# 2465. Optimal design of the main support structure of space camera aiming at the RMS value of random response

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Received 4 August 2016; received in revised form 26 December 2016; accepted 9 January 2017 DOI https://doi.org/10.21595/jve.2017.17516

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**Abstract.** To explore the optimal design method for main support structure of micro satellite, this paper proposed a method targeting the random acceleration response RMS value of the space camera installation position when design the main support structure of LQ-video satellite in Jilin-1 group satellites. Camera main support structure optimization mathematical model was established, and the thickness and flexible beam position of the flexible beam support structure has been optimized in the establishment of the optimization mathematical model. When the flexible beam thickness is 2.5 mm, and the distance between it and the support structure mounting surface is 94.5 mm, the camera installation point acceleration response root mean square (RMS) value is minimal. Engineering analysis showed that the maximal relative magnification is 0.93. The camera mechanics test showed that the maximal relative error of finite element analysis and experimental measurements is 4.0 % and the maximal relative magnification of the response is 1.2 which is less than the overall index 1.5. It proved that the optimization method is effective and feasible.

Keywords: micro satellite, random vibration, space camera, main support structure, optimal design.

# Nomenclature

- M *n*-order mass matrix
- C Damping matrix
- K Stiffness matrix
- X Displacement vector
- $\dot{X}$  Velocity vector
- **X** Acceleration vector
- f(t) System incentives
- $\ddot{Y}(t)$  The acceleration incentive
- $S_{\dot{Y}}(w)$  Power spectral density of acceleration incentive
- **E** Acceleration vector
- $w_i$  System *n*-degree natural frequency
- $x_i$  Mode of vibration
- $\phi_i$  Mass normalized vibration mode
- $\xi_i$  System *i*th modal damping ratio
- $\Upsilon_i$  *i*th mode participation coefficient
- $u_i$  *i*th modal displacement
- $h_i(\tau)$  ith impulse response function
- $\ddot{R}_{Y}$  Input auto correlation function
- $H_i(w)$  Frequency transfer function
- $h_i(t)$  Impulse response function

- $\lambda_i$  *i*th isolated eigen values
- $\{\varphi_i\}$  Mode vectors
- $\lambda_{i,j}$  Derivative of  $\lambda_i$  under the design variable  $t_j$  (j = 1, 2, ..., L)
- $\{\varphi_{i,j}\}$  Derivative  $\{\varphi_i\}$  under the design variable  $t_i$  (j = 1, 2, ..., L)
- $[K_{ij}]$  Derivative matrix of [K] under the design variable  $t_i$
- $[M_{ij}]$  Derivative matrix of [M] under the design variable  $t_i$
- $t_e$  Thickness of flexible joint
- $h_e$  Distance from flexible beam to support structure mounting surface
- $t_i$  Thickness variable
- $h_i$  Distance variable

#### 1. Introduction

Modern micro-satellite has a strong practicability for small size, light weight, low cost, short development cycle and high performance characteristics [1, 2]. Therefore, the micro satellite has been paid more attention in the field of international space technology. With the vigorous development of micro satellite, the effective load ratio is increasing, and the requirements of the main structure of the satellite are more severe [3-5]. Exploring optimization method is even more urgent for main structure design of micro satellite.

LQ-video satellite in Jilin-1 group satellites is a micro video imaging satellite whose mass is no more than 95 Kg. Aiming at reducing the satellite structure mass and volume, it uses space-borne integration design to improve the structure density of micro satellite. The camera is connected with the satellite through the camera main support structure. When the rocket launches, the satellite suffering random acceleration vibration excitation which is integrated by pulsation generation rocket thrust, jet noise and turbulent boundary layer noise [6-8]. If the acceleration vibration directly passed through the main support structure to the camera, it will cause the camera structural deformation or even destroyed. Therefore, the camera main support structure should be optimized to gain a better dynamic performance under a given frequency band.

The existing research, based on random vibration theory and test, mostly examined the structural strength of the satellite rather than optimized the structure of the dynamic parameters [9-12]. For instances, W. Jung, A. P. Mazzoleni, J. Chung [13] presents a dynamic analysis of a tethered satellite system with a moving mass. The analysis results show that a one-piece dumbbell model is qualitatively valid for studying the system under certain conditions, such as when the initial liberation angles, moving mass velocity, and moving mass size are small, the tether length is large, and the mass ratio of the two satellites is large. You B., Zhang H., Li W., et al. [14] presented a methodology for modeling and analysis of satellite antenna systems considering the effects of the joint clearance and reflector flexibility in the system. Based on a thorough geometric description of the eccentricity vector, the multibody dynamics of satellite antenna are analyzed by considering a flexible reflector with ideal and nonideal joints.

According to LQ-video satellite overall design requirements, this paper proposed a method to optimize design camera main support structure targeting the random vibration response RMS value of the camera installation position, and established a random vibration response optimization model. The thickness of the flexible joint and flexible beam position has been optimized. In order to verify the optimization results, engineering analysis and mechanical testing of the optimized camera main support structure are carried out. The results showed that the optimization designed main support structure match the overall satellite design specifications well, and the optimize design method is effective and feasible.

# 2. Optimization model

Size optimization is one of the most important topology optimization method, especially used

in structure optimization [15-17]. It refers to a mathematical method for optimizing material distribution in a given area under a given load conditions, constraints and performance indicators. The optimization mathematical is established from the objective function, design variables and constraint conditions, and the optimization process is explained in this section.

#### 2.1. Systematic random response function

Spectrum analysis method is generally used in the random response. An n degrees' freedom linear system is expressed by random excitation and its kinetic equation [18, 19] is represented as Eq. (1):

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{X} = f(t),\tag{1}$$

where, **M**, **C** and **K** respectively represent *n*-order mass matrix, damping matrix and stiffness matrix. **X** is displacement vector,  $\dot{\mathbf{X}}$  is velocity vector,  $\ddot{\mathbf{X}}$  is acceleration vector and f(t) is system incentives.

Assume the acceleration incentive is  $\ddot{Y}(t)$ , and its power spectral density (PSD) is  $S_{\ddot{Y}}(w)$ , the kinetic random vibration equation is represented as Eq. (2):

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{E}\ddot{Y}(t),\tag{2}$$

where, E indicates an acceleration vector.

First, to solve system's intrinsic mode, it should be C = 0, f(t) = 0 and the system free motion equation [20] is represented as Eq. (3):

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{0}.$$
 (3)

The corresponding characteristic equation is represented as Eq. (4):

$$\mathbf{K} - w^2 \mathbf{M} = 0. \tag{4}$$

System *n*-degree natural frequency is  $w_i$ , and the corresponding mode of vibration is  $x_i$ , i = 1, 2, ..., n. where,  $m_i = x_i^T \mathbf{M} x_i$ ,  $k_i = x_i^T k x_i$ ,  $w_i^2 = k_i/m_i$ , the mode of vibration  $x_i$  multiplies a constant multiplier and the mass normalized vibration mode is  $\phi_i$ . In classical damping, the Eq. (2) rewrite as follows:

$$\ddot{u}_i + 2w_i\xi_i\dot{u}_i + w_i^2u_i = \Upsilon_i\ddot{Y}(t), \quad (i = 1, 2, ..., n).$$
(5)

In this formula,  $\xi_i$  is the system *i*-th modal damping ratio;  $\Upsilon_i$  is the *i*-th mode participation coefficient:

$$\Upsilon_i = \boldsymbol{\phi}^T \mathbf{M} \mathbf{E}. \tag{6}$$

Relationship between  $\mathbf{X}(t)$  and  $u_i$  is:

$$\mathbf{X}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_1 & \phi_2 & \cdots & \phi_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_1 \end{bmatrix} = \Phi u(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \phi_i.$$
(7)

Solution of Eq. (5) in the time domains is:

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$$u_i = \Upsilon_i \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} h_i(\tau) \, \ddot{\Upsilon}(t-\tau) d\tau, \tag{8}$$

where,  $h_i(\tau)$  is the *i*-th impulse response function.

Through Eqs. (7)-(8), we get:

$$X(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} Y_i \phi_i \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} h_i(\tau) \ddot{Y} (t - \tau) d\tau.$$
(9)

The auto correlation function of the matrix  $\mathbf{X}(t)$  is:

$$R_{XX}(\tau) = \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}(\tau)\mathbf{X}^{T}(t+\tau)] \\ = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} Y_{i}Y_{j}\phi_{i}\phi_{i}^{T} \bullet \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mathbf{E}[\ddot{Y}(t-\tau_{1})\ddot{Y}(t-\tau_{2}+\tau)]h(\tau_{1})h(\tau_{2})d\tau_{1}d\tau_{2} \\ = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} Y_{i}Y_{j}\phi_{i}\phi_{i}^{T} \bullet \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \ddot{R}_{Y}(\tau+\tau_{1}-\tau_{2})h(\tau_{1})h(\tau_{2})d\tau_{1}d\tau_{2}.$$
(10)

According to the Wiener-Khintchine relationship [21], output PSD is the Fourier transform of the output of autocorrelation function. By exchanging integral order, and introducing variable  $\theta = t + \tau_1 - \tau_2$ , we get output PSD function as follows:

$$S_{XX}(w) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \Upsilon_{i} \Upsilon_{j} \phi_{i} \phi_{i}^{T} h_{i}(\tau_{1}) e^{iw\tau_{1}} h_{j}(\tau_{2}) e^{-iw\tau_{2}} \bullet \left[ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \ddot{R}_{Y}(\theta) e^{-iw\theta} d\theta \right] d\tau_{1} d\tau_{2}.$$
(11)

Input PSD function  $\ddot{S}_Y$  is the  $\ddot{S}_Y$  Fourier transform of input auto correlation function  $\ddot{R}_Y$ , and frequency transfer function  $H_i(w)$  is the Fourier transform of impulse response function  $h_i(t)$ , then Eq. (11) rewrite as Eq. (12):

$$S_{XX}(w) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \Upsilon_{i} \Upsilon_{j} \phi_{i} \phi_{i}^{T} H_{i}(w) H_{j}(w) \ddot{S}_{Y}(w).$$
(12)

Generally, ignoring the cross-order terms to simplify approximation method is used in engineering in Eq. (12), the response PSD abbreviated as follows:

$$S_{XX}(w) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \Upsilon_{i}^{2} \phi_{i} \phi_{i}^{T} |H_{i}(w)|^{2} \ddot{S}_{Y}(w).$$
(13)

The random acceleration RMS response expression which is also the optimization objective function shown in Eq. (14):

$$\sigma_{XX}^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} S_{XX}(w) dw = \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i^2 \phi_i \phi_i^T \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |H_i(w)|^2 \ddot{S}_Y(w) dw.$$
(14)

#### 2.2. System sensitivity

Modal analysis is used to determine the vibration characteristics of the structure. It is mainly about the natural frequency and vibration mode of the system structure, which is an important 2465. Optimal design of the main support structure of space camera aiming at the RMS value of random response. Lin Li, Luyang Tan, Dong Wang, Hongbo Yang

index to investigate the dynamic stiffness. Structural low order mode is also an important basis for modifying the structure. The modal sensitivity of the structure is analyzed as follows.

 $\lambda_i$  and  $\{\varphi_i\}$  are the *i*-th isolated eigen values and the corresponding mode vectors, which satisfy the characteristic Eq. (15):

$$([\mathbf{K}] - \lambda_i [\mathbf{M}] \{\varphi_i\} = 0.$$
<sup>(15)</sup>

 $\lambda_{i,j}$  and  $\{\varphi_{i,j}\}$  are the derivative of  $\lambda_i$  and  $\{\varphi_i\}$  under the design variable  $t_j$  (j = 1, 2, ..., L),  $[\mathbf{K}_{,j}]$  and  $[\mathbf{M}_{,j}]$  are the derivative matrix of  $[\mathbf{K}]$  and  $[\mathbf{M}]$  under the design variable  $t_j$ . Eigen values sensitivity  $\lambda_{i,j}$  and modal vector sensitivity  $\{\varphi_{i,j}\}$  are as follow:

$$\lambda_{i,j} = \{\varphi_i\}_n^T ([\mathbf{K}_{,j}] - \lambda_i [\mathbf{M}_{,j}]) \{\varphi_i\} \{\varphi_{i,j}\},\tag{16}$$

$$\{\varphi_{i,j}\} = \sum_{\substack{k=1\\k\neq i}}^{n} \frac{1}{\lambda_i - \lambda_k} (\{\varphi_k\}^T ([\mathbf{K}_{,j}] - \lambda_i [\mathbf{M}_{,j}]) \bullet \{\varphi_i\}) - \frac{1}{2} (\{\varphi_i\}^T [\mathbf{M}_{,j}] \{\varphi_i\}) \{\varphi_i\}.$$
(17)

To calculate  $\lambda_{i,j}$  and  $\{\varphi_{i,j}\}$ , it should be calculate  $[\mathbf{K}_{,j}] = \frac{\partial [\mathbf{K}]}{\partial t_j} = \sum \frac{\partial [\mathbf{K}]^e}{\partial t_j}$  and  $[\mathbf{M}_{,j}] = \frac{\partial [\mathbf{M}]}{\partial t_j} = \sum \frac{\partial [\mathbf{M}]^e}{\partial t_j}$  first. In this paper, shell thickness *t* is used in the optimization analysis. Therefore, the derivative matrix of the shell element matrix *C* and the derivative matrix of the mass matrix *D* are given.

$$\frac{\partial [\mathbf{K}]^{e}}{\partial t_{j}} = \frac{[\mathbf{K}]^{e}}{t_{j}},$$

$$\frac{\partial [\mathbf{M}]^{e}}{\partial t_{i}} = \frac{[\mathbf{M}]^{e}}{t_{i}}.$$
(18)
(19)

#### 2.3. Design variables

Support structure flexible beam thickness T and distance from flexible beam to support structure mounting surface H are written as Eq. (20):

$$\mathbf{T}' = (t_{1,}t_{2,}t_{3,}\dots t_{e}\dots t_{n})^{T}, \quad \mathbf{H}' = (h_{1,}h_{2,}h_{3,}\dots h_{e}\dots h_{n})^{T},$$
(20)

where,  $t_e$  is thickness of flexible joint,  $h_e$  is distance from flexible beam to support structure mounting surface.

#### 2.4. Mathematical model

LQ-video satellite requires that the primary frequency of the camera main support structure is greater than the camera primary frequency 110 Hz. The safety factor is 1.2, the primary frequency of the camera main support structure is no less than 132 Hz. The  $t_e$  and  $h_e$  satisfy the Eq. (21):

$$1 \le t_i \le t_e \le 5, 6.5 \le h_i \le h_e \le 105.5,$$
(21)

where,  $t_i$  represents the thickness variable,  $h_i$  represents the distance variable.

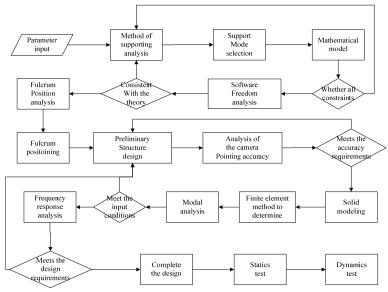
The camera main support structure size optimization mathematical model is expressed as Eq. (22):

find: 
$$\mathbf{T}' = (t_1, t_2, \dots, t_e, \dots t_n)^T$$
,  
 $\mathbf{H}' = (h_{1,h_2,h_3,\dots,h_e,\dots,h_n})^T$ ,  
Minimize:  $C(x) = \sigma_{xx}^2$ ,  
Subject to:  $f_1 \ge 132$ ,  
 $1 \le t_i \le t_e \le 5$ ,  
 $6.5 \le h_i \le h_e \le 105.5$ .  
(22)

Until now, the random vibration mean square response is converted into a deterministic harmonic response analysis problem based on the virtual excitation method, and the sensitivity of the modal sensitivity and random acceleration response are analyzed.

#### 3. Optimization process and results

According to the mathematical model in Section 2, the sizing optimization was introduced to optimize the thickness of the flex joint and the flex joint position in the main support structure of the camera. The optimization design flow is shown in Fig. 1.





Frequency (Hz)	Power spectral density
20-150	+3 dB/oct
150-280	0.08 g <sup>2</sup> /Hz
280-320	0.30 g <sup>2</sup> /Hz
320-380	0.20 g <sup>2</sup> /Hz
380-850	0.10 g <sup>2</sup> /Hz
850-1000	0.04 g <sup>2</sup> /Hz
1000-2000	0.01 g <sup>2</sup> /Hz

Table 1. The acceleration power spectrum (PSD)

Overall design of the LQ-video satellite requires that the height of main support structure of the camera is 118 mm. The material of the main supporting structure is Titanium alloy TC4 which is provided with low density and high strength.

The applied loads are the random acceleration which is from the rocket in launching. The acceleration power spectrum is shown in Table 1, and the RMS value of PSD is 10.16 g. Structural

damping is 0.03 in this model.

Optimize step size is 0.5 mm during the optimization design process. After 69 steps of iteration, the random vibration acceleration response of the camera mounting point is minimal and thickness of flexible joint  $t_e$  is 2.5 mm, distance  $h_e$  is 94.5 mm. Optimization iterative process convergence curve is shown in Fig. 2.

# 4. Finite element numerical analysis

To estimate the optimization result, the finite element analysis is carried out by using MSC. Patran&Nastran 2013. FEM includes secondary mirror (SM), SM linker, SM substrate, SM light shield, SM support, Primary mirror (PM), PM substrate, base plate and camera support structure which contains 56614 nodes, 35532 elements, 12 RBE2 and 1 CONM2. FEM is shown in Fig. 3.

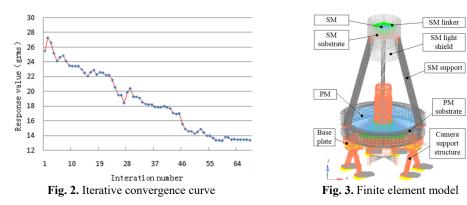


Table 2. Main materials parameters					
Name	Material	Elastic modulus (MPa) Nu		Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	
SM	Zerodur	91	0.24	2500	
PM	Zerodur	91			
SM linker					
SM support		110	0.34	4400	
SM substrate	Titanium alloy				
Base plate	(TC4)				
Camera support					
structure					
SM light shield	M40	70	0.3	1500	
PM substrate	T700	50	0.28	1800	

|--|

Table 3. FE analysis results

		1 4010	5.1 L analysis results	
Ord	ler	Frequency (Hz)	Modal formation	
1		141.8	Support structure swing along X axis	
2		156.4	Support structure swing along Y axis	
3		320.7	Support structure rotation around the Z axis	
Direc	tion	Input RMS (g)	Output response RMS of sample point (g)	
X-az	xis		15.2	
Y-az	xis	10.16	19.8	
Z-az	xis		23.3	

# 5. Experiments

To verify the feasibility of the size optimization method and the accuracy of the finite element numerical analysis results, we used the model vibration test bench (# MPA3436/H1859A) to test

the camera at room temperature according to conditions in Table 1. Test scene is shown in Fig. 4.

Curves of input, analysis and test of the random vibration response of the camera main support structure in the X-axis, Y-axis and Z-axis are shown in Fig. 5. The comparison of random vibration response test results and the analytical data are listed in Table 4.



Fig. 4. Placement of random vibration test

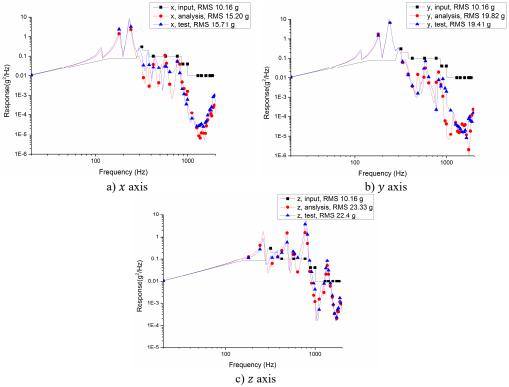


Fig. 5. Curves of input, analysis and test

	Tuble in compare data of toble and analysis (grine)					
Axis	Input	Analysis result	Test result	Relative errors	Relative magnification	
x	10.16	15.2	15.7	3.8 %	0.54	
у	10.16	19.8	19.4	2.1 %	0.91	
Z	10.16	23.3	22.4	4.0 %	1.2	

Table 4.	Compare d	data of tests	and analysis	(grms)

According to Table 4, the relative errors of random vibration response between finite element analysis results and vibration test data are less than 5 %, and the maximum relative magnification

is 1.2 which is less than overall index 1.5. The results validate correctness of finite element models and feasibility of optimization methods in this paper.

# 6. Conclusions

Traditional optimization methods are mostly based on static mechanical properties parameters or frequency characteristics, which cannot directly optimize the dynamic parameters of the structure. In this paper, due to the RMS value of the acceleration response of the main support structure of the LQ-video satellite in Jilin-1 group satellites is too large under the random vibration excitation, the optimization design method based on the RMS value of the random response is proposed, and the following conclusions are got.

1) The mathematical model of random vibration response optimization is established, the modal and acceleration response sensitivity analysis of the model are carried out, and the optimal design of the main support structure is also provided. This method can provide a new idea for the design of other small satellite main structure.

2) The thickness of the main support structure of the camera is 2.5 mm and the distance between the support structure and mounting surface is 94.5 mm after size optimization, the random vibration acceleration response of the camera mounting position is minimum.

3) Engineering analysis and test results show that the main support structure of the camera is 141.8 Hz, which is larger than the overall index 110 Hz, and the maximal relative amplification rate of the support structure is 1.2, which is less than the overall design index 1.5. The main support structure of the camera performance parameters match the overall index well.

# Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the financial support of the National Natural Science Foundation for Young Scholar of China (No. 61505203) and Youth Innovation Promotion Association CAS (No. 2011171).

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