**Suppression of friction-induced-vibration in MDoF systems using tangential harmonic excitation**

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**Abstract**

This paper investigates the effects of tangential harmonic excitation on the friction-induced-vibration in multi-degree-of-freedom (MDoF) systems that are coupled in the tangential and normal directions. A minimal two-degree-of-freedom system and a more complicated slider-on-disc system are considered. It is observed the friction-induced-vibration of the systems can be suppressed with the tangential harmonic excitation when the amplitude and frequency of the excitation are in certain ranges. The analytical method to determine the ranges where the systems are stabilized by the tangential excitation is established. To verify the analytical results, a great amount of computational effort is also made to simulate the time responses of systems in various combinations of values of the amplitude and frequency, by which the parameter ranges where the friction-induced vibration is suppressed can also be obtained. This research can provide theoretical guidance for the suppression of friction-induced-vibration in a real disc brake system by application of a tangential harmonic excitation.

**Key words:** friction-induced-vibration, multi-degree-of-freedom system, high-frequency tangential harmonic excitation, suppression

**1. Introduction**

Friction-induced-vibration exists widely in engineering applications as well as in everyday life. Examples include string music instruments, squeaking joints of robots, some insect sounds, vibration of drill strings, earthquake and automobile brake noise, etc. [1, 2]. Among them, brake noise, especially brake squeal, is still a major issue facing car manufactures today, which may cause discomfort to passengers and be perceived as quality problems, thereby increasing the warranty costs [3].

There have been a large number of published studies on friction-induced vibration. Four main mechanisms were proposed to explain the occurrence of friction-induced self-excited vibration, which are: the negative slope of the friction force-relative sliding velocity relation [4], the stick-slip vibration [5], the sprag-slip motion [6] and the mode-coupling instability [7]. The negative slope of the friction force-relative sliding velocity relation acted as negative damping in the system to cause the static equilibrium to be unstable. Popp et al [2,5,8] studied discrete and continuous models exhibiting a stick-slip phenomenon, and rich bifurcation and chaotic behaviours were observed for a 1-DoF (degree-of-freedom) system under a harmonic excitation and multi-DoF systems. Papangelo [9] investigated the subcritical bifurcation of a slider-on-belt system which experienced friction-induced vibration in the case of a weakening-strengthening friction law, and the results showed that there was a range of the belt velocity where two stable solutions coexisted, i.e., a stable sliding equilibrium and a stable stick-slip limit cycle. Tonazzi et al. [10] performed an experimental and numerical analysis of frictional contact scenarios from macro stick-slip to continuous sliding. The stick-slip torsional vibration of a drilling system was studied in [11]. The work in [12] examined the dynamics of sprag-slip instability in a tilted-beam-on-belt system and found parameter combinations for the occurrence of sprag-slip oscillation. Sinou et al. [13] studied the instability in a nonlinear sprag-slip model with constant coefficient of friction by a central manifold theory and the effects of parameters on the sprag-slip instability were examined. The mode-coupling instability happens as some modes of the system are destabilized when coupling with other modes due to a friction-induced cross-coupling force. Hoffmann et al. [14, 15] investigated the physical mechanisms underlying the mode-coupling instability of self-excited friction-induced vibration and the effect of viscous damping on the mode-coupling instability, respectively. Kang et al. [16] studied the unstable vibration of a thin circular plate with friction interface and established the formulation of modal instability due to the mode-coupling of the transverse doublet modes.

In addition to the aforementioned four main mechanisms, there were other friction-related factors responsible for exciting vibration and noise. Kinkaid et al. [17] studied the dynamics of a 4-DoF (degree-of-freedom) system with a two-dimension friction force and found the change of direction of the friction force could excite unstable vibration even with the Coulomb’s law of friction. Chan et al. [18] analysed the destabilizing effect of the friction force modelled as a follower force. Hochlenert et al. [19] established an accurate formulation of the kinematics of the frictional contact in two and three dimensions and worked out the essential properties of the contact kinematics leading to self-excited vibration. Ouyang and Mottershead [20] investigated the instability of the transverse vibration of a disc excited by two co-rotating sliders on either side and found that the moving normal forces and the friction couple produced by the resulting friction forces brought about dynamic instability. Liu and Ouyang [21] studied the friction-induced-vibration of a slider on an elastic disc spinning at variable speeds and observed that the time-variant disc speed could be a cause for unstable vibration. Chen et al. [22] analysed the instability of a friction system caused by the time delay between the normal force and the friction force. Besides, friction-induced vibration and noise in mechanical systems were also investigated experimentally [23-27].

As with the issue of brake squeal, friction-induced-vibration in mechanical system are usually undesirable and should be avoided. Understanding the factors leading to friction-induced dynamic instability may help to select appropriate parameter values corresponding to stable systems in a design. Additionally, some structural modification approaches were developed, such as installing damping shims on the brake pads [28], modifying brake disc surface topography [29, 30], applying yawing angular misalignment [31], etc. All these methods mentioned above change the dynamic properties of the systems permanently. On the other hand, Cunefare and Graf [32] proposed using an actuator to produce a fluctuating friction force with high frequency between the pad and the disc to eliminate brake squeal. Feeny and Moon [33] applied a high-frequency excitation to quench stick-slip chaos. Zhao et al. [34] integrated the piezoceramic actuators into a disc brake system to provide harmonic high-frequency vibrations to eliminate the stick-slip limit cycle vibration of the system. This approach of applying an external periodic excitation offers a more flexible way to suppress the unwanted friction-induce vibration in mechanical systems. However, there has been little theoretical study on this topic. It was observed in [35] that sufficiently strong high-frequency excitation in the tangential direction can smoothen the discontinuity in dry friction and produce behaviour like viscous damping. Thomsen [36] conduced a theoretical analysis of the effects of high-frequency external excitation on the stick-slip vibration of a single-DoF mass-on-belt system. Nevertheless, a real mechanical systems such as a disc brake system usually involve multiple degrees of freedom, in which mechanisms responsible for friction-induced-vibration such as mode-coupling instability may appear. In order to provide more practical theoretical guidance for suppression of friction-induced-vibration in real disc brake systems, this paper investigates the effects of the tangential high-frequency harmonic excitation on the friction-induced dynamics of a two-degree-of-freedom mass-on-belt system and a slider-on-disc system.

The rest of the paper is arranged as follows. In Section 2, the equations of motion are formulated and the analytical formulas for the parameter ranges where the systems are stabilized by the tangential excitation are derived for the two-DoF mass-on-belt system. In Section 3, the corresponding formulation and derivation for the slider-on-disc system are presented. Subsequently a detailed numerical study is conducted in Section 4 and the results obtained from the analytical formulas are examined in relation to the time responses calculated by the Runge-Kutta algorithm. Finally in Section 5 the conclusions are drawn.

**2. A minimal 2-DoF frictional system**

The model of the 2-DoF frictional system is shown in Fig. 1, which was previously investigated in [14] in terms of mode-coupling instability. In this model, a point mass is connected to the base by two sets of spring-damper systems (, and , ) at the angles of inclination to the horizontal direction and , respectively. The mass is pressed by a preload to bring it into frictional contact with a belt moving at constant velocity . A spring is used to model the contact stiffness between the mass and the belt. A tangential harmonic force is now applied to the mass and its effects on the dynamic instability of the system is examined.

The equations of motion of the 2-DoF system can be derived as

(1)

where,

(2)

Fig. 1 Two-degree-of-freedom frictional system

And represents the friction force between the mass and the belt, , in which and denote the coefficient of friction and the normal force, respectively. Here a Coulomb’s law of friction is utilized, i.e.,

(3)

where . Eq. (3) is valid during relative sliding when . In the stick phase when , friction force is obtained from the equations of motion, Eq. (1). Additionally, the normal force is expressed as,

(4)

By defining the following quantities and operator,

, , , , , , , , (5)

Eq. (1) can be rewritten as,

(6a)

(6b)

Suppose the solutions consist of a slowly varying component and a small-amplitude fast varying component, i.e.,

= (7a)

= (7b)

Substituting Eq. (7) into Eq. (6) results in,

(8a)

(8b)

where,

, , ,

, , (9)

Assuming and grouping the terms on the left-hand sides of Eq. (8) into the coefficients of , 1, lead to,

(10a)

(10b)

When , the following equations are resulted,

) (11a)

) (11b)

) (11c)

) (11d)

It can be derived from Eqs. (11a) and (11c) that

) (12a)

) (12b)

where and are constants, and and should be zero as it is unlikely for and to grow infinitely with time. By substituting Eqs. (12a) and (12b) into Eqs. (11b) and (11d) and applying a fast-time-average operator to Eqs. (11b) and (11d) as well as omitting the small quantity , the new differential equations with respect to the slowly varying components and are,

(13a)

(13b)

Because the amplitudes of the fast varying components are in the order of , the behaviour of the overall system responses can be observed via the behaviour of the slowly varying components and . By utilizing the friction law of Eq. (3), it is obtained that,

(14)

Converting Eq. (13) into the first-order differential equations and linearizing the differential equations at the equilibrium point, a Jacobian matrix with respect to and can be obtained as,

, when (15a)

or,

, when (15b)

in which is the normal displacement of the equilibrium point obtained from the differential equation Eq. (13). The stability of the system at the equilibrium point can be then revealed by the real parts of the eigenvalues of the Jacobian matrix. The range of the amplitude and frequency of the excitation where the system is stabilized is thus derived.

**3. Slider-on-disc system**

The configuration of the slider-on-disc system is illustrated in Fig. 2. It is a simplified model of a car brake system. The brake rotor is modelled as a Kirchhoff plate clamped at inner boundary and free at outer boundary. The brake pad is modelled as a lumped mass, and the constraint to the pad imposed by the fixtures such as the calliper is modelled by a tangential spring , an inclined spring at 45 degree to the tangential direction and dashpots and in the tangential and normal directions. Without loss of generality, the circumferential coordinate of the fixtures is set as. The contact stiffness between the pad and rotor is represented by a linear spring . The slider is assumed to be fixed radially at form the disc centre and pressed by a preload that forces the mass into frictional contact with the disc, which is rotating at the speed . Likewise, a harmonic force in the tangential direction is applied to the slider to suppress the friction-induced vibration of the system.

***x***

***z***

*r*

*θ*

*h*

*b*

*a*

*Ω*

***y***

Fig. 2 The slider-on-disc system

In this system, the vibration of the slider in the normal and tangential directions and the transverse vibration of the disc are considered. The equations of motion of the slider can be written as,

(16)

(17)

where and represent the angular displacement in the tangential direction and the translational displacement in the normal direction of the slider, respectively. denotes the transverse displacement of the disc at the polar coordinate in the space-fixed coordinate system, which is the location of the contact point at an arbitrary time. represents the friction force between the slider and the disc, , where and denote the coefficient of friction and the normal force, respectively. In many cases the friction force decreases with the increase in the relative velocity at low velocities, therefore the friction law with a negative friction-velocity slope [37] is considered here, i.e.,

(18)

where , and are the coefficients of static and kinetic friction respectively. determines the initial negative slope, and the friction law actually turns into the Coulomb law when . And the normal force is expressed as,

(19)

The transverse displacement of the disc can be approximated by a linear superposition of a set of orthogonal basis functions as [38],

(20)

where *k* and *l* denote the numbers of nodal circles and nodal diameters respectively, , are modal coordinates, is a combination of Bessel functions satisfying the inner and outer boundary conditions of the nonrotating disc and orthogonality conditions. The equations of motion with respect to the modal coordinates can be obtained from Lagrange’s equations,

(21)

(22)

in which,

(23)

(24)

(25)

(26)

(27)

(28)

In the above equations, *T* and *U* denote the kinetic energy and strain energy of the disc respectively, and represent the generalized forces obtained from the virtual work of the normal contact force and bending moment acting on the disc. *A* is the area of the disc surface, is the density of material, is the bending rigidity, and are the Young’s modulus and the Poisson’s ratio of the disc material, respectively. The bending moment can be expressed as,

(29)

By substituting Eqs. (19), (20) and (29) into Eqs. (21-28), the equations of transverse vibration of the disc with respect to the modal coordinates can be derived,

(30a)

(30b)

in which is the natural frequency of the mode with *k* nodal circles and *l* nodal diameters of the corresponding nonrotating plate, and

(31)

The equations of motion for the whole system are therefore the coupled equations consisting of Eqs. (16), (17) and (30). Similar to the 2-DoF frictional system, the analytical formulas to determine the range of the amplitude and frequency of the excitation where the system can be stabilized are derived. The detailed derivation is given in the Appendix.

**4. Numerical study**

In this section, a detailed numerical study is conducted to demonstrate the effect of tangential harmonic excitation in suppressing the friction-induced vibration of the 2-DoF system and the slider-on-disc system. For the determination of the parameter range that will suppress the friction-induced vibration of the systems, the results obtained both from the analytical method and from the time domain integration by the Runge-Kutta algorithm are presented. To avoid the numerical difficulty brought about by the discontinuity at the zero relative velocity of the discontinuous type of friction laws, the smooth functions [39, 40] that can accurately describe the behaviour of the discontinuous systems are used to approximate the discontinuous friction forces in the calculation of the time responses. In this paper, the smooth functions used are in the 2-DoF frictional system and in the slider-on-disc system, respectively. is the smoothness factor and its value is set as 50 in all the time responses simulations of both systems.

4.1 Numerical study of the 2-DoF frictional system

In the numerical examples for the 2-DoF friction system, the basic system parameters assigned with constant values are: , , , , , , , , . Firstly the dynamics of the original system, i.e. when the tangential harmonic excitation is not applied, is examined. The eigenvalues of the Jacobian matrix of the original system as a function of are shown in Fig. 3, which reflects the local stability of the system at the equilibrium point. If there exists an eigenvalue with a positive real part, the equilibrium point is unstable and the system exhibits growing self-excited vibration. It is clearly shown that the mode-coupling instability appears at the onset of a positive real part and the merging of imaginary parts in the original frictional system. And the equilibrium point of the system becomes destabilized when is larger than its critical value 0.37. Fig. 4 displays the time histories of the tangential and normal displacements of the original system at and , where it can be seen that the amplitudes of the dynamic responses, especially the normal displacement of the mass, grow with time until the mass separates with the disc (when ). Then the mass will re-contact with and separate from the belt repetitively, as has been observed in [41]. The time histories after separation are not shown here as the present work is devoted to suppressing the friction-induced vibration of the system by means of tangential harmonic excitation. Then the dynamic responses of the system under the above two values of in the presence of the harmonic excitation with appropriate amplitude and frequency are shown in Fig. 5, from which it is observed that although the amplitudes of the dynamic responses are increased in the initial stage under the influence of the external excitation, they are greatly attenuated in the steady-state phase, especially for the normal displacements of the mass. These two cases demonstrate the effectiveness of the tangential harmonic excitation in suppressing the friction-induced self-excited vibration of the system.

 Fig. 3 The eigenvalue of the Jacobian matrix of the original system as a function of



Fig. 4 The time histories of tangential and normal displacements of the original system when is larger than its critical value: (a) (b) ; (c) (d) .

Fig. 5 The dynamic responses of the system after application of the harmonic excitation with amplitude and frequency ratio : (a) (b) ; (c) (d) (The belt velocity is 0.3).

Next the range of the amplitude and frequency of the harmonic excitation to stabilize the frictional system is derived. The results obtained from the analytical method and from the extensive time response simulations are compared, as shown in Fig. 6. In this figure, the region above each curve incorporates the parameter combinations to stabilize the system under the specific coefficient of friction (greater than the critical value). It is seen that there is fairly good agreement between the stability boundaries obtained from the analytical method and from the time response simulations when the frequency ratio () is sufficiently large. Besides, it should be noted here the mode-coupling instability of the original system is not dependent on belt velocity , which, however, has an effect on the stability boundary for the harmonic excitation. Fig. 7 shows the range of the amplitude and frequency of the harmonic excitation to stabilize the system under three different values of belt velocity, from which it is observed that a larger-amplitude excitation is needed to suppress the unstable vibration of the frictional system in the situation of higher belt velocity.



Fig. 6 The range of the amplitude and frequency of the harmonic excitation to stabilize the system obtained from both the analytical method and the extensive time response simulations. (, the parameter range to stabilize the system is above the corresponding curve).



Fig. 7 The range of the amplitude and frequency of the harmonic excitation to stabilize the system under three different values of belt velocity (, the parameter range to stabilize the system is above the corresponding curve).

4.2 Numerical study of the slider-on-disc system

The basic system parameters whose values are constant in the numerical examples are listed in Table 1. It should be noted that numbers *k* and *l* in the expression of the transverse displacement of the disc can be chosen to include as many modes as needed to represent the dynamics of the system with acceptable accuracy. To avoid excessive computations, the modal series in Eq. (20) are truncated at suitable values of *k* and *l.* The first seven natural frequencies of the disc are 1492, 1517, 1517, 1824, 1824, 2774 and 2774 rad/s and the critical speed of the disc is . It is found that the first seven disc modes (one single mode with zero nodal circle and zero nodal diameter and three pairs of doublet modes with zero nodal circle and one, two or three nodal diameters) are adequate in terms of the convergence of the results.

**Table 1** The values of the constant system parameters

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0.044 m | 0.12 m | 0.1 m | 7200 kg/m3 | 150 GPa | 0.002 m | 0.211 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 kg | 105 N/m | 5·104 N/m | 6·104 N/m | 5 | 5 |  |

Firstly, the dynamic characteristics of the original system (when the tangential harmonic excitation is not applied) is analysed. The dynamic instability in the original system can be contributed by three factors, i.e. the negative slope in the friction force-relative velocity relationship, the mode coupling instability of the normal and tangential motion of the slider and the effect of moving load which causes speed-dependent instability, all of which the brake system may encounter in practice [3, 42]. The local stability of the system at the sliding equilibrium can be used to evaluate if the self-excited vibration will be generated, which is studied in the following procedures. First of all, the sliding equilibrium of this system is found by solving the algebraic nonlinear equations derived from setting all the terms involving velocity and acceleration in the coupled equations Eqs. (16), (17) and (30) to be zero. In the second step, the nonlinear coupled equations governing the motion of the system are linearized at the sliding equilibrium and the Jacobian matrix is extracted from the linearized system. In the last step, the eigenvalues of the Jacobian matrix are calculated to reveal the local stability of the system at the sliding equilibrium for various values of parameters. Fig. 8 plots the regions of instability (RI) dependent on the normal preload versus the disc speed under three different values of the coefficients of friction. In Fig. 8(a) when , the coefficients of friction are set as constant at , the dynamic instability stems from only the moving load which causes instability as disc speed . In Fig. 8(b), the coefficients of friction are not large enough to bring about the mode-coupling instability, but the large negative slope of the friction-velocity relationship in the vicinity of zero relative velocity and the moving load lead to the dynamic instability in low and high disc speeds, respectively. In Fig. 8(c), the mode-coupling instability exists, therefore the dynamic instability occurs in the system independent of the values of the normal preload and disc speed. The time histories of the dynamic responses of the system with two sets of parameters whose values are in the region of instability are displayed in Fig. 9, where the friction-induced self-excited vibration is clearly exhibited in the two cases. It should be noted that since the interest here is only to identify the occurrence of friction-induced vibration in the original system, the behaviour of separation and re-contact between the slider and the disc is not considered, which thus allows the dynamic responses to grow boundlessly. Then the dynamic responses of the system for the two cases after application of the tangential harmonic excitation with appropriate amplitude and frequency are shown in Fig. 10, which obviously indicates that the friction-induced vibration in the original system is suppressed by the high-frequency tangential harmonic excitation.



Fig. 8 The region of instability of normal preload versus disc speed in three cases of friction coefficients: (a) , , (b) , , , (c), , .



Fig. 9 The dynamic responses of system when and including the angular displacement of the slider in the tangential direction, the translational displacement of the slider in the normal direction and the transverse displacement of the disc at the point and : (a)-(c) , , ; (d)-(f) , , .



Fig. 10 The dynamic responses of system after application of the harmonic excitation for the two cases in Fig. 9: (a)-(c) for the first case with the excitation amplitude and frequency ratio ; (d)-(f) for the second case with the excitation amplitude and frequency ratio .

Next the ranges of the amplitude and frequency of the harmonic excitation to suppress the friction-induced vibration of the system are derived, when the values of system parameters are identical to those in Fig. 9. Both the results obtained from the analytical method and from extensive time responses simulations are shown for the first case in Fig. 11(a) and second case in Fig. 10(b), where good agreements between the results from the two approaches are observed for the two cases of system when the frequency ratio is sufficiently large. It can therefore be concluded that the analytical method is a reliable approach, while the time responses simulations can also be performed for verification in the practical applications. Besides, the regions of instability of the original system shown in Fig. 8 can be greatly diminished by application of the tangential harmonic excitation with appropriate amplitude and frequency, as depicted in Fig. 12. Consequently, the application of the tangential harmonic excitation with appropriate amplitude and frequency on the brake pad serves as an effective way to help develop quieter brakes, i.e. lower probability of occurrence of friction-induced vibration.

Fig. 11 The range of the amplitude and frequency of the harmonic excitation to suppress the friction-induced vibration of the system: (a) the first case (b) the second case. (The parameter range to suppress the friction-induced vibration is above the corresponding curve).



Fig. 12 The region of instability in three cases of friction coefficients in application of the harmonic excitation with the amplitude and frequency ratio : (a) , , (b) , , , (c), , .

**5. Conclusions**

In this paper, the friction-induced vibration of a two-degree-of-freedom mass-on-belt system and a complicated slider-on-disc system, as well as the application of the harmonic excitation in the direction tangential to the friction interface for suppressing the friction-induced vibration in the systems, are studied. In the multi-degree-of-freedom frictional systems, there is one or several friction-related factors, e.g., the mode-coupling instability, the negative slope in the friction force-relative velocity relationship, the moving load, contributing to the occurrence of self-excited vibration. The results show the tangential harmonic excitation with appropriate amplitude and frequency is very effective in suppressing the friction-induced self-excited vibration of the systems. The ranges of the amplitude and frequency of the harmonic excitation that stabilize the friction systems are obtained by both an analytical method and extensive time response simulations. The results by the two approaches are in good agreement when the ratio between the excitation frequency and the reference frequency (associated with a natural frequency of the system and in the same order as it) is sufficiently large. This research provides theoretical guidance for applying the tangential harmonic excitation to suppress the friction-induced-vibration in real disc brake systems. In practice, piezoactuators are usually used to drive the pad into high-frequency tangential vibration to suppress squeal, which use voltage as input. Therefore, some experimental tests must be carried out to establish the correlation between the amplitudes of the external excitation in the numerical simulations and the amplitudes of the input voltage for the piezoactuators in the practical application. In the future, the FE (finite element) model of a real brake system will also be theoretically investigated and experimental tests will be carried out.

**Appendix**

By defining the following quantities and operator,

, , , ,,, ,

, , , , (A.1)

The coupled differential equations Eqs. (16), (17) and (30) governing the motion of the slider-on-disc system can be rewritten as,

(A.2)

(A.3)

(A.4)

(A.5)

Suppose the solutions consist of a slowly varying component and a small-amplitude fast varying component, i.e.,

= (A.6)

= (A.7)

= (A.8)

= (A.9)

Substituting Eqs. (A.6)-(A.9) into Eqs. (A.2)-(A.5) results in,

(A.10)

(A.11)

(A.12)

(A.13)

By assuming and grouping the terms of Eqs. (A.10)-(A.13) into the coefficients of , 1, , the following equations can be obtained when ,

, , , (A.14)

(A.15)

(A.16)

(A.17)

(A.18)

It can be derived from (A.14) that,

) (A.19a)

) (A.19b)

) (A.19c)

) (A.19d)

where , , and are constants, and they should be zero as it is unlikely for the fast varying components to grow infinitely with time. By substituting Eqs. (A.19a)-(A.19d) into Eqs. (A.15)-(A.18) and applying a fast-time-average operator to Eqs. (A.15)-(A.18) as well as omitting the small quantity , the new differential equations with respect to the slowly varying components are,

(A.20)

(A.21)

(A.22)

(A.23)

where . It is difficult to derive the analytical solution of the integral here, therefore the Gaussian quadrature is utilized to obtain the function values of . Furthermore, the derivative of at can be obtained by the finite difference method. Subsequently Eqs. (A.20)-(A.23) can be linearized at the equilibrium point and the Jacobian matrix is extracted from the linearized system, whose eigenvalues indicate the stability of the system at the equilibrium point, i.e., if the self-excited vibration will happen, when the harmonic excitation is applied.

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