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Dynamics of a multi-pulse excited rotating beam system

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Short Report

Keywords: rotating beam, multi-pulse excitation, periodic motion, rigid-flexible coupling dynamics, machine gun system

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- Abstract: The periodic motion characteristic is crucial for the firing accuracy of the machine gun system. In this study, a demonstrated machine gun system is simplified as a rotating beam system to study its periodic motion characteristic under a multi-pulsed excitation. Unlike the previously rotating beam model, the beam axis and the rotation center are non-collinear. The nonlinear coupled dynamic model of the system is derived by Rayleigh-Ritz method and Lagrange equation, and the dynamic responses are analyzed using Runge-Kutta method. Based on the computed responses, the effect of rotating radius, beam length, torsional stiffness and damping on system dynamic behavior are analyzed and discussed. Results reveal that increasing the rotating radius and beam length could affect the periodic motion of the system gradually. Increasing the torsional stiffness could enhance the periodic motion characteristic of the rotating beam system. The quasi-periodic motion characterized of the system could be dominated by matching the torsional damping.

Keywords: rotating beam; multi-pulse excitation; periodic motion; rigid-flexible coupling dynamics; machine gun system

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1. Introduction

Periodic vibration characteristic is one of the major factors of the firing accuracy of 21 the machine gun system [1-3]. Due to the elastic deformation of the machine gun system 22 during the firing process, the initial conditions of the bullet will be directly affected by the 23 muzzle vibration [4]. In other words, the final bullet dispersion (firing accuracy) depends 24 on the muzzle dynamic behavior directly. A feasible way to improve the firing accuracy 25 is to reduce the muzzle vibration [5] or set the system parameters to ensure the muzzle 26 vibrates periodically [6]. In our study, the demonstrated machine gun system is simplified 27 as a rotating beam system, as illustrated in Fig. 2, to study the effects of system parameters 28 on its periodic motion characteristics. 29

In previous literatures, the dynamics of the rotating beam system has been studied 30 extensively. The topic has covered rotating tapered beam [7], rotating composite beam[8], 31 vibration control [9], rotating beam with a tip mass. This model is quite different from the 32 previous literatures and the main differences are as follows: (1) The beam axis and the 33 rotation center are non-collinear. In previous literature, the beam axis is considered col-34 linear to the rotation center [10, 11]. Since their potential engineering background may be 35 helicopter rotor blades [12], aircraft engine [13], robotic manipulators, and turbine blades 36 [14, 15]. For the machine gun system, considering the rotating beam with an axis eccen-37 tricity is more appropriate. (2) The rigid body motion is small. Therefore, the dynamic 38 stiffening effect [16] is not considered here. (3) The rotating beam system is subjected to 39 the multi-pulse excitation to simulate the dynamic behavior of the machine gun system 40which fires continuously. The torsional stiffness and damping effect between the hub and 41 ground are considered. (4) This study mainly focusses on the effects of system parameters 42 on the periodic motion characteristic of the beam's tip. Since the firing accuracy of the 43 machine gun system depends directly on the muzzle periodic motion. 44

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: in Section 2 the nonlinear coupled motion equations of the rotating beam system is derived using the Rayleigh-Ritz method and the Lagrange equation. The post processing formulation of the beam tip responses is given. In section 3, the Runge-Kutta method is used to analyze the dynamic responses of the 48

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system. Based on the responses, the nonlinear coupled motion equations are validated by
comparing the present results with those simulated by ADAMS software. Finally, the effects of rotating radius, beam length, torsional stiffness and damping on system dynamic
behavior are discussed.

2. System energy description

According to the structural deformation characteristic of the machine gun system 54 during the firing process (Fig. 1), the machine gun system is simplified as a rotating beam 55 system approximately, as shown in Fig. 2. The flexible beam is fixed to the rigid rotating 56 hub, and the beam rotates with the hub in the vertical plane. Therefore, the gravity effect 57 is considered here. The coordinate system $O_0-X_0Y_0$ is the inertia coordinate system, while 58 the O_1 -X₁Y₁ is the relative coordinate system which fixed to the flexible beam. The flexible 59 beam has a Young's modulus E, area moment of inertia I, density ρ , cross-sectional 60 area A and length L. The transverse deflection of the flexible beam in the O₁-X₁Y₁ is de-61 scribed by w(x,t). The hub radius and rotation angle are denoted by r and θ , respec-62 tively. The torsional stiffness k and damping c of the revolute joint between the rotat-63 ing hub and the base are considered to simulate the tripod torsional deformation charac-64 teristic. 65

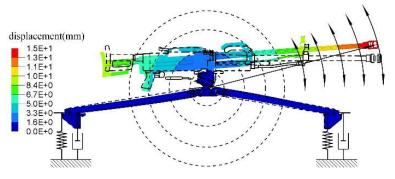


Fig. 1 Structural deformation of a machine gun system during firing [17].

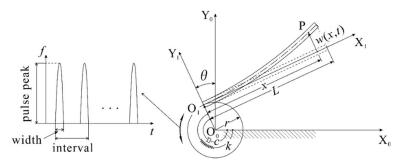


Fig. 2 Rotating beam model.

2.1. Energy expressions of the rotating beam system

It should be noted that the angular displacement and velocity of the machine gun body during the firing process is quite small [18-20], therefore the longitudinal deformation of the flexible beam is not considered here. Thus, the displacement of an arbitrary point P in the flexible beam is 74

$$\mathbf{R}_{P} = (x\cos\theta - (w+r)\sin\theta)\mathbf{i} + (x\sin\theta + (w+r)\cos\theta)\mathbf{j}$$
(1)

where, \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} are the unit vector in the directions of X₀ and Y₀ axes.

The velocity vector of the point P could be obtained by taking the differentiation of 77 Eq. (1) with respect to time t as 78

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$$\dot{\mathbf{R}}_{P} = \left(-x\dot{\theta}\sin\theta - \dot{w}\sin\theta - (w+r)\dot{\theta}\cos\theta\right)\mathbf{i} + \left(x\dot{\theta}\cos\theta + \dot{w}\cos\theta - (w+r)\dot{\theta}\sin\theta\right)\mathbf{j}$$
(2) 79

where dot denotes the derivation with respect to time.

The kinetic energy of the rotating beam system is given by

$$T = \frac{1}{2}J\dot{\theta}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\rho A \int_0^L \dot{\mathbf{R}}_p \cdot \dot{\mathbf{R}}_p dx$$
(3) 82

where the first term denotes the rotational kinetic energy of the hub; the second term de-83 notes the kinetic energy of the flexible beam; J is the moment of inertia of the rigid hub. 84

Consider $\theta = 0$ and w = 0 as the zero point of the system potential energy, the po-85 tential energy of the system is given by [21]

$$U = \frac{1}{2}k\theta^{2} + \frac{1}{2}EI\int_{0}^{L}w''^{2}dx + \rho Ag\int_{0}^{L} (\mathbf{R}_{P} \cdot \mathbf{j} - r)dx \qquad (4) \quad 87$$

where the three terms express the rotational potential energy of the hub, the strain energy 88 of flexible beam and the gravitational potential energy. The prime denotes the derivation 89 with respect to x coordinate. 90

2.2. Method of solution

In this section, the Rayleigh-Ritz method is used to derive the motion equations of 92 the system. According to the Rayleigh-Ritz method, the transverse deflection of the beam 93 w(x,t) is discretized in the form as

$$w(x,t) = \mathbf{N}(x)\mathbf{q}(t) \tag{5} 95$$

where

$$\mathbf{N}(x) = \begin{bmatrix} N_1(x), N_2(x), \dots, N_n(x) \end{bmatrix}$$
(6) 97

$$\mathbf{q}(t) = \left\lfloor q_1(t), q_2(t), \dots, q_n(t) \right\rfloor^t$$
(7) 98

where $N_i(x)$, i = 1, 2, ..., n are the basis functions, which satisfys all (or part of) the 99 boundary conditions; $q_i(t)$ are the time-dependent generalized coordinates in the O₁-100 X_1Y_1 ; *n* denotes the number of the basic functions. 101

By substituting Eq. (5) into Eqs. (3) and (4), one could obtain the discretized kinetic 102 energy and potential energy forms as 103

$$T = \frac{1}{2}J\dot{\theta}^{2} + \frac{1}{6}\rho AL\dot{\theta}^{2}\left(L^{2} + 3r^{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\dot{\mathbf{q}}^{T}\mathbf{m}_{1}\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \dot{\theta}\dot{\mathbf{q}}^{T}\mathbf{f}_{1} + \frac{1}{2}\dot{\theta}^{2}\mathbf{q}^{T}\mathbf{m}_{1}\mathbf{q} + \dot{\theta}^{2}\mathbf{q}^{T}\mathbf{f}_{2} \quad (8) \quad 104$$

$$U = \frac{1}{2}k\theta^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{q}^{T}\mathbf{k}_{1}\mathbf{q} + \frac{1}{2}\rho AL^{2}g\sin\theta + \cos\theta\mathbf{q}^{T}\mathbf{f}_{3} + \rho AgL(r\cos\theta - r)$$
(9) 105

where

$$\mathbf{m}_{1} = \rho A \int_{0}^{L} \left(\mathbf{N}^{T} \mathbf{N} \right) dx , \ \mathbf{k}_{1} = E I \int_{0}^{L} \mathbf{N}^{T} \mathbf{N}^{T} dx$$
(10, 11) 107

$$\mathbf{f}_{1} = \rho A \int_{0}^{L} \left(x \mathbf{N}^{T} \right) dx, \ \mathbf{f}_{2} = r \rho A \int_{0}^{L} \left(\mathbf{N}^{T} \right) dx \tag{12, 13}$$
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$$\mathbf{f}_{3} = \rho A g \int_{0}^{L} (\mathbf{N}^{T}) dx \tag{14}$$

To derive the motion equations of the system, the Lagrange equations is adopted here 110 and the general form could be given by [22] 111

$$\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}^{T}}\right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial \mathbf{q}^{T}} + \frac{\partial U}{\partial \mathbf{q}^{T}} = \mathbf{0}, \quad \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\theta}}\right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial U}{\partial \theta} = f \quad (15, 16) \quad 112$$

where f denotes the generalized torque excitation as displayed in Fig. 2.

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Once substituting Eqs. (8) and (9) into Eqs. (15) and (16), the nonlinear coupled mo-114 tion equations could be obtained as 115

$$\left(J + \frac{1}{3}\rho AL(L^2 + 3r^2) + \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{m}_1 \mathbf{q} + 2\mathbf{f}_2^T \mathbf{q}\right) \ddot{\theta} + \left(c + 2\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{m}_1 \dot{\mathbf{q}} + 2\mathbf{f}_2^T \dot{\mathbf{q}}\right) \dot{\theta} + (17) - 116$$

$$k\theta + \mathbf{f}_1^T \ddot{\mathbf{q}} - \sin\theta \mathbf{f}_3^T \mathbf{q} = \rho ALg \left(r\sin\theta - \frac{1}{2}L\cos\theta \right) + f$$

$$\mathbf{m}_{1}\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \left(\mathbf{k}_{1} - \dot{\theta}^{2}\mathbf{m}_{1}\right)\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{f}_{1}\ddot{\theta} - \mathbf{f}_{2}\dot{\theta}^{2} = -\cos\theta\mathbf{f}_{3}$$
(18) 117

To consider the structural damping effect of the flexible beam, the Rayleigh damping 118 model [23] is adopted and given by 119

$$\mathbf{c} = \alpha \mathbf{m}_1 + \beta \mathbf{k}_1 \tag{19} \quad 120$$

where, α and β are two damping coefficients.

According to Eq. (19), the Eq. (18) is modified as 122

$$\mathbf{m}_{1}\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{c}\dot{\mathbf{q}} + \left(\mathbf{k}_{1} - \theta^{2}\mathbf{m}_{1}\right)\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{f}_{1}\theta - \mathbf{f}_{2}\theta^{2} = -\cos\theta\mathbf{f}_{3}$$
(20) 123

The dynamic responses of the system $(\theta(t), q_i(t), i=1,2,...,n)$ could be ob-124 tained by solving the nonlinear coupled Eqs. (17) and (20) simultaneously using the time 125 integration method. In our study, the Runge-Kutta method [24] is used. 126

By introducing x = L, $w = \sum_{i=1}^{n} q_i(t)$ to Eqs. (1) and (2), one obtains the beam tip 127 128

displacement and velocity vector in the inertia system as

$$\mathbf{R}_{iip} = \left(L\cos\theta(t) - \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} q_i(t) + r\right)\sin\theta(t)\right)\mathbf{i} + \left(L\sin\theta(t) + \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} q_i(t) + r\right)\cos\theta(t)\right)\mathbf{j}\right)$$

$$\left(L\sin\theta(t) + \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} q_i(t) + r\right)\cos\theta(t)\right)\mathbf{j}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{R}}_{iip} = \left(-L\dot{\theta}(t)\sin\theta(t) - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \dot{q}_i(t)\sin\theta(t) - \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} q_i(t) + r\right)\dot{\theta}(t)\cos\theta(t)\right)\mathbf{j}\right)$$

$$\left(L\dot{\theta}(t)\cos\theta(t) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \dot{q}_i(t)\cos\theta(t) - \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} q_i(t) + r\right)\dot{\theta}(t)\sin\theta(t)\right)\mathbf{j}$$

$$(22) \quad 130$$

$$\left(L\dot{\theta}(t)\cos\theta(t) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \dot{q}_i(t)\cos\theta(t) - \int_{0}^{1} \mathbf{j}\right)$$
The beam tip response in the Y₀ axis direction could be obtained by
$$(21) \quad 129$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{iip,y} = \mathbf{R}_{iip} \cdot \mathbf{j}, \ \mathbf{\dot{R}}_{iip,y} = \mathbf{\dot{R}}_{iip} \cdot \mathbf{j}$$
(23) 132

3. Results and discussion

In this section, the effects of rotating radius, beam length, torsional stiffness and 134 damping on system dynamic behavior are analyzed and discussed based on the computed 135 response. Since these parameters are adjustable from the point of structural design. Study 136 the effects of the above parameters could provide a reference for the engineering applica-137 tion. 138

3.1. Validation

In this subsection, the dynamic model established in section 2 is validated by com-140paring the results with the famous dynamic analysis software ADAMS. In following, if 141 not specified otherwise, the system parameters are $E = 2e_{11N/m^2}$, $I = 1.33e_{8m^4}$, ρ 142

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=7900kg/m³, A =4e-4m², J =0.1225kg·m², L =1m, r =0.1m, c =10N·m·rad/s, k 143 =5000N·m/rad.

In simulation, a half-sine torque excitation is applied to the hub as

$$f = 50\sin(50\pi t) \quad for \ 0 \le t \le 0.01 \tag{24}$$

After the excitation disappears, the system vibrates freely. The dynamic responses 147 are compared in Fig. 3. It could be observed that the results of the established model are 148 in good agreement with those simulated by ADAMS software, this demonstrates the correctness of the nonlinear coupled motion equations established in section 2. 150

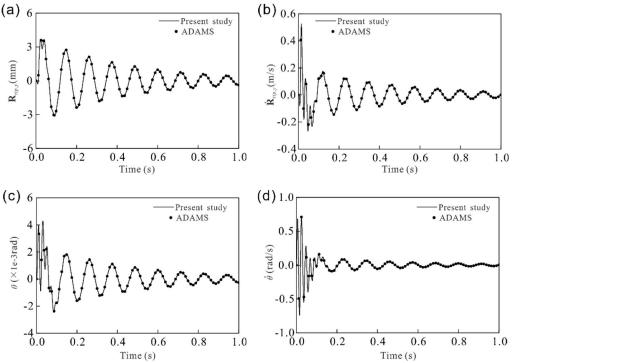


Fig. 3 Model validation by comparing present results with those simulated by ADAMS software: (a)153vertical displacement of the beam tip; (b) vertical velocity of the beam tip; (c) angular displacement154of the rigid hub; (d) angular velocity of the rigid hub.155

3.2. The effect of rotating radius on system dynamics

In following, multi-pulse excitation is applied to the hub, as shown in Fig. 2. The time 157 interval between each pulse excitation is 0.1s. In this subsection, we consider the case of 158 J = 0.1, L = 0.8, c = 1.5, k = 1000, and let r varies from 0 to 1. The bifurcation diagrams 159 of the system are plotted in Fig. 4 for different values of rotating radius. Fig. 4(a) is the 160 bifurcation diagram of the vertical displacement of the beam's tip. In order to show the 161 bifurcation clearly, $\mathbf{R}_{iip,y} - r$ is computed. Fig. 4(b) is the beam tip deflection in the local 162 coordinate system and Fig. 4(c) is the angular displacement of the rigid hub. 163

It could be found in Fig. 4(a) and (b) that for the small rotating radius, the beam vibrates periodically, and the corresponding Poincaré section and phase-plane are plotted 165 in Fig. 5 (a), (b). As r increases, the periodic motion of the system disappears gradually. 166 Two typical Poincaré sections and phase-planes are displayed in Fig. 5(c, d) and (e, f), the 167 rotating radius of them are 0.6 and 0.9, respectively. 168

Comparing Fig. 4(a-c), it could be observed that Fig. 4(a) is similar to Fig. 4(c), this 169 indicates that the periodic motion characteristic of beam's tip is mainly depend on the hub 170 rotation.

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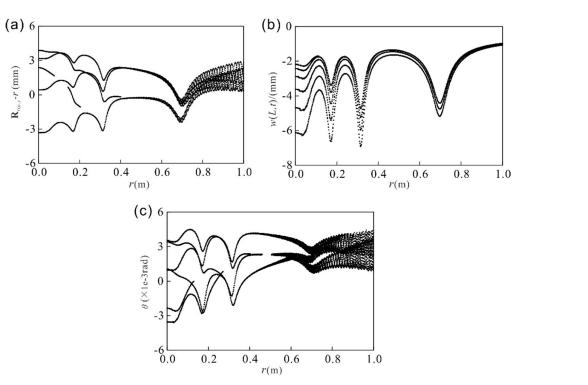
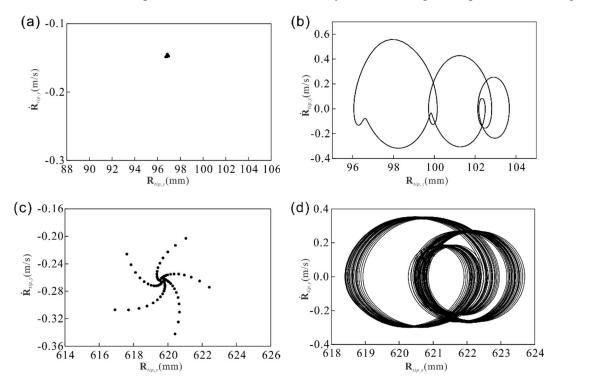


Fig. 4 Bifurcation diagrams as rotating radius is varied: (a) vertical displacement of the beam tip; (b) 174 beam tip deflection in the local coordinate system; (c) the angular displacement of the rigid hub. 175



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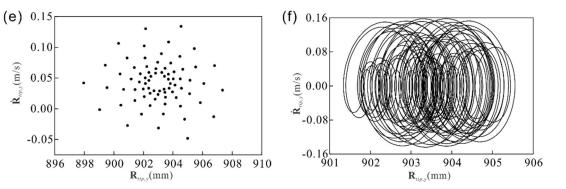
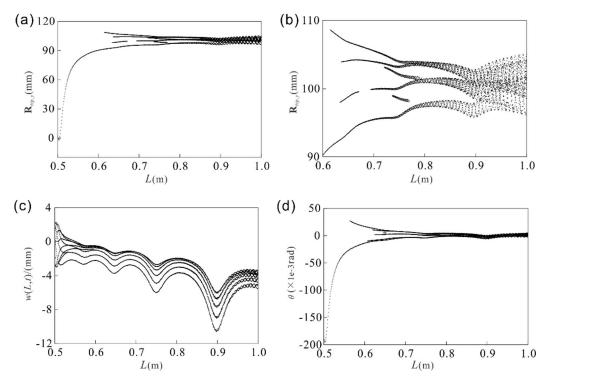


Fig. 5 Poincaré section (a, c, e) and phase-plane (b, d, f) of the system at: (a, b) r = 0.1; (c, d) r = 0.6; 179 (e, f) r = 0.9.

3.3. The effect of beam length on system dynamics

In this subsection, we consider the case of r = 0.1, c = 0.5, k = 1000, and let beam 182 length L vary from 0.5 to 1. The bifurcation diagrams of the system are plotted in Fig. 6 183 for different values of beam length. 184

Inspecting Fig. 6(a) and (c), it could be found that for the shorter beam length, its tip 185 has a periodic motion in the vertical direction. Fig. 7(a) and (b) display a typical Poincaré 186 section and phase-plane at L=0.6. As L further increases, the periodic motion of the 187 system disappears gradually, as shown in Fig. 6(b) and (e). Two typical Poincaré sections 188 and phase-planes are displayed in Fig. 7(c, d) and (e, f), the beam length of them is 0.7 and 189 0.9, respectively. This phenomenon could be attributed to the phenomenon that as beam 190 length increases, the moment of inertia of the system increases. As a result, the torsional 191 stiffness to the moment of inertia ratio decreases. 192



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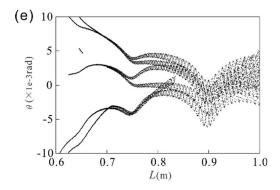


Fig. 6 Bifurcation diagrams as beam length is varied: (a) vertical displacement of the beam tip; (b)196magnified plot of (a); (c) beam tip deflection in the local coordinate system; (d) angular displacement197of the rigid hub; (e) magnified plot of (d).198

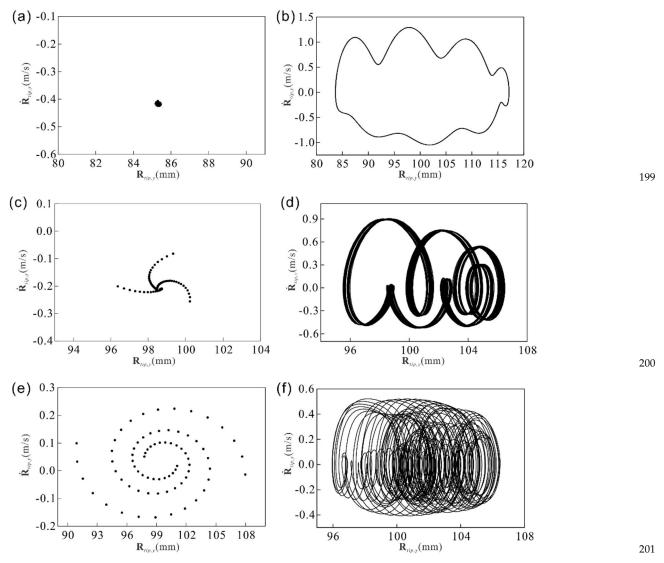


Fig. 7 Poincaré section (a, c, e) and phase-plane (b, d, f) of the system at: (a, b) L = 0.1; (c, d) L = 0.6; 202 (e, f) L = 0.9.

3.4. The effect of torsional stiffness on system dynamics

In this subsection, we consider the case of r = 0.1, L = 0.8, c = 0.5, and let torsional 205 stiffness k varies from 200 to 2000. We plot in Fig. 8 the bifurcation diagrams of the system for different values of torsional stiffness. 207

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It could be observed from Fig. 8(a) and (c) that for the small torsional stiffness, the 208 periodic motion characteristic of rotating beam system is relatively week. The Fig. 9(a) 209 and (b) display a typical Poincaré section and phase-plane at k = 240. As the torsional 210 stiffness k increases, the periodic motion characteristic will be enhanced gradually. Two 211 typical Poincaré sections and phase-planes are displayed in Fig. 9(c, d) and (e, f), the tor-212 sional stiffness of them are 1180 and 2000, respectively. However, it is interesting to find 213 that as the torsional stiffness increases from 1000 to 2000, no significant improvement of 214 the periodic motion is observed, as depicted in Fig. 8(a) and (c). When k arrives 2000, 215 the motion of the system is still behaving as quasi-periodic, as shown in Fig. 9(e, f). This 216 is because that structural stiffness could not dissipate the vibration energy effectively. 217

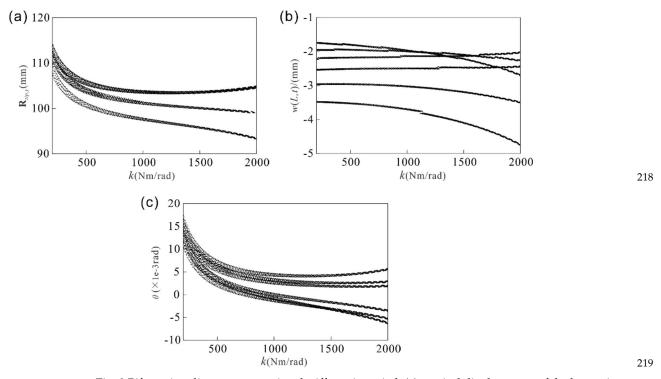
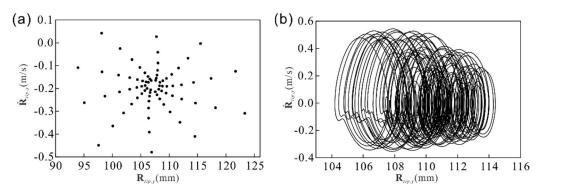


Fig. 8 Bifurcation diagrams as torsional stiffness is varied: (a) vertical displacement of the beam tip;220(b) beam tip deflection in the local coordinate system; (c) angular displacement of the rigid hub.221



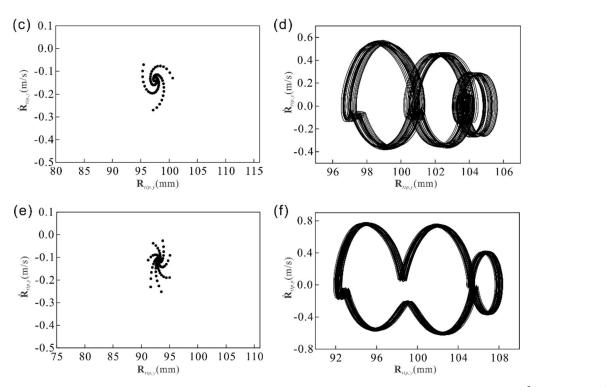
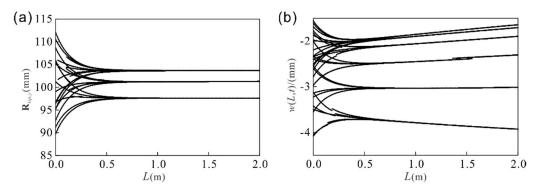


Fig. 9 Poincaré section (a, c, e) and phase-plane (b, d, f) of the system at: (a, b) k = 240; (c, d) k 225 =1180; (e, f) k =2000. 226

3.5. The effect of torsional damping on system dynamics

In this subsection, we vary the torsional damping from 0 to 2, and the other parame-228 ter are: r = 0.1, L = 0.8, k = 1000, respectively. The bifurcation diagrams of the system for 229 different values of torsional stiffness are plotted in Fig. 10. Inspecting Fig. 10(a-c) it could 230 be observed that as the torsional damping increases, the motion of the system will become 231 periodic motion, and the critical point is at about c = 1. Three typical Poincaré sections 232 and phase-planes are displayed in Fig. 11(a, b), (c, d) and (e, f), the torsional damping of them is 0, 0.5 and 2, respectively.

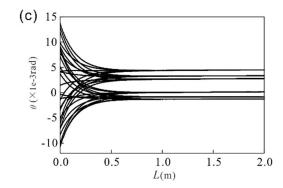
Comparing section 3.4 and 3.5, it could be observed that increase the torsional stiff-235 ness could enhance the periodic motion characteristic of the rotating beam system. How-236 ever, increasing the tripod stiffness significantly is relatively difficult in practical engi-237 neering. Therefore, matching the torsional damping is a feasible approach in this case. 238



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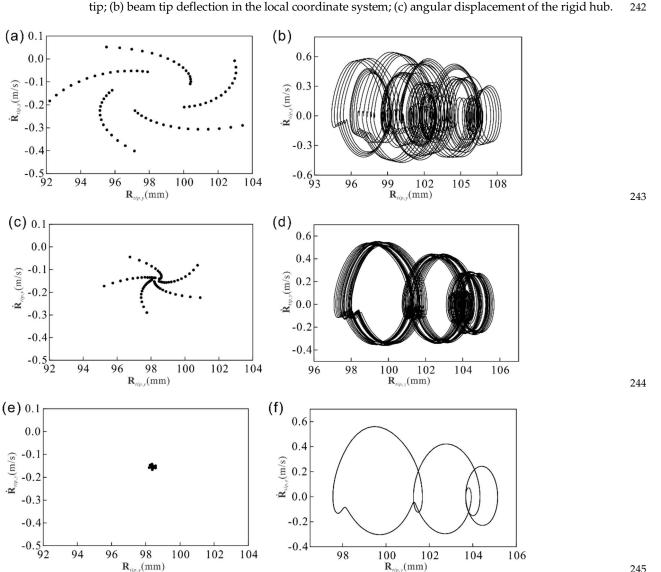


Fig. 10 Bifurcation diagrams as torsional damping is varied: (a) vertical displacement of the beam

Fig. 11 Poincaré section (a, c, e) and phase-plane (b, d, f) of the system at: (a, b) c = 0; (c, d) c = 0.5; 246 (e, f) C = 2. 247

4. Conclusions

In this study, a demonstrated machine gun system is simplified as a rotating beam 249 system to study its motion characteristic under a multi-pulsed excitation. Based on the 250 computed responses, the effects of the key structural parameters, including rotating 251

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radius, beam length, torsional stiffness and damping on system dynamic behavior are discussed. The conclusions are as follows, 253

1) Increasing the rotating radius and beam length could affect the periodic motion of254the system gradually. As the rotating radius and beam length increase to a certain extent,255the motion of the system will become quasi-periodic.256

2) It is observed that the hub rotation has significant influence on the periodic motion characteristic of the beam's tip. Increasing the torsional stiffness could enhance the periodic motion characteristic of the rotating beam system.

3) The quasi-periodic motion of the system could be suppressed by matching the torsional damping. As the torsional damping increases and exceeds the critical point, the system will vibrate periodically.

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