3D measurement of micromechanical devices vibration mode shapes by stroboscopic microscopic interferometry

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Abstract :

Microscopic interferometry is a powerful technique for the static and dynamic characterization of micromechanical devices. In this paper we emphasize its capabilities for 3D vibration mode shapes profiling of Al cantilever microbeams and Cr micromachined membranes. It is demonstrated that time-resolved measurements up to 800 kHz can be performed with a lateral resolution in the micrometer range and a detection limit of 3-5 nm. In addition, with reduced image sizes (256x256), quasi real time (150-500ms) visualisation of the vibration mode 3D profiles becomes possible. These performances were obtained by using stroboscopic illumination with an array of superluminescent LED and an optimised automatic Fast Fourier Transform phase demodulation of the interferograms. The results are compared with theoretical shapes of the vibration modes and with point measurements of the vibration spectra.

Keywords: Vibrometry, Stroboscopic, Interferometry, MEMS, mechanical properties

I. Introduction

Optical measurement of the vibration spectra of micromechanical devices is a common method for the characterization of the mechanical properties of thin films [1-9]. From the resonant frequencies of cantilever microbeams [1-3], microbridges [4-7] or membranes [8,9] made in the material under investigation, the film Young's modulus and mean residual stress may be evaluated. Air damping, which is the predominant effect at atmospheric pressure, can be characterized from the quality factors of the resonances and/or the shifts of their frequency with respect to their value in vacuum. [10]. Aging of the microdevices can be determined from the quality factors and frequency variations of the resonances as function of time or annealing [4]. All these characterisations need an unambiguous identification of the resonant peaks in the vibration spectra. The main resonant frequencies of microbeams corresponding to flexural vibration modes can generally be identified easily. For membranes or microbridges with internal residual stress, the vibration main modes order may differ or not from that of unstressed microdevices according to the value and sign of the stress value [6,7]. This makes uncertain the identification of the resonant peaks from a single vibration spectrum only. Membrane vibration spectra are particularly difficult to interpret because they contain numerous low quality factor resonances which correspond to complex vibration mode [8,9]. For such stressed elementary microdevices and for more complex shapes Micro(Opto)ElectroMechanical Systems (M(O)EMS), it is clear that a single spectrum is generally not sufficient to assess their dynamical behaviour. Until recently, most ex situ vibrometry measurements on micromechanical devices, MEMS and MOEMS were performed by laser deflection [1,2,4], by fiber optic interferometry [11,12] or with single beam laser Doppler vibrometers [8,13]. These techniques provide only a point measurement of the out-of-plane vibrations. A mechanical translation of the sample or a scan of the laser beam is then needed to obtain the vibration amplitudes on several locations of the microdevice. This can be a timeconsuming procedure and often the information on the relative phase of the vibrations is lost. For these reasons, it is highly desirable to develop techniques which allow a full-field measurement or/and visualisation of the out-of-plane vibrations of microdevices. At macroscopic scale, holographic interferometry and its derived digital version, Electronic Speckle Pattern Interferometry (ESPI), present good performances for full field vibration measurements and they are largely used in mechanical engineering [14]. Recent studies show that speckle techniques can also be used for the vibration analysis of microcomponents [15-17], provided that their surfaces are naturally or artificially sufficiently rough. Recent studies have demonstrated that a promising complementary approach for the vibration analysis of MEMS is the use of classical two-beam interferometers with

continuous [18,19] or stroboscopic illumination [20,21] as they can provide time-averaged or timeresolved visualisation or profiling of the vibration modes with a (sub)micronic lateral resolution and a nanometric vertical resolution. Previous stroboscopic systems use phase shifting techniques for the quantitative determination of the phase of the interferometric signal [20,21]. In the stroboscopic interferometric microscope described here, an automated Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) analysis of the interferograms is performed instead. Once a reference interferogram recorded in static mode is processed, only one interferogram recorded on a tilted sample is needed each time which allows a quasi real time 3D profiling of the vibration modes. In addition, the optical system can also be configured for point measurements of vibration spectra up to about 4 MHz with a simultaneous full field visualisation of time-averaged interferograms at video rate [19]. These characteristics provide a relatively complete analysis of out-of-plane vibrations of micromechanical devices.

The paper is organised as follows. Part II gives a theoretical analysis of the interferometric signal and its processing in the different measurement modes : 3D static deformation profiling, vibration spectra point measurements and vibration modes 3D profiling. Most equations are well known so an emphasis is put on the effects of the limited coherence of the Light Emitting Diodes (LED) array source used and of the limited depth of field of the interferometric objective. Part III describes the optical system and its driving and detection electronics. Finally part IV illustrates the performances of the system from measurements on a cantilever Al microbeam and on a chromium micromachined membrane.

II. Theoretical analysis

II.1 Static deformation measurements

For the theoretical analysis of the system operation, we will use the simplified scheme of the experimental set-up shown in Fig.1. It is mainly composed of a Michelson interferometric objective with an internal reference mirror, the second mirror being the sample surface, a Charge Coupled Device (CCD) camera and a light source (not shown). A Mirau interferometric objective would give the same results. Let us first consider the case of a static measurement with a monochromatic light source. The incident light wave $E_0 = e_0(\mathbf{n})exp-i\mathbf{2pn}$ is equally split into two equal waves $E_1 = E_2 = e_0$ / $\mathbf{\hat{U}}$ exp-i $\mathbf{2pn}$ (Fig.1). They propagate to the reference mirror and the sample respectively where they are reflected with coefficients $r_1 = |r_1| \exp i\mathbf{f}_1$ and $r_2 = |r_2| \exp i\mathbf{f}_2$. The reflected waves $E'_1 = r_1$ E_1 and $E'_2 = r_2 E_2$, propagate back and reach the beam splitter with a temporal difference τ given by :

$$\boldsymbol{t} = 2z/c \tag{1}$$

where 2z is the Optical Path Difference between the two arms of the interferometer and c the light speed. Finally they are recombined by the beam splitter to give a total light wave amplitude E'_0 . The light intensity detected by a pixel P of coordinates x, y of the CCD camera comes from the point P' of coordinates x/G, y/G at the sample surface and its conjugate P" at the mirror surface where G is the magnification of the objective. The expression of the interferometric signal detected by pixel P is classically given by :

$$I(x,y) = \frac{1}{2}TS\left\{n^{2} + |n|^{2}\right\}e_{0}^{2}\left[1 + 2\frac{|n||n|}{|n|^{2} + |n|^{2}}\cos(4pz/l + j_{2} - j_{1})\right]$$
(2)

where *T* is the transmittance of the objective-tube lens combination and *S* the sensitivity of the CCD array.

Generally, with monochromatic light, the phase changes $4p\epsilon/l=2pnt$ related to sample height variations cannot be simply distinguished from the phase changes related to the difference of phase shifts on reflection $\Delta \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{j}_2 - \mathbf{j}_1$ without additional measurements. This is a well known limitation of monochromatic interferometric profilometers.

Equation 2 can be written in the condensed form :

$$I(x, y) = I_0 [1 + K \cos \mathbf{F}]$$
(3)

where the background intensity I_0 , the fringe contrast *K* and the phase **F** are all functions of the coordinates x/G, y/G on the sample surface.

Let us now consider the case of a polychromatic light source. Generally *T*, *S*, e_0 , $|r_1|$, $|r_2|$, j_1 and j_2 in equation 2 are all dependent on the lightwave frequency **n** By integrating equation 2 on all frequencies one finds :

$$I(x,y) = 1/2 \int_{0}^{\infty} TS\left\{ \left| n \right|^{2} + \left| n \right|^{2} \right\} \left| e_{0} \right|^{2} d\mathbf{n}$$
$$+ 1/2 \int_{0}^{\infty} TS2 \left| n \right| \left| n \right| \Re_{e} \left\{ expi\left\{ \mathbf{j}_{2} - \mathbf{j}_{1} \right\} \left| e_{0} \right|^{2} exp-i2 \operatorname{pnt} \right\} d\mathbf{n}$$
(4)

The first term is constant and, as above, represents the total background intensity detected I_0 . The second term is variable and is the interferometric term **D**. In the general case, the phase of **D** has no simple dependence with the relative local sample surface height *z*. However, for a quasi monochromatic light source with a narrow power spectrum centered around $\pm \mathbf{n}_n$, *T*, *S*, $|r_1|$, $|r_2|$, \mathbf{j}_2 and \mathbf{j}_1 are approximately constant and the interferometric signal can be written [22]:

$$I(x,y) = I_0 \left[1 + 2 \frac{|n||n|}{|n|^2 + |n|^2} |g(2z/c)| \cos(4pz/l_m + f_2 - f_1) \right]$$
(5)

where |g(2z/c)| is a normalized effective source autocorrelation function taking into account the sensitivity response of the detector and the filtering by the optics and $I_m = c/n_n$ is the mean source wavelength.

In a classical interferometer |g(2z/c)| can be related to the Fourier transform of the effective power spectrum of the source $w(n) = T(n) S(n) |e_0(n)|^2$ [22]. For power spectrum w(n) having a gaussian or a lorentzian shape, |g(2z/c)| has respectively an $exp - (z/Lc)^2$ or an exp(-|z|/Lc) dependence, where Lc is a characteristic length related to the temporal coherence of the light source [22]. However, for an interferometric objective additional factors must be taken into account : i) a variation V(z) of the fringe contrast related to the limited depth of field of the objective ii) an enlargement of the fringe spacing which is actually $I_{mc}/2 = I_m/2$ (1+f) where f is a correcting factor <1 [23]. Both factors become important for large numerical aperture objectives [23]. Hence all effects can be represented approximately by using the following more realistic expression of the interferometric signal :

$$I(x,y) = I_0 \left[l + KV(z) | \mathbf{g}(z) | \cos(4\mathbf{p}_z / \mathbf{I}_{mc} + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{j}) \right] = I_0 \left[l + C(z)\cos(4\mathbf{p}_z / \mathbf{I}_{mc} + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{j}) \right]$$
(6)

Where C(z) = K V(z) | g(z) | is a global contrast function and *K*, V(z) and | g(z) | are respectively the fringe contrast variations related i) to the reflection coefficients on the reference mirror and the sample surface, ii) to the limited depth of field of the interferometric objective and iii) to the limited coherence of the source.

Equation 6 shows that the interferometric signal as function of z is constituted of fringes with period $I_m/2$ shifted by Dj inside a contrast envelope variable with z. The contrast variation is one of the limiting factors of the maximum deflection which can be measured. Whatever its origin, it is mandatory to correct it experimentally to get accurate deflection profiles of microdevices from the phase of the interferometric signal. Referring to equation 6, it seems advantageous to use a polychromatic light for 3D static profiling of microdevices because the reflection phase shift difference can be evaluated for the different materials present on the surface from the shift between the maximum of the contrast envelope C(z) and the central fringe. However, while |g(z)| is necessary centered on z=0, V(z) is usually shifted with respect to z=0 experimentally. When V(z) is the main contrast limitation, as for large numerical aperture objectives, the interferogram envelope may be asymmetrical and the correction of $\Delta \varphi$ inaccurate. On the contrary, for vibrometry

measurements, $\Delta \phi$ variations along the sample surface can be easily corrected provided they can be considered constant during the vibration cycle by substracting the static profile.

II.2 Vibration spectra measurements

For a microdevice with sinusoidal out of plane vibrations of amplitude *a*, pulsation w and phase lag f_l , *z* can be written :

$$z(x/G, y/G) = z_0(x/G, y/G) + a(x/G, y/G) \sin(wt + f_1(x/G, y/G))$$
(7)

where $2 z_0$ is the average optical path difference.

By inserting Eq.7 in Eq.6, by developing the trigonometric term and by using its classical decomposition into Bessel functions [24] we finally find :

$$I(x, y, t) = I_0 \left[1 + C(z) \cos(\frac{4p}{I_{mc}} z_0 + \Delta j) J_0(\frac{4pa}{I_{mc}}) \right] - 2I_0 C(z) \sin(\frac{4p}{I_{mc}} z_0 + \Delta j) J_1(\frac{4pa}{I_{mc}}) \sin(wt + f_1) + 2I_0 C(z) \cos(\frac{4p}{I_{mc}} z_0 + \Delta j) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} J_{2k}(\frac{4pa}{I_{mc}}) \cos(2k(wt + f_1)) - 2I_0 C(z) \sin(\frac{4p}{I_{mc}} z_0 + \Delta j) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} J_{2k+1}(\frac{4pa}{I_{mc}}) \sin((2k+1)(wt + f_1))$$
(9)

Where Ji are the Bessel functions of integer order i (Fig.2). If the vibration amplitude is sufficiently low with respect to the characteristic length of the fringe contrast decrease, $C(z)\approx C(z_0)$. Equation 9 shows that the interferometric signal is composed of : a continuous term, a component at the excitation frequency and a number of non zero even and odd harmonics increasing with the vibration amplitude [19] (Fig.2). A harmonic analysis of the signal is thus generally necessary for a quantitative evaluation of the vibration amplitudes. For very low vibration amplitudes *a* such as $a << I_{mc}/4p$, the Bessel functions can be approximated as follows : $J_0(4pa/I_{mc})\gg l$, $J_1(4pa/I_{mc})\gg 2pa/I_{mc}$ and $J_i(4pa/I_{mc}) \gg 0$ for i>1. In that case a harmonic analysis is no longer necessary because the interferometric signal is then only composed of a constant term, and a term at the excitation frequency with an amplitude proportional to *a* :

$$I(x, y, t) = I_0 \left[1 + C(z_0) \cos\left(\frac{4\mathbf{p}}{I_{mc}} z_0 + \Delta \mathbf{j}\right) \right] - I_0 C(z_0) \sin\left(\frac{4\mathbf{p}}{I_{mc}} z_0 + \Delta \mathbf{j}\right) \frac{4\mathbf{p}}{I_{mc}} a \sin(\mathbf{w} t + \mathbf{f}_1)$$
(10)

Equation 9 and 10 show that to maximize the sensitivity of the vibration amplitude measurements, it is necessary to adjust and maintain the condition $4p_{Z0}/l_{mc}+Dj =\pm(2k+1)p/2$ where k is an integer. This is usually done by an active feedback stabilization circuit (see for example [25]). In our case it is obtained by regularly adjusting the constant term (the signal after low pass filtering) at its mid value when z_0 is varied. The advantage is to be able to take into account the variation of the background term with *a* when the vibration amplitude is not very low (see equation 9).

II.3 Stroboscopic measurements

For vibration modes profiling with a stroboscopic source, a light pulse of width dT, synchronized with the vibration excitation source but with an adjustable delay time t_0 is used to freeze the device vibration at any time of the vibration cycle (Fig.3). The light detected by the camera is integrated over a time T_0 related to the video rate, which, for micromechanical devices, is always very large with respect to the period T=2p'w of the vibration. For a pixel of coordinates x,y the detected intensity is then :

$$I(x, y) = N \int_{t_0 - dT/2}^{t_0 + dT/2} I(x, y, t) dt$$
(11)

where N is the integer part of (T_0/T) . A simple calculation shows that :

$$N \int_{t_0 - dT/2}^{t_0 + dT/2} \cos(nw(t + f_1)) dt = N \ dT \ \frac{\sin(nwdT/2)}{nwdT/2} \cos(nw(t_0 + f_1))$$
(12)

Therefore the amplitude of each time-varying term with pulsation $n\mathbf{w}$ in Eq.9 is reduced by an amount decreasing with $\delta T/T$ and increasing with n.

In the general case, the expression of detected intensity is from equations 9,11 and 12 :

$$I(x, y, t) = K \, dT \, I_o \left[1 + C(z) \cos\left(\frac{4p}{\mathbf{l}_{mc}} z_o + \mathbf{D} \mathbf{j}\right) J_o\left(\frac{4pa}{\mathbf{l}_{mc}}\right) \right]$$

+ $2K \, dT \, I_o C(z) \cos\left(\frac{4p}{\mathbf{l}_{mc}} z_o + \mathbf{D} \mathbf{j}\right) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2k \, \mathbf{w} dT/2)}{2k \, \mathbf{w} dT/2} J_{2k}\left(\frac{4pa}{\mathbf{l}_{mc}}\right) \cos(2k(\mathbf{w}_o + \mathbf{f}_i))$
- $2K \, dT \, I_o C(z) \sin\left(\frac{4p}{\mathbf{l}_{mc}} z_o + \mathbf{D} \mathbf{j}\right) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sin((2k+1) \, \mathbf{w} dT/2)}{(2k+1) \, \mathbf{w} dT/2} J_{2k+i}\left(\frac{4pa}{\mathbf{l}_{mc}}\right) \sin((2k+1)(\mathbf{w}_o + \mathbf{f}_i)) (13)$

For low vibration amplitudes and short light pulses such as $sin(nvd\Gamma/2)/nvd\Gamma/2 \gg 1$ for all harmonics really present in the signal and by using Bessel function summation rules [24], we obtain an expression of the detected intensity similar to the static case :

$$I_{quasistatic}(x, y) = K d\Gamma I_0 \left[1 + C(z_0) \cos(\frac{4p}{I_{mc}} z_0 + \frac{4p}{I_{mc}} a \sin(w_0 + f_1) + \Delta j) \right]$$
(14)

The vibration modes can then be measured without distortion from the phase of the interferometric signal. As micromechanical devices have often both high resonant frequencies and high quality factors, the condition of short pulses ($\delta T/T \ll 1$) and low vibration amplitudes is not always satisfied at resonance. The measured vibration modes are then distorted in a complex manner with a maximum error occuring for points having the maximum vibration amplitude. The prediction of this distortion is not straightforward, because the number of non zero terms in Equation 13 depends on the vibration amplitude through the Bessel functions, and because the duty cycle $\delta T/T$ affects both the fringe contrast and the phase of the interferometric signal. This will be discussed in more detail in a future paper from simulation results which are in progress.

II.4 Fringe pattern Fourier transform analysis

The equations of the interferometric signal I(x,y) for static (Eq.2) and stroboscopic (Eq.14) measurements can both be written in the simple form :

$$I(x,y) = A(x/G, y/G) + B(x/G, y/G)\cos F(x/G, y/G)$$
(15)

The phase \mathbf{F} contains the required information for static deformations profiling with continuous illumination and for mode shapes profiling with stroboscopic illumination : $\mathbf{F} = \frac{4\mathbf{p}}{\mathbf{I}_{mc}} z_0 + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{j}$ for static measurements while $\mathbf{F} = \frac{4\mathbf{p}}{\mathbf{I}_{mc}} z_0 + \frac{4\mathbf{p}}{\mathbf{I}_{mc}} a \sin(\mathbf{w} t_0 + \mathbf{f}_1) + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{j}$ for stroboscopic measurements. Note that by substracting the static phase from the stroboscopic phase, the initial deformation of the microdevice, the height variations due to steps and the variations of $\Delta \varphi$ due to material changes

along the microdevice surface are automatically eliminated from the mode shape profile. For an accurate measurement it is imperative to extract F independently from the variations of the background intensity A and of the contrast B on the sample surface. Numerous temporal or spatial methods have been proposed to realize this operation from a 2D digitized fringe pattern [26,27]: phase stepping, spatial-carrier phase stepping, sinusoid fitting, frequency domain analysis,...or a

combination of them. In this paper, the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) analysis has been chosen because it is very robust and it requires only one interferogram [27-39]. Phase stepping methods have potentially a better resolution, but they need several images (\geq 3) having the same background and contrast maps. These conditions are difficult to obtain during vibrometry measurements and the contrast is always z dependent when a high numerical aperture interferometric objective and/or a light source with limited coherence are used. We applied FFT analysis to interferogram recorded on tilted samples but Kreis et al. [38] showed that, by adding few processing steps, it can be extended to non-tilted samples. For tilted samples with spatial frequency $v_x=v_{0x}$ along the x direction and $v_y=v_{0y}$ along the y direction, I(x,y) becomes :

$$I(x,y) = A(x/G,y/G) + B(x/G,y/G) \cos\left[2\mathbf{pi}(\mathbf{n}_{0x}x + \mathbf{n}_{0y}y) + \mathbf{F}\right]$$
(16)

Following the classical approach (see for example [36]), it can first be rewritten as :

$$I(x,y) = A + B'expi2pt(\mathbf{n}_{0x}x + \mathbf{n}_{0y}y) + B'*exp-i2pt(\mathbf{n}_{0x}x + \mathbf{n}_{0y}y)$$
(17)

Where B'=1/2 B(x,y) expi F and B'* is its complex conjugate.

Applying 2D Fourier transform to this equation, and using low case letters for FFT quantities, we obtain :

$$\mathbf{i}(\mathbf{n}_{x}, \mathbf{n}_{y}) = a(\mathbf{n}_{x}, \mathbf{n}_{y}) + b'(\mathbf{n}_{x} - \mathbf{n}_{0x}, \mathbf{n}_{y} - \mathbf{n}_{0y}) + b'^{*}(\mathbf{n}_{x} + \mathbf{n}_{0x}, \mathbf{n}_{y} + \mathbf{n}_{0y})$$
(18)

This frequency spectrum is band-pass filtered around the carrier frequencies to isolate the lobe b' (or b'*) which is then translated to the origin in the spatial frequency domain to remove the carrier. Finally an inverse FFT is performed and the complex logarithm of the result B'(x,y) is calculated :

$$log/B'(x/G, y/G)) = Log/1/2B(x/G, y/G) + iF(x/G, y/G)$$
 (19)

The imaginary part provides F(x/G, y/G) with good accuracy and without significant influence of the background and contrast variations on the image [27-39]. If necessary, the contrast variation can be calculated from the real part of equation 19 or more directly from the modulus of B'.

III. Experimental set-up III.1 Optical system

The optical part of the vibrometer is schematised in Fig.4. It was designed as an extension of a commercial white light fringe scanning optical profilometer [40]. Consequently, the whole system has inherently the capabilities of 3D static profiles measurements of microdevices with (sub)micron spatial resolution and nanometric vertical resolution. We demonstrated previously that the same system can be configured for point measurements of vibration spectra with simultaneous visualisation at video rate of time averaged vibration modes and for automatic bulge testing of micromachined membranes [19]. The system is based on a standard reflection optical microscope on which two light sources can be mounted simultaneously and selected with a commutable mirror. According to the experiments, we use either a monochromatic sodium discharge lamp (λ =589 nm), a stroboscopic quasi monochromatic source made with an 5x5 array of superluminescent amber LED (Light Emitting Diodes) (λ =590 nm) or a low coherence tungsten-halogen white light source $(\lambda_{\text{mean}} \approx 6600 \text{ nm})$. Most of the experiments here were performed with the LED array source whose characteristics will be studied in part III.3. The illumination path (not shown in Fig.4) includes a diffusing plate at the entrance and the usual lenses, field diaphragm, view diaphragm and reflector found in classical optical microscopes. The microscope turret is equipped with Michelson X5 and Mirau X40 interferometric objectives each one composed of an infinity corrected objective and a miniaturized interferometer located below. Their main characteristics are given in table I. Interference fringes result from the recombination of the light wave reflected on the internal reference mirror and on the sample surface. Both interferometric objectives have a set of reference mirrors with various reflectivities (5%, 25%, 50%, 85%) which can be selected and tilted in 2 perpendicular directions in order to optimize the fringe contrast, orientation and spacing. Static or time-averaged interferograms can be visualized with the microscope oculars or acquired at video rate by a 8 bits monochrome, 2/3 inches, 768x572 square pixels (11µm), CCD (Charged Coupled Devices) camera connected to a frame grabber PC card. Vibration-induced fringe movement at any point of the microdevice can also be detected through the XY translatable circular diaphragm D (Fig.4) and the imaging lenses L_1 and L_2 by a fast (0.65ns) and sensitive (100 μ A/nW) miniature photomultiplier. As discussed previously [19], the sensitivity and the spatial resolution of vibration spectra point measurements with this detection system is mainly determined by the diaphragm diameter, the magnification of the objective and the reduction factor of the C mount on which it is mounted. With a 50µm in diameter diaphragm, a x40 Mirau objective, a 1x C mount and a 50 mW Na light source, measurements of subnanometric vibration amplitudes of micromechanical devices

with a spatial resolution downto 1.25 μ m and a frequency bandwidth >4MHz have been demonstrated [19]. For all vibration measurements the sample substrate was glued with a silver paste on a piezoelectric Pb_xZrTiO3_{1-x} (PZT) disk metallized with silver on both sides. The disk itself is glued with conductive epoxy paste on a Cu covered glass flat plate and electrical connections are bonded as indicated in Fig.4. The sample holder plate can be translated vertically with a piezoelectric PZT translator via a parallelogram mechanism using flexible pivots. The PZT translator has a vertical range of 15 μ m and includes a stress gauge sensor for close loop control. It is screwed on a tilting table mounted on the microscope table.

III.2 Driving and detection electronics

To perform a vibrometry measurement, the whole sample is excited in vibration by applying to the piezoelectric disk a sinusoidal voltage coming from the first channel of a double channel, 15 MHz bandwidth, waveform generator.

In the case of point vibration measurements with the photomultiplier, a lock-in detection technique was used (Fig.5). The sinusoidal signal of the second channel was synchronized at the same frequency or at an an integer multiple of it and used as a reference signal of a 10 MHz bandwidth double lock-in amplifier. The signal input of the lock-in amplifier is fed with the amplified and high pass filtered (1kHz) output of the photomultiplier (PM). The aim of this high pass filtering is to reject the 100Hz modulation of the Na lamp light power and its harmonics. This is not necessary for the other light sources. This detection electronics allows measurements of vibration spectra without the need of a phase adjustement at each frequency between the PM signal input and reference input of the lock-in amplifier and provides the capability of a harmonic analysis of the PM signal. As mentioned in part II.2 such a harmonic analysis is necessary for quantitative measurements of vibration amplitudes larger than $\lambda/4\pi$. The PM output is also low pass filtered (10 Hz) and this signal is used to maintain the mean optical path difference of the interferometer at the middle of a fringe (see Eq.10 and discussion below). This is necessary for large frequency scans during which the vertical mechanical drift of the sample holder is no longer negligible. Instead of using a feedback circuit, the stabilisation was performed by software to prevent the generation of an unwanted additional oscillation of the sample: the frequency scan is periodically interrupted and the sample is moved vertically with the PZT translator around its current position by a amount z comprised between $\lambda/2$ et λ to find the mid fringe position.

During stroboscopic measurements, the waveform generator second channel is used to drive the LED source (Fig.6) with a square signal having a duty cycle in the range 3% to 20%. The mean LED peak current was adjusted to 100 mA giving an upper limit of 20 mA average current for a 20% duty cycle. For the measurement of the vibration modes at any time of the vibration cycle, the two waveform generator channels are synchronized at the same frequency and their phase difference is adjusted. For real-time observation of the vibration modes at reduced speed, the two channels are driven at slightly different frequency ($\Delta f < 1Hz$) which generates a linear phase ramp.

III.3 Stroboscopic LED source characteristics

The LED source tested and used for all experiments described in this paper is a 5x5 array of superluminescent LED (λ =590 nm) each with a typical luminous intensity of 9600 mCd for a current of 20 mA and a divergence angle of 6°. It was mounted directly on the microscope without any optics. The total light power reaching the sample surface was 11µW for the x5 Michelson objective and 1.5µW for the x40 Mirau objective for a current of 20 mA. Owing to the diffusing plate at the entrance of the illumination path no light structuring was observed and the light homogeneity at the sample level was about 20%.

The contrast of the interferometric signal was measured for the LED source and for the two interferometric objectives by recording with the camera the intensity during a vertical scan of a Al/Si flat sample. In both cases a 85% reflectivity reference mirror was used. The measurements were averaged over a 3x3 pixels region located at the image center. The result obtained for the Michelson x5 objective (NA=0.12) is shown in Fig. 7. The contrast envelope determined by a Fourier analysis of the signal could not be fitted with satisfactory parameters by a gaussian curve. For this objective, the contrast is limited by the source coherence length as its depth of field is large (Table I). The characteristic lengths $L_{c1/2}$ and $L_{c1/e}$ for which the contrast is divided by 2 and 1/e are respectively 3.65 µm and 4.7 µm. Fig.6 shows that more than 50 fringes (15 µm) can be detected which is largely sufficient for the measurement of most micromechanical devices. No enlargement of the fringe spacing could be evidenced for this objective around the maximum of the contrast envelope $(\lambda_{mc}=0.590 \text{ nm})$. This is consistent with the theoretical value of the correcting factor f=0.3% [23]. However an increase of fringe spacing was found beyond about 3.5 µm from the maximum of the contrast envelope. For the x40 Mirau objective (NA=0.6), the fringe contrast envelope is much narrower and is clearly limited by the objective depth of field (Fig.8). The values of $L_{c1/2}$ and $L_{c1/e}$ extracted from the contrast envelope are 0.9 μm and 1.25 μm and the number of usable fringes is only about 10 (3 μ m). As expected these values are increased when the field

diaphragm aperture of the microscope illumination path is reduced. At the same time, the oscillations of the contrast envelope (Fig.8) disappear. This shows that they are not due to a misalignment of the interferometer [41]. A rapid evaluation shows that the fringe spacing enlargement is about 9.1%, a value lower than the value (about 13%) expected from theoretical calculations [23].

The resonant frequencies of micromechanical devices reach often several hundred kHz or more. For stroboscopic measurement at such frequencies short light pulses must be used. The intrinsic response time of the LEDs used is 17 ns. In our case the effective rise time of the light pulse is mainly limited by the driving electronics and is \leq 50 ns. For a 5% duty cycle this corresponds to a theoretical maximum measurement frequency of 1MHz.

IV Experimental results

IV.1 Micromechanical devices fabrication

Evaporated Aluminium cantilever microbeams and rf sputtered chromium rectangular membranes were fabricated as test samples for the stroboscopic measurements of the vibration modes. The aluminium cantilever microbeams were fabricated by surface micromachining with the process described in ref [42]. Briefly it consists in patterning the Al film and releasing the microbeams by a selective and isotropic SF_6 plasma etching of the silicon substrate in a barrel type reactor. A low rf power was used during plasma etching to avoid the generation of thermally induced stress gradients [42]. The Cr membranes were fabricated by conventional KOH bulk micromachining of the silicon substrate from the rear side. A teflon substrate holder with O-rings was used to protect the film during etching. Cr film compressive stress was minimized by performing the deposition at a high pressure to reduce the peening effect as we have done previously for sputtered tungsten membrane[43]. Nevertheless, as shown below, the Cr residual film stress was still sufficiently compressive to induce a slight buckling of the membrane.

IV.2 FFT interferogram analysis

The flow chart giving the steps we used to implement a fully automated FFT processing of the interferograms is shown in Fig.9. The main steps are indicated in solid boxes. Additional steps used for a faster processing but with a reduced spatial resolution are indicated in boxes with dashed lines. They are used for quasi real time visualization of the 3D profiles of the vibration modes. Boxes with dotted lines correspond to the case of differential profiles calculation. This FFT interferogram

processing (Fig.9) includes various refinements described below. Starting from the acquired image (step 1), a region of interest is defined with a mask and extended in x and y direction to the nearest power of 4 by zero padding (step 2) in order to use afterwards efficient 4ⁿ FFT algorithms (step 3), to limit windowing effects and to make room for fringe extrapolation (step 5). The next step is the automatic search of the carrier frequencies by peak detection (step 4). It is performed only once on a reference static image before vibration measurements. For the following measurements, the same values of the carrier frequencies are used (step 4') and this step is skipped. For this step, a mask is used to make the peak detector insensitive to the contrast modulation (around zero frequency) and to parasitic carriers. Then the fringes are extrapolated up to the image boundaries on areas outside the micro-device and on areas masked by dust particles on the optics or on the sample (step 5). We used the efficient algorithm proposed by Roddier et al. [32]. It uses the iterative sequence shown in the solid boxes at the right side of Fig.9. Briefly, it consists in extracting, in the frequency domain by a narrow filtering, the data corresponding to the carrier frequencies while keeping some information of the fringe modulation due to the device deformation. Then the corresponding fringes are extended in the space domain by an inverse FFT in all areas except in the microdevice area where the original data are kept intact. This procedure is repeated with a variable filter size until the contrast of the extrapolated fringes is satisfactory. The next step of the main processing block (step 6), is a 2D band pass filtering of the lobe around the carrier by using a circular mask with apodized borders. After translation to the origin (step 8), the inverse FFT of the image is computed (step 9) and the phase image is calculated from the imaginary part of its logarithm (step 10). The phase obtained is a wrapped phase modulo 2π . For vibration modes profiling, this wrapped phase of the static interferogram is substracted (step 10') so phase discontinuities related to the device surface steps or reflection phase shifts steps are removed before the unwrapping process (step 11). In addition, noise is removed owing to the efficient filtering capabilities of the FFT analysis and the fringe extrapolation step remove the fringes discontinuities at the device boundaries and around areas masked by dust particles. Consequently, for the micro-devices investigated (micro-cantilever beams and micromachined membranes), it was not necessary to use the numerous advanced unwrapping algorithms proposed previously [44]. A simple and fast unwrapping beginning from the image center along the corresponding column then along the lines starting from it was sufficient. Finally, a 3D surface plot of the vibration mode is drawn from the data of the unwrapped phase.

For fast visualization of the vibration modes, a full spatial resolution is not necessary. So after acquisition, the interferogram is resampled to reduce its size by a factor 3 (step 1'). This is valid

only if there are more than 6 pixels per fringe what is usually the case. Before the 3D profile display, the interferogram is again resampled for accelerating its calculation.

Fig.10 and 11 illustrate this FFT analysis in the case of the measurement of the static and dynamic displacements of a 100 µm long, 10 µm wide, 0.6 µm thick aluminum cantilever microbeam. The three images shown in Fig.10 correspond to a static measurement. The corresponding images during dynamic measurement are very similar because the vibration amplitudes are only a very small fraction of the fringe spacing. The first image (Fig.10a) shows the interferogram recorded on the tilted sample at full spatial resolution by using the Mirau X40 interferometric objective with a 85% reflectivity reference mirror and the CCD camera. Only a part of the image around the microbeam is shown. There is a clear variation of the fringes contrast in the interferogram. As discussed in part III.3, it is mainly due to the limited depth of field of the objective. The result of fringes extrapolation with 32 iterations is displayed in Fig.10b. In this particular case, a large number of iterations is necessary because the area covered by the microdevice is only about 5% of the full image. The fringe contrast ouside the device area could be increased by using more iterations but it is not necessary for the subsequent processing. Note that in this particular case, the fringes extrapolation produces a fringe split at the bottom right of the microbeam (indicated by a black arrow). This leads to a defect in the unwrapped phase at the end of the processing but as the unwrapping is started from the center of the image, it does not affect phase data corresponding to the microdevice. The 2D Fourier spectrum in logarithm scale (Fig.10c) shows that with a sufficient tilt, the carrier and and its modulation lobe are sufficiently separated from the background and the fringe contrast modulation contributions (center of the spectrum and lines starting from it) to allow a fully automated detection of the carrier frequencies and a band pass filtering of the modulation lobe with a predetermined window size. The filter window used is indicated by a black circle. The next images (Fig.11) show the wrapped phase (Fig.11 a) and the unwrapped phase (Fig.11 b) for the static deflection measurement. At last, the unwrapped phase image of the second vibration mode (f=296.1kHz) after correction of the static displacement is shown in Fig.11c. As expected the vibration mode has a node close to the center of the beam.

IV.3 Dynamic characterization of Al microbeams

The measured vibration spectrum of the same Al cantilever microbeam as above is plotted in Fig.12. This spectrum was measured by lock-in detection at the end of the cantilever beam with a spatial resolution of 2.5 μ m (100 μ m in diameter diaphragm). Three main resonances at 48 kHz,

296.1 kHz and 816 KHz corresponding to the 3 first flexural modes can easily be distinguished. Values of the film Young's modulus computed [45] from these 3 resonant frequencies are respectively 69 GPa, 67 GPa and 65 GPa while the young's modulus of bulk aluminum is in the 69-72 GPa range. No clear explanation of the decrease of the measured Young's modulus with mode order could be found as measurements on similar Cr microbeams fabricated by the same process did not show such a behaviour.

Stroboscopic measurements with FFT interferogram analysis of the vibration modes were performed at these three frequencies with a light pulse duty cycle of 5 %. Fig.13 gives a comparison of the computed and measured profiles of the vibration modes. The static profile of the microbeam is also plotted with a reduced scale (1/3) on the same figure. The measured mode shapes were obtained by profiling the unwrapped phase along the microbeam length after correction of the static profile. The theoretical mode shapes were computed from reference [45] and were vertically scaled by a constant factor to fit the experimental ones. Fig.13 shows that there is a close agreement between the measured and theoretical ones. The slight discrepancies observed likely arise from the distortion effect related to the excessive light pulse width used for the vibration amplitudes measured (see part II.3) but the underetching at the clamped end inherent to the fabrication process [42] may also contribute to the differences. To give an idea of the distorsion effect, an increase ot the duty cycle from 3% to 20% gave a 10% increase of the measured vibration amplitude for a vibration amplitude of 257nm.

IV.4 Dynamic characterization of Cr membranes

A chromium rectangular membrane with approximative dimensions 600 μ m x 1200 μ m x 1 μ m was used as a first test sample. For this sample, all measurements were performed with the Michelson x5 interferometric objective with a 85% reflectivity mirror. Its static 3D deformation profile determined by FFT analysis of an interferogram recorded after sample tilting is shown in Fig.14. It is slightly buckled with an unexpected deformed shape as it is almost flat along the membrane borders. Nevertheless it was judged still suitable for the evaluation of the optical system. A vibration spectrum of this membrane was measured near a corner by lock-in detection with a spatial resolution of 20 μ m (Fig.15). The vibration spectrum contain many resonant peaks difficult to identify without a visualisation or a profiling of the vibration modes shapes. This is a typical situation for micromachined membranes which have complex vibration modes were performed with a light pulse duty cycle of 5% for the resonant peaks indicated by letters in Fig.15. As mentioned

previously in part IV.2, the FFT interferogram analysis can be largely accelerated by using resampled interferograms. In addition, for membranes, the fringe extrapolation can be reduced to a few iterations only. With a 500 MHz PC, by reducing the original interferogram size to 256x256 pixels, the total processing time is about 150 ms once a reference static profile with the same tilt is measured. This processing time includes the substraction of the initial static 3D profile and the 3D plot visualisation. Such a reduced processing time allows a quasi real-time measurement of the vibration modes 3D profiles. This quasi-real time operation mode can as well be used for microbeams but the processing time is about 3 times longer because fringe extrapolation is more critical. Examples of quasi real-time 3D profiles for some characteristic vibration modes of the Cr membrane are shown in Fig.16 and 17 together with the calculated modes shapes [9,46]. The first mode shown (Fig.16a) at 126.9 kHz is symmetrical and corresponds to the theoretical first natural mode of a perfect membrane (Fig.16b). The next vibration mode 3D profiles are antisymmetrical with a central nodal line (Fig.17). As a last example, a complex 5x2 vibration mode measured at 496.8 kHz is shown in Fig.18.

All these vibration modes were measured with a phase lag between the PZT disk driving voltage and the LED array driving voltage adjusted to give the maximum amplitude. Actually the vibration mode profiles can be measured at any time of the vibration cycle. This is illustrated in Fig.19 which shows a 3x1 vibration mode with different delays between the excitation and the light pulse. Such a measurement is useful to check if the oscillation is purely vertical and symmetrical around the static position without wave propagation. Then the vibration mode is purely harmonic without coupling with other vibration modes. For the example of Fig.19, the mode has a relatively good symmetry despite the initial buckling of the membrane.

As indicated in the figure captions, the maximum vibration amplitudes for the different modes shown are in the range 14-130 nm. This demonstrate the high sensitivity of the stroboscopic measurements. The measurement performances depends on many factors which are under investigation. A preliminary evaluation showed that systematic errors limit the minimum vibration amplitude which can be measured to about 3-5 nm and that beyond this value the measurement resolution is below 1nm

V Conclusion

Microscopic interferometry is used for a long time for static 3D surface profiling with high lateral and vertical resolution. By using a LED stroboscopic light source and an automatic fringe pattern

analysis, we have demonstrated that its 3D profiling capabilities can be extended to the measurement of vibration modes of micromechanical devices up to at least 800 kHz.. In addition, owing to a phase demodulation of the interferograms by Fast Fourier Transform, a quasi real time visualisation of the vibration mode 3D profiles can be achieved. This full field measurement can be combined with point measurements of the vibration spectra to obtain a complete analysis of out-of-plane vibrations of MEMS. The main limitation of the system is a slight distortion of the vibration mode shapes for large vibration amplitudes. Work is in progress to quantify and correct this distortion.

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Figure captions

Fig 1 Simplified scheme of the experimental set-up

Fig.2 Bessel functions of integer order J_0 , J_1 , J_2 , J_3 as function of the normalized vibration amplitude $x = 4\pi a / \lambda_{mc}$.

Fig 3 Timing of stroboscopic measurements

Fig 4 Configuration of the optical system.

Fig 5 Driving and lock-in detection electronics for point vibration measurements

Fig.6 Driving and detection electronics for stroboscopic vibration measurements

Fig 7 Interferometric signal as function of sample vertical position for the LED array source and the Michelson x5 objective

Fig 8 Interferometric signal as function of sample vertical position for the LED array source and the Mirau x40 objective

Fig 9 FFT interferogram analysis flow chart

Fig.10 FFT analysis of an interferogram recorded on a 100µmx8µmx0.6µm Al cantilever microbeam.a) Initial static interferogram. b) Partial view after fringe extrapolation.c) FFT spectrum.

Fig.11 FFT analysis of an interferogram recorded on a 100 μ mx8 μ mx0.6 μ m Al cantilever microbeam.a) Wrapped and b) unwrapped static deflection phase; maximum static deflexion - 0.63 μ m. c) 2nd flexural mode (f=296.1 kHz) after static deflection substraction; maximum vibration amplitude 180nm.

Fig 12 : Vibration spectrum of an Al cantilever microbeam: a) around the first flexural resonance b) around the second flexural resonance c) around the third flexural resonance. The PZT disk driving voltage is 1Vpp for the 1^{st} and the 2^{nd} mode and 10Vpp for the 3^{rd} mode.

Fig 13 Computed and measured vibration mode profiles for the 3 first flexural resonances of an Al cantilever microbeam at 48 kHz, 296.1 kHz and 816 kHz respectively. The profile of the initial static deflection is included for comparison at 1/3 scale.

Fig 14 Static 3D profile of a chromium rectangular membrane. The black solid line shows the membrane borders. Membrane dimensions: $1200\mu mx600\mu mx1\mu m$; maximum deflection 125nm.

Fig 15 Vibration spectrum of the Cr membrane. PZT disk driving voltage : 0.4 Vpp. Letters a to d show the modes measured by stroboscopic interferomety.

Fig 16 3D profiles of the first main vibration mode of the Cr membrane. a) Measured mode at f = 126.9kHz; maximum vertical deflexion : 14nm.b) Normalized theoretical mode.

Fig 17 3D profiles of a 2x1 vibration mode of the Cr membrane. a) Measured mode shape at f= 167.3 kHz; maximum vertical deflexion : 120 nm.b) Normalized theoretical mode shape.

Fig 18 3D profiles of a 5x2 vibration mode of the Cr membrane. f = 496.8kHz; maximum deflexion 130 nm.

Fig 19 3D profiles of a 3x1 vibration mode of the Cr membrane with 0° , 60° , 120° , 180° phase delay between the excitation at f=226.5kHz and the light pulses.





Fig.2









Fig 6





- 30 -







Fig 10b







Fig 12 a



Figure 12 b



Figure 12 c



















Figure 18 b



Objective	Numerical aperture NA	Resolution Ro ^b (µm)	Depth of field D (µm)	Camera Resolution Rc ^c (µm)	Maximum tilt Slope andAngle T _S , T _M ^d µm/µm, (°)
Michelson x5	0.12	4.03	$\pm 33,3$	2.2	± 0.134 , ± 3.8
Mirau X40	0.6^{a}	0.59 ^b	$\pm 1.08^{b}$	0.275	$\pm 0.536, \pm 28$

^a Central obscuration not taken into account. ^b $R_0=0.82\lambda/NA$ for coherent light illumination []. ^c Rc=pixel size/magnification= (11µm/G). ^d $T_S=\lambda/4R_c$ and $T_M=tan^{-1}(T_S)$ for 2 pixels/fringe.

Tab.1 Interferometric objective characteristics for λ =0.59 nm