

DEPARTMENT OF AEROSPACE ENGINEERING  
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Helicopter Theory

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1. The homogeneous part of the flap equation of a rotor blade in forward flight is given below.

$$\ddot{\beta} + \dot{\beta} \gamma \left\{ \frac{1}{8} + \frac{\mu}{6} \sin \psi \right\} + \beta \left\{ \bar{\omega}_{RF}^2 + \gamma \mu \cos \psi \left\{ \frac{1}{6} + \frac{\mu}{4} \sin \psi \right\} \right\} = 0$$

Assume the following sets of values for Lock Number  $\gamma$  and  $\bar{\omega}_{RF}$ .

- (i)  $\gamma=6.0$  and  $\bar{\omega}_{RF}=1.0$
- (ii)  $\gamma=12.0$  and  $\bar{\omega}_{RF}=1.0$
- (iii)  $\gamma=6.0$  and  $\bar{\omega}_{RF}=1.15$
- (iv)  $\gamma=12.0$  and  $\bar{\omega}_{RF}=1.15$

For each set of values, evaluate the response of the blade at (three) **different** forward speeds from hover up to  $\mu=0.6$ . Assume the same initial conditions  $\beta(0)=0.6$  and  $\dot{\beta}(0)=0$ , for all the cases.

- (a) Show the time response for **each set separately** in one figure.
- (b) Estimate the damping and the frequency of oscillation for each case. Plot your damping and frequency results in a **root-locus plot** for each set of Lock Number and rotating flap natural frequency. **Clearly describe the procedure followed for the estimation of the damping and the frequency**

Note: The derivatives are with respect to non-dimensional time