

ANALYTICAL SOLUTIONS TO BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEM OF FREE VIBRATION OF SANDWICH THIN CIRCULAR PLATES WITH DISCRETE ELEMENTS

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In the paper the influence function and the method of partial discretization in free axisymmetric vibration analysis of multilayered circular plates of constant and linearly variable thickness were presented. The effects of shear deformation and rotary inertia for the core as well as the facings were neglected. An analytical investigation based on the classical plate theory was made for the multilayered plate which satisfies Sokółowski's condition. Discretization of mass and replacing stiffness of a fixed circular plate were presented. Formulas of influence matrix and Bernstein-Kieropian's estimators for different steps of discretization were defined. The influence of variable distribution of parameters on the value of double estimators of natural basic and higher frequency of a sandwich circular plate was investigated.

Key words: free vibrations, sandwich circular plate, non-homogeneous material, variable parameters, annular mass.

1. Introduction

A sandwich plate is an important structural element in aeronautical, astronautical and naval engineering. This plate is composed of three layers, a thick core and two thin faces. A sandwich construction has been used for many years in aerospace industries and aviation as well as in marine and civil engineering applications due to the specific stiffness, light weight and design versatility besides good damping characteristics and maximum fatigue resistance.

A lot of researchers have been concerned with the dynamic behavior of sandwich structures (Magnucki *et al.*, 2014; Lal and Rani, 2013; Zhang, 2013; Duan, 2005; Kączkowski, 2000). The boundary value problem of transverse vibrations for the multilayered and homogeneous fixed plates is one of the most frequently considered issues in engineering practice (Starovoitov *et al.*, 2009; Ebrahimi and Rastgo, 2008). The necessity of considering the discrete masses and variable thickness of the plate leads to particular problems. Many authors showed that ignoring varying thickness of the plate, even in the case of thin plates, leads to significant errors in the calculation of natural frequencies (Conway, 1958b). Conway (1958b) found characteristic equations using Bessel functions for the particular case where the thickness of the plate varies

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as a power function. The exact solution to the vibration problems for a circular and annular constant and variable thickness plates having an additional annular mass and spring inclusions was provided by among others, Roberson (1951), Szewczyk (2007) and Kukla (2007).

In this paper free axisymmetric vibrations of a sandwich circular plate of constant and linearly variable thickness with additional annular mass were considered. For the vibrations of the plate with variable parameters the method of partial discretization has been used. It is based on the properties of the influence function used to, e.g., the analysis of the bending curve and reactions of elastic supports of a beam considered in an earlier work (Jaroszewicz *et al.*, 2014).

2. Formulation of the boundary value problem

If we consider a three-layered circular plate which satisfies Sokółowski's condition (Sokółowski, 1958; Kączkowski, 2000) presented in the following form

$$\frac{E_f}{E_c} = n^2, \quad (2.1a)$$

$$nh \leq h_H \quad (2.1b)$$

where E_f – modulus of elasticity of facing, E_c – modulus of elasticity of core, h – thickness of three-layered plates, h_H – thickness of homogeneous plates, then the plate will satisfy the classical plate theory (CPT).

The equation of free axisymmetric vibrations of a circular plate of variable thickness (CPT) has the form (Timoshenko and Woinowsky-Krieger, 1940)

$$D \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial W}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{\partial D}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\nu}{r} \frac{\partial W}{\partial r} \right) = - \frac{1}{r} \int_0^r \rho h \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial t^2} r dr. \quad (2.2)$$

Taking into consideration $W = w(r)e^{i\omega t}$ and $D = D_0 r^m \left(D_0 = \frac{Eh^3}{12(1-\nu^2)}; 0 \leq m < 6; m = \nu^{-1} \right)$,

Eq.(2.2) has the following form (Conway, 1958b)

$$\begin{aligned} r^4 \frac{d^4 w}{dr^4} + (2m+2)r^3 \frac{d^3 w}{dr^3} + (m+\nu m-1+m^2)r^2 \frac{d^2 w}{dr^2} + \\ + (\nu m^2 - \nu m - m + 1)r \frac{dw}{dr} - \frac{12\rho\omega^2(1-\nu^2)}{Eh^2} r^{4-\frac{2}{3}m} w = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

where r – radial coordinate ($0 < r \leq R$), ν – Poisson's ratio, E – modulus of elasticity, m – coefficient of variable thickness of the plate, h – thickness of the plate, ρ – density, ω – parameter of frequency, $w(r)$ – function of deflection of the plate, D – stiffness bending of the plate of variable thickness.

The equation of axisymmetric vibrations of sandwich circular plates with spring and mass inclusions has the following form (Jaroszewicz and Zoryj, 2005)

$$L[w] + \frac{M}{D_z} \omega^2 w - \sum_{i=1}^K \alpha_i w(r_i) \delta(r-r_i) = 0, \quad (2.4)$$

$$L[w] \equiv \frac{d^4 w}{dr^4} + \frac{2}{r}(m+1) \frac{d^3 w}{dr^3} + \frac{1}{r^2}(m + \nu m - 1 + m^2) \frac{d^2 w}{dr^2} + (\nu m^2 - \nu m - m + 1) \frac{1}{r^3} \frac{dw}{dr}, \quad (2.5)$$

$$\alpha_i = D_z^{-1}(m_i \omega^2 - c_i), \quad (i \in \langle 1 \div K \rangle) \quad (2.6)$$

where $L[w]$ – differential operator of Euler's equation appropriately for a plate of constant and linearly variable thickness, D_z – replacing stiffness of the sandwich plate, M – mass of the plate, α_i – inclusions, m_i – annular mass on radius r_i , c_i – stiffness of elastic supports on radius r_i (for considered plates $c_i = 0$), K – number of inclusions, δ – Dirac's delta.

In a particular case, operator (2.5) for the plate of constant thickness is in the following form

$$L[w]_{m=0} \equiv \frac{d^4 w}{dr^4} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{d^3 w}{dr^3} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d^2 w}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r^3} \frac{dw}{dr}. \quad (2.7)$$

The differential operator (2.5) for the plate of linearly variable thickness has the form

$$L[w]_{m=3} \equiv \frac{d^4 w}{dr^4} + \frac{8}{r} \frac{d^3 w}{dr^3} + \frac{12}{r^2} \frac{d^2 w}{dr^2}. \quad (2.8)$$

Fixed circular plates have boundary conditions in the following form (Vasylenko and Oleksiejčuk, 2004)

$$w(R) = 0, \quad \theta(R) = \frac{dw}{dr}(R) = 0, \quad w(0) \leq h/2, \quad \theta(0) = \frac{dw}{dr}(0) = 0 \quad (2.9)$$

where $w(0)$ is an admissible bending which satisfies the classical plate theory. The solutions to boundary value problem (2.4), (2.9) with their derivatives are limited in $r=0$.

3. Discretization of mass of sandwich circular plates of constant and linearly variable thickness

The radius of distribution plate's mass r_i has the following form

$$r_i = \frac{R(2i-1)}{K}, \quad i \in \langle 1, K \rangle. \quad (3.1)$$

Based on the Guldin-Pappus theorem the equations for i -th mass of the three-layered circular plate of constant ($m=0$) and linearly ($m=0$) variable thickness were defined in the following form

$$\frac{m_i}{2\pi} = \mathfrak{N}_i \cdot R^2 q_f \left(h - h_c + h_c \frac{\rho_c}{\rho_f} \right), \quad (3.2)$$

$$\aleph_i = \frac{I + 2(i-1)}{2K^2} \quad \text{for } m=0, \quad \aleph_i = \frac{i^3 - (i-1)^3}{3K^3} \quad \text{for } m=3 \quad (3.3)$$

where ρ_f – density of facing, ρ_c – density of core, h – thickness of the three-layered plate, h_c – thickness of core of the plate.

The sum of the mass from discretization equals the total mass of the plate

$$\sum_{i=1}^K \frac{m_i}{2\pi} = \pi R^2 \rho_f \left(h - h_c + h_c \frac{\rho_c}{\rho_f} \right). \quad (3.4)$$

Examples of results of calculation of the coefficient \aleph_i for discretization $K \in \langle I \div 3 \rangle$ were presented in Tab.1.

Table 1. Value \aleph_i for discretization $K \in \langle I \div 3 \rangle$ of mass of the plate of constant and linearly variable thickness.

	Circular plate of constant thickness	Circular plate of linearly variable thickness
K	\aleph_i	\aleph_i
1	$\aleph_1 = \frac{1}{2}$	$\aleph_1 = \frac{1}{3}$
2	$\aleph_1 = \frac{1}{2.4} \quad \aleph_2 = \frac{3}{2.4}$	$\aleph_1 = \frac{1}{3.8} \quad \aleph_2 = \frac{7}{3.8}$
3	$\aleph_1 = \frac{1}{2.9} \quad \aleph_2 = \frac{3}{2.9} \quad \aleph_3 = \frac{5}{2.9}$	$\aleph_1 = \frac{1}{3.27} \quad \aleph_2 = \frac{7}{3.27} \quad \aleph_3 = \frac{19}{3.27}$

The additional annular mass m_0 Eq.(2.6) placed on radius r_0 has the following form

$$\mu_0 = \frac{m_0}{\pi R^2 \rho_f \left(h - h_c + h_c \frac{\rho_c}{\rho_f} \right)}, \quad \chi_0 = \frac{r_0}{R}. \quad (3.5)$$

The radius of additional mass must satisfy the condition $0 < r_1 < r_2 < \dots < r_K < R$. The value of additional mass equals $\mu_0 \leq 0.2$ (Roberson, 1951).

4. Influence matrix

An example of calculation of the influence matrix for the circular plate of constant and linearly variable thickness was presented. The limited solution ($r=0$) of Euler's Eq.(2.5) $L[w]=0$ for the circular plate of constant thickness has the form

$$w(r) = C_0 + C_1 r^2 - F_j \cdot K_0(r, r_j) \cdot H(r - r_j) \quad (4.1)$$

where: C_i – constants of integral, $H(r)$ – Heaviside’s function, F_j – unit force distribution on radius r_j , $K_0(r, r_j)$ – fundamental solution of $L[w]$ which has the form

$$K_0(r, r_j) = \frac{r_j}{4} \left[r_j^2 - r^2 + (r^2 + r_j^2) \ln \frac{r_j}{r} \right], \quad 0 \leq r, \quad r_j \leq R. \tag{4.2}$$

The Cauchy function $K_0(r, r_j)$ for the circular plate of constant thickness for normalized $\frac{r}{R}$ and $\frac{r_j}{R}$ was presented in Fig.1.

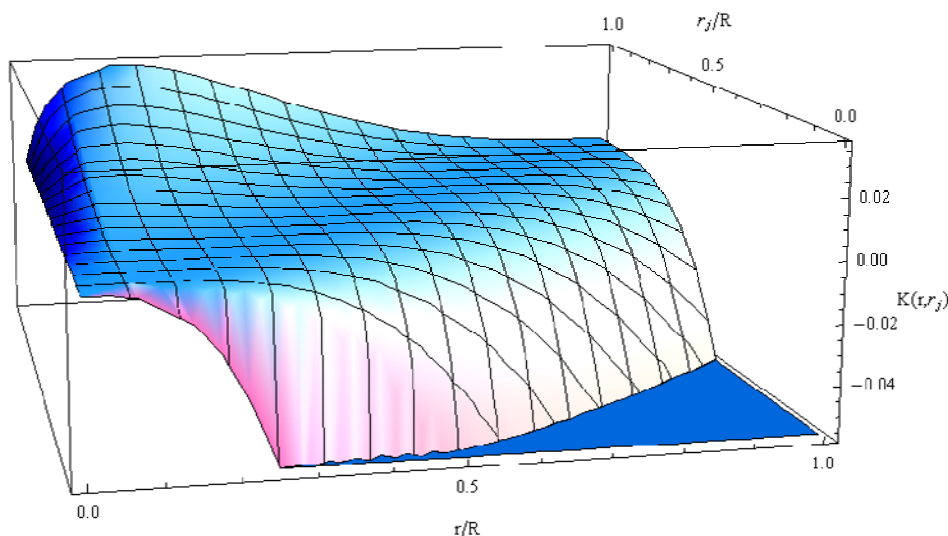


Fig.1. Cauchy function $K_0(r, r_j)$ for the circular plate of constant thickness.

The limited solution of Euler’s Eq.(4.1) and two first boundary conditions (2.9) were used to calculate constants C_0, C_1 . Taking into consideration equations $\beta_{ij} = u_j(r_i)$ and $F_j = I$, the formula of the influence matrix has the form (Jaroszewicz and Zoryj, 2005)

$$\beta_{ij} = \frac{I}{2R} \left(K'_0(R, r_j) \cdot (R^2 - r_i^2) - 2R \cdot K_0(R, r_j) \right). \tag{4.3}$$

After transforms Eq.(4.3) has the following form after transformations

$$\beta_{ij} = \frac{R^2}{8} \left(1 - \frac{r_j^2 - r_i^2}{R^2} - \frac{r_j^2 r_i^2}{R^4} + 2 \frac{r_j^2 + r_i^2}{R^2} \ln \frac{r_j}{R} \right), \quad i \leq j, \tag{4.4}$$

$$\beta_{ij} = \beta_{ji}, \quad \beta_{ii} = \frac{R^2}{8} \left(1 - \frac{r_i^4}{R^4} + \frac{4r_i^2}{R^2} \ln \frac{r_j}{R} \right). \tag{4.5}$$

For $\chi_i = \frac{r_i}{R}$ and $\chi_j = \frac{r_j}{R}$ coefficients of the influence matrix for the plate of constant thickness have the form

$$\beta_{ij} = \frac{R^2}{8} \left(1 + \chi_i^2 - \chi_j^2 - \chi_i^2 \chi_j^2 + 2(\chi_i^2 + \chi_j^2) \ln \chi_j \right). \quad (4.6)$$

Based on the method of calculation of coefficients of the influence matrix presented above, Cauchy function $K_0(r, r_j)$ (Fig.2) and the formula for coefficients of the influence matrix for the circular plate of linearly variable thickness have the following form

$$K_0(r, r_j) = \frac{I}{6} (r_j r^2 - r_j^5 r^{-2}) + \frac{I}{2} (r_j^4 r^{-1} - r_j^3), \quad (4.7)$$

$$\beta_{ij} = \frac{R^2}{3D_z \chi_i} \left(\frac{3}{2} \chi_i (\chi_i + \chi_j) + \frac{3\chi_i}{2\chi_j} - \frac{I}{2} \left(\frac{\chi_i}{\chi_j} \right)^2 - 3\chi_i - \chi_i^2 \chi_j \right). \quad (4.8)$$

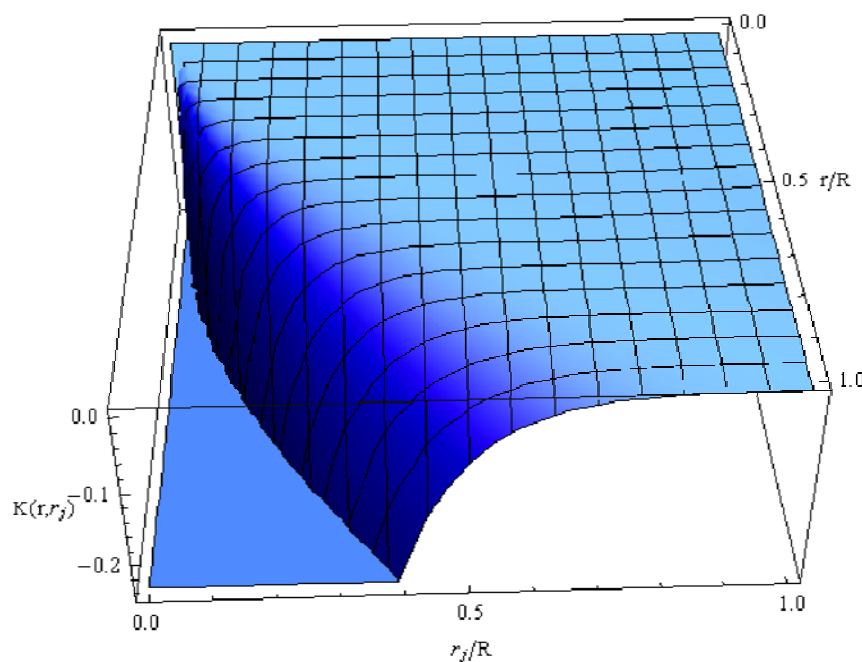


Fig.2. Cauchy function $K_0(r, r_j)$ for circular plate of linearly variable thickness.

5. Characteristic equation of natural frequency of sandwich circular plates

The record for continuous or discrete-continuous mass distribution systems can be replaced with one, two and n -degrees of freedom, which are characterized by the same function of stiffness. The plate's mass was placed on the rings with a certain radius. The total weight of the replacement is equal to the weight of the plate. This procedure is used to get the universal characteristic equation of elastic systems based on inverse equations of motion and the theorem of Betti-Maxwell (Solecki and Szymkiewicz, 1964). The inverse equations of motion ($K=2$) for the circular plates have the following form

$$\sum_{j=1}^2 M_j \beta_{ij} \frac{d^2 q_j}{dt^2} + q_i = 0, \quad M_j = \frac{m_j}{2\pi}, \quad (5.1)$$

The obtained characteristic equation has the following form

$$\Delta = a_0 - a_1\lambda + a_2\lambda^2 = 0 \tag{5.2}$$

where

$$a_0 = 1, \quad a_1 = \sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{m_i}{2\pi} \beta_{ii}, \quad a_2 = \frac{m_1 m_2}{4\pi^2} (\beta_{11} \beta_{22} - \beta_{12}^2), \tag{5.3}$$

$$\lambda = \omega^2 \frac{R^4 \rho_f \left(h - h_c + h_c \frac{\rho_c}{\rho_f} \right)}{D_z}, \tag{5.4}$$

$$D_z = 2 \left[\int_0^{h_c/2} \frac{E_c z^2}{1 - \nu_c^2} dz + \int_{h_c/2}^{h/2} \frac{E_f z^2}{1 - \nu_f^2} dz \right] = \frac{I}{12} \left[\frac{E_c h_c^3}{1 - \nu_c^2} + \frac{E_f (h^3 - h_c^3)}{1 - \nu_f^2} \right] \tag{5.5}$$

where ν_c – Poisson’s ratio of core, ν_f – Poisson’s ratio of facing.

Taking into consideration an additional annular mass $\frac{m_0}{2\pi}$ and parameters (μ_0, χ_0) the characteristic equation has a new form

$$\tilde{\Delta} = \tilde{a}_0 - \tilde{a}_1\lambda + \tilde{a}_2\lambda^2 = 0 \tag{5.6}$$

where

$$\tilde{a}_0 = 1; \quad \tilde{a}_1 = \frac{m_{00}}{2\pi} \beta_{00} + a_1; \quad \tilde{a}_2 = \frac{m_0 m_1}{4\pi^2} (\beta_{00} \beta_{11} - \beta_{01}^2) + \frac{m_0 m_2}{4\pi^2} (\beta_{00} \beta_{22} - \beta_{02}^2) + a_2. \tag{5.7}$$

The coefficients of characteristic Eq.(5.6) for $K > 2$ have the following form

$$\tilde{a}_0 = 1, \quad \tilde{a}_1 = \sum_{i=0}^K \frac{m_i}{2\pi} \beta_{ii}, \quad \tilde{a}_2 = \sum_{i=0}^{K-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^K \frac{m_i m_j}{4\pi^2} \begin{vmatrix} \beta_{ii} & \beta_{ij} \\ \beta_{ji} & \beta_{jj} \end{vmatrix}. \tag{5.8}$$

The natural basic frequency ω_0 of sandwich circular plates can be calculated using Bernstein-Kieropian’s equation (Bernstein and Kieropian, 1960)

$$\omega_0 = \gamma_0 \frac{I}{R^2} \sqrt{\frac{D_z}{\rho_f \left(h - h_c + h_c \frac{\rho_c}{\rho_f} \right)}}, \quad \gamma_0 = \frac{(y_-) + (y_+)}{2} \tag{5.9}$$

where estimators of the basic natural frequency have the form

$$(y_-) = \left(\frac{\tilde{a}_0}{\sqrt{\tilde{a}_1^2 - 2\tilde{a}_0\tilde{a}_2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad (y_+) = \left(\frac{2\tilde{a}_0}{\tilde{a}_1 + \sqrt{\tilde{a}_1^2 - 4\tilde{a}_0\tilde{a}_2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \tag{5.10}$$

6. Results of calculation

If factors of characteristic equation (5.6) are omitted

$$\left[\frac{m_i}{2\pi} \right] \sim R^2 \rho_f \left(h - h_c + h_c \frac{\rho_c}{\rho_f} \right), \quad [\beta_{ij}] \sim \frac{R^2}{D_z}, \quad (6.1)$$

$$\left[\widetilde{a}_1 \right] \sim \frac{R^4}{D_z} \rho_f \left(h - h_c + h_c \frac{\rho_c}{\rho_f} \right), \quad \left[\widetilde{a}_2 \right] \sim \left(\frac{R^4}{D_z} \rho_f \left(h - h_c + h_c \frac{\rho_c}{\rho_f} \right) \right)^2, \quad (6.2)$$

estimators of axisymmetric frequency will be the same for the fixed multilayered and homogeneous circular plates and only the absolute value of frequency will be different. The results of an analytical calculation of estimators of the first three frequency parameters, coefficients of the influence matrix and the coefficients of the characteristic series for circular plate of constant thickness and additional mass $\left(\mu_0 = 0.1, \chi_0 = \frac{1}{50} \right)$ were presented in Tab.2. The results of calculation of estimators of three axisymmetric frequency parameters for circular plates of linearly variable thickness with additional mass were presented in Tab.3.

Table 2. Results of calculations ($K \in \langle 2; 3 \rangle$) of radius r_i , masses m_i , influence matrix $[\beta]$ and estimators γ for homogeneous and sandwich circular plates of constant thickness.

Homogeneous and sandwich circular plate of constant thickness		Homogeneous and sandwich circular plate of constant thickness with additional mass		
$\frac{m_i}{2\pi}$	$\aleph_1 = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 4} \quad \aleph_2 = \frac{3}{2 \cdot 4}$	$\aleph_0 = \frac{1}{4 \cdot 5} \quad \aleph_1 = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 4} \quad \aleph_2 = \frac{3}{2 \cdot 4}$		
χ_i	$\chi_1 = \frac{1}{2} \quad \chi_2 = \frac{3}{4}$	$\chi_0 = \frac{1}{50} \quad \chi_1 = \frac{1}{2} \quad \chi_2 = \frac{3}{4}$		
β_{ij}	$\beta_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.08119 & 0.01315 \\ 0.01315 & 0.00454 \end{bmatrix}$	$\beta_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1242 & 0.09543 & 0.01422 \\ 0.0955 & 0.08119 & 0.01315 \\ 0.0142 & 0.01315 & 0.00453 \end{bmatrix}$		
a_i	$a_0 = 1$ $a_1 = 0.01185$ $a_2 = 0.0000092$	$\widetilde{a}_0 = 1$ $\widetilde{a}_1 = 0.01810$ $\widetilde{a}_2 = 0.0000224$		
γ_i	$\gamma_0 = 9.5279$ $\gamma_1 = 19.3337$ $\gamma_2 = 58.6213$	$\gamma_0 = 7.723$ $\gamma_1 = 15.4016$ $\gamma_2 = 42.0161$		

Table 3. Results of calculations ($K \in < 2; 3 >$) of radius r_i , masses m_i , influence matrix $[\beta]$ and estimators γ for homogeneous and sandwich circular plates of linearly variable thickness.

Homogeneous and sandwich circular plate of linearly variable thickness		Homogeneous and sandwich circular plate of linearly variable thickness with additional mass		
$\frac{m_i}{2\pi}$	$\aleph_1 = \frac{1}{3 \cdot 8} \quad \aleph_2 = \frac{7}{3 \cdot 8}$	$\aleph_0 = \frac{1}{4 \cdot 5} \quad \aleph_1 = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 4} \quad \aleph_2 = \frac{3}{2 \cdot 4}$		
χ_i	$\chi_1 = \frac{1}{4} \quad \chi_2 = \frac{3}{4}$	$\chi_0 = \frac{1}{50} \quad \chi_1 = \frac{1}{2} \quad \chi_2 = \frac{3}{4}$		
β_{ij}	$\beta_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5625 & 0.03 \\ 0.03 & 0.0069 \end{bmatrix}$	$\beta_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.035 & 1.08 & 0.5407 \\ 1.08 & 0.5625 & 0.01315 \\ 0.5407 & 0.01315 & 0.00694 \end{bmatrix}$		
a_i	$a_0=1$ $a_1=0.02546$ $a_2=0.000003646$	$\tilde{a}_0=1$ $\tilde{a}_1=0.574$ $\tilde{a}_2=0.000657$		
γ_i	$\gamma_0=7.404$ $\gamma_1=23.8023$ $\gamma_2=40.7944$	$\gamma_0=1.321$ $\gamma_1=6.6152$ $\gamma_2=7.6043$		

The examples of the influence of step discretization on the values of estimators of the basic frequency γ_0 are presented in Fig.3. The relative error between the exact values γ_0 (Conway, 1958b; Roberson, 1951) and the values from the method of partial discretization are presented in Fig.4.

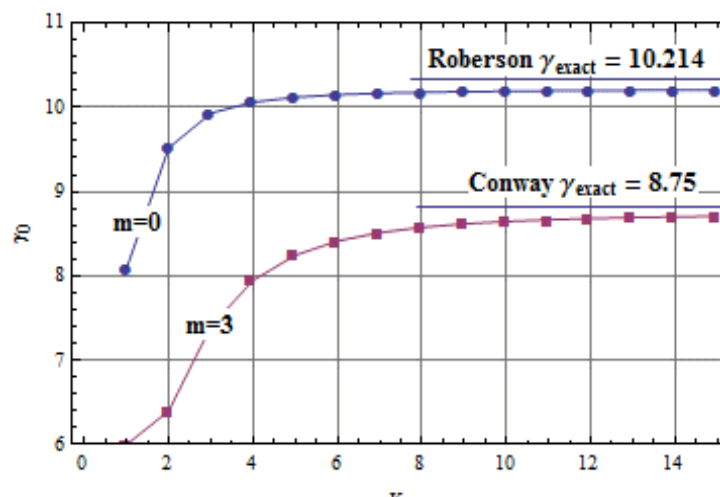


Fig.3. Influence of step discretization on the values of estimators of the basic frequency γ_0 for the plate of constant ($m = 0$) and linearly ($m = 3$) variable thickness.

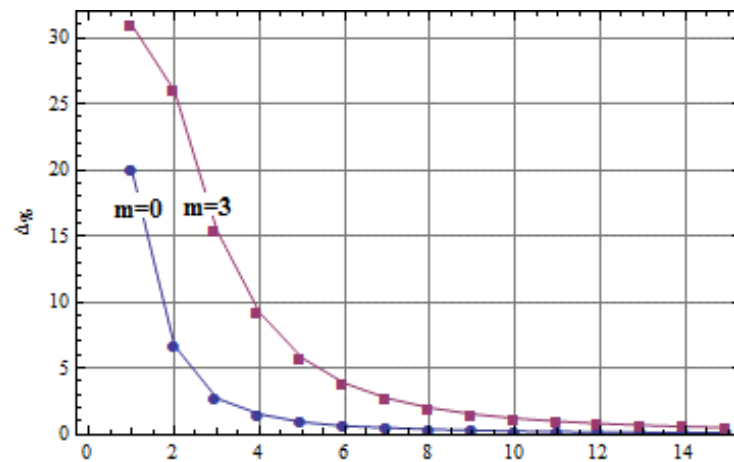


Fig.4. Relative error between the exact values γ_0 and values from the method of partial discretization for the plate of constant ($m=0$) and linearly ($m=3$) variable thickness.

Conclusions

Thin sandwich and homogeneous circular plates of constant and varying thickness carrying concentrated mass have been investigated. The influence of variable thickness and additional annular mass on double estimators of the basic and higher frequency of circular plates were presented. Figures 3 and 4 show that the results produced by the discretization method are close to the exact values for only 15 steps of discretization. Double estimators have the same value for homogeneous and sandwich circular plates of constant thickness and for plates of linearly variable thickness. Non-homogeneous material has no influence on double estimators of the basic and higher frequency. Important is the influence of replacing stiffness of a non-homogeneous material on the absolute value of the basic and higher frequency ω_i depending on material properties and thickness of the facing and core. The next step in vibration analysis of circular plates will be a numerical (MES) and analytical investigation of the influence of a functionally graded material on axisymmetric frequency of Kirchoff's and Reisner-Mindlin's plates with mixed boundary conditions.

Nomenclature

- D – stiffness bending of plate
- D_z – replacing stiffness of sandwich plate
- E_f – modulus of elasticity of facing
- E_c – modulus of elasticity of core
- $H(r)$ – Heaviside's function
- h – thickness of three-layered plates
- h_H – thickness of homogeneous plates
- K – number of inclusions
- $K_0(r, r_j)$ – influence function
- $L[w]$ – differential operator of Euler's equation
- m – coefficient of variable thickness of plate
- m_0 – additional mass
- r – radial coordinate
- ν – Poisson's ratio
- $w(r)$ – function of deflection of the plate
- α_i – discrete inclusions

- δ – Dirac's delta
 ρ_c – density of core
 ρ_f – density of facing
 $\chi_{i,j}$ – coefficients of influence matrix
 ω_0 – natural basic frequency

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