

# Magnetic Damping of Vibrating Conducting Solids

# Introduction

When a conductive solid material moves through a static magnetic field, an eddy current density is induced. That induced eddy current density interacts with the static magnetic field, and the result is a Lorentz force acting on the solid that counteracts the motion. Therefore, a conducting solid that is oscillating in a static magnetic field experiences a structural damping.

This example computes that damping effect in two different ways. First, by harmonically exciting a cantilever beam across a range of frequencies and placing it in a strong magnetic field. The same effect is then computed in a full transient study, when the beam instead experiences a sudden applied load. The approach presented here assumes that the relative magnitudes of the structural displacements are small, that the material has isotropic and linear properties, and that the damping Lorentz force can be computed from the static magnetic field and the motion induced AC eddy current density. Second order effects arising from the AC magnetic field generated by the eddy currents are not included in the computation. The AC magnetic field is also computed and found to be 2-3 orders of magnitude smaller than the DC magnetic field.



Figure 1: A vibrating beam next to a current carrying wire experiences magnetic damping.

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For a solid material experiencing a time-harmonic forced excitation, the displacement field is of the form

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r},t) = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r})\sin(\omega t)$$

which can also be written in the frequency domain as a phasor:

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r},t) = \operatorname{Re}(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r})e^{i\omega t})$$

Thus, the velocity field is given by

$$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r},t) = \operatorname{Re}(i\omega \hat{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{r})e^{i\omega t})$$

In the transient study, the displacement field is not necessarily an exact sine wave. However, as can be seen in Figure 5, it behaves similarly. In that case it is already slightly damped even without the addition of the magnetic field, as it approaches its equilibrium position.

Next, consider the effect of a spatially nonuniform, but static, magnetic flux density  $\mathbf{B}_{DC}(\mathbf{r})$ . Under the assumption that the local displacements are small enough for each moving point in the solid to only see the magnetic flux density in the undeformed state, the velocity induced current density is given by

$$\mathbf{J}_i = \sigma \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}_{\mathrm{DC}}(\mathbf{r})$$

where  $\sigma$  is the material conductivity. The resulting total AC current density is different however, as the metallic cantilever beam is inductive and therefore exhibits a skin effect. Thus, a second, magnetodynamic, problem has to be solved in order to compute the AC current density. The body forces experienced by a current-carrying domain moving through a magnetic field are then given by the cross product between the induced AC current density and the static magnetic flux density.

$$\mathbf{F}_{B} = \mathbf{J}_{AC} \times \mathbf{B}_{DC}(\mathbf{r})$$

These body forces are then applied to the structural mechanics problem and act as a damping force on the system.

The application contains two different studies, both of which first computes the static magnetic field due to a current-carrying wire which is next to an aluminum beam. In the first case, the second step is set as a Frequency Domain Perturbation study. There, the beam experiences a forced harmonic vibration and the resulting mechanical beam

displacement field and AC current density are computed, yielding also the damping electromagnetic force. In the second case, the second step is instead set as a Time Dependent study, where the full transient solution is found. A constant boundary load is applied to the end of the beam instead of the harmonic perturbation in the previous case. However, since that load is applied suddenly at the start of the study instead of ramping up slowly, it will still cause the beam oscillate.

In both cases, the strength of the magnetic field is then varied through a Parametric Sweep, and the effect of the magnetic damping on the response of the system can be observed and compared between the two approaches.

# Results and Discussion

Figure 2 shows the magnetic flux density computed for the structure at rest. Figure 3 displays the magnitude of the displacement of the tip of the beam versus excitation frequency for two different magnetic field intensities for the frequency-domain structural dynamics problem. The magnetic field provides significant additional damping. Figure 4 shows a snapshot of the induced eddy current distribution in the beam. Figure 5 shows how the displacement of the tip of the beam varies with time in the full time dependent model. There, the effects of the magnetic damping become even more apparent. The amplitude of the oscillations decreases much quicker with time when a current passes through the wire, compared to the case where there is no current. It is also interesting to compare the results in that plot with the results in the corresponding plot from the frequency domain, shown in Figure 3.



Figure 2: The magnetic field around a current carrying wire.



Figure 3: Displacement of the tip of the beam versus excitation frequency for differing values of the current through the wire.



Figure 4: The AC current distribution.



Figure 5: Displacement of the tip of the beam as a function of time, for different values of the current through the wire.

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# Notes About the COMSOL Implementation

Solve this application with two physics interfaces — the Magnetic Fields and Solid Mechanics interfaces. Use a Stationary study for the first Magnetic Fields interface and either a Frequency Domain Perturbation study or a Time Dependent study for the Magnetic Fields and Solid Mechanics interfaces. The coupling between the two interfaces is automatically considered by using the multiphysics coupling feature referred to as Lorentz Coupling.

**Application Library path:** ACDC\_Module/Motors\_and\_Actuators/ magnetic\_damping

# Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

# NEW

In the New window, click 🔗 Model Wizard.

#### MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click 间 3D.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select AC/DC>Electromagnetic Fields>Magnetic Fields (mf).
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 In the Select Physics tree, select Structural Mechanics>Solid Mechanics (solid).
- 5 Click Add.
- 6 Click  $\bigcirc$  Study.
- 7 In the Select Study tree, select Empty Study.
- 8 Click **M** Done.

# **GLOBAL DEFINITIONS**

Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parameters, locate the Parameters section.

| • In the tuble, enter the following bettings. | 3 | In the | table, | enter | the | foll | lowing | settings: |
|---|---|--------|--------|-------|-----|------|--------|-----------|
|---|---|--------|--------|-------|-----|------|--------|-----------|

| Name  | Expression   | Value       | Description                 |
|-------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| sigma | 3.774e7[S/m] | 3.774E7 S/m | Material conductivity       |
| a_c   | 5e5[A]       | 5E5 A       | Applied current on the wire |
| r0    | 0.05[m]      | 0.05 m      | Radius of the coil          |

The Applied current will be used as a sweep parameter.

## GEOMETRY I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Geometry I.
- **2** In the **Geometry** toolbar, click **Block** to create a block for the simulation domain. Leave the default block size.
- 3 In the Geometry toolbar, click Block again to create a block for the cantilever beam.

#### Block 2 (blk2)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Geometry I click Block 2 (blk2).
- 2 In the Settings window for Block, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type 0.9.
- 4 In the **Depth** text field, type 0.025.
- 5 In the **Height** text field, type 0.1.
- 6 Locate the Position section. In the y text field, type 0.575.
- 7 In the z text field, type 0.45.

Finally, add a cylinder for the wire generating the static magnetic field.

Cylinder I (cyl1)

- I In the **Geometry** toolbar, click 🔲 **Cylinder**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Cylinder, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Radius text field, type r0.
- 4 Locate the **Position** section. In the **x** text field, type 0.5.
- **5** In the **y** text field, type 0.5.
- 6 Click 🟢 Build All Objects.

7 Click the 🔁 Wireframe Rendering button in the Graphics toolbar.



Add variables for the induced current density and body force on the cantilever beam.

# MAGNETIC FIELDS (MF)

# Coil I

I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) right-click Magnetic Fields (mf) and choose the domain setting Coil. 2 Select Domain 3 only.



- 3 In the Settings window for Coil, locate the Coil section.
- **4** In the  $I_{\text{coil}}$  text field, type a\_c.
- 5 In the Model Builder window, expand the Coil I node.

# Input I

In the Model Builder window, expand the Component I (compl)>Magnetic Fields (mf)>
 Coil I>Geometry Analysis I node, then click Input I.

**2** Select Boundary 14 only.



# Geometry Analysis 1

In the Model Builder window, click Geometry Analysis I.

# Output I

I In the Physics toolbar, click 层 Attributes and choose Output.

**2** Select Boundary 13 only.



# External Current Density I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 📄 Domains and choose External Current Density.
- **2** Select Domain 3 only.
- **3** In the **Settings** window for **External Current Density**, locate the **External Current Density** section.
- **4** Specify the  $\mathbf{J}_{e}$  vector as

| 0             | x |
|---------------|---|
| 0             | у |
| a_c/(pi*r0^2) | z |

# SOLID MECHANICS (SOLID)

The **Solid Mechanics** interface is active only on the cantilever beam.

I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Solid Mechanics (solid).

**2** Select Domain 2 only.



# Linear Elastic Material I

Add a damping factor on Linear Elastic Material Model I.

I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (comp1)>Solid Mechanics (solid) click Linear Elastic Material I.

Damping I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 📃 Attributes and choose Damping.
- 2 In the Settings window for Damping, locate the Damping Settings section.
- 3 From the Damping type list, choose Isotropic loss factor.
- $\boldsymbol{4}$  From the  $\eta_s$  list, choose  $\boldsymbol{User}$  defined. In the associated text field, type 0.1.

# Fixed Constraint I

I In the Physics toolbar, click 📄 Boundaries and choose Fixed Constraint.

2 Select Boundary 5 only.



# Boundary Load I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔚 Boundaries and choose Boundary Load.
- **2** Select Boundary 17 only.



3 In the Settings window for Boundary Load, locate the Force section.

**4** Specify the  $\mathbf{F}_{A}$  vector as

| 0   | x |
|-----|---|
| 1e4 | у |
| 0   | z |

# 5 Right-click Boundary Load I and choose Harmonic Perturbation.

Boundary Load 2

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔚 Boundaries and choose Boundary Load.
- **2** Select Boundary 17 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Boundary Load, locate the Force section.
- **4** Specify the  $\mathbf{F}_A$  vector as

| 0   | x |
|-----|---|
| 1e4 | у |
| 0   | z |

## ADD MATERIAL

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Material to open the Add Material window.
- 2 Go to the Add Material window.
- 3 In the tree, select Built-in>Aluminum.
- 4 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the tree, select Built-in>Air.
- 6 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.
- 7 In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Material to close the Add Material window.

# MATERIALS

Aluminum (mat I)

I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Materials click Aluminum (matl).

**2** Select Domains 2 and 3 only.



Air (mat2)

I In the Model Builder window, click Air (mat2).

**2** Select Domain 1 only.



Some artificial conductivity is needed for numerical stability of the AC magnetic simulation.

- 3 In the Settings window for Material, locate the Material Contents section.
- **4** In the table, enter the following settings:

| Property                | Variable  | Value   | Unit | Property<br>group |
|-------------------------|---|---------|------|-------------------|
| Electrical conductivity | sigma_iso ;<br>sigmaii =<br>sigma_iso,<br>sigmaij = 0 | 10[S/m] | S/m  | Basic             |

# MULTIPHYSICS

Lorentz Coupling I (ltzc1)

In the Physics toolbar, click And Multiphysics Couplings and choose Domain> Lorentz Coupling.

# MESH I

I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Mesh I.

2 In the Settings window for Mesh, locate the Physics-Controlled Mesh section.

3 From the Element size list, choose Coarser.

# STUDY I

Parametric Sweep

- I In the Study toolbar, click **Parametric Sweep**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parametric Sweep, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 Click + Add.
- 4 In the table, enter the following settings:

| Parameter name                    | Parameter value list | Parameter unit |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| a_c (Applied current on the wire) | 0[A] 500000[A]       | A              |

Add a **Coil Geometry Analysis** study step as the first step to compute the direction of the current in the wire.

## Coil Geometry Analysis

In the Study toolbar, click 🔀 Study Steps and choose Other>Coil Geometry Analysis.

#### Stationary

- I In the Study toolbar, click 🔁 Study Steps and choose Stationary>Stationary.
- 2 In the Settings window for Stationary, locate the Physics and Variables Selection section.
- **3** Select the Modify model configuration for study step check box.
- 4 In the tree, select Component I (comp1)>Magnetic Fields (mf)>External Current Density I.
- 5 Right-click and choose Disable.
- 6 In the tree, select Component I (compl)>Solid Mechanics (solid).
- 7 Click (**O**) Disable in Solvers.

#### Frequency Domain Perturbation

- I In the Study toolbar, click C Study Steps and choose Frequency Domain> Frequency Domain Perturbation.
- **2** In the Settings window for Frequency Domain Perturbation, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 In the **Frequencies** text field, type range(5,0.5,50).
- 4 Locate the Physics and Variables Selection section. Select the Modify model configuration for study step check box.
- 5 In the tree, select Component I (compl)>Magnetic Fields (mf)>External Current Density I.

- 6 Right-click and choose Disable.
- 7 In the tree, select Component I (compl)>Solid Mechanics (solid)>Boundary Load 2.
- 8 Right-click and choose Disable.

#### Solution 1 (soll)

I In the Study toolbar, click The Show Default Solver.

Some adjustments to the default solver settings will improve the performance.

- 2 In the Model Builder window, expand the Solution I (soll) node.
- 3 In the Model Builder window, expand the Study I>Solver Configurations> Solution I (soll)>Stationary Solver 3 node, then click Fully Coupled I.
- 4 In the Settings window for Fully Coupled, locate the General section.
- 5 From the Linear solver list, choose Direct.
- 6 In the Model Builder window, under Study I>Solver Configurations>Solution I (soll)> Stationary Solver 3 click Direct.
- 7 In the Settings window for Direct, locate the General section.
- 8 From the Solver list, choose PARDISO.
- 9 In the **Study** toolbar, click **= Compute**.

# RESULTS

The first default plot group shows the magnetic field around a current carrying wire; compare with Figure 2. Give it a more descriptive name.

#### DC Magnetic Flux Density Norm

In the **Settings** window for **3D Plot Group**, type DC Magnetic Flux Density Norm in the **Label** text field.

#### Multislice 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the DC Magnetic Flux Density Norm node, then click Multislice I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Multislice, locate the Expression section.
- 3 From the Expression evaluated for list, choose Static solution.

#### Streamline Multislice I

- I In the Model Builder window, click Streamline Multislice I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Streamline Multislice, locate the Expression section.
- **3** From the **Expression evaluated for** list, choose **Static solution**.

#### Color Expression 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Streamline Multislice I node, then click Color Expression I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Color Expression, locate the Expression section.
- **3** From the **Expression evaluated for** list, choose **Static solution**.

## DC Magnetic Flux Density Norm

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click DC Magnetic Flux Density Norm.
- 2 In the DC Magnetic Flux Density Norm toolbar, click 💿 Plot.
- **3** Click the **V Go to Default View** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

# AC Magnetic Flux Density Norm

- I Right-click DC Magnetic Flux Density Norm and choose Duplicate.
- 2 Drag and drop DC Magnetic Flux Density Norm I below DC Magnetic Flux Density Norm.

The second plot group will show the AC magnetic flux density. Improve it by plotting the data in the cantilever beam only.

**3** In the **Settings** window for **3D Plot Group**, type AC Magnetic Flux Density Norm in the **Label** text field.

Multislice I

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the AC Magnetic Flux Density Norm node, then click Multislice I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Multislice, locate the Expression section.
- **3** From the **Expression evaluated for** list, choose **Harmonic perturbation**.

#### Selection 1

- I Right-click Multislice I and choose Selection.
- **2** Select Domain 2 only.

#### Streamline Multislice 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results>AC Magnetic Flux Density Norm click Streamline Multislice I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Streamline Multislice, locate the Expression section.
- **3** From the **Expression evaluated for** list, choose **Harmonic perturbation**.

#### Selection 1

- I Right-click Streamline Multislice I and choose Selection.
- **2** Select Domain 2 only.

Color Expression 1

- I In the Model Builder window, click Color Expression I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Color Expression, locate the Expression section.
- **3** From the **Expression evaluated for** list, choose **Harmonic perturbation**.

#### AC Magnetic Flux Density Norm

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click AC Magnetic Flux Density Norm.
- 2 In the AC Magnetic Flux Density Norm toolbar, click on Plot.



The plot now shows the magnitude of the AC magnetic flux density in the beam only.

Volume 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Results>Stress (solid) node, then click Volume I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Volume, locate the Expression section.
- **3** Clear the **Compute differential** check box.

# 4 In the Stress (solid) toolbar, click **I** Plot.



This plot shows the peak von Mises stress in the beam.

# Applied Loads (solid)

In the Model Builder window, expand the Results>Applied Loads (solid) node.

## Boundary Loads (solid)

In the Model Builder window, expand the Results>Applied Loads (solid)> Boundary Loads (solid) node.

#### Color Expression

- In the Model Builder window, expand the Results>Applied Loads (solid)>
  Boundary Loads (solid)>Boundary Load I node, then click Color Expression.
- 2 In the Settings window for Color Expression, locate the Expression section.
- **3** Clear the **Compute differential** check box.
- 4 In the Boundary Loads (solid) toolbar, click **O** Plot.

Next, add a plot for the AC currents in the beam.

## AC Electric Current Density

I In the Model Builder window, right-click AC Magnetic Flux Density Norm and choose Duplicate.

2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, type AC Electric Current Density in the Label text field.

# Multislice 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the AC Electric Current Density node, then click Multislice I.
- In the Settings window for Multislice, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)>
  Magnetic Fields>Currents and charge>mf.normJ Current density norm A/m<sup>2</sup>.

#### Color Expression 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Results>AC Electric Current Density> Streamline Multislice I node.
- 2 Right-click Color Expression I and choose Disable.

# Streamline Multislice I

- I In the Model Builder window, click Streamline Multislice I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Streamline Multislice, click Replace Expression in the upperright corner of the Expression section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)> Magnetic Fields>Currents and charge>mf.Jx,...,mf.Jz - Current density (spatial frame).
- **3** Locate the **Coloring and Style** section. Find the **Point style** subsection. From the **Color** list, choose **Black**.

## **4** In the **AC Electric Current Density** toolbar, click **O** Plot.



The AC eddy currents circulate within the beam.

Finish by plotting the RMS displacement of the tip of the beam as a function of frequency (Figure 3).

# RMS Displacement vs Frequency

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🚛 Add Plot Group and choose ID Plot Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, type RMS Displacement vs Frequency in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Data section. From the Dataset list, choose Study 1/ Parametric Solutions 1 (sol4).

## Point Graph 1

- I Right-click RMS Displacement vs Frequency and choose Point Graph.
- 2 Select Point 18 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Point Graph, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the y-Axis Data section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)> Solid Mechanics>Displacement>solid.disp\_rms Displacement, RMS m.
- 4 Click to expand the Legends section. Select the Show legends check box.
- 5 In the RMS Displacement vs Frequency toolbar, click 💿 Plot.

Compare the resulting plot with that shown in Figure 3.

Now add a transient study to the model for comparison.

# ADD STUDY

- I In the Home toolbar, click  $\sim\sim$  Add Study to open the Add Study window.
- 2 Go to the Add Study window.
- 3 Find the Studies subsection. In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Stationary.
- 4 Click Add Study in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click 2 Add Study to close the Add Study window.

# STUDY 2

Parametric Sweep

- I In the Study toolbar, click **Parametric Sweep**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parametric Sweep, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 Click + Add.
- 4 In the table, enter the following settings:

| Parameter name              | Parameter value list | Parameter unit |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| a_c (Applied current on the | 0[A] 500000[A]       | A              |
| wire)                       |                      |                |

Step 1: Stationary

- I In the Model Builder window, click Step I: Stationary.
- 2 In the Settings window for Stationary, locate the Physics and Variables Selection section.
- **3** Select the Modify model configuration for study step check box.
- 4 In the tree, select Component I (compl)>Magnetic Fields (mf)>Coil I.
- 5 Right-click and choose **Disable**.
- 6 In the tree, select Component I (compl)>Solid Mechanics (solid).
- 7 Click (**Disable in Solvers**.
- 8 In the tree, select Component I (compl)>Multiphysics>Lorentz Coupling I (ltzcl).
- 9 Click (**)** Disable in Solvers.

## Time Dependent

- I In the Study toolbar, click Study Steps and choose Time Dependent> Time Dependent.
- 2 In the Settings window for Time Dependent, locate the Study Settings section.

- 3 In the **Output times** text field, type range(0,0.001,0.1).
- 4 Locate the Physics and Variables Selection section. Select the Modify model configuration for study step check box.
- 5 In the tree, select Component I (compl)>Magnetic Fields (mf)>Coil I.
- 6 Right-click and choose Disable.
- 7 In the tree, select Component I (compl)>Solid Mechanics (solid)>Boundary Load I.
- 8 Right-click and choose Disable.

#### Solution 7 (sol7)

To significantly reduce the computation time, the default segregated solver can in this case be changed to a fully coupled solver. It is also possible to solve the magnetic fields problem with a direct solver, since the air domain has a finite conductivity and the induced current acts as a gauge.

- I In the Study toolbar, click **The Show Default Solver**.
- 2 In the Model Builder window, expand the Solution 7 (sol7) node.
- 3 In the Model Builder window, expand the Study 2>Solver Configurations> Solution 7 (sol7)>Time-Dependent Solver I node.
- 4 Right-click Study 2>Solver Configurations>Solution 7 (sol7)>Time-Dependent Solver I and choose Fully Coupled.
- **5** In the **Study** toolbar, click **= Compute**.

## RESULTS

# Magnetic Flux Density Norm (mf)

I In the Magnetic Flux Density Norm (mf) toolbar, click 💽 Plot.

The first default plot from the second study again shows the static magnetic field around a current carrying wire; compare with Figure 2.

The next plot shows the von Mises stress in the beam at the end of the transient study.

Stress (solid) 1

I In the Model Builder window, click Stress (solid) I.

# 2 In the Stress (solid) I toolbar, click 💿 Plot.



Finish by the displacement of the tip of the beam as a function of time (Figure 5).

#### Displacement vs Time

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🚛 Add Plot Group and choose ID Plot Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, type Displacement vs Time in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Data section. From the Dataset list, choose Study 2/ Parametric Solutions 2 (sol9).

## Point Graph 1

- I Right-click Displacement vs Time and choose Point Graph.
- 2 Select Point 18 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Point Graph, locate the y-Axis Data section.
- 4 In the **Expression** text field, type solid.disp.
- 5 Locate the Legends section. Select the Show legends check box.
- 6 In the Displacement vs Time toolbar, click **O** Plot.

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