

Temperature Changes Effect on the Inner Product Vector Method and its Application to Structural Health Monitoring of Aircraft Industry

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the paper is to study the effect of temperature change on the theory of inner product vector (IPV). The IPV method can be used to detect structural damage. This study evaluates the IPV method ability to detect damage of an Airbus A320 slat-track, which is in the form of a longitudinal crack. The results show that the IPV method is able to detect defects in the structure as well as its location, with close approximation. Then, the Airbus A320 slat-track was investigated for the effect of changes in temperature on the IPV method, evaluated over a temperature between -73 and 260 °C. The effect of temperature on the performance of IPV damage detection method has not been investigated so far. The results of the IPV method show a spurious defect in the structure as the temperature changes; therefore, the IPV method is temperature-sensitive. Also, this study highlighted the importance of applying simulation methods to develop vibration-based damage detection (VBDD) techniques, especially for evaluating the effect of changes in environmental temperature when the structure is complex.

Keywords: Vibration-Based Damage Detection; Cross-correlation function; Temperature; Airbus 320 slat-track; Finite element.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays the topic of vibration-based structural health monitoring (SHM) methods has been widely used in structural damage detection. Vibration-based techniques can be classified into two categories: frequency domain methods and time domain methods (Labib *et al.* 2014; Medeiros *et al.* 2013; Ni *et al.* 2014). The use of cross-correlation functions (CCF) is one of the time domain methods that have attracted many researchers in recent years and has been implemented in some practical applications in SHM.

Farrar and James (1997) proved that the CCF of the responses can be adopted for recognizing structural dynamic properties. The Hilbert–Huang transform of the CCF to identify the damage on a benchmark building investigated by Lin *et al.* (2005). Cross-correlation analysis (CCA) of recorded random vibration data in the test section of a large cavitation channel has been implemented to capture deterministic time signatures, which lead to the extraction of structural response by Sabra *et al.* (2007). In 2007, the CCA employed to detect the damage in a laboratory composite beam under random excitation. To this end, CCF

Received: Jun. 21, 2019 | Accepted: Nov. 04, 2020

Peer Review History: Double Blind Peer Review.

Section Editor: Valdeer Steffen Junior



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amplitude vector of structural response was defined. (Yang *et al.* 2007; Zhu *et al.* 2010). Wang *et al.* (2010) developed the CCF between vibration velocity and acceleration responses as a structural damage detection technique.

Zhang *et al.* (2014) have proposed several new correlation function-based damage detection methods (autocorrelation function at maximum point value vector [AMV] method, the maximum value of the CCF [CMV] method and zero value of the CCF [CZV] method) that require no reference point. The damage detection results show that the proposed three new methods can not only effectively locate the damage even when noise exists, but also require no reference point compared to CorV/inner product vector (IPV) method, among which the AMV method is the best. Zhang and Schmidt (2014) studied the sensitivity of an auto correlation function-based damage index. They showed that the normalized AMV has a better recognizability. Wang *et al.* (2011) demonstrated that the IPV can be measured by the inner product of the time domain vibration responses of each measurement points under band pass white noise excitation or white noise excitation, and the computational cost is highly reduced (Wang *et al.* 2011; Wang and Yang 2012).

Damage-induced dynamic characteristics may be entirely masked by variations in the dynamic characteristics because of differences in the environmental temperature (Xu *et al.* 2017). Without understanding temperature effects, false structural condition identification may occur. Some studies have showed temperature variations effects in the structural vibration properties (Mohammadi Esfarjani *et al.* 2017; Mohammadi Esfarjani, 2020; Xia *et al.* 2012). In recent years, research on assessing the effect of environment factors, such as the temperature on vibration-based damage detection (VBDD) techniques using FE methods, has become very popular.

The IPV method is a new VBDD technique that has been introduced in recent years. Previous researches showed that the IPV method is able to detect internal and surface structural damages (Mohammadi Esfarjani and Salehi 2016a,b,c; 2017; 2020). The IPV method is more sensitive to damage than CMV and CZV methods (Zhang *et al.* 2014). Also, the IPV can be calculated by displacement responses, velocity responses and acceleration response. None of the previous studies considered changes in the environmental conditions such as temperature changes on the damage detection capability of the IPV method. This paper is the first investigation on the effect of changes in the temperature on the IPV method performance. In this study, an Airbus A320 slat-track was investigated. Given the maximum and minimum temperatures in the coldest and hottest airports in the world and assuming the aircraft is traveling between these regions, a temperature range of -70 to 70 °C is sufficient for the present study. However, in this paper, a greater temperature range was selected to achieve wider and more accurate judgments about the changing temperature effect on the IPV method. The simulated structure was evaluated under a temperature between of -73 and 260 °C. The vibration responses were obtained via numerical simulation with the ABAQUS (commercial Finite Element software). The IPV was calculated from vibration responses under band pass white noise excitation using a developed MATLAB code.

THEORY OF IPV AND TEMPERATURE CHANGES EFFECT ON IT

In this section, theory of IPV is introduced and then temperature changes effect on the theory of IPV are presented.

Theory of the IPV

To calculate the IPV, firstly, response measurements including displacement, velocity and acceleration are fulfilled. Then, the inner product of the time domain vibration responses of each measurement point under white noise excitation or band pass white noise excitation is computed (Eqs. 1–3) (Wang *et al.* 2010, 2011; Zhang and Schmidt 2014).

$$R_{IPV,j}^{\text{dis}} = \left[R_{x_1x_j}(0), R_{x_2x_j}(0), \dots, R_{x_px_j}(0) \right]^T = \sum_{r=1}^n \zeta_{j,r}^{\text{dis}} \varphi_r \quad (1)$$

$$R_{IPV,j}^{\text{vel}} = \left[R_{\dot{x}_1\dot{x}_j}(0), R_{\dot{x}_2\dot{x}_j}(0), \dots, R_{\dot{x}_p\dot{x}_j}(0) \right]^T = \sum_{r=1}^n \zeta_{j,r}^{\text{vel}} \varphi_r \quad (2)$$

$$R_{IPV,j}^{\text{acc}} = \left[R_{\ddot{x}_1\ddot{x}_j}(0), R_{\ddot{x}_2\ddot{x}_j}(0), \dots, R_{\ddot{x}_p\ddot{x}_j}(0) \right]^T = \sum_{r=1}^n \zeta_{j,r}^{\text{acc}} \varphi_r \quad (3)$$

where $|\zeta_{j,r}^{\text{dis}}|$, $|\zeta_{j,r}^{\text{vel}}|$ and $|\zeta_{j,r}^{\text{acc}}|$ are weighting factors. A local damage index determined by the difference between the IPVs of the undamaged and damaged structures is used to reduce the effect of measurement noise (Eq. 4) (Wang *et al.* 2010; 2011; Wang and Yang 2013):

$$D_{\text{IPV},j} = R_{\text{IPV},j}^{\text{d}} - R_{\text{IPV},j}^{\text{u}} \quad (4)$$

where $R_{\text{IPV},j}^{\text{u}}$ and $R_{\text{IPV},j}^{\text{d}}$ coefficients show the i th element in the IPVs of the healthy and damaged structures, respectively. Afterward, the damage index is determined as $D_{\text{IPV},j} = \{D_{\text{IPV},1}, D_{\text{IPV},2}, \dots, D_{\text{IPV},N_m}\}$. Since the damage detection is performed using local maximum of the damage index, a threshold for categorizing the undamaged and damaged structure should be selected (Eqs. 5 and 6) (Wang *et al.* 2011; Wang and Yang 2012).

$$t_h = \mu_D + \alpha_c \sigma_D \quad (5)$$

$$t_l = \mu_D - \alpha_c \sigma_D \quad (6)$$

where μ_d is the mean value of D_{IPV} (or $D_{\text{IPV}}^{\dot{}}$ or $D_{\text{IPV}}^{\ddot{}}$), σ_D is the standard deviation of D_{IPV} (or $D_{\text{IPV}}^{\dot{}}$ or $D_{\text{IPV}}^{\ddot{}}$) and α_c a coefficient corresponding to a confidence interval

If the elements of D_{IPV} (or $D_{\text{IPV}}^{\dot{}}$ or $D_{\text{IPV}}^{\ddot{}}$), located in the area between t_l and t_h , it shows that the structure is undamaged; otherwise, the structure is damaged.

Temperature changes effect on the theory of IPV

Under normal operating conditions, the operation of a civil aircraft is usually considered to range from -40 to 60 °C. Equation 7 can be used to determine the effect of temperature on properties when considering a linear approximation for changes in properties with temperature (Di Scalea and Salamone 2008).

$$P(T) = P(T_0) + \frac{\partial P(T)}{\partial T} \Delta T \quad (7)$$

where P represents one of the properties, T_0 the ambient temperature 20 °C, T the generic temperature and $\frac{\partial P(T)}{\partial T}$ the sensitivity to temperature.

SIMULATION VERIFICATION OF THE IPV METHOD

In recent years, the FE method has been widely applied for SHM based VBDD methods instead of experimental testing, because experimental testing is a costly and time-consuming procedure (Moragaspiya *et al.* 2013). In this paper, a simulation model is employed to study the effect of temperature on IPV technique performance. To verify this simulation model, we referred to our earlier experimental research. As shown in Fig. 1, the pipe has a dimension of 60 cm in length, 1.5 cm in outer diameter and 1 mm in wall thickness. It was modelled through the FE software ABAQUS (Fig. 1). The findings from simulation model are compared with the empirical results that showed good correspondence.

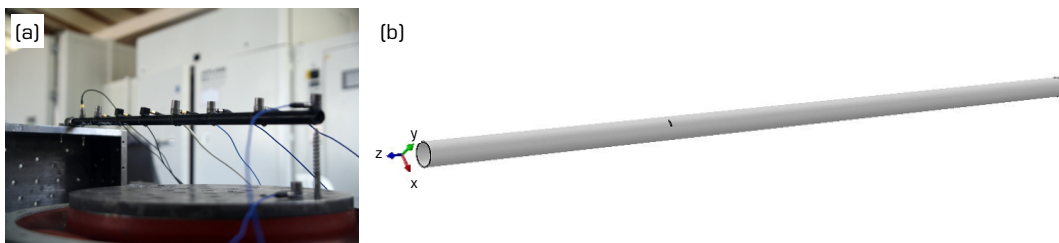


Figure 1. The IPV test. (a) Experimental test; (b) A FE model with ABAQUS.

NUMERICAL SIMULATION

In this section, the ability of the IPV method to determine the existence and position of a longitudinal crack on an Airbus 320 slat-track with a longitudinal crack is assessed. Then, sensitivity analysis of the IPV method to temperature changes is evaluated. The location of the A320 slat-track in the airplane wing is shown in Fig. 2 (Pitropakis *et al.* 2012). In practice, there are almost no problems reported with these kinds of slat tracks. There is, however, a growing interest in SHM for different reasons (Pfeiffer *et al.* 2007).

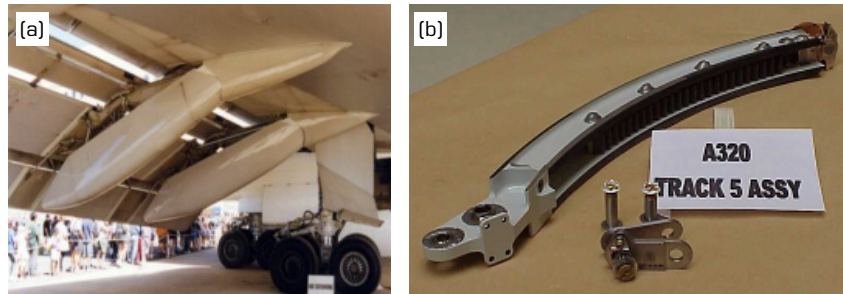


Figure 2. Slat-track of Airbus A320. (a) Position in airplane wing; (b) A dismantled sample.

Detecting damage

The vibration responses are obtained via numerical simulation with the commercial FE package ABAQUS. Vibration responses are processed in MATLAB to achieve some meaningful damage detection features (Fig. 3). In the next section, the A320 slat-track with a longitudinal crack is considered.

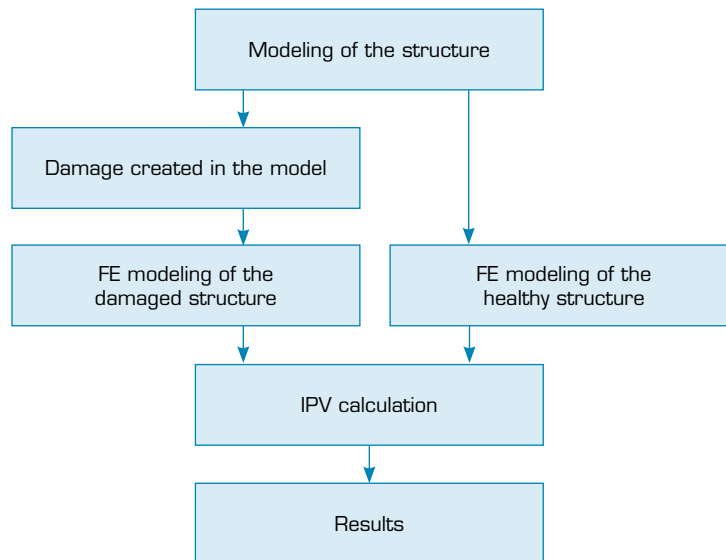


Figure 3. Flowchart of the method used for detecting damage.

Modeling and analysis of a healthy airbus A320 slat-track

The length of A320 slat-track is 64 cm. The material properties are listed in Table 1. Firstly, a FE model of the A320 slat-track was produced using ABAQUS. The clamped end of the beam has no rotation or displacement in any direction. The excitation force is applied in the direction of the positive y-axis at its mid-point of the free side (Fig. 4). Multiple runs showed that the type of mesh has a nonsignificant effect on results, while free meshing is more suitable on the damaged section. Thus, free meshing with triangular and tetrahedral elements is utilized (Fig. 5). Then, the model was analysed with modal dynamic step (Fig. 6). Finally, desired data, including displacement, velocity and acceleration responses for 16 points, were obtained from the results.

Table 1. Material properties for maraging steel (grade 250)

Material	Density (ρ) [g/cc]	Poisson's ratio (ν)	Modulus of elasticity (E) [Gpa]
Maraging steel (grade 250)	8.02	0.3	190

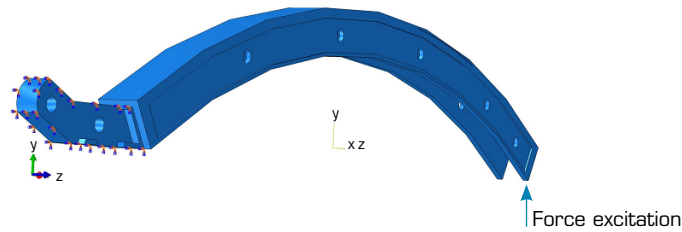


Figure 4. Boundary condition and force excitation in the modal.

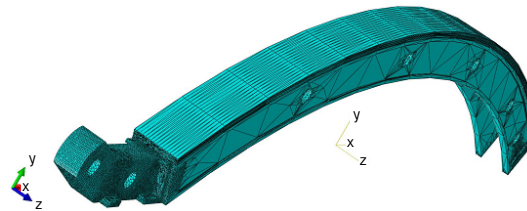


Figure 5. Using free meshing technique with linear tetrahedral and hexahedral elements in simulation modelling.

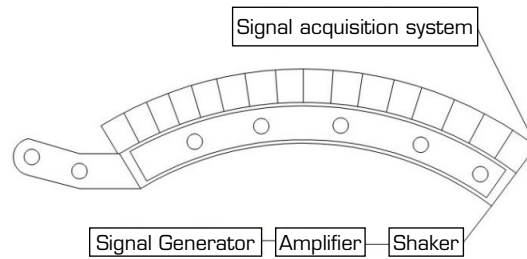


Figure 6. Scheme of the test and the position of nodes that are measured on the healthy structure.

Simulation modelling and analysis of damaged structure

At this stage, the longitudinal crack was created in the model (Fig. 7). The size of the longitudinal crack is $21 \times 3.2 \times 0.01$ mm, and it is placed at 37 cm from the fixed end. Finally, the damaged model was analysed in the modal dynamic step. Displacement, velocity and acceleration responses for 16 points were obtained from the results.

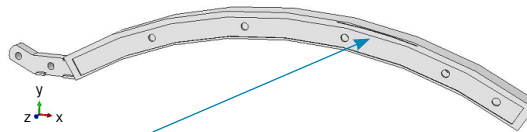


Figure 7. A longitudinal crack in the A320 slat-track created in the model.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the IPV method for the detection of a longitudinal crack in an Airbus 320 slot-track are shown in Figs. 8–10. It is necessary to determine the confidence interval factor (CIF) in the IPV method. In this paper, an accurate value for the CIF was

measured using optimized model for structural health monitoring based on IPV. As shown in Figs. 8–10, when the CIF (α_c) is chosen 1.2 or 1.5, the IPV graph is not confluent with the line threshold, which means that classifying damaged and undamaged structures is not possible. When the CIF is 1.8, damage can be detected. Figures 8 and 9 shows the IPV calculated from displacement and velocity responses indicate that damage is detectable between 39 and 45 cm from the fulcrum of the A320 slat-track. Moreover, as shown in Fig. 10, the line threshold does make confluence with the IPV graph 45 cm from the fulcrum of the A320 slat-track; in other words, the IPV calculated from the acceleration response indicates that damage is detectable at this distance. It is evident from Figs. 8–10, that the IPV method is successful in detecting a longitudinal crack in the Airbus 320 slot-track, as well as its location, with close approximation.

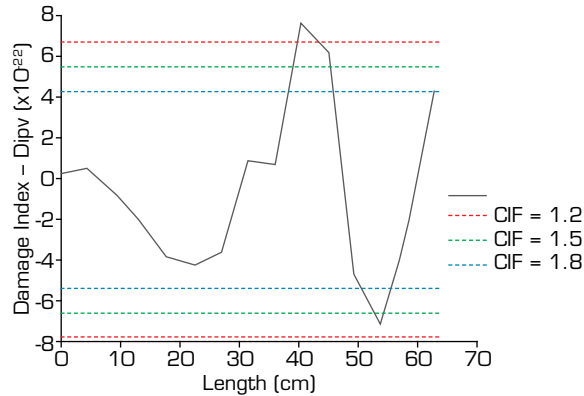


Figure 8. Detecting damage for a longitudinal crack in the A320 slat-track using displacement responses.

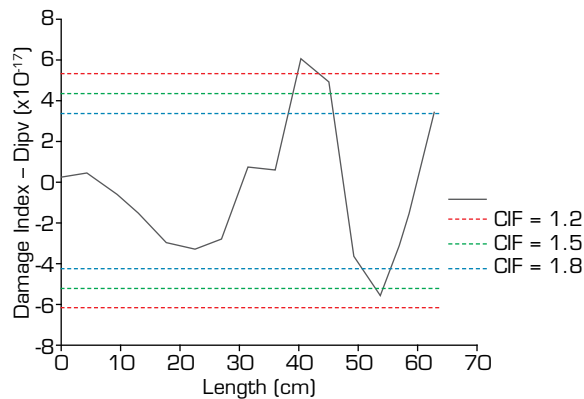


Figure 9. Detecting damage for a longitudinal crack in the A320 slat-track using velocity responses.

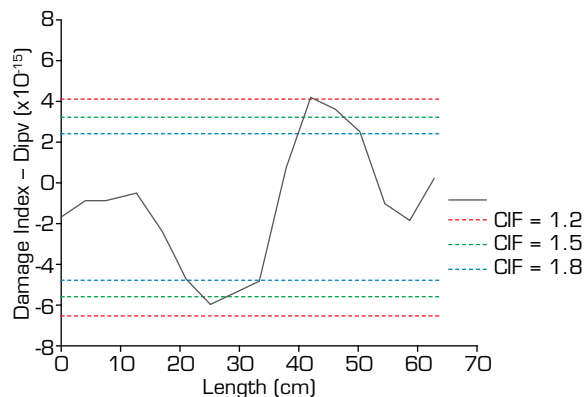


Figure 10. Detecting damage for a longitudinal crack in the A320 slat-track using acceleration responses.

The sensitivity of the IPV method to environmental noise

Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve is one technique that enables the statistical evaluation of the errors related with false detection. A ROC curve is a two-dimensional graphic in which the true positive rate (TPR) is plotted in the y axis and the false positive rate (FPr) is plotted in the x-axis and the graphic demonstrates relative trade-offs between these benefits and costs, respectively (Neves *et al.* 2018). Figure 11 shows the ROC curves of four classification models, signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) = 15 dB, SNR = 20 dB, SNR = 25 dB and SNR = 30 dB. The diagonal line representing random guessing is also shown. Thus, the closer the ROC curve of a model is to the diagonal line, the less accurate the model (Han *et al.* 2011). As shown in Fig. 11, SNR = 15 dB is less accurate.

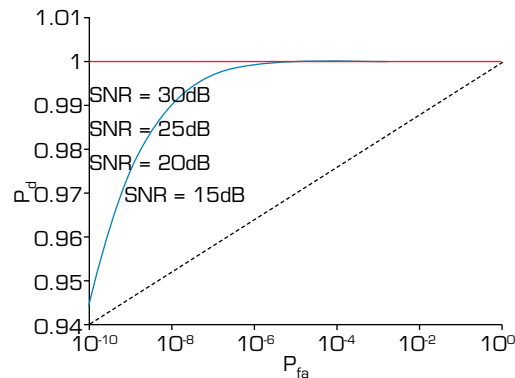


Figure 11. The ROC curves of four classification models, SNR = 15, 20, 25 and 30 dB.

As SNR = 15 dB is less accurate model, it is necessary to evaluate the performance of the IPV method able to detect the damage despite the environmental noise. To achieve that, the structural dynamic vibrational responses for 15 points were obtained for healthy and damaged from the simulation with environmental noise. Finally, the damage was identified by the IPV method (Fig. 12). As shown in Fig. 12, the IPV method is able to detect the damage despite the environmental noise.

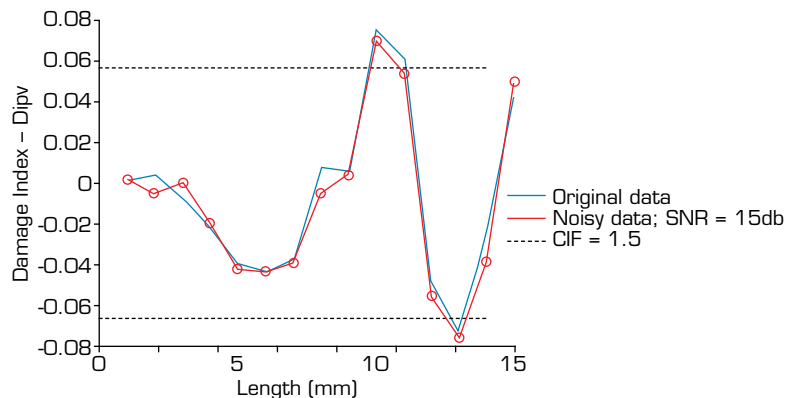


Figure 12. Detecting damage for a longitudinal crack in the A320 slat-track using displacement responses with SNR = 15 dB.

Effect of temperature on the IPV method performance

In this section, sensitivity analysis of the IPV method to temperature changes is addressed. The vibration responses are obtained via numerical simulation with the commercial FE package ABAQUS. Then, the IPV concerning vibration response to band pass white noise excitation can be obtained using MATLAB. To this purpose, an A320 slat-track, which is made of stainless steel 304, is evaluated using the IPV method at ambient temperature of 21 °C. The results of analysis of the healthy structure obtained by the IPV method at a temperature of 21 °C will be considered as the reference temperature and initial situation ($R_{IPV,j}^d$) for the inspection process. Then, the healthy structure is evaluated in a temperature between of -73 and 260 °C. The results of analysis of a healthy structure obtained by the IPV method in a temperature between of -73 and 260 °C is selected as the secondary status

($D_{IPV,j}$) for the inspection process. Finally, local damage index ($D_{IPV,j}$) is calculated by the IPV method. If the IPV method is not sensitive to temperature change, then the results should not show any damage in structure, in other words, the slope of D_{IPV} chart is zero ($D_{IPV,j} = R_{IPV,j}^d - R_{IPV,j}^u = 0$). A flowchart of the method used to investigate temperature changes effect on the IPV method is shown in Fig. 13.

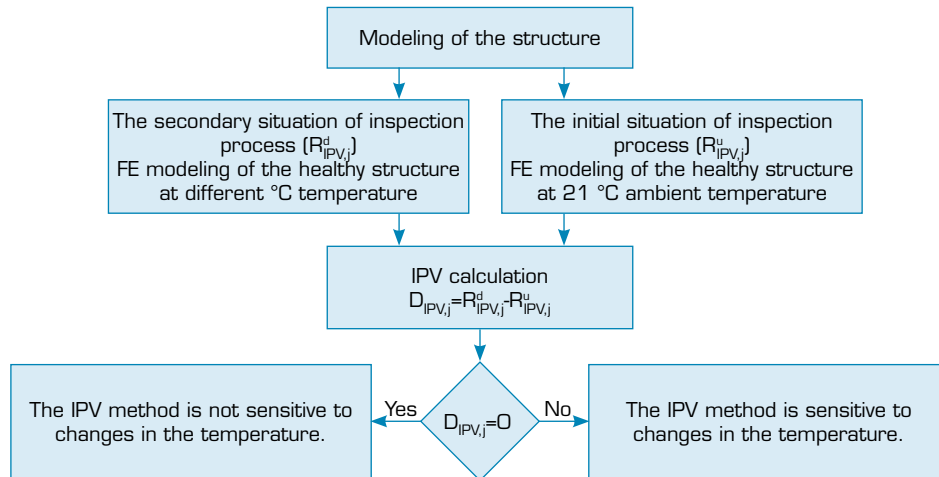


Figure 13. Flowchart of the method used to investigate temperature changes effect on the IPV method.

Investigation of the ipv method under constant temperature

If the structure is healthy at the secondary status and the temperature of the structure is the same for the initial and secondary statuses, it is expected that the results do not show any damage in the structure. In other words, the slope of D_{IPV} chart is zero ($D_{IPV,j} = R_{IPV,j}^d - R_{IPV,j}^u = 0$). As shown in Fig. 14, if the temperature is constant, the slope of D_{IPV} chart is zero.

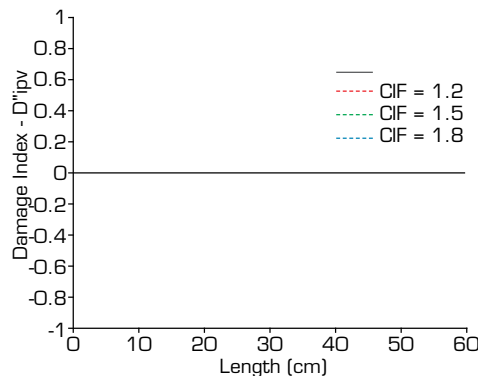


Figure 14. Result of SHM of the A320 slot-track of a healthy using acceleration responses, the temperature of structure is 21 (°C) for the initial and secondary statuses of inspection.

Inner product vector method performance evaluation

In this step, the structure is healthy at the secondary status and the temperature of the structure is altered for the secondary status. The structure is evaluated at temperatures -73 , 149 and 260 °C. Obtained results are shown in Figs. 15–17. The optimization process is applied to obtain an accurate value for the CIF. As previously stated, the threshold value for CIF (α_c) is set to 1.8 for stainless steel of type 304. As shown in Figs. 15–17, the slope of D_{IPV} chart is not zero ($D_{IPV,j} = R_{IPV,j}^d - R_{IPV,j}^u \neq 0$). These figures show that the elements of D_{IPV} fall out the region between t_1 and t_k , accordingly. It can be concluded that the structure is damaged. So, change of temperature causes the IPV method to show spurious defect in structure. This can be explained by temperature changes affecting material properties, such as Young's modulus. The Young's modulus (E) is a measure of stiffness,

so temperature change reduces the structural stiffness. Accordingly, in the IPV method, damage is a reduction in the structural stiffness, so the IPV method shows spurious defect in structure with changes in temperature. The findings of this study show that the IPV method is sensitive to changes in temperature, so the temperature of the structure should be the same for the initial and secondary statuses of SHM when using the IPV method.

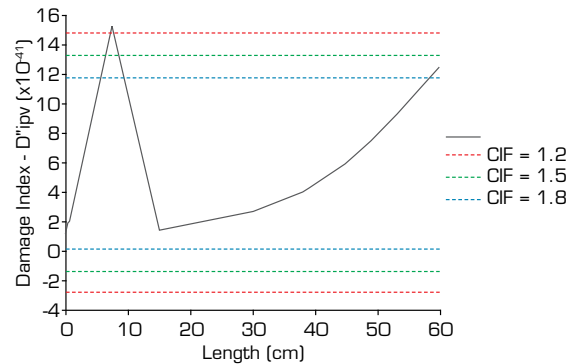


Figure 15. Result of SHM of the healthy A320 slot-track using acceleration responses. The temperature of structure is 21 °C for the initial and 260 °C for secondary statuses of inspection.

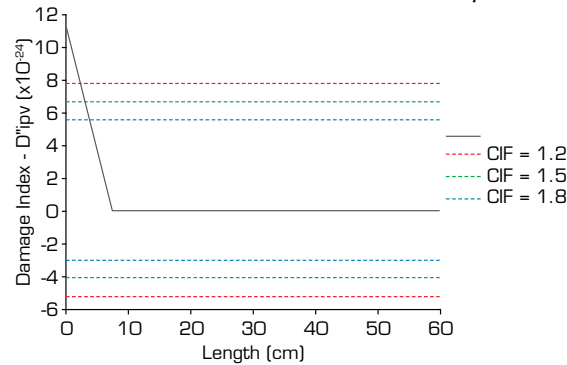


Figure 16. Result of SHM of the healthy A320 slot-track using acceleration responses. The temperature of structure is 21 °C for the initial and 149 °C for secondary statuses of inspection.

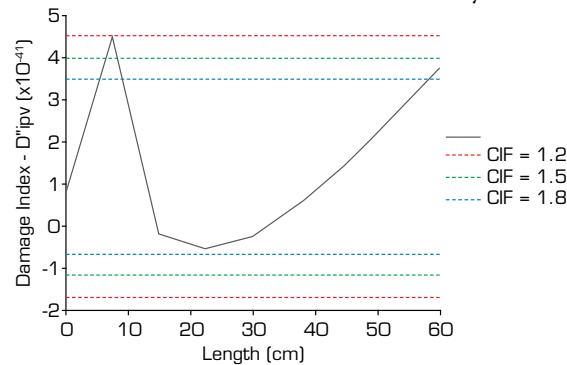


Figure 17. Result of SHM of the healthy A320 slot-track using acceleration responses. The temperature of structure is 21 °C for the initial and -73 °C for secondary statuses of inspection.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of the present paper was to study the effect of temperature change on the theory of IPV. Inner product vector method can be used to detect structural damage. Firstly, this study evaluates the IPV method ability to detect damage in an Airbus A320 slat-track, assessed by a longitudinal crack. The findings of this study show that the IPV method is succeeded

in detecting defect in the structure, as well as its location, with close approximation. Then, the sensitivity of the IPV method to environmental noise was investigated. The results show that the IPV method is able to detect the damage despite the environmental noise. Finally, the Airbus A320 slat-track was investigated for the effect of changes in temperature on the IPV method, evaluated over a temperature between of -73 and 260 °C. This is the first attempt to study the effect of temperature changes on the IPV method ability to detect damage. The results from the IPV method show a spurious defect in the structure with temperature change; therefore, the IPV method is temperature-sensitive. Also, this study highlighted the importance of applying simulation methods to develop VBDD techniques, especially for evaluating the effect of changes in environmental temperature when the structure is complex.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Conceptualization: Mohammadi Esfarjani S; **Methodology:** Mohammadi Esfarjani S; **Investigation:** Mohammadi Esfarjani S; **Writing – Original Draft:** Mohammadi Esfarjani S; **Writing – Review and Editing:** Mohammadi Esfarjani S and Salehi M.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Data will be available upon request

FUNDING

Not applicable.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Not applicable.

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