

Propeller Torque Load and Propeller Shaft Torque Response Correlation During Ice-propeller Interaction

Dražen Polić^{1*}, Sören Ehlers^{1,2} and Vilmar Æsøy³

1. Department of Marine Technology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim 7491, Norway

2. Institute for Ship Structural Design and Analysis, Hamburg University of Technology, Hamburg 21073, Germany

3. Department of Ocean Operations and Civil Engineering, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Ålesund 6025, Norway

Abstract: Ships use propulsion machinery systems to create directional thrust. Sailing in ice-covered waters involves the breaking of ice pieces and their submergence as the ship hull advances. Sometimes, submerged ice pieces interact with the propeller and cause irregular fluctuations of the torque load. As a result, the propeller and engine dynamics become imbalanced, and energy propagates through the propulsion machinery system until equilibrium is reached. In such imbalanced situations, the measured propeller shaft torque response is not equal to the propeller torque. Therefore, in this work, the overall system response is simulated under the ice-related torque load using the Bond graph model. The energy difference between the propeller and propeller shaft is estimated and related to their corresponding mechanical energy. Additionally, the mechanical energy is distributed among modes. Based on the distribution, kinetic and potential energy are important for the correlation between propeller torque and propeller shaft response.

Keywords: propeller torque load, propeller shaft torque response, ice-propeller interaction, load-response correlation.

Article ID: 1671-9433(2017)01-0001-09

1 Introduction

The operation of a ship in ice-covered waters often results in the submergence of broken ice pieces at the bow of the ship. As the ship moves through the ice field, the propeller approaches to the submerged pieces of ice, and interference between the ice pieces and the propeller can occur. Figure 1 illustrates this process, which is usually referred to as ice-propeller interaction (Veitch, 1995; Wang, 2007), where the ice-related load is generated as the submerged ice pieces approach, block, and contact the propeller. The ice-related load, together with the hydrodynamic load from the open water condition, is transmitted further to the diesel engine or electrical motor through the mechanical transmission line, which commonly consists of a flexible coupling and propeller shaft.

At the same time as the propeller load (the sum of the ice-related and hydrodynamic loads) acts, the power

produced by the engine from the combustion gases is transmitted to the propeller through the same mechanical elements to overcome ship resistance in ice. In such a state, energy propagates through the system as a result of the ice and engine firing impacts, and equilibrium between the propeller and engine is achieved through the mechanical energy stored in the rotating masses and flexible elements.

If the amount of energy/load applied to the propeller from the submerged ice pieces exceeds design, the propeller blade should fail before any significant damage is caused to the other elements in the mechanical connection. Hänninen (2004) reported 33 instances of propeller damage and three engine damages in the Baltic Sea during winter navigation in 2002–2003. Considered damages consist of ultimate strength- (Varma, 2000) or fatigue-related (Balyts'kyi *et al.*, 2013) damages. To reduce the amount of damage, a clear understanding of the difference between the propeller torque load and propeller shaft torque response is essential. Propeller shaft response has been measured in full-scale trials or model-scale tests (Koskikivi and Kujala, 1985; Brown *et al.*, 1998; Dahler *et al.*, 2010).

Brown *et al.* (1998) estimated that the ratio between the maximum propeller torque and maximum propeller shaft torque is in the range of 0.99 to 1.74 for seven sets of full-scale trials. By tuning the phase angle between cylinder firing and ice impact, Dahler *et al.* (2010) observed that the amplitude and time period agreement between simulated, using IACS ice-related torque load over four seconds, and measured propeller shaft torque response can vary significantly (56% to 91%). Considering only ice impacts (i.e., no diesel engine firing pulses, but a mean torque), 70% agreement is achieved. Polić *et al.* (2014) related most of the difference between propeller torque load and propeller shaft torque response with the torque generated by rigid body motion of the propeller and propeller shaft. The latter was confirmed for only one case of ice-related load and one propulsion machinery design using a simple Bond Graph (BG) model.

Brown *et al.* (1998) and Ikonen *et al.* (2014) presented transformation of the propeller shaft response to the propeller torque by using different inverse propulsion machinery models. Apart from using different methods, the propulsion machinery modes are modeled with different

Received date: 26-May-2016

Accepted date: 27-Sep-2016

Foundation item: This Research is Funded Through the Norwegian Research Council Project No. 194529.

***Corresponding author Email:** drazen.polic@ntnu.no

© Harbin Engineering University and Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2017

numbers of sub-models. Brown *et al.* (1998) considered only the propeller and propeller shaft in the inverse model, while Ikonen *et al.* (2014) considered the complete system from propeller to engine. However, justification for reduction of the inverse model and correlation between propeller torque load and propeller shaft torque response are presented by neither researcher.

Based on the findings from Polić *et al.* (2014), the current paper seeks to 1) identify the difference between propeller torque load and propeller shaft torque response, within different propulsion machinery designs and ice-related loads; 2) relate this difference to the mechanical energy stored in the propeller and propeller shaft; and 3) rank the contribution of kinetic, potential, and dissipative energy (components of mechanical energy) in rigid and flexible modes. The BG model used in this paper is presented in Polić *et al.* (2016).

2 Methodology

A propulsion machinery system model is used to simulate

the dynamic response of the system during the ice-propeller interaction. The model consists of a Fixed Pitch (FP) propeller directly connected to a slow-speed engine through a propeller shaft and a flexible coupling. Fig. 1 illustrates such a directly connected system, which is considered energy efficient and robust; hence, this system is the most common solution for merchant ships. Different ice conditions and designs of the directly connected propulsion machinery system are considered by varying the following five system parameters: 1) propulsion machinery ice class that defines the maximum design thickness of the ice block (H_{ice}) and the maximum amplitude of the ice-related torque (Q_{max}) according to DNV (2016); 2) the number of propeller blades (Z); 3) the length of the propeller shaft (L_{shaft}); 4) the stiffness of the flexible coupling (k_{static}); and 5) the number of engine cylinders (w), which defines the maximum delivered engine power (P_{emax}). For each parameter, three different values are assigned in Table 1.

Table 1 Propulsion machinery system parameters

Ice-class	Ice-propeller			Machinery			
	Design thickness of ice block, H_{ice} / m	Max. ice-related torque, Q_{max} / kN·m	Number of propeller blades, Z / m	Propeller shaft length, L_{shaft} / m	Flexible coupling stiffness, k_{static} / (MN·m·rad ⁻¹)	Number of cylinders, w	Max. delivered engine power, P_{emax} / MW
1B class	1.2	731	3	6	6	5	11.75
1A class	1.5	933	4	12	12	6	14.1
1A* class	1.75	1104	5	18	18	7	16.45

The physical system, which is illustrated in Fig. 1, is modeled with four sub-models that represent physical elements (i.e., FP propeller) and three inputs: ice-related torque, hydrodynamic torque, and cylinder pressure. A simple overview of the model structure is illustrated in Fig. 2. Physical elements and their connections are formalized as a network of idealized physical processes connected using the BG method (Karnopp *et al.*, 2005). Each idealized physical process is described with one BG element where instantaneous power or energy exchange between processes is described as a product of effort (e) and flow (f). In addition to the power variables, e and f , two energy variables, momentum (p) and displacement (q), are used to describe energy relationships in the BG methodology. In the domain of rotational mechanics, the variables e , f , p and q represent torque (Q N·m), angular velocity (ω rad/s), angular momentum [Nms], and angular position (ϕ rad), respectively. The positive flow of power between BG elements is in the direction of the half arrow called a power bond. A full arrow, called a signal bond, indicates a signal flow used by BG elements to describe variable physical relationships (e.g., ice-related torque as a function of the angular position of the propeller). Power and signal bond arrows are illustrated in Figure 2 with solid and dashed lines, respectively. Detailed

descriptions of the BG method and BG elements can be found in Karnopp *et al.* (2005) and Borutzky (2010 and 2011), while important works related to the formulation of BG models of multibody mechanical system dynamics are given in Allen (1979) and Karnopp (1992 and 1997).

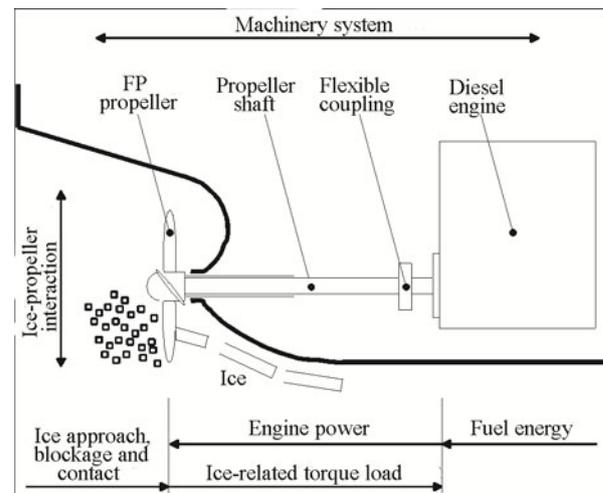


Fig. 1 Propulsion machinery system in ice and energy propagation in the system

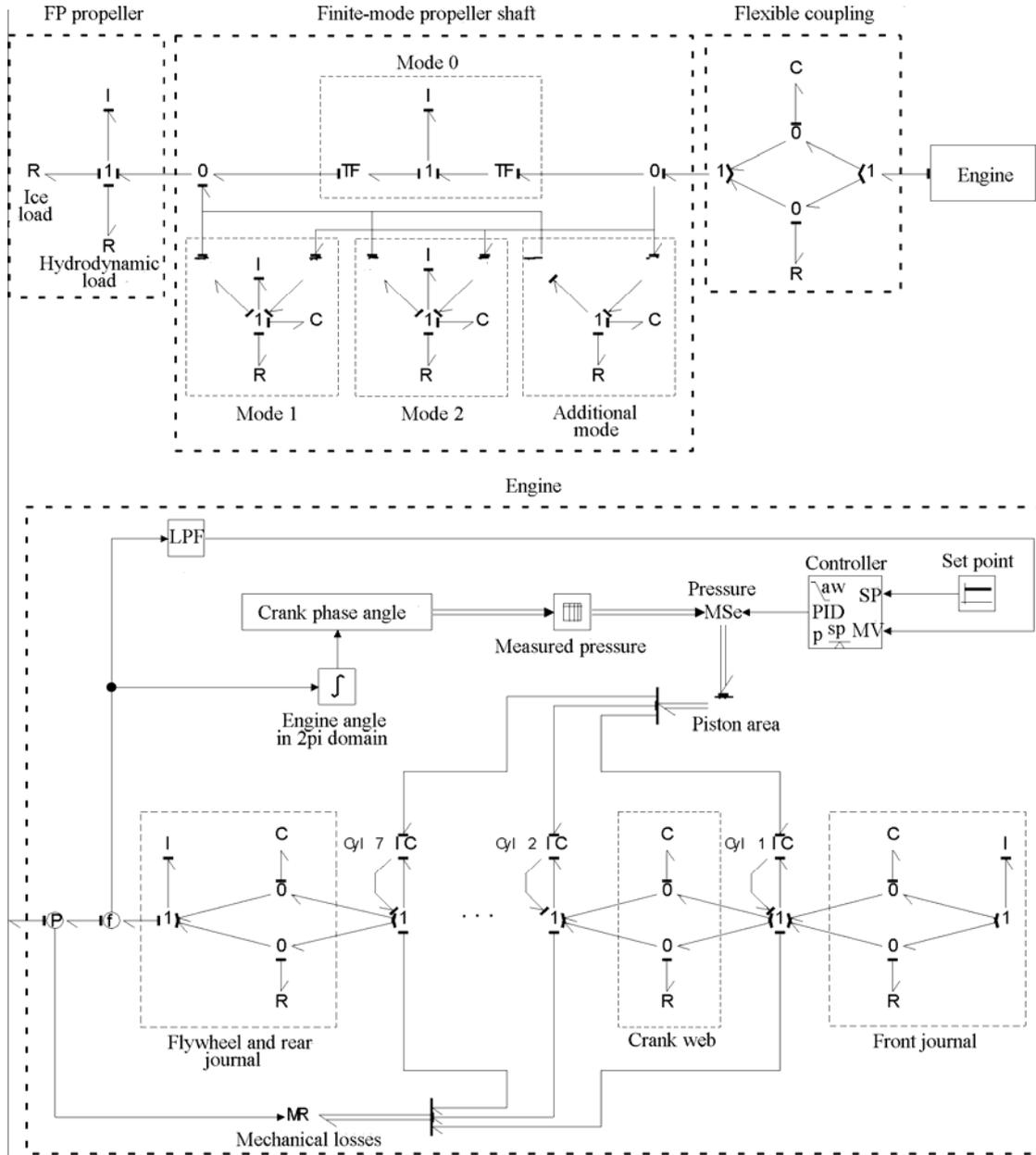


Fig. 3 Bond graph model of the propulsion machinery system modeled in the 20-sim software

Table 2 Set of machinery cases

		$L_{\text{shaft}} = 12 \text{ m}$				
		$0.5 L_{\text{shaft}}$	L_{shaft}	$1.5 L_{\text{shaft}}$		
$k_{\text{static}} = 12 \text{ MNm/rad}$	$0.5 k_{\text{static}}$	case 1	case 10	case 19	$w = 5$	
		case 2	case 11	case 20	$w = 6$	
		case 3	case 12	case 21	$w = 7$	
	k_{static}	case 4	case 13	case 22	$w = 5$	
		case 5	case 14	case 23	$w = 6$	
		case 6	case 15	case 24	$w = 7$	
	$1.5 k_{\text{static}}$	case 7	case 16	case 25	$w = 5$	
		case 8	case 17	case 26	$w = 6$	
		case 9	case 18	case 27	$w = 7$	
	$\text{Ice-class 1A, } H_{\text{ice}} = 1.5 \text{ m}$					
	$Z = 4$					

Table 3 Set of ice-propeller cases

	Ice-class 1B	Ice-class 1A	Ice-class 1A*
	$H_{ice} = 1.2$ m	$H_{ice} = 1.5$ m	$H_{ice} = 1.75$ m
$Z = 3$	case 28	case 31	case 33
$Z = 4$	case 29	case 15	case 34
$Z = 5$	case 30	case 32	case 35
$L_{shaft} = 12$ m			
$k_{static} = 12$ MN·m/rad			
$w = 7$			

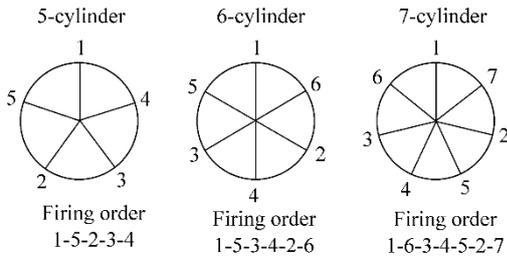


Fig. 4 Firing order and phase angle for the investigated two-stroke engines

4 Simulation results and discussion

The dynamic response of the propulsion machinery system is obtained using the Backward Euler method, a simple implicit numerical method used to solve ordinary differential equations, with a fixed time step of 1 ms. The BG model is modeled with the 20-sim-software version 4.4. The propeller moment of inertia (J_p) and loading coefficient (L_{hyd}) are assumed to be the same for all cases. L_{hyd} is estimated as 8800 kgm² based on the absorbed propeller power suitable for a five-cylinder two-stroke diesel engine at a Specific Maximum Continuous Rating (SMCR) point. The same SMCR point, set as 85% of maximum power and 95% of engine speed, is considered for the other two engines as well. As a result, the margin between the absorbed propeller power and engine overload power increases with an increasing number of cylinders.

Each case is simulated for a period of 300 seconds or approximately 420 propeller revolutions. The DNV excitation case 1 is applied at 400 propeller revolutions, which is 40 to 45 propeller revolutions after a steady-state condition is reached. Each impact in the DNV excitation case 1 is determined to have a half sinus shape, where the half of the period is equal to angle α_i and the amplitude is equal to the product of torque Q_{max} and factor C_q . During each simulation, time histories of the torque and angular velocity of each element are obtained, but only the results during ice-propeller interaction are illustrated in Figures 5 to 16.

Figure 5 shows an example of a time history example of the propeller torque (Q_p) (the sum of Q_{ice} and Q_{hyd}) and the propeller shaft torque response ($Q_{s,1}$) at the end connected to the flexible coupling. The torque difference is significant.

Local maximum peaks and oscillations are higher for the Q_p load than for the $Q_{s,1}$ response, and a time delay between load and response is present. However, such differences were not observed between ω_p and $\omega_{s,1}$ angular velocity as illustrated in Figure 6.

Although the maximum and minimum angular velocity difference in every analyzed case is smaller than the maximum and minimum torque difference (see Figure 8 and 7, respectively), the angular velocity difference cannot be neglected. This difference includes system deformation and should be treated in the same way as the torque difference. Therefore, the energy exchange between the propeller and propeller shaft at each point in the time is derived as a product of the torque, angular velocity, and time step. In Figures 9 and 10, the derived energy exchange [$\Delta E(Q_{s,1}, \omega_{s,1}) - \Delta E(Q_p, \omega_p)$] at two time instances is compared and correlated with the energy associated with the motion and position of the propeller and propeller shaft.

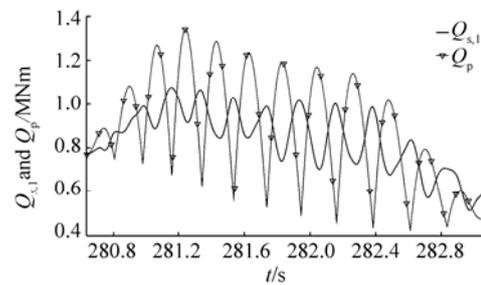


Fig. 5 Comparison of $Q_{s,1}$ and Q_p torque for case 15 (base case)

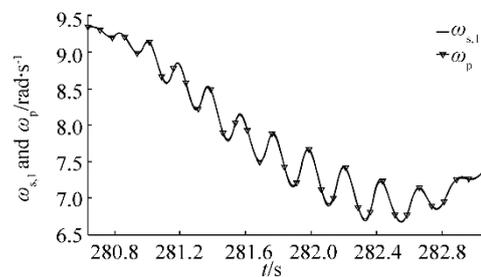


Fig. 6 Comparison of $\omega_{s,1}$ and ω_p angular velocity for case 15 (base case)

Table 5 Mechanical energy in the propeller, and in each mode of the propeller shaft at the instant with the minimum Q_p load
All values are presented in J and for the case 15 **J**

Total difference $\Delta E(Q_{s,1}, \omega_{s,1}) - \Delta E(Q_p, \omega_p)$	Propeller (mode0) $\Delta E(J_{p0})$	Propeller shaft								
		mode 0			mode 1			mode 2		
		$\Delta E(J_{s0})$	$\Delta E(J_{s1})$	$\Delta E(k_{s1})$	$\Delta E(c_{s1})$	$\Delta E(J_{s2})$	$\Delta E(k_{s2})$	$\Delta E(c_{s2})$	$\Delta E(k_{s3})$	$\Delta E(c_{s3})$
2845.3	2774.1	69.2	$-3 \cdot 10^{-4}$	1.8	$3 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$-5 \cdot 10^{-7}$	$2 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$4 \cdot 10^{-8}$	0.2	$2 \cdot 10^{-6}$
				= 1.8		= 0			= 0.2	
= 2845.3										

Given that the amount of the mechanical energy absorbed by BG elements is constantly changing during ice-propeller interaction, the distribution of mechanical energy between propeller and propeller shaft modes during the entire time history of all 35 cases is evaluated as a function of a span and Probability Density Function (PDF). The latter is illustrated in Figures 11 to 15 as a set of circles. Based on the span of the energy (ΔE), the difference between propeller and propeller shaft torque and angular velocity depends mostly on the propeller kinetic energy, followed by the kinetic energy of the rigid body mode of the propeller shaft, and finally the energy of the odd-numbered flexible modes of the propeller shaft. The contribution of the second mode, as expected, can be neglected because of the symmetry of the mode shape. In addition, an important detail to note is that 21 bins exist in Figures 11 to 15, and the corresponding PDF value ($f(\Delta E)$) for the energy in the middle of graph denotes the energy in the range of the interval, set by the bin width, with a mean value of 0.

Considering individual cases, the span of the absorbed and released energy is approximately equal, but the shape of PDF is not necessary symmetrical for all cases. In Figures 11 and 12, the shape of the PDF changes from fairly symmetric (i.e., case 15) to skewed right (case 33). The explanation for the latter is that during the ice-propeller interaction, the angular velocity of the system drops and kinetic energy absorbed by the rigid body is released (indicated with a negative sign). Case 33 is an extreme case that considers the highest ice class (1A*) and a three-bladed propeller, which generates non-continuous ice-propeller impacts (see Figure A1 in Appendix A). As a result, case 33 has the largest drop in angular velocity and hence corresponding release of kinetic energy.

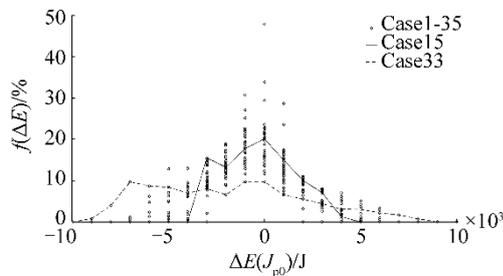


Fig. 11 Distribution of the kinetic energy absorbed by and released from propeller inertia J_{p0}

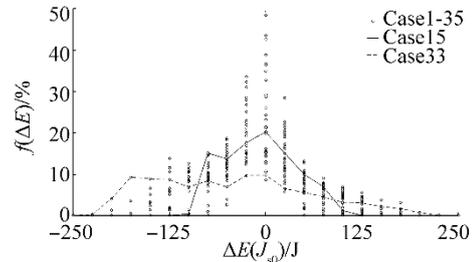


Fig. 12 Distribution of kinetic energy absorbed by and released from the rigid mode of the propeller shaft

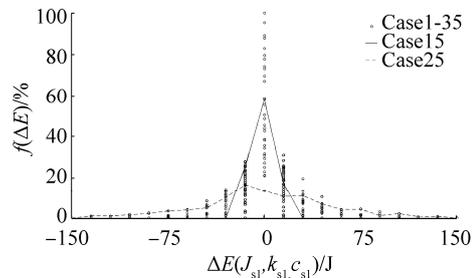


Fig. 13 Distribution of mechanical energy absorbed by and released from the first mode of the propeller shaft

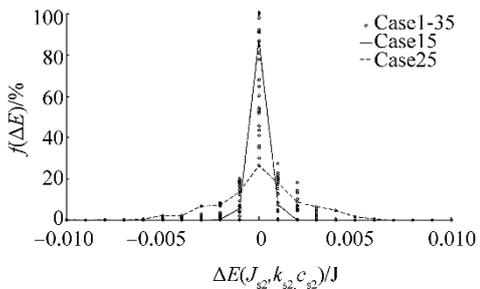


Fig. 14 Distribution of mechanical energy absorbed by and released from the second mode of the propeller shaft

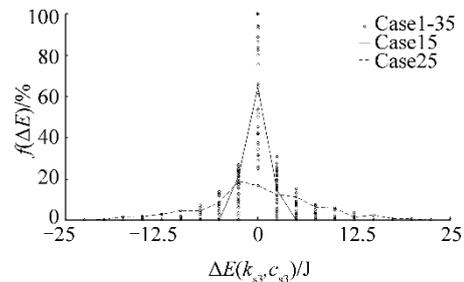


Fig. 15 Distribution of mechanical energy absorbed by and released from the third mode of the propeller shaft

Unlike the rigid mode, angular velocities in the flexible modes are small and are the result of the deformation caused by the oscillation of the propeller torque load, which gives fairly symmetric oscillations in the case of the rule-based load. Consequently, the shape of the PDF for flexible modes, illustrated in Figures 13 to 15, is fairly symmetric. The largest torque difference and angular deformation between the two ends of the propeller shaft is observed in case 25, where the weakest diesel engine ($w=5$) is connected to the four-bladed FP propeller through the stiffest flexible coupling ($1.5k_{\text{static}}$) and the longest propeller shaft ($1.5L_{\text{shaft}}$).

Because the width of the bin in Figures 13 to 15 varies, and the influence of kinetic, potential, and dissipated energy in the flexible propeller shaft modes is not illustrated; the probability of the energy taking on a value above the threshold limit of 1J for all cases at any point in the simulation time is illustrated in Figure 16. Therefore, the distribution of mechanical energy in Figures 13 and 15 can be related to the potential energy in the first and third modes, respectively.

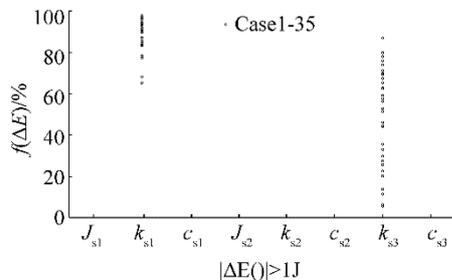


Fig. 16 Probability of absorbed or released mechanical energy from flexible modes of the propeller shaft that is above the threshold limit of 1 J for all cases

5 Summary and Conclusion

The differences between the torque and angular velocity in the propeller and propeller shaft during the ice-propeller interaction are examined for 35 propulsion machinery system design cases (different ice classes, number of propeller blades, propeller shaft length, flexible coupling stiffness, and number of cylinders). Time history examples and minimum-maximum observations of the torque and angular velocity differences are shown. On the basis of the time history, the rate of energy exchange between the propeller shaft response and propeller torque is divided into mechanical energy stored in the propeller and the propeller shaft.

The dynamic exchange of mechanical energy is presented as a function of the span and PDF, and split between modes. On the basis of the span, we concluded that torque and angular differences mostly depended on the propeller kinetic energy, followed by the kinetic energy stored in the rigid mode of the propeller shaft, and finally the mechanical energy in the first and third flexible modes of the propeller shaft. Mechanical energy in the second flexible mode can be neglected and hence omitted from the model. Energy PDF is

mostly skewed to the right for the rigid mode and fairly symmetrical for the flexible modes. The shape of the PDF distribution for the rigid and flexible modes is related to the angular velocity drop and the shape of the ice-related torque, respectively.

The influence of mechanical energy in the odd-numbered flexible modes can be related to the potential energy because the contribution of the kinetic and dissipated energy at any point in time is smaller than 1 J.

References

- Allen RR, 1979. Multiport representation of inertia properties of kinematic mechanism. *Journal of The Franklin Institute*, **308** (3), 235-253.
DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0016-0032\(79\)90115-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0016-0032(79)90115-7)
- Balyts'kyi OI, Kawiak M, Kawiak P, 2013. Assessment of the fatigue damage to the propeller shaft in a sea water. *Materials Science*, **49**(1), 130-133.
DOI: 10.1007/s11003-013-9592-4
- Borutzky W, 2010. *Bond graph methodology*. Springer, London.
- Borutzky W, 2011. *Bond graph modelling of engineering systems*. Springer, London.
- Brown RP, Reville CR, Ritch AR, Keinonen AJ, 1998. *Propeller design load model*. Report No. TP 13243E. Institute for Ocean Technology, National Research Council of Canada.
- Dahler G, Stubb JT, Norhamo L, 2010. Propulsion in ice-big ships. *ICETECH '10*, paper No. 133.
- DNV (Det Norsk Veritas), 2016. *Ships for navigation in ice*.
- Hänninen S, 2004. *Incidents and accidents in winter navigation in the Baltic Sea, winter 2002-2003*. Research report No. 54, Winter Navigation Research Board, 44 pages.
- Ikonen T, Peltokorpi O, Karhunen J, 2014. Inverse ice-induced moment determination on the propeller of an ice-going vessel. *Cold Regions Science and Technology*, **112**, 1-13.
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.coldregions.2014.12.010>
- Karnopp DC, 1992. An approach to derivative causality in bond graph models of mechanical systems. *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, **329**(1), 65-75.
DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0016-0032\(92\)90096-Y](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0016-0032(92)90096-Y)
- Karnopp DC, 1997. Understanding multibody dynamics using bond graph representations. *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, **334**(4), 631-642.
DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0016-0032\(96\)00083-X](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0016-0032(96)00083-X)
- Karnopp DC, Margolis DL, Rosenberg RC, 2005. *System dynamics – modeling and simulation of mechatronic system*. Fourth Edition. John Wiley & Sons Inc.
- Koskikivi J, Kujala P, 1985. *Long-term measurements of ice induced loads on the propulsion machinery of product tanker Sotka*. Research Report No. 42, Technical Research Center of Finland (VTT), Espoo, 105 pages.
- Polić D, Ehlers S, Æsøy V, Pedersen E, 2014. Shaft response as a propulsion machinery design load. *Proc. 33rd International Conference on Offshore Mechanics and Arctic Engineering*, (OMAE), San Francisco, USA.
- Polić D, Æsøy V, Ehlers S, 2016. Transient simulation of the propulsion machinery system operating in ice – modeling approach. *Ocean Engineering*, **124**, 437-449.
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.oceaneng.2016.07.011>
- Sampson R, 2009. *The effect of cavitation during propeller ice interaction*. PhD Thesis, University of Newcastle, Newcastle.
- Varma G, 2000. *Ice loads on propellers under extreme operating*

conditions. Master of Engineering Thesis, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland.

Veitch B, 1995. *Predictions of ice contact forces on a marine screw propeller during the propeller-ice cutting process*. Acta Polytechnica Scandinavica, Mechanical Engineering Series No. 118, Helsinki.

Walker D, 1996. *The influence of blockage and cavitation on the hydrodynamic performance of ice class propellers in blocked flow*. PhD Thesis, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland.

Wang J, 2007. *Prediction of propeller performance a model podded propulsor in ice*. PhD Thesis, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland.

Appendix A: Ice-propeller interaction

The most common ice-propeller interaction angle ($\alpha_{ice}=90^\circ$) is adopted from DNV rules (2016) for ice-strengthened vessels. The resulting impact sequences for each propeller alternative are calculated according to the rules as a function of ice-class, the number of blades Z , and

angle α_{ice} . Figure A1 illustrates the impact sequence for a 1A ice class propeller with variable Z , while all impact sequences used in the paper are summarized in Table A1.

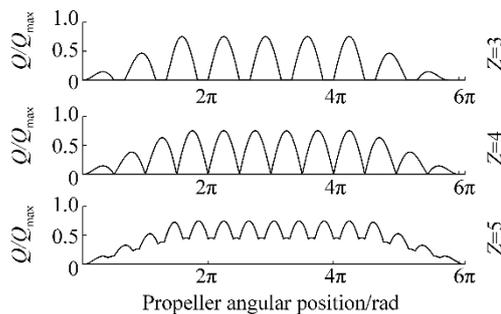


Figure A1 Impact sequence for 1A ice class propellers with DNV excitation case 1 ($H_{ice} = 1.5$ m). Distinct angular difference between ice impacts is a result of a different angle between blades and the number of propeller blades (Z)

Table A1 Ice impact sequence

	Ice-class 1B		Ice-class 1A		Ice-class 1A*	
	N_{ice}	φ_{ice}	N_{ice}	φ_{ice}	N_{ice}	φ_{ice}
$Z = 3$	8 (7.2)	$5\pi+\pi/6$	9	$5\pi+5\pi/6$	11 (10.5)	$7\pi+\pi/6$
$Z = 4$	10 (9.6)	5π	12	6π	14	7π
$Z = 5$	12	$4\pi+9\pi/10$	15	$6\pi+\pi/10$	18 (17.5)	$7\pi+3\pi/10$

N_{ice} is the number of ice impacts and φ_{ice} is the total angular propeller displacement during the ice-propeller interaction.