

FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS OF ELASTIC CONTACT PROBLEM
AND ITS APPLICATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF
JOINT FLEXIBILITY ON FREE VIBRATION CHARACTERISTICS
OF MACHINE TOOL STRUCTURES

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled 'Finite Element Analysis of Elastic Contact Problem and its Application for the Study of the Effect of Joint Flexibility on Free Vibration Characteristics of Machine Tool Structures' being submitted by Tulsī Dass Sachdeva to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mechanics is a record of bonafide research work carried out by him under our supervision and guidance. The thesis work in our opinion has reached the standard fulfilling the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree. The research report and the results presented in this thesis have not been submitted in part or in full to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree or diploma.

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ABSTRACT

This study is concerned with the development of procedure for computing the flexibilities of dovetail joint and studying the effect of the joint flexibility on the free vibration characteristics of a milling machine structure. The joint flexibility has been modelled with joint elements, the stiffness matrix of which is compatible with beam elements. For studying the vibration characteristics, the milling machine has been modelled as an assemblage of beam elements with consistent mass matrix.

The inplane flexibilities of the dovetail joint have been computed, treating it as an elastic contact problem using the finite element method. Algorithms and computer programs have been developed to solve the elastic contact problem with force boundary conditions for the frictionless contact and the contact with friction. The effect of friction on the inplane flexibilities of a dovetail joint has been studied.

For computing the out-of-plane flexibilities, the semi-analytical FE method combining the Fourier Series expansion with 2-D elastic analysis has been used. A reasonable distribution of contact pressure has been assumed along the depth of the joint.

In all the above studies, eight noded quadratic isoparametric elements have been used and a state of plane strain has been assumed for computing the inplane

flexibilities. A 2 x 2 Gaussian integration has been used and the solution of equations is obtained with Frontal House-keeping algorithm.

For the knee-column joint and the overarm-column joint, deformed shapes have been computed by keeping one end of joint fixed and applying the loads at the other end. From the flexibilities obtained for one end of the joint, the 12 x 12 stiffness matrix, compatible with beam elements has been computed.

The natural frequencies and mode shapes of a milling machine have been computed by modelling it with beam elements. The generalized eigenvalue problem has been solved by the Sub-polynomial Iteration Method and the Determinant Search Method. Frontal House-keeping algorithm has been used in the computer programs developed for the eigenvalue problem. Computations have been carried out by assuming rigid joints and also for the case when the flexibility of the joints is taken into account. It is observed that the overarm column joint has a marked effect on the free vibration characteristics of the milling machine structure.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
ABSTRACT	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	
LIST OF TABLES	
LIST OF FIGURES	
LIST OF NOTATIONS	
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE	1
1.1 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	1
1.2 DYNAMIC ANALYSIS OF MACHINE TOOL STRUCTURES	3
1.3 MACHINE TOOL JOINTS	
1.3.1 Surface Compliance and Shear Compliance	5
1.4 DEFORMATION OF THE BODY OF THE JOINT	7
1.4.1 Elastic Contact Problem	7
1.5 EIGENVALUE PROBLEM	9
1.6 THE OBJECT AND SCOPE OF PRESENT INVESTIGATION	11
1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS	12
CHAPTER II FORMULATION OF PROBLEM	14
2.1 INTRODUCTION	14
2.2 PROBLEM DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS PROCEDURE	14
2.2.1 Joint Flexibility	14
2.2.2 Elastic Contact Problem	15
2.2.3 Out-of-plane Flexibilities	16
2.2.4 Assumptions	
2.2.5 Beam Element and Joint Element	17
2.2.6 Free Vibration Analysis of a Milling Machine Structure with Joint Elements	18
2.3 THE FINITE ELEMENT METHOD	18
2.3.1 Quadratic Isoparametric Elements	23
2.3.2 Evaluation of Boundary Stresses	26
2.4 CLOSURE	27

	<u>Page</u>
FIGURES	28
CHAPTER III FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS OF THE FRICTION- LESS ELASTIC CONTACT PROBLEMS	32
3.1 INTRODUCTION	32
3.2 MATHEMATICAL FORMULATION	32
3.3 COMPUTER PROGRAM	36
3.3.1 Data Processor	37
3.3.2 Elastic Contact Solver	37
3.3.2.1 Calculation of the Element Stiffness Matrix and the Load Vector	38
3.3.2.2 Static Condensation and Inversion	38
3.3.2.3 Solution for Contact Forces	39
3.3.3 2-D Elastic Analysis Solver	39
3.3.3.1 Solution of Equations	39
3.3.3.2 Calculation of stresses	40
3.4 ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES	40
3.4.1 Example 1: Contact between two Cylindrical Bodies	40
3.4.2 Example 2: Contact between a flat Surface and Cylindrical Body.	41
3.4.3 Example 3: Contact between two smooth flat surfaces	42
3.5 CLOSURE	
FIGURES	44
CHAPTER IV THE FINITE ELEMENT SOLUTION FOR THE ELASTIC CONTACT PROBLEMS WITH FRICTION	56
4.1 INTRODUCTION	56
4.2 METHOD OF ANALYSIS	56
4.3 COMPUTER PROGRAM	62
4.4 ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES	62
4.4.1 Example 1	62
4.4.2 Example 2	64
4.4.3 Example 3	65
4.4.4 Example 4	66
4.5 CLOSURE	68
TABLES	69
FIGURES	71

	<u>Page</u>
CHAPTER V THE EFFECT OF INTERFACE FRICTION ON THE INPLANE FLEXIBILITIES OF MACHINE TOOL JOINTS	85
5.1 INTRODUCTION	85
5.2 HYPOTHETICAL JOINT WITH CONTACT SURFACES NORMAL TO THE AXIS OF THE JOINT	85
5.2.1 Axial Flexibility	85
5.2.2 Rotational Flexibility	87
5.3 DOVE-TAIL JOINT	88
5.3.1 Axial Flexibility	88
5.3.2 Rotational Flexibility	89
5.4 CONCLUSIONS	89
5.5 CLOSURE	90
FIGURES	92
CHAPTER VI INPLANE FLEXIBILITIES OF DOVE-TAIL JOINT	104
6.1 INTRODUCTION	104
6.2 KNEE-COLUMN JOINT	104
6.2.1 Inplane Axial Flexibility	104
6.2.2 Inplane Shear Flexibility	105
6.2.3 Inplane Rotational Flexibility	106
6.3 OVERARM-COLUMN JOINT	106
6.3.1 Inplane Axial Flexibility	106
6.3.2 Inplane Shear Flexibility	107
6.3.3 Inplane Rotational Flexibility	107
6.4 INPLANE FLEXIBILITY MATRIX OF THE JOINT	108
6.5 CLOSURE	109
FIGURES	110
CHAPTER VII OUT-OF-PLANE FLEXIBILITIES OF DOVETAIL JOINTS	117
7.1 INTRODUCTION	117
7.2 OUT-OF-PLANE FLEXIBILITIES OF THE JOINT	117
7.3 METHOD OF ANALYSIS	118
7.4 ASSUMED CONTACT PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION AND FOURIER COEFFICIENTS	122
7.4.1 Knee-Column Joint	124
7.4.2 Overarm-Column Joint	124
7.5 COMPUTER PROGRAM FEFA	125
7.6 NUMERICAL RESULTS	126
7.6.1 Deformation Patterns	126
7.6.2 Computation of Out-of-Plane Flexibility	126
7.7 CLOSURE	128

	<u>Page</u>
FIGURES	129
CHAPTER VIII COMPUTATION OF JOINT STIFFNESS MATRIX	143
8.1 INTRODUCTION	143
8.2 ASSUMPTIONS	143
8.3 FLEXIBILITY AND STIFFNESS MATRIX FOR ONE END	144
8.4 PROCEDURE FOR COMPUTATION OF COMPLETE STIFFNESS MATRIX	145
8.5 CLOSURE	146
CHAPTER IX THE STRUCTURAL EIGENVALUE PROBLEM	147
9.1 INTRODUCTION	147
9.2 EQUATION OF MOTION	147
9.3 PROPOSED METHODS OF ANALYSIS	149
9.4 SUBPOLYNOMIAL ITERATION METHOD	150
9.4.1 Isolation of Eigenvalues	150
9.4.2 Computation of Shift	151
9.4.3 Inverse Iteration with Shift	152
9.5 DETERMINANT SEARCH METHOD	153
9.5.1 Accelerated Secant Iteration	154
9.5.2 Polynomial Deflation	154
9.5.3 Inverse Iteration with Shift	155
9.6 COMPUTER PROGRAM	155
9.6.1 Data Processing	156
9.6.2 Computing the Shift	156
9.6.3 Inverse Iteration with Shift	157
9.7 NUMERICAL RESULTS	157
9.7.1 Cantilever Beam	157
9.7.2 Hypothetical Machine Tool Structure	158
9.7.3 Actual Machine Tool Structure	158
9.8 COMPARISON OF SPI METHOD AND DETER- MINANT SEARCH METHOD	159
9.8.1 Hypothetical Milling Machine Structure	159
9.8.2 Actual Milling Machine Structure	160
9.8.3 Discussion of Numerical Results	160
9.9. CLOSURE	161
TABLES	162
FIGURES	167

	<u>Page</u>
CHAPTER X	
EFFECT OF JOINT FLEXIBILITY ON FREE VIBRATION CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MILLING MACHINE STRUCTURE	179
10.1 INTRODUCTION	179
10.2 NATURAL FREQUENCIES AND MODE SHAPES WITH RIGID JOINTS	179
10.3 NATURAL FREQUENCIES AND MODE SHAPES WITH FLEXIBLE JOINTS	180
10.4 COMPARISON OF NATURAL FREQUENCIES AND MODE SHAPES FOR RIGID JOINTS AND FLEXIBLE JOINTS	180
10.5 EFFECT OF STIFFNESS OF JOINTS ON NATURAL FREQUENCIES AND MODE SHAPES	181
10.6 CLOSURE	181
TABLES	182
FIGURES	185
CHAPTER XI	
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORK	196
APPENDIX I	
THE FINITE ELEMENT TECHNIQUE FOR FLEXIBILITY COEFFICIENTS	199
APPENDIX II	
KINEMATIC TRANSFORMATION MATRIX	200
FIGURE	201
REFERENCES	202
BIODATA	208