Unterhered micro-robots integrated with stimuli-responsive hydrogel for sensing external environment

July 2021

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A Thesis for the Degree of Ph.D. in Engineering

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Graduate School of Science and Technology Keio University

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報告番号	₽	第	号	氏名		吉田 光輝	
主論文題名		. , · ,	. 1	1.	. 1	1 10	
Untetnered r external envi		-	rated with	i stimuli-re	esponsive ny	ydrogel for se	ensing
外部環境検知		-	刺激応答性	生ハイドロ	ゲルマイクロ	コロボット)	
	+ 12		b - > .2. 8				12 1 +
						拘束のないロス マイクロロボ	
						マイシロロホ クチュエータ,	
••••				- , ,		、ある. そこで,	
						たけいは外部	
						ロロボットの	
						非拘束型刺激	
ドロゲルマイク	<b>ロロボ</b> ッ	ットを提案し	た. 具体的	りには、螺旋	状のマイクロ	構造に刺激応	答性ゲルを
パターニングす	ることで	で,環境温度	更に応じて推	進速度を自	律的に制御す	ることが可能	なマイクロ
ロボットを実現	見した. ど	たに、コロイ	「ド結晶構造	色ハイドロ	ゲルをマイク	ロロボットに	統合するこ
とで、温度やコ	ニタノール	レ濃度などの	つ外部刺激を	一可視光の色	変化として伝	達可能なマイ	クロロボッ
トを実現した.							
第1章では,	本研究の	)背景およて	「研究目的に	こついて概説	した.		
第2章では,	本研究で	ご用いる刺激	応答性ゲル	~の架橋原理	および膨潤収	縮原理につい	て述べた.
第3章では,	外部環境	記応じて推	趙速度を自	目律的に制御	可能な螺旋状	マイクロロボ	ットの研究
背景について樹	駾した.	次に,螺旋	記状マイクロ	コロボットの	形状と推進速	度の関係につい	いて流体ノ
						ッチ角の異な	
						ロロボットの	ピッチ角を
変化させること							
			_			について解析	
				,		=ゲルの変形特	
						この結果を	- , .
					,	変化を解析し	
	-	こ螺旋状で	マイクロロス	「ットの推進	変化を解析し	,刺激応答性	ケルのバク
ーンを決定した		- / /	i loda		時出生の		治ムーーたたした」
						いて述べた. 刺	
						この変形を達成 た	
こ,螺旋形状の	2 47 11				••••		THEA d
						≀ボットの背景, ′ド結晶構造色∕	
	-					下宿間博垣巴	
イクロロボット					ニッノ加不よ		~ 川月干以で、 、
第7章では、					~ ~ <i>~</i>		
		が言語として	▶/=`(发(/) );  早早	訳ついて赤	$\sim 7^{-}$		

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## **Thesis Abstract**

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Thesis Title

Untethered micro-robots integrated with stimuli-responsive hydrogel for sensing external environment

Untethered micro-robots are sub-micron to centimeter scale robots without any physical restraint, and show great potential through sensing external environments for exploration of environments and *in vivo* treatment. However, there are many technical obstacles in the integration of conventional sensors, actuators, and processors into small-scale systems. Stimuli-responsive hydrogels, that can change their volume responding to external stimuli, are attractive candidates for novel components of micro-robots including actuators and sensors. In this research, two types of untethered micro-robots integrated with stimuli-responsive hydrogel were proposed for sensing the external environment. Specifically, by patterning stimuli-responsive hydrogels on the spiral-shaped microstructure, micro-robots with autonomous propulsion velocity control responding to the environmental temperature were realized. Furthermore, by integrating photonic colloidal crystal hydrogel into micro-robots, micro-robots that can convert the external temperature or the ethanol concentration into visible-light wavelength change were achieved.

Chapter 1 describes the background and the purpose of this research.

Chapter 2 describes the characteristics of stimuli-responsive hydrogels including the cross-linking mechanism and the volume change mechanism.

Chapter 3 theoretically analyzes the relationship between the geometry and the propulsion velocity based on the fluid dynamics. Then, the spiral-shaped micro-swimmers with different pitch angles were successfully fabricated by using the buoyancy-assisted anisotropic gelation methods. Furthermore, it is experimentally confirmed that the propulsion velocity of these spiral-shaped micro-swimmers were able to controlled by the pitch angle change.

Chapter 4 describes the analysis of deformation behavior of micro-swimmers by the finite element simulation. It is revealed that the deformation behavior was changed by changing the pattern of hydrogel. Based on the simulation results, the propulsion velocity change was calculated.

Chapter 5 describes the autonomous propulsion velocity control of spiral-shaped micro-swimmers. The deformation of the micro-swimmers responding to the environmental temperature was succeeded. Furthermore, the acceleration and the deceleration were also achieved.

Chapter 6 describes the micro-robots integrated with the photonic colloidal crystal hydrogel. The visible-light wavelength change responding to the environmental temperature or the ethanol concentration was achieved. Based on the results, it is showed that information about the external environment can be presented though the micro-robots.

Chapter 7 concludes this dissertation by discussing the impact of the proposed micro-robots integrated with stimuli-responsive hydrogel.