

## Research Article

# Modeling and Optimization for a New Compliant 2-dof Stage for Locating Biomaterial Samples by an Efficient Approach of a Kinetostatic Analysis-Based Method and Neural Network Algorithm

Minh Phung Dang,<sup>1</sup> Hieu Giang Le,<sup>1</sup> Minh Nhut Van,<sup>1</sup> Ngoc Le Chau,<sup>2</sup>  
and Thanh-Phong Dao <sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

<sup>3</sup>Division of Computational Mechatronics, Institute for Computational Science, Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

<sup>4</sup>Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Correspondence should be addressed to Thanh-Phong Dao; [daothanhphong@tdtu.edu.vn](mailto:daothanhphong@tdtu.edu.vn)

Received 15 April 2022; Revised 3 June 2022; Accepted 22 June 2022; Published 16 August 2022

Academic Editor: Kehui Sun

Copyright © 2022 Minh Phung Dang et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

The nanoindentation technique is employed to characterize the behaviors of biomaterials. Nevertheless, there is a lack of development of a miniaturized precise positioner for in situ nanoindentation. Besides, modeling behaviors of the positioner are restricted due to its complex kinematic characteristics. Therefore, this paper proposes a novel compliant two degrees of freedom (dof) stage for positioning a biomaterial sample in in situ nanoindentation. In addition, a new modeling and dimensional optimization synthesis method of the stage is developed. The proposed effective methodology is developed based on a kinetostatic analysis-based calculation method, the Lagrange approach, and a neural network algorithm. With an increased advance in artificial intelligence, a neural network algorithm is proposed to extend the applicability of artificial neural networks in optimizing the parameters of the stage. First, the 2-dof stage is built via a combination of an eight-lever displacement amplifier and a symmetric parallelogram mechanism. Second, a chain of mathematical equations of the 2-dof stage is constructed using a kinetostatic analysis-based method to calculate the ratio of displacement amplification and the input stiffness of the 2-dof stage. Then, the Lagrange method is utilized to formulate the dynamic equation of the 2-dof stage. Finally, a neural network algorithm is adopted to maximize the natural first frequency of the proposed stage. The optimal results determined that the frequency of the stage can achieve a high value of 112.0995 Hz. Besides, the formed mathematical models were relatively precise by comprising the simulation verifications.

## 1. Introduction

Advances in in situ nanoindentation testers have resulted in great interest in developing compact-size mechanical mechanisms with better performances. The goals of a compact-size mechanism are to obtain lightweight, low cost, and to able be integrated into nanoindentation devices in observing the online mechanical behaviors of a

material sample [1]. Especially, in situ nanoindentation checking plays a vital role in testing for behaviors of biomaterials in implants (e.g., bone, teeth, femur, prosthetics, and so forth) [2, 3]. In a general in situ nanoindentation system, there are two main mechanisms/stages, including the one degree of freedom (dof) fine stage for bringing the indenter and the 2-dof fine stage for locating the material sample [4].

With the aforementioned regards in mind, many researchers have made significant 2-dof mechanical stages in developing the in situ nanoindentation. Huang et al. [5] used the concept of flexure hinge-based compliant mechanisms to design a 1-dof stage for driving the indenter. Then, they continued to develop a new 1-dof stage with specifications of crystal silicon [6]. Moreover, Huang et al. [6] designed a 1-dof stage for characterizing behaviors of metallic glass. In these studies, they mainly employed the compliant mechanism in developing the 1-dof stage for utilizing the indenter driver. It is well known that compliant mechanisms offer nonassembled structure, zero friction, and simple manufacture which are advantages to overcome the limitations of rigid-counterparts in precise mechanical engineering. In the last decade, flexure hinge-based compliant mechanisms have been widely utilized for precise engineering and fine positioner with compact sizes such as a positioner [7, 8] and valve [6, 9].

At present, many different compliant 2-dof stages have been developed for micro/nanomanipulations. Similar to these applications, a piezoelectric actuator (PZT) is often chosen due to its high precision and fast response. Nevertheless, one of the drawbacks of the PZTs is a limited output stroke [10]. This causes a limitation of providing a large input displacement for the 2-dof stages. As a result, a few common amplifiers were developed, such as lever, bridge, and hybrid lever-bridge types [11]. Considering the design of compliant 2-dof stages, many research groups have focused on developing the series-parallel kinematic chains in coupling with the PZTs to gain the high performances. For instance, Ling et al. [12] developed a 2-dof stage with good specifications. They used the pseudo-rigid-body model and the Lagrange method to analyze the kinetostatic and dynamic behaviors of the stage. Qu et al. [13] designed a 2-dof stage using the parallelogram scheme. They analyzed the kinematics, stiffness, and workspace of the 2-dof stage through the matrix method. More recently, Wang et al. [14] designed a 2-dof stage, and the compliance matrix was employed for characterizing the stiffness. Xiao et al. [15] developed a 2-dof stage, and the stiffness as well as kinematic models was formulated through the matrix displacement method. Although the previous 2-dof stages were well developed, they were almost tended for developing the micro/nanomanipulations. Based on the aforementioned studies, it can be seen that there is a lack of deep investigations in developing compliant 2-dof stages for use in locating biomaterials in the in situ nanoindentation tester industry.

This paper aimed to develop a new compliant 2-dof stage which can be employed in locating biomaterials in in situ nanoindentation systems. The design details of the stage are developed based on the multiple lever amplification mechanism and series-parallel chain. The kinetostatics and dynamics are derived based on the deformable mechanics, the elastic beam theory, and the Lagrange approach.

The main contributions of this paper are summarized as follows: (i) A new compliant 2-dof stage with great dynamic characteristics is designed for locating biospecimens in nanoindentation tester systems. (ii) The stiffness and amplification ratio are established. Then, the dynamic equation

of the 2-dof stage is formulated. The correctness of the established mathematical models are verified through finite element simulations. (iii) Finally, the main parameters of the 2-dof stage are optimized using the neural network algorithm which benefits excellent behaviors of an artificial neural network.

## 2. Conceptual Design of a Compliant 2-dof Stage

*2.1. Design Scheme of the 1-dof Mechanism.* Figure 1 describes the operating mechanism of a 1-dof stage which comprises an eight-lever displacement amplifier and a parallelogram mechanism. The amplifier is aimed to amplify the displacement, so-called stroke, of the proposed 1-dof stage. Meanwhile, the parallelogram mechanism is employed to generate good translation in the desirable motion and reduce the undesirable motions. It means that this design scheme ensures a good design with a large amplification ratio as well as reduces the parasitic motion error.

*2.2. Operation Scheme of the 2-dof Stage.* Based on the design and operation schemes of the 1-dof stage in Figure 1, the operation principle and design scheme of a new 2-dof stage are provided in Figure 2(a). The design of the 2-dof stage is a module-based scheme. The module of the 1-dof stage is symmetrically arranged in the vertical and horizontal directions. It means that the 2-dof stage includes the four modules of the 1-dof stage. The positioning stage is employed to locate the biomaterials in an in situ nanoindentation system. As illustrated in Figure 2(a), the P-joint shows a leaf hinge, so-called as the prismatic joint, to generate a large deformation. Meanwhile, the remain positions are designed with the elliptical hinges to ensure good positions. The overall working operation of the 2-dof stage is mainly based on the deformations of the elliptical joints, right circular joints, and P-joints. The suggested stage is driven using a PZT actuator. The main dimensioning parameters of the proposed stage are illustrated in Figure 2(b). The values of the parameters are provided in Table 1.

In the proposed design, a double-lever amplification mechanism is widely used for many researches on flexure-based mechanisms [16]. Meanwhile, the symmetric eight-lever displacement amplifier integrated into the 2-dof stage for locating biospecimens has been investigated. Therefore, the proposed displacement amplifier is a new structure for positioning a biomaterial sample in in situ nanoindentation.

Each component has an important task in overall nanoindentation. Specifically, the main task of the 2-dof stage is aimed to locate the fine position of the biospecimens. The only difference of the proposed mechanism design in nanoindentation/in situ nanoindentation in comparison with traditional mechanisms is a monolithic structure in order to reduce the mechanical component quantity as well as to reduce friction and wear of an assembly cluster. Therefore, inspired from the advantages of the compliant mechanisms, the authors will investigate to contribute for the new compliant structures.

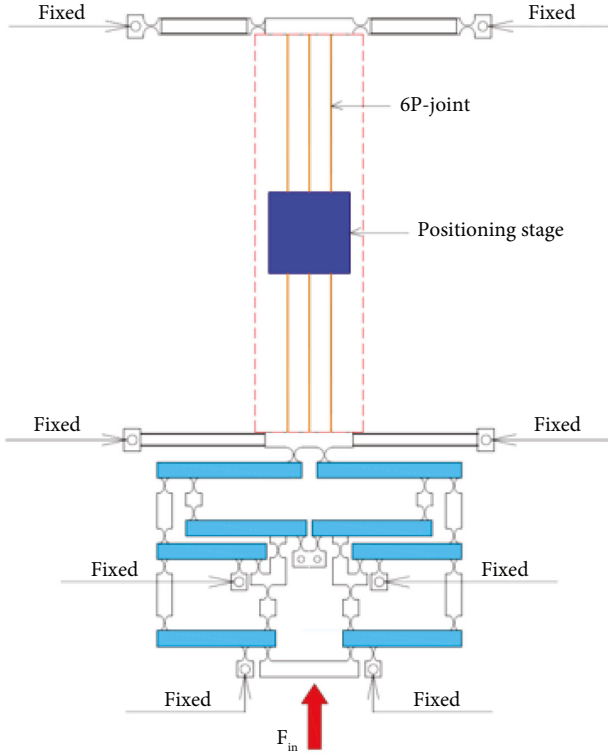


FIGURE 1: Design scheme of the 1-dof symmetrical mechanism.

As illustrated clearly in Figure 2(b) and Table 1, the parameters  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  with different colors are the thicknesses of the elliptical hinges at lever floor 1, lever floor 2, and lever floors 3 and 4, respectively. In addition,  $D$  is the thickness of the right circular hinge at the end of lever floor 4, and  $E$  is the thickness of the leaf hinge of the parallel guiding mechanism. In addition, the technical specifications of the proposed stage are determined in Table 2.

### 3. Proposed Methodology

In this part, a modeling and dimensional optimization synthesis method is developed for the compliant 2-dof stage. The proposed methodology is formed based on the analytical methods and the metaheuristic algorithm. In this work, the deformable mechanics theory is coupled with the elastic beam theory and Lagrange method in establishing the kinetostatic and dynamic equations of the 2-dof stage.

**3.1. Modeling and Dimensional Optimization Synthesis.** The flowchart of the proposed methodology for modeling and dimensional optimization synthesis for the developed stage is shown in Figure 3. The main steps of the present methodology are briefly performed as follows:

- (i) Step 1: predetermine a conceptual design of the 2-dof stage, i.e., a built kinematic chain diagram.
- (ii) Step 2: predetermine the specification's requirements for the 2-dof stage.

- (iii) Step 3: establish the kinetostatic and dynamic mathematical equations for the 2-dof stage by using the the deformable mechanics theory, the elastic beam theory, and the Lagrange approach.
- (iv) Step 4: verify the corrections of mathematical equations through finite element analysis (FEA).
- (v) Step 5: if the kinematic and dynamic equations are corrected, the calculation process moves to the further steps. Otherwise, the process goes back the step 1.
- (vi) Step 6: define the design variables, objective, and constraint functions for the 2-dof stage.
- (vii) Step 7: in order to optimize the parameters of the 2-dof stage, the neural network algorithm is employed in improving the dynamic performance of the stage.
- (viii) Step 8: the optimal results are verified via FEA analysis. If it satisfied, a prototype of the stage will be made.
- (ix) Step 9: the dynamic performance of the 2-dof stage is compared with that from the previous stages.

**3.2. Neural Network Algorithm.** Inspired from the artificial neural network (ANN), the neural network algorithm (NNA) was developed [17]. This NNA optimizer is also considered as other metaheuristic optimizers based on the population differential evolution algorithm [18], particle swarm optimization [19], nondominated sorting genetic algorithm [20], and so on. This algorithm is aimed to decrease the error among the targets and the predicted values, and achieve a global optimally best result. The flowchart of the NNA is given in Figure 4.

A pattern solution ( $P_s$ ) is determined as

$$P_s = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d], \quad d: \text{problem size.} \quad (1)$$

A matrix of pattern solution ( $X$ ) is defined by

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^1 & x_2^1 & x_D^1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_1^{n_{pop}} & x_2^{n_{pop}} & x_D^{n_{pop}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad n_{pop} \text{ is the population number.} \quad (2)$$

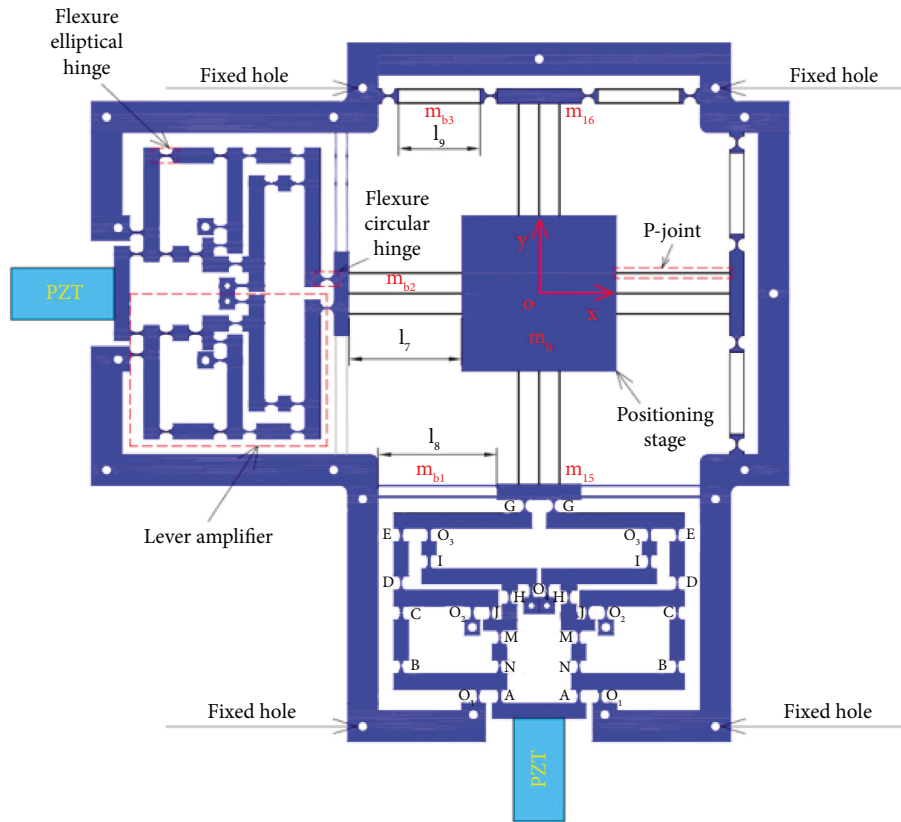
The  $i^{\text{th}}$  cost of the function is defined as follows:

$$C_i = f(x_1^i, x_2^i, \dots, x_D^i). \quad (3)$$

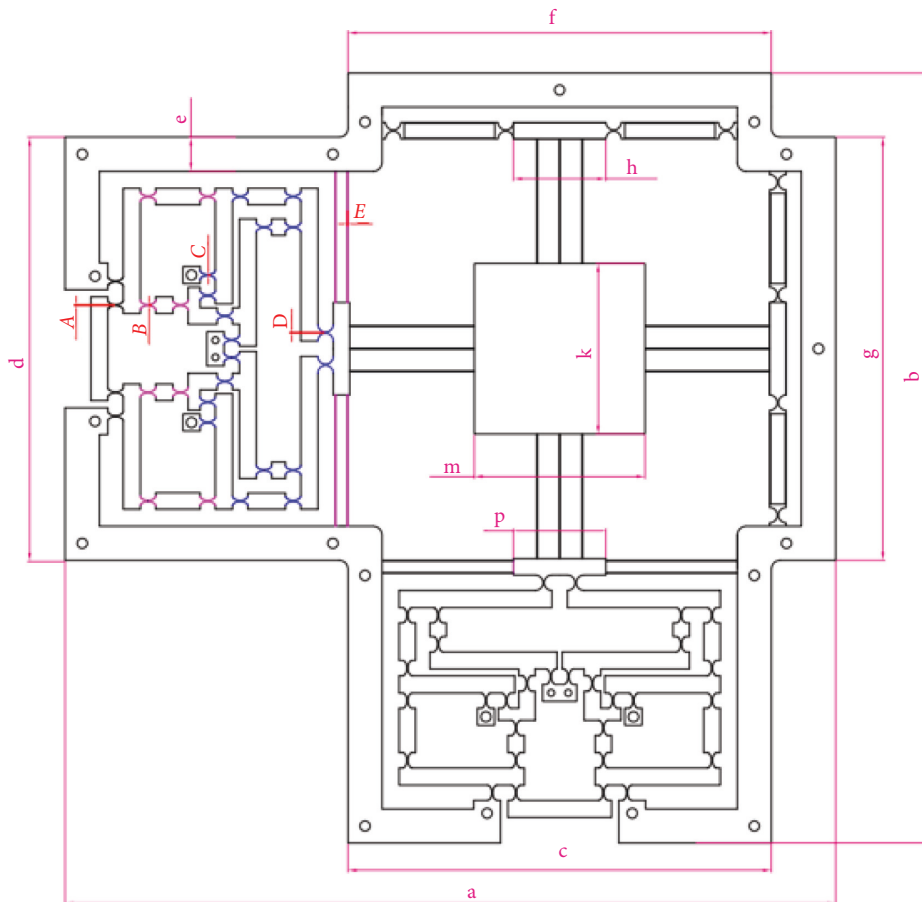
A weight matrix is determined by

$$W(t) = \begin{bmatrix} W_1^1 & W_2^1 & \dots & W_D^{n_{pop}} \\ \vdots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ W_{n_{pop}}^1 & W_{n_{pop}}^i & \dots & W_{n_{pop}}^{n_{pop}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} W_{11} & \dots & W_{i1} & \dots & W_{n_{pop}1} \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ W_{1n_{pop}} & W_{in_{pop}} & \dots & W_{n_{pop}n_{pop}} \end{bmatrix}.$$



(a)



(b)

FIGURE 2: The proposed 2-dof stage: (a) design diagram and (b) main dimensioning parameters.

TABLE 1: Main geometric parameters of the proposed 2-dof stage.

Factor	Value	Factor	Value	Unit
a	451	k	100	mm
b	451	m	100	mm
c	248	p	54	mm
d	248	A	$0.9 \leq A \leq 1.1$	mm
e	20	B	$0.7 \leq B \leq 0.9$	mm
f	248	C	$0.6 \leq C \leq 0.8$	mm
g	248	D	$0.6 \leq D \leq 0.8$	mm
h	54	E	$0.6 \leq E \leq 0.7$	mm

TABLE 2: The desirable technical specifications of the XY stage.

Technical specifications	Desirable results
Workspace size	$451 \times 451$ (mm)
Desirable working stroke	$770 \times 770$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
Desirable resonant frequency	100 (Hz)
Desirable displacement amplification ratio	7
Parasitic motion error/cross-axis coupling ratio	0.04 (%)
Safety factor	1.7
Range of the maximum load	3000 N

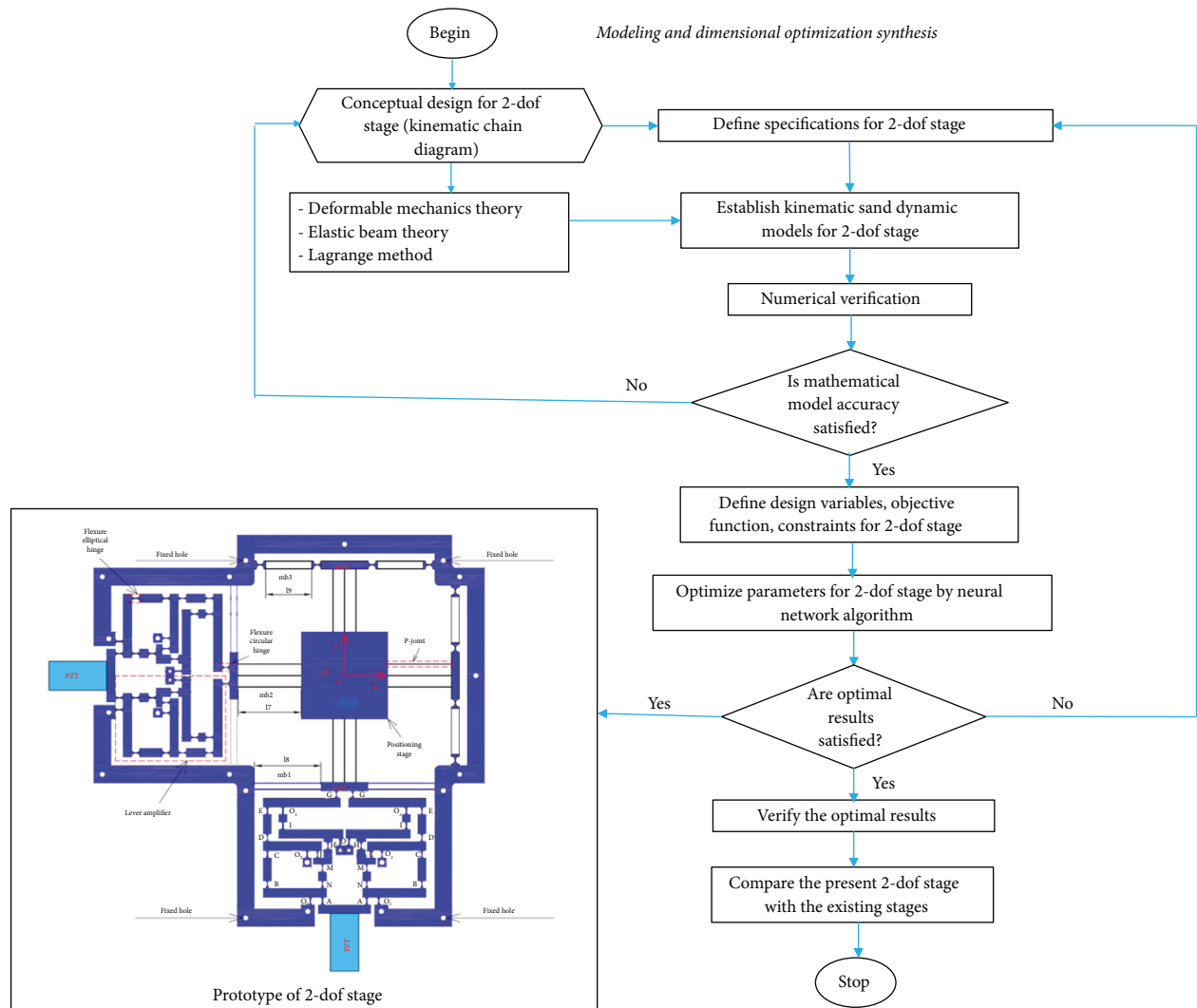


FIGURE 3: Flowchart of the proposed methodology for modeling and optimization synthesis of the 2-dof stage.

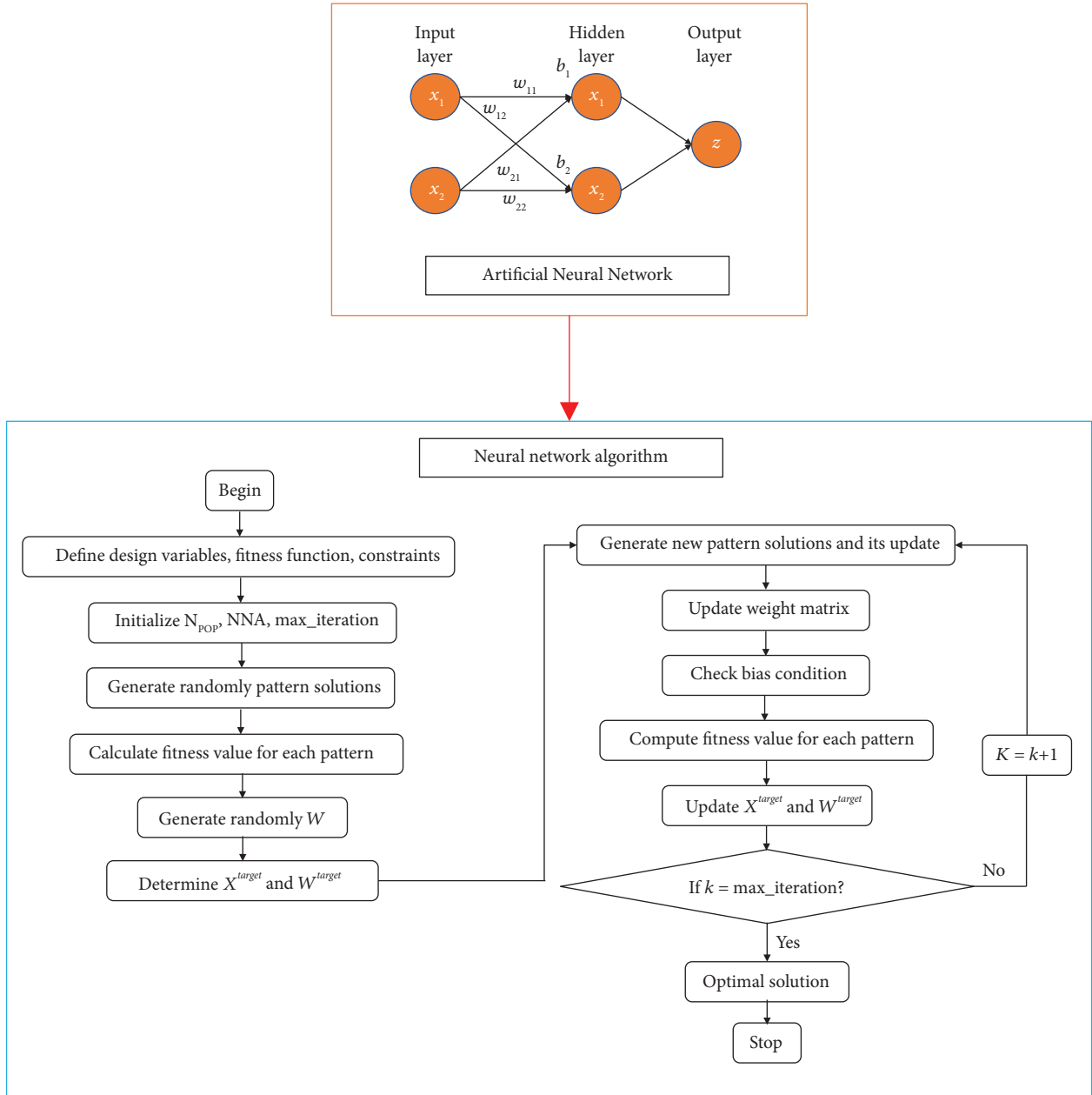


FIGURE 4: Schematic diagram of the neural network algorithm.

The weight value is determined as

$$\sum_{j=1}^{npop} w_{ij}(t) = 1, \quad i \in npop, \quad (5)$$

$$w_{ij} \in U(0, 1), \quad i, j \in npop, \quad (6)$$

A new matrix ( $X$ ) is calculated by

$$X_j^{new}(t+1) = \sum_{t=1}^{npop} w_{ij}(t) \times X_i(t), \quad j \in npop, \quad (7)$$

$$X_i(t+1) = X_i(t) + X_i^{new}(t+1), \quad i \in npop. \quad (8)$$

The weight matrix is updated by following formula:

$$W_i^{update}(t+1) = W_i(t) + 2 \times rand \times (W^{target}(t) - W_i(t)), \quad i \in npop, \quad (9)$$

A bias means that the exploration influences a new solution and weighting. Considering  $rand > \psi$  ( $\psi$  is solutions percentage), the function operator is computed by

$$X_i^*(t+1) = X_i(t+1) + 2 \times rand \times (X^{target}(t) - X_i(t+1)), \quad i \in npop, \quad (10)$$

In this work, an initial population of 20, max iterations of 500, and  $\psi$  of 1 are utilized for the NNA.

## 4. Results and Discussion

**4.1. Modeling of Kinetostatics and Dynamics.** The kinetostatics and dynamics of the 2-dof stage are performed to evaluate its behaviors. The deformable mechanics theory, the elastic beam theory, and the Lagrange method are utilized for these analyses. In this work, the specifications of the 2-dof stage are analyzed (i.e., ratio of displacement amplification, stiffness, stroke, and resonant frequency).

**4.1.1. Modeling of Amplification Ratio and Input Stiffness.** Figure 5 demonstrates a variant of the modified displacement lever amplifier (MDLA), a so-called variant of a lever amplifier. It includes the main parameters of the lever lengths of the different amplification floors. Because of a symmetrical structure, a half of the displacement amplifier is chosen to analyze the quality characteristics of the proposed 2-dof stage.

A schematic diagram of the MDLA is provided in Figure 6. It consists of main levers, including the lever amplification mechanism #1 (LAM1), lever amplification mechanism #2 (LAM2), and lever amplification mechanism #3 (LAM3). Besides, the parameters of the lengths of levers ( $l_1, l_2, l_1', l_2', l_3, l_4, l_5,$  and  $l_6$ ) are also in Figure 6 in which  $O_1, O_2, O_3,$  and  $O_4$  are the rotation centers of the levers.

As shown in Figure 6, the MDLA is operated based on three levers (LAM1, LAM2, and LAM3). It can be determined that the output displacement of the amplifier can be derived as follows [21]:

$$\delta_{out} = \left[ \frac{l_5}{l_6} \left( \frac{l_2}{l_1} + \frac{l_4}{l_3} + 1 \right) + \frac{l_4}{l_3} + 1 \right] \delta_{in}, \quad (11)$$

where  $\delta_{in}$  and  $\delta_{out}$  symbolize the input displacement and the output displacement, respectively. Next, the amplification ratio will be computed as follows:

$$A = \frac{l_5}{l_6} \left( \frac{l_2}{l_1} + \frac{l_4}{l_3} + 1 \right) + \frac{l_4}{l_3} + 1, \quad (12)$$

where  $A$  is the displacement amplification ratio.

Three kinds of flexure joints are used at appropriate places in the original design, thus helping the design to achieve a large displacement and reduce undesirable motions of the stage. Figure 7 demonstrates the main associated dimensions of a flexure circular notched hinge, and it shows the effect of force and torque that recovers when the mechanism operates.

The mechanism's input stiffness is investigated. The general spring with bending stiffness ( $K_{\delta x F_x}^c$ ) is generated via the lateral force, and the torsion stiffness ( $K_{\theta z M_z}^c$ ) is made via the torque. The linear stiffness ( $K_{\theta y M_y}^c$ ) is created via the axial force for the flexure right circular hinge. Furthermore, the leaf beam's torsion and linear stiffness are denoted by  $K_{\theta z M_z}^l$  and  $K_{\theta y M_y}^l$ , respectively. Correspondingly, the flexure elliptical notched hinge is behaved with bending stiffness ( $K_{\delta x F_x}^e$ ) produced via the lateral force, torsion stiffness ( $K_{\theta z M_z}^e$ ) produced via the torque, and linear stiffness ( $K_{\theta y M_y}^e$ ) generated via the axial force [22].

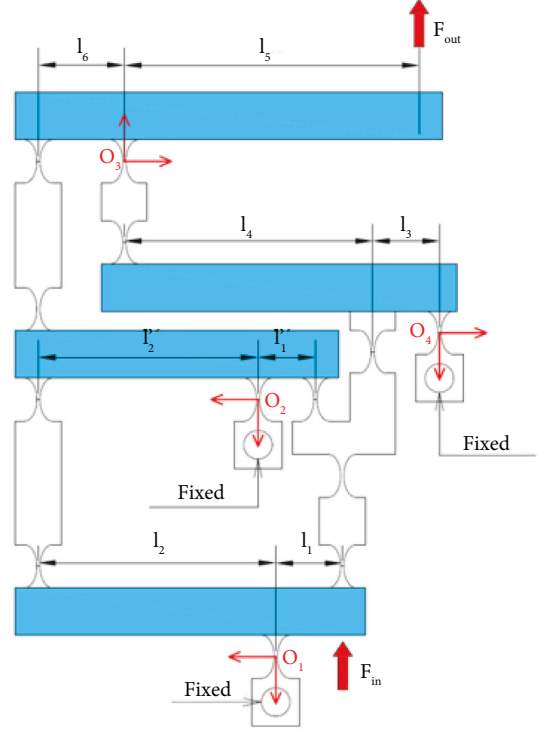


FIGURE 5: A variant of the symmetrical displacement lever amplifier.

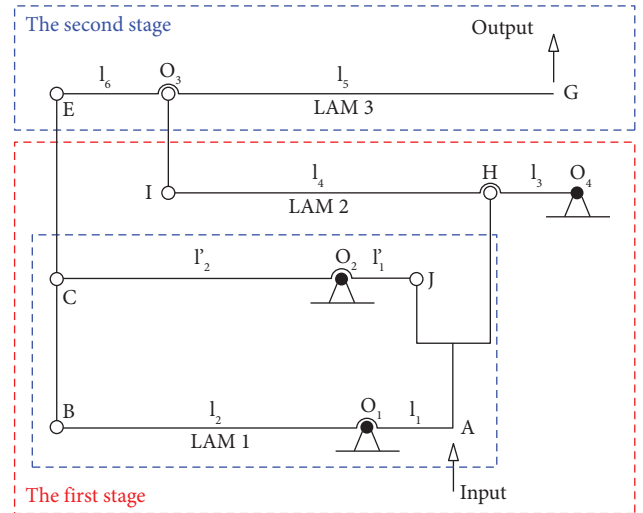


FIGURE 6: Schematic diagram of the modified displacement lever amplifier.

$$K_{\theta z M_z}^c = \frac{2Ebt^{2.5}}{9\pi r^{0.5}}, \quad (13)$$

$$K_{\theta y M_y}^c = \frac{Ebt^{0.5}}{\pi(r^{0.5} - 0.5t^{0.5})}, \quad (14)$$

$$K_{\delta x F_x}^c = \frac{2Ebt^{2.5}}{3\pi r^{1.5}(3r + t)}, \quad (15)$$

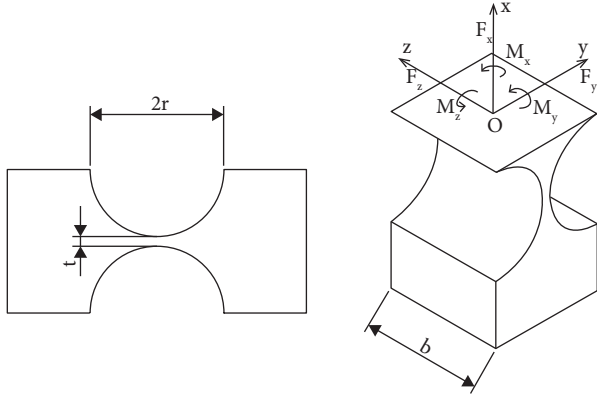


FIGURE 7: Diagram of a circular arc flexure hinge.

Next, Figure 8 describes the simplified structure diagram of the flexure leaf hinge. In addition, the main parameters such as the length, width, and thickness are also displayed along with the direction of force and torque acting on the leaf hinge.

Stiffness values of the leaf hinge are calculated with the following equations:

$$K_{\theta_z M_z}^l = \frac{Eba^3}{12l}, \quad (16)$$

$$K_{\theta_y M_y}^l = \frac{Eba}{l}, \quad (17)$$

$$M_{\theta_z M_z}^l = K_{\theta_z M_z}^l \Delta\theta. \quad (18)$$

Figure 9 shows the dimensions of the flexure elliptical hinge as well as the directions of the force and moment acting on the elliptical hinge.

Next, the following equations describe how to calculate the stiffness of the flexure elliptical hinge that bends in different directions.

$$K_{\theta_z M_z}^e = \frac{2Eba_x^2}{3 \in f(\beta_y)}, \quad (19)$$

$$K_{\theta_y M_y}^e = \frac{Eb^3}{12 \in g(\beta_y)}, \quad (20)$$

$$K_{\delta_x F_x}^e = \frac{Eb}{\in g(\beta_y)}, \quad (21)$$

$$\beta_x = \frac{t}{2a_x}, \quad (22)$$

$$\beta_y = \frac{t}{2a_y}, \quad (23)$$

$$\in = \frac{a_x}{a_y} = \frac{\beta_y}{\beta_x}, \quad (24)$$

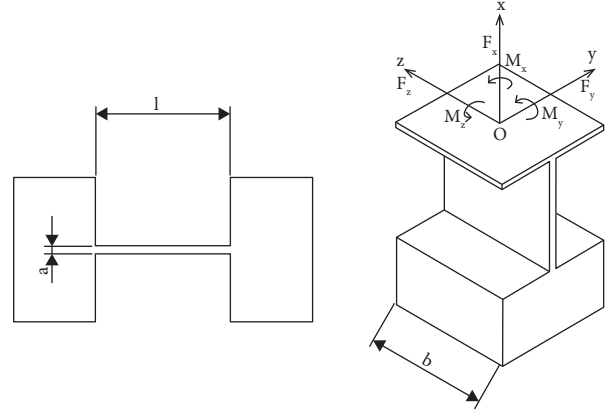


FIGURE 8: Diagram of a leaf-type arc flexure hinge.

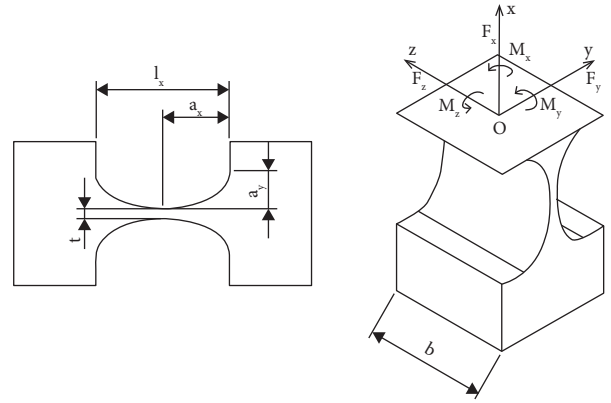


FIGURE 9: Diagram of an elliptical arc flexure hinge.

$$f(\beta_y) = f(\in \beta_x) = \frac{1}{2\beta_y + \beta_y^2} \left( \frac{3 + 4\beta_y + 2\beta_y^2}{(1 + \beta_y)(2\beta_y + \beta_y^2)} + \frac{6(1 + \beta_y)}{(\sqrt{2\beta_y + \beta_y^2})^3} \tan^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{2 + \beta_y}{\beta_y}} \right), \quad (25)$$

$$g(\beta_y) = g(\in \beta_x) = \frac{2(1 + \beta_y)}{\sqrt{2\beta_y + \beta_y^2}} \tan^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{2 + \beta_y}{\beta_y}} - \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad (26)$$

where  $b$  denotes the thickness of the flexure hinge,  $E$  denotes the elastic modulus of the manufacturing material,  $r$  is the radius of a flexure circular notched hinge, and  $t$  denotes the smallest width of the circular/elliptical hinge. The width and length of the leaf beam are represented by  $a$  and  $l$ , respectively. The dimensionless factor representing the elliptical hinge geometry  $a_x$  is denoted by  $(\beta_x)$ , and  $(a_y)$  is denoted by  $(\beta_y)$ . The symbol  $(\in)$  is the multiplication factor of the ratio of major to minor axes. On the other hand, the symbols  $(f(\beta_x))$  and  $(f(\beta_y))$  are the dimensionless compliance factors according to  $(\beta_x)$  and  $(\beta_y)$ , respectively.

By subjecting an input displacement  $(\in)$  at the stage's input end, the corresponding input force  $(F_m)$  is determined via the following equation:



$$F_{in} = K_{in}\delta_{in}, \quad (27)$$

where  $K_{in}$  is the input stiffness of the micromanipulator.

Figure 10 describes the initial state and working state of the MDLA. The deformation angles formed from the position change of the multistage lever help to show the different degrees of deformation of the structure while it is working.

Figures 11–14 present the force analysis diagram of beam 4, beam 3, beam 2, and beam 1, respectively, in the lever amplification mechanism. The diagrams illustrate the details of the applied force, moment, rotation angle, as well as the deformation of the elastic joint.

Only half of the displacement amplification structure is investigated due to the symmetrical structure. A main force analysis scheme of the mechanical amplification mechanism is depicted in Figure 10. As a result, the following equations are formed by using the mechanic equilibrium state of beam 4, as asserted in Figure 11.

The following force equilibrium equations can be derived as

$$F_{O3y} = F_{Ey} + F_{Gy}, \quad (28)$$

$$F_{Ey}l_6 = F_{Gy}l_5 + M_{O3t} + M_{Gt} + M_{Et}. \quad (29)$$

Specifically, the bending moments of the points  $O_3$ ,  $G$ , and  $E$  are represented as  $M_{O3t}$ ,  $M_{Gt}$ , and  $M_{Et}$ , respectively. Three forces  $F_{O3y}$ ,  $F_{Ey}$ , and  $F_{Gy}$  are acting at points  $O_3$ ,  $E$ , and  $G$  in the direction of  $y$ -axis when the structure operates, respectively. The displacement value at point  $G$  is a combination of two displacements including displacement due to hinges at  $O_3$  rotating around its axis ( $l_5\theta_4$ ) and displacement due to drift ( $\delta_4$ ). Furthermore, by multiplying stiffness by displacement, the forces  $F_{O3y}$  and  $F_{Gy}$  are determined. They are calculated via the following equations:

$$F_{O3y} = K_{O3x}\delta_4, \quad (30)$$

$$F_{Gy} = K_{Gy}(l_5\theta_4 - \delta_4), \quad (31)$$

$$M_{O3t} = K_{O3t}\theta_4, \quad (32)$$

$$M_{Gt} = K_{Gt}\theta_4, \quad (33)$$

$$F_{Ey}l_6 = K_{Gy}l_5(l_5\theta_4 - \delta_4) + K_{O3t}\theta_4 + K_{Gt}\theta_4 + K_{Et}\theta_4, \quad (37a)$$

$$F_{Ey}l_6 + K_{Gy}l_5\delta_4 = (K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et})\theta_4, \quad (37b)$$

where  $F_{Ey}$ ,  $F_{O3y}$ , and  $F_{Gy}$  are the forces generated at points of  $E$ ,  $O_3$ , and  $G$ , respectively, when the structure operates.

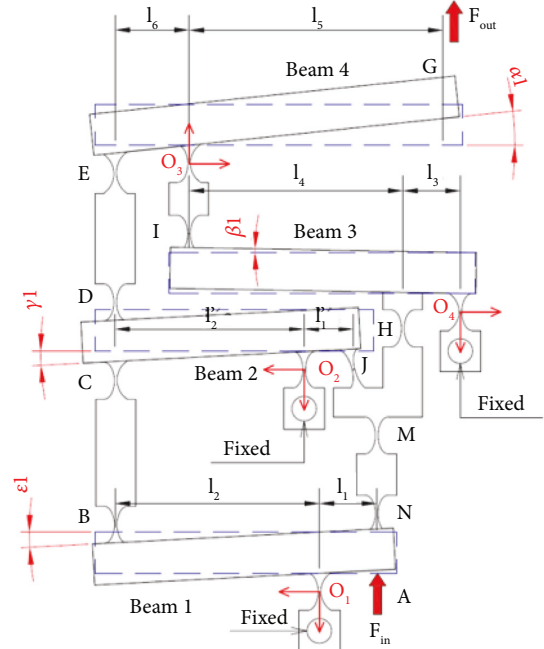


FIGURE 10: Force and deformation diagram of a half of the MDLA.

$$M_{Et} = K_{Et}\theta_4, \quad (34)$$

where  $K_{O3x}$  is the lateral bending stiffness by the force  $F_{O3y}$ , and  $K_{Gt}$  is the  $G$  point's output stiffness of the MDLA. In addition, the rotational stiffnesses  $K_{O3t}$ ,  $K_{Gt}$ , and  $K_{Et}$  are the stiffnesses of the flexure hinges at points  $O_3$ ,  $G$ , and  $E$ , respectively.

Substituting (30) and (31) into (28), the results are yielded as

$$K_{O3x}\delta_4 = F_{Ey} + K_{Gy}(l_5\theta_4 - \delta_4), \quad (35)$$

$$\delta_4 = \frac{F_{Ey} + K_{Gy}l_5\theta_4}{K_{O3x} + K_{Gy}}. \quad (36)$$

Substituting (31)–(34) into (29), the results are achieved as

Substituting (36) into (37b), the  $\theta_4$  and  $\delta_4$  can be derived as

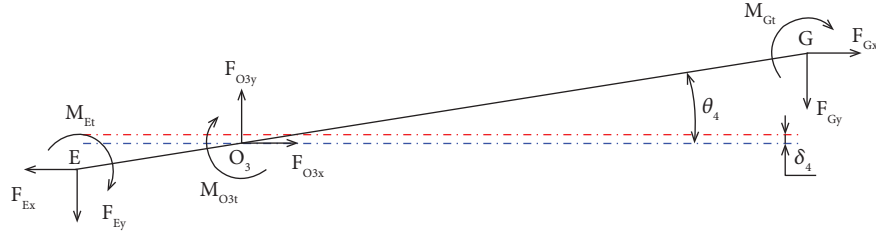


FIGURE 11: Force analysis diagram of beam 4.

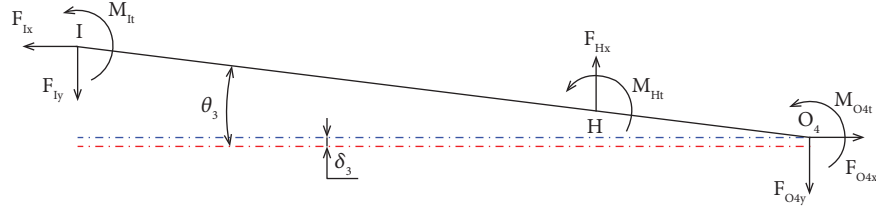


FIGURE 12: Force analysis diagram of beam 3.

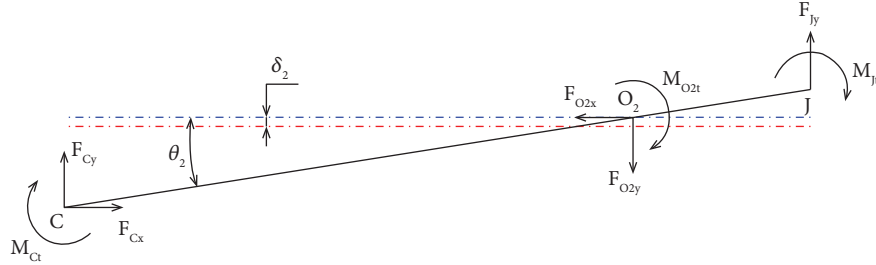


FIGURE 13: Force analysis diagram of beam 2.

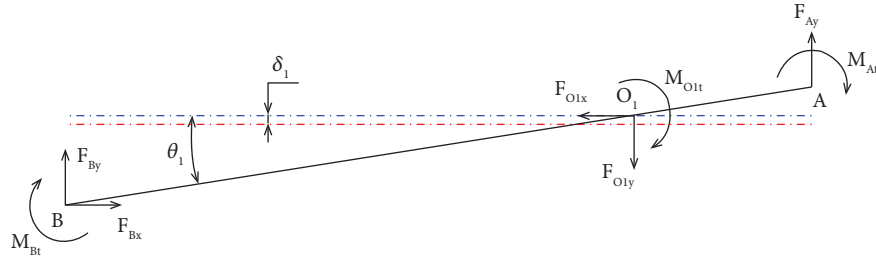


FIGURE 14: Force analysis diagram of beam 1.

$$F_{Ey}l_6 + K_{Gy}l_5 \frac{F_{Ey} + K_{Gy}l_5\theta_4}{K_{O3x} + K_{Gy}} = (K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et})\theta_4, \quad (38)$$

$$F_{Ey}l_6(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy}) + K_{Gy}l_5(F_{Ey} + K_{Gy}l_5\theta_4) = (K_{O3x} + K_{Gy})(K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et})\theta_4, \quad (39)$$

$$\theta_4 = \frac{l_6(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy}) + K_{Gy}l_5}{(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy})(K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et}) - K_{Gy}^2l_5^2} F_{Ey}, \quad (40)$$

$$\delta_4 = \frac{F_{Ey} + K_{Gy}l_5l_6(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy}) + K_{Gy}l_5/(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy})(K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et}) - K_{Gy}^2l_5^2F_{Ey}}{K_{O3x} + K_{Gy}}, \quad (41a)$$

$$\delta_4 = \frac{(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy})(K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et}) - K_{Gy}^2l_5^2 + K_{Gy}l_5(l_6(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy}) + K_{Gy}l_5)}{(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy})[(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy})(K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et}) - K_{Gy}^2l_5^2]}F_{Ey}, \quad (41b)$$

$$\delta_4 = \frac{K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et} + K_{Gy}l_5l_6}{(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy})(K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et}) - K_{Gy}^2l_5^2}F_{Ey}. \quad (41c)$$

Regarding beam 4, the ratio of the amplifier and the input stiffness are determined by

$$\lambda_4 = \frac{l_5\theta_4 - \delta_4}{l_6\theta_4 + \delta_4}, \quad (42)$$

$$K_{in4} = \frac{F_{Ey}}{l_6\theta_4 + \delta_4}. \quad (43)$$

Substituting (40) and (40c) into (42) and (43), respectively, the following formulas can be obtained:

$$\lambda_4 = \frac{l_5[l_6(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy}) + K_{Gy}l_5] - (K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et} + K_{Gy}l_5l_6)}{l_6[l_6(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy}) + K_{Gy}l_5] + (K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et} + K_{Gy}l_5l_6)}, \quad (44a)$$

$$\lambda_4 = \frac{l_5l_6(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy}) - (K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et} + K_{Gy}l_5l_6)}{l_6(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy}) + 2K_{Gy}l_5l_6 + K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et}}, \quad (44b)$$

$$\lambda_4 = \frac{l_5l_6K_{O3x} - K_{O3t} - K_{Gt} - K_{Et}}{K_{Gy}(l_5+l_6) + K_{O3x}l_6^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et}}, \quad (44c)$$

$$K_{in4} = \frac{(K_{O3x} + K_{Gy})(K_{Gy}l_5^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et}) - K_{Gy}^2l_5^2}{K_{Gy}(l_5+l_6) + K_{O3x}l_6^2 + K_{O3t} + K_{Gt} + K_{Et}}. \quad (45)$$

Figure 12 presents the force analysis diagram of beam 3.

Considering the equilibrium state of beam 3, the force and moment are computed as

$$F_{Hy} = F_{Iy} + F_{O4y}, \quad (46)$$

$$F_{Hy}l_3 = F_{Iy}(l_3 + l_4) + M_{It} + M_{Ht} + M_{O4t}, \quad (47)$$

where  $M_{O4t}$ ,  $M_{It}$ , and  $M_{Ht}$  are moments of bending of the points  $O_4$ ,  $I$ , and  $H$ . Moreover,  $F_{O4y}$ ,  $F_{Hy}$ , and  $F_{Iy}$  are forces which are acting at point  $O_4$ ,  $H$ , and  $I$  in the direction of  $y$ -axis, respectively.

The displacement value at point  $I$  is a combination of two displacements including displacement due to hinges at  $O_4$  rotating around its axis ( $(l_3 + l_4)\theta_3$ ) and displacement due to drift ( $\delta_3$ ).

Furthermore, the forces  $F_{O4y}$  and  $F_{Iy}$  can be calculated as

$$F_{O4y} = K_{O4x}\delta_3, \quad (48)$$

$$F_{Iy} = K_3[(l_3 + l_4)\theta_3 + \delta_3], \quad (49)$$

$$M_{O4t} = K_{O4t}\theta_3, \quad (50)$$

$$M_{It} = K_{It}\theta_3, \quad (51)$$

$$M_{Ht} = K_{Ht}\theta_3, \quad (52)$$

where  $K_{O4x}$  is the lateral bending stiffness by force  $F_{O4y}$ , and  $K_3$  is the  $I$  point's output stiffness.  $K_{O4t}$  is the  $O_4$  point's rotational stiffness, and  $K_{It}$  and  $K_{Ht}$  are the rotational stiffness of  $I$  and  $H$ , respectively.

Substituting (48) and (49) into (46), the results are obtained as

$$F_{Hy} = K_3((l_3 + l_4)\theta_3 + \delta_3) + K_{O4x}\delta_3, \quad (53)$$

$$\delta_3 = \frac{F_{Hy} - K_3(l_3 + l_4)\theta_3}{K_{O4x} + K_3}. \quad (54)$$

Substituting (49)–(52) into (47), the results are yielded as

$$F_{Hy}l_3 = K_3(l_3 + l_4)((l_3 + l_4)\theta_3 + \delta_3) + K_{O4t}\theta_3 + K_{It}\theta_3 + K_{Ht}\theta_3, \quad (55a)$$

$$F_{Hy}l_3 = K_3(l_3 + l_4)\delta_3 + \left(K_3^2(l_3 + l_4) + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}\right)\theta_3. \quad (55b)$$

Substituting (54) into (55b)  $\theta_3$  and  $\delta_3$  can be derived as

$$F_{Hy}l_3 = K_3(l_3 + l_4) \frac{F_{Hy} - K_3(l_3 + l_4)\theta_3}{K_{O4x} + K_3} + \left[K_3^2(l_3 + l_4) + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}\right]\theta_3, \quad (56a)$$

$$F_{Hy}l_3(K_{O4x} + K_3) - K_3(l_3 + l_4)F_{Hy} = \left[(K_{O4x} + K_3)\left[K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}\right] - K_3^2(l_3 + l_4)^2\right]\theta_3, \quad (56b)$$

$$\theta_3 = \frac{l_3(K_{O4x} + K_3) - K_3(l_3 + l_4)}{(K_{O4x} + K_3)\left[K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}\right] - K_3^2(l_3 + l_4)^2} F_{Hy}, \quad (57)$$

$$\delta_3 = \frac{F_{Hy} - K_3(l_3 + l_4)l_3(K_{O4x} + K_3) - K_3(l_3 + l_4)(K_{O4x} + K_3)\left[K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}\right] - K_3^2(l_3 + l_4)^2 F_{Hy}}{K_{O4x} + K_3}, \quad (58a)$$

$$\delta_3 = \frac{K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 - K_3l_3 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}}{(K_{O4x} + K_3)\left[K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}\right] - K_3^2(l_3 + l_4)^2} F_{Hy}. \quad (58b)$$

Considering beam 3, the ratio of the amplifier and the input stiffness are expressed by

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{(l_3 + l_4)\theta_3 + \delta_3}{l_3\theta_3 + \delta_3}, \quad (59)$$

$$K_{in3} = \frac{F_{Hy}}{l_3\theta_3 + \delta_3}. \quad (60)$$

Substituting (57) and (58b) into (59) and (60), respectively, the following formulas can be obtained:

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{(l_3 + l_4)\left[l_3(K_{O4x} + K_3) - K_3(l_3 + l_4)\right] + K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 - K_3l_3 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}}{l_3\left[l_3(K_{O4x} + K_3) - K_3(l_3 + l_4)\right] + K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 - K_3l_3 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}}, \quad (61a)$$

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{l_3(K_{O4x} + K_3)(l_3 + l_4) - K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 + K_3^2(l_3 + l_4) - K_3l_3 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}}{l_3^2(K_{O4x} + K_3) - K_3l_3(l_3 + l_4) + K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 - K_3l_3 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}}, \quad (61b)$$

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{l_3(K_{O4x} + K_3)(l_3 + l_4) - K_3l_3 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}}{l_3^2(K_{O4x} + K_3) - K_3l_3(l_3 + l_4) + K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 - K_3l_3 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}}, \quad (61c)$$

$$K_{in3} = \frac{(K_{O4x} + K_3)\left[K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}\right] - K_3^2(l_3 + l_4)^2}{l_3^2(K_{O4x} + K_3) - K_3l_3(l_3 + l_4) + K_3(l_3 + l_4)^2 - K_3l_3 + K_{O4t} + K_{It} + K_{Ht}}, \quad (62)$$

$$K_3 = \frac{K_{O3y}K_{in4}}{K_{O3y} + K_{in4}}. \quad (63)$$

Figure 13 shows the force analysis diagram of beam 2.

In a similar calculation for beam 2, the forces and moments are computed by

$$F_{O_2y} = F_{C_y} + F_{J_y}, \quad (64)$$

$$F_{J_y}l'_1 = F_{C_y}l'_2 + M_{O_2t} + M_{J_t} + M_{C_t}, \quad (65)$$

where  $M_{O_2t}$ ,  $M_{J_t}$ , and  $M_{C_t}$  are bending moments at the  $O_2$ ,  $J$ , and  $C$  points, respectively. The forces acting at points  $O_2$ ,  $C$ , and  $J$  in the direction of  $y$ -axis are  $F_{O_2y}$ ,  $F_{C_y}$ , and  $F_{J_y}$ , respectively.

The displacement value at point  $C$  is a combination of two displacements including displacement due to hinges at  $O_2$  rotating around its axis ( $l'_2\theta_2$ ) and displacement due to drift ( $\delta_2$ ).

Moreover, the forces  $F_{O_2y}$  and  $F_{C_y}$  are expressed as

$$F_{O_2y} = K_{O_2x}\delta_2, \quad (66)$$

$$F_{C_y} = K_2(l'_2\theta_2 - \delta_2), \quad (67)$$

$$M_{O_2t} = K_{O_2t}\theta_2, \quad (68)$$

$$M_{C_t} = K_{C_t}\theta_2, \quad (69)$$

$$M_{J_t} = K_{J_t}\theta_2, \quad (70)$$

where  $K_{O_2x}$  is the lateral bending stiffness by force  $F_{O_2y}$ , and  $K_2$  is the output stiffness of the  $E$  point.  $K_{O_2t}$  is the rotational stiffness of the  $O_2$  point.  $K_{J_t}$  and  $K_{C_t}$  are the rotational stiffnesses of  $J$ , and  $C$  points, respectively. Substituting (66) and (67) into (64),

$$K_{O_2x}\delta_2 = F_{J_y} + K_2(l'_2\theta_2 - \delta_2), \quad (71)$$

$$\delta_2 = \frac{F_{J_y} + K_2l'_2\theta_2}{K_{O_2x} + K_2}. \quad (72)$$

Substituting (67)–(70) into (65), the following equations can be derived:

$$F_{J_y}l'_1 = K_2l'_2(l'_2\theta_2 - \delta_2) + K_{O_2t}\theta_2 + K_{C_t}\theta_2 + K_{J_t}\theta_2, \quad (73a)$$

$$F_{J_y}l'_1 + K_2l'_2\delta_2 = (K_2l'_2{}^2 + K_{O_2t} + K_{C_t} + K_{J_t})\theta_2. \quad (73b)$$

Substituting (72) into (73b), the value of  $\delta_2$  can be derived as

$$F_{J_y}l'_1 + K_2l'_2\frac{F_{J_y} + K_2l'_2\theta_2}{K_{O_2x} + K_2} = (K_2l'_2{}^2 + K_{O_2t} + K_{C_t} + K_{J_t})\theta_2, \quad (74a)$$

$$F_{J_y}l'_1(K_{O_2x} + K_2) + K_2l'_2(F_{J_y} + K_2l'_2\theta_2) = (K_{O_2x} + K_2)(K_2l'_2{}^2 + K_{O_2t} + K_{C_t} + K_{J_t})\theta_2, \quad (74b)$$

$$\theta_2 = \frac{l'_1(K_{O_2x} + K_2) + K_2l'_2}{(K_{O_2x} + K_2)(K_2l'_2{}^2 + K_{O_2t} + K_{C_t} + K_{J_t}) - K_2^2l'_2{}^2}F_{J_y}, \quad (75)$$

$$\delta_2 = \frac{F_{J_y} + K_2l'_2l'_1(K_{O_2x} + K_2) + K_2l'_2l'(K_{O_2x} + K_2)(K_2l'_2{}^2 + K_{O_2t} + K_{C_t} + K_{J_t}) - K_2^2l'_2{}^2F_{J_y}}{K_{O_2x} + K_2}, \quad (76a)$$

$$\delta_2 = \frac{(K_{O_2x} + K_2)(K_2l'_2{}^2 + K_{O_2t} + K_{C_t} + K_{J_t}) - K_2^2l'_2{}^2 + K_2l'_2[l'_1(K_{O_2x} + K_2) + K_2l'_2]}{(K_{O_2x} + K_2)[(K_{O_2x} + K_2)(K_2l'_2{}^2 + K_{O_2t} + K_{C_t} + K_{J_t}) - K_2^2l'_2{}^2]}F_{J_y}, \quad (76b)$$

$$\delta_2 = \frac{(K_{O_2x} + K_2)(K_2l'_2{}^2 + K_{O_2t} + K_{C_t} + K_{J_t}) - K_2^2l'_2{}^2 + K_2^2l'_2{}^2 + K_2l'_2l'_1(K_{O_2x} + K_2)}{(K_{O_2x} + K_2)[(K_{O_2x} + K_2)(K_2l'_2{}^2 + K_{O_2t} + K_{C_t} + K_{J_t}) - K_2^2l'_2{}^2]}F_{J_y}, \quad (76c)$$

$$\delta_2 = \frac{K_2 l_2'^2 + K_{O2t} + K_{Ct} + K_{Jt} + K_2 l_2' l_1'}{(K_{O2x} + K_2)(K_2 l_2'^2 + K_{O2t} + K_{Ct} + K_{Jt}) - K_2^2 l_2'^2} F_{Jy}. \quad (76d)$$

Similarly, the ratio of the amplifier and the input stiffness of beam 2 are determined by

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{l_2' \theta_2 - \delta_2}{l_1' \theta_2 + \delta_2}, \quad (77)$$

$$K_{in2} = \frac{F_{Jy}}{l_1' \theta_2 + \delta_2}. \quad (78)$$

Substituting (75) and (76d) into (77) and (78), respectively, the following formulas can be obtained:

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{l_2' [l_1' (K_{O2x} + K_2) + K_2 l_2'] - (K_2 l_2'^2 + K_{O2t} + K_{Ct} + K_{Jt} + K_2 l_2' l_1')}{l_1' [l_1' (K_{O2x} + K_2) + K_2 l_2'] + K_2 l_2'^2 + K_{O2t} + K_{Ct} + K_{Jt} + K_2 l_2' l_1'}, \quad (79a)$$

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{l_1' l_2' (K_{O2x} + K_2) - (K_{O2t} + K_{Ct} + K_{Jt} + K_2 l_2' l_1')}{l_1'^2 (K_{O2x} + K_2) + 2K_2 l_2' l_1' + K_2 l_2'^2 + K_{O2t} + K_{Ct} + K_{Jt}}, \quad (79b)$$

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{l_1' l_2' K_{O2x} - (K_{O2t} + K_{Ct} + K_{Jt})}{l_1'^2 (K_{O2x} + K_2) + 2K_2 l_2' l_1' + K_2 l_2'^2 + K_{O2t} + K_{Ct} + K_{Jt}}, \quad (79c)$$

$$K_{in2} = \frac{(K_{O2x} + K_2)(K_2 l_2'^2 + K_{O2t} + K_{Ct} + K_{Jt}) - K_2^2 l_2'^2}{l_1'^2 (K_{O2x} + K_2) + 2K_2 l_2' l_1' + K_2 l_2'^2 + K_{O2t} + K_{Ct} + K_{Jt}}, \quad (80)$$

$$K_2 = \frac{K_{Ey} K_{in4}}{K_{Ey} + K_{in4}}. \quad (81)$$

Figure 14 presents the force analysis diagram of beam 1.

By a similar consideration to the equilibrium state of the beam 1, the following equations are achieved:

$$F_{O1y} = F_{Ay} + F_{By}, \quad (82)$$

$$F_{Ay} l_1 = F_{By} l_2 + M_{O1t} + M_{Bt} + M_{At}, \quad (83)$$

where  $M_{O1t}$  is the bending moments of the  $O_1$  point, while  $M_{At}$  and  $M_{Bt}$  are the bending moments of the A and B points, respectively. The forces acting at points  $O_1$ , A, and B in the direction of  $y$ -axis are  $F_{O1y}$ ,  $F_{Ay}$ , and  $F_{By}$ , respectively.

The displacement value at point B is a combination of two displacements including displacement due to hinges at  $O_1$  rotating around its axis ( $l_2 \theta_1$ ) and displacement due to drift ( $\delta_1$ ).

Besides, the forces  $F_{O1y}$  and  $F_{By}$  are expressed by

$$F_{By} = K_1 (l_2 \theta_1 - \delta_1), \quad (84)$$

$$F_{O1y} = K_{O1x} \delta_1, \quad (85)$$

$$M_{O1t} = K_{O1t} \theta_1, \quad (86)$$

$$M_{Bt} = K_{Bt} \theta_1, \quad (87)$$

$$M_{At} = K_{At} \theta_1, \quad (88)$$

where  $K_{O1x}$  is the lateral bending stiffness by force  $F_{O1y}$ , and  $K_l$  is the output stiffness of the B and A points, respectively.  $K_{O1t}$  is the rotational stiffness of the  $O_1$  point, while  $K_{At}$  and  $K_{Bt}$  are the rotational stiffness of A and B points, respectively.

Similarly, as beam 2, the  $\theta_1$  and  $\delta_1$  can be derived as

$$\theta_1 = \frac{l_1 (K_{O1x} + K_1) + K_1 l_2}{(K_{O1x} + K_1)(K_1 l_2^2 + K_{O1t} + K_{Bt} + K_{At}) - K_1^2 l_2^2} F_{Ay}, \quad (89)$$

$$\delta_1 = \frac{K_1 l_1 l_2 + K_1 l_2^2 + K_{O1t} + K_{Bt} + K_{At}}{(K_{O1x} + K_1)(K_1 l_2^2 + K_{O1t} + K_{Bt} + K_{At}) - K_1^2 l_2^2} F_{Ay}. \quad (90)$$

Regarding beam 1, the ratio of the amplifier and the input stiffness are expressed by

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{l_2\theta_1 - \delta_1}{l_1\theta_1 + \delta_1}, \quad (91)$$

$$k_{in1} = \frac{F_{Ay}}{l_1\theta_1 + \delta_1}. \quad (92)$$

Substituting (89) and (90) into (91) and (92), respectively, the results are yielded as

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{l_1 l_2 K_{O1x} - (K_{O1t} + K_{Bt} + K_{At})}{l_1^2 (K_{O1x} + K_1) + 2K_1 l_1 l_2 + K_1 l_2^2 + K_{O1t} + K_{Bt} + K_{At}}, \quad (93)$$

$$K_{in1} = \frac{(K_{O1x} + K_1)(K_1 l_2^2 + K_{O1t} + K_{Bt} + K_{At}) - K_1^2 l_2^2}{l_1^2 (K_{O1x} + K_1) + 2K_1 l_1 l_2 + K_1 l_2^2 + K_{O1t} + K_{Bt} + K_{At}}, \quad (94)$$

$$K_1 = K_{12} + K_{13}, \quad (95)$$

$$K_{12} = \frac{K_{y12} K_{in2}}{K_{y12} + K_{in2}}, \quad (96)$$

$$K_{y12} = \frac{K_{\theta y M y}^e}{2} + \frac{2K_{\theta y M y}^e}{5} = \frac{9K_{\theta y M y}^e}{10}, \quad (97)$$

$$K_{13} = \frac{K_{y13} K_{in3}}{K_{y13} + K_{in3}}, \quad (98)$$

$$K_{y13} = \frac{2K_{\theta y M y}^e}{5}, \quad (99)$$

where  $K_1$  is the output stiffness that combines A and B points,  $K_{12}$  is the output stiffness that combines beam 1 and beam 2, and  $K_{13}$  is the output stiffness that combines beam 1 and beam 3. In addition, the intermediary stiffness between beam 1 and beam 2, and the intermediary stiffness between beam 1 and beam 3 are  $K_{y12}$  and  $K_{y13}$ , respectively.

$$K_{O1t} = K_{O2t} = K_{O4t} = K_{At} = K_{\theta z M z}^e, \quad (100)$$

$$K_{Bt} = K_{Ct} = K_{Dt} = K_{It} = K_{O3t} = K_{Et} = \frac{K_{\theta z M z}^e}{2}, \quad (101)$$

$$K_{Ht} = K_{Jt} = K_{Mt} = K_{Nt} = \frac{2K_{\theta z M z}^e}{5}, \quad (102)$$

$$K_{Gt} = K_{\theta z M z}^c, \quad (103)$$

$$K_{O3y} = K_{Ey} = K_{Cy} = \frac{K_{\theta y M y}^e}{2}, \quad (104)$$

$$K_{O1x} = K_{O2x} = K_{O4x} = K_{\delta x F x}^e, \quad (105)$$

$$K_{O3x} = \frac{K_{\delta x F x}^e}{2}, \quad (106)$$

$$K_{b2} = K_{\theta z M z}^{l7} = \frac{Eba^3}{12l_7}, \quad (107)$$

$$K_{\theta y M y}^{l7} = \frac{Eba}{l_7}, \quad (108)$$

$$K_{b1} = K_{\theta z M z}^{l8} = \frac{Eba^3}{12l_8}, \quad (109)$$

$$K_{\theta z M z}^{l9} = \frac{Eba^3}{12l_9}, \quad (110)$$

$$K_{b3} = \frac{2K_{\theta z M z}^{l9} K_{\theta z M z}^c}{K_{\theta z M z}^c + 4K_{\theta z M z}^{l9}}, \quad (111)$$

where  $K_{\theta z M z}^{l7}$ ,  $K_{\theta z M z}^{l8}$ , and  $K_{\theta z M z}^{l9}$  are the stiffnesses which are created via the torque of the leaf hinges  $l_7$ ,  $l_8$ , and  $l_9$ , respectively. In addition,  $K_{b1}$ ,  $K_{b2}$ , and  $K_{b3}$  are stiffness conversion of  $K_{\theta z M z}^{l7}$ ,  $K_{\theta z M z}^{l8}$ , and  $K_{\theta z M z}^{l9}$ , the purpose of this action is making the equations simpler. Finally, the linear stiffness is created via the axial force of the leaf hinge  $l_7$ , also display by value  $K_{\theta y M y}^{l7}$ .

Finally, the total ratio of two-stage lever amplifier is computed by

$$A = \lambda_4 (\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 + 1) + \lambda_3 + 1. \quad (112)$$

It is found that  $F_{in} = 2F_{Ay}$ , and considering the symmetric amplifier, the input stiffness is expressed by

$$K_{in} = \frac{F_{in}}{l_1\theta_1 + \delta_1} = \frac{2F_{Ay}}{l_1\theta_1 + \delta_1} = 2K_{in1}. \quad (113)$$

A simplified stiffness diagram of the stage is given in Figure 15 when the platform is driven in the direction of  $y$ -axis. Figure 16 shows a simplified principle diagram of the 2-dof stage.

Let  $d_{out}$  be the output displacement of the stage and  $d_{in}$  be the input displacement in the vertical direction. Besides, the rotational angles of the prismatic beams are symbolled as  $\omega_{b1}$ ,  $\omega_{b2}$ ,  $\omega_{b3}$ ,  $\alpha_1$ ,  $\beta_1$ ,  $\gamma_1$ , and  $\varepsilon_1$ , which can be calculated by

$$\omega_{b1} = \frac{d_{out}}{l_8}, \quad (114)$$

$$\omega_{b2} = \frac{d_{out}}{l_7}, \quad (115)$$

$$\omega_{b3} = \frac{d_{out}}{l_9}, \quad (116)$$

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{d_{out}}{l_5}, \quad (117)$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{d_{out}}{(l_3 + l_4) l_5}, \quad (118)$$

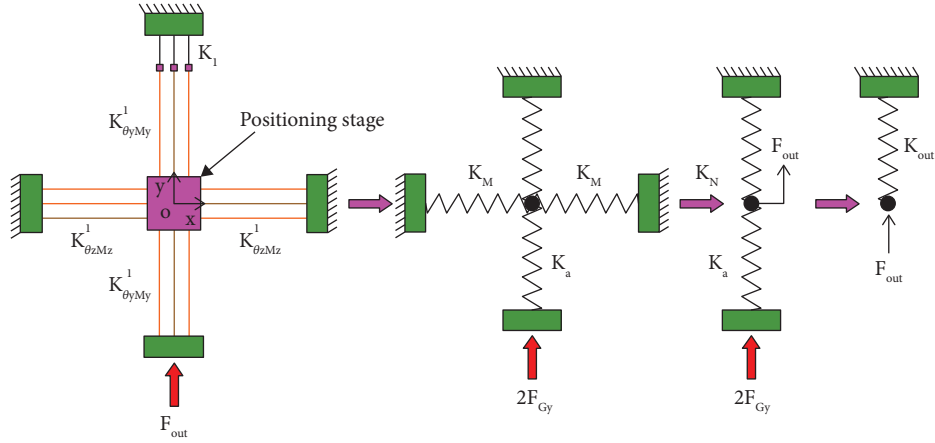


FIGURE 15: The stiffness of the output mechanism.

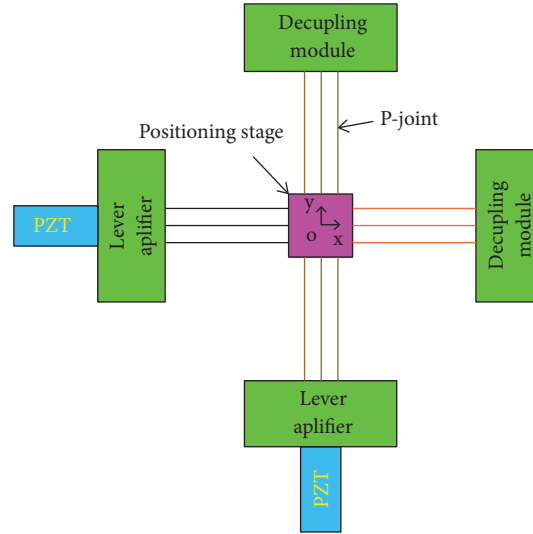


FIGURE 16: Simplified principle diagram of the 2-dof stage.

$$\gamma_1 = \frac{d_{out}}{l_2} \frac{l_6}{l_5} \quad (119)$$

$$\varepsilon_1 = \frac{d_{out}}{l_2} \frac{l_6}{l_5} \quad (120)$$

The potential energy inside the flexure hinges is expressed by

$$E_p = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \sum_{i=A}^B K_i \varepsilon_1^2 + \sum_{i=j}^D K_i \gamma_1^2 + \sum_{i=O4}^I K_i \beta_1^2 + K_G \alpha_1^2 \right] + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=b1}^{b3} K_j \omega_j^2, \quad (121a)$$

$$E_p = \frac{1}{2} \left[ K_{At} \varepsilon_1^2 + K_{O1t} \varepsilon_1^2 + K_{Bt} \varepsilon_1^2 + K_{Jt} \gamma_1^2 + K_{O2t} \gamma_1^2 + K_{Dt} \gamma_1^2 \right. \\ \left. + K_{O4t} \beta_1^2 + K_{Ht} \beta_1^2 + K_{It} \beta_1^2 + K_{Gt} \alpha_1^2 \right] 2 + [4K_{b1} \omega_{b1}^2 + 6K_{b2} \omega_{b2}^2 + 2K_{b3} \omega_{b3}^2]. \quad (121b)$$

Substituting (114)–(120) into (121b), the stiffness  $K_N$  can be achieved by



$$K_N = 2 \left[ \begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{l_6}{l_2 l_5} \right)^2 (K_{At} + K_{O1t} + K_{Bt}) + \left( \frac{l_6}{l'_2 l_5} \right)^2 (K_{Jt} + K_{O2t} + K_{Dt}) \\ & + \left( \frac{l_6}{(l_4 + l_3) l_5} \right)^2 (K_{O4t} + K_{Ht} + K_{It}) + \left( \frac{1}{l_5} \right)^2 K_{Gt} \end{aligned} \right] \quad (122)$$

$$+ \left[ 4 \left( \frac{1}{l_8} \right)^2 K_{b1} + 6 \left( \frac{1}{l_7} \right)^2 K_{b2} + 2 \left( \frac{1}{l_9} \right)^2 K_{b3} \right].$$

Next, the output stiffness  $K_{out}$  and  $K_{Gl}$  of the stage are determined by

$$K_{out} = \frac{K_N K_a}{K_N + K_a}, \quad (123)$$

in which  $K_a$  as shown in Figure 15 and calculated by

$$K_a = \frac{3K_{\theta_y M_y}^{l_7}}{2}, \quad (124)$$

$$K_{Gl} = 0.5K_{out}, \quad (125)$$

where  $K_N$  is the combines stiffness of the micromanipulator in one direction,  $K_a$  is the stiffness of the beam  $K_{\theta_y M_y}^{l_7}$ , and  $K_{out}$  is the output stiffness of the micromanipulator.

For a simple calculation, the geometric parameters and of the AL7075-T6 properties of the stage are provided in Table 3.

**4.1.2. Modeling of Working Workspace.** Assuming that the  $A$  is the ratio of amplifier and  $S$  is the stroke of the PZT, the workspace of the stage is calculated as  $AS \times AS$ . I axial tension and shearing effects are ignored. There is only the bending stress is considered. To sum up, the stress ( $\sigma_r$ ) is computed by

$$Max(\sigma_r) = \frac{\sigma_y}{s}, \quad (126)$$

where  $\sigma_y$  is the yield strength of the material and  $s$  is the safety factor.

The maximal stress  $\sigma_r^{Max}$  is computed as

$$\sigma_r^{Max} = \frac{4Er^2 K_c}{f(\beta)t^2} \theta_{Max}, \quad (127)$$

where  $k_c$  is concentration factor and  $f(\beta)$  is the compliance factor [22].

$$\beta = \frac{t}{2r}, \quad (128)$$

$$k_c = (1 + \beta) \frac{9}{20}, \quad (129)$$

$$f(\beta) = \frac{1}{2\beta + \beta^2} \left( \frac{3 + 4\beta + 2\beta^2}{(1 + \beta)(2\beta + \beta^2)} + \frac{6(1 + \beta)}{(\sqrt{2\beta + \beta^2})^3} \tan^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{2 + \beta}{\beta}} \right), \quad (130)$$

where  $\beta$  is the dimensionless geometry factor.

Let  $\delta_{in}^{Max}$  is the maximal input displacement and  $\delta_{in}^{Max}$  is the output displacement of stage. The maximal deformation angle ( $\theta_{max}$ ) is computed by

$$\theta_{Max} = \frac{A\delta_{in}^{Max}}{l_5} + \frac{\lambda_3 \delta_{in}^{Max}}{l_3 + l_4}. \quad (131)$$

Substituting (126) and (131) into (127), the results are yielded as

$$\frac{\sigma_y}{s} \geq \frac{4Er^2 K_c}{f(\beta)t^2} \left( \frac{A\delta_{in}^{Max}}{l_5} + \frac{\lambda_3 \delta_{in}^{Max}}{l_3 + l_4} \right), \quad (132)$$

$$\delta_{in}^{Max} \leq \frac{l_5(l_3 + l_4)f(\beta)t^2 \sigma_y}{4Er^2 K_c s(A(l_3 + l_4) + \lambda_3 l_5)}. \quad (133)$$

By using the values in Table 2, the (133) and let  $s$  of 1.8, the maximal input displacement is expressed by

$$\delta_{in}^{Max} \leq 44.6286 \mu m, \quad (134)$$

TABLE 3: Geometric parameters and AL7075-T6 for the proposed stage.

$l_1$	$l_2$	$l'_1$	$l'_2$	$l_3$	$l_4$	$l_5$	$l_6$	$l_7$	$l_8$	$l_9$
13.9	49.7	12	46	14	52	61.8	18	73	76.9	65.9
$r$	$t$ (circular)	$a$ ( $l_8, l_9$ )	$a$ ( $l_7$ )	$ax$	$ay$	$t$ (elliptical)	$b$	$l$	$E$ (GPa)	$\sigma_r$ (MPa)
4.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	4.5	2.5	0.65	16	9	71.7	503

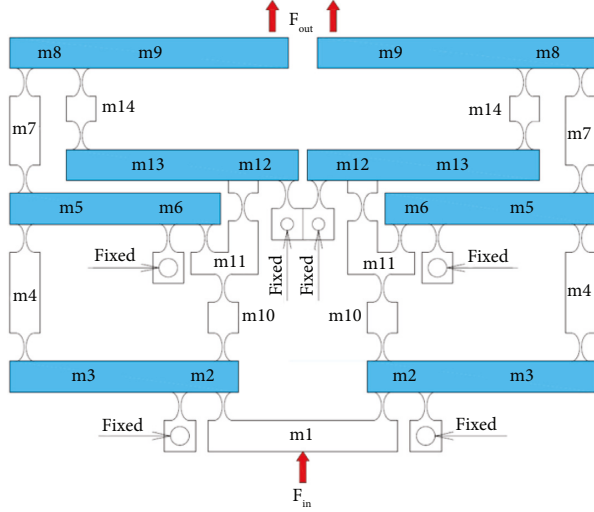


FIGURE 17: Symmetrical structure with two 2-stage amplifiers.

To sum up, the output displacement of the stage may achieve up to  $1363.8 \mu\text{m}$ . Therefore, the workspace of the 2-dof stage is  $1363.8 \mu\text{m} \times 1363.8 \mu\text{m}$ .

**4.1.3. Modeling of Dynamics.** The natural frequencies can be achieved by Lagrange's method by calculating the kinetic energy ( $T$ ) and potential energy ( $V$ ). Figures 12 and 17 show the position of masses  $m$  in the proposed design. Based on the position and motion trajectory of the components, a motion classification step will be performed to assist the calculation of the natural frequency of the design.

The hinges  $m_2, m_3, m_5, m_6, m_8, m_9, m_{12}, m_{13}, m_{b1}, m_{b2}, m_{b3}$  represent the rotational and translational motions. The hinges  $m_0, m_1, m_4, m_7, m_{10}, m_{11}, m_{14}, m_{15}, m_{16}$  note the translations. The kinetic energy of the whole stage is computed as

$$T = T_{\eta_1} + T_{\eta_2}, \quad (135)$$

$$T_{\eta_1} = T_{\eta_2} = \sum_{i=m_2}^{m_{16}} T_i + \sum_{j=m_{b1}}^{m_{b3}} T_j, \quad (136)$$

$$T_{m_0} = \frac{1}{2} m_0 (vA)^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_0 (\eta_1 A)^2 = \frac{m_0 A^2}{2} \eta_1^2, \quad (137)$$

$$T_{m_1} = \frac{m_1}{2} \eta_1^2, \quad (138)$$

$$T_{m_4} = \frac{1}{2} m_4 \left( \frac{v\lambda_1}{2} \right)^2 = \frac{m_4 \lambda_1^2}{4} \eta_1^2, \quad (139)$$

$$T_{m_7} = \frac{m_7 \lambda_2^2}{4} \eta_1^2, \quad (140)$$

$$T_{m_{10}} = \frac{m_{10}}{4} \eta_1^2, \quad (141)$$

$$T_{m_{11}} = \frac{m_{11}}{4} \eta_1^2, \quad (142)$$

$$T_{m_{15}} = \frac{m_{15} A^2}{2} \eta_1^2, \quad (143)$$

$$T_{m_{16}} = \frac{m_{16} A^2}{2} \eta_1^2, \quad (144)$$

$$T_{m_2} = \frac{1}{2} m_2 \left( \frac{v}{2} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_2 l_1^2}{3} \left( \frac{v}{l_1} \right)^2 = \frac{7m_2 v^2}{12} = \frac{7m_2}{12} \eta_1^2, \quad (145)$$

$$T_{m_3} = \frac{7m_3 \lambda_1^2}{12} \eta_1^2, \quad (146)$$

$$T_{m_5} = \frac{7m_5 \lambda_2^2}{12} \eta_1^2, \quad (147)$$

$$T_{m_6} = \frac{7m_6}{12} \eta_1^2, \quad (148)$$

$$T_{m_8} = \frac{7m_8 A^2}{12} \eta_1^2, \quad (149)$$

$$T_{m_9} = \frac{7m_9 A^2}{12} \eta_1^2, \quad (150)$$

$$T_{m_{12}} = \frac{7m_{12}}{12} \eta_1^2, \quad (151)$$

$$T_{m_{13}} = \frac{7m_{13} \lambda_3^2}{12} \eta_1^2, \quad (152)$$

$$T_{m_{b1}} = \frac{1}{2}m_{b1}(\nu A)^2 4 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_{b1}l_8^2}{3} \left( \frac{\nu A}{l_8} \right)^2 4 = \frac{8m_{b1}A^2}{3} \nu^2$$

$$= \frac{8m_{b1}A^2}{3} \eta_1^2, \quad (153)$$

$$T_{m_{b2}} = \frac{1}{2}m_{b2}(\nu A)^2 6 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_{b2}l_7^2}{3} \left( \frac{\nu A}{l_7} \right)^2 6 = 4A^2 m_{b2} \eta_1^2, \quad (154)$$

$$T_{m_{b3}} = \frac{1}{2}m_{b3}(\nu A)^2 2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_{b3}l_9^2}{3} \left( \frac{\nu A}{l_9} \right)^2 2 = \frac{4A^2 m_{b3}}{3} \eta_1^2. \quad (155)$$

Potential energy:

$$V = \frac{1}{2}k_1 \eta_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}k_2 \eta_2^2. \quad (156)$$

Lagrange's equation: Lagrangian mechanics defines a mechanical system to be a pair  $(M, L)$  of a configuration space  $M$  and a smooth function  $L = L(q, \dot{q}, t)$  called Lagrangian.

$$L = T - V,$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\mu}_i^*} - \frac{\partial T}{\partial \mu_i} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \mu_i} = F_i, \quad (157)$$

$$M d_i^{**} + K d_i = F_i,$$

where  $i = 1; 2$  is the free vibration of horizontal and vertical directions of the stage.  $F_i$  is a nonconservative generalized force corresponding to the coordinate. Let the equivalent mass  $M = \text{diag}\{M\}$  and the stiffness  $K = \text{diag}\{k\}$ , a conservative system is expressed by

$$M \eta^{**} + K \eta = 0, \quad (158)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\mu}_i^*} - \frac{\partial T}{\partial \mu_i} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \mu_i} = 0. \quad (159)$$

Substituting (136)–(155) into (135), the results are yielded as

$$T = \left[ \frac{m_0 A^2}{2} + \frac{m_1}{2} + \frac{7m_2}{12} + \frac{7m_3 \lambda_1^2}{12} + \frac{m_4 \lambda_1^2}{4} + \frac{7m_5 \lambda_2^2}{12} + \frac{7m_6}{12} + \frac{m_7 \lambda_2^2}{4} + \frac{7m_8 A^2}{12} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{7m_9 A^2}{12} + \frac{m_{10}}{4} + \frac{m_{11}}{4} + \frac{7m_{12}}{12} + \frac{7m_{13} \lambda_3^2}{12} + \frac{m_{14} \lambda_3^2}{4} + \frac{m_{15} A^2}{2} + \frac{m_{16} A^2}{2} + \frac{8m_{b1} A^2}{3} + 4A^2 m_{b2} + \frac{4A^2 m_{b3}}{3} \right] [\eta_1^{*2} \eta_2^{*2}], \quad (160)$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\mu}_i^*} = \left[ m_0 A^2 + m_1 + \frac{7m_2}{6} + \frac{7m_3 \lambda_1^2}{6} + \frac{m_4 \lambda_1^2}{2} + \frac{7m_5 \lambda_2^2}{6} + \frac{7m_6}{6} + \frac{m_7 \lambda_2^2}{2} + \frac{7m_8 A^2}{6} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{7m_9 A^2}{6} + \frac{m_{10}}{2} + \frac{m_{11}}{2} + \frac{7m_{12}}{6} + \frac{7m_{13} \lambda_3^2}{6} + \frac{m_{14} \lambda_3^2}{2} + m_{15} A^2 + m_{16} A^2 + \frac{16m_{b1} A^2}{3} \right. \\ \left. + 8A^2 m_{b2} + \frac{8A^2 m_{b3}}{3} \right] [\eta_1^* \eta_2^*], \quad (161)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\mu}_i^*} = \left[ m_0 A^2 + m_1 + \frac{7m_2}{6} + \frac{7m_3 \lambda_1^2}{6} + \frac{m_4 \lambda_1^2}{2} + \frac{7m_5 \lambda_2^2}{6} + \frac{7m_6}{6} + \frac{m_7 \lambda_2^2}{2} + \frac{7m_8 A^2}{6} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{7m_9 A^2}{6} + \frac{m_{10}}{2} + \frac{m_{11}}{2} + \frac{7m_{12}}{6} + \frac{7m_{13} \lambda_3^2}{6} + \frac{m_{14} \lambda_3^2}{2} + m_{15} A^2 + m_{16} A^2 + \frac{16m_{b1} A^2}{3} \right. \\ \left. + 8A^2 m_{b2} + \frac{8A^2 m_{b3}}{3} \right] [\eta_1^{**} \eta_2^{**}], \quad (162)$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial \mu_i} = 0, \quad (163)$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial \mu_i} = [k_1 + k_2] [\eta_1 \eta_2]. \quad (164)$$

Substituting (162)–(164) into (159), values  $M$  and  $K$  can be expressed by the following formula:

TABLE 4: Error between the theory and simulation result.

Response	Analytical result	FEA result	Error (%)
$f$ (Hz)	92.1219	87.381	5.426

TABLE 5: Improvement between optimal result and initial design result.

Response	Optimal result	Initial design result	Improvement (%)
$f$ (Hz)	112.0995	92.1219	21.69

TABLE 6: Error between optimal result and FEA result.

Response	Optimal result	FEA result	Error (%)
$f$ (Hz)	112.0995	106.98	4.785

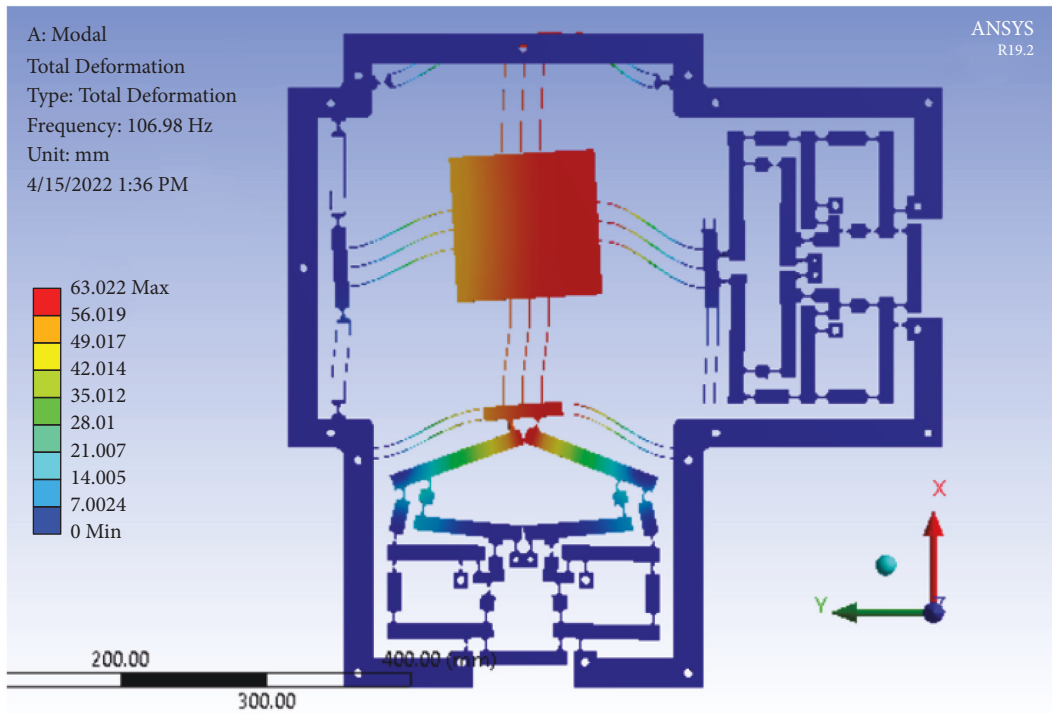


FIGURE 18: The first mode shape analysis of the resonant natural frequency of the optimal 2-dof stage.

TABLE 7: Comparison of the proposed 2-dof stage with the previous designs.

Design of the 2-dof stage	Dimension	Frequency (Hz)
Zhu et al. [23]	NA	59.3
Lee et al. [24]	NA	80
Present design	451 mm × 451 mm × 16 mm	<b>112.0995</b>

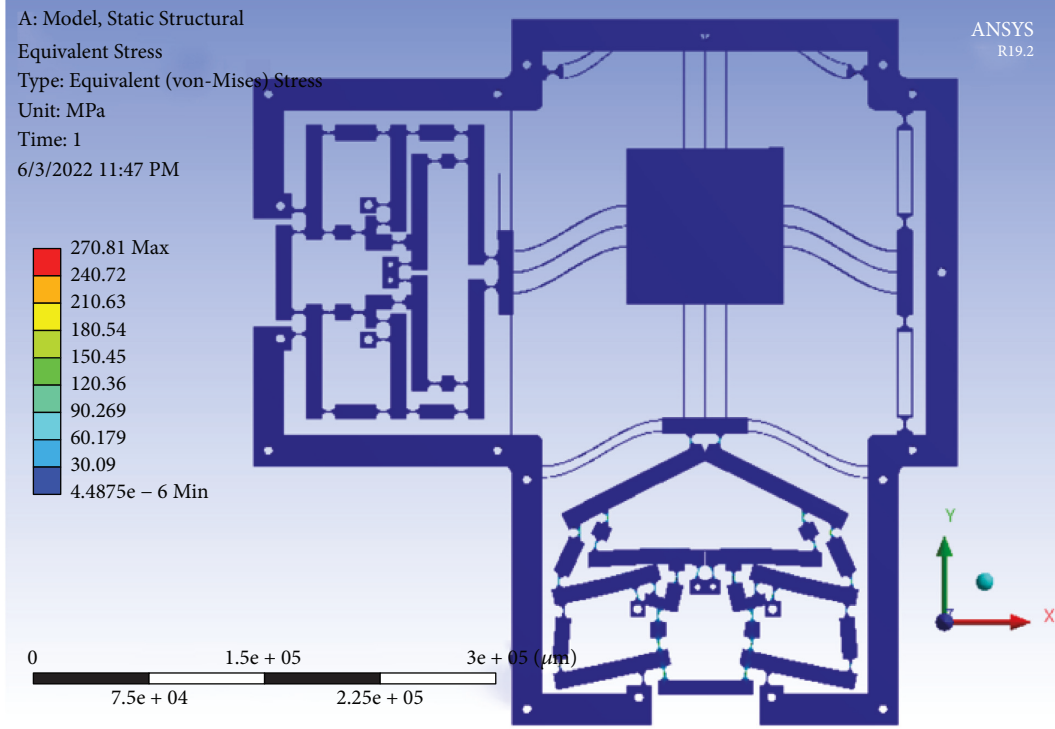


FIGURE 19: The equivalent stress of the optimal 2-dof stage.

$$\begin{aligned}
 M = & m_0 A^2 + m_1 + \frac{7m_2}{6} + \frac{7m_3 \lambda_1^2}{6} + \frac{m_4 \lambda_1^2}{2} \\
 & + \frac{7m_5 \lambda_2^2}{6} + \frac{7m_6}{6} + \frac{m_7 \lambda_2^2}{2} \\
 & + \frac{7m_8 A^2}{6} + \frac{7m_9 A^2}{6} + \frac{m_{10}}{2} + \frac{m_{11}}{2} + \frac{7m_{12}}{6} \\
 & + \frac{7m_{13} \lambda_3^2}{6} + \frac{m_{14} \lambda_3^2}{2} + m_{15} A^2 \\
 & + m_{16} A^2 + \frac{16m_{b1} A^2}{3} + 8A^2 m_{b2} + \frac{8A^2 m_{b3}}{3},
 \end{aligned} \quad (165)$$

$$K = K_{in} = 2K_{in1}. \quad (166)$$

Solving (158), the natural frequency ( $f$ ) of the stage can be obtained as

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left( \frac{K}{M} \right)^{0.5}. \quad (167)$$

**4.2. Evaluation and Verifications of Mathematical Models.** Table 4 shows that an error between the theoretical result and FEA result is about 5.426%. It means that the proposed methodology based on the kinetostatic-based methods (i.e.,

deformable mechanic theory, elastic beam theory, and Lagrange method) is reliable and effective in modeling the statics and dynamics of the 2-dof stage.

### 4.3. Structural Optimization

**4.3.1. Optimization Problem Description.** To avoid the resonance phenomena between the motors, PZT actuators, and the compliant 2-dof stage, the first natural frequency modes are either as small as possible or as large as possible. In order to increase the rapid responsiveness of the positioners, the first natural frequency should be chosen as large as possible. In addition, the angular frequency is proportional to the natural frequency of the compliant stage. Therefore, the first natural frequency is proposed to maximize in order to increase the response speed as well as avoid the resonance phenomena of the 2-dof stage. In this research, the optimization problem is aimed to maximize the resonant frequency, which is briefly expressed as follows.

$$\text{Find design vector: } \mathbf{x} = [x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5] \text{ Maximize} \\ f(\mathbf{x}), \quad (168)$$

$$\text{S.t:} \\ f(\mathbf{x}) > 100 \text{ Hz}, \quad (169)$$

Design variables (unit: mm):

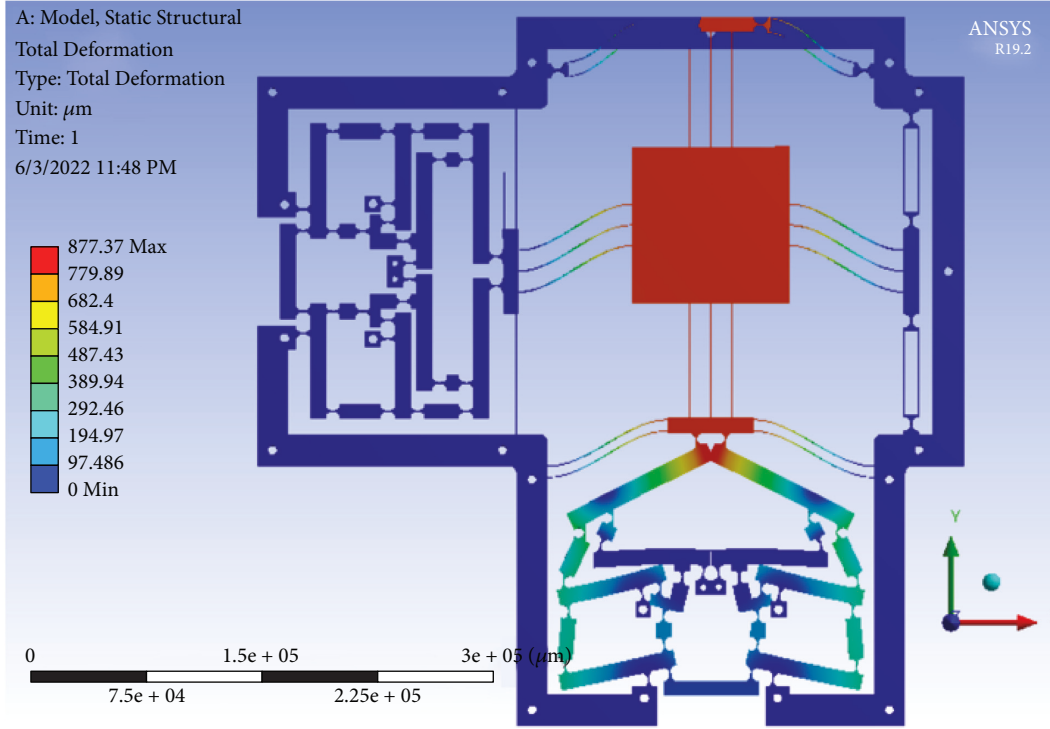


FIGURE 20: The total deformation of the optimal 2-dof stage.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0.7 \leq x_1 \leq 0.9 \\ 0.6 \leq x_2 \leq 0.8 \\ 0.6 \leq x_3 \leq 0.75, \\ 0.6 \leq x_4 \leq 0.7 \\ 0.6 \leq x_5 \leq 0.7 \end{array} \right. \quad (170)$$

where  $f(x)$  denotes the resonant frequency. In addition,  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_3$ ,  $x_4$ , and  $x_5$  are the dimensions of  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ ,  $D$ , and  $E$ , respectively.

**4.3.2. Optimal Results.** Based on (1)–(170), MATLAB R2017b was employed for developing the combination approach of the kinetostatic analysis-based method and the neural network algorithm. As a result, the optimal parameters of the stage were found at  $A=0.9$  mm,  $B=0.8$  mm,  $C=0.7$  mm,  $D=0.7$  mm, and  $E=0.7$  mm, and the first natural frequency was 112.0995 Hz.

**4.4. Verification and Comparisons.** By using the optimal parameters, a 3D stage is created. The FEA result in ANSYS software showed that the first natural frequency was 106.98 Hz. Compared with the initial design, the frequency of the 2-dof stage is improved by up to 21.69%, as given in Table 5. In addition, the error among the optimal value and FEA value is 4.785%, as given in Table 6. Besides, the resonant frequency values of the six modes from mode 1 to mode 6 are 106.98 Hz, 121.75 Hz, 328.69 Hz, 335.46 Hz, 602.42 Hz, and 603.88 Hz, respectively. Figure 18 illustrates the first mode shape analysis of the resonant natural frequency. So as to prevent the

damage of the optimal positioner due to resonances, the positioner should avoid the abovementioned resonant frequencies during operation.

Compared with the previous designs of the 2-dof stage, the present design proposed a higher frequency, as given in Table 7.

In addition, in order to evaluate the material strength of the optimal stage, the FEA result in ANSYS software showed that the equivalent stress was 270.81 MPa, as illustrated in Figure 19. The output total deformation was 877.37  $\mu\text{m}$ , as depicted in Figure 20. Besides, the displacement amplification ratio was 7.79, the output force was 3480.4 N, and the parasitic motion error, so-called as the cross-axis coupling ratio between the two axes, was around 0.02%. Specifically, the achieved working stroke of the XY stage was 787.63  $\mu\text{m} \times 794.5 \mu\text{m}$ . The safety factor is found about 1.86 (i.e., the resulting stress is much smaller than the yield strength of used material). The achieved optimal results satisfied the desirable technical specifications of the XY stage.

## 5. Conclusions

This study presented a new modeling and dimensional optimization synthesis of the 2-dof stage. The developed 2-dof stage would be applied for positioning a biomaterial sample in in situ nanoindentation. The proposed effective methodology was proposed according to the kinetostatic analysis-based calculation method, the Lagrange approach, and the neural network algorithm. First of all, the 2-dof stage was designed using a hybrid integration of an eight-lever displacement amplifier-integrated elliptical hinges and a

symmetric parallelogram. Then, a chain of mathematical equations of the 2-dof stage were formulated using a kinetostatic analysis-based method in terms of the ratio of displacement amplification and the input stiffness. Subsequently, the Lagrange method was employed to form the dynamic equation of the 2-dof stage. Finally, the neural network algorithm was adopted to maximize the natural first frequency of the proposed stage. The optimal results indicated that the frequency of the stage achieved a high value of 112.0995 Hz. Besides, the mathematical models were relatively close to the simulation verifications. The designed stage has a faster response than that from a few previous designs.

In the future study, a prototype of the 2-dof stage will be manufactured, and the analytical results will be verified by the experiments. In addition, the closed loop system will be utilized for verifying the analytical results as well as enhancing position accuracy of the 2-dof stage.

## Abbreviations

2-dof:	Two degrees of freedom
MDLA:	Modified displacement lever amplifier
LAM 1:	Lever amplification mechanism of floor 1
LAM 2:	Lever amplification mechanism of floor 2
LAM 3:	Lever amplification mechanism of floor 3
$l_1$ :	Length of segment AO <sub>1</sub>
$l_2$ :	Length of segment O <sub>1</sub> B
$l_1^*$ :	Length of segment JO <sub>2</sub>
$l_2^*$ :	Length of segment O <sub>2</sub> C
$l_3$ :	Length of segment O <sub>4</sub> H
$l_4$ :	Length of segment HI
$l_5$ :	Length of segment EO <sub>3</sub>
$l_6$ :	Length of segment O <sub>3</sub> G
$A$ :	The amplification ratio
$\delta_{in}$ :	Input displacement
$\delta_{out}$ :	Output displacement
$K_{\theta z Mz}^c$ :	The torsion stiffness made via the torque of a flexure circular notched hinge
$K_{\theta y M y}^c$ :	The linear stiffness created via the axial force of a flexure circular notched hinge
$K_{\delta x F x}^c$ :	The bending stiffness generated via lateral force of a flexure circular notched hinge
$K_{\theta z M z}^l$ :	The torsion stiffness made via the torque of the leaf hinge
$K_{\theta y M y}^l$ :	The linear stiffness created via the axial force of the leaf hinge
$\Delta\theta$ :	The variable angle created via the torque of the leaf hinge
$M_{\theta z M z}^l$ :	The bending moments of the leaf hinge
$K_{\theta z M z}^e$ :	The torsion stiffness made via the torque of a flexure elliptical notched hinge
$K_{\theta y M y}^e$ :	The linear stiffness created via the axial force of a flexure elliptical notched hinge
$K_{\delta x F x}^e$ :	The bending stiffness generated via lateral force of a flexure elliptical notched hinge
$E$ :	The elastic modulus of the manufacturing material
$b$ :	The thickness of the flexure hinge
$r$ :	The radius of the circular notched hinge

$t$ :	The smallest width of the circular/elliptical hinge
$l$ :	The length of the flexure hinge
$a$ :	The width of the flexure hinge
$a_x$ :	The major axis of the elliptical flexure hinge
$a_y$ :	The minor axis of the elliptical flexure hinge
$\beta_x$ :	The dimensionless factor representing the hinges' geometry $a_x$
$\beta_y$ :	The dimensionless factor representing the hinges' geometry $a_y$
$\epsilon$ :	The multiplication factor of the ratio of the major to minor axes
$f(\beta_y)$ :	The dimensionless compliance factor according to $\beta_y$
$f(\beta_x)$ :	The dimensionless compliance factor according to $\beta_x$
$K_{in}$ :	The input stiffness of the micromanipulator
$F_{in}$ :	The input force of the micromanipulator
$F_{O_3 y}$ :	The force acting at point O <sub>3</sub> in the direction of $y$ -axis
$F_{E y}$ :	The force acting at point E in the direction of $y$ -axis
$F_{G y}$ :	The force acting at point G in the direction of $y$ -axis
$M_{O_3 t}$ :	The bending moments at points O <sub>3</sub>
$M_{G t}$ :	The bending moments at points G
$M_{E t}$ :	The bending moments at points E
$K_{O_3 x}$ :	The lateral bending stiffness by the force $F_{O_3 y}$
$\delta_4$ :	The displacement due to drift of beam 4
$K_{G y}$ :	The G point's output stiffness of the MDLA
$\theta_4$ :	The angle variable is created via the torque of beam 4
$K_{O_3 t}$ :	The rotational stiffness of points O <sub>3</sub>
$K_{G t}$ :	The rotational stiffness of points G
$K_{E t}$ :	The rotational stiffness of points E
$\lambda_4$ :	The amplification ratio amplifier of beam 4
$K_{in 4}$ :	The input stiffness of beam 4
$F_{H y}$ :	The force acting at point H in the direction of $y$ -axis
$F_{I y}$ :	The force acting at a point I in the direction of $y$ -axis
$F_{O_4 y}$ :	The force acting at point O <sub>4</sub> in the direction of $y$ -axis
$M_{O_4 t}$ :	The bending moments at point O <sub>4</sub>
$M_{I t}$ :	The bending moments at point I
$M_{H t}$ :	The bending moments at point H
$\delta_3$ :	The displacement due to drift of beam 3
$\theta_3$ :	The angle variable created via the torque of beam 3
$K_{O_4 x}$ :	The lateral bending stiffness by the force $F_{O_4 y}$
$K_3$ :	The I point's output stiffness
$K_{O_4 t}$ :	The rotational stiffnesses of point O <sub>4</sub>
$K_{I t}$ :	The rotational stiffnesses of point I
$K_{H t}$ :	The rotational stiffnesses of point H
$\lambda_3$ :	The amplification ratio of the amplifier of beam 3
$K_{in 3}$ :	The input stiffness of beam 3
$F_{O_2 y}$ :	The force acting at point O <sub>2</sub> in the direction of $y$ -axis
$F_{C y}$ :	The force acting at point C in the direction of $y$ -axis
$F_{J y}$ :	The force acting at point J in the direction of $y$ -axis
$M_{O_2 t}$ :	The bending moments at point O <sub>2</sub>
$M_{J t}$ :	The bending moments at point J
$M_{C t}$ :	The bending moments at point C

$\delta_2$ : The displacement due to drift of beam 2  
 $\theta_2$ : The variable angle created via the torque of beam 2  
 $K_{O2x}$ : The lateral bending stiffness by the force  $F_{O2y}$   
 $K_2$ : E point's output stiffness  
 $K_{O2t}$ : The rotational stiffnesses of point  $O_2$   
 $K_{Ct}$ : The rotational stiffnesses of point C  
 $K_{Jt}$ : The rotational stiffnesses of point J  
 $\lambda_2$ : The amplification ratio of the amplifier of beam 2  
 $K_{in2}$ : The input stiffness of beam 2  
 $F_{O1y}$ : The force acting at point  $O_1$  in the direction of  $y$ -axis  
 $F_{Ay}$ : The force acting at point A in the direction of  $y$ -axis  
 $F_{By}$ : The force acting at point B in the direction of  $y$ -axis  
 $M_{O1t}$ : The bending moments at point  $O_1$   
 $M_{Bt}$ : The bending moments at point B  
 $M_{At}$ : The bending moments at point A  
 $\delta_1$ : The displacement due to drift of beam 1  
 $\theta_1$ : The angle variable created via the torque of beam 1  
 $K_{O1x}$ : The lateral bending stiffness by the force  $F_{O1y}$   
 $K_1$ : The output stiffness combines A and B points  
 $K_{12}$ : The output stiffness combines beam 1 and beam 2  
 $K_{13}$ : The output stiffness combines beam 1 and beam 3  
 $K_{y12}$ : The intermediary stiffness between beam 1 and 2  
 $K_{y13}$ : The intermediary stiffness between beam 1 and 3  
 $K_{O1t}$ : The rotational stiffnesses of point  $O_1$   
 $K_{Bt}$ : The rotational stiffnesses of point B  
 $K_{At}$ : The rotational stiffnesses of point A  
 $\lambda_1$ : The ratio of the amplifier of beam 1  
 $k_{in1}$ : The input stiffness of beam 1  
 $K_{\theta z Mz}^{17}$ : The stiffness created via the torque of the leaf hinge  $l_7$   
 $K_{\theta y M y}^{17}$ : The linear stiffness created via the axial force of the leaf hinge  $l_7$   
 $K_{\theta z Mz}^{18}$ : The stiffness created via the torque of the leaf hinge  $l_8$   
 $K_{\theta z Mz}^{19}$ : The stiffness created via the torque of the leaf hinge  $l_9$   
 $K_{b3}$ : The output stiffness combines  $K_{\theta z Mz}^{19}$  and double  $K_{\theta z Mz}^c$   
 $\omega_1$ : The rotational angle of the leaf hinge  $l_8$   
 $\omega_2$ : The rotational angle of the leaf hinge  $l_7$   
 $\omega_3$ : The rotational angle of the leaf hinge  $l_9$   
 $\alpha_1$ : The rotational angle of flexible hinge of the amplifier of beam 4  
 $\beta_1$ : The rotational angle of the flexible hinge of the amplifier of beam 3  
 $\gamma_1$ : The rotational angle of the flexible hinge of the amplifier of beam 2  
 $\varepsilon_1$ : The rotational angle of the flexible hinge of the amplifier of beam 1  
 $d_{out}$ : The output displacement  
 $d_{in}$ : The input displacement  
 $E_p$ : The potential energy inside the flexure hinges  
 $K_{out}$ : The output stiffness of the micromanipulator  
 $K_N$ : The combine stiffness of the micromanipulator in one direction  
 $K_a$ : The combine stiffness of  $K_{\theta y M y}^{17}$

$\sigma_r^{Max}$ : The maximal stress occurs when the angular displacement  $\theta_{max}$   
 $\sigma_y$ : The yield strength of the manufactural material  
 $s$ : The safety factor  
 $k_c$ : The concentration factor of a flexure circular notched hinge  
 $f(\beta)$ : The compliance factor of a flexure circular notched hinge  
 $\beta$ : The dimensionless geometry factor of a flexure circular notched hinge  
 $\delta_{in}^{Max}$ : The maximal input displacement  
 $\theta_{max}$ : The maximal deformation angle  
 $T$ : The kinetic energy of the whole stage  
 $T_{\eta_1}$ : The kinetic energy of  $y$ -axis  
 $T_{\eta_2}$ : The kinetic energy of  $x$ -axis  
 $T_i$ : The kinetic energy of the element in the micromanipulator ( $i = m_1$  to  $m_{b3}$ )  
 $\eta_1$ : The coordinate used to describe the motions of  $y$ -axis  
 $\eta_2$ : The coordinate used to describe the motions of  $x$ -axis.

## Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are included within the article.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

## Acknowledgments

This work belongs to the project grant no. T2021-10TĐ. This work was funded by the Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education, Vietnam.

## References

- [1] J. D. Nowak, K. A. Rzepiejewska-Malyska, R. C. Major, O. L. Warren, and J. Michler, "In-situ nanoindentation in the SEM," *Materials Today*, vol. 12, pp. 44-45, 2010.
- [2] D. M. Ebenstein and L. A. Pruitt, "Nanoindentation of biological materials," *Nano Today*, vol. 1, no. 3, pp. 26-33, 2006.
- [3] N. Alderete, A. Zaheri, and H. D. Espinosa, "A novel in situ experiment to investigate wear mechanisms in biomaterials," *Experimental Mechanics*, vol. 59, no. 5, pp. 659-667, 2019.
- [4] M. P. Dang, H. G. Le, N. N. T. Le, N. Le Chau, and T. P. Dao, "Multiresponse optimization for a novel compliant Z-stage by a hybridization of response surface method and whale optimization algorithm," *Mathematical Problems in Engineering*, vol. 2021, Article ID 9974230, 18 pages, 2021.
- [5] H. Huang, H. Zhao, J. Mi et al., "A novel and compact nanoindentation device for in situ nanoindentation tests inside the scanning electron microscope," *AIP Advances*, vol. 2, no. 1, p. 012104, 2012.
- [6] H. Huang, H. Zhao, C. Shi, X. Hu, T. Cui, and Y. Tian, "A tension stress loading unit designed for characterizing indentation response of single crystal silicon under tension stress," *AIP Advances*, vol. 3, no. 9, pp. 0-10, 2013.



- [7] B. Ding, Y. Li, X. Xiao, Y. Tang, and B. Li, "Design and analysis of a 3-DOF planar micromanipulation stage with large rotational displacement for micromanipulation system," *Mechanical Sciences*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 117–126, 2017.
- [8] Y. D. Qin, X. Zhao, B. Shirinzadeh, Y. L. Tian, and D. W. Zhang, "Closed-form modeling and analysis of an XY flexure-based nano-manipulator," *Chinese Journal of Mechanical Engineering*, vol. 31, no. 1, p. 7, 2018.
- [9] M. Deng and M. Ling, "Design and integrated stroke sensing of a high-response piezoelectric direct-drive valve enhanced by push-pull compliant mechanisms," *Review of Scientific Instruments*, vol. 93, no. 3, Article ID 035008, 2022.
- [10] J. Li, H. Huang, and T. Morita, "Stepping piezoelectric actuators with large working stroke for nano-positioning systems: a review," *Sensors and Actuators A: Physical*, vol. 292, pp. 39–51, 2019.
- [11] F. Chen, Q. Zhang, Y. Gao, and W. Dong, "A review on the flexure-based displacement amplification mechanisms," *IEEE Access*, vol. 8, pp. 205919–205937, 2020.
- [12] M. Ling, J. Cao, Z. Jiang, M. Zeng, and Q. Li, "Optimal design of a piezo-actuated 2-DOF millimeter-range monolithic flexure mechanism with a pseudo-static model," *Mechanical Systems and Signal Processing*, vol. 115, pp. 120–131, 2019.
- [13] J. Qu, W. Chen, J. Zhang, and W. Chen, "A piezo-driven 2-DOF compliant micropositioning stage with remote center of motion," *Sensors and Actuators A: Physical*, vol. 239, pp. 114–126, 2016.
- [14] N. Wang, Z. Zhang, X. Zhang, and C. Cui, "Optimization of a 2-DOF micro-positioning stage using corrugated flexure units," *Mechanism and Machine Theory*, vol. 121, pp. 683–696, 2018.
- [15] X. Xiao, Y. Li, and S. Xiao, "Development of a novel large stroke 2-DOF micromanipulator for micro/nano manipulation," *Microsystem Technologies*, vol. 23, no. 7, pp. 2993–3003, 2017.
- [16] T.-P. Dao and S.-C. Huang, "Design and multi-objective optimization for a broad self-amplified 2-DOF monolithic mechanism," *Sādhanā*, vol. 42, no. 9, pp. 1527–1542, 2017.
- [17] A. Sadollah, H. Sayyaadi, and A. Yadav, "A dynamic meta-heuristic optimization model inspired by biological nervous systems: neural network algorithm," *Applied Soft Computing*, vol. 71, pp. 747–782, 2018.
- [18] D. Singh, V. Kumar, Vaishali, and M. Kaur, "Classification of COVID-19 patients from chest CT images using multi-objective differential evolution-based convolutional neural networks," *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases*, vol. 39, no. 7, pp. 1379–1389, 2020.
- [19] H. S. Pannu, D. Singh, and A. K. Malhi, "Multi-objective particle swarm optimization-based adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system for benzene monitoring," *Neural Computing & Applications*, vol. 31, no. 7, pp. 2195–2205, 2019.
- [20] A. Gupta, D. Singh, and M. Kaur, "An efficient image encryption using non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm-III based 4-D chaotic maps," *Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Humanized Computing*, vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 1309–1324, 2020.
- [21] H. Tang, Y. Li, and X. Xiao, "A novel flexure-based dual-arm robotic system for high-throughput biomanipulations on micro-fluidic chip," in *Proceedings of the Conference: 2013 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS 2013)*, pp. 1531–1536, Article ID IEEE, Tokyo Big Sight - Tokyo, Japan, 07 NOVEMBER (2014).
- [22] Z. Wu, Y. Li, and M. Hu, "Design and optimization of full decoupled micro/nano-positioning stage based on mathematical calculation," *Mechanical Sciences*, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 417–429, 2018.
- [23] W. L. Zhu, Z. Zhu, Y. Shi, X. Wang, K. Guan, and B. F. Ju, "Design, modeling, analysis and testing of a novel piezo-actuated XY compliant mechanism for large workspace nanopositioning," *Smart Materials and Structures*, vol. 25, no. 11, Article ID 115033, 2016.
- [24] C. B. Lee, C. K. Stepanick, S. K. Lee, and J. A. Tarbuton, "Cross-coupling effect of large range XY nanopositioning stage fabricated by stereolithography process," *Precision Engineering*, vol. 46, pp. 81–87, 2016.