

Position-to-Voltage Conversion

UC Berkeley

• To sense position (i.e., displacement), use a capacitive load

Again, have port-to-port I/O symmetry:

Brute force approach:

$$\frac{N_o}{V_i}(s) = \frac{1}{R_x + \frac{1}{sC_x} + sL_x + \frac{1}{sC_D}}$$

$\frac{N_o}{V_i}(s) = \frac{sC_x}{sR_x C_x + 1 + s^2 L_x C_x + \frac{sC_x}{sC_D}} = \frac{C_x/C_D}{1 + C_x/C_D} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \frac{sR_x C_x}{1 + C_x/C_D} + s^2 \frac{L_x C_x}{1 + C_x/C_D}}$

$\omega_0^2 = \frac{1}{L_x C_x} \rightarrow (\omega_0)^2 = \omega_0^2 (1 + C_x/C_D)$
 $Q = \frac{\omega_0 L_x}{R_x} \rightarrow \frac{R_x}{L_x} = \frac{\omega_0^2}{Q^2}, Q = Q\sqrt{1 + C_x/C_D}$

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 14 C. Nguyen 11/18/08 6

Position-to-Voltage Conversion

UC Berkeley

• To sense position (i.e., displacement), use a capacitive load

$\frac{N_o}{V_i}(s) = \frac{C_x/C_D}{1 + C_x/C_D} \frac{(\omega_0)^2}{s^2 + \frac{(\omega_0)^2}{Q^2}s + (\omega_0)^2}$

DC Gain Term Low-Pass Biquad

To maximize gain $\rightarrow 1$, need $C_D \ll C_x$. (must minimize C_D)

Note: Can we similar short-cut to the R case.

- Get DC response $\rightarrow C$'s dominate.
- Then:

$\frac{N_o}{V_i}(s) = (\text{DC Gain}) \cdot \frac{1}{s} \cdot \text{LP}(s, \omega_0, Q) \cdot \omega_0^2 Q'$

Voltage Representing Position

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 14 C. Nguyen 11/18/08 7

Position Sensing Circuits

UC Berkeley

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 14 C. Nguyen 11/18/08 13

Problems With Pure-C Position Sensing

UC Berkeley

• To sense position (i.e., displacement), use a capacitive load

$\frac{N_o}{V_i}(s) = \frac{C_x/C_D}{1 + C_x/C_D} \cdot \frac{1}{s} \cdot \text{LP}(s, \omega_0, Q) \cdot \omega_0^2 Q'$

Integration yields displacement.

To maximize gain, minimize C_D .

\Rightarrow Problem: parasitic capacitance

$C_D \rightarrow C_D + C_{pi} + C_{pb}$

\Rightarrow DC Gain: $\frac{C_x / (C_D + C_{pi} + C_{pb})}{1 + C_x / (C_D + C_{pi} + C_{pb})}$

Output will get smaller!

Remedy: Suppress C_p Via use of op amps.

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 14 C. Nguyen 11/18/08 14

The Op Amp Integrator Advantage

• The virtual ground provided by the ideal op amp eliminates the parasitic capacitance C_p

$N_o = -i_o (R_2 \parallel \frac{1}{sC_2})$ well defined + good!

$i_o \approx -\frac{N_i}{R_x} \frac{1}{sC_2} \Rightarrow \frac{N_o}{N_i}(s) = -\frac{1}{R_x C_2} \frac{1}{s}$ Can drive next stages R_i w/o interference to transfer function!

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 14 C. Nguyen 11/18/08 15

Differential Position Sensing

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 14 C. Nguyen 11/18/08 16

Differential Position Sensing

• Example: ADXL-50

Proof Mass

Sense Finger

Tethers with fixed ends

Applied Acceleration

Fixed Electrodes

Suspension Beam in Tension

Capacitive divider

$V_0 = -V_p + (2V_p) \frac{C_1}{C_1 + C_2}$

$= -V_p \frac{C_1 - C_2}{C_1 + C_2} + 2V_p \frac{C_1}{C_1 + C_2}$

$V_0 = V_p \frac{C_1 - C_2}{C_1 + C_2}$ (ideal)

Ignore parasitic C_p !

$V_0 = \left(\frac{C_1 - C_2}{C_1 + C_2 + C_p} \right) V_p$ Solves use an op amp! low gain! problem!!!

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 14 C. Nguyen 11/18/08 17

Buffer-Bootstrapped Position Sensing

Includes capacitance from interconnects, bond pads, and C_{gs} of the op amp

Unity Gain Buffer

C_{gd} = gate-to-drain capacitance of the input MOS transistor

• Bootstrap the ground lines around the interconnect and bond pads

• No voltage across C_p

• It's effectively not there!

Interconnect

Ground Plane

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 14 C. Nguyen 11/18/08 18

Effect of Finite Op Amp Gain

Total ADXL-50 Sense $C \sim 100\text{fF}$

Unity Gain Buffer

$N_o = A_o(N_i - N_-) = A_o(N_i - N_o) \rightarrow N_o(1 + A_o) = A_o N_i \rightarrow \frac{N_o}{N_i} = \frac{A_o}{1 + A_o}$
 Get $Z_i = \frac{V_i}{i_i}$: $i_i = (N_i - N_o) s C_p = N_i \left(1 - \frac{A_o}{1 + A_o}\right) s C_p = N_i \frac{1}{1 + A_o} s C_p$
 $\therefore \frac{N_i}{i_i} = Z_i = \frac{1}{s \left(\frac{C_p}{1 + A_o}\right)} \rightarrow C_{\text{eff}} = \frac{C_p}{1 + A_o}$
 No longer zero!
 Ex: $A_o = 100, C_p = 2\text{pF} \Rightarrow C_{\text{eff}} = \frac{2\text{pF}}{101} = 20\text{fF}$
 Not negligible compared w/ ADXL-50 $C_{\text{tot}} \sim 100\text{fF}$!

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 14 C. Nguyen 11/18/08 19

Integrator-Based Diff. Position Sensing

$i_o = i_1 + i_2 = N_p(sC_1) - N_p(sC_2) = V_p s(C_1 - C_2)$
 $\therefore N_o = -i_o \left(\frac{1}{sC_F}\right) = -N_p \left(\frac{C_1 - C_2}{C_F}\right)$
 $\frac{N_o}{V_p} = -\frac{C_1 - C_2}{C_F} \Rightarrow$ A seemingly perfect differential sensor/amplifier output! ... but only when the op amp is ideal...

$R_2 \gg \frac{1}{sC_2}$ (for biasing)
 $R_o = 0\Omega$
 Can drive next stage's R_i w/o interference to transfer function!

EE C245: Introduction to MEMS Design LecM 14 C. Nguyen 11/18/08 20