

# ME 372- Metrology Lab

## Exp 3B - Group 24

### Exp-3B Vibration Measurement of structure using Accelerometer sensor.

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Intro: Every structure has modal parameters such as natural frequencies and natural modes of vibration associated with it. It is important to know these characteristics to determine performance of the structure. Bridges have been known to collapse when subject to periodic vibrations such as the coordinated marching of cadets. This happens because the structure undergoes resonance if it is stimulated at its natural frequency. To avoid such mishaps, modal analysis is done.

Objective: To measure vibration of structure using an accelerometer, impact force applied using the impulse force hammer and finally to determine the modal parameters of the vibrating structure.

Principle: The vibration signals of excitation and response are measured on a complex structure and analysis is done to obtain a set of modal parameters. The parameters can be estimated using observed data by the method of curve-fitting.

#### Theory:

Every structure has a transfer function:  $H(\omega)$  associated with it. A Fast Fourier transform (FFT) on the measured acceleration can be done to get  $A(\omega)$ . Measuring the force,  $F(\omega)$  can also be obtained. Then,

$$A(\omega) = H(\omega) \cdot F(\omega)$$

the structure is modelled as spring and damper in parallel connection. Thus the relationship between  $h(t)$  &  $F(t)$  is

$$m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + b \frac{dx}{dt} + kx = F_e$$

Taking the Fourier transform on both sides, we obtain:

$$\frac{A(\omega)}{F(\omega)} = \frac{1}{k} \left( \frac{-\omega^2 \omega_n^2}{\omega_n^2 - \omega^2 + j(2\zeta\omega\omega_n)} \right)$$

The LHS can be obtained from the exp and the modal parameters can thus be estimated using curve-fitting.

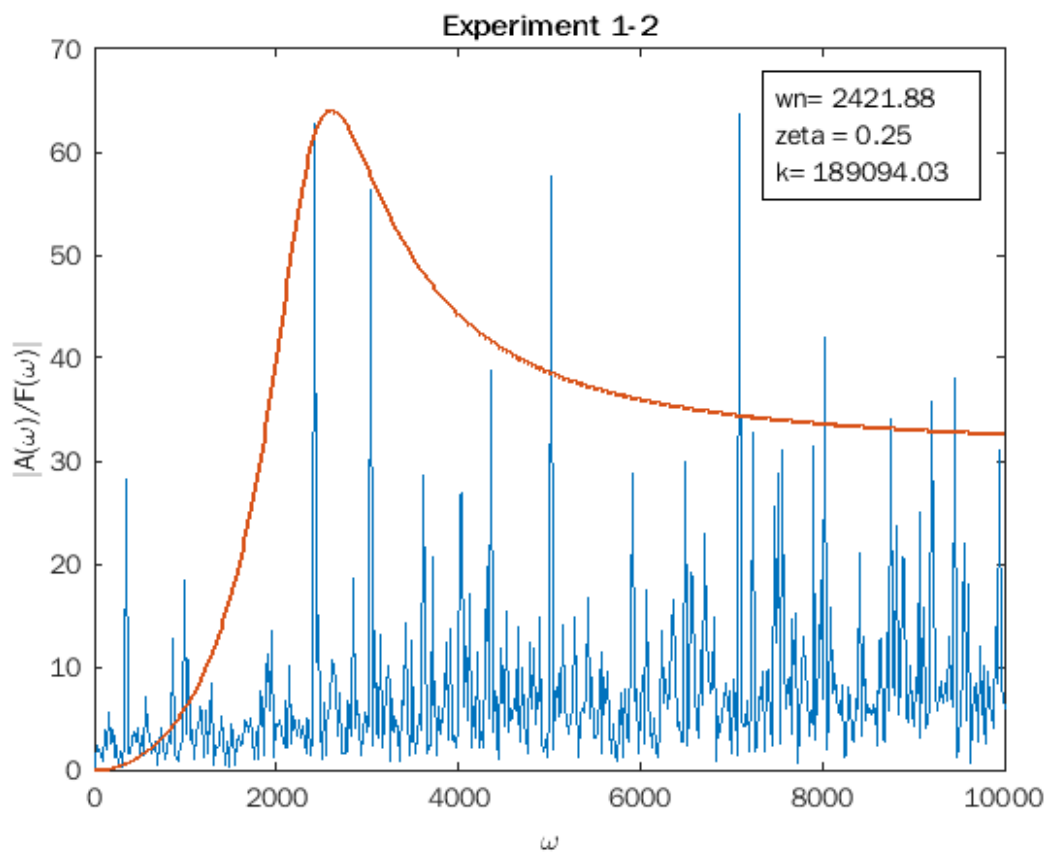
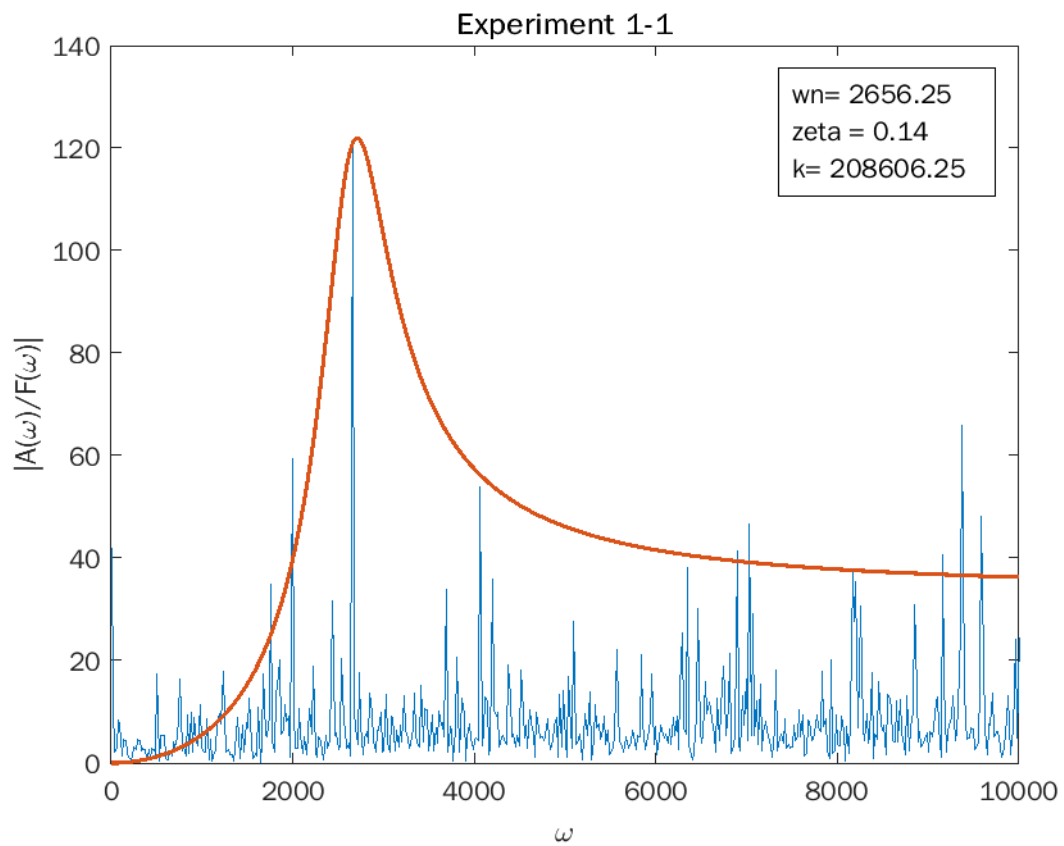
Procedure:

1. Divide the structure into 5 different nodes.
2. Identify the two nodes where you want to take the measurement using impulse hammer at one node and accelerometer at another node.
3. Place the accelerometer at the node where you want to measure the response.
4. Start the data acquisition using the run button at the labview computer software panel.
5. Tap the impact hammer at the one of the selected nodes to excite the structure.
6. Save the data of acceleration and impact force which will be in time domain.
7. Repeat the process by selecting the different nodes on the structure.

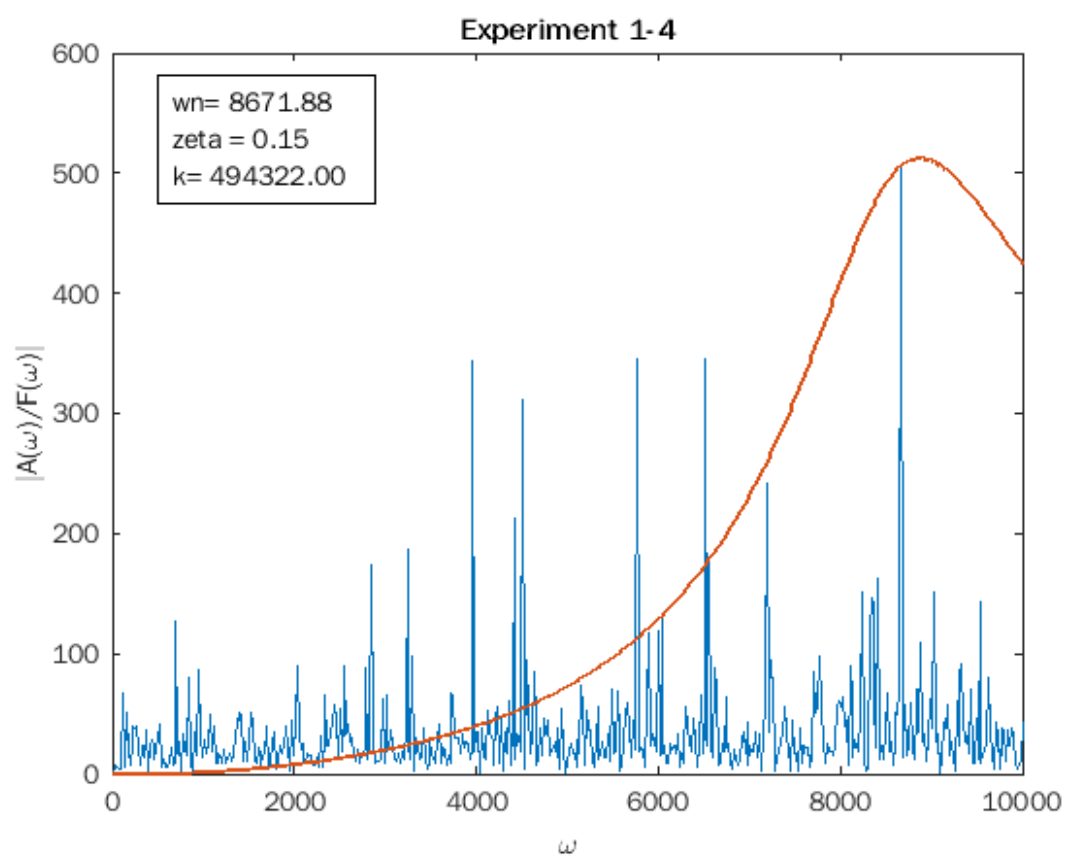
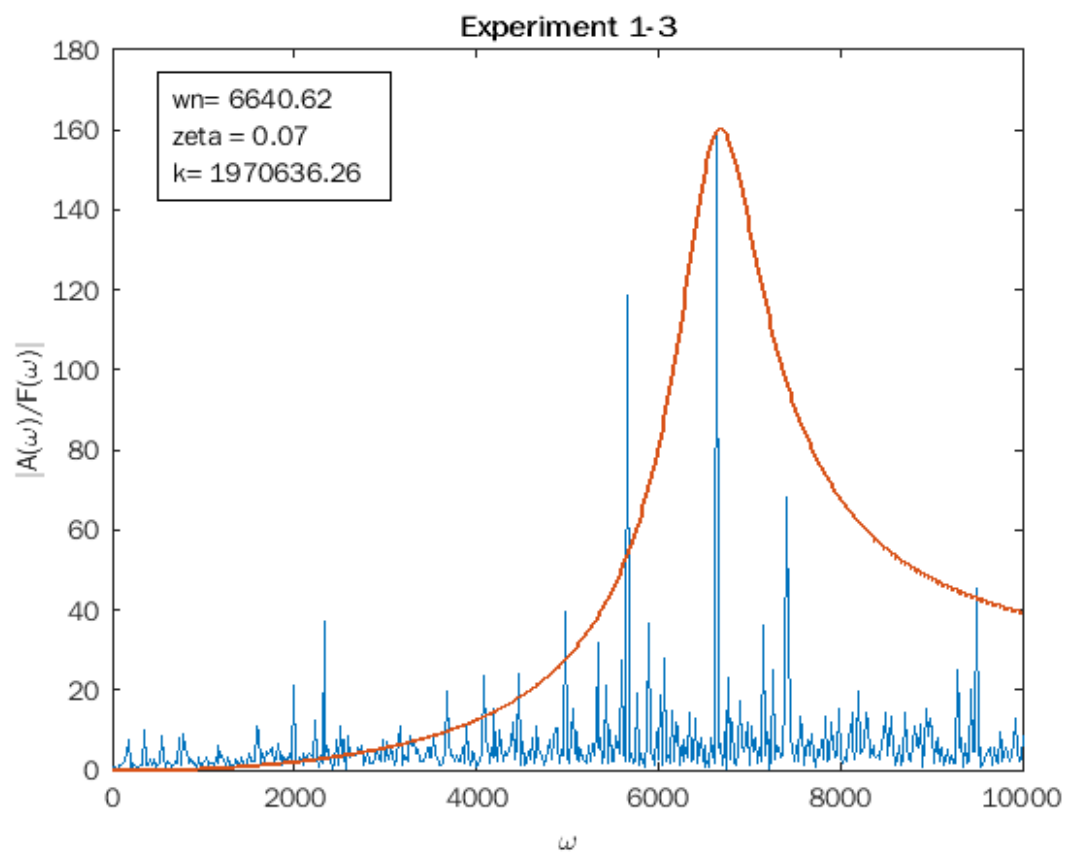
Precautions:

1. To avoid affecting the test result, care must be taken to ensure that the test is not disturbed by any shock or vibration.
2. Make sure that the accelerometer is fixed to the node properly for accurate measurement.
3. Strike the hammer very gently on the centre as accurately as possible.

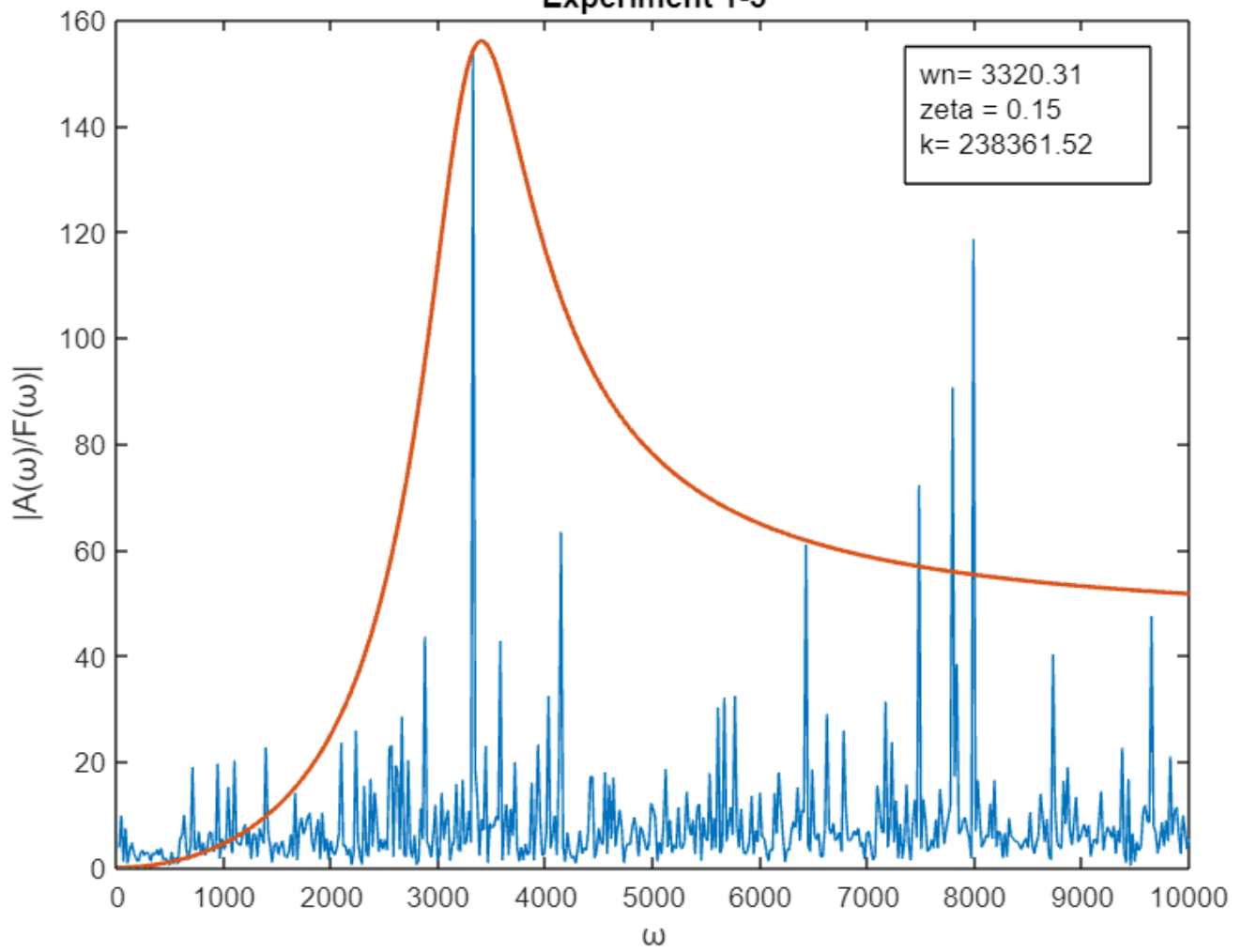
## Plots for 10 different datasets:



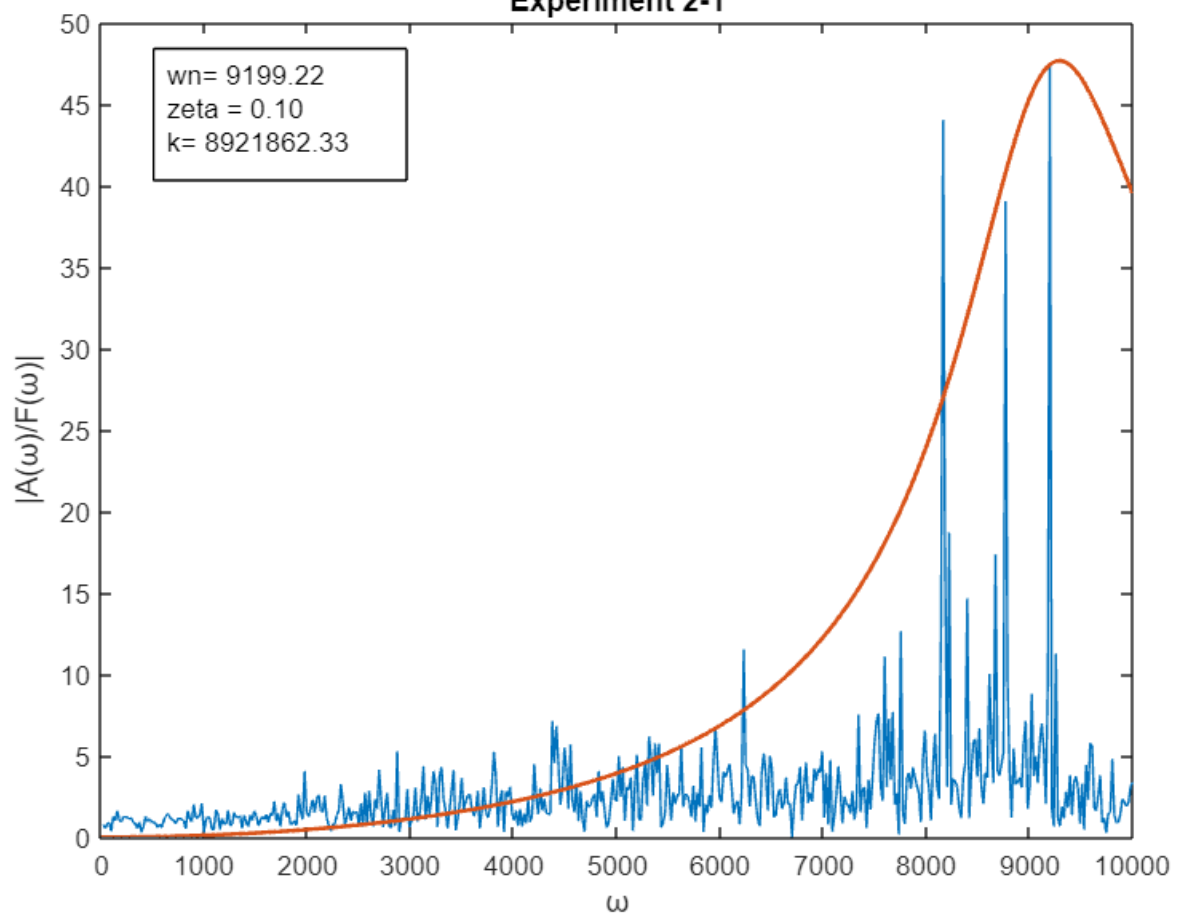


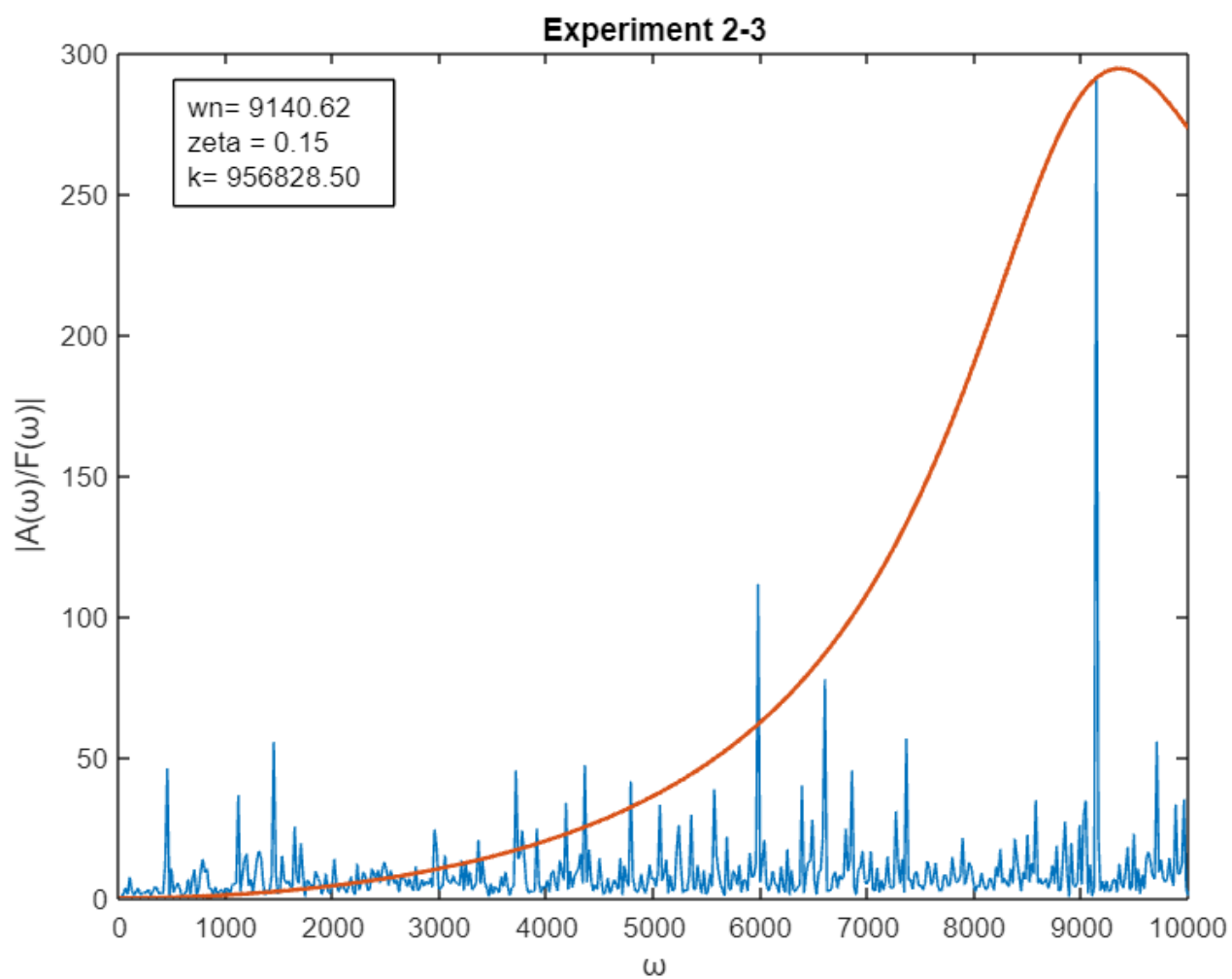
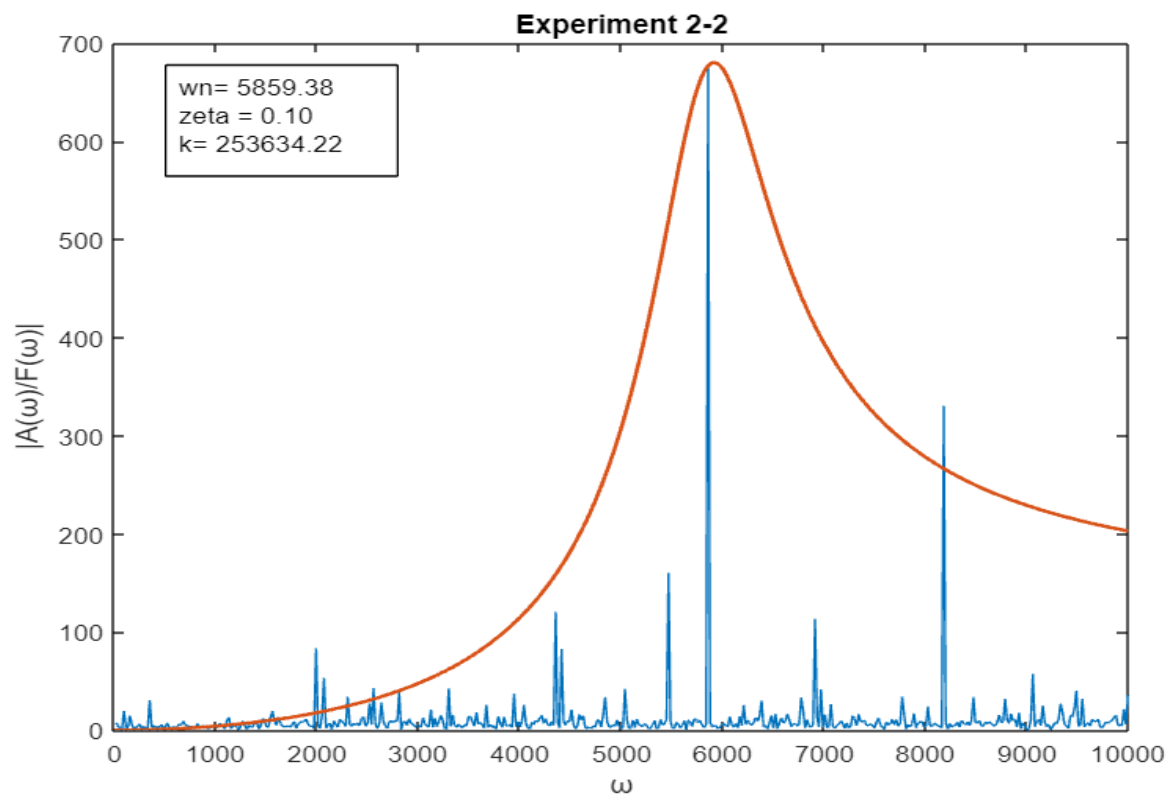


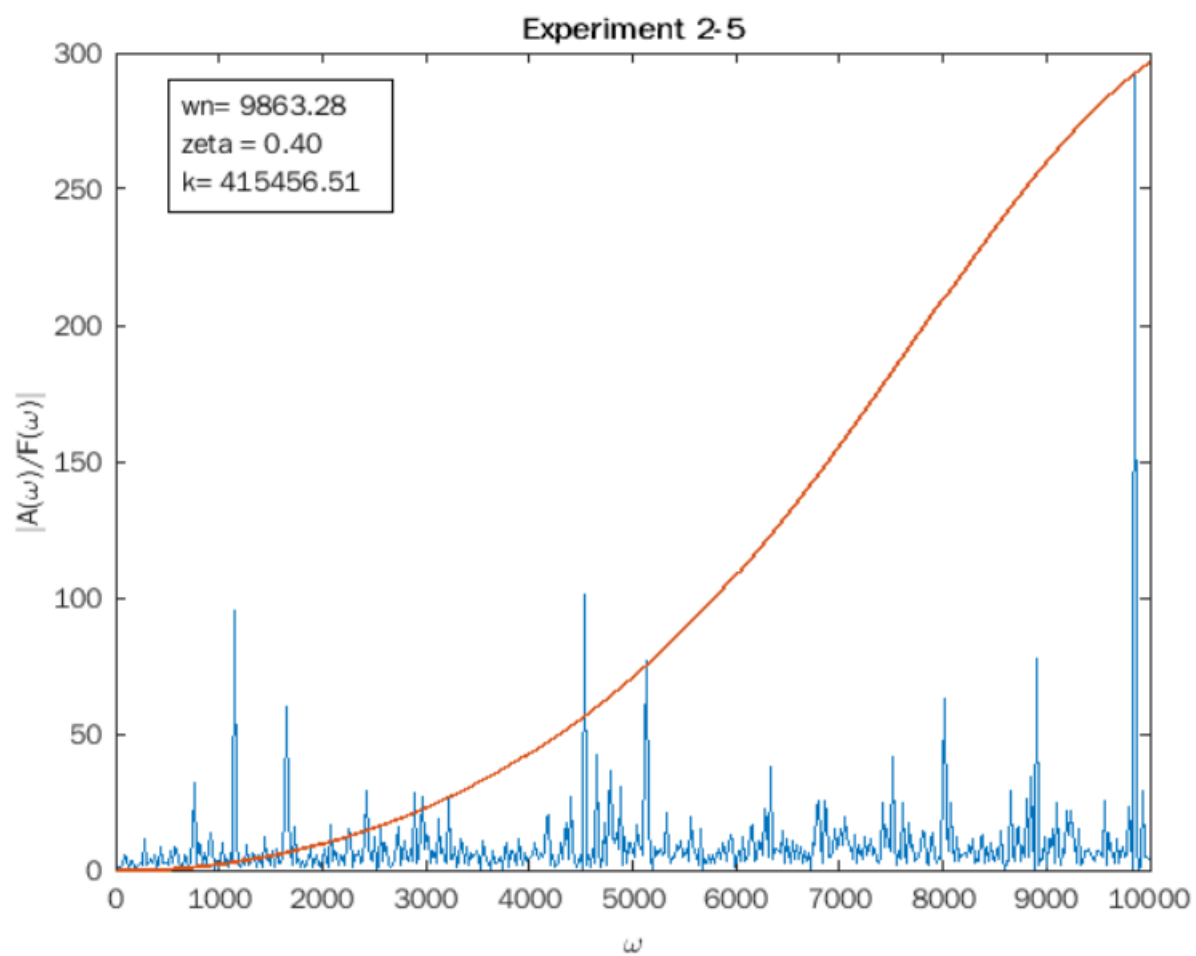
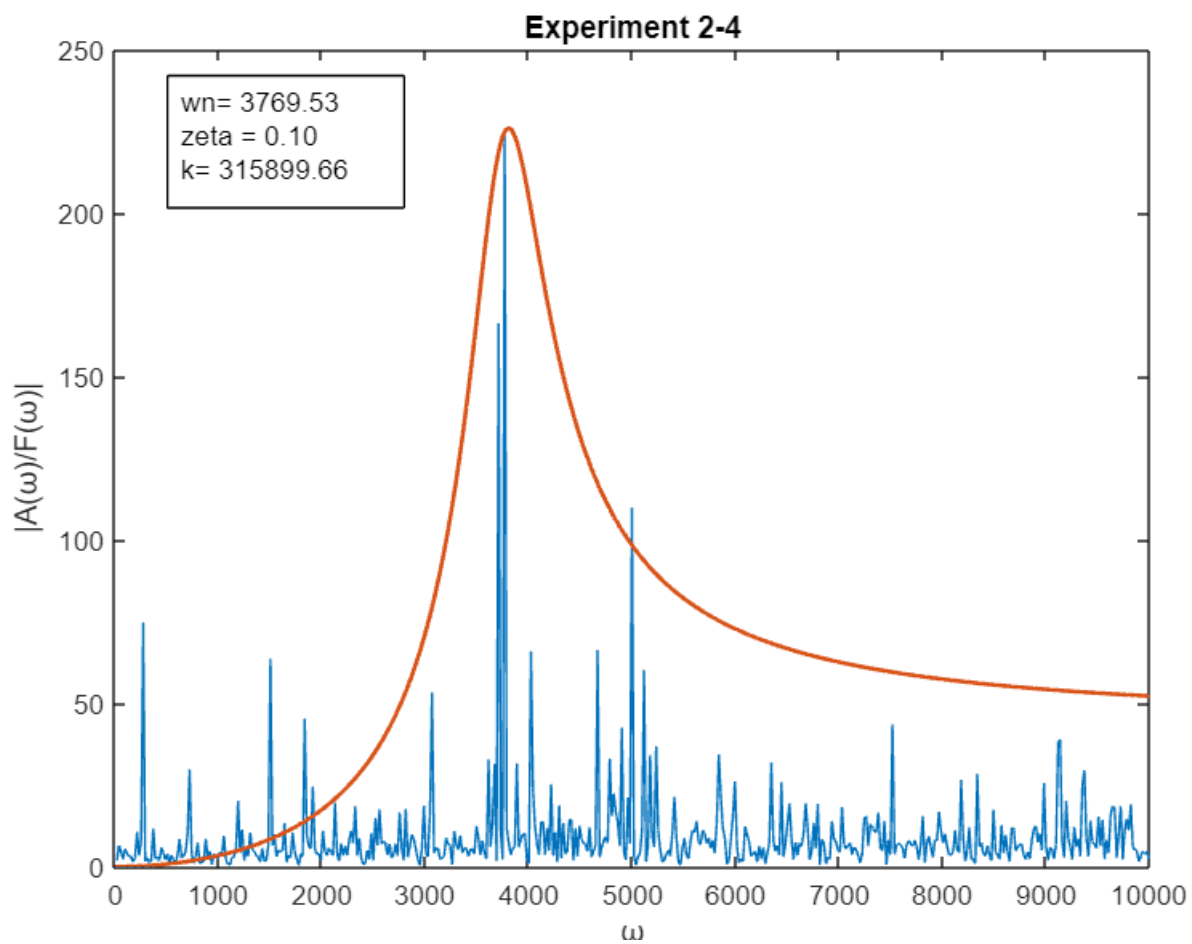
Experiment 1-5



Experiment 2-1







## Conclusions:

- The highest value of zeta is 0.4 for Exp\_2-5 with corresponding  $\omega_n = 9863.28$  and  $k = 415456.51$
- The Lowest value of zeta is 0.07 for Exp\_1-3 with corresponding  $\omega_n = 6640.62$  and  $k = 1970636.26$
- The behavior of the system subject to a known force of a known frequency distribution can be estimated.
- We know which frequencies are a danger to a longer structure life.

## Sources of Error:

- The impulse force applied by hammer might not be gentle and will not give desired results.
- There might be shock due to some earthly or other disturbances.
- Accelerometer might not be attached properly with the plate.