

# ROTOR HEALTH MONITORING BY MODAL ANALYSIS

## SURVEILLANCE DES FISSURES DE ROTORS PAR ANALYSE MODALE

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### ABSTRACT

Mathematical models of cracked rotor systems are used to study the effect of the presence of open cracks on the system's modal parameters. The system's parameters are expressed in terms of dimensionless quantities and the performance is characterised by a natural frequency index and an elastic line index. The effects of crack depth, crack location, rotational speed and slenderness of the rotor on the natural frequency and the elastic line indexes is investigated for three rotor configurations. It is shown that the natural frequency index may be used to determine the depth of the crack and the elastic line index locates it.

### RESUME

Les modèles mathématiques d'ensembles-rotor fissurés sont étudiés pour en extraire les effets produits par la présence d'une fissure ouverte sur les paramètres modaux du système. Les paramètres sont exprimés en termes de quantités sans dimensions et la performance du modèle est caractérisée par un index de fréquences naturelles et un index modal. L'impact de la profondeur, de la position de la fissure, ainsi que de la vitesse de rotation et de la minceur (ou rapport longueur-diamètre) du rotor sur les indices de fréquences naturelle et de ligne élastique font l'objet d'une étude pour trois configurations de rotor. Nous démontrons que l'index fréquentiel peut être utilisé pour déterminer la profondeur de fissure et que l'index modal nous indique la position du défaut.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In predictive maintenance, not only machinery and mechanisms defaults must be detected at early stage, but also structural damages, especially in welded joints[1], offshore platform [2] and bridges[3, 4, 5]. When a crack is suspected, the engineer may use many techniques in order to examine the crack, such as Foucault courant, eddy current, acoustical emission or ultra-sound. Previous steps are needed before inspection in order to detect the occurring of cracks. Vibration measurement is an easy and effective tool to implement [6, 7]. The aim of this study is to investigate effective monitoring techniques for detecting structural damage when it occurs [8, 9, 10]. Theoretically a crack produces a local decreases of the stiffness that induces a decrease in the natural frequency [11, 12, 13]. Two crack models may be considered [14]: the open crack [15] that is usually investigated by modal analysis [16 to 20] and the breathing crack [21, 22] or fatigue crack that produces non linear vibrations [23] and requires time-frequency analysis [24, 25]. Most of the studies investigate the effect of cracks in structures, but few have studied the effect of a crack on a rotor [26, 27]. This study is aimed to investigate the modal parameters behavior of an open cracked rotor. The crack model use a narrow slot in order to modelize an open crack. The mathematical model to describe the dynamics of the cracked rotor [28, 29, 30] was developed using a finite element

analysis. This model was found adequate and compared well with the exact solutions of simple configurations and with the experimental results [31]. Two indices of performance are used to compare the dynamics of a cracked rotor with those of an uncracked one. The first index is referred to as "the natural frequency index". The second is a newly introduced index and is referred to as "the elastic line index". This paper reports on a systematic parametric study of the open cracked rotor using the two indices with the aim of identifying the crack's location and its depth. The study is confined to the first mode of the rotor system since it is the most significant in the crack identification [32].

## 2. NATURAL FREQUENCY AND MODE VARIATION OF A STRUCTURE WITH AN OPEN CRACK

### 2.1 Dimensionless parameters

The rotor systems considered in this investigation are composed of a number of shafts in bending [33] which carry discrete disks and are supported by bearings at specific locations. This study assumes that only one open crack exists at a specific location. Each open cracked rotor is characterised by five dimensionless parameters, namely,  $M_i$ ,  $R_i$ ,  $S$ ,  $X_i$  and  $\Lambda_i$ , which represent, respectively, the mass, radius of the  $i$ 'th disk, rotor slenderness, disk location and its rotation. These parameters may be expressed as follows:

$$M_i = m_i / m; \quad R_i = r_i / r; \quad S = r / L; \quad X_i = x_i / L; \quad \Lambda_i = \frac{\Omega_i}{\Omega_c} \quad (1)$$

where

$L$  is the length of rotor system;  $m$  and  $r$  are the mass and radius of rotor shaft

$m_i, r_i$  are the mass and radius of  $i$ 'th disk;  $x_i$  is the location of the  $i$ 'th disk;

$\Omega_i$  is the angular velocity of rotation of rotor system;  $\Omega_c$  is the critical speed

Figure (1) shows the three basic rotor system configurations investigated.

- ✓ Configuration A considers a simply supported shaft.
- ✓ Configuration B considers a simply supported shaft carrying one disk located at  $X_1 = 0.4$
- ✓ Configuration C considers a cantilever shaft carrying one disk at its extremity.

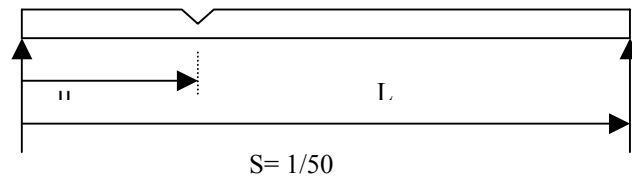
The location ( $\mu_c$ ) and depth of the crack ( $A_c$ ) are denoted by the following dimensionless quantities:

$$\mu_c = \mu / L; \quad A_c = a / r \quad (2)$$

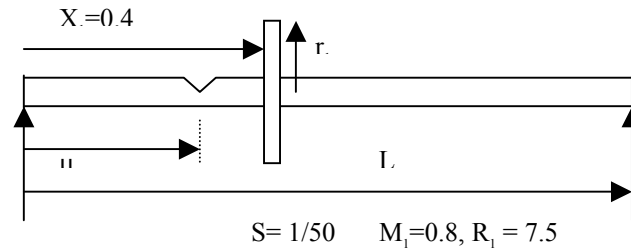
where  $\mu$  is the actual crack location on shaft and  $a$  is the crack depth (figure 2).

Two rotations  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  are selected to drive the rotor systems at speeds lower and higher than the critical speed. These speeds are given in Table 1 for each investigated configuration.

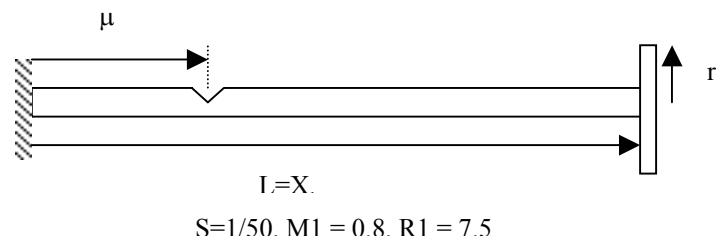
The parametric studies the above mentioned parameters ( $M_i, R_i, S, X_i, \Lambda_i$ , and  $A_c$ ) that are all held fixed at some reference values, while  $\mu_c$  is varied over a given range. The effects of this imposed variation on the two performance indices  $\varepsilon_c$  and  $\varepsilon_{f-}$  are recorded and plotted.



a) Simply supported

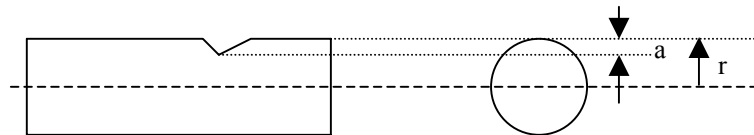


b) Uniform rotor carrying a disk



c) Uniform cantilever rotor carrying a disk

**Figure 1 The rotor configurations**



**Figure 2 Crack depth**

**Table 1: Rotational parameters**

Case	$\Omega_c$ (RPM)	$\Lambda_1 = \frac{\Omega_1}{\Omega_c}$	$\Lambda_2 = \frac{\Omega_2}{\Omega_c}$
<b>a</b>	<b>4750</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.21</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>3014</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>1.33</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>1.62</b>

## 2.2 The natural frequency index

A stationary uncracked rotor system is associated with well separated undamped natural frequencies  $\omega_n^*$  ( $n=1,2,\dots$ ). When the uncracked system is set to rotate, each of the  $\omega_n^*$  is replaced by two frequencies:  $\omega_{n+}^*$  which is slightly higher than  $\omega_n^*$  and  $\omega_{n-}^*$  which is slightly lower than  $\omega_n^*$  [7, 26, 27]. The appearance of two frequencies, in place of one, for each mode is due to gyroscopic coupling moments which force the rotor system to vibrate with different frequencies in the vertical and horizontal planes. The presence of a crack will

induce further changes from  $\omega_{n+}^*$  to  $\omega_{n+}$  and from  $\omega_{n-}^*$  to  $\omega_{n-}$ . Both  $\omega_{n+}$  and  $\omega_{n-}$  are associated with the same modal function.

The first index, used in this study, is based on the changes associated with the first natural frequencies as the crack develops. It is referred to as the "natural frequency index" and is denoted by  $\varepsilon_{f+}$  and  $\varepsilon_{f-}$  and given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_{f+} &= \left( \left| \omega_{1+} - \omega_{1+}^* \right| / \omega_{1+}^* \right) \times 100 \\ \varepsilon_{f-} &= \left( \left| \omega_{1-} - \omega_{1-}^* \right| / \omega_{1-}^* \right) \times 100 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where  $\omega_{1+}^*$  and  $\omega_{1-}^*$  represent the higher and lower natural frequencies of the first mode of the uncracked rotor and  $\omega_{1+}$  and  $\omega_{1-}$  represent the higher and lower natural frequencies of the first mode of the cracked rotor.

Extensive parametric studies were performed to investigate the variations of the natural frequency index  $\varepsilon_{f-}$  in terms of each parameter while maintaining the others constants. The studies were performed using the Finite Element model developed in [29] and backed up by experimental results [31]. Details of the experimental apparatus are given in [28]. A large number of cases were examined and the results carefully analysed.

### 2.2.1 Effect of crack depth and crack location

Typical plots are shown in figures (3, 4 and 5) for  $\varepsilon_{f-}$  versus the crack dimensionless position  $\mu_C$  for configurations a, b and c. Figures 3, 4 and 5 are only plotted for greater speed ratio  $\Lambda_2$ . It can be noticed that for fixed values of the crack depth  $A_C$ , the frequency index reaches its maximal value when the crack is located in the neighbourhood of the position of maximal stress for all rotor systems under consideration. The frequency index increases as the crack depth increases. In fact, the index was found to be sensitive to variations in the crack depth which is a feature which could be exploited for practical identification of the depth of the crack.

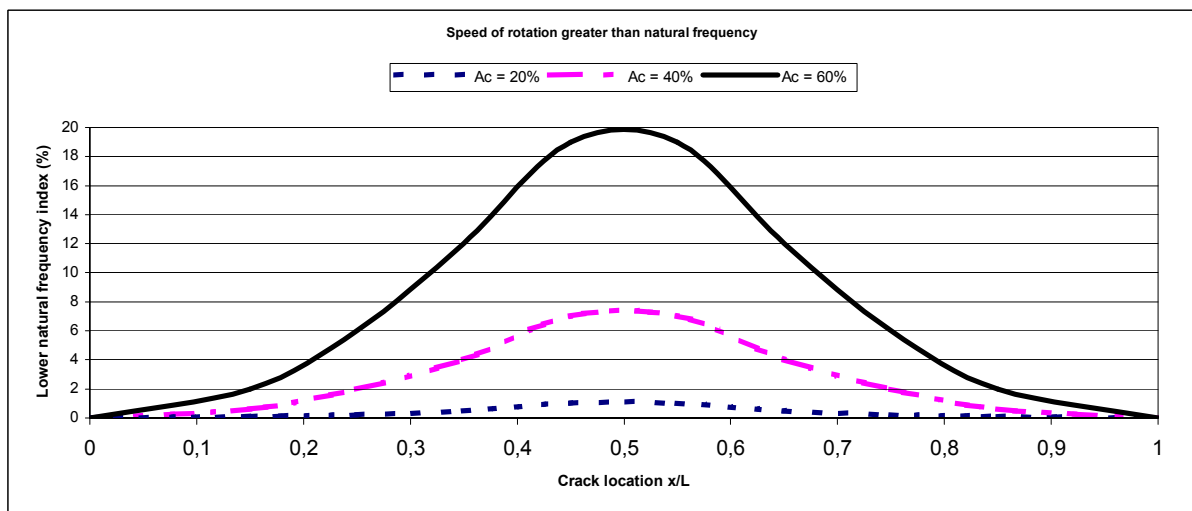
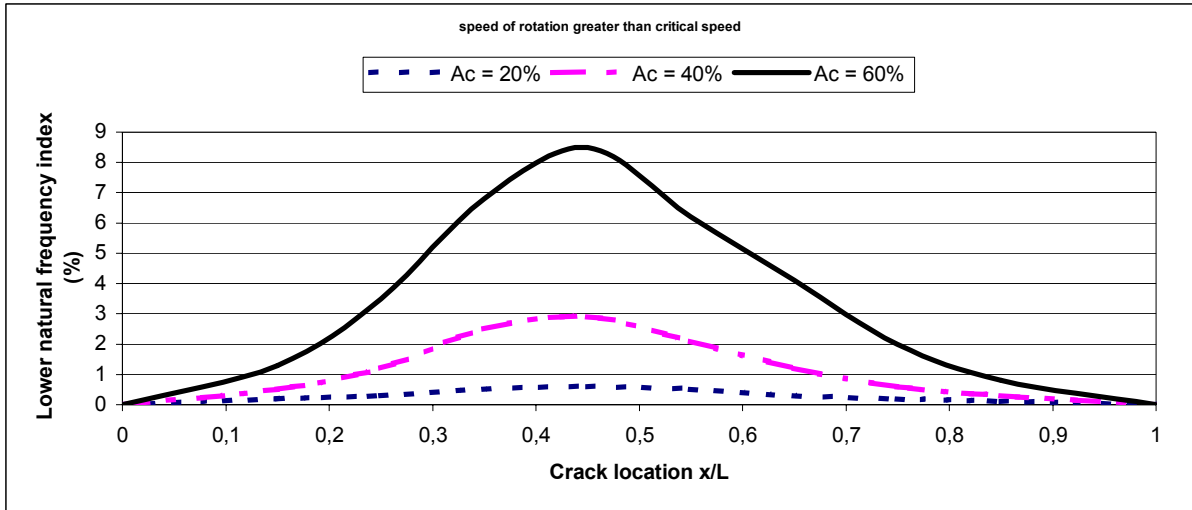
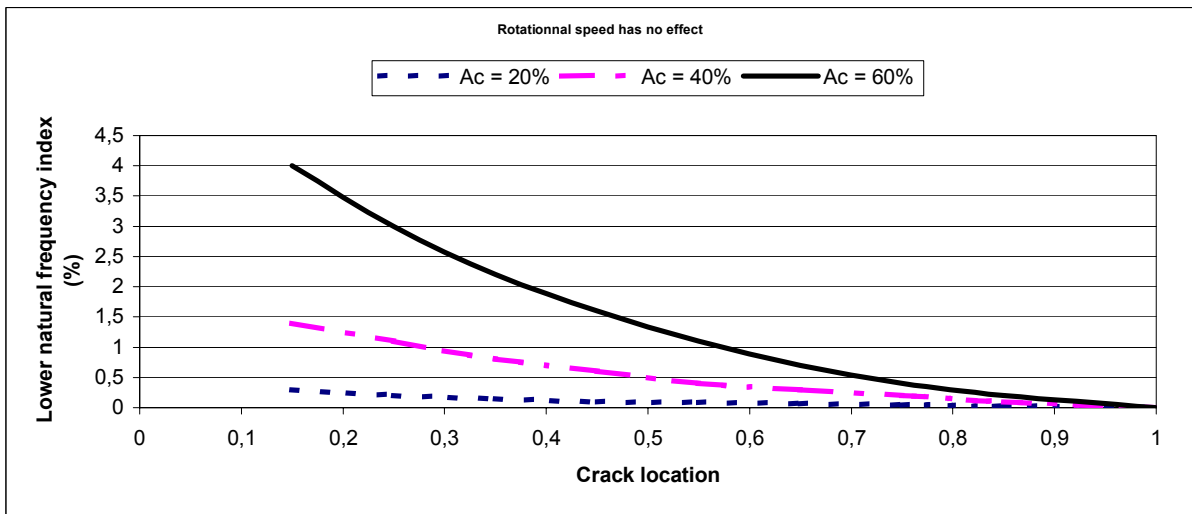


Figure 3: Natural frequency index vs crack location (cas A)



**Figure 4: Natural frequency index vs crack location (cas B)**

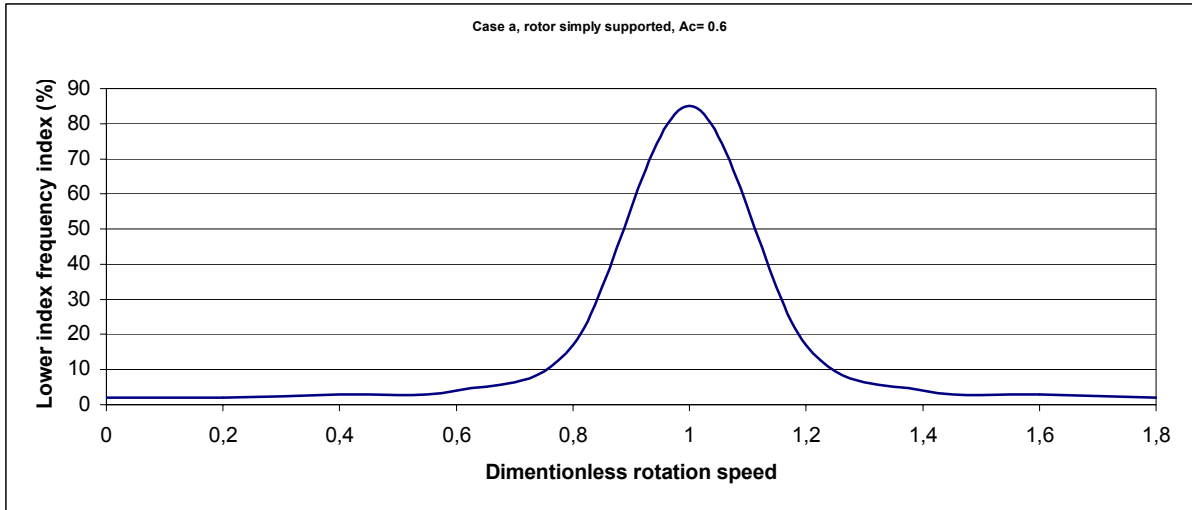
Unfortunately, it can be seen that the frequency index begins to be sensitive for crack depths greater than 40 % and only near to the maximal bending moment location. For crack depths lower than 30% and/or at crack locations far from the maximal stress location, the frequency index is lower than 1%, which is order of magnitude as the measurement error. The results show that the frequency index is less sensitive to the crack when a disk is present and for a cantilever rotor. Consequently the frequency analysis must be conducted with a very high precision in order to confirm the diagnosis [34].



**Figure 5: Natural frequency index vs crack location (cas C)**

### 2.2.2 Effect of rotational speed

Figure (6) shows the effect of the speed of rotation on the frequency index for fixed values of crack location (35%) and depth (60%). This result is plotted for cas (a). It can be noticed that the index reaches its maximal value near the first critical speed of the rotor system. The same result has been obtained for all the configurations. It can be noticed that the rotational speed has a more significant effect in the range between 0.8 and 1.2 the critical speed.



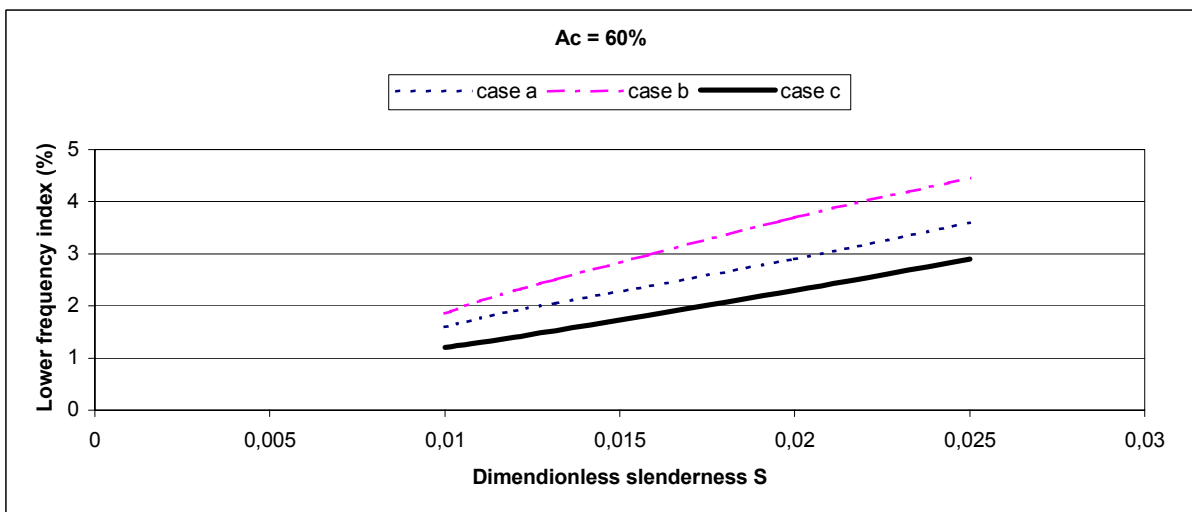
**Figure 6 The natural frequency index vs the rotation speed ( $\mu_c=35\%$ )**

### 2.2.3 Effect of rotor slenderness

A study of the effects of the slenderness parameter  $S$  on the frequency index is summarised in figure (7). Figure 7 has been plotted for a crack of 60% depth located at 35% of the rotor length. It also shows direct proportionality between  $\varepsilon_{r-}$  and  $S$  for all configurations. One can conclude that the frequency variation is more sensitive for stiffer shafts carrying a disk.

### 2.3 The line index

The second index is based on the changes associated with the mode shapes as a crack develops [35, 36, 37]. It was pointed out that the modal assurance criterion MAC [38, 39] was applied unsuccessfully to quantify the changes in the mode shapes. The MAC index was not sufficiently sensitive to the variation of the crack location and its depth. A new index is proposed which is referred to as the "line index". The presence of a crack will induce further changes of the deflection of the first modal shape at given points  $X$  on the elastic line from  $w(X)$  to  $w^*(X)$  where  $w(X)$  and  $w^*(X)$  are the deflection of the first modal shape at a given location  $X$  on the shaft for the cracked and uncracked rotors, respectively.



**Figure 7 The natural frequency index vs the slenderness ( $\mu_c=35\%$ )**

A dimensionless local deviation parameter can be defined at each location X on the shaft as follows:

$$LD(X) = \frac{|w(X) - w^*(X)|}{w^*(X)} \times 100 \quad (4)$$

The elastic line index is defined as the maximum dimensionless local deviation parameter:

$$\varepsilon_e = \left| \frac{\Delta w(X_{mx})}{w^*(X_{mx})} \right| \times 100 = \left| \frac{w(X_{mx}) - w^*(X_{mx})}{w^*(X_{mx})} \right| \times 100 = LD(X_{mx}) \quad (5)$$

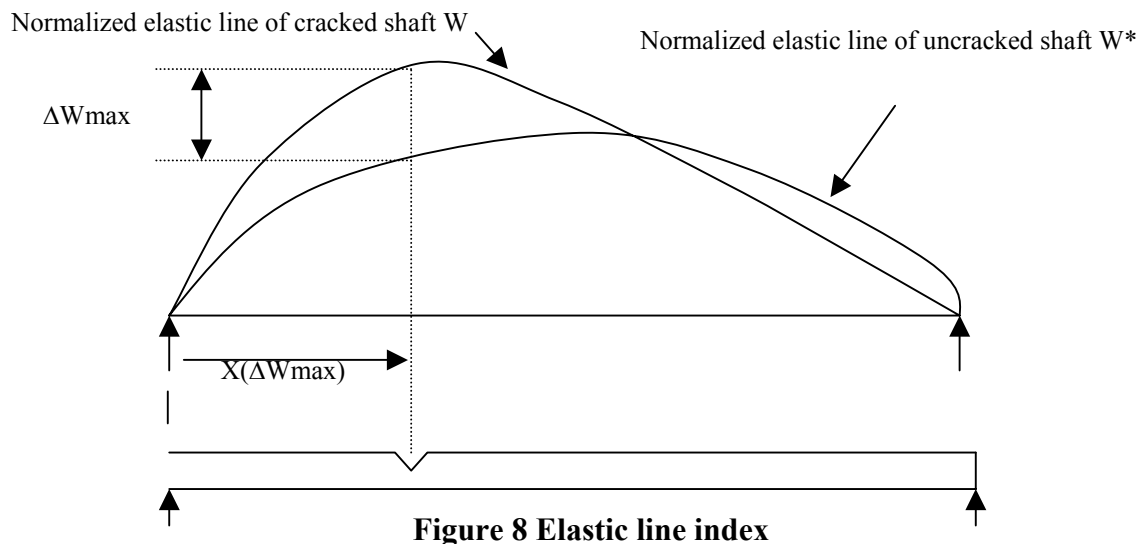
where  $x_{max}$  is the location on the shaft of maximum deviation associated with  $|\Delta w_{max}|$  and  $X_{mx}$

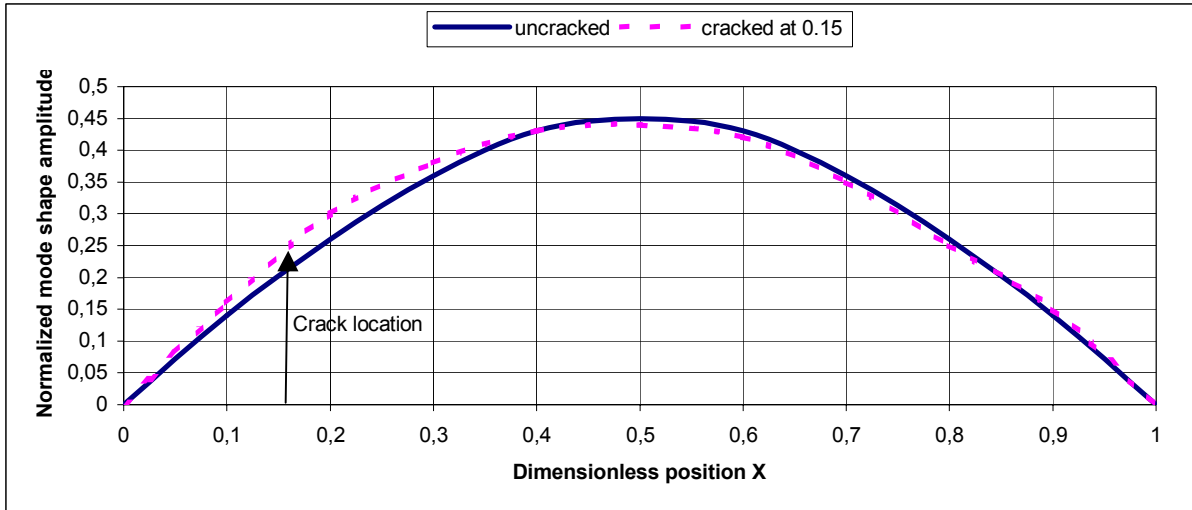
is the dimensionless location of maximum deviation =  $\frac{x_{max}}{L}$ .

All mode shapes are normalised and are represented by vectors of unit length. The variables in equation (4) and (5) are the same as in figure (8) where  $|\Delta w_{max}|$  is the maximal local deviation =  $|w(X_{mx}) - w^*(X_{mx})|$ .

Extensive computer simulations were performed using finite element model for all three configurations (a,b,c).

Figure 9 shows a modal amplitude applied to case (a) for  $A_C = 80\%$ ,  $S = 5\%$  with a crack location at 15%. x is the location of a point on the shaft from left hand support and X is the dimensionless position of a point on the shaft =  $\frac{x}{L}$ .

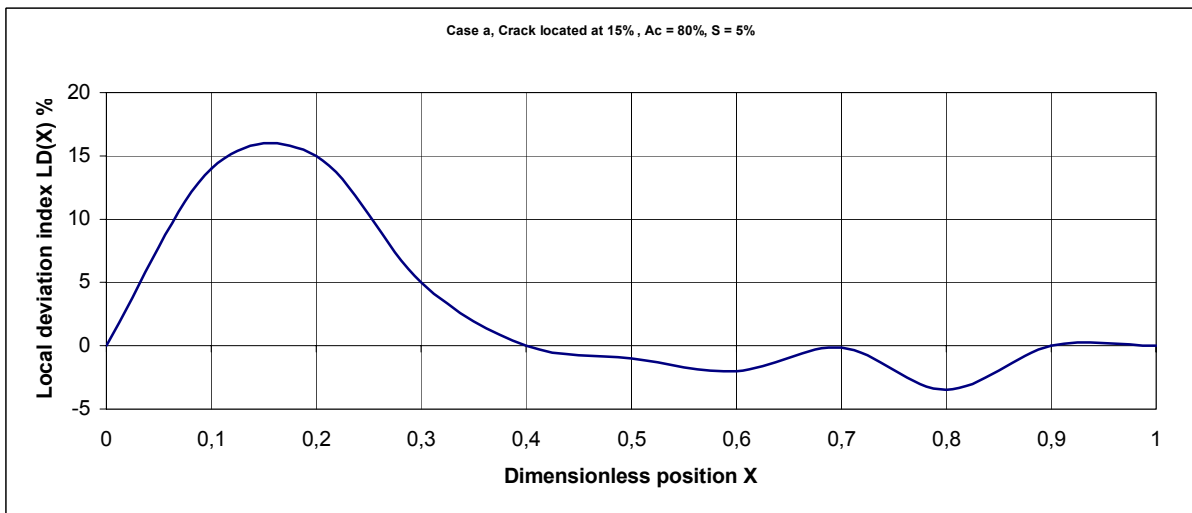




**Figure 9 Mode shape of a cracked rotor**

Figure 10 shows the local deviation index  $LD(X)$  computed from equation(4) and applied to the previous case (figure 10). The maximal of the line index appears close to the crack location. This analysis allows us to locate the crack when its location is unknown.

The same study has been applied by using the operating deflection shape [ 40, 41] close to the natural frequency and similar results have been obtained. Consequently, the operating deflection shape can be used in place of the first mode shape. It has been shown that the elastic line index increases with the increase in the crack depth. The rate of the increase in the index depends, however, on the crack location. The line index seems more sensitive when cracks occur near locations and where the slope of the moment curve is maxima.



**Figure 10 Line index**

### 3. CONCLUSION

This paper presents parametric studies for open cracked rotor systems. In the case of open cracks, the roles played by the frequency index  $\varepsilon_f$  and the line index  $\varepsilon_e$  and  $\varepsilon_f$  are highlighted. The effects of crack depth, crack location, rotational speed and slenderness of the rotor on the natural frequency and the elastic line indexes are investigated in the case of three rotor configurations. The natural frequency index is found to be more sensitive to the



crack depth, especially for rotating speeds ranging from 0.8 to 1.2 the critical speed. However the frequency index is less sensitive to low crack depths and doesn't allow an early detection of damage, unless a very high precision frequency analysis is conducted. The crack location can be predicted from the elastic line index. The newly introduced line index  $\epsilon_c$  can be obtained by monitoring the operating deflection shape and allows us to locate the position of the crack  $\mu_c$ .

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