

# Characterisation of the Force and Integrity of Tensioned Members

Elsa Caetano

Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto, Portugal



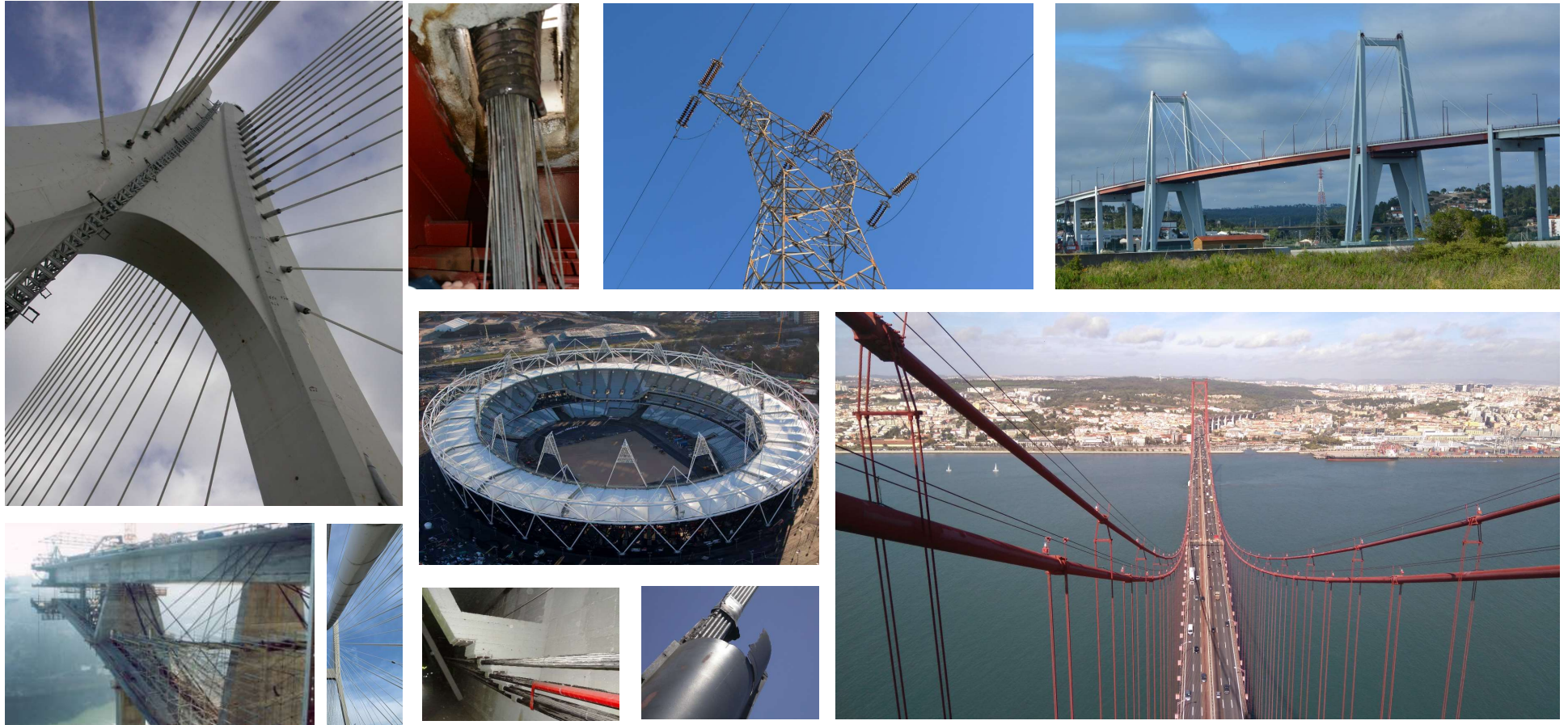
10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Experimental Vibration Analysis for Civil Engineering Structures

Politecnico di Milano, Italy - August 30 – September 1, 2023

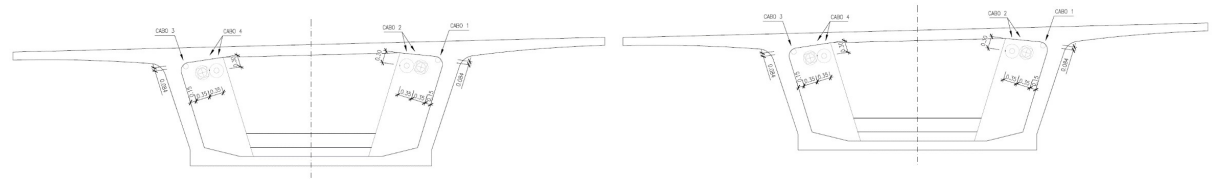
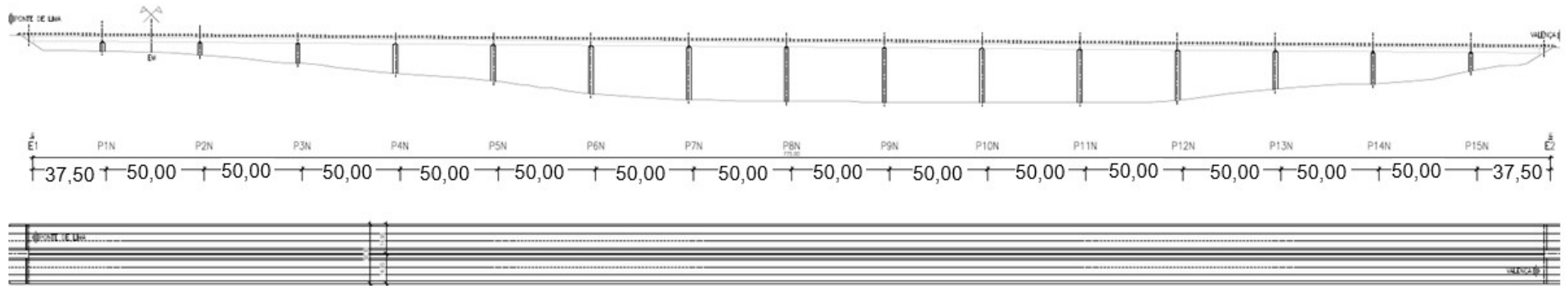


**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

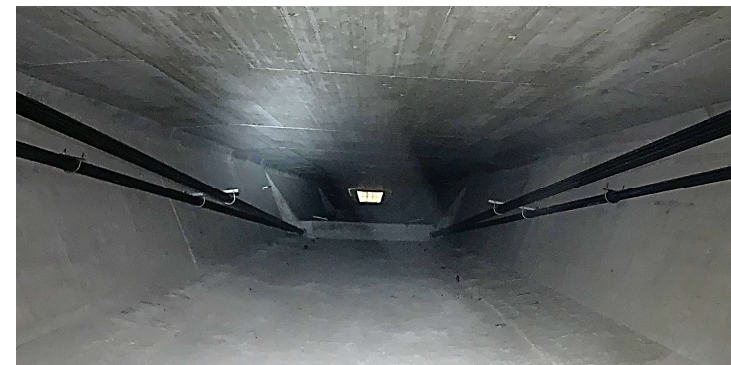
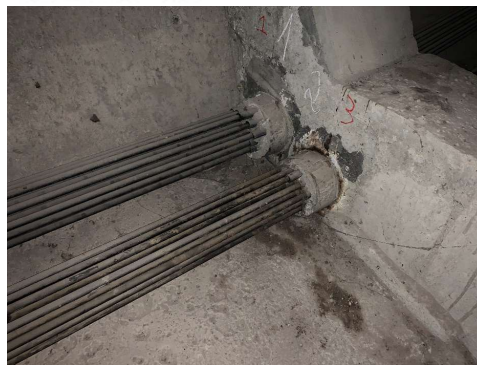
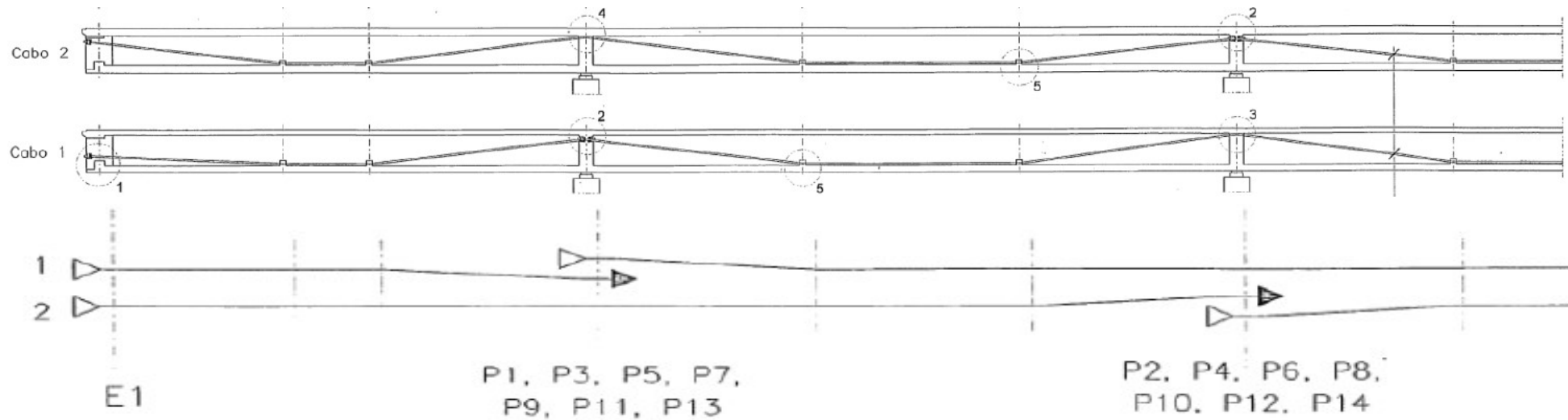
# Introduction



## Assessing damage in a cable structure



## Assessing damage in a cable structure



# Can we use global bridge monitoring to detect cable damage?

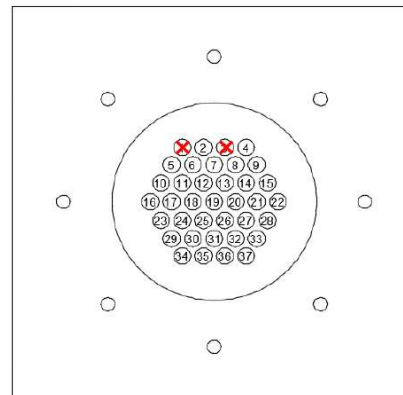
Rongrong Hou, Yong Xia, “Review on the new development of vibration-based damage identification for civil engineering structures: 2010–2019 “, Journal of Sound and Vibration 491 (2021): ... Although vibration-based damage identification methods have been successfully applied to mechanical and aerospace structures, the applications of these methods to practical civil structures are far from maturity...

## The International Guadiana Bridge

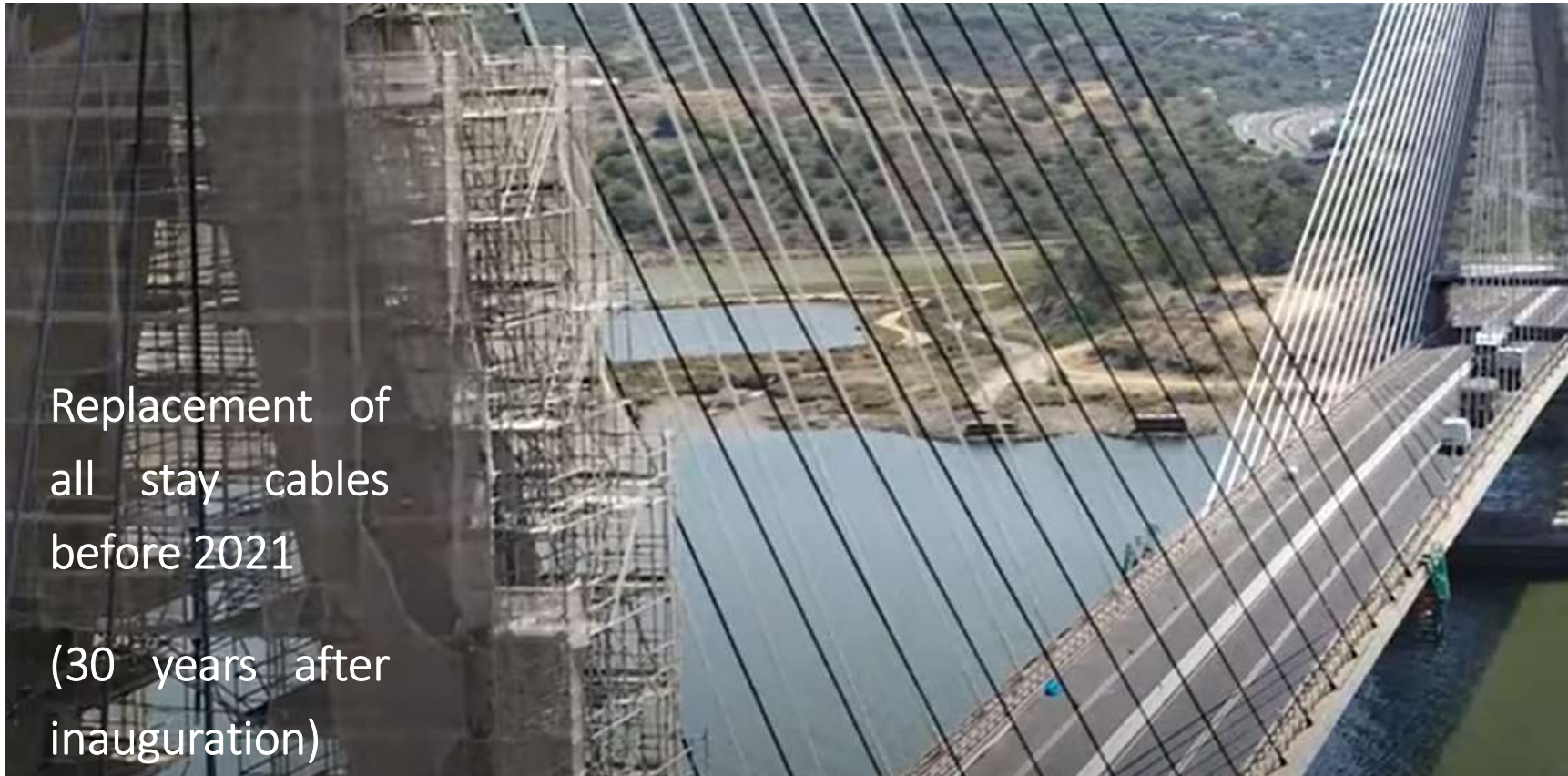


In 2015, 1 strand of cable 3-29S broke from the lower anchorage.

In 2017, a second strand broke from the tower anchorage (In Martins et al, JPEE 2022)



## The International Guadiana Bridge



Replacement of  
all stay cables  
before 2021

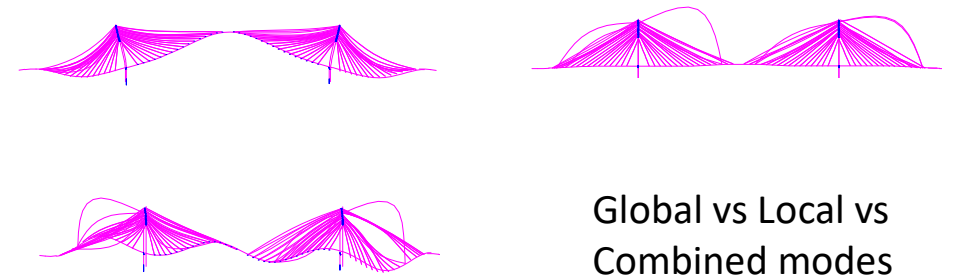
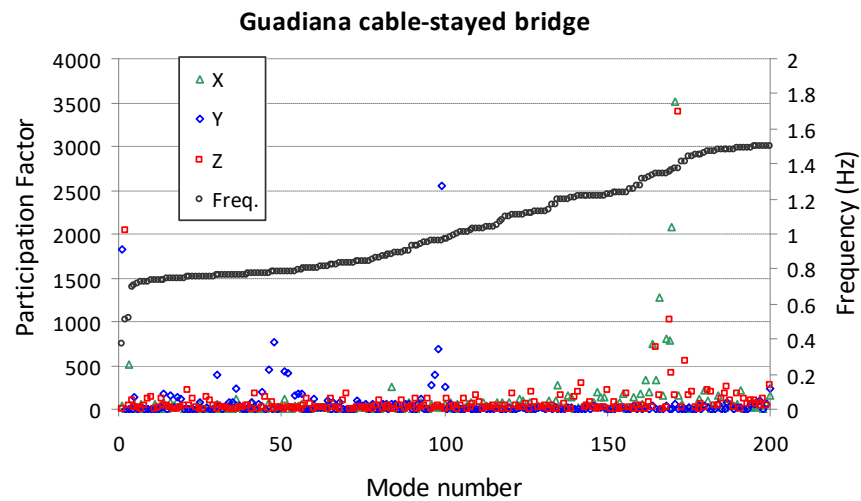
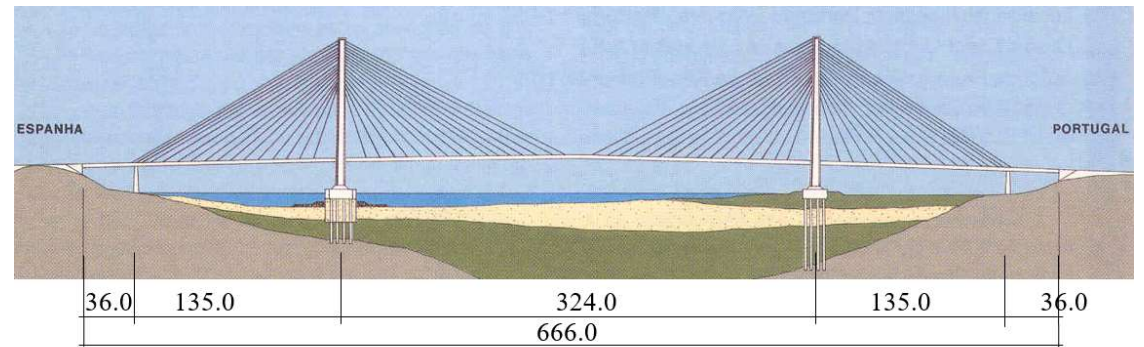
(30 years after  
inauguration)

More than  
500 km of  
strands  
were  
needed

# The Guadiana Bridge: detecting broken strands from global monitoring?

First global frequency: 0.39 Hz;

First cable frequencies: 0.78 Hz to 2.96 Hz

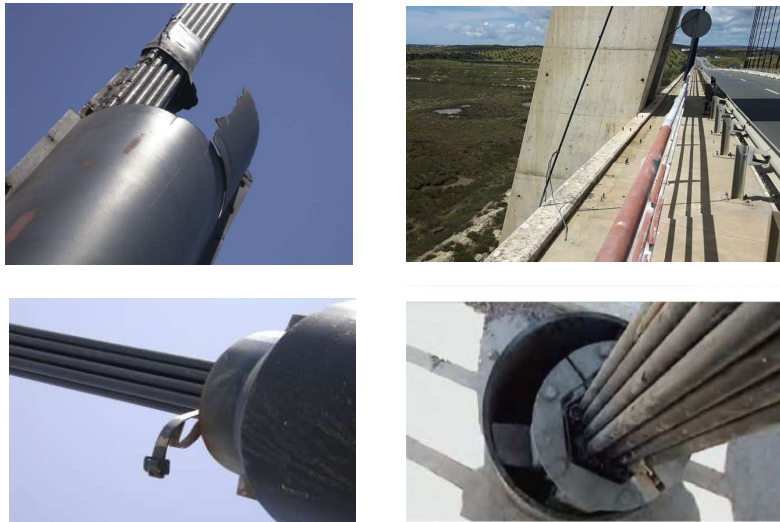




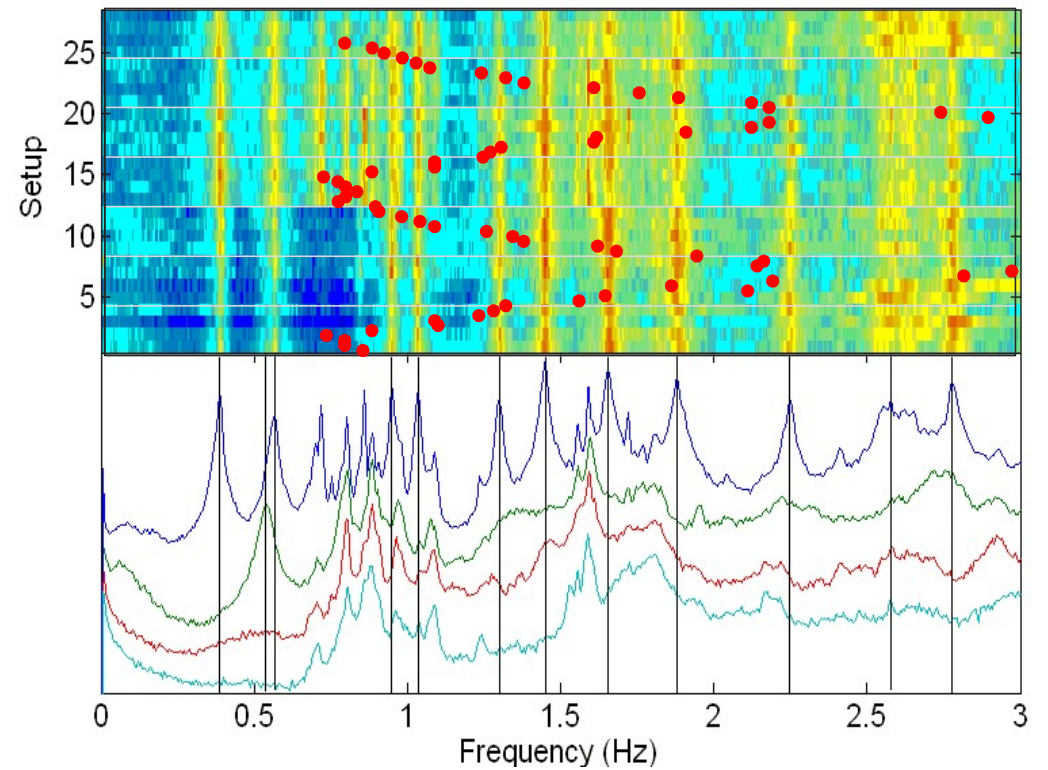
# The Guadiana Bridge: detecting broken strands from global monitoring?

First global frequency: 0.39 Hz;

First cable frequencies: 0.78 Hz to 2.96 Hz

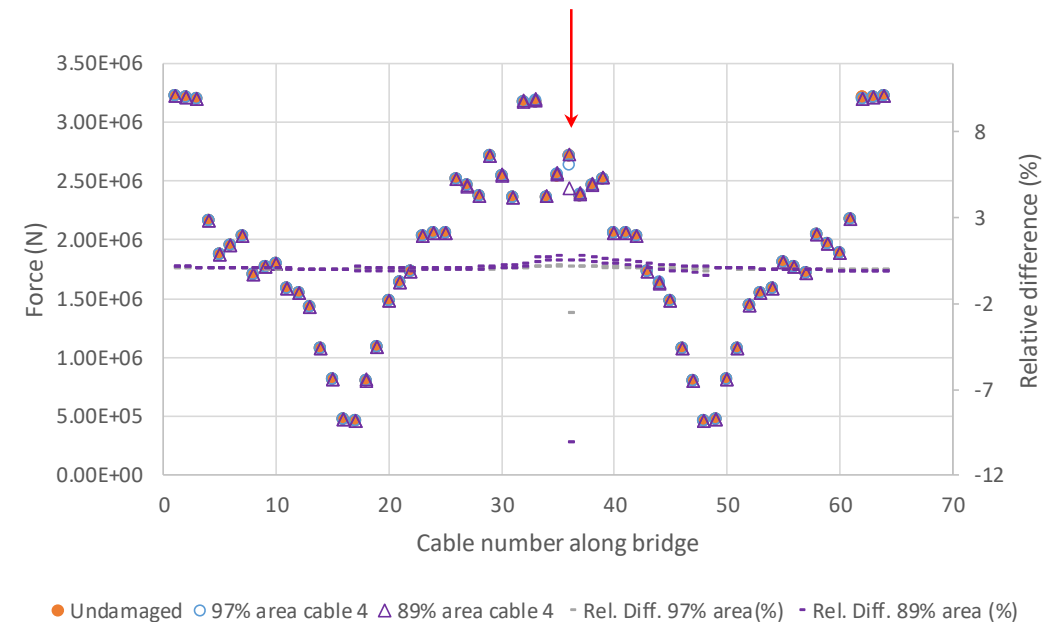
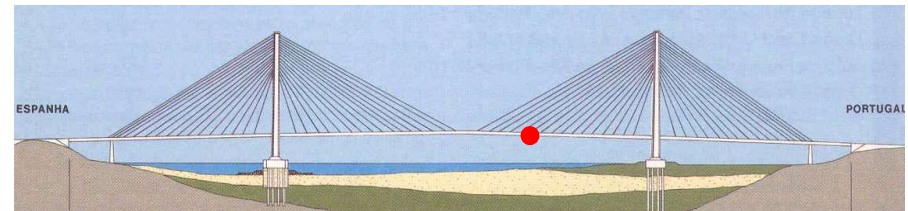


Guadiana International Bridge, Portugal



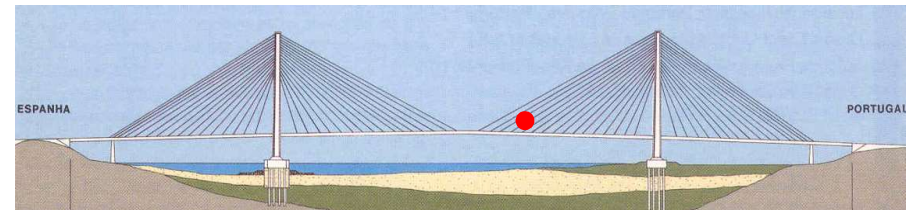
## The Guadiana Bridge: detecting broken strands from global monitoring?

- Reduction of section of 4th longest cable to 97% (1/37 strand broken): 3% loss of force in that cable
- Reduction of section of 4th longest cable to 89% (4/37 strands broken): 10% loss of force in that cable



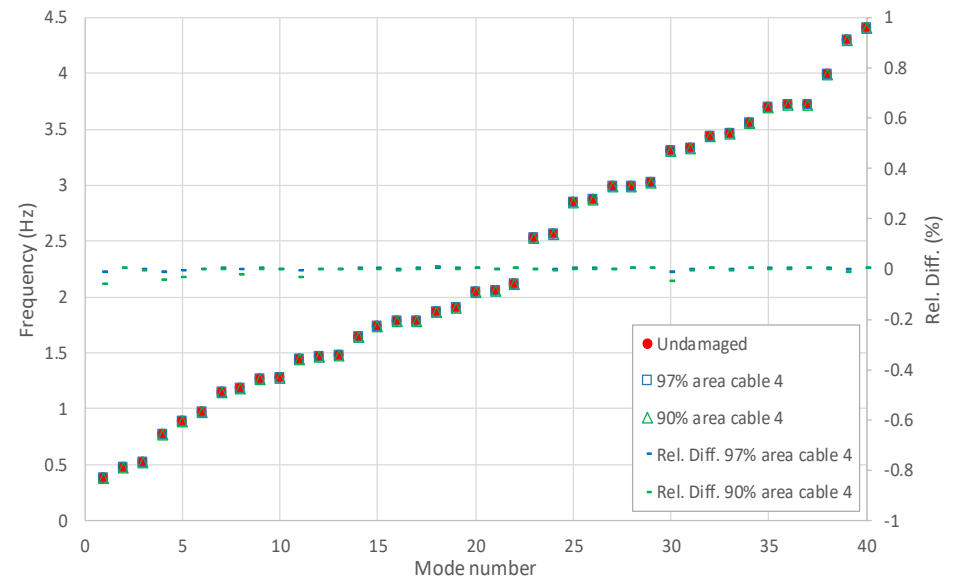
## The Guadiana Bridge: detecting broken strands from global monitoring?

- Reduction of section of 4th longest cable to 89% (4/37 strands broken): 0.2% reduction of frequency

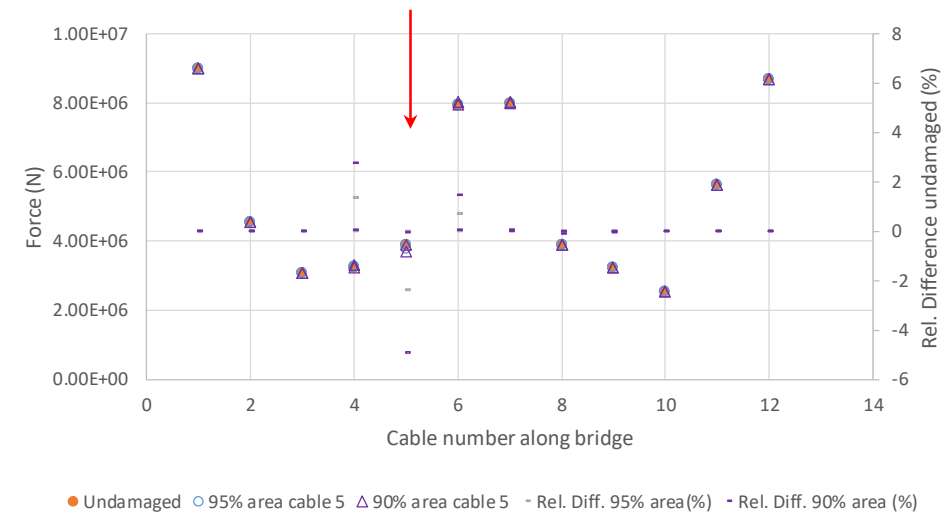
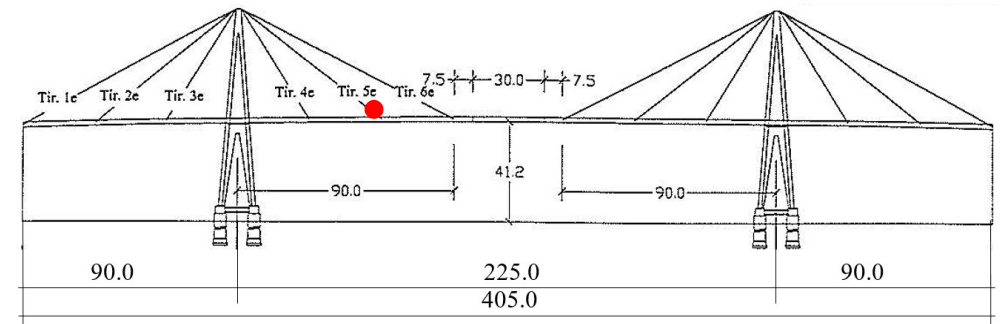


Global measurements as natural frequencies cannot be used to detect small amounts of damage in cables

Local measurements of installed force enable the identification of 10% reduction of section at this bridge



## The Edgar Cardoso Bridge: detecting broken wires from global monitoring?



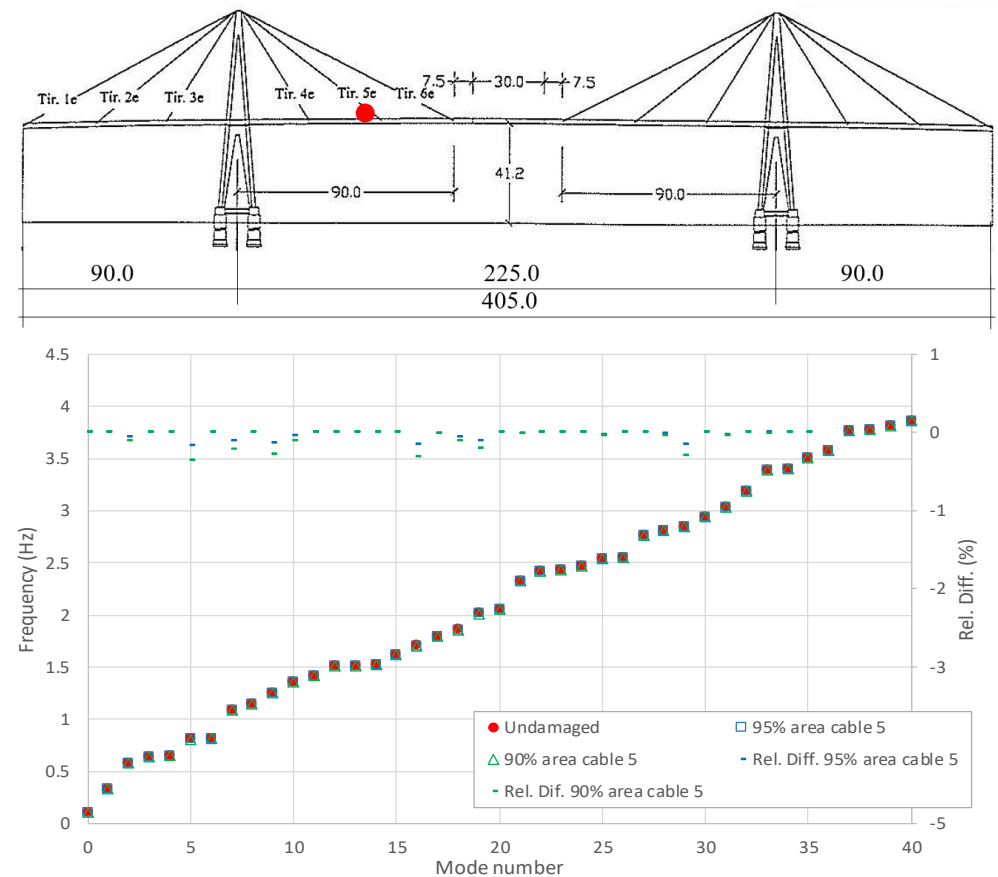
- Reduction of section of medium-length cable to 95% : 2% loss of force in that cable
- Reduction of section of medium length cable to 90% : 5% loss of force in that cable

## The Edgar Cardoso Bridge: detecting broken wires from global monitoring?

- First global frequency: 0.50 Hz;
- First cable frequencies: 1.2 Hz to 2.2 Hz
- Reduction of section of the medium length cable to 90%: 5% reduction of force

Global Measurements as natural frequencies could hardly be used to detect small amounts of damage in cables

Local measurements of installed force enable the identification of 10% reduction of section at this bridge



## Direct assessment of cable force: vibration chord based methods

$$EI \frac{\partial^4 y}{\partial x^4} - T \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} + m \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = 0$$

(Morse and Ingard, 1968)

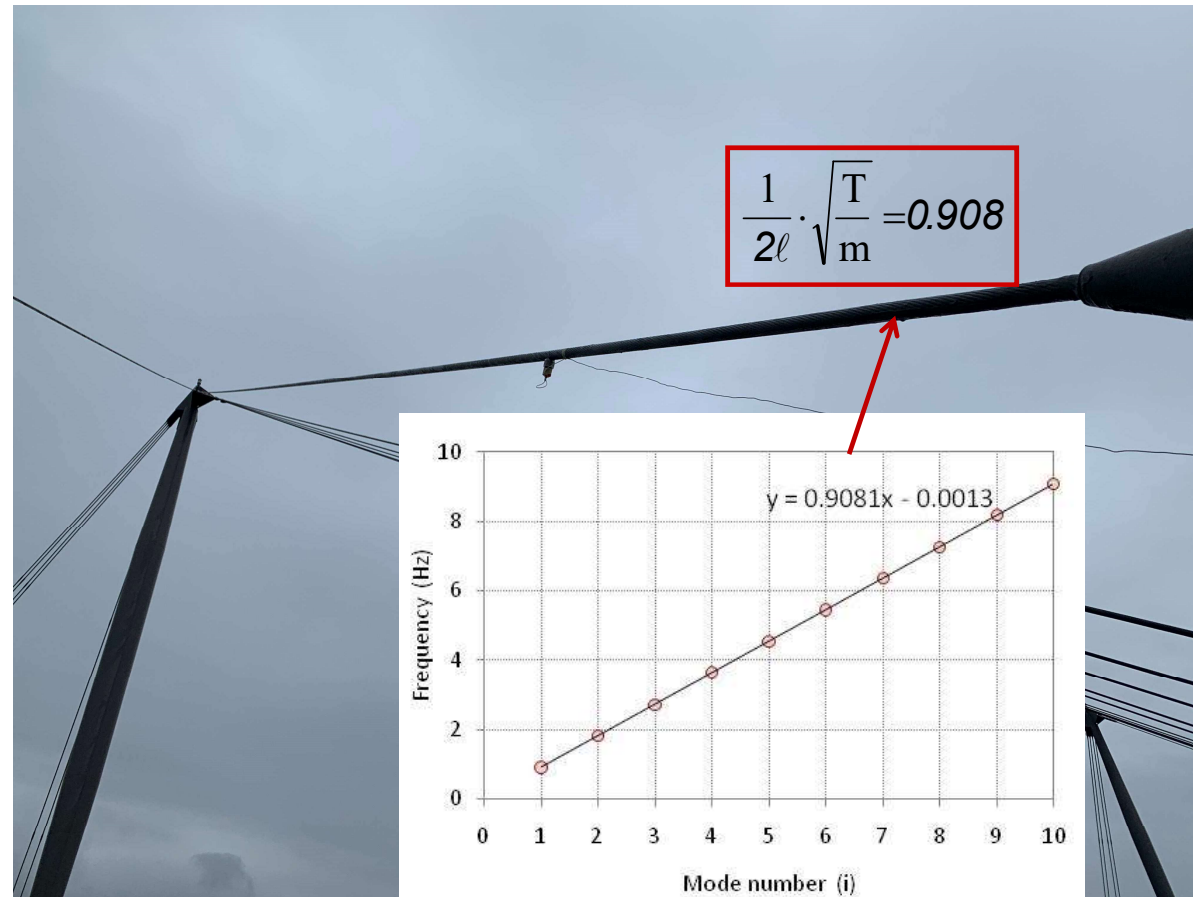
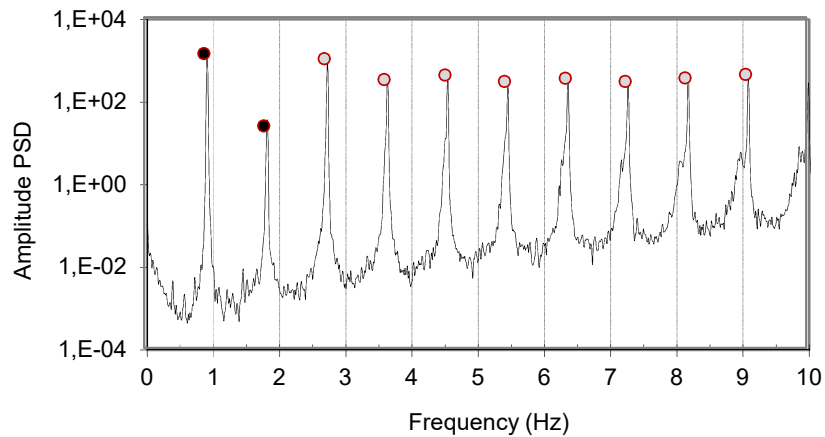
(Mars and Hardy, 1985; Robert et al, 1991)

Model	Description	$\omega$ (rad/s)
1	Clamped, $EI \neq 0$	$\omega = \frac{T}{2\sqrt{mEI}} \cdot \frac{\text{sh}(a\ell) \cdot \sin(b\ell)}{\text{ch}(a\ell) \cdot \cos(b\ell) - 1}$ , $a = \sqrt{\frac{T}{2EI} \cdot \left(1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4m\omega^2 \cdot EI}{T^2}}\right)}$ , $b = \dots$
2	Simply supported, $EI = 0$	$\omega_s = \frac{i\pi}{\ell} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{T}{m}}$
3	Simply supported, $EI \neq 0$	$\omega = \sqrt{\omega_s^2 + \omega_{EI}^2}$ , $\omega_{EI} = \pi^2 \cdot i^2 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{EI}{m\ell^4}}$

# Direct assessment of cable force: vibration chord based methods

## Vibrating chord theory

$$f_s = \frac{i}{2\ell} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{T}{m}}$$



## Direct assessment of cable force: vibration chord based methods

$$\omega_i = \frac{i\pi}{\ell} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{T}{m}} \cdot (1 + \varepsilon_{EI}^i)$$



$$\varepsilon_{EI}^i = \frac{2}{\zeta} + \frac{4 + \frac{i\pi^2}{2}}{\zeta^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \zeta = \sqrt{T\ell^2/EI}$$

When  $\zeta \geq 50$ , it can be observed that, for the first modes,  $\varepsilon_{EI}^i \leq 0,05$

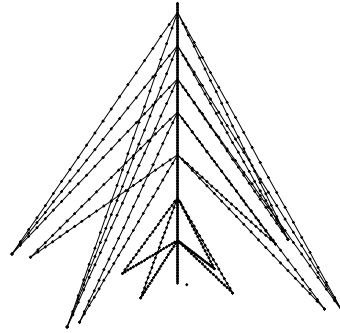
Vibration chord formula

$$\omega_i = \frac{i\pi}{\ell} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{T}{m}}$$

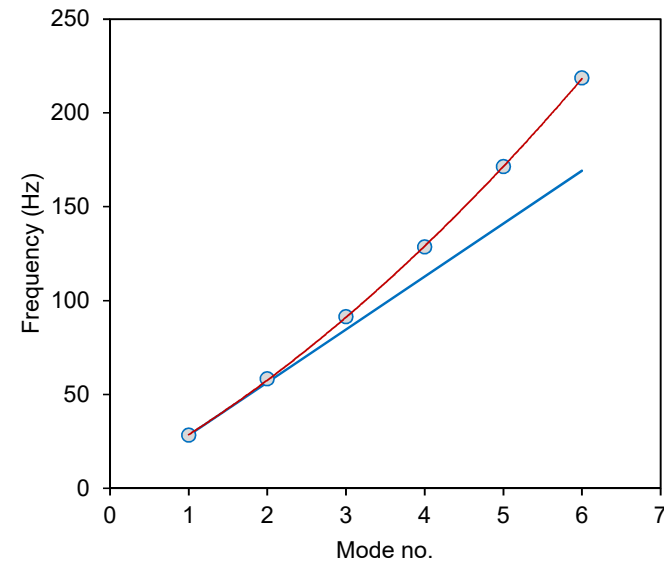
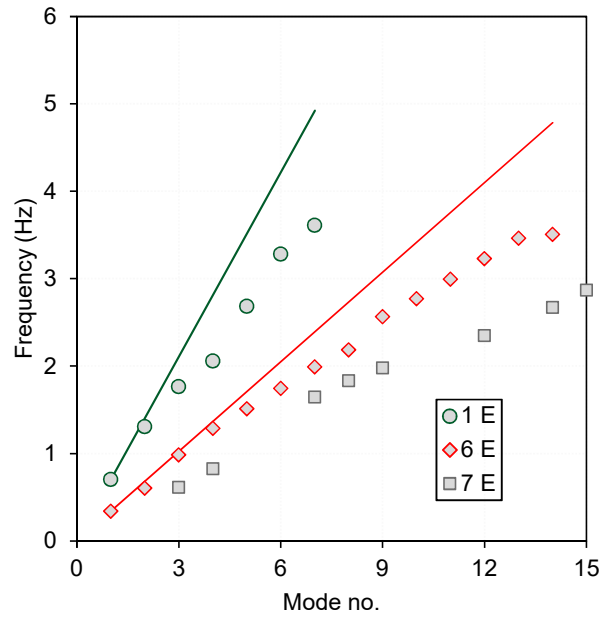


## Direct assessment of cable force: vibration chord based methods

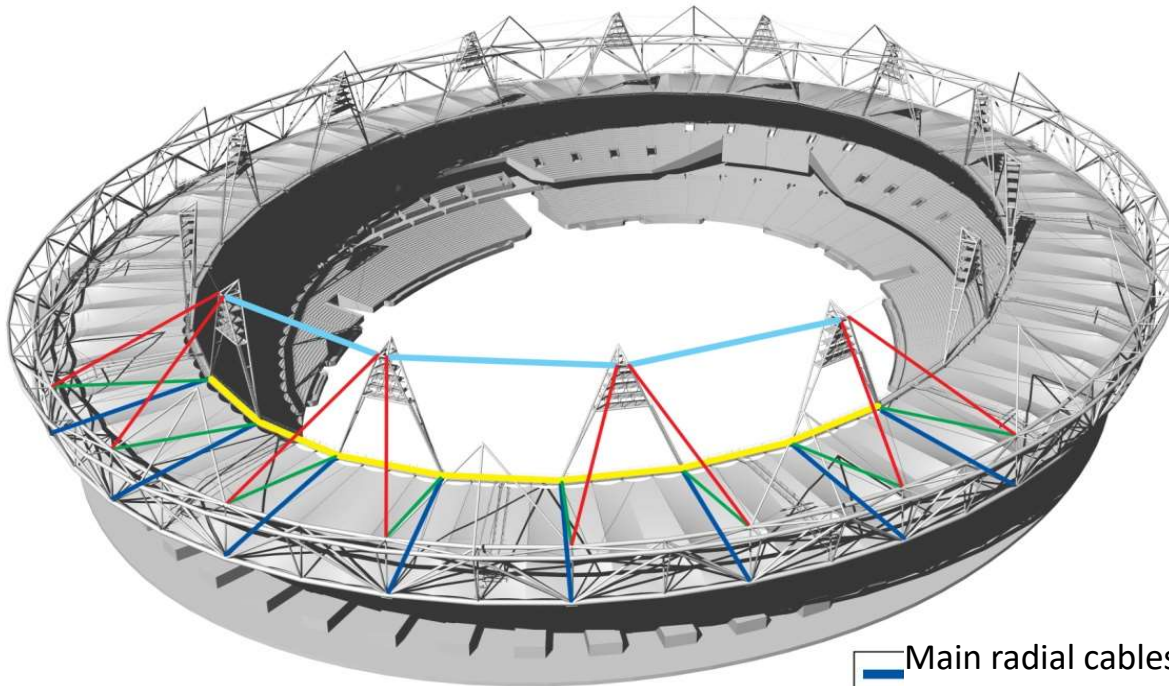
Guyed mast  
(L=72.4; 288.22; 313.43 m)



$$f_n = \frac{n}{2\ell} \sqrt{\frac{T}{m}} \cdot \left[ 1 + 2 \sqrt{\frac{EI}{T\ell^2}} + \left( 4 + \frac{n\pi^2}{2} \right) \cdot \frac{EI}{T\ell^2} \right]$$



## Applications of vibration chord based methods: London Olympic stadium 2012

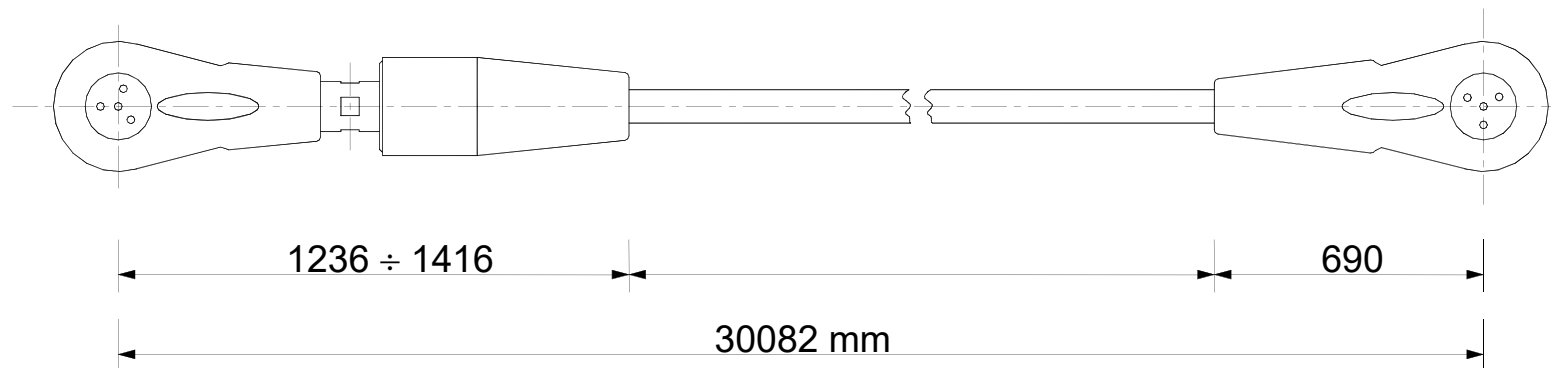


- Main radial cables (SS70) **(28)**
- Tension ring cables (10 x SS60) **(10)**
- Main Suspension cables (SS80) **(28)**
- Lightning tower suspension cables (SS25) **(7)**
- Circumferential ring cables (2 x SS35) **(3)**

## Applications of vibration chord based methods: London Olympic stadium 2012

### Difficulties in the application of vibration methods:

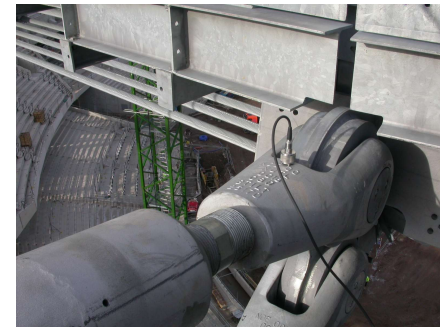
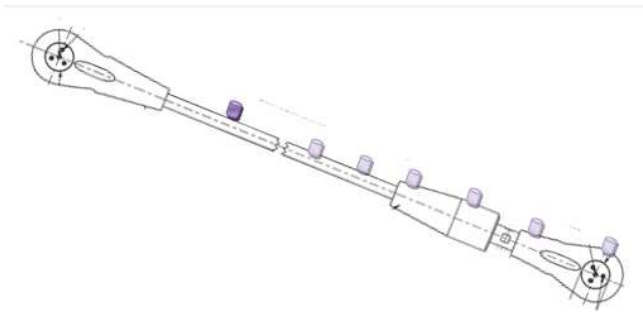
- Cables with short length
- Non-negligible bending stiffness
- Some low tensioned cables
- Relative large size of sockets to cable length



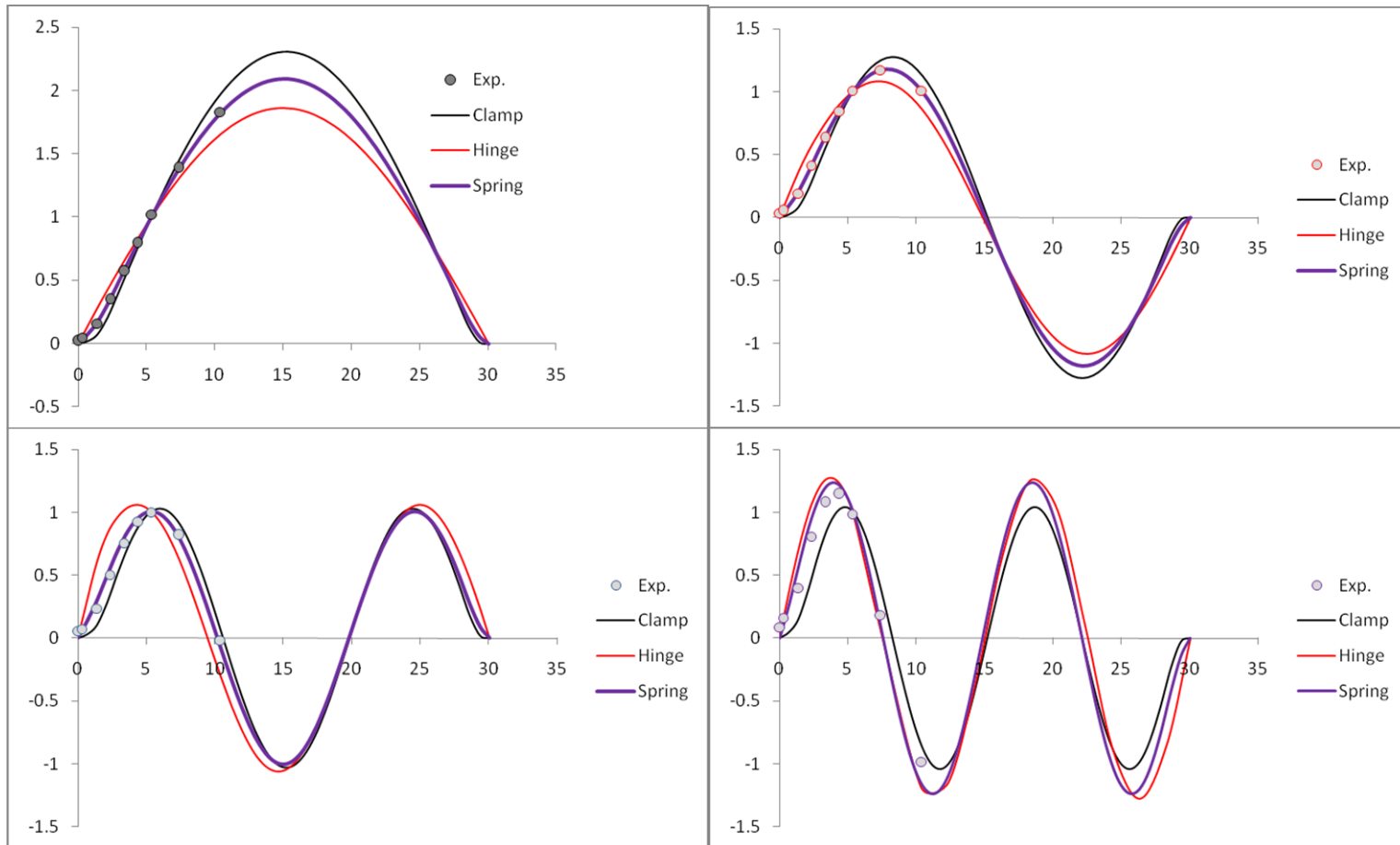
## Applications of vibration chord based methods: London Olympic stadium 2012

Combination of FE models with experimental assessment:

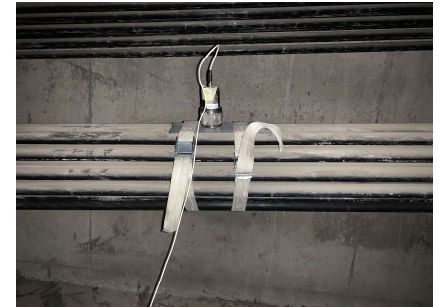
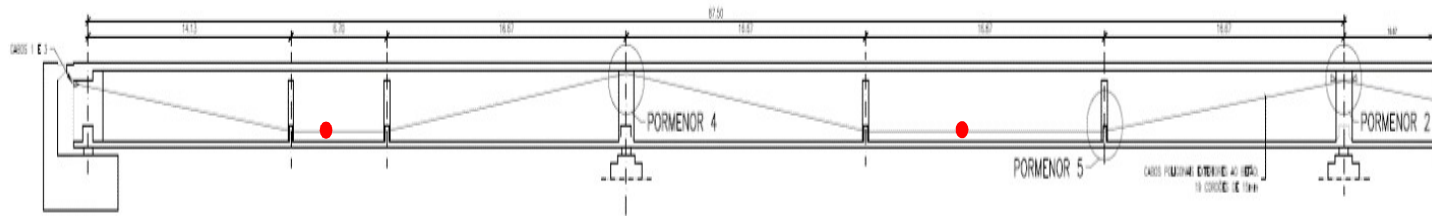
- Identification of great number of natural frequencies;
- Iterative FE modelling and updating with experimental data to extract  $T, K, L, I$



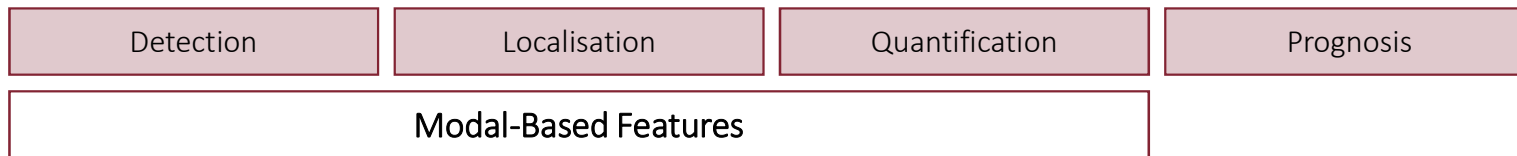
## Applications of vibration chord based methods: London Olympic stadium 2012



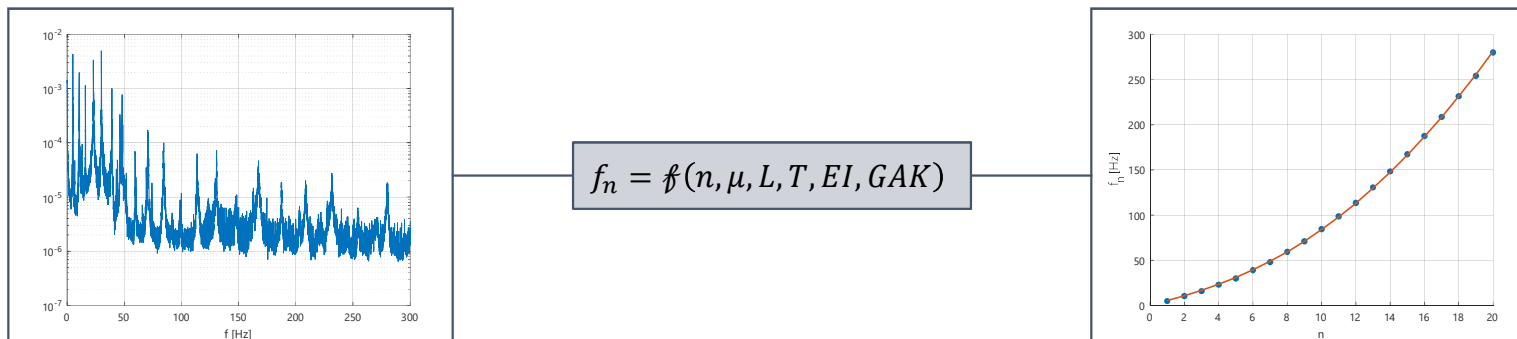
## Applications of vibration chord based methods



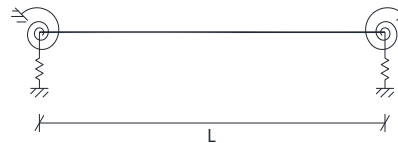
## Removing end effects in tension and damage identification



### Identification of Axial Force and Stiffness Properties

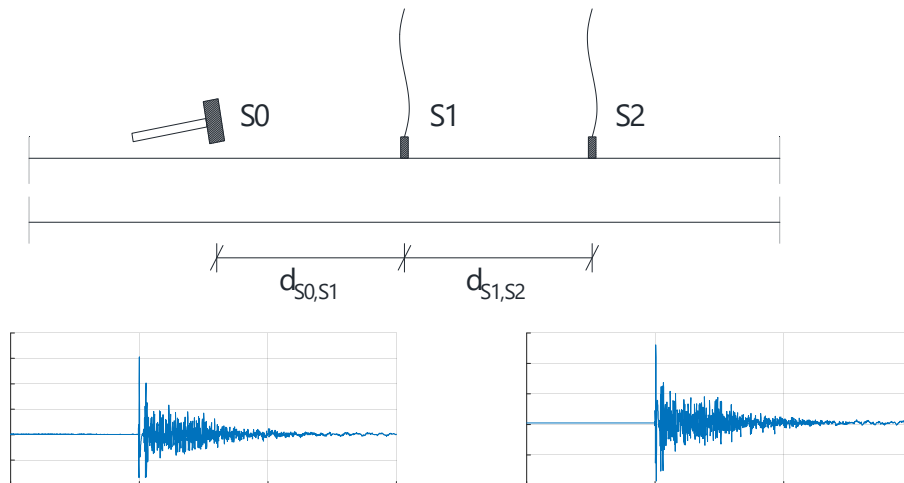


$$f_n = f(n, \mu, L, T, EI, GAK)$$



## A new method for force and damage assessment in cables based on transverse wave propagation

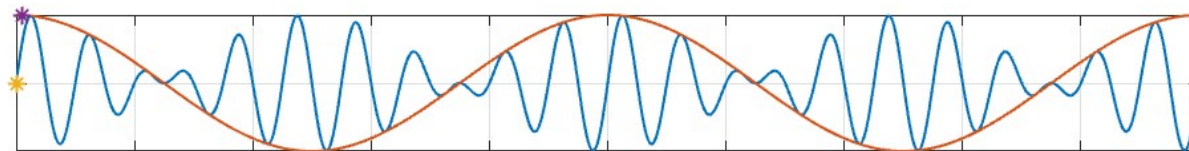
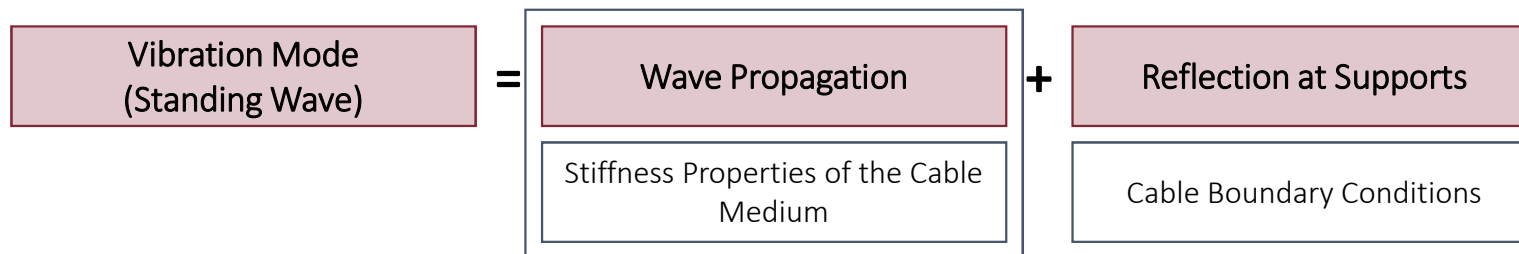
A new method has been developed focusing on the use of the characteristics of the cable as a wave propagation medium, enabling the relation between installed force and cable properties without the need to characterize the end conditions



(PhD research João Rodrigues)



## A new method for force and damage assessment in cables based on transverse wave propagation



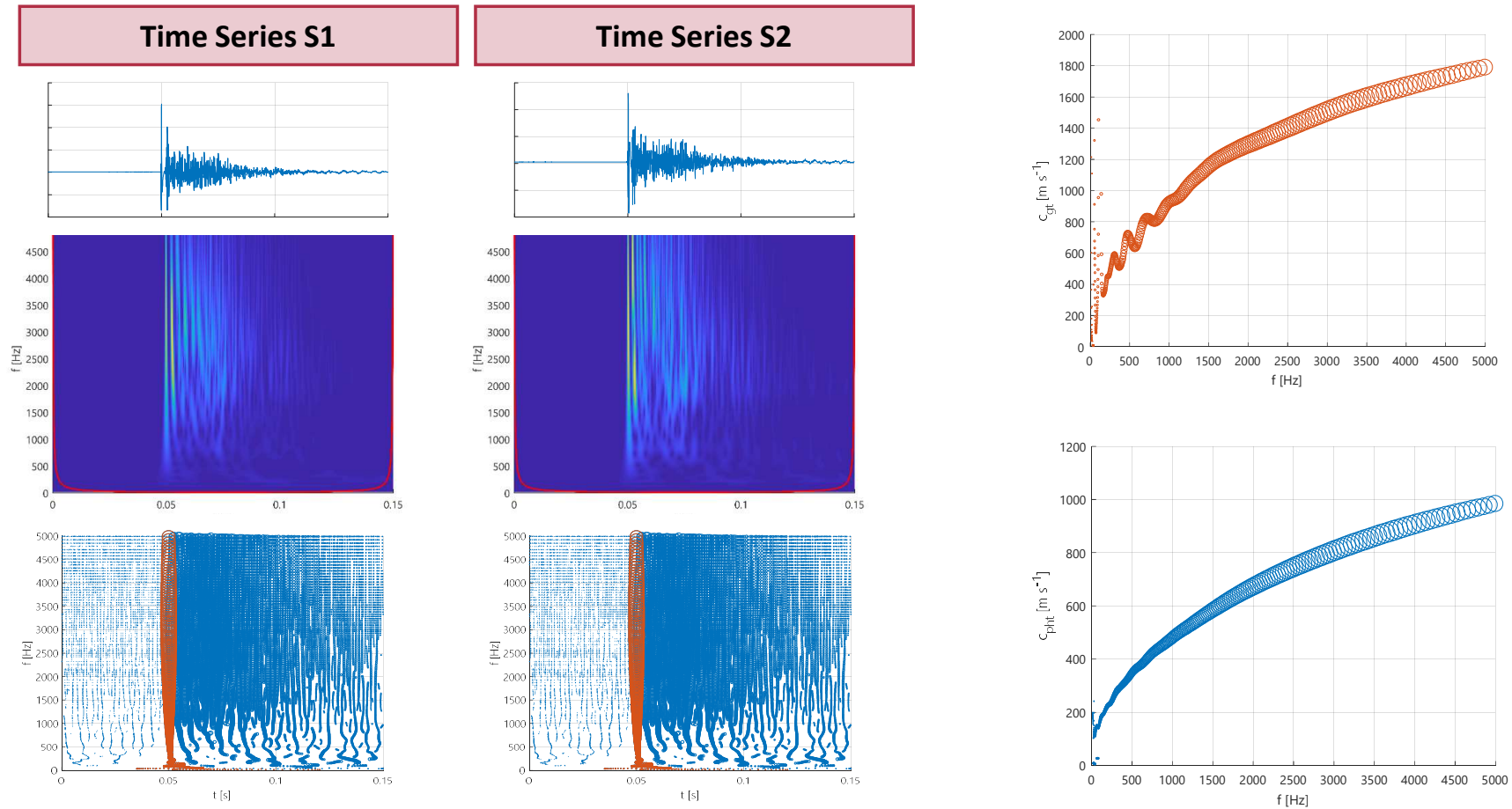
Phase Velocity \*

Group Velocity \*

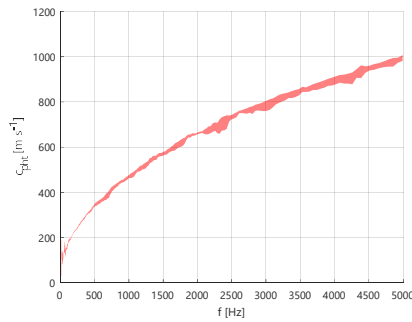
Equilibrium Equation	Timoshenko Model
Dispersion Relation for Phase Velocities	$c_{pht}(\omega) = \sqrt{\frac{\tau_2 \omega^2 - c_t^2 - \sqrt{(\tau_2 \omega^2 - c_t^2)^2 - 4\tau_3 \omega^2 (\tau_1 \omega^2 - 1)}}{2(\tau_1 \omega^2 - 1)}}$

$$c_t = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}} \quad c_f = \sqrt{\frac{EI}{\mu}} \quad c_s = \sqrt{\frac{GAK}{\mu}} \quad r = \sqrt{\frac{I}{A}} \quad \tau_1 = \frac{r^2}{c_s^2} \quad \tau_2 = \left(1 + \frac{c_t^2}{c_s^2}\right) r^2 + \frac{c_f^2}{c_s^2} \quad \tau_3 = \left(1 + \frac{c_t^2}{c_s^2}\right) c_f^2$$

# A new method for force and damage assessment in cables based on transverse wave propagation

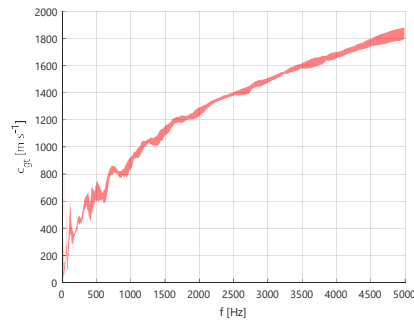


# A new method for force and damage assessment in cables



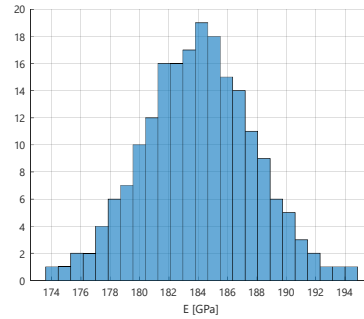
99% confidence interval

## Phase Velocity

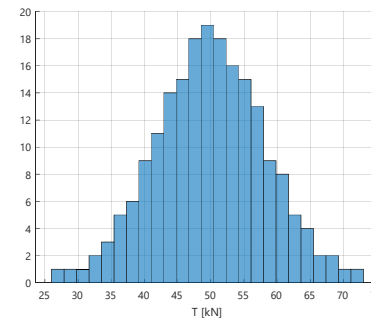


99% confidence interval

## Group Velocity



$$E = [184.0 \pm 3.8] \text{ GPa}$$

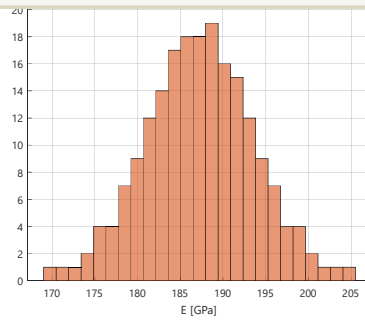


$$T = [49.9 \pm 8.3] \text{ kN}$$

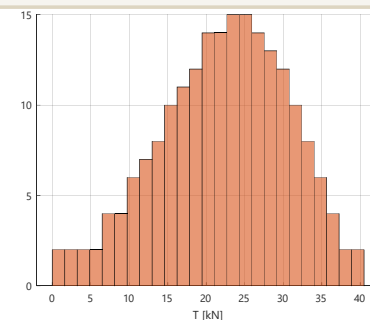
**Vibration Test**

$$E = 188.9 \text{ GPa}$$

$$T = 48.1 \text{ kN}$$

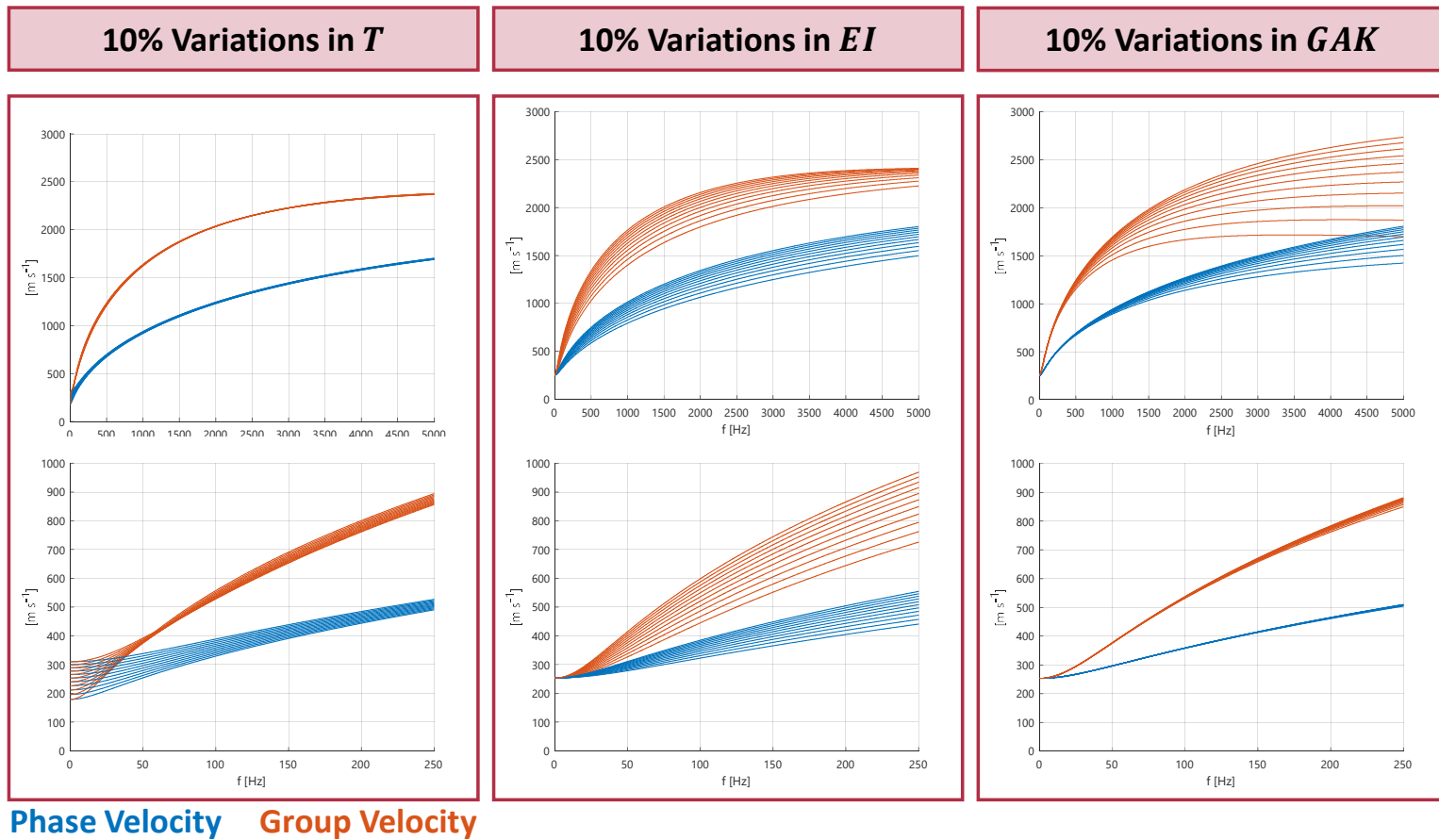


$$E = [187.2 \pm 6.3] \text{ GPa}$$



$$T = [22.3 \pm 8.4] \text{ kN}$$

## A new method for force and damage assessment in cables

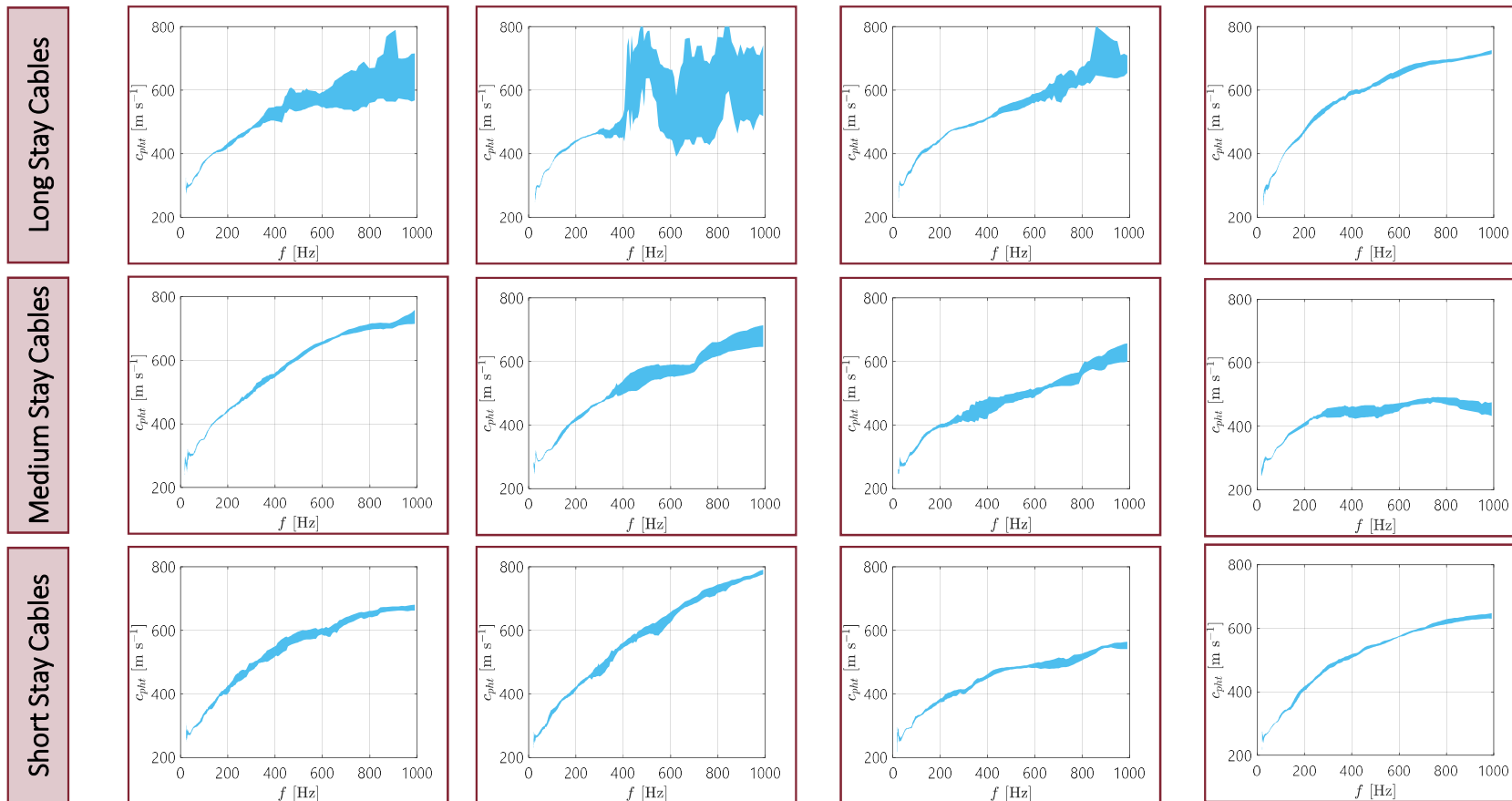


# Application of transverse wave propagation method to the cables of the Edgar Cardoso Bridge

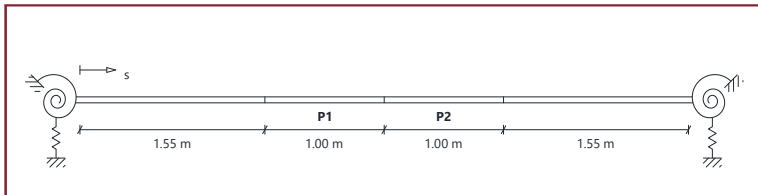
Long Stay Cables	900 $\phi$ 5 Parallel Wires $L = 100.62$ m $T_{ref} = 8740$ kN
Medium Stay Cables	540 $\phi$ 5 Parallel Wires $L = 75.00$ m $T_{ref} = 5320$ kN
Short Stay Cables	390 $\phi$ 5 Parallel Wires $L = 54.08$ m $T_{ref} = 3398$ kN



# Application of transverse wave propagation method to the cables of the Edgar Cardoso Bridge



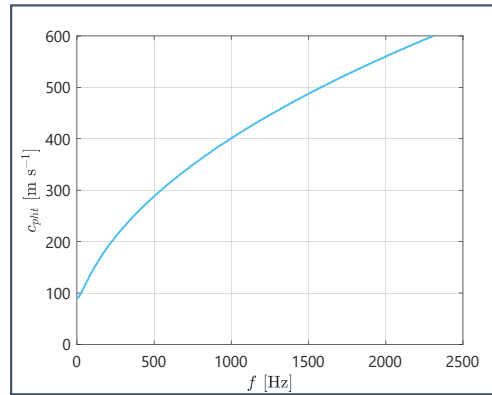
## Laboratory validation of transverse wave propagation method



$\phi_{P1} = 20 \text{ mm}$   
 $\phi_{P2} = \{20, 18, 19\} \text{ mm}$   
 $T_{ref} = 20 \text{ kN}$

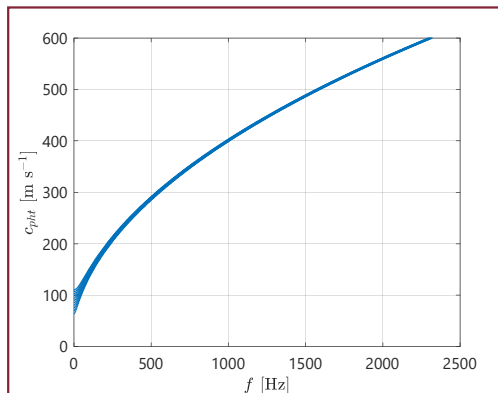


## Laboratory validation of transverse wave propagation method: Sensitivity tests

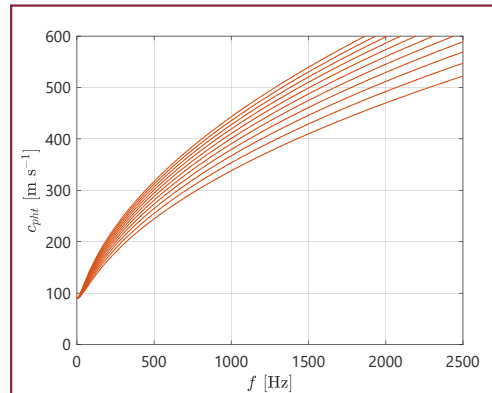


$T = 20 \text{ kN}$   
 $E = 200 \text{ GPa}$   
 $\phi = 20 \text{ mm}$

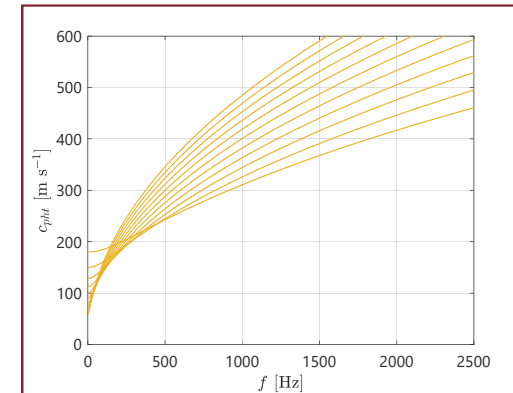
10% Variations in  $T$



10% Variations in  $E$



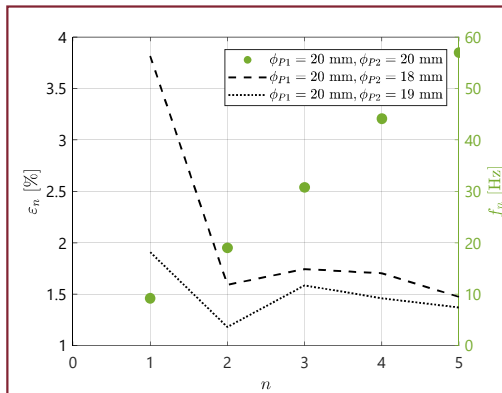
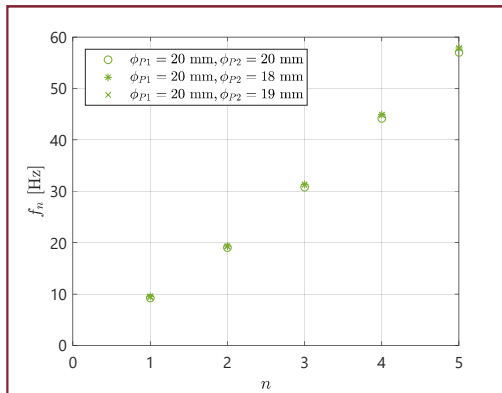
10% Variations in  $\phi$



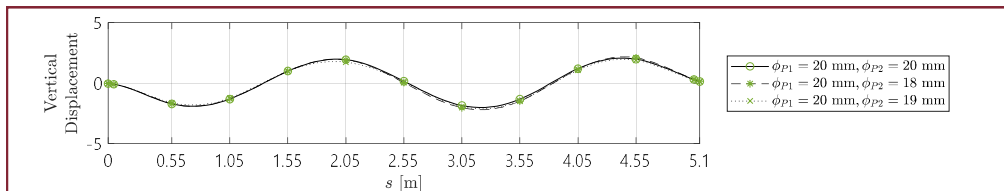
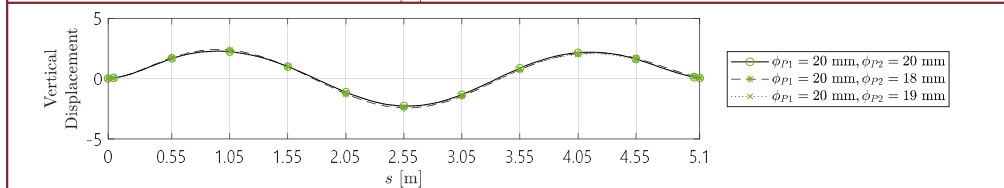
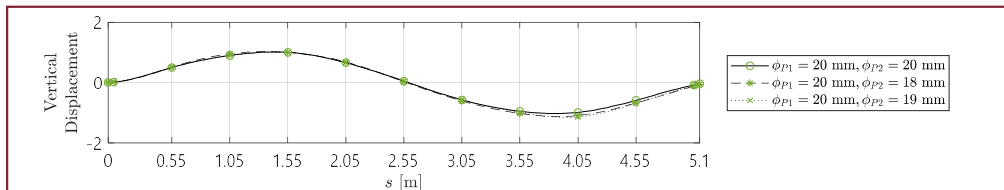
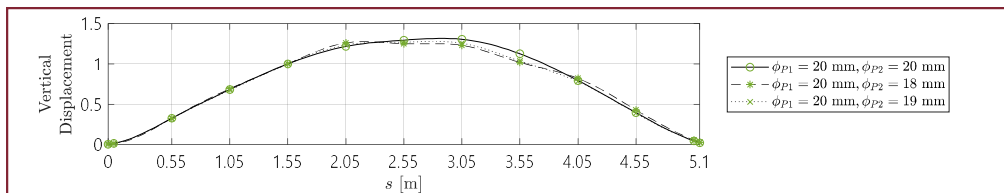


# Laboratory validation of transverse wave propagation method: modal tests

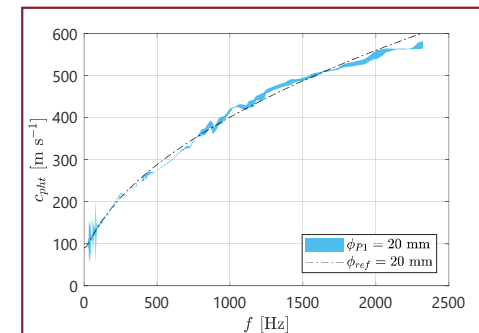
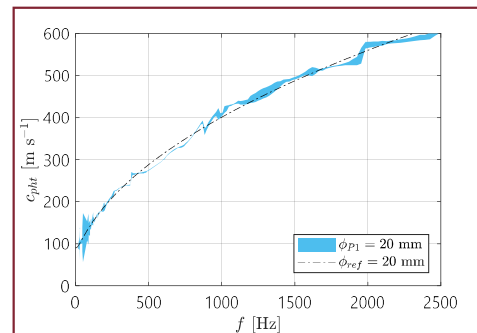
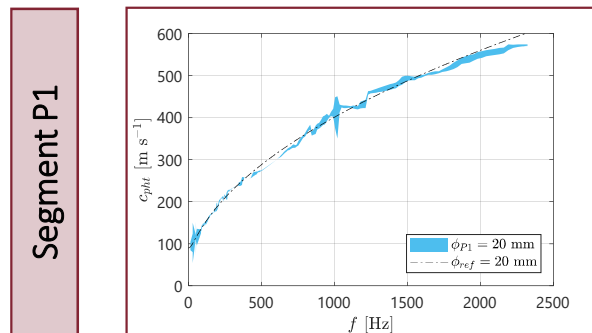
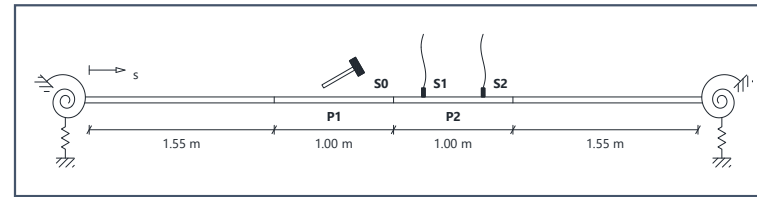
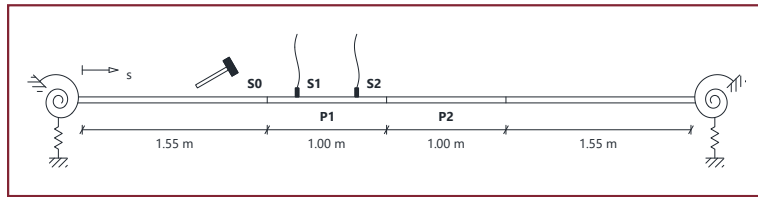
## Natural Frequencies



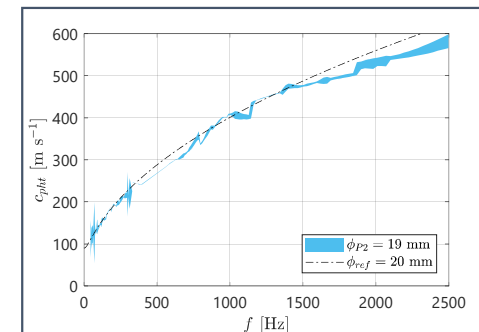
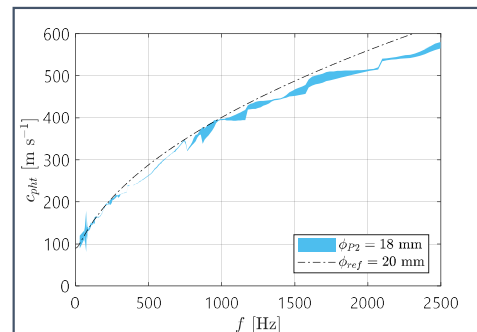
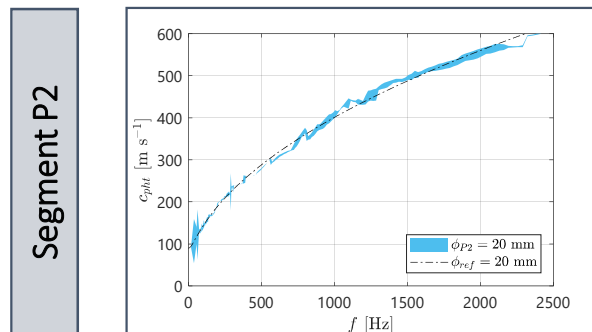
## Mode Shapes



# Laboratory validation of transverse wave propagation method: wave velocities

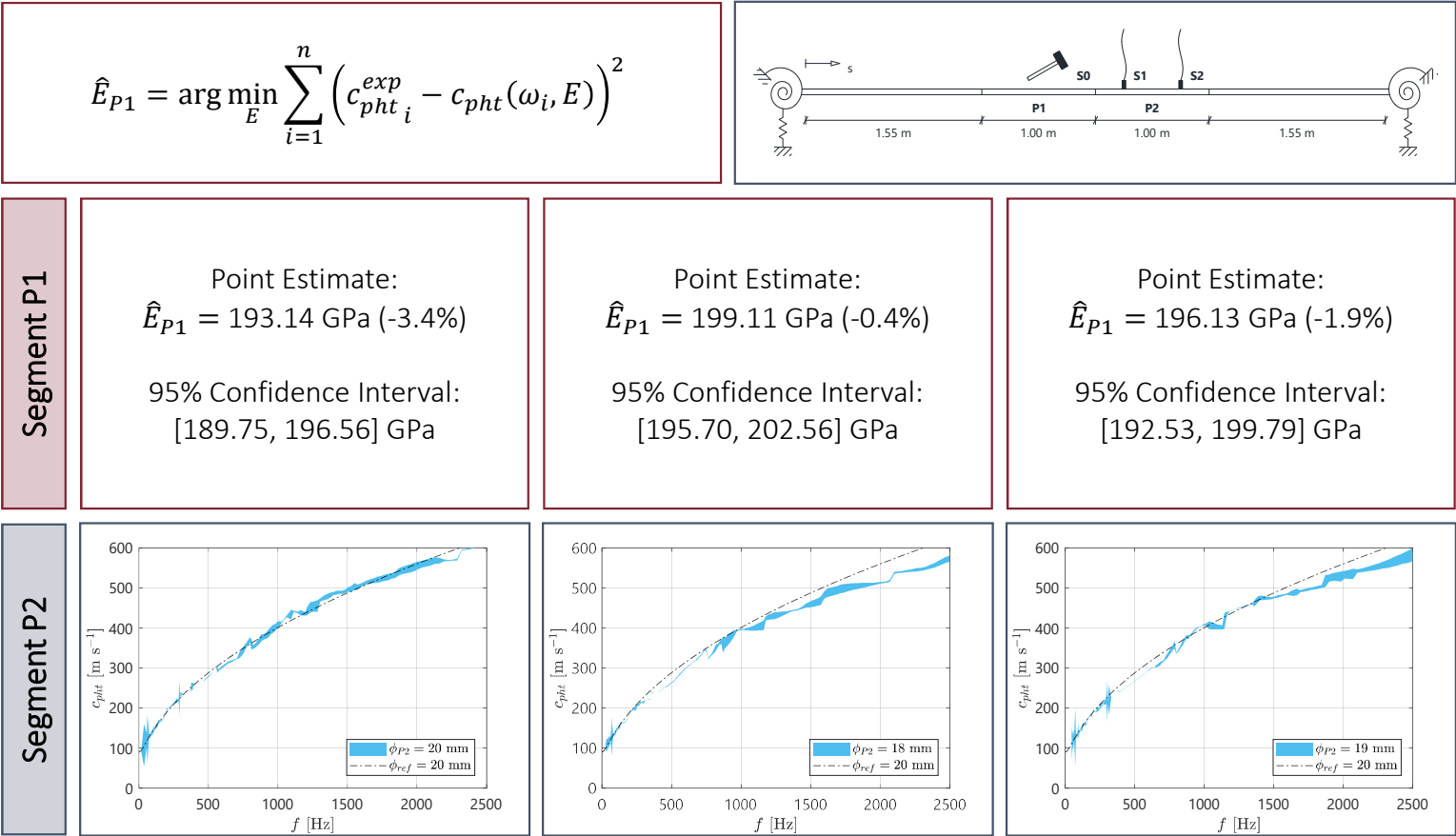


Undamaged



Damaged

# Laboratory validation of transverse wave propagation method: wave velocities



## Laboratory validation of transverse wave propagation method: Estimates of E and $\phi$

$$\hat{E}_{P1} = \arg \min_E \sum_{i=1}^n \left( c_{pht\ i}^{exp} - c_{pht}(\omega_i, E) \right)^2$$

$$\hat{\phi}_{P2} = \arg \min_{\phi} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( c_{pht\ i}^{exp} - c_{pht}(\omega_i, \phi) \right)^2$$

Segment P1

Point Estimate:  
 $\hat{E}_{P1} = 193.14$  GPa (-3.4%)  
 95% Confidence Interval:  
 [189.75, 196.56] GPa

Point Estimate:  
 $\hat{E}_{P1} = 199.11$  GPa (-0.4%)  
 95% Confidence Interval:  
 [195.70, 202.56] GPa

Point Estimate:  
 $\hat{E}_{P1} = 196.13$  GPa (-1.9%)  
 95% Confidence Interval:  
 [192.53, 199.79] GPa

Segment P2

Point Estimate:  
 $\hat{\phi}_{P2} = 20.01$  mm (+0.1%)  
 95% Confidence Interval:  
 [19.83, 20.19] mm

Point Estimate:  
 $\hat{\phi}_{P2} = 17.79$  mm (-1.2%)  
 95% Confidence Interval:  
 [17.62, 17.97] mm

Point Estimate:  
 $\hat{\phi}_{P2} = 18.66$  mm (-1.8%)  
 95% Confidence Interval:  
 [18.43, 18.90] mm

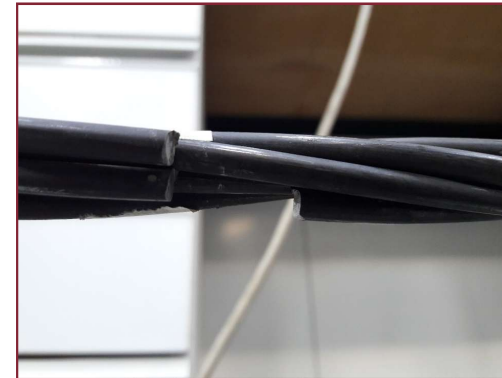
## Laboratory validation of transverse wave propagation method: strand test

15.2 Helical Strand

$$T_{ref} = 20 \text{ kN}$$



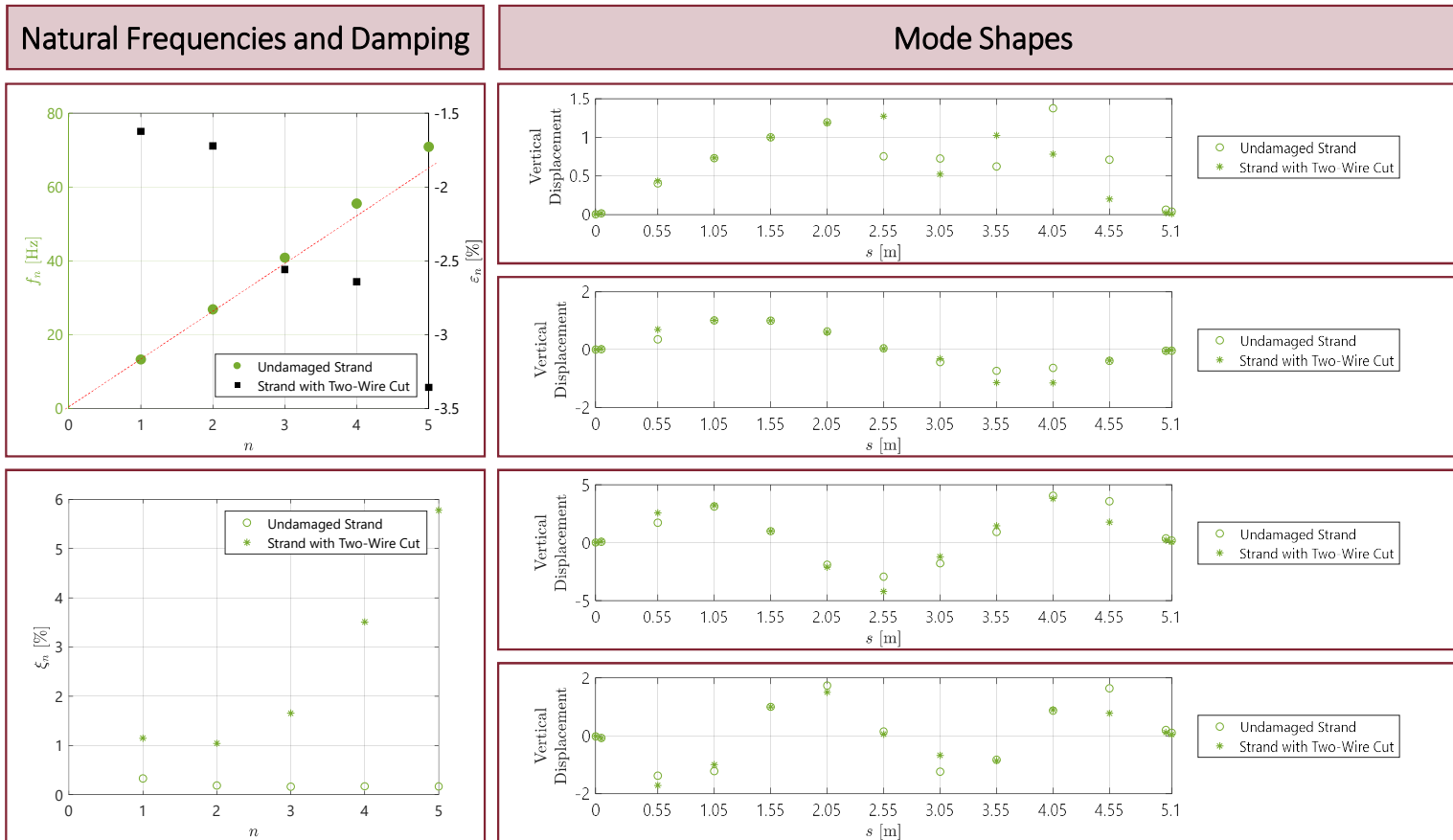
(Support by VSL)



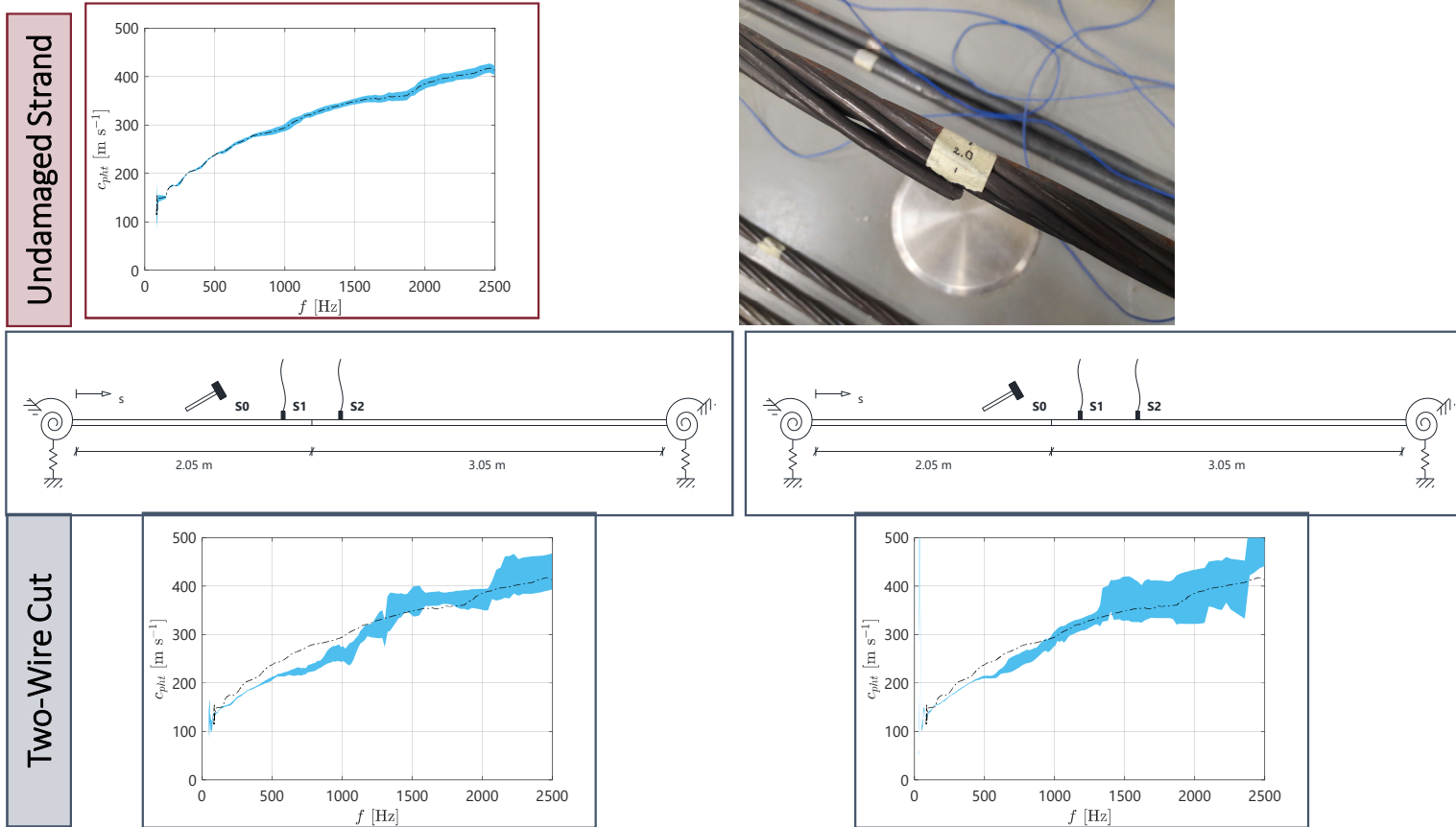
Undamaged Condition  
&  
Two-Wire Cut at  $s = 2.05 \text{ m}$

Modal Identification Tests  
Wave Propagation Tests

# Laboratory validation of transverse wave propagation method: Modal tests



# Laboratory validation of transverse wave propagation method: wave tests



## Conclusions

- Sensitivity studies enable to demonstrate that a small percentage of damage in cables can only be detected from local measurements of force and cable parameters.
- Cable force identification is an important approach to detecting damage and therefore, accurate identification techniques are needed.
- The application of vibration-based methods provides very accurate estimates of force but requires an accurate knowledge of cable mass and length.
- Combined with numerical models, vibration based methods can be extended outside the typical intervals of application to short cables, cables with unknown end conditions, and sagged cables.
- To overcome limitations associated with difficult end conditions, a new direction has been followed to identify force and damage in cables using wave propagation relating the characteristics of the measured velocity to cable properties, such as the bending and shear stiffness and the installed tension.
- Results from laboratory tests on a solid bar demonstrated that a cross-section loss is associated with variation of phase velocities and that they can be employed for damage quantification.
- Preliminary results from laboratory tests on a strand demonstrated that wire breakage produces variations in the wave velocities and leads to confidence intervals with greater amplitudes.





## 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Experimental Vibration Analysis for Civil Engineering Structures

Politecnico di Milano, Italy - August 30 – September 1, 2023



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

# Thanks for your kind attention

### Acknowledgments:

This work was financially supported by:

- Base funding (UIDB/04708/2020) and programmatic funding (UIDP/04708/2020) of the CONSTRUCT – Instituto de I&D em Estruturas e Construções, funded by national funds through the FCT/MCTES (PIDDAC);
- Project CTWAVE – Identification of Cable Damage from Transverse Wave Propagation (EXPL/ECI-EGC/1324/2021), funded by national funds through the FCT/MCTES (PIDDAC).