

## A Study of Electrostrictive Polymer(EP) Actuator Using Dielectric Elastomers

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ABSTRACT : Electrostriction is the phenomenon that a material is strained due to Maxwell stress developed by the applied voltage. In many electrostrictive materials, especially polymeric elastomers can produce large deformation and force due to their low elastic modulus. In this study, polyurethanes and acrylic rubber with compliant electrodes were used as electrostrictive polymer(EP) actuator. Actuation characteristics of the EP actuators with different physical properties of dynamic modulus and dynamic dielectric constant were analyzed under AC field. The classical laminate theory was also used to simulate the actuation process in relation to the geometry and the physical properties of the actuators.

*Keywords*: electrostrictive polymer, dielectric elastomer, unimorph actuator, dielectric constant, classical laminate theory.







**Figure 1.** Principle of electrostrictive actuator. (a) structure of electrostrictive actuator and (b)operation of electrostrictive actuator.







Figure 2. Bending of line element of layered composite structure in x - y plane.

$$y = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial x} - z \frac{\partial^2 w_0}{\partial x^2} = e_x^0 + zk_x$$
(1)

$$\boldsymbol{e}_{y} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial v_{0}}{\partial y} - z \frac{\partial^{2} w_{0}}{\partial y^{2}} = \boldsymbol{e}_{y}^{0} + z \boldsymbol{k}_{y}$$
(2)

$$\boldsymbol{g}_{xy} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial x} - 2z \frac{\partial^2 w_0}{\partial x \partial y} = \boldsymbol{g}_{xy}^0 + zk_{xy} \quad (3)$$

$$\left\{\boldsymbol{e}_{x},\boldsymbol{e}_{y},\boldsymbol{g}_{xy}\right\} = \left\{\boldsymbol{e}_{x}^{0},\boldsymbol{e}_{y}^{0},\boldsymbol{g}_{yx}^{0}\right\} + z\left\{k_{x},k_{y},k_{xy}\right\} \quad (4)$$

$$\left\{ \boldsymbol{e}_{x}^{0}, \boldsymbol{e}_{y}^{0}, \boldsymbol{g}_{yx}^{0} \right\} = \left\{ \frac{\partial u_{0}}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial v_{0}}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial u_{0}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_{0}}{\partial x} \right\}$$
(5)

,

$$\left\{k_{x},k_{y},k_{xy}\right\} = -\left\{\frac{\partial^{2}w_{0}}{\partial x^{2}},\frac{\partial^{2}w_{0}}{\partial y^{2}},2\frac{\partial^{2}w_{0}}{\partial x\partial y}\right\}$$
(6)

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(7)

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$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{s} & \mathbf{x} & \mathbf{y} & \mathbf{y} \\ & & & \mathbf{y} & \mathbf{y} \\ & & & & \mathbf{y} \\ & & & & \mathbf{z}^{\dagger} & \mathbf{z}^{\dagger} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{s} & & \\ \mathbf{s} & & \\$$

$$\begin{cases} N_{x} \\ N_{y} \\ N_{xy} \end{cases} = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} - & - & - \\ Q_{11} & Q_{12} & Q_{16} \\ - & - & - & - \\ Q_{21} & Q_{22} & Q_{26} \\ Q_{16} & Q_{26} & Q_{66} \end{bmatrix}_{k}^{p_{k-1}^{k}} dz \begin{cases} \mathbf{e}_{x}^{0} \\ \mathbf{e}_{y}^{0} \\ \mathbf{g}_{yy}^{0} \end{cases} + \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} - & - & - \\ Q_{11} & Q_{12} & Q_{16} \\ - & - & - & - \\ Q_{21} & Q_{22} & Q_{26} \\ - & - & - & - \\ Q_{16} & Q_{26} & Q_{66} \end{bmatrix}_{k}^{p_{k-1}^{k}} dz \begin{cases} k_{x} \\ k_{y} \\ k_{xy} \end{cases}$$

$$(9)$$

$$\left\{\frac{N}{M}\right\} = \left\{\frac{A}{B} \mid \frac{B}{D}\right\} \left\{\frac{\mathbf{e}^{0}}{k}\right\}$$
(11)

A, B, D , 
$$A_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left(\overline{Q}_{ij}\right)_{k} \left(h_{k} - h_{k-1}\right)$$
  
 $B_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left(\overline{Q}_{ij}\right)_{k} \left(h_{k}^{2} - h_{k-1}^{2}\right), \quad D_{ij} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left(\overline{Q}_{ij}\right)_{k} \left(h_{k}^{3} - h_{k-1}^{3}\right)$   
 $h$ 

 $\begin{cases} \boldsymbol{s}_{x} \\ \boldsymbol{s}_{y} \\ \boldsymbol{t}_{xy} \end{cases} = \begin{cases} \overline{\underline{Q}}_{11} & \overline{\underline{Q}}_{12} & \overline{\underline{Q}}_{16} \\ \overline{\underline{Q}}_{12} & \overline{\underline{Q}}_{22} & \overline{\underline{Q}}_{26} \\ \overline{\overline{Q}}_{16} & \overline{\overline{Q}}_{26} & \overline{\overline{Q}}_{66} \end{cases} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{e}_{x} \\ \boldsymbol{e}_{y} \\ \boldsymbol{g}_{xy} \end{bmatrix}$ 

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Table 1. Features of the Elastomers Used in This Study

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	elastomer maker		resin type
	VHB4905	3 M Co.	acrylic rubber
	PT6100s	Deerfield Co.	ether type urethane
	A1028	Nanopol Co.	ester type urethane
_			



Figure 3. Schematics of simple unimorph type actuator.









series VV, Pico elect	tronics Inc.)	on	- off	
•	(DEA 2970,	ΤΑΙ	nstrume	ents
Co.)	(DMTA Marl	k III, F	Rheomet	rics
Co.)	0.1~100 kHz			
	30~	-50		
			(4400	R,

DC - DC

(Picochip

ASTM D

Instron Co.) 882 .







Figure 4. Surface resistance of conductive urethane electrode as a function of carbon black content.

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Figure 5. Actuation of the simple unimorph type actuator.



Figure 6		(VHB
4905)	(PT6100s A1028)	
가		1 Hz

, 2 (electrostrictive force) 가

2,6

P

 $P = \boldsymbol{e}_0 \boldsymbol{e}_r \boldsymbol{E}^2 \tag{12}$ 

e<sub>0</sub> e<sub>r</sub> , E

 $\boldsymbol{e}^{E} = \frac{P}{Y} = \boldsymbol{e}_{0}\boldsymbol{e}_{r}E^{2}/Y$ (13)



**Figure 6.** The performance of the simple unimorph type actuator as a function of the frequency of applied on - off controlled DC electric field.



Figure 6

Negami

$$\frac{\boldsymbol{e}^* - \boldsymbol{e}_u}{\boldsymbol{e}_r - \boldsymbol{e}_u} = \frac{1}{1 + (i\boldsymbol{w}\boldsymbol{t})^b}$$
(14)

$$e^{*}(w) = e'(w) - e''(w)$$
 (15)

$$e^*$$
,  $e^c$ ,  $e^2$ ,  $e_r$  (=0)

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**Figure 7.** Frequency effect of (a) dynamic elastic modulus measured by using DMTA and (b) dynamic dielectric constant measeured by using DEA.



	. Figure 6		
VHB 4905	0.18×10 <sup>-3</sup>		
3	(PT 6100s, A1028)		
7 5			

Figure 3 가 VHB 4905 1 Hz 가









가



**Figure 8.** Effective radius and curvature calculated by classical laminate theory for PT6100s and urethane electrodes.



$$\{\boldsymbol{e}^{M}\} = \{\boldsymbol{e}\} - \{\boldsymbol{e}^{E}\}$$
(17)

$$\left\{ \frac{A}{B} + \frac{B}{B} \right\} \left\{ \frac{\mathbf{e}^0}{k} \right\} = \left\{ \frac{N^E}{M^E} \right\}$$
(18)

$$\{N^E\} = \{M^E\}$$
.

$$\left\{N^{E}\right\} = \Delta E^{2} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left\{\overline{Q}\right\}_{k} \left\{d\right\}_{k} \left\{h_{k} - h_{k-1}\right\}$$
$$\left\{M^{E}\right\} = \frac{1}{2} \Delta E^{2} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left\{\overline{Q}\right\}_{k} \left\{d\right\}_{k} \left\{h_{k} - h_{k-1}\right\}$$

PT6100s Figure 8 가 , PT6100s , 가 .

Table 2. Properties of Laminate

	thickness	modulus	relative dielectic constant(e')at 1 kHz
PT6100s	75 µm	16 MPa	4
carboneblack/	25 um		-
urethane	25 µm	50 MPa	
electrode	40 µm		



Figure 9. Comparison of model prediction and experimental results for PT6100s.

## PT6100s



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