Department of Mechanical, Materials & Manufacturing Engineering

DYNAMICS (VIBRATION)

SHEET 6 : APPROXIMATE METHODS

Take E = 207 GPa, $\rho = 7800$ kg/m²

- 1. Use Rayleigh's Method to estimate the lowest natural frequency of the torsional system shown below.
 - Guess (A): Assume all deflections are in phase. E.g. any set of values for which $\theta_1 < \theta_2 < \theta_3$
 - Guess (B): The "static deflection shape" can be found by assuming that a static torque is applied to each disc that is proportional to its moment of inertia. E.g. $\theta_1 : \theta_2 : \theta_3 = 2 : 5 : ??$; where you should be able to figure out on your own what θ_3 is.



Answer: The value depends on the assumed mode shape, but will be greater than the exact value of $0.445\sqrt{k/I}$

- 2. A shaft with universal joints at each end has a length of 6 m, a second moment of area of 0.00025 m⁴ and a mass/unit length of 75 kg/m. It carries three discs, which can be regarded as point masses of 100, 150, and 200 kg located 1.2, 3 and 4.8 m from the left-hand end. Estimate the lowest critical speed by the following methods.
 - (*i*) Rayleigh's method, assuming an appropriate trigonometrical form for the mode shape and neglecting the mass of the shaft,
 - (*ii*) as for (*iii*), but including the mass of the shaft.
 - Answer: Values for (*i*) and (*ii*) depend on the mode shape but are likely to be within 5% of (*i*) 1960 rev/min and (*ii*) 1456 rev/min.

- 3. (a) Using the concepts of dynamically equivalent systems, estimate values of m^+ and k^+ for the approximate model in Figure Q.3(b) based on an equivalence with the motion of the upper mass in Figure Q.3(a). Use the values of m^+ and k^+ to estimate the lowest natural frequency of the system.
 - (b) Use your approximate model to estimate the steady-state response of the upper mass to a sinusoidal force of frequency ω and amplitude *P* applied to it.
 - (c) Use your answer to (b) together with your assumed mode shape to estimate the response of the *lower* mass.

Answers to Q.3(a) depend on the mode shape assumed. The exact mode shape gives $m^+ = 3.164 \ m$, $k^+ = 1.682 \ k$ and $\omega_n = 0.7291 \sqrt{k/m}$ (which is also the exact lowest natural frequency). A good estimate of the mode shape should get you to within a few percent of these figures.

