

**NOVEL METHODS OF TRANSDUCTION FOR ACTIVE CONTROL
OF HARMONIC SOUND RADIATED BY VIBRATING SURFACES**

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Contents

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CONTENTS

Abstract	vii
Statement of Originality	x
Acknowledgments	xi
Chapter 1. Introduction and literature review	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Relevance and motivation	5
1.3 Literature review	8
1.3.1 Historical overview of active control	8
1.3.2 Noise control of electric transformers	8
1.3.3 The effect of perforations on material properties	14
1.3.4 Modal filtering	16
1.3.5 Modal sensors	20
Chapter 2. Calculating resonance frequencies of perforated panels	24
2.1 Introduction	24
2.2 Definition of panel geometry parameters	26

Contents

2.3	Finite element model	28
2.4	Classical analysis with effective material properties	33
2.4.1	Effective material constants after Forskitt <i>et al.</i>	33
2.4.2	Effective material constants after Soler and Hill	34
2.5	Modal Analysis	36
2.6	Results and discussion	38
2.6.1	Finite element analysis results	38
2.6.2	Results after Forskitt <i>et al.</i>	39
2.6.3	Modal analysis results	40
2.6.4	Summary of results	44
2.7	Conclusion	46
Chapter 3.	Coupled analysis of a perforated panel as an active control source	47
3.1	Introduction	47
3.2	Theoretical analysis	49
3.2.1	Physical arrangement	49
3.2.2	Perforated control panel response	50
3.2.3	Primary panel response	54
3.2.4	Air piston response	55
3.2.5	Internal sound pressure p_{int}	56
3.2.6	External sound pressure p_{ext}	57

Contents

3.2.7	Coupled system response	58
3.2.8	Computation method	67
3.3	Experimental verification	68
3.3.1	Procedure	68
3.3.2	Results and discussion	70
3.4	Conclusions	78
Chapter 4.	Distributed source analysis of a perforated panel as an active control source	79
4.1	Introduction	79
4.2	Theoretical analysis	81
4.2.1	Physical arrangement	81
4.2.2	Perforated control panel response	82
4.2.3	Primary panel response	83
4.2.4	Farfield sound pressure	84
4.2.5	Quadratic optimisation of the farfield sound pressure	88
4.2.6	Quadratic optimisation of the total acoustic power	89
4.3	Numerical Results	93
4.3.1	Effect of perforate open area	97
4.3.2	Effect of panel spacing	98
4.3.3	Perforated control source compared to ASAC	102
4.4	Experimental verification	105

Contents

4.4.1	Procedure	105
4.4.2	Results and discussion	105
4.5	Conclusions	111
Chapter 5.	Acoustic sensing of global error criteria	113
5.1	Introduction	113
5.2	Theoretical analysis	114
5.2.1	Physical arrangement	115
5.2.2	Global error criterion	115
5.2.3	Acoustic sensing of transformed modes	118
5.2.4	Transformed mode acoustic radiation patterns	124
5.3	Numerical results	130
5.3.1	Controlling transformed modes compared to traditional error criteria	131
5.3.2	Modal filter response	138
5.3.3	Transformed mode frequency correction	142
5.4	Experimental verification	145
5.4.1	Procedure	145
5.4.1.1	Modal filter implementation	149
5.4.1.2	Panel loss factors	150
5.4.1.3	A comparison of control sources	150
5.4.1.4	Piezoelectric crystal electro-magnetic radiation effects	154
5.4.2	Results and discussion	157

Contents

5.5	Conclusions	169
Chapter 6.	Transformed modes of multiple source systems	171
6.1	Introduction	171
6.2	Theoretical analysis	172
6.2.1	Physical arrangement	172
6.2.2	Global error criterion	172
6.3	Numerical results	176
6.3.1	Transformed mode radiation efficiency	177
6.3.2	Controlling transformed modes compared to traditional error criteria	178
6.3.3	Multiple source modal filter response	180
6.3.4	Multiple source transformed mode frequency correction	183
6.3.5	Effect of panel spacing on the modal filter response	184
6.4	Conclusions	187
Chapter 7.	Conclusions	189
7.1	Conclusions	189
7.2	Recommendations for future work	196
	Appendix A	198
	References	201
	Publications Originating from this Thesis Work	220

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ABSTRACT

Large electric transformers such as those used in high voltage substations radiate an annoying low frequency hum into nearby communities. Attempts have been made to actively control the noise by placing a large number of loudspeakers as control sources around noisy transformers to cancel the hum. These cancellation systems require a large number of loudspeakers to be successful due to the imposing size of the transformer structures. Thus such systems are very expensive if global noise reduction is to be achieved.

The aim of this thesis is to investigate theoretically and experimentally the use of thin perforated panels closely placed to a heavy structure (eg. a transformer) to reduce the radiation of unwanted harmonic noise. These panels can themselves be vibrated to form a control source radiating over a large surface surrounding the primary source. The problem of the equipment overheating inside the enclosure is alleviated because the holes in the panels still allow natural cooling.

An initial study is carried out to determine the resonance frequencies of perforated panels. The use of previously determined "effective" elastic properties of the panels and Finite Element

Abstract

Analysis to theoretically calculate their resonance frequencies is examined.

Secondly the attenuation provided by active noise control using perforated panels as control sources is explored by use of a coupled analysis, where the primary source is assumed to influence the radiation of the perforated control panel. This analysis was found to predict poorly the amount of attenuation that could be achieved, so an uncoupled analysis is undertaken, where both the primary and control sources are assumed to radiate independently of each other. Not only does this greatly simplify the theoretical analysis but it also enables prediction of attenuation levels which are comparable to those determined experimentally. The theoretical model is reformulated to enable comparison of the sound power attenuation provided by perforated panel control sources with that of traditional acoustic and structural control sources.

Finally, the use of modal filtering of traditional acoustic error sensor signals to give transformed mode (or "power mode") sensors is examined. The independently radiating acoustic transformed modes of the panel are determined by an eigenanalysis and a theoretical analysis is presented for a farfield acoustic power sensor system to provide a direct measurement of the total radiated acoustic power. The frequency dependence of the sensor system, and the amount of global sound power attenuation that can be achieved is examined. Experimental measurements are made to verify the theoretical model and show that a sound power sensor implemented with acoustic sensors can be used in a practical active noise control system to increase the amount of attenuation that can be achieved. Alternatively the sound power sensor can be used to reduce the number of error channels required by a control system to obtain a given level of attenuation when

Abstract

compared to traditional error criteria. The power mode sensor analysis is then applied to the perforated panel control system, with similar results.

Statement of originality

STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

To the best of my knowledge and belief all of the material presented in this thesis, except where otherwise referenced, is my own original work, and has not been presented previously for the award of any other degree or diploma in any University. If accepted for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, I consent that this thesis be made available for loan and photocopying.

Kym A. Burgemeister

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