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UNIVERSAL SEA/FEM BASED METHOD FOR ESTIMATION OF VIBROACOUSTIC COUPLING LOSS FACTORS IN REALISTIC SHIP STRUCTURES

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Abstract

Despite the fact that there is an existing body of literature addressing the computation of Coupling Loss Factors (CLFs) via the Finite Element Method (FEM), no publications have sufficiently taken into account real structural joints in their approach. Previous research has focused on academic cases of trivial connections, rarely involving more than two steel plates. To enable Statistical Energy Analysis (SEA) on a real ship, a methodology for determining CLFs for non-trivial systems is proposed, considering realistic boundary conditions and irregularities that can occur in marine structures. Based on the method, a library of CLFs is created by selecting the tested connections to enable modelling of about 90% of the acoustic paths on an existing jack-up vessel. Boundary conditions were set by introducing spring elements with a stiffness calibrated to the type of connection and taking the adjacent structure into account. In previous works, CLFs were determined for basic connections of rectangular plates. The lack of scantling variations, ignoring discontinuities and only defining parallel edges in the considered models, lead to the overestimation of energy transmission in real structures. To consider the influence of the above, random deviations from the initial stiffness of the springs at individual edges and point restraints at random points are introduced in this paper.

Keywords: Statistical Energy Analysis, Power Injection Method, Finite Element Method, Coupling Loss Factor

introduction

Passenger ships, commercial ships and specialised vessels are treated as ordinary workplaces, with respect to vibroacoustic conditions, although they have their own unique character, being places of both professional and leisure activities [1]. For their health, it is important to reduce the levels of daily noise and vibration to which they are exposed. To do this, one has to be able to predict the transmission of vibroacoustic energy at the design stage. Energy-based modelling approaches are often used to describe the higher frequency vibrational behaviour of complex systems in some average, statistical or approximate way. The most important of these methods is statistical energy analysis (SEA). At low

frequencies, the finite element method (FEM) is used. This article focuses on determining coupling loss factors (CLF) for real-world structural connections in the medium and high frequencies (octaves 63-2000 Hz). CLFs are key parameters for SEA; they describe the energy transmission between connected subsystems.

Basics of SEA

SEA involves the prediction of the vibration response of a complex structure by dividing it into subsystems and determining the average energy. The transmission of vibration energy between subsystems is characterised by damping loss factors (DLF) and coupling loss factors (CLF). The DLF

corresponds to the damping in the subsystem itself and the CLF corresponds to the energy dissipation at the subsystem connections. The CLFs and the DLFs form a matrix of coefficients in the energy balance equation, which is used to calculate the energy of subsystems when the input powers are known. The CLFs can be obtained using an analytical wave approach for several types of junctions of semi-infinite plates. An alternative is the power injection method (PIM), which is an approach in which the CLF values can be obtained by measuring subsystem energy and power input [2].

The fundamental relationship, on which the SEA and PIM is based, is the balance between the input power and the output power of the subsystem (a part of the whole system e.g. a single wall). For the i-th subsystem, this equation has $\left|\eta_i + \sum_{i=1}^N \eta_{1i} + \cdots -\eta_{1N}\right| \left|\left\langle E_1 \right\rangle\right| \left|\right| P_{i,1}$

$$
P_{i,in} = P_{i,out} \tag{1}
$$

$$
P_{i,in} = P_{i,dissipated} + \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} P_{ij}
$$
 (2)

to the subsystems coupled with it. It is assumed that there is experiments using this method have been des loss factor and is calculated as follows: the difficulty of controlling the difficulty of controlling the subsystem s (only subsystems in the stimes [5-7]. Due to the difficulty of controlling the subsystems of the subsystems of the subsystems of the subsystems o power dissipated by the subsystem depends on the damping cost of both the measurement system and the test objective immediate vicinity can transfer energy to each other). The

$$
P_{i,diss} = \omega \cdot \eta_i \cdot E_{i,tot} \tag{3}
$$

where:

where ∑

ω – the angular frequency corresponding to the centre ω – the angular frequency correspond
frequency *f* of the band

 η _{*i*} – damping loss factor (DLF)

 $v_{\rm phot}$ η_i – damping ioss factor (DLF)
 $E_{i,tot}$ – total energy of the subsystem

f and the The power transferred from subsystem i to subsystem j α depends on the difference in vibration energy between them and can be represented by the following relationship:

$$
P_{ij} = \omega \cdot \eta_{ij} \cdot E_{i,tot} - \omega \cdot \eta_{ij} \cdot E_{i,tot} \quad (4)
$$

 n_{ij} and n_{ji} are coupling loss factors (CLF) which are essential \overline{C} coefficients in SEA coefficients in SEA.

By knowing the above dependencies, it is possible to α and PIM are coupling loss factors in SEA equations, which are essential in sections. compose SEA equations, which can be presented in matrix form: \mathbf{R} form:

the following form:
\n
$$
\omega \begin{vmatrix}\n\eta_i + \sum_{i=1}^N \eta_{1i} & \cdots & -\eta_{1N} \\
\vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
-\eta_{N1} & \cdots & \eta_N + \sum_{i=N}^{N-1} \eta_{Ni}\n\end{vmatrix}\n\times\n\begin{vmatrix}\n\langle E_1 \rangle \\
\vdots \\
\langle E_N \rangle\n\end{vmatrix}\n=\n\begin{vmatrix}\nP_{i,1} \\
\vdots \\
P_{i,N}\n\end{vmatrix}
$$
\n(5)

The power injection method (sometimes cancel the
experimental SEA or ESEA) involves exciting successive $F_{i,in} - F_{i,out}$ (1)
The power injection method (sometimes called the $P_{i,in} = P_{i,dissipated} + \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} P_{ij}$ (2) subsystems one by one with known power, measuring the four energies of the subsystems, and filling in the energy matrix of power matrix. After inverting the energy matrix, a matrix of total energies of the subsystems, and filling in the energy and coefficients is obtained, according to the equation:

$$
\omega \begin{vmatrix} \eta_i + \sum_{i=1}^N \eta_{1i} & \cdots & -\eta_{1N} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -\eta_{N1} & \cdots & \eta_N + \sum_{i=N}^{N-1} \eta_{Ni} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} P_1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & P_N \end{vmatrix} \times \begin{vmatrix} \langle E_{11} \rangle & \cdots & \langle E_{N1} \rangle \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \langle E_{1N} \rangle & \cdots & \langle E_{NN} \rangle \end{vmatrix}^{-1}
$$
 (6)

In proof is a both the total energy and input power values In practice, both the total energy and input power values are difficult to obtain and are potential sources of inaccuracy. Moreover, creating a classic laboratory measuring system is costly and time-consuming. Therefore, methods using FEM are developed in parallel to experimental research.

State of the art

Fj_{<i>f} *figures* in the basics of both where ∑ ≠ is the power transferred by the i-th subsystem to the subsystems coupled with it. *Fig. 1. Scheme of energy exchange in the SEA system* the literature and yet some of their practical aspects remain assumptions in detail. The possibility of using PIM was indicated by Lyon as 1975 The basics of both SEA and PIM are well described in the literature and yet some of their practical aspects remain challenging. Numerical methods, in the form of a finite element methods, in the next α

Le Bot and Cotoni [3] created validity diagrams of the SEA where $\sum_{j\neq i}^{N} P_{ij}$ is the power transferred by the i th subsystem $\sum_{j\neq i}^{N} P_{ij}$ and described its assumptions in detail. The possibility of d y can transfer energy to each other). The and obtaining the energy of the subsystems, as well as the next step in the development of PIM. of these tests were carried out for frivial systems. Funnerical
methods, in the form of a finite element method, became the $\frac{1}{2}$ ing of subsystem s (only subsystems in the times [5-7]. Due to the difficulty of controlling the input power
ity see the generate each other). The source plate propagate consistent of the subsystems as villege t vicing transferred by the subsystem depends on the dumping the sector both the medical entergy stem did the test object, and is calculated as follows:
of these tests were carried out for trivial systems. Numerical the damping loss factor and is calculated as follows: $P_{\rm c}$ described its essumptions in detail. The possibility of using $P_{\rm c}$ and described its assumptions in detail. The possibility of using PIM was indicated by Lyon as early as 1975 [4]. Laboratory experiments using this method have been described many times [5-7]. Due to the difficulty of controlling the input power cost of both the measurement system and the test object, all of these tests were carried out for trivial systems. Numerical next step in the development of PIM.

The power transferred from substitution in the difference in the difference in the difference in the proposed averaging technique article in a precisely uniform rectangular size of the proposed averaging technique allows a otal energy of the subsystem part of the process part of the waves generated within the source plate propagate $P_{i,diss} = \omega \cdot \eta_i \cdot E_{i,tot}$ (3) Pankaj et al. [8] described a method to carry out PIM angular frequency corresponding to the case of the centre frequencies. For SEA to be useful in

connection for discrete frequencies. For SEA to be useful in ency f of the band domain. Only the simplest system was tested, i.e. two identical using FEM. The expected results were obtained for an L-type connection for discrete frequencies. For SEA to be useful in industry, the coefficients must be averaged over the frequency perpendicular plates. In a precisely uniform rectangular $\frac{1}{1}$ shorter and Langley $\frac{1}{1}$ proposed a general method for proposed a general method for predictions of proposed a general method for predictions of proposed a general method for proposed a general method for p consistently along fixed paths, exhibiting no dispersion to alternate positions as they travel towards the receiving plate. This characteristic behaviour arises due to the absence of internal discontinuities and parallel sides. Such situations rarely occur in real structures. Even in ships built of repetitive structures, there are scantling variations, discontinuities and non-parallel edges. As a result, an irregular system has a smaller overall energy transmission than a regular system.

An interesting approach to estimating CLFs was presented by Thite and Mace [9], who proposed to randomise the properties of the system being analysed and average the resulting estimates but without repeating the full FEA. This allows for very computationally cheap results but is difficult to use in shipbuilding practice. The authors relied on the assumption that "response statistics are somewhat independent of detailed physical variables if the variability is 'large enough'". Unfortunately, in the case of ship's structures, the variability of physical properties is often not large enough, considering the criteria they adopt.

Poblet-Puig [10] developed a strategy to solve the problem of negative CLF values, which are sometimes obtained from Eq. (8). In the case of the structures considered in this article (due to their size), negative CLFs are rare and the proposed averaging technique allows them to be ignored.

There are also numerous publications on vibroacoustic transmission that use techniques other than PIM. Shorter and Langley [11] proposed a general method for predicting the ensemble average steady-state response of vibroacoustic systems. The authors not only decided not to recure to PIM, but bypassed the basic assumptions of SEA as well, concerning the strength of the coupling between the subsystems, the nature of the excitation, or the resonant nature of the response. Their approach also yielded 'indirect' CLFs (CLFs between statistical subsystems that are not physically adjacent).

Attempts to include stiffened plates in the framework of Statistical Energy Analysis have led to the creation of a new branch of SEA development, in which subsystems are treated as periodic structures. Yin and Hopkins [12] described the combination of Bloch theory and wave theory, while Pany [13] presented the combination of FEM with Floquet's theory. The asymmetrical stiffeners found in shipbuilding were not taken into account in any of these cases. The methods mentioned, ingenious as they are in some theoretical respects, remain insufficient for grasping the complexity of typical ship structures, featuring asymmetries, stiffeners and discontinuities.

Using these methods can be helpful but they are insufficient for ship construction, specifically.

The original contributions of the present research are:

- • A library of SEA parameters is created for the structural joints of a jack-up vessel; by using this library, one can create many SEA models of vibroacoustic paths on various ships.
- The well-described PIM method is modified to easily reject negative CLFs with a minimal impact on the final result. The coefficients are averaged, both in the frequency domain and for various boundary conditions.

• A method of setting boundary conditions is proposed to take into account the influence of the adjacent structure and internal discontinuities.

Numerical experiments

The selection of structural connections

The structural connections shown in this article are parts of an existing jack-up vessel. They were selected based on the possibility of carrying out an SEA analysis for this unit. Using these specific cases, real vibroacoustic transmission paths can be modelled for many ships. Structural elements were 'cut out' from a global FEM model created for strength analyses. The global model is shown in Fig. 2. The mesh of finite elements was refined to meet the condition λ >7l for the selected submodels, where λ is the wavelength and l is the element length. This condition was introduced to make sure that the flexural wave was mapped correctly.

Fig. 2. Global FEM model of jack-up vessel

The numbering convention shown in Fig. 3 was adopted during the calculation and presentation of results. The figure shows an X-type junction; in the case of a T-type junction, the system only consists of subsystems 1, 2 and 3.

Fig. 3. The numbering convention of subsystems

A typical stiffener spacing of 685 mm was defined in each subsystem. All of the tested systems were made of mild steel stiffness was and the following material properties were assumed globally: density ρ = 7850 kg/m³, Poisson's ratio v=0.3, Young's modulus E=205GPa, and internal damping η=0.04. It was assumed that so the number of the number of the number of the numb the value of internal damping is constant and independent member.

A typical stiffener space of the tested in each substitute of the tested in each substitute of the tested in from frequency. The assumed value is in the range of values If is the discussion of the range of values and the concentrated force was applied to the join
where the DLF had practically no effect on the CLFs of the steelt of the static analysis was obtained in th tested systems. Individual systems are characterised by the displacements. following values: connection length (Ly), length of the first \bullet The attached structure was removed from the s (Lz), second (Lx), third (Lz') and fourth (Lx') subsystem, as springs were created and their stiffnesses were i (Lz), second (Lx), time (Lz) and fourth (Lx) subsystem, as springs were created and their stimesses were in well as the thickness of the plating of individual subsystems selected to obtain the same displacements. and types of stiffeners. A description of each tested system For each run of harmonic analysis, 1, 2 or 3 no is provided in Appendix A.

The finite elements

point constraints (SPC).
A vibroacoustic computation using FEM was carried out A vibroacoustic computation using FEM was carried out
with Ansys software. SHELL181 elements were used to model **THE COMPUTAT** plates and BEAM188 elements were used to model stiffeners. plates and *BEAM188* centerits were used to moder stiments.
SHELL181 is a four-node element with six degrees of freedom The entire procedure was programmed in Ansys P at each node. A BEAM188 element is suitable for analysing Design Language (APDL) and the procedure was a slender to moderately stubby/thick beam structures, based on

Fach octave (or third) was represented by severally slength and the EM with Answer with Timoshenko beam theory, which includes shear-deformation frequencies. requencies.
effects. Combin14 elements were used as springs on the edges • N harmonic analyses were performed for each f of the submodels. effects. Combined referrents were used as springs on the edges of the submodels.

where N is the number of subsystems.

INPUT POWER AND SUBSYSTEM ENERGY on the subsequents on the subsequents of the subsequents of the submodels. Combined a spring of the submodels. Combined a spring of the submodels. Combined a spring of the submodels. Comb

The outputs obtained from the numerical simulations are the energy and the input power. Energy associated with the out-of-plane vibrations were computed as:
 INPUT POWER AND SUBSYSTEM WAS performed fo

$$
E_i = \frac{M \langle |v_n|^2 \rangle}{2} \tag{7}
$$

where M is the mass of the subsystem, v_n is the vector of **WALIDATION METHOD** power injected by a single point force is obtained as:

The method was valid normal velocity, and <> represents the spatial average. The
normal velocity, and <> represents the spatial average. The mass of the mass of the vector of normal velocity, we

$$
P_{in} = \frac{1}{2} Re\{Fv\}
$$
 (8)

where F is the vector of the point force and v is the vector of the velocity at the application spot in the force direction.

Loads and boundary conditions

Forces were applied to 100 random nodes, at random phases (but at a constant amplitude), to implement a 'rain on the roof' type of load. A new set of random loads was generated for each harmonic solution.

Six springs were attached to each edge node and each of them acted on only one degree of freedom. This made it possible to control individual degrees of freedom. The spring stiffness was calibrated as follows:

- The examined intersection was 'cut out' from the global FEM model, along with the adjacent part of the structure, so that the submodel ended with a primary stiffening member.
- • A concentrated force was applied to the joint and the result of the static analysis was obtained in the form of displacements.
- (22) and fourth $(2x)$ subsystem, as a septing were created and their stiffnesses v
he plating of individual subsystems selected to obtain the same displacements. The attached structure was removed from the submodel, springs were created and their stiffnesses were iteratively

is provided in Appendix A.
fixed (i.e. locked from translation or translation and rotation). THE FINITE ELEMENTS
In the rest of this article, such restraints will be called single is provided in Appendix A. The assumed value is in the randomly selected and some of their degrees of freedom were For each run of harmonic analysis, 1, 2 or 3 nodes were point constraints (SPC).

The computational workflow

The entire procedure was programmed in Ansys Parametric Design Language (APDL) and the procedure was as follows:

- • Each octave (or third) was represented by seven discrete frequencies.
- N harmonic analyses were performed for each frequency,
- For each harmonic analysis, the 'rain on the roof' load

 For each harmonic analysis, the 'rain on the roof' load on the subsequent subsystem was applied and specific boundary conditions were generated. After each harmonic analysis, the matrices from Eq. (6) were filled in.
	- and the input power. Energy associated with the After calculating the CLFs for each frequency, averaging was performed for the entire band. Negative CLFs were not taken into account.
- $E_i = \frac{m \times |\nu_n|}{2}$ (7) condition settings were changed and the next iteration took place. The final result was an average of seven iterations. $M < |n|^{2}$ and the numerical simulations are the input power. After calculating the CLFs for all octaves, the boundary

Validation method

rce is obtained as: The method was validated in two ways: by comparing the $Re\{Fv\}$ (8) made by Yin and Hopkins [12]. In the first case, two steel CLFs with measurements performed by Treszkai et al. [7] and by comparing energy level differences with measurements plates without stiffeners (junction #1) were tested while, in the second case, two periodically ribbed Perspex plates (junction #2) were tested. The scheme of the stiffened plates is shown in Fig. 4. The material properties used in both cases are given in Table 1 and the geometrical details are presented in Table 2.

Fig. 4. Periodic ribbed plates scheme. These types of stiffeners were only used for the purposes of comparison with work [12].

	Junction	Plate	Material	Young's modulus [Pa]	Density $\left[\mathrm{kg/m^3}\right]$	Poisson's ratio [-]	Internal loss factor \vert - \vert
	#1		Steel	$2.05E + 11$	7850	0.3	0.04
		\overline{c}	Steel	$2.05E + 11$	7850	0.3	0.04
	#2	1	Perspex	$4.63E + 09$	1220	0.3	0.06
		$\overline{2}$	Perspex	$4.63E + 09$	1220	0.3	0.06

Tab. 2. Geometrical description of plates

Results and discussion

Validation

Fig. 5 shows the minimum and maximum values of the CLFs (measured experimentally), FEM/SEA results with a 95% confidence interval and analytically calculated values, based on wave theory for junction #1. The 95% confidence intervals were calculated using the Student's 't' distribution.

measurements and wave theory prediction. *Fig. 5. Junction #1, comparison between hybrid FEM/SEA results,*

The graph in Fig. 5 shows a good consistency between hybrid FEM/SEA measurements. As expected, the FEM/SEA into account weld imperfections. $\ddot{}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ could be caused by the fact that the FEM model does not take values are closer to the maximum measurement results. This

The energy level difference (in dB) obtained for junction #2, by hybrid FEM/SEA and the measurements in one-third octave bands, are compared in Fig. 6. Both results are plotted with 95% confidence intervals.

Fig. 6. Junction #2, comparison between hybrid FEM/SEA results and the measurements. Fig. 6. Junction #2, comparison between hybrid FEM/SEA results and the $\sum_{i=1}^n$ *measurements.*

In general, the results can be considered to be acceptably consistent. As expected, larger differences in average values occur in lower frequencies but, in thirds above 300 Hz, the results do not differ by more than 2 dB. Discrepancies for some bands may result from several factors. Firstly, the sampling during the measurements was 1 Hz, while the FEM/ SEA result is averaged over seven frequencies for one-third octave. The method of excitation was also different; the rain on the roof' used in FEM simulations is unattainable in the conditions of a real experiment, and so point excitations were used. During the experiment, the boundary conditions did not change. Meanwhile, during the FEM simulation, the stiffness of the model edge restraint changed randomly and random SPCs appeared. This indicates that the ensemble average represents deterministic systems well.

The influence of the boundary conditions

SEA is used to predict vibration and noise levels at the design stage. One should bear in mind that a shipyardconstructed structure may exhibit variations, compared to the documentation. Sometimes, very small changes can cause a large impact on the subsystems' vibration response, as shown in Figs. 7-8. Fig. 7 shows how the response of the system changes after introducing one more restraint point in a random place on each subsystem. At the statistical energy analysis stage, the stiffness of the connected structure may change and pillars/cutouts may appear. The best solution is to average the random spring stiffness and random SPCs. If any of these unknowns are eliminated, this part of the randomness can be removed from the procedure. In the cases described in this paper, the stiffness of the springs at the edges of the models was randomly selected in the range 70-130% of the mean value.

Fig, 7. Displacement graph [mm], result of a steady state harmonic analysis in an exemplary frequency of 44 Hz, at which the influence of irregularity is clearly visible. On the left, there is one single point constraint in a random place for each subsystem. On the right, there are two single point constraints in a random place for each subsystem.

The scatter of CLF values, for one system with seven random boundary conditions, is shown in Fig. 8.

Fig. 8. The coupling loss factors for seven boundary conditions and the of magnitude. The dispersion of the results significantly decreases above the 250 Hz octave. *averaged value*

Fig. 8 shows that a small change in the system can change the CLF value by two orders of magnitude. The dispersion of the results significantly decreases above the 250 Hz octave. $m = 1$ measurement results was achieved. The presented method differs from previous solutions in the previous solutio

conclusions. This allows us to easily reject negative C

This paper presents a hybrid FEM/SEA method for estimating the CLF for complex structural joints found on ships. The results obtained with this method were compared to experimental results from two different papers. Acceptably good agreement with the measurement results was achieved. The presented method differs from previous solutions in the \mathcal{L}_{L} following ways: With the help of this library, one can create many S .

- The coefficients are averaged in the frequency domain and for various boundary conditions. This allows us to easily reject negative CLFs with minimal impact on the final result.
- By using springs at the edges of the model, the influence of the adjacent structure can be taken into account. Random deviations in spring stiffness allow the result to be obtained more for the ensemble average than for the deterministic case.
- Potential structural discontinuities or additional wavescattering elements (such as pillars) are introduced into

the system as point restraints in random places in the subsystem.

If the uncertainty associated with any of the above types of boundary conditions disappears, it can be removed from the analysis, making it more deterministic.

Using a hybrid FEM/SEA method, a library of CLFs was created for the structural joints of a jack-up vessel (Appendix A). With the help of this library, one can create many SEA models of vibroacoustic paths on various ships. The presented method is universal and the library can be freely expanded.

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Appendix A

Tab. 3 Description of subsystems included in the submodels

Table 4 CLF values for selected junctions

