This paper is freely available as a resource for the optics and photonics education community.

Flexible Organic Temperature Sensors

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The design and fabrication of thin film temperature sensors for various applications is an important and well established field. In order to gain familiarity with the design and fabrication of such devices, students at the Virginia Military Institute create and test their own thin film temperature sensors using organic polymers. The sensor is created by depositing a conducting polymer onto a flexible substrate with electrical contacts deposited by thermal evaporation. The resistance of the polymer as a function of temperature establishes a relationship that is then used to determine unknown resistances.