

1 **CLOSED-FORM MODAL ANALYSIS OF FLEXURAL BEAM RESONATORS**
2 **BALLASTED BY A RIGID MASS**

3
4 **G. Scirè Mammano, D. Castagnetti*, E. Dragoni**

5
6 Dept. of Engineering Sciences and Methods

7 University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

8 Via Amendola 2 - 42122 Reggio Emilia – Italy

9 e-mail: davide.castagnetti@unimore.it; phone: 0039 0522 522634; fax: 0039 0522 522609.

10
11
12 **ABSTRACT**

13 The work deals with the study of free flexural vibrations of constant cross-section elastic
14 beams ballasted by a rigid mass with rotary inertia at any longitudinal position. We analyze five
15 sets of boundary conditions of the beam (fixed-free, fixed-fixed, fixed-pinned, pinned-pinned,
16 and free-free) and hypothesize that the structure is perfectly rigid, where the rigid mass is
17 applied. By employing the Euler-Bernoulli beam theory, a single parametric matrix is obtained,
18 which provides the characteristic equation of motion of the structure. When applied to specific
19 configurations, the proposed analytical model predicts the eigenfrequencies and eigenmodes of
20 the beam as accurately as ad-hoc analytical models available in the literature. The accuracy of
21 the results is also confirmed by comparison with detailed two- and three-dimensional finite
22 element analyses of a test case. By means of a 3D finite element model, the applicability of the
23 rigid mass hypothesis to continuous beams with a composite thickened portion is finally
24 assessed.

25

1 **Keywords:** transverse beam vibration, resonator, rigid mass, rotary inertia, modal analysis, MEMS,
2 energy harvesting, tuning.

3 4 **1. INTRODUCTION**

5 The study of transverse vibrations of beams has always been of great interest due to the
6 extent of practical applications and pervasiveness of beam-like machine elements. Recently, the
7 design of beam resonators with specific eigenfrequencies has gained particular attention in
8 many technological devices, for example: sensors¹, energy harvesting devices²⁻³, micro-electro
9 mechanical systems (MEMS)⁴, and vibration damping. The design of these structures requires to
10 fulfil three main constraints: a given set of eigenfrequencies in a specific range, the global
11 deformation of the beam under dynamic excitation, and the dimensions of the structure. The
12 most simple and common solution to achieve these constraints is to introduce a distributed
13 inertial element on the beam resonator in order to lower the eigenfrequencies and increase the
14 bending strain, even by keeping the beam short. In particular, this strategy is fairly adopted in
15 the design of energy harvesting devices⁵⁻⁷.

16
17 Many works in the literature deal with the modal analysis of beam structures carrying a
18 concentrated mass. Laura et al.⁸ study cantilever beams with a tip mass. Yoo et al.⁹ investigate
19 a cantilever beam with a concentrated mass located at an arbitrary position, while Low et al.¹⁰⁻¹⁵
20 examine a beam constrained at both ends, with the concentrated mass arbitrarily located. The
21 same problem configuration but with compliant constraints is studied by De Rosa et al.^{16,17}.

22 The main limitation of these analytical models is that the mass carried by the beam is
23 described as concentrated. The inaccuracy due to this hypothesis increases as the mass
24 dimensions increase. A more accurate analytical model is developed in¹⁸⁻²¹, where a rotary
25 inertia is associated to the concentrated mass. In particular, in^{18,19} a cantilever beam is
26 examined while a simply supported beam is investigated in^{20,21}.

1 Frequently, the cross-section of the ballast mass is thicker than that of the beam. It comes
2 that, as the length of the ballast mass increases a much stiffer structure is obtained. Two
3 modelling techniques can be adopted to deal with this issue. The first technique describes the
4 system as a beam composed by three portions, each with a specific cross-section. This model,
5 which provides good results but is quite complex, is applied ²² where a Euler-Bernoulli beam
6 theory is adopted, and also in ²³ by using a Timoshenko beam model. The second modeling
7 technique assumes the ballast mass as rigid, provided that its bending stiffness is higher than
8 that of the beam. This second approach is chosen by Oguamanam²⁴ and Rama Bhat et al. ²⁵,
9 which investigate a cantilever beam with a distributed mass on the free end.

10 The aim of this work is to extend this approach to the modal analysis of elastic beams
11 carrying a ballast mass arbitrarily located and undergoing different sets of boundary conditions.
12 The ballast mass is described as a rigid body with mass and rotary inertia. The analysis of
13 eigenmodes and eigenfrequencies refers to a two-dimensional space, describing the two beam
14 portions through the Euler-Bernoulli formulation. Five sets of boundary conditions for the ends
15 of beam are investigated: fixed-free, fixed-fixed, fixed-pinned, pinned-pinned, and free-free.
16 These five sets of boundary conditions are analysed through a closed-form model involving six
17 parameters, which allow to identify each set of boundary condition. Finally, the analytical
18 model has been implemented in a software, which can be freely downloaded at
19 http://www.machinedesign.re.unimore.it/publicazioni_eng.html.

20 The comparison, both with respect to the literature lumped-parameter models, and with
21 respect to two- and three-dimensional finite element (FE) models, shows an excellent accuracy
22 of the proposed method in the prediction of the eigenfrequencies and eigenmodes. Moreover,
23 also the rigid mass hypothesis is assessed showing that it is applicable in all the configurations
24 of practical interest.

25
26
27

2. MODEL DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Reference configuration

Figure 1a shows a cantilever beam having a length L , with a ballast mass. This configuration is assumed as reference for the analytical model development. Even if Figure 1a refers to a cantilever beam, the analytical model is developed according to a general formulation, in order to be applied to the following sets of boundary conditions: fixed-free, fixed-fixed, fixed-pinned, pinned-pinned, free-free. The beam structure in Figure 1a consists of three portions. The first, OP , is constituted by a beam with a length a and constant cross section. The second, PQ , represents a ballast mass m , with a length $2b$, and an arbitrary cross section. This ballast mass is characterized by a rotary inertia, J_{Gz} , calculated in its centre of mass G with respect to the z axis (Figure 1a). The distance between the centre of mass G and the centre of elasticity of the cross section of the beam is denoted by d (portions OP and QR). Obviously, in case the portion PQ would be a composite structure (an inner beam with a top and bottom distributed mass), the mass m and rotary inertia J_{Gz} would be those of the composite structure as a whole. Finally, the third portion, QR , is a beam with length c and the same cross-section as OP .

Since the bending stiffness $\langle EI \rangle$ of the ballast mass PQ is usually higher than that of the beam portions OP and QR , we assume the portion PQ as infinitely rigid (Figure 1b). Hence, PQ is described as a rigid bar, built-in to the portions OP and QR in P and Q respectively. Consequently, PQ is described by a concentrated mass m , and a rotary inertia J_{Sz} , both applied at S , the mid-point of the PQ segment (Figure 1b). In particular, the rotary inertia J_{Sz} is obtained through the Huygens-Steiner theorem:

$$J_{Sz} = J_{Gz} + md^2 \quad (1)$$

In order to develop the analytical model, the following dimensionless ratios are introduced:

1

$$\alpha = \frac{m}{\rho A(a+c)} \quad (2)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{J_{sz}}{\rho A(a+c)^3} \quad (3)$$

$$\delta = \frac{2b}{(a+c)} \quad (4)$$

2

3 The parameter α represents the ratio between the ballast mass and the mass of the beam itself,
4 while γ is the ratio between the rotary inertia of the ballast mass and that of the beam. Finally, δ
5 is the ratio between the length of the ballast mass and the length of the beam.

6

7 2.2 Dynamic equilibrium

8 The motion of the beam portions OP and QR can be studied independently by applying
9 appropriate compatibility conditions, which reproduce the rigid kinematic link between points P
10 and Q . To this aim, a local abscissa is defined along the length of each beam portion (Figure
11 1b): ξ -axis on OP and η -axis on QR with domains $0 \leq \xi \leq a$ and $0 \leq \eta \leq c$ respectively. For
12 the beam portion OP , we define $v(\xi, t)$ as the transverse displacement (y direction) at time t of
13 the centre of elasticity at coordinate ξ . Thus, the equation of motion of OP can be written as ²⁶:

14

$$\rho A \frac{\partial^2 v(\xi, t)}{\partial t^2} + EI \frac{\partial^4 v(\xi, t)}{\partial \xi^4} = 0 \quad (5)$$

15

16 where ρ is the density of the beam material, A the cross section of the beam, E the Young's
17 modulus of the beam material, and I the inertia moment about the z axis of the cross-section of
18 the beam.

1 Similarly, for the beam portion QR we denote $w(\eta, t)$ as the transverse displacement at
2 time t of the elastic centre of the cross section at coordinate η . Therefore, the equation of motion
3 can be written in the following form:

$$\rho A \frac{\partial^2 w(\eta, t)}{\partial t^2} + EI \frac{\partial^4 w(\eta, t)}{\partial \eta^4} = 0 \quad (6)$$

4
5
6 A solution of equations (5) and (6) can be expressed as the product of two functions: one of
7 them is a function of the position (ξ or η) and the other one is a harmonic function of time t .
8 Since the two beam portions belong to the same vibrating system, the two harmonic functions
9 must coincide. Thus, the solution of equations (5) and (6) can be conveniently expressed by the
10 following functions for OP and QR respectively:

$$v(\xi, t) = V(\xi) \sin(\omega_n t) \quad (7)$$

$$w(\eta, t) = W(\eta) \sin(\omega_n t) \quad (8)$$

11
12
13 where V and W are the amplitudes of the transverse displacement in OP and QR respectively.

14 Substitution of equations (7) and (8) into equations (5) and (6) respectively, yields the
15 following ordinary differential equations:

$$V^{IV}(\xi) - \beta_n^4 V(\xi) = 0 \quad (9)$$

$$W^{IV}(\eta) - \beta_n^4 W(\eta) = 0 \quad (10)$$

16
17

1 where the Roman superscript indicate the differentiation order with respect to the curvilinear
 2 abscissa, while the term β_n^4 is defined as:

$$\beta_n^4 = \frac{\rho A}{EI} \omega_n^2 \quad (11)$$

4

5 A solution of the ordinary differential equations (9) and (10) may be expressed as:

6

$$V_n(\xi) = C_{1n} \cos(\beta_n \xi) + C_{2n} \sin(\beta_n \xi) + C_{3n} \cosh(\beta_n \xi) + C_{4n} \sinh(\beta_n \xi) \quad (12)$$

$$W_n(\eta) = D_{1n} \cos(\beta_n \eta) + D_{2n} \sin(\beta_n \eta) + D_{3n} \cosh(\beta_n \eta) + D_{4n} \sinh(\beta_n \eta) \quad (13)$$

7

8 2.3 Boundary conditions

9 The C_{in} and D_{in} coefficients (eight in total) in equations (12) and (13) respectively,
 10 together with the β_n coefficient have to be determined from the boundary conditions at the ends
 11 of each beam portion OP and QR respectively. In particular, four boundary conditions apply to
 12 the ends of each beam portion. These boundary conditions involve the displacement functions
 13 $V_n(\xi)$ (12) and $W_n(\eta)$ (13) and their derivatives up to the third order. Repeated differentiations of
 14 equations (12) and (13) give the following equations:

15

$$V_n^I(\xi) = -C_{1n} \beta_n \sin(\beta_n \xi) + C_{2n} \beta_n \cos(\beta_n \xi) + C_{3n} \beta_n \sinh(\beta_n \xi) + C_{4n} \beta_n \cosh(\beta_n \xi) \quad (14)$$

$$V_n^{II}(\xi) = -C_{1n} \beta_n^2 \cos(\beta_n \xi) - C_{2n} \beta_n^2 \sin(\beta_n \xi) + C_{3n} \beta_n^2 \cosh(\beta_n \xi) + C_{4n} \beta_n^2 \sinh(\beta_n \xi) \quad (15)$$

$$V_n^{III}(\xi) = C_{1n} \beta_n^3 \sin(\beta_n \xi) - C_{2n} \beta_n^3 \cos(\beta_n \xi) + C_{3n} \beta_n^3 \sinh(\beta_n \xi) + C_{4n} \beta_n^3 \cosh(\beta_n \xi) \quad (16)$$

$$W_n^I(\eta) = -D_{1n}\beta_n \sin(\beta_n\eta) + D_{2n}\beta_n \cos(\beta_n\eta) + D_{3n}\beta_n \sinh(\beta_n\eta) + D_{4n}\beta_n \cosh(\beta_n\eta) \quad (17)$$

$$W_n^{II}(\eta) = -D_{1n}\beta_n^2 \cos(\beta_n\eta) - D_{2n}\beta_n^2 \sin(\beta_n\eta) + D_{3n}\beta_n^2 \cosh(\beta_n\eta) + D_{4n}\beta_n^2 \sinh(\beta_n\eta) \quad (18)$$

$$W_n^{III}(\eta) = D_{1n}\beta_n^3 \sin(\beta_n\eta) - D_{2n}\beta_n^3 \cos(\beta_n\eta) + D_{3n}\beta_n^3 \sinh(\beta_n\eta) + D_{4n}\beta_n^3 \cosh(\beta_n\eta) \quad (19)$$

1

2 From Table 1, which collects the five sets of boundary conditions here examined, it appears
 3 that only four among the equations (12)-(19) are used to completely define each set of boundary
 4 conditions. Although different equations are used for each set of boundary conditions, it is
 5 possible to define the following system of four parametric expressions (involving C_{in} and
 6 D_{in} coefficients), which conveniently summarize all of them:

7

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_1 C_{1n} + C_{3n} &= 0 \\ -\chi_2 C_{1n} + (\chi_1 - \chi_2) C_{2n} + \chi_2 C_{3n} + (1 - \chi_2) C_{4n} &= 0 \\ \chi_3 \cos(\beta_n c) D_{1n} + \chi_3 \sin(\beta_n c) D_{2n} + \cosh(\beta_n c) D_{3n} + \sinh(\beta_n c) D_{4n} &= 0 \\ -\frac{\chi_3 \sin(\beta_n c)}{\chi_5} D_{1n} + \chi_3 \chi_4 \chi_5 \cos(\beta_n c) D_{2n} + \frac{\sinh(\beta_n c)}{\chi_6} D_{3n} + \chi_6 \cosh(\beta_n c) D_{4n} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

8

9 By substituting the values collected in Table 2 to the six parameters $\chi_1, \chi_2, \chi_3, \chi_4, \chi_5, \chi_6$, the
 10 specific four equations are obtained for each of the five sets of boundary conditions here
 11 considered.

12 The remaining four parameters of equations (12) and (13) can be determined from the
 13 compatibility conditions between the beam portions OP and QR through the rigid link PQ . The
 14 rigid link PQ provides two compatibility conditions, the first dealing with the displacement, the
 15 second with the rotation of each beam portions at points P and Q . The first condition correlates
 16 the transverse displacement of points P and Q , which can be conveniently written as:

17

$$W_n(Q) = V_n(P) + \delta(a+c)V_n'(P) \quad (21)$$

1

2 The second condition equals the rotation of the cross-sections of the beam portions at points P
 3 and Q , yielding the following equation:

4

$$V_n'(P) = W_n'(Q) \quad (22)$$

5

6 The remaining two equations are obtained by imposing the static equilibrium of the rigid link
 7 PQ (Figure 1b): first, the equilibrium of forces along the transverse y direction; second, the
 8 equilibrium of moments about the z -axis. The first condition deals with shear force T , which
 9 varies discontinuously between points P and Q due to the inertial force, F_{im} , of the concentrated
 10 mass m (at point S) and can be written as:

11

$$T_n(P) - T_n(Q) = -F_{im} \quad (23)$$

12

13 where the inertial force F_{im} is defined as:

14

$$F_{im} = m\omega_n^2 \sin(\omega_n t) [V_n(P) + V_n'(P)b] \quad (24)$$

15

16 Moreover, the bending moment M and shear force T for the beam portions OP and QR
 17 satisfy the following expressions:

18

$$M_n(\xi, t) = EI V_n''(\xi) \sin(\omega_n t) \quad (25)$$

$$T_n(\xi, t) = EI V_n'''(\xi) \sin(\omega_n t) \quad (26)$$

$$M_n(\eta, t) = EI W_n''(\eta) \sin(\omega_n t) \quad (27)$$

$$T_n(\eta, t) = EI W_n'''(\eta) \sin(\omega_n t) \quad (28)$$

1

2 By extracting the term ω_n^2 from equation (11) and taking advantage of equations (2) and
 3 (4), after little rearrangement which involves equations (23), (24), (26) and (28) we obtain:

4

$$[V_n'''(P) - W_n'''(Q)] + \alpha(a+c)\beta_n^4 [V_n(P) + (\delta/2)(a+c)V_n'(P)] = 0 \quad (29)$$

5

6 With regard to the second static condition, the discontinuity of moments is due to three
 7 different contributions: the bending moment originated by the shear force $T_n(Q)$, the bending
 8 moment generated by the inertia force F_{im} (equation (24)) of the concentrated mass, and the
 9 inertia moment M_{jm} due to the rotation of the rigid link PQ . Hence, the following expression is
 10 obtained:

11

$$M_n(P) - M_n(Q) = F_{im}(S)b - T_n(Q)2b + M_{jm} \quad (30)$$

12

13 where the inertia moment M_{jm} is defined as:

14

$$M_{jm} = J_{S_z} V_n'(P) \omega_n^2 \sin(\omega_n t) \quad (31)$$

15

1 Finally, by extracting the term ω_n^2 from equation (11) and taking advantage of equations
 2 (2)-(4), after some algebraic manipulations which involve equations (24), (25), (27), (28), (30),
 3 (31), we obtain:

4

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[V_n''(P) - W_n''(Q) + W_n'''(Q)\delta(a+c) \right] + \\ & -\beta^4 \left\{ \alpha(a+c)^2(\delta/2) \left[V_n(P) + V_n'(P)(\delta/2)(a+c) \right] + \gamma(a+c)^3 V_n'(P) \right\} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

5

6

7 2.4 General solution

8

9 The eight boundary and equilibrium conditions (20), (21), (22), (29) and (32) provide the
 10 following linear algebraic system in the eight unknowns C_{in} e D_{in} :

11

$$\mathbf{H} \times [C_{1n}, \dots, D_{4n}]^T = \mathbf{0} \quad (33)$$

12

13 where the square matrix \mathbf{H} collects the coefficients of the set of equation:

Columns 1 through 2

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix}
 \chi_1 & 0 \\
 -\chi_2 & \chi_1 - \chi_2 \\
 -\cos(\beta_n a) + (a+c)\beta_n \delta \sin(\beta_n a) & -(a+c)\beta_n \delta \cos(\beta_n a) - \sin(\beta_n a) \\
 \sin(\beta_n a) & -\cos(\beta_n a) \\
 (a+c)\alpha\beta_n \cos(\beta_n a) + \sin(\beta_n a) & (a+c)\alpha\beta_n \sin(\beta_n a) - \cos(\beta_n a) \\
 (a+c)^3 \alpha\beta_n^3 \delta^2 \sin(\beta_n a) - 2[2 + (a+c)^2 \alpha\beta_n^2 \delta] \cos(\beta_n a) & -4\sin(\beta_n a) - (a+c)^2 \alpha\beta_n^2 \delta [(a+c)\beta_n \delta \cos(\beta_n a) + 2\sin(\beta_n a)] \\
 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0
 \end{bmatrix}$$

Columns 3 through 4

$$\begin{bmatrix}
 1 & 0 \\
 \chi_2 & 1 - \chi_2 \\
 -\cosh(\beta_n a) - (a+c)\beta_n \delta \sinh(\beta_n a) & -(a+c)\beta_n \delta \cosh(\beta_n a) - \sinh(\beta_n a) \\
 -\sinh(\beta_n a) & -\cosh(\beta_n a) \\
 (a+c)\alpha\beta_n \cosh(\beta_n a) + \sinh(\beta_n a) & \cosh(\beta_n a) + (a+c)\alpha\beta_n \sinh(\beta_n a) \\
 [4 - 2(a+c)^2 \alpha\beta_n^2 \delta] \cosh(\beta_n a) - (a+c)^3 \alpha\beta_n^3 \delta^2 \sinh(\beta_n a) & 4\sinh(\beta_n a) - (a+c)^2 \alpha\beta_n^2 \delta [(a+c)\beta_n \delta \cosh(\beta_n a) + 2\sinh(\beta_n a)] \\
 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0
 \end{bmatrix} \quad (34)$$

Columns 5 through 8

$$\begin{bmatrix}
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\
 0 & 1 + (1/2)(a+c)^2 \alpha\beta_n^3 \delta & 0 & (1/2)(a+c)^2 \alpha\beta_n^2 \delta - 1 \\
 4 & -4[(a+c)^3 \beta_n^3 \gamma + (a+c)\beta_n \delta] & -4 & 4[-(a+c)^3 \beta_n^3 \gamma + (a+c)\beta_n \delta] \\
 \chi_3 \cos(\beta_n c) & \chi_3 \sin(\beta_n c) & \cosh(\beta_n c) & \sinh(\beta_n c) \\
 \frac{\chi_3 \sin(\beta_n c)}{\chi_5} & \chi_3 \chi_4 \chi_5 \cos(\beta_n c) & \frac{\sinh(\beta_n c)}{\chi_6} & \chi_6 \cosh(\beta_n c)
 \end{bmatrix}$$

1

2 The linear system (33) has a non trivial solution if and only if the determinant of the
3 **H** matrix equals zero:

$$\det(\mathbf{H}) = 0 \quad (35)$$

4

5 Equation (35) is the characteristic transcendental equation of the system that can be solved for
6 the variable β_n , obtaining infinite roots. According to equation (11), each root identifies a
7 circular frequency ω_n of the n -th eigenmode of the beam. For each circular frequency ω_n it is
8 possible to determine the C_{in} and D_{in} constants through the set of equation (33). Since the
9 determinant of the characteristic matrix **H** is zero, for each circular frequency ω_n the equations
10 of the system are linearly dependent. Therefore, we need to set an arbitrary value for one of the
11 unknown constants and then calculate the remaining ones. Upon substitution in equations (12)

1 and (13) of the parameters C_{in} and D_{in} , the expressions of the eigenmodes associated to each
2 circular frequency ω_n are obtained, up to a multiplicative coefficient.

3 In conclusion, this method, which will be called from now on Rigid Mass (RM) model,
4 provides the eigenfrequencies and eigenmodes of an elastic beam under generic constraints,
5 carrying a ballast rigid mass. It is observed that, by simply setting the semi-length b of the
6 ballast mass equal to zero, the RM model simplifies to a model that describes the inertial
7 element (m, J_{S_z}) as concentrated. This model, from now on called Concentrated Mass (CM)
8 model, is analogous to the models retrieved in the literature ¹⁸⁻²¹. If, in addition, also the rotary
9 inertia J_{S_z} of the ballast mass is set to zero, the CM model describes a concentrated mass without
10 inertial effects ⁸⁻¹⁷.

11

3. MODEL VALIDATION

In order to simplify the calculation procedure, the RM model has been implemented in a software (named Beam Frequency Calculator (BFC)), through the commercial tool Visual Basic 6.0. The software can be freely downloaded from the web at ²⁷. Appendix 1 describes, for a particular configuration, all the details of the software and its application.

In this section the assessment of the model is performed in three steps. The first assessment compares the CM model to analogous model taken from the literature. The second assessment, which is focused on a case study, compares the RM model with a two-dimensional FE model, a three-dimensional FE model, and finally with the literature models. The third assessment deals with the applicability of the rigid mass hypothesis.

3.1 Comparison between the CM model and literature models

In order to assess the correctness of the proposed model, in this section we compare the CM model to analogous models retrieved from the literature (either considering concentrated mass with rotary inertia or a concentrated mass without rotary inertia). The comparison is performed for all the five sets of boundary conditions considered in Section 2. The CM model is solved through the BFC software ²⁷.

Four analytical models taken from the literature are used for comparison. First, the model presented in ¹⁵ for the case of a cantilever beam with a tip mass with rotary inertia. Second, the model proposed in ⁸, which is applied both to the case of a fixed-fixed beam and to the case of a fixed-pinned beam with intermediate concentrated mass without rotary inertia. Third, the model proposed in ¹⁷ for a pinned-pinned beam configuration having an intermediate concentrated mass with rotary inertia. Fourth, the model presented in ²¹ for the case of a free-free beam without any inertial element.

Table 3 compares, for each of the five sets of boundary conditions, the first four normalized eigenfrequencies provided by the literature models with those provided by the CM model.

1 Specific values of the non-dimensional parameters m/m_{beam} , $J/(m_{beam}*L^2)$, a/L have been
2 considered for each configuration.

3 4 **3.2 Comparison with respect to a cantilever having an intermediate ballast mass**

5 Figure 2 shows the sketch of a cantilever with an intermediate ballast mass, eccentric with
6 respect to the midplane of the beam. This configuration is taken as reference in this second step
7 of assessment of the RM model. The structure consists of a beam with rectangular cross-section.
8 Two ballast masses of different thickness are attached along the free length of the beam to the
9 upper and bottom face respectively. On the whole, the region containing the ballast masses has a
10 mass m (see Section 2).

11 The same steel material is assumed (Young's modulus 210 GPa, Poisson's ratio 0.3, and
12 mass density 7850 kg/m³) both for the beam and for the inertial elements. We examined all the
13 five sets of boundary conditions described in Table 1. In particular, in the case of asymmetric
14 constraints (fixed-free and fixed-pinned) the fixed constraint is applied to the left end of the
15 beam that is the farthest from the ballast mass.

16 17 **3.2.1 RM model**

18 The configuration in Figure 2 has been studied applying the RM model in its full formulation
19 (ballast mass described as rigid and with finite length). Thus, in accordance with the sketch in
20 Figure 1b, the beam in Figure 2 can be described by the geometric and inertial properties
21 collected in Table 4 (RM model). The analysis has been performed through the BFC software.

22 Tables 5 and 6 report the first four eigenfrequencies provided by the RM model, and by the
23 two- and three-dimensional FE models (see Section 3.2.2 and Section 3.2.3) respectively, for
24 each set of boundary condition. Moreover, Tables 5 and 6 presents the percentage relative error,
25 which was calculated with respect to the FE model.

26 Figure 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 present, in normalized form, the first four eigenmodes provided by the
27 RM model (hollow circles) for the fixed-free, fixed-fixed, fixed-pinned, pinned-pinned and free-

1 free constraint respectively. The hollow circles are not plotted where the ballast mass occurs, in
2 order to make it clearly visible.

3 4 **3.2.2 Two-dimensional FE model**

5 The two-dimensional FE model describes the configuration in Figure 2 and was
6 implemented through the commercial FE software ABAQUS V6.9.1²⁸. The two beam portions
7 have been described through linear Euler beam elements (B21H), with full integration.
8 According to a convergence procedure, the element length was set to 0.05 mm, giving a total of
9 1500 elements.

10 The rigid mass linking the beam portions was described through a kinematic “wire
11 connector”, available in ABAQUS. This is a rigid kinematic link between the ends (P and Q) of
12 the beam portions, which equals their corresponding kinematic degrees of freedom (Figure 1). A
13 mass m and a rotary inertia J_{S_z} (according to Table 4) are imputed to the midpoint of this
14 kinematic link. The material of the beam is described as linear elastic with the mechanical
15 properties of steel defined in Section 3.2.

16 Five different models have been implemented, one for each set of boundary conditions in
17 Table 1, giving the results presented in Table 5, which is organized as described in Section
18 3.2.1.

19 20 **3.2.3 Three-dimensional FE model**

21 The three-dimensional FE model describes in details the configuration in Figure 2 and is
22 assumed as the reference solution for the modal analysis of this case study. As the previous two-
23 dimensional FE model, it was implemented through the ABAQUS software²⁸. The whole
24 structure has been described through eight-noded, linear, hexahedral elements (C3D8R), with
25 reduced integration and hourglass control²⁸. According to a convergence analysis, not reported
26 here for the sake of brevity, the element side length was set 0.25 mm, except in the thickness of
27 the beam direction, where six layers of elements with the same transverse side length as above

1 were applied (Figure 8). On the whole, the mesh consists of 320,000 elements, 346,983 nodes
2 and 1,040,949 degrees of freedom. As in the previous two-dimensional FE model, the material
3 was described as linearly elastic, according to the values of Section 3.2. Five different models
4 have been implemented, one for each set of boundary condition described in Table 1.

5 Table 6 displays, for all the constraint conditions, the results provided by this computational
6 model, organized as described in Section 3.2.1. Figures 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 show, in normalized
7 form, the first four eigenmodes provided by the computational model (solid line) for the fixed-
8 free, fixed-fixed, fixed-pinned, pinned-pinned and free-free constraint respectively.

9 10 **3.2.4 Literature models**

11 To the aim of evaluating the accuracy of the literature models in the prediction of the modal
12 response of a beam carrying a ballast mass in arbitrary position, they are applied to the case
13 study in Figure 2. The CM model was used as a substitute of the literature models due to its
14 optimal agreement with the models taken from the literature (see Discussion section), to its
15 easiest implementation, and to the need to investigate many sets of boundary conditions. The
16 values of the geometric and inertial properties used in this comparison are collected in Table 4,
17 for concentrated mass and rotary inertia and concentrated mass without rotary inertia
18 respectively.

19 Table 6 shows, for all the constraint conditions in Table 1, the results provided by the CM
20 model in both forms (with and without rotary inertia), organized as described in Section 3.2.1.
21 Figures 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 display, in normalized form, the first four eigenmodes provided by the
22 CM model, with rotary inertia (hollow triangles) and without rotary inertia (crosses), for the
23 fixed-free, fixed-fixed, fixed-pinned, pinned-pinned and free-free constraint respectively.

24 25 **3.3 Assessment of the rigid mass hypothesis**

26 This last step aims at assessing the applicability of the rigid mass hypothesis (Section 2).
27 Therefore, the analysis evaluates the sensitivity of the analytical model to the ratio between the

1 bending stiffness of the ballast mass cross-section and that of the beam cross-section. Figure 2
2 highlights that both the beam and the ballast masses contribute to the bending stiffness of the
3 ballast mass cross-section. Hence, it is possible to define the bending stiffness ratio φ as
4 follows:

$$\varphi = \frac{\langle EI \rangle_{mass}}{\langle EI \rangle_{beam}} \quad (36)$$

6
7 where $\langle EI \rangle_{mass}$ and $\langle EI \rangle_{beam}$ are calculated for a generic cross section, which can eventually
8 be inhomogeneous (Appendix 2). The investigation was performed referring to the
9 configuration of Figure 2, for two constraint conditions: fixed-free and fixed-fixed (Table 1).

10 In order to simplify the procedure, the bending stiffness ratio φ was varied by changing only
11 the value of the Young's modulus of the inertial element E_{mass} , while keeping constant all the
12 other parameters. Since the sensitivity analysis was performed through the three-dimensional
13 FE model presented in Section 3.2.3, the same geometry and mass properties of the structure
14 were used all along. Therefore, where the ballast masses are introduced, the cross-section of the
15 structure comprises three layers with different Young's modulus.

16 Table 7 summarizes the values adopted for the elastic modulus of the ballast mass and the
17 corresponding values of the bending stiffness ratio φ . Figures 9 and 10 show for the fixed-free
18 and fixed-fixed beam respectively, the percentage relative error of the RM model on the first
19 four eigenmodes, as a function of the bending stiffness ratio φ . The relative error was calculated
20 with respect to the three-dimensional FE model.

21

4. DISCUSSION

The RM model consists of an algebraic system of eight linear equations in eight unknowns, represented, in matrix notation, by (39). These equations depend on the elastic and geometric properties of the beam and on the inertial properties of the rigid ballast mass. In addition, they include 6 parameters (χ_i , $i = 1..6$), which are a function of the set of boundary conditions of the structure being examined.

By examining the RM model, we observe that by setting to zero some of the model parameters, the model reduces to the classical analytical model presented in the literature^{6-11,14,15} that describe the added ballast mass as concentrated. In particular:

- $b = 0$: concentrated ballast mass;
- $J_{sz} = 0$: ballast mass without rotary inertia;
- $m = 0$: ballast mass without mass.

Table 3 shows the excellent accuracy of the CM model when compared to the classical models from the literature, for all the eigenfrequencies and sets of boundary conditions examined. Therefore, the CM model unifies, in a general approach and for several sets of boundary conditions, the literature models.

Table 5 highlights that the results from the RM model and from the two-dimensional FE model closely match. The perfect agreement between the two methods, which testifies the accuracy of the RM model, is imputable to the same underlying hypotheses (Euler beam formulation and rigid mass).

Two observations can be made by examining Table 6. First, the RM model provides very accurate results also in comparison with the three-dimensional FE model, with an error ranging from 0.7% to 2%. In particular, the RM model always exceeds the FE model prediction since it assumes a rigid mass and does not account for the shear deformability of the beam. Second, literature models (represented by the CM model) provide an error ranging from 1.6% (at the

1 first eigenfrequency for the fixed-free constraint), up to a maximum of 54% (at the fourth
2 eigenfrequency for the fixed-pinned constraint). In particular, the forecasts of the literature
3 models without rotary inertia either overestimate or underestimate the numerical forecasts. This
4 alternate error is connected to a poor accuracy in the calculation of the eigenmode as can be
5 seen from the diagrams in Figures 3-7. By contrast, the literature models with rotary inertia
6 always underestimate the numerical forecasts, with higher percentage relative errors. This is due
7 to the fact that the underestimation of the stiffness in the region of the ballast mass (PQ). On the
8 whole, in comparison to the literature models (represented by the CM model) the RM model
9 predicts much more accurately the eigenfrequencies of the beam for whichever constraint is
10 considered.

11 Figures 3-7 highlight the excellent agreement between the RM model (hollow circles) and
12 the three-dimensional FE model (solid line). A little discrepancy between these models occurs
13 only at the fourth eigenfrequency of the fixed-pinned beam (Figure 5). This is imputable to the
14 complex curvature in the transition region between the beam and the ballast mass, which is
15 described by the FE model. In addition, the straight deformed shape of the ballast mass (solid
16 line in Figures 3-7) fully justifies the rigid mass hypothesis for the case study here examined.

17 Figures 3-7 highlight that the concentrated mass model without rotary inertia (crosses) and
18 the concentrated mass model with rotary inertia (hollow triangles) provide with fair accuracy
19 only the first or second eigenmodes depending on the set of boundary conditions. By contrast,
20 the predictions of the higher eigenmodes, which are fairly complex, are completely wrong. In
21 conclusions, the models that describe the mass as concentrated, artificially alter the stiffness of
22 the structure, thus providing an incorrect mode shape prediction.

23 From Figures 9 and 10 we can see that for both beam configurations examined, the error of
24 the RM model decreases as the bending stiffness ratio φ increases. Obviously, this can be
25 attributed to the hypothesis of rigid mass underling the RM model. In the case of the fixed-free
26 beam (Figure 9), with exception of the third eigenmode, the error is lower than 11% up to φ

1 equal to 50. The higher error for the third eigenmode (10% at a bending stiffness ratio equal to
2 200) is imputable to the significant bending strain occurring in this eigenmode near the rigid
3 mass (solid line in Figure 3). Finally, Figure 9 highlight that the bending stiffness ratio does not
4 affect the accuracy of the first eigenfrequency prediction for this constraint condition.

5 Figure 10 shows a higher error than in Figure 9 for all the eigenfrequencies at corresponding
6 values of φ . On the whole, however, the error is more uniform between eigenmodes. This, once
7 again, can be attributed to the higher deformation occurring for the eigenmodes in this
8 constraint condition (fixed-fixed), which, consequently, can be less accurately described by the
9 RM model.

10 On the whole, the hypothesis of a rigid ballast mass is fully justified when the bending
11 stiffness ratio is high, as usually occurs in practice. For example, assuming the same material
12 for the beam and ballast mass and a ratio between the cross-section in the region of the ballast
13 mass and that of the beam equal to 2, 4 or 8, the bending stiffness ratio φ equals 8, 64, and 512
14 respectively. In the case study in Figure 2, the ratio φ is 3350. When the stiffness ratio is higher
15 than 1000, the error is lower than 3% on the first four eigenfrequencies, thus comparable to a
16 computational model.

17 In conclusion, the assessment of the RM model testifies its great accuracy for a wide range
18 of beam configurations with ballast mass. The method can be applied to whichever beam
19 section, including inhomogeneous section beam. Since the model relies on the Euler-Bernulli
20 beam theory, its accuracy decreases when thick beams are examined, in particular in the
21 prediction of the higher eigenmodes. Much more details about this can be found in the works
22 from Grant²⁹ and Han et al.³⁰.

23

24

5. CONCLUSIONS

The paper develops the Rigid Mass (RM) model for the modal analysis of a constant cross-section beam, carrying a ballast mass for resonance tuning. As main hypotheses, the model describes the beam according to the Euler-Bernoulli formulation and the ballast mass as rigid, with mass and rotary inertia. Five sets of boundary conditions can be examined through the RM model, which reduces to a square matrix (dimension eight per eight) that provide the characteristic equation and thus the eigenfrequencies and eigenmodes of the structure. When reduced to describe the ballast mass as a concentrated mass either with or without inertia, the RM model provides results that match closely those of the analogous models from the literature. A very good agreement is obtained also in the comparison between the RM model and the two- and three-dimensional FE models. By contrast, the literature models describing the ballast mass as a concentrated mass either with or without rotary inertia, can lead to noticeable errors in the eigenfrequencies and eigenmodes prediction. With regard to the rigid mass hypothesis, the results show that it is a good approximation for the great majority of the resonator structures occurring in practice.

Funding

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

1 REFERENCES

- 2 1. Hassanpour P, Cleghorn WL, Mills JK, Esmailzadeh E. Exact solution of the oscillatory
3 behavior under axial force of a beam with a concentrated mass within its interval. *J Vib*
4 *Control [Internet]*. 2007 Dec 1 [cited 2014 Jul 25];13(12):1723–1739. Available from:
5 <http://jvc.sagepub.com/cgi/doi/10.1177/1077546307076285>
- 6 2. Roundy S, Wright PK. A piezoelectric vibration based generator for wireless electronics.
7 *Smart Mater Struct [Internet]*. 2004 Oct 1 [cited 2014 Jul 10];13(5):1131–1142.
8 Available from: [http://stacks.iop.org/0964-](http://stacks.iop.org/0964-1726/13/i=5/a=018?key=crossref.8cb539ef2c04efdc61df2fae9dc8e48c)
9 [1726/13/i=5/a=018?key=crossref.8cb539ef2c04efdc61df2fae9dc8e48c](http://stacks.iop.org/0964-1726/13/i=5/a=018?key=crossref.8cb539ef2c04efdc61df2fae9dc8e48c)
- 10 3. Jinkui C, Haijun Z, Xiaozhen D, Shuanghui W. The electrical characteristic simulation
11 of cantilever beam used in micro battery [Internet]. In: International Technology and
12 Innovation Conference 2006 (ITIC 2006). Iee; 2006. p. 160–165. Available from:
13 http://digital-library.theiet.org/content/conferences/10.1049/cp_20060748
- 14 4. Zurn S, Hsieh M, Smith G, Markus D, Zang M, Hughes G, et al. Fabrication and
15 structural characterization of a resonant frequency PZT microcantilever. *Smart Mater*
16 *Struct [Internet]*. 2001 Apr 1;10(2):252–263. Available from: [http://stacks.iop.org/0964-](http://stacks.iop.org/0964-1726/10/i=2/a=310?key=crossref.77b569f3c5cff167917bbdff0103998)
17 [1726/10/i=2/a=310?key=crossref.77b569f3c5cff167917bbdff0103998](http://stacks.iop.org/0964-1726/10/i=2/a=310?key=crossref.77b569f3c5cff167917bbdff0103998)
- 18 5. Brusa E, Bona F De, Gugliotta A, Somir A. Dynamics modeling of microbeams under
19 electrostatic load. In: DTIP2003 of MEMS & MOEMS. 2003. p. 5–7.
- 20 6. De Marqui Junior C, Erturk A, Inman DJ. An electromechanical finite element model for
21 piezoelectric energy harvester plates. *J Sound Vib [Internet]*. 2009 Oct [cited 2014 Jul
22 24];327(1-2):9–25. Available from:
23 <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0022460X09004520>
- 24 7. Ferrari M, Ferrari V, Guizzetti M, Marioli D, Taroni A. Piezoelectric multifrequency
25 energy converter for power harvesting in autonomous microsystems. *Sensors Actuators*
26 *A Phys [Internet]*. 2008 Mar [cited 2014 Jul 9];142(1):329–335. Available from:
27 <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0924424707005481>
- 28 8. Laura PAA, Pombo JL, Sushemil EA. A note on the vibrations of a clamped-free beam
29 with a mass at the free end. 1974;37:161–168.
- 30 9. Yoo HH, Seo S, Huh K. The effect of a concentrated mass on the modal characteristics
31 of a rotating cantilever beam. 2002;216(July 2001):151–163.
- 32 10. Low KH. A note on the fundamental shape function and frequency for beams under off-
33 center load. *J Sound Vib*. 1997;202(1):134–138.
- 34 11. Low KH. A comparative study of the eigenvalue solutions for mass-loaded beams under
35 classical boundary conditions. *Int J Mech Sci [Internet]*. 2001 Jan;43(1):237–244.
36 Available from: <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0020740399001137>

- 1 12. Low KH. On the eigenfrequencies for mass loaded beams under classical boundary
2 conditions. *J Sound Vib [Internet]*. 1998 Aug [cited 2014 Jul 28];215(2):381–389.
3 Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022460X98916261>
- 4 13. Low KH. Closed-form formulas for fundamental vibration frequency of beams under
5 off-centre load. *J Sound Vib [Internet]*. 1997 Apr [cited 2014 Jul 28];201(4):528–533.
6 Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022460X96907063>
- 7 14. Chai GB, Low KH. On the natural frequencies of beams carrying a concentrated mass. *J*
8 *Sound Vib*. 1993;160(1):161–166.
- 9 15. Naguleswaran S. Lateral vibration of a uniform euler–bernoulli beam carrying a particle
10 at an intermediate point. *J Sound Vib [Internet]*. 1999 Oct [cited 2014 Jul
11 28];227(1):205–214. Available from:
12 <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022460X99922769>
- 13 16. De Rosa MA, Ascoli S, Nicastro S. Letter to the editor: exact dynamic analysis of beam-
14 mass systems. *J Sound Vib [Internet]*. 1996 Oct [cited 2014 Jul 28];196(4):529–533.
15 Available from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022460X96905003>
- 16 17. De Rosa MA, Franciosi C, Maurizi MJ. On the dynamic behaviour of slender beams
17 with elastic ends carrying a concentrated mass. *Comput Struct*. 1996;58(6):1145–1159.
- 18 18. Bruch JC, Mitchell TP. Vibrations of a mass-loaded clamped-free Timoshenko beam. *J*
19 *Sound Vib [Internet]*. 1987 Apr;114(2):341–345. Available from:
20 <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0022460X8780158X>
- 21 19. Swaminadham M, Michael A. A note on frequencies of a beam with a heavy tip mass. *J*
22 *Sound Vib*. 1979;66(1):144–147.
- 23 20. Hamdan MN, Jubran BA. Free and forced vibrations of a restrained uniform beam
24 carrying an intermediate lumped mass and a rotary inertia. *J Sound Vib*.
25 1991;152(2):203–216.
- 26 21. Srinath LS, Das YC. Vibrations of Beams Carrying Mass. *J Appl Mech Trans ASME*.
27 1967;34(784):785.
- 28 22. Naguleswaran S. Vibration of an Euler–Bernoulli beam on elastic end supports and with
29 up to three step changes in cross-section. *Int J Mech Sci [Internet]*. 2002 Dec [cited 2014
30 Jul 29];44(12):2541–2555. Available from:
31 <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S002074030200190X>
- 32 23. Ju F, Lee HP, Lee KH. On the free vibration of stepped beams. *Int J Solids Struct*.
33 1994;31(22):3125–3137.
- 34 24. Oguamanam DCD. Free vibration of beams with finite mass rigid tip load and flexural–
35 torsional coupling. *Int J Mech Sci [Internet]*. 2003 Jun [cited 2014 Jul 25];45(6-7):963–
36 979. Available from: <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0020740303001747>
- 37 25. Rama Bhat B, Wagner H. Natural frequencies of a uniform cantilever with a tip mass
38 slender in the axial direction. *J Sound Vib*. 1976;45(2):304–307.

- 1 26. Kelly SG. Fundamentals of mechanical vibrations. 2nd ed. McGraw-Hill Science; 2000.
- 2 27. Machine Design Group Reggio Emilia [Internet]. 2012. Available from:
3 http://www.machinedesign.re.unimore.it/pubblicazioni_eng.html
- 4 28. SIMULIA ABAQUS, User's Manual. 2008;
- 5 29. Grant DA. The effect of rotary inertia and shear deformation on the frequency and
6 normal mode equations of uniform beams carrying a concentrated mass. *J Sound Vib.*
7 1978;57(3):357–365.
- 8 30. Han SM, Benaroya H, Wei T. Dynamics of transversely vibrating beams. *J Sound Vib.*
9 1999;225(5):935–988.
- 10 31. Gay D, Hoa S V. Composite materials, design and applications. 2nd ed. CRC Press;
11 2007.
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16

1 Notation

a	Length of the left beam portion (Figure 2)
A	Cross-section area of the beam
A_i	Cross-section area of the i -th layer of the inhomogeneous section
b	Half-length of the ballast mass (Figure 2)
c	Length of the right beam portion QR (Figure 2)
C_{in}	i -th parameter of the n -th eigenshape of the beam portion OP
D_{in}	i -th parameter of the n -th eigenshape of the beam portion QR
E	Young's modulus of the beam material
E_c	Elastic centre of the inhomogeneous section
E_i	Young's modulus of the material of the i -th layer of the inhomogeneous section
E_{mass}	Young's modulus of the ballast mass material
F_{in}	Inertia force in the transverse direction arising from the ballast mass
G	Centre of mass of the ballast mass
h_E	Distance between the centre of elasticity of the inhomogeneous section and the longitudinal axis of the beam
h_i	Thickness of the i -th layer of the inhomogeneous section
$\underline{\underline{H}}$	Characteristic matrix of the set of equations of motion

I_z	Inertia moment of the cross-section of the beam about the z -axis
I_{iz}	Inertia moment of the cross-section of the i -th layer of the inhomogeneous section about the z' -axis
J_{Gz}	Inertia moment of the inertial element m , calculated in the centre of mass, about the z -axis
J_{Sz}	Inertia moment of the inertial element m , calculated in point S (Figure 1b), about the z -axis
L	Total length of the beam
m	Mass of the ballast mass
M_{Jm}	Moment originated by the inertial angular acceleration on the mass m
$M_n(\xi, t)$	Bending moment acting at ξ coordinate and time t of the beam portion OP for the n -th eigenmode
$M_n(\eta, t)$	Bending moment acting at η coordinate and time t of the beam portion QR for the n -th eigenmode
r	Width of the inhomogeneous section beam
$T_n(\xi, t)$	Shear force acting at ξ coordinate and time t of the beam portion OP for the n -th eigenmode
$T_n(\eta, t)$	Shear force acting at η coordinate and time t of the beam portion OP for the n -th eigenmode

t	Time coordinate
$v(\xi, t)$	Transverse displacement of the centre of mass of the beam portion OP at ξ coordinate and time t
$V_n(\xi)$	Amplitude of the transverse displacement of the centre of mass of the beam portion OP for the n -th eigenmode
$w(\xi, t)$	Transverse displacement of the centre of mass of the beam portion QR at ξ coordinate and time t
$W_n(\xi)$	Amplitude of the transverse displacement of the centre of mass of the beam portion QR for the n -th eigenmode
y_i	Ordinate of the geometric centre of the i -th layer of a inhomogeneous section
z	Axis normal to the page and directed outward in the xyz reference system
α	Ratio between the mass of the ballast mass and the mass of the beam
β_n	n -th root of the transcendental equation
γ	Ratio between the rotary inertia of the ballast mass and that of the beam
δ	Ratio between the length of the ballast mass and the free length of the beam
η	Curvilinear abscissa of the beam portion QR
ξ	Curvilinear abscissa of the beam portion OP
ρ	Mass density of the beam material

$\bar{\rho}$	Equivalent average mass density of the material constituting the inhomogeneous section
ρ_i	Average mass density of the material of the i -th layer of the inhomogeneous section
φ	Bending stiffness ratio between the cross section of the ballast mass and that of the beam
$\chi_{1,\dots,6}$	Parameters to define the specific set of boundary conditions
ω_n	Circular frequency of the n -th eigenmode
I, II, \dots, IV	Derivation order
$\langle EI \rangle_{beam}$	Bending stiffness of the cross-section of the beam section
$\langle EI \rangle_{mass}$	Bending stiffness of the cross-section of the ballast mass
$\langle EI_{iz} \rangle$	Equivalent bending stiffness of the inhomogeneous cross-section

1 APPENDIX 1

2 The model developed in this work (RM model) has been implemented in software through
3 the commercial tool Visual Basic 6.0, and can be freely downloaded from the web ²⁷. In the
4 following we describe the simple procedure to perform an analysis.

5 From the main window of the software, click on the START button (or on File→New, or on
6 the New button) to open the data logging interface (Figure 11). This window is organized in
7 four input sections: the first collects the beam dimensions, the second the set of boundary
8 conditions, the third the properties of the cross-section of the beam and the fourth the geometric
9 and material properties of the ballast mass.

10 In order to describe how to use the software, in the following we will describe the calculation
11 of the first four eigenfrequencies and eigenmodes of the case study (Section 3.2) in Figure 2,
12 considering a simply supported configuration.

13 First, we define the length $a = 50$ mm of the beam portion OP , the length $2b = 25$ mm of the
14 region PQ where the ballast mass is introduced, and the length $c = 25$ mm of the beam portion
15 QR . Second, we select the proper boundary condition (pinned) at each end of the beam (O , R)
16 among that available (fixed, pinned, free). Third, we introduce the elastic properties of the
17 material and the geometric properties of the cross-section of the two beam portions (OP , QR).
18 For the most common cross-sections, these data can be defined through a simple automatic
19 calculation tool by clicking on the “Calc beam section properties” button. As an alternative, we
20 can type the values in the proper field. For this configuration we have: $E = 210000$ MPa, $\rho_{Beam} =$
21 7850 kg/m³, $A = 10$ mm², and $I = 0.833$ mm⁴. Finally, we have to introduce the inertial
22 properties of the ballast mass. Again a simple automatic calculation tool is available by clicking
23 on the “Calc mass property” button. For this configuration we have to define the following
24 values: $m = 2.9438E-2$ kg, $J_{sz} = 2.2691E-6$ kg m².

25 In addition, by clicking on the “Option” button we can personalize the analysis through the
26 following three options. First, the number of eigenfrequencies to be calculated. Second, the

1 convergence criteria in the solution of the transcendental equation (35). Third, the resolution of
2 the diagrams containing the plot of the eigenmodes.

3 Clicking on the “Frequency Analysis” button the calculation starts. Once the solution process
4 is concluded, the window of the results appears (Figure 12). On the left, we can see the
5 diagrams of the normalized eigenmodes, while on the right a table summarizes the
6 eigenfrequencies and eigenmodes. A scroll bar is available, in case the window is larger than the
7 screen. By selecting “Export Results” it is possible to save the results of the analysis in a text
8 file containing both the eigenfrequencies and the eigenmodes.

9

1 **APPENDIX 2**

2 In case of a inhomogeneous beam (Figure 13) having a constant width r , and constituted by n
3 homogeneous layers with a thickness h_i , Young's modulus E_i and mass density ρ_i , the
4 equivalent bending stiffness is can be written as ³¹:

$$\langle EI_z \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i f \left[\frac{h_i^3}{12} + A_i (y_i - h_E)^2 \right] \quad (A1)$$

5

6 where h_E is the distance between the centre of elasticity of the inhomogeneous section and the
7 longitudinal axis of the beam

8 Similarly, the equivalent mass density $\bar{\rho}$ of the composite material results in the following
9 expression:

10

$$\bar{\rho} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \rho_i A_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n A_i} \quad (A2)$$

11

1 **Table and figure captions**

- 2 Table 1 Sets of boundary conditions of the beam.
- 3 Table 2 Values of the parameters χ_1 , χ_2 , χ_3 , χ_4 , χ_5 , χ_6 as a function of the set of boundary
4 conditions.
- 5 Table 3 Comparison between the RM model reduced to concentrated mass with or without
6 inertia and analogous models from the literature.
- 7 Table 4 Geometric and inertial parameters of the case study (Figure 2) for the
8 implementation of the RM model and of the two-dimensional FE model.
- 9 Table 5 Comparison between the results provided by the RM model and by the two-
10 dimensional FE model for the first four eigenfrequencies of the case study (Figure 2).
- 11 Table 6 Comparison between the results provided by the three-dimensional FE model, by the
12 RM model, by the concentrated mass model and by the concentrated mass and inertia
13 model, for the first four eigenfrequencies of the case study (Figure 2).
- 14 Table 7 Young's modulus of the material of the ballast mass, corresponding bending stiffness
15 both of the ballast mass and of the beam and bending stiffness ratio φ .
- 16
- 17
- 18 Figure 1 Sketch of the beam structure with ballast mass (a) and simplification of the structure
19 into two beam portions connected by a rigid link (b).
- 20 Figure 2 Sketch of the beam structure considered as case study in Section 3 (dimensions in
21 mm)
- 22 Figure 3 First four eigenmodes for the fixed-free beam
- 23 Figure 4 First four eigenmodes for the fixed-fixed beam
- 24 Figure 5 First four eigenmodes for the fixed-pinned beam
- 25 Figure 6 First four eigenmodes for the pinned-pinned beam
- 26 Figure 7 First four eigenmodes for the free-free beam

- 1 Figure 8 Image of the mesh performed on the three-dimensional FE model
- 2 Figure 9 Plot of the percentage relative error in the prediction of the eigenfrequency as a
- 3 function of the bending stiffness ratio, for a fixed-free beam
- 4 Figure 10 Plot of the percentage relative error in the prediction of the eigenfrequency as a
- 5 function of the bending stiffness ratio, for a fixed-fixed beam
- 6 Figure 11 Data logging interface in the BFC software
- 7 Figure 12 Results window of the BFC software
- 8 Figure 13 Sketch of the cross-section of a composite beam
- 9

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

End conditions of beam ($O-R$)	Boundary Conditions at O	Boundary Conditions at R
Fixed – Free	$V_n(\xi = 0) = 0$	$W_n''(\eta = c) = 0$
	$V_n'(\xi = 0) = 0$	$W_n'''(\eta = c) = 0$
Fixed – Fixed	$V_n(\xi = 0) = 0$	$W_n(\eta = c) = 0$
	$V_n'(\xi = 0) = 0$	$W_n'(\eta = c) = 0$
Fixed – Pinned	$V_n(\xi = 0) = 0$	$W_n(\eta = c) = 0$
	$V_n'(\xi = 0) = 0$	$W_n''(\eta = c) = 0$
Pinned – Pinned	$V_n(\xi = 0) = 0$	$W_n(\eta = c) = 0$
	$V_n''(\xi = 0) = 0$	$W_n''(\eta = c) = 0$
Free – Free	$V_n''(\xi = 0) = 0$	$W_n''(\eta = c) = 0$
	$V_n'''(\xi = 0) = 0$	$W_n'''(\eta = c) = 0$

10
11
12
13
14
15

Table 1

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

End conditions of beam ($O - R$)	χ_1	χ_2	χ_3	χ_4	χ_5	χ_6
Fixed – Free	1	0	-1	1	1	1
Fixed – Fixed	1	0	1	1	1	1
Fixed – Pinned	1	0	1	-1	$\tan(\beta_n c)$	$\tanh(\beta_n c)$
Pinned – Pinned	1	1	1	-1	$\tan(\beta_n c)$	$\tanh(\beta_n c)$
Free – Free	-1	0	-1	1	1	1

11
12
13

Table 2

1

2

Structure under examination	m/m_{beam}	$J/(m_{beam} * L^2)$	a/L	Reference	Mode	f_{adim} reference model	f_{adim} RM model
Fixed – free tip mass and inertia	0.6	0.4	1	15	1	1.12305	1.12305
					2	2.08695	2.08695
					3	4.98723	4.98723
					4	8.02840	8.02840
Fixed-fixed intermediate mass	0.6	0	0.75	8	1	4.25570	4.25570
					2	6.68237	6.68237
					3	10.19053	10.19053
					4	13.96990	13.96990
Fixed-pinned intermediate mass	0.6	0	0.75	8	1	3.31928	3.31928
					2	6.29730	6.29730
					3	9.93266	9.93266
					4	13.29452	13.29452
Pinned-pinned intermediate mass and inertia	0.6	0.4	0.75	17	1	1.94099	1.94099
					2	3.79828	3.79828
					3	5.57670	5.57670
					4	9.59831	9.59831
Free-free no mass	0	0	0	21	1	4.73005	4.73005
					2	7.85321	7.85321
					3	10.99561	10.99561
					4	14.13717	14.13717

3

4

Table 3

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

Geometric and material properties	RM model	CM model		2D FE model
		With Inertia	Without Inertia	
a (mm)	50	62.5	62.5	62.5
b (mm)	12.5	0	0	12.5
c (mm)	25	37.5	37.5	25
m (kg)	2.9438E-2	2.9438E-2	2.9438E-2	2.9438E-2
J_{sz} (kg m ²)	2.2691E-6	2.2691E-6	0	2.2691E-6

10

11

12

Table 4

13

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

Model Type		Eigenmode I		Eigenmode II		Eigenmode III		Eigenmode IV	
		Freq. (Hz)	Err %	Freq. (Hz)	Err %	Freq. (Hz)	Err %	Freq. (Hz)	Err %
Fixed Free	RM model	39.05	0.1	420.30	0.0	1587.40	0.0	2325.27	0.0
	FE 2D	39.00		420.31		1587.50		2325.70	
Fixed Fixed	RM model	255.45	0.0	1019.92	0.0	2316.82	0.0	5991.26	0.0
	FE 2D	255.35		1020.00		2317.00		5991.80	
Fixed Pinned	RM model	188.00	0.0	775.98	0.0	2301.83	0.0	5925.05	0.0
	FE 2D	187.93		775.92		2301.80		5925.50	
Pinned Pinned	RM model	128.54	0.0	688.18	0.0	1679.59	0.0	4876.72	0.0
	FE 2D	128.52		688.27		1679.70		4877.10	
Free Free	RM model	519.26	0.0	1583.91	0.0	2303.23	0.0	5992.77	0.0
	FE 2D	519.24		1584.20		2303.60		5993.30	

8
9
10
11
12
13
14

Table 5

Model Type		Eigenmode I		Eigenmode II		Eigenmode III		Eigenmode IV	
		Freq. (Hz)	Err %	Freq. (Hz)	Err %	Freq. (Hz)	Err %	Freq. (Hz)	Err %
Fixed - Free	FE 3D	38.76		415.03		1549		2294.6	
	RM model	39.05	0.7	420.3	1.3	1587.4	2.5	2325.27	1.3
	CM model without inertia	38.38	-1.0	373.7	-10.0	1193.95	-22.9	2828.96	23.3
	CM model	37.66	-2.8	280.17	-32.5	774.89	-50.0	1430.31	-37.7
Fixed - Fixed	FE 3D	253.5		1005.1		2288.9		5905.8	
	RM model	255.45	0.8	1019.92	1.5	2316.82	1.2	5991.26	1.4
	CM model without inertia	177.59	-29.9	1159.84	15.4	2839.86	24.1	3810.3	-35.5
	CM model	175.77	-30.7	557.94	-44.5	1429.2	-37.6	3787.47	-35.9
Fixed - Pinned	FE 3D	185.53		763.24		2274.1		5813.2	
	RM model	188	1.3	775.98	1.7	2301.83	1.2	5925.05	1.9
	CM model without inertia	118.36	-36.2	1093.43	43.3	2140.14	-5.9	3515.94	-39.5
	CM model	118.36	-36.2	500.76	-34.4	1428.46	-37.2	2678.07	-53.9
Pinned - Pinned	FE 3D	126.36		675.51		1648.3		4785.4	
	RM model	128.54	1.7	688.18	1.9	1679.59	1.9	4876.72	1.9
	CM model without inertia	84.78	-32.9	765.42	13.3	1988.24	20.6	2950	-38.4
	CM model	84.42	-33.2	455.79	-32.5	1032.1	-37.4	2678.07	-44.0
Free - Free	FE 3D	515.08		1554.5		2269.6		5875.1	
	RM model	519.26	0.8	1583.91	1.9	2303.23	1.5	5992.77	2.0
	CM model without inertia	410.96	-20.2	1181.19	-24.0	2828.44	24.6	3791.07	-35.5
	CM model	344.88	-33.0	777.07	-50.0	1411.93	-37.8	3783.27	-35.6

1

2

Table 6

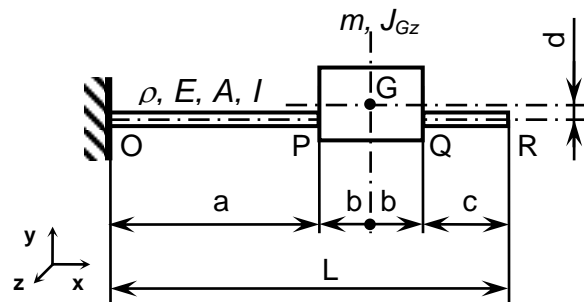
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

E_{mass}	$\langle EI \rangle_{mass}$	$\langle EI \rangle_{beam}$	φ
(GPa)	(Nm ²)	(Nm ²)	
632.2	1750	0.175	10000
210	591	0.175	3375
59.3	175	0.175	1000
28.25	87.6	0.175	500
4.95	17.5	0.175	100
2.375	8.76	0.175	50
0.4423	1.75	0.175	10

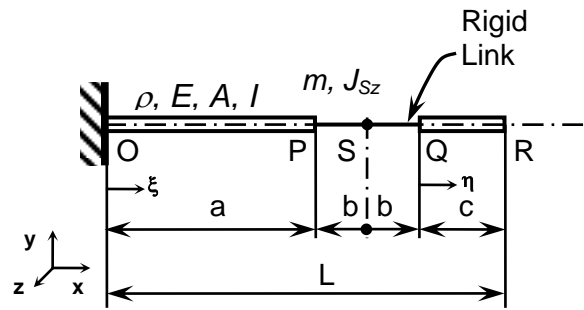
9
10
11
12

Table 7

1
2
3
4
5
6



(a)

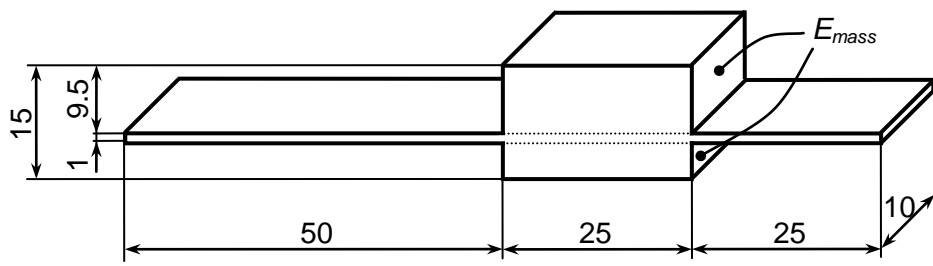


(b)

Fig. 1

7
8
9

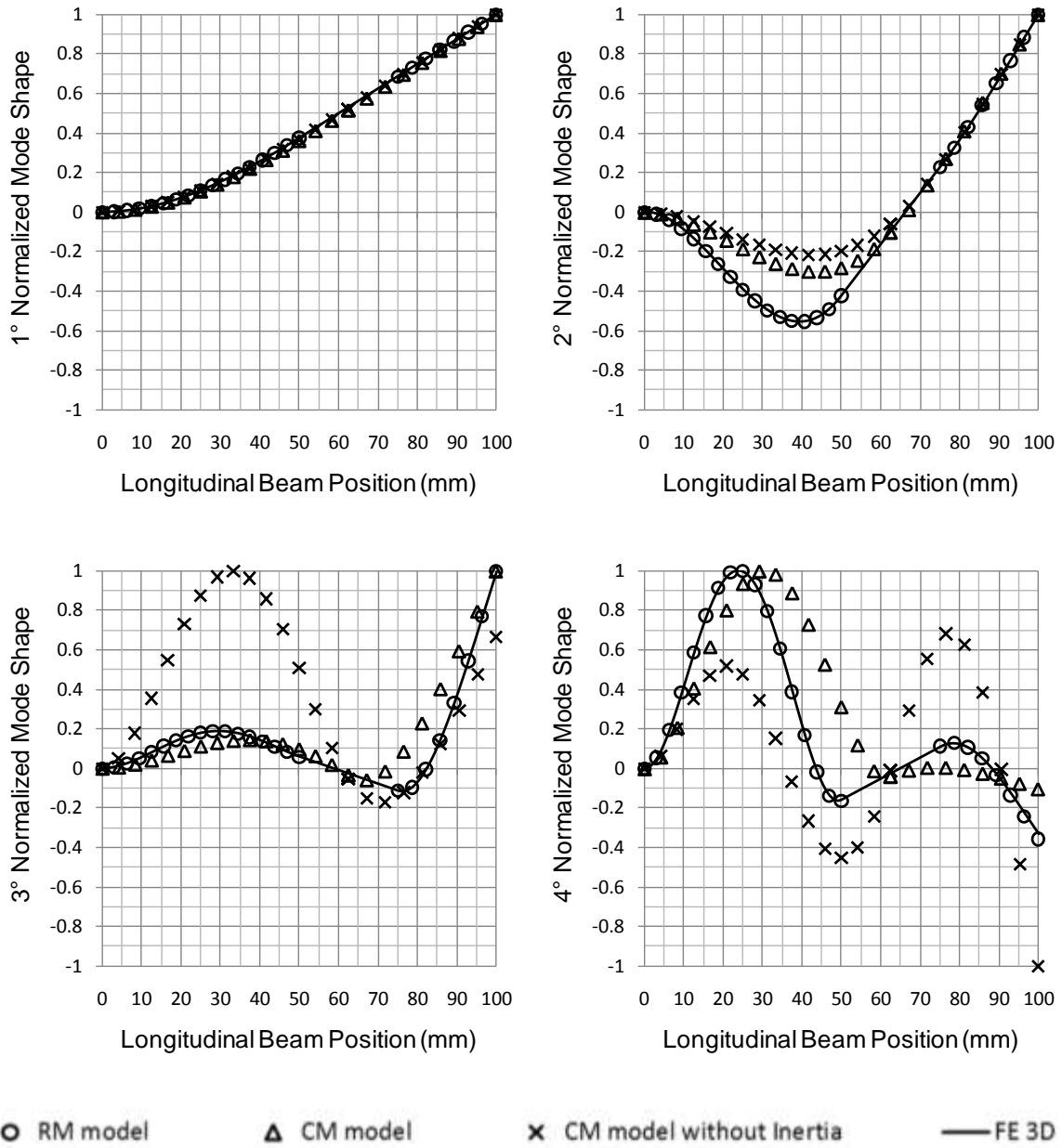
1
2
3
4
5
6
7



8
9
10
11

Fig. 2

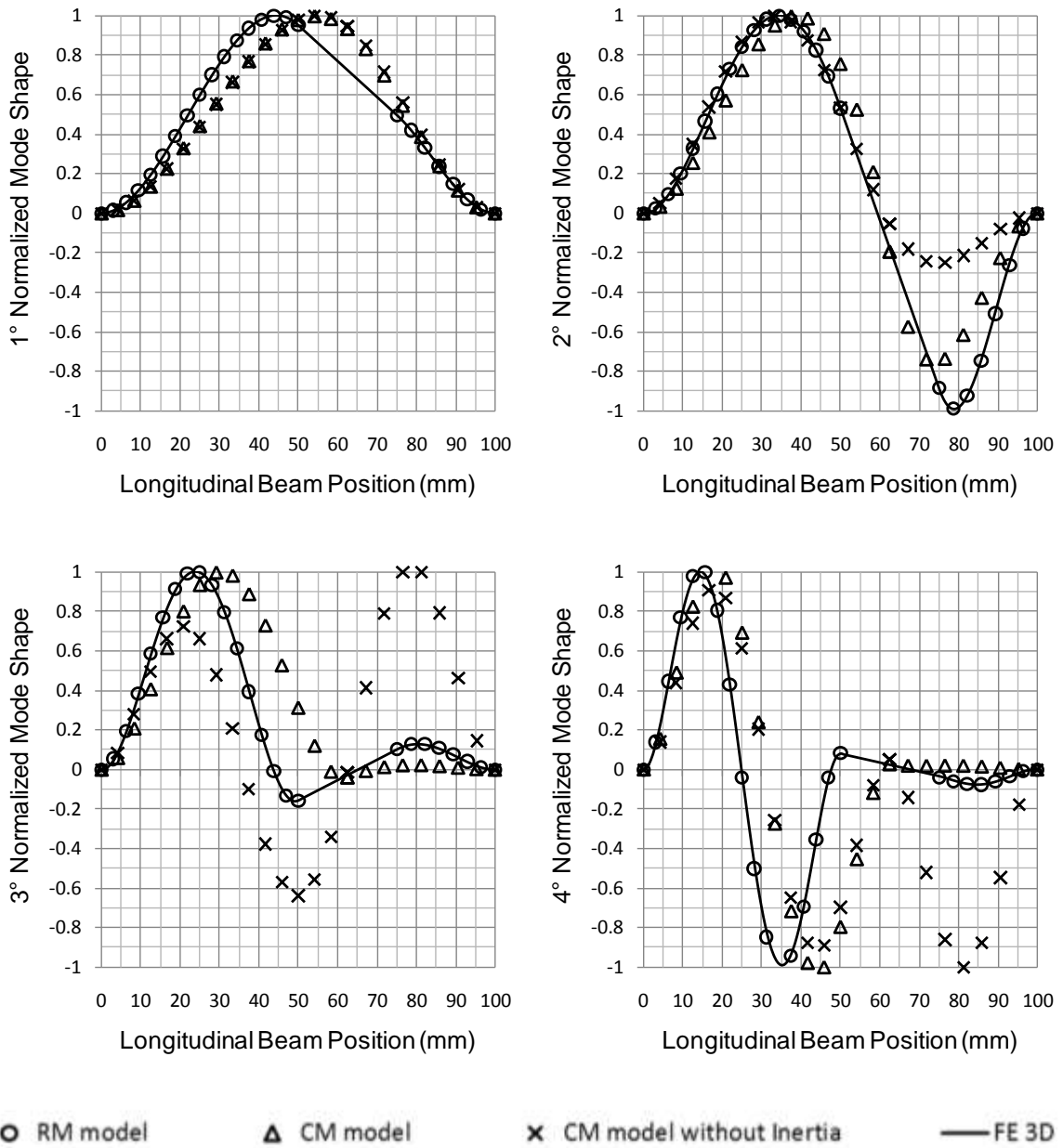
1
2
3



4
5

Fig. 3

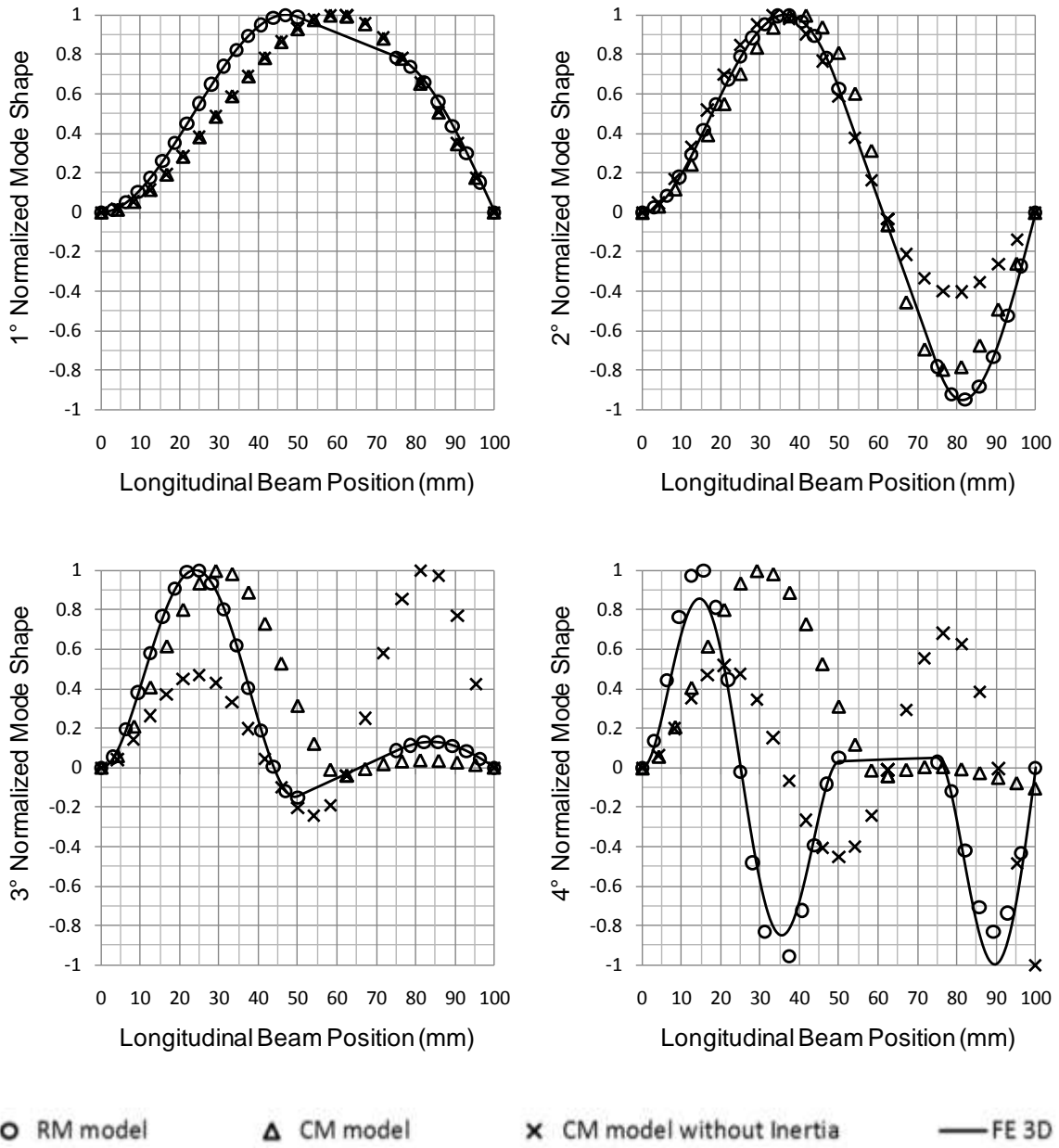
1
2
3
4



5
6
7

Fig. 4

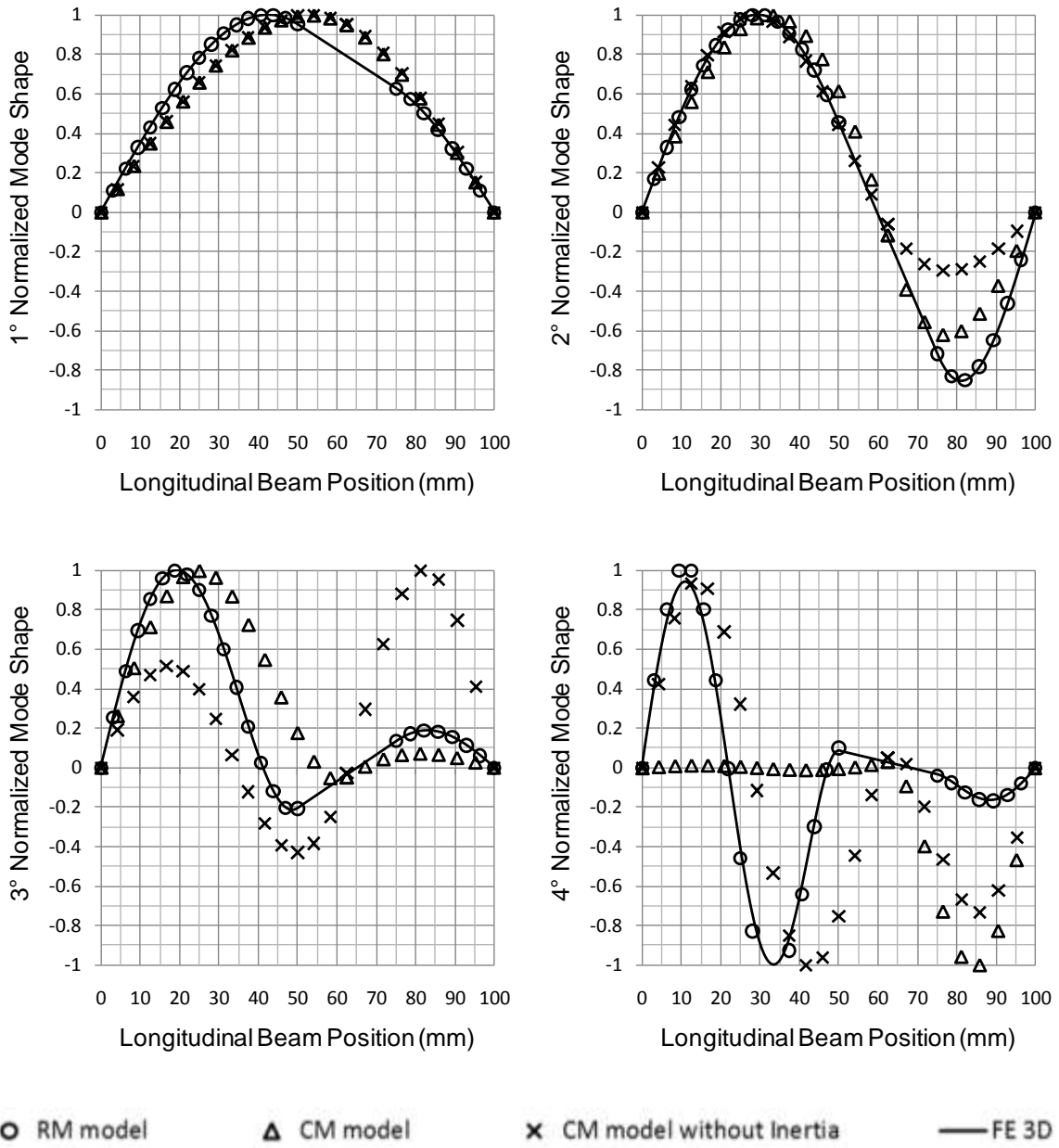
1
2
3
4



5
6

Fig. 5

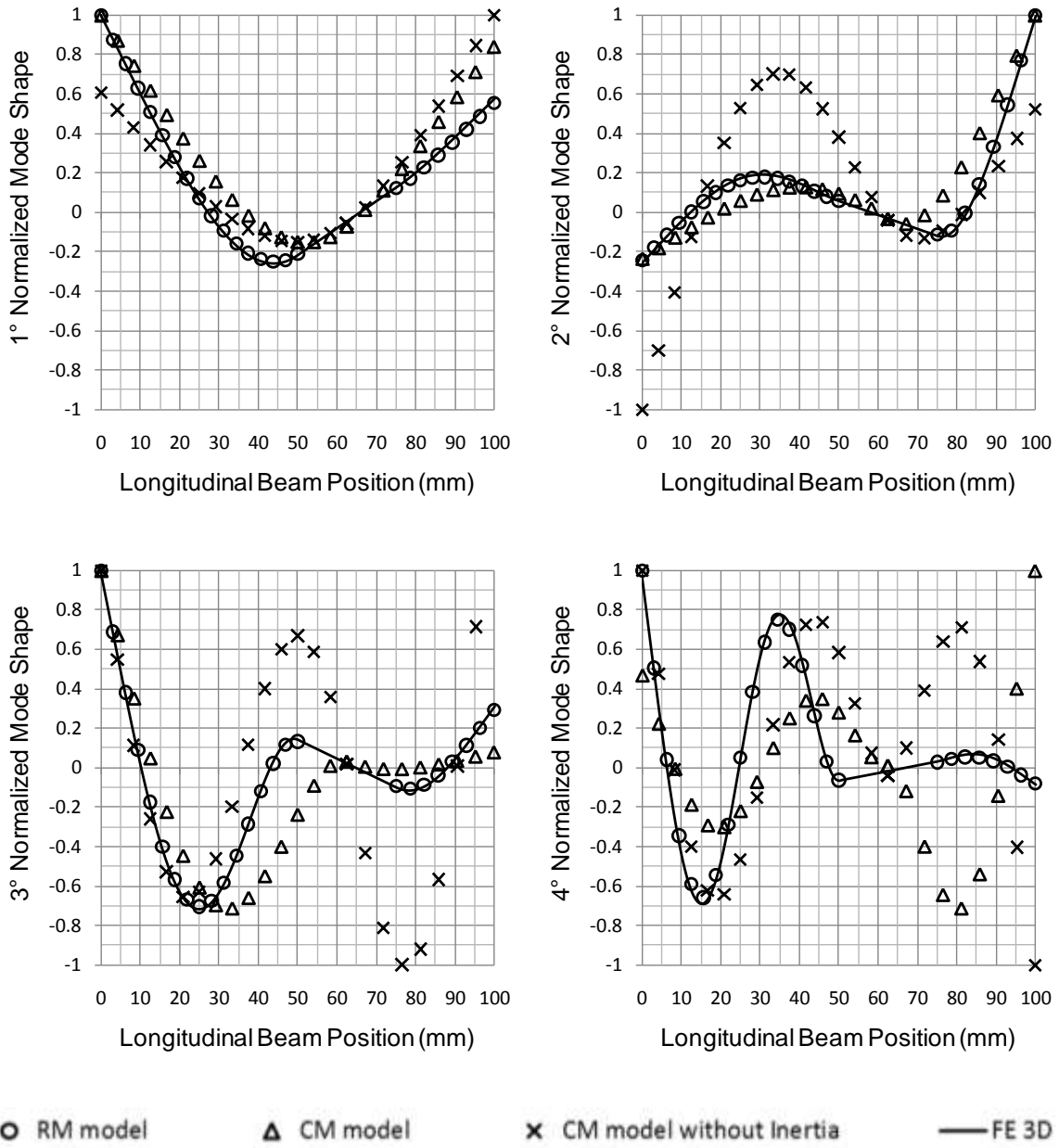
1
2
3
4



5
6
7

Fig. 6

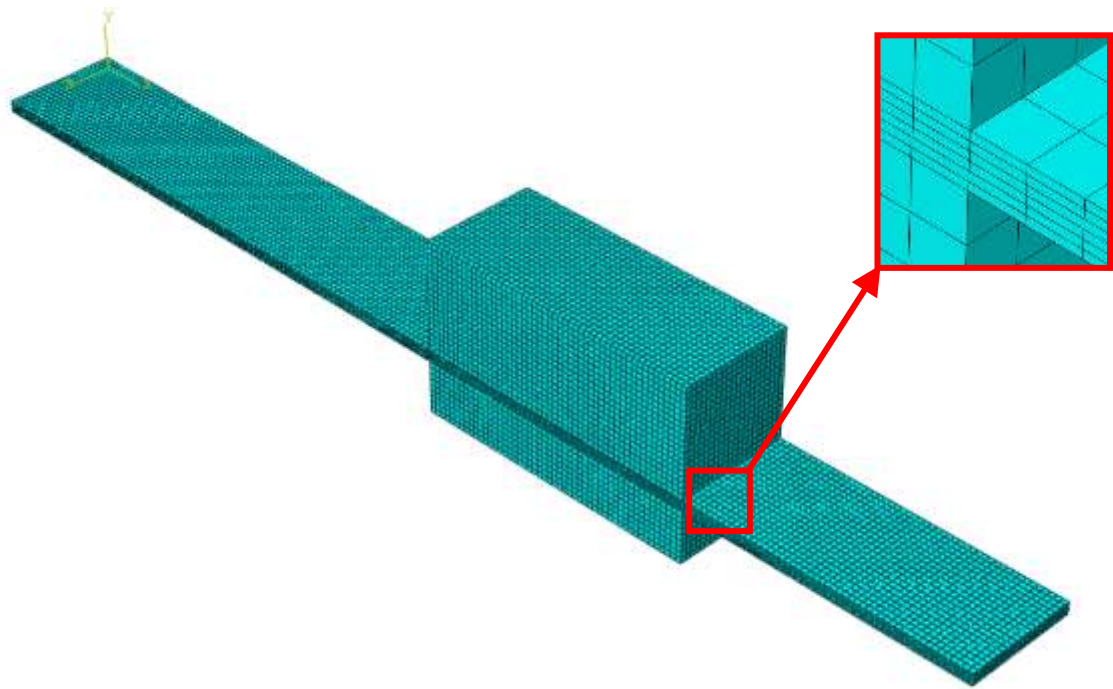
1
2
3
4



5
6
7

Fig. 7

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8



9
10
11
12

Fig. 8

1
2
3
4
5

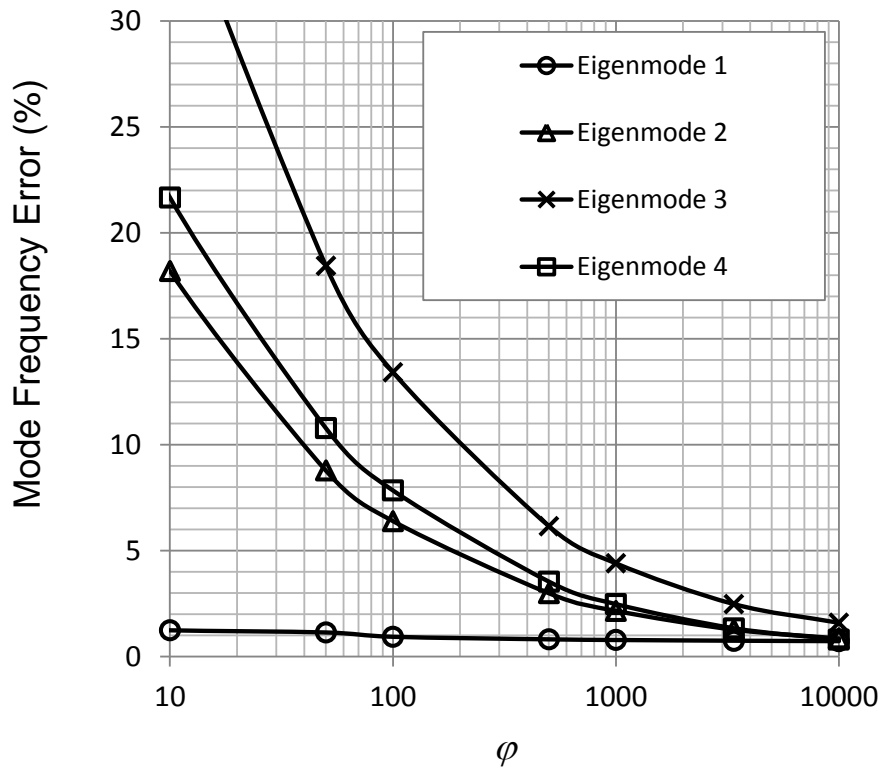


Fig. 9

6
7
8

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

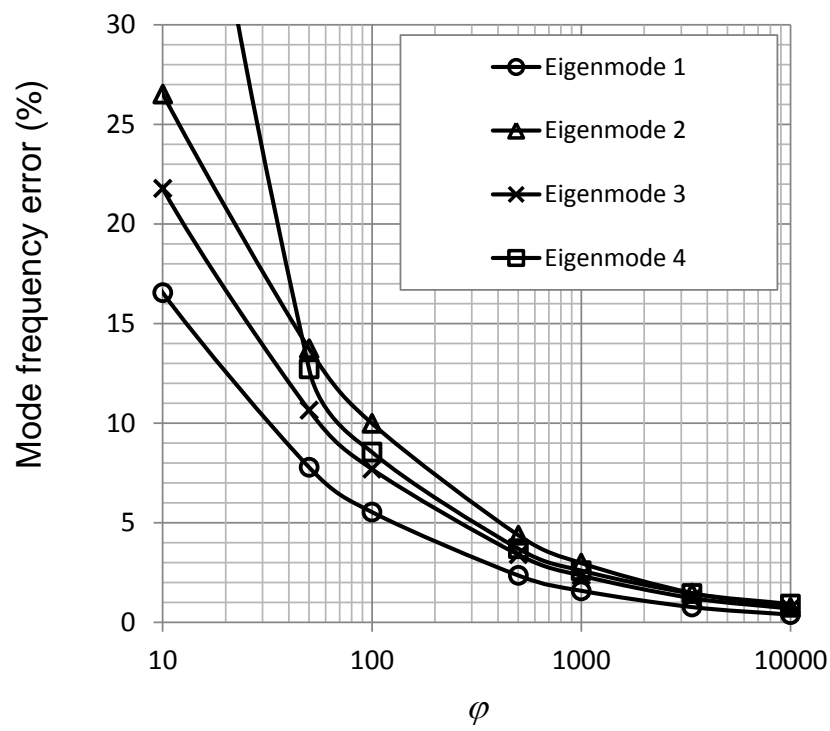
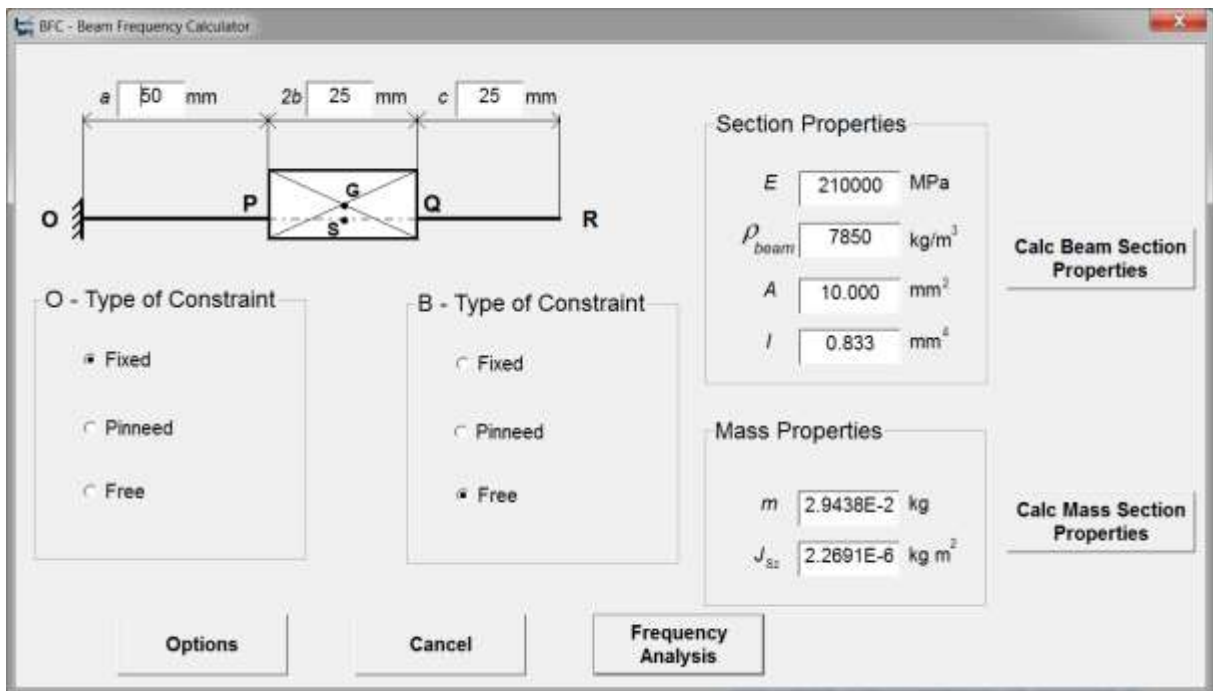


Fig. 10

8
9
10
11

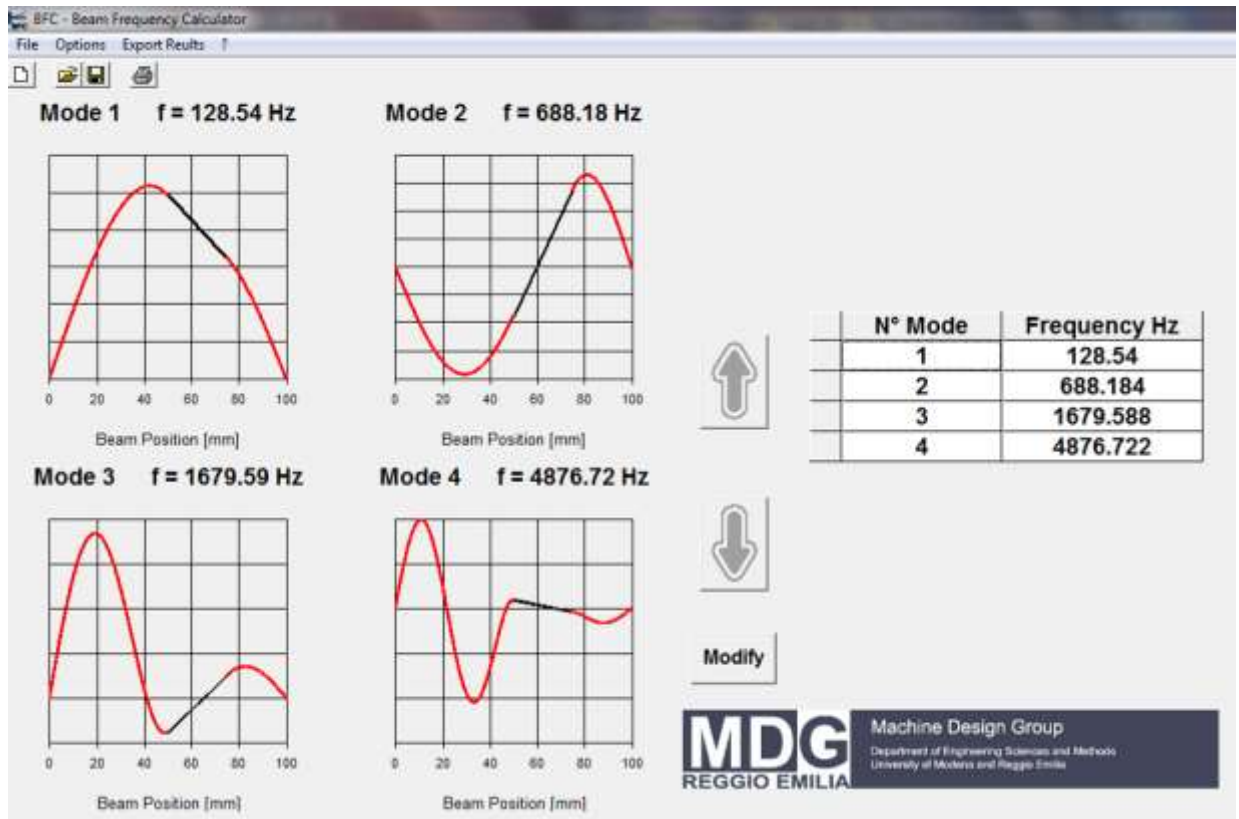
1
2
3
4
5
6
7



8
9
10
11
12

Fig. 11

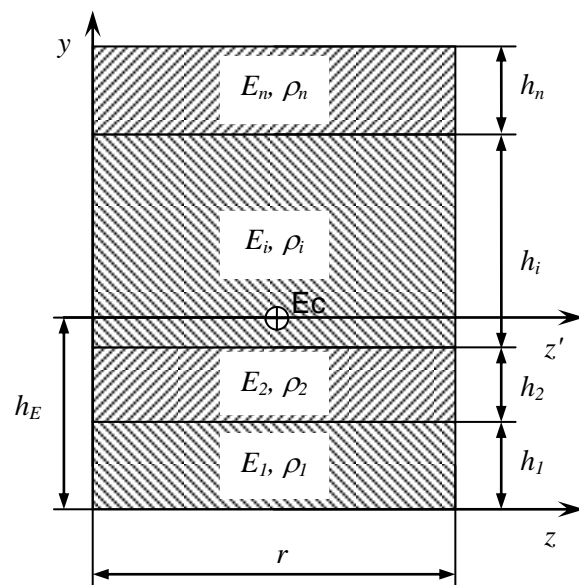
1
2
3
4
5
6



7
8
9
10
11

Fig. 12

1
2
3
4
5
6
7



8
9
10
11
12

Fig. 13