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## **Imperfections: using defects to program designer matter**

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# Propositions

accompanying the dissertation

*Imperfections: using defects to program designer matter*

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- 1 Mechanical structures, built up out of soft building blocks, can generally support topological defects.  
*Chapter 2 of this dissertation*
- 2 Topological defects in mechanical structures produce deformation- and stress-steering functionality, due to symmetry-breaking in their low-energy normal modes.  
*Chapter 3 of this dissertation*
- 3 The physics underlying the stress-steering effects of topological defects can be easily understood with minimal models.  
*Chapter 4 of this dissertation*
- 4 Geometry-driven snap-through instabilities are ideally suited to design shape-shifting structures with many different target shapes.  
*Chapter 5 of this dissertation*
- 5 The gap between metamaterials design and actual applications is wide, and should be bridged by making the results of scientific research more easily available to non-academic institutions.
- 6 The small-world character of scientific networks leads to productive fads, such as the exponential rise in popularity of auxetic structures since early 2000.  
*Web of science: citation report for 'auxetic' in Web of Science Core Collection via webofknowledge.com (2020).*
- 7 Mesoscale mechanical explanations of natural phenomena provide an important complement to microscale chemical and biological approaches.  
*Kuhl, E.: Unfolding the brain. Nat. Phys. 12, 533–534 (2016).*
- 8 Discrete, linearized models are much better at modelling nonlinear, continuum physics than they have a right to be.  
*Pellegrino, S.: Structural computations with the singular value decomposition of the equilibrium matrix. Int. J. Solids Struct. 30, 3025-3035 (1993).*
- 9 Feeling well-rested is essential. Napping in an office setting should therefore be encouraged.

Anne Sophia Meeussen  
Leiden, 26 May 2021