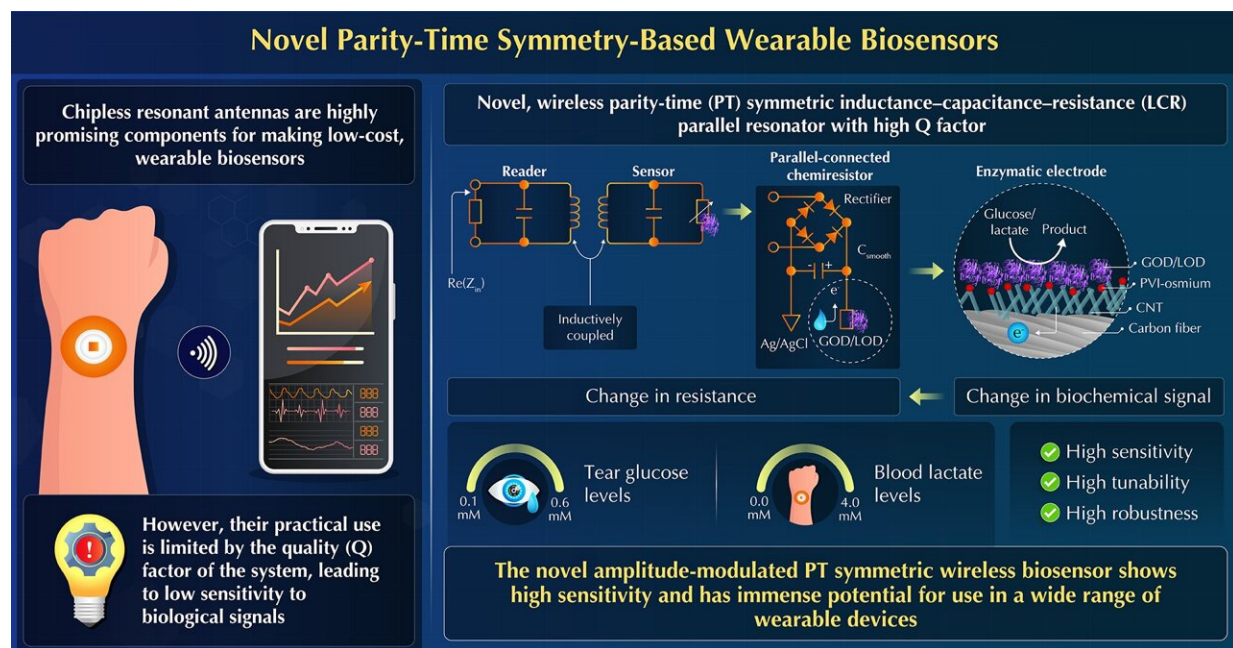


# New wearable biosensor can detect extremely small changes in tear glucose and blood lactate levels

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Wearable, Implantable, Parity-Time Symmetric Bioresonators for Extremely Small Biological Signal Monitoring  
Takamatsu et al. (2023) | *Advanced Materials Technologies* | DOI: 10.1002/admt.202201704

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Researchers have developed a novel, wireless, PT-symmetric wearable resonator that can detect tear glucose and blood lactate levels in the micromolar range. The resonator is composed of an inductance–capacitance–resistance (LCR) reader and an LCR sensor with an enzyme-based chemiresistor. The setup has a high quality (Q) factor, making it highly sensitive. Credit: Professor Takeo Miyake from Waseda University

Wireless wearable biosensors have been a game changer in personalized health monitoring and health care digitization because they can efficiently detect, record, and monitor medically significant biological signals. Chipless resonant antennae are highly promising components of wearable biosensors, as they are affordable and tractable. However, their practical applications are limited by low sensitivity (inability to detect small biological signals) caused by low quality (Q) factor of the system.

To overcome this hurdle, researchers led by Professor Takeo Miyake from Waseda University, Professor Yin Sijie from Beijing Institute of Technology, and Taiki Takamatsu from Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, have developed a wireless bioresonator using "parity–time (PT) symmetry" that can detect minute biological signals. Their work has been published in *Advanced Materials Technologies*.

In this study, the researchers designed a bioresonator consisting of a magnetically coupled reader and sensor with high Q factor, and thus, increased sensitivity to [biochemical changes](#). The reader and sensor both comprise an inductor (L) and capacitor (C) that are parallel-connected to a resistor (R).

In the sensor, the resistor is a chemical sensor called a "chemiresistor" that converts biochemical signals into changes in resistance. The chemiresistor contains an enzymatic electrode with an immobilized enzyme. Minute biochemical changes at the enzymatic electrode (in response to changes in the levels of biomolecules such as [blood sugar](#) or lactate) are thus converted into [electrical signals](#) by the sensor, and then amplified at the reader.

Explaining the technical concept behind their novel biosensor, Miyake says, "We modeled the characteristics of the PT-symmetric wireless sensing system by using an eigenvalue solution and input impedance, and experimentally demonstrated the sensitivity enhancement at/near the

exceptional point by using parallel inductance–capacitance–resistance (LCR) resonators."

"The developed amplitude modulation-based PT-symmetric bioresonator can detect small biological signals that have been difficult to measure wirelessly until now. Moreover, our PT-symmetric system provides two types of readout modes: threshold-based switching and enhanced linear detection. Different readout modes can be used for different sensing ranges."

The researchers tested the system (here containing a glucose-specific enzyme) on human tear fluids and found that it could detect glucose concentrations ranging from 0.1 to 0.6 mM. They also tested it with a lactate-specific enzyme and commercially available human skin and found that it could measure lactate levels in the range of 0.0 to 4.0 mM through human skin tissue, without any loss of sensitivity.

This result further indicates that the biosensor can be used as an implantable device. Compared to a conventional chipless resonant antenna-based system, the PT-symmetric system achieved a 2000-fold higher sensitivity in linear and a 78% relative change in threshold-based detection respectively.

Sharing his vision for the future, Miyake concludes, "The present telemetry system is robust and tunable. It can enhance the [sensitivity](#) of sensors to small biological signals. We envision that this technology can be used for developing smart contact lenses to detect tear glucose and/or [implantable medical devices](#) to detect lactate for efficient monitoring of diabetes and blood poisoning."

**More information:** Taiki Takamatsu et al, Wearable, Implantable, Parity-Time Symmetric Bioresonators for Extremely Small Biological Signal Monitoring, *Advanced Materials Technologies* (2023). [DOI:](#)

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