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Article

Novel Approach-Based Sparsity for Damage Localization in Functionally Graded Material

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Abstract: Model-based approaches have been widely employed in damage detection and localization studies. However, alternative techniques, such as built-in online detection methods, hold promise for future advancements in structural health monitoring technologies. In this research paper, we present a dynamic algorithm specifically designed for accurate damage localization in functionally graded plates. The suggested method involves the creation of a grid matrix that captures the dynamic response of the structure over time. Subsequently, an optimization process is performed using a linear equation that incorporates the information contained within the grid, enabling precise localization of damage. To address the inherent sparsity of the localization nature, we utilize the FISTA (Fast Iterative Shrinkage-Thresholding Algorithm) as a problem solver. The effectiveness of our approach is evaluated through experimental tests on a functionally graded plate with clamped free boundary conditions. Multiple damage scenarios are investigated, including cases with damage signals on and off the grid. The results demonstrate that our proposed approach is capable of accurately predicting the position of damage, indicating its suitability for application in low-size data systems.

Keywords: damage detection; sparsity-based approach; finite element; FISTA

1. Introduction

Composite materials are widely employed in various civil and mechanical engineering fields such as building construction and infrastructure rehabilitation, mainly due to their exceptional properties including lightweight, high strength, high modulus, high fatigue resistance, and corrosion. However, composites are more easily damaged, and delaminate under excessive inter-laminar stresses, additionally, they cannot tolerate high temperatures. As a class of composite materials, functionally graded material (FGM) overcome the limitations of traditional composites by comprising two or more materials with gradual variation from surface to surface. The conventional FGMs are formed from metal and ceramic and the material properties of FGMs are a mixture of well thermal resistance of ceramic [1], high strength and superior fracture toughness of metal [2]. Numerous investigations have been conducted by researchers to elucidate the mechanical characteristics of functionally graded materials (FGMs). However, it is noteworthy that a substantial portion of the existing literature predominantly focuses on the examination of unidirectional FGMs, wherein the material properties exhibit a discernible variation along a single direction, specifically spanning from the top to the bottom surface [3–7]. However, it is imperative to address the exposure of advanced living structures to external loads in multiple directions. To meet this requirement, the development of multi-directional Functionally Graded Materials (FGMs) becomes crucial. These

FGMs exhibit varying material properties along different directions, including the thickness and in-plane directions.

FGM-based structures, like other types of structures, are exposed to various loads during operation that can result in different types of damage. Failing to spot and localize these damages can eventually lead to a catastrophic failure with feline consequences. Therefore, it is imperative to identify and detect any potential damages in FGM structures. Damage detection plays a vital role in guaranteeing the safety and dependability of structures, particularly in scenarios where failure could lead to severe consequences. Nonetheless, the existence of graded disparities in material properties within FGM structures can present challenges in the detection and characterization of damage. Numerous techniques have been developed to address the issue of damage detection in FGM structures. One approach is to use non-destructive testing (NDT) methods such as ultrasonic testing [8–10], eddy current tomography [11–15], and X-ray computed tomography (CT) [16]. These methods can detect damage by analyzing changes in the properties of the material, such as changes in acoustic properties or changes in magnetic fields.

An alternative methodology involves the implementation of sensor-based structural health monitoring (SHM) systems to detect alterations in the structural response of the functionally graded material (FGM) structure. These SHM systems commonly rely on a network of sensors, including accelerometers, strain gauges, and temperature sensors, to continuously monitor the dynamic behaviour of the structure in real-time [17–23]. The detection of structural damage can be inferred from alterations in the response of the system. Moreover, analytical and numerical modelling methodologies can be employed to forecast the behaviour of functionally graded material (FGM) structures under various loading scenarios and to simulate the progression of damage. Such models are instrumental in identifying vulnerable regions within the structure that are susceptible to damage, consequently aiding in the formulation of strategies for damage mitigation. The detection of damage in FGM structures represents a multifaceted challenge necessitating a multidisciplinary approach incorporating non-destructive testing (NDT), structural health monitoring (SHM), and analytical and numerical modelling techniques.

There are several algorithms available for damage detection in structures. The most investigated methods in the literature are the modal-based algorithms [24], which involve measuring changes in modal parameters such as natural frequencies, mode shape curvature [25], structure damping [23], and strain energy [26] to identify damage in the FGM structure. The efficacy of this particular approach in detecting damage in Functionally Graded Materials (FGMs) has been well-established; however, it is worth noting that its performance may be influenced by the presence of noise in the measured response. An alternative technique considered for damage detection in FGMs is the Frequency Response Function (FRF) method [27], which includes analyzing the curvature of the FRF to identify changes in the dynamic properties of the structure. The FRF technique can be further refined using the Modal Assurance Criterion (MAC) in the frequency domain [28], in which quantitative measures of mode shape similarity can be utilized to ascertain the location of the damages. Additionally, employing the coupling response measurement technique enables the determination of damage location and extent through the analysis of output responses of a structure under diverse loading conditions [29]. This methodology holds significant potential for the detection of damage in intricate FGM structures, surpassing the capabilities of conventional techniques. Each of these methods possesses inherent advantages and limitations, and the selection of an appropriate approach is contingent upon multiple considerations, including the nature and magnitude of the damage, the material properties inherent to the FGM structure, and the accessibility of relevant data. Thorough evaluation and comparison of diverse approaches are imperative to ascertain their efficacy and appropriateness within a specific application.

The use of Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) for detecting damage in FGM structures has gained popularity and is being extensively studied. ANNs work by collecting data from the structure and constructing a mathematical model that can predict the presence and location of damage [18,30–33]. The acquisition of data for training ANNs commonly involves visual inspections or vibration tests. ANNs offer the advantage of obviating the requirement for high-fidelity system models.

Nonetheless, ANNs necessitate substantial quantities of training data and may lack adequate reliability in the absence of appropriate training. To address this concern, this research paper introduces an innovative methodology founded on the dynamic response exhibited by the impaired structure. The suggested approach uses a matrix grid to store the signal response of an FGM plate for every damage, and by using a sparse algorithm, the position of the damage can be identified. The Finite Element Method (FEM) is considered to analyze the accuracy and reliability of the proposed procedure in localizing damage when the damage is on-the-grid and off the grid.

The present research paper is organized as follows: Section 1 presents the mathematical formulation of the structure being investigated. The subsequent section, namely section 2, presents the outcomes and results derived from the approach employed in this study. Finally, concluding remarks are provided to summarize the findings.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. FGM constitutive equations

Let's consider an FGM material made of two separate isotropic material based, which are in our case, a ceramic and a metal. The effective material properties of the FGM are mainly estimated using the well-known rule of mixture (ROM) which describes the effective property P as the sum of the ratio of each constituent as below [33]:

$$P = P_m V_m + P_c V_c \quad (1)$$

where V is the volume fraction. c and m are indexes that respectively represent the metal and ceramic parts. In the present work, we presume that the metal material varies through the thickness of the structure following the power law formula as below:

$$V_c = \left[\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{z}{h} \right) \right]^k, \quad V_m = 1 - V_c \quad (2)$$

where h is the thickness of the structure, and k is the power law index, which governs the volume fraction outline through the thickness. It is worth to be mentioned that the variation of the material is proceeding symmetrically to the mid surface which means that the material on the bottom surface ($z=-h/2$) is pure metal and at the top surface ($z=h/2$) is entirely ceramic.

2.2. Equation of Motion

The FE equations of the FGM plate can be described in terms of nodal displacement $\{U\}$, while each node includes its corresponding degree of freedom. Thus, the equation of motion in a global system coordinate is assembled and presented as follows:

$$[M_{uu}]\{\ddot{U}\} + [C_{uu}]\{\dot{U}\} + [K_{uu}]\{U\} = \{F\} \quad (3)$$

where $[K_{uu}]$ is the stiffness matrix, $[M_{uu}]$ is the mass matrix, $[C_{uu}]$ is the damping matrix, and $\{F\}$ is the structural loads.

The Newmark beta schema is used to solve Equation (3). The schema is adopted for the required time Domain. The displacement, velocity and acceleration are calculated using the following integration formula

$$\begin{cases} U(t + \delta t) = \{U(t)\} + \delta t \{\dot{U}(t)\} + (\delta t^2/2)(1 - 2\beta)\{\ddot{U}(t)\} + (\delta t^2/2)\beta\{\ddot{U}(t + \delta t)\} \\ \dot{U}(t + \delta t) = \dot{U}(t) + \delta t(1 - \gamma)\ddot{U}(t) + \delta t\gamma\ddot{U}(t + \delta t) \\ \ddot{U}(t + 1) = [M]^{-1}(\{F\}(t + \delta t) - [C]\{\dot{U}(t + \delta t)\} - [K]\{U(t + \delta t)\}) \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

γ and β are Newmark beta integration parameters that are given below:

$$\begin{cases} \beta = \frac{1}{4}(1 - \gamma)^2 \\ \gamma = \frac{1}{2} - \alpha \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where α is a parameter that controls the numerical dissipation of the method.

2.3. Finite element model

This section presents a comprehensive account of the implementation of the finite element model. The Ansys APDL package is utilized for modelling and conducting the analysis. The modelling approach incorporates a series of macro files specifically tailored for each procedural step. A macro file, in this context, is defined as a function encompassing a custom-designed command written in APDL. The modelling process encompasses various stages such as geometry implementation, material assignment, meshing, load application, boundary condition specification, and ultimately, the analysis. The specific focus of this study revolves around a plate composed of Functionally Graded Material (FGM).

The modelling approach commences with the utilization of the block command to generate a three-dimensional (3D) model of the plate structure. Subsequently, the damage geometry is introduced by subtracting it from the primary BLOCK using the Boolean command VSBV. For meshing purposes, the SOLID186 element, a 3D solid element, is employed. This element comprises 20 nodes, each possessing three translation degrees of freedom, and supports various analysis types. To ensure greater control over the mesh size and quality, the LSEL and LESIZE commands are utilized. The assignment of the Functionally Graded Material (FGM) is accomplished through a *Do loop in conjunction with a power law function (eq.1). The loop iterates through the elements in the z-direction and assigns the necessary parameters to each element, considering the element length as an argument.

The code developed for the incorporation of the FGM is presented in Algorithm 2. Of course, this approach can not insure a complete continuous distribution of the graded material but it is as far the best method to border on the real-life material distribution when an appropriate number of elements is used [34,35]. The suitable boundary conditions are allocated using NSEL and D commands.

Algorithm 1. Implementation of FGM in Ansys APDL

*Create, mat_fgm	*Create a function named mat_fgm
z_coord = arg1	*Take z_coord as a variable
grad_common = (a_z*z_coord)**k	*Calculate the volume fraction (eq.2)
E_fgm = (E_t-E_b)*grad_common + E_b	*Calculate the The effective Youngs
den_fgm = (dens_t-dens_b)*grad_common +	Modulus(eq.1)
dens_b	*Calculate the The effective
*End !mat_fgm_pol	Density(eq.1)
counter = 0	Start the loop through the z-
*Do, j, 1, ele_numb_z, 1	direction element
z_coord = length_e_z*(j-0.5)	Assign the variable the needed
counter = counter + 1	value
*use, mat_fgm, z_coord	Use the function mat_fgm
mp, ex, counter, E_fgm	Redefine the Youngs modulus
mp, dens, counter, den_fgm	Redefine the density
esel, s, CENT, Z, -b/2+length_e_z*(counter-	Select the elements that receive the
1),	new properties. Modify the element
- b/2+length_e_z*counter, 1 emodif, all, mat,	material properties to calculate one
counter esel, all	End the loop
*Enddo	

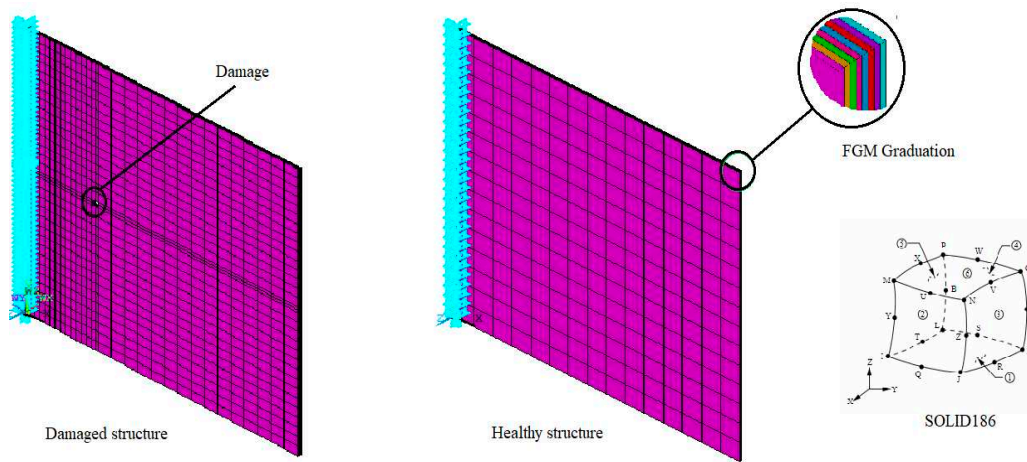


Figure 1. Finite element model.

2.4. Damage detection based on Sparse regression

Models that are parametrically based can generally be described by a set of linear equations that define the relationship between the model inputs and outputs. Usually, such linear models are addressed using regression algorithms. A regression is said to be sparse when some components in the model are non-zero while others are explicitly set to zero. This approach enables variable selection, effectively determining which variables are included or excluded. In this study, we employ a sparsity approach to define our problem. Therefore, we capture the time history deflections of the fibre-reinforced (FG) plate for various damage locations. We subtract the retrieved signals from the undamaged deflections and then plug the results into a matrix grid. Thus, the problem is formulated as follows:

$$\Phi X = Y \quad (6)$$

$\Phi \in R^{(n \times p)}$ is a matrix container, where each column Φ is the normalized substruction between damage and undamaged responses for a p damage location. The row of Φ is the n time simples of the retrieved data which are in our case the plate deflections.

$X \in R^{(p \times 1)}$ is a sparse vector pointer that defines the damage locations. The element in X is taken to be zero when there is no damage and non-zero when the damage exists.

$Y \in R^{(n \times 1)}$ is a normalized substruction between the damaged and undamaged response vector for an unknown damage location. Figure 2 illustrates the idea.

Equation (6) can be handled as an optimization problem concerning X as follows:

$$\operatorname{argmin}(x) \Phi X - Y \quad (7)$$

In Equation (7), l_1 norm is found to be the best choice because it promotes sparsity, which fits our damage identification approach. Hence, our problem is reformulated as an optimization problem using l_1 as fellow:

$$\operatorname{argmin}(x) \|\Phi X - Y\|_2 + \gamma \|X\|_1 \quad (8)$$

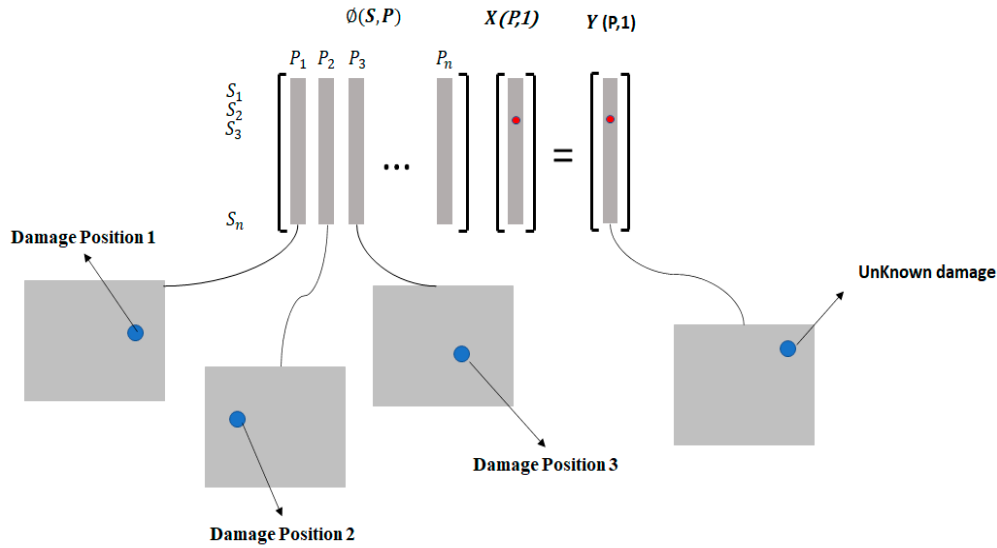


Figure 2. Illustration of the structural response estimation for unknown damage.

where $\|X\|_1$ defined as the sum of the absolute values of the X elements. γ is the regularization parameter governing the sparsity of the vector X . In the case of multiple damages. The test signal is treated as the sum of the signals acquired from the structures with different damages. As stated by [29], this assumption remains true only in the case of small damages. To solve Equation (8), we use the FISTA Algorithm proposed by [36].

Algorithm 2. Implementation of the FISTA algorithm

Set $L = 2\lambda \sigma_{\max}(\Phi^T \Phi)$

Take $t_1 = 1, k = 1; \varepsilon > 0$ & $y_1 = x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (i.e., x_0 is an arbitrary real-valued n -dimensional starting point)

while $x_k - x_{k-1} > \varepsilon$ **do**

$$z = y_k - \frac{1}{L(f)} \nabla f(y_k) = y_k - \frac{\Phi^T \Phi y_k}{\max(\Phi^T \Phi)}$$

$$x_k = \min_x \left\{ \|x - u\|^2 + \frac{L(f)}{2} \|x - z\|^2 \right\} = \frac{L(f)z + 2u}{2 + L(f)} \quad t_{k+1} =$$

$$\frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4t_k^2}}{2}$$

$$y_{k+1} = x_k + \frac{\langle t \rangle_{k-1}}{(\langle t \rangle_{k+1})(x_k + x_{k-1})}$$

$$k = k + 1$$

End while

3. Results

3.1. Validation

To validate the present model, two sets of analyses are performed. The material properties used in the analysis are presented in Table 2. The model implementation follows the same procedure described in Subsection 2.3. It is worth mentioning that a sensitivity analysis is performed for each analysis, and a total of 1800 elements are used.

In the first analysis, we consider a square FGM plate made of Al/ZrO₂-1 with a dimension of $0.4 \times 0.4 \times 0.5$ mm following Clamped Free Free Free boundary conditions. The plate is subjected to modal analysis and the first six frequencies are extracted and compared with those presented by [36]. The results are shown in Table 3. It can be seen that the predictions are in good agreement with those found in [36]. In the second validation process, an Al/ZrO₂-2 fully clamped FGM plate is considered. The plate is subjected to a uniform pressure loading p_0 . The nondimensional central deflection is retrieved for two sets of length-to-thickness ratios and three values of k index. The results are

presented in Table 4 and compared with those presented by [37,38]. It is observed that the results are in close agreement, which proves the accuracy of the present model.

Table 2. Material and geometrical proprieties.

Property	Aluminum (Al)	Zirconia-1 (ZrO2-1)	Zirconia-2 (ZrO2-2)
Young’s Modulus E (GPa)	70	151	200
Density	2700	3000	5700
Poisson coefficient	0.3	0.3	0.3

Table 3. Natural frequencies (Hz) of a cantilever plate for different power law k index.

p	Mode no	1	2	3	4	5	6
0	[39]	36.715	89.111	226.25	286.77	326.05	569.32
	Present	37.06	90.503	227.03	289.66	329.16	575.14
0.2	[39]	34.969	84.864	215.54	273.11	310.54	542.21
	Present	35.217	86.006	215.74	275.27	312.81	546.59
1	[39]	31.774	77.156	195.97	248.12	282.30	492.78
	Present	31.792	77.642	194.7	248.49	282.39	493.44
5	[39]	29.915	72.675	184.44	233.55	265.76	463.87
	Present	29.797	72.746	182.51	232.85	264.56	462.19
inf	[39]	26.933	65.345	166.12	210.18	239.11	417.27
	Present	26.675	65.140	163.41	208.49	236.92	413.96

Table 4. Non-dimensional deflections of the fully clamped plate with different power law k index.

P	S	Present	[37]	[38]
0.5	5	0.1016	0.1060	0.0978
	10	0.0707	0.0772	0.0706
1	5	0.1198	0.1236	0.1150
	10	0.0833	0.0892	0.0830
2	5	0.1416	0.1422	0.1351
	10	0.0962	0.1003	0.0957

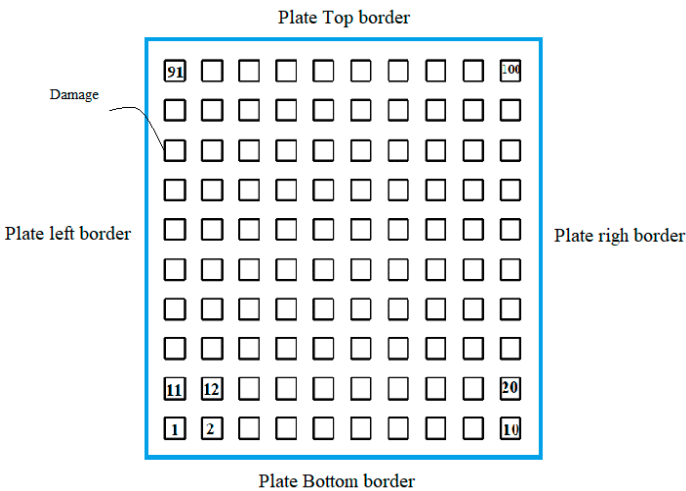


Figure 3. Damage location numbering.

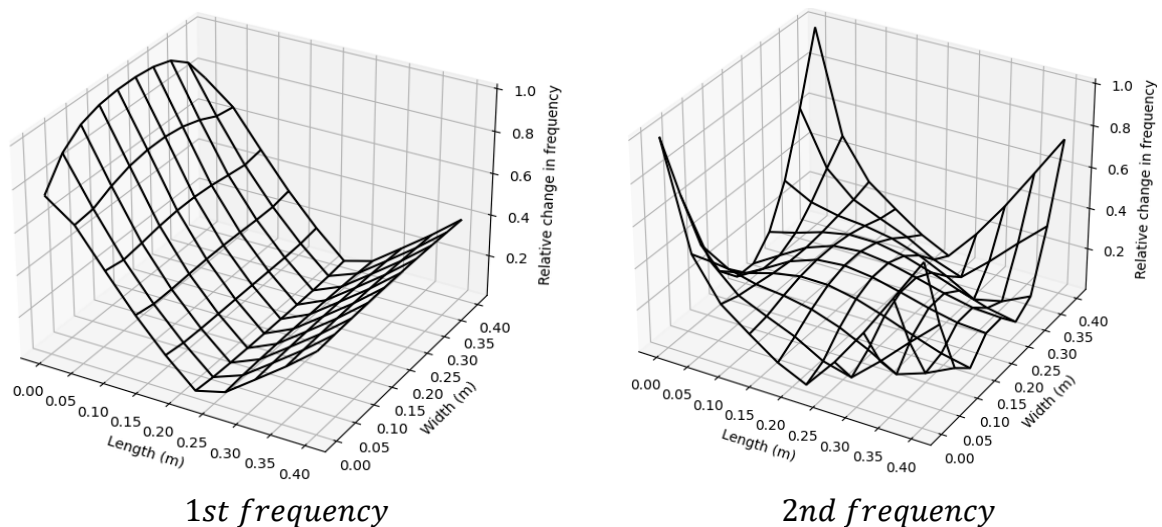
3.2. Damage detection

In the present section, we examine the proposed damage identification schema. Hence, a plate as a structure involving FGM materials was used as a use case. A through-all damage having a length of 2 mm is incorporated in the plate to represent the damage. The location of the damage is repeatedly changed 100 times. Thought, The damage was uniformly distributed across the plate and labelled as shown in Figure 3. This numbering procedure avoids the use of floating values for the location in the x and y direction, which helps simplify the problem.

3.2.1. Case study

An FGM Al/ZrO₂-1 square plate having a length of 0.4 m and thickness of 0.5 mm is implemented using APDL following the modelling procedure presented in subsection 2.3. A modal analysis was performed and the first six frequencies were extracted. Three power law indexes $k = 0.5, 1, 2$ were investigated. The relative change in frequencies for each damage position is depicted in Figure 4. For the case of brevity, only the first four frequencies with $k = 1$ are presented. It can be seen that the structure is sensitive to the damaged position while the change can be significant when it is located out of the mode shape neural line.

To construct the grid according to the specifications outlined in subsection 2.4 of the research paper, a nodal transient load is imposed on the unrestrained end of the Plate. For this investigation, a 5-cycle tone burst load with a suitable central frequency of 50 Hz is considered. The selection of this central frequency is based on the resonance modes of interest, specifically the first three modes in our particular scenario. Subsequently, the deflections of the functionally graded (FG) plate are recorded. This procedure is repeated for a total of one hundred locations while ensuring that the load position and the node at which the deflections are obtained remain consistent. Figure 5 displays the representative deflection profiles observed for both the damaged and undamaged plates.



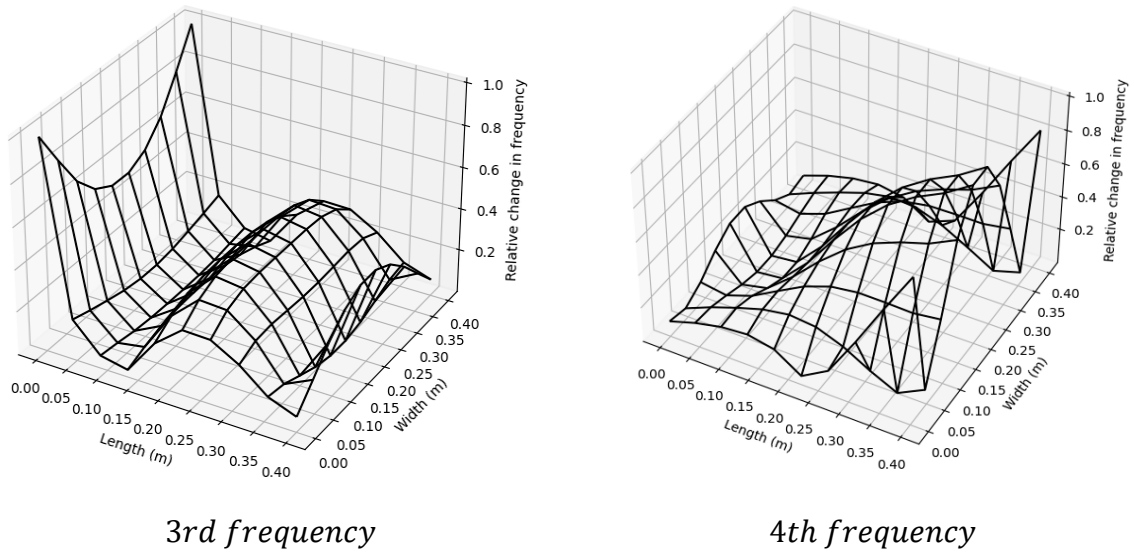


Figure 4. Relative change in frequency along the plate surface for first four frequencies: case $k = 1$

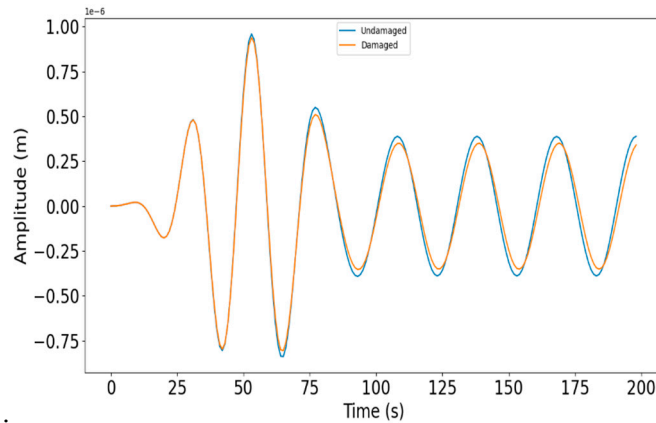


Figure 5. A typical deflection response for damaged and undamaged cases.

The damage was quantified using the relative vibration energy which is just the normalized subtraction of the energy vibration of healthy and damaged cases. The normalized vibration energy is given as follows:

$$\delta Energy = \frac{\int U_h U_h^T - \int U_d U_d^T}{\int U_h U_h^T} \quad (9)$$

where U_h and U_d are the time history displacements of the FG plate.

Figure 6 depicted the relative vibration energy reduction for each damage position. it is clearly shown that the vibration energy reduction is significantly large when it is closed to the clamped area of the FG plate.

In this research paper, a total of 199 samples were obtained for each registered deflection. The construction process of the grid involved subtracting the deflections observed in damaged cases from those recorded in the responses of the healthy structure. These subtracted values were subsequently normalized. To construct the grid, the time deflections from 16 randomly selected damage positions were utilized, while the remaining positions were considered degraded.

To evaluate the methodology, two cases were examined. The first case involved damage located within the grid, while the second case involved damage positioned outside the grid, which we will refer to as "off the grid." From Figure 7, it is evident that the algorithm successfully identified the location of the damage (in this case, damage 70) within the grid. However, for the off-the-grid position (specifically position 71), the algorithm determined the nearest position within the grid to the actual damage.

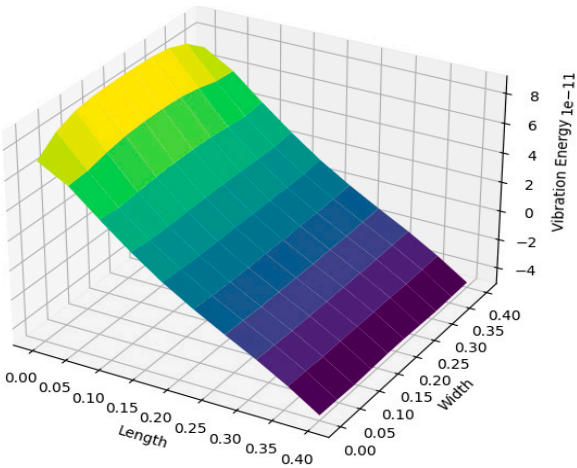


Figure 6. A typical deflection response for damaged and undamaged cases.

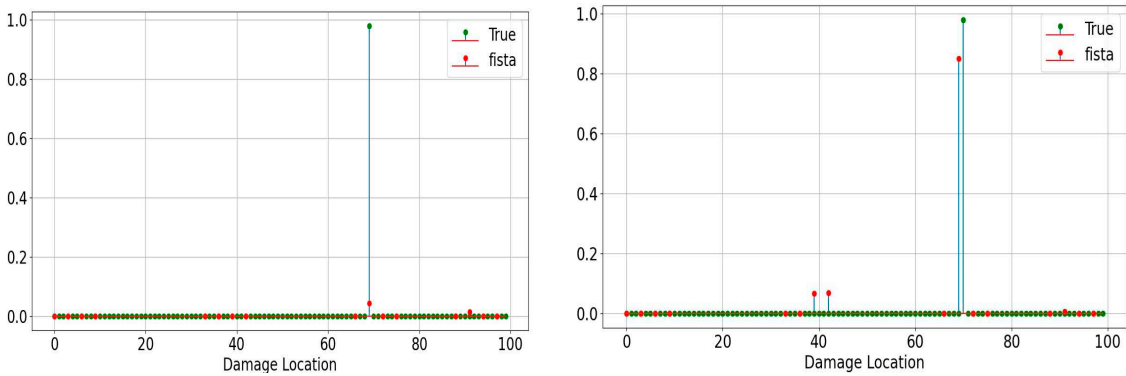
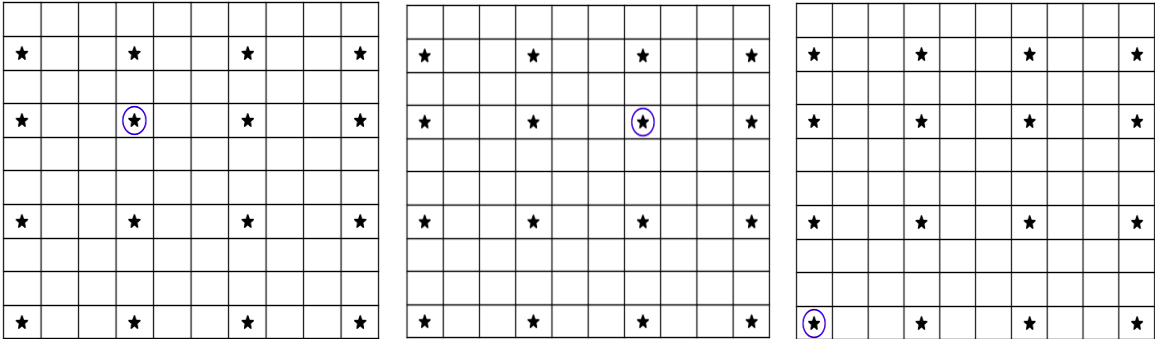


Figure 7. Values of the elements of the sparse vector x obtained for damage location: 70 on the grid. 71 off the grid.

The algorithm underwent additional testing to evaluate its performance across multiple cases, and the outcomes are presented in Figure 8. As anticipated, in all instances where the target positions were within the grid, the algorithm demonstrated perfect accuracy in predicting the locations of damage. However, for instances where the target positions were situated outside the grid, the algorithm’s findings are depicted in Figure 9. In such cases, the algorithm highlighted the closest grid location it identified.



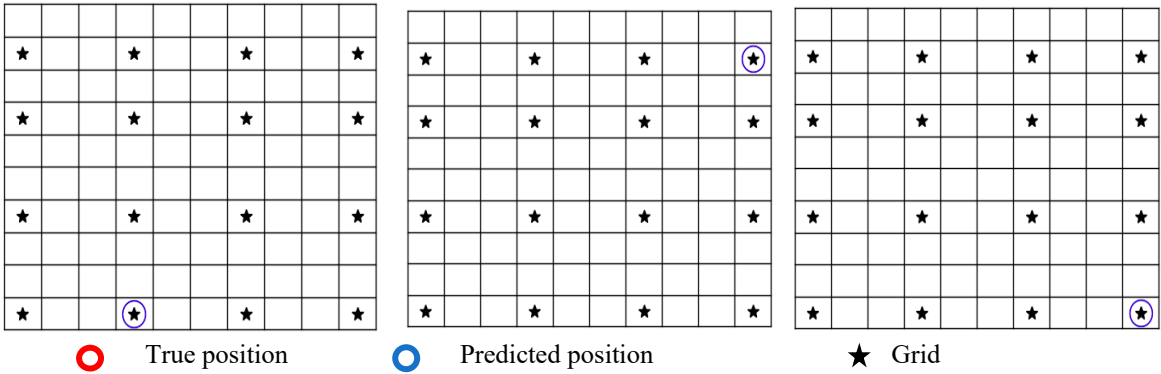


Figure 8. Damage localization for the case of on grid.

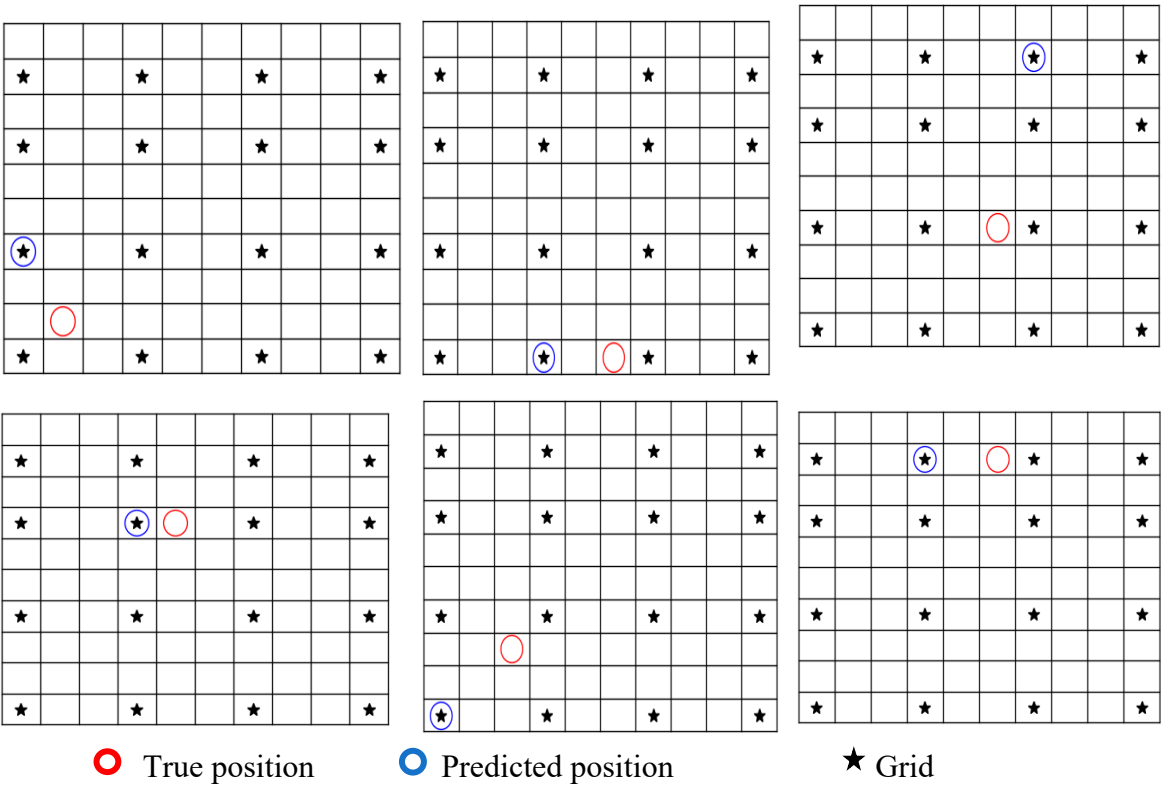


Figure 9. Damage localization for the case of off-grid.

3.2.2. Damage localization sensitivity

The accuracy of the sparsity-based algorithm is highly dependent on the data size used [40]. To evaluate the impact of grid size on the algorithm’s accuracy, we analyzed six different data size scenarios: 5, 10, 16, 20, 30, and 50 damage positions, respectively. In all scenarios, the same unknown damage position was utilized.

We determined the accuracy of damage localization by measuring the distance between the predicted damage position and the true position. The distance was calculated using a simple Pythagorean equation, as depicted in Figure 10.

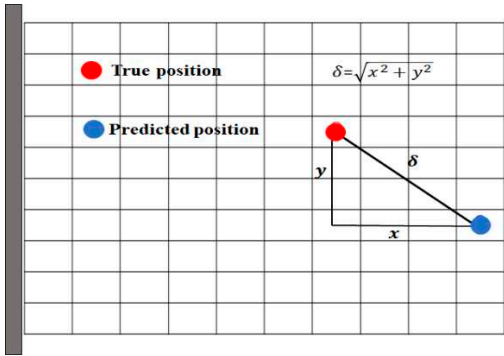


Figure 10. Distance between the true and predicted damage positions.

The true and predicted damage positions for each data size scenario are given in Figure 11. As the figures clearly show, the accuracy of the present algorithm is highly sensitive to data size. The prediction error decreases with respect to the amount of data. However, increasing the data will also rise computational time. Therefore, optimizing the used data concerning the prediction performance can significantly enhance the reliability of the proposed algorithm. Figure 12 shows that in our case, the prediction error decreases linearly until reaching 30 damage points, and then the results stabilize.

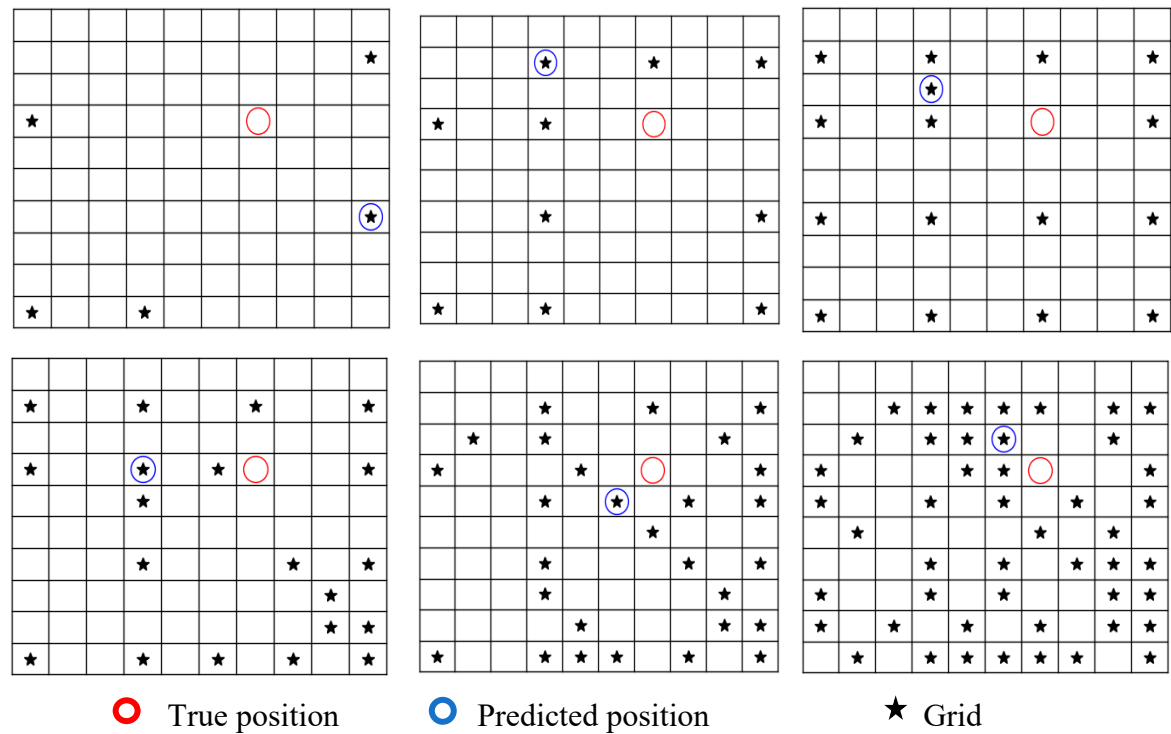


Figure 11. Offgrid damage prediction for different data sizes.

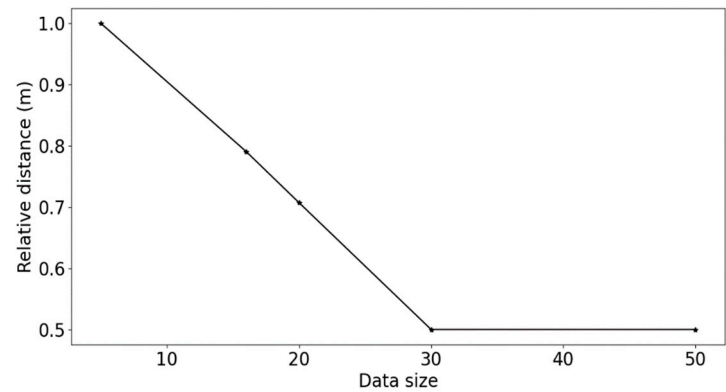


Figure 12. Relative distance vs data size.

3.2.3. Effect of observation nodes

In this section, our focus is to analyze the effect of the deflection measuring point on the performance of the algorithm for localizing multiple damages. Thus, we excite the plate using the same excitation as before, placing it in the middle of the free end of the plate. We select six measuring points, as shown in Figure 13. Based on the findings in subsection 3.2.2, we construct a grid using 30 randomly chosen damage positions. However, the sought-after damage position is intentionally chosen to be off the grid, specifically at location 72 in our case. We run the algorithm for each measuring point and present the results in Figure 14. From the figures, we observe a significant improvement in accuracy when the measuring points coincide with the excitation point, which is visible in Figure 14(S4).

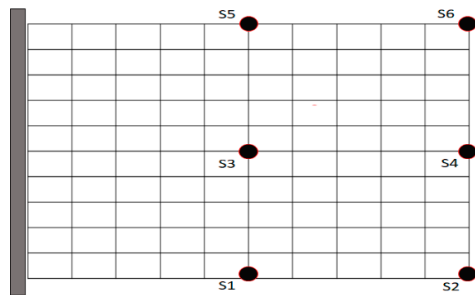
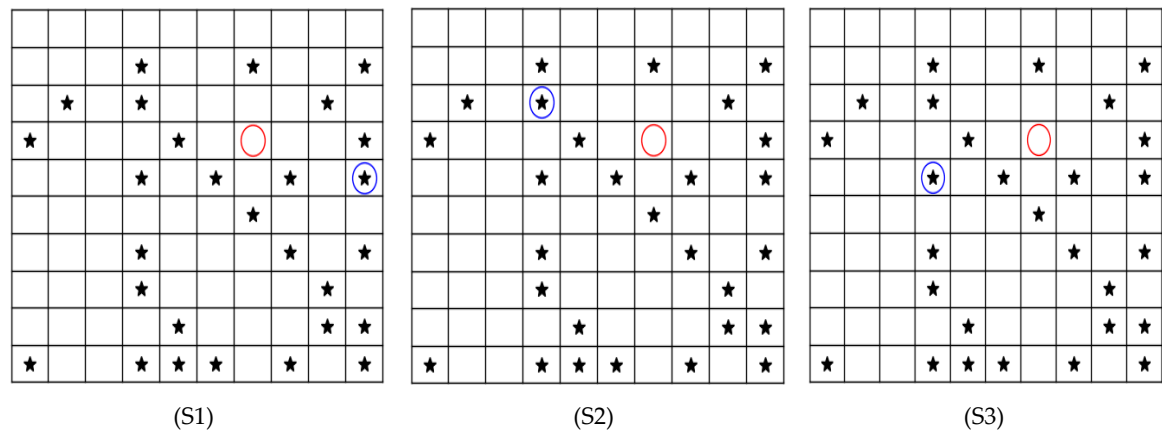


Figure. 13 displacements Lecture points.



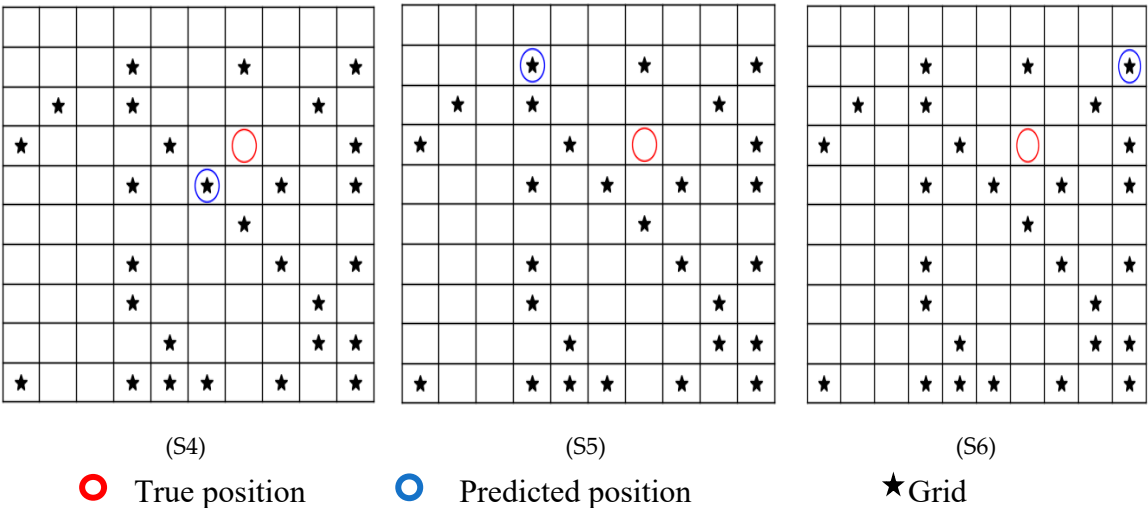


Figure 14. Distance between the true and predicted damage positions.

4. Conclusions

This paper suggests a dynamic algorithm for accurate damage localization in functionally graded plates. The algorithm utilized a grid matrix to capture the dynamic response of the structure and an optimization process incorporating the information from the grid to precisely locate damage. Our approach demonstrated its suitability for application in low-size data systems by accurately predicting the position of damage in experimental tests on a functionally graded plate.

The validation process confirmed the accuracy of our proposed model by comparing the predicted frequencies and deflections with those obtained from previous studies, showing good agreement and supporting its reliability. The damage detection experiments further demonstrated the sensitivity of the structure to damaged positions and the effectiveness of our algorithm in localizing damage. The algorithm identified the location of damage within the grid and determined the nearest grid location for off-the-grid positions.

Additionally, our algorithm’s performance was evaluated for different data sizes and observation nodes, revealing that increasing the data size improved the accuracy of damage localization but also resulted in longer computational time. Therefore, optimizing the data used for prediction can enhance the algorithm’s reliability. Moreover, we found that the algorithm performed better when the measuring points coincided with the excitation point.

We observed that our approach is time-dependent, making it suitable for online tracking of damages. The algorithm exhibited high sensitivity to data size, emphasizing the importance of choosing appropriate data for achieving accurate results. Furthermore, the choice of measuring point significantly improved the algorithm’s accuracy. Notably, our approach outperformed an ANN-based approach when the training data was limited.

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