

Design, Electrostatic and Eigen Frequency Analysis of Fixed–Fixed Beam MEMS Resonator

Deepak Kumar¹, A. Vimala Juliet²

^{1,2}(Department of Instrumentation & Control Engineering / SRM University, India)

Abstract : The objective of this paper is to design of fixed–fixed MEMS Resonator. The beam of resonator is made up of poly-silicon. This paper also presents the electrostatic and Eigen frequency analysis of MEMS resonator. The resonator used in oscillator which can be fabricated on chip. It can also be used as Switch. The size of crystal oscillator is in order of centimeter but the size of MEMS Resonator is in order of microns, so by replace a crystal oscillator by MEMS Resonator, we can reduce the size of the system. The dc voltage is given to the beam of resonator for electrostatic analysis & Eigen frequency analysis in different modes.

Keywords - MEMS Resonator, fixed-fixed beam, mechanical restoring force;

I. INTRODUCTION

Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS) are a latest technology in area of mechanical, electrical, electronics and chemical engineering. Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems, or MEMS, consists of mechanical, electrical systems whose order of size in microns. It is a technology used to miniaturize systems. Electrical components such as inductors and tunable capacitors can be improved significantly compared to their integrated counterparts if they are made using MEMS and Nanotechnology [7]. Resonator is a system that having resonant behavior, it oscillates at some frequencies, called its resonant frequencies. MEMS Resonator is normally used in analog systems, communication systems, switches etc. MEMS resonators are basically time based generators or references whose operating principle is similar to the mechanical tuning fork which is used to tune musical instruments [7]. The oscillations in a resonator can be either electromechanically or electromagnetic. MEMS Resonator have high quality factor as compared to crystal oscillator. Crystal oscillator is bulky and cannot be integrated in IC technology [6]. This paper presents a fixed-fixed beam MEMS Resonator. The resonating beam is fixed at both end, called Anchor that is why called fixed-fixed Resonator. In this paper, fixed–fixed beam resonator is modeled by COMSOL Multiphysics software. The MEMS resonator is designed on silicon-on insulator (SOI). A lot of modes of vibration can be found in a rectangular plate resonator either by changing the thickness of electrodes or by changing the mode number.

II. PRINCIPLE

The principle of operation of MEMS Resonator based upon a two electrodes of a capacitor. One electrode is fixed and other is moving called Resonator beam. When an voltage is applied between a fixed–fixed beam and the pull-down electrode, an electrostatic force is induced on the beam. Due to the Electrostatic force the beam will bend and beam will oscillates by applying ac signal at fixed electrode. The resonance frequency is given by [2], [1], [3]

$$f_0 = 1.03 \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}} \frac{h}{L^2} \quad (1)$$

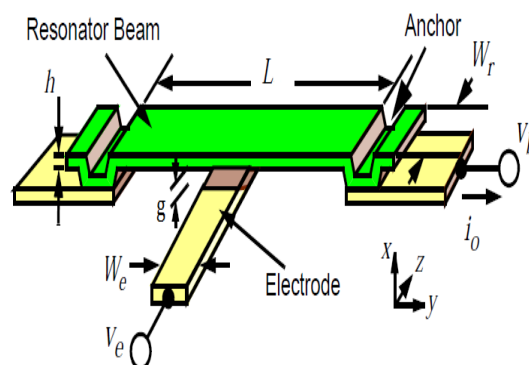


Fig. 1. Fixed-Fixed beam resonator

Suppose V_e is the voltage applied to the electrode and V_b is the voltage applied to the beam, then the effective voltage ($V_e - V_b$) is applied across the electrode to resonator capacitor gap, due to this a force will induced on a beam and amount of force is [4]

$$F_b = \frac{\partial E}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{2} (V_e - V_b)^2 \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} \quad (2)$$

Where x is the displacement and ∂C is the change in capacitance between electrodes.

The electrostatic force which is on the plates of a capacitor under an applied voltage is modelled as a parallel-plate capacitor. Given that A is the effective area of the beam, which is overlapped by pull-down electrode, the parallel plate Capacitance is [5]

$$C = \frac{\epsilon_0}{g} A \quad (3)$$

Where, g is the height of the beam above the electrode. Energy stored in electrode which act as parallel plate capacitor is

$$E = \frac{1}{2} CV^2 \quad (4)$$

The electrostatic force act on a resonator beam is given by [5]

$$F_e = \frac{1}{2} V^2 \frac{dC(g)}{dg} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\epsilon_0 AV^2}{g^2} \quad (5)$$

Where, V is the Voltage applied between the beam and the electrode.

Equating the applied electrostatic force with the mechanical restoring force due to the stiffness of the beam ($F = kx$), we find [5]

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\epsilon_0 AV^2}{g^2} = k(g_0 - g) \quad (6)$$

where, g_0 is the zero-bias bridge's height. Solving this equation for the voltage results in

$$V = \sqrt{\frac{2k g^2 (g_0 - g)}{\epsilon_0 A}} \quad (7)$$

The spring constant K of a fixed-fixed beam is [5]

$$K = 32 Ew \left(\frac{h}{L}\right)^3 \quad (8)$$

Where, E is Young's modulus

h is the thickness of a beam

L is the length of a beam

w is the width of a beam .

The condition for which the resonator beam will be stable under electrostatic force is given by

$$\frac{dV}{dg} = 0 \quad (9)$$

By solving the equation we get

$$g = \frac{2}{3} g_0 \quad (10)$$

This is a result of the beam position becoming unstable at $(2/3)g_0$, which is due to positive feedback in the electrostatic actuation. At $(2/3) g_0$ the increase in the electrostatic force is greater than the increase in the restoring force, resulting in a beam position becoming unstable and collapse of the beam to the down-state position. The pull-down voltage is found to be

$$V_p = \sqrt{\frac{8k g_0^3}{27 \epsilon_0 A}} \quad (11)$$

III. ANALYSIS

The analysis of MEMS Resonator is done by using software COMSOL Multiphysics. The Resonator has some dimensions which are given in table I.

The Materials used in MEMS resonator:

- Poly Silicon (Electrode)
- Silicon Nitride (Insulator)
- Air (Dielectric)

The poly-silicon material has a varied number of properties which are given in table II.

Fig. 2 shows the design of a MEMS Resonator. The model was introduced in air as a dielectric.

TABLE 1. Dimension of model

Dimension	Value
Length of beam (L)	50μm
Width of beam (W)	10μm
Thickness of beam (h)	2μm
Gap spacing (g)	8μm

3.1 Electrostatic Analysis

In electrostatic analysis of MEMS Resonator, dc voltage is given to the beam and fixed electrode is kept as a ground. As a voltage is applied the electric field is generated which puts a force on a beam. The pull-down voltage is given by equation (9)

$$V_p = \sqrt{\frac{8kg_0^3}{27\epsilon_0 A}}$$

3.2 Eigen Frequency Analysis

In Eigen frequency analysis there are 6 modes of frequencies. The lowest frequency for which these stationary waves are formed is called fundamental harmonic. The modes of oscillation have different shapes for different frequencies. The Fundamental frequencies is given by

$$f_0 = 1.03 \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}} \frac{h}{L^2}$$

(Length) L = 50 μm

(Thickness) h = 2 μm

E=160x10⁹ Pa

ρ=2320 Kg/m³

$$f_0 = 1.03 [160 \times 10^9 / 2320]^2 \times 2 \times 10^{-6} / (50 \times 10^{-6})^2 = 6.84 \text{ MHz}$$

But the simulated frequency is 7.09 MHz.

TABLE 2. Properties of Material

Property	Value
Relative Permittivity	4.5
Density (ρ)	2320 kg/m ³
Young’s modulus (E)	160× 10 ⁹ Pa
Poisson’s Ratio	0.22

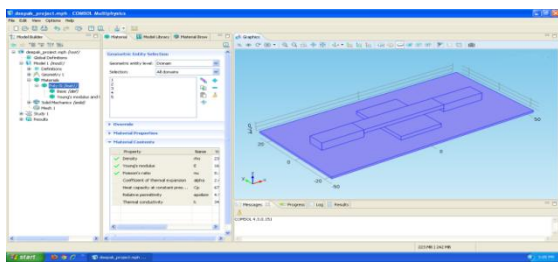


Fig. 2. Design of Resonator

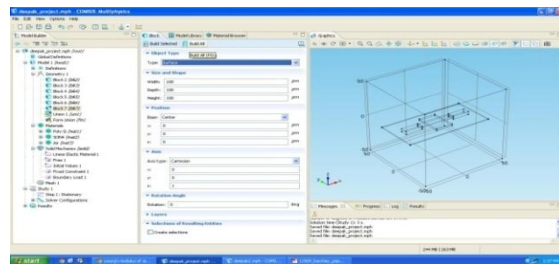


Fig. 3. Model Introduce in Air Dielectric

3.3 Analysis using COMSOL Multiphysics

For Eigen frequency analysis, the physics included for the analysis were Electrostatic (es), Solid Mechanics (solid) and study included for the analysis were Eigen Frequency Analysis. The figure shows a simulation results for all modes.

Fig. 4. shows Resonator Beam oscillates Sinusoidal having maximum displacement in middle.

Fig. 5. shows 1st half of the resonator beam oscillates sinusoidal and 2nd half oscillates opposite to the 1st.

Fig. 6. Shows 1st Front half of the resonator beam oscillates sinusoidal and 2nd Back half oscillates opposite to the 1st.

Fig. 7. Shows only half part of the Resonator Beam oscillates Sinusoidal.

Fig. 8. Shows Resonator Beam oscillates sinusoidal in 3 parts .1st and 2nd oscillates opposite to the 2nd part.

Fig. 9. Shows 1st half of the resonator beam oscillates same as mode 2 and 2nd half oscillates opposite to the 1st.

TABLE 3. Frequencies of different mode

Modes	Frequency
Mode 1	7.09 MHz
Mode 2	30.08 MHz
Mode 3	34.37 MHz
Mode 4	35.63 MHz
Mode 5	59.16 MHz
Mode 6	71.55 MHz

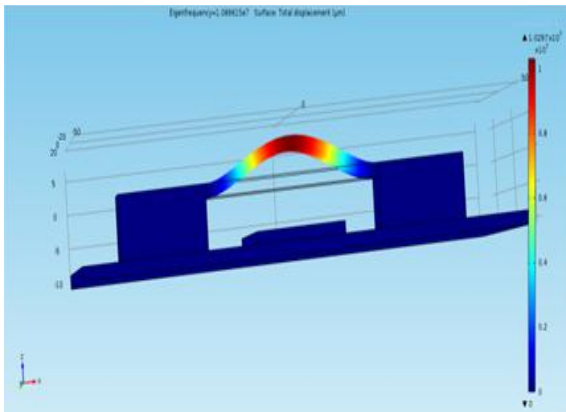


Fig. 4. Mode 1, $f_0=7.09$ MHz

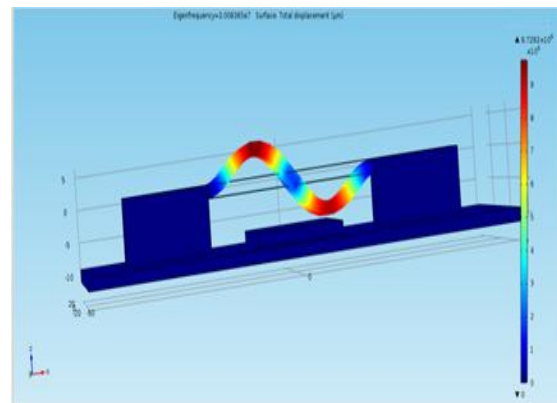


Fig. 5. Mode 2, $f_0=30.08$ MHz

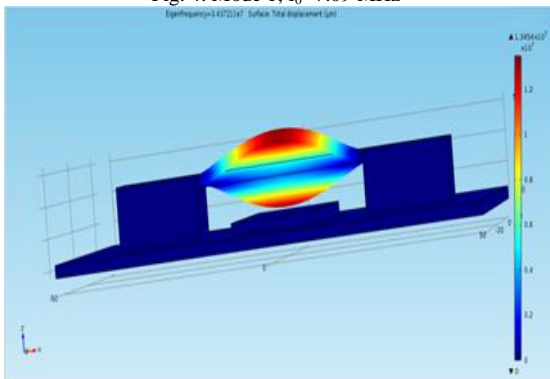


Fig. 6. Mode 3, $f_0=34.37$ MHz

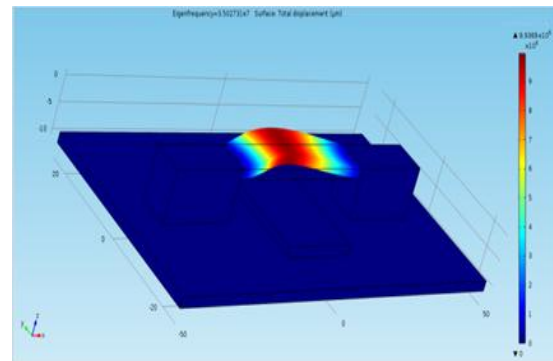


Fig. 7. Mode 4, $f_0=35.03$ MHz

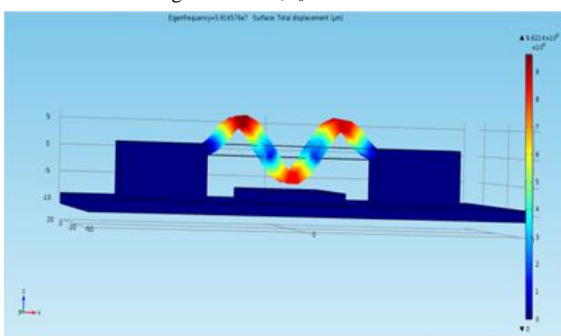


Fig. 8. Mode 5, $f_0=59.16$ MHz

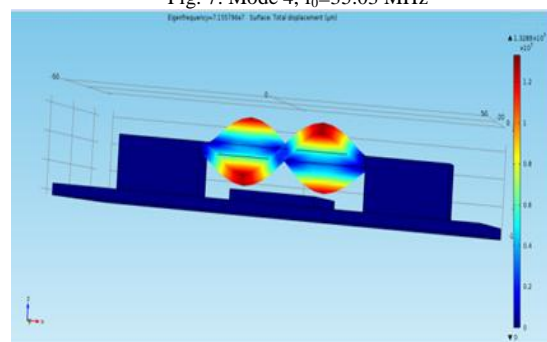


Fig. 9. Mode 6, $f_0=71.55$ MHz

IV. CONCLUSION

In simulation, we analyzed the Eigen frequencies of fixed-fixed resonator beam. There are six possible modes of frequencies. 1st mode has fundamental frequency 7.09 MHz, also we get different modes with higher frequencies. This method is not limited to fixed-fixed MEMS resonator, this analysis can also be done in other models of MEMS Resonator. Poly-silicon MEMS resonators have been demonstrated up to 71.55 MHz frequencies

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