


[Contact Us](#)
[Site Map](#)
[World Time](#)
[繁體中文](#)
[简体中文](#)
[日本語](#)
[English](#)


[ts](#)
[Technical Support](#)
[Quality Assurance](#)
[Investor Relations](#)
[Social Responsibility](#)
[E.S.H](#)


**Technical Terminology**

**Application FAQ**

**Technical Papers & Patents**

**Product Mfg. Process**

## Technical Terminology

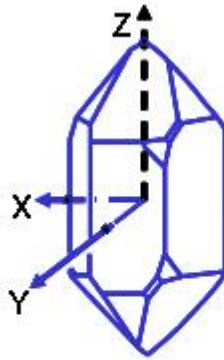
[Home](#) > [Technical Support](#) > [Technical Terminology](#)

### QUARTZ MATERIAL AND FREQUENCY CONTROL PRODUCTS



Quartz, a kind of crystallized Silicon Dioxide, SiO<sub>2</sub>, 32 symmetry group of trigonal system (Fig.1), exhibits piezoelectricity, which is the operating base of the electromechanical products. With its intrinsic high Q-value, the quartz based resonator and oscillator are the most widely adopted as the reference signal source in circuitry for frequency control applications. Quartz frequency control products can be categorized into bulk acoustic wave application devices, such as resonators, monolithic crystal filters and clock oscillators, and surface acoustic wave application devices, such as resonators and SAW filters. A piece of quartz crystal in a specific orientation cut, shape and dimensions is named crystal wafer (blank). Such a crystal wafer with two deposited electrodes on both sides and housed in a holder is a crystal resonator (two-port resonator). By using the one-port resonators as impedance elements, crystal bandpass filters can be designed. By incorporating the crystal resonator into a kind of electric circuit, one could get different kind of clock crystal

ors (CXO), for example, Pierce Oscillator, Colpitts Oscillator, Simple Package Crystal Oscillator, Voltage Controlled Oscillatos, Temperature Compensated Crystal Oscillator, Oven Controlled Crystal Oscillator, and so on. Instead of ration of quartz crystals, a shorter wavelength (higher frequency) vibration can be achieved by surface wave pation with inter-digital-transducer (IDT) electrodes on the surface of quartz material. This vibration mechanism can l for resonator and filter applications .

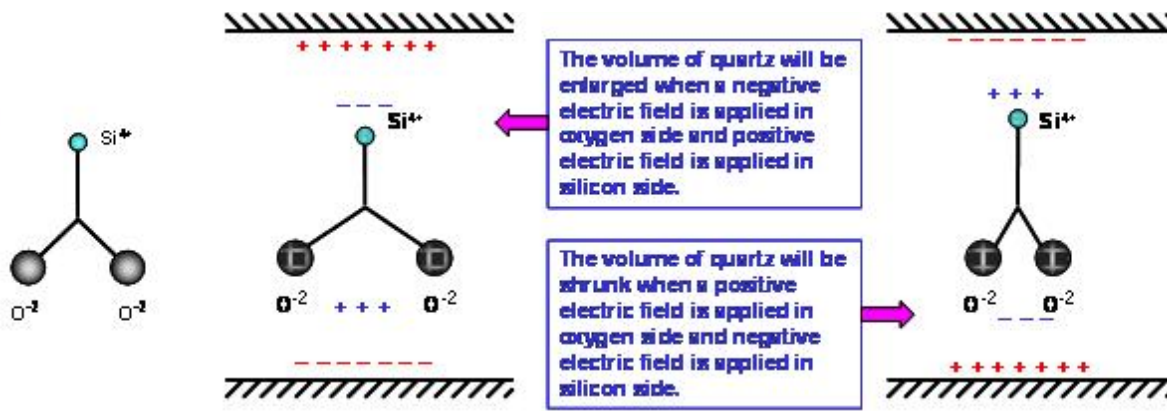


(Fig.1) Crystallized quartz material

## ELECTRICITY



Silicon Dioxide atom is electrical natural in stable state. The electric dipole is along with silicon asix. Figure (2a) simplified two dimensional structure. When we apply an electric field along with dipole direction, with positive charged silicon side and negative charged at the oxygen side, the oxygen ions will repel to each other creating an induced al field to balance the system. The oxygen ions will toward to each other if we apply a negative charged and positive l electric field to silicon and oxygen ions respectively. The oxygen ions will vibrate along horizontal direction in the equency as the alternative electric field along with vertical direction. The displacement of ions or the amplitude of n depends on the angle between the electrical field and the electric dipole of quartz. In practical three dimensional crystals, electrical field is supplied by electriodes coated on the surface of quartz wafer. The orientatin of dipole can ded through different kinds of cutting angles for quartz bar.

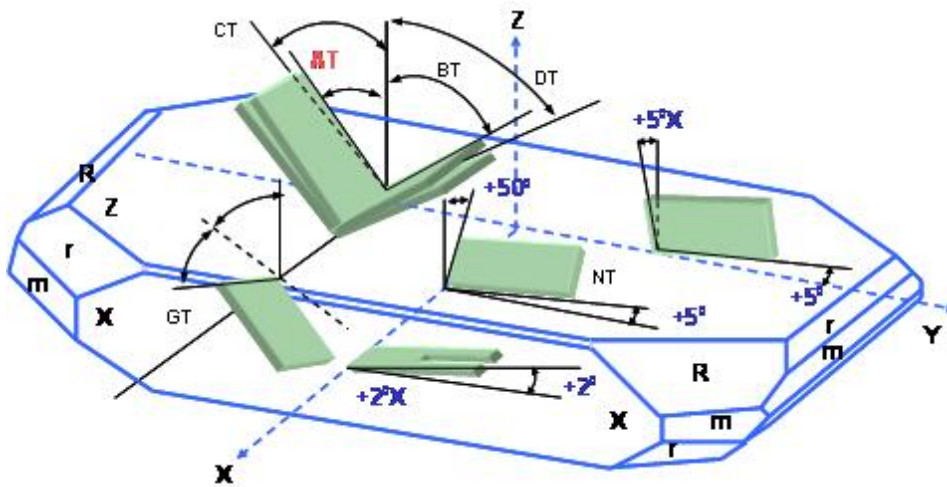


(Fig. 2) Simplified one dimensional piezoelectricity of SiO<sub>2</sub>

OF QUARTZ CRYSTAL CUT



According to different cut angles to quartz bars, there are different kinds of quartz plates, for examples, AT-, BT-, CT-, DT-, ST-, X-, Y-, Z-cut plates. Different types of quartz cuts, indicated by a set of Euler angles, have different available elastic, piezoelectric and dielectric properties, which are the basic parameters for designing a quartz crystal device. The most often used quartz-cut types are shown in ( Fig. 3 ) schematically.



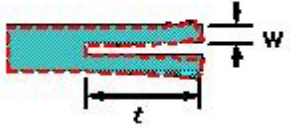
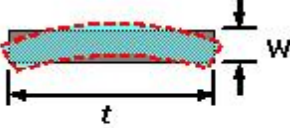
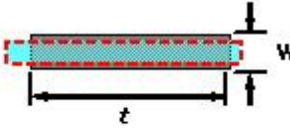
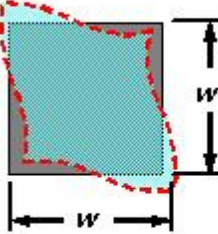
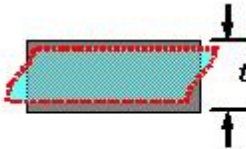
( Fig. 3 ) Orientation angle of a Z-plate quartz crystal.

OF VIBRATION



The vibration modes of the quartz crystal units are grouped into flexure, extension, face shear and thickness shear. The schematics of the vibration modes and the plate cuts usually used are listed in Table 1. Fundamental mode and thickness shear modes can be operated in any kinds of resonators. Fundamental mode is most often used, but for the thickness

...vices the overtone modes are often used as well, as shown in (Table 1)

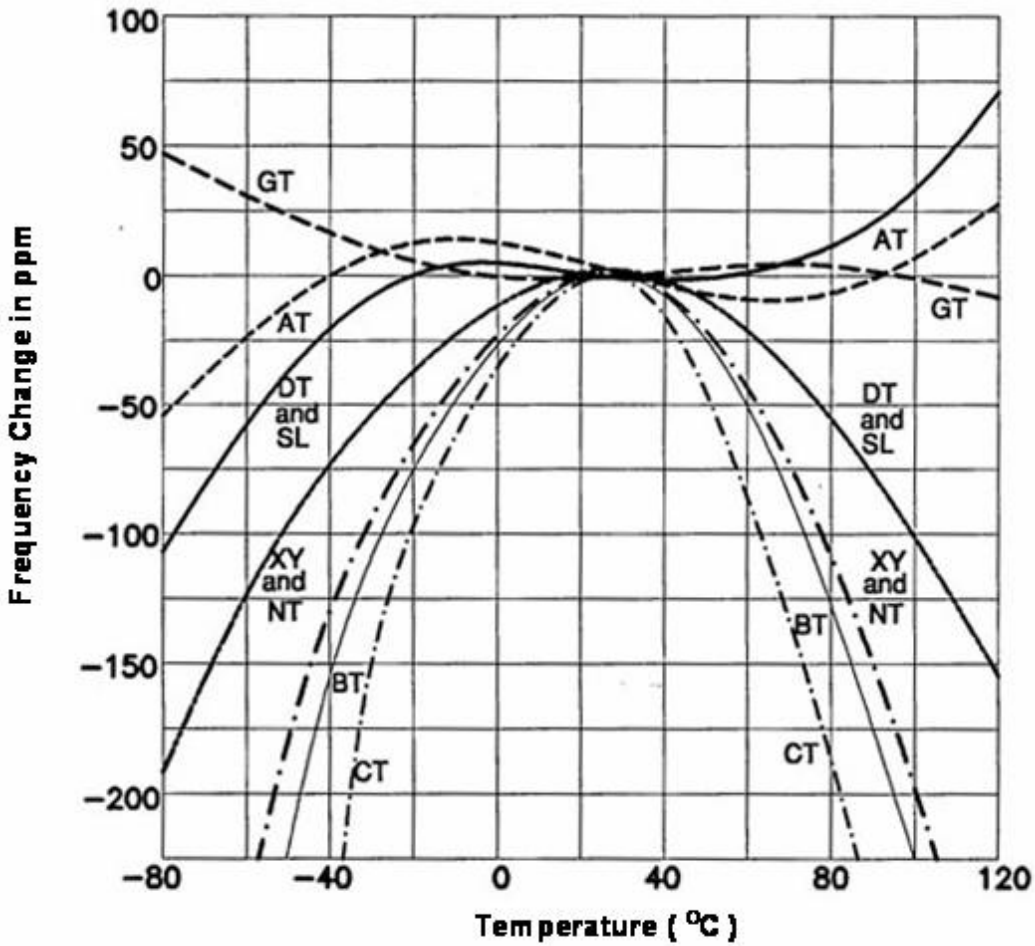
Vibrato in Mode	Orientation Angle
<p><b>Tuning Fork</b></p> 	<p>+ 2 ° X</p>
<p><b>Flexure</b></p> 	<p>XY NT</p>
<p><b>Extension</b></p> 	<p>+ 5 ° X - 18.5 ° X</p>
<p><b>Face Shear</b></p> 	<p>DT CT SL</p>
<p><b>Thickness Shear</b></p> 	<p>AT Fundamental AT 3<sup>rd</sup> Overtone AT 5<sup>th</sup> Overtone BT Fundamental</p>

( Table 1 ) Vibration Mode and Cut Angle.

JENCY-TEMPERATURE CHARACTERISTICS

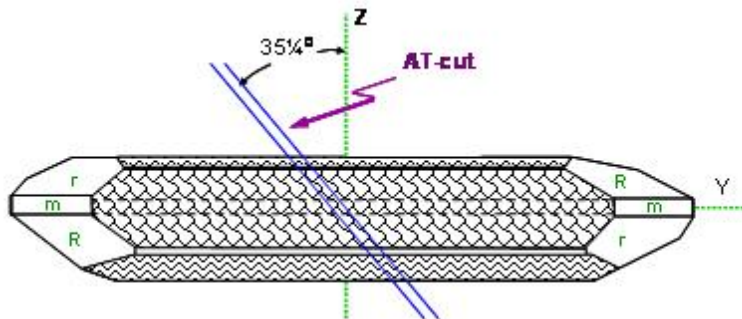


of the quartz products are used as an electrical circuit component for frequency selection and/or frequency control, frequency-temperature characteristic of the devices is the most important parameter. This parts per million (ppm) stability of frequency-temperature characteristic is another merit of quartz frequency device that LCR discrete oscillation circuitry can not be achieved in mass-production scale. For the usually used quartz crystal cuts, their frequency-temperature characteristics are shown in (Fig. 4).



( Fig.4 ) Frequency-temperature characteristics of various quartz cuts.

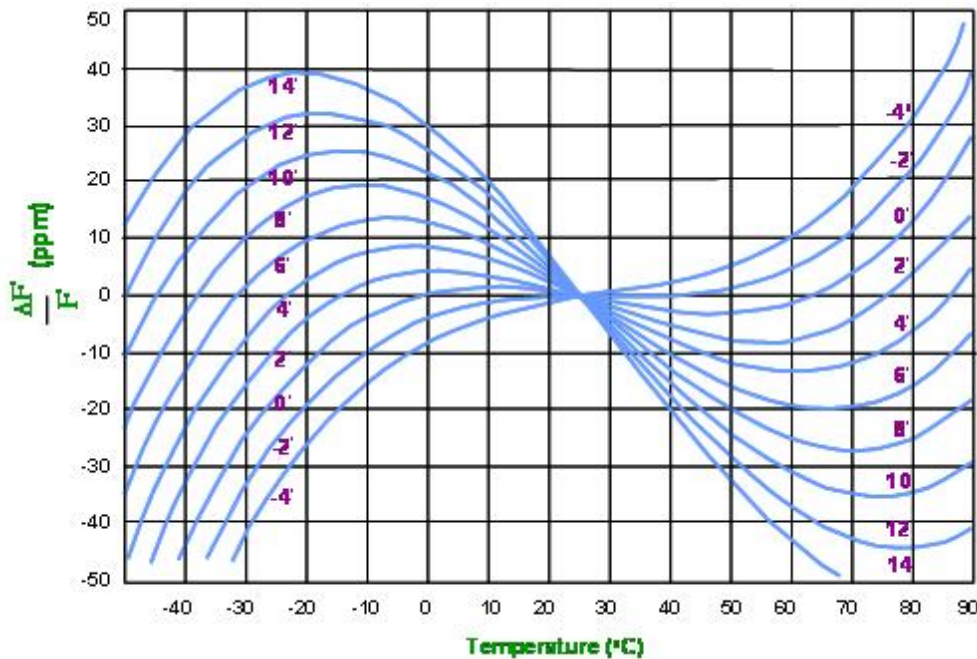
is the most popular crystal cut in the quartz devices for MHz applications. (Fig. 5) shows the orientation of AT plat in a view of + X-axis.



( Fig.5 ) Orientation of AT plat

shows the frequency-temperature characteristics of the AT-cut crystal operating in thickness-shear mode, with the temperature deviation as a parameter. It is shown that AT-cut quartz has excellent frequency stability over a wide temperature range since the first- and second-order of the temperature coefficients go to zero in this range and the temperature dependence is only dominated by a third-order function of the temperature deviation.

$$\frac{\Delta F}{F} = A_1 (T_i - 25)^3 + A_2 (T_i - 25)^2 + A_3 (T_i - 25) + A_4$$

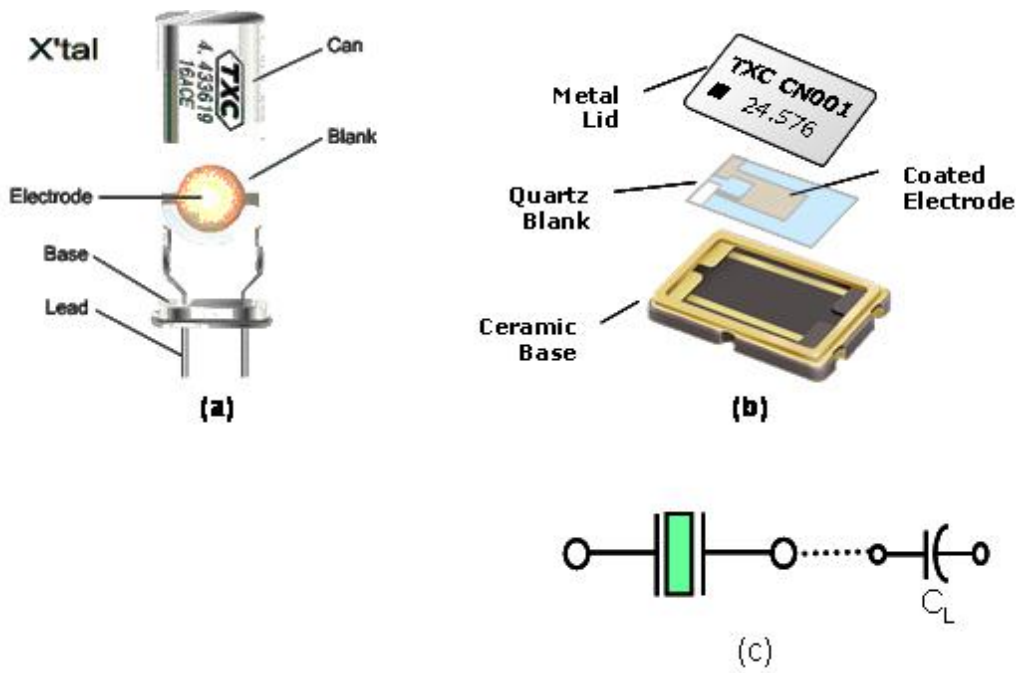


(Fig. 6) AT - cut frequency-temperature characteristics.

## EQUIVALENT CIRCUIT OF A CRYSTAL RESONATOR

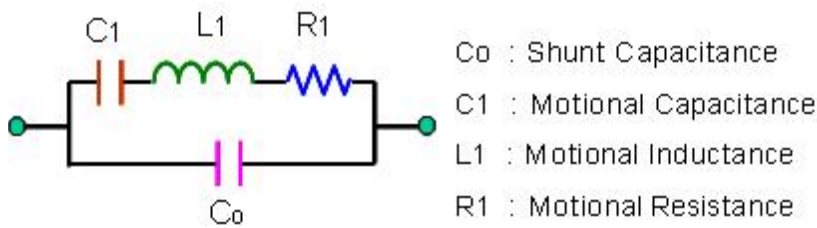


Fig. 7 shows the schematic of both metal can type and ceramic SMD type resonators and its symbol. The electrical characteristics of the unloaded resonator can be approximately expressed in Butterworth-Van Dyke (BVD) equivalent circuit as shown in Fig. 5 when operating near a resonance frequency zone.



(Fig. 7) (a) Metal can type resonator  
 (b) Ceramic SMD type resonator  
 (c) Symbol of crystal unit

Using the four parameters shown in (Fig. 8) the major electrical properties of a crystal resonator and of an oscillator using the crystal resonator are described as follows.

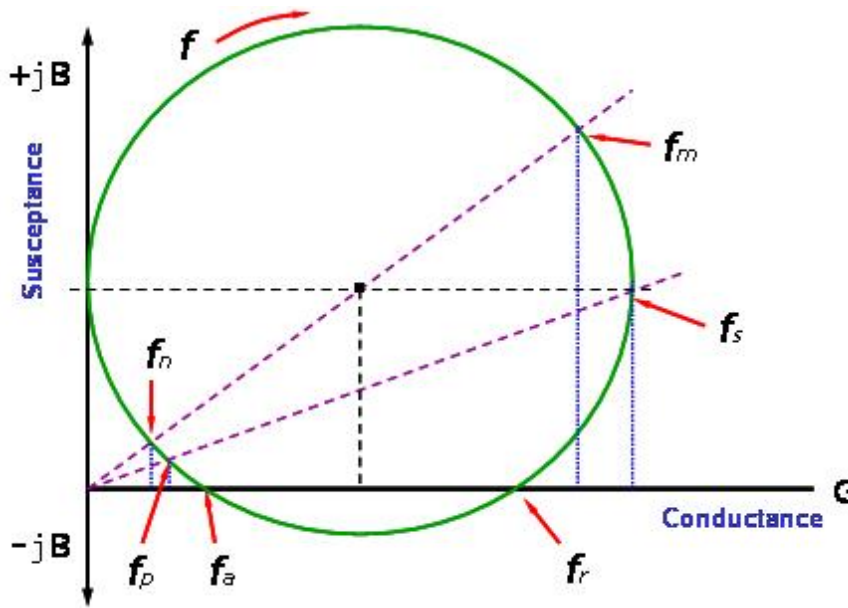


( Fig.8 ) Effective Circuit of Crystal

**RESONANCE FREQUENCY**



In the literature and product descriptions, there are three pairs of resonance frequencies, i.e., the "series resonance frequency" and "parallel resonance frequency", ( $f_s$  and  $f_p$ ), the "resonance frequency" and "anti-resonance" frequency, ( $f_r$  and  $f_a$ ), and the "maximum and minimum total admittance located" frequencies, ( $f_m$  and  $f_n$ ). All of them can be obtained from a lumped equivalent circuit parameters as given in ( Fig.9 ) The definitions and relationship of the resonance frequency pairs can be clearly expressed in a complex admittance diagram given in (Fig. 9).



( Fig.9 ) Complex Admittance of Resonators

ies and parallel resonance frequencies, fs and fp are determined by taking the input electrical conductance (real part admittance) and resistance (real part of the electric input impedance) in maximum, respectively, as shown in (Fig. 9). onance frequency, fr and anti-resonance frequency, fa , are given by the two roots where the susceptance ary part of the input electric admittance) equals to zero, as shown in (Fig. 9). The resonance frequency and anti- rice frequency fr and fa are the frequencies of principal interest in two terminal applications. For evaluating the ent circuit of a resonator, however, the characteristic frequencies, fs and fp are more important. They are given by

$$f_s = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{1}{L_1 C_1}} \text{ ----- (1)}$$

$$f_p = f_s \sqrt{1 + (C_1 / C_0)} \text{ ----- (2)}$$

C1 and L1 are the motional capacitance and motional inductance, respectively, and C0 is the static capacitance ng in shunt branch (Fig. 7).

NOLOGIES



Nominal Frequency and Its Tolerance or Calibration Accuracy

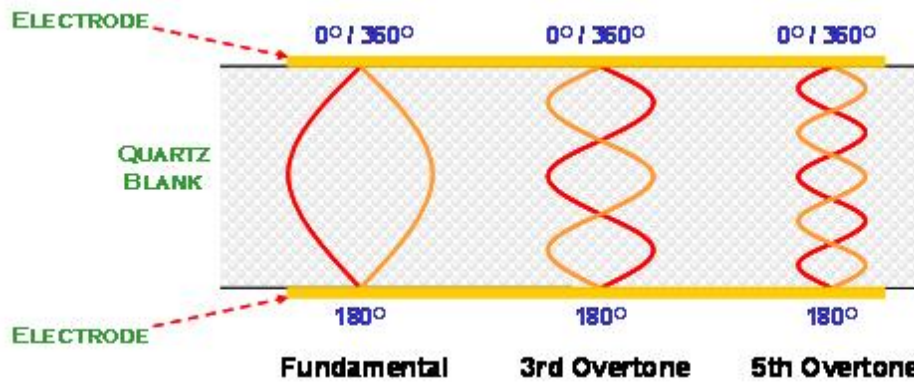
quency of a crystal resonator is typically specified in megahertz (MHz) or kilohertz (kHz). The normal frequency is the frequency what we expect from the crystal oscillation circuitry with proper matching. There is an amount of frequency in from the nominal frequency at ambient temperature (referenced to 25oC) for a real device. The tolerance of the



atural frequency deviation, as a parameter of the device, is specified with a maximum value, expressed in percent (%) per million (ppm).

### Fundamental and Overtone Vibrations

Thickness shear vibration is the main vibration mode existed in AT cut. The high order harmonic vibrations are co-exist with fundamental vibration between electrode areas. Due to the reverse polarity of two electrodes, only odd number harmonic vibrations can be excited in piezoelectric quartz resonators.



(Fig.10) Only odd number harmonic vibrations can be excited in crystal resonator

### Load Capacitance

Load capacitance, CL, is the amount of capacitance that the oscillator exhibits when looking into the circuit through the two terminals of the resonator. The load capacitance is normally in either series or parallel with the resonator. For parallel load case, the presence of CL will affect the parallel resonance frequency and the parallel-load resonance frequency, fL, is given by

$$f_L = f_s \sqrt{1 + C_1 / (C_0 + C_L)} \quad \text{----- (3)}$$

This parameter is necessary to be specified.

### Frequency-Temperature Stability

Frequency-Temperature stability is indicated by the amount of frequency variation from the value at the standard ambient temperature (25°C, usually), caused by the operating temperature change. This parameter is specified by a curve showing frequency variation (expressed in % or ppm) versus the temperature deviation from the reference temperature (25°C). The frequency-temperature stability of a quartz device depends on the type of cut, the mode of vibration, and the dimension of the

blank. Besides, the deviation value is associated with the operating temperature range, the load capacitance and the level of the crystal resonator.

Equivalent Series Resistance (ESR)

Resistance R1 appearing in the series branch (fig. 5) can be measured at series resonance frequency, where the effects of L1 and C1 are cancelled each other and the effective result of the branch is a resistive. R1 represents the mechanical loss of the crystal unit and the holder.

Motional Capacitance C1 and Motional Inductance L1

Two parameters are definitely related by the series resonance frequency,  $f_s$ , as given in Eq.(1), and  $f_s$  is a very sure factor in resonator design and in characterization. Only the value of C1 is specified in industry standard and L1 can be derived from

$$L_1 = \frac{1}{4\pi^2 f_s^2 C_1} \text{ ----- (4)}$$

The value of C1 is very small in comparison with capacitances usually used in oscillation circuits and can be evaluated from material and geometry parameters of the crystal plate and electrodes.

Static Capacitance Co (in Shunt)

Static capacitance,  $C_0$ , is a static capacitance, which is present whether the device is oscillating or not. The value of  $C_0$  is measured at very low frequency (less than or about 1.0 MHz), and theoretically is given by

$$C_0 = \epsilon_{ij}^s \cdot \frac{A}{d} + C_{m+p} \text{ ----- (5)}$$

A is the electrode area, d is the thickness of the blank, and  $\epsilon$  is the dielectric constant of the corresponding crystal

material. Usually,  $C_0$  includes not only the static capacitance of plated quartz blank, but also the capacitance of conductive material and the capacitance of housing itself.

Drive Level

ve level of a resonator is the amount of power dissipation, expressed in nanowatts, microwatts or milliwatts.  
 ng level is the suitable power range to assure proper start and maintain a steady state oscillation. Drive level should  
 ated at the minimum level to avoid long-term frequency drift and crystal fracture. Generally, the smaller the product  
 over the drive level should be applied without damaging the quartz resonators for long term usage. Generally, the  
 vel from 10µW to 100 µW is good enough for most of the applications.

uality Factor-Q

sonator, quality factor-Q value is a very important parameter. In specification, unloaded and loaded Q values are  
 d. The unloaded Q, or mechanical Q, can be expressed by

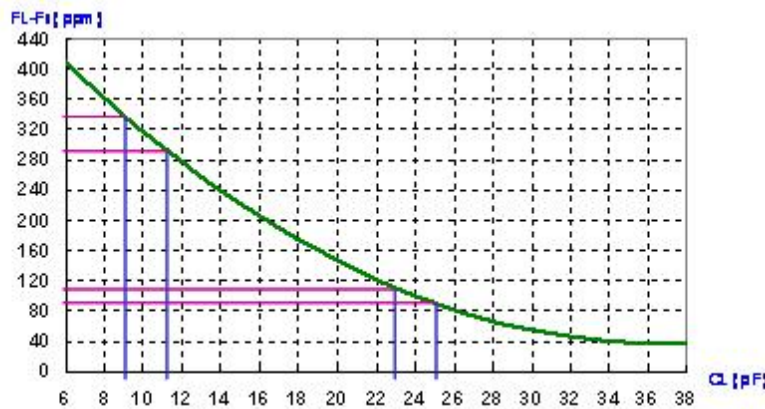
$$Q = \frac{2 \pi f_s L_1}{R_1} = \frac{1}{2 \pi f_s C_1 R_1} \text{ -----(6)}$$

R1 is the resistance appearing in the series branch.

ded Q value depends on the loaded circuit.

Pullability

allel-load capacitance oscillator, the oscillation frequency depends on the load capacitance, CL as shown in Eq.(3)  
 g. 11). The frequency change (in ppm) as a function of the load capacitance change (in pF) is a specification. In  
 applications where the variation of loaded resonance frequency is mandatory (VCXO, for example), pullability has to  
 ified.



(Fig. 11) Frequency variation vs. load capacitance

AGING

is the relative change of operating frequency over a specified time period and is expressed in parts per million (ppm)

specified period. This rate of frequency change is normally exponential in character. The highest aging rate occurs in the first week of aging and decreases slowly afterwards. Typically, aging is computed within first 30 days and is extended over a long-term period (one year or ten years). Aging rate depends on many factors: seal method, integrity, manufacturing processes, material type, operating temperature, and frequency.

#### STORAGE TEMPERATURE RANGE

This specification indicates the minimum and maximum temperatures in which the devices can be stored or exposed in a non-operating state. After storing or exposing the devices at the specified temperature range for a long time, all of the specifications are guaranteed over the specified operating temperature range.

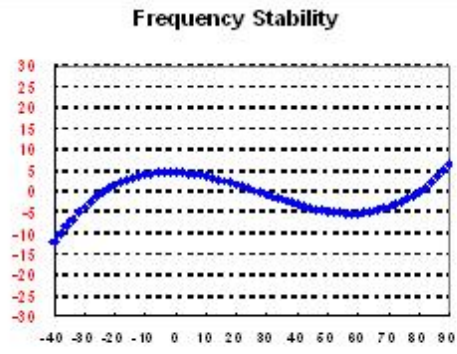
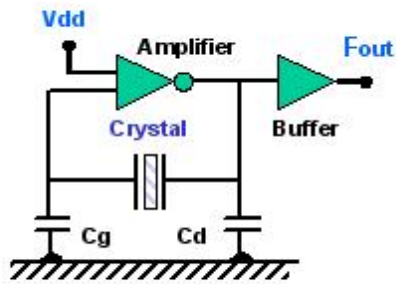
#### Negative Resistance "-R"

Negative resistance is introduced to describe the electric property of an oscillator circuit. This is the amount of resistance the oscillator circuit exhibits when looking into the circuit through the terminals of the resonator. One of the basic design conditions demands the amplifier have to supply enough gain to compensate the loss in the resonator. From another point of view, the load has to exhibit enough "negative resistance" to compensate the resistance of the resonator. Negative resistance is an important parameter in designing oscillators.

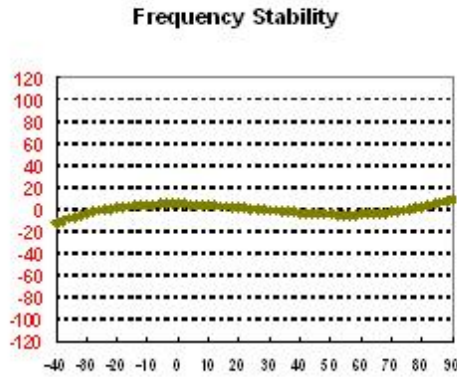
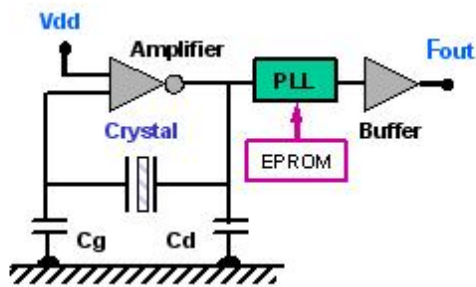
#### OSCILLATORS



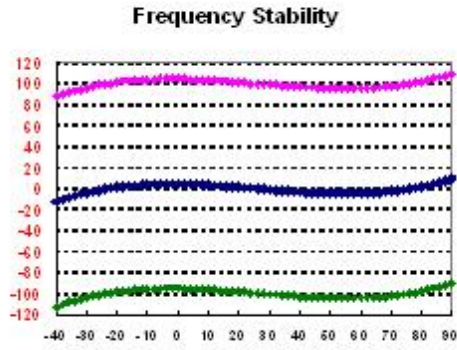
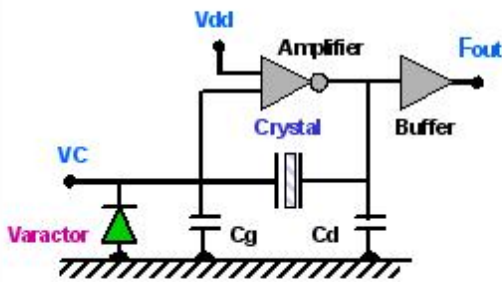
(a) Simple Package Crystal Oscillator



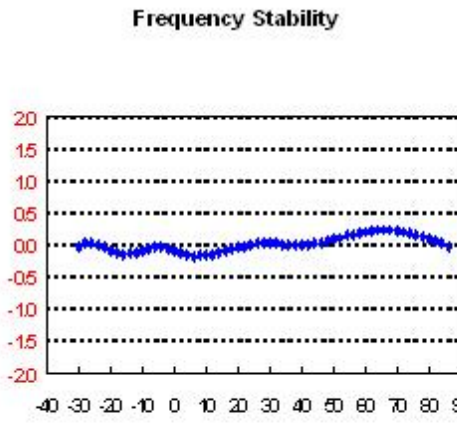
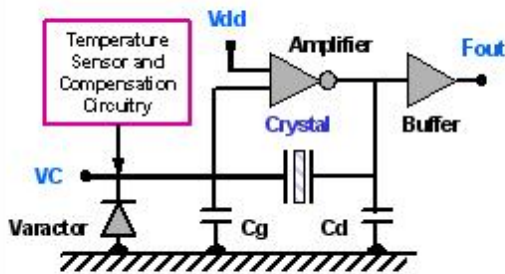
(b) Programmable Crystal Oscillators



(c) Voltage Controlled Crystal Oscillator



(d) Temperature Compensated Crystal Oscillator ( TCXO / VCTCXO )



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