

1193. The research on the performance of linear ultrasonic motor under different temperature

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Abstract. Linear ultrasonic motor (LUSM) is a new type of driver. LUSM has many advantages, so it is taken seriously in aeronautics and astronautics. But, because of the deficiency of studies on the performance of LUSM in abnormal temperature, it's necessary to do research on the performance of LUSM in different ambient temperature, to confirm whether it can work under abnormal temperature and how it works. In this research, we use V type LUSM (VLUSM) as the test object, owing to that VLUSM is one basic type of linear ultrasonic motor. When doing research, we pay close attention to the moment of force and the rotation rate of VLUSM, to discover how much they change in abnormal temperature environment. This research compares all datum partitioned by different temperature, and uses figures to show the tendency of those mechanical properties in abnormal temperature. At the same time, we explain the changing by means of theories. Finally, through detailed experimental demonstration, we believe that as the temperature rises, both moment of force and rotation rate of VLUSM increase, and we can also conclude that VLUSM can work normally under abnormal temperature environment.

Keywords: linear ultrasonic motor, ambient temperature, environment, moment of force, rotation rate.

1. Introduction

As a new type of driver, linear ultrasonic motor (LUSM) has many advantages, such as the high torque with low velocity, the quick response, the simple structure, the magnetic-field noninterference, the auto lock with interruption of power supply and so on [1]. It takes advantage of the inverse piezoelectric effect of the piezoelectric ceramics. Due to the friction between the active cell and the stator, the micro vibration of the stator is transformed into the macro linear motion of the active cell, with the electrical energy transforming into the mechanical energy at the same time. Recently, many utilizations and tests [2-4] about ultrasonic motor (USM) are carried out, some of which are about the reliability in abnormal environment. For example, before being used in the Mars probe, ultrasonic motor is widely tested in the abnormal environment experiments. In which, high-low temperature is a basic factor in the specific working environment. Also, to ensure its reliability in the specific working environment, it is necessary to do research on LUSM in abnormal environment. This research treats the temperature and the pretightening force level as the external variables, to explore the phenomena and the rules of VLUSM in abnormal temperature environment. And this research compares all datum partitioned by different temperature, to show the tendency of those mechanical properties in abnormal temperature. The results show that as the temperature goes up, both the moment of force and the rotation rate of VLUSM will increase, and VLUSM can work normally under abnormal temperature environment.

2. Test equipments and method

2.1. Test object

This research uses V type LUSM as the testing object. The material of elastic body is 65 Mn. Fig. 1 shows the entity of V type LUSM. Because of its two Langevin vibrators fixed like the grapheme "V", we call this type LUSM "V type LUSM". This type is designed based upon one

type designed by Kurosawa from Japan [5], which utilizes d_{33} effect of the piezoelectric ceramics. Two Langevin vibrators are motivated by two sine signals with the same frequency but the phase difference of 90 degrees simultaneously, yearning elliptical motion at the driving foot.

Compared with normal VLUSM, three main adjustments are made on this type of VLUSM we use in the experiments, as Fig. 2 shows: linear variable cross-section bar, flexible hinge and flexible clamp [6, 7]. First, based on the principle of ultrasonic amplitude transformer, the VLUSM adopts two bars of linear variable cross-section, replacing two bars of equal cross-section, because the bar of linear variable cross-section can improve the efficiency of the VLUSM. Second, two bars are connected by the flexible hinge at the driving foot. Because of minor rigidity of the flexible hinge, the vibration amplitude at the driving foot is increased effectively when the VLUSM works. Third, two bars are linked by the flexible clamp, having eliminated the interval in the normal clamp, improving the running performance and stability of the VLUSM, and removing the disturbing modals. Many tests have indicated that the improved VLUSM has favorable output characteristics.



Fig. 1. The entity of V type LUSM

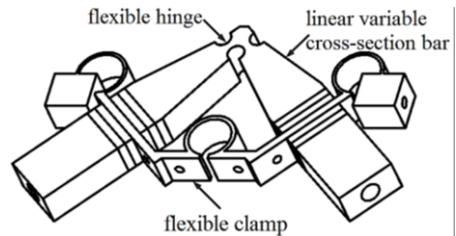


Fig. 2. Three main adjustments of V type LUSM

To be convenient to collect datum, a chucking appliance is designed as Fig. 3 shows. It transforms the micro to-and-fro linear vibration of stator into the macro linear motion of the active cell (the ceramic ring), the friction layer of which is made up of Al_2O_3 .

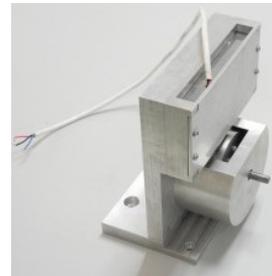
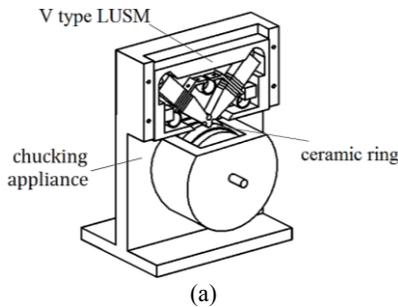


Fig. 3. The model a) and entity b) of the chucking appliance

2.2. Test equipment

The composite environment trial box, controlled by the control system, as Fig. 4 shows, is main equipment in the test. This box can simulate high-low temperature and vacuum environment. The working temperature scope is $-100^{\circ}\text{C}\sim+100^{\circ}\text{C}$. Before the test, the VLUSM, which is fixed by the chucking appliance, is placed into the test box. The photoelectric encoder and the torque sensor, which are used to measure the moment of force and rotation rate of the VLUSM, are put out of the test box, to ensure their normal working condition. The power amplifier and the signal generator are outside of the test box, controlling the VLUSM. The magnetic-lag machine is used to apply loads to the VLUSM. The input and output signals are transmitted by the wires connecting inner and outer box.

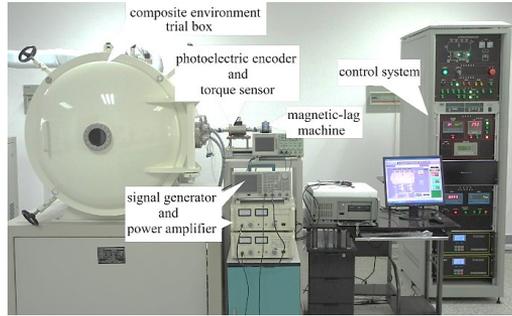


Fig. 4. Test equipments

Fig. 5 shows both the principle and the picture of the arrangement at the chamber of the composite environment trial box. The VLUSM, which is fixed by the chucking appliance, is placed on the positioning table. The clutch, designed as it looks like, is used to ensure the flexibility of the mechanism when the coaxiality is low.

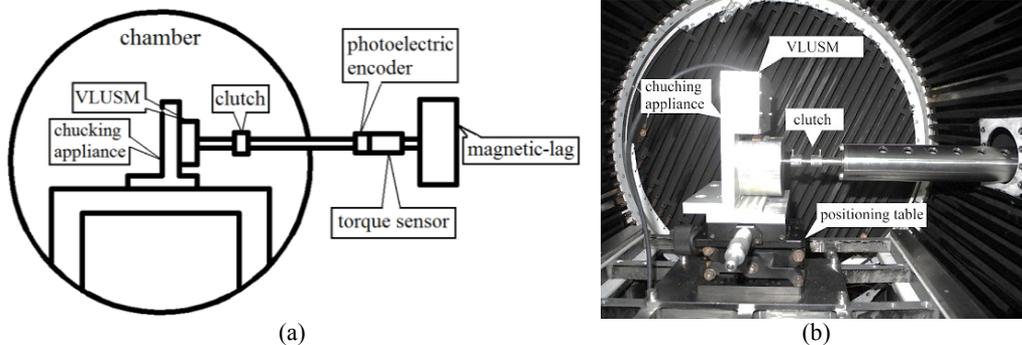


Fig. 5. The principle a) and the picture b) of the arrangement at the chamber

2.3. Test project

To obtain the influence on the VLUSM by temperature, the temperature condition is divided into 7 levels. They are -40°C , -20°C , 0°C , 20°C , 40°C , 60°C and 80°C . To observe the effect of the pretightening force on the performance of the VLUSM in different temperature environment, three pretightening force levels are set. They are 30 N, 40 N and 50 N. This research sets independent variables (temperature and pretightening force) and two dependent variables (moment of force and rotation rate), to show the changing of the performance.

The loads on the VLUSM are provided by the magnetic-lag machine. Before the test, the resonance frequency is measured by the frequency-analysis device. It is between 32 kHz and 33 kHz. So the regulation scope of signal generator can be confirmed. The voltage set by the power amplifier is $300V_{P-P}$, to motivate the performance of piezoelectric ceramics. To ensure the influence on the VLUSM by different temperature, the dependent variables can be measured after waiting for 20 minutes at one temperature level.

The objective of the test is to gain the optimum rotation rates at the resonance frequency, per temperature and per pretightening force level, and to gain the load characteristics, per temperature and per pretightening force level. The unload rotation rate is the rotation rate without loads, and stalling torque is the torque with 0 rotation rate.

3. Test results

In different temperature and pretightening force levels, the mechanical properties of the

VLUSM can be measured by two factors: velocity and torque. When pretightening force is 30 N, the running velocity is the maximum of three pretightening force levels, so the sensibility of the running velocity to the temperature is the most. For the convenience of observation, we illustrate mechanical properties in 30 N pretightening force alone. Fig. 6 shows the load-characteristic of the VLUSM, in different temperature and in 30 N pretightening force. The load-characteristics in other pretightening force levels possess same change tendency.

From Fig. 6, both the running velocity and the moment of force increase in pace with the increasing of the temperature. But the amplitudes decrease in pace with the increasing in the temperature. Also, when the temperature is at or over 40°C the running velocity scarcely changes.

Fig. 7 shows the unloaded velocity of the VLUSM in different temperature in 30 N pretightening force. Obviously, the unloaded velocity increases in pace with the increasing of the temperature. But the increasing amplitude of the unloaded velocity decreases when the temperature rises.

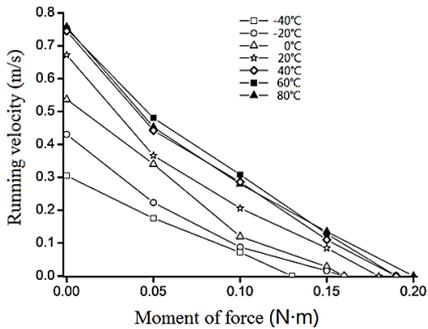


Fig. 6. Load-characteristic of VLUSM in 30 N

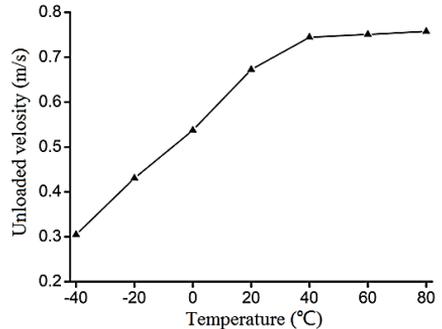


Fig. 7. The unloaded velocity of the VLUSM in 30 N

Fig. 8 shows the stalling torque of the VLUSM in different temperature in 30 N pretightening force. Also, the stalling torque increases in pace with the increasing of the temperature. But the increasing amplitude of the stalling torque decreases when the temperature rises, although the phenomenon is not very clear.

Fig. 9 shows the unloaded velocity of the VLUSM in different temperature and different pretightening force levels. As Fig. 9 shows, the unloaded velocity is faster when the pretightening force is lower. Besides, when the pretightening force level becomes higher, the decreasing amplitude of the unloaded velocity decreases, at a given temperature.

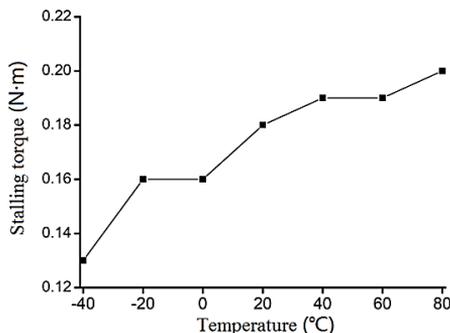


Fig. 8. The stalling torque of the VLUSM in 30 N

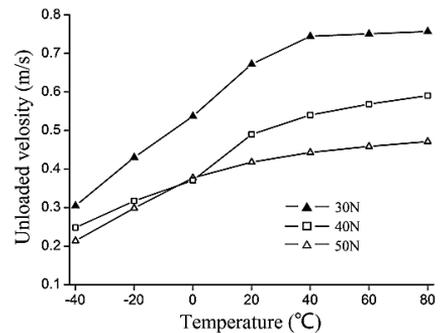


Fig. 9. The unloaded velocity of the VLUSM in different pretightening force levels

Fig. 10 shows the stalling torque of the VLUSM in different temperature and different pretightening force levels. From Fig. 10, we can find that the stalling torque becomes higher when the pretightening force level becomes higher, at a given temperature.

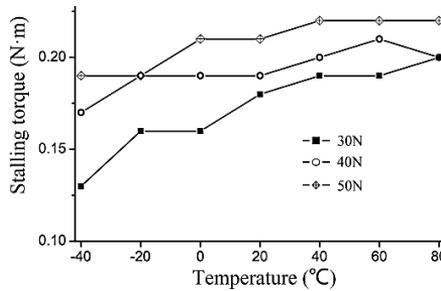


Fig. 10. The stalling torque of the VLUSM in different pretightening force levels

4. Test analysis

4.1. The influence of different pretightening force levels

First of all, we explain the mechanical properties of the VLUSM in different pretightening force levels.

When the pretightening force level changes, both moment of force and rotation rate of the VLUSM will change. Specifically, when the pretightening force level becomes higher, the rotation rate of the VLUSM will decrease, but the moment of force will increase. Besides, the decreasing amplitude of the rotation rate decreases along with the increasing of the pretightening force level.

Because along with the increasing of the pretightening force level, the friction resistance to the VLUSM increases, so the rotation rate decreases, as Fig. 9 shows. At the same time, due to the increasing of the pretightening force level, the area of the friction interface increases. Therefore, the mechanical transmission efficiency increases, between the active cell and the stator of the VLUSM. So the moment of force increases, as Fig. 10 shows.

4.2. The influence of different temperature

Secondly, we explain the mechanical properties of the VLUSM in different temperature.

When the temperature changes, both moment of force and rotation rate of the VLUSM will change. Specifically, when the temperature becomes higher, the rotation rate of the VLUSM will increase, and the moment of force will increase. Besides, the increasing amplitude of the rotation rate decreases along with the increasing of temperature.

The piezoelectric ceramic chaps play a very important role in the energy conversion when the VLUSM runs. So the function of the piezoelectric ceramic chaps affects the mechanical properties of the VLUSM directly. In general, the temperature affects the the function of the piezoelectric ceramics considerably. So the influence on the VLUSM by the temperature is considerable.

The electromechanical coupling effect of the piezoelectric ceramics is caused by the coupling of mechanical varieties, such as the stress \mathbf{T} and the strain \mathbf{S} , and electrical varieties, such as the electric field intensity \mathbf{E} and the electric displacement \mathbf{D} . Electric field intensities E_1 , E_2 and E_3 , which are applied respectively along directions of polarization x_1 , x_2 and x_3 , can motivate strains in the internal ceramic chaps, as Fig. 11 shows. This effect is called inverse piezoelectric effect. For the polaxis of piezoelectric ceramic chaps is x_3 , only three piezoelectric constants d_{31} , d_{33} and d_{15} are useful, refer to Eq. (1):

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} S_1 \\ S_2 \\ S_3 \\ S_4 \\ S_5 \\ S_6 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{E} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & d_{31} \\ 0 & 0 & d_{31} \\ 0 & 0 & d_{33} \\ 0 & d_{15} & 0 \\ d_{15} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ E_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_{31}E_3 \\ d_{31}E_3 \\ d_{33}E_3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

where \mathbf{S} is the strain matrix, \mathbf{d} is the piezoelectric constant matrix, and \mathbf{E} is the the electric field intensity matrix.

So, the strain S_3 in the direction of x_3 can be gained, refer to Eq. (2):

$$S_3 = d_{33}E_3. \tag{2}$$

Suppose that for single Langevin vibrator of the VLUSM, the amplitude of vibration at its driving foot can be described as Eq. (3):

$$U = kH^*d_{33}E_3, \tag{3}$$

where U is the amplitude of the vibration at driving foot of single Langevin vibrator, H^* is the thickness of the piezoelectric ceramic chaps of single Langevin vibrator. k is the amplification coefficient of the vibrating amplitude of the whole vibrator, and $k = k_1k_2$, in which k_1 is the amplification coefficient caused by different materials, and k_2 is the amplification coefficient caused by the linear variable cross-section bar [8].

Now, we specifically illustrate these two amplification coefficients of the vibrating amplitude $-k_1$ and k_2 . Fig. 12 shows the influence on the displacements of the vibration in different phases by two amplification coefficients, where the incoming wave u_1^+ is motivated by the piezoelectric ceramic chaps, the transmission wave u_2 is transmitted in the elastic body, and the reflected wave u_1^- is transmitted in the piezoelectric ceramic chaps. Eq. (4) describes the relation between the incoming wave u_1^+ and the amplitude of vibration of the piezoelectric ceramic chaps:

$$u_1^+ = H^*d_{33}E_3. \tag{4}$$

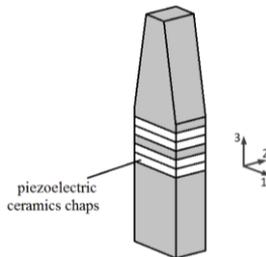


Fig. 11. The diagrammatic sketch of single Langevin vibrator of the VLUSM

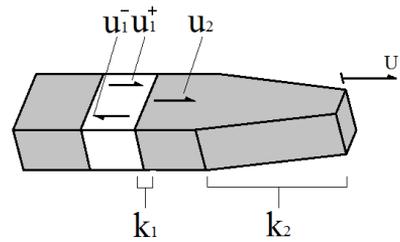


Fig. 12. Two amplification coefficients of the vibrating amplitude of single vibrator

First, consider the influence on k_1 by the temperature. Suppose that an ideal Langevin vibrator is of equivalent cross-section and composed of the elastic body and the piezoelectric ceramic chaps (where we do not consider the influence of the screw bolt, the hole on the chaps and the copper sheets), the relation of the displacements between different materials can be described as Eq. (5), based on the continuity of displacements and velocities:

$$u_2 = \frac{2}{1 + \lambda} u_1^+ = \frac{2}{1 + \frac{c_2 \rho_2}{c_1 \rho_1}} = k_1 u_1^+, \tag{5}$$

where c_1 and ρ_1 are the acoustic velocity and the density of the piezoelectric ceramics, and c_2 and ρ_2 are the acoustic velocity and the density of the elastic body.

When the temperature rises, the changing of the density is negligible, so the density of both the piezoelectric ceramics and the elastic body can be regarded as the constants. And in the ordinary course of events, the acoustic velocity increases in pace with the increasing of the temperature and the decreasing of the density. So we can conclude that $c_1' > c_1$, and $c_2' > c_2$, when

the temperature rises. But we deem that $\lambda' \approx \lambda$, because the numerator c_2 and the denominator c_1 all increase. The influence on λ by the temperature is also micro. So we deem that the amplification coefficient k_1 is not impacted by the temperature. Please refer to Eq. (6):

$$\lambda' = \frac{c_2' \rho_2}{c_1' \rho_1} \approx \frac{c_2 \rho_2}{c_1 \rho_1} = \lambda. \quad (6)$$

Second, consider the influence on k_2 by the temperature. k_2 is the amplification coefficient caused by the linear variable cross-section bar. So k_2 is related to the shape of the Langevin vibrator, not related to the temperature. Please refer to Eq. (7):

$$U = k_2 u_2. \quad (7)$$

By the preceding analyses, we find that the coefficient k is independent of the temperature, but has something to do with the materials and the shape of the vibrator.

Refer to Eq. (3), the piezoelectric constant d_{33} is also the coefficient influenced by the temperature. The piezoelectric constant d_{33} is usually measured by the static measurement. And the measuring result is that the piezoelectric constant d_{33} increases in pace with increasing of the temperature in the appropriate temperature scope [9, 10]. So with the temperature rising, the amplitude of vibration at driving foot increases.

One stator has two Langevin vibrators and four groups of the piezoelectric ceramic chaps. For one Langevin vibrator, the voltage signals $\sin \omega t$ and $\cos \omega t$ are applied to it. At the same time, for another, the voltage signals $\sin \omega t$ and $-\cos \omega t$ are applied. The result is that the elliptical orbit motion forms at the driving foot of the stator. The motion can be described as Eq. (8):

$$\begin{cases} u_x = U_x \cos \omega t = 2U \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \cos \omega t = \sqrt{2} U \cos \omega t, & \theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, \\ u_x = U_x \sin \omega t = 2U \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \sin \omega t = \sqrt{2} U \sin \omega t, & \theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

where u_i ($i = x, y$) is the displacement of the vibration in the direction i , $\frac{\theta}{2}$ is the intersection angle between one Langevin vibrator and the axis of symmetry.

After finding the first derivative and the second derivative of u_x and u_y , the velocity u' and the accelerated velocity u'' of the driving foot can be gained, refer to Eq. (9):

$$\begin{cases} u' = \sqrt{(u_x')^2 + (u_y')^2} = \sqrt{2} \omega U = \sqrt{2} \omega k H^* d_{33} E_3, \\ u'' = \sqrt{(u_x'')^2 + (u_y'')^2} = \sqrt{2} \omega^2 U = \sqrt{2} \omega^2 k H^* d_{33} E_3, \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

where H^* is the thickness of the piezoelectric ceramic chaps of signal Langevin vibrator. The direction of the velocity u' is horizontal and the direction of the accelerated velocity u'' points to the center, when the driving foot arrives at the innermost position of the active cell.

From Eq. (9), the velocity u' and the accelerated velocity u'' is affected by the temperature by means of the piezoelectric constant d_{33} . When the temperature goes up, the velocity u' and the accelerated velocity u'' all increase.

When the active cell rotates in uniform velocity, the moment of force is equal to the tangential friction acting on the active cell, multiplied by the radius of the active cell, refer to Eq. (10):

$$T = f_t r = f N r = f M u'' r, \quad (10)$$

where T is the moment of force of the VLUSM, f_t is the tangential friction acting on the active cell, r is the radius of the active cell, f is the friction coefficient at the interface, N is the normal force at the interface, and M is the equivalent mass of the stator at the driving foot.

From Eq. (10), we can find that T and u'' change in the same direction along with the changing of temperature. So when the temperature rises, both the moment of force and the rotation rate of the VLUSM increase, due to the temperature characteristic of d_{33} .

In conclusion, the result of the analyses coincides with the phenomena of the test.

5. Conclusions

This research is about the mechanical properties of the VLUSM in abnormal temperature environment. The test result indicates that the VLUSM can run normally in abnormal temperature environment. The operating temperature range is at least from -40°C to 80°C .

But the mechanical properties of the VLUSM change in abnormal temperature environment. When the temperature rises, both the moment of force and the rotation rate of the VLUSM will increase. But the tendency of increasing of both moment of force and rotation rate mitigate, when the temperature arrives at or over 40°C .

Besides, in the research, some emergencies always happen. The VLUSM frequently stops working in the high temperature. And the measuring results, such as the moment of force or the rotation rate, are often variant, while the temperature environment and the pretightening force level are invariant. The emergencies above declare that the stability of the running VLUSM is not well. In addition, the changing of the increasing tendency in pace with the increasing of temperature is not explained in the paper, because we do not know whether the reason is due to internal mechanism, such as the material characteristics and the electrical properties, or the design defect, such as the design of the clamp. So, further research about the performance of linear ultrasonic motor under abnormal temperature is necessary.

Acknowledgement

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