

Forearm Fracture Model

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- ▶ Fabrication

- ▶ Testing

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Client

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Problem Statement

To develop a pediatric forearm fracture model that provides temperature, skin surface pressure and bone alignment feedback for use by medical school residents in order to practice and learn safe, effective casting techniques.



Background

40% of all pediatric fractures occur on the forearm

75% pediatric forearm fractures are distal

Both bones or only radius

Caused by fall on outstretched hand

May include wrist fracture



Distal Radius Fracture

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distal_radius_fracture

Background

Common in pediatrics causes major public health problem

No current teaching model

Residents learn to apply and remove casts in situ

Complications during casting from inexperience

- ▶ Compartment Syndrome
- ▶ Thermal injuries
- ▶ Skin breakdown



Thermal injury from casting
<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-red-district/201401/penile-fracture-and-9-other-painful>

Design Specifications

Primary Focus:

- Increased usability for residents
- Applied force output-make portable
- Visual map of forearm and corresponding pressure
- Improved computer interface

Secondary Focus:

- Temperature detection
- Protection for sensors
- Representation of skin tissue
- Alignment detection



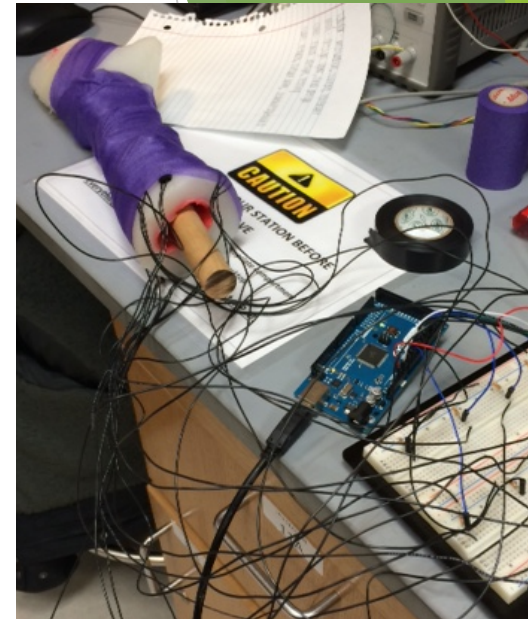
Final Design

Force Data Collection

- ▶ 10 Force Sensitive Resistors
- ▶ Arduino
- ▶ Processing



Testing setup with circuit, arduino, and hinge inserted in Platsil mold



Computer display with force readings for each of the 10 sensors, live data with color

Final Design

Fracture Representation

- ▶ “Hinge” system
- ▶ Wooden dowel

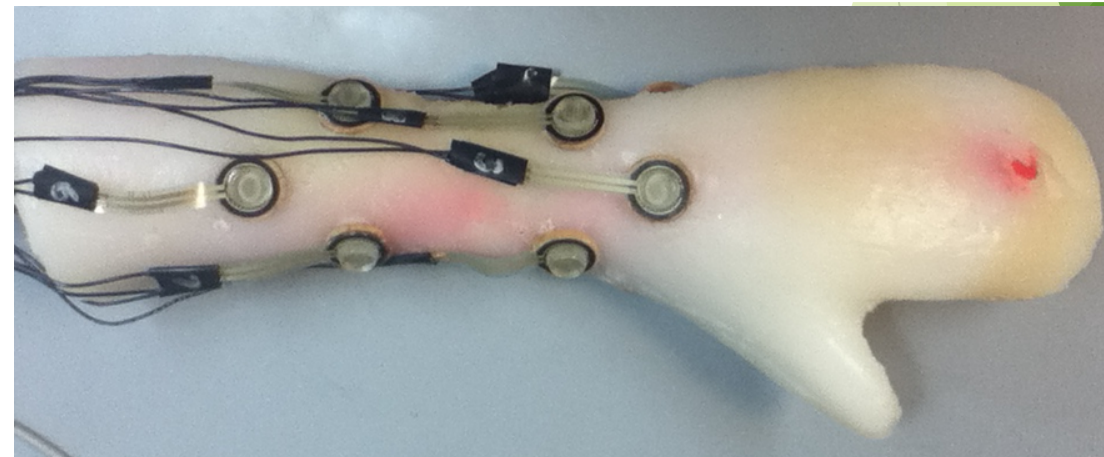
Tissue Representation

- ▶ Platsil (silicone mold rubber)
- ▶ Mold from a 9 year old female



Platsil mold and hinge fracture model made of wooden dowel

Platsil mold with 10 sensors (with bumpers) attached clustered around wrist



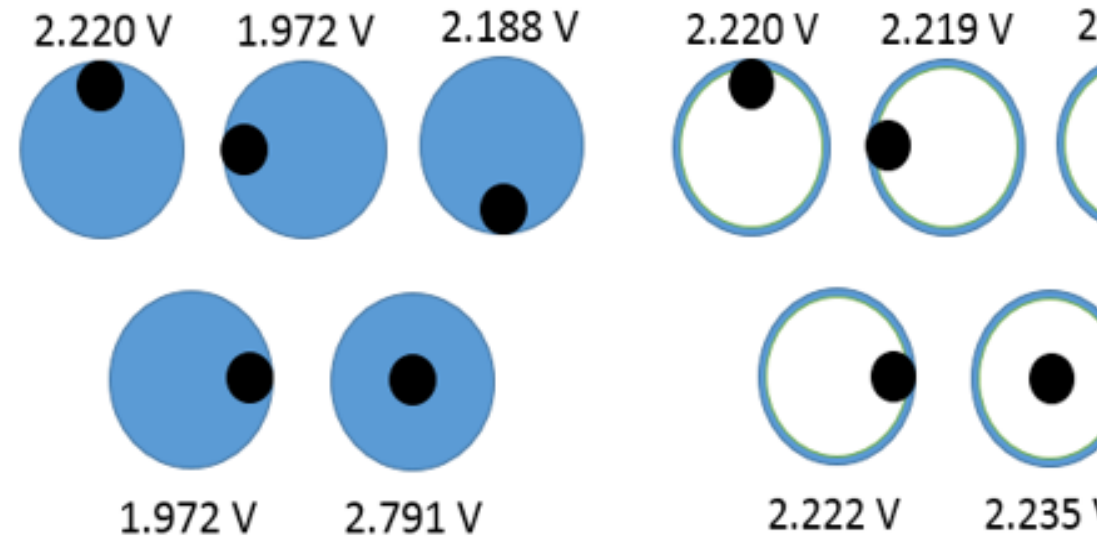
Testing

Point load comparison

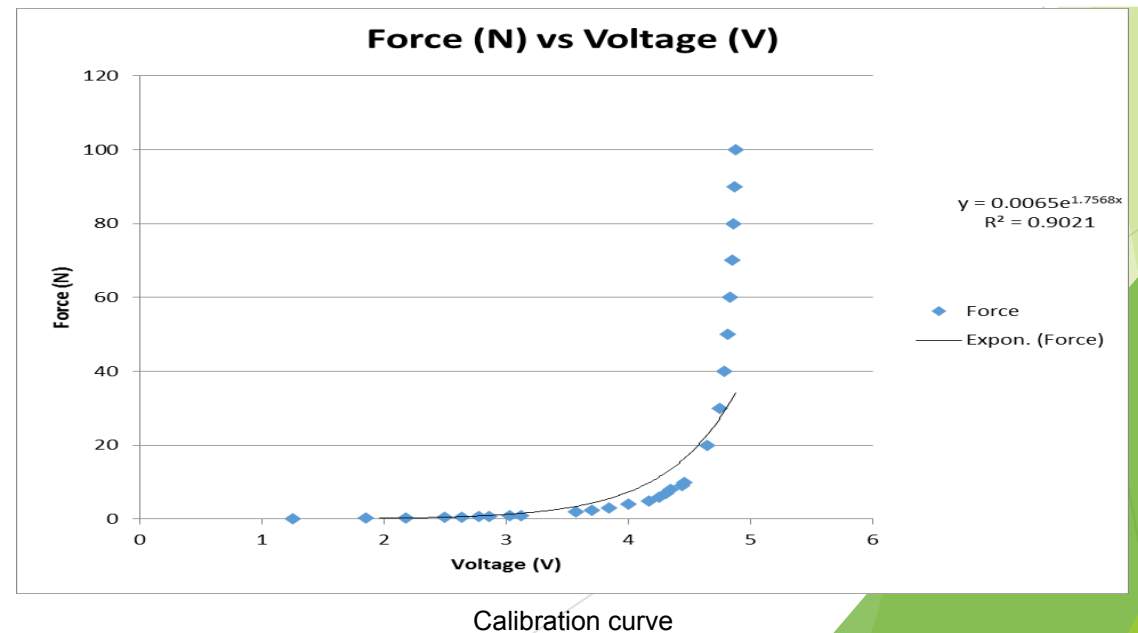
- ▶ Place weight on FSR (no bumper) on small CSA
- ▶ Place weight on FSR with bumper

Calibration of FSRs

- ▶ Weight from 1-2000g
- ▶ Measured voltage output
- ▶ Calibration curve to convert V_{out} to force



Force data collected when applied at 5 different locations on FSR sensors with and without bumper. The data shows that the bumper helps to distribute the force equally across the sensor.

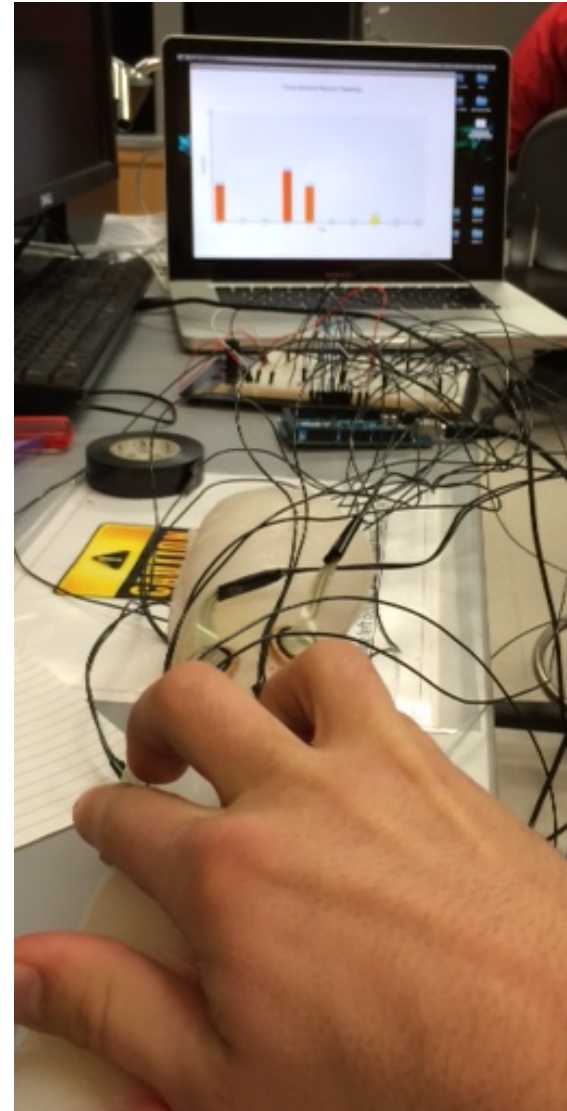


Calibration curve

Testing

Consistency of FSR readings

- ▶ Vary resistance of hinge and correct ‘fracture’
- ▶ Record force necessary for each trial
- ▶ Compare force values at different resistances



Testing setup with computer and fracture model

Goals-Fabrication

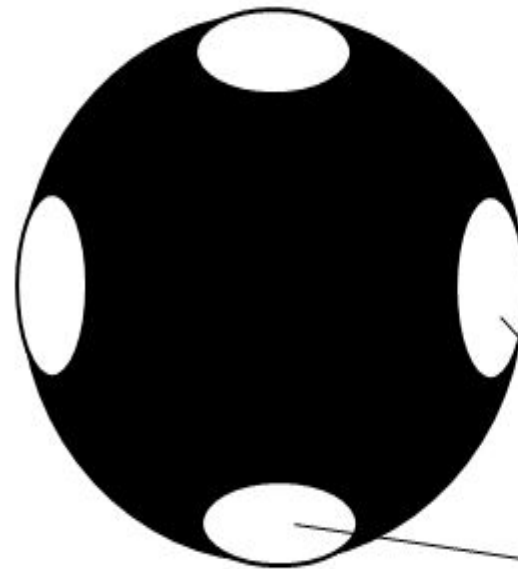
32 smaller FSR

Attach sensors on tray

Spandex sleeve

4 pockets for inserts

Tray inserted into fitted pocket



4 sewn-in tray inserts located equidistant around spandex sleeve



Tray insert with 8 sensors, most coverage on distal and proximal ends due to hand placement during reduction

Goals-Fabrication

Transportable pressure system

Develop wireless system

Display range of standardization of pressure on screen

Color display of arm

- ▶ Pressure data corresponds to location on arm

Strategic placement of sensors around a typical grip



Dr. Halanski's hand placement during fracture reduction

Goals-Testing

Prove precision

Use device with multiple orthopedic surgeons

10 trials per doctor and minimum of 3 doctors

Sample mean and standard deviation shows variability

T-test to verify subjects do not reject null hypothesis:

$\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3 \dots$ ($\alpha = 0.05$)

Confidence intervals to obtain proper range

Range of standardization of pressure on each sensor



Budget

Purchased Materials	Cost
Nails/Washers/Screws/Nuts	\$4.72
Wooden Dowel (7/8" x 48")	\$3.38
Acrylic Bumpers	\$3.96
Arduino MEGA 2560	\$40.01
Breadboard w/ wires	\$8.86
Conductive Rubber Cord	\$13.77
15 Conductive FSRs (15)	\$102.25
Total	\$176.95

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References

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