

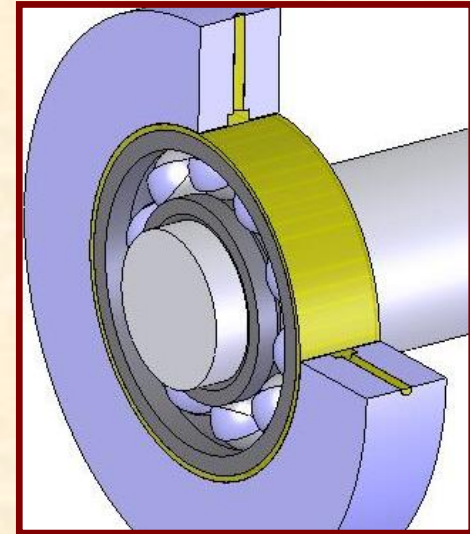
Presentation to Tianjin University

# Squeeze Film Dampers

## Do's and Don'ts

May 11 2018

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**TURBOMACHINERY LABORATORY**  
TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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**Dr. San Andres is an Associate Editor for Tribology Transactions and a former Associate Editor for various ASME journals. Luis and students have published over 260 journal and conference papers. Several papers are recognized as best in various international conferences.**

# Most common problems in rotordynamics

## 1. Excessive steady state synchronous vibration levels:

Improve balancing.

Modify rotor-bearing systems: tune system critical speeds out of RPM operating range.



**Introduce damping to limit peak amplitudes at critical speeds that must be traversed.**

## 2. Subharmonic rotor instabilities

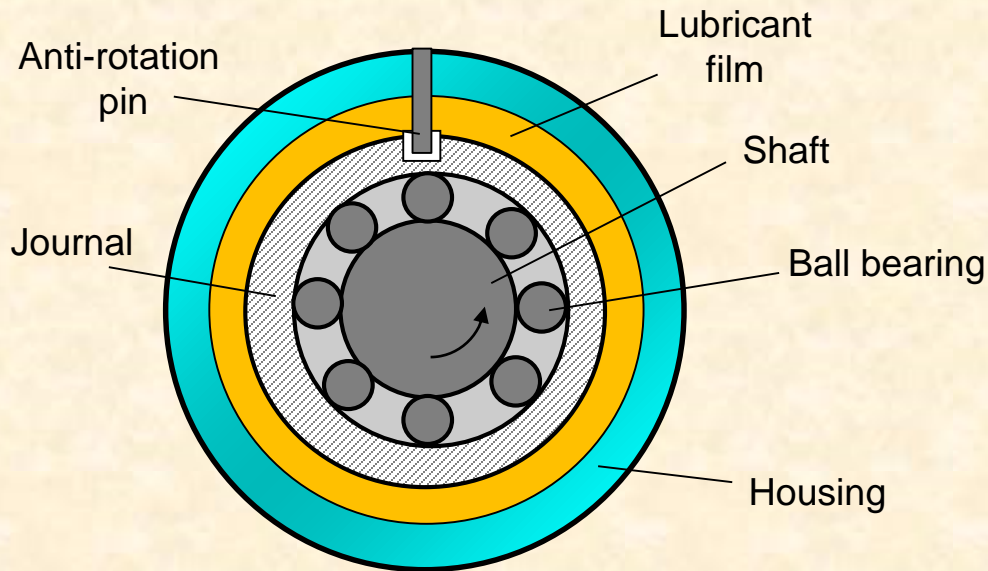
Eliminate instability mechanism, i.e. change bearing design if oil whip is present.

Raise natural frequency of rotor system as much as possible.



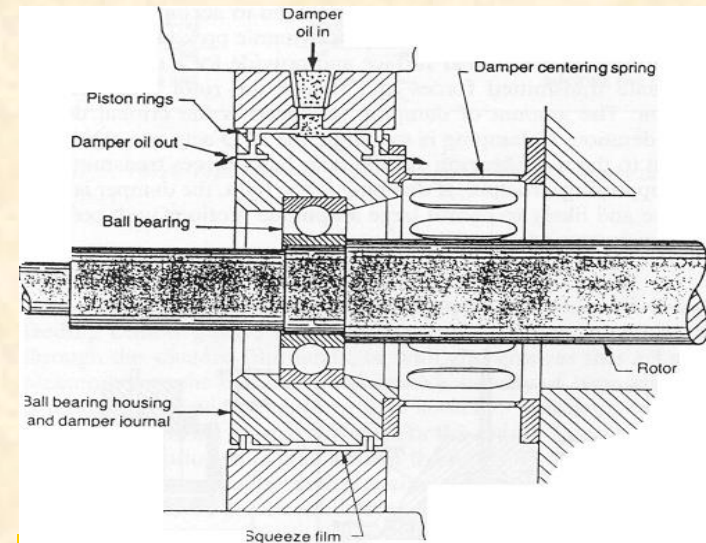
**Introduce damping to increase onset rotor speed above the operating speed range.**

# SFD Operation



## SFD with dowel pin

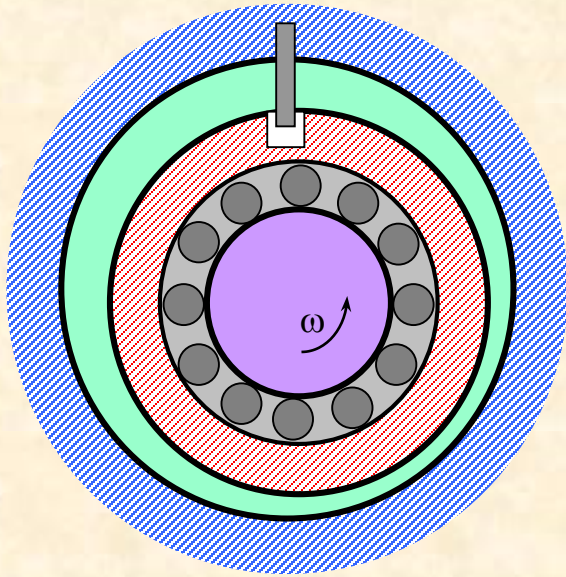
In a SFD, the **journal whirls but does not spin**. The lubricant film is squeezed due to rotor motions, and fluid film (damping) forces are generated as a function of the journal velocity.



SFD in parallel with squirrel cage

The shaft is mounted on ball bearings, its outer race prevented from rotation with either a squirrel cage (US), or a dowel pin (UK).

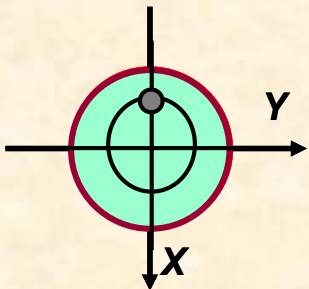
# SFD operation & design



SFD with dowel pin

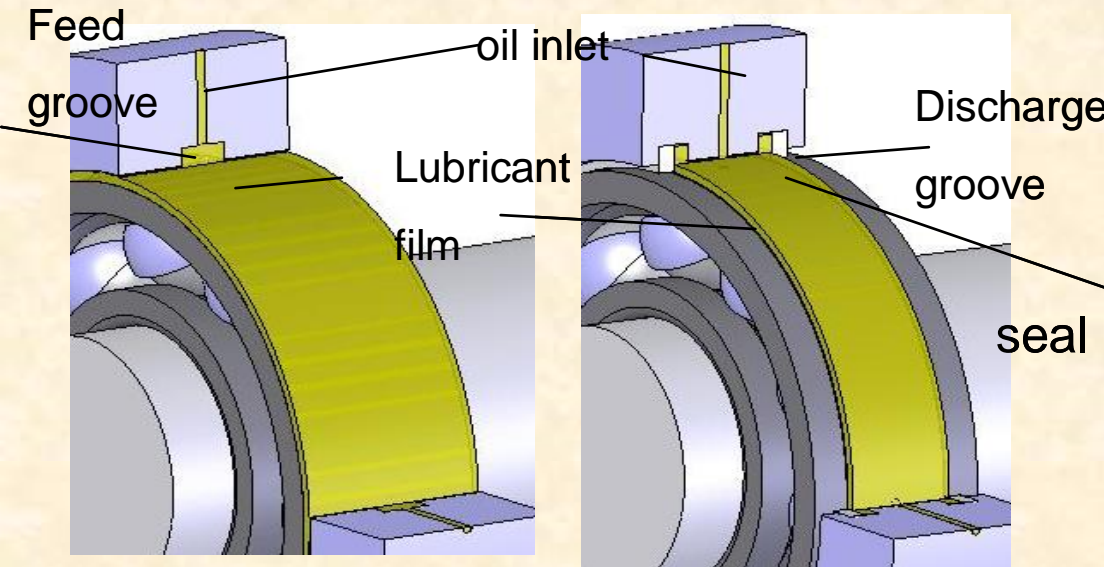
In aircraft gas turbines and compressors, **squeeze film dampers** aid to attenuate rotor vibrations and to provide mechanical isolation.

Too little damping may not be enough to reduce vibrations.  
Too much damping may lock damper & degrades system rotordynamic performance





# SFD dynamic force performance



- depends on
- a) **Geometry** ( $L$ ,  $D$ ,  $c$ )
  - b) **Lubricant** (density, viscosity)
  - c) **Supply pressure and through flow conditions (grooves)**
  - d) **Sealing devices**
  - e) **Operating speed (frequency) & journal kinematics**

- **Flow regimes:** (laminar, superlaminar, turbulent)
- **Type of lubricant cavitation:**  
gaseous or vapor  
**air ingestion & entrapment**

# Brief literature review

## Parsons (1889)

Discloses first use of a SFD as a part of the first modern-day steam turbine.

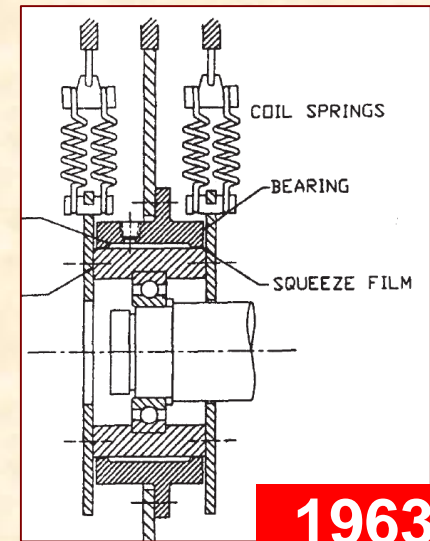


Marine Parsons turbine  
(by Topori at Polish Wikipedia)

## Cooper (1963)

Rolls Royce engineer investigates experimentally the performance of rotating machinery with a SFD.

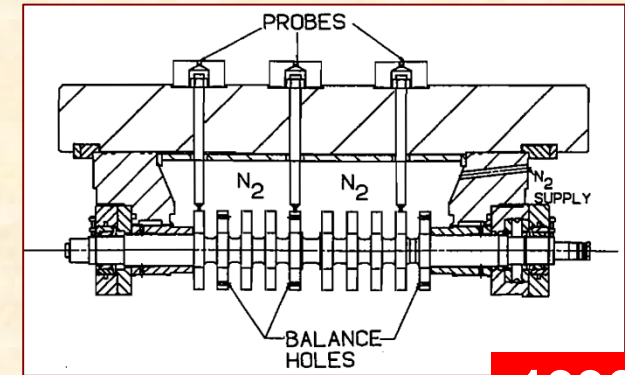
In 1970s, SFDs become essential components in aircraft engines and multistage high pressure centrifugal compressors.



# Brief literature review (Turbomachinery Symposium)

## Zeidan et al. (1996)

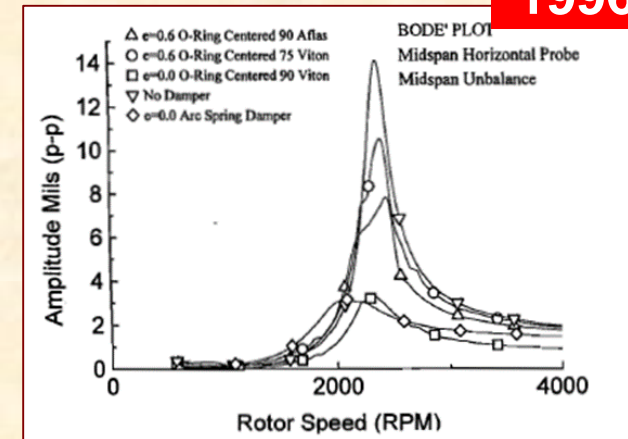
Give historical development of SFDs since 1960's and discuss major technical issues for their integration into turbomachinery, including oil cavitation vs. air ingestion and fluid inertia effects.



1996

## Kuzdal and Hustak (1996)

Test various damper configurations (open and sealed ends) → optimized SFD reduces rotor synchronous motions and improves the stability threshold of rotor bearing systems.





# Other relevant past work

- **Della Pietra and Adilleta (2002):** Comprehensive review of research conducted on SFDs over last 40 years.

## Parameter identification in SFDs:

- **Tiwari et al. (2004):** Comprehensive review of parameter identification in fluid film bearings.

**(2006-2010) San Andrés and Delgado (SFD & MECHANICAL SEAL, improved predictive models).**

GT 2006-91238, GT 2007-24736, GT 2008-50528, GT 2009-50175

**(2012-2018) San Andrés and students (Sealed ends SFD and with feed central groove)**

GT 2012-68212 , GT 2013-94273 , GT 2014-26413, GT 20015-43096,  
GT 2016-43096, GT 2016-56695, 2016 ATPS & TPS, GT2017-63152,  
GT2018-76224, **18-STLE, 18-IFTtoMM**

# SFD applications

## Jet engines with rolling element bearings:

- a) To reduce synchronous peak amplitudes,
- b) Limit peak amplitudes at critical speeds,
- c) To isolate structural components (lower transmissibility), and
- d) To provide a margin of safety for blade loss.

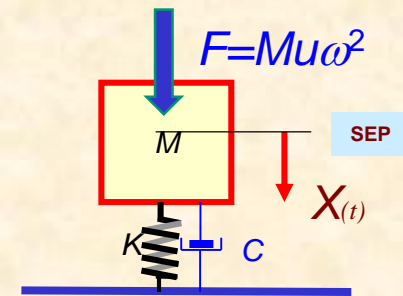
## Light hydrocarbon compressors with instability problems

- a) To stabilize unit by introducing damping and reducing cross-coupled effect of seals, hydrodynamic bearings, etc.
- b) To enhance limited damping available from tilting pad bearings.

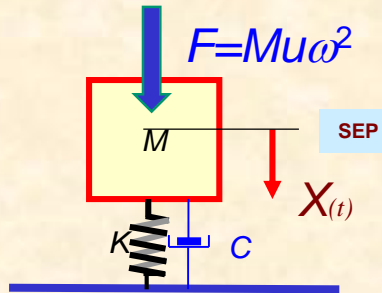
## Other benefits of SFDs on rotordynamic performance are:

- Tolerance to larger rotor motions
- Reduced balancing requirements
- \* Simpler alignment
- \* Less mount fatigue

**What is the effect of viscous damping on the dynamic response of a mechanical system?**



# Simple spring-damper-mass system



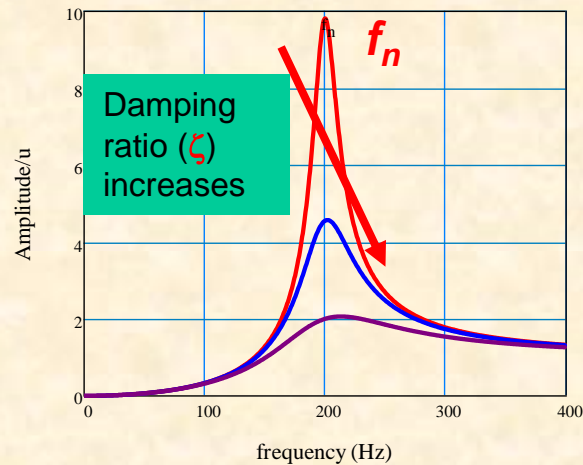
EOM:  $M A_x = F - F_{damper} - F_{spring}$

$$M \ddot{X} + C \dot{X} + K X = F_{(t)}$$

System response defined by natural frequency ( $f_n$ ) & damping ratio ( $\zeta$ )

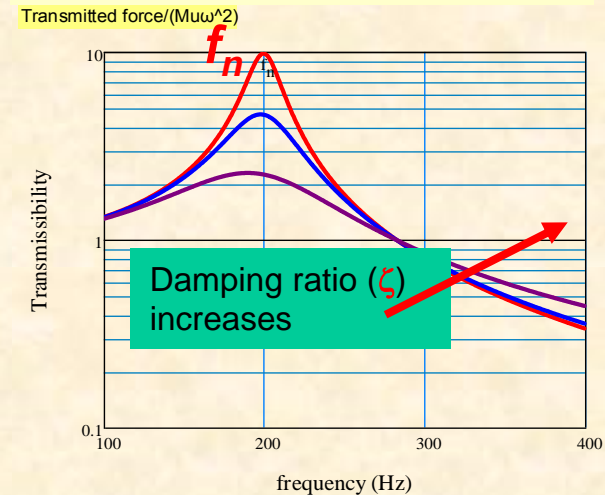
$$f_n = 2\pi \sqrt{K/M}; \quad \zeta = C / 2\sqrt{KM}$$

## Response amplitude $|X/u|$



- Damping=0.05
- Damping=0.10
- Damping=0.25

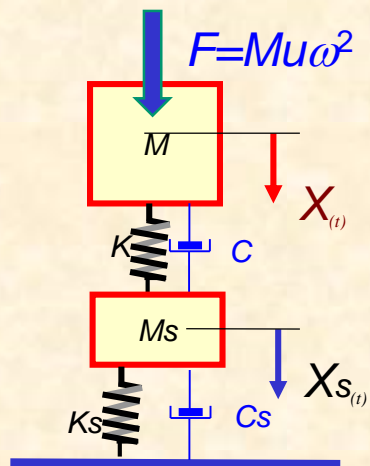
## Transmissibility (to ground)



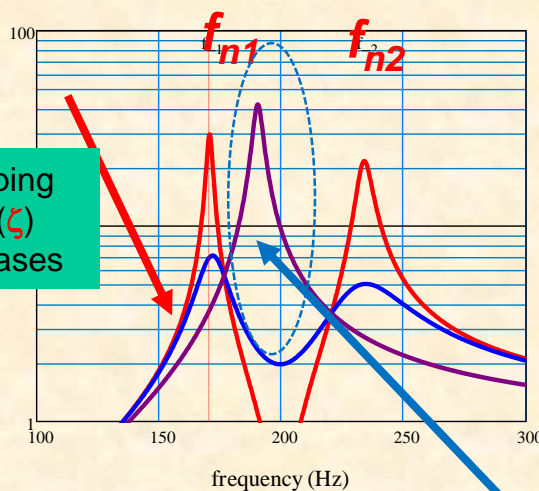
- Damping=0.05
- Damping=0.10
- Damping=0.25

**Damping** helps only when rotor traverses a critical speed (natural frequency= $f_n$ ) but increases force transmissibility for operation above  $1.44 f_n$

# More complex K-C-M system : rotor on flexible supports



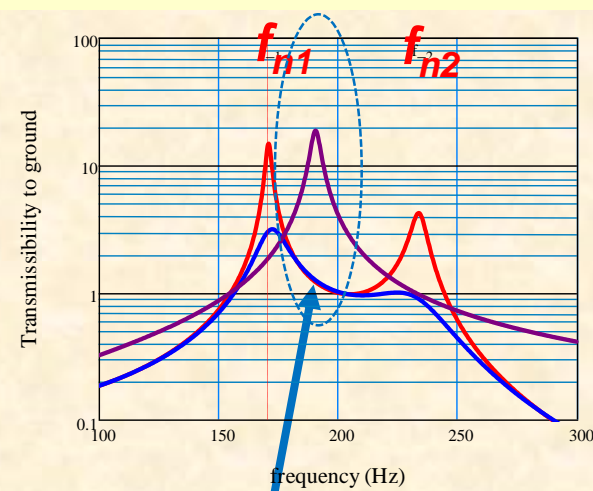
Response amplitude  $|X/u|$



Damping ratio ( $\zeta$ ) increases

- G=0.002
- G=0.01
- G=0.20

Transmissibility (to ground)



- G=0.002
- G=0.01
- G=0.20

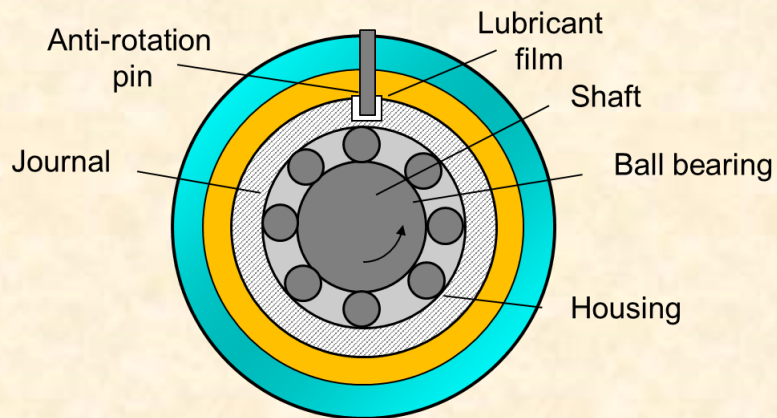
example  
 $\frac{M_s}{M} = \frac{K_s}{K} = 0.1; C = 0; C_s \text{ varies}$

**More complicated response.** Damping helps only when traversing a critical speed (natural frequency= $f_{n1}$  and  $f_{n2}$ ) but increases force transmissibility.

**Excessive damping LOCKS supports and increases system response.**



# SFDs – the bottom line



Too little damping may not be enough to reduce vibrations.

Too much damping may lock damper & will degrade system performance.

SFDs must be designed with consideration of the whole rotor-bearing system.

Physical damping is not as important as the system damping ratio!

$$\zeta = \frac{C}{C_{crit}} = \frac{C}{2\sqrt{KM}}$$

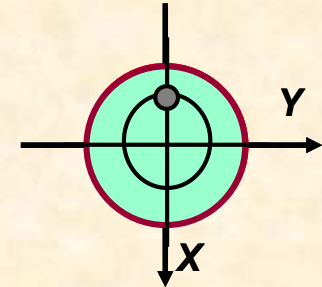
# SFD models for forced response

Damping is needed for safe passage through critical speeds and to provide or increase system stability.

Thus, models for SFD forced response are:

## Imbalance response analysis:

*SFD* forces for circular centered whirl orbits.



## Rotordynamic eigenvalue & stability analysis:

*SFD* force coefficients for dynamic journal motions about a static (equilibrium) position.

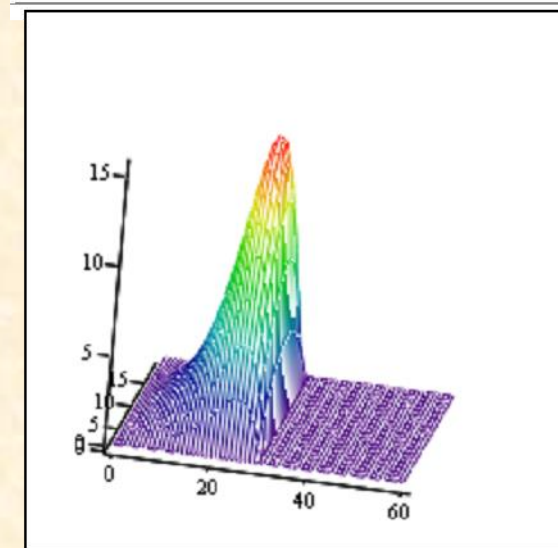
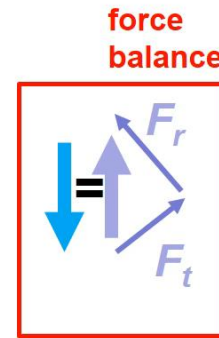
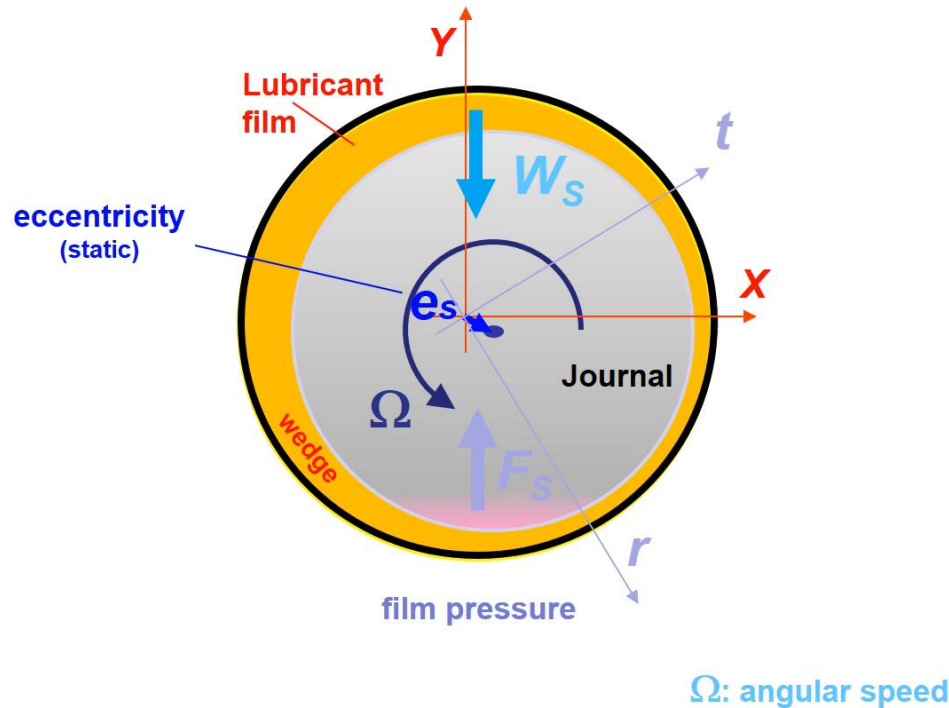
**Impedance formulations** for transient response analysis of rotor-bearing response.

Early (ab)use in academic studies; nowadays common with fast PCs

# Journal bearing model: steady state

$$v_t = 0 ; \quad v_r = 0$$

$$a_r = 0 ; \quad a_t = 0$$

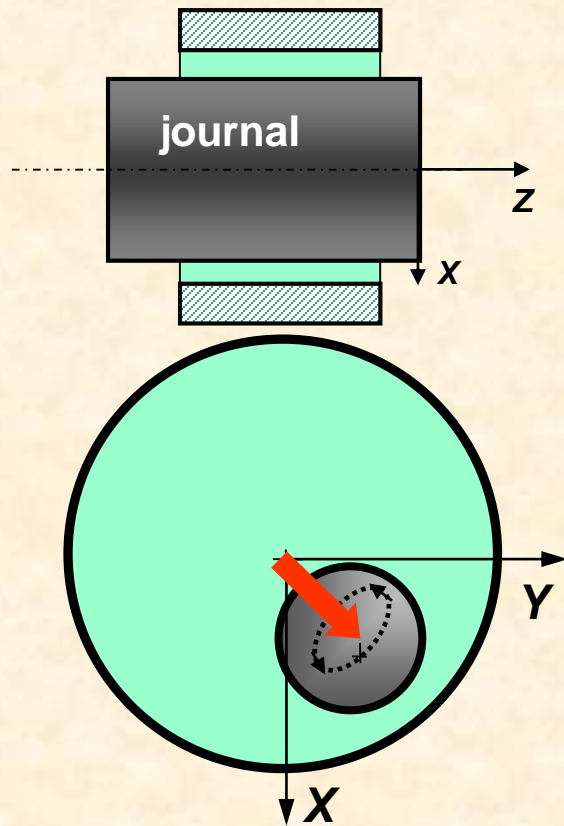


$P_s$

\*

Pressure field is invariant with time and increases as film thickness decreases to a minimum.

# SFD model: journal motions off-centered



$V_X, V_Y$  : journal center velocity (X,Y)

$A_X, A_Y$  : journal center acceleration (X,Y)

Forces in a SFD describing small amplitude motions about a static off centered journal position

$$-F_X = C_{XX} V_X + C_{XY} V_Y + M_{XX} A_X + M_{XY} A_Y$$

$$-F_Y = C_{YX} V_X + C_{YY} V_Y + M_{YX} A_X + M_{YY} A_Y$$

**C**: damping, **M**: inertia force coefficients

## SFD force coefficients

NL functions of static journal eccentricity  $e_s$

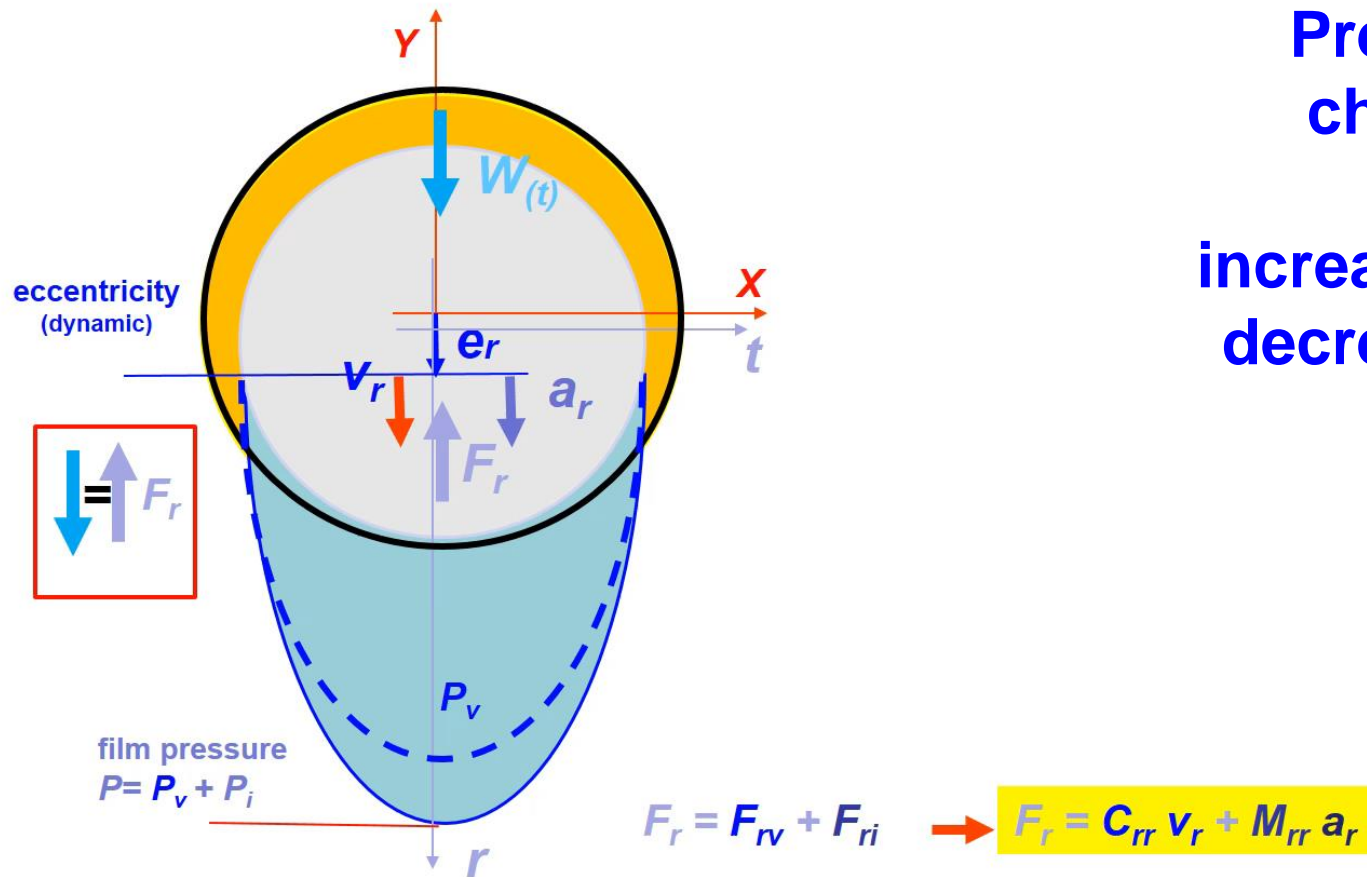
$$-\begin{Bmatrix} F_X \\ F_Y \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{XX} & C_{XY} \\ C_{YX} & C_{YY} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} M_{XX} & M_{XY} \\ M_{YX} & M_{YY} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \ddot{x} \\ \ddot{y} \end{Bmatrix}$$

# SFD model: pure radial squeeze (plunging motion)

$$0; \quad v_r = f(t)$$

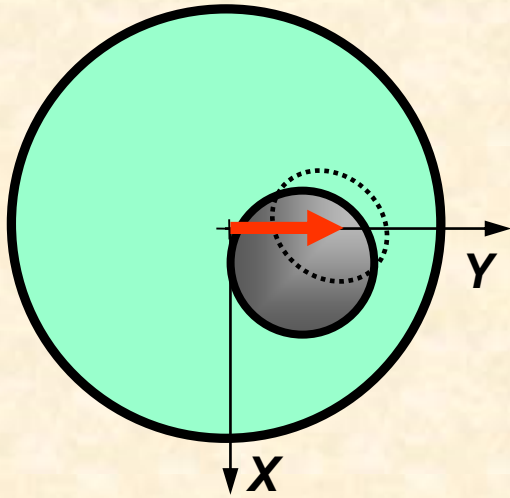
$$a_r = 0; \quad a_t = 0$$

Pressure field changes with time and increases as film decreases. Note pressure reversals.

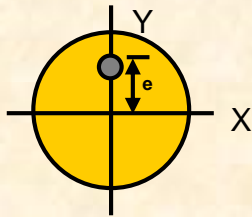




# SFD model: off-center motions



$$-\begin{Bmatrix} F_X \\ F_Y \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{XX} & C_{XY} \\ C_{YX} & C_{YY} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} M_{XX} & M_{XY} \\ M_{XY} & M_{YY} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \ddot{x} \\ \ddot{y} \end{Bmatrix}$$



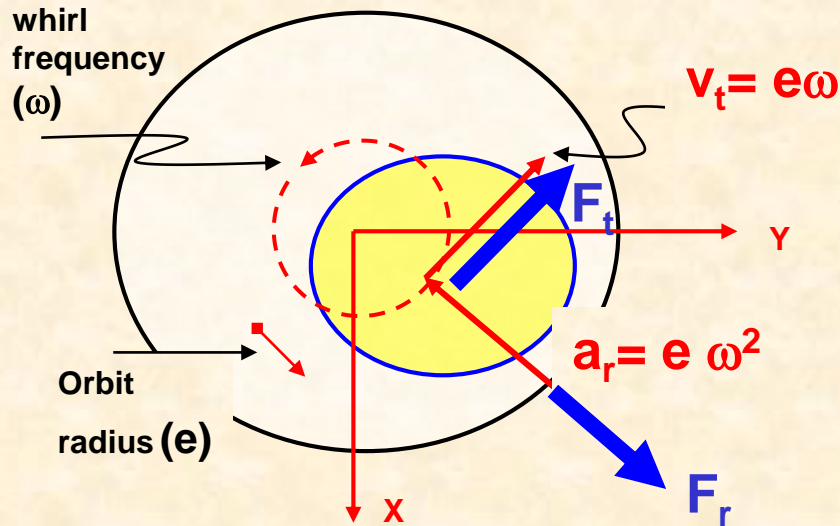
**Table 1:** Linearized force coefficients for **open ends SFD**  
(small amplitude motions about off-center static position  $\varepsilon=e/c$ )

| Full film (No cavitation)  | $\pi$ -Film Model (Cavitated)   |
|--|---|
| $C_{XX} = \mu D \left(\frac{L}{c}\right)^3 \frac{\pi(1+2\varepsilon^2)}{2(1-\varepsilon^2)^2}$   | $C_{XX} = \mu D \left(\frac{L}{c}\right)^3 \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{3\varepsilon + i \frac{(1+2\varepsilon^2)}{2}}{2(1-\varepsilon^2)^2}$                                    |
| $C_{XY} = 0$   | $C_{XY} = \mu D \left(\frac{L}{c}\right)^3 \frac{\varepsilon}{(1-\varepsilon^2)^2}$   |
| $C_{YY} = \mu D \left(\frac{L}{c}\right)^3 \frac{\pi}{2(1-\varepsilon^2)^{3/2}}$   | $C_{YY} = \mu D \left(\frac{L}{c}\right)^3 \frac{\pi}{4(1-\varepsilon^2)^{3/2}}$  |
| $C_{YX} = 0$   | $C_{YX} = 0$  |
| $M_{XX} = \rho D \left(\frac{L^3}{c}\right) \frac{\alpha \pi [1 - (1-\varepsilon^2)^{1/2}]}{12 \varepsilon^2 (1-\varepsilon^2)^{1/2}}$ | $M_{XX} = \rho D \left(\frac{L^3}{c}\right) \frac{\alpha (i - \pi - 2\varepsilon)}{24 \varepsilon^2}$   |
| $M_{XY} = 0$   | $M_{XY} = \rho D \left(\frac{L^3}{c}\right) \frac{\alpha \left[ \ln \left\{ \frac{(1-\varepsilon)}{(1+\varepsilon)} \right\} - 2\varepsilon \right]}{24 \varepsilon^2}$ |
| $M_{YY} = \rho D \left(\frac{L^3}{c}\right) \frac{\alpha \pi [1 - (1-\varepsilon^2)^{1/2}]}{12 \varepsilon^2}$                         | $M_{YY} = \rho D \left(\frac{L^3}{c}\right) \frac{\alpha \pi [1 - (1-\varepsilon^2)^{1/2}]}{24 \varepsilon^2}$  |
| $M_{YX} = 0$   | $M_{YX} = 0$  |

$$i = \frac{2 \cos(-\varepsilon)}{(1-\varepsilon^2)^{1/2}}$$

**SFD force coefficients**  
**NL functions of static**  
**journal eccentricity  $e_s$**

# Kinetics of whirl (**circular**) orbits



Journal center velocity with radial & tangential ( $\mathbf{v}_r, \mathbf{v}_t$ ) components, and also acceleration ( $\mathbf{a}_r, \mathbf{a}_t$ )

For circular centered orbits, amplitude  $e$  is constant and whirl frequency =  $\omega$ .

## Circular centered orbit

$$\mathbf{v}_t = e \omega ; \quad \mathbf{v}_r = 0$$

$$\mathbf{a}_r = -e \omega^2 ; \quad \mathbf{a}_t = 0$$

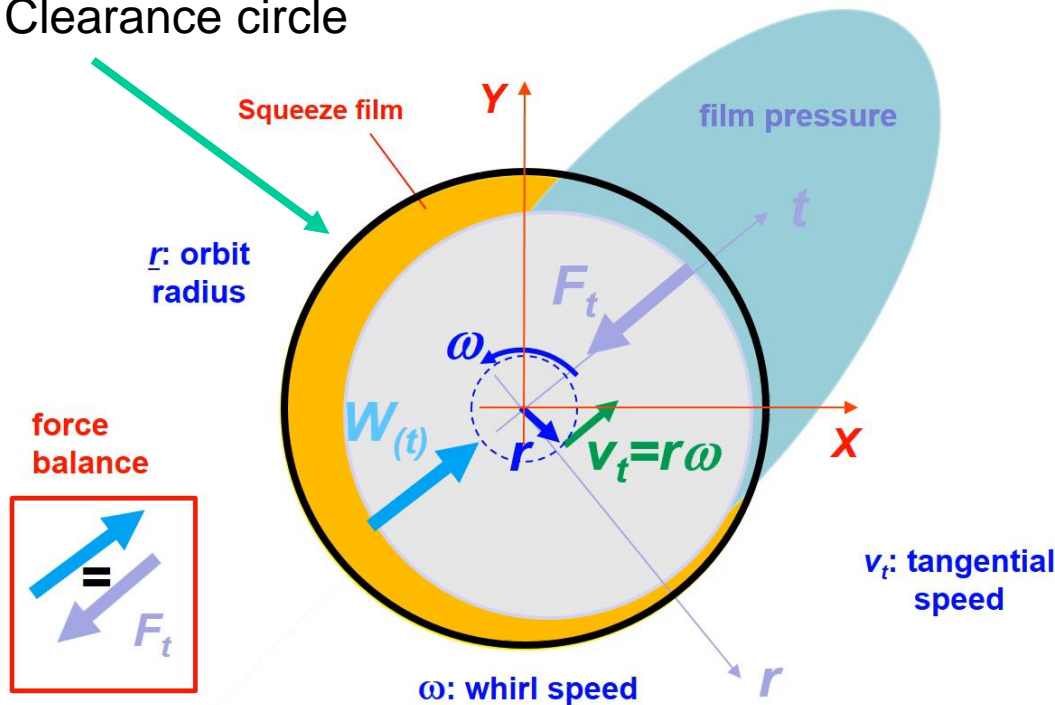
## SFD reaction forces:

$$\mathbf{F}_r = - (C_{rt} \mathbf{v}_t + M_{rr} \mathbf{a}_r)$$

$$\mathbf{F}_t = - (C_{tt} \mathbf{v}_t + M_{tr} \mathbf{a}_r)$$

# SFD model: circular centered orbits

$c$ : Clearance circle



## Circular centered orbit

$$v_t = e \omega ; \quad v_r = 0$$

$$a_r = -e \omega^2 ; \quad a_t = 0$$

## SFD reaction forces:

$$F_r = - (C_{rt} v_t + M_{rr} a_r)$$

$$F_t = - (C_{tt} v_t + M_{tr} a_r)$$

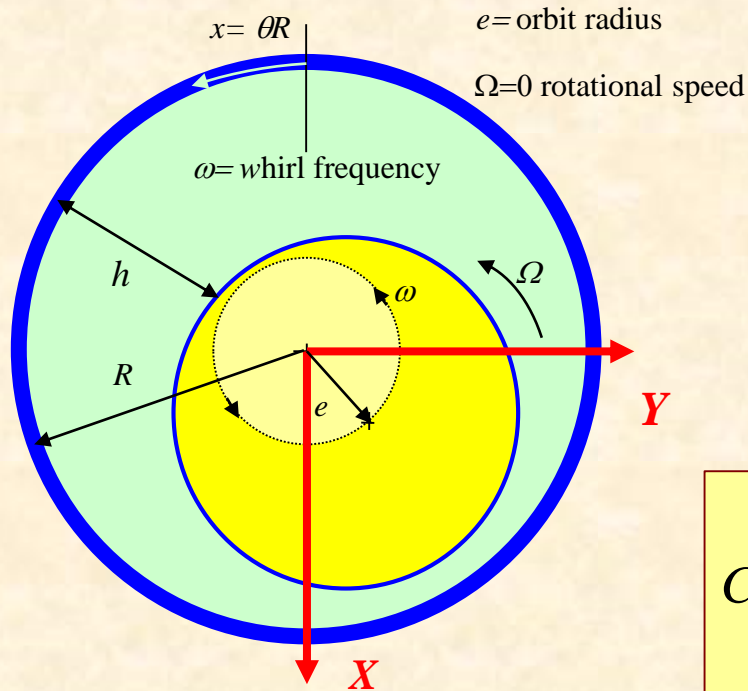
**C**: damping,  
**M**: inertia force  
coefficients

Pressure is invariant in rotating frame.  $P$  follows  $-dh/dt$  rather than  $h$  (film)

**SFDs DO NOT have a stiffness**

Misnomer:  $K_{rr} = \omega C_{rt}$

# SFD model: small amplitude **centered orbit**

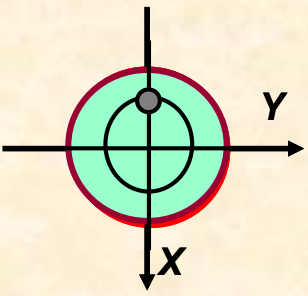


## FULL FILM MODEL

**Damping (C) & inertia (M) force coefficients by Reinhart & Lund (1975)**

$$C_{XX} = C_{YY} = C_{rr} = 12\pi \frac{\mu R^3 L}{c^3} \left[ 1 - \frac{\tanh(L/D)}{(L/D)} \right]$$

$$M_{XX} = M_{YY} = M_{rr} = \pi \frac{\rho R^3 L}{c} \left[ 1 - \frac{\tanh(L/D)}{(L/D)} \right]$$



**Damping  $\sim (R/c)^3$ , Inertia  $\sim R^3/c$**

### Open ends

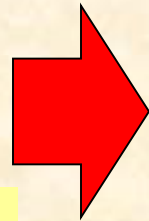
$$C_{XX} = C_{YY} = C_{tt} = \frac{1}{2} \pi \frac{\mu D L^3}{c^3}$$

$$M_{XX} = M_{YY} = M_{rr} = \frac{\pi \rho D}{24} \left( \frac{L^3}{c} \right)$$

### (fully) Sealed ends

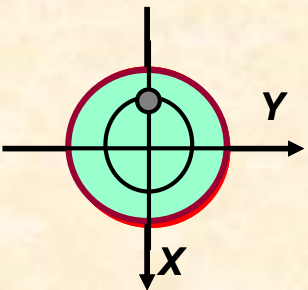
$$C_{XX} = C_{YY} = C_{tt} = \pi \frac{12}{8} \frac{\mu D^3 L}{c^3}$$

$$M_{XX} = M_{YY} = M_{rr} = \pi \frac{\rho D^3 L}{8c}$$



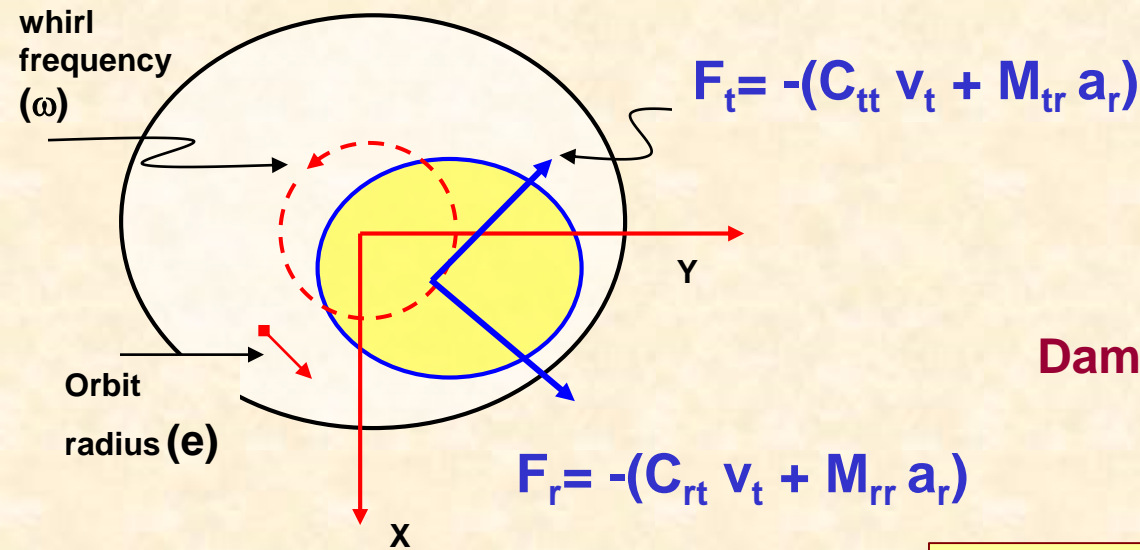
$$C_{tt} \frac{\textit{sealed}}{\textit{open}} = M_{rr} \frac{\textit{sealed}}{\textit{open}} = \left( \frac{D}{L} \right)^2$$

Increase in damping (and inertia) is large!  
For  $(L/D)=0.2=1/5$ , increase is **25 fold**





# SFD model: circular centered orbits



$$\mathbf{v}_t = \mathbf{e} \omega ; \quad \mathbf{v}_r = 0$$

$$\mathbf{a}_r = -\mathbf{e} \omega^2 ; \quad \mathbf{a}_t = 0$$

**$\pi$  FILM MODEL**

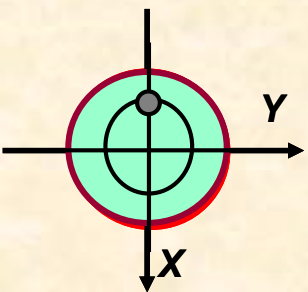
**Damping & inertia force coefficients**

**Short length open ends SFD  
(PI film model)**

$$C_{tt} = \frac{\pi \mu D}{4(1-\varepsilon^2)^{3/2}} \left(\frac{L}{c}\right)^3 ; \quad C_{rt} = \frac{\mu \varepsilon D}{(1-\varepsilon^2)^2} \left(\frac{L}{c}\right)^3$$

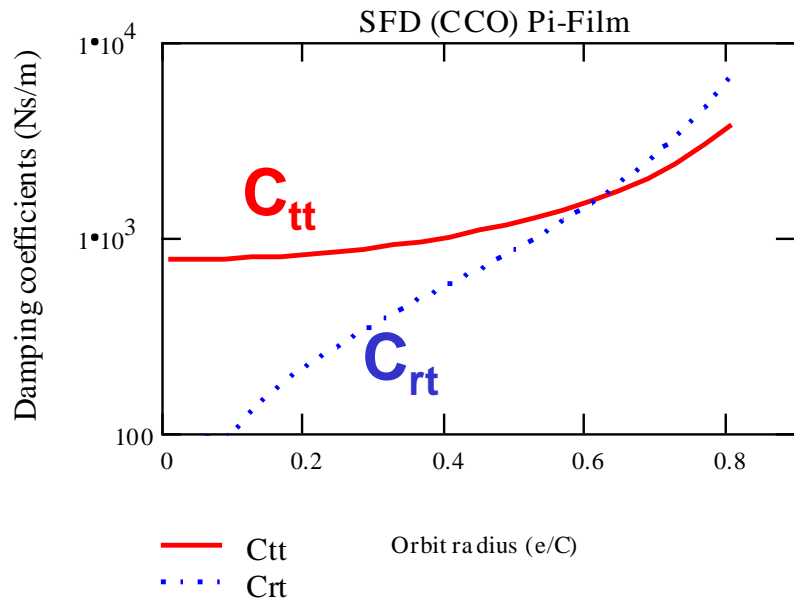
$$M_{rr} = \frac{\pi \rho D}{24} \left(\frac{L^3}{c}\right) \left[1 - 2(1-\varepsilon^2)^{1/2}\right] \left\{ \frac{(1-\varepsilon^2)^{1/2} - 1}{\varepsilon^2 (1-\varepsilon^2)^{1/2}} \right\} ;$$

$$M_{tr} = -\frac{27}{140 \varepsilon} \rho D \left(\frac{L^3}{c}\right) \left[2 + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \ln\left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{1+\varepsilon}\right)\right]$$



**Damping  $\sim (L/c)^3$ , Inertia  $\sim L^3/c$**

# SFD model: circular centered orbits



$$L = 0.05 \text{ m}$$

$$D = 0.2 \text{ m}$$

$$C = 8 \cdot 10^{-4}$$

$$\mu = 0.02 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$$

$$\frac{L}{D} = 0.25$$

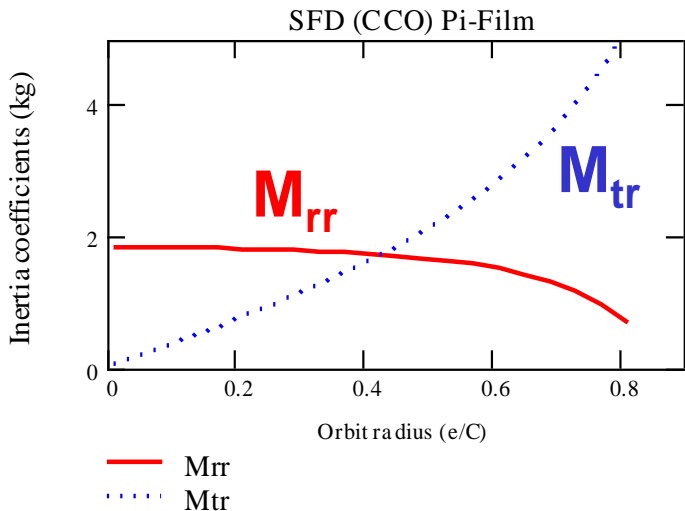
$$\frac{D}{C} = 250$$

Short length  
open ends

SFD  $-\pi$  film model

$$F_r = - (C_{rt} v_t + M_{rr} a_r)$$

$$F_t = - (C_{tt} v_t + M_{tr} a_r)$$



$$M_j = 12.252 \text{ kg - steel journal}$$

$$M_o = 0.022 \text{ kg - lubricant}$$

Nonlinear force  
coefficients,

Large damping,  
Large inertia for

$$Re_s = \rho \omega^2 c / \mu > 10$$

# SFD model & test data: circular centered orbit

GT 2009-50175

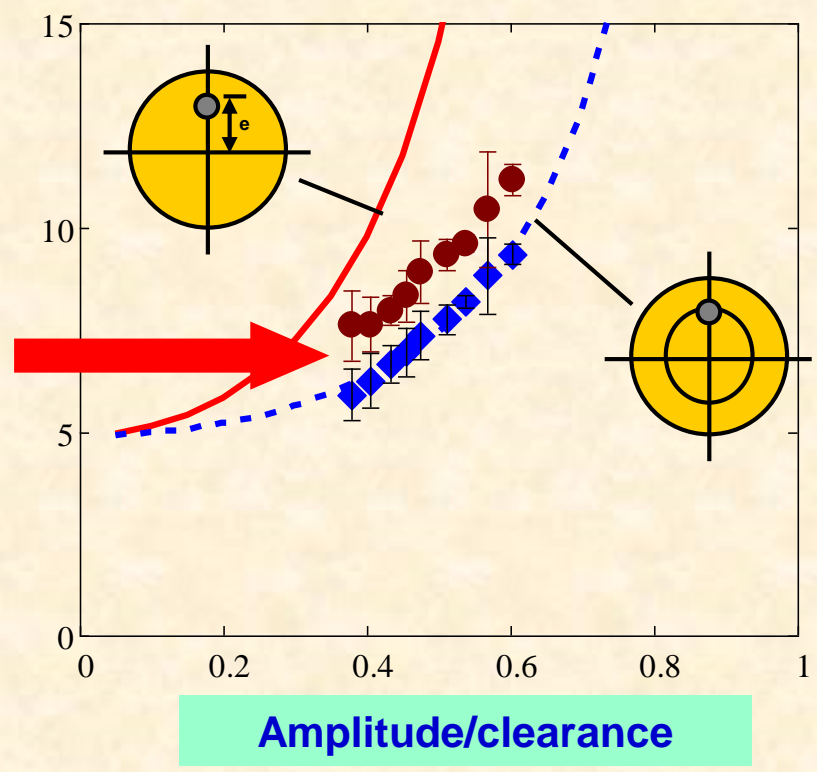
## Damping coefficient

Circular centered orbits,  
**NO lubricant cavitation**

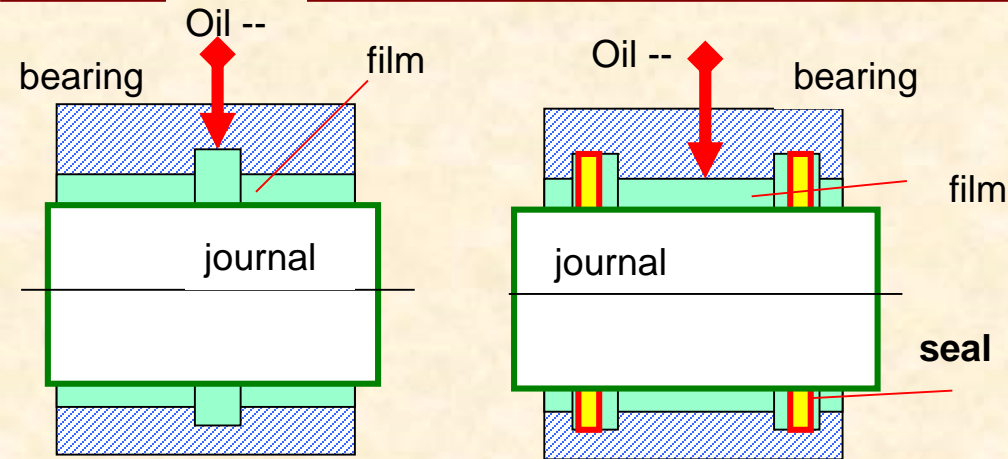
L=1 inch  
D=5 inch  
C=5 mil  
ISO VG2 oil

**Nonlinear force coefficient:**  
depends on amplitude of motion ( $e/c$ )

Damping coefficient [kN.s/m]



# SFD feed groove and exit grooves



SFD with feed groove

SFD with end grooves and seals

**Feed holes** with small diameter ( high flow) resistance or with check valves used to prevent back flow and distortions in dynamic film pressures

## Feed & discharge grooves

Interact with film flow, develop large dynamic film pressures, Induce inertia force coefficients even in small clearance (c) SFDs

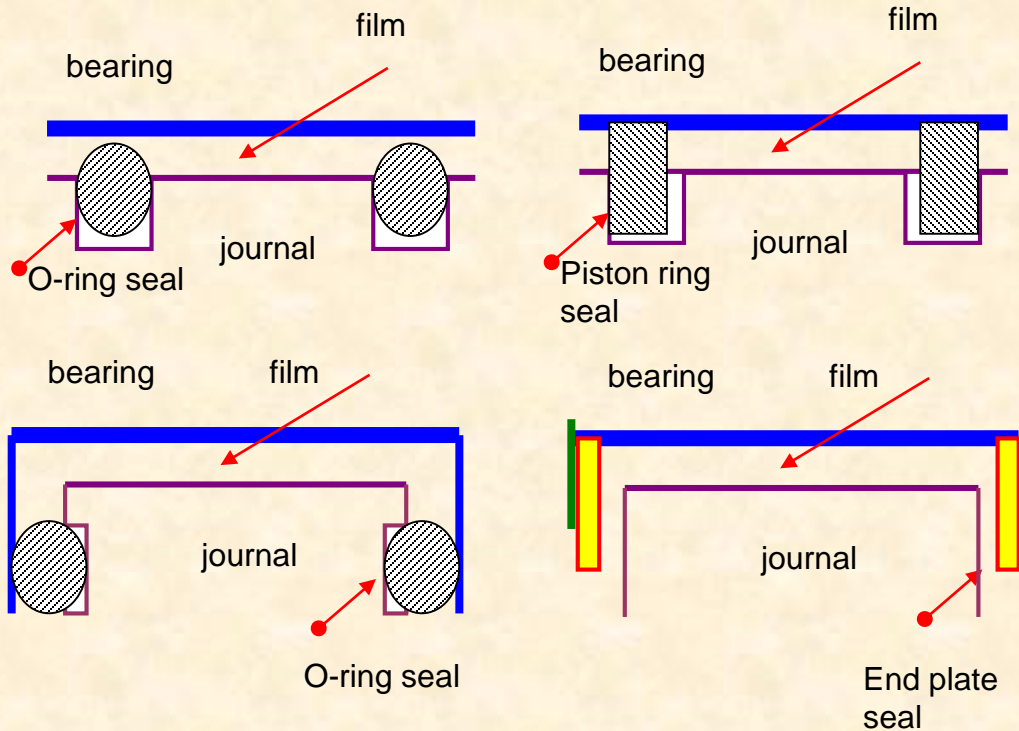
Too shallow grooves: increase damping  $(d_g/c) < 10$

Too deep grooves: increase added mass  $(d_g/c) > 10$

# Types of end seals for SFDs

Reduce thru flow and increase damping. **Most seal types cannot prevent air ingestion**

Industrial applications use O-rings, while jet engines implement piston rings.



## O-ring issues:

Low weight (replace squirrel cage), Special groove machining,

**Material compatibility**

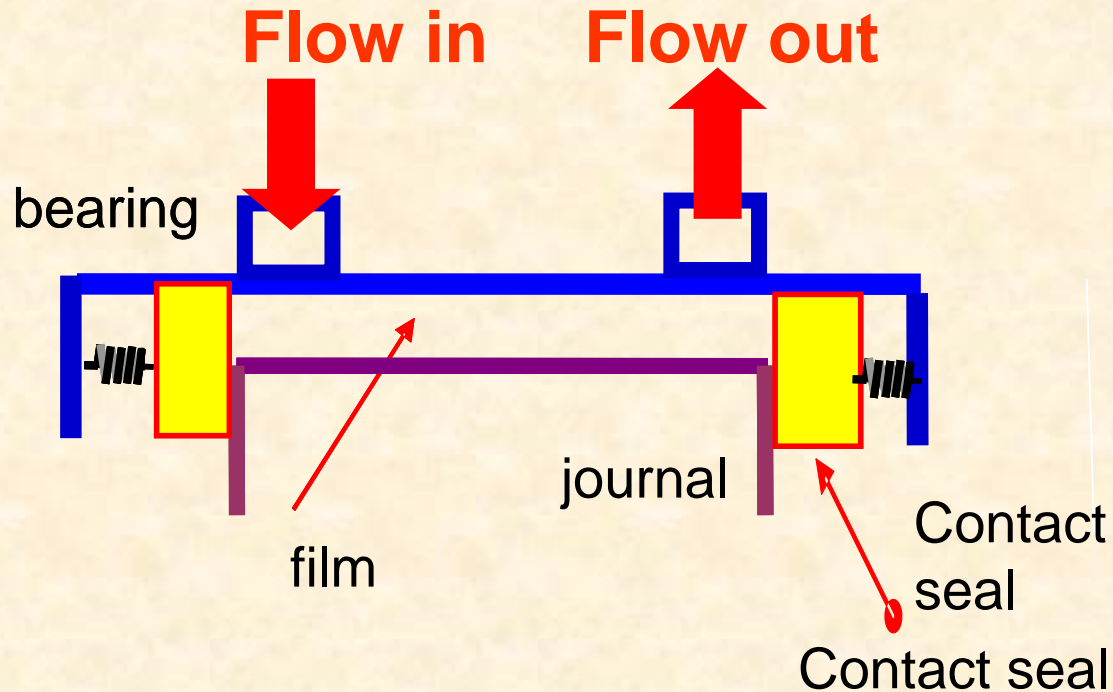
## Piston ring issues:

Cocking and locking  
Splits – leak too much

Design is highly empirical, except for end plate seals



# SFD + mechanical seal



**SFD with mechanical seal**

**Spring loaded contacting face seal (metal-metal). Seal keeps lubricant for long periods of time.**

**No side leakage allowed.**

**Forced performance complicated by dry-friction at contact area.**

# SFD air ingestion: **CONCLUSIONS**

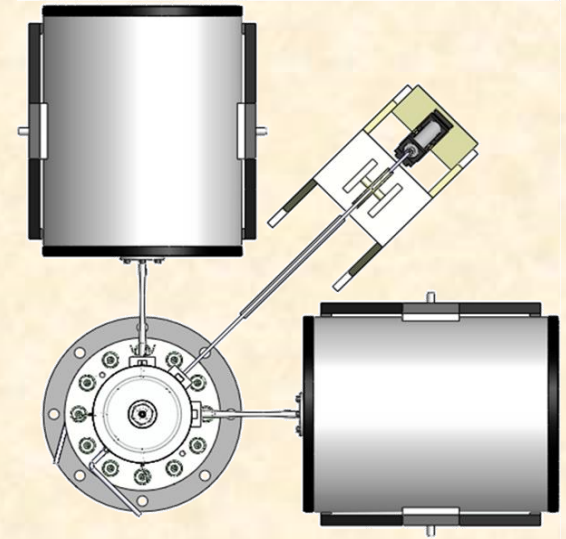
1. Irregular air fingering occurs for most test conditions
2. Air entrainment is most persistent at high squeeze velocity: **whirl amplitude x whirl frequency**. A modest increase in feed pressure does alleviate issue.
3. Tangential (damping) forces remain uniform or decrease as whirl frequency increases, even for a large supply pressure.

Watch digital videos of flow field and dynamic pressure at

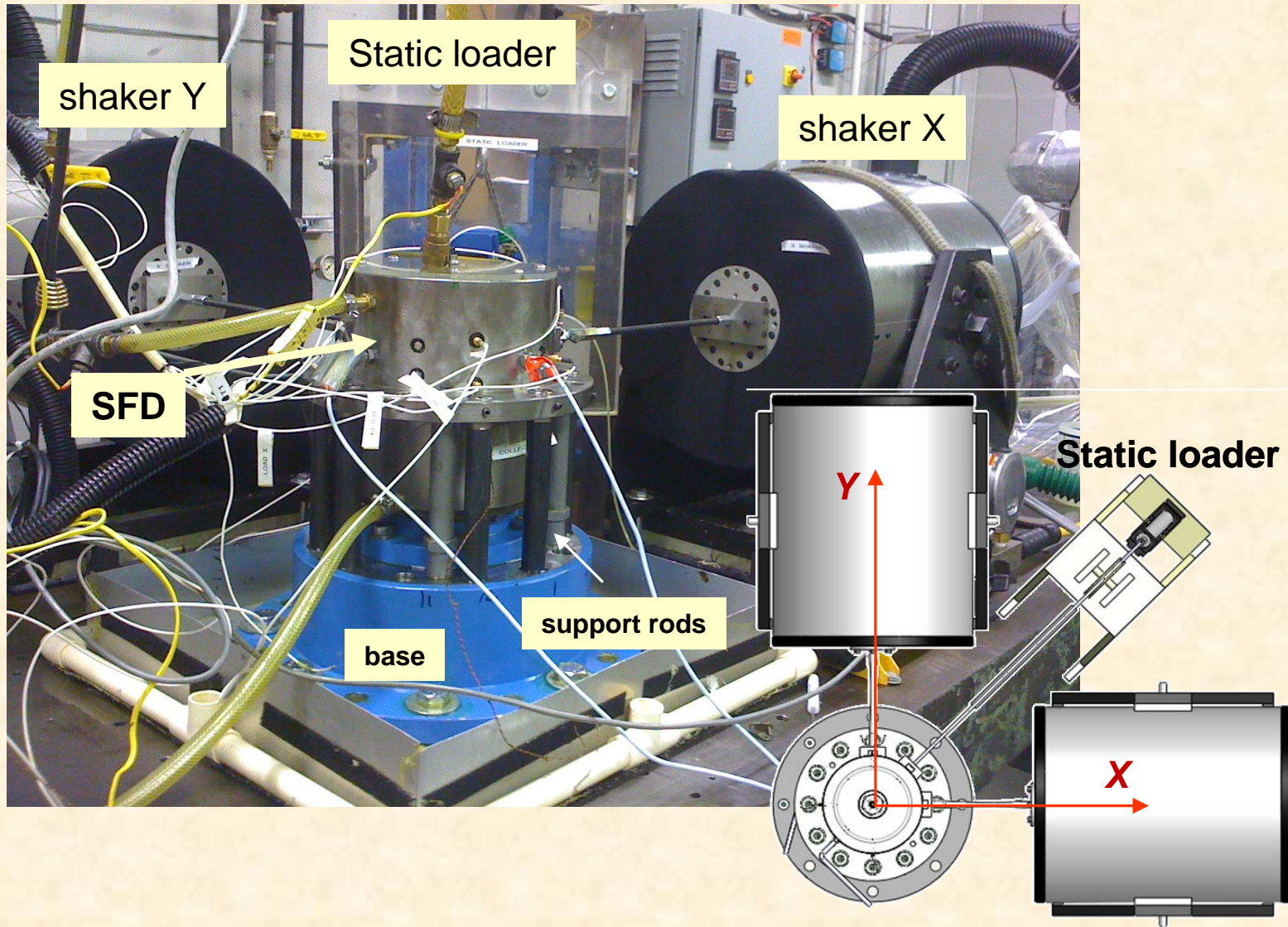
<http://rotorlab.tamu.edu>

**NSF funded research (1996-99)**

**Identification of SFD  
force coefficients for  
two SFDs:  
open ends & sealed  
ends**



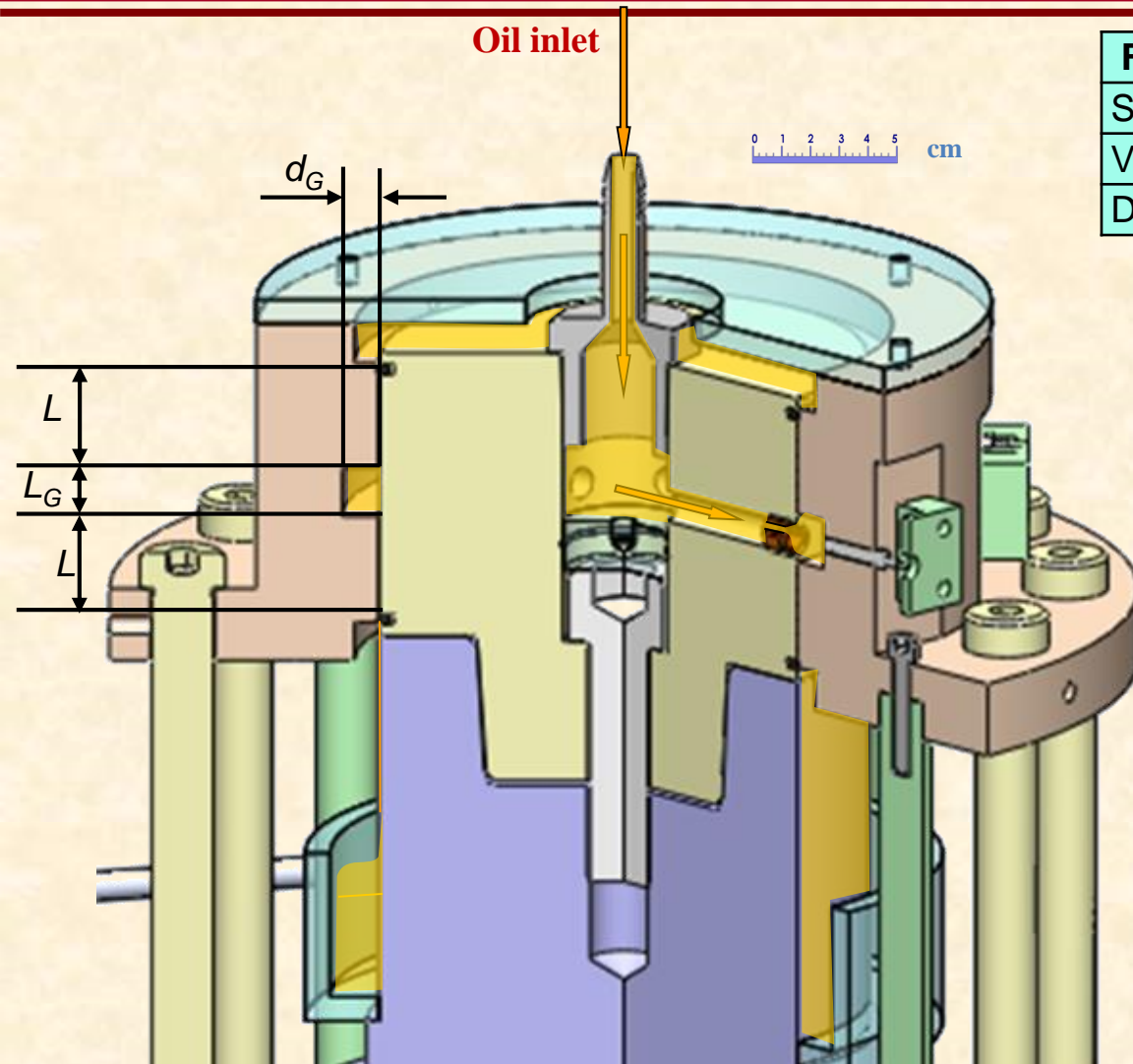
# Test rig photograph





# Lubricant flow path

ISO VG 2 oil



| Fluid properties ISO VG2        |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Supply temperature ( $T_{in}$ ) | 25 °C                 |
| Viscosity                       | 2.96 c-Poise          |
| Density                         | 785 kg/m <sup>3</sup> |

|                        | Long journal (A) | Short journal (B) |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Land length ( $L$ )    | 25.4mm           | 12.7mm            |
| Land clearance ( $c$ ) | 0.14 mm          | 0.13 mm           |

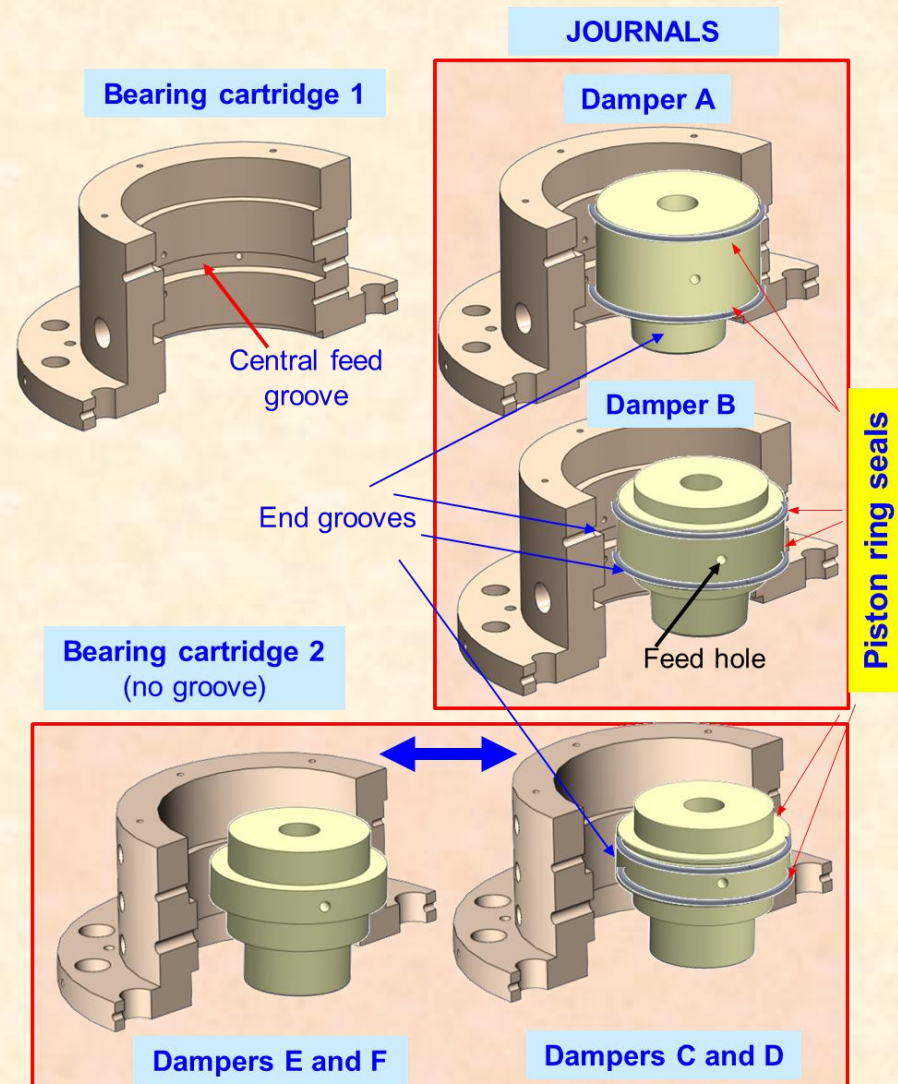
|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Journal diameter ( $D$ ) | 12.7cm  |
| Groove length ( $L_G$ )  | 12.7 mm |
| Groove depth ( $d_G$ )   | 9.52 mm |



# SFD test configurations

| Configuration | Land Length, Central Groove                  | End Grooves | Radial Clearance                                       |
|---------------|--|-------------|--|
| A             | 2 X L=25.4 mm film lands<br>- Central groove | Yes         | $c_{A-1}=141 \mu\text{m}$<br>$c_{A-2}=251 \mu\text{m}$ |
| * B           | 2 X L=12.7 mm film lands<br>- Central groove |             | $c_B=138 \mu\text{m}$                                  |
| * C           | L=25.4 mm film land<br>- No feed groove      | Yes         | $c_C=130 \mu\text{m}$                                  |
| * D           |  |             | $c_D=254 \mu\text{m}$                                  |
| E             | L=25.4 mm film land<br>- No feed groove      | No          | $c_E=122 \mu\text{m}$                                  |
| F             |  |             | $c_F=267 \mu\text{m}$                                  |

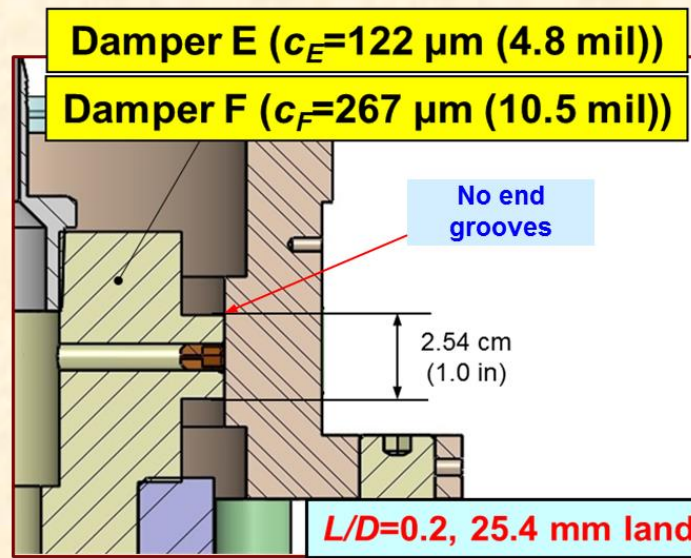
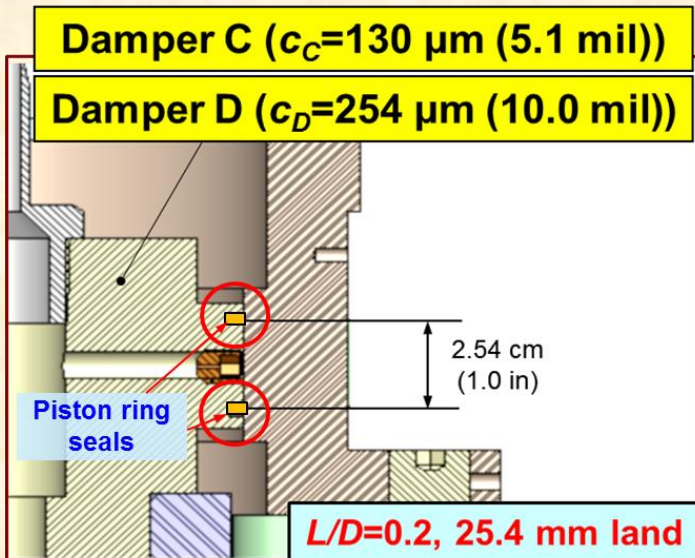
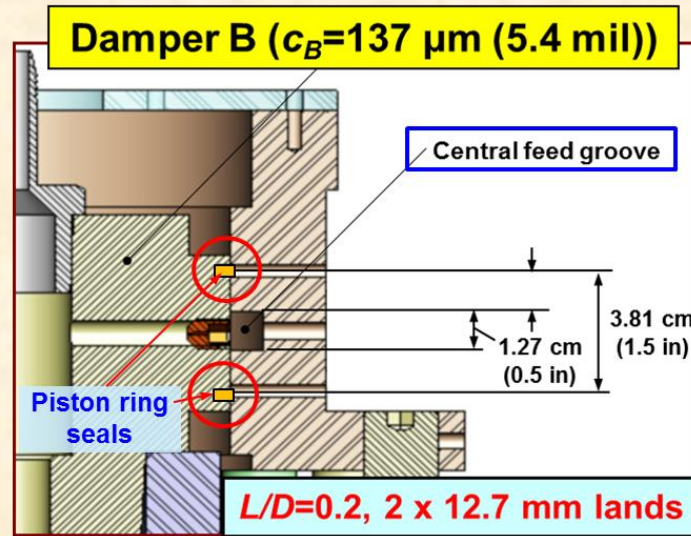
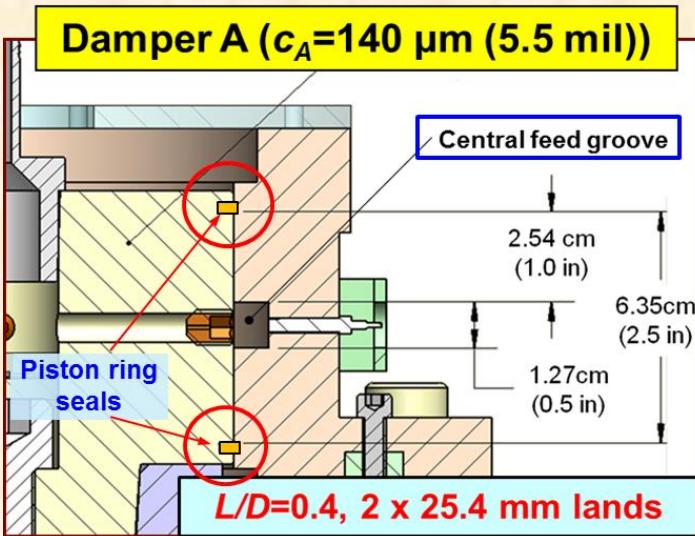
\* SFD: open ends and sealed with piston ring seals



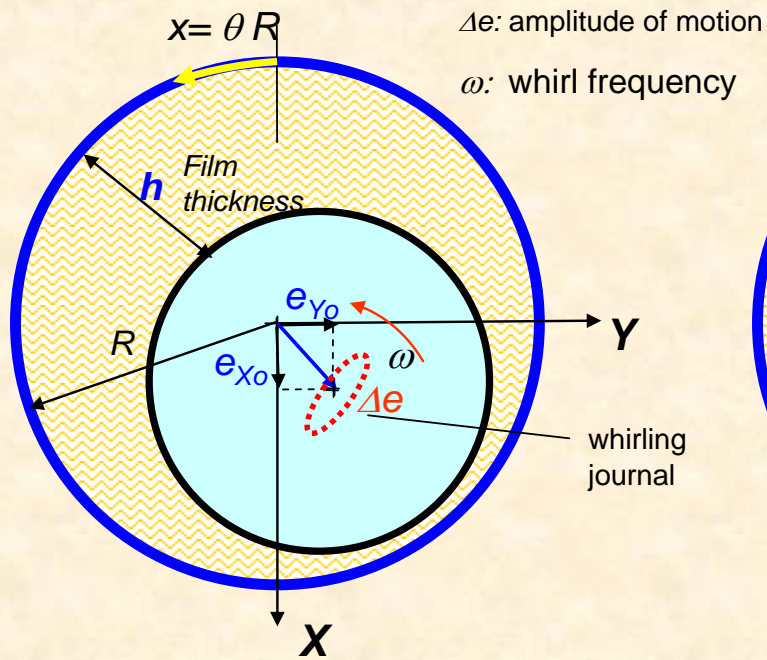
# Multiple-year test program

(2008- 2018)

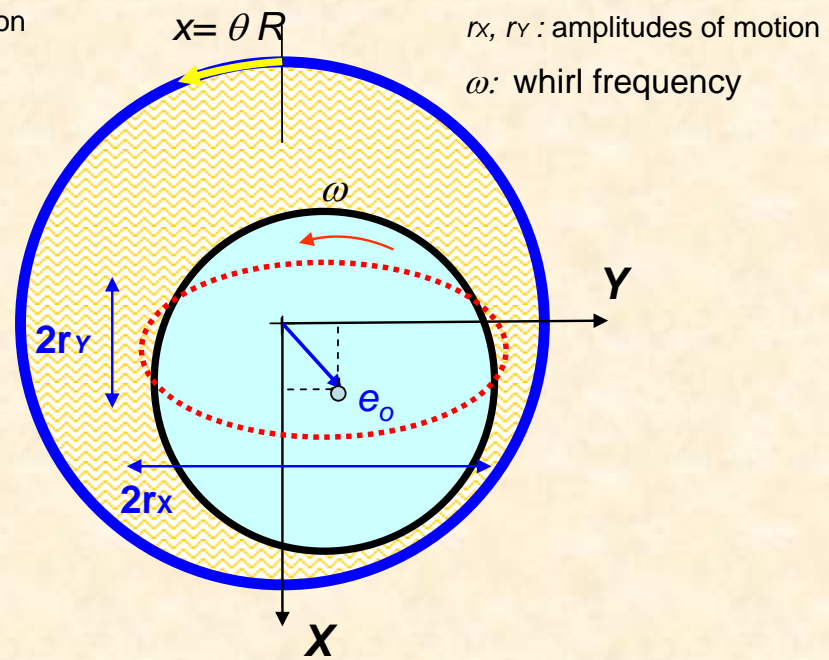
**Objective:**  
Optimize  
SFD  
influence on  
rotor  
dynamics.



# Types of induced motions



(a) small amplitude journal motions



(b) large amplitude journal motions

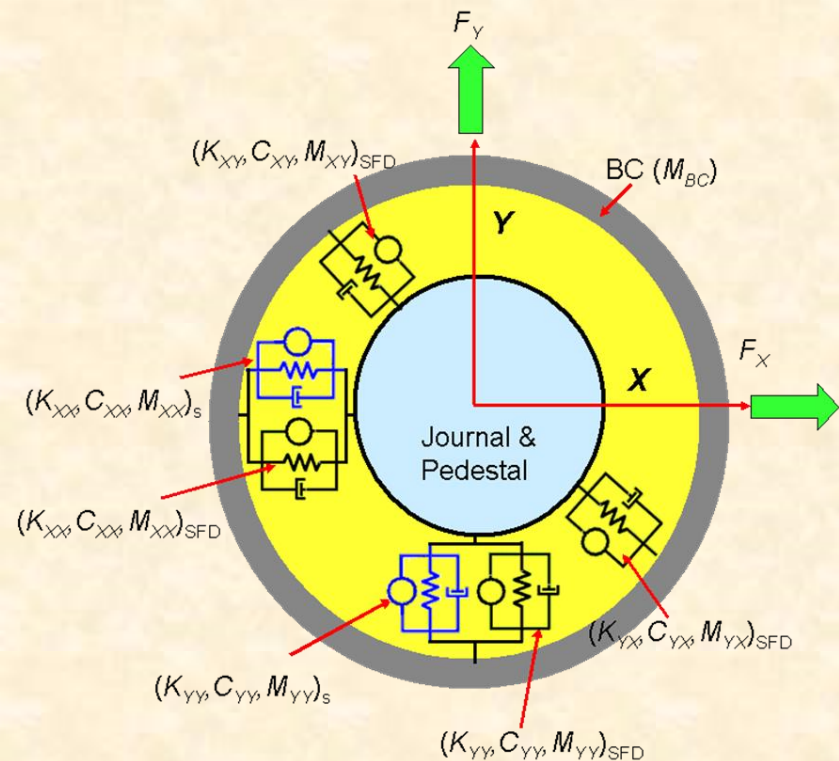
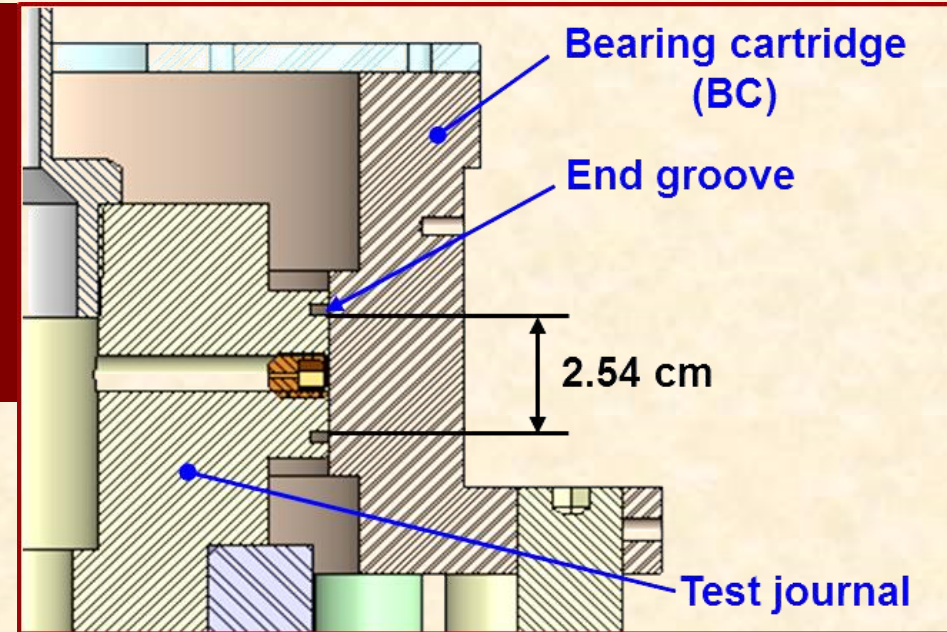
## Applications:

**K, C, M (force coefficients)**  
**RBS stability analysis**

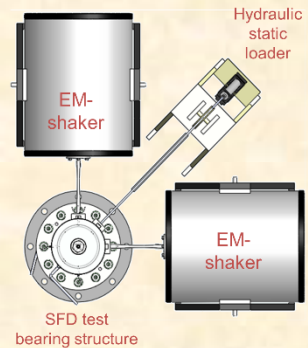
**$F_x, F_y$  (reaction forces)**  
**RBS imbalance response**



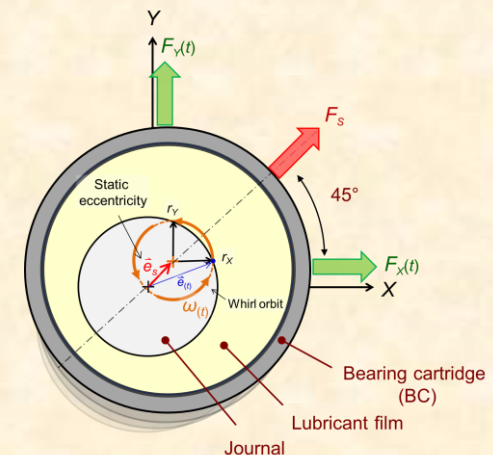
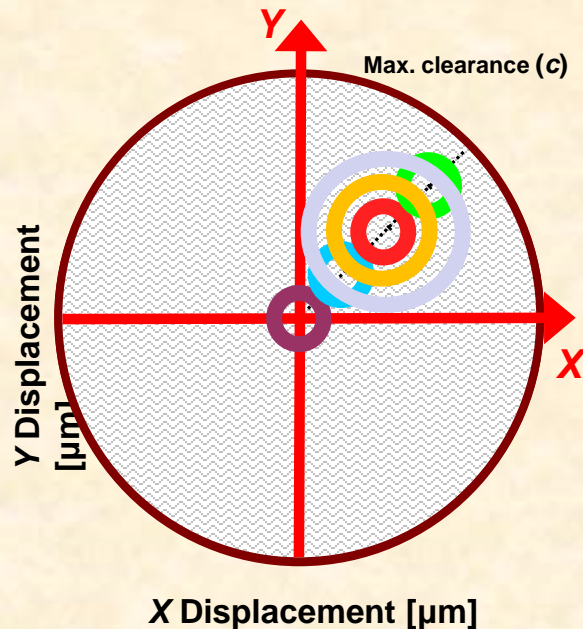
# Identification of SFD force coefficients



# Test procedure



Evaluate SFD force coefficients from  
**whirl orbits**: amplitude ( $r$ ) grows  
with offset or **static  
eccentricity** ( $e_s$ ) –  $45^\circ$  away.



# (1) Apply loads $\rightarrow$ record BC motions

Shakers apply forces

$$\mathbf{F}^1 = \text{Re} \left( \begin{bmatrix} F_X^1 \\ iF_Y^1 \end{bmatrix} e^{i\omega t} \right)$$

$$\mathbf{F}^2 = \text{Re} \left( \begin{bmatrix} F_X^2 \\ -iF_Y^2 \end{bmatrix} e^{i\omega t} \right)$$

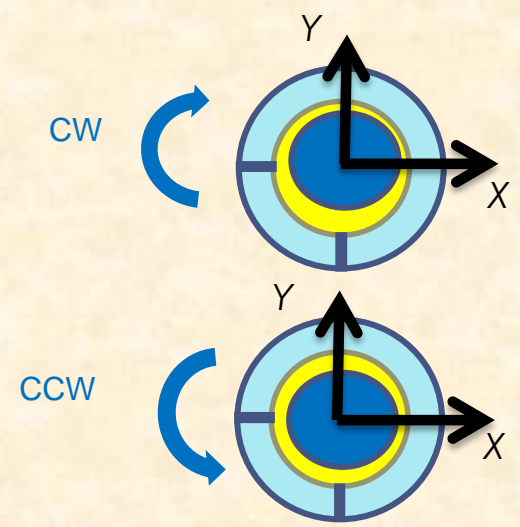
Record BC displacements and accelerations

$$\mathbf{z}^1 = \begin{bmatrix} x_{(t)}^1 \\ y_{(t)}^1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X^1 \\ Y^1 \end{bmatrix} e^{i\omega t}$$

$$\mathbf{z}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} x_{(t)}^2 \\ y_{(t)}^2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X^2 \\ Y^2 \end{bmatrix} e^{i\omega t}$$

$\mathbf{a}^1$

$\mathbf{a}^2$



Load  $\mathbf{F}_{(t)}$ , displacement  $\mathbf{z}_{(t)}$  and acceleration  $\mathbf{a}_{(t)}$  recorded at each frequency

**EOM: Frequency Domain**

$$[\mathbf{K}_L + i\omega\mathbf{C}_L - \omega^2\mathbf{M}_L]\bar{\mathbf{z}} = \bar{\mathbf{F}} - M_{BC}\bar{\mathbf{a}}$$

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{H}_L \mathbf{z}$$

**Unknown Parameters:**

$$\mathbf{K}_L, \mathbf{C}_L, \mathbf{M}_L$$



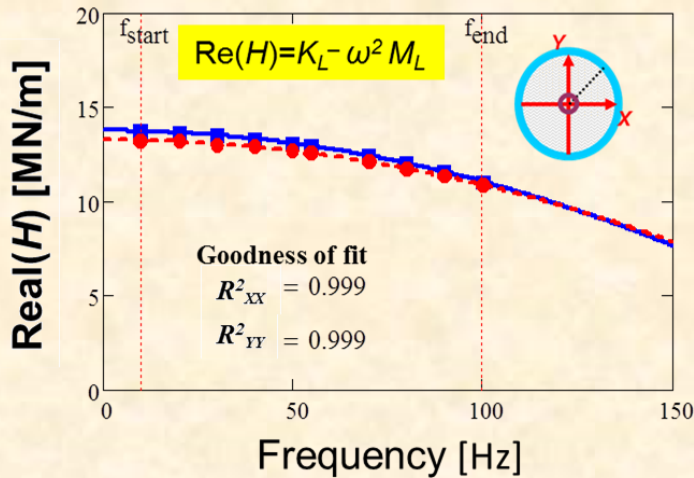
# Identification of parameters

## Step 2 : Transform to frequency domain and curve fit $H_L$ 's

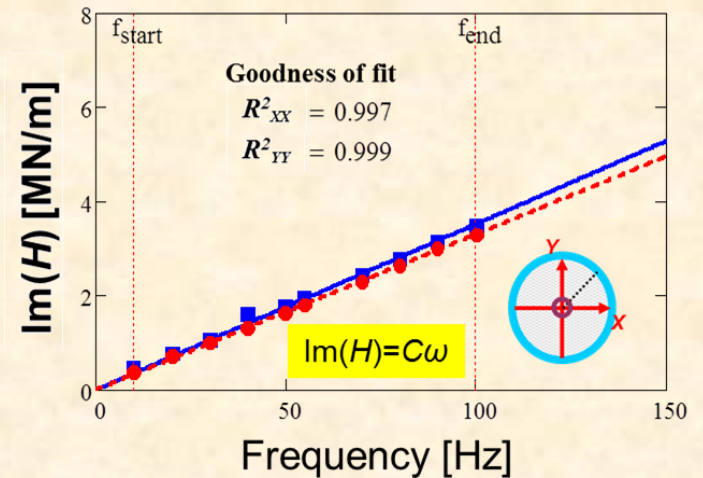
Complex dynamic stiffness

$$r/c_A = 0.2$$

$$\text{Re}([\bar{\mathbf{F}} - M_{BC}\bar{\mathbf{a}}]\bar{\mathbf{z}}^{-1}) \rightarrow \mathbf{K}_L - \omega^2 \mathbf{M}_L$$



$$\text{Im}([\bar{\mathbf{F}} - M_{BC}\bar{\mathbf{a}}]\bar{\mathbf{z}}^{-1}) \rightarrow \mathbf{C}_L \omega$$



Physical model  $\text{Re}(H_{xx}) \rightarrow K - \omega^2 M$  and  $\text{Im}(H_{xx}) \rightarrow C\omega$  agree well with experimental data.  
 Damping  $C$  is constant over frequency range



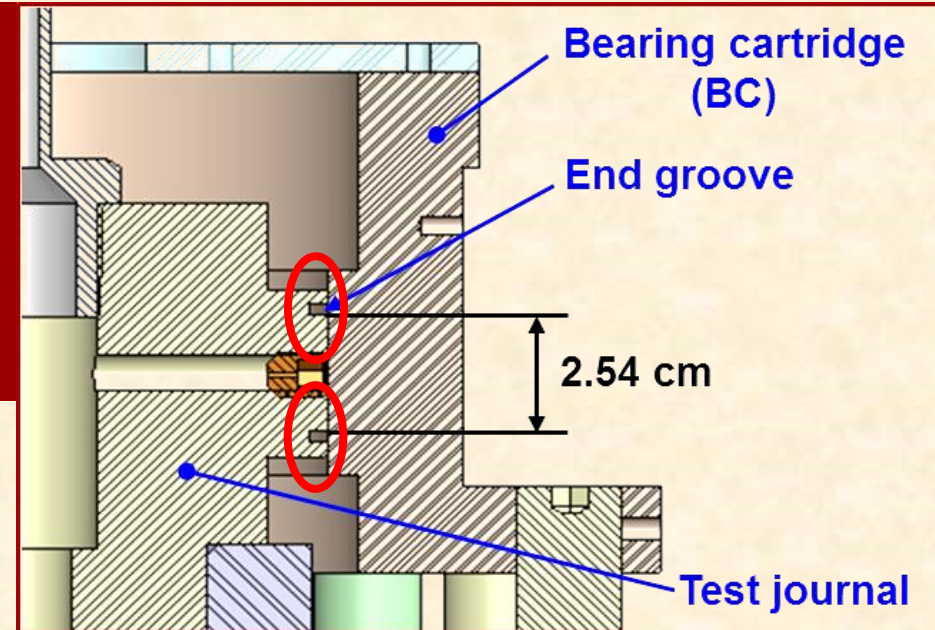
SFD coefficients

$$(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{M})_{\text{SFD}} = (\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{M})_L - (\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{M})_S$$

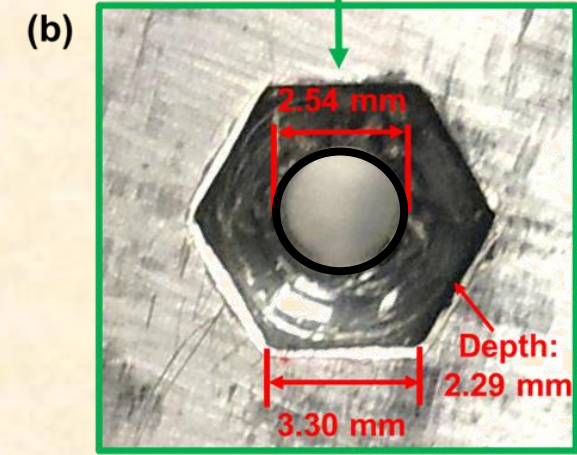
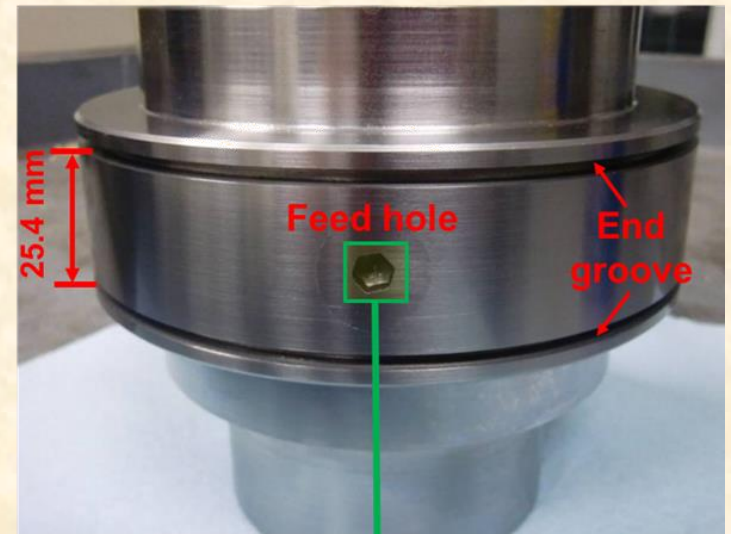
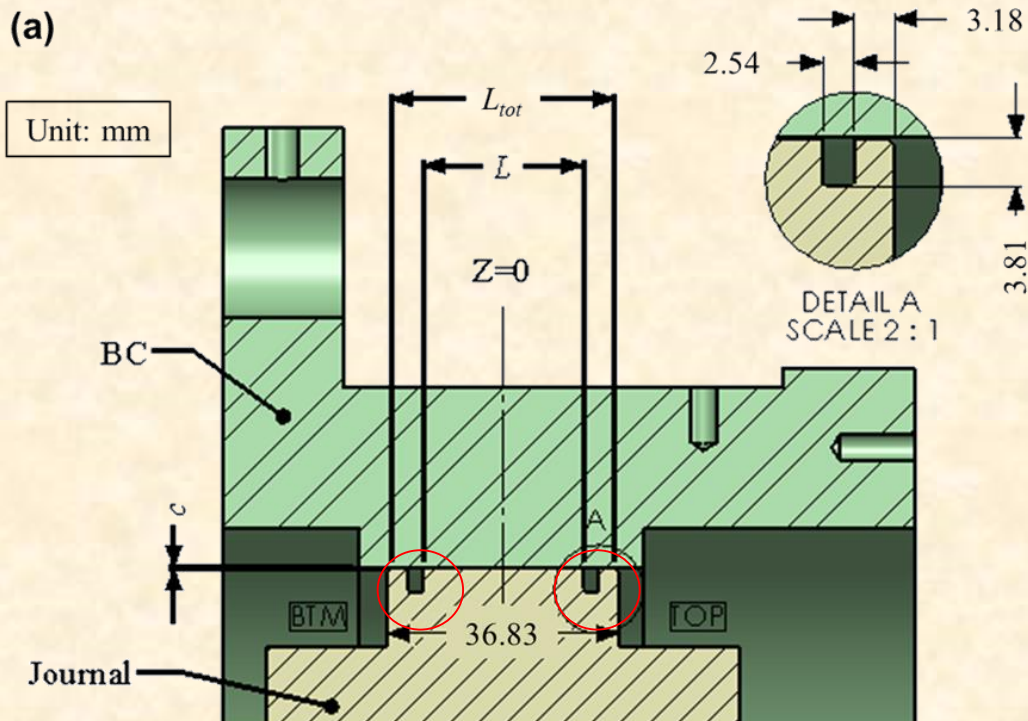
↑ SFD
↑ Test system (lubricated)
↑ Dry structure

# Force coefficients for two open ends SFDs

1 inch land ( $L/D=0.20$ )  
 $c$ =small (5 mil) & large (10 mil)



# SFD test bearing and film geometry



| Geometry of SFD                        | A                | B     |
|--|------------------|-------|
| Film land length, $L$ (mm)             | 25.4             |       |
| Radial clearance, $c_A, c_B$ (mm)      | 0.129            | 0.254 |
| End grooves: depth $\times$ width (mm) | 3.8 $\times$ 2.5 |       |
| Total wetted length, $L_{tot}$ (mm)    | 36.8             |       |

## Evaluate SFD force coefficients from

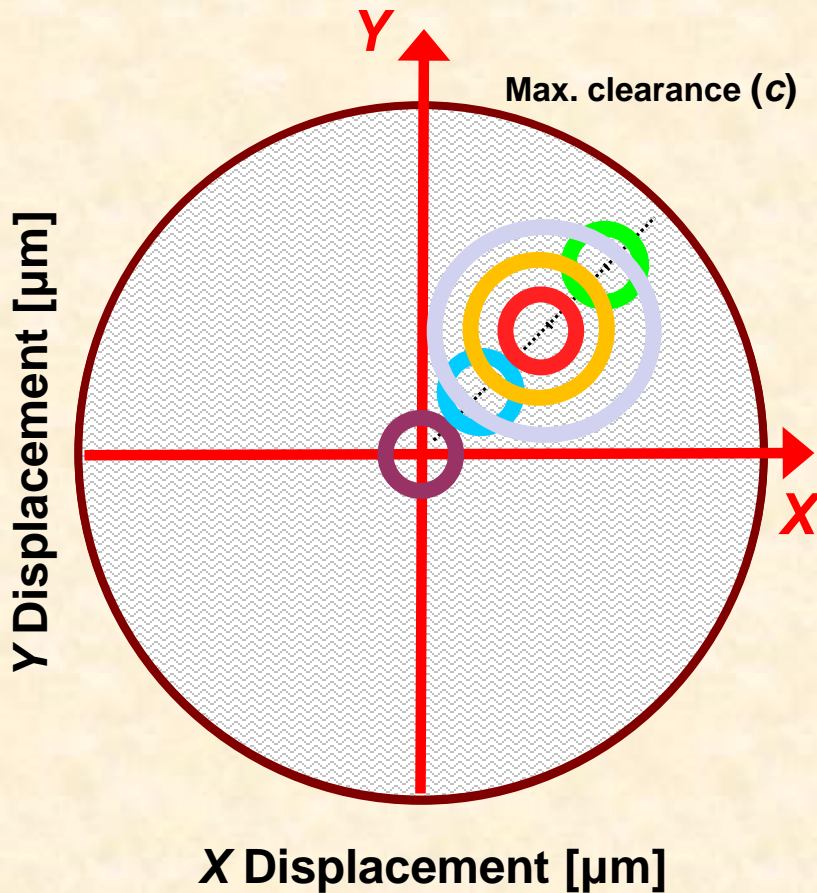
**circular orbits:**

amplitude ( $r$ ) grows.

with offset or **static**

**eccentricity** ( $e_s$ ) – 45°

away from X-Y axes.




| Operating condition                         | Damper A<br>0.129 mm | Damper B<br>0.254 mm |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Whirl amplitude $r$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )       | 6.4 - 76             | 38 - 190             |
| Static eccentricity $e_s$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) | 0 - 63               | 0 - 190              |
| Max. squeeze film Reynolds No. ( $Re_s$ )   | 8.4                  | 11.9                 |

Squeeze film Reynolds #  $\Rightarrow Re_s = \frac{\rho \omega c^2}{\mu}$

# Normalization of force coefficients

**Force coefficients** normalized to magnitudes from **classical formulas** (prior slide):


$$\bar{C} = C / C^* \quad \bar{M} = M / M^*$$

**Damper A**

$$c_A = 0.129 \text{ mm}$$

$$C^*_A = 6.01 \text{ kN.s/m}, \quad M^*_A = 2.69 \text{ kg}$$

**Damper B**

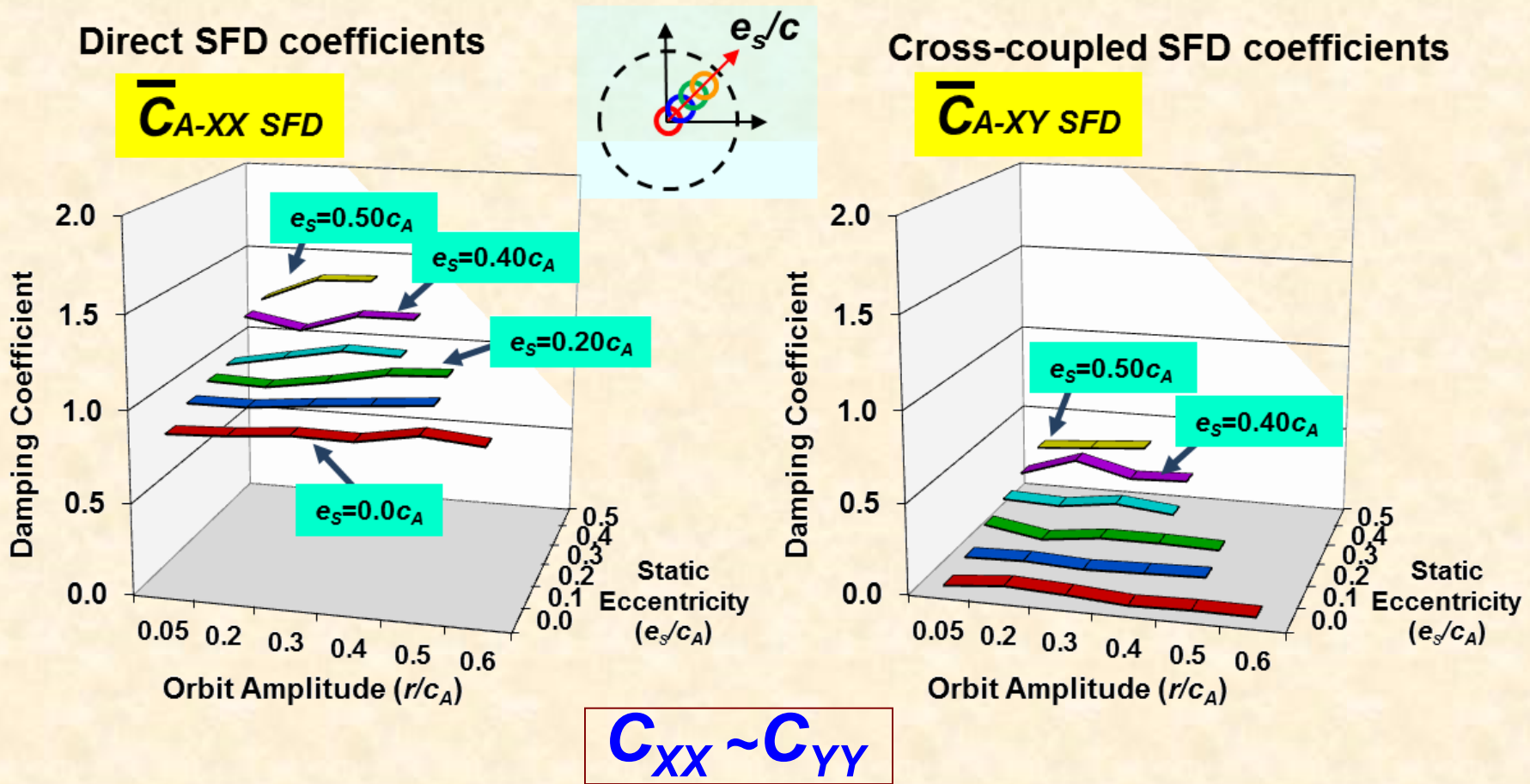
$$c_B = 0.254 \text{ mm}$$

$$C^*_B = 0.95 \text{ kN.s/m}, \quad M^*_B = 1.37 \text{ kg}$$

$\bar{C} \sim 1$  &  $\bar{M} \sim 1$  denote one to one agreement with predictive formulas.



# Damper A ( $c_A = 129 \mu\text{m}$ ) – damping coeffs.



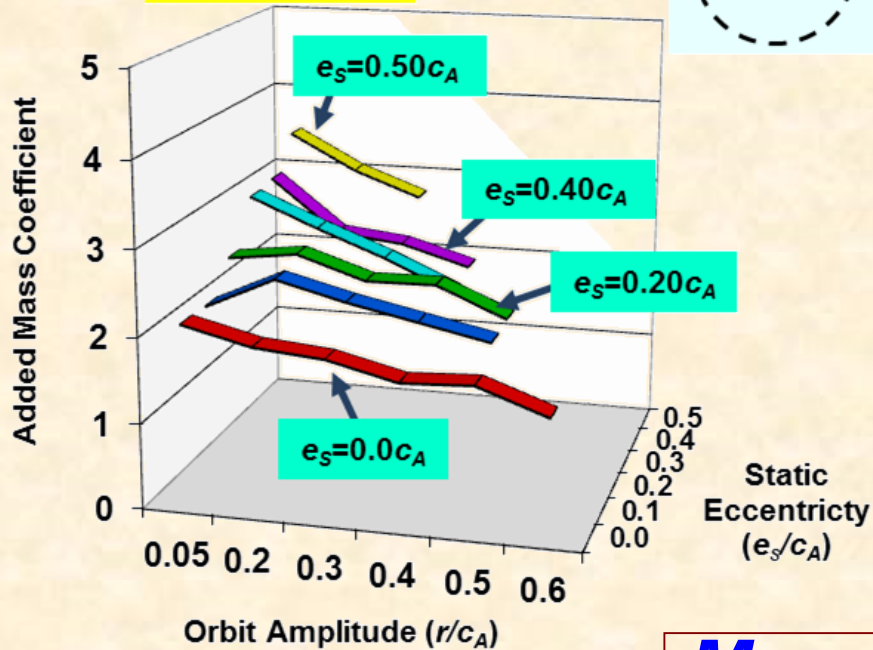
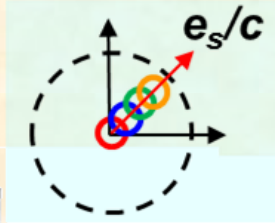
**Findings:** Damping coefficients increase with increasing orbit amplitude and static eccentricity. At  $r/c_A \leq 0.2$ ,  $\bar{C}_{A-XX} \sim 0.85$  denotes  $L_{eff}$  is too long.



# Damper A ( $c_A = 129 \mu\text{m}$ ) added mass coeffs.

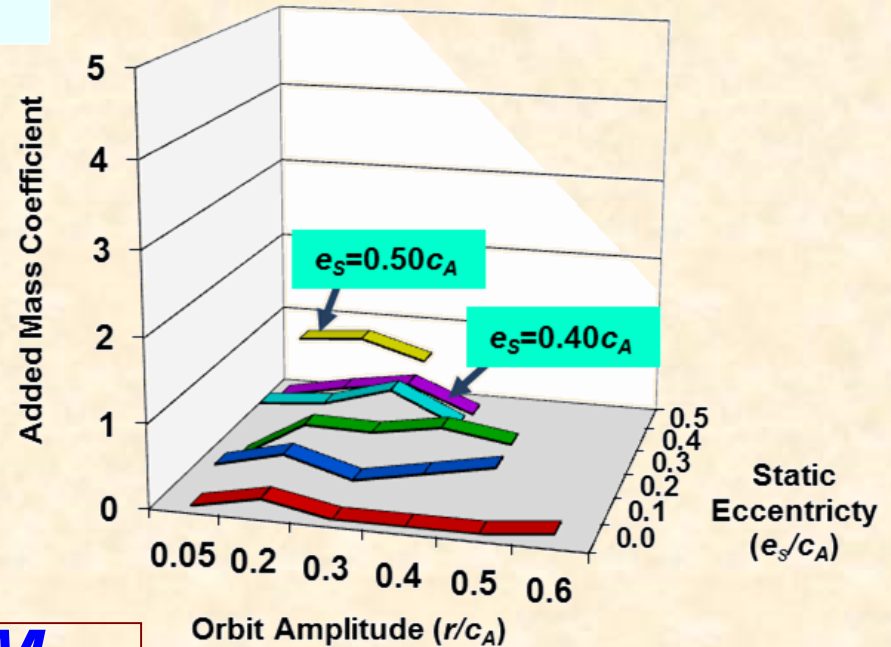
Direct SFD coefficients

$\bar{M}_{A-XX}$  SFD



Cross-coupled SFD coefficients

$\bar{M}_{A-XY}$  SFD



$$M_{XX} \sim M_{YY}$$

**Findings:** Added mass coefficients increase with increasing static eccentricity; but decrease with increasing orbit amplitude. Theory under predicts inertia coefficient, even for small amplitude motions.

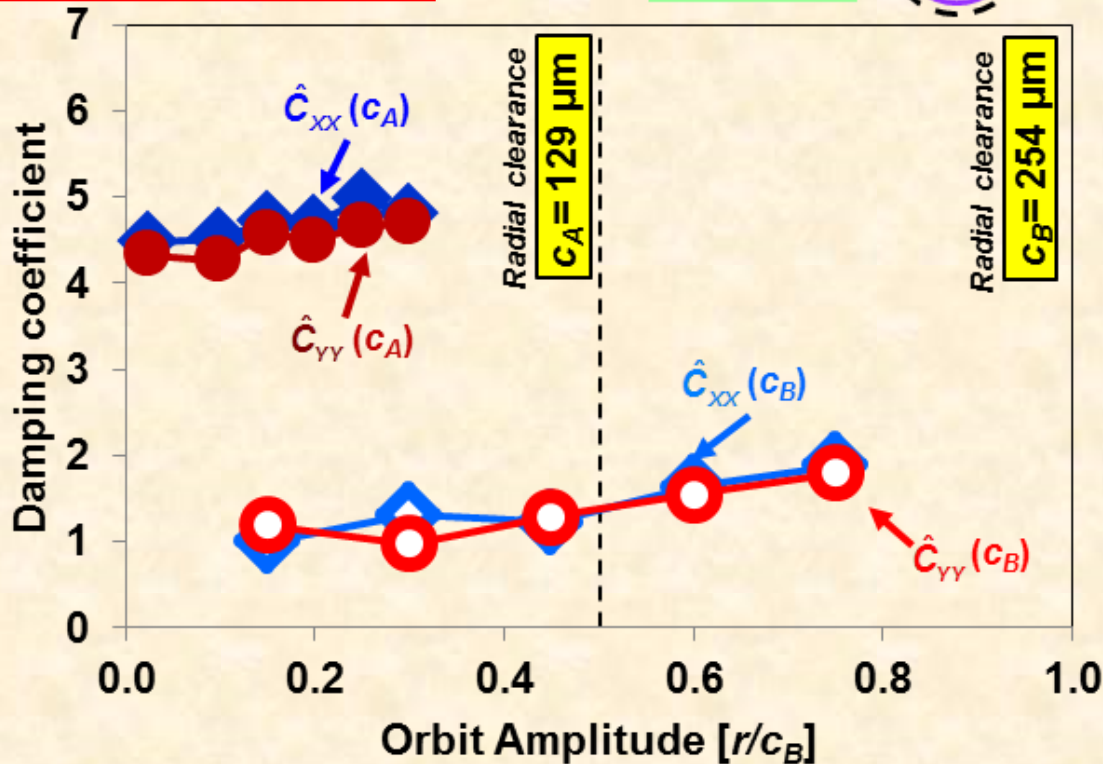
# Compare **damping** coeffs. of two dampers

$$\hat{C} = \frac{C}{C_{B(r/c_B=0.15)}}$$

$$e_s/c=0$$



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Damper A</b><br>$c_A=0.129 \text{ mm}$ | <b>Damper B</b><br>$c_B=0.254 \text{ mm}$ |
|---|---|



Recall  $\rightarrow C \sim \mu \left(\frac{1}{c}\right)^3$

$$\left(\frac{c_B}{c_A}\right)^3 \left(\frac{\mu_A}{\mu_B}\right) = \left(\frac{0.25}{0.13}\right)^3 \left(\frac{2.5}{2.7}\right) = 6.9$$

**Damping coefficients** for small film clearance ( $c_A$ ) damper are **~4 times larger** than the coefficients obtained with larger clearance ( $c_B$ ) SFD.

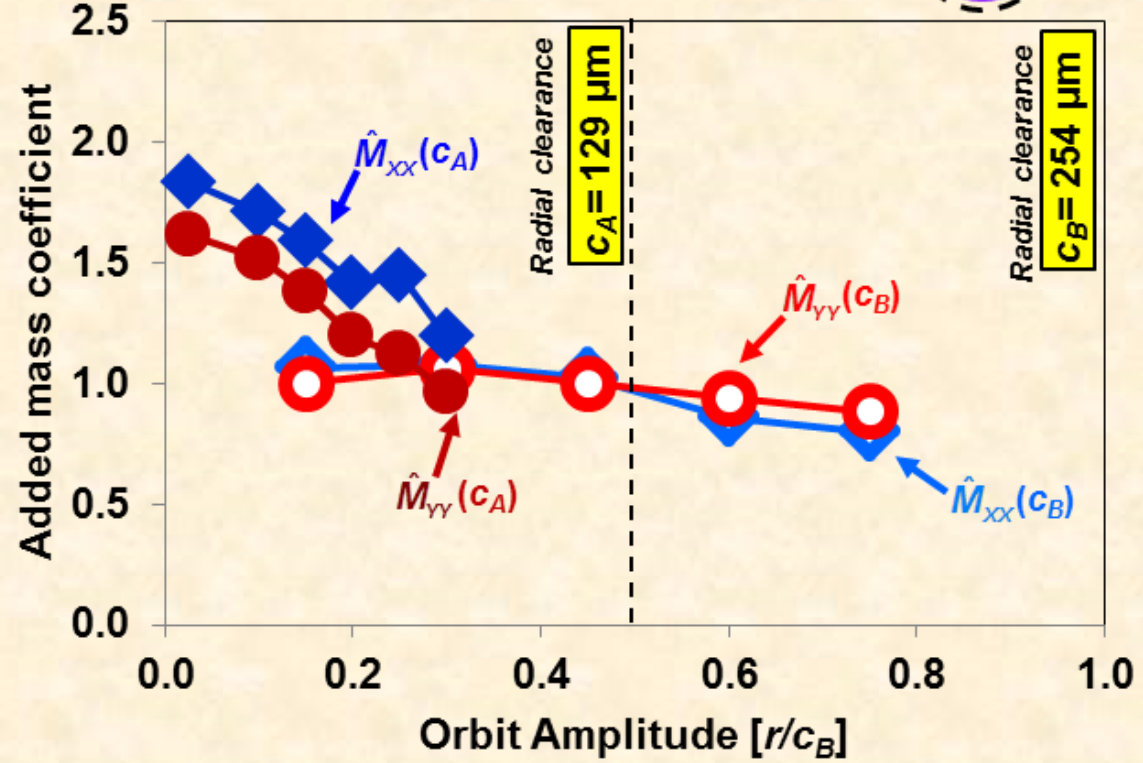
# Compare **inertia** coeffs. of two dampers

$$\hat{M} = M / M_{B(r/c_B=0.15)}$$

$$e_s/c=0$$



|                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Damper A<br>$c_A=0.129 \text{ mm}$ | Damper B<br>$c_B=0.254 \text{ mm}$ |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|



Recall  $\rightarrow M \sim \left(\frac{1}{c}\right)$

$$\left(\frac{c_B}{c_A}\right) = \left(\frac{0.25}{0.13}\right) = 1.96$$

**Added mass coefficients** for the small film clearance ( $c_A$ ) damper are **~1.8 times higher** than the coefficients obtained with larger clearance ( $c_B$ ) SFD.

# Closure I: open ends SFD with end grooves

From circular orbit tests

Damper A  
 $c_A=0.129$  mm

Damper B  
 $c_B=0.254$  mm

- (a) **Dynamic pressures** in the end **grooves** are not null.
- (b) For both dampers, **direct damping** coefficients do not show great sensitivity to the size of the orbit radius ( $r$ ).
- (c) **Inertia** coefficients for the large clearance damper B are **insensitive** to orbit amplitude ( $r$ ), while small clearance damper A shows added masses **decreasing** with an orbit size ( $r$ ).

**End grooves lead to a significant squeeze film action that must be carefully characterized.**



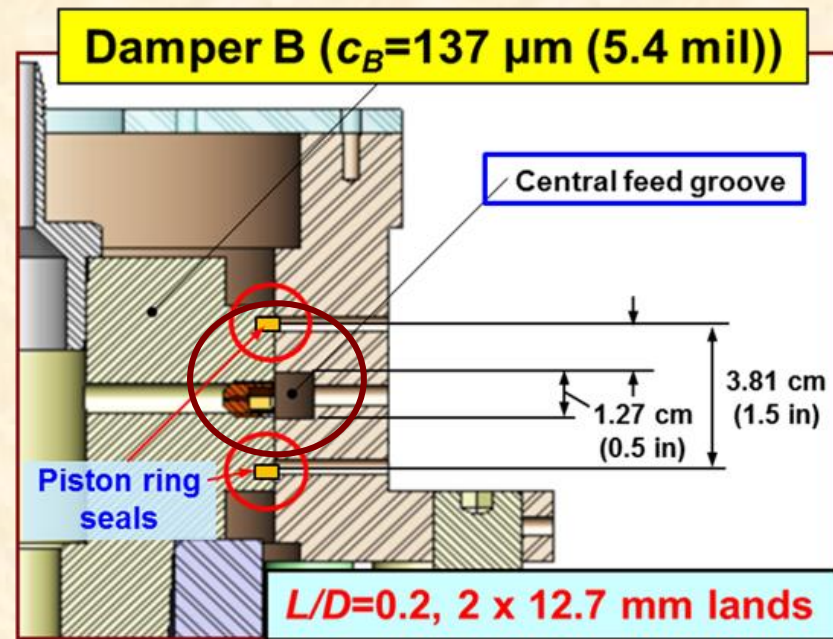
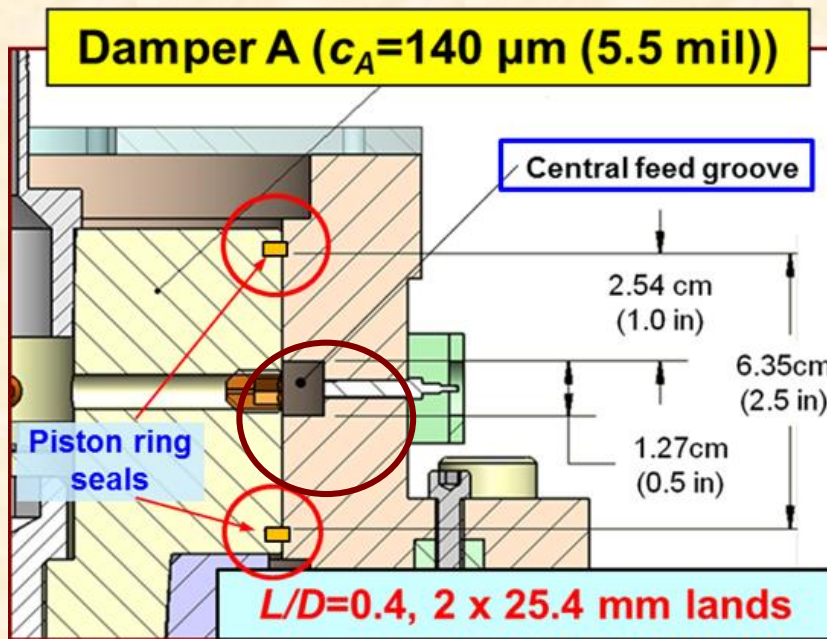
$$L_{tot} > L_{eff} > L$$

# SFD force coefficients

## Comparison between short and long open ends dampers with a central groove

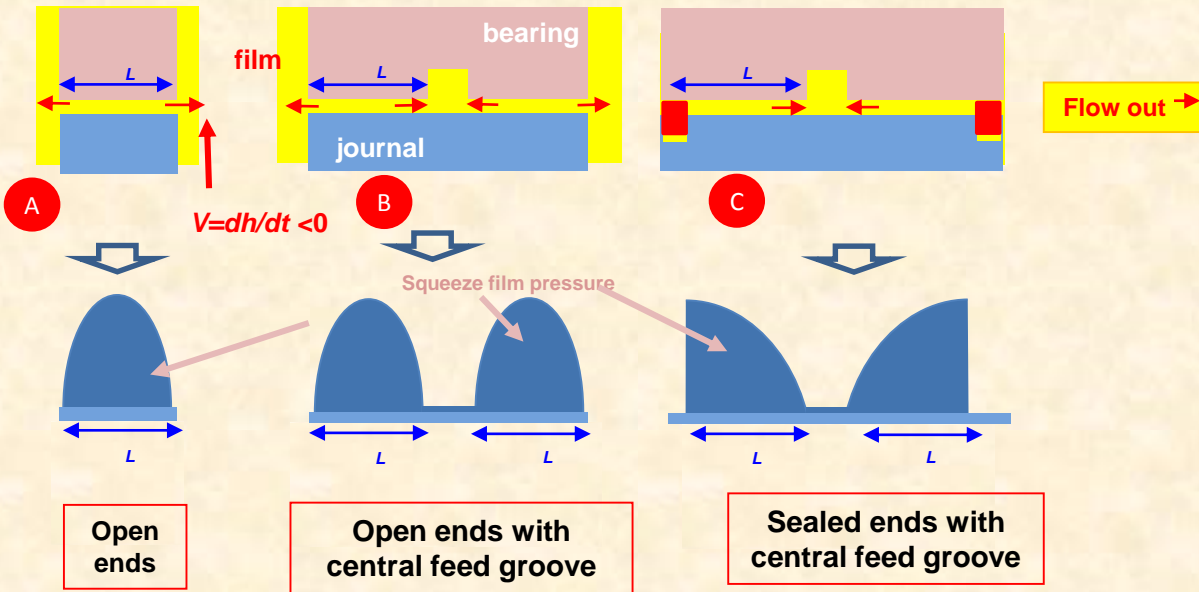
Long: 2 x 25.4 mm lands

Short: 2 x 12.7 mm lands





# Generation of dynamic pressure in film and groove



Does a central groove isolate a damper into two independent halves?

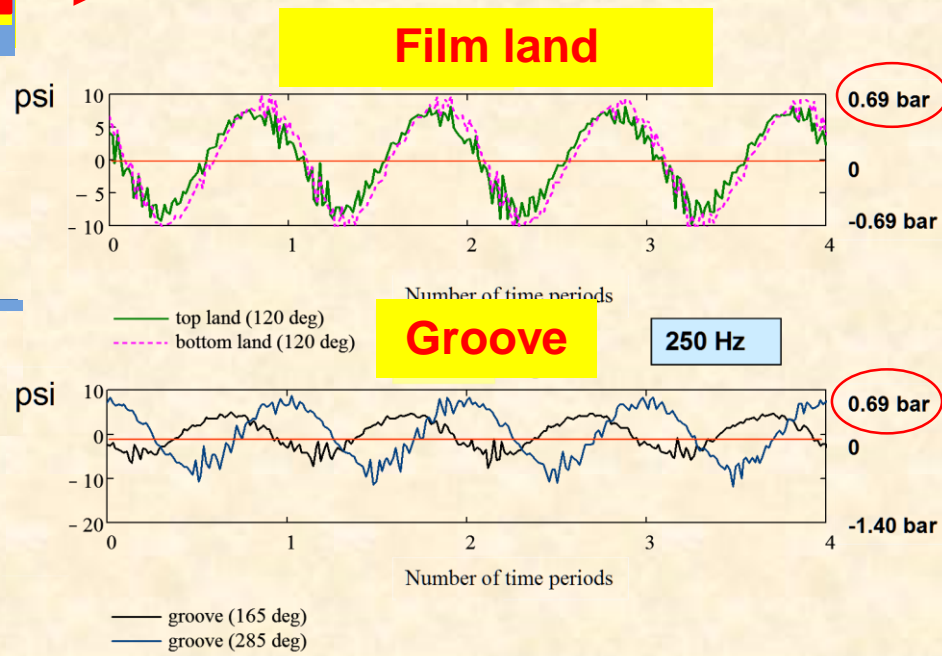
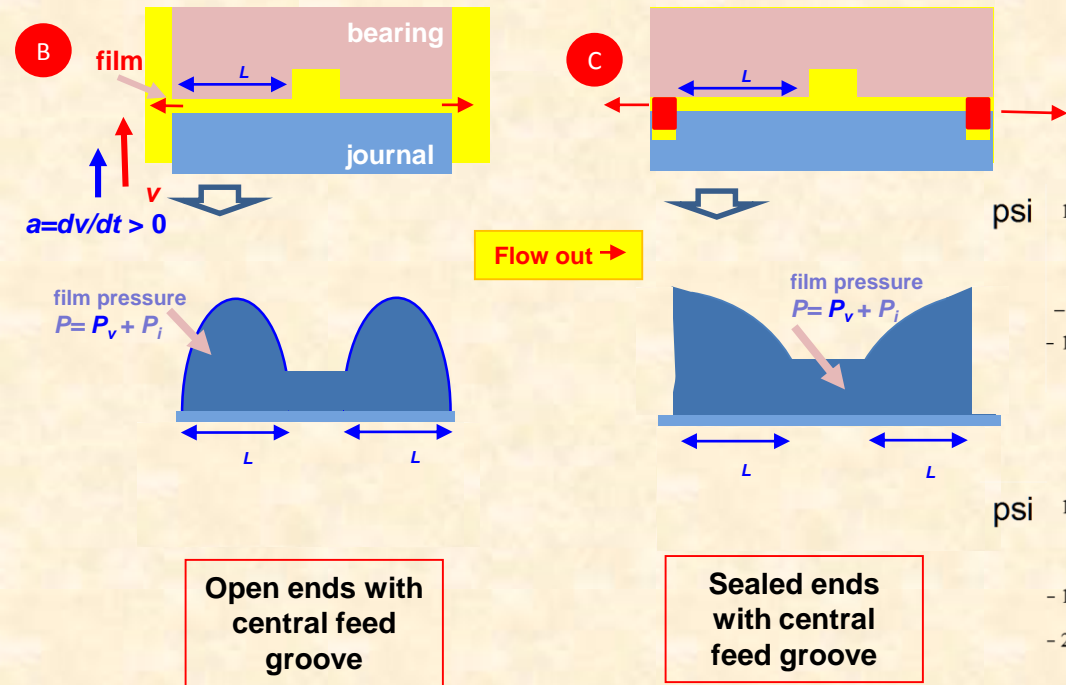
**Conventional knowledge:**  
A groove has constant pressure



# Generation of dynamic pressure

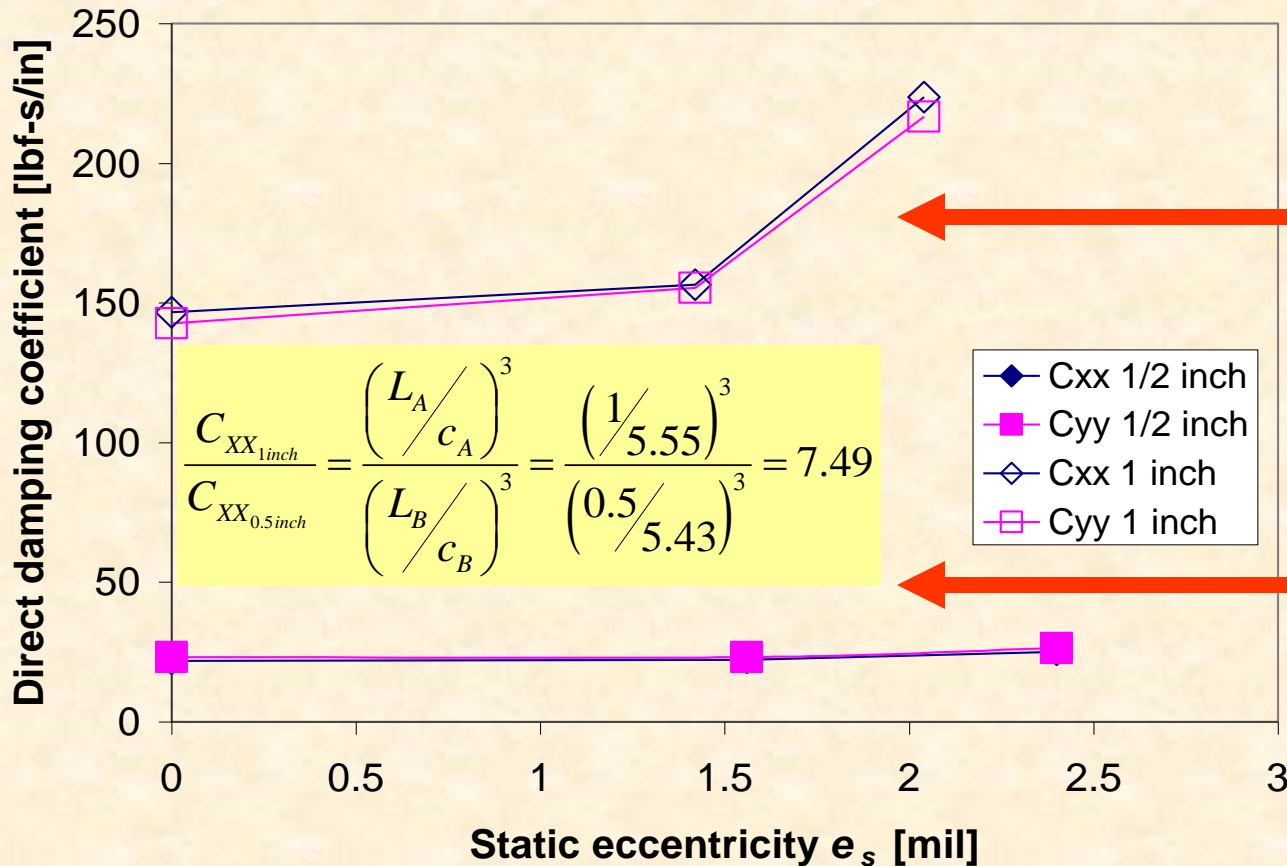
**Measured:**

Does a central groove isolate a damper into two independent halves?



**No! grooves lead to a significant squeeze film (pressure) action**

# compare SFD damping



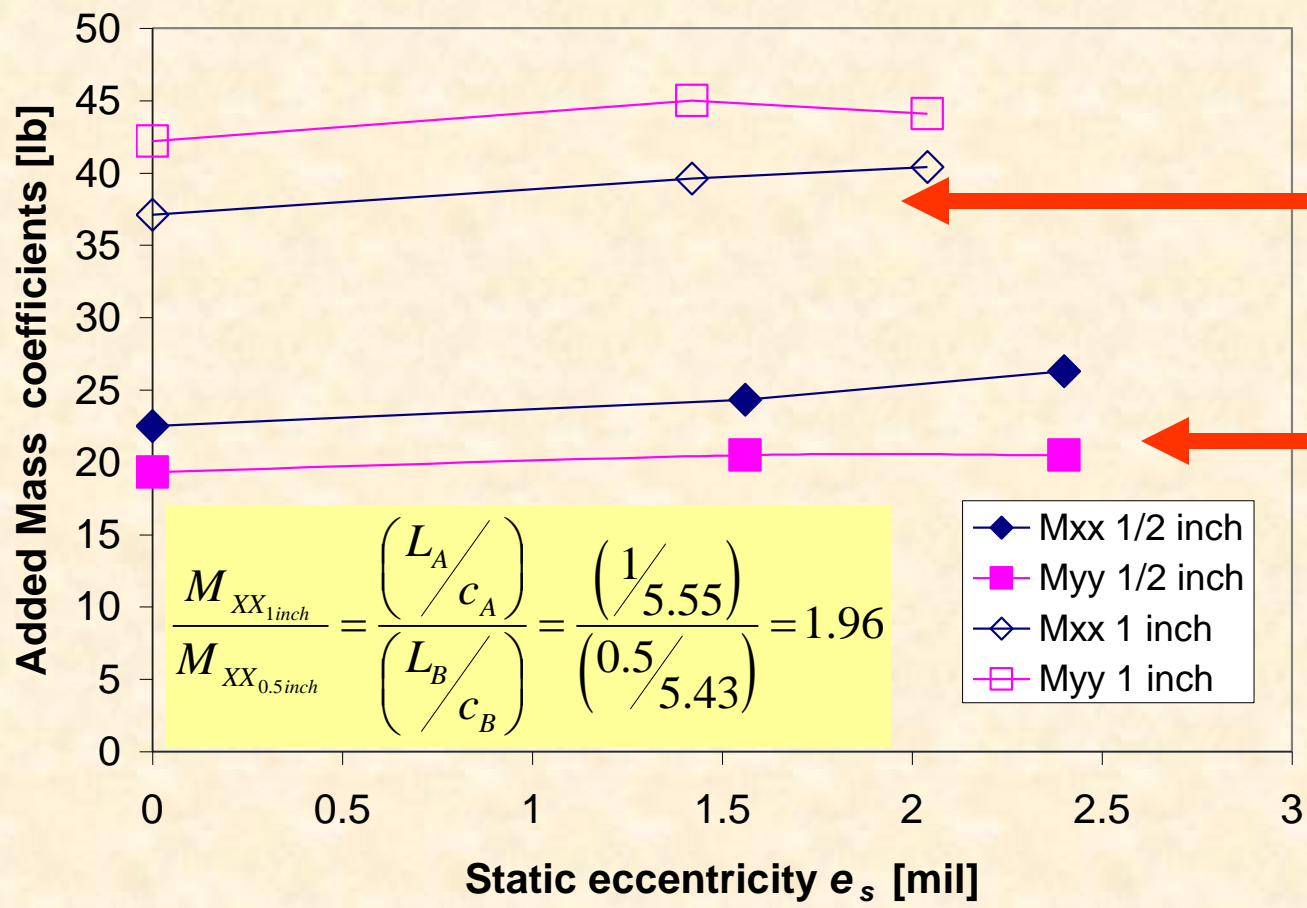
$C_{XX} \sim C_{YY}$   
Long ( $L=1$  inch)

$C_{XX} \sim C_{YY}$   
Short ( $L=0.5$  inch)

Ratio of coefficients  $\sim (L/c^3)$

Long and short SFDs (circular orbits)

# compare SFD inertia



$M_{XX}, M_{YY}$   
Long ( $L=1$  inch)

$M_{XX}, M_{YY}$   
Short ( $L=0.5$  inch)

Ratio of coefficients  $\sim (L/c)$

Long and short SFDs (circular orbits)

# Closure II: Long vs short SFDs

Open ends long damper shows ~ 7 times more damping than short length damper. Inertia coefficients are two times larger.

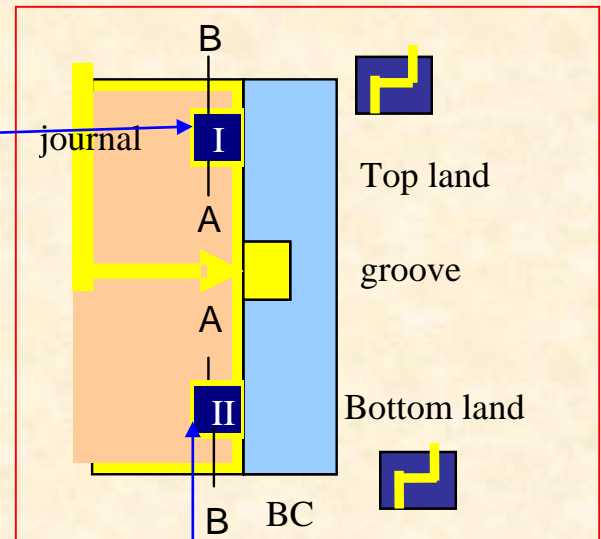
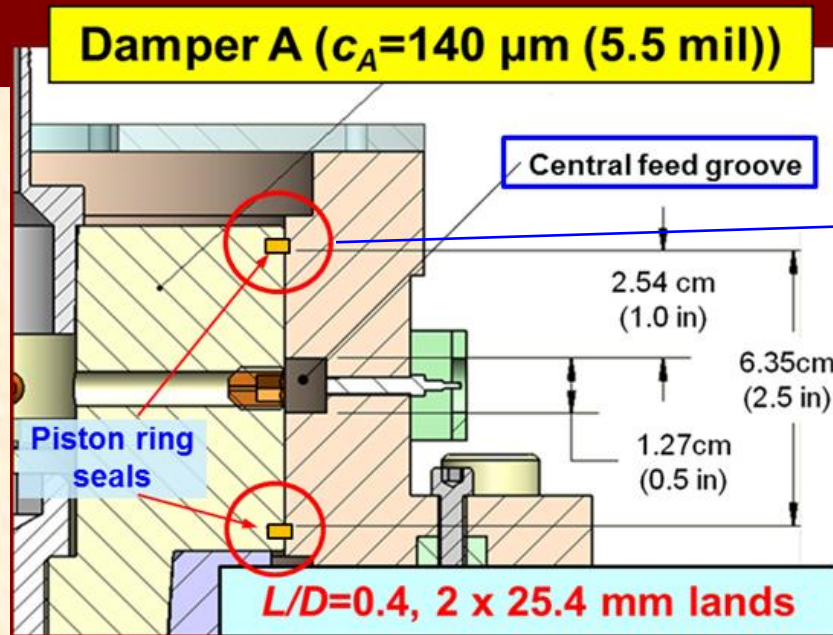
SFD force coefficients are more a function of static eccentricity (max. 2 mil) than amplitude of whirl & changing little with ellipticity of orbit.

For all damper configurations and most test conditions: cross-coupled damping and inertia force coefficients are a small fraction of the direct force coefficients.

# Experimental SFD force coefficients

## Comparison open ends & sealed ends long

### (1") SFD

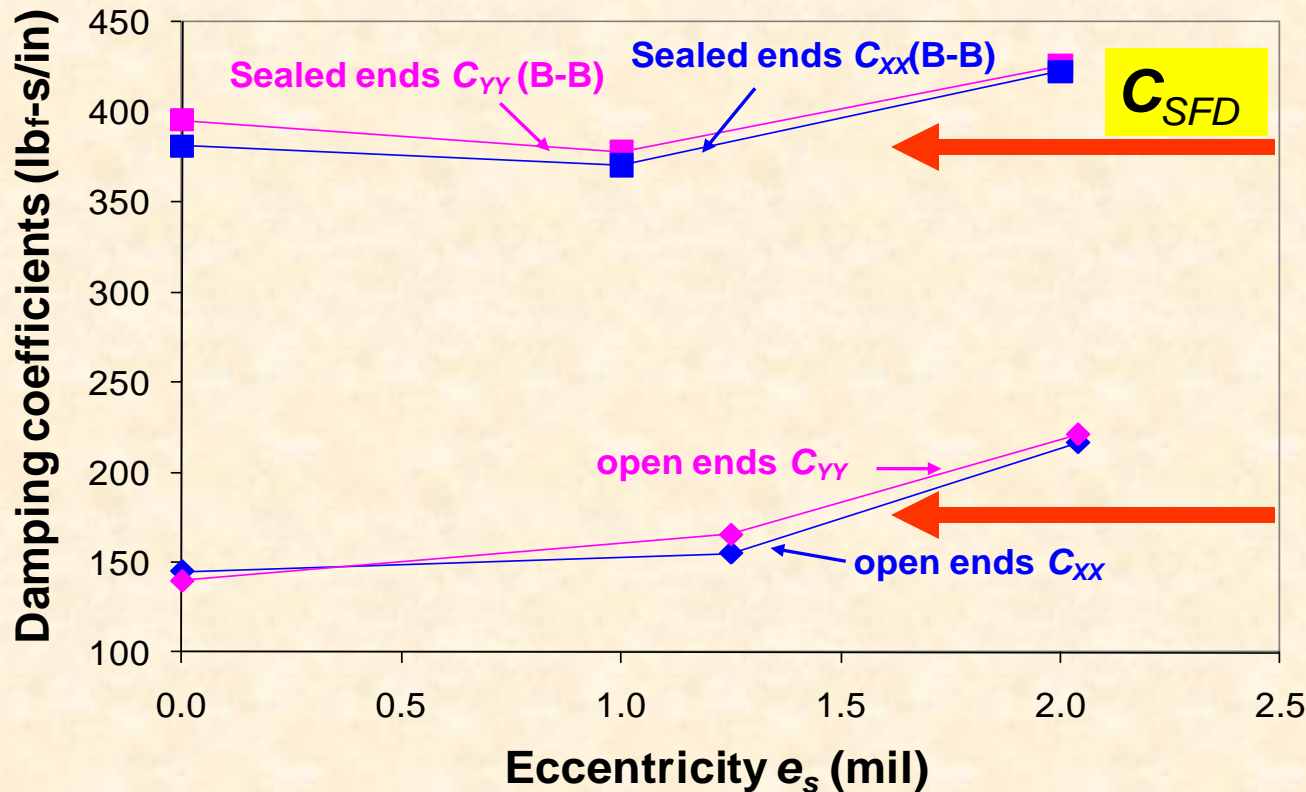




# compare SFD damping

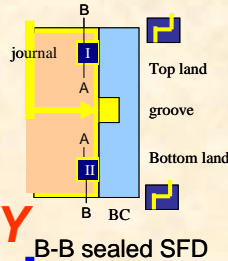
SFD (1 inch land lengths)

*circular orbits*



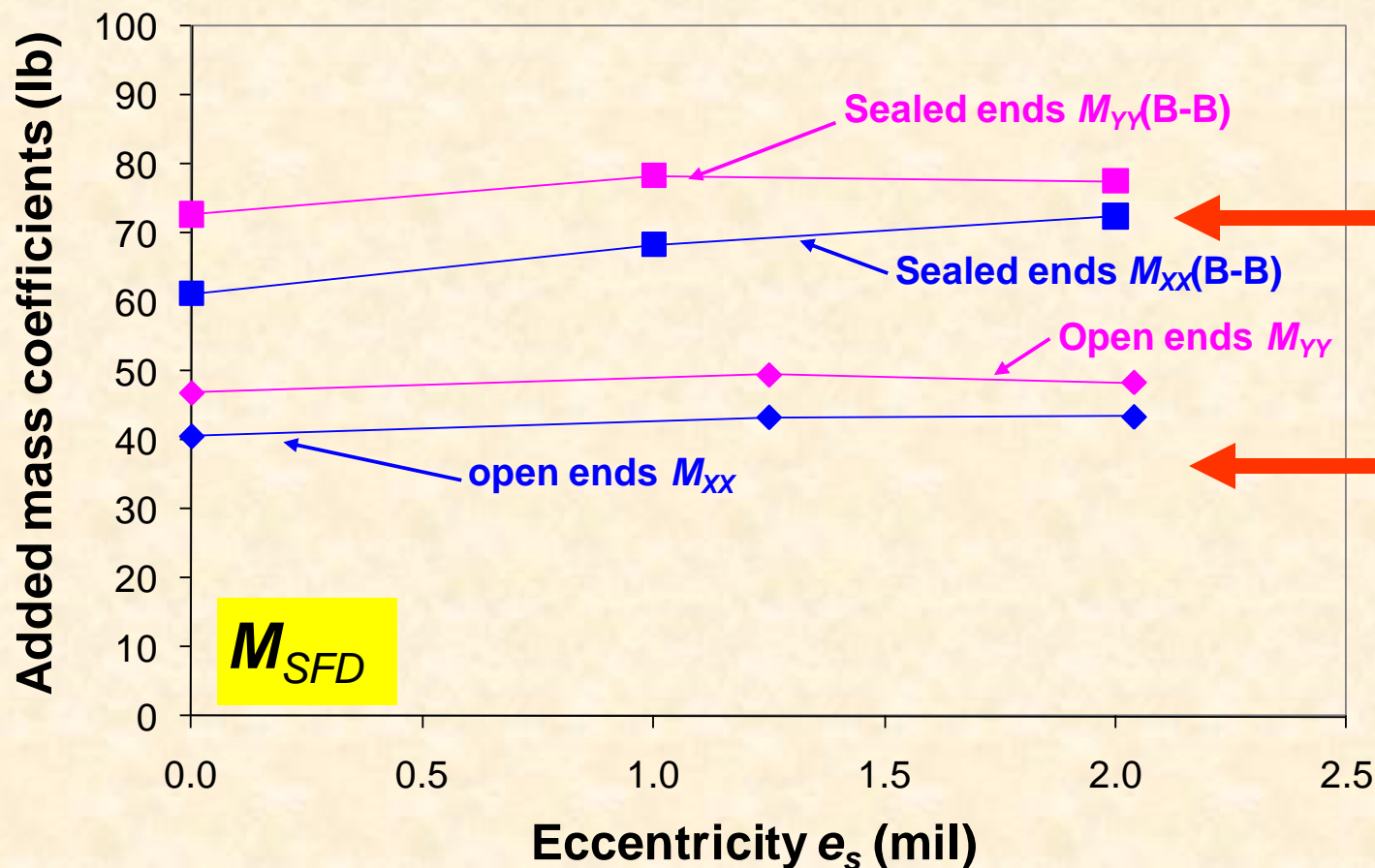
$C_{XX} \sim C_{YY}$   
Sealed ends

$C_{XX} \sim C_{YY}$   
Open ends



Open ends vs sealed ends (circular orbits)

# compare SFD inertia



Open ends vs sealed ends (circular orbits)

# Closure III: Open vs Sealed SFDS

**Sealed ends** long damper has ~ 3 times more damping than open ends damper. Inertia coefficients are twice as large.

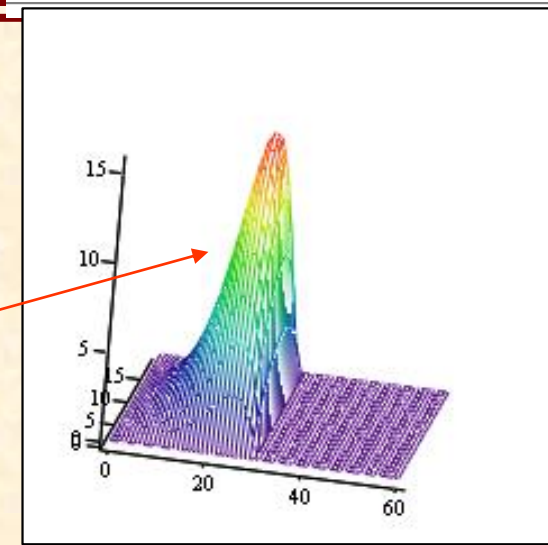
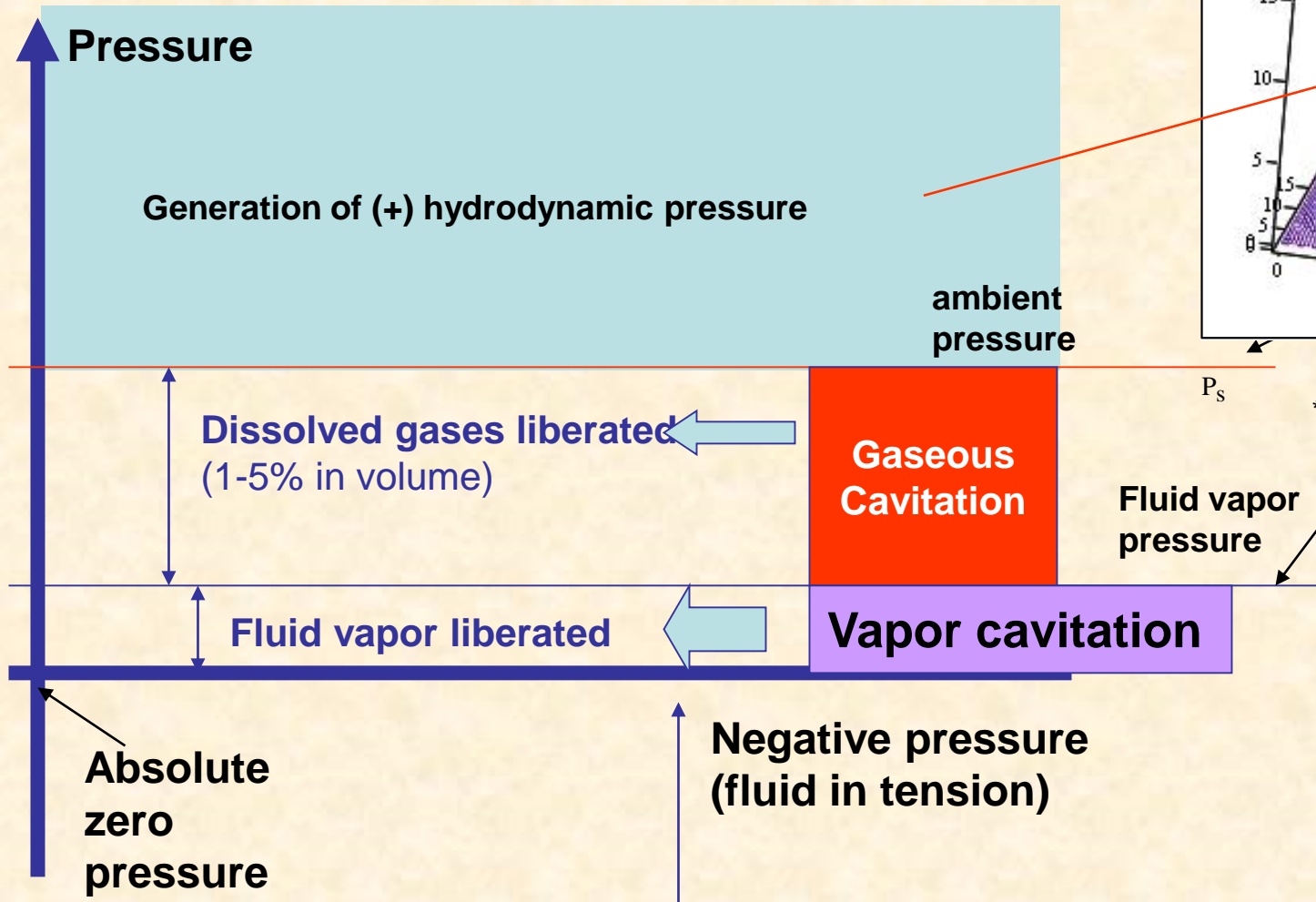
SFD force coefficients are more a function of static eccentricity (max. 2 mil) than amplitude of whirl and changing little with ellipticity of orbit

**Proper installation of piston rings is crucial for adequate sealing.**

# Oil cavitation **OR** air ingestion in SFDs?



# Cavitation in liquid bearings

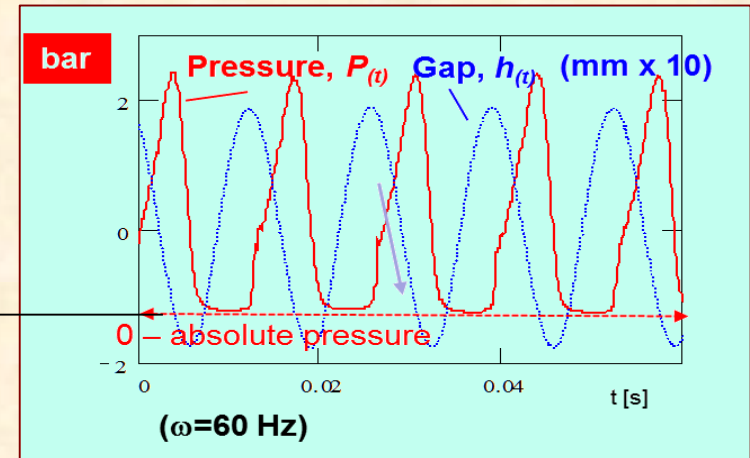




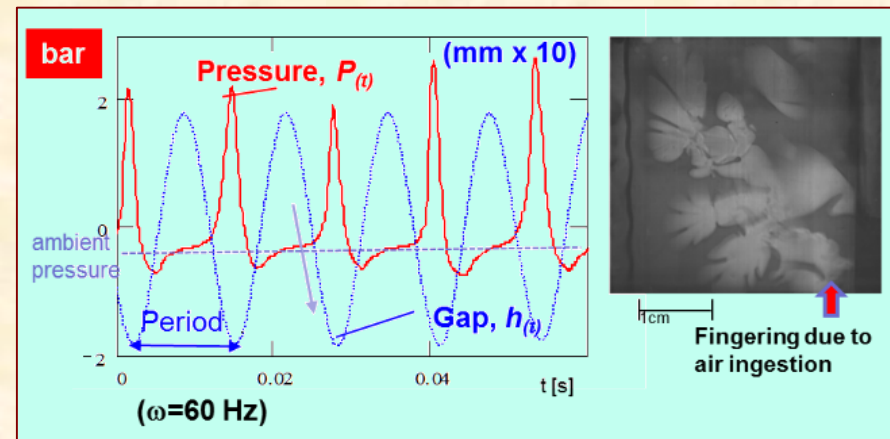
# Lubricant cavitation vs. air ingestion in SFDs

**Gas cavitation:** Cavitation bubble, containing released **dissolved gas** in lubricant, appears steady in a rotating frame.

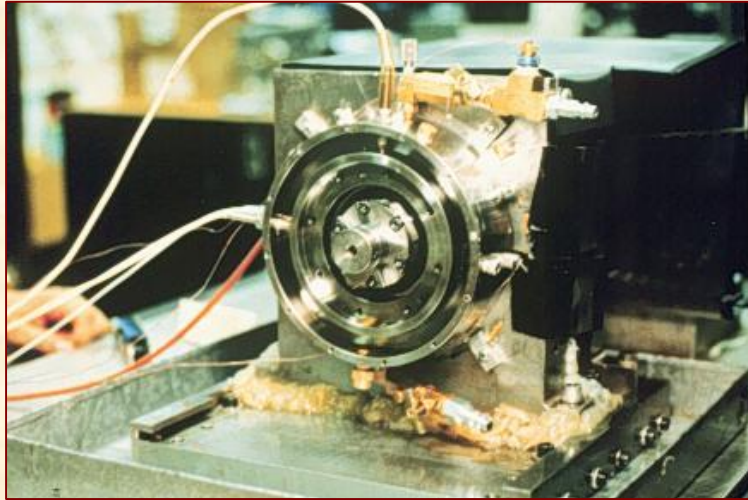
**Lubricant vapor cavitation:** A **constant pressure zone** at nearly zero absolute pressure.



**Air ingestion & entrapment:** When the gap opens, **air is drawn** to fill an empty volume.

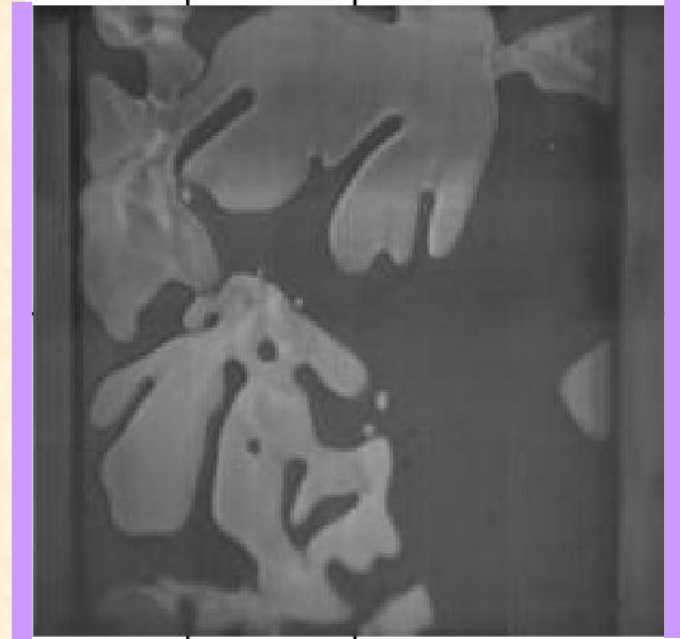


# SFD flow visualization of air ingestion



Instances of air entrainment (fingering) and foam formation at damper exit (open end)

Sealed End



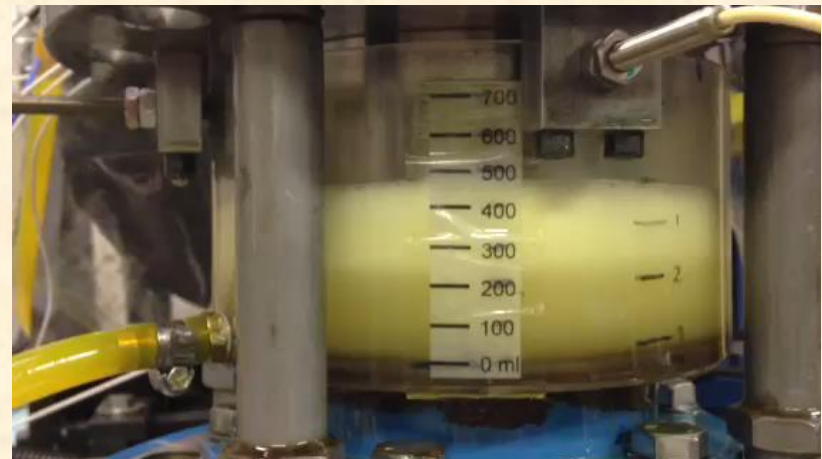
Click above figure to watch video

# SFD Operation Issue

## Air ingestion and entrapment

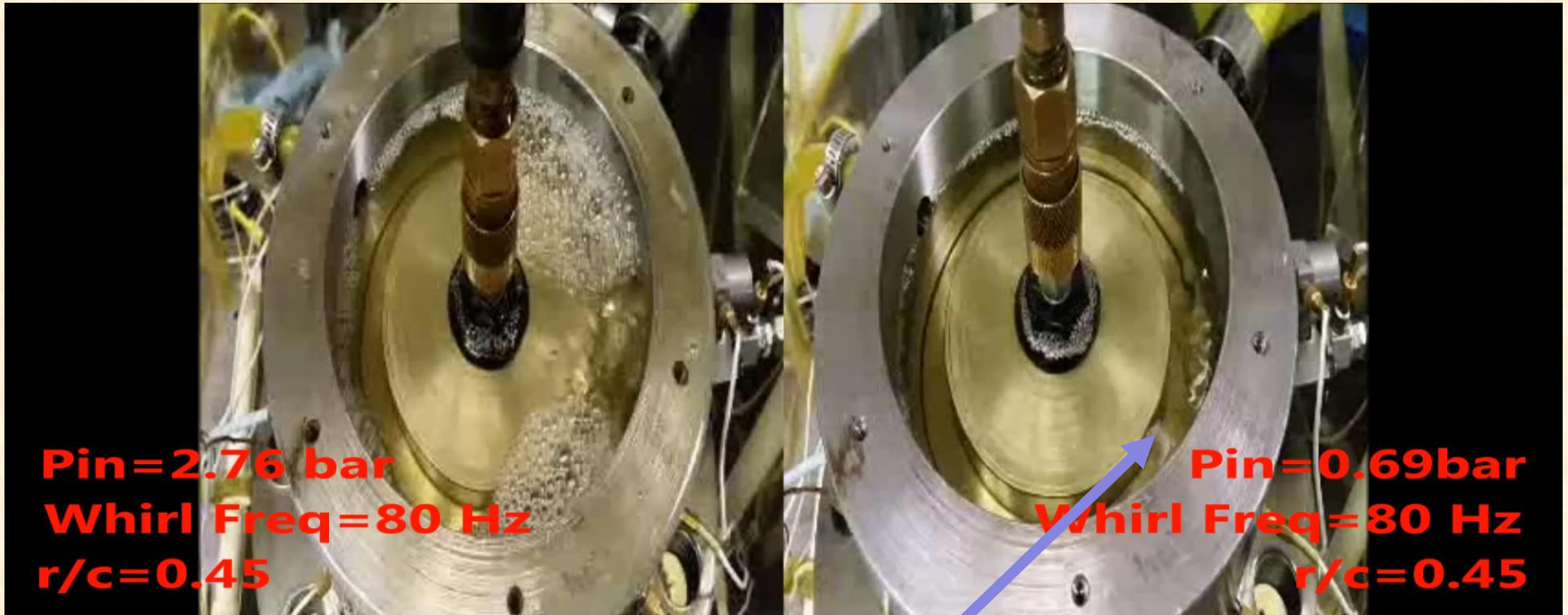


**Bubbly  
lubricant at top  
and bottom of  
test rig**



# Onset of air ingestion

Sealed ends SFD



Oil foamy mixture evolves from the piston ring slit.



# Closure IV

## From large amplitude whirl orbit tests

- (a) **SFD damping** coefficients **increase** with increasing **orbit amplitude** and **static eccentricity**.
- (b) **SFD added mass** coefficients **increase** with increasing **static eccentricity** and **decrease** with increasing **orbit amplitude**.
- (c) **Deep grooves** contribute to generate significant **added mass** coefficients. Grooves contribute little to magnify damping coefficients.

**Predictions correlate well** with test results for static eccentricity  $e_s < 0.5c$  and **deviate** with increasing orbit amplitude and static eccentricity.



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**After 10 years of continued work,**

**what have we learned?**

# Conclusion (1):


- (a) Damping ( $C$ ) and inertia ( $M$ ) coefficients are  $\sim$  isotropic, i.e.,  $C_{xx} \sim C_{yy}$  and  $M_{xx} \sim M_{yy}$ . Cross-coupled coefficients are negligible for most whirl type motions.
- (b) Simple theory does a modest job in producing physically accurate results for test SFDs with feed groove.
- (c) SFDs generate large added mass coefficients, in particular for configurations with (deep) feed and discharge grooves. **Fluid inertia must be accounted for in and SFD model.**



**Grooves lead to a significant squeeze film action (with generation of dynamic pressures)**

# Conclusion (2):

- (d) A sealed SFD produces significantly (**4X**) more damping and more added mass than an open ends SFD.
- (e) The amplitude and shape of whirl motion have small effect on the SFD force coefficients.
- (f) **Air ingestion** impairs the growth of film pressures for increasing orbit amplitudes and frequency → **damping coefficients decrease**.

 The experimental results demonstrate SFDs are mostly **linear** mechanical elements. Simple theory is highly unreliable.

# Fundamental learning

The amount of damping (needed) is a critical design consideration

**If damping is too large** the SFD acts as a rigid constraint to the rotor-bearing system with large forces transmitted to the supporting structure.

**If damping is too low**, the damper is ineffective and likely to permit large amplitude vibratory motion at synchronous and sub harmonic frequencies.

**SFDs must be designed with consideration of the entire rotor-bearing system. SFDs are NOT off-the-shelf elements.**

# Acknowledgments

**Thanks** to

**Pratt & Whitney Engines (2008-2018)**

**TAMU Turbomachinery Research Consortium (TRC)**

**Learn more:**

<http://rotorlab.tamu.edu>



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