

Supplementary Materials

Photothermal-driven water-gliding microrobots based on fully integrated flexible sensors with heterogeneous wettability

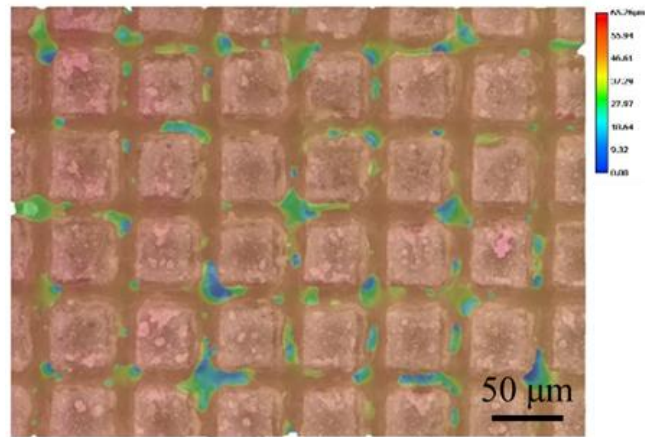
Zhixing Zhang^{1,2}, Neng Gao^{1,3}, Fei Zhang¹, Lanlan Liu¹, and Ying Chen^{1,*}

¹Institute of Flexible Electronics Technology of THU, Zhejiang, Jiaxing 314000, Zhejiang, China.

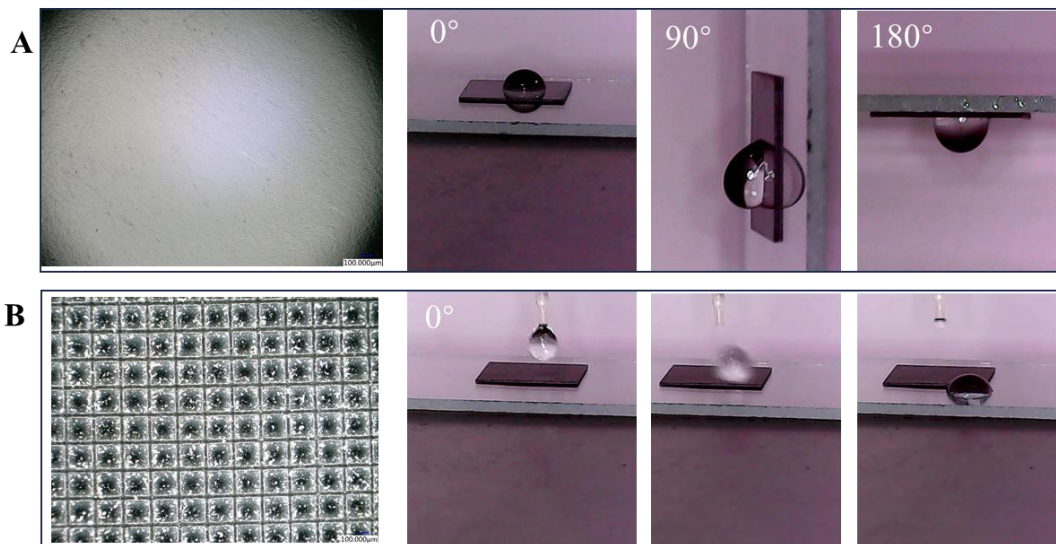
²School of Materials Science and Engineering, Tianjin University, Tianjin 300354, China.

³School of Materials and Energy, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu 610054, Sichuan, China.

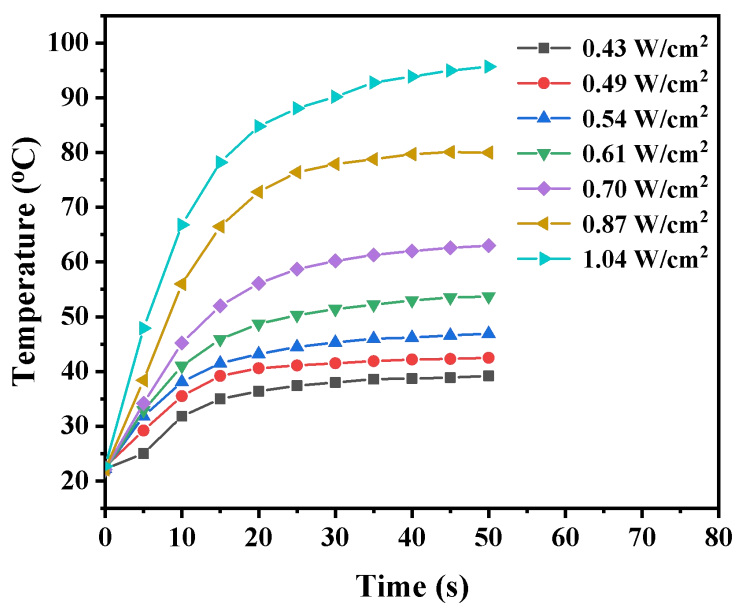
***Correspondence to:** Dr. Ying Chen, Institute of Flexible Electronics Technology of THU, No.40, HuaChuang Road, Jiaxing 314000, Zhejiang, China, E-mail: chenying@ifet-tsinghua.org



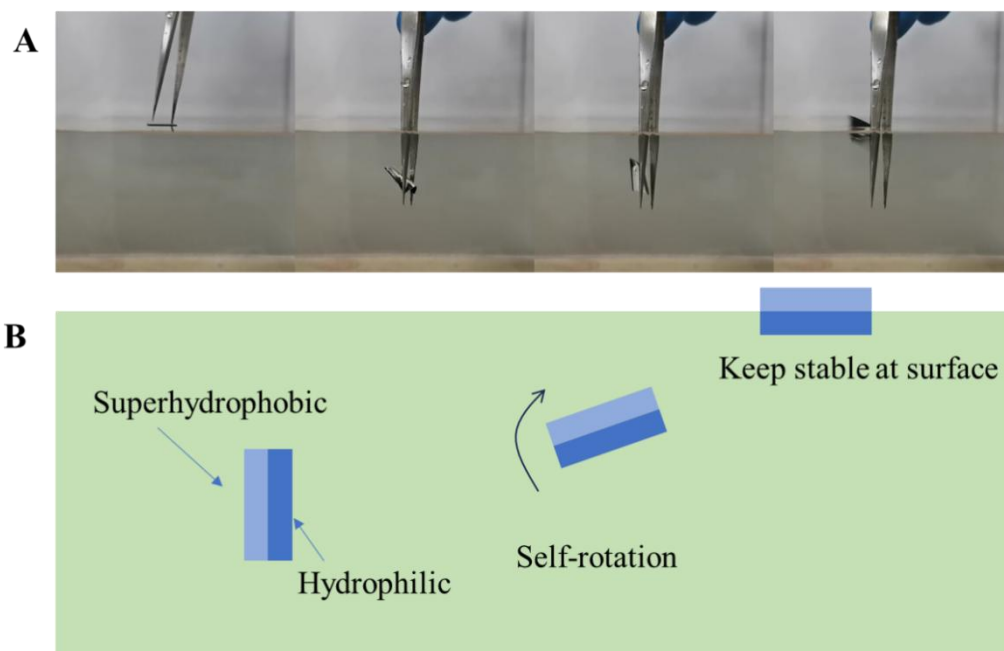
Supplementary Figure 1. 3D optical photograph of the surface of a rough sample sculpted by a laser.



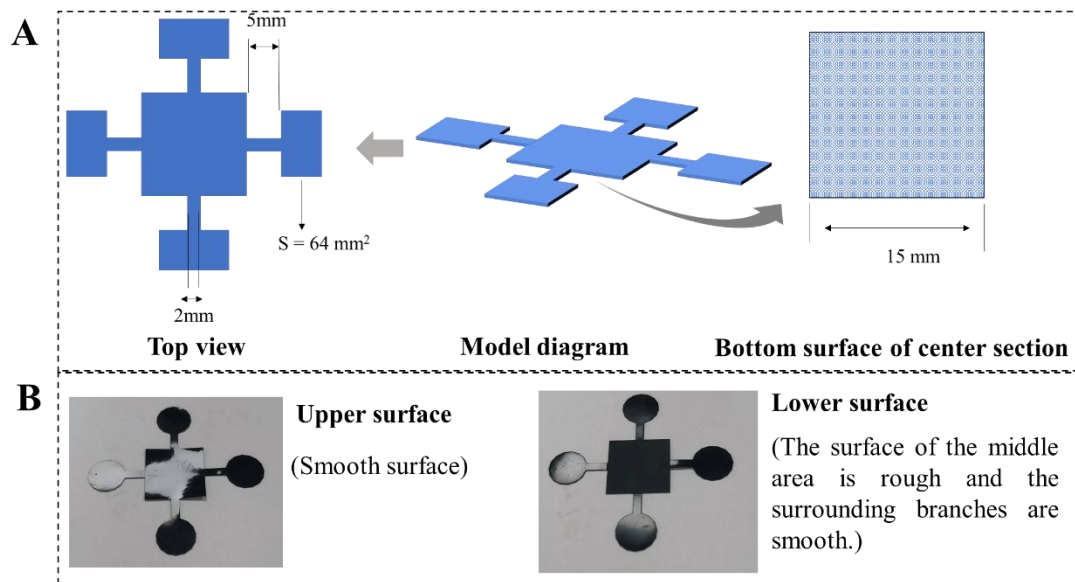
Supplementary Figure 2. (A) Optical microscope photograph of the untreated PDMS/CNT sample and the adhesion of water droplets in the sample at different tilt angles. (B) Optical microscope photograph of the carved sample and the state of water falling on a flat sample. The volume of the drop is 20 μL .



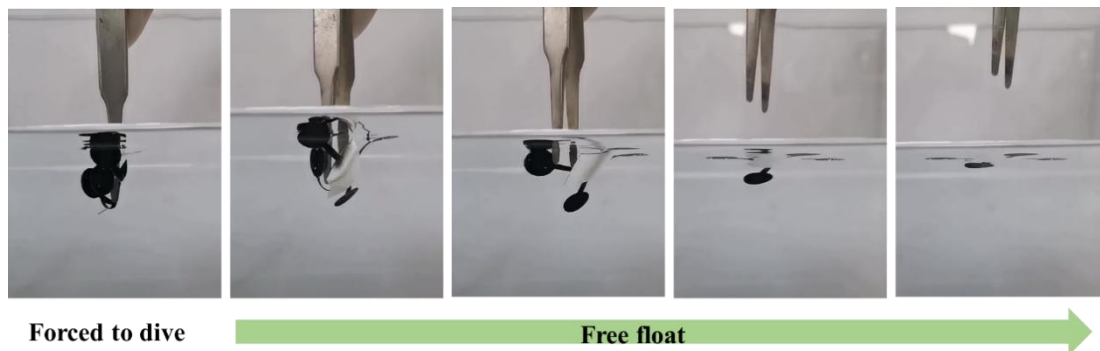
Supplementary Figure 3. Photothermal conversion effect of PDMS/CNTs. The relationship between temperature and irradiation time under different illumination conditions.



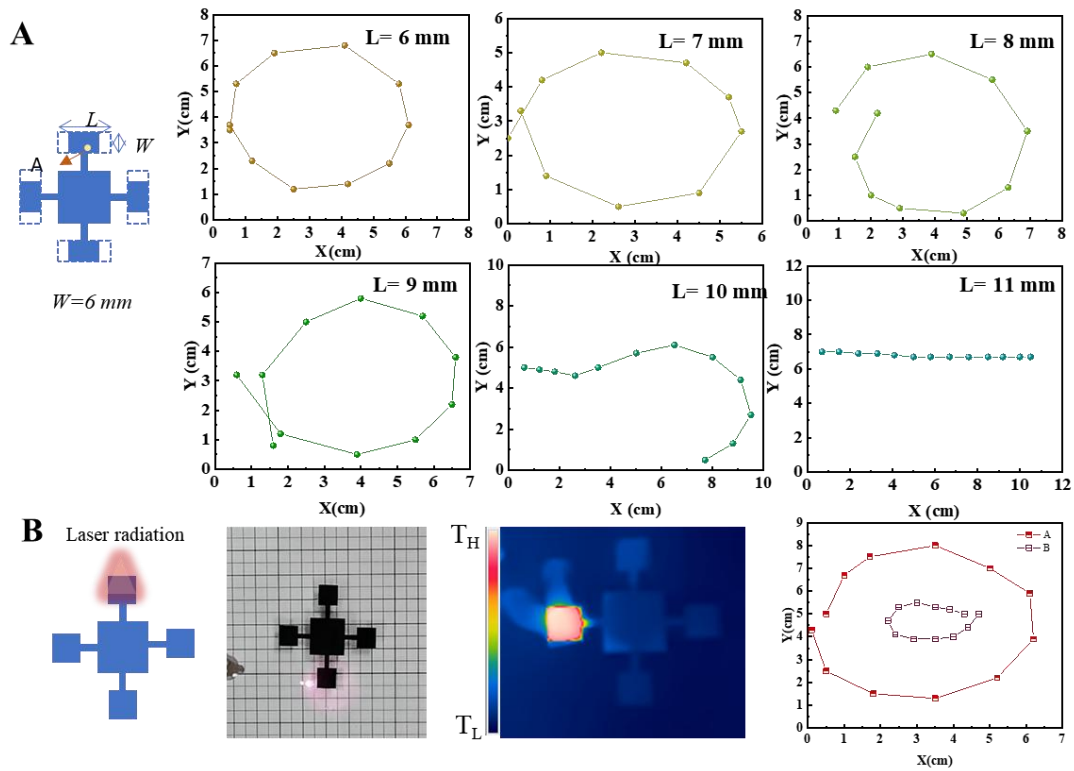
Supplementary Figure 4. (A) The underwater floating process of the square Janus sample including its self-rotation, upward floating, and penetration through the water surface. (B) Schematic diagram of the floating behavior of the square Janus sample.



Supplementary Figure 5. (A) Detailed structural parameters of the floating actuator with custom shapes. (B) Physical photographs of the sample actuator with circular irradiated zone.



Supplementary Figure 6. The underwater floating process of the actuator with custom shape, showing that the superhydrophobic surface (with typical silver mirror phenomenon) of the actuator is always located at the solid-liquid interface.



Supplementary Figure 7. (A) Schematic and motion trajectory of the actuator with adjustable length with the constant width of rectangular irradiated region. (B) Structure diagram, thermal imaging and trajectory of actuators with square irradiated region.

Supplementary Table 1. A comparison of structural parameters and properties between well-known BWSRs and this work

Propulsive mode	Size	Weight (g)	Max. velocity (mm/s)	Intergation (Y/N)	Ref.
Piezoelectric effect	>10 cm	0.67	23	N	[1]
DC motor	>21 cm	6	200	N	[2]
DC motor	>27 cm	7.85	90	N	[3]
DC motor	>14 cm	6.1	87	N	[4]
DC motor	>20 cm	21.7	71.5	N	[5]
Thermal-induced Deformation	>11 cm	0.07	2	N	[6]
DC motor	15 cm	3.88	150	N	[7]
DC motor	>12 cm	3.9	160	N	[8]
Steering engine	19 cm	27.9	--	N	[9]
DC motor	39.4×33×7 cm	137	243	N	[10]
DC motor	11×10.7×3.4 cm	20.9	73.7	Y	[11]
Marangoni effect	6.5×5 cm	1.98	20	Y	This work

Supplementary References:

1. Suhr S H, Song Y S, Lee S J, et al. Biologically inspired miniature water strider robot. Robotics: Science and Systems I. Cambridge, USA, June, 2005.
2. Wu L, Lian Z, Yang G, et al. Water dancer II-a: a non-tethered telecontrollable water strider robot. International Journal of Advanced Robotic Systems 2011, 8, 39.
3. Suzuki K, Takanobu H, Noya K, et al. Water strider robots with microfabricated hydrophobic legs. IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems. San Diego, USA, November, 2007.
4. Song Y S, and Metin S. STRIDE: A highly maneuverable and non-tethered water strider robot. Proceedings 2007 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation. IEEE, 2007.
5. Ozcan O, Wang H, Taylor J D, et al. STRIDE II: A water strider-inspired miniature robot with circular footpads. International Journal of Advanced Robotic Systems 2014, 11, 85.
6. Hu D L, Prakash M, Chan B, et al. Water-walking devices. Animal Locomotion 2010, 131-140.
7. Zhang X, Zhao J, Zhu Q, et al. Bioinspired aquatic microrobot capable of walking on water surface like a water strider. ACS applied materials & interfaces 2011, 3, 2630-2636.
8. Yan, J H, Zhang X B, Zhao J, et al. A miniature surface tension-driven robot using spatially elliptical moving legs to mimic a water strider's locomotion. Bioinspiration & biomimetics 2015, 10, 046016.
9. Sun J, Song J, Huang L, et al. Water strider-inspired design of a water walking robot using superhydrophobic Al surface. Journal of Dispersion Science and Technology 2018, 39, 1840-1847.
10. Yan J, Zhang X, Yang K, et al. A single driven bionic water strider sliding robot mimicking the spatial elliptical trajectory. IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Biomimetics (ROBIO). Dalian, China, December, 2019.
11. Shim G, Lee K, Chun K, et al. 3D printed water strider robot with environmental monitoring. Journal of Sensor Science and Technology 2019, 28, 407-413.