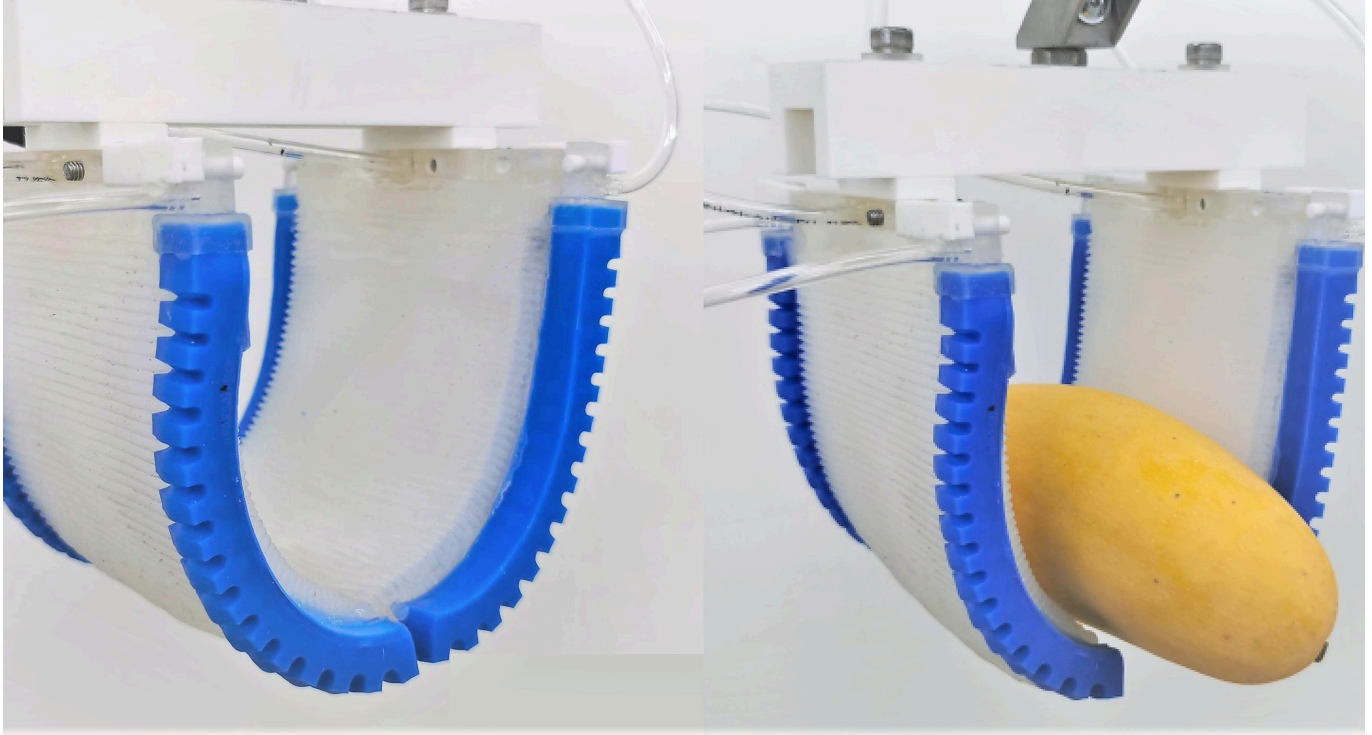


TECH OFFER

Universal Robotic Gripping: Variable-Stiffness Gripper Enabled by Jamming Transition



KEY INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY CATEGORY:

Manufacturing - Assembly, Automation & Robotics

Manufacturing - Additive Manufacturing

Materials - Plastics & Elastomers

TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL (TRL): **TRL4**

COUNTRY: **SINGAPORE**

ID NUMBER: **TO174965**

OVERVIEW

Recent advances in soft robotics revolutionize the way robots interact with the environment, empowering robots to undertake complex tasks using soft and compliant grippers. Compared to traditional rigid structures. Soft grippers have excellent adaptability for a variety of objects and tasks. However, the existing gripper systems faces some challenges, such as handling delicate, wet, and slippery items, the risk of damaging valuable items, and high production cost.

Based on pneumatic jamming of 3D-printed fabrics, the technology owner has developed a variable-stiffness soft pneumatic gripper that can apply small forces for pinching and pick-up heavy objects via stiffening. The invented grippers are soft and adaptive to handle delicate items with various shapes and weights, minimising the damaging risk of items during the gripping process. In addition, such gripper with adjustable stiffness could handle heavy and bulky items by increasing its gripping strength. These benefits make the gripper more versatile and adaptable to various applications in agriculture, food processing, packaging, manufacturing, and human-robot interaction (HRI).

The technology owner is seeking to do R&D collaboration, IP licensing, and test-bedding with industrial partners intending to integrate variable-stiffness gripper in their applications.

TECHNOLOGY FEATURES & SPECIFICATIONS

The technology owner has incorporated the jamming of 3D-printed structured fabrics into variable-stiffness soft gripper design. The innovative gripper can actively apply small forces for pinching and pick up heavy objects via stiffening. The key features of the technology are:

- Lightweight and comfortable structural structured fabrics
- Vacuum-powered stiffness change
- High gripping-to-pinching force ratio
- Adaptable to items with various shapes and weights
- Safe and high precision gripping process
- Low material cost (made from elastic silicone)
- Easy fabrication (all 3D printed key parts assembled with standard components)

POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS

- Agriculture: food harvesting, packaging etc.
- Food processing: vegetable and fruit picking, food sorting, food packaging, etc.
- Manufacturing: packaging, assembly, dedicate item handling, etc.
- Human-robot interaction (HRI)

UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION

- Enhanced robotic performance: universal gripper with high adaptability, versatility, and precision
- Safe gripping process: good comfortability and high gripping-to-pitch force ratio
- Cost-effective system: 3D-printed parts assembled with standard components
- Highly customisable: meet requirements of various industrial applications