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IRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

# Lower Body Exoskeleton Powered by Epidermal Electronics Systems

**Advisor:** Dr. Woon-Hong Yeo, **Team Members:** Francis Azari, Forrest Baber, Saswat Mishra, Karan Patel, and Juan Soto Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, School of Engineering, Virginia Commonwealth University

(Au/PI/PDMS)

4. Attach EES to skin; PVA works

as a supporting layer for EES

## Motivation

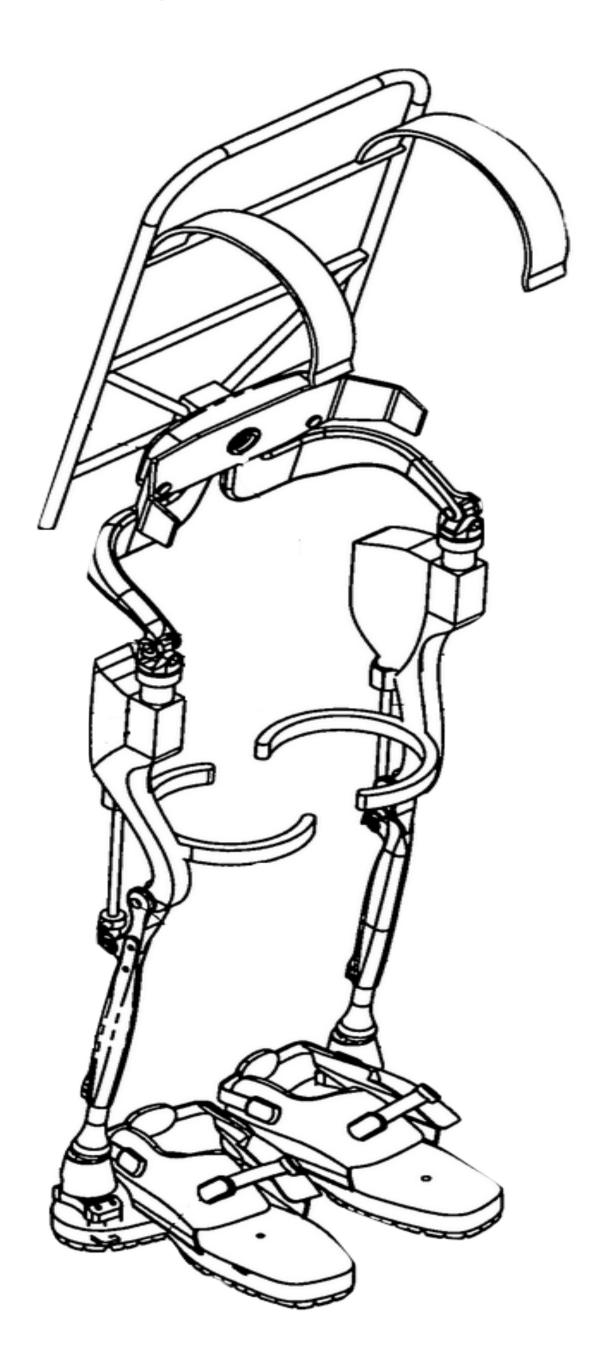
- Exoskeletons can potentially be used for therapeutic purposes, as well as load carrying with a reduction of energy consumption while walking.
- Stretchable electronics provide an easy-to-use platform for powering the exoskeleton.

### Method

- By flexing the brachioradial and flexor carpi radialis muscles in the forearm, signals are transmitted by the epidermal electronic system
- The solenoids respond to this input by opening or closing, based on forearm flexion
- This results in the hydraulic cylinder, powered by a pump, to extend or contract

# Our Vision

**Original Concept** 



Final Design

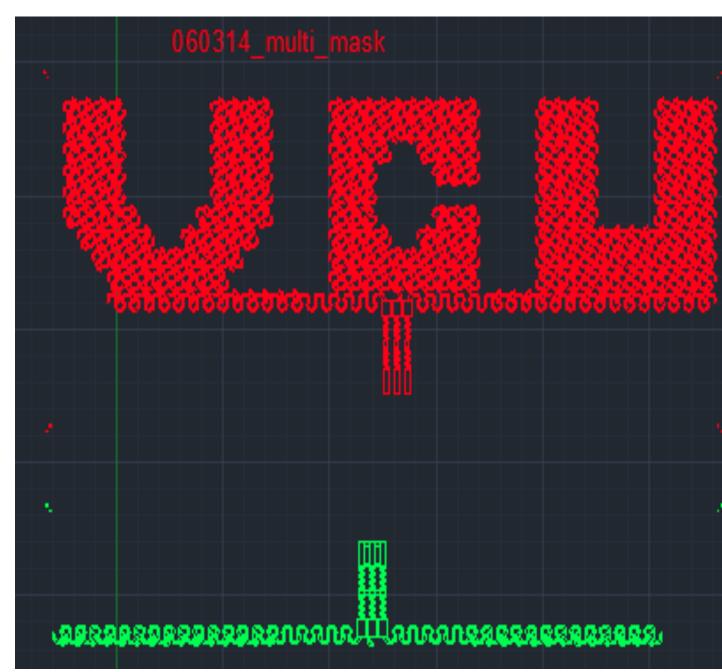




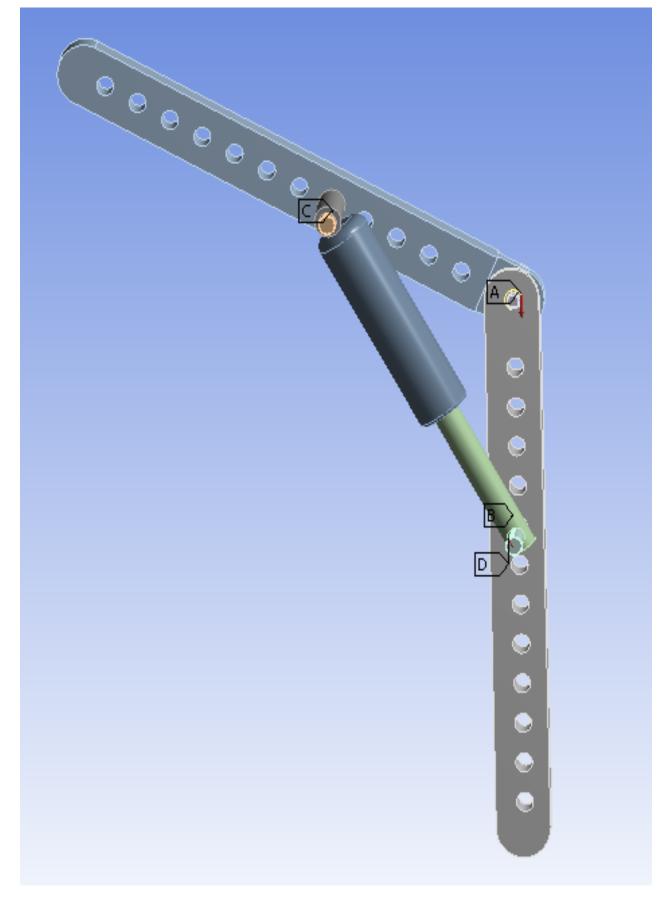
## **Exoskeleton Components**

# Flexibility of EES Serpentine Design

Auto-CAD Mapped Design



**Pre-Processing Image of Frame** 

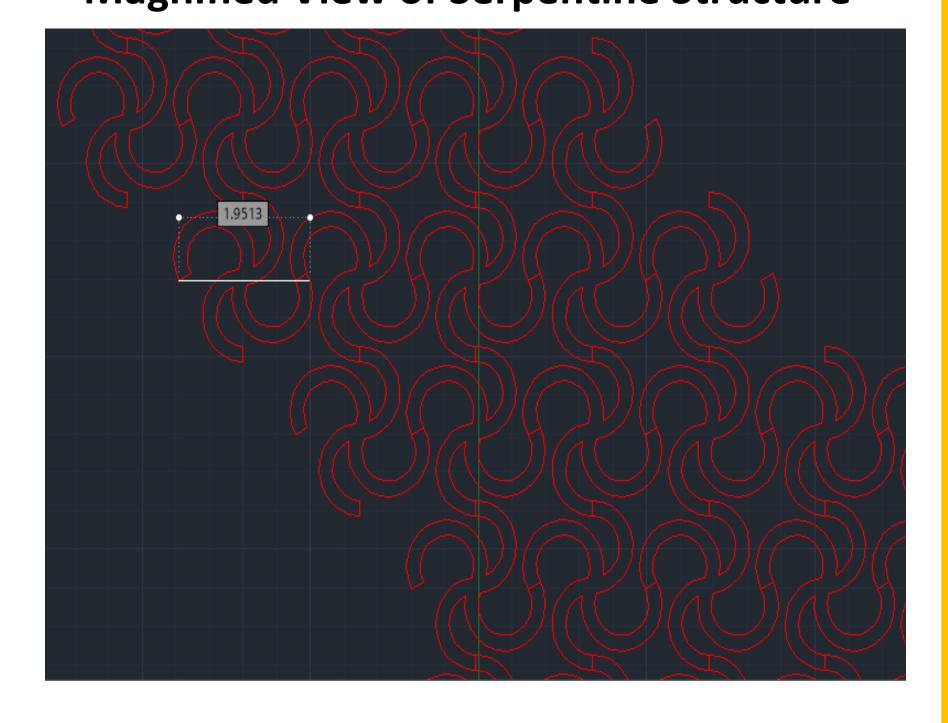


**Magnified View of Serpentine Structure** 

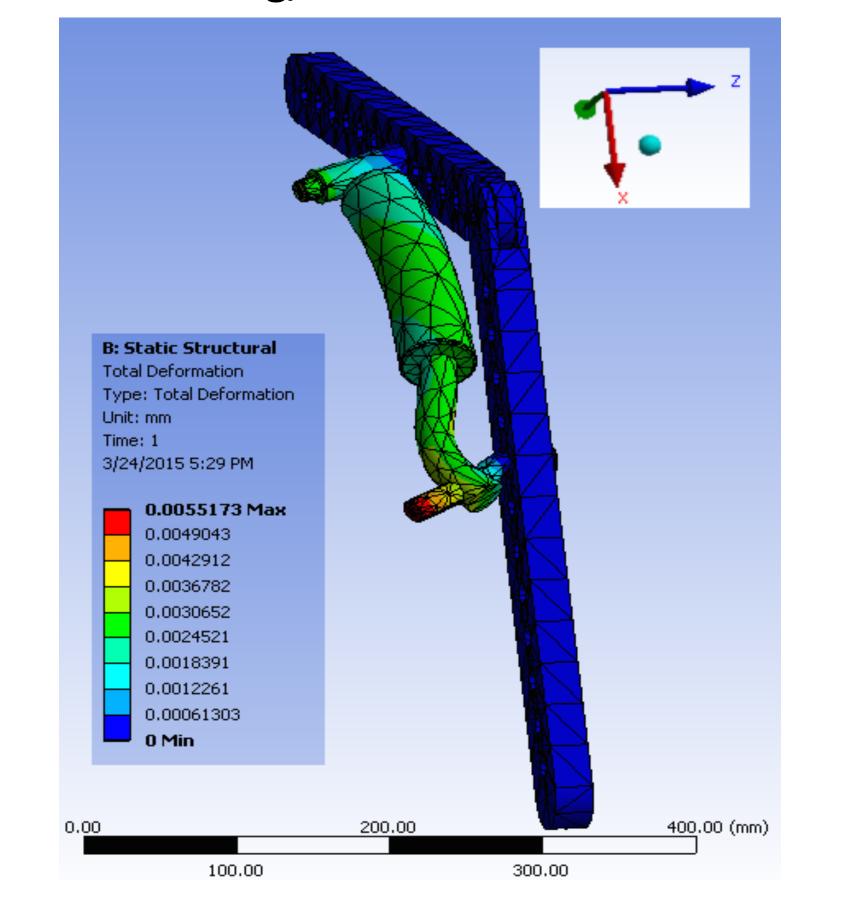
(Silicone / Au / PI / Silicone / PVA)

4. Dissolve PVA with water

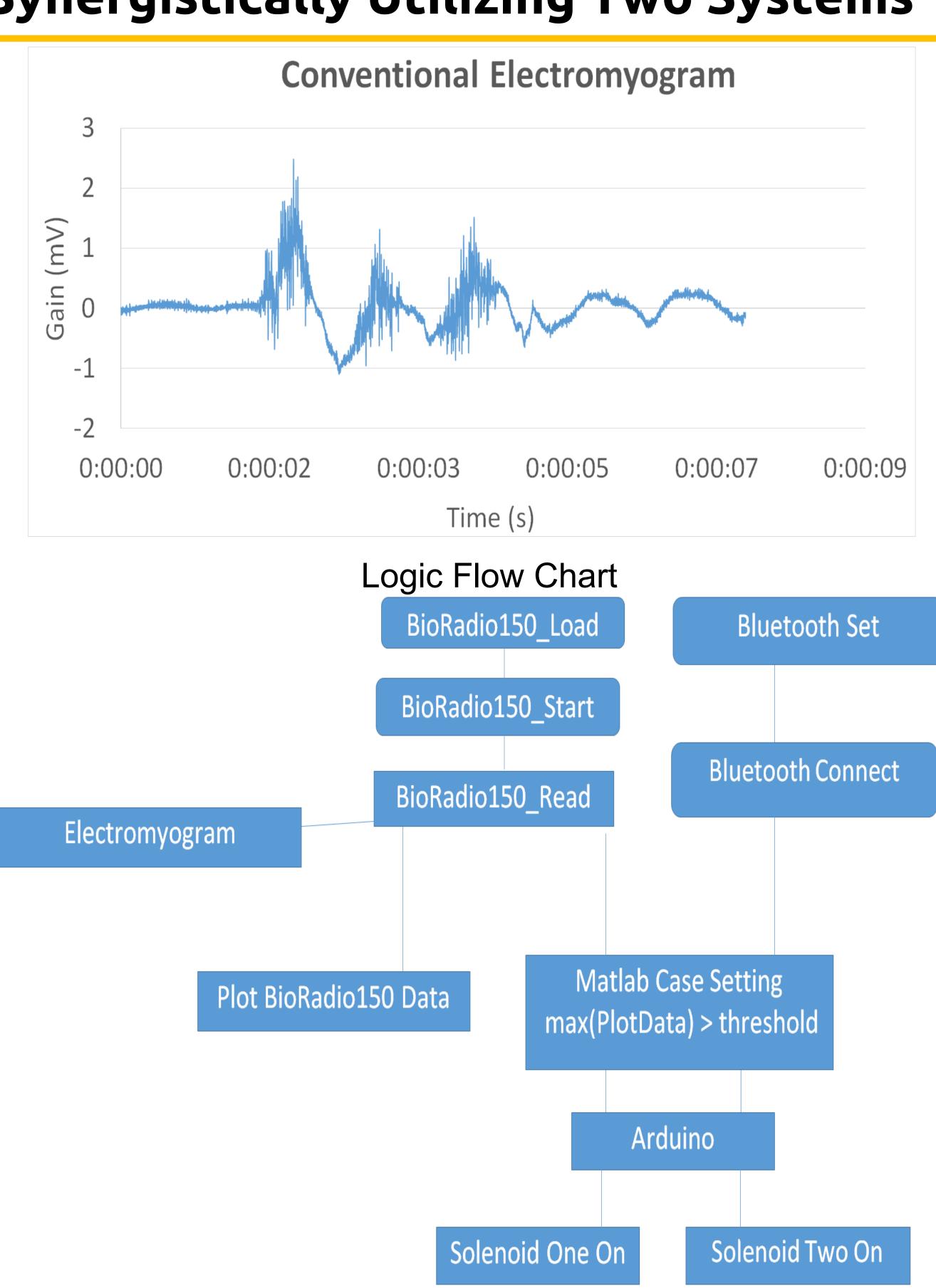
(Silicone / PI / Au / Silicone / Skin)



Post Processing, Maximum Load Until Failure



## Synergistically Utilizing Two Systems



### Conclusions

- Hydraulic powered leg exoskeletons provides support and improvements to the human bodies' shortcomings.
- EES provides a minimalistic support platform to trigger the exoskeletons motions.
- Multipurpose sensors have the potential to be coded for a multitude of specific functions.

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