INF5490 RF MEMS

LN03: Modeling, design and analysis

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Today's lecture

- Operating principles for MEMS components
 - Transducer principles
 - Sensor principles
- Methods for RF MEMS modeling
 - 1. Simple mathematical modeling
 - 2. Converting to electrical equivalents
 - (3. Analyzing using Finite Element Methods)
 - → LN04

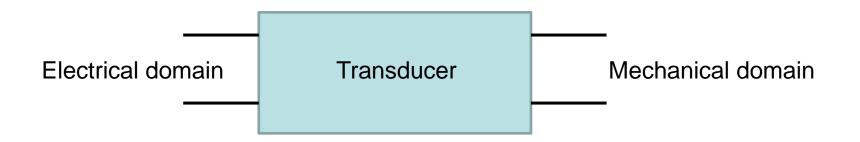
References

- In addition to the course book (Varadan et al):
- For additional reading ("cursory"):
- Senturia, Microsystem design, Kluwer 2002
- Course EE 5349/4328 (University of Texas at Arlington)
 - "Fundamental MEMS, an Introduction to Microelectromechanical Systems (MEMS)"
 - <u>http://arri.uta.edu/acs/jmireles/MEMSclass/lecture12.pdf</u>

(RF) MEMS transducers

Electromechanical transducers

− Transforming electrical energy ← → mechanical energy



(RF) MEMS transducers

- Electromechanical transducers
 - Transforming
 electrical energy <> mechanical energy
- Basic transducer principles
 - Electrostatic
 - Electromagnetic
 - Electro thermal
 - Piezoelectric

Transducer principles

• Electrostatic transducers

- Principle: force exists between electric charges
 - "Coulombs law"
- Implemented by using a capacitor with movable "plates"
 - Vertical movement: parallel plates
 - Horizontal movement: comb structures

dielectric permitivity

→Stored energy when mechanical work is performed on the unit can be converted to electrical energy

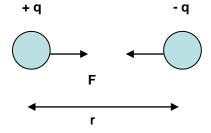
→Stored energy when electrical work is performed on the unit can be converted to mechanical energy

Simple mathematical modeling

- Important equations for many RF MEMS components:
 - \rightarrow Parallel plate capacitor!
 - Study electrostatic actuation of the capacitor with one plate suspended by a spring
 - Calculate "pull-in"
 - Formulas and figures \rightarrow

Electrostatics

Electric force between charges: Coulombs law



$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$$

Electric field = force pr. unit charge $\overline{E} = \frac{\overline{F}}{q_0}$

Work done by a force = change in potential energy

$$W_{a\to b} = \int_{a}^{b} \overline{F} \cdot d\overline{l} = U_{a} - U_{b}$$

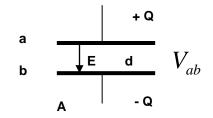
Potential, V = potential energy pr. unit charge

$$V = \frac{U}{q_0}$$

Voltage = potential difference

$$V_a - V_b = \int_a^b \overline{E} \cdot d\overline{l}$$

Capacitance



Definition of capacitance

$$C = \frac{Q}{V_{ab}}$$

Surface charge density = σ

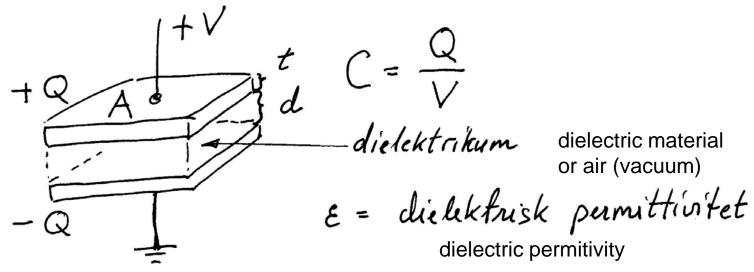
Voltage

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{\varepsilon_0} = \frac{Q}{A} \cdot \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0} \qquad \qquad V_{ab} = E \cdot d = \frac{Q}{A\varepsilon_0} \cdot d$$
$$C = \frac{Q}{V_{ab}} = \varepsilon_0 \frac{A}{d}$$

Energy stored in a capacitor, C, that is charged to a voltage V₀ at a current $i = \dot{Q} = C \frac{dV}{dt}$

$$U = \int v \cdot i \cdot dt = \int v \cdot C \frac{dv}{dt} \cdot dt = C \int_{0}^{V_{0}} v \cdot dv = \frac{1}{2} C V_{0}^{2} = \frac{\varepsilon_{0} A}{2d} V_{0}^{2}$$

Parallel plate capacitor



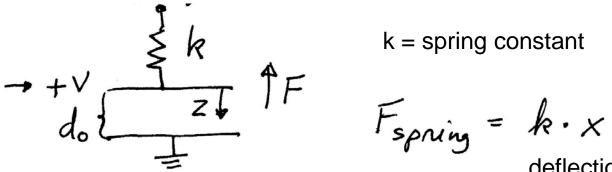
Attractive force between plates

$$F = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial d} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial d} \left(\frac{\varepsilon A}{2d}V^2\right) = \frac{\varepsilon A V^2}{2d^2}$$

Movable capacitor plate

- Assumptions for calculations:
 - Suppose air between plates
 - Spring attached to upper plate
 - Spring constant: k
 - Spring force!
 - Voltage is turned on
 - Electrostatic attraction
 - Electrostatic force!
 - At equilibrium
 - Forces up and forces down are in balance \rightarrow

Force balance



deflection from start position

d0 = gap at 0V and zero spring strain d = d0 - zz=d0 - d

Force on upper plate with voltage V and distance d:

$$F_{nef} = -\frac{\varepsilon A V^2}{2 d^2} + k (d_0 - d) = 0 \text{ at equilibrium}$$

Two equilibrium positions

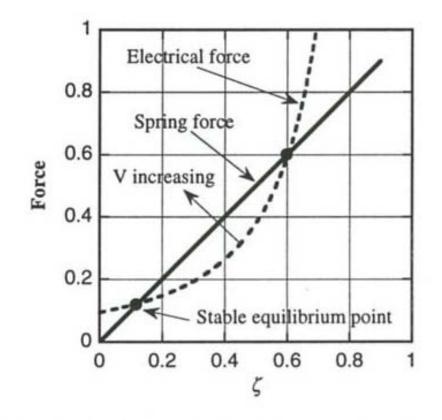


Figure 6.7. Electrical and spring forces for the voltage-controlled parallel-plate electrostatic actuator, plotted for $V/V_{PI} = 0.8$.

$$\varsigma = 1 - d/d0$$
 Senturia

Stability

- How the forces develop when d decreases
 - Suppose a small perturbation in the gap at constant voltage

$$\begin{aligned} SF_{net} &= \frac{\partial F_{net}}{\partial d} \Big| \cdot Sd \\ V \\ SF_{net} &= \left(\frac{\varepsilon AV^2}{d^3} - k\right) Sd \end{aligned}$$

Suppose the gap decreases

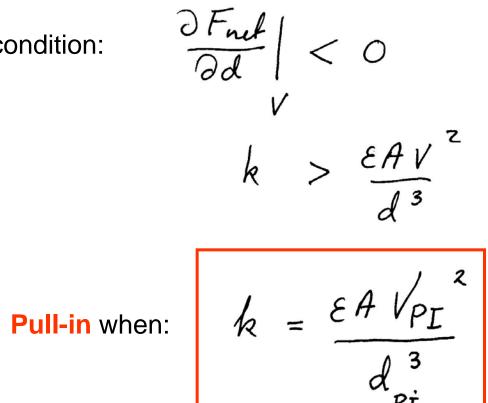
Sd < 0

If the upward force also deceases, the system is **UNSTABLE!**

SFnel < 0

Stability, contd.

Stability condition:



Pull-in

 $\frac{F_{net}}{\frac{EAV_{PI}}{2d_{PI}^{2}}} = k \left(d_{o} - d_{PI} \right)$ $\int_{=}^{1} \frac{EAV_{PI}^{2}}{d_{PI}^{3}}$ Frit = 0 $d_{PI} = \frac{2}{3} d_o$ 8 k do 3 Ξ ◄

Pull-in when:

Pull-in

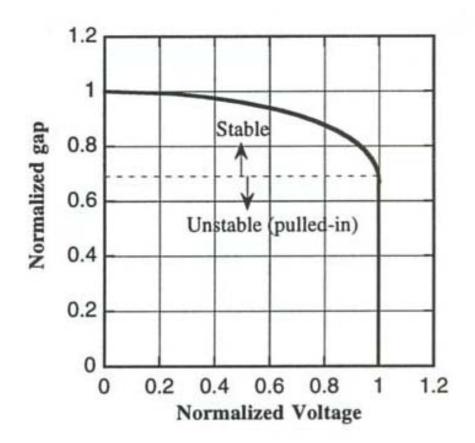


Figure 6.8. Normalized gap as a function of normalized voltage for the electrostatic actuator.

Senturia

Electrostatic transducers: summary

- + <u>Simple</u> principle and fabrication
- + Actuation (movement) controlled by voltage
 - voltage \rightarrow charges \rightarrow attractive force \rightarrow movement
- + Movement gives current
 - movement → variable capacitor → current when voltage is constant: Q = V C and i = dQ/dt = V dC/dt
- ÷ Need environmental protection (dust)
 - Packaging required (vacuum)
- ÷ Transduction mechanism is non-linear
 - ... for variation of **distance** between plates ...
 - Force is not proportional to voltage
 - Solution: small signal variations around a DC voltage
- The most used form of electromechanical energy conversion

(RF) MEMS transducers

- Electromechanical transducers
 - − Transforming
 electrical energy ← → mechanical energy
- Basic transducer principles
 - Electrostatic
 - Electromagnetic
 - Electro thermal
 - Piezoelectric

Transducer principles, contd.

• Electromagnetic transducers

- Magnetic windings pull the element
- ÷ More <u>complicated</u> processes

• Electro thermal actuators

- Different thermal expansion due to temperature gradients
 - Different materials
 - Each with its: TCE Thermal Coefficient of Expansion
 - Different locations
- Large deflections can be obtained
- Slow!

Transducer principles, contd.

• Piezoelectric transducers

- In some anisotropic crystalline materials the charges will be displaced when stressed → electric field
 - stress = "mechanical stress" (Norw: "mekanisk spenning)
- Similarly, strain results when an electric field is applied (relative shrinking or prolongation of unit)
 - strain = "mechanical strain" (Norw: "mekanisk tøyning")

- Ex. PZT (lead zirconate titanates) - ceramic material

- (<u>Electrostrictive</u> transducers
 - Mechanical deformation by electric field
- <u>Magnetostrictive</u> transducers
 - Deformation by magnetic field)

Comparing different transducer principles

Actuator	Fractional stroke (%)	Maximum energy density (J cm ⁻³)	Efficiency	Speed
Electrostatic	32	0.004	High	Fast
Electromagnetic	50	0.025	Low	Fast
Piezoelectric	0.2	0.035	High	Fast
Magnetostrictive	0.2	0.07	Low	Fast
Electrostrictive	4	0.032	High	Fast
Thermal	50	25.5	Low	Slow

 Table 1.4
 Comparison of electromechanical transducers

Source: Wood, Burdess and Hariss, 1996.

Sensor principles

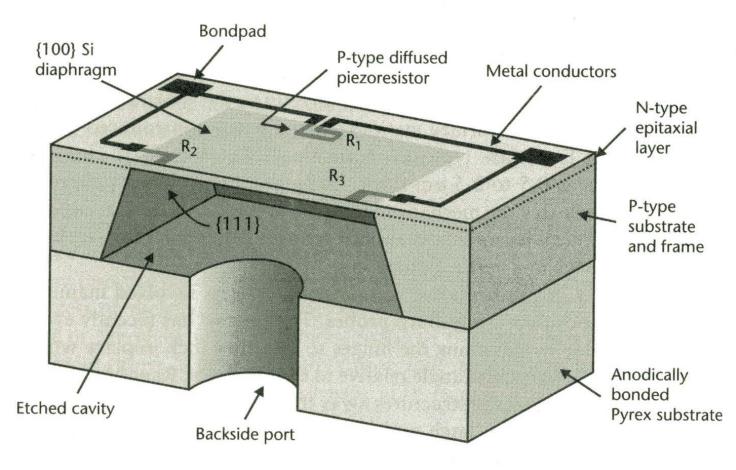
- Transducers can be used as <u>sensors</u>
 - Piezo<u>resistive</u> detection
 - Capacitive detection
 - Piezoelectric detection
 - Resonance detection

Sensor principles

Piezoresistive detection

- Resistance varies due to external pressure/stress
- Resistor value is proportional to strain ("tøyning")
- Piezoresistors placed on membrane where strain is maximum
 - At the peripheries
- Used in pressure sensors
 - Deflection of membrane influences R values
- + Simple principle
- ÷ Performance of piezoresistive micro sensors is temperature dependent

Pressure sensor



Sensor principles, contd.

Capacitive detection

- Exploiting capacitance variations
- Pressure \rightarrow change in C \rightarrow electric signal
 - Can influence oscillation frequency, charge or voltage
- Potentially higher performance than piezoresistive detection
 - + Better sensitivity
 - + Can detect <u>small</u> pressure variations
 - + High stability

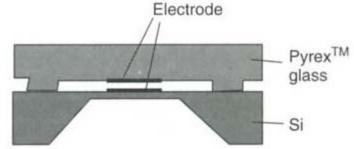


Figure 1.19 Capacitive sensing structure

Sensor principles, contd.

Piezoelectric detection

- Electric <u>charge distribution</u> changed due to external force → electric field → current
- Resonance detection
 - Using resonating structures
 - Analogy: stress variation on a string gives strain and is changing the "natural" resonance frequency

Methods for modeling RF MEMS

• 1. Simple mathematical modeling

- Ex. As explained for the parallel plate capacitor
- Use equations, formulas describing the physical phenomena
 - Simplification, approximations necessary
 - a) <u>Explicit</u> solutions for simple problems
 - Linearization around a bias point
 - b) Numerical solution of a set of equations
 - Typical: differential equations
- + Gives the designer insight/ understanding
 - How the performance changes by parameter variations
 - May be used for initial estimates

Methods for modeling RF MEMS

- 1. Simple mathematical modeling
- 2. Converting to electrical equivalents
- 3. Analysis using Finite Element Methods

A mechanical system can be modeled as an electrical circuit

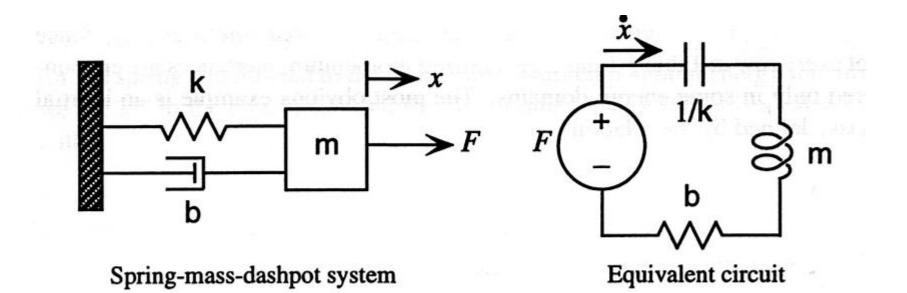


Figure 5.9. Translating mechanical to electrical representations.

C=1/k L=m R=b

2. Converting to electrical equivalents

- Mechanical behavior can be modeled using electrical circuit elements
 - Mechanical structure → simplifications → equivalent electrical circuit
 - ex. spring/mass/damper system \rightarrow R, C, L -equivalent
 - Then: Possible to "interconnect" electrical and mechanical energy domains
 - Simplified modeling and <u>co-simulation</u> of electronic and mechanical parts of the system
 - Proper analysis-tools can be used
 - Ex. SPICE

Converting to electrical equivalents, contd.

- We will discuss:
 - Relevant circuit theory
 - Conversion principles
 - effort flow
 - Example of conversion
 - Mechanical resonator
 - In a future lecture:
 - Co-existence and coupling between various energy domains

Circuit theory

- Basic circuit elements: R, C, L
- Current and voltage equations for basic elements (low frequency)
 - Ohms law, C and L-equations
 - V = RI, I = C dV/dt, V = L dI/dt
 - Laplace transformation
 - From differential equations to algebraic (s-polynomial)
 - → Complex impedances: R, 1/sC, sL
- Kirchhoffs equations
 - Σ currents into nodes = 0, Σ voltages in loops = 0

Effort - flow

- Electrical circuits are described by a set of variables: conjugate power variables
 - Voltage V: across or effort variable
 - Current I: through or flow variable
 - An effort variable drives a flow variable through an impedance, Z
- Circuit element is modeled as a 1-port with terminals

- Same current (f = flow) in and out and through the element
 - **Positive flow** into a terminal defining a **positive effort**

Energy-domains, analogies

- Various energy domains exist

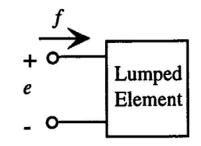
 Electric, mechanical/elastic, thermal, for liquids etc.
- For every energy domain it is possible to define a set of conjugate power variables that may be used as basis for <u>lumped</u> component modeling using <u>equivalent</u> circuits elements
- Table 5.1 Senturia ->

Ex. of conjugate power variables

TRACTOR STR. 3	MENOY AND DOD	s sangasi noose	VIND N.S.D	Displacement
Energy Domain	Effort	Flow	Momentum	Displacemen
Mechanical	Force	Velocity	Momentum	Position
translation	F	\dot{x}, v	p	x .
Fixed-axis	Torque	Angular	Angular	Angle
rotation	τ	velocity	momentum	θ
collar ref.		ω	J	
Electric	Voltage	Current		Charge
circuits	V, v	I, i.		Q
Magnetic	Magnetomotive	Flux rate	nio moi spito -	Flux
circuits	force	ė		ϕ
Wening veice -	MMF	CLASS STREET, C.		a par los de re
Incompressible	Pressure	Volumetric flow	Pressure	Volume
fluid flow	Р	Q	momentum	V
Address and the second	Date of the spectrum of	e lingund minus (m.	red P ressure	
Thermal	Temperature	Entropy flow rate	nen ganeng aren nu a satisti ut and	Entropy
ran contration (contration) data data	`T	Ś		S

Conjugate power variables: e,f

- Properties
 - e * f = power
 - e / f = impedance



• Generalized **displacement** represents the state, f. ex. position or charge

$$f(t) = \dot{q}(t) \qquad q(t) = \int_{t_0}^t f(t)dt + q(t_0)$$

e * a = energy

Generalized momentum

$$p(t) = \int_{t_0}^t e(t)dt + p(t_0)$$

– Mechanics: "impulse"

Ex.: Mechanical energy domain

$$e = F (knaft) force$$

$$f = v, \dot{x} (hashight) velocity$$

$$g = x (posisjon) = \int \dot{x} dt position$$

$$P = P (momentum) = \int F dt momentum (knaft x hid) force x time$$

$$e \not q \rightarrow F \cdot \dot{x} = \frac{F \Delta x}{\Delta t} = \frac{a r b u d}{t r d} = e f f e h t \quad work/time = power$$

$$e \cdot q \rightarrow F \cdot x = knaft x vu' = an buid = energi force*distance = work = energy$$

$$p \cdot f \rightarrow p \cdot \dot{x} = m v \cdot v - m v^2 = energi energy$$

Ex.: Electrical energy domain

$$e = V (spenning) voltage$$

$$f = I (strom) current$$

$$q = \int I dt = Q (ladning) charge$$

$$p = m.q.$$

$$e \cdot f \rightarrow V \cdot I = effect power$$

$e \rightarrow V$ - convention

Senturia and Tilmans use the e→V –convention

- Ex. electrical and mechanical circuits
 - $-e \rightarrow V$ (voltage) equivalent to F (force)
 - $f \rightarrow I$ (current) equivalent to v (velocity)
 - $-q \rightarrow Q$ (charge) equivalent to x (position)
 - e * f = "power" injected into the element

H. Tilmans, Equivalent circuit representation of electromagnetical transducers:

I. Lumped-parameter systems, J. Micromech. Microeng., Vol. 6, pp 157-176, 1996

Other conventions

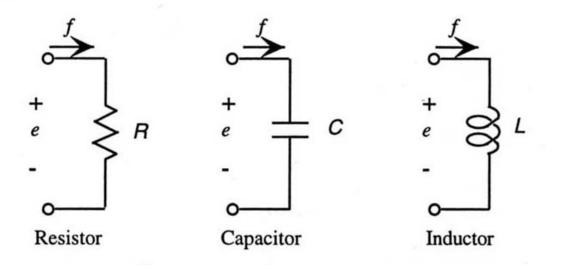
 Different conventions exist for defining throughor across-variables

Convention Across Variable		Through Variable	Product	Principal Use	
$e \rightarrow V$	*	e	f	power	electric circuit elements
$f \rightarrow V$ alternative f		е	power	mechanical circuit elements	
Thermal		Т	Ż	Watt-Kelvin	thermal circuits
HDL		q	e	energy	HDL circuit representation of mechanical elements

Table 5.2. Different conventions for assigning circuit variables.

Generalized circuit elements

- One-port circuit elements
 - R, dissipating element
 - C, L, energy-storing elements
 - Elements can have a general function!
 - Can be used in various energy domains



Generalized capacitance

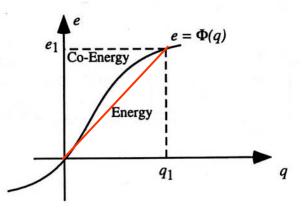
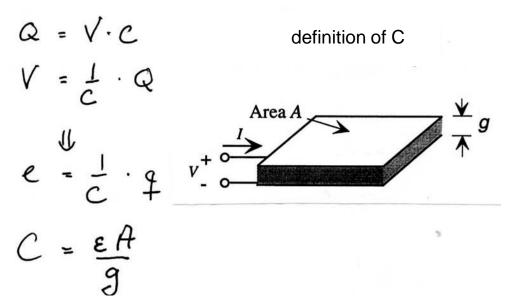


Figure 5.5. Illustrating energy and co-energy for a generalized capacitor.

Compare with a **simplified case**:

- a linear capacitor



Generalized capacitance, contd.

Capacitance is associated with stored potential energy

$$\mathcal{W}(q_{1}) = \int_{0}^{q_{1}} e \, dq = \int_{0}^{q_{1}} \Phi(q) \, dq \qquad (5.10)$$
Co-energy:

$$\mathcal{W}^{*}(e) = eq - \mathcal{W}(q) \qquad (5.11)$$

$$\mathcal{W}^{*}(e_{1}) = \int_{0}^{e_{1}} q \, de = \int_{0}^{e_{1}} \Phi^{-1}(e) \, de \qquad (5.12)$$

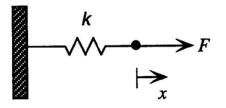
Energy stored in parallel plate capacitor

Energy:
$$W(Q) = \int_{0}^{Q} e \cdot dq = \int_{0}^{Q} \frac{q}{C} \cdot dq = \frac{Q^2}{2C}$$

Co-energy:
$$W^*(V) = \int_0^V q \cdot de = \int_0^V C \cdot v \cdot dv = \frac{CV^2}{2}$$

 $W^*(V) = W(Q)$ for linear capacitance

Mechanical spring



Hook's law: $F = k \cdot x$

Stored energy
$$W(x_1) = \int_0^{x_1} F(x) dx = \frac{1}{2} k x_1^2$$
 (5.18)

Compare with capacitor W(g

$$W(Q) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{C} \cdot Q^2$$

- *Q* displacementx1 displacement
- \rightarrow 1/C equivalent to k

"Compliance"

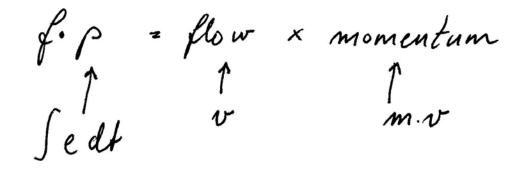
• "Compliance" = "inverse stiffness"

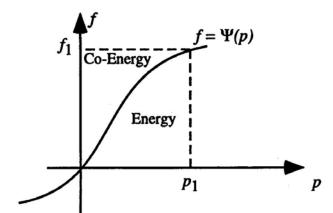
$$C_{spring} = \frac{1}{k}$$

- Stiff spring → small capacitor
- Soft spring → large capacitor

Generalized inductance

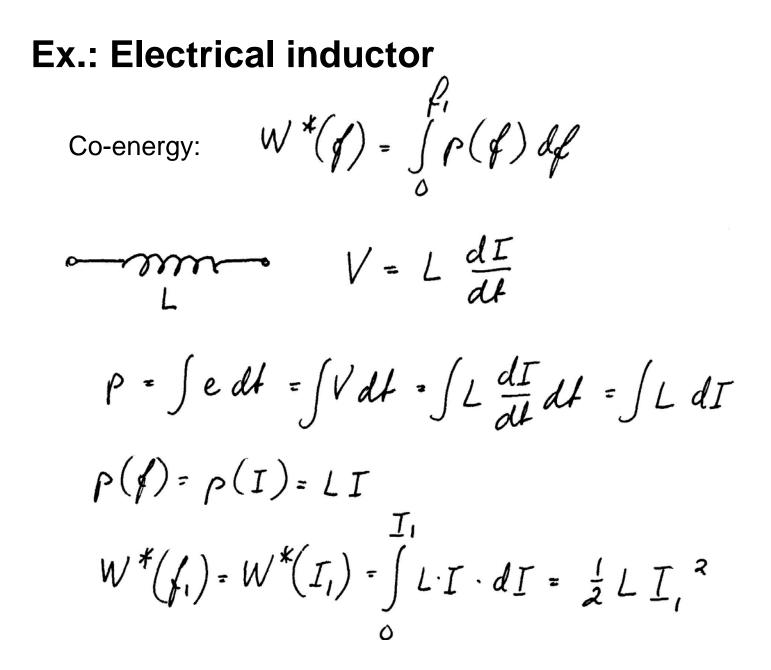
Energy also defined as:





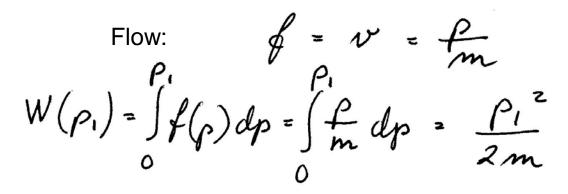
 $W(p_i) = \int_{0}^{p_i} f(p) dp$

Energy = stored kinetic energy



Analogy between mass (mechanical inertance) and inductance L

A mechanical system has **linear momentum**: p = mv



Co-energy:

$$W^{\ast}(v_{1}) = \int_{0}^{v_{1}} p(v) dv = \int_{0}^{v_{1}} (mv) dv = \frac{1}{2} m v_{1}^{2}$$

Analogy between m and L

$$W^{*}(f_{1}) = W^{*}(I_{1}) = \int_{0}^{I_{1}} L \cdot I \cdot dI = \frac{1}{2} L I_{1}^{2}$$
with: $W^{*}(v_{1}) = \frac{1}{2} m v_{1}^{2}$

Compare with:

· · ·

$$I_1 = flow$$
$$V_1 = -n -$$

L is equivalent to m

m = L inertance

Mechanical inertance = mass m is analog to inductance L

Interconnecting elements

- $e \rightarrow V$ follows two basic principles
 - Elements that share a common flow, and hence a common variation of displacement, are connected in series
 - Elements that share a common effort are connected in parallel

Ex. of interconnection:

"Direct transformation": series connection

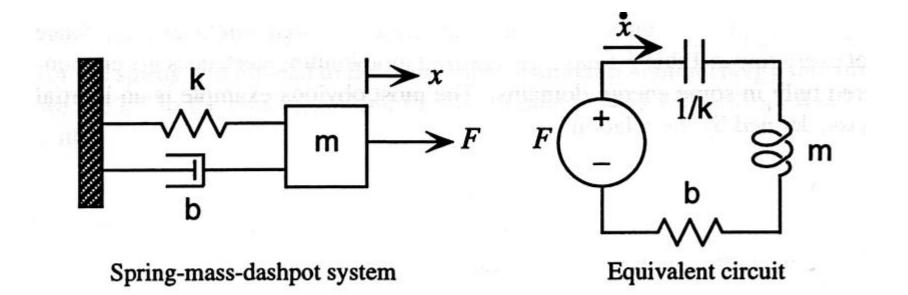
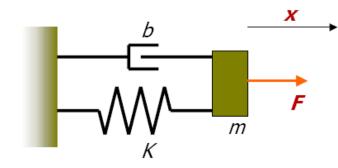


Figure 5.9. Translating mechanical to electrical representations.

Mechanical / Electrical Systems



 \mathbf{v}_{i}

Input : external force F Output : displacement x $m\ddot{x}(t) + b\dot{x}(t) + Kx(t) = F$ m mass, b damping, K stiffness Transfer function :

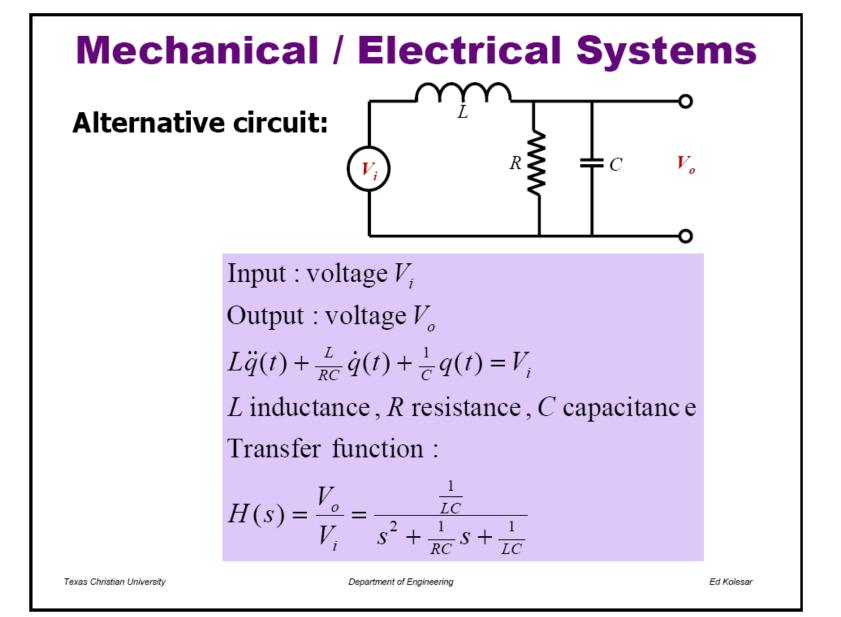
$$H(s) = \frac{x}{F} = \frac{\frac{1}{m}}{s^2 + \frac{b}{m}s + \frac{K}{m}}$$

Input : voltage V_i Output : voltage V_o $L\ddot{q}(t) + R\dot{q}(t) + \frac{1}{C}q(t) = V_i$ L induct., R resist., C capacit. Transfer function : $H(s) = \frac{V_o}{V_i} = \frac{\frac{1}{LC}}{s^2 + \frac{R}{L}s + \frac{1}{LC}}$

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Resonators

- Analogy between mechanical and electrical system:
 - Mass *m* inductivity *L*
 - Spring K capacitance C
 - Damping b resistance R (depending where R is placed in circuit)
- Solution to 2nd order differential equation:

$$H(s) = \frac{\omega_0^2}{s^2 + \frac{\omega_0}{Q}s + \omega_0^2}$$

$$\omega_0 = 2\pi f_0 \text{ natural frequency}$$

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{K}{m}} \text{ mechanical system, } \omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{LC}} \text{ electrical system}$$

Q quality factor

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System without damping (b=0, R=0)

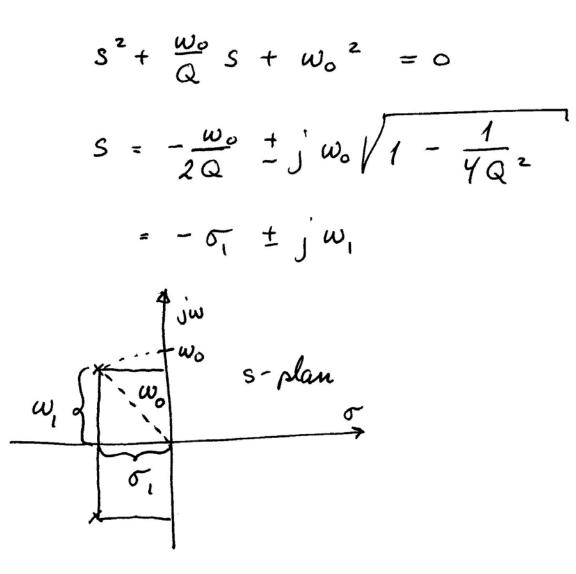
$$H(s) = \frac{w_0^2}{s^2 + w_0^2} = \frac{w_0^2}{(s + jw_0)(s - j'w_0)}$$

$$\frac{1}{s'j} \frac{1}{w_0} \frac{1}{s'j} \frac{1}{w_0} \frac{1}{s'j} \frac{1}{w_0} \frac{1}{s'j} \frac{1}{w_0} \frac{1}{s'j} \frac{1}{w_0} \frac{1}{s'j} \frac{1}{w_0} \frac{1}{s'j} \frac{1}{s'j}$$

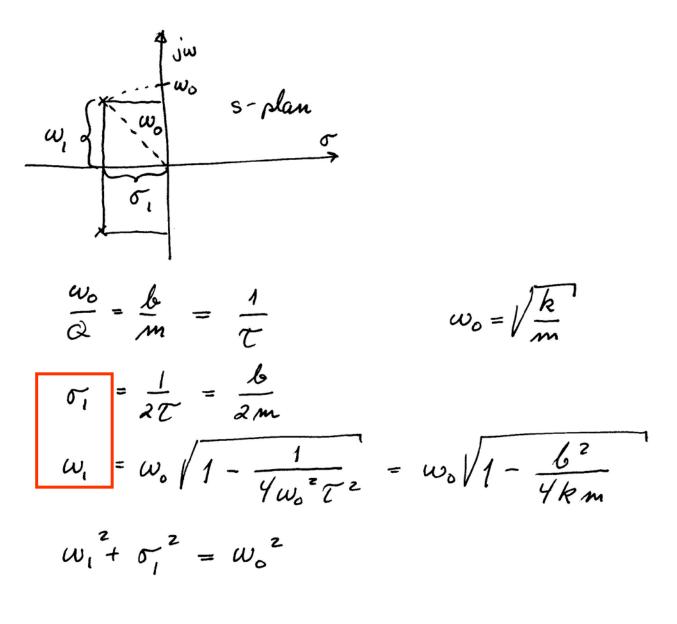
System without damping, contd.

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With damping



Damped system, contd.



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Mechanical Resonator

 Frequency and phase shift under damping:

• Energy dissipation:

$$x(t) = Ae^{-t/2\tau} \cos(\omega_1 t + \varphi)$$

$$\tau = \frac{m}{b} \text{ damping time}$$

$$\omega_1 = \omega_0 \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{4\omega_0^2 \tau^2}} = \omega_0 \sqrt{1 - \frac{b^2}{4Km}}$$

$$\varphi \text{ phase shift}$$

$$E(t) = E_0 e^{-t/\tau}$$

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What is the meaning of "damping time"?

$$T = damping hime$$

$$e^{-\frac{t}{2T}} = e^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{e^{1}}}$$

$$t = T$$

Power

$$\begin{aligned} & E \int_{z} fehhm \\ & |x(t)|^{2}| = \frac{1}{e} \\ & t = t \end{aligned}$$

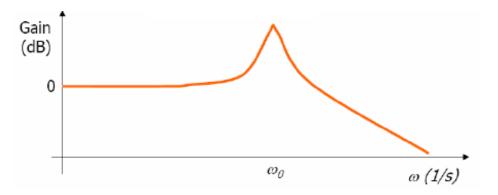
$$x(t) = A e^{-\frac{t}{2}t} \cos(w, t + \varphi)$$

$$x(o) = A \cdot \cos \varphi \qquad initial behing elses initial conditions$$

Q-factor and damping time

Generell häning General equation $s^2 + \frac{w_o}{0}s + w_o^2 = 0$ $\Rightarrow s^2 + \frac{1}{7}s + w_0^2 = 0$ $Q = w_o T$ $T = \frac{M}{b}$ mechanical $T = \frac{L}{R}$ elektrisk electrical $Q_{mek} = \frac{\omega_o m}{h}$ Qd= w.L.

Amplitude at resonance for forced vibrations



$$H(s) = \frac{\omega_0^2}{s^2 + \frac{\omega_0}{Q}s + \omega_0^2}$$

$$H(j\omega) = \frac{\omega_0^2}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2) + j \frac{\omega_0\omega_0}{Q}}$$

$$H(j\omega) = \frac{\omega_0^2}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2) + j \frac{\omega_0\omega_0}{Q}}$$

$$\left| H(jw_0) \right| = \left| \frac{w_0^2}{0 + j \frac{w_0^2}{Q}} \right| = Q$$