

Experimental Determination of Frequency Response

In this lab we will be experimentally determining the frequency response of a mass-spring-damper system and then constructing a frequency response plot to visually convey this information. We will be using the experimental setups in C-116. Figure 1 shows one of the carts of the system you will be using in this lab. This cart is located between two springs and slides on bearings. The position of the cart is measured by an encoder which is located behind the cart. Once you have collected the data you need, we will return to our classroom to finish processing the data.

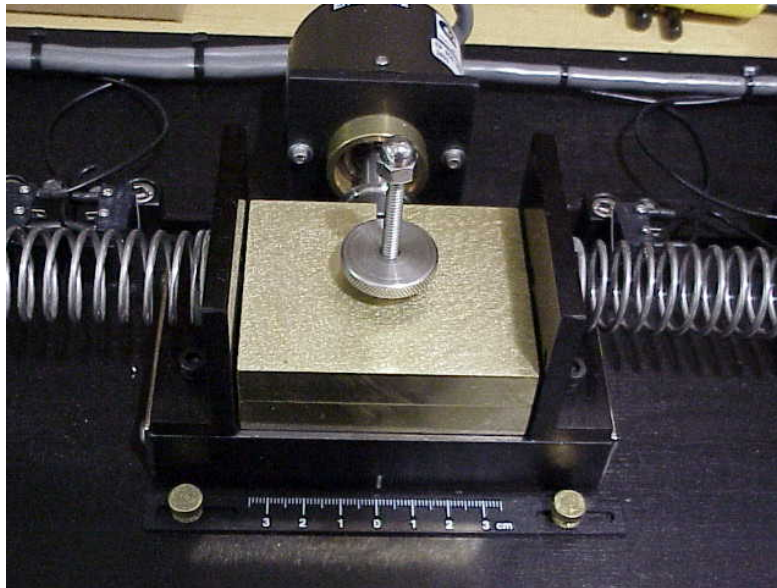


Figure 1. One of three carts in the mass/spring/damper system. Each cart is connected via springs, and the position of each cart is measured by an encoder .

To measure the frequency response we will have the motor generate an input sinusoid with a known frequency and a known amplitude. This input signal will be applied to the first cart via a rack and pinion mechanism, as shown in Figure 2. The system will record the amplitude of this input signal as well as the positions of each of the carts in the system as a function of time. These cart positions will initially display transient responses, which will decay away. The cart positions will eventually oscillate with the same frequency as the input signal. However, it is likely that the positions of the carts will not have the same amplitude as the input sinusoid and there may be a phase shift between the input signal and the positions of the carts. It is this change in amplitude and phase between the input signal and output signals (the positions of the carts) as a function of frequency that the frequency-response plot conveys graphically. We will only use the first two carts for today's lab.

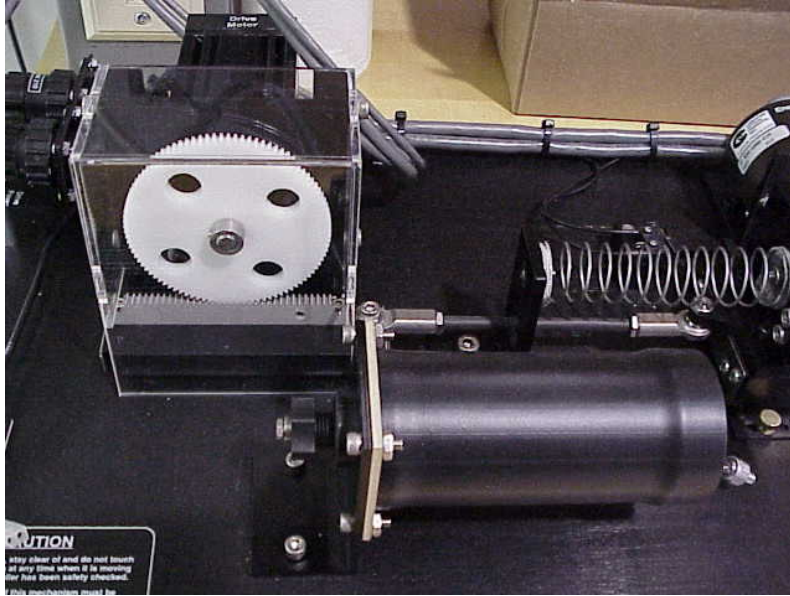


Figure 2. The rack and pinion (at the end of the spring on the far left) connecting the motor to the first cart

For you to do in lab:

Getting Started

1. Set up the environment.

Configure the hardware in 2 DOF (degrees of freedom) mode with two 500 g brass masses on the first carriage and two 500 g brass masses second carriage. The first spring and the third spring should be soft to allow plenty of movement of the carriage 1-2 combination. Disconnect the damper. Ask your instructor for help if you are not sure how to configure the station.

Log on the computer and start MATLAB 6.5.1 using the desktop icon. In the MATLAB Current Directory window, navigate to the C:\Documents and Settings\student\Desktop\ES205 directory. Open the Simulink *model* (not the directory) 'lab_two_01.mdl'. Also open the model 'ECPDSPResetmdl.mdl'.

2. For each response you will need to do the following:

Make sure the interface box is energized (black button). In 'ECPDSPResetmdl.mdl' ensure the External/Normal window shows 'External'. Push the 'Connect to Target' button. The 'Play' button should become black. Push the black 'Play' button and wait about one second. The encoders are now reset. Now in 'lab_two_01.mdl' ensure the External/Normal window shows 'External'. Push the 'Connect to Target' button. The 'Play' button should become black. Push the black 'Play' button and watch the response. If you get 'Internal Error' when pushing the 'Connect to Target' button, simply try again. Errors reading 'could not execute target data map file' indicate that you are working in the wrong directory. Change the working directory (at the top of the MATLAB command window to 'C:\Documents and Settings\student\Desktop\ES205' and try again.

If you get no response, or a very noisy response, try the following:

- a. Check that the ECP interface is on (you did press the black button, didn't you?).
- b. Are there cables connected to the system?
- c. Is the correct controller personality file loaded? Exit MATLAB and start the ECP executive, under
Start→Programs→ECP→ECP32
Utility→Download Controller Personality Files
and load the file C: Program files\ECP System\en\m210_rtw_3.pmc
- d. Close the ECP application, restart MATLAB, open the Simulink models, and try again.
- e. If the software still does not detect cart motion, then contact your instructor.

In most cases you should not have to use the 'Build' button unless Simulink gives you an error message declaring that the model needs to be rebuilt.

3. After each run, your data will be stored in the MATLAB workspace. You can use a command like the following to save your data to disk:

```
>> save run1hz
```

This saves the current workspace as 'run1hz.mat' in the current working directory. Be sure to save the workspace after each run. After you are done with the experiment, you will want to move your data to a different directory, flash drive, or your afs workspace. The third option can be done by using SecureFX.

Procedure

1. For frequencies 1.0 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 2.5 Hz ... 7.5 Hz, run the system and collect the data. The simulation is set to run for 20 seconds. In most cases this time frame will allow the system to reach steady state. You can change the frequency by double-clicking the 'Sine Wave' block and setting the desired frequency. Note that the frequency is set as $x*(2*\pi)$, so that x is the input frequency in Hz. The amplitude is initially set at 0.01. Change this as needed to produce a response that is large enough to record, but not so large that the carts are pushed into the stops. *Be sure to record the input amplitude for each run on the lab worksheet.*
2. Plot the results in Matlab and complete Table 1. The position of the first cart is called x_1 , the position of the second cart is called x_2 , and the time variable is called $time$. From each plot determine the amplitude (peak value) of the sinusoidal steady state response. Do this for each cart at each frequency, and record the values on the worksheet. Determine the steady-state amplification factor for each cart at each frequency. To convert to decibels take $20\log M$.

Clearly doing this one frequency at a time is a very time consuming process. In practice one would use an input such as band limited random noise or a swept sine (a chirp) and then use the fast Fourier transform (FFT) to determine the auto- and cross-spectra which can be used to determine the frequency response functions (FRFs). The frequency response plots we have been talking about in class are simply plots of the magnitude and phase of the FRFs.

3. Input a swept sine. Open the Simulink *model* (not the directory) 'lab_two_swept.mdl'. This model is designed to input a swept sign with frequencies from 0 to 7.5 Hz over a period of 75s. As usual run 'ECPDSPResetmdl.mdl' prior to lab_two_swept.mdl. To

find the approximate frequency at any instant in time simply divide the time by 10. **Watch the system closely during this test and record your observations on the worksheet.** Save your data for plotting.

Analysis

After you have saved you data for the swept sin test you can calculate the FRF by using the built-in Matlab function called “tfestimate” (Transfer function estimate). Sample Matlab code is shown below:

```
load twoDOF_swept_data % this assumes the data is called "twoDOF_swept_data"

dt = time(2)-time(1); % this finds the time step
N = size(x1,1); % this is the number of data points
T = N*dt; % this is the total length to time
fs=1/dt; % this is the sample frequency

% the following command will calculate the transfer function at each
% frequency using a rectangular window, no overlap, and all the data
% points. Windowing is sometimes used to help reduce what is called
% "leakage" (you'll discuss this in future classes)

[Txy,F] = tfestimate(force,x1,rectwin(N),0,N,fs);

% to plot the magnitude plot you need to take the magnitude
semilogy(F,abs(Txy))

% to plot the phase (in degrees) plot you need to take the angle
plot(F,angle(Txy)*180/pi)
```

Construct the following five plots:

1. Plot the magnitude frequency response plot for masses one and two using linear axes. Use “subplot” so the top plot is the magnitude plot for mass 1 and the bottom plot is the magnitude plot for mass 2.
2. Plot the magnitude frequency response plot (log scale for both axes). That is, plot the amplitude ratio in dB and use a log scale for the frequency. Use “subplot” so the top plot is the magnitude plot for mass 1 and the bottom plot is the magnitude plot for mass 2.
3. Plot the swept sin results. Use “subplot” so the top plot is the displacement of mass 1 and the bottom plot is the displacement of mass 2. The horizontal axis should be the time (linear scale)
4. Plot the magnitude and phase of the transfer function for frequencies less than 7.5 Hz using the time history from mass 1. Use subplot so the top plot is the magnitude and the bottom part is the phase in degrees).
5. Plot the magnitude and phase of the transfer function for frequencies less than 7.5 Hz using the time history from mass 2. Use subplot so the top plot is the magnitude and the bottom part is the phase in degrees).