

# 1777. Asynchronous vibration response characteristics of connectors with looseness fault and its verification

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**Abstract.** For the universal phenomenon of the aero-engine connectors with the looseness fault, a single degree of freedom lumped mass model was established and a looseness fault model was introduced. The response of the system was obtained by numerical integration methods and the asynchronous response characteristics were analyzed. The experiments were conducted on the connectors with looseness clearance. It is found that the acceleration response of the mass block after noise reduction has up-down asymmetrical impact characteristics in the waveform, also the pseudo-critical subharmonic resonance and the pseudo-critical ultra-harmonic resonance appear in frequency spectrum. These characteristics are in agreement with the results of the numerical simulation, which can be identified as the characteristics of the looseness fault. The reason leading to the looseness characteristics is that the period of stiffness changes in the period of the rotating speed. When the changing period of stiffness is equivalent to the vibration period, frequency multiplication will appear and the natural frequency of the system will be excited at specific speeds. When the changing period of stiffness is equivalent to  $n$  times the vibration period,  $1/n$  frequency division and frequency multiplication will appear and the natural frequency of the system will be excited at specific speeds.

**Keywords:** asynchronous response characteristics, autocorrelation, looseness fault, looseness characteristics, dynamical model.

## 1. Introduction

The looseness fault, caused by low installation quality or long-term vibration, is a universal phenomenon in high-speed rotating machinery including the aero-engine. When looseness fault exists in rotor-support-casing system, rotor will be lifted up periodically if the unbalanced force is greater than the gravitational force, and this will cause severe vibration. Serious looseness fault may lead to rub-impact fault between rotor and stator. Therefore, effective identifying the looseness fault is of great significance. For the phenomenon of the pseudo-critical subharmonic resonance and the pseudo-critical ultra-harmonic resonance caused by the looseness fault, studying its mechanism is of great significance for better understanding the essence of the looseness fault.

Many scholars have carried out a few works on the looseness fault. Fredric F. Ehrich [1] used a simple numerical model of a rotor employing a piecewise linear (that is, a bilinear) bearing support stiffness to represent the system, it was possible to replicate the new class of asynchronous rotor dynamic response in high-speed rotors over a range of sub-, trans-, and supercritical high-speed rotor operation. Muszynska et al. [2] established a rotor-bearing-stator model with a one-lateral-mode unbalanced, bearing looseness and rotor-stator rubbing, showing the nonlinear characteristics of the periodic vibrations of synchronous ( $1\times$ ), sub-synchronous ( $1/2\times$ ,  $1/3\times\ldots$ ) and multiples ( $2\times$ ,  $3\times\ldots$ ). Chen et al. [3] adopted a new method to study the sub / super harmonic resonance of nonlinear system with single degree of freedom and sub-harmonic solution of a piecewise linear oscillator with two degrees of freedom. Chu [4] investigated the vibration characteristics of a rotor-bearing system with pedestal looseness, used shooting method to obtain the periodic solutions, and analyzed the steady of the periodic solutions by the Floquet theory. Chen [5] established an unbalance-rubbing coupling faults dynamical model with rolling bearing-rotor system, and obtained the nonlinear dynamic response laws of rotor-ball

bearing-stator system under unbalance and rubbing coupling fault. Ma [6] established the finite element model of a rotor system with pedestal looseness stemming from a loosened bolt, and the effects of the looseness parameters on its dynamic characteristics were analyzed. Goldman et al. [7] developed an analytical algorithm for investigating local non-linear effects in rotor systems. They used a specially developed variable transformation that smoothes discontinuities, and then they applied an averaging technique. Their results showed good agreement with experimentally observed typical behaviors and orbits of rubbing rotors. In the last two papers, the effects of pedestal looseness on the system response were also studied. Lu and Chu [8] studied the looseness fault of rotor system by experiments. The characteristics of multiple frequency and frequency division were found. Ji and Zu [9] analyzed the free and forced vibration of a non-linear bearing system to illustrate the non-linear effect on the free and forced vibrations of the system by the method of multiple scales. Behzad and Asayeshthe [10] proposed a finite element method for studying the effects of loose rotating disks on the rotor-bearing systems' response.

At present, there are few works on support looseness fault in aero-engine and many works are not studied fully. Due to low bearing stiffness in aero-engine, the wide use of thin-walled structure in rotor and casing and its great flexibility, looseness phenomenon is universal. An unforeseen array of asynchronous response frequencies at other than the critical were noted when the aero-engine was operated at both subcritical and supercritical speeds. Those responses were not explored in detail at this time. To better understand the essence of looseness fault, the analysis of asynchronous response characteristics is of great significance.

In order to study the mechanism of pseudo-critical sub-harmonic resonance and pseudo-critical ultra-harmonic resonance caused by the looseness fault, firstly, a model of foundation vibration was established, which was used to simulate a single disk mounted on a massless shaft, and the looseness fault model was introduced. The response of mass block was obtained by numerical integration method and the asynchronous response characteristics were analyzed. Literature [1] only provides the phenomenon of frequency division and frequency multiplication. However, the reason of this phenomenon was not be discussed. Secondly, the experiments on the connectors with looseness clearance were conducted. It is found that the acceleration response of the mass block after noise reduction has up-down asymmetrical impact characteristics in the waveform, and the pseudo-critical subharmonic resonance and the pseudo-critical ultra-harmonic resonance appear in frequency spectrum. These characteristics are in agreement with the results of the numerical simulation, which can be used to judge the looseness fault. By comparing the results of the simulation with the experimental results, it can reveal the asynchronous response law of looseness fault.

## 2. A single degree of freedom lumped mass model with looseness fault

### 2.1. A single disk-rotor model

The differential equations of the unbalance response of a single disk mounted on a massless shaft can be described as follows:

$$\begin{cases} m\ddot{u} + c\dot{u} + ku = me\omega^2 \cos\omega t, \\ m\ddot{v} + c\dot{v} + kv = me\omega^2 \sin\omega t, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $u$  and  $v$  are the displacements of the rotor,  $m$  is the mass of the disk,  $c$  is the viscous damping,  $k$  is the transverse stiffness of the shaft,  $e$  is eccentricity, and  $\omega$  is rotational speed of the rotor.

### 2.2. A foundation looseness model

In order to study the mechanism of the looseness fault between component and foundation, a

simple mass-spring model with looseness fault is established, and the mass block is always connected with the foundation, as shown in Fig. 1.

It is assumed that the mass of mass block is  $m$ , the contact stiffness between the mass block and the foundation is  $k_2$ , the damping is  $c$ , the contact stiffness between the mass block and the hard spring is  $k_1$ ; the looseness clearance is  $\delta$ , the vibration displacement of the mass block is  $x$ , and the vibration displacement of the foundation is  $y$ .

The differential equation of the mass block under the foundation vibration can be described as follows:

$$m\ddot{x} + c(\dot{x} - \dot{y}) + k(x - y) = 0. \quad (2)$$

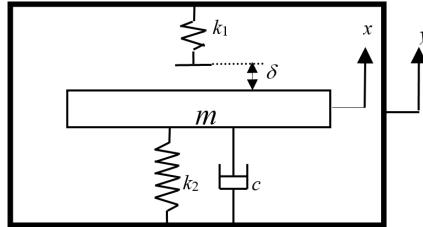


Fig. 1. Mass and foundation looseness model sketch

The contact stiffness between the mass block and the foundation under the conditions of different relative displacements can be described as follows:

$$k = \begin{cases} k_1 + k_2, & x - y > \delta, \\ k_2, & x - y \leq \delta. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

It is assumed that vibration frequency of the foundation is  $f$ , the amplitude is  $A$ , the vibration displacement of the foundation  $y = A\sin(2\pi ft)$ , and the relative displacement between the mass block and the foundation  $z = x - y$ . The relative motion equation can be described as follows:

$$m\ddot{z} + c\dot{z} + kz = m\ddot{y}. \quad (4)$$

Since the second formula of Eq. (1) is similar to Eq. (4), and the looseness fault has directivity, which means the vibration in  $x$  direction and in  $y$  direction are separable, Eq. (4) can be used to simulate the looseness fault of single disk-rotor model. The relative displacement  $z$  can be used to simulate the displacement of rotor and the relative acceleration  $\ddot{z}$  can be used to simulate the acceleration of rotor.

Then, the natural frequency of the hard spring  $f_1 = ((k_1 + k_2)/m)^{1/2}$  and the natural frequency of the soft spring  $f_2 = (k_2/m)^{1/2}$ . It is assumed that the natural frequency of the system is  $f_n$ ; the clearance  $\delta$  is smaller, the vibration time is very short, and it can be ignored, so that the vibration period of this system is half of the sum of the vibration period of the hard spring and the soft spring, it can be described as follows:

$$\frac{1}{f_n} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{f_1}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{f_2}\right). \quad (5)$$

### 2.3. Simulation analysis of looseness fault

For studying the strong nonlinear characteristics caused by the looseness fault, smaller damping and larger stiffness are adopted. It is assumed that the mass of the mass block  $m = 10$  kg, the vibration amplitude of the foundation  $A = 100 \mu\text{m}$ , the damping between the mass block and the foundation  $c = 20 \text{ N}\cdot\text{s}/\text{m}$ , the contact stiffness  $k_2 = 9.85 \times 10^5 \text{ N}/\text{m}$ , and the contact stiffness

$k_1$  between the mass block and the hard spring is  $100k_2$ . The natural frequency of this system, according to the Eq. (5),  $f_n = 90.9$  Hz. The response of this system is solved by the improved Newmark- $\beta$  algorithm [13]. When the hard spring is contacted, the contact condition is marked 1, otherwise the contact condition is marked 0.

The results are shown in Figs. 2, 3, when the vibration frequencies are  $1/2f_n$  and  $1/3f_n$ , respectively. In Fig. 2(a), the waveform of relative displacement has two bounces and two peaks per revolution. In Fig. 2(b), the rotational frequency and the larger double frequency appear in the spectrum of the relative displacement. In Fig. 2(c), the acceleration of the mass block has two bounces per rotation. As shown in Figs. 2(c), 3(c), the changing period of stiffness is equivalent to the period of the rotating speed, so that frequency multiplication components appear.

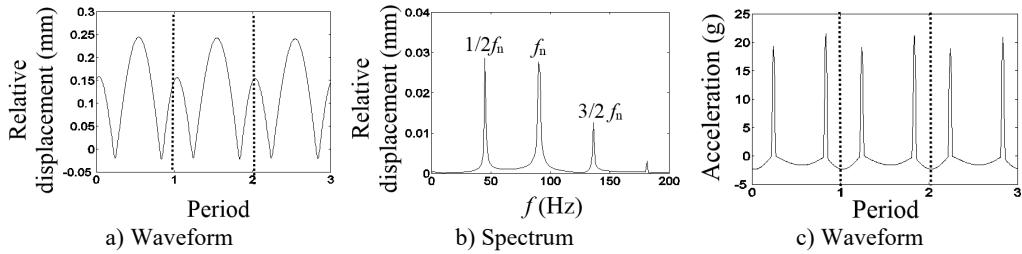


Fig. 2. Waveform characteristics at 1/2 times the natural frequency

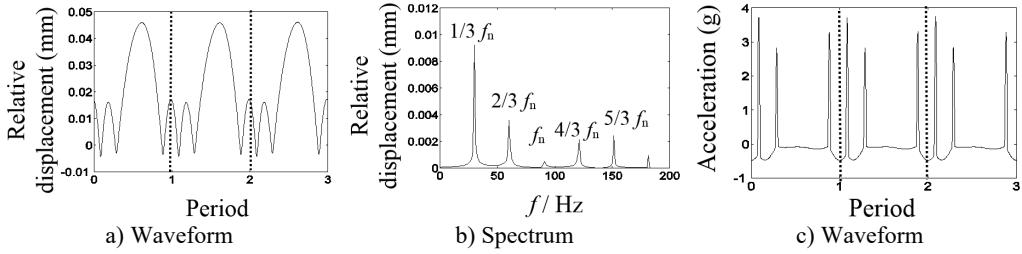


Fig. 3. Waveform characteristics at 1/3 times the natural frequency

The results are showed in Figs. 4-6 when the vibration frequencies are  $2/5f_n$ ,  $3/7f_n$  and  $4/9f_n$ , respectively. In Fig. 4(a), the waveform of the relative displacement has five bounces and five peaks every two revolutions. In Fig. 4(b), the rotational frequency, the larger asynchronous frequency and the natural frequency of the system appear in the spectrum of the relative displacement. In Fig. 4(c), the changing period of stiffness is equivalent to twice the period of the rotating speed, so that  $1/2\times$  component appears. In Fig. 4(d), the waveform of the relative acceleration of the mass block has five shocks every two rotations.

In Fig. 5(a), the waveform of the relative displacement has seven bounces and seven peaks every three revolutions. In Fig. 5(b), the rotational frequency, the larger asynchronous frequency and the natural frequency of the relative displacement appear in the spectrum. In Fig. 5(c), the changing period of stiffness is equivalent to three times the period of the rotating speed, so that  $1/3\times$  component appears. In Fig. 5(d), the waveform of the relative acceleration of the mass block has seven shocks every three rotations.

In Fig. 6(a), the waveform of the relative displacement has nine bounces and nine peaks every four revolutions. In Fig. 6(b), the rotational frequency, the stronger asynchronous frequency and the natural frequency of the relative displacement appear in the spectrum. In Fig. 6(c), the changing period of stiffness is equivalent to four times the period of the rotating speed, so that

$1/4\times$  component appears. In Fig. 6(d), the waveform of the relative acceleration of the mass block has nine shocks every four rotations.

As can be seen from Figs. 2-6, the natural frequency and asynchronous frequency components are excited. When the rotational frequency equals to  $1/J$  ( $J = 1, 2\dots$ ) the natural frequency of system, that is, the changing period of stiffness is equal to the period of the rotating speed, frequency multiplication components appear. When the rotational frequency is equal to  $J/(2J+1)$ ,  $(J+1)/(2J+1)$ ,  $(2J-1)/(2J)$  ( $J = 2, 3\dots$ ) the natural frequency of system, the changing period of stiffness is equal to  $n$  times the period of the rotating speed, then  $1/n$  frequency division components appear, and the natural frequency of system is excited.

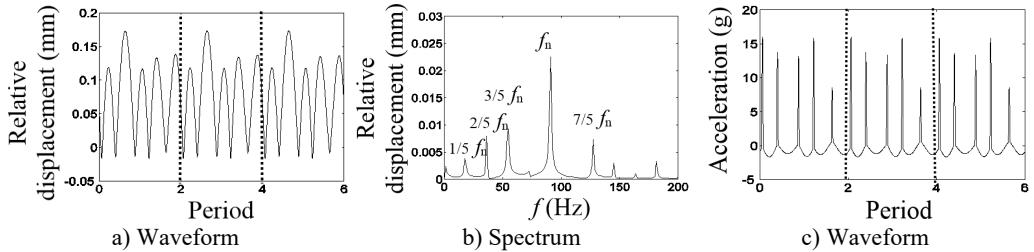


Fig. 4. Waveform characteristics at  $2/5$  times the natural frequency

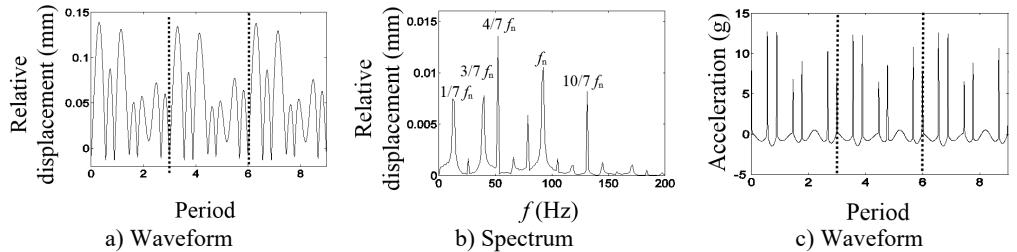


Fig. 5. The waveform characteristics at  $3/7$  times the natural frequency

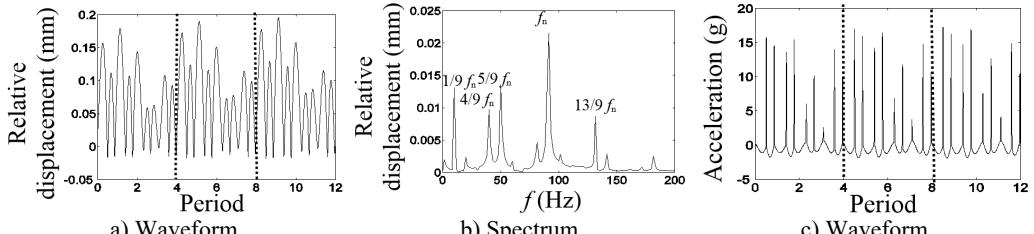


Fig. 6. The waveform characteristics at  $4/9$  times the natural frequency

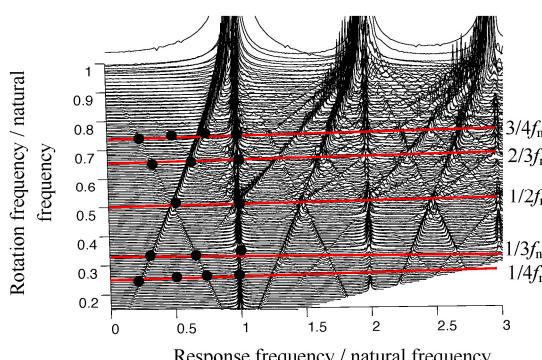


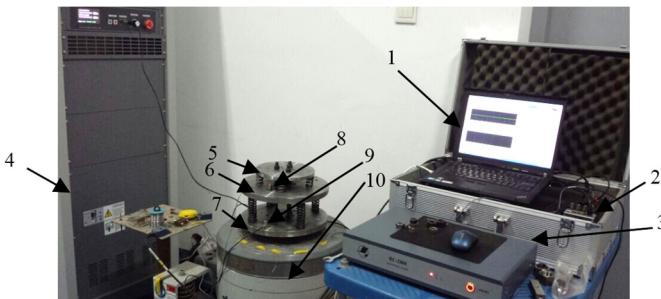
Fig. 7. Campbell diagram showing under subcritical speeds

The Campbell diagram of rotor acceleration at the subcritical speeds is shown in Fig. 7. As can be seen from Fig. 7, the looseness fault characteristics are shown as the crossed streaks in the Campbell diagram, which are the asynchronous response frequencies. When the rotational frequencies are  $1/4f_n$ ,  $1/3f_n$  and  $1/2f_n$ , frequency multiplication components will appear. When the rotational frequency is  $2/3f_n$ ,  $1/2\times$  and the frequency multiplication components will appear. When the rotational frequency is  $3/4f_n$ ,  $1/3\times$ ,  $2/3\times$  and the frequency multiplication components will appear. Such similar phenomenon also appears at the transcritical and supercritical speeds.

### 3. Connector looseness fault experimental verification

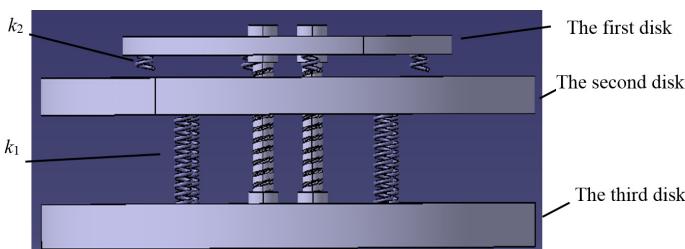
#### 3.1. Connector looseness experiment principle

In order to verify the non-synchronous response characteristics of connector looseness fault, the experiment rig with looseness clearance was established, and the connector looseness experiment was carried out. Fig. 8 is the experimental site map of looseness fault. Fig. 9 is the experimental three-dimensional diagram of looseness fault.



**Fig. 8.** The experimental site map of looseness fault: 1 – computer; 2 – NI USB-9234 data acquisition card; 3 – vibration controller; 4 – power amplifier; 5 – the first disk; 6 – the second disk; 7 – the third disk; 8 – acceleration sensor (B&K4508); 9 – acceleration sensor for controller; 10 – vibrating table

Fig. 9 shows that the second disk is connected to the third disk by spring  $k_1$ , the third disk is connected to vibrating table by bolts, and the first disk is connected to the third disk by using three polish rods. Then the first disk, the third disk and vibrating table will vibrate together. The first disk and the second disk are connected by spring  $k_2$ , and the connector looseness fault is simulated by controlling the clearance.



**Fig. 9.** Experimental three-dimensional diagram of looseness fault

During the experiment, the first disk, the third disk and vibration table vibrate together, and the basement excitation to the second disk is carried out. When the relative displacement between the second disk and the third disk is smaller, the spring  $k_2$  does not connect with the second disk, so the spring connection stiffness is only  $k_1$ . When the relative displacement between the second disk and the third disk is larger, the spring  $k_2$  connects with the second disk, so the spring connection stiffness is  $k_1 + k_2$ .

The energy of vibrating table was input by power amplifier, and the feedback of vibration signals was realized by controlling the software and the vibration acceleration sensor on the third disk. The vibration of the vibrating table was controlled at the designated frequency and amplitude by vibration controller. The vibration acceleration of the second disk was measured by the vibration acceleration sensor on the second disk. The collected digital signals were input into the computer for preservation by NI USB-9234 capture card.

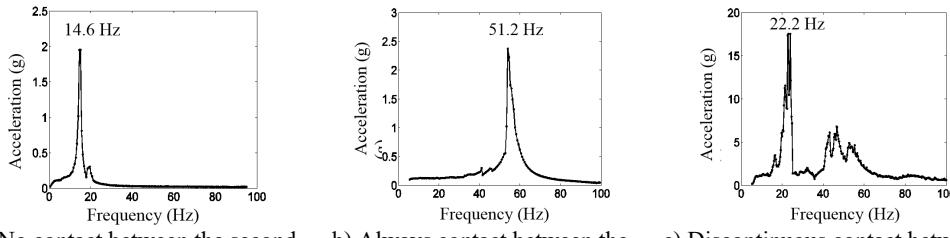
In order to obtain the vibration performance of the vibration system, the excitation on vibrating table was applied by using the linear sine sweep frequency method from 5 Hz to 100 Hz, and the looseness fault characteristics at different frequencies were obtained.

### 3.2. Looseness fault experiment verification

#### 3.2.1. Analysis of the second disk response at different contact forms

In the experiment, the acceleration of the second disk are measured by three methods, namely: 1) when the second disk does not contact with the spring  $k_2$ , the second disk only contacts with the third disk through spring  $k_1$ , the vibration system is a liner system, and the experiment result is shown in Fig. 10(a); 2) when the second disk always contacts with the spring  $k_2$ , the second disk contacts with the third disk and the first disk through spring  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ , the vibration system is also a liner system, its spring connection stiffness is  $k_1 + k_2$ , and the experiment result is shown in Fig. 10(b); 3) when there is clearance between the second disk and spring  $k_1$ , at different relative vibration displacement between the second disk and the first disk, the second disk may contacts with spring  $k_1$  or not, the vibration system is a nonlinear system, and the experiment result is shown in Fig. 10(c).

Fig. 10(a) shows that when the second disk does not contact with the spring  $k_2$ , the vibration system is a liner system, and its natural frequency is 14.6 Hz. Fig. 10(b) shows that when the second disk always contacts with the spring  $k_2$ , the vibration system is also a liner system, and its spring connection stiffness is  $k_1 + k_2$ , so its natural frequency is 51.22 Hz. When there is looseness clearance, the second disk may contacts with spring  $k_1$  or not. According to Eq. (5), the calculated result  $f_n$  is 22.7 Hz, and the experimental result is 22.2 Hz, shown in Fig. 10(c). Obviously, the analysis results are verified fully.



a) No contact between the second disk and spring  $k_2$       b) Always contact between the second disk and spring  $k_2$       c) Discontinuous contact between the second disk and spring  $k_2$

Fig. 10. The response of the second disk under different contact conditions

#### 3.2.2. Analysis of looseness characteristics

In order to highlight the period components of vibration frequency, frequency multiplication and frequency division in system, autocorrelation method is used to denoise the acceleration signal of the second disk.

Fig. 11 is cascade plot of the second disk vibration acceleration changing with excitation frequency and response frequency. Fig. 11 shows that the frequency multiplication appears when excitation frequency is  $1/2f_n$ , 1/2 frequency division appears when excitation frequency is  $2f_n$ , and 1/3 frequency division appears when excitation frequency is  $3f_n$ .

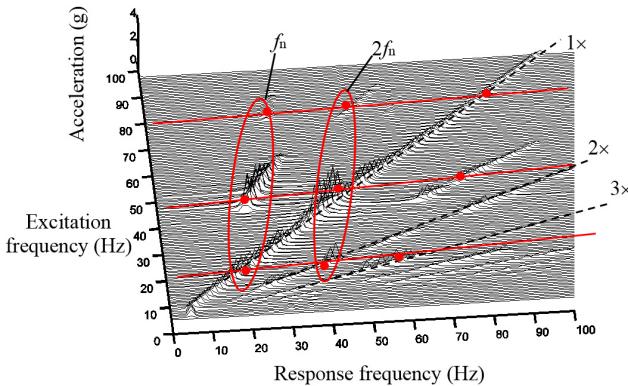


Fig. 11. Cascade plot of the second disk response

Fig. 12 shows time domain waveform before and after the noise reduction and spectrum before the noise reduction of the second disk when the excitation frequency is 12.5 Hz. As shown in Fig. 12, when the excitation frequency is equivalent to  $1/2f_n$ , the larger double frequency components appeared, that is the natural frequency of the system.

Fig. 13 shows time domain waveform before and after the noise reduction and spectrum before the noise reduction of the second disk when the excitation frequency is 45 Hz. As shown in Fig. 13, when the frequency of the vibration table is equivalent to  $2f_n$ , the larger  $1/2$  dividing frequency components appeared, that is the natural frequency of the system.

Fig. 14 shows time domain waveform before and after the noise reduction and spectrum before the noise reduction of the second disk when the excitation frequency is 80 Hz. As shown in Fig. 14, when the frequency of the vibrating table is about  $3f_n$ , the larger  $1/3$  dividing frequency components appeared, that is the natural frequency of the system.

As shown in Figs. 12-14, the waveforms after the noise reduction have the characteristics that is a typical shock characteristic, with the waveform of truncated shape, which is longitudinal asymmetrical.

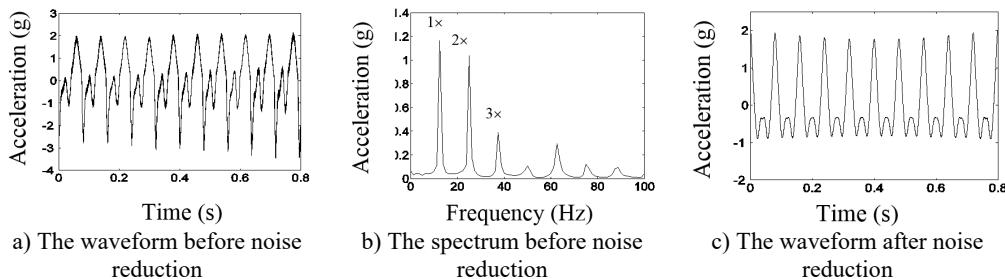


Fig. 12. Waveform and frequency spectrum before and after the noise reduction when frequency is  $1/2f_n$

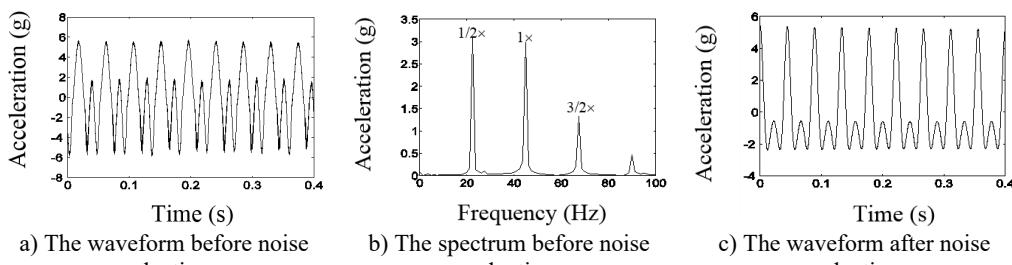
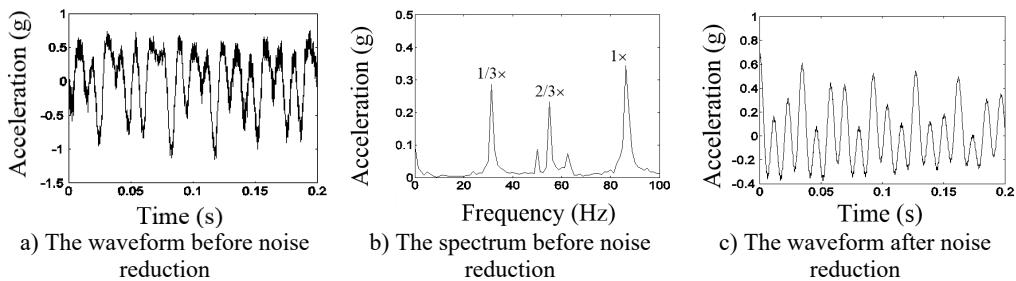


Fig. 13. Waveform and frequency spectrum before and after the noise reduction when frequency is  $2f_n$



**Fig. 14.** Waveform and frequency spectrum before and after the noise reduction when frequency is  $2f_n$

By comparison, in different frequencies of the vibrating table, for connector looseness fault, the acceleration waveforms after the noise reduction of autocorrelation have the characteristic that is a typical shock characteristic, with the waveform of truncated shape, which is longitudinal asymmetrical, which could be identified as the characteristics of the looseness fault.

#### 4. Conclusion

In this paper, a single degree of freedom lumped mass model with looseness fault is established. Some results are obtained as follows:

1) For the phenomenon of the asynchronous response characteristics, a foundation vibration model with the looseness fault was established; the asynchronous response characteristics were analyzed.

2) Experiments on connectors with looseness clearance were conducted. It is found that the acceleration response after noise reduction has up-down asymmetrical impact characteristics in the waveform and the pseudo-critical subharmonic resonance and the pseudo-critical ultra-harmonic resonance appear in frequency spectrum. These characteristics are in agreement with the results of the numerical simulation, which can be identified as the characteristics of the looseness fault.

3) By the numerical simulation, the reason leading to the looseness characteristics is that the period of stiffness changes in the period of the rotating speed. When the changing period of stiffness is equivalent to the vibration period, frequency multiplication will appear and the natural frequency of the system will be excited at specific speeds. When the changing period of stiffness is equivalent to  $n$  times the vibration period,  $1/n$  frequency division and frequency multiplication will appear and the natural frequency of the system will be excited at specific speeds.

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