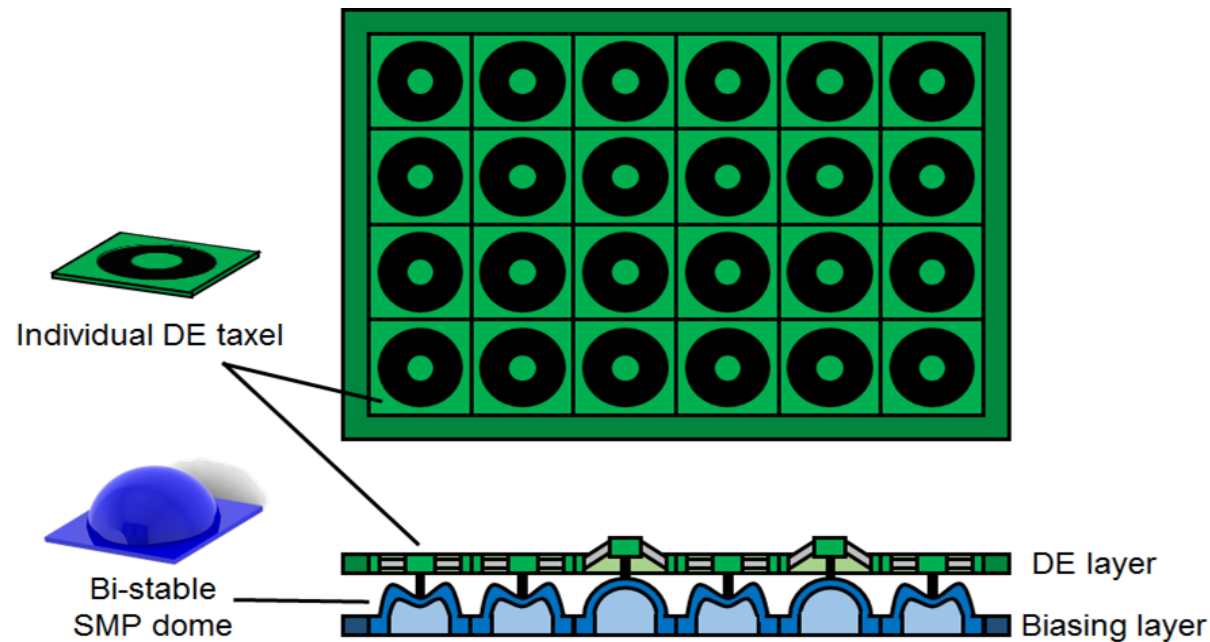


DECMAS - Project - Influence of residual stresses of sputtered thin film electrodes for dielectric elastomer applications



Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Günter Schultes

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan Seelecke

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Gianluca Rizzello

Jonas Hubertus, M.Sc.

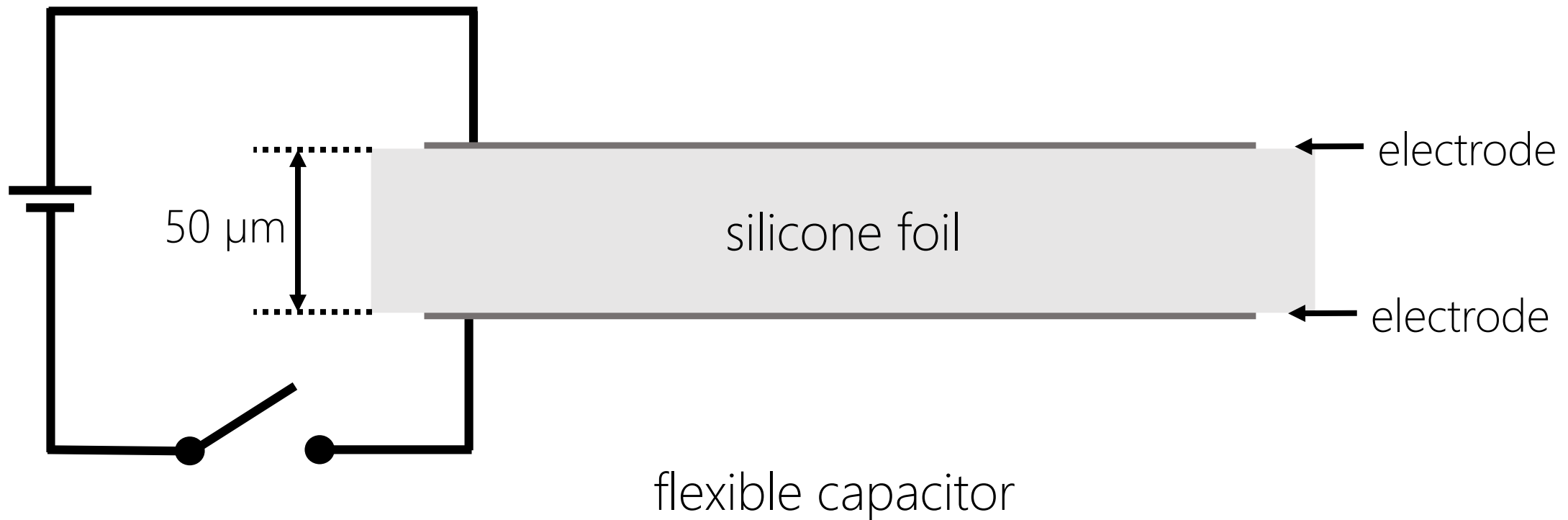
Julian Neu, M.Sc.

Sipontina Croce, M.Sc.

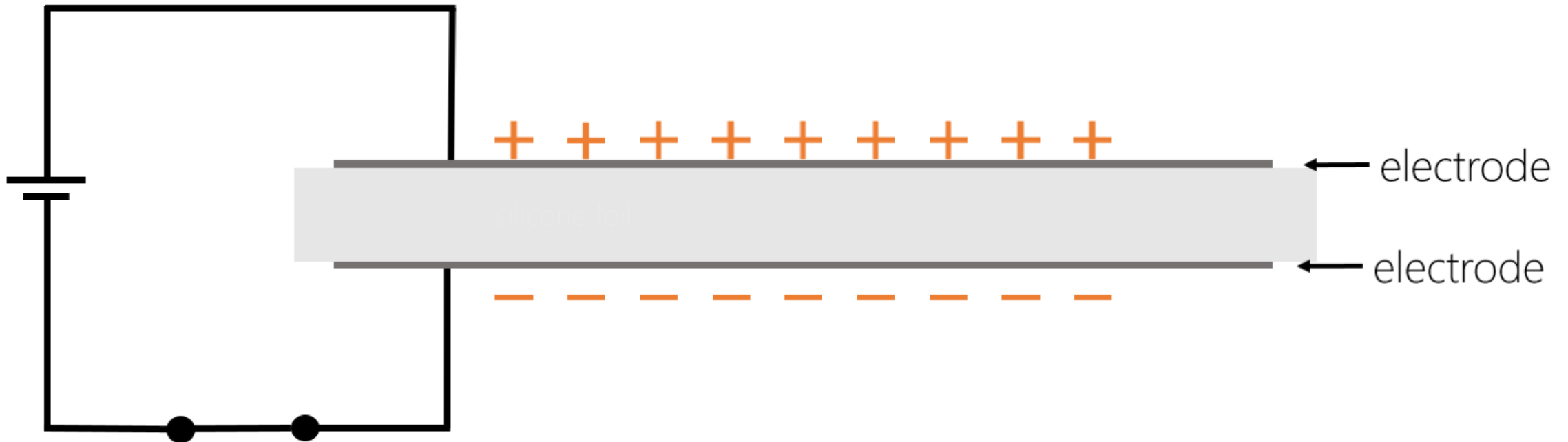
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- DECMAS Project
- Compliant electrode
- Evaluation of the electromechanical results
- Conclusion

- DECMAS - Dielectric Elastomer Membranes for Cooperative Micro-Actuator/Sensor Concepts

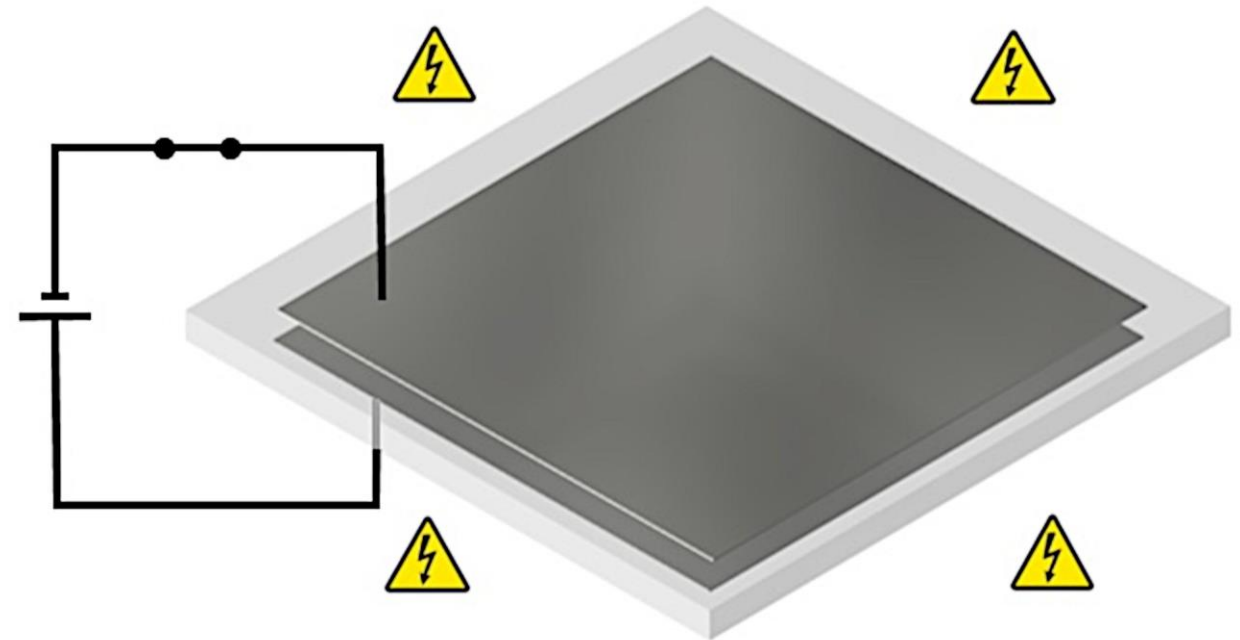
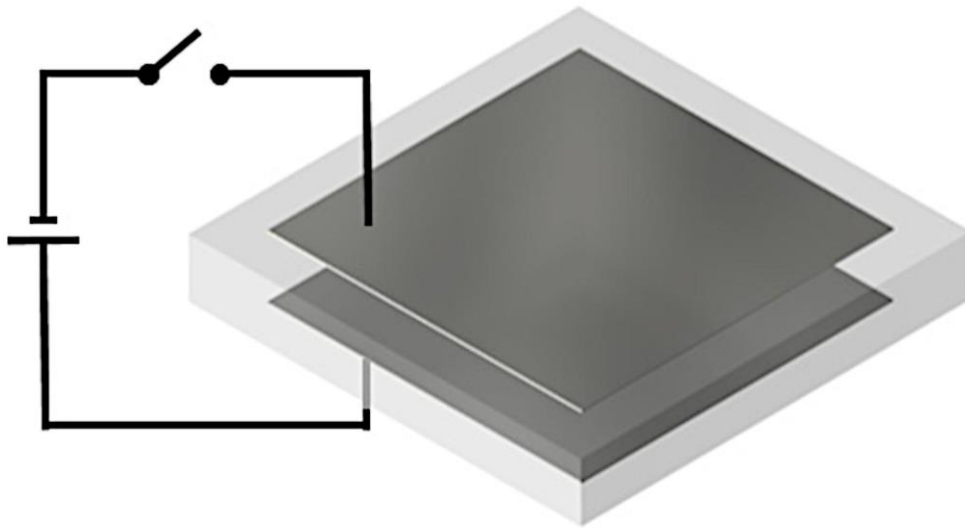


- DECMAS - Dielectric Elastomer Membranes for Cooperative Micro-Actuator/Sensor Concepts



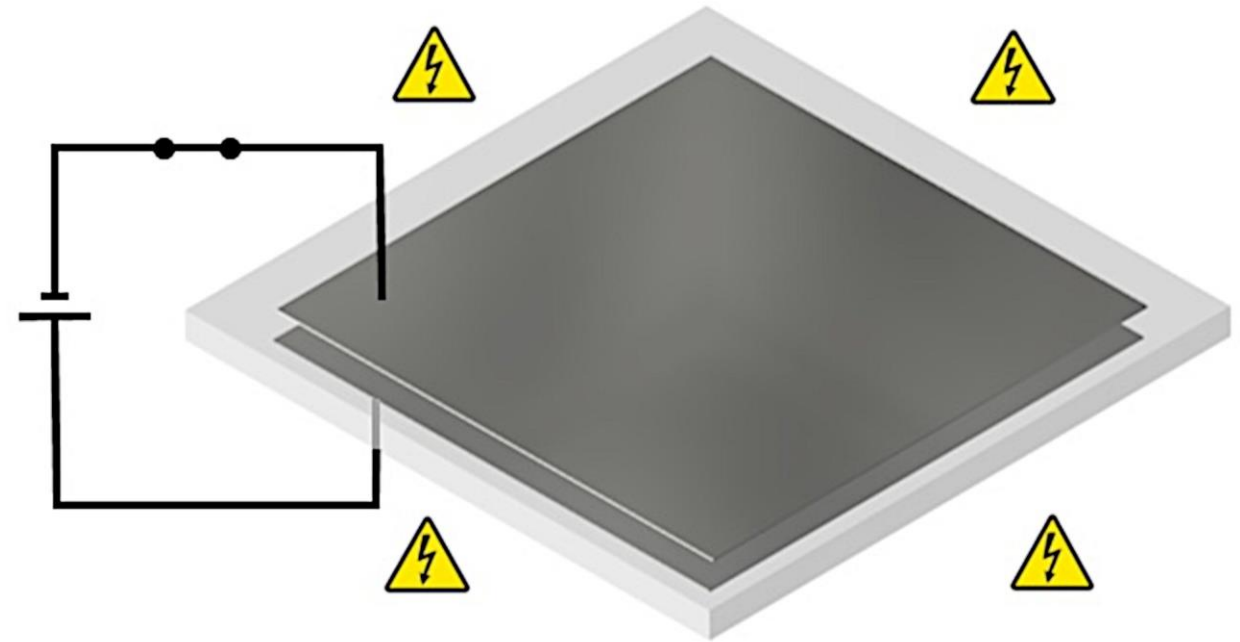
Attraction of the charged electrodes due to the Maxwell-stress and in-plane expansion of the silicone membrane

- DECMAS - Dielectric Elastomer Membranes for Cooperative Micro-Actuator/Sensor Concepts

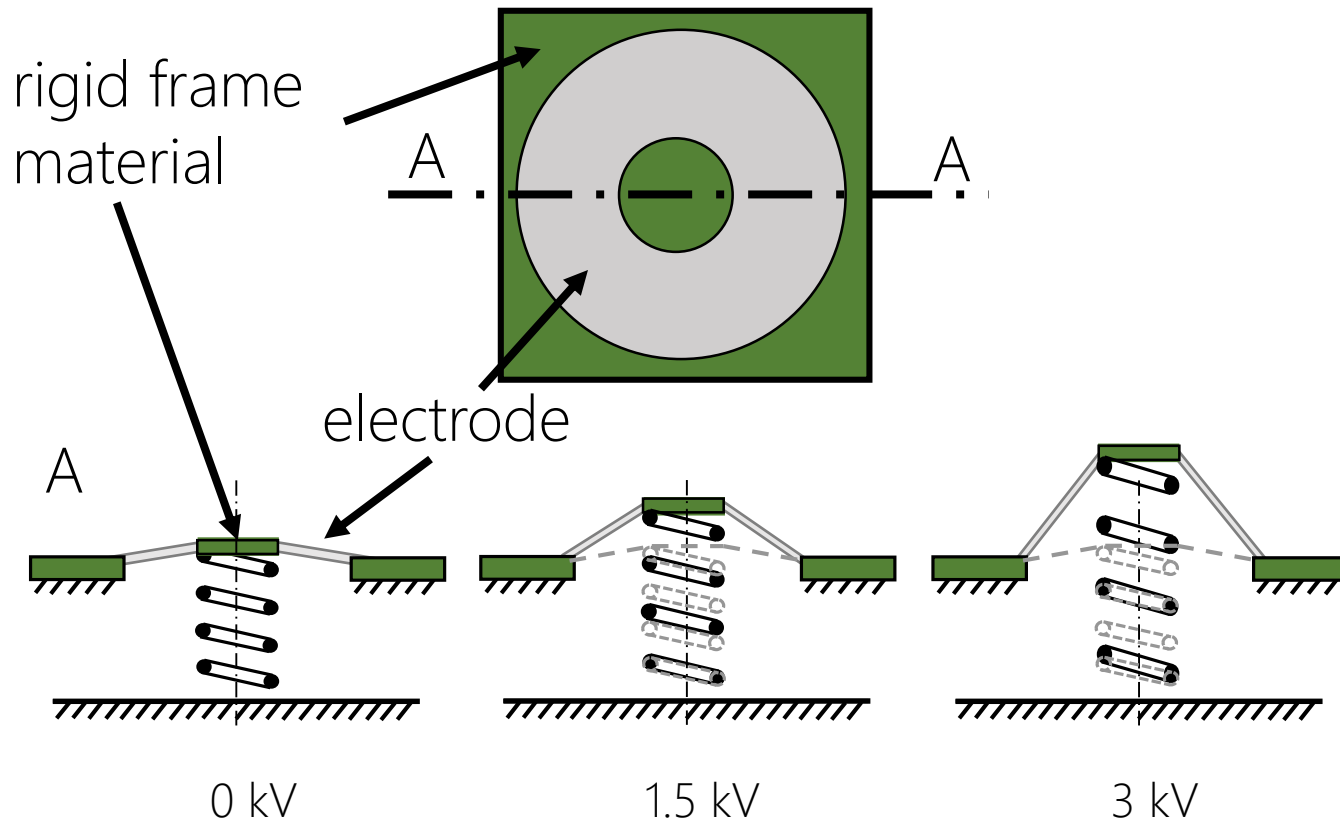


Attraction of the charged electrodes due to the Maxwell-stress and in-plane expansion of the silicone membrane

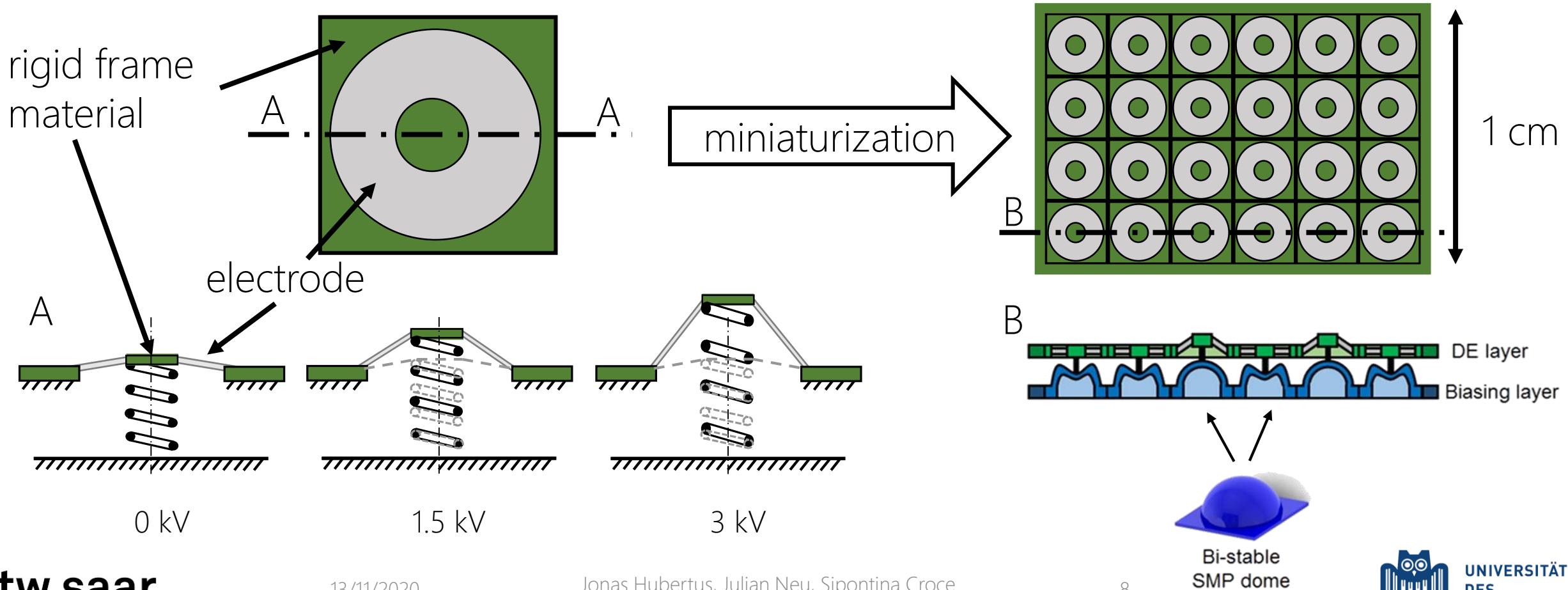
- DECMAS - Dielectric Elastomer Membranes for Cooperative Micro-Actuator/Sensor Concepts
- In-plane expansion
- Change in dimensions and geometry
 - can be used for actuation with the appropriate biasing systems
- Approach of the electrodes and increase of the electrode area
 - increase of the capacitance
- Actuator and sensor in one element



- DECMAS - Dielectric Elastomer Membranes for Cooperative Micro-Actuator/Sensor Concepts



- DECMAS - Dielectric Elastomer Membranes for Cooperative Micro-Actuator/Sensor Concepts







Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

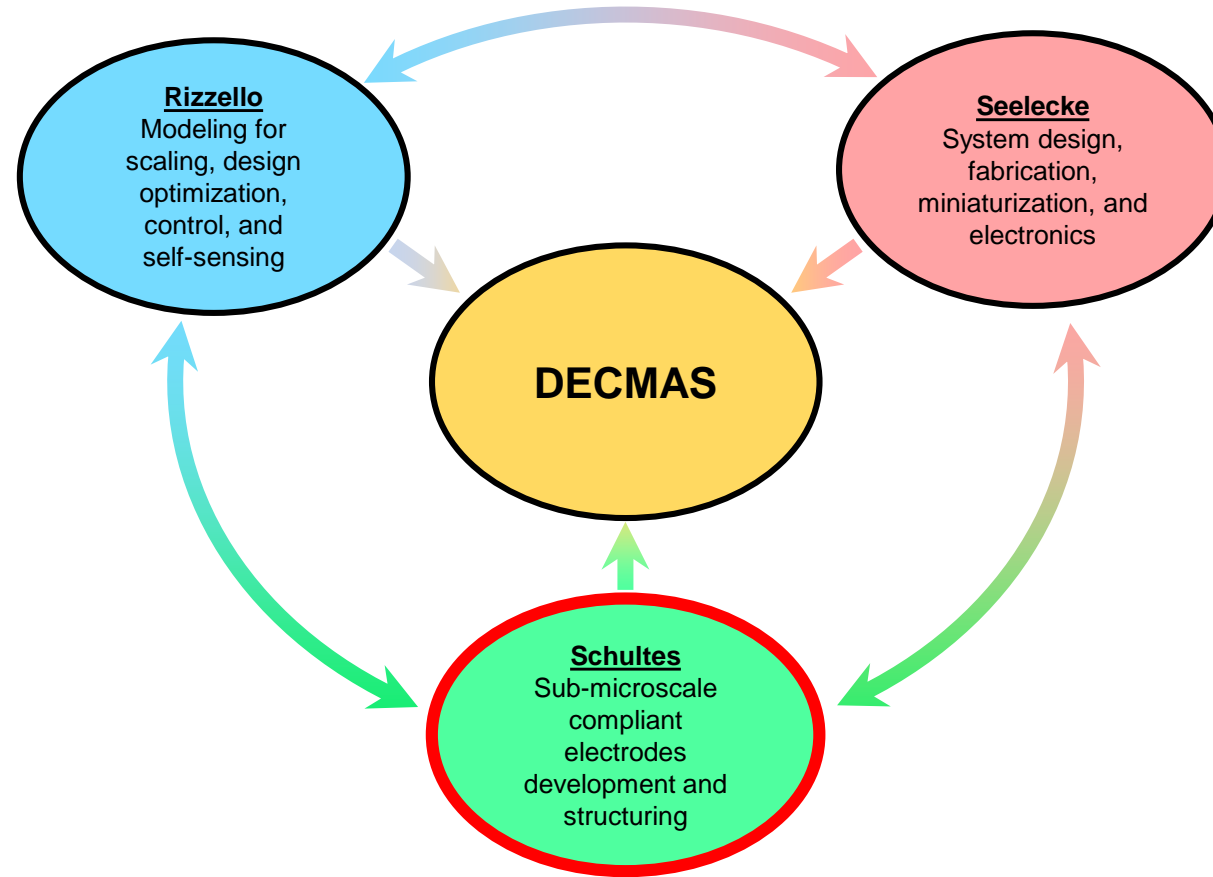
COoperative
Multistage
Multistable
Micro
Actuator Systems




KOMMMA
A DFG PRIORITY PROGRAMME



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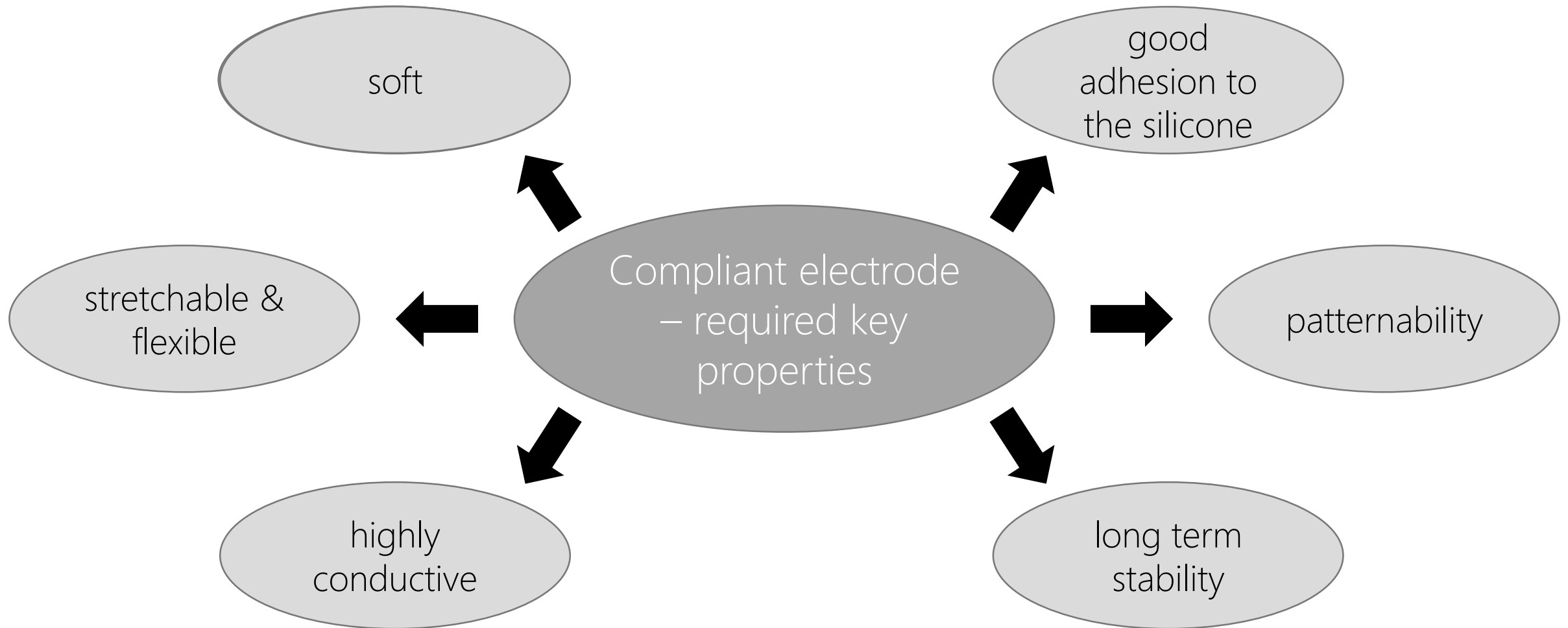
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htw saar



- DECMAS Project
- Compliant electrode
- Evaluation of the electromechanical results
- Conclusion

Compliant electrode – general properties



Compliant electrode – general properties

Carbon black electrode

soft

Properties of both electrode types

good adhesion to the silicone

long term stability

stretchable & flexible

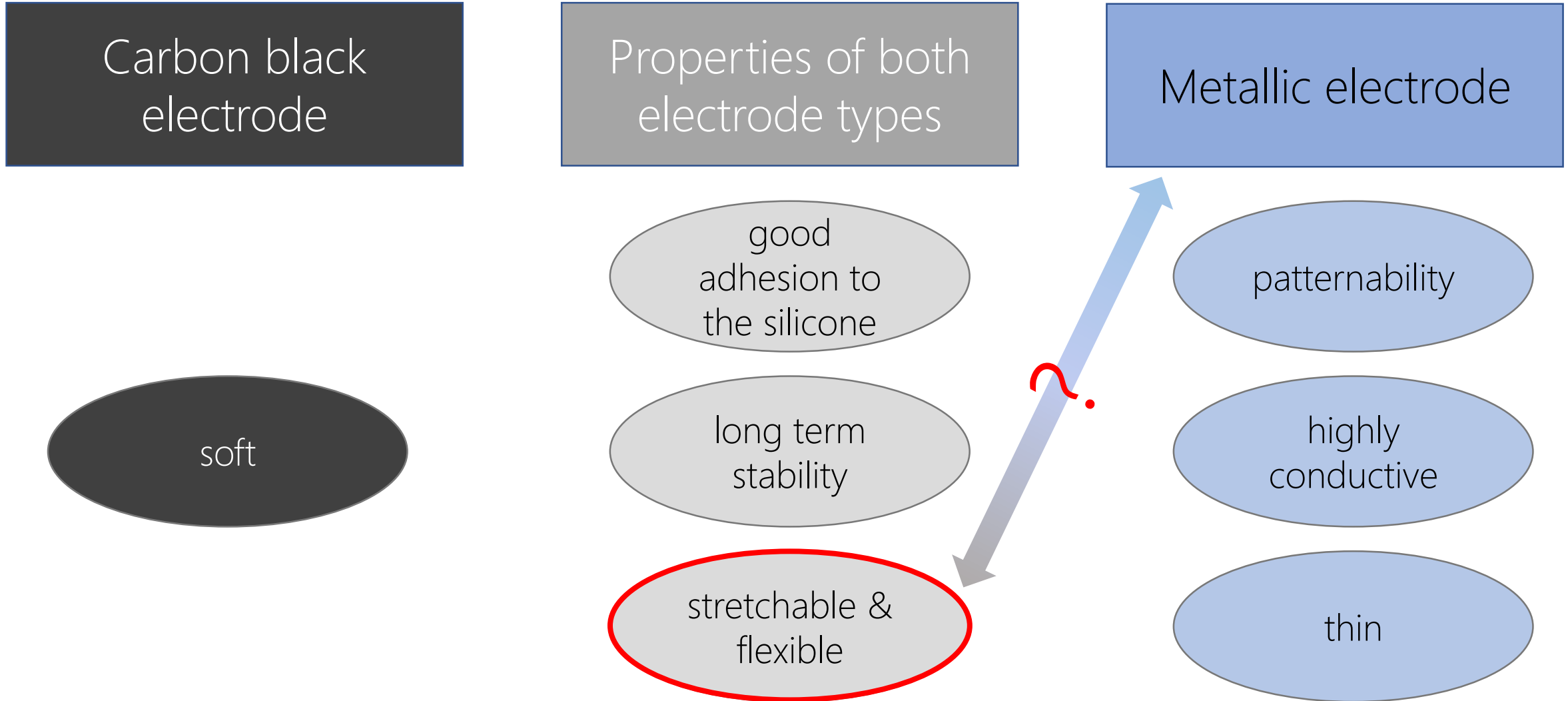
Metallic electrode

patternability

highly conductive

thin

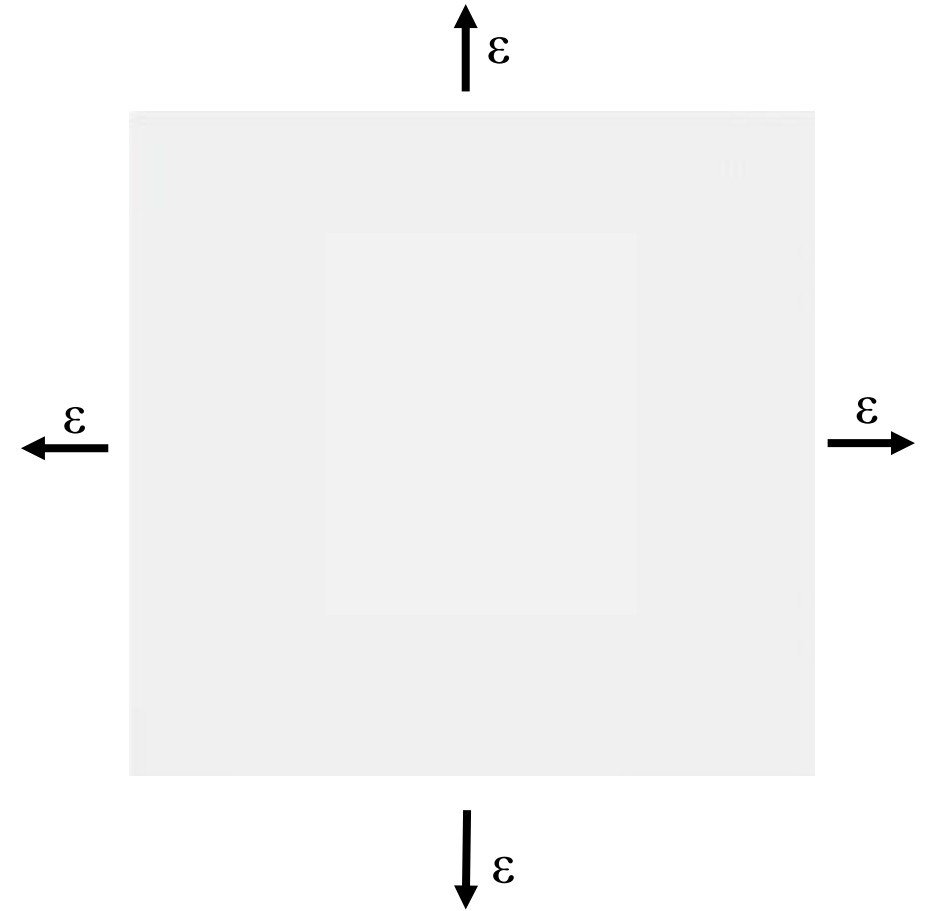
Compliant electrode – general properties



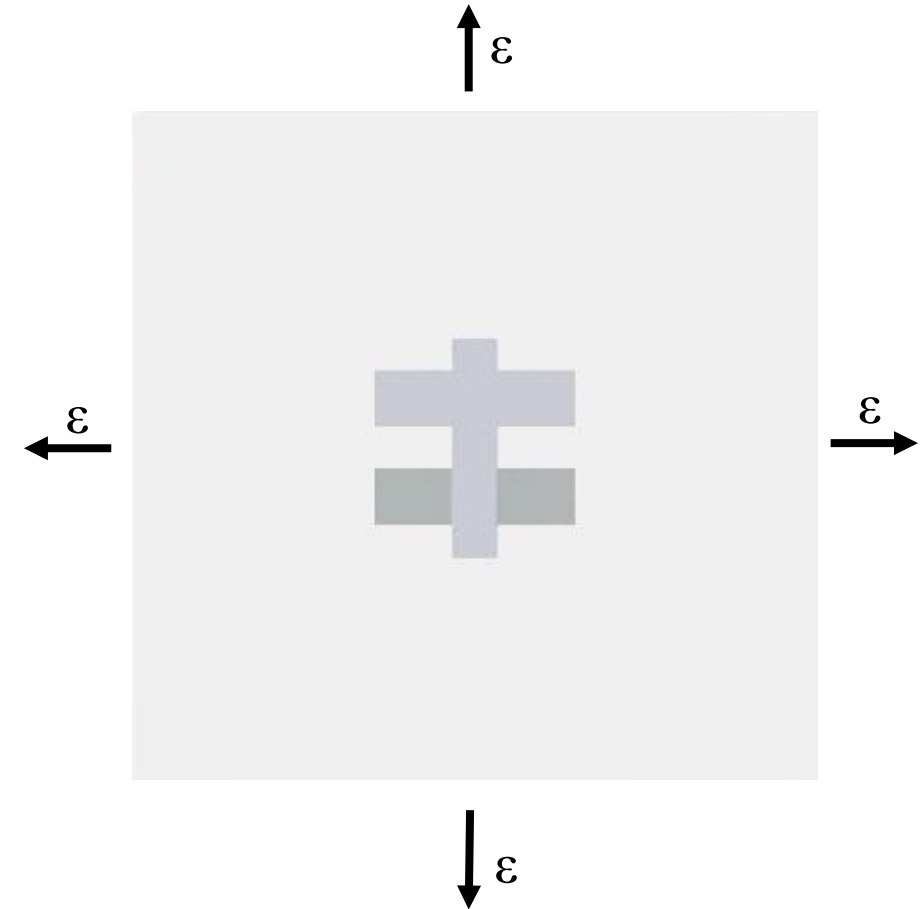


PDMS film

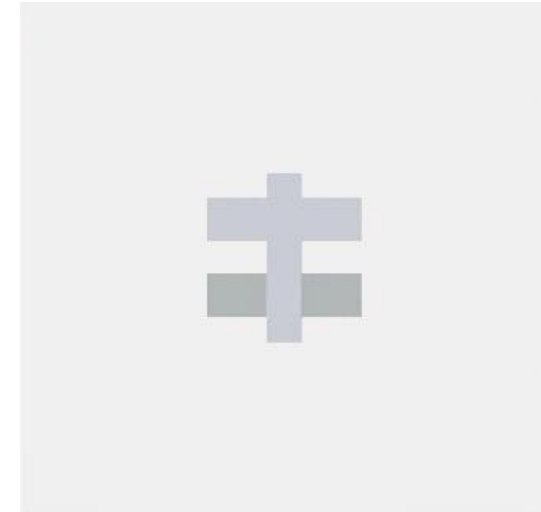
- PDMS film is pre-stretched



- PDMS film is pre-stretched
- DC magnetron sputter coated on both sides
- 10nm Ni or 20nm Ni + carbon sandwich

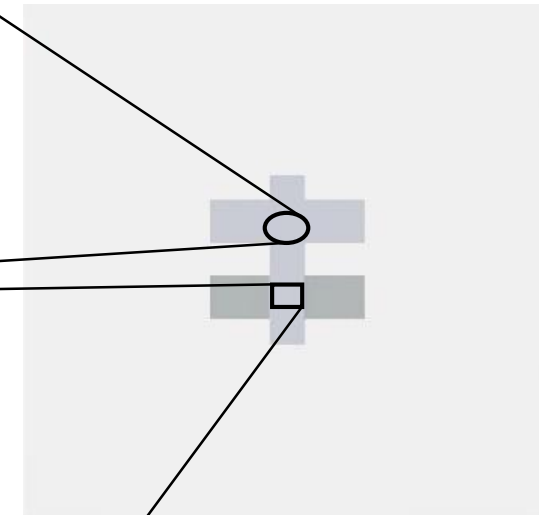
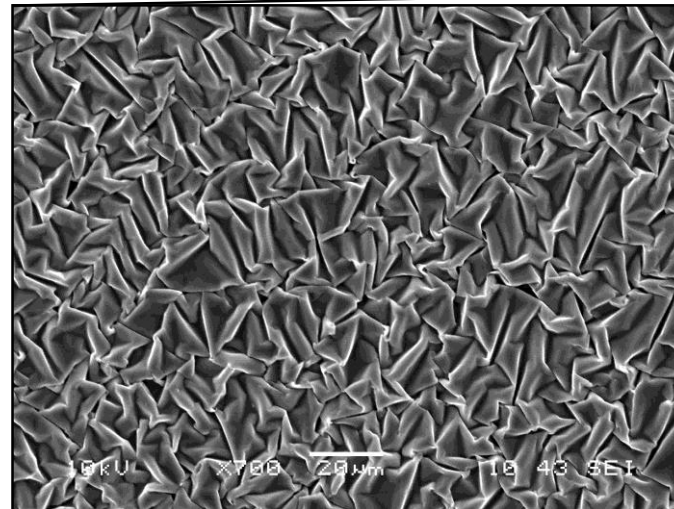
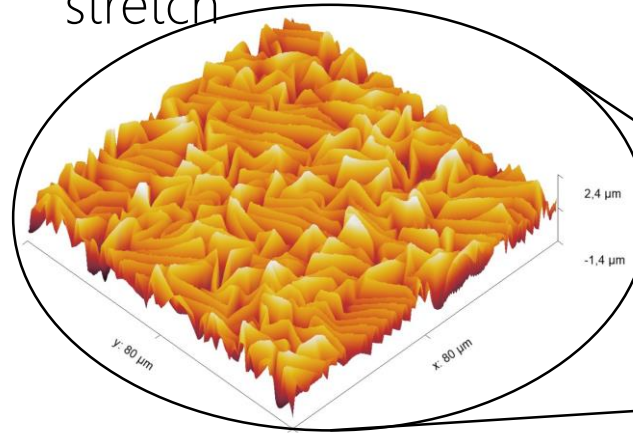


- PDMS film is pre-stretched
- DC magnetron sputter coated on both sides
- 10nm Ni or 20nm Ni + carbon sandwich
- Pre-stretch is released



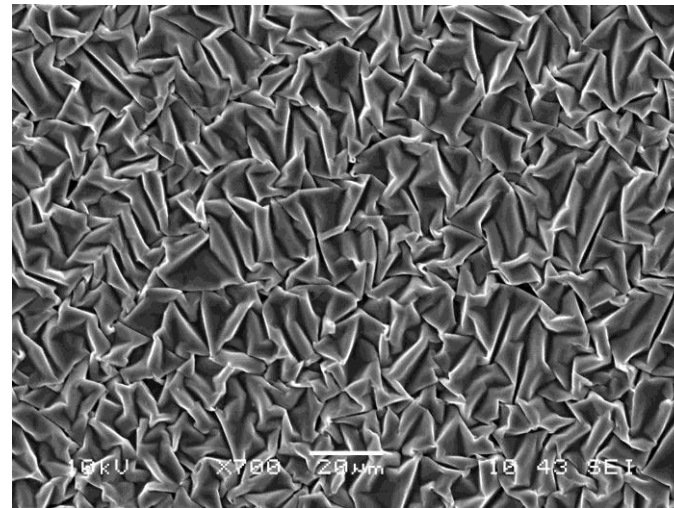
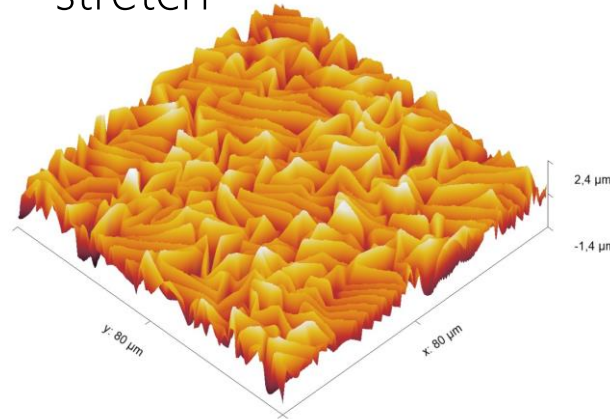
- PDMS film is pre-stretched
- DC magnetron sputter coated on both sides
- 10nm Ni or 20nm Ni + carbon sandwich
- Pre-stretch is released
- Wrinkled metallic surface is obtained

biaxial pre-stretch

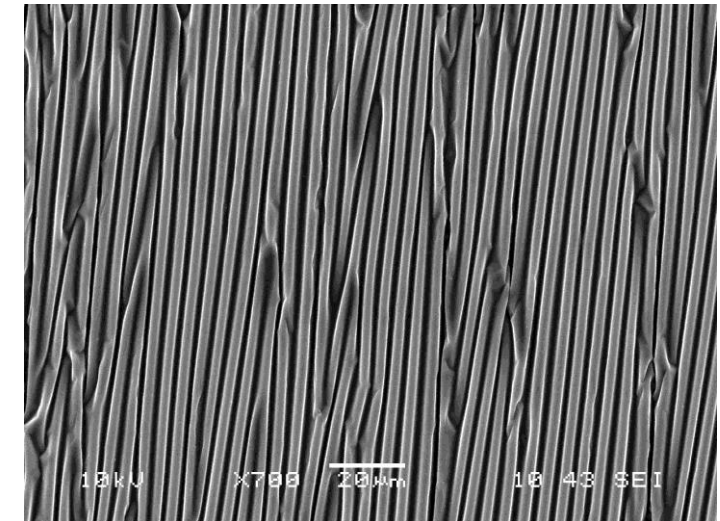
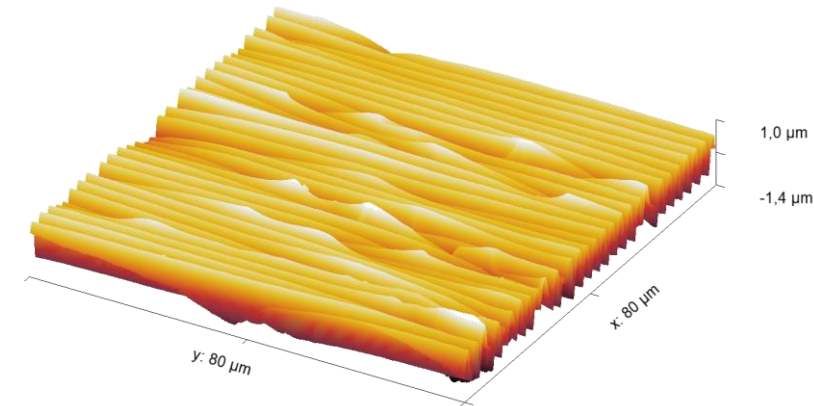


- PDMS film is pre-stretched
- DC magnetron sputter coated on both sides
- 10nm Ni or 20nm Ni + carbon sandwich
- Pre-stretch is released
- Wrinkled metallic surface is obtained
- Wrinkles act as mechanical buffer during actuation

biaxial pre-stretch



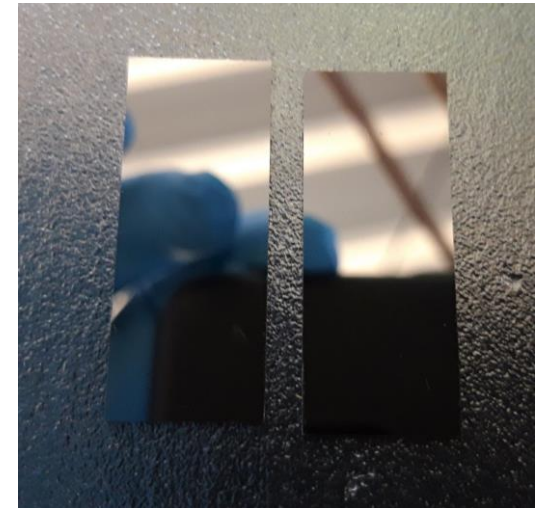
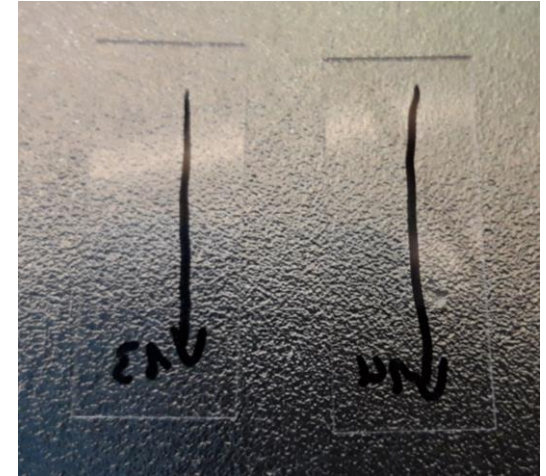
pure-shear pre-stretch



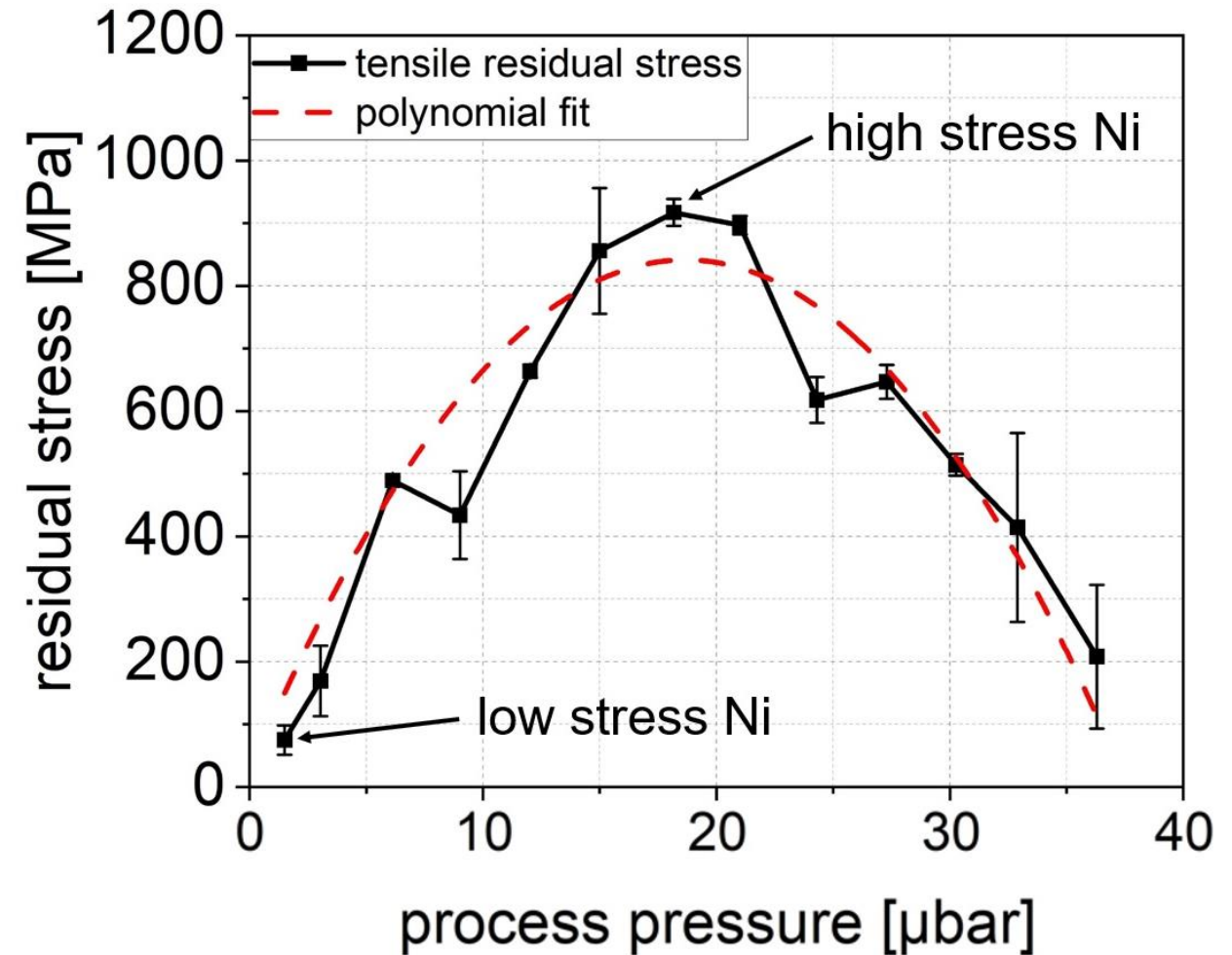
- DECMAS Project
- Compliant electrode
- Evaluation of the electromechanical results
- Conclusion

- Deposition of pure nickel (115 nm) onto glass slides
- Application of 13 different process pressures
- Measurement of the residual stress of the thin film by means of

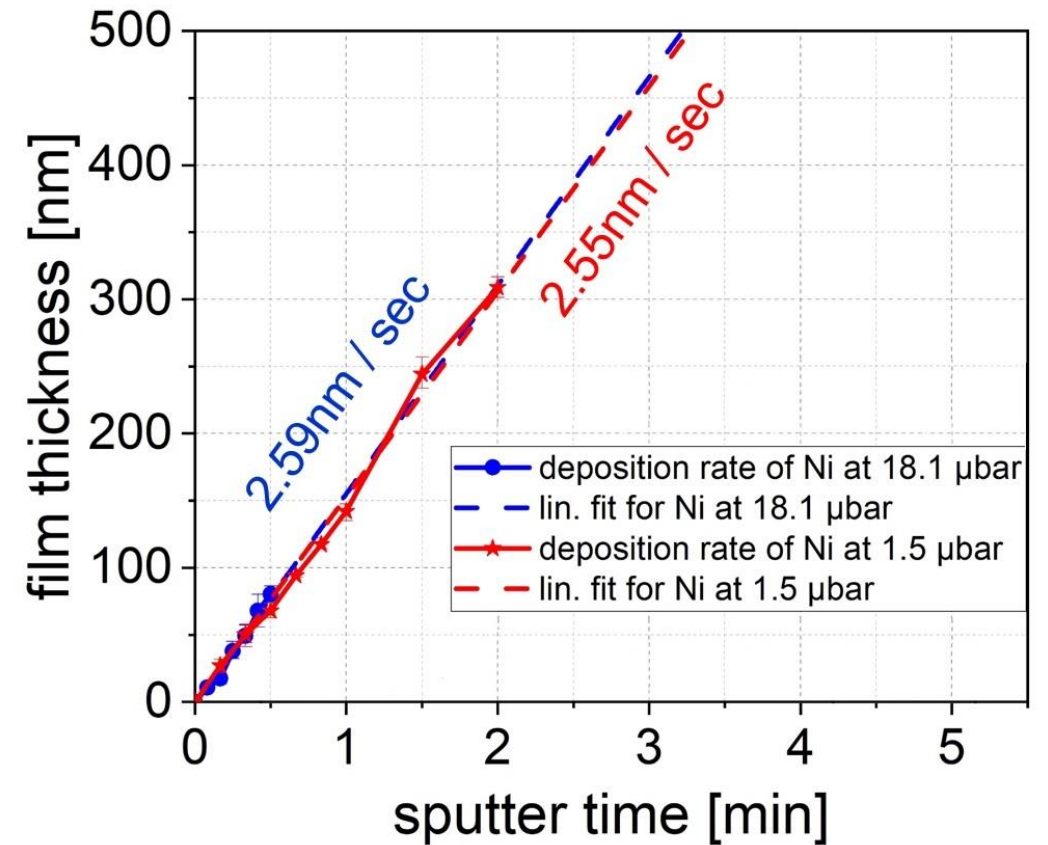
- Stoney –Equation:
$$\sigma_R = \frac{E_s}{6 * (1 - \nu_s)} \frac{h_s^2}{h_f} \left(\frac{1}{R} - \frac{1}{R_0} \right)$$



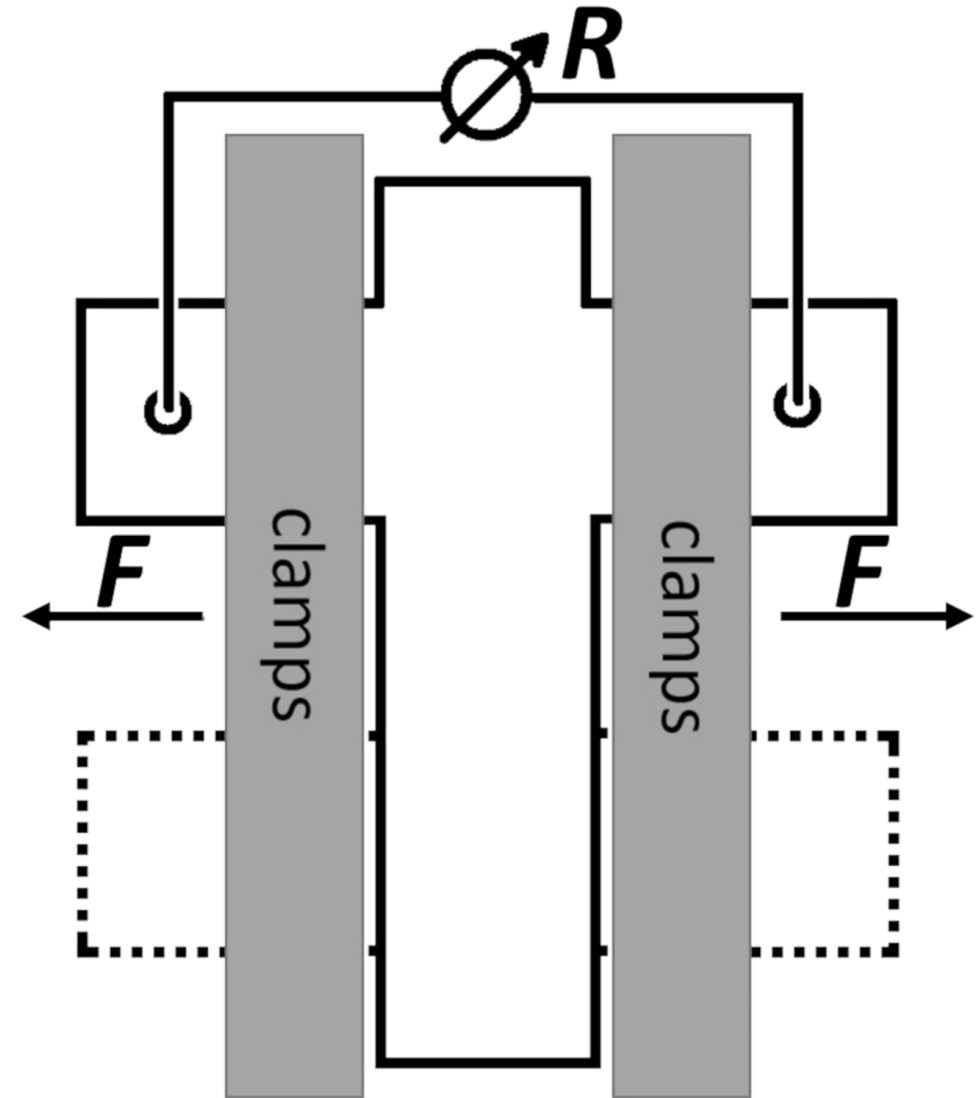
- Minimum value of approx. 95MPa at 1.5 μ bar
- Maximum value of approx. 920MPa 18 μ bar
- Fit similar to inverted parabola
- In the following: thin film electrodes with high stress nickel are compared to thin film electrodes containing low stress nickel



- Comparable deposition rate for low stress nickel and for high stress nickel
- No contribution to residual stress state due to different layer thicknesses



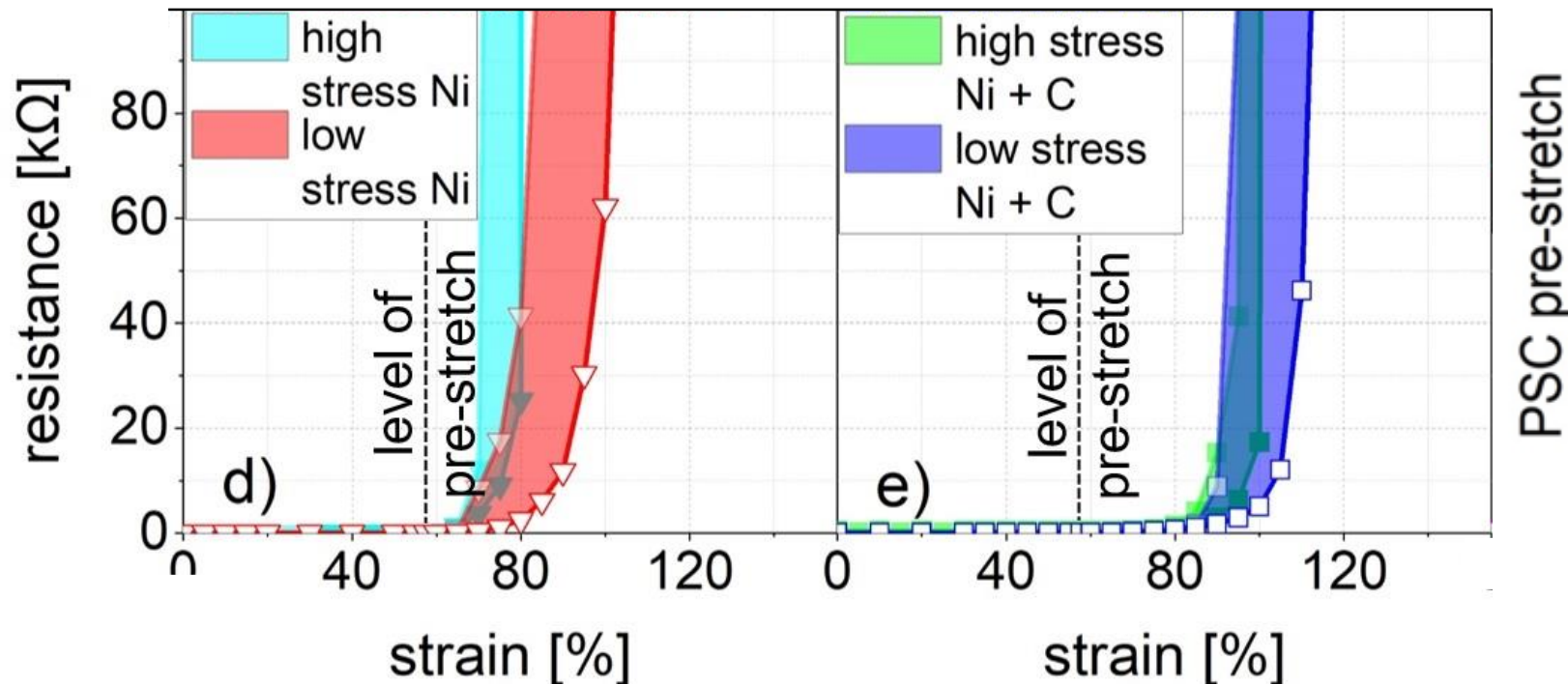
- Biaxially or pure shear pre-stretched silicone membranes
- Deposition of cross-shaped electrodes onto pre-stretched membranes
- Pure nickel thin film (10 nm)
- Sandwich thin film: Ni+C (20 nm) and C+Ni (20 nm)
- High and low residual stress nickel thin films
- Pure shear tensile test
- Measurement of the resistance versus strain



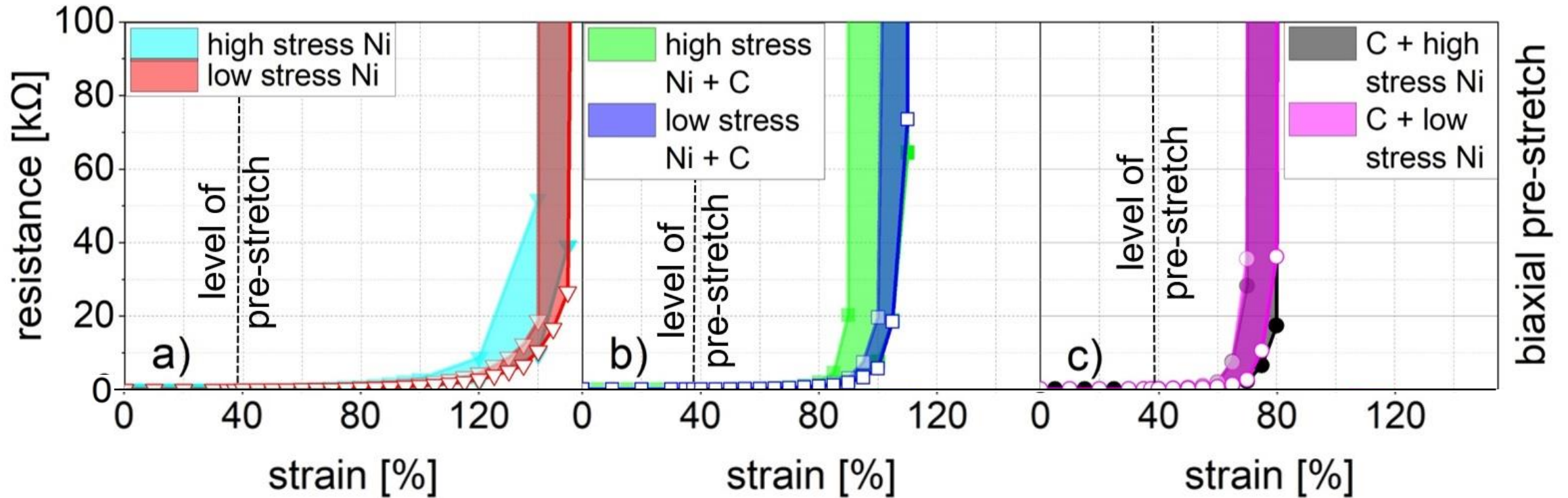
Results: resistance versus strain

For PSC pre-stretched membranes with Ni and Ni+C:

- Degradation of the nickel and the Ni+C electrode is shifted towards higher strain level
- Degradation of the electrode is dominated by residual stress state



Results: resistance versus strain

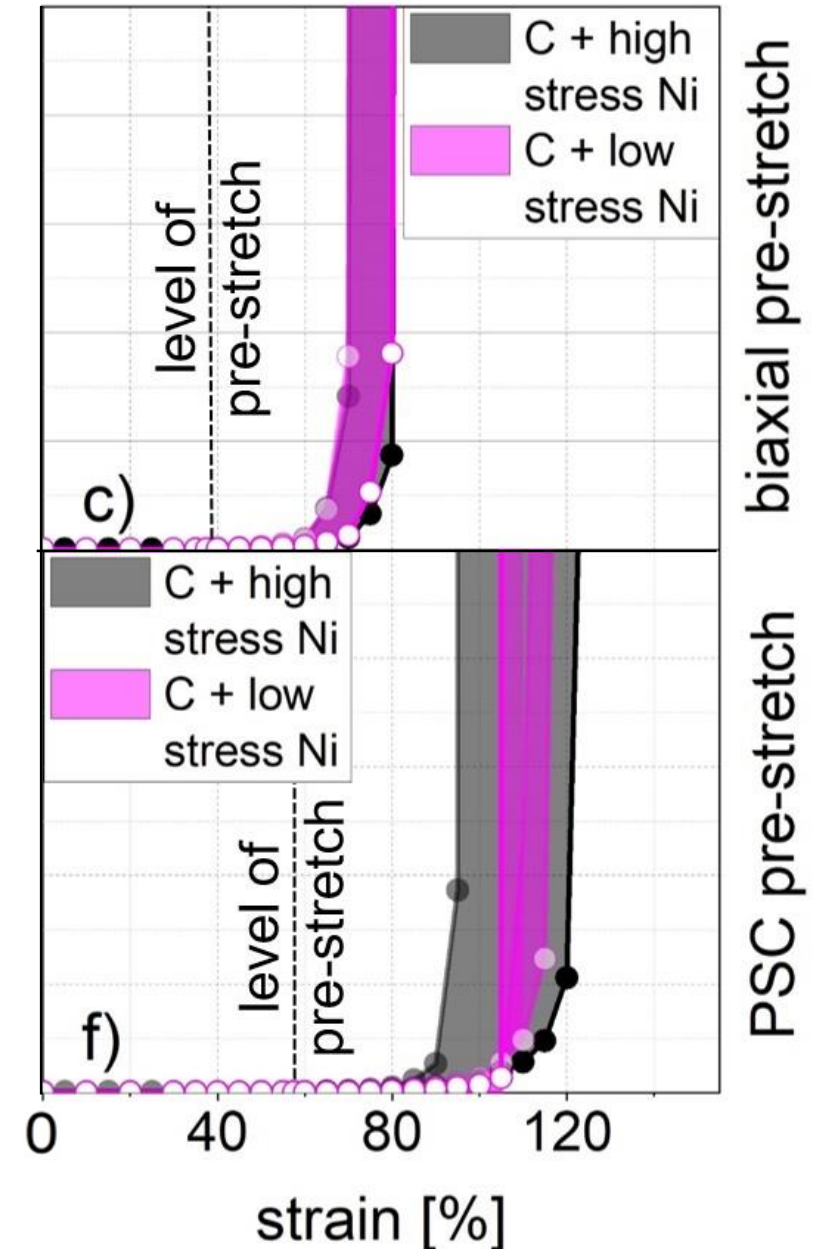


For biaxially pre-stretched membranes:

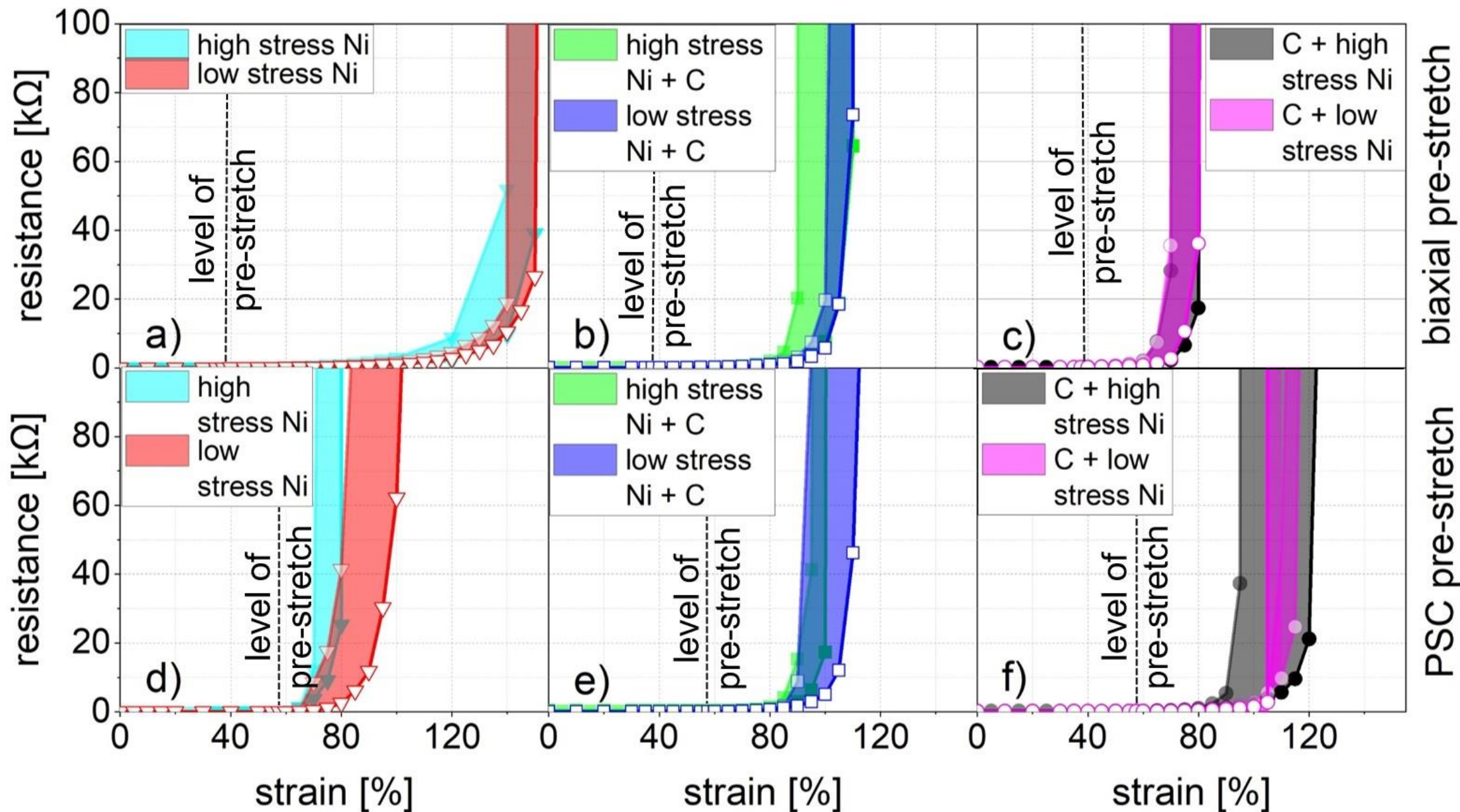
- No influence of the residual stress state on the electromechanical properties
- Degradation of the electrode is dominated by the failure mechanism of the electrode

For C+Ni thin film electrodes:

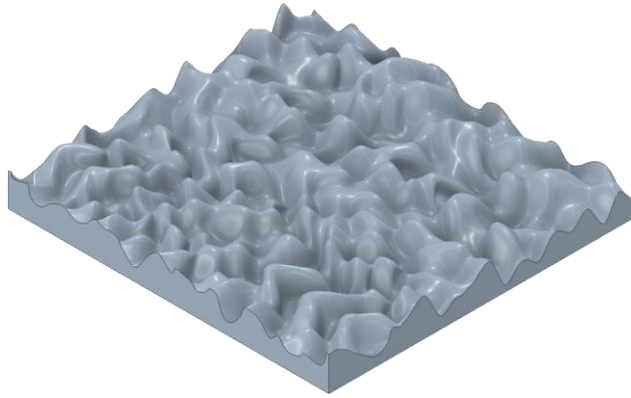
- No influence of the residual stress state on the electromechanical properties
- Carbon sub-layer absorbs the residual stresses of the top-layer



Results: resistance versus strain



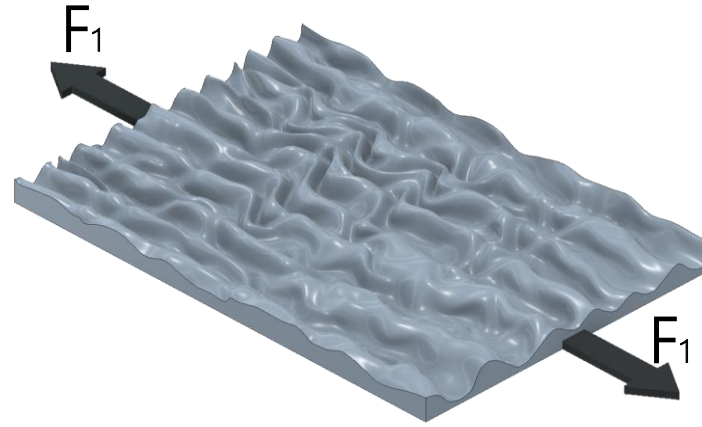
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Initial state:

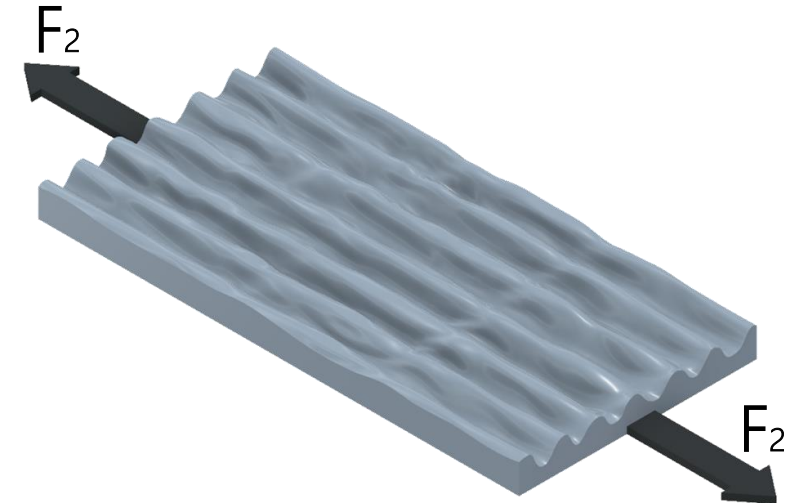
$$\varepsilon = 0$$

$$F = 0$$



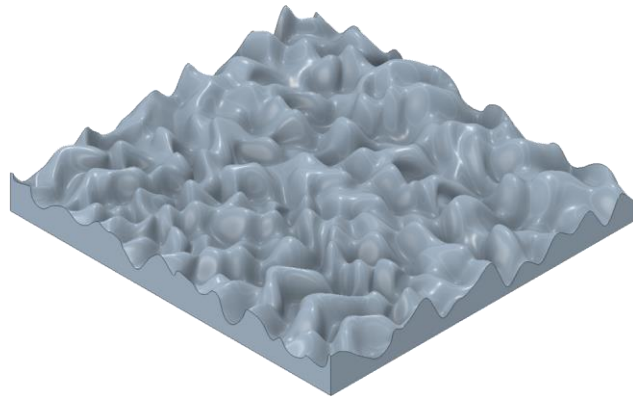
$$\varepsilon < \varepsilon_{pre}$$

$$0 < F_1$$



$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{pre}$$

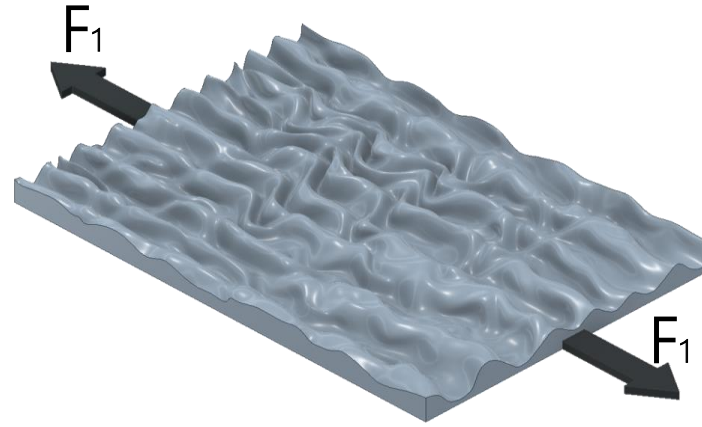
$$0 < F_1 < F_2$$



Initial state:

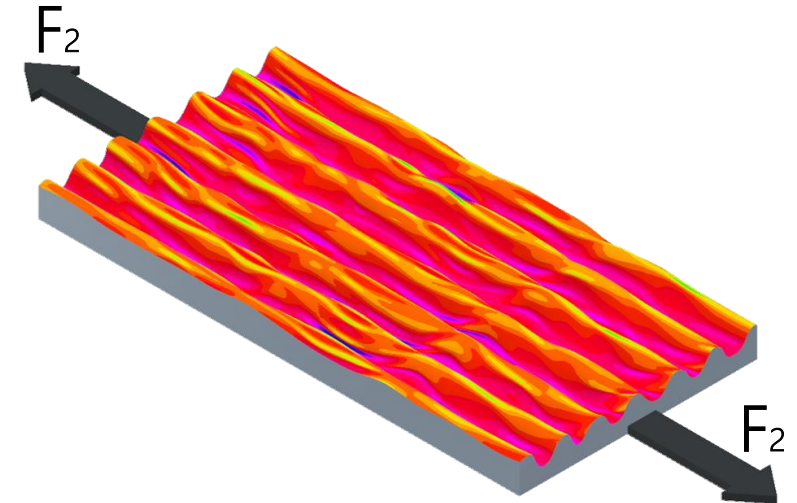
$$\varepsilon = 0$$

$$F = 0$$



$$\varepsilon < \varepsilon_{pre}$$

$$0 < F_1$$



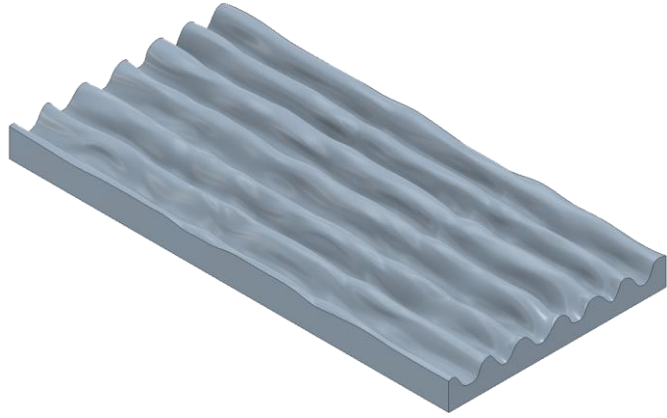
$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{pre}$$

$$0 < F_1 < F_2$$

→ Inhomogeneous stress distribution on the wrinkled surface



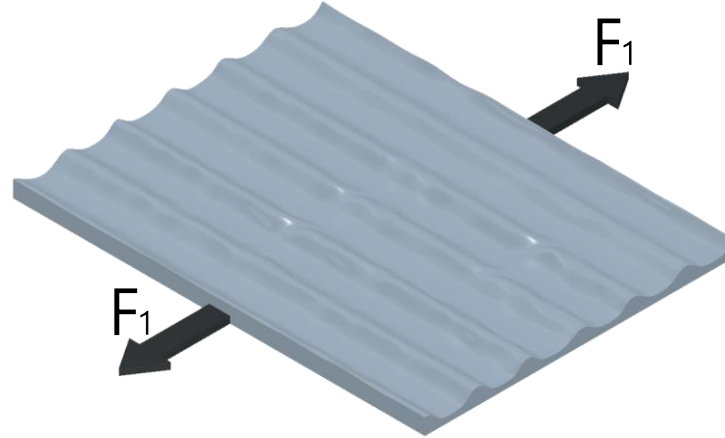
- Inhomogeneous stress distribution
- Crack propagation is hindered at wrinkles
- Huge number of small cracks



Initial state:

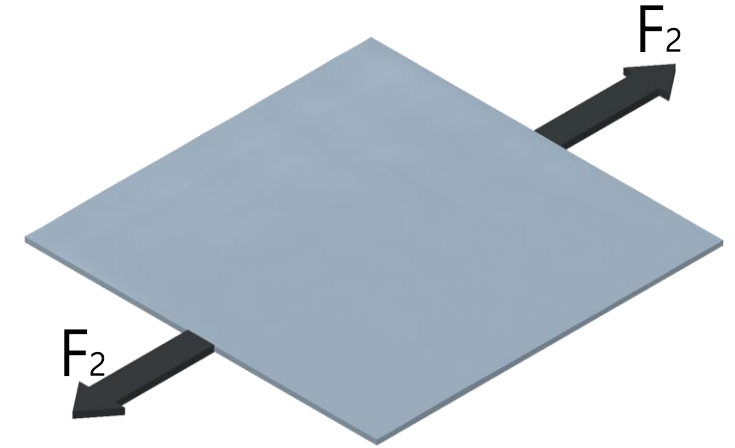
$$\varepsilon = 0$$

$$F = 0$$



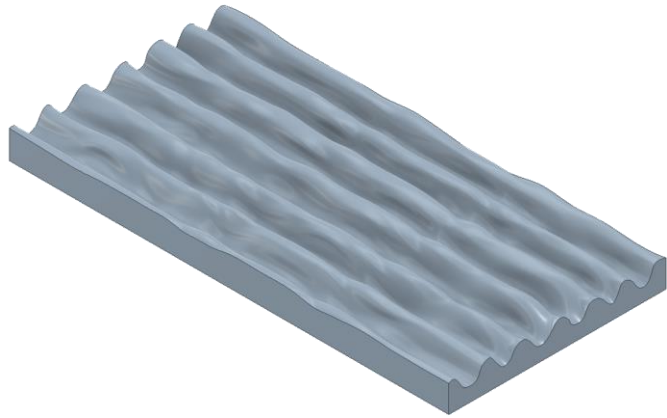
$$\varepsilon < \varepsilon_{pre}$$

$$0 < F_1$$



$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{pre}$$

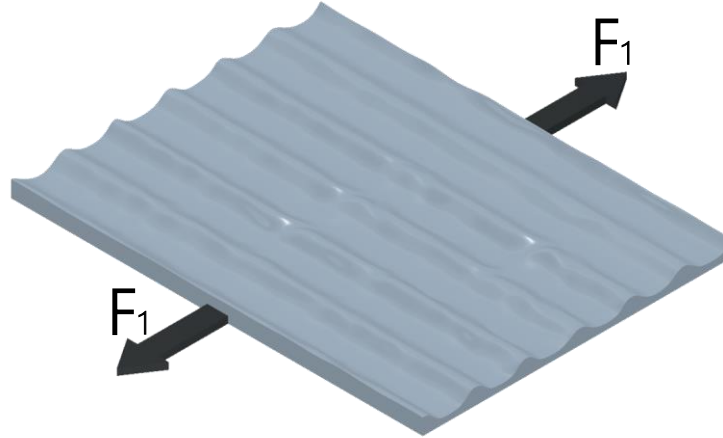
$$0 < F_1 < F_2$$



Initial state:

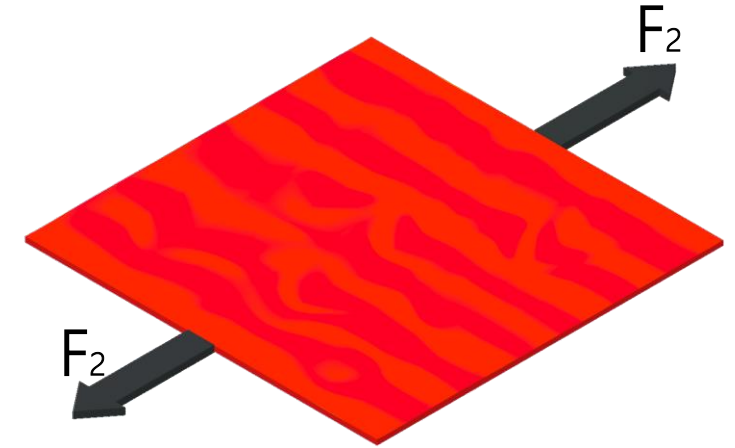
$$\varepsilon = 0$$

$$F = 0$$



$$\varepsilon < \varepsilon_{pre}$$

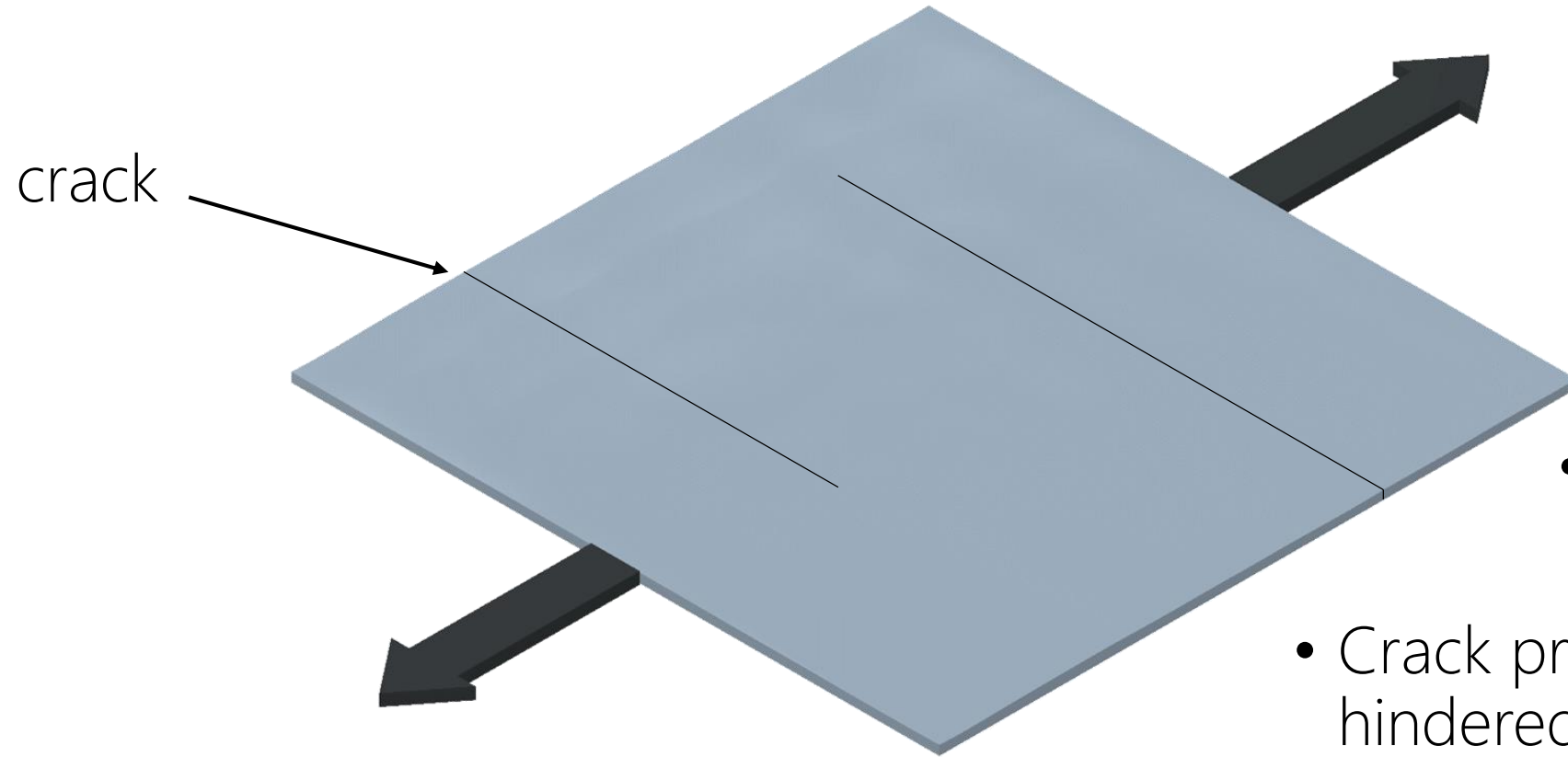
$$0 < F_1$$



$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{pre}$$

$$0 < F_1 < F_2$$

→ Homogeneous stress distribution on nearly flat surface



- Homogeneous stress distribution
- Crack propagation is not hindered
- Few, but large cracks

- DECMAS Project
- Compliant electrode
- Evaluation of the electromechanical results
- **Conclusion**

Results:

- Reduction of residual stress has no drawbacks
- Using low stress nickel in the right combination offers advantages
- Highly recommend to use low stress thin films in all cases

Future work in the DECMAS project:

- Laser structuring

Thank you very much for your attention!

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Thank you very much for your attention!

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