

# 1766. Coupling vibration characteristics of a translating flexible robot manipulator with harmonic driving motions

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**Abstract.** Translating robot manipulators (TRMs) especially flexible translating robot manipulators (FTRMs) have been actively used in takeout robots, beam-type substrate transport robots and manufacturing machines and it remains that the end-effector on robot arms should have a good operating accuracy. Due to the coupling effect, such as motor parameters and mechanism inertias, the motions of the driving stage exhibits certain disturbances especially in high speeds. Considering the influence of the motion disturbances, this paper models the motions of the driving stage as harmonic driving motions and in this case the FTRM is similar to a parametrically excited system. The multiple scales method is applied to obtain the stability conditions for the motion disturbances. Based on the established coupling dynamic model, the influences of the motion disturbances on the vibration behaviors and the stability are investigated. Moreover, considering the actual motion characteristics of the driving stage with varied accelerations and velocities, the effect mechanism between the motion characteristics and motion disturbances are subsequently studied. According to this effect mechanism, the influence of the motion disturbances can be suppressed through motion optimizing, which is meaningful for motion optimizations and vibration controls of the FTRM. An ADAMS physical prototype is constructed to verify the dynamic model and theoretical analysis results, and the results have a good agreement.

**Keywords:** translating robot manipulators, dynamic, motion disturbances, parametrically excited system, stability, multiple scales method.

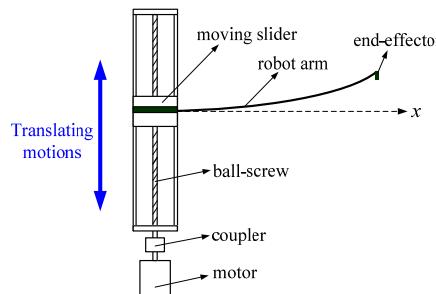
## 1. Introduction

Translating robot manipulators (TRMs) are widely used in various industrial applications, such as takeout robots, also known as injection-molding machines [1], beam-type substrate transport robots [2, 3] and manufacturing machines [4]. Driven by the driving unit, the end-effector clamped on the arm can execute the corresponding tasks, such as takeout of materials, metalworking, and assemblage and package of tiny parts. In most time, the executing tasks and objects are tedious, tiny and even dangerous, which remains that the end-effector should have a good executing accuracy and longtime service life [5, 6]. To achieve this target, rigid translating robot manipulators (RTRMs) are accordingly constructed in a manner of maximizing the stiffness by using heavy materials and bulky structure designs [5, 7]. As a consequence, these RTRMs are relatively heavy which will limit the operation speed and contradicts the purpose of improving the productivity and energy utilization efficiency.

With the urgent request of high productivity, flexible translating robot manipulators (FTRMs) are actively developed and received increasing attentions in these and other fields [5, 8-12]. Compared with RTRMs, FTRMs have light weights and flexibilities and can meet the purpose of high productivity and energy utilization efficiency. It should be noted at the same time that, due to the damp and stiffness are generally lower, the FTRM suffers an issue about residual vibrations of its arm which are inevitable when executes the operation tasks, for example changes its position by suddenly translating following a command input, and significantly affect the operation precision and service life of the end-effector [5, 8]. Without controlling, the vibrations will persist

for a period of time and consequently delay the subsequent operations and restrain the operating efficiency. Specially, if the FTRMs are used for micro surgeries, these residual vibrations may cause surgery failures and even life deaths [10-12]. Thus, the dynamics especially the vibration analysis of FTRMs is of significance for maximizing their advantages in engineering applications.

The detailed TRMs in takeout robots, beam-type substrate transport robots and manufacturing machines are Cartesian types which have translating and deploying motions. Each FTRM can be modeled as a flexible link with a translational base support [13], which can be clearly seen in [1, 14-18]. In these literatures, the motions velocities or accelerations of the ball-screw stage are regarded as constant without any fluctuations during the dynamic modeling and vibration controlling of FTRMs. In order to talk about this, a schematic diagram of the FTRM is presented in Fig. 1, in which only the translating motions are shown. Here, the arm clamps the end-effector and is driven by a ball-screw stage with motor driving. We can see that the FTRM is a typical electromechanical system containing drive, sensing and mechanical components. Due to the coupling effect of motor parameters and mechanism inertias, the motion velocities and accelerations of the ball-screw stage are not the ideal constant status and exhibit certain fluctuations especially in high speeds [13], which are relatively common in elastic linkage mechanisms [19-22] and however the related studies for robot manipulators are still limited. Lee [23] indicated that due to the unbalance mass of motor in different rotational speeds, the machine platform will suffer disturbances and varying excitation frequencies. Tuttle [24] discovered that the motion error mainly aroused by backlash between the splines. Thus, in the dynamic modeling and vibration investigating of FTRMs especially using harmonic drive, the motion disturbances of the driving stage should be considered, and ignoring the motion disturbances will cause an error and cannot reflect the actual dynamics of the FTRM especially for which need certain accuracies.



**Fig. 1.** Schematic diagram of the FTRM

In this paper, we will consider the motion disturbances of the driving stage during the dynamic modeling and vibration behaviors investigation of the FTRM. In this case, the driving stage conveys disturbance excitations. Through investigating the influence of the motion disturbances on the vibration behaviors and stability, as well as the effect of motion characteristics of the driving stage on the motion disturbances, we attempt to obtain some meaningful results for further vibration control and driving optimization of the FTRM. The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, the dynamic model of the FTRM with motion disturbances is constructed, and the stability conditions for the motion disturbances are derived based on the coupling dynamic model. The coupling vibration characteristics of the FTRM are investigated in Section 3 as well as the results are presented and discussed. In Section 4, this paper is concluded with a brief summary.

## 2. Dynamic model of the FTRM

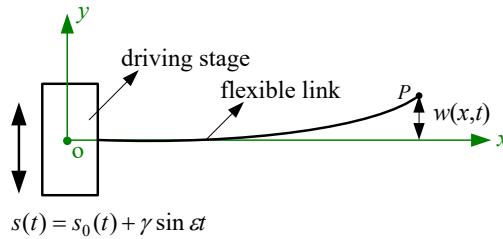
### 2.1. Vibration displacements equation

As indicated in Fig. 1, the FTRM is a typical electromechanical system. During the tasks

executing, the dynamics of the flexible link and end-effector accordingly coupled by the dynamic behaviors of the ball-screw stage. As detailed in former, due to the influence of motor parameters and mechanism inertias, the driving motions of the driving stage will exhibit certain disturbances. According to [20-22], the motion disturbances have the features of harmonic functions. In [25], these harmonic drive motions are stated as the form of sinusoidal functions. Inspired by this, the harmonic functions can be expanded as the form of Fourier series. To simplify the analysis, we use sinusoidal functions to describe the harmonic functions. In this case, the driving motion of the driving stage can be written as:

$$s(t) = s_0(t) + \gamma \sin \omega t, \quad (1)$$

where  $\gamma$  and  $\omega$  denote the amplitudes and frequencies of the harmonic disturbances, respectively;  $s_0(t)$  denotes the ideal constant motion of the driving stage which is generally considered in existent literatures. It can be obtained from Eq. (1) that the driving motion of the driving stage not only conveys the harmonic disturbances, but also can reflect the actual motion characteristics of the FTRM, which can be used to investigate the influence of the motion disturbances as well as the effect mechanism between the motion characteristics and the disturbances. Based on this, the dynamic model of the FTRM can be described in Fig. 2. Here, the arm is modeled as a flexible link with an end-effector, the driving stage has translating harmonic driving motions. Under harmonic excitations, the system is similar to a parametrically excited system [26] which is commonly reported in investigations of beams and plates with parametric excitations [27-30].



**Fig. 2.** Dynamic model of the FTRM

Driven by the driving stage, the flexible link and the end-effector can execute the tasks. To investigate the elastic deflections and vibrations during the executions, assumptions are made that the flexible link satisfies the Bernoulli-Euler Beam assumptions and the transverse vibrations in the  $x$ - $y$  plane are the primary motions.

The absolute displacement of the end-effector can be expressed as:

$$y(x, t) = s(t) + w(x, t), \quad (2)$$

here  $w(x, t)$  denotes the transverse vibration displacements of the flexible link and, according to the assumed modes method [31], can be expressed as:

$$w(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi_i(x) q_i(t), \quad (3)$$

where  $q_i(t)$  denotes the  $i$ th generalized co-ordinate,  $\phi_i(x)$  denotes the  $i$ th orthogonal mode shapes and can be given as:

$$\phi_i(x) = \sin \omega_i x - \sinh \omega_i x - \frac{\sin \omega_i L + \sinh \omega_i L}{\cos \omega_i L + \cosh \omega_i L} (\cos \omega_i x - \cosh \omega_i x), \quad (4)$$

where  $\omega_i$  denotes the  $i$ th natural frequency of the FTRM,  $L$  is the length of the flexible link.

The kinetic energy of the FTRM can be written as:

$$T = \frac{1}{2}m_s\dot{s}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\int_0^L \rho A y_t'^2 dx, \quad (5)$$

where  $\rho$  is the mass density,  $A$  is the cross-sectional area,  $A = b \times h$ ,  $b$  and  $h$  are the width and the thickness, respectively,  $m_s$  is the mass of the moving slider of the driving stage,  $(\cdot)$  denotes the time derivative,  $y_t'$  denotes the partial derivative of  $y(x, t)$  with respect to  $t$ . Here, the first part represents the kinetic energy of the moving slider while the second part represents the kinetic energy of the flexible link.

Combining Eq. (2), Eq. (5) can be further expressed as:

$$T = \frac{1}{2}m_s\dot{s}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\int_0^L \rho A(\dot{s} + w_t')^2 dx, \quad (6)$$

where  $w_{,t}$  denotes the partial derivative of  $w(x, t)$  with respect to  $t$ .

The potential energy of the FTRM mainly considers the bending elastic potential energy of the flexible link and can be written as:

$$V = \frac{1}{2}\int_0^L EIw_{xx}'^2 dx, \quad (7)$$

where  $E$  is Young's modulus,  $I$  is the cross-sectional moment of inertia about the neutral axis,  $I = bh^3/12$ ,  $w_{xx}'$  denotes the second order partial derivative of  $w(x, t)$  with respect to  $x$ .

To establish the dynamic model, the Lagrangian function is introduced and written as:

$$U = T - V, \quad (8)$$

and according to Hamilton's principle [32], Eq.(8) satisfies following condition:

$$\delta \int_{t_0}^{t_1} U dt = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \delta(T - V) dt = 0, \quad (9)$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \int_{t_0}^{t_1} T dt &= \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \delta \left[ \frac{1}{2}m_s\dot{s}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\int_0^L \rho A(\dot{s} + w_t')^2 dx \right] dt \\ &= - \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_0^L \rho A(\ddot{s} + w_{tt}') dx dt \delta w, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where  $w_{tt}'$  denotes the second order partial derivative of  $w(x, t)$  with respect to  $t$ :

$$\delta \int_{t_0}^{t_1} V dt = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \delta \left[ \frac{1}{2}\int_0^L EIw_{xx}'^2 dx \right] dt = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_0^L EI \frac{w_{xx}' w_{xxx}'}{w_x'} dx dt \delta w, \quad (11)$$

where  $w_x'$  denotes the partial derivative of  $w(x, t)$  with respect to  $x$ ,  $w_{xxx}'$  denotes the third order partial derivative of  $w(x, t)$  with respect to  $x$ .

Substituting Eqs. (10) and (11) into Eq. (9):

$$\begin{aligned}\delta \int_{t_0}^{t_1} U dt &= - \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_0^L \rho A (\ddot{s} + w'_{tt}) dx dt \delta w - \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_0^L EI \frac{w'_{xx} w'_{xxx}}{w'_x} dx dt \delta w \\ &= - \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_0^L \left[ \rho A (\ddot{s} + w'_{tt}) + EI \frac{w'_{xx} w'_{xxx}}{w'_x} \right] dx dt \delta w = 0,\end{aligned}\quad (12)$$

it can be obtained that:

$$\rho A (\ddot{s} + w'_{tt}) + EI \frac{w'_{xx} w'_{xxx}}{w'_x} = 0. \quad (13)$$

Combining Eq. (3), Eq. (13) can be further written as:

$$\rho A \ddot{s} + \rho A \phi_i \ddot{q}_i + EI \omega_i^4 \phi_i q_i = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (14)$$

Multiplying Eq. (14) with  $\phi_j$  and subsequently integrating the equation along the length direction, result can be obtained that:

$$\int_0^L \phi_j (\rho A \ddot{s} + \rho A \phi_i \ddot{q}_i + EI \omega_i^4 \phi_i q_i) dx = 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (15)$$

According to the orthogonality of mode shapes [15, 33], the vibration displacements equation of the FTRM can be obtained as:

$$\ddot{q}_i + \omega_i^2 q_i = -\frac{m_i}{\rho A} \ddot{s}, \quad (16)$$

where  $m_i = \int_0^L \rho A \phi_i dx$ .

It can be obtained from Eq. (16) that the vibration displacements of the FTRM are related with the actual motion characteristics of the driving stage.

Substituting Eq. (1) into Eq. (16), result can be obtained as:

$$\ddot{q}_i + \omega_i^2 q_i = -\frac{m_i}{\rho A} (\ddot{s}_0 - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \sin \omega t). \quad (17)$$

Eq. (17) further reveals that the vibration responses of the FTRM is influenced by the motion disturbances and related with the actual motion characteristics of the driving stage. Therefore, to conduct an accurate dynamic analysis of the FTRM, the motion characteristics and disturbances of the driving stage should be comprehensively considered. To investigate the influence of the motion disturbances and the effect mechanism between the motion characteristics and disturbances, this paper considers the situations that the driving stage having average accelerations and velocities.

The driving motion of the driving stage can be described as:

$$s(t) = \frac{1}{2} a t^2 + \gamma \varepsilon^2 \sin \omega t, \quad (18)$$

here  $a$  denotes the ideal average acceleration which is generally considered in existent literatures.

Combining Eqs. (17) and (18), the vibration displacements equation of the FTRM can be further expressed as:

$$\ddot{q}_i + \omega_i^2 q_i = -\frac{m_i}{\rho A} (a - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \sin \omega t). \quad (19)$$

Via Duhamel integral [31], the response of the FTRM can be obtained as:

$$q_i(t) = B_{1i} \cos \omega_i t + B_{2i} \sin \omega_i t - \frac{m_i}{\rho A \omega_i} \int_0^t (a - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \sin \varepsilon \tau) \sin \omega_i (t - \tau) d\tau, \quad (20)$$

where  $B_{1i}$  and  $B_{2i}$  are coefficients determined by initial conditions which can be determined as:

$$B_{1i} = \frac{\rho A}{M_i} \int_0^L w(x, 0) \phi_i dx, \quad B_{2i} = \frac{\rho A}{M_i \omega_i} \int_0^L w'_i(x, 0) \phi_i dx, \quad (21)$$

where  $M_i = \int_0^L \rho A \phi_i^2 dx$ .

Assigning  $a = 0$  in Eq. (20), the situation is that the driving stage having an average velocity. We can see that Eq. (20) contains the coupling effect of motion disturbances and motion characteristics. Thus, through assigning varied motion accelerations and velocities, the influence of the motion disturbances on the vibration behaviors as well as the effect mechanism between the motion characteristics and the motion disturbances can be investigated.

## 2.2. Stability conditions

It is known that when the disturbance frequencies are near the main resonance frequencies, the parametric resonances will be aroused [26, 34]. The multiple scales method is employed to obtain the stability conditions for the motion disturbances. The  $q$  in Eq. (19) can be expressed as:

$$q(t, \alpha) = q_0(T_0, T_1) + \alpha q_1(T_0, T_1) + O(\alpha^2), \quad (22)$$

here  $T_0 = t$  denotes the fast scale characterizing motion, and  $T_1 = \alpha t$  denotes the slow scale characterizing motion.

Substituting Eq. (22) into Eq. (19), it can be obtained as:

$$\frac{\partial^2 q_0}{\partial T_0^2} + \omega^2 q_0 + \frac{m}{\rho A} a = 0, \quad (23)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 q_1}{\partial T_0^2} + \omega^2 q_1 = -2 \frac{\partial^2 q_0}{\partial T_0 \partial T_1} + \frac{m}{\rho A} \gamma \varepsilon^2 \sin \varepsilon t. \quad (24)$$

A detuning parameter  $\sigma$  is introduced to quantify the deviation of  $\varepsilon$  from  $\omega_n$ , and in this case  $\varepsilon$  can be described as:

$$\varepsilon = \omega_n + \alpha \sigma, \quad (25)$$

where  $\omega_n$  is the  $n$ th natural frequency of the FTRM.

To investigate the parametric responses, according to [35], the solution of Eq. (23) can be expressed as:

$$q_0 = B_n(T_1) e^{i \omega_n T_0} + \bar{B}_n(T_1) e^{-i \omega_n T_0}. \quad (26)$$

Substituting Eqs. (25) and (26) into Eq. (24), and expressing the trigonometric functions in exponential form yield:

$$\frac{\partial^2 q_1}{\partial T_0^2} + \omega_n^2 q_1 = -i \omega_n \left( 2 \dot{B}_n + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{\rho A} \gamma \omega_n e^{i \sigma T_1} \right) e^{i \omega_n T_0} + cc + NST, \quad (27)$$

where the dot denotes the derivation with respect to the slow time variable  $T_1$ ,  $cc$  denotes the complex conjugate of all preceding terms on the right hand, NST stands for the terms that will not bring secular terms into the solution.

The solvability condition demands the orthogonal relationships [36]:

$$\left\langle 2\dot{B}_n + \frac{1}{2\rho A} \gamma \omega_n e^{i\sigma T_1}, \phi_n \right\rangle = 0. \quad (28)$$

Applying the distributive law of the inner product to Eq. (28), it can be obtained as:

$$\dot{B}_n + \frac{1}{4\rho A} \gamma \omega_n e^{i\sigma T_1} = 0. \quad (29)$$

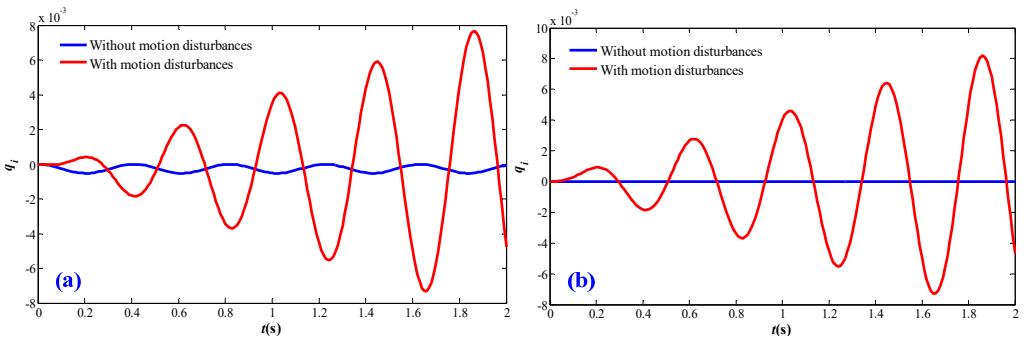
According to [29] and [37], the stability boundary can be similarly expressed as:

$$\sigma = \pm \frac{1}{4\rho A} |\omega_n| \gamma. \quad (30)$$

### 3. Coupling vibration characteristics of the FTRM

In this section, numerical simulations are conducted to investigate the coupling vibration characteristics of the FTRM. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, we use a flexible link to model the arm of the FTRM in the numerical simulations. Properties of the flexible link are length  $L = 575$  mm, width  $b = 28$  mm, thickness  $h = 1$  mm, Young's modulus  $E = 197$  GPa, volumetric density  $\rho = 7850$  kg/m<sup>3</sup> and Poisson's ratio  $\mu = 0.26$ . In the computations, the initial conditions are assigned  $w(0.575, 0) = -0.001$  and  $w_{,t}(0.575, 0) = 0.001$ , respectively.

Fig. 3 shows the steady-state vibration responses of the FTRM. It can be seen that for the driving stage having velocity motions and acceleration motions, the motion disturbances have noticeable influence on the vibration responses. The response amplitudes are obviously bigger than the ideal status which ignores the motion disturbances. This indicates that the motion disturbances will enlarge the vibration responses of the end-effector and arouse certain error during the analysis.

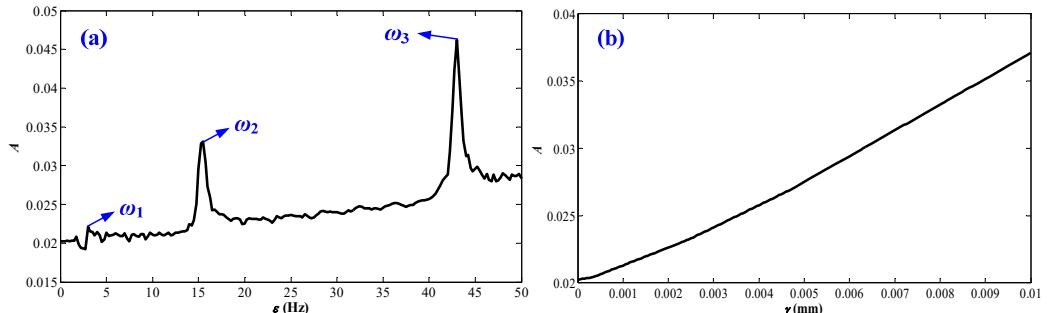


**Fig. 3.** Steady-state vibration responses of the FTRM: a)  $\alpha = 0.1$  m/s<sup>2</sup>; b)  $v = 0.01$  m/s

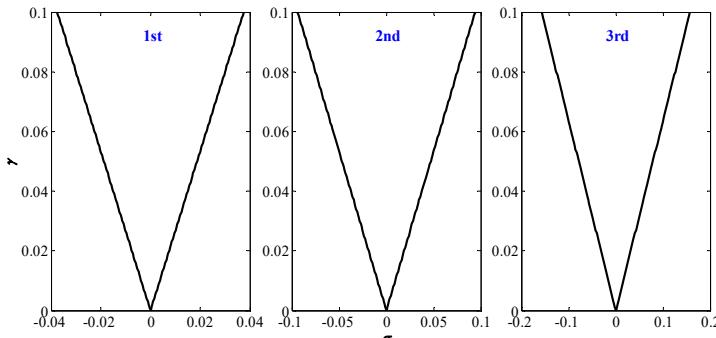
Fig. 4 further presents the influence of disturbance frequencies  $\varepsilon$  and disturbance amplitudes  $\gamma$  on the vibration responses of the FTRM. It can be obtained that, response amplitudes  $A$  increase with  $\varepsilon$  and  $\gamma$ , and when  $\varepsilon$  is near the main resonance frequencies, the response amplitudes enlarge obviously and arouse resonances. The stability boundaries for the first three principal resonances in plane  $\sigma-\gamma$  are shown in Fig. 5.

From Figs. 3 and 4, it can be obtained that disturbance frequencies and the disturbance

amplitudes all have a considerable influence on the vibration responses. To compare the effect of the disturbance frequencies and disturbance amplitudes, Fig. 6 exhibits vibration responses of the FTRM under acceleration motions and velocity motions with different disturbance frequencies and disturbance amplitudes. The average acceleration and velocity are assigned  $a = 0.1 \text{ m/s}^2$  and  $v = 0.01 \text{ m/s}$ . It can be obtained that the response amplitudes increase with  $\gamma$  and  $\varepsilon$ , this is consistent with Fig. 4; moreover, the situations of  $\gamma = 0.003$ ,  $\varepsilon = 5$  and  $\gamma = 0.001$ ,  $\varepsilon = 15$  reveal that the influence of  $\varepsilon$  is more pronounced than  $\gamma$ , which indicates that the effect of disturbance frequencies is more noticeable than that of disturbance amplitudes and should be mainly considered in following dynamic analysis.



**Fig. 4.** Influences of disturbance frequencies and disturbance amplitudes on the vibration responses

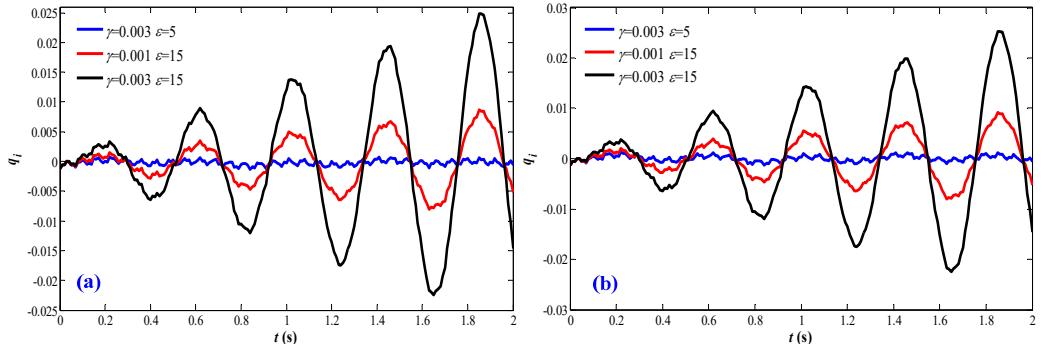


**Fig. 5.** Stability boundaries for the first three principal resonances

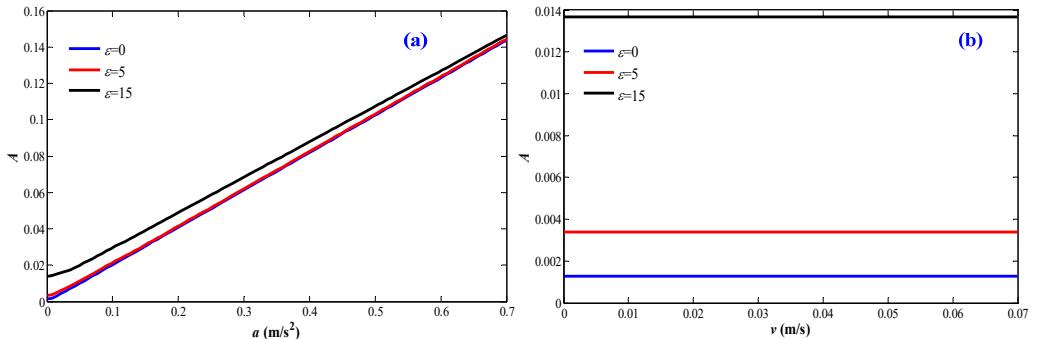
It is known from Fig. 3 that during the motions of FTRM, the motion disturbances have noticeable influence and enlarge the vibration responses of the end-effector which will decrease the operation accuracy and service life of the system. According to Fig. 6, it is further indicated that the disturbance frequencies are the more significant factor and should be mainly considered. Accordingly, with the purpose of suppressing the influence of the disturbance frequencies and giving some useful suggestions for further vibration controls, Fig. 7 further studies the effect mechanism between the disturbance frequencies and motion accelerations and velocities. During the analysis, the disturbance amplitude is assigned  $\gamma = 0.001$  while the varied disturbance frequencies are assigned  $\varepsilon = 0$ ,  $\varepsilon = 5$  and  $\varepsilon = 15$ .

Firstly, Fig. 7 indicates that the response amplitudes increase with disturbance frequencies, which is consistent with Figs.4 and 6. Moreover, it can be obtained from Fig. 7(a) that for smaller motion accelerations, the vibration responses with motion disturbances are significantly different with the ideal status which ignores the motion disturbances ( $\varepsilon = 0$ ) and have a noticeable error; with motion accelerations increasing, the error decreases and the vibration responses of different disturbance frequencies all gradually approximate with the ideal status of  $\varepsilon = 0$ . This indicates that larger motion accelerations have suppressing effect on the influence of the disturbances frequencies and this can advise the motion control of the driving stage. From Fig. 7(b), it can be

obtained that the vibration responses of different disturbance frequencies have noticeable error with the ideal status ( $\varepsilon = 0$ ); moreover, with motion velocities increasing, the vibration responses remain unchanged, which reveals that the motion velocities have no effect on the influence of motion disturbances. This effect mechanism between the disturbance frequencies and motion accelerations and velocities further indicates that the motion characteristics of the driven stage have influence on the dynamics of the FTRM and through motion optimizing of the driving stage, the influence of the motion disturbances can be suppressed, for example within the permission of conditions, the driving stage should utilize larger motion accelerations to execute tasks, which is meaningful for motion optimizations and vibration controls of the FTRM.



**Fig. 6.** Comparison of the disturbance frequencies and disturbance amplitudes on the vibration responses:  
a)  $a = 0.1 \text{ m/s}^2$ ; b)  $v = 0.01 \text{ m/s}$



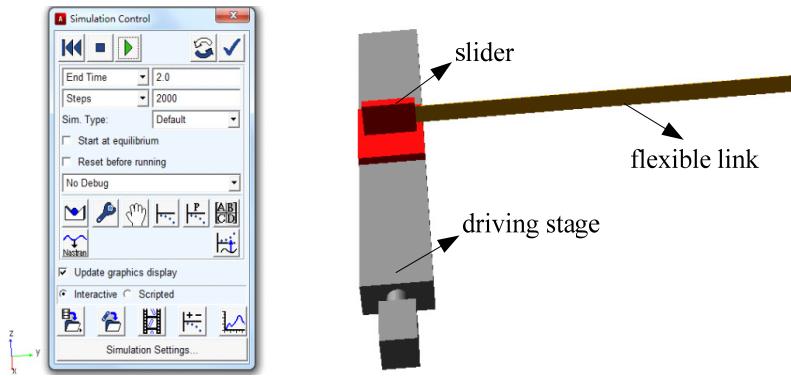
**Fig. 7.** Effect mechanism between the disturbance frequencies and motion characteristics:  
a) acceleration motions; b) velocity motions

#### 4. ADAMS prototype and experimental validation

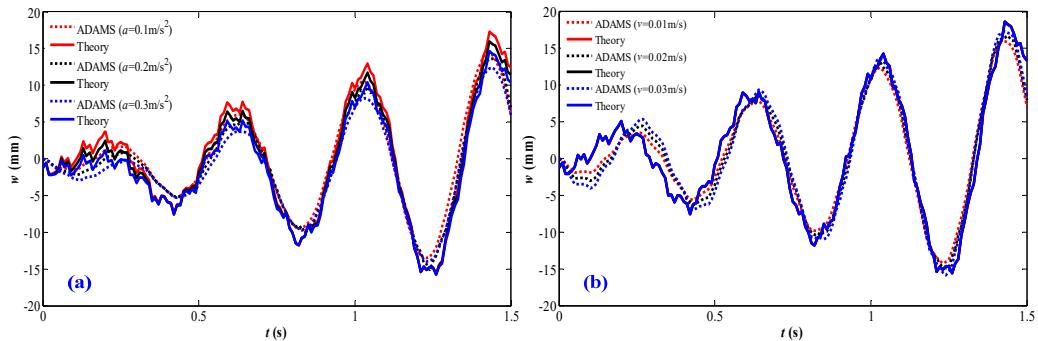
As indicated in Fig. 1, under harmonic excitations, the FTRM system is a parametrically excited system. It should be noted that existent researches about parametrically excited system are mainly theoretical analysis and few related experimental investigations are conducted. In this section, to verify the established coupling dynamic model and analysis results, an ADAMS prototype of the FTRM is constructed. As shown in Fig. 8, to simplify the physical modeling, the flexible link is modeled as a flexible body, the moving slider of the driving stage is modeled as a solid mass which is assigned translating motions, and the restrain condition between the flexible body and solid mass is defined as fixed. The properties of the physical model are consistent with that of the numerical simulation.

Fig. 9 shows the vibration responses with varied motion accelerations and velocities. In the experimental simulations, the motion disturbance is assigned  $\gamma = 0.001$ ,  $\varepsilon = 15$ . It indicates that the response amplitudes decrease with accelerations increasing and present a minor change for

different motion velocities, which reveals that larger accelerations have suppression effect on the motion disturbance while motion velocities have no effect on the vibration responses. This change trend is consistent with the theoretical analysis in Fig. 7.

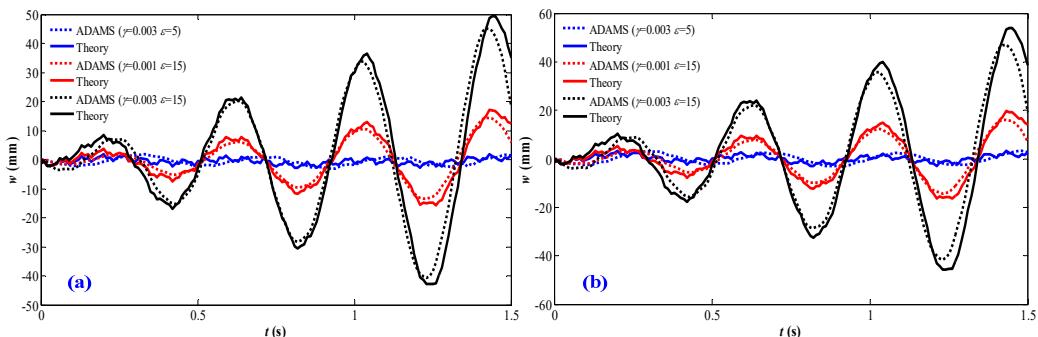


**Fig. 8.** Prototype of the FTRM system



**Fig. 9.** Validation of the effect mechanism between motion disturbances and motion characteristics:  
a) acceleration motions; b) velocity motions

Considering the prototype has acceleration motions and velocity motions which are assigned  $a = 0.1 \text{ m/s}^2$  and  $v = 0.01 \text{ m/s}$  in the experimental simulations, Fig. 10 presents the vibration responses with different motion disturbance status. It can be seen that the results of the physical prototype are good agreement with the theoretical analysis. It should be noted that the results exhibit a certain error especially in the initial stage, and this is mainly caused by the initial condition and structural damping which are ignored in the dynamic modeling. But the effect mechanism is well consistent.



**Fig. 10.** Validation of the influence of motion disturbances: a)  $a = 0.1 \text{ m/s}^2$ ; b)  $v = 0.01 \text{ m/s}$

## 5. Conclusions

Considering the influence of motion disturbances which are actually existent in the driving stage, this paper investigates the coupling vibration behaviors and stability of the flexible translating robot manipulator (FTRM). The results indicate that the motion disturbances have considerable influence on the vibration responses. For the driving stage having velocity motions and acceleration motions, the response amplitudes are obviously larger than the ideal status which ignores the motion disturbances, this indicates that the motion disturbances enlarge the vibration responses of the end-effector and should be considered in the dynamic investigations. Moreover, the response amplitudes increase with the disturbance frequencies and the disturbance amplitudes, and the disturbance frequencies have a more noticeable effect than the disturbance amplitudes, when the disturbance frequencies approach the main resonance frequencies, the response amplitudes enlarge obviously and arouse resonances. The effect mechanism between the disturbances and the motion characteristics reveals that larger motion accelerations have suppression effect on the motion disturbances while the motion velocities have no effect. According to this effect mechanism, within the permission of conditions, the driving stage should utilize larger motion accelerations to execute the tasks and in this case the influence of the motion disturbances can be suppressed, which can direct motion optimizations of the FTRM. The theoretical analysis results are well consistent with that of the ADAMS physical prototype, which reveals that the proposed coupling dynamic model can well reflect the dynamic behaviors of the FTRM. In our further work, we will conduct the vibration suppressing through motion optimizations and active vibration controls of the FTRM.

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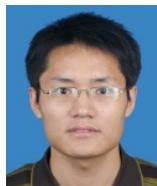
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