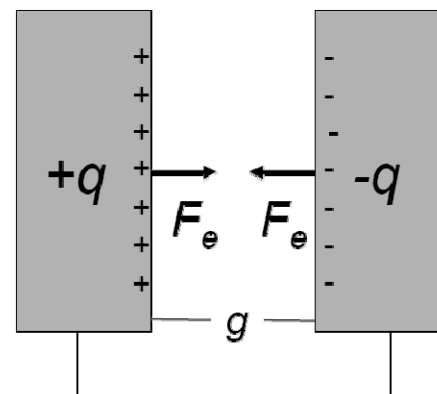


**EE 245: Introduction to MEMS****Lecture 21: Capacitive Transducers**• **Announcements:**• **Lecture schedule for the next 3 weeks:**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 Lecture 5-6:30 241 Cory	10 Lecture 3:30-5 Moffitt	11	15 Lecture 3:30-5 Moffitt	13
16 Discuss 3:30-5 241 Cory	17	18	19	20
23 Lecture 5-6:30 241 Cory	24 Lecture 3:30-5 Moffitt	25	26	27

• **Reading:** Senturia, Chpt. 5, Chpt. 6• **Lecture Topics:**

- ↪ **Energy Conserving Transducers**
  - Charge Control
  - Voltage Control
- ↪ **Parallel-Plate Capacitive Transducers**
  - Linearizing Capacitive Actuators
  - Electrical Stiffness
- ↪ **Electrostatic Comb-Drive**
  - 1st Order Analysis
  - 2nd Order Analysis

• **Last Time:**Charge-Control Case

from  $dW = Vdq + F_e dg$ :

⇒ Force is given by:

$$F_e = \left. \frac{\partial W(q, g)}{\partial g} \right|_{q: \text{const.}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial g} \left( \frac{1}{2} \frac{q^2}{\epsilon A} g \right)$$

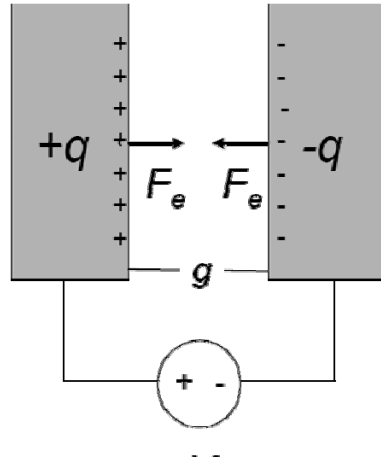
$$\therefore \boxed{F_e = \frac{1}{2} \frac{q^2}{\epsilon A}} \Rightarrow \text{independent of gap space!}$$

⇒ Voltage is given by

$$V = \left. \frac{\partial W(q, g)}{\partial q} \right|_{g: \text{const.}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial q} \left( \frac{1}{2} \frac{q^2}{\epsilon A} g \right) = \frac{qg}{\epsilon A}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{V = \frac{q}{C}} \quad \checkmark$$

**Voltage Control**



Want to write  $F_e = f(V)$ .  
How can we do this?  
Well, we have this:  
 $dW = Vdq + F_e dg$   
 $W = W(q, g)$   
Want work  
Need  $W'(V, g)$ .  
To get this, do a Legendre transformation.

Effort (e.g., force, voltage, ...)  
 $e$

Displacement (e.g., displacement, charge, ...)  
 $q$

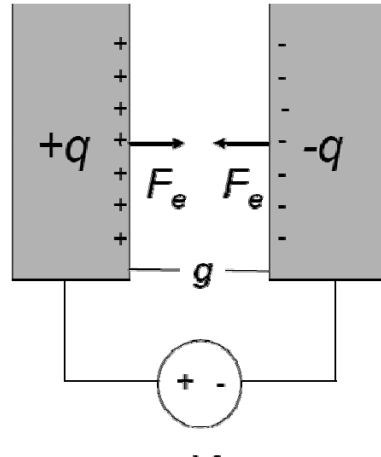
Energy:  $W(q) = \int_0^q e dq = \int_0^q \Phi(q) dq$

Co-Energy:  
 $W'(e) = \int_0^e q de = \int_0^e \Phi'(e) de$

$\Rightarrow$  Can define co-energy as:  
 $W'(e) = eq - W(q)$

For a linear system, flux will be equal. \*

**Co-Energy Formulation**



$\Rightarrow W'(V, g) = qV - W(q, g)$   
Differentially, this becomes:  
 $dW'(V, g) = (q dV + V dq) - dW(q, g)$   
[But:  $dW(q, g) = F_e dg + V dq$ ]  
 $dW'(V, g) = q dV - F_e dg$  ← Working co-energy expression!

Find co-energy in terms of voltage  $V$ :  
 $W' = \int_0^V q(g, V') dV' = \int_0^V \left( \frac{\epsilon A}{g} \right) V' dV' = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\epsilon A}{g} \right) V^2$   
 $= \frac{1}{2} CV^2$   
(as expected)

Electrostatic (a voltage-controlled) Force:

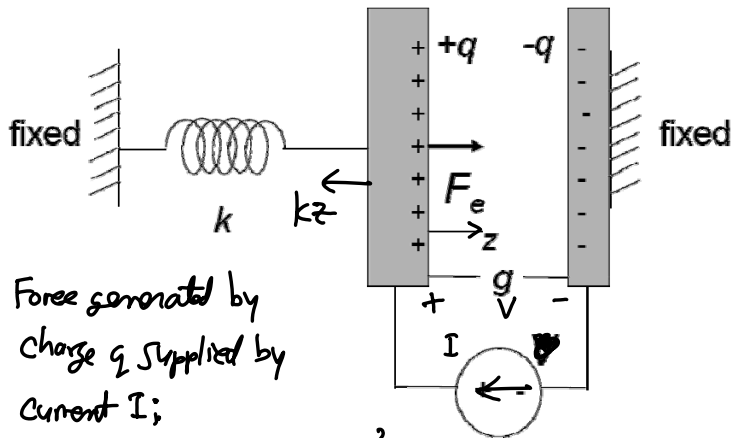
$$F_e = - \frac{\partial W'(V, g)}{\partial g} \bigg|_{V=\text{const}} = - \frac{1}{2} \left( - \frac{\epsilon A}{g^2} \right) V^2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\epsilon A}{g} V^2$$

↑  
depends on gap!

Charge:

$$q = \frac{\partial W'(V, g)}{\partial V} \bigg|_{g=\text{const}} = \frac{\epsilon A}{g} V = CV \text{ (as expected)}$$

Charge-Control of a Spring-Suspended C



Force generated by  
charge  $q$  supplied by  
current  $I$ ;

$$F_e = \frac{\partial W(q, g)}{\partial g} \bigg|_q = \frac{q^2}{2\epsilon A}$$

Restoring force of spring,  $F_{\text{spring}} = kz = F_e$   
↑  
equilibrium

The gap:

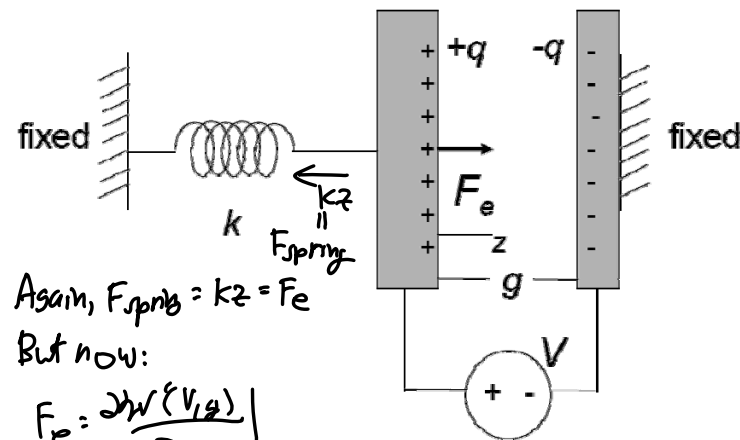
$$g = g_0 - z = g_0 - \frac{F_e}{k} = \boxed{g_0 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{q^2}{\epsilon A k} = g}$$

↑  
initial gap

↘  $q \uparrow$  can drive  $g \rightarrow 0$

$$V = \frac{q}{C} = \frac{q}{\epsilon A} g = \left( \frac{q}{\epsilon A} \left( g_0 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{q^2}{\epsilon A k} \right) \right) = V \Rightarrow V \downarrow \text{ as } g \downarrow$$

Voltage-Control of a Spring-Suspended C



Again,  $F_{\text{spring}} = kz = F_e$

But now:

$$F_e = \frac{\partial W'(V, g)}{\partial g} \bigg|_V$$

$$F_e = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\epsilon A}{g^2} V^2$$

And the gap:

$$g = g_0 - z = g_0 - \frac{F_e}{k} = \boxed{g_0 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\epsilon A}{k} \frac{V^2}{g^2} = g}$$

*g shows up on both sides!*

*If  $V \uparrow \rightarrow g \downarrow \rightarrow F_e \uparrow$*

*(+) Feedback!*

*If loop gain  $> 1$ , then this  
will go unstable!*

Charge: (for a stable gap)

$$q = \left. \frac{\partial W'(V, g)}{\partial V} \right|_g = CV \quad \checkmark$$

Stability Analysis

⇒ determine under what conditions voltage-control will cause collapse of the plates...

$$F_{\text{net}} = F_e - F_{\text{spring}} = \underbrace{\frac{\epsilon A V^2}{2g^2}}_{F_e} - \underbrace{k(g_0 - g)}_{F_{\text{spring}}}$$

What happens when I change  $g$  by an increment  $dg$ ?  
→ get an increment in net attractive force  $dF_{\text{net}}$

$$dF_{\text{net}} = \frac{\partial F_{\text{net}}}{\partial g} dg = \left[ -\frac{\epsilon A V^2}{g^3} + k \right] dg$$

If  $g \downarrow \rightarrow dg = (-)$ , then for stability need  $F_{\text{net}} \downarrow \rightarrow dF_{\text{net}} = (-)$

This needs to be (+)! → otherwise the plate collapses

Thus:

$$k > \frac{\epsilon A V^2}{g^3} \quad (\text{for a stable uncollapsed state})$$

Pull-In Voltage & Gap

$V_{\text{PI}} \triangleq$  voltage @ which plates collapse

The plate goes unstable when:

$$k = \frac{\epsilon A V_{\text{PI}}^2}{g_{\text{PI}}^3} \quad (1)$$

← pull-in voltage

$$F_{\text{net}} = 0 = \frac{\epsilon A V_{\text{PI}}^2}{2g_{\text{PI}}^2} - k(g_0 - g_{\text{PI}}) \quad (2)$$

← pull-in gap

Substituting (1) into (2):

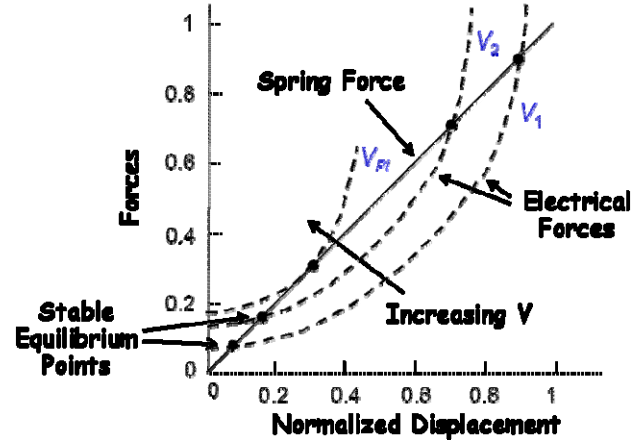
$$0 = \frac{\epsilon A V_{\text{PI}}^2}{2g_{\text{PI}}^2} - \frac{\epsilon A V_{\text{PI}}^2}{g_{\text{PI}}^3} (g_0 - g_{\text{PI}})$$

$$\frac{g_0 - g_{\text{PI}}}{g_{\text{PI}}} = \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow g_0 = \frac{3}{2} g_{\text{PI}}$$

$$\therefore g_{\text{PI}} = \frac{2}{3} g_0$$

When the gap is driven by a voltage to (2/3) the initial spacing → collapse

$$V_{\text{PI}} = \sqrt{\frac{k g_{\text{PI}}^3}{\epsilon A}} \rightarrow V_{\text{PI}} = \sqrt{\frac{8}{27} \frac{k g_0^3}{\epsilon A}}$$



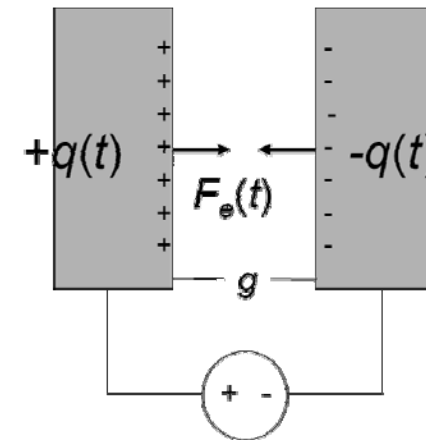
#### Advantages of Electrostatic Actuators:

- Easy to manufacture in micromachining processes, since conductors and air gaps are all that's needed → low cost!
- Energy conserving → only parasitic energy loss through  $I^2R$  losses in conductors and interconnects
- Variety of geometries available that allow tailoring of the relationships between voltage, force, and displacement
- Electrostatic forces can become very large when dimensions shrink → electrostatics scales well!
- Same capacitive structures can be used for both drive and sense of velocity or displacement
- Simplicity of transducer greatly reduces mechanical energy losses, allowing the highest Q's for resonant structures

#### Advantages of Electrostatic Actuators:

- Nonlinear voltage-to-force transfer function
- Relatively weak compared with other transducers (e.g., piezoelectric), but things get better as dimensions scale

Linearizing the Voltage-to-Force Xfer Function



$$\underline{v(t)} = \underbrace{V_P}_{\text{Bias (dc)}} + \underbrace{v_i(t)}_{\text{Signal (ac)}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_e(t) &= \frac{\partial W'}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ \frac{1}{2} C (v(t))^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} [v(t)]^2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} [V_P + v_i(t)]^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ V_P^2 + 2V_P v_i(t) + \cancel{[v_i(t)]^2} \right] \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} \\ [V_P \gg v_i(t)] &\Rightarrow F_e(t) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} V_P^2 \frac{\partial C}{\partial x}}_{\text{DC offset}} + \underbrace{V_P \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} v_i(t)}_{\text{AC drive signal}} \end{aligned}$$

$[C_0 = \frac{\epsilon A}{g_0}]$

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Lecture 21: Capacitive Transducers

$$C(x) = \frac{\epsilon A}{g_0 - x} = C_0 \left(1 - \frac{x}{g_0}\right)^{-1} \approx C_0 \left(1 + \frac{x}{g_0}\right)$$

$[x \ll g_0]$

$$\Rightarrow \therefore \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} = \frac{C_0}{g_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow F_e(t) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{C_0}{g_0} V_P^2 + \underbrace{V_P \frac{C_0}{g_0} v_i(t)}_{\text{linear!}}$$

Can cancel by  
symmetry  
(later)

~const. for small  
amplitudes

This is small-signal  
analysis in electro-mechanical  
domain!