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# **Overview of Challa, V. R., Prasad, M. G., Shi, Y., and Fisher, F. T.'s 2008 Paper on a Vibration Energy Harvesting Device with Bidirectional Resonance Frequency Tunability**

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# Introduction about Dr. M. G. Prasad

- ❑ Completed the Bachelor of Engineering at University College of Engineering, Bangalore, India
- ❑ Completed the M.S. of Science at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India
- ❑ Completed the Ph.D. research in the area of muffler acoustics through Herrick Laboratories, Purdue University in 1980.
- ❑ Since 1980, began faculty position at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey where he has been teaching for nearly 40 years, guiding over 50 graduate students in both Masters and Ph.D. studies.
- ❑ “The privilege of a human is to wonder, ponder, practice and realize.”

---- from the website “Dr. M. G. Prasad: Memories and Moments”



Dr. M. G. Prasad (1950-2019)

- ❑ The emergence of **low power and wireless devices** has sought portable and long lasting energy sources, especially for applications where the **replacement of batteries is unfeasible**.



- ❑ The **omnipresent vibration** energy allows harvesting energy on a continuous basis. However, for some other energy harvesting techniques, such as solar cells and thermoelectrics, are limited by the need for the presence of sunlight and thermal gradients.



- ❑ Until 2008, many designs of vibration harvesting systems are based on a **single resonance frequency**, which limits their performance in practical applications.



- ❑ A mechanism to **tune** the energy harvesting device is important

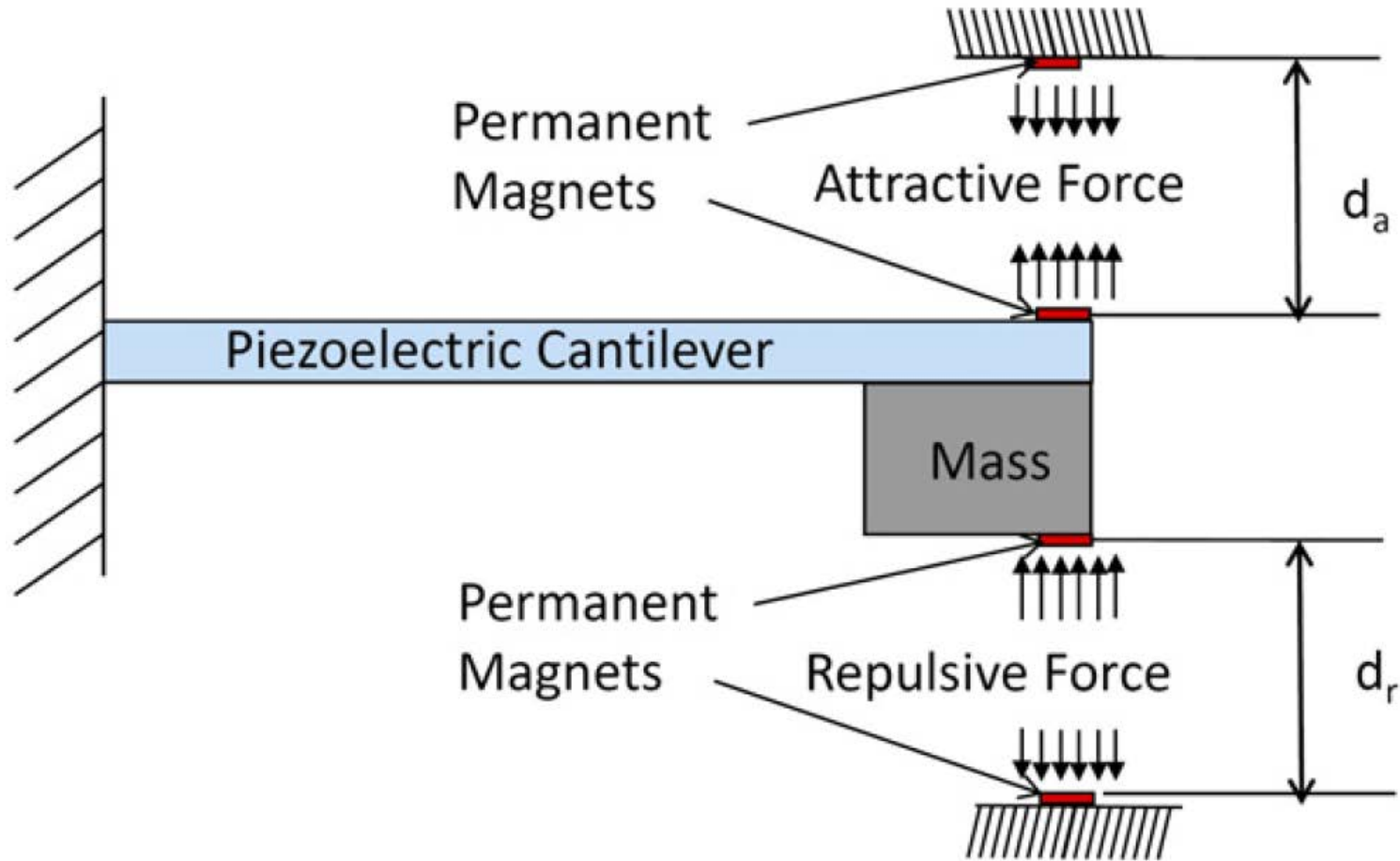
# Previous Research about Tunable Energy Harvesting Devices



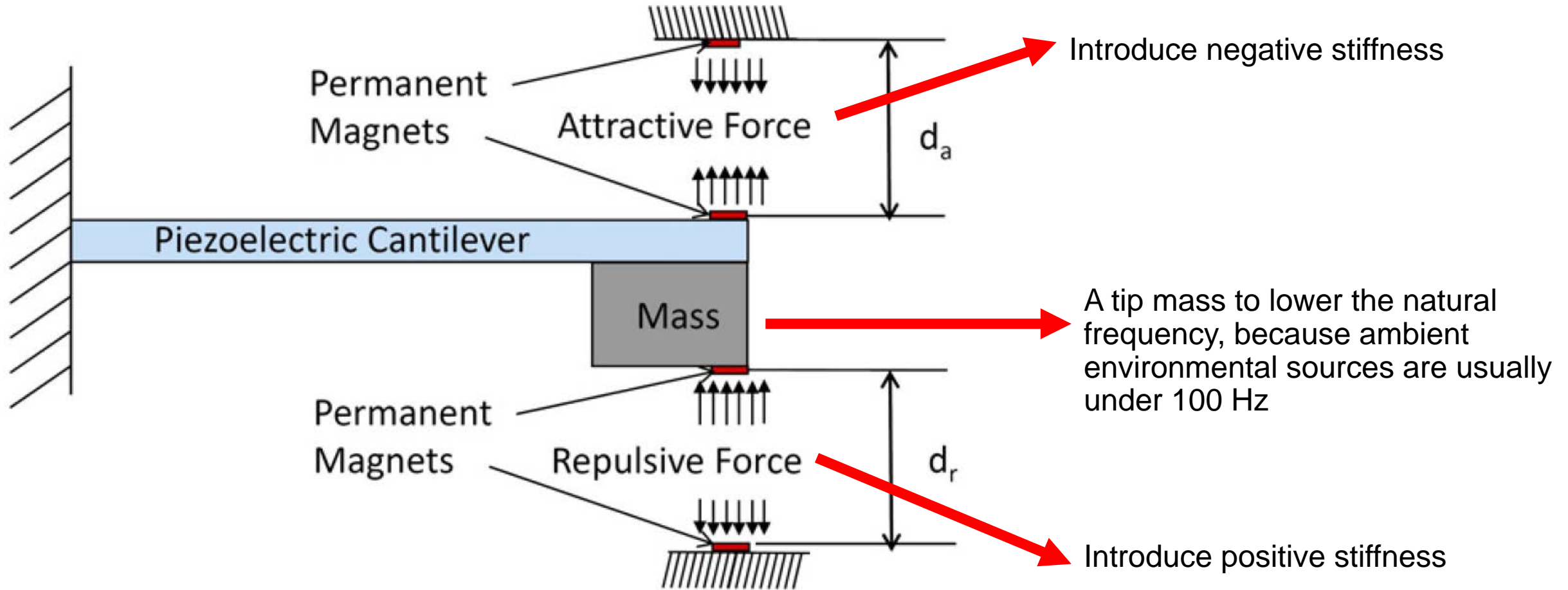
- ❑ In 2005, Roundy and Zhang proposed a tuning technique that applies an electrical input to a piezoelectric bimorph to alter the resonance frequency. But a **continuous input power** is required to maintain this change of resonance frequency which reduces the efficiency of energy harvesting device.
- ❑ In 2005, Malkin and Davis proposed a multi-frequency piezoelectric energy harvester consisting of a plurality of cantilevered beams from a fixed base. Although this gives the possibility of tuning over a large frequency range, a large set of the beams will not be in resonance and reduces the potential **power density** of such device.
- ❑ In 2006, Leland and Wright tuned the resonance frequency of the device by applying an axial compressive load to alter the stiffness of the simply supported beam.
- ❑ In 2006, Nishida included the development of a resonant energy micro-electromechanical system array to increase the power density of the energy harvesting device.

In summary, in terms of **power density** and **efficiency** over the **frequency range of operation**, improvement is still needed.

# Schematic of Devices



# Schematic of Devices



# Application of Magnetic Force

The magnetic force between two cylindrical magnets is:

$$F_{mag}(d) = \frac{B_r^2 A_m^2 (l + r)^2}{\pi \mu_0 l^2} \left( \frac{1}{d^2} + \frac{1}{(d + 2l)^2} - \frac{2}{(d + l)^2} \right)$$

where,

$d$  is the distance between the magnets

$l$  is the length of the magnet

$r$  is the radius of the magnet

$B_r$  is the residual flux density of the magnets

$\mu_0$  is the permeability of the intervening medium

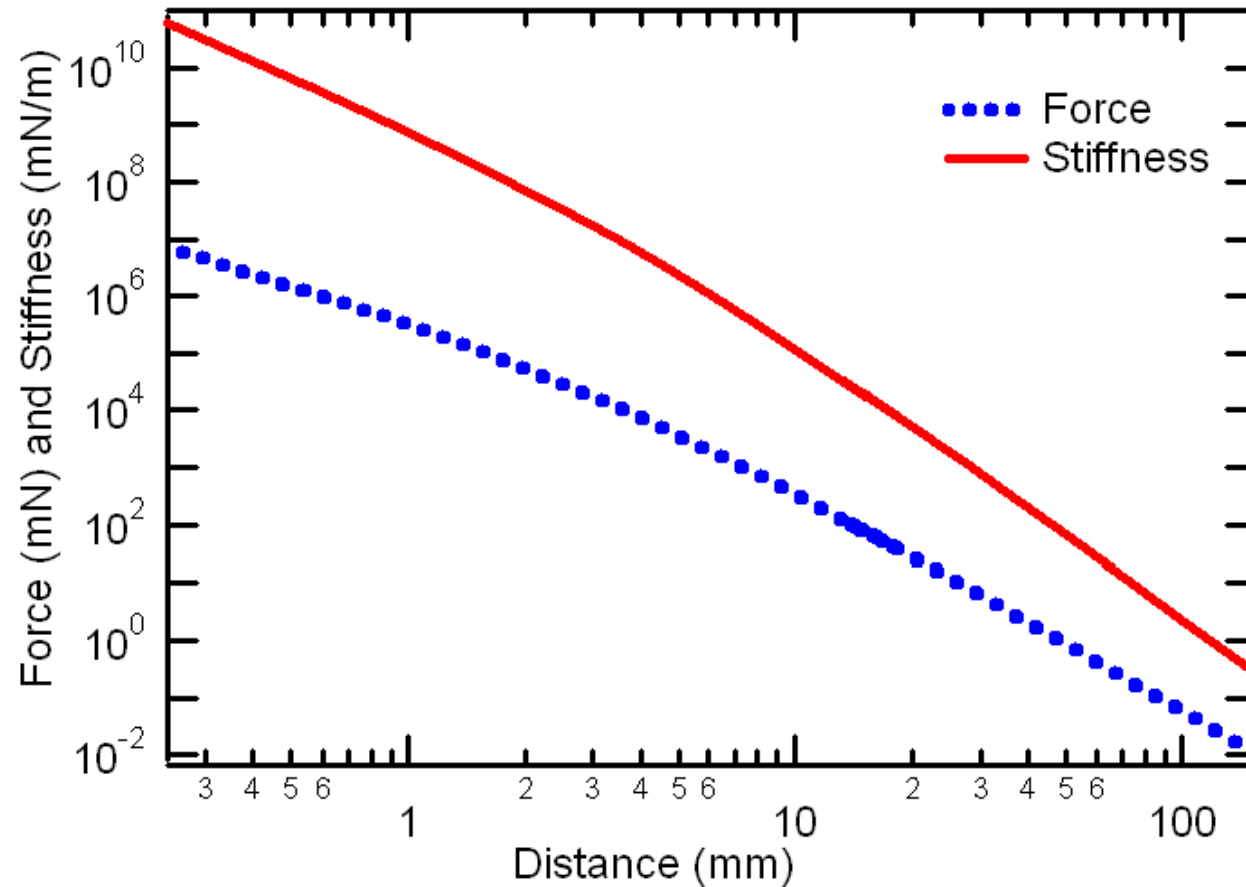
$A_m$  is the common area between magnets

Note that the hysteresis between the magnetic force of attraction and repulsion is not considered

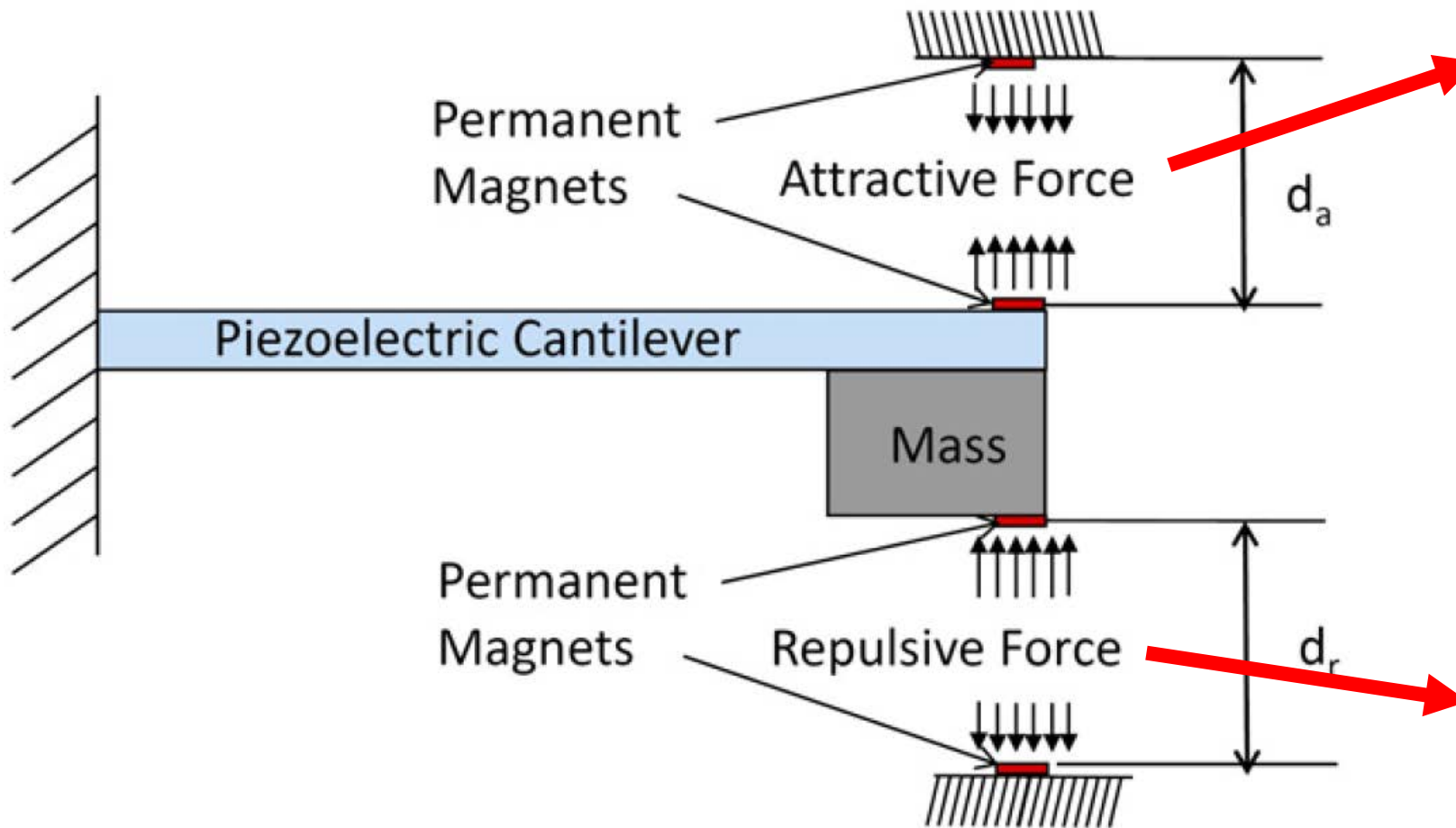


# Application of Magnetic Force

Plot of the force and stiffness versus separation distance between two cylindrical magnets in log-log scale



# Limitations of the Application of Magnetic Forces



When  $d_a$  is small enough,  
 $F_{mag}$  will be larger than the  
stiffness force of the beam.

Then the two magnets will snap  
together and changes the overall  
boundary condition

When  $F_{mag}$  is too large, the  
stress induced will exceed the  
yield strength of the beam.

# Effect of Magnetic Force on Resonance Frequency

When no magnetic force exist, the stiffness and mass of a multilayered cantilevered beam is:

$$K_{beam} = \frac{b}{4L^2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} n_i E_i h_i^3 + \sum_{j=1}^{n_2} n_j E_j h_j^3 \right) \quad m_{eff} = m_t + 0.23bL \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} n_i \rho_i h_i + \sum_{j=1}^{n_2} n_j \rho_j h_j \right)$$

where,

$b$  is the width of the beam

$n_1, n_2$  is the number of piezoelectric and electrode layers respectively

$E_i, E_j$  is the Young's modulus of piezoelectric and electrode layers respectively

$h_i, h_j$  is the heights of each piezoelectric and electrode layer respectively

$\rho_i, \rho_j$  is the densities of piezoelectric and electrode layers respectively

$L$  is the length of the beam

$m_t$  is the tip mass

So the natural frequency is:

$$\omega_{beam} = \sqrt{\frac{K_{beam}}{m_{eff}}}$$

# Effect of Magnetic Force on Resonance Frequency



The magnitude of the magnetic force induced stiffness  $K_{mag} = \pm \bar{K}_{mag}$  is:

$$\bar{K}_{mag}(d) = \left| \frac{\delta F_{mag}}{\delta d} \right| = \left| \frac{B_r^2 A_m^2 (l+r)^2}{\pi \mu_0 l^2} \left( -\frac{2}{d^3} - \frac{2}{(d+2l)^3} + \frac{4}{(d+l)^3} \right) \right|$$

where the sign is positive for repulsive mode and negative for attractive mode.

Then the total effective stiffness is:  $K_{eff} = K_{beam} + K_{mag}$

Thus, if the desired resonance frequency is  $\omega_t$ , then the required  $K_{mag}$  is:

$$K_{mag} = m_{eff}(\omega_t^2 - \omega_{beam}^2)$$

# Power Output Modeling of the Cantilevered Beam



The output power is given as:

$$P = \frac{V^2 R_L}{(R_s + R_L)^2}$$

where

the  $R_L$  is the load resistance,

the  $R_s$  is the **impedance of the piezoelectric cantilever beam** (acts as a **capacitor**  $C_p$ ):

$$R_s = \frac{1}{\omega_t C_p} \qquad C_p = \frac{n \epsilon W L_e}{t_p}$$

the  $V$  is produced voltage:

$$V = \frac{-d_{31} t_p \sigma_{beam}}{\epsilon}$$

where,

$n$  is the number of piezoelectric layers

$W$  is the width of the piezoelectric layers

$L_e$  is the length of the electrode

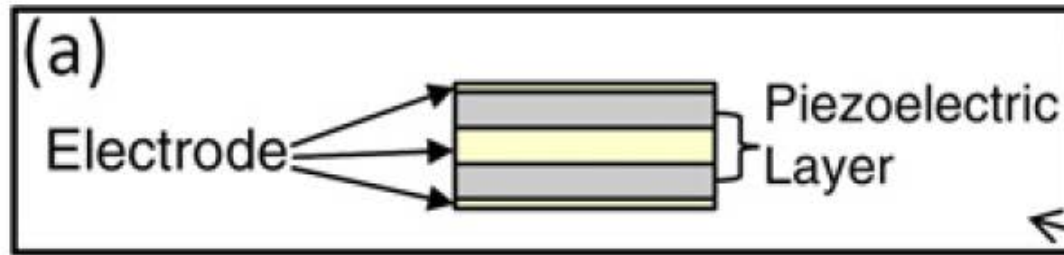
$t_p$  is the thickness of the piezoelectric layer

$d_{31}$  is the piezoelectric strain constant

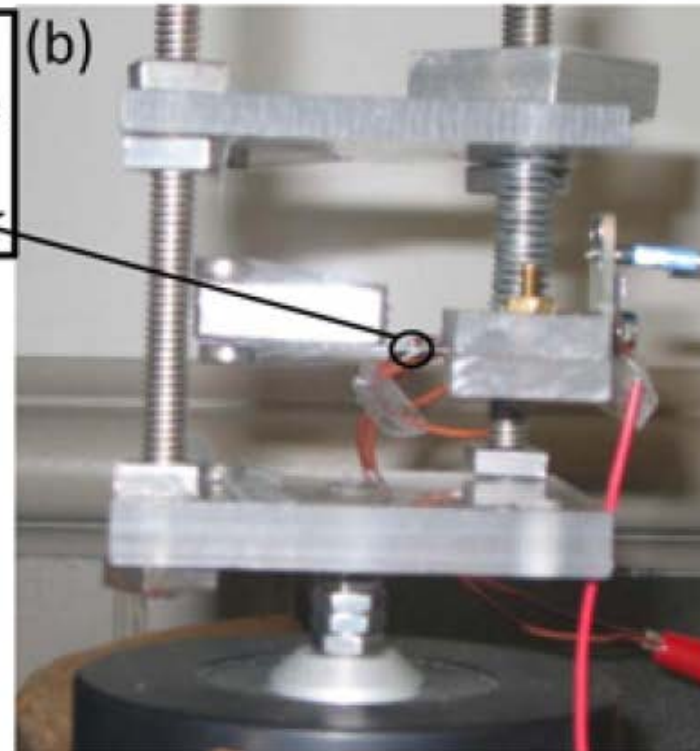
$\epsilon$  is the dielectric constant of the piezoelectric material

$\sigma_{beam}$  is the average effective stress per unit length

# Experimental Setup

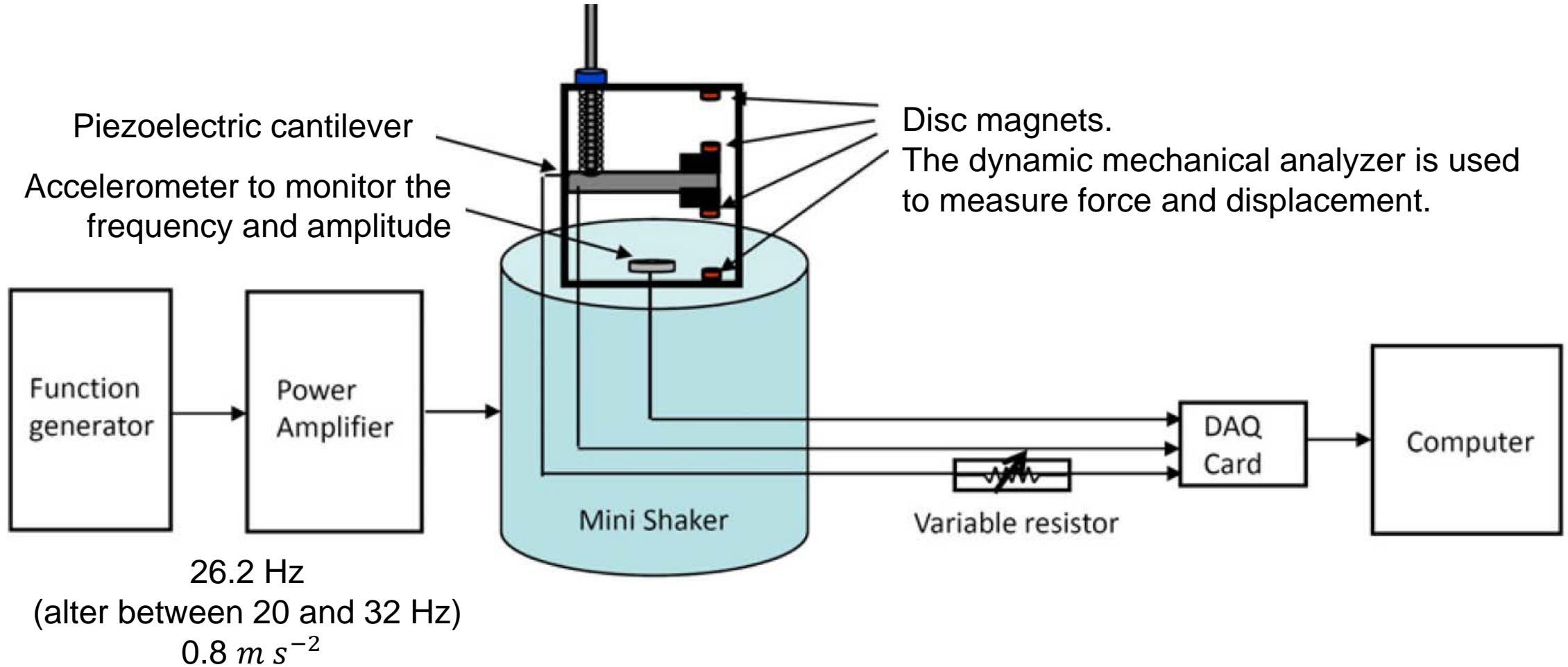


2 piezoelectric layers between 3 electrodes



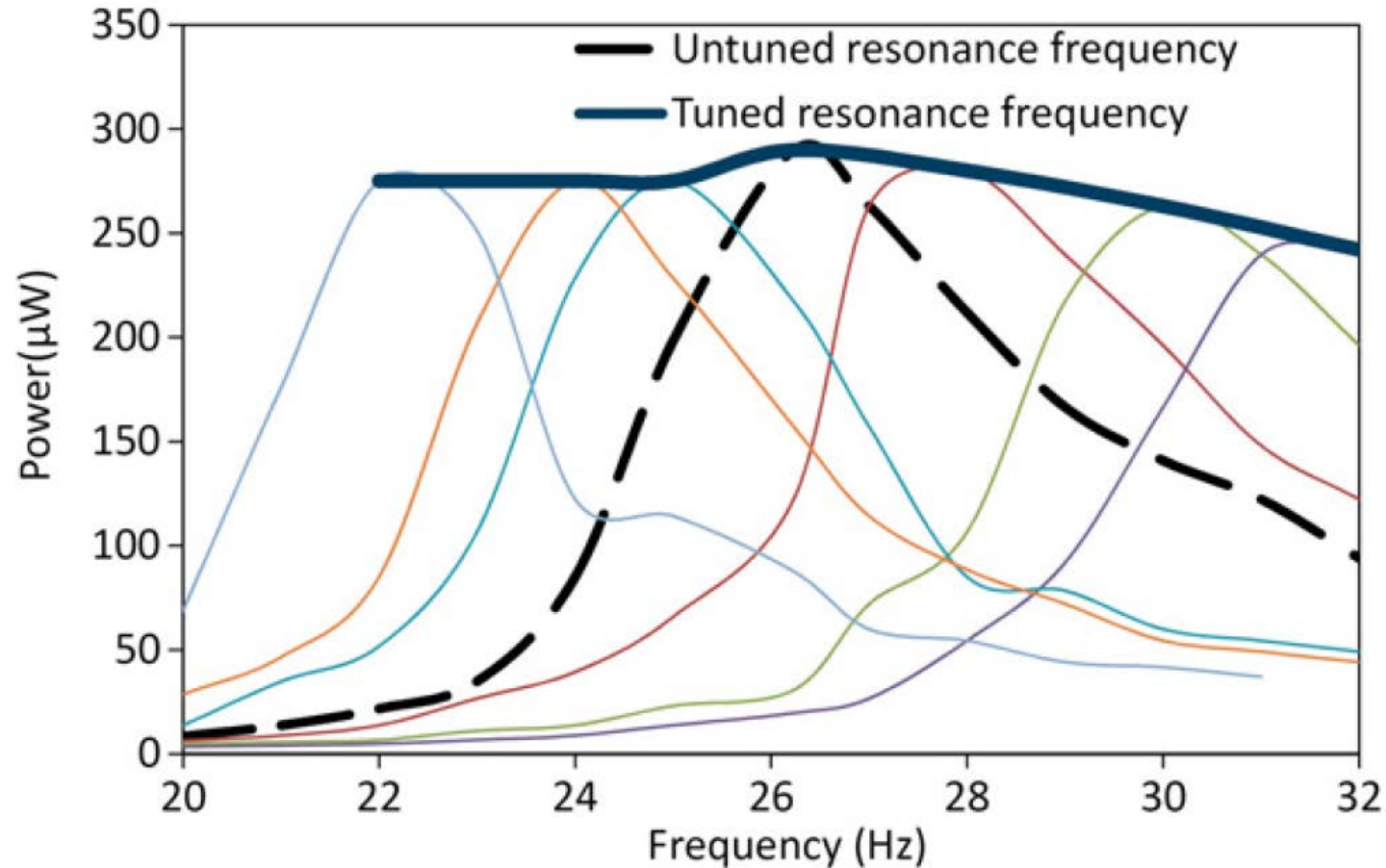
# Experimental Setup

Screw-spring mechanism to change the distance between to the magnets



# Experimental Results

Experimental values of power output versus resonance frequency

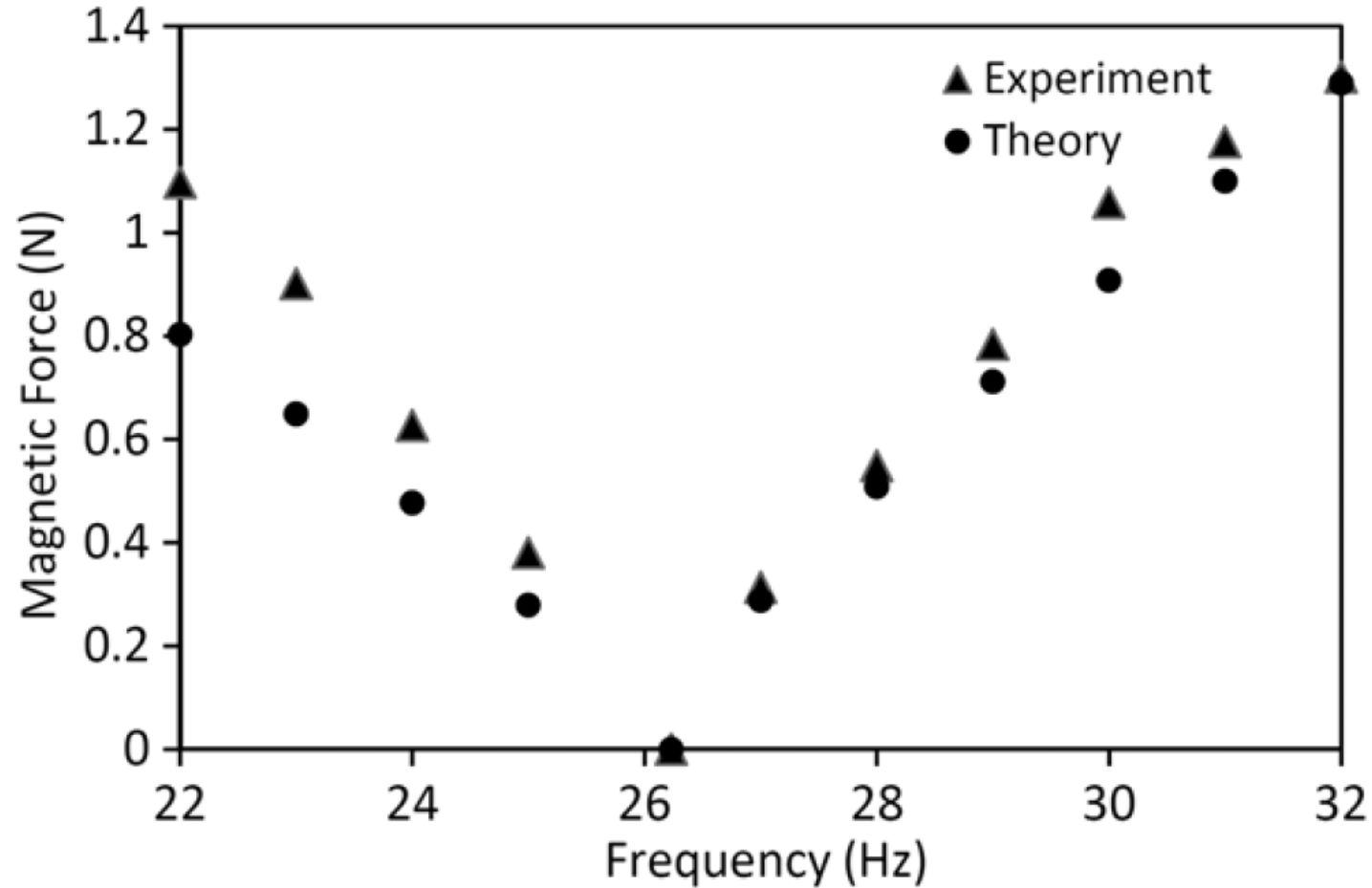


The tuned energy harvesting system works well.  
(Note that below 22 Hz, the magnets come into contact in attraction mode)



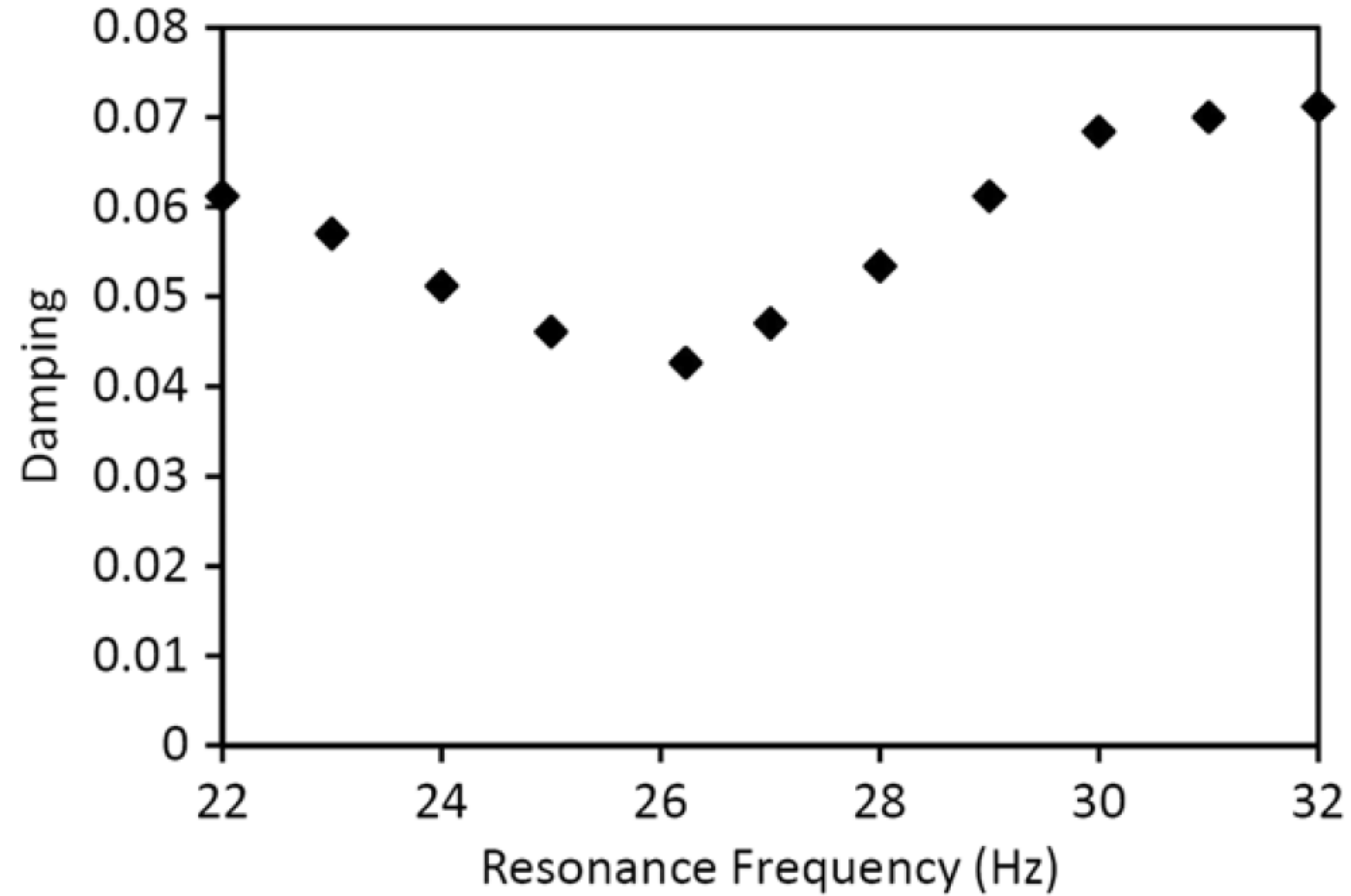
# Experimental Results

Experimental and theoretical values of applied magnetic force versus resonance frequency



# Experimental Results

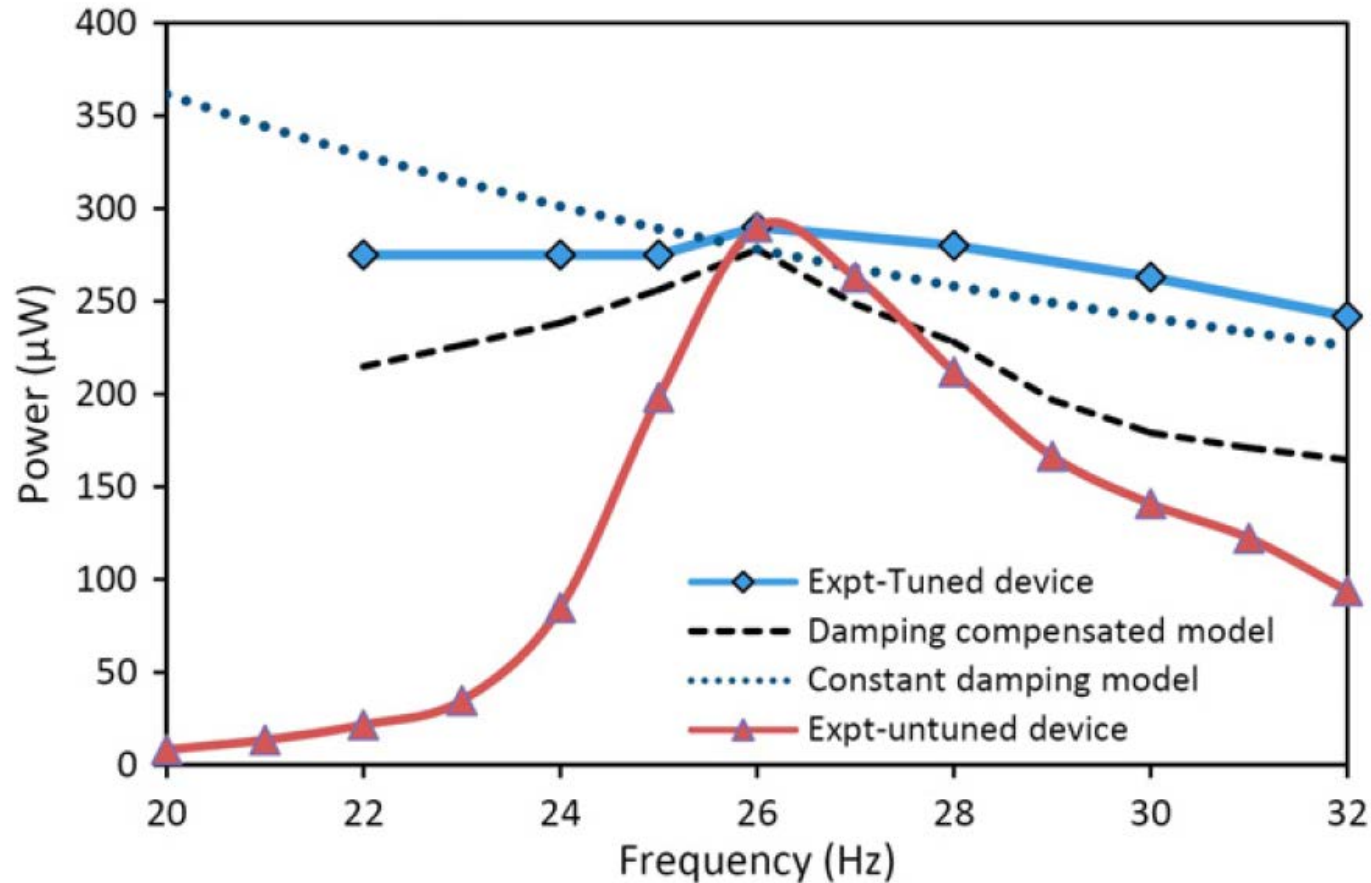
Experimentally measured values of damping versus resonance frequency



The damping of the piezoelectric beam increases with the increase of applied magnetic force

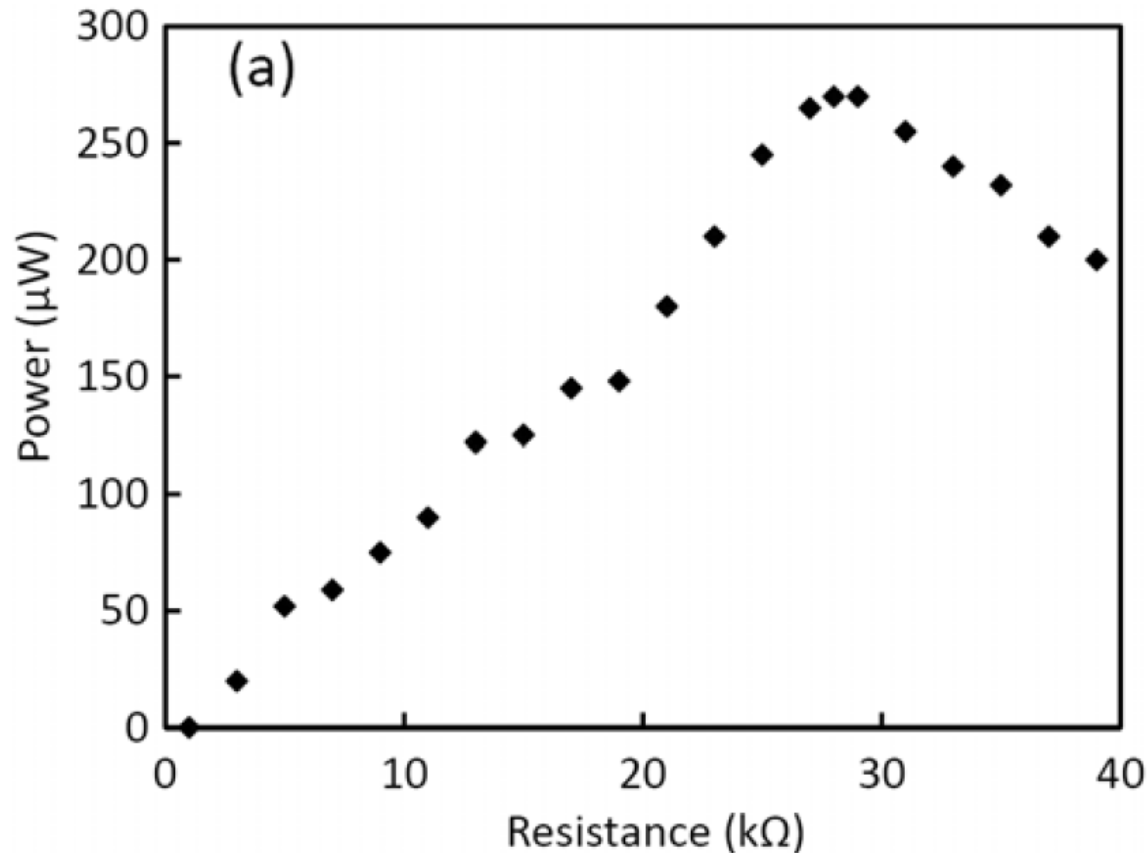
# Experimental Results

Comparison of experimentally measured power output with theoretical predictions using the constant damping and damping compensated models

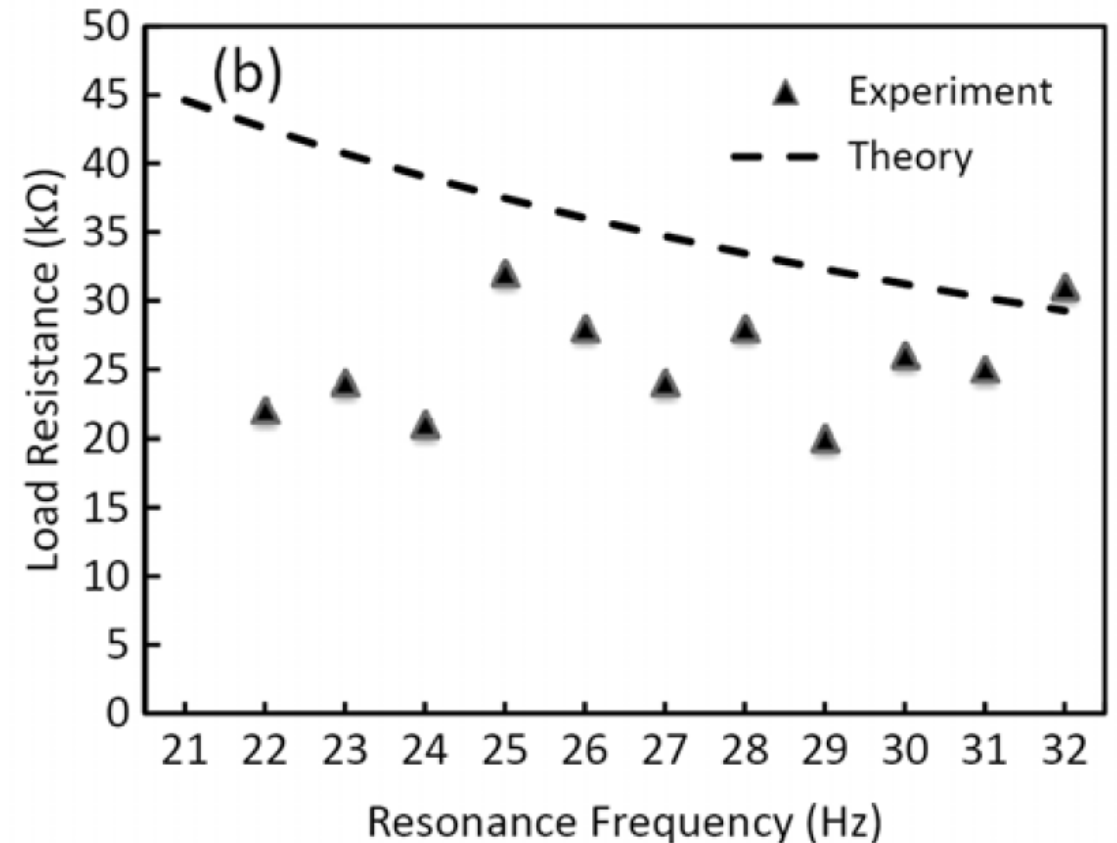


# Experimental Results

(a) Power versus load resistance at 26.2 Hz



(b) Optimal load resistance versus resonance frequency



The discrepancy between theoretical and experimental value is because the change of load resistance changes the damping of the system which alters the mini-shaker

# Summary



- ❑ The proposed approach can successfully tune the resonance frequency of the power harvesting system.
- ❑ The resonance frequency is bidirectionally tunable (about  $\pm 20\%$ ).
- ❑ The proposed prototype has high bandwidth and high power density.
- ❑ This approach is semi-active, which is more efficient than active method.
- ❑ The drawback of this approach is that: the use of magnetic force will introduce additional damping to the power harvesting system which reduce the output power.

# Some Work After this Paper



- ❑ In 2009, the author further investigated the damping induced by this approach such that the damping can be matched for a higher power output.
- ❑ In 2009, Reissman et al. combined this approach with another method to achieve a simpler design.
- ❑ In 2010, Zhu et al. proposed a new design such that the tuning mechanism has little effect on the total damping.
- ❑ In 2011, the authors proposed an improvement of this approach to achieve autonomously tuning the resonance frequency.
- ❑ In 2012, Tang et al. demonstrated that the nonlinearities introduced by magnets are beneficial in transition region compared with linear configuration. And the repulsive configuration of magnets is preferable for ultra-low-frequency vibration.

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Nowadays, more and more work were done in the vibration energy harvesting system using magnetic force.

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