Analysis of Nonlinear Vibration of Euler-Bernoulli Beams Subjected to Compressive Axial Force via the Equivalent Linearization Method with a Weighted Averaging

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Abstract: In this paper, the equivalent linearization method with a weighted averaging is applied to analyze nonlinear vibration of Euler-Bernoulli beam resting on the elastic foundation and subjected to the compressive axial force. Frequency-Amplitude relationships of beams with simply supported and clamped-clamped end conditions are given in closed-forms. The present results are compared with ones achieved by using He's Variational Approach method and the 4th-order Runge-Kutta method, comparison shows accuracy of the obtained solution. Effects of the compressive axial force and the coefficient of elastic foundation on the nonlinear vibration behavior of beam are investigated in this work.

Keywords: equivalent linearization method, weighted averaging, nonlinear vibration, Euler-Bernoulli beam

1. INTRODUCTION

Vibration analysis of beams is an important issue in structural engineering applications such as long span bridges, aerospace vehicles, automobiles and many other industrial fields. The dynamics of continuous systems, such as beams, plates, and shells, are governed by nonlinear partial-differential equations in space and time. In general, it is very hard to find the exact or closed-form solutions for class of this problem. There are two basic points to study: type of this problem including the frequency domain method and the time domain method. In the time domain method, Rayleigh-Ritz and Galerkin methods are two well-known techniques to transform partial differential equations into ordinary differential equations.

The response of nonlinear oscillation problems is fully studied by the development of approximate methods. Some approximate methods have been developed recently such as Parameterized Perturbation Method (PPM) [1], Homotopy Perturbation Method (HPM) [2], Min-Max Approach (MMA) [3], Variational Iteration Method (VIM) [4], Energy Balance Method (EBM) [5] and Variational Approach (VA) [6] which were introduced by He; and the Equivalent Linearization Method (ELM) was proposed by Caughey [7].

Based on approximate analytical methods, nonlinear vibration of beams are very interested in many scientists. Using He’s Variational Iteration method, free vibration problems of an Euler–Bernoulli beam under various supporting conditions were investigated by Liu and Gurram [8]. Pakar and Payata analyzed nonlinear vibrations of buckled Euler-Bernoulli beams by employing He’s Min-Max Approach [9]. Sedighi and Reza used He’s Max-Min Approach and Amplitude-Frequency Formulation to investigate effect of quintic nonlinearity on transversely vibrating of buckled Euler-Bernoulli beams [10]. The nonlinear dynamics of a simply supported beam resting on a nonlinear spring foundation with cubic stiffness was studied by Pellicano and Mastroddi [11]. Nonlinear vibration and postbuckling of functionally graded materials beams resting on a nonlinear elastic foundation and subjected to an axial force were studied by Yaghoobi and Torabi using the Variational Iteration method [12]. Dynamic response of an elastic beam resting on a nonlinear foundation was investigated by Younesian et al. using the Variational Iteration Method [13]. The Variational Iteration method was used by Ozturk to analyze free vibration of beam resting on elastic foundation [14]. The Homotopy Analysis method was used by Pirbodaghi et al. to investigate nonlinear vibration behaviour of Euler-Bernoulli beams subjected to axial loads [15]. Based on He’s Variational Approach and
Laplace Iteration method, Bagheri et al. analyzed nonlinear responses of a clamped-clamped buckled beam [16]. Effect of shear deformation on free vibration of elastic beams with general boundary conditions was investigated by Li and Hua [17]. And recently, by using the Equivalent Linearization method, Hieu and Hai analyzed effects of the compressive axial force and the length of beams on nonlinear vibrating behaviour of quintic nonlinear Euler-Bernoulli beams subjected to axial forces [18].

Nonlinear response of a clamped-clamped buckled beam resting on linear elastic foundation was studied by Bagheri et al. [16], however, in the work, the influence of compressive axial force and coefficient of elastic foundation on vibrating response of beams has not been adequately studied. Thus, in the present paper, we focus on analyzing nonlinear vibration response of Euler-Bernoulli beams resting on elastic and subjected to axial force. Frequency-Amplitude relationships of beams with simply supported (S-S) and clamped-clamped (C-C) end conditions are given in closed-forms by employing the Equivalent Linearization method with a weighted averaging. The solution is compared with the one obtained by He’s Variational Approach (VA) method and the numerical one achieved by the 4th-order Runge-Kutta method. The results show accuracy of the present solution. Effects of the compressive axial force and the coefficient of elastic foundation on the nonlinear frequency and the frequency ratio of beam are investigated in this work.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM

Consider a straight beam on an elastic foundation with length \( L \), a cross-section \( A \), a mass per unit length \( \rho \) that subjected to an axial force of magnitude \( F' \) as shown in Figure 1. It is assumed that the cross-sectional area of the beam is uniform and its material is homogenous. With assumptions that ignore the transverse shear strains and the rotation of the cross section is due to bending only, the equation of motion of beam based on the Euler-Bernoulli beam theory as follows [19]:

\[
EI \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + \rho \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} + \left[ F' - \frac{EA}{2L} \left( \int_0^L \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)^2 dx \right) \right] \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + K'w = 0, \tag{1}
\]

where \( K' \) is the Winkler parameter of elastic foundation, \( I \) is moment of inertia, \( E \) is modulus of elasticity and \( w \) is the transverse displacement of any point on the neutral axis of beam.

For convenience, the following nondimensional variables are introduced:

\[
\bar{x} = \frac{x}{L}, \quad \bar{w} = \frac{w}{R}, \quad \bar{t} = \frac{t}{\sqrt{\rho L^3}}, \quad F = \frac{F' L^2}{EI}, \quad K = \frac{K' L^3}{EI}, \tag{2}
\]

where \( R = (IA)^{0.5} \) is the radius of gyration of the cross section. Using Eq. (2), Eq. (1) can be written in the dimensionless form as follows:

\[
\frac{\partial^4 \bar{w}}{\partial \bar{x}^4} + \frac{\partial^2 \bar{w}}{\partial \bar{t}^2} + \left[ F - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \bar{w}}{\partial \bar{x}} \right)^2 \right] \frac{\partial^2 \bar{w}}{\partial \bar{x}^2} + \bar{K} \bar{w} = 0. \tag{3}
\]

Assuming that displacement function \( \bar{w}(\bar{x}, \bar{t}) \) can be expanded as:

\[
\bar{w}(\bar{x}, \bar{t}) = Q(\bar{t}) \phi(\bar{x}), \tag{4}
\]
where \( Q(T) \) is the unknown time-dependent function to be determined and \( \phi(x) \) is the basis function satisfying the kinematic boundary conditions. The basis functions are selected as follows:

+ For simply supported (S-S) beam:

\[
\phi(x) = \sin(\pi x).
\]  

(5)

+ For clamped-clamped (C-C) beam:

\[
\phi(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[1 - \cos(2\pi x) \right].
\]  

(6)

Applying the Galerkin method, Eq. (3) is transformed into the following ordinary differential equation:

\[
\ddot{Q}(T) + a_1 \dot{Q}(T) + a_2 Q^3(T) = 0,
\]  

(7)

where:

\[
a_1 = \frac{\int \phi^3 \phi \, d\tau}{\int \phi^2 \, d\tau} + F \frac{\int \phi^2 \, d\tau}{\int \phi^2 \, d\tau} + K
\quad a_2 = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\int \left( \int \phi \, d\tau \right) \phi^2 \, d\tau}{\int \phi^2 \, d\tau}.
\]  

(8)

The beam is assumed to satisfy the following conditions:

\[
Q(0) = \alpha, \quad \dot{Q}(0) = 0.
\]  

(9)

where \( \alpha \) denotes the non-dimensional maximum amplitude of oscillation.

3. Solution Procedure

Based on the equivalent linearization method proposed Caughey [7]; in refs. [20, 21], Anh et al. had developed this method by using the weighted averaging instead of the convenial (classical) averaging [22]. The equivalent linearization method with a weighted averaging has been used to analyze responses of strong nonlinear oscillation problems and this method gives the solutions with much better accuracy than the classical method [21, 23-25]. In this section, we will find the approximate analytical solution of Eq. (7) by using the equivalent linearization method with a weighted averaging. First, the linearized form of Eq. (7) is introduced as follows:

\[
\ddot{Q}(T) + \omega^2 Q(T) = 0
\]  

(10)

The equation error between the two oscillators given in Eq. (7) and Eq. (10) is:

\[
e(Q) = a_1 \dot{Q} + a_2 Q^3 - \omega^2 Q
\]  

(11)

where \( \omega^2 \) is determined by using the mean square error criterion which requires that [7]:

\[
\left\langle \varepsilon^2(Q) \right\rangle = \left\langle \left(a_1 \dot{Q} + a_2 Q^3 - \omega^2 Q \right)^2 \right\rangle \rightarrow \text{Min}_{\omega^2}
\]  

(12)

Thus, from

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial \omega^2} \left\langle \varepsilon^2 \right\rangle = 0
\]

we obtain:

\[
\omega^2 = a_1 \left\langle \dot{Q}^2 \right\rangle + a_2 \left\langle Q^4 \right\rangle \left\langle Q^2 \right\rangle
\]  

(13)

The symbol \( \left\langle \right\rangle \) in Eqs. (12) and (13) denotes the time-averaging operator in classical meaning [22]:

\[
\left\langle Q(\omega \tau) \right\rangle_{\text{classical}} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T Q(\omega \tau) \, d\tau = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} Q(\tau) \, d\tau, \quad \tau = \omega \tau.
\]  

(14)
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where $T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$ is the period of oscillation. The averaging value in Eq. (14) is called the classical/conventional averaging value which often leads to unacceptable errors for strongly nonlinear problems. In this paper, the weighted averaging value proposed by Anh et al. [20, 21] is used to calculate averaging values in Eq. (13). By replacing the constant coefficient $1/T$ in Eq. (14) by a weighted coefficient function $h(T)$. By this way, the averaging value is calculated in the new way called weighted averaging value as follows:

$$\langle Q(T) \rangle_w = \int_0^T h(T) Q(T) dT.$$  \hspace{1cm} (15)

where $h(T)$ is the weighted coefficient function which must satisfy the following condition:

$$\int_0^T h(T) dT = 1.$$  \hspace{1cm} (16)

In this paper, we use a specific form of the weighted coefficient function as [20, 21]:

$$h(T) = s^2 \omega T e^{-sT},$$  \hspace{1cm} (17)

with $s$ is a positive constant, Eq. (15) will take the form of Eq. (14) when $s=0$.

The periodic solution of the linearized equation (10) is:

$$Q(T) = \alpha \cos(\omega T)$$  \hspace{1cm} (18)

With the periodic solution given in Eq. (18) and the weighted coefficient in Eq. (17), we will calculate $\langle Q^2 \rangle$ and $\langle Q^4 \rangle$ by using Eq. (15), we get:

$$\langle Q^2 \rangle_w = \int_0^T s^2 \omega T e^{-sT} \alpha^2 \cos^2(\omega T) dT = \alpha^2 \frac{s^4 + 2s^2 + 8}{(s^2 + 4)^2}. \hspace{1cm} (19)$$

$$\langle Q^4 \rangle_w = \int_0^T s^2 \omega T e^{-sT} \alpha^4 \cos^4(\omega T) dT = \alpha^4 \frac{s^8 + 28s^6 + 248s^4 + 416s^2 + 1536}{(s^2 + 4)^2(s^2 + 16)^2}. \hspace{1cm} (20)$$

Substituting Eqs. (19) and (20) into Eq. (13), we obtain the approximate frequency:

$$\omega = \sqrt{a_1 + a_2 \alpha^2 \frac{s^4 + 28s^6 + 248s^4 + 416s^2 + 1536}{(s^2 + 2s^2 + 8)(s^2 + 16)^2}}. \hspace{1cm} (21)$$

With the parameter $s$ is chosen equal to 2, the approximate frequency will be:

$$\omega_{NL} = \sqrt{a_1 + \frac{9216}{12800}a_2 \alpha^2} = \sqrt{a_1 + 0.72a_2 \alpha^2}. \hspace{1cm} (22)$$

Therefore, the approximate solution can be get as:

$$Q(T) = \alpha \cos\left(\sqrt{a_1 + 0.72a_2 \alpha^2} \frac{T}{T}\right). \hspace{1cm} (23)$$

4. NUMERICAL RESULTS

The approximate frequency $\omega_{\text{present}}$ in Eq. (22), the one obtained by Bagheri et al. using He’s Variational Approach (VA) $\omega_{VA}$ as given in Eq. (24) [16] and the exact frequency $\omega_{\text{exact}}$ is compared. It is noted that Eq. (7) is the Cubic-Duffing oscillation, the exact frequency is given in Eq. (25) [26]. Comparison is presented in Table 1 for different values of the initial amplitude and $a_1=2$, $a_2=10$. We can see accuracy of the present solution from Table 1, when the initial amplitude of oscillation($a$) increases, relative error of the present solution is only 0.2% while relative error of the approximate solution using He’s Variational Approach is up to 2.2%.
The approximate frequency obtained by He’s Variational Approach is given as [16]:

\[ \omega_{VA} = \sqrt{\omega^2_0 + 0.75 \alpha^2}. \]  

(24)

The exact frequency of oscillation described by Eq. (7) is [26]:

\[ \alpha_{exact} = \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{2} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{d\theta}{\sqrt{2a_1 + a_2 \alpha^2 (1 + \cos^2 \theta)}}}. \]  

(25)

<table>
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<th>Table 1. Comparison of approximate frequencies with the exact frequency</th>
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<td>( \alpha )</td>
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Using the basis functions given in Eqs. (5) and (6) and performing the integrations in Eq. (8), we can obtain the following expressions for the nonlinear frequency:

+ For S-S beam:

\[ \omega_{NL} = \sqrt{\left(\pi^4 + K - \pi^2 F + 0.72 \frac{\pi^2}{4} \alpha^2 \right)}. \]  

(26)

+ For C-C beam:

\[ \omega_{NL} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{16}{3} \pi^4 + K - \frac{4}{3} \pi^2 F + 0.72 \frac{\pi^4}{3} \alpha^2 \right)}. \]  

(27)

Comparison of frequency ratios (\( \omega_{NL} / \omega_L \)) of beams achieved by two methods with various values of the initial amplitude (\( \alpha \)), the compressive axial force (\( F \)) and the Winkler parameter (\( K \)) are presented in Table 2. A very good agreement between the frequency ratios obtained by two methods. Noted that the linear frequency (\( \omega_L \)) is given by:

\[ \omega_L = \sqrt{\omega^2_0}. \]  

(28)

<table>
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<th>Table 2. Frequency ratios of beams achieved by two methods</th>
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Comparison of time-responses between the present solution and the VA solution with the numerical solution using the 4th-order Runge-Kutta method are presented in Figures 2 and 3.
Influences of the compressive axial force \( F \) and the coefficient of elastic foundation \( K \) on the nonlinear frequency \( \omega_{NL} \) and the frequency ratio \( \omega_{NL} / \omega_L \) are presented Figures 4-7 for both S-S and C-C beams. Figures 4 and 5 are presented influence of the compressive axial force on vibration response of S-S and C-C beams with \( K=150 \), respectively. We can see from these Figures that when the initial amplitude \( \alpha \) increases, both the nonlinear frequency \( \omega_{NL} \) and the frequency ratio \( \omega_{NL} / \omega_L \) of beams increase. From Figures 4 and 5, we can see that when the compressive axial force \( F \) increases, the nonlinear frequency decreases; and on the other hand, the frequency ratio increases. When the compressive axial force \( F \) increases, the nonlinear frequency of the beam decreases more slowly than the linear frequency, which leads to an increasing in the frequency ratio. Opposite of influence of the compressive axial force, it can be deduced from Figures 6 and 7 that the nonlinear frequency increases and the frequency ratio decreases as the Winkler parameter \( K \) increases. This situation is appropriate because when the coefficient of elastic foundation \( K \) increases, it will make beam to harder, and therefore, the nonlinear frequency will increase. However, the increase in the nonlinear frequency is slower than the increase of the linear frequency, which will cause the frequency ratio to decrease as the coefficient of elastic foundation \( K \) increases.
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Fig 5. Variation of the nonlinear frequency (a) and the frequency ratio (b) of C-C beam with the initial amplitude for $K=150$

Fig 6. Variation of the nonlinear frequency (a) and the frequency ratio (b) of S-S beam with the initial amplitude for $F=7$

Fig 7. Variation of the nonlinear frequency (a) and the frequency ratio (b) of C-C beam with the initial amplitude for $F=7$

Furthermore, to achieve a better understanding of effects of the compressive axial force and the coefficient of elastic foundation on the vibration response of beams, we perform sensitivity analysis of the frequency ratio via the compressive axial force, the coefficient of elastic foundation and the initial amplitude. The results of sensitivity analysis are presented in Figures 8-10.
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5. **Conclusions**

In this paper, nonlinear responses of Euler-Bernoulli beams resting on linear elastic foundation are investigated. The equivalent linearization method with a weighted averaging is employed to derive the amplitude – frequency relationship of beam. Comparing with the previous and numerical solutions...
shown accuracy of the present solution. Effects of the compressive axial force and the coefficient of elastic foundation on the nonlinear frequency and the frequency ratio of S-S and C-C beams are studied.

When the compressive axial force $F$ increases, the nonlinear frequency decreases; and on the other hand, the frequency ratio increases.

The nonlinear frequency increases and the frequency ratio decreases as the Winkler parameter $K$ increases.

Furthermore, sensitivity analysis of the frequency ratio via the compressive axial force, the coefficient of elastic foundation and the initial amplitude are also investigated in this paper.

However, when the axial compressive force is very large, beams will be unstable, stable analysis of compressed axial beams should be studied in the next time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The research is supported by Thai Nguyen University of Technology grant for a scientific project (no. “T2018-B27”).

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