

# Research on Stiffness of the Hull Beam Model Based on ADAMS

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**Abstract.** A piecewise rigid body model of the ship is proposed, which makes the ship, a elastic body, can be analyzed in dynamics software like ADAMS and the analysis efficiency is improved. The equivalent stiffness in the model is more close to the actual situation, so it improves the precision of calculating natural frequency in the vibration characteristic analysis. Having been used in ADAMS, the modelling method turns out to be more accurate processing method than common hull beam section unit method. The processing method be used for the dynamics analysis of the similar structure.

## 1 Introduction

Due to the length of the ship is much larger than the high and wide of the ship, so the ship is often simplified as beam by scholar to the study of the ship vibration problem. The formula, characteristics and law of the vibration of the beam can be applied to the study of hull vibration, when the beam model is used to deal with the vibration problems of the hull [1], [2], [3]. It makes the research easier and improves the efficiency of the study.

However, the hull structure is quite complex, so it can not be fully equivalent to the beam. Therefore, when the hull simplify to hull beam model, we should first to consider that how to get a more accurate model to simulate the actual quality and stiffness of the hull. For quality, the influence of different internal hull structure is not obvious, and the change of the internal structure does not change the external hull shape. It is not difficult to get the rule of the influences of the entrained water [4], [5]. So this paper focus on the stiffness simplified method of the hull beam model. In order to facilitate the calculation, this paper uses the multi rigid body dynamics software ADAMS to assist the completion of the study [6].

For the the vibration analysis of chain structure such as hull beam, there have concentrated mass method, transfer matrix method, finite element method and so on [7,8,9]. For the method of simplified model, the literature [10,11] by using the finite element method to achieve the equivalent model of the mechanism. The transfer matrix of rigid body system connected by spring and hinge is given in literature [12].

No matter what kind of simplified method, the treatment of equivalent stiffness is an important part of the study. The accuracy of the equivalent stiffness directly affects the results of the entire study whether is correct and whether the conclusion of the research makes sense.

## 2 The common model of hull beam

The hull beam model for calculating the total vibration, which is a row of hull beam elements connected by nodes [13].

For each simplified beam element, the selection rules of the raw data as follows:

- (1) Each simplified beam element is considered as a uniform straight beam;
- (2) The arithmetic mean of the moment of inertia of the section at both ends of the beam is taken as the moment of inertia of each beam section;
- (3) The quality of distribution is the sum of quality of beam section of the hull itself and the entrained water;
- (4) Shear equivalent area of the beam is the average of areas on both ends of the beam section.

Generally, the longitudinal components throughout the length of the hull include bottom plate, deck, keelson, keelson, deck girder, the hatch coaming and side girder. The horizontal components include bottom plate, deck, floor board, deck beams, strong beam, hatch coaming, frame and strong frame. The transverse component is used to ensure the transverse stiffness of the hull.

Because most of the components are profiles, such as T steel and Angle steel, so its quality, the moment of inertia, cross-sectional area and section moment of inertia can be expressed by formula containing design variables. But the outside plates of irregular shape of boat, it can be obtained by the method of fitting expressions. The values of sectional moment of inertia of 20 sections respectively fill in the attribute of ADAMS.

In the solution of section parameters of beam element, the method of determining the moment of inertia and its orientation is studied [14]. X.Dong calculated the moment of inertia of car [15]. M.H.Li discussed the method for solving the moment of inertia of the cross section of the beam [16]. In this paper, taking a 54m

motor cargo ship as an example, the moment of inertia of each beam element is processed. Results are shown in table 1~3:

**Table 1.** Sectional moment of inertia of z axis.

Num	Iz(mm4)	Num	Iz(mm4)
1	22454743151558.6	11	2997200615982.70
2	2969455466352.32	12	2997200615982.70
3	3604974664103.87	13	2997200615982.70
4	3223314900104.67	14	2997200615982.70
5	3214244418809.15	15	2997200615982.70
6	2997200615982.70	16	2997200615982.70
7	2997200615982.70	17	4608184785593.97
8	2997200615982.70	18	4340550638466.67
9	2997200615982.70	19	1836116886963.17
10	2997200615982.70	20	537280338616.40

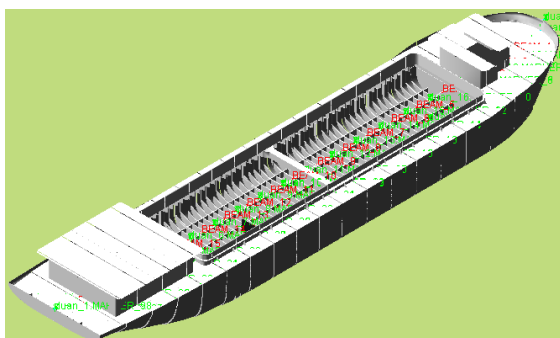
**Table 2.** Sectional moment of inertia of x axis.

Num	Ix(mm4)	Num	Ix(mm4)
1	422242667234.485	11	503839201896.855
2	638843182766.61	12	503839201896.855
3	913628593998.18	13	503839201896.855
4	875216217617.815	14	503839201896.855
5	746077934134.25	15	503839201896.855
6	503839201896.855	16	503839201896.855
7	503839201896.855	17	882628554523.155
8	503839201896.855	18	1003557535370.02
9	503839201896.855	19	514515258500.11
10	503839201896.855	20	136034778370.385

**Table 3.** Sectional moment of inertia of y axis.

Num	Iy(mm4)	Num	Iy(mm4)
1	2232500484325.1	11	2493361414085.7
2	2330614418775.88	12	2493361414085.7
3	2691348205294.77	13	2493361414085.7
4	2348098682486.42	14	2493361414085.7
5	2468166484674.42	15	2493361414085.7
6	2493361414085.7	16	2493361414085.7
7	2493361414085.7	17	3725563864677.87
8	2493361414085.7	18	2229275264407.74
9	2493361414085.7	19	1321601628467.21
10	2493361414085.7	20	401245560250.7

Multi-rigid-body piecewise model is established in ADAMS, which is connected by beam elements. The beam model of the hull as shown in Fig. 1.



**Figure 1.** The model of Section beam element in ADAMS.

Results of natural frequency of the hull beam model are obtained by running the program. The error of the

results and the actual natural frequency are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Sectional moment of inertia of y axis..

Actual natural frequency (Hz)	Beam model results (Hz)	error%
0.9953	1.125	13.0312
1.3108	1.5176	15.7766
2.1445	2.634	22.8258
3.1305	3.8821	24.0089
3.3807	4.3479	28.6095
3.5282	4.6523	31.8604
3.7679	4.9875	32.3682
4.3084	5.7787	34.1264
4.8068	6.4879	34.9734
5.559	7.5946	36.6181

As can be seen from the results, the error of hull simplified by this way is great.

### 3 The processing of Lateral stiffness

The simplified model of the hull beam by the former way ignores the effect of the transverse components to hull stiffness. When calculate the section, transverse components such as transverse beam and ribs in the two sections of the beam are often not cut, after division of beam element. The results calculated show that the stiffness of section inertia moment will be much smaller than the actual stiffness of sectional inertia moment. And even if either cross sections or one of them is on the transverse components, the calculated results and the actual situation still differs a lot. The stiffness of the frame structure with vertical and horizontal cross is different from that of the solid structure.

So the method of calculation of section moment of inertia of y axis should be different from the x and z axis.

The method of calculation of the x and z axis remains the same, another method is chosen for y axis [17]. For any section of hull, sectional modulus can be expressed as:

$$W = \frac{Z}{G} \quad (1)$$

$$I_y = W \times y_{\max} = \frac{Z \times y_{\max}}{G} \quad (2)$$

$$Z = \sum_{i=1}^n [T_{Yi} (H_{Ui} - H_{Di})^3 / 12 + T_{Yi} (H_{Ui} - H_{Di}) ((H_{Ui} + H_{Di}) / 2 - G)^2] N_{Yi} + \sum_{i=1}^m T_{Xi} L_{Xi} (X_i - G)^2 N_{Xi} \quad (3)$$

$$G = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m T_{Xi} L_{Xi} X_i N_{Xi}}{\sum_{i=1}^m T_{Xi} L_{Xi} N_{Xi} + \sum_{i=1}^n T_{Yi} (H_{Ui} - H_{Di}) N_{Yi} + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n T_{Yi} (H_{Ui} - H_{Di}) (H_{Ui} + H_{Di}) / 2 N_{Yi}}{\sum_{i=1}^m T_{Xi} L_{Xi} N_{Xi} + \sum_{i=1}^n T_{Yi} (H_{Ui} - H_{Di}) N_{Yi}} \quad (4)$$

in the formula,

$G$  —the height from the neutral axis to the base plate when cross section is in linear elastic range, m;

$T_{Xi}$  — The thickness of the class I components in the horizontal direction, mm;

$L_{Xi}$  —the length of the components of I class in the horizontal direction, m;

$X_i$ —the height from the components of I class to the base plate, m;

$N_{Xi}$ —the number of the components of I class in the horizontal direction;

$T_{Yi}$  —the thickness of the components of I class in the vertical direction, mm;

$H_{Ui}$  ,  $H_{Di}$  —the height from both ends of the components of I class to the base plate, m;

$N_{Yi}$  —the number of the components of I class in the vertical direction;

$m$ —the number kinds of horizontal components;

$n$ —the number kinds of vertical components;

In order to achieve the purpose of high efficiency and simple, the program is prepared to calculate:

>>>syms tx1 tx2 tx3 tx4 tx5 tx6 lx1 lx2 lx3 lx4 lx5 lx6 x1 x2 x3 x4 x5 x6 nx1 nx2 nx3 nx4 nx5 nx6 ty1 ty2 ty3 ty4 ny1 ny2 ny3 ny4 hu1 hu2 hu3 hu4 hd1 hd2 hd3 hd4;

>>>G=(tx1\*lx1\*x1\*nx1+tx2\*lx2\*x2\*nx2+tx3\*lx3\*x3\*nx3+tx4\*lx4\*x4\*nx4+tx5\*lx5\*x5\*nx5+tx6\*lx6\*x6\*nx6+ty1\*(hu1-hd1)\*(hu1+hd1)/2/ny1+ty2\*(hu2-hd2)\*(hu2+hd2)/2/ny2+ty3\*(hu3-hd3)\*(hu3+hd3)/2/ny3+ty4\*(hu4-hd4)\*(hu4+hd4)/2/ny4)/(tx1\*lx1\*nx1+tx2\*lx2\*nx2+tx3\*lx3\*nx3+tx4\*lx4\*nx4+tx5\*lx5\*nx5+tx6\*lx6\*nx6+ty1\*(hu1-hd1)\*ny1+ty2\*(hu2-hd2)\*ny2+ty3\*(hu3-hd3)\*ny3+ty4\*(hu4-hd4)\*ny4);

>>>Z=tx1\*lx1\*(x1-G)^2\*nx1+tx2\*lx2\*(x2-G)^2\*nx2+tx3\*lx3\*(x3-G)^2\*nx3+tx4\*lx4\*(x4-G)^2\*nx4+tx5\*lx5\*(x5-G)^2\*nx5+tx6\*lx6\*(x6-G)^2\*nx6+(ty1\*(hu1-hd1)^3/12+ty1\*(hu1-hd1)\*((hu1+hd1)/2-G)^2)\*ny1+(ty2\*(hu2-hd2)^3/12+ty2\*(hu2-hd2)\*((hu2+hd2)/2-G)^2)\*ny2+(ty3\*(hu3-hd3)^3/12+ty3\*(hu3-hd3)\*((hu3+hd3)/2-G)^2)\*ny3+(ty4\*(hu4-hd4)^3/12+ty4\*(hu4-hd4)\*((hu4+hd4)/2-G)^2)\*ny4;

>>> W=Z/G;

Set the section moment of inertia of y axis after integration into the attributes of the software ADAMS, calculating along with the data of the x, z axis. Results as shown in table 5:

**Table 5.** beam model results of sectional moment of inertia of y axis after changed and the error of the actual natural frequency

Actual natural frequency (Hz)	Beam model results (Hz)	error%
0.9953	1.0252	3.0041
1.3108	1.3626	3.9518
2.1445	2.2313	4.0476
3.1305	3.2576	4.0601
3.3807	3.5724	5.6704
3.5282	3.7588	6.5359
3.7679	4.0731	8.1

4.3084	4.8248	11.9859
4.8068	5.4389	13.1501
5.559	6.6472	19.5755

From the data table can be seen, after changing the Y axis cross section moment of inertia calculation method, the accuracy of the results increased about 10 percentage points.

#### 4 The processing of other special parts

When faced with ship with large opening, the ship is extremely prone to torsional deformation [18]. When the torsion occurs, the accuracy of simplified stiffness of Z axis is very important. It needs to make corresponding changes to calculate sectional moment of inertia of the z axis.

For analysis of hull torsion, the hull must be looked as thin-walled beam, deck and the outer plate as thin wall of hollow beam [19]. When the hull of the deck with a long opening has torsional deformation, section torsional moment of inertia:

$$I_z = \frac{1}{3}(Bt_b^3 + 2Dt_s^2 + 2Ct_d^3) \quad (5)$$

in formula,

$B$ —The actual width of the hull, m;

$D$ —The actual depth of the hull, m;

$C$ —The width of the deck plate, m;

$t_b$  —The thickness of bottom plate, mm;

$t_s$  —The thickness of side plate, mm;

$t_d$  —The thickness of deck plate, mm.

This paper studied 54 m mobile carrier with the large opening, so the processing opening of section moment of inertia is considered.

After the sectional moment of inertia reprocessed and running in ADAMS, the results are as shown in table 6:

**Table 6.** beam model results of sectional moment of inertia of z axis after changed and the error of the actual natural frequency

Actual natural frequency (Hz)	Beam model results (Hz)	error%
0.9953	1.0157	2.0496
1.3108	1.3514	3.0973
2.1445	2.2171	3.3854
3.1305	3.2393	3.4755
3.3807	3.4565	2.2421
3.5282	3.6681	3.9652
Actual natural frequency (Hz)	Beam model results (Hz)	error%
3.7679	3.9753	5.5044
4.3084	4.6149	7.114
4.8068	5.2466	9.1495
5.559	6.2308	12.0849

It is can be seen from the results that after the processing changed, the accuracy of the sectional moment of inertia improves again. All the results of beam model and the error with actual natural frequency are all

reduced by 1% or so. And they are more close to actual results.

## 5 Conclusions

The processing of equivalent stiffness is a very important research part in vibration analysis. The accuracy of the equivalent stiffness directly affects the results of the entire study whether is correct and whether the conclusion of the research makes sense.

In this paper, the processing method of the equivalent stiffness of the ship hull girder is studied. Using ADAMS software for auxiliary calculation obtained more accurate method than the commonly used method to deal with hull girder segment element. The equivalent stiffness is more close to the actual situation, thus improving the accuracy of the calculation of natural frequency in the study of vibration characteristics. Having been used in ADAMS, the modelling method turns out to be more accurate processing method than common hull girder section unit method.

The method is applicable for any hull which can be simplified to beam model. In this paper, the method of processing thin-walled structures with transverse and longitudinal structure can also provide a kind of support for the research of other subjects.

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