



Optimal Control of Electrostatically Actuated Micro-Plate Attached to the End of Microcantilever

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ABSTRACT: An optimal control is designed for damping the unwanted vibrations of an electrostatically actuated micro-system. The goal is using feasible methods to decrease the settling time and overshoot of the response. This configuration consists of an electro-statically actuated micro-plate attached to the end of a micro-cantilever. The DC voltage is applied between the micro-plate and the opposite electrode micro-plate. This DC voltage causes an electrostatic force. In this model micro-cantilever is considered as a continuous medium for which Euler-Bernoulli beam theory can be implemented. The plate is considered as a rigid body, and the electrostatic force is a nonlinear function of the displacement and the applied voltage underneath the micro-plate. The equation of motion is derived using Newton's second law. In order to extract the corresponding state space and control the system in a closed loop way, exact method is used to reduce related partial differential equation of the systems into a set of two ordinary differential equations and the resultant state space is linearized about the operating point. The linearized state space is then optimized using the linear-quadrant regulator. Efficiency and applicability of the mentioned controller is investigated using comparative analyzing method.

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1- Introduction

Sensors are used in many measurement devices and analog and digital control systems. Microsensors waste energy less than conventional ones and are more sensitive to input changes.

Since the mechanical vibrations usually results in destruction and weakening of the microsystems performance, reviewing the control methods to reduce these effects could be a useful study. Because of electrostatic force the actuator dynamic is nonlinear and open loop controllers are not effective. Therefore researchers try to find proper closed loop control methods toward damping the mentioned unwanted vibrations. In order to improve the operator performance, many researchers are trying to design digital systems with dual stability [1,2].

Nayfeh et al. [3,4] presented a comprehensive theoretical model of the clamped-clamped micro-beam under the nonlinear electrostatic actuation that included mid-plane stretching effect. They solved the equation of motion with numerical shooting and Galerkin method. Nayfeh et al [5] investigated natural frequency and static deflection of a gas sensor involving a microplate connected to a cantilever microbeam. Zamanian et al. [6] investigated natural frequency, static deflection and pull in voltage of a clamped-clamped microbeam with a \perp shaped part at the midpoint. Maithripala et al. [7] studied control methods for MEMS under electrostatic actuation. Static and vibration control of composite laminates integrated with piezoelectrics microbeam is performed by Liu [8]. Nayfeh et al. [9] delivered a control method for microbeam in. Yagasaki [10] investigated nonlinear dynamics and bifurcations of microcantilevers under external feedback control. Vatankhah

[11] used closed loop control to reduce the vibration of non-classical microcantilever beam. He used Galerkin method to solve the problem and also he verified his model performance by the aid of simulation. Pratiher [12] investigated the stability and bifurcation of a highly deformable microcantilever-based resonator which is electrostatically controlled. In this work theoretical and practical methods of controlling and optimization of the system are predicted.

2- Methodology

The model presented in Fig. 1 consists of a micro-cantilever in which the free end is connected to a \perp shaped body. The \perp shape body consists of two parts. A horizontal part which is a plate parallel to the micro-beam and a vertical part that connects the horizontal plate to the micro-beam end. It is assumed that the \perp part shows a rigid behavior. Here the cantilever beam is modeled as an Euler Bernoulli beam.

The mass of the \perp shape part is added to the end of the microbeam as a boundary condition and the system response is assumed as a free vibration. The effect of electrostatic force and moments are applied to equations as external disturbance. In order to damp the unwanted vibrations of the mentioned system two closed loop controlling strategies are employed. Pole placement is performed in the first method using state vector feedback strategy while the controller is then optimized in the second strategy using LQR method. Considering the Lyapunov stability condition, it is shown that the closed loop system is completely stable using the designed SVFC controller while the open loop system has some instability zones. On the other hand, the optimality of the system in which the states are controlled using the optimal controller of LQR is verified afterwards by the aid of some comparative simulations.

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