti



G. D'Alesio

TUNE BEAM - TUsCany
NEtwork for BioElectronic
Approaches in Medicine: AI-
based predictive algorithms
for fine-tuning of
electroceutics treatments in
neurological, cardiovascular
and endocrinological diseases



...ddo, L. Beccai, N. Vitiello, H. Backlund Wasling, J. Wessberg, M.C. ...zza (2011). "A Mechatronic
... for Human Touch Studies." *Mechatronics*, 21, pp. 604-613.

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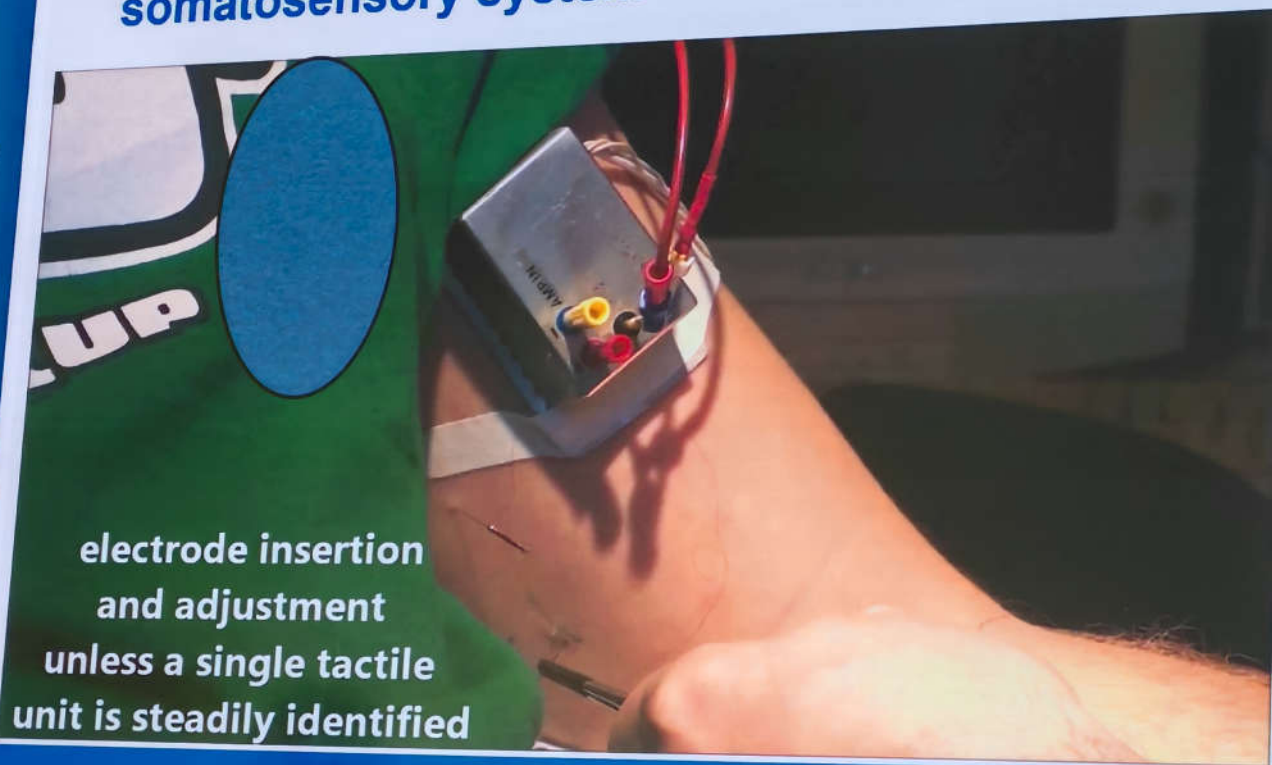


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The microneurographic technique to investigate the human somatosensory system



J. Wessberg

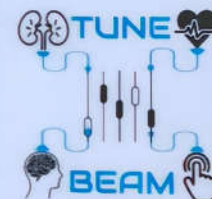


S. Ballanti



G. D'Alesio

TUNE BEAM - Tuscany Network for BioElectronic Approaches in Medicine: AI-based predictive algorithms for fine-tuning of electroceutics treatments in neurological, cardiovascular and endocrinological diseases



C.M. Oddo, L. Beccai, N. Vitiello, H. Backlund Wasling, J. Wessberg, M.C. C. (2011). "A Mechatronic Platform for Human Touch Studies." *Mechatronics*, 21, pp. 604-613.

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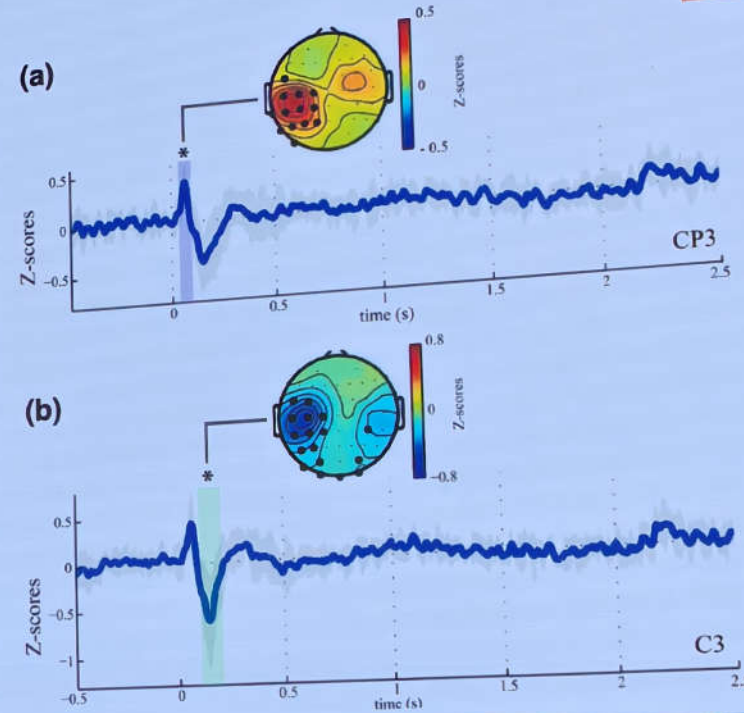
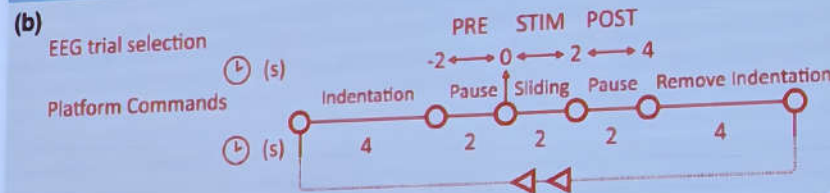
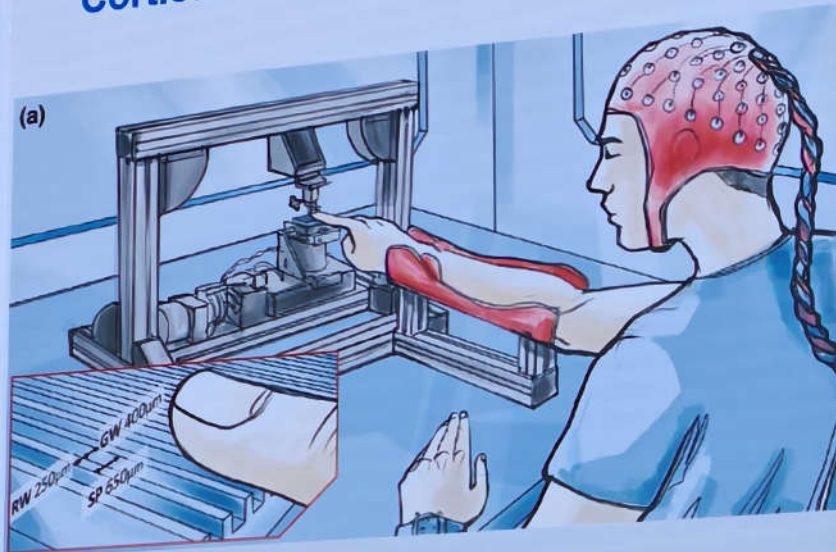
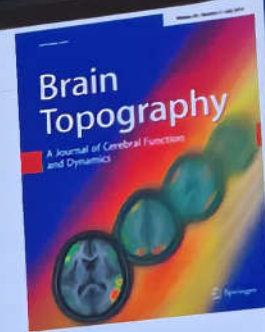
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Cortical Responses to Touch Experience



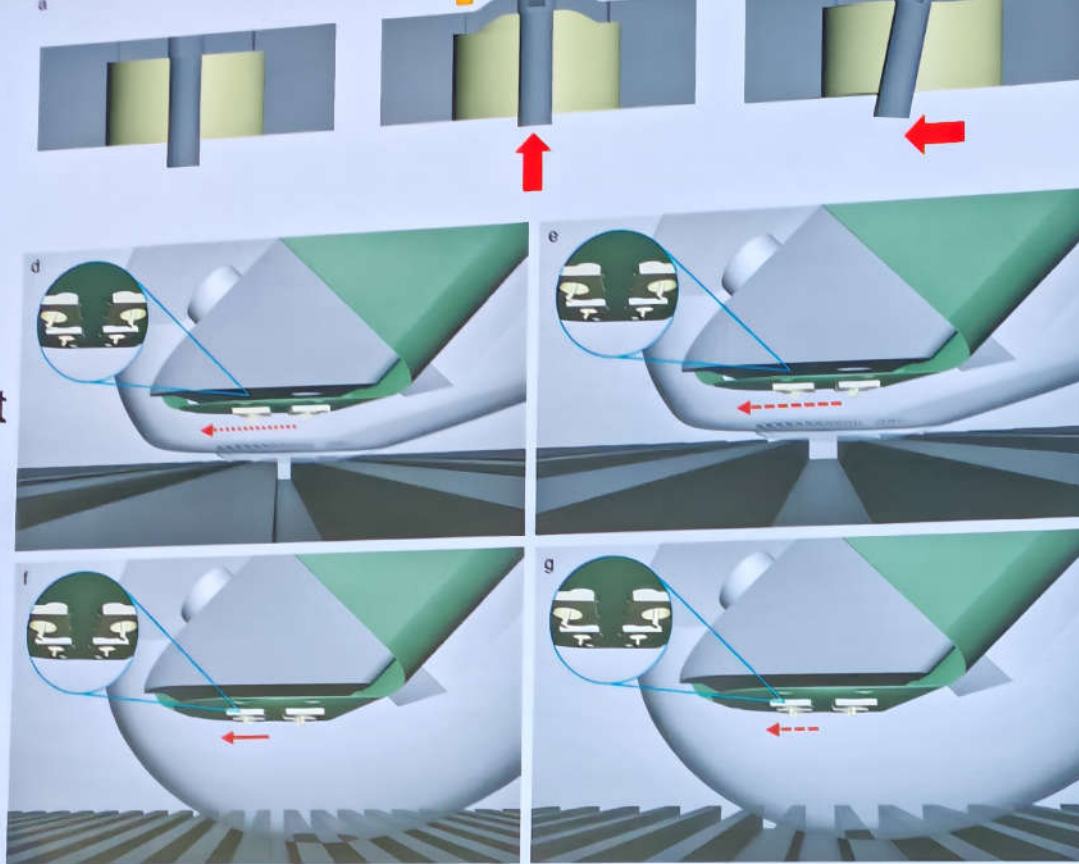
F. Artoni C. Genna S. Micera



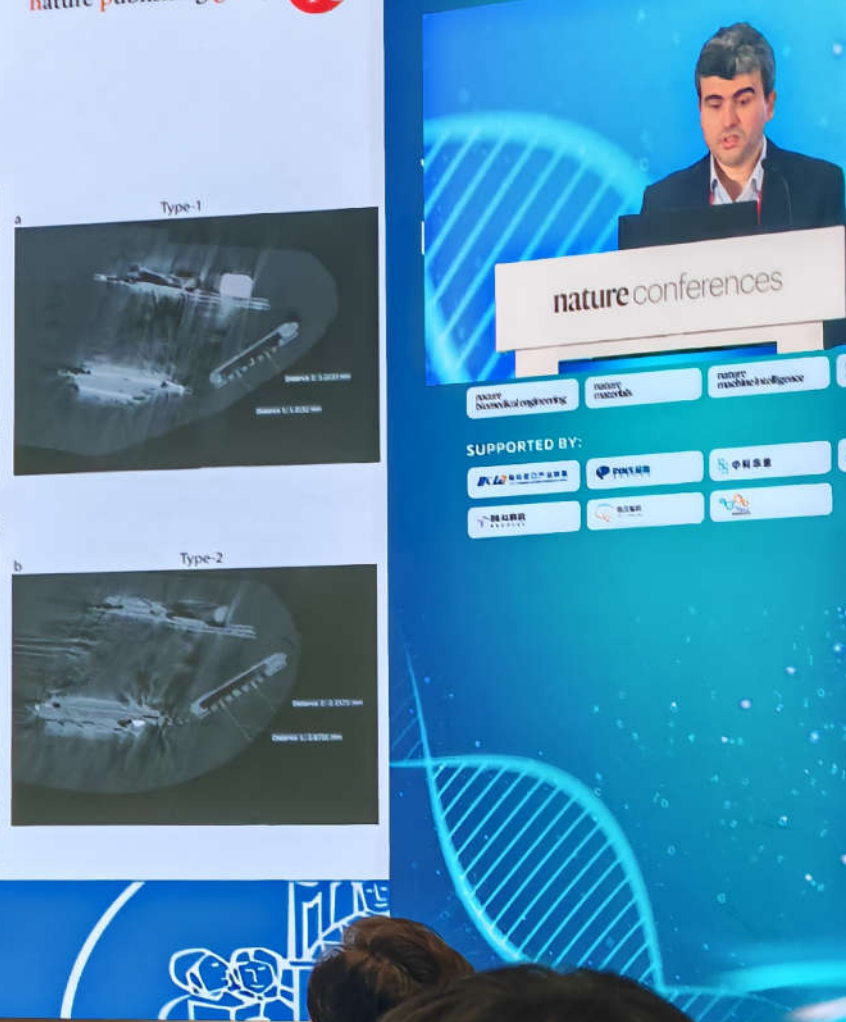
C. Genna, C. M. Oddo, C. Fanciullacci, C. Chisari, H. Jorntell, F. Artoni and S. Micera (2017). "Spatiotemporal Dynamics of the Cortical Responses Induced by a Prolonged Tactile Stimulation of the Human Fingertips." *Brain Topography* 30(4): 473-485.

Type 1
receptor-equivalent
positioning

Type 2
receptor-equivalent
positioning

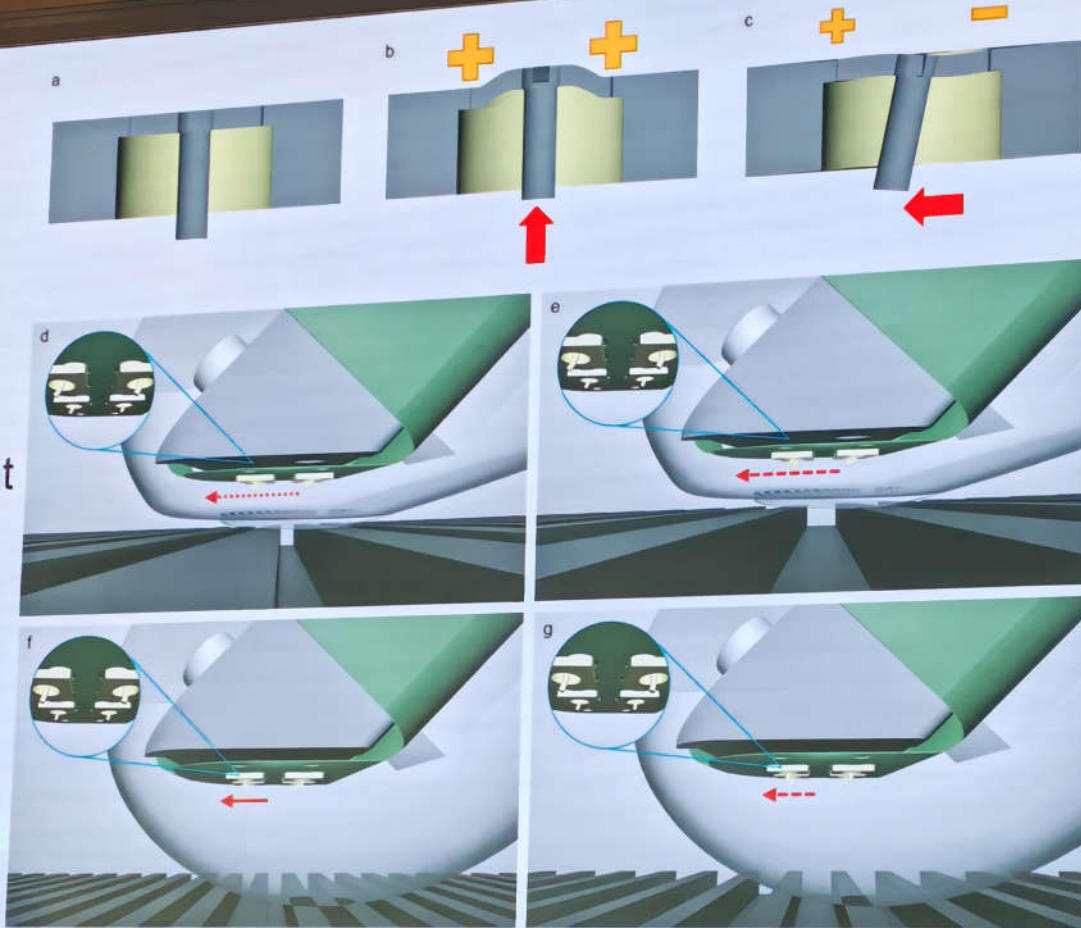


Mazzoni, C. M. Oddo, ... S. Micera (2020). "Morphological Neural Computation Restores Discrimination of Naturalistic Textures in Trans-radial Amputees." Scientific Reports.

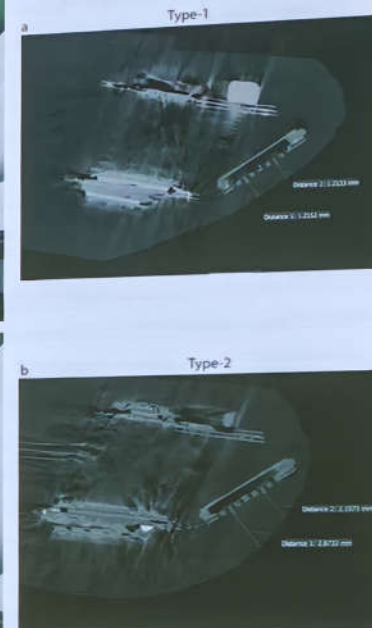


Type 1
receptor-equivalent
positioning

Type 2
receptor-equivalent
positioning



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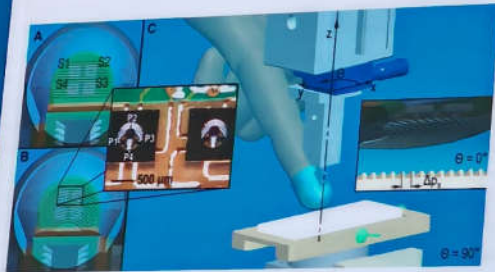


A. Mazzoni, C. M. Oddo, ... S. Micera (2020). "Morphological Neural Computation Restores Discrimination of Naturalistic Textures in Trans-radial Amputees." Scientific Reports.

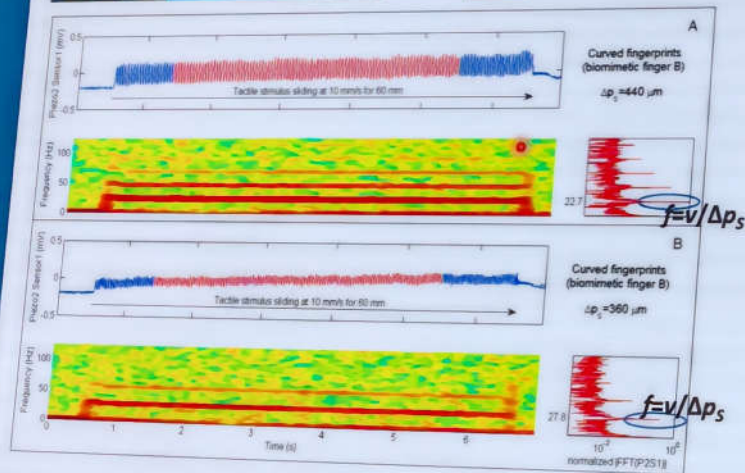
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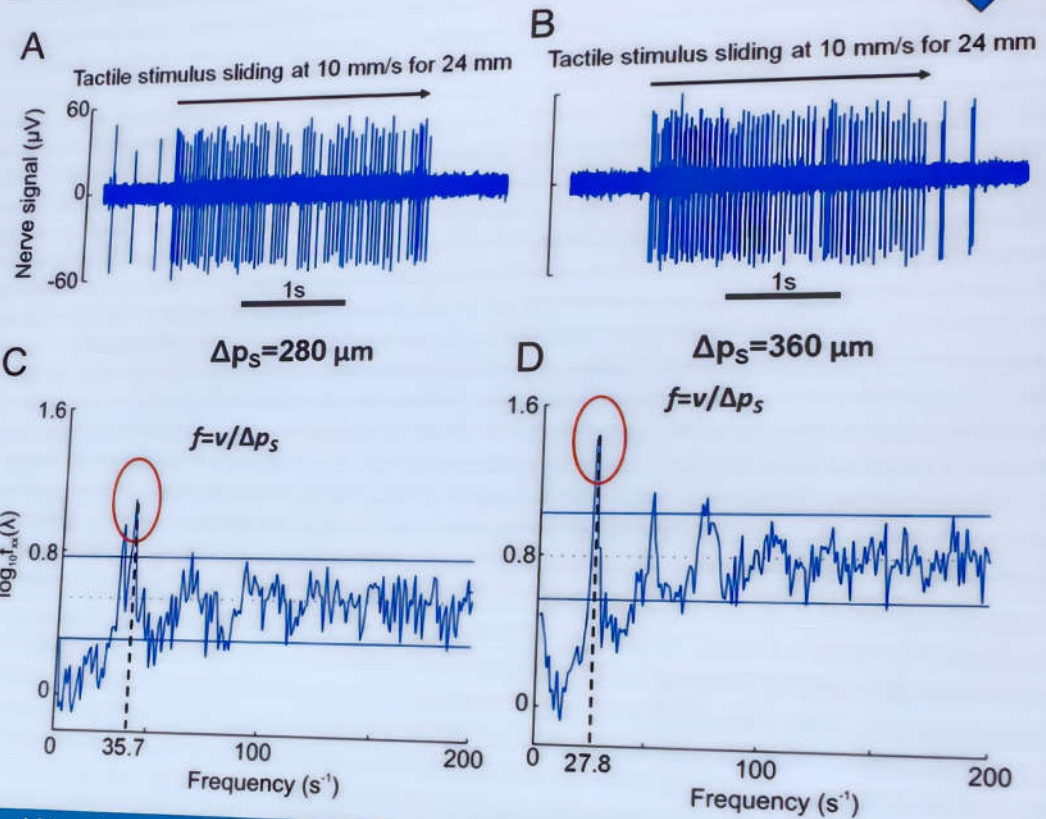
Towards Neuromorphic Touch



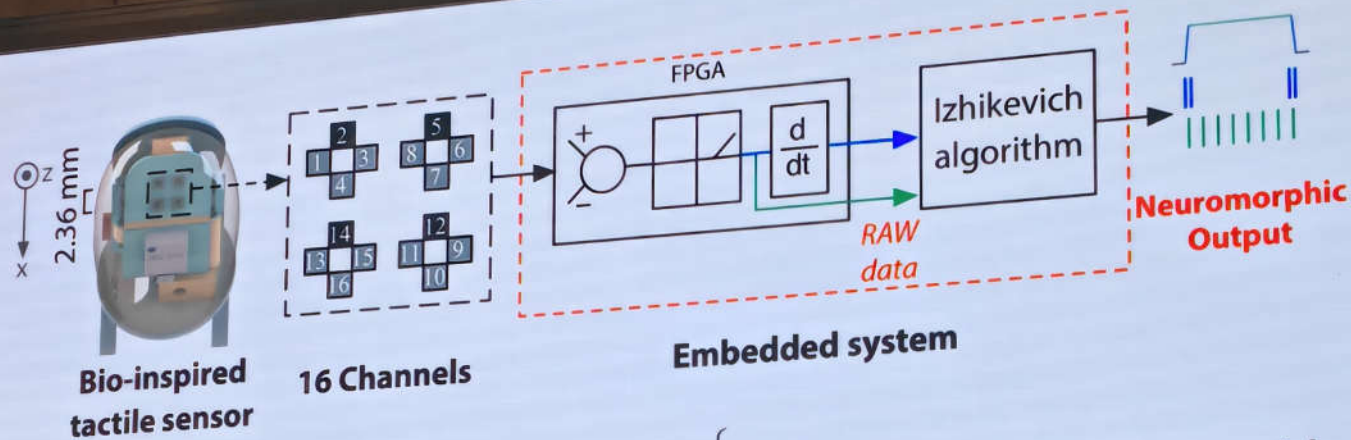
J. Wessberg



Comparison of outputs of artificial tactile sensors with human touch (via microneurography)



C.M. Oddo, L. Beccai, J. Wessberg, H. Backlund Wasling, F. Maffei, M.C. Carrozza.
 "Roughness Encoding in Human and Biomimetic Artificial Touch: Spectrotemporal Frequency
 Modulation and Structural Anisotropy of Fingerprints." 2011



$$\frac{dv}{dt} = Av^2 + Bv + C - u + \frac{I_{input}}{C_m} \quad (I_{input})_i = \begin{cases} \frac{X_i}{R} \\ \frac{T}{R} \frac{dX_i}{dt} \end{cases}$$

Adapted Izhikevich model

$$\frac{du}{dt} = a(bv - u)$$

Fitted over microneurography data

$\forall t: v \geq v_{th}$
 $v \leftarrow c$
 $u \leftarrow u + d$

Possibility to mimic different receptor types (e.g., Merkel, Meissner)

C.M. Oddo*, S. Raspopovic*, F. Artoni, A. Mazzoni, G. Spigler, F. Petrini, F. Giambattistelli, F. Vecchi, L. Miraglia, L. Zollo, G. Di Pino, D. Camboni, M.C. Carrozza, E. Guglielmelli, P.M. Rossini, U. Faraguna, S. Micera.
 Intraneural stimulation elicits discrimination of textural features by artificial fingertips in intact amputee humans. *eLife* 2016

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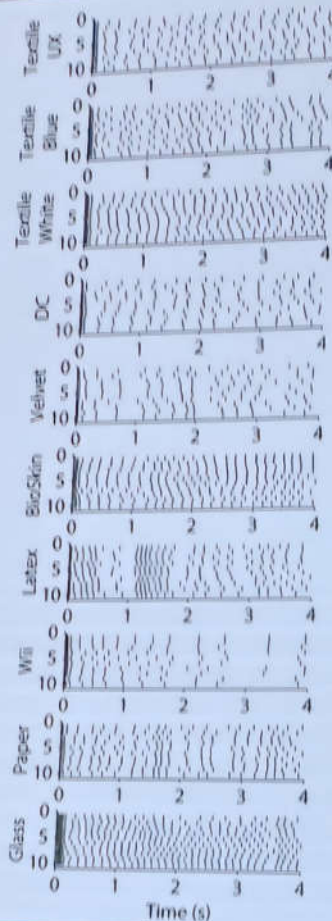
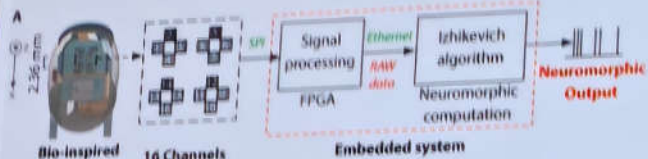
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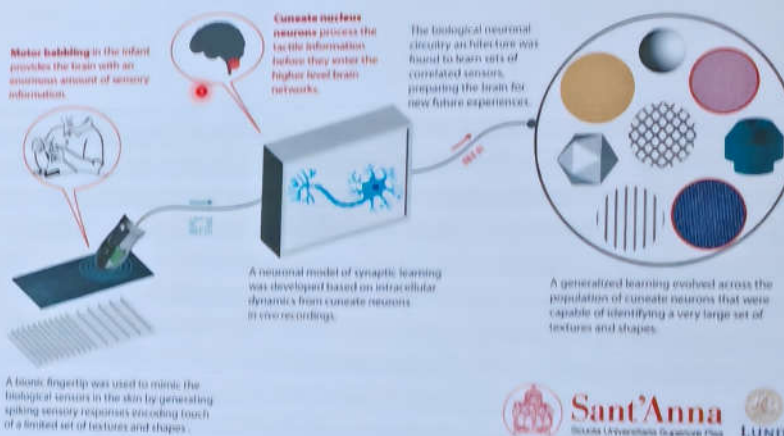


Neuromorphic Touch



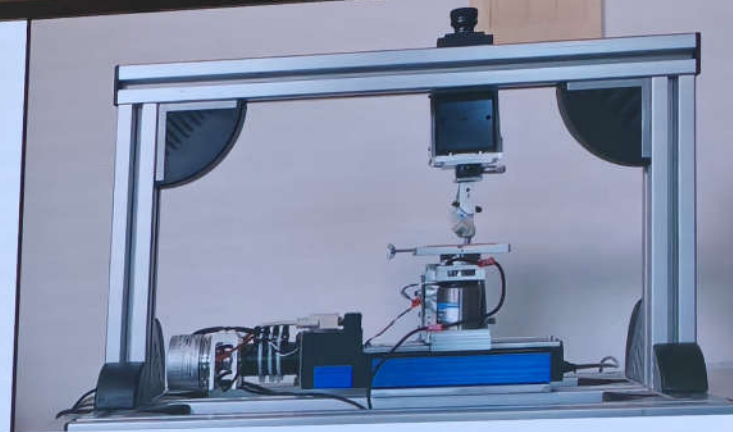
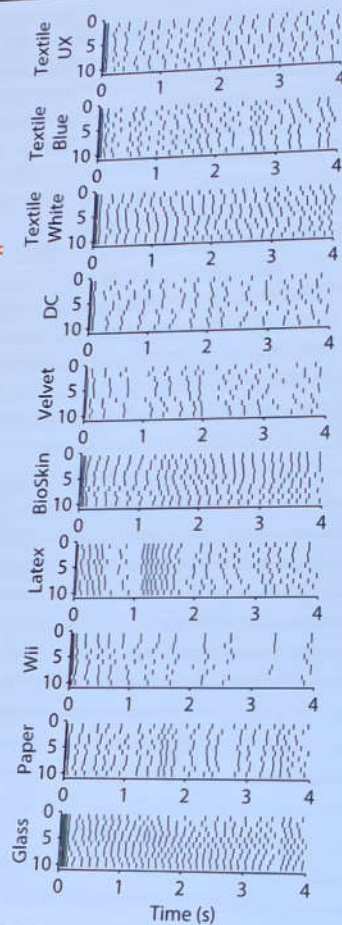
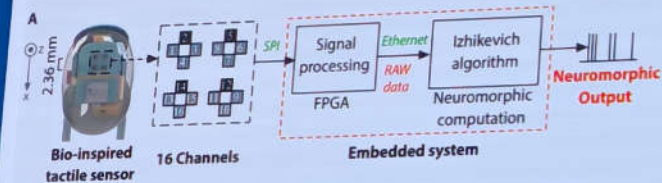
Neuro-inspired tactile features representation

A neuronal learning model based on cellular dynamics, to create better understanding of the brain and to develop efficient artificial intelligent systems.



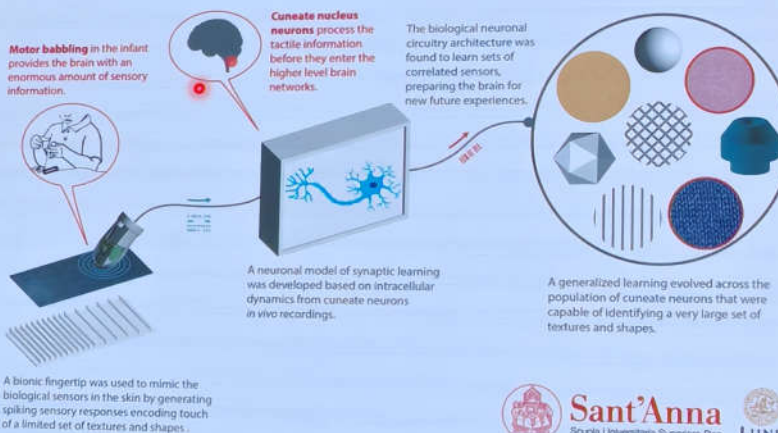
U.B. Rongala, A. Mazzoni, C.M. Oddo (2017). "Neuromorphic Artificial Touch for Categorization of Naturalistic Textures." *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems* 28(1):28-39.

Neuromorphic Touch



Neuro-inspired tactile features representation

A neuronal learning model based on cellular dynamics, to create better understanding of the brain and to develop efficient artificial intelligent systems.



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U.B. Rongala, A. Mazzoni, C.M. Oddo (2017). "Neuromorphic Artificial Touch for Categorization of Naturalistic Textures." *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems* 28(4)

Investigation of touch encoding in brain somatosensory cortex

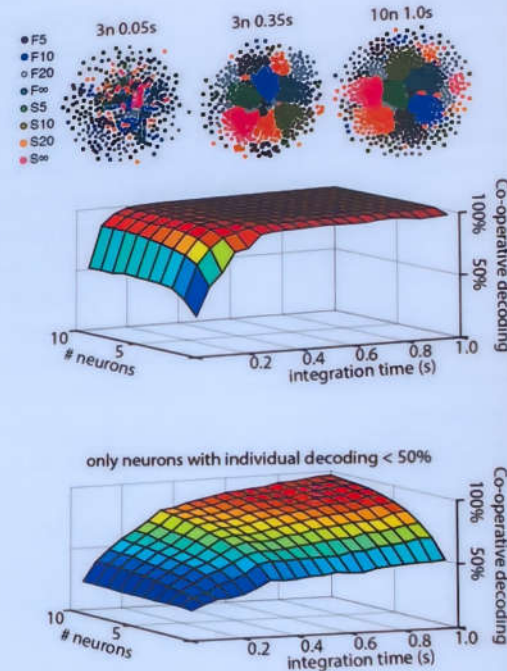
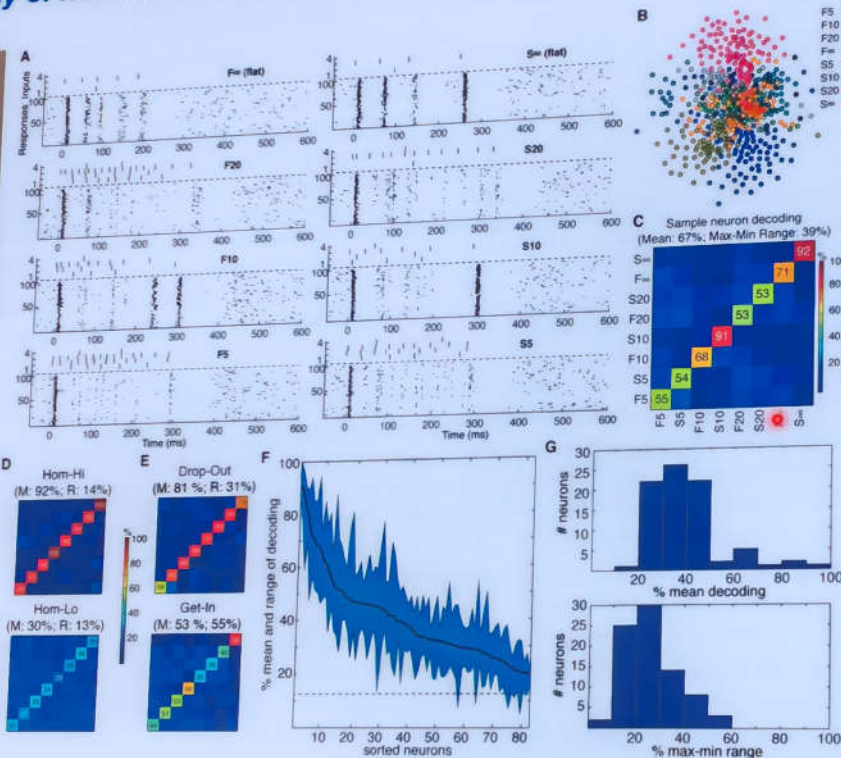
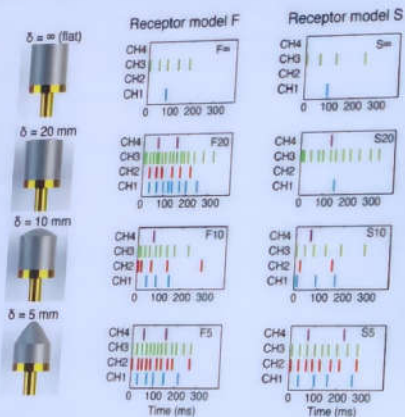
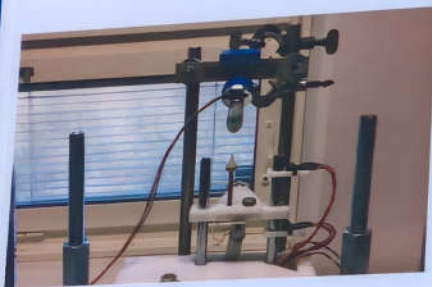
Description of the taxonomy of neurons in the somatosensory cortex

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H. Jörntell



C. M. Oddo, A. Mazzoni, A. Spanne, J. M. Enander, H. Mogensen, F. Bengtsson, D. Camboni, S. Micera and H. Jörntell (2017). "Artificial spatiotemporal touch inputs reveal complete decoding in neocortical neurons." *Scientific Reports* 8: 45898.

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Feeling Texture with Bionic Touch



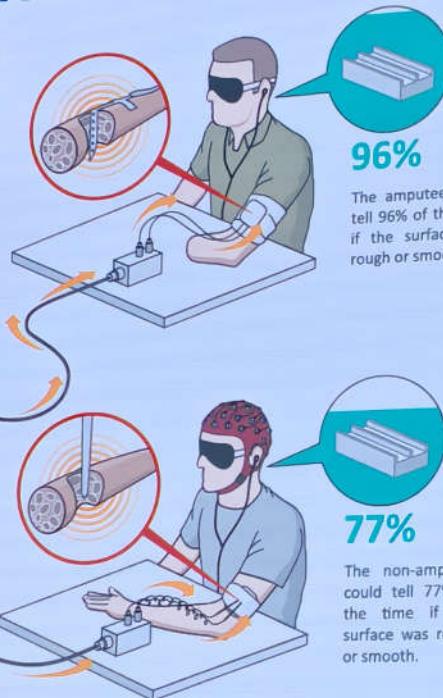
Sensors in the fingertip generate an **electrical signal** by moving across the textured surface.



Lines close together have a smoother texture than lines that are farther apart.



This signal from the fingertip is translated into a series of **electrical spikes**, imitating the language of the nervous system, then delivered to the nerves.



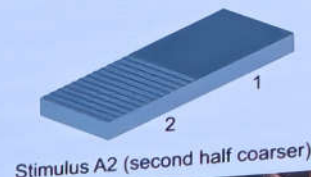
96%

The amputee could tell 96% of the time if the surface was rough or smooth.

77%

The non-amputee could tell 77% of the time if the surface was rough or smooth.

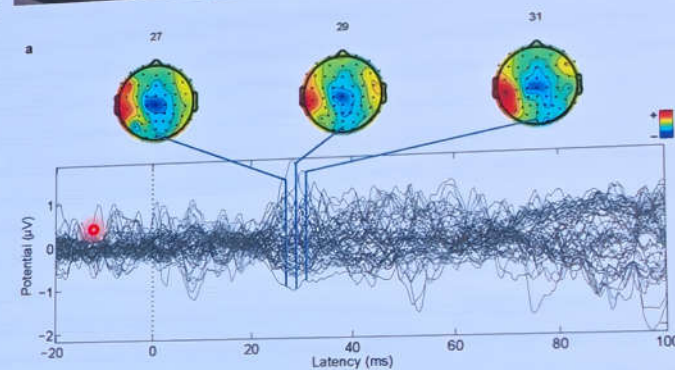
Does the bionic fingertip really resemble the feeling of touch from a real finger? Brain scans collected by an EEG cap placed on the subject's head revealed that activated regions in the brain were analogous.



Stimulus A2 (second half coarser)



Neural stimulation 1s



C. M. Oddo et al. (2016). "Intraneural stimulation elicits discriminative textural features by artificial fingertip in intact and amputee humans." *eLife*, 5, e09148.

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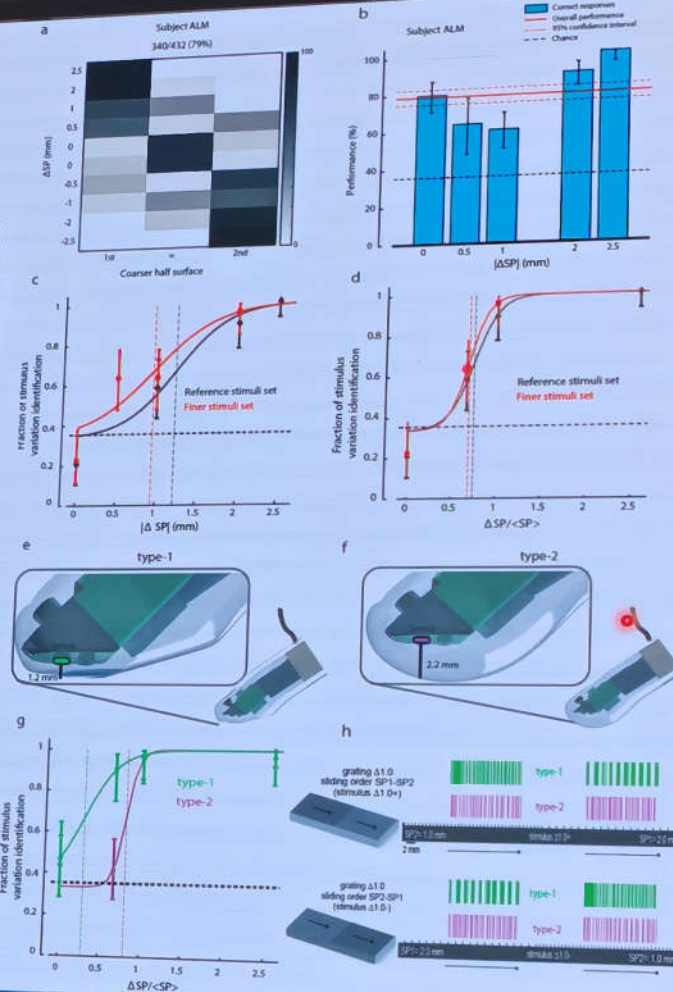
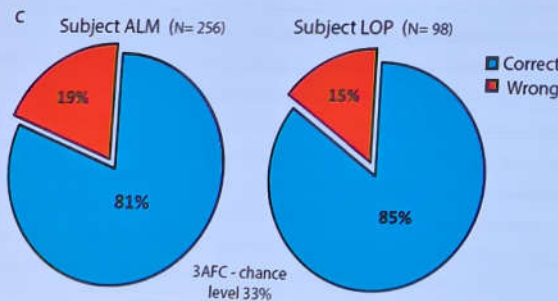
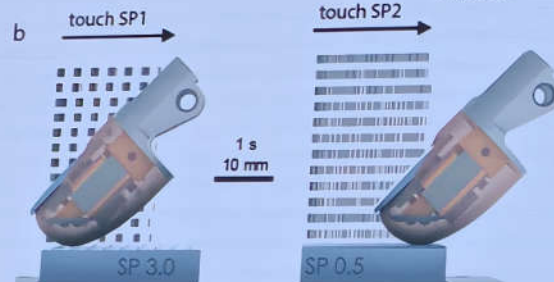
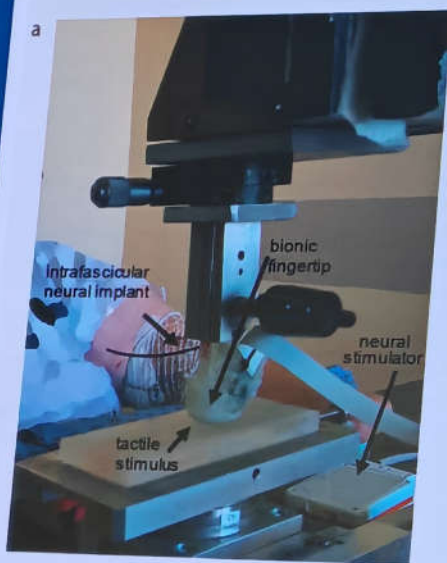


Morphological Neural Computation Restores Discrimination of Naturalistic Textures in Trans-radial Amputees

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS
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S. Micera A. Mazzoni



A. Mazzoni, C. M. Oddo, ... S. Micera (2020). "Morphological Neural Computation Restores Discrimination of Naturalistic Textures in Trans-radial Amputees." *Scientific Reports*.

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nature conference

nature biomedical engineering

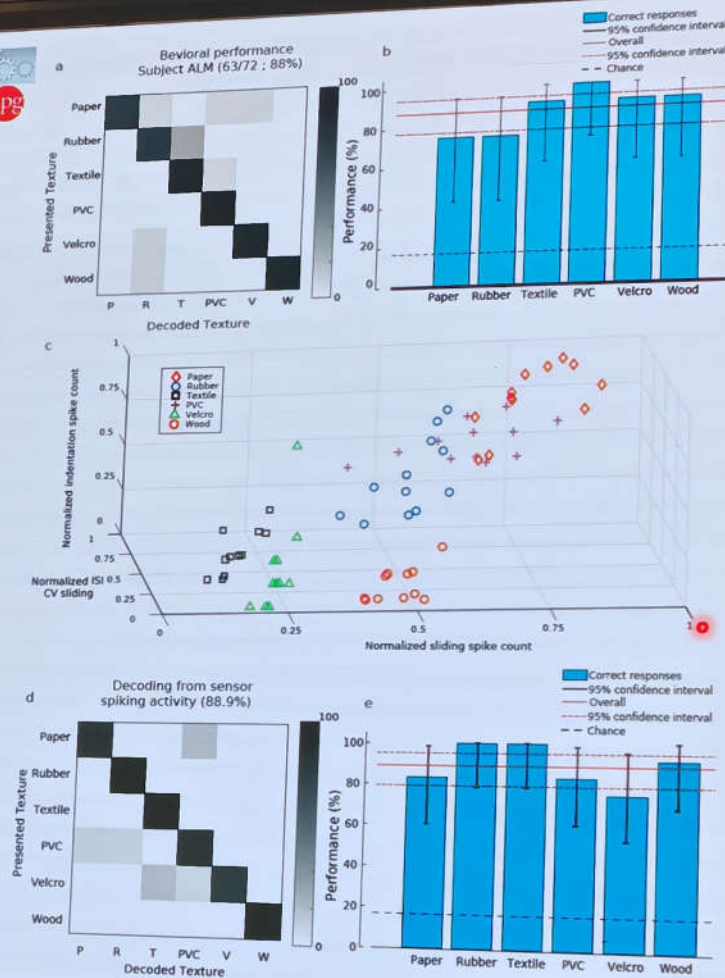
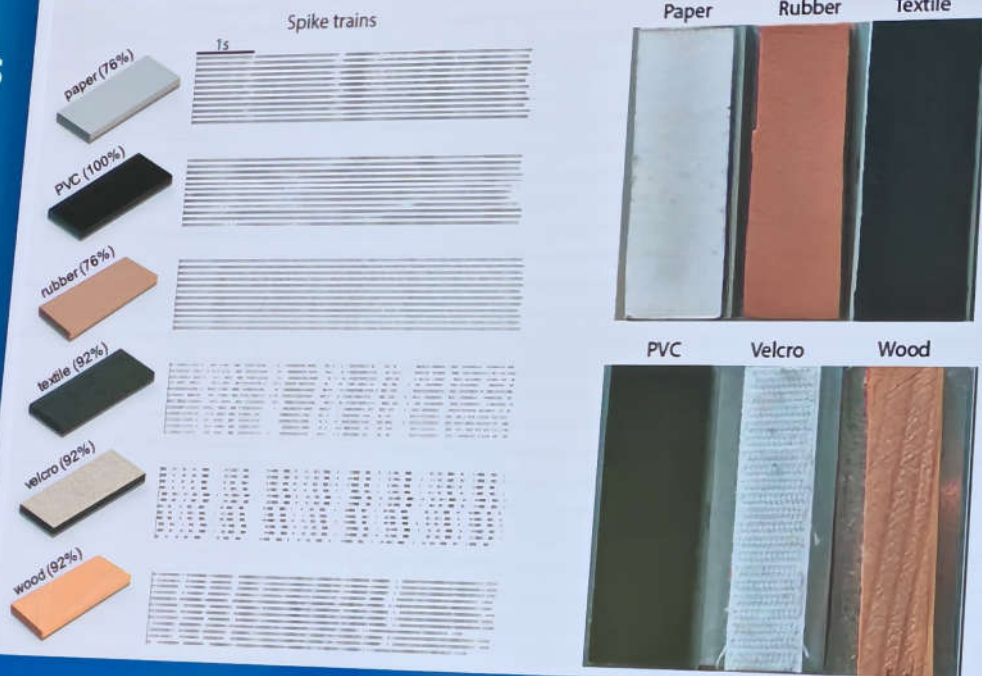
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Morphological Neural Computation Restores Discrimination of Naturalistic Textures in Trans-radial Amputees

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A. Mazzone, C. M. Oddo, ... S. Micera (2020). "Morphological Neural Computation Restores Discrimination of Naturalistic Textures in Trans-radial Amputees." *Scientific Reports*.

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How this can be applied to ICT applications?

Data compression



6 kBytes for 4s of data with traditional representation based on constant sampling frequency

16 Bytes for same data represented in neuromorphic event-driven manner

Neuromorphic event-driven representation brings all the information but without with a **tremendous scale-down of data**

nature conference



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OLOGIES



*Gesture-based control in telepresence with
neuromorphic haptic feedback for the
metaverse (operator in Italy, robot in Serbia)*

In collaboration with Prof. Petar Petrovic, University of Belgrade



Farnesina

Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

Towards multisensory telepresence in the metaverse

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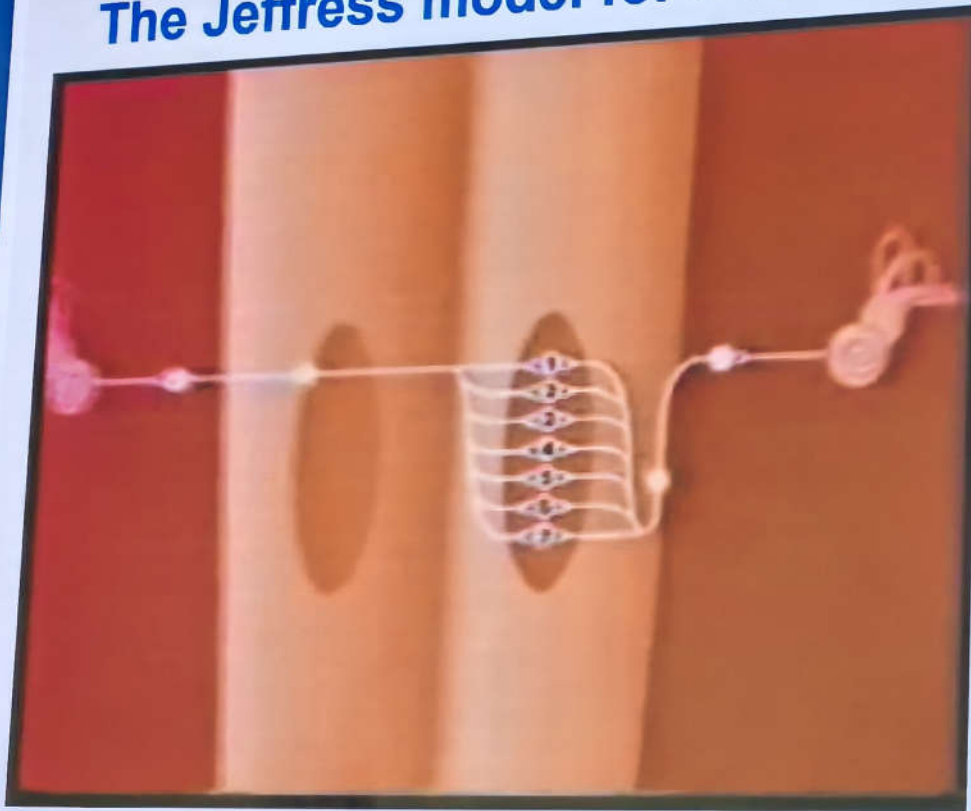
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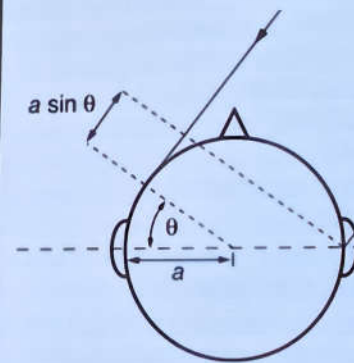
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The Jeffress model for sound localization



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$$\tau = \left(\frac{a}{c} \right) 2 \sin \theta$$

θ	τ
0°	$0 \mu s$
10°	$100 \mu s$
90°	$580 \mu s$

The Jeffress model is based on coincidence detection of firing in the superior olivary nucleus.
<https://auditoryscience.com/topics/jeffress-model-animation>

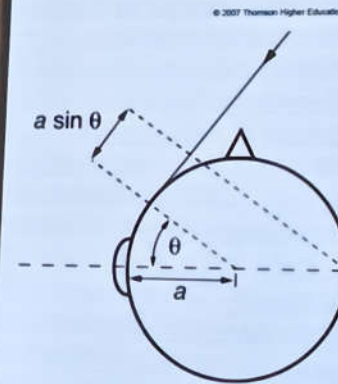
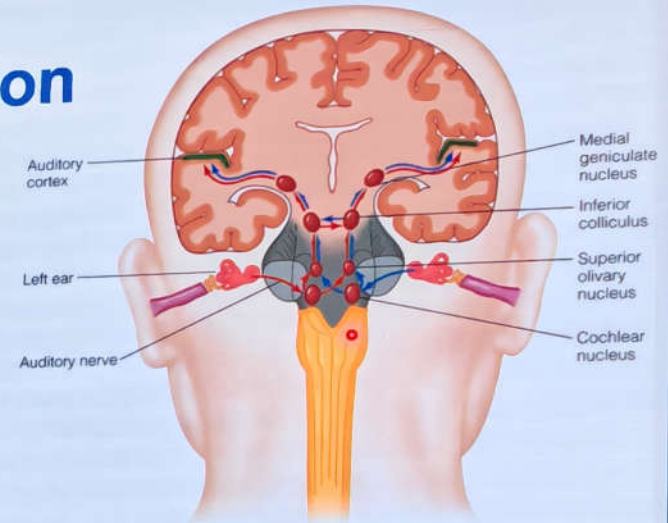
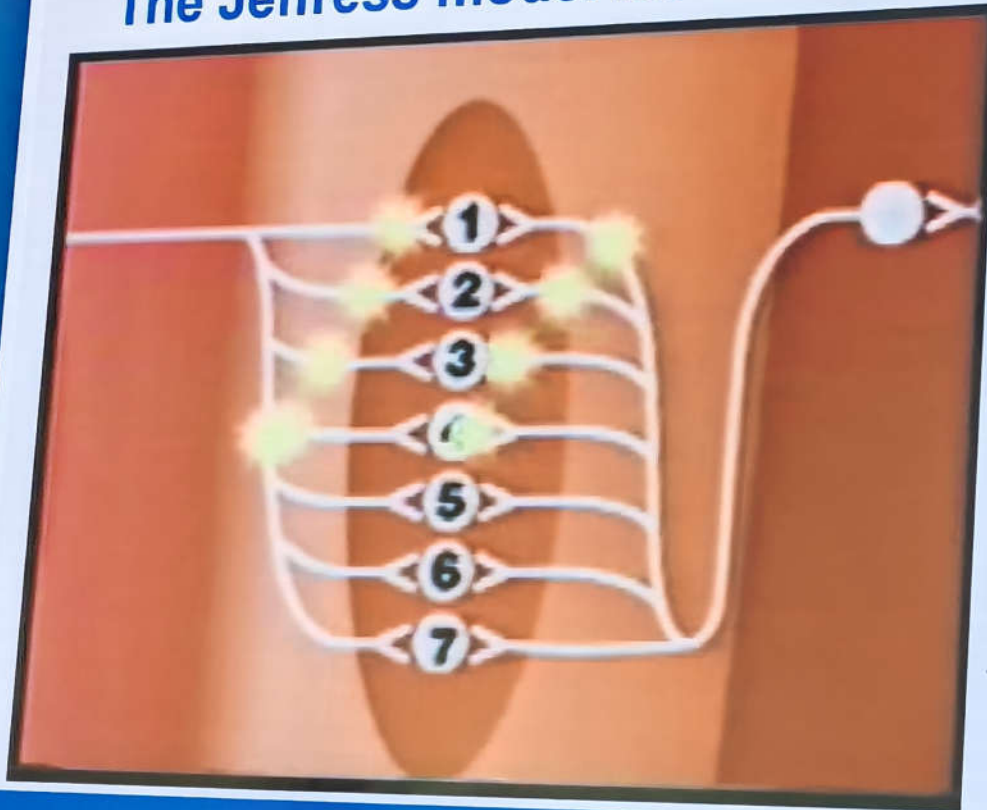
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The Jeffress model for sound localization



$$\tau = \left(\frac{a}{c} \right) 2 \sin \theta$$

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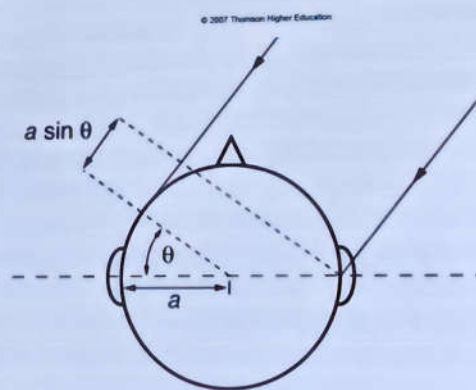
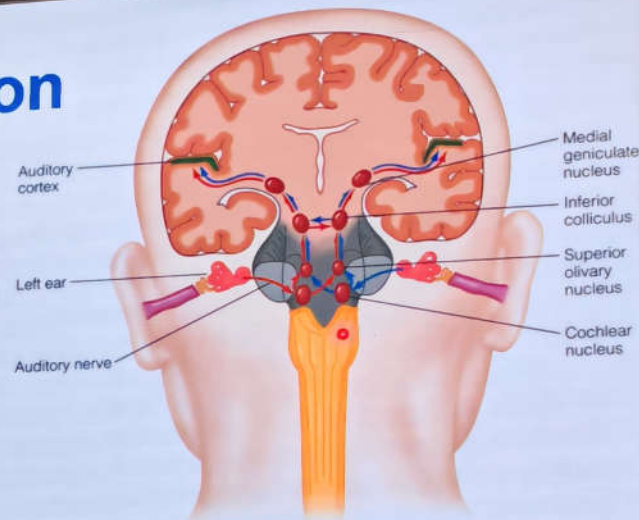
The Jeffress model for sound localization



cs resolution!



ms resolution!!



$$\tau = \left(\frac{a}{c}\right) 2 \sin \theta$$

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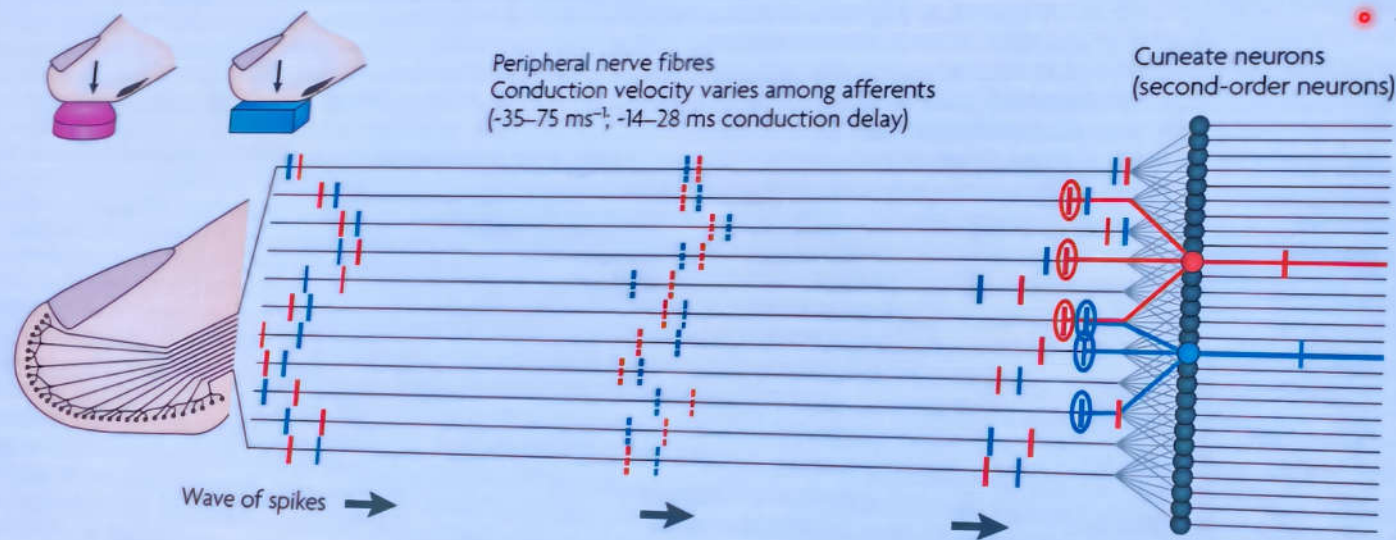
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Coding and use of tactile signals from the fingertips in object manipulation tasks

NATURE REVIEWS | **NEUROSCIENCE**

Roland S. Johansson* and J. Randall Flanagan*

2009



Computation "via wiring"
Distributed memory by means of differentiated delays along the afferent neural pathways
Neuromorphic computation

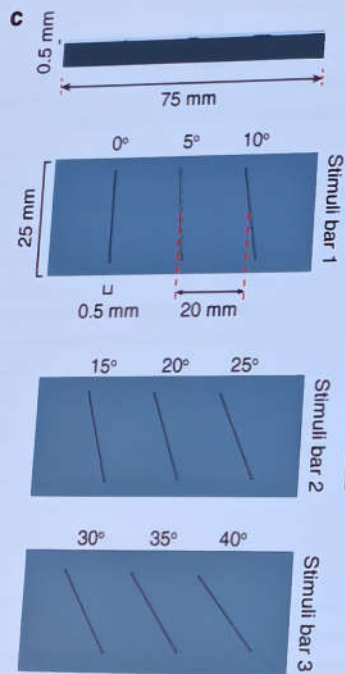
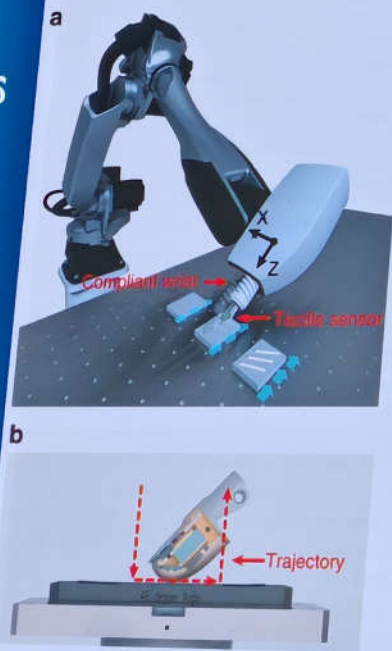
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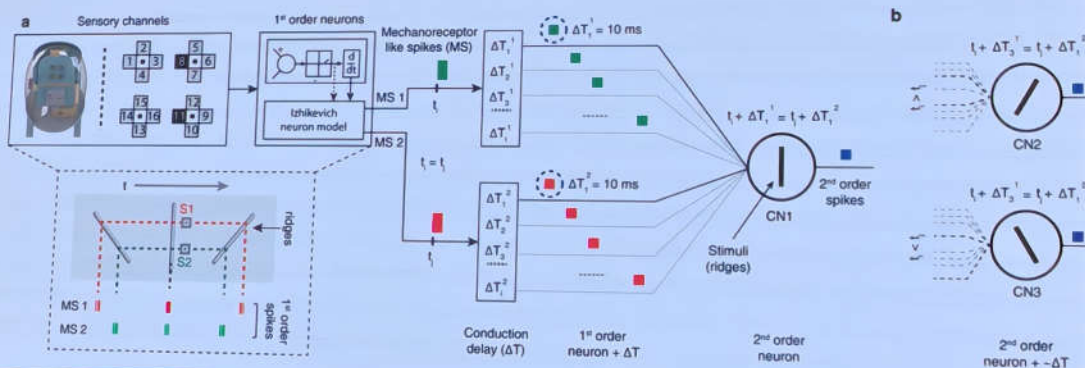
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Cuneate-based model for Neuromorphic Artificial Touch



Tactile Decoding of Edge Orientation With Artificial Cuneate Neurons in Dynamic Conditions

Udaya Bhaskar Rongala^{1,2*}, Alberto Mazzoni¹, Marcello Chiurazzi¹, Domenico Camboni¹, Mario Milazzo¹, Luca Massari^{1,2}, Gastone Ciuti¹, Stefano Roccella¹, Paolo Dario¹ and Calogero Maria Oddo^{1*}



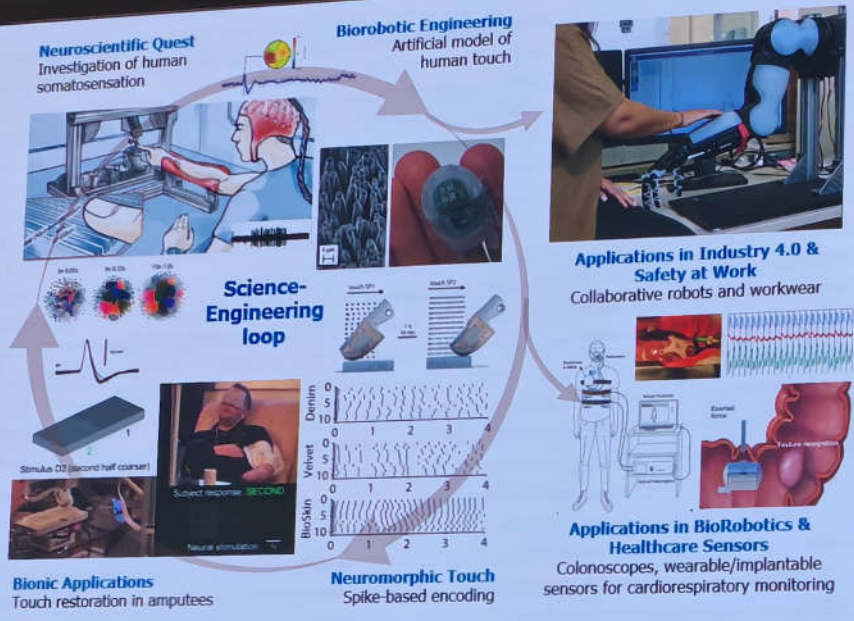
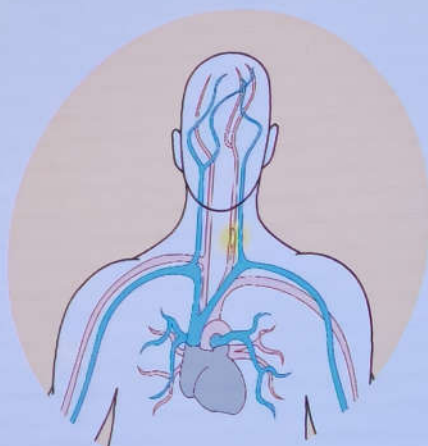
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Computation via architecture, not via software processing!



machine intelligence

ARTICLES

OPEN Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with fibre Bragg gratings and deep neural networks enables a bio-inspired large-area tactile-sensitive skin

Luca Massari^{1,2,3}, Giulia Fresco^{1,2,3}, Jessica D'Adamo^{1,2,3}, Mariangela Filardi^{1,2,3}, Giuseppe Terrasi^{1,2}, Andrea Alparone^{1,2}, Giacomo D'Amico^{1,2}, Martina Zaffarini^{1,2,3}, Emiliano Schiavi¹, Eduardo Palermo^{1,2}, Eduardo Sorubol^{1,2} and Caterina Maria Oddo^{1,2,3}

nature machine intelligence

Tactile sensing in robotic skin

for Collaborative-Medical Robotics & Healthcare

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FORMATIVE TECHNOLOGIES
ENGINEERING



Multisensory platform and AI methods for histological analyses in the metaverse



2.2 M€ secured for PoCs targeting start-up foundation

Framework for digital pathology to innovate traditional procedures



F. Auletta

Traditional procedure



Touch

Vision

Identification of the area to sample

Tissue severing and preparation

Novel procedure



Touch

Ultrasound

Vision

Local or remote identification of the area to sample

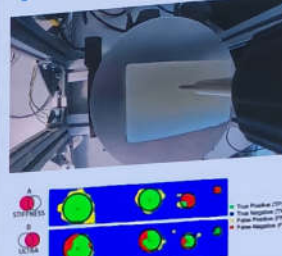
Robotic analysis

Sample elaboration

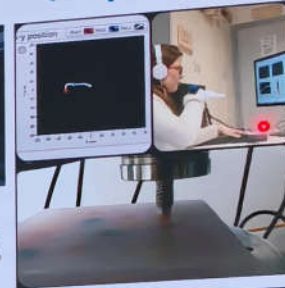
Medical report and feedback

Additional data and feedback

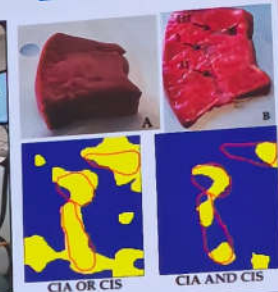
Phantom study



Telepalpation



Liver study



Regione Toscana



FAS Fondo Aree Sottoutilizzate 2007-2013

JUMP



Joint Universities program for PoC



Collaborative Robots



Past robots used to operate inside closed **cages** and kept **separated** from workers, namely within different areas. **Future** collaborative robots, instead, will share **common spaces** with workers, the robot will become a **work-mate** and will not be anymore a potential replacement.



Future: Collaborative Robots



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Fiber Bragg Grating sensors



Low wiring encumbrance
Immunity to EM
High sensitivity
Multiplexing

Animation source: <https://fisen.com/fbg-sensors/>

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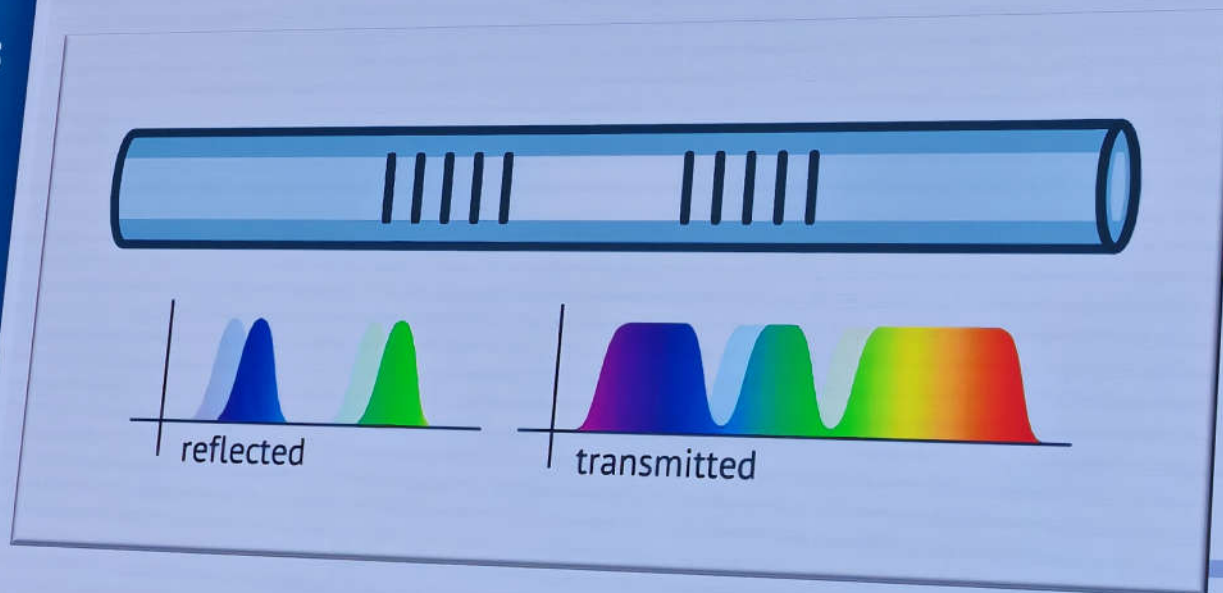
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Fiber Bragg Grating sensors



Low wiring encumbrance

Immunity to EM

High sensitivity

Multiplexing

Animation source: <https://tisens.com/fbg-sensors/>

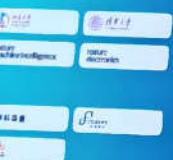
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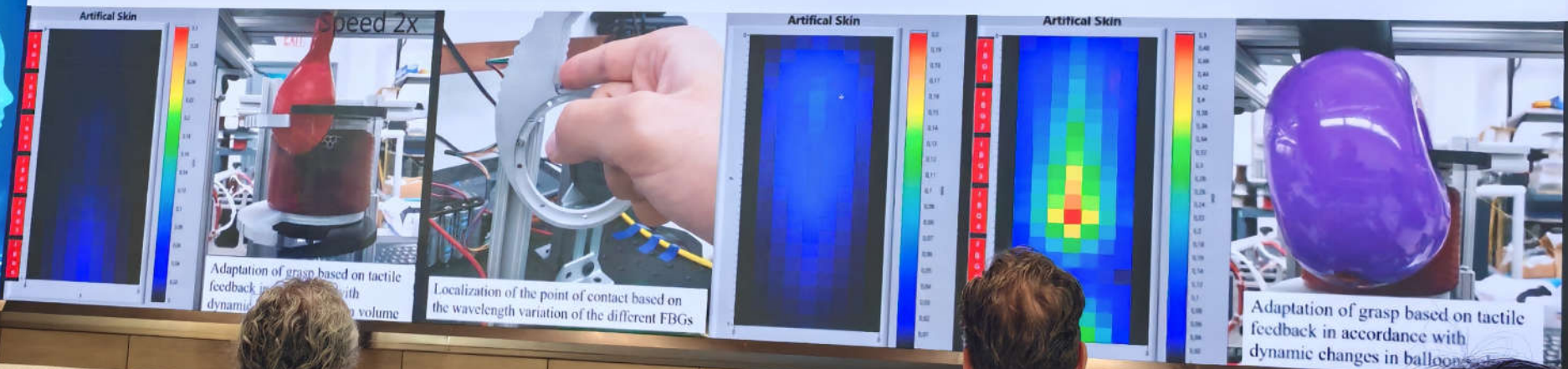
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Successful grasping of a fragile object based on the tactile feedback



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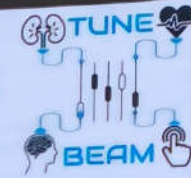
The Artificial Skin



M. Filosa



EINST4INE



nature
machine intelligence

ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42256-022-00487-3>

Check for updates

OPEN

Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with fibre Bragg gratings and deep neural networks enables a bio-inspired large-area tactile-sensitive skin

Luca Massari^{1,2,3,8}, Giulia Fransvea^{1,2,4,5,8}, Jessica D'Abbraccio^{1,2}, Mariangela Filosa^{1,2,3}, Giuseppe Terruso^{1,2,3}, Andrea Aliperta^{1,2,5}, Giacomo D'Alesio^{1,2}, Martina Zaltieri^{1,2,3,4,6}, Emiliano Schena⁶, Eduardo Palermo⁴, Edoardo Sinibaldi⁷ and Calogero Maria Oddo^{1,2}✉



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Tactile sensing in robotic skin

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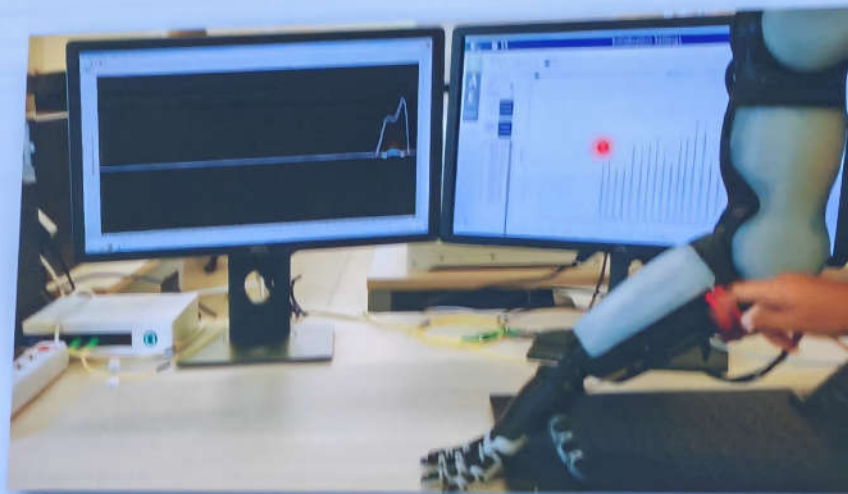
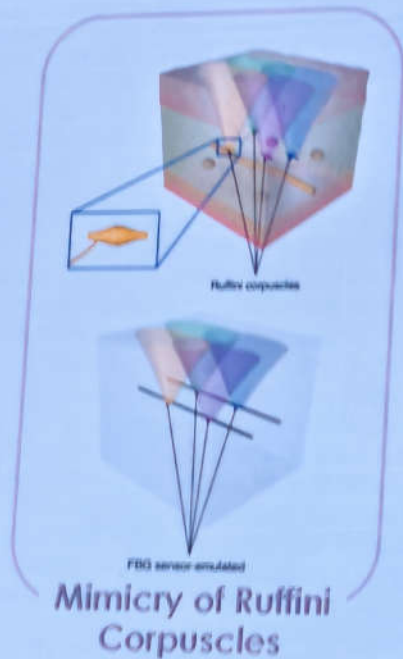


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Massari, L., Fransvea, G., D'Abbraccio, J., Filosa, M., Terruso, G., Aliperta, A., ... & Oddo, C. M. (2022). Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with Fiber Bragg Gratings and Deep Neural Networks enables a bio-inspired large-area tactile-sensitive skin. *Nature Machine Intelligence*, 4(2), 1-12.

Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with Fiber Bragg Gratings



Distributed Sensors

Soft One/few wire/s

Large Area

Lightweight

ri, L., Fransvea, G., D'Abbraccio, J., Filosa, M., Terruso, G., Allperta, A., ... & Oddo, C. M. (2024). Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with Fiber Bragg Gratings and Deep Neural Networks enables a bio-Inspired large area sensitive skin. *Machine Intelligence*

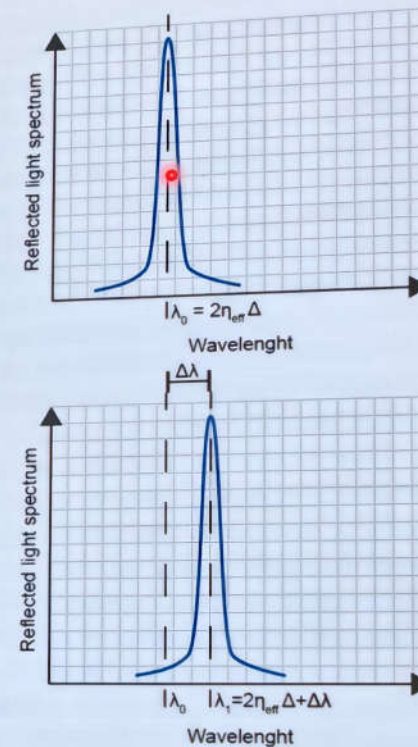
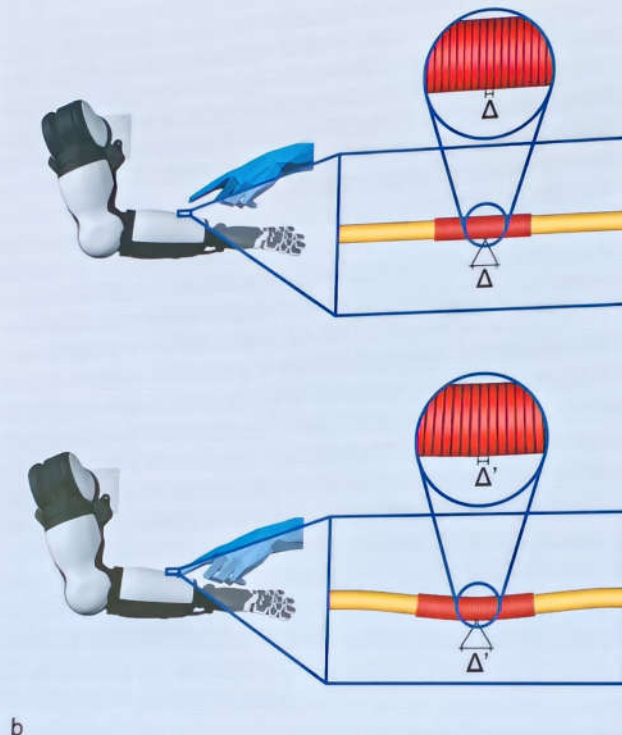
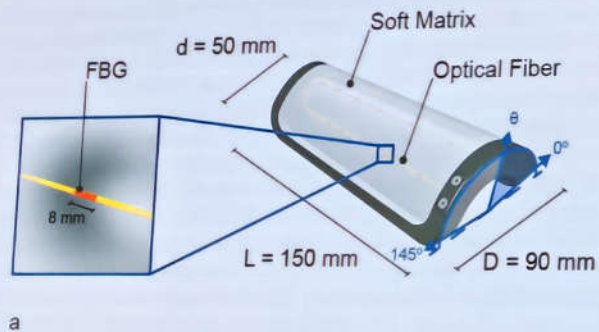
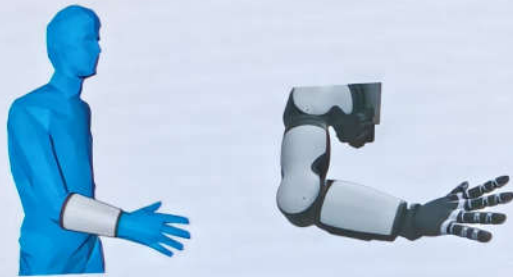
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Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with Fiber Bragg Gratings



Massari, L., Fransvea, G., D'Abbraccio, J., Filosa, M., Terruso, G., Aliperta, A., ... & Oddo, C. M. (2023). Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with Fiber Bragg Gratings and Deep Neural Networks enables a bio-inspired large scale sensitive skin. *Nature Machine Intelligence* 2023.

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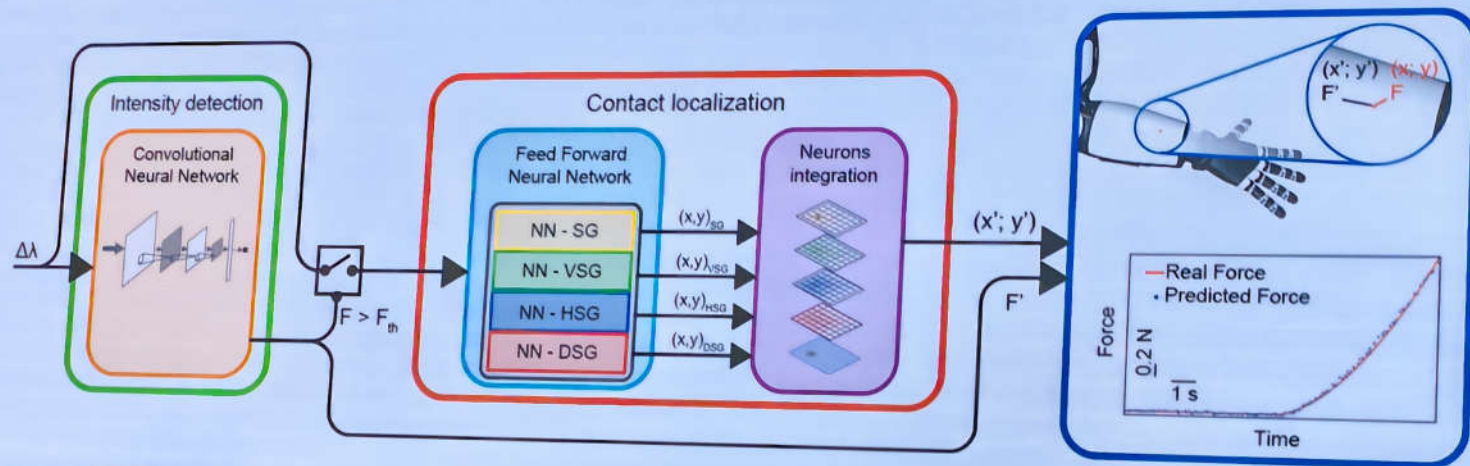
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Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with Fiber Bragg Gratings

Large area force sensing and contact localization: AI model



Touch-based decoding of the applied force and contact localization



Massari, L., Fransvea, G., D'Abbraccio, J., Filosa, M., Terruso, G., Aliperta, A., ... & Oddo, C. M. (2024). Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with Fiber Bragg Gratings and Deep Neural Networks enables a bio-inspired large area force sensitive skin. *Nature Machine Intelligence*.

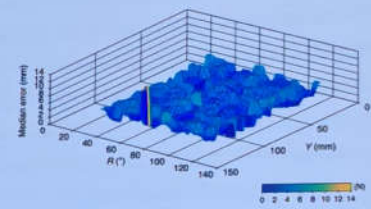
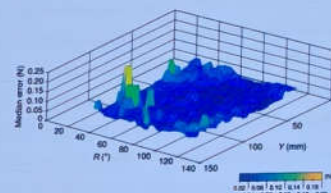
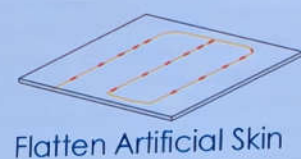
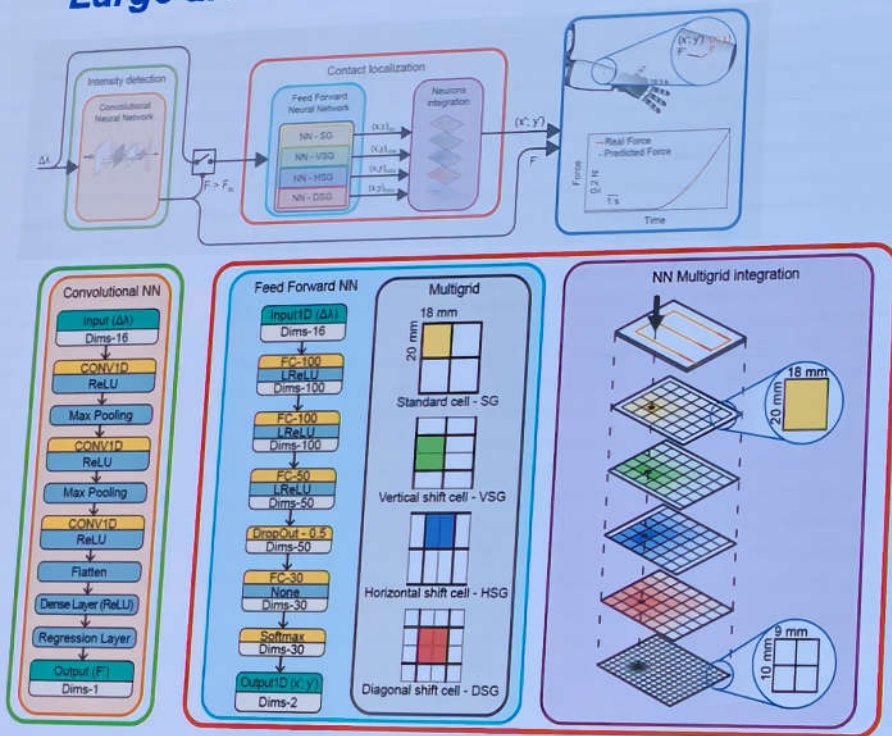
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Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with Fiber Bragg Gratings

Large area force sensing and contact location: AI model

RESULTS



Task		Error	
		Median	IQR
Intensity detection	NN - CNN	35 mN	56 mN
	NN - SG	12.6 mm	7.5 mm
Contact localization	NN - VSG	8.4 mm	4.6 mm
	NN - HSG	10.8 mm	8.9 mm
	NN - DSG	6.1 mm	4.2 mm
	Neuron integration	3.2 mm	2.3 mm

Massari, L., Fransvea, G., D'Abbraccio, J., Filosa, M., Terruso, G., Aliperta, A., ... & Oddo, C. M. (2022). Functional mimicry of Ruffini receptors with Fiber Bragg Gratings and Deep Neural Networks enables a bio-inspired large area sensitive skin. *Nature Machine Intelligence* 2022

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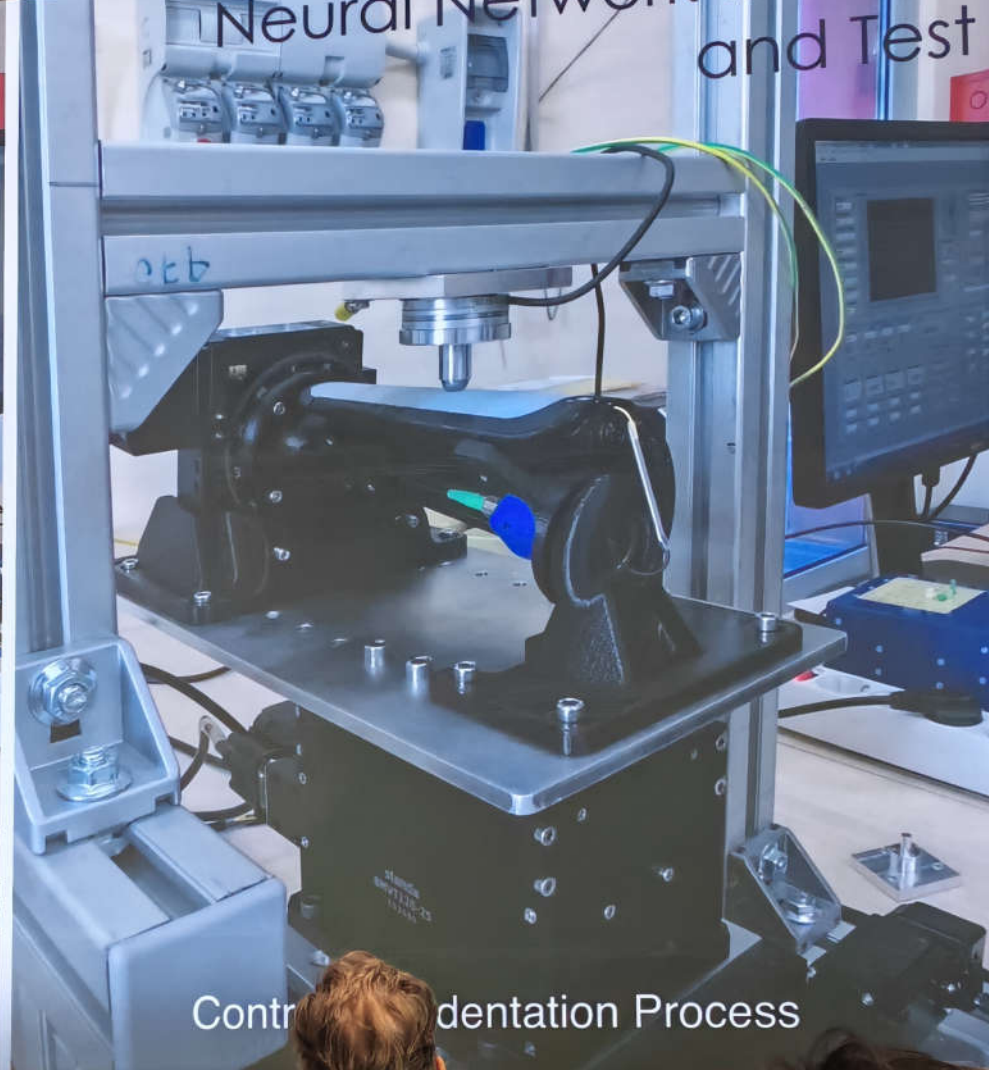
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Neural Network Training and Test



Random Indentation Process



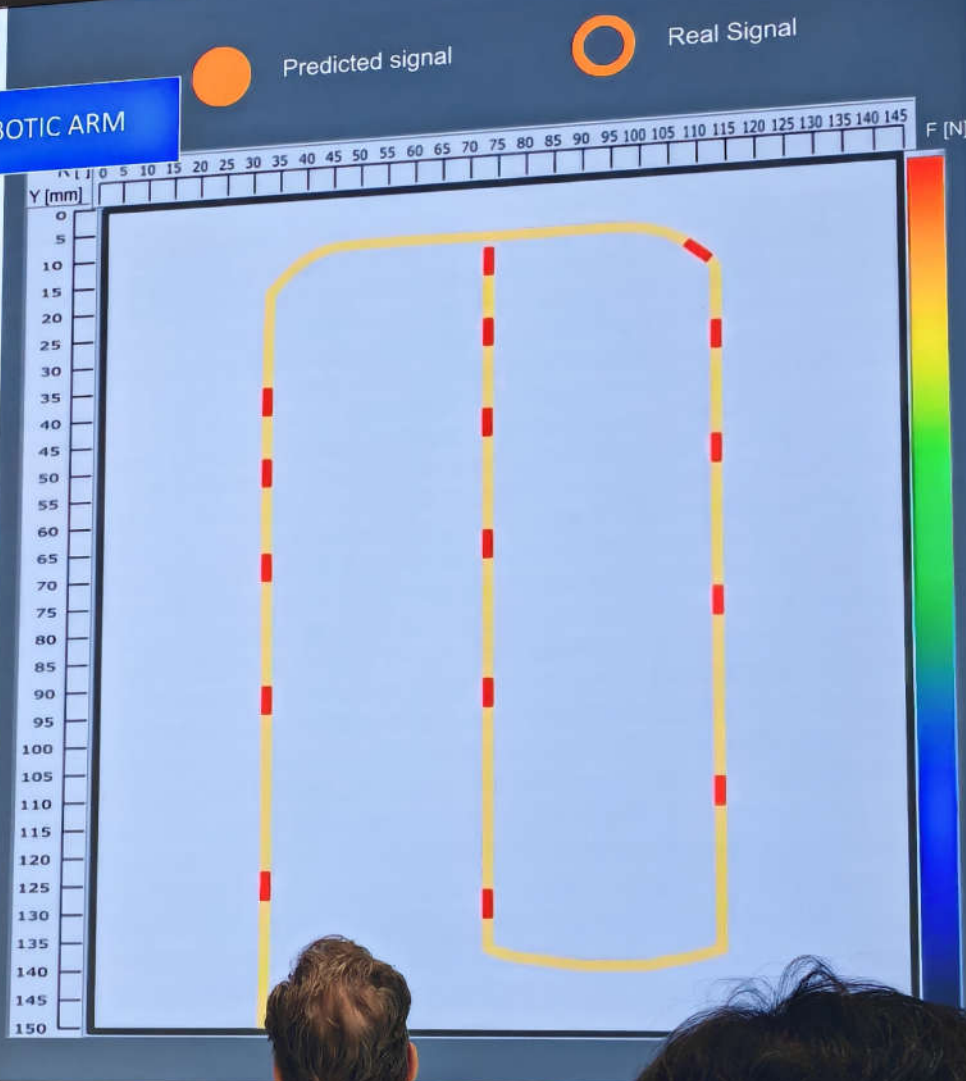
Control Indentation Process

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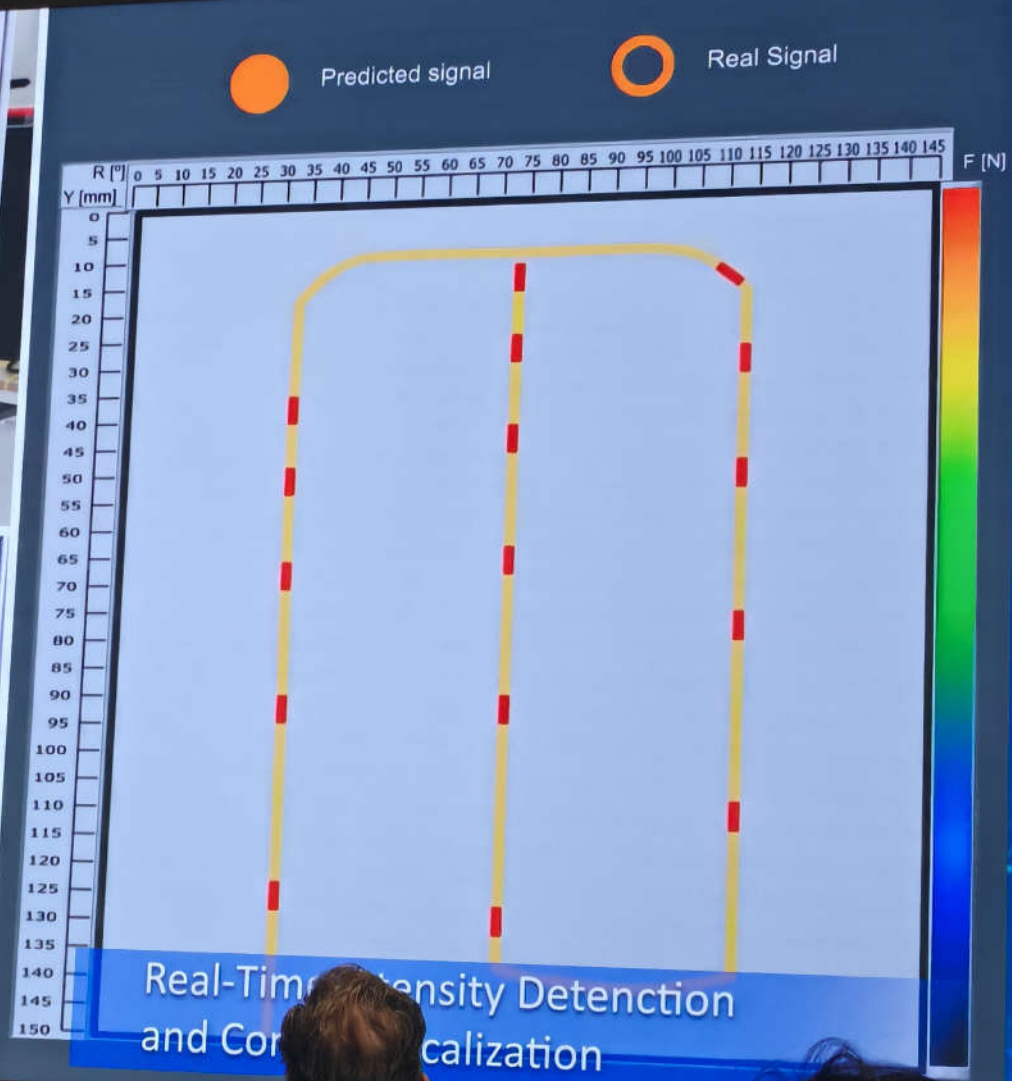
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Random force controlled indentations



Real-Time Density Detenction and Core Localization

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Robotic arm passive manipulation
and trajectory acquisition

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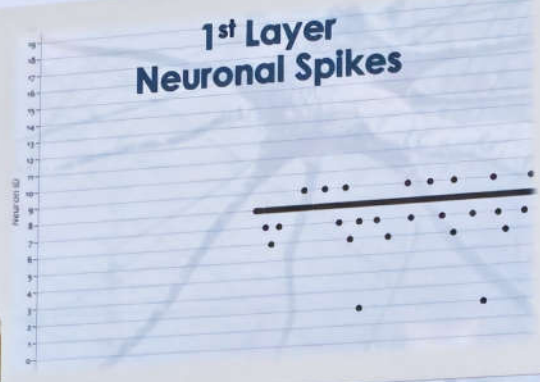


M. Filosa

Ongoing: Cuneate-based Decoding for Neuromorphic Large-Area Touch Sensing



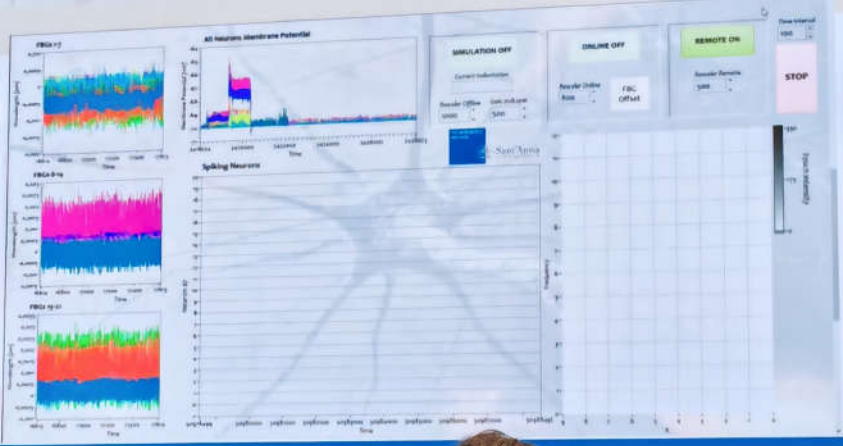
Random Force-controlled Indentations



Real-Time SINGLE-TOUCH RECOGNITION

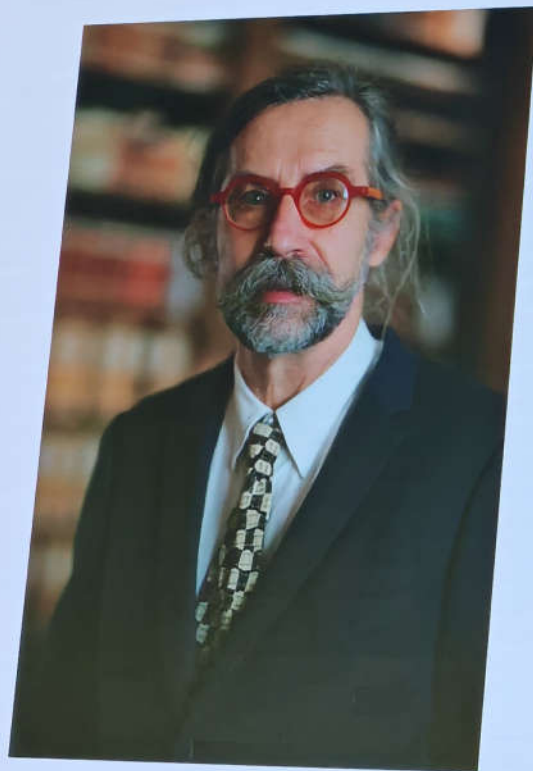
Real-Time MULTI-TOUCH RECOGNITION

2nd Layer Pattern Recognition



M. Filosa et al., Live demo at IEEE Sensors Conference
Unpublished results

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