

# Passive and active bridge monitoring

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## Kurzfassung

Prestressing techniques are commonly used in civil infrastructures such as long-span bridges to maintain the structural performance in their designed lifetime. However, the pre-stress loss cannot be avoided. Thus, the bridge monitoring becomes important in civil engineering. A preliminary investigation of the coda wave interferometry (CWI) method for identifying the pre-stress loss in a large-scale prestressed bridge model is presented. The passive and active measurements have been carried out in in-situ test at the structure – BLEIB. As a result, the wave velocity change reveals the influence of the pre-stress change and the correlation coefficients contribute to develop local damage detection.



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## Abstract

This research is to perform passive and active measurements on a large-scale prestressed concrete bridge model under the outdoor condition. Multi sensors were applied to this test structure - BLEIB, which is located at the BAM test site. The experimental evaluation of ultrasonic wave propagation and seismic noise recordings were considered for revealing the bridge damage condition, as a basic for developing a reliable bridge monitoring system.



## Experiment setup



©BAM  
Loading test.  
Various loads by iron bars: 300, 600, 900 kg.



©BAM  
Vibration test.  
Hammer hit by free-drop weight.



©BAM  
Pressing test.  
Built-in post-tensioning system.

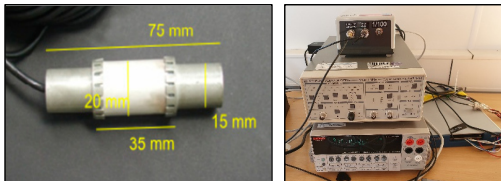


©BAM  
Pressing test.  
Pressing forces Adjustment.

## Sensors and measurements

### Active monitoring by ultrasonic measurements

- Ultrasonic wave velocity change
- Detection of prestressing force change



Left: ultrasonic transducer ACSYS S0807 [1] embedded in concrete. Right: ultrasonic monitoring system.

### Passive monitoring by vibration measurements

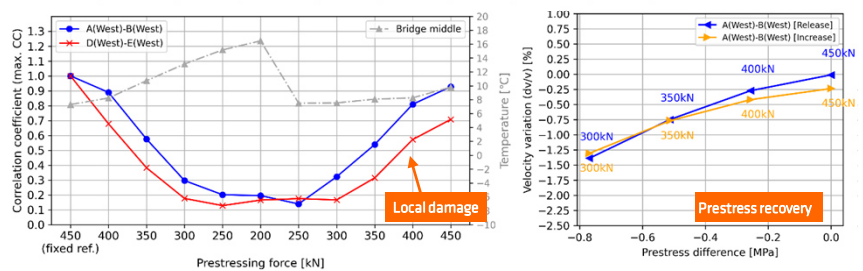
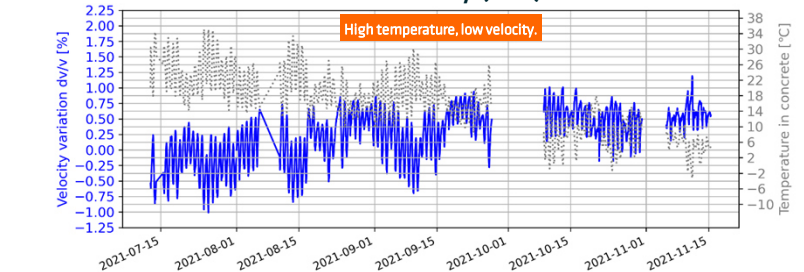
- Eigenfrequencies vs. load effects
- Eigenfrequencies vs. prestressing force change



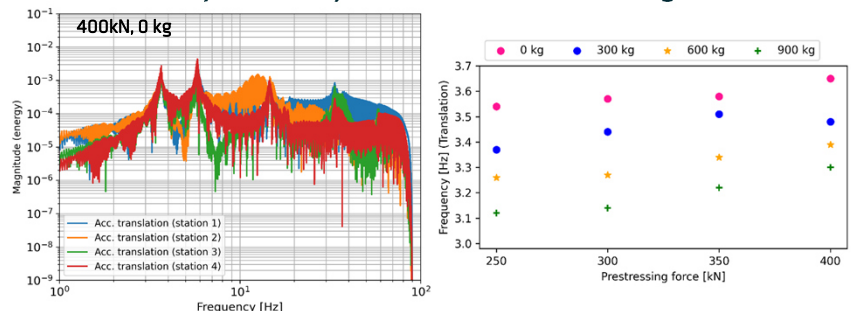
Left: broadband seismometer for bridge vibrations in 3D translation and 3D rotation. Right down: geophone sensor.

## Evaluation

### Coda Wave Interferometry (CWI) of ultrasonics



### Spectral analysis of ambient noise recordings



[1] Niederleithinger, E., Wolf, J., Mielentz, F., Wigenhauser, H., & Pirkawetz, S. (2015). Embedded Ultrasonic Transducers for Active and Passive Concrete Monitoring. Sensors (Switzerland), 15(5), 9756–9772. <https://doi.org/10.3390/s150509756>