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Bayesian sparse regularization for multiple force identification and location in time domain

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Abstract

In this work, reconstruction and location in time domain of multiple forces acting on a linear elastic structure are achieved through a Bayesian approach to solve an inverse problem. The Bayesian solution of the inverse problem is provided in the form of a posterior probability density function. The unknown forces are determined through Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method, the Gibbs algorithm.

This posterior density integrating both the likelihood and prior information was considered for the particular case of a linear elastic structure. The measurements are affected by an additive random noise. Two particular cases were analyzed: unperturbed and uncertain model representing the structure. The unperturbed model was used to identify a single force. When the model is uncertain, compressed sensing technique was used to provide an adequate sparse representation of the inverse problem through a wavelet basis.

With this sparse representation, the possibility of achieving automatic location of the forces was investigated. This requires to identify all the degrees-of-freedom along with the identified actions are not vanishing. Also, the possibility of force identification with less sensors than forces was studied. The proposed approach is illustrated and validated on numerical examples. This proposed approach is compared with classical approach of force identification based on Tikhonov regularization associated with the GCV criterion.

Keywords: Multi-force identification; Bayesian regularization; regularization parameter; time domain; compressed sensing; sparse; inverse problem.

1. Introduction

Force identification has been extensively addressed for the last two decades as a consequence of developing structural health monitoring [1, 2]. So many works dealt with the possibility to identify the force and the damage of a structure [2–4].

This is a well-known ill-posed problem and the early work of Tikhonov [5] on regularization techniques happens to be the main solution used to solve it. In general an optimization problem must be solved. A direct solution may be written [6–8] but some authors preferred specific algorithms like the Levenberg-Marquardt

20 [9] or the particle swarm optimization [10] to solve it. The close relation between singular value decompo-
21 sition and regularization was highlighted by Hansen in many papers [6–8] : in particular the notion of filter
22 factor is a comprehensive approach of the regularization principle including Tikhonov regularization, the
23 truncation method [11]. [12] studies different regularization approaches to investigate the solution stability
24 of the method of fundamental solutions (MFS). Three regularization methods in conjunction with two dif-
25 ferent regularization parameters to find the optimal stable MFS scheme are illustrated.

26 The forces may be identified by indirect measurements through a relation between the responses and the
27 solicitations. In time domain, this relationship is established thanks to the transfer function (or the Green’s
28 function) [11, 13] or to the system Markov parameters [14, 15]. A modal-like method that involved specific
29 basis functions was developed by Liu [16]. Chen et al. [17, 18] used the time-reversal approach to identify
30 the forces. Considering that the model and the signals are uncertain, Zhang et al. [19] developed a Bayesian
31 approach: by using a Markov chain Monte Carlo method, the procedure may be viewed as an iterative
32 regularization method. Note that usually the structural behaviour is supposed to be linear even if some
33 researchers [20] tried to study nonlinear systems.

34 However, all the methods necessitate knowing the force location [21]-[22]. So a lot of works must be done
35 to estimate this location first. Wang et al. [15] studied the influence of the sensor location on the force
36 identification. Jacquelin et al. [23] suggested that the measurement location has a direct influence on the
37 condition number of the transfer matrix. Samagassi et al. [24] proposed a method of location through
38 the identification of impact multiple forces. In [24], reconstruction of forces generated by multiple impacts
39 occurring on linear elastic structures has been achieved through wavelet relevance vector machine approach
40 to inverse problem solution. Bayesian hierarchical modeling according to the relevance vector machine ap-
41 proximation was then applied in order to estimate the forces generated by impact events. The obtained
42 results were remarkably good as the reconstructed forces were found to be very close to the original forces
43 at the system input. The method was found also to provide a way for localization of impact forces.

44 Almost all the works are related to identify one force, except [24]. Sometimes a distributed force is studied
45 [16] but the problem came down to identify one force. Multiple-force identification was addressed in [24],
46 [25], [26] and [27]: in the latter two publications they obtained very good results without performing any
47 regularization.

48 Many of these previous studies demonstrate that more sensors are required to determine the impact-load
49 location. In fact, more sensors can also improve the identification accuracy of impact-force. Thus, some
50 researchers have worked on the possibility of identifying impact- forces with fewer sensors than there are
51 forces [28–33]. Known as compressed sensing (CS) theory, Candès and Tao wrote the fundamentals of this
52 theory [34]. The CS considers the sparse character which exists in most of physical data. In particular re-
53 constructing data with much lower sample rate than classical Shannon limit is possible in the CS framework.
54 In structural dynamics, data acquisition may require several sensors. In situations when the number of mea-

55 surements is limited [35], it is still possible to identify a force in a CS context by considering the sparsity of
56 the force. In many situations, the signal-force is not directly sparse : however, in many cases, it is possible
57 to find a basis in which the force is approximately sparse [28, 29, 36].

58 Identifying forces is useful for determining the amount of damage undergone by a structure after a shock
59 event and enables to evaluate through reanalysis of the structure its residual capacity. When the structure is
60 represented by a discrete model, having the general form of a Toeplitz like matrix, the information acquired
61 by sensors which are implemented on the structure does not allow by simple inversion of that matrix to
62 straightforwardly recovering the input forces. On one hand, the problem is habitually ill-conditioned and
63 may be even ill-posed, and on the other hand the information acquired by sensors as well as the Toeplitz ma-
64 trix can be noisy and/or uncertain. To tackle these issues, which will be considered in this paper, Bayesian
65 approach appeared to be an interesting way of achieving regularization of the problem [19, 24].

66 In this paper, the force identification problem in time domain was investigated. On account of the pres-
67 ence of measurement noise and modeling error, the impact-force identification is tackled within a Bayesian
68 framework. The Bayesian approach considers the unknown quantities of interest as random variables
69 [19, 24, 37, 38]. This approach has several advantages. First, it endows the unknown force with prior
70 information in the form of a probability density function (p.d.f.), which naturally imposes an intrinsic reg-
71 ularization. Second, the Bayesian approach provides a rigorous probabilistic framework to account for all
72 possible sources of errors, which participate to the uncertainty of the identified forces including the mea-
73 surement noise and the model uncertainty.

74 The main objective of this paper is to study the possibility for the Bayesian approach together with the
75 so-called compressed sensing technique [39, 40] to identify multiple forces that act on a linear elastic struc-
76 ture, through indirect measurements. This Bayesian identification of multiple forces is analyzed through
77 the Gibbs sampler.

78 The rest of the paper is organized as follows. The general description of force reconstruction problem is
79 tackled in section 2. In Section 3, two strategies of regularization including the l_2 -norm regularization and
80 l_1 -norm regularization are illustrated and a Bayesian sparse regularization approach is proposed as sparse
81 deconvolution model of impact-force identification. Section 4 highlights the technique of Bayesian sparse
82 regularization approach for identifying impact-force. Before concluding in Section 6, numerical simulations
83 will be make on a planar beam modeled both by an analytical approach and by the finite element method
84 in Section 5.

85 Obviously, the load identification issue is not new but it seems that the limitations of such an identification
86 must be highlighted. that's why the identification of force will also be carried out by the classical approach
87 through the regularization of Tikhonov in order to make a comparative study of the two approaches. The
88 quality of the results obtained by the regularization of Tikhonov seems to be related to the choice of the
89 regularization parameter. Several methods exist to reach a “good choice” of the regularization parameter

90 [6] : the L-curve method, the generalized cross validation criterion (GCV), the quasi-optimality criterion
 91 and the Morozov’s discrepancy principle are among the most used criteria. In the following, the GCV
 92 method is used to provide the identified actions because the criterion GCV seems to be the one that would
 93 lead to better results [11, 12]. However, the L-curve and the quasi-optimality were used to compare the
 94 regularization parameters.

95 2. General description of the force reconstruction problem

96 In the following, the structure is supposed to have a linear elastic behaviour and to remain elastic during
 97 and after applying forces.

98 Let $G_{ij}(t)$ be the impulse response between degrees-of-freedom (dof) i and j . This function may be deter-
 99 mined thanks to a modal expansion of the response, either analytically (for very simple structures) or from
 100 a finite element model.

101 Suppose that n_F forces act on the beam along several dofs, and that n_m measurements are carried out.

102 Then response $s_{i_l}(t)$ of dof i_l is given by the convolution equation:

$$\forall l \in 1, \dots, n_m, s_{i_l}(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{n_F} \int_0^t G_{i_l j_k}(t - \tau) F_{j_k}(\tau) dt = \sum_{k=1}^{n_F} G_{i_l, j_k}(t) \star F_{j_k}(t) \quad (1)$$

103 where $\{j_k\}_{k=1 \dots n_F}$ is the set of the dofs along which a force is applied; similarly, $\{i_l\}_{l=1 \dots n_m}$ is the set of
 104 the dofs along which a measurement is performed; so index l (resp. k) of i_l (resp. j_k) restricts the dof set
 105 to the dofs where a signal (resp. a force) is measured (is applied); “ \star ” stands for the convolution product.

106 Convolution equation (1) is discretized. This leads to a system of algebraic equations (see appendix C for
 107 more details about the identification of multiple forces):

$$\forall l \in 1, \dots, n_m, \mathbf{s}_{i_l} = \sum_{k=1}^{n_F} \mathbf{G}_{i_l, j_k} \mathbf{F}_{j_k} \quad (2)$$

108 where:

109 – Δt is the time step; n_t is the number of time sampling, that is to say, the number of time steps used
 110 for sampling the continuous response measured by the sensor.

– \mathbf{G}_{i_l, j_k} is a n_t -by- n_t transfer matrix:

$$\mathbf{G}_{i_l, j_k} = \Delta t \begin{pmatrix} G_{i_l, j_k}(\Delta t) & 0 & & 0 \\ G_{i_l, j_k}(2\Delta t) & G_{i_l, j_k}(\Delta t) & \ddots & \\ G_{i_l, j_k}(3\Delta t) & G_{i_l, j_k}(2\Delta t) & \ddots & \ddots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ G_{i_l, j_k}(n_t \Delta t) & G_{i_l, j_k}((n_t - 1)\Delta t) & \dots & \dots & G_{i_l, j_k}(\Delta t) \end{pmatrix}$$

112 – $\mathbf{s}_{i_l} = [s_{i_l}(\Delta t), \dots, s_{i_l}(n_t \Delta t)]^t$,
113 – $\mathbf{F}_{j_k} = [F_{j_k}(0), \dots, F_{j_k}((n_t - 1)\Delta t)]^t$,
114 Equations (2) lead to the following problem:

$$\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{G} \mathbf{F} \quad (3)$$

115 where $\mathbf{s} = [\mathbf{s}_{i_1}^t, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{i_{n_m}}^t]^t$; $\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{F}_{j_1}^t, \dots, \mathbf{F}_{j_{n_F}}^t]^t$ is the force vector; \mathbf{G} is a Toeplitz block \mathbf{G}_{kl} matrix
116 such as $\mathbf{G}_{kl} = \mathbf{G}_{i_l, j_k}$ for $k = 1 \dots n_F$ and $l = 1 \dots n_m$; so \mathbf{G} is a m -by- n matrix, \mathbf{s} is a m -vector, \mathbf{F} is a
117 n -vector, where $m = n_t \times n_m$ and $n = n_t \times n_F$.

118 However, given the observed response \mathbf{s} of structure after the impact events and the transfer matrix \mathbf{G} which
119 describes completely the structure's dynamic characteristic, solving Eq.(3) for the unknown impact-force
120 vector \mathbf{F} is called impact-force deconvolution. An important issue in practice is that actual observations
121 always contain some amount of noise. Noise may arise in particular because of numerical round-off or
122 nonlinearities that have not been taken into account for instrument readings. Taking into account the
123 measurement noise, Eq.(3) becomes :

$$\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{G} \mathbf{F} + \eta \quad (4)$$

124 where η , m -vector, is a random vector representing measurement noise.

125 If we consider impact-force signal \mathbf{F} in Eqs.(3) or (4) and an associated signal \mathbf{w} which is r -sparse in an
126 appropriate basis \mathbf{B} , that which means that \mathbf{w} contains no more than r non-zero elements or significant
127 components with typically $r \ll n$. This property can be expressed under vector-matrix form by a projection
128 taking the following notation :

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{B} \mathbf{w} \quad (5)$$

129 where $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$, and $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. The columns of \mathbf{B} define n vectors representing an orthonormal basis.
130 For most natural force signals \mathbf{F} that are piecewise smooth, the wavelet transform such as Daubechies and
131 Symlets wavelets transform has been shown to yield sparse representation [41, 42].

132 \mathbf{B} is an orthogonal basis matrix, so \mathbf{B} satisfies $\mathbf{B}^t \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^t = \mathbf{I}$. Thus, Eq.(5) can be easily inverted :

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{B}^t \mathbf{F} \quad (6)$$

133 where $()^t$ represent the transpose operation. By using Eq.(5), Eq.(4) rewrites

$$\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{G} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{w} + \eta \quad (7)$$

134 or equivalently

$$\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{w} + \eta \quad (8)$$

135 where $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{G} \mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$.

136 We can divided the inverse problem of impact-force identification into three categories depending on the
137 total number of unknown impact-sources \mathbf{F} and known responses \mathbf{s}

138 – Case 1:

139 Eq.(8) is a under-determined case : the number of measurements m is less than the number of sources
140 n .

141 – Case 2:

142 Eq.(8) is a even-determined case: the number of measurements m is equal to the number of sources n .

143 – Case 3:

144 Eq.(8) is a over-determined case: the number of measurements m is greater than the number of sources
145 n .

146 Solving Eq.(8) in case 1 for the unknown vector \mathbf{w} given the observed response \mathbf{s} as well as matrix \mathbf{A} is a
147 compressed sensing problem [39, 40, 43, 44]. Compressed sensing (CS) appears,so, as a simple method for
148 finding the sparsest solution to an under-determined system of linear equations having the form of Eqs.(8)
149 or (7). Also, CS can be see as an effective solution approach particularly in situations where the number
150 of sensors is limited because of implementation constraints or cost and when the sensing process provides a
151 small number of measurements due to a poor sampling rate [41].

152 The first two cases have been considered in this paper.

153 Note that for real systems, the matrix \mathbf{G} can also be polluted. There are two ways in order to take into
154 account system matrix uncertainties. In the first approach, one uses model uncertainty propagation based
155 approaches that enable to estimate variability of \mathbf{G} following those of the basic design parameters. In the
156 second approach, one apply posterior noise on the matrix \mathbf{G} in order to take into account globally and
157 non-parametrically the various physical perturbations, modeling errors as well as material and geometrical
158 variability.

159 The method based on propagation gives raise to major difficulties and is out of the scope of the present
160 work. Thus, in the following, only the second method is considered and the matrix of system is assumed to
161 be perturbed by a general white Gaussian noise.

162 Note also that the problem of force identification is naturally ill-posed. The condition number of the transfert
163 matrix \mathbf{G} can be very large, which means that the desired solution \mathbf{F} through \mathbf{w} is very sensitive to the
164 small noise in response \mathbf{s} . The direct Least squares (LS) approach that minimize the l_2 -norm of the response
165 residual $\|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_2$ in order to solve Eq.(8) never provides a satisfactory solution. Thus in order to stabilize
166 the problem, regularization strategies must be developed to reconstruct the impact-force .

167 3. Strategies of regularization for impact-force reconstruction

168 3.1. Method of regularization based on l_2 -norm

169 If there is a method of regularization that is most commonly used and well-known for solving various inverse
170 problems, it is probably Tikhonov regularization [7, 12]. The primary purpose of this regularization is to

171 find a stable solution by minimizing the weighted combination of the residual norm and the solution norm :

$$\text{minimize } \|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \beta\|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 \quad (9)$$

172 where β is a regularization parameter and $\|\cdot\|_2$ is the l_2 -norm. With this term $\beta\|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$, the ill-posed inverse
 173 problem becomes well-posed. A fair balance between minimizing $\|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_2$ and $\|\mathbf{w}\|_2$ is established by β .
 174 Regularization of Tikhonov always has an explicit and unique solution to Eq. (9), for any β fixed :

$$\mathbf{w}_{tik} = (\mathbf{A}^t\mathbf{A} + \beta\mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^t\mathbf{s} \quad (10)$$

175 where \mathbf{I} is an identity matrix. The quality of the results obtained by this approach seems to be related
 176 to the good choice of the regularization parameter β . Several methods exist to reach a “good choice” of
 177 the regularization parameter [7, 12]: the L -curve method, the generalized cross validation criterion, the
 178 quasi-optimality criterion and the Morozov’s discrepancy principle are among the most used criteria. In
 179 the following, the GCV method is used to provide the identified actions. However, the L -curve and the
 180 quasi-optimality were used to compare the regularization parameters.

181 3.2. Method of regularization based on l_1 -norm

182 It is well-known the classical regularization methods based on l_2 -norm such as Tikhonov regularization fail
 183 to solve the case 1, that is to say under-determined case. Inversely, the l_1 -norm regularization, that is to
 184 say sparse regularization, refers to finding the minimum l_1 -norm solution to an under-determined system.
 185 Recently it has received much attention, particularly motivated by compressive sensing theory under sparsity
 186 condition, where the minimum l_1 -norm solution is also the sparsest solution [39, 40, 43, 44]. In fact, when
 187 the desired impact-force is known to be sparse in the sense that most components of \mathbf{w} are close to zeros,
 188 more measurements will not be necessary. Therefore, the sparsity nature of impact-force \mathbf{w} fundamentally
 189 changes the under-determined problem, making, thus, unique solution possible. The sparse regularized
 190 problem associated to the problem Eq.(8) [24, 32, 33] can be written as :

$$\text{minimum } \{\|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \beta\|\mathbf{w}\|_1\} \quad (11)$$

191 where β is also called parameter of regularization. The sparse solution of Eq.(8) is constructed by l_1 -
 192 norm term. The problem of optimization in Eq.(11) is known as the basis pursuit denoising (BPDN)
 193 problem [32]. Note that the inherent sparsity of impact-event is the prerequisite of sparse regularization.
 194 While the solution of Tikhonov can be explicitly expressed, sparse regularization requires solving the convex
 195 optimization problem Eq.(11) by an iterative approach, that which has no explicit analytic solution. There
 196 are much theoretical work in compressing sensing domain that have shown that the so-called restricted
 197 isometry property (RIP) of the matrix \mathbf{A} guarantees that sparse regularization will yield an accurate and
 198 robust solution from the incomplete and noisy measurement \mathbf{s} [39, 40, 43, 44]. If the matrix \mathbf{A} of system
 199 verifies the RIP, any small perturbation of measurement resulting from noise will yield a small perturbation

200 on the identified sparse signal. It has been shown in [24, 32] that the RIP is a sufficient condition, that
 201 which means that even though a matrix does not satisfies the restricted isometry property (RIP), it can yet
 202 be used as a matrix of measurement. Results obtained in [24, 32] are very satisfactory.

203 For our particular problem of force reconstruction, it has not still been proven mathematically that the
 204 matrix \mathbf{A} satisfy the RIP. Nevertheless, some studies have shown that the verification of the RIP strongly
 205 resides in the random nature of the matrix of the system [40, 43]. This is why, we perturbed by a Gaussian
 206 term the matrix of the system in order to take into account globally and non-parametrically the various
 207 physical perturbations, modeling errors as well as material and geometrical variability. This uncertainty
 208 which is propagated to the response is assumed small enough : $\mathbf{A} + \delta\mathbf{A}$. So, robustness can only be verified
 209 numerically.

210 In this paper, iterative approach proposed in order to solve Eq.(11) is Bayesian hierarchical model. Two
 211 algorithms based on Gibbs sampling are proposed.

212 4. Bayesian sparse regularization for impact-force identification

213 4.1. Bayes'formula

214 Denoting by \mathbf{x} , the vector including the unknown parameters (\mathbf{F} (or \mathbf{w}), noise η , model uncertainty), the
 215 Bayesian solution of equation Eq.(11) or Eq.(8) is obtained by the a posteriori probability density function
 216 (pdf) of \mathbf{x} given by the Bayes' formula:

$$\pi(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{J}) = \frac{\pi(\mathbf{s}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{J}) \pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{J})}{\pi(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{J})} \propto \pi(\mathbf{s}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{J}) \pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{J}) \quad (12)$$

217 Information \mathbf{J} , which will be more detailed later, is introduced to make information a priori explanatory.

218 The elements of equation (12) are listed as follows:

- 219 – the likelihood function, $\pi(\mathbf{s}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{J})$, reflects the probability of observing the data \mathbf{s} given a set of param-
 220 eters \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{J} ;
- 221 – the prior pdf, $\pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{J})$, reflects our knowledge on the parameters before experiments are undertaken.
- 222 – the marginal function, $\pi(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{J}) = \int \pi(\mathbf{s}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{J}) \pi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{J}) d\mathbf{x}$, is often seen as a normalization constant.

223 Eq.(12) provides the updated information on the parameters involved in the inference. The force vector, \mathbf{w} ,
 224 is finally estimated with an iterative process, the Markov chain Monte Carlo, through a probability density
 225 function (pdf).

226 The construction of the likelihood requires two steps. The first one is the definition of the measurement noise;
 227 the second one is the representation of the noise by a probability density function. Reference [45] shows
 228 that the pdf of the noise, $\pi_{noise}(\eta)$, and the pdf of the measurement \mathbf{s} are identical because of the mutual
 229 independence between \mathbf{F} (or \mathbf{w}) and η . In the following, the noise that spoils the data, \mathbf{s} , is supposed to
 230 be a Gaussian random noise with zero mean: $\eta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Gamma_{noise})$, where $\Gamma_{noise} = \sigma_{\eta}^2 \mathbf{I}$ is the covariance matrix
 231 and \mathbf{I} is the identity matrix.

232 4.2. First algorithm for Bayesian force identification

233 One of the first impact-force reconstruction algorithms based on Bayesian approach was developed by Zhang
 234 and al.[19]. This impact-force reconstruction has been discussed in the frequency domain.

235 In this subsection, impact-force identification is discussed in time domain and we explain a Bayesian iterative
 236 method to solve convex optimization problem expressed by Eq.(11). We consider situation where matrix
 237 system is unperturbed, ie $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{GB}$. Thus, the likelihood function reads:

$$\pi(\mathbf{s}|\mathbf{w}, \sigma_\eta^2) = \pi_{noise}(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{Aw}|\mathbf{w}, \sigma_\eta^2) \quad (13)$$

238 This means that: $\mathbf{s}|\mathbf{w}, \sigma_\eta^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{Aw}, \mathbf{\Gamma}_{noise})$.

239 A conjugate prior¹ pdf is attributed to force \mathbf{w} :

$$\mathbf{w} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}_0, \mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr}) \quad (14)$$

240 with \mathbf{w}_0 the vector of mean values and the covariance matrix $\mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr}$ is assumed to be diagonal: $\mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr} = \text{diag}(\sigma_{\mathbf{w}}^2)$

241 where $\sigma_{\mathbf{w}}^2 = [\sigma_w^2(1), \sigma_w^2(2), \dots, \sigma_w^2(n_t)]$.

242 In Eqs. (13) and (14), parameters \mathbf{w}_0 , $\sigma_w^2(i)$, and σ_η^2 , called hyper-parameters are unknown. These hyper-
 243 parameters may be viewed as regularization parameters.

244 In addition, these hyper-parameters are the parameters of the prior distribution and noise. So they are
 245 a source of a priori information [19] : \mathbf{w}_0 , $\sigma_w^2(i)$, and σ_η^2 are hyper-parameters and are random variables
 246 following probability distributions :

$$\mathbf{w}_0 \sim \mathcal{N}(U_0, \mathbf{C}_u) \quad (15)$$

$$\sigma_\eta^{-2} \sim \Gamma(k_\eta, \beta_\eta) \quad (16)$$

$$\sigma_w^{-2}(i) \sim \Gamma(k_w, \beta_w) \quad (17)$$

247 where $\Gamma(k, \beta)$ stands for the gamma distribution and $\mathbf{C}_u = \sigma_u^2 \mathbf{I}$.

248 Denote $\mathbf{J} = \{U_0, \sigma_u^2, k_w, \beta_w, k_\eta, \beta_\eta\}$ the set of parameters supposed to be known a priori; then the posterior
 249 probability density is:

$$\pi(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i), \sigma_\eta^{-2}|\mathbf{s}) \propto \pi_{noise}(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{Aw}|\mathbf{w}, \sigma_\eta^{-2}) \pi_{pr}(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i)) \pi_{pr}(\mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i), \sigma_\eta^{-2}|\mathbf{J}) \quad (18)$$

250 Eq.(18) is the Bayesian solution of the force identification problem. The determination of inference param-
 251 eters \mathbf{w} , \mathbf{w}_0 , $\sigma_w^{-2}(i)$, σ_η^{-2} can be achieved through the MCMC Gibbs algorithm (Algorithm 1 below) : The
 252 maximization of this posterior probability density with respect to \mathbf{w} yields the posterior maximum estimator
 253 [45] :

$$\bar{\mathbf{w}} = (\Gamma_{pr}^{-1} + \mathbf{A}^T \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} \mathbf{A})^{-1} (\mathbf{A}^T \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} \mathbf{s} + \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} w_0) \quad (19)$$

¹A conjugate prior pdf is in the same pdf family as the posterior

254 A comparison between the Bayesian approach and classical Tikhonov regularization is given in Appendix
 255 A.

256 The principle of MCMC consists in generating random walks whose stationary pdf coincides with the
 257 posterior pdf of interest. Among the MCMC methods [46–48], the Gibbs sampling algorithm [47] is used to
 258 explore the posterior pdf. The implementation of the Gibbs sampling on force reconstruction is resumed as
 259 follows (See Appendix B for details).

260 – Algorithm 1

261 Initialize parameters of $\mathbf{J} = \{U_0, \sigma_u^2, k_w, \beta_w, k_\eta, \beta_\eta\}$

262 1. Draw

263 $w_0 \sim \mathcal{N}(U_0, \sigma_u^2 \mathbf{I})$

264 $\sigma_w^{-2}(i) \sim \Gamma(k_w, \beta_w)$

265 $\sigma_\eta^{-2}(i) \sim \Gamma(k_\eta, \beta_\eta)$

266 2. Draw $\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{s}, w_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i), \sigma_\eta^{-2} \sim \mathcal{N}(\bar{\mathbf{w}}, \Gamma_{post})$ with

267 $\bar{\mathbf{w}} = (\Gamma_{pr}^{-1} + \mathbf{A}^T \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} \mathbf{A})^{-1} (\mathbf{A}^T \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} \mathbf{s} + \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} w_0)$

268 $\Gamma_{post} = (\Gamma_{pr}^{-1} + \mathbf{A}^T \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} \mathbf{A})^{-1}$

269 3. Draw $\sigma_\eta^{-2} | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{s} \sim \Gamma(\hat{k}_\eta, \hat{\beta}_\eta)$ with

270 $\hat{k}_\eta = k_\eta + \frac{n_t}{2}$

271 $\hat{\beta}_\eta = \frac{\|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2}{2} + \beta_\eta$

272 4. Draw $w_0 | \mathbf{w}, \sigma_w^{-2}(i) \sim \mathcal{N}(\hat{U}_0, \hat{C}_u)$ with

273 $\hat{C}_u = (\Gamma_{pr}^{-1} + \sigma_u^{-2} \mathbf{I})^{-1}$

274 $\hat{U}_0 = \hat{C}_u (\Gamma_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{w} + \sigma_u^{-2} U_0)$

275 5. Draw $\sigma_w^{-2}(i) | \mathbf{w}, w_0 \sim \Gamma(\hat{k}_w, \hat{\beta}_w)$ with

276 $\hat{k}_w = k_w + \frac{n_t}{2}$

277 $\hat{\beta}_w = \frac{\|\mathbf{w} - w_0\|_2^2}{2} + \beta_w$

278 6. go to step 2 and repeat until a sufficiently large sample is collected after the burn-in phase.

279 In practice the initial values given to \mathbf{J} are assigned arbitrarily. However, as the algorithm is iterative, these
 280 parameters are updated in the loop and their final values does not depend on their arbitrary initial value.

281 The Markov chain needs a "heating" stage to reach the stationary target p.d.f; this stage is the so-called
 282 burn-in phase, in which the samples are not yet drawn from the target probability distribution. Thus, the
 283 first few samples are not taken into account when estimating unknown parameters (ie, \mathbf{w} , w_0 , σ_η^2 , $\sigma_w^2(i)$)
 284 of the inference. The estimate of these unknown is made by calculating the average for each unknown
 285 parameter without the samples drawn in the burn-in stage. The convergence of a Markov chain can be
 286 roughly verified by inspecting its trajectory.

287 4.3. Sparse Bayesian learning via Gibbs sampling for impact-force identification

288 From the Bayesian point of view, Eq.(11) is equivalent to the maximum a posteriori method for identifying
 289 \mathbf{w} , considering that η is a normal random vector and \mathbf{w} has a Laplacian a priori distribution. For solving
 290 Eq.(11) many approaches have recently been proposed [28, 32, 33, 49]. It is proposed, here, a novel Gibbs
 291 sampling based sparse Bayesian learning (SBL) method in order to solve Eq.(11).

292 As mentioned above, for real systems the matrix \mathbf{A} can be polluted by applying posterior noise on the
 293 matrix \mathbf{G} in order to take into account globally and non-parametrically the various physical perturbations,
 294 modeling errors as well as material and geometrical variability. Thus, matrix \mathbf{A} can be expressed by $\mathbf{A} =$
 295 $(\mathbf{G} + \delta\mathbf{G})\mathbf{B}$.

296 To solve the problem defined in Eq.(8) or Eq.(11), consider the following Bayesian model :

297 1. the likelihood function is

298
$$\mathbf{s}|\mathbf{w}, \sigma_\eta^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}, \sigma_\eta^2\mathbf{I}),$$

299 2. the prior informations are modeled by:

300 (a) $\mathbf{w}|\sigma_w^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\mathbf{pr}})$

301 (b) $\sigma_w^2(i) \sim IG(k_w, \beta_w)$

302 (c) $\pi(\sigma_\eta^2) \propto 1$

303 where $\mathbf{\Gamma}_{\mathbf{pr}} = \text{diag}(\sigma_w^2(i))$, $\sigma_w^2 = [\sigma_w^2(1), \sigma_w^2(2), \dots, \sigma_w^2(n)]$. The sparsity of \mathbf{w} relies heavily in the
 304 sparsity of σ_w^2 . We consider the inverse gamma prior for $\sigma_w^2(i)$ because it is known that σ_w^2 is sparse and
 305 the inverse gamma prior promotes sparsity in the estimate of σ_w^2 , when β_w is small [28, 49]. No a priori
 306 information on noise σ_η^2 is available, that is why its prior distribution, $\pi(\sigma_\eta^2)$, is assumed to be uniform. So,
 307 conditional distributions can readily be calculated :

– the joint posterior pdf:

$$\pi(\mathbf{w}, \sigma_w^2, \sigma_\eta^2 | \mathbf{s}, k_w, \beta_w) = \pi(\mathbf{s} | \mathbf{w}, \sigma_\eta^2) \pi(\mathbf{w} | \sigma_w^2) \pi(\sigma_w^2 | k_w, \beta_w)$$

– the posterior pdf:

$$\pi(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{s}, \sigma_w^2, \sigma_\eta^2, k_w, \beta_w) = \pi(\mathbf{s} | \mathbf{w}, \sigma_\eta^2) \pi(\mathbf{w} | \sigma_w^2) \propto e^{-\frac{1}{2}((\mathbf{w}-\mu)^t \Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{w}-\mu))}$$

308 where $\Sigma = \left((\sigma_\eta^2)^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\mathbf{pr}}^{-1} \right)^{-1}$ and $\mu = (\sigma_\eta^2)^{-1} \Sigma \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{s}$

309 – updating the noise:

$$\sigma_\eta^2 | \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{w}, k_w, \beta_w \sim IG\left(\frac{m}{2} - 1, \frac{\|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2}{2}\right)$$

– updating the variance:

$$\sigma_w^2(i) | \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{w}, k_w, \beta_w \sim IG\left(k_w + \frac{1}{2}, \beta_w + \frac{\mathbf{w}_i^2}{2}\right)$$

310 Note $(\cdot)^T$ represent transpose operation. Using these relationships, we can derive the Gibbs sampling
 311 algorithm as follow :

312 – Algorithm 2

313 Initialize \mathbf{w} , k_w and β_w

314 Perform the following steps at the t -th iteration :

315 1. Draw $(\sigma_w^2(i))^t | \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{w}^{(t-1)}, k_w, \beta_w \sim IG \left(k_w + \frac{1}{2}, \beta_w + \frac{(\mathbf{w}_i^{(t-1)})^2}{2} \right)$ with $i = 1, \dots, n$.

316 2. Draw $(\sigma_\eta^2)^t | \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{w}^{(t-1)}, k_w, \beta_w \sim IG \left(\frac{m}{2} - 1, \frac{\|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}^{(t-1)}\|_2^2}{2} \right)$

317 3. Draw $(\mathbf{w})^t | \mathbf{s}, (\sigma_w^2)^t, (\sigma_\eta^2)^t, k_w, \beta_w \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu^t, \Sigma^t)$

318 where

$$319 \Sigma^t = \left[\left((\sigma_\eta^2)^{-1} \right)^t \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} + (\Gamma_{pr}^{-1})^t \right]^{-1}$$

$$320 \Sigma^t = (\Gamma_{pr})^t - (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{A}^T \left((\sigma_\eta^2)^t \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{A} (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{A}^T \right)^{-1} \mathbf{A} (\Gamma_{pr})^t$$

321 and

$$322 \mu^t = \left((\sigma_\eta^2)^{-1} \right)^t \Sigma^t \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{s}$$

$$323 \mu^t = (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{A}^T \left((\sigma_\eta^2)^t \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{A} (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{A}^T \right)^{-1} \mathbf{s}$$

324 4. go to step 1 and repeat until a sufficiently large sample is collected after the burn-in phase.

325 We recommend CoSaMP developed by Needell and al. [50] in order to obtain the initial estimate of \mathbf{w} .
 326 CoSaMP requires the knowledge of the level of sparsity of \mathbf{w} , that is to say, the number of non-zeros elements
 327 in \mathbf{w} (i.e r), which is unknown a priori in most applications. Since r is unknown, we simply suggest to set
 328 it to $m/2$.

329 An affine transformation of a normal random vector \mathbf{z} can be used to generate the normal random vector
 330 $(\mathbf{w})^t$:

$$331 (\mathbf{w})^t = \mu^t + (\phi)^t \mathbf{z}$$

332 where

$$333 \mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$$

334 and

$$335 (\phi)^t ((\phi)^t)^T = \Sigma^t.$$

336 Conventionally, $((\phi)^t)$ can be obtain by the Cholesky decomposition. However, the decomposition of
 337 Cholesky is of a complexity of $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ [28, 49], and so it is not suitable for large-scale applications. In-
 338 stead, we illustrate an efficient way to generate $(\mathbf{w})^t$ as follows.

339 Consider \mathbf{z}_1 and \mathbf{z}_2 two independent normal random vectors of dimensions m and n , respectively. Then :

$$340 \mathbf{z}_3 = \left((\sigma_\eta^2)^t \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{z}_1 + ((\Gamma_{pr})^t)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathbf{z}_2 \quad (20)$$

340 is a normal random vector with 0 as mean and $(\Sigma^t)^{-1}$ as matrix of covariance. The matrix vector product
 341 $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{z}_1$ determine the complexity of Eq.(20). Next, it can be verify that

$$(\mathbf{w})^t = \mu^t + \Sigma^t \mathbf{z}_3 \quad (21)$$

342 is a normal random vector where μ^t is mean and Σ^t matrix of covariance . Using these precedent formulas

$$343 \Sigma^t = (\Gamma_{pr})^t - (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{A}^T \left((\sigma_\eta^2)^t \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{A} (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{A}^T \right)^{-1} \mathbf{A} (\Gamma_{pr})^t$$

344 and

$$345 \mu^t = (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{A}^T \left((\sigma_\eta^2)^t \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{A} (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{A}^T \right)^{-1} \mathbf{s}$$

346 Eq.(21) can be simplify as follow :

$$(\mathbf{w})^t = (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{z}_3 - (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{A}^T \left((\sigma_\eta^2)^t \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{A} (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{A}^T \right)^{-1} \mathcal{E} \quad (22)$$

347 with $\mathcal{E} = \mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A} (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{z}_3$.

348 Conjugate gradient (CG) method can be used to compute $\left((\sigma_\eta^2)^t \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{A} (\Gamma_{pr})^t \mathbf{A}^T \right)^{-1} \mathcal{E}$.

349 Thus, we can identify the desired impact-force \mathbf{F} through Eq.(5). Algorithm 2 being a Markov chain, it
 350 needs a burn-in phase to reach the stationary target p.d.f: the first few samples are not taken into account
 351 to estimate the pdf. The estimate of the unknowns is done by calculating the average for each unknown
 352 parameter. The convergence of a Markov chain can be roughly verified by inspecting its trajectory, or
 353 more reliably by several repetition of simulated Markov chains that should converge to the same probability
 354 distribution.

355 5. Numerical simulations

356 The objectives of this section are twofold: firstly the Bayesian probabilistic method is used and its capacity
 357 to identify a force that may be identically equal to zero is assessed, and secondly the difficulties are identified
 358 and highlighted. These objectives will be illustrated by testing Algorithms 1 and 2.

359 A pinned-pinned beam is studied to illustrate the identification process proposed in this paper. Two cases
 360 are analyzed: in the first application, the beam is analytically modeled whereas in the second application a
 361 finite element model of the beam is used. The beam is made of a homogeneous linear elastic material having
 362 a uniform rectangular cross section. The geometrical characteristics of the beam are shown in Fig. 2 below.
 363 Forces and moments can be applied to the beam: in the following, an action will denote either a force or a
 364 moment. All the actions applied in the following are proportional to:

$$f(t) = f_0 t^\alpha e^{-\beta t} \quad (23)$$

365 where in example 1 $f_0 = 2.10^{15}$ N/s⁶, $\alpha = 6$ and $\beta = 300$ s⁻¹, and $f_0 = 2.10^{19}$ N/s⁶, $\alpha = 6$ and $\beta = 1000$ s⁻¹
 366 in example 2. In order to vary the actions applied, the force reconstructed by the regularization of Tihonov
 367 has for parameters : $f_0 = 3.10^{11}$ N/s⁶, $\alpha = 3$ and $\beta = 1300$ s⁻¹ . This function is depicted in Fig.1.

368 An action that is not identically equal to zero will be referred to a non-zero action (NZA); an action that
 369 identically equals zero is an identically zero action (IZA). A delay may be introduced in the action to test
 370 its influence on the force identification.

371 To validate the quality of the identification of the NZA, a relative error between the actual action (A^{true})
 372 and the identified action (A^{id}) is used:

$$E_{NZA} (\%) = 100 \times \frac{\|A^{true} - A^{id}\|_2}{\|A^{true}\|_2} \quad (24)$$

373 For IZA, the error is defined as follows:

$$E_{IZA} (\%) = 100 \times \frac{\|A^{id}\|_2}{\|A_{NZA}\|_2} \quad (25)$$

374 The noise, η , is Gaussian with zero mean and standard deviation proportional to the maximum amplitude
 375 of the response. The standard deviation is defined in each of the applications below. The total number of
 376 iterations is 10,500. The number of iterations that constitute the burn-in phase is 500: the 500 samples
 377 drawn in this phase are not taken into account.

378 It is important to remember the importance of identifying a null action. The objective of this manuscript is
 379 to locate the impact zones through the reconstruction of the impact forces that the structure has undergone.
 380 For a finite element model such as ours, assuming priori that the load to be identified is distributed over all
 381 the nodes of the studied structure, one eliminates the problem of localization. Thus, where the identified
 382 load will be (almost) zero, we can then conclude that there was no loading applied: it is then possible to
 383 locate the loading zone posteriori. The quality of the result is therefore directly related to the ability of the
 384 methods used to identify a constantly effort equal to zero and to simultaneously identify multiple actions.

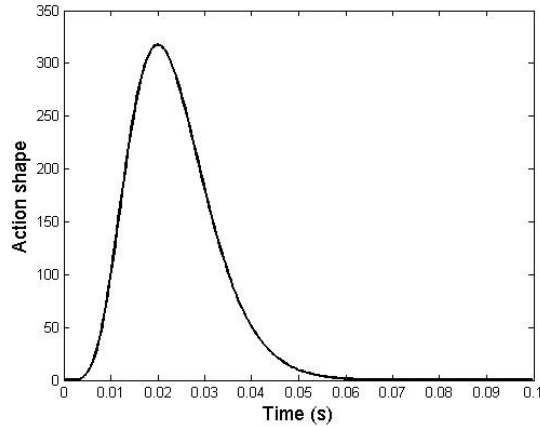


Figure 1: Shape of the actions

| Length L (m) | Width w (m) | Thickness h (m) | E (Pa) | ρ ($kg.m^{-3}$) | modal damping ξ_n |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 5.10^{-3} | 5.10^{-3} | $7,06.10^{10}$ | 2660 | 5.10^{-3} |

Figure 2: Characteristics of the beam

385 5.1. Single force identification

386 Although the method can be applied in general to any elastic structure for which the matrix \mathbf{G} in Eq.(4)
 387 is available, the two Gibbs's algorithms will be tested on a planar beam having a symmetric section and
 388 loaded orthogonally to its mean fiber, in its plane of symmetry. Fig.(3) depicts the considered beam which
 389 is assumed to be made from a homogeneous elastic linear material and having a uniform cross section. The
 390 beam section is assumed to be rectangular. This enables to derive simple analytical time transfer functions
 391 between any excitation point where a transverse force $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{t})$ is applied and any response point where the
 392 longitudinal normal strain $\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{x}_j, \mathbf{t})$ is assumed to be measured. The measurement point is assumed to be
 393 located on the upper beam fiber where a strain gauge sensor is placed.

394 It is straightforward to derive for the simply supported beam considered here that the Toeplitz like matrix
 395 $\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)$ giving the discrete time response in terms of longitudinal axial strain of the upper fiber \mathbf{s} as
 396 function of the discrete force vector \mathbf{F} according to Eq.(3), writes :

$$\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \frac{\pi^2 h}{\rho A L^3} \sum_{n=1}^{Nmodes} n^2 \sin\left(\frac{n\pi \mathbf{x}_i}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi \mathbf{x}_j}{L}\right) g(w_n, \xi_n, (k-l)\Delta t) \quad (26)$$

397 with $g(w_n, \xi_n, (k-l)\Delta T) = 0$ if $k < l$, and

$$g(w_n, \xi_n, (k-l)\Delta t) = \frac{\Delta t \exp(-\delta_n w_n (k-l)\Delta t)}{w_n \sqrt{1 - \xi_n^2}} \sin\left(w_n \sqrt{1 - \xi_n^2} (k-l)\Delta t\right) \text{ if } k \geq l \quad (27)$$

398 and the rotational frequencies are

$$w_n = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 h}{2L^2} \sqrt{\frac{E}{3\rho}} \quad (28)$$

399 where $k, l \in 1, 2, \dots, N_t$, E is the Young's modulus, ρ the density, h the beam thickness, L the beam length,
 400 ξ_n the modal damping associated to mode number n , Δt the time step and $Nmodes$ the total number of
 401 modes selected owing to modal truncation. $Nmodes$ is determined from a convergence study or can be
 402 estimated by considering the highest frequency contained in the impact signal. The time step is chosen
 403 in order to satisfy Shannon sampling condition with regards to the maximum frequency contained in the
 404 excitation, even if this condition is not necessary.

405 In this first application, the identification of a single force is considered. The force is applied at $\mathbf{x}_i = L/3$ and
 406 the measurement is carried out at $\mathbf{x}_j = L/2$. The reconstruction will be done on the interval $[0 \ 0.1]$ s with 256
 407 points and the chosen time step value was $\Delta t = 3.90 \cdot 10^{-4}$ s. The five first frequencies of the pinned-pinned
 408 beam are: $f_1 = 11,68$ Hz, $f_2 = 46,72$ Hz, $f_3 = 105,1$ Hz, $f_4 = 186,9$ Hz and $f_5 = 292$ Hz. The time step was
 409 fixed so as to satisfy Shannon's sampling condition which is here equivalent to $\Delta t < \Delta t_{max} = 1.7123 \times 10^{-3}$
 410 s, where $\Delta t_{max} = 1/(2f_5)$. The applied force spectrum is taken with a maximum frequency which is smaller
 411 than f_5 .

412 The results provided by Algorithm 1 are plotted in Figs. 4 to 6. The values to initialize algorithm 1 are
 413 $\mathbf{J} = \{U_0 = [0], \sigma_u^2 = 100, k_w = 10, \beta_w = 15, k_\eta = 10, \beta_\eta = 0.1\}$. Three noise standard deviations were tested:

414 0.01 %, 0.1%, and 1% of the response maximum amplitude.

415 Among these results, only those of Fig. 4 are excellent even if those of Fig. 5, affected by parasitic
416 oscillations, are still acceptable. Note that the delay does not really improve the reconstruction: for a given
417 figure, all errors are almost the same whatever the delay. This means that Algorithm 1 is suitable for noise
418 low level.

419 Algorithm 2, initialized with $k_w = 1$ and $\beta_w = 10^{-5}$, was also tested with noise standard deviation equal
420 to 1 % (Fig.7(a) and Fig.7(b)) and 2 % (Fig.7(c) and Fig.7(d)) of the response maximum amplitude. The
421 identified forces are in a very good agreement with the initial force.

422 Note also that the delay in signal start contributed to improve slightly the results.

423 Thus, Algorithm 2 appears to be more effective compared to Algorithm 1. Indeed, the results obtained are
424 excellent until a noise level about 2 %, which highlights its robustness with respect to Algorithm 1. So, in
425 the following, Algorithm 2 is used to identify all the actions.

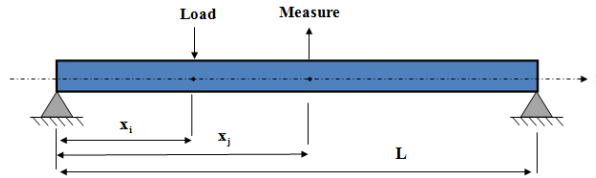


Figure 3: A pinned-pinned beam

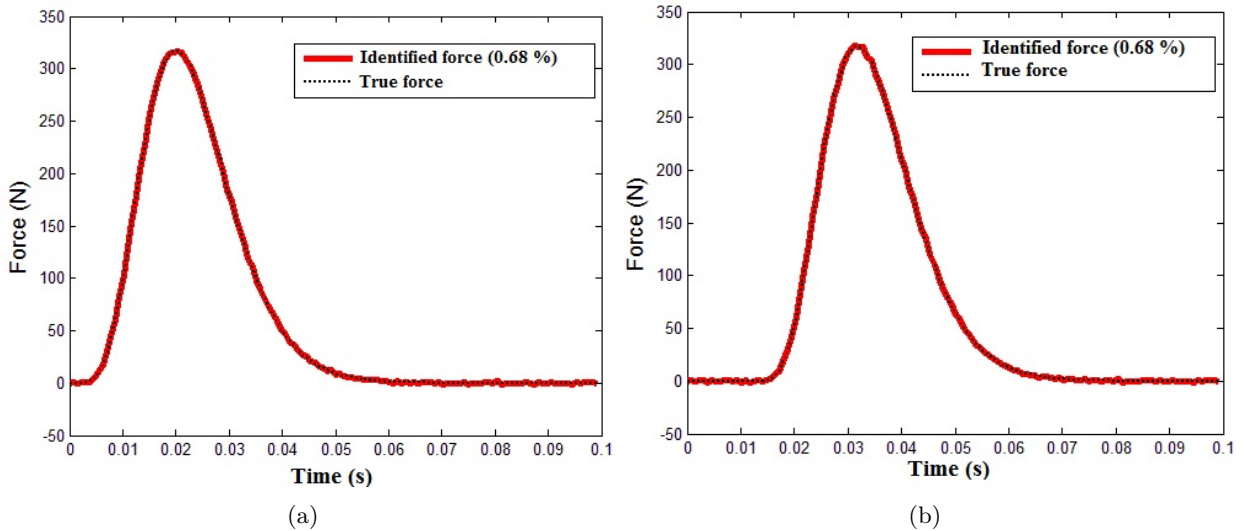
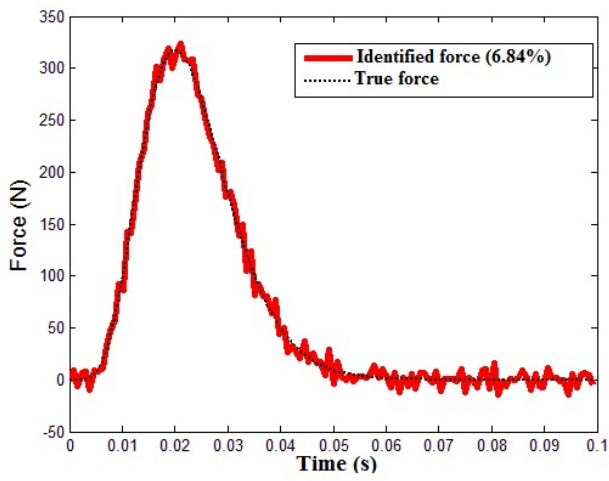
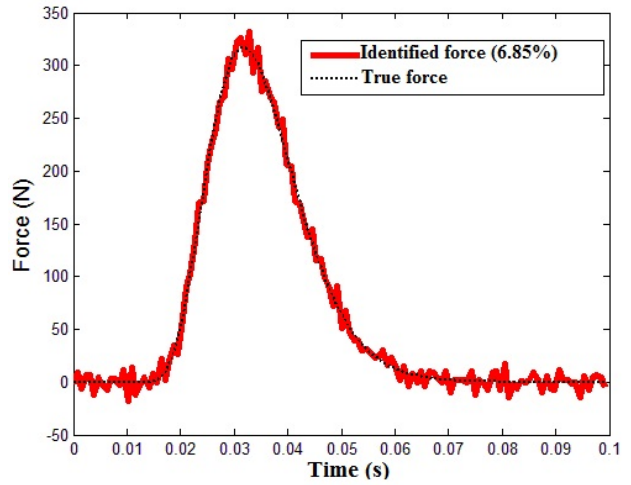


Figure 4: Force identified superimposed to the true force with a noise standard deviation equal to 0.01 %

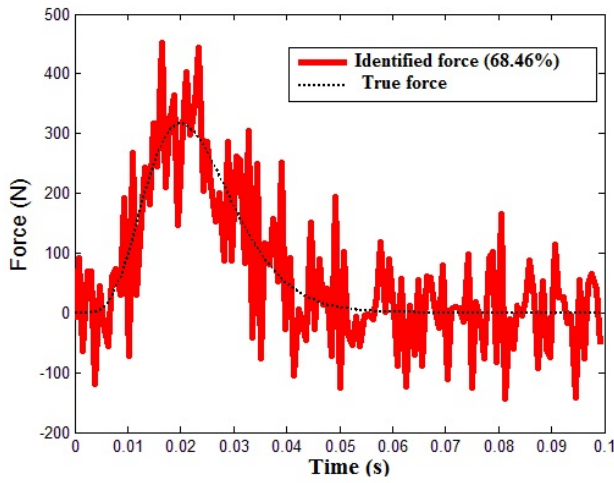


(a)

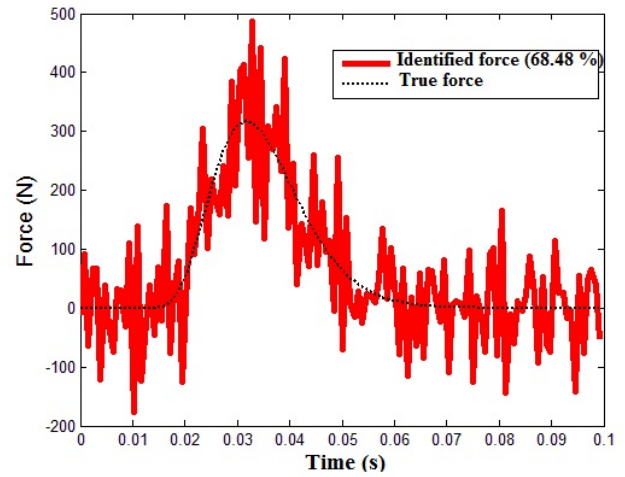


(b)

Figure 5: Force identified superimposed to the true force with a noise standard deviation equal to 0.1 %



(a)



(b)

Figure 6: Force identified superimposed to the true force with a noise standard deviation equal to 1 %

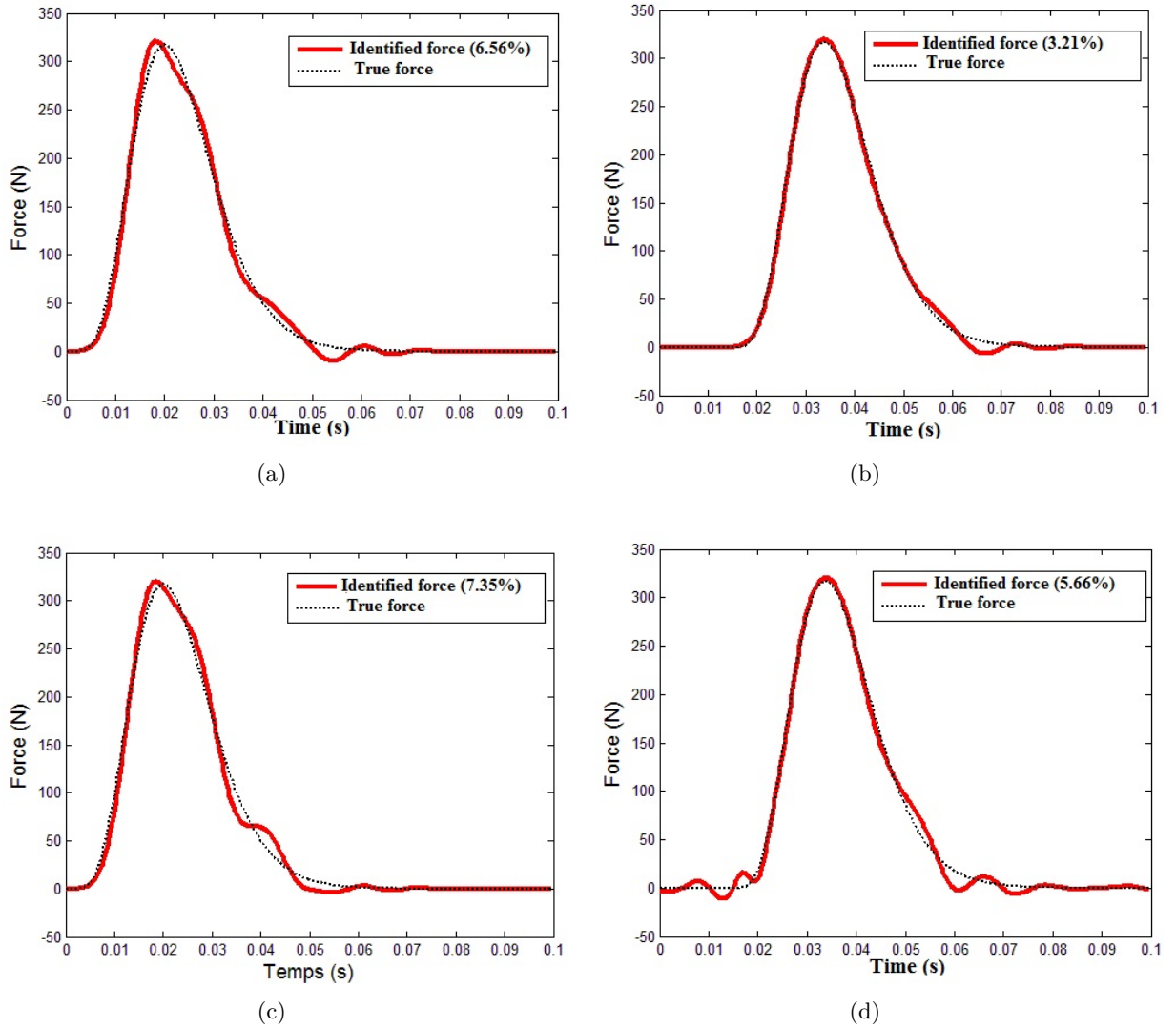


Figure 7: Identified force (red solid line) - Actual force (black dotted line)

426 5.2. Multiple-force identification

427 The pinned-pinned beam is discretized in n_e Bernoulli beam finite elements and then has $2 \times n_e$ degrees-of-
 428 freedom (dof): the dofs are related to translations and rotations. An action is applied along dof i_F direction,
 429 and a direct problem is solved: then some dofs are numerically measured. These measurements are spoilt
 430 by a random noise whose standard deviation equals to 2 % of the response maximum. The forces along dof
 431 i_F and along another dof are identified.

432 The objective is then two-fold: testing the ability to identify two actions, and to assess the identification
 433 of an identically zero action (IZA). Several cases will be addressed depending on the nature of the action
 434 (force or moment) and the measurements (number, translation or rotation).

435 5.2.1. Identically zero action identification

436 The beam is discretized in four elements (see Fig.8); the non zero action (NZA) is applied along one dof
 437 (translation or rotation) and must be identified; an IZA along another dof (translation or rotation) is

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| case | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| measured dofs | 2 & 4 | 4 & 6 | 2 & 6 | 3 & 5 | 5 & 7 | 3 & 7 | 1 & 2 | 1 & 4 | 2 & 3 | 2 & 5 |

Table 1: Measurement case list

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| action pair number | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| IZA dof | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| NZA dof | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 2 |

Table 2: List of the dofs related to the action pairs to be identified

438 identified as well.

439 Several measurements were considered. They are listed in Table 1. Similarly several action pairs were
 440 identified: they are listed in Table 2. Identified forces F_2 and F_4 (force pair 1) are plotted in figure 9: the
 441 dof responses related to case 1 were used. The NZA is very well identified. Algorithm 2 is also efficient to
 442 identify IZA: the maximum of F_2 is about 25,000 times smaller than the maximum of F_4 . So, compared to
 443 F_4 , F_2 may be considered as an IZA.

444 To have an opinion on the value given by the discrepancies defined in Eqs. (24-25), the discrepancy of both
 445 forces plotted in figure 9 is equal to $E_{F_2} = 9,09 \times 10^{-4}\%$ and $E_{F_4} = 3,36\%$ respectively. All the discrepancies
 446 are plotted in figure 10 in order to check the influence of the measurements (position and nature) on the
 447 results.

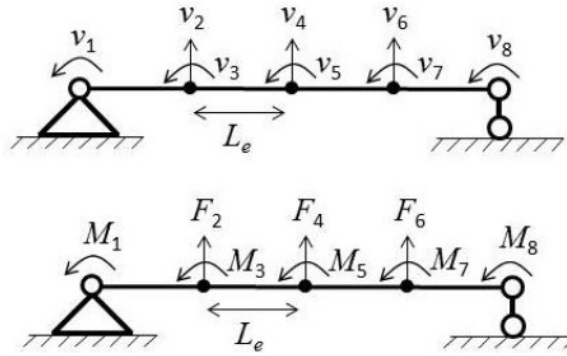


Figure 8: nodal action and dof of a 4-finite element discretized beam

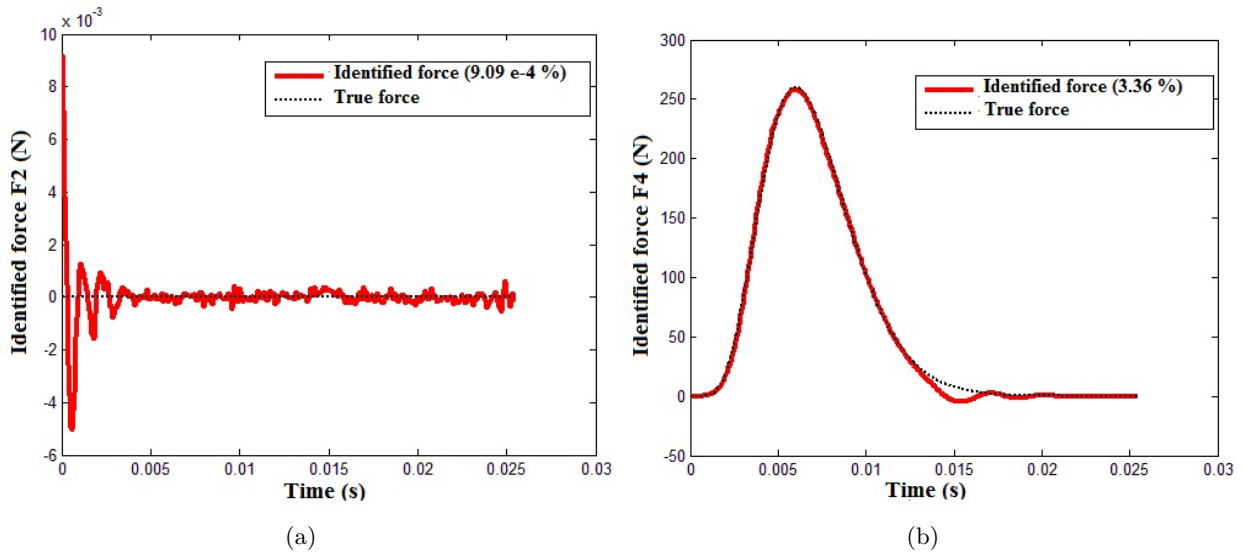


Figure 9: Identified force along (a) dof 2 (b) dof 4

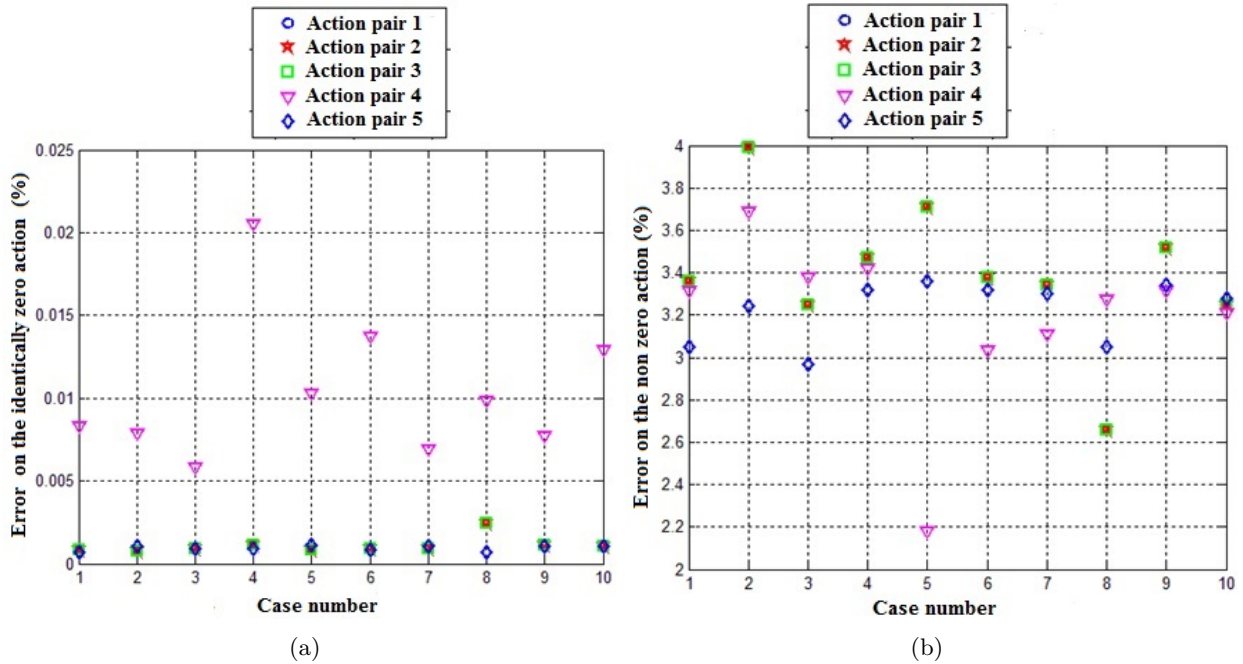


Figure 10: (a) IZA discrepancy (b) NZA discrepancy

448 Discussion:

449 Figure 10 shows the different discrepancies between the actual actions and the identified actions for different
 450 cases listed in Tables 1 and 2. All these results are excellent.

451 For the NZA (Fig.10 (b)), action pairs 1, 2, and 3 associated with measurement 2, have the highest discrep-
 452 ancies (about 4 %), which is very satisfactory. Figure 10 (a) shows that the results are also very satisfactory
 453 for IZA: the highest discrepancy is about 0.02 % and concerns action pair 4 associated with measurement
 454 4. These results (Figure 10) are due to a good estimate of regularization parameters (σ_w^2 , σ_η^2) that are
 455 supposed to give a good reconstruction of the actions if they are well estimated. Also, note that a rapid con-

456 vergence of the identification algorithm is related to the initialization of this algorithm and a good estimate
457 of regularization parameters depends on the number of iterations. The parameter of interest (the actions)
458 and the variance σ_w^2 are the only parameters to be initialized. The variance σ_w^2 is initialized via β_w and k_w
459 from its prior distribution. By choosing values such as β_w be as low as possible ($k_w = 2, \beta_w = 10^{-10}$ for
460 example) and a large number of iterations (about 20,000), the regularization parameters are well estimated
461 and therefore the actions are well identified.

462 The quality of the results may be due to three main factors. First how to model the data and the problem,
463 second, the method used to solve it, and third, obtaining a good estimate of regularization parameters.

464 The difficulty in the Bayesian approach lies in its prior distribution that naturally imposes an intrinsic
465 regularization: a prior well controlled favors a satisfactory regularized solution. A good modelling of this
466 prior is therefore of capital importance. As it is mentioned in [19], this prior information can not be modeled
467 exactly: as already mentioned, identifying actions in the CS context enables a better model of the prior
468 information. The quantity of interest is reconstructed through its sparse representation which follows a
469 normal Gaussian distribution. Algorithm 2 uses the Gibbs sampler method, which is very well adapted to
470 identify forces because the laws of probability involved in this algorithm are usual, so samples can be easily
471 drawn.

472 In the deterministic approach, the reconstruction of actions is much more difficult when at least two actions
473 must be identified [51]. This difficulty originates in the choice of the regularization parameter which is
474 determined by classical methods such as the L -curve [51]. Indeed, when there are several forces to identify,
475 the number of the L -curve corners increases [51]: estimating the regularization parameter is then difficult.
476 Thus, it is not easy to do a good choice for the regularization parameter. In the Bayesian formulation, reg-
477 ularization parameters (σ_w^2 and σ_η^2) are variable, so they are adaptive. They are determined by an iterative
478 process through Gibbs sampling. As a consequence, the regularization parameters are improved gradually
479 through the MCMC process. Thus, the higher the number of iterations, the better the estimate of the
480 regularization parameters and therefore the quality of identification.

481 Figure 10 also shows that it is difficult to predict the benefit of a measurement case to another. Overall,
482 the identification is always satisfactory.

483 5.2.2. Identification of two forces

484 Two forces were applied along dof 2 (F_2) and dof 4 (F_4). They are identical and proportional to figure 1.
485 The identification is achieved with the measurement cases listed in Table 1. The discrepancies are shown in
486 Figure 11. Measurement 2 associated with force F_4 has a discrepancy of the order of 4 % and discrepancy
487 is about 3 % for all the other cases. Also, note that measurement 10 leads to both identified forces closest
488 to the initial forces.

489 The results given in Fig.12(a) are obtained with measurement case 10. Fig. 12 illustrates the process of
490 reconstruction of both NZA. The histograms of the identified forces and the regularization parameters (σ_w^2

491 and σ_η^2) are plotted in Figs 12 (b) to (d) in order to highlight the convergence of the MCMC. These histograms
 492 are obtained with samples drawn after the burn-in phase. The figures represent only one component of vector
 493 \mathbf{F} (the 30-*th* component was taken arbitrarily) and one component of vector σ_w^2 (the first component was
 494 taken arbitrarily). The histogram of $F(30)$ looks very like to the Gaussian distribution: so it has converged.
 495 The same conclusion is reached for σ_η^2 and $\sigma_w^2(1)$: both histograms converged to the gamma distribution.
 496 Indeed Fig. 12(d) shows a histogram which looks like to an exponential distribution: it is known that the
 497 exponential distribution is a gamma distribution with a shape parameter equal to 1.
 498 To test the robustness of the convergence of the Markov Chain, we doubled the number of points (samples).
 499 The results obtained with 512 points per force are illustrated on the figure. Thus, all of these histograms give
 500 us a good sign that the sampling algorithm has converged.

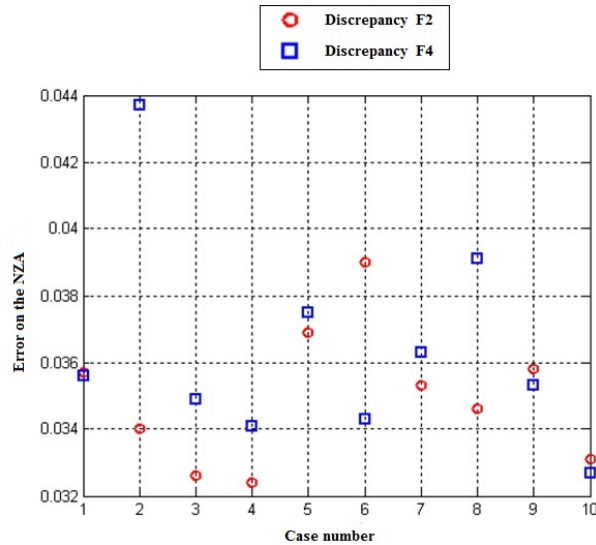
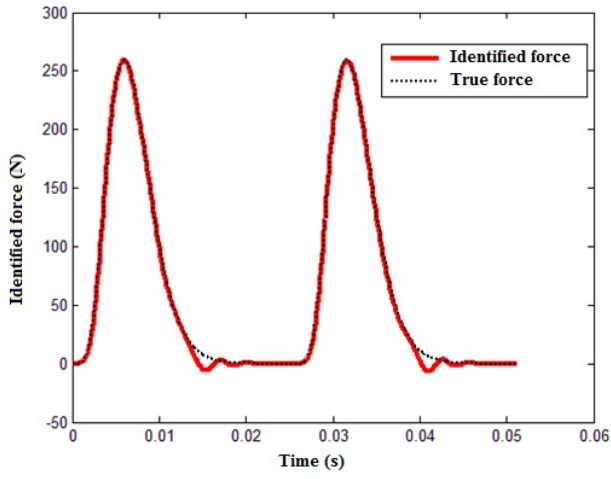
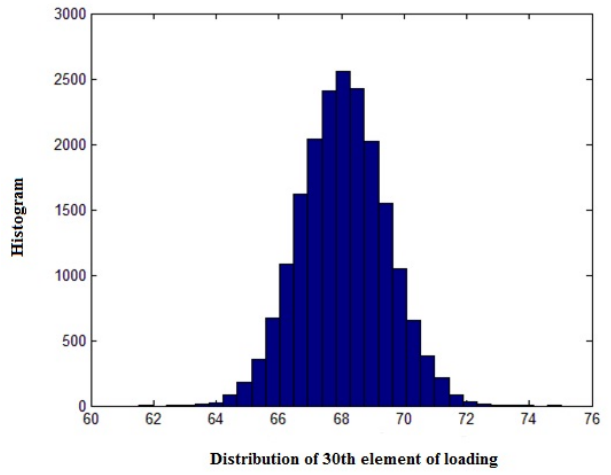


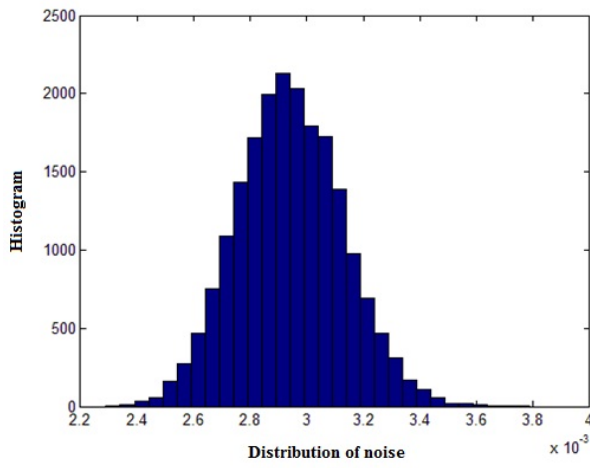
Figure 11: NZA discrepancy for both forces: F_2 ; F_4



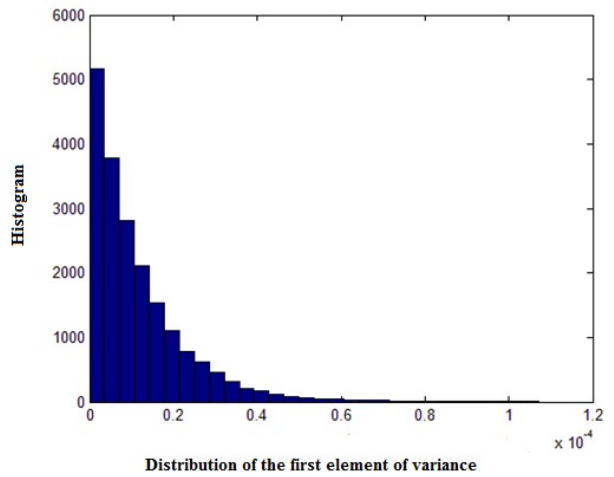
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure 12: identification NZA and Histograms

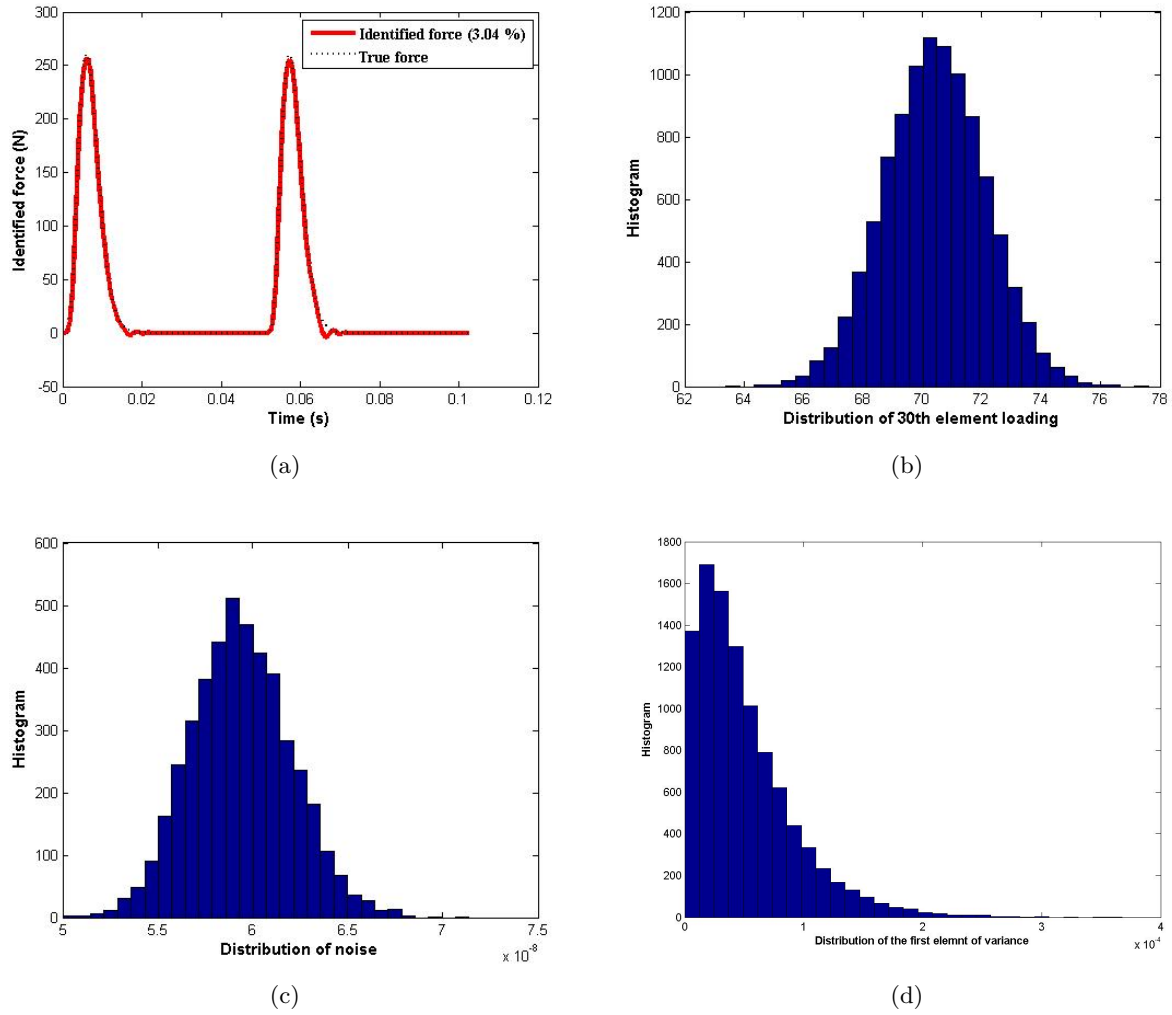


Figure 13: identification NZA and Histograms

501 5.2.3. Identification of pressure

502 A uniform pressure, $p(t)$, is applied on the third element: the shape of the pressure is still given by Fig.
 503 1. The pressure is projected on the finite element model dofs, so it is transformed in four actions: forces
 504 $F_4 = F_6 = p L_e/2$ and moments $M_5 = -M_7 = p L_e^2/12$, where L_e is the length of a finite element. The
 505 measurements of ν_2 , ν_4 , ν_5 , and ν_6 were used to identify the 4 actions. Indeed, experimentally it is much
 506 more easy to measure translations than rotations.

507 Fig.14 shows that the identified forces are in a very good agreement with the initial force (2.36% for F_4
 508 and 3.26% for F_6). However the moments are not satisfactorily identified since the discrepancies are about
 509 78.29% for M_5 and 94.56% for M_7 .

510 This moment identification problem is certainly due to the difference in nature between force and moment
 511 that makes the simultaneous identification difficult.

512 However, the work provided by the pressure is mainly reflected in the work provided by the forces: the work
 513 of the moments is negligible as shown in figure 15. Consequently, this wrong identification of the moments
 514 would not have a significant incidence on a design of the beam: it is particularly true when the number of

515 finite element increases. So, it is not necessary to identify the moments. In the following all the moments
 516 will be supposed to be IZA and won't be identified: this procedure will be referred as "under-identification".
 517 The results are satisfactory as a discrepancy of 3.5 % (resp. 3.42 %) is obtained for F_4 (resp. F_6). It must
 518 be emphasized that if the responses are evaluated with the identified actions, they are very close to the
 519 actual responses.

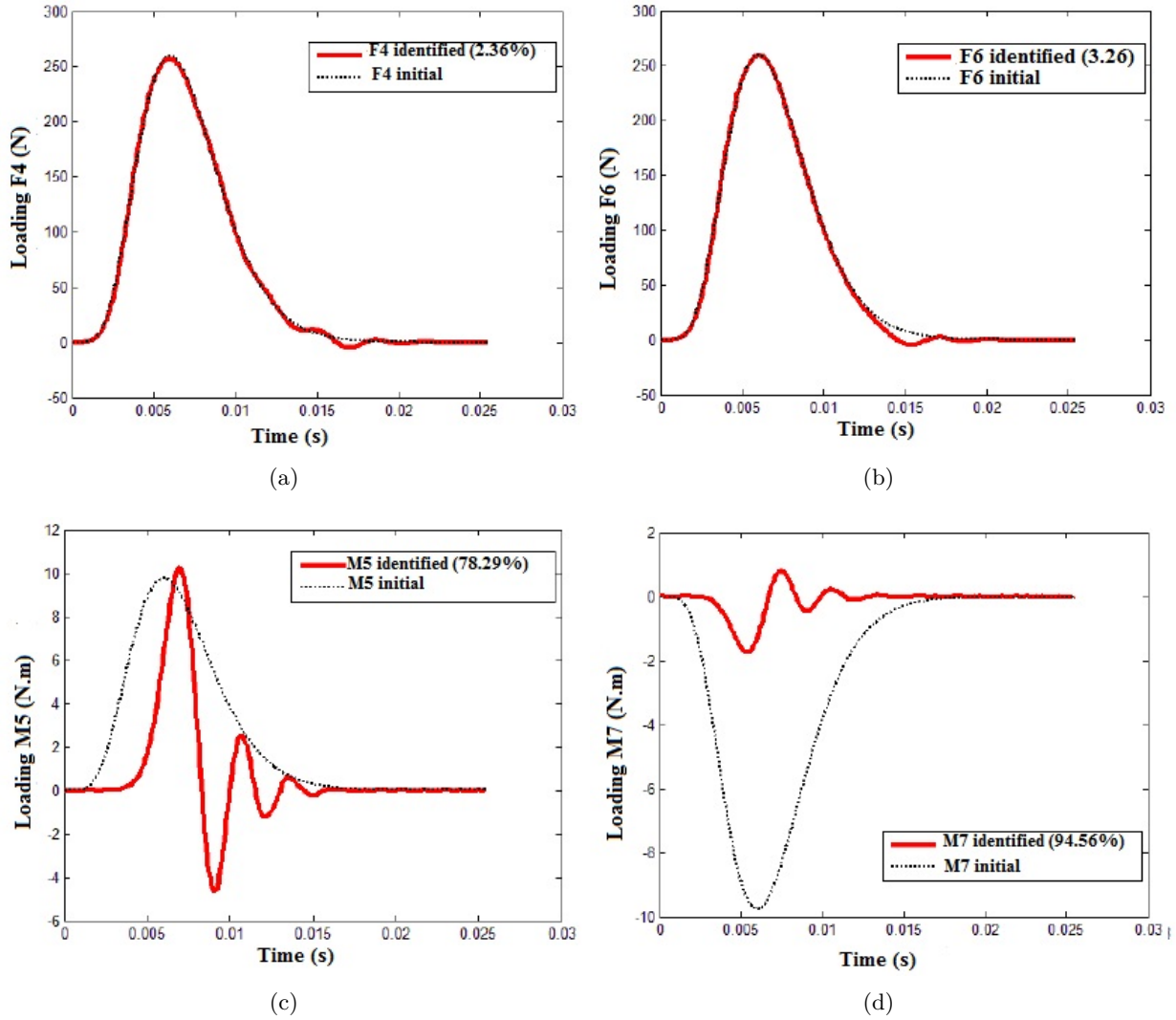


Figure 14: Identified actions: (a) F_4 (b) F_6 (c) M_5 (d) M_7

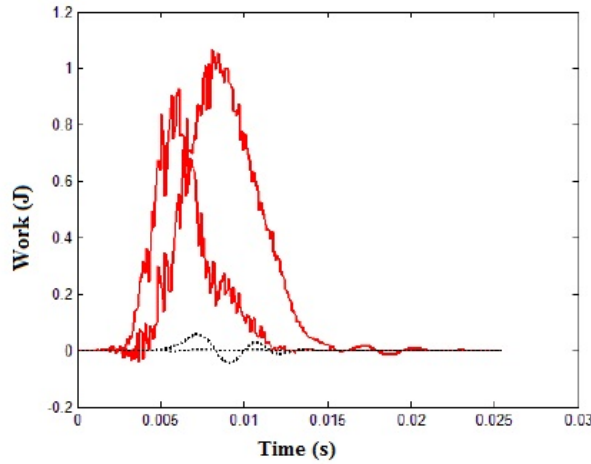


Figure 15: Work provided by the forces (solid lines) and the moments (dotted lines)

5.2.4. Identification of the force location

In this subsection, the purpose is to achieve the location through the identification of multiple forces. So, impact identification involves both force localization and time history reconstruction. The structure is meshed and at each point of the mesh the force is identified: if, at a node of the mesh the force is almost equal to zero (IZA) then it is considered that no force is applied at this point. Thus, the location involves to identify both NZA and IZA: the forces are located at the points of the mesh where the identified force is not equal to zero. Obviously a coarse mesh leads to a coarse estimation of the force location and then there is a trade-off between accuracy and numerical cost.

All the dofs can be considered but it turns out that the results were much better when only translations were used: this simplification is more and more efficient when the number of nodes increases.

The beam is now divided in 7 elements (see Fig. 16). A pressure is applied on the second and the fifth ones: that is forces are applied along translations 2, 4, 8 and 10, and moments are applied along rotations 3, 5, 9 and 11. As explained previously, the forces are identified but the moments are assumed to be equal to zero.

Also, translations ν_2 , ν_4 , ν_6 , ν_8 , ν_{10} , and ν_{12} are measured to identify the forces.

The shape of pressure $p_1(t)$ on the second element is represented in Fig. 1, whereas pressure $p_2(t)$ applied on the fifth element is equal to zero for a period of time and then equal to a sine signal (see 17(d)).

Note that the accuracy may depend on the size of the mesh, mainly when a distributed force has to be identified as the distributed force is replaced with point forces.

The results are illustrated in Fig. 17. The identification of the NZA is satisfactory. Indeed, the discrepancy between the real forces and the identified forces is 3.7 % for F_2 , 3.7 % for F_4 , 27.4 % for F_8 , and 28.2% for F_{10} . The large discrepancies observed with forces F_8 and F_{10} come from the very end of the signal. A boundary effect could explain this feature. Indeed, the procedure identifies one large vector in which all the vectors are gathered. So the procedure must identify the large discontinuity between $F_8(n_t)$, and $M_9(1)$. Similarly there is a large discontinuity between $F_{10}(n_t)$ and $M_{11}(1)$. It turns out that such discontinuities

544 are difficult to identify. However, it may be considered that F_8 and F_{10} are well identified except at the very
 545 end of the signal.

546 Identification of forces which are supposed to be identically zero is very satisfactory: F_6 and F_{12} can be
 547 considered identically zero actions and then, dof 6 and 12 are not in the action location.

548 Thus, the results show that the Bayesian approach seems to be adapted to locate the action.

549 The main drawbacks of the procedure is the number of sensors required to measure displacements: 6 sensors
 550 were used for identifying 6 forces. However, the CS is claimed to be efficient even when the number of
 551 sensors is less than the number of actions. So the forces were identified with only 4 measurements: ν_2 , ν_4 ,
 552 ν_8 , and ν_{10} .

553 The results plotted in figure 18 are satisfactory and the same conclusions as before can be reached.

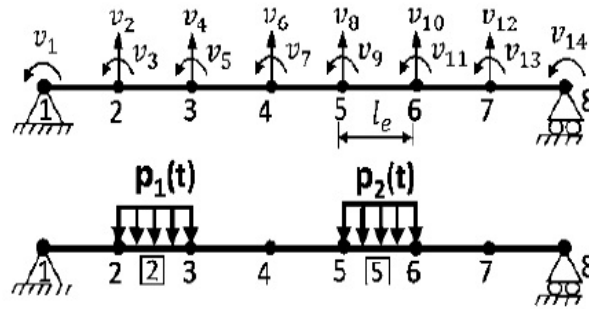
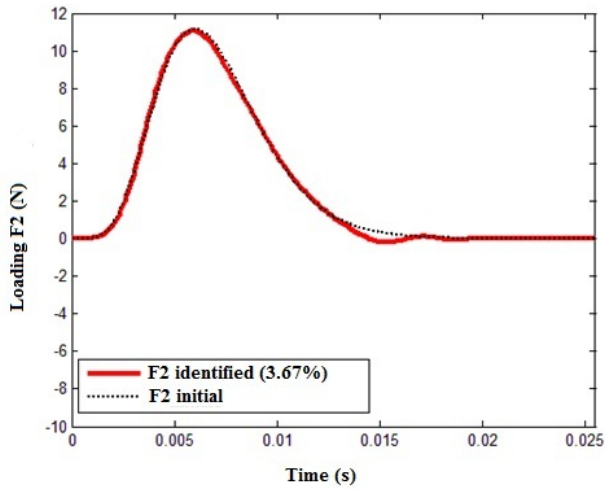
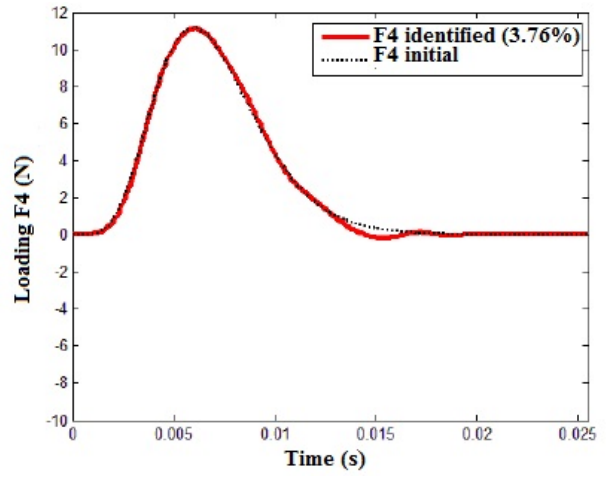


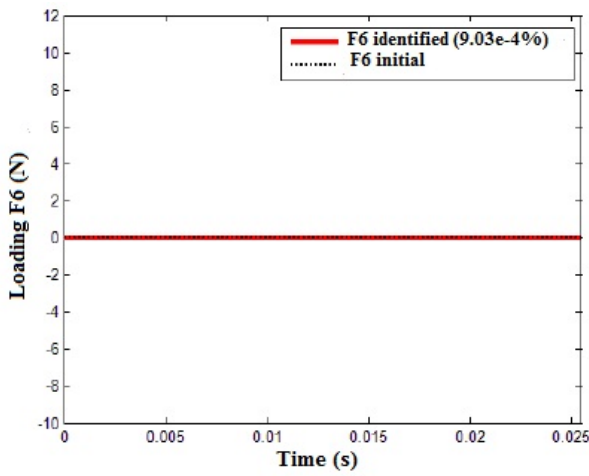
Figure 16: Dofs of a 7-finite element discretized beam



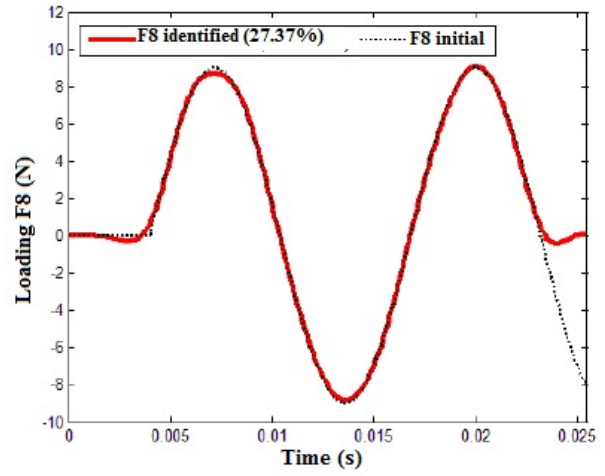
(a)



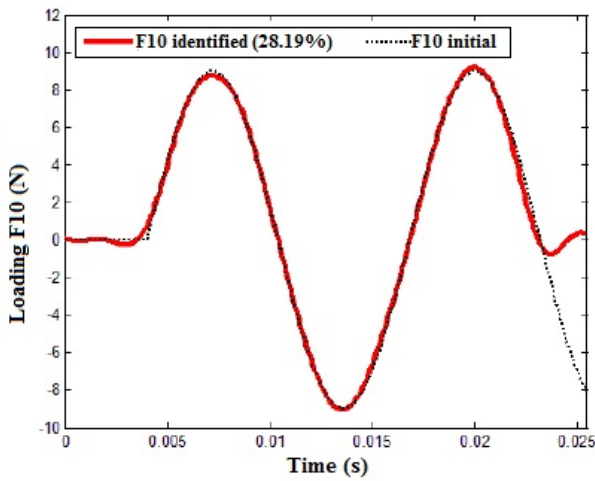
(b)



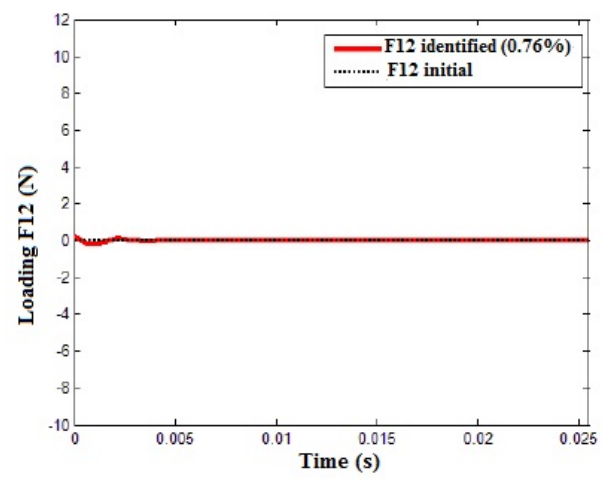
(c)



(d)

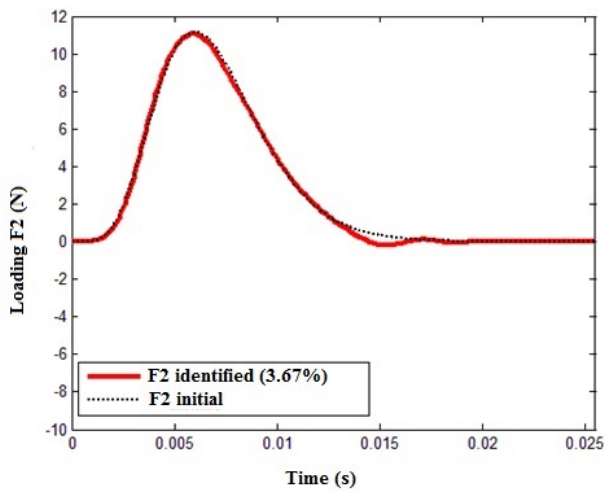


(e)

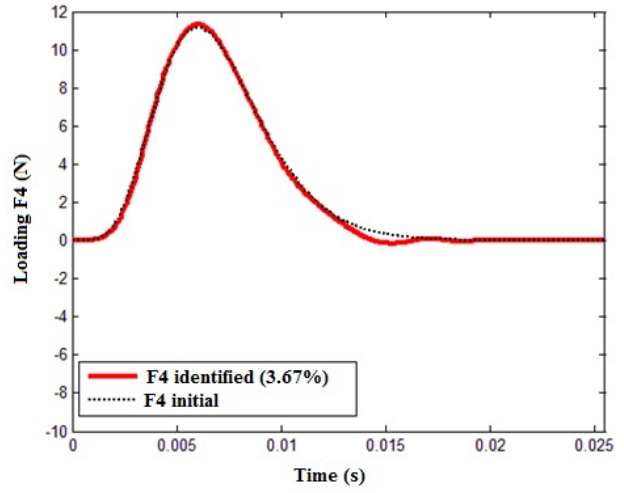


(f)

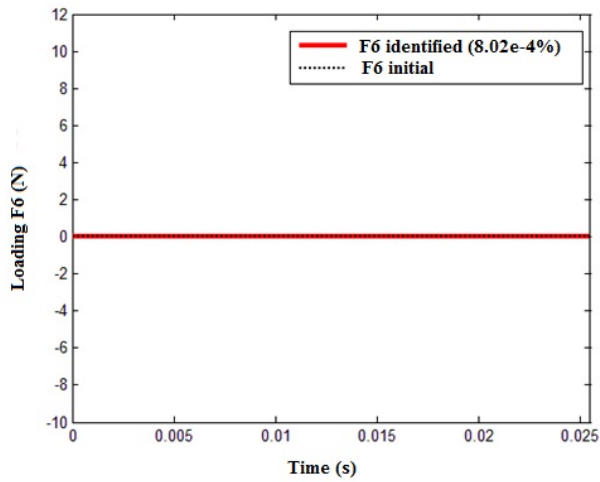
Figure 17: True force (dotted line) and identified force (solid line) (a) F_2 , (b) F_4 , (c) F_6 , (d) F_8 , (e) F_{10} , (f) F_{12}



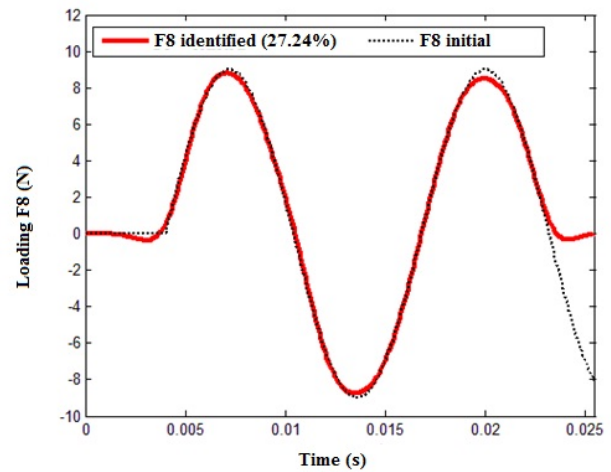
(a)



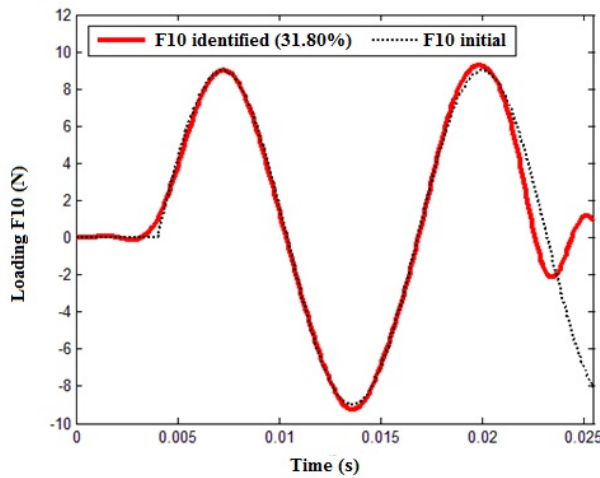
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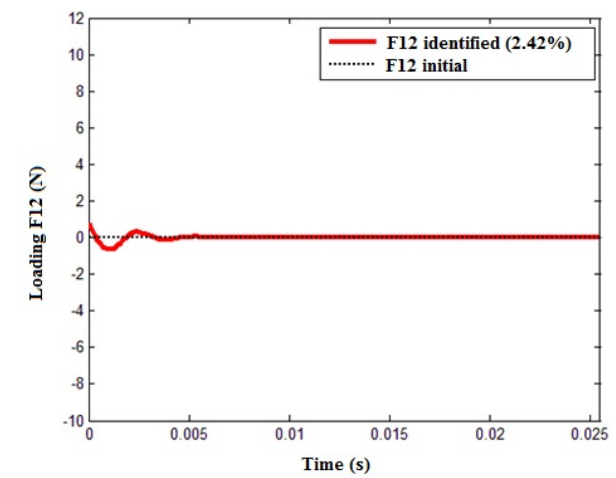
(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

Figure 18: True force (dotted line) and identified force (solid line) (a) F_2 , (b) F_4 , (c) F_6 , (d) F_8 , (e) F_{10} , (f) F_{12}

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-----|
| case | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| measured dofs | 2 & 4 | 4 & 6 | 1 & 4 | 4 & 5 | 2 & 6 | 1 & 2 | 2 & 3 | 2 & 5 | 2 & 4 & 6 | all |

Table 3: Measurement case list

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|
| action pair number | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| IZA dof | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| NZA dof | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |

Table 4: List of the dofs related to the action pairs to be identified

554 5.3. conclusions

555 A Bayesian method for multiple-force reconstruction has been proposed, discussed and validated on numer-
556 ical examples. It was shown that identifying the signals in a basis where they are sparse is much robust
557 with respect of the noise level.

558 In the numerical example, the identification of forces and moments applied on a beam was discussed. To
559 improve the force identification problem, an under-identification was performed: the moments are supposed
560 to be equal to zero. Finally, it was demonstrated it is possible to find the force location by identifying
561 accurately an identically zero action from the identification of all the forces. The results obtained were
562 conclusive. The possibility to identify actions with less sensors than forces was also discussed.

563 It is noted that the Bayesian approach has several advantages. First, the priori information in the form of
564 a probability density function imposes an intrinsic regularization. Second, the Bayesian approach provides
565 a rigorous probabilistic framework that takes into account all possible sources of errors (noise measurement
566 and modeling error). Finally, it proposes the solution of the inverse problem in the posteriori probability
567 density form from which drawings can be made. One of the key points that makes this approach feasible is
568 its implementation using MCMC methods.

569 5.4. Multi-forces identification by Tikhonov regularization

570 In order to better control the degrees of freedom influencing the quality of reconstruction, Table 1 and 2
571 have been slightly modified. Thus, we consider the tables 3 and 4 in the rest of the manuscript. Unless
572 specified, the beam in 8 is considered in all that follows. Several measurements were considered. They are
573 listed in Table 3. Similarly several action pairs were identified: they are listed in table 4.

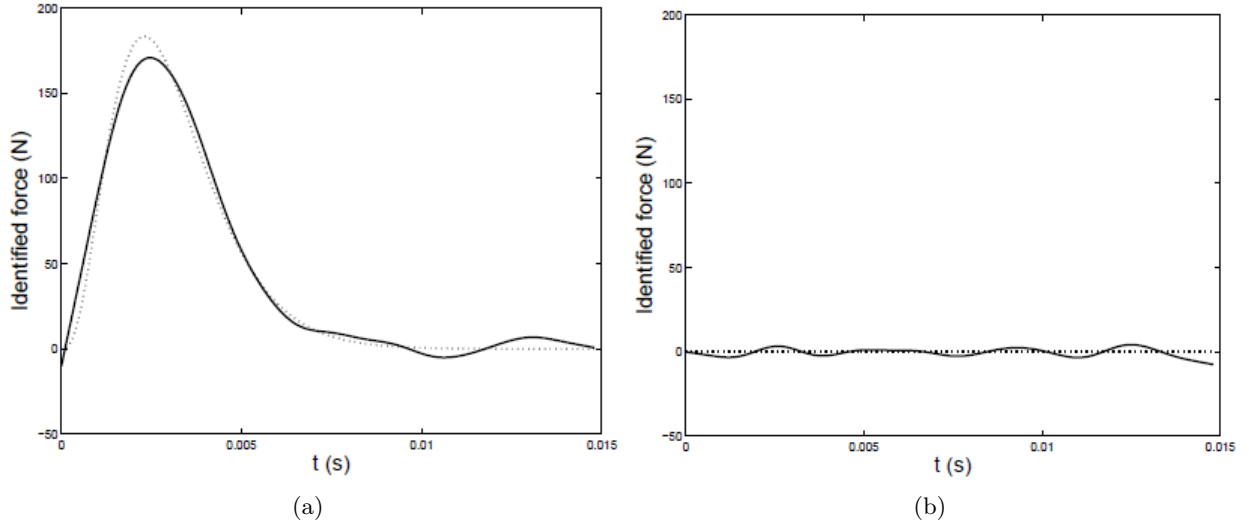


Figure 19: Identified force along (a) dof 2 (b) dof 4

575 Identified forces F_2 and F_4 (force pair 1) are plotted in figure 19: the dof responses related to case 1 were
 576 used. The criterion to assess the discrepancy between the identified action (A^{id}) and the true action (A^{tr})
 577 for ANN (F_4 for example) is rewritten :

$$D_{24}(F_4) = \frac{\|F_4^{id} - F_4^{tr}\|}{\|F_4^{tr}\|} \times 100 \quad (29)$$

578

579 In order to better appreciate discrepancy of IZA, a new criterion is proposed for the IZA:

$$D_{24}^0(F_2) = \frac{1}{n_t} \frac{\|F_2^{id}\|}{\max(\|F_4^{tr}\|)} \quad (30)$$

580 In this latter expression $\max(\|F_4^{tr}\|)$ is a kind of scaling factor. However, if one action is a force and the
 581 other one is a moment, then D_{ij}^0 has a unity. That is why it is not very obvious to compare the discrepancies
 582 between different IZAs. To make an opinion on these discrepancies, the discrepancy of the forces plotted in
 583 figure 19 is equal to $D_{24}^0(F_2) = 0.2$ and $D_{24}(F_4) = 8.95\%$ respectively. All the discrepancies are plotted in
 584 figure 20 in order to check the influence of the measurements (position and nature) on the results.

585

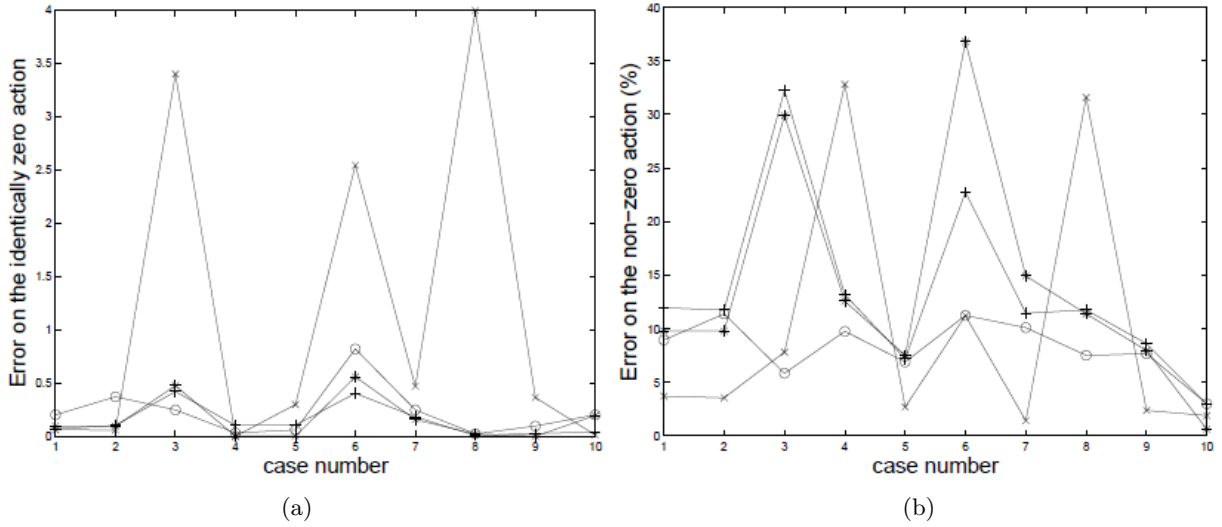


Figure 20: (a) IZA discrepancy (b) NZA discrepancy vs. the measurement cases for the different action pairs; pair 1: 'o'; pair 2: '+'; pair 3: '*'; pair 4: 'x'

586 Discussion:

587 – Regularization parameter :

588 The worst configuration turned out to be for identifying an IZA along the translation at mid-span and
 589 a NZA along the rotation at mid-span for measurement case 8. These actions are depicted in figure
 590 21. It is clear that a large spurious oscillation spoils the identified actions: the identification process
 591 does not provide a good result.

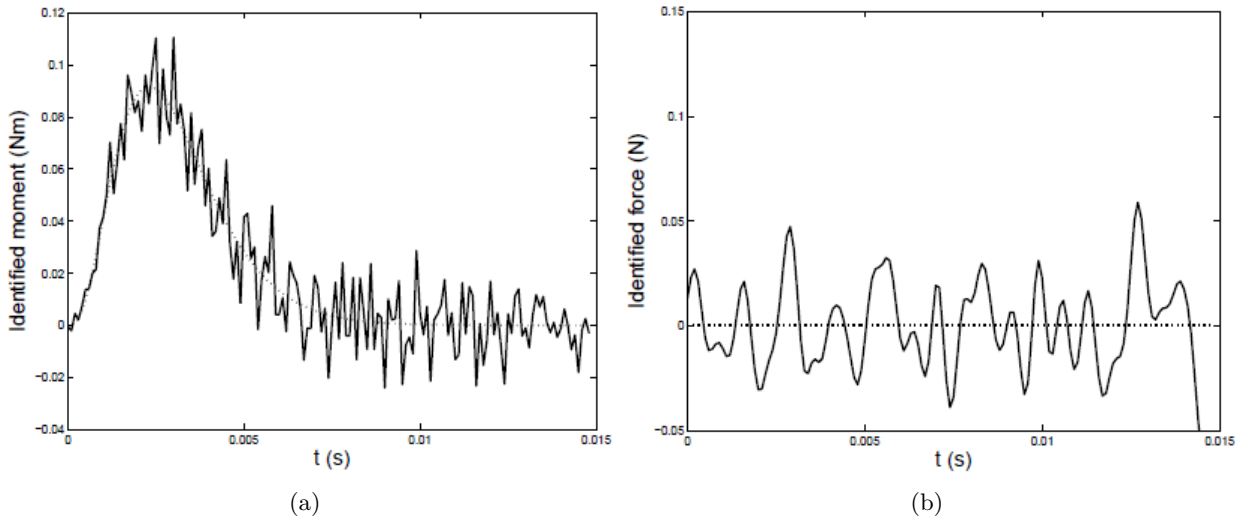


Figure 21: Identified action along (a) dof 5 (M_5) (b) dof 4 (F_4) for measurement case 8.

592 This is due to a bad estimation of the regularisation parameter by the GCV method. Indeed, by using
 593 the regularization parameter given by the L -curve criterion, the results are excellent: the discrepancy
 594 of the forces is equal to $D_{25}^0(F_4) = 0.4$ and $D_{25}(M_5) = 2.7$ % respectively. This was observed for each
 595 bad result: usually, the GCV criterion gave the best estimation of the regularization parameter except

596 in some cases; in that case, the one given by the L -curve provides a quite good result, that is with a
597 discrepancy less than 15 % for the NZA.

598 The choice of the regularization parameter is much difficult when two actions have to be identified
599 rather than one. Indeed, if the L -curve criterion, the GCV criterion or the quasi-optimality crite-
600 rion seem to be suitable for a one load identification it is not always the case for the multiple action
601 identification. So, a maximum of curvature is seek for the L -curve criterion. However, as shown in
602 figure 22(a), several corners arise and the best choice is not always the maximum curvature corner.
603 It is similar for the GCV and the quasi-optimality criteria where a minimum is sought: several local
604 minima are found (see figures 22(b) and 22(c)) and the minimum-minimorum is not always a good
605 choice. That is an additional difficulty compared to the one action identification: in general, the
606 number of corners or minima raises with the number of actions to be identified. So the advice is to
607 combine the three criteria to make an opinion on the “best” choice, as already mentioned in [11]. It is
608 also of interest to mention the poor results given by the quasi-optimality criterion: in almost all the
609 cases, it provides the worst choice, and it leads quite often to very poor identified actions.

610

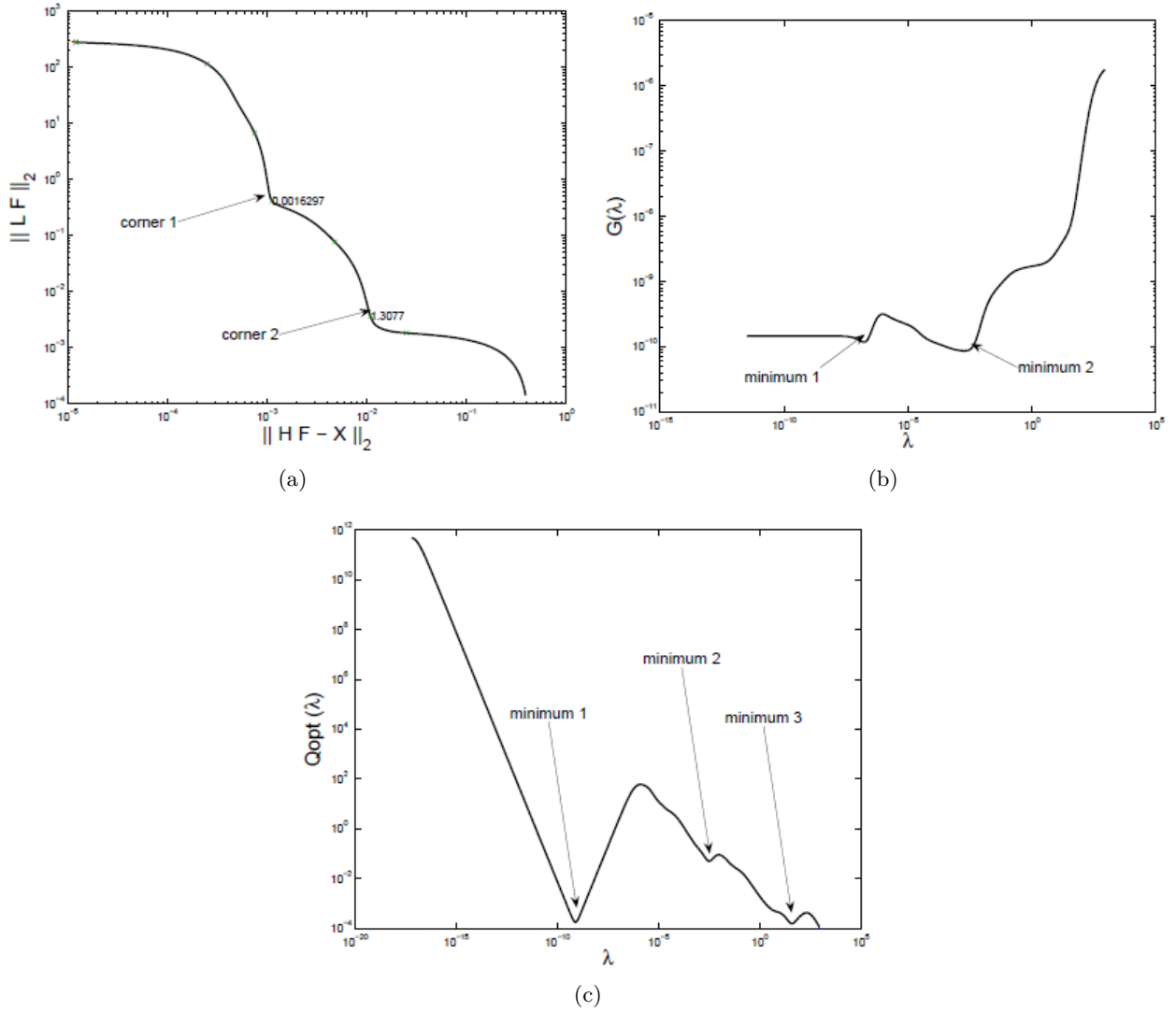


Figure 22: Regularization parameter criterion: (a) L -curve, (b) GCV, (c) quasi-optimality

611 — Measurements :

612 The results plotted in figure 20 did not show any influence on the location and the nature (translation
 613 or rotation) of the measured dofs, as far as two dofs are used.

614 Case 9 requires to measure the three translations (dofs 2, 4 and 6) but the results are not much better
 615 than case 5 where dofs 2 and 6 are measured. It is probably a consequence of the symmetry of the
 616 loading. However, a case involving a force acting along dof 2 only (not presented here) showed that a
 617 third measured dof does not improve significantly the identification.

618 All the simulations showed that the best case is when all the dof are measured: this is in agreement
 619 with the study on the sensor location and number [15, 17], and this is expected as more information is
 620 used. This may be explained by checking the singular values of the transfer function, as explained in
 621 [23]. Indeed, when 2 or even with 3 dofs are used, the inverse problem may be not only ill-posed but
 622 also rank deficient. This is the case when case 2 of measurement points is used. Figure 23(a) shows a

623 large gap between the first generalized singular value and the next one: so the first singular value is
 624 less than the computer precision. On the contrary, when all the dofs are used (case 10) the problem
 625 is not rank-deficient: the lower singular value is approximately 10^{-3} and the singular value evolution
 626 does not show any large gap (see figure 23(b)). Case 10 is not the only case for which the rank is
 627 full: this is the case as soon as a measurement is done along each action (e.g. measurement case 1 for
 628 action pair 1). However, it was remarked that case 10 corresponds to the best conditioned case: in
 629 that specific case the regularization is even not needed as the least-square solution corresponds to a
 630 very good solution.

631

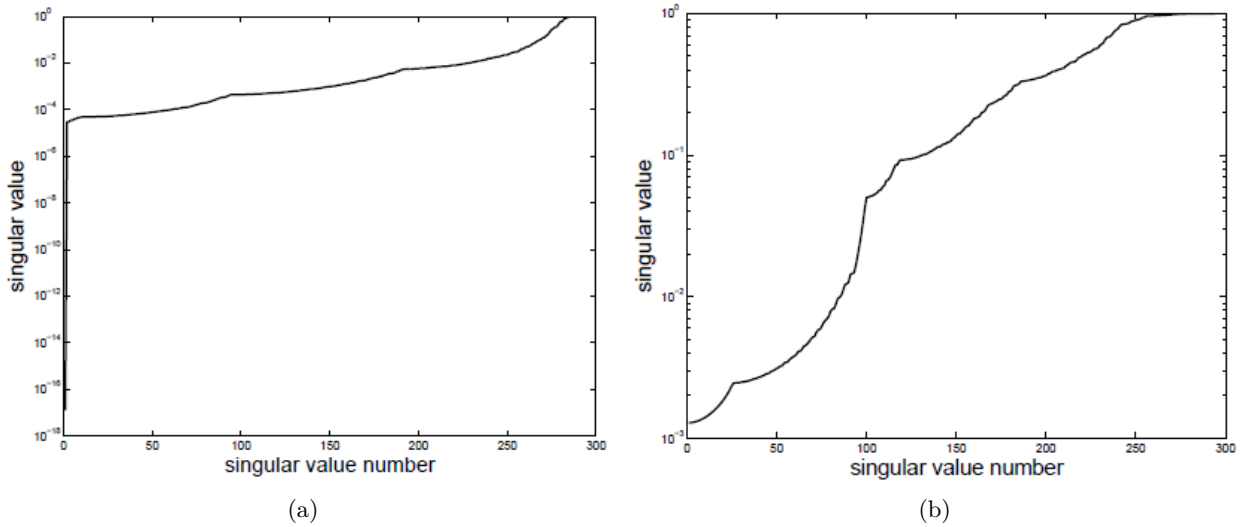


Figure 23: Generalized singular values: (a) measurement case 1, (b) measurement case 10

632 5.4.2. Two forces ANN

633 Two forces were applied along dof 2 (F_2) and dof 4 (F_4). They are identical but a delay is introduced in
 634 force F_2 (see figure 24).

635 The errors were evaluated for the different measurement cases: the results are plotted in figure 25 for
 636 measurement case 1. No specific dof seems to be better than others. It was not expected that the error may
 637 be different for F_2 and F_4 , for the same case: cases 4 and 8 are even better than case 10 (all the dofs are
 638 used) to identify F_2 , but the error on F_4 is 4 time larger. The only case with low errors for both identified
 639 forces is case 10: once more, the redundancy helps.

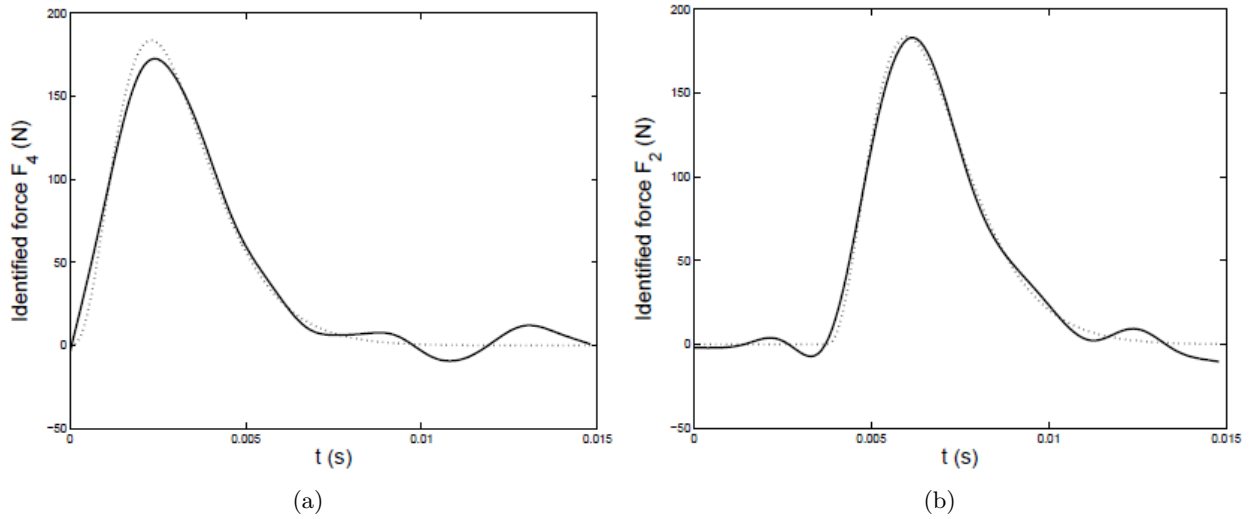


Figure 24: Actual forces (dotted line) and identified forces (solid line) applied along (a) dof 4 and (b) dof 2

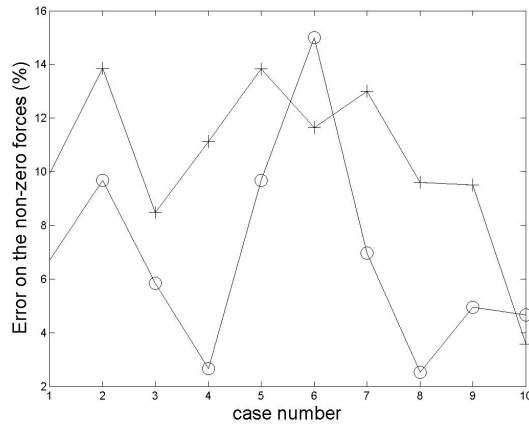
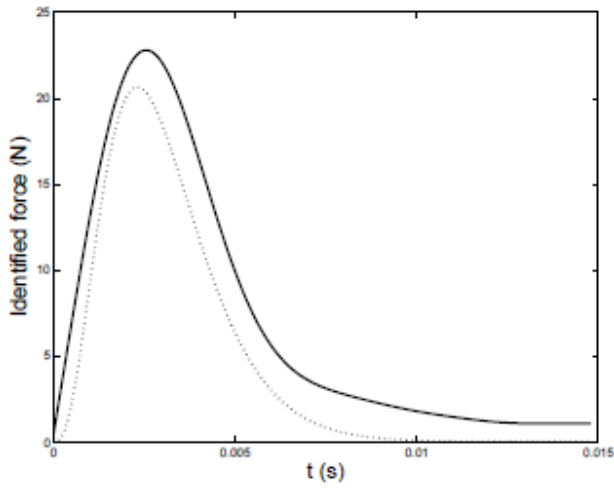


Figure 25: NZA discrepancy vs. the measurement cases for both forces: F_2 : 'o'; F_4 : '+'

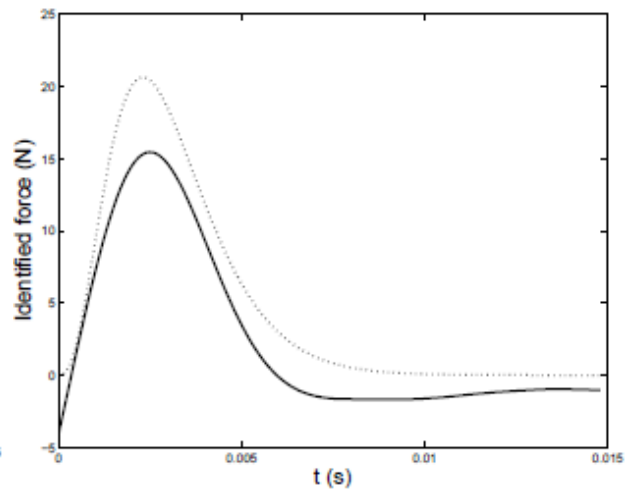
640 5.4.3. Pressure

641 The pressure is projected on the finite element model dofs, so it is transformed in four actions: forces
 642 $F_4 = F_6 = p L_e/2$ and moments $M_5 = -M_7 = p L_e^2/12$, where L_e is the length of a finite element. All the
 643 dof are used. Note that the regularization requires at least as measurements as identified actions, that is at
 644 least four measurements. Case 10 (all the dofs are measured) was used to identify the 4 actions.

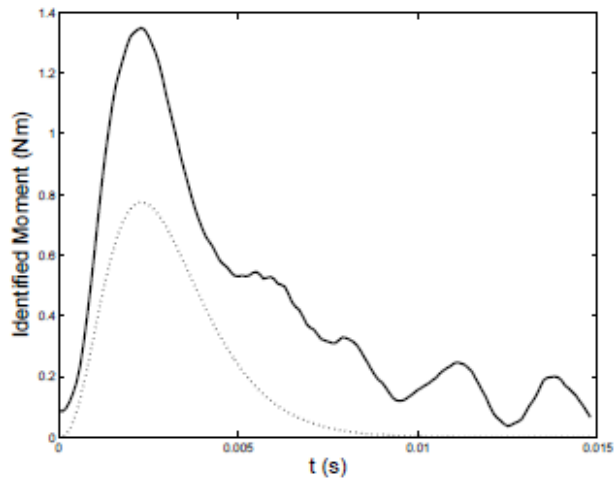
645 The results shown in figure 26 show that the identified forces are quite acceptable (discrepancy approximately
 646 30 %) whereas the moments are not satisfactory (discrepancy approximately 90 %). However it is of interest
 647 to be aware that much of the work provided by the pressure is related to the work of the forces: figure
 648 27 shows that the work of the moments is quite low compared to the work of the forces. Also, in this
 649 configuration the GCV was not suitable to provide the regularization parameter (see figure 28). Indeed the
 650 GCV is much too flat around the minimum and it turns out that the best solution was not for a minimum
 651 of the GCV function but for a corner of the L -curve: the latter value was in the flat part of the GCV curve.



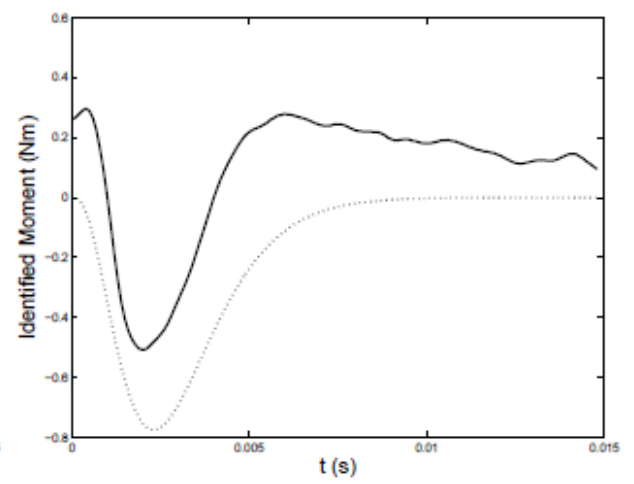
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

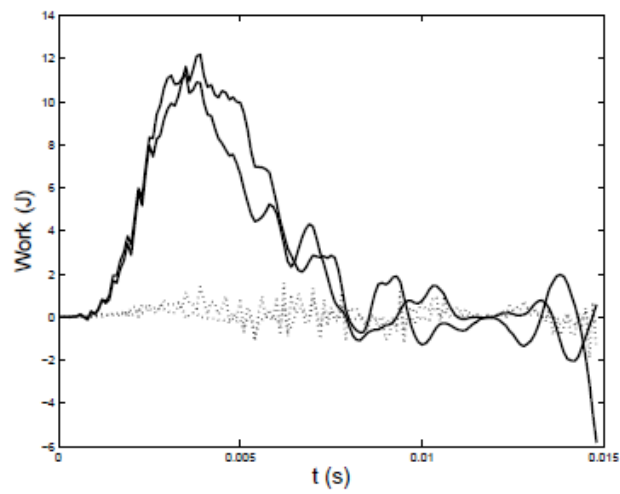
Figure 26: Identified actions: (a) F_4 (b) F_6 (c) M_5 (d) M_7 

Figure 27: Work provided by the forces (solid lines) and the moments (dotted lines)

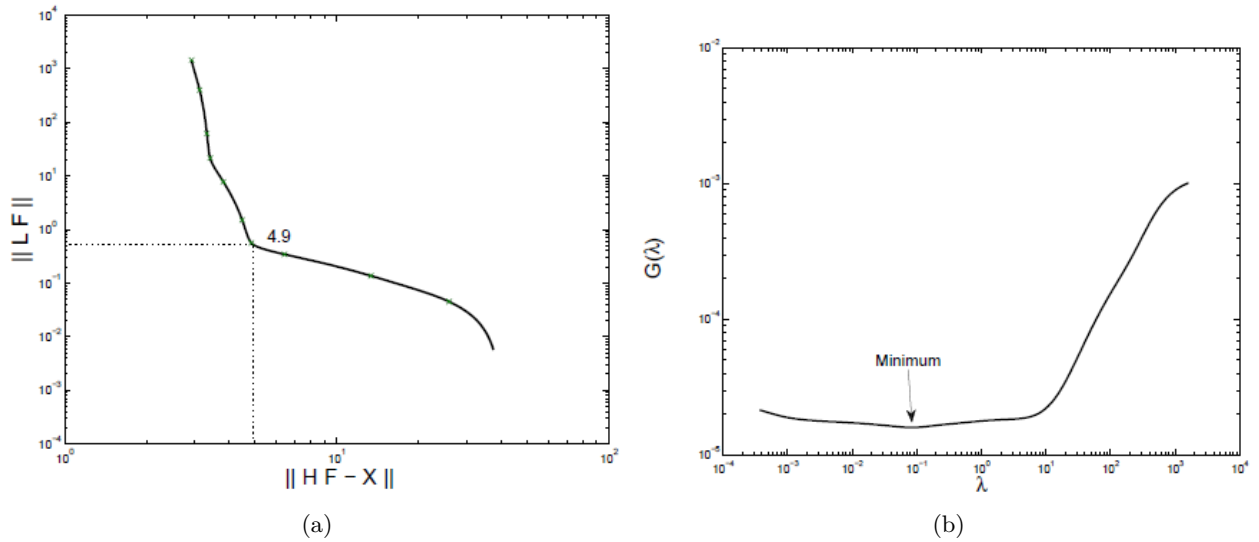


Figure 28: Regularization parameter criterion for pressure identification: (a) L -curve, (b) GCV

5.4.4. Under-identification of the pressure

In this section, “under-identification” means that a NZA occurred but this action is supposed to be an IZA and then is not identified. The idea is to deal with the pressure identification issue and then to identify only the forces as the moments are poorly identified and the related work is low. Further, experimentally it is much more easy to measure translations than rotations. So the forces that come from the projected pressure on the finite element dofs are identified from the translations measurements.

The results are satisfactory as a discrepancy of 14 % (resp. 24 %) is obtained for F_4 (resp. F_6) that is even better than the previous ones whereas less measurements are used. It must be emphasized that if the responses are evaluated with the identified actions, they are very close to the actual responses (ie the ones given by the actual actions): this is observed for the response of all the dofs, even the rotations whereas the moments were neglected. Then from a design point of view the identified actions are really satisfactory: figure 29 shows that the work provided by the identified forces is quite close to the work of the actual actions.

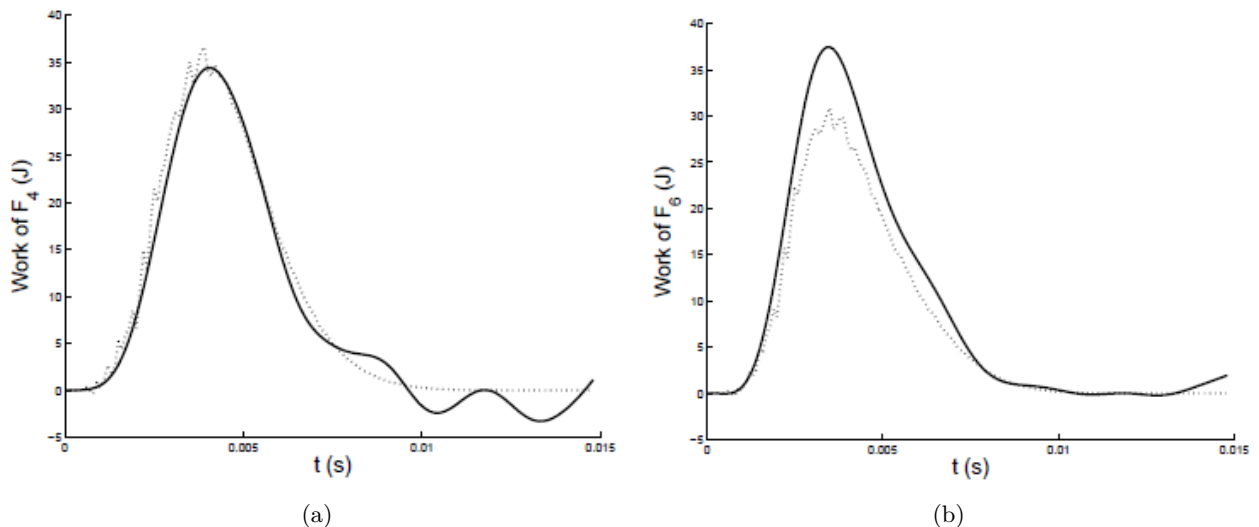


Figure 29: True work (dotted line) and identified work (solid line) (a) of F_4 and (b) F_6

664 5.4.5. Application on identification of the load location

665 As it is possible to identify several NZA and IZA, it may be possible to locate the forces actually applied
666 on a structure, without any additional effort. To address this issue, the beam of Fig. 16 is considered. A
667 pressure is applied on the second and the fifth ones: that is forces are applied along translations 2, 4, 8 and
668 10 and, moments are applied along rotations 3, 5, 9 and 11. As explained in the previous subsection, the
669 forces are identified but the moments are assumed to be equal to zero.

670 The pressure on the second element is similar to the one proposed in the last two subsections, whereas the
671 pressure applied on the fifth element is equal to zero for a period of time and then equal to a sine signal
672 (see figures 30(a) and 30(e) for the shapes of the pressure).

673 The results are given in figure 30. As it is expected from the previous subsections, the NZA identification
674 is satisfactory: the discrepancies are approximately 15 %. Similarly, the responses evaluated from the
675 identified forces are very close to the true responses whereas the moments are neglected. However, the
676 spurious oscillations that appear in the IZA have an amplitude much higher than observed previously: then
677 from these results it is not possible to firmly decide whether F_6 and F_{12} are an IZA. As a consequence, it
678 is not obvious from these results that the third and the fifth elements are the only loaded elements.

679 A calculation was performed to identify all the actions (forces and moments): the results were almost
680 unchanged regarding the forces. The moments were all almost equal to zero. Then it does not seem possible
681 to locate the actions with only a force identification: further work is needed to identify better an IZA, even
682 when several actions have to be identified.

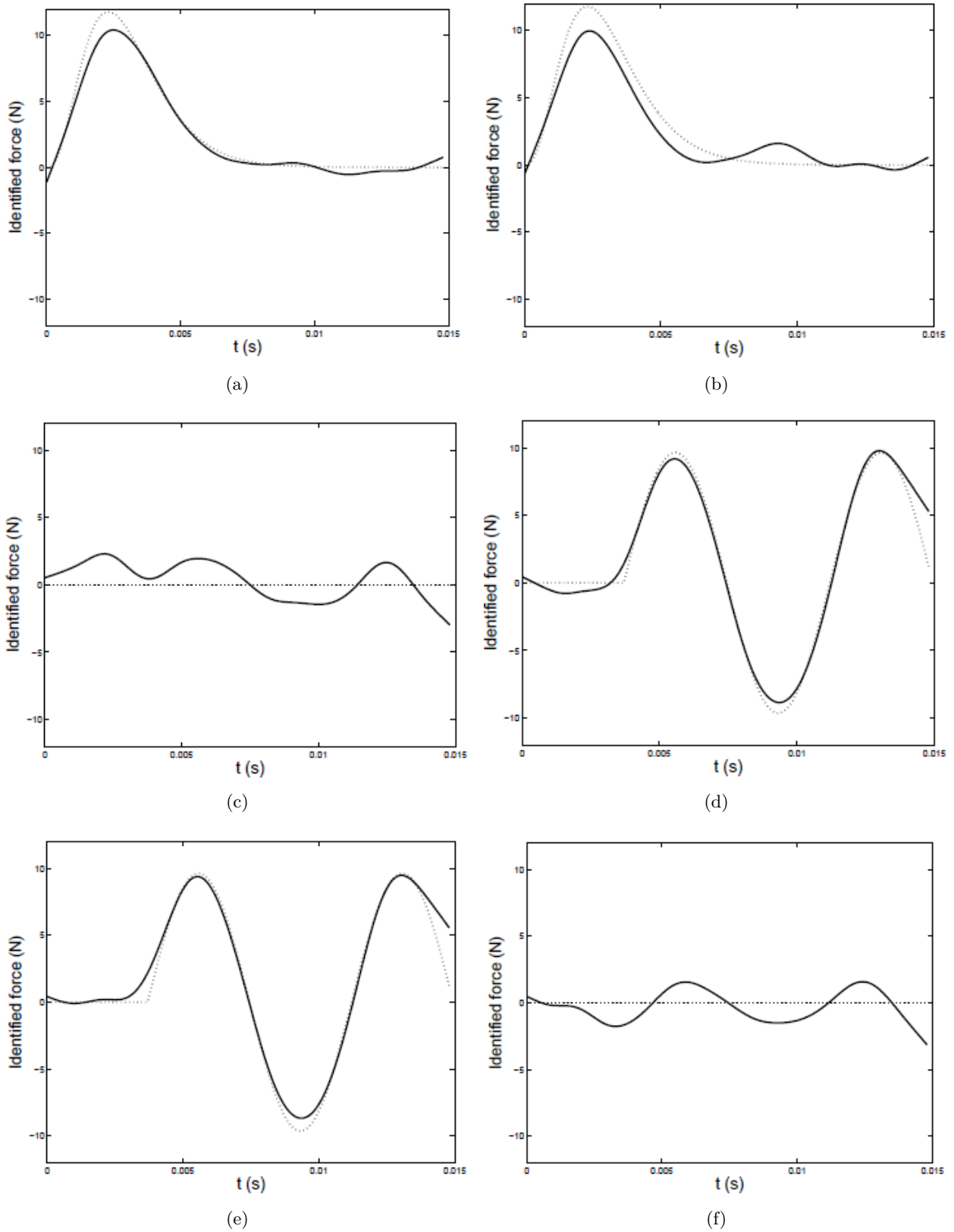


Figure 30: True force (dotted line) and identified force (solid line) (a) F_2 , (b) F_4 , (c) F_6 , (d) F_8 , (e) F_{10} , (f) F_{12}

683 5.5. Conclusions

684 Multi action identification was addressed: the inverse problem was solved with a Tikhonov regularization
 685 associated with a GCV criterion to find out the regularization parameter. First, this identification process

686 was assessed by testing the ability to identify an identically zero action. The results were satisfactory. It
687 appears that the quality of the identification does not seem to be correlated to a specific dof (location,
688 translation or rotation), but it is improved when all the possible measurements are used.

689 Then several NZA were applied and the results were still satisfactory except for identifying moments.
690 However, it was shown that it is possible to identify a pressure on an element as soon as it is considered as
691 two identical forces located on the nodes of the element and it is assumed that the moments related to the
692 pressure projected on the finite element dofs are zero. However, when several actions that are very different
693 are applied on a structure, it is almost impossible to identify know whether an action is identically zero or
694 non zero.

695 The key point of a multiple load identification is the determination of the regularization parameter. It
696 appeared that several minima occurred in the GCV function or in the quasi-optimality criterion, and the
697 L -curve has several corners. All these criteria must be used, compared, and analysed in order to find out
698 the optimal parameter. However, when actions of different nature must be identified (force and moment for
699 example), several regularization parameters should be introduced: at least one for the force and another for
700 the moments.

701 Further efforts may be done to improve the identification of an identically zero force in order to be able to
702 locate the forces without any additional work.

703 6. Final conclusions

704 The main objective of this manuscript has been to study the possibility to locate load location through
705 an identification of multiple forces that act on a linear elastic structure. The Bayesian approach together
706 with the so-called compressed sensing technique as well as Tikhonov regularization associated with the GCV
707 criterion were the two methods used to achieve this purpose.

708 The possibility to locate load location through an identification of multiple forces was based on an important
709 note. It is important to note that if the structure is studied thanks to a finite element modelling, this includes
710 the distributed force identification, such as a loading is transformed in some point loads (forces, moments)
711 applied at the mesh nodes. Then, if it is possible to identify all the loads acting along all the degrees-of-
712 freedom (dof) of the structure, the location of the loads is also identified: a force (almost) equals to zero
713 must be satisfactorily identified where no force is actually applied. This remark was the central theme of
714 this paper and was used to validate (or not) the results. The quality of the result is therefore directly related
715 to the ability of the methods used to identify a constantly effort equal to zero and to simultaneously identify
716 multiple actions.

717 The results obtained by the Bayesian approach were much more eloquent than those obtained by the
718 regularization of Tikhonov.

719 AppendixA. Comparison between the Bayesian approach and the classical Tikhonov regularization [45], [52]

720 Consider the following linear model:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{E} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

721

722 with $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ a known matrix; $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and $\mathbf{E} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ are random vectors/matrices. \mathbf{E} is an
723 additive noise. Suppose further that \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{E} are mutually independent Gaussian vectors with probability
724 densities:

$$\pi_{pr}(\mathbf{x}) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^t \mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)\right) \quad (\text{A.2})$$

725 and

$$\pi_{noise}(\mathbf{e}) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{e} - \mathbf{e}_0)^t \mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr}^{-1}(\mathbf{e} - \mathbf{e}_0)\right) \quad (\text{A.3})$$

726 With this information, Bayes' formula provides the posterior distribution of \mathbf{X} knowing \mathbf{Y} :

$$\pi(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) = \pi_{pr}(\mathbf{x}) \pi_{noise}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{x}) \quad (\text{A.4})$$

$$\pi(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^t \mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0) - \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{e} - \mathbf{e}_0)^T \mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr}^{-1}(\mathbf{e} - \mathbf{e}_0)\right) \quad (\text{A.5})$$

727

728 If $\mathbf{\Gamma}_{noise} = \sigma_N^2 \mathbf{I}$ and $\mathbf{e}_0 = 0$, then

$$\pi(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) \propto \exp\left(-\left\{\frac{\varphi(\mathbf{x})}{2} + \frac{\sigma_N^{-2}}{2}\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2\right\}\right) \quad (\text{A.6})$$

729 with

$$\varphi(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^T \mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0) \quad (\text{A.7})$$

730 Therefore, if one chooses a MAP estimator, the optimization problem is equivalent to finding the minimum
731 of the following criteria:

$$\Gamma(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\varphi(\mathbf{x})}{2} + \frac{\sigma_N^{-2}}{2}\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \quad (\text{A.8})$$

732 This corresponds to Tikhonov regularization where $\varphi(x)/2$ plays the role of the stabilizer functional. The
733 minimum of this criterion is given by the relation:

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}} = (\mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr}^{-1} + \mathbf{A}^t \mathbf{\Gamma}_{noise}^{-1} \mathbf{A})^{-1} (\mathbf{A}^t \mathbf{\Gamma}_{noise}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{e}_0) + \mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_0) \quad (\text{A.9})$$

$$= (\mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr}^{-1} + \sigma_N^{-2} \mathbf{A}^t \mathbf{A})^{-1} (\sigma_N^{-2} \mathbf{A}^t \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{\Gamma}_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_0) \quad (\text{A.10})$$

734 AppendixB. Detailed description of the conditional pdfs in Algorithm 1

735 Conditional p.d.f. of the force

$$\pi(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i), \sigma_\eta^{-2}) \propto \pi(\mathbf{s} | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i), \sigma_\eta^{-2}) \times \pi(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i), \sigma_\eta^{-2}) \quad (\text{B.1})$$

737 where:

$$\pi(\mathbf{s} | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i), \sigma_\eta^{-2}) = \pi(\mathbf{s} | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_\eta^{-2}) \propto \exp - \frac{(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w})^t \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} (\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A})}{2} \quad (\text{B.2})$$

$$\pi(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i), \sigma_\eta^{-2}) = \pi(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i)) \propto \exp - \frac{(\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_0)^t \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_0)}{2} \quad (\text{B.3})$$

738 Hence:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i), \sigma_\eta^{-2}, \mathbf{s}) &\propto \exp - \frac{(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w})^t \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} (\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w})}{2} \times \exp - \frac{(\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_0)^t \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_0)}{2} \\ &\propto \exp - \frac{1}{2} \{ \mathbf{w}^t (\mathbf{A}^t \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} \mathbf{A} + \Gamma_{pr}^{-1}) \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^t (\mathbf{A}^t \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} \mathbf{s} + \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{w}_0) \\ &\quad - (\mathbf{A}^t \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} \mathbf{s} + \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{w}_0)^t \mathbf{w} \} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.4})$$

$$\propto \exp - \frac{(\mathbf{w} - \bar{\mathbf{w}})^t \Gamma_{post}^{-1} (\mathbf{w} - \bar{\mathbf{w}})}{2} \quad (\text{B.5})$$

739 with

$$\Gamma_{post} = (\mathbf{A}^t \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} \mathbf{A} + \Gamma_{pr}^{-1})^{-1} \quad (\text{B.6})$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{w}} = \Gamma_{post} (\mathbf{A}^t \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} \mathbf{s} + \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{w}_0) \quad (\text{B.7})$$

740 Conditional p.d.f. of the noise

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(\sigma_\eta^{-2} | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{s}) &\propto \pi(\mathbf{s} | \mathbf{w}, \sigma_\eta^{-2}) \times \pi(\sigma_\eta^{-2} | \mathbf{w}) \\ &\propto \pi(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} | \sigma_\eta^{-2}) \times \pi(\sigma_\eta^{-2}) \\ &\propto \frac{1}{|\Gamma_{noise}|^{1/2}} \exp - \frac{(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w})^t \Gamma_{noise}^{-1} (\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w})}{2} \times \pi(\sigma_\eta^{-2}) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.8})$$

741 Where:

$$\Gamma_{noise} = \sigma_\eta^2 \mathbf{I}_{n_t} \quad (\text{B.9})$$

$$\pi(\sigma_\eta^{-2}) = (\sigma_\eta^{-2})^{(k_\eta - 1)} \exp - (\beta_\eta \sigma_\eta^{-2}) \quad (\text{B.10})$$

$$|\Gamma_{noise}|^{1/2} = ((\sigma_\eta^{-2})^{n_t})^{1/2} = (\sigma_\eta^{-2})^{n_t/2} \quad (\text{B.11})$$

$$\pi(\sigma_\eta^{-2} | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{s}) \propto (\sigma_\eta^{-2})^{k_\eta - 1 + n_t/2} \exp - \left(\frac{(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w})^t (\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w})}{2} + \beta_\eta \right) \sigma_\eta^{-2} \quad (\text{B.12})$$

742 Hence, we have:

$$\sigma_\eta^{-2} | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{s} \sim \Gamma(\hat{k}_\eta, \hat{\beta}_\eta) \quad (\text{B.13})$$

743 with:

$$\begin{cases} \hat{k}_\eta = k_\eta + \frac{n_t}{2} \\ \hat{\beta}_\eta = \frac{\|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2}{2} + \beta_\eta \end{cases} \quad (\text{B.14})$$

744 Conditional p.d.f. of \mathbf{w}_0

$$\begin{aligned}
\pi(\mathbf{w}_0 | \mathbf{w}, \Gamma_{pr}) &\propto \pi(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{w}_0, \Gamma_{pr}) \times \pi(\mathbf{w}_0) \\
&\propto \exp - \frac{(\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_0)^t \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_0)}{2} \times \exp - \frac{(\mathbf{w}_0 - \mathbf{U}_0)^t \mathbf{C}_u^{-1} (\mathbf{w}_0 - \mathbf{C}_u)}{2} \\
&\propto \exp - \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{w}_0^t \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{w}_0 - \mathbf{w}^t \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{w}_0 - \mathbf{w}_0^t \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{w}) \times \exp - \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{w}_0^t \mathbf{C}_u^{-1} \mathbf{w}_0 - \mathbf{w}_0^t \mathbf{C}_u^{-1} \mathbf{U}_0 - \mathbf{U}_0^t \mathbf{C}_u^{-1} \mathbf{w}_0) \\
&\propto \exp - \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{w}_0^t (\Gamma_{pr}^{-1} + \mathbf{C}_u^{-1}) \mathbf{w}_0 - \mathbf{w}_0^t (\Gamma_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{C}_u^{-1} \mathbf{U}_0) \mathbf{U}_0) \times \exp - \frac{1}{2} (-\mathbf{U}_0^t (\Gamma_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{C}_u^{-1} \mathbf{U}_0) \mathbf{w}_0)
\end{aligned} \tag{B.15}$$

745 Hence:

$$\pi(\mathbf{w}_0 | \mathbf{w}, \Gamma_{pr}) \sim \mathcal{N}_{nt}(\hat{\mathbf{U}}_0, \hat{\mathbf{C}}_u) \tag{B.16}$$

746 with

$$\hat{\mathbf{C}}_u^{-1} = \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} + \mathbf{C}_u^{-1} \tag{B.17}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{U}}_0 = \hat{\mathbf{C}}_u (\Gamma_{pr}^{-1} \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{C}_u^{-1} \mathbf{U}_0) \tag{B.18}$$

747 Conditional p.d.f. of σ_w^{-2}

$$\begin{aligned}
\pi(\sigma_w^{-2}(i) | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w}_0) &\propto \pi(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i)) \times \pi(\sigma_w^{-2}(i) | \mathbf{w}_0) \\
&\propto \pi(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{w}_0, \sigma_w^{-2}(i)) \times \pi(\sigma_w^{-2}(i)) \\
&\propto \frac{1}{|\Gamma_{pr}|^{1/2}} \exp - \frac{(\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_0)^t \Gamma_{pr}^{-1} (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_0)}{2} \times \pi(\sigma_w^{-2}(i))
\end{aligned} \tag{B.19}$$

748 Where:

$$\Gamma_{pr} = \sigma_w^{-2}(i) \mathbf{I}_{nt} \tag{B.20}$$

$$\pi(\sigma_w^{-2}(i)) = (\sigma_w^{-2}(i))^{(k_w-1)} \exp - (\beta_w \sigma_w^{-2}(i)) \tag{B.21}$$

$$|\Gamma_{pr}|^{1/2} = ((\sigma_w^{-2}(i))^{nt})^{1/2} = (\sigma_w^{-2}(i))^{nt/2} \tag{B.22}$$

$$\pi(\sigma_w^{-2}(i) | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w}_0) \propto (\sigma_w^{-2}(i))^{k_w-1+nt/2} \exp - \left(\frac{\|\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_0\|_2^2}{2} + \beta_w \right) \sigma_w^{-2}(i) \tag{B.23}$$

749 Hence

$$\sigma_w^{-2}(i) | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w}_0 \sim \Gamma(\hat{k}_w, \hat{\beta}_w) \tag{B.24}$$

750 with:

$$\begin{cases} \hat{k}_w = k_w + \frac{nt}{2} \\ \hat{\beta}_w = \frac{\|\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_0\|_2^2}{2} + \beta_w \end{cases} \tag{B.25}$$

751

752

754 When only one force, \mathbf{F} , has to be identified, the problem to be solved is:

$$\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{GF} + \eta \quad (\text{a})$$

755 whereas in the case of multiple forces, it is:

$$\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{G}_1\mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{G}_2\mathbf{F}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{G}_n\mathbf{F}_n + \eta = \mathbf{H}\tilde{\mathbf{F}} + \eta \quad (\text{b})$$

756 with : $\mathbf{H} = [\mathbf{G}_1 \ \mathbf{G}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{G}_n]$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{F}} = [\mathbf{F}_1 \ \mathbf{F}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{F}_n]^t$

757 Equations (a) and (b) are similar. Thus, identifying n forces $\mathbf{F}_1, \mathbf{F}_2, \dots, \mathbf{F}_n$ is equivalent to identify one
758 force $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}$: the latter is then divided in n subvectors, which are the n forces.

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