



# Carbon Origami

Micromachines 2021 — 1st International Conference on  
Micromachines and Applications (ICMA2021)

Marc Madou, April 16, 2020



Rodrigo Martinez, Clemson University

# Outline

**01** Origami Folding by Hand  
(C-MEMS)

**02** Folding by Elastocapillary  
of PDMS

**03** Folding by Elastocapillary of  
Patterned Photoresists  
(C-MEMS)

**04** Self-folding of polymer layers  
(C-MEMS)

**05** Applications

**06** Conclusions/Prospects

## 01 Origami Folding by Hand (C-MEMS)

- Paper was first invented in China around 105 A.D., and was brought to Japan by monks in the sixth century. Handmade paper was a luxury item only available to a few and strictly for ceremonial purposes.
- By the Edo period (1603–1868), paper folding in Japan had become recreational as well as ceremonial. It came to be regarded as a new form of art that was enabled by the advent of mass-produced paper.
- Europe also has a tradition of paper folding that dates back to the twelfth century or before, when the Moors brought a tradition of mathematically based folding to Spain. The Spanish further developed paper folding into an artistic practice called papiroflexia or pajarita.



Written instructions for paper folding first appeared in 1797, with Akisato Rito's *Sembazuru Oriката*, or “thousand crane folding”



## 01 Origami Folding by Hand (C-MEMS)

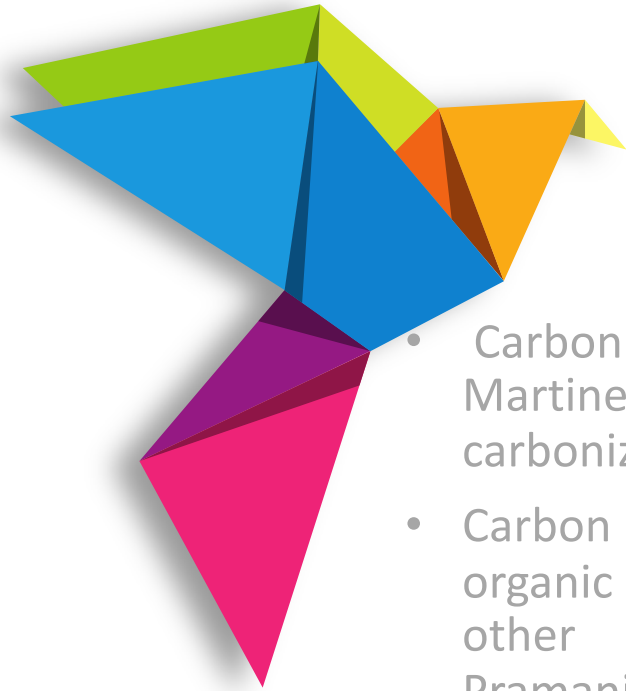
- Today, origami has expanded to incorporate advanced mathematical theories, as seen in *BETWEEN THE FOLDS*. Mathematical origami pioneers like Jun Maekawa and Peter Engel designed complex and mathematically based crease patterns prior to folding, which emphasized the puzzle aspect of origami, with the parameters of using one piece of uncut paper. Artistic origami has also enjoyed a recent resurgence, with abstract paper folders such as Jean-Claude Correia (1945-2016).

<https://documentaryheaven.com/between-folds-art-of-origami/>

3/30/21

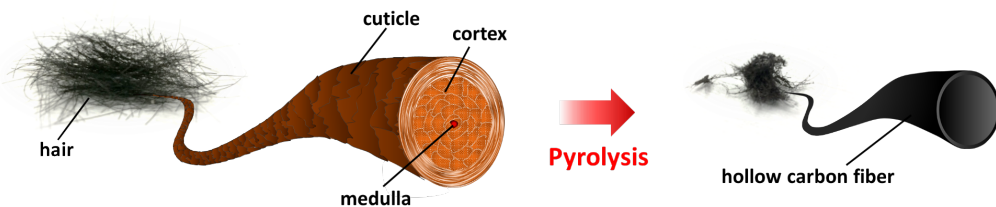
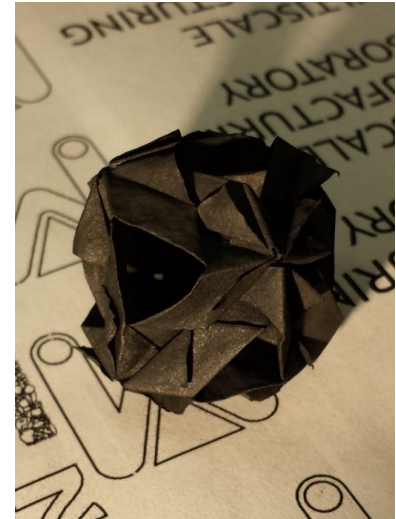


*Le Manteau de  
Moctezuma –by Correia*



# 01 Origami Folding by Hand (C-MEMS)

- Carbon and Carbide Origami by Rodrigo Martinez et al at Clemson University. – carbonization of folded paper (inked or blank)
- Carbon 3D shapes derived from natural organic precursors e.g. charcoal from wood other precursors (e.g. hair ...Bidhan Pramanick)



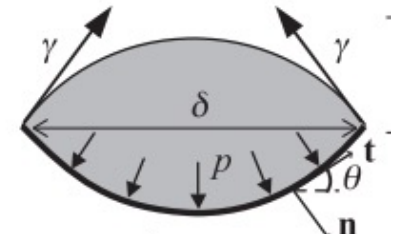
Human hair-derived hollow carbon microfibers for electrochemical sensing  
 B Pramanick, LB Cadenas, DM Kim, W Lee, YB Shim, SO Martinez-Chapa, ...  
 Carbon 107, 872-877

3/30/21



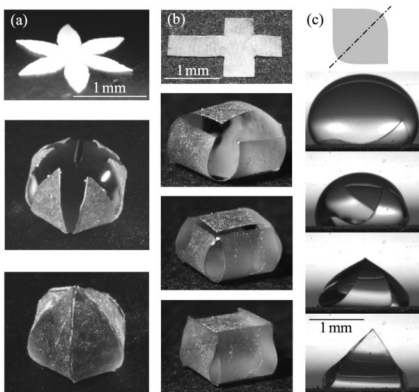
## 02

## Folding by Elastocapillarity of PDMS

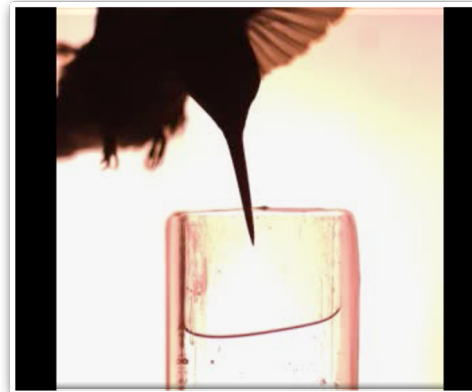
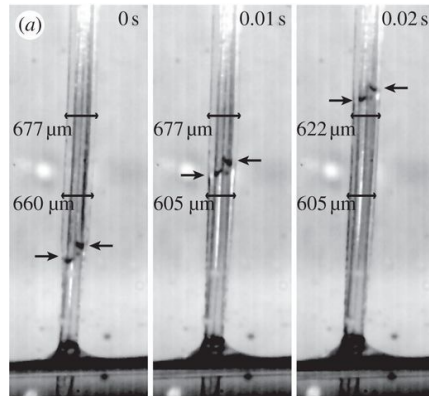


- An elastocapillary-based origami fabrication process based on PDMS and water droplets was adopted by Py et al., 2007\*
- Elastocapillarity is a two-way interaction between the liquid and the structure driven by the surface tension of the liquid to minimize surface + elastic energy

Capillary origami



Humming bird's tongue



Wet hair



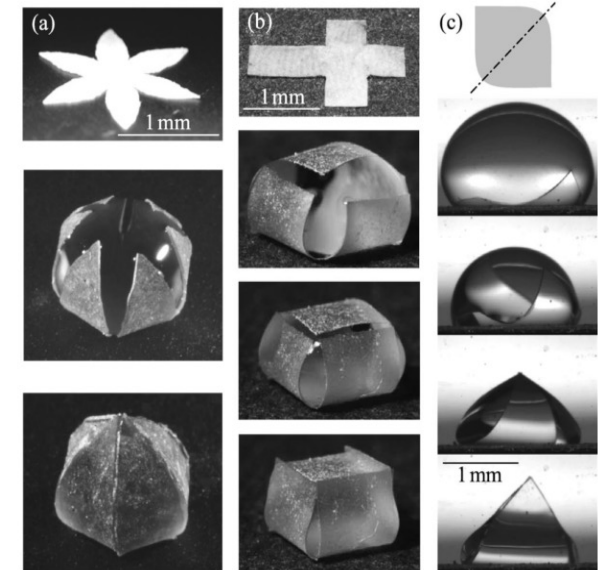
\*Capillary Origami: Spontaneous Wrapping of a Droplet with an Elastic Sheet  
Charlotte Py, Paul Reverdy, Lionel Doppler, José Bico, Benoît Roman, and Charles N. Baroud  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **98**, 156103 – Published 13 April 2007

## 02

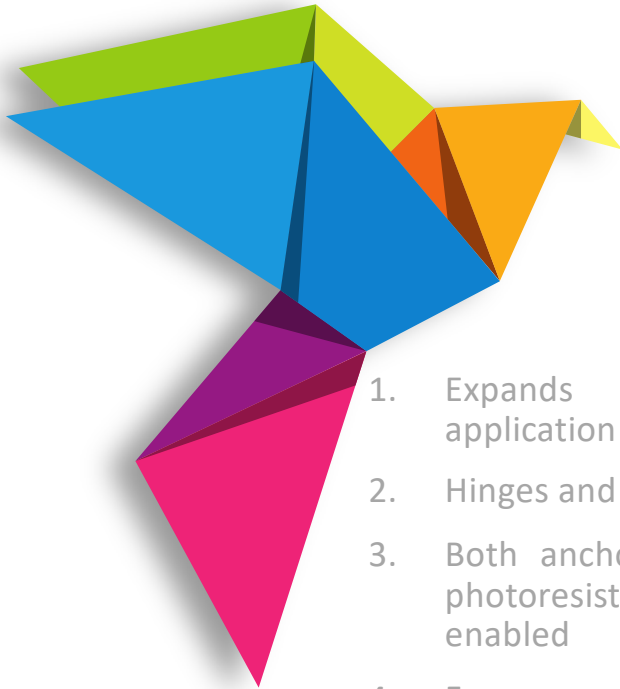
## Folding by Elastocapillary of PDMS

1. Difficult to pattern PDMS
2. Difficulty to distinctively design folds and faces with different material properties
3. Not capable of making permanently folded structures
4. Inability to fabricate folded structures on a surface (anchored)
5. Impossible to fabricate rigid structures such as carbon

### Capillary origami



Capillary Origami: Spontaneous Wrapping of a Droplet with an Elastic Sheet  
Charlotte Py, Paul Reverdy, Lionel Doppler, José Bico, Benoît Roman, and Charles N. Baroud  
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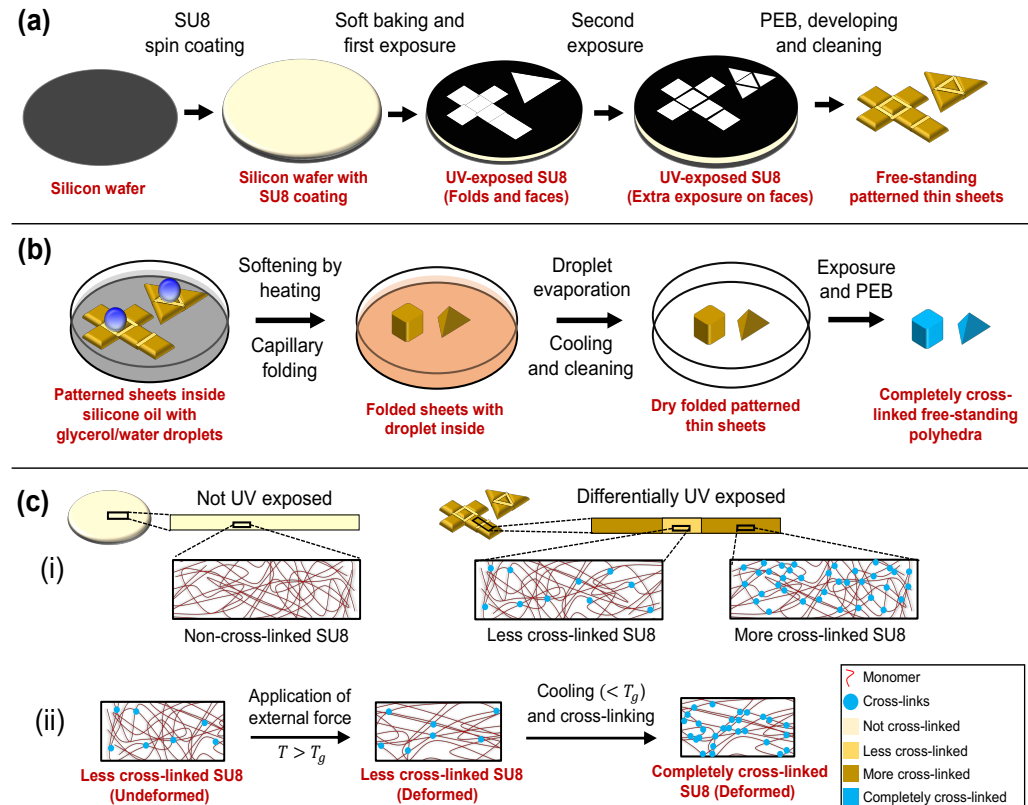
# 03

## Folding by Elastocapillarity of Patterned Photoresists (C-MEMS)

1. Expands photoresist application domain
2. Hinges and faces are distinct
3. Both anchored and free 3D photoresist shapes are enabled
4. Faces can be further patterned
5. Free form manufacturing-shapes can be "frozen" at any moment by a quenching UV exposure
6. All these shapes can be converted to carbon

Fabrication of polymer and carbon polyhedra through controlled cross-linking and capillary deformations

George, EAP  
Hernandez, RC Lo,  
M Madou  
Soft Matter 15 (45),  
9171-9177  
3/30/21





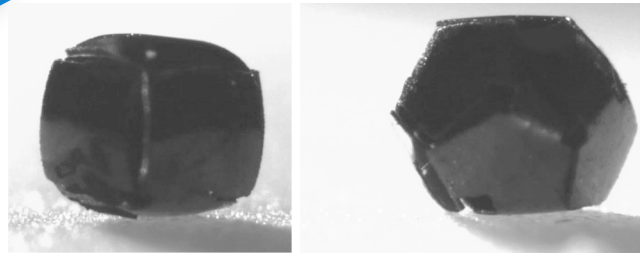


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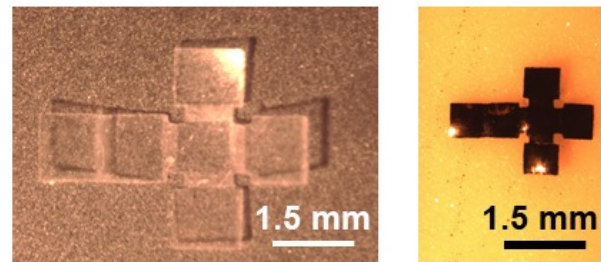
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# 03

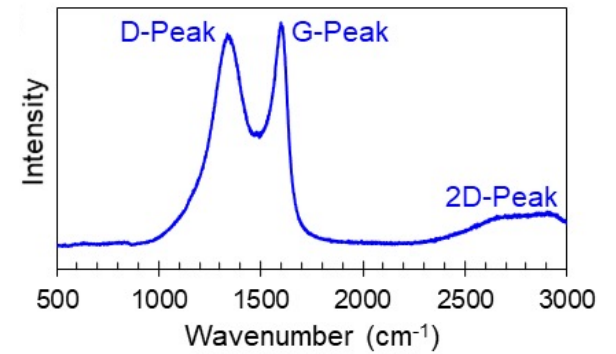
## Folding by Elastocapillarity of Patterned Photoresists (C-MEMS)



Folded free-standing carbon shapes



Before pyrolysis      After pyrolysis  
 Free-standing patterned precursor polymer and carbon shapes



Raman spectrum of the carbon

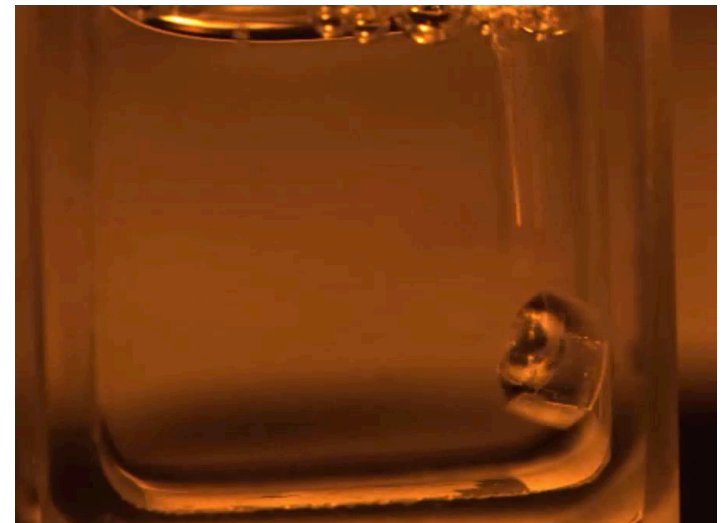
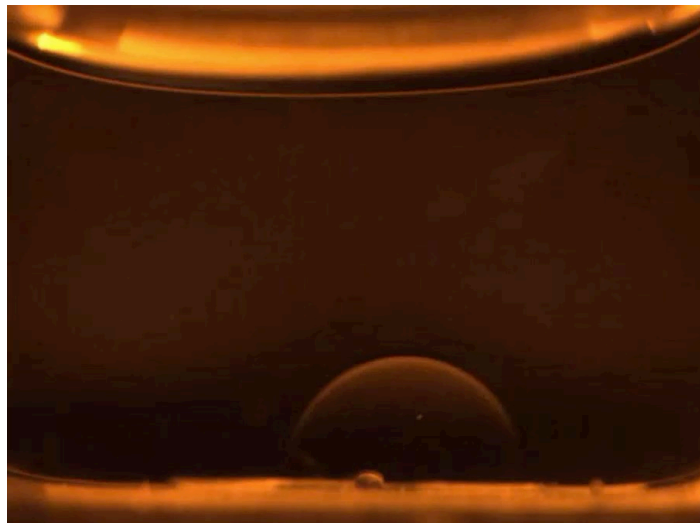


03

### Folding by Elastocapillarity of Patterned Photoresists (C-MEMS)

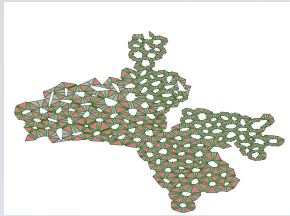
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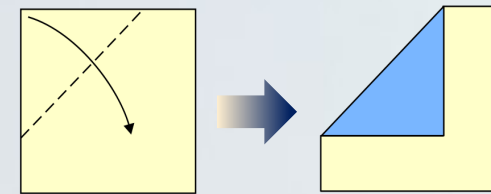
# 04

## Self-folding of polymer layers (C-MEMS)

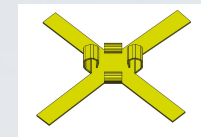


We need origami manufacturing that is :

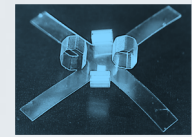
- Scalable in numbers and sizes
- Complex shapes
- Self-folding
- Simple construction
- Freeform
- Minimal materials consumption



Simple construction



Target shape



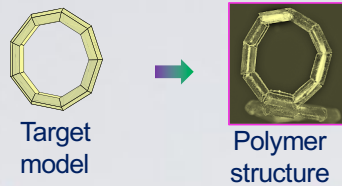
Polymer structure



Programmable Self-Foldable Films  
for Origami-based Manufacturing D  
George, MJ Madou, EAP Hernandez  
Smart Materials and Structures

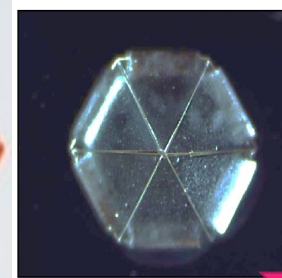
# 04

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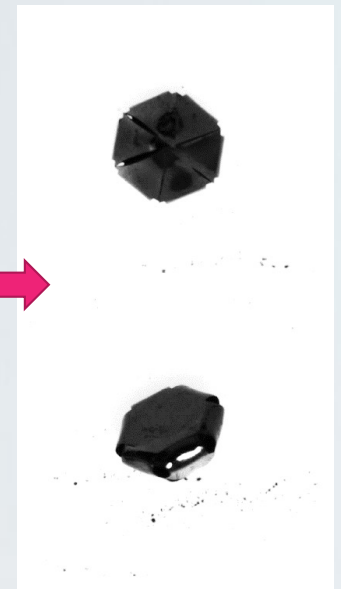
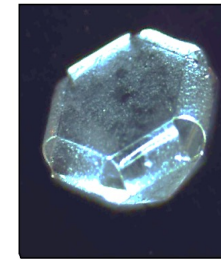


Programmable Self-Foldable Films  
for Origami-based Manufacturing  
George, MJ Madou, EAP  
Hernandez  
Smart Materials and Structures

1. Single layer photopolymer films as precursors
2. Controlled folding using **programmable films** and **origami design**
3. An **end-to-end freeform manufacturing method**



Polymer Origami



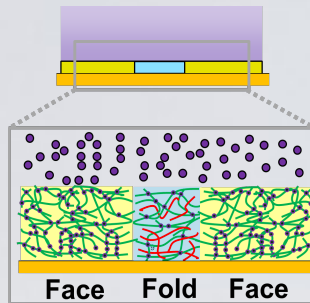
Carbon Origami

# 04

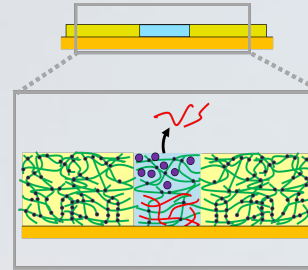
## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

Programmable Self-Foldable Films for Origami-based ManufacturingD  
George, MJ Madou, EAP Hernandez  
Smart Materials and Structures

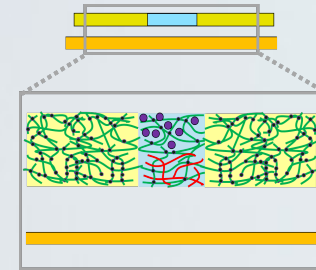
Immersion



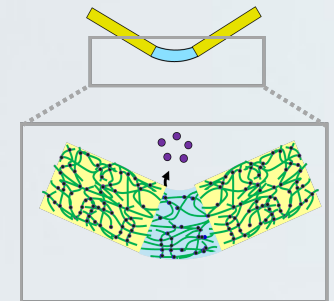
Development



Film separation



Heating and crosslinking



Crosslinked polymer chains



Non-crosslinked polymer chain



Developer



Supporting structure

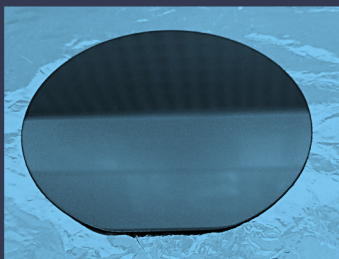
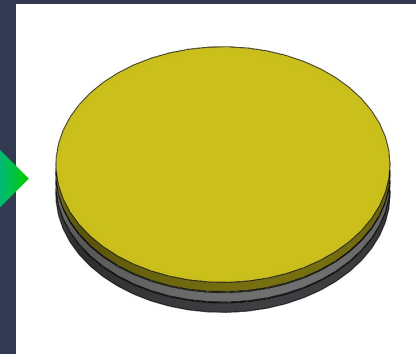
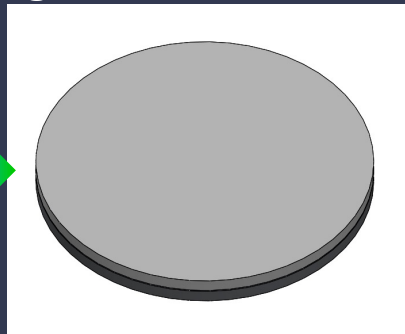
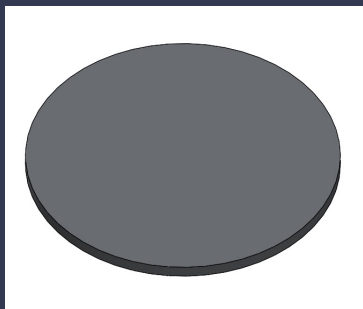
# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

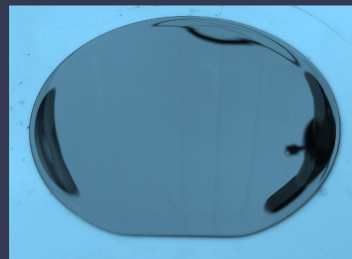
### Photolithography Film Preparation

PDMS spin coating and curing

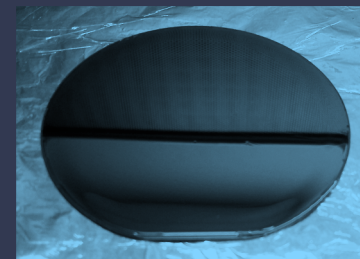
SU8 spin coating



Silicon wafer



Silicon wafer with PDMS coating



Silicon wafer with PDMS and SU8 coatings

# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

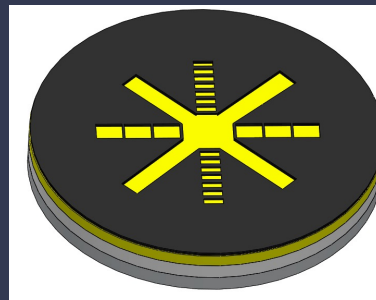
### Photolithography Film Patterning

First UV light exposure



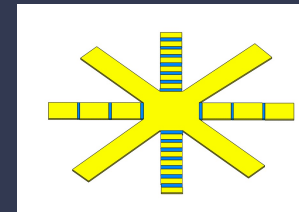
UV-exposed SU8 (Folds and faces)

Second UV light exposure



UV-exposed SU8 (Extra exposure on faces)

PEB, developing and removing



Free-standing patterned thin film

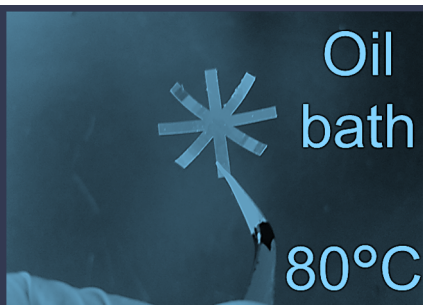
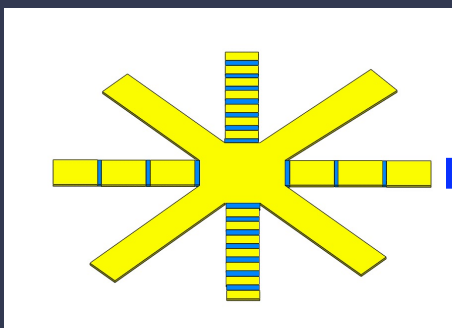
# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

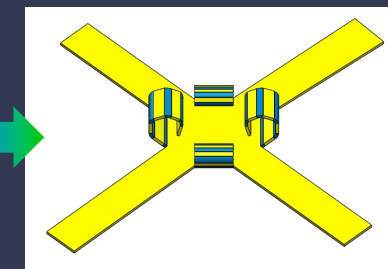
Programmable Self-Foldable Films for Origami-based Manufacturing  
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Smart Materials and Structures

### Film Folding

#### Folding by heating

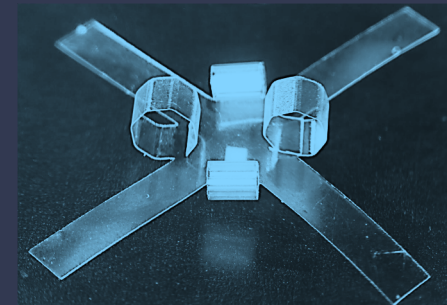
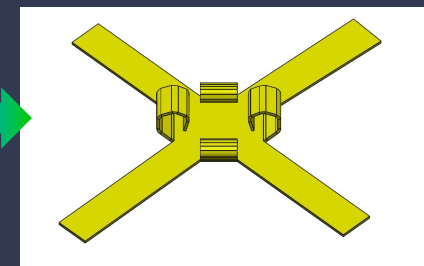


Heating of patterned film



Folded film

#### Exposure and PEB



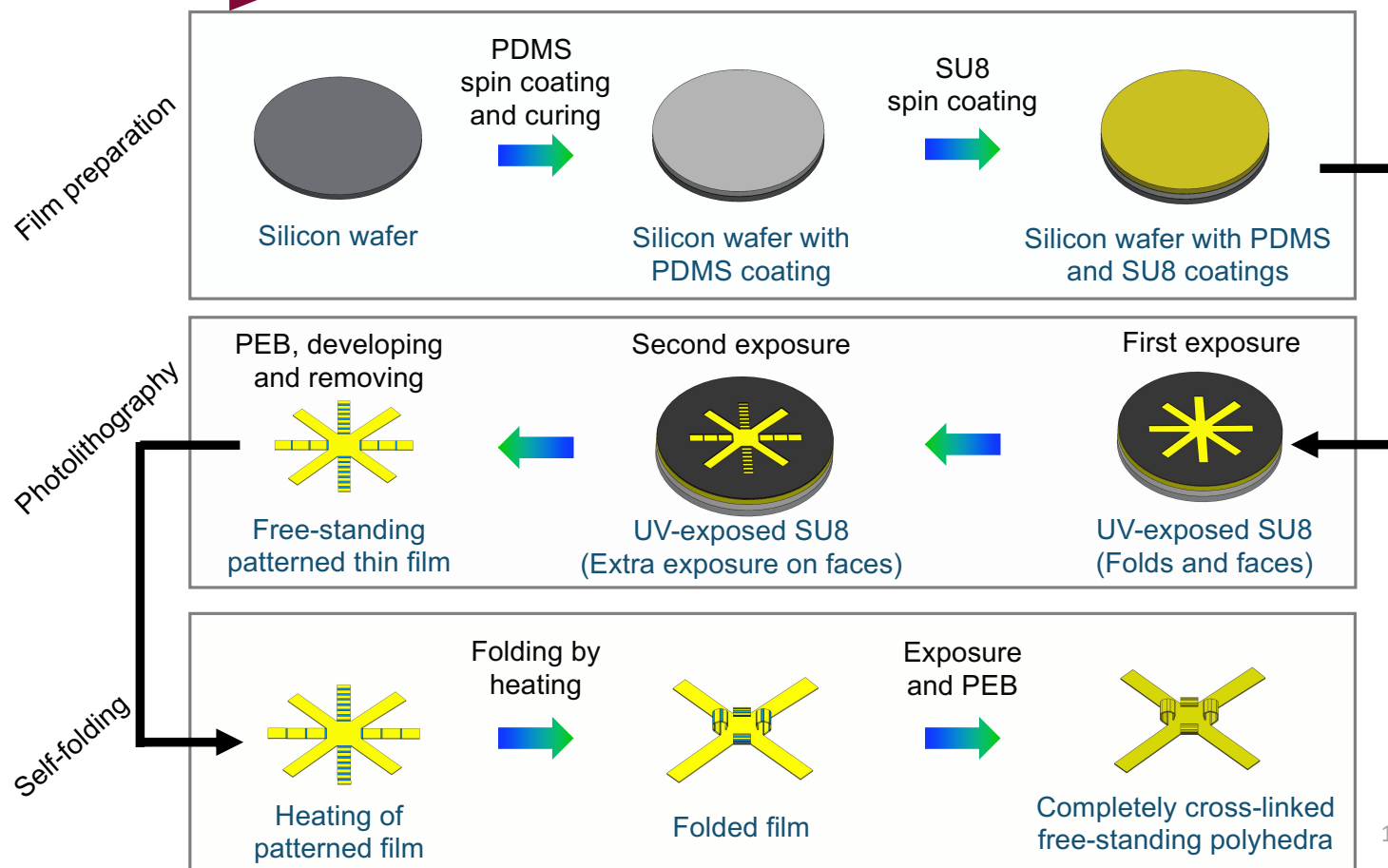
Completely cross-linked free-standing structures



# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

# Fabrication - Summary



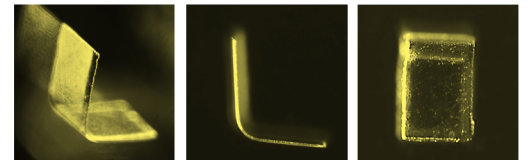
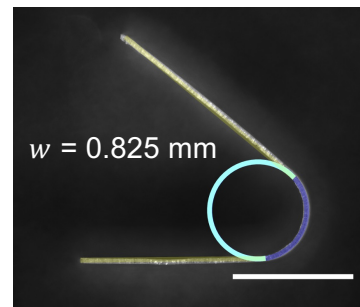
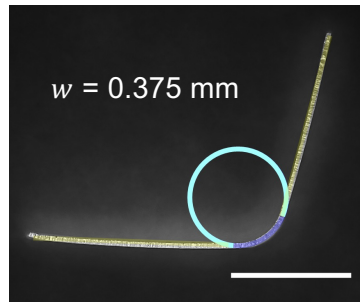
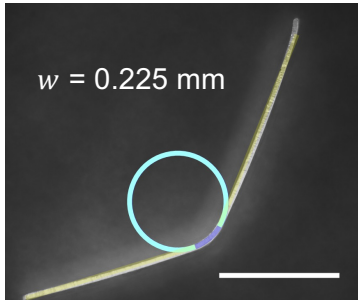
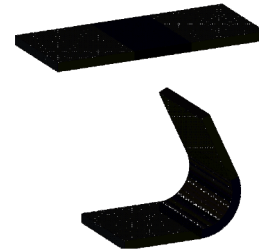
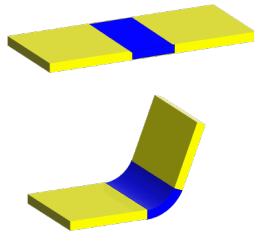
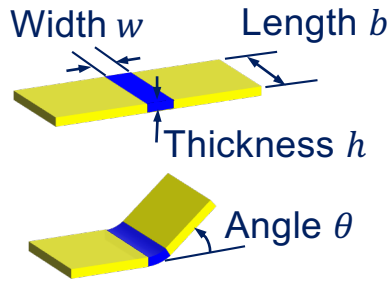
# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

# Fold Angle Programming

$$\theta = c \frac{w}{h}$$

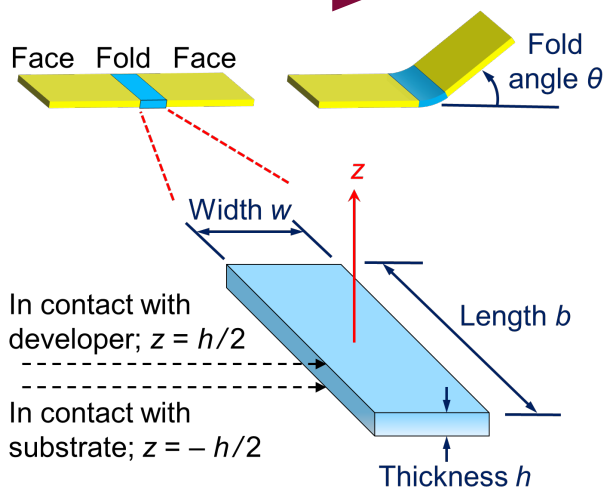
- Fold angle given by fold width



# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

### Modeling



$\sigma = E \cdot \varepsilon$   
 where

- $\sigma$  is stress [Pa]
- $\varepsilon$  is strain =  $\frac{\Delta L}{L_0}$
- $E$  is the modulus of elasticity [Pa]

Diffusion equation  $D \frac{\partial^2 c(z)}{\partial z^2} = 0$

Concentration field  $c(z) = C_{c0} + C_{c1}z$

Actuation strain field  $\varepsilon_a(z) = C_{\varepsilon 0} + C_{\varepsilon 1}z$

$\varepsilon_a(-\frac{h}{2}) = 0$        $\varepsilon_a(\frac{h}{2}) = -\varepsilon_A$

$\varepsilon_a(z) = -\varepsilon_A \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{z}{h} \right)$

Elastic strain field  $\varepsilon_e(z) = -z\kappa - \varepsilon_a(z)$

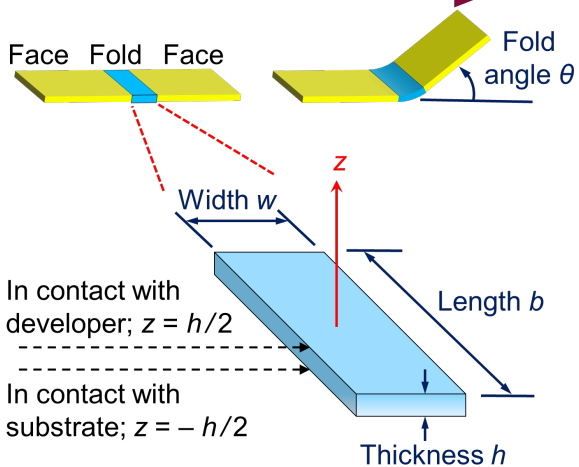
Now using 
$$-b \int_{-\frac{h}{2}}^{\frac{h}{2}} \sigma(z) z dz = m = 0$$

where  $\sigma(z) = E\varepsilon_e(z)$

$R = \frac{1}{\kappa} = \frac{h}{\varepsilon_A} \rightarrow \theta = \varepsilon_A \frac{w}{h}$

# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

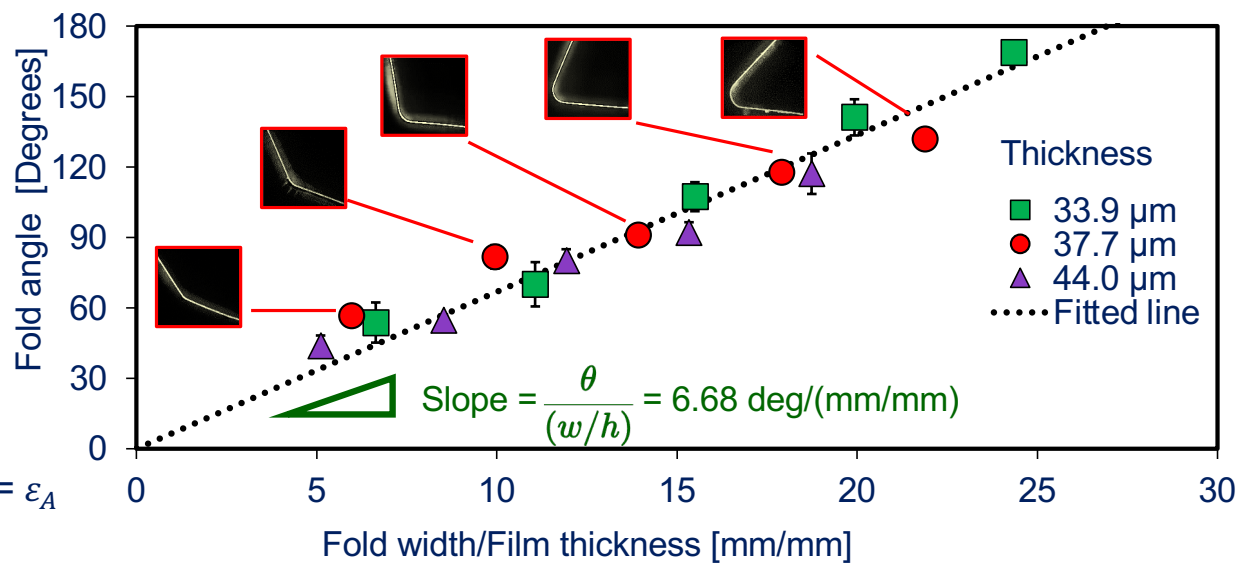


Fold angle given by fold width:  $\theta = \epsilon_A \frac{w}{h}$

Slope = 6.68 deg/(mm/mm)  
 = 0.117 rad/(mm/mm) =  $\epsilon_A$

**Maximum actuation strain,  $\epsilon_A = 11.7\%$**

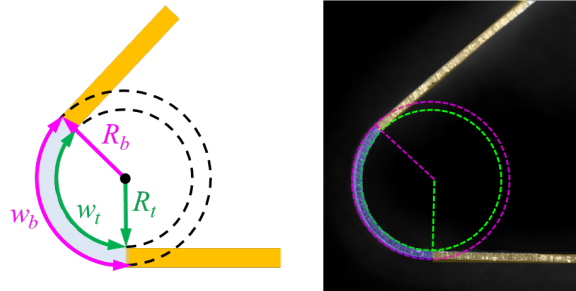
# Modeling-Fold Angle Programming



# 04

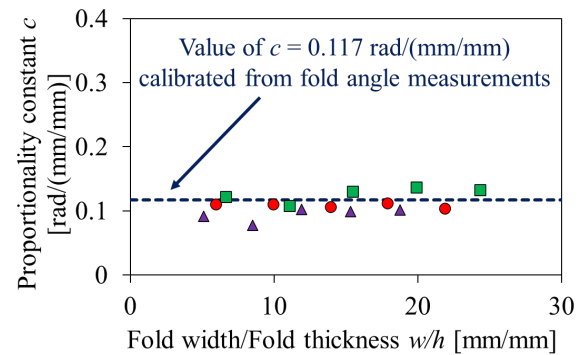
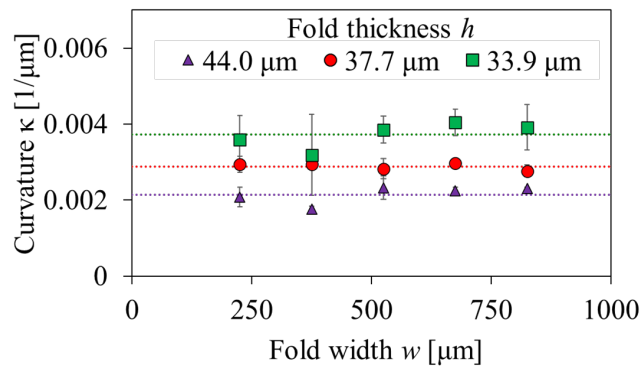
## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

# Fold Characterization



Bottom radius of curvature  $R_b$   
 Top radius of curvature  $R_t$   
 Bottom fold width  $w_b$   
 Top fold width  $w_t$   
 Curvature  $\kappa$

Curvature  $\kappa$  vs. fold width  $w$

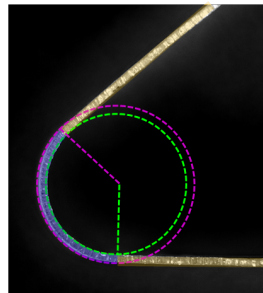
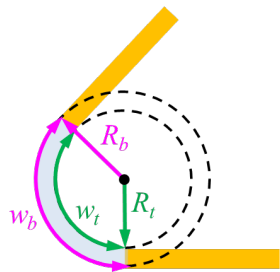


# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

# Fold Characterization

$$\lambda = \frac{l}{L} \text{ and } \varepsilon = \frac{\Delta L}{L} = \lambda - 1$$



Bottom radius of curvature  $R_b$

Top radius of curvature  $R_t$

Bottom fold width  $w_b$

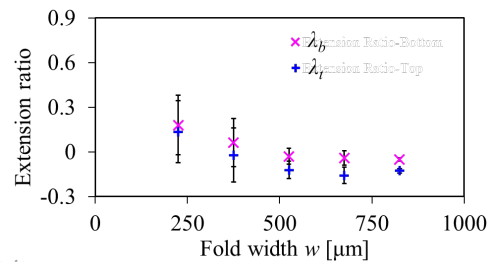
Top fold width  $w_t$

Top extension ratio  $\lambda_t = \frac{w_t - w}{w}$

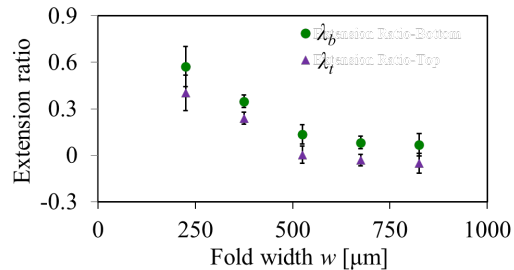
Bottom extension ratio  $\lambda_b = \frac{w_b - w}{w}$

### Extension Ratios vs. Fold Width $w$

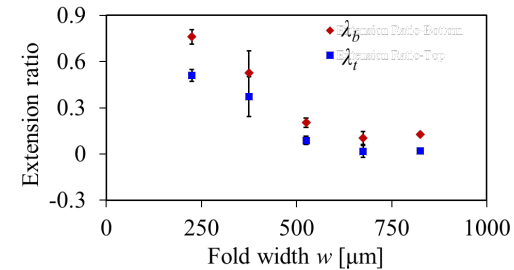
$h = 33.9 \mu\text{m}$



$h = 37.7 \mu\text{m}$



$h = 44.0 \mu\text{m}$

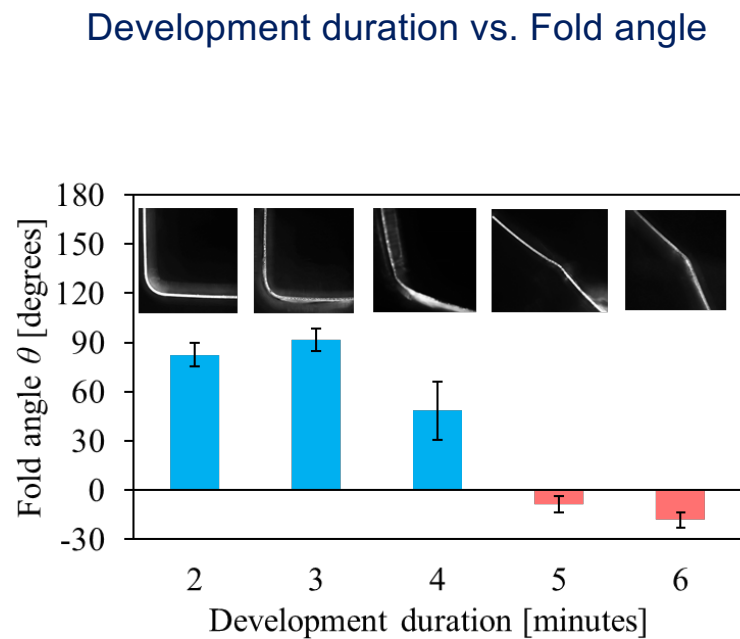
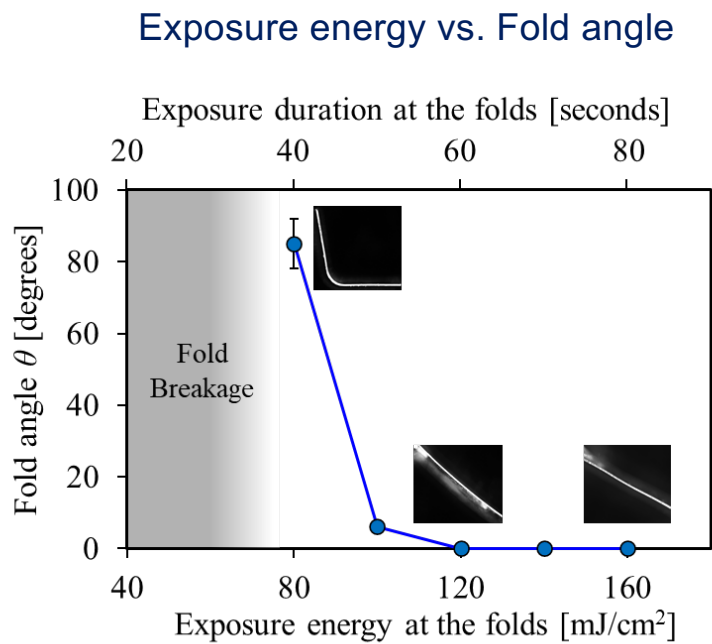


# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

# Fold Characterization

Effect of **exposure energy** and **development duration** on the **fold angle**

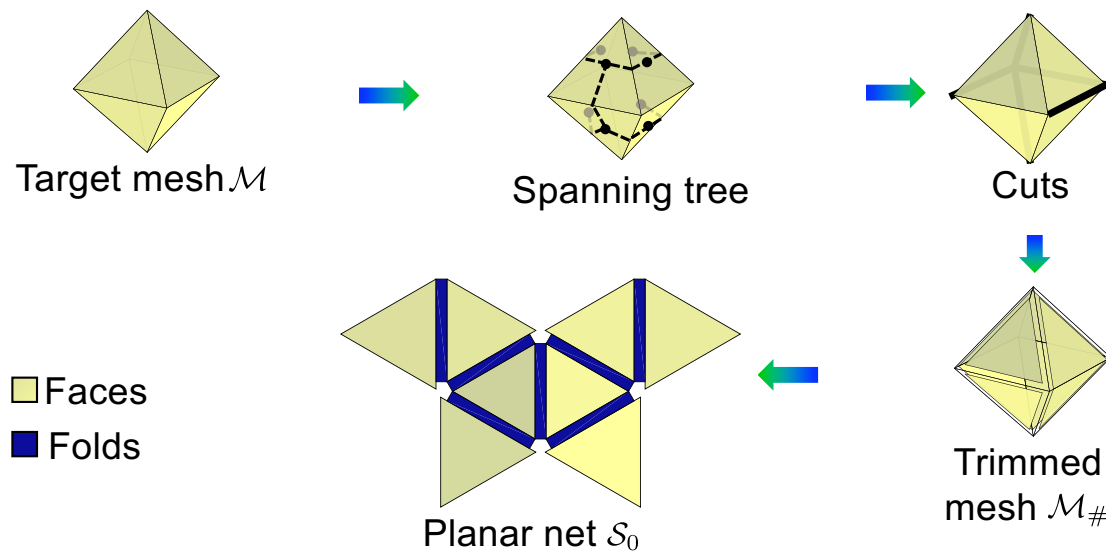


# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

# Unfolding Polyhedra and Net Optimization

- Origami design incorporating calibration data



Optimization problem-optimized net:

Find:  $\mathbf{e}$   
 That minimize:  $f$   
 Subject to:  $e_i \in \{0, 1\}$ ,  
 $\mathcal{S}_0$  is single connected shape  
 $\mathcal{S}_0$  does not contain overlapping faces or folds

$\mathbf{e}$  - Vector containing the fold and cut assignments of each interior edge of  $\mathcal{M}$   
 $f$  - Objective function  
 $e_i$  - Each component of  $\mathbf{e}$ .  
 They can take a value of 0 (if interior edge  $i$  is a fold) or 1 (if interior edge  $i$  is a cut)

In an optimization problem, there is a (real-valued) function that is to be maximized or minimized. This function is frequently called the *objective function*.

3/30/21

In the mathematical field of graph theory, a **spanning tree**  $T$  of an undirected graph  $G$  is a subgraph that is a tree which includes all of the vertices of  $G$ , with a minimum possible number of edges.



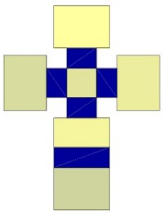
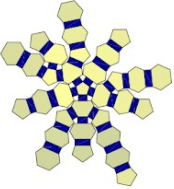
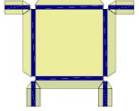

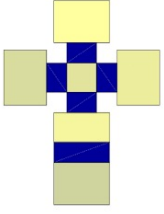
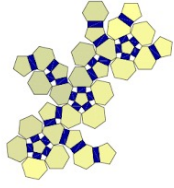
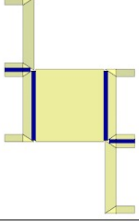
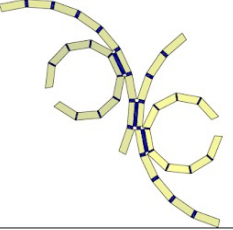
# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

### Optimized Net

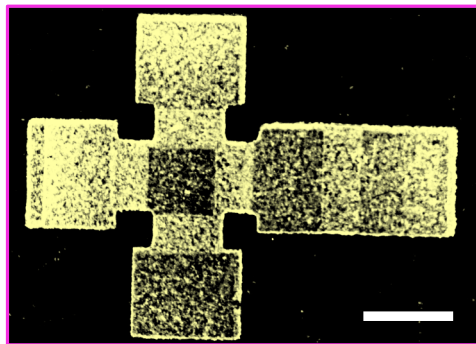
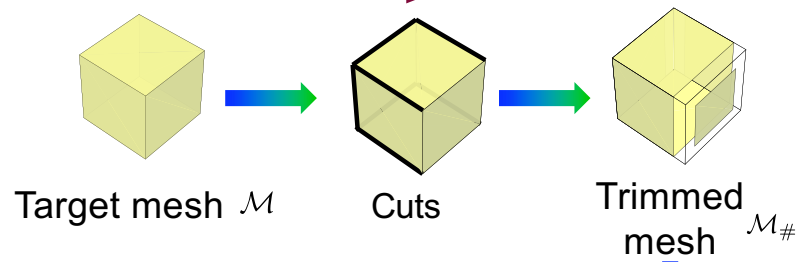
- Net optimized by minimizing the sum of the distances  $d$  between the centroids each pair of faces in the net
  - Net should be compact
  - Error arising from the variability in the fold angle must be reduced
- Net optimized for shape accuracy  $a$ 
  - If the fabrication is perfected, then this make the most accurate shapes ( $a=1$ ).

$$a = \frac{\text{Area}(\mathcal{M}_{\#})}{\text{Area}(\mathcal{M})}$$

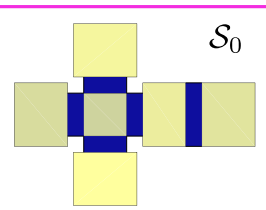
	Cube	Truncated icosahedron	Platform	Trimmed torus
Minimum total distance $d$				
Maximum accuracy $a$				

# 04

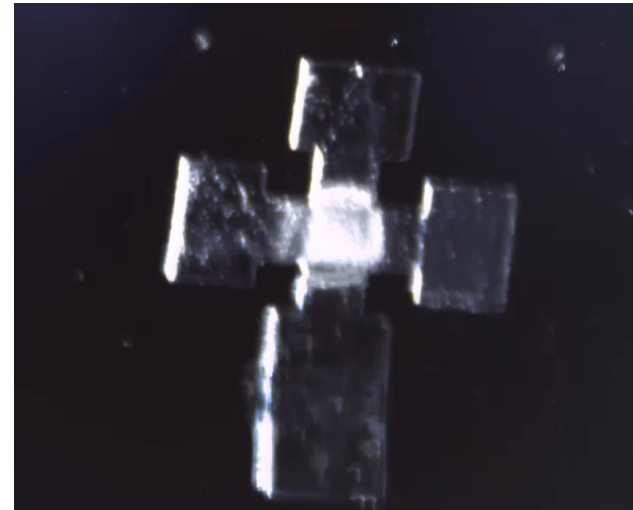
## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)



Fabricated planar net

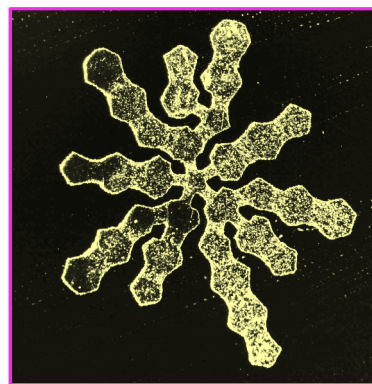
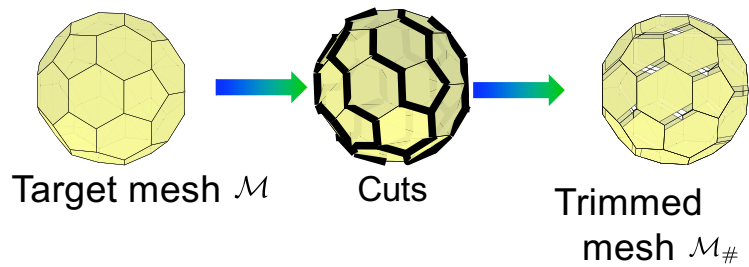


Cube

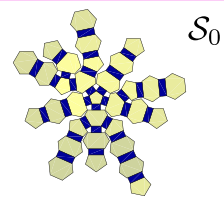


# 04

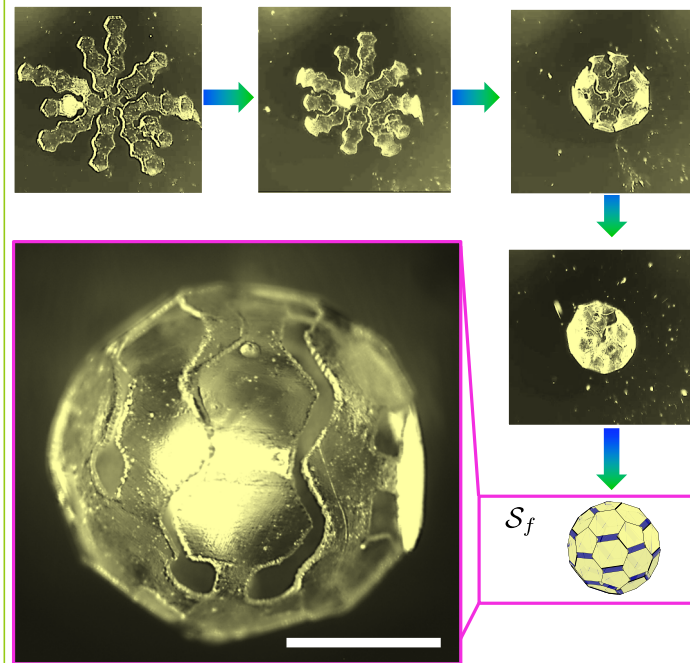
## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)



Fabricated planar net



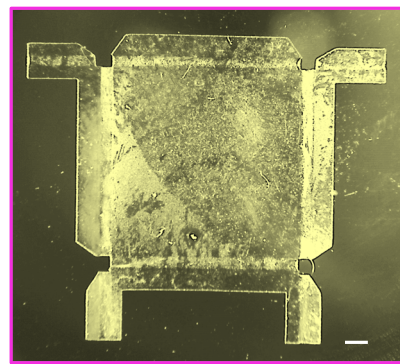
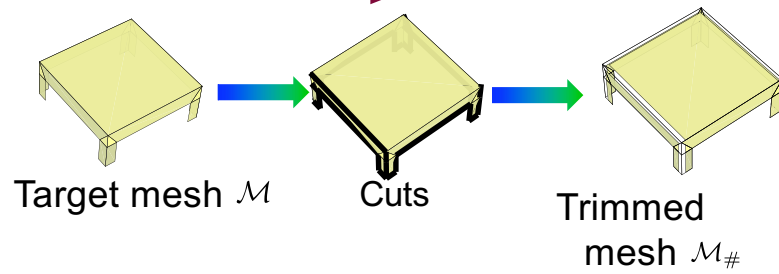
## Truncated Icosahedron



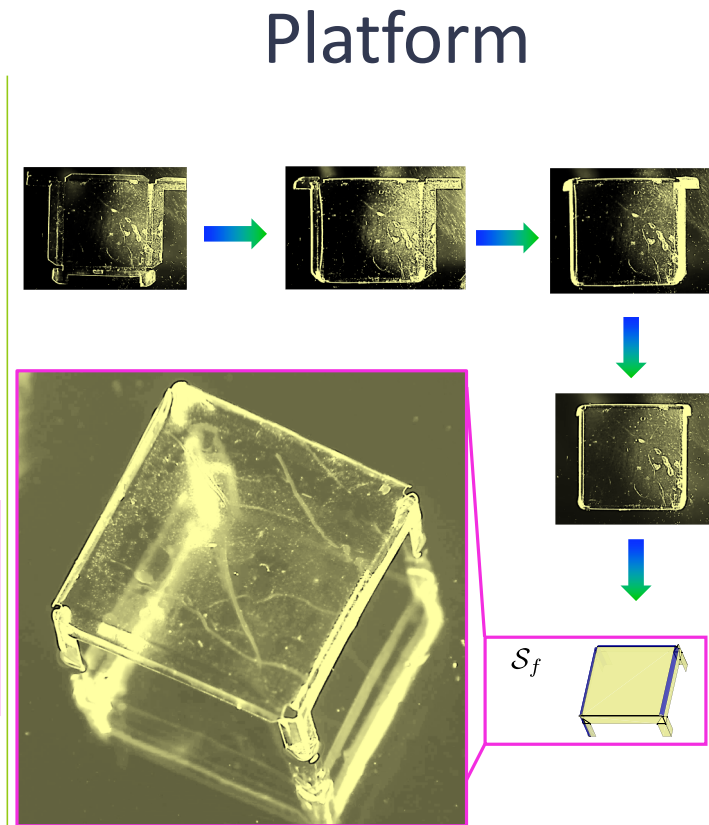
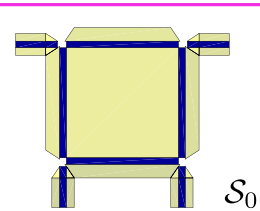
$S_f$

# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

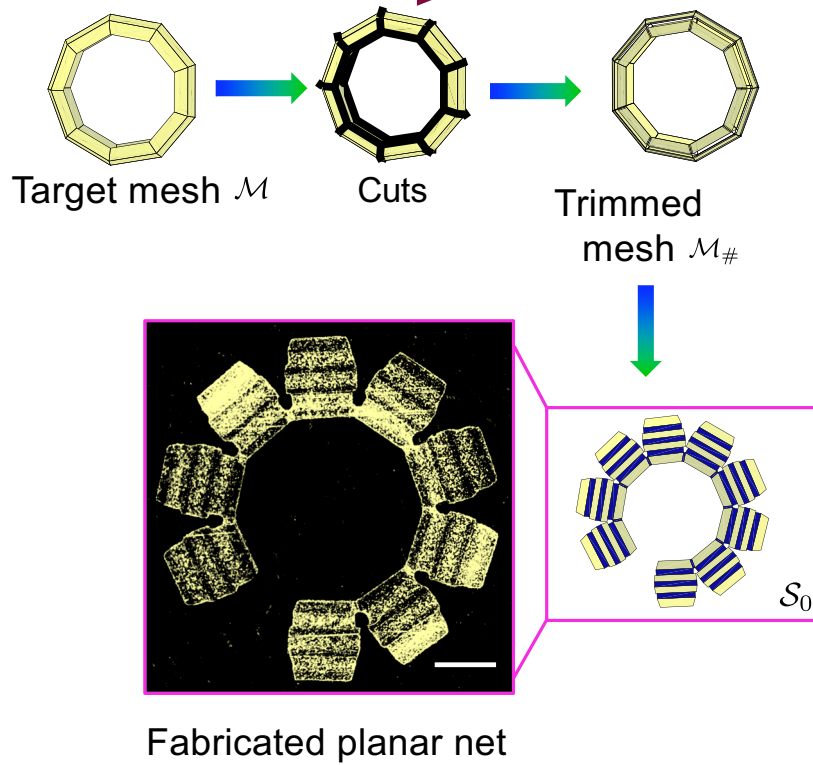


Fabricated planar net

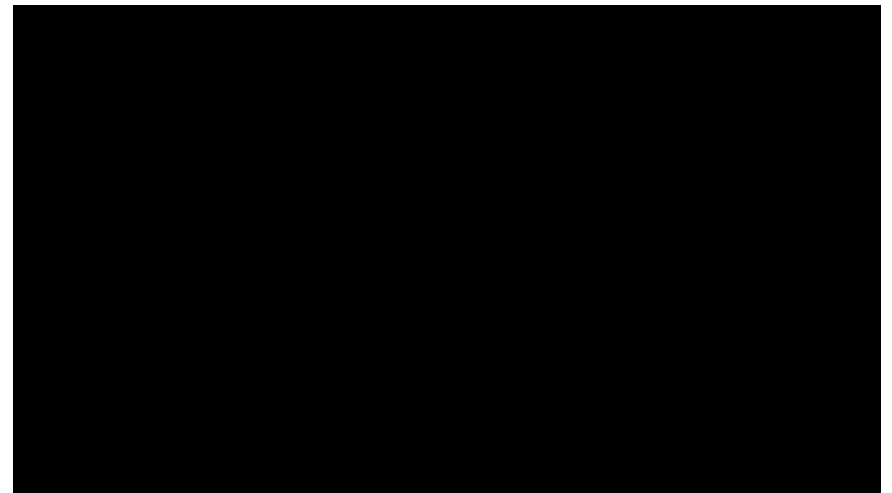


# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

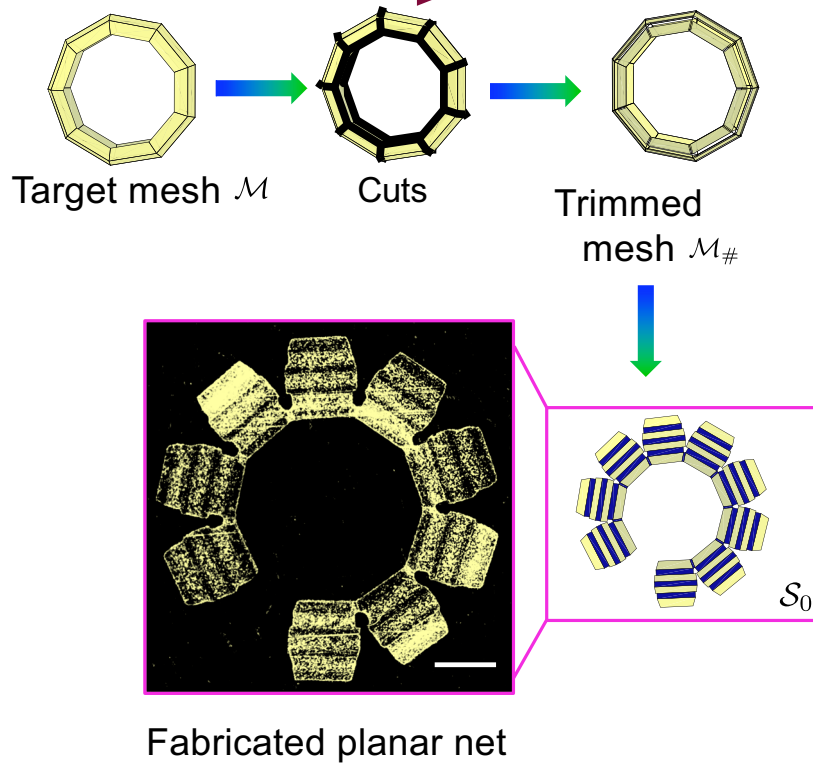


## Trimmed torus

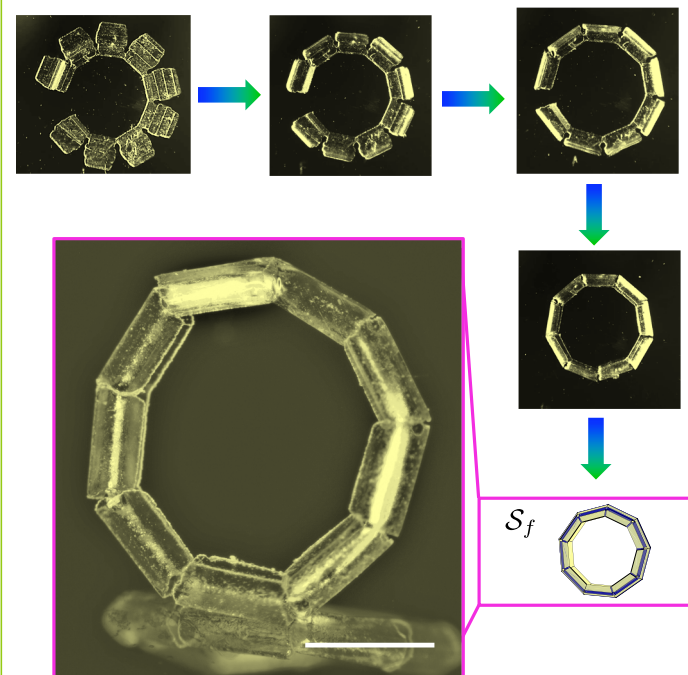


# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)



## Trimmed torus

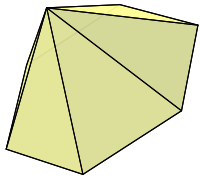


# 04

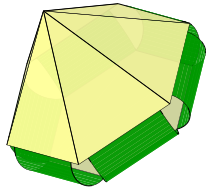
## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

### More Shapes

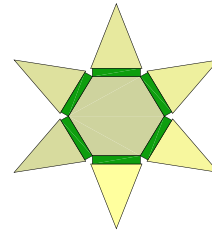
Target shape



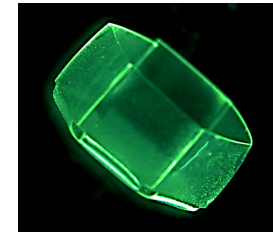
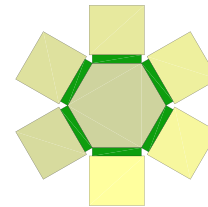
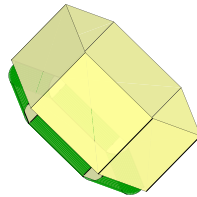
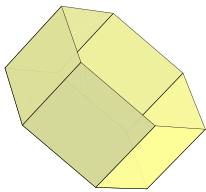
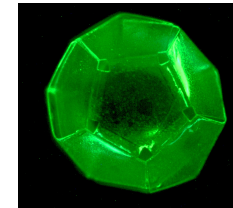
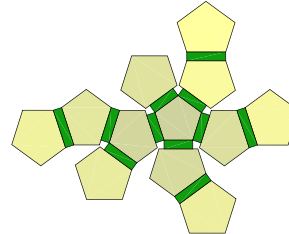
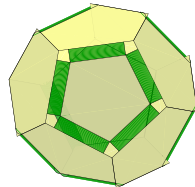
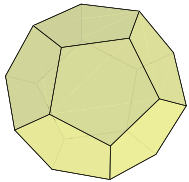
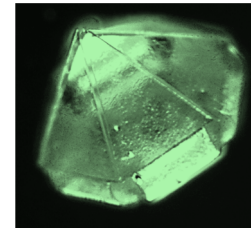
Target shape with bent folds



Unfolded origami sheet

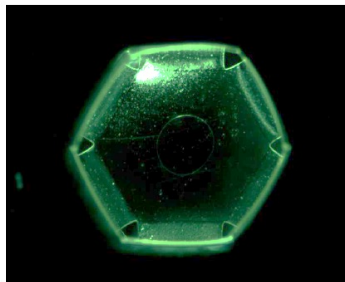
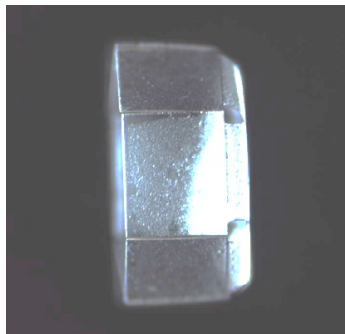


Folded Shape

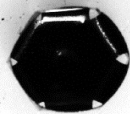


04

Self-folding of Polymer Layers  
(C-MEMS)

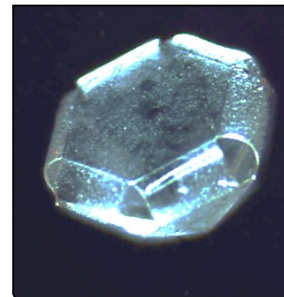
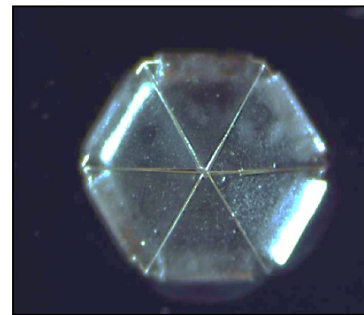


Polymer Origami

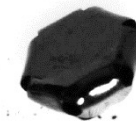
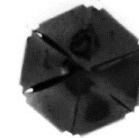


Carbon Origami

## Carbon Origami



Polymer Origami



Carbon Origami

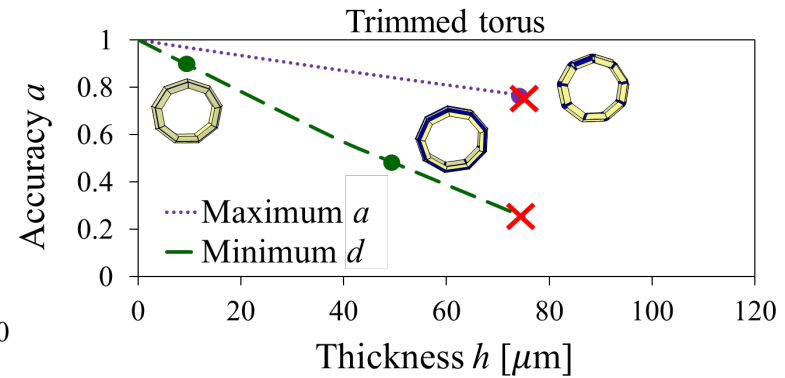
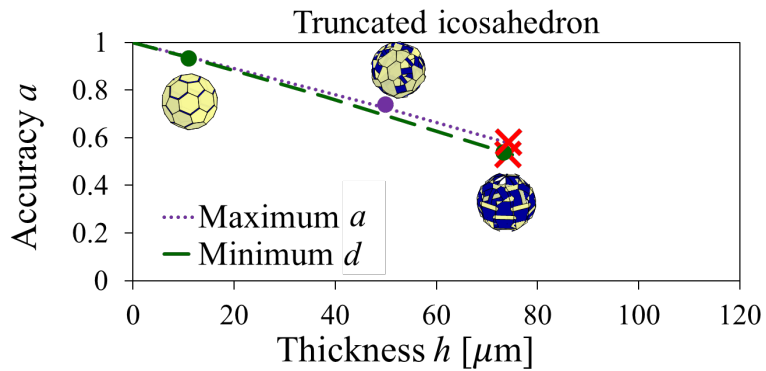
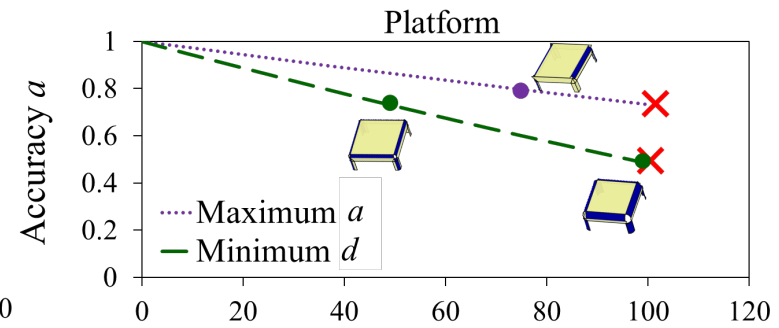
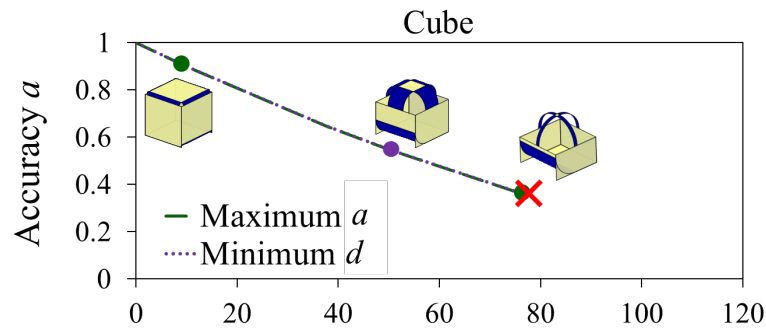


# 04

## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

## Scaling the Method

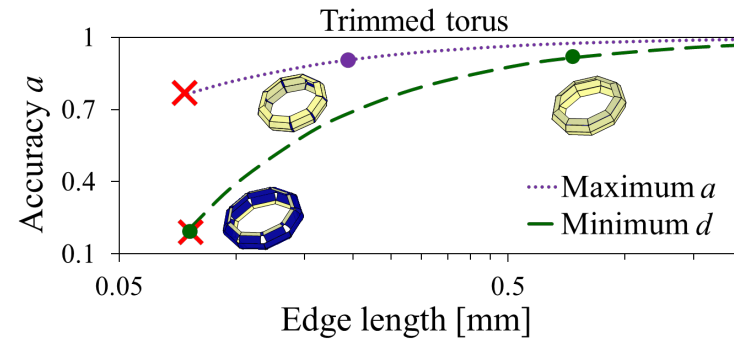
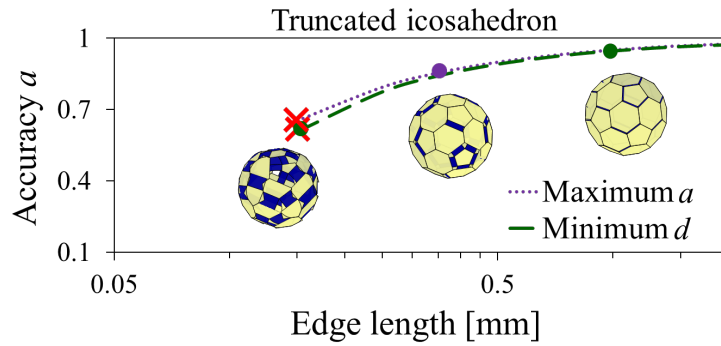
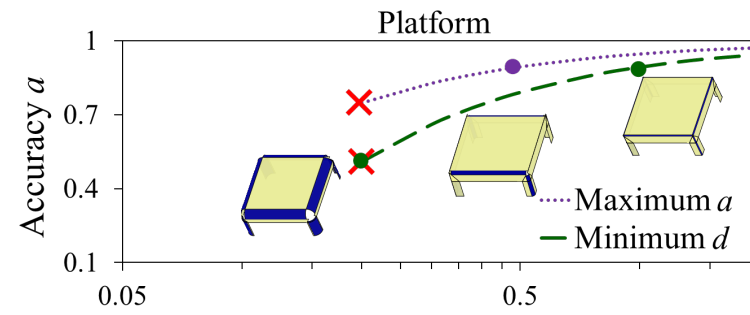
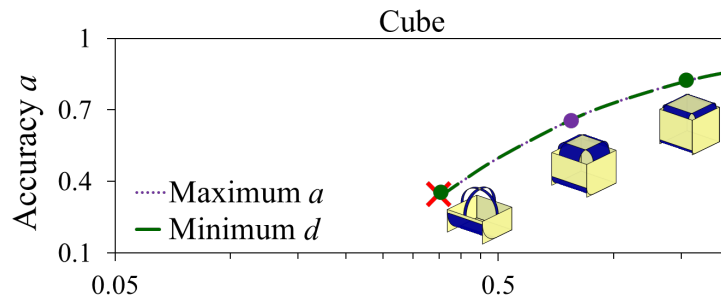
$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{\text{Actual area}}{\text{Target shape area}}$$



# 04

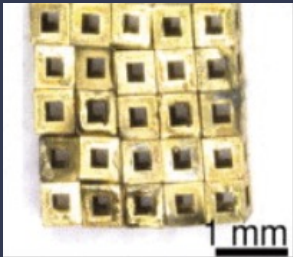
## Self-folding of Polymer Layers (C-MEMS)

## Scaling the Method

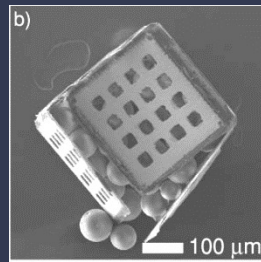
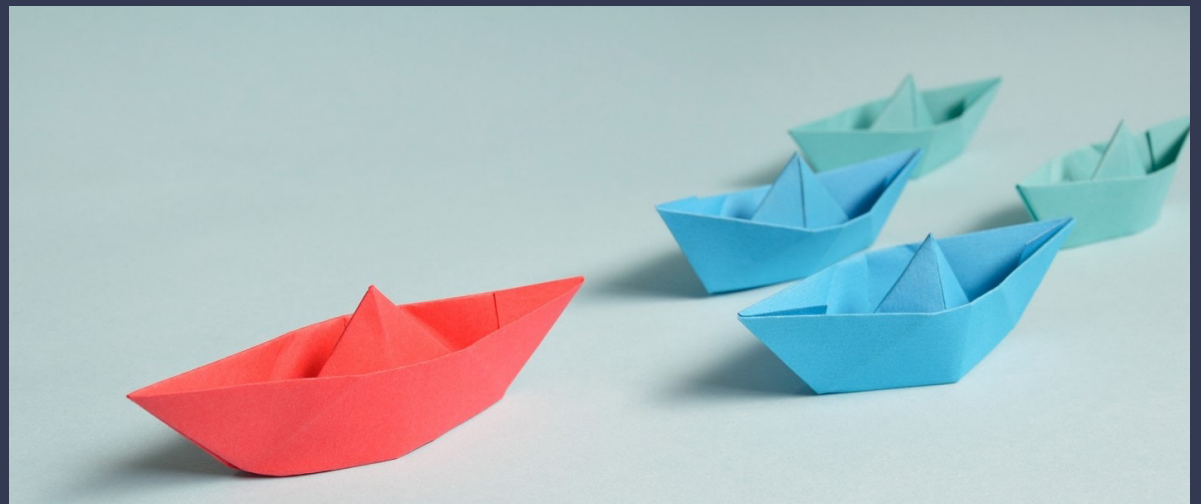


# 05

## Applications

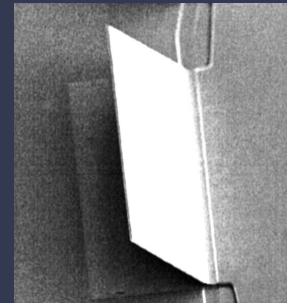


3D electronics  
(Randhawa et al. 2010)

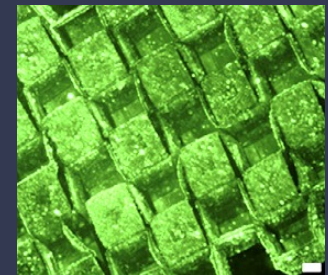


Microgrippers  
(Malachowski et al. 2014)

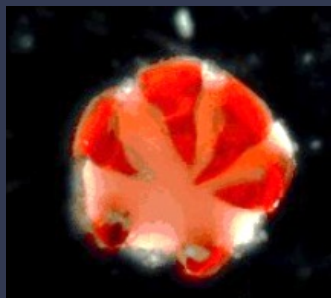
Encapsulation  
(Leong et al. 2008)



Micromirror  
(Zanardi et al. 2003)



Scaffold  
(Jamal et al. 2010)



## 06

### Conclusions/Prospects



Achieved solvent transport-based **self-folding** using **single-layer** photopolymer films

Developed **end-to-end freeform manufacturing** method by leveraging the unfolding polyhedra method

Demonstrated the method with different shapes

Converted polymer shapes to carbon shapes

Development of a new bi-directional folding strategy

Testing different photopolymers to enable folding at relatively lower temperature

Scaling in size and numbers.



<http://www.archipelagofiles.com/2014/04/poster-campaign-by-international-film.html>