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N. Kherraz, M. Radzieński, M. Mazzotti, P. Kudela, F. Bosia, et al.. Experimental full wavefield reconstruction and band diagram analysis in a single-phase phononic plate with internal resonators. Journal of Sound and Vibration, 2021, 503, pp.116098. 10.1016/j.jsv.2021.116098. hal-03440709

HAL Id: hal-03440709

https://hal.science/hal-03440709

Submitted on 22 Nov 2021

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Experimental full wavefield reconstruction and band diagram analysis in a single-phase phononic plate with internal resonators

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Abstract

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Research on phononic crystal architectures has produced many interesting designs in the 17 past years, with useful wave manipulation properties. However, not all of the proposed designs can lead to convenient realizations for practical applications, and only a limited number 19 of them have actually been tested experimentally to verify numerical estimations and demon-20 strate their feasibility. 21 In this work, we propose a combined numerical-experimental procedure to characterize the dynamic behavior of metamaterials, starting from a simplified 2D design to a real 3D manufacturing structure. To do this, we consider a new simplified design of a resonator-type geometry for a phononic crystal, and verify its wave filtering properties in wave propagation experiments. The proposed geometry exploits a circular distribution of cavities in a homogeneous material, leading to a central resonator surrounded by thin ligaments and an external matrix. Parametric simulations are performed to determine the optimal thickness of this design leading to a large full band gap in the kHz range. Full field experimental characterization of the resulting phononic crystal using a scanning laser Doppler vibrometer is then performed, showing excellent agreement with numerically predicted band gap prop-

- erties and with their resulting effects on propagating waves. The outlined procedure can serve as a useful step towards a standardization of metamaterial development and validation procedures.
- 35 Keywords: Phononic Crystals, Elastic Metamaterials, Elastic Wave Propagation,
- 36 Experimental Full Wavefield Reconstruction, Wavenumber-Frequency Analysis

37 1. Introduction

The investigation of elastic wave propagation phenomena in artificially structured com-38 posite materials is an active research topic in the scientific community. Shortly after the introduction of photonic crystals and electromagnetic metamaterials, their elastic counter-40 part, i.e., phononic crystals (PCs) and elastic metamaterials [1-3], have attracted increasing 41 attention due to the possibility of reproducing in elasticity an abundant set of unusual physical properties [4], such as stop-band filtering [5, 6], negative refraction [7–9], acoustic lensing [10], ordinary [11, 12] and topologically protected [13–17] wave localization / splitting, and fluid elasticity [18]. Among these, the ability to attenuate elastic waves over entire fre-45 quency ranges, often referred to as phononic band gaps (BGs), is among the most attractive 46 and studied properties. BGs occur due to three main mechanism: Bragg scattering, local 47 resonance and inertial amplification [19–27].

Due to this property, phononic plates received great attention because of their potential for technological applications: structural health monitoring [28, 29], wave switching [30] and demultiplexing [31], micro-electro-mechanical systems [32, 32], cloaking [33], to cite a few. Among the possible configurations, phononic plates made of single or multiple constituents have been considered, including periodic distributions of inclusions, pillars / gratings on the plate surfaces, and empty holes [34].

In multi-material phononic plates, the shape, material type as well as the orientation of the inclusions strongly influence the existence and location in frequency of the BGs. The possibility to open both Bragg and locally resonant BG types was reported [35–37]. In single phase phononic crystals, it was shown that the local resonance of the pillars / inclusions was the dominant mechanism to open / shift BGs [38, 39]. Plates with a periodic grating on the surface have also been investigated, and a relationship established between the width of the

BG and the depth of the grooves [40]. While these two approaches inevitably lead to some geometrical / manufacturing complexity, phononic plates realized by through-the-thickness cavities in a homogeneous material remain a good compromise between a simpler fabrication procedure and good wave attenuation performance. Whilst numerical / theoretical works 64 dealing with cavities perpendicular to the wave propagation plane are numerous, experimen-65 tal measurements are often limited to few measurement points or small scanning regions. Our aim in this paper is thus to propose an in-depth numerical and experimental characterization procedure to validate metamaterial designs and develop them into functioning realistic structures. Inspired by the 2D geometry proposed for the first time by Bigoni and coworkers [10], 69 here, we first investigate the influence of extending the design into a 3D realistic single-phase 70 phononic plate with internal resonators generated by symmetrically arranged cavities, and 71 then provide experimental evidence of a complete BG in the kHz frequency range. Full wave-72 field reconstruction of the wave propagation phenomena and a band diagram analysis in the 73 wavenumber-frequency domain is provided and compared to numerical calculations.

⁷⁵ 2. Design of the phononic plate

76 2.1. Eigenvalue problem

In this section, we numerically investigate the dispersion properties of a periodic structure 77 consisting of an inertial resonator embedded in a matrix through 8 ligaments, as shown in 78 Fig. 1A. The structure is obtained by milling 8 cavities arranged in an octagonal pattern in 79 a homogeneous Polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA, Perspex Black from Bayer) block, which 80 divides the cell into three regions, named matrix, ligaments and resonator, respectively. This 81 arrangement of material and cavities represents a good alternative to multi-phase resonators often made of a heavy core (in steel, tungsten or similar heavy metals) surrounded by a soft 83 core (rubber, for instance) and embedded in an external matrix (often a polymer) [3]. In our 84 case, the ligaments play the role of the soft coating. In-plane geometrical parameters of the unit cell are given as a function of the ligament thickness t=1 mm as follows: $A=19 \cdot t=19$ mm, $R_e=9 \cdot t$, $R_i=4 \cdot t$, as illustrated in Fig. 1A. These parameters have been chosen with specimen fabrication in mind (i.e., with the technical limitations of the milling process in mind). The density of PMMA is $\rho = 1180$ kg/m³ and the longitudinal and shear wave velocities are $c_L = 2665$ m/s and $c_T = 1363$ m/s, respectively.

As a first step, the band structures are computed considering an infinitely duplicated unit cell in a periodic square array, and considering elastic wave propagation in the linear elastic regime (under the hypothesis of small displacements). The unit cell domain is meshed by means of 8-node hexagonal elements of maximum size $L_{FE} = 0.1$ mm, which is found to provide accurate eigensolutions up to the frequency of interest [41]. Therefore, the resulting eigenvalue problem $(\mathbf{K} - \omega^2 \mathbf{M})\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ is solved by varying the non-dimensional wavevector \mathbf{k}^* along the irreducible path $[M - \Gamma - X - M]$, with $M \equiv (\pi/A, \pi/A)$, $\Gamma \equiv (0,0)$ and $X \equiv (\pi/A, 0)$ (see Fig. 1B), being A the lattice parameter, namely the unit cell side.

The corresponding band diagrams are presented in Fig. 2A for different height to the 100 lattice parameter ratios H/A = [0.1, 0.5, 0.8, 1.0, 1.2]. The dispersion curves are color coded 101 according to the height H of the unit cell. Specifically, the color bar of Fig. 2A varies 102 gradually from dark blue (very thin unit cells) to dark red (thicker ones). The influence 103 of the unit cell height on the dispersion curves is clearly visible from the diagrams. When 104 an extremely flexible unit cell in the out-of-plane direction is considered (very small H/A105 ratio, for instance 0.1), no complete BG is visible in the diagram. This is due to a very low 106 stiffness of the unit cell with respect to out-of-plane deformations, implying a large number 107 of dispersion branches in the [0-70] kHz frequency range. When the height to the lattice 108 parameter ratio H/A increases, the structure gains stiffness against out-of-plane deformations 109 and some of the previous modes migrate to higher frequencies. As a consequence, fewer curves 110 are visible in the diagram in the same frequency range (compare for instance H/A = 0.1 to 111 H/A = 0.5). In addition, specific modes (reported in Fig. 2B,C and highlighted in Fig. 2A by 112 black arrows), undergo an opposite shift to higher / lower frequencies. This allows to open a 113 BG of up to 8 kHz, achieved when H/A = 1, and ranging approximately from 45 to 53 kHz. 114 To gain a full understandings of the governing mechanism of the BG opening, we computed 115 the imaginary part of the wavenumber, $\Im k(\omega)$, in the vicinity of the BG frequencies. The 116 so-called $k(\omega)$ method has been adopted [42]. Figure 3A presents the imaginary part of the 117 wavenumber, $\Im k(\omega)$, of the dispersion curves along the $\Gamma - X$ path for the H/A = 1 case, in 118 the 40-60 kHz frequency range. Examining the curves exhibiting the lowest values of $\Im k(\omega)$ 119

in proximity of the BG frequency (those indicated by the black arrows), it is possible to notice the presence of both a parabolic and a spike-like behavior (Fig. 3B), both contributing to the BG opening. This clearly proves that the considered structure opens a hybrid BG based on the interaction of both Bragg and local resonance mechanisms. If the ratio H/A increases above unity, additional bands are introduced again in the [0-70] kHz frequency range reducing the BG width (see for instance the flexural mode reported in Fig. 2D).

2.2. Numerical and experimental time-transient analysis on the finite structure

In this section, a numerical time transient analysis on a finite structure is performed, and 127 compared to experimental measurements, as schematically indicated in Fig. 4. In view of the 128 experimental phase, a PMMA rectangular plate of length $4 \cdot L1 = 1000$ mm, width $2 \cdot L1 = 500$ mm and height H = A = 19 mm is considered. PMMA has been chosen as the material 130 composing both the matrix and the inertial resonators because of wide availability and the 131 possibility of manufacturing it with standard tools such as a milling machine. A PC region 132 made of 200 unit cells such as the one reported in Fig. 1A disposed in the shape of square 133 rings is introduced on the right side of the plate, as shown in Fig. 4A. In particular, the unit 134 cells are distributed over a square frame of external and internal widths of 15A and 5A. An 135 unaltered area of $5A \times 5A = 95 \times 95 \text{ mm}^2$ is therefore included in the center of the phononic 136 region. The sample used for the experimental analysis is manufactured by exporting the 137 geometry from the finite element model, and importing it to the milling machine (EGX-600 138 Engraving Machine) software. The manufacturing process required a tolerance of 0.01 mm which is expected to have limited impact on the measurements. 140

Elastic guided waves are excited in correspondence of the point E1 by means of a ceramic 141 piezoelectric disk of 10 mm diameter bonded to the surface of the sample [43]. The plate 142 has been suspended vertically through wires (as schematically reported in Fig. A1 of the 143 Appendix A). This allowed us to prevent the sample from being subjected to bending, and to 144 mimic the free boundary conditions implemented in the calculations. Also, we verified that 145 the stress induced in the unit cells by such an experimental configuration (due to the only 146 weight of the specimen itself) does not produce any measurable effect on the dispersion band 147 diagram. To achieve BG alteration, much higher levels of stress are required [25], even in the 148 case of extremely compliant designs [44]. 149

As the first step, a pulse made of 2 sine cycles centered at 50 kHz and modulated by a 150 Hann window is fed to the function generator. This signal has been chosen so as to generate 151 elastic waves with a much larger frequency content compared to the [45-53] kHz frequency range of the BG highlighted in Fig. 2A. The aim is to emphasize and quantitatively evaluate 153 the screening power of the phononic region. Out-of-plane velocity is acquired through a PSV 154 400 3D scanning laser Doppler vibrometer by Polytec at the two acquisition points named 155 O1 and O2 (Fig. 4A), taken at the same distance from the excitation point E1, and chosen outside and inside the phononic region of the waveguide, respectively. In both cases, 3 ms 157 long signals are recorded in order to allow multiple wave reflections to take place at both 158 the edges of the waveguide, so as to allow elastic waves to imping on the phononic region 159 from multiple angles. After acquisition, signals are Fourier transformed and reported in 160 Fig. 4B in order to highlight the differences between the two responses in terms of frequency 161 content. The Fourier spectrum of the signal acquired outside the phononic region shows good 162 levels of transmission within the excited frequency range (30 - 90 kHz), whereas the signal 163 recorded inside the phononic region (red markers) displays a clear amplitude drop in the BG 164 region (45-53 kHz). This is in agreement with the dispersion diagram presented in Fig. 2A 165 and clearly confirms the possibility of the waveguide to filter waves over the $[45-53]~\mathrm{kHz}$ 166 frequency range. 167

To gain further insights, full wave field reconstructions of the wave propagation phenomena over the orange rectangular area shown in Fig. 4A are performed and compared to numerical calculations. In the numerical model, elastic waves are excited by means of an out-of-plane imposed displacement (of amplitude 1×10^{-6} mm). At this stage, in addition to the previously described excitation, another pulse made of 21 sine cycles centered at 50 kHz and modulated by a Hann window is used as the excitation signal fed to the function generator (and as the imposed displacement in the numerical model). In both cases, the spatial scanning grid (orange rectangle in Fig. 4A) covers a 580×500 mm² of the right part of the phononic plate and consists of 293×251 equally spaced grid points. A total of 10 time averages were performed at each node to increase the signal to noise ratio. The knowledge of the velocity time histories at all grid points allows for the reconstruction of the time-evolving wavefields established in the scanning domain. Figures 4C,D show the numerical (left panels)

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and experimental (right panels) full wavefield reconstructions of the out-of-plane velocity for 180 the Hann windowed excitation signals using 2 (Fig. 4C) and 21 (Fig. 4D) sine cycles centered 181 at 50 kHz fed in E1. The out-of plane velocities are normalized with respect to the respective 182 maximum amplitudes. When operating with elastic waves with a broadband energy content, 183 the laser measures transmission inside the phononic region, allowing the wavefield reconstruc-184 tion at a comparable intensity scale with respect to points of the plate not enclosed by the 185 phononic region. However, unit cells scatter the wave field, resulting in an observable delay 186 in the wave propagation. In this case, despite the scattering, the phononic region does not 187 cause significant attenuation of the wave field. On the contrary, when observing the prop-188 agation of an elastic wave with a narrowband energy content totally falling inside the BG, 189 strong destructive interferences due to the Bragg scattering are visible within the phononic 190 region, clearly showing that waves are reflected between the transducer and the lower edge 191 of the unit cell ring. This behavior is accompanied by an extremely low transmission due to 192 the absence of detectable wave amplitudes inside the phononic region. 193

As a final experiment, elastic guided waves are excited in correspondence of the point E2. Among several types of excitation (larger number of cycles, other waveform shapes [triangular-like, chirp-like], central frequency), the function generator has been fed with a pulse made of 2 sine cycles centered at 40 kHz and modulated by a Hann window, which showed to better inject energy in the system for the considered frequencies (also outside the BG).

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Out-of-plane velocity is measured along 647 equally spaced points (red dashed line re-200 ported in Fig. 4A). Measurements are plotted as a function of the scanning position along the 201 scan line (x-axis) and time (y-axis) in Fig. 5A, where straight red lines denote the beginning 202 and the end of the periodic region. Several reflections due to the impedance mismatch are 203 clearly visible. Signals are then 2D-Fourier transformed and reported in Fig. 5B as an in-204 tensity plot of shades of grey normalized to its maximum value. Numerical dispersion curves 205 are superimposed to this graph for the purpose of comparison [28, 45]. Due to the type of ex-206 perimental set-up, mainly out-of plane modes are expected to be excited. Therefore, in-plane 207 and out-of-plane polarization of the numerical modes are identified through the definition of 208 a polarization factor $p = \frac{\int_V (u_x)^2 dV}{\int_V [(u_x)^2 + (u_y)^2 + (u_z)^2] dV}$ for the unit cell, being V the volume of the 209

unit cell, u_x , u_y and u_z the displacement components along x, y and z axes, respectively. As
a consequence, dispersion curves presented in Fig. 5B are shaded accordingly varying gradually from 0 (blue) to 1 (green). Thus, colors close to green indicate vibration modes that
are dominantly polarized out-of-plane, while those close to blue are predominantly polarized
in-plane. A very good agreement of the two maps is found, confirming that, due to the type
of experimental set-up, mainly out-of plane modes are excited.

216 3. Conclusions

In this paper, we have presented a combined numerical and experimental characteriza-217 tion procedure to validate metamaterial designs to create realistic functional wave-filtering 218 structures. We have considered an optimized design with respect to the plate thickness for a phononic crystal characterized by full BGs in the kHz range, and fully demonstrated its 220 efficiency in wave propagation experiments. The design itself can be useful addition to other 221 architectures considered in the literature presenting wide BGs, with the additional advantage 222 of a simple fabrication process, e.g. by milling. More importantly, the presented experimen-223 tal characterization procedure can serve as a general method for standardized testing and evaluation of phononic crystal designs. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first work 225 to provide full experimental characterization for this type of geometry. 226

Acknowledgments

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 863179.

231 Appendix A

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In this Appendix a schematic representation of how the plate was suspended during the experimental phase is provided in Fig. A1.

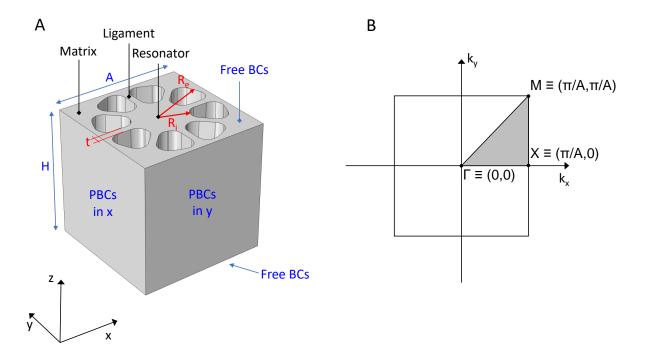


Figure 1: (A) Three-dimensional schematic representation of the unit cell investigated in this study. The structure is obtained by drilling eight cavities arranged in an octagonal pattern in a homogeneous block. The cell is thus divided into three regions, named matrix, ligaments and resonator, respectively. Geometrical parameters are the following: unit cell lattice parameter A = H = 19 mm, internal and external cavity radii $R_i = 4t$ and $R_e = 9t$, respectively, and ligament thickness t = 1 mm. (B) Schematic representation of the first irreducible Brillouin zone along the which the dispersion curves are calculated.

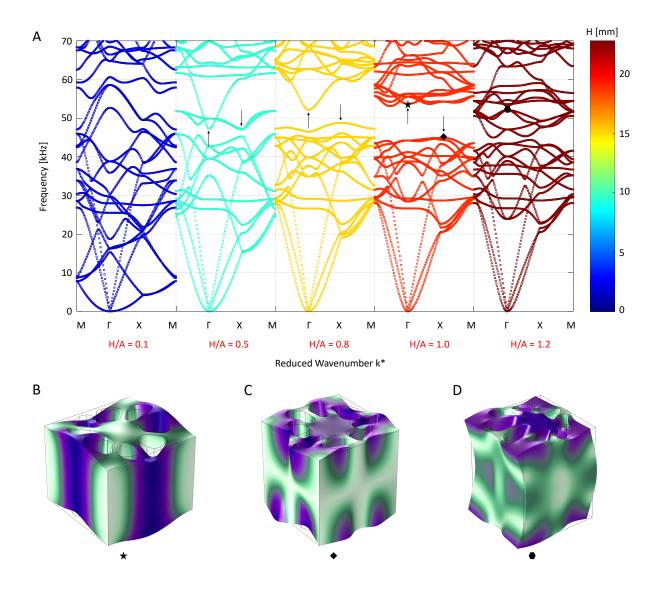


Figure 2: (A) Band diagrams along the $M - \Gamma - X - M$ Brillouin path for the unit cell reported in Fig. 1A presented as a parametric study for different height to lattice parameter ratios H/A = [0.1, 0.5, 0.8, 1.0, 1.2]. Curves are color coded according to the height H of the unit cell, and range from dark blue (for very thin unit cells) to dark red (for the thicker ones). The influence of the height in the opening of a BG is clearly visible. When the ratio is very small H/A = 0.1, no BG is present in the diagram. This is due to the extremely flexible out-of-plane properties of the unit cell, implying a large number of vibration modes in the [0-70] kHz frequency range. When the height to lattice parameter ratio increases, fewer curves are visible in the diagram and in particular specific modes (highlighted by the black arrows) undergo a frequency shift in opposite directions. This allows to open a BG that increases its width up to a maximum width of 8 kHz achieved when H/A = 1. If the ratio increases above unity, additional flexural modes tend to reduce the BG width. (B-D) Deformation of the mode shapes undergoing selective frequency down(up) shift, indicated by a black star and rhombus, and located at the edges of the BG. The additional flexural mode reducing the BG width is also reported as black hexagonal markef0 These modes are plotted at the Γ and X symmetry points. Color map indicates displacement magnitude.

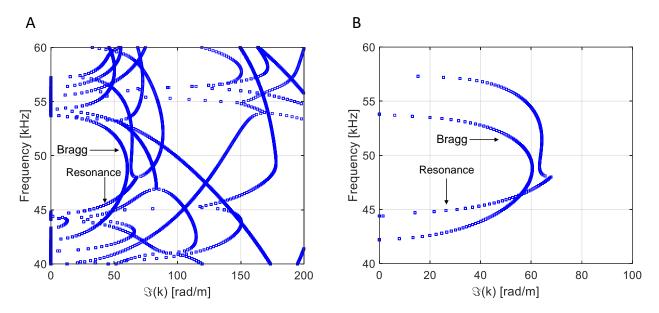


Figure 3: (A) Band diagram along the $\Gamma - X$ path for the H/A = 1 case reporting the frequency as a function of the imaginary part of the wavenumber, $\Im k(\omega)$. (B) Zoom in of the two isolated branches contributing to the mechanism of the BG opening. The typical parabolic and spike-like behaviors of the two curves clearly show how both Bragg and local resonance mechanisms contribute to the BG opening.

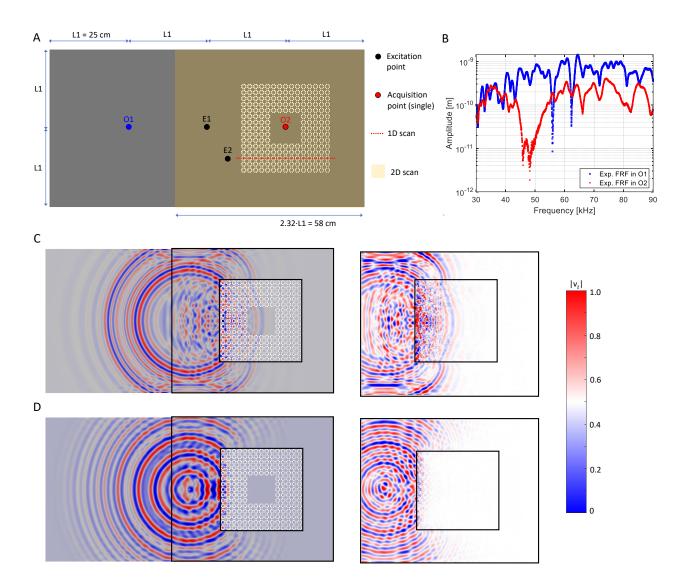


Figure 4: (A) Schematic representation of the FE model used for the three-dimensional transient dynamic computation. The specimen consists of a PMMA rectangular plate of length $4 \cdot L1 = 1000$ mm, width $2 \cdot L1 = 500$ mm and height H = A = 19 mm), where 200 unit cells have been drilled in the shape of a square ring. Excitation points are highlighted as black dots. Measurements are performed through Scanning Laser Doppler Vibrometry in specific points outside (blue dot named O1) and inside (red dot named O2) the phononic ring, along a 1D line scan (dotted red line), and in a 2D region scan (orange rectangle superimposed to the schematics of the plate). (B) Frequency Response Function (FRF) of the system in the O1 and O2 measurement points, both located at L1 from the E1 excitation point. A clear drop in the amplitude is visible in the frequency domain for the measurement inside the phononic region. Numerical (left panel) and experimental (right panel) full wavefield reconstructions of the out-of-plane velocity for a (C) 2 and a (D) 21 sine cycles centered at 50 kHz Hann windowed excitation signals fed in E1. A color map of the out-of plane velocity is reported on the right, and normalized with respect to the maximum displacement.

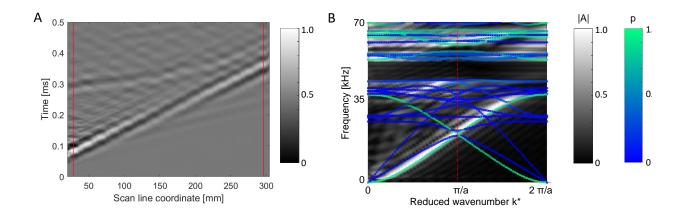


Figure 5: (A) Measured out-of-plane velocity as a function of the scanning position along the dotted red line in Fig. 4 (x-axis) and time (y-axis). Elastic waves are excited at point E2 using a 2 sine cycles centered at 40 kHz and Hann windowed. Red lines denote the beginning and the end of the periodic region. Several reflections due to the impedance mismatch are clearly visible. (B) Wavenumber-frequency representation of the measured signals. Numerical dispersion curves are superimposed to the experimental results. Curves are color-coded depending on their in plane / out-of-plane behavior. Due to the type of experimental set-up, mainly out-of plane modes are excited.

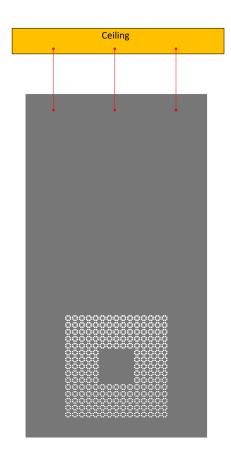


Figure A1: Schematics of vertical hanging of the plate, allowing us to prevent the sample from being subjected to bending, and to mimic the free boundary conditions implemented in the calculations.

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