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TOWARD GLOBAL MODELING APPROACHES FOR DYNAMIC ANALYSES OF ROTATING ASSEMBLIES OF TURBOMACHINES

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ABSTRACT

It is now increasingly necessary to predict accurately, at the design stage and without excessive computer costs, the dynamic behavior of rotating parts of turbomachines, in order to be able to avoid resonant conditions at operating speeds. Classical approaches are based on different uncoupled models. For example, rotordynamics deals with the shaft behavior while bladed assemblies dynamics deals with wheels, and the possibility of interaction between those elements is generally not analyzed.

In this study, the global non-rotating mode shapes of flexible bladed disc-shaft assemblies are used in a modal analysis method for calculating the dynamic characteristics (frequencies and mode shapes) of the corresponding rotating system. The non rotating mode shapes are computed using a finite element cyclic symmetry approach. Rotational effects, such as centrifugal stiffening and gyroscopic effects are accounted for. All the possible couplings between the flexible parts and every kind of deformations are allowed. The proposed model is applied to a thin-walled composite shaft and to a turbomolecular pump rotating assembly. The results obtained illustrates clearly some of the limitations of classical approaches.

1. INTRODUCTION

Classical approaches used for the dynamic analysis of shaft lines of turbomachines are based on different uncoupled models. For example, the rotordynamics approach assumes that bladed-disc flexibility effects are negligible [1] while the bladed disc approach deals with flexible bladed-discs but neglects the effects of shaft flexibility [2]. Those approaches give many advantages and they have proven to be efficient for numerous applications. The main advantages of rotordynamics are given by the one-dimensional (or beam type) behavior hypothesis. The derivation of the associated models is quite simple, lead to low size systems and can account easily for unsymmetrical supporting structures and global coupling effects. Similarly, when dealing with isolated bladed disc assemblies, efficient models and reduction techniques can be used.

When applied to advanced industrial application, uncoupled approaches may suffer from many disadvantages. They are limited by their basic assumptions and, for example, the rigidity of the wheel shaft attachment is not properly modeled, dynamic interactions between shaft and bladed-disc and between different stages of bladed discs is not considered, shaft cross sections remain undeformed and are not supposed to be influenced by stress stiffening effects. Some of those limitations are briefly pointed out and discussed below.

1/ Shaft modes are mainly beam like modes (torsional, longitudinal and bending modes). Modes of bladed assemblies are either zero, one, two, or more nodal diameter bending or

torsional modes. Inertial coupling between blades and shaft are likely to occur with the zero and one nodal diameter modes of the assembly. Modes with zero nodal diameter are characterized by a resultant loading which is either an axial force (umbrella mode) or an axial torque (torsional mode) and therefore can interact with the longitudinal or torsional shaft deformations respectively. Modes with one nodal diameter exert a net pitching moment and a shearing force which interact with the shaft bending modes. Two or more nodal diameter modes are globally reactionless and do not interact with shaft motion. Several studies based on simplified models have been conducted to illustrate the influence of coupling effects within rotating blade-disc-shaft systems [3 - 10]. The interest of axisymmetrical theory for fully three dimensional rotordynamic analyses has been demonstrated by Geradin and Kill [11] for critical speed and stability. Geradin and Kill [11] used a component mode method to reduce computational effort. Stephenson and Rouch [12] also proposed an axisymmetrical formulation but associated with a Guyan reduction technique.

2/ When shafts are thick and long, only longitudinal bending or torsional deformations need to be considered. On the other hand, when the structure becomes thin-walled, deformation of the sections should also be considered. These deformations have a significant effect on classical modes and are fully associated with ring-type modes. Furthermore, the effect of rotation on thin tubes, used for example in high speed centrifugal separators, is significant [13, 14].

3/ The behavior of composite rotors is usually studied using the equivalent modulus beam approach, where equivalent longitudinal and in plane shear moduli are obtained from the classical laminate theory and then used within conventional beam models. This approach can lead to significant discrepancies [15-17].

The main problem in the construction of an overall three-dimensional blade-disc-shaft model, adapted to the analysis of a wide range of realistic structures and cases, lies in the difficulty of treating the complex geometrical configuration and behavior of bladed discs elastically attached to a flexible shaft, within a global analysis accounting for all rotational effects. Applying traditional numerical methods used to analyze rotating systems where both centrifugal and gyroscopic effects are taken into account, to models comprising a large number of degrees of freedom, is almost impossible or at least induces prohibitive computer costs. Therefore, to analyze the whole flexible blade-disc-shaft assembly of real structures, efficient reduction techniques have to be proposed and assessed.

The approach presented here is based on a finite element full modeling of the structure but uses two reduction techniques. First, the dynamic behavior of the rotating structure is written in terms of a set of mode shapes associated with the structure at rest. Second, the structure is supposed to be constituted by identical cyclic symmetrical sectors and the behavior of the whole structure at rest is obtained from a finite element model involving only one of these sectors. This procedure, which leads to considerable computer cost savings,

has been previously developed and validated using academic structures [18, 22]. The applications considered here are based on actual structures and show that the method is adapted to isolated shafts as well as wheel-shaft assemblies, and can be used whatever the finite element considered (shell, volume, etc). The results obtained illustrate the interest of overall modeling techniques compared to classical approaches when dealing with advanced applications.

2. EQUATIONS OF MOTION

The motion equations, expressed in a body fixed coordinate system, of a flexible bladed disc mounted on a flexible shaft rotating at a given uniform angular velocity, can be expressed as:

$$[\mathbf{K}_E + \mathbf{K}_G(\{\delta\}_s) - \Omega^2 \mathbf{M}_G] \{\delta\}_s = \{F_c(\Omega^2)\} \quad (1)$$

$$[\mathbf{M}] \{\ddot{\delta}\}_d + [\mathbf{C}_M + \mathbf{C}_R] \{\dot{\delta}\}_d + [\mathbf{K}_E + \mathbf{K}_G(\{\delta\}_s) - \Omega^2 \mathbf{M}_G] \{\delta\}_d = \{0\} \quad (2)$$

where $[\mathbf{M}]$ is the mass matrix, $[\mathbf{C}_M]$ the mechanical damping matrix, $[\mathbf{C}_R]$ the gyroscopic (Coriolis) matrix, $[\mathbf{K}_E]$ the elastic stiffness matrix, $[\mathbf{K}_G]$ the geometric stiffness matrix, $[\Omega^2 \mathbf{M}_G]$ the supplementary stiffness matrix and $\{F_c(\Omega^2)\}$ the nodal centrifugal force vector. $\{\delta\}_s$ is the static equilibrium position of the structure under centrifugal loading and $\{\delta\}_d$ is the small amplitude dynamic displacement around the static position. For a given rotational speed Ω , solution of the non-linear system (1) using a Newton-Raphson procedure, gives the static displacement vector $\{\delta\}_s$. The stiffness matrix is then known and the dynamic problem can be solved.

When dealing with blade-disc-shaft assemblies, the size of the problem can be reduced if the rotationally periodic characteristic of these assemblies is taken into account. Such structures are constituted with N identical jointed sectors. The matrices as well as the static displacement vector associated with each sector, expressed in a cylindrical coordinate system, are identical. According to the wave propagation theory in periodic media [19], the dynamic displacement vector of the different sectors n , $\{\delta_n\}_d$, are related to the corresponding quantities of the reference sector 1 by the following phase relations:

$$\{\delta_n\}_d = \{\delta_1^c\} \cos(n-1)\beta_n + \{\delta_1^s\} \sin(n-1)\beta_n \quad (3)$$

with $\beta_n = 2\pi n/N$, and:

$$\begin{aligned} n &= 0, 1, \dots, N/2 & \text{if } N \text{ is even} \\ n &= 0, 1, \dots, (N-1)/2 & \text{if } N \text{ is odd} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Applying the wave propagation relations (3), the dynamic problem (2) is divided into $N/2$ uncoupled systems involving

matrices function of the phase parameter β and associated to the reference sector only:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\mathbf{M}_{\beta_n} \right] \left\{ \ddot{\delta}_{\beta_n} \right\}_d + \left[\mathbf{C}_{M_{\beta_n}} + \mathbf{C}_{R_{\beta_n}} \right] \left\{ \dot{\delta}_{\beta_n} \right\}_d + \\ & \left[\mathbf{K}_{E_{\beta_n}} + \mathbf{K}_{G_{\beta_n}} - \Omega^2 \mathbf{M}_{G_{\beta_n}} \right] \left\{ \delta_{\beta_n} \right\}_d = \{0\} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

When dealing with bladed-discs, damping and gyroscopic effects are usually neglected and Eq. (5) becomes a Hermitian system which is solved only once, for an operating speed. In this case, reduction of the system using component mode synthesis methods has been widely used and has shown good efficiency. When dealing with blade-disc-shaft assemblies, gyroscopic effects can no longer be neglected and frequency variations with respect to rotation speed are relatively large. Consequently, it becomes necessary to solve a different complex and non-Hermitian eigenvalue problem for each value of the rotation speed in the operating range. In this case, using only traditional reductions based on component mode synthesis methods leads to a lengthy procedure which is still not computationally efficient.

In the following, we shall show that the analysis cost can be reduced, without appreciable loss of accuracy, provided the rotating mode shapes are written as a linear combination of the corresponding non-rotating mode shapes.

3. REDUCED DYNAMIC PROBLEM

Let us first consider the system at rest ($\Omega = 0$). Then Eq. (5) reduces to:

$$\left[\mathbf{M}_{\beta_n} \right] \left\{ \ddot{\delta}_{\beta_n} \right\}_d + \left[\mathbf{K}_{E_{\beta_n}} \right] \left\{ \delta_{\beta_n} \right\}_d = \{0\} \quad (6)$$

The solution of Eq. (6) is traditionally performed after a reduction based on the efficient Craig and Bampton substructuring method [20, 21]. This gives the frequencies and mode shapes of the non-rotating system. All the mode shapes calculated are grouped into a modal matrix $[\psi_{\beta_n}]$ used for the reduction of the rotating system. Assuming that:

$$\left\{ \delta_{\beta_n} \right\}_d = [\psi_{\beta_n}] \cdot \left\{ \mathbf{q}_{\beta_n} \right\} \quad (7)$$

Equation (5) becomes:

$$\left[\mathbf{m}_{\beta_n} \right] \left\{ \ddot{\mathbf{q}}_{\beta_n} \right\} + \left[\mathbf{c}_{\beta_n} \right] \left\{ \dot{\mathbf{q}}_{\beta_n} \right\} + \left[\mathbf{k}_{\beta_n} \right] \left\{ \mathbf{q}_{\beta_n} \right\} = \{0\} \quad (8)$$

with:

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\mathbf{m}_{\beta_n} \right] &= [\psi_{\beta_n}]^T \left[\mathbf{M}_{\beta_n} \right] [\psi_{\beta_n}] \\ \left[\mathbf{c}_{\beta_n} \right] &= [\psi_{\beta_n}]^T \left[\mathbf{C}_{M_{\beta_n}} + \mathbf{C}_{R_{\beta_n}} \right] [\psi_{\beta_n}] \\ \left[\mathbf{k}_{\beta_n} \right] &= [\psi_{\beta_n}]^T \left[\mathbf{K}_{E_{\beta_n}} + \mathbf{K}_{G_{\beta_n}} - \Omega^2 \mathbf{M}_{G_{\beta_n}} \right] [\psi_{\beta_n}] \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

The solution of Eq. (6) and Eq. (8) is performed for all the possible values of the phase parameter β given by Eq. (4). The frequencies of the rotating system are obtained directly. The corresponding mode shapes are obtained after applying the two successive transformations, Eq. (7) and Eq. (3), to the calculated eigenvectors. In order to be able to identify possible resonance points, frequencies are calculated for the whole operating range of the structure and the results classically reported on a Campbell diagram, which illustrates the dependence of natural frequencies on rotor speed Ω . When using the proposed analysis method, the non rotating mode shapes of the assembly are calculated only once. Then, the following steps are involved for each rotation speed considered:

- the static problem Eq. (1) is solved,
- the dynamic problem Eq. (5) is reduced according to Eq. (7)
- the reduced system Eq. (8) is solved.

Compared to traditional procedures, the computer cost saving is considerable and allows precise analyses of complex industrial structures using workstations. The accuracy of the method has been validated in [18, 22].

4. APPLICATION TO A THIN WALLED COMPOSITE SHAFT

Because of the specific strength and stiffness of high performance fiber reinforced composite materials, attempts are made to replace metallic shafts by composite shafts in specific applications such as, for example, driveshafts for helicopters, cars and jet engines, or centrifugal separator cylindrical tubes [23-26]. These materials provide direct advantages in terms of weight saving, placement of critical speeds, smoother and supercritical operations. They also give the designer the possibility to obtain a predetermined behavior, without weight or geometry penalties, by changing the arrangement of the different composite layers: orientation, number of plies [27,26].

The application considered first is a simply supported thin-walled tube with two lateral inner discs at both ends (Fig. 1). The shaft length is $L = 1.5$ m, its outer diameter is $D=0.09$ m and its wall thickness is $e=7.0 \cdot 10^{-4}$ m. The discs lie at a distance of 0.05 m from both ends of the tube, their thickness is $e_d = 3.0 \cdot 10^{-3}$ m and their inner radius is 0.0075 m. The shaft is made of 5 layers of Boron/Epoxy ($\rho = 1600$ kg/m³, $E_1 = 3.0 \cdot 10^{11}$ Pa, $E_2 = 6.2 \cdot 10^9$ Pa, $G_{12} = G_{13} = G_{23} = 4.1 \cdot 10^9$ Pa and $\nu_{12} = 0.26$). The stacking sequence considered is $[0^\circ, -30^\circ, +30^\circ, 0^\circ, 90^\circ]$, given from the inner to the outer surface of the cylinder.

As shown in Fig. 2, only 1/12th (30°) of the whole structure is meshed using 5 elements along the circumference and 36 elements along the length. The two lateral inner discs are meshed using 20 elements each. The resulting mesh, presented in Fig. 3, consists of 220 elements and 4019 degrees of freedom.

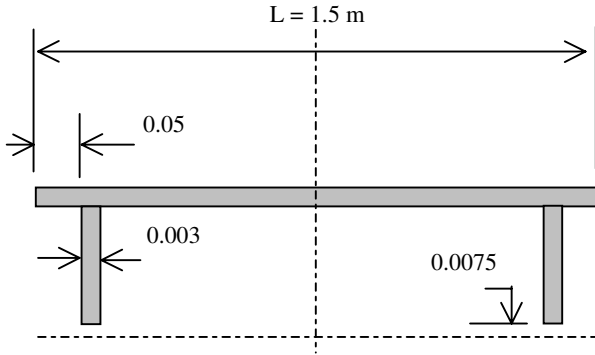


Figure 1: Cylindrical tube with lateral inner discs.

The finite element chosen here is a multilayered shell element, constructed from the solid isoparametric element with 16 nodes, by applying Reissner-Mindlin kinematical hypotheses [28, 29]. The resulting element is geometrically characterized by 16 nodes and kinematically by 8 nodes and 5 degrees of freedom per node. A shear correction coefficient equal to 5/6 is considered and reduced integration is used to prevent shear locking.

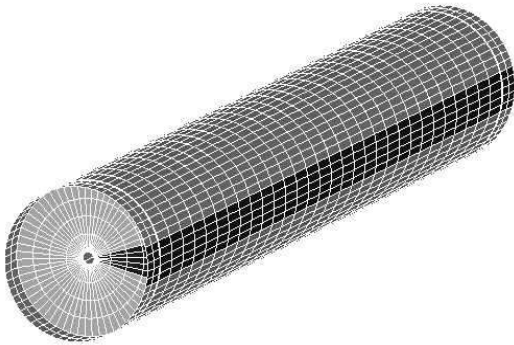


Figure 2: Cylindrical tube with lateral inner discs Only 1/12th of the mesh (dark portion) is considered by the numerical model.

The three first bending frequencies, obtained using the proposed method for the structure at rest, are reported in Table 1. These values are compared with those computed using ROTORINSA associated with an Equivalent Beam Modulus Approach (EBM) based on Tsai formulation [17, 30]. ROTORINSA [31] is an in-house computer program developed to analyze the dynamic behavior of rotors in bending and based on a beam finite element modeling.

Differences in results are significant and can be explained as follows. First, the laminate theory supposes that the contribution of each layer is independent of its radial position, this hypothesis being only valid for thin-walled shafts with symmetrical sequences. Second, the beam theory doesn't consider longitudinal shear deformations associated with bending.

The critical speeds obtained with both 3D and beam models are reported in Table 2. Due to stress stiffening effects, the accuracy of the beam model decreases when rotation speed increases.

Bending Modes	ROTORINSA (EBM) (Hz)	3D Model (Hz)	Δ (%)
1	508.4	475.4	6.7
2	1749.2	1446.7	18.9
3	3305.7	2564.7	24

Table 1: Composite rotor, comparison of natural frequencies at rest.

Critical speeds	ROTORINSA (rpm)	3D Model (rpm)	Δ (%)
1	31 820	28 570	11.4
2	116 625	91 660	27.2

Table 2: Composite rotor, first critical speeds.

5. APPLICATION TO A TURBOMOLECULAR PUMP ROTOR

Turbomolecular pumps are used for gas analysis, leak detection and process monitoring.

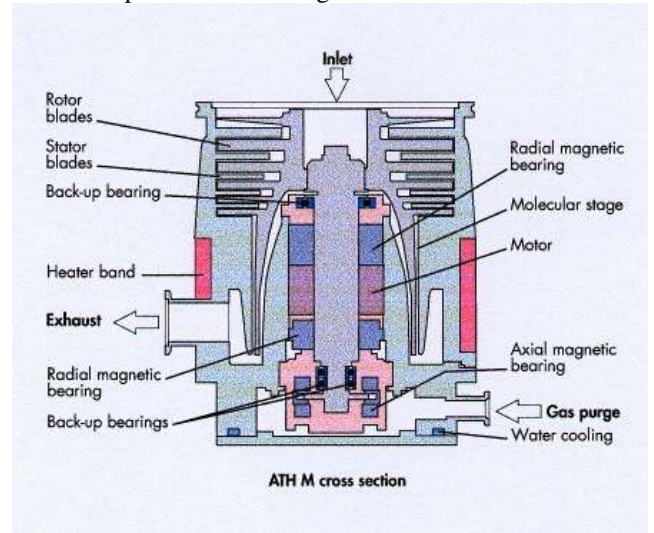


Figure 3: Turbomolecular pump

This second application is based on the analysis of the rotating assembly of a magnetically levitated turbomolecular pump, designed for semiconductor processes and developed by ALCATEL Vacuum Technology (ATH series, Fig. 3). The main dimensions of the rotating assembly, presented in Fig. 4, are: length $L=0.26\text{m}$ and max radius $R=0.10\text{m}$.

For this specific application most of the stages are constituted by 24 radial blades mounted on an axisymmetric shaft. Consequently, as shown in Fig. 5, only a portion of 15° (1/24th) of the whole assembly is considered by the numerical model. The cyclic-symmetrical sector of the structure is meshed using 1416 isoparametric finite elements with twenty nodes. Mechanical damping is neglected and the rotor is supposed to be in a free-free configuration.

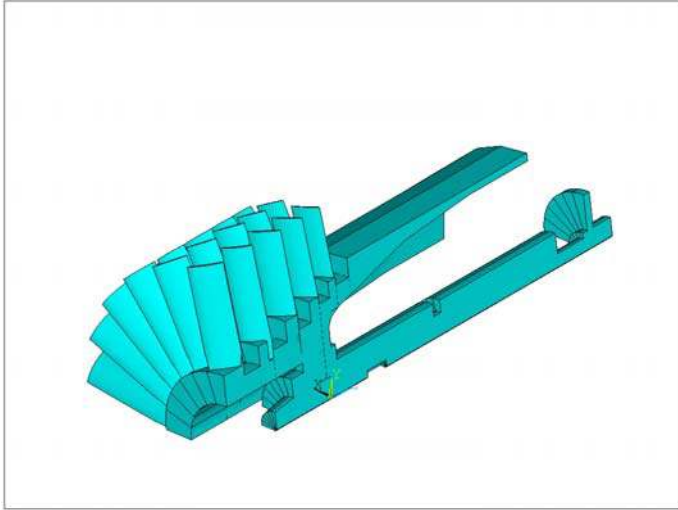


Figure 4: Representation of 1/4th of the rotating assembly

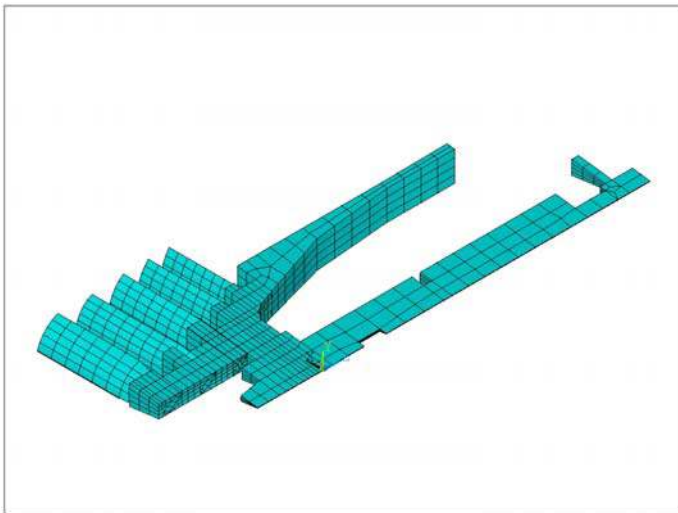


Figure 5: Finite element mesh of the cyclic sector

As shown in Eq. (4), the whole behavior of the assembly is obtained through computation of different cases associated with all the possible phase angles between sectors. Shaft modes can occur only with $n=0$ or $n=1$ ($n=0$ torsion and longitudinal modes, $n=1$ bending modes). Modes of the bladed assembly are either zero ($n=0$), one ($n=1$), two ($n=2$), or more nodal diameter

bending or torsion modes. Here, only cases involving shaft bending ($n=1$) will be considered.

Results computed with the proposed method are given in the rotating frame while results of classical rotordynamics approaches are given in the fixed inertial frame. When dealing with bending modes of rotors, the transformation from rotating to non rotating frames is a function of the nature of the mode which can be a forward whirling mode, whirl in the direction of rotation, or a backward whirling mode, whirl against the direction of rotation. Such a transformation is given by the simple relations:

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_f &= |\omega_r + \Omega| \text{ for a forward whirl} \\ \omega_f &= |\omega_r - \Omega| \text{ for a backward whirl} \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where ω_r is the frequency observed in the rotating frame and ω_f the corresponding frequency expressed in the fixed inertial frame.

Three set of results are computed and compared in order to illustrate coupling effects between the different flexible components of the assembly. The first set is associated to the flexible-blade flexible-shaft model, the second one to a rigid-blade flexible-shaft model and the third one to a flexible-blade rigid-shaft model. The results obtained are reported in Tables 3 and 4 and in Fig. 6 to 8.

At rest, the first mode is mainly a first shaft bending while the other modes involve motion of the different blade stages. As shown in Table 3, modes 1, 4 and 6 are highly coupled shaft-blade modes while modes 2, 3 and 5 are blade modes with very slight participation of shaft bending.

N°	Flex. blades Flex. shaft	Rigid blades Flex. shaft	Δ (%)	Flex. Blades Rigid shaft	Δ (%)
1	877.	991	13.1	/	/
2	890.	/	/	885.	-0.5
3	897.	/	/	897.	0.0
4	953.	/	/	908.	-4.8
5	980.	/	/	975.	-0.5
6	1064.	/	/	985.	-7.4

Table 3: Comparison between the flexible model and respectively the rigid-shaft and rigid-blade models

$$(\Omega = 0 \text{ rpm}, n=1)$$

N°	Flex. blades Flex. shaft	Rigid blades Flex. shaft	Δ (%)	Flex. blades Rigid shaft	Δ (%)
1	657.	/	/	666.	1.4
2	704.	/	/	711.	1.0
3	748.	/	/	756.	1.1
4	829.	/	/	848.	2.3
5	896.	/	/	915.	2.1
6	992.	914.	-7.9	/	/
7	1104.	1106.	0.2	/	/
8	1669.	/	/	1659.	-0.6
9	1713.	/	/	1708.	-0.3
10	1758.	/	/	1754.	-0.2
11	1848.	/	/	1842.	-0.3
12	1816.	/	/	1909.	-0.4

Table 4: Comparison between the flexible model and respectively the rigid-shaft and rigid-blade models

($\Omega= 30\ 000\ \text{rpm}, n=1$)

Coupling are much less pronounced when rotational speed increases. As shown in table 4 and in Fig. 6 and 8, the effect of blade flexibility on the forward whirling shaft mode decreases as speed increases. At 30000 rpm the associated frequency given by the flexible and rigid blade models are almost identical. The influence of shaft flexibility becomes negligible when considering blade modes beyond 15000 rpm. However, the effect of shaft blade coupling remains significant, over the whole rotational range, for the backward branch of the shaft bending mode.

Considering those results it appears that, for the structure considered, the limitations of classical rotordynamics and bladed-disc assembly dynamics approaches concern the whole behavior in the case of relatively low rotational speeds and the backward whirling shaft mode over the entire speed range.

6. CONCLUSION

This paper is directed toward the construction of overall modeling techniques adapted to the prediction of the dynamic behavior of rotating shaft lines. The method proposed considers the complex shape of the structure as well as the complex effects generated by rotation, in a global model taking into account all the possible displacements and coupling between the different flexible parts. A great attention has been brought to reduction in the size of the system, in order to allow precise computations of real structures without excessive computer costs.

The main interest lies in the applications which illustrate the capacity of such methods to deal with wheel-shaft assemblies. The results obtained show that the behavior of such systems

may be poorly modeled using traditional modeling techniques based on one dimensional beam approaches.

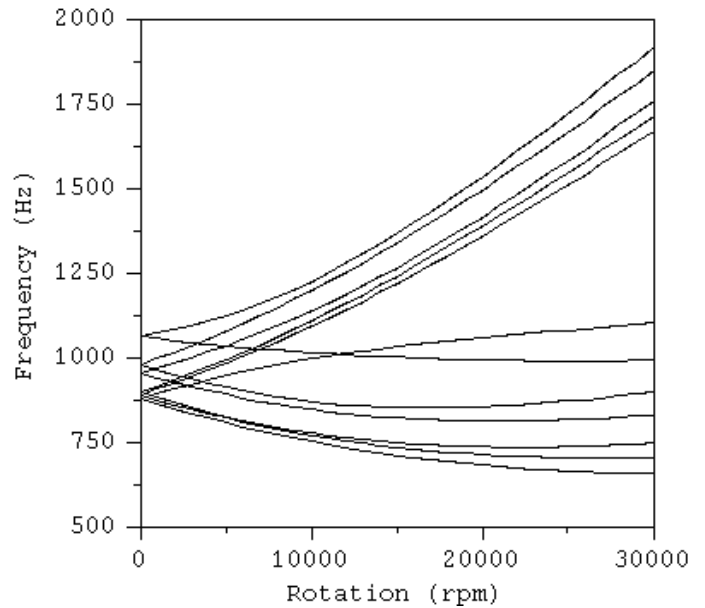


Figure 6: Campbell diagram in the fixed reference frame – Flexible system.

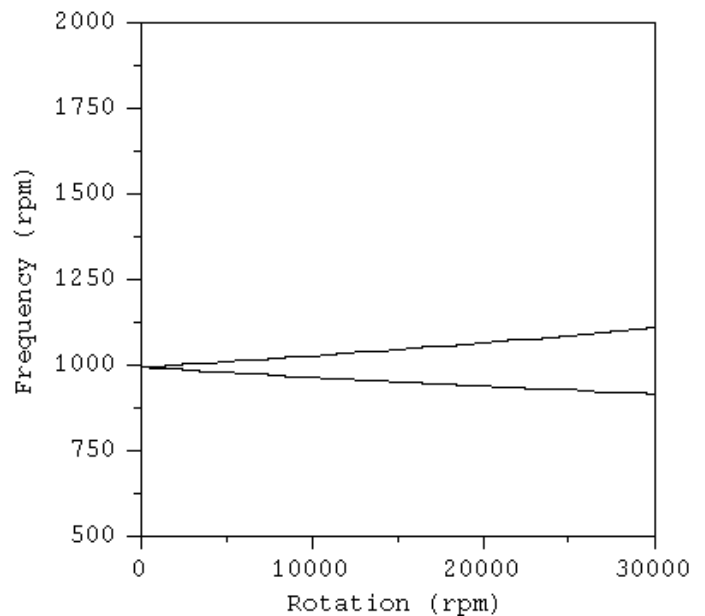


Figure 7: Campbell diagram in the fixed reference frame – Rigid blades model.

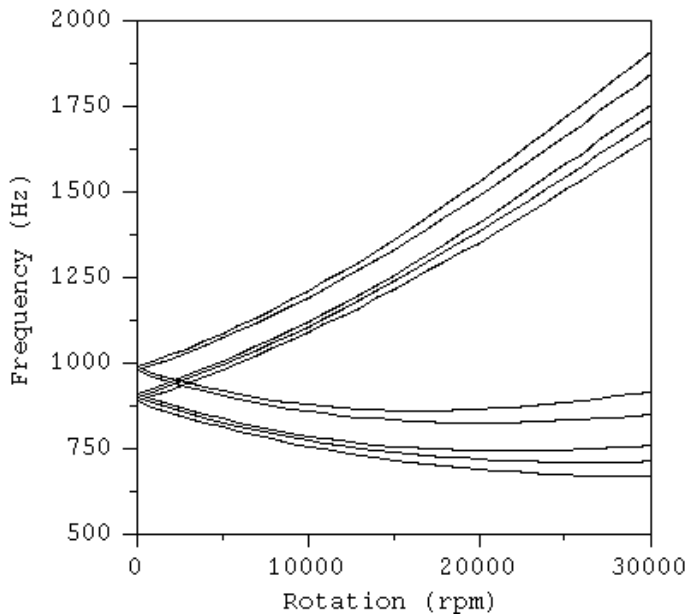


Figure 8: Campbell diagram in the fixed reference frame Rigid disc model.

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