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## ANALYSIS OF VIBRATION LEVEL OF A PERFORATED PANEL USING FINITE ELEMENT METHOD

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**Abstract**—Introduction of perforation into plate-like structures is commonly found as one of practical noise control mechanisms to reduce the sound radiation. However, introduction of holes into the panel reduces its stiffness and hence increases its vibration. Since the discussion and also the analytical model to quantify this effect is lacking, this paper investigates the dynamics of a perforated panel by using Finite Element Method (FEM). It is found that the size and number of holes determine the frequency range of which the level of vibration increases due to perforation.

**Keywords**—Mobility; Plate; Perforate; Hole.

### I. INTRODUCTION

The vibration of engineering structures, particularly those consisting of thin plate-like members, can be a significant source of noise in many situations. Noise control techniques are often focused on reducing the amplitudes of vibration and include damping treatments, vibration isolation and structural modification. However, it is also possible to reduce the sound radiation of plate-like structures directly by constructing them from perforates. This technique is known to be capable of achieving considerable noise reductions and has found many practical applications, including safety guard enclosures over flywheels or belt drives and product collection hoppers.

However, the effect of the dynamics of the plate after perforation is rarely discussed. The recent models to calculate the sound radiation from a perforated panel also ignore this effect [1, 2]. The investigation of the effect of perforation on dynamic properties of plates began in the early 1960s in order to determine an accurate stress analysis of perforated panels used to support the tubes in a heat exchanger [3]. Soler and Hill [4] proposed an analytical formula to calculate the bending stiffness of a perforated panel as a function of hole geometry. Forskitt et al. [5] used the Finite Element Method (FEM) to obtain the dynamic properties, namely Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio of a perforate. The density is calculated based on the fraction of a solid plate. These properties are then used to calculate the natural frequencies. According to Burgemeister and Hansen [6], the model in [5] does not provide correct resonance frequencies. The FEM was again implemented to model the modal response of range of plates with varying perforation geometries. From this, the simulated resonance frequency was compared with that from the FEM model for the solid plate. The results of these comparisons were then fitted to a cubic expression as a general equation for other perforation

geometries which is independent of the mode order of the panel.

As previous models concern with only the dynamic properties, particularly the natural frequency, this paper investigates the change of vibration level due to the introduction of holes into a solid panel. FEM is applied to calculate the mobility of a perforated panel. The mobility of the perforate is then compared against that of the solid plate in one-third octave band frequency.

### II. MOBILITY

Mobility is defined as the ratio between the vibration velocity  $v$  and the excitation force  $F$  given as a function of frequency.

$$Y(\omega) = \frac{v(\omega)}{F(\omega)} \quad (1)$$

This can also be considered as a 'transfer function' assuming the system is linear. For a finite rectangular plate with dimensions  $a \times b$ , the mobility at an arbitrary point  $(x, y)$  subjected to a point force  $F$  at  $(x_0, y_0)$  is given by [7]

$$Y(\omega) = j\omega \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\Phi_n(x_0, y_0)\Phi_n(x, y)}{\omega_n^2(1 + j\eta) - \omega^2} \quad (2)$$

where  $\Phi_n$  is the  $n$ -th mass-normalised mode shape of the structure,  $\omega_n$  is the  $n$ -th natural frequency and  $\eta$  is the  $n$ -th damping loss factor. A case often considered is that of a rectangular plate with simply supported boundary conditions as this system provides a simple analytical solution. For a simply supported rectangular plate with dimensions  $a \times b$ , the mode shape can be represented as sinus functions. This and the natural frequency for mode  $(p, q)$  are, respectively

$$\Phi_{pq}(x, y) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{M}} \sin\left(\frac{p\pi x}{a}\right) \sin\left(\frac{q\pi y}{b}\right) \quad (3)$$

and

$$\omega_{pq} = \sqrt{\frac{B}{m} \left[ \left(\frac{p\pi}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{q\pi}{b}\right)^2 \right]} \quad (4)$$

where  $M$  is the total mass of the plate,  $m$  is the mass per unit area and  $B = Et^3/12(1 - \nu^2)$  is the plate bending stiffness for  $E$  is the Young's modulus,  $t$  is the plate thickness and  $\nu$  is the Poisson's ratio.

In this report, the level of the panel vibration is presented as the mobility (to normalize the vibration velocity with the input force). The next section discusses the FE model used to calculate the mobility of the perforated plate. Eq. (2) is used to validate the mobility obtained from the FE model for a solid simply supported plate.

### III. FINITE ELEMENT MODEL

In this paper, the analysis only considers a perforated panel with rectangular arrangement of holes. The model is developed using PATRAN and NASTRAN software. The simulated samples of perforated panels are determined by varying the perforation ratio with fixed diameter or number of holes and also by varying the diameter and number of holes with fixed perforation ratio. The choice of these parameters is summarized in Tables 1, 2, and 3.

**Table 1.** Parameters of the perforated panel with fixed hole diameter but different number of holes and perforation ratios.

Number of holes	Diameter (mm)	Perforation ratio (%)
40	10	5
80	10	10
160	10	21

**Table 2.** Parameters of the perforated panel with fixed number of holes but different hole diameters and perforation ratios.

Number of holes	Diameter (mm)	Perforation ratio (%)
40	10	5
40	15	12
40	20	21

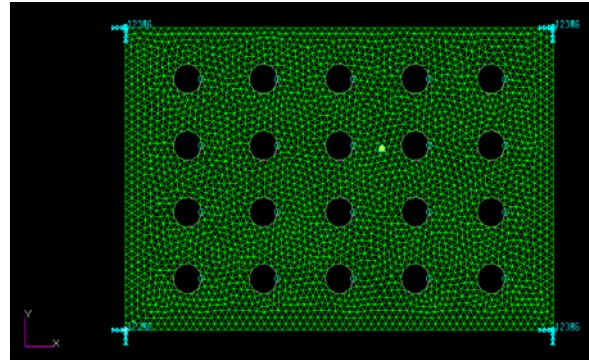
**Table 3.** Parameters of the perforated panel with fixed perforation ratio but different numbers and diameters of holes.

Number of holes	Diameter (mm)	Perforation ratio (%)
20	20	10
40	14	10
80	10	10

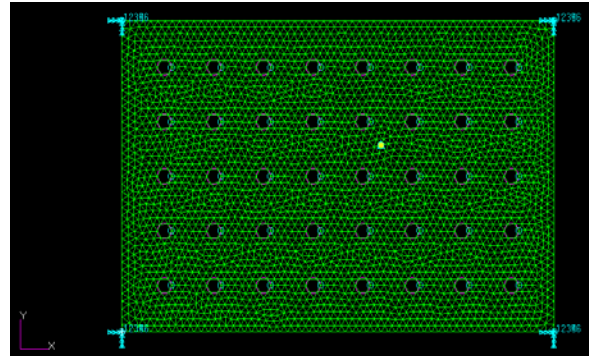
The panels having dimensions of  $0.3 \times 0.2$  m and thickness 1 mm are assumed simply supported along all the edges. The panels are assumed to be made of steel having Young's modulus of 206.8 GPa and density of  $7805.733 \text{ kgm}^{-3}$ . Figs. 1-7 show the Finite Element (FE) model of perforated panels from PATRAN software with various geometries of holes as in Table 1, 2 and 3.

The mesh element type used in the FE model is the basic two-dimensional triangular element (Tria shape and Paver as the mesher). The total number of elements is generated automatically by the software. However, the

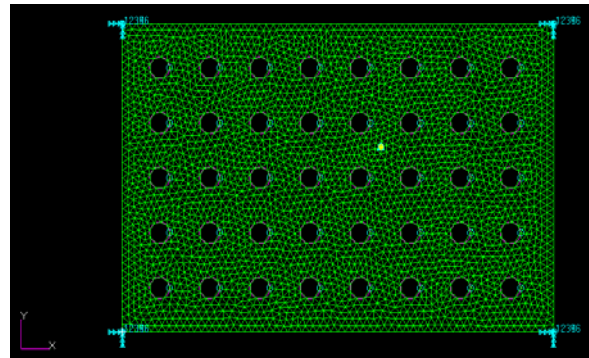
element size must be much smaller than half the structural wavelength corresponding to maximum frequency of analysis to give accurate results at high frequencies. The global edge length of each element is set to be 0.005 m. An excitation force of 1 N is applied slightly away from the centroid of the panel at co-ordinates (0.18, 0.12) where the (0, 0) is set as the reference co-ordinate. This is to generate the vibration modes as many as possible. The location of the excitation force and the response are the same for each sample for consistency of analysis. The damping coefficient is assumed to be 0.03. The vibration level of the panel is analyzed in the frequency range of 10 - 5000 Hz with a frequency step of 2 Hz.



**Figure 1.** FE model of a perforated panel with 20 holes and 20 mm hole diameter.



**Figure 2.** FE model of a perforated panel with 40 holes and 10 mm hole diameter.



**Figure 3.** FE model of a perforated panel with 40 holes and 14 mm hole diameter.

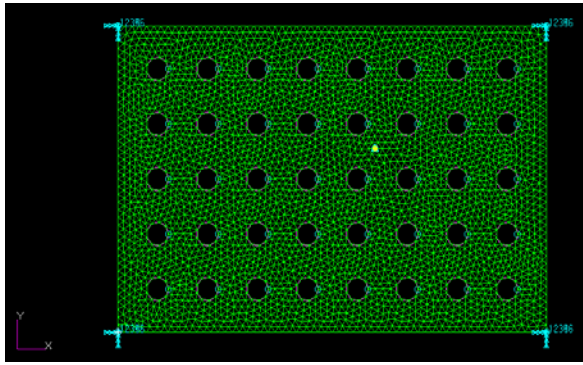


Figure 4. FE model of a perforated panel with 40 holes and 15 mm hole diameter.

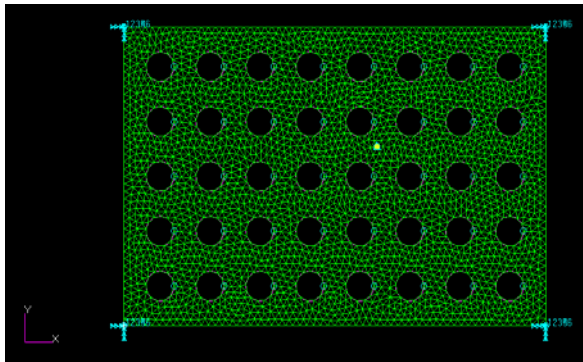


Figure 5. FEA model of a perforated panel with 40 holes and 20 mm hole diameter.

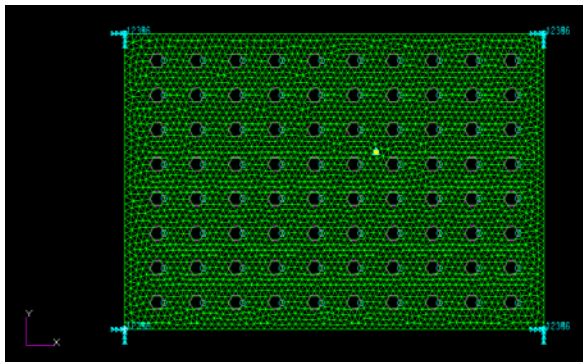


Figure 6. FEA model of a perforated panel with 80 holes and 10 mm hole diameter.

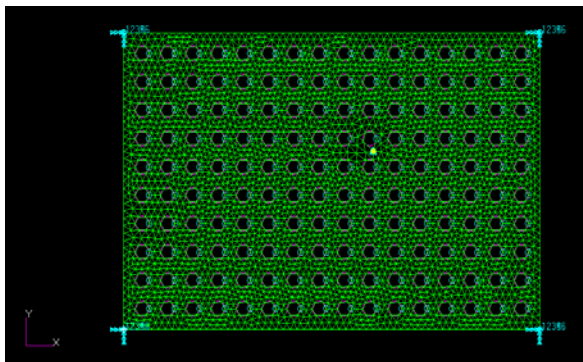


Figure 7. FEA model of a perforated panel with 160 holes and 10 mm hole diameter.

#### IV. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Fig. 8 shows the validation of the mobility of a solid panel from the FE model with that from the analytical model using Eq. (2) with dimensions and properties as mentioned in Section III. For the latter, the calculation involves all modes for index  $p \leq 40$  and  $q \leq 40$  to ensure they are generated up to 5 kHz.

This comparison is also to ensure that the FE model used is valid in terms of the meshing size, setting of boundary conditions, etc. It can be seen that the results between the models are in good agreement up to 5 kHz.

Fig. 9 presents the effect of the perforation ratio on the perforated panel mobility as in Table 2. The results are plotted in one-third octave bands for ease of analysis. It can be seen that the mobility increases as the perforation ratio is increased particularly around the off-resonance peak between 200-1000 Hz and also above this frequency range. This effect can also be observed below the fundamental frequency at 80 Hz.

Below the fundamental frequency where the structural wavelength is much larger than the hole separation distance, the vibration amplitude is controlled by the mass of the panel. Introducing the perforation reduces some of the panel mass and therefore increases the mobility at this frequency range. As at high frequency where the structural wavelength is much shorter than the hole separation distance, the effect of perforation is controlled by the bending stiffness. As discussed in [5], there needs a correction for the reduced Young's modulus relating to the reduction of the elasticity of a perforated panel which reduces the natural frequency of the panel. In this case, it can be seen this also increases the vibration amplitude.

The effect of increasing the perforation ratio is also shown in Fig. 10. This is for the case as in Table 1. The same phenomenon can be seen between the resonance peaks from 200-1000 Hz. The mobility also increases below the fundamental frequency and at high frequency above 1000 Hz.

Fig. 11 shows that by retaining the perforation ratio while varying the number and diameter of holes (see Table 3), the mobility of the perforated plate is not affected.

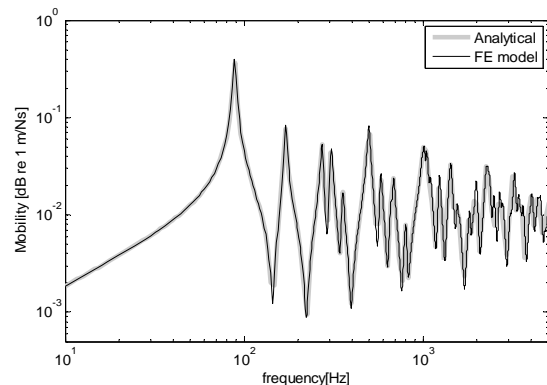
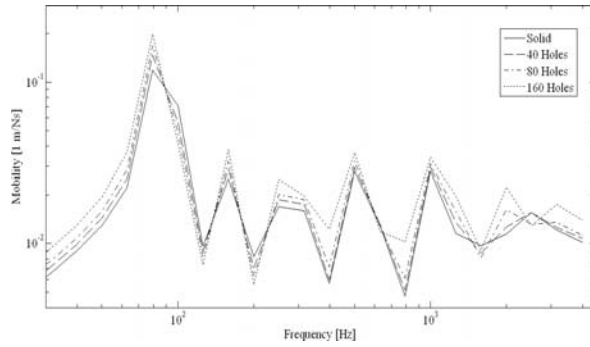
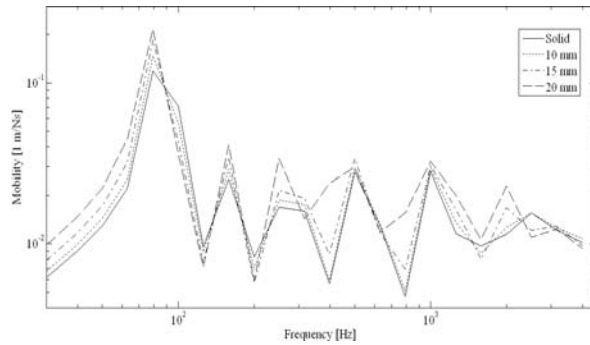


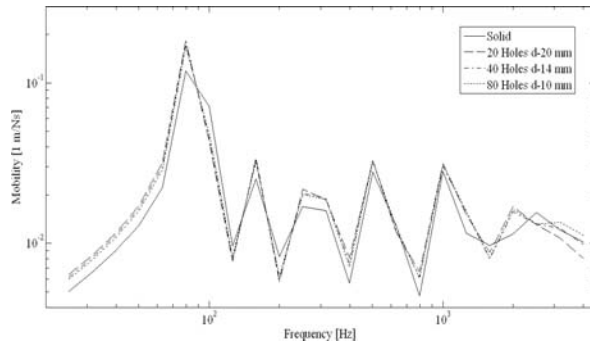
Figure 8. Comparison of the mobility of a solid panel from FE model and from analytical calculation.



**Figure 9.** The mobility of perforated panels with 10 mm hole diameter and different number of holes in one-third octave bands.



**Figure 10.** The mobility of perforated panels with 40 holes and different hole diameters in one-third octave bands.



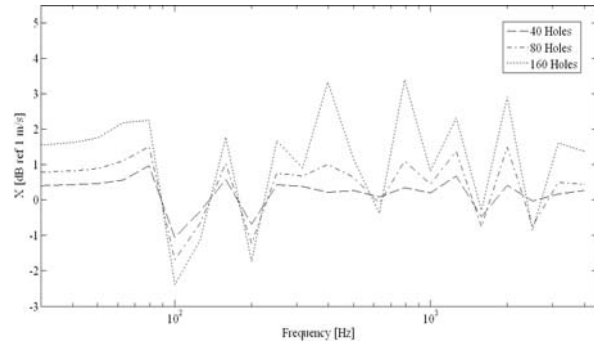
**Figure 11.** The mobility of perforated panels with different number of holes and different hole diameters in one-third octave bands.

For convenience of analysis, it is of interest to see the amount of mobility level increased due to perforation. This can be expressed with ‘the effect of perforation’ in dB unit by

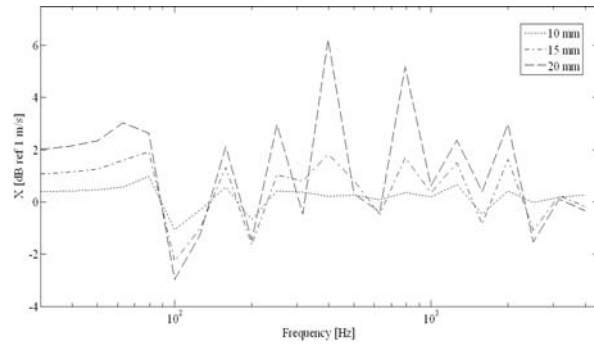
$$X = 10 \times \log_{10} \left( \frac{Y_p}{Y_s} \right) \quad (5)$$

where  $Y_p$  is the mobility of the perforated plate and  $Y_s$  is for the solid plate.

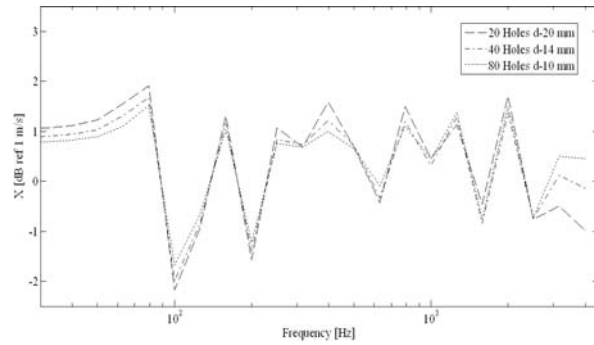
Figs. 12 and 13 show that the mobility only increases at certain narrow frequency indicated by the fluctuation of  $X$ . The increment at off-resonance peak can be obviously seen at 400 and 800 Hz. It can also be seen that  $X$  becomes larger as the perforation ratio increases. The level is below 5 dB in the present case and this depends on the amount of perforation.



**Figure 12.** The effect of perforation for 10 mm hole diameter with different number of holes.



**Figure 13.** The effect of perforation for 40 holes with different hole diameters.



**Figure 14.** The effect of perforation for 10% perforation with different number and hole diameters.

Fig. 14 clearly shows that only the perforation ratio affects the mobility of the panel, not the hole size or number. Although below 80 Hz and at 400 Hz introduction of larger holes can be seen to increase the mobility, the increment is small and can be ignored.

## V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The vibration amplitude (represented by mobility) of perforated rectangular plates with varying hole geometries has been calculated by using the Finite Element Method. It is found that the mobility increases as the perforation ratio increases. The effect of perforation is mainly between the resonant frequencies of the plate. For fixed perforation ratio, the hole size and number have negligible effect on the perforated plate mobility.

This paper limits the geometry and arrangement of the holes to rectangular shape. However, the shapes and sizes

as well as the arrangement of the holes in real engineering structures may vary. Therefore, future works can focus on analyzing the effect of geometrical factor and arrangement of holes on the mobility of the perforates. The arrangement of holes can be uniform or non-uniform and symmetrical or non-symmetrical. The experimental findings would be of interest to support the analysis.

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