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**EXPERIMENTAL MODAL ANALYSIS**  
GETTING THE MODAL PARAMETERS FROM MEASUREMENTS

**Goal** : to determine the three modal parameters from measurements

The three modal parameters are:

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**EXPERIMENTAL MODAL ANALYSIS**

**GETTING THE MODAL PARAMETERS FROM MEASUREMENTS**

**Goal** : to determine the three modal parameters from measurements

The three modal parameters are:

- Resonance frequency
- Damping ratio
- Mode shape / Modal participation

**EXPERIMENTAL MODAL ANALYSIS**

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**Goal** : to determine the three modal parameters from measurements

The three modal parameters are:

- Resonance frequency } pole
- Damping ratio }
- Mode shape / Modal participation

$$[H(s)]_{N_o \times N_i} = \sum_{m=1}^{N_m} \frac{\Psi_m L_m^T}{s - \lambda_m} + \frac{\Psi_m^* L_m^{*T}}{s - \lambda_m^*}$$

Combined they represent the modal model


### EXPERIMENTAL MODAL ANALYSIS

#### THE MODAL MODEL

In words:

*All dynamics of a MDOF system can be explained as the summed response of SDOF systems*

$$[H(s)]_{N_o \times N_i} = \sum_{m=1}^{N_m} \frac{\Psi_m L_m^T}{s - \lambda_m} + \frac{\Psi_m^* L_m^{*T}}{s - \lambda_m^*}$$



Vehicle structures  
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### EXPERIMENTAL MODAL ANALYSIS


#### GETTING THE MODAL PARAMETERS FROM MEASUREMENTS

From our experimental work and **non-parametric** processing we obtained estimates of the inputs, outputs and ultimately the **transfer function**  $H(\omega)$ .

But what we have at this stage is just data, a complex-valued  $N_o \times N_i$  matrix for the transfer function at every value of  $\omega$ .

To translate these results into the modal model we'll do **parametric modal parameter estimation** (mpe) to estimate the values of the modal parameters.

$$[H(s)]_{N_o \times N_i} = \sum_{m=1}^{N_m} \frac{\Psi_m L_m^T}{s - \lambda_m} + \frac{\Psi_m^* L_m^{*T}}{s - \lambda_m^*}$$



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## EXPERIMENTAL MODAL ANALYSIS

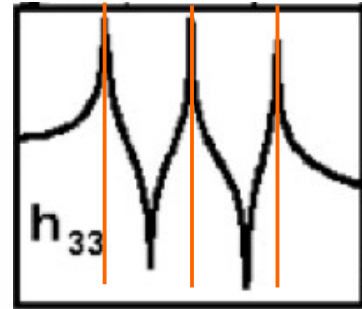
### GETTING THE MODAL PARAMETERS FROM MEASUREMENTS

#### Peak picking

Selecting the highest peaks in the FRF and refer to them as resonance frequencies.

#### Limitations

- Results are limited to the frequency resolution
- Typically only a single FRF at a time ( issue with nodal points)
- Does not provide any information on damping



**OK for a quick and dirty preliminary assessment...  
but still used too much as the final result**

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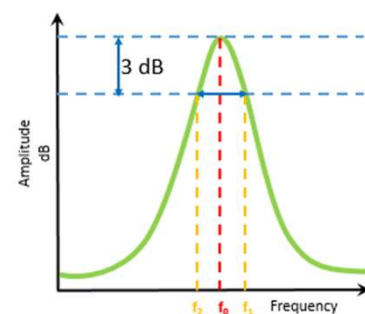
## EXPERIMENTAL MODAL ANALYSIS

### GETTING THE MODAL PARAMETERS FROM MEASUREMENTS

#### Peak picking (with damping)

Calculate the damping from the FRF using the 3dB method

**Unreliable at best, do not use**



$$Q = \frac{f_0}{f_2 - f_1}$$

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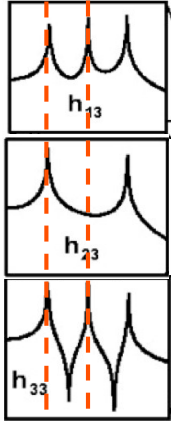
### EXPERIMENTAL MODAL ANALYSIS

Getting the modal parameters from measurements

**Peak picking**

Selecting the peaks across the different rows/columns of our experiment allows to the Operational Deflection shapes.


But this ignores the orthogonality!



$$\psi_1 = \begin{Bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$\psi_2 = \begin{Bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{Bmatrix}$$

**Note;**  
For simplicity I'm ignoring phase information here



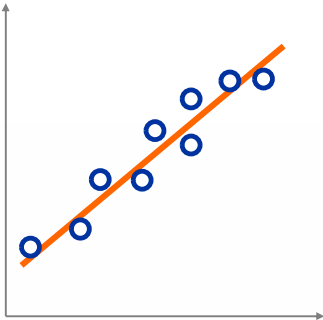
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### EXPERIMENTAL MODAL ANALYSIS

PREFERRED STRATEGY

The problem posed is similar to **curve-fitting** :

- We have collected data; samples; over the entire spectrum.
  - These samples will always be noisy to some degree (even after averaging)
- We have a parametric model that (in theory) should match the 'noise-free' data
  - E.g. in a simple linear regression  $y = ax + b$
- We need to solve for the parameters;  $(a, b)$ ; that best fit the data

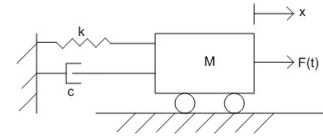




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**SDOF ESTIMATION**

**BABY STEPS**



Consider a single DOF system with unknown properties, for which we collected measurements of displacement  $X(\omega)$  and force  $F(\omega)$  for  $N_f$  frequencies.

We know these are related through the equations of motion, but  $m, c, k$  are at this stage unknown

$$\mathbf{X}(\omega_i) = \frac{1}{-\omega_i^2 \mathbf{m} + j\omega_i \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{F}(\omega_i)$$

reorganizing the equations

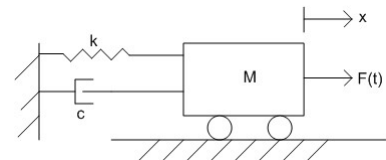
$$(-\omega_i^2 \mathbf{m} + j\omega_i \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{k})\mathbf{X}(\omega_i) = \mathbf{F}(\omega_i)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\omega_1^2 \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) & j\omega_1 \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) & \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{m} \\ \mathbf{c} \\ \mathbf{k} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{F}(\omega_i)$$

**Note;** in this example we start from  $X(\omega)$  and  $F(\omega)$ . But we could also have worked with a parametric estimate of  $H(\omega)$

**SDOF ESTIMATION**

**BABY STEPS**



All three parameters to be estimated in a single vector

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\omega_1^2 \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) & j\omega_1 \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) & \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{m} \\ \mathbf{c} \\ \mathbf{k} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{F}(\omega_i)$$

This equation holds for all  $N_f$  measured frequencies

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\omega_1^2 \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) & j\omega_1 \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) & \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) \\ -\omega_2^2 \mathbf{X}(\omega_2) & j\omega_2 \mathbf{X}(\omega_2) & \mathbf{X}(\omega_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ -\omega_{N_f}^2 \mathbf{X}(\omega_{N_f}) & j\omega_{N_f} \mathbf{X}(\omega_{N_f}) & \mathbf{X}(\omega_{N_f}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ c \\ k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{F}(\omega_1) \\ \mathbf{F}(\omega_2) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{F}(\omega_{N_f}) \end{bmatrix}$$

## SDOF ESTIMATION

## BABY STEPS

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\omega_1^2 \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) & j\omega_1 \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) & \mathbf{X}(\omega_1) \\ -\omega_2^2 \mathbf{X}(\omega_2) & j\omega_2 \mathbf{X}(\omega_2) & \mathbf{X}(\omega_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ -\omega_{N_f}^2 \mathbf{X}(\omega_{N_f}) & j\omega_{N_f} \mathbf{X}(\omega_{N_f}) & \mathbf{X}(\omega_{N_f}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} m \\ c \\ k \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{F}(\omega_1) \\ \mathbf{F}(\omega_2) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{F}(\omega_{N_f}) \end{Bmatrix}$$

Overdetermined problem

- 3 unknown parameters  $m, c, k \lll N_f$  equations

Solve for the unknowns  $\theta$  as to **minimize** the least squares error function  $LS(\theta)$

$$K_{(N_f \times 3)} \theta_{(3 \times 1)} = \mathbf{F}_{(N_f \times 1)}$$

$$\mathbf{e}_{(N_f \times 1)} = K_{(N_f \times 3)} \theta_{(3 \times 1)} - \mathbf{F}_{(N_f \times 1)}$$

$$LS(\theta) = \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{e}$$

$$\frac{\delta LS}{\delta \theta} = 0$$

## SDOF ESTIMATION

## BABY STEPS

The values of  $\theta$  found by solving the bottom equation represent the least squares estimate of the problem posed,

They are the set of parameters that best fit with the data contained in the measurements

We found  $m, c, k$

$$\mathbf{e}_{(N_f \times 1)} = K_{(N_f \times 3)} \theta_{(3 \times 1)} - \mathbf{F}_{(N_f \times 1)}$$

$$LS(\theta) = \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{e}$$

$$\frac{\delta LS}{\delta \theta} = 0$$

$$2 \frac{\delta \mathbf{e}^T}{\delta \theta} \mathbf{e} = 0$$

$$2K^T \cdot (K\theta_{LS} - \mathbf{F}) = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_{LS} &= (K^T K)^{-1} K^T \mathbf{F} \\ &= K \setminus \mathbf{F} \end{aligned}$$

## SDOF ESTIMATION

### BABY STEPS

We found  $m, c, k$  how to get the modal parameters?

$$\mathbf{X}(\omega_i) = \frac{1}{-\omega_i^2 \mathbf{m} + j\omega_i \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{F}(\omega_i)$$

The system poles ( $\lambda$ ) are the roots of the denominator, so just use the found  $m, c, k$  values to calculate the roots.

E.g. in MATLAB and Python using the `roots` command

From the poles the resonance frequency and damping ratios are calculated

$$f_{res} = \frac{abs(\lambda)}{2\pi}$$

$$\xi = \frac{-real(\lambda)}{\|\lambda\|}$$

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## SDOF ESTIMATION

### ADDING A FINAL CONSTRAINT

In fact, the poles of the previous approach will be two values of  $\lambda$  that solve the equation

$$m\lambda^2 + c\lambda + k = 0$$

**There is no guarantee that these two  $\lambda$  are eachothers complex conjugate, while this is to be expected from the modal model!**

An additional constraint is necessary to force this on the least squares solution.

$$\begin{bmatrix} real(K) \\ imag(K) \end{bmatrix} \theta = \begin{Bmatrix} real(\mathbf{F}) \\ imag(\mathbf{F}) \end{Bmatrix}$$

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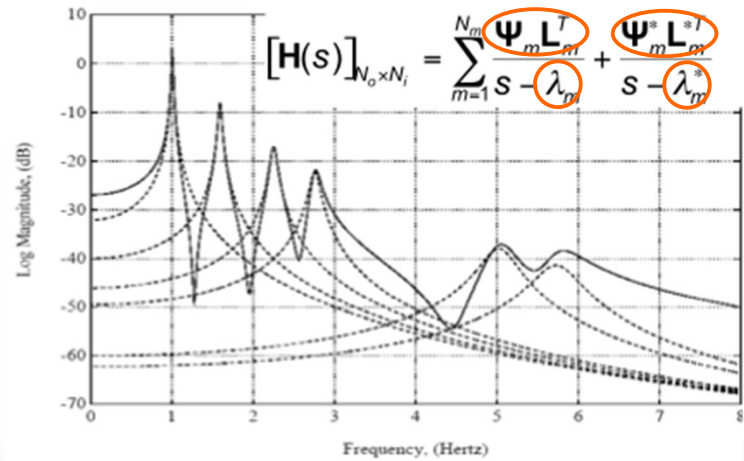
**EXPERIMENTAL MODAL ANALYSIS**

**GOING TO MDOF**

But how do expand this strategy to an MDOF system. Knowing  $H(\omega)$  is a matrix and we need to determine the modal parameters, **including the mode shapes**.

But the modal model is non linear in the (modal) parameters

**To directly fit the modal model to the FRF would imply a (recursive) non-linear optimisation**

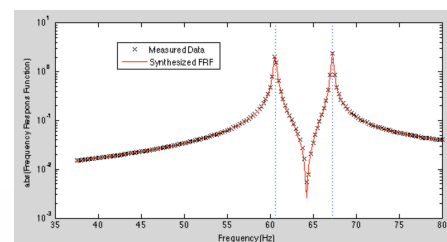


**EXTENDING TO MULTIPLE MODES**

**ADDING ZEROS**

Two things change when more modes are considered:

- The model order has to be increased to allow for a larger number of modes
- Zeros need to be considered



Previous single degree of freedom model is expanded to a MDOF nominator-denominator model in which the model orders ( $N_n, N_d$ ) exceed 2

$$H(\omega_i) = \frac{\sum_{l=0}^{N_n} n_l (j\omega_i)^l}{\sum_{k=0}^{N_d} d_k (j\omega_i)^k}$$

**EXTENDING TO MULTIPLE MODES**

**ADDING ZEROS**

$$H(\omega_i) = \frac{\sum_{l=0}^{N_n} n_l(j\omega_i)^l}{\sum_{k=0}^{N_d} d_k(j\omega_i)^k}$$

Solve for the unknowns  $n_l$ , and  $d_k$

$$\left( \sum_{k=0}^{N_d} d_k(j\omega_i)^k \right) H(\omega_i) - \sum_{l=0}^{N_n} n_l(j\omega_i)^l = 0$$

Rewrite equations to something of the form

$$K\theta = 0$$

**Note;** in this example we start from  $H(\omega)$ . But we could also have worked with the forces  $F(\omega)$  and responses  $X(\omega)$

Volunteers?

**EXTENDING TO MULTIPLE MODES**

**ADDING ZEROS**

$$\left( \sum_{k=0}^{N_d} d_k(j\omega_i)^k \right) H(\omega_i) - \sum_{l=0}^{N_n} n_l(j\omega_i)^l = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} H(\omega_1) & j\omega_1 H(\omega_1) & (j\omega_1)^2 H(\omega_1) & \dots & (j\omega_1)^{N_d} H(\omega_1) & -1 & -j\omega_1 & -(j\omega_1)^2 & \dots & -(j\omega_1)^{N_n} \\ H(\omega_2) & j\omega_2 H(\omega_2) & (j\omega_2)^2 H(\omega_2) & \dots & (j\omega_2)^{N_d} H(\omega_2) & -1 & -j\omega_2 & -(j\omega_2)^2 & \dots & -(j\omega_2)^{N_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ H(\omega_{N_f}) & j\omega_{N_f} H(\omega_{N_f}) & (j\omega_{N_f})^2 H(\omega_{N_f}) & \dots & (j\omega_{N_f})^{N_d} H(\omega_{N_f}) & -1 & -j\omega_{N_f} & -(j\omega_{N_f})^2 & \dots & -(j\omega_{N_f})^{N_n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \\ \vdots \\ d_{N_d} \\ n_0 \\ n_1 \\ n_2 \\ \vdots \\ n_{N_n} \end{Bmatrix} = 0$$

$$K\theta = 0$$



## EXTENDING TO MULTIPLE MODES

### SOLVING FOR THE MODAL PARAMETERS

Again the poles are found as the roots of the denominator polynomial :

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N_d} d_k (j\omega_i)^k = 0$$

This can be done e.g. using the `roots` command in MATLAB or numpy

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## EXTENDING TO MULTIPLE MODES

### MODEL ORDERS

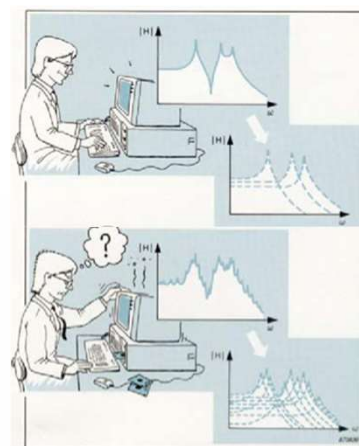
The model orders ( $N_n$  and  $N_d$ ) are settings by the user.  
There is really no upper bound,...

With increasing model orders the model fit will get better  
and the LS error will reduce....

But a lot of numerical modes (without physical meaning)  
will appear as the model cannot distinguish between  
physical modes and noise.

**Always keep in mind that the curve fitter only aims  
to minimize the LS cost function, not to improve the  
"physicality" of the result.**

There is thus a tradeoff for higher model orders.



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**STABILIZATION DIAGRAM**

**A TOOL TO DETERMINE STRUCTURAL MODES**

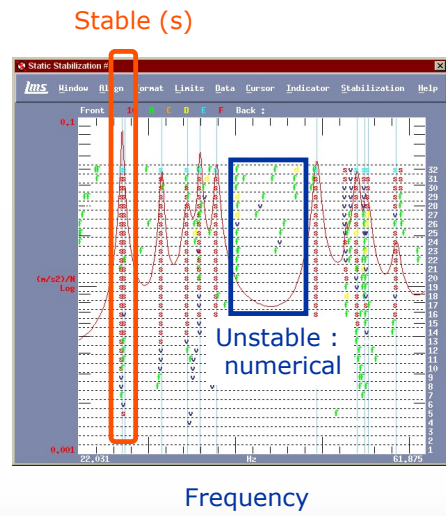
Typically a so called stabilization chart is used to distinguish between structural and numerical modes.

Basic assumption :

**Structural modes will appear in models of different model order while numerical modes will vary for different model orders.**

Thus by calculating the poles for different model orders , structural poles will appear in all model orders. They are "stable" (s).

**Rule of thumb :** choose the lowest model order where all modes of interest are stable



**NUMERICAL UNBALANCE**

**USING ORTHOGONAL BASE FUNCTIONS**

One of the common issues when implementing the frequency domain estimators is a numerical unbalance at high model orders.

$$\begin{matrix}
 -1 & -j\omega_1 & -(j\omega_1)^2 & \dots & -(j\omega_1)^{N_n} \\
 -1 & -j\omega_2 & -(j\omega_2)^2 & \dots & -(j\omega_2)^{N_n} \\
 \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\
 -1 & -j\omega_{N_f} & -(j\omega_{N_f})^2 & \dots & -(j\omega_{N_f})^{N_n}
 \end{matrix}$$

For high model orders the values in the first column and the last column differ in several orders of magnitude

e.g. for model order 64, and the row with  $\omega=10$

- First column : -1
- Last column :  $10^{64}$

This unbalance leads to numerical issues and ultimately erroneous results (e.g. a poor fit at low frequencies).

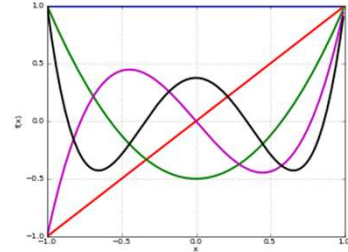
**NUMERICAL UNBALANCE**  
**USING ORTHOGONAL BASE FUNCTIONS**

To avoid these issues a first step is to normalize the frequency band (e.g. map all frequencies from 0 to 1).

But even better is the use of orthogonal base functions, which improve the conditioning of the problem altogether :

$$H(\omega_i) = \frac{\sum_{l=0}^{N_n} n_l \Omega_l(\omega_i)}{\sum_{k=0}^{N_d} d_k \Omega_k(\omega_i)}$$

$$\Omega_j(\omega_i) = \begin{cases} (i\omega_i)^j \\ \exp(-i\omega_i \cdot j) \\ \text{Forsythe polynomials, ...} \end{cases} \leftarrow \text{recommended}$$

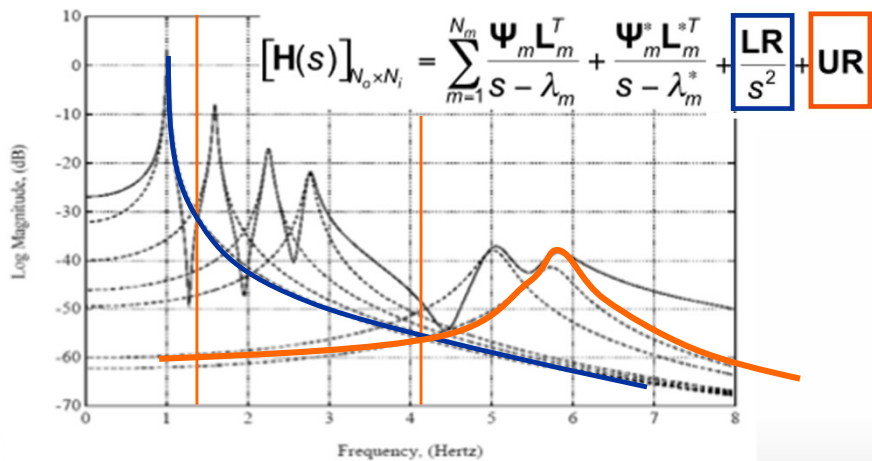


Note that if another polynomial is used, the found roots of the denominator have to be mapped back the frequency domain

**UPPER AND LOWER RESIDUALS**  
**AN ADDITION WHEN PROCESSING A LIMITED BANDWIDTH**

In general only a limited bandwidth is curve fitted. This implies some modes are out of this frequency band. Nonetheless these modes have an influence in the band of interest.

These residual terms can be added to the numerator nominator model as two additional unknowns



**FROM SDOF TO MDOF**

**PROCESSING THE WHOLE FRF**

Up to now we were not able to determine the mode shapes. To do so the curve fitting algorithm has to be extended to process the entire FRF.

$$H_{11}(\omega) = \frac{\sum_{l=0}^{N_n} n_{11,l} \Omega_l(\omega)}{\sum_{k=0}^{N_d} d_k \Omega_k(\omega)} \quad H_{12}(\omega) = \frac{\sum_{l=0}^{N_n} n_{12,l} \Omega_l(\omega)}{\sum_{k=0}^{N_d} d_k \Omega_k(\omega)} \quad H_{ij}(\omega) = \frac{\sum_{l=0}^{N_n} n_{ij,l} \Omega_l(\omega)}{\sum_{k=0}^{N_d} d_k \Omega_k(\omega)}$$

Consistent with the modal model, poles are global, the denominator is common to all equations.

-> **Common denominator model!**

**FROM SDOF TO MDOF**

**BUILDING THE OBSERVATION MATRIX**



## FROM SDOF TO MDOF

### SOLVING FOR THE MODAL PARAMETERS

Again we obtain the model coefficients of both the denominator and the numerator.

As ever the poles are found by solving for the roots of the (common) denominator

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N_d} d_k (j\omega_i)^k = 0$$

This can be done e.g. using the `roots` command in MATLAB

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## FROM SDOF TO MDOF

### SOLVING FOR THE MODE SHAPES

$$[\mathbf{H}(s)]_{N_o \times N_i} = \sum_{m=1}^{N_m} \frac{\Psi_m \mathbf{L}_m^T}{s - \lambda_m} + \frac{\Psi_m^* \mathbf{L}_m^{*T}}{s - \lambda_m^*}$$

The mode shapes are enclosed in the numerator polynomial. We need to evaluate in the found system poles  $\lambda_m$

$$H(\omega_m)(j\omega_m - \lambda_m) = A_m$$

These residuals  $A_m$  are related to the mode shape and modal participation vectors

$$A_m \sim \Psi_m \mathbf{L}_m^T$$

In theory  $A_m$  would be of Rank 1, but in practice it will not : Singular value decomposition (SVD)

$$A_m = U \Sigma V^T$$

The mode shape  $\Psi_m$  will be as the first column of  $U$ , the first column of  $V$  is the modal participation  $\mathbf{L}_m$ . This forces the orthogonality of the modes.

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### FROM SDOF TO MDOF

The difference between ODS and modeshapes

Modes are orthogonal  
 ODS are a linear combination of modes

$ODS = \alpha\Psi_i + \beta\Psi_j$

MODE 1 CONTRIBUTION      MODE 2 CONTRIBUTION

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### MODAL ASSURANCE CRITERIUM

A WAY TO CHECK YOUR RESULTS

Check the orthogonality of the found modeshapes

$$MAC(\Psi_i, \Psi_j) = \frac{\|\Psi_i^T \Psi_j^*\|^2}{(\Psi_i^T \Psi_i^*)(\Psi_j^T \Psi_j^*)}$$

MAC ranges from 1 to 0 with  $MAC(i,i) = 1$ . And perfect orthogonality = 0

ODS result in MAC areas of higher MAC as ODS are the super positions of Mode shapes

$$MAC(ODS, \Psi_i) \sim \alpha \qquad MAC(ODS, \Psi_j) \sim \beta$$

Two mixed modes

Good orthogonality

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## OTHER APPROACHES

### THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SOLVE FOR THE MODAL PARAMETERS

In this lesson we discussed the use of a least squares frequency domain estimator (LSCF)

But other solutions exist:

- In time domain, e.g. LSCE uses decaying exponentials as base function
- pLSCF (Polymax) uses a matrix polynomial as denominator
- Solutions based on the state space model
- Weighted least squares or Maximum likelihood cost functions instead of the herein used LS approach

$$V_{\text{WLS}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{r=1}^{N_r} \sum_{k=1}^{N_k} \frac{|d(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \omega_r) H_k(\omega_r) - N_k(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \omega_r)|^2}{w_k(\omega_r)}$$

$$V_{\text{MLE}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{r=1}^{N_r} \sum_{k=1}^{N_k} \frac{|d(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \omega_r) H_k(\omega_r) - N_k(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \omega_r)|^2}{|d(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \omega_r)|^2 \text{var}\{H_k(\omega_r)\}}$$