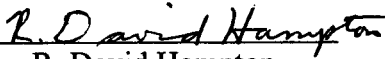
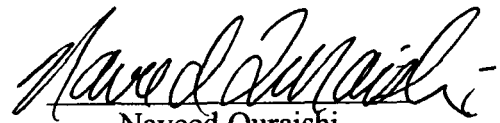


Deformation and Flexibility Equations
For Idealized ARIS Umbilicals,
Under Planar End-Loading Conditions

R. David Hampton
University of Alabama in Huntsville
OZ3
18 August 2000

Naveed Quraishi
OZ3/Hardware and Software Engineering
OZ/Space Station Payloads Office
OA/International Space Station


R. David Hampton


Naveed Quraishi

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Prepared By: R. David Hampton, Ph.D., P.E.
Academic Rank: Associate Professor
University & Department: University of Alabama in Huntsville
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Huntsville, Alabama 35899

NASA/JSC

Directorate: OA/International Space Station
Division: OZ/Space Station Payloads Office
Branch: OZ3/Hardware and Software Engineering
JSC Colleague: Naveed Quraishi
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ABSTRACT

The International Space Station (ISS) relies on the Active Rack Isolation System (ARIS) as the central component of an integrated, station-wide strategy to isolate microgravity space-science experiments. ARIS uses electromechanical actuators to isolate an International Standard Payload Rack (ISPR) from disturbances due to the motion of the ISS. Disturbances to microgravity experiments on ARIS-isolated racks are primarily transmitted via the ARIS power and vacuum umbilicals. Recent experimental tests indicate that these umbilicals resonate at frequencies outside the ARIS controller's bandwidth, at levels of potential concern for certain microgravity experiments. Reduction in the umbilical resonant frequencies could help to address this issue.

This report develops equations for the in-plane deflections and flexibilities of an idealized umbilical (thin, flexible, cantilever beam) under end-point, in-plane loading (inclined-force and moment). The effect of gravity is neglected due to the on-orbit application. The analysis assumes an initially straight, cantilevered umbilical with uniform cross-section, which undergoes large deflections with no plastic deformation, such that the umbilical terminus remains in a single quadrant and the umbilical slope changes monotonically. The analysis is applicable to the ARIS power and vacuum umbilicals, under the indicated assumptions.

NOMENCLATURE

Lower case

c_ξ	Cosine of angle ξ
p	Modulus of elliptic integral
s	Distance along umbilical from cantilevered end
s_ξ	Sine of angle ξ
y	Position coordinate
y_c	Position coordinate of umbilical terminus (point C)
z	Position coordinate
z_c	Position coordinate of umbilical terminus (point C)
α_i, α_{ij}	Normalized loads
β_i	Flexibility integrals
η	Shape kernel
ξ	Angle of umbilical tangent at arbitrary point R
ξ_c	Angle of umbilical tangent at terminal point C
ϕ	Amplitude of elliptic integral

Upper case

C_I	Integration constant
E	Young's modulus of elasticity
EI	Flexural rigidity
$F(p, \phi)$	Legendre's incomplete elliptic integral of the 1 st kind
I	Area moment of inertia with respect to beam neutral axis
$K(p)$	Legendre's complete elliptic integral of the 1 st kind
L	Umbilical length
M	Internal moment
M_x	Terminally applied moment about the x -axis
Q_y	Terminally applied force, y -direction
$-P_z, Q_z$	Terminally applied force, z -direction
R	Arbitrary point along umbilical

INTRODUCTION

The Active Rack Isolation System (ARIS) serves as the central component of an integrated, station-wide strategy to isolate microgravity space-science experiments on the International Space Station (ISS). ARIS uses eight electromechanical actuators to isolate an International Standard Payload Rack (ISPR) from disturbances due to the motion of the ISS; eleven ARIS racks are being developed for the ISS. Disturbances to microgravity experiments on ARIS-isolated racks are primarily transmitted via the (nominally thirteen) ARIS umbilicals, which provide power, data, vacuum, cooling, and other miscellaneous services to the experiments. The two power umbilicals and, to a lesser extent, the vacuum umbilical, serve as the primary transmission paths for acceleration disturbances. Experimental tests conducted by the ARIS team (December 1998) [1] indicate that looped power umbilicals resonate at about 10 Hz; unlooped power umbilicals resonate at about 4 Hz. In either case, the ARIS controller's limited bandwidth (about 2 Hz) admits only

limited active isolation at these frequencies. Reduction in the umbilical resonant frequencies could help to address this problem.

Analytical studies of the nonlinear bending and deflection of a flexible cantilever beam (originally horizontal) have been conducted for a variety of loading conditions, including concentrated terminal transverse (vertical) loading [2, 3, 4, 5]; uniformly distributed vertical loading [2, 6, 7]; uniformly distributed normal loading [8]; concentrated terminal inclined loading [9, 10]; multiple concentrated vertical loads [11]; and concentrated terminal vertical and moment loading [11]. (See the thesis of Christopher Rojahn [12] for a thorough summary of the history up to 1968.) Typical exact solutions involve complete and incomplete elliptic integrals [e.g., 2, 11, 4, 5].

Equations for the case of general terminal in-plane loading (i.e., including both inclined-force and moment loads) have apparently not been determined. These and the corresponding in-plane flexibility (or stiffness) equations would be of particular interest toward umbilical design for microgravity-isolation purposes. The equations could be used to help optimize umbilical flexibilities and resonant frequencies for microgravity applications.

This paper develops equations for the in-plane deflections and flexibilities of an idealized umbilical (thin, flexible, cantilever beam) under terminal in-plane loading (inclined-force and moment). The effect of gravity can be neglected due to the on-orbit application. The analysis is applicable to an initially straight, cantilevered umbilical with uniform cross-section, which undergoes large deflections with no plastic deformation, such that the umbilical terminus remains in a single quadrant and the umbilical slope changes monotonically. The analysis would be applicable to the ARIS power and vacuum umbilicals, under the indicated assumptions.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Consider an idealized umbilical of length L with end-points O and C and arbitrary intermediate point R (Figure 1). Let R be located at distance s along the umbilical, measured from the cantilevered end, with coordinates (z, y) ; the coordinates of point C are (z_c, y_c) . The coordinates have been chosen to be consistent with the coordinate system in use for the existing analyses of ARIS, for dynamic-modeling and controller-design purposes; point O , then, is the umbilical point-of-attachment to the ISS, and point C is the point-of-attachment to the ISPR. Let ξ be the angle, at R , of the tangent to the umbilical; and let ξ_c represent the end-point angle, at C . Assume a specified flexural rigidity EI .

This paper accomplishes the following fundamental tasks: (1) to derive equations for the umbilical length, coordinates at arbitrary point R , and terminal coordinates (at C); and (2) to use these equations to derive useful equations for the six in-plane umbilical flexibilities. These nine equations will be expressed in terms of the angle ξ_c , and of the in-plane loads at C . These loads are as follows: forces Q_y and Q_z , in the positive y - and z -directions, respectively, and counter-clockwise (positive) moment M_x , about the positive x -axis.

$$M_x = EI \frac{d\xi}{ds} \Big|_{R \rightarrow C} \quad (6)$$

Applying this boundary condition to Equation (5), one has

$$C_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{M_x}{EI} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{EI} (Q_y s_{\xi_c} - Q_z c_{\xi_c}), \quad (7)$$

so that Equation (5) can now be solved for $\frac{d\xi}{ds}$:

$$\frac{d\xi}{ds} = - \left\{ \frac{2}{EI} [Q_y (s_\xi - s_{\xi_c}) - Q_z (c_\xi - c_{\xi_c})] + \left(\frac{M_x}{EI} \right)^2 \right\}^{1/2} = -\eta^{1/2}, \quad (8)$$

where the radicand
$$\eta = \frac{2Q_y}{EI} (s_\xi - s_{\xi_c}) - \frac{2Q_z}{EI} (c_\xi - c_{\xi_c}) + \left(\frac{M_x}{EI} \right)^2. \quad (9)$$

Equation (8) applies under the assumption that the radicand η is nonnegative, or equivalently, that $\frac{d\xi}{ds}$ is nonpositive.

From Equation (8),
$$ds = -\eta^{-1/2} d\xi, \quad (10)$$

which can be integrated to yield an expression for the umbilical length:

$$L = \int_0^L ds = \int_{2\pi}^{\xi_c} -\eta^{-1/2} d\xi = \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-1/2} d\xi. \quad (11)$$

From Equation (2),
$$dy = s_\xi \eta^{-1/2} d\xi, \quad (12)$$

so that
$$y = - \int_{\xi}^{2\pi} \eta^{-1/2} s_\xi d\xi \quad \text{and} \quad y_c = - \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-1/2} s_\xi d\xi. \quad (13, 14)$$

Likewise, Equation (3) yields
$$z = \int_{\xi}^{2\pi} \eta^{-1/2} c_\xi d\xi \quad \text{and} \quad z_c = \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-1/2} c_\xi d\xi. \quad (15, 16)$$

Together, Equations (11) and (13) through (16) describe the umbilical geometry as functions of the terminal angle ξ_c ; terminal loads Q_y , Q_z , and M_x ; and integration-, or “shape” kernel η .

VALIDATION (SPECIAL CASES)

The umbilical geometric equations, (11) and (13) through (16), can be used to derive equations for umbilical in-plane flexibilities. First, however, it will be shown as a check of the mathematics that the geometric equations simplify in some special cases to known forms [11].

Horizontal Cantilever with Vertical Point Load at Free End

Consider the case where Q_y and M_x are both zero; this is Frisch-Fay’s “basic strut” [11, p. 41].

Define, for convenience,
$$P_z = -Q_z. \quad (17)$$

Equation (11) becomes
$$L = \left(\frac{EI}{2P_z} \right)^{1/2} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} (c_\xi - c_{\xi_c})^{-1/2} d\xi, \quad (18)$$

which can be rewritten as
$$L = \left(\frac{EI}{8P_z} \right)^{1/2} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \left(\sin^2 \frac{\xi_c}{2} - \sin^2 \frac{\xi}{2} \right)^{-1/2} d\xi. \quad (19)$$

Let
$$p = \sin \frac{\xi_c}{2} \quad (20)$$

and select ϕ such that
$$p \sin \phi = \sin \frac{\xi}{2}. \quad (21)$$

Taking the differential of the above,
$$p \cos \phi d\phi = \frac{1}{2} \cos \frac{\xi}{2} d\xi. \quad (22)$$

From Equations (20) and (21),
$$\sin^2 \frac{\xi_c}{2} - \sin^2 \frac{\xi}{2} = p^2 (1 - \sin^2 \phi); \quad (23)$$

as ξ varies from ξ_c to 2π , ϕ varies from $\frac{\pi}{2}$ to π . In this range,

$$-\cos \phi = (1 - \sin^2 \phi)^{1/2} \text{ and } -\cos \frac{\xi}{2} = (1 - p^2 \sin^2 \phi)^{1/2}, \quad (24, 25)$$

so that
$$d\xi = \frac{-2p \cos \phi d\phi}{(1 - p^2 \sin^2 \phi)^{1/2}}. \quad (26)$$

Finally, using Equations (23) and (26) in Equation (19), and simplifying, one obtains the following result:

$$L = \frac{1}{k} K(p), \quad (27)$$

where
$$k^2 = \frac{P_z}{EI}, \quad (28)$$

and
$$K(p) = F(p, \pi/2) = \int_0^{\pi/2} (1 - p^2 \sin^2 \zeta)^{-1/2} d\zeta. \quad (29)$$

$K(p)$ and $F(p, \phi)$, respectively, are Legendre's complete and incomplete elliptic integrals of the 1st kind [11, p. 5].

Horizontal Cantilever with Inclined Point Load at Free End

Consider next the case where Q_z and M_x are both zero. Equation (11) becomes

$$L = \left(\frac{EI}{2Q_y} \right)^{1/2} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} (s_\xi - s_{\xi_c})^{-1/2} d\xi. \quad (30)$$

Introduce ϕ and positive parameter p such that
$$p^2 = (1 - \sin \xi_c) / 2 \quad (31)$$

and
$$\sin \phi = \left(\frac{1 - \sin \xi}{2p^2} \right)^{1/2}. \quad (32)$$

Squaring the above yields $1 - \sin \xi = 2p^2 \sin^2 \phi$. (33)

Taking the differential, $\cos \xi d\xi = -4p^2 \sin \phi \cos \phi d\phi$, (34)

so that $d\xi = \frac{-4p^2 \sin \phi \cos \phi}{(1 - \sin^2 \xi)^{1/2}} d\phi$. (35)

From Equation (33) one obtains $1 + \sin \xi = 2(1 - p^2 \sin^2 \phi)$. (36)

Equations (33) and (36) together yield

$$(1 - \sin^2 \xi)^{1/2} = 2p \sin \phi (1 - p^2 \sin^2 \phi)^{1/2}. \quad (37)$$

As ξ varies from ξ_c to 2π , ϕ varies from $\frac{\pi}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{p\sqrt{2}}$. Using Equation (37) in (35) yields

$$d\xi = \frac{-2p \cos \phi d\phi}{(1 - p^2 \sin^2 \phi)^{1/2}}. \quad (38)$$

Obtaining expressions for $\sin \xi_c$ and $\sin \xi$ from Equations (31) and (33), respectively, and substituting from these and Equation (35) into Equation (30), one obtains the following result:

$$L = \left(\frac{EI}{Q_y} \right)^{1/2} \int_m^{\pi/2} (1 - p^2 \sin^2 \phi)^{-1/2} d\phi \quad (39)$$

where $m = \sin^{-1} \frac{1}{p\sqrt{2}}$. (40)

In terms of elliptic integrals,

$$L = \left(\frac{EI}{Q_y} \right)^{1/2} [K(p) - F(p, m)], \quad (41)$$

the solution previously reported in [11], page 42.

EQUATIONS OF UMBILICAL FLEXIBILITY

The Nature of the Dependencies on Flexural Rigidity EI

It will now be shown that, for constant values of L , ξ_c , y_c , and z_c (i.e., umbilical length and terminal geometry), the following expressions are also constants: $\frac{Q_y}{EI}$, $\frac{Q_z}{EI}$, and $\frac{M_x}{EI}$. These facts will have important implications for umbilical shapes and flexibilities.

Define the following, for two umbilicals ($i = 1, 2$) having the same flexural rigidity and terminal angle, but with but different terminal loads:

$$L_i = L(\eta_i) = \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta_i^{-1/2} d\xi > 0, \quad (42)$$

$$y_{ci} = y_c(\eta_i) = \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta_i^{-1/2} c_\xi d\xi > 0, \quad (43)$$

and

$$z_{ci} = z_c(\eta_i) = \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta_i^{-1/2} s_\xi d\xi > 0, \quad (44)$$

where

$$\eta_i = 2\alpha_{1i}(s_\xi - s_{\xi_c}) + 2\alpha_{2i}(c_\xi - c_{\xi_c}) + \alpha_{3i}^2 > 0, \quad (45)$$

for

$$\alpha_{1i} = \frac{Q_{yi}}{EI}, \quad (46)$$

$$\alpha_{2i} = \frac{Q_{zi}}{EI}, \quad (47)$$

and

$$\alpha_{3i} = \frac{M_{xi}}{EI}. \quad (48)$$

The terminal angle is assumed to be arbitrary, fixed between π and 2π . Then the following obtains:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} L_1 = L_2 \\ y_{c1} = y_{c2} \\ z_{c1} = z_{c2} \end{array} \right\} \Leftrightarrow \eta_1 = \eta_2 \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \alpha_{11} = \alpha_{12} \\ \alpha_{21} = \alpha_{22} \\ \alpha_{31} = \pm\alpha_{32} \end{cases}. \quad (49)$$

The former ‘‘if-and-only-if’’ statement is true based on the orthogonality of the constant, cosine, and sine functions. As for the latter, using Equation (45),

$$\eta_1(\xi) = \eta_2(\xi) \quad \forall \pi \leq \xi_c \leq 2\pi \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \alpha_{11} = \alpha_{12}, \\ \alpha_{21} = \alpha_{22}, & \text{and} \\ \alpha_{31}^2 - \alpha_{11}s_{\xi_c} - \alpha_{21}c_{\xi_c} = \alpha_{32}^2 - \alpha_{12}s_{\xi_c} - \alpha_{22}c_{\xi_c}. \end{cases} \quad (50)$$

The third right-hand-side equation will be true if and only if $\alpha_{31}^2 = \alpha_{32}^2$, (51)

since the first two right-hand-side equations must hold. Since $\frac{Q_y}{EI}$, $\frac{Q_z}{EI}$, and $\frac{M_x}{EI}$ are constants (for fixed umbilical length and terminal geometry), changing the flexural rigidity by some factor γ changes all of the terminal loads by the same factor. Further, from Equations (13) and (15) the umbilical shape will also remain unchanged. The implications for in-plane umbilical stiffnesses will be explored in the next section.

Basic Flexibility Equations

For given terminal geometry (ξ_c , y_c , and z_c), Leibnitz’ Rule can now be applied to Equations (11), (14), and (16) to yield expressions for the six in-plane flexibilities. Applying Leibnitz’ Rule to Equations (14) and (16), one obtains the following initial expressions for the flexibilities:

$$\frac{\partial y_c}{\partial Q_y} = \frac{1}{EI} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} s_\xi \left[(s_\xi - s_{\xi_c}) - \mu \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial Q_y} \right] d\xi + \frac{EI}{M_x} \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial Q_y}, \quad (52)$$

$$\frac{\partial y_c}{\partial Q_z} = \frac{-1}{EI} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} s_\xi \left[(c_\xi - c_{\xi_c}) + \mu \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial Q_z} \right] d\xi + \frac{EI}{M_x} \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial Q_z}, \quad (53)$$

$$\frac{\partial z_c}{\partial M_x} = \frac{-1}{EI} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} c_{\xi} \left[\left(\frac{-M_x}{EI} \right) + \mu \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial M_x} \right] d\xi + \frac{EI}{M_x} \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial M_x}, \quad (54)$$

$$\frac{\partial z_c}{\partial Q_y} = \frac{-1}{EI} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} c_{\xi} \left[(s_{\xi} - s_{\xi_c}) - \mu \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial Q_y} \right] d\xi - \frac{EI}{M_x} \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial Q_y}, \quad (55)$$

$$\frac{\partial z_c}{\partial Q_z} = \frac{1}{EI} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} c_{\xi} \left[(c_{\xi} - c_{\xi_c}) + \mu \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial Q_z} \right] d\xi - \frac{EI}{M_x} \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial Q_z}, \quad (56)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial z_c}{\partial M_x} = \frac{1}{EI} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} c_{\xi} \left[\left(\frac{-M_x}{EI} \right) + \mu \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial M_x} \right] d\xi - \frac{EI}{M_x} \frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial M_x}; \quad (57)$$

where

$$\eta = \frac{2Q_y}{EI} (s_{\xi} - s_{\xi_c}) - \frac{2Q_z}{EI} (c_{\xi} - c_{\xi_c}) + \left(\frac{M_x}{EI} \right)^2, \quad (58)$$

and

$$\mu = c_{\xi_c} Q_y + s_{\xi_c} Q_z. \quad (59)$$

The partial derivatives on the right-hand-sides of Equations (52) through (57) can be found by applying Leibnitz' Rule to Equation (11), to yield the following:

$$\frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial Q_y} = \frac{\frac{-M_x}{(EI)^2} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} (s_{\xi} - s_{\xi_c}) d\xi}{1 - \frac{M_x}{(EI)^2} \mu \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} d\xi}, \quad (60)$$

$$\frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial Q_z} = \frac{\frac{-M_x}{(EI)^2} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} (c_{\xi} - c_{\xi_c}) d\xi}{1 - \frac{M_x}{(EI)^2} \mu \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} d\xi}, \quad (61)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial \xi_c}{\partial M_x} = \frac{\frac{-M_x^2}{(EI)^3} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} d\xi}{1 - \frac{M_x}{(EI)^2} \mu \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} d\xi}. \quad (62)$$

Substituting from Equations (60) through (62) into Equations (52) through (57), one finally obtains the desired expressions for the flexibilities. For example, substituting from Equation (60) into Equation (52) yields

$$\frac{\partial y_c}{\partial Q_y} = \frac{1}{EI} \left\{ \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} s_{\xi} (s_{\xi} - s_{\xi_c}) d\xi - \frac{1 - \frac{M_x}{EI} \times \frac{\mu}{EI} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} s_{\xi} d\xi}{1 - \frac{M_x}{EI} \times \frac{\mu}{EI} \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} d\xi} \times \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} (s_{\xi} - s_{\xi_c}) d\xi \right\}. \quad (63)$$

Note that the expression in the curly brackets is invariant with EI . Corresponding expressions for the other flexibilities can be found in similar manner; each will have a similar form [see Equations (75) through (80) below.] The flexibilities, then, are all inversely proportional to the flexural rigidity.

Simplified Flexibility Equations

For convenience define the following normalized loads and flexibility integrals:

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{Q_y}{EI}, \quad (64)$$

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{Q_z}{EI}, \quad (65)$$

$$\alpha_3 = \frac{-M_x}{EI}, \quad (66)$$

$$\alpha_4 = \frac{\mu}{EI} = c_{\xi_c} \alpha_1 + s_{\xi_c} \alpha_2, \quad (67)$$

$$\beta_1 = \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} d\xi, \quad (68)$$

$$\beta_2 = \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} c_{\xi} d\xi, \quad (69)$$

$$\beta_3 = \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} s_{\xi} d\xi, \quad (70)$$

$$\beta_4 = \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} c_{\xi}^2 d\xi, \quad (71)$$

$$\beta_5 = \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} c_{\xi} s_{\xi} d\xi, \quad (72)$$

and
$$\beta_6 = \int_{\xi_c}^{2\pi} \eta^{-3/2} s_{\xi}^2 d\xi, \quad (73)$$

where
$$\eta = 2\alpha_1 (s_{\xi} - s_{\xi_c}) - 2\alpha_2 (c_{\xi} - c_{\xi_c}) + \alpha_3^2. \quad (74)$$

Using these symbols the in-plane flexibility equations are as follows:

$$\frac{\partial y_c}{\partial Q_y} = \frac{1}{EI} \left[(\beta_6 - s_{\xi_c} \beta_3) - (\beta_3 - s_{\xi_c} \beta_1) \left(\frac{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_3}{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_1} \right) \right], \quad (75)$$

$$\frac{\partial y_c}{\partial Q_z} = \frac{-1}{EI} \left[(\beta_5 - s_{\xi_c} \beta_3) - (\beta_2 - c_{\xi_c} \beta_1) \left(\frac{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_3}{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_1} \right) \right], \quad (76)$$

$$\frac{\partial y_c}{\partial M_x} = \frac{-\alpha_3}{EI} \left[\beta_3 - \beta_1 \left(\frac{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_3}{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_1} \right) \right], \quad (77)$$

$$\frac{\partial z_c}{\partial Q_y} = \frac{-1}{EI} \left[(\beta_5 - s_{\xi_c} \beta_2) - (\beta_3 - s_{\xi_c} \beta_1) \left(\frac{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_2}{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_1} \right) \right], \quad (78)$$

$$\frac{\partial z_c}{\partial Q_z} = \frac{1}{EI} \left[(\beta_4 - c_{\xi_c} \beta_2) - (\beta_2 - c_{\xi_c} \beta_1) \left(\frac{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_2}{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_1} \right) \right], \quad (79)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial z_c}{\partial M_x} = \frac{\alpha_3}{EI} \left[\beta_2 - \beta_1 \left(\frac{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_2}{1 + \alpha_3 \alpha_4 \beta_1} \right) \right], \quad (80)$$

where α_3 and the square-bracketed expressions are all invariant with EI . This means physically that changing the flexural rigidity by some factor γ changes all of the in-plane stiffnesses by the same factor.

IMPLICATIONS FOR UMBILICAL DESIGN

The foregoing equations can be used as an aid for designing umbilicals to minimize stiffness. First, as previously noted, each of the flexibility equations can be expressed in a form showing it to be inversely proportional to the flexural rigidity [Eqs. (75) through (80)]. Consequently, reductions in flexural rigidity will produce proportional reductions in all in-plane stiffnesses. Second, it was shown that for a fixed umbilical geometry, changes in flexural rigidity will produce proportional changes in all of the terminal (in-plane) loads. Third, for given umbilical length L , and end-point conditions ξ_c , z_c , and y_c , Equations (11), (14), and (16) can be solved for the loads Q_y , Q_z , and M_x . These loads can be determined and used iteratively in Equations (75) through (80) to maximize umbilical flexibilities (or, equivalently, to minimize the corresponding stiffnesses) using L as a parameter. And fourth, the umbilical designer can use the preceding equations to determine optimal L , ξ_c combinations. Although the angle ξ_c is fixed at about 225° for ARIS (in the "home," or centered, position); L , ξ_c optimization could suggest better angles for future designs.

CONCLUSION

In summary, this paper presented equations for the shape and flexibility of an umbilical on orbit (i.e., such that gravity can be neglected), under terminal in-plane loading conditions of even sufficient magnitude to cause large deformations. The umbilical was assumed to be initially straight, to have a uniform cross-section, and to undergo no plastic deformation. All in-plane stiffnesses were shown to be proportional to the flexural rigidity EI . An approach was offered for using umbilical length and terminal geometry (end-point locations and slopes) to optimize these umbilical stiffnesses. The basic equations were shown to reduce to previously published results for special loading conditions.

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