

ARTICLE

Open Access

0.04 degree-per-hour MEMS disk resonator gyroscope with high-quality factor (510 k) and long decaying time constant (74.9 s)

Qingsong Li¹, Dingbang Xiao^{1,2}, Xin Zhou¹, Yi Xu¹, Ming Zhuo¹, Zhanqiang Hou^{1,2}, Kaixuan He^{3,4}, Yongmeng Zhang¹ and Xuezhong Wu^{1,2}

Abstract

The disk resonator gyroscope is an attractive candidate for high-performance MEMS gyroscopes. This gyroscope consists of a sensor and readout electronics, and the characteristics of the sensor directly determine the performance. For the sensor, a high-quality factor and long decaying time constant are the most important characteristics required to achieve high performance. We report a disk resonator gyroscope with a measured quality factor of 510 k and decaying time constant of 74.9 s, which is a record for MEMS silicon disk resonator gyroscopes, to the best of our knowledge. To improve the quality factor of the DRG, the quality factor improvement mechanism is first analyzed, and based on this mechanism two stiffness-mass decoupled methods, i.e., spoke length distribution optimization and lumped mass configuration design, are proposed and demonstrated. A disk resonator gyroscope prototype is fabricated based on these design strategies, and the sensor itself shows an angle random walk as low as $0.001^\circ/\sqrt{\text{h}}$, demonstrating true potential to achieve navigation-grade performance. The gyroscope with readout electronics shows an angle random walk of $0.01^\circ/\sqrt{\text{h}}$ and a bias instability of $0.04^\circ/\text{h}$ at room temperature without compensation, revealing that the performance of the gyroscope is severely limited by the readout electronics, which should be further improved. We expect that the quality factor improvement methods can be used in the design of other MEMS gyroscopes and that the newly designed DRG can be further improved to achieve navigation-grade performances for high-end industrial, transportation, aerospace, and automotive applications.

Introduction

High-performance microelectromechanical system (MEMS) gyroscopes are in wide demand in high-end industrial, transportation, aerospace, and automotive applications. Considerable research has been conducted on MEMS Coriolis vibratory gyroscopes (CVGs), such as disk^{1–13}, bulk acoustic wave¹⁴, quad mass¹⁵, and micro-scale 3D wineglass gyroscopes^{16,17}. Among these, the disk resonator gyroscope (DRG) is an attractive candidate for

high-performance MEMS gyroscopes due to its inherent mode matching, high thermal stability, low anchor loss, and abundant electrodes. The first $0.01^\circ/\text{h}$ navigation-grade MEMS DRG with active temperature control and compensation was previously reported¹ and demonstrated the potential of DRGs for use in high-performance MEMS gyroscopes.

A high-quality factor (Q), long decaying time constant (τ), high symmetry of damping, and mode matching are the essential attributes of high-performance CVGs^{1,16,17}. In MEMS CVGs, a quad mass gyroscope (QMG) with a Q value >1.7 million and τ longer than 328 s, has been reported¹⁵. A bulk acoustic wave (BAW) gyroscope with Q up to 1.38 million has been measured at a 2.745 MHz center frequency¹⁴. A Q factor as high as 4.45 million and

Correspondence: Dingbang Xiao (dingbangxiao@nudt.edu.cn)

¹College of Intelligence Science, National University of Defense Technology, Changsha 410073, China

²Laboratory of Science and Technology on Integrated Logistics Support, National University of Defense Technology, Changsha 410073, China
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article.

© The Author(s) 2018



Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

a decaying time constant longer than 259 s have been demonstrated on a fused silica birdbath shell resonator¹⁷. For DRGs, the state-of-art of the reported highest Q was 0.358 million, and the longest decaying time constant was 38.5 s in our previous report¹⁸; these values severely limit the potential performance improvement. Therefore, it is necessary to further improve the Q and τ of DRGs, for which $\tau = Q/\pi f_0$ and f_0 is the resonant frequency.

The quality factor is a measure of the energy dissipation in vibrating resonators. Several energy dissipation mechanisms exist, including air damping, surface loss, support loss, electrical damping, and thermoelastic damping (TED)^{19–23}. In DRGs encapsulated in high-vacuum packages and working in elliptical modes, TED has been identified as the major energy dissipation mechanism and imposes an upper limit on the attainable Q ^{8,24}. Therefore, thermoelastic quality factor (Q_{TED}) improvement is the main target in optimization of DRGs. The TED can be separated into two categories: material-dependent and geometry-dependent components^{25–27}. For MEMS DRGs, which are always manufactured with silicon, the material-dependent component has been fixed, and thus high Q_{TED} mechanical design becomes a highly significant issue. Certain examples of Q_{TED} improvement exist via innovative structural design or structural optimization for DRGs. Reference studies^{8,12} have presented a method for Q_{TED} improvement by lengthening the spokes in DRGs and manipulating the heat flux paths in the resonator. Our previous work proposed a method for improving the Q_{TED} of DRGs by optimizing the ring thickness distribution^{28–30}.

However, in most research, the Q_{TED} improvement mechanisms were not clearly explained, and the Q and τ of DRGs can only be slightly improved. In this paper, we present the Q_{TED} improvement mechanism in the DRG, and according to this mechanism, two novel stiffness-decoupled methods are proposed for Q and τ improvement. The first method is stiffness distribution optimization achieved by spoke length distribution (SLD) optimization, in which the spoke lengths on different layers of the DRG are designed to be varied, instead of identical in the traditional DRGs, and the optimum SLD is obtained using the particle swarm optimization (PSO) method. The other method is mass distribution optimization achieved by the lumped mass configuration, in which the lumped masses are hung on the ring frame to increase the effective mass while maintaining the stability of the effective stiffness. The effectiveness of the two methods is demonstrated with the finite element method (FEM) and the experimental results. The newly designed DRG based on these design strategies is fabricated and characterized. The Q and τ are tested as 510 k and 74.9 s, respectively, which are the records for MEMS DRGs. The theoretical angle random walk (ARW) of the DRG sensor

itself is as low as $0.001^\circ/\sqrt{\text{h}}$, showing a potential to achieve navigation-grade performance. In contrast, the ARW and bias instability of the gyroscope are tested as $0.01^\circ/\sqrt{\text{h}}$ and $0.04^\circ/\text{h}$, respectively, showing that the noise and instability of the gyroscope are severely dominated by the readout electronics. Improvement of the readout electronics could further reduce the ARW and instability of the gyroscope for high-end applications. Furthermore, the Q and τ improvement methods proposed in this paper can be broadly used in the optimization of MEMS-vibrating gyroscopes and other resonators.

Results

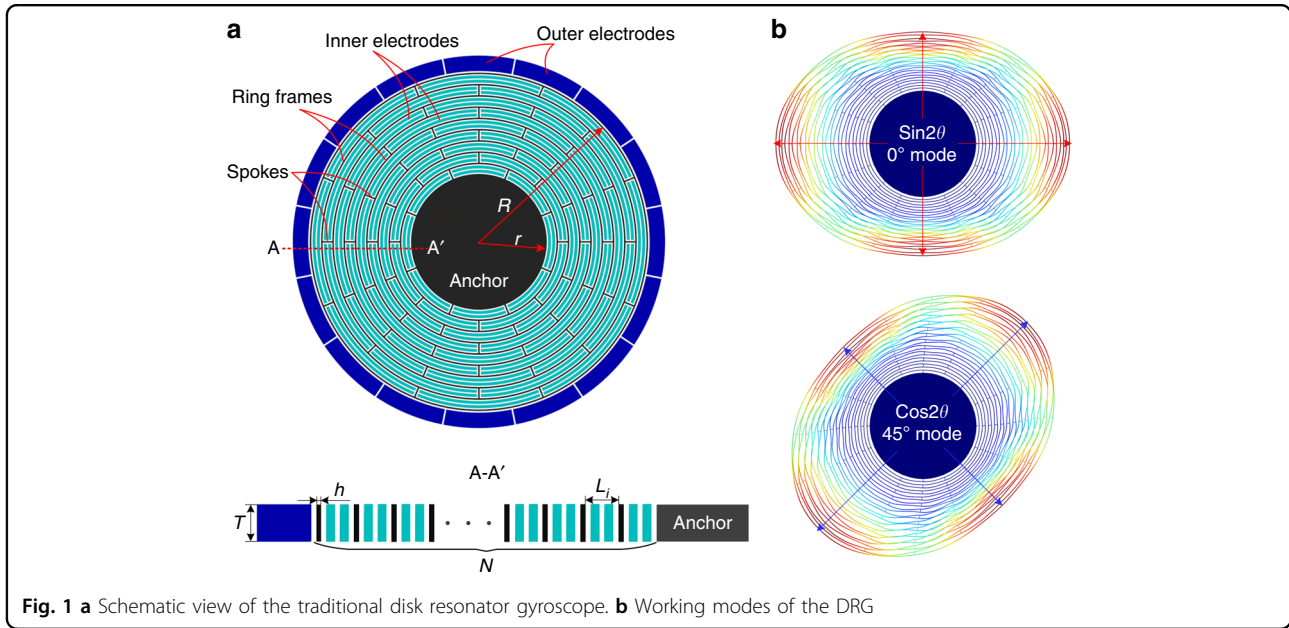
Model and operation of the DRG

The traditional DRG shown in Fig. 1a consists of a disk resonator, 16 outer electrodes, and layers of inner electrodes. The disk resonator is composed of several concentric ring frames interconnected through eight spokes and a single central anchor. The device thickness, ring number, outer radius, anchor radius, anchor radius to outer radius ratio (AOR), and ring width are defined as T , N , R , r , $\delta(r/R)$, and h , respectively. The disk resonator is excited at the $n=2$ elliptical driving mode, and the Coriolis force is detected at the degenerate sensing mode, which is located geometrically 45° apart from the driving mode, as shown in Fig. 1b. Ideally, the two modes have an identical natural frequency but indistinguishable mode shapes.

Due to the complexity of the relationships between the geometrical parameters and the DRG characteristics, the effects of the geometrical parameters on the DRG Q_{TED} and f_0 are investigated using FEM. The results are shown in Fig. 2. It can be observed that the ring width and outer radius are the main factors affecting the Q_{TED} in the DRG, whereas the ring number and AOR have slight influences. Therefore, for the traditional DRGs with identical ring width and ring gaps, to improve the Q_{TED} , the ring width should be as small as possible and the outer radius should be as large as possible. However, the ring width is limited by the fabrication capability, and the outer radius is limited by the device size. Thus for the traditional DRGs, Q_{TED} improvement will come to an end only by changing the basic geometrical parameters h , N , R , and δ . In this paper, two novel methods are presented to break the limit.

Q_{TED} improvement mechanism in DRGs

The temperature deviation and heat flow in the vibrating DRG are shown in Fig. 3a, illustrating that the main thermoelastic dissipation originates from the in-plane bending deformation of the ring frames and spokes in the DRG. The disk resonator can be viewed as the combination of thin beams with different length and shapes. Thus, it can be assumed that the f - Q relationship of DRGs can be expressed with the widely applied Zener



one-dimensional TED theoretical model:^{25,26}

$$Q_{TED} = \frac{2C_v}{E\alpha^2 T_0} \cdot \frac{1 + (f_0/f_{Relax})^2}{2(f_0/f_{Relax})} \quad (1)$$

$$f_{Relax} = \frac{\pi k}{2h^2 C_v} \quad (2)$$

Herein, f_0 and f_{Relax} are resonant frequency and thermal relaxation frequency, respectively; E is the Young's modulus; α is the linear coefficient of thermal expansion; T_0 is the equilibrium temperature of the beam; C_v is the specific heat per unit volume; k is the thermal conductivity of the beam; and h is the beam width in the flexural direction. The Zener curve and the simulated results for the different geometrical parameters presented in Fig. 2 are compared in Fig. 3b, showing that the simulated Q values are slightly lower than the theoretical Q due to neglect of the out-of-plane energy dissipation. However, in the design of DRGs, slight errors can be neglected compared with the other errors. Thus the Zener 1D TED model can be used in analysis of the TED in DRGs.

The Zener curve shows that the maximum dissipation occurs at the Debye peak, where $f_0 = f_{Relax}$. In the low-frequency range $f_0 \ll f_{Relax}$, the strain rate is reduced and the temperature gradient is consequently reduced, leading to low levels of energy dissipation, and thus the system is considered isothermal. In the high-frequency range $f_0 \gg f_{Relax}$, notably low levels of energy are dissipated, similar to the low-frequency range, and the system is adiabatic. Because most of the DRGs operate in the low-frequency range, it can be observed that the key to improving Q_{TED} in DRGs is to minimize the normalized frequency f_0/f_{Relax} . For the DRG with a certain ring width,

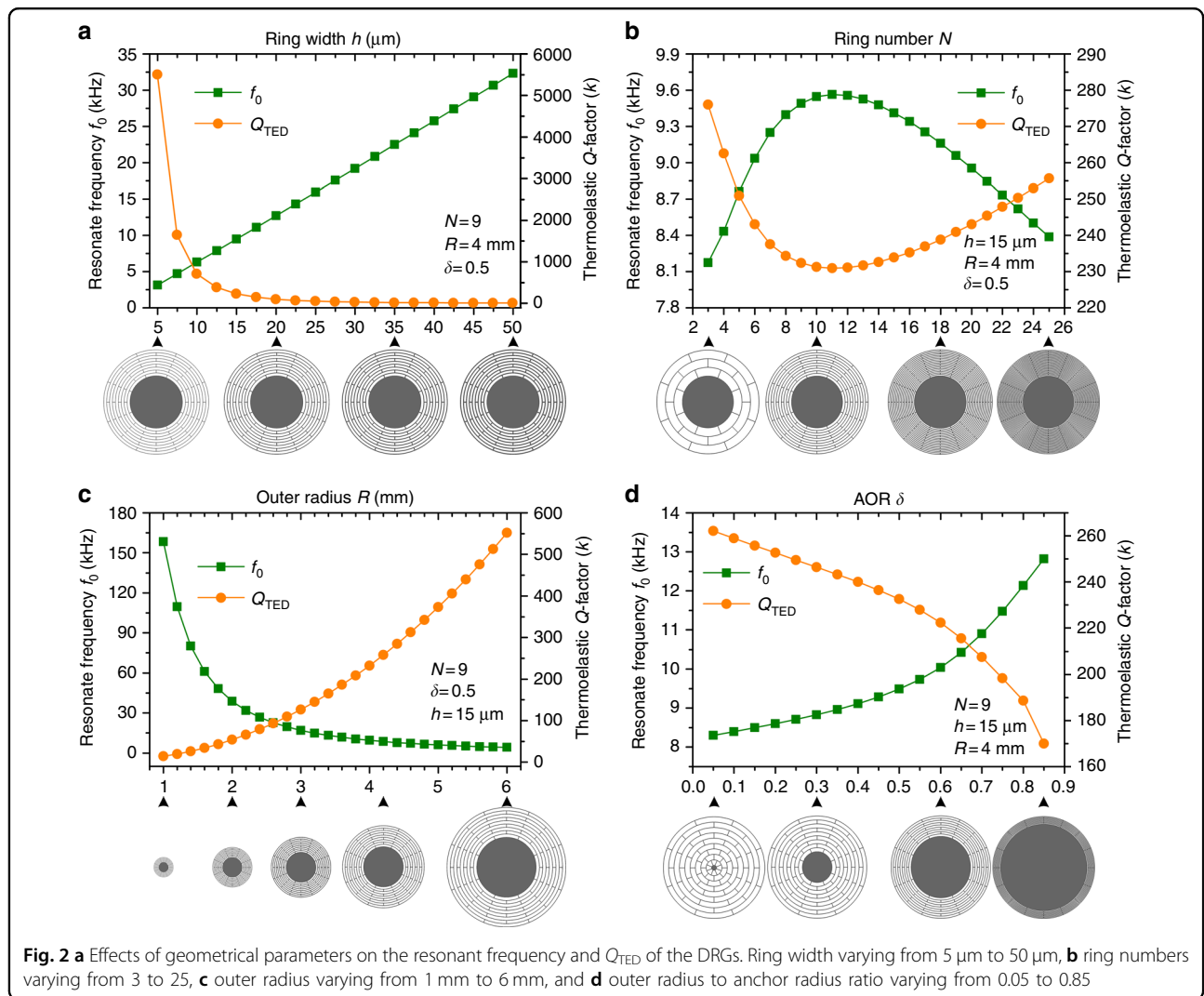
f_{Relax} is fixed, and thus the most effective way to improve Q_{TED} is to decrease its resonant frequency f_0 .

The DRG with N rings can be treated as the combination of N resonators coupled in a series of different stiffness and masses, as depicted in Fig. 3c, d where m_i is the mass of the rings and k_i is the effective stiffness affected by the ring width, ring radius, and spoke lengths. Improvement of Q by changing the basic geometrical parameters reaches a limit because the stiffness and mass of the DRG are coupled with each other. This paper proposes two novel methods to decouple the stiffness and mass of the DRG and further improve the Q factor of DRGs. One method is SLD optimization, in which the spoke lengths are changed to primarily affect the stiffness distribution of the DRG and further change the resonant frequency, as depicted in Fig. 3c. The other method is lumped mass configuration, in which the lumped masses are hung on the ring frame to primarily affect the mass distribution of the DRG and also change the resonant frequency, as depicted in Fig. 3d. This paper aims to find the optimum SLD and the lumped mass configuration to further improve the quality factor of the DRG.

SLD optimization

To simplify the analysis, a nine-ring DRG model is used. The length of the spokes on the i th layer of the ring is defined as L_i . This optimization is applied under the condition that the other structural parameters R , r , h , and N are fixed. Thus, the total sum of the spoke lengths should be constant:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n L_i = R - r - Nh = Sum \quad (3)$$



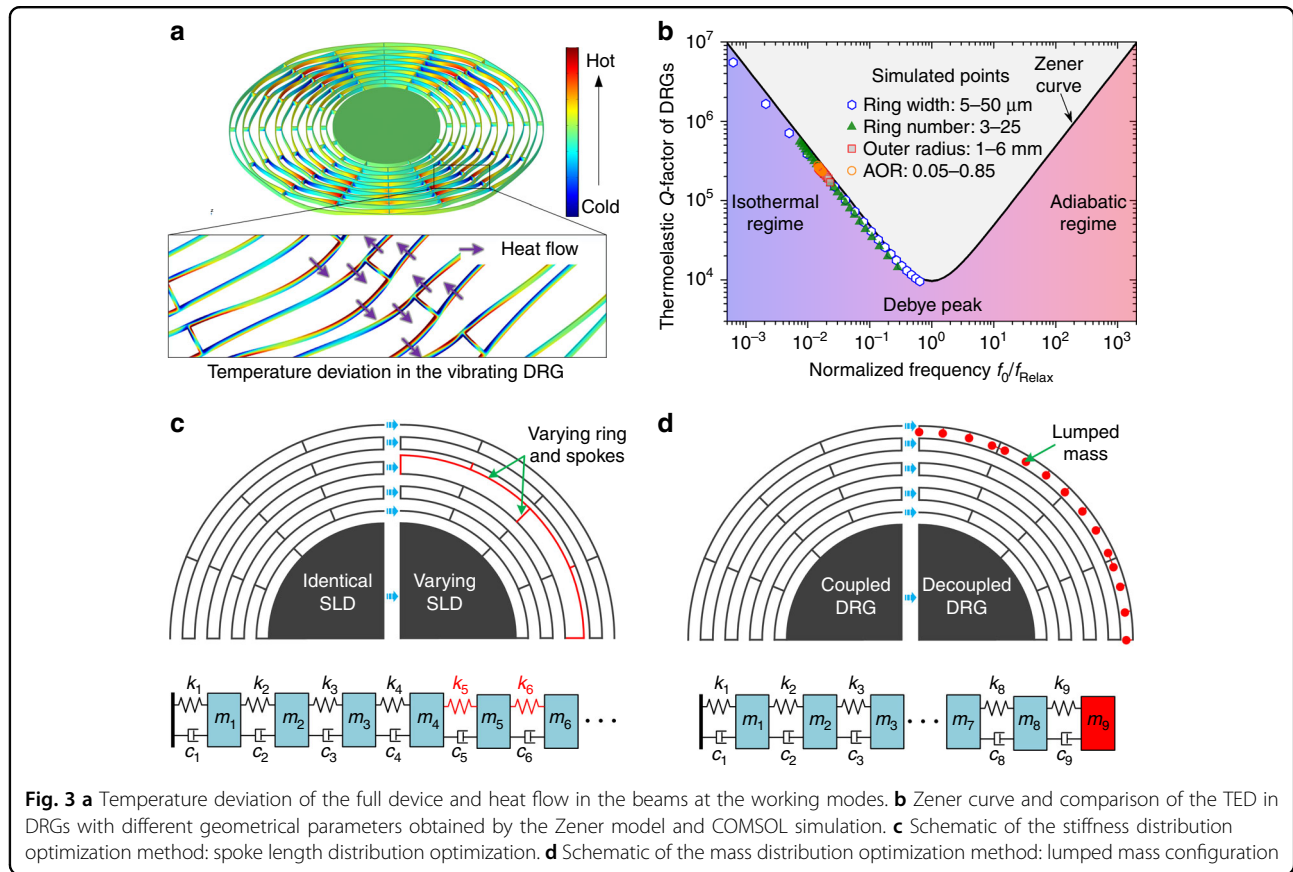
Additionally, the spoke lengths should be limited in a range from a to b :

$$a \leq L_i \leq b \quad (i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n) \quad (4)$$

Herein, the ring number N is 9, and R , r , h , a , and b are set as 4 mm, 1.9 mm, 12 μm , 0.2 mm, and 0.6 mm, respectively, according to the actual requirement of the device size and the fabrication capability.

Stochastic evolutionary algorithms are proposed and widely applied to solve multidimensional design optimization problems. For example, the genetic algorithm (GA) was used in multidisciplinary system design of microgyroscopes³¹, ant colony optimization (ACO) was applied for structural topology optimization³², and PSO was chosen for structural optimization of MEMS resonators for Q factor improvement³³. In this paper, the PSO method^{34,35} is used to find the optimum SLD for the highest Q_{TED} because of its simple formula and powerful

function. The SLD can be expressed as $L = (L_1, L_2, L_3, L_4, L_5, L_6, L_7, L_8, \text{ and } L_9)$. Each distribution can be viewed as a nine-dimensional location of a particle, and Q_{TED} is an implicit function of L that can be treated as the fitness value in PSO. A total of ten particles and 50 iterations are selected as a trade-off between computing time and tolerance. The steps in the PSO process are listed as follows: (a) randomly initialize the positions and velocities of all particles in the problem space shown in Equations (4) and (5); (b) calculate the fitness value (Q_{TED}) of each particle using COMSOL Multiphysics; (c) for every particle, compare the current fitness value with the $pbest$ (the best fitness this particle has achieved so far) and update $pbest$ with the largest value; (d) for every particle, compare the current fitness with the $gbest$ (the best fitness ever searched by all of the particles in the previous iterations) and update $gbest$ with the largest value; (e) update the velocity of the particle according to the



following:

$$v_j^{k+1} = \omega v_j^k + c_1 \text{Rand}(0,1)(pbest - x_j^k) + c_2 \text{Rand}'(0,1)(gbest - x_j^k) \quad (5)$$

where v_j^k and x_j^k are the velocity and position of the j th particle at the k th iteration, $\text{Rand}(0,1)$ and $\text{Rand}'(0,1)$ are two separately generated random numbers within $[0,1]$, ω is the inertia weight, c_1 and c_2 are acceleration coefficients, and in this investigation, we set c_1 , c_2 , and ω to 1.49, 1.49, and 0.729, respectively; (f) update the position of the particle according to the following

$$x_j^{k+1} = x_j^k + v_j^{k+1} \quad (6)$$

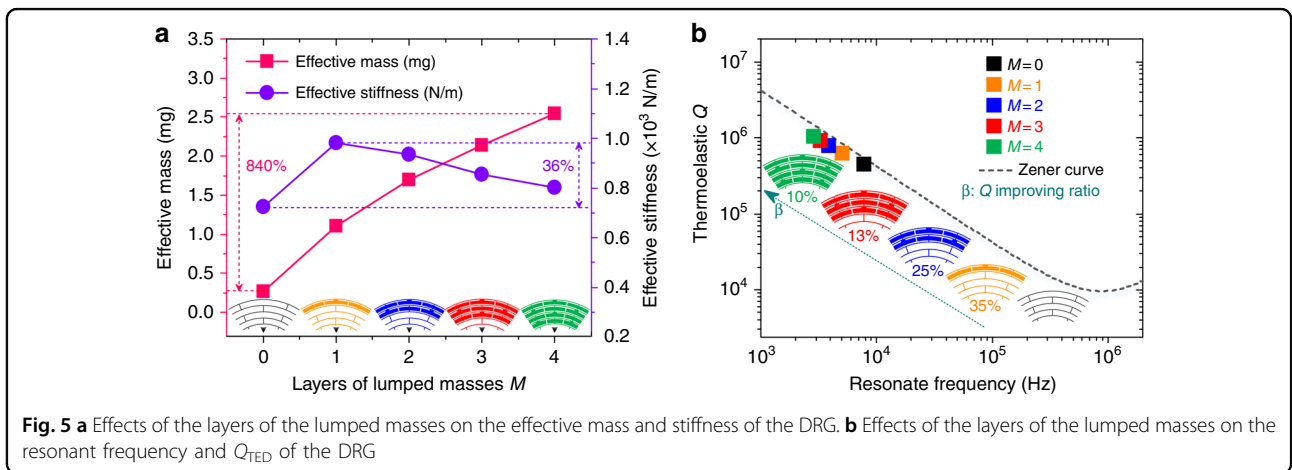
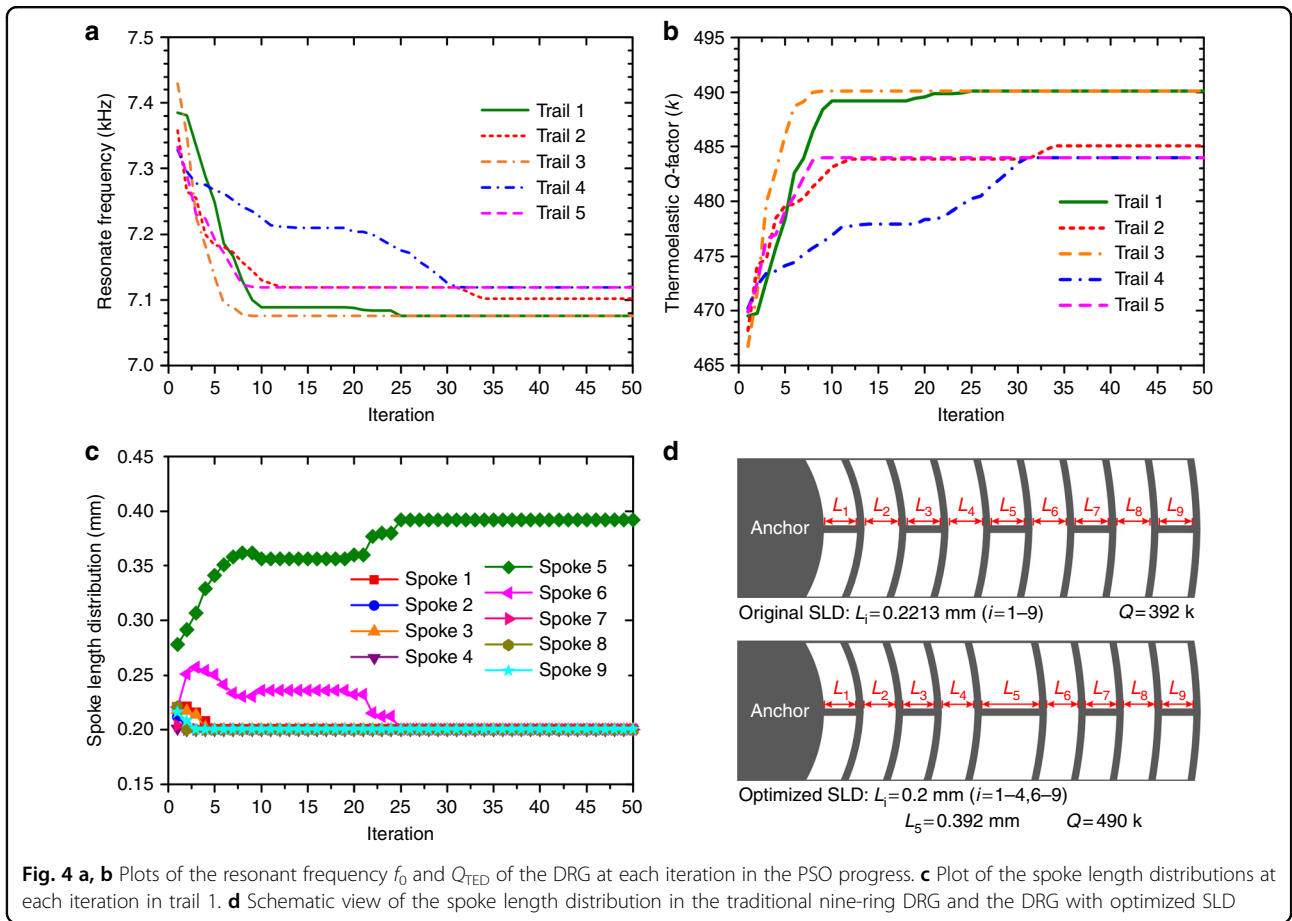
(g) Loop to step (b). The iteration is terminated when sufficiently good fitness or the maximum number of iterations is achieved.

The PSO processes of the natural frequency f_0 and Q_{TED} of the nine-ring DRG are shown in Fig. 4a, b. Five trails are shown, and trails 1 and 3 converge to the largest optimum. The SLD optimization processes in trail 1 are shown in Fig. 4c, and the optimized SLD is shown in Fig. 4d. It can be observed that the global optimum is

achieved when the lengths of spokes 1–4 and 6–9 reach the lower boundary of 0.2 mm, whereas the length of spoke 5 is the residual of the constant Sum and the other spoke lengths, 0.392 mm. Additionally, the global optimum Q_{TED} is ~ 490 k, which is a 25% improvement compared with the Q_{TED} of the traditional DRG with the identical spoke length (392 k).

Lumped mass configuration

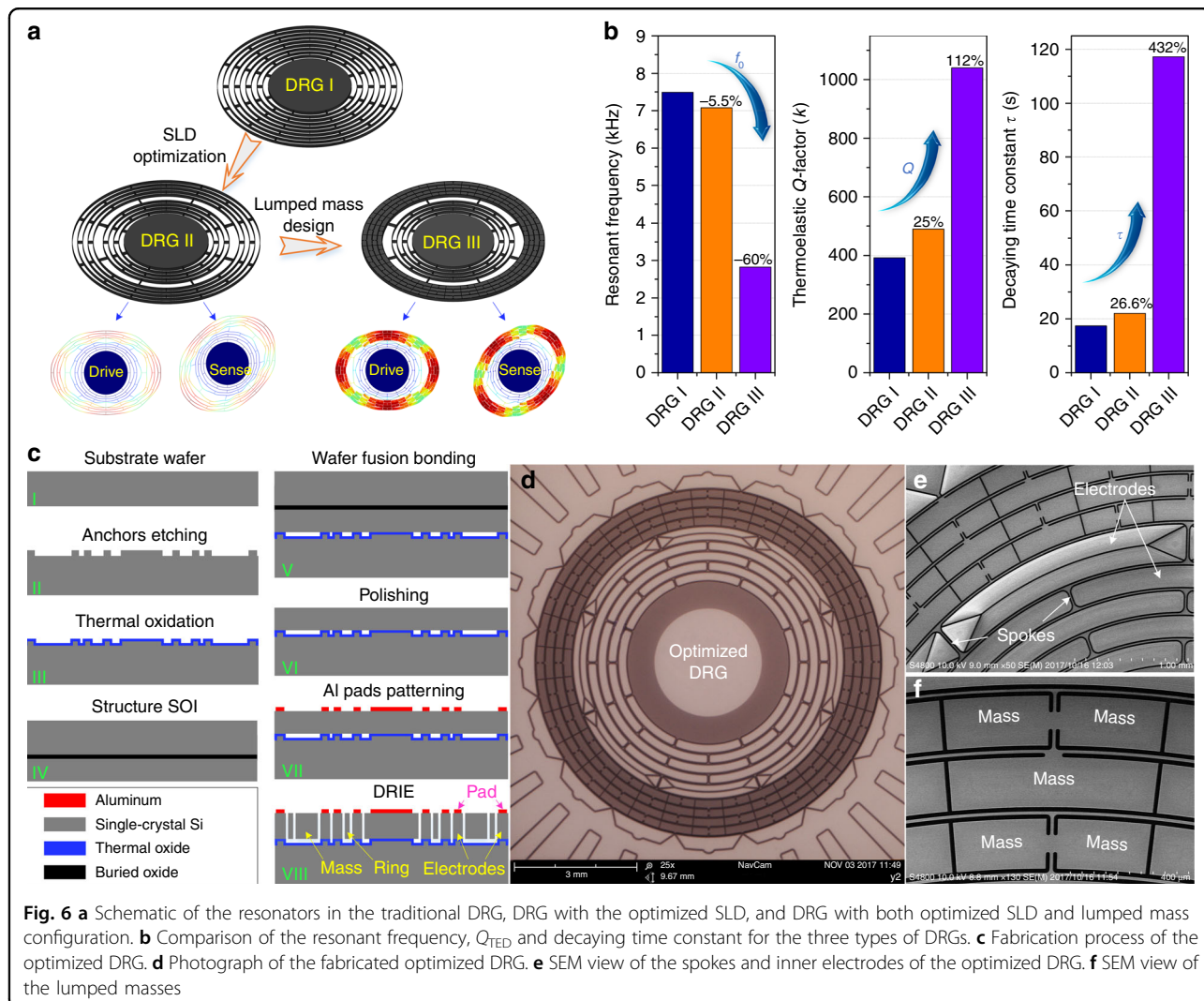
In the lumped mass configuration, the masses are hung on the ring frames and spokes with a single beam. The lumped masses can greatly change the masses in the DRGs while slightly affecting the effective stiffness. As shown in Fig. 5a, with the increase of the lumped masses layers from 0 to 4, the effective mass shows an 8.4-fold improvement, whereas the effective stiffness only changes by up to 36%. Thus the resonant frequency can be greatly decreased, while the thermal relaxation frequency remains nearly constant. The thermoelastic dissipation in the lumped masses can be neglected because their elastic deformation is notably small. Thus, the Zener 1D TED model is still suitable for the stiffness-mass decoupled DRG, as shown in Fig. 5b. From Fig. 5b, it can also be observed that with increase of the lumped mass layers, Q_{TED} is improved. However, the improvement ratio



decreases gradually from 35% to 10% because the lumped masses hanging on the outer rings have a larger contribution to the effective mass improvement than the lumped masses hanging on the inner rings. The layers of lumped masses are set to four as a trade-off between the Q factor and the number of inner electrodes. The inner electrodes can be used to improve the capabilities of driving, sensing, and tuning of the DRG.

Model and prototype of the new DRG

The schematics of the resonators in the traditional DRG (DRG I), the DRG with SLD optimization (DRG II), and the final design using both optimization methods (DRG III) are shown in Fig. 6a. The resonant frequency Q_{TED} and the decaying time constant τ of the three types of DRGs are compared in Fig. 6b. This figure shows that with use of the SLD optimization, Q and τ of the DRG are

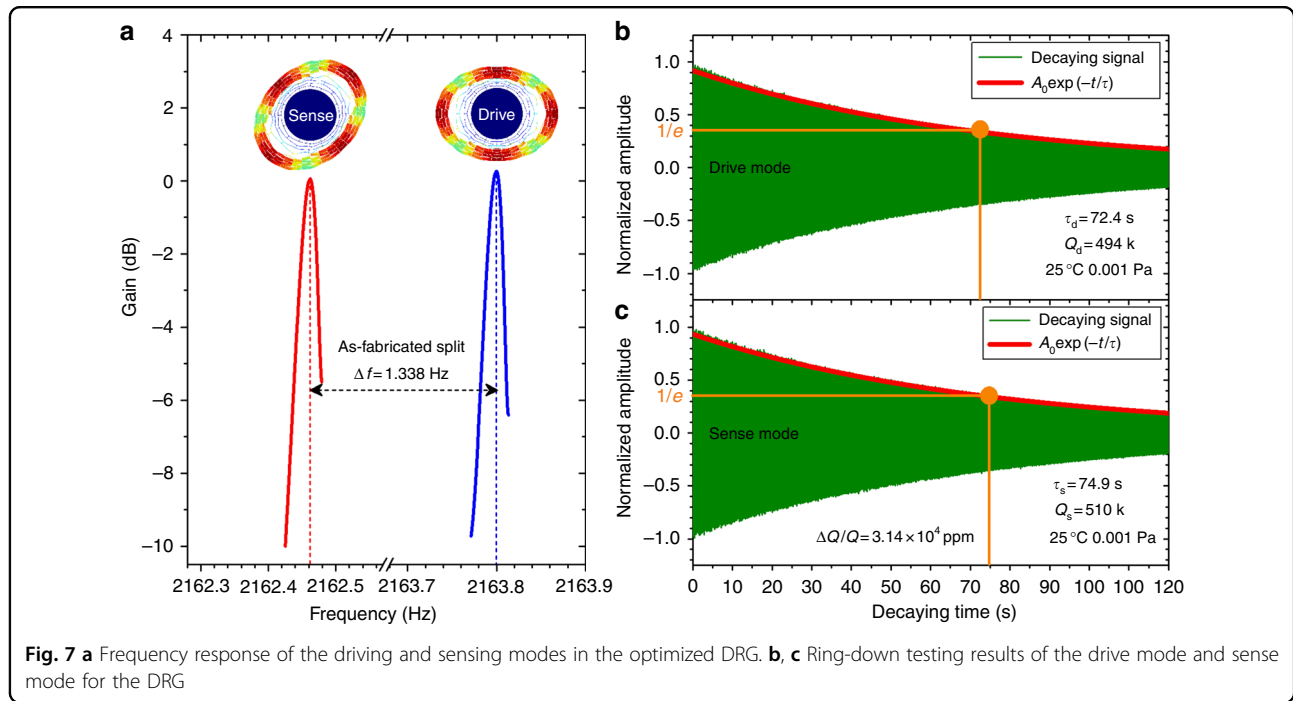


improved by $\sim 25\%$ and $\sim 26.6\%$, respectively. Furthermore, using the stiffness-mass decoupled design, Q and τ of the DRG are greatly improved by 112% and 432%, respectively. These improvements can directly reduce the bias instability and mechanical noise of the gyroscope. This disk resonator is fabricated using wafer fusion bonding and deep reactive ion etching (DRIE) processes. Detailed introductions to the fabrication processes are supplied in the Materials and Methods section. The schematics of the fabrication processes and images of the fabricated DRG are shown in Fig. 6c–f.

Gyroscope performance characterization

To characterize the properties of the optimized sensor, the frequency response and ring-down tests are implemented. Using the frequency response analyzer (NF FRA5087), the frequency responses of the driving and sensing modes of the DRG are obtained as shown in Fig. 7a, showing that the initial frequency split between the two modes is approximately 1.338 Hz ($\Delta f/f_0 =$

600 ppm). For the high Q resonator, the frequency-domain Q measurement is often difficult and inaccurate due to nonlinear effects. Therefore, the ring-down technique is used in this work for Q factor measurement. The ring-down testing results are shown in Fig. 7b, c. The figure shows that Q of the optimized DRG reaches 510 k and the decaying time constant reaches 74.9 s. To the best of our knowledge, this result presents the highest Q and longest decaying time constant demonstrated in MEMS silicon DRGs to date. This result also demonstrates that the optimization methods proposed in this paper are effective for Q and τ improvement in DRGs. A discrepancy between the measured and simulated quality factors reveals that the other damping factors in DRGs can no longer be neglected if the Q is greater than 500 k. Because the air pressure is sufficiently low, air damping can be neglected. Thus, residual damping mainly originates from the support damping, surface damping, and electrical damping, which should be reduced in future research.

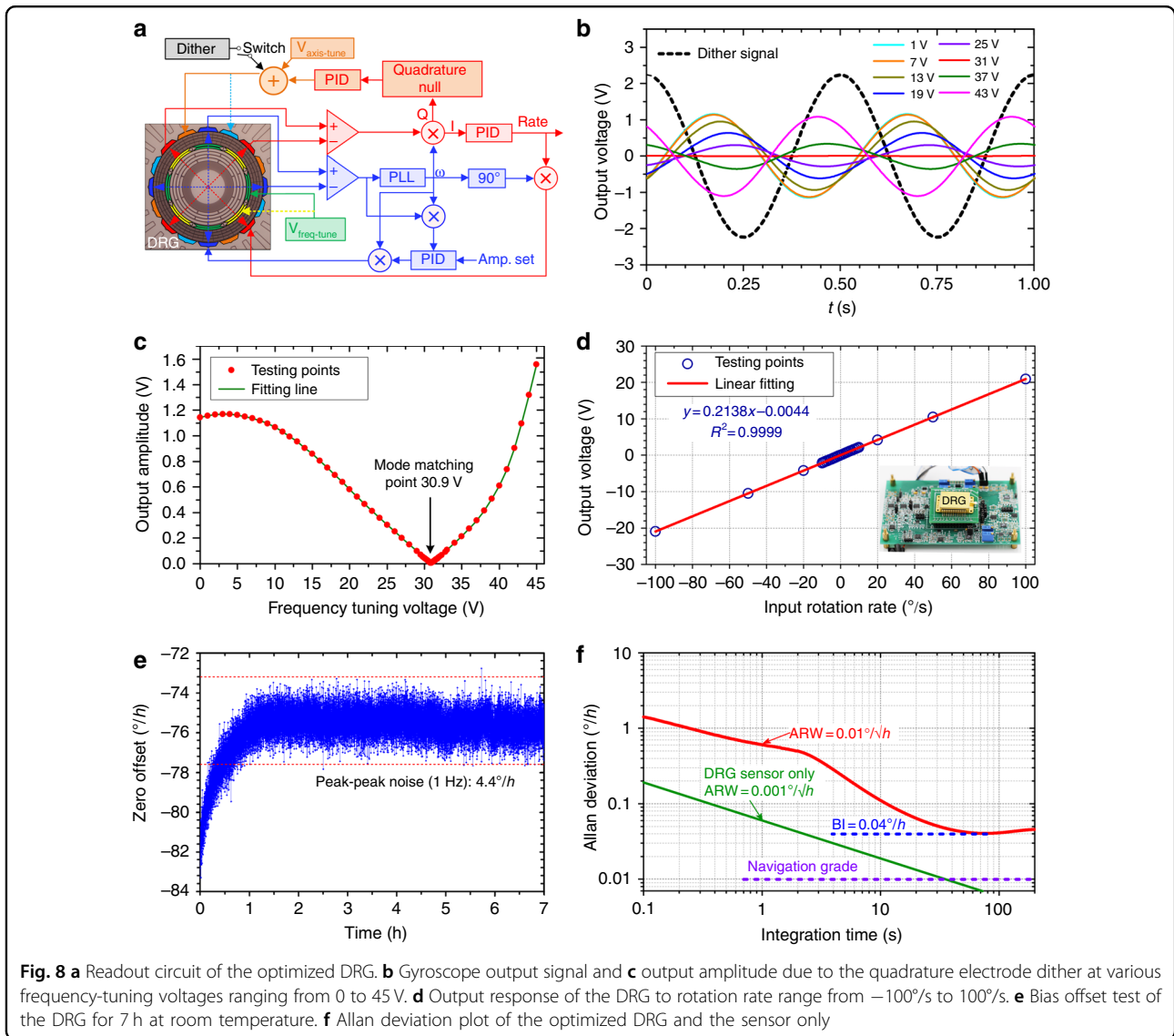


The schematic of the readout circuit is shown in Fig. 8a. The gyroscope is driven to fixed displacement with the phase-locked loop (PLL) and proportional integral derivative (PID) controller. The drive/sense axes misalignment is tuned with the quadrature error control loop. The Coriolis force is detected using the analog-closed loop based on a modified PID controller, which can also be replaced with a digital control strategy based on the principle of a sigma-delta modulator ($\Sigma\Delta M$) for higher performance³⁶. The schematic of the readout circuit is shown in Fig. 8a, in which the driving control loop, sensing control loop, and quadrature error control loop operate simultaneously. In the mode-matched gyroscopes, the frequency split greatly affects the mechanical sensitivity and bias stability of the gyroscope. For high Q resonators, the mechanical bandwidth is so narrow that mode matching cannot be accurately distinguished with FRA. Therefore, in this paper, the mode-matching method relies on monitoring of the Coriolis channel output in response to the quadrature electrode dither^{37,38}. This method takes advantage of the fact that the quadrature leaks into the rate output only if a frequency mismatch occurs between the drive and sense mode, and the gyroscope output is proportional to the frequency mismatch. The 2 Hz sine dither signal is added to the axis-tuning voltage, and the various frequency-tuning voltages are applied on the four inner electrodes aligned with the high-frequency mode. The gyroscope output signals at several frequency-tuning voltages are shown in Fig. 8b. It can be noted that the amplitude and phase of the output are affected by the frequency-tuning voltages. With more

accurate measurement, the mode-matching voltage is obtained as 30.9 V, where the output amplitude is zero, as shown in Fig. 8c.

In the readout circuit, ± 12 V power voltage is used, and the signal is differentially output such that the maximum output voltage is only ± 24 V. The angular inputs are set as $\pm 1^\circ/s$, $\pm 2^\circ/s$, $\pm 3^\circ/s$, $\pm 4^\circ/s$, $\pm 5^\circ/s$, $\pm 6^\circ/s$, $\pm 7^\circ/s$, $\pm 8^\circ/s$, $\pm 9^\circ/s$, $\pm 10^\circ/s$, $\pm 20^\circ/s$, $\pm 50^\circ/s$, and $\pm 100^\circ/s$. The testing points in $\pm 10^\circ/s$ are denser than those out of $\pm 10^\circ/s$ because in our application, the range of $\pm 10^\circ/s$ is often used. As shown in Fig. 8d, the gyroscope output maintains a linear response to the rate inputs, showing a scale factor of 0.2138 V/($^\circ/s$) and a zero offset of 0.0206 $^\circ/s$ due to the anisodamping of 3.14×10^4 ppm. The bias stability performance is tested at room temperature, and the gyroscope output is recorded over 7 h. The optimized DRG shows a peak–peak noise of 4.4 $^\circ/h$ at the sampling frequency of 1 Hz, as shown in Fig. 8e. Furthermore, the effective displacement x_0 of the DRG can be derived as 2 μm by detecting the vibrating voltage in the capacitance readout circuit of the driving loop. The effective mass m_{eff} can be simulated as 2.54 mg. With the measured Q and resonant frequency f_0 , the theoretical Brownian noise ARW_{Brown} of the DRG sensor can be calculated as low as 0.001 $^\circ/\sqrt{\text{h}}$ (green trace in Fig. 8f) according to the following:

$$ARW_{\text{Brown}} = \frac{1}{2A_g x_0} \sqrt{\frac{k_B T}{2\pi m_{\text{eff}} f_0 Q}} \times \left(\frac{180}{\pi} \times 60^\circ / \sqrt{h} \right) \quad (7)$$



Herein, A_g is the angular gain, k_B is the Boltzmann's constant, and T is the absolute ambient temperature. Furthermore, the ARW and bias instability are tested as $0.01^{\circ}/\sqrt{h}$ and $0.04^{\circ}/h$ at room temperature without any compensation or postprocessing of data. This result shows that the ARW and bias instability of the gyroscope are dominated by the noise and drift of the readout electronics and that they must be further improved.

Discussion

The performances of the reported MEMS DRGs and the new DRG in this paper are listed in Table 1. It can be observed that the optimized DRG presented in this work has the highest Q and the longest decaying time constant, and therefore the DRG has a lower ARW and a bias instability close to that of the navigation grade. However, the readout electronics severely limit the performance of

the gyroscope. In our future work, the readout electronics will be improved to decrease the noise and drift.

We present the quality factor improvement mechanism in DRGs and propose two novel methods for the quality factor improvement. With these two novel methods, the quality factor and decaying time constant of the newly designed DRG are greatly improved, giving it the potential to achieve navigation-grade performance. These quality factor improvement methods can be further applied in the optimization of other micromechanical resonators to improve their performances for high-end markets.

Materials and methods

In this paper, COMSOL Multiphysics is chosen for simulation of Q_{TED} and the resonant frequency of the DRG. In the simulation, the material properties are given as follows: $E = 170$ GPa, density $\rho = 2329$ kg/m³,

Table 1 Summary of the reported DRG performances

Research institution	Sensor only		Gyroscope		Ref.	Year
	Q (k)	τ (s)	BI (°/h)	ARW (°/√h)		
UCLA	50	1.22	0.11	0.02	11	2014
UCD & SU	85	0.34	1.5	0.12	6	2014
SU	100	0.43	1.93	0.034	10	2014
UCI & SU	100	1.43	0.65	0.047	2	2014
SU	186	0.27	-	-	12	2016
Boeing	80	1.82	0.012*	0.0033*	1	2014
NUDT	358	38.5	0.08	0.012	18	2018
This paper	510	74.9	0.04	0.01	-	2018

SU Stanford University, UCD University of California, Davis, UCB University of California, Berkeley, UCI University of California, Irvine, UCLA University of California, Los Angeles, NUDT National University of Defense Technology
 *Testing data under active temperature control

$$\alpha = 2.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}, \quad C_v = 1.63 \times 10^6 \text{ Jm}^{-3} \text{ K}^{-1}, \quad k = 130 \text{ Wm}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}, \quad \text{and } T_0 = 293.15 \text{ K}.$$

This disk resonator is fabricated using wafer fusion bonding and a DRIE process, as shown in Fig. 6c. A P-type 500- μm (111) single-crystal silicon wafer is used as the substrate, and an SOI wafer with a 150- μm (111) single-crystal silicon device layer is used in resonator fabrication. First, the substrate is etched via DRIE for 10 μm to form the anchors corresponding to the electrodes. Second, thermal oxidation technology is used to generate the thermal oxide layer on the substrate. Using wafer fusion bonding technology, the SOI wafer and the substrate are bonded together, and the handle wafer is moved with chemical and mechanical polishing. Finally, the aluminum wire bonding pads are patterned, and DRIE technology is applied for resonator and electrode fabrication.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Grant 51575521 and the 2017 Huxiang Provincial Scholar Program. This support is gratefully acknowledged.

Author details

¹College of Intelligence Science, National University of Defense Technology, Changsha 410073, China. ²Laboratory of Science and Technology on Integrated Logistics Support, National University of Defense Technology, Changsha 410073, China. ³State Key Laboratory of ASIC and System, School of Microelectronics, Fudan University, Shanghai 200433, China. ⁴East China Institute of Photo-Electron IC, Bengbu 233042, China

Author contributions

Qingsong Li proposed the spoke length distribution optimization method and wrote the manuscript, Dingbang Xiao and Xin Zhou proposed the stiffness-mass decoupled method and designed the disk resonator gyroscope, Yi Xu conducted the FEM simulation, Ming Zhuo conducted performance testing of the gyroscope, Kaixuan He fabricated the device, Zhanqiang Hou finished the vacuum package of the DRG, Yongmeng Zhang designed the readout circuit, and Xuezhong Wu assisted in writing and correction of the manuscript.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Received: 2 June 2018 Revised: 6 August 2018 Accepted: 4 September 2018
 Published online: 19 November 2018

References

- Challoner, A. D., Ge, H. H. & Liu, J. Y. Boeing disc resonator gyroscope. In *2014 IEEE/ION Position, Location and Navigation Symposium (PLANS 2014)*; 5–8 May 2014; 504–514 (Monterey, CA, 2014).
- Senkal, D. et al. 100k Q-factor toroidal ring gyroscope implemented in wafer-level epitaxial silicon encapsulation process. In *IEEE 27th International Conference on Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS 2014)*; 26–30 Jan 2014, 24–27 (2014).
- Su, T. H. et al. Silicon MEMS disk resonator gyroscope with an integrated CMOS analog front-end. *Ieee. Sens. J.* **14**, 3426–3432 (2014).
- Nitzan, S. H. et al. Self-induced parametric amplification arising from nonlinear elastic coupling in a micromechanical resonating disk gyroscope. *Sci. Rep.* **5**, 9036 (2015).
- Ahn, C. H. et al. Encapsulated disk resonator gyroscope with differential internal electrodes. In *IEEE 29th International Conference on Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS 2016)*; 24–28 Jan 2016; 962–965 (Shanghai, 2016).
- Nitzan, S. et al. Impact of gyroscope operation above the critical bifurcation threshold on scale factor and bias instability. In *IEEE 27th International*

- Conference on Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS 2014)*; 26–30 Jan 2014; 749–752 (San Francisco, CA, 2014).
7. Ahn, C. H. & Ng, E. J. Wang VAHJHS et al. Characterization of oxide-coated polysilicon disk resonator gyroscope within a wafer-scale encapsulation process. *J. Micro. Syst.* **24**, 1687–1694 (2015).
 8. Gerrard, D. D. et al. Manipulation of heat flux paths in thermo-elastically damped resonators for Q optimization. In *IEEE 30th International Conference on Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS 2017)*; 22–26 Jan 2017; 1130–1133 (Las Vegas, NV, 2017).
 9. Nitzan, S. et al. Epitaxially-encapsulated polysilicon disk resonator gyroscope. In *IEEE 26th International Conference on Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS 2013)*; 20–24 Jan 2013; 625–628 (Taipei, Taiwan, China, 2013).
 10. Ahn, C. H. et al. Encapsulated high frequency (235 khz), high-Q (100 k) disk resonator gyroscope with electrostatic parametric pump. *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **105**, 243504 (2014).
 11. Kim, D. & Closkey, R. M. A MEMS vibratory gyro with mode-matching achieved by resonator mass loading. In *2014 IEEE/ION Position, Location and Navigation Symposium (PLANS 2014)*; 5–8 May 2014; 499–503 (Monterey, CA, 2014).
 12. Gerrard, D. D. et al. Q-factor optimization in disk resonator gyroscopes via geometric parameterization. In *IEEE 29th International Conference on Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS 2016)*; 24–28 Jan 2016; 994–997 (Shanghai, 2016).
 13. Zhou, X. et al. Mitigating thermoelastic dissipation of flexural micromechanical resonators by decoupling resonant frequency from thermal relaxation rate. *Phys. Rev. Appl.* **8**, 064033 (2018).
 14. Mirjalili, R. et al. Substrate-decoupled silicon disk resonators having degenerate gyroscopic modes with Q in excess of 1-million. In *The 18th International Conference on Solid-State Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems (TRANSDUCERS 2015)*; 21–25 June 2015; 15–18 (Anchorage, 2015).
 15. Askari, S. et al. Near-navigation grade quad mass gyroscope with Q-factor limited by thermo-elastic damping. In *Solid-State Sensors, Actuators, and Microsystems Workshop*; 5–9 June 2016; 254–257 (Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, 2016).
 16. Cho, J. et al. Fused silica micro birthbath shell resonators with 1.2 million Q and 43 second decay time constant. In *Solid-State Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems Workshop*; 8–12 June 2014; 103–104 (Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, 2014).
 17. Nagourney, T. et al. 259 second ring-down time and 4.45 million quality factor in 5.5khz fused silica birdbath shell resonator. In *The 19th International Conference on Solid-State Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems (Transducers 2017)*; 18–22 June 2017; 790–793 (Kaohsiung, Taiwan, China, 2017).
 18. Zhou, X. et al. Decaying Time Constant Enhanced MEMS Disk Resonator for High Precision Gyroscopic Application. *IEEE/ASME Trans. Mechatron.* **23**, 452–458 (2018).
 19. Weinberg, M. et al. Energy loss in MEMS resonators and the impact on inertial and RF devices. In *The 15th International Solid-state Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems Conference (Transducers 2009)*; 21–25 June 2009; 688–695 (Denver, CO, 2009).
 20. Bao, M. & Yang, H. Squeeze film air damping in MEMS. *Sens. Actuators A-Phys.* **136**, 3–27 (2007).
 21. Serrano, D. E. et al. Substrate-decoupled, bulk-acoustic wave gyroscopes: Design and evaluation of next-generation environmentally robust devices. *Microsyst. & Nanoeng.* **2**, 16015 (2016).
 22. Prabhakar, S. & Vengallatore, S. Theory of thermoelastic damping in micro-mechanical resonators with two-dimensional heat conduction. *J. Micro. Syst.* **17**, 494–502 (2008).
 23. Zhili, H. et al. Energy loss mechanisms in a bulk-micromachined tuning fork gyroscope. In *IEEE 5th Conference on Sensors (Sensors 2006)* 22–25 Oct. 2006; 1333–1336 (Daegu, 2006).
 24. Hossain, S. T., McWilliam, S. & Popov, A. A. An investigation on thermoelastic damping of high-Q ring resonators. *Int. J. Mech. Sci.* **106**, 209–219 (2016).
 25. Zener, C. Internal friction in solids. I. Theory of internal friction in reeds. *Phys. Rev.* **52**, 230–235 (1937).
 26. Zener, C. Internal friction in solids II. General theory of thermoelastic internal friction. *Phys. Rev.* **53**, 90–99 (1938).
 27. Zener, C., Otis, W. & Nuckolls, R. Internal friction in solids III. Experimental demonstration of thermoelastic internal friction. *Phys. Rev.* **53**, 100–101 (1938).
 28. Zhou, X. et al. An investigation on the ring thickness distribution of disk resonator gyroscope with high mechanical sensitivity. *Int. J. Mech. Sci.* **117**, 174–181 (2016).
 29. Zhou, X. et al. The mechanical sensitivity optimization of a disk resonator gyroscope with mutative ring thickness. In *IEEE 3th International Symposium on Inertial Sensors and Systems (ISSS 2016)*; 22–25 Feb 2016, 54–57 (Laguna Beach, CA, 2016).
 30. Xiao, D. et al. Design of a disk resonator gyroscope with high mechanical sensitivity by optimizing the ring thickness distribution. *J. Micro. Syst.* **25**, 606–616 (2016).
 31. Yuan, W. et al. Application of an optimization methodology for multi-disciplinary system design of microgyroscopes. *Microsyst. Technol.* **12**, 315–323 (2006).
 32. Kaveh, A. et al. Structural topology optimization using ant colony methodology. *Eng. Struct.* **30**, 2559–2565 (2008).
 33. Lake, J. & Duwel, A. E. & Candler RN. Particle Swarm Optimization for Design of Slotted MEMS Resonators With Low Thermoelastic Dissipation. *J. Micro. Syst.* **23**, 364–371 (2014).
 34. Eberhart, R. & Kennedy, J. A new optimizer using particle swarm theory. In *The 6th International Symposium on Micro Machine and Human Science*; 4–6 Oct 1995; 39–43 (Nagoya, 1995).
 35. Kennedy, J. & Eberhart, R. Particle swarm optimization. In *IEEE International Conference on Neural Networks*; Nov 2–Dec 1, 1995; 1942–1948 (Perth, 1995).
 36. Chen, F., Li, X. & Kraft, M. Electromechanical sigma-delta modulator ($\Sigma\Delta M$) force feedback interfaces for capacitive MEMS inertial sensor: a review. *Ieee. Sens. J.* **16**, 6476–6495 (2016).
 37. Prikhodko, I. P. et al. Mode-matched MEMS coriolis vibratory gyroscopes: Myth or reality? In *IEEE/ION Position, Location and Navigation Symposium (PLANS 2016)*; 11–14 April 2016; 1–4 (Savannah, GA, 2016).
 38. Prikhodko, I. P. et al. Half-a-month stable 0.2 degree-per-hour mode-matched MEMS gyroscope. In *IEEE 4th International Symposium on Inertial Sensors and Systems (Inertial 2017)*; 27–30 March 2017; 1–4 (Kauai, Hawaii, 2017).