

## Time dependent mechanics in metallic MEMS

**Citation for published version (APA):**

Bergers, L. I. J. C., Hoefnagels, J. P. M., & Geers, M. G. D. (2009). *Time dependent mechanics in metallic MEMS*. Poster session presented at Mate Poster Award 2009 : 14th Annual Poster Contest.

**Document status and date:**

Published: 01/01/2009

**Document Version:**

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of Record (includes final page, issue and volume numbers)

**Please check the document version of this publication:**

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

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# Time-dependent mechanics in metallic MEMS

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## 1. Introduction

Creep and fatigue failure of metals in radio-frequency micro-electromechanical systems (RF-MEMS) impede their reliable application [1, 2]. Micro-scale studies of these mechanisms are scarce [3].

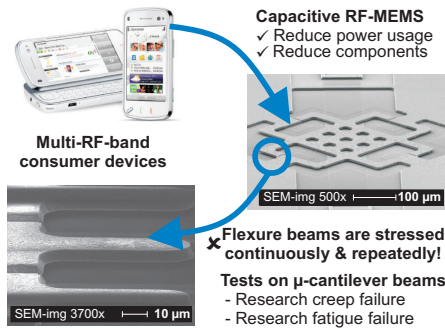


Figure 1: An exemplary application of RF-MEMS.

## 2. Objective

- Develop a method to characterize creep behavior of  $\mu\text{m}$ -sized aluminum MEMS cantilevers.
- Correlate this behavior to statistics of grain size, orientation and boundaries.

## 3. Methods

- A numeric-experimental method is developed for mechanical characterization, see fig. 2.
- Grain structure characterization is done with orientation imaging microscopy (OIM) utilizing electron backscatter diffraction.

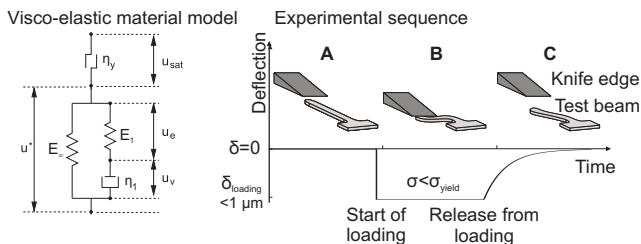


Figure 2: (l) A finite element model of the exact beam geometry based on a standard-solid visco-elastic material model is used to extract parameters from experimental data of creep behavior. (r) Schematic of the experiment in which a micro-manipulated knife edge deflects a cantilever. A confocal optical profilometer captures the deflection  $\delta$  as function of time.

## 4. Results

- Numeric-experimental parameter characterization yields 20% accurate determination of time constant, see fig. 3.
- Preliminary OIM maps indicate great variation in grain sizes and boundary orientations, see fig. 4.

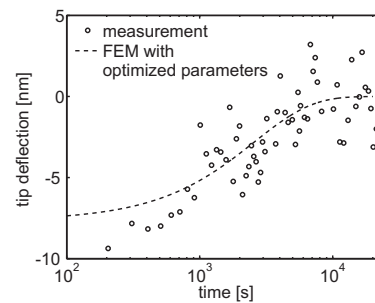


Figure 3: Resulting prediction by FEM of a different experiment based on material parameters determined from a previous measurement.

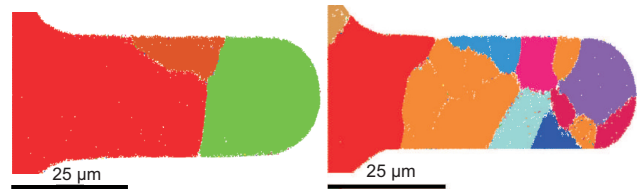


Figure 4: Grains in cantilever beams visualized by OIM maps for a specimen containing (l) few grains and (r) many grains. The colors indicate different grains.

## 5. Future work

- Investigate size-effects: correlate grain texture and statistics to observed behavior using OIM.

Norman Delhey is thanked for his significant contribution during his master's thesis.

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