Radiomeasuring Thermal Flowmeter of Gas on the Basis of Transistor Structure with Negative Resistance

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Introduction

Radiomeasuring flowmeters with a frequency output have a series of advantages before analogue, which consist in substantial increase of antijamming ability that allows increasing measurement accuracy and the potency of starting signals. It also allows refusing from the amplifying arrangements and analog-to-digital converters in after-treatment of signals that rises profitability of instrumentation [1]. An additional advantage of such arrangements is lack of an external source of preheating as temperature sensitive bipolar transistors that are heated up due to a natural power of consumption.

Now intensive investigations on study of performances of analogue flowmeters [2] though investigations of parameters of flowmeters with a frequency output on the basis of reactive properties of transistor structures with a negative resistor are on an incipient state are conducted. In this connection the given work is devoted to investigations of a leading parameters of flowmeters of gas on the basis of the above mentioned structures.

Theoretical and Experimental Research

The circuit of a radiomeasuring thermal flowmeter presented on fig. 1. It represents the hybrid integrated circuit consisting of two complementary bipolar transistors VT1 and VT2, resistances R1-R3, passive inductivity L1 and blocking capacitor C1. The power supply on a direct current is realized with constant-voltage sources V1 and V2.

Bipolar VT1 and VT2 transistors are located in a measuring tube, with diameter of nine millimeters and length of 20 centimeters from steel X118H01T through which transits gas which rate of flux is necessary for measuring.

Before to proceed to calculation of parameters of a flowmeter, we shall consider the change of temperature on a surface of the integrated circuit. The analysis of thermal state of the integrated circuit is a difficult problem which solution is possible for making on the basis of mathematical modeling in view of physical processes and structural features of the integrated circuit. On the basis of results of mathematical modeling it is possible to optimize parameters of the microelectronic transducers. It is necessary to note, that modeling of thermal processes in integrated tensotransducers on the basis of strain gauges is made in works [3], and calculations of allocation of temperature in an integrated planar circuit is made in works [4]. In the given work as against the mentioned above investigations attempt of modeling a thermal regime for structures of the microelectronic radiomeasuring flowmeters is made.

Allocation of temperature in space and time in structure of a flowmeter is featured with the help of a heat conduction equation which looks like [5]:

\[ c \rho \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = F(x, y, z) + \lambda \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} \right), \]

where \( T \) - temperature, \( F(x, y, z) \) - a power density of development of heat, \( c \) - specific heat of a substance, \( \rho \) - a denseness of a substance, \( \lambda \) - a heat conductivity of a substance, \( x, y, z \) - coordinates of transistors and resistances, \( t \) - time.

The stationary thermal field in volume and on a surface explored thermal models (fig. 2), proceed from expression (1), is featured by the equation
\[
\frac{\partial^2 T(x, y, z)}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T(x, y, z)}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T(x, y, z)}{\partial z^2} = -\frac{1}{\lambda} F(x, y, z) \tag{2}
\]

where \( T(x, y, z) \) - a superheat temperature of a knot of a thermal model with coordinates \( x, y, z \) concerning temperature of a package of a temperature sensitive element.

Boundary conditions for a thermal model look like

\[
\begin{aligned}
\left. \frac{\partial T(x, y, z)}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0, l_x} &= \left. \frac{\partial T(x, y, z)}{\partial y} \right|_{y=0, l_y} = 0 , \\
\left. \frac{\partial T(x, y, z)}{\partial z} - h T(x, y, z) \right|_{z=0} &= 0 , \\
\left. \frac{\partial T(x, y, z)}{\partial z} - h T(x, y, z) \right|_{z=I_x} &= 0 ,
\end{aligned}
\tag{3}
\]

where \( h = \alpha \lambda \) - a relative factor of heat exchange.

**Fig. 2. A thermal model of the integrated structure flowmeter**

Function \( F(x, y, z) \) in the equation (2) defines a power density of development of heat that depends on geometrical sizes, dispositions and power of heat sources

\[
F(x, y, z) = \sum_{i=1}^{I_x} q_i(x) q_i(y) q_i(z) ,
\tag{9}
\]

where \( V_i = \alpha_i \beta_i \delta_i \) - volume of a heat source with the number \( i \), \( q_i(x), q_i(y), q_i(z) \) - coordinate functions which adopt a value 1 in the field of an \( i \)- source and a value 0 outside of it.

The equations (2) - (3) are solved with the help of a method of integrated Fourier transforms [6] with terminating boundaries with application of the supposition of a superposition of temperature fields. Supposing, that

\[
\tilde{T}(n, m, k) = \int_{0}^{l_y} \int_{0}^{l_x} \int_{0}^{l_z} T(x, y, z) \cos \frac{n \pi x}{l_x} \cos \frac{m \pi y}{l_y} \times
\]

\[
\times \left[ \gamma_1 l_z \cos \gamma_1 z + hl \sin \gamma_1 z \right] dx dy dz ,
\tag{5}
\]

where \( \tilde{T}(n, m, k) \) - the plotting of temperature \( T(x, y, z) \), \( \gamma_1 \) - the positive solutions of an equation

\[
\csc \gamma_1 l_z = \frac{\gamma_1^2 - h^2}{2 \gamma_1 h} \quad (k = 0,1,2...) ,
\tag{6}
\]

Thus, in space of plotting of the Fourier the equation (2) will look like

\[
\left[ \left( \frac{n \pi}{l_x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{m \pi}{l_y} \right)^2 \right] \tilde{T}(n, m, k) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \sum_{i=1}^{I_x} \sum_{m=1}^{I_y} 8 f_i \times
\]

\[
\times \cos \frac{n \pi x_i}{l_x} \sin \alpha_i \delta_i \cos \frac{m \pi y_i}{l_y} \cos \frac{m \beta_i}{2 l_y} \times
\]

\[
\times \left( \gamma_1 \cos \gamma_1 z_i + h \sin \gamma_1 z_i \right) \sin \gamma_1 \frac{\delta_i}{\delta_0} \quad (n \geq 1, \ m \geq 1).
\tag{7}
\]

The formula of convolution for transformation (5) looks like

\[
\tilde{T}(0, n, 0) = \frac{1}{\lambda \gamma_0} \sum_{i=1}^{I_x} \sum_{m=1}^{I_y} \frac{4 f_i l_z}{l_x} \times
\]

\[
\times \left( \gamma_1 \cos \gamma_1 z_i + h \sin \gamma_1 z_i \right) \sin \gamma_1 \frac{\delta_i}{\delta_0} \quad (n = 0) ,
\tag{9}
\]

\[
\tilde{T}(n, 0, 0) = \frac{1}{\lambda \gamma_0} \sum_{i=1}^{I_x} \sum_{m=1}^{I_y} \frac{4 f_i l_z}{l_x} \times
\]

\[
\times \sin \frac{n \pi x_i}{2 l_x} \left( \gamma_1 \cos \gamma_1 z_i + h \sin \gamma_1 z_i \right) \sin \gamma_1 \frac{\delta_i}{\delta_0} \quad (n \neq 0) .
\tag{10}
\]

Taking into account, that

\[
\tilde{T}(0, 0, 0) = \frac{1}{\lambda \gamma_0} \sum_{i=1}^{I_x} \frac{4 f_i l_z}{l_x} \left( \gamma_1 \cos \gamma_1 z_i + h \sin \gamma_1 z_i \right) \sin \gamma_1 \frac{\delta_i}{\delta_0} .
\tag{12}
\]

The formula of calculations of temperature in any point of volume of a flowmeter becomes

\[
T(x, y, z) = T_e + \frac{2}{\lambda \gamma_0} \sum_{i=1}^{I_x} \frac{f_i}{\delta_i} \left( \gamma_1 \cos \gamma_1 z_i + h \sin \gamma_1 z_i \right) \times
\]

\[
\times \sin \gamma_1 \frac{\delta_i}{2} \left( \gamma_1 \cos \gamma_1 z_i + h \sin \gamma_1 z_i \right) + \frac{4}{\lambda \gamma_0} \pi \times
\]

\[
\times \sum_{i=1}^{I_x} \sum_{m=1}^{I_y} \frac{1}{\left( \frac{n \pi}{l_x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{m \pi}{l_y} \right)^2} \sum_{i=1}^{I_x} \frac{f_i}{\delta_i} \cos \frac{n \pi x_i}{l_x} \sin \frac{m \pi y_i}{l_y} \times
\]

\[
\times \left( \gamma_1 \cos \gamma_1 z_i + h \sin \gamma_1 z_i \right) \sin \gamma_1 \frac{\delta_i}{2} \cos \frac{n \pi x_i}{l_x} \cos \frac{m \beta_i}{2 l_y} \times
\]

\[
+ \left( \gamma_1 \cos \gamma_1 z_i + h \sin \gamma_1 z_i \right) \sin \gamma_1 \frac{\delta_i}{2} \times
\]

\[
+ \frac{4}{\lambda \gamma_0} \pi \sum_{i=1}^{I_x} \sum_{m=1}^{I_y} \left( \frac{m \pi}{l_y} \right)^2 + \gamma_0^2 \times
\]

\[
\times \left( \gamma_1 \cos \gamma_1 z_i + h \sin \gamma_1 z_i \right) \sin \gamma_1 \frac{\delta_i}{2} ,
\tag{11}
\]

\[
+ \left( \gamma_1 \cos \gamma_1 z_i + h \sin \gamma_1 z_i \right) \sin \gamma_1 \frac{\delta_i}{2} .
\tag{12}
\]

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\[
\begin{align*}
\sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{f_i}{\alpha_i} \cos \left( \frac{m \pi x_i}{l_x} \right) \sin \left( \frac{m \pi \beta_i}{l_y} \right) \left( \gamma_0 \cos \gamma_0 z_i + h \sin \gamma_0 z_i \right) \\
+ \frac{h}{2} \left( \cos \left( \frac{m \pi y}{l_y} \right) \sin \left( \frac{m \pi \beta_i}{l_y} \right) \right) \\
\sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{f_i}{\alpha_i} \cos \left( \frac{m \pi x_i}{l_x} \right) \sin \left( \frac{m \pi \beta_i}{l_y} \right) \left( \gamma_0 \cos \gamma_0 z_i + h \sin \gamma_0 z_i \right) \\
\sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{f_i}{\alpha_i} \cos \left( \frac{m \pi y_i}{l_y} \right) \sin \left( \frac{m \pi \beta_i}{l_y} \right) \left( \gamma_0 \cos \gamma_0 z_i + h \sin \gamma_0 z_i \right) \\
\sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{f_i}{\alpha_i} \cos \left( \frac{m \pi x_i}{l_x} \right) \sin \left( \frac{m \pi \beta_i}{l_y} \right) \left( \gamma_0 \cos \gamma_0 z_i + h \sin \gamma_0 z_i \right) \\
\sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{f_i}{\alpha_i} \cos \left( \frac{m \pi y_i}{l_y} \right) \sin \left( \frac{m \pi \beta_i}{l_y} \right) \left( \gamma_0 \cos \gamma_0 z_i + h \sin \gamma_0 z_i \right)
\end{align*}
\]

(13)

where \( T_e \) - environment temperature.

\[
\gamma_0 = 2l_x (h^2 + \gamma_0^2) \quad \gamma_1 = 2l_x (h^2 + \gamma_1^2) \quad \gamma_2 = 2l_x (h^2 + \gamma_2^2)
\]

(14)

A series (14) is a trigonometric series which fast converges, therefore at its calculations the amount of terms of a series is restricted to numbers \( N = 2^M \) \( M = 2^K \), where \( r, d, e \) - integers that are picked proceeding from requirements of exactitude of calculations. Such select \( N, M, K \) allows to use fast Fourier transform at calculations of temperature. Geometrical sizes of the inspected integrated circuit of a flowmeter, a value of heat conductivities of a substance and factors of heat emission from its surface, are defined from a design of the transducer. For definition of an amount of unknowns of power of development of heat \( f_i \) (where \( I \) - the amount of heat sources) is substituted with discrete values of temperature in the left-hand part of the (14) thus being restricted to a finite number component lines in a right member (14). In result we shall receive a system of linear algebraic equations concerning unknowns of power of development of heat. The temperature on a surface of a sensing element of the transducer is defined by the equation

\[
T(x, y, 0) = T_e + \frac{2}{\lambda x y l_x l_y} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{f_i}{\alpha_i} \left( \gamma_0 \cos \gamma_0 z_i + h \sin \gamma_0 z_i \right) \\
+ \frac{4}{\lambda x y l_x l_y} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{f_i}{\alpha_i} \left( \gamma_0 \cos \gamma_0 z_i + h \sin \gamma_0 z_i \right) \\
+ \frac{4}{\lambda x y l_x l_y} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{f_i}{\alpha_i} \left( \gamma_0 \cos \gamma_0 z_i + h \sin \gamma_0 z_i \right) \\
+ \frac{4}{\lambda x y l_x l_y} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{f_i}{\alpha_i} \left( \gamma_0 \cos \gamma_0 z_i + h \sin \gamma_0 z_i \right) \\
\sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{f_i}{\alpha_i} \cos \left( \frac{m \pi y_i}{l_y} \right) \sin \left( \frac{m \pi \beta_i}{l_y} \right) \left( \gamma_0 \cos \gamma_0 z_i + h \sin \gamma_0 z_i \right)
\]

(15)

where \( p \) - an amount of active elements of the transducer.

At lack of heat convection between a surface of the microelectronic transducer and a surrounding medium it is possible to note

\[
\lambda \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \bigg|_{z=0} = 0, \quad (x, y) \in S_r, \quad \lambda \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \bigg|_{z=\infty} = 0, \quad (x, y) \in S_f, \quad \lambda \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \bigg|_{z=0} = 0, \quad (x, y) \in S_r,
\]

(16)

where \( h \) - thickness of an active element of the transducer, \( S_r \) - square which occupies an i-element.

Thus, the thermal model of a flowmeter at a stationary thermal conditions is featured by set of (11-13).

On Fig.3 a temperature field of the radiomeasuring flowmeter that looks like curves with an equal change of temperature on square of the integrated circuit is given. Curves show the superheat temperature in Celsius degrees. Design data of a flowmeter have such sizes: the integrated circuit has the rectangular shape 1500x1000 micron, thickness of basis of transistors is equated 0.7 microns. The length of resistors is equated 95 microns, 125 microns, 110 microns, a breadth 24 microns, 30 microns, 26 microns, and thickness 5 microns, 6 microns, 5.5 microns, accordingly. Nominals of resistances make R1=3.5 kOm, R2=8.2 KOm, R3=4.7 kOm. The maximal power that disperses transistors makes 50 mWt, and resistors 20 mWt. Apparently from Fig. 3, maximal overheat have fields of collector-collector of transistors, for which difficult heat removal on a package of the transducer. With a diminution of thickness of resistors will increase thermal resistance which results in propagation of a superheat temperature.

Fig. 3. A temperature field of radiomeasuring flowmeter
the gas consumption which is taking place through a measuring tube. For these purposes we shall take the advantage of the nonlinear equivalent circuit of the transducer. Proceeding from this circuit and the theory of durability of Lyapunov, we shall receive the function of transformation

\[ F = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{A_1^2 + \sqrt{A_1^4 + 4\int_c^{\infty} \frac{C_{\text{eqv}}(Q)}{\frac{dQ}{dQ}} \frac{R_g(Q)}{\frac{dR_g}{dQ}} \frac{dR_g}{dQ} \, dQ}}{2L \int_c^{\infty} \frac{C_{\text{eqv}}(Q)}{\frac{dQ}{dQ}} \frac{R_g(Q)}{\frac{dR_g}{dQ}} \, dQ}} \text{,} \]

(17)

where \( A_1 = C_{\text{eqv}}^2(Q)R_g^2(Q) + R_g^2(Q)C_{\text{eqv}}(Q)C_{\text{eqv}} - L_4C_{\text{eqv}} \), \( C_{\text{eqv}}(Q) \) - equivalent capacity of impedance on electrodes a collector-collector of transistors VT1, VT2; \( R_g(Q) \) - a negative resistor on electrodes a collector-collector of transistors VT1, VT2.

Graphical dependence of transformation function of a radiomeasuring flowmeter is presented on Fig. 4.

From the formula (17) the sensitivity function of a flowmeter is obtained

\[
\begin{align*}
S_p & = \frac{1}{8} \sqrt{c_{\text{eqv}}(Q)R_g^2(Q) \frac{\partial C_{\text{eqv}}(Q)}{\partial Q} \int_c^{\infty} \frac{dQ}{dQ} + c_{\text{eqv}}(Q)R_g^2(Q)C_{\text{eqv}} \times} \\
& \times \left( \frac{\partial C_{\text{eqv}}(Q)}{\partial Q} + c_{\text{eqv}}(Q)R_g^2(Q)C_{\text{eqv}} \frac{\partial C_{\text{eqv}}(Q)}{\partial Q} - 2c_{\text{eqv}}(Q)R_g^2(Q)L_4C_{\text{eqv}} \times} \\
& \times \left( \frac{\delta R_g(Q)}{\delta Q} - 3c_{\text{eqv}}(Q)R_g^2(Q)L_4C_{\text{eqv}} \frac{\partial C_{\text{eqv}}(Q)}{\partial Q} + 2c_{\text{eqv}}(Q)R_g^2(Q)R_g \times} \\
& \times \left( \frac{\delta R_g(Q)}{\delta Q} + c_{\text{eqv}}(Q)R_g^2(Q)L_4C_{\text{eqv}} \frac{\partial C_{\text{eqv}}(Q)}{\partial Q} - 2\pi c_{\text{eqv}}(Q)R_gL_4 \frac{\partial R_g(Q)}{\partial Q} \right) \right) \\
& \times \pi \sqrt{\frac{L_4R_g^2(Q)C_{\text{eqv}}^2(Q)}{L_4}} \text{,}
\end{align*}
\]

(18)

\[ A_1 = R_g^4(Q)C_{\text{eqv}}^2(Q)C_{\text{eqv}}^2 + 2R_g^4(Q)C_{\text{eqv}}^2(Q)C_{\text{eqv}} - 2L_4C_{\text{eqv}}^2R_g^2(Q)C_{\text{eqv}}(Q)C_{\text{eqv}} \]

where \(-2L_4C_{\text{eqv}}^2R_g^2(Q)C_{\text{eqv}}(Q)C_{\text{eqv}} + R_g^2(Q)C_{\text{eqv}}^4 + 2L_4C_{\text{eqv}}^2R_g^2(Q)C_{\text{eqv}}(Q) + \]

\[ + 2L_4C_{\text{eqv}}^2R_g^2(Q)C_{\text{eqv}}(Q) + L_4C_{\text{eqv}}^2 \text{.} \]

Fig. 5. One can see from the graph, sensitivity of the arrangement makes 760 - 1450 Hz /Litre/Hour.

Conclusions

The possibility of making of a radiomeasuring thermal gas flowmeter with a frequency output signal is shown on the basis of the autogenerating arrangement which will consist of two bipolar transistors used as temperature sensitive elements. The change of temperature of heat-sensitive bipolar transistors is proportionally to the gas consumption, passing through a measuring tube. Analytical dependences of function of transformation and sensitivity are received. The thermal condition of the integrated circuit of the transducer is designed. Sensitivity of the arrangement makes 750 - 1450 Hz /Litre/Hour.

References

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