

PASSIVE, ACTIVE AND ACTIVE-PASSIVE VIBRATION CONTROL OF PLATE STRUCTURES USING DISTRIBUTED PIEZOELECTRIC PATCHES

M.A. Trindade*, T.C. Godoy, C.C. Pagani Jr. and H.F.L. Santos

Department of Mechanical Engineering, São Carlos School of Engineering, University of São Paulo, São Carlos, SP 13566-590, Brazil, trindade@sc.usp.br, <http://www.eesc.usp.br/labdin>

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Since the early 80s, several studies focused on the use of distributed piezoelectric patches for the vibration control of thin plate-like structures [1, 2]. The main goal was to obtain a so-called adaptive structure with very integrated sensors and actuators so that adaptive/reconfigurable vibration mitigation solutions could be part of the structural design phase. However, the performance and interest of such solutions were always limited to the relatively weak actuation power of piezoelectric patches and the required cumbersome power electronics. Therefore, most research groups migrated to passive and/or semi-active solutions to escape from the power required by active control while still maintaining the adaptivity provided by the piezoelectric patches. Much fewer studies attempted to tackle the issue of increasing the ratio performance/power and/or miniaturizing the power electronics required for active control solutions [3, 4].

One alternative would be to combine the active vibration control solutions to passive and/or semi-active ones so that the required performance of the active part, and consequently the power required, could be diminished. For instance, this could be achieved using an optimized combination of viscoelastic treatments for passive damping and piezoelectric actuators for active control [5, 6, 7]. However, this approach does not increase the performance/power ratio of the active solution, although it can indeed decrease the power required for a given overall performance and also increase the frequency range and robustness of the combined solution.

Therefore, recent studies were performed with the objective of maximizing the control authority of piezoelectric patches in order to improve the performance/power of active control solutions. These studies include the use of resonant shunt circuits in series with the active control voltage source to improve the control authority [8, 9] and also the use of spatial modal filters to minimize the power spilled to control non-interesting dynamics [10, 11]. Presented results show that the active vibration control performance can be

substantially increased with the use of such strategies. In addition, the adaptivity of solution is preserved in the sense that it can be modified in real time according to the operation and/or performance criteria.

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