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ELASTO-DYNAMIC MODEL OF ROBOTIC MILLING PROCESS CONSIDERING INTERACTION BETWEEN TOOL AND WORKPIECE

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Robot elasto-dynamic model, cutting force model, vibratory analysis, milling.

ABSTRACT

In this paper, a reduced elasto-dynamic model of the robotic based milling process is presented. In contrast to previous works, it takes into account the interaction between the milling tool and the workpiece that depends on the end-effector position, process parameters and cutting conditions (spindle rotation, feed rate, geometry of the tool, etc.). To reduce the dimension of the problem, the robot dynamics is described as an equivalent mass-spring-damper system with six dimensions. This approach, based on the Rayleigh-Ritz approximation, aims at decreasing computational cost and at avoiding inaccuracy due to ill-conditioning in the full size model. To achieve a realistic modelling of the milling process, the machining efforts due to the interaction between robot, tool and working material are introduced into the robot model and calculated at each time instant. Using this global model that integrates the robot dynamics and the milling process particularities, it is possible to obtain the movement of the robot end-effector and corresponding quality of the final product (profile, macro and micro geometry, roughness, etc.). In addition, this model allows selecting the best process parameters and avoiding the vibratory behavior of this machining system which can dramatically affect the milling quality.

The developed model is applied to the behavior analysis of KUKA KR240 robot used for milling of an aluminum workpiece for automobile industry. This allows finding acceptable range for robot motion profile parameters.

1. INTRODUCTION

Parallel robots have increasingly been used in industry in the last few years, mainly for pick-and-place applications or high-speed machining [1], [2]. This interest is due to their main properties, i.e. their higher rigidity and dynamic capacities compared with their serial manipulator counterparts.

Having a good knowledge of the elasto-dynamic behavior of a manipulator plus its interactions is a crucial point. In this sense, accurate elasto-dynamic models are necessary at both the control stage [3]–[5] and design stage [6]–[8], in order to optimize the geometry, as well as the shape of the elements of the manipulator. This will lead to the creation of a mechanism in which vibrations will be minimized.

Several elasto-dynamic models have been proposed and used in the literature. Three main general methods can be distinguished:

- Finite element analysis (FEA); the FEA method is proved to be the most accurate and reliable, since the links/joints are modeled with its true dimension and shape [7], [9]–[12], but is highly time-consuming. This method is usually applied at the final design stage for the verification and component dimensioning.
- Matrix structural analysis (MSA) method is a common technique in mechanical engineering [13], [14]; it incorporates the main ideas of the FEA but operates with rather large flexible elements (beams, arcs, cables, etc.). This obviously yields reduction of the computational expense and, in some cases, allows analytical stiffness matrix to be obtained. However, this method can only be applied to links with simple shapes and requires improved skills in FEA.
- Virtual joint methods (VJM) [8], [15], which is also referred to as “lumped modeling”, is based on the expansion of the traditional rigid model by adding virtual joints (localized springs), which describe the elastic deformations of the manipulator components (links, joints and actuators).

Generally, lumped modeling is simpler to use than MSA and provides acceptable accuracy in reduced computational time. The main limitations of these models are:

- Because of the large number of elements they use, they are still highly time-consuming and can lead to few accurate results because of the problem dimension;
- They do not incorporate accurate modeling of the robot interactions, especially regarding the milling process.

The purpose of this paper is to propose a reduced elasto-dynamic modeling approach on parallel robots, based on VJM, combined with an accurate modeling of the milling process efforts. This approach is validated on a KUKA KR240 robot used for milling of an aluminum workpiece for automobile industry.

2. REDUCED ELASTO-DYNAMIC MODELING OF ROBOTS

2.1 Problem Statement

Let us consider a general robot made of n elements and m actuators. Considering that the robot is in an equilibrium position, its elastic potential energy is given by [9] $V_e = 1/2 \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{K}_{tot} \mathbf{q}$, where \mathbf{K}_{tot} is the global stiffness matrix of size $p \times p$, p being the number of elastic coordinates taken into account, and \mathbf{q} the vector of elastic generalized coordinates. The robot kinetic energy is given by $T = 1/2 \dot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{M}_{tot} \dot{\mathbf{q}}$, where \mathbf{M}_{tot} is the global mass matrix of size $p \times p$. Starting from these definitions, and considering that external forces \mathbf{F} are applied, it can be demonstrated that the system is governed by the relation [9], [15]:

$$\mathbf{M}_{tot} \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{K}_{tot} \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{F} \quad (1)$$

Solving this problem involves finding the p generalized of the problem and also inverting the $p \times p$ matrix \mathbf{M}_{tot} , which is highly time-consuming and can lead to few accurate results because of the problem dimension. In order to avoid such kind of drawbacks [16] has recently proposed a new procedure to compute the deformations of the robot when a force is applied at the end-effector. This procedure computes a stiffness (and also compliance) matrix \mathbf{K}_r (and \mathbf{S}_r , resp.) of dimension six that represents the behavior of the robot in terms of deformations. Moreover, during the procedure, only inversions of 6 dimensional matrices are involved, which considerably reduces computational time and avoids accuracy problems due to ill-conditioning of the large global stiffness matrix. Thus, the global p dimensional problem defined with respect to all variables \mathbf{q} has been reduced to a 6 dimensional problem defined with respect to platform deflections $\delta \mathbf{t}$ only. As a result, the entire robot can locally be seen as a virtual spring of dimension six that deforms when applying a wrench on the end-effector.

Starting from these considerations, it would be interesting to reduce the dimension of the problem by expressing equation (1) as a function of the reduced stiffness matrix \mathbf{K}_r , of the platform deflections $\delta \mathbf{t}$ and, also, as a function of a reduced

mass matrix that will be denoted as \mathbf{M}_r , which could represent the global behavior of the robot in terms of natural frequencies. The first section of the paper will be focused on this problem.

2.2 Computation of the Robot Natural Frequencies – Rayleigh-Ritz Approximation

Considering the robot with free oscillations, equation (1) becomes $\mathbf{M}_{tot} \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{K}_{tot} \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{0}$. A solution \mathbf{q}_l of this equation can be found by solving the system:

$$(\omega_l^2 \mathbf{M}_{tot} - \mathbf{K}_{tot}) \mathbf{q}_l = \mathbf{0}, \text{ with } \omega_l = 2\pi f_l \quad (2)$$

where \mathbf{q}_l represents the vectors of the shape of free vibrations of the system for the l -th natural mode, f_l and ω_l are their corresponding natural frequency and pulsation, respectively.

If the matrix $\omega_l^2 \mathbf{M}_{tot} - \mathbf{K}_{tot}$ is singular (which is always the case when ω_l is one of the modal pulsation of the robot), \mathbf{q}_l becomes non-null and is the eigenvector corresponding to the pulsation ω_l . There is an infinity of vectors \mathbf{q}_l validating (2) (for a given ω_l), but all are proportional to the others. Vector \mathbf{q}_l is not necessarily dependent of time, but almost represents the amplitude of the vibrations. Therefore, when *only* the l -th mode of the system is excited, the displacements of all springs may be written under the form:

$$\mathbf{q}_l^* = \mathbf{q}_l \sin(\omega_l t + \varphi_l) \quad (3)$$

where φ_l is a phase difference corresponding to the mode l . When all modes are excited, the displacement \mathbf{q} of all spring centers may be written in the form:

$$\mathbf{q} = \sum_{l=1}^p \mathbf{q}_l^* = \sum_{l=1}^p \mathbf{q}_l \sin(\omega_l t + \varphi_l) \quad (4)$$

The most common way to find the values of the pulsation ω_l is to solve the eigenvalue problem

$$\det(\omega_l^2 \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{M}_{tot}^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{tot}) = 0 \quad (5)$$

where \mathbf{I} is an identity matrix of dimension p .

Another way to find the natural pulsation ω_l of the mode l would be to know the exact amplitude Φ_l of the displacements \mathbf{q}_l for this mode. For the natural mode l , the potential and kinetic energies of the system are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} V_e &= 1/2 \mathbf{q}_l^{*T} \mathbf{K}_{tot} \mathbf{q}_l^* = 1/2 \mathbf{q}_l^T \mathbf{K}_{tot} \mathbf{q}_l \sin^2(\omega_l t + \varphi_l) \\ T &= 1/2 \dot{\mathbf{q}}_l^{*T} \mathbf{M}_{tot} \dot{\mathbf{q}}_l^* = 1/2 \omega_l^2 \mathbf{q}_l^T \mathbf{M}_{tot} \mathbf{q}_l \cos^2(\omega_l t + \varphi_l) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

From the principle of energy conservation, it follows that

$$\max(V_e) - \max(T) = 0, \text{ i.e. } \mathbf{q}_l^T (\omega_l^2 \mathbf{M}_{tot} - \mathbf{K}_{tot}) \mathbf{q}_l = 0 \quad (7)$$

It is obvious that the exact knowledge of the amplitude \mathbf{q}_l is an impossible task without a direct measure on the system of all the displacements of the robot nodes. However, this vector may be approximated by another denoted as $\hat{\mathbf{q}}_l$ that is close to the exact amplitude \mathbf{q}_l . Introducing this approximated vector $\hat{\mathbf{q}}_l$ into (7) will allow us to find a corresponding value of $\hat{\omega}_l$ and, as a result, \hat{f}_l which is the approximated natural frequency of

the system. Such kind of elasto-dynamic problem resolution is called the Rayleigh-Ritz method [17].

The better the approximation, the more accurate the value of $\hat{\omega}_l$. The designer's skills in terms of understanding and analysis of robot physical behavior here are of the utmost importance. In this sense, let us recall that the first natural frequencies are associated with the highest level of energy due to vibrations, and represent the highest displacements of the structure.

Using the Rayleigh-Ritz approximation in order to compute the first natural frequencies, the stresses for which the maximal displacements appear have to be found. From our experience in elastic behavior of robots, it is assumed that a good approximation of these maximal displacements will be the deformation of the robot with a load applied at the end-effector, and it can be shown in the following that this hypothesis is valid. Using this assumption, the displacements \mathbf{q}_l of all springs can be computed as a function of the end-effector displacements $\delta\mathbf{t}$, i.e. it is possible to define a matrix \mathbf{J}_q such as:

$$\mathbf{q}_l = \mathbf{J}_p \delta\mathbf{t} \quad (8)$$

As a result, introducing (8) into (7) will lead to

$$\delta\mathbf{t}^T \left(\omega_l^2 \mathbf{J}_q^T \mathbf{M}_{tot} \mathbf{J}_p - \mathbf{J}_q^T \mathbf{K}_{tot} \mathbf{J}_q \right) \delta\mathbf{t} = 0 \quad (9)$$

where the matrices $\mathbf{J}_q^T \mathbf{M}_{tot} \mathbf{J}_p$ and $\mathbf{J}_q^T \mathbf{K}_{tot} \mathbf{J}_q$ are now of dimension 6. It should be mentioned here that, in the case where an external load is applied at the end-effector only, the term $\mathbf{J}_q^T \mathbf{K}_{tot} \mathbf{J}_q$ is equal to the reduced stiffness matrix \mathbf{K}_r of the robot. Therefore, (9) can be rewritten as:

$$\delta\mathbf{t}^T \left(\omega_l^2 \mathbf{M}_r - \mathbf{K}_r \right) \delta\mathbf{t} = 0, \text{ with } \mathbf{M}_r = \mathbf{J}_q^T \mathbf{M}_{tot} \mathbf{J}_q \quad (10)$$

In the following sections it is explained how to obtain expressions (8) and (10).

2.3 Reduction of the Link Mass Matrix

It is possible to decompose the previously cited task into two sub-problems. First, the displacements of a beam j can be expressed as a function of the displacement of its extremities. Then, one can express the beam extremity displacements as a function of the platform displacements $\delta\mathbf{t}$. Using this approach will allow for a reduction in the size of the link mass matrices, and thus avoiding creating global mass matrices \mathbf{M}_{tot} with very large dimension.

Two main ways can be followed to reduce the size of the link mass matrices. The first one consists in discretizing the beam j into p_j rigid links and springs and to express their displacements as a function of the beam extremity displacements. However, such numerical method must be repeated for each link and, thus, increases the size of the algorithm and decreases its efficiency. As a result, it is preferred to use the following procedure which allows analytical expressions to be obtained for the reduced link mass matrices.

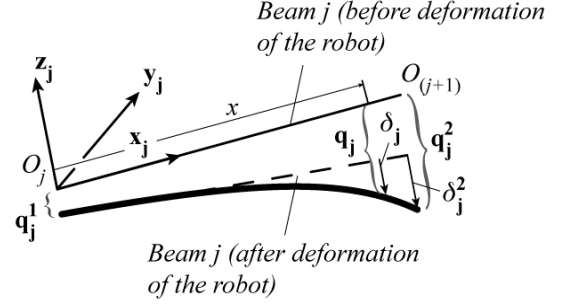


Figure 1: Displacements and elastic deformations of a beam.

Let us consider the link j , modeled as a beam (Figure 1). At this beam is attached a local frame represented by the vectors \mathbf{x}_j , \mathbf{y}_j and \mathbf{z}_j . Before any deformation of the system, the beam j is linked (rigidly or by a passive joint) to beams $(j-1)$ and $(j+1)$ at points O_j and $O_{(j+1)}$, respectively (Figure 1). After deformation of the robot, the beam extremity located at O_j is displaced from $\mathbf{q}_j^1 = [q_{j1}^1, q_{j2}^1, \dots, q_{j6}^1]^T$ and the one located at $O_{(j+1)}$ is displaced from $\mathbf{q}_j^2 = [q_{j1}^2, q_{j2}^2, \dots, q_{j6}^2]^T$, where the three first components of each vector correspond to the translational displacements along local \mathbf{x}_j , \mathbf{y}_j and \mathbf{z}_j axes, respectively, and the three last components to the rotational displacements along the same axes. It should be mentioned that in the remainder of the paper, the left superscript "0" will stand for the coordinates expressed in the global frame. If no left superscript is mentioned, the vector is expressed in the local frame attached to the link j .

The general formula for the kinetic energy of an elastic Bernoulli beam is equal to [14]:

$$T_{ij} = 1/2 \int_0^{L_j} \rho_j \dot{\mathbf{q}}_j^T \mathbf{Q}_j \dot{\mathbf{q}}_j dx \quad (11)$$

$$\mathbf{Q}_j = \text{diag} \left(A_j, A_j, A_j, I_j^p, I_j^y, I_j^z \right)$$

In this expression, $\dot{\mathbf{q}}_j$ represents the velocity of the beam cross-section located at position x from the local reference frame (Figure 1), L_j is the length of the beam j , ρ_j the mass density at cross-section x , A_j its area, I_j^p its torsional constant and I_j^y , I_j^z , the quadratic momentums along \mathbf{y}_j and \mathbf{z}_j , respectively.

For the l -th natural mode, and from (4), the kinetic energy can be rewritten as:

$$T_j = 1/2 \omega_l^2 \cos^2(\omega_l t + \varphi_l) \int_0^{L_j} \rho_j \mathbf{q}_j^T \mathbf{Q}_j \mathbf{q}_j dx \quad (12)$$

\mathbf{q}_j being the amplitude of the displacement of the beam cross-section located at position x from the local reference frame (Figure 1).

In the Rayleigh-Ritz approximation, considering that the deformations due to the natural vibrations are similar to those obtained when an external load is applied at the robot end-effector only, each link of the structure will deform due to the stresses transmitted through the robot joints at points O_j . As a

result, the deformations δ_j of the beam cross-section (Figure 1) can be approximated by the deformations of a tip-loaded beam, given by [14]

$$\delta_j = \text{diag}(f_j, g_j, g_j, f_j, h_j, h_j) \delta_j^2 \quad (13)$$

where $\delta_j^2 = \delta_j(x = L_j)$ represents the deformation of the beam at its tip and

$$\begin{aligned} f_j(x) &= x/L_j, \quad g_j(x) = 0.5x^2(3L_j - x)/L_j^3, \\ h_j(x) &= x(L_j - 0.5x)/L_j^2 \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

As a result, the global displacement \mathbf{q}_j of the beam cross-section at x can be expressed as a sum of two terms:

$$\mathbf{q}_j = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_3 & \mathbf{D}_{(\times)} \\ \mathbf{0}_3 & \mathbf{I}_3 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_j^1 + \delta_j, \quad \text{with } D_{(\times)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -x \\ 0 & x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

In this sum, the left terms corresponds to the displacement of the undeformed beam due to the displacement of the node located at O_j .

Introducing (13) to (15) into (12) leads to the following equation:

$$T_j = 1/2 \omega_l^2 \cos^2(\omega_l t + \varphi_l) \left(\begin{bmatrix} {}^0\mathbf{q}_j^1 & {}^0\mathbf{q}_j^2 \end{bmatrix} {}^0\mathbf{M}_j^{\text{red}} \begin{bmatrix} {}^0\mathbf{q}_j^1 & {}^0\mathbf{q}_j^2 \end{bmatrix}^T \right) \quad (16)$$

where the expressions of each components of matrix ${}^0\mathbf{M}_j^{\text{red}}$ are given in [18].

2.4 Reduction of the Robot Mass Matrix

Using the results of the previous section, the total kinetic energy of the system is given by:

$$T = \sum_j T_j = 1/2 \omega_l^2 \cos(\omega_l t + \varphi_l) \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{M}_{\text{tot}} \mathbf{q} \quad (17)$$

with $\mathbf{M}_{\text{tot}} = \text{diag}({}^0\mathbf{M}_1^{\text{red}}, {}^0\mathbf{M}_2^{\text{red}}, \dots, {}^0\mathbf{M}_p^{\text{red}})$ and

$$\mathbf{q}^T = \left[({}^0\mathbf{q}_1^1)^T, ({}^0\mathbf{q}_1^2)^T, ({}^0\mathbf{q}_2^1)^T, ({}^0\mathbf{q}_2^2)^T, \dots, ({}^0\mathbf{q}_p^1)^T, ({}^0\mathbf{q}_p^2)^T \right]$$

It is necessary to express the relationship linking all vectors ${}^0\mathbf{q}_j^v$ ($v = 1, 2$) to the end-effector displacements $\delta \mathbf{t}$. For a robot composed of k legs and using the VJM [16], this displacement is equal to:

$$\delta \mathbf{t} = \mathbf{J}_{\theta_i} \boldsymbol{\theta}_i + \mathbf{J}_{p_i} \mathbf{p}_i \quad (18)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\theta}_i$ represents the deformations of all virtual springs of the leg i and \mathbf{p}_i the displacements of its passive joints, and \mathbf{J}_{θ_i} and \mathbf{J}_{p_i} are Jacobian matrices relying these displacements to the displacement $\delta \mathbf{t}$. These matrices can be obtained by the differentiation of the global transformation matrix \mathbf{T}^i of the chain i including rigid, passive and elastic coordinates [16].

After several mathematical derivations extracted from [16], the displacement \mathbf{p}_i of the passive joints of leg i can be expres-

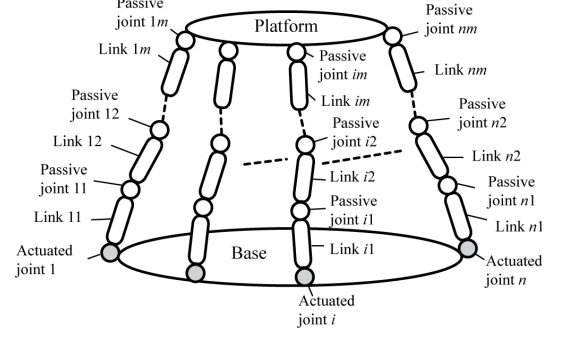


Figure 2 : Architectural representation of a general parallel manipulator

sed as a function of $\delta \mathbf{t}$ [18] and it can finally be shown that the relation between \mathbf{q} and $\delta \mathbf{t}$ can be written as:

$$\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{J}_q \delta \mathbf{t} \quad (19)$$

where the expression of \mathbf{J}_q is detailed in [18].

Introducing this relation into (17) will lead to:

$$T = 1/2 \omega_l^2 \cos^2(\omega_l t + \varphi_l) \delta \mathbf{t}^T \mathbf{M}_r \delta \mathbf{t} \quad (20)$$

where the expression of \mathbf{M}_r is given at (10).

As a result, from (10), finding the robot natural frequencies relies on solving the 6 dimensional eigenvalues problem

$$\det(\omega_l^2 \mathbf{I}_6 - \mathbf{M}_r^{-1} \mathbf{K}_r) = 0 \quad (21)$$

2.5 Reduced Elasto-Dynamic Model

To conclude this section, it is necessary to mention that, from the previous obtained results, the robot free dynamic behavior can be modeled using the following expression:

$$\mathbf{M}_r \delta \ddot{\mathbf{t}} + \mathbf{K}_r \delta \mathbf{t} = \mathbf{0} \quad (22)$$

As a result, if external milling forces \mathbf{F} are applied on the tool, (22) becomes:

$$\mathbf{M}_r \delta \ddot{\mathbf{t}} + \mathbf{K}_r \delta \mathbf{t} = \mathbf{F} \quad (23)$$

This expression will be used in the following sections in order to analyze the robot behavior during milling process. It should be mentioned that in order this model to be valid, the displacements of the robots should be sufficiently slow so that the vibratory phenomenon are mainly due to the milling process excitations. Let us now define the expressions for the computation of the milling forces.

3. CUTTING FORCE MODEL

In milling process, the *cutting force* \mathbf{F} that appears in equation (23) is caused by the interaction between the tool and the workpiece. It is a contact force and it is *distributed* along the affected area of the tool cutting part [19]–[21]. In robotic machining, the tool is mounted on the robot end-effector. In that case, the cutting force serves as a source of an additional external loading for robot and influences its motion. To

evaluate this influence and to correctly analyze the robot behavior while machining, model of cutting force should be defined.

3.1 Basic Expressions

Most of existing works in the area of machining are based on Merchant's model of cutting, where he assumed that the tool/workpiece contact force is distributed uniformly along the tool cutting edge [20]. Based on this hypothesis, a complex three-dimensional process of cutting can be analyzed referred to the one separated tool cross-section. In this cross-section the distributed cutting force can be presented as an equivalent *point force* F_c applied to the cutting edge.

In general, the cutting force F_c has a *nonlinear* nature and depends on many factors such as cutting conditions, properties of workpiece material and tool cutting part, etc. [22], [23]. But, for given tool/workpiece combination, the force F_c could be approximated *as a function* of an uncut chip thickness h , which represents the desired thickness to cut.

The *typical diagram* $F_c(h)$ is presented in Fig. 3 [24]. To describe it analytically, different models (linear, exponential, fractional, etc.) can be found in literature. The *linear* model perfectly suits to conventional CNC based machining (especially with single-tip tools). Here, usually the high rate removal of working material produces large chip thickness and the relation $F_c(h)$ could be correctly approximated with a linear function [19], [24] (Fig. 3-a):

$$F_c(h) = (k_T h + k_E) L, \quad h \geq 0 \quad (24)$$

where k_T is the so called tool/workpiece cutting energy, k_E is the tool/workpiece edge force, L is the width of cut. The model parameters k_T , k_E are estimated experimentally for a given combination of tool/working material.

However, in robotic based machining the robot compliance could be the source of considerable relative tool/workpiece displacement. Even, the loss of tool/workpiece contact can be observed. As a result of such behavior, the material removal rate and the corresponding cutting force depend on current position of the tool on its path. So, the linear model $F_c(h)$ cannot be applied correctly and some nonlinear approximations are required (exponential, fractional, etc.).

The *exponential* model [21] corresponding to Fig. 3-b is based on the equation

$$F_c(h) = k_F h^m L, \quad h \geq 0 \quad (25)$$

where k_F is the so called specific cutting force and the power $m < 1$ depends on the properties of the workpiece and the tool cutting part. The parameters k_F , m are also estimated experimentally for a given combination of tool/working material. This model is quite popular in industrial applications with machines CNC to analyze different machining operations with multi-edge tools [25]. But the exponential approximation does not fit well the physical phenomena of cutting process in case of small removal of material (i.e. for small h). The main reason for this is that the function (25) has infinite derivative when h tends to zero, which does not correspond to the reality.

In order to avoid this drawback, the *fractional* model [26] was proposed, that corresponds to Fig. 3-c and is based on the expression

$$F_c(h) = k_0 \frac{h/h_s + r(h/h_s)^2}{1 + h/h_s} L, \quad h \geq 0 \quad (26)$$

where $r = k_\infty/k_0 < 1$ depends on the parameters k_∞ , k_0 that define the so called stiffness of the cutting process for large and small h respectively (see Fig. 3-c) and h_s is a specific chip thickness, which depends on the current state of the tool cutting edge. The parameters k_0 , h_s , r are evaluated experimentally for a given combination of tool/working material.

In this work, the cutting force will be computed using the fractional model (26). To take into account the latter phenomena, it is allowed for h to be either positive or negative, assuming that

$$F_c(h) = 0, \quad \text{if } h < 0 \quad (27)$$

For multi-edge tool the machining surface could be formed by means of several edges simultaneously. The number of working edges varies during machining and depends on the relative tool/workpiece position. Thus, the total force F_c of such interaction is a superposition of forces $F_{c,i}$ generated on each tool edge i , which is currently in contact with the workpiece. Due to the presence of two different types of tool motion (spindle rotation, feed) the contact force $F_{c,i}$ can be described with its *radial* $F_{r,i}$ and *tangential* $F_{t,i}$ components. In accordance with Merchant's model [20], the *t*-component of cutting force $F_{t,i}$ can be computed with the equation (26). The *r*-component $F_{r,i}$ is related with $F_{t,i}$ by following expression [27]

$$F_{r,i} = k_r F_{t,i} \quad (28)$$

where the ratio factor k_r depends on the tool/workpiece characteristics.

In robotic machining it is more suitable to operate with forces expressed in the robot tool frame $\{x,y,z\}$. Then, the corresponding components F_x , F_y of the machining force F_c are expressed as follows

$$\begin{aligned} F_x &= \sum_{i=1}^{n_z} -F_{r,i} \cos \varphi_i + \sum_{i=1}^{n_z} F_{t,i} \sin \varphi_i \\ F_y &= \sum_{i=1}^{n_z} F_{r,i} \sin \varphi_i + \sum_{i=1}^{n_z} F_{t,i} \cos \varphi_i \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

where n_z is the number of currently working cutting edges, φ_i is the angular position of the i -th cutting edge (the cutting force in z direction F_z is negligible here)

It should be stressed that the cutting force components $F_{r,i}$, $F_{t,i}$ mentioned in equation (29) are computed regarding the corresponded chip thickness h_i , which should be also evaluated. Using mechanical approach of analysis of machining operation, the parameter h_i is computed in general as the geometrical distance between the position of the given tooth i and the current machining profile.

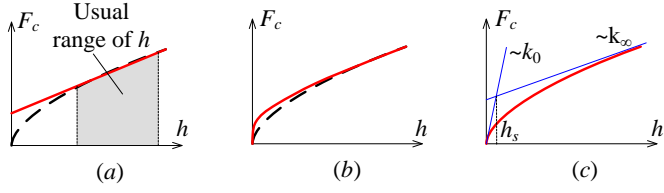


Figure 3: Linear (a), exponential (b) and fractional (c) cutting force models $F_c(h)$.

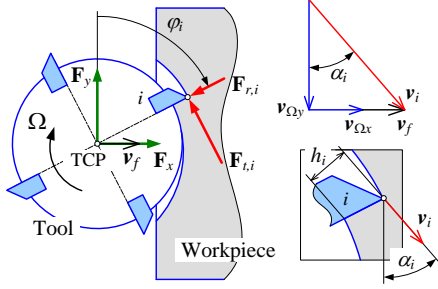


Figure 4: The force interaction between the i -th tooth and workpiece and corresponding kinematics.

Let us present algorithms for the computation of h_i during process of robotic milling for three different types of tool fixation, assuming that machining is performed in aluminum workpiece with straight borders. The cutter of the external radius $R=10\text{mm}$ with $N_z=4$ teeth distributed uniformly over the

tool is used. This tool/workpiece combination corresponds to the following cutting force model parameters $k_0=5 \times 10^6 \text{ N/m}$, $h_s=1.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}$, $r=0.1$, $k_r=0.3$. Let us suppose that the feed is applied only in x direction (robot base frame). Below, the instant $t=0$ corresponds to the tool position when one of the teeth is in contact with the working material. Also, it will be supposed that the feed rate v_f and the spindle rotational speed Ω are constant during whole machining process.

3.2. Case A: Rigid Tool Fixation

The objective of this case study is to understand the mechanics of the tool/workpiece interaction, while any dynamic aspect related to the robot compliance is excluded from the analysis. In that case the applied feed rate and spindle rotational speed totally determine the position $\{x_i, y_i\}$, $i = \overline{1, N_z}$ of all tool cutting edges referred to robotic base frame at each instant of machining t

$$\begin{aligned} x_i &= v_f \tau + R \cos \varphi_i, & y_i &= -R \sin \varphi_i \\ \varphi_i &= \Omega \tau + (2\pi/N_z)(i-1), & i &= \overline{1, N_z} \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

The orientation α_i of the i -th tooth velocity v_i can be defined by the feed rate v_f and the spindle rotational speed Ω at each instant as $\alpha_i = \text{atan2}((v_f + v_{\Omega x})/v_{\Omega y})$ with $v_{\Omega x} = \Omega R \sin \varphi_i$, $v_{\Omega y} = \Omega R \cos \varphi_i$. The angle α_i provides computing the chip thickness h_i as the displacement of TCP corresponding to the one tooth period $2\pi/\Omega N_z$ and referenced

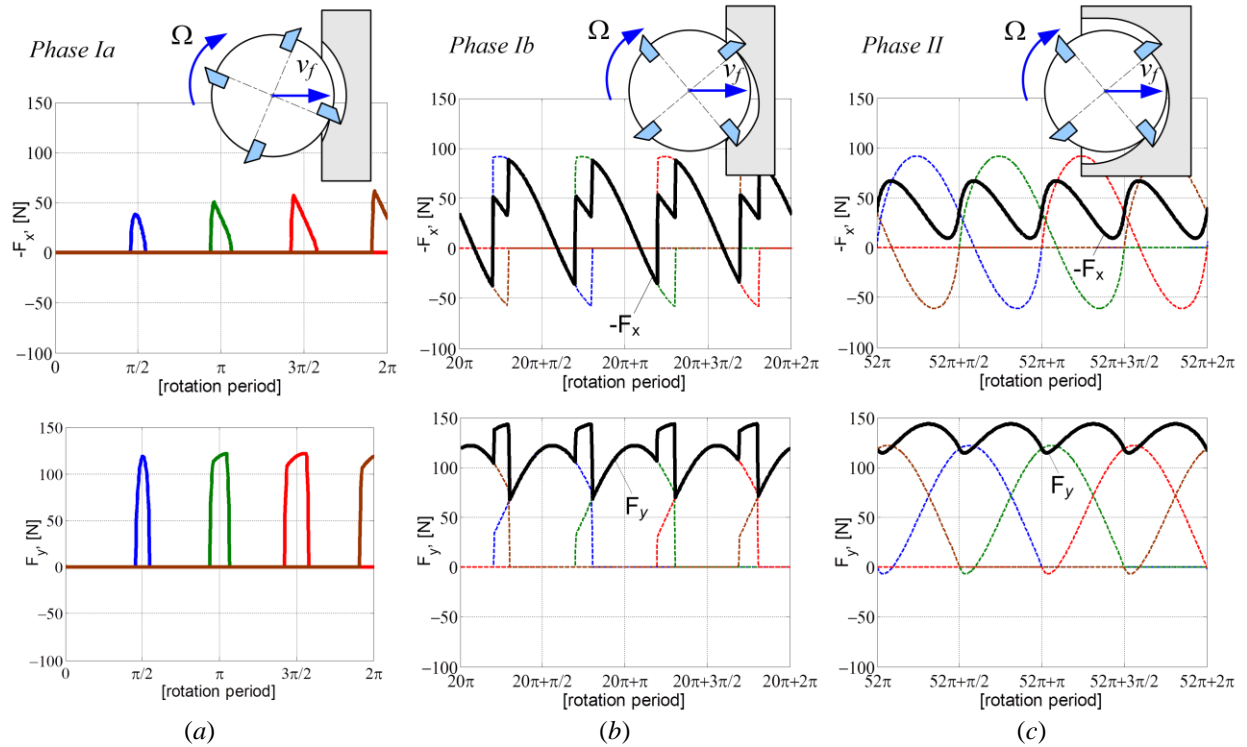


Figure 5: Different phases of tool/workpiece interaction (case $N_z=4$) and corresponding machining forces; (a) – process of tool engaging into the workpiece, only one tooth can be in contact with workpiece at the same time, (b) – process of tool engaging into the workpiece, several teeth could be in contact with workpiece at the same time, (c) – machining with fully engaged tool.

to the i -th tooth, when it is situated inside the working material. If the given tooth is located outside the working material, the corresponding chip thickness h_i is equal to zero. The following expressions allow evaluating h_i for all possible positions of the i -th tooth on its path while machining

$$h_i = \begin{cases} 0, & x_i < R \\ x_i \sin \alpha_i, & R \leq x_i < v_f 2\pi/\Omega N_z, \quad i = \overline{1, N_z} \\ v_f 2\pi/\Omega N_z \sin \alpha_i, & x_i \geq v_f 2\pi/\Omega N_z \end{cases}$$

The advantage of the presented algorithm of computing the chip thickness is that different phases of tool/workpiece interaction illustrated in Fig. 5 can be identified.

It should be mentioned that the phase of tool approaching to the workpiece corresponding to the zero machining force is not considered here. For the remaining phases a detailed analysis is presented below:

- The *phase of tool engaging* into the working material (phase I) corresponds to the variable contact area between the tool and the workpiece. The TCP during this phase is located always outside the workpiece. In fact, the phase I can be divided into two sub phases:
 - Phase Ia: In the beginning of milling operation a small area of workpiece is affected by the machining process. This fact and presence of two types of motion (feed, spindle rotation) form the case, when only one tooth can participate in cutting at the same time (Fig. 5-a). Such behavior produces intermittent machining forces F_x and F_y with the frequency $\Omega N_z/2\pi$ Hz. The sub phase 1 is very limited in time and its duration depends on the feed rate, the spindle rotational speed and the number of teeth N_z . For example, if $v_f=4\text{m/min}$, $\Omega=10^4\text{rpm}$, $N_z=4$ the duration of phase Ia is only 0.04sec.
 - Phase Ib: It corresponds to a case, when several teeth can participate in cutting at the same time, but the TCP does not reach the workpiece border (Fig. 5-b). As a result an oscillatory periodic behavior in machining forces F_x and F_y is observed. But, because of different number of currently working teeth, the force patterns are not homogenous.
- The *phase of machining with fully engaged tool* (Phase II) starts when TCP reaches the workpiece border (Fig. 5-c). In that case always the same number of teeth ($n_c=2$ for the tool with $N_z=4$) is working at every instant of cutting process. It produces harmonic periodic machining forces F_x and F_y with the frequency $\Omega Z/2\pi$ Hz.

So, even with the analysis of tool motion during machining without any dynamic aspect, the oscillatory behavior of machining forces can be detected for whole process. The high frequency of such oscillation (for example, $\Omega=10^4\text{rpm}$, $N_z=4$ give frequency of 667Hz) does not affect the motion of robot but it can be crucial for robot control system and should be considered in design of robotic machining process.

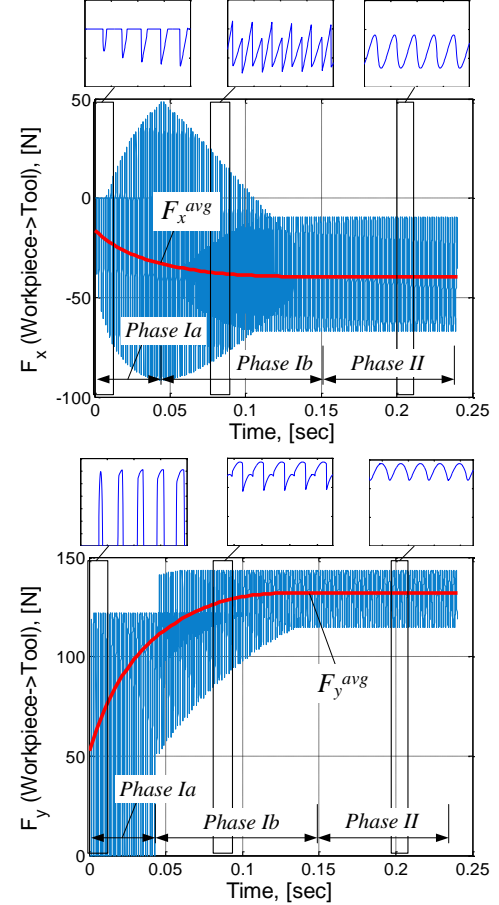


Figure 6: Machining force patterns with average forces referenced to the frame $\{x,y\}$.

3.3 Case B: Tool Fixation with Compliance in x Direction

In contrast to Case A, the dynamic aspect of tool motion associated with the robot compliance is considered here. Thus, at each instant of machining, the position x_{TCP} is defined as a superposition of tool displacement x_f due to feed and a dynamic displacement δx due to compliance of the fixation: $x_{TCP} = x_f + \delta x$. The first component $x_f = v_f \tau$ is known at each instant of process while the second one depends on the current position of the tool regarding to the machining profile. In this case, the dynamic displacement δx can be obtained by reducing the equation (23) to a one-dimensional problem and by introducing the damping related to the machining process and robot control algorithms

$$M \delta \ddot{x} + C_x \delta \dot{x} + K_x \delta x = F_x \quad (32)$$

where M is the equivalent mass of the tool fixation, K_x and C_x are its stiffness and damping respectively and F_x is the machining force in x direction. The damping $c_x = 2\zeta \sqrt{k_x m}$ is related to the damping factor ζ , which can be estimated experimentally.

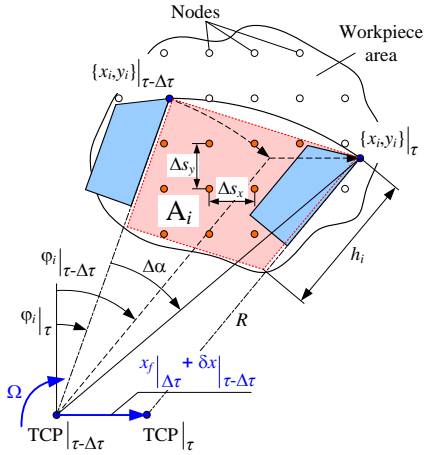


Figure 7: Evaluating the tool/workpiece intersection A_i and computing the corresponding chip thickness h_i .

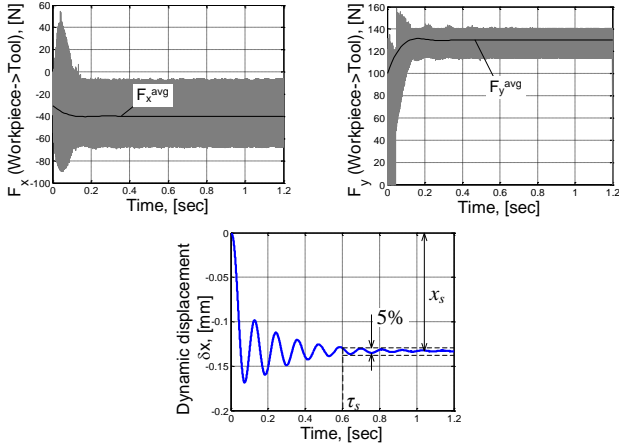


Figure 8: Machining force patterns and TCP dynamic displacement in case of 1DOF model ($M=100$ kg, $K_x=3 \times 10^5$ N/m, $\zeta=0.05$, $N_z=4$, $\Omega=10^4$ rpm, $v_f=4$ m/min).

Table 1: Influence of tool fixation parameters on the tool motion; τ_s is the settling time, PO is the overshoot, f_1 is the first frequency of the tool dynamic displacement in feed direction; $\zeta=0.05$, $N_z=4$, $\Omega=10^4$ rpm, $v_f=4$ m/min

M , kg	K_x , N/m	τ_s , sec	$ x_s $, mm	PO , %	f_1 , Hz
100	0.05×10^6	1.2	0.80	52	3.5
100	0.30×10^6	0.6	0.13	30	8.8
100	0.60×10^6	0.5	0.07	23	12.4
100	1.00×10^6	0.4	0.04	17	15.6
100	2.00×10^6	0.4	0.02	11	22.6
150	2.00×10^6	0.5	0.02	14	18.3
200	2.00×10^6	0.5	0.02	18	15.6

Next, the position of the i -th tooth in the robot base frame $\{x, y\}$ can be easily determined:

$$x_i = x_{TCP} + R \sin \varphi_i, \quad y_i = R \cos \varphi_i, \quad i = \overline{1, N_z}.$$

Comparative analysis of this position with respect to the current machining profile defines the chip thickness h_i removing by i -th tooth. But, the main issue here is to define whether i -th tooth participates in cutting for given instant of process. For this reason, it is proposed to create a *mesh on the workpiece*, where each node j ($j = \overline{1, N_w}$, N_w is the number of nodes) can be filled with “1” or “0”: “1” corresponds to nodes situated in the workpiece area with material, “0” corresponds to nodes situated in workpiece area that was cut away.

In order to define the number of currently cut nodes by the i -th tooth, the previous instant of machining process should be considered. Let us define A_i as an amount of working material that is currently cut away by the i -th tooth. So, if node j filled with “1” is located inside the sector, it changes to “0” and A_i is increasing by $\Delta s_x \Delta s_y$ (Δs_x , Δs_y are node steps in x and y directions respectively). Analyzing all potential nodes and computing A_i , the chip thickness h_i , removed at given instant of process by the i -th tooth, can be estimated by $h_i = A_i / R \Delta \alpha_i$, $i = \overline{1, N_z}$. The angle $\Delta \alpha_i$ determines the current angular position of the i -th tooth regarding to its position at the instant $\tau - \Delta \tau$ ($\Delta \tau$ is the time step) and referred to the position of TCP at $\tau - \Delta \tau$.

Here, in contrast to the previous case, the dynamic aspect of the tool motion allows

- *estimating of deviation in tool motion* from the desired one because of the robot compliance in the feed direction. It should be mentioned that this deviation affects the Cartesian stiffness of robot but does not influence the machining profile quality. For example, following parameters $M=100$ kg, $K_x=3 \times 10^5$ N/m, $\zeta=0.05$, $N_z=4$, $\Omega=10^4$ rpm, $v_f=4$ m/min provide deviation in the feed direction of 0.13mm (Fig. 8). But it is not essential for this application.
- *detecting of vibratory behavior* of tool motion while it is engaging into the workpiece. In some cases the low frequency of such motion can excite robot natural frequency, destabilize machining operation and even damage the tool or/and workpiece. For example, the milling process with following parameters $M=100$ kg, $K_x=3 \times 10^5$ N/m, $\zeta=0.05$, $N_z=4$, $\Omega=10^4$ rpm, $v_f=4$ m/min generates vibration of $f_1=8.8$ Hz from the beginning of cutting process in addition to the frequency 667Hz related to the spindle rotation.

More details on influence of the tool fixation parameters (M , K_x) on the dynamics of its motion during machining are presented in Table 1, which covers the range of values for M , K_x computed for different configurations of the robot KUKA KR 240 using equations presented in Section 2.

As it can be observed from the table, changing the fixation parameters (i.e. the robot configuration) influences low frequencies (about 10 – 20 Hz) of the tool motion.

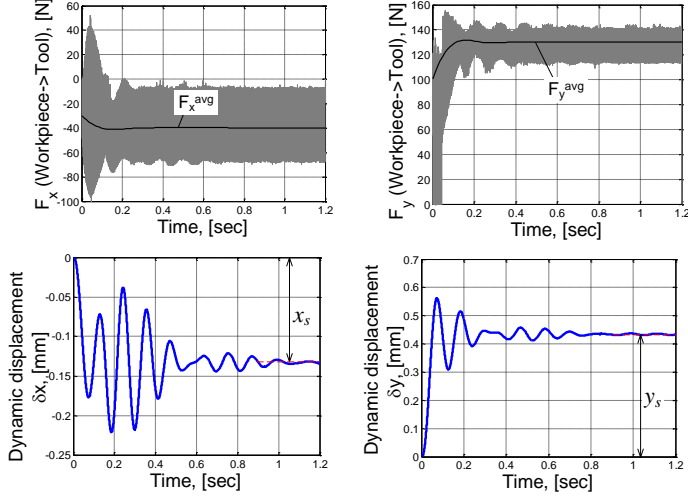


Figure 9: Machining force patterns and TCP dynamic displacements in case of 2DOF model ($M_{r,xx}=M_{r,yy}=100$ kg, $K_{r,xx}=K_{r,yy}=3 \times 10^5$ N/m, $N_z=4$, $\Omega=10^4$ rpm, $v_f=4$ m/min).

Table 2: Influence of the tool fixation parameters on tool dynamic behavior; f_{1x} , f_{1y} are first frequencies of the tool dynamic displacement in x and y directions respectively; $N_z=4$, $\Omega=10^4$ rpm, $v_f=4$ m/min

$M_{r,xx}=M_{r,yy}$ kg	$K_{r,xx}=K_{r,yy}$ N/m	$ x_s $, mm	$ y_s $, mm	f_{1x} , Hz	f_{1y} , Hz
100	0.05×10^6	0.80	2.61	3.2	2.2
100	0.30×10^6	0.13	0.43	8.2	7.3
100	0.60×10^6	0.07	0.22	12.4	11.4
100	1.00×10^6	0.04	0.13	15.6	14.6
100	2.00×10^6	0.02	0.06	22.4	21.5
150	2.00×10^6	0.02	0.06	18.3	17.4
200	2.00×10^6	0.02	0.06	15.6	15.6

Suitable robot configurations to perform given machining operation could be defined. But, it should be mentioned that this one dimensional equivalent model presented here allows analysis of machining process dynamics in the feed direction only. In order to evaluate behavior of the tool motion more closely to the real machining operation, this model should be extended.

3.4 Case C: Tool Fixation with Compliance in x and y Directions

In this case, a dynamic aspect of tool motion in feed direction (x) and orthogonal to it (y) is considered. Then, similarly to the Case B, at each instant of machining process, the position of TCP is determined by $x_{TCP} = x_f + \delta x$, $y_{TCP} = y_f + \delta y$, where $x_f = v_{f,x} \tau$, $y_f = v_{f,y} \tau$. The dynamic displacements δx , δy could be obtained from the equation (23) which, in this case, is reduced to

$$\mathbf{M}_r \begin{bmatrix} \delta \ddot{x} \\ \delta \ddot{y} \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{C} \begin{bmatrix} \delta \dot{x} \\ \delta \dot{y} \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{K}_r \begin{bmatrix} \delta x \\ \delta y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F_x \\ F_y \end{bmatrix} \quad (33)$$

where \mathbf{M}_r (2×2) is the equivalent mass matrix of the tool fixation, the matrices \mathbf{K}_r (2×2) and \mathbf{C} (2×2), where $\mathbf{C}_{i,j} = 2\zeta_{i,j} \sqrt{\mathbf{K}_{i,j} \mathbf{M}_{i,j}}$ characterize the fixation stiffness and damping respectively (which can be estimated experimentally), F_x and F_y are the machining forces in x and y directions.

In contrast to the previous case, the position of the i -th tooth at each process instant t includes dynamic components in both directions: $x_i = x_{TCP} + R \sin \varphi_i$, $y_i = y_{TCP} + R \cos \varphi_i$, $i = 1, N_z$. The algorithm of computing the chip thickness h_i for given position of tooth $\{x_i, y_i\}$ is similar to Case B.

In order to illustrate the advantages of this two dimensional model and its ability to detect some phenomena (that are not visible in Cases A, B) the robotic milling process is simulated for KUKA KR 240 robot with the following parameters

$$\mathbf{M}_r = \begin{bmatrix} 100 & 0 \\ 0 & 100 \end{bmatrix}, \text{kg}, \mathbf{K}_r = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \times 10^5 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \times 10^5 \end{bmatrix}, \frac{N}{m}, \mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} 550 & 0 \\ 0 & 550 \end{bmatrix}, \frac{kg}{sec}.$$

Here, the equivalent mass matrix \mathbf{M}_r is computed in accordance with the method presented in the Section 2 of this paper. The stiffness \mathbf{K}_r is the structural stiffness of the robot, referred to its end-effector. It should be noted that in practice the non diagonal elements in these matrices are non zero. But, with this simplified case it is possible to identify qualitatively the dynamic nature of the tool behavior in the direction (y) orthogonal to the feed. Simulation results corresponding to this case study are presented in Fig. 9.

It should be also stressed that the tool dynamic behavior in the feed direction (x) is similar to the results, which were obtained in the Case B. The displacement in y -direction has an essential dynamic component during the phase of tool engagement (Phase I) into the workpiece and becomes constant while machining with fully engaged tool. The corresponding frequency $f_{1y}=7.3\text{Hz}$ is comparable with the frequency $f_{1x}=8.2\text{Hz}$ of the tool dynamic displacement in feed direction. More details on the tool motion during milling process regarding to the parameters of the tool fixation are presented in Table 2 (it covers the range of values for $M_{r,xx}$, $M_{r,yy}$, $K_{r,xx}$, $K_{r,yy}$ computed for different configurations of the robot KUKA KR 240 using the methodology presented in Section 2)

It should be noted that changing the robot configuration affects the tool dynamics in y direction which is crucial regarding to the quality of the final product. Hence, considering the tool displacement orthogonal to the feed direction is essential and the Case C gives more realistic results comparing Cases A and B. As it is shown in Fig. 9, the deviation (0.31 – 0.56mm) in machining profile from the desired one has a vibratory behavior during the phase of tool engagement into the workpiece. Thus it cannot be suppressed by straightforward compensation methods and other compensation techniques should be proposed.

4. CONCLUSION

In this paper, a reduced elasto-dynamic model of the robotic based milling process has been presented. In contrast to previous works, it takes into account the interaction between the milling tool and the workpiece that depends on the end-effector position, process parameters and cutting conditions (spindle rotation, feed rate, geometry of the tool, etc.). To reduce the dimension of the problem, the robot dynamics have been described as an equivalent mass-spring-damper system with six dimensions. This approach aims at decreasing computational cost and at avoiding inaccuracy due to ill-conditioning in the full size model. To achieve a realistic modeling of the milling process, the machining efforts due to the interaction between robot tool and working material have been introduced into the robot model and calculated at each time instant. This model has allowed selecting the best process parameters and avoiding the vibratory behavior of this machining system which can dramatically affect the milling quality.

The developed model has been applied to the elasto-dynamic behavior analysis of KUKA KR240 robot used for milling of an aluminum workpiece for automobile industry. This allowed us estimating the deviation in motion of the robot end-effector during machining caused by the flexibilities in robot links and joints, which essentially influence the quality of the final product.

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