

Task 1

A capacitor has the characteristic

$$I = C \frac{dV}{dt}$$

The current is defined as

$$I = \frac{dq}{dt}$$

where q is the electrical charge through the conductor. Therefore, the characteristic can also be written

$$q = CV$$

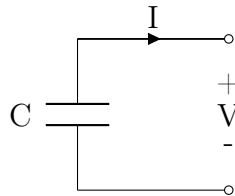


Figure 1: Capacitor circuit

A piezoelectric sensor outputs a charge q proportional to the force F on the sensor:

$$q = KF$$

The circuit equivalent is given in Figure 2

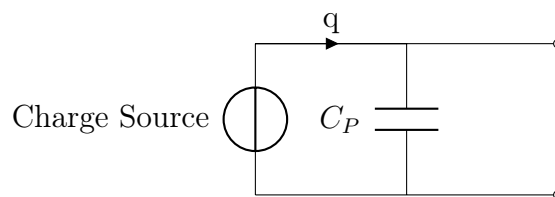


Figure 2: Piezo equivalent circuit

which has the equivalent Thevenin representation shown in Figure 3

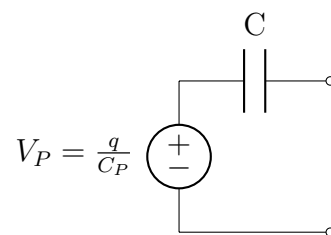


Figure 3: Piezo equivalent circuit

A charge amplifier is depicted in Figure 4 where C_C is the capacitance of the cable.

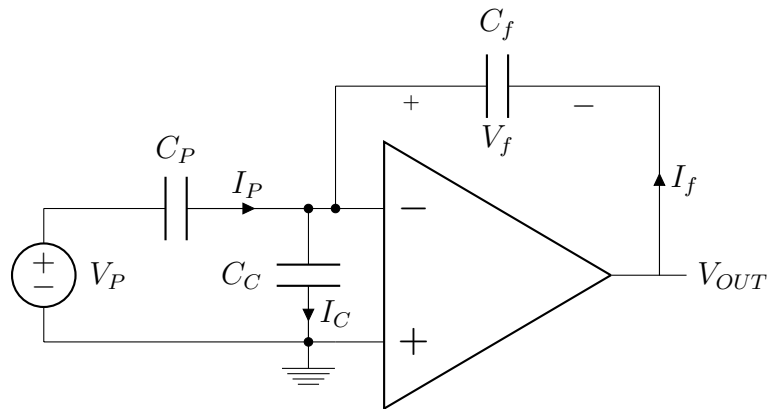


Figure 4: Charge amplifier circuit

Task 1.a

Show that $V_f = -V_{OUT}$.

Task 1.b

Show that $I_c = 0$.

Task 1.c

Show that $I_f = -I_P$.

Task 1.d

Show that $V_{OUT} = -\frac{K}{C_P}F$.

Task 1 Solution

Task 1.a

Since the positive input of the amplifier is connected to ground, the negative input will be 0 V. This means that C_f is connected to V_{OUT} in one end and 0 V in the other. This leads to $V_f = -V_{OUT}$.

Task 1.b

Since there is no current going between the positive and negative input of the amplifier, I_c will be 0.

Task 1.c

Since there is no current going between the positive and negative input of the amplifier, $I_P + I_f = 0 \Rightarrow$ $I_f = -I_P$.

Task 1.d

$q = C_P V_P$ and $q = K F$ means $V_P = \frac{K}{C_P} F$. This means that

$$\begin{aligned} I_P &= -I_f \\ C_P \frac{dV_P}{dt} &= -C_f \frac{dV_{OUT}}{dt} \\ -\frac{C_P}{C_f} V_P &= V_{OUT} \\ V_{OUT} &= -\frac{C_P K F}{C_f C_P} = -\frac{K}{\underline{\underline{C_f}}} F \end{aligned}$$

Task 2

An accelerometer has a proof mass m with position x_0 . The mass is connected with a spring and a damper to the base, which has position x_i . The accelerometer output is the relative position

$$x_r = x_0 - x_i$$

of the proof mass. The accelerometer is used to measure the acceleration

$$a_i = \frac{d^2}{dt^2} x_i$$

Suppose that $m = 0.001 \text{ kg}$ and $k = 40\,000 \text{ N m}^{-1}$

Task 2.a

What is the natural frequency of the spring-damper system?

Task 2.b

Suppose that frequencies $x_i(t) = X_0 \cos(2\pi f t)$. For what range of f will the accelerometer give an accurate measurement of a_i ?

Task 2 Solution

Task 2.a Solution

The natural frequency is given as

$$\omega_n = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{40000}{0.001}} = \underline{\underline{40\,000\,000 \text{ s m}^{-1}}}$$

