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## Dynamic behaviors of a fractional order nonlinear oscillator



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## ABSTRACT

In the present paper, the primary resonance of a special type of nonlinear Duffing oscillator with fractional-order derivative is studied by the averaging method. First, the parametric amplitude-frequency equation is obtained, and then, the effects of the some parameters such as fractional order, nonlinear coefficients and force amplitude on the system dynamics are investigated. Moreover, experimental test were performed on the case study and a suitable model is identified. The obtained results are very useful in the nonlinear identification field.

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## 1. Introduction

Fractional-order derivative was first introduced in the late 1700 s, since then, many investigations on the theory and application of this method have been published by many authors (Samko et al., 1993; Kiryakova, 1994; Lakshmikanthama and Vatsalab, 2008; Kilbas et al., 2006; Podlubny, 1998). In recent years, according to the various applications in the fields of engineering and physics, growing interest is devoted to the fractional differential equations (West et al., 2003). Many significant phenomena in control engineering (Li et al., 2010; Das, 2008), signal processing (Chen et al., 2012), fluid mechanics (Chen et al., 2011), vibrations and dynamics (Padovan and Sawicki, 1998; Metzler and Klafter, 2000; Li et al., 2001; Shen et al., 2012a; Zhang et al., 2009) are simulated by fractional-order differential equations. The fractional derivative without singular kernel is an appropriate tool for modeling the thermal problems (Yang et al., 2016a,c,b; Atangana and Baleanu, 2016; Yang, 2016). Atangana and Koca (2016), Alkahtani (2016) and Gómez-Aguilar (2017) proposed a new operator with fractional-order based upon the Mittag-Leffler function, in which the derivative has no singular kernel.

The effect of the fractional-order derivative on the behavior of nonlinear dynamical system is very interesting and it is addressed

in many researches. The calculation of the fractional-order derivative has been studied using different analytical and numerical techniques including averaging method (Shen et al., 2014b,a), multiple-scale approach (Xu et al., 2013), the homotopy analysis method (Ghazanfari and Veisi, 2011; Mishra et al., 2016), the differential transform method (Arikoglu and Ozkol, 2007) and some numerical methods (Atanackovic and Stankovic, 2008; Cao et al., 2010; Sheu et al., 2007).

In the current literature, despite the existence of many valuable researches in this field, only some important nonlinear techniques would be introduced. Shen et al. (2012b) and Shen et al. (2012c) investigated the Duffing oscillator with fractional-order derivative using the averaging method and Shen et al. (2016) used harmonic balance method for studying the Duffing oscillator. In this paper, we investigated a special type of Duffing oscillator with an additional nonlinear term, which governs the nonlinear vibration of the structures with large deflection. Accordingly, an experimental case study is tested and suitable parameters for the nonlinear model are identified. The proposed approach is useful for researchers in the field of mathematical model identification.

## 2. An approximate analytical solution for a special type of Duffing oscillator

The considered special type of Duffing oscillator with fractional-order derivatives is established as

$$m\ddot{x}(t) + c\dot{x}(t) + kx(t) + C_2x(t)\dot{x}^2(t) + C_3x^3(t) + K_1D^p[x(t)] = F\cos(\omega t) \quad (1)$$

where  $m$ ,  $c$ ,  $k$ ,  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$ ,  $F$  and  $\omega$  are the system mass, linear viscous damping coefficient, linear stiffness coefficient, inertial nonlinearity

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coefficient, nonlinear stiffness coefficient, excitation amplitude, and excitation frequency, respectively. As can be seen, Eq. (1) is a special kind of Duffing equation due to the existence of inertial nonlinear term  $(x(t)\dot{x}^2(t))$ .  $D^p[x(t)]$  is the  $p$ -order derivative of  $x(t)$  ( $0 \leq p \leq 1$ ), with the fractional coefficient of  $K_I$  ( $K_I > 0$ ). Several definitions are proposed for fractional-order derivative; however, for a wide class of functions, they are equivalent under some conditions. In this paper, the Caputo's definition is used (Shen et al. (2012b))

$$D^p[x(t)] = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-p)} \int_0^t \frac{x'(u)}{(t-u)^p} du \tag{2}$$

where  $\Gamma(x)$  is Gamma function, which satisfies  $\Gamma(x+1) = x\Gamma(x)$ . Using the coordinates transformation (this transformation satisfies, formally, the averaging method requirement (Nayfeh and Mook, 1995; Sanders et al., 2007; Burd, 2007) as follows:

$$\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}, \quad 2\varepsilon\mu = \frac{c}{m}, \quad \varepsilon c_2 = \frac{C_2}{m}, \quad \varepsilon c_3 = \frac{C_3}{m}, \quad \varepsilon k_1 = \frac{K_1}{m},$$

$$\varepsilon f = \frac{F}{m}$$

Eq. (1) becomes:

$$\ddot{x}(t) + 2\varepsilon\mu\dot{x}(t) + \omega_0^2 x(t) + \varepsilon c_2 x(t)\dot{x}^2(t) + \varepsilon c_3 x^3(t) + \varepsilon k_1 D^p[x(t)] = \varepsilon f \cos(\omega t) \tag{3}$$

In order to study the primary resonance of the oscillator; the excitation frequency is considered close to the natural frequency, i.e.  $\omega \approx \omega_0$ , we have:

$$\omega^2 = \omega_0^2 + \varepsilon\sigma \tag{4}$$

where  $\sigma$  is the detuning factor. Eq. (3) can be rewritten in the following form:

$$\ddot{x}(t) + \omega^2 x(t) = \varepsilon \{ f \cos(\omega t) + \sigma x(t) - 2\mu\dot{x}(t) - c_2 x(t)\dot{x}^2(t) - c_3 x^3(t) - k_1 D^p[x(t)] \} \tag{5}$$

Supposing Eq. (5) has the solution given by

$$x(t) = a \cos \varphi \tag{6a}$$

$$\dot{x}(t) = -a\omega \sin \varphi \tag{6b}$$

where the amplitude  $a$  and the generalized phase  $\varphi$  ( $\varphi = \omega t + \theta$ ) are slow-varying function of time. In accordance with the averaging method, one could obtain:

$$\dot{a} = \frac{-1}{\omega} [P_1(a, \theta) + P_2(a, \theta)] \sin \varphi \tag{6a}$$

$$a\dot{\theta} = \frac{-1}{\omega} [P_1(a, \theta) + P_2(a, \theta)] \cos \varphi \tag{6b}$$

where

$$P_1(a, \theta) = \varepsilon [ f \cos(\varphi - \theta) + \sigma a \cos \varphi + 2\mu a \omega \sin \varphi - c_2 a^3 \omega^2 \cos \varphi \sin^2 \varphi - c_3 a^3 \cos^3 \varphi ] \tag{7a}$$

$$P_2(a, \theta) = -\varepsilon k_1 D^p [a \cos \varphi] \tag{7b}$$

Also, applying the standard averaging procedure to Eq. (6) in time interval  $[0, T]$  would lead to:

$$\dot{a} = \frac{-1}{T\omega} \int_0^T [P_1(a, \theta) + P_2(a, \theta)] \sin \varphi d\varphi \tag{8a}$$

$$a\dot{\theta} = \frac{-1}{T\omega} \int_0^T [P_1(a, \theta) + P_2(a, \theta)] \cos \varphi d\varphi \tag{8b}$$

Based on the averaging method, one could select the time terminal  $T$  as  $T = 2\pi$  if  $P_i(a, \theta)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) is a periodic function, or  $T = \infty$  if  $P_i(a, \theta)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) is aperiodic one. Thereby, the simplified forms of the first term of Eqs. (8a) and (8b) would be as:

$$\dot{a}_1 = \frac{-1}{2\pi\omega} \int_0^{2\pi} P_1(a, \theta) \sin \varphi d\varphi = -\frac{\varepsilon f}{2\omega} \sin \theta - \varepsilon\mu a \tag{9a}$$

$$a\dot{\theta}_1 = \frac{-1}{2\pi\omega} \int_0^{2\pi} P_1(a, \theta) \cos \varphi d\varphi = -\frac{\varepsilon f}{2\omega} \cos \theta - \frac{\varepsilon\sigma a}{2\omega} - \frac{\varepsilon c_2 a^3 \omega}{4} + \frac{3\varepsilon c_3 a^3}{8\omega} \tag{9b}$$

Substituting Eqs. (2) and (6b) into Eqs. (8a) and (8b), the second part of these equations can be calculated as:

$$\dot{a}_2 = -\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T\omega} \int_0^T P_2(a, \theta) \sin \varphi d\varphi = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-\varepsilon k_1 a}{T\Gamma(1-p)} \int_0^T \left\{ \int_0^t \frac{\sin(\omega u + \theta)}{(t-u)^p} du \right\} \sin \varphi d\varphi \tag{10a}$$

$$a\dot{\theta}_2 = -\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T\omega} \int_0^T P_2(a, \theta) \cos \varphi d\varphi = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-\varepsilon k_1 a}{T\Gamma(1-p)} \int_0^T \left\{ \int_0^t \frac{\sin(\omega u + \theta)}{(t-u)^p} du \right\} \cos \varphi d\varphi \tag{10b}$$

Two important integrals formulae are introduced based on the residue theorem and contour integration as follows (Shen et al. (2012b)):

$$B_1 = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T \frac{\sin(\omega t)}{t^p} dt = \omega^{p-1} \Gamma(1-p) \cos\left(\frac{p\pi}{2}\right) \tag{11a}$$

$$B_2 = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T \frac{\cos(\omega t)}{t^p} dt = \omega^{p-1} \Gamma(1-p) \sin\left(\frac{p\pi}{2}\right) \tag{11b}$$

Using Eq. (11) and doing some complicated but standard computation on Eq. (10), we have:

$$\dot{a}_2 = \frac{-\varepsilon a k_1 \omega^{p-1}}{2} \sin\left(\frac{p\pi}{2}\right) \tag{12a}$$

$$a\dot{\theta}_2 = \frac{\varepsilon a k_1 \omega^{p-1}}{2} \cos\left(\frac{p\pi}{2}\right) \tag{12b}$$

Combining Eq. (9) with Eq. (12), Eq. (8) can be written as:

$$\dot{a} = -\frac{\varepsilon f}{2\omega} \sin \theta - \varepsilon\mu a - \frac{\varepsilon a k_1 \omega^{p-1}}{2} \sin\left(\frac{p\pi}{2}\right) \tag{13a}$$

$$a\dot{\theta} = -\frac{\varepsilon f}{2\omega} \cos \theta - \frac{\varepsilon\sigma a}{2\omega} - \frac{\varepsilon c_2 a^3 \omega}{4} + \frac{3\varepsilon c_3 a^3}{8\omega} + \frac{\varepsilon a k_1 \omega^{p-1}}{2} \cos\left(\frac{p\pi}{2}\right) \tag{13b}$$

Substituting the new parameters with the primary ones, Eq. (13a) and Eq. (13b) becomes

$$\dot{a} = -\frac{F}{2m\omega} \sin \theta - \frac{ca}{2m} - \frac{aK_1 \omega^{p-1}}{2m} \sin\left(\frac{p\pi}{2}\right) \tag{14a}$$

$$a\dot{\theta} = -\frac{F}{2m\omega} \cos \theta - \frac{\varepsilon\sigma a}{2\omega} - \frac{C_2 a^3 \omega}{4m} + \frac{3C_3 a^3}{8m\omega} + \frac{aK_1 \omega^{p-1}}{2m} \cos\left(\frac{p\pi}{2}\right) \tag{14b}$$

Now, the steady-state solution, which is an important achievement in the vibration engineering (Den-Hartog, 1956; Timoshenko et al., 1974), is investigated. Letting  $\dot{a} = 0$  and  $a\dot{\theta} = 0$ , and eliminating  $\theta$  from Eqs. (14a) and (14b), one could obtain the amplitude-frequency equation as

$$\left\{ \left( \frac{c\bar{a}}{2m} + \frac{a\bar{K}_1 \omega^{p-1}}{2m} \sin\left(\frac{p\pi}{2}\right) \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\varepsilon\sigma\bar{a}}{2\omega} + \frac{C_2\bar{a}^3 \omega}{4m} - \frac{3C_3\bar{a}^3}{8m\omega} - \frac{a\bar{K}_1 \omega^{p-1}}{2m} \cos\left(\frac{p\pi}{2}\right) \right)^2 \right\} = \frac{F^2}{(2m\omega)^2} \tag{15}$$

where  $\bar{a}$  is the steady-state amplitude.

### 3. Study on the amplitude-frequency equation parameters

Some illustrative example systems are studied herein as defined by the system basic parameters:  $m = 1$ ,  $\omega = 10$ ,  $c = 0.1$ . Based on Eq. (15), the effect of some parameters on the amplitude-frequency curves could be achieved as shown in Figs. 1–5.

The effects of the fractional-order  $p$  and the fractional coefficient  $K_I$  on the amplitude–frequency curves are depicted in Figs. 1 and 2 respectively. Based on these Figs., the maximum amplitude would be smaller for the larger values of  $p$  and  $K_I$ . Accordingly, these two parameters have damping effects on the dynamic behavior of the system (Rossikhin and Shitikova, 1997). In addition, the bending amplification of the amplitude-frequency curve is more severe through the decrease in the fractional order  $p$  and the fractional coefficient  $K_I$ , because the stiffness becomes larger in this nonlinear system. Therefore, the fractional-order derivative term

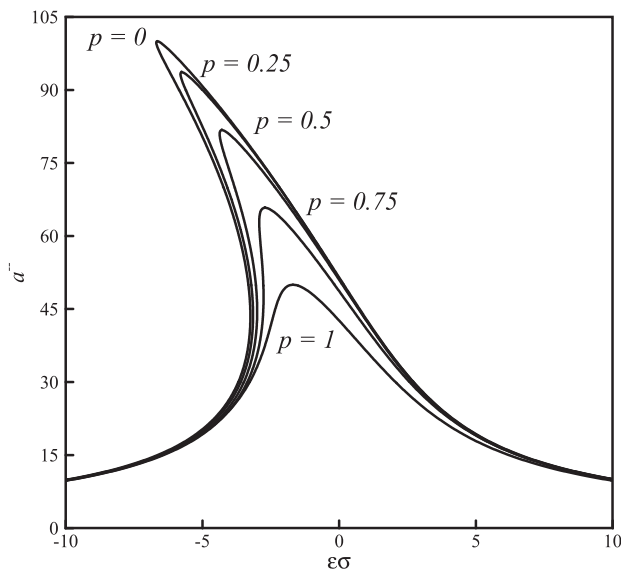


Fig. 1. Effect of the fractional order  $p$  on the amplitude-frequency curves ( $C_2 = 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $C_3 = 1 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $K_I = 0.1$  and  $F = 100$ ).

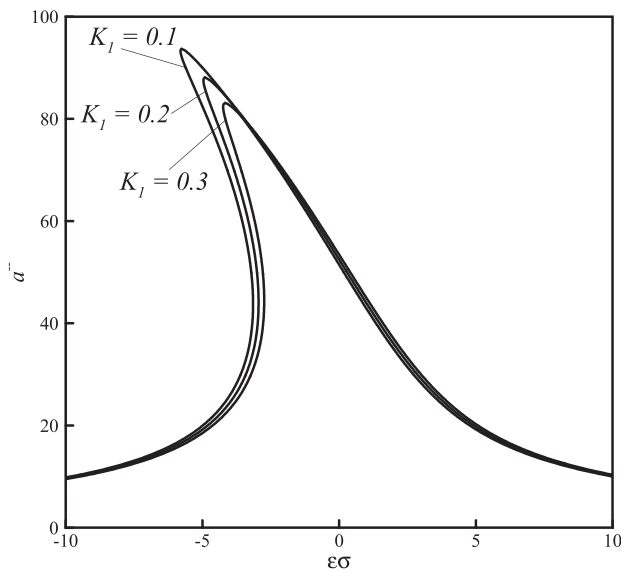


Fig. 2. Effect of the fractional coefficient  $K_I$  on the amplitude-frequency curves ( $C_2 = 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $C_3 = 1 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $p = 0.25$  and  $F = 100$ ).

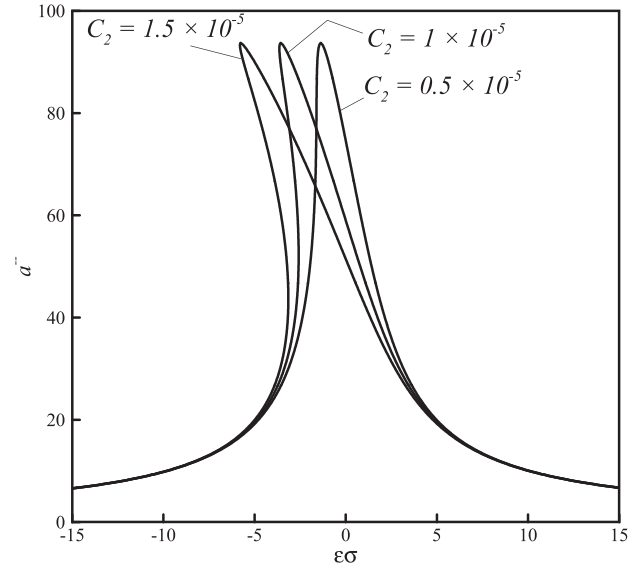


Fig. 3. Effect of inertial nonlinear coefficient  $C_2$  on the amplitude-frequency curves ( $p = 0.25$ ,  $C_3 = 1 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $K_I = 0.1$  and  $F = 100$ ).

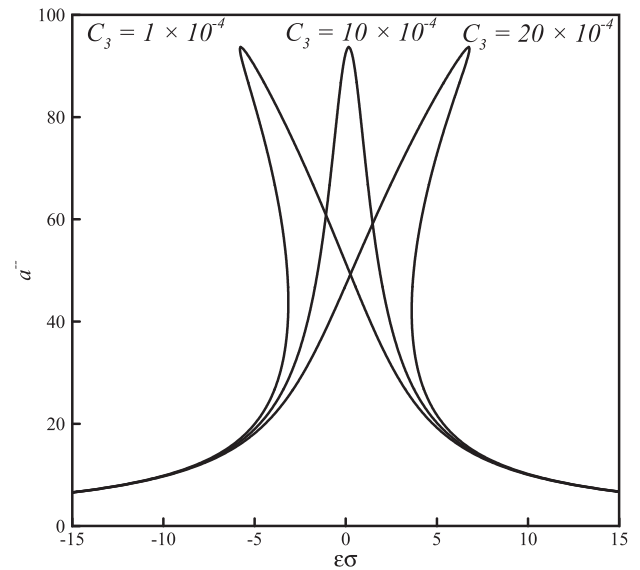


Fig. 4. Effect of nonlinear stiffness coefficient  $C_3$  on the amplitude-frequency curves ( $p = 0.25$ ,  $C_2 = 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $K_I = 0.1$  and  $F = 100$ ).

affects the stiffness and damping of this dynamical system, which is useful in system identification.

The effects of changing  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$  and  $F$  in Eq. (15) on the amplitude-frequency curves are shown in Figs. 3–5, respectively. According to the figures, unlike the  $p$  and  $K_I$  parameters, the  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  parameters have no effect on the maximum amplitude.

Based on Figs. 3 and 4, the peaks of amplitude-frequency curves move to the left and right by changing  $C_2$  and  $C_3$ , which indicates that these two parameters affect the stiffness of the nonlinear oscillator. The sign of these two coefficients determine the softening nonlinearity (bends the amplitude-frequency curves to the left) or hardening nonlinearity (and vice versa). Based on Fig. 5, three values are selected for excitation amplitude. By increasing the excitation amplitude, the curves are shifted upwardly.

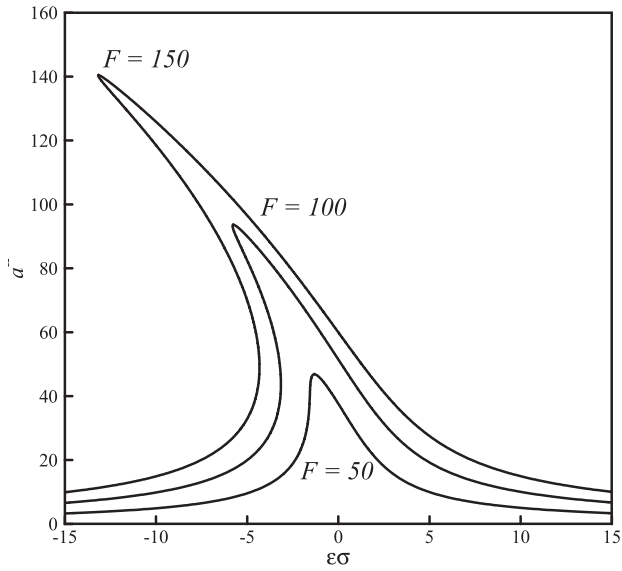


Fig. 5. Effect of the excitation amplitude on the amplitude-frequency curves ( $C_2 = 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $C_3 = 1 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $K_1 = 0.1$  and  $p = 0.25$ ).

3.1. Experimental case study

Based on the above results, a case study is investigated experimentally. For this purpose, a slender beam element, which can be considered as a highly flexible beam is selected. Thus, the Euler-Bernoulli beam theory can be used for deriving the nonlinear equations of motion. The beam is vibrated by a harmonic excitation force applied at the base. The equation of motion according to the mentioned assumptions (in addition, the effect of axial inertia of the beam is neglected) is in the form of Eq. (1) (Nayfeh and Pai, 2004). In the present study, the excitation frequency is also selected very close to the beam second natural frequency (second primary resonance), thus, only the second mode is excited and the other modes are damped out due to the structural damping.

A cantilever Steel beam with a length of 600 mm, width of 30 mm and thickness of 1.17 mm is considered as an experimental case study. The rigid supporting base of the beam is fixed to the moving rod of an electro-dynamics shaker Tira 5110 M, so the base would be excited as shown in Fig. 6. The base acceleration was recorded by a PCB B30 accelerometer attached to the beam base and the tip response of the beam was recorded by a PCB B35



Fig. 6. Test set-up.

miniature accelerometer. At first, a low level random excitation was applied to the base of the beam and the linear FRF was measured for tip position. In Fig. 7, the FRF associated with the base excitation is shown. The second natural frequency and associated damping coefficient of the beam are 16.25 Hz and 0.004 N.s/m respectively.

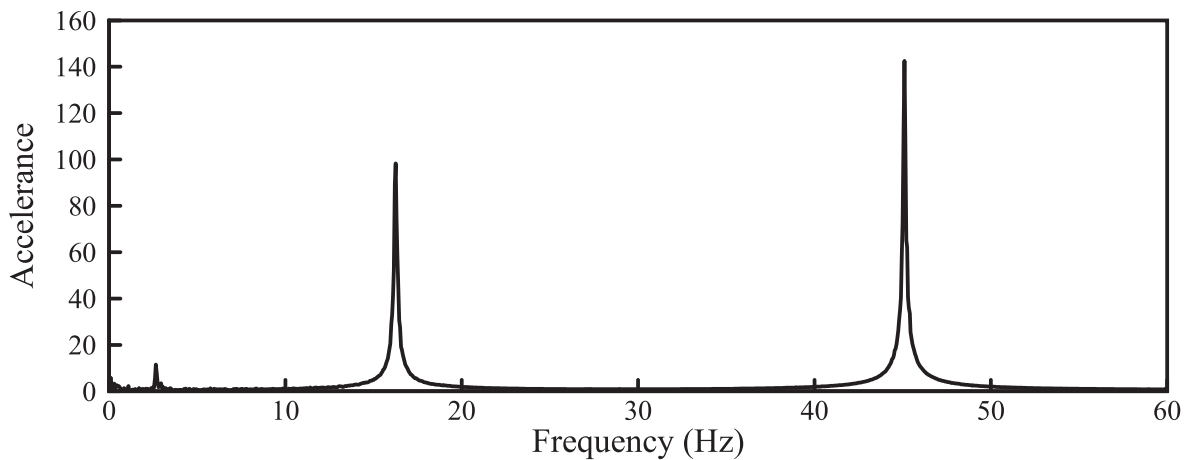
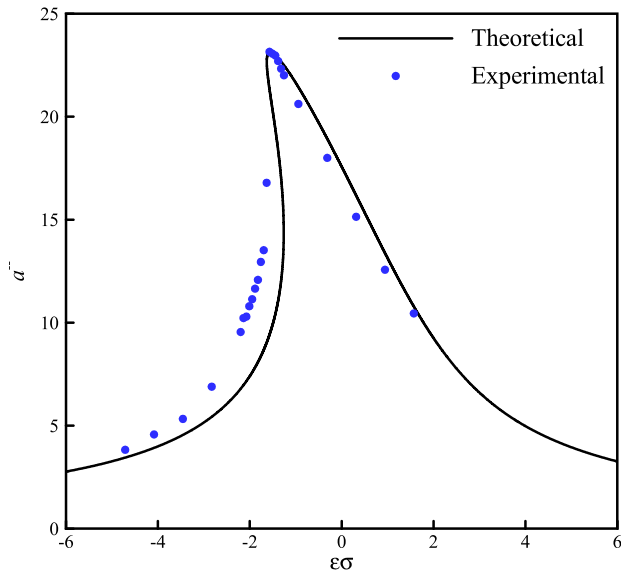


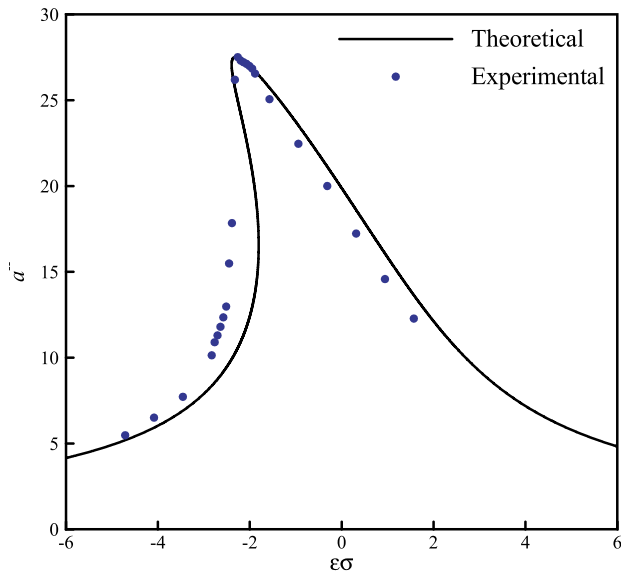
Fig. 7. Frequency responses of beam tip at low level excitations.

**Table 1**  
The identified nonlinear coefficients.

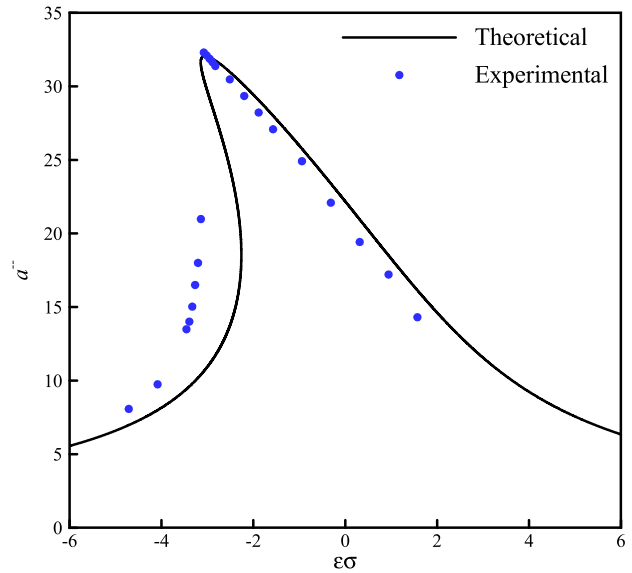
Coefficients	$C_2$	$C_3$	$K_1$	$p$
Value	$6.9 \times 10^{-7}$	$1 \times 10^{-6}$	0.3	0.13



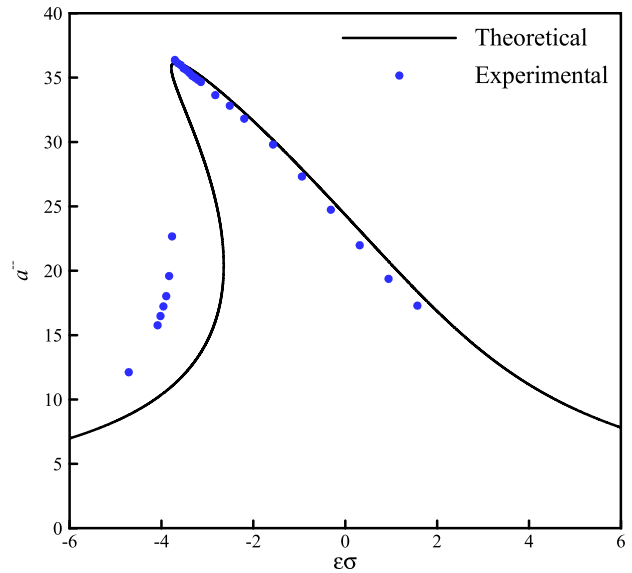
**Fig. 8.** The amplitude-frequency curves of beam tip ( $F = 0.5$  g).



**Fig. 9.** The amplitude-frequency curves of beam tip ( $F = 0.75$  g).



**Fig. 10.** The amplitude-frequency curves of beam tip ( $F = 1.0$  g).



**Fig. 11.** The amplitude-frequency curves of beam tip ( $F = 1.25$  g).

For a nonlinear beam, for second or higher modes, the inertia nonlinearity is the dominant nonlinear term, whereas for the first mode, the geometrical nonlinearity is the dominant nonlinear term (Pai and Nayfeh, 1990). It has been also shown that the geometrical nonlinearity has a hardening effect, while, in contrast, the inertia nonlinearity has a softening effect (Pai and Nayfeh, 1990). These effects can be seen clearly from the experimental results. The force and response signals are recorded and then, the linearized FRF diagram was plotted using a curve fitting on the measured data close to the resonance point. In order to perform a complete identification of the nonlinear beam, a parametric approach is used based

on the unknown coefficient of Eq. (1). Finding the optimum values for the unknown coefficient besides achieving the minimum error between theoretical and experimental approaches is the basis of the identification process in this research.

The identified parameters are given in Table 1. The amplitude-frequency curves obtained from the identified model and the experiments are given in Figs. 8–11. It is concluded that by considering the fractional-order derivative nonlinear model, a good agreement between theoretical and experimental results would be achieved.

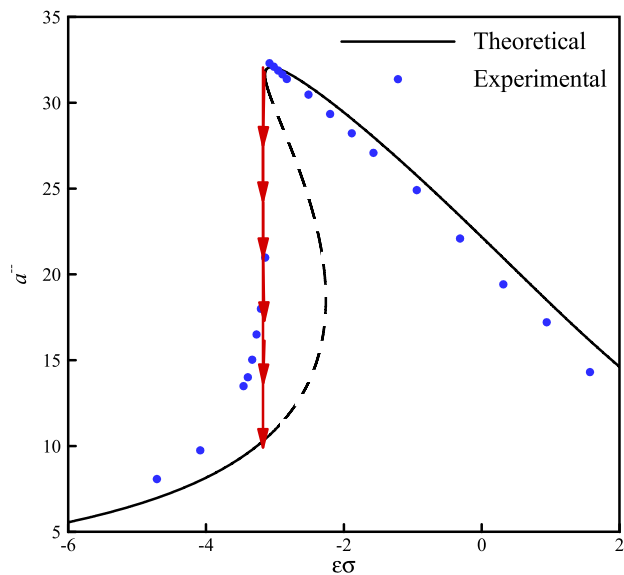
The obtained results indicate the accuracy of the developed model based on Eq. (1), at the resonance point and after that (see Tables 2 and 3). Also, the jump phenomena and softening effect are predicted properly. According to the results, a deviation between the experimental data and theoretical solution is seen only in the unstable region. This deviation is reasonable, because in this region, the jump phenomena occurs in the experiments but in theoretical solution, bending of the amplitude-frequency

**Table 2**Comparison between theoretical and experimental results (amplitude-stable solution) near the peak of amplitude-frequency curves ( $F = 0.5 \text{ g}$  &  $0.75 \text{ g}$ ).

$F = 0.5 \text{ g}$				$F = 0.75 \text{ g}$			
$\varepsilon\sigma$	Experimental	Theoretical	Error (%)	$\varepsilon\sigma$	Experimental	Theoretical	Error (%)
-1.571	23.15	23.11	0.173	-2.262	27.51	27.50	0.036
-1.508	23.06	23.09	0.130	-2.199	27.31	27.42	0.402
-1.445	22.97	22.99	0.087	-2.136	27.21	27.31	0.367
-1.382	22.7	22.85	0.660	-2.073	27.12	27.17	0.184
-1.319	22.33	22.68	1.567	-2.010	27.00	27.02	0.074
-1.257	22.01	22.50	2.226	-1.948	26.84	26.85	0.037
-0.942	20.62	21.44	3.976	-1.885	26.55	26.68	0.489

**Table 3**Comparison between theoretical and experimental results (amplitude-stable solution) near the peak of amplitude-frequency curves ( $F = 1.0 \text{ g}$  &  $1.25 \text{ g}$ ).

$F = 1.0 \text{ g}$				$F = 1.25 \text{ g}$			
$\varepsilon\sigma$	Experimental	Theoretical	Error (%)	$\varepsilon\sigma$	Experimental	Theoretical	Error (%)
-3.079	32.30	32.17	0.402	-3.707	36.37	36.17	0.550
-3.016	32.10	32.05	0.156	-3.644	36.12	36.15	0.083
-2.953	31.87	31.98	0.329	-3.581	35.98	36.08	0.278
-2.890	31.65	31.88	0.727	-3.518	35.72	35.98	0.728
-2.827	31.38	31.76	1.211	-3.456	35.58	35.86	0.787
-2.513	30.47	30.98	1.674	-3.393	35.37	35.73	1.018
-2.199	29.34	30.06	2.436	-3.330	35.13	35.59	1.309

**Fig. 12.** Typical amplitude-frequency curves of beam tip in  $F = 1.0 \text{ g}$ , jump phenomena (the experimental point of view—the path marked with arrow) and the dashed line for unstable solution (the mathematical point of view—multivalued amplitudes).

curves leads to multi valued amplitudes mathematically (see Fig. 12).

One of the most valuable results of the current research is extracting the new nonlinear model, which can be used in any geometrically nonlinear structure. Although a single frequency excitation force was used for the identification of the current model, but there is no limitation on the loading condition; and the identified model can be used for predicting the nonlinear response in different loading condition.

#### 4. Conclusions

The special kind of Duffing oscillator with fractional-order derivative is studied by the averaging method, and the approxi-

mately analytical solution is obtained. The effects of the fractional coefficient, the fractional-order, inertial and geometrical nonlinear coefficients and excitation amplitude on the solution are determined by the amplitude-frequency curves. Also, for an experimental case study, the model and the nonlinear coefficients are identified. The obtained results are valuable in nonlinear systems identification.

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