



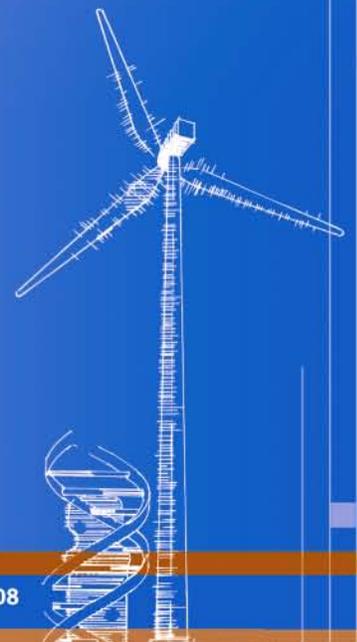
Verification of BModes: Rotary Beam and Tower Modal Analysis Code

Preprint

Gunjit Bir

*To be presented at 51st AIAA/ASME/ASCE/AHS/ASC Structures,
Structural Dynamics, and Materials Conference
Orlando, Florida
April 12-15, 2010*

Conference Paper
NREL/CP-500-47953
April 2010



NREL is operated for DOE by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC

Contract No. DE-AC36-08-GO28308



NOTICE

The submitted manuscript has been offered by an employee of the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC (ASE), a contractor of the US Government under Contract No. DE-AC36-08-GO28308. Accordingly, the US Government and ASE retain a nonexclusive royalty-free license to publish or reproduce the published form of this contribution, or allow others to do so, for US Government purposes.

This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States government. Neither the United States government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States government or any agency thereof.

Available electronically at <http://www.osti.gov/bridge>

Available for a processing fee to U.S. Department of Energy and its contractors, in paper, from:

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Scientific and Technical Information
P.O. Box 62
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0062
phone: 865.576.8401
fax: 865.576.5728
email: <mailto:reports@adonis.osti.gov>

Available for sale to the public, in paper, from:

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
phone: 800.553.6847
fax: 703.605.6900
email: orders@ntis.fedworld.gov
online ordering: <http://www.ntis.gov/ordering.htm>



Verification of BModes: Rotary Beam and Tower Modal Analysis Code

Gunjit Bir

National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, Colorado

Abstract

This paper describes verification of BModes, a finite-element code developed to provide coupled modes for the blades and tower of a wind turbine. The blades, which may be rotating or non-rotating, and the towers, whether onshore or offshore, are modeled using specialized 15-dof beam finite elements. Both blade and tower models allow a tip attachment, which is assumed to be rigid body with six moments of inertia, and a mass centroid that may be offset from the blade or tower axis. Examples of tip attachments are aerodynamic brakes for blades and nacelle-rotor subassembly for towers. BModes modeling allows for tower supports including tension wires, floating platforms, and monopiles on elastic foundations. Coupled modes (implying coupling of flap, lag, axial, and torsional motions) are required for modeling major flexible components in a modal-based, aeroelastic code such as FAST¹. These are also required for validation of turbine models using experimental data, modal-based fatigue analysis, controls design, and understanding aeroelastic-stability behavior of turbines. Verification studies began with uniform tower models, with and without tip inertia, and progressed to realistic towers. For the floating turbine, we accounted for the effects of hydrodynamic inertia, hydrostatic restoring, and mooring lines stiffness. For the monopile-supported tower, we accounted for distributed hydrodynamic mass on the submerged part of the tower and for distributed foundation stiffness. Finally, we verified a model of a blade carrying tip mass and rotating at different speeds (verifications of other blade models, rotating or non-rotating, have been reported in another paper²). Verifications were performed by comparing BModes-generated modes with analytical results, if available, or with MSC.ADAMS[®] results. All results in general show excellent agreement.

1 Introduction

BModes is a finite-element code developed for high-fidelity modal analysis of a wind turbine's blade or tower, whether offshore or onshore. Both the blade, rotating or non-rotating, and the tower may have an arbitrary distribution of structural properties. Both blade and tower models allow a tip attachment, which is assumed to be rigid body with six moments of inertia, and a mass centroid that may be offset from the blade or tower axis. Examples of tip attachments are aerodynamic brakes for blades and nacelle-rotor subassemblies for towers. In addition, the blade may have a precone and an arbitrary pitch-control setting. For the tower, BModes allows five configurations: a land-based tower, an offshore monopile-supported tower, an offshore floating-barge-supported tower, an offshore tension-leg-supported tower, and an offshore spar-buoy-supported tower. Figure 1 shows the three floating turbine configurations. Optionally, the land-based tower may have tension support wires.

The modes of a blade or a tower are generally coupled, which implies the presence of flexural, axial, and torsional motions in a natural mode of vibration. For the blade, flexural motion means

flap and lag bending, whereas for the tower it means fore-aft and side-to-side bending. Coupled modes are crucial to several applications:

- modeling of major flexible components for modal-based aeroelastic codes
- dynamic characterization
- validation of turbine models using experimental data
- modal-based fatigue analysis
- in-depth interpretation of turbine aeroelastic stability.

The cause of coupling can be geometric, dynamic, or material anisotropy.³ Obtaining rotating-blade coupled modes involves solving a complex boundary-value problem, and only a few codes rigorously handle this. BModes handles it accurately because it uses a finite-element approach in conjunction with analytical linearization and a unique finite-element assembly that properly captures Coriolis and centrifugal effects. The finite-element method (FEM) is based on a 15-dof element with three internal and two boundary nodes. A salient feature of BModes is its potential to handle a complex range of boundary conditions.

The structural properties along the blade length are specified in terms of the flap bending, lag bending, torsion, axial stiffness, mass, section moments of inertia, and chordwise offsets of section shear center, tension center, and center-of-mass. These properties may be obtained from experimental tests, the blade manufacturer, or a properties-extractor code, such as VABS⁴, PreComp⁵ or BPE.⁶ Currently, BModes allows only metallic or isotropic composite blades. With the aforementioned inputs, the code uses the FEM followed by an eigenanalysis to compute mode shapes and frequencies.

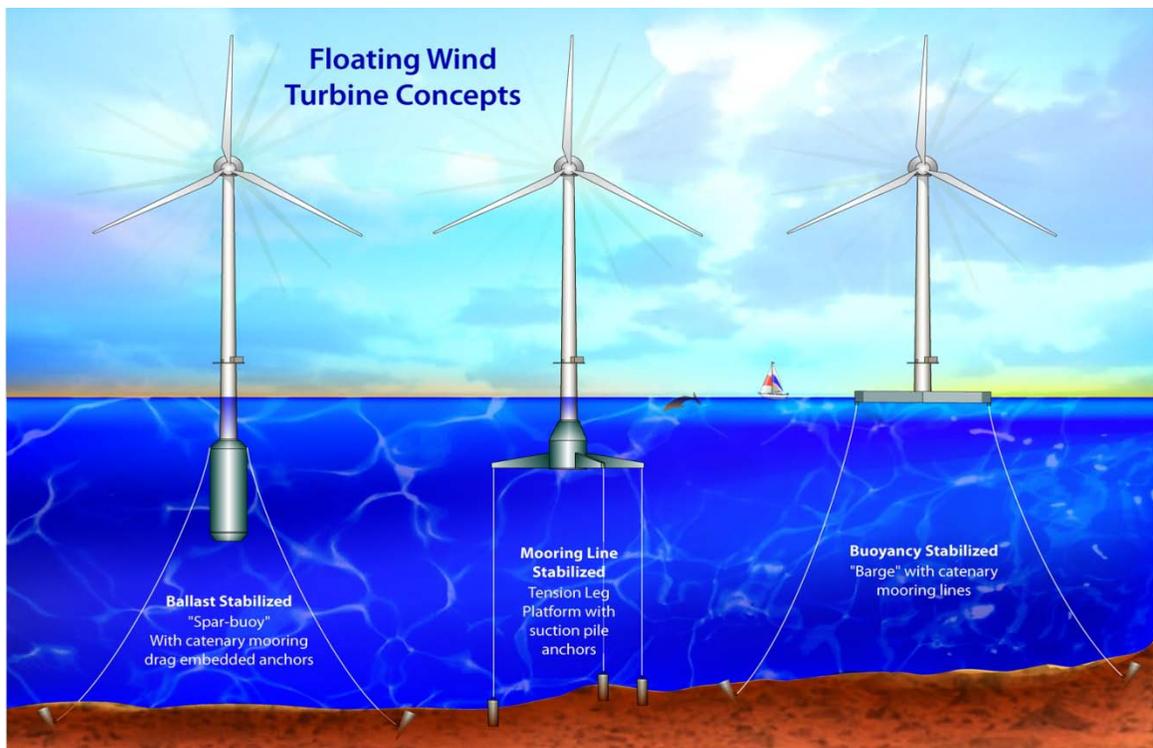


Figure 1: Floating turbine concepts

Since its initial release, BModes³ has undergone several upgrades specifically related to offshore modeling. Examples of the upgrades include:

- extension of the FEM model to include distributed hydrodynamic added mass and elastic foundation stiffness
- inclusion of floating-platform and monopile-support DOF
- inclusion of gravity effects.

In addition, a rigid-body finite element was introduced to model floating platforms subject to added hydrodynamic inertia, hydrostatic stiffness (buoyancy matrix), and mooring-line stiffness. The influence of gravity on the modes of an offshore turbine can be significant.

This paper verifies BModes modal analysis capability for towers and blades with tip inertias (verification of other blade models has been covered in another paper). Section II provides a brief description of BModes and its modeling and analysis approach. Section III presents verification of its tower modal analysis capability. We compare results from BModes with those from MSC.ADAMS[®]. Section IV presents verification results for a spinning blade carrying a tip mass. The paper concludes with a summary of the results and an outline of future plans.

2 A Brief Description of BModes

BModes computes coupled modes for blades and towers using a finite-element approach. Both the blade and the tower are modeled as Euler-Bernoulli beams, which can have an arbitrary distribution of geometry and structural properties along their length. The properties are specified in terms of stiffness (flexural, torsional, and axial), section mass, section moments of inertia, and chordwise offsets of section shear center, tension center, and center-of-mass variation along the blade. The stiffness properties are defined with respect to principal axes centered at the shear center. The inertia properties are defined with respect to the principal inertia axes centered at the mass centroid. The orientation of each set of principal axes and the built-in blade twist may also vary along the blade. Rotary inertia and certain nonlinear stiffness effects are accounted for in the code. Currently, the code allows only metallic or isotropic composite blades. Both the blade and the tower may have end attachments. An end attachment is modeled as a rigid body with mass, six moments of inertia, and a mass centroid that may be offset from the blade or tower axis.

As mentioned earlier, BModes has recently been upgraded to handle offshore turbines. The tower may be supported on a sea-floating platform or on a monopile embedded in the seabed. The floating platform may be subjected to hydrodynamic-added mass, hydrostatic restoring, and mooring line stiffness. The added mass and stiffness are generally distinct from physical inertias and springs and are expressed as 6X6 matrices associated with the six DOF (three translational and three rotational). For a monopile support, the soil effect is modeled as a distributed stiffness along the soil-buried part of the tower. Also, hydrodynamic-added mass may be specified along the submerged part of the tower, i.e., the part of the tower between the mean sea level (MSL) and the mudline.

Accurately obtaining rotating-blade or tower coupled modes is a challenging boundary-value problem, and only a few codes handle it rigorously. BModes modeling is high fidelity, using a finite-element approach in conjunction with analytical linearization and a special finite-element assembly that accurately captures Coriolis and centrifugal effects. Its finite-element approach,

built on UMARC⁷, uses a 15- DOF element with three internal and two boundary nodes. The 15 DOFs comprise 3 DOFs for torsion deflection and 4 DOFs each for axial, flap, and lag deflections (Figure 2). In the figure, u , v , w , and ϕ represent the axial, tower fore-aft, tower side-side, and twist DOF, respectively.

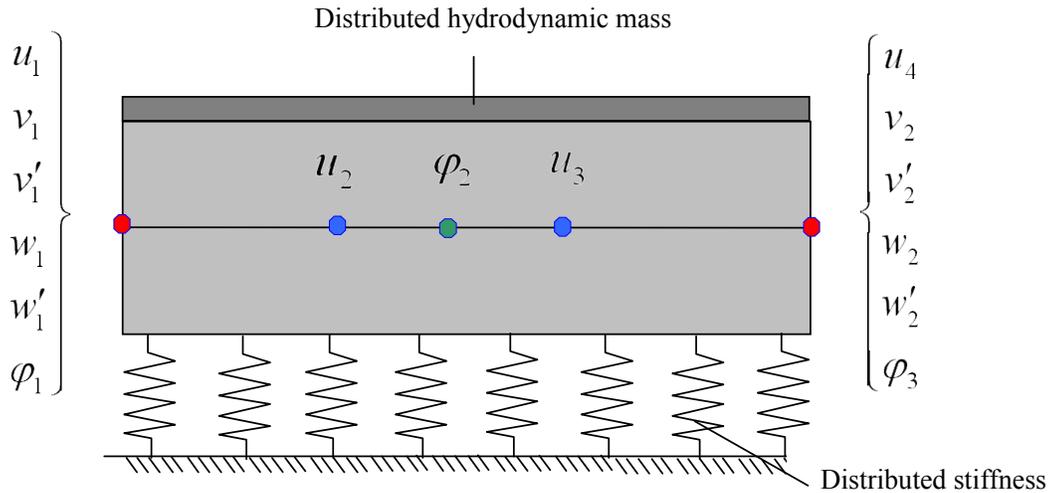


Figure 2. The 15-DOF finite element

The new finite element accounts for distributed stiffness and added mass, which may arise for platform- and monopile-supported towers. The distributed hydrodynamic added mass is effective only in the lateral directions (v , w) and not in the torsional and axial directions. The distributed stiffness, like the distributed added mass, may vary along the element length and it also may be different in the two lateral directions (normal to the element axis). The blade tip inertia, the tower head (nacelle-rotor subsystem) and the tower base attachment (e.g., floating barge) are modeled using rigid-body elements.

A full discussion of the BModes theory basis is outside the scope of this paper. However, Figure 3 outlines the technical approach. First, we idealize the blade or the tower as an Euler-Bernoulli beam that undergoes bending, elastic twist, and axial deflections. Next, we formulate energy expressions and use Hamilton's principle to derive coupled integro-partial differential equations (PDEs) governing the dynamics of the elastic beam attached to rigid end inertias.

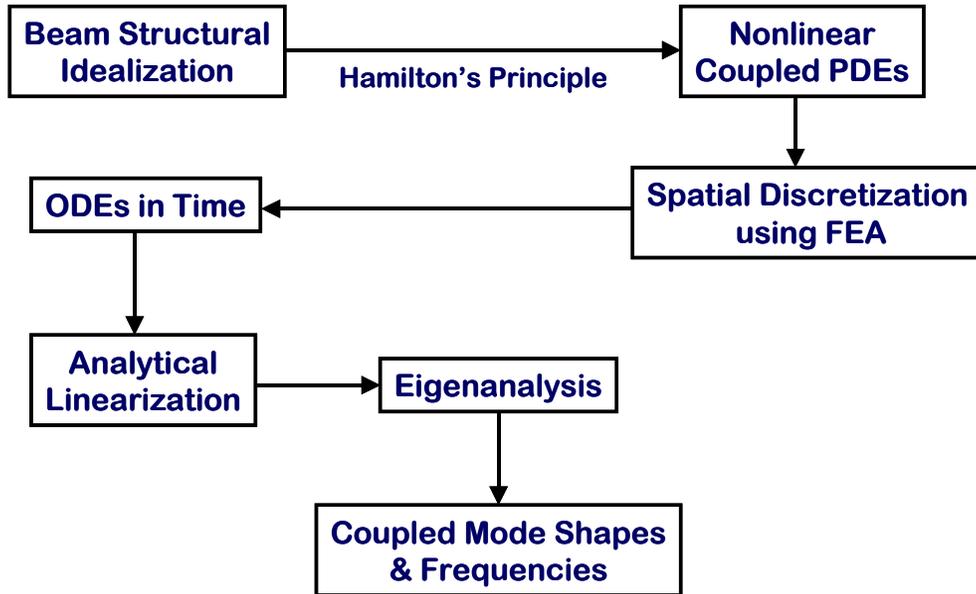


Figure 3. Technical approach: computation of tower coupled modes

These PDEs are nonlinear and include spatial integral terms, which represent Coriolis and centrifugal effects. We use finite element analysis (FEA) to discretize the spatial variables in the PDEs. This FEA is compatible with Hamilton's principle. The beam is divided into 15-DOF elements. Continuity of displacement and slope for bending deflections and continuity of displacement for elastic twist and axial deflections are maintained between elements. The elastic twist is represented by a quasi-coordinate (non-Euler); this eliminates axial integral terms that otherwise would appear in orientation matrices for an elastic beam. Finite elements assembly, specialized for integro-partial differential equations, followed by application of appropriate boundary conditions, yields nonlinear ordinary differential equations (ODEs) in nodal coordinates. Analytical linearization (distinct from finite-differencing) yields inertia and stiffness matrices. Finally, we perform an eigenanalysis to obtain coupled modes and frequencies.

3 Verification of Tower Modal Analysis Capability

Because accurate modes play a crucial role in several applications, we performed extensive verification studies on BModes—those related to blades have already been reported², though in part only. This paper presents the remaining result for the blades. We also present verification results for the tower, which is the focus of this section. As mentioned in the previous section, tower modal analysis capability necessitated several extensions to BModes. The geometric and structural properties of the tower configurations used in the verification studies are available in Ref. 11. The tower head (rotor-nacelle subsystem) is the same for all configurations and its properties are also listed in the same reference.

We first used BModes to build simple tower models (e.g. uniform and tapered beams with end masses) and compared the modal results with those from analytical models. Excellent agreement was obtained for all models (results are not shown here to keep the paper length short, but will be

included later in a publically available report). For a more realistic verification, we built several tower models using BModes and MSC.ADAMS®. Sample verification results are presented below.

3.1 Land-Based Tower (with and without rotor-nacelle head mass)

We modeled the land-based tower as a beam cantilevered to the ground and computed its natural frequencies and mode shapes. Table 1 lists the modal frequencies of the tower (with and without the rotor-nacelle head mass) and also compares these with frequencies obtained from the ADAMS models. We used 50 finite elements in BModes and 99 tower parts in ADAMS. The head mass was idealized as a rigid body in both BModes and ADAMS.

The modal frequencies are shown to four decimal points to aid verification. All frequencies, except very high ones, show good agreement. Also, for the tower with no head mass, note that BModes predicts i^{th} F-A and i^{th} S-A modal frequencies to be identical, as should be the case. Similar results from ADAMS differ, though by a very small margin. We believe BModes-computed results, particularly for higher modes, are more accurate because it uses a consistent-mass approach, whereas ADAMS effectively uses a lumped mass approach. Note that the head mass substantially lowers all the modal frequencies. As mentioned earlier, the head mass (rotor-nacelle subsystem) is considered rigid. Flexibility of the rotor would alter the system frequencies and the mode shapes somewhat; the torsion frequencies, in particular, would be higher.

Figures 4 and 5 show the BModes-computed mode shapes for the land-based tower without and with the head mass (such modes are quantitatively difficult to extract from ADAMS). All mode shapes presented in this paper are mass-normalized. We do not normalize modes for unity tip deflection, as is typically done. This will be explained later. Also, the tower section height has been normalized with respect to H , the height of the flexible tower, which is 87.6 m. Thus, zero represents the flexible tower base and one represents the tower top. Without the head mass (Figure 4), the tower fore-aft (F-A) and side-to-side (S-S) modes are identical as expected of an axi-symmetric tower. The presence of the tower head mass introduces coupling between the side-to-side and torsion motions (Figure 5b). The fore-aft modes, however, remain uncoupled (Figure 5a). Also note that the head mass substantially alters the mode shapes. The rotary inertia of the head mass results in 2nd fore-aft and 2nd side-to-side mode shapes with near-zero deflections at the tower tip. An attempt to normalize such modes for unit tip deflections may lead to error-prone mode shapes. In fact, if the tip deflection were exactly zero (possible in reality), it would be impossible to normalize modes for unity deflections. That is why BModes uses mass-normalization.

Table 1. Modal Frequencies of Land-Based Tower with and without Head Mass.

Mode Number	Mode Type	Without Head Mass			With Head Mass		
		Frequency (Hz)			Frequency(Hz)		
		BModes	ADAMS	Diff	BModes	ADAMS	Diff
1	1st SS	0.8913	0.8904	0.001	0.3291	0.3188	0.010
2	1st FA	0.8913	0.8904	0.001	0.3324	0.3218	0.011
3	2ndSS	4.3743	4.3437	0.031	1.8805	1.8820	0.002
4	2nd FA	4.3743	4.3435	0.031	2.2432	2.2391	0.004
5	3rd SS	11.3911	11.1856	0.205	4.6526	4.7244	0.072
6	3rd FA	11.3911	11.1843	0.207	4.9865	5.1833	0.197
7	1st Torsion	11.9656	11.4448	0.521	1.4703	1.4763	0.006
8	1st Axial	16.5217	16.5222	0.001	8.1311	7.9375	0.194

9	4th SS	21.8655	21.1146	0.751	11.3142	11.2678	0.046
10	4th FA	21.8655	21.1093	0.756	11.4591	11.4719	0.013
11	2nd Torsion	27.7783	26.1221	1.656	17.9632	17.9535	0.010
12	5th SS	35.8273	33.8392	1.988	21.7054	21.3291	0.376
13	5th FA	35.8273	33.8236	2.004	21.7625	21.4419	0.321
14	2 nd Axial	43.4596	42.1715	1.288	30.2109	30.1182	0.093
15	3 rd Torsion	44.8623	43.4578	1.405	35.3975	34.5078	0.890
16	6th SS	53.2770	48.9445	4.332	35.6336	34.5830	1.051
17	6th FA	53.2770	48.9071	4.370	35.6636	35.3740	0.290
18	4 th Torsion	62.2312	58.6564	3.575	52.9449	50.5171	2.428
19	3 rd Axial	71.4741	65.8776	5.596	53.0811	52.8981	0.183
20	7 th SS	74.2155	65.9541	8.261	53.0673	50.5720	2.495

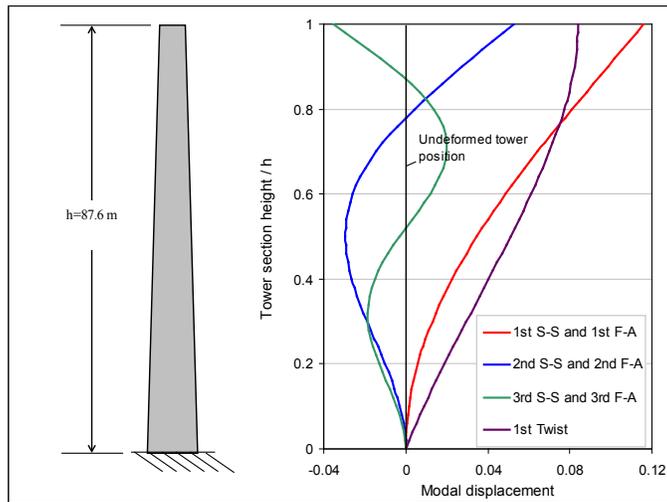


Figure 4. Modes of land-based turbine tower without head mass

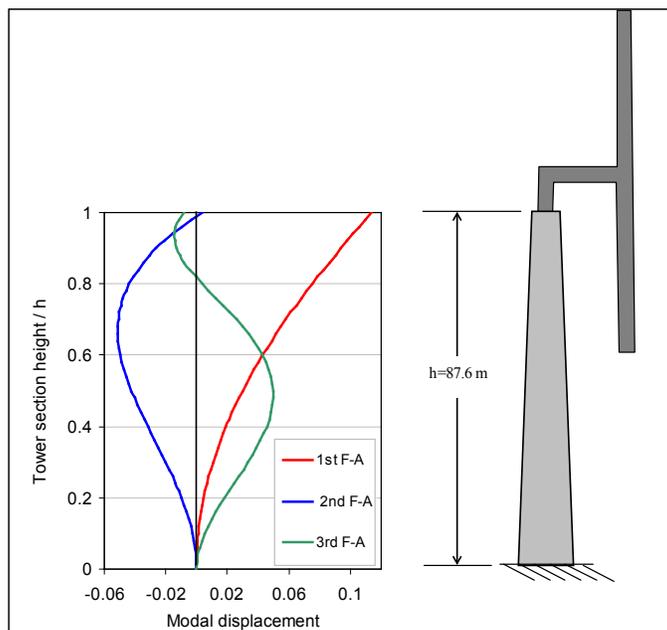


Figure 5a. Fore-aft modes of land-based tower with head mass

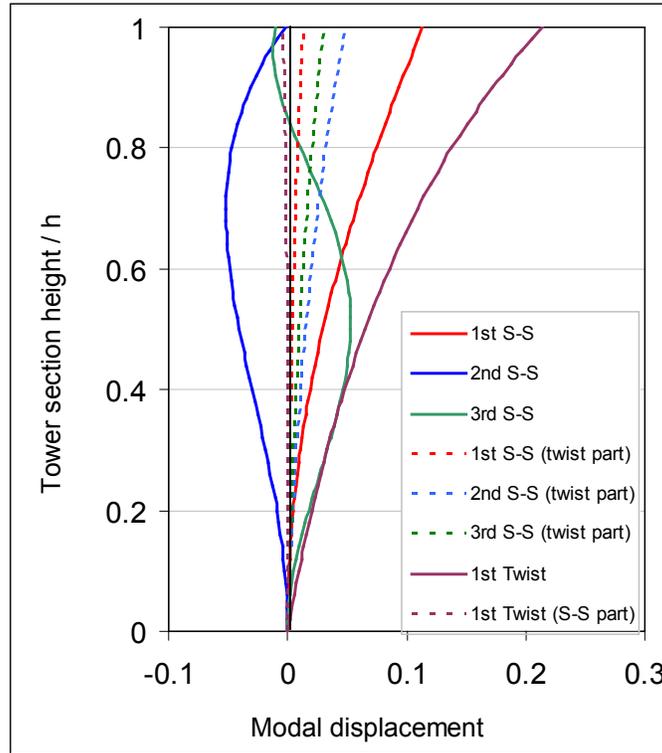


Figure 5b. Coupled side-to-side and twist modes for the land-based tower

3.2 Floating-Barge-Supported Tower

Using BModes, we model the floating-barge-supported turbine as a beam with all the six DOF (three translational and three rotational) unconstrained at both ends. The tower-top end of the beam carries head mass and the tower-base end carries the platform modeled as a rigid body. The barge is a rectangular box and is attached to eight mooring lines (two at each end). In the static equilibrium position, the top surface of the platform (barge) coincides with the mean sea surface. To account for the hydrodynamic and hydrostatic effects on the platform, 6x6 inertia (added mass) and 6x6 restoring (stiffness) matrices, obtained from WAMIT⁸, are input to BModes. The added mass values were chosen to be the values in the added mass matrix at the infinite-frequency limit of the frequency-dependent solution to the wave-radiation problem. A 6x6 matrix accounting for the mooring system stiffness is also included within BModes. This matrix was found by numerically linearizing the nonlinear mooring system module of FAST.¹ Because this particular configuration has no sea-submerged tower part, no distributed added mass (hydrodynamic) effect was included. Table 2 lists modal frequencies for the three platform models: platform inertia only (platform physical inertia without hydrodynamic added mass or stiffness), platform with all effects except the added mass, and the full platform model.

In Table 2, the *surge* mode is the fore-aft motion of the platform, *sway* is the side-to-side motion, *heave* is the up-down motion, *yaw* is the rotational motion about the tower axis, *roll* is the rotational motion about the platform longitudinal axis, and *pitch* is the rotational motion about the platform lateral axis. In the absence of any added mass and spring forces on the platform (platform-inertia-only model), the turbine behaves as a free-free flexible beam with two end inertias. Consequently, six zero-frequency, rigid-body modes were observed. Note that the added

hydrodynamic mass lowers all frequencies somewhat. The heave mode is substantially lower (from 0.2576 Hz to 0.1283 Hz). The last column in the table lists ADAMS-computed frequencies for the full platform model. All frequencies agree well, except the heave frequency (identified in blue in the table). This result is because the ADAMS linearized model admits only a physical mass and inertia, whereas BModes permits the use of both physical and added masses. To account for the additional (hydrodynamically added) mass and inertia in the ADAMS model, we augmented the physical mass and inertia and altered the c.m. location of the barge. This could not be done perfectly because the actual hydrodynamic-added mass of the barge in heave is quite different than the added mass in surge and sway (unlike the physical mass, which is identical in all directions). Augmentation of the barge body mass properties ensured that the surge, sway, pitch, roll, and yaw elements (including off-diagonal elements)—but not the heave element—accounted for the added mass matrix in the ADAMS model.

Table 2. Modal Frequencies of Floating-Platform-Supported Turbine

Mode Number	Mode Type	Frequency (Hz)			
		BModes			ADAMS
		Platform Inertia Only	Platform Inertia + Hydrostatic & Mooring Stiffness	Full Platform Model	Full Platform Model
1	Surge	0.0000	0.0081	0.0076	0.0076
2	Sway	0.0000	0.0081	0.0076	0.0076
3	Yaw	0.0000	0.0206	0.0198	0.0198
4	Roll	0.0000	0.1106	0.0978	0.0966
5	Pitch	0.0000	0.1109	0.0980	0.0968
6	Heave	0.0000	0.2576	0.1283	0.2463
7	1st SS	0.7349	0.7671	0.5489	0.5374
8	1st FA	0.7494	0.7820	0.5556	0.5440
9	1st Torsion	1.4836	1.4836	1.4826	1.4890
10	2nd SS	1.9943	1.9962	1.9270	1.9327
11	2nd FA	2.3652	2.3666	2.2942	2.2950
12	3rd SS	4.7559	4.7562	4.7011	4.7742
13	3rd FA	5.0799	5.0801	5.0293	5.2260
14	1st Axial	8.5014	8.5017	8.2186	8.2759
15	4th SS	11.3835	11.3835	11.3542	11.3138
16	4th FA	11.5280	11.5280	11.4983	11.5167
17	2nd Torsion	17.9683	17.9683	17.9679	17.9639
18	5th SS	21.7584	21.7584	21.7406	21.3760
19	5th FA	21.8153	21.8153	21.7975	21.4885
20	2 nd Axial	30.4368	30.4368	30.2625	30.3275

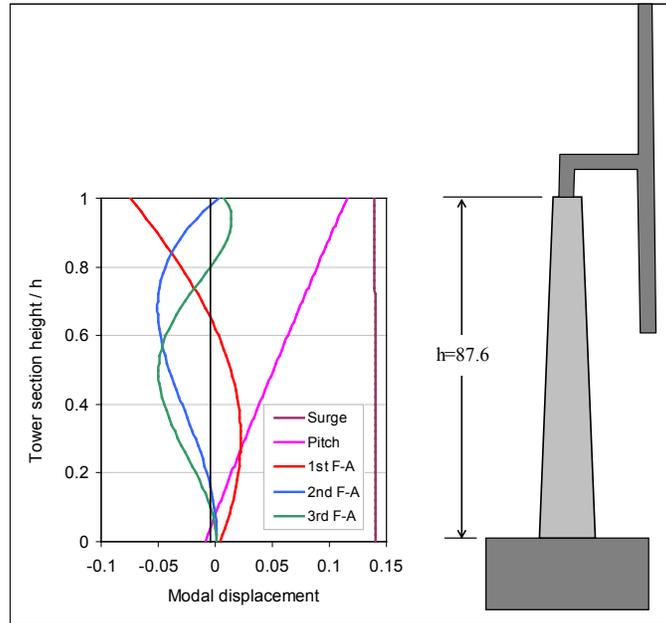


Figure 6a. Modes of platform-supported turbine

Figures 6a–6c show BModes-computed mode shapes for the full platform-supported turbine model. Note that all modes in the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the turbine are uncoupled, whereas other modes are coupled. Note also that the low-frequency platform modes (surge, etc) are close to rigid-body modes, as expected.

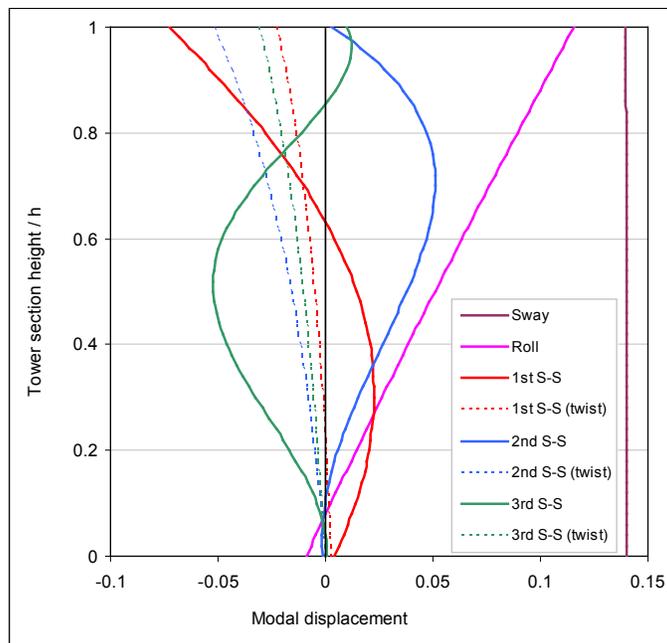


Figure 6b. Modes of platform-supported turbine

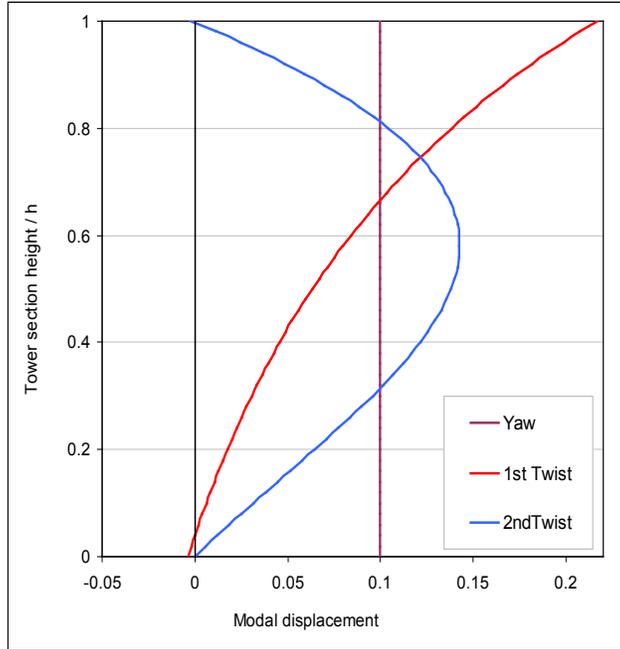


Figure 6c. Modes of platform-supported turbine

3.3 Monopile-Supported Tower

Figure 7 shows the monopile-supported tower and its equivalent model. The soil is modeled as a distributed spring supporting the tower base. The effect of sea water surrounding the submerged part of the tower is modeled as distributed hydrodynamic-added mass.

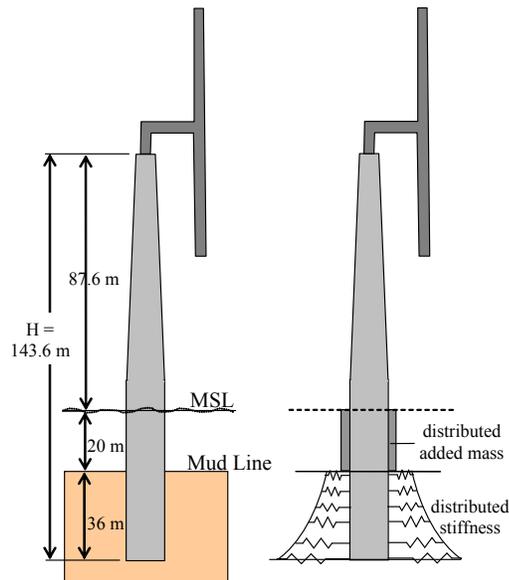


Figure 7. Monopile foundation and its equivalent model

Table 3 compares BModes- and ADAMS-computed modal frequencies. All frequencies agree well, thereby verifying BModes modeling of the elastic foundation. Figure 8 shows the first few

modes; the tower section height has been normalized with respect to H , the height of the flexible tower, which is 143.6 m.

Table 3. Comparison of BModes- and ADAMS-Predicted Frequencies for the DS Model

Mode Number	Mode Type	Frequency (Hz)		Difference (Hz)
		BModes	ADAMS	
1	1st SS	0.2513	0.2457	0.01
2	1st FA	0.2530	0.2472	0.01
3	1st Torsion	1.2752	1.2777	0.00
4	2nd SS	1.3680	1.3549	0.01
5	2nd FA	1.5316	1.5056	0.03
6	3rd SS	2.7425	2.7810	0.04
7	3rd FA	3.0874	3.1788	0.09
8	4th SS	5.9778	6.0090	0.03
9	4th FA	6.0506	6.2269	0.18
10	1st Axial	6.7671	6.5515	0.22
11	2nd Torsion	10.3875	10.3448	0.04
12	5th SS	11.4049	11.2947	0.11
13	5th FA	11.4758	11.4022	0.07
14	6 th SS	17.9595	17.6518	0.31
15	6 th FA	17.9704	17.7208	0.25
16	2 nd Axial	18.1887	18.0404	0.15
17	3 rd Torsion	21.1075	21.1944	0.09
18	7 th SS	26.3980	25.7959	0.60
19	7 th FA	26.4215	25.8452	0.58
20	4 th Torsion	32.9711	32.8559	0.12

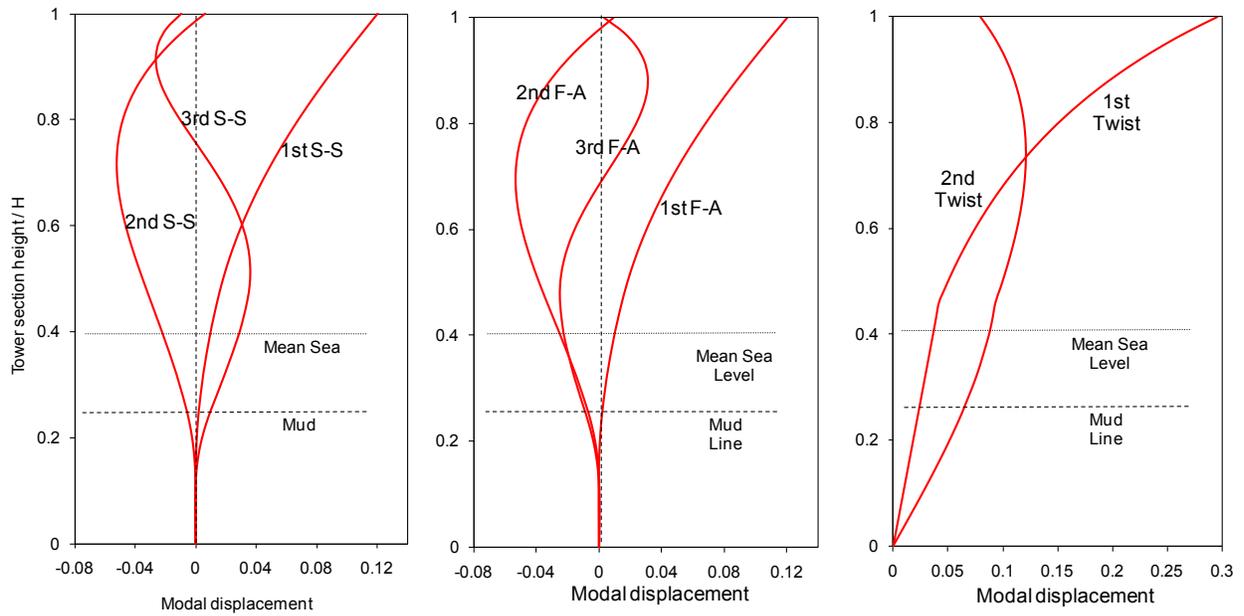


Figure 8. Mode shapes of the monopile-supported turbine

3.4 Spar-Buoy-Supported Tower

Table 4 compares BModes- and ADAMS-computed modal frequencies for the spar-buoy-supported turbine. The table also shows how gravity influences the modal frequencies, in particular the pitch and roll frequencies. Again, good agreement was observed between the BModes and ADAMS results except for a few modal frequencies identified in blue. As explained earlier in section III-B, this is because the ADAMS linearized model admits only a physical mass and inertia, whereas BModes permits the use of both physical and added masses. The discrepancy in the side-to-side second and third modes is perhaps due to erroneous interpretation of modes in ADAMS (investigation is underway).

Table 4. BModes- and ADAMS-Predicted Frequencies for the Spar-Buoy-Supported Tower

Mode Number	Mode Type	Frequency (Hz)			Difference (Hz)
		BModes (no gravity)	Bmodes (with gravity)	ADAMS	
1	Surge	0.0085	0.0085	0.0084	0.0001
2	Sway	0.0089	0.0089	0.0089	0.0000
3	Heave	0.0324	0.0325	0.0180	0.0145
4	Roll	0.0711	0.0376	0.0377	0.0001
5	Pitch	0.0712	0.0377	0.0378	0.0001
6	Yaw	0.1649	0.1649	0.1649	0.0000
7	SS-1	0.5000	0.4893	0.4861	0.0032
8	FA-1	0.5104	0.5103	0.5103	0.0000
9	Twist	1.693	1.695	1.700	0.0051
10	SS-2	2.067	2.065	0.7647	1.3003
11	FA-2	2.569	2.568	2.562	0.0062
12	SS-3	6.029	6.026	3.720	2.3057
13	FA-3	6.360	6.329	6.326	0.0031
14	Axial	8.033	7.678	7.669	0.0087

4 Verification of Modal Analysis of Rotating Blade with Tip Mass

We use this model to verify that the BModes correctly captures the interaction among rotational, inertial, and elastic effects. We assume uniform structural properties along the blade with no twist and no offsets of the elastic and center-of-mass axes. The blade length, L , is 31.623 m and its mass m per unit length is 100 kg/m. Its cross-sectional flexural rigidities for flap, lag, and torsion are respectively, 10^8 N-m², 10^9 N-m², and 10^5 N-m². The tip mass is 3162.3 kg. This rather high mass is selected to allow comparison with published results. We built a BModes model for a uniform blade using 15 beam elements and computed its flap, lag, and torsion modes. Analytical results are available for the flap modes⁹ of this model and we use these for comparison (see Table 5). Note that the first flap frequency variation with rotor speed, computed by BModes, shows an exact agreement with the analytical results, at least up to the significant digits shown. The higher frequencies also show excellent agreement. The largest discrepancy is about 0.02% for the second flap frequency when the blade is spinning at 12 rad/sec.

Table 5: Comparison of Flap Frequencies: Rotating Uniform Blade with Tip Mass

Blade Spin Rate, Ω (rad/sec)	First Flap Frequency (rad/sec)		Second Flap Frequency (rad/sec)	
	Analytical	BModes	Analytical	BModes
0	1.557	1.557	16.25	16.25
1	1.902	1.902	16.76	16.76
2	2.670	2.670	18.19	18.19
3	3.582	3.582	20.35	20.35
4	4.543	4.543	23.03	23.03
5	5.522	5.522	26.04	26.04
6	6.509	6.509	29.29	29.29
7	7.501	7.501	32.70	32.70
8	8.495	8.495	36.21	36.21
9	9.490	9.490	39.80	39.80
10	10.49	10.49	43.45	43.45
11	11.48	11.48	47.14	47.15
12	12.48	12.48	50.86	50.87

Conclusions and Future Plan

All results indicate that BModes is capable of modeling and analyzing rotating blades and a wide range of tower support structures with a high degree of fidelity. Plans are underway to use it for a wide range of applications ranging from system identification to coupling with CFD software. BModes has been successfully used for finite element model updating of a turbine blade and a tower¹⁰. An important future plan is to introduce a Timoshenko beam element, specialized to include rotational and hydrodynamic effects, and extend BModes to handle composite beams with non-isotropic material properties.

Acknowledgment

Thanks to Jason Jonkman from NREL for providing the ADAMS models of the towers used in this paper. This work was performed in support of the U.S. Department of Energy under contract number DE-AC36-83CH10093.

References

1. Jonkman, J.M.; Buhl Jr., M.L. *FAST User's Guide*. NREL/EL-500-29798. Golden, Colorado: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2005.
2. Bir, G. S., "Blades and Towers Modal Analysis Code (BModes): Verification of Blade Modal Analysis," Proceedings of the 47th AIAA Aerospace Sciences Conference and Wind Energy Symposium, Orlando, Florida, January 5-8, 2009.
3. Bir, G.S. *User's Guide to BModes: Software for Computing Rotating Beam Coupled Modes*. NREL TP-500-38976. Golden, Colorado: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2005.
4. Yu, W.; Volovoi, V. V.; and Hodges, D. H.: "Validation of the Variational Asymptotic Beam Sectional Analysis," *AIAA Journal*, vol. 40, no. 10, 2002, pp. 2105-2113.
5. Bir, G.S. (2005). *User's Guide to PreComp (Pre-Processor for Computing Composite Blade Properties)*. NREL/TP-500-38926. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory.
6. Malcolm, D.J., Laird D.L. "Identification and Use of Blade Physical Properties." Proceedings of the ASME/AIAA Wind Energy Symposium, Reno, Nevada, January 2005.

7. Bir, G. S., and Chopra, I. "Status of the University of Maryland Advanced Rotorcraft Code (UMARC)." *Presented at the American Helicopter Society Aeromechanics Specialist Conference*. San Francisco, California, January 19-21, 1994.
8. Lee, C. H. and Newman, J. N. WAMIT® User Manual, Versions 6.3, 6.3PC, 6.3S, 6.3S-PC. Chestnut Hill, MA: WAMIT, Inc., 2006.
9. Wright, A. D., Smith C. E., Thresher R. W., and Wang, J. L. C., "Vibration Modes of Centrifugally Stiffened Beams," *Journal of Applied Mechanics*, Vol. 104, March 1982.
10. Bir, G.S.; Oyague, F. (2007). Estimation of Blade and Tower Properties for the Gearbox Research Collaborative Wind Turbine. 30 pp.; NREL Report No. TP-500-42250.
11. Jonkman, J. and Matha, D., "A Quantitative Comparison of the Responses of Three Floating Platform Concepts." *European Offshore Wind 2009 Conference & Exhibition*, 14–16 September 2009, Stockholm; NREL/CP-500-46726. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Department of Defense, Executive Services and Communications Directorate (0704-0188). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION.

1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) April 2010		2. REPORT TYPE Conference Paper		3. DATES COVERED (From - To) April 12-15, 2010	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Verification of BModes: Rotary Beam and Tower Modal Analysis Code			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER DE-AC36-08-GO28308		
			5b. GRANT NUMBER		
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S) Gunjit Bir			5d. PROJECT NUMBER NREL/CP-500-47953		
			5e. TASK NUMBER WE10.3112		
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) National Renewable Energy Laboratory 1617 Cole Blvd. Golden, CO 80401-3393				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER NREL/CP-500-47953	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S) NREL	
				11. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
12. DISTRIBUTION AVAILABILITY STATEMENT National Technical Information Service U.S. Department of Commerce 5285 Port Royal Road Springfield, VA 22161					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 Words) This paper describes verification of BModes, a finite-element code developed to provide coupled modes for the blades and tower of a wind turbine. The blades, which may be rotating or non-rotating, and the towers, whether onshore or offshore, are modeled using specialized 15-dof beam finite elements. Both blade and tower models allow a tip attachment, which is assumed to be rigid body with six moments of inertia, and a mass centroid that may be offset from the blade or tower axis. Examples of tip attachments are aerodynamic brakes for blades and nacelle-rotor subassembly for towers. BModes modeling allows for tower supports including tension wires, floating platforms, and monopiles on elastic foundations. Coupled modes (implying coupling of flap, lag, axial, and torsional motions) are required for modeling major flexible components in a modal-based, aeroelastic code such as FAST1. These are also required for validation of turbine models using experimental data, modal-based fatigue analysis, controls design, and understanding aeroelastic-stability behavior of turbines. Verification studies began with uniform tower models, with and without tip inertia, and progressed to realistic towers. For the floating turbine, we accounted for the effects of hydrodynamic inertia, hydrostatic restoring, and mooring lines stiffness. For the monopole-supported tower, we accounted for distributed hydrodynamic mass on the submerged part of the tower and for distributed foundation stiffness. Finally, we verified a model of a blade carrying tip mass and rotating at different speeds (verifications).					
15. SUBJECT TERMS Bmodes; wind turbine modal analysis code; floating platforms; modeling					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UL	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT Unclassified	b. ABSTRACT Unclassified	c. THIS PAGE Unclassified			19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include area code)