

Evaluation of modelling approaches for machine tool design

Daisuke Kono^{a,*}, Thomas Lorenzer^b, Sascha Weikert^c, Konrad Wegener^c

^a Dept. of Micro Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University, Yoshida-honmachi, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan

^b Inspire AG, Tannenstrasse 3, 8092, Zurich, Switzerland

^c Institute for Machine Tools and Manufacturing (IWF), ETH Zurich, Tannenstrasse 3, 8092, Zurich, Switzerland

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ABSTRACT

In order to evaluate the configuration of machine tools, the IWF Axis Construction Kit (ACK) has been developed. This paper describes the evaluation of this approach. The ACK supports rigid body simulations and simple elastic body simulations. The ACK is compared with commercial FEM software to investigate its usability and reliability. Required time was compared in modelling of a machine tool. The ACK needed 30% of the total required time for the FEM because of its modularity in machine modelling. Then, in order to investigate the reliability of the ACK, static and dynamic simulations of both approaches were compared with each other and with analytical calculations on basic beam models. The result showed that the ACK provided equivalent results to the FEM. Static and dynamic simulations were also compared with measurements on an actual machine tool. The ACK obtained almost equivalent results to the FEM. Almost all lower structural mode shapes and their natural frequencies could be reproduced with the ACK when crucial parts were modelled using elastic bodies.

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1. Introduction

Recently, dynamic errors of machine tools such as vibration are one of the crucial problems in high precision machining. Since dynamic properties of machines are greatly influenced by the machine configuration, the configuration should be evaluated very early in the design phase. However, only few manufacturers use evaluation tools in order to check configuration variants. For this reason, a lack of reliable and effortless simulation software can be stated. Simulation methods for machine tools can roughly be classified into two groups: one is the finite element method (FEM) and the other is the rigid multi-body simulation (MBS) [1].

In industrial use, the FEM is popular and widely used. Several studies have been carried out, modelling machine components with the FEM. Zaeh and Oertli have developed a model for ball screw drives by the cross coupling between axial and torsional degrees of freedom [2]. Altintas and Cao have developed a FEM model of spindles composed of nonlinear models of shafts and bearings [3,4]. Reliable results can be obtained with the FEM. Furthermore, the FEM is useful in the design process because many FEM software packages have useful interfaces to 3D CAD systems.

However, the FEM needs much calculation effort to model the whole structure of a machine because of its large number of degrees of freedom (nDOF). In commercial software, coupling set-

tings between assembled parts are often not practical to represent guideways or ballscrews, and detailed modelling in a certain level is required to avoid the interference between components. In order to reduce nDOF, the machine has been divided into subcomponents or modules, and these modules have been coupled with boundary conditions [5–8]. Also in the simulations of positioning system with flexure hinges, hinges are modelled as a simple beam element to reduce nDOF [9].

Compared to the FEM, nDOF can be significantly reduced when using the MBS. Especially in the early design stage, the MBS is an appropriate tool to obtain quick and rough predictions of the machine behaviour [1]. Teeuwssen et al. developed a motion error model of CMM with the MBS [10]. Tool motions in the time domain and modal characteristics have been simulated by the MBS also for machine tools [11,12]. In recent years, the MBS has been used for real time simulation of motion errors [13]. The MBS and the FEM were combined to acquire more reliable results in dynamic analyses [14]. Although these studies have shown the advantage of the MBS, there are only few practical software packages that focus on the construction of machine tools.

As can be seen in the use of the FEM, a combination of 3D CAD and commercial MBS software is used to analyse the motion of a parallel kinematic machine tool [15]. This method is practical. However, commercial software packages generally need more effort to model a specific machine, since they are designed for all-purpose.

In order to evaluate the configuration of machine tools, the Axis Construction Kit (ACK) has been developed at the IWF (ETH Zurich, Institute for Machine Tools and Manufacturing) [16]. Fundamental

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +81 75 753 5226; fax: +81 75 753 5226.
E-mail address: Daisuke.Kono@t02.mbox.media.kyoto-u.ac.jp (D. Kono).

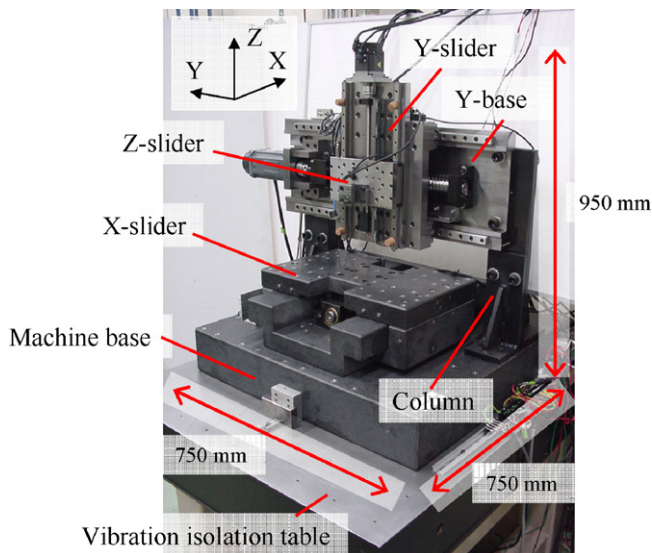


Fig. 1. Appearance of the machine under investigation.

machine properties can be obtained in a very short time by a simple model composed of masses and springs. The model is easily constructed using modules of mechanical components. The ACK can handle not only the MBS but also simple elastic body simulations. Static and dynamic analyses can be conducted.

In this paper, the ACK is compared with commercial FEM software to evaluate its reliability and usability. First, required time for modelling of a machine tool is compared. Then, simple beams are modelled with both approaches. The obtained results are compared with each other and with analytical calculations to investigate the reliability of elastic body simulations of the ACK. Finally, an existing machine is modelled, and static and dynamic behaviours are compared with measurements on the real machine. The effect of elastic body simulations is also evaluated.

2. Modelling of a three axis machine tool

2.1. Simulation object

A high precision machine tool is modelled with the ACK and the FEM. Fig. 1 shows the machine under investigation. The machine has been developed for shaping/grooving in the XY plane by a single-diamond tool. It is mounted on a vibration isolation table to avoid vibration in the Z-direction. This machine has three linear axes. Precision ball screws and servo motors are employed in each drive system. The X-axis uses aerostatic guideways. The Y- and Z-axes employ linear ball guideways. The major specifications of the machine and the vibration isolation table are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Major specifications of the machine tool and the vibration isolation table.

	Axis	X	Y	Z
Machine tool	Travel		200 mm	
	Max. feedrate		10 m/min	
	Drive type		Ball screw + servo motor	
	Lead of ball screw	10 mm		5 mm
	Guideway	Aerostatic	Rolling (ball)	Rolling (ball)
	Material	Granite	Steel	Steel
	Driven mass	35 kg	47 kg	4 kg
	Positioning resolution	500 nm	500 nm	300 nm
	Vibration isolation table	Type		Air spring with diaphragm
Natural frequency			1.2–2.0 Hz	
Mass			230 kg	

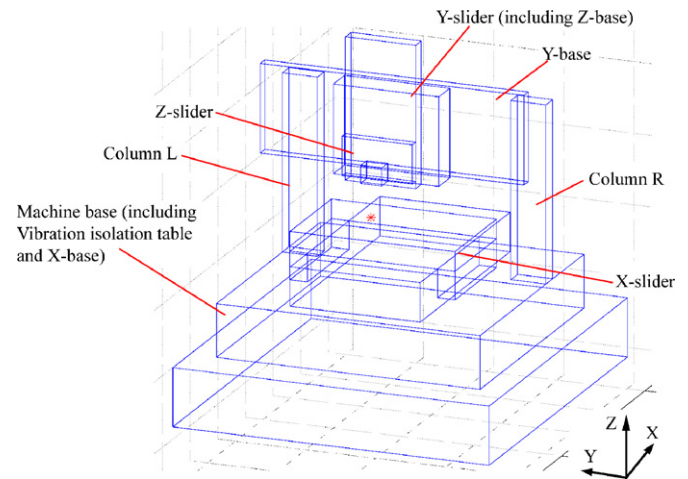


Fig. 2. Simulation model developed with the ACK.

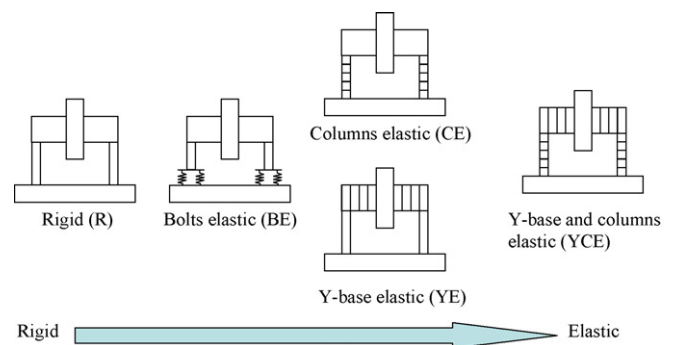


Fig. 3. Five different models used in simulations.

2.2. Modelling with the Axis Construction Kit

Fig. 2 shows the simulation model developed with the ACK. The machine parts are simplified into rigid rectangle bodies. Some parts are grouped in one component, and the seven components shown in Fig. 2 compose the model consequently. The components are coupled with discrete springs in X-, Y- and Z-directions. Sliders and bases are connected with couplings, which represent guideways and drives. The machine base is coupled to an inertial system with weak springs at the corners representing air springs of the vibration isolation table. The machine base, the columns, and the Y-base are rigidly coupled with stiff springs which represent bolts or screws.

The ACK can handle elastic body simulations using segmented bodies coupled with each other. In this paper, five different models are developed to investigate the effect of different elastic body representations. Fig. 3 shows the schematic of these five models. The details of the models are as follows:

Rigid (R): This is the basic model. All bodies are rigid. The machine base, the columns, and the Y-base are rigidly coupled. (The model is described in the first paragraph.)

Bolts elastic (BE): The machine base and the columns are elastically coupled.

Columns elastic (CE): The columns are elastic and segmented in the Z-direction.

Y-base elastic (YE): The Y-base is elastic and segmented in the Y-direction.

Y-base and columns elastic (YCE): The Y-base as well as the columns is elastic.

The initial model parameters are identified in the following procedure: the dimensions of bodies are determined from their outward forms, and the densities are adjusted so that the masses agree to the design value. The stiffness of the guideways of Y- and Z-axes are derived from their catalogue specifications. The stiffness of air springs, drives and the X-guideway are identified experimentally.

In order to confirm the reliability of the approach when parameters are properly selected, these parameters are tuned using the result of the experimental modal analysis described in Section 4.2. The modified parameters are the stiffness in the Z-direction of the Y-guideway, the stiffness of the Y-drive and the thickness of the columns and the Y-base. In BE, the stiffness in the Z-direction of the couplings between the machine base and the columns is determined also from the result of the modal analysis. Because this paper focuses on static displacements and natural frequencies with mode shapes, damping has not to be taken into account.

2.3. Modelling with commercial FEM software

The machine is also modelled with a commercial FEM software package, Ansys Workbench, similarly as mentioned in Section 2.2. Bonded contacts are used to group the bodies. The rigidity or the elasticity of bodies is determined by the behaviour of surface nodes. Bodies are meshed automatically under default settings. With the FEM, reference surfaces are required to couple components. However, the reference surfaces affect the behaviour of elastic bodies. In order to suppress this influence, reference surfaces are minimised using the extrusion with the thickness of $1\ \mu\text{m}$ so that only actual contacted areas become the reference.

2.4. Comparison in required time for the ACK and a commercial FEM

The time required for simulations with the ACK and the FEM is compared. The evaluation is carried out in modelling, modal analysis and the modification of the thickness of the columns after the analysis on R. The operator has all the model parameters at hand and has developed the same model several times with both software. With the FEM, modelling of the extrusion for the reference surface is omitted to investigate the time in the equivalent operations to ACK.

The comparison of the required time is shown in Fig. 4. It is observed that the ACK needs only 30% of the total required time for the FEM. Direct 3D modelling and module coupling system mainly contribute to this time reduction. Comparing the time required for the modification, the ACK needs 25% of the time for the FEM.

3. Fundamental evaluation on basic components

In order to evaluate the accuracy of elastic body simulations by the ACK, simulation results are compared with those by the FEM and with analytical calculations in basic simulations. In elastic body simulations, the number of degrees of freedom (nDOF) of models has a large influence. Therefore, simulations are conducted with

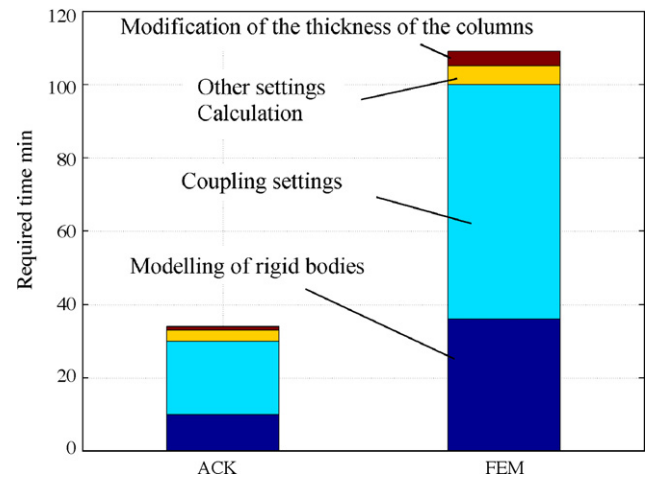


Fig. 4. Comparison of required time with the ACK and a commercial FEM.

various nDOF to clarify this effect. The simulation of displacements due to static forces and the modal analysis are carried out on a cantilever and a beam fixed on both sides. In this paper, nDOF with the ACK and the FEM are calculated as follows:

$$\text{nDOF}_{\text{ACK}} = 6 \times m_e \quad (1)$$

$$\text{nDOF}_{\text{FEM}} = 3 \times m_n \quad (2)$$

where m_e is the number of elements (segmented bodies) and m_n is the number of nodes. For example with the FEM, nDOF of a single element is 60 with a 20-node solid element composed of 8 corner and 12 midside nodes. When elements are connected, nDOF of nodes shared on boundaries decreases.

3.1. Cantilever beam

Fig. 5 shows a cantilever used in the calculation. l , h and t represent the width, the height and the thickness of the cantilever, respectively. In static analyses, forces are applied at the load point, which is on the center of the top surface. The cantilever is segmented in the Z-direction with the ACK. In order to compare the ACK and the FEM in the similar nDOF, the cantilever is modelled without midside nodes with the FEM. The physical parameters are

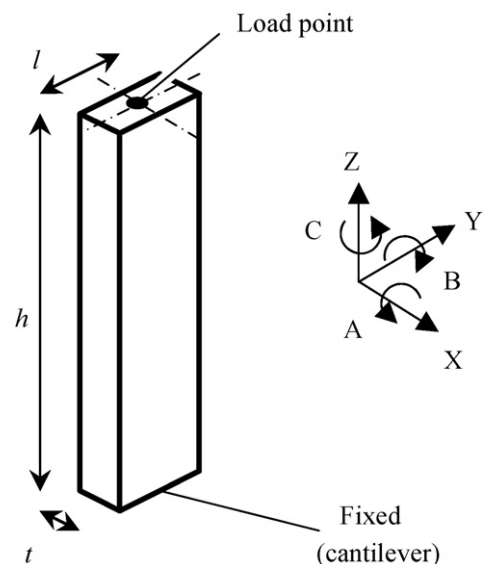


Fig. 5. Cantilever used in the calculation.

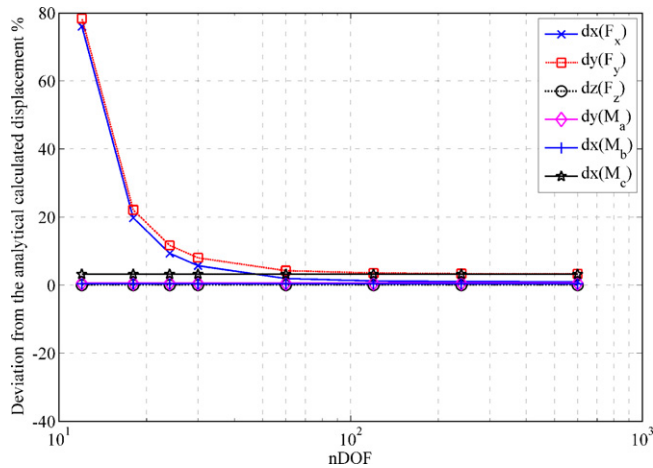


Fig. 6. Relationship between nDOF and deviation from the analytical displacement for a cantilever with the ACK.

determined according to those of steel. Derived from the dimension of the columns of the machine, the dimensions, $l = 100$ mm, $h = 500$ mm and $t = 38$ mm, are used in the simulations.

3.1.1. Displacement due to static forces

The translational forces in three directions, F_x , F_y and F_z , and moments, M_a , M_b and M_c , are applied at the load point one by one. The displacements due to M_a , M_b and M_c are evaluated in X- and Y-directions at the load point. The displacement due to M_c is calculated as the product of a distance of $l/2$ and an angle of twist at the top surface. In this calculation, the translational force of 1 kN and the moment of 1 N m are loaded.

The deviation of the static displacement calculated by the ACK and the FEM from its analytical value is shown in Figs. 6 and 7, respectively. In Fig. 6, it can be observed that deviations on the displacement due to F_x and F_y ($dx(F_x)$ and $dy(F_y)$) decrease while nDOF increases from 12 to 60. With nDOF more than 60, the deviations are almost constant. This result shows that nDOF must be 30, which corresponds to 5 elements with the ACK or larger, to obtain the deviation smaller than 10%. The deviations are smaller than 4% when nDOF is more than 90.

In Fig. 7, the deviation on $dx(M_c)$ is still larger than 10% even when nDOF is more than 500. This deviation is caused by the lack of midside nodes. As for other displacements, nDOF must be more than 40 to reduce the deviation to 10% for the FEM. The deviations are smaller than 2% with nDOF more than 200. Comparing

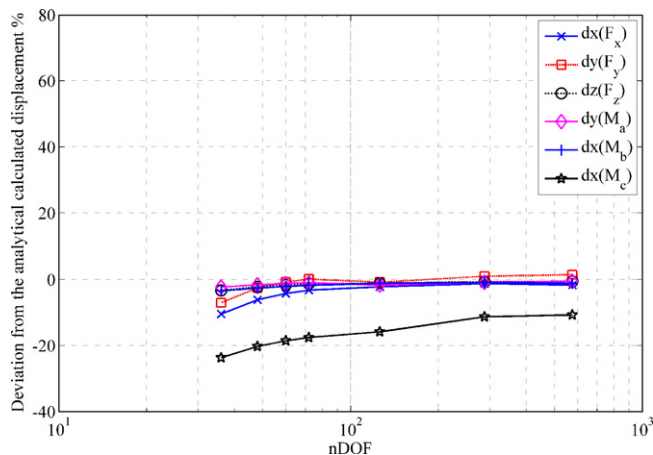


Fig. 7. Relationship between nDOF and deviation from the analytical displacement for a cantilever with the FEM.

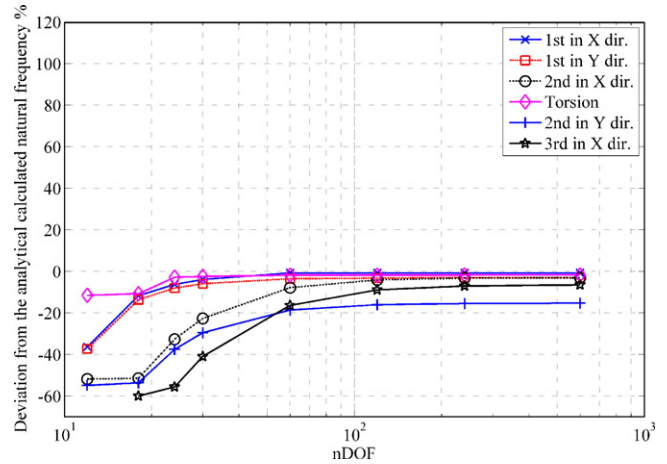


Fig. 8. Relationship between nDOF and deviation from the analytical natural frequency for a cantilever with the ACK.

Figs. 6 and 7, the difference in deviations is smaller than 5% between both approaches with nDOF more than 100. This result shows that the ACK has an equivalent accuracy to the FEM. Furthermore, the ACK typically calculates displacements larger than the FEM when nDOF is smaller, which can be seen as a conservative manner of evaluating machine design.

3.1.2. Modal analysis for the cantilever

The natural frequencies of the first six modes are calculated. The first six modes of this cantilever are the first bending mode in the X-direction, the first bending mode in the Y-direction, the second bending mode in the X-direction, the first torsion mode, the second bending mode in the Y-direction and the third bending mode in the X-direction.

The deviations of natural frequencies calculated by the ACK and the FEM from their analytical values are shown in Figs. 8 and 9, respectively. In both computations, the third bending mode in the X-direction was not observed with the smallest nDOF. With the ACK, nDOF must be larger than 60, which corresponds to 10 elements, to reduce the deviation to 20%. The deviations are smaller than 16% with nDOF more than 200.

In Fig. 9, nDOF must be larger than 100 for the FEM to obtain the deviation smaller than 20%. The deviations are smaller than 15% with nDOF more than 200. Comparing Figs. 8 and 9, the deviations with the ACK are smaller in the second and third modes in the X-

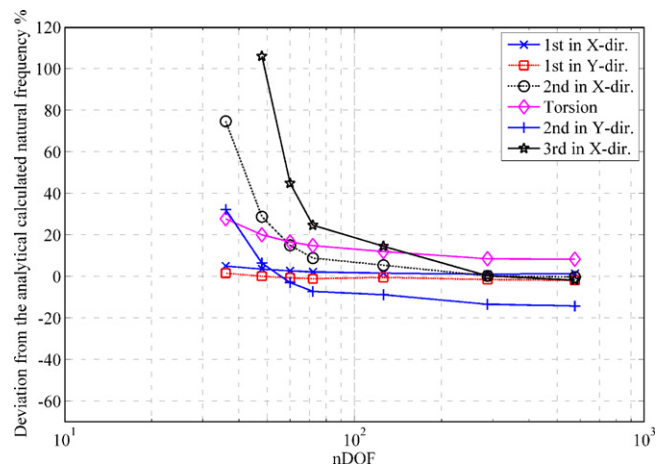


Fig. 9. Relationship between nDOF and deviation from the analytical natural frequency for a cantilever with the FEM.

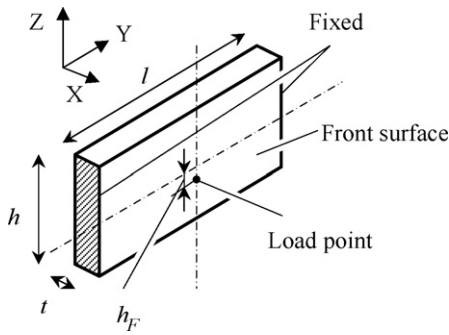


Fig. 10. Beam, fixed on both sides, used in the calculation.

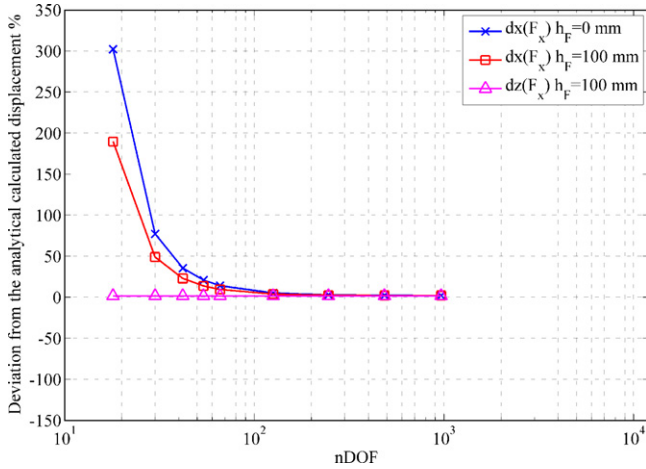


Fig. 11. Relationship between nDOF and deviation from the analytical displacement for the fixed beam of Fig. 10 with the ACK.

direction with nDOF from 40 to 100. The difference of deviations is smaller than 10% between both approaches when nDOF is more than 100.

3.2. Fixed beam

Fig. 10 shows a beam fixed on both sides to be used for comparison. In Fig. 10, h_F represents the distance in the Z-direction from the center of the front surface to the load point. The beam is segmented in the Y-direction with the ACK. In the modal analysis, the beam is modelled without midside nodes with the FEM.

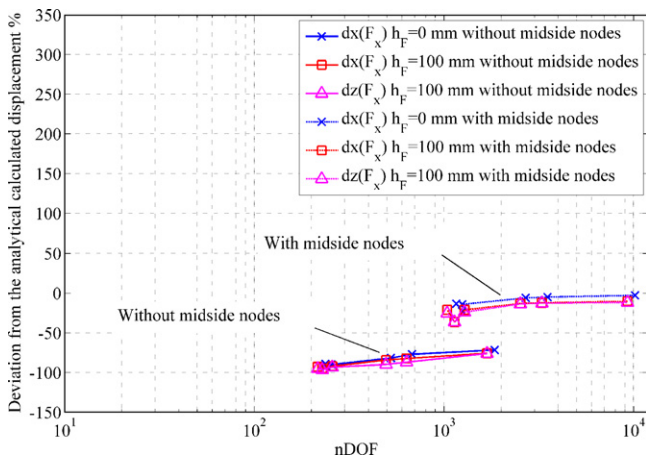


Fig. 12. Relationship between nDOF and deviation from the analytical displacement for the fixed beam of Fig. 10 with the FEM.

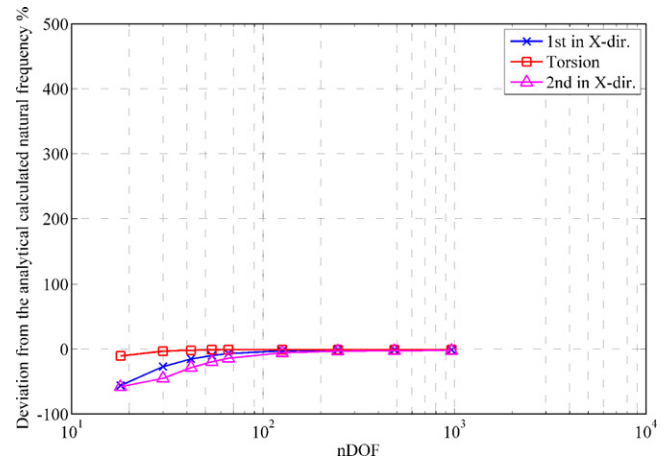


Fig. 13. Relationship between nDOF and deviation from the analytical natural frequency for the fixed beam of Fig. 10 with the ACK.

In the static analysis with the FEM, a small plate with the size of $0.5 \text{ mm} \times 10 \text{ mm} \times 10 \text{ mm}$ ($X \times Y \times Z$) is extruded at the load point as the reference surface of the load. The beam is not meshed uniformly because of this plate. Since midside nodes could have a large influence in such a case, the beam is modelled with and without midside nodes in the static analysis. The physical parameters are determined according to those of steel. Derived from the dimension of the Y-base of the machine, the dimensions, $l = 750 \text{ mm}$, $h = 250 \text{ mm}$ and $t = 32 \text{ mm}$, are used in the simulation. However, the simulation results shall deviate from analytical Euler–Bernoulli solutions because of a small ratio of l/h and l/t .

3.2.1. Displacement due to static forces

When the translational force in the X-direction, F_x , is applied at the load point, the displacements in X- and Z-directions at the load point, $dx(F_x)$ and $dz(F_x)$, are calculated. $dx(F_x)$ is computed as the sum of translational and angular displacements. $F_x = 1 \text{ kN}$ is loaded at $h_F = 0 \text{ mm}$ and $h_F = 100 \text{ mm}$ in the calculation.

The deviations of static displacements calculated with the ACK and the FEM from the analytical displacements are shown in Figs. 11 and 12, respectively. In Fig. 11, it can be observed that the deviations on $dx(F_x)$ decrease while nDOF increases from 18 to 200. With nDOF more than 200, the deviations are almost constant. nDOF must be larger than 90, which corresponds to 15 elements, to reduce the deviation to 10% with the ACK. The deviations on $dx(F_x)$ and $dz(F_x)$ are smaller than 3% with nDOF more than 300.

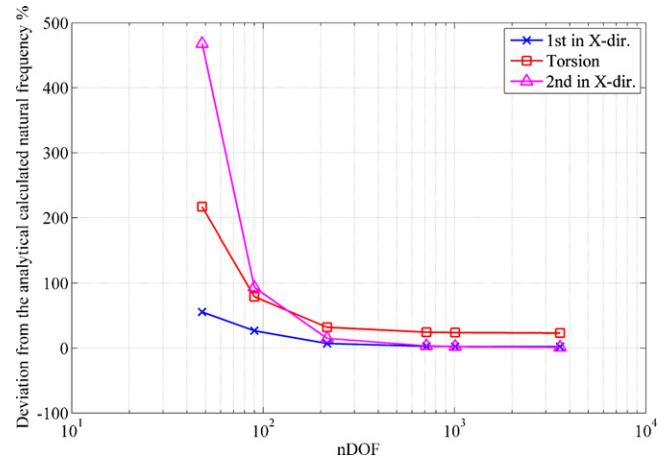


Fig. 14. Relationship between nDOF and deviation from the analytical natural frequency for the fixed beam of Fig. 10 with the FEM.

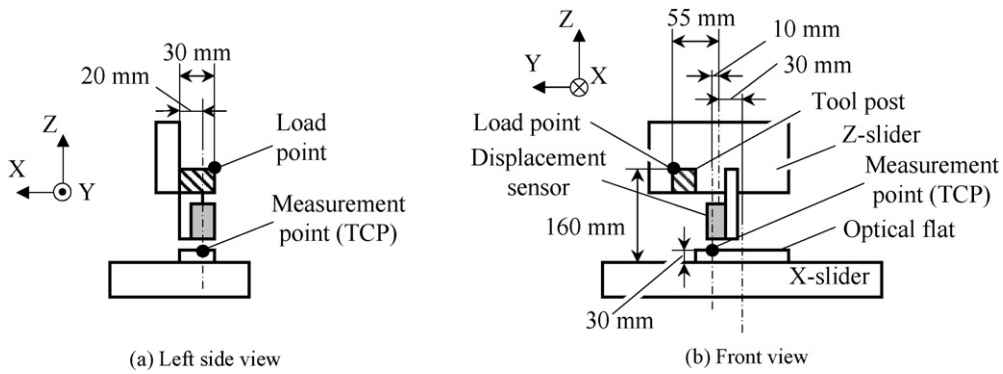


Fig. 15. Experimental setup for compliance measurement. (a) Left side view. (b) Front view.

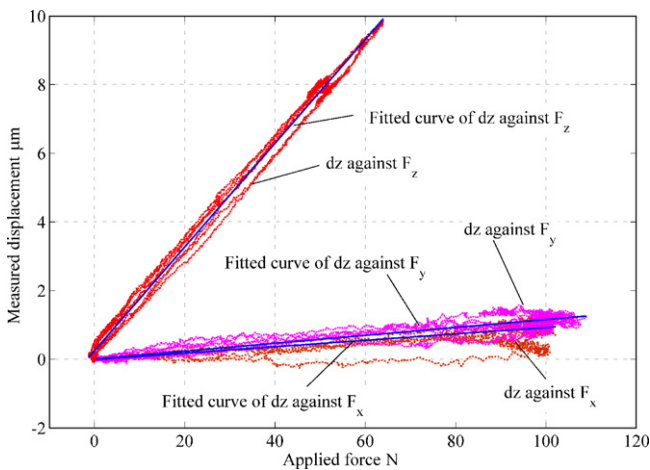


Fig. 16. Relationship between the measured displacement and force applied.

In Fig. 12, deviations are larger than 70% when midside nodes are not used. In the result with midside nodes, these deviations are reduced to 12–40%. Deviations at $h_F = 100$ mm are still larger than 10% even when nDOF is about 10^4 . Comparing the ACK and the FEM, it can be observed that the ACK requires about 1/30 of nDOF to have the same accuracy as the FEM.

3.2.2. Modal analysis for the fixed beam

The natural frequencies of the first three modes of the beam shown in Fig. 10 are calculated. The first three modes of the fixed beam are the first bending mode in the X-direction, the first torsion mode and the second bending mode in the X-direction.

The deviations of the natural frequencies calculated by the ACK and the FEM from analytical frequencies are shown in Figs. 13 and 14, respectively. In Fig. 13, nDOF must be larger than 60 for the ACK to reduce the deviation to 20%. The deviations are smaller than 3% when nDOF is more than 400.

In Fig. 14, the deviation is still larger than 20% for the torsion mode even when nDOF is more than 10^3 . Other two deviations are smaller than 20% when nDOF is 210, and smaller than 3% when nDOF is more than 800. Comparing the ACK and the FEM, it can be observed that the ACK requires about half of nDOF to have the same accuracy as the FEM.

4. Evaluation on a real machine

Static and dynamic behaviours are simulated on the machine tool under investigation. In static and dynamic simulations in the frequency domain, simulation results with the ACK and the FEM are compared with experimental results to evaluate their accuracy. In

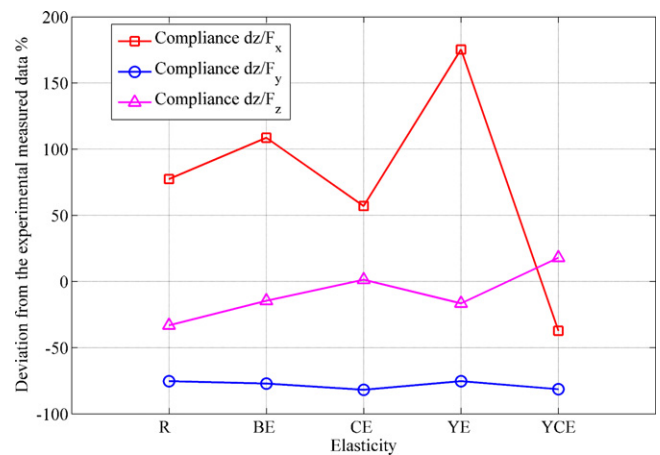


Fig. 17. Relationship between elasticity and deviation from the experimental compliance with the ACK.

these simulations, five different models are compared to investigate the effect of the elastic body simulation. Then, the dynamic simulation with the ACK in the time domain is demonstrated. The machine and its models were described in Section 2.

4.1. Static compliance at TCP

For a static evaluation, the compliances relative to the machine base in the Z-direction against forces in X-, Y- and Z-directions (F_x , F_y and F_z) are evaluated at the tool center point (TCP). In the experi-

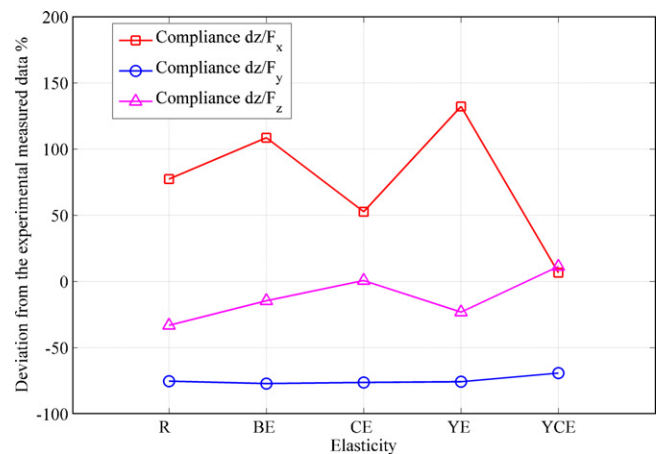


Fig. 18. Relationship between elasticity and deviation from the experimental compliance with the FEM.

Table 2
Natural frequencies and mode shapes obtained by experimental modal analysis.

Mode order	Natural frequency, Hz	Description of dominant mode shapes
1	80	(1) B-rotation of Y-base, Y-slider and Z-slider caused by the deformation of columns (2) B-rotation of Machine base and X-slider in the counter phase to (1)
2	141	(1) C-rotation of Y-base, Y-slider and Z-slider caused by the deformation of columns (2) C-rotation of X-slider in the counter phase to (1)
3	154	(1) C-rotation of Y-base, Y-slider and Z-slider caused by the deformation of columns (2) C-rotation of X-slider in the simultaneous phase to (1)
4	163	(1) B-rotation of Y-slider and Z-slider caused by the deformation of Y-base (2) X-translation of Machine base and X-slider
5	180	(1) B-rotation of Y-slider and Z-slider caused by the deformation of Y-base and columns (2) Y-translation of Y-base, Y-slider and Z-slider (3) X-translation and B-rotation of Machine base and X-slider (4) Y-translation and A-rotation of Machine base and X-slider in the counter phase to (2)
6	203	(1) B-rotation of Y-slider and Z-slider caused by the deformation of Y-base and columns (2) A-rotation of Y-slider and Z-slider (3) X-translation and B-rotation of Machine base and X-slider in the simultaneous phase to (1)
7	236	(1) B-rotation of Y-slider and Z-slider caused by the deformation of Y-base and columns (2) A-rotation of Y-slider and Z-slider in the counter phase to (2) in the mode 6 (3) X-translation and B-rotation of Machine base and X-slider in the counter phase to (1)
8	261	(1) A-rotation of Y-slider and Z-slider (2) Y-translation of X-slider (3) Y-translation of Y-base in the counter phase of (2)
9	274	(1) A-rotation of Y-slider and Z-slider (2) Y-translation of Y-slider and Z-slider (3) Y-translation of X-slider in the simultaneous phase of (2) (4) Y-translation of Y-base in the counter phase of (2)

ment, a tool post and a laser displacement sensor (Keyence, LK-G08) are fixed on the Z-slider, and an optical flat is fixed on the X-slider as shown in Fig. 15. The Y-axis is offset by 30 mm from the center of the X-slider. Forces are loaded at the corner of the tool post, and are measured by using a force sensor (Kistler, 9311B). The displacement between the displacement sensor and the optical flat, dz , is also measured to obtain the compliance in the Z-direction. The measurement point of the displacement sensor is regarded as TCP. The compliances are defined similarly in the simulations.

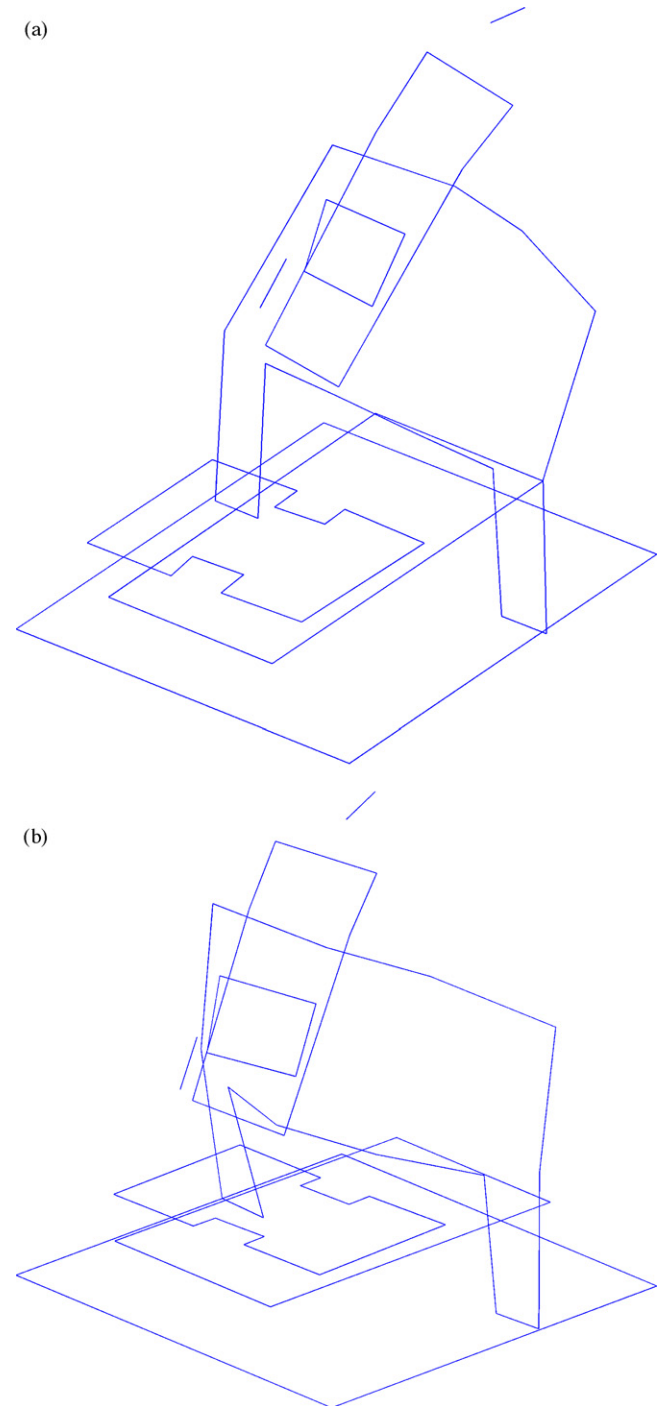


Fig. 19. Examples of mode shapes obtained by experimental modal analysis. (a) Mode 1 at 80 Hz. (b) Mode 4 at 163 Hz.

The resolution of the displacement sensor is 10 nm. The resolution of the force sensor derived from an A/D converter is about 6 mN. The measurements are conducted for 3 times. Considering the accuracy and the calculation effort, the columns and Y-base are modelled with 10 elements for the ACK. With the FEM, elastic components are modelled with midside nodes, and the numbers of nodes of the column L, the column R and the Y-base are 561, 330 and 688, respectively.

The relationship between measured magnitude of displacement and force is shown in Fig. 16. The initial value of displacement and force is set to zero. Since the displacements due to F_x and F_y are similar, it is difficult to distinguish them. In order to iden-

Table 3
Natural frequencies of the machine calculated with the ACK and the FEM. “Comp. with exp.” stands for “comparison with experiment”.

Mode order	R with ACK		BE with ACK		CE with ACK		YCE with ACK		YCE with FEM	
	Natural freq., Hz	Comp. with exp.	Natural freq., Hz	Comp. with exp.	Natural freq., Hz	Comp. with exp.	Natural freq., Hz	Comp. with exp.	Natural freq., Hz	Comp. with exp.
1	146		78.6	Mode 1 80 Hz	84.5	Mode 1 80 Hz	76.9	Mode 1 80 Hz	78.2	Mode 1 80 Hz
2	233		146		145		143	Mode 2 141 Hz	144	Mode 2 141 Hz
3	254	Mode 8 261 Hz	239	Mode 4 163 Hz	225	Mode 3 154 Hz	150	Mode 3 154 Hz	153	Mode 3 154 Hz
4	302	Mode 9 274 Hz	249	Mode 8 261 Hz	236	Mode 4 163 Hz	160	Mode 4 163 Hz	172	Mode 4 163 Hz
5			288	Mode 9 274 Hz	254	Mode 8 261 Hz	237	Mode 6 203 Hz	237	Mode 6 203 Hz
6					297		247	Mode 8 261 Hz	250	Mode 8 261 Hz
7							272	Mode 9 274 Hz	276	Mode 9 274 Hz

tify the compliances, a linear curvature was fitted to each result by the least squares method. The compliances against F_x , F_y and F_z were identified to $dz/F_x = 9.3 \mu\text{m/kN}$, $dz/F_y = 11.5 \mu\text{m/kN}$ and $dz/F_z = 151 \mu\text{m/kN}$, respectively. The standard deviations of the approximation error were 0.10, 0.17 and 0.20 μm .

Figs. 17 and 18 show the relationship between the modelled elasticity and deviation of the ACK and the FEM from the experimental compliance, respectively. In Fig. 17, large deviations more than 50% are observed in the compliances against F_x and F_y . The compliances against F_x between the model variants vary by more than 100% due to the elasticity. However, the variations in other compliances are less than 50%. This result shows that the influence of the elasticity depends on the directions.

In Fig. 18, large deviations, more than 50%, are also observed in the compliances against F_x and F_y . Since deviations are observed in both approaches, these discrepancies are caused by the simplified model of the machine. Comparing the compliances against F_x with the ACK and the FEM, about 45% difference exists with YE and YCE. Differences are smaller than 15% in other results. Considering the identification accuracy of the compliances, the ACK and the FEM provide comparable results.

4.2. Modal analysis of the machine

For a dynamic evaluation, a modal analysis of the machine is carried out. Natural frequencies and mode shapes obtained with the ACK and the FEM are compared to experimental results. The experimental modal analysis is conducted by impact testing using a impact hammer (PCB Piezotronics, 086C20). In order to obtain 3D mode shapes, a 3D accelerometer (PCB Piezotronics, 356A16) is used to measure the acceleration at different points on the machine. The frequency response between the excitation force and acceleration is computed with a FFT-analyzer (Ono Sokki, CF-3400). An excitation point is selected on the tool post. The number of measurement points is 48, and the bandwidth in this experiment is 500 Hz. The columns and the Y-base are modelled with 20 elements with the ACK. With the FEM, these bodies are modelled similarly as described in Section 4.1.

The natural frequencies and the mode shapes obtained by the experimental modal analysis are shown in Table 2. Since lower structural modes are focused on, rigid body modes and the modes with the natural frequencies higher than 300 Hz are omitted. It can be observed that modes 1 and 4 have a larger influence on the TCP in the Z-direction. Fig. 19(a) and (b) shows the mode shape of modes

1 and 4, respectively. In mode 1, the deformation of the columns is dominant. On the other hand, the deformation of the Y-base is dominant in mode 4.

Table 3 shows examples of natural frequencies calculated in simulations. Gray cells indicate that the modes that are changed from those in R, or are absent in R. When the mode shape is close to that obtained by the experimental analysis, its mode number and natural frequency are copied from Table 2 to the right column at each model. Comparing the results of YCE with the ACK and that with the FEM, both natural frequencies and mode shapes agree well. It was confirmed that results were also similar on other four models with both approaches.

The model R only represents two higher mode shapes, since local modes of each component are dominant in these higher modes. As the model includes more elasticity, new modes appear, and more modes match with experimentally obtained modes. In results of YCE with the ACK, almost all experimental mode shapes can be reproduced. The mode 5 of YCE with the ACK and the FEM contain mode shapes of modes 6 and 7 in the experiment. One of the reasons why the model cannot represent modes 5 and 7 could be the influence of the rigid couplings between the machine base and the columns. In the results of BE and CE, the natural frequencies of modes 3 and 4 are about 45% higher than the experimental results. This is because the elasticity of the Y-base is not considered in these models.

4.3. Dynamic simulation of TCP in time domain

The lateral path deviation of TCP in a straight motion is simulated with the ACK and compared with an experimental result. In this comparison, the deviation due to acceleration and deceleration are focused on to evaluate the dynamic model of the machine.

In the experiment, the relative displacement of TCP to the X-slider in the Z-direction is measured with an optical flat and the laser displacement sensor (Keyence, LK-G08) used in the experiment in Section 4.1 when the X-axis is driven toward the positive direction. The X-position is also measured using a linear encoder with a resolution of 10 nm to detect the acceleration (and deceleration) period. The position of each axis is similar to that in the compliance measurement described in Section 4.1. The relative displacement is computed similarly with the ACK using BE. In the simulation, the structural model is connected to additional components representing drives and controls to reproduce the actuation of the machine tool [11].

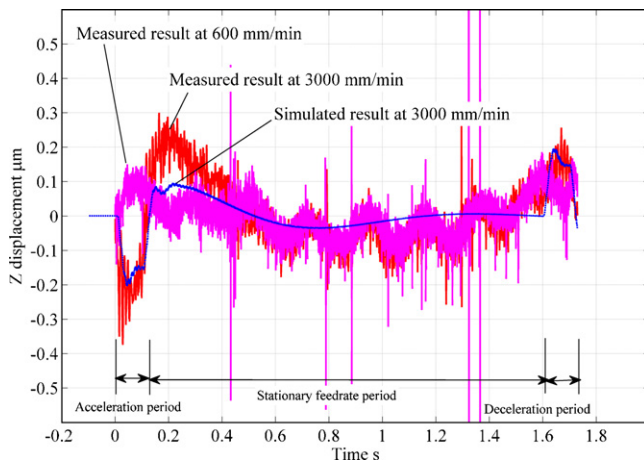


Fig. 20. Comparison of measured and simulated displacement of TCP.

The displacement is measured at a commanded feedrate of 600 and 3000 mm/min. The time constant for acceleration (and deceleration) is set to 100 ms, which corresponds to an acceleration rate of 0.1 and 0.5 m/s² for each feedrate. The measurement distance is 80 mm. The sampling frequency in the experiment is set to 2.5 kHz.

Fig. 20 shows the comparison of the measured and computed displacement. The experimental results are filtered using a low-pass filter with a cut-off frequency of 300 Hz, since the vibration in higher frequency is not taken into account in the simulation. The time of the measured result at 600 mm/min is adjusted so that the total time is equal to that at 3000 mm/min. The measured displacement under 600 mm/min clearly contains the following components: a variation of about 0.1 μm over the measurement time, a periodic fluctuation of a period of 0.2 s and a fluctuation of higher frequency. The former two variations represent the static straightness error due to geometric inaccuracy of the drive system. The fluctuation of higher frequency can be caused by the variation in motor torque.

Comparing measured displacements at 600 and 3000 mm/min, about 0.5 μm difference is observed from 0 to 0.4 s, and another discrepancy of about 0.1 μm is observed from 1.6 to 1.7 s. These are the dynamic path deviation due to the acceleration and deceleration, respectively. The comparison of measured and simulated displacements at 3000 mm/min shows that the ACK can reproduce these path deviations. However, the simulated path deviation due to the acceleration is about 0.1 μm smaller than the measured profile, and the simulated deviation due to the deceleration is about 0.1 μm larger. The reason of these differences is not clear. The static straightness error is not observed in the simulated result, since the straightness error is not taken into account in the simulation.

5. Conclusion

The IWF Axis Construction Kit has been compared with commercial FEM software. Required time has been compared in modelling of a machine tool to evaluate the usability of the ACK. In order to investigate the reliability of the ACK, static and dynamic behaviour of both approaches have been compared with each other and with

analytical calculations on basic beam models. The behaviour has also been compared with measurements on an actual machine tool. From this study, the following conclusions can be obtained.

- (1) The Axis Construction Kit needs 30% of the total required time for the FEM because of its modularity in machine modelling.
- (2) The Axis Construction Kit provides equivalent accuracy to the FEM in basic elastic simulations. The number of degrees of freedom required for the ACK is smaller than that for the FEM.
- (3) In static and dynamic simulations on a complete machine, the ACK can obtain equivalent results to the FEM. Almost all lower structural mode shapes and their natural frequencies can be reproduced with the ACK. Dynamic path deviations due to acceleration in a straight motion can be reproduced with the ACK.
- (4) The elastic body simulation of only crucial parts is sufficient to represent lower structural vibration modes.

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