

FREQUENCY RESPONSE PREDICTION FOR ROBOT ASSISTED MACHINING

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Abstract

Robotics is increasing its presence in the machine tool sector. One interesting application for robot assisted machining involves a robot locally increasing the stiffness of a thin walled part to suppress regenerative vibrations and minimize part deformations during machining. Simulating the dynamics improvement achieved when coupling the robot and the part is of high concern, in order to guarantee the appropriate performance of the assisted machining. Receptance Coupling Substructure Analysis (RCSA) technique for High Speed Machining (HSM) dynamics simulation has been expanded to derive the frequency response of the assembled system composed by the coupling of the thin walled part and the robot.

Keywords:

Robot; Dynamics; Frequency response; Receptance coupling; Machining

1 INTRODUCTION

Robotics is revolutionizing manufacturing as robots become smarter, faster and cheaper, increasing its presence for high value tasks rather than traditional repetitive or dangerous tasks [Pricewaterhouse 2014].

Machining of thin walled parts is a challenging manufacturing process since the low stiffness of thin walled parts leads to undesirable vibrations and deformations of the part, due to instability in the machining process, causing a negative effect on machining accuracy and surface quality of the final part.

Traditionally milling stability theory [Altintas 2012] is applied to eliminate vibrations and increase productivity by tuning process parameters. However, occasionally additional actions are required to modify the dynamics of the part and obtain a stable machining operation. Acting on the fixturing of the part provides a considerable effect on the improvement of the dynamics of the part.

Usually the part is clamped to the table at a discrete number of predefined surfaces and the part can be further stiffened by adding more fixed supports to the default fixturing. These fixed supports range from simple clamps to novel intelligent fixtures that enable the identification of critical process conditions, the compensation of error influences and the minimization of defective parts [Möhring 2016].

Vibrations during thin walled part machining are mainly related to the dynamics of the area of the part where the tool is interacting and the use of additional fixtures all around the part may require a large amount of clamping elements. Considering this fact, a mobile support system can be used to provide increased stiffness to the part precisely at the tool-part contact zone, following the tool around the part at the same velocity. Fei [Fei 2017, Fei 2018] introduces an ad hoc mobile support system attached

to the ram of the machine tool to stiffen and damp the thin walled part while machining in order to suppress vibrations.

In the literature the trend is to use robots as mobile supports for thin walled part machining, because of the additional flexibility and adaptability that robots provide. The robotic mobile support allows the suppression of vibrations and reduces deflections by improving the stiffness of the thin walled parts in the direction of the main vibration mode. Some authors focus their research on the coordination for dual-robot mirror milling system consisting of a machining hybrid robot, a supporting hybrid robot, and a fixture [Xiao 2018]. Other authors develop a force control solution in an industrial robot to be used in a milling machine in order to suppress vibrations and deformation of the thin walled part [Esfandi 2017, Ozturk 2018].

A robot as mobile support provides a clear improvement in the dynamic response of the thin walled part, which has been demonstrated. Therefore, it is of high interest to predict the dynamic response of the combined robot and part system in order to simulate the dynamic response and stability of the machining operation. This machining capability prediction allows determining the viability of the robotic mobile support, saving time and costs compared to the experimental verification that requires physically moving the robot to the machining workshop.

A range of techniques has been developed to help dynamic design and vibration analysis of complex structures or systems. These techniques represent the structure through models so that the dynamic properties of the structure can be studied [Urgueira 1989].

These models can be broadly categorized as:

- Spatial Models. Analytical models based on the mass, stiffness and damping matrices representing physical properties of the Degrees of Freedom (DoF) of the

structure, often obtained from finite element modelling (FEM).

- Modal Models. Analytical models which are obtained by extracting dynamic properties from analytical or experimental Frequency Response Function (FRF) measurements such as natural frequencies, mode shapes and damping ratios.
- Response Models. Analytical or experimental models characterized by the ratio of output response of the system to an input force. This relationship is described by an FRF matrix. These models are often considered more promising for the representation of the physical model since they do not have any approximations due to idealization or incompleteness of the measurements.

Developing an analytical model of the assembled robot and part system is time consuming and therefore, expensive; and developing experimental FRFs of the complete system may not be possible. Hence, a substructure analysis method will be used for the analysis of each component and then apply a coupling technique to derive the dynamic response of the assembled system [Ferreira 1998]. Thus, dynamics of the part and the robot can independently be considered, even analytically or experimentally. Then, by applying a coupling technique, the stability of the assembled system can be checked.

For the proposed case study of a robot as a mobile support the Receptance Coupling for Subsystem Analysis (RCSA) technique will be used. This technique was introduced by Bishop [Bishop 1954], who determined that a complicated oscillatory system can be regarded as if it was built up from simpler subsystems which are coupled together at certain coordinates.

The RCSA technique has been widely used due to the simplicity of its mathematical formulation, such as in HSM stability simulation. HSM simulation, which is crucial for chatter prediction and avoidance, requires knowledge of the system dynamics at the tool centre point. In general, a separate set of FRF measurements are performed for each combination of tool, tool holder and spindle on a particular machining centre. Thus, it is suggested to make only a single experiment at the tool holder tip of the machine tool, and the dynamics of the holder is coupled with the analytically obtained tool dynamics, in order to obtain the FRF of the complete system. This semi-analytical model can provide accurate results and may save considerable time in applications where only the conditions related to the cutting tool are changed [Schmitz 2000, Schmitz 2001].

Moreover, from these first works for HSM tool point simulation, several authors have developed new improvements in the RCSA technique: For example, Park [Park 2003], considers more DoF at the tool holder-tool joint, Schmitz [Schmitz 2006] includes the analysis of additional coupling coordinates, Mancisidor [Mancisidor 2011] calculates the fixed boundary dynamic behaviour of the tool, and Ertürk [Ertürk 2006] proposes analytical modelling of all components of spindle-holder-tool assembly and these models are coupled in order to obtain tool point FRF by using receptance coupling and structural modification methods.

Therefore, RCSA is a validated substructure analysis technique for the prediction of the dynamic response of assembled systems. Specially for HSM tool point simulation, the capability of the technique for incorporating more considerations in the formulation has been proven. Hence, in the present work, the RCSA technique will be expanded for the frequency response prediction for robot assisted machining, when a thin walled part is supported by

a robot, in order to determine the stability of the assembled system.

The rest of the paper is organised as follows. A first approach of the RCSA is introduced in Section 2 and experimentally validated in Section 3. The RCSA method is expanded for the calculation of the direct and crossed FRFs of the assembled system in Section 4 and validated in Section 5. The extended RCSA is applied to the proposed use case in Section 6, including machining stability analysis. Finally, conclusions are detailed in Section 7.

2 FIRST APPROACH OF THE RCSA FOR ROBOT ASSISTED MACHINING PREDICTION

Robot assisted machining for thin walled parts, which is the study case considered in the present work, is illustrated in Fig. 1. The robot supports the thin walled part in the most flexible direction during machining while the tool cuts on the opposite side of the part. Thereby, the robot locally increases the stiffness of the part avoiding deformations and unintended vibrations. The objective is to derive the frequency response of the part in the coordinate of interest of the assembled system composed by the robot and the part by considering the frequency responses of each component, the robot and the thin walled part. The assembled system is assumed linked by a highly stiff union, which is generated by the preload force exerted by the robot on the part. In this first RCSA approach for robot assisted machining only the most flexible direction is considered.

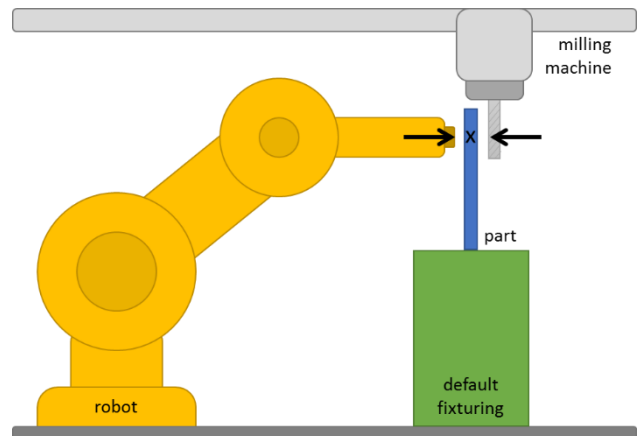


Fig. 1: Robot Assisted Machining for thin walled parts.

The unassembled system (Fig 2a.) is based on two separate components, the robot and the part, where two coordinates (R and P) will be connected by a highly stiff spring (K_x) in the most flexible direction of the part (x axis). Looking at each component, the displacement x in each coordinate can be written as:

$$x_P = H_{xxP} f_{xP} \quad (1)$$

$$x_R = H_{xxR} f_{xR} \quad (2)$$

where, f_{xP} and f_{xR} are the input forces and H_{xxP} and H_{xxR} the FRFs in each point.

When considering the assembled system (Fig 2b), only the input force F_{xP} is exerted in the part. As consequence of the union, both displacements X_P and X_R in the part and robot occur.

The equilibrium condition can be written as:

$$F_{xP} = f_{xR} + f_{xP} \quad (3)$$

The compatibility conditions are:

$$\begin{aligned} X_R &= x_R \\ X_P &= x_P \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

In the assembled system, the only force exerted in the robot is coming from the stiff union. Therefore:

$$f_{xR} = K_x(x_P - x_R) \quad (5)$$

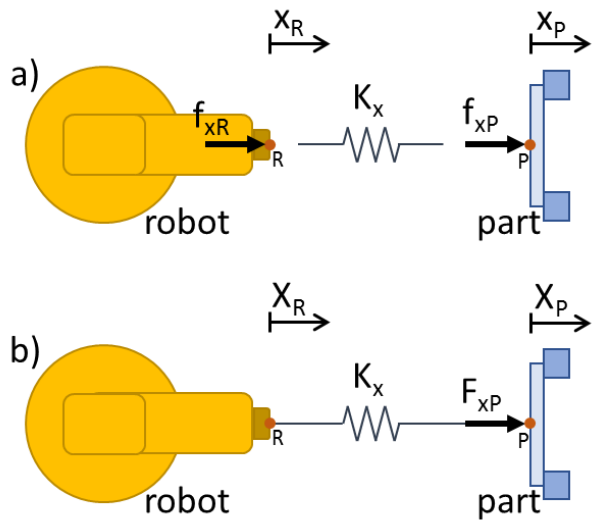


Fig. 2: a) Unassembled systems b) Assembled system.

Combining Eq. 1-5 the frequency response of the assembled system G_{xxP} as the displacement of the part X_P when an external force F_{xp} is applied in the coordinate P is obtained (Eq. 6).

$$\begin{aligned} G_{xxP} &= \frac{X_P}{F_{xp}} = \\ &= H_{xxP} - H_{xxP} \left(H_{xxP} + H_{xxR} + \frac{1}{K_x} \right)^{-1} H_{xxP} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

3 EXPERIMENTAL VALIDATION OF THE FIRST RCSA APPROACH

The first approach of the RCSA technique for prediction of the frequency response of a thin walled part with a robot support has been experimentally validated. The FRFs of each component, the robot and the part, have been experimentally obtained. Then, the RCSA technique has been applied to calculate the resultant dynamic response. This response has been compared with the FRF obtained of the assembled system when the robot is exerting a certain force in the part in the most flexible direction (x axis).

3.1 Experimental setup

The robot is a Stäubli TX90L robot installed in a Soraluec FMT Multipurpose Milling Machine. The thin walled part is a C45J steel sheet with 450 mm length, 100 mm height and 6 mm width which is clamped at the ends to two rigid structures. Additionally, the part is risen with a rigid table for accessibility purpose (Fig. 3).

The FRFs are obtained with a data acquisition system. The displacement is measured with a PCB Piezotronics 352C68 accelerometer of 100 mV/g sensitivity and 0.5 to 10000 Hz range and the input force is exerted with an impact hammer 086D20 from PCB Piezotronics with 0.23 mV/N sensitivity.

For the robotic mobile support application, the robot is equipped with a ball caster as end effector, in order to exert a single directional force in the part, connected to a Kistler 9212 load cell to quantify the applied force. The load cell is screwed to the flange of the robot.

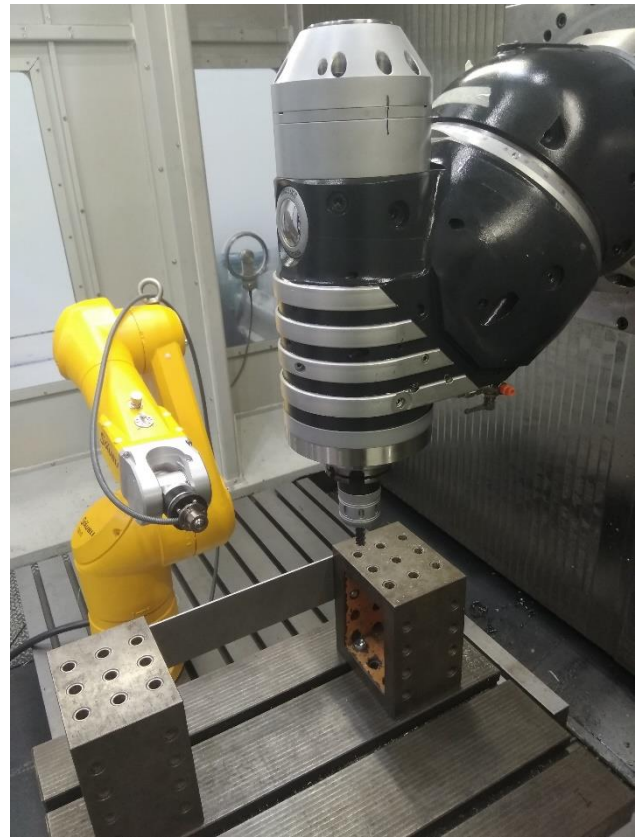


Fig. 3: Setup for the Robot Assisted Machining for thin walled parts, which is the study case.

3.2 Experimental results

In order to validate the RCSA for robot assisted machining the FRF of the robot in a certain pose H_{xxR} , the FRF of the part in the center point H_{xxP} and the FRF of the assembled system G_{xxP} are experimentally obtained. Then, RCSA technique derived in Eq. 6 is applied to the FRFs of the robot H_{xxR} and the part H_{xxP} to obtain a semi-analytical FRF of the assembled system. The connection stiffness K_x value is assumed infinite, in order to simulate that the exerted preload of the robot is a perfect union between the robot and the part.

$$K_x \rightarrow \infty$$

Results are illustrated in Fig. 4. The FRF of the part H_{xxP} shows that the part is very flexible with two main modes at 212 Hz and 567 Hz. Besides, the FRF of the robot H_{xxR} shows a stiffer response with a significant mode at 29 Hz.

Both experimental and semi-analytical FRFs of the assembled system G_{xxP} are very similar, validating the proposed first approach of RCSA for robot assisted machining frequency response prediction. Also, the obtained FRFs validate the effectiveness of the robot as mobile support, since the amplitude of the flexible modes of the part is highly reduced. In Fig. 4 it can be observed that the two main modes of the part have been almost totally suppressed. Experimentally a reduction in the amplitude of 99.96% at the frequency of the first mode and 99.87% at the second mode is achieved. The RCSA technique predicts an amplitude reduction of the 99.96% at the frequency of the first mode and 99.94% at the second one.

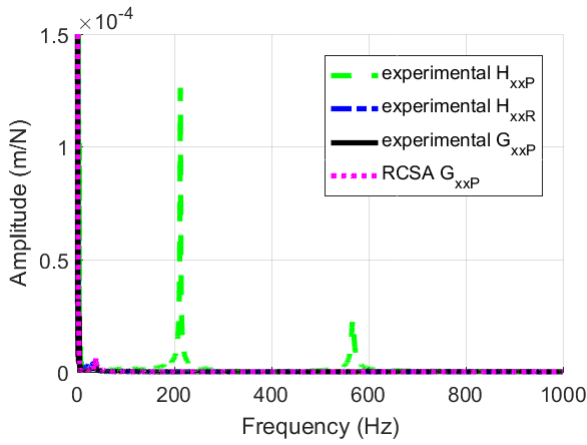


Fig. 4: Experimental FRFs and prediction with the RCSA technique.

For a more detailed comparison of experimental and semi-analytical results, low frequency zone of Fig. 4 is zoomed-in and shown in Fig. 5. At low frequencies, the assembled system presents its main mode at 38 Hz. The RCSA technique has been able to properly predict the frequency of this mode with a 0.25% error.

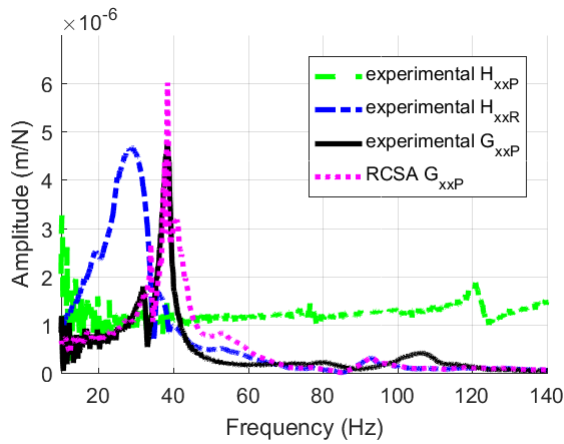


Fig. 5: Experimental FRFs and prediction with the RCSA technique at low frequencies.

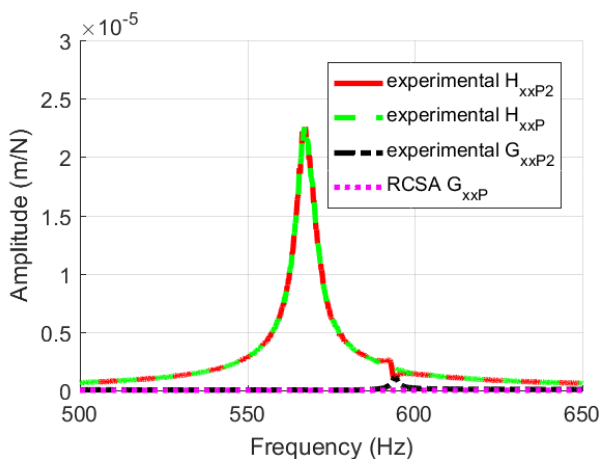


Fig. 6: FRFs around the second mode of the part.

Another zone of Fig. 4 to be analysed is around the second mode of the part (Fig 6). A discrepancy can be observed between the experimental assembled system and the RCSA prediction at 594 Hz. This small difference may occur since the measuring accelerometer is not precisely located in the P coordinate but displaced 20 mm in the y direction

(P2 coordinate), due to the ball caster at the robot tip making difficult the access to coordinate P.

4 EXTENDED RCSA FOR ROBOT ASSISTED MACHINING PREDICTION

In Section 2 a first introduction of the RCSA technique for robot assisted machining prediction is introduced. In this approach only the resultant frequency response in the most flexible direction is obtained. However, for a proper stability analysis not only the FRF in this axis is needed, but all direct and crossed FRFs of the assembled system.

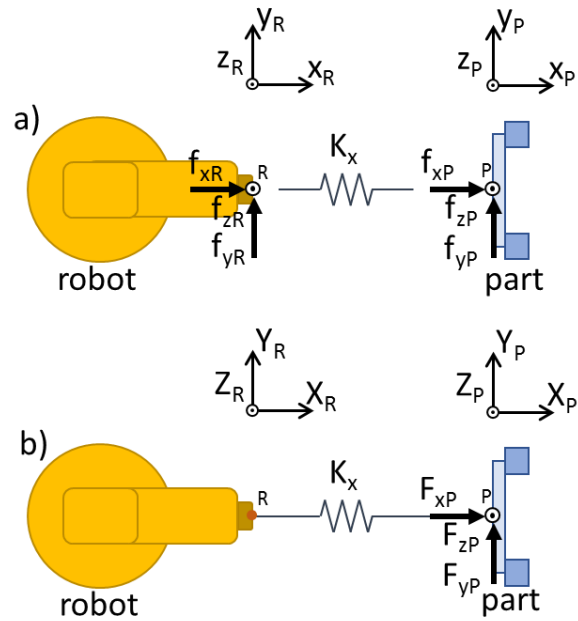


Fig. 7: a) Unassembled systems b) Assembled system in three axes.

Therefore, the unassembled system (Fig. 7a) is again based on two separate components, the robot and the part, where two coordinates (R and P) will be connected by a stiff union (K_x) in the x axis but will be free, not connected, in the y and z axis. Nonetheless now displacements in three directions for the robot (x_R, y_R, z_R) and the part (x_P, y_P, z_P) are considered and can be written as function of the direct (H_{xx}, H_{yy}, H_{zz}) and crossed ($H_{xy}, H_{xz}, H_{yx}, H_{yz}, H_{zx}, H_{zy}$) FRFs and the input forces in the three directions (f_x, f_y, f_z) for each component.

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_P \\ y_P \\ z_P \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} H_{xxP} & H_{xyP} & H_{xzP} \\ H_{yxP} & H_{yyP} & H_{yzP} \\ H_{zxp} & H_{zyP} & H_{zzP} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{xP} \\ f_{yP} \\ f_{zP} \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_R \\ y_R \\ z_R \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} H_{xxR} & H_{xyR} & H_{xzR} \\ H_{yxR} & H_{yyR} & H_{yzR} \\ H_{zXR} & H_{zyR} & H_{zzR} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{xR} \\ f_{yR} \\ f_{zR} \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

In the assembled system (Fig 7b), only the input forces (F_{xP}, F_{yP}, F_{zP}) exerted in the part are considered, in the P coordinate of interest.

Equilibrium conditions can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xP} &= f_{xR} + f_{xP} \\ F_{yP} &= f_{yP} \text{ and } f_{yR} = 0 \\ F_{zP} &= f_{zP} \text{ and } f_{zR} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

As y and z directions are free, forces f_{yR} and f_{zR} in the robot are null and as x direction is connected by a stiff union K_x , f_{xR} is obtained by:

$$f_{xR} = K_x(x_P - x_R) \quad (10)$$

The compatibility conditions are:

$$\begin{aligned} X_R &= x_R & Y_R &= y_R & Z_R &= z_R \\ X_P &= x_P & Y_P &= y_P & Z_P &= z_P \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Combining Eq. 7-11 and considering that when applying force in the x direction on the assembled system F_{xP} , the forces in the other directions are null $F_{yP}=0$ and $F_{zP}=0$.

$$\begin{aligned} G_{xxP} &= H_{xxP} - H_{xxP} \left(H_{xxP} + H_{xxR} + \frac{1}{K_x} \right)^{-1} H_{xxP} \\ G_{yxP} &= H_{yxP} - H_{yxP} \left(H_{xxP} + H_{xxR} + \frac{1}{K_x} \right)^{-1} H_{xxP} \\ G_{zxP} &= H_{zxP} - H_{zxP} \left(H_{xxP} + H_{xxR} + \frac{1}{K_x} \right)^{-1} H_{xxP} \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Again, when applying force in the y direction on the assembled system F_{yP} , the forces in the other directions are null $F_{xP}=0$ and $F_{zP}=0$.

$$\begin{aligned} G_{xyP} &= H_{xyP} - H_{xxP} \left(H_{xxP} + H_{xxR} + \frac{1}{K_x} \right)^{-1} H_{xyP} \\ G_{yyP} &= H_{yyP} - H_{yxP} \left(H_{xxP} + H_{xxR} + \frac{1}{K_x} \right)^{-1} H_{xyP} \\ G_{zyP} &= H_{zyP} - H_{zxP} \left(H_{xxP} + H_{xxR} + \frac{1}{K_x} \right)^{-1} H_{xyP} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Finally, when applying force in the z direction on the assembled system F_{zP} , the forces in the other directions are null $F_{xP}=0$ and $F_{yP}=0$.

$$\begin{aligned} G_{xzP} &= H_{xzP} - H_{xxP} \left(H_{xxP} + H_{xxR} + \frac{1}{K_x} \right)^{-1} H_{xzP} \\ G_{yzP} &= H_{yzP} - H_{yxP} \left(H_{xxP} + H_{xxR} + \frac{1}{K_x} \right)^{-1} H_{xzP} \\ G_{zzP} &= H_{zzP} - H_{zxP} \left(H_{xxP} + H_{xxR} + \frac{1}{K_x} \right)^{-1} H_{xzP} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where,

$$\begin{aligned} G_{xxP} &= \frac{X_P}{F_{xP}} & G_{xyP} &= \frac{X_P}{F_{yP}} & G_{xzP} &= \frac{X_P}{F_{zP}} \\ G_{yxP} &= \frac{Y_P}{F_{xP}} & G_{yyP} &= \frac{Y_P}{F_{yP}} & G_{yzP} &= \frac{Y_P}{F_{zP}} \\ G_{zxP} &= \frac{Z_P}{F_{xP}} & G_{zyP} &= \frac{Z_P}{F_{yP}} & G_{zzP} &= \frac{Z_P}{F_{zP}} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Notice that in the proposed extended RCSA of Eq. 12-14, where only the x direction is stiffly connected by K_x and y and z are free, only the direct FRF of the robot in x axis H_{xxR} is required. Hence, Eq. 8 can be simplified to Eq. 2. Moreover, notice that the resulting FRF G_{xxP} is the same as the one obtained in Eq. 6 which has been already validated.

The direct FRF of the robot in x axis H_{xxR} may be obtained experimentally for each position and orientation of the robot where it interacts with the part. In case of large parts that require multiple robot poses to support the part it may be interesting to use an elastic joint robot model to obtain the robot dynamics as proposed by Spong [Spong 1987] with joint stiffness data experimentally obtained according to the procedure proposed by Dumas [Dumas 2011].

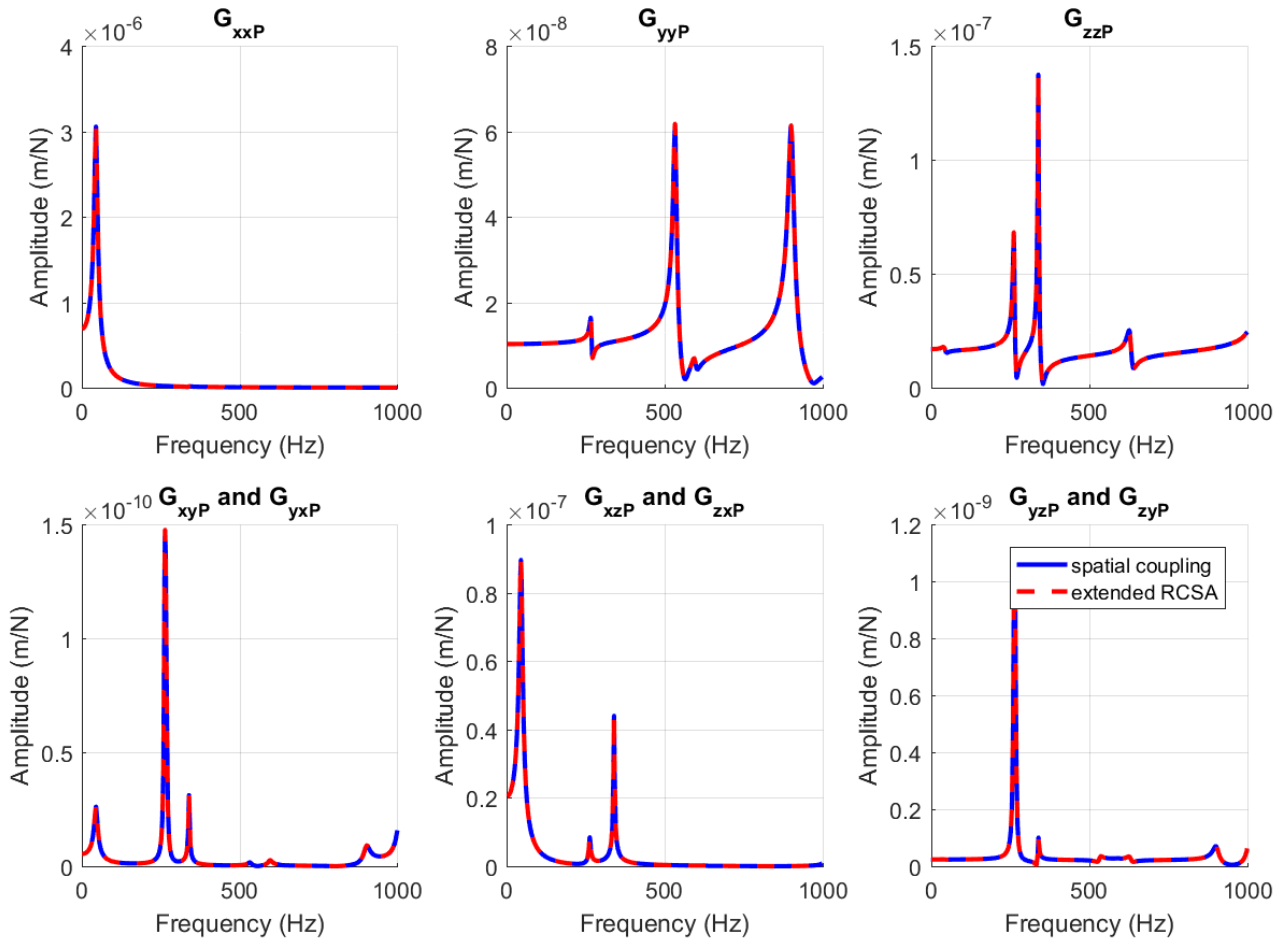


Fig. 8: Direct and crossed FRFs of the analytical validation.

$$[M_P]_{n \times n} [\ddot{x}_P]_{n \times 1} + [C_P]_{n \times n} [\dot{x}_P]_{n \times 1} + [K_P]_{n \times n} [x_P]_{n \times 1} = [f_P]_{n \times 1} \quad (16)$$

$$[M_R]_{1 \times 1} [\ddot{x}_R]_{1 \times 1} + [C_R]_{1 \times 1} [\dot{x}_R]_{1 \times 1} + [K_R]_{1 \times 1} [x_R]_{1 \times 1} = [f_R]_{1 \times 1} \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} (m_{P_{ii}} & m_{P_{in}}) & 0 \\ (m_{P_{ni}} & m_{P_{nn}}) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & m_R \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{x}_{P_i} \\ \ddot{x}_{P_n} \\ \ddot{x}_R \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} (c_{P_{ii}} & c_{P_{in}}) & 0 \\ (c_{P_{ni}} & c_{P_{nn}}) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & c_R \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_{P_i} \\ \dot{x}_{P_n} \\ \dot{x}_R \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} (k_{P_{ii}} + k_u & k_{P_{in}}) & -k_u \\ k_{P_{ni}} & k_{P_{nn}} & 0 \\ -k_u & 0 & k_R + k_u \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{P_i} \\ x_{P_n} \\ x_R \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_{P_i} \\ f_{P_n} \\ f_R \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

5 VALIDATION OF THE EXTENDED RCSA APPROACH

The extended approach of the RCSA for robot assisted machining prediction has been analytically validated. Unlike the first RCSA technique introduced in Section 2 that only needs the FRFs of the part in the x direction, the extended RCSA technique uses direct and crossed FRFs of the part in the P coordinate, as shown in Eq. 11-19. Experimentally obtaining FRFs in y and z direction in a flat thin walled part may be tricky, thus an analytical validation is proposed.

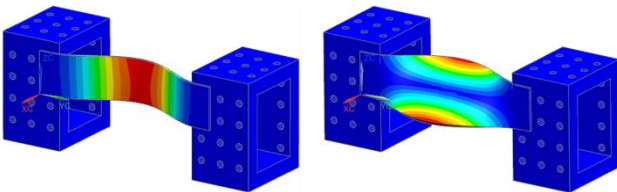


Fig. 9: FEM Model with the fitting of the two main modes, which are in x axis.

On one hand, the part is modelled with Finite Element Method (FEM) verifying that the main modes of the model match the modes of the real part (Fig. 9). Then, Craig-Bampton method [Craig 1968] is applied to obtain a spatial model with n DoF represented by the square $n \times n$ matrix of mass M_P and stiffness K_P while the damping matrix C_P is generated based on experimental FRFs (Eq. 16). It is of high interest to obtain a precise model of the part, because it will be used later for the experimental prediction and stability analysis.

On the other hand, the robot is simplified to a second order model, considering the experimentally obtained main mode of the robot at 29 Hz. Therefore, the model of the robot is composed by only a component of mass M_R , damping C_R and stiffness K_R (Eq. 17).

Once the spatial models of both the part and the robot are obtained the model of the coupled system is developed by a spatial coupling method, as shown in Eq. 18. Both systems are connected by a spring K_u between the i DoF of the part and the DoF of the robot.

From the spatial models of the unassembled components, the robot and the part, the required FRFs for the extended

RCSA technique validation are calculated. A comparison of the obtained responses for both coupling techniques is illustrated in Fig 8, where the error between both techniques

is negligible. Therefore, the equations for the extended RCSA technique are validated.

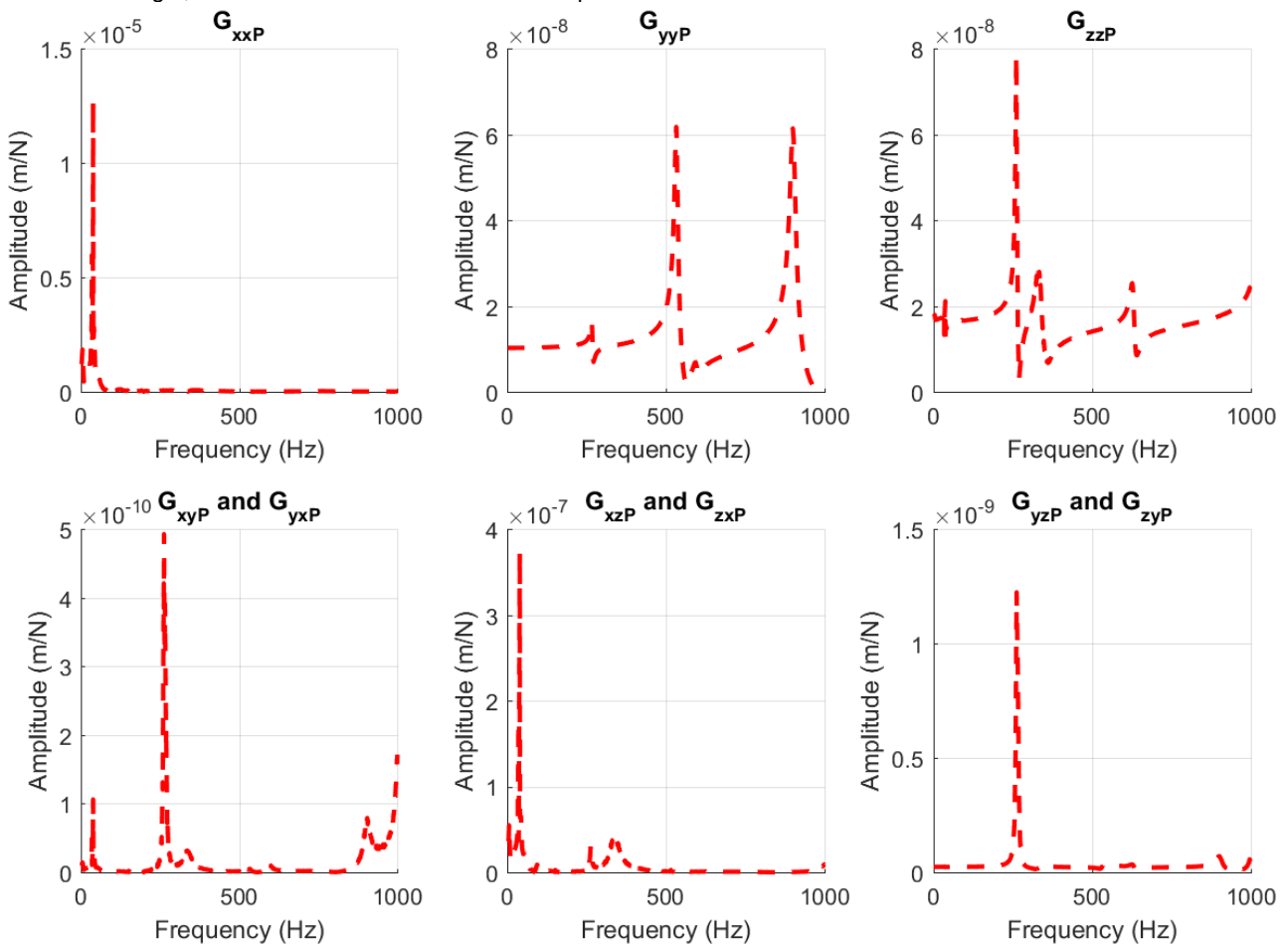


Fig. 10: Direct and crossed FRFs of the experimental validation.

6 PREDICTION WITH THE EXTENDED RCSA APPROACH AND STABILITY ANALYSIS

Once the extended RCSA technique is analytically validated an experimental prediction of the frequency response of the assembled system is calculated for milling stability analysis using the semi-discretization method proposed by Insperger [Insperger 2003].

For the prediction of the assembled robot and part system the experimental FRF of the robot from Section 3 is used. Besides, the analytical FRFs of the part are derived from its FEM, presented in Section 5, which matches well the modes of the real part.

Prediction of the frequency response with the extended RCSA approach is shown in (Fig 10). Even if the main effect of the robotic support is appreciated in the x axis, responses in y and z axis are also affected and therefore the stability analysis too.

The direct and crossed FRFs of the part (H_{xxP} , H_{yyP} , H_{zzP} , H_{xyP} , H_{xzP} , H_{yxP} , H_{yzP} , H_{zxP} , H_{zyP}) and of the assembled robot and part system calculated with the extended RCSA approach (G_{xxP} , G_{yyP} , G_{zzP} , G_{xyP} , G_{xzP} , G_{yxP} , G_{yzP} , G_{zxP} , G_{zyP}) have been used to calculate the stability lobe diagram (Fig. 11) for machining capability analysis.

The cutting tool is a carbide 6 teeth and 16 mm diameter end mill, and main cutting conditions are a radial depth of cut of 0.2 mm, a feed of 1800 mm/min and a spindle speed of 1900 rpm.

Generally, without robotic mobile support the system is highly unstable, with a maximum depth of cut capacity at 1871 rpm of 6.9 mm. Instead, with robotic support the cutting is very stable from low spindle speed values. For the proposed cutting conditions for example, without robot support the maximum depth of cut applicable is 1.7 mm while with robotic support is 20 mm, limited by the length of the tool.

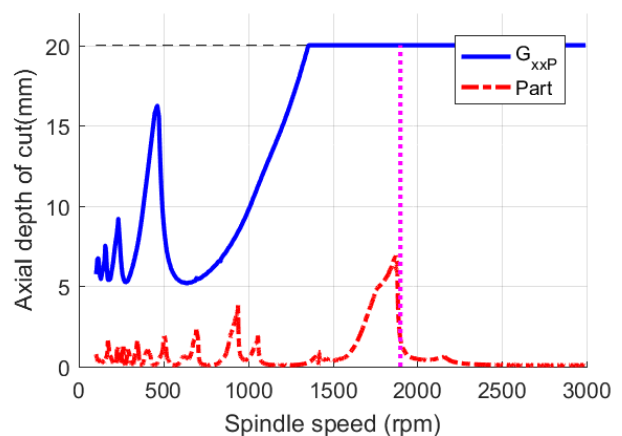


Fig. 11: Stability Lobe diagram.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The present work introduces a frequency response prediction technique for robot assisted machining based on

experimental and/or analytical information for robot assisted machining use cases.

Robot assisted machining for thin walled parts is a promising technique to suppress vibrations and deformations during the process. Therefore, it is of high interest to predict the stability of the assembled system, when the robot is exerting a certain force in the part.

Traditionally, the RCSA technique has been used in HSM for tool centre point dynamics prediction. In the present work, this technique has been extended to analyse the response in the three directions (x , y , z) when a stiff union only in the x axis is applied.

This technique has been validated, first in one axis experimentally and secondly analytically in the three axes. Experimentally, the FRFs of the robot, the part and the assembled systems in the direction corresponding to the main mode are acquired. Then the RCSA technique is used to predict the response and compare it to the experimental one. The proposed extended RCSA technique is validated analytically by coupling spatial models of the robot and the part.

Finally, the stability analysis with a lobe diagram is shown for the part and the part with the robotic mobile support prediction. A significant improvement in the machining capability is predicted with a stability lobe diagram

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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