Structure Detection of Nonlinear Aeroelastic Systems with Application to Aeroelastic Flight Test Data: Part I

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NASA Dryden's highly-modified Active Aeroelastic Wing F/A-18A shows off its form during a 360-degree aileron roll during a research flight.

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NASA Photo: EC03-0039-14 Date: February 7, 2003 Photo By: Alan Brown
NASA's Active Aeroelastic Wing F/A-18A research aircraft rolls upside down during a 360-degree aileron roll on a test mission.

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Outline

- Introduction – Objectives
- The NARMAX Structure
- NARMAX Identification Problem
  - Order, parameter estimation & *structure detection*
- Structure Detection: Current Methods
- Results
  - Application to simulated pitch-plunge model
- Conclusions

Objectives

- Investigate applicability of NARMAX structure detection to aeroelastic systems
  - Simulated model of aircraft freeplay

- Evaluate performance
  - Experimental aeroelastic flight test data

NARMAX Model Description

- Input-output relationship:

$$y(n) = F^l[y(n-1), \cdots, y(n-n_y), u(n), \cdots, u(n-n_u), e(n-1), \cdots, e(n-n_e)] + e(n)$$

- Variety of nonlinear terms:

$$u^2(n-3) \quad u(n)u(n-1) \quad y(n-1)y(n-2) \quad u^2(n-1)y(n-2)$$

  - F^l, can also be described by hard nonlinearities such as a half-wave rectifier

- Linear-in-the-parameters
  - Linear regression techniques

Full Identification Procedure

- Model order selection
  - Determine number of input, output and error lags and nonlinearity order
- Parameter estimation
  - Determine values of unknown parameters
- Structure detection
  - Select parameters to include in model

System Order

$$y(n) = F^l[y(n-1), \cdots, y(n-n_y), u(n), \cdots, u(n-n_u), e(n-1), \cdots, e(n-n_e)] + e(n)$$

- System order represented as:

$$O \ = \ [n_u \, n_y \, n_e \, l]$$

- Output additive noise: $n_y = n_e$

$$\Longrightarrow O \ = \ [n_u \, n_y \, l]$$

Parameter Estimation

- Need an estimate of θ:

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} |(\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{\Psi}\boldsymbol{\theta})\|_2^2$$

  and statistics
- NARMAX models provide concise system representation
  - noise on the output enters the model as product terms with the system input and output
  - "Ordinary" least-squares $\longrightarrow$ biased: does not account for noise
- Solution extended least-squares:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = (\mathbf{\Psi}^T\mathbf{\Psi})^{-1}\mathbf{\Psi}^T\mathbf{Z}; \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbf{\Psi} = [\mathbf{\Psi}_{zu}\mathbf{\Psi}_{zu\hat{\epsilon}}\mathbf{\Psi}_{\hat{\epsilon}}].$$

  - Bias addressed by modelling lagged errors
  - NARMAX formulation redefined into prediction error model, ϵ replacing e and z replacing y
  - Deterministic

Possible Terms

- NARMAX models described by few terms
- Maximum number of candidate terms:

$$\begin{aligned} p &= \sum_{i=1}^{l} p_i + 1; \\ p_i &= \frac{p_{i-1}(n_y + n_u + n_e + i)}{i}, \quad p_0 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

  – Example: model of order: $O = [4\;4\;4\;2] \Rightarrow p = 105$ candidate terms.

Example of Candidate Terms

- Model example:

$$y(n) = y(n-1) + u(n-1) + u^2(n-1) + e(n-1) + e(n)$$

- Described by: $O \;=\; [n_u = 1 \; n_y = 1 \; l = 2] \Rightarrow p = 15$

- Candidate terms:

$$\begin{aligned} y(n) \;=\;& \theta_0 + \theta_1 u(n) + \theta_2 u(n-1) + \theta_3 u^2(n) + \theta_4 u(n)u(n-1) + \theta_5 u^2(n-1) + \theta_6 y(n-1) \\ +\;& \theta_7 u(n)y(n-1) + \theta_8 u(n-1)y(n-1) + \theta_9 y^2(n-1) + \theta_{10} u(n)e(n-1) \\ +\;& \theta_{11} u(n-1)e(n-1) + \theta_{12} y(n-1)e(n-1) + \theta_{13} e(n-1) + \theta_{14} e^2(n-1) + e(n) \end{aligned}$$

Structure Detection

- Select a subset of candidate terms

- Best describes output

Traditional Approaches to Structure Detection

- Covariance matrix, P_{θ}
- Stepwise Regression
- Bootstrap method

Covariance matrix, $\mathrm{P}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$

- T-test with regression analysis referred to as hypothesis testing: computing differences between means
- Suppose $E(\mathbf{Z}) = \hat{\theta}_1 + \hat{\theta}_2\psi_2 + \hat{\theta}_3\psi_3 + \cdots + \hat{\theta}_p\psi_p$ was fit
  - $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$'s tested against null hypothesis, $\hat{\theta}_i = 0$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, p$
- Confidence interval for $\hat{\theta}_i$:

$$\hat{\theta}_i \pm t(\alpha/2, N-p)\hat{P}_{ii}$$

where $\mathbf{P} = \sigma^2(\mathbf{\Psi}^T\mathbf{\Psi})^{-1}$ and $\hat{P}_{ii}$ ith diagonal element

  - t tabulated t ratio at $\alpha/2$ level of significance $(0 \leq \alpha \leq 1)$ with $N-p$ d.o.f.
- Significance assessed with $(1-\alpha)$% confidence that the parameter lies within this range
- Interval includes zero, indicates $\hat{\theta}_i$ is not significantly different from zero at the α level and can be removed from the model

Stepwise Regression

- Relies on the incremental change in RSS from adding or removing a parameter

- Two F distribution levels, F_{out} and F_{in}, formed to determine whether parameter(s) should be removed from the model (F_{out}) or included in the model (F_{in})
  - F-levels are based on $N - p$ d.o.f. for predetermined αth level of significance

- Statistics F_{in} and F_{out} estimated from RSS for model with p parameters as:

$$F_{\text{in}} = \frac{\text{RSS}_p - \text{RSS}_{p+1}}{\text{RSS}_{p+1}/(N-p-1)} \quad \text{and} \quad F_{\text{out}} = \frac{\text{RSS}_{p-1} - \text{RSS}_p}{\text{RSS}_p/(N-p)}.$$

- For good model parameterisations, F_{out} must not be greater than F_{in}

Bootstrap Method

- Numerical Procedure for Estimating Parameter Statistics
- Mild Conditions on Sample Errors
  - Errors independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.)
  - Zero-mean
- Application of ℓ_2 minimisation: $\rightarrow \hat{\boldsymbol{Z}}$, $\hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}$ and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$
- Assume: $\hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} = [\hat{\epsilon}_1, \hat{\epsilon}_2, \ldots, \hat{\epsilon}_N]$, from Unknown Distribution, $\mathcal{F}$
  - Random resampling *with replacement*: $\hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}^* = [\hat{\epsilon}_1^*, \hat{\epsilon}_2^*, \ldots, \hat{\epsilon}_N^*]$: estimates distribution $\mathcal{F}$;
    $\Longrightarrow$ Example: $N = 8$, $\hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}^* = [\hat{\epsilon}_6, \hat{\epsilon}_8, \hat{\epsilon}_7, \hat{\epsilon}_3, \hat{\epsilon}_4, \hat{\epsilon}_7, \hat{\epsilon}_5, \hat{\epsilon}_1]$
- $\mathbf{Z}^* = \boldsymbol{\Psi}\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}^*$
  - Bootstrap ℓ_2 minimisation estimate $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^*$ computed from $\mathbf{Z}^*$
- Repeated B Times: $\hat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}^* = \left[\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_1^*, \ldots, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_B^*\right]$
- Statistics Computed from $\hat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}^*$ at a Chosen Level of Significance, α

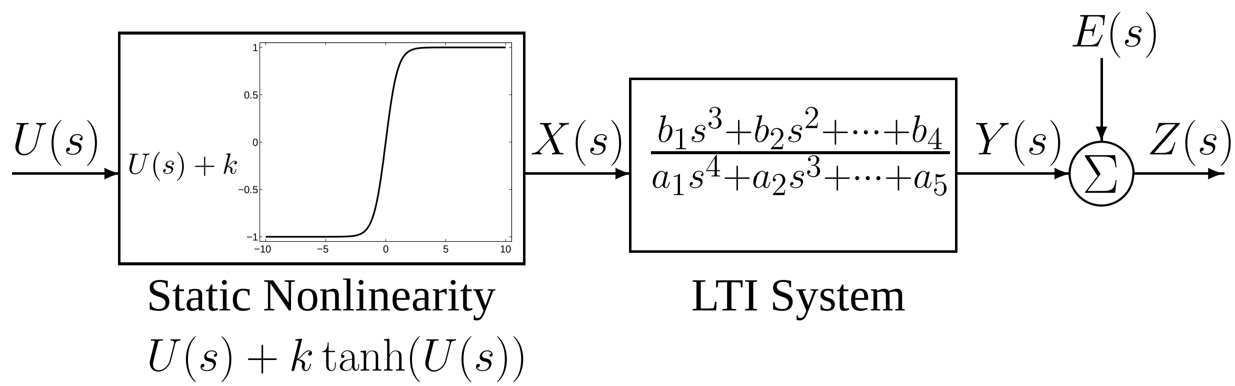
Rationale

- Structure detection provide useful process insights that can be used in subsequent development or refinement of physical models

- Investigate performance of the covariance matrix (t-test), stepwise regression and bootstrap method on a simulated NARMAX model of aeroelastic structural stiffness

- Assess performance of these techniques for applicability to experimental aircraft data.

Aeroelastic Structural Stiffness Model



- Simulated in continuous-time
- NARMAX representation aeroelastic structural stiffness model:

$$
\begin{aligned}
z(n\ ) = \; & \theta_1 z(n-1) + \theta_2 z(n-2) + \theta_3 z(n-3) + \theta_4 z(n-4) + \theta_5 u(n-1) \\
+ \; & \theta_6 u(n-2) + \theta_7 u(n-3) + \theta_8 u(n-4) + \theta_9 \tanh(u(n-1)) \\
+ \; & \theta_{10} \tanh(u(n-2)) + \theta_{11} \tanh(u(n-3)) + \theta_{12} \tanh(u(n-4)) \\
+ \; & \theta_{13} e(n-1) + \theta_{14} e(n-2) + \theta_{15} e(n-3) + \theta_{16} e(n-4) + e(n).
\end{aligned}
$$

Continuous-Time System Coefficients

- Continuous-time values correspond to those found in experiments

CT Coefficient	Value
U	18.0 m/s
a	-0.600 m
b	0.135 m
I_α	0.065 m^2Kg
k_h	2844 N/m
k_α	2.82 Nm/rad
x_a	0.247 m
c_h	27.4 Kg/s
c_α	0.180 m^2Kg/s
ρ	1.23 kg/m^3
c_{l_α}	3.28
c_{l_β}	3.36
c_{m_α}	-0.628
c_{m_β}	-0.635
k	2

Simulation Protocol

- One hundred Monte-Carlo simulations
- Each input/output realization unique
  - Inputs uniform, white, zero-mean, with variances of 8 rad^2
- Unique Gaussian, white, zero-mean, noise sequence added to output
  - Output additive noise amplitude increased in increments of 5 dB, from 20 to 5 dB SNR
- Identification data length: $N = [10,000\ \ 80,000]$ points increased in increments of $10,000$
- Bootstrap method $B = 100$ bootstrap replications generated to assess distribution of each parameter

....Simulation Protocol Cont.

- All three techniques parameters tested for significance at 95% confidence level

- Model posed for structure computation, additive nonlinear model:

$$z(n) = \sum_{v=1}^{q} \theta_v \psi(n) + \sum_{w=1}^{r} \theta_w f(\psi(n)) + e(n);\ q + r = p.$$

  - Model order: $O = [4\ 4\ 4\ \tanh]$
  - $\tanh$ selected as basis because a wing section response limited due to structural stiffness and appears to saturate smoothly
  - Full model description 27 candidate terms

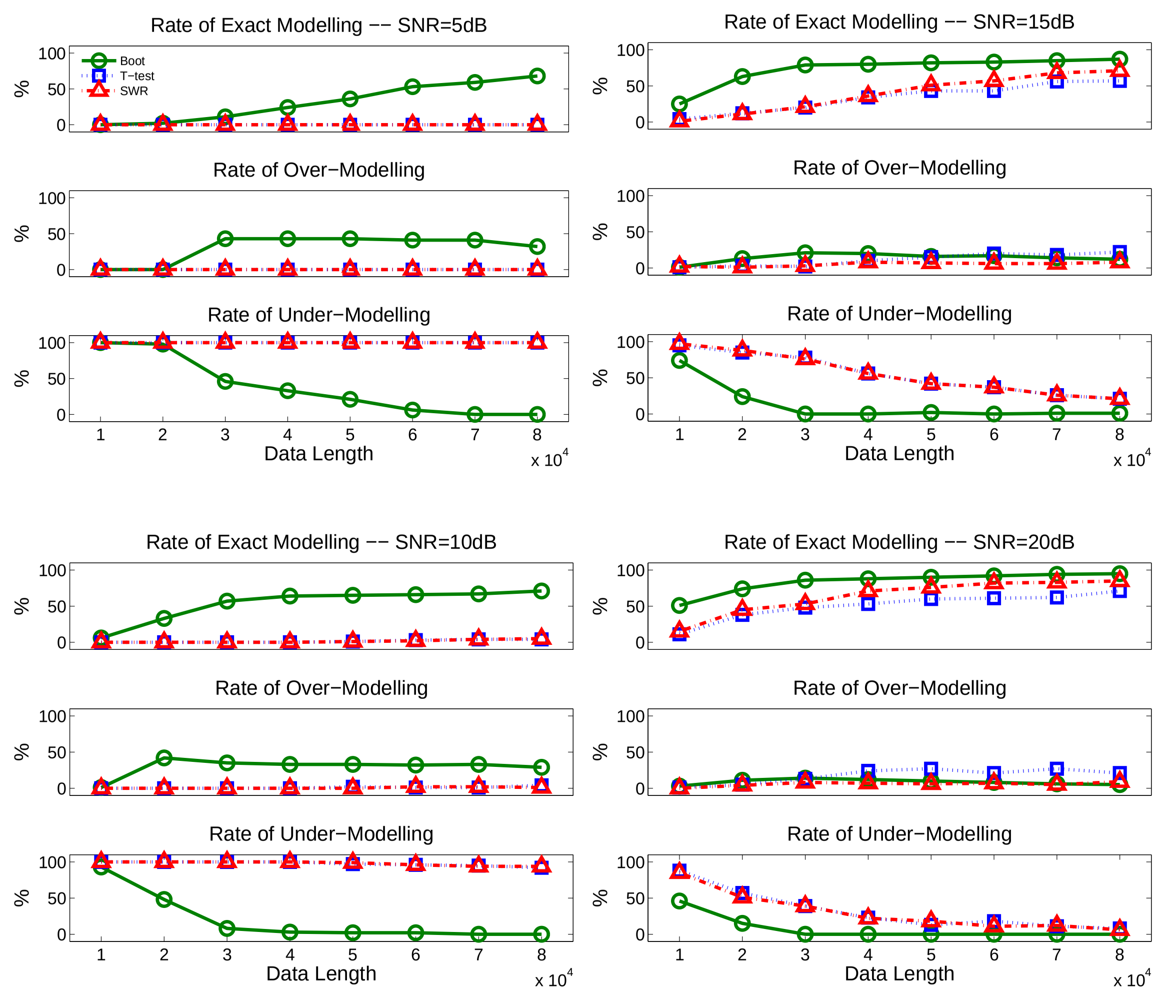
Results Classified into Three Categories

1. Exact Model: A model which contains only true system terms,

2. Over-modelled: A model with all its true system terms plus spurious parameters and

3. Under-modelled: A model without all its true system terms. An under-modelled model may contain spurious terms as well

Simulation Results



Summary of Simulation Findings

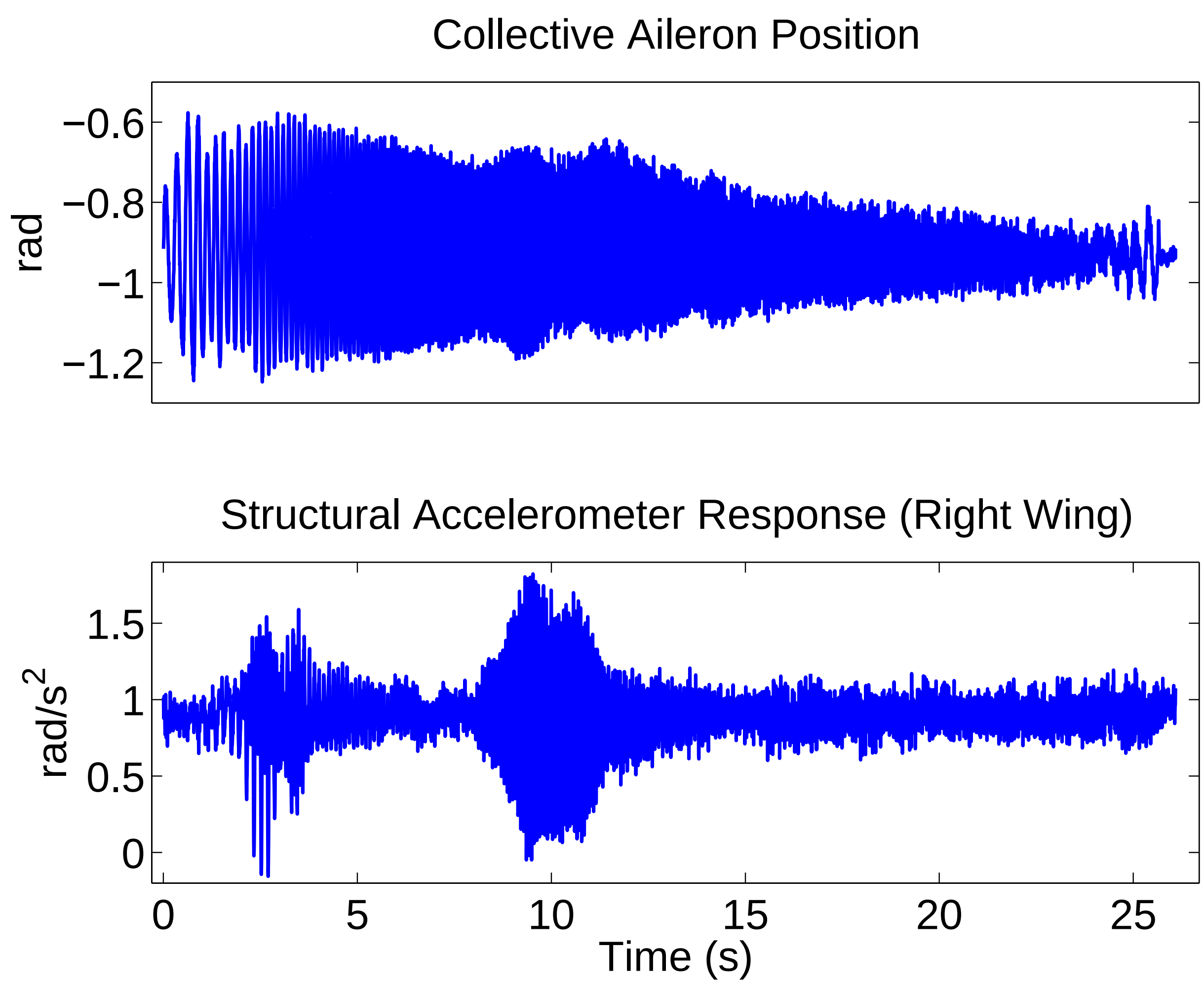
- For this over-parameterised model describing aeroelastic dynamics the bootstrap method clearly outperformed the t-test and stepwise regression

- For analysis of flight test data only implemented bootstrap structure detection method

Experimental Aircraft Data

- System identified applying bootstrap approach: model form additive non-linear & $O = [4\ 4\ 4\ \tanh]$
- Scaled hyperbolic tangent functions used because the input amplitude is less than ± 1
  - Scale factors used for the input, output and error signals in the range of $\nu = [0.1\ 1.0]$ and increased in increments of 0.1
  - A scaled hyperbolic tangent is denoted as $\tanh(\cdot, \nu)$
  - Models with every possible combination of scale factors were considered (i.e. structure computation performed on 1,000 models)
  - Full model description 27 candidate terms
- Model which yielded highest cross-validation percent fit deemed the best-fit model
  - Estimation $N_e = 5,200$: right wing & cross-validation $N_v = 5,200$: left wing

Identification Data

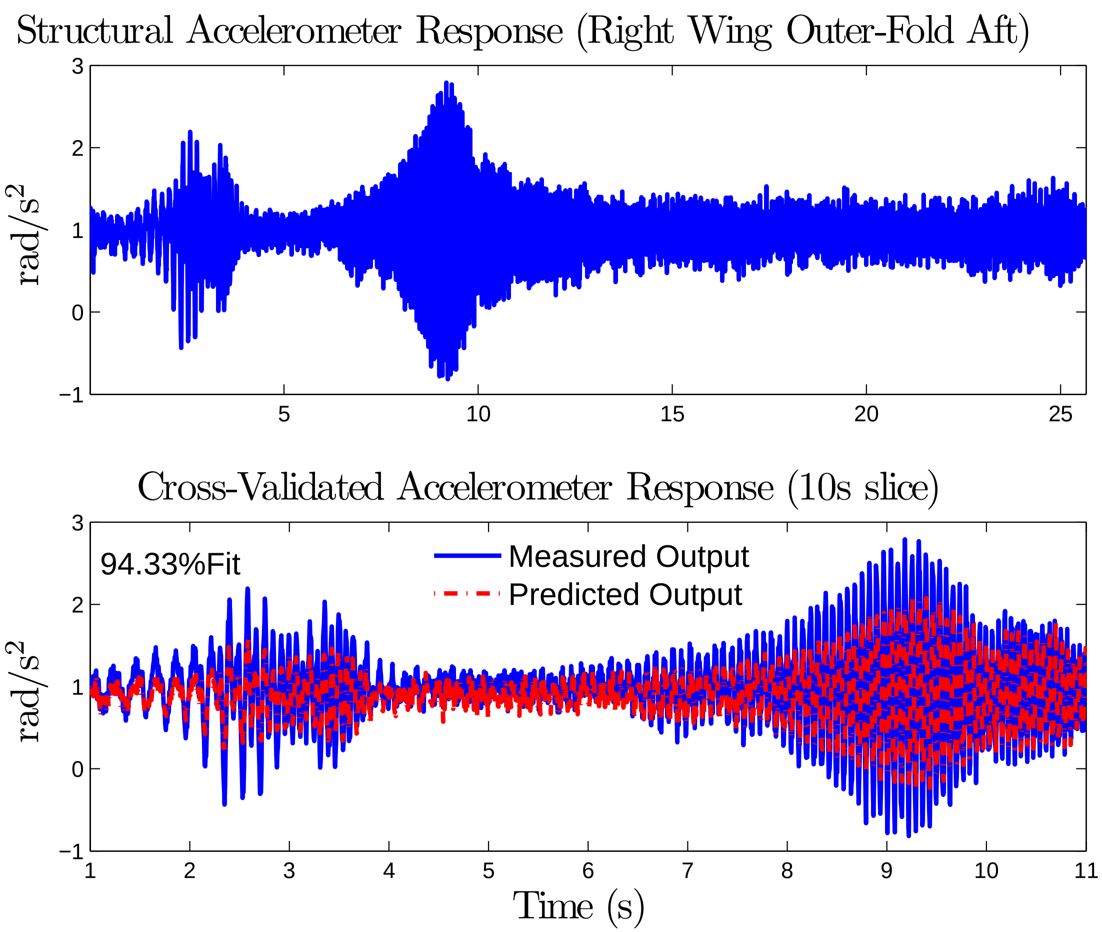


Computed Structure

- Contains 14 terms

$$
\begin{aligned}
z(n) &= \hat{\theta}_0 + \theta_1 z(n-1) + \hat{\theta}_2 z(n-3) + \hat{\theta}_3 z(n-4) + \hat{\theta}_4 u(n) + \hat{\theta}_5 u(n-2) \\
&+ \hat{\theta}_6 u(n-4) + \hat{\theta}_7 \tanh(u(n), 0.3) + \hat{\theta}_8 \tanh(u(n-1), 0.3) \\
&+ \hat{\theta}_9 \tanh(u(n-3), 0.3) + \hat{\theta}_{10} \tanh(u(n-4), 0.3) + \hat{\theta}_{11} e(n-1) \\
&+ \hat{\theta}_{12} e(n-3) + \hat{\theta}_{13} e(n-4) + e(n).
\end{aligned}
$$

Cross-Validation Data



Summary of Findings

- Simulated model of aeroelastic structural stiffness dynamics showed:
  - Given sufficient data length ($N_e = 60,000 - 80,000$), the bootstrap method had a low rate of selecting an under-modelled model (2–0%) and a high rate of selecting the exact model (60–95%) for all SNR levels
  - Both t-test and stepwise regression had difficulty computing the correct structure, with selection range of 3–70% and 2–85% respectively, for equivalent data lengths and SNR levels

- Experimental results demonstrate:
  - Bootstrap successfully reduced number of regressors posed to aircraft aeroelastic data yielding a parsimonious model structure
  - The computed parsimonious structure capable of predicting a large portion of the cross-validation data, collected on adjacent wing with different sensor
  - Suggests identified structure and parameters explain the data well

Conclusions

- Simulation results demonstrate bootstrap approach for structure computation of aircraft structural stiffness provided a high rate of true model selection
- T-test and stepwise regression methods had difficulty providing accurate results
- Work contributes to understanding of the use of structure detection for modelling and identification of aerospace systems.
- Limitation of model complexity that can be studied with these structure computation techniques
  - Result of the large number of candidate terms, for a given model order, and the data length required to guarantee convergence
  - Another approach to structure computation problem uses a least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (LASSO)

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