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# Low-frequency chatter genesis during inclined surface copy-milling with ball-end mill: experimental study

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## ABSTRACT

In this study low-frequency chatter during machining of inclined surfaces with ball-end mills is experimentally investigated. An explanation of genesis of low-frequency vibrations have been proposed for various conditions: cutting direction; lead angle values; spindle speed; depth of cut. As a result, it has been proven that low-frequency chatter has more significant effect on machined surface than usual chatter. Low-frequency chatter occurs during downward milling, rather than upward milling, especially when lead angle increases. Furthermore, low-frequency chatter takes place in a beginning of cutting process, thereafter develops into steady state of usual chatter, which has no such significant effect on machined surface, as it has been shown. The results are in line with the supposition that low frequency vibrations are caused by sudden and irregular nature of shearing process, when magnitude is small.

*Keywords:* Ball-end milling; Low immersion milling; Stability analysis; Chatter.

## INTRODUCTION

Appearance of oscillations of different nature during machining is one of the main factors, which restrain growth of productivity. Genesis of regenerative vibrations (chatter) is the most highlighted problem of machining dynamic over the last decades. It caused by its complexity on the one part and significant influence on quality and efficiency on the other part.

Regenerative oscillations in machining are well known for almost a hundred years; its general mechanics in the case of turning was described rigorously by [Tobias and Fishwick \(1958\)](#). The theory of regenerative tool chatter supposes that self-oscillation during cutting process appears and supported due to previous (one period earlier) cut trace on machined surface. [Altıntaş and Budak \(1995\)](#) described a classical method of stability machining conditions prediction for the case of interrupted cutting like milling. This method makes possible to determine pairs of spindle speed rotation and axial depth of cut for which end-milling process will be stable. Analytical prediction of milling using stability lobes diagrams was improved also for ball-end milling by [Altıntaş et al. \(1999\)](#). Low radial immersion and high interruption of ball-end milling process are the reasons which demand investigate this kind of cutting as a highly nonlinear dynamics process.

Stability of high interrupted cutting also may be predicted by temporal finite element analysis (FEA), as it was shown by [Bayly et al. \(2003\)](#). A solution of temporal FEA is presented as a discrete map that contains current and previous position and velocity at the beginning and at the end of each element, which eigenvalues are used to determine stability. Two other methods of analytical stability identification of up-milling and down-milling are described by [Inspurger et al. \(2003a\)](#) and then validated experimentally by them ([Mann et al., 2003](#)) in the case of end-milling for single-degree-of-freedom system. Hence, it was shown, that period-doubling instability is typical for high-interrupted low radial immersion milling process. Time of cut, in turn, also is small and may be even less than period of natural oscillations of the system, especially when high-speed milling. Furthermore, [Inspurger et al. \(2003b\)](#) presented analytical investigations of multiple frequency model of high-speed milling to identify chatter frequencies; the study is reinforced by experiments.

A numerical method of chatter modeling during low radial immersion milling was presented by [Campomanes and Altıntaş \(2003\)](#). Model that is used is an improved kinematics model. Cutting forces, surface topology and chatter stability may be numerically predicted inclusive of non-linear effects, that is almost impossible do analytically. Time-domain simulation ensures good results when dynamic model is quite simple and when non-periodic processes take place in the case of multi-frequency solution too, as it has been shown by [Merdol and Altıntaş \(2004\)](#). In general, regenerative effect and its correlation with nonlinear dynamics of high-speed milling are explained by the loss of contact between the work-piece and the tool, which leads to secondary Hopf bifurcation ([Stépán et al., 2004](#)). Two methods of stability boundaries predicted — zero<sup>th</sup>-order approximation and semi-discretization — were compared by [Gradišek et al. \(2005\)](#) for the case of low radial immersion milling. The disagreement between these methods grows up if

radial immersion decreases. Period doubling bifurcation takes place when radial immersion is extremely small and was predicted only by the semi-discretization method. Thus, it was found that two chatter types occur during low radial immersion milling (period doubling bifurcation and quasiperiodic Hopf bifurcation) and both of them must be taken into account for accurate prediction of chatter free milling conditions.

Analytical models of milling force, part and tool deflection, and form error predicting for high performance flat-end milling were presented by [Budak \(2006a\)](#). These models make possible an optimizing of feed rate, depth of cut and spindle speed, but only when process is stable. For chatter suppression models were also improved then ([Budak, 2006b](#)), analytical milling stability model is based on a Floquet's theorem. A low rigidity parts often require more complex dynamic models than single-degree-of-freedom model. Such three-dimensional model for the calculation of the stability lobes is presented by [Campa et al. \(2007\)](#). The model enables to predict accurate values of radial and axial depth of cut and spindle speed. As demonstrated ([Faassen et al., 2007](#)), more precise machining process modeling, particularly change from the uncertain circular tool path to the certain trochoidal tool path, allows increasing stability lobe diagrams accuracy, as well. Presented models show good results in practice of flat-end milling cases but they have less usability during low radial immersion ball-end milling.

Chatter prediction in ball-end milling is a lot more complicated issue than in flat-end milling due to higher complexity of machining dynamics. A method of chatter prediction based on accurate modeling of cutting forces was proposed by [Kim et al. \(2007\)](#). Dynamic cutting force model considers tool runout and the penetration effect as well. There was proposed to detect chatter from the frequency spectrum of calculated cutting forces. Precise spectrum analysis may demand signal decomposition to clean original signal from noises and unnecessary frequencies. One of the common methods of signal decomposition consists in its wavelet transform. This method is developing for the last thirty years and it may be used for chatter identification in some cases of flat-end milling, as is shown by [Yao et al. \(2010\)](#). More complex methods of chatter prediction, which demand big data computing were proposed then. For instance, [Butcher et al. \(2009\)](#) proposed high-performance approximation technique based on Chebyshev collocation method. The main advantage of this technique is that it can be applied to the systems with non-smooth coefficients of delay-differential equations (like high-interrupted milling dynamics). [Wan et al. \(2010\)](#) proposed a unified method of stability prediction during milling with multiple delays. The effects of the runout and the pitch angles of the cutter are considered with this method. It makes possible to analyze the asymptotic stability for variable cutting conditions (feed rate, radial immersion, helix angle) as well. It is also noticed that feed per tooth has great effect on the

stability lobes when cutter runout occurs in the case of flat-end mill machining. Multiple modes influence on the stability lobes is examined by [Wan et al. \(2015\)](#) using the semi-discretization method. The lowest envelop method (LEM) is used for the ultimate stability lobe prediction. The accuracy of the prediction is increased by the considering the effects of multiple modes, not only the most flexible mode. The experimental verification is carried out for flat-end mill. [Yang et al. \(2016\)](#) investigated chatter prediction for the curved surfaces peripheral milling of the thin-walled workpieces. The proposed method of the stability analysis is based on structural dynamic modification scheme and takes into account the effect of material removal upon the in-process workpiece dynamics. It was verified experimentally during milling of two thin-walled workpieces with curved surface. The verification results show that stable milling zones can be accurately predicted by this method.

Ways of improvement of process stability with nonlinear components are different. The one of the most common ways consists in spindle speed variation. It also showed good results in stability control during flat-end milling of thin walled structures when high-speed machining occurs, as it was described by [Séguy et al. \(2010\)](#). [Tangjitsitcharoen \(2012\)](#) proved that on-line chatter detection during ball-end milling may be successfully achieved with wavelet transform. At the same time, the combination of wavelet and Hilbert–Huang transforms can simplify and improve accuracy of chatter identification, as it has been shown in the case of flat-end milling [Cao et al. \(2013\)](#). Usually, such in-cutting chatter detection methods are mandatory because of high dynamic complexity of ball-end milling, especially when machining takes place on 5 axis machines, where lead and tilt angles must be exactly taken into account for uncut chip and cutting force computation, as [Mousseigne et al. \(2013\)](#) showed. A chatter free calibration method for determining cutter runout and cutting force coefficients in ball-end milling was proposed by [Yao et al. \(2013\)](#). Varying time delay and tooth runout effect are essential factors of milling dynamics investigation, with ball-end mills among other, which was described by [Zhang et al. \(2016\)](#). Applying of innovative algorithms which use neural networks for instance ([Lamraoui et al., 2015](#)) demand carry out big data computing, from the one part, but it achieves high accuracy of stability prediction of nonlinear processes, from the other part. Another one algorithm that is based on ensemble empirical mode decomposition (EEMD) was proposed by [Cao et al. \(2015\)](#). In recent times a number of complex adaptive control systems to avoid chatter in 5-axis free-forms milling were developed, like an automatic adjustment of tool axis orientations for 5 axis milling machine proposed by [Sun and Altıntaş \(2016\)](#).

Warped surfaces machining with ball-end mills was analysed by [Shtehin et al. \(2017\)](#). The proposed model takes into account nonlinear effect of radial allowance on the contact angle

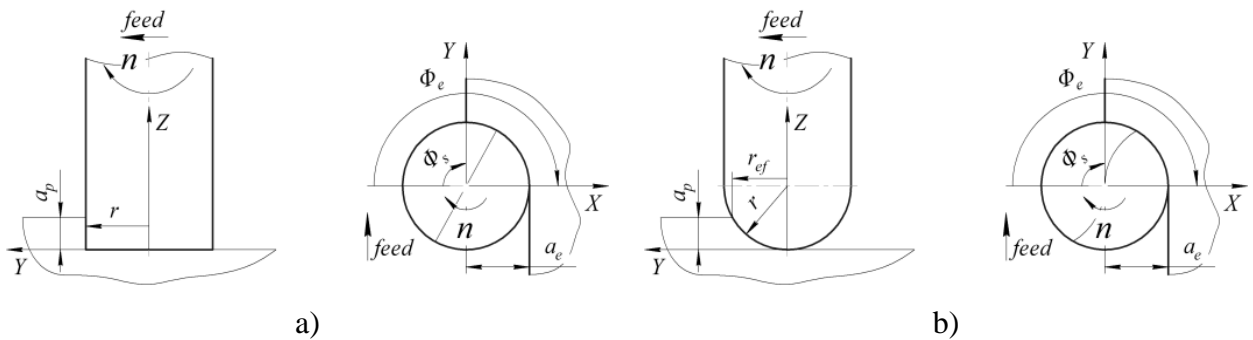
during stability lobes plotting. The aim of the current study is to expand experimentally investigation of warped surface copy-milling with ball-end mills. Previous researches don't give clear information and experimental validation of dominant frequencies changing for different machining conditions like cutting direction, lead angle, spindle speed and depth of cut. Understanding of these interrelations is necessary for intelligence adaptive control system development.

For this aim cutting forces and dynamics during inclined surfaces ball-end milling are analyzed in the 'Cutting Forces and Dynamics' section. In the 'Experimental Setup' section test setup of massive single-degree-of-freedom system is presented. In the 'Analysis and Discussion' section there are presented results of cutting tests which were carried out with different conditions: cutting direction (upward down-milling and downward up-milling), spindle speed rotation in a range from 5852 rpm to 8008 rpm, depth of cut values in a range from 0.10 mm to 0.50 mm, angle of inclination values in a range from  $22.5^\circ$  to  $52.5^\circ$ . Finally, general analysis of stability loss specifics for diverse cases of ball-end milling has been done.

## CUTTING FORCES AND DYNAMICS

### *Angle of contact*

During point milling of planar surface with flat-end mill or ball-end mill start angle  $\phi_s$  always equals 0 for up-milling and  $\pi$  — for down-milling. The case of down-milling is shown on a Fig. 1 with flat-end mill (a) and ball-end mill (b), respectively.

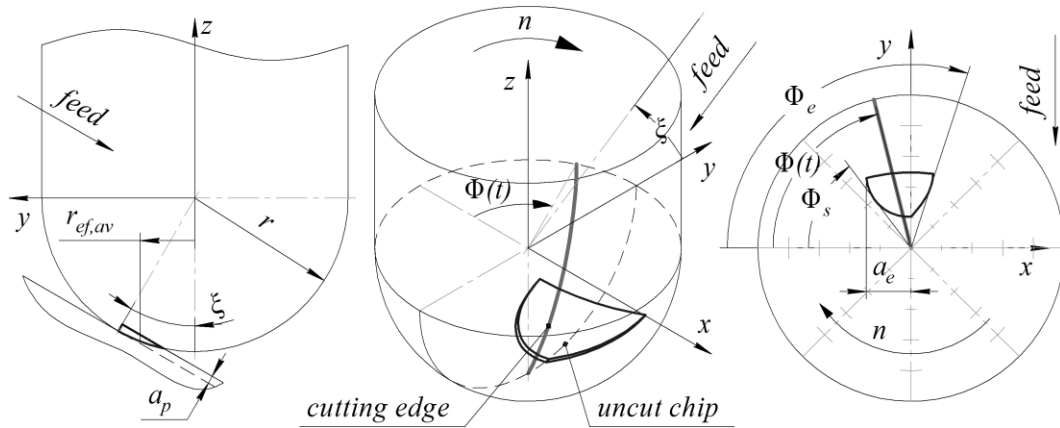


**Fig. 1** Down-milling of planar surface with flat-end mill (a) and ball-end mill (b)

In this case start angle depends only on the value of variable radial depth of cut  $a_e$  with the following equation:  $\phi_s = \pi - \arccos(r - a_e)$ . In the case of up-milling exit angle may be determined as a function of  $a_e$  as:  $\phi_e = \pi + \arccos(r - a_e)$ . Cutting velocity is various in the case of ball-end milling and depends on effective radius value  $r_{ef}$ .

During copy milling of warped (sculptured) surface with ball-end mill the machining of different areas of this surface may be approximate analyzed as machining of number of inclined surfaces with different values of inclination angle. The inclination angle is identical to the lead angle  $\xi$  as the angle between cutter axis and surface normal.

The angle of contact between the tooth cutting edge of ball-end mill and the uncut chip is various in the case of copy milling of warped surface, and it depends on the values of depth of cut  $a_p$ , radial depth of cut  $a_e$ , lead angle  $\xi$ , radius of the tool  $r$  (Fig. 2).



**Fig. 2** Downward up-milling of inclined surface with ball-end mill

Its value results as a difference of exit angle  $\phi_e$  and start angle  $\phi_s$ , which may be determined from equations (1) for upward up-milling, (2) for upward down-milling, (3) for downward up-milling and (4) for downward down-milling (Shtehin, 2014).

$$\begin{cases} \phi_s = \frac{\pi}{2} - \operatorname{arctg} \frac{\sqrt{1-K^2}}{K \cdot \sin \xi} \\ \phi_e = \frac{\pi}{2} + \operatorname{arctg} \left( \frac{a_e}{r \cdot \sin \xi \sqrt{4 - \frac{a_e^2}{r^2}}} \right); \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{cases} \phi_s = \frac{\pi}{2} - \operatorname{arctg} \left( \frac{a_e}{r \cdot \sin \xi \sqrt{4 - \frac{a_e^2}{r^2}}} \right); \\ \phi_e = \frac{\pi}{2} + \operatorname{arctg} \frac{\sqrt{1-K^2}}{K \cdot \sin \xi} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{cases} \phi_s = \frac{3\pi}{2} - \operatorname{arctg} \frac{\sqrt{1-K^2}}{K \cdot \sin \xi} \\ \phi_e = \frac{3\pi}{2} + \operatorname{arctg} \left( \frac{a_e}{r \cdot \sin \xi \sqrt{4 - \frac{a_e^2}{r^2}}} \right); \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

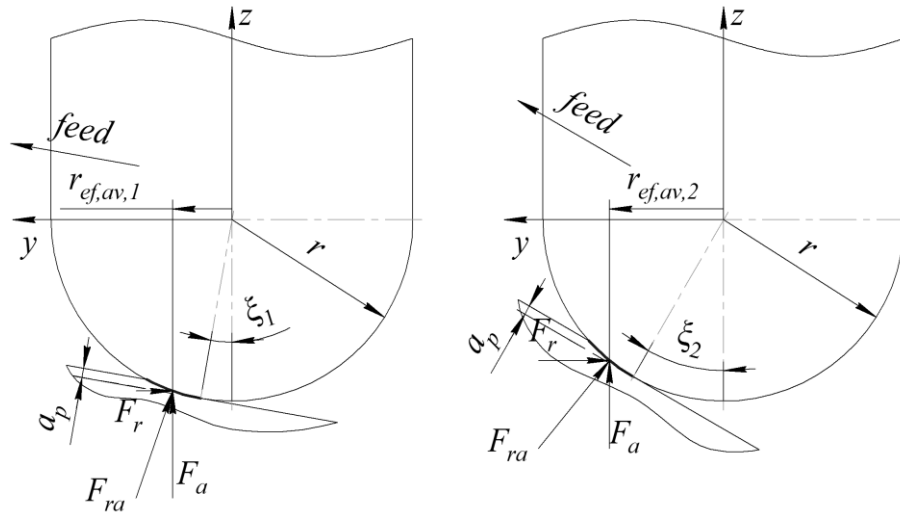
$$\begin{cases} \phi_s = \frac{3\pi}{2} - \text{arctg} \left( \frac{a_e}{r \cdot \sin \xi \sqrt{4 - \frac{a_e^2}{r^2}}} \right) \\ \phi_e = \frac{3\pi}{2} + \text{arctg} \frac{\sqrt{1-K^2}}{K \cdot \sin \xi} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

In these equations coefficient  $K = 1 - \frac{a_p}{r}$ .

Thus, contact patch is variable for every area of machining surface with dissimilar value of lead angle  $\xi$ .

### Cutting force components

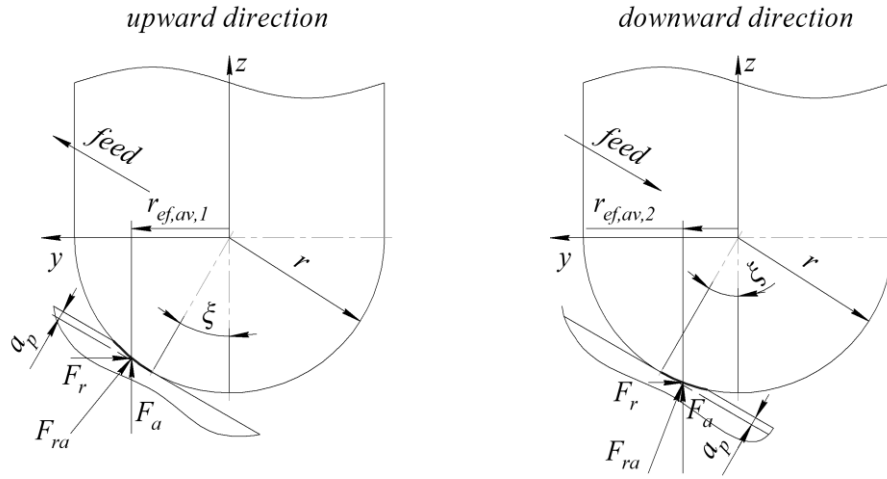
There is an essential difference between total cutting force  $f_c$  and its components for different machining conditions of warped surface ball-end milling. When lead angle is changing, values redistribution in a pair of radial and axial components occurs, even if its absolute value is the same for a constant depth of cut  $a_p$ . Normally radial component  $F_r$  increases and axial component  $F_a$  decreases during lead angle increasing, as it is shown on a Fig. 3.



**Fig. 3** Radial and axial cutting force components changing during lead angle increasing

Tangential component  $F_t$  is usually dominant in a total cutting force value. Effective average cutting velocity, which is a function of lead angle, substantially effects on it. Machining direction — upward or downward — also has a material effect on each cutting force component. The effective average radius of the tool  $r_{ef,av}$  is difference for the same  $\xi$  (Fig. 4).





**Fig. 4** Radial and axial cutting force components changing depending on machining direction

Total cutting force  $f_c$  and instantaneous tangential, radial and axial cutting force components may be obtained from measured  $F_x(t)$ ,  $F_y(t)$  and  $F_z(t)$  cutting force components with the next equation:

$$f_c(t) = \begin{Bmatrix} F_t(t) \\ F_r(t) \\ F_a(t) \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin\phi(t)\cos\psi_{hl} & \cos\phi(t)\cos\psi_{hl} & -\sin\psi_{hl} \\ -\cos\phi(t) & \sin\phi(t) & 0 \\ \sin\phi(t)\sin\psi_{hl} & \cos\phi(t)\sin\psi_{hl} & \cos\psi_{hl} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} F_x(t) \\ F_y(t) \\ F_z(t) \end{Bmatrix}; \quad (5)$$

In Eq. (5)  $\psi_{hl}$  is a helix angle of cutter.

#### Dynamic model

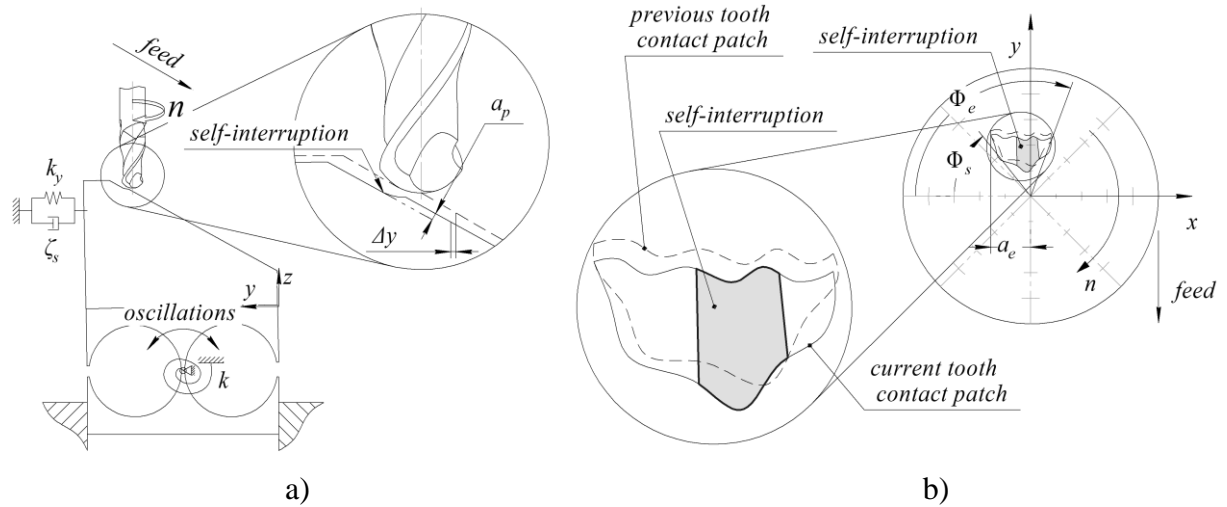
Schematically the single-degree-of-freedom (SDOF) system during ball-end milling is shown on a Fig. 5. The equation of oscillation of SDOF-system in a cut direction  $y$  is:

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{y}(t) + 2\zeta_s\omega_n\dot{y}(t) + d(\dot{y}) + \omega_n^2y(t) = \frac{F_y(t)}{m}, \text{ when force is acting,} \\ \ddot{y}(t) + 2\zeta_s\omega_n\dot{y}(t) + \omega_n^2y(t) = 0, \text{ when force isn't acting (free)} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where  $F_y(t)$  — cutting force in the  $y$  direction;  $m$  — modal mass;  $\omega_n$  — natural modal radial frequency;  $\zeta_s$  — natural modal structural damping ratio;  $y(t)$  — instantaneous perturbation;  $d(\dot{y})$  — general nonlinear damping. Modal stiffness  $k_z$  along the axis  $z$  may be neglected, so  $k \approx k_y$ .

The equation of motion of SDOF-system Eq. (6) has two different representations when cutting and when non-cutting. When tooth slices into uncut chip, the total cutting force  $f_c$  starts acting. Its nature is quite complex, so total cutting force in fact has linear and nonlinear components.

Usually nonlinear component may be neglected because of its irrelevant effect on the technological system.



**Fig. 5** Single-degree-of-freedom system during ball-end milling:

a) oscillation model; b) self-interruption area

The system oscillations start as forced oscillations, caused by primary impact, and then instantly go to the steady state of self-oscillations, sustained by inner friction of the system. These self-oscillations are damped and have linear (structural) and nonlinear damping components  $d(\dot{y}) = [\dot{y}(t)]^p$ . Self-interruption condition is:  $\Delta y \geq \frac{a_p}{\sin \xi}$ .

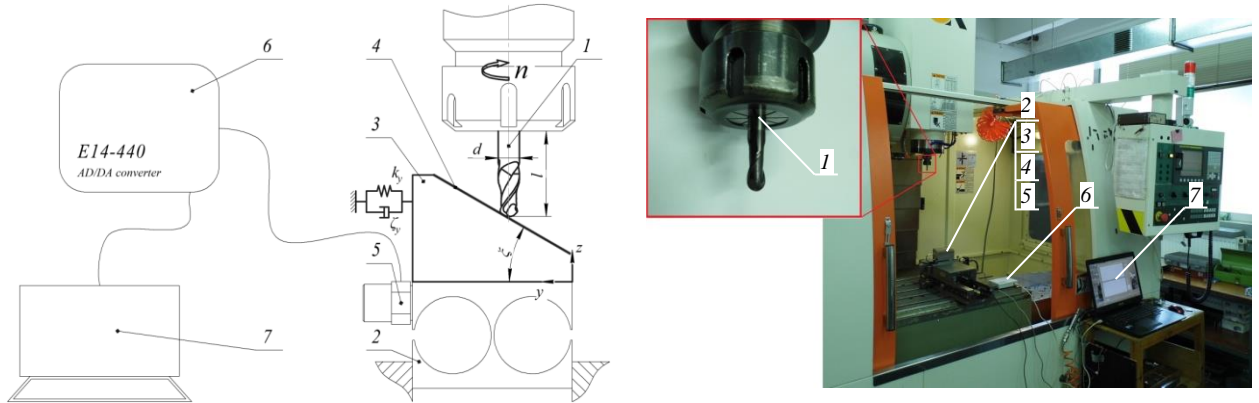
When tooth disengages workpiece, system goes to the state of free damped oscillations. These oscillations are generated with disengaging (an impact). They have only linear (structural) damping component.

In accordance with the classical approach of stability analysis in machining the system loses its stability at frequency values close to the natural frequency of the system. However, in the case of low immersion milling, which is typical for ball-end machining, stability loss may take place at lower frequencies. It is a case of period-doubling bifurcation, when system oscillates with tooth pass frequency:  $f_{T.P.}; \frac{1}{2}f_{T.P.}, \dots$  — also called flip bifurcation.

## EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

For understanding of mechanics of chatter genesis in the warped surface ball-end milling with small radial immersion it has been performed a number of tests with variable depth of cut, lead angle and spindle speed values. The experiments were carried out for upward down-milling (approximate the most preferable case) and for downward up-milling on CNC milling machine Victor VCenter-85. The experimental setup is shown on a Fig. 6. It includes solid carbide ball-

end mill  $\varnothing 8$  mm (1) with two flutes, flexible in the  $y$  direction base plate (2) with the workpiece (3) on its top made of AISI 1045 Steel with inclined surface (4). On the back side of this plate the vibration sensor DN-4-M1 (piezoelectric accelerometer with a range up to 12.4 kHz) is attached (5). Its axis is parallel to the  $Y$ -axis of CNC milling machine. Signal from the sensor is converted with AD/DC-converter L-Card E14-440 (6) and analyzed on a PC (7) using MATLAB software. The sample rate was 10 kHz.



**Fig. 6** The experimental setup for low-frequency chatter examining

To maintain the experimental integrity on each inclined surface the valleys of necessary depth were machined before. It made possible to provide machining with a pure up-milling and down-milling.

It was found that the dominant mode of the SDOF-system has natural frequency  $f_n = 1542 \text{ Hz}$  (period of oscillation equals  $\sim 6.5 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ s}$ ). Dynamic parameters of the SDOF-system are presented in a Table 1.

**Table 1**

Dynamic parameters of the SDOF-system

Parameter	Value
Natural frequency $f_n$	1542 Hz
Modal stiffness $k_y$	$12.1 \cdot 10^6 \text{ N/m}$
Modal damping $\zeta_s$	2.75 %

A number of tests were carried out with five values of lead angle:  $\xi = [22.5^\circ; 30^\circ; 37.5^\circ; 45^\circ; 52.5^\circ]$ . Tests with lead angle values less than  $22.5^\circ$  were not taken into account because of too small effective cutting velocity values.

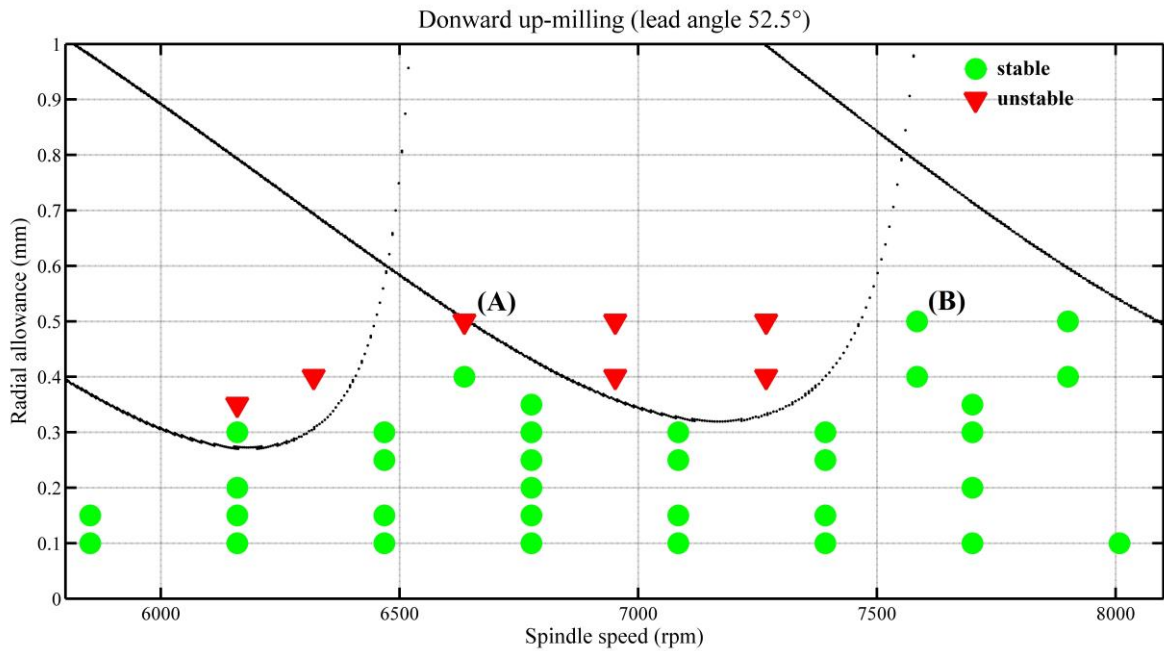
Cutting has been performed with spindle speed values in a range from 5852 rpm to 8008 rpm. It made possible to maintain effective cutting velocity in a wide range — from 50 m/min (when  $\xi = 22.5^\circ$ ) to 160 m/min (when  $\xi = 52.5^\circ$ ).

Depth of cut (radial allowance) was in a range from 0.10 mm to 0.50 mm. Radial depth of cut was calculated for each test as  $a_e = r\sqrt{1 - K^2}$ . Feed-per-tooth value was constant for all tests  $f_z = 0.10 \text{ mm}$ .

Surface roughness was measured with a non-contact optical measurement machine Alicona InfiniteFocus in a cutting direction.

## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

### Stability lobes validation



**Fig. 7** Predicted stability lobes for downward up-milling with  $\xi = 52.5^\circ$

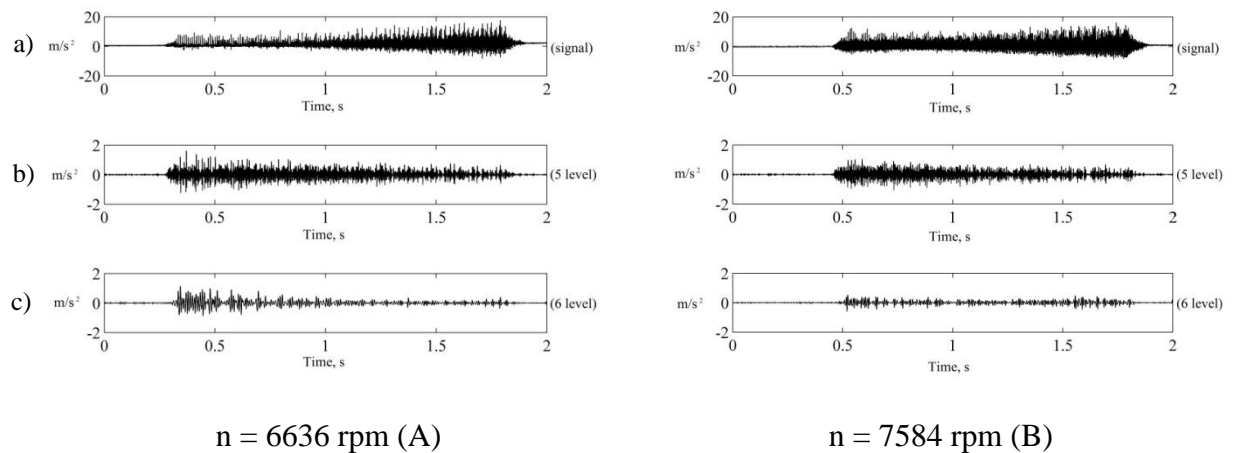
Stability lobe diagrams on a Fig. 7 were obtained for dynamic parameters presented in a Table 1. Tangential cutting force components were estimated for an orthogonal cutting during turning for the same pair of cutter and workpiece materials. Obtained values are consistent with the values determined earlier by [Shtehin et al. \(2017\)](#). Tangential cutting force component is linearly variable in general:  $K_t = 4000 \frac{N}{\text{mm}^2}$  when effective cutting velocity  $V_{c,ef} = 95 \frac{m}{\text{min}}$ ;  $K_t = 3500 \frac{N}{\text{mm}^2}$  when  $V_{c,ef} = 108 \frac{m}{\text{min}}$ ;  $K_t = 3200 \frac{N}{\text{mm}^2}$  when  $V_{c,ef} = 118 \frac{m}{\text{min}}$ . Radial cutting force component coefficient  $k_r = 0.70$  when  $\xi = 52.5^\circ$  during downward milling. Point (A) is for  $n =$

6636 rpm, point (B) is for  $n = 7584$  rpm. Depth of cut is the same in the both cases:  $a_p = 0.50$  mm.

### Detailed analysis

Analysis of these tests showed that downward up-milling is much less stable than upward down-milling. Spectral analysis of unstable cutting showed that stability loss takes place with frequency values close to  $f_{T.P.}$ . For the determining of low-frequency chatter each registered signal was presented in a time-frequency domain, firstly. For these signals wavelet decomposition up to 6<sup>th</sup> level has been done, secondly. If there was a dominant harmonics close to the  $f_{T.P.}$  or aliquot to it in the spectrum of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> decomposition levels, the conclusion of low-frequency chatter presence have been done. Furthermore, such conclusion has been confirmed by the presence of vibrational trace on machined surface.

Two signals registered during downward up-milling of the surface with the angle of inclination  $\xi = 52.5^\circ$  and depth of cut  $a_p = 0.50$  mm for two spindle speeds (6636 rpm and 7584 rpm) are shown on a Fig. 8a. For the first test ( $n = 6636$  rpm)  $f_{T.P.} = 221.2$  Hz and for the second test ( $n = 7584$  rpm)  $f_{T.P.} = 252.8$  Hz. In addition, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> decomposition levels are presented (respectively, Fig. 8b and Fig. 8c).



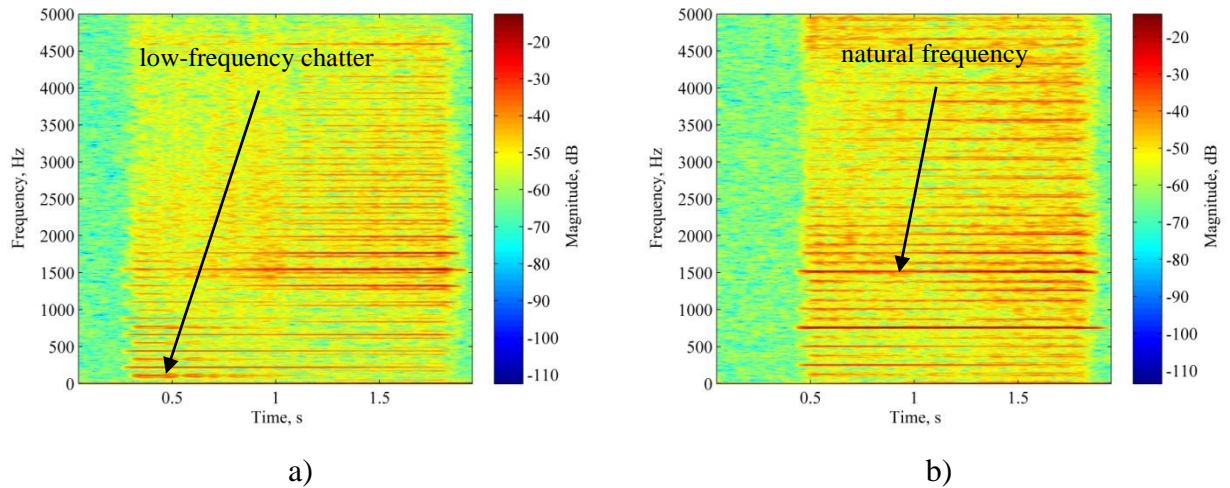
**Fig. 8** Experimental acceleration for downward up-milling with lead angle of  $52.5^\circ$  and depth of cut 0.50 mm for two spindle speeds (6636 rpm and 7584 rpm):

a) initial signal; b) 5 decomposition level; c) 6 decomposition level

Below the signals, there are respective 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> wavelet decomposition levels (mother wavelet is Daubechies wavelet db4). The 5<sup>th</sup> level corresponds with the tooth pass frequency, and the 6<sup>th</sup> level corresponds with every second tooth pass frequency ( $\sim \frac{1}{2} f_{T.P.}$ ). If we compare signals and

respective decomposition levels on a Fig. 8, it is possible to make a conclusion, that the signals are almost the same, but low-frequency decompositions have visible difference.

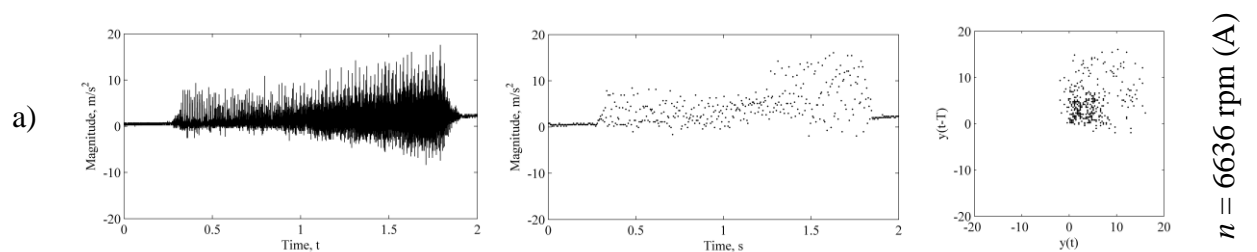
The same signals in a time-frequency domain are presented on a Fig. 9. It is noticeable, that in the first quarter of the signal (during about 0.5 s) on a Fig. 9a low-frequency chatter ( $f_c = 107 \text{ Hz} \approx \frac{1}{2} f_{T.P.}$ ) takes place and it vanishes subsequently. At the same time, low-frequency chatter is almost absent, when spindle speed increases to 7584 rpm (Fig. 9b).



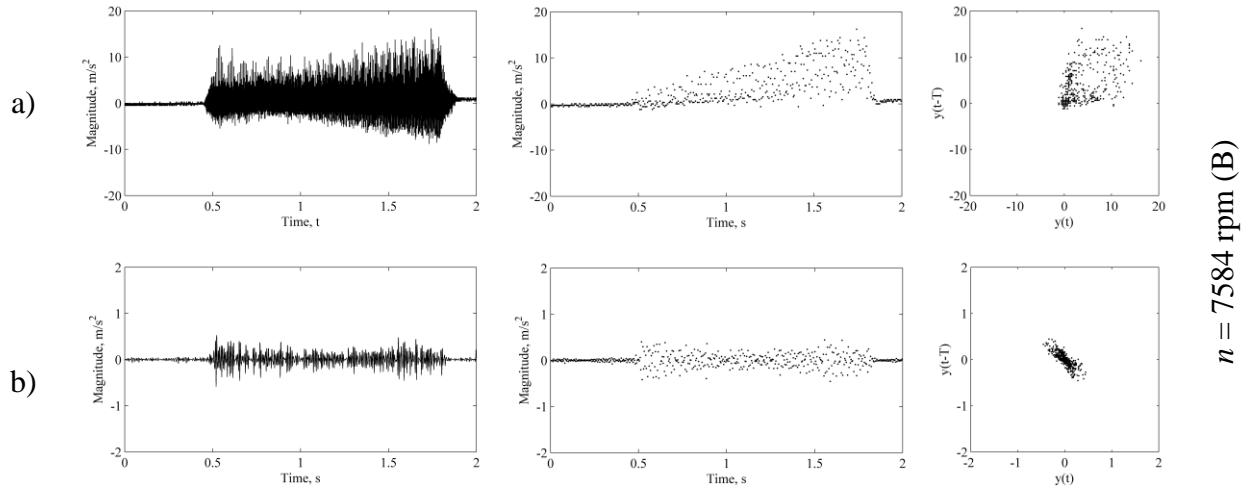
**Fig. 9** Experimental frequency evolution for downward up-milling with lead angle of  $52.5^\circ$  and depth of cut 0.50 mm: a) spindle speed  $n = 6636 \text{ rpm}$ ; b) spindle speed  $n = 7584 \text{ rpm}$

On a Fig. 9a oscillations with dominant frequencies close to a natural frequency take place when low-frequency chatter stops. At the same time, on a Fig. 9b oscillations with dominant natural frequency and period-doubling frequency  $\frac{1}{2} f_n$  take place over much of the signal. It proves that machining process with  $n = 7584 \text{ rpm}$  is more stable and it is close to a steady state.

Poincaré section of these signals (Fig. 10a) and respective 6<sup>th</sup> decomposition levels (Fig. 10b) confirms, that low-frequency chatter occurs when  $n = 6636 \text{ rpm}$  and almost doesn't occur when  $n = 7584 \text{ rpm}$ .



b)

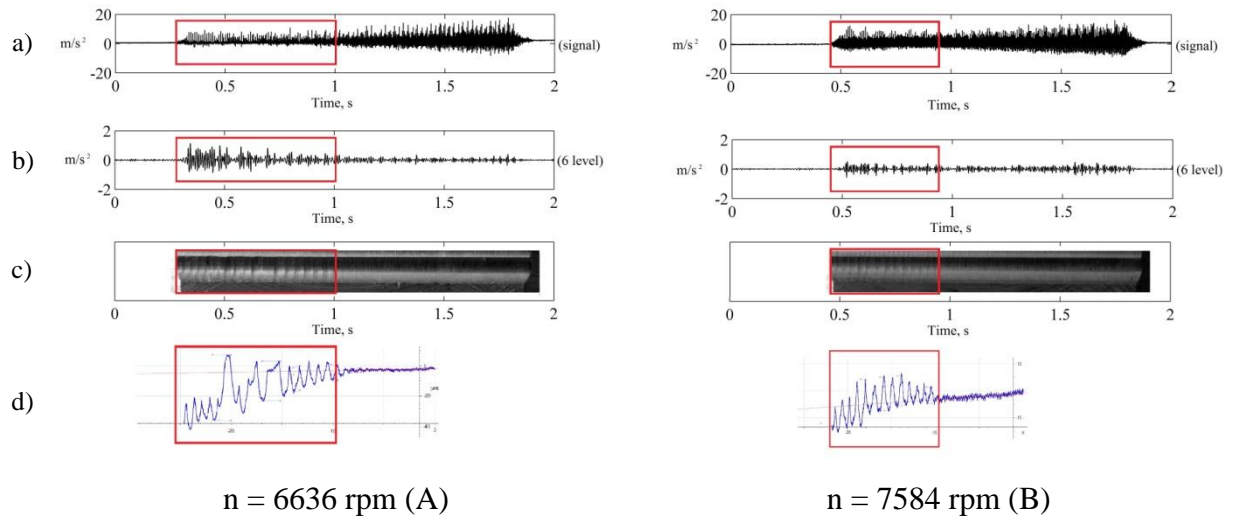


**Fig. 10** Poincaré plots for downward up-milling with lead angle of  $52.5^\circ$  and depth of cut  $0.50\text{ mm}$  for two spindle speeds ( $6636\text{ rpm}$  and  $7584\text{ rpm}$ ):

a) initial signal's Poincaré plot; b) 6 decomposition level's Poincaré plot

On a Fig. 11 machined surface photos and respective profile diagrams for downward up-milling with lead angle of  $52.5^\circ$  and depth of cut  $0.50\text{ mm}$  for two spindle speeds ( $6636\text{ rpm}$  and  $7584\text{ rpm}$ ) are presented. Red rectangles which are placed on the initial signals (Fig. 11a), respective 6 decomposition levels (Fig. 11b), machined surface photos (Fig. 11c) and profile diagrams (Fig. 11d) show the areas of unstable cutting. It is noticeable, that low-frequency chatter has a very negative effect on machined surface.

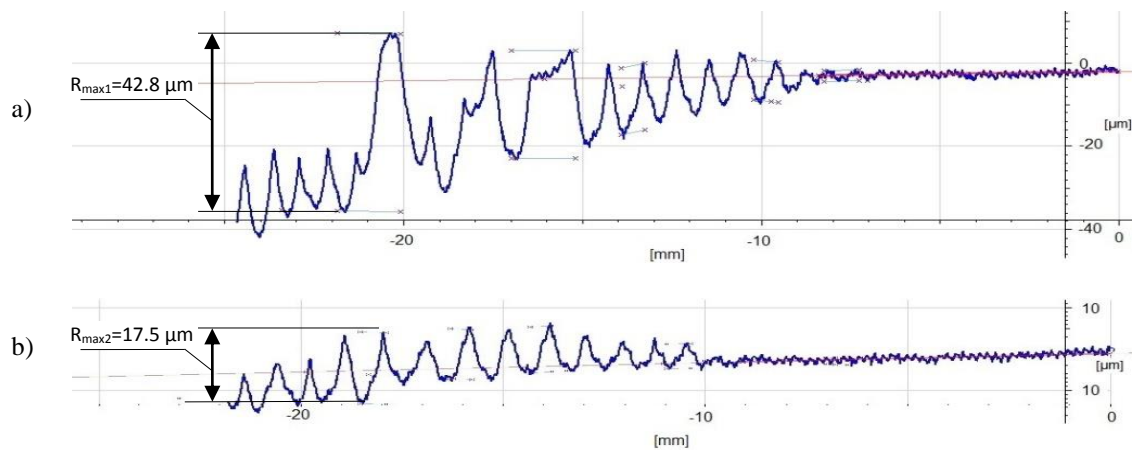
Roughness measurement zones in [mm] (Fig. 11d) were obtained by feed-per-tooth ( $f_z = 0.10\text{ mm}$ ) and spindle speed rotation values and compared with waveforms in [s] (Fig. 11a). In this way it has been found out that  $20\text{ mm}$  length of machined surface conforms to  $0.9\text{ s}$  in the case of  $n = 6636\text{ rpm}$  and it conforms to  $0.8\text{ s}$  in the case of  $n = 7584\text{ rpm}$ .



**Fig. 11** Roughness of machined surface for downward up-milling with lead angle of  $52.5^\circ$  and depth of cut 0.50 mm for two spindle speeds (6636 rpm and 7584 rpm):

a) initial signal; b) 6 decomposition level; c) machined surface photo; d) machined surface roughness

Machined surface roughness measurements are shown on a Fig. 12 in the same scale of  $R_z$  values. The length of machined surface equals 35 mm. In the case of machining with  $n = 6636 \text{ rpm}$  maximum roughness deviation  $R_{max1} = 42.8 \mu\text{m}$  (Fig. 12a). The length of surface area with a large roughness is 16 mm. In the case of machining with  $n = 7584 \text{ rpm}$  maximum roughness deviation  $R_{max2} = 17.5 \mu\text{m}$  (Fig. 12b). The length of surface area with a large roughness is 12 mm.



**Fig. 12** Roughness of machined surface for downward up-milling with lead angle of  $52.5^\circ$ , depth of cut 0.50 mm and spindle speed:

a) 6636 rpm; b) 7584 rpm

### Discussion



Although  $F_r \div F_a$  ratio during downward milling is smaller than during upward milling, total cutting force may be greater in 2 times or more when downward milling because of substantially smaller effective cutting velocity. Because of it effective radial cutting force component is bigger during downward milling with the same lead angle value.

During downward up-milling tooth slices into uncut chip starting from zero chip thickness. Thus, contact stress between tooth cutting edge and uncut chip leads to deflection of the most non-rigid element of technological system without real shearing of uncut chip. While mill rotates uncut chip thickness increases. Therefore, shearing may occur suddenly. It leads to the leap of cutting force magnitude and its direction. Cutting tooth may even disengage workpiece before real cutting starts, especially if depth of cut is very small. Probably, genesis of low-frequency chatter has such nature.

While machining is in progress, oscillation energy is accumulated in the system, so the system goes to the steady state of parametric oscillation with a frequency value close to the natural frequency of the system.

Further research intends ascertain genesis of low-frequency chatter and its transition to the natural frequency vibrations (steady state).

## **CONCLUSIONS**

In this paper the genesis of low-frequency chatter during warped surfaces machining with ball-end mills was investigated. More than two hundred cutting tests of inclined surface with different inclination angle, depth of cut and spindle speed rotation values were carried out. These tests showed, that low-frequency chatter has a very negative effect on machined surface, which gets worse, when angle of inclination growth in a range from  $22.5^\circ$  to  $52.5^\circ$ . However, this effect is not so strong during down-milling in contrast with up-milling. It also was experimentally proved, that machining with downward direction is less stable than upward machining during the same depth of cut values.

Two cases of machining with angle value of  $52.5^\circ$  and depth of cut 0.50 mm were analyzed. In the first case spindle speed was 6636 rpm and in the second case it was 7584 rpm. Low-frequency chatter took place in both cases. Roughness measurements showed that when spindle speed increased maximum roughness deviation  $R_{\max}$  decreased in 2.5 times — from  $42.8 \mu\text{m}$  ( $n = 6636 \text{ rpm}$ ) to  $17.5 \mu\text{m}$  ( $n = 7584 \text{ rpm}$ ). The length of machined surface area with a large roughness became shorter — from 16 mm in the first case to 12 mm in the second case. Nevertheless, low-frequency chatter during downward up-milling does not take place during

machining with  $n = 6636$  rpm and  $a_p = 0.50$  mm, when lead angle equals  $37.5^\circ$  and less due to decreasing of radial cutting force component.

Clear low-frequency chatter analysis demanded vibration signal decomposition, that has been done by wavelet transform (mother wavelet was Daubechies wavelet db4). It made possible to analyze initial signals without high-frequency components, which have large magnitudes but immaterial effect on machining. Poincaré map of decomposed signals (6<sup>th</sup> decomposition level) showed that just period-doubling of tooth pass frequency oscillation has a huge effect on machined surface.

The supposition, that the development of vibrations with low frequencies while magnitude is small is caused by sudden nature of shearing process have been made. This in turn leads to the leap of magnitude of cutting force and to the changing of its direction.

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## NOMENCLATURE

$a_e$	radial depth of cut, $mm$
$a_p$	depth of cut, $mm$
$f_c$	total cutting force, $N$
$f_n$	natural modal frequency, $Hz$
$f_{T.P.}$	tooth pass frequency, $Hz$
$F_t, F_r, F_a$	tangential, radial and axial cutting force components, $N$
$K_t$	tangential cutting force component, $N/mm^2$
$k_r$	radial cutting force component coefficient, dimensionless
$K = 1 - \frac{a_p}{r}$	ball end mill indentation ratio (it characterizes the relation between depth of cut and ball end mill radius values), dimensionless
$k$	modal stiffness, $N/m$
$m$	modal mass, $kg$
$n$	spindle speed, $min^{-1}$
$r$	ball end mill radius, $mm$
$r_{ef}$	effective radius of the cutting tool, $mm$
$V_{c,ef}$	effective cutting velocity, $m/min$

$\zeta_s$	natural modal structural damping ratio, dimensionless
$\xi$	lead angle, °
$\phi_s$	start angle, °
$\phi_e$	exit angle, °
$\psi_{hl}$	helix angle of the cutter, °
$\omega_n = 2\pi f_n$	natural modal radial frequency, $s^{-1}$

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