

Damage localization based on vibrations

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Abstract

For aerospace, civil and mechanical engineering infrastructure, implementing a damage identification strategy is referred as a structural health monitoring. With the help of accelerometers, a frequency point of view allows monitoring without the needs of human presence. The damage identification can be divided into four levels: detection, localization, quantification and prediction. We present the existing methods for the detection and the localization of damage, then we detail one of them, namely the Frequency Response Function interpolating method. We also analyse this method with a simulation of a springmass system, and discuss the results.

Index Terms—Damage, Localization, Vibration, Health monitoring

I. INTRODUCTION

The process of implementing a damage identification strategy for aerospace, civil and mechanical engineering infrastructure is referred as a structural health monitoring (SHM) [5].

In the most general terms, damage can be defined as changes in a system that negatively affect its current or future performance. In general, a damage can be observed by comparing two different states of the system, one of which is supposed to represent the initial, and often undamaged, state.

Almost all industries want to detect damage in their infrastructure as quickly as possible whether for the potential life-safety or economic impact. Such detection requires these industries to perform some form of SHM.

Clearly, such damage identification has significant life-safety implications. For instance, there are no quantifiable methods to determine if buildings should be repaired after an earthquake yet. SHM may one day provide the technology that can be used to significantly minimize the uncertainty associated with such post-earthquake damage assessments. Thus additional catastrophes could be avoided.

Generally, the damage identification can be divided into four levels [10]:

- detection: Is the structure damaged or not?
- localization: Where is the damaged area located?
- quantification: What is the extent of damage?
- prediction: What is the remaining service life of the structure?

Traditional methods of damage detection based on visual inspections or experimental techniques such as radiography or ultrasound allow to obtain detailed information about a local damage state but requires to know area where it is located (and hope for easy access). These techniques may be costly, taking a long time to be performed and impractical to detect damage in large urban areas. Furthermore, they may fail if damage is not

visibly evident. This is why other global methods automated and based on sensor measurements were developed.

The purpose of this work is the analysis of a particular data-driven damage localization method, namely the FRF interpolation method [3], and the development of a statistical extension of this method. This paper is organized as follows. In section II we present the existing methods (model-based and data driven methods), then in section III we detail the different models of vibrating structures and finally, in section IV we talk about the localization using FRF interpolation method and, finally, its results in section V.

II. STATE OF THE ART

The use of methods based on recorded responses proved to perform as valuable alternatives. The general idea for vibration-based damage identification is that the damage affects the physical properties (mass, damping, and stiffness) of the structure, and this will cause detectable changes in modal properties (natural frequencies, modal damping, and mode shapes). For instance, cracks cause reductions in stiffness. Therefore, by analyzing the physical properties of the structure a damage can be detected.

Most of the different vibration based damage identification methods can be classified as data-driven or model-based. The model-based methods assume that a detailed numerical model of the structure is available for damage identification and, by vibration measurements, updates the model parameters. On another side, data-driven methods are based solely on the recorded response. These methods are interesting for a real-time damage identification but unavailability of a numerical model often hinders the estimation of damage severity. A third group includes data-driven methods that use finite element (FE) information without model updating.

A. Model-based methods

In model-based methods, damage is identified through the updating of a finite element (FE) model. Most of the time, modal characteristics is the experimental data used for damage assessment through FE model updating. Different types of modal data can be used. For changes in structural stiffness, model updating can be performed based only on natural frequencies or eigenvalues which are known to change in this case. Detailed informations about model-based methods can be found in references [8], [11] and [13].

B. Data driven methods

Data driven methods are inverse methods that use models based on experimental response data recorded on the structure

instead of physical models [9]. In these methods, the damage parameter D is the variation of the damage feature d between the inspection I and the reference R configurations:

$$D = d_I - d_R \quad (1)$$

Data-driven methods do not require a FE model and may be applied with a limited number of available signals (both responses and excitations). To extract the damage features, different signal-processing tools can be used. Therefore, depending on the tool, data-driven methods can be classified in Fourier-based methods, Time series method and Time-variant methods. A more detailed description of these methods can be found in references [6] and [12]. The analyzed method in this paper belongs to this class.

C. Combined data-driven and model-based methods

A third group of methods for damage localization and quantification lies between the data-driven and model-based approaches. "This class is based on datadriven features from measurements of the reference and damaged states, which are confronted to a FE model of the structure to define damage indicators for the elements of the FE model, without updating its parameters" [9].

III. MODELS OF VIBRATING STRUCTURES

A. Finite element model

The dynamic behaviour of a mechanical system consisting of n degrees of freedom (see Figure (1)) is described by following matrix differential equation:

$$M\ddot{q}(t) + C\dot{q}(t) + Kq(t) = f(t) \quad (2)$$

where $q(t)$ is the displacement vector at a continuous time t , and $M, C, K \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, are the mass, damping and stiffness matrices.

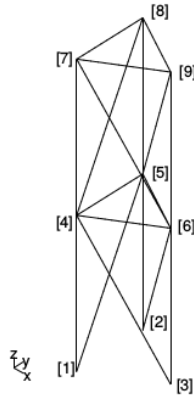


Fig. 1. Finite element model, from [10]

For civil engineering structures, Equation (2) is obtained as the finite element approximation of the system with only n degrees of freedom. The structure is divided in elements, and the global mass matrix M and stiffness matrix K are generated from the geometry and material properties of the elements.

B. Continuous-time state-space model

From the Equation (2) and with the variable change $x = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{q} \\ q \end{pmatrix}$, we obtain the state equation:

$$\dot{x}(t) = A_c x(t) + B_c f(t) \quad (3)$$

where $A_c = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ M^{-1}K & M^{-1}C \end{pmatrix}$ and $B_c = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ M^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$

In a practical vibration experiment, not all n degrees of freedom of the structure are measured, but only a subset. The observation equation is:

$$y(t) = C_c x(t) + D_c f(t) \quad (4)$$

If it is assumed that all n degrees of freedom are measured and that the sensors are accelerometers transducers, we have $C_c = (M^{-1}K \quad M^{-1}C)$ and $D_c = (M^{-1})$

Thus, the classical continuous-time state-space model is:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = A_c x(t) + B_c f(t) \\ y(t) = C_c x(t) + D_c f(t) \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

C. Discrete-time state-space model

Up to now all equations were expressed in continuous time, whereas in reality measurements are taken at discrete time instants. So this model need to be converted to discrete time. Another reason is that it is needed for performing simulations.

Thus, we choose a certain fixed sampling period Δt , and the continuous-time equations are discretized and solved at all discrete time instants k with $t = k\Delta t, k \in \mathbb{N}$.

The discrete-time state-space model is:

$$\begin{cases} x_{k+1} = A_d x_k + B_d f_k \\ y_k = C_d x_k + D_d f_k \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A_d &= \exp(A_c \Delta t) \\ B_d &= (A_d - I)A_c^{-1}B_c \\ C_d &= C_c \\ D_d &= D_c \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

IV. LOCALIZATION USING FRF INTERPOLATION METHOD

This method is presented in [3]. The main hypothesis underlying the method is that a concentrated damage reflects in a loss of spatial regularity of the vibrational profile of a structure, compared with the reference (undamaged) state.

In this section, we suppose that we have n sensors, which are located along an axis z , and we denote them by $\{z_l\}, l \in \{1 \dots n\}$. We also suppose we have N measurements for each sensor.

For each sensor, we calculate the Frequency Response Function (FRF) from the acceleration's measures, at certain frequencies (which are $\frac{k}{N}, k \in \{0 \dots N-1\}$).

Thus, for each frequency and each sensor, we have the transfer function value. Let us denote $H_R(z_l, f_i)$ the value of the transfer function for the sensor z_l at the frequency f_i .

Then, we calculate for each sensor z_l the cubic polynomial spline interpolation of the transfer functions $H_R(z_k, f_i)$ measured at all the other instrumented locations $\{z_k\}, k \in \{1 \dots n\}, k \neq l$: we denote it $H_S(z_l, f_i)$.

For these two transfer functions, we define the interpolation error $E(z_l, f_i)$ as the absolute value of the difference between recorded and interpolated FRFs:

$$E(z_l, f_i) = |H_R(z_l, f_i) - H_S(z_l, f_i)| \quad (8)$$

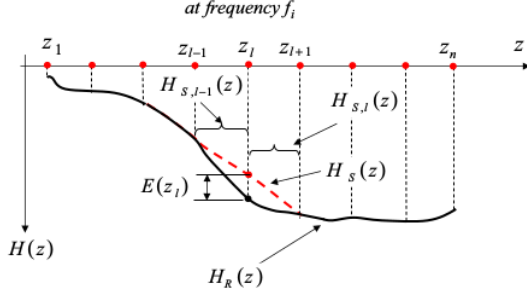


Fig. 2. Interpolation error, from [3]

Since we want to characterize each location z_l with a scalar-valued error index, we introduce the norm of the error on the whole range of frequencies:

$$E(z_l) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N E^2(z_l, f_i)} \quad (9)$$

Transfer function values obviously depend on the state of the structure. Hence, if the estimation of the error function through Equation (9) is repeated in the baseline (undamaged) and in the inspection (possibly damaged) configuration, then the difference between the two values, denoted respectively by $E_0(z_l)$ and $E_d(z_l)$, can provide an indication about the existence of degradation at location z_l :

$$\Delta E(z_l) = E_d(z_l) - E_0(z_l) \quad (10)$$

An increase in the interpolation error between the reference configuration and the current configuration at a station z_l , i.e. $\Delta E(z_l) > 0$, highlights a localized reduction of smoothness in the vibrational amplitude profile and, therefore, it is assumed to be a symptom of a local variation of stiffness at z_l associated with the occurrence of damage.

The above analysis has been developed in a deterministic context. Several sources, such as temperature, nonlinear behavior, soil structure interaction and noise in recorded data, can induce variations of the interpolation error even if no damage occurs.

Thus, once have to determine a threshold E_T , such as $\Delta E(z_l)$ must be taller than E_T to have a high probability of identification of a damage at location z_l . Indeed, as we can see in the Figure (3), the curves which represent the fact to have a damage or not have a share area: if the interpolation error $\Delta E(z_l)$ is in this area, one can commit two errors:

- if it is in the area $P_f(z_l)$ under the graph of $p_{E,0}(z_l)$, once can detect a damage since there isn't one (false alarm).
- if it is in the area $P_m(z_l)$ under the graph of $p_{E,d}(z_l)$, once can not detect a damage since there is one (missing alarm).

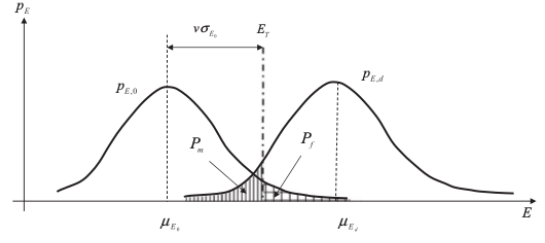


Fig. 3. Probabilities of false and missing alarm, from [3]

A. A variant of the method

We propose here a variant of the FRF interpolation method. While we have worked on the implementation of the original method, we have observed the eigenvectors of the matrix $M^{-1}K$ (see part III), which have similar properties than the FRF. We noticed that the following method is better than the interpolation method (compute the interpolation error, then compute a difference) to detect damaged on the eigenvectors:

- first, compute the difference between the eigenvectors
- second, compute the interpolation error on this difference

Thus, we also study in this paper a variant of the FRF interpolation method. The only difference with the original method is the order of the steps:

- Compute the FRF
- Compute the difference between the FRF of reference and the FRF of the studied state, for each frequency
- Compute the interpolation error of these differences
- Compute the sum of the interpolation errors at each frequency

From now on, to tell the difference between the two methods, we shall call our variant the FRF difference method.

V. SIMULATION

A. Obtaining acceleration measures

We have implemented a simulation to check this method of localization. We made this on the following system: n masses, connected through springs and dampers. We denote the masses $\{m_i\}_{i=1}^n$, the springs stiffness $\{k_i\}_{i=1}^n$ and the dampers $\{c_i\}_{i=1}^n$ (see Figure (4)).

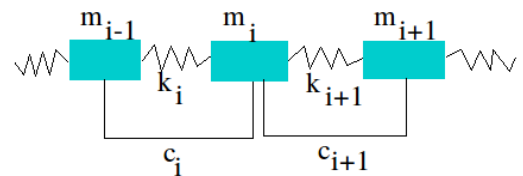


Fig. 4. Masses connected through springs and dampers

For the simulation, we use the discrete-time state-space model (Equation (6)). First, we needed the matrices M, C, K .

In this case, the matrices M and K are given by:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & m_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$K = \begin{pmatrix} k_1 + k_2 & -k_1 & & & \\ -k_1 & \ddots & & & \\ & -k_i & k_i + k_{i+1} & -k_{i+1} & \\ & & & \ddots & -k_n \\ & & & -k_n & k_n \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

Due to the lack of identifiable or measurable material constants that govern the global damping behaviour of a structure, it is generally impossible to assemble the damping matrix C in the same way as M and K . Thus, we do the same thing that in practical situations: we consider that we are in the case of Rayleigh, i.e. a linear combination of the mass and stiffness matrix:

$$C = \alpha M + \beta K, \quad \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_+ \quad (12)$$

With this matrices, we can calculate the matrices A_c, B_c, C_c and D_c . To calculate the matrices A, B , we have to know the sampling period Δt . We need the frequencies of the system, because we have to respect the NyquistShannon sampling theorem. To determine the Nyquist frequency (here, it is the taller frequency of the system), we calculate the eigenvalues of A_c . Indeed, we have the link between the eigenvalues $\{\lambda_i\}_{i=1}^n$ and the frequencies of the system $\{f_i\}_{i=1}^n$:

$$\lambda_i = -\omega_i \xi_i \pm i\omega_i \sqrt{1 - \xi_i^2} \quad (13)$$

where $\omega_i = 2\pi f_i$ and ξ_i is the damping ratio.

Remark 1. We can see that:

$$|\lambda_i| = \sqrt{\omega_i^2 \xi_i^2 + \omega_i^2 (1 - \xi_i^2)} = \omega_i$$

Remark 2. The matrix A_c has $2 \times n$ eigenvalues, but we obtain n frequencies (for each eigenvalues, another one is its conjugated complex).

Now, we have the sampling period:

$$\Delta t = 2 \times \max_{i \in \{1 \dots n\}} f_i \quad (14)$$

So we can calculate the matrices A, B and make the simulation with the discrete-time state-space model (Equation (6)). To simulate the forces f_k , we use a white noise.

B. Frequency Response Function

The FRF correspond to the transfer function of the system. In frequency domain, if F is the force that is apply on the system and S is the response of this force, the FRF is given by:

$$H = \frac{S}{F} \quad (15)$$

We want to calculate the FRF of the system, for each sensor localization. Here, we calculate an estimation of the FRF, called H_1 estimator [2]. We suppose we have a vector of the forces $\{f_k\}_{k=1}^N$ and a vector of the accelerations $\{y_k\}_{k=1}^N$ for each sensor (the two vectors are size N). We need to

be in frequency domain, so we calculate the discrete Fourier transform:

$$F_n = \sum_{k=1}^N f_k e^{-2i\pi kn/N} \quad n \in \{1 \dots N\}$$

$$Y_n = \sum_{k=1}^N y_k e^{-2i\pi kn/N} \quad n \in \{1 \dots N\} \quad (16)$$

Then we calculate the power spectra, i.e. the Auto Power spectra of the inputs and the outputs and the Cross Power spectra between the inputs and outputs respectively given by:

$$S_{ff}(n) = F_n F_n^H \quad n \in \{1 \dots N\}$$

$$S_{yf}(n) = Y_n F_n^H \quad n \in \{1 \dots N\} \quad (17)$$

where M^H is the Hermitian of the matrix M . Thus, the FRF is given by:

$$H_1(n) = S_{yf}(n) S_{ff}(n)^{-1} \quad (18)$$

Remark 3. If we consider each sensor separately, F_n and Y_n are scalars, so we have:

$$H_1(n) = S_{yf}(n) S_{ff}(n)^{-1}$$

$$= Y_n F_n^H (F_n F_n^H)^{-1}$$

$$= Y_n / F_n \quad (19)$$

C. Interpolation

We have to calculate for each sensor z_l and for each considered frequency f_i the cubic polynomial spline interpolation of the transfer function $H_R(z_k, f_i)$. The cubic spline interpolation is a piecewise continuous curve, passing through each of the values. There is a separate cubic polynomial interpolation for each interval, each with its own coefficients. Cubic polynomial spline interpolations produce an interpolated function that is continuous through to the second derivative.

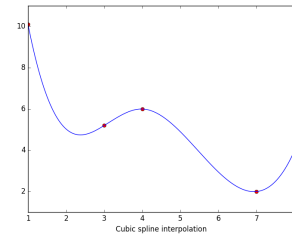


Fig. 5. Cubic spline interpolation

With this interpolation, we can calculate the error as it is described in the section IV.

VI. RESULTS

For the following simulation results, we consider a system with 10 masses. We put a sensor on each mass. For the damaged state, we lower the stiffness of the spring between sensors 6 and 7. The values of the FRF on the figures are the norm of the FRF values.

A. FRF results

Figure (6) presents results of the FRF on the simulation datas: here is the curve of the FRF of one sensor, against frequencies. We can see peaks which are at the natural frequencies of the system, but there is one of these frequencies which not present a peak.

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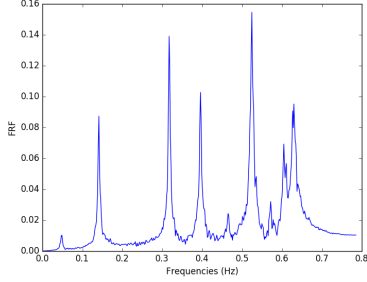


Fig. 6. FRF of one sensor (ten in total), against frequencies

To test the localization, we have to make a threshold for each sensor. We want that a computed error taller than the threshold on one sensor is equivalent to have a damage on this sensor. With the FRF interpolation method, we have computed two thresholds from 100 experiments with the undamaged state. The first is the maximum of the 100 errors computed. The second is computed from the statistics of the 100 errors computed: we suppose that the probability of the error follow a normal distribution, and we choose the threshold at 95% of this distribution.

B. Without noise

Figure() presents the results of the localization of a damage on sensor 7, without noise.

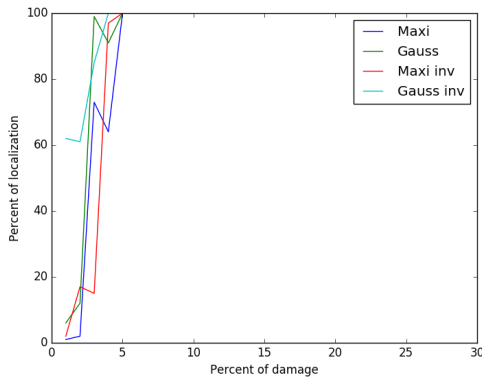


Fig. 7. Damage detection rate against damage (without noise)

C. With noise

Figure (9) presents the results of the localization of a damage on sensor 7, where noise (5%) has been add at the measurement.

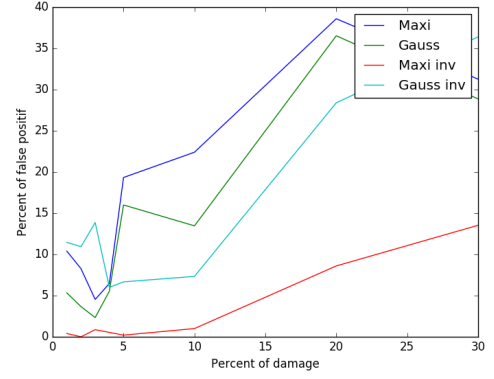


Fig. 8. False positives rate against damage (without noise)

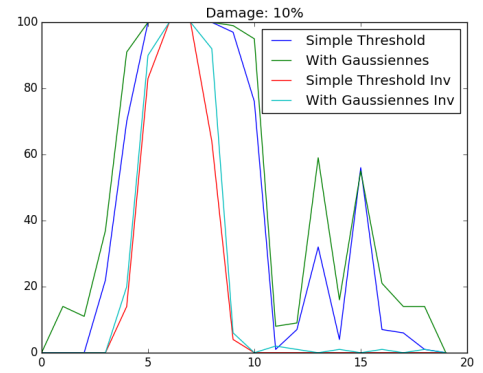


Fig. 9. Error computed for a damage of 10% on sensor 7

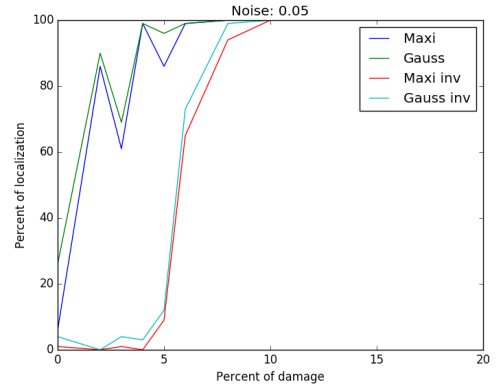


Fig. 10.

D. Eliminate the false positives

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we presented the structure health monitoring and a state of the art for this. Then we detailed one of the methods, the FRF interpolation method, and some physical models. Last, we presented our simulation with a sping-mass system and our results with the implementation of the FRF interpolation method.

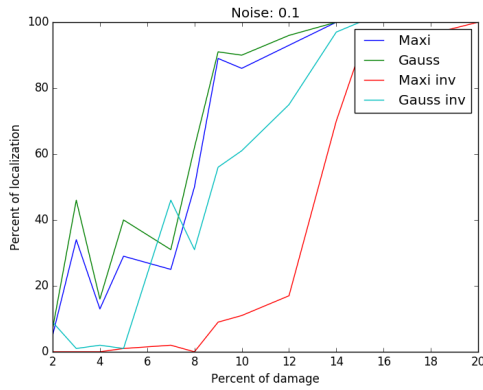


Fig. 11.

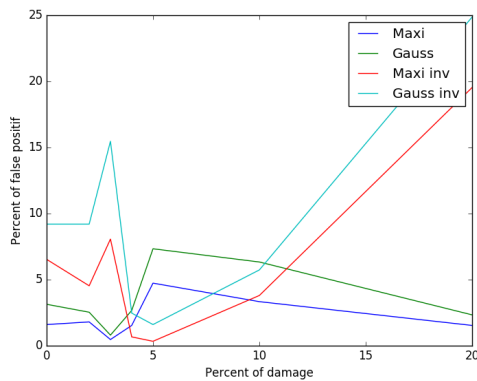


Fig. 12.

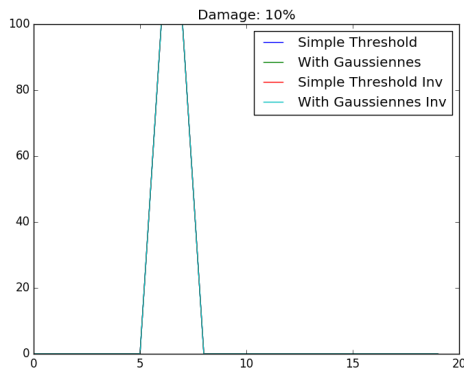


Fig. 13.

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