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Posted Date: 9 August 2024

doi: 10.20944/preprints202408.0634.v1

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## Article

# Weibull Random Vibration Reliability Based on Cumulated Damage

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**Abstract:** In this paper, based on the cumulated damage generated by the cyclical application of the testing vibration profile, a methodology to determine the reliability index of the analyzed component is given. In the analysis, the testing time, component geometry, applied weight, and material resonant frequency are all of them considered by using a dynamic, and amplitude factor. Then, from the generated vibration response data of the analysis, the corresponding bending stress is determined for each one of the rows of the testing profile. And by the cyclical application of the whole testing profile, the corresponding damage is cumulated to each profile cycle until the cumulated damage is  $D = 1$ . Finally, the reliability that each one of the cumulated blocks (cyclical profile application) is determined by considering, the random vibration is a stress variable. Thus, we use the cumulative damage model with the inverse power law stress/life relationship to determine the two parameter Weibull distribution used to estimate the reliability index of each cumulated block. As a numerical application, we analyze a cantilever aluminum beam Al 6061-T6.

**Keywords:** random vibration; Weibull reliability; mechanical design; cumulative damage model; static and modal analysis

## 1. Introduction

Nowadays, most of the mechanical elements are subjected to vibration generated by cyclical loads. These cyclical loads cumulate fatigue damage to the element [1]. Therefore, to avoid failures generated by random vibration, in practice the dynamic element performance is evaluated through a vibration test. Generally, the test is focused on determining the material strength, and the component's reliability ( $R(t)$ ) [2,3]. However, when the focus consists of determining if an element will perform its function without failure, we use a demonstration test. This test is based on a designed standard vibration profile, as they are those given in norm ISO16750-3 [4]. Thus, the vibration test is carried out by testing without failure a set of  $n$  parts, for a constant test time  $t$ , and by applying the acceleration energy (Grms) that corresponds to the used testing profile [5]. However, because it is a zero-failure approach, then once we complete the test, the element reliability remains unknown.

Therefore, with the focus of determining the element's reliability, a functional test is performed by applying cyclically the whole test profile. From the application data of its test, the cumulated damage in each block (whole test profile cycle) is determined mainly by using the linear Miner rule [6], or the nonlinear curve damage model [7,8]. In both accumulated damage models, we consider the element fails when the cumulated damage ( $D$ ) in the  $i$ -th block is  $D = 1$ . Here, it is important to mention that because the Miner rule is linear, and it considers the applied vibration load to be constant, then between both approaches, we recommend using the second one. Moreover, observe that although in both approaches  $D = 1$ , the real reliability element remains unknown. Therefore, to consider the effect that geometry, weight, and resonance have on the accumulated damage, into the initial test profile, we incorporate in it the response acceleration that contains these effects.

In the application of an Al 6061-T6 aluminum cantilever beam we found the more significant resonance frequency was 150Hz with an amplification factor of  $Q = 10$ . From the analysis the generated damage was accumulated using the nonlinear curve model (eq.13). And the applied cycles were determined based on the Rainflow algorithm of the Matlab Vibrationdata library. In this case, the damage reaches the critical value of  $D = 1$ , after seven damage blocks. Finally, based on these damage blocks and addressed bending stress, by applying the cumulative damage model (eq.16) with the inverse power law model as the life/stress relationship, the shape and scale parameters of the Weibull distribution were estimated and used to determine the reliability index that corresponds to each one of the seven damage blocks (see Section 4.2). The generalities of the performed vibration analysis are as follows.

## 2. Generalities of vibration analysis

Damage vibration analysis is performed to elements that are subjected to fatigue. Its the accumulation is a complex process because it presents a nonlinear behavior. Among the models used to cumulate it, we have the three-band technique [9], the Miner's rule and the nonlinear curve damage model. They generalities are.

### 2.1. Three-band technique generalities

The Steinberg three-band technique is a simplified method for analyzing fatigue failure due to random vibrations by using Miner's rule approach. Unfortunately, it let us a quick estimation of damage, as [10] mention it is not accurate. The method is based on the three bands of the normal distribution [9].

$1\sigma$  values occur 68.3% of the time.

$2\sigma$  values occur 27.1% of the time.

$3\sigma$  values occur 4.33% of the time.

Where  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the normal distribution. Therefore, to perform the fatigue damage analysis we determine the expected number of applied cycles  $n_i$  of each one of the three bands, and their corresponding stress. Then these stresses values are used in the S-N curve to determine the corresponding cycles to failure ( $N$ ) [9,11,12] that we use in the Miner rule approach.

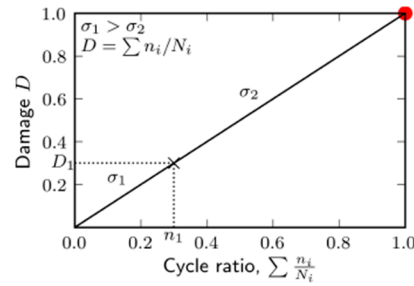
### 2.2. Miner's Linear Rule Model

Miner (1945) [13] based on the work of Langer, applied the linear damage rule to axial stress-strain fatigue data of aircraft raw material (see Figure 1). He found an agreement between the predictions of the linear damage rule and his experimental results [14]. The principle of accumulated damage using Miner's rule is performed based on the assumption that fatigue strength is determined by applying different levels of stress. Where each stress level contributes to a certain amount of damage. Thus, Miner's rule is used to predict the total life of a component subjected to a sequence of load levels, and it is given by eq.(1);

$$D_i = n_i / N_i \quad (1)$$

Where  $n_i$  is the number of cycles of a specific stress level,  $N_i$  is the number of cycles to failure for this stress level and  $D_i$  is the damage that the material has suffered during the application of the applied load. Thus,  $D_i \leq 1$ , means that the component or part does not fail. In general, for several stress levels the cumulate damage is as in eq.(2), and as in Figure 1;

$$D_c = \sum_{i=1}^{i=k} (n_i / N_i) \quad (2)$$



**Figure 1.** Miner's cumulative damage.

Therefore, the component failure is predicted when  $D_c \geq 1$ . From eq.(1), it is observed that the Palmgren-Miner rule is a simplistic model. It has no conclusive meaning because it does not allow us to evaluate probabilistically the selected design, which is fundamental in vibration fatigue analysis. Currently the Palmgren-Miner (1945) [13], and Palmgren (1924) approaches are still being used in most standards related to fatigue design to incorporate probability to the analysis. Moreover, from an engineering perspective, it is reasonable to consider damage as the probability of failure, derived from the field of the S-N curve, which agrees with the conventional concept of ultimate limit state (strength) [15]. However, to avoid the Miner's rule disadvantages the nonlinear curve model was formulated.

### 2.3. Nonlinear Damage Curve model

The double lineal damage model by Manson and Halford rule is used to determine the damage of an element subject to vibration [16]. This model considers the interactions of the applied load and the nature nonlinear behavior of the vibration. It considers equal damage for the two load levels based on the theory of elasticity and material properties [16], the equivalent damage radius cycle is represented by

$$\frac{n_1}{N_{f2}} = \left( \frac{n_2}{N_{f2}} \right)^{\left( \frac{N_{f2}}{N_{f1}} \right)^{0.4}} \quad (3)$$

Consequently, the damage curve model is given by the power law equation.

$$D_i = \left( \frac{n_i}{N_{if}} \right)^{\left( \frac{N_{if}}{N_{if-1}} \right)^{0.4}} \quad (4)$$

Where the exponent 0.4 represents the cause-effect relationship of the deformation of the material with the applied cycles. To consider the effect of the PSD (power spectral density) loads, the exponent of the previous model was modified by [7,17] to be the model a function of the loads. It was formulated by substituting the exponent 0.4 by  $(\sigma_i \pm 1_{vb}/\sigma i_{vb})$ . Thus, the developed model is a nonlinear continuous damage function that incorporates the vibration-induced bending stress as follows

$$D = \sum_{i=1}^2 D_2 = \left[ \frac{n_2}{N_{2,f}} \right]^{\left( \frac{N_{2,f}}{N_{1,f}} \right)^{\left[ \frac{\sigma 1_{vb}}{\sigma 2_{vb}} \right]}} \quad (5)$$

In this paper we used to accumulate the damage generate by vibration analysis by using the nonlinear model defined in eq.5. Where the cycles to failure  $N_i$  is determined by the Basquin equation

$$N_i = \left( \frac{s_i}{a} \right)^{\frac{1}{b}} \quad (6)$$

The numerical application is as follows.

### 3. Application Case

In the numerical case, we used the analyzed cantilever beam published in [18]. It has the following properties, aluminum Al 6061-T6, elasticity modulus  $E = 68.9 \text{ Gpa}$ , Poisson's ratio  $\gamma=0.3$ , yield strength  $S_y = 276 \text{ Mpa}$ , ultimate tensile strength  $S_{ut} = 310 \text{ Mpa}$ , fatigue strength  $S_e = 96.5 \text{ Mpa}$ , density  $\rho = 0.0975 \text{ lb/pul}^3$ , and  $150 \text{ mm}$  length by  $15 \text{ mm}$  wide by  $7 \text{ mm}$  high, as it is shown in Figure 2. An overall damping ratio of 5 percent is considered in the analysis. The beam supports a weight of  $2Nw$  mounted on the tip of the beam, and its movement is restricted to only vertical direction. The mechanical element must be capable of operating in a white-noise random vibration environment with an input PSD level of  $0.475 \text{ g}^2/\text{Hz}$ , and a frequency range of  $20 \text{ to } 200 \text{ Hz}$  for a period of  $4.0 \text{ hours}$ . In [18], the vibration analysis was performed by the lineal damage by Miner's rule as follows.

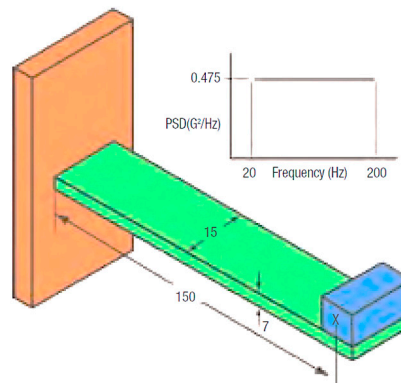


Figure 2. Aluminum cantilever beam, [19].

#### 3.1. Three Bands Miner's Rule Analysis

The lineal three bands Miner's rule analysis is performed with the objective of determining the cumulated damage that will cause the failure of the element under random vibration. Here we present only the generalities of the study case, for details see [18]. In their analysis, they found the material natural frequency is  $56 \text{ Hz}$ , with bending stress of  $55.4 \text{ MPa}$ . Stress results as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Maximum stresses [19].

Standard Deviation	Bending Stress	Percentage of Occurrence
$1\sigma$ stress	$1 * 55.4$ $= 55.4 \text{ MPa}$	68.3%
$2\sigma$ stress	$2 * 55.4$ $= 110.8 \text{ MPa}$	27.1%
$3\sigma$ stress	$3 * 55.4$ $= 166.2 \text{ MPa}$	4.33%

The applied cycles were determined by considering a test time of four hours. Thus, the applied cycles  $n_i$  are,

$$\begin{aligned}
 1\sigma \quad n_1 &= \left(56 \frac{\text{cycles}}{\text{sec}}\right) (4 \text{ hr}) \left(60 * 60 \frac{\text{sec}}{\text{hr}}\right) (0.683) = 550771.2 \text{ cycles} \\
 2\sigma \quad n_2 &= \left(56 \frac{\text{cycles}}{\text{sec}}\right) (4 \text{ hr}) \left(60 * 60 \frac{\text{sec}}{\text{hr}}\right) (0.271) = 218534.4 \text{ cycles} \\
 3\sigma \quad n_3 &= \left(56 \frac{\text{cycles}}{\text{sec}}\right) (4 \text{ hr}) \left(60 * 60 \frac{\text{sec}}{\text{hr}}\right) (0.0433) = 34917.12 \text{ cycles}
 \end{aligned}$$

In the analysis  $N_2 = 1000$  was considered as the base cycle. Therefore, the cycles to failure that corresponds to each one of the three Gaussian bands are determined as,

$$N_1 = N_2 \left( \frac{S_2}{S_1} \right)^b \quad (7)$$

Where  $b = 6.4$  is the material fatigue coefficient of the aluminum Al 6061-T6. Numerically, they are.

$$\begin{aligned} 1\sigma N_1 &= (1000) \left( \frac{310}{55.4} \right)^{6.4} = 6.08E + 07 \\ 2\sigma N_2 &= (1000) \left( \frac{310}{2 * 55.4} \right)^{6.4} = 7.24E + 05 \\ 3\sigma N_3 &= (1000) \left( \frac{310}{3 * 55.4} \right)^{6.4} = 5.40E + 04 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by using the Miner's Rule defined in eq.(2) with the addressed  $n_i$  and  $N_i$  values, they found that the cumulative damage was 0.9571, implying that the remaining useful life is 4.29%. for details see [18].

Unfortunately, based on this lineal analysis, we cannot address the reliability of the analyzed component, mainly because the spread of the vibration data and its no lineal behaving were not considered. Therefore, we use the non-linear method to cumulate the damage and to considered randomness of the vibration data.

### 3.2. No Lineal Analysis

To take randomness into account and to be able to determine reliability, the non-linear method is considered. We use in the study case, a range frequency of 20 – 200Hz with an acceleration of  $0.475 \text{ g}^2/\text{Hz}$ . The test profile is given in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Input profile.

Frequency (HZ)	Gravities (G)	Acceleration [ $\text{G}^2/\text{Hz}$ ]
20	3.082	0.475
50	4.873	0.475
80	6.164	0.475
120	7.550	0.475
150	8.441	0.475
200	9.747	0.475

However, because this profile does not contain the testing time effect, then we simulate it in Matlab as follows

#### 3.2.1. Incorporation of Time to the Test Profile

To consider the test time of 4 hrs. (7200 sec) the Matlab Vibrationdata library was used. From output the response acceleration plot is shown in Figure 3, and the corresponding response acceleration data is given in Table 3.



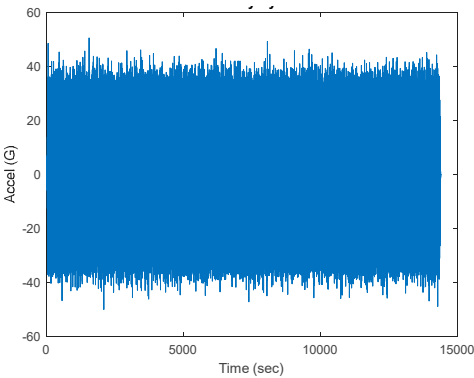


Figure 3. Acceleration synthesis.

Table 3. Response acceleration.

Frequency (Hz)	Input acceleration (G)	Response acceleration ( $A_{res}$ in G)
20	0.475	8.88
50	0.475	19.21
80	0.475	24.33
120	0.475	29.77
150	0.475	33.17
200	0.475	29.03

Here notice by comparing Table 2 with Table 3, the acceleration was increasing because the testing time has over the vibration damage. However, although now we are considering the time effect in the analysis, because the geometry, weight, and resonance effect are not considering yet, we perform the corresponding static and modal analysis as follows.

3.2.2. Static and Modal Analysis

To incorporate geometry, weight, and significant resonance into the analysis the corresponding angular natural frequency  $W_n$  in *Rad/Sec*, is determinated as.

$$W_n = \sqrt{\frac{3EI}{ml^3}}$$
 (8)

where  $E$  is the modulus of elasticity in  $Lb/in^2$ ,  $I$  is the inertia moment in  $in^4$ ,  $m$  is the defective mass of the load in  $Lb - seg^2/in$ , and  $l$  is the length of the component in  $in$ . Numerically,  $W_n$  is estimated as

$$W_n = \sqrt{\frac{3(9993100.12 \frac{lb}{in^2})(0.0010976 in^4)}{(0.000937757 \frac{lb - sec^2}{in})(6.3^3)}} = 374.60 \frac{Rad}{Sec}$$

Thus, based on  $W_n$  the corresponding natural frequency is,

$$f_n = \frac{W_n}{2\pi}$$
 (9)

$$f_n = \frac{374.60}{2\pi} \approx 60 \text{ Hz}$$

On the other hand, the dynamic factor used to determine the corresponding bending vibration stress is estimated as

$$\sigma_{dynamic} = \left( \frac{K m_e \hat{L} C}{I} \right) A \quad (10)$$

Where,  $k = 1$ ,  $C = 0.1377 \text{ in}$ ,  $\hat{L} = 5.9 \text{ in}$ ,  $A_g = 386 \text{ in/sec}^2$ ,  $I = 0.0010976 \text{ in}^4$  and  $m_e = 0.001232311 \text{ lb-sec}^2/\text{in}$ . Therefore, numerically it is  $\sigma_{dynamic} = 352.08 \text{ Psi} = 2.42 \text{ MPa}$ . With this dynamic factor [19,20], the bending stress is determined as follows.

### 3.2.3. Bending Stress Analysis

The bending stresses used to calculate the cycles to failure, based on the response acceleration from Table 3, and the dynamic factor given in eq.(10) are presented in Table 4. It is determined as

$$\sigma_{vb} = \sigma_{dynamic} * A_{res} \quad (11)$$

**Table 4.** Vibration profile with bending stress.

Frequency (Hz)	Response Acceleration Ares (G)	Scale Factor $\sigma_{dynamic}$ (Mpa)	Bending Stress $\sigma_{vib}$ (Mpa)
20	8.88	2.42	21.5784
50	19.21		46.6803
80	24.32		59.0976
120	29.77		72.3411
150	33.17		80.6031
200	29.03		70.5429

Based on the bending stress in Table 4 and Basquin's formula defined in eq.6, by using the bending stress is given by

$$N = \left( \frac{\sigma_{vib/bending}}{a} \right)^{\frac{1}{b}} \quad (12)$$

The corresponding cycles to failure are presented in Table 5. The used fatigue coefficients in eq.12 are  $b = -\frac{1}{3} \log \left[ \frac{0.92 * 310 \text{ Mpa}}{96.5 \text{ Mpa}} \right] = -0.1568$  and  $a = \frac{(0.92 * 310 \text{ Mpa})^2}{96.5 \text{ Mpa}} = 842.89$ .

**Table 5.** Results of cycles to failure ( $N_i$ ).

Frequency (HZ)	Bending Stress $\sigma_{vib}$ (Mpa)	$N_i$ (Cycles to Failure)
20	21.5784	1.40E+10
50	46.6803	1.02E+08
80	59.0976	2.28E+07
120	72.3411	6.28E+06
150	80.6031	3.15E+06
200	70.5429	7.37E+06

On the other hand, the applied cycles corresponding to each damage block are determined using the Rainflow algorithm (ASTM E 1049-85) of Matlab. The applied cycles are given in Table 6.

**Table 6.** Applied cycles ( $n_i$ ) Rainflow.

Frequency (Hz)	$n_i$ (applied cycles)
20	110437
50	74883.5



80	114802
120	137055
150	249066
200	156561.5

Therefore, based on the  $N_i$  values of Table 5 and  $n_i$  values of Table 6, the cumulative damage is performer as fallows

3.2.4. Determination of Accumulation Damage

The accumulation of the vibration damage is performed by using the nonlinear curve model [17] as.

$$D_i = \left[ \frac{n_i}{N_{i,f}} \right] \left( \frac{N_{i,f}}{N_{i-1,f}} \right)^{\left( \frac{\sigma_{vf(i-1)}}{\sigma_{vf(i)}} \right)}$$

(13)

The accumulated damage until  $D = 1$  is given in Table 7.

Table 7. Results of the accumulated damage calculation.

	20 Hz		50 Hz		80 Hz		120 Hz		150 Hz		200 Hz
Block No.	$D_1$	$n_{eq}+n_2$	$D_{1+2}$	$n_{eq}+n_3$	$D_{1+2+3}$	$n_{eq}+n_4$	$D_{1+2+3+4}$	$n_{eq}+n_5$	$D_{1+2+3+4+5}$	$n_{eq}+n_6$	$D_{1+2+3+4+5+6}$
1	7.88E-06	9.84E+06	8.18E-06	2.07E+06	1.07E-05	1.46E+05	1.36E-03	2.53E+05	8.04E-02	2.99E+06	9.27E-02
2	9.27E-02	6.37E+07	9.32E-02	1.40E+07	9.70E-02	1.80E+06	1.11E-01	6.00E+05	1.91E-01	4.09E+06	2.11E-01
3	2.11E-01	7.51E+07	2.12E-01	1.66E+07	2.19E-01	2.78E+06	2.40E-01	1.00E+06	3.19E-01	4.94E+06	3.47E-01
4	3.47E-01	8.30E+07	3.49E-01	1.84E+07	3.59E-01	3.64E+06	3.84E-01	1.46E+06	4.63E-01	5.66E+06	4.99E-01
5	4.99E-01	8.92E+07	5.01E-01	1.98E+07	5.15E-01	4.44E+06	5.44E-01	1.96E+06	6.23E-01	6.32E+06	6.66E-01
6	6.66E-01	9.45E+07	6.69E-01	2.11E+07	6.87E-01	5.20E+06	7.19E-01	2.52E+06	7.99E-01	6.92E+06	8.48E-01
7	8.48E-01	9.92E+07	8.51E-01	2.21E+07	8.73E-01	5.95E+06	9.09E-01	3.11E+06	9.88E-01	7.49E+06	1.05E+00

From Table 7, we notice the damage  $D = 1.0$  (fatigue failure) is reached in block 7. The corresponding nonlinear cumulated damage behavior is shown in Figure 4.

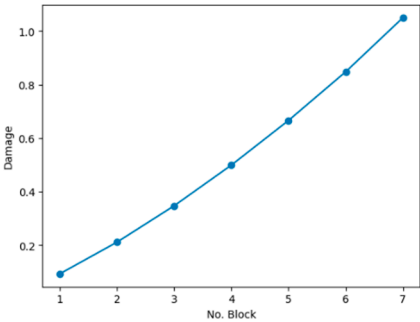


Figure 4. Damage curve behavior.

At this point, it is important to mention that although the cumulative damage already contains the effect of test time, geometry, weight, and resonance, still it is not possible to determine neither the reliability of the element nor the reliability that each of the damage blocks present. Thus, in this paper to determine those reliabilities we use the cumulative damage model for variant stress as shown in the following section.

#### 4. Cumulative Damage Model

In vibration analysis the main problem is that, since the vibration is random in nature its analysis must be performed considering it as a variant stress. Because vibration is random in nature, it difficult to determine the number of cycles that correspond to each one of the significant frequencies of the vibration spectrum (profile). This implies that when we are using these cycles in the Miner's rule, the corresponding accumulated damage is not representative of the damage generated by the vibration [21].

In the other hand, to make the estimated  $N_i$  cycles representative of the vibration, in this paper, to the initial vibration profile given in [18], we incorporate to it the effect that geometry, weight, and resonance have on the accumulated damage. The effect of geometry, weight, and resonance is incorporated by performing the static and modal analysis (see Section 3.2.3). As a result, the estimated stress for each one of the row's profiles, by using a dynamic factor (see Section 3.2.4) are representative of the accumulated vibration damage. Thus, due to these stresses are used in the S-N curve for determining the cycles to failure  $N_i$ , then these are also representative of the accumulated damage. Here it is important to mention that, although up to this point, the  $N_i$  are now representative of the vibration, they should not be used in Miner's rule to accumulate the generated damage because the accumulated damage presents a nonlinear behavior. Therefore, we use the accumulated damage model to estimate the reliability of the analyzed element.

##### 4.1. Cumulative Damage model Formulation

The cumulative damage model can be defined as the amount of damage  $D_i$ , at a given stress level  $S_i$  [14]. And it is widely used to determine the reliability of an element when it is subject to time-varying stress. Among the most common damage models, we have the step stress method where the element is subjected to different stress levels [22,23]. And to consider the randomness of the analyzed phenomenon, a probability distribution is used. In our case, we use the two parameter Weibull distribution. The Weibull reliability function for the cumulative damage model is given by [24,25],

$$R(t, x(t)) = e^{-\left[\int_0^t \frac{1}{\eta(u)} du\right]^\beta} = e^{-\left(\frac{b_i}{\eta(t)}\right)^\beta} \quad (14)$$

Where  $b_i$  is the block number (row) of the table of the cumulated damage, and the Weibull scale parameter  $\eta(t)$  is given by,

$$\eta(t) = \left[\frac{a}{x(t)}\right]^n \quad (15)$$

where  $a$  and  $n$  are the parameters to be estimated. Therefore, the Weibull function/cumulative damage model is,

$$f(t, x(t)) = \left\{ \beta \left[ \frac{x(t)}{a} \right]^n \left[ \int_0^t \left[ \frac{x(u)}{a} \right]^n du \right]^{\beta-1} \right\} e^{-\left[ \int_0^t \left[ \frac{x(u)}{a} \right]^n du \right]^\beta} \quad (16)$$

Here it is very important to notice that from eq.16 the Weibull/cumulative damage model is efficient for modeling vibration because the bending vibration stress that we use as the variable  $x(u)$ , is based on the acceleration response (see Table 3 and Figure 3) which was determined by simulating in random way the vibration profile. Thus, once the model parameters are determined, we can estimate the reliability of the element subjected to vibration as follows.

##### 4.2. Weibull Cumulative Damage Reliability Indices

To determine the reliability of the product using the cumulative damage model define in eq.16, we use as an input the vibration response given in Table 8, which contains the estimated vibration stress (see Table 4), and its corresponding cyclical profile shown in Figure 5.

Table 8. Alta input test profile.

Frequency (HZ)	Bending Stress $\sigma_{vib}$ (Mpa)
0 - 20	21.5784
20 - 50	46.6803
50 - 80	59.0976
80 - 120	72.3411
120 - 150	80.6031
150 - 200	70.5429

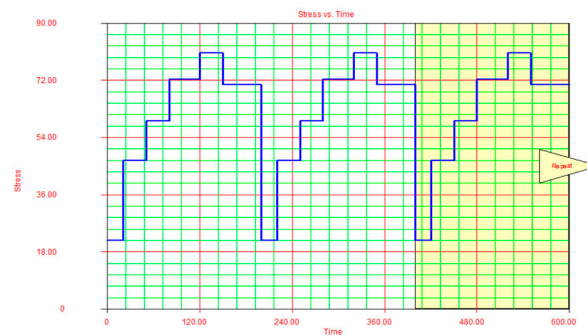


Figure 5. Cyclical profile behavior.

The parameters estimation ( $\beta$ ,  $a$ , and  $n$ ) of eq.16 is performed by maximum likelihood estimator. Here we use the Alta software routine. The estimated parameters are given in Figure 6.

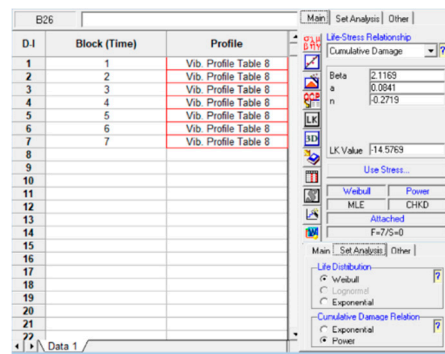


Figure 6. Vibration profile.

Therefore, by using  $a = 0.0841$ ,  $n = -0.2719$  and the vibration stress that corresponds to the first row of Table 8  $s_1 = 21.5784$  in eq.15, the Weibull scale parameter is  $\eta(t) = 4.5520$ . Consequently, the Weibull shape parameter  $\beta = 2.1169$  given in Figure 6, and the addressed  $\eta(t) = 4.5520$  values are the Weibull family used to determine the corresponding reliability indices of the analyzed mechanical element. The reliability indices that correspond to each one of the seven blocks from Table 7 by using the Weibull parameters in eq.14 are given in Table 9.

Table 9. Reliability for each block.

Block ( $b_i$ )	Cumulative Damage (from Table 7)	Reliability (eq.14)
1	0.09267947	0.9598
2	0.21120544	0.8368
3	0.34716136	0.6569
4	0.49903841	0.4618
5	0.66617094	0.2896
6	0.84823089	0.1616
7	1.04506581	0.0800

From the first row of Table 9, notice that the reliability of the product after the first vibration cycle is  $R(t_1) = 0.9598$ , and it decreases to  $R(t) = 0.0800$  after the seven blocks. Additionally, from Table 9, also observe that although there seems to be a direct relationship between the cumulated damage and the  $R(t)$  indices. Further research is needed to identify a functional relationship between them.

## 5. Conclusions

1. The proposed methodology let us determine the Weibull family that represents the vibration analysis and the reliability index for each one of the cumulated damage blocks. Notice these reliability indices can be used to determine the remanent life to each block.

2. Through the proposed method, by using the cumulative damage model and the Weibull distribution as shown in Section 4, for any testing profile that contains the corresponding vibration bending stress (see Table 8), and by taking the number of blocks of the cumulative damage process as the corresponding lifetimes, the reliability of the element (first row from Table 9) as well as the reliability of each block can be always determined.

3. The cumulative damage presented in Table 7 is considered representative of the vibration environment, because it was accumulated using the nonlinear curve model given in eq.(13), and it was accumulated from the response profile that already contained the geometry effect, weight, and resonance frequency.

4. The incorporation of the geometry effect, weight, and resonance into the vibration analysis, makes the estimated vibration stresses to be representative of the cumulative damage generated by vibration.

5. Although in our case the critical damage  $D = 1$  occurred in the seventh block, in practice  $D = 1$  can be reached in any blocks. However, remember that in the proposed Weibull analysis the number of blocks for which  $D = 1$  must be used as the failure time in the Weibull analysis as shown in Figure 6.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, M.M.H.-R., M.R.P.-M. and J.M.B.-C.; methodology, M.M.H.-R., M.R.P.-M. and O.M.-Q.; formal analysis, M.M.H.-R., M.R.P.-M. and J.M.B.-C.; writing—original draft preparation, M.M.H.-R. and M.R.P.-M.; writing—review and editing, M.M.H.-R., M.R.P.-M. and O.M.-Q.; supervision, M.R.P.-M.; funding acquisition, M.M.H.-R.; All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Funding:** This research received no external funding.

**Institutional Review Board Statement:** Not applicable.

**Informed Consent Statement:** Not applicable.

**Data Availability Statement:** Not applicable.

**Acknowledgments:** We appreciate the support of Conahcyt and the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez (UACJ) provided in this research.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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