



Self-organizing Cyber-Substrates: Exploring a Modular Computing and Communications Architecture for Structural Health Monitoring

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1. Motivation and Broader Impacts

Vision
Self-aware substrates with embedded sensors that can self-power, sense, compute and self-organize their communications.

Impact
Continuous monitoring of structural health with minimal maintenance and configuration costs.

Rationale
Substrate – as continuous source of energy and communication medium.

Outcome
Concept of Smart Substrate Plate (SSP) – a modular platform with integrated sensing nodes.

Smart Substrate

Cognitive Structures

2. Intellectual Merits

Uniqueness
Modular architecture where SSP can be assembled without need for additional instrumentation or wiring.

Robustness
Communication through substrate makes the architecture robust to RF jamming or denial or service attacks. More energy efficient in specific cases.

Smart Substrate Plates (SSP)

US Transparent Mechanical Joints

Data Logger Plate

Access Point

Through-substrate Ultrasonic Pulse Networking

Remove Cost of Radio Network Retrofitting

Energy Harvesting from Ambience (e.g. vibration)

Scalable, Zero-Maintenance, and Battery-less

Modular Structure Assembly

Reduced Construction Cost

In-substrate Sensor Embedding

Integrated SHM as opposed to Retrofitting

Piezo-crystals for sensing, harvesting, Embedded Hardware

Ultra Low-power power harvesting, Embedded Hardware

3. Results and Milestones

Results 1:
9.06 nm
DLP
SSP-1
SSP-2
Source
Sink
Relay
Cellular Network Structure
Pulse Routing from Source to Sink
Average Harvested Energy in 100 Seconds (Microhours)
Average Delivery Delay (Hours)
Day Cycle (DC) - 100%
Day Cycle (DC) - 25.1%
Day Cycle (DC) - 6.2%
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Day Cycle (DC) - 100%

Results 2:
Custom substrate computing and communications processor [3].
Each sensor node harvests its operational energy from ambient vibrations in the substrate.
When sufficient energy is harvested, the measurement module wakes up to determine the failure state in its local environment.
If a salient event is detected, the transmitter module is activated, which continuously transmits the local ID.
When a node receives a PIE packet from its neighboring node, it retransmits the packet. The process is repeated till the sink receives the event.
The sink then examines the source of the event, filters out false-alarms and localizes the substrate area to be examined.
The proposed approach is scalable and can be applied to different types of substrates including biological substrates.
Demonstrated different multi-access PIE ultrasound telemetry that is compatible with standard B-scan and M-scan ultrasound imaging protocols.

Results 3:
In-vivo substrate communications [2].
Sonotrimetry Crystals
Trapezoid Valve
Connectors
Heart
Inner Surface of the Skin
Connectors
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