



# **Guidelines to select boundary conditions for mode shapes in flexible multibody systems**

**GAMM 2010, March, 24th 2010**

**Dr.-Ing. Andreas Heckmann, DLR**

**Institute of Robotics and Mechatronics**



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# Pre-processing of flexible bodies in MBD

- Modelling of the structure
  - analytically, PDE, FEM
- **Choice of Boundary Conditions**
- Solution of the eigenvalue problem
- Selection of an reduced set of modes
- optional: Generation of additional modes
  - e.g. additional particular solutions of the PDE, e.g. static modes, frequency response modes, thermal response modes
- Modal transformation
- Consideration of the non-linear reference motion
  - floating frame of reference formulation

see e.g. Wallrapp94, Argawal/Shabana95, Dietz99



# Boundary Conditions I: Beam

- PDE of the Euler-Bernoulli-beam with separation approach

$$\ddot{y}(x, t) + \frac{EI}{\rho A} y''''(x, t) = 0 \quad y(x, t) = w(x) \cdot q(t)$$

- spatial differential equation

$$w'''' + \lambda^4 w = 0 \quad w(x) = e^{\nu x}$$

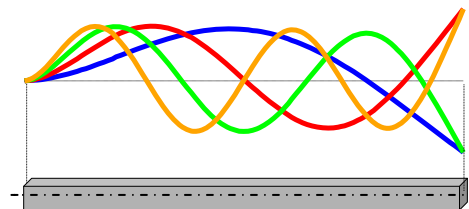
$$w(x) = c_1 \cosh(\nu x) + c_2 \sinh(\nu x) + c_3 \cos(\nu x) + c_4 \sin(\nu x)$$

- 4 boundary conditions

kinematic (essential) BC

$$w(x_b = 0) = 0$$

$$w'(x_b = 0) = 0$$



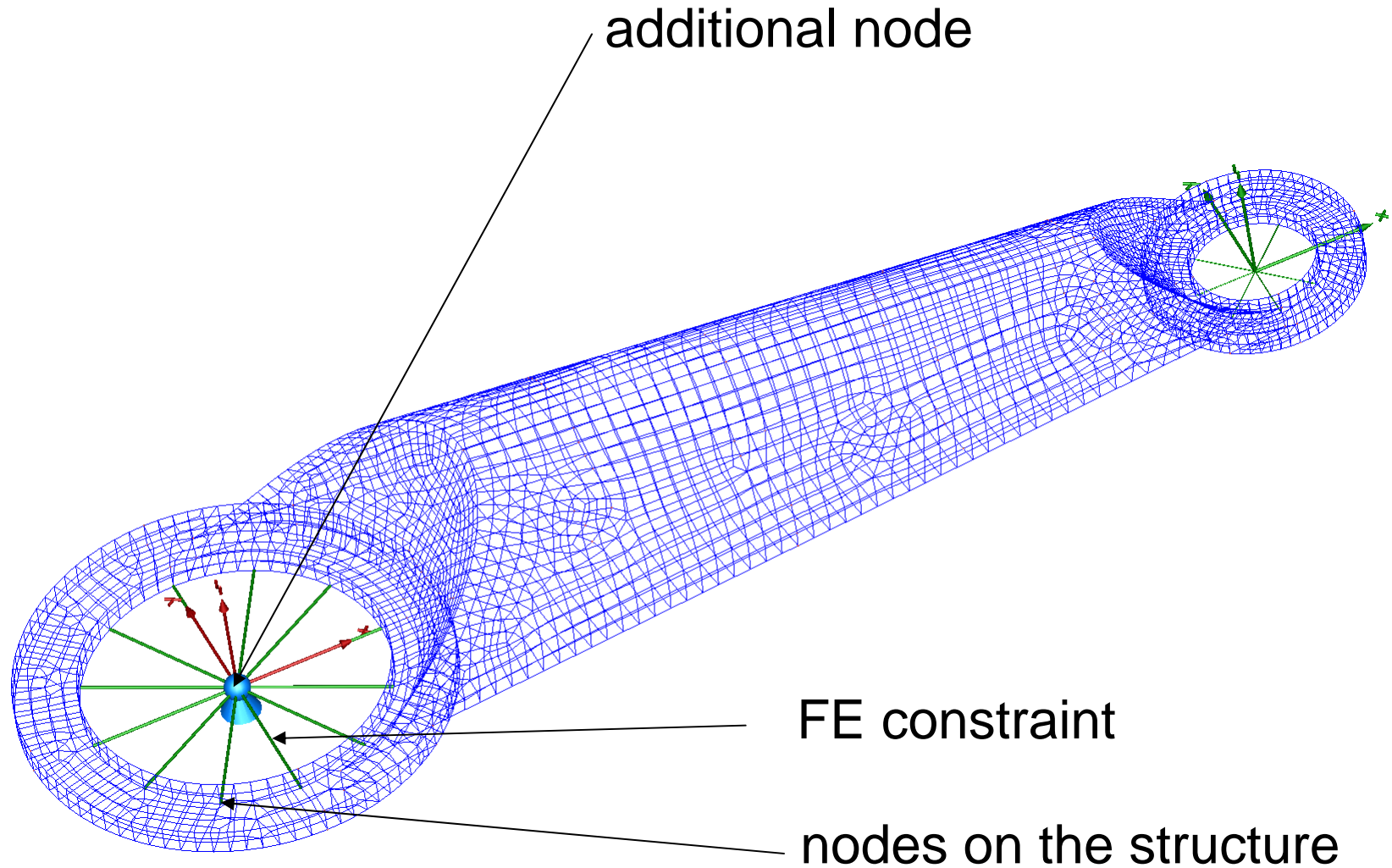
dynamic (natural) BC

$$EIw''(x_b) = 0$$

$$EIw'''(x_b) = 0$$

see e.g. Bremer92

# Boundary Conditions II: FEM structures



# Ritz-Approach (1908)

- fundamental idea: PDE, e.g.:

$$\Delta\Delta w = p(x, y)$$

$$w_n = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \psi_i(x)$$

$$u = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i(x) q_i(t)$$

$$F = \int_a^b f(x, w_n, w'_n, w''_n, \dots) dx \longrightarrow \text{stationary}$$

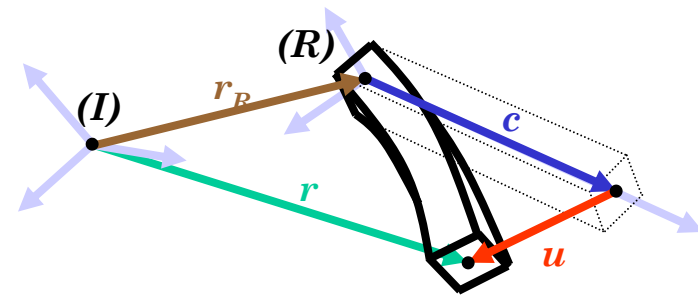
$$\delta F = \delta \int_{t_0}^{t_1} (T - U) dx = 0$$

- Equations of Motion  $\rightsquigarrow$  optimisation problem  $\Rightarrow$  weak solution
- provided that the chosen  $n$  mode functions
  - are linearly independent
  - the number  $n$  may be increased in order to improve the approximation quality
  - satisfy the kinematic boundary conditions
- for comparison: die strong solution satisfies
  - the PDE + the kinematic + dynamic boundary conditions
- in practise: a good approximation of the dynamic boundary conditions improves the convergence of the weak solution ( cp. (quasi-)comparison functions) see Meirovitch67



# Reference Frames

$$\mathbf{r}(c, t) = \mathbf{r}_R(t) + \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{u}(c, t)$$

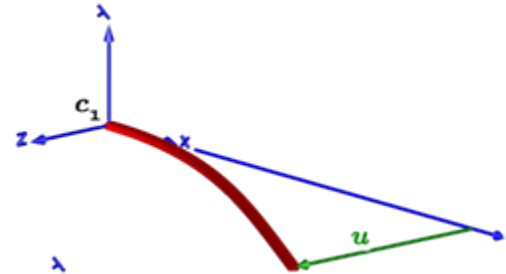


➤ 1st Option: tangent frame

$$\mathbf{u}(c = 0, t) = 0 \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial c}(c = 0, t) = 0$$

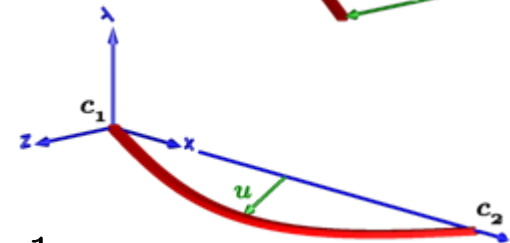
➤ 2nd Option: chord frame

$$\mathbf{u}(c_1) = 0 \quad \mathbf{u}(c_2) \cdot \overline{c_1 c_2} = 0$$



➤ 3rd Option: Buckens frame

$${}^0 C_r = {}^0 C_t = {}^1 d_C = \mathbf{O}$$



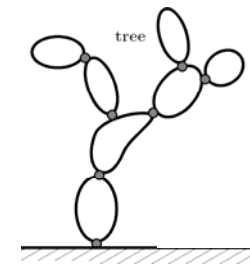
$$\begin{pmatrix} mI_3 & & \text{sym.} \\ m\tilde{d}_C & J & \\ C_t & C_r & M_e \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}_R \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha}_R \\ \ddot{\mathbf{q}} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{h}_\omega - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ K_e \mathbf{q} + D_e \dot{\mathbf{q}} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{f}_a \\ \mathbf{f}_\alpha \\ \mathbf{f}_e \end{pmatrix}$$

➤ Linearisation: choose reference frame in such a way that is as small as possible

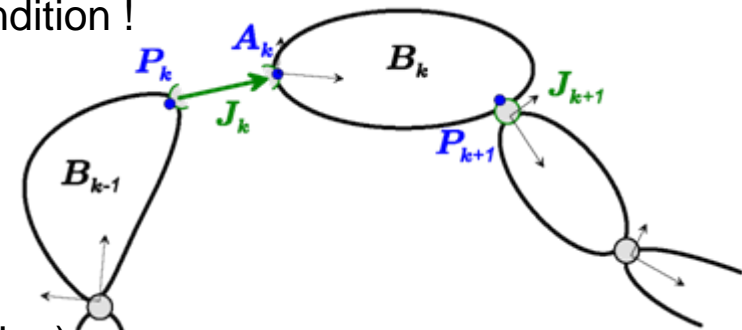
$$\mathbf{u} \ll 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{prefer Buckenssystem}$$

see Schwertassek/Wallrapp/Shabana99

# Proposal I: tree-structured Systems



1. Kinematics of  $\mathbf{P}_k$  only depends on generalised coordinates of preceding elements
2. A joint does not transmit a constraint force in the direction of its degree of freedom (dof)
3. no constraint force  $\Rightarrow$  no (i.e. free) boundary condition !

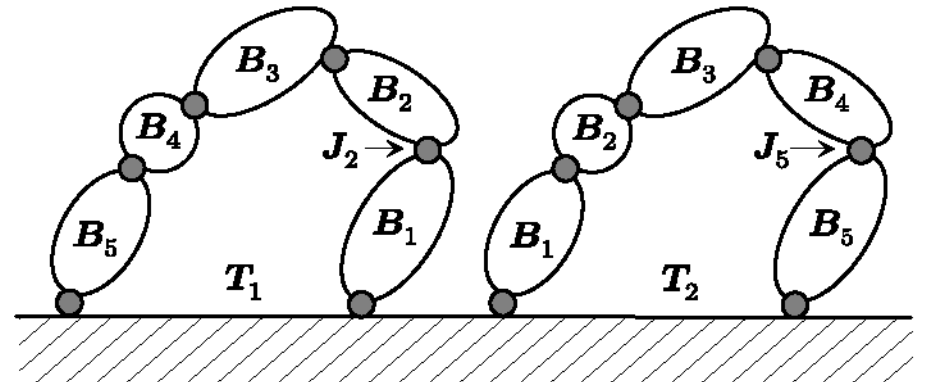
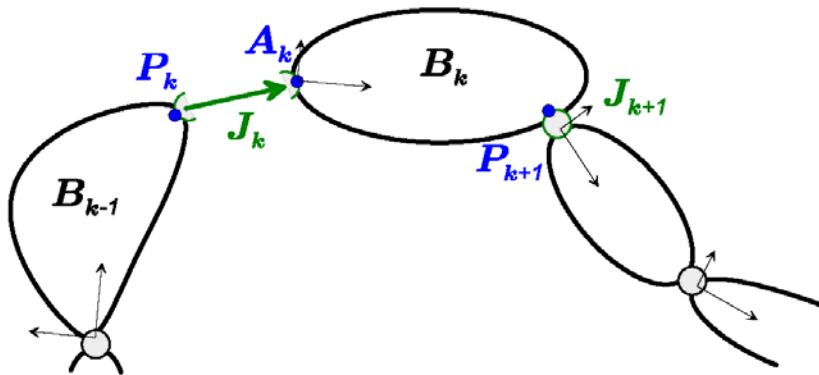


- boundary conditions at the joint  $\mathbf{J}_k$  (in root direction)
  - choose according to the dof of the joint to which the flexible body is attached
- boundary condition at the joint  $\mathbf{J}_{k+1}$  (to the next body of the tree)
  - the kinematic description does not rely on the existence of  $\mathbf{B}_{k+1}$
  - choose free boundary conditions



# Proposal II: closed loops

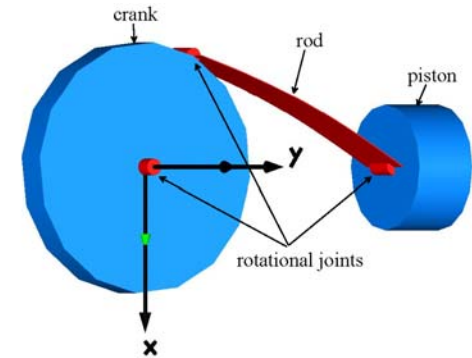
- here the kinematic formulation of  $P_{k+1}$  is not independent from the succeeding body  $B_{k+1}$ 
  - in particular it is not unique( different indices possible)
  - several paths to reach the root of the multibody system
- choose the boundary conditions at all joints according to their respective degrees of freedom



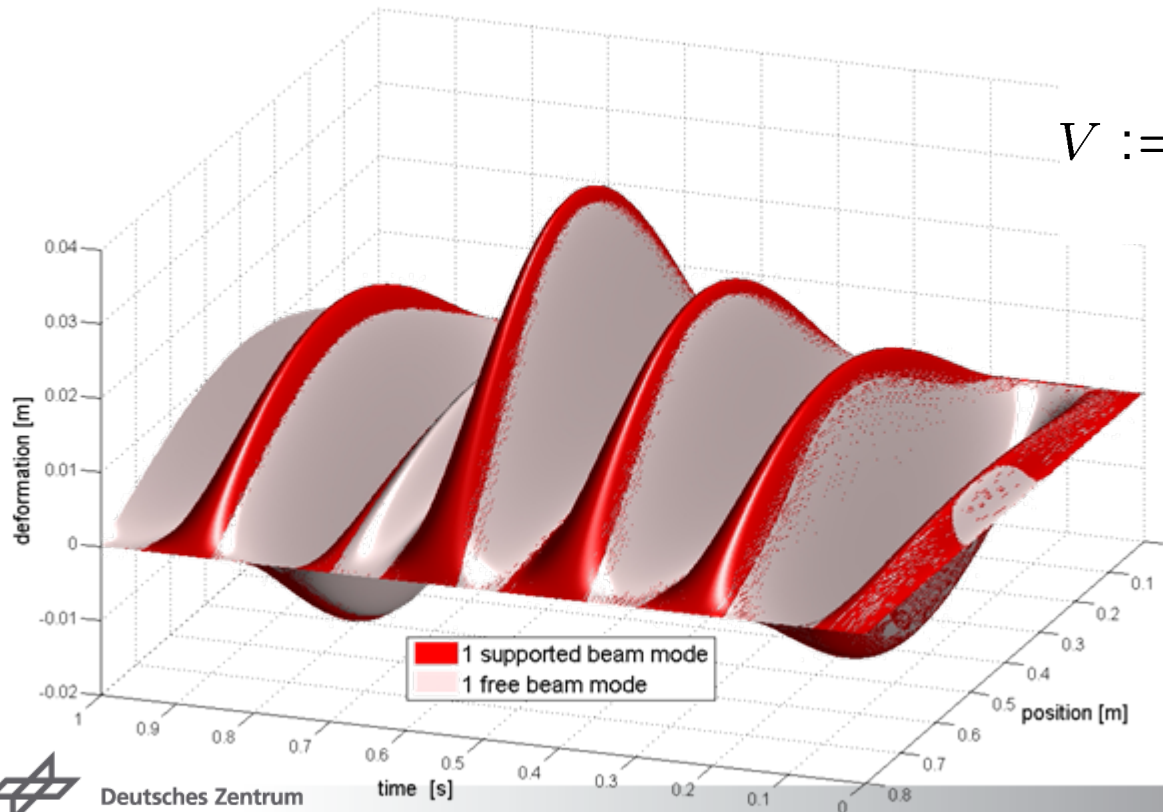
# Slider Crank Example I

## ➤ Comparison

- beam with supported-supported bcs
- beam with free-free bcs (Shabana96)



$$V := \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \int_0^l \|u_{CS} - u_{BS}\| dx dt$$



# Slider Crank Example II

- for 5 % error  $V = 5.5$
- Excitation is subcritical here: 1st eigenmode should dominate solution
- „supported modes“ are more efficient

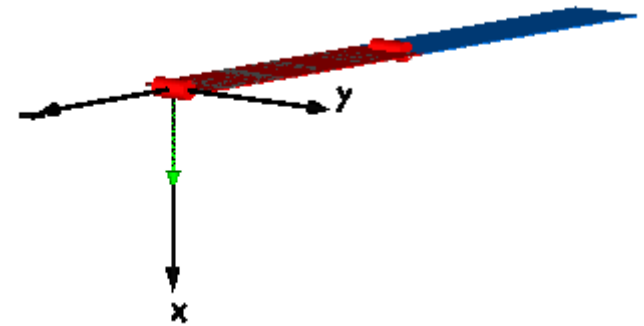
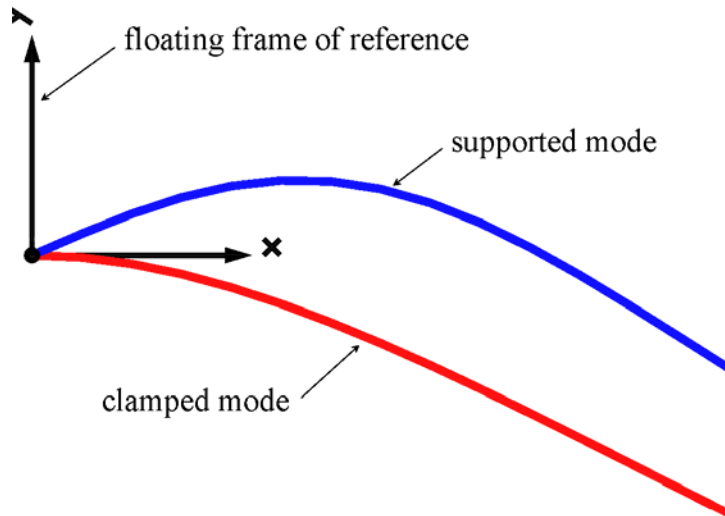
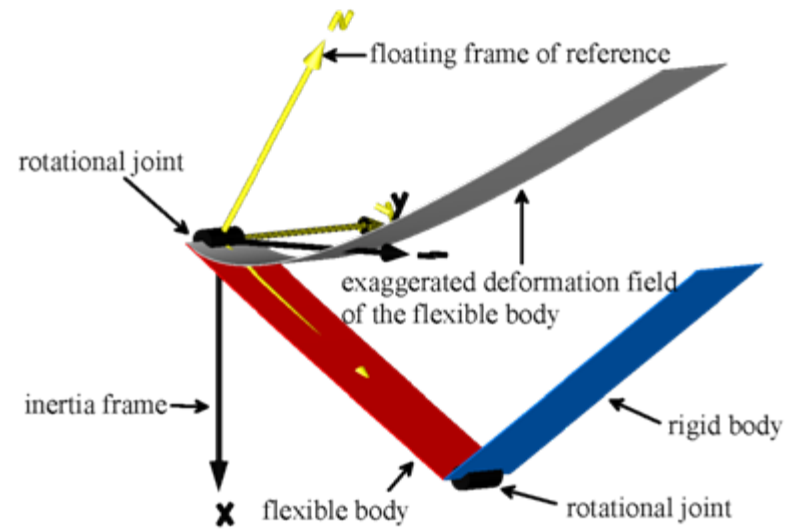
<b>Comparison A</b>	n free modes versus n supported modes						
number of modes n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$V [10^{-4} \text{m}^2 \text{s}]$	10.5	10.6	2.59	2.59	1.26	1.26	0.87

<b>Comparison B</b>	1 free mode versus n supported modes						
number of modes n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$V [10^{-4} \text{m}^2 \text{s}]$	10.5	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7

<b>Comparison C</b>	n free modes versus 1 supported mode						
number of modes n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$V [10^{-4} \text{m}^2 \text{s}]$	10.5	10.7	3.00	3.07	2.05	2.06	1.83

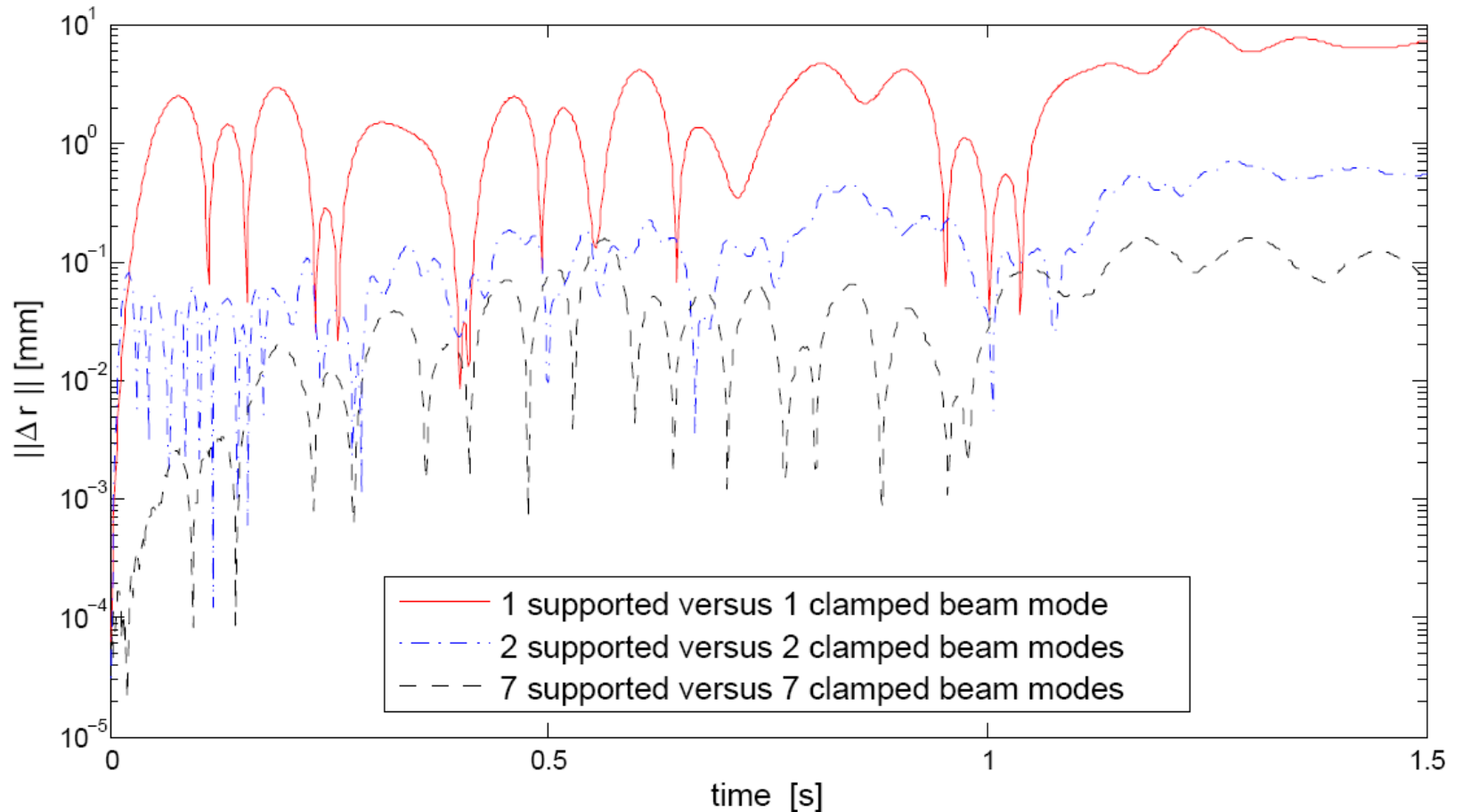
# Double Pendulum Example I

- Comparison:
  - supported modes
  - clamped modes

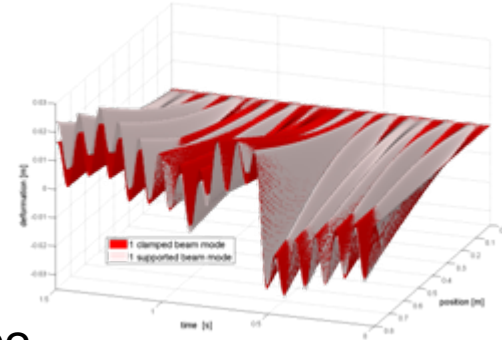


# Double Pendulum Example II

➤ Displacements at end point of flexible body



# Double Pendulum Example III



- Convergence of the solutions: 5% error here  $V = 2.62$
- „supported mode“ is the more efficient approach

<b>Comparison A</b>	n clamped modes versus n supported modes						
number of modes n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$V [10^{-4} \text{m}^2 \text{s}]$	21.9	1.85	0.56	0.43	0.42	0.42	0.46

<b>Comparison B</b>	1 clamped mode versus n supported modes						
number of modes n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$V [10^{-4} \text{m}^2 \text{s}]$	21.9	23.8	24.3	24.5	24.6	24.6	24.6

<b>Comparison C</b>	n clamped modes versus 1 supported mode						
number of modes n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$V [10^{-4} \text{m}^2 \text{s}]$	21.9	3.11	5.24	5.96	6.18	6.28	6.34

# Summary

- tree-structured systems:
  - joint in root-direction: bc according to dof of the joint
  - other joints free bcs
- closed loops
  - all joints according to their dof
- see Multibody System Dynamics paper: On the Choice of Boundary Conditions for Mode Shapes in Flexible Multibody Systems