

## METHOD OF MODAL IDENTIFICATION OF TORSIONALLY-COUPLED BUILDINGS USING EARTHQUAKE RESPONSES

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### ABSTRACT :

A vibration monitoring procedure based on recorded and reconstructed response has been presented in the paper. The method allows modal identification using recorded responses from only few floor levels, that are selected based on minimax error criterion. The vibration responses at non-instrumented floor levels are estimated using spline-based reconstruction. The complete sets of recorded and reconstructed signals are used together in the parameter identification algorithms to identify the modal model of the structure. The state space model of the structure is obtained using Eigen Realization Algorithm to cross correlation functions derived from the complete set of responses. The modal properties viz., natural frequencies, modal damping ratios and complete mode shapes are estimated from state space matrices. A numerical verification has been carried out on a multi-story building subjected to earthquake base excitations. The numerical verifications show that there is good agreement between actual and reconstructed floor responses. The identified modal properties have been compared to their actual values using correlation techniques. The correlation results show good accuracy in the identified frequencies and mode shapes for first few fundamental modes. The procedure can be effectively applied to condition assessment and structural health monitoring problems since vibration records are required at only a few floor levels, and the fundamental frequencies and mode shapes are identified with required accuracy.

**KEYWORDS:** eigenvalues, mode shapes, condition assessment, health monitoring, modal identification

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Vibration monitoring is a well-known practice for damage identification and condition assessment of civil engineering structures. The real modal parameters of a structure can be determined from the data obtained by tests and monitoring using system identification methods. The data recorded during seismic excitation can also be used for system identification and model updating methods. Due to economical considerations, the responses are commonly recorded at only few locations on the structure. This paper describes a method that uses interpolation techniques to increase the number of available responses for system identification for shear buildings subjected to base excitation. The responses at non-instrumented floor levels of building are reconstructed by interpolating using spline shape function. The recorded and reconstructed responses are used in parameter identification algorithm to extract the modal properties of the building (natural frequencies, damping ratios and mode shapes). A rigorous analysis procedure that extends the spline shape function method to shear building for identifying effective locations of sensors is used. The error in the reconstructed responses are defined by global minimax error and used in identifying locations of sensors on the building.

Traditional modal identification techniques require the full measurement of input excitation and its corresponding responses [1]. However, a real structure usually possesses a large number of degrees of freedom making it very expensive if not impossible to acquire full measurements of all degrees of freedom because of limited number of sensors. Thus, system identification based on response measurements at few degrees of freedom becomes very useful from practical considerations. There are several different approaches to extract modal parameters from limited response measurements using general input (earthquake base excitation) and output (floor response to earthquake) method. The Eigen Realization Algorithm (ERA) and Observer/Kalman filter Identification (OKID) approach has been used to identify the modal parameter from earthquake induced time histories of the structural response [2]. Comparative studies have highlighted the difference and similarities in current modal identification algorithms, viz. Least-Squares Complex Exponential (LSCE), the poly reference time domain (PTD), Ibrahim time

domain (ITD), Eigen-system Realization Algorithm (ERA), Rational Fraction Polynomial (RFP), Poly Reference Frequency Domain (PFD), and Complex Mode Indication Function (CMIF) methods [3]. In many of these studies the modal parameters are extracted by modeling building as a linear system with only one or two translational DOF per floor.

The accuracy of modal identification mainly depends on location of sensors on the structure. To come up with accurate modal parameters, one often needs to collect response data from instruments located at various positions within the structure. For given types of instruments, which are to be used, one often wants to locate them such that data collected from those locations yield the best estimates of the modeled structural parameters. There are several different techniques proposed for optimal sensor locations for recording structural vibrations [4-5]. For example, a spline shape function criterion has been proposed for the choice of optimal location of a limited number of recording sensors for reconstruction of seismic responses of multi-storey frames [6]. Reconstruction of unknown responses in this method is performed by modeling the evolution of relative acceleration along the height of the building through a cubic-spline shape function. Many of the methods discussed above are found suitable for parameter identification of mechanical structural components and are not been adequately explored for civil engineering structures. In this paper, a method has been devised and used to determine locations for effective placement of sensors on shear buildings.

## 2. FEATURES OF TORSIONALLY-COUPLED SHEAR BUILDING

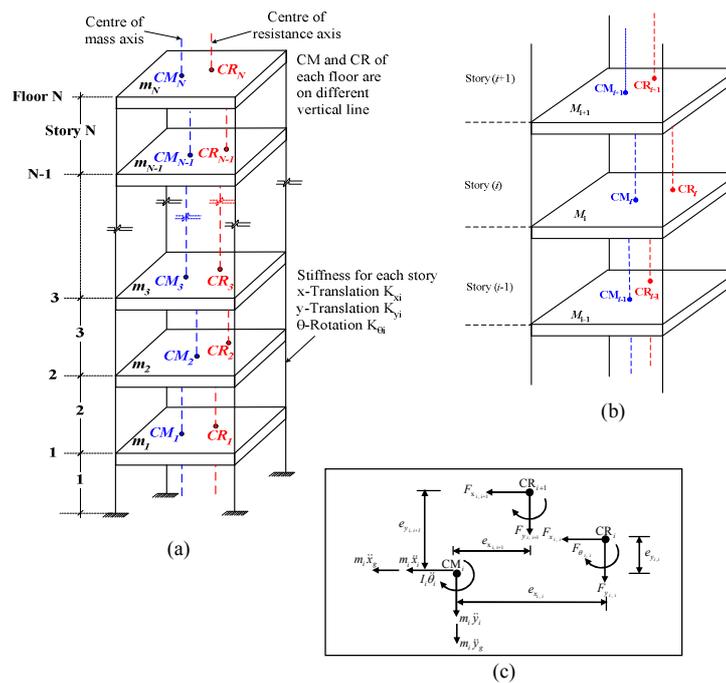


Figure 1. Torsionally coupled multi-storey building

In this study, the building has been idealized as consisting of rigid floors supported on mass less axially inextensible columns and walls. The general torsionally-coupled multi-story shear building considered in this study (Figure 1) has the following general features: (1) The principal axes of resistance for all of the stories are identically oriented along the  $x$ - and  $y$ -axes shown in the Figure 1, (2) The centers of the mass of the floors do not lie on a same vertical axis, (3) The centers of resistance of the stories do not lie on a same vertical axis, i.e. the static eccentricities at each story are not equal, (4) All floors do not have the same radius of gyration  $r$  about the vertical axis through the centre of mass, (5) The ratio of three stiffness quantities, the translational stiffness in  $x$  and  $y$ -directions,  $K_x$ ,  $K_y$ , and  $K_\theta$  torsional stiffness for any story may be different. For the above general torsionally-coupled  $N$ -storey shear building, each floor has three degrees-of-freedom (DOF),  $x$ - and



The damping in the building has been represented by its Raleigh damping matrix, with defined damping ratio for each natural mode of vibration. In most cases of structural engineering interest, modal damping ratios are used in the computer model to approximate nonlinear energy dissipation within the structure. In this paper, Raleigh damping has been considered to include the influence of all sources of energy dissipation in the building thereby avoiding the need to formulate the damping matrix based on the physical properties of the real structure [8].

### 3. RECONSTRUCTION OF SEISMIC RESPONSES

The technique to reconstruct unmeasured floor level responses without using the mode shape coefficients has been presented by Limongelli [6]. In this approach, a spline based reconstruction is applied to plane multi-storey shear frames having similar system properties at each story level. The frame was modelled as lumped mass system with one DOF per floor. The technique was applied to reconstruct the seismic response of real building frames. The application of the said technique to other types of structures different from multi-storey shear plane frames has not been investigated in the published literature. In the present study, this approach is extended to a general multi-storey shear building (different mass and stiffness for each story with varying eccentricity for each floor) modelled as lumped mass shear system with three DOF per floor. The assumptions made in the investigations by Limongelli [6] are also applicable in this study. The assumptions are: (1) The responses in terms of absolute acceleration available in a limited number of locations along the building height and the input ground acceleration is known, (2) The evolution of relative displacement  $x$  of the building along its height  $z$  can be modelled by means of a function of position and time  $x(z, t)$ , and (3) The second derivative of relative displacement with respect to time gives the evolution of the relative acceleration along height of the building.

By knowing the input base acceleration,  $\ddot{u}_g(t)$ , the time history of absolute acceleration  $\ddot{u}(z, t)$  at a given location on a building can be evaluated by solving the equations of motion (Equation 1). However in practice sensors are used to record the accelerations at only a few DOFs of the building. The locations where responses are recorded by sensors are assumed as knots of the spline function and, for each time instant, the unknown coefficients in the spline function are determined from continuity, interpolation and boundary conditions. The advantage of spline functions as interpolating functions is that among all twice differentiable functions approximating a given set of data, the spline functions are the ones corresponding to the minimum value of the overall curvature. A detailed discussion on the use of cubic spline interpolation function can be found in published literatures [6]. The advantage of this method is that the responses at non-instrumented floor levels are obtained by interpolating the recorded responses at instrumented floor level, without using the mode shapes of the building.

### 4. MODAL PARAMETER IDENTIFICATION METHOD

The modal parameter of general torsionally-coupled building can be extracted from the recorded vibration signatures using different techniques. To extract the first few natural frequencies, it is sufficient to have vibration record at the top floor level [9]. In this case the complete mode shape is not identified. To identify complete mode shapes one need to have simultaneous vibration records at all floor levels or use mode shape interpolation techniques. It has been shown that vibration records collected at top and first floor level are sufficient to get the complete mode shapes of a symmetric torsionally-coupled shear building [10]. The mode shape interpolation techniques can be applied if the building is symmetric and follows uniform shear criterion [9]. In case of general torsionally-coupled multi-story building one can not expect to have uniform shear at all floor levels. Hence in this paper a different technique has been proposed to obtain the complete mode shapes, using vibration records at limited number of locations along the height of the building.

In typical problems of forced vibration of buildings, it is difficult or impossible to measure the frequency response functions or Transfer Function (FRFs or TFs) derived from recorded excitation and structural responses, and hence these quantities are not available for modal property extraction. In this paper the parameter identification procedure based on Natural Excitation Technique (NExT) [11], which utilizes the cross-correlation between measured responses, is implemented for general torsionally-coupled building without using recorded excitations. The cross-correlation function between two response measurements made on an ambiently excited structure has been

shown to have the same form as the system's impulse response function. The time domain curve fitting algorithms such as polyreference method, complex exponential method, or eigensystem realization algorithm (ERA) [12], Ibrahim Time Domain method [13], which is developed to analyze the impulse response functions, can be applied to cross-correlation functions to obtain resonant frequencies and modal damping exhibited by the structure [14].

In the present study modal parameter extraction has been carried out using the principles of NExT and ERA. The unmeasured floor responses are obtained by interpolating the available measured responses using cubic spline method explained earlier [6]. Thus the complete set of all floor response are made available for parameter identification. The cross-correlation between each floor responses with respect to referenced measurement is used in Eigen Realization Algorithm for identifying first few resonant frequencies, damping ratios and their complete mode shapes [12].

It has been observed in the numerical simulations that the number of modes required to be captured in the vibration record is an important factor influencing the location of sensors. It is always important to accurately capture the first few modes than to capture larger number of modes with lower accuracy. In case of typical torsionally-coupled buildings, the first few modes have the highest contribution to the effective mass participation [15]. It is also well known that the mode shapes are linearly independent of each other. When a building is subjected to base excitations, the lower modes contribute more to the vibration response than the higher modes. Hence it is important to accurately capture the first few modes of vibrations. Determination of an effective set of structural degrees of freedom as measurement points in order to maximize the linear independence of measured mode shape will also useful for reconstruction of unmeasured responses using spline function. This is due to the fact that responses recorded at such predetermined point will have more contribution of lower few modes, and hence disturbance/noise in the recorded data is avoided to a certain extent. In this paper, a rigorous analysis scheme yielding minimax error has been used to identify the location of sensors on the torsionally coupled building [16].

## 6. NUMERICAL VERIFICATION

A 6-storey torsionally-coupled shear building has been considered for numerical evaluation of the procedure. First a simulation is carried out to verify the effectiveness of the spline function in interpolating the acceleration responses along the height of the building. The physical properties of the example building are given in the Table 1.

Table 1. Physical properties of example torsionally coupled building

| Floor<br>$i$ | Mass<br>$m_i$<br>$10^5 \times \text{kg}$ | Moment of<br>Inertia<br>$I$<br>$10^7 \times \text{kg.m}^2$ | C.M<br>$(x_i, y_i)$<br>(m) | Story<br>$i$ | $k_{x_i}$<br>$10^8 \times \text{N/m}$ | $k_{y_i}$<br>$10^8 \times \text{N/m}$ | $k_{\theta_i}$<br>$10^{10} \times \text{N/m}$ | C.R.<br>$(x_i, y_i)$<br>(m) |
|--------------|--|--|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1            | 2.0                                      | 1.28   | (1.0,1.0)                  | 1            | 9.0                                   | 8.5                                   | 5.0   | (4.0, 4.0)                  |
| 2            | 2.0                                      | 1.28   | (1.0,1.0)                  | 2            | 9.0                                   | 8.5                                   | 5.0   | (4.0, 4.0)                  |
| 3            | 2.0                                      | 1.28   | (1.0,1.0)                  | 3            | 9.0                                   | 8.5                                   | 5.0   | (4.0, 4.0)                  |
| 4            | 1.9                                      | 1.07   | (0.8, 0.9)                 | 4            | 8.5                                   | 7.5                                   | 4.5   | (3.2, 3.0)                  |
| 5            | 1.9                                      | 1.07   | (0.8, 0.9)                 | 5            | 8.5                                   | 7.5                                   | 4.5   | (3.2, 3.0)                  |
| 6            | 1.9                                      | 1.07   | (0.8, 0.9)                 | 6            | 8.5                                   | 7.5                                   | 4.5   | (3.2, 3.0)                  |

In this example, the sensors are located at first floor, third floor and fifth floor level (based on rigorous analysis results) and the acceleration responses are recorded only at these floor levels [16]. The numerical model is subjected to unidirectional earthquake at the base (1940 El-Centro North-South component) and responses at all floor levels are obtained in the three directions. The system damping is introduced as the viscous damping ratios in each vibration modes. A cubic spline interpolation method described in Limongelli [6] has been used to calculate the responses at unmeasured floor levels. The acceleration time responses at 2-nd, 4-th and 6-th floors are reconstructed by interpolating the recorded acceleration time histories at 1-st, 3-rd and 5-th floor levels. The spline

interpolations are carried out separately for each direction. Figure 2 shows the comparisons of some of the reconstructed responses at unmeasured floor levels. The reconstructed responses are found to be similar to their actual values with low error, and this confirms the effectiveness of the use of spline function to reconstruct unmeasured responses.

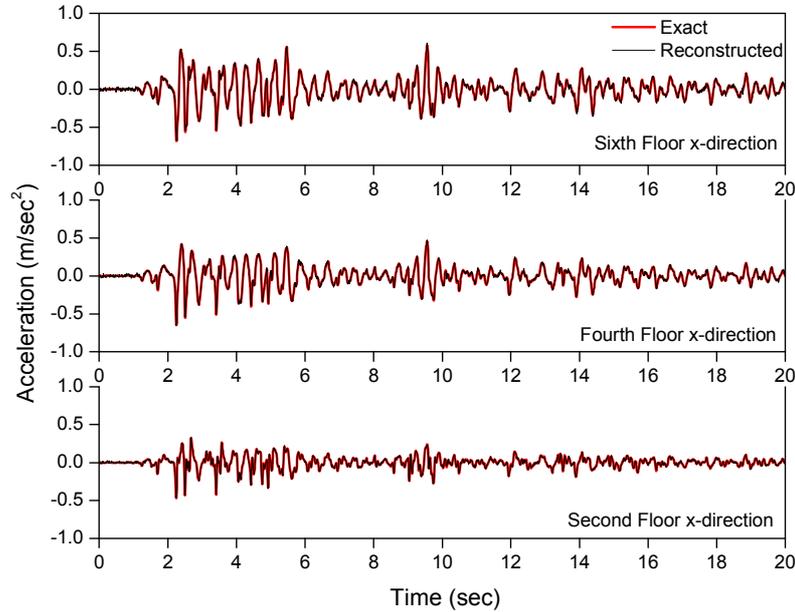


Figure 2. Reconstructed responses at non-instrumented floor levels of building

Using the reconstruction technique, the responses at all floor levels become available for modal parameter identification. The Cross Power Spectral Density (CPSD) functions are calculated for all floor responses taking the first floor responses ( $x$ ,  $y$  and rotational responses) as the reference measurement. The cross-correlation functions are obtained by inverse Fourier Transform of CPSD. Thus a total of six cross-correlation functions for each direction for each reference measurement, totalling 54 CPSDs are used in Eigen Realization Algorithm (ERA) for modal parameter identification. A Hankel matrix  $\mathbf{H}$  of size  $(100 \times 100)$  is constructed using the CPSD functions. The Singular Value Decomposition of  $\mathbf{H}$  is carried out to determine the state space matrices  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{C}$ . These matrices are further modified by eliminating the rows and columns corresponding to the smaller singular values produced by computational modes [14]. The modified matrices  $\mathbf{A}_{(22 \times 22)}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}_{(22 \times 3)}$  and  $\mathbf{C}_{(18 \times 22)}$  are used to extract the modal properties of the example building. The natural frequencies are obtained by eigen analysis of system matrix  $\mathbf{A}_{(22 \times 22)}$ . The mode shapes corresponding to all 18-DOFs are obtained by multiplying eigenvector of  $\mathbf{A}_{(22 \times 22)}$  with the output matrix  $\mathbf{C}_{(18 \times 22)}$ . The frequency stability diagram is used to identify the stable frequencies among the ERA extracted modes. In Figure 3 the stable frequencies are denoted by the straight line formed by symbols dropping down from the top of the graph. The CPSD functions generated by ERA are superimposed on stability diagram, which shows major peaks are corresponding to stable frequencies. The identified frequencies and damping ratios are shown in the Table 2, and are found to be good agreement with their actual values.

Table 2. Comparison of identified frequencies and damping ratios of example building with their actual values

| Mode | Frequency (Hz) |            | Damping (%) |            |
|------|----------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|      | Actual         | Identified | Actual      | Identified |
| 1    | 1.61           | 1.59       | 5.00        | 9.69       |
| 2    | 2.56           | 2.59       | 4.18        | 3.92       |
| 3    | 3.23           | 3.20       | 4.12        | 3.08       |
| 4    | 5.61           | 5.93       | 4.86        | 3.55       |
| 5    | 7.30           | 7.49       | 5.73        | 4.65       |

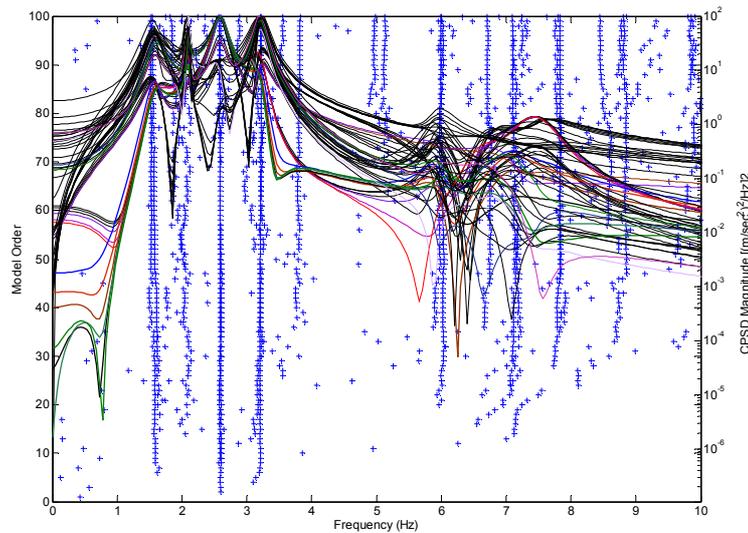


Figure 3. Frequency stability diagram superimposed with the CPSD functions

The mode shapes extracted from the set of reconstructed responses have compared with their actual values to illustrate the accuracy of mode shape determination procedure. Figure 4 shows the first mode shape corresponding to 1.61 Hz, when compared with the mode shapes obtained by proposed method using ERA. It is seen that the extracted mode shapes are in excellent agreement with their actual values in terms of shape, however there is some error in its magnitude. The error is found to be more in the rotational direction when compared to two translation directions. This illustrates that the method accurately determines the complete mode shapes of the structure and is comparable to the other methods proposed in literature [13].

A rigorous analysis can be carried out on the assumed mathematical model of the structure to select the most effective sensor location that gives least minimax error [16]. The mathematical model can be developed based on the measured physical dimensions and material properties. As described above, rigorous simulation and analysis were carried out on the example structure to determine the most effective location of sensors on the torsionally coupled building. The location corresponding to global minimum error, i.e., minmax error among the whole set of reconstructed responses have been considered as the most effective sensors location points. It is customary in structural dynamics that the numerical/FE models of the structure are created based on the available physical properties and geometrical dimensions before conducting actual identification experiments. Such approximate mathematical models can be very well used for deciding location of sensor as described above.

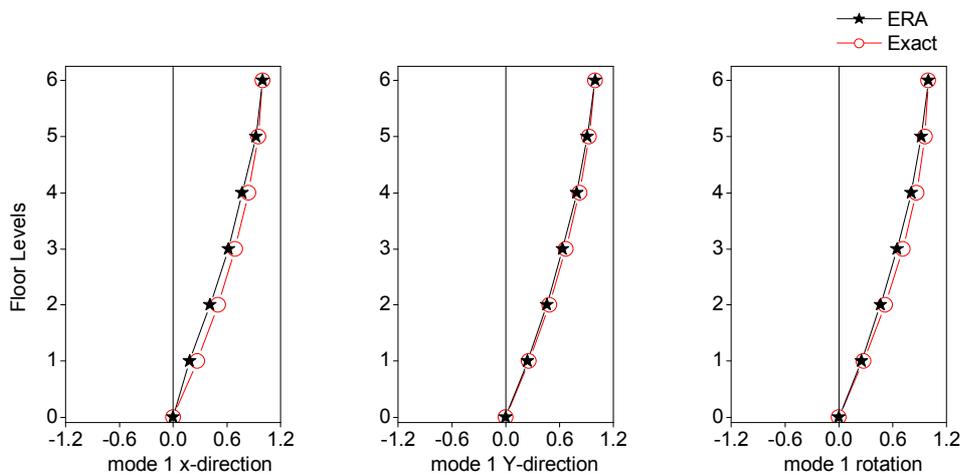


Figure 4. Mode shapes extracted from reconstructed responses using proposed modal identification method

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

This paper presents a method for determining structural modal properties when responses of a torsionally-coupled shear building subjected to base excitations are recorded at only a few floors. The investigations show that the cubic spline shape functions can be used for accurate reconstruction of unmeasured floor responses. The reconstruction of responses of torsionally-coupled shear building has been performed by extending the spline shape function method. The investigation also shows that the accuracy of reconstructed responses increases with the number of sensors used for recording. The parameter extraction from the set of reconstructed and actual responses is carried out and found to be effective in identifying the first few fundamental frequencies and corresponding complete mode shapes. The effective location of the sensor has been determined based on minimum error criteria in the reconstructed responses. The identified modal properties have been compared to their actual values using correlation techniques. The correlation results show good accuracy in the identified frequencies and mode shapes for the first few fundamental modes. The procedure can be effectively applied for condition assessment and structural health monitoring problems since vibration records are required at only a few floor levels, and the fundamental frequencies and mode shapes are identified with required accuracy.

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