

## Modeling the size effect on vibration characteristics of functionally graded piezoelectric nanobeams based on Reddy's shear deformation beam theory

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**Abstract.** In this work, free vibration characteristics of functionally graded piezoelectric (FGP) nanobeams based on third order parabolic shear deformation beam theory are studied by presenting a Navier type solution as the first attempt. Electro-mechanical properties of FGP nanobeam are supposed to change continuously throughout the thickness based on power-law model. To capture the small size effects, Eringen's nonlocal elasticity theory is adopted. Using Hamilton's principle, the nonlocal governing equations for third order shear deformable piezoelectric FG nanobeams are obtained and they are solved applying analytical solution. By presenting some numerical results, it is demonstrated that the suggested model presents accurate frequency results of the FGP nanobeams. The influences of several parameters including, external electric voltage, power-law exponent, nonlocal parameter and mode number on the natural frequencies of the size-dependent FGP nanobeams is discussed in detail.

**Keywords:** functionally graded piezoelectric nanobeam; free vibration; nonlocal elasticity theory; Reddy beam theory

### 1. Introduction

Piezoelectric materials can couple electrical and mechanical energy through linking electric signals to material stress and strain and hence when piezoelectric materials are exposed to an external electrical voltage, it gets deformed. So, the application of piezoelectric materials for the vibration reduction and shape control is fast becoming an essential tool in the design of smart structures and systems. The novel spatial composite materials called functionally graded materials (FGMs) are consist of two or more material constituents such as a pair of ceramic and metal in which their volume fractions are supposed to change continuously throughout the desired directions. The FGM constituents provide various advantageous features, for example, the ceramic constituents are capable to endure severe temperature environments due to their better thermal resistance characteristics, whereas the metal constituents provide better mechanical performance and diminishes the possibility of disastrous fracture.

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Micro and nano electro-mechanical systems (MEMS/NEMS) are composed of several structural elements including nanoscale beams and plates which have excellent mechanical, chemical, and electronic properties. So, nano scale structures achieved intense interest by researchers based on molecular dynamics and continuum mechanics. The trouble in utilization of classical theory is that the classical continuum mechanics theory is impotent to capture the small size effects in structures at micro and nano scales and finally over predicts the responses of these micro/nano scale structures. Molecular dynamic simulations (MD) is an alternative approach which can capture the size effects. But, when the molecular dynamic simulation applies to the nanostructures, it seems to be computationally very ponderous. Hence, Eringen's nonlocal elasticity theory is presented to overcome these problems and hence, small size effects in modeling of nanostructures is captured with excellent accuracy. The nonlocal elasticity theory of Eringen supposes that the stress state at a desired point is a function of the strain at all neighbor points of the body. In recent years extensive studies is performed to analyze the static and dynamic behavior of size-dependent FG beams. Recently, Eltaher *et al.* (2012, 2013a) presented a finite element analysis for free vibration of FG nanobeams using nonlocal EBT. They also exploited the static and stability responses of FG nanobeams based on nonlocal continuum theory (Eltaher *et al.* 2013b). More recently, using nonlocal TBT and EBT, Simsek and Yurtcu (2013) investigated bending and buckling of FG nanobeam by analytical method. Sharabiani and Yazdi (2013) investigated nonlinear free vibration of FG nanobeams within the framework of Euler–Bernoulli beam model including the von Kármán geometric nonlinearity. Forced vibration analysis of FG nanobeams based on the nonlocal elasticity theory and using Navier method for various shear deformation theories studied by Uymaz (2013). Rahmani and Pedram (2014) analyzed the size effects on vibration of FG nanobeams based on nonlocal TBT. Nonlinear free vibration of FG nanobeams with fixed ends, i.e., simply supported–simply supported (SS) and simply supported–clamped (SC), using the nonlocal elasticity within the frame work of EBT with von kármán type nonlinearity is studied by Nazemnezhad and Hosseini-Hashemi (2014). Also, recently Hosseini-Hashemi *et al.* (2014) investigated free vibration of FG nanobeams with consideration surface effects and piezoelectric field using nonlocal elasticity theory. Most recently Ebrahimi *et al.* (Ebrahimi *et al.* 2015, Ebrahimi and Salari 2015) examined the applicability of differential transformation method in investigations on vibrational characteristics of FG size-dependent nanobeams. In another work, Ebrahimi and Salari (2015a) presented a semi-analytical method for vibrational and buckling analysis of FG nanobeams considering the position of neutral axis. An exact solution for the nonlinear forced vibration of FG nanobeams in thermal environment based on surface elasticity theory in presented by Ansari *et al.* (2015). Recently, Rahmani and Jandaghian (2015) presented Buckling analysis of FG nanobeams based on a nonlocal third-order shear deformation theory. Most recently Li and Hu (2017a) investigated torsional vibration of bi-directional FG nanotubes based on nonlocal elasticity theory. They (Li and Hu 2017b) also presented a post-buckling analysis of FG nanobeams incorporating nonlocal stress and microstructure-dependent strain gradient effects. In other work Eringen's nonlocal integral model is presented to model the twisting statics of FG nanotubes by Zhu and Li (2017).

Moreover, several investigations are carried out to study responses of FGP material beams. The problem of a FGP cantilever beam exposed to various loadings is studied by Shi and Chen (2004). They characterized the piezoelectric beam by continuously graded properties for one elastic parameter and the material density. Bending and free vibration responses of monomorph, bimorph, and multimorph actuators made of FGP materials under a combined thermal–electro-mechanical load based upon Timoshenko beam model studied by Yang and Xiang (2007). Doroushi *et al.*

(2011) investigated the free and forced vibration characteristics of an FGPM beam subjected to thermo-electro-mechanical loads using the higher-order shear deformation beam theory. Kiani *et al.* (2011) analysed buckling behavior of FGM beams with or without surface-bonded piezoelectric layers subjected to both thermal loading and constant voltage. Komijani *et al.* (2013) studied free vibration of FGP beams with rectangular cross sections under in-plane thermal and electrical excitations in pre/post-buckling regimes. Lezgy-Nazargah *et al.* (2013) suggested an efficient three-noded beam element model for static, free vibration and dynamic response of functionally graded piezoelectric material beams. Also, Lezgy-Nazargah (2016) investigated presented a three-dimensional Peano series solution for the vibration of FGP laminates in cylindrical bending. He (Lezgy-Nazargah 2015) also investigated the cylindrical bending of continuously non-homogenous piezoelectric laminated plates with arbitrary gradient composition via an exact state-space solution. Large amplitude free flexural vibration of shear deformable FG beams with surface-bonded piezoelectric layers subjected to thermopiezoelectric loadings with random material properties presented by Shegokar and Lal (2014). Li *et al.* (2014) developed a size-dependent FGP beam model using the modified strain gradient theory and Timoshenko beam theory. Therefore it could be noted that the main deficiency of above-mentioned studies is that the small size effects is not considered in these works. In other work, Filippi (2015) analyzed static behavior of FGM beams by various theories and finite elements. To capture the size effect, recently a parametric study is performed to explore the influences of size-dependent shear deformation on static bending, buckling and free vibration behavior of microbeams based on modified couple stress classical and first shear deformation beam models by Dehrouyeh-Semnani and Nikkhah-Bahrami (2015). They indicated that the influence of size-dependent shear deformation on mechanical behavior of the microbeams has an ascending trend with respect to dimensionless material length scale parameter.

Therefore, it is clear that a work to study vibrational responses of FGP nanobeams using a parabolic shear deformation beam theory is not yet published. It can be seen that most of recent works for studying influences of piezoelectric materials on mechanical behavior of FG nanobeams have done based on Euler-Bernoulli (EBT) and Timoshenko beam (TBT) theories. It is well known that Euler-Bernoulli beam model fails to capture the influences of shear deformations and hence the buckling loads and natural frequencies of nanobeams are overestimated. Timoshenko beam model has the potential to capture the influences of shear deformations, but a shear correction factor is required to perfect demonstration of the deformation strain energy. Several higher-order shear deformation theories which are needless of shear correction factors are introduced such as the parabolic shear deformation theory proposed by Reddy (2007), the generalized beam theory proposed by Aydogdu (2009), sinusoidal shear deformation theory of Touratier (1991) and hyperbolic shear deformation presented by Soldatos (1992).

The present study deals with the free vibration analysis of simply supported FGP piezoelectric nanobeams based on third order shear deformation beam theory. The electro-mechanical material properties of the beam is supposed to be graded in the thickness direction according to the power law distribution. Applying non-classical higher order beam model and Eringen's nonlocal elasticity theory, the small size effect is captured. Nonlocal governing equations for the free vibration of a higher order FG nanobeam have been derived via Hamilton's principle. Derived equations are solved using Navier type method and several numerical examples are presented investigating the effects of external electric voltage, power-law index, mode number and small scale parameter on vibration characteristics of size-dependent FGP piezoelectric nanobeams.

## 2. Theoretical formulations

### 2.1 The material properties of FGP nanobeams

Assume a functionally graded nanobeam composed of PZT-4 and PZT-5H piezoelectric materials exposed to an electric potential  $\Phi(x, z, t)$ , with length  $L$  and uniform thickness  $h$ , as shown in Fig. 1. The effective material properties of the FGPM nanobeam are supposed to change continuously in the  $z$ -axis direction (thickness direction) based on the power-law model. So, the effective material properties,  $P$ , can be stated in the following form (Komijani *et al.* 2013)

$$P = P_2 V_2 + P_1 V_1 \quad (1)$$

in which  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  denote the material properties of the bottom and higher surfaces, respectively. Also,  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  are the corresponding volume fractions related by

$$V_2 = \left(\frac{z}{h} + \frac{1}{2}\right)^p, \quad V_1 = 1 - V_2 \quad (2)$$

Therefore, according to Eqs. (1) and (2), the effective electro-mechanical material properties of the FGP beam is defined as

$$P(z) = (P_2 - P_1) \left(\frac{z}{h} + \frac{1}{2}\right)^p + P_1 \quad (3)$$

where  $p$  is power-law exponent which is a non-negative and estimates the material distribution through the thickness of the nanobeam and  $z$  is the distance from the mid-plane of the graded piezoelectric beam. It must be noted that, the top surface at  $z = +h/2$  of FGP nanobeam is assumed PZT-4 rich, whereas the bottom surface ( $z = -h/2$ ) is PZT-5H rich.

### 2.2 Nonlocal elasticity theory for the piezoelectric materials

Contrary to the constitutive equation of classical elasticity theory, Eringen's nonlocal theory

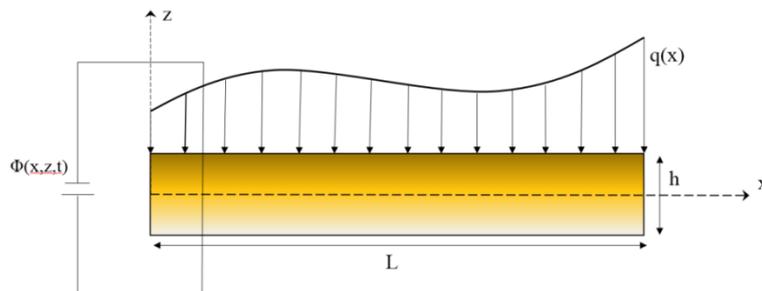


Fig. 1 Configuration of a functionally graded piezoelectric nanobeam

(Eringen 1972, 1983, Eringen *et al.* 1972) notes that the stress state at a point inside a body is regarded to be function of strains of all points in the neighbor regions. For a nonlocal homogeneous piezoelectric solid the basic equations with zero body force may be defined as

$$\sigma_{ij} = \int_V \alpha(|x' - x|, \tau) [C_{ijkl} \varepsilon_{kl}(x') - e_{kij} E_k(x')] dV(x') \quad (4a)$$

$$D_i = \int_V \alpha(|x' - x|, \tau) [e_{ikl} \varepsilon_{kl}(x') + k_{ik} E_k(x')] dV(x') \quad (4b)$$

where  $\sigma_{ij}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{ij}$ ,  $D_i$  and  $E_i$  denote the stress, strain, electric displacement and electric field components, respectively;  $C_{ijkl}$ ,  $e_{kij}$  and  $k_{ik}$  are elastic, piezoelectric and dielectric constant, respectively;  $\alpha(|x' - x|, \tau)$  is the nonlocal kernel function and  $|x' - x|$  is the Euclidean distance.  $\tau = e_0 a / l$  is defined as scale coefficient, where  $e_0$  is a material constant which is determined experimentally or approximated by matching the dispersion curves of plane waves with those of atomic lattice dynamics; and  $a$  and  $l$  are the internal and external characteristic length of the nanostructures, respectively. Finally it is possible to represent the integral constitutive relations given by Eq. (4) in an equivalent differential form as

$$\sigma_{ij} - (e_0 a)^2 \nabla^2 \sigma_{ij} = C_{ijkl} \varepsilon_{kl} - e_{kij} E_k \quad (5a)$$

$$D_i - (e_0 a)^2 \nabla^2 D_i = e_{ikl} \varepsilon_{kl} + k_{ik} E_k \quad (5b)$$

where  $\nabla^2$  is the Laplacian operator and  $e_0 a$  is the nonlocal parameter revealing the size influence on the response of nanostructures.

### 2.3 Nonlocal FG piezoelectric nanobeam model

Based on parabolic third order beam theory, the displacement field at any point of the beam are supposed to be in the form

$$u_x(x, z) = u(x) + z\psi(x) - \alpha z^3 \left( \psi + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \quad (6a)$$

$$u_z(x, z) = w(x) \quad (6b)$$

in which  $u$  and  $w$  are displacement components in the mid-plane along the coordinates  $x$  and  $z$ , respectively, while  $\psi$  denotes the total bending rotation of the cross-section.

To satisfy Maxwell's equation in the quasi-static approximation, the distribution of electric potential along the thickness direction is supposed to change as a combination of a cosine and linear variation as follows

$$\Phi(x, z, t) = -\cos(\xi z) \phi(x, t) + \frac{2z}{h} V \quad (7)$$

where  $\xi = \pi/h$ . Also,  $V$  is the initial external electric voltage applied to the FGP nanobeam; and  $\phi$

$(x, t)$  is the spatial function of the electric potential in the  $x$ -direction. Considering strain-displacement relationships on the basis of parabolic beam theory, the non-zero strains can be stated as

$$\varepsilon_{xx} = \varepsilon_{xx}^{(0)} + z\varepsilon_{xx}^{(1)} + z^3\varepsilon_{xx}^{(3)} \quad (8)$$

$$\gamma_{xz} = \gamma_{xz}^{(0)} + z^2\gamma_{xz}^{(2)} \quad (9)$$

where

$$\varepsilon_{xx}^{(0)} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}, \varepsilon_{xx}^{(1)} = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}, \varepsilon_{xx}^{(3)} = -\alpha \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \right) \quad (10)$$

$$\gamma_{xz}^{(0)} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \psi, \gamma_{xz}^{(2)} = -\beta \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \psi \right) \quad (11)$$

and  $\beta = \frac{4}{h^2}$ . According to the defined electric potential in Eq. (7), the non-zero components of electric field ( $E_x, E_z$ ) can be obtained as

$$E_x = -\Phi_{,x} = \cos(\xi z) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}, \quad E_z = -\Phi_{,z} = -\xi \sin(\xi z) \phi - \frac{2V_E}{h} \quad (12)$$

The Hamilton's principle can be stated in the following form to obtain the governing equations of motion

$$\int_0^t \delta(\Pi_S - \Pi_K + \Pi_W) dt = 0 \quad (13)$$

where  $\Pi_S$  is strain energy,  $\Pi_K$  is kinetic energy and  $\Pi_W$  is work done by external applied forces. The first variation of strain energy  $\Pi_S$  can be calculated as

$$\delta \Pi_S = \int_0^L \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} (\sigma_{xx} \delta \varepsilon_{xx} + \sigma_{xz} \delta \gamma_{xz} - D_x \delta E_x - D_z \delta E_z) dz dx \quad (14)$$

Substituting Eqs. (8) and (9) into Eq. (14) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \Pi_S = & \int_0^L (N \delta \varepsilon_{xx}^{(0)} + M \delta \varepsilon_{xx}^{(1)} + P \delta \varepsilon_{xx}^{(3)} + Q \delta \gamma_{xz}^{(0)} + R \delta \gamma_{xz}^{(2)}) dx \\ & + \int_0^L \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \left( -D_x \cos(\beta z) \delta \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right) + D_z \beta \sin(\beta z) \delta \phi \right) dz dx \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

in which  $N, M$  and  $Q$  are the axial force, bending moment and shear force resultants, respectively. Relations between the stress resultants and stress component used in Eq. (15) are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} N &= \int_A \sigma_{xx} dA, \quad M = \int_A \sigma_{xx} z dA, \quad P = \int_A \sigma_{xx} z^3 dA \\ Q &= \int_A \sigma_{xz} dA, \quad R = \int_A \sigma_{xz} z^2 dA \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

The kinetic energy  $\Pi_K$  for graded piezoelectric nanobeam is formulated as

$$\Pi_K = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \rho \left( \left( \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial t} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial t} \right)^2 \right) dz dx \quad (17)$$

where  $\rho$  is the mass density. The first variation of the kinetic energy is presented as

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_K = & \int_0^L I_0 \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \frac{\partial \delta u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} \frac{\partial \delta w}{\partial t} \right) + I_1 \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \frac{\partial \delta \psi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \frac{\partial \delta u}{\partial t} \right) + I_2 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \frac{\partial \delta \psi}{\partial t} \\ & + \alpha \left[ -I_3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \delta w}{\partial x \partial t} + \frac{\partial \delta \psi}{\partial t} \right) - I_3 \frac{\partial \delta u}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial t} + \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right) - I_4 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial \delta \psi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial^2 \delta w}{\partial x \partial t} \right) \right. \\ & \left. - I_4 \frac{\partial \delta \psi}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial t} \right) + \alpha I_6 \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x \partial t} \right) \left( \frac{\partial \delta \psi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial^2 \delta w}{\partial x \partial t} \right) \right] dA dx \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

In which  $I_0, I_1, I_2, I_3, I_4$  and  $I_6$  are mass inertia and defined as

$$(I_0, I_1, I_2, I_3, I_4, I_6) = \int_A (1, z, z^2, z^3, z^4, z^6) \rho dA \quad (19)$$

It is noticed from Eq. (19), for homogeneous nanobeams,  $I_2 = I_3 = 0$ . The work done due to external electric voltage,  $\Pi_w$  can be written in the form

$$\Pi_w = \int_0^L (N_E \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \delta w}{\partial x} + q \delta w + f \delta u - N \delta \varepsilon_{xx}^{(0)} - M \frac{\partial \delta \psi}{\partial x} + \alpha P \frac{\partial^2 \delta w}{\partial x^2} - Q \delta \gamma_{xz}^{(0)}) dx \quad (20)$$

where  $M = M - \alpha P$ ,  $Q = Q - \beta R$  and  $q(x)$  and  $f(x)$  are the transverse and axial distributed loads and  $N_E$  is normal forced due to external electric voltage ( $V$ ) which is defined as

$$N_E = - \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} e_{31} \frac{2V}{h} dz \quad (21)$$

For a FGPM nanobeam exposed to electro-mechanical loading in the one dimensional case, the nonlocal constitutive relations (5a) and (5b) may be rewritten as

$$\sigma_{xx} - (e_0 a)^2 \frac{\partial^2 \sigma_{xx}}{\partial x^2} = c_{11} \varepsilon_{xx} - e_{31} E_z \quad (22)$$

$$\sigma_{xz} - (e_0 a)^2 \frac{\partial^2 \sigma_{xz}}{\partial x^2} = c_{55} \gamma_{xz} - e_{15} E_x \quad (23)$$

$$D_x - (e_0 a)^2 \frac{\partial^2 D_x}{\partial x^2} = e_{15} \gamma_{xz} + k_{11} E_x \quad (24)$$

$$D_z - (e_0 a)^2 \frac{\partial^2 D_z}{\partial x^2} = e_{31} \varepsilon_{xx} + k_{33} E_z \quad (25)$$

Inserting Eqs. (15), (17) and (20) in Eq. (13) and integrating by parts, and gathering the coefficients of  $\delta u$ ,  $\delta w$ ,  $\delta \psi$  and  $\delta \phi$ , the following governing equations are obtained

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial x} + f - I_0 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - \hat{I}_1 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} + \alpha I_3 \frac{\partial^3 w}{\partial x \partial t^2} = 0 \quad (26)$$

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial N} - Q - \hat{I}_1 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - \hat{I}_2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} + \alpha \hat{I}_4 \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial x \partial t^2} \right) = 0 \quad (27)$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} + q - N_E \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} - \alpha \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2} - I_0 \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} - \alpha I_3 \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x \partial t^2} - \alpha I_4 \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial x \partial t^2} + \alpha^2 I_6 \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x \partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} \right) = 0 \quad (28)$$

$$\int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \left( \cos(\beta z) \frac{\partial D_x}{\partial x} + \beta \sin(\beta z) D_z \right) dz = 0 \quad (29)$$

By integrating Eqs. (22)-(25), over the beam's cross-section area, the force-strain and the moment-strain of the nonlocal third order Reddy FGP beam theory can be obtained as follows

$$N - \mu \frac{\partial^2 N}{\partial x^2} = A_{xx} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + B_{xx} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} - \alpha E_{xx} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \right) + A_{31}^e \phi - N_E \quad (30)$$

$$M - \mu \frac{\partial^2 M}{\partial x^2} = B_{xx} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + D_{xx} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} - \alpha F_{xx} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \right) + E_{31} \phi \quad (31)$$

$$P - \mu \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2} = E_{xx} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + F_{xx} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} - \alpha H_{xx} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \right) + F_{31} \phi \quad (32)$$

$$Q - \mu \frac{\partial^2 Q}{\partial x^2} = (A_{xz} - \beta D_{xz}) \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \psi \right) - E_{15} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \quad (33)$$

$$R - \mu \frac{\partial^2 R}{\partial x^2} = (D_{xz} - \beta F_{xz}) \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \psi \right) - F_{15} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \quad (34)$$

$$\int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \left\{ D_x - \mu \frac{\partial^2 D_x}{\partial x^2} \right\} \cos(\xi z) dz = (E_{15} - \beta F_{15}) \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \psi \right) + F_{11} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \quad (35)$$

$$\int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \left\{ D_z - \mu \frac{\partial^2 D_z}{\partial x^2} \right\} \xi \sin(\xi z) dz = A_{31}^e \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + (E_{31} - \alpha F_{31}) \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} - \alpha F_{31} \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} - F_{33} \phi \quad (36)$$

where  $\mu = (e_0 a)^2$  and quantities used in above equations are defined as

$$\{A_{xx}, B_{xx}, D_{xx}, E_{xx}, F_{xx}, H_{xx}\} = \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} c_{11} \{1, z, z^2, z^3, z^4, z^6\} dz \quad (37)$$

$$\{A_{xz}, D_{xz}, F_{xz}\} = \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} c_{55} \{1, z^2, z^4\} dz \quad (38)$$

$$\{A_{31}^e, E_{31}, F_{31}\} = \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} e_{31} \{\xi \sin(\xi z), z \xi \sin(\xi z), z^3 \xi \sin(\xi z)\} dz \quad (39)$$

$$\{E_{15}, F_{15}\} = \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} e_{15} \{\cos(\xi z), z^2 \cos(\xi z)\} dz \quad (40)$$

$$\{F_{11}, F_{33}\} = \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \{k_{11} \cos^2(\xi z), k_{33} \xi^2 \sin^2(\xi z)\} dz \quad (41)$$

The explicit relation of the nonlocal normal force can be derived by substituting for the second derivative of  $N$  from Eq. (26) into Eq. (30) as follows

$$\begin{aligned} N_x = & A_{xx} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + K_{xx} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} - \alpha E_{xx} \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + A_{31}^e \phi - N_E \\ & + \mu \left( -\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + I_0 \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x \partial t^2} + \hat{I}_1 \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial x \partial t^2} - \alpha I_3 \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

Omitting  $Q$  from Eqs. (27) and (28), we obtain the following equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 M}{\partial x^2} = -\alpha \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2} - q + N_E \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + I_0 \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} + I_1 \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x \partial t^2} + I_2 \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial x \partial t^2} - \alpha I_4 \left( \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial x \partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} \right) \quad (43)$$

Also the explicit relation of the nonlocal bending moment can be derived by substituting for the second derivative of  $M$  from Eq. (27) into Eq. (31) and using Eqs. (31) and (32) as follows

$$\begin{aligned} M = & K_{xx} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + I_{xx} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} - \alpha J_{xx} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \right) + (E_{31} - \alpha F_{31}) \phi + \mu \left( -\alpha \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2} - q + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( N_E \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \right. \\ & \left. + I_0 \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} + I_1 \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial x \partial t^2} + I_2 \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial x \partial t^2} - \alpha I_4 \left( \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial x \partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} \right) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

where

$$K_{xx} = B_{xx} - \alpha E_{xx}, \quad I_{xx} = D_{xx} - \alpha F_{xx}, \quad J_{xx} = F_{xx} - \alpha H_{xx} \quad (45)$$

By substituting for the second derivative of  $Q$  from Eq. (28) into Eq. (33), and using Eqs. (33) and (34) the following expression for the nonlocal shear force is derived

$$\begin{aligned}
Q = & \bar{A}_{xx} \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \psi \right) - (E_{15} - \beta F_{15}) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \mu \left( E \frac{\partial^3 w}{\partial x^3} - \alpha \frac{\partial^3 P}{\partial x^3} - \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \right) \\
& + \mu \left( I_0 \frac{\partial^3 w}{\partial x \partial t^2} + \alpha I_3 \frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} + \alpha I_4 \frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} - \alpha I_6 \left( \frac{\partial^5 w}{\partial x^3 \partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} \right) \right)
\end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

where

$$\bar{A}_{xz} = A_{xz}^* - \beta I_{xz}^*, \quad A_{xz}^* = A_{xz} - \beta D_{xz}, \quad I_{xz}^* = D_{xz} - \beta F_{xz} \quad (47)$$

Now we use  $M$  and  $Q$  from Eqs. (44) and (46) and the identity

$$\alpha \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} (P - \mu \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2}) = \alpha (E_{xx} \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} + F_{xx} \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial x^3} - \alpha H_{xx} (\frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial x^3} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4}) + F_{31} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2}) \quad (48)$$

It must be cited that inserting Eq. (29) into Eqs. (35) and (36), does not provide an explicit expressions for  $D_x$  and  $D_z$ . To overcome this problem, by using Eqs. (35) and (36), Eq. (29) can be re-expressed in terms of  $u$ ,  $w$ ,  $\psi$  and  $\phi$ . Finally, based on third-order beam theory, the nonlocal equations of motion for a FG piezoelectric nanobeam can be obtained by substituting for  $N$ ,  $M$  and  $Q$  from Eqs. (42), (44) and (46) into Eqs. (26)-(28) as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
A_{xx} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + K_{xx} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} - \alpha E_{xx} \frac{\partial^3 w}{\partial x^3} + A_{31}^e \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \mu \left( -\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + I_0 \frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} + I_1 \frac{\partial^4 \psi}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} \right. \\
\left. - \alpha I_3 \frac{\partial^4 \psi}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} - \alpha I_3 \frac{\partial^5 w}{\partial x^3 \partial t^2} \right) + f - I_0 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - \hat{I}_1 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} + \alpha I_3 \frac{\partial^3 w}{\partial x \partial t^2} = 0
\end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
K_{xx} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + I_{xx} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} - \alpha J_{xx} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^3 w}{\partial x^3} \right) - \bar{A}_{xz} \left( \varphi + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) + (E_{31} - \alpha F_{31}) \phi - \hat{I}_2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} \\
+ \alpha \hat{I}_4 \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^3 w}{\partial x \partial t^2} \right) - \hat{I}_1 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} + (E_{15} - \beta F_{15}) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \mu \left( \hat{I}_1 \frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} + \hat{I}_2 \frac{\partial^4 \psi}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} \right. \\
\left. - \alpha \hat{I}_4 \left( \frac{\partial^4 \psi}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^5 w}{\partial x^3 \partial t^2} \right) \right) = 0
\end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{A}_{xz} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \right) + \mu \left( N_E \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} - \frac{\partial^2 q}{\partial x^2} \right) + q - (N_E) \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} - (E_{15} - \beta F_{15}) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \alpha \left( E_{xx} \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right. \\
\left. + J_{xx} \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial x^3} - \alpha H_{xx} \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + F_{31} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} \right) - I_0 \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} - \alpha I_3 \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x \partial t^2} - \alpha I_4 \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial t^2 \partial x} + \alpha^2 I_6 \left( \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial t^2 \partial x} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial t^2 \partial x^2} \right) \\
+ \mu \left( I_0 \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} + \alpha I_3 \frac{\partial^5 u}{\partial x^3 \partial t^2} + \alpha I_4 \frac{\partial^5 \psi}{\partial t^2 \partial x^3} - \alpha^2 I_6 \left( \frac{\partial^5 \psi}{\partial t^2 \partial x^3} + \frac{\partial^6 w}{\partial t^2 \partial x^4} \right) \right) = 0
\end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

$$(E_{15} - \beta F_{15}) \left( \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right) + F_{11} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + A_{31}^e \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + (E_{31} - \alpha F_{31}) \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} - \alpha F_{31} \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} - F_{33} \phi = 0 \quad (52)$$

### 3. Solution procedure

Here, on the basis the Navier method, an analytical solution of the governing equations for free vibration of a simply supported FGP nanobeam is presented. To satisfy governing equations of motion and the simply supported boundary condition, the displacement variables are adopted to be of the form

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} U_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) e^{i\omega_n t} \quad (53)$$

$$w(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} W_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) e^{i\omega_n t} \quad (54)$$

$$\psi(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \Psi_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) e^{i\omega_n t} \quad (55)$$

$$\phi(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \Phi_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) e^{i\omega_n t} \quad (56)$$

where  $U_n$ ,  $W_n$ ,  $\Psi_n$  and  $\Phi_n$  are the unknown Fourier coefficients to be determined for each  $n$  value. The boundary conditions for simply supported FGP beam can be identified as

$$\begin{aligned} u(0) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2}(L) = 0; \quad W(0) = w(L) = 0 \\ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}(0) = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}(L) = 0, \quad \phi(0) = \phi(L) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

Substituting Eqs. (53)-(56) into Eqs. (49)-(52) respectively, leads to

$$\begin{aligned} (-A_{xx} \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2 + I_0(1 + \mu \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2) \omega_n^2) U_n + (-K_{xx} \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2 + \hat{I}_1((1 + \mu \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2) \omega_n^2)) \Psi_n \\ + (\alpha E_{xx} \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^3 - \alpha I_3 \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right) \omega_n^2 - \alpha I_3 \mu \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^3 \omega_n^2) W_n + (-A_{31}^e \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)) \phi_n = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (58)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (-K_{xx} \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2 + \hat{I}_1 \omega_n^2 + \mu \hat{I}_1 \omega_n^2 \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2) U_n + (-I_{xx} \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2 + \alpha J_{xx} \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2 - \bar{A}_{xz} + \hat{I}_2 \omega_n^2 - \alpha \hat{I}_4 \omega_n^2 \\ + \mu((\hat{I}_2 - \alpha \hat{I}_4) \omega_n^2 \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^2) \Psi_n + (\alpha J_{xx} \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^3 - \bar{A}_{xz} \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right) - \alpha \hat{I}_4 \omega_n^2 \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right) + \mu \alpha \hat{I}_4 \omega_n^2 \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^3) W_n \\ + ((E_{31} - \alpha F_{31}) + (E_{15} - \beta F_{15}) \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)) \phi_n = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (59)$$

$$(\alpha E_{xx} \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^3 - \alpha I_3 \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right) \omega_n^2 - \mu \alpha I_3 \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^3 \omega_n^2) U_n + (-\bar{A}_{xz} \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right) + J_{xx} \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right)^3 - \alpha \hat{I}_4 \left(\frac{n\pi}{l}\right) \omega_n^2) \quad (60)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& +\mu(-\alpha\hat{I}_4(\frac{n\pi}{l})^3\omega_n^2))\psi_n + (N_E(\frac{n\pi}{l})^2(1+\mu(\frac{n\pi}{l})^2) - \bar{A}_{xz}(\frac{n\pi}{l})^2 - \alpha^2(\frac{n\pi}{l})^4 + I_0(\frac{n\pi}{l})^2) \\
& +\alpha^2 I_6(\frac{n\pi}{l})^2\omega_n^2 + \mu(I_0(\frac{n\pi}{l})^2\omega_n^2 + \alpha^2 I_6(\frac{n\pi}{l})^4\omega_n^2))W_n + (-(E_{15} - \beta F_{15})(\frac{n\pi}{l}) - F_{31}(\frac{n\pi}{l})^2)\phi_n = 0
\end{aligned} \tag{60}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left(-A_{31}^e(\frac{n\pi}{L})\right)U_n - \left((E_{15} - \beta F_{15}) - \alpha F_{31}\right)(\frac{n\pi}{L})^2 W_n - \left((E_{15} - \beta F_{15}) + (E_{31} - \alpha F_{31})(\frac{n\pi}{L})\right)\Psi_n \\
& - \left(F_{11}(\frac{n\pi}{L})^2 + F_{33}\right)\Phi_n = 0
\end{aligned} \tag{61}$$

By setting the determinant of the coefficient matrix of the above equations, the nontrivial analytical solutions can be obtained from the following equations

$$\left\{ [K] - \bar{\omega}^2 [M] \right\} \begin{Bmatrix} U_n \\ W_n \\ \Psi_n \\ \Phi_n \end{Bmatrix} = 0 \tag{62}$$

where  $[K]$  denotes the stiffness matrix, and  $[M]$  is the mass matrix. By setting this polynomial to zero, we can find natural frequencies  $\bar{\omega}_n$  of the FGP nanobeam exposed to electrical loading.

#### 4. Results and discussion

In this section, several numerical examples are provided for the electro-mechanical free vibration characteristics of FGPM nanobeams. To achieve this goal, the nonlocal FGP beam made of PZT-4 and PZT-5H, with electro-mechanical material properties listed in Table 1, is supposed.

The beam geometry has the following dimensions:  $L$  (length) = 10 nm and  $h$  (thickness) = varied. Also, the following relation is described to calculate the non-dimensional natural frequencies

$$\bar{\omega} = \omega L^2 \sqrt{\left(\frac{\rho A}{c_{11} I}\right)_{\text{PZT-4}}} \tag{63}$$

in which  $I = h^3/12$  is the moment of inertia of the cross section of the beam. For verification purpose the frequency results are compared with those of nonlocal FGM Timoshenko beams presented by Rahmani and Pedram (2014), due to the fact that any numerical results for the free vibration of FGP nanobeams based on the nonlocal elasticity theory are not existing yet. In this work, the material selection is performed as follows:  $E_m = 70$  GPa,  $\nu_m = 0.3$ ,  $\rho_m = 7800$  kg m<sup>-3</sup> for Steel and  $E_c = 390$  GPa,  $\nu_c = 0.24$ ,  $\rho_c = 3960$  kg m<sup>-3</sup> for Alumina. Therefore, Table 2 presents the fundamental frequency of S-S FG nanobeams in comparison to those of Rahmani and Pedram (2014).

The influences of several parameters including external electric voltage ( $V$ ), material

Table 1 Electro-mechanical coefficients of material properties for PZT-4 and PZT-5H (Doroushi *et al.* 2011)

| Properties   | PZT-4     | PZT-5H    |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| $c_{11}$ (GPa)   | 81.3      | 60.6      |
| $c_{55}$ (GPa)   | 25.6      | 23.0      |
| $e_{31}$ (cm <sup>-2</sup> )                               | -10.0     | -16.604   |
| $e_{15}$ (cm <sup>-2</sup> )                               | 40.3248   | 44.9046   |
| $k_{11}$ (C <sup>2</sup> m <sup>-2</sup> N <sup>-1</sup> ) | 0.6712e-8 | 1.5027e-8 |
| $k_{33}$ (C <sup>2</sup> m <sup>-2</sup> N <sup>-1</sup> ) | 1.0275e-8 | 2.554e-8  |
| $\rho$ (kgm <sup>-3</sup> )                                | 7500      | 7500      |

Table 2 Comparison of the non-dimensional fundamental frequency for a S-S FG nanobeam with various power-law index ( $L/h = 20$ )

| $\mu$<br>(nm <sup>2</sup> ) | $p = 0$                             |                | $p = 0.5$                           |                | $p = 1$                             |                | $p = 5$                             |                |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
|                             | TBT<br>(Rahmani and<br>Pedram 2014) | Present<br>RBT |
| 0                           | 9.8296                              | 9.829570       | 7.7149                              | 7.71546        | 6.9676                              | 6.967613       | 5.9172                              | 5.916152       |
| 1                           | 9.3777                              | 9.377686       | 7.3602                              | 7.36078        | 6.6473                              | 6.647300       | 5.6452                              | 5.644175       |
| 2                           | 8.9829                              | 8.982894       | 7.0504                              | 7.05090        | 6.3674                              | 6.367454       | 5.4075                              | 5.406561       |
| 3                           | 8.6341                              | 8.634103       | 6.7766                              | 6.77714        | 6.1202                              | 6.120217       | 5.1975                              | 5.196632       |
| 4                           | 8.3230                              | 8.323021       | 6.5325                              | 6.53296        | 5.8997                              | 5.899708       | 5.0103                              | 5.009400       |

Table 3 Influence of external electric voltage and material composition on the 1st non-dimensional frequency of a S-S FGP nanobeam ( $L/h = 20$ )

| $\mu$ |             | Gradient index |           |           |         |         |         |          |
|-------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
|       |             | $p = 0$        | $p = 0.2$ | $p = 0.5$ | $p = 1$ | $p = 2$ | $p = 5$ | $p = 10$ |
| 0     | $V = -0.5$  | 10.9593        | 10.7792   | 10.6445   | 10.5545 | 10.5024 | 10.4459 | 10.3829  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 10.6907        | 10.4755   | 10.3058   | 10.1815 | 10.0958 | 10.0051 | 9.92464  |
|       | $V = 0$     | 10.4152        | 10.1627   | 9.95565   | 9.79425 | 9.67212 | 9.54393 | 9.44416  |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 10.1322        | 9.83995   | 9.59269   | 9.39106 | 9.22901 | 9.05931 | 8.93788  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 9.84104        | 9.50628   | 9.21545   | 8.96976 | 8.76352 | 8.54726 | 8.40115  |
| 1     | $V = -0.5$  | 10.5054        | 10.3399   | 10.2177   | 10.1381 | 10.0944 | 10.0467 | 9.98964  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 10.2248        | 10.0229   | 9.86442   | 9.74912 | 9.67066 | 9.58748 | 9.51244  |
|       | $V = 0$     | 9.93640        | 9.69548   | 9.49798   | 9.34399 | 9.22748 | 9.10518 | 9.0100   |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 9.63934        | 9.35666   | 9.11681   | 8.92047 | 8.76190 | 8.59586 | 8.47783  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 9.33283        | 9.00510   | 8.71900   | 8.47582 | 8.27016 | 8.05440 | 7.90994  |
| 2     | $V = -0.5$  | 10.1106        | 9.95814   | 9.84715   | 9.77671 | 9.74058 | 9.70061 | 9.64891  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 9.81882        | 9.62857   | 9.48004   | 9.37277 | 9.30072 | 9.22422 | 9.15397  |

Table 3 Continued

| $\mu$ |             | Gradient index |           |           |         |         |         |          |
|-------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
|       |             | $p = 0$        | $p = 0.2$ | $p = 0.5$ | $p = 1$ | $p = 2$ | $p = 5$ | $p = 10$ |
| 2     | $V = 0$     | 9.51809        | 9.28731   | 9.09812   | 8.95061 | 8.83901 | 8.72186 | 8.63068  |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 9.20754        | 8.93302   | 8.69945   | 8.50754 | 8.35181 | 8.18874 | 8.07355  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 8.88615        | 8.56408   | 8.28162   | 8.04008 | 7.83437 | 7.61839 | 7.47501  |
| 3     | $V = -0.5$  | 9.76349        | 9.62270   | 9.52172   | 9.45958 | 9.43024 | 9.39729 | 9.35036  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 9.46100        | 9.28122   | 9.14154   | 9.04147 | 8.97519 | 8.90469 | 8.83871  |
|       | $V = 0$     | 9.14852        | 8.92669   | 8.74485   | 8.60308 | 8.49580 | 8.38320 | 8.29557  |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 8.82497        | 8.55749   | 8.32930   | 8.14111 | 7.98770 | 7.82705 | 7.71427  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 8.48911        | 8.17162   | 7.89189   | 7.65129 | 7.44500 | 7.22822 | 7.08545  |

composition and nonlocal parameter ( $\mu$ ) on the first three non-dimensional frequencies of the simply supported higher order FG nanobeams at  $L/h = 20$  are presented in Tables 3-5. It is observable that with the increase of nonlocal parameter the natural frequencies of FG nanobeam reduces for all external voltages due to the fact that existence of nonlocality weakens the beam. In addition, it is found that as the gradient index arose the non-dimensional frequencies of piezoelectric FG nanobeam decrease, especially for smaller gradient indexes. Also, it is concluded that negative values of external voltage produces higher frequencies compared to those of positive voltages.

The variations of the 1st fundamental frequency of FGP nanobeams versus the gradient index for different external voltages and nonlocal parameters at  $L/h = 20$  are depicted in Fig. 2. It is observed from the figure that the dimensionless natural frequency reduces vigorously for lower values of gradient index, and then reduces monotonically for higher values of gradient index. Also, the frequency variations for positive voltages is more sensible than that of negative one.

Table 4 Influence of external electric voltage and material composition on the 2nd non-dimensional frequency of a S-S FGP nanobeam ( $L/h = 20$ )

| $\mu$ |             | Gradient index |           |           |         |         |         |          |
|-------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
|       |             | $p = 0$        | $p = 0.2$ | $p = 0.5$ | $p = 1$ | $p = 2$ | $p = 5$ | $p = 10$ |
| 0     | $V = -0.5$  | 41.9836        | 41.0434   | 40.2935   | 39.7276 | 39.3173 | 38.8856 | 38.5307  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 41.7073        | 40.7295   | 39.9418   | 39.3386 | 38.8915 | 38.4219 | 38.0474  |
|       | $V = 0$     | 41.4292        | 40.4132   | 39.5871   | 38.9457 | 38.4610 | 37.9525 | 37.5580  |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 41.1492        | 40.0943   | 39.2291   | 38.5488 | 38.0256 | 37.4773 | 37.0620  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 40.8673        | 39.7729   | 38.8678   | 38.1477 | 37.5851 | 36.9959 | 36.5594  |
| 1     | $V = -0.5$  | 35.7326        | 34.9612   | 34.3511   | 33.8965 | 33.5732 | 33.2325 | 32.9447  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 35.4075        | 34.5922   | 33.9379   | 33.4397 | 33.0735 | 32.6887 | 32.3782  |
|       | $V = 0$     | 35.0795        | 34.2192   | 33.5197   | 32.9766 | 32.5662 | 32.1357 | 31.8016  |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 34.7483        | 33.8420   | 33.0962   | 32.5069 | 32.0508 | 31.573  | 31.2143  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 34.4140        | 33.4606   | 32.6671   | 32.0303 | 31.5270 | 31.0001 | 30.6158  |

Table 4 Continued

| $\mu$ |             | Gradient index |           |           |         |         |         |          |
|-------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
|       |             | $p = 0$        | $p = 0.2$ | $p = 0.5$ | $p = 1$ | $p = 2$ | $p = 5$ | $p = 10$ |
| 2     | $V = -0.5$  | 31.7072        | 31.0479   | 30.5309   | 30.1509 | 29.8864 | 29.6071 | 29.3640  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 31.3405        | 30.6317   | 30.0653   | 29.6364 | 29.3240 | 28.9954 | 28.7270  |
|       | $V = 0$     | 30.9694        | 30.2099   | 29.5923   | 29.1129 | 28.7505 | 28.3705 | 28.0755  |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 30.5938        | 29.7820   | 29.1117   | 28.5797 | 28.1654 | 27.7315 | 27.4086  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 30.2135        | 29.3479   | 28.6231   | 28.0365 | 27.5679 | 27.0774 | 26.7250  |
| 3     | $V = -0.5$  | 28.8445        | 28.2671   | 27.8184   | 27.4935 | 27.2728 | 27.0391 | 26.8288  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 28.4409        | 27.8094   | 27.3066   | 26.9283 | 26.6553 | 26.3678 | 26.1301  |
|       | $V = 0$     | 28.0314        | 27.3440   | 26.7850   | 26.3510 | 26.0231 | 25.6791 | 25.4121  |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 27.6159        | 26.8705   | 26.2531   | 25.7608 | 25.3752 | 24.9713 | 24.6733  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 27.1940        | 26.3885   | 25.7101   | 25.1567 | 24.7102 | 24.2429 | 23.9116  |

Table 5 Influence of external electric voltage and material composition on the 3rd non-dimensional frequency of a S-S FGP nanobeam ( $L/h = 20$ )

| $\mu$ |             | Gradient index |           |           |         |         |         |          |
|-------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
|       |             | $p = 0$        | $p = 0.2$ | $p = 0.5$ | $p = 1$ | $p = 2$ | $p = 5$ | $p = 10$ |
| 0     | $V = -0.5$  | 92.9812        | 90.7489   | 88.9701   | 87.6146 | 86.6103 | 85.5572 | 84.7236  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 92.7036        | 90.4331   | 88.6159   | 87.2225 | 86.1807 | 85.0889 | 84.2353  |
|       | $V = 0$     | 92.4252        | 90.1162   | 88.2603   | 86.8285 | 85.7489 | 84.6181 | 83.7443  |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 92.1460        | 89.7981   | 87.9033   | 86.4328 | 85.3150 | 84.1446 | 83.2503  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 91.8659        | 89.4790   | 87.5449   | 86.0353 | 84.8788 | 83.6684 | 82.7534  |
| 1     | $V = -0.5$  | 68.0224        | 66.4467   | 65.2013   | 64.2634 | 63.5803 | 62.8631 | 62.2818  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 67.6424        | 66.0148   | 64.7172   | 63.7277 | 62.9938 | 62.2243 | 61.6160  |
|       | $V = 0$     | 67.2604        | 65.5800   | 64.2295   | 63.1875 | 62.4018 | 61.5789 | 60.9430  |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 66.8761        | 65.1423   | 63.7380   | 62.6426 | 61.8042 | 60.9266 | 60.2624  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 66.4896        | 64.7016   | 63.2427   | 62.0930 | 61.2007 | 60.2672 | 59.5741  |
| 2     | $V = -0.5$  | 56.3892        | 55.1297   | 54.1424   | 53.4084 | 52.8838 | 52.3321 | 51.8732  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 55.9303        | 54.6083   | 53.5585   | 52.7626 | 52.1772 | 51.5630 | 51.0719  |
|       | $V = 0$     | 55.4676        | 54.0819   | 52.9681   | 52.1088 | 51.4609 | 50.7823 | 50.2579  |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 55.0010        | 53.5502   | 52.3711   | 51.4468 | 50.7345 | 49.9893 | 49.4304  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 54.5305        | 53.0133   | 51.7672   | 50.7761 | 49.9976 | 49.1835 | 48.5889  |
| 3     | $V = -0.5$  | 49.3359        | 48.2739   | 47.4487   | 46.8436 | 46.4201 | 45.9739 | 45.5919  |
|       | $V = -0.25$ | 48.8107        | 47.6775   | 46.7813   | 46.1059 | 45.6135 | 45.0965 | 44.6781  |
|       | $V = 0$     | 48.2798        | 47.0737   | 46.1042   | 45.3563 | 44.7924 | 44.2016 | 43.7452  |
|       | $V = +0.25$ | 47.7431        | 46.4619   | 45.4171   | 44.5941 | 43.9559 | 43.2883 | 42.7920  |
|       | $V = +0.5$  | 47.2002        | 45.8420   | 44.7193   | 43.8186 | 43.1032 | 42.3553 | 41.8171  |

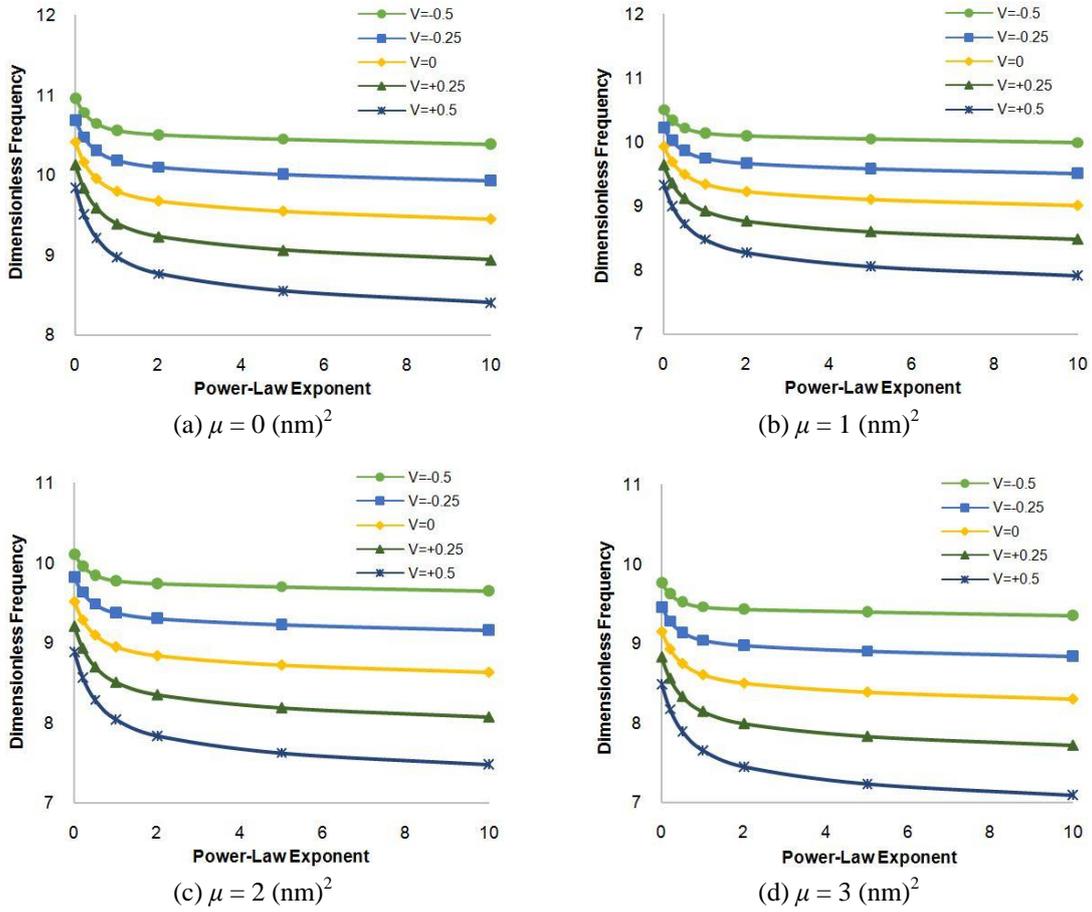


Fig. 2 Effect of external electric voltage on the dimensionless frequency of the S-S FGP nanobeam with respect to gradient index for different values of nonlocal parameters ( $L/h = 20$ )

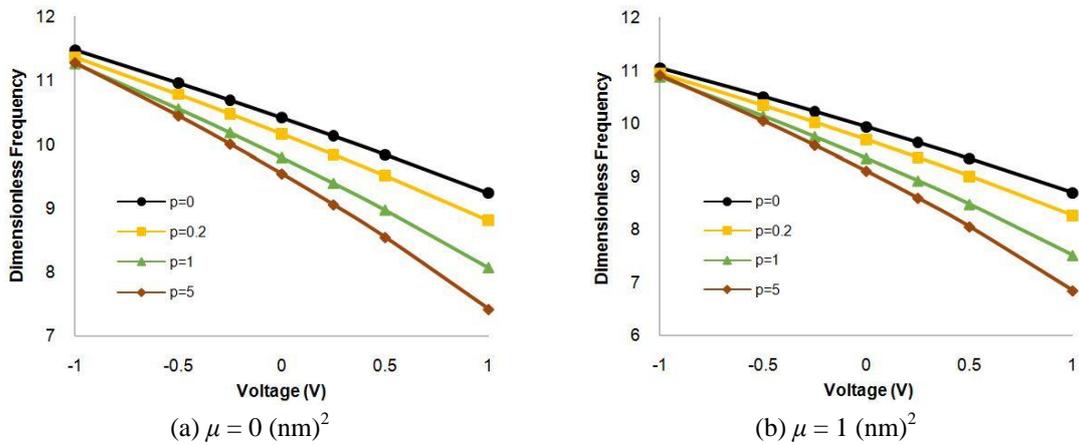


Fig. 3 The variation of dimensionless frequency of the S-S FGP nanobeam with respect to external voltage for different values of nonlocal parameters and gradient indexes ( $L/h = 20$ )

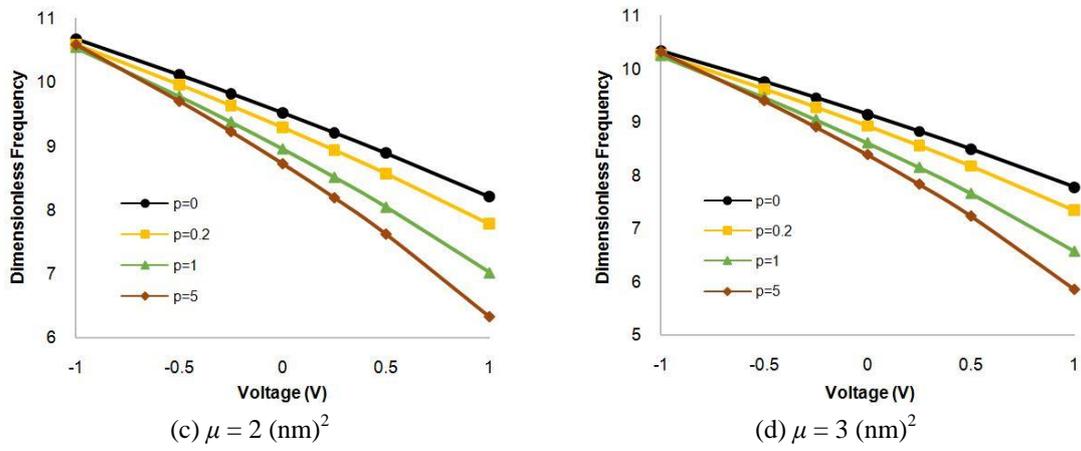


Fig. 3 Continued

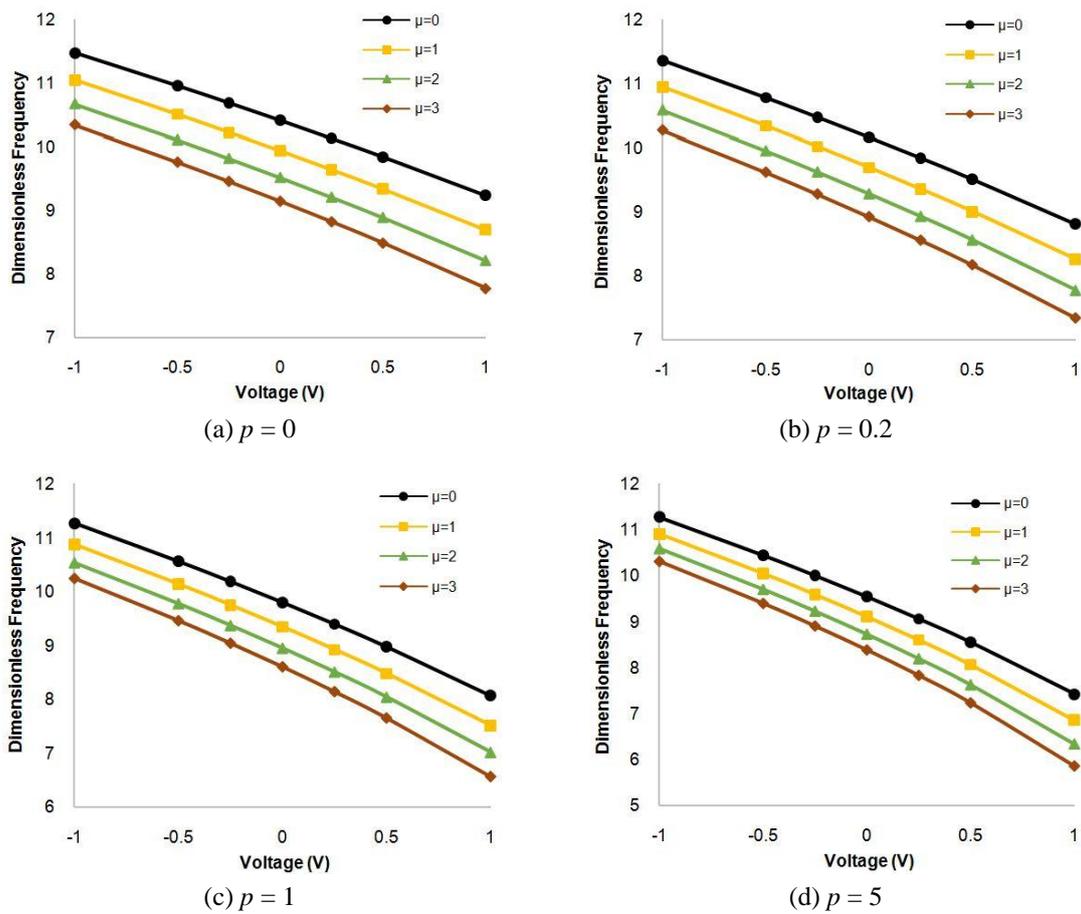


Fig. 4 The variation of dimensionless frequency of the S-S FGP nanobeam with respect to external voltage for different values of nonlocal parameters and gradient indexes ( $L/h = 20$ )

The variations of the first non-dimensional frequency of the simply supported FG nanobeams versus external voltage for various values of nonlocal parameter and gradient index are plotted in Fig. 3. It is found that external voltage shows a decreasing effect on the natural frequencies of FG nanobeams when it changes from negative values to positive one. Therefore, when the voltage value increases from negative to positive the natural frequency reduces, but difference between the curves rises. So, the frequency results for negative voltages are more close to each other.

Fig. 4 shows the effect of nonlocal parameter on the variations of the dimensionless frequency of nonlocal FG beams with respect to external voltage at  $L/h = 20$  for various gradient indexes. An important observation is that, the nonlocal parameter effect is not dependent on the external voltage values, since the difference between local and nonlocal frequency curves stays constant. Therefore, for all values of nonlocal parameter, with the increase of external voltage from negative to positive values the natural frequencies reduce with a same manner.

Fig. 5 demonstrate the variations of the non-dimensional frequency of piezoelectric FG nanobeam with respect to slenderness ratio for gradient index  $p = 0.2$  and nonlocal parameter  $\mu = 2$ . The most important observation from the figure is that, external voltage shows an increasing influence on natural frequencies of FGP nonlocal beams for negative values of external voltage and a decreasing effect for positive voltage values. Also, it is found that the variations of dimensionless frequency is approximately independent of slenderness ratio when the external voltages is set to zero  $V = 0$ . Also, it is seen that curvature of the lines for higher values of external voltage (both negative and positive) is more than lower voltages which means FG nanobeam is more affected by the larger voltages.

The influence of mode number on the non-dimensional frequency of nonlocal piezoelectric FGM beams at  $p = 1$  and  $L/h = 20$  is presented in Fig. 6. It is deduced from this figure that the effect of nonlocality on the lower mode numbers of FGP nanobeams is less than higher modes. So the difference of obtained frequencies between the various values of nonlocal parameters rises with the increase of mode number. Also, it is found that effect of electric voltage on lower modes is more than higher modes.

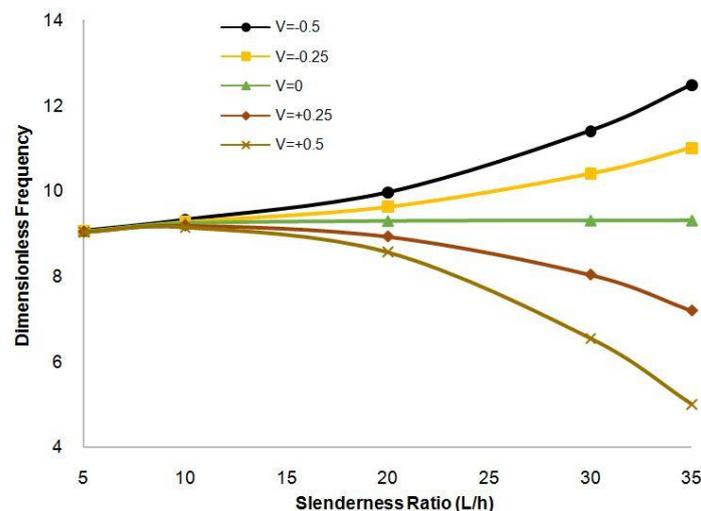


Fig. 5 The variation of dimensionless frequency of the S-S FGP nanobeam with respect to slenderness ratio for different values of external voltage ( $\mu = 2$ ,  $p = 0.2$ )

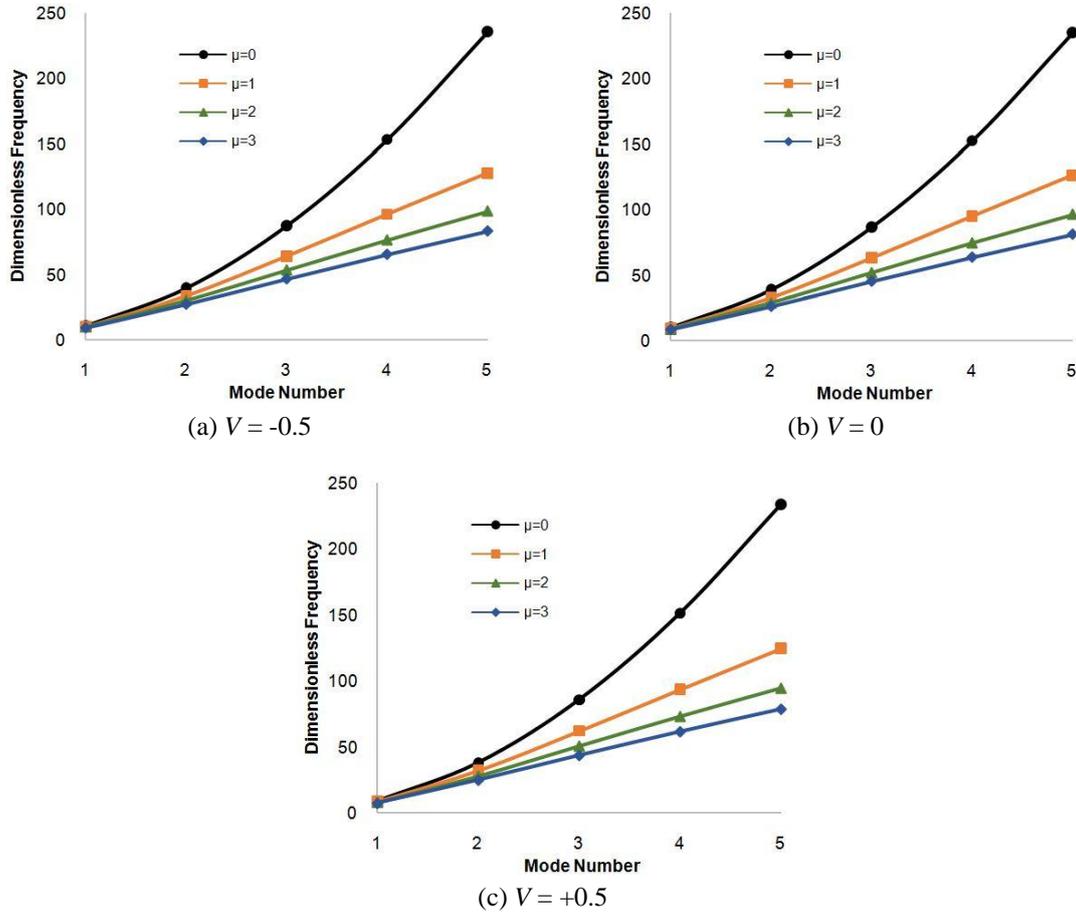


Fig. 6 Effect of mode number on the dimensionless frequency of the S-S FGP nanobeam for different values of external voltages ( $p = 1, L/h = 20$ )

### 5. Conclusions

The present study develops a nonlocal higher order beam model for free vibration analysis of piezoelectric FG nanobeams. Eringen’s nonlocal elasticity theory is adopted to capture the small size effects and the nonlocal governing equations are solved using Navier solution method. Eelectro-mechanical properties of the FGP nanobeams are supposed to be position dependent based on power-law model. Correctness of the results is checked with available data in the literature. Several numerical examples indicate the influences of some parameters including external electric voltage, gradient index, nonlocal parameter, slenderness ratio and mode number on the natural frequencies of nonlocal FGM beams. It is seen that presence of nonlocality leads to reduction in both rigidity of the beam and natural frequencies. Also, depending on the sign of the voltage the external electric voltage shows both decreasing and increasing effects on the natural frequencies. In addition, it is concluded that, the influence of nonlocality is independent of electric voltage value.

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