**ORIGINAL PAPER**



# **Efects of Vibration Isolator on Compound Planetary Gear Train with Marine Twin‑Layer Gearbox Case: a Dynamic Load Analysis**

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### **Abstract**

**Purpose** This study aims to take the compound planetary gear train as an example to investigate how the vibration isolator afects the dynamic characteristics of the gear system.

**Methods** The dynamic parameters are obtained from the fnite element model of the gearbox case with the vibration isolators by the substructure method. The lumped mass method is used to construct the systematic coupled dynamic model of the compound planetary gear train with the marine twin-layer gearbox case. The dynamic response of the coupled system is calculated by the numerical calculation method of the Fourier series.

**Results** The number of vibration isolators negatively afects the bearing forces of the input shaft, output shaft, and planets. The infuence of the number of vibration isolators on LSCs is diferent in the diferential stage and the encased stage. When the vibration isolators stiffness is less than 200  $N/\mu$ m, the stiffness of the vibration isolator has a significant effect on the bearing forces of the input shaft, output shaft, and planets. The increase in the stifness of the vibration isolator would increase the LSCs of the diferential stage and decrease the LSCs of the encased stage.

**Conclusions** The number and stifness of the vibration isolator have infuences on the bearing forces and the LSCs. Compared with the LSCs in the diferential stage, the LSCs in the encased stage are more sensitive to the number and stifness of vibration isolators.

Keywords Load sharing coefficient · Compound planetary gear train · Vibration isolator · Marine gearbox case · Journal bearing

# **Introduction**

Excessive vibration of the gearbox in ship equipment not only reduces the reliability of the compound planetary gear train, but also weakens the acoustical stealth of ship [[1](#page-13-0)]. To reduce the vibration noise, vibration isolation, also called elastic components, is generally used in rotating machinery equipment  $[2, 3]$  $[2, 3]$  $[2, 3]$  $[2, 3]$ . However, the influence of the vibration isolator on the dynamic behavior of the gear system has not received enough attention. The purpose of this study is to explore how the vibration isolator afects the dynamic

 $\boxtimes$  Rupeng Zhu rpzhu@nuaa.edu.cn behavior of the gear system by taking the compound planetary gear train as an example.

The existing literature on the dynamic characteristics of the planetary gear train focuses on time-varying meshing stifness, piecewise backlash, planet bearing stifness, and comprehensive gear errors  $[4–8]$  $[4–8]$ . Considering the flexible support and multiple manufacturing errors, Mo et al. [[9\]](#page-13-5) established the refned dynamic model of the compound planetary gear train to calculate the loading sharing coef-ficient and floating orbits of center gears. Zhang et al. [[10\]](#page-13-6) studied the modal properties of the planetary gear train of the helicopter under the gyroscopic efect. Besides, some researchers have considered the fexibility of the gearbox case. Lin et al. [[11\]](#page-13-7) utilized the experimental modal analysis method to identify the joint parameters of the gearbox case, and then used modal superposition method to analyze the coupling dynamics model of the full fnite element gearbox. To investigate the vibration response of the gearbox case, Zhou et al. [[3\]](#page-13-2) and Guo et al. [[12\]](#page-13-8) applied the bearing



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dynamic load calculated by the gear system dynamics model to the gearbox case fnite element model. Using the mode mechanical impedance synthesis analysis, Ren et al. [\[13\]](#page-13-9) established the coupled impedance dynamic model of the gear-shaft-bearing-housing to analyze the system dynamic characteristics. To improve the accuracy of the investigation, Wang et al. [\[14](#page-13-10)] considered the basic admittance characteristics in the dynamic model of marine gear system. Using the dynamic substructuring method, Abbes et al. [[15\]](#page-13-11) analyzed the overall dynamic behavior of the parallel helical gear transmission. Zhu et al. [\[16](#page-13-12)] obtained the stifness of the wind turbine gearbox case using the substructure method, and then coupled it to the dynamics model of the planetary gear system with fexible pins.

Besides, some scholars pay attention to the vibration transmission path of gearbox. Zhou et al. [\[17](#page-13-13)] added spring elements between the marine gearbox and the installation base to study the dynamic response of the gearbox, but they overlooked the fexibility of the gearbox when calculating the dynamic load of the gearbox. Wang et al. [\[18](#page-13-14)] found that the design of a new compounded periodic struts between the helicopter cabin and the gearbox can alleviate the cabin noise caused by the gearbox. Luan et al. [\[2\]](#page-13-1) coupled the double-layer gearbox case with the planetary gear transmission system through MASTA software, and they found that adding vibration isolators between the double gearbox case can efectively reduce the vibration noise of the gearbox.

Considering all of the above evidence, many studies regard planet bearings as isotropic spring units when constructing system dynamics models, while the asymmetry and interaction of stifness and damping of planet bearing are overlooked. Moreover, most of the researches focus on the optimization of gear transmission system, while few researches investigate the optimization of gearbox-case dynamic parameters. It would, therefore, be interesting to investigate the role of vibration isolator in marine twin-layer gearbox case. The purpose of this study is to address the following two questions: (a) how the system dynamics model incorporates the asymmetry and interaction of the stifness and damping of planet bearings; (b) how the number and stifness of the vibration isolator afect the dynamic characteristics of the compound planetary gear train.

This study is organized as follows. First, the dynamic parameters are extracted from the fnite element model of the gearbox case by the substructure method. Second, the systematic coupled dynamic model of the compound planetary gear train with the gearbox case is established by the lumped mass method. The dynamic response of the coupled system is solved by the numerical calculation method of the Fourier series. Third, the infuences of the number and stifness of the vibration isolators on the dynamic behavior of the compound planetary gear train are explored. This fnding may expand the literature on vibration isolators and rotating



<span id="page-1-0"></span>**Fig. 1** Schematic diagram of compound planetary gear train with marine twin-layer gearbox case

<span id="page-1-1"></span>**Table 1** Names of the elements of the compound planetary gear train with marine twin-layer gearbox case

<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Names</b>
No. 1/No. 9	Floating ring $Z_{f1}/Z_{f2}$
No. 2/No. 10	Intermediate floating member $Z_{g1}/Z_{g2}$
No. 3/No. 11	Composting ring $Z_{r1}/Z_{r2}$
No. 4/No. 12	Planet $Z_{ni}/Z_{mi}$
No. 5/No. 13	Carrier $H$
No. 6/No. 14	Sun $Z_{s1}/Z_{s2}$
No. 7/No. 15	Journal bearing at output/input shaft $B_{\text{out}}/B_{\text{in}}$
No. 8/No. 16	Planet bearing $B_{pi}/B_{mi}$
No. 17	Inner shell
No. 18	Cylindrical vibration isolator
No. 19	Outer shell

machinery equipment, and provide guidance for the optimization of the marine gearbox case structure.

# **Systematic Coupled Dynamic Model**

Figure [1](#page-1-0) shows a schematic diagram of the compound planetary gear train with a marine twin-layer gearbox case, which consists of a diferential stage and an encased stage. The numbers in Fig. [1](#page-1-0) represent the elements of the compound planetary gear train with marine twin-layer gearbox case, and the names of their corresponding elements are listed in Table [1](#page-1-1). The cylindrical vibration isolators are placed radially between the inner and outer shells.

Figure [2](#page-2-0) illustrates the dynamic model of the compound planetary gear train with the marine twin-layer gearbox case. The diferential stage uses the rotational coordinate system. In Fig. [2,](#page-2-0)  $H_I$ ,  $V_I$ ,  $H_p$ , and  $V_p$  are the rotating coordinate systems based on the rotation angular velocity  $\omega_c$  of carrier *H*. The encased stage is fxed on the inner shell of gearbox. The encased stage uses the fixed coordinate system.  $H_{II}$ ,  $V_{II}$ ,  $H_m$ , and  $V_m$  are the fixed coordinate systems. *X*, *Y*, and *Z* in the global coordinate system mean axial, vertical, and horizontal directions, respectively. The *Z* and *Y* directions in the global coordinate system are the same as the  $H<sub>II</sub>$  and  $V<sub>II</sub>$  directions in the fxed coordinate system. The displacement vector **X** for the coupling system is defned as follows:

#### **Calculation of Journal Bearing Forces**

The oil flm force of journal bearing can be expressed by four stiffness coefficients and four damping coefficients when the displacement and velocity of journal shaft remain small disturbance near the static equilibrium position [\[19](#page-13-15)]. The stifness and damping matrices of the journal bearing can be expressed as follows:

<span id="page-2-1"></span>
$$
\mathbf{K}_{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_{xx} & k_{xy} \\ 0 & k_{yx} & k_{yy} \end{bmatrix}, \ \mathbf{C}_{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{xx} & c_{xy} \\ 0 & c_{yx} & c_{yy} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{2}
$$

$$
\mathbf{X} = \left\{ \mathbf{X}_{s1}, \mathbf{X}_{pi}, \mathbf{X}_{r1}, x_{g1}, x_{f1}, \mathbf{X}_{s2}, \mathbf{X}_{mj}, \mathbf{X}_{r2}, x_{g2}, x_{f2}, \mathbf{X}_{c}, \mathbf{X}_{in}^{g}, \mathbf{X}_{out}^{g}, \mathbf{X}_{mj}^{g} \right\}^{T},
$$
\n(1)

where  $\mathbf{X}_{s1}$ ,  $\mathbf{X}_{ni}$ ,  $\mathbf{X}_{r1}$ , and  $\mathbf{X}_c$  are the displacement vectors of the sun, planet, ring gear, and carrier in the diferential stage, respectively.  $\mathbf{X}_{s2}$ ,  $\mathbf{X}_{mi}$ , and  $\mathbf{X}_{r2}$  are the displacement vectors of the sun, planet, and ring gear in the encased stage, respectively. These displacement vectors include torsion and two translational degrees of freedom.  $x_{g1}$ ,  $x_{f1}$ ,  $x_{g2}$ , and  $x_{f2}$ are torsional line displacements along the pitch circle radius of  $Z_{g1}$ ,  $Z_{f1}$ ,  $Z_{g2}$ , and  $Z_{f2}$ , respectively.  $\mathbf{X}_{in}^g$  and  $\mathbf{X}_{out}^g$  are the displacement vectors of the gearbox case at the input and output, respectively.  $\mathbf{X}_{mj}^g$  is the displacement vectors of the carrier of the encased stage. There are two degrees of translational freedom in  $\mathbf{X}_{\text{in}}^g$ ,  $\mathbf{X}_{\text{out}}^g$ , and  $\mathbf{X}_{\text{inj}}^g$ 

where  $k_{ij}$  and  $c_{ij}$  (*i*, *j* = *x*, *y*) are the stiffness coefficient and damping coefficient of journal bearing, respectively.

Fig.ure illustrates the relationships among the components of the differential stage. In Fig.  $3, \psi_{ni}$  is the phase angle of the *i*th planet,  $\psi_{pi} = 2\pi(i - 1)/N$ . *N* denotes the number of differential stage planetary gears.  $\alpha_{rp}$  ( $\alpha_{sp}$ ) represents the pressure angle of the internal (external) mesh pair.

Based on the Eq. ([2\)](#page-2-1), the *i*th planet bearing force in the diferential stage can be obtained as follows:

<span id="page-2-2"></span>
$$
\mathbf{F}_{pi}^{b} = \mathbf{K}_{pi}^{b} \left( \mathbf{T}_{pi}^{D} \mathbf{X}_{c} - \mathbf{X}_{pi} \right) + \mathbf{C}_{pi}^{b} \left( \mathbf{T}_{pi}^{D} \dot{\mathbf{X}}_{c} - \dot{\mathbf{X}}_{pi} \right),
$$
(3)



<span id="page-2-0"></span>**Fig. 2** Dynamic model of the compound planetary gear train with marine twin-layer gearbox case





<span id="page-3-0"></span>**Fig. 3** Schematic diagram of the geometric relationship among components in the diferential stage

where  $\mathbf{K}_{pi}^{b}$  denotes the stiffness matrix of planet bearing.  $\mathbf{C}_{pi}^{b}$ means the damping matrix of planet bearing.  $\dot{\mathbf{X}}_c$  is the velocity vector of the carrier.  $\dot{\mathbf{X}}_{pi}$  is the velocity vector of the *i*th planet in the differential stage.  $\mathbf{T}_{pi}^{\mathbf{D}}$  is the transfer matrix, which can be obtained from Eq. [\(4](#page-3-1)):

$$
T_{pi}^{D} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \psi_{pi} & \sin \psi_{pi} \\ 1 & -\sin \psi_{pi} & \cos \psi_{pi} \end{bmatrix}
$$
 (4)

The bearing forces on the input and output shafts can be defined by Eq.  $(5)$ :

$$
\begin{cases}\n\mathbf{F}_{in}^{b} = \mathbf{K}_{in}^{b} \left( \mathbf{X}_{c} - \mathbf{X}_{in}^{g} \right) + \mathbf{C}_{in}^{b} \left( \dot{\mathbf{X}}_{c} - \dot{\mathbf{X}}_{in}^{g} \right) \\
\mathbf{F}_{out}^{b} = \mathbf{K}_{out}^{b} \left( \mathbf{X}_{c} - \mathbf{X}_{out}^{g} \right) + \mathbf{C}_{out}^{b} \left( \dot{\mathbf{X}}_{c} - \dot{\mathbf{X}}_{out}^{g} \right)\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(5)

where  $\mathbf{K}_{\text{in}}^{b}$  ( $\mathbf{K}_{\text{out}}^{b}$ ) is the bearing stiffness matrix of the input

<span id="page-3-3"></span>
$$
\mathbf{F}_{mj}^b = \mathbf{K}_{mj}^b \left( \mathbf{T}_{mj}^D \mathbf{X}_{mj}^g - \mathbf{X}_{mj} \right) + \mathbf{C}_{mj}^b \left( \mathbf{T}_{mj}^D \dot{\mathbf{X}}_{mj}^g - \dot{\mathbf{X}}_{mj} \right),
$$
 (6)

where  $\mathbf{K}_{mj}^b$  is the stiffness matrix of the planet bearing in the encased stage.  $\mathbf{C}_{m}^{b}$  represents the damping matrix of planet bearing in the encased stage.  $\dot{\mathbf{X}}^{g}_{mj}$  is the velocity vector of the carrier.  $\dot{\mathbf{X}}_{mj}$  is the velocity vector of the *j*th planet.  $\mathbf{T}_{mj}^{\mathbf{D}}$  is the transfer matrix, which is calculated by Eq. [\(7](#page-3-4)):

<span id="page-3-4"></span>
$$
T_{mj}^D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos\psi_{mj} & \sin\psi_{mj} \\ 0 & -\sin\psi_{mj} & \cos\psi_{mj} \end{bmatrix},\tag{7}
$$

where  $\psi_{mi}$  is the phase angle of the *j*th planet,  $\psi_{mi} = 2\pi (j - 1)/M$ . *M* represents the number of gears in encased stage planetary gears. The matrices in Eq. [\(3\)](#page-2-2) and Eq. ([6\)](#page-3-3) are listed in the "Appendix".

#### **Calculation of the Meshing Force**

The Fourier series method is used to calculate the timevarying meshing stiffness of herringbone gears as follows:

<span id="page-3-1"></span>
$$
K(t) = 2k_0
$$
  

$$
\left(1 + \sum_{k=1}^{5} \left[A_k \cos\left(2\pi k \frac{t}{T_m} - \gamma\right) + B_k \sin\left(2\pi k \frac{t}{T_m} - \gamma\right)\right]\right) \frac{b\epsilon_\alpha}{2 \cos \beta_b},
$$
  
(8)

<span id="page-3-2"></span>where  $k_0$  represents the mean value for the time-varying meshing stiffness.  $\varepsilon_{\alpha}$ ,  $\beta_{b}$ , and *b* denote end-face contact ratio, helical angle, and gear tooth width, respectively.  $t$  and  $T_m$ represent the meshing time and meshing period. *γ* means the mesh phasing facto [\[20\]](#page-13-16).  $A_k$  and  $B_k$  are obtained from Eq. ([9\)](#page-3-5):

$$
\begin{cases}\nA_k = \frac{1}{2\varepsilon_\alpha \varepsilon_\beta \pi^2 k^2} \left[ \cos \left( 2\pi k \varepsilon_\beta \right) + \cos \left( 2\pi k \varepsilon_\alpha \right) - \cos \left[ 2\pi k (\varepsilon_\alpha + \varepsilon_\beta) \right] - 1 \right] \\
B_k = \frac{1}{2\varepsilon_\alpha \varepsilon_\beta \pi^2 k^2} \left[ \sin \left( 2\pi k \varepsilon_\beta \right) + \sin \left( 2\pi k \varepsilon_\alpha \right) - \sin \left( 2\pi k (\varepsilon_\alpha + \varepsilon_\beta) \right) \right],\n\end{cases} \tag{9}
$$

(output) shaft.  $\mathbf{C}_{\text{in}}^b$  ( $\mathbf{C}_{\text{out}}^b$ ) is the bearing damping matrix of the input (output) shaft.  $\dot{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{in}}^g(\dot{\mathbf{X}}_{\text{out}}^g)$  is the velocity vector of the planetary gearbox at the input (output).

The *j*th planet bearing force in the encased stage can be

<span id="page-3-5"></span>where  $\varepsilon_{\beta}$  denotes axial contact ratio for the herringbone gear.

According to Fig. [3,](#page-3-0) the equivalent displacement for each gear pair is projected into the meshing line direction, which is expressed as follows:

$$
\begin{cases}\nS_{rpi}(t) = (x_{pi} + H_{pi} \sin \alpha_{r} - V_{pi} \cos \alpha_{r} - (x_{r1} + H_{r1} \sin \psi_{r} - V_{r1} \cos \psi_{r} - e_{rpi}(t)) \\
S_{spi}(t) = (x_{s1} - H_{s1} \sin \psi_{s} + V_{s1} \cos \psi_{s} - (x_{pi} + H_{pi} \sin \alpha_{s} - V_{pi} \cos \alpha_{s} - e_{spi}(t))\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(10)

expressed by Eq. [\(6](#page-3-3)):

where  $e_{rpi}(e_{\text{spl}})$  is the equivalent error of the internal (external) mesh pair along meshing line direction.  $x_{s1}$ ,  $x_{pi}$ , and  $x_{r1}$ 



denote the torsional line displacements of  $Z_{s1}$ ,  $Z_{ni}$ , and  $Z_{r1}$ , respectively.  $H_{s1}$ ,  $H_{pi}$ , and  $H_{r1}$  represent the horizontal displacements of  $Z_{s1}$ ,  $Z_{pi}$ , and  $Z_{r1}$ , respectively.  $V_{s1}$ ,  $V_{pi}$ , and  $V_{r1}$ mean the vertical displacements of  $Z_{s1}$ ,  $Z_{pi}$ , and  $Z_{r1}$ , respectively.  $\psi_{rpi}(\psi_{sn})$  denotes the position angles of the internal (external) mesh pair, which can be calculated by Eq. ([11\)](#page-4-0)

$$
\begin{cases}\n\psi_{rpi} = \psi_{pi} + \alpha_{r} \\
\psi_{spi} = \psi_{pi} - \alpha_{sp}.\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(11)

Based on Eq. [\(12\)](#page-4-1), the equivalent displacement in the encased stage is obtained by Eq. ([12](#page-4-1)):

$$
\begin{cases}\nS_{rmj}(t) = (x_{mj} + H_{mj} \sin \alpha_{rm} - V_{mj} \cos \alpha_{rm}) \\
-(x_{r2} + H_{r2} \sin \psi_{rmj} - V_{r2} \cos \psi_{rmj}) - e_{rmj}(t) \\
S_{smj}(t) = (x_{s2} - H_{s2} \sin \psi_{smj} + V_{s2} \cos \psi_{smj}) \\
-(x_{mj} + H_{mj} \sin \alpha_{sm} + V_{mj} \cos \alpha_{sm}) - e_{smj}(t)\n\end{cases} (12)
$$

where  $x_{s2}$ ,  $x_{mi}$ , and  $x_{r2}$  denote the torsional line displacements of  $Z_{s2}$ ,  $Z_{mj}$ , and  $Z_{r2}$ , respectively.  $H_{s2}$ ,  $H_{mj}$ , and  $H_{r2}$ represent the horizontal displacements of  $Z_{s2}$ ,  $Z_{mj}$ , and  $Z_{r2}$ , respectively.  $V_{s2}$ ,  $V_{mi}$ , and  $V_{r2}$  mean the vertical displacements of  $Z_{s2}$ ,  $Z_{mj}$ , and  $Z_{r2}$ , respectively.  $\psi_{rmj}$  ( $\psi_{smj}$ ) is the position angles of the internal (external) mesh pair, which can be expressed by Eq. [\(13\)](#page-4-2):

$$
\begin{cases}\n\psi_{rmj} = \psi_{mj} + \alpha_{rm}\n\end{cases}
$$
\n
$$
\psi_{smj} = \psi_{mj} - \alpha_{sm}
$$
\n(13)

The resultant meshing force for elasticity and damping is defined by Eq.  $(14)$  $(14)$ :

*N*

In the diferential stage, diferential equations can be expressed by

1. Sun gear  $Z_{s1}$ :

<span id="page-4-0"></span>
$$
\begin{cases}\nm_{s1}\ddot{x}_{s1} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} P_{spi}(t) = \frac{T_D}{r_{s1b}} \\
M_{s1}(\ddot{H}_{s1} - 2\omega_c \dot{V}_{s1} - \omega_c^2 H_{s1}) - \sum_{i=1}^{N} P_{spi}(t) \sin \psi_{spi} = -M_{s1}g \sin(\omega_c t) \\
M_{s1}(\ddot{V}_{s1} + 2\omega_c \dot{H}_{s1} - \omega_c^2 V_{s1}) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} P_{spi}(t) \cos \psi_{spi} = -M_{s1}g \cos(\omega_c t)\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(15)

where  $T_D$  is the input torque on the sun gear  $Z_{s1}$ .  $r_{s1b}$ represents the base circle radius of the sun gear  $Z_{s1}$ .  $m_{s1}$ means the equivalent mass of the sun gear  $Z_{s1}$ .  $M_{s1}$  is the actual mass of the sun gear  $Z_{s1}$ .

<span id="page-4-1"></span>2. Planet gear Z*pi*:

$$
\begin{cases}\nm_{p} \ddot{x}_{pi} - P_{spi}(t) + P_{rpi}(t) = 0 \\
M_{p} (\ddot{H}_{pi} - 2\omega_{c} \dot{V}_{pi} - \omega_{c}^{2} H_{pi}) - P_{spi}(t) \sin \alpha_{sp} + P_{rpi}(t) \sin \alpha_{rp} \\
-f_{Hcpi}(t) = -M_{p} g \sin(\omega_{c} t + \psi_{pi}) + F_{pi} \\
M_{p} (\ddot{V}_{pi} + 2\omega_{c} \dot{H}_{pi} - \omega_{c}^{2} V_{pi}) - P_{spi}(t) \cos \alpha_{sp} - P_{rpi}(t) \cos \alpha_{rp} \\
-f_{Vcpi}(t) = -M_{p} g \cos(\omega_{c} t + \psi_{pi})\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(16)

where  $m<sub>p</sub>$  means the equivalent mass of the *i*th planet  $Z_{pi}$ .  $M_p$  is the actual mass of the *i*th planet  $Z_{pi}$ .  $F_{Hcni}(t)$  $(F_{V\ncap/}(t))$  denotes the *i*th planet bearing force in the horizontal (vertical) direction, which can be obtained by the Eq.  $(5)$  $(5)$  $(5)$ .  $F_{pi}$  means the centrifugal force of the *i*th planet.

<span id="page-4-2"></span>3. Composting ring gear  $Z_{r1}$ :

$$
\begin{cases}\nm_{r1}\ddot{x}_{r1} - \sum_{i=1}^{N} P_{rpi}(t) + k_{g1q}(x_{r1} - x_{g1}) = 0 \\
M_{r1}(\ddot{H}_{r1} - 2\omega_c \dot{V}_{r1} - \omega_c^2 H_{r1}) - \sum_{i=1}^{N} P_{rpi}(t) \sin \psi_{rpi} + K_{r1}H_{r1} = -M_{r1}g \sin(\omega_c t) \\
M_{r1}(\ddot{V}_{r1} + 2\omega_c \dot{H}_{r1} - \omega_c^2 V_{r1}) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} P_{rpi}(t) \cos \psi_{rpi} + K_{r1}V_{r1} = -M_{r1}g \cos(\omega_c t)\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(17)

 $P_i(t) = K_i(t)S_i(t) + C_i\dot{S}_i(t)$ ,  $i = spi, rpi, smj, \text{ and } rmj, (14)$ 

where  $\dot{S}_i(t)$  represents the first-order derivative of equivalent displacement.  $C<sub>i</sub>$  denotes the meshing damping factor.

## **Dynamic Equation of Compound Planetary Gear Train**

According to Fig. [2](#page-2-0), diferential equations of the compound planetary gear train are constructed by Newton's second law.

where  $m_{r1}$  means the equivalent mass of the composting ring gear  $Z_{r1}$ .  $M_{r1}$  is the actual mass of the composting ring gear  $Z_{r1}$ .

<span id="page-4-3"></span>4. Intermediate floating member  $Z_{\varrho1}$  and floating ring  $Z_{f1}$ :

$$
\begin{cases}\n m_{g1}\ddot{x}_{g1} - K_{g1q}(x_{r1} - x_{g1}) + K_{f1q}(x_{g1} - x_{f1}) = 0 \\
 m_{f1}\ddot{x}_{f1} - K_{f1q}(x_{g1} - x_{f1}) + \frac{K_{f1s2}}{r_{f1b}}\left(\frac{x_{f1}}{r_{f1b}} - \frac{x_{s2}}{r_{s2b}}\right) = 0\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(18)



where  $m_{g1}$  represents the equivalent mass of the intermediate floating member  $Z_{g1}$ .  $m_{f1}$  denotes the equivalent mass of the floating ring  $Z_f$ .  $r_{s2b}$  is the base circle radius of the sun gear  $Z_{s2}$ .  $r_{f1b}$  means the pitch circle radius of the floating ring gear  $Z_f$ .

In the encased stage, differential equations can be expressed by

1. Sun gear  $Z_{\gamma}$ :

$$
\begin{cases}\nm_{s2}\ddot{x}_{s2} - \frac{K_{f1s2}}{r_{s2b}} \left(\frac{x_{f1}}{r_{f1b}} - \frac{x_{s2}}{r_{s2b}}\right) + \sum_{j=1}^{M} P_{smj}(t) = 0 \\
M_{s2}\ddot{H}_{s2} - \sum_{j=1}^{M} P_{smj}(t) \sin \psi_{smj} + K_{s2}H_{s2} = 0 \quad (19) \\
M_{s2}\ddot{V}_{s2} + \sum_{j=1}^{M} P_{smj}(t) \cos \psi_{smj} + K_{s2}V_{s2} = -M_{s2}g\n\end{cases}
$$

where  $m_{s2}$  means the equivalent mass of the sun gear  $Z_{s2}$ .  $M_{s2}$  is the actual mass of the sun gear  $Z_{s2}$ .

2. Planet gear Z*mj*:

$$
\begin{cases}\nm_m \ddot{x}_{mj} - P_{smj}(t) + P_{rmj}(t) = 0 \\
M_m \ddot{H}_{mj} - P_{smj}(t) \sin \alpha_{sm} + P_{rmj}(t) \sin \alpha_{rm} - F_{Hmj}(t) = -M_m g \sin \psi_{mj} \\
M_m \ddot{V}_{mj} - P_{smj}(t) \cos \alpha_{sm} - P_{rmj}(t) \cos \alpha_{rm} - F_{vmj}(t) = -M_m g \cos \psi_{mj}\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(20)

where  $F_{Hmi}(t)$  ( $F_{Vmi}(t)$ ) denotes the *j*th planet bearing force in the horizontal (vertical) direction.  $m<sub>m</sub>$  means the equivalent mass of the *j*th planet  $Z_{mi}$ .  $M_m$  is the actual mass of the *j*th planet *Zmj*.

3. Composting ring gear  $Z_{r2}$ :

 $\mathbf{I}$  $\mathbf{I}$  $\mathbf{I}$  $\mathbf{I}$ ⎪  $\frac{1}{2}$  $\mathbf{I}$  $\mathbf{I}$  $\mathbf{I}$  $\mathbf{I}$  $\overline{a}$ 

$$
m_{r2}\ddot{x}_{r2} - \sum_{j=1}^{M} P_{rmj}(t) + k_{g2q}(x_{r2} - x_{g2}) = 0
$$
  

$$
M_{r2}\ddot{H}_{r2} - \sum_{j=1}^{M} P_{rmj}(t) \sin \psi_{rmj} + K_{r2}H_{r2} = 0
$$
 (21)  

$$
M_{r2}\ddot{V}_{r2} + \sum_{i=1}^{M} P_{rmj}(t) \cos \psi_{rmj} + K_{r2}V_{r2} = -M_{r2}g
$$

where  $m_{r2}$  means the equivalent mass of the composting ring gear  $Z_{r2}$ .  $M_{r2}$  is the actual mass of the composting ring gear.  $Z_{r2}$ 

4. Intermediate floating member  $Z_{g2}$  and floating ring  $Z_{f2}$ :

$$
\begin{cases}\n m_{g2} \ddot{x}_{g2} - K_{g2q} (x_{r2} - x_{g2}) + K_{f2q} (x_{g2} - x_{f2}) = 0 \\
 m_{f2} \ddot{x}_{f2} - K_{f2q} (x_{g2} - x_{f2}) + \frac{K_{f2L}}{r_{f2b}} \left( \frac{x_{f2}}{r_{f2b}} - \frac{x_c}{r_L} \right) = 0\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(22)

where  $m_{\varrho 1}$  represents the equivalent mass of the intermediate floating member  $Z_{g2}$ .  $m_{f2}$  denotes the equivalent mass of the floating ring  $Z_{f2}$ .  $r_{f2b}$  denotes pitch circle radius of floating ring gear  $Z_{2}$ .  $r_{\text{L}}$  represents the rotation radius of the carrier.

Besides, the diferential equation of carrier *H* can be expressed by

<span id="page-5-0"></span>**Fig. 4** Finite-element model of the marine twin-layer gearbox case, **a** the integral structure of the gearbox case, **b** the carrier of the encased stage mounted in the inner shell. **c** The output end of the gearbox case. **d** The input end of the gearbox case





$$
\begin{cases}\nm_c \ddot{x}_c + \sum_{i=1}^{N} F_{Hepi} + \frac{K_{cL}}{r_c} \frac{x_c}{r_c} - \frac{K_{f2L}}{r_{f2b}^2} \left( x_{f2} - \frac{x_c}{r_L} r_{f2b} \right) = -P_L \\
M_c (\ddot{H}_c - 2\omega_c \dot{V}_c - \omega_c^2 H_c) + F_H^{\text{in}} + F_H^{\text{out}} \\
+ \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( F_{Hepi} \cos \psi_{pi} - F_{Vepi} \sin \psi_{pi} \right) = -M_c g \sin(\omega_c t) , \\
M_c (\ddot{V}_c + 2\omega_c \dot{H}_c - \omega_c^2 V_c) + F_V^{\text{in}} + F_V^{\text{out}} \\
+ \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( F_{Hepi} \sin \psi_{pi} + F_{Vepi} \cos \psi_{pi} \right) = -M_c g \cos(\omega_c t)\n\end{cases} (23)
$$

where  $F_H^{\text{in}}(F_H^{\text{out}})$  represents the bearing force of the input (output) shaft in the horizontal direction.  $F_V^{\text{in}}(F_V^{\text{out}})$  denotes the bearing force of the input (output) shaft in the vertical direction.  $m_c$  is the equivalent mass of the carrier.  $M_c$  is the actual mass of the carrier.  $P<sub>L</sub>$  represents the equivalent force of the output torque.

# **Dynamic Equation of the Marine Twin‑Layer Gearbox Case**

The substructure method that can effectively reduce the degree of freedom of the gearbox model is used to calculate the mass, stifness and damping matrices for the marine twin-layer gearbox case. This gearbox case is made of alloy steel with a density of  $7900 \text{ kg/m}^3$ , an elastic modulus of  $2.05 \times 10^5$  MPa, and Poisson's ratio of 0.3. The fnite element model of the twin-layer gearbox case includes 828,873 nodes and 585,756 elements, as shown in Fig. [4](#page-5-0).

The spring element with stifness and damping is used to simulate the cylindrical vibration isolator placed between the inner and outer shells. The stifness and damping of the spring element are  $7.3 \times 10^6$  N/m and  $6.6 \times 10^5$  N s/m, respectively. The master node is built in the center of the bearing hole and is rigidly coupled to the slave node on the surface of the bearing hole (see Fig. [4](#page-5-0)b–d). The bolt holes at the bottom of the gearbox case are given a fxed constraint. When solving, the mass, stifness, and damping matrices of the slave nodes are all condensed to the master node. Therefore, the dynamic parameters of the gearbox case can be characterized by the mass matrix, stifness matrix and damping matrix on the master node.

After condensing, the dynamic equation of twin-layer gearbox case is expressed as

$$
\mathbf{M}_g \mathbf{X}_g + \mathbf{C}_g (\dot{\mathbf{X}}_g - \dot{\mathbf{X}}_{cm}) + \mathbf{K}_g (\mathbf{X}_g - \mathbf{X}_{cm}) = \mathbf{F}_g
$$
 (24)

where  $M_g$ ,  $K_g$ , and  $C_g$  are mass, stiffness, and damping matrices of the master nodes on the twin-layer gearbox case, respectively.  $X_g$  is the displacement vector of the master nodes on the twin-layer gearbox case,

 $\mathbf{X}_g = \left\{ \mathbf{X}_{in}^g, \mathbf{X}_{out}^g, \mathbf{X}_{inj}^g \right\}$ .  $\mathbf{X}_{cm}$  is the displacement vector in the gear system,  $\mathbf{X}_{cm} = {\mathbf{X}_c, \mathbf{X}_{mi}}$ .  $\mathbf{F}_e$  is the force vector of the journal bearing force and gravity.

## **Systematic Coupled Dynamic Equation**

Based on the above equation, the coupled dynamic equation of the compound planetary gear train with the twinlayer gearbox case can be expressed with the following matrix–vector form as

$$
\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{X}}(t) + \left(\mathbf{K}_b + \mathbf{K}_m(t) - \omega_c^2 \mathbf{K}_\omega\right)
$$
  
\n
$$
\left[\mathbf{X}(t) - \mathbf{e}(t)\right] + \left(\mathbf{C}_b + \mathbf{C}_m + \omega_c \mathbf{G}\right) \left[\dot{\mathbf{X}}(t) - \dot{\mathbf{e}}(t)\right] = \mathbf{F}(t)
$$
\n(25)

<span id="page-6-0"></span>where **M** and **G** denote the mass and gyroscopic matrices, respectively.  $\mathbf{K}_b$  and  $\mathbf{C}_b$  are the bearing stiffness and damping matrices, respectively.  $\mathbf{K}_{\alpha}$  is the centripetal stiffness matrix.

 $\mathbf{K}_m(t)$  and  $\mathbf{C}_m$  are the meshing stiffness and damping matrices, respectively.  $F(t)$  represents the exciting force vector.

# **Dynamic Characteristics**

#### **Solution of Systematic Coupled Dynamic Equation**

In Eq.  $(25)$  $(25)$ ,  $K_m(t)$  and *X* (*t*) can be written as Eq.  $(26)$  $(26)$ :

<span id="page-6-1"></span>
$$
\begin{cases} \mathbf{K}_m(t) = \bar{\mathbf{K}}_m + \Delta \mathbf{K}_m(t) \\ \mathbf{X}(t) = \bar{\mathbf{X}} + \Delta \mathbf{X}(t) \end{cases}
$$
 (26)

where  $\bar{\mathbf{K}}_m$  is the average stiffness matrix. $\bar{\mathbf{X}}$  is the static displacement vector.  $\Delta \mathbf{K}_m(t)$  and  $\Delta \mathbf{X}(t)$  are the fluctuating parts of  $\bar{\mathbf{K}}_m$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{X}}_n$ , respectively.

After substituting Eq.  $(26)$  $(26)$  into Eq.  $(25)$  $(25)$  $(25)$ , the periodic excitation forces on the left side of the Eq. [\(25](#page-6-0)) are divided into two parts. One is that the average value remains to the left of Eq.  $(25)$  $(25)$  $(25)$ . The other is that the fluctuation value is moved to the right of Eq. ([25](#page-6-0)). Thus, systematic coupled dynamic equation is written as Eq. [\(27\)](#page-6-2), which can be solved by numerical calculation of the Fourier series in Ref. [[21\]](#page-13-17):

$$
[\mathbf{M}]\{\Delta \ddot{X}\} + [\mathbf{D}]\{\Delta \dot{X}\} + [\mathbf{\bar{K}}]\{\Delta X\} = \{P\}
$$
\n(27)

where  $\{P\}$  is the exciting force vector, including stiffness, error, gravity, planetary centrifugal force, and load.

## <span id="page-6-3"></span>**Calculation of Load Sharing Coefficient**

In the diferential stage, the external and internal LSCs are defined as Eq.  $(28)$  $(28)$  $(28)$ :

<span id="page-6-2"></span>

$$
\begin{cases}\nb_{\text{spi}} = \left| N(P_{\text{spik1}})_{\text{max}} \right/ \sum_{i=1}^{3} (P_{\text{spik1}})_{\text{max}} - 1 \right|_{\text{max}} + 1, \\
b_{\text{rpi}} = \left| N(P_{\text{rpik2}})_{\text{max}} \right/ \sum_{i=1}^{3} (P_{\text{rpik2}})_{\text{max}} - 1 \right|_{\text{max}} + 1, \\
b_{\text{spi}} = \left| N(P_{\text{rpik2}})_{\text{max}} \right/ \sum_{i=1}^{3} (P_{\text{rpik2}})_{\text{max}} - 1 \right|_{\text{max}}\n\end{cases} (28)
$$

where  $(P_{spik1})_{\text{max}}$   $((P_{rpik2})_{\text{max}})$  denotes the maximum value of the external (internal) dynamic meshing force in the  $k_1$ <sup>th</sup>  $(k_2$ th) meshing period.  $n_1$  ( $n_2$ ) represents the total number of the meshing period for the external (internal) gear pairs.

Based on Eq. [\(29](#page-7-1)), the external and internal LSCs for the encased stage can be constructed by Eq. [\(29](#page-7-1)):

<span id="page-7-0"></span>where  $(P_{smjk3})_{\text{max}}$  ( $(P_{rpik4})_{\text{max}}$ ) represents the maximum value of the external (internal) dynamic meshing force in the  $k_3$ th  $(k_4$ th) meshing period.  $n_3$  ( $n_4$ ) denotes the total number of the meshing period for the external (internal) gear pairs.

<span id="page-7-1"></span>According to Eqs. ([28](#page-7-0)) and [\(29](#page-7-1)), the LSCs of the coupled system can be expressed by Eq.  $(30)$  $(30)$ :

$$
\begin{cases}\nb_{smj} = \left|M(P_{smjk3})_{\max}\right| \sum_{i=1}^{M} (P_{spmj3})_{\max} - 1 \right|_{\max} + 1, \\
b_{rmj} = \left|M(P_{rmjk4})_{\max}\right| \sum_{i=1}^{M} (P_{rmjk4})_{\max} - 1 \right|_{\max} - 1 \left| \sum_{i=1}^{M} (P_{rmjk4})_{\max} - 1 \right|_{\max}.\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(29)

<span id="page-7-2"></span>**Table 2** Parameters of the diferential stage

<b>Stages</b>	Elements	Teeth number	Module	Tooth width	Helix angle	Pressure angel
Differential stage	Sun	41	2.5	$120 \text{ mm}$	$25^{\circ}$	$20^{\circ}$
	Planet	94	2.5	$120 \text{ mm}$	$25^{\circ}$	$20^{\circ}$
	Composting ring	229	2.5	$120 \text{ mm}$	$25^{\circ}$	$20^{\circ}$
	Intermediate floating member	251	2.5/2	$20 \text{ mm} / 40 \text{ mm}$	$25^{\circ}/0^{\circ}$	$20^{\circ}$
	Floating ring	375	2/2	30 mm/50 mm	$0^{\circ}/0^{\circ}$	$20^{\circ}$
<b>Encased</b> stage	Sun	91	2.5	$160$ mm	$25^{\circ}$	$20^{\circ}$
	Planet	59	2.5	$160$ mm	$25^{\circ}$	$20^{\circ}$
	Composting ring	209	2.5	$160 \text{ mm}$	$25^{\circ}$	$20^{\circ}$
	Intermediate floating member	231	2.5/2	20/40	$25^{\circ}/0^{\circ}$	$20^{\circ}$
	Floating ring	348	2/2	30/50	$0^{\circ}/0^{\circ}$	$20^{\circ}$

<span id="page-7-3"></span>**Fig. 5** Bearing force at the output shaft. **a** Time response in the *Z* and *Y* directions, **b** frequency response in the *Z* direction, **c** frequency response in the *Y* direction



 $\overline{1}$ 

<span id="page-8-1"></span>**Fig. 6** First planet bearing force of the encased stage, **a** time response in the *Z* and *Y* directions, **b** frequency response in the *Z* direction, **c** frequency response in the *Z* direction



$$
\begin{cases}\nB_p = \max(b_{\text{spi}}, \ b_{\text{rpi}}) \\
B_m = \max(b_{\text{smj}}, \ b_{\text{rmj}})\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(30)

where  $B_p$  is the LSC in the differential stage.  $B_m$  is the LSC in the encased stage.

The input torque of the coupling system is 3183 N m, and the input speed is 3000 r/min. Table [2](#page-7-2) lists the parameters of the compound planetary gear train with marine twin-layer gearbox case.

## **Journal Bearing Forces**

Dynamic meshing excitation is transmitted to the gearbox case through bearings in the transmission system, causing the gearbox case to vibrate [\[12](#page-13-8)]. Therefore, investigating the bearing dynamic load characteristics can effectively evaluate the vibration isolation performance of the marine twin-layer gearbox case. The vibration responses of compound planetary gear train are obtained by Eq. ([27\)](#page-6-2).

The number of vibration isolators in this gearbox case is 18. Figure [5](#page-7-3) shows the time and frequency response of the bearing force at the output shaft. The bearing force in the *Z* <span id="page-8-0"></span>direction is ranged between  $-2300$  and 2440 N, while the bearing force in the *Y* direction is ranged between − 2109 N and 1770 N. It could be concluded that the amplitude of the bearing force in the *Z* direction is greater than that in the Y direction. Besides, the frequency responses of the bearing forces in the *Z* and *Y* directions are dominated by the meshing frequency  $f_1$  of the differential stage, since the timevarying meshing stifness of the diferential stage is fuctuat-ing. In Fig. [5](#page-7-3)b–c,  $f_H$ ,  $f_p$ , and  $f_{r1}$  are the rotation frequencies of the carrier, planet, and ring gear of the diferential stage, respectively.

Figure [6](#page-8-1) illustrates the time–frequency response of the frst planet bearing force in the encased stage. The amplitude of the frst planet bearing force in the Z direction is greater than that in the *Y* direction. In Fig. [6b](#page-8-1), c, the frequency responses of the frst planet bearing force in both the *Z* and *Y* directions are the superposition of the rotation frequencies  $(i.e., f_m, f_p, f_{s2}, and f_{r2})$  and the meshing frequency  $f_2, f_m, f_{s2}$ , and  $f_{r2}$  represent the rotation frequencies of the planet, sun and ring gear of the encased stage, respectively. It's worth noting that the rotation frequency  $f_p$  of the differential stage planet appears in the frequency responses of the planet bearing force of the encased stage.

<span id="page-8-2"></span>





<span id="page-9-0"></span>



#### **Load Sharing Characteristics**

The LSCs in the compound planetary gear train with the twin-layer gearbox case are calculated by Eqs. [\(28](#page-7-0)) and [\(29](#page-7-1)). The results are obtained from the three meshing pairs of the diferential stage, as shown in Fig. [7.](#page-8-2) In the diferential stage, the external LSCs range from 0.974 to 1.032 and internal LSCs range from 0.917 to 1.133. Moreover, the (external and internal) LSCs in the diferential stage difer signifcantly among the three meshing pairs. For example, the sp3 LSC is greater than the sp1 and sp2 LSCs (see Fig. [7a](#page-8-2)).

It can be drawn from the Eqs. ([28](#page-7-0)) and ([29](#page-7-1)) that the torque of the encased sun gear is  $Z_{r}$  / $Z_{s1}$  times that of the differential sun gear. In other words, the load in the encased stage is greater than load the in the diferential stage. Figure [8](#page-9-0) shows that the external LSCs in the encased stage are close to 1, with a range of 0.957–1.029; the internal LSCs in the encased stage are varied from 0.966 to 1.018. Besides, the LSCs diference among the fve meshing pairs in the encased stage is smaller compared with the diferential stage. It is useful to note that the maximum value of LSCs in the differential stage is larger than that of the encased stage. This result is consistent with the conclusion in the literature [[22\]](#page-13-18) that the encased stage has a larger load than the diferential stage, and thus its balanced load capacity is stronger.

## **Impact of Vibration Isolators on the System**

According to Eq. [\(24](#page-6-3)), the dynamic parameters of the marine twin-layer gearbox case afect the dynamic characteristics of the compound planetary gear train. The stifness and damping of the marine twin-layer gearbox case are afected by the number and stifness of the vibration isolators. Therefore, how the number and stifness of vibration isolator afect the bearing force and load sharing characteristics in the compound planetary gear train is investigated. The efective value of the bearing forces is characterized by the root mean square of the resultant bearing force in the Y and Z directions as follows:

$$
F_{bi} = \text{RMS}\left(\sqrt{F_{biy}^2(t) + F_{biz}^2(t)}\right),\tag{31}
$$

where  $F_{bi}$  is the effective value of each journal bearing force. The function RMS() represents taking the root mean square.  $F_{biv}$  and  $F_{biz}$  are the bearing forces in the *Y* and *Z* directions, respectively.

# **Number of the Vibration Isolator**

The vibration isolator is radially arranged between the inner and outer shells of the gearbox (see Fig. [1\)](#page-1-0), and its number

<span id="page-9-1"></span>**Fig. 9** Infuence of the number of the vibration isolator on bearing force, **a** bearing force of input shaft. **b** Bearing force of output shaft





<span id="page-10-0"></span>**Fig. 10** Infuence of the number of vibration isolators on the bearing forces of planet bearings in the encased stage. **a** The 1st planet bearing. **b** The 2nd planet bearing, **c** the 3rd planet bearing, **d** the 4th planet bearing, **e** the 5th planet bearing



<span id="page-10-1"></span>**Fig. 11** Infuence of the number of vibration isolators on LSCs of the system, **a** the diferential stage, **b** the encased stage

ranges from 3 to 18. Figure [9](#page-9-1) shows the variation of bearing force with the number of vibration isolators on the input and output shafts. In general, when the number of vibration isolators becomes larger, the bearing forces on the output and input shafts become smaller. It's worth noting that with increasing the number of vibration isolators, the bearing force of the input shaft (Fig. [9a](#page-9-1)) is generally smaller than that of the output shaft (Fig. [9b](#page-9-1)). Therefore, the stifness and damping of the output should be increased in the marine gearbox.

Figure [10](#page-10-0) illustrates the relationship between the number of vibration isolators and the bearing forces of planet bearings in the encased stage. With the increase of the number of vibration isolators, the bearing forces gradually decreases. This is because the increase in the number of vibration





<span id="page-11-0"></span>**Fig. 12** Infuence of the stifness of the vibration isolator on bearing force of the output and input

isolators would increase the stifness and damping of the marine twin-layer gearbox case.

Figure [11](#page-10-1) shows how the LSCs vary with the number of vibration isolators in the compound planetary gear train with the twin-layer gearbox case. Increasing the number of vibration isolators could enhance the LSCs of the diferential stage, while the LSCs of the encased stage would decrease with the increase of the number of vibration isolators. This result indicates that compared with the diferential stage, the LSCs in the encased stage is more sensitive to the number of vibration isolators.

## **Stifness of the Vibration Isolator**

In addition to the number of vibration isolators, the stifness of vibration isolators is also an important dynamic parameter that afects marine twin-layer gearbox case. In this section, we investigate the efects of isolator stifness on bearing force and load sharing characteristics. The number of vibration isolators in the gearbox is 18. The stifness of vibration isolators is discrete in the range of 10–800 N/μm.

Figure [12](#page-11-0) shows the infuence of the stifness of the vibration isolator on bearing force of the output and input shafts. When the stifness of vibration isolators is less than 30 N/ μm, the bearing forces on the output and input shafts display the downward trend. This result is because the natural frequency of the system is far from the excitation frequency. At this time, the vibration isolators present better effects of vibration reduction. When the stifness of vibration isolators ranges from 30 to 200 N/μm, bearing forces on the output





<span id="page-11-1"></span>**Fig. 13** Infuence of vibration isolator stifness on planet bearing force of the encased stage. **a** The 1st and 4th planet bearing, **b** the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th planet bearing

<span id="page-11-2"></span>**Fig. 14** Infuence of the stifness of vibration isolators on LSCs of the system, **a** the diferential stage, **b** the encased stage

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and input shafts show an increasing trend. This fnding is because the natural frequency of the system is gradually approaching the excitation frequency within the corresponding vibration isolator stifness range. The vibration reduction efect of the vibration isolator is weakened. When the stifness of the vibration isolators exceeds 200 N/μm, the bearing forces on the output and input shafts gradually increase and tend to be stable. This is because the natural frequency of the system is greater than the excitation frequency. The vibration isolators fail to reduce vibration within the corresponding vibration isolator stifness range.

Figure [13](#page-11-1) shows the relationship between the stifness of vibration isolators and planet bearing force in the encased stage during the stifness range of 10–800 N/ μm. The bearing forces of planet bearings in the encased stage decrease obviously when the stifness of the vibration isolators increases from 10 to 200 N/μm. In addition, the bearing forces of planet bearings in the encased stage tend to be stable when the stifness of vibration isolators is greater than 200 N/μm. This result indicates that when the stiffness of the vibration isolator exceeds  $200$  N/ $\mu$ m, the performance of the vibration isolator in the marine twin-layer gearbox case would be weakened.

Figure [14](#page-11-2) reveals how the stifness of vibration isolators afects the LSCs in the compound planetary gear train with the twin-layer gearbox case. When the stifness of vibration isolators is ranged between 10 and 800 N/ $\mu$ m, the LSCs in the diferential stage is varied from 1.133082 to 1.133143, and the LSCs in the encased stage is varied from 1.04256 to 1.04336. This result suggests that compared with the diferential stage, the LSCs in the encased stage is more sensitive to the stifness of vibration isolators. Moreover, the LSCs in the diferential stage show an upward trend with increasing stifness of vibration isolators. In contrast, when the stifness of vibration isolators becomes larger, the LSCs in the encased stage becomes smaller. The LSCs in the diferential and encased stages tend to be stable with the increase of vibration isolator stifness. These results suggest that to improve the performance of the vibration isolator, the stifness of the vibration isolator could be appropriately reduced in the vibration isolation design.

# **Conclusions**

The dynamic model of the twin-layer gearbox case with the vibration isolator is constructed, and then coupled with the dynamic model of the compound planetary gear train. The time–frequency responses of journal bearing forces are investigated, and the load sharing characteristics in both diferential and encased stages are studied. Besides, the impact of vibration isolators on the bearing force and LSC are explored.

The number and stifness of vibration isolators could afect the bearing forces and LSC of the compound planetary gear train with the twin-layer gearbox case. As the number of vibration isolators increases, the bearing forces of the input shaft, output shaft, and planets decrease. Besides, the infuence of the number of vibration isolators on LSCs is diferent in the diferential stage and the encased stage.

The bearing force curve of the input shaft has a "infection point" when the stifness of vibration isolators is 30 N/ μm. The variation trend of the bearing force curve of the output shaft is basically the same as that of the input shaft. When the vibration isolators stifness is less than 200 N/ μm, the stifness of the vibration isolator has a signifcant negative efect on the bearing force of the planet bearing.

The increase in the stiffness of the vibration isolator would increase the LSCs of the diferential stage and decrease the LSCs of the encased stage. Compared with the LSCs in the diferential stage, the LSCs in the encased stage is more sensitive to the number and stifness of vibration isolators. When the stifness of the vibration isolators is greater than 200  $N/\mu$ m, it has little effect on the bearing forces and LSCs.

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**Data Availability** The data used to support the fndings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

#### **Compliance with Ethical Standards**

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that there are no conficts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

## **Appendix**

$$
\mathbf{K}_{pi}^{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_{xx}^{p} & k_{xy}^{p} \\ 0 & k_{yx}^{p} & k_{yy}^{p} \end{bmatrix}, \ \mathbf{C}_{pi}^{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{xx}^{p} & c_{xy}^{p} \\ 0 & c_{yx}^{p} & c_{yy}^{p} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{32}
$$

$$
\begin{cases}\nF_{pi}^{b} = \left[0 \ F_{Hepi} \ F_{Vepi}\right]^{T} \\
X_{c} = \left[x_{c} \ H_{c} \ V_{c}\right]^{T} \\
X_{pi} = \left[x_{pi} \ H_{pi} \ V_{pi}\right]^{T}\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(33)

$$
\boldsymbol{K}_{in}^{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_{xx}^{in} & k_{xy}^{in} \\ 0 & k_{yx}^{in} & k_{yy}^{in} \end{bmatrix}, \boldsymbol{C}_{in}^{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{xx}^{in} & c_{xy}^{in} \\ 0 & c_{yx}^{in} & c_{yy}^{in} \end{bmatrix},
$$
(34)



$$
\mathbf{K}_{out}^{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_{xx}^{\text{out}} & k_{yy}^{\text{out}} \\ 0 & k_{yx}^{\text{out}} & k_{yy}^{\text{out}} \end{bmatrix}, \; \mathbf{C}_{in}^{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{xx}^{\text{out}} & c_{xy}^{\text{out}} \\ 0 & c_{yx}^{\text{out}} & c_{yy}^{\text{out}} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{35}
$$

$$
\begin{cases}\n\boldsymbol{F}_{in}^{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & F_{H}^{in} & F_{V}^{in} \end{bmatrix}^{T} \\
\boldsymbol{X}_{in}^{g} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & H_{in}^{g} & V_{in}^{g} \end{bmatrix}^{T} \\
\boldsymbol{F}_{out}^{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & F_{H}^{out} & F_{V}^{out} \end{bmatrix}^{T} \\
\boldsymbol{X}_{out}^{g} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & H_{out}^{g} & V_{out}^{g} \end{bmatrix}^{T}\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(36)

$$
\boldsymbol{K}_{mj}^b = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_{xx}^m & k_{xy}^m \\ 0 & k_{yx}^m & k_{yy}^m \end{bmatrix}, \ \boldsymbol{C}_{mj}^b = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{xx}^m & c_{xy}^m \\ 0 & c_{yx}^m & c_{yy}^m \end{bmatrix}, \tag{37}
$$

$$
\begin{cases}\nF_{mj}^b = \left[0 \ F_{Hbmj} \ F_{Vbmj}\right]^T \\
X_{mj}^g = \left[0 \ H_b^j \ V_b^j\right]^T \\
X_{mj} = \left[x_{mj} \ H_{mj} \ V_{mj}\right]^T\n\end{cases} (38)
$$

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