

relative to the stator at a high speed, the viscous gas is brought into the wedge-shaped clearance, in which the dynamic pressure effect is formed. Then, the gas film pressure is produced and the dynamic pressure suspension is formed. The spiral groove not only forms the staircase effect in the bearing clearance, but also enhances the pumping effect and promotes the dynamic pressure effect.

2.2. Mathematical Modeling

Based on the computational fluid dynamics, the gas lubrication theory, the fluid motion equation, the continuity equation and the ideal gas equation have been established [7-9]. The nonlinear dimensionless Reynolds equation of conical spiral groove aerodynamic bearings under the state of laminar flow is established in the transient state. Using the conformal transformation, the solution domain is turned into a standard rectangular [10-12]. The conversion formula can be expressed as:

$$\psi = \ln R / \sin \alpha, \quad d\psi = dR / (R \sin \alpha)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} (H^3 \frac{\partial P^2}{\partial \phi}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} (H^3 \frac{\partial P^2}{\partial \psi}) = 2\Lambda \gamma \sin^2 \alpha \frac{\partial (PH)}{\partial \phi} \quad (1)$$

$$+ (h_0 \omega \varepsilon_1' \cos \phi + e \omega \theta' \sin \phi) \cos \alpha - h_0 \omega \varepsilon_2' \sin \alpha$$

where, α is the cone angle, h_0 is the bearing clearance, ω is the rotational speed, p is the gas film pressure, ϕ is the circumferential direction coordinate, $R = r / r_1$ is the dimensionless radial radius, $H = h / h_0$ is the dimensionless film thickness, $P = p / p_a$ is the dimensionless gas film pressure, $\varepsilon_1 = e_1 / h_0$ is the dimensionless radial eccentricity, $\varepsilon_2 = e_2 / h_0$ is the dimensionless axial eccentricity, θ' is the dimensionless rotational speed, θ is the position angle, $\Lambda = 6\mu\omega r_1^2 / P_a h_0^2$, $d\psi = dR / (R \sin \alpha)$.

3. SOLUTION OF DYNAMIC CHARACTERISTIC COEFFICIENTS

3.1. The Stiffness and Damping Equations

If the rotor deviates from the steady-state position O_1 in the ξ , η and z directions, as shown in Fig (2), the gas pressure of the steady-state position can be expressed as:

$$p_0 = p(\psi, \varphi, Z; e, \theta, z; 0, 0, 0)$$

The gas pressure of the transient state position can be expressed as:

$$p = p(\psi, \varphi, Z; e, \theta, z; e', e\theta', z')$$

The transient pressure P can be expanded into Taylor series that the rotor deviates from the steady-state position (omitted the second order term).

$$p = p_0 + p_e \Delta e + p_{\theta} \Delta(e\Delta\theta) + p_z \Delta z$$

$$+ p_e' \Delta e' + p_{\theta}' \Delta(e\Delta\theta') + p_z' \Delta z'$$

where, $(\Delta e = (e - e_0), e\Delta\theta = e\theta - e\theta_0, \Delta z = z - z_0)$ are transient displacement; $(\Delta e', e\Delta\theta', \Delta z')$ are transient speed; $(p_e, p_{\theta}, p_z, p_e', p_{\theta}', p_z')$ are the variation rate that the p changes with $(\Delta e, e\Delta\theta, \Delta z, \Delta e', e\Delta\theta', \Delta z')$ which is called the perturbation pressure.

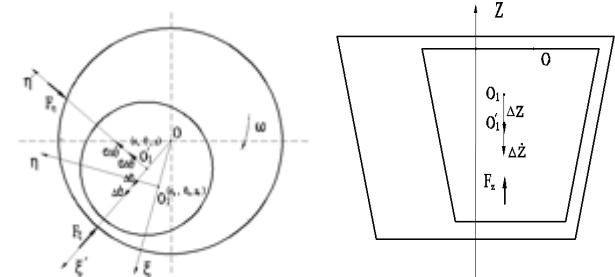


Fig. (2) Force analysis.

The gas force for whirling slightly can be derived:

$$\left. \begin{matrix} F_e \\ F_{\theta} \\ F_z \end{matrix} \right\} = - \int_{r_0}^{r_2} \int_{\varphi_1}^{\varphi_2} p \left\{ \begin{matrix} \sin \alpha \cos \alpha \cos \varphi \\ \sin \alpha \cos \alpha \sin \varphi \\ \sin^2 \alpha \end{matrix} \right\} r d\varphi \quad (2)$$

The gas film force derivative of the transient displacement is known as the gas film stiffness coefficient k_{ij} . i is the direction of the force increment and j is the direction of the displacement increment.

$$k_{ee} = (\frac{\partial F_e}{\partial e})_0; k_{e\theta} = (\frac{\partial F_e}{\partial \theta})_0; k_{ez} = (\frac{\partial F_e}{\partial z})_0;$$

$$k_{\theta e} = (\frac{\partial F_{\theta}}{\partial e})_0; k_{\theta\theta} = (\frac{\partial F_{\theta}}{\partial \theta})_0; k_{\theta z} = (\frac{\partial F_{\theta}}{\partial z})_0;$$

$$k_{ze} = (\frac{\partial F_z}{\partial e})_0; k_{z\theta} = (\frac{\partial F_z}{\partial \theta})_0; k_{zz} = (\frac{\partial F_z}{\partial z})_0;$$

The gas film force derivative of the transient speed is known as the gas film damping coefficient b_{ij} . i is the direction of the force increment and j is the direction of the displacement increment.

$$b_{ee} = (\frac{\partial F_e}{\partial e'})_0; b_{e\theta} = (\frac{\partial F_e}{\partial \theta'})_0; b_{ez} = (\frac{\partial F_e}{\partial z'})_0;$$

$$b_{\theta e} = (\frac{\partial F_{\theta}}{\partial e'})_0; b_{\theta\theta} = (\frac{\partial F_{\theta}}{\partial \theta'})_0; b_{\theta z} = (\frac{\partial F_{\theta}}{\partial z'})_0;$$

$$b_{ze} = (\frac{\partial F_z}{\partial e'})_0; b_{z\theta} = (\frac{\partial F_z}{\partial \theta'})_0; b_{zz} = (\frac{\partial F_z}{\partial z'})_0;$$

$$\frac{\partial F_i}{\partial s_j} = - \frac{\partial}{\partial s_j} \int_{r_0}^{r_2} \int_{\varphi_1}^{\varphi_2} p f_i' r dr d\varphi \quad (3)$$

The derivative of Eq. (3) is solved, then the dimensionless stiffness coefficient $K_{i,j} = k_{i,j} / (p_a r_1^2)$ and the non-dimensional damping coefficients $B_{i,j} = b_{i,j} / (p_a r_1^2)$ can be derived:

$$\begin{Bmatrix} K_{ei} \\ K_{\theta i} \\ K_{zi} \end{Bmatrix} = - \int_{R_0}^{R_2} \int_{\phi_1}^{\phi_2} P_j \begin{Bmatrix} \sin \alpha \cos \alpha \cos \phi \\ \sin \alpha \cos \alpha \sin \phi \\ \sin^2 \alpha \end{Bmatrix} R dR d\phi \quad (4)$$

Letting $(i, j) = (e, \varepsilon_1), (\theta, \theta'), (z, \varepsilon_2)$;

$$\begin{Bmatrix} B_{ei} \\ B_{\theta i} \\ B_{zi} \end{Bmatrix} = - \int_{R_0}^{R_2} \int_{\phi_1}^{\phi_2} P_j \begin{Bmatrix} \sin \alpha \cos \alpha \cos \phi \\ \sin \alpha \cos \alpha \sin \phi \\ \sin^2 \alpha \end{Bmatrix} R dR d\phi \quad (5)$$

Letting $(i, j) = (e, \varepsilon_1'), (\theta, \theta'), (z, \varepsilon_2')$;

With $P_{\varepsilon_1} = \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial \varepsilon_1}\right)_0, P_{\theta} = \left(\frac{1}{e} \frac{\partial P}{\partial \theta}\right)_0, P_{\varepsilon_2} = \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial z}\right)_0$;

$$P_{\varepsilon_1'} = \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial \varepsilon_1'}\right)_0, P_{\theta'} = \left(\frac{1}{e} \frac{\partial P}{\partial \theta'}\right)_0, P_{\varepsilon_2'} = \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial \varepsilon_2'}\right)_0$$

3.2. Solution of Perturbation Pressure

The difference expression of the governing equation Eq. (1) is established in the oblique coordinate system. The grids are meshed in the oblique coordinate system $(x = \phi - \psi / \tan \beta, y = \psi / \sin \beta)$, its line should coincide with the boundary of the groove and ridge. The solution domain is meshed in the direction of X and Y, as shown in Fig. (3). The range of $0 \sim 2\pi$ is divided into m grids in the X direction, the net width is $f_{(A \cup B)_j}$; i grids are divided in the Y direction, the net width is l_j . Furthermore, the grid nodes are numbered. $s_{(A \cup B)_ij}$ is the node number in the X direction, i is the node number in the Y direction.

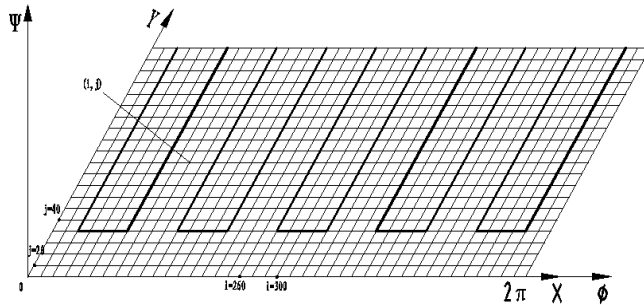


Fig. (3). Mesh generation.

The boundary conditions of the numerical calculation are given as follows:

Pressure boundary condition:

$$P(r_1) = P(r_2) = 1$$

Symmetrical boundary condition:

$$\left. \frac{\partial P}{\partial \varphi} \right|_{\varphi} = \left. \frac{\partial P}{\partial \varphi} \right|_{\varphi+2\pi}$$

The governing difference equation can be solved by Successive Over Relaxation. The convergence criterion is given by:

$$\sum_{j=1}^M \sum_{i=1}^N |P_{i,j}^{(n)} - P_{i,j}^{(n-1)}| / \sum_{j=1}^M \sum_{i=1}^N P_{i,j}^{(n)} \leq \varepsilon$$

where, ε is 0.003.

The perturbation pressure can be obtained by calculating the derivatives of Eq. (1) on the $(\varepsilon_1, \theta, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_1', \theta', \varepsilon_2')$. $(P_{\theta}, P_{\varepsilon_2}, P_{\varepsilon_1}, P_{\theta'}, P_{\varepsilon_2'})$ can be solved.

Using C++ is used to solve the differential equations and analyze the dynamic characteristic coefficients under different speed and eccentricity. The structural parameters and the operation parameters are shown in Table 1.

The flow chart of the numerical calculation is shown in Fig. (4):

3.3. Numerical Analysis

Fig. (5) shows the variation law of the calculated values of the dynamic characteristic coefficients with the speed ($n = 5000, 10000 \text{r/min}$) and the eccentricity

$$(\varepsilon_2 = 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6)$$

Fig. (5a-c) shows the variation law of the calculated values of the bearing stiffness coefficients:

- 1) Due to the increase of the speed n , the dynamic pressure effect of the bearing increases gradually. It is found that the stiffness coefficients increase with the increase of the speed n .
- 2) In addition to the stiffness coefficient $K_{e\theta}$, the stiffness coefficients of aerodynamic bearing increase with the increase of the eccentricity ε_2 .
- 3) As the main support directions ξ, z of the load capacity, the value of the direct stiffness coefficients K_{ee} and K_{zz} increases. While the value of the direct stiffness coefficient $K_{\theta\theta}$ is as small as the η is the secondary support direction, and differs from the main support directions by an order of magnitude. The cross-coupled stiffness coefficients $K_{e\theta}, K_{\theta e}, K_{z\theta}$ and $K_{\theta z}$ relate to the secondary support directions a little less than the cross-coupled stiffness coefficients K_{ez} and K_{ze} .

Fig. (5d-f) shows the variation law of the calculated values of the bearing damping coefficients:

- 1) Due to the increase of the speed n , the dynamic pressure effect of the bearing increases gradually. It is found that the damping coefficients increase with the increase of the speed n .
- 2) The damping coefficients of aerodynamic bearing increase with the increase of the eccentricity ε_2 . While compared with the variation of the stiffness coefficients, the damping coefficients increase eases up.

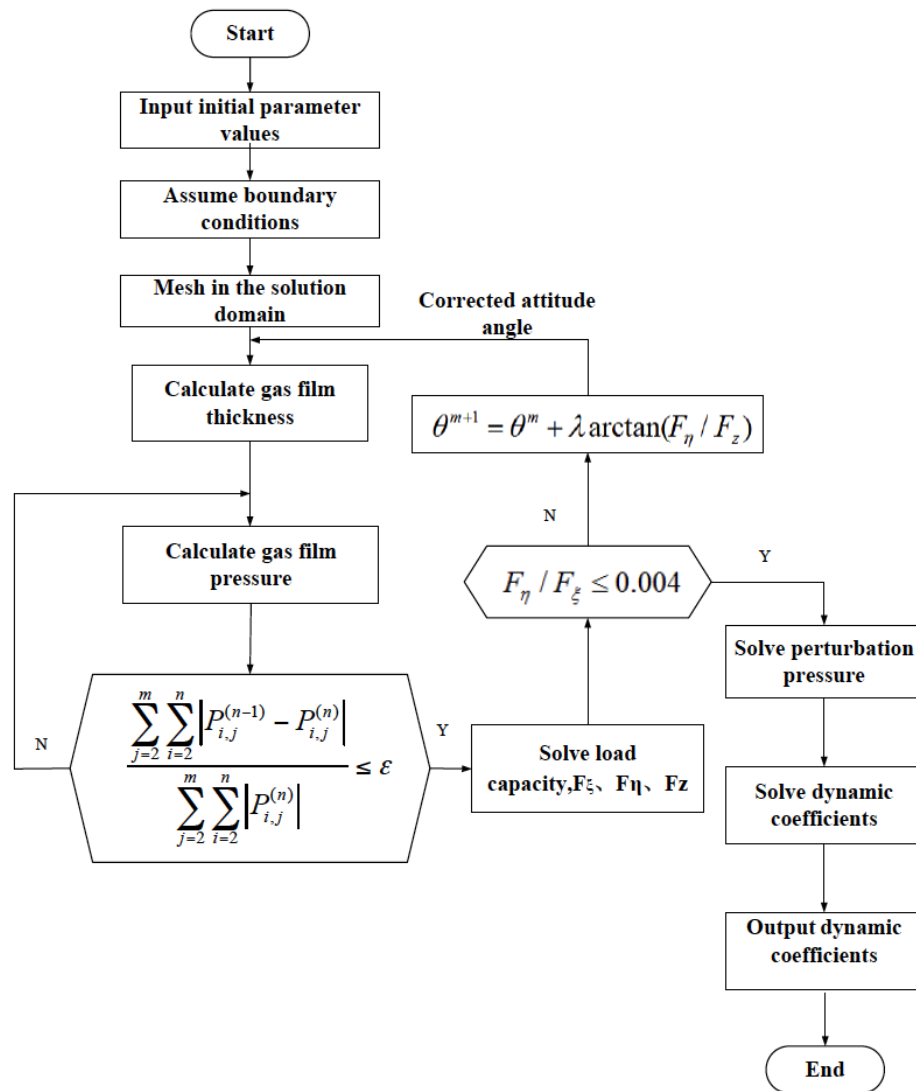


Fig. (4). Flow chart of numerical calculation.

- 3) As the main support directions ξ, z of the load capacity, the value of the direct damping coefficients B_{ee} and B_{zz} are large. While the value of the direct damping coefficient $B_{\theta\theta}$ is small as the η is the secondary support direction. The cross-coupled damping coefficients $B_{e\theta}, B_{\theta e}, B_{z\theta}$ and $B_{\theta z}$ relate to the secondary support directions a little less than the cross-coupled damping coefficients B_{ez} and B_{ze} .

3.4. Experimental Analysis

The dynamic characteristic coefficients, stiffness and damping are collected in the axial and radial directions. Then the experimental data is compared with the theoretical result. Based on the theoretical analysis and numerical analysis, the dynamic characteristic of the conical spiral groove aerodynamic bearings are experimented under the condition of different rotating speed and eccentricity. The dynamic characteristic coefficients of bearing in three main directions are obtained under the experimental conditions, which can

provide the realistic foundation to improve the design and increase the performance and the capacity of gas bearings. Fig. (6) shows the variation law of the experimental values of the direct coefficients with the speed ($n = 5000, 10000 / \text{min}$) and the eccentricity ($\epsilon_2 = 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6$)

- 1) The direct stiffness and damping coefficients increase with the increase of the speed and the eccentricity.
- 2) As the main support directions ξ, z of the load capacity, the value of the direct stiffness coefficients K_{ee} and K_{zz} , and the direct damping coefficients B_{ee} , and B_{zz} , increase. While the value of the direct stiffness coefficient $K_{\theta\theta}$ and the direct damping coefficient $B_{\theta\theta}$ is small as the η is the non-main support direction.
- 3) The variations of the fitting curve are consistent. By comparing the values with the experimental values, the order of magnitude of the values is same. The

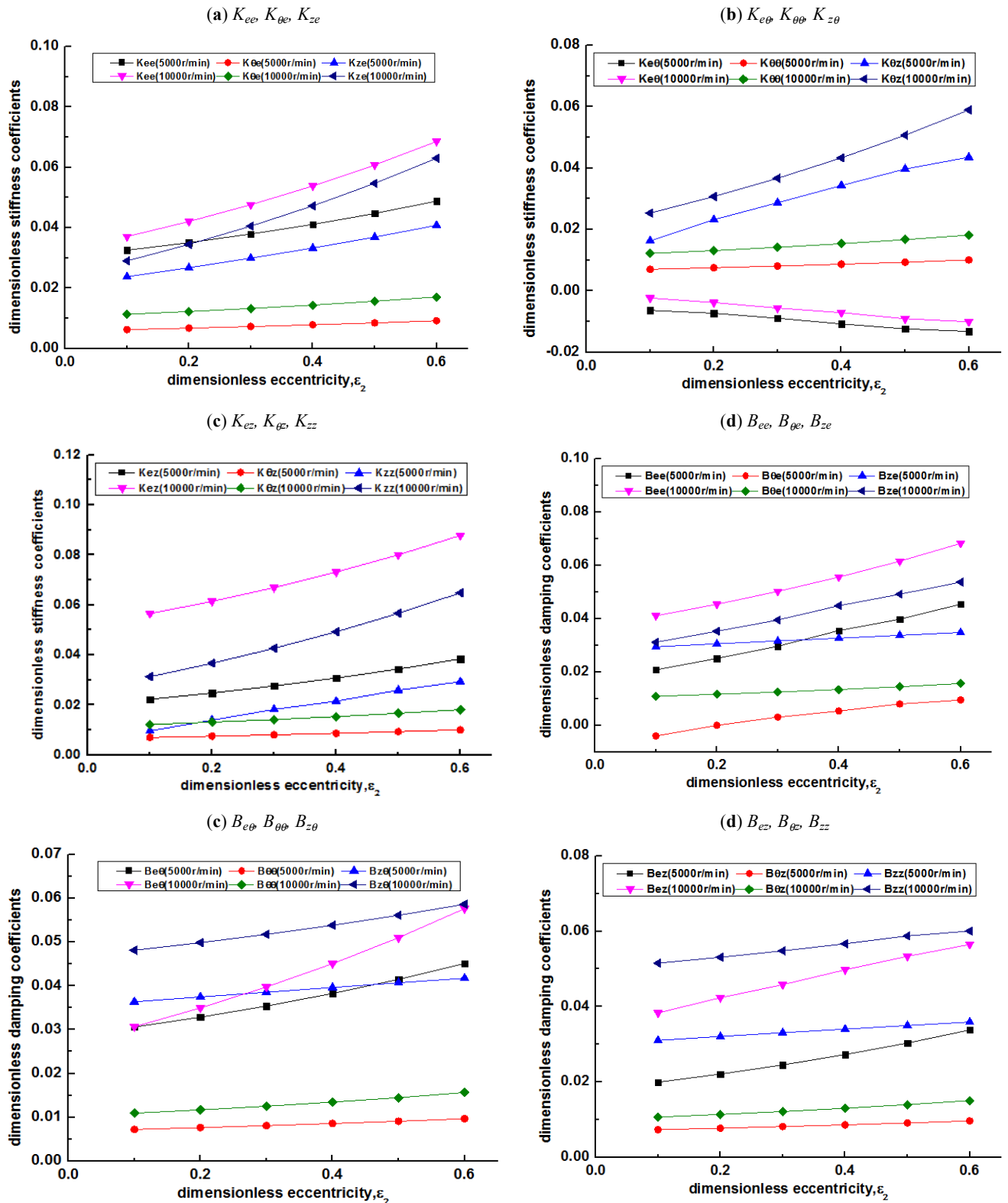


Fig. (5). Variation law of the calculated values of dynamic characteristic coefficients with speed n and eccentricity m .

calculated values coincide with the experimental values, which validates the theoretical analysis and calculation.

4. ANALYSIS OF SYSTEM STABILITY

4.1. The Stability Criterion

Based on the assumption of small perturbation, the rotor deviates from the steady-state position by whirling lightly. The dynamic characteristic coefficients are the constants

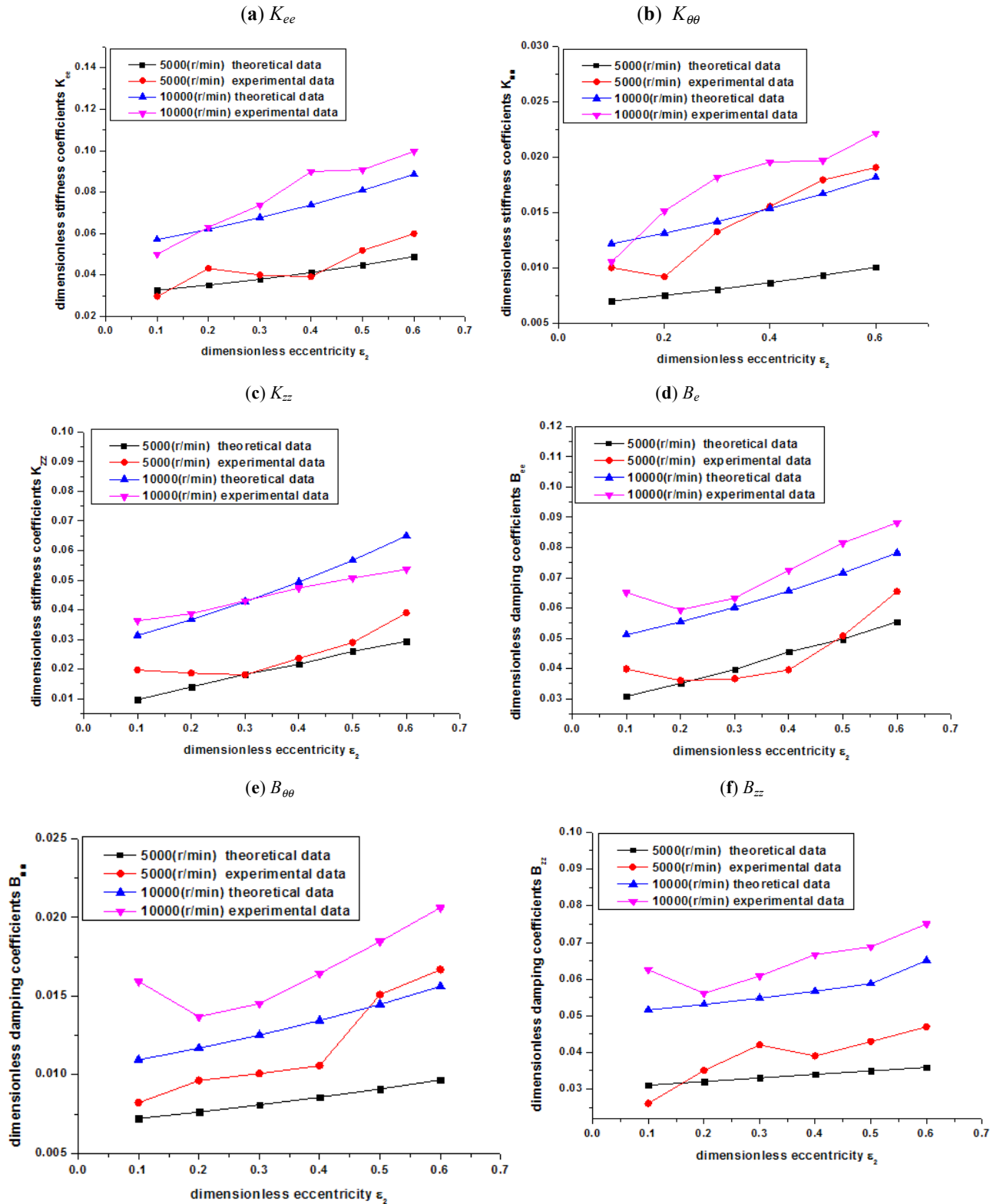


Fig. (6). Variation law of experimental values of dynamic characteristic coefficients with speed n and eccentricity ϵ_2 .

related to the structural parameters and the operation parameters.

The motion equation of the rotor can be derived:

$$\begin{cases} m\ddot{e} + \Delta F_{\xi} = 0 \\ m\ddot{\theta} + \Delta F_{\eta} = 0 \\ m\ddot{z} + \Delta F_z = 0 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

The functions of the gas film force increment and the operation parameters can be expressed as (by Taylor expansion):

$$\begin{cases} \Delta F_{\xi} = k_{ee} \Delta e + k_{e\theta} e \Delta \theta + k_{\theta z} \Delta z + b_{ee} \Delta e' + b_{e\theta} e \Delta \theta' + b_{ez} \Delta z' \\ \Delta F_{\eta} = k_{\theta e} \Delta e + k_{\theta\theta} e \Delta \theta + k_{\theta z} \Delta z + b_{\theta e} \Delta e' + b_{\theta\theta} e \Delta \theta' + b_{\theta z} \Delta z' \\ \Delta F_z = k_{ze} \Delta e + k_{z\theta} e \Delta \theta + k_{zz} \Delta z + b_{ze} \Delta e' + b_{z\theta} e \Delta \theta' + b_{zz} \Delta z' \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

Eq. (7) can be simplified as:

$$\begin{cases} m e'' + k_{ee} \Delta e + k_{e\theta} e \Delta \theta + k_{\theta z} \Delta z + b_{ee} \Delta e' + b_{e\theta} e \Delta \theta' + b_{ez} \Delta z' = 0 \\ m \theta'' + k_{\theta e} \Delta e + k_{\theta\theta} e \Delta \theta + k_{\theta z} \Delta z + b_{\theta e} \Delta e' + b_{\theta\theta} e \Delta \theta' + b_{\theta z} \Delta z' = 0 \\ m z'' + k_{ze} \Delta e + k_{z\theta} e \Delta \theta + k_{zz} \Delta z + b_{ze} \Delta e' + b_{z\theta} e \Delta \theta' + b_{zz} \Delta z' = 0 \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

The general form of the solution can be expressed as:

$$\begin{cases} \Delta e = \xi_0 e^{st} \\ e \Delta \theta = \eta_0 e^{st} \\ \Delta z = Z_0 e^{st} \end{cases}$$

where, ξ_0 , η_0 and Z_0 are complex amplitude, s is eigenvalue ($s = u + \omega i$).

$$\begin{cases} (ms^2 + b_{ee} + k_{ee})\xi_0 + (b_{e\theta}s + k_{e\theta})\eta_0 + (b_{ez}s + k_{ez})Z_0 = 0 \\ (b_{\theta e}s + k_{\theta e})\xi_0 + (ms^2 + b_{\theta\theta} + k_{\theta\theta})\eta_0 + (b_{\theta z}s + k_{\theta z})Z_0 = 0 \\ (b_{ze}s + k_{ze})\xi_0 + (b_{z\theta}s + k_{z\theta})\eta_0 + (ms^2 + b_{zz} + k_{zz})Z_0 = 0 \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

The matrix form can be written as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} ms^2 + b_{ee} + k_{ee} & b_{e\theta}s + k_{e\theta} & b_{ez}s + k_{ez} \\ b_{\theta e}s + k_{\theta e} & ms^2 + b_{\theta\theta} + k_{\theta\theta} & b_{\theta z}s + k_{\theta z} \\ b_{ze}s + k_{ze} & b_{z\theta}s + k_{z\theta} & ms^2 + b_{zz} + k_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \xi_0 \\ \eta_0 \\ Z_0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

Due to the whirling of the bearing, the complex amplitude is not equivalent to 0. The coefficient determinant of Eq. (10) can be expressed as:

$$\begin{vmatrix} ms^2 + b_{ee} + k_{ee} & b_{e\theta}s + k_{e\theta} & b_{ez}s + k_{ez} \\ b_{\theta e}s + k_{\theta e} & ms^2 + b_{\theta\theta} + k_{\theta\theta} & b_{\theta z}s + k_{\theta z} \\ b_{ze}s + k_{ze} & b_{z\theta}s + k_{z\theta} & ms^2 + b_{zz} + k_{zz} \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad (11)$$

The characteristic equation is obtained by the determinate expansion:

$$a_0 s^6 + a_1 s^5 + a_2 s^4 + a_3 s^3 + a_4 s^2 + a_5 s^1 + a_6 = 0 \quad (12)$$

Based on the stability theory, the stability of the system depends on the distribution of the s in the complex plane. When $u < 0$, the system is in the steady-state. If the rotor deviates from the steady-state position due to external perturbation, the amplitude of free oscillations decreases

gradually with time. When $u = 0$, the system is in the critical state. If the rotor deviates from the steady-state position, it will have sustained oscillation in the steady-state position. Its amplitude is determined by the initial conditions. When $u > 0$, the system is in the unstable state. If the rotor deviates from the steady-state position, the trajectory will be divergent and the amplitude will increase gradually with time [13].

4.2. Stability Analysis

By programming the dynamic simulation and solving the real part u of the eigenvalue s , the influence law of the speed and eccentricity on the system stability is studied. The bearing parameters and the operation parameters are shown in Table 1.

Fig. (7) shows the variation law of the real part u with the speed ($3000 < n < 25000 r/min$) and the eccentricity ($0.1 < \epsilon_2 < 0.6$).

- 1) The real part u of the eigenvalue s approaches zero with the increase of the speed n and the stability of the bearing is close to the critical state. The system stability in the low speed range is better than the stability in the high speed range. The stability decreases gradually with the increase of the speed n .
- 2) The real part u of the eigenvalue s decreases with the increase of the eccentricity ϵ_2 . Therefore, the system stability is better in the large eccentricity ϵ_2 , and the operation of the bearing-rotor system is more stable.

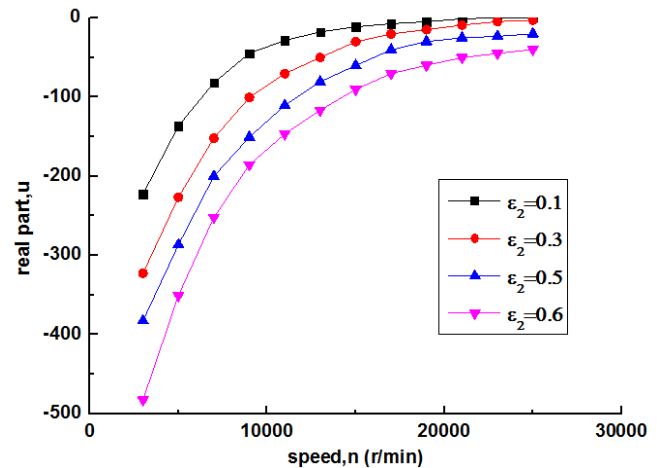


Fig. (7). Variation of the real part u with speed n and eccentricity ϵ_2 .

CONCLUSION

- 1) The dynamic Reynolds equation is the basic equation for solving the dynamic characteristic coefficients. The correct solution of the equation is the basis for analyzing the bearing's dynamic characteristics and stability. Using the finite difference method, the lubrication problems can be solved accurately within less computing time and with more simplicity and it

Table 1. Structure parameters.

$r_1'(mm)$	$r_g'(mm)$	$r_2'(mm)$	$h_0(\mu m)$	α	β	Ng	$\bar{\delta}$	\bar{b}	ε_1
10	13	20	10	15	80	5	3	0.6	0.2

contributes to analyzing the law of the bearing's dynamic characteristics and stability.

- 2) The increase of the bearing's speed contributes to improve the dynamic characteristic coefficients while the system stability approaches the critical state. The system stability in the low speed range is better than the stability in the high speed range.
- 3) With the increase of the eccentricity, the stiffness coefficients increase, while the damping coefficients increase eases up. The system stability approaches the steady-state with the increase of the eccentricity.
- 4) The influence of the dynamic characteristic coefficients on the stability of the bearing-rotor system depends on the comprehensive effect of stiffness and damping. Improving the speed and eccentricity contributes to the increase of the damping coefficients. The damping coefficients is an inhibitive factor for the whirling; it can consume the whirl energy and improve the system stability. But the stability of the bearing-rotor system approaches a critical state with the increase of the speed, which is a factor for the system instability. The eccentricity contributes to inhibit the whirling, but it can generate collision and friction to damage the bearing. Therefore, a reasonable choice of design parameters contributes to improving the bearing's comprehensive properties.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors confirm that this article content has no conflict of interest.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 51475142, 51275155), and Program for Innovative Research Team (in Science and

Technology) in University of Henan Province (Grant no: 13IRTSTHN025), and the Education Department Henan Province Science and Technology Research Projects (Grant no: 13A460251).

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Received: July 25, 2014

Revised: August 4, 2014

Accepted: August 4, 2014

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