

MATHEMATICAL MODELING OF OPTIMAL PASSIVE CONTROL
OF ROTOR HEAD VIBRATIONS

J. Janković

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Abstract

The procedure of synthesis of complete dynamic model of helicopter structure including rotor head and corresponding passive controller in a first part of the paper is presented. At the end of this part of the paper the nonreduced form of the dynamics of mentioned system in a decoupled form on a two subvector of system generalised coordinates is presented. The first one is a subvector of generalised coordinates corresponding to a non-connected nodes of elastic displacements to a rotor head as a superelement of the helicopter structure. The second subvector consists of generalised coordinates of elastic structure displacements corresponding to a nodes which are connected with rotor head and passive controller together. The corresponding structural viscous damping of elastic connections between rotor head and helicopter structure and between rotor head and its passive controller are included in the model also. A procedure of synthesis representing dynamic model of the system which consists of equivalent transformed generalised coordinates of the mentioned second system subvector is presented in the second part of the paper.

The numerical results of synthesis optimal absorber of rotor head vibrations depending on its viscous structural damping is presented in a last part of the paper. Equivalent absorber effectiveness is defined as a amplitude ratio between amplitudes with and without absorber. Absorber effectiveness depending on generalised factor of viscous structural damping of absorber beam and viscous structural damping of rotor head connections to the helicopter structure is presented on the diagram.

Introduction

Helicopter structural vibrations are caused by the rotor oscillating resultant force which acts in vertical direction. This vibrations can be compensated on a several ways. One of them is to built a resonator mass on a rotor head. In this paper is not discussed which of the possible methods of compensation structural vibrations is the most effective. The procedure and corresponding numerical method for absorber synthesis is presented in the paper only.

Absorber is one of the possible passive controllers for compensation helicopter

structural vibrations. General performances of passive control systems are not of high qualities as they are in a cases of active control systems of vibrations. In this paper a original powerful technics for numerical synthesis of system absorber is presented. This procedure is based on a given results of several calculated examples of numerical absorber synthesis.

Complete investigations presented in this paper are based on a linear theory for the case of small elastic displacements of whole helicopter structure including absorber. Any nonlinear effects in this paper are not threatened.

Nondimensional factors and parameters

Total mass of helicopter fuselage, mass of rotor with gear-box and frequency of rotors blade rotation are the input constants for numerical simulation of the absorber synthesis problem.

Total absorber mass is given in a form

$$M_a = K_a \frac{\mu^2}{\Omega^2} \quad (1)$$

where K_a is a equivalent vertical translation stiffness, Ω is the frequency of the resultant rotor lift force and μ is a nondimensional factor of absorber synchronisation.

Factor of viscous damping is defined in a following form

$$\delta_a = \theta_a \sqrt{M_a K_a} \quad (2)$$

where θ_a is a nondimensional parameter of absorber damping.

Factor of viscous damping of structure of rotor and transmission arm to the helicopter structure is given in a form

$$\delta_o = \theta_o \sqrt{M_r K_o} \quad (3)$$

where θ_o is a nondimensional parameter of damping, M_r is a total mass of rotor and transmission together and K_o is equivalent stiffness of transmission arm.

The measure of viscous damping of absorber beam is equal

$$\lambda = \frac{\theta_a}{\mu} \Omega \quad (4)$$

The measure of reduced frequency of absorber can be defined in a form

$$\omega_{red} = \frac{\sqrt{1 - \theta_a^2}}{\mu} \quad (5)$$

The next parameter of interest can be presented as a ratio between equivalent stiffnesses in a form

$$\beta = \frac{K_a}{K_0} \quad (6)$$

This parameter defines the effectiveness of absorber just because of its influence on a total mass of a absorber.

Mathematical modeling of system dynamics with absorber

In a paper [1] mathematical model of absorber is simplified as model of translation two rigid bodies corresponding to the helicopter fuselage and rotor with gear-box, connected to a third one as a absorber, including viscous damping between them. In a practise this approximation is not so usable because the real system is too complicated.

In this paper is presented the method of synthesis of complete finite element model of the system dynamics. Evaluated mathematical model is used for numerical calculations of system amplitudes. On the given diagrams numerical results of amplitudes calculations for the various hypothetical examples are presented. It must be noted that the given model of system dynamics is cleaned of any parameter which is not so effective on a system dynamics.

The system is described as a system of three bodies multiply connected with elastic and viscous damped connections under the action of frequent external forces and moments. Complete dynamic model of helicopter structure together with absorber can be described by using finite element method. It is a system of five super-elements corresponding to the fuselage, gear-box arm, reduction gear-box and rotor together, elastic beam of absorber and absorber only. Each of the vectors of generalised displacement coordinates for corresponding super-elements consists of two subvectors. First one is a subvector of generalised coordinates of elastic displacements corresponding to the internal nodes. The second one is a subvector of generalised coordinates of elastic displacements of coupling nodes between connected super-elements. Mentioned subvector can be written in a following vector form:

- $X_f = \{X_f^i, X_f^c\}^T$ - subvector of generalised coordinates of elastic displacements of fuselage;
- $X_{agb} = \{X_f^c, X_{agb}^i, X_{rf}^c\}^T$ - subvector of generalised coordinates of elastic displacements of gear-box arm
- $X_r = \{X_{rf}^c, X_r^i, X_{rb}^c\}^T$ - subvector of generalised coordinates of elastic displacements of reductor gear-box together with rotor;
- $X_{aab} = \{X_{rb}^c, X_{aab}^i, X_{ab}^c\}^T$ - subvector of generalised coordinates of elastic displacements of absorber

rubber elastic beam;

$X_{ab} = \{X_{ab}^c, X_{ab}^i\}^T$ - subvector of generalised coordinates of elastic displacements of absorber.

Complete vector of system elastic displacements can be written in a subvector form as

$$X = \{X_f^i, X_f^c, X_{agb}^i, X_{rf}^c, X_r^i, X_{rb}^c, X_{aab}^i, X_{ab}^c, X_{ab}^i\}^T \quad (7)$$

- X_f^i - subvector of internal fuselage generalised coordinates;
- X_f^c - subvector of coupling generalised coordinates between fuselage and arm of reduction gear-box;
- X_{agb}^i - subvector of internal arm generalised coordinates;
- X_{rf}^c - subvector of coupling generalised coordinates between reduction gear-box and its arm;
- X_r^i - subvector of internal generalised coordinates of reduction gear-box and rotor together;
- X_{rb}^c - subvector of coupling generalised coordinates between reduction gear-box and absorber beam;
- X_{aab}^i - subvector of internal generalised coordinates of absorber beam;
- X_{ab}^c - subvector of coupling generalised coordinates between absorber and its beam;
- X_{ab}^i - subvector of internal generalised coordinates of absorber only.

Mathematical model of system dynamics can be presented in a next matrix form

$$M\ddot{X} + 2D\dot{X} + KX = \bar{F} \quad (8)$$

where are M - matrix of generalised masses, D - matrix of generalised dampings and K - matrix of generalised stiffness. \bar{F} is a generalised vector of external forces. The map of these system matrices of zero (0) and nonzero (X) coefficients can be presented in the following submatrix form

$$M, D, K \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x & x & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x & x & x & x & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & x & x & x & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & x & x & x & x & x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & x & x & x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & x & x & x & x & x & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x & x & x & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x & x & x & x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x & x \end{bmatrix}$$

First six subvectors (including subvector X_{rb}^c as a last one) in a given series written by relation (7), defines the state of the system without absorber. Given form of the system matrices M, D and K is a complete one including all generalised coordinates of interest. The next questions may be of interest to us as:

- what are the possibilities of dynamic

reducing the complete dynamic model of the system by using method of superelements?

- what are the usable approximations of the complete system which makes simplification in procedure of absorber synthesis?

The answer on a first question can be positive if exists next assumptions:

- the eigenvalue domain of the system dynamics without absorber must be well separated of the corresponding eigenvalue domain of the additional absorber system. This assumption guarantees that there are no resonance effects caused by the external periodic rotor lift forces;

- the corresponding eigen values for the each substructure component as a decoupled dynamic system must be also well separated in the seam meaning as it is given before. In that case the procedure of system reduction will be so effective. Complete procedure of reducing for this case will be presented in the following part of the paper.

The second question needs a numerical analysis of the full problem. As we can see on a given diagrams, the following conclusions can be derived:

- influence of generalised structural viscous damping of the system without absorber on a system motion is too less than the influence of generalised damping of absorber (the main roll acts the generalised structural damping of the absorber elastic beam). It means that this system damping without absorber can be neglected in a procedure of absorber synthesis;

- generalised masses of absorber elastic beam can be also neglected. The total absorber mass is equal approximately ten percents of total mass of reduction gearbox and rotor together. The effects which can be given are about ten times less amplitude of fuselage elastic displacements.

Procedure of system reduction

Complete dynamic model of the system without absorber consists of six subvectors of generalised coordinates. It can be reduced on a three subvectors only. Second subvector of the fuselage dynamic and coupling subvector between reductor gear-box and its arm and between reductor gear box and elastic absorber beam makes the vector of reduced system state without absorber. As it is shown in a paper [2] we can assume the following linear combinations in a matrix form between system coordinates

$$X_{h2} = -Q \cdot X_{h1} \quad (9)$$

where are

$$X_{h1} = \{X_f^c, X_{rf}^c, X_{rb}^c\}^T \text{ and } X_{h2} = \{X_r^i, X_{ag}^i, X_r^i\}^T \quad (10)$$

Transformation matrix Q of system generalised coordinates can be derived from the corresponding matrix algebraic Riccati equation [2]. It means that reduced sys-

tem is partly rigid body. Its state is defined by the eigen-vector of the reduced system which is determined by using transformation matrix of generalised coordinates Q.

Consider hypothetical dynamic system in a differential matrix form

$$M\ddot{X}_h + 2D\dot{X}_h + KX_h = F_h \quad (11)$$

If we introduce the change of coordinates in a form

$$\dot{X}_h = Y_h \quad (12)$$

we gives the system in a first order form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{Y}_h \\ \dot{X}_h \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2M^{-1}D & -M^{-1}K \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Y_h \\ X_h \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} M^{-1}F_h \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

This system can be reduced at first step on a next form

$$\dot{Y}_h = (-2M^{-1}D + M^{-1}KL)Y_h + M^{-1}F_h \quad (14)$$

where is

$$X_h = -L \cdot Y_h \quad (15)$$

Matrix L is a solution of the next matrix algebraic Ricatti equation

$$KL - 2D + ML^{-1} = 0 \quad (16)$$

The next step is to used the same procedure for reducing the system given in form (14). We can transform coordinates of subvector Y_h in a form

$$Y_{h2} = -M \cdot Y_{h1} \quad (17)$$

where M is a solution of corresponding matrix algebraic Ricatti equation of the system (14). Linear combinations between initial generalised coordinates of the system (11) is given in a matrix form presented by relation (9). Transformation matrix Q is given in a form

$$Q = -(L_{22}^M - L_{21}) \cdot (L_{12}^M - L_{11})^{-1} \quad (18)$$

where matrices L_{11}, \dots, L_{22} are the submatrices of the matrix L.

Numerical results of system dynamics simulation

On the following diagrams in this paper the numerical results of system amplitudes ratio for the amplitude input with constant frequency are shown.

Presented results are given for the cases of variation of synchronisation parameter and parameters of viscous structural damping of reductor arm and absorber beam. Mentioned parameters where defined before.

Presented numerical results are given for hypothetical example with the following values of system parameters:

- total mass of reductor gear-box with rotor : $M_r = 700 \text{ kg}$
 - total mass of helicopter fuselage : $M_f = 5700 \text{ kg}$
 - equivalent vertical stiffness of reductor arm : $K_c = 3 \cdot 10^7 \text{ N/m}$
 - equivalent vertical stiffness of absorber beam : $K_a = 1 \cdot 10^6 \text{ N/m}$
 - frequency of input force: $\Omega = 100 \text{ s}^{-1}$
- Equivalent vertical stiffness is calculated for the assumed hypothetical example.

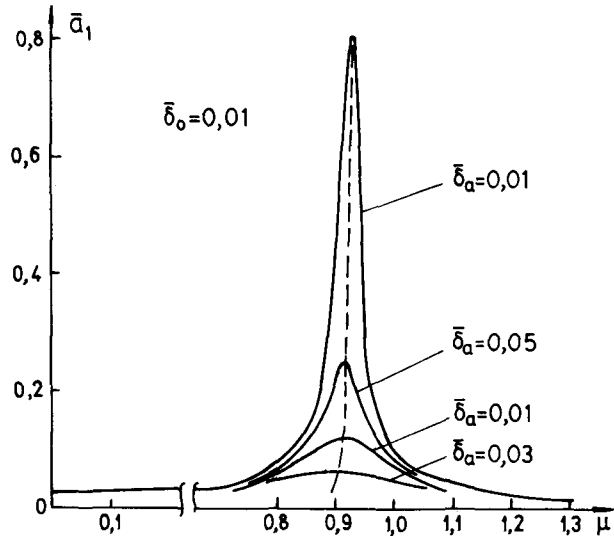


Fig. 1

On a diagrams (Fig. 1 and 2) the curves of absorber amplitude ratio output in a vertical direction depending on a value of synchronisation parameter for various values of viscous damping parameter of reductor arm and absorber beam are presented. The sensitivity of the amplitude ratio gain is too higher for the variations of viscous damping parameter of absorber beam than reductor arm. This results shows that we can neglect the influence of structural viscous damping in a problem of absorber synthesis.

We can see also that the maximum amplitude ratio does not correspond to the theoretical value of synchronisation parameter (equal 1). The curve which connects the points of maximum amplitude ratio is a little bit on the left side. For the higher values of the viscous structural damping parameter of absorber beam this curve decreased to a smaller value of synchronisation parameter (in example the value of synchronisation parameter tends to 0,9). This conclusion gives the possibilities to reduce the amplitudes ratio of absorber displacements assuming the values of synchronisation parameter greater than the corresponding one for its maximum ratio without any losses in absorber effects.

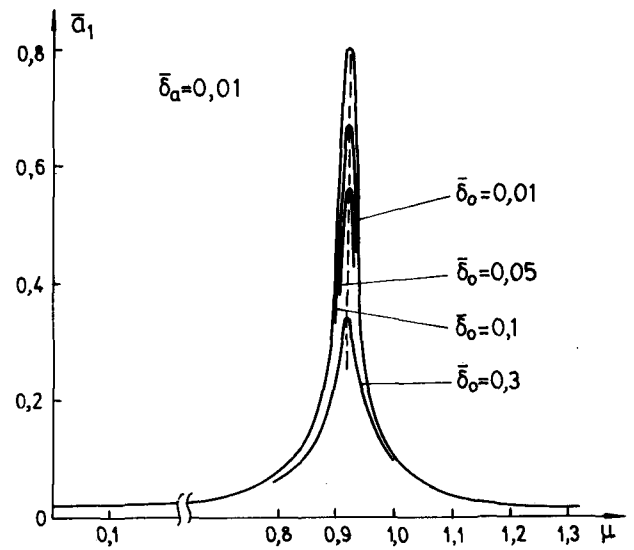


Fig. 2

On a diagrams (Fig. 3 and 4) the curves of rotor head amplitude output in vertical direction are presented.

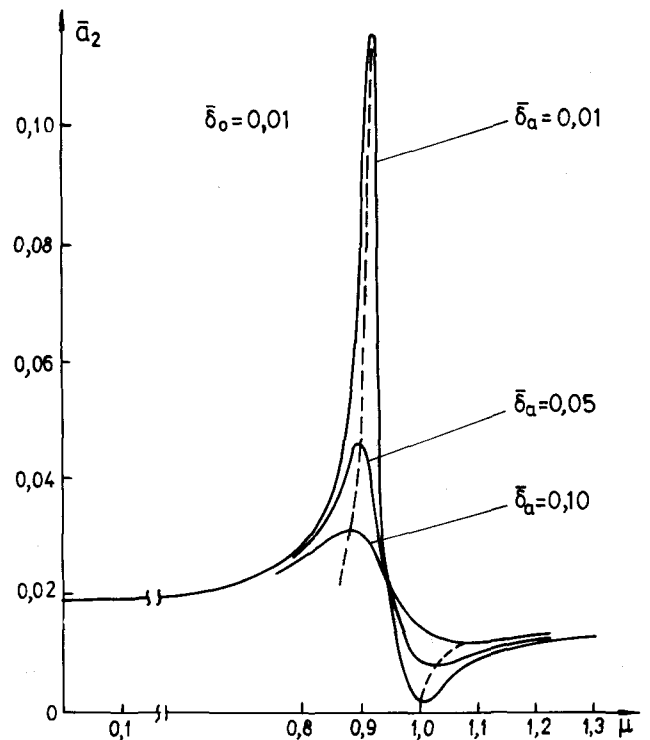


Fig. 3

On a diagrams (Fig. 3) are presented curves depending on viscous damping parameter of absorber beam. Sensitivity of absorber absorption effectiveness depending on viscous damping parameter is very high. On a diagrams (Fig. 4) it is shown that the sensitivity of absorption effectiveness depending on viscous damping parameter of reductor arm is very low, specially in a

domain around value of synchronisation parameter equal 1. This fact shows that the influence of viscous damping of reductor arm is practically negligible. The most effective absorption corresponds to the value of synchronisation parameter equal 1.

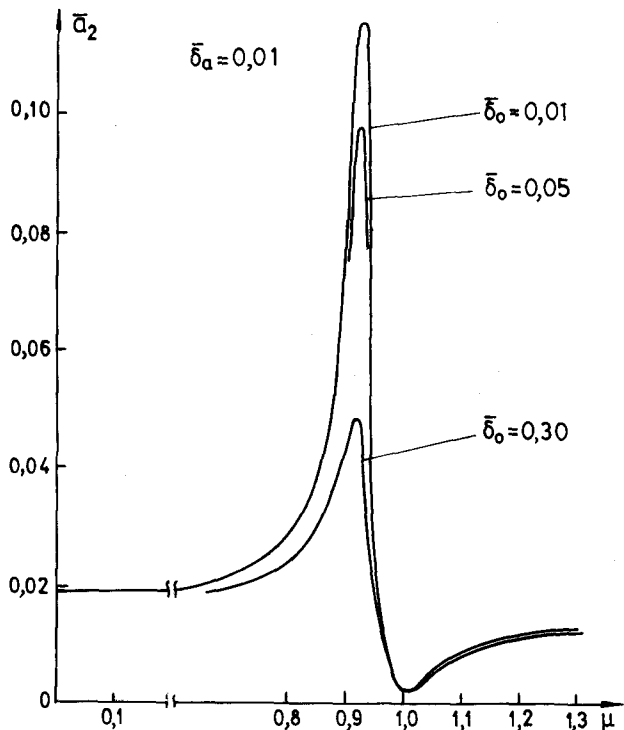


Fig. 4

On a diagrams (Fig. 5 and 6) the curves of fuselage amplitude output ratio in a vertical direction are presented. Effects of system vibrations absorption are too much better for a lower values of viscous damping parameter of absorber beam. The influence of viscous structural damping of reductor arm can be neglected in a practical calculations. Maximum effect of vibrations absorption corresponds to a value of synchronisation parameter equal 1. Total effects are not too bad for the values of synchronisation parameter between 1,0 and 1,05. In a presented example the amplitude ratio is about ten times less than the corresponding value for the system without absorber.

The very bad effect is a high degree of system sensitivity on viscous damping parameter of absorber.

On a diagrams (Fig. 7 and 8) the numerical results of simulation of some other hypothetical examples of absorber synthesis are presented. The corresponding curves of amplitude system output ratio can be very different than the usual ones, derived in the first example on a diagrams (Fig. 1 up to Fig. 6). Curves number 1 and 3 are the usual ones, but the curves number 2, 4 and 4' are so different than the first ones (curves 4 and 4' are for the same example).

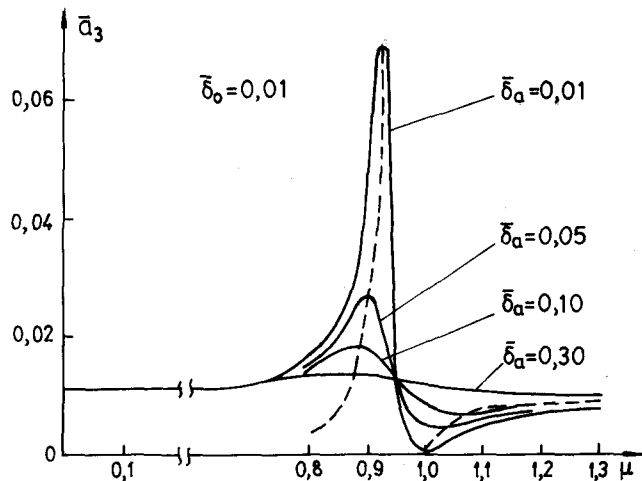


Fig. 5

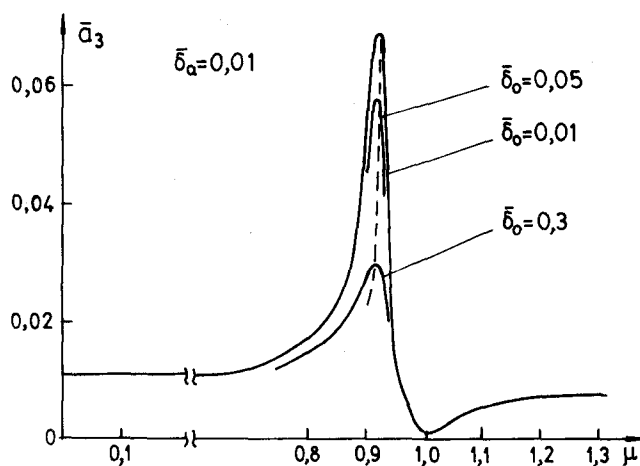


Fig. 6

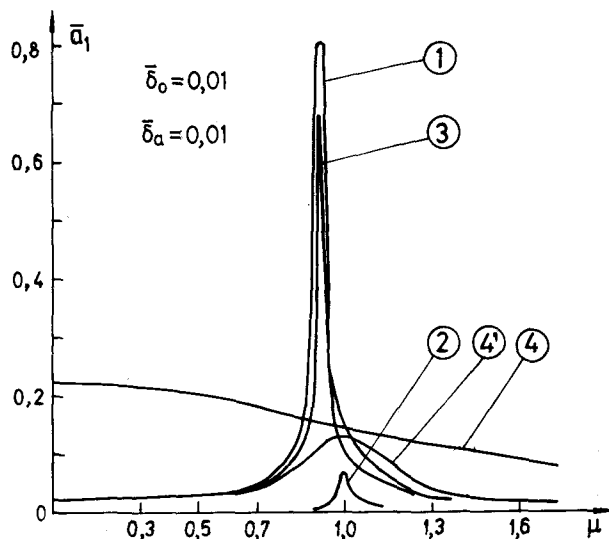


Fig. 7.

The main reason of these effects is a high degree of viscous damping in these cases. Total value of viscous damping coefficients can be derived by multiplication viscous damping parameter of absorber beam with equivalent helicopter structure stiffness. In this cases equivalent structure stiffness is greater than for the first two cases. The same effects we gives for the high values of viscous damping parameter of absorber beam. It is shown on a diagrams (Fig. 5) (curve for $\bar{\delta}_a = 0,3$). These effects acts when the curves of the maximum and minimum amplitude ratio are too separated.

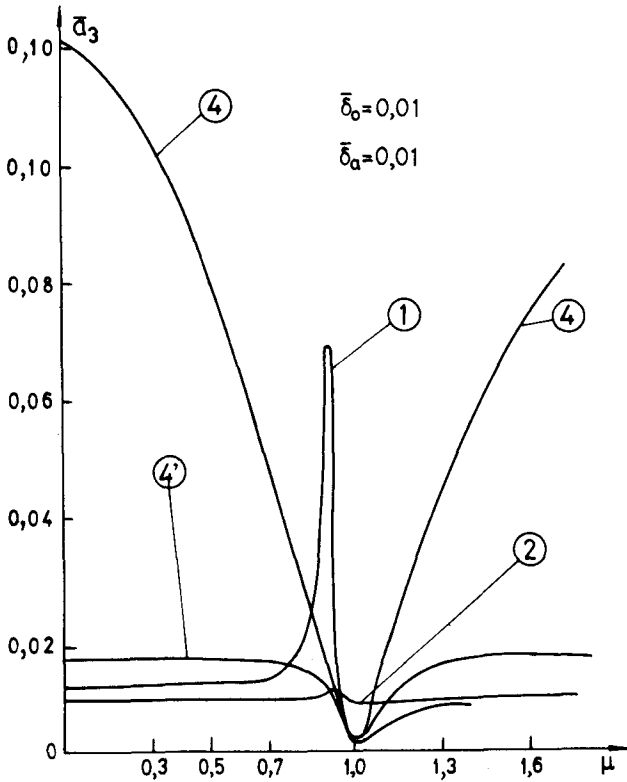


Fig. 8

Reduced mathematical model of the system dynamics with absorber

Dynamic model of the absorber together with its elastic beam can be reduced by using following approximation:

$$X_{a2} = T \cdot X_{a1} \quad (19)$$

where are

$$X_{a1} = \{X_{rb}^c, X_{ab}^c\}^T; \quad X_{a2} = \{X_{aab}^i, X_{ab}^i\}^T \quad (20)$$

Procedure of its reducing and determination of transformation matrix T is presented in a part of this paper before (like for the matrix Q).

Before system reducing it is convenient to neglect submatrix corresponding to a viscous structural damping of the system components except absorber beam. In

that case dynamic model of the system without absorber can be described approximately in a form:

$$M_h \ddot{X}_h + K_h X_h = F_h; \quad X_h = \{X_{h1}, X_{h2}\}^T \quad (21)$$

After transformation of generalised coordinates in a form (9) we gives the reduced system in a form

$$M'_h \ddot{X}_{h1} + K'_h X_{h1} = F'_h \quad (22)$$

where are

$$\begin{aligned} M'_h &= M_{h11} + M_{h12} \cdot Q \\ K'_h &= K_{h11} + K_{h12} \cdot Q \\ F'_h &= F_{h1} \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Dynamic model of absorber with elastic beam together can be written in a following matrix form

$$M_a \ddot{X}_a + 2D_a \dot{X}_a + K_a X_a = 0 \quad (24)$$

where are

$$X_a = \{X_{a1}, X_{a2}\}^T$$

After transformation (19) of generalised coordinates we gives the reduced form of the system (24) in a form

$$M'_a \ddot{X}_{a1} + 2D'_a \dot{X}_{a1} + K'_a X_{a1} = 0 \quad (25)$$

where are

$$\begin{aligned} M'_a &= M_{a11} + M_{a12} \cdot T \\ D'_a &= D_{a11} + D_{a12} \cdot T \\ K'_a &= K_{a11} + K_{a12} \cdot T \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Finally, the complete reduced form of the system dynamic model can be written in a matrix form

$$M'_h \ddot{X}_{h1} + K'_h X_{h1} = F'_h \quad (27)$$

$$M'_a \ddot{X}_{a1} + 2D'_a \dot{X}_{a1} + K'_a X_{a1} = 0$$

or in integral form

$$M \ddot{X} + 2D \dot{X} + K X = F \quad (28)$$

where is

$$X = \{X_{rf}^c, X_{rf}^c, X_{rb}^c, X_{ab}^c\}^T \quad (29)$$

Structure of the system matrix coefficients can be mapped in a form

$$M, D, K \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x & x & x & 0 \\ x & x & x & 0 \\ x & x & x & x \\ 0 & 0 & x & x \end{bmatrix}$$

Conclusion

Numerical results of calculation of system amplitudes ratio shows that the

limit value of parameter β must be less than 0,05. In the case that parameter β is up to 0,1 the effectiveness of absorber is not too high. If the parameter β is less than 0,01 the absorber effectiveness will be very bad. Optimal results are given for the case in which parameter β is equal 0,03. This value of β gives the value of ratio between absorber and total rotor head mass equal 0,10 + 0,14. In this case the resonant character of absorber dynamics is very clear and the procedure of its numerical calculation is very stable. In other cases calculations are very sensitive to a value of factor of absorber viscous damping. These effects are shown on a presented diagrams.

References

- 1) S.P. King
"The westland rotor head vibration absorber design principles and operational experience",
Vertica, Vol.11, No. 3, 1987.
- 2) J. Janković
"Reduced nonlinear flight dynamic model of elastic structure aircraft",
Proceeding of ICAS, Vol.2, 1982.