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ANALYSIS OF THE LOFT MODULAR DRAG DISC
TURBINE TRANSDUCER (MDTT) SPRING FOR
COMPRESSIVE BUCKLING

W. R. Mosby

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ANALYSIS OF THE LOFT MODULAR DRAG DISC
TURBINE TRANSDUCER (MDTT) SPRING FOR
COMPRESSIVE BUCKLING

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ABSTRACT

The LOFT Modular Drag Disc Turbine Transducer (MDTT) springs (for range 2, $\rho V^2 = 4900 \text{ lbm/ft-sec}^2$) were analyzed to determine the static ρV^2 load needed to cause a buckling failure.

The static load needed to cause elastic buckling was found to be equivalent to a ρV^2 value of 431,000 lbm/ft-sec^2 according to classical buckling theory, but could be as low as $\rho V^2 = 100,000 \text{ lbm/ft-sec}^2$ due to uncertain end fixity and other spring imperfections.

Note by R. E. Ford: *REX 8/19/78*

Because the load required to cause elastic buckling is so much larger than the loads the spring is expected to be exposed to, the probability of a buckling failure is very small. In the event a spring buckles, the only consequence will be the loss of that measurement. No parts would be detached from the DTT in the event of a spring buckling.

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ANALYSIS OF THE LOFT MODULAR DRAG DISC TURBINE TRANSDUCER (MDTT) SPRING FOR COMPRESSIVE BUCKLING

I. SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

The LOFT MDTT springs (for range 2, $\rho V^2 = 4900$ lbm/ft-sec²) were analyzed to determine the static ρV^2 load needed to cause a buckling failure.

II. METHOD OF ANALYSIS

Static equilibrium considerations along with spring force, moment, and deflection formulas^[2] were used to calculate spring forces and maximum bending moments due to the fluid dynamic pressure (ρV^2) acting on the MDTT drag disc. Dimensional data, material properties, and drag disc forces from References 1 and 4 were used. The critical load for elastic buckling of the springs was calculated using methods in Reference 3.

III. RESULTS

Theoretical compressive elastic buckling of the 4900 ρV^2 range MDTT spring was found to occur at a ρV^2 value of 431,000 lbm/ft-sec². Plastic hinge formation in the spring was calculated to occur at $\rho V^2 = 738,500$ lbm/ft-sec² and, thus, does not occur before elastic buckling.

The observed spring buckling failure occurred at a ρV^2 of less than 350,000 lbm/ft-sec². Dimensional inaccuracies and reduced spring end fixity may cause the actual spring compressive buckling load to decrease by a factor of 4 or more, causing the spring to buckle at a ρV^2 value around 100,000 lbm/ft-sec². Dynamic effects may also reduce the critical buckling ρV^2 value.

IV. REFERENCES

1. W. R. Mošby, "Stress Analysis of the LOFT Modular DTT Flowmeter for LOCE Transients (L1-5 and L2-4)", LOFT Technical Report LTR 141-77, March 3, 1978.
2. R. J. Roark and W. C. Young, Formulas for Stress and Strain, 5th Edition, McGraw-Hill, 1975.
3. S. P. Timoshenko and J. M. Gere, Theory of Elastic Stability, McGraw-Hill, 1961.
4. Drawing 036-0806,25-220-208189C, "LOFT Drag Disc Module Assembly", September 1, 1977.

APPENDIX
MDTT SPRING BUCKLING

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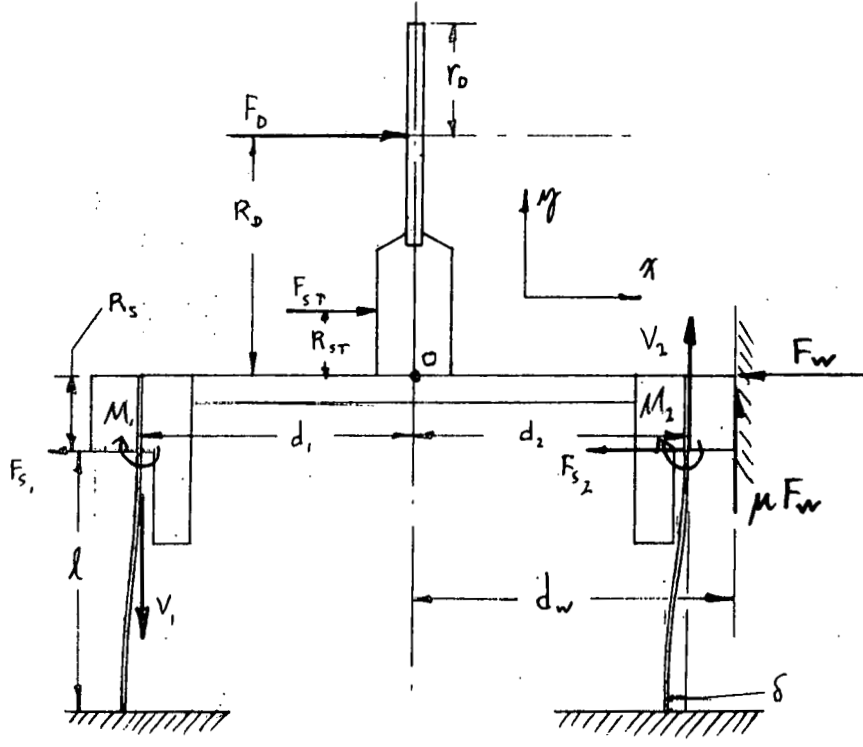
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1. General

a. Geometry

Figure 1 shows the MDTT transducer spring and drag disc carrier assembly. (references 1 and 4).



The dimensions for the range 2 DTT ($\rho V^2 \leq 4900$) are

$$R_D = .3 \text{ in}$$

$$l = .7 \text{ in.}$$

$$R_{ST} = \frac{.66 - R_D}{2} = .18 \text{ in.}$$

$$R_D = .66 \text{ in}$$

$$d_1 = d_2 = .73 \text{ in.}$$

$$R_s = .2 \text{ in.}$$

$$d_w = .857 \text{ in.}$$

$$\delta = .05 \text{ in.}$$

$$I = 2.9155 \times 10^{-9} \text{ in}^4 \text{ (each spring)}$$

Figure 1: DTT carrier Assembly

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b. Material (ref. 1)

Inconel X-750 AMS: 5542

$E = 31 \times 10^6$ psi, $S_y = 110,000$ psi = yield stress

2. Spring Buckling Loads

a. Spring effective length

Using reference 2, the stiffness of each spring is calculated to be (p. 96, case 1b)

$$\delta = \frac{W}{12EI} (l-a)^2 (l+2a); \text{ with } a=0,$$

$$\frac{W}{\delta} = \frac{12EI}{l^3}$$

The actual stiffness is measured as

$$\frac{W}{\delta} = (.842) \frac{12EI}{l^3}$$

An effective length, l' , can be used:

$$l \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{.842}} \right) = \underline{l'} = 1.059 l = \underline{\underline{.7413 \text{ in}}}$$

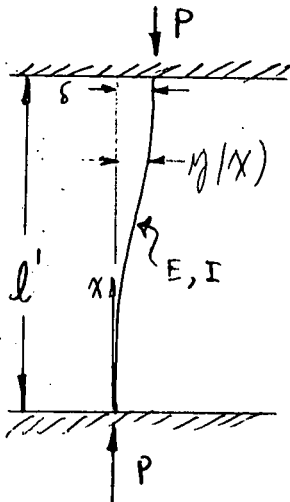
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The imperfect clamping will be taken into account by using this effective spring length in the buckling analysis.

b. Critical load for buckling

The analysis of reference 3, p.51, may be used for this beam-column with initial displacement.



The equation for this beam-column is

$$\frac{d^4 y}{dx^4} + k^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = 0 \quad (1)$$

with $k = \sqrt{\frac{P}{EI}}$

for which the general solution

is $y = A \sin kx + B \cos kx + Cx + D$.

Figure 2: The DTT Spring As a Beam-Column

$v = y - \delta x$ is also a solution of (1), so the critical

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load given in reference 3 is valid for this case, and

$$P_{cr} = \frac{4\pi^2 EI}{(l')^2} = \frac{4\pi^2 (31 \times 10^6) (2.9155 \times 10^{-9})}{(.7413)^2}$$

$$\underline{P_{cr} = 6.49 \text{ lb}}$$

c. Load for maximum moment

$$(1) M_{max} = \frac{1.5 S_y I}{c} = \frac{(1.5)(110,000)(2.9155 \times 10^{-9})}{.0035} = .137 \text{ in-lb}$$

(2) Reference 2, p 154, case 1:

$$M_{max} = \frac{w}{k} \tan \frac{k l'}{2} \quad (1)$$

with

$$M_A = \delta = \frac{w}{k P} \frac{C_3 C_{a3} - C_2 C_{a4}}{C_2} \quad (2)$$

or
$$w = \delta k P C_2 / (C_3 C_{a3} - C_2 C_{a4})$$

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$$M_{max} = \frac{\delta P C_2}{(C_3 C_3 - C_2 C_4)} + \tan \frac{kl'}{2} \quad (3)$$

with $a=0$

$$C_2 = \sin kl$$

$$C_3 = C_3 = 1 - \cos kl$$

$$C_4 = kl - \sin kl$$

Using (3), the value of P for which $M_{max} = .137$ is

$$\underline{\underline{P_m = 10.95 \text{ lb}}}$$

The elastic buckling load is lower than this.

3. Spring force calculations

(a) Equilibrium

$$\sum F_x = 0$$

$$-F_F + F_{s_1} + F_{s_2} + F_w = 0$$

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$$\Sigma F_y = 0$$

$$-V_1 + V_2 + \mu F_w = 0$$

$$\Sigma M_0 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 -M_F - F_{s1} R_s - F_{s2} R_s - M_1 - M_2 + \mu F_w d_w \\
 + V_1 d_1 + V_2 d_2 = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

where (ref. 1)

$$F_F = F_D + F_S = 3.9894 \times 10^{-4} v_0^2 (\rho v^2) + 3.2552 \times 10^{-6} (.66 r_D) \times \rho v^3$$

$$\underline{F_F = 3.7068 \times 10^{-5} \rho v^2}$$

$$\underline{M_F = F_D R_D + F_{ST} R_{ST} = 2.1799 \times 10^{-5} \rho v^2}$$

(b) expressions for F_{s1} , F_{s2} , M_1 , M_2 :

Spring #1 is in tension, so ref. 2, p. 168, case (b) applies:

$$M_1 = \frac{w C a_3}{M C_2}$$

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with

$$M_A = \delta = \frac{W}{kP} \left(\frac{C_3 C_{a3} - C_2 C_{a4}}{C_2} \right)$$

so

$$F_{s1} = W = \frac{\delta k_1 V_1 C_{21}}{C_3 C_{a3} - C_2 C_{a4}}$$

$$M_1 = \frac{\delta V_1 C_{a3}}{C_3 C_{a3} - C_2 C_{a4}}$$

where I have used $\nu = \nu_1$, $k = k_1$, ...

$$C_{21} = \sinh k_1 l'$$

$$C_{31} = C_{a3} = \cosh k_1 l' - 1$$

$$C_{a4} = \sinh k_1 l' - k_1 l'$$

$$k_1 = \sqrt{\frac{V_1}{EI}}$$

Spring #2 is in compression, so ref. 2, p. 159, case 1b. applies. The equations are of the same form as those for spring #1, except that C_2 , etc, differ.

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$$F_{s2} = \frac{\delta M_2 V_2 C_{22}}{C_{32} C_{a32} - C_{22} C_{a42}}$$

$$M_2 = \frac{\delta V_2 C_{a32}}{C_{32} C_{a32} - C_{22} C_{a42}}$$

$$k_2 = \sqrt{\frac{V_2}{EI}}$$

$$C_{22} = \sin k_2 l'$$

$$C_{32} = C_{a32} = 1 - \cos k_2 l'$$

$$C_{a42} = k_2 l' - \sin k_2 l'$$

A calculator program was written which solves for V_1 and V_2 as a function of pV^2 and calculated M_1 and M_2 .

Table I gives $V_1, V_2, M_1,$ and M_2 for the range 2 DTT spring-drag disc assembly, with $\mu=0$. It should be noted that the foregoing

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analysis applies only if the drag disc carrier is against the stop, for which ρV^2 is:

$$F_s = \frac{3.7068 \times 10^{-5} \rho V^2}{2} = .05 (.842) \frac{12 (31 \times 10^6) (2.9155 \times 10^{-9})}{(.7)^3}$$

$$\rho V^2 \geq 7183 \text{ lbm/ft-sec}^2$$

TABLE I

Range 2 DTT Spring Forces vs. Dynamic Pressure

ρV^2 , $\frac{\text{lbm}}{\text{ft-sec}^2}$	V_1 , lb	M_1 , in-lb	V_2 , lb	M_2 , in-lb	Comments
10 000	.253	.0506	.253	.0481	
20 000	.402	.0513	.402	.0473	
30 000	.551	.0520	.551	.0465	
40 000	.700	.0527	.700	.0457	
50 000	.849	.0534	.849	.0449	
431, 000	6.50	.0754	6.50	-.0001	$V_2 \equiv P_{cr}$; elastic buckling
735, 500	10.95	.0888	10.95	-.1375	$V_2 \equiv P_m$; max spring moment

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4. Conclusion

This static analysis shows that a dynamic pressure of $pV^2 = 431,000 \text{ lbm/ft-sec}^2$ is needed to cause the range 2 DTT spring to buckle elastically.

Dimensional inaccuracies, reduced end fixity, and dynamic effects may reduce the buckling pV^2 value substantially. For example, if

$$P_{cr} = \frac{C \pi^2 EI}{(L')^2} * F$$

where

$C = 2$ instead of 4, corresponding to an end fixity between pinned and fixed ends

$F = \text{safety factor} = 1/2$

then the pV^2 for buckling will be $\frac{431000}{4}$
 or $\approx 108000 \text{ lbm/ft-sec}^2$.

The imperfect spring-end clamping may not be sufficiently taken into account by the procedure in 2. a. above.