

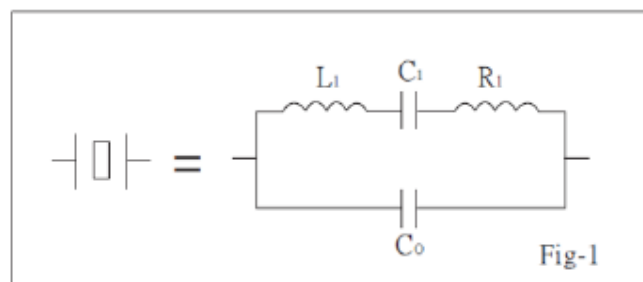
• AT Cut Crystals

For precise frequency control in radio and line communication systems, quartz crystal resonators have proved indispensable. The material properties of crystalline quartz are such that quartz resonators display stability and Q factors that cannot be matched by other types of resonator over the frequency range from 1 MHz to 200 MHz.

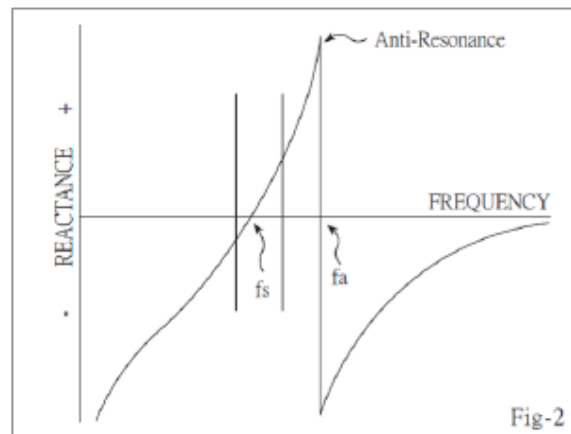
• Equivalent Circuit

Fig-1 shows the conventionally accepted equivalent circuit of a crystal resonator at a frequency near its main mode of vibration. The inductance L_1 represents the vibrating mass, the series capacitance C_1 the compliance of the quartz element and the resistance R_1 the internal friction of the element, mechanical losses in the mounting system and acoustical losses to the surrounding environment.

The shunt capacitance C_0 is made up of the static capacitance between the electrodes, together with stray capacitances of the mounting system.



There are two zero-phase frequencies associated with this simple circuit, one is at series resonance f_s , another at antiresonance f_a . When used in an oscillator, crystal units will operate at any frequency within the broken lines of Fig-2 as determined by the phase of the maintaining circuit.

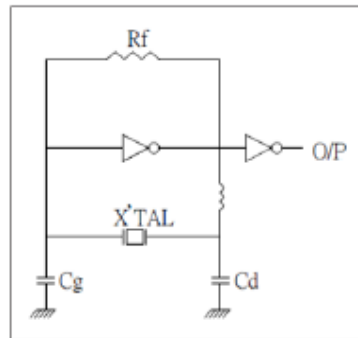


By changing of this reactive condition, the crystal frequency may be trimmed in a limited extent. The degree to which this frequency may be varied (frequency pulling) is inversely proportional to the capacitance ratio $r(C_0 / C_1)$.

• **Load Capacitance**

Many practical oscillator circuits make use of a load capacitor C_L in series or parallel with the crystal, either in order to provide a means for final frequency adjustment, or perhaps for modulation or temperature compensation purposes. For the crystal load capacitance. We looking into the circuit through the two crystal terminals, the load capacitance need to specified when the crystal is paralleled mode, crystal load capacitance is calculated as below:

$$C_L = \frac{C_g C_d}{C_g + C_d} + C_s$$



C_s : is the stray capacitance of the circuit typically the C_s value around 4_8 PF.

• **Frequency Pulling**

In many applications a variable capacitor (trimmer) is used as the load reactive element to adjust the frequency. The fractional frequency range available between specified values of this load reactive element is called the pulling range (P.R.) and it can be calculated by using the following formula:

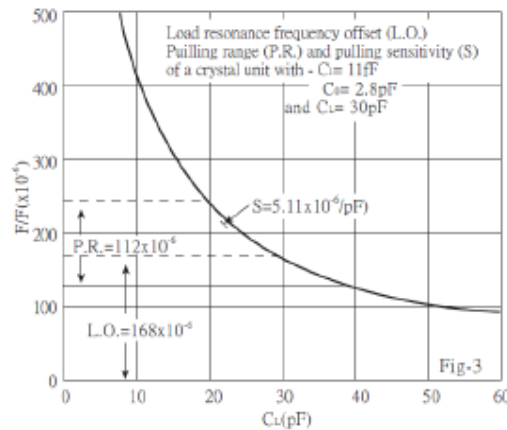
$$P.R. = \frac{f_{L1} - f_{L2}}{f_s} = \frac{C_1(C_{L2} - C_{L1})}{2(C_0 + C_{L1})(C_0 + C_{L2})}$$

- **Sensitivity**

A useful parameter to the design engineer is the pulling sensitivity (S) at a specified value of load capacitance. It is defined as the incremental fractional frequency change for an incremental change in load capacitance. It is normally expressed in ppm/pF (10⁻⁶/pF) and can be calculated from the formula:

$$S = \frac{-2(L.O.)}{2C_L} = -\frac{C_1}{2(C_0 + C_L)^2}$$

It is very important to define the mean load capacitance to enable the actual crystal frequency be set within the tolerances of the specified nominal frequency. It is also important to use, wherever possible, standard values of load capacitance; for example:20pF, 30pF. Fig-3 shows the relationship between LO.; P.R. and S.



- **Frequency Pulling Calculation**

An approximation to the pulling for any crystal can be calculated from this simple formula:

$$\frac{*f}{f * C_L} \left[10^6 / pF \right] = \frac{*f}{f_s (C_0 + C_L)}$$

when *f = f_L - f_s

- **Resistance**

The equivalent circuit of the crystal has one other important parameter: This is R₁, the motional resistance. This parameter controls the Q of the crystal unit and will define the level of oscillation in any maintaining circuit. The load resonance for a given crystal unit depends upon the load capacitance with which that unit is intended to operate. The frequency of oscillation is the same in either series or parallel connection of the load capacitance.

If the external capacitance is designated the load resonance resistance may be calculated as follows:

$$R_L = R_1 \left(1 + \frac{C_0}{C_L}\right)^2$$

The equivalent shunt or parallel resistance at load resonance frequency is approximately:

$$R_0 = \frac{1}{R_1 (C_L + C_0)^2}$$

It should be remembered that R_1 does not change thus the effective parameters of any user network can be readily calculated.

• **Frequency Temperature Characteristics**

The AT-cut crystal has a frequency temperature characteristic which may be described by a cubic function of temperature. This characteristic can be precisely controlled by small variations in the exact angle at which the crystal blank is cut from the original quartz bar. Fig.4 illustrates some typical cases. This cubic behaviour is in contrast to most other crystal cuts, which have parabolic temperature characteristics.

As a consequence, the AT-cut is generally the best choice when specifying a unit to operate over a wide temperature range, and is available in a range of frequencies from 1 to 200 MHz.

