UNBALANCE RESPONSE PREDICTION FOR ACCELERATING ROTORS WITH LOAD-DEPENDENT NONLINEAR BEARING STIFFNESS

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ABSTRACT

Rolling-element bearing forces vary nonlinearly with bearing deflection. Thus an accurate rotordynamic analysis requires that bearing forces corresponding to the actual bearing deflection be utilized. Previous papers have explored the transient effect of suddenly applied imbalance and the steady-state unbalance response, using bearing forces calculated by the rolling-element bearing analysis code COBRA-AHS. The present work considers the acceleration of a rotor through one or more critical speeds. The rotordynamic analysis showed that for rapid acceleration rates the maximum response amplitude may be considerably less than predicted by steady-state analysis. Above the critical speed, transient vibration at the rotor natural frequency occurs, similar to that predicted for a Jeffcott rotor with constant-stiffness bearings. A moderate amount of damping will markedly reduce the vibration amplitude, but this damping is not inherent in ball bearings.

Keywords: Rotordynamics, rolling-element bearing stiffness, dynamic analysis, rolling-element bearings, speed ramp analysis.