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Development of the Corrected Force Analysis Technique for laminated composite panels

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to propose a methodology for identifying the pressure field applied on a laminated composite plate from its measured vibration response. The general framework of this study is the Corrected Force Analysis Technique (CFAT), which was previously used on isotropic plates. This method estimates the spatial derivatives of the equation of motion with a finite difference scheme and corrects the bias error generated by this approximation. The paper presents an extension of this technique to deal with laminated panels. In a first instance, the finite difference scheme has been expanded to allow the identification of the 5 spatial derivatives that compose the equation of motion of such structures. The correction, considered in the wavenumber domain, has also been adapted and is now calculated numerically. In a second instance, the effect of measurement noise has been treated with the implementation of a regularisation technique based on the adaptation of the size of the scheme as function of the frequency. Numerical simulations and contact-less measurements have been conducted on different carbon fibers composite plates. Results are presented in terms of identified pressure fields and input force magnitude.

Key words: Inverse method; source identification; pressure field; laminated composite plate; CFAT method; FAT method;

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1 Introduction

The identification of vibration sources is a large topic widely addressed in the scientific and industrial community. Several identification techniques have been published in the literature and the development of new complex materials brings us to adapt them.

One concept of force identification is the process of determining applied loadings from the system response, it belongs to the class of inverse problems [1,2]. Contrarily to the direct measurement by means of force transducers, the structure is used as its own force sensor. The inverse problem requires a fine knowledge of the dynamic characteristics of the system and accurate measured data. This approach was firstly introduced by pioneer works about transfer path analysis [3,4,5]. Some limitations arised from these techniques: the ill-conditioning of the transfer matrix as well as the insufficient accuracy of the measured mobility often gave poor results in terms of force quantification. Different regularization techniques have been developed to reduce these errors: weighted least square procedures [6,7,8], generalized inverse [9], Tikhonov regularization [10,11].

Localization of sources has been introduced with the structural intensity which details the power flowing in the structure [12,13]. This technique has been combined with a high wavenumber filtering to reduce the effect of measurement noise [14]. More recently, an alternative method called VFM (Virtual Field Method) uses the principle of virtual works to identify mechanical parameters of the system [15]. Various applications of this method have been published in the domain of source identification such as mechanical point loads on bending plates [16], spatially correlated excitations [17] or a time-resolved identification [18].

The Force Analysis Technique (FAT) is an experimental method of pressure field reconstruction, developed for beams [19], plates [20] and shells [21]. The principal strength of FAT is its capacity to described the structure's behaviour with a local analytical model. The local aspect does not require any knowledge outside the studied area (boundary conditions, sources) and the analytical model provides the possibility to develop the method with different theories. The equation of motion is approximated by a finite different scheme applied on the measured displacement field. In practice, this approximation implies two main sources of error in the reconstruction process. The first one is a singularity of the finite differences scheme response in the wavenumber domain. Another approach, CFAT (Corrected FAT) [22] attenuates this singularity by adding correction factors in the derivative assessments. The second source of errors is the sensitivity to measurement uncertainties. Two regularisation techniques have been adopted to avoid this instability: a low-pass wavenumber filtering by FAT [19,20] and an adapted spacing of the scheme by CFAT [23]. FAT and CFAT have also been extended for material characterisation issues, for the cases of thin isotropic beams and plates (CFAT) [24], thin

orthotropic structures (FAT) [25] and thick beams (FAT) [26].

Considering the advent of new complex materials such as composites [27], this paper proposes an extension of the CFAT method for the identification of sources on laminated plates. This type of structures is constituted from several orthotropic layers with different orientation angles. This paper aims at adapting the CFAT regularization technique to laminated plates using a numerical approach for the determination of the correction factors.

The first section of this paper describes the methodology. The performance of the CFAT correction is illustrated on a numerical application using the finite element software Nastran (MSC software). In a second part, the effect and tackling of measurement noise is addressed. In the last section, Laser Doppler Vibrometer (LDV) measurements on two composite plates with different layups are realized. The results are presented in terms of reconstructed pressure fields and force quantification.

2 Methodology

2.1 Equation of motion of a laminated composite plate

The methodology has been developed assuming that the material characteristics of the laminated plate are known (orthotropic rigidities and orientation angles of each layer). An equivalent approach is used to model the response of the multilayer plate [28]. This model calculates analytically at a given frequency the flexural rigidities of an equivalent single layer anisotropic plate. Once these equivalent parameters have been obtained, the Love-Kirchhoff equation of motion is used to write the harmonic local equilibrium of the plate:

$$D_{11} \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + D_{22} \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial y^4} + D_{12} \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} + D_{16} \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^3 \partial y} + D_{26} \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x \partial y^3} - \rho h \omega^2 w(x, y) = p(x, y), \quad (1)$$

where the coefficients D_{ij} , w , p and ω represent the flexural rigidities of the equivalent anisotropic plate, the displacement, the pressure fields and the angular frequency, respectively. ρh is the mass per unit area of the equivalent plate. Contrarily to orthotropic structures for which only 3 flexural rigidities are needed (D_{11} , D_{22} , D_{12}), the rigidities D_{16} , D_{26} are not null for the general case of anisotropic plates, because of the possible flexural-torsion interaction.

In the wavenumber domain, Eq. (1) writes

$$\left(D_{11} k_x^4 + D_{22} k_y^4 + D_{12} k_x^2 k_y^2 + D_{16} k_x^3 k_y + D_{26} k_x k_y^3 - \rho h \omega^2 \right) \hat{w}(k_x, k_y) = \hat{p}(k_x, k_y), \quad (2)$$

with $\hat{w}(k_x, k_y)$, $\hat{p}(k_x, k_y)$ the 2D Fourier transforms of $w(x, y)$ and $p(x, y)$. Considering a polar reference system (k, θ) of the wavenumber plane, with $k_x = k \cos(\theta)$ and $k_y = k \sin(\theta)$, one obtains

$$\left(k^4 (D_{11}c^4 + D_{22}s^4 + D_{12}c^2s^2 + D_{16}c^s + D_{26}cs^3) - \rho h \omega^2 \right) \hat{w}(k, \theta) = \hat{p}(k, \theta), \quad (3)$$

with $c = \cos(\theta)$ and $s = \sin(\theta)$. A natural wavenumber is easily expressed for each angle θ and frequency ω :

$$k_N^4(\omega, \theta) = \frac{\rho h \omega^2}{D_{11}c^4 + D_{22}s^4 + D_{12}c^2s^2 + D_{16}c^s + D_{26}cs^3}.$$

2.2 Classic FAT theory for anisotropic plates

The FAT method estimates the pressure field by approximating the partial derivatives of the equation of motion (1) with a finite difference scheme applied to the displacement field [25]:

$$\frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} \approx \delta^{4x} = \frac{1}{\Delta_x^4} (w_{+4,0} - 4w_{+2,0} + 6w_{0,0} - 4w_{-2,0} + w_{-4,0}), \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial y^4} \approx \delta^{4y} = \frac{1}{\Delta_y^4} (w_{0,+4} - 4w_{0,+2} + 6w_{0,0} - 4w_{0,-2} + w_{0,-4}), \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} \approx \delta^{2x2y} = \frac{1}{\Delta_x^2 \Delta_y^2} & (w_{+2,+2} + w_{+2,-2} + w_{-2,+2} + w_{-2,-2} \\ & - 2(w_{+2,0} + w_{-2,0} + w_{0,+2} + w_{0,-2}) + 4w_{0,0}), \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^3 \partial y} \approx \delta^{3xy} = \frac{1}{\Delta_x^3 \Delta_y} & (w_{+3,+1} - w_{+3,-1} - w_{-3,+1} + w_{-3,-1} \\ & - 3(w_{+1,+1} - w_{+1,-1} - w_{-1,+1} + w_{-1,-1})), \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x \partial y^3} \approx \delta^{x3y} = \frac{1}{\Delta_x \Delta_y^3} & (w_{+1,+3} - w_{-1,+3} - w_{+1,-3} + w_{-1,-3} \\ & - 3(w_{+1,+1} - w_{+1,-1} - w_{-1,+1} + w_{-1,-1})), \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where

$$w_{\alpha,\beta} = w \left(x + \frac{\alpha \Delta_x}{2}, y + \frac{\beta \Delta_y}{2} \right).$$

The finite difference scheme is finally composed of 25 points (see Fig. 1). Δ_x and Δ_y represent the spacing between two consecutive points of the scheme in the x and

y axes respectively. A regular cartesian measurement grid, defined by the spatial steps d_x and d_y , is considered. The pressure field is obtained by scanning the grid with the finite difference scheme. In this configuration of the scheme, $\Delta_x = 2d_x$ and $\Delta_y = 2d_y$.

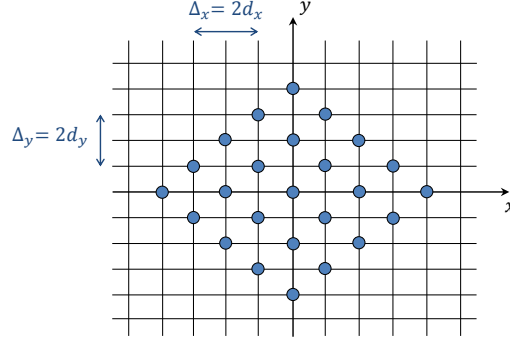


Fig. 1. Finite difference scheme of FAT and CFAT for the general anisotropic case.

Finally, the pressure field estimated by FAT is:

$$p^{\text{FAT}}(x, y) = D_{11}\delta^{4x} + D_{22}\delta^{4y} + D_{12}\delta^{2x2y} + D_{16}\delta^{3xy} + D_{26}\delta^{x3y} - \rho h \omega^2 w(x, y). \quad (9)$$

Note that for the particular case $d_y = d_x$, the finite difference scheme can be rotated by $\pi/4$, and scaled by a factor $1/\sqrt{2}$, with a resulting spatial step of the scheme equal to $\Delta_x = \Delta_y = \sqrt{2}d_x$ (the reader can refer to [25] for further details about this particular case). In the present work, the general case $d_y \neq d_x$ is considered because it can be well adapted when dealing with anisotropic structures, that can exhibit strongly different natural wavenumbers on x and y axes (and more generally in any direction θ).

The performance of the method is classically studied in the literature as a function of n the number of points of the finite difference scheme by structural wavelength, ratio between λ_N and Δ in the case of isotropic plates. For the general anisotropic case, the definition of this parameter is more complex, because the step of the scheme is defined in two directions (Δ_x and Δ_y) while the structural wavelength depends on the wave direction θ . In this work, the following conventions are used:

$$n_x(\omega) = \frac{2\pi}{\operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} (k_N(\omega, \theta) \cos(\theta)) \Delta_x} \quad ; \quad n_y(\omega) = \frac{2\pi}{\operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} (k_N(\omega, \theta) \sin(\theta)) \Delta_y}, \quad (10)$$

that corresponds to the half width and height of the rectangle in which the $k_N(\theta)$ parametric curve is inscribed.

2.3 Wavenumber response of FAT for laminated plates

The FAT estimation of the pressure field in the wavenumber domain is written as follows:

$$\hat{p}^{\text{FAT}}(k_x, k_y) = \left(D_{11}\hat{\delta}^{4x} + D_{22}\hat{\delta}^{4y} + D_{12}\hat{\delta}^{2x2y} + D_{16}\hat{\delta}^{3xy} + D_{26}\hat{\delta}^{x3y} - \rho h \omega^2 \right) \hat{w}(k_x, k_y), \quad (11)$$

with \hat{p}^{FAT} the 2D Fourier transform of $p^{\text{FAT}}(x, y)$, and where the coefficients $\hat{\delta}^{ij}$ correspond to the 2D Fourier transforms of the finite difference schemes and are expressed as follows:

$$\hat{\delta}^{4x} = \frac{16 \sin^4\left(\frac{k_x \Delta_x}{2}\right)}{\Delta_x^4}, \quad (12)$$

$$\hat{\delta}^{4y} = \frac{16 \sin^4\left(\frac{k_y \Delta_y}{2}\right)}{\Delta_y^4}, \quad (13)$$

$$\hat{\delta}^{2x2y} = \frac{16 \sin^2\left(\frac{k_x \Delta_x}{2}\right) \sin^2\left(\frac{k_y \Delta_y}{2}\right)}{\Delta_x^2 \Delta_y^2}, \quad (14)$$

$$\hat{\delta}^{3xy} = \frac{16 \sin^3\left(\frac{k_x \Delta_x}{2}\right) \sin\left(\frac{k_y \Delta_y}{2}\right)}{\Delta_x^3 \Delta_y}, \quad (15)$$

$$\hat{\delta}^{x3y} = \frac{16 \sin\left(\frac{k_x \Delta_x}{2}\right) \sin^3\left(\frac{k_y \Delta_y}{2}\right)}{\Delta_x \Delta_y^3}. \quad (16)$$

The ratio between identified and real load distributions in the wavenumber domain, representing the estimation error of the FAT method, can now be expressed as:

$$E_{\text{FAT}}(\omega, \Delta_x, \Delta_y, k, \theta) = \frac{\hat{p}^{\text{FAT}}(k, \theta)}{\hat{p}(k, \theta)} = \frac{\mathcal{K}_{\text{FAT}}^4 - k_N^4}{k^4 - k_N^4}, \quad (17)$$

where:

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{FAT}}^4 = \frac{D_{11}\hat{\delta}^{4x} + D_{22}\hat{\delta}^{4y} + D_{12}\hat{\delta}^{2x2y} + D_{16}\hat{\delta}^{3xy} + D_{26}\hat{\delta}^{x3y}}{D_{11}c^4 + D_{22}s^4 + D_{12}c^2s^2 + D_{16}c^3s + D_{26}cs^3}.$$

As it has already been observed in the literature for isotropic plates [22], the FAT response E_{FAT} has a general low pass filtering effect in the wavenumber domain, with a strong singularity around $k = k_N$, due to the root of the denominator term. This observation is extended here to the general anisotropic case, for which the natural wavenumber depends on the angle θ . Some illustrations are provided in Section 3.

2.4 Corrected FAT for anisotropic plates

As proposed in [22], the CFAT theory considers correction factors applied to the finite difference scheme of FAT in order to attenuate the bias error around the natural wavenumber of the plate. Expressions of correction factors are given in [22] for isotropic plates; a similar analysis is conducted in the present work to propose correction factors in the general anisotropic case.

Each coefficient of the scheme δ^{ij} is multiplied by a correction factor $\mu_{ij}(\omega)$ to be determined :

$$p^{\text{CFAT}}(x, y) = D_{11}\mu_{11}\delta^{4x} + D_{22}\mu_{22}\delta^{4y} + D_{12}\mu_{12}\delta^{2x2y} + D_{16}\mu_{16}\delta^{3xy} + D_{26}\mu_{26}\delta^{x3y} - \rho h \omega^2 w(x, y). \quad (18)$$

In a similar way to FAT, the wavenumber response of CFAT can also be defined as:

$$E_{\text{CFAT}}(\omega, \Delta_x, \Delta_y, k, \theta) = \frac{\hat{p}^{\text{CFAT}}(k, \theta)}{\hat{p}(k, \theta)} = \frac{\mathcal{K}_{\text{CFAT}}^4 - k_{\text{N}}^4}{k^4 - k_{\text{N}}^4}, \quad (19)$$

with:

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{CFAT}}^4(k, \theta) = \frac{D_{11}\mu_{11}\hat{\delta}^{4x} + D_{22}\mu_{22}\hat{\delta}^{4y} + D_{12}\mu_{12}\hat{\delta}^{2x2y} + D_{16}\mu_{16}\hat{\delta}^{3xy} + D_{26}\mu_{26}\hat{\delta}^{x3y}}{D_{11}c^4 + D_{22}s^4 + D_{12}c^2s^2 + D_{16}c^3s + D_{26}cs^3}.$$

The values of the correction factors are chosen to equalize as much as possible the root of the numerator with the one of the denominator of E_{CFAT} in Eq. (19). For a given direction θ , it brings:

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{CFAT}}^4(k_{\text{N}}(\theta), \theta) = k_{\text{N}}^4. \quad (20)$$

The correction factors can be analytically identified by considering Eq. (20) for arbitrary values of θ , as many values as the number of correction factors to be determined. In the isotropic case treated in [22], the values $\theta = 0$ and $\theta = \pi/4$ are arbitrarily chosen. For the anisotropic case, 5 different values of θ have to be considered to determine analytic expressions of the 5 correction factors (see [29]). Another possibility is to find numerically a least squares solution satisfying Eq. (20) for a number of directions θ much larger than the number of correction factors to be determined. This numerical approach relies on a linear system resulting from Eq. (20) written for n values of θ (at least 5, but many more in practice so as to ensure the convergence of the results) from 0 to π ($k_{\text{N}}(\theta)$ being π periodic for composite laminated structures):

$$[\mathcal{B}]\{\mu_{ij}\} = \{\mathcal{C}\}, \quad (21)$$

where μ_{ij} are the unknown correction factors, and where:

$$[\mathcal{B}] = \begin{bmatrix} D_{11}X_1^4 & D_{22}Y_1^4 & D_{12}X_1^2Y_1^2 & D_{16}X_1^3Y_1 & D_{26}X_1Y_1^3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ D_{11}X_n^4 & D_{22}Y_n^4 & D_{12}X_n^2Y_n^2 & D_{16}X_n^3Y_n & D_{26}X_nY_n^3 \end{bmatrix}, \{\mathcal{C}\} = \rho h \omega^2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (22)$$

with

$$X_i = \frac{2 \sin(k_N(\theta_i) \cos(\theta_i) \Delta_x / 2)}{\Delta_x} \quad ; \quad Y_i = \frac{2 \sin(k_N(\theta_i) \sin(\theta_i) \Delta_y / 2)}{\Delta_y}.$$

This system is solved using standard least squares:

$$\{\mu_{ij}\} = ([\mathcal{B}]^H [\mathcal{B}])^{-1} [\mathcal{B}]^H \{\mathcal{C}\}. \quad (23)$$

This numerical solution depends on the set of n values of θ chosen to create the matrix $[\mathcal{B}]$, for instance by regularly sampling the interval $[0, \pi]$. However, one observes a convergence when n tends to infinity. The effect of n on the correction parameter determination and wavenumber response of CFAT is discussed and illustrated in Section 3.1.

3 Numerical validation

In this section, FAT and CFAT are applied on simulated vibration displacement fields of laminated composite plates, generated using the frequency response analysis (Sol 111) of Nastran. These plates are composed of four carbon fibers layers mixed with resin and have been experimentally studied in a recent paper submitted to Journal of Sound and Vibration concerning the modelling of laminated composite plate and sandwich structure [28]. The first plate is orthotropic with fiber orientations of 0° for each layer and the second one is anisotropic with fiber orientations of 60° for the external layers and -60° for the internal layers. The characteristics of one layer are presented in Table 1:

h (m)	ρ (kg.m ⁻³)	E_x (GPa)	E_y (GPa)	G_{xy} (GPa)	ν_{xy} (-)
0.187	1540	138	9.5	3.4	0.31

Table 1

Characteristics of one layer of the simulated multilayer laminated plates.

A harmonic force, located at the center of the plates, is applied on the 0.5×0.5 m² plates with an amplitude of 1 N. Simply supported boundary conditions are considered on the edges. The frequency range of the simulation is 1 to 10 kHz. The plates have been modeled with a 2D mesh of 250×250 nodes, with NASTRAN *PCOMP* laminated composite elements property. The equivalent flexural rigidities

of both plates have been calculated with the analytical model described in [28] as function of frequency. This model considers, at one given frequency, a single layer anisotropic plate equivalent to the multilayer. The convergence of the results of Nastran has been numerically verified with a modal study from 9.9 to 10 kHz. The vibration field has been extracted on a regular mesh $d_x = d_y = 4$ mm to simulate a measurement mesh respecting Shannon's criterion up to 10 kHz.

3.1 Wavenumber responses of FAT and CFAT, calculation of correction factors

The wavenumber responses of FAT (Eq. (17)) and CFAT (Eq. (19)) have been calculated and compared at 10 kHz. The equivalent flexural rigidities of both plates at this frequency are presented in Tables 2 and 3:

D_{11} (N.m)	D_{22} (N.m)	D_{12} (N.m)	D_{16} (N.m)	D_{26} (N.m)
4.57	0.33	0.66	0	0

Table 2

Equivalent flexural rigidities of the $0^\circ/0^\circ/0^\circ/0^\circ$ composite plate at 10 kHz, according to [28].

D_{11} (N.m)	D_{22} (N.m)	D_{12} (N.m)	D_{16} (N.m)	D_{26} (N.m)
0.55	2.68	5.54	1.30	4.19

Table 3

Equivalent flexural rigidities of the $60^\circ/-60^\circ/-60^\circ/60^\circ$ composite plate at 10 kHz, according to [28].

The correction factors have been calculated using the least squares method presented in section 2.4 with 100 equations, for 100 values of θ , regular sampling between 0 and π . The wavenumber responses of the two methods, as given by Eq. (17) and (19) are drawn in Figures 2 and 3 as function of k_x and k_y . The singularity is clearly observed on FAT responses around $k = k_N$. The CFAT correction efficiently attenuates it but can not completely remove it totally since the correction factors do not depend on the direction.

The convergence of the least squares method used to calculate correction factors has been studied. Figure 4 shows the calculated values of the correction factors as function of the number of equations in Eq. (23), divided by the values found with 1000 equations. The estimations given by the least square method are erratic up to 20 equations. Above, the relative error decreases gradually and becomes very low: less than 1% between 100 and 1000 equations. Note that the same trend is observed at other frequencies; a consequence of it is the continuity observed on the frequency dependence of the correcting factors observed in Figure 5. From this observation, we can assume that a number of 100 equations seems to be a good compromise between convergence and time consumption of the method.

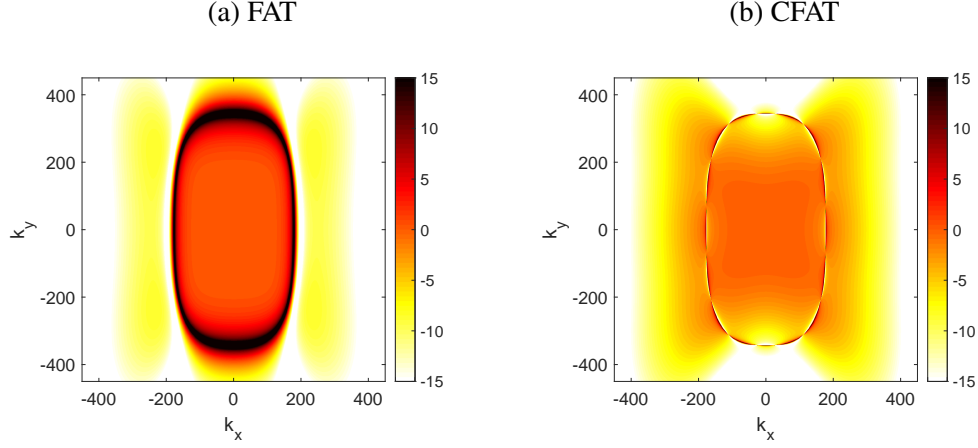


Fig. 2. Wavenumber responses (dB) of FAT (a) and CFAT (b) with numerical correction factors (100 equations) for orthotropic flexural rigidities with $n_x = 4.42$ and $n_y = 2.29$.

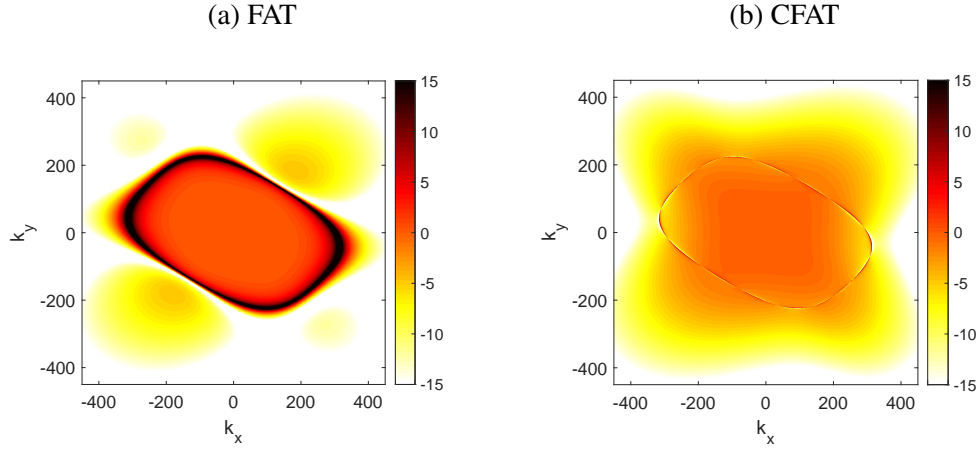


Fig. 3. Wavenumber responses (dB) of FAT (a) and CFAT (b) with numerical correction factors (100 equations) for laminated flexural rigidities with $n_x = 2.61$ and $n_y = 3.87$.

The number of points per wavelength is an essential criterion of the method. Indeed, at low frequencies (high values of n_x and n_y), the estimation error of FAT is negligible and the correction factors tend to 1 (see Figure 5). When the frequency increases, the bias error becomes significant and the CFAT correction factors strongly deviate from 1. As a rule of thumb, verified in previous work for the case of isotropic plates [23], the correction becomes necessary when the number of points per wavelength falls below 4.

3.2 Identified pressure fields

In a second step, the load distributions estimated by FAT and CFAT have been compared for both plates. Figures 6 and 7 present the pressure fields integrated in

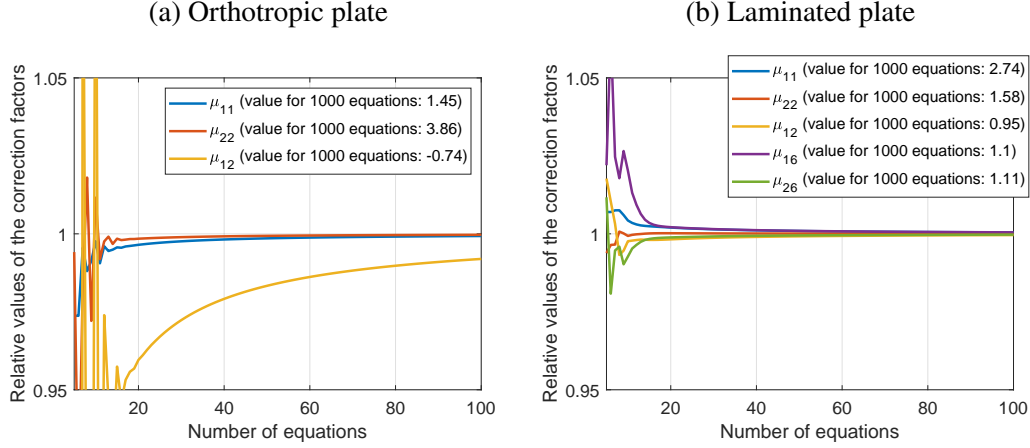


Fig. 4. Relative values of the correction factor at 10 kHz as function of the number of equations. (a): orthotropic plate, (b): laminated plate.

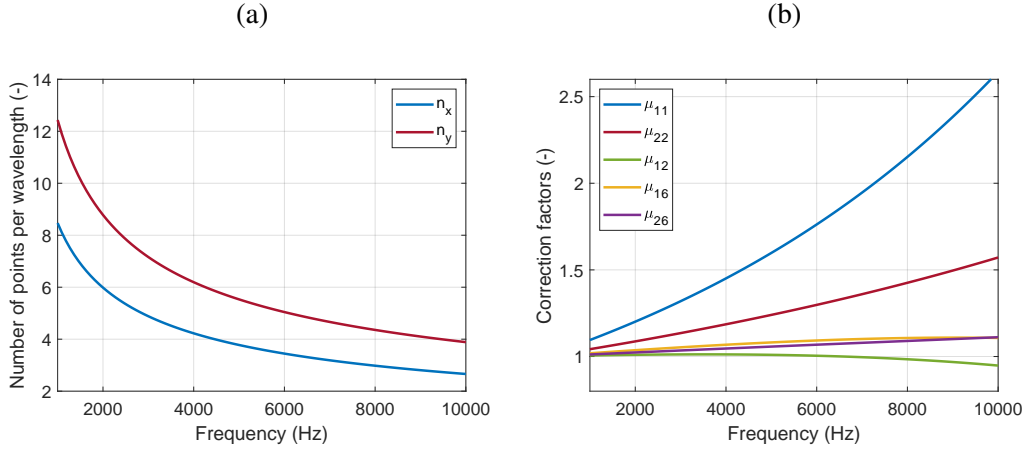


Fig. 5. Number of points per wavelength (a) and correction factors (b) calculated for the laminated plate with $\Delta_x = \Delta_y = 4$ mm.

the whole frequency band.

FAT and CFAT give the exact location of the source. However, differences occurs between both methods in the non-loaded area: the pressure level estimated by FAT is relatively high. In this area, the energy is essentially governed by the resonances of the plate, when the wavenumber of the propagating wave is equal to the natural wavenumber of the plate ($k = k_N$). The singularity of FAT around this wavenumber amplifies the energy and the estimation error. The correction brought by CFAT strongly attenuates these residual forces. Futhermore, the load distribution around the excitation point extends to large area of approximately 7.6×3.6 cm² for both plates. This is due to the wavenumber lowpass filtering effect of FAT and CFAT methods, whose response depends on θ and ω .

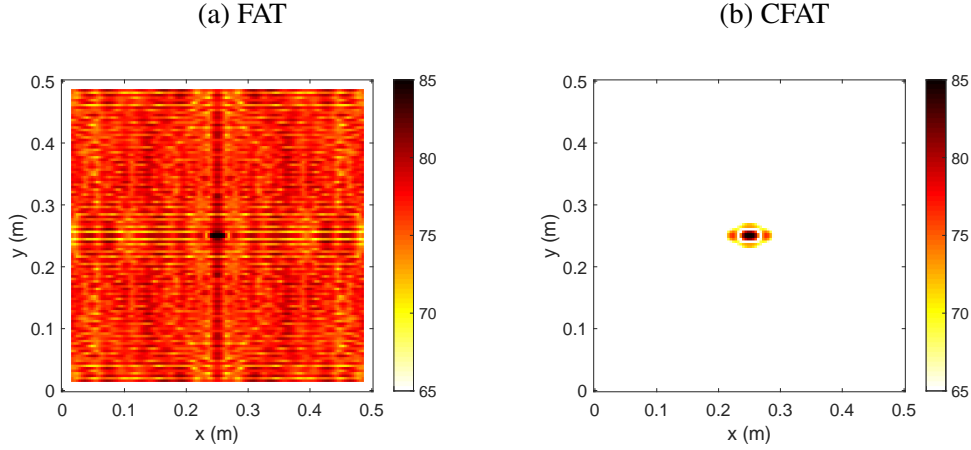


Fig. 6. Estimated pressure fields (dB ref 1 N/m²) of the orthotropic composite plate integrated from 1 to 10 kHz. FAT (a). CFAT (b).

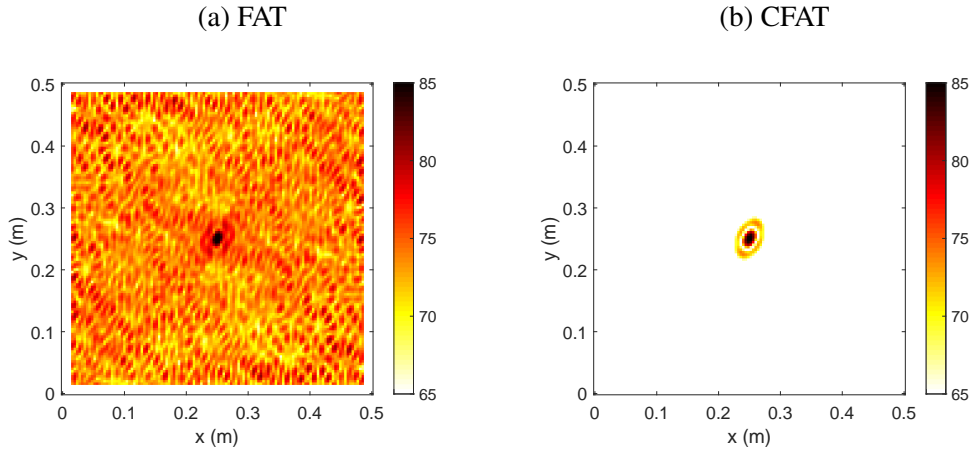


Fig. 7. Estimated pressure fields (dB ref 1 N/m²) of the laminated composite plate integrated from 1 to 10 kHz. FAT (a). CFAT (b).

4 Application of CFAT in the presence of noise

As stated by Ablitzer et al. [30], in the case of noisy measurements, the finite difference scheme can strongly increase the amplitude of noise. This phenomenon can be observed at low frequency when the size of the scheme is small as compared to the wavelength. In practice, this problem appears when the parameter n becomes greater than 4 approximately [31,23]. However, as presented in section 3.1, this value of 4 points per wavelength corresponds also to the high frequency limit of the FAT method beyond which one the bias error of the scheme becomes significant. Then, the amplification of noise is a problem for the FAT method in the frequency band defined by $n > 4$. To tackle this issue, FAT uses a wavenumber low-pass filtering (not developed for orthotropic or laminated structures) that will be not presented in this paper.

4.1 Regularisation technique of CFAT: adjustment of the scheme as function of frequency

The CFAT method can handle, with the correction factors, values of n greatly lower than 4 up to the spatial limit of Shannon defined by 2 points per wavelength. Then, the bias error of the scheme as well as the amplification of noise can be controlled in a frequency band defined by $4 > n > 2$, the response of CFAT behaving as a low pass filter in wavenumber. Leclère et al. [23] proposed to adapt the size of the scheme as function of frequency to keep values of n in this optimal interval. This approach, developed for isotropic structures, is extended here for the general anisotropic case. The measured mesh being Cartesian, the condition is applied in the directions x and y individually:

$$4 > n_x > 2 \quad ; \quad 4 > n_y > 2, \quad (24)$$

This condition is applied by adapting the size of the scheme as function of frequency:

$$\Delta'_x(f) = p_x(f)\Delta_x \quad ; \quad \Delta'_y(f) = p_y(f)\Delta_y, \quad (25)$$

where p_x and p_y are natural integers depending on the frequency. Figure 8 presents an example of adapted scheme for $(p_x, p_y) = (2, 1)$.

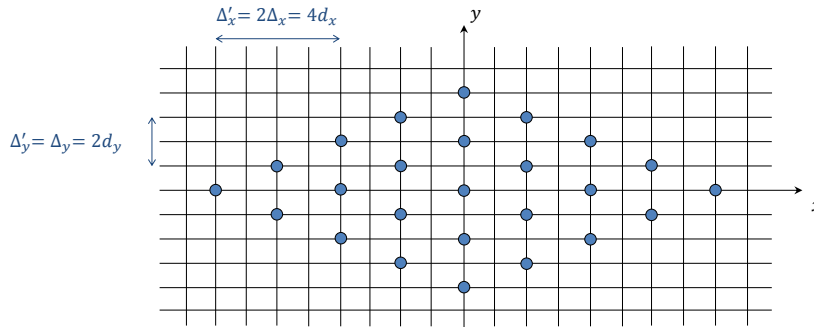


Fig. 8. Adapted finite difference scheme of CFAT for $(p_x, p_y) = (2, 1)$.

4.2 Noisy numerical data

In order to illustrate the efficiency of this regularisation technique, a white noise has been added on the numerical displacement field numerically calculated by Nastran in section 3 and has been normalized to obtain a Signal to Noise Ratio of 20 dB. The regularisation technique has been applied following the condition (24). The frequency dependency of (n_x, n_y) and (p_x, p_y) is drawn in Figure 9 for both plates. Figure 10 presents the identified load pressure field integrated in the whole frequency band. The pressure levels outside the loaded area are amplified by the effect of noise but are still negligible as compared to the pressure levels inside the loaded area thanks to the regularisation technique.

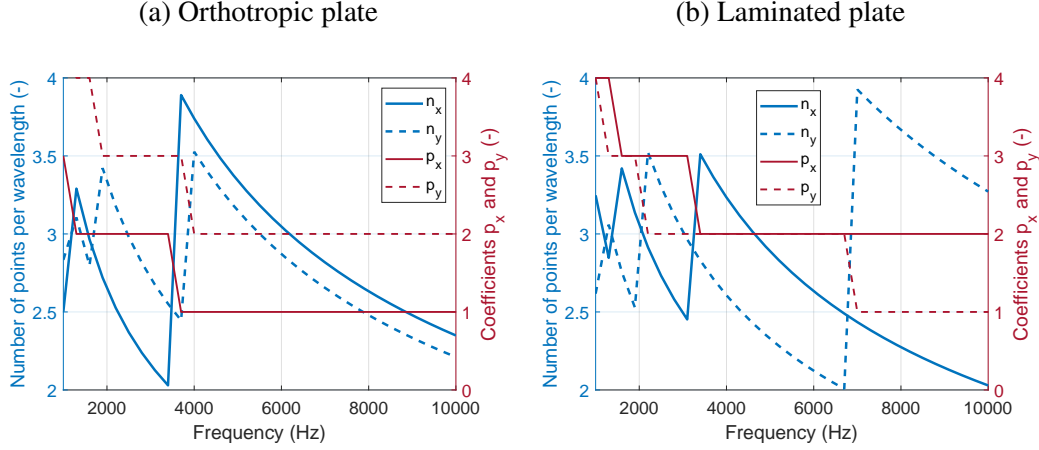


Fig. 9. Evolution of the number of points per wavelength (n_x , n_y) and the coefficients (p_x , p_y) as function of frequency by adapting the size of the scheme in CFAT. Orthotropic plate (a). Laminated plate (b).

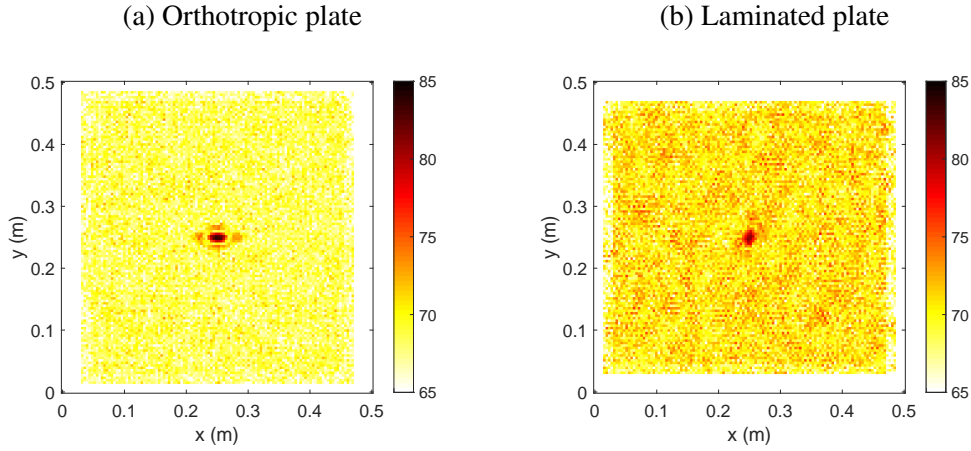


Fig. 10. Load distribution (dB, ref 1 N/m^2) estimated by CFAT applied on noisy numerical data (integrated from 1 to 10 kHz). Orthotropic plate (a). Laminated plate (b).

Figure 11 presents the force spectrum identified by CFAT inside and outside the load area for both plates. Forces are calculated by spatially integrating the pressure field in the studied area. The first spectrum (black dots) corresponds to the input force applied on the structure at the excitation point while the second (red dots) represents the residual forces. We can observe that the input force is close to the theoretical force of 1 N on the whole frequency range and the residual forces are approximately 10 dB lower.

5 Experimental application

This last section deals with the experimental validation of the CFAT method for laminated structures. Measurements have been conducted on carbon fibers composite plates defined by the same characteristics as the plates numerically studied

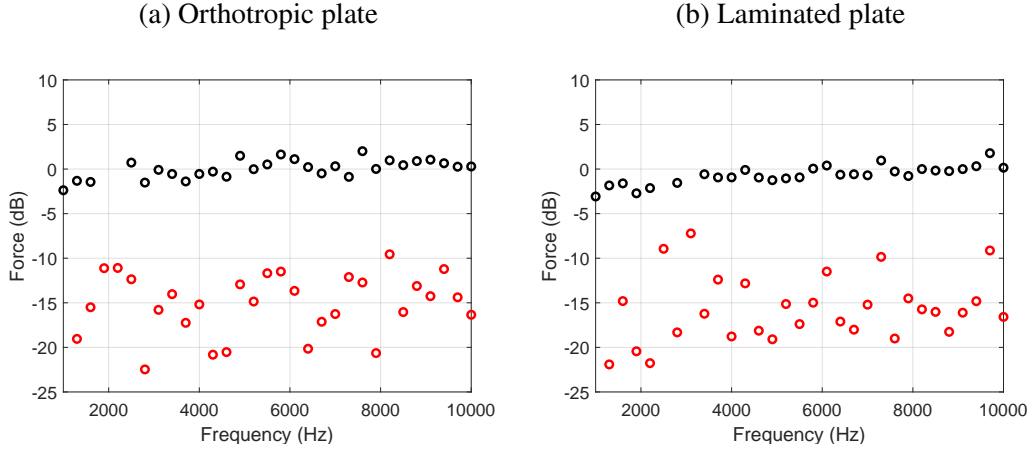


Fig. 11. Force spectrum (dB, ref 1 N) estimated by CFAT inside (black dots) and outside (red dots) the loaded area. (a): Orthotropic plate, (b): Laminated plate.

in the previous sections. The structures, freely hung up by a rubber band to a frame, have been excited by a shaker, using white noise from 1 to 10 kHz. The vibration velocity fields of the plates were measured by means of a scanning Laser Doppler Vibrometer (Polytec, PSV-400) across the red area as indicated in Figure 12. A measurement mesh of 55×57 points has been used. The spacing between consecutive points of the mesh in the x and y directions is $d_x = d_y = 5.3$ mm. With this mesh, the spatial limit of Shannon is verified up to 7 kHz for the orthotropic plate and 10 kHz for the anisotropic plate. Note that foam was added on the plate edges (see Figure 12), in order to attenuate the reverberation time of the structure. By doing so, the time window used for the FFT can be significantly shortened, as well as the full measurement time, that can be quite long for such a scan (several hours for more than 3000 measurement points).

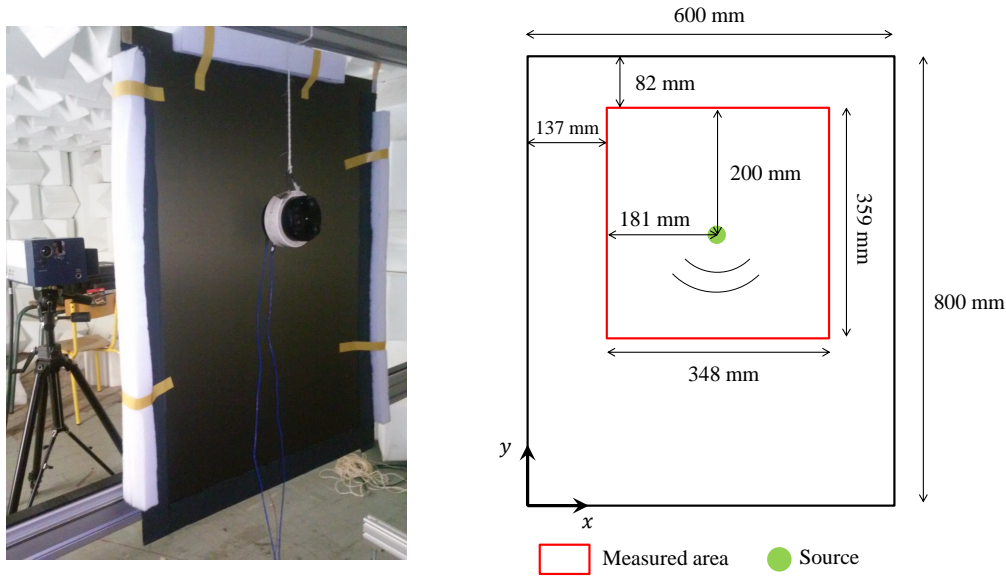


Fig. 12. Experimental setup (identical to [28])

Figure 13 presents the reconstructed pressure field for both plates. In the non-loaded

area, the noise level is less important than in the results of the numerical simulations in the previous section.

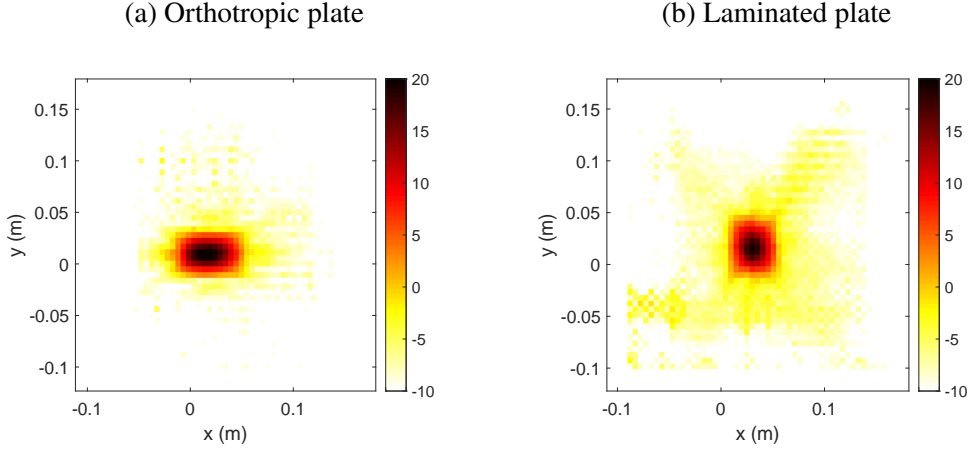


Fig. 13. Load distribution (dB, ref 1 N/m²) estimated by CFAT applied on experimental data. (a): Orthotropic plate (integrated from 1 to 7 kHz), (b): Laminated plate (integrated from 1 to 10 kHz).

Figure 14 compares the spectra of the input and residual forces identified by CFAT with a recalculated force F_c for both plates. This third force has been calculated using the theoretical admittance of an infinite plate Y_c (following Skudrzyk's mean value theory [32] applied for orthotropic plates [33,34,35]) and the measured velocity at the excitation point w_c :

$$F_c = \frac{w_c}{Y_c}, \quad (26)$$

with:

$$Y_c = \frac{\mathcal{F}}{4\pi\sqrt{\rho h}\sqrt{D_{11}D_{22}}},$$

where \mathcal{F} represents the elliptic integral of first order:

$$\mathcal{F} = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(1 - 0.5 \left(1 - \frac{D_{12}}{2\sqrt{D_{11}D_{22}}} \right) \sin^2(\theta) \right)^{-0.5} d\theta. \quad (27)$$

Note that the input admittance of the plate has not been measured since it has been observed that the structure was so light that the measured force was mainly generated by inertial effects of the force sensor itself (almost the same signal was obtained with or without connection to the structure).

The injected force follows particularly well the recalculated force for both plates. As expected, the residual forces are insignificant compared to the injected forces. For the laminated plate, the abrupt increasing of the residual force level around 5.5 kHz is due to the condition (24) which is not necessarily verified in all directions for this type of plate.

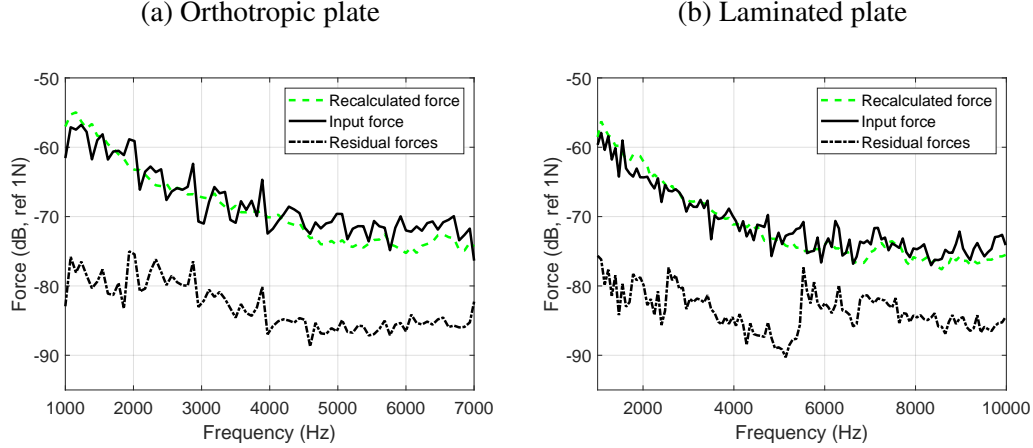


Fig. 14. Force spectrum (dB, ref 1 N) estimated by CFAT inside (black solid line) and outside (black dot-dashed line) the loaded area and compared to a recalculated force (green dashed line). (a): Orthotropic plate, (b): Laminated plate.

6 Conclusion

This work details the extension of the CFAT [22] (Corrected Force Analysis Technique) method for source identification on laminated composite plates. The equation of motion of such structures is defined by 5 spatial derivatives under the thin plate theory and is estimated by FAT methodologies using a finite difference scheme [25]. The main novelty of this paper consists in using 5 correction factors to attenuate the bias error of this scheme. These coefficients are calculated using a least square method which gives a regular distribution of the attenuation in the wavenumber domain. With this correction, the amplification of the pressure level due to the bias error of the scheme is attenuated outside the loaded area of the reconstructed field.

In the case of noisy measurements, CFAT can control the amplification of noise in a given frequency band defined by the size of the scheme. Then, a regularisation technique [23] based on the adaptation of the size of the scheme as function of frequency has been developed to handle measurement uncertainties in the whole frequency band. Since the studied structures are anisotropic, we propose to apply this technique in x and y directions separately. The extension of the CFAT methodology as well as the regularisation technique have been applied on measured displacement fields of carbon fiber composite plates. The experimental results show a good agreement between the estimated force spectrum and a recalculated force spectrum based on the theoretical admittance of an infinite plate.

It can be noticed that the regular measured mesh constitutes a limitation for the method since the ideal number of points per wavelength needed in the regularisation process is not respected in all directions. Furthermore, the size and the spacing between the points of the measurement mesh define the lower and upper limits of the frequency band of interest, respectively.

In a further step, this method could be used for material characterization of composite structures assuming that the reconstructed pressure field is null in an area far from the source [30,24]. Another perspective could also be to adapt CFAT for thick structures whose flexural behaviour is dominated by the shearing effect in high frequencies (as already introduced by Wassereau et al. [26] on sandwich beams).

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