

Gas Turbine Engine Anomaly Detection Through Computer Simulation Technique of Statistical Correlation

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Abstract

Inefficiencies of compressors and turbines resulting from insufficient pressure ratio at successive blade stages in gas turbines often lead to flow reversals. A step to statistically correlate boost pressure and vibration velocity amplitude to avoid such flow reversals therefore led to the execution of this research. A computer simulation technique was used to actualize this purpose with the operational data obtained from Delta IV unit of Ughelli power station GT 18 using VC++ programming language. Results obtained show that maximum vibration manifests on each of the bearings at a pressure ratio of 9.47 for all cases considered. These results further show a linear relationship between the data using statistical z- test.

Keywords: Computer simulation; Statistical correlation; Gas turbine; Anomaly detection; Vibration amplitude; Pressure Ratio.

1. Introduction

The marine gas turbine (GT) in many respects is the most significant means of creating mechanical power among the other various means. Although GTs obtain their power by utilizing the energy of burnt gases and air which are at high temperature and pressure while expanding through several rings of fixed and rotating blades [1]. GTs are increasingly being used all over the world for various applications, some of which include power generation, aero-propulsion, propulsion of ships, operation of pumps and compressors [2]. In Nigeria, GTs are used mainly for electricity generation, base-load operations, standby power generating plants including aircraft and ship propulsion. Most oil companies like Agip, Chevron, Elf and Shell also use gas turbines for electricity generation and other purposes [3].

In this paper, an approach is presented for estimating the risk reduction associated with vibration amplitude and boost pressure. VC++ programming language was used to determine the statistical correlation coefficient between boost pressure and vibration amplitude.

1.1. Factors affecting performance

GTs operates efficiently if the energy conversion process is operated at the following thermodynamically favorable conditions:

1. High pressure and temperature at the turbine inlet,
2. Minimal losses during compression and expansion.

While conversion losses can be minimized through optimal aerodynamic design of the compressor and turbine, the high pressure ratios of 20:1 or greater and turbine inlet temperatures of 1371.11°C and above are desirable for increased efficiency. Effectively, to achieve the thermal efficiencies delivered by modern GTs, they must work at process conditions that push the mechanical and thermal stress of the materials used in the machine's gas path components to their limits [4].

Ambient conditions affect a GT at both the compressor inlet and the turbine outlet. At the compressor inlet, the higher the temperature and the lower the pressure, the less the mass flow that can be generated through the turbine. Humidity also plays a role. Higher specific humidity increases the specific volume of the inlet airflow, so that the mass flow through the turbine is reduced resulting in less power output and increased heat rate. At the turbine outlet, ambient conditions also play a role. The higher the pressure, the less energy that can be converted to shaft power.

Nomenclature and Abbreviation

<i>F</i>	Number of fault types	<i>H_o</i>	Null hypothesis
<i>H₁</i>	Research hypothesis	<i>n</i>	Number of samples
<i>P</i>	Pressure (bar)	ρ	Confusion matrix as proportion of total diagnosis
<i>R</i>	Correlation coefficient	<i>r_p</i>	Pressure ratio
<i>SSE</i>	Sum of squares of the errors.	<i>T</i>	Temperature (K)
<i>X</i>	Vibration velocity amplitude (mm/s)	λ	Laplace corrector.
<i>GT</i>	Gas Turbine	<i>Brg</i>	Bearing
<i>L</i>	Laplace Correction Matrix	<i>CRC</i>	Control Room Computers
<i>CC</i>	Combustion chamber		

The important distinction when monitoring performance is the difference between recoverable and non-recoverable degradation, which are defined as follows:

- Recoverable Degradation is the performance loss that can be recovered by operational procedures such as keeping the inlet and outlet pressures low or online and offline water washing of the compressor.
- Non-Recoverable Degradation is the performance loss that cannot be recovered without repair or replacement of affected GT components. Examples of non-recoverable degradation include loss of surface finish on blades, increases in blade tip clearances, packing gland leakage of the compressor, turbine, and combustion system component, corrosion/erosion leading to flame instabilities or increased thermal stress on the subsequent turbine sections.

2. Materials and methods

The location of the test engine made the research feasible. The GT plant is 100MW equipment used for electricity generation. It is located in Ughelli; Delta State of Nigeria.

2.1. Vibrational analysis

Vibrational analysis takes place on rotating machinery to enable the early detection of faults before breakdown, and the rotating components in a GT are the compressor and turbine drafts that are mounted on a common shaft. This research dealt on the effect of pressure ratio on vibration amplitude in

an industrial GT through statistical correlation. However pressure ratio is the ratio of the absolute compressor pressure output to the absolute compressor pressure input. The purpose of vibration analysis is to determine the mechanical condition of the engine and pinpoint any specific mechanical or operational defect. Data acquisition is the essential first step in vibration analysis and the right data were acquired under appropriate conditions [5].

2.2. Data collection technique

The technique adopted for data collection during the experimentation of this project was that of remote internet data transfer. GT-18 was equipped with a remote cellular wireless data modem and a receiver. The remote data modem worked in conjuncture with remote sensors and other associated instrumentations for data collection in the CRC. The totality of these instruments helped to transmit data to the receiver. The system is holistically shown in fig.1. The components labelled 1,2,4 and 5 are the bearings with transducers, while 3 is the thrust bearing without transducer.

The receiver which is a remote data collector was entirely another modem which the researchers kept with them. Communication was established using cell phones between the researchers and the gas station when the plant was running to know when data transmission was on. The data was thus recorded as at when due through the internet (e-mail) according to [3].

The advantages of the above methodology include handling large quantity of data, accuracy, reduction of cost associated with data collection. The most significant of these advantages is that of instant access to data files by project team members among others.

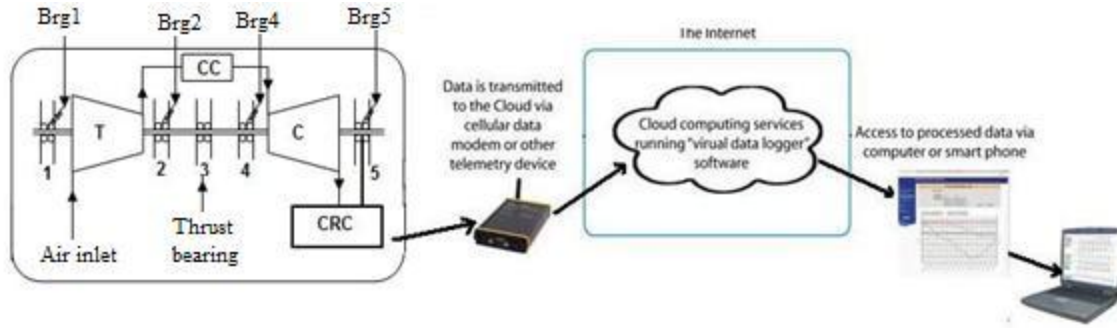


Fig.1 Experimental setup for data collection

2.3. Gas turbine vibration monitoring technique

Early discovery of a GT malfunctions gives equipment owner and operators an opportunity to prevent sudden failure. Vibration monitoring can quickly determine that a problem has occurred and the machine is in distress. For example, GTs generally trip offline due to high vibration amplitude from an event such as blade loss. Although blade failure is caused by another mechanism, adequate vibration monitoring and protection systems allow the operator to react to the failure, shut down the engine in a controlled manner and make necessary repairs [6].

2.4. Laplace correction for missing data

Test data sets do not usually contain a complete representation of the confusion matrix. The low probability of the off diagonal elements occurring requires a very large data set to accurately capture the true distribution of the complete population. Applying a Laplace correction to the mean cost matrix compensates for the missing data and improves the confidence interval on the resulting cost value[7]. In addition to improving the confidence interval on the average matrix, a Laplace correction can be applied to improve the confidence intervals on the entries in the confusion matrix, including zero value entries that otherwise would not have a confidence interval [8].

The Laplace correction matrix is produced with the equation below:

$$L = \frac{Pn + \lambda}{n + F^2\lambda} \quad (1)$$

Also, according to [9], without the knowledge of the relative frequency with which two or more phenomena occurs, it would be impossible to predict accurately future events, i.e. where correlation becomes involved [10].

2.5. Correlation in GT engine anomaly detection

Correlation is one of the most common and useful statistical techniques that can be used to link two very important variables. Also, correlation is a single number that describes the degree of relationship between two variables. Hence, it was carried out for pressure ratio and vibration amplitude in GT engine anomaly detection. Linear correlation coefficient was thus the particular aspect of correlation used in this work [10].

2.6. Correlation between Pressure Ratio and Vibration Amplitude Measurement

To calculate a linear correlation coefficient, a random sample of n pairs of measurements (x,y) is first chosen, by constructing a scatter diagram for the (x,y) value (see fig. 2a). If the points follow closely a straight line of positive slope, then there is a case of high positive correlation between the two variables. On the other hand, if the points closely follow a straight line of negative slope, we have a high negative correlation between the two variables as in fig. 3(b). If the points follow a strictly random pattern as in fig. 3(c), then there is zero correlation and it is concluded that there is no relationship between x and y. Zero correlation is also indicated when the pattern shown in fig 3(d) is obtained[11].

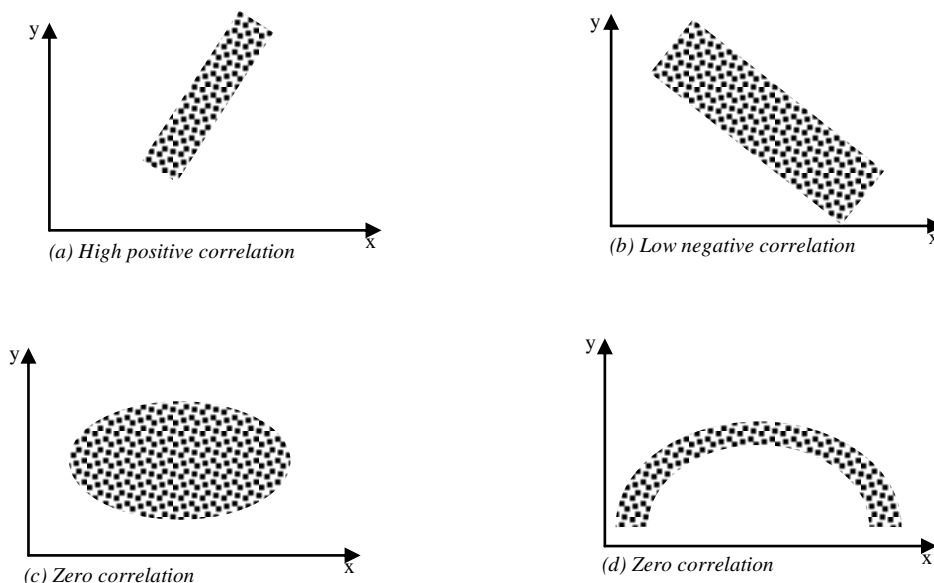


Fig.2 Scatter diagrams showing various degrees of correlation

It is important to remember that the correlation coefficient between two variables is a measure of their linear relationship and a value of $\rho = 0$ implies a lack of linearity and not a lack of association. Hence, if a strong quadratic relationship exists between x and y as indicated in fig. 3(d), a zero correlation to indicate a nonlinear relationship would still be obtained. This is the most commonly used measure of linear correlation between two variables and is called the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient, or the sample correlation coefficient. The above approach was greatly used in this research.

Using equation (2) to obtain the correlation coefficient through VC++ programming language, it is assumed that a suitable correlation between pressure ratio (y) and vibration amplitude (x_i) has been obtained either by least-square analysis or graphical curve fitting. To know how good this is, the parameter which conveys this information is the correlation coefficient r defined by

$$r = \left[1 - \frac{\sigma_{y,x}^2}{\sigma_y^2} \right]^{1/2} \quad (2)$$

where σ_y is the standard deviation of y given as:

$$\sigma_y = \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - y_m)^2}{n - 1} \right]^{1/2} \quad (3)$$

and

$$\sigma_{y,x} = \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - y_{ic})^2}{n - 2} \right]^{1/2} \quad (4)$$

The y_i are the actual values of y , and the y_{ic} are the values computed from the correlation equation for the same value of x . It may be noted that many calculators have built-in routines which compute the correlation coefficient as well as other statistical functions. In addition there are many computer software packages which accomplish these calculations, such as, visual C++, Matlab etc. In order to obtain the correlation coefficient, we seek an equation of the form.

$$y_{ic} = ax + b \quad (5)$$

which is called the correlating equation

$$\text{where } a = \frac{n \sum x_i y_i - (\sum x_i)(\sum y_i)}{n \sum x_i^2 - (\sum x_i)^2} \quad (6)$$

Designating the computed value of y as y_{ic} and

$$b = \frac{(\sum y_i)(\sum x_i^2) - (\sum x_i y_i)(\sum x_i)}{(\sum x_i^2) - (\sum x_i)^2} \quad (7)$$

The correlation will be used to advantage by indicating if the correlation is weak (i.e. if r is close to zero) or we can also say that a very good linear

relationship exist if the values of P_r (Y) is accounted for by a linear relationship with vibration amplitude (x).

A multiple variable mathematical model of the GT operating parameters [5] was integrated and used to actualize the whole process. This program has the typical result obtainable when the GT is in operation[12].

3 Results and discussion

The hypothesis testing of the test engine is given as follows:

$$Z = \frac{\sqrt{n-3}}{2} \ln \left[\frac{(1+r)(1-\rho_o)}{(1-r)(1+\rho_o)} \right] \quad (8)$$

Correlation coefficient (r) for bearing 1 = 0.997171

Null Hypothesis $H_0: \rho_0 = 0$

Research Hypothesis $H_1: \rho_1 \neq 0$

Statistical Test: Since n is large, Z-test is appropriate

Level of Significance $\alpha = 0.05$ (95% confidence level)

Critical Region: $Z < -1.96$ and $Z > 1.96$

Computations: Using equation (3.28)

$$Z_{c1} = \frac{\sqrt{n-3}}{2} \ln \left[\frac{(1+r)(1-\rho_o)}{(1-r)(1+\rho_o)} \right] = \frac{\sqrt{12-3}}{2} \ln \left(\frac{1.997171}{0.002829} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{9}}{2} \ln(705.9636)$$

$$Z_{c1} = 6.55$$

Decision: $Z_{c1} > 1.96$ Reject H_0

Correlation coefficient (r) for Bearing 2 = 0.991471

$$Z_{c2} = 5.45$$

Decision: $Z_{c2} > 1.96$ Reject H_0

Correlation coefficient (r) for Bearing 4 = 0.955811

$$Z_{c4} = 3.80$$

Decision: $Z_{c4} > 1.96$ Reject H_0

Correlation coefficient (r) for Bearing 5 = 0.987502

$$Z_{c5} = 5.07$$

Decision: $Z_{c5} > 1.96$ Reject H_0

Theoretically;

$$r_p = \frac{P_2}{P_1} = \frac{P_3}{P_4}$$

But practically for compressor,

$$r_{p_c} = \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1} \right)^{\frac{r}{r-1}} = \left(\frac{58.3593}{30} \right)^{\frac{1.4}{1.4-1}}$$

$$r_{p_c} = (2.0279)^{3.5}$$

$$r_{p_c} = 10.28$$

Also for turbine,

$$r_{p_t} = \left(\frac{T_3}{T_4} \right)^{\frac{r}{r-1}} = \left(\frac{979.343}{537} \right)^{\frac{1.4}{1.4-1}}$$

$$r_{p_t} = (1.9012)^{3.5} = 8.19$$

i.e.

$$r_{p_c} \neq r_{p_t}$$

(practically)

Fig 3 shows a program flow chart for correlation coefficient of the experimental data for the test engine using equation 2. A computer program code was written from fig. 3 and equation 2. From the output of the sub-routine program shown in table 1, it is observed that the pressure ratio of the compressor is not equal to the pressure ratio of the turbine and this can be accounted for by the decrease in boost pressure. The data for the program was used to produce the graphs shown in figs. 4 to 13. Readings are not taken from bearing 3 as no transducer is fitted to it. It is the thrust bearing 3. Graphs of pressure ratio versus vibration velocity amplitude of bearings 1 to 5 are plotted in the figs 4 to 13.

Designing the computed value of y as y_{ic} , the correlation coefficient will be obtained from tables 1 to 1a, 2 to 2a using the least square methods. The result thus shows why excessive pressure ratio is to be avoided at the design stage of the marine GT compressors manufacture.

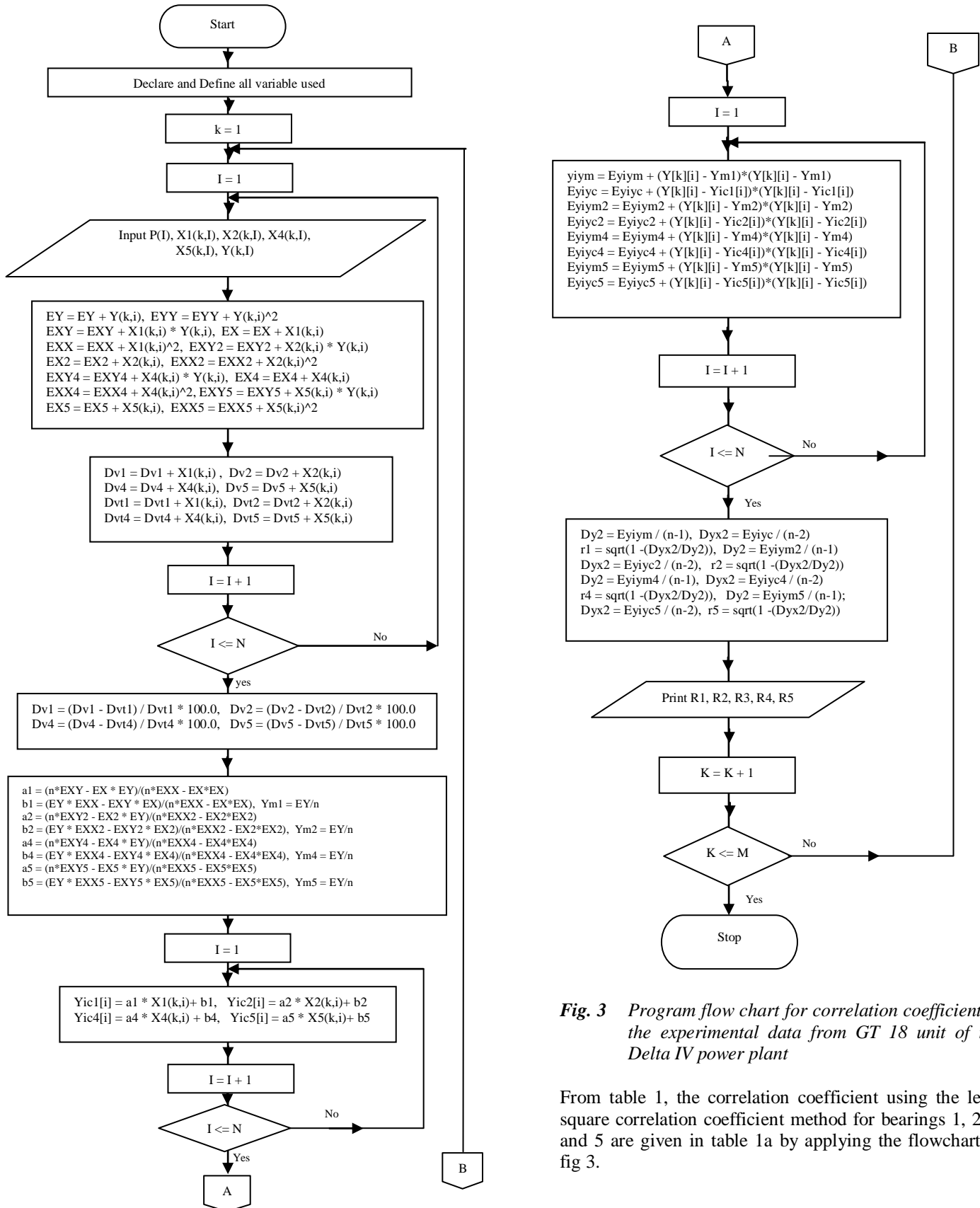


Fig. 3 Program flow chart for correlation coefficient of the experimental data from GT 18 unit of the Delta IV power plant

From table 1, the correlation coefficient using the least square correlation coefficient method for bearings 1, 2, 4 and 5 are given in table 1a by applying the flowchart in fig 3.

Table 1: Reading taken from GT 18 unit of Delta IV power section

May Time	Load Mw	Brg1	Brg2	Brg4	Brg5	Speed	Cpd pressure	Compressor Ratio P ₂ /P ₁	pressure
0100	93	3.50	2.00	0.50	0.20	3000	9.6	9.47	
0200	93	3.54	2.10	0.54	0.21	3000	9.6	9.47	
0300	95	3.58	2.20	0.58	0.22	3090	9.8	9.67	
0400	95	3.62	2.30	0.62	0.23	3060	9.8	9.67	
0500	90	3.66	2.40	0.66	0.24	3000	9.4	9.28	
0600	40	3.70	2.50	0.70	0.25	3060	8.0	7.90	
0700	50	3.74	2.60	0.74	0.26	3060	8.6	8.49	
0800	50	3.78	2.70	0.78	0.27	3000	8.6	8.49	
0900	75	3.82	2.80	0.82	0.28	3000	9.2	9.08	
1000	76	3.86	2.90	0.86	0.29	3000	9.2	9.08	
1100	74	3.90	3.00	0.90	0.30	3000	9.2	9.08	
1200	74	3.94	3.94	0.94	0.94	3030	9.2	9.08	
								$\sum y_i = 108.8$	

Table 1a: The least square correlation coefficient obtained from Table 2

correlation coefficient	Brg1(mm/s)	Brg2(mm/s)	Brg4(mm/s)	Brg5(mm/s)
r _i (%)	20.11	25.48	26.18	18.29

Also from table 2, the correlation coefficient using the least square method for bearing 1, bearing 2, bearing 4 and bearing 5 are given in table 3a while applying the flowchart in fig 3.

Graphical analysis of pressure ratio versus vibration velocity amplitude for tables 1, and 2 are shown and analyzed in figs 4 to 13. These plots show that vibration signature output is sinusoidal, erratic and unpredictable. Further more, it is observed that the effect of pressure ratio against vibration amplitude on all the bearings is same. Hence care has to be taken to avoid excessive pressure ratio at GT engine design

stages.

From the graphs shown in figs 4 to 13, it is observed that an increase in pressure ratio also results to a corresponding increase in vibration velocity amplitude to some extent. However, in this case, maximum vibration occurs at a pressure ratio of about 9.47 with a corresponding vibration velocity amplitude of 3.94mm/s, 3.10mm/s, 0.94mm/s and 0.31mm/s respectively where it is not equally advisable to run the engine. This would additionally help to avoid eccentricity, imbalance and even resonance on the engine.

Table 2: Reading taken from GT 18 unit of Delta IV power section

May Time	Load Mw	Brg1	Brg2	Brg4	Brg5	Speed	Cpd program	Compressive press on Ratio P ₂ /P ₁
0100	75	3.40	2.00	0.60	0.20	3060	9.0	8.90
0200	75	3.44	2.04	0.66	0.21	3060	9.0	8.90
0300	80	3.48	2.08	0.72	0.22	3060	9.0	8.90
0400	85	3.52	2.12	0.78	0.23	3030	9.6	9.47
0500	90	3.56	2.16	0.84	0.24	3000	9.3	9.18
0600	80	3.60	2.20	0.90	0.25	3000	9.3	9.18
0700	87	3.64	2.24	0.96	0.26	3030	9.3	9.18
0800	90	3.68	2.28	1.02	0.27	3030	9.7	9.57
0900	85	3.72	2.32	1.08	0.28	2970	9.7	9.57
1000	75	3.76	2.36	1.14	0.29	3030	9.0	8.90
1100	65	3.80	2.40	1.20	0.30	3060	9.0	8.90
1200	80	3.84	2.44	1.26	0.31	3060	9.0	8.90
								$\sum y_i = 109.55$

Table 2a: The least square correlation coefficient obtained from Table 2

correlation coefficient	Brg1(mm/s)	Brg2(mm/s)	Brg4(mm/s)	Brg5(mm/s)
$r_1(\%)$	83.13	98.84	98.91	98.86

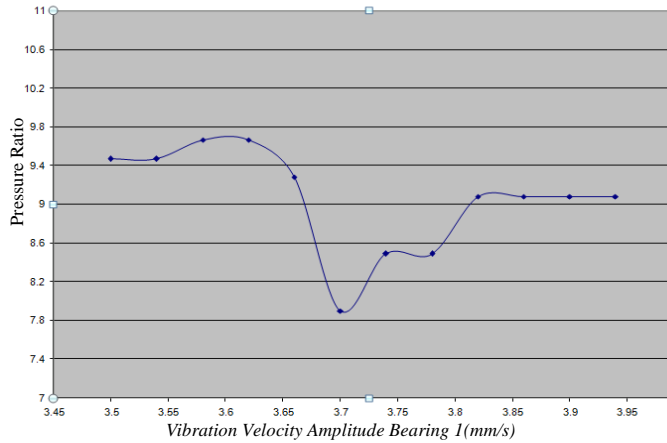


Fig.4 Pressure ratio against Vibration Velocity Amplitude Bearing 1 obtained from Equation 8

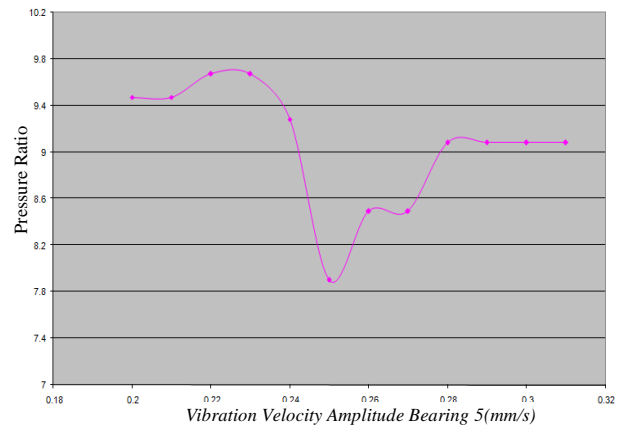


Fig.7 Pressure ratio against Vibration Velocity Amplitude Bearing 5 obtained from Equation 8

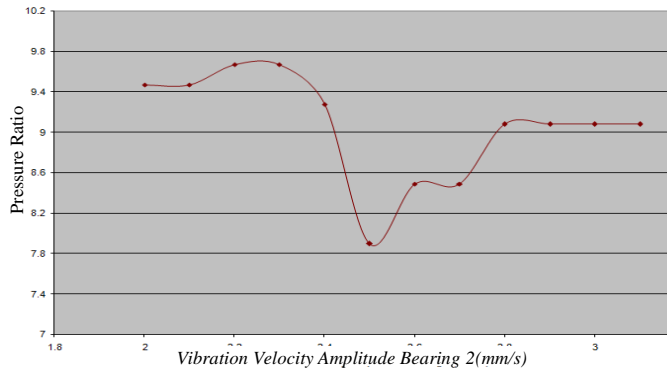


Fig.5 Pressure ratio against Vibration Velocity Amplitude Bearing 2 obtained from Equation 8

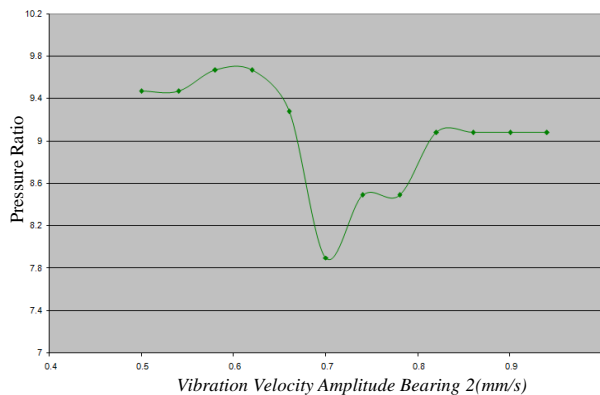


Fig.6 Pressure ratio against Vibration Velocity Amplitude Bearing 4 obtained from Equation 8

Fig 7 shows a graph of pressure ratio against vibration velocity amplitude for the various bearings as considered in Table 1. The results show that the effect of vibration on the bearings is not exactly the same.

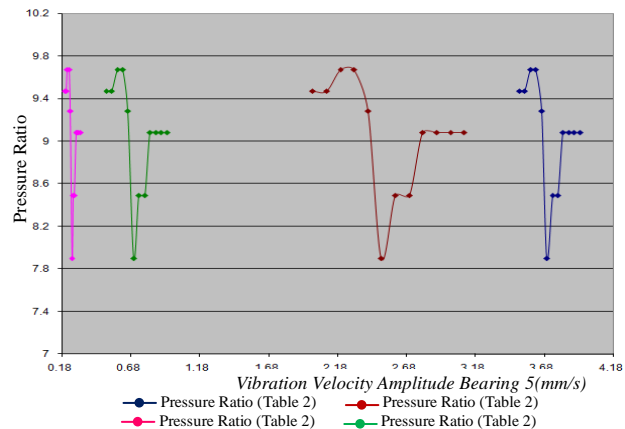


Fig.8 Pressure ratio against Vibration Velocity Amplitude Bearings 1,2,4, and 5 obtained from Equation 8

From the graph shown in figs 4 to 13, it is observed that an increase in pressure ratio results to a corresponding increase in vibration velocity amplitude to some extent. Here, maximum vibration occurs at a pressure ratio of about 9.47 with a corresponding vibration velocity amplitude of 3.84mm/s,

2.44mm/s, 1.26mm/s and 0.31mm/s respectively on bearings 1, 2, 4 and 5 which is not advisable to run the engine at. This would also help to avoid shaft defects and even resonance on the engine.

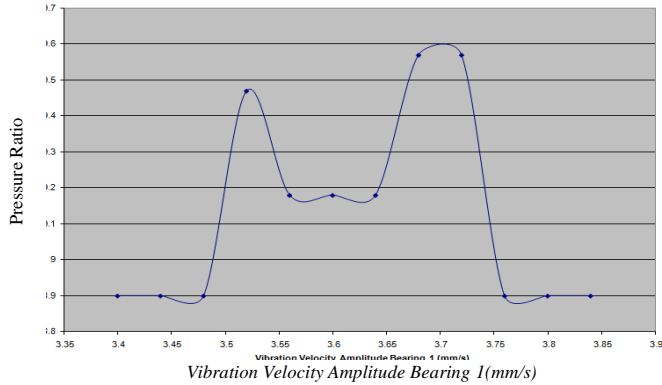


Fig.9 Pressure ratio against Vibration Velocity Amplitude Bearing 1

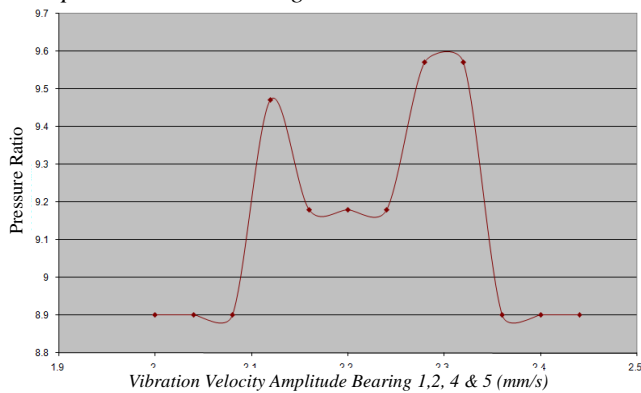


Fig.10 Pressure ratio against Vibration Velocity Amplitude Bearing 2

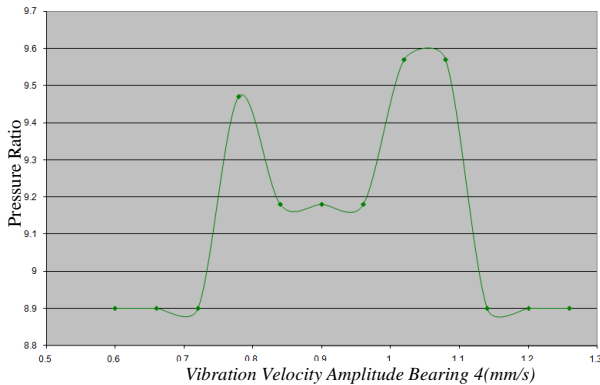


Fig.11 Pressure ratio against Vibration Velocity Amplitude Bearing 4

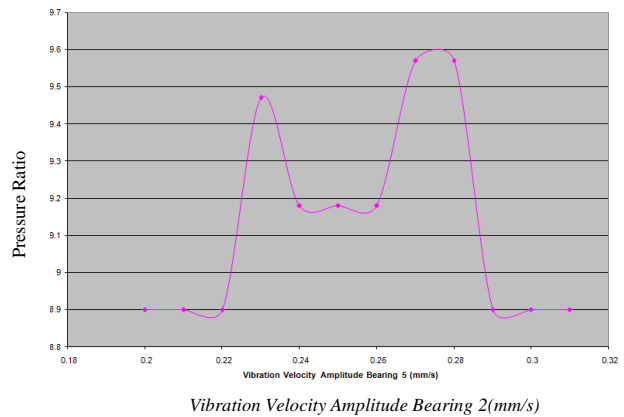


Fig.12 Pressure ratio against Vibration Velocity Amplitude Bearing 5

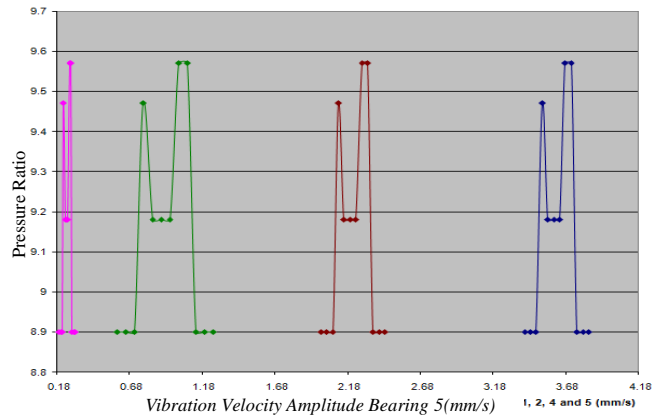


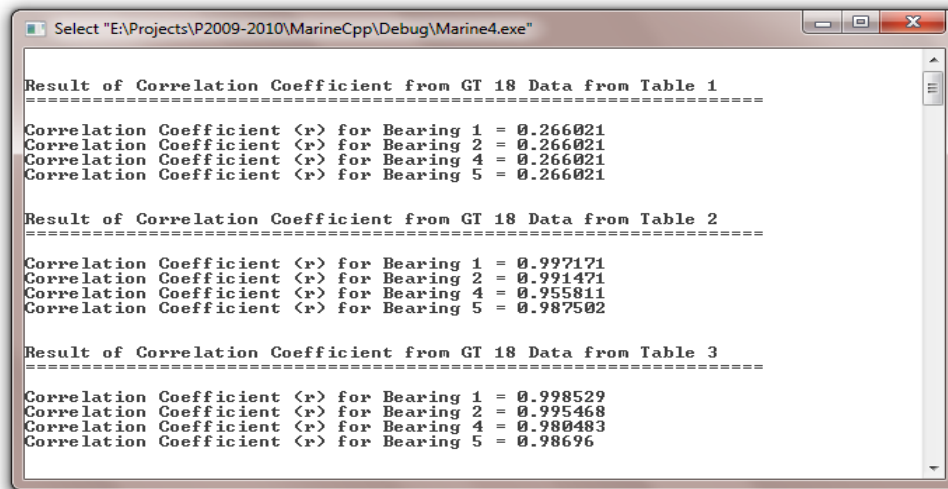
Fig.13 Pressure ratio against vibration velocity amplitude of bearings 1, 2, 4, and 5

Figure 13 shows pressure ratio against their respective vibration velocity amplitudes. Table 3 contains a summary of the simulated results obtained for the test engine. The results show that the experimental and simulated values for pressure ratio and load correlate suitably. The deviation for the vibration amplitude is so much out of range because of the erratic and unpredictable nature of that parameter [3]. Hence a lot of attention needs to be given to take care of vibration signature and its average effects at design stage.

Table 3: Summary of the simulated results obtained for the test engine

	Brg1			Brg2			Brg4			Brg5		
	Experimental	Simulated	Deviation	Experimental	Simulated	Deviation	Experimental	Simulated	Deviation	Experimental	Simulated	Deviation
Velocity Amplitude	3.80	4.05	-6.17%	1.87	2.05	-8.78%	0.98	1.20	-18.33%	0.127	0.28	-54.64%
Pressure	8.72	9.50	-8.21%	8.72	9.5	-8.21%	8.72	9.50	-8.21%	8.72	9.50	-8.21%
Load	55.5	58.9	-5.77%	55.5	59.0	-5.93%	55.5	58.9	-5.77%	55.5	59.5	-6.72%

Program Result



```

Select "E:\Projects\P2009-2010\MarineCpp\Debug\Marine4.exe"
-----
Result of Correlation Coefficient from GT 18 Data from Table 1
-----
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 1 = 0.266021
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 2 = 0.266021
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 4 = 0.266021
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 5 = 0.266021
-----
Result of Correlation Coefficient from GT 18 Data from Table 2
-----
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 1 = 0.997171
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 2 = 0.991471
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 4 = 0.955811
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 5 = 0.987502
-----
Result of Correlation Coefficient from GT 18 Data from Table 3
-----
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 1 = 0.998529
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 2 = 0.995468
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 4 = 0.980483
Correlation Coefficient (r) for Bearing 5 = 0.98696
    
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Fig. 14: Summary of program result in VC++ for test engine

4. Conclusions

A research work has been carried out on correlation between pressure ratio and vibration amplitude of a marine GT. It is observed that the pressure ratio is a function of compressor discharge pressure and turbine inlet pressure. This is to complement the constant pressure process for which the design operation is based.

A step-by-step analysis of the plant parameters obtained is used to run computer simulations in VC++ programming language. This is a determination of the correlation coefficient of the plant parameters as shown. The work also helped to confirm that the turbine side bearing of the GT plant carries much load and thus has high vibration amplitude.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that a theory to suggest whether the relationship between two variables would either correlate

positively or negatively should be developed for marine gas turbine engines anomaly detection..

6. Acknowledgements

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