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CONTENTS

PREFACE

xi

1 SYSTEMS WITH ONE DEGREE OF FREEDOM

1

- 1.1 Examples of One-Degree Systems / 1
- 1.2 Undamped Free Translational Vibrations / 2
- 1.3 Rotational Vibrations / 12
- 1.4 Energy Method / 18
- 1.5 Rayleigh's Method / 24
- 1.6 Forced Vibrations: Steady State / 39
- 1.7 Forced Vibrations: Transient State / 48
- 1.8 Free Vibrations with Viscous Damping / 52
- 1.9 Forced Vibrations with Viscous Damping / 61
- 1.10 Equivalent Viscous Damping / 69
- 1.11 General Periodic Forcing Functions / 76
- 1.12 Arbitrary Forcing Functions / 84
- 1.13 Arbitrary Support Motions / 93
- 1.14 Response Spectra / 99
- 1.15 Step-by-Step Response Calculations / 107
- References / 113
- Problems / 114

2 SYSTEMS WITH NONLINEAR CHARACTERISTICS

139

- 2.1 Examples of Nonlinear Systems / 139
- 2.2 Direct Integration for Velocity and Period / 149
- 2.3 Approximate Methods for Free Vibrations / 157

vii

2.4	Forced Nonlinear Vibrations /	166
2.5	Piecewise-Linear Systems /	175
2.6	Numerical Solutions for Nonlinear Systems /	190
	References /	207
	Problems /	208
3	SYSTEMS WITH TWO DEGREES OF FREEDOM	217
3.1	Examples of Two-Degree Systems /	217
3.2	Action Equations: Stiffness Coefficients /	223
3.3	Displacement Equations: Flexibility Coefficients /	225
3.4	Inertial and Gravitational Coupling /	233
3.5	Undamped Free Vibrations /	241
3.6	Undamped Forced Vibrations /	251
3.7	Free Vibrations with Viscous Damping /	260
3.8	Forced Vibrations with Viscous Damping /	265
	References /	267
	Problems /	267
4	SYSTEMS WITH MULTIPLE DEGREES OF FREEDOM	275
4.1	Introduction /	275
4.2	Frequencies and Mode Shapes for Undamped Systems /	276
4.3	Principal and Normal Coordinates /	287
4.4	Normal-Mode Response to Initial Conditions /	295
4.5	Normal-Mode Response to Applied Actions /	301
4.6	Normal-Mode Response to Support Motions /	309
4.7	Iteration Method for Frequencies and Mode Shapes /	318
4.8	Damping in Multidegree Systems /	333
4.9	Damped Response to Periodic Forcing Functions /	337
4.10	Transient Response of Damped Systems /	343
4.11	Step-by-Step Response Calculations /	347
	References /	352
	Problems /	352
5	CONTINUA WITH INFINITE DEGREES OF FREEDOM	363
5.1	Introduction /	363
5.2	Free Longitudinal Vibrations of Prismatic Bars /	364
5.3	Forced Longitudinal Response of Prismatic Bars /	373
5.4	Normal-Mode Method for Prismatic Bars /	380
5.5	Prismatic Bar with a Mass or Spring at the End /	387
5.6	Bars Subjected to Longitudinal Support Motions /	395
5.7	Torsional Vibrations of Circular Shafts /	401
5.8	Transverse Vibrations of Stretched Wires /	409

5.9	Transverse Vibrations of Prismatic Beams /	416
5.10	Transverse Vibrations of a Simple Beam /	422
5.11	Vibrations of Beams with Other End Conditions /	425
5.12	Effects of Rotary Inertia and Shearing Deformations /	433
5.13	Forced Response of a Simple Beam /	436
5.14	Forced Response of Beams with Other End Conditions /	442
5.15	Beams Subjected to Support Motions /	444
5.16	Beams Traversed by Moving Loads /	448
5.17	Effect of Axial Force on Vibrations of Beams /	454
5.18	Beams on Elastic Supports or Elastic Foundations /	456
5.19	Ritz Method for Calculating Frequencies /	461
5.20	Vibrations of Nonprismatic Beams /	466
5.21	Coupled Flexural and Torsional Vibrations of Beams /	474
5.22	Vibrations of Circular Rings /	478
5.23	Transverse Vibrations of Membranes /	484
5.24	Transverse Vibrations of Plates /	495
	References /	505
	Problems /	506
6	FINITE-ELEMENT METHOD FOR DISCRETIZED CONTINUA	511
6.1	Introduction /	511
6.2	Stresses and Strains in Continua /	513
6.3	Equations of Motion for Finite Elements /	516
6.4	One-Dimensional Elements /	520
6.5	Vibrations of Beams by Finite Elements /	534
	References /	542
	Problems /	543
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	551
	APPENDIX A SYSTEMS OF UNITS AND MATERIAL PROPERTIES	553
	A.1 Systems of Units /	553
	A.2 Material Properties /	555
	APPENDIX B COMPUTER PROGRAMS	557
	B.1 Introduction /	557
	B.2 Step-by-Step Solutions for Linear One-Degree Systems /	558
	B.3 Numerical Solutions for Nonlinear One-Degree Systems /	561

x CONTENTS

- B.4 Iteration of Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors / 562
- B.5 Step-By-Step Solutions for Linear Multidegree Systems / 565
- B.6 Program Notation / 567
Flowcharts for Programs / 569

ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS

587

INDEX

603

PREFACE

The objectives of the fifth edition are not only to retain the useful portions of Timoshenko's classical work, but also to introduce more modern techniques for ease in computations. As before, we discuss one-degree, two-degree, multiple-degree, and infinite-degree of freedom systems, in that order. The chapter on nonlinear systems is updated and expanded to incorporate more numerical methods that have proven to be effective. Also, a new chapter on the finite-element method for discretized continua has been added at the end of the book. We emphasize matrix and numerical methods wherever feasible and describe computer programs that apply the theory in the text. Flowcharts for the programs appear in Appendix B. These programs are coded in FORTRAN for personal computers and recorded on diskettes for distribution to users. A diskette may be purchased from Paul R. Johnston, 838 Mesa Court, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Material in this book is intended for engineering students in the last year of their undergraduate program or the first year of graduate studies. They should have a good understanding of calculus, including differential equations. Previous courses in statics, elementary dynamics, and mechanics of materials are also required. Although some exposure to structural analysis and theory of elasticity would be helpful, these subjects are not prerequisites for studying vibration theory. We assume that the student has some knowledge of matrix algebra and computer programming or is prepared to learn the essentials of these topics while using this text. The reader should find the explanations easy to understand, either as a student or practicing engineer.

The sequence of topics in the book has been arranged to draw the user forward from the simple to the complex. Chapter 1, dealing with linear