

# On the stability of Jeffcott rotor in fluid-film bearings<sup>1</sup>

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For some combinations of rotor speed and radial load, the pressure field of bearing fluid can perturb the pure rotational motion and disturb the normal operation of a rotating machine. Classical approach to the stability analysis of Jeffcott rotor in fluid-film bearings is modelling bearings as spring-damper elements and disregarding the external rotor damping [1, 5]. Nonlinear models are used to verify results obtained from a linearized model.

This paper deals with the influence of external rotor damping on the size of stability regions. Stability analysis of the Jeffcott rotor in fluid-film bearings is performed by using both the linear model based on the linearization of bearing force around the static equilibrium position and the nonlinear model of the velocity linearization [2, 3].

## 1. INTRODUCTION

It is a well-known fact that, for some combinations of rotor speed and radial load, rotors horizontally supported by fluid-film bearings can develop an unstable behavior. This phenomenon is intrinsically linked with the fluid-film action within the bearings. The internal feedback mechanism transfers the part of rotational energy of the bearing fluid into self-excited vibrations called whirling. The whirling is the precessional motion of the rotor at its natural frequency.

The behavior of a rotating machine is stable if its shaft performs purely rotational motion around an eccentric axis within the bearing (static equilibrium position) at a required rotational speed, and no random perturbation can drastically change its behavior [4, 9]. The stability analysis of a rotor in fluid-film bearings is inherently a nonlinear problem because the hydrodynamic bearing forces are strongly nonlinear function of the relative journal displacement and velocity. A linear approach to the stability analysis concerns linearization of the bearing force in the vicinity of the equilibrium position. The nonlinear stability analysis is based on different models of solid/fluid interaction phenomena and requires long numerical computations.

The objective of this paper is to investigate the influence of external rotor damping on the stability of Jeffcott rotor in fluid-film bearings, considering both the linear and nonlinear approach. A nonlinear approach is based on the Crandall model of the velocity linearization [2, 3] that allows a relatively simple numerical stability analysis without very tiring and time consuming integration used in more sophisticated bearing models. The results show that the Crandall procedure and the linearization of bearing force are in a very good agreement.

## 2. JEFFCOTT ROTOR ON FLUID-FILM BEARINGS

The model of Jeffcott rotor in fluid-film bearings is used to study the instability fields of rotors. The model consists of a rigid disc of mass  $m$  attached to a massless flexible shaft. The only force

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acting on the disc is that due to the stiffness  $k$  of the shaft. The shaft is horizontally situated and supported in a pair of identical fluid-film bearings whose clearance is  $c$  as shown in Fig. 1. In the study of the flexural behavior, the shaft rotates with constant angular velocity  $\Omega$  and undergoes transverse motion only.

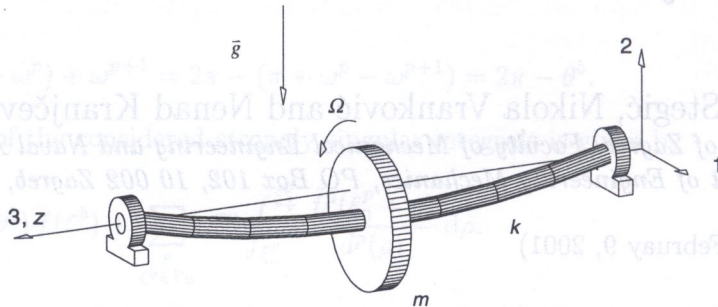


Fig. 1. Model of Jeffcott rotor in fluid-film bearings

With  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1/c \\ x_2/c \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1/c \\ y_2/c \end{bmatrix}$  being the nondimensional displacements of rotor and journal, respectively, the equation of motion for rotor can be expressed in nondimensional form

$$\eta^2 \mathbf{x}'' + \zeta_r \mathbf{x}' + (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{f}_\Gamma, \tag{1}$$

where prime denotes the differentiation with respect to  $\tau = \Omega t$ ,  $\eta = \Omega \sqrt{m/k}$  is the nondimensional rotor speed,  $\zeta_r = c_r / \sqrt{mk}$  denotes the nondimensional external rotor damping factor and  $\mathbf{f}_\Gamma = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2\Gamma \end{bmatrix}$  is the vector of the nondimensional radial load. If the radial load is simply the weight of rotor, then  $\Gamma = \frac{mg}{2kc}$ .

The equilibrium requirement at each bearing yields

$$-(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})/2 + \mathbf{f}_H = \mathbf{0}, \tag{2}$$

where  $\mathbf{f}_H$  is the vector of hydrodynamic journal force in nondimensional form.

### 3. JOURNAL FORCES EXERTED BY THE FLUID-FILM

The fluid-film bearing is sketched in Fig. 2. The cylindrical journal of radius  $R$  turns in the fluid-film bore of radius  $R + c$  and length  $L$ . The journal is statically or dynamically loaded in the radial direction, and its position with respect to the center of bearing is defined by the eccentricity  $e$  and the attitude angle  $\gamma$ .

The transverse motion of the journal disturbs the fluid flow in the clearance gap by creating large local pressure changes within the bearing fluid. Because the clearance ratio  $c/R$  is generally of the order of  $10^{-3}$ , the pressure  $p$  is linked to the thickness  $h$  of the fluid-film as per Reynolds equation. The Reynolds equation (in terms of cylindrical coordinates), applied on isoviscous and incompressible Newtonian fluid operating in the laminar regime, has the form

$$\frac{1}{R^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \left( \frac{h^3}{\mu} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \varphi} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{h^3}{\mu} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} \right) = 6\Omega \frac{\partial h}{\partial \varphi} + 12 \frac{\partial h}{\partial t}, \tag{3}$$

where  $\mu$  is the absolute viscosity of the bearing fluid. The film thickness  $h$  is easily expressed as a function of the journal position,

$$h = c - e \cos \varphi. \tag{4}$$

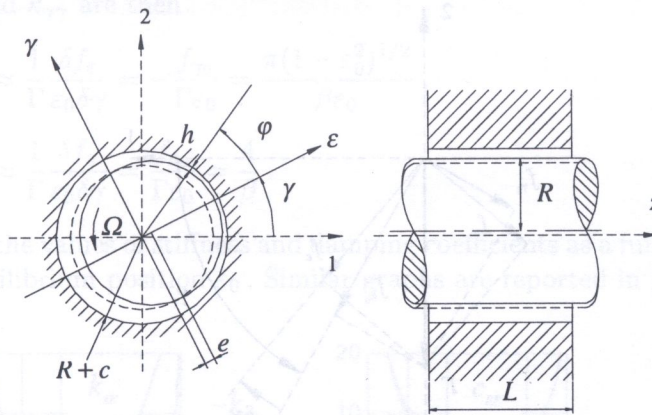


Fig. 2. Clearance geometry of fluid-film cylindrical bearing

The Reynolds equation (3) can be used to obtain the pressure distribution in the fluid-film. If the bearing is relatively short, the flow in the circumferential direction may be neglected and the short bearing solution obtained [10]. By neglecting the term linked with the circumferential pressure change of the Reynolds equation (3), the pressure distribution in the fluid-film can be obtained from

$$p(\varphi, z) = \frac{6\mu}{h^3} \left[ \dot{e} \cos \varphi + e \left( \dot{\gamma} - \frac{\Omega}{2} \right) \sin \varphi \right] \left( \frac{L^2}{4} - z^2 \right) \quad (5)$$

with the boundary condition  $z = \pm \frac{L}{2}, p = 0$ .

The pressure is positive between angles  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  defined by  $\varphi_1 = \frac{\pi}{2} + \alpha$  and  $\varphi_2 = \frac{3\pi}{2} + \alpha$ , respectively, where  $\alpha = \text{atan} \frac{e\Omega/2 - \dot{\gamma}}{\dot{e}} \geq \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

The bearing force components acting on the journal, parallel and normal to the eccentricity vector, can be obtained by integrating the pressure distribution (5) on the positive portion of the fluid-film only i.e.,  $[\varphi_1 \varphi_2]$ ,

$$F_\varepsilon = \int_{\varphi_1}^{\varphi_2} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} p(\varphi, z) \cos \varphi R d\varphi dz = \frac{\pi\mu RL^3}{c^3} \left[ \frac{1 + 2\varepsilon^2}{2(1 - \varepsilon^2)^{5/2}} \dot{e} - \frac{2\varepsilon}{\pi(1 - \varepsilon^2)^2} e \left( \dot{\gamma} - \frac{\Omega}{2} \right) \right], \quad (6)$$

$$F_\gamma = \int_{\varphi_1}^{\varphi_2} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} p(\varphi, z) \sin \varphi R d\varphi dz = \frac{\pi\mu RL^3}{c^3} \left[ -\frac{2\varepsilon}{\pi(1 - \varepsilon^2)^2} \dot{e} + \frac{1}{2(1 - \varepsilon^2)^{3/2}} e \left( \dot{\gamma} - \frac{\Omega}{2} \right) \right], \quad (7)$$

where  $\varepsilon = e/c$  denotes the nondimensional eccentricity.

When using the nondimensional time differentiation, the journal force components take the form

$$f_\varepsilon = \zeta_B \eta \left[ \frac{\varepsilon^2}{\pi(1 - \varepsilon^2)^2} + \frac{1 + 2\varepsilon^2}{2(1 - \varepsilon^2)^{5/2}} \varepsilon' - \frac{2\varepsilon^2}{\pi(1 - \varepsilon^2)^2} \gamma' \right], \quad (8)$$

$$f_\gamma = \zeta_B \eta \left[ -\frac{\varepsilon}{4(1 - \varepsilon^2)^{3/2}} - \frac{2\varepsilon}{\pi(1 - \varepsilon^2)^2} \varepsilon' + \frac{\varepsilon}{2(1 - \varepsilon^2)^{3/2}} \gamma' \right], \quad (9)$$

where  $\zeta_B = \pi\mu RL^3 / (c^3 \sqrt{mk})$  is the bearing factor in nondimensional form.

#### 4. LINEARIZATION OF THE JOURNAL FORCES

Determination of the journal static displacement is essential for the linearization procedure. The kinematic requirement for equilibrium is that the journal velocity relative to the bearing, vanishes; i.e.,  $\varepsilon' = \gamma' = 0$ . To define the static journal displacement, the applied static load  $\Gamma$  (without loss

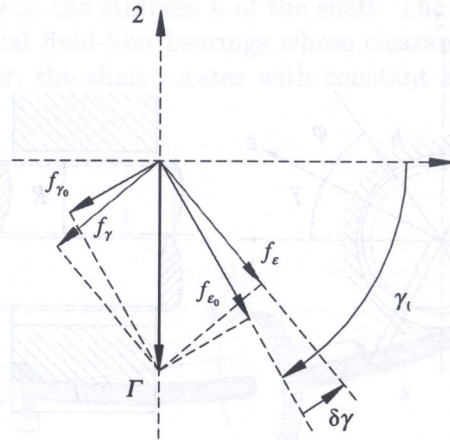


Fig. 3. Equilibrium condition for a fluid-film bearing

of generality) is directed along the vertical axis as shown in Fig. 3. The eccentricity magnitude  $\epsilon_0$  and the attitude angle  $\gamma_0$  at the equilibrium position are obtained as follows,

$$\Gamma = \zeta_B \eta \frac{\epsilon_0 \beta}{4\pi(1 - \epsilon_0^2)^2}, \tag{10}$$

$$\tan \gamma_0 = -\frac{4\epsilon_0}{\pi(1 - \epsilon_0^2)^{1/2}}, \tag{11}$$

where  $\beta = [16\epsilon_0^2 + \pi^2(1 - \epsilon_0^2)]^{1/2}$ .

Assuming small displacement of the journal center from the equilibrium position,  $\delta\epsilon$  and  $\delta\gamma$ , the journal force components in the polar coordinates (8) and (9) may be linearized around the static equilibrium position to obtain

$$f_\epsilon = f_{\epsilon_0} + \Gamma k_{\epsilon\epsilon} \delta\epsilon + \Gamma k_{\epsilon\gamma} \epsilon_0 \delta\gamma + \Gamma c_{\epsilon\epsilon} \delta\epsilon' + \Gamma c_{\epsilon\gamma} \epsilon_0 \delta\gamma', \tag{12}$$

$$f_\gamma = f_{\gamma_0} + \Gamma k_{\gamma\epsilon} \delta\epsilon + \Gamma k_{\gamma\gamma} \epsilon_0 \delta\gamma + \Gamma c_{\gamma\epsilon} \delta\epsilon' + \Gamma c_{\gamma\gamma} \epsilon_0 \delta\gamma', \tag{13}$$

where  $f_{\epsilon_0}$  and  $f_{\gamma_0}$  are the journal force components under the static conditions while  $(k_{\epsilon\epsilon}, k_{\epsilon\gamma}, k_{\gamma\epsilon}, k_{\gamma\gamma})$  and  $(c_{\epsilon\epsilon}, c_{\epsilon\gamma}, c_{\gamma\epsilon}, c_{\gamma\gamma})$  are the stiffness and damping coefficients. The coefficients  $k_{\epsilon\epsilon}, k_{\gamma\epsilon}, c_{\epsilon\epsilon}, c_{\epsilon\gamma}, c_{\gamma\epsilon}$  and  $c_{\gamma\gamma}$  can be derived directly from Eqs. (8) and (9) as follows,

$$k_{\epsilon\epsilon} = \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{\partial f_\epsilon}{\partial \epsilon} \Big|_{\epsilon_0, \gamma_0} = \frac{8(1 + \epsilon_0^2)}{\beta(1 - \epsilon_0^2)}, \quad k_{\gamma\epsilon} = \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{\partial f_\gamma}{\partial \epsilon} \Big|_{\epsilon_0, \gamma_0} = -\frac{\pi(1 + 2\epsilon_0^2)}{\beta\epsilon_0(1 - \epsilon_0^2)^{1/2}}, \tag{14}$$

$$c_{\epsilon\epsilon} = \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{\partial f_\epsilon}{\partial \epsilon'} \Big|_{\epsilon_0, \gamma_0} = \frac{2\pi(1 + 2\epsilon_0^2)}{\beta\epsilon_0(1 - \epsilon_0^2)^{1/2}}, \quad c_{\epsilon\gamma} = \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{\partial f_\epsilon}{\partial \gamma'} \Big|_{\epsilon_0, \gamma_0} = -\frac{8}{\beta}, \tag{15}$$

$$c_{\gamma\epsilon} = \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{\partial f_\gamma}{\partial \epsilon'} \Big|_{\epsilon_0, \gamma_0} = -\frac{8}{\beta}, \quad c_{\gamma\gamma} = \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{\partial f_\gamma}{\partial \gamma'} \Big|_{\epsilon_0, \gamma_0} = \frac{2\pi(1 - \epsilon_0^2)^{1/2}}{\beta\epsilon_0}. \tag{16}$$

The stiffness coefficients  $k_{\epsilon\gamma}$  and  $k_{\gamma\gamma}$  may be obtained by considering the consequences of a perturbation  $\delta\gamma$  of the equilibrium angle  $\gamma_0$  with  $\epsilon_0$  and  $\Gamma$  maintained constant. The rotation  $\delta\gamma$  gives the following restatement of equilibrium force (see Fig. 3),

$$f_\epsilon = f_{\epsilon_0} \cos(\delta\gamma) - f_{\gamma_0} \sin(\delta\gamma) \approx f_{\epsilon_0} - f_{\gamma_0} \delta\gamma = f_{\epsilon_0} + \delta f_\epsilon, \tag{17}$$

$$f_\gamma = f_{\epsilon_0} \sin(\delta\gamma) + f_{\gamma_0} \cos(\delta\gamma) \approx f_{\gamma_0} + f_{\epsilon_0} \delta\gamma = f_{\gamma_0} + \delta f_\gamma. \tag{18}$$

The coefficients  $k_{\epsilon\gamma}$  and  $k_{\gamma\gamma}$  are then

$$k_{\epsilon\gamma} = \left. \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{\partial f_\epsilon}{\partial \gamma} \right|_{\epsilon_0, \gamma_0} \approx \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{\delta f_\epsilon}{\epsilon_0 \delta \gamma} = -\frac{f_{\gamma_0}}{\Gamma \epsilon_0} = \frac{\pi(1 - \epsilon_0^2)^{1/2}}{\beta \epsilon_0}, \tag{19}$$

$$k_{\gamma\gamma} = \left. \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{\partial f_\gamma}{\partial \gamma} \right|_{\epsilon_0, \gamma_0} \approx \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{\delta f_\gamma}{\epsilon_0 \delta \gamma} = \frac{f_{\epsilon_0}}{\Gamma \epsilon_0} = \frac{4}{\beta}. \tag{20}$$

Figure 4 illustrates the values of stiffness and damping coefficients as a function of nondimensional eccentricity at the equilibrium position  $\epsilon_0$ . Similar graphs are reported in [7, 8, 12]

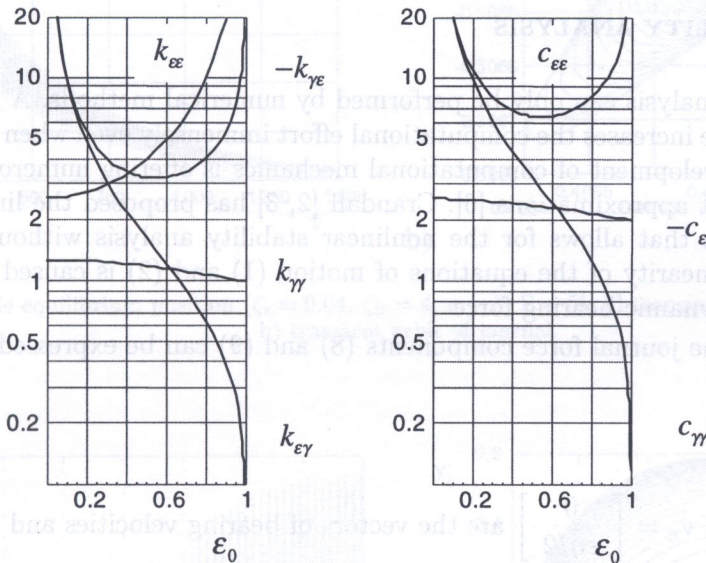


Fig. 4. Stiffness and damping coefficients in the polar coordinates as a function of  $\epsilon_0$

### 5. LINEAR STABILITY ANALYSIS

The linearized journal force (12) and (13) can be written in the matrix form as

$$\mathbf{f}_{\epsilon\gamma} = \mathbf{f}_{\epsilon_0\gamma_0} + \Gamma \mathbf{K}_{\epsilon\gamma} \delta \mathbf{u} + \Gamma \mathbf{C}_{\epsilon\gamma} \delta \mathbf{u}', \tag{21}$$

where  $\mathbf{f}_{\epsilon\gamma} = \begin{bmatrix} f_\epsilon \\ f_\gamma \end{bmatrix}$  is the vector of journal force in the polar coordinates,  $\mathbf{K}_{\epsilon\gamma} = \begin{bmatrix} k_{EE} & k_{E\gamma} \\ k_{\gamma E} & k_{\gamma\gamma} \end{bmatrix}$

and  $\mathbf{C}_{\epsilon\gamma} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{EE} & c_{E\gamma} \\ c_{\gamma E} & c_{\gamma\gamma} \end{bmatrix}$  are the matrices of stiffness and damping coefficients, respectively and

$\delta \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \delta \epsilon \\ \epsilon_0 \delta \gamma \end{bmatrix}$  denotes the vector of small displacement from the equilibrium position.

If  $\delta \mathbf{x}$  and  $\delta \mathbf{y}$  are small displacements in horizontal and vertical directions from the rotor and journal equilibrium position, the governing equations of motion (1) and (2) take the form suitable for the linear stability analysis,

$$\eta^2 \delta \mathbf{x}'' + \eta \zeta_r \delta \mathbf{x}' + (\delta \mathbf{x} - \delta \mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{0}, \tag{22}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}(\delta \mathbf{x} - \delta \mathbf{y}) + \Gamma \mathbf{T}^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{\epsilon\gamma} \mathbf{T} \delta \mathbf{y} + \Gamma \mathbf{T}^{-1} \mathbf{C}_{\epsilon\gamma} \mathbf{T} \delta \mathbf{y}' = \mathbf{0}, \tag{23}$$

where  $\mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \gamma_0 & \sin \gamma_0 \\ -\sin \gamma_0 & \cos \gamma_0 \end{bmatrix}$  is the matrix of transformation.

Equations (22) and (23) have the following characteristic sixth-order equation,

$$b_0 + b_1\lambda + b_2\lambda^2 + b_3\lambda^3 + b_4\lambda^4 + b_5\lambda^5 + b_6\lambda^6 = 0, \quad (24)$$

in which  $\lambda$  is the eigenvalue and  $b_0 \dots b_6$  are the coefficients.

The behavior of Jeffcott rotor in fluid-film bearings becomes stable when all determinants of the Hurwitz matrix applied to the characteristic equation (24) are positive.

## 6. NONLINEAR STABILITY ANALYSIS

The nonlinear stability analysis can only be performed by numerical methods. A general nonlinear model of the bearing force increases the computational effort immensely even when the short bearing solution is used. Fast development of computational mechanics is offering numerous new nonlinear models based on different approximations [6]. Crandall [2, 3] has proposed the linearization of the journal velocity response that allows for the nonlinear stability analysis without long numerical computations. The nonlinearity of the equations of motion (1) and (2) is caused by the nonlinear properties of the hydrodynamic bearing force.

The matrix form of the journal force components (8) and (9) can be expressed as follows,

$$\mathbf{f}_{\varepsilon\gamma} = \zeta_B \mathbf{Z}(\eta \mathbf{v}_{\varepsilon\gamma} - \mathbf{v}_\eta), \quad (25)$$

where  $\mathbf{v}_{\varepsilon\gamma} = \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon' \\ \varepsilon\gamma' \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v}_\eta = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \varepsilon\eta/2 \end{bmatrix}$  are the vectors of bearing velocities and  $\mathbf{Z} = \begin{bmatrix} z_{11} & z_{12} \\ z_{21} & z_{22} \end{bmatrix}$  is the matrix of journal displacement.

Elements of the matrix  $\mathbf{Z}$  are considered from Eqs. (8) and (9) as

$$z_{11} = \frac{1 + 2\varepsilon^2}{2(1 - \varepsilon^2)^{5/2}}, \quad z_{22} = \frac{1}{2(1 - \varepsilon^2)^{3/2}}, \quad z_{12} = z_{21} = -\frac{2\varepsilon}{\pi(1 - \varepsilon^2)^2}.$$

By introducing the transformation matrix  $\mathbf{T}$  into Eq. (25), a nonlinear set of equations of motion (1) and (2) is obtained as follows,

$$\eta^2 \mathbf{x}'' + \eta \zeta_r \mathbf{x}' + (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{f}_\Gamma, \quad (26)$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) + \zeta_B \eta \mathbf{T}^{-1} \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{T} \mathbf{y}' - \zeta_B \mathbf{T}^{-1} \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{v}_\eta = \mathbf{0}. \quad (27)$$

Equations (26) and (27) can only be solved numerically. By applying the classical perturbation method, the stability of Jeffcott rotor in fluid-film bearings can be analyzed for a wide range of nondimensional speeds  $\eta$  and nondimensional loads  $\Gamma$ . The stability of Eqs. (26) and (27) is examined by studying the motion in immediate neighborhood of equilibrium position by superimposing a small disturbance on the rotor velocity  $\eta$ . For stable combinations of nondimensional speed and load, the amplitude of the journal displacement from equilibrium position

$$\hat{\alpha} = \sqrt{(y_1 - y_{10})^2 + (y_2 - y_{20})^2}, \quad (28)$$

converges towards zero (Fig. 5a) and the journal motion settles down to a decreasing spiral centered on the equilibrium position (Fig. 5b).

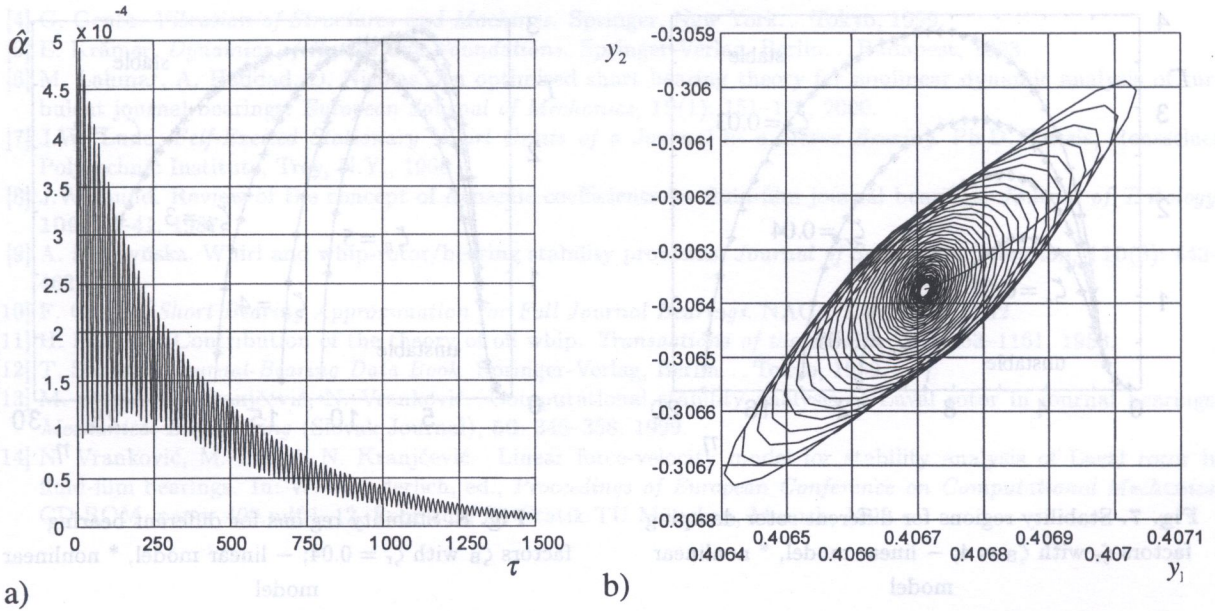


Fig. 5. Stable equilibrium position ( $\zeta_r = 0.04, \zeta_B = 4, \eta = 5, \Gamma = 5$ ); a) transient amplitude of journal, b) transient orbit of journal

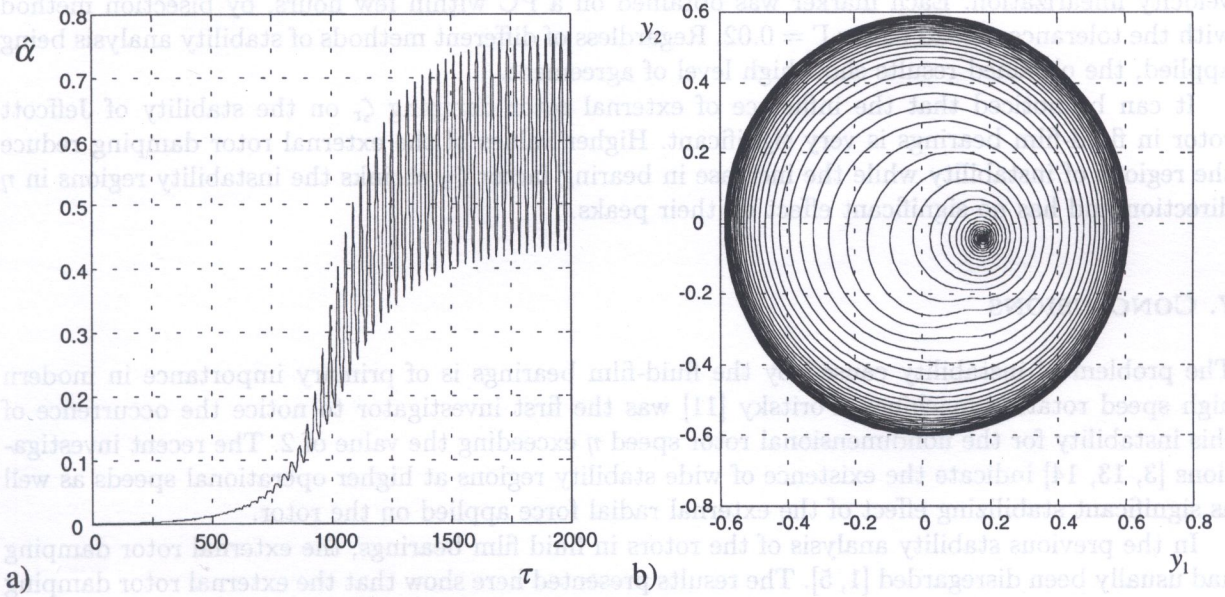


Fig. 6. Unstable equilibrium position ( $\zeta_r = 0.04, \zeta_B = 4, \eta = 5, \Gamma = 1$ ); a) transient amplitude of journal, b) transient orbit of journal

For unstable combinations of  $\eta$  and  $\Gamma$ , the amplitude  $\hat{\alpha}$  diverges (Fig. 6a) and the journal motion settles into an increasing spiral which converges to a stable limit cycle (Fig. 6b) or diverges as shown in [3]. In Eq. (28),  $(y_{10}, y_{20})$  denotes the journal static displacement in a nondimensional form.

During the computations, Eqs. (26) and (27) have been integrated using the numerical routine Runge-Kutta 5. To ensure the linearization of the velocity dependence, the velocities  $\varepsilon'$  and  $\varepsilon(\gamma' - \eta/2)$  were monitored throughout the computations. The value of  $|\varepsilon'|$  is of an order of magnitude smaller than the value of  $|\varepsilon(\gamma' - \eta/2)|$ , which makes this linearization allowable. The fraction of the period over which magnitude of  $|\varepsilon(\gamma' - \eta/2)|$  is comparable with magnitude of  $|\varepsilon'|$  is negligible.

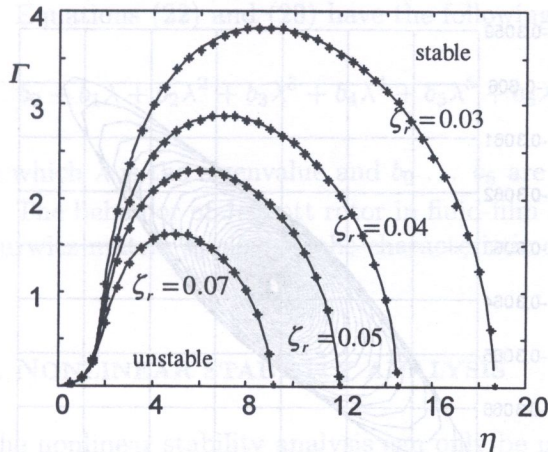


Fig. 7. Stability regions for different rotor damping factors  $\zeta_r$  with  $\zeta_B = 4$ ; — linear model, \* nonlinear model

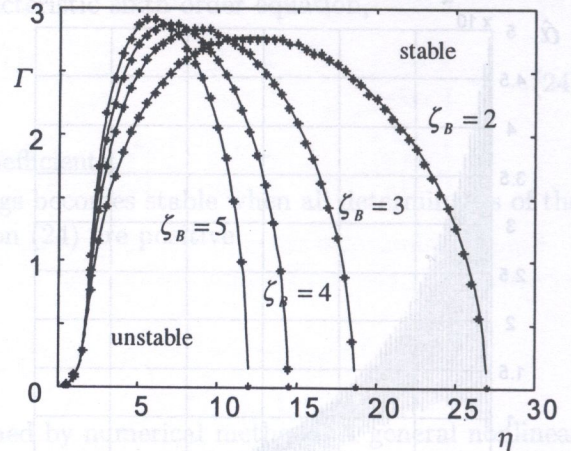


Fig. 8. Stability regions for different bearing factors  $\zeta_B$  with  $\zeta_r = 0.04$ ; — linear model, \* nonlinear model

As the result of stability analyses, the regions of stable dynamic behavior of rotor (in terms of rotor speed and radial load) for different values of external rotor damping factor and bearing factor are presented in Figs. 7 and 8. Solid lines represent borderlines obtained from the linear stability analysis, while markers denote the instability thresholds obtained by the Crandall procedure of velocity linearization. Each marker was obtained on a PC within few hours, by bisection method with the tolerance of load factor  $\Gamma = 0.02$ . Regardless of different methods of stability analysis being applied, the obtained results show high level of agreement.

It can be noticed that the influence of external rotor damping  $\zeta_r$  on the stability of Jeffcott rotor in fluid-film bearings is very significant. Higher values of the external rotor damping reduce the regions of instability while the increase in bearing factor  $\zeta_B$  shrinks the instability regions in  $\eta$  direction and has no significant effect on their peaks.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

The problem of instability caused by the fluid-film bearings is of primary importance in modern high speed rotating machines. Poritsky [11] was the first investigator to notice the occurrence of this instability for the nondimensional rotor speed  $\eta$  exceeding the value of 2. The recent investigations [3, 13, 14] indicate the existence of wide stability regions at higher operational speeds as well as significant stabilizing effect of the external radial force applied on the rotor.

In the previous stability analysis of the rotors in fluid film bearings, the external rotor damping had usually been disregarded [1, 5]. The results presented here show that the external rotor damping has the appreciable influence on the size of stability regions. Solutions obtained from the linear and nonlinear models are consistent. The linearized model is suitable for the stability analysis over a wide range of the external rotor damping parameters. Numerical calculations based on the nonlinear model verify the validity of results from the linearized model.

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A modification of the Fourier transform method, which makes feasible transforming products of two functions and/or their derivatives, is described. By application of this method, some kinds of nonlinear differential equations can be transformed and solved. In this paper, the solution of the problem of a rotating beam with fixed supports, under continuous dimensional loading is given. Expressions of the beam deformations theory are used. The natural inhomogeneity between the deformation and the load is transformed into constant. The problem is mathematically described by a system of four ordinary differential equations, with the appropriate boundary conditions. The solution is obtained by making use of an iterative procedure, based on the modified Fourier transform method.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In many problems of mathematical physics we solve boundary value problems of different kind. The solutions should satisfy differential equations and some conditions imposed upon the solutions – boundary and/or initial. These problems are being solved using different methods [5]. The vast majority of analytical methods is suitable only for solving linear differential equations and this limitation forced development of numerical methods.

The Fourier transform method, which is very convenient for solving linear differential equations, cannot be applied in the case of nonlinear equations. The main obstacle is the inability to transform differential expressions that contain products of two functions or derivatives, or the functions are raised to a power different from unity.

In [8] one method of finding approximate solutions for the heat conduction equation in two dimension subject to mixed boundary conditions has been presented. From the results obtained one can see that the solution that the solution of the problem derived by the Fourier cosine series approximates well the solution of the same problem, derived by the method of separation of variables. The boundary conditions have not been satisfied. Paper [9] applies the same method to a certain class of partial differential equations subject to non-Dirichlet boundary conditions, considering the problem of boundary conditions as well, without solving eigenvalue problems. In [10] the Fourier cosine series are applied to solve one heterogeneous thermal problem. These approaches brought solutions of some types of differential equations, particularly the heat transfer differential equation. The main limitations were the order of derivatives and appearance of nonlinear terms in form of products of derivatives.

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