Offshore Energy Harvesting of a Marine Floating Pendulum Platform Model

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Abstract

This work presents an analysis of an ocean wave energy harvesting system. This system is composed of a direct current (DC) power generator attached at the middle-top of a floating platform. A pendulum is connected to the generator's shaft. It is considered that the ocean waves motion swings the platform in the vertical direction, which transfers energy to the pendulum, making possible to convert mechanical energy, induced by the ocean wave, into a rotational motion due the pendulum and after in electric energy due the generator. With the objective to optimize the harvested power, several analyses of the pendulum parameters, ocean wave amplitude and frequency were carried out. This work was based on the Brazilian's coast characteristics. Numerical and experimental results were performed which shows the efficiency of the conversion of mechanical energy provided by the pendulum into electric power.

Keywords

Nonlinear Dynamics of Structures, Ocean Space Utilization, Ocean Energy Technology, Mathematical Modeling

1 INTRODUCTION

Due the need of the modern world for renewable energy, many researches have focused the exploring new energy sources. Between these energy sources are they provided in thermal way, by kinetics way or by magnetic way. One of these energy sources is the ocean wave energy harvesting. Because of its high-energy density and persistence, this kind of energy has inspired numerous inventors and researchers to convert the wave oscillation into usable energy (Kong *et al.*,2014, Stephen, 2006, Priya and Inman, 2009, Chen *et al.*, 2013, Drew *et al.*, 2009, De Paula *et al.*, 2012, Pavlovskaia *et al.*, 2012, Falnes, 2007).

There are many technologies described in the literature to convert the ocean wave energy, like as systems based on oscillating water column, which moves an air turbine with the air displaced through an oscillating water column as presented in Bønke and Ambli (1986). Another way to convert this energy is through oscillating bodies coupled to a linear electrical generator as presented by Waters *et al.* (2007). Other technology are the overtopping systems like as floating structures as the Wave Dragon presented by Kofoed *et al.* (2006).

Considering the floating structures, there are many ways to convert its oscillations into energy. One of this is presented by Kecik *et al.* (2017), which shows a magnetic levitation harvester. Other way is due a pendulous system, where the pendulum is excited through the wave oscillation (Wiercigroch, 2010). The parametric pendulum is recurrently applied in energy harvesting applications as presented in Wiercigroch *et al.*, (2011), Iliuk *et al.* (2013), Marques *et al.* (2017a), Dos Santos *et al.* (2015), Rocha *et al.* (2016) and Nandakumar *et al.* (2012).

In the last years, many works in the literature have showed experimental systems involving the pendulum swing to energy conversion, as shown in Ogai *et al.* (2010), and Lenci and Rega (2011), where they demonstrate a comparison between the experimental to theoretical results.

For simplify the choose of the element parameters of the energy harvesting system, many researchers are using the bio-inspired optimization methods, which consist of implementing GA (Genetic Algorithm) and PSO (Particle Swarm Optimization) to optimize in an effective way, the uniqueness and peculiarities of an energy harvesting device for marine applications (Pirisi et al., 2013).

This work is an extension of the paper presented by Marques *et al.* (2017b) and presents an energy harvesting system based on the movement of a parametrical pendulum coupled to a floating platform and excited by the ocean waves. The pendulum is coupled to a DC power generator, which converts the rotational movement of the pendulum, due the vertical oscillations of the floating platform, in DC electric energy. The main objective of this work is to maximize the energy harvesting of the system through parametrical analysis of the pendulum's mass and length, and the ocean wave amplitude and frequenys, based on the Brazilian coast characteristics, who's described in Feitosa (1989) and Carvalho (2010). In this work, new results are presented by applying a PSO algorithm in order to optimize the system parameters, and experimental test was performed by using a wave simulation system based on an ABB IRB 2600 robot.

2 FLOATING PLATFORM MATHEMATICAL MODELLING

The Figure 1 illustrates the proposed harvesting system, which consists of a DC power generator with a pendulum connected to its shaft. This system is fixed in a floating platform, which is floating on the ocean.

The pendulum has a mass m and length l, and rotational angle ϑ. The DC generator mass is M_2 and the platform mass M_1.

Considering the platform is floating on the ocean, it is known that thrust force push up the platform. The thrust force in this case is represented through a spring with stiffness k, which is directly linked to the platform, so it can be considered as a non-fixed base. In addition, a linear term c representing the viscous damping of the water is included.
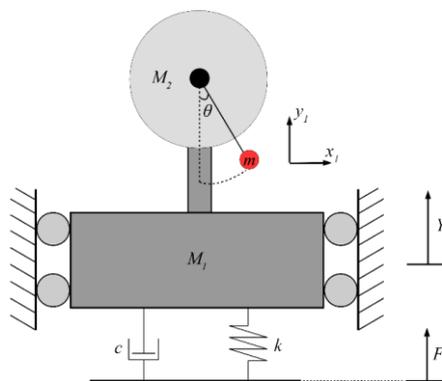

Figure 1: *Floating energy harvesting system excited by a harmonic*

The generalized coordinate are represented by Y and ϑ, by considering the mass of the platform by Y and the angular displacement of the pendulum by ϑ. A harmonic displacement represented by $F = Asin(wt)$, is applied to the base, where A represents the ocean wave amplitude, w is the excitation frequency and t the time. The equations of motion for the system are obtained as presented in Marques *et al.* (2017b).

The pendulum movement is considered as written in Equation (1).

$$x_1 = l\sin\theta$$
$$y_1 = Y + l(1 - \cos\theta)$$
(1)

The kinetic energy of the floating system is given by the mass of the pendulum, platform and DC generator, and is shown in Equation (2).

$$T = \frac{1}{2}(M_1 + M_2)\dot{Y}^2 + \frac{1}{2}m(l^2\dot{\theta}^2 + \dot{Y}^2 + 2l\dot{\theta}\dot{Y}\sin\theta)$$
(2)

The potential energy of the system is given by the sum of the restoration force due the thrust force between the water and the floating platform, and the pendulum gravitational potential energy, denoted by Equation. (3).

$$V = \frac{1}{2}k(Y - F)^2 + mg(Y + l(1 - \cos\theta))$$
(3)

The Rayleigh-Ritz dissipation function is defined by the linear viscous damping of the water, presented in Equation (4).

$$D = \frac{1}{2}c(\dot{Y} - \dot{F})^2$$
(4)

The equations of motion for the system shown in Figure 1 are obtained applying the Lagrange's energy method to Equations (1) to (4). The equations of motion are presented in Equation (5). The first equation represents the platform motion and the second one the pendulum rotation.

$$M\ddot{Y} + k(Y - A\sin(wt)) + c(\dot{Y} - Aw\cos(wt)) + \ldots$$
$$ml(\ddot{\theta}\sin(\theta) + \dot{\theta}^2\cos(\theta)) + mg = 0$$
(5)
$$ml^2\ddot{\theta} + ml(\ddot{Y}\sin\theta + \dot{Y}\dot{\theta}\cos\theta) - gml\cos\theta = 0$$

where $M = M_1 + M_2 + m$.

2.1 Mathematical modelling of the DC electric power generator

In Figure 2, the DC generator model is illustrated. This model considers the generator as an *RL* electric circuit, which consists of a load resistance R_{load}, wich can be any kind of resistive load, an output voltage e_v, an internal resistance of the electric generator R_m, an inductance L, and the electric current i.
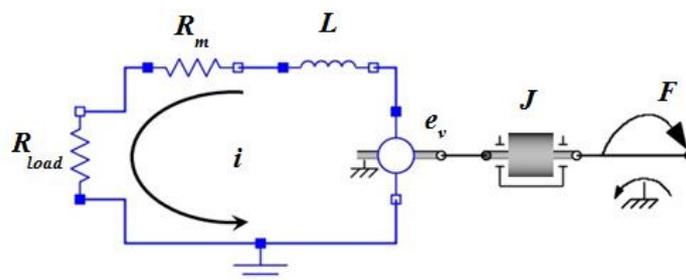

Figure 2: DC generator electric circuit representation

The generated voltage e_v of the harvesting system is given in Equation (6) (Dorf and Bishop, 1998).

$$e_v = k_b \dot{\theta} \tag{6}$$

where k_b is the electromotive force constant and $\dot{\theta}$ is the angular speed.

The equation of motion of the electric circuit is given by Equation (7).

$$k_b \dot{\theta} = -L\dot{i} - Ri \tag{7}$$

where: $R = R_m + R_{load}$, i is the electric current, and $\dot{i} = \dfrac{d(i)}{dt}$.

The torque produced by the current which flows in opposite direction to the torque applied to the motor shaft, can be written as in Equation (8).

$$F_m = k_t i \tag{8}$$

where k_t is the torque constant and F_m the generated torque.

By analyzing Equations 7 and 8, it is possible to see that the load resistance value R_{load} has a high impact over the generated torque, so the lower the value of R_{load}, higher is the current and, consequently, the generated torque may brake the pendulum system hampering the pendulum swing motion.

The equations of motion for the complete harvesting system are given by including Equation (7) in Equations (5), as presented in Equation (9).

$$M\ddot{Y} + k\left(Y - A\sin(wt)\right) + c\left(\dot{Y} - Aw\cos(wt)\right) + ml\left(\ddot{\theta}\sin(\theta) + \dot{\theta}^2\cos(\theta)\right) + mg = 0$$

$$ml^2\ddot{\theta} + ml\left(\ddot{Y}\sin\theta + \dot{Y}\dot{\theta}\cos\theta\right) - gml\cos\theta = -b\dot{\theta} + k_t i \tag{9}$$

$$L\dot{i} = -Ri - k_b\dot{\theta}$$

In order to simplify the simulations, a dimensionless process is carried out, which results in dimensionless system equations, given by Equation (10).

$$y'' + \mu_1 y' + y + \delta_1\left(\theta''\cos\theta + \theta'\sin\theta\right) + G_1 - A_1\cos\Omega\tau - A_2\sin\Omega\tau = 0$$

$$\theta'' + y''\sin\theta + y'\theta'\cos\theta - G_2\cos\theta + G_3\theta' - \alpha_3 z' = 0 \tag{10}$$

$$z' + \alpha_1 z + \alpha_2\theta' = 0$$

where:

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{M}} \qquad \tau = \omega t \qquad \Omega = \frac{w}{\omega} \qquad y = \frac{Y}{l} \qquad z = \frac{i}{i_0} \qquad \delta_1 = \frac{m}{M}$$

$$G_1 = \frac{mg}{M\omega^2 l} \qquad \mu_1 = \frac{c}{M\omega} \qquad A_1 = \frac{A}{l} \qquad A_2 = \frac{Acw}{M\omega l} \qquad G_2 = \frac{g}{l\omega^2}$$

$$G_3 = \frac{b}{ml^2\omega^2} \qquad \alpha_3 = \frac{k_t i_0}{ml^2\omega^2} \qquad \alpha_1 = \frac{R}{L\omega i_0} \qquad \alpha_2 = \frac{k_b}{L\omega i_0}$$

Considering $x_1 = y$, $x_2 = y'$, $x_3 = \theta$, $x_4 = \theta'$ and $x_5 = z$, the dimensionless equations of motion are represented, with accelerations uncoupled, in state-space form by Equation (11).

$$x'_1 = x_2$$

$$x'_2 = \left[\frac{1}{1-\delta_1 \sin^2(x_3)}\right]\left[\begin{matrix} -\mu_1 x_2 - x_1 - G_1 + A_1 \sin\Omega\tau + A_2 \cos\Omega\tau - \ldots \\ \delta_1\left(x_4^2 \cos(x_3) + \sin(x_3)\left(\cos(x_3)(G_2 - x_2 x_4) + G_3 + \alpha_3 x_5\right)\right) \end{matrix}\right]$$

$$x'_3 = x_4$$

$$x'_4 = G_2 \cos(x_3) - x_2 x_4 \cos(x_3) + G_3 + \alpha_3 x_5 - \ldots$$

$$\left[\frac{\sin(x_3)}{1-\delta_1 \sin^2(x_3)}\right]\left[\begin{matrix} -\mu_1 x_2 - x_1 - G_1 + A_1 \sin\Omega\tau + A_2 \cos\Omega\tau - \ldots \\ \delta_1\left(x_4^2 \cos(x_3) + \sin(x_3)\left(\cos(x_3)(G_2 - x_2 x_4) + G_3 + \alpha_3 x_5\right)\right) \end{matrix}\right]$$

$$x'_5 = -\alpha_1 x_5 - \alpha_2 x_4$$

(11)

The electric power is obtained from Equation (12).

$$P_e = R_{load} i^2$$

(12)

where, P_e is the estimated electrical power, and i is the electric current of the DC motor circuit.

The average electric power will be considered in the *RMS* form in order to analyze the efficiency of the energy generation, according to Equation (13).

$$P_{e\_rms} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{j=1}^{n} P_{e\_rms\,j}^2}$$

(13)

In the next sections, the numerical simulations of the proposed harvesting system will be shown, as well the analysis of the generated power and its improvement.

3 NUMERICAL SIMULATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROPOSED PENDULUM-GENERATOR-PLATFORM SYSTEM

Numerical simulations using the 4th order Runge-Kutta integrator with step 0.01, was performed in order to generate data for the dynamical analysis of the system. The simulation parameters are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Parameter`s value of the system

Parameter	Value	Means
M_1 [kg]	200	Platform mass
M_2 [kg]	5	DC Motor mass
m [kg]	Vary	Pendulum mass
c[Ns/m]	80	Water-Fluid damping
l[m]	Vary	Pendulum length
g[m/s²]	9.81	Gravity Acceleration
k[Nm]	1800	Stiffness of the spring proportional to buoyancy force
R_m[Ohm]	4.57	Internal Resistance of the motor
R_{load}[Ohm]	1.0	Resistance of load
L[H]	0.0032	Inductance of the electric circuit
k_t[Nm/A]	0.23309	Constant torque of the motor
k_b[Vs/rad]	0.23309	Electromotive force constant
A[m]	Vary	Amplitude of ocean waves
w[rad/s]	Vary	Frequency of ocean waves
i_0	1.0	Free dimensionless parameter
b[Nms/rad]	0.001405	Viscous friction between the axis and bearing of the DC motor

The parameters of the harvesting system were retrieved from Dos Santos *et al.* (2015), except to the wave amplitude A[m] and frequency w[rad/s] values. These values are considered for two situations: the first one is when the amplitude

and frequency are maximum, the second one is considered an average value to the amplitude and frequency. Both cases are considered the weather of waves obtained in the period of 1997 and 2009 by Carvalho (2010). The parameters that are in red will be varied along the paper.

3.1 Dynamical and energy harvesting analysis considering maximum frequency and amplitude

In this topic, the values of the mass and length of the pendulum are analyzed by considering the maximum values of the amplitude and frequency of the ocean waves, seeking the best values that generate the higher RMS power. The ocean wave amplitude and frequency are, respectively $A = 4.5m$ and $w = 1.2712rad/s$ (Dos Santos *et al.,* 2015).

Figures 3 shows the variation of the average RMS harvested power considering the interval of pendulum mass as *0.5 ≤ m ≤ 1.0 [kg]* and the length as *0.3 ≤ l ≤ 0.6 [m]*. It is possible to see that the harvested power is maximum when the pendulum has a mass *m = 0.8kg* and length *l = 0.3m*.

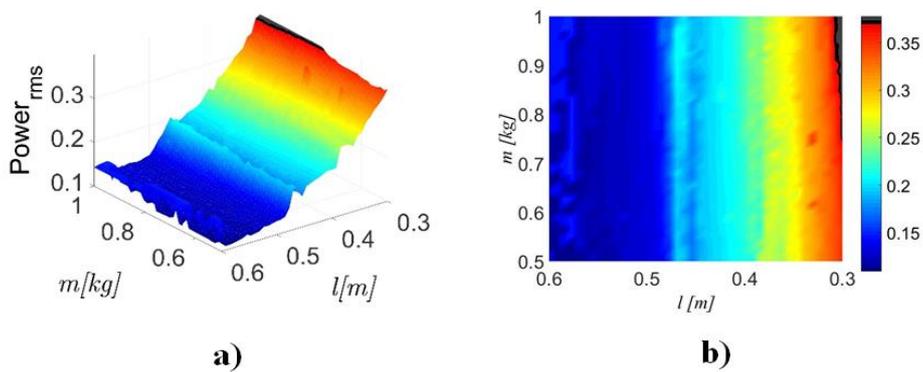**Figure 3**: *(a) Surface of the average RMS harvested electric power versus pendulum mass 0.5 ≤ m ≤ 1.0 [kg] and length 0.3 ≤ l ≤ 0.6 [m], considering A = 4.5m and w = 1.2712rad/s. (b) colored contour of the average RMS.*

Figure 4 shows the time histories for the for mentioned parameters, being that, Figure 4a shows the displacement of the floating platform, Figure 4b the angular displacement of the pendulum, Figure 4c the angular velocity of the pendulum and Figure 4d the electric current generated by the DC power generator.

The behavior of the platform in Figure 4a, showed to be periodic with a slight motion and high amplitudes. Due to this fact, the pendulum showed swing behaviour with a high velocity, being possible to generate, approximately, 0.3763W of amount of RMS power.
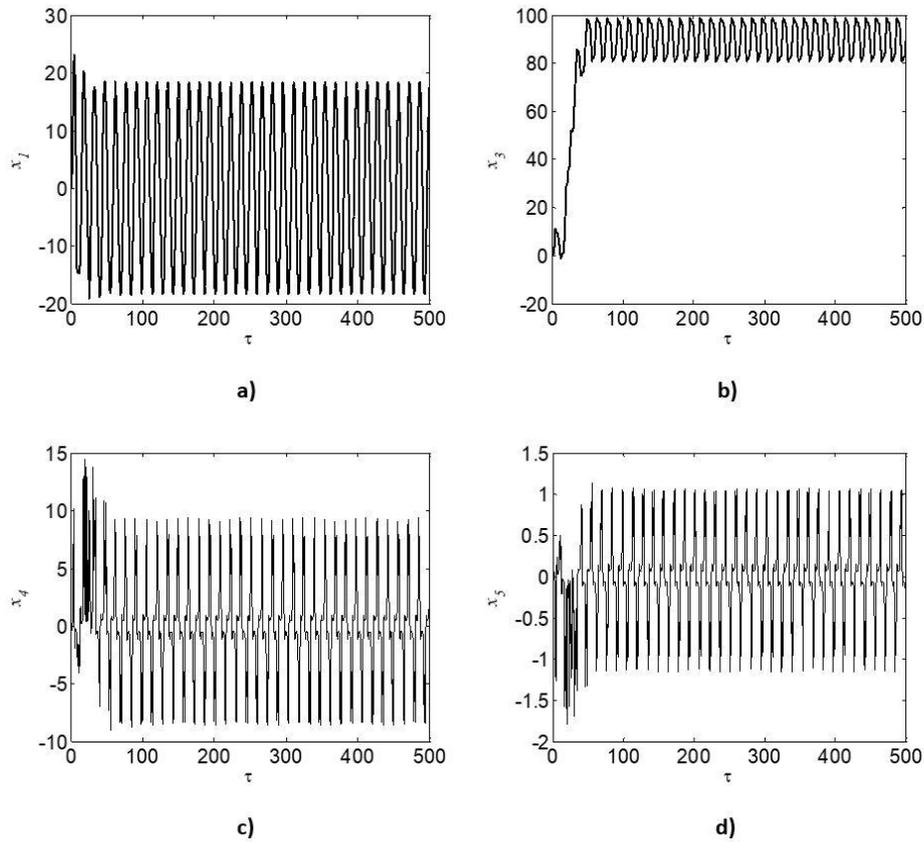
Figure 4: (a) Time histories of (a) floating platform Displacement; A = 4.5m, w = 1.2712rad/s, m = 0.8kg and l = 0.3m. (b) Angular displacement of the pendulum. (c) Angular velocity of the pendulum. (d) Electric current of the generated.

In order to determine the influence of the ocean waves frequency and amplitude in the harvested power, a variation of these parameters is carried out considering the pendulum values as *m* = 0.8*kg* and *l* = 0.3*m* because these values represent the maximum harvested power in Figure 3.

In Figures 5 it is possible to see the surfaces of the variation of the average RMS harvested power versus the ocean wave amplitude 0.6 ≤ A ≤ 4.5 [*m*] and frequency 0.5 ≤ w ≤ 1.8 [*rad/s*] respectively. It is showed that the maximum harvested power is obtained when *A* = 4.5*m* and *w* = 1.8*rad/s*.
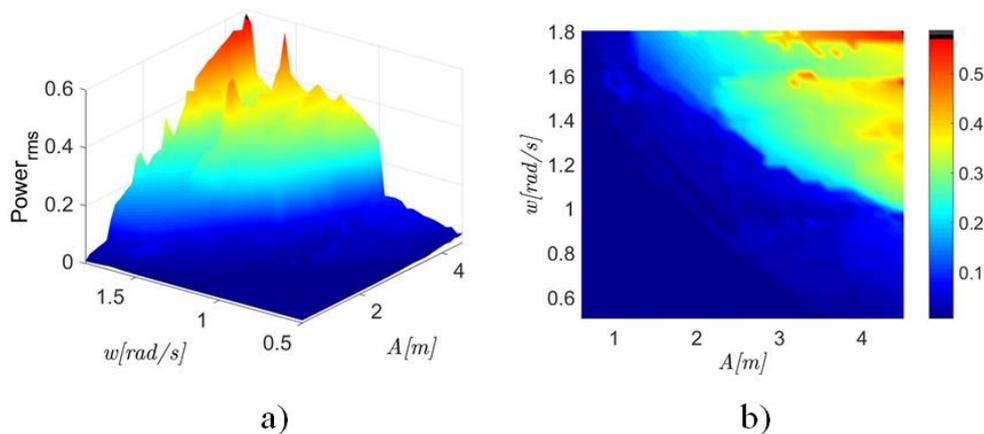

Figure 5: (a) Surface of the average RMS harvested electric power versus ocean wave amplitude 0.6 ≤ A ≤ 4.5 [m] and frequency 0.5 ≤ w ≤ 1.8 [rad/s], considering m = 0.8kg and l = 0.3m. (b) Colored contour of the average RMS harvested electric power versus ocean wave amplitude

After the best configuration among the parameters of the pendulum and wave are defined, that are *A* = 4.5*m*, *w* = 1.8*rad/s*, *m* = 0.8*kg* and *l* = 0.3*m*, the time histories of the system displacement are shown in Figure 6, where Figure 6a

shows the displacement of the floating platform, Figure 6b the angular displacement of the pendulum, Figure 6c the angular velocity of the pendulum and Figure 6d the electric current generated by the DC power generator.

For these parameters, the platform behavior showed to be also periodic with slight motion with high amplitudes. However, the pendulum have presented rotational motions with a considerably velocity, increasing the harvested power, from 0.3763W in the first analysis to 0.5873W of amount of RMS power, approximately.
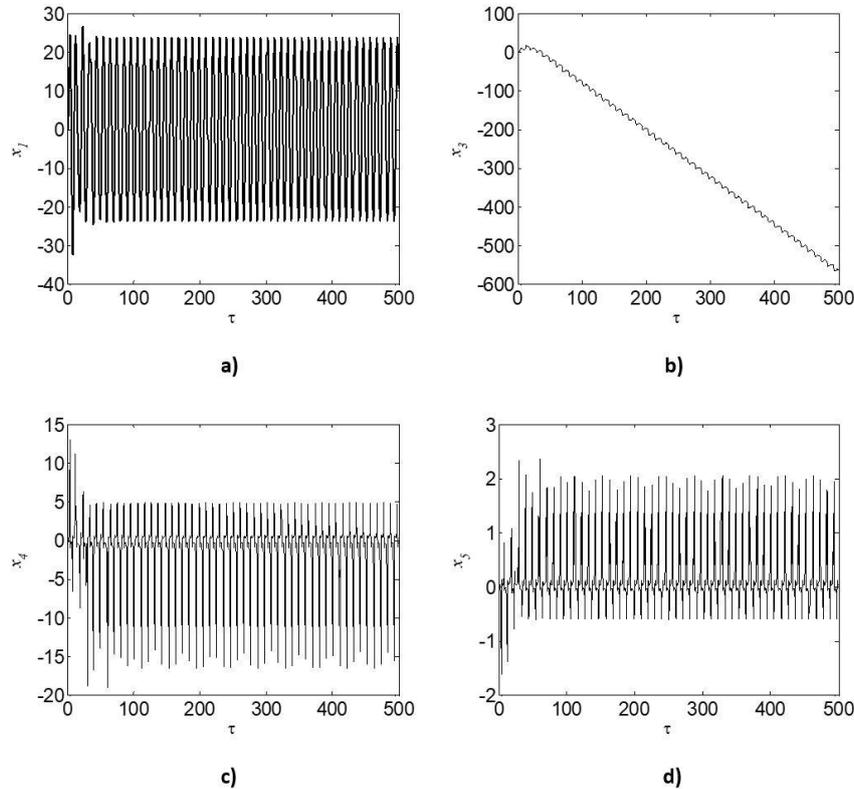

Figure 6: *(a) Time histories of (a) floating platform Displacement; A = 4.5m, w = 1.8 rad/s, m = 0.8kg and l = 0.3m. (b) Angular displacement of the pendulum. (c) Angular velocity of the pendulum. (d) Electric current of the generated.*

However, as these maximum values of ocean wave amplitude and frequency are obtained in rare situations, the following subsection considers the variation of an average value of amplitude and frequency of the ocean waves.

3.2 Dynamical and Energy Harvesting analysis considering the Average Frequency and Amplitude

In this part of the work, the parameters of the pendulum, mass and length, and the amplitude and frequency of the ocean waves will be obtained analyzing an average of these parameters using the numerical method of Particle Swarm Optimization, near the values of maximum estimated power.

The Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) algorithm was proposed by Kennedy and Eberhart in 1995 (Kennedy, 2011). This algorithm works as a strategy to search the best solution of optimization problems. PSO is a population-based stochastic algorithm and it was inspired by social intelligence system of social interaction of bird flock or fish schooling. There are three principles that the individual or particle follow: Evaluate, Compare and Imitate.

The mathematical model decision of the behavior is given by Equation (14).

$$\vec{v}_i^{n+1} = \omega_p \vec{v}_i^n + c_1 \psi_1 \left(\vec{p}_i - \vec{x}_i^n \right) + c_2 \psi_2 \left(\vec{g}_i - \vec{x}_i^n \right) \tag{14}$$

where $\vec{v}_i^n$ is the ith particle velocity in interaction n, ω_p is the Inertia weight, $c_{1,2}$ the individual and sociality weights, $\psi_{1,2}$ Random factors, $\vec{p}_i$ and $\vec{g}_i$ are the best individual position and neighborhood position, respectively, and $\vec{x}_i^n$ particle position in interaction n.

The updating process is composed by the last position of particle and velocity update vector by Equation (14), as given by Equation (15).

$$\vec{x}_i^{n+1} = \vec{x}_i^n + \vec{v}_i^{n+1} \tag{15}$$

Therefore, the interval of the parameters to be analyzed are, to the pendulum mass $0.5 \le m \le 1.5$ [kg], length $0.3 \le l \le 0.8$ [m], wave amplitude $0.15 \le A \le 3.25$ [m] and frequency $0.3 \le w \le 0.95$ [rad/s]. The intervals defined in this subsection were chosen because of some limitations of the experimental part, which will be presented in the next section. The optimization convergence curve of PSO algorithm is shown in Figure 7. The curve showed the convergence of the maximum average power, showing the optimized parameters that are $m = 0.5797kg$, $l = 0.5016m$, $A = 2.4325m$ and $w = 0.9419rad/s$. The average power in RMS using these parameters is $P_{e\_rms} = 0.0684$.
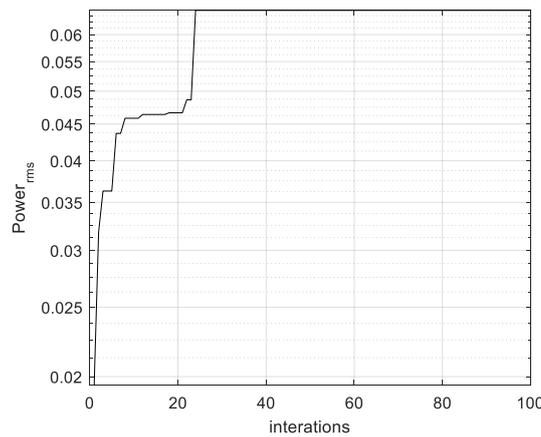

Figure 7: Convergence curve of Particle Swarm Optimization algorithm

Figure 8 shows the time histories of the displacements using $m = 0.5797kg$, $l = 0.5016m$, $A = 2.4325m$ and $w = 0.9419rad/s$, where Figure 8a shows the displacement of the floating platform, Figure 8b the angular displacement of the pendulum, Figure 8c the angular velocity of the pendulum and Figure 8d the electric current generated by the DC power generator.
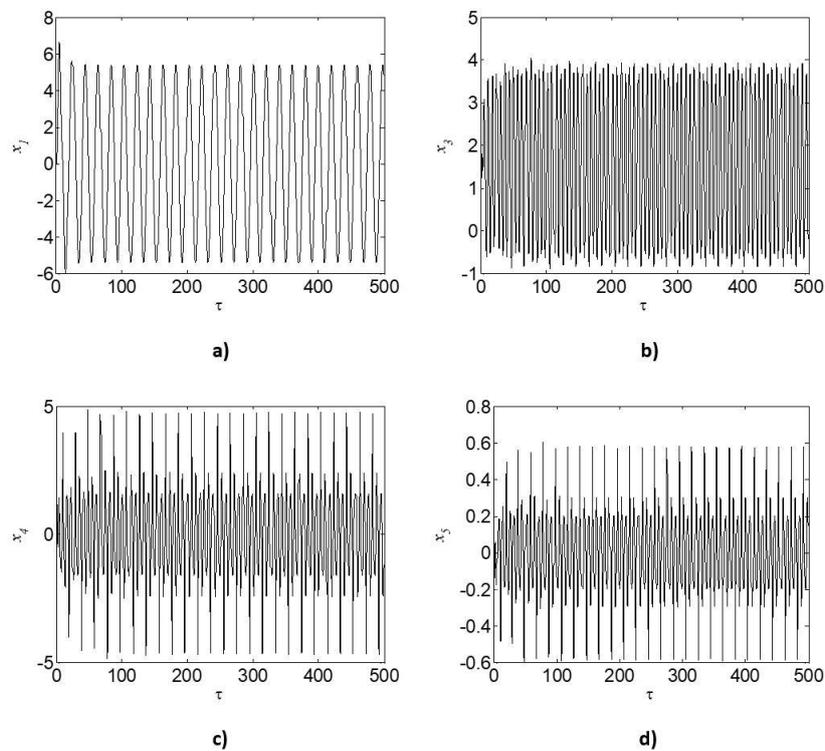

Figure 8: (a) Time histories of (a) floating platform Displacement; A = 4.5m, w = 1.8 rad/s, m = 0.8kg and l = 0.3m. (b) Angular displacement of the pendulum. (c) Angular velocity of the pendulum. (d) Electric current of the generated.

Therefore, using the PSO, it is possible to obtain a maximum average power of P_{e_rms} = 0.0684, less than using the maximum values of amplitude and frequency. However, these values are optimum and more easily to obtain by ocean waves.

In the next section, experimental results of energy harvesting will be carried out.

4 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS OF THE ENERGY HARVESTING

This section will show the results of an experimental system built to validate the numerical simulations. The experimental system assembly, as illustrated in Figure 9, is composed of a Robotic Arm IRB 2600, which is used to emulate the ocean waves, a DC power generator, a pendulum connected to the DC generator shaft with 0.8kg mass and length of 0.3m. The angular position of the pendulum is measured by an encoder with 12 bits resolution. To measure the electric current, a 1 Ohm load resistor is coupled to the DC generator emulating the electric load, and a current sensor is connected to the system. These sensors are connected to a Data Acquisition system DAQ 6212 from National Instruments and the data are collected by a virtual instrument developed in LabView programing language. The assembled experimental system is presented in Figure 10.
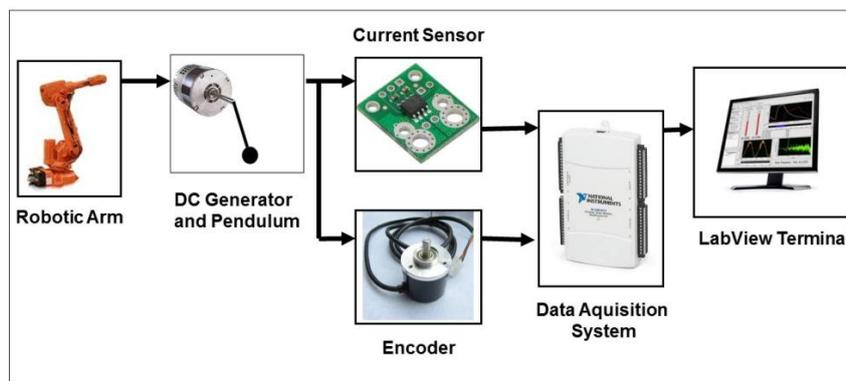

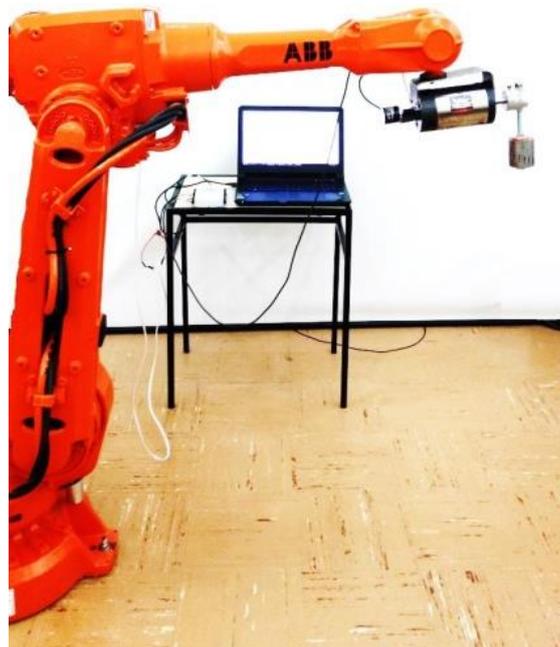*Figure 9: Schematic image of the experiment's setup*

Figure 10: Experimental apparatus of the pendulum coupled to the DC generator.

The experiment considers ocean wave amplitude of 0.5m because of the limitations of the Robotic Arm displacement. The frequency was set to 3rad/s.

Started and measured the experimental system, Figures 11a and 11b show the angular position and velocity, respectively. It is difficult to compare the values of theoretical results to the experimental results; however, it is possible

to compare the behaviour and oscillations of the system. In the same way, the pendulum oscillates with a high angular position, consequently, the angular velocity shown itself with good values to the energy harvesting, since the angular velocity is proportional to the generated current by the DC generator. Even the pendulum does not rotate, it keeps oscillating all the time, what is very important.
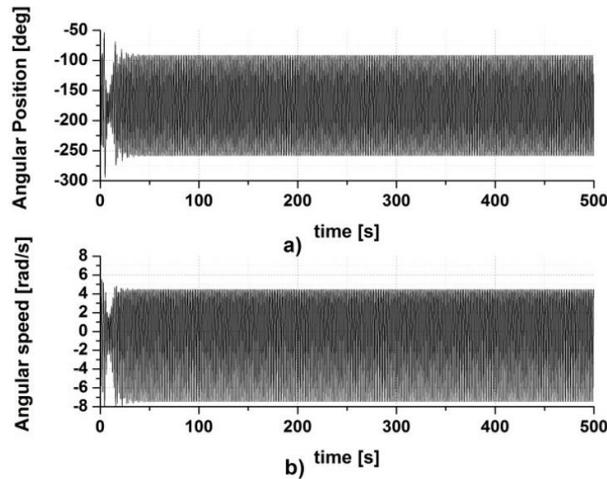

Figure 11: (a) Angular position of the pendulum measured from the experimental system for A = 0.5m and w = 3 rad/s. (b) angular velocity of the pendulum measured from the experimental system

Knowing the intensity of the angular velocity, Figure 12 shows the electric current signal measured from the experiment using LabView. As the pendulum oscillates, to the set conditions of ocean waves, the average electric current in RMS is 0.3296 A.

Applying the power relations of Equation (13) to a load resistance of 1 Ohm, the harvested power from the pendulum motion generated through the DC power generator is 0.3296 W.
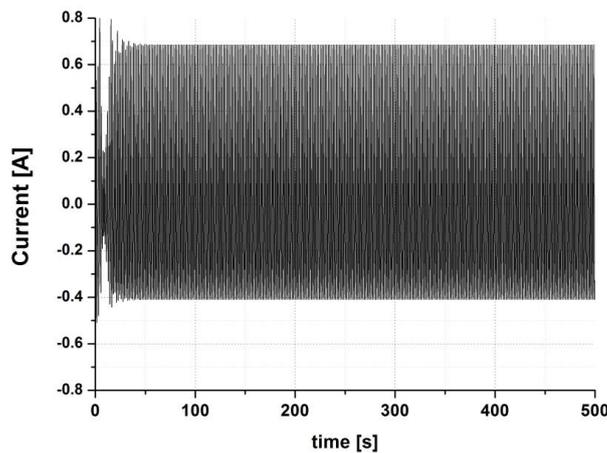

Figure 12: Electric current signal measured from the experimental system for A = 0.5m and w = 3rad/s

This experimental attempt showed that is possible to harvest energy from a pendulum oscillation with good values of power. Therefore, in the next section, will be exposed the conclusions of this work.

CONCLUSIONS

This work showed a parametrical analysis of an energy harvesting system based on a floating platform with a pendulum coupled to the top end of the structure. The pendulum is attached to a DC power generator shaft in order to

harvest energy. General analysis of some essentials parameters was carried out using three different ways: standard parametrical variations, using a PSO algorithm technique and experimental tests.

The numerical simulations was carried out by applying 4th Runge-Kutta the integration method. The results showed a parameter variation of the four most important parameters of the harvesting system, that are the pendulum length and mass, and the ocean wave amplitude and frequency. The mass and the length of the pendulum have showed to be the most sensible with their variation, as shown in Figures. 3. It was shown that the amplitude and frequency of ocean wave are not less important than the pendulum mass and length has a foremost importance in the harvested power, however, as shown in Figures 5, the highest amount of harvested power keeps in a smaller region of parameters than in Figures 3.

The Power Swarm Optimization (PSO) algorithm showed to be a very good tool to set up the four parameters. As describe in the Subsection. 3.2, the interval of the pendulum and ocean waves parameters were chosen due to the limitation of the Robotic Arm IRB 2600, finding an optimum configuration to these parameters considering the equations of motion of the system.

Moreover, the experimental part of this work was carried out in order to simulate the behavior of the theoretical system. It is difficult to compare the values of power, however the behaviors of the system and oscillation of pendulum and the generated electric current were very similar to the experimental ones. In addition, the harvested power showed a very good value for harvesting although more tests changing the configurations is necessary.

In general, Table 2 shows a summary of the three techniques related to the harvested power and the final configuration of each it, where case 1 is the numerical simulations with Runge-Kutta case, case 2 is the use of PSO and case 3 is the experimental analysis.

Table 2: Parameter`s value of the system

Case	Amplitude A [m]	Frequency w [rad/s]	Mass m [kg]	Length l [m]	Harvested power
1	4.5	1.8	0.8	0.3	0.5873
2	2.4325	0.9419	0.5797	0.5016	0.0684
3	0.5	3.0	0.8	0.3	0.3296W

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