

Modal Analysis of Rotating Structures with Active Magnetic Bearing

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Abstract: *In this research paper a rotor which serves as a rotating structure is driven by a 4KW alternating current motor through couplings which is suspended by an active magnetic bearing with its position sensors and Hall Effect sensors connected in place which are finally connected to a main computer.*

A digital link which interfaces between the DSP and the general mathematics program is made to run on a computer in which all the forces and the displacement signals are available in analog which are then processed and finally display the results. Natural frequencies and mode shapes were used for predicting dynamic behaviors of the rotor model, in determining this the free-free system were assumed without putting the bearings in operation and then subsequently the rotational speed was set, the first three natural frequencies of the system without rigid modes with its corresponding values were used as the process and stages of observability and controllability of the rotor system during the experiment and the analysis process.

Modal analysis was then performed for the free-free boundary conditions for the rotor system with bearing conditions when the rotor speed was equal to 20000rpm.

The structure under investigation was established with a measured model input-output impulse response functions and the results studied and discussed.

Keywords: *Active magnetic bearing, Modal analysis, Natural Frequency, Rotor, Rotor dynamic.*

I. Introduction

Performing rotodynamic analysis in high speed rotating structures has gained more importance in recent times. The operation of high speed industrial rotating machines are very critical when taking into account its accompanying centrifugal effects such as high damping and its accompanied gyroscopic effect [1].

The interest in high speed rotors in various applications is increasing quickly, and, thanks to magnetic bearing technology and technical realization of such system has made it feasible for the use of components has resulted in the reduction of failures in these components [2]. It is important to note that the criterion for analyzing high rotor speed is very complex as used in mechanical design and the magnetic bearing control application which consists of various combinations such as its geometry and also the number of its critical speeds that runs through the severity of external disturbances such as the unbalance forces are conditions that makes the design of an AMB use in high speed rotor system very demanding and a more complex task [3].

The use of rotor dynamic approach in analyzing these high speed rotating structures such as the rotor has the ability to identify parameters such as the damped and undamped values in addition to the various modes shape that are usually presented.

Physical parameters are readily not available for theoretical derivations as stated in [4]. This is really in the case of high speed rotor designs which has complicated geometries such as shrink fits with additional masses and especially for many fluid structures which has interaction in squeeze film dampers, impellers, seals, fluid bearing etc. which are described by rotor dynamic coefficients in [5].

In such instances and situations, the appropriate required data will have to be taken into consideration from former experience and information which is available or will have to be determined by experimental process through identification procedures [6]. In identification techniques the main idea is mainly to excite the system which is normally under consideration with known input force and then to measure this input-output force relation to be able to identify the unknown system properties [7]. The main obstacle associated with when working with identification techniques in rotor dynamics is the excitation of the rotating system structure during its cycle of operation as captured in [8]. This is the case at one side it is very difficult to gain access to the rotating rotor and on the other side to the force measurement of the system is very difficult to measure.

Frequency response functions can be measured when vibrational properties are assessed, these can well be described in terms of modal parameters that is its natural frequencies, mode shapes and the damping coefficient, which together makes up a modal description of the rotating structure[9].

II. Dynamic Characteristics Of Rotating Systems

Generally, considering the equation of multiple-degrees-of-freedom systems.

$$[M]\{\ddot{D}\} + [C]\{\dot{D}\} + [K]\{D\} = F \tag{1}$$

Where [D] = displacements vector for a problem of n degree of freedom donated by [Di], i =1, 2... n.; [F] = external forces vector; [M] = mass matrix; [C] = damping matrix; and [K] is the stiffness matrix.

Equation (1) represents the governing equation of a transient structural simulation. The right hand side of the equation is the external force [F] and the first item of the left hand side of the equation, is inertia force, is damping force, and is the elastic force[10].

When analyzing the free vibration of a body there is no involvement of the external force [F]. So, equation (1), becomes

$$[M]\{\ddot{D}\} + [C]\{\dot{D}\} + [K]\{D\} = 0 \tag{2}$$

The equation (2) is used for a problem having n degrees of freedom. Our model has six degrees of freedom; it has at most six solutions of the fundamental natural frequency (ω). In a model analysis, we are interested in the natural frequencies and the relative shapes of the vibration modes[10]. However, the damping effect can be neglected in the equation (2) which results in equation (3).

$$[M]\{\ddot{D}\} + [K]\{D\} = 0 \tag{3}$$

Equation (3) is used in during modal analysis system to solve for the natural frequency for rotor model used in rotating structures.

When using a stationery reference frame, the reference analysis system is attributed to the global coordinate system, which is a fixed. In such analysis the system, gyroscopic moments due to nodal rotations are included in the damping matrix.

Determining the physical M, D, K can always be done by calculation or by measurement. This procedure is refer as identification, precisely when the structure of the rotor dynamic model is known as stated in equation (1) From the measured input and output signal, the dynamic characteristic is calculated by means of known and output relation using time and or frequency domain

III. Frequency Response Functions

This process of measurement is to excite the rotor dynamic system by artificially or kinematic excitation, this ensures that the input and output signals are measured, and the process function are then used later during the parameters estimation[11].

Equation (4) and (5) shows out the main relationship that exists between the measuring compliance function that is the (force excitation) and the stiffness function also known as the kinematic excitation. The compliance $\bar{H}_{kl}(\omega)$ is described as the out $\hat{Z}_k(\omega)$ which is divided by the force of excitation $\hat{f}_l(\omega)$, in which all the other forces are considered as zero. Considering the other hand of the relation $\bar{K}_{kl}(\omega)$ is found from the force \hat{f}_k that will have to be applied to the sytem in which only the displacement $\hat{Z}_l(\omega)$ is deem to be present. This shows why it is easier to measure the compliance rather than the stiffness, so it is easier to apply only a single force and practically impossible to constrain all the system with one degree of freedom $\bar{H}(\omega)$ and $\bar{K}(\omega)$ which are usually nonsymmetrical matrices, due to the possible nonsymmetry in *K* and *D*.

$$\hat{Z}(\omega) = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{Z}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{Z}_k \\ \vdots \\ \hat{Z}_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{H}_{11} & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \dots & \bar{H}_{kl} & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \bar{H}_{N1} & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \hat{f}_l \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \bar{H}_{kl}(\omega) = \hat{Z}_k(\omega) / \hat{f}_l(\omega) \tag{4}$$

To calculate the amplitude of the compliance function $\bar{H}_{kl}(\omega)$, the system is excited by force amplitude \hat{f}_l only and the response \hat{Z}_k is measured. \bar{H}_{kl} can then be determined from the ratio \hat{Z}_k / \hat{f}_l .

$$\hat{f}(\omega) = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{f}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{f}_k \\ \vdots \\ \hat{f}_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{H}_{11} & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \dots & \bar{H}_{kl} & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \bar{H}_{N1} & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \hat{Z}_l \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \bar{K}_{kl}(\omega) = \hat{f}_k(\omega) / \hat{Z}_l(\omega) \tag{5}$$

In a similar situation, $\bar{K}_{kl}(\omega)$ is found by the ratio of \hat{f}_k/\hat{Z}_l when the system is deemed to be excited only by \hat{Z}_l , and the force \hat{f}_k is then measured.

Different kinds of devices developed for excitation have been carried out for the purpose of identification in recent times, either for the purpose of real machinery or for small test rigs. These include preloading of a shaft with a snap back, hammer impact method as well as unbalance excitation through a second shaft with different running speeds, shaking of the shaft through a rider and the use of active magnetic bearing.

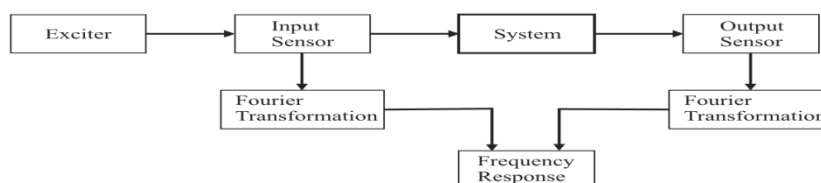


Fig. 1 Configuration to measure frequency response functions

IV. Analysis of Rotating Structure

A rotor which is driven by a 4KW alternating current motor (AC) through couplings in fig 2 shows the various AMBs (AMB1, AMB2) with their Position Sensors (PS) and Hall Effect Sensors connected in place, all this component eventually are linked to the main PC and is controlled by mathematic program MATLAB which allows detection of the mode shapes of the structure to be done.

The main membrane coupling which works like a cardiac joint allows the shaft ends to move in a radial and tilting displacement directions with a defined low stiffness.

Fig. 2 shows a photograph of the test rig configuration with a rigid disk mounted on a heavy concrete platform which has been decoupled from the environment with viscous dampers. The foundation of the rigid body modes of the test rig are all below 14Hz and this is far away from the first bending eigenfrequency of the rotor.

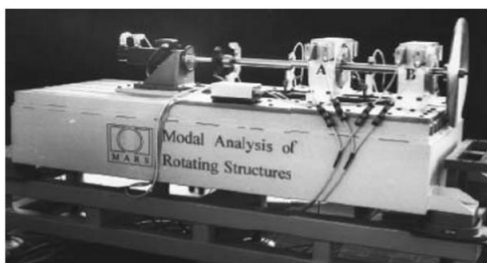


Fig. 2 Photograph of the test rig configuration.

V. Natural Frequencies And Mode Shapes Analysis

Natural frequencies and mode shapes are very important for predicting dynamic behaviors of rotor model. In determining this we start with the free-free system in Fig. 3 assuming the system are without bearings and the rotational are set to zero. The first three natural frequencies of the system without rigid modes with its corresponding values are indicated in Fig. 3 as 50Hz, 130Hz, and 355Hz which also indicates the positions of the actuators and sensors. This information was used for the evaluation of the observability and the controllability of the rotor system.

The calculated mode shapes and natural frequencies were used as reference points for the measurement for the rotor system during the experiment.

The experimental modal analysis was then performed for the free- free boundary conditions for the rotor system when the rotor speed was equal to zero. The calculated and measured natural frequencies were in good correlation as could be seen in fig. 3 of the first three natural frequencies of the free-free rotor system which confirms that the model was in good condition and can be used for further purpose. In reality, it is considered that the boundary conditions are not free as stated by [13,14]. Electromagnet forces are used to support the active magnetic bearing which is dependent on the control current in the windings and on the air gap which is has been discussed in [15]. The second case of the rotor system with bearing stiffness of kw was considered during the analysis which depended on the control parameters, for the operational point of the system. The stiffness kw was calculated and then used for the calculation of the natural frequencies of the elastically supported shaft.

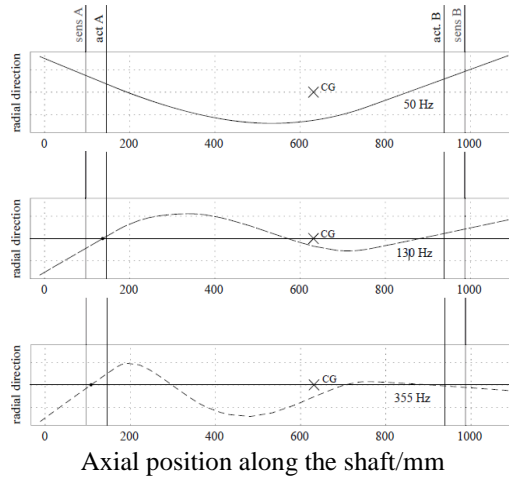


Fig. 3. The three first natural frequencies of the free-free rotor system

The bearing stiffness calculated for the active control model was $k = 1000\text{N/mm}$ for the controller with low implication band. The rotational speed was still assumed to be zero. The natural frequencies for this system which includes new modes were 33Hz, 57Hz, 66Hz, and 131Hz, which is indicated in Fig. 4, the resultant is the five natural frequencies compared to three in the previous case, and this is obviously due to the increase in the number for the model modes. Changes in bearing stiffness which occurs due to the control current stiffness parameter k was varied in a wide range during the analysis and it was obvious that by increasing bearing stiffness k , the natural frequencies to 50Hz, 130Hz and 355Hz as shown in Fig. 3 compared to the original 0 frequency of the rigid mode shape which became 33Hz and 57Hz, with its mode shapes shown in Fig. 4.

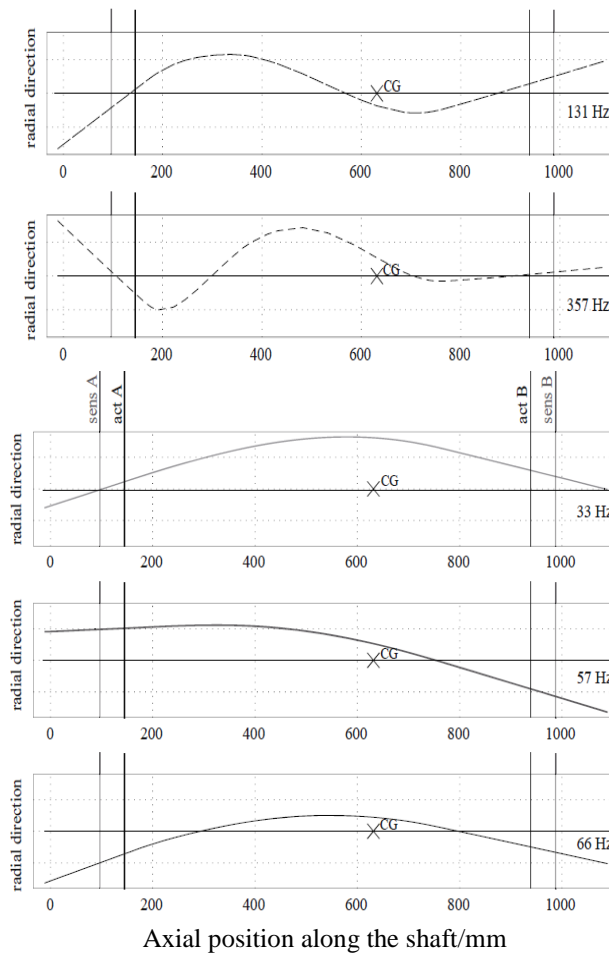


Fig 4. The five natural frequencies of the rotor system with bearing stiffness

The new mode shape are now characterized by rigid motion which are superimposed by additional bending. The natural frequencies were 66Hz (50Hz), 131Hz (130Hz) and 357(355Hz).

It could be observed that higher modes actually do not changes much with increasing bearing stiffness.

Increasing the bearing stiffness will further results in the natural frequencies also becoming higher with its changing modes, finally when the bearing stiffness are very high, the mode shapes are also been characterized by zero displacement at the bending locations which corresponds to the clamp boundary conditions.

VI. Rotor Excitation With Active Magnetic Bearing

Fig. 5 describes a schematic diagram of an AMB exciter system. In this system, a position control is needed to levitate the rotor along with the magnetic bearings a digital process (DSP) is made to run the control program with a sampling time of 440μs. It was also used to compute the force from the measured flux and its position signals.

A force and a position signal are acquired on the DSP. A digital link which interface between the DSP and the general mathematics program MATLAB is made to run on a personal computer. In this process the force and the displacement signals are made available in the analog which is then processed together with the signal from the additional sensors.

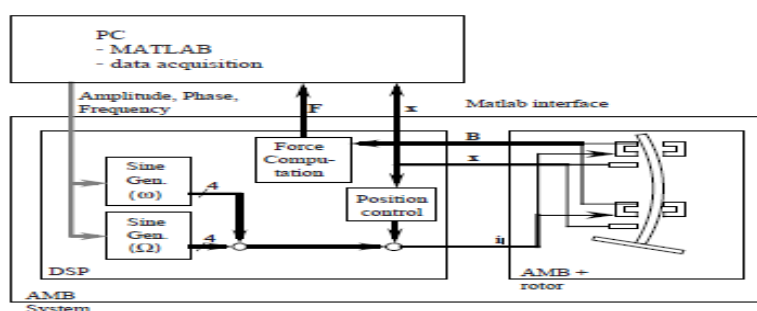


Fig. 5 Schematic of AMB Exciter System.

During the excitation process two sinewave generator are implemented on the DSP one of them is synchronized to the rotors revolution speed, while the other is used as a user identifier. Each of the sinewaves generator consists of a four output signals which are then connected to the four control currents of the x and y directions of the two bearings.

The amplitude and the relative phases of each output are then defined through MATLAB, exciting the rotating system structure artificially during its period of operation and then measuring the system excitation and then this measured input and output signal are then calculated by means of existing known input and output relationship in the frequency and time domain.

Which is based on this model of input-output functions as well as impulse response functions (time domain) or frequency response function, frequency domain can now be a calculated, as the system parameters are now assumed, these functions are also determined from the measured input and output signal using the signal processors.

VII. Conclusion

Modal analysis of the rotating structure has been performed for the free- free boundary conditions for the rotor system. The calculated and measured natural frequencies were in good correlation as could be seen in Fig. 3 of the first three natural frequencies of the free-free rotor system.

The second case of the rotor system with bearing stiffness of k_{was} considered during the analysis which depended on the control parameters, for the operational point of the system. The stiffness k_{was} calculated and then used for the calculation of the natural frequencies of the elastically supported shaft.

The bearing stiffness calculated for the active control model was $k = 1000N/mm$ for the controller with low implication band as the rotational speed was still assumed to be zero. The natural frequencies for the new system which included new modes were 33Hz, 57Hz, 66Hz, and 131Hz are indicated in fig. 4, the resultant is the five natural frequencies modes shapes indicated in $F_{sig.4}$, as compared to the three modes shapes as shown previously in (fig.3), the effect in changes of rapid modes is as a result in the increase in the number for the frequency modes.

Changes in bearing stiffness which occurs due to the control current stiffness parameter k was varied in a wide range during the analysis and it was obvious that by increasing bearing stiffness k resulted in the natural

frequencies to increase to 50Hz, 130Hz and 355Hz as shown in (fig.3), compared to the original 0 frequency of the rigid mode shape which became 33Hz and 57Hz, with its mode shapes shown in (fig.4).

The new mode shape which were characterized by rigid motion are was superimposed by additional bending of natural frequencies of 66Hz (50Hz), 131Hz (130Hz) and 357(355Hz).

It could be observed that higher modes shape actually do not change much with increasing bearing stiffness.

Increasing the bearing stiffness will further result in the natural frequencies also becoming higher with its changing modes as the bearing stiffness becomes very high resulting in the mode shapes are also been characterized by zero displacement at the bending locations which corresponds to the clamp boundary conditions.

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