

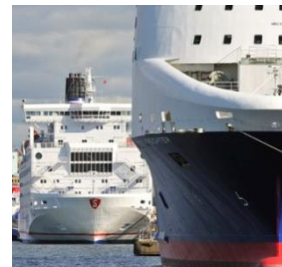
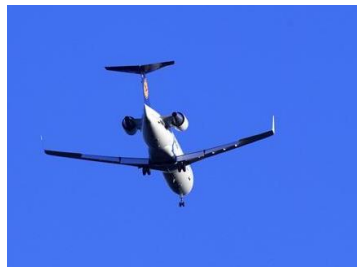
Vibration serviceability  
of floor systems

2020-02-04

Johan Jonsson



**TRAFIKVERKET**  
SWEDISH TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION



# Outline

Vibration serviceability  
Vibration source  
Vibration path  
Receiver  
Performance evaluation

# Design criteria – for what?

## Strength

- safety

## Deflection

- function, appearance, surface material, secondary structures etc. *But not for vibration!*

## Vibration

- discomfort / annoyance / safety

## Noise

- discomfort / annoyance

# What is vibration serviceability?

The two "limit states":

Ultimate limit state (ULS)

- make sure that the structure does not collapse

Serviceability limit state (SLS)

- structural performance when in use

*If you exceed SLS, then you exceed the structural specification!*

**The first step towards the assesement of vibration serviceability of a civil engineering structure of whatever kind is to identify and characterise the following three factors:**

- the vibration source
- the transmission path, *i.e.* mass, stiffness and damping properties of the structure
- the receiver

A Pavic, Editorial, Structures & Buildings, 159, October, 2006

## Two definitions

Vibration - caused by somebody or something other than a person who is disturbed by them

Springiness – a disturbing sensation due to the deflection and vibration at the point of application of footstep by one and the same person

# The vibration source

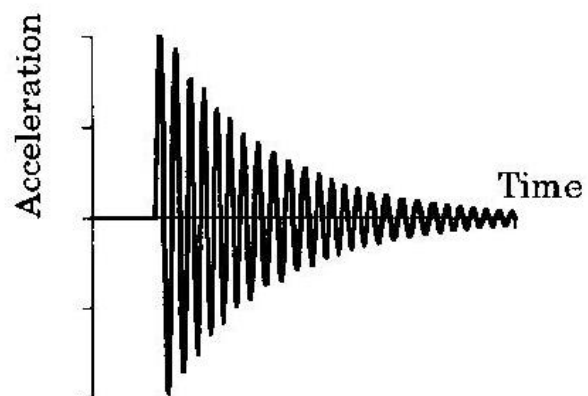
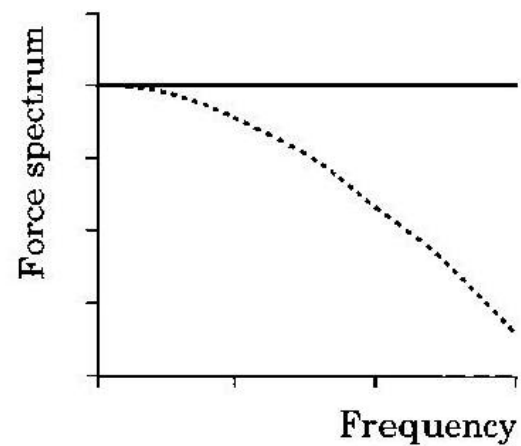
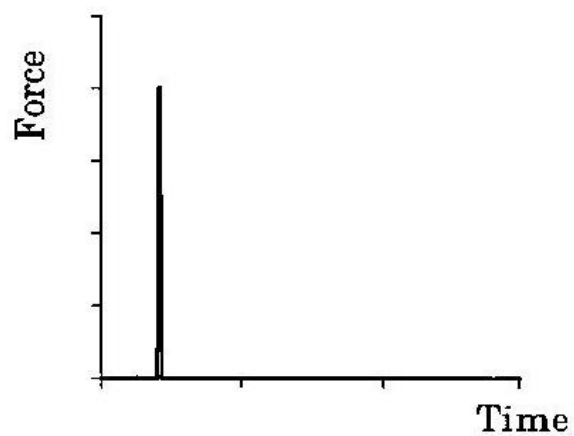
People

Machinery

Traffic

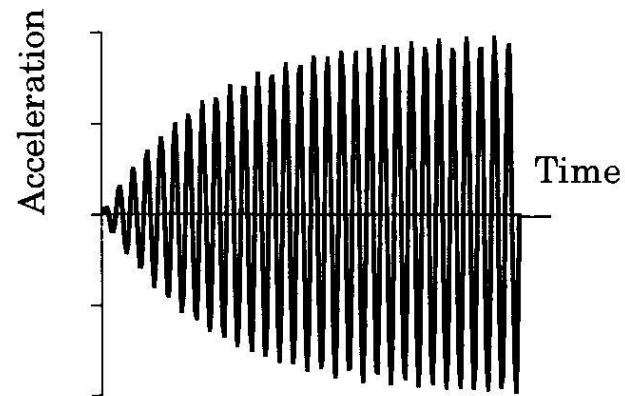
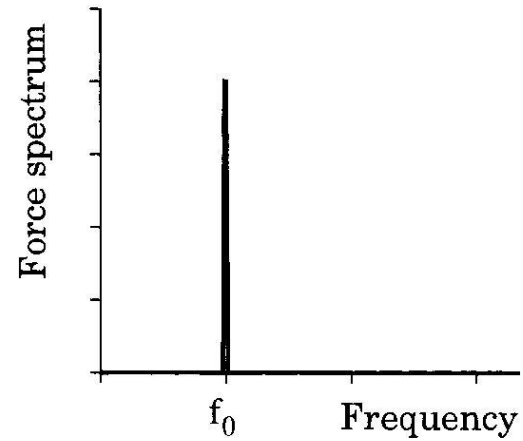
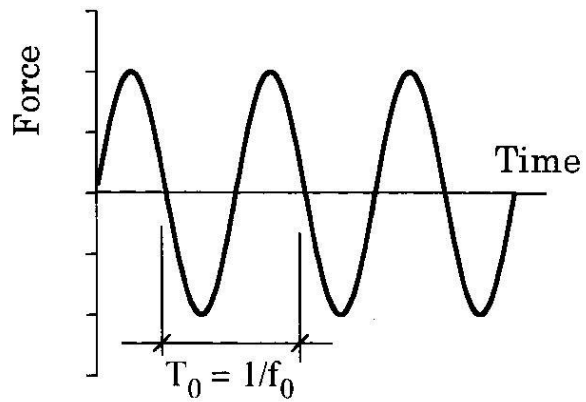


# Impulsive force





# Harmonic force



# The vibration source

People

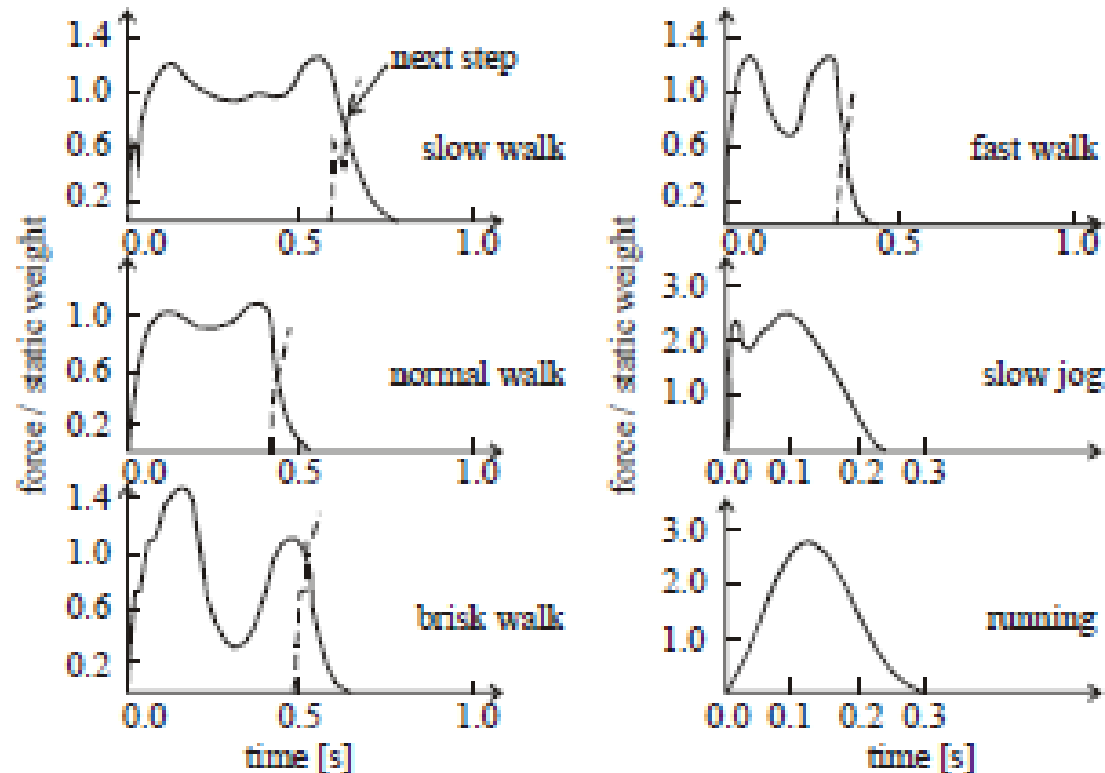
Machinery

Traffic



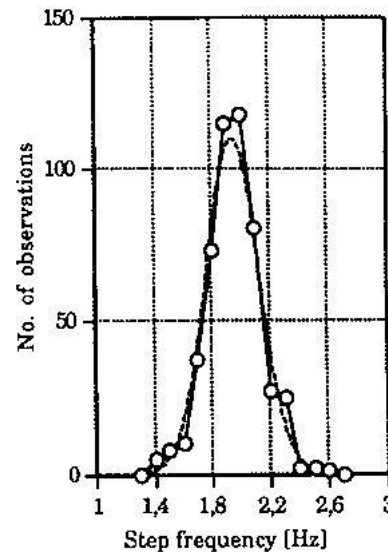
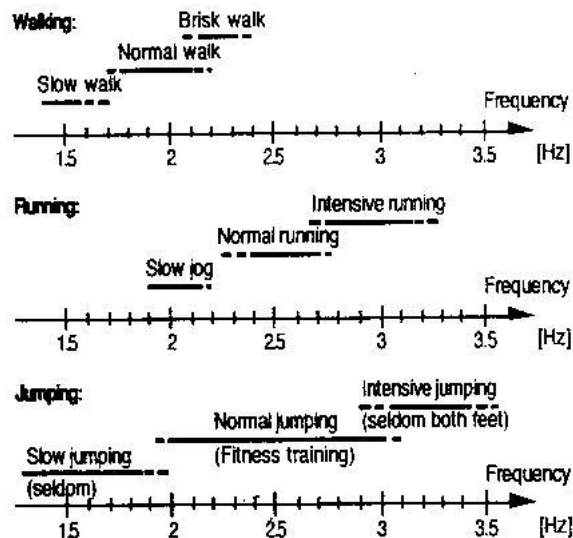
# Single person force measurement

- general shape

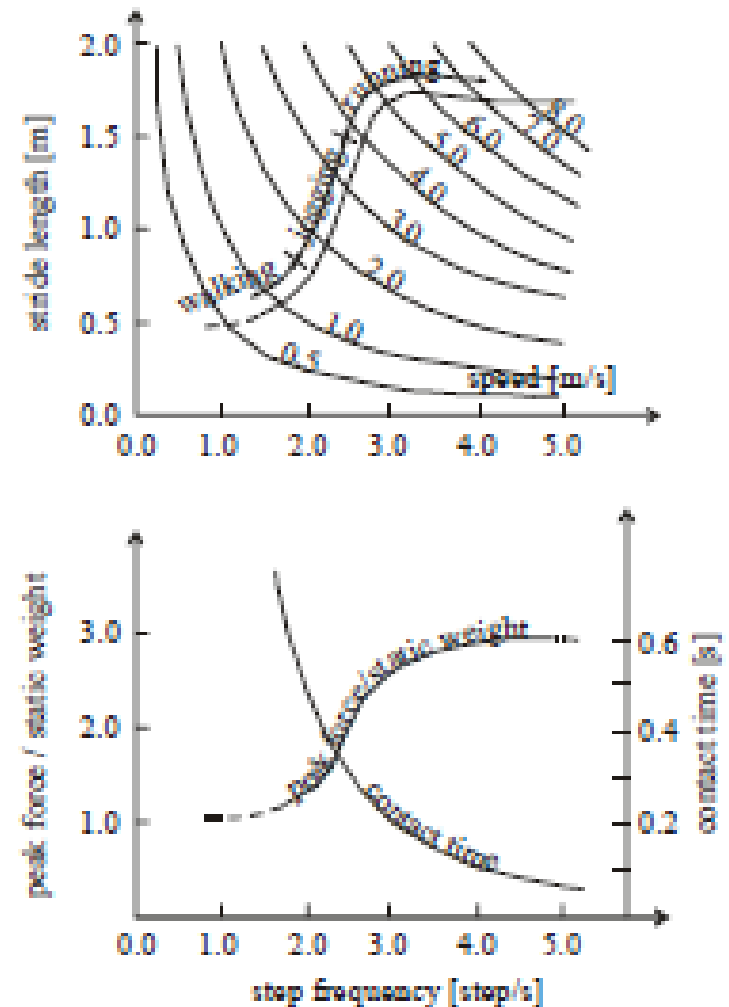


Wheeler, 1982

# Frequency intervals

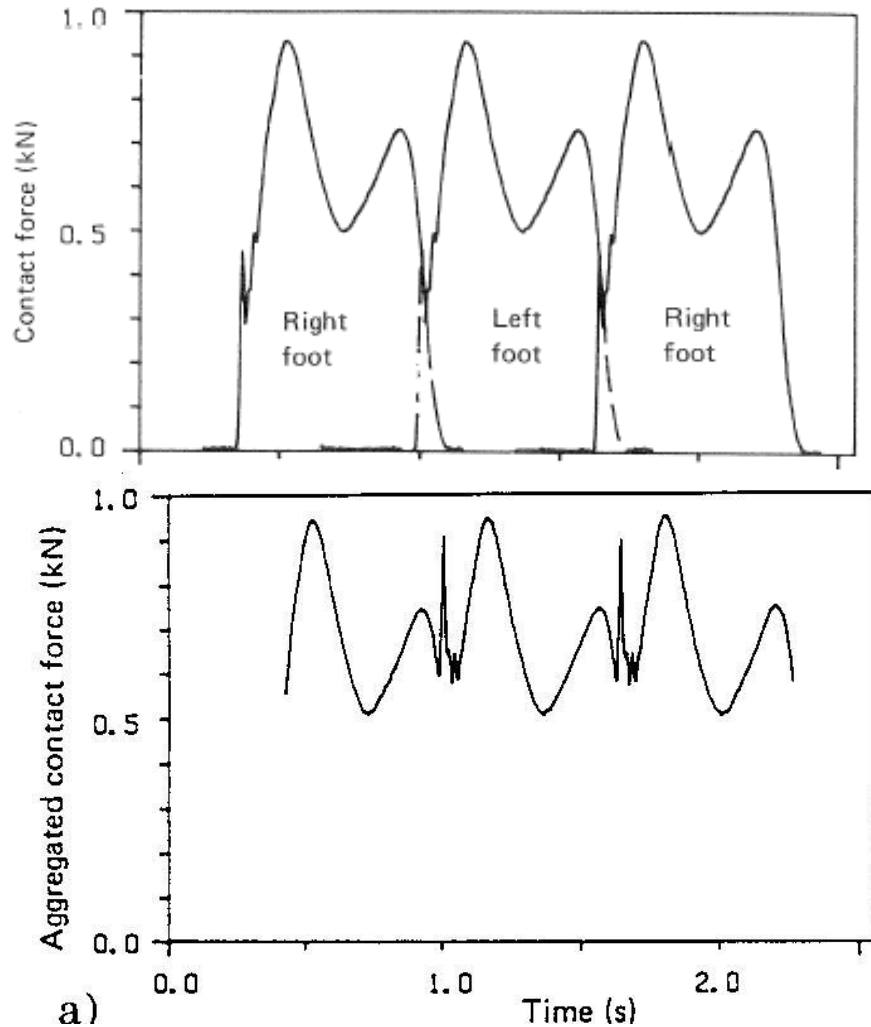


Matsumoto *et al.*, 1972



Wheeler, 1982

# Fotstep force generated by people



Contact force due to each Foot generated by a person walking

Adding contributions of both feet gives resultant footstep force due to walking person

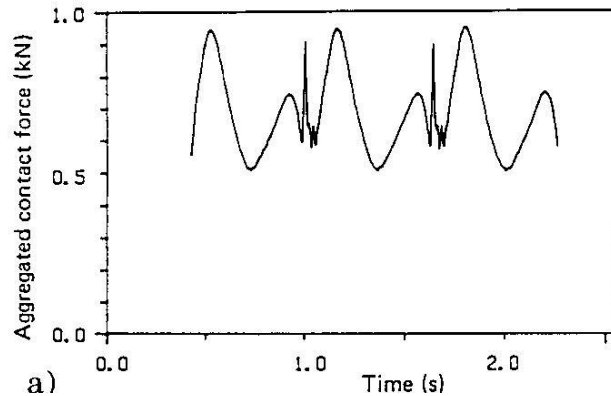
Ohlsson, 1982

# Dynamic forces from walking people

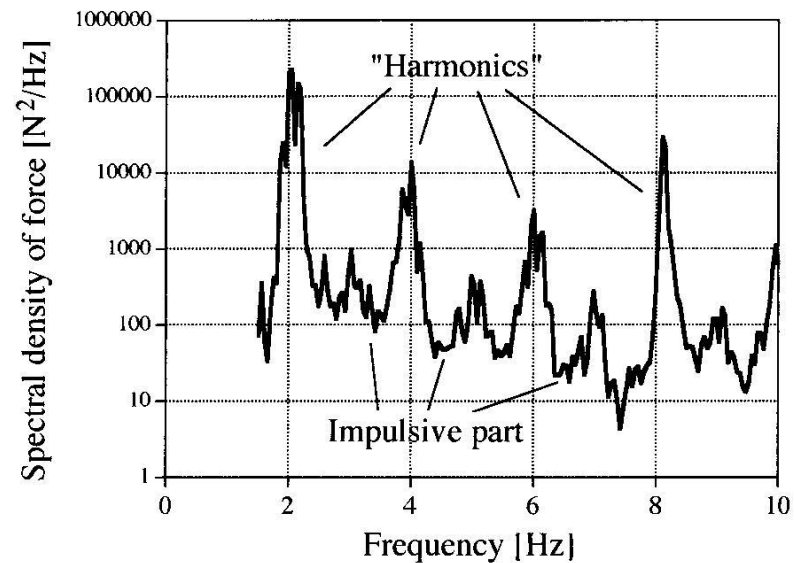
Impact – steady-state

Frequency components

Magnitude



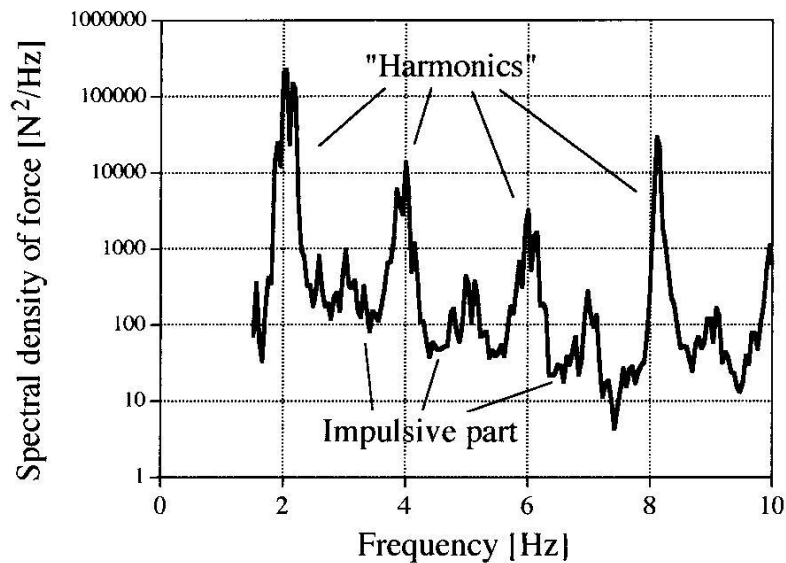
Ohlsson, 1982



Eriksson, 1994

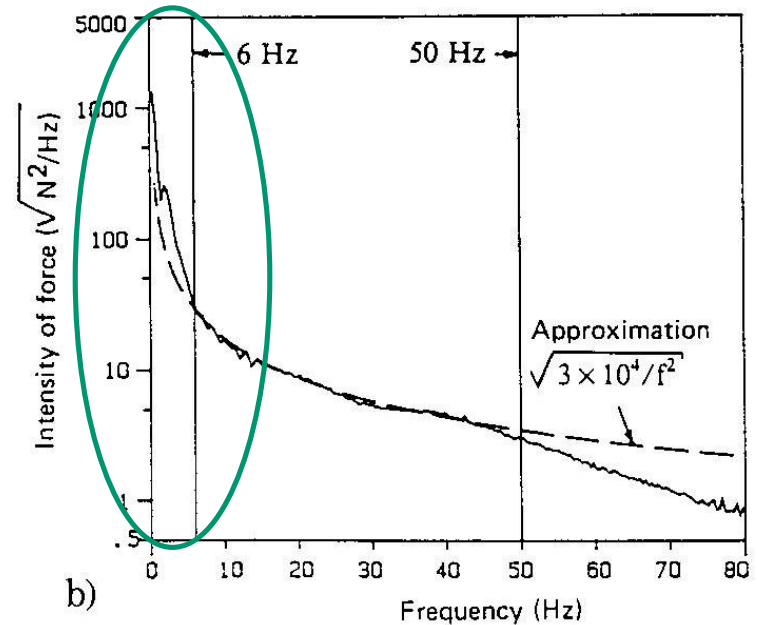
# Force modelling

## Continuous walking force



Eriksson, 1994

## Single step force

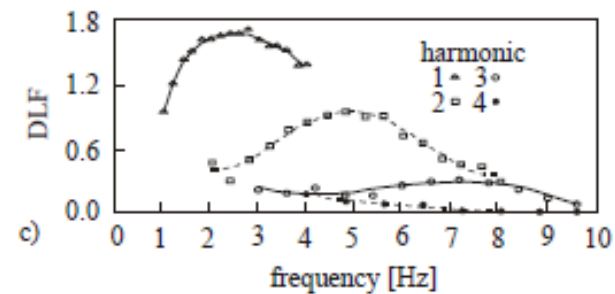
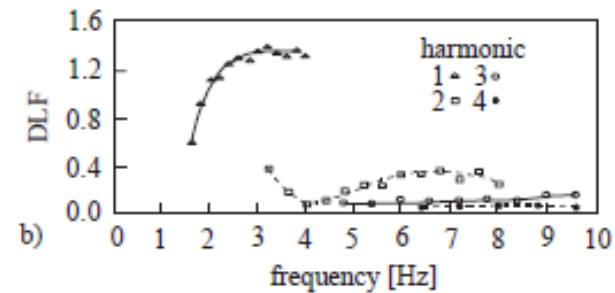
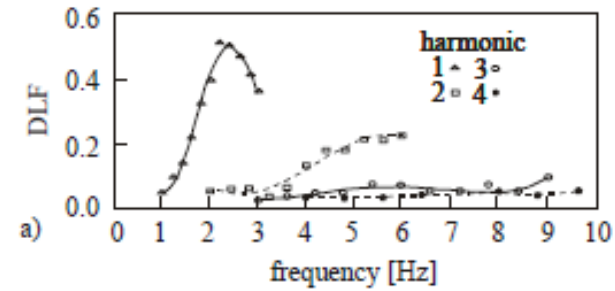
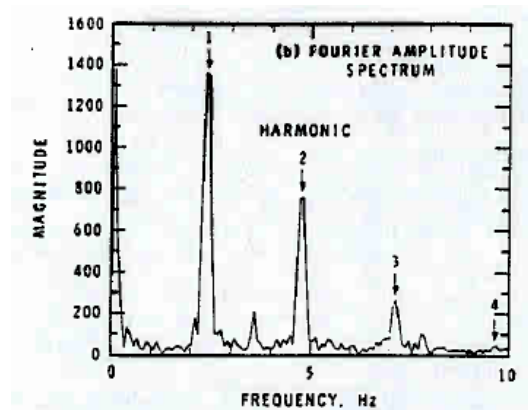


Ohlsson, 1982

# Force modelling

## Time domain

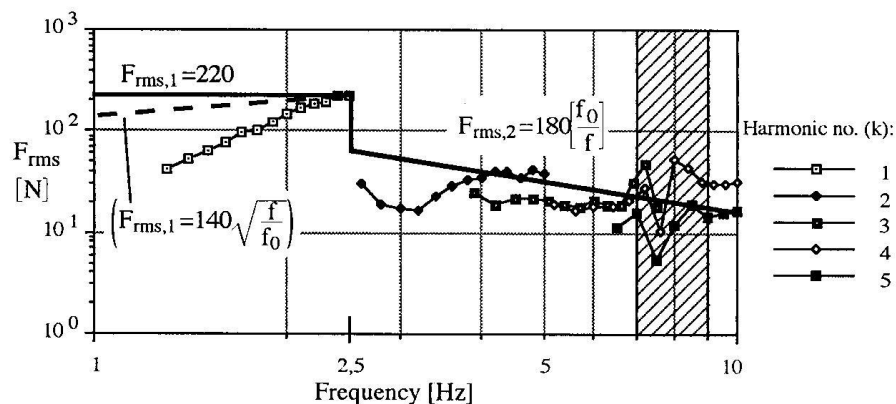
$$F(t) = P \left( 1 + \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n \sin(n2\pi ft + \phi_n) \right)$$





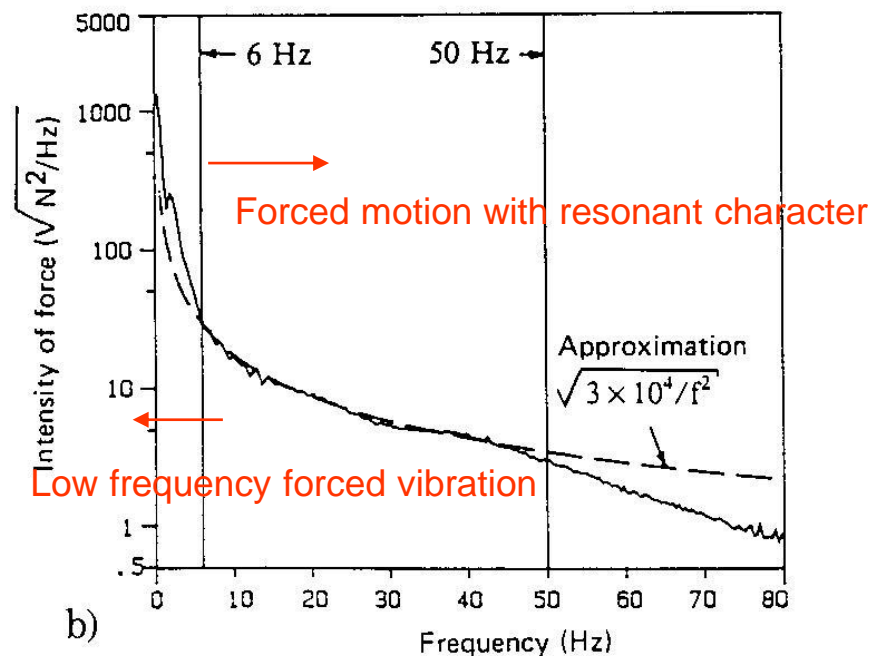
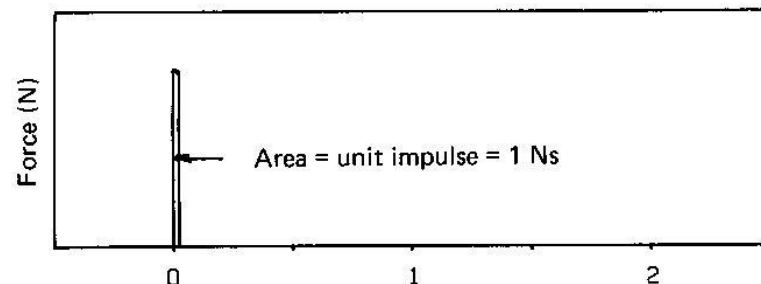
# Force models for walking

## Lower frequency



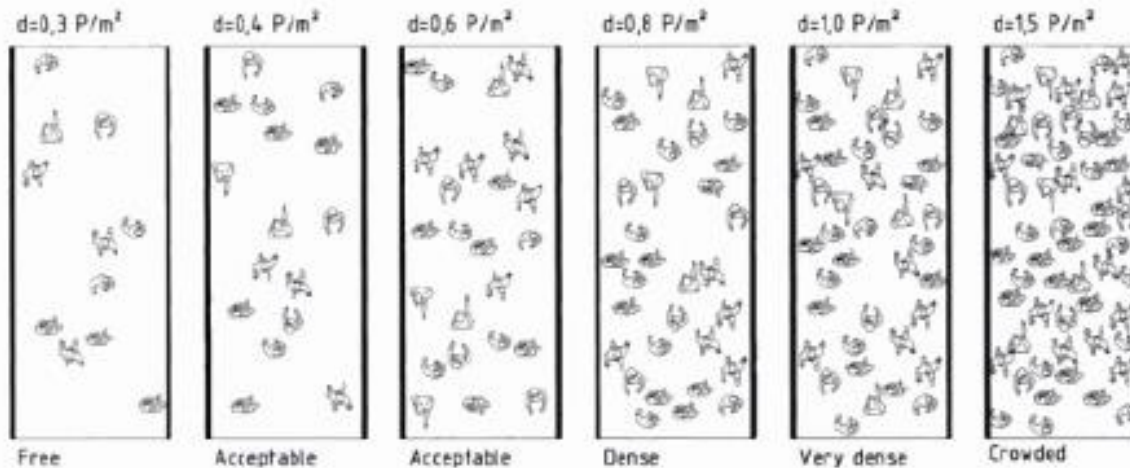
Forced motion with resonant character

## Higher frequency



# Force modelling

## Pedestrian density & correlation

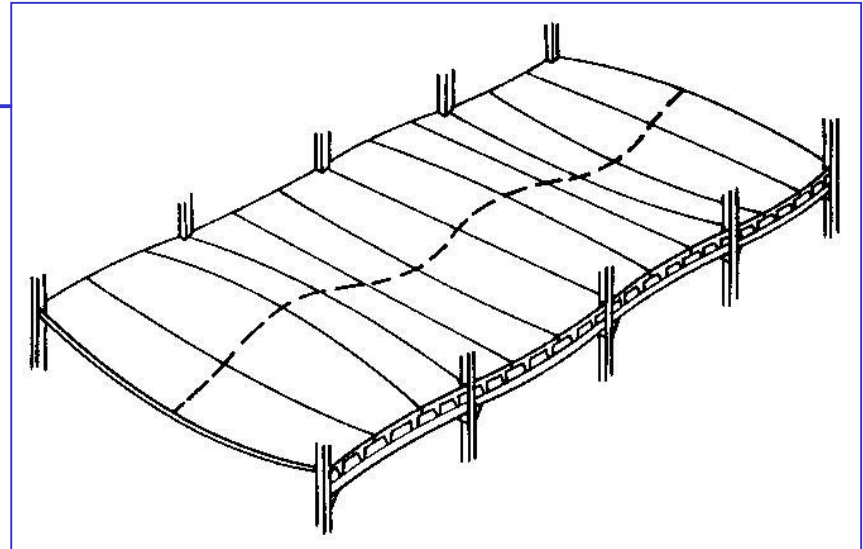


after Oeding

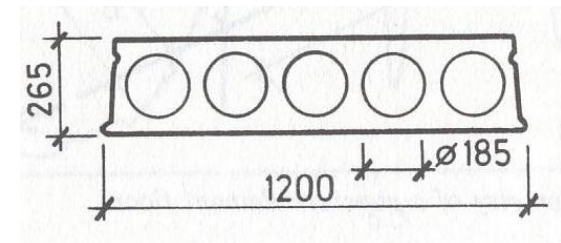
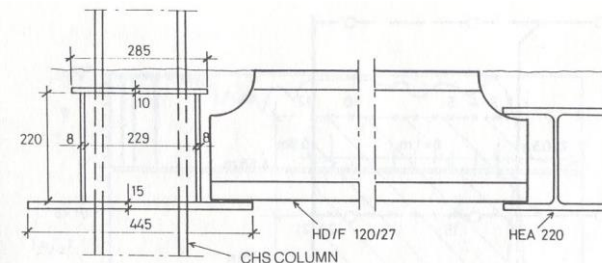
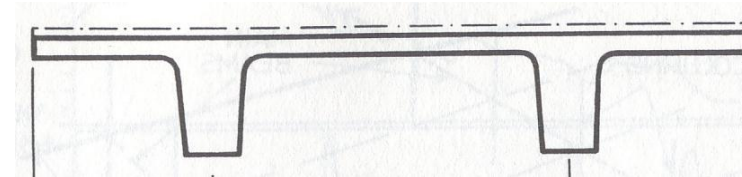
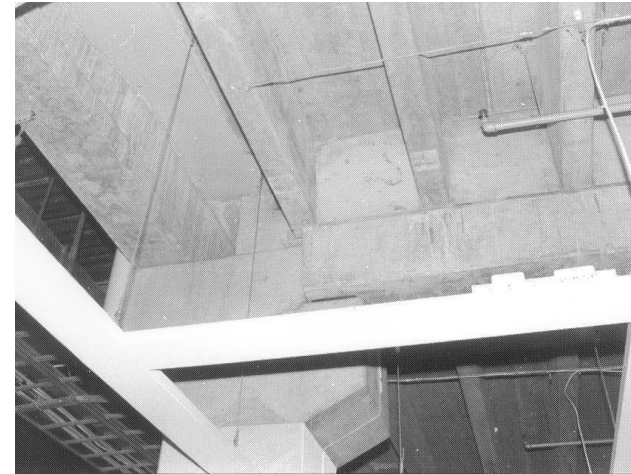
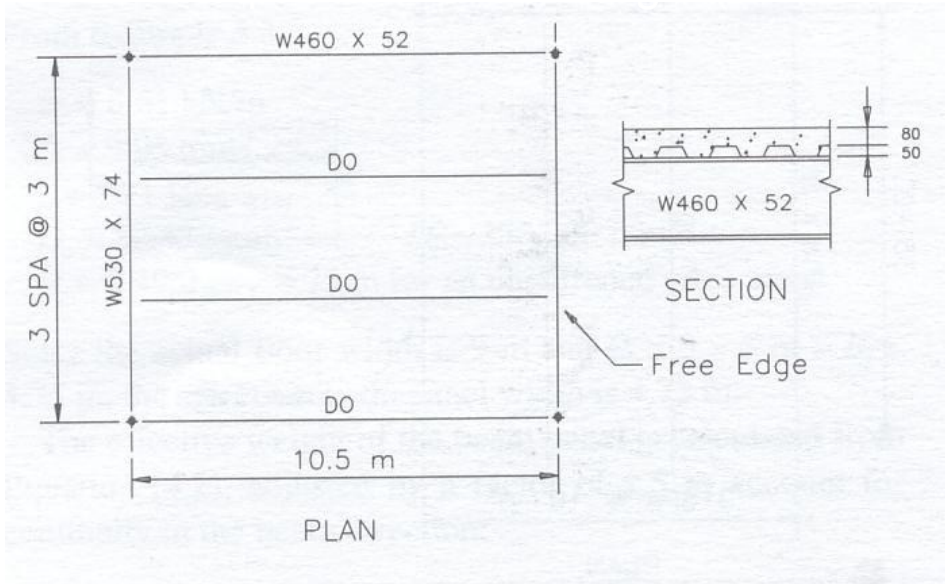
- Synchronisation
- one, small group, stream
- Impact on modal mass

# The transmission path

- Floor vibration

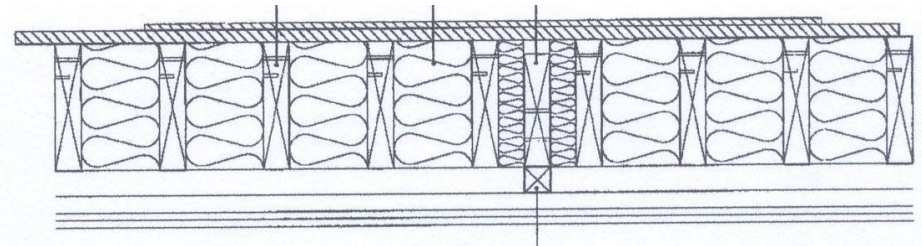
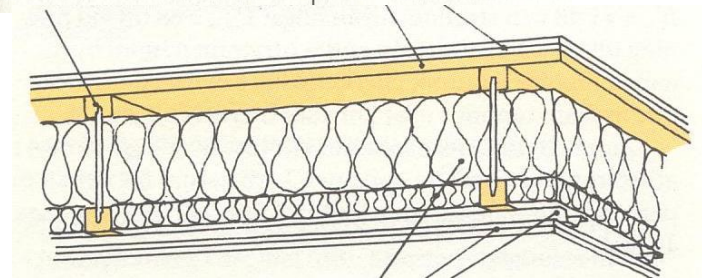
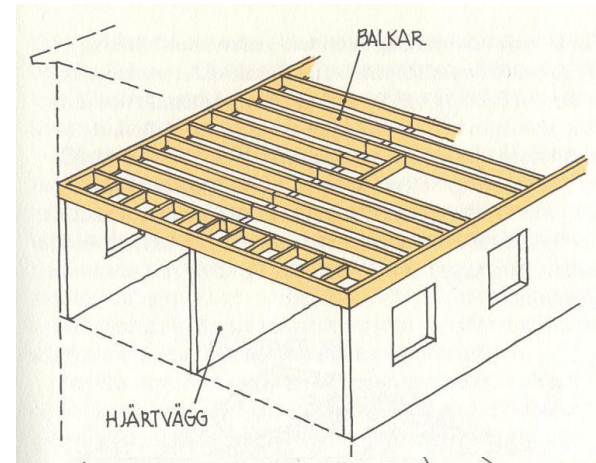
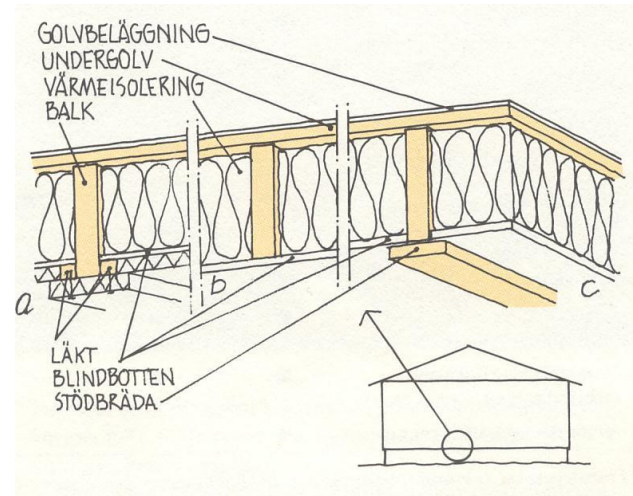


# Typical design of steel/concrete floors

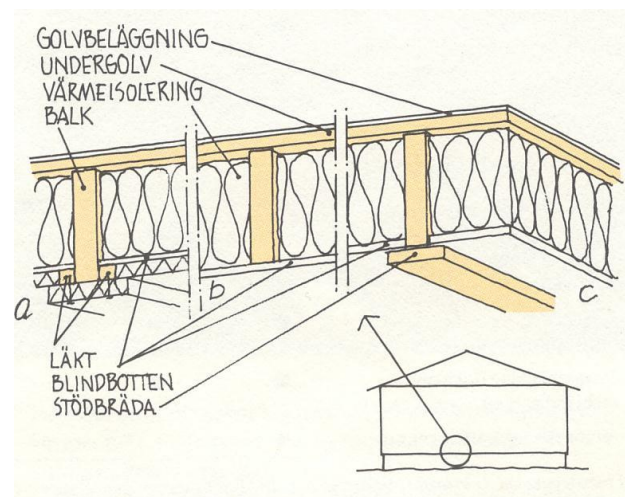
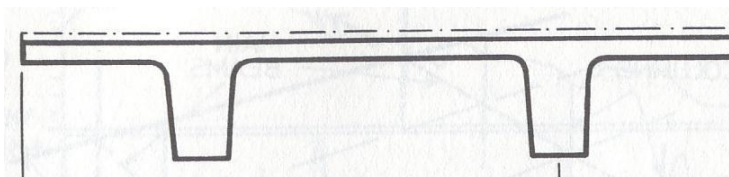




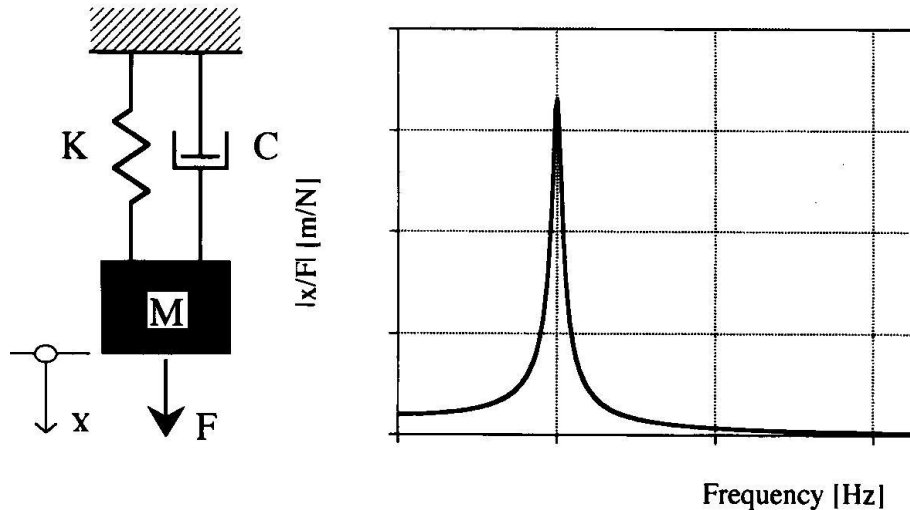
# Typical design of timber floors



# Similarities?



# Single degree of freedom system



the transmission path, *i.e.* mass, stiffness and damping properties of the structure

# Theory on black board



# Theory

## Single degree of freedom system

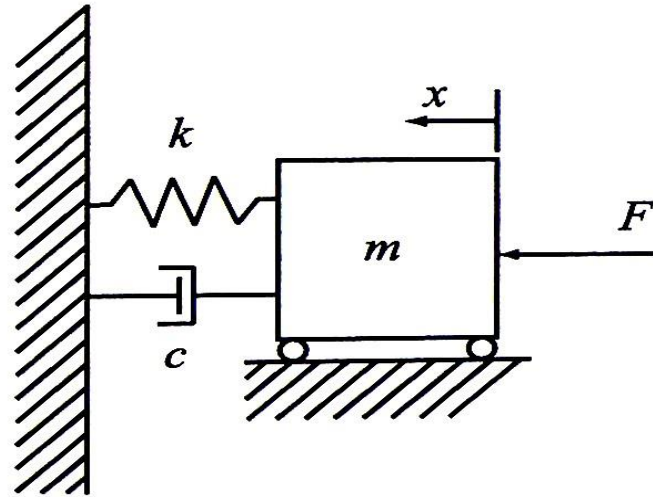
$F = F(t)$

$m = \text{mass}$

$k = \text{spring}$

$c = \text{viscous damping}$

$x = x(t)$  displacement



The equation of motion:

$$F(t) = m \frac{d^2 x(t)}{dt^2} + c \frac{dx(t)}{dt} + kx(t)$$

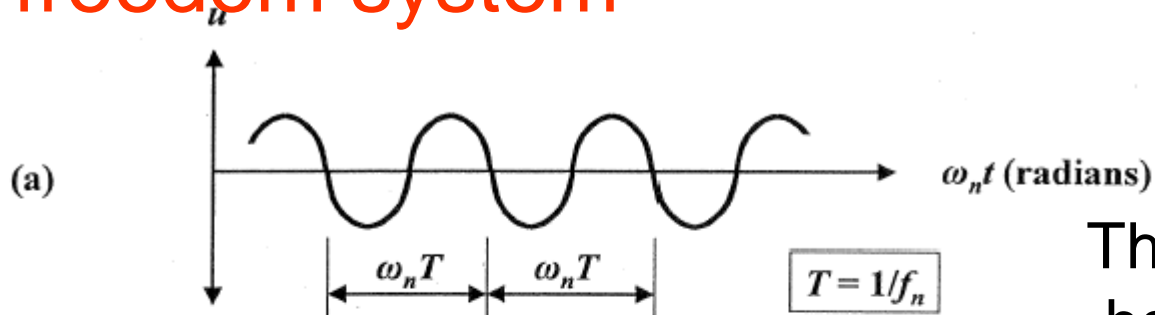
$$|\hat{x}| = \frac{\hat{F}}{k \sqrt{(1 - \beta^2)^2 + (2\xi\beta)^2}}$$

**Solution:**

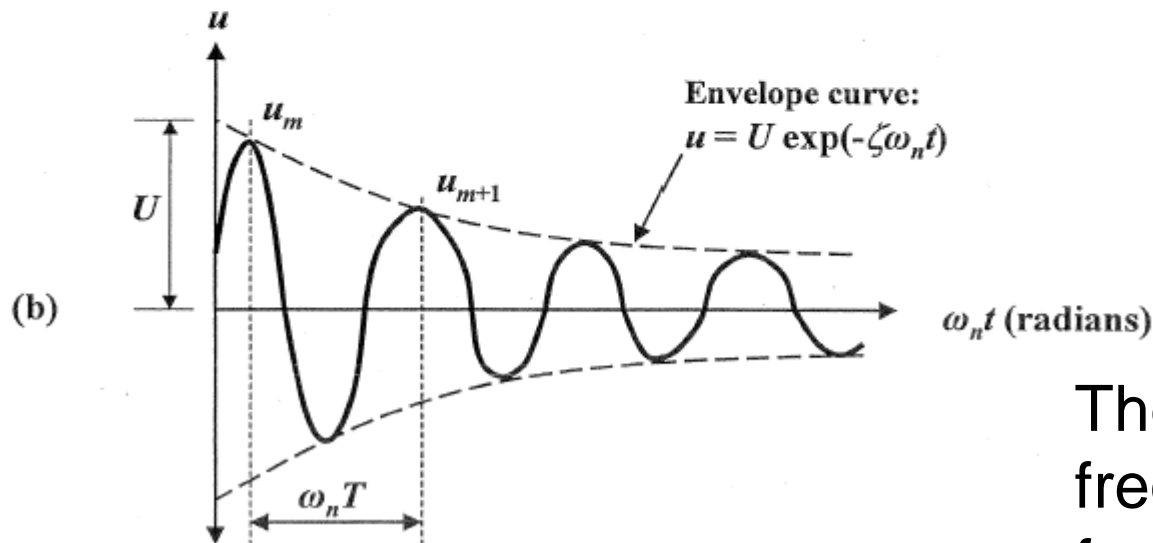
$$x(t) = \hat{x}e^{j\omega t} \rightarrow \frac{dx(t)}{dt} = j\omega\hat{x}e^{j\omega t} \quad \frac{d^2 x(t)}{dt^2} = -\omega^2\hat{x}e^{j\omega t}$$

$$\beta = \omega / \omega_0 \quad \omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$
$$\xi = c / c_{cr} \quad c_{cr} = 2\sqrt{km}$$

# Time-history responses for single degree of freedom system



The period  $T$  of simple harmonic motion

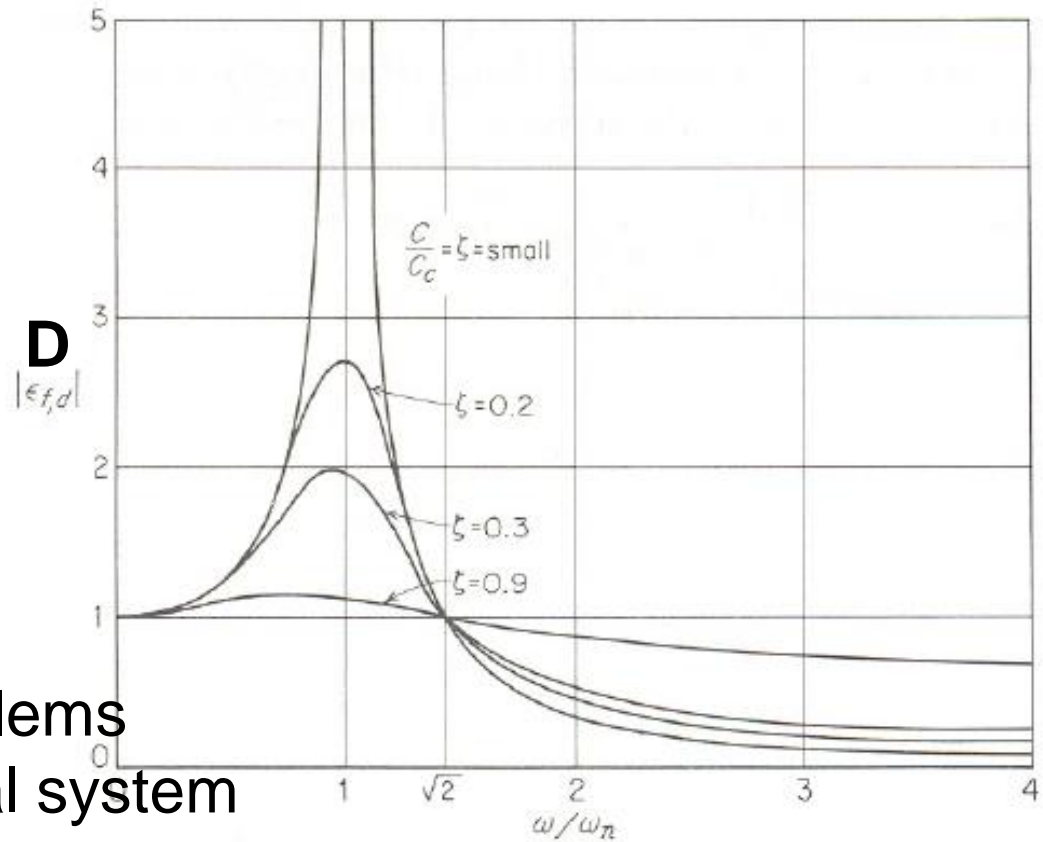


The angular natural frequency for free damped oscillation

# Dynamic amplification factor, D

D is the ratio of the vibration amplitude to the static displacement

Practical strategy for minimising vibration problems is to ensure that structural system has high natural frequency



## Theory (cont'd)

Dynamic amplification factor

$$D = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1 - \beta^2)^2 + (2\xi\beta)^2}}$$

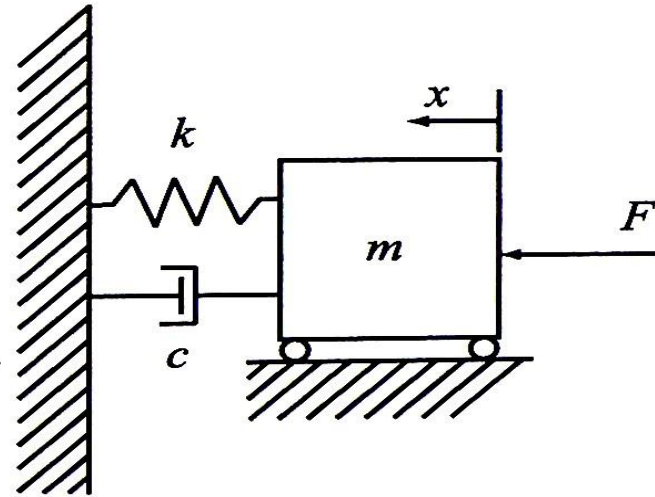
$$\beta \approx 1 \Rightarrow D \approx \frac{1}{2\xi}$$

$$\xi = 0.04 \rightarrow D = 12.5 !!$$

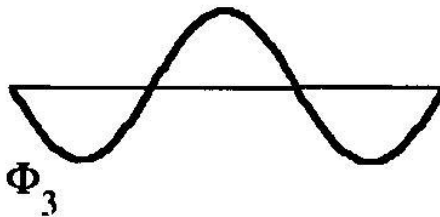
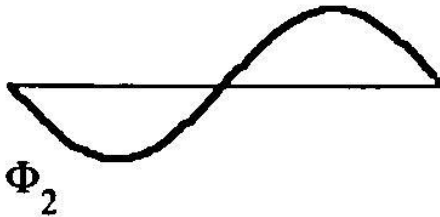
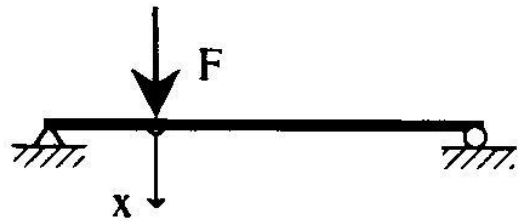
$$D_{\max} = \frac{1}{2\xi\sqrt{1-\xi^2}} \quad \text{for} \quad \beta = \sqrt{1-2\xi^2}$$

It can be shown: *and*  $\xi \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

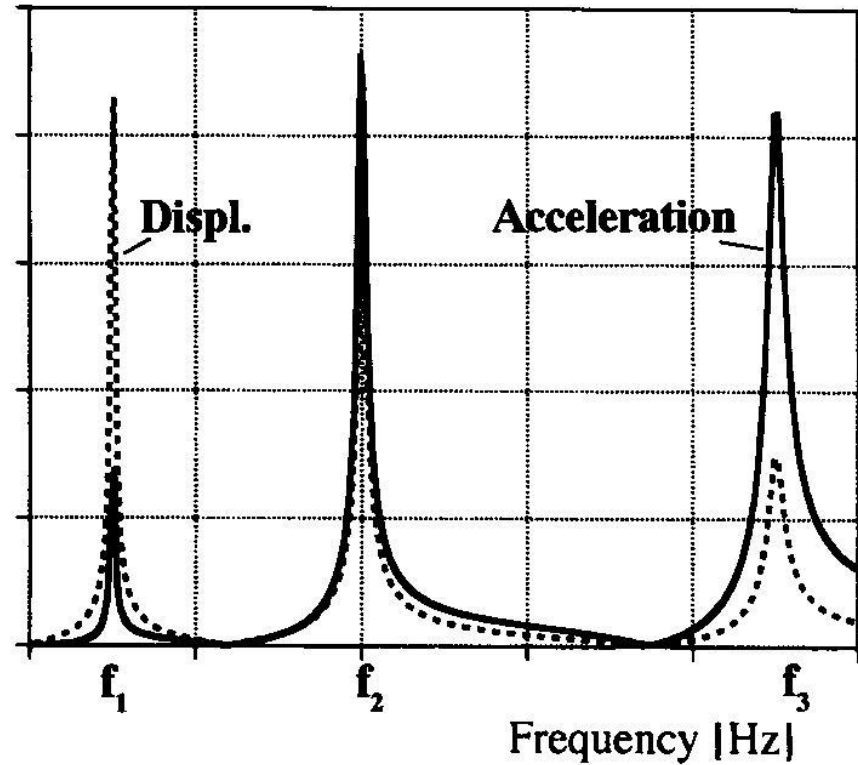
Usually  $\xi^2 \ll 1$



# Beam, simply supported



$|x/F|, |a/F|$



# MDOF, Modal analysis

## Resonance

## Vibration modes

Resonance frequency,  $f_n$

Modal mass,  $M_n$

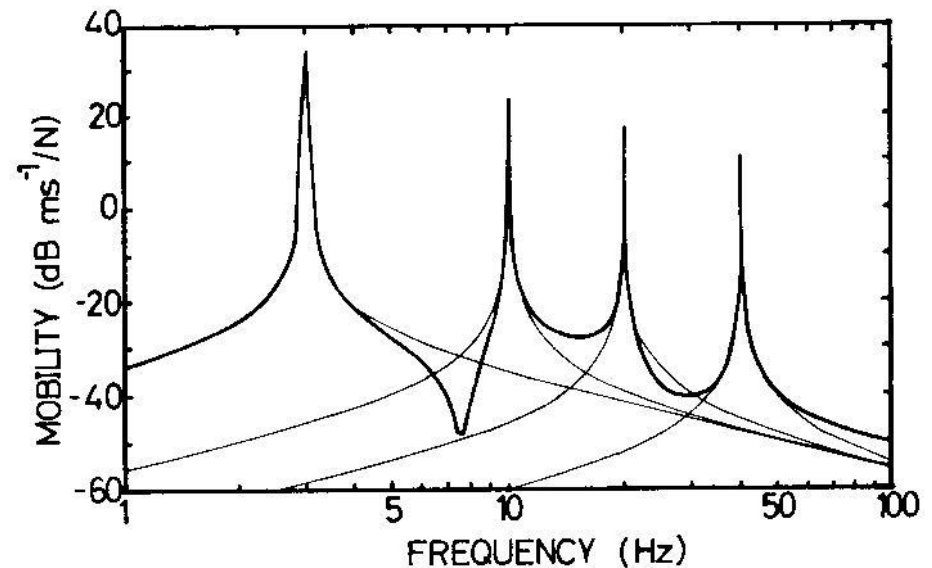
Modal stiffness,  $K_n$

Mode shape,  $(\phi_n(x,y))$

Modal damping,  $C_n$

Modal damping ratio,

$$\zeta_n = C_n / C_{cr}$$



# Isotropic plate

## Isotropic plates

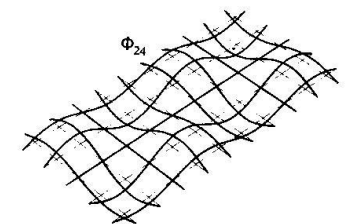
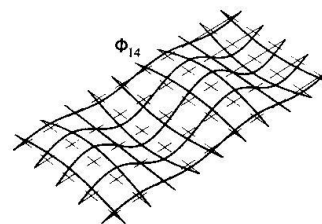
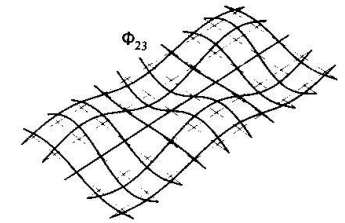
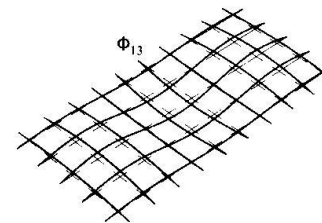
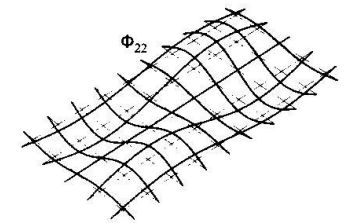
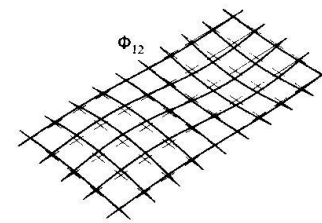
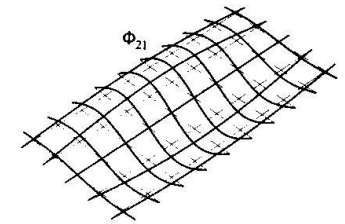
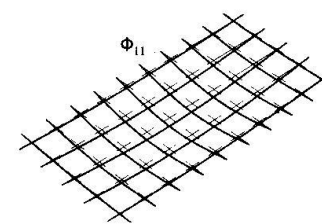
The resonance frequencies for rectangular isotropic plates simply supported along all four edges can be written as

$$f_{mn} = \frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{\frac{D}{gL^4}} \left[ m^2 + n^2 \left( \frac{L}{B} \right)^2 \right] \quad (A1)$$

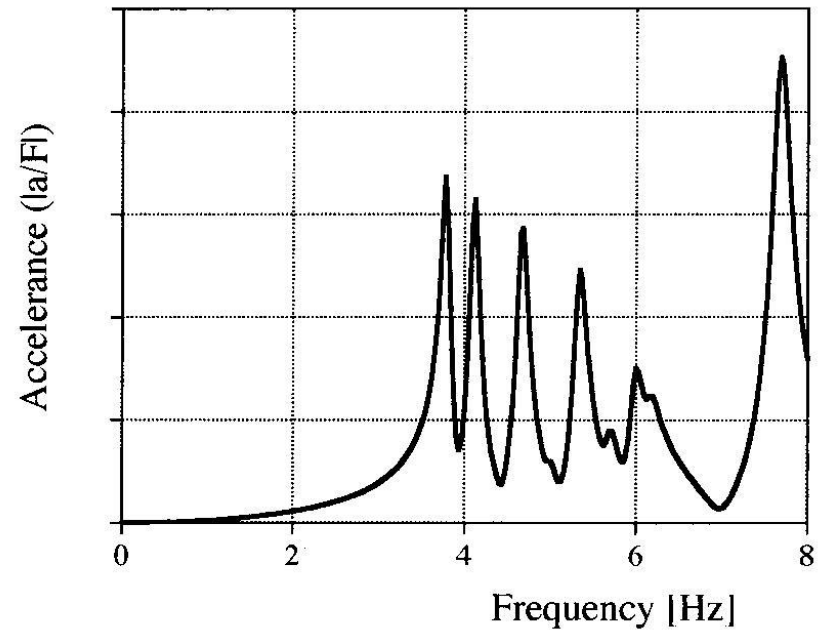
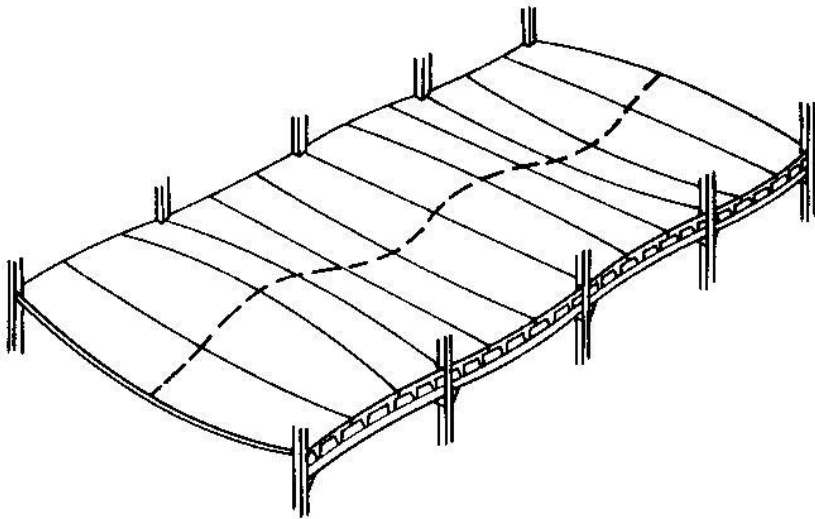
where  $m$  and  $n$  refer to the associated normal modes in accordance with the figure overleaf. For a unit width of the plate, the plate stiffness  $D = Et^3/12 (1-\nu^2)$  is approximately equal to  $EI$ .

Values of the expression  $(m^2 + n^2 (L/B)^2)$  are tabulated below for some low values of  $m$  and  $n$ .

Resonance No	L/B	1.0	0.5	0.25	0.10
$f_{11}$		2.00	1.25	1.06	1.01
$f_{12}$		5.00	2.00	1.25	1.04
$f_{13}$		10.00	3.25	1.56	1.09
$f_{14}$		17.00	5.00	2.00	1.16
$f_{15}$		26.00	7.25	2.56	1.25
$f_{21}$		5.00	4.25	4.06	4.01
$f_{22}$		8.00	5.00	4.25	4.04
$f_{23}$		13.00	6.25	4.56	4.09

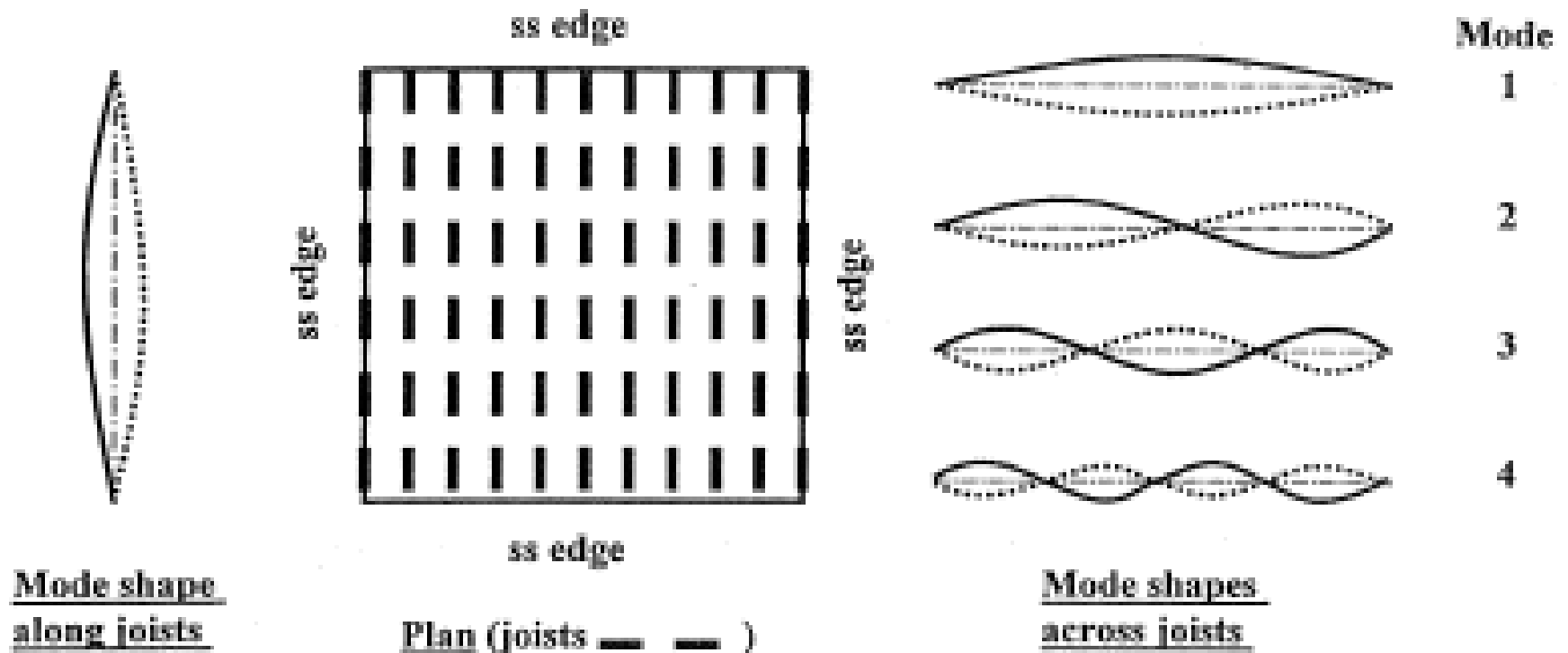


# Orthotropic plate

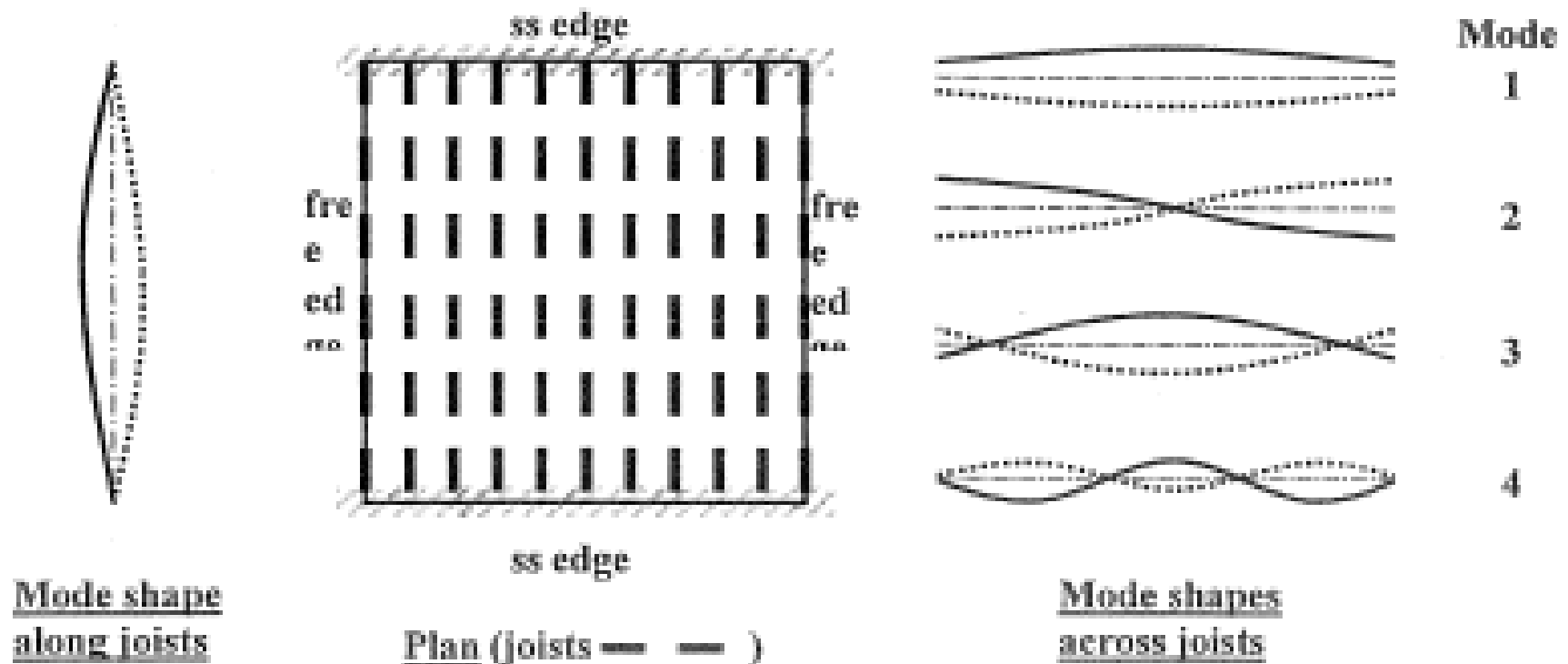




# Typical mode shapes for a rectangular joisted floor / plate simply-supported (ss) on all edges



# Typical mode shapes for a rectangular joisted timber floor / plate supported on two edges



# The reciever

People



# Vibration evaluation?

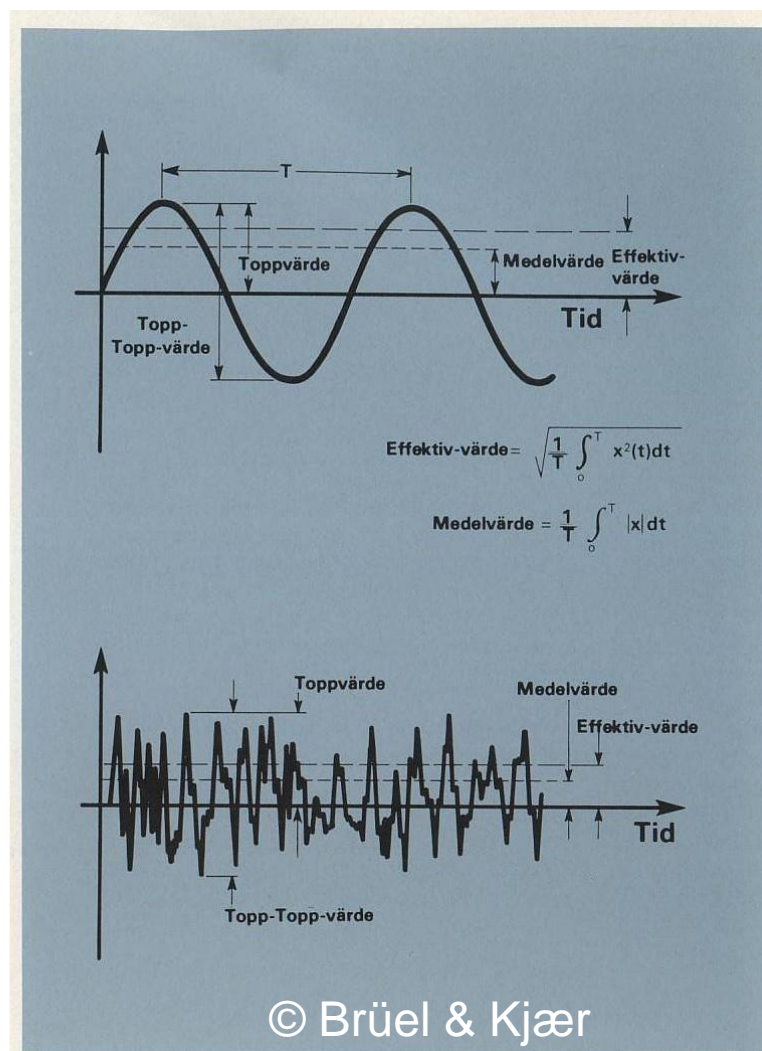
How to quantify the vibration level?

**peak-to-peak:** typically used when a max stress level

**peak value:** for transients, no information about vibration duration

**mean value:** of no interest

**RMS value:** relates to the vibration energy content



# Human perception

## Perception of motion:

0.05 – 1.0Hz balance, motion sickness

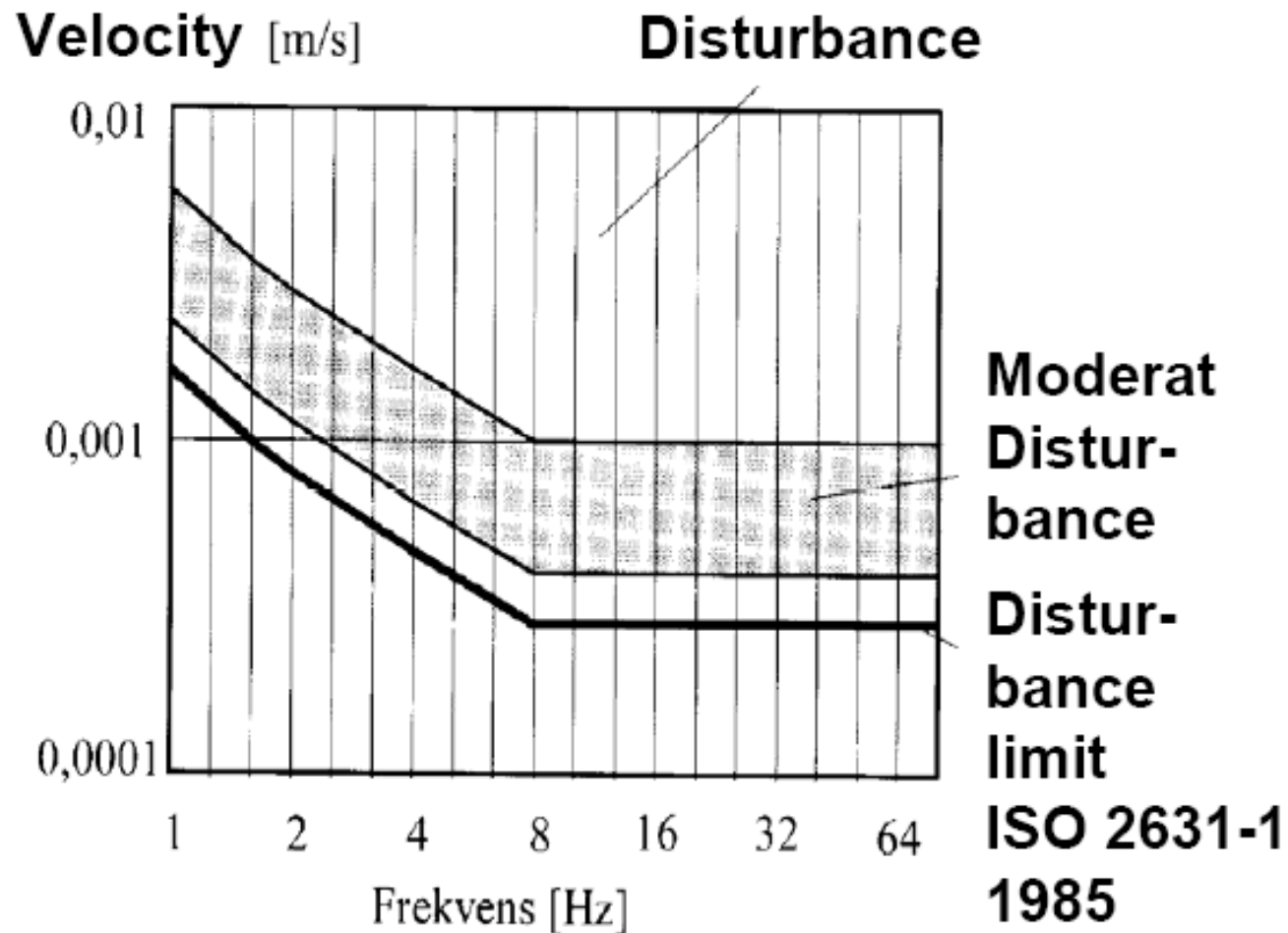
1.0 – 8.0 Hz global body resonances

8.0 – 80 Hz complex reaction

Level of perception: 5 mm/s<sup>2</sup> @ 8Hz

Vibrations in the audible frequency range: (16 Hz –20 kHz)

# Human perception of vibrations



# Discomfort due to vibration

Depends on:

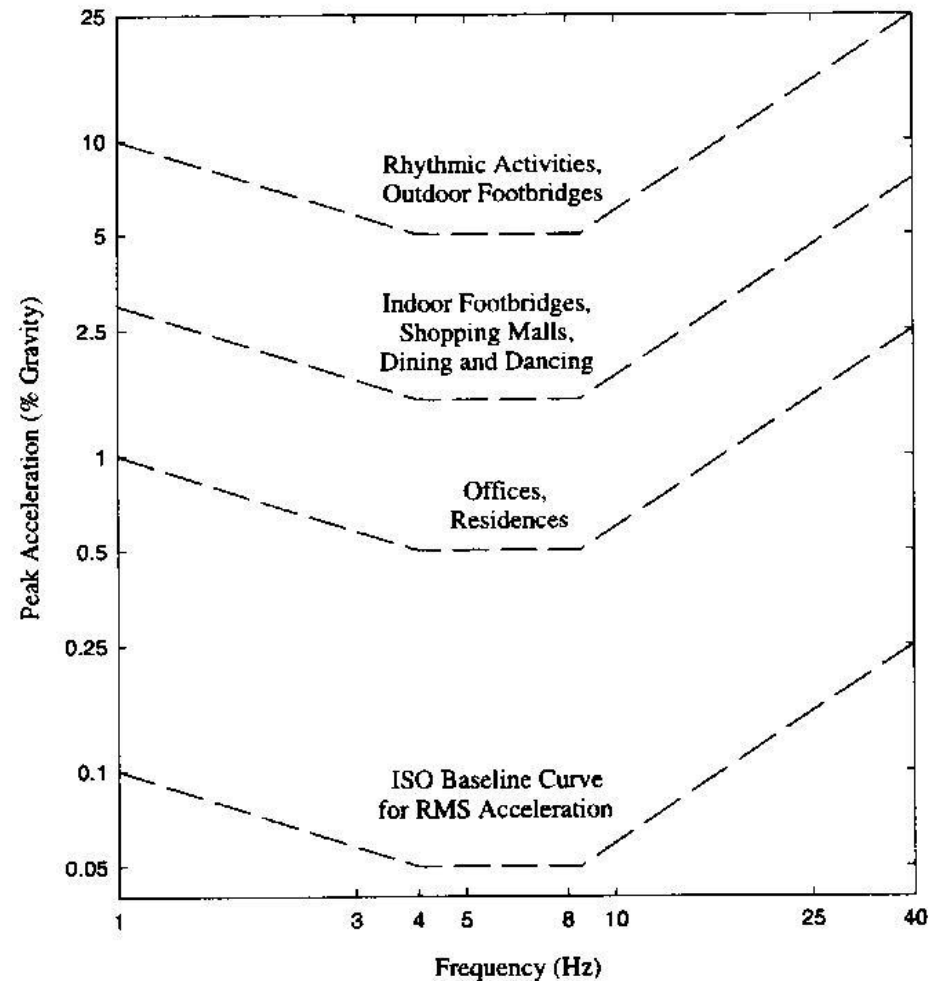
Amplitude

Frequency

Duration

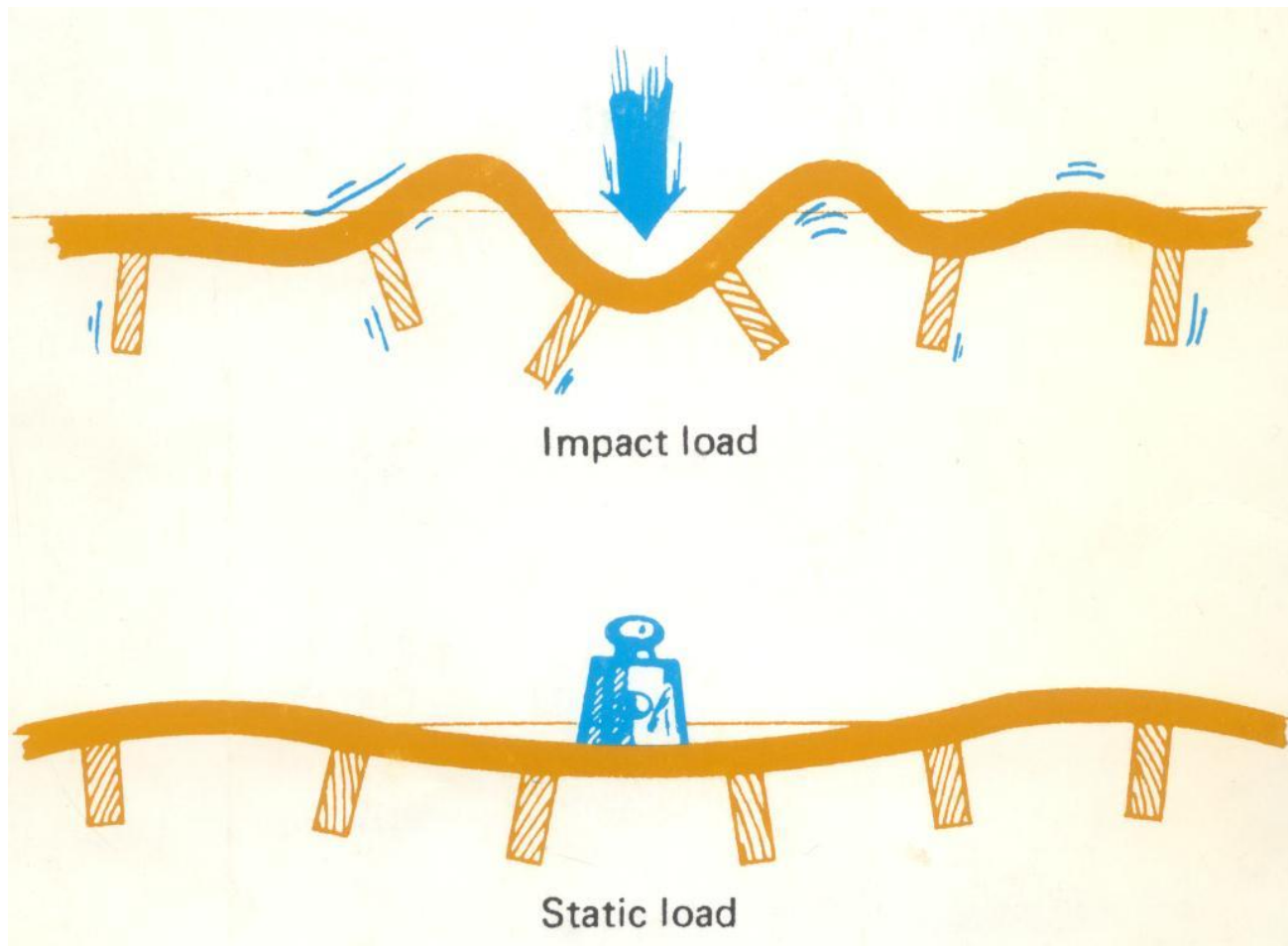
Activity and "motivation"  
of recipient

...and is strongly  
subjective!



Murray *et al*

# Design for statics, check for dynamics or vice versa?





# Low-frequency and high-frequency floors

## Low-frequency floors

- Lowest natural frequency below 8-10 Hz

- Harmonic force components worst

- Weight (normally) sufficient for impulsive part

## High-frequency floors

- Lowest natural frequency higher than 8-10 Hz

- Normally smaller spans

- Impulsive part of force most important in combination with damping

# Evaluation of high-frequency (light-weight) systems

## Criteria:

- Deflection
- Springiness
- Vibration

## Important parameters:

- Stiffness
- Mass
- Edges
- Transverse stiffness
- Damping

# Structural flexibility

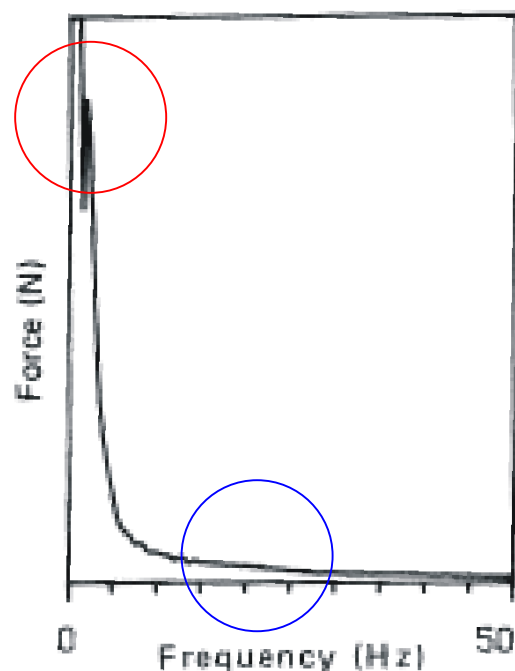


Fig. 1.1 Footstep force as a function of frequency due to a walking person

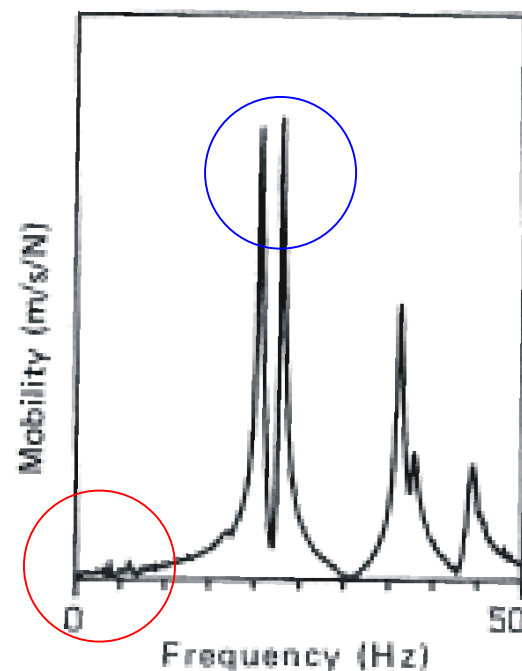


Fig. 1.2 Mobility. The peaks mark the resonance frequencies

Semi static      Resonant  
←————→

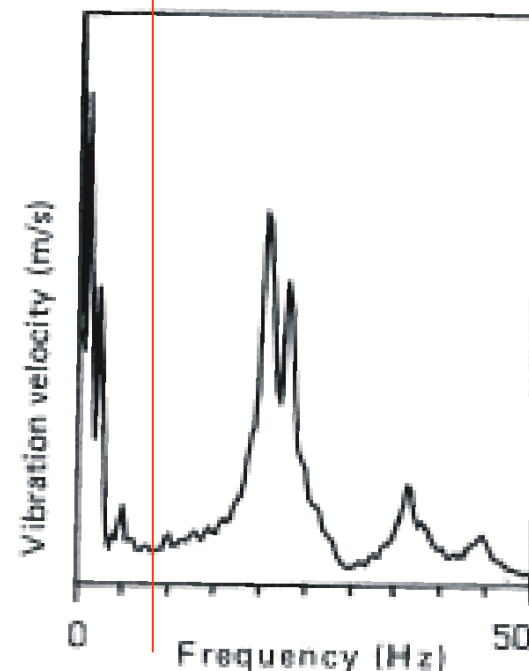


Fig. 1.3 The resulting vibration velocity

# Design criteria – high-frequency light weight floors

EN1995-1-1, ch 7

Deflection criterion

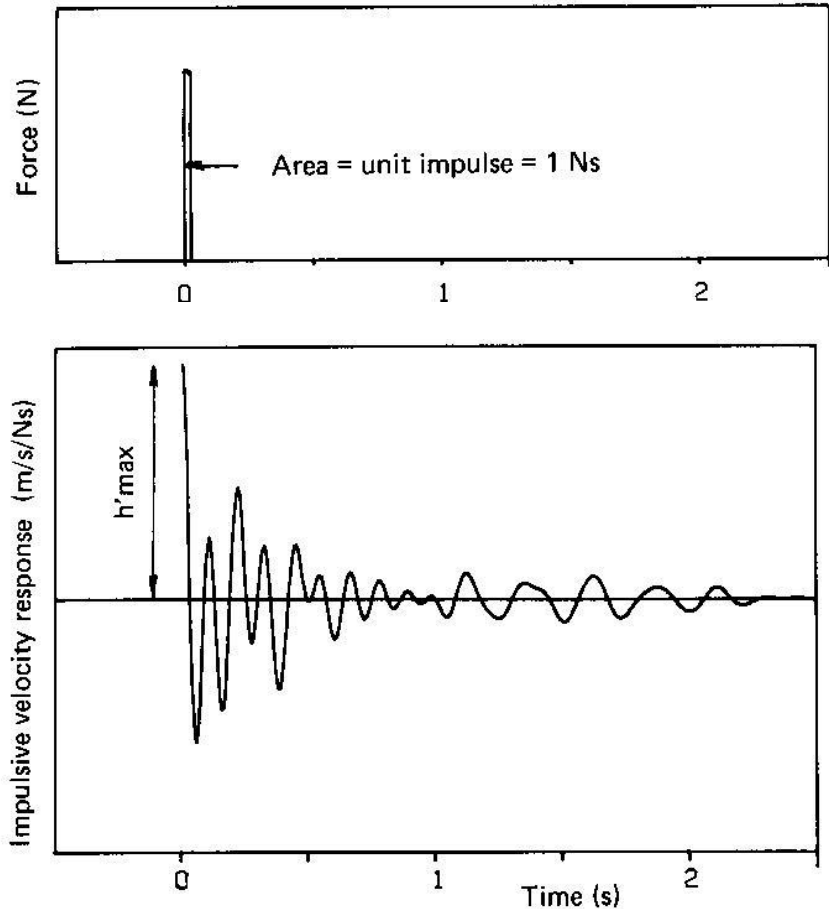
Impulse response criterion

(Based on Springiness and human-induced floor vibration, Swedish Council for Building Research, D12:1988)

# The assessment method

Static criterion:  
Deflection under 1 kN  
point load  $\sim 1.5$  mm

Impulse response  
criterion:  
 $h'_{\max} < 100(f_1 \zeta - 1) \text{ m}/(\text{Ns}^2)$



# Acceptable impulse response

$$h'_{\max} = v < b^{(f_1 \zeta - 1)} \text{ m}/(\text{Ns}^2)$$

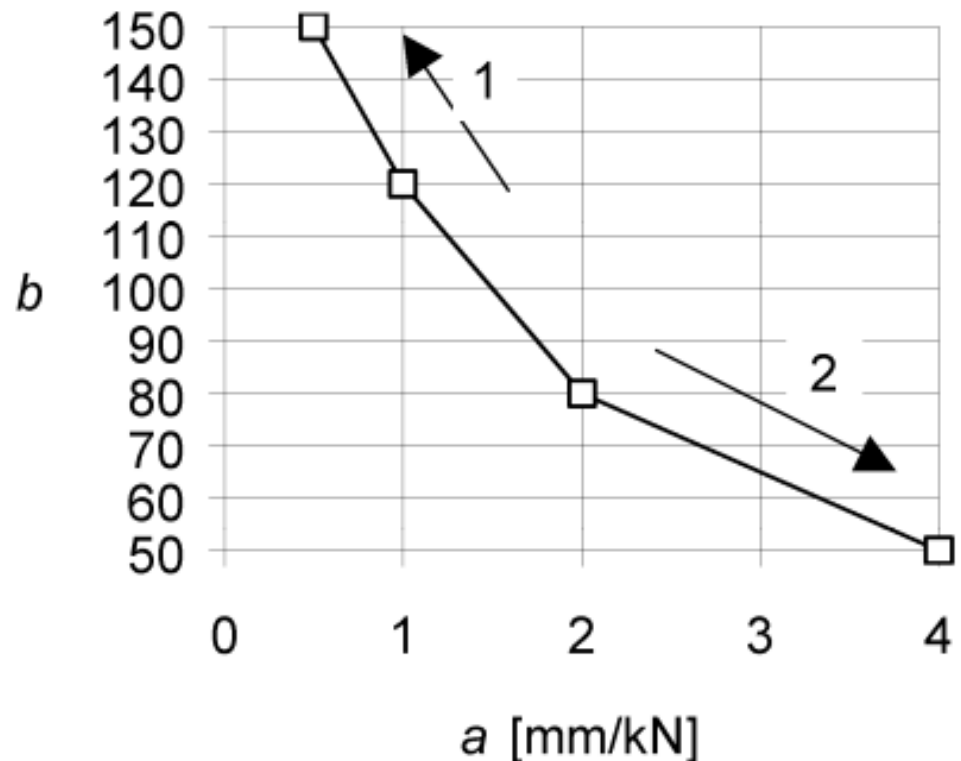
$$f_1 \zeta = \sigma_0$$

$$\zeta = 1\% \text{ (EN1995-1-1, 7.3.1)}$$

$$v = \frac{4(0,4 + 0,6 n_{40})}{mb\ell + 200}$$

⇒ higher velocity  
acceptable if respons  
decays faster

(see also EN1995-1-1,7.3.3)



# Calculation of impulse response $h'_{\max}$

The initial velocity at the point of application of the load  $(x_0, y_0)$  can be written as

$$w'_{\max} = F \cdot t \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\Phi_n^2(x_0, y_0)}{m_n} \quad \left[ \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \right] \quad (4.1)$$

The initial response due to an idealised unit impulse at the point  $(x_0, y_0)$  is thus

$$h'_{\max} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\Phi_n^2(x_0, y_0)}{m_n} \quad \left[ \frac{\text{m}}{\text{Ns}} \right] \quad (4.2)$$

It has been shown that the impact loads caused by footsteps mainly excite natural frequencies  $< 40$  Hz, and it is therefore proposed that summation should be confined to normal modes  $n \leq N_{40}$ :

$$h'_{\max} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_{40}} \frac{\Phi_n^2(x_0, y_0)}{m_n} \quad \left[ \frac{\text{m}}{\text{Ns}} \right] \quad (4.3)$$

In the general case, the following operations are then required for calculation of  $h'$  max:

- . Calculation of natural frequencies and associated normal modes and modal masses for resonances  $< 40$  Hz.
- . Identification of the most 'flexible' point  $(x_0, y_0)$  which gives the highest value of  $h'$  max.
- . Calculation of  $h'$  max.

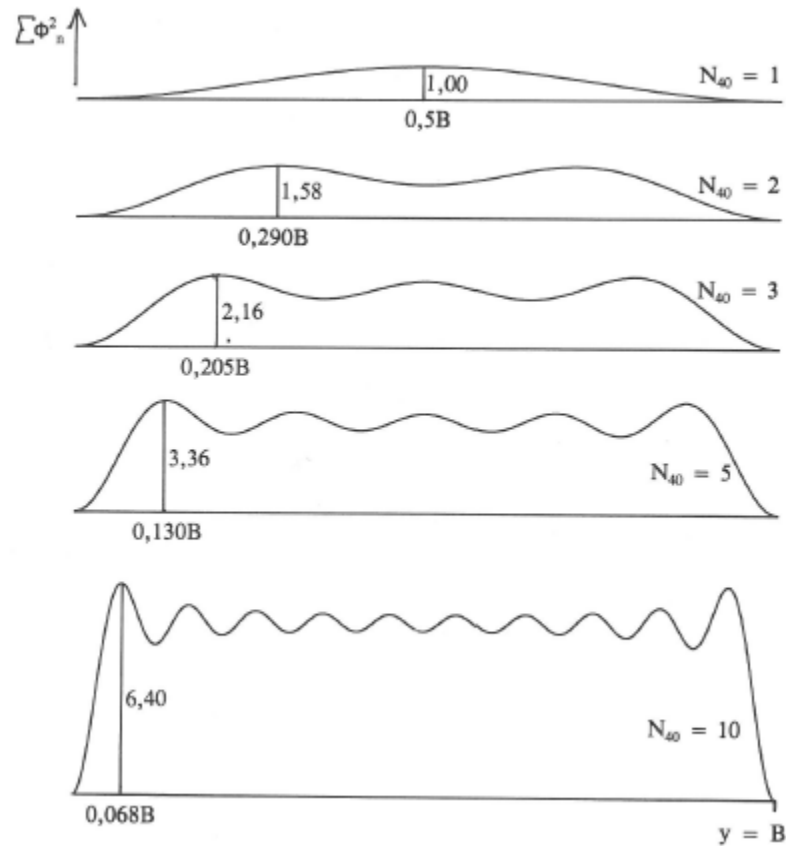
For floor constructions simply supported at all edges, first may be considered to be critical, and for this reason  $x_0 = L/2$  (midspan), see Appendix A. Further, each and every one of the modal masses  $m_n$  can be approximately put equal to one quarter of the mass of the floor construction

$$m_1 = m_2 = \dots = m_n = gBL/4 \quad [kg]$$

(4.4)



# The most flexible point



on condition that  $\phi_n^{\max} = 1$  (normalising). For this case, Equation (4.3) can be simplified to read

$$h'_{\max} = \frac{4}{gBL} \cdot \left( \sum_{n=1}^{N_{40}} \phi_n^2 \right)_{\max} \left[ \frac{m/s}{Ns} \right] \quad (4.5)$$

The maximum value of the summation has been approximately calculated in Appendix B and is  $\approx 0.4 + 0.6 N_{40}$ . We can then write

$$h'_{\max} = \frac{4 \cdot (0.4 + 0.6 N_{40})}{gBL} \left[ \frac{m/s}{Ns} \right] \quad (4.6)$$

where  $N_{40}$  can be read off the charts in Appendix A.

$$h'_{\max} = \frac{4 \cdot (0.4 + 0.6 N_{40})}{gBL + 200} \left[ \frac{m/s}{Ns} \right]$$

$$\text{EN1995-1-1: } N_{40} = (((40/f_1)^2 - 1) * (b/l)^4 * (EI)_l / (EI)_b)^{0.25}$$

# Evaluation of low-frequency floors / pedestrian bridges

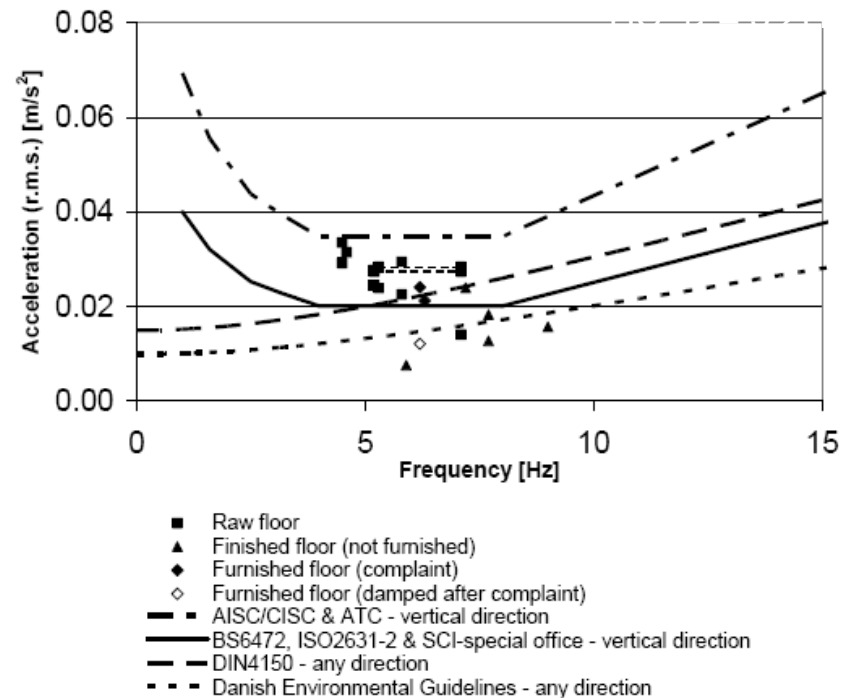
Important parameters:

Resonance frequencies

Vibration modes (mass)

Force model

Annoyance criteria



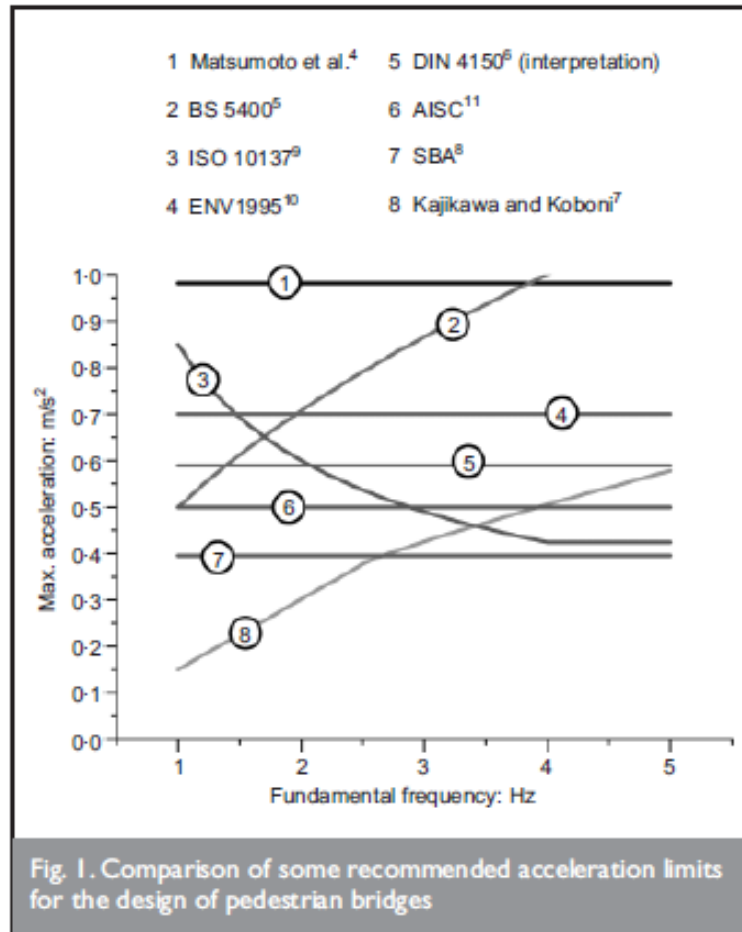
Design criteria

AISC Design Guide 11 (Murray *et al*), 1997

SCI Design Guide (Wyatt), 1989

Sètra – for pedestrian bridges

# Coderelated acceptance levels (acceleration)



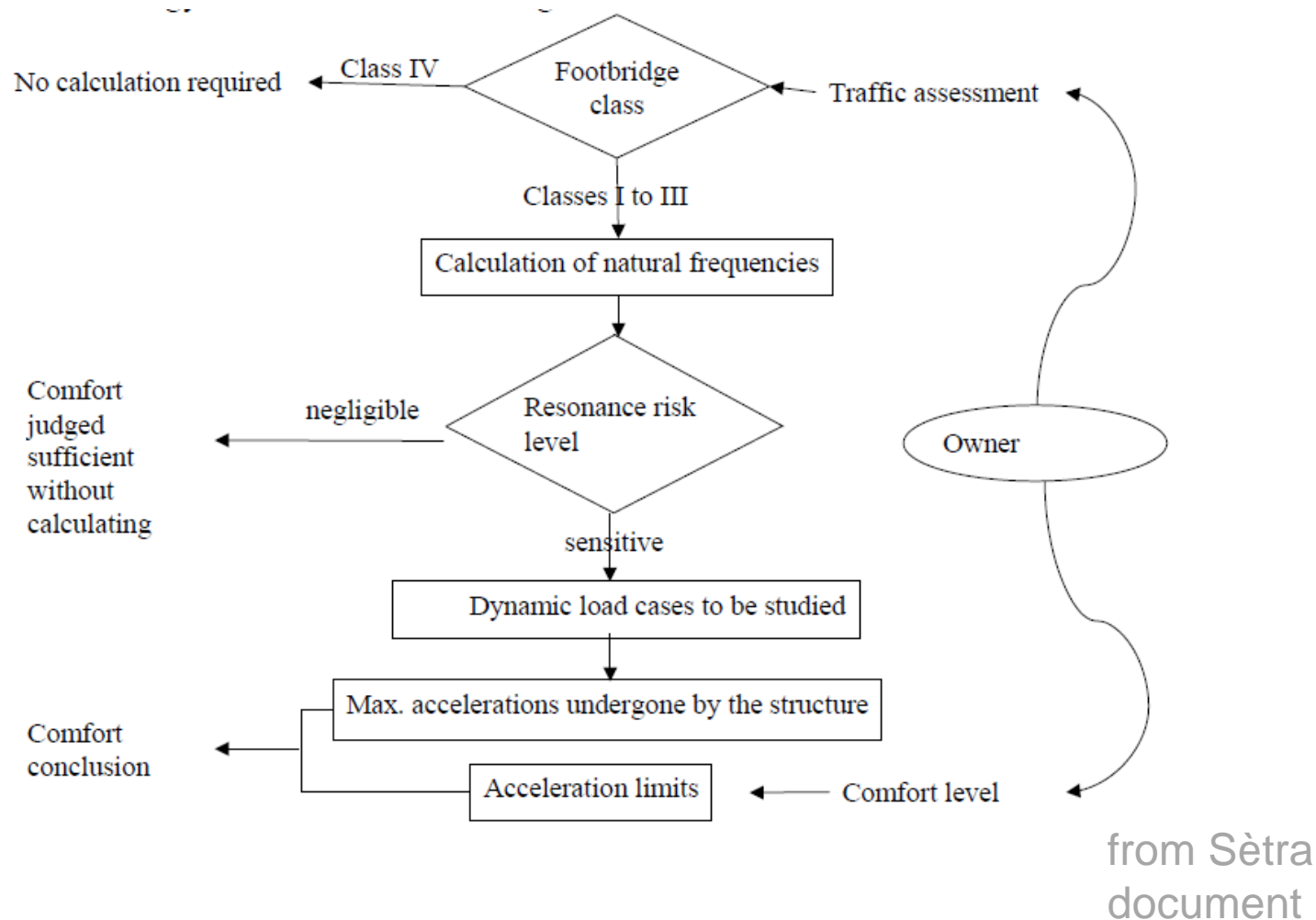
Technical guide

## Footbridges

Assessment of vibrational behaviour of footbridges  
under pedestrian loading



# General approach – pedestrian bridges



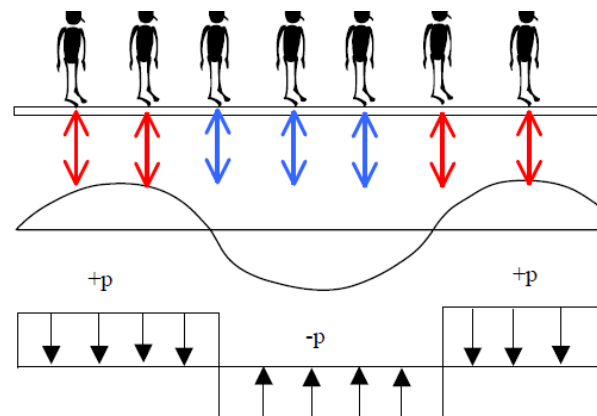
# Practical approach

## Sètra & BS EN

Classification of bridge for pedestrian density and comfort level

Equivalent No of persons as design load applied on structure

Steady state response



## EN 1995-2

Simple approach, three cases

Comfort level:  $0.7 \text{ m/s}^2$

Based on fib, bulletin 32

Simply supported beam

from Sètra  
document

# Is calculation necessary?

Eurocode 2 ( Ref. [4] )	1.6 Hz and 2.4 Hz and, where specified, between 2.5 Hz and 5 Hz.
Eurocode 5 ( Ref. [5] )	Between 0 and 5 Hz
Appendix 2 of Eurocode 0	<5 Hz
BS 5400 ( Ref. [6] )	<5 Hz
Regulations in Japan ( Ref. [30] )	1.5 Hz – 2.3 Hz
ISO/DIS standard 10137 ( Ref. [28] )	1.7 Hz – 2.3 Hz
CEB 209 Bulletin	1.65 – 2.35 Hz
Bachmann ( Ref. [59] )	1.6 – 2.4 Hz

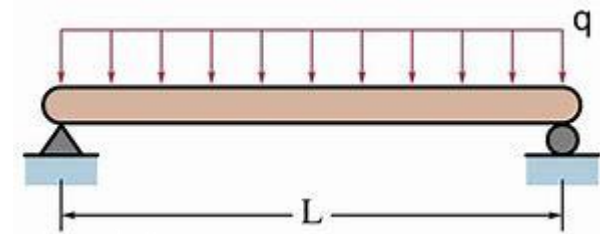
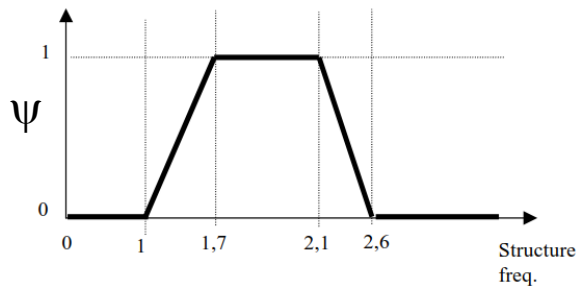


# Sètra example

Frequency	0	1	1.7	2.1	2.6	5
Range 1						
Range 2						
Range 3						
Range 4						

Class	Density $d$ of the crowd
III	0.5 pedestrians/m <sup>2</sup>
II	0.8 pedestrians/m <sup>2</sup>

Direction	Load per m <sup>2</sup>
Vertical (v)	$d \times (280\text{N}) \times \cos(2\pi f_v t) \times 10.8 \times (\xi/n)^{1/2} \times \psi$



$$a = \frac{2q}{\pi m \xi} \quad q = d \cdot 280 \cdot 10.8 \sqrt{\frac{\xi}{n}} \cdot \psi$$

$\xi$  = modal damping

$m$  = mass per meter

$n$  = number of persons on bridge

To conclude:

*Design for dynamics and check for statics.*

*Use simple models when possible.*

# Thank you for listening!

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