

# An experimental approach to determine load-functions for the impact of fluid-filled projectiles

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This paper reports on tests that have been performed at the Institute for Reinforced Concrete Structures and Building Materials at the University of Karlsruhe (TH) with the goal of evaluating the load-time-history of fluid-filled projectiles on a target that can be regarded as almost rigid. In order to gain first results on the shape and the peak-loads of load-functions for projectiles with stiffness and mass distribution similar to the proportions of a commercial aircraft we performed impact tests with different velocities and a projectile mass of about 700 g.

## INTRODUCTION

In these days there are a lot of discussions on the safety aspect of vulnerable structures that are of importance for the infrastructure of nations. The reasons for such hazards are of different origins. One point that has been intensively discussed is the consequences of an aircraft-crash. In order to gain knowledge on the shape and the peak-loads of load-functions for projectiles with stiffness and mass distribution similar to the proportions of a commercial aircraft and to check the theoretical models as by Riera [3] or other researchers ([1], [2]) impact tests with different velocities and a projectile mass of about 700 g were performed. As material an aluminum alloy which is common in the aircraft industry was used. The fluid-filling was realized by using tanks either half-filled or full with water or in some cases filled with a substitution mass of expanded clay beads.

An experimental facility has been built up that includes an almost rigid target that can be tilted to various different angles of impact. For the acceleration of the different projectiles an air-pressure gun that is capable of accelerating a projectile of 2.5 kg to a velocity of about 220 m/s has been used. The air-pressure-level can be adjusted up to 100 bars and released at the desired level.

The target set-up has been covered by a wooden box with the inner walls capable of catching fragments and allowing the registration of the fluid distribution directly after the tests. Through some windows the interior of the box could be lightened and a high-speed-camera could be used in order to film the procedure of impacting and the fragmentation of the projectiles. The velocity of the impacting projectiles was measured with the help of a simple construction using glass-rods that were destroyed by the projectile without having an influence on the behavior of it.

The data registration for the load-time-function was realized with piezo-electric force transducers that were mounted between a changeable impact plate and the target construction. The evaluation of the data showed that there are some interpretation problems regarding the impact of the eigenfrequencies of the measuring technique and the target itself on the results of the force-measurements. The evaluation of the data is still ongoing and further tests will be performed to broaden the data basis.

## EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP

An already existing air-pressure gun that formerly was used for friction and hard impact tests has been modified for the use with projectiles of a diameter of  $\sim 70$  mm (Figure 1). Therefore a muzzle of this diameter was produced and built to the pressure chamber. A bursting diaphragm is separating the muzzle from the pressurized part and can be destroyed at the desired pressure-level to release the compression energy and to accelerate the projectile brought into the muzzle from the front opening in a position directly before the diaphragm. The perforation needle penetrates the diaphragm when being hit by a pendulum system. The supporting construction for the gun has been built with extremely stiff steel-beams that are mounted on the strong-floor of the laboratory. The maximum pressure that can be used with is 100 bar which lead to a capability of accelerating a mass of 2.5 kg to a velocity of  $\sim 220$  m/s.

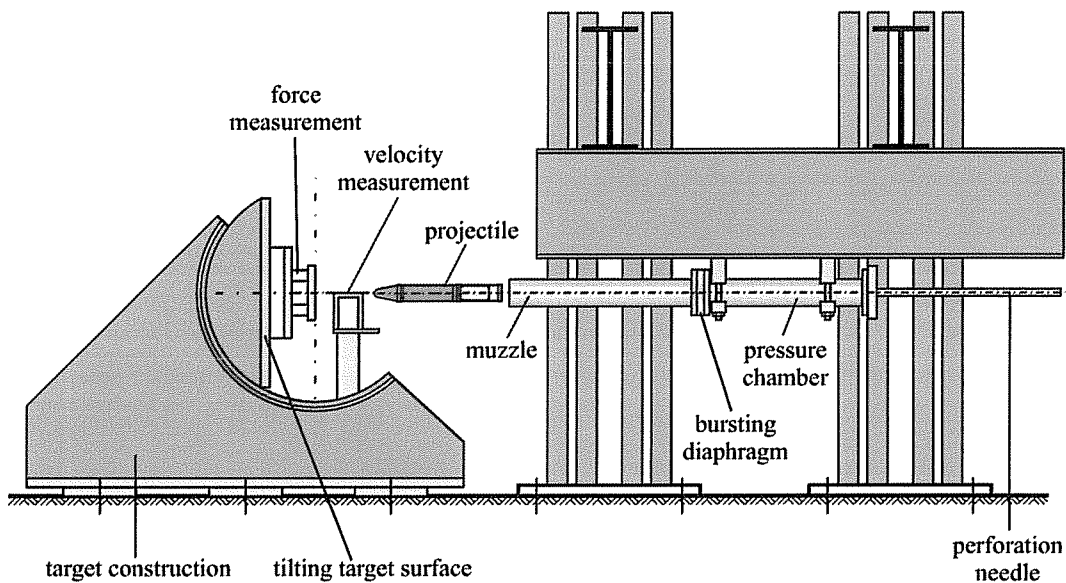


Figure 1 Principle of the experimental set-up

The target has also been made out of steel and has a tilting target surface so that different angles between the main axis (perpendicular) and the target could be adjusted. All angles were regarded as angles with respect to this main axis (e.g. perpendicular means  $0^\circ$ ). On the target surface a force measurement platform was mounted in a way that the hitting point always laid in the rotation center of the target. The distance between the opening of the muzzle and the target was 1.9 m. The target has been covered by a wooden box with the inner walls capable of catching fragments and allowing the registration of the fluid distribution directly after the tests.

The projectiles were produced out of an aluminum alloy that is common in the aircraft industry. The geometry of an aircraft has been simplified by considering the aircraft consisting of only three main parts not taking into account the engines and the rear end. The engines were investigated in separated projects regarding the hard impact and the rear end has no significant effect on the load-time-function because of being rather light and soft.

The remaining three parts consist of the front part of the aircraft ("nose"), the body located before the wing zone and the middle section of the body in addition with the wing and tank section. In Figure 2 these three sections (1-2-3) can be seen. For a better evaluation of the fragmentation they were marked with different colors (red-blue-green). As in a real aircraft the stiffness ration for the three sections (1-2-3) was chosen to 1:1:3. Therefore it was decided that the wall thickness of the alloy cylinders should be 0.3 mm for the first two sections and to 1.2 mm for the third section. The last section also contained the fluid tank that could be used full, half-filled or empty. For some tests the tank was filled with a substitution mass of expanded clay beads in order to increase the visibility of the fragmentation in the high-speed-movies.

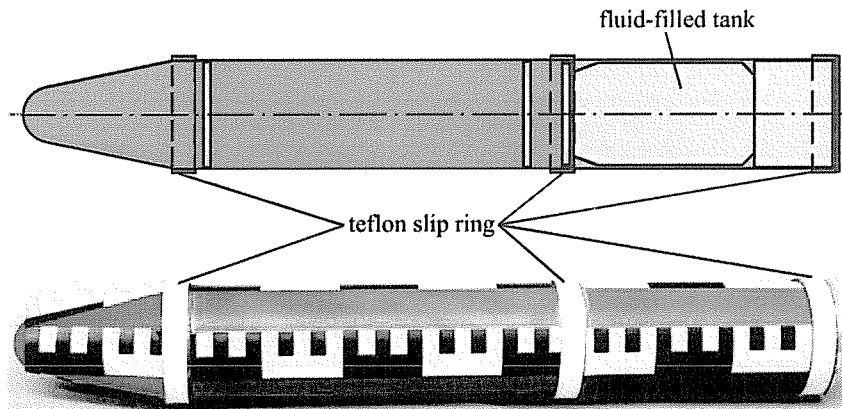


Figure 2 Principle structure of the projectile, section (top) and picture of a real projectile (bottom)

The focus regarding the measurements during the tests laid mainly on two parameters: the velocity  $v$  of the projectile and the forces  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$  and  $F_z$ . For the velocity measurement a simple construction was used. In the main axis a construction was built that held 4 thin glass-rods covered by a conductive silver paste. These rods had a small diameter so that they could be regarded as of no influence to the flying of the projectile. Every single rod was built in a serial resistor circuit in a manner that with the destruction of the rod a voltage could be detected and out of the different arrival times at the rods (located in a distance of 50 mm to each other) the velocity of the projectile could be calculated. The registration of the signals has been performed with a transient recorder with a sampling rate of 100 kHz. For the triggering of the data record the signal of the destruction of the first glass-rod was used.

The detection of the forces has been realized by using a ready-to-use piezo-electric force transducer-system. It was built between the tilting target surface and the plate that has been hit by the projectile in the rotation point of the target construction. With the help of pre-amplifiers the signal could be registered in a transient recorder as well.

### EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

A test series of more than 50 tests with the variation of different parameters was performed. These parameters were the filling of the tank, the velocity of the impact and the angle between the target and the projectile axis. By choosing different pressure-levels the velocity could be adjusted within a range of  $\pm 10$  m/s. Two different velocities were desired: "slow" and "fast". For both velocities tests with impact angles of  $0^\circ$ ,  $30^\circ$  and  $60^\circ$  to the main axis were performed. The following table 1 gives an overview on the variations of the parameters.

velocity [m/s]	angle [ $^\circ$ ]	full	half-filled	empty	substitution mass
slow	0	X	X		
slow	30				X
slow	60				X
fast	0	X	X	X	X
fast	30	X			X
fast	60				X

Table 1 Parameter variations within the test series

The following figure 3 shows the picture sequence of a typical impact of a half-filled projectile at a slow velocity. It can be seen that the third section is only slightly damaged. Despite of the only slightly destroyed section 3 the fluid is forming a cloud which would be dangerous in the case of having a real fuel.



Figure 3 Picture sequence (frame rate 4000 frames/s) of a perpendicular impact ( $\alpha = 0^\circ$ ) of a projectile with half-filled tank at a slow velocity

A typical load-time-history for the perpendicular impact ( $\alpha = 0$ ) is given in figure 4.  $F_z$  is the measured force in the main axis of the set-up. It can easily be seen that the signal is overlaid by some different high frequencies. By using low-pass filters most of these frequencies can be filtered out..

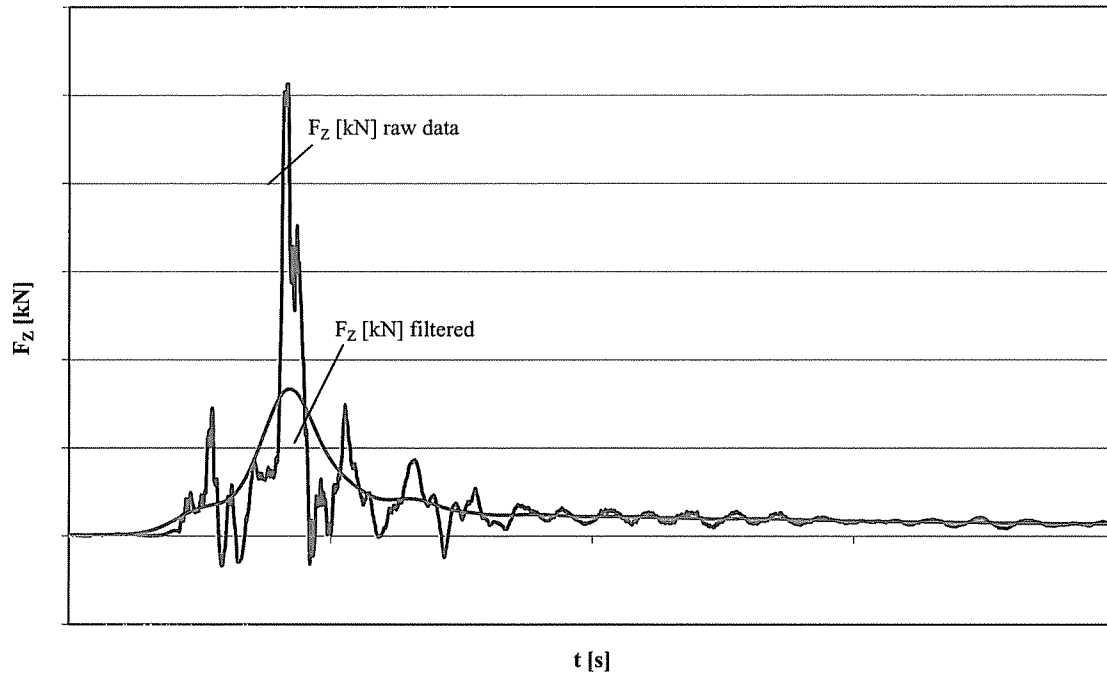


Figure 4 Load-time history  $F_z$  as raw and filtered data in principle

As shown in table 1 also tests with different impact-angles were performed, most of them by using a substitution mass in order to have the best visibility regarding the effects which or important during the impact. Figure 5 shows an example for a  $30^\circ$ -impact and figure 5 a  $60^\circ$ -impact. It can be seen that at  $30^\circ$  the projectile began to slide along the target but was still heavily damaged. At the  $60^\circ$ -impact the effect of sliding increased and the fragments were still more or less connected to each other after the collision but the tank was destroyed anyway.



Figure 5 Picture of an impact of a projectile filled with substitution mass and  $\alpha = 30^\circ$

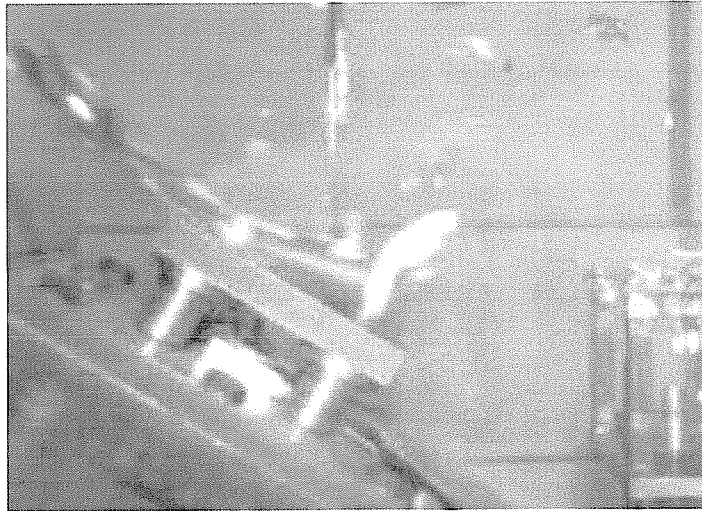


Figure 6 Picture of an impact of a projectile filled with substitution mass and  $\alpha = 60^\circ$

In order to evaluate the exact impact of the target vibration or the eigenfrequencies of the force measurement pendulum tests were performed. Therefore a steel pendulum of 2.1 kg was swung against the target to produce a well defined hard impact and to measure the reaction of the target system including the measuring platform. The set-up for the pendulum test is shown in figure 7. The pendulum can be seen after destroying the glass-rods shortly before impacting the measuring platform. After the single impact the pendulum was fixed again to avoid any disturbance of the registered force signal.

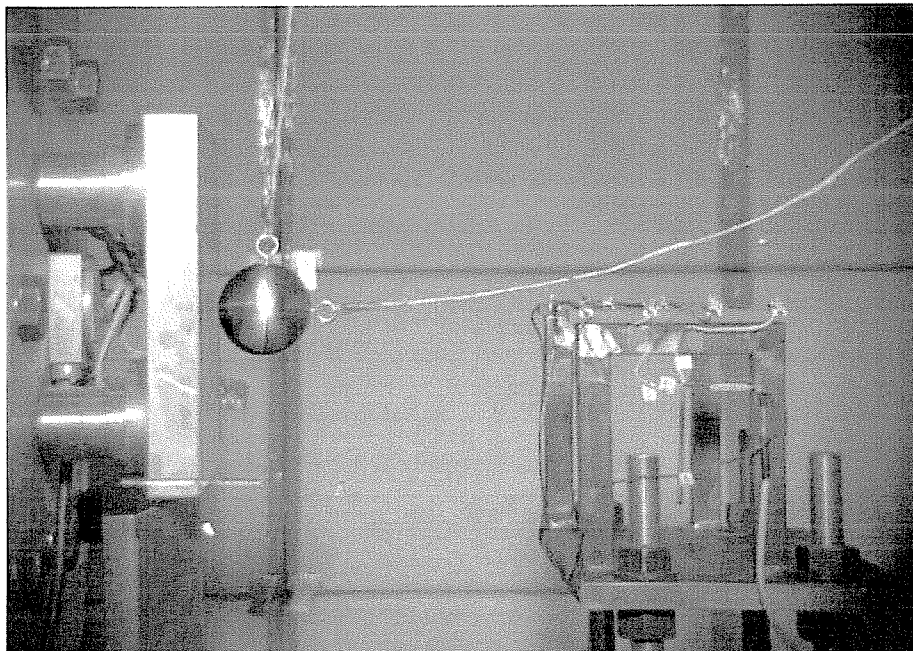


Figure 7 Picture of the perpendicular impact of the pendulum to evaluate the vibrations of the target system

The force measurement results for a  $0^\circ$ -pendulum test are shown in figure 8. The two upper curves show the forces  $F_X$  and  $F_Y$  within the plane of the target surface. It can easily be seen that these two curves have a basic frequency that is quite of the same value.

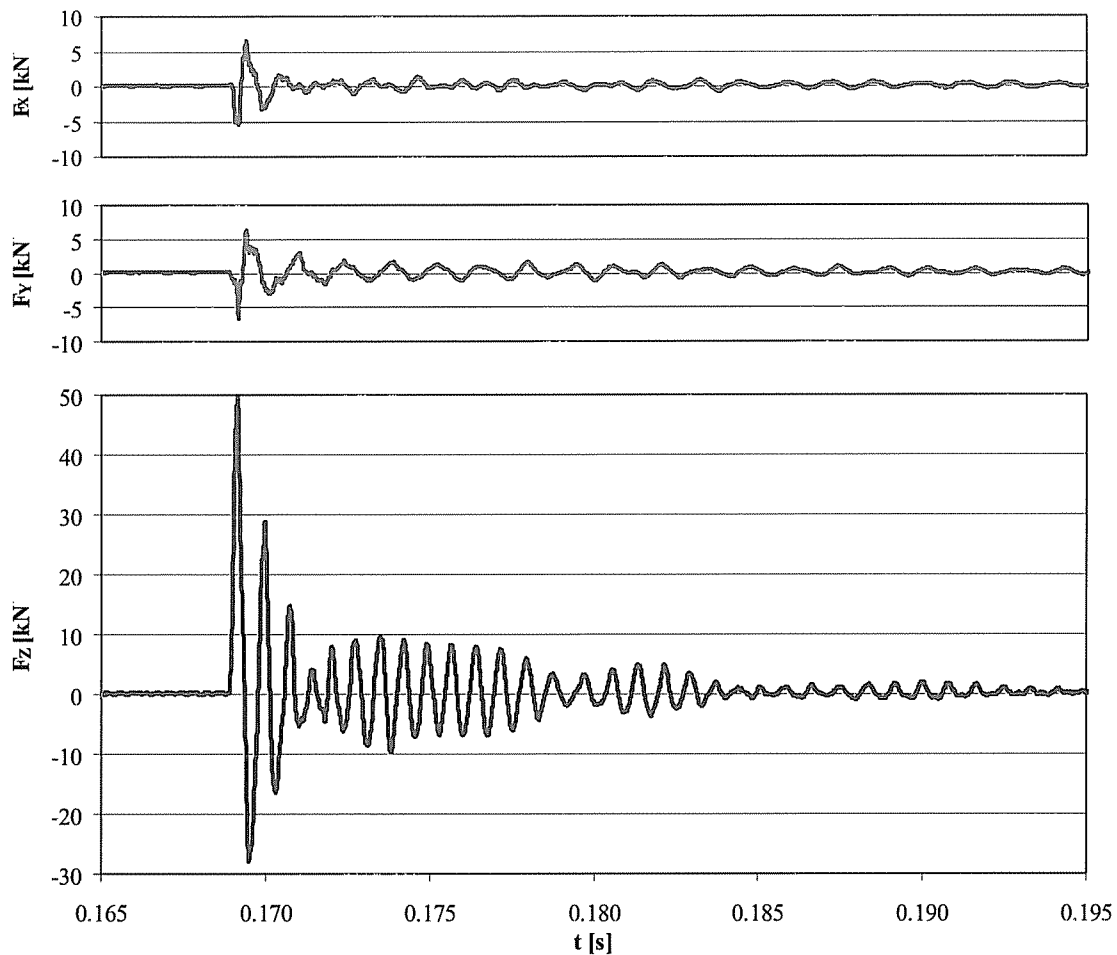


Figure 8 Force measurements in all three directions during a  $0^\circ$ -pendulum test

The important main axis force  $F_Z$  can be seen in the third diagram of figure 8. As expected the value is approximately 10-times larger and therefore a different vertical axis is used. The basic frequency seems to be higher than in the other direction but in addition to this it is overlaid by another frequency being responsible for the pulsating of the registered signal.

For the analysis of the eigenfrequencies a Fourier-transformation was performed and the resulting spectra is shown in figure 9. As discussed above  $F_X$  and  $F_Y$  are overlaid by the same basic frequency of  $\sim 740$  Hz. No other frequencies are of any importance for these two directions. For the  $F_Z$ -direction three different frequencies lying next to each other are of importance. The values of these frequencies are 1150 Hz, 1250 Hz and 1390 Hz which explains the pulsating of the signal and effects the use of low pass filters (see figure 4). The evaluation of many of the test results is still ongoing.

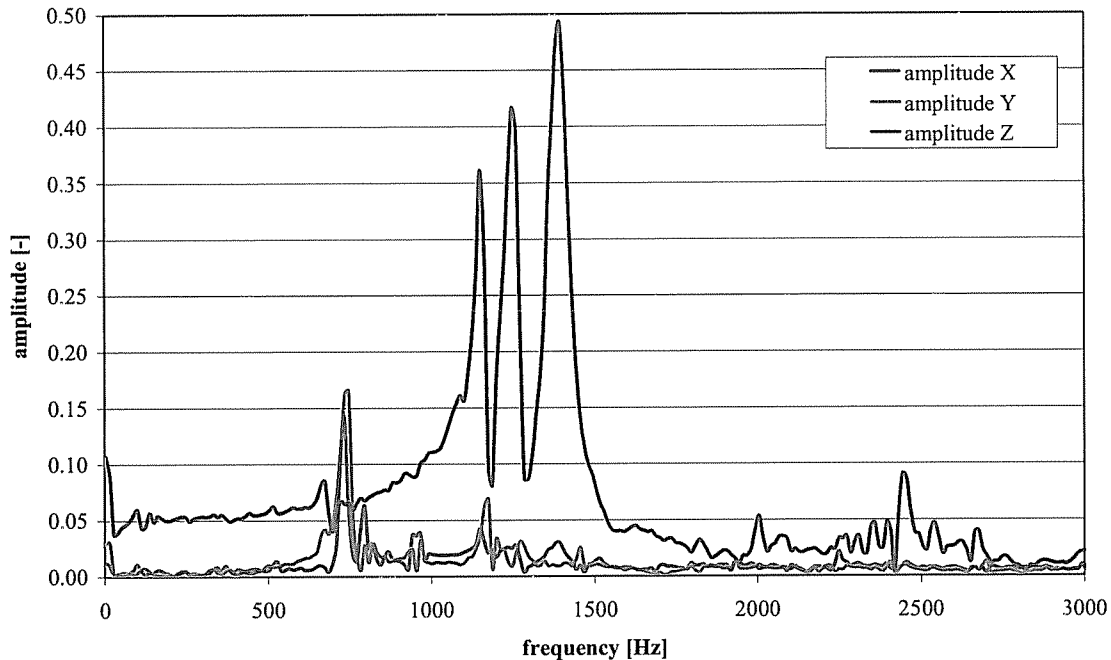


Figure 9 Spectra of the eigenfrequencies of the combination of the target and the measuring platform

## CONCLUSION

A test set-up for a series of impact tests with fluid-filled projectiles is presented in this paper. The variation of different parameters and some first results are described. As the evaluation of the data is not possible without the knowledge of the vibration characteristics of the whole set-up pendulum tests in order to investigate the eigenfrequencies of the system were performed and their results are discussed. All the results presented in this paper are first interpretations of the raw data. For a better interpretation and understanding of all the phenomena occurring in these tests a further series with an alternative target is planned as well as theoretical and numerical studies.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

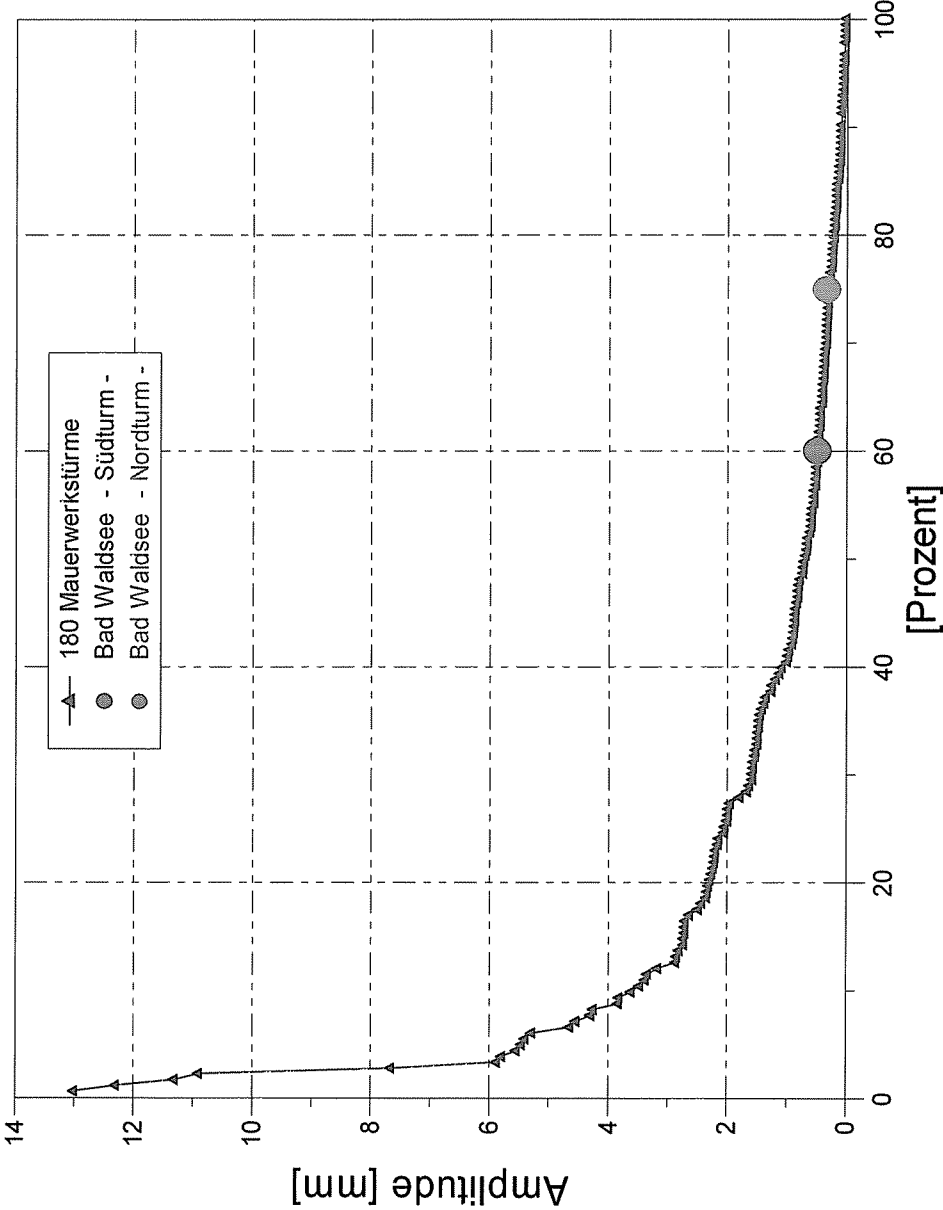
The work was performed in cooperation with the Gesellschaft für Anlagen- und Reaktorsicherheit (GRS) mbH and sponsored by the German Ministry of Economics and Labour.

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analysis is made on the work done on SDOF structures by the excitation force. Since work is equal to the change in the energy of a system, this quantity is closely related to failure models based on strain energy such as the Von Mises criterion. This paper explores a method for characterizing shock motion based on the input energy. The input energy spectrum has attractive properties which include intuitive physical significance, insensitivity to system parameters such as damping, the ability to distinguish between realistic shocks and chirps, and a close relation to accepted material failure models.

## PERFORATION/PENETRATION

### **An Experimental Approach to Determine Load-functions for the Impact of Fluid-filled Projectiles**

*Dr Nico Hermann, Klaus Kreuker, Prof. Lothar Stempniewski, University of Karlsruhe*

We report on a series of tests that has been performed at our institute with the goal of evaluating the load-time-history of fluid-filled projectiles on a target that can be regarded as almost rigid. An air-pressure gun has been used that is capable of accelerating a projectile of 2.5 kg to a velocity of about 220 m/s. The air-pressure-level can be adjusted up to 100 bars.

In order to gain first results on the shape and the peak-loads of load-functions for projectiles with stiffness and mass distribution similar to the proportions of a commercial aircraft we performed impact tests with velocities in the range of 130 m/s to 190 m/s and a projectile mass of about 700 g. As material we used an aluminum alloy which is common in the aircraft industry. The fluid-filling was realized by using tanks either half-filled or full with water or in some cases filled with a substitution mass of expanded clay beads.

The whole test set-up will be presented and its capabilities will be described. The measurement technique for the load and the velocity registration will be shown. Some showcase results from first and still ongoing data interpretations will be given as well as a discussion on the difficulties of evaluating the load-time-signal out of the raw data that is always overlaid by vibrations due to the eigenfrequencies of the target and the measurement device itself.

### **Perforation of Metal Plates: Laboratory Experiments and Numerical Simulations**

*Dr. Leonard Schwer, Schwer Engineering and Consulting Services, Dr. Kurt Hacker, Dr. Kenneth Poe, Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division*

The Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division has a requirement to establish a modeling capability to simulate render safe procedures for unexploded ordnance. To aid in establishing this capability, the Navy has initiated a research and development program that includes modeling studies, research on applicable impact related material parameters, and comparison of the modeling results with experimental results. This paper presents a summary of the progress during the first six months of this



# *Abstracts*

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