

A Reduced-Order Model for the Dynamics of a Flexible Solar Sail

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- computing necessary open-loop control inputs to steer the solarcraft to follow a desired maneuver
- designing a feedback control to stabilize the solarcraft about the desired maneuver



Flexible solarcraft motion involves 3 fundamental disciplines:



































We consider a square solar sail.



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We assume the sail film is connected to the booms continuously.



































Body axes *xyz* are obtained from the inertial axes *XYZ*:

- 1. Rotation θ about *Y* to the axes $x_1y_1z_1$
- 2. Rotation ϕ about x_1 to the axes $x_2y_2z_2$
- 3. Rotation ψ about z_2 to the body axes xyz

 ϕ , θ and ψ are the Euler angles.



The velocity of the origin *o* of the body axes $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_x & v_y & v_z \end{bmatrix}^T$.



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EQUATIONS OF MOTION

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 $\boldsymbol{\omega} = E(\phi, \psi) \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \longrightarrow \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = E^{-1}(\phi, \psi) \boldsymbol{\omega}$

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v and $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ are referred to as *quasi-velocities*.



Local axes for Control Vane 1-4 are obtained from *xyz*:

- 1. Rotation α_i about z to the axes $x'_i y'_i z'_i$
- 2. Rotation β_i about x'_i to the axes $x''_i y''_i z''_i$
- 3. Rotation δ_i about y_i'' to the local axes $\eta_i \gamma_i \kappa_i$

for i = 1, 2, 3, 4.

For the square solar sail, $\alpha_1 = 225^\circ$, $\alpha_2 = 45^\circ$, $\alpha_3 = 315^\circ$, $\alpha_4 = 135^\circ$.





$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{v}} \right) + \tilde{\omega} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{v}} - C \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{R}} = \mathbf{F}$$
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$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{\partial \hat{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{u}}} \right) - \frac{\partial \hat{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial \mathbf{u}} + \frac{\partial \hat{\mathcal{R}}}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{u}}} = \hat{\mathbf{U}}$$



Equations of motion of flexible solar sail can be obtained by means of the Lagrange's equations of motion in quasi-coordinates.

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 $(n + 1)^2$ nodes.





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Both *K* and *M* are $(n^2 + 4n + 6) \times (n^2 + 4n + 6)$.



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Unit vector along position
 vector from *O* to a point in *i*th
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$$\mathbf{f}_{c}^{(i)} = 2\frac{S_{0}}{c} \left[\frac{R_{0}}{R_{c}^{(i)}}\right]^{2} l^{2} \left[\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{c}^{(i)} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}_{c}^{(i)}\right]^{2} \hat{\mathbf{n}}_{c}^{(i)}, \quad i = 1, 2, 3, 4$$



The total virtual work is

 $\delta W = \delta W_m + \delta W_b + \delta W_c + \delta W_p = \mathbf{F}^T \delta \mathbf{R}^* + \mathbf{M}^T \delta \boldsymbol{\theta}^* + \mathbf{Q}^T \delta \mathbf{q}$



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where

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{\Delta}(t) \\ \mathbf{V}(t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ \beta_4(t) \\ \delta_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ \delta_4(t) \end{bmatrix}$$



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Due to the nature of FEM, a large *n* must be used for sufficiently accurate representation of the system.



The system is also underactuated because the number of control inputs is many times smaller than the number of degrees of freedom.



The problem with the nonlinearity of the system can be obviated by a perturbation solution in which



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$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \bar{\mathbf{x}}(t) + \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t)$$

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The perturbation solution separates the equation into the *zero-order equation*



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for the desired nominal dynamics



The perturbation solution separates the equation into the *zero-order* equation

 $\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{f}\left[\mathbf{\bar{x}}(t), \mathbf{\bar{u}}(t)\right]$

for the desired nominal dynamics and the *first-order equation*

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}(t) = A\left[\bar{\mathbf{x}}(t), \bar{\mathbf{u}}(t)\right] \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t) + B\left[\bar{\mathbf{x}}(t), \bar{\mathbf{u}}(t)\right] \hat{\mathbf{u}}(t)$$

for the small perturbation about the nominal dynamics.



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for the small perturbation about the nominal dynamics.

Coefficient matrices, both functions of $\overline{\mathbf{x}}(t)$ and $\overline{\mathbf{u}}(t)$



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The first-order equation is linear, but as high dimensional as the original equation.

We note that the zero-order state $\overline{\mathbf{x}}(t)$ and control input $\overline{\mathbf{u}}(t)$ enter into the first-order equation as inputs.



As a result, the first-order equation is time-invariant if $\overline{\mathbf{x}}$ and $\overline{\mathbf{u}}$ are constant.


PERTURBATION SOLUTION

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The first-order equation is time-varying if $\overline{\mathbf{x}}$ and $\overline{\mathbf{u}}$ are time-dependent. The first-order equation is used to assess stability about the maneuver. It can also be used to design feedback control to attenuate perturbations.



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Vector of nodal displacements

where U_e is the matrix of k vibration modes and



Numerical Data

Length, $L = 100 \text{ m}$	Boom length, $L_b = 100\sqrt{2}$ m
Membrane thickness, $t_m = 2.5 \ \mu m$	Membrane density, $\rho_m = 1660 \text{ kg/m}^3$
Boom wall thickness, $t_b = 0.1 \text{ mm}$	Boom Radius, $r_b = 3.5$ cm
Boom density, $\rho_b = 1660 \text{ kg/m}^3$	Boom Young's Modulus, $E_b = 68.95$ GPa
Payload mass, $M_p = 20 \text{ kg}$	Payload position, $\mathbf{r}_p = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -0.1 \end{bmatrix}^T \mathbf{m}$
Control panel length, $l = 5 \text{ m}$	Control panel mass $m_c = 0.3124 \text{ kg}$
Damping factor $\zeta = 0.005$	Tension, $T = 0.0172$ N/m
Solar Radiation flux, $S_0 = 1368 \text{ N/m}^2$	Sun to Earth Distance, $R_0 = 1.496 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$



First 4 nonzero eigenfrequencies vs. n





Shapes of first 8 vibration modes for n = 14









Solarcraft in a circular orbit around the Sun at $R = R_0 = 1$ AU





Solarcraft in a circular orbit around the Sun at $R = R_0 = 1$ AU





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Convergence of the elastic displacements at the points *a* and *b*









Elastic shape for n = 14 during the circular orbit





Equilibrium Values and Eigenvalues of A for the circular orbit at 1 AU

	n = 6	n = 10	n = 14
Ω	1.767×10^{-7} rad/s	1.767×10^{-7} rad/s	1.767×10^{-7} rad/s
w_a	-1.4668 m	-1.4479 m	-1.4444 m
w_b	-0.9380 m	-0.9233 m	-0.9209 m
# of λ 's	132	292	516
λ_{1-4}	0	0	0
$\lambda_{5,6}$	$\pm 1.438 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm 1.416 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm 1.355 \times 10^{-7}$
$\lambda_{7,8}$	$\pm i 1.767 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i 1.766 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i 1.769 \times 10^{-7}$
$\lambda_{9,10}$	$\pm i2.421 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i2.388 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i 2.685 \times 10^{-7}$
$\lambda_{11,12}$	± 0.001148	± 0.001112	± 0.001101
$\lambda_{13,14}$	$-0.000332 \pm i0.078881$	$-0.000332 \pm i0.078351$	$-0.000332 \pm i0.078170$
$\lambda_{15,16}$	$-0.000469 \pm i0.093866$	$-0.000463 \pm i0.092554$	$-0.000461 \pm i0.092144$
$\lambda_{17,18}$	$-0.000943 \pm i0.133046$	$-0.000910 \pm i0.129813$	$-0.000902 \pm i0.128940$
$\lambda_{19,20}$	$-0.001199 \pm i0.150027$	$-0.001148 \pm i0.145763$	$-0.001133 \pm i0.144508$
$\lambda_{21,22}$	$-0.001212 \pm i0.150838$	$-0.001159 \pm i0.146498$	$-0.001145 \pm i0.145234$
$\lambda_{23,24}$	$-0.001450 \pm i0.164970$	$-0.001385 \pm i0.160137$	$-0.001365 \pm i0.158598$



Equilibrium Values and Eigenvalues of A for the circular orbit at 1 AU

$\lambda_{25,26}$	$-0.002715 \pm i0.225751$	$-0.002405 \pm i0.210986$	$-0.002320 \pm i0.206787$
$\lambda_{27,28}$	$-0.003044 \pm i0.239051$	$-0.002731 \pm i0.224812$	$-0.002634 \pm i0.220319$
$\lambda_{29,30}$	$-0.003045 \pm i0.239097$	$-0.002733 \pm i0.224893$	$-0.002636 \pm i0.220414$
$\lambda_{31,32}$	$-0.003383 \pm i0.251986$	$-0.003087 \pm i0.239036$	$-0.002980 \pm i0.234326$
$\lambda_{33,34}$	$-0.004655 \pm i0.295580$	$-0.003896 \pm i0.268537$	$-0.003689 \pm i0.260732$
$\lambda_{35,36}$	$-0.004670 \pm i0.296069$	$-0.003957 \pm i0.270620$	$-0.003765 \pm i0.263389$
$\lambda_{37,38}$	$-0.004759 \pm i0.298872$	$-0.004083 \pm i0.274897$	$-0.003882 \pm i0.267456$
$\lambda_{39,40}$	$-0.004801 \pm i0.300184$	$-0.004094 \pm i0.275274$	$-0.003890 \pm i0.267715$
$\lambda_{41,42}$	$-0.007565 \pm i0.376808$	$-0.005233 \pm i0.311208$	$-0.004876 \pm i0.299754$
$\lambda_{43,44}$	$-0.007847 \pm i0.383764$	$-0.005298 \pm i0.313130$	$-0.004891 \pm i0.300194$
$\lambda_{45,46}$	$-0.008280 \pm i0.394194$	$-0.005363 \pm i0.315035$	$-0.004985 \pm i0.303071$
$\lambda_{47,48}$	$-0.009178 \pm i0.415023$	$-0.005558 \pm i0.320716$	$-0.005214 \pm i0.309937$
$\lambda_{49,50}$	$-0.009414 \pm i0.420309$	$-0.006960 \pm i0.358878$	$-0.006383 \pm i0.342945$
$\lambda_{51,52}$	$-0.009545 \pm i0.423216$	$-0.007144 \pm i0.363611$	$-0.006547 \pm i0.347303$
$\lambda_{53,54}$	$-0.009557 \pm i0.423487$	$-0.007166 \pm i0.364171$	$-0.006559 \pm i0.347639$
$\lambda_{55,56}$	$-0.009557 \pm i0.423487$	$-0.007224 \pm i0.365625$	$-0.006633 \pm i0.349576$
$\lambda_{57,58}$	$-0.009557 \pm i0.423487$	$-0.008991 \pm i0.407885$	$-0.008106 \pm i0.386430$



Equilibrium Values and Eigenvalues of A for n = 14

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	$0.25R_{0}$	$0.5R_{0}$	$0.75R_{0}$	$1.25R_{0}$
Ω	9.615×10^{-7} rad/s	4.999×10^{-7} rad/s	3.899×10^{-7} rad/s	2.5284×10^{-7} rad/s
w_a	-4.9852 m	-5.7761 m	-6.5373 m	-5.1013 m
w_b	-2.8067 m	-3.6829 m	-4.0839 m	-2.4573 m
λ_{1-4}	0	0	0	0
$\lambda_{5,6}$	$\pm 7.286 \times 10^{-8}$	$\pm 2.070 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm 2.960 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm 4.370 \times 10^{-7}$
$\lambda_{7,8}$	$\pm i9.614 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i4.997 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i3.899 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i 2.529 \times 10^{-7}$
$\lambda_{9,10}$	$\pm i 1.243 \times 10^{-6}$	$\pm i 8.798 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i7.670 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i6.161 \times 10^{-7}$
$\lambda_{11,12}$	± 0.001252	± 0.004405	± 0.007057	± 0.010065
$\lambda_{13,14}$	$-0.000332 \pm i0.078184$	$-0.000332 \pm i0.078184$	$-0.000332 \pm i0.078184$	$-0.000332 \pm i0.078184$
$\lambda_{15,16}$	$-0.000461 \pm i 0.092155$	$-0.000461 \pm i 0.092155$	$-0.000461 \pm i 0.092155$	$-0.000461 \pm i0.092155$
$\lambda_{17,18}$	$-0.000902 \pm i0.128951$	$-0.000902 \pm i0.128951$	$-0.000902 \pm i 0.128951$	$-0.000902 \pm i0.128951$
$\lambda_{19,20}$	$-0.001133 \pm i0.144518$	$-0.001133 \pm i0.144514$	$-0.001133 \pm i0.144510$	$-0.001133 \pm i0.144516$
$\lambda_{21,22}$	$-0.001145 \pm i0.145244$	$-0.001145 \pm i0.145244$	$-0.001145 \pm i0.145244$	$-0.001145 \pm i0.145244$
$\lambda_{23,24}$	$-0.001365\pm i0.158607$	$-0.001365 \pm i0.158607$	$-0.001365 \pm i0.158607$	$-0.001365 \pm i0.158607$
$\lambda_{25,26}$	$-0.002320\pm i0.206795$	$-0.002320 \pm i0.206795$	$-0.002320 \pm i0.206795$	$-0.002320 \pm i0.206795$
$\lambda_{27,28}$	$-0.002634 \pm i0.220326$	$-0.002634 \pm i0.220326$	$-0.002634 \pm i0.220327$	$-0.002634 \pm i0.220333$
$\lambda_{29,30}$	$-0.002636 \pm i0.220421$	$-0.002636 \pm i0.220421$	$-0.002636 \pm i0.220421$	$-0.002636 \pm i0.220421$
$\lambda_{31,32}$	$-0.002980 \pm i0.234332$	$-0.002980 \pm i0.234332$	$-0.002980 \pm i0.234332$	$-0.002980 \pm i0.234332$
$\lambda_{33,34}$	$-0.003689 \pm i0.260738$	$-0.003689 \pm i0.260738$	$-0.003689 \pm i0.260738$	$-0.003689 \pm i0.260738$
$\lambda_{35,36}$	$-0.003765 \pm i0.263395$	$-0.003765 \pm i0.263395$	$-0.003765 \pm i0.263395$	$-0.003765 \pm i0.263395$
:	:	:	:	:



Elastic shapes for n = 14







Equilibrium Values and Eigenvalues of A_r for n = 14

	k = 8	k = 8 (Closed-Loop)	k = 10	k = 12
Ω	1.767×10^{-7} rad/s	1.767×10^{-7} rad/s	1.767×10^{-7} rad/s	1.767×10^{-7} rad/s
w_a	-1.4393 m	-1.4393 m	-1.4393 m	-1.4393 m
w_b	-0.9493 m	-0.9493 m	-0.9493 m	-0.9493 m
λ_{1-4}	0	0	0	0
$\lambda_{5,6}$	$\pm 8.145 \times 10^{-8}$	$3.31 \times 10^{-6} \pm i0.000029$	$\pm 1.451 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm 1.451 \times 10^{-7}$
$\lambda_{7,8}$	$\pm i 1.767 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i 1.767 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i 1.767 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i 1.767 \times 10^{-7}$
$\lambda_{9,10}$	$\pm i3.096 \times 10^{-7}$	$-0.076316 \pm i0.076471$	$\pm i 2.432 \times 10^{-7}$	$\pm i 2.432 \times 10^{-7}$
$\lambda_{11,12}$	± 0.001171	$-0.001431 \pm i0.001351$	± 0.001171	± 0.001171
$\lambda_{13,14}$	$-0.000461 \pm i0.092155$	$-0.000461 \pm i0.092155$	$-0.000461 \pm i0.092144$	$-0.000461 \pm i0.092144$
$\lambda_{15,16}$	$-0.000902 \pm i0.128951$	$-0.000902 \pm i0.128951$	$-0.000902 \pm i0.128937$	$-0.000902 \pm i0.128937$
$\lambda_{17,18}$	$-0.001106 \pm i0.142740$	$-0.001106 \pm i0.142740$	$-0.001105 \pm i0.142725$	$-0.001105 \pm i0.142716$
$\lambda_{19,20}$	$-0.001133 \pm i0.144518$	$-0.001251 \pm i0.144029$	$-0.001133 \pm i0.144506$	$-0.001133 \pm i0.144506$
$\lambda_{21,22}$	$-0.001372 \pm i0.159001$	$-0.001372 \pm i0.159001$	$-0.001372 \pm i0.158991$	$-0.001372 \pm i0.158991$
$\lambda_{23,24}$	$-0.002320 \pm i0.206795$	$-0.002320 \pm i0.206795$	$-0.002320 \pm i0.206785$	$-0.002320 \pm i0.206785$
$\lambda_{25,26}$	$-0.002626 \pm i0.219981$	$-0.002627 \pm i0.219961$	$-0.002618 \pm i0.219630$	$-0.002617 \pm i0.219613$
$\lambda_{27,28}$	$-0.000721 \pm i 1281.120$	$-0.000721 \pm i1281.120$	$-0.002634 \pm i0.220317$	$-0.002634 \pm i0.220317$
$\lambda_{29,30}$			$-0.002980 \pm i0.234325$	$-0.002980 \pm i0.234325$
$\lambda_{31,32}$			$-0.000729 \pm i 1283.280$	$-0.003765 \pm i0.263390$
$\lambda_{33,34}$				$-0.003836 \pm i0.265872$
$\lambda_{35,36}$				$-0.000776 \pm i 1291.120$



Equilibrium values for n = 14 at a circular orbit at the L1 libration

point $(\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0, \ \delta_1 = \delta_2 = \delta_3 = \delta_4 = \delta)$

	$\delta = 0$ rad	$\delta = \pi/6$ rad	$\delta = \pi/4$ rad	$\delta = \pi/3$ rad
R	$1.38144 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$	$1.38187 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$	$1.38224 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$	$1.38252 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$
$R_0 - R$	$1.14555 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}$	$1.14126 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}$	$1.13763 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}$	$1.13484 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}$
w_a	-1.6924 m	-1.6977 m	-1.7022 m	-1.7056 m
w_b	-1.0791 m	-1.0806 m	-1.0819 m	-1.0829 m



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w_a	-1.6924 m	-1.6977 m	-1.7022 m	-1.7056 m
w_b	-1.0791 m	-1.0806 m	-1.0819 m	-1.0829 m

For a conventional spacecraft $R = 1.48118 \times 10^{11}$ m and

 $R - R_0 = 1.48242 \times 10^9$ m.



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Nonlinearity of the governing equation is dealt with a perturbation solution that separates the equation into zero-order and first-order equations.

The zero-order equation is used to design an open-loop control for a desired maneuver.



The first-order equation is used to assess the stability about the desired maneuver and to design feedback control to alleviate perturbations.



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In numerical application, circular orbits around the Sun are considered. The zero-order equation is used to determine the turn rate and elastic deformation.



Circular orbit at the sub-L1 libration point is also considered.

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Future research will focus on introduction of more effective control inputs, and control design.