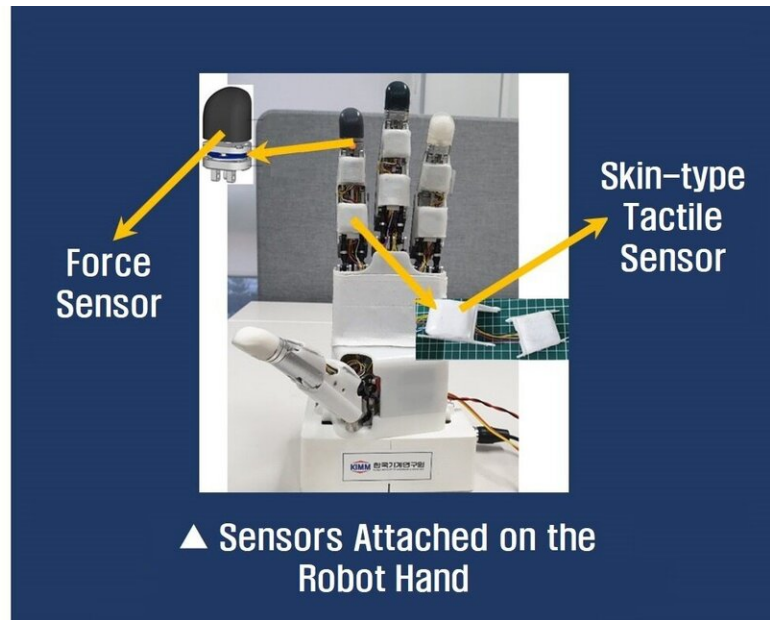


Team develops robot hand capable of handling eggs and cutting paper with scissors

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Tactile Sensor-integrated Robot Hand. Credit: Korea Institute of Machinery and Materials (KIMM)

The Korea Institute of Machinery & Materials (President Chunhong Park; hereinafter "KIMM") developed a robot hand capable of handling various objects and tools in daily life, such as holding an egg and cutting paper with a pair of scissors. The hand can be easily mounted on a variety of robot arms, and offers the world's strongest grasping force against its own weight. It is expected that the use of robotic hands will be

extended to industrial sites as well as everyday life.

The team led by Dr. Hyunmin Do, principal researcher at the Department of Robotics and Mechatronics under the Advanced Manufacturing Systems Research Division of KIMM, developed a [robot hand](#) capable of handling objects in the same way as [human hands](#) by mimicking the structure and the motion of a human fingers.

The robot [hand](#) is composed of four fingers and 16 joints. A total of 12 motors are used to move each finger and joint independently.

The research team developed a unique mechanism to support movement in small spaces with a high degree of freedom, similar to the motion of a human hand. They succeeded in modularizing the driving unit responsible for finger movement by embedding it inside the palm. The robot hand can be easily mounted on a variety of robot arms.

In addition, the developed robot hand is lighter and stronger than commercially available robot hands. Its weight is less than 1 kg, but its payload is more than 3 kg.

The research team developed two types of force [sensors](#) to allow tactile sensing to detect contact with objects, and attached them to the fingertips, fingers and the palm. The sensors attached to fingertips are multi-axis force/torque sensors with a diameter of 15 mm and a weight of less than 5 g. They can measure the magnitude and direction of force detected at the fingertip when the robot hand comes into contact with an [object](#). The sensors are the key to controlling the grasping force.

Skin-type [tactile sensors](#) developed through joint research with Seoul National University were also attached to fingers and the palm. These sensors measure the force distribution at the contact area when the robot hand touches an object.

Commercial robot hands developed so far have limited applications, as there are no modularized products equipped with both the driving units embedded inside the palm area and the built-in tactile sensors.

Dr. Hyunmin Do said, "The robot hand was developed to handle various objects including the tools used in everyday life by mimicking the delicate motion of a human hand. It is also expected to be used as a research platform for studying the grasping algorithm of [robot](#) hand and manipulation intelligence."

Provided by National Research Council of Science & Technology

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