



US010302586B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Sun et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 10,302,586 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 28, 2019**

(54) **STRETCHABLE IONICS FOR TRANSPARENT SENSORS AND ACTUATORS**

(71) Applicant: **President and Fellows of Harvard College**, Cambridge, MA (US)

(72) Inventors: **Jeong Yun Sun**, Cambridge, MA (US); **Christoph Matthias Keplinger**, Cambridge, MA (US); **Zhigang Suo**, Lexington, MA (US); **George M. Whitesides**, Newton, MA (US)

(73) Assignee: **President and Fellows of Harvard College**, Cambridge, MA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 554 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/768,850**

(22) PCT Filed: **Apr. 10, 2014**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/US2014/033646**

§ 371 (c)(1),

(2) Date: **Aug. 19, 2015**

(87) PCT Pub. No.: **WO2014/169119**

PCT Pub. Date: **Oct. 16, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2016/0025669 A1 Jan. 28, 2016

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/810,466, filed on Apr. 10, 2013.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

G01L 1/14 (2006.01)

G01N 27/30 (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **G01N 27/305** (2013.01); **G01N 27/02** (2013.01); **G01N 27/3335** (2013.01); **H01G 9/022** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC .. **G01N 27/305**; **G01N 27/02**; **G01N 27/3335**; **G01N 27/223**; **G01N 27/403**;
(Continued)

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,661,629 A * 8/1997 MacFarlane H01G 9/025
361/503

5,748,439 A * 5/1998 MacFarlane H01G 9/02
361/502

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Dubois et al., "Microactuators based on ion implanted dielectric electroactive polymers (EAP) membranes," *Sensors and Actuators A*, 130-131, (2006), pp. 147-154.

(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Lisa M Caputo

Assistant Examiner — Nigel H Plumb

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A class of devices enabled by ionic conductors is highly stretchable, fully transparent to light of all colors, biocompatible or biodegradable, and capable of operation at frequencies beyond 10 kilohertz and voltages above 10 kilovolts. These devices enabled by ionic conductors can be used as large strain actuators, full-range loudspeakers, as strain or pressure sensors and as stretchable interconnects. The electromechanical transduction is achieved without electrochemical reaction. When large stretchability and high optical transmittance are required, the ionic conductors have lower sheet resistance than all existing electronic conductors.

24 Claims, 25 Drawing Sheets

