

## Article

# A Testbench for Measuring the Dynamic Force-Displacement Characteristics of Shockmounts

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**Abstract:** Shockmounts in naval applications are used to mount technical equipment onto the structure of naval vessels. The insulating effect against mechanical shock is important here, as it can excite the structure in the event of underwater explosions and otherwise cause damage to the equipment. Although knowledge of the dynamic properties of shockmounts is important to naval architects, the dynamic force-displacement characteristics of shockmounts are often tested and measured statically and/or in the harmonic field. Recently, an inertia-based method and a dynamic model for measuring the dynamic force-displacement characteristics of shockmounts was described. This paper presents a full description of a testbench for implementing this method. The testbench incorporates a drop table for excitation. The proposed setup can be configured for measuring the dynamic characteristics of elastomer and wire rope shockmounts, with shock loads in compression, tension, shear and roll directions. The advanced Kelvin–Voigt model for shockmounts is applied, showing that the dynamic force-displacement characteristics measured with this setup are qualified to generate model parameters for further use.

**Keywords:** shock isolator; wire rope shockmount; elastomer shockmount; dynamic force-displacement characteristics



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## 1. Introduction

Shockmounts, which are used to isolate sensitive equipment on board of a ship from mechanical shock excitation, have dissipative and elastic properties. In the event of an underwater explosion, the shock energy transmitted by the ship's structure is stored in the elastically deformed shockmount and released over a time period longer than the original shock event [1]. Energy loss due to damping in the shockmount results in reduced excitation, acceleration, as well as deflection of the equipment.

In the context of naval vessels, understanding the dynamic properties of shockmounts is essential for designing applications for enhancing the safety of ship and onboard equipment. Suitable models of shockmounts which reflect the dynamic behavior are necessary. In this regard, many different aspects have been investigated.

Recent research topics in this field range from shock wave propagation and damage effects on the structure, over material properties regarding blast resistance, shock transmittance and damping characteristics, to the influence of environmental conditions and improving shockmount design [2–9].

Even in naval applications, with the highly dynamic nature of shock events, force-displacement characteristics are considered that are usually generated by slow spring testing machines. The relevant DIN standards for elastomer shockmounts and wire rope shockmounts [10,11] refer to regulations from the automotive and railway areas.

Since the requirements for shock safety in naval applications are higher than in automotive fields, it is remarkable that the literature reveals no further research activities on

measuring the dynamic characteristics of shockmounts. Therefore, the authors recently published a comprehensive method for measuring the dynamic characteristics of wire rope and elastomer shockmounts [12], based on an approach suggested by the NATO Naval Armaments Group NG6/SG7 from the year 2001 [13]. Especially in naval applications, this dynamic method offers the advantage that the yielded characteristics rely on measurements on shock-excited rather than slowly moving objects. Based on the work presented there, a dynamic model of both wire rope and elastomer shockmounts, the advanced Kelvin–Voigt model, was developed [14], that describes the dynamic behavior of shockmounts and suits naval safety applications well.

In this paper, a detailed description of a testbench for dynamic measurements of force-displacement characteristics is presented. The proposed testbench is the consequent implementation of the method described in [12]. Furthermore, the application of the advanced Kelvin–Voigt model to different shockmount types is reported here. The model parameters for 18 exemplary shockmount-load configurations are presented, allowing for further use of the model in simulation programs.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Investigated Shockmounts

Typical shockmount types used in boats and ships are elastomer shockmounts and wire rope shockmounts. Both types are different in regards to geometry, material, and damping physics. Therefore, they are well-suited to demonstrate the ability of the proposed system to measure the characteristics of very different shockmount types.

In Figure 1, the investigated shockmount types are shown: three types of wire rope shockmounts and three types of elastomer shockmounts. From each type, there are three specimens. The types differ regarding their stiffness.



**Figure 1.** Investigated wire rope shockmounts (a) and elastomer shockmounts (b), one of each type.

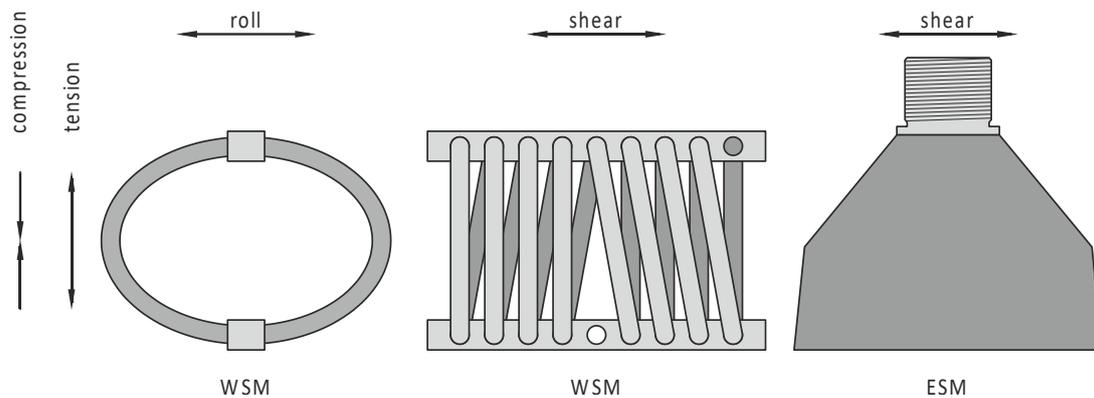
Elastomer shockmounts are named ESM XX, where XX stands for their shore hardness. The ESM-types are: ESM 32, ESM 40, ESM 55.

Wire rope shockmounts are named WSM YYY, where YYY denotes the specified width in mm of the unloaded shockmount. Thus, WSM 175, WSM 135, and WSM 125 are the investigated types, sorted with respect to stiffness in ascending order. All investigated shockmount types are listed in Table 1.

The definition of load directions for the shockmounts can be taken from Figure 2. For rotationally symmetric elastomer shockmounts, only one direction orthogonal to compression and tension is defined. The terms *compression direction*, *tension direction*, *roll direction*, and *shear direction* refer to the direction of the first deformation of the shockmount due to shock impact. This also applies to the designations of testbench configurations, e.g., *compression configuration* or *compression mode*.

**Table 1.** Investigated shockmounts. Data taken from [15,16].

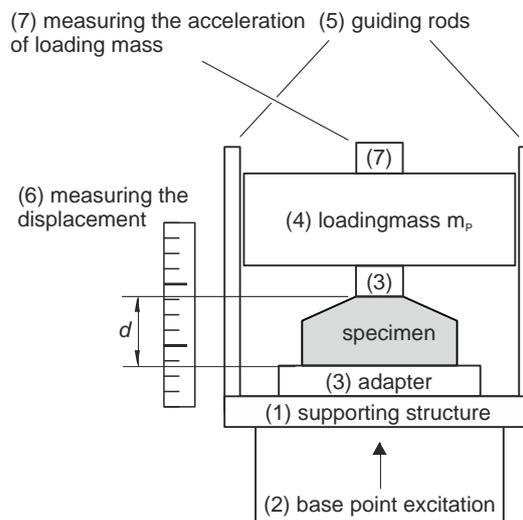
Type	Manufacturer and Model	Max. Static Load (kg)	Natural Frequency (Hz) @ Max. Static Load	Max. Displacement (mm) in Direction of Tension (+) Compression (−)	Shear, Roll
ESM	Willbrandt KG SES 1500 SH32	90	5 ... 6	±55	±55
ESM	Willbrandt KG SES 1500 SH40	125	5 ... 6	±55	±55
ESM	Willbrandt KG SES 1500 SH55	260	5 ... 6	±55	±55
WSM	Willbrandt KG CAVOFLEX H 63-146-135-175-8	22 ... 120	6.2 ... 6.7	+65/−100	±86
WSM	Willbrandt KG CAVOFLEX H 63-146-110-135-8	30 ... 150	6 ... 6.5	+50/−82	±65
WSM	Willbrandt KG CAVOFLEX H63-146-95-125-8	50 ... 170	7.1 ... 7.6	+45/−67	±60



**Figure 2.** Definition of load directions based on [15,16].

2.2. Description of the Testbench

The basic principle of the testbench is shown in Figure 3. Its main components are described in detail after a short overview. A comprehensive description on statistical analysis of acquired data and error considerations can be found in [12].



**Figure 3.** Basic principle of the testbench [12].

A vertical shock test machine is used to provide the basepoint acceleration of the shockmount under test. The dynamically generated basepoint acceleration is a haversine-shaped shock pulse. The specimen is mounted on the supporting structure, here the drop table, via measuring adapters. The acceleration of the inert loading mass is measured with an accelerometer, while the displacement of the shockmount is measured by a linear potentiometer. According to Newton's second law, the restoring force of the shockmount is calculated from the measured acceleration.

### 2.2.1. Shock Test Machine

The dynamic shock generation is performed with a free-fall shock test system by the manufacturer, Lansmont Corporation (Monterey, CA, USA), as seen in Figure 4. The specific model is called 122 because of its square shock table with a 122 cm edge length. The system is equipped with a high-capacity option to handle a maximum payload of 1.134 kg on the table. It is mounted on a seismic reaction base, consisting of a heavy steel block that is connected to the floor via airmount-inflated isolators (air springs) in each corner and four shock-absorbing dampers on the left- and right-hand side. The resonant frequency of the seismic base is between 2 and 3 Hz. The horizontal movement of the base is limited by alignment posts.



**Figure 4.** Front view of the shock system (photo: Media Center, HSU).

The drop table is made of aluminum and weighs 635 kg. In order to mount the test specimen, it has a 10 cm square grid hole pattern with M16  $\times$  1.5 inserts. It is guided by round, chrome plated, solid steel rods and can be lifted by chains with two hoist positioning systems.

In addition to the influence of drop height, weight of table, and setup, the shock pulse (g-level, waveform, and duration) can be shaped with devices mounted between the table and the base. Here, a configuration with modular elastomer programmers (MEPs) with cone-shaped faces for haversine [1] shocks and a high dynamic force rating are used. Differing from Figure 4, there are three modules mounted both on the base (2" thick) and below the table (1/2" thick).

Figure 5 shows the performance limitations of the machine for haversine pulses with polygons in a duration-versus-acceleration-table (DVAT). The manufacturer recommends performing only shocks inside the outlined areas. The maximum acceleration decreases with greater duration and load on the table. The red marks show cases for which the machine was initially used.

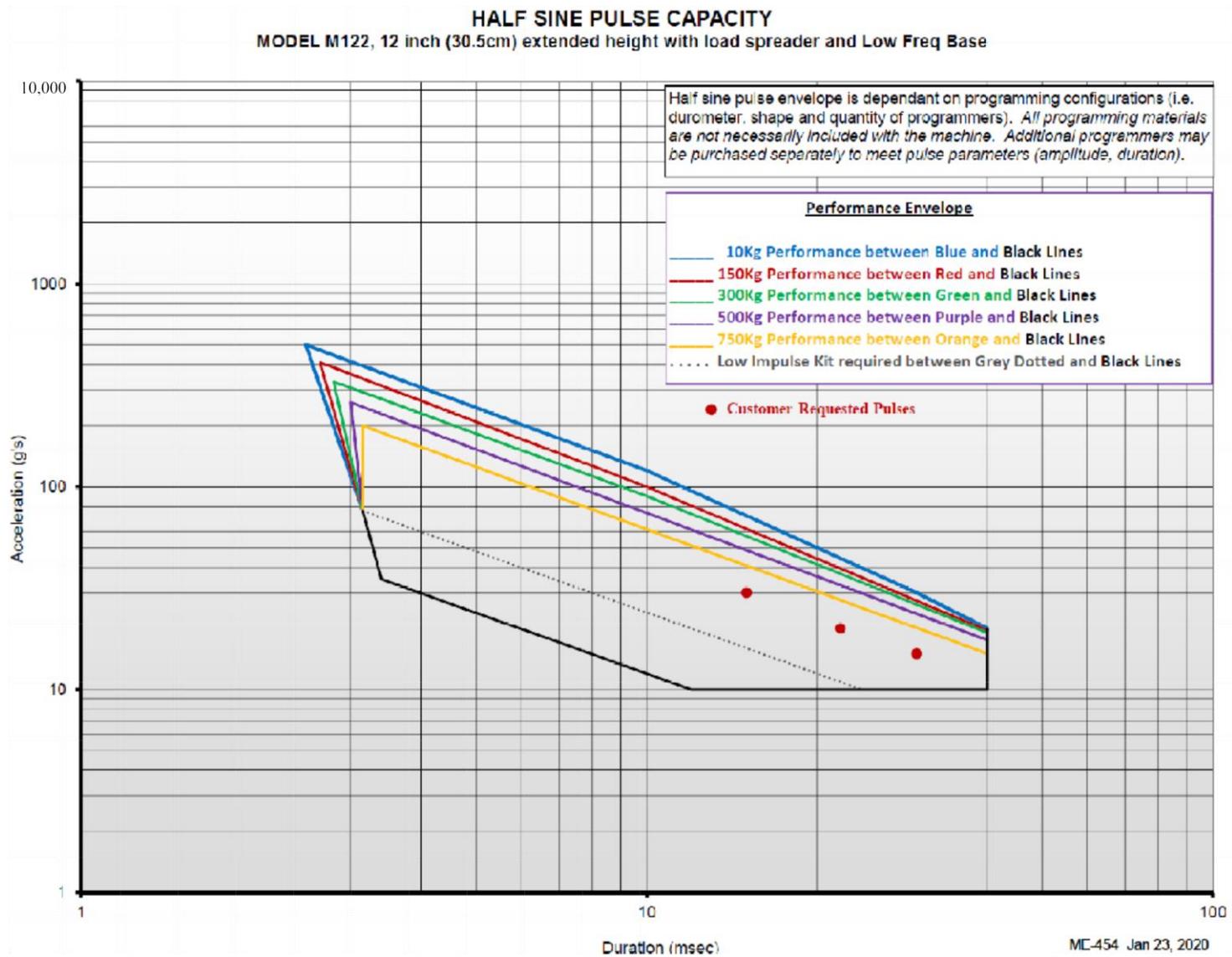


Figure 5. Performance chart of the shock system [17].

### 2.2.2. Displacement Measuring Devices

For measuring the deformation  $d$  of the shockmount under test, linear potentiometers of the manufacturer, WayCon Positionsmesstechnik GmbH (Taufkirchen, Germany), type LZW2-A-250-10M, are used, as seen in Figure 6.



**Figure 6.** Linear potentiometer, in the middle of the used model A [18].

The measurement principle of linear potentiometers is based on a potential divider. The linear potentiometer contains a sliding contact running on a resistance track. This sliding contact is fitted with a piston rod which is fixed to the measuring object. As resistance changes proportionally to the actual traversed path by the sliding contact, the distance can be determined by the change in output voltage.

Key features of the used type are:

- Measurement range 250 mm.
- Maximum power supply 60 V
- Displacement speed  $\leq 10$  m/s
- Shock resistance 50 g, 11 ms
- Up to  $\pm 13^\circ$  tilt

For supplying voltage to the linear potentiometers, signal generators of the data acquisition system with 10 V DC are used. The sensitivity,  $s$ , is the ratio between supply voltage,  $U$ , and maximum displacement,  $d_{max}$ :

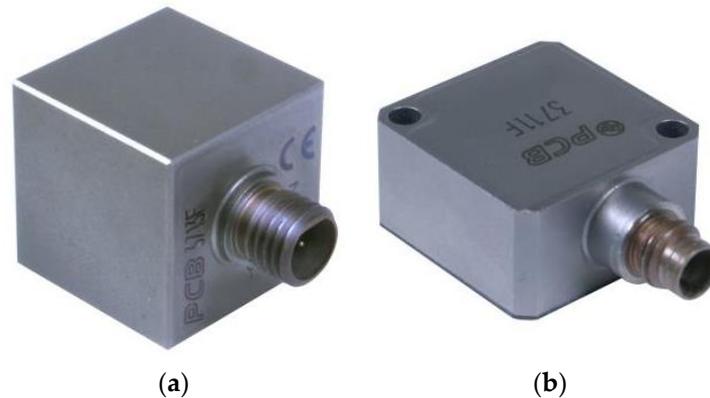
$$s = \frac{U}{d_{max}} = \frac{10 \text{ V}}{0.258 \text{ m}} = 38.7 \text{ V/m} \quad (1)$$

### 2.2.3. Acceleration Sensors

To measure all necessary information about the movement of the loading mass, the shock table, and the seismic base of the shock system, the sensors must cover a wide measuring range and frequency span.

During the drop of the table, the shockmounts undergo zero gravity, represented by a constant acceleration that is 1 g smaller than the initial condition with the table at rest. This can only be captured with sensors achieving true DC response. Therefore, MEMS DC accelerometers of the 3710 series (manufacturer: PCB Piezotronics, New York, NY, USA)

were chosen. These come in a triaxial (type 3713) and a uniaxial (type 3711) design [19], as seen in Figure 7.



**Figure 7.** Shock sensors used in the testbench: (a) triaxial [20]; (b) uniaxial [21].

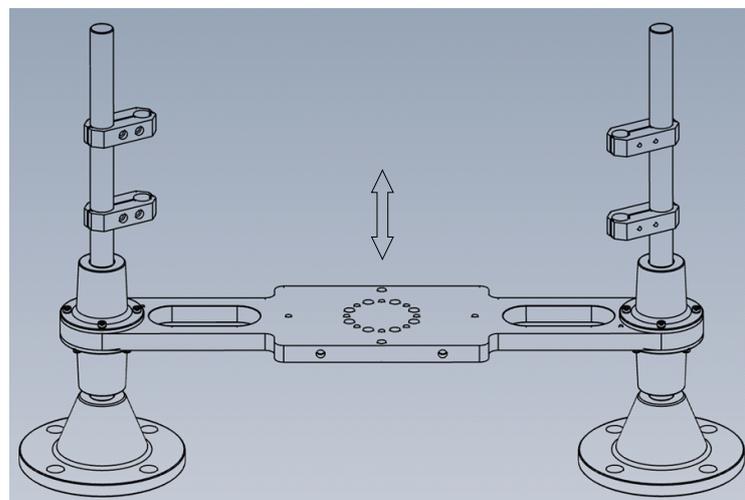
Both designs are specified with a frequency range ( $\pm 5\%$ ) from 0 to 1500 Hz. Due to the expected high accelerations under shock (over 100 g), the version F11200G with a measurement range of  $\pm 200$  g peak (sensitivity 6.75 mV/g) was selected [22].

The triaxial type 3713 is mounted with a stud on a prepared thread on the loading mass. The uniaxial type 3711 is screwed to a clip for adhesive mounting, which is fixed with hbm (Hottinger Baldwin Messtechnik) X60 cold curing glue to the supporting structure in order to measure the basepoint acceleration.

The sensors have built-in electronics that are powered by a Model 478A05 three-channel signal conditioner (manufacturer: PCB Piezotronics).

#### 2.2.4. Improved Guiding System and Loading Mass

In order to prevent the shockmount-mass system from tilting and to establish attachment points for the displacement measuring devices, a guiding system is necessary, as seen in Figure 8. The system consists basically of two steel rods, which can be mounted to the drop table, and a horizontal traverse. The traverse is made of aluminum and is connected to the rods by four roller bearings, two at each rod. Also, there are brackets attached to each rod, which fix the linear potentiometers to the system. The piston rods of the linear potentiometers are screwed into threaded holes in the traverse.

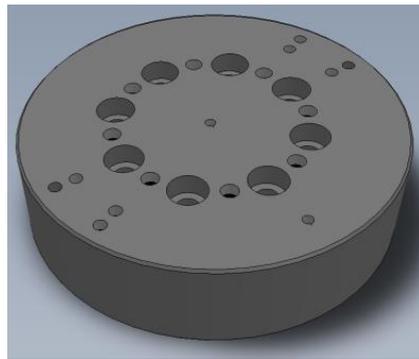


**Figure 8.** Improved guiding system.

Guided by the rods, the traverse can move vertically up and down, as indicated by the double-headed arrow in Figure 8.

The traverse is fitted with threaded holes for attaching the loading mass, the guide adapters, and—in some cases—the wire rope shockmounts (see Section 2.2.5).

In order to meet the required displacements with all shockmount types and load directions, the loading mass has a modular design. It consists of stackable single mass elements with an identical hole pattern and cross-section. With varying thickness, mass elements of 1 kg, 2 kg, and 5 kg are used. Figure 9 shows a 5 kg element.



**Figure 9.** Mass element with threaded and unthreaded holes for stacking and attaching other elements, e.g., accelerometer.

This guiding system has been improved with respect to the system used in the original work reported in [12]. It is sturdier, more versatile, and easier to handle when changing the specimen is necessary. The basic principle is the same; however, the original roller bearings were replaced by plain bearing bushes. For this reason, the dynamic model and some equations have to be adapted. Friction in the bearings can be neglected, and there is no moment of inertia in the bearings anymore.

Thus, the quantities,  $m_R$  and  $\Delta m_R$ , from Equations (7), (15) and (28) in [1], which represent the mass of the rollers in the bearing and its maximum uncertainty, are set to zero. The quantity,  $m_p$ , in these equations includes the loading mass as well as the mass of the horizontal traverse and of the bearings.

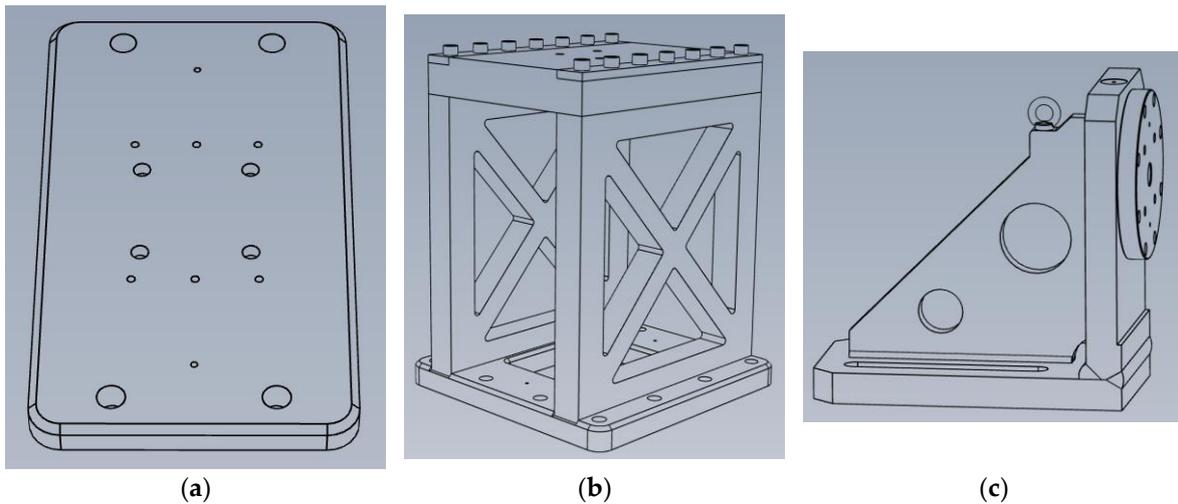
#### 2.2.5. Measuring Adapters

In order to establish measurement setups that allow for the load directions of both shockmount types as defined in Figure 2, several measurement adapters were designed. They were manufactured by HSU (Helmut Schmidt University) central workshop. All seven possible configurations are shown for clarity in Section 2.2.6.

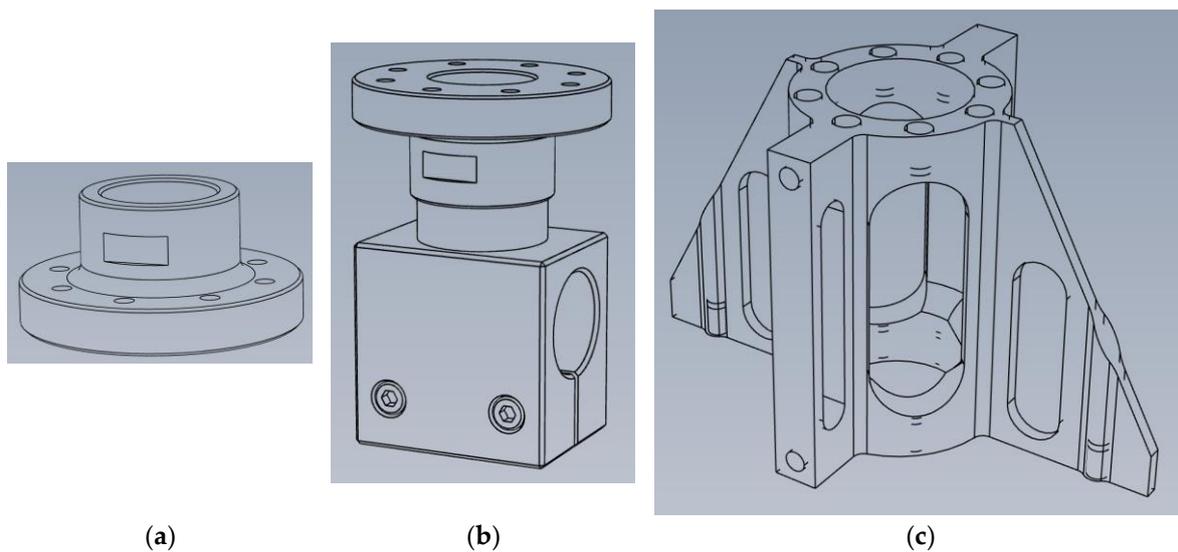
Basepoint adapters (Figure 10) are used to mount the shockmount to the drop table and therefore transmit the shock pulse. Guide adapters (Figure 11), however, connect the shockmount to the traverse of the guiding system. Therefore, they are on the shock-isolated side of the system.

Wire rope shockmounts in pressure-, tension-, and roll-configurations do not need a guide adapter since they are connected directly to the traverse of the guiding system.

The adapters are mainly drilling and milling parts and, with two exceptions, are made of steel. The basepoint adapter for tension configuration (Figure 10b) has a steel base, while the walls and the lid are made from high-strength aluminum. The guide adapter for wire rope shockmounts in shear configuration (Figure 11c) is made of aluminum in order to reduce weight.



**Figure 10.** Basepoint adapters for mounting the shockmount to the drop table for both elastomer and wire rope shockmounts: (a) for configurations in compression mode; (b) for configurations in tension mode; (c) for configurations in shear and roll mode.



**Figure 11.** Guide adapters for mounting the shockmount to the guiding system: (a) for elastomer shockmounts in compression and tension configurations; (b) for elastomer shockmounts in shear configuration; (c) for wire rope shockmounts in shear configuration.

#### 2.2.6. Complete Setup

In this section, for every possible configuration, a sketch and a picture of implementation are given:

- Elastomer shockmount in pressure configuration, see Figures 12 and 13
- Wire rope shockmount in pressure configuration, see Figures 14 and 15
- Elastomer shockmount in tension configuration, see Figures 16 and 17
- Wire rope shockmount in tension configuration, see Figures 18 and 19
- Elastomer shockmounts in shear configuration, see Figures 20 and 21
- Wire rope shockmounts in roll configuration, see Figures 22 and 23
- Wire rope shockmounts in shear configuration, see Figures 24 and 25

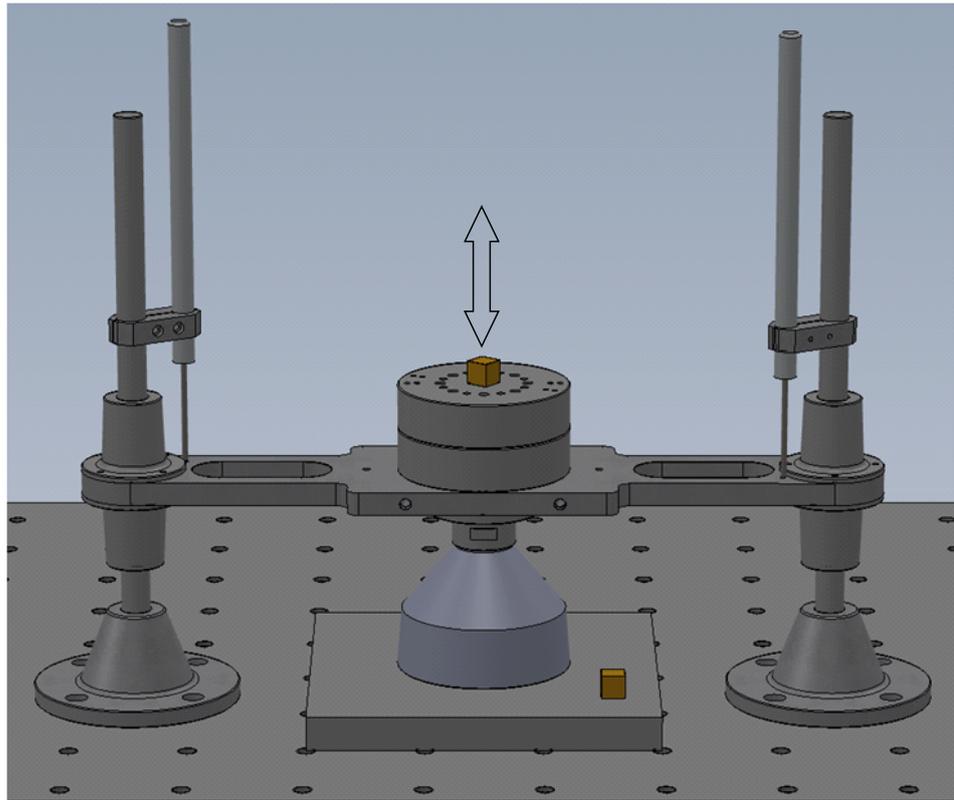


Figure 12. Sketch of elastomer shockmount in pressure configuration.

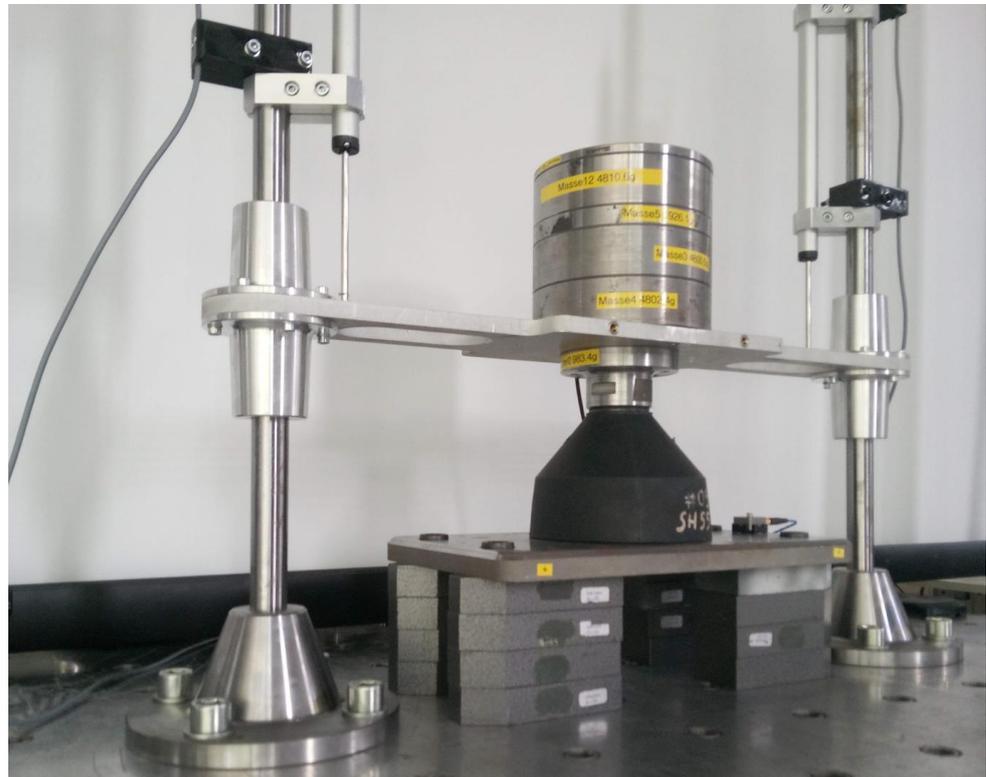


Figure 13. Picture of elastomer shockmount in pressure configuration.

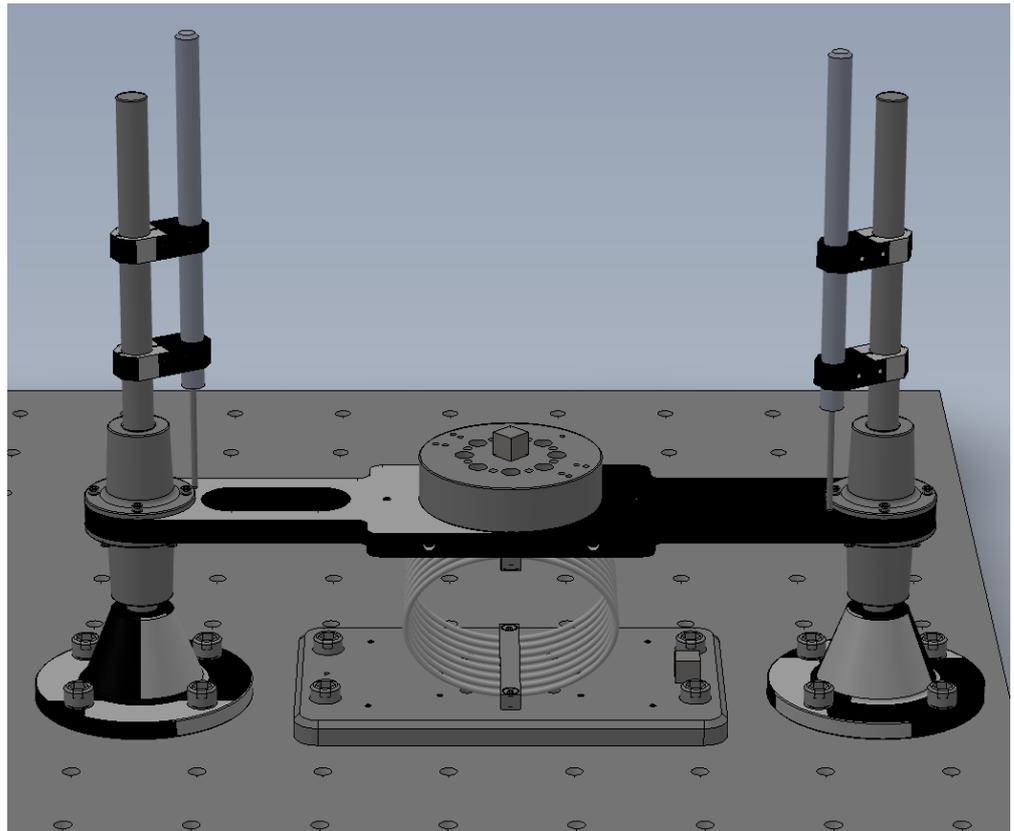


Figure 14. Sketch of wire rope shockmount in pressure configuration.

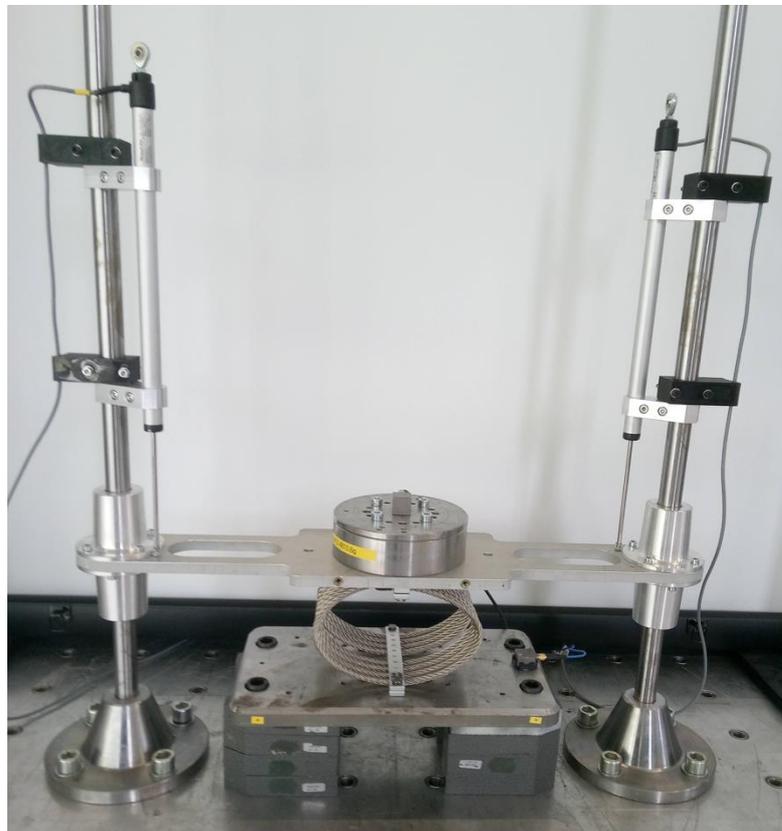


Figure 15. Picture of wire rope shockmount in pressure configuration.

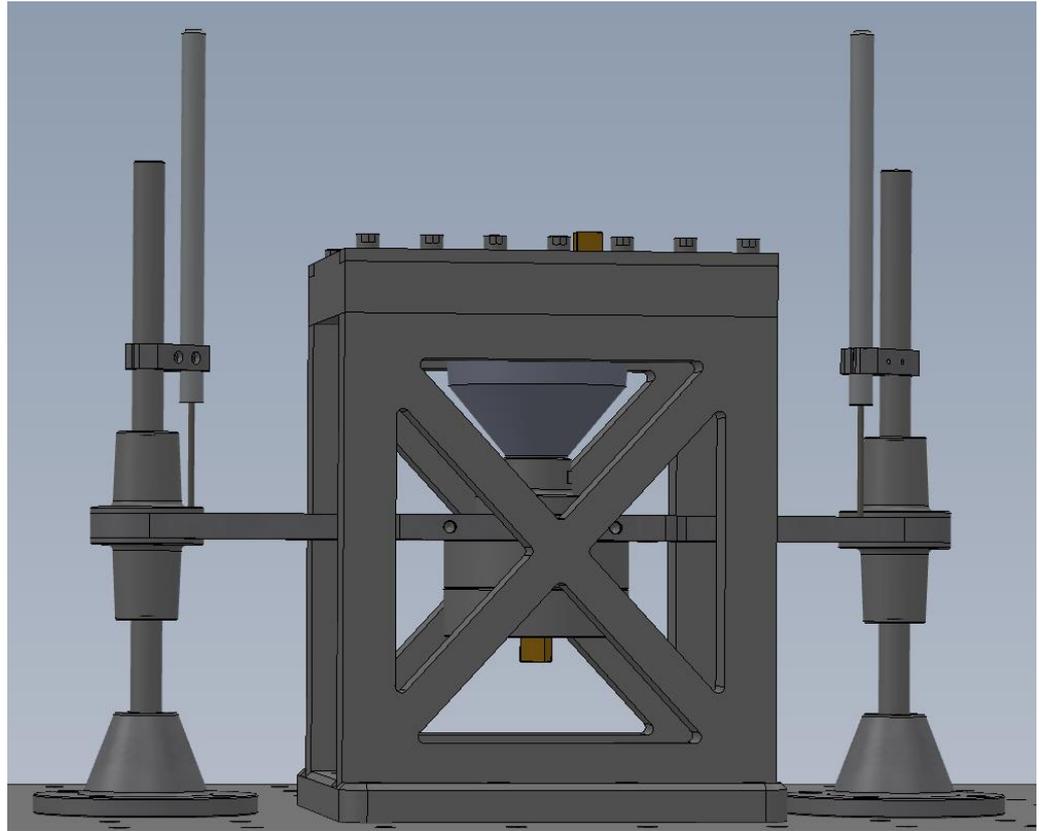


Figure 16. Sketch of elastomer shockmount in tension configuration.

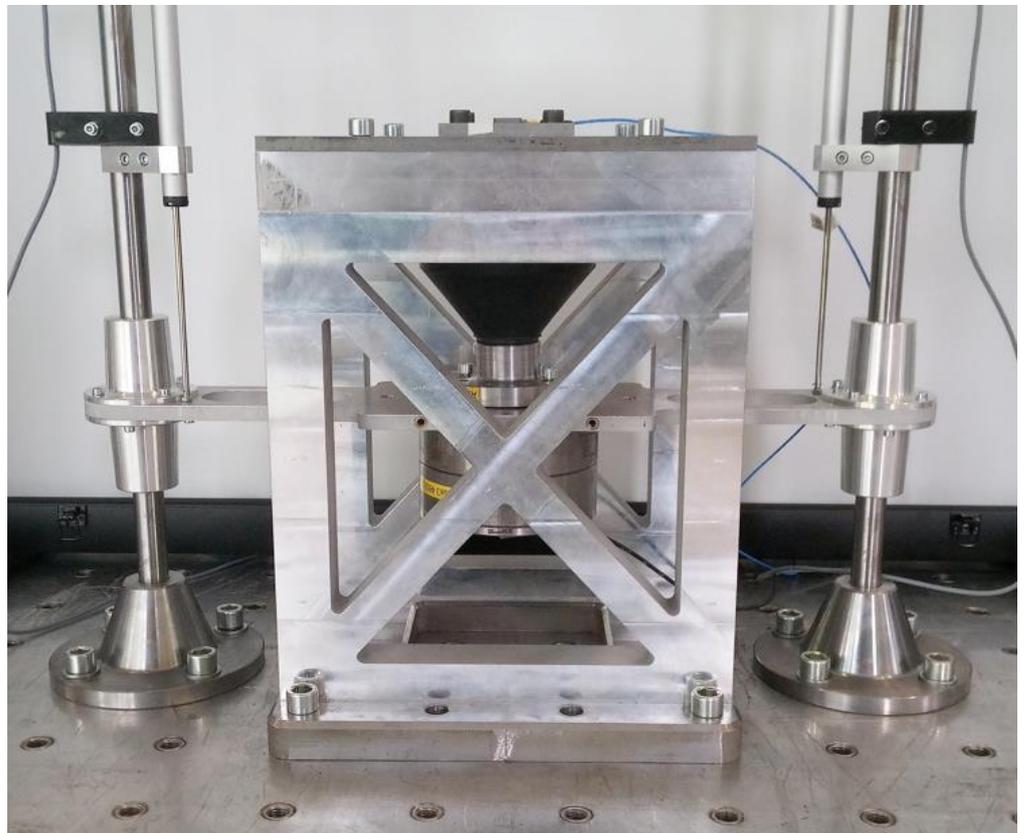


Figure 17. Picture of elastomer shockmount in tension configuration.

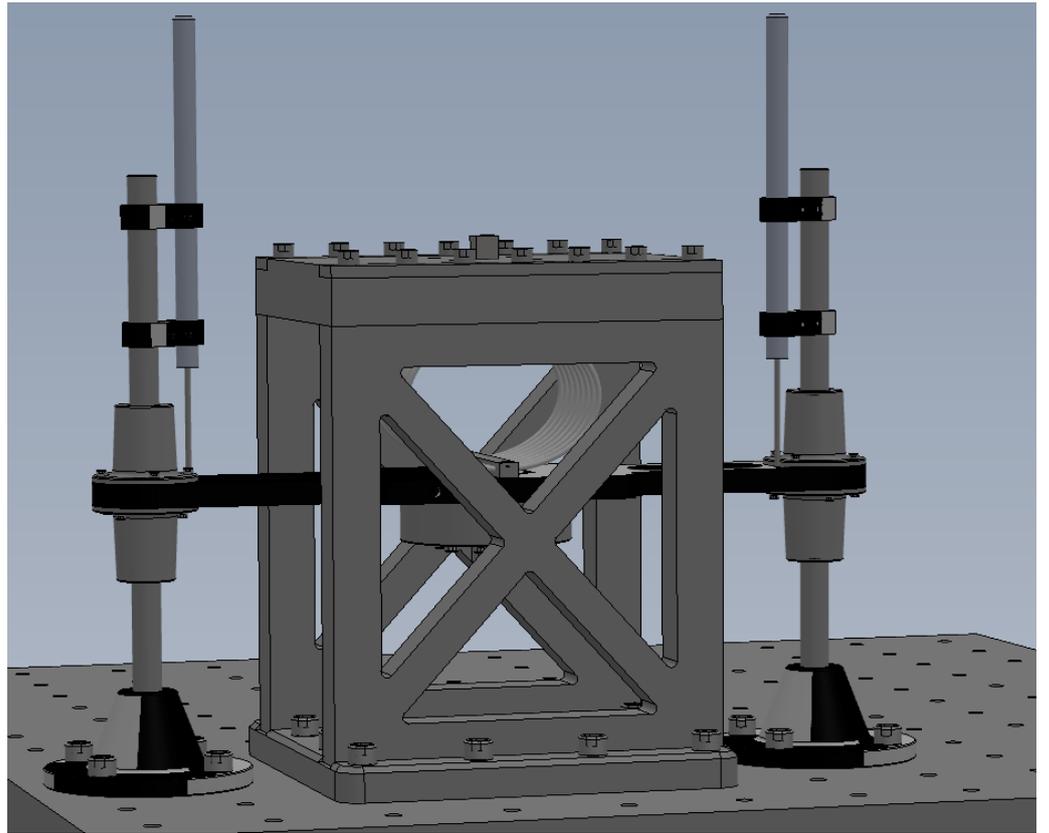


Figure 18. Sketch of wire rope shockmount in tension configuration.



Figure 19. Picture of wire rope shockmount in tension configuration.

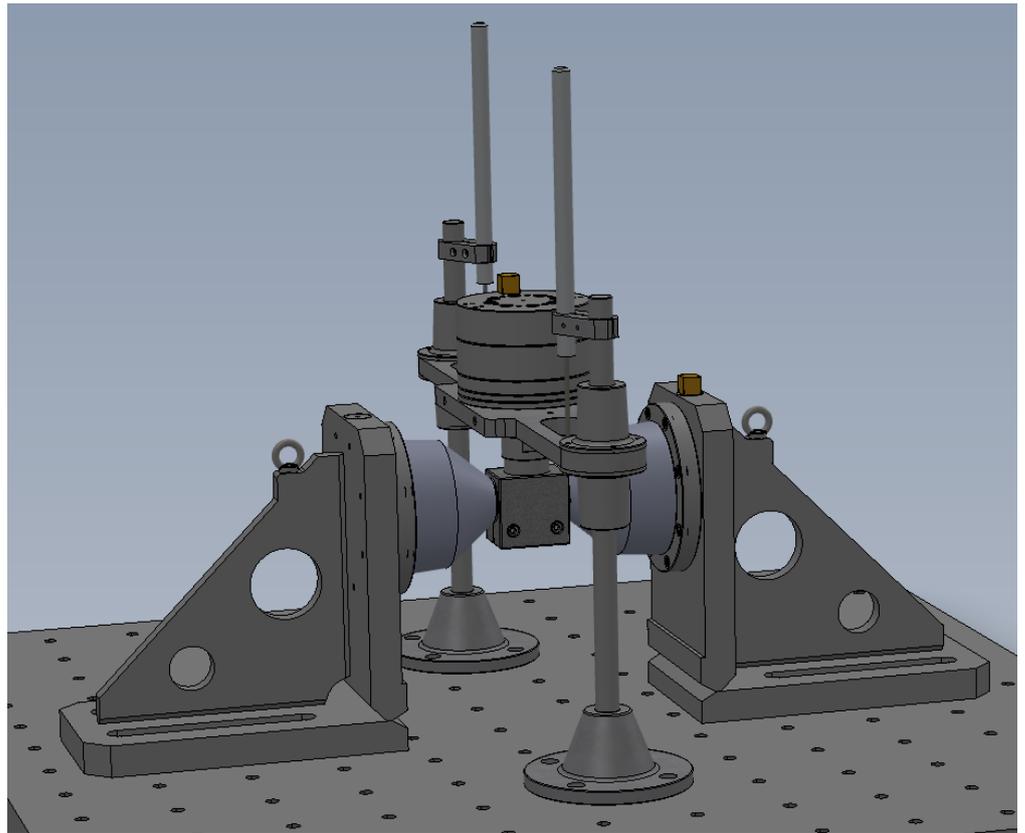


Figure 20. Sketch of elastomer shockmounts in shear configuration.



Figure 21. Picture of elastomer shockmounts in shear configuration.

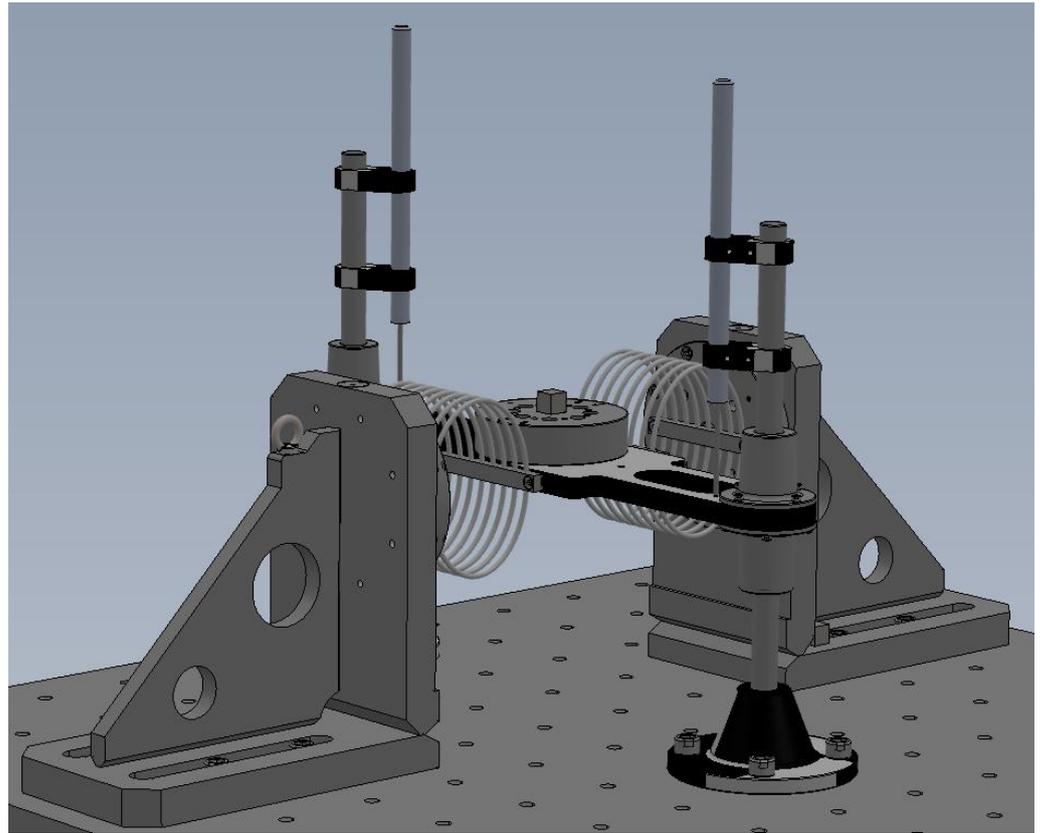


Figure 22. Sketch of wire rope shockmounts in roll configuration.

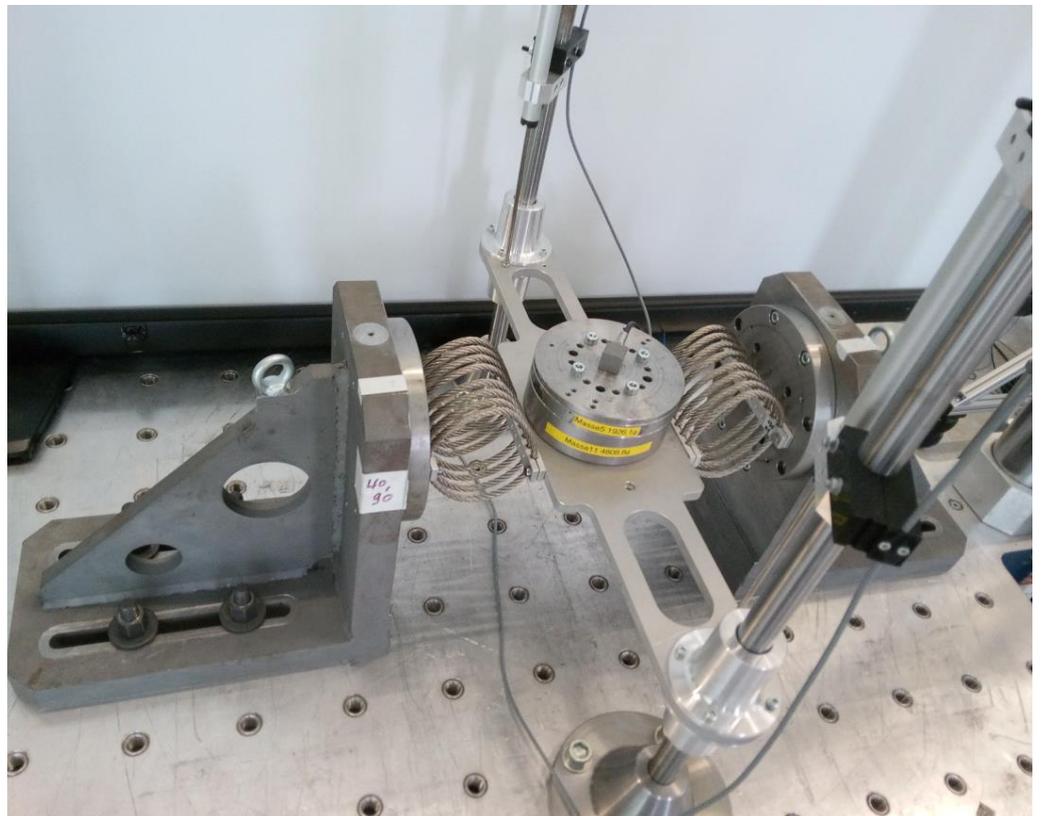


Figure 23. Picture of wire rope shockmounts in roll configuration.

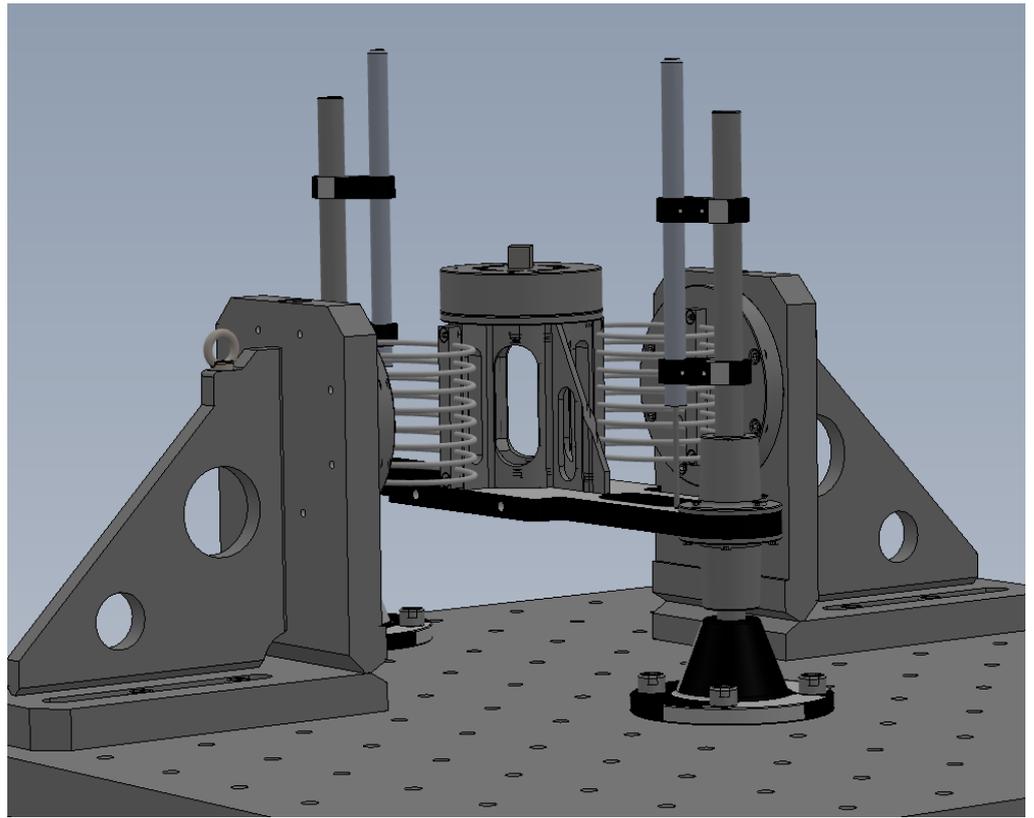


Figure 24. Sketch of wire rope shockmounts in shear configuration.

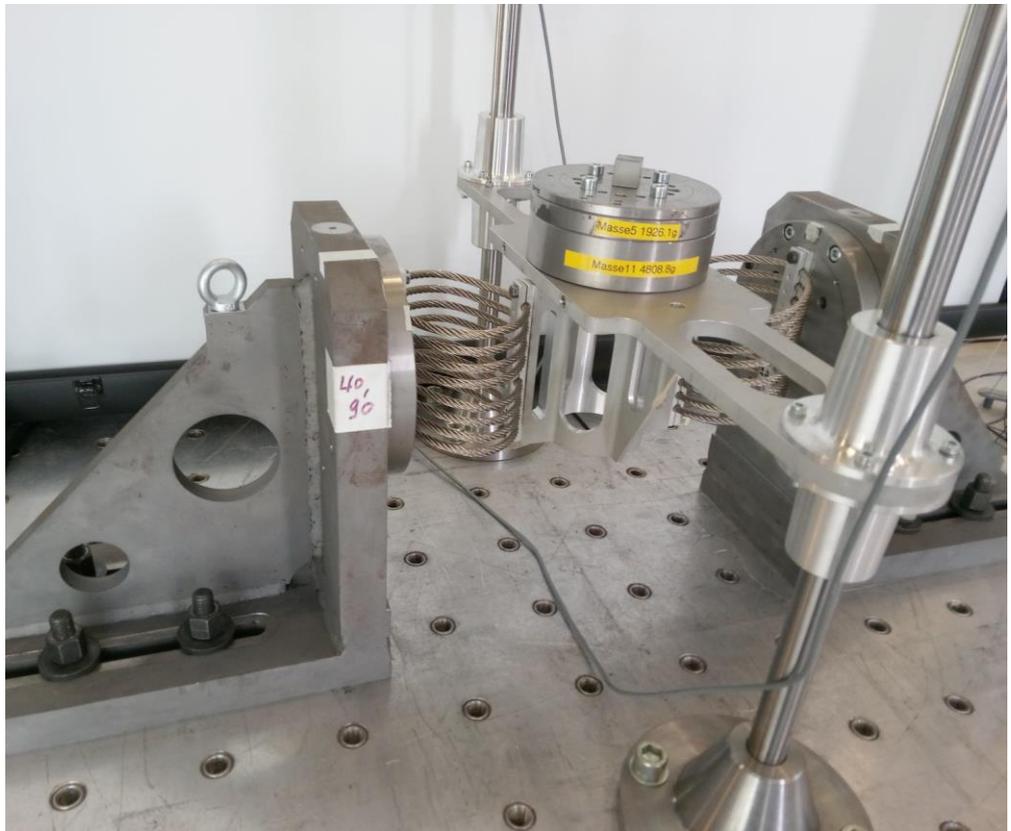


Figure 25. Picture of wire rope shockmounts in shear configuration.

For all configurations, due to the guiding system, the loading mass and the interface of the shockmount can move only vertically, together with the connected traverse. This is illustrated by the double-headed arrow in Figure 12 for elastomer shockmounts in pressure configuration.

The cubic elements shown in the sketches represent the accelerometers.

For pressure configurations, as seen in Figures 13 and 15, the basepoint adapter has to be backed in order to allow full movement of the guiding traverse according to the full displacement of the shockmount.

### 2.2.7. Highspeed Camera

To monitor the shock tests, a highspeed camera by the manufacturer, Phantom Ametek (Wayne, NJ, USA), type VEO 710S, is used together with 2 LED spots, as seen in Figure 26. Even though the camera is capable of acquiring videos with up to 690,000 frames per second at lower resolution, here, the sample rate is chosen to be 3000 frames per second, with a resolution of  $1280 \times 800$  pixels. This is sufficient to capture the exact moment of distinct states, such as maximum negative and positive displacement.



Figure 26. Highspeed camera with LED spots.

### 2.2.8. Data Acquisition

For acquiring time data of the sensor signals, LAN-XI modules by the manufacturer, Brüel & Kjær (Nærum, Denmark), are used. The measured data are analyzed with the belonging software, PULSE LabShop, in version 25.

Distributed over three modules, nine signals are measured, as listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Measured signals.

Signal Name	Sensor Type	Position	Purpose
a1_z	Triaxial MEMS accelerometer	Loading mass	Measuring vertical acceleration of upper part
a2_z	Uniaxial MEMS accelerometer	Basepoint	Measuring vertical acceleration of lower part
aBase_z	Uniaxial MEMS accelerometer	Seismic base	Measuring vertical acceleration of base
deltaA	Linear potentiometer	Between rod and traverse of guide system	Measuring displacement between basepoint and loading mass
deltaB	Linear potentiometer	Between rod and traverse of guide system	Measuring displacement between basepoint and loading mass

Data acquisition was carried out with an FFT Analyzer, recording time blocks and computing spectra. Along with FFT setup parameters for a frequency span from 0 Hz to 3.2 kHz, the analog signals were digitized with a sample frequency 2.56 times higher, leading to a sample time of 122.07  $\mu\text{s}$ . Along with a spectral resolution of 6400 lines, time blocks are 2 s long. Recording was triggered with an instrument trigger signal (InstTrig), generated by the shock system, beginning 0.6 s before trigger signal starts.

In Figure 27, acceleration signals are shown exemplarily for acceleration sensors on the basepoint (a2\_z) and seismic base of the shock test machine to show a typical run. The data come from a measurement with a wire rope shockmount under compression with a drop height of 65 cm. Beginning shortly after 0.2 s, the table drops, and the value of the accelerometer, a2\_z, also does, staying at a lower level. After 0.6 s, the accelerometer signals measuring in the vertical direction have a short peak, followed by a decay with high-frequency components. The peak of the seismic base sensor is oriented opposite to the peak of the basepoint sensor, since the elastic impact of the table to the base causes downward movement of the seismic base.

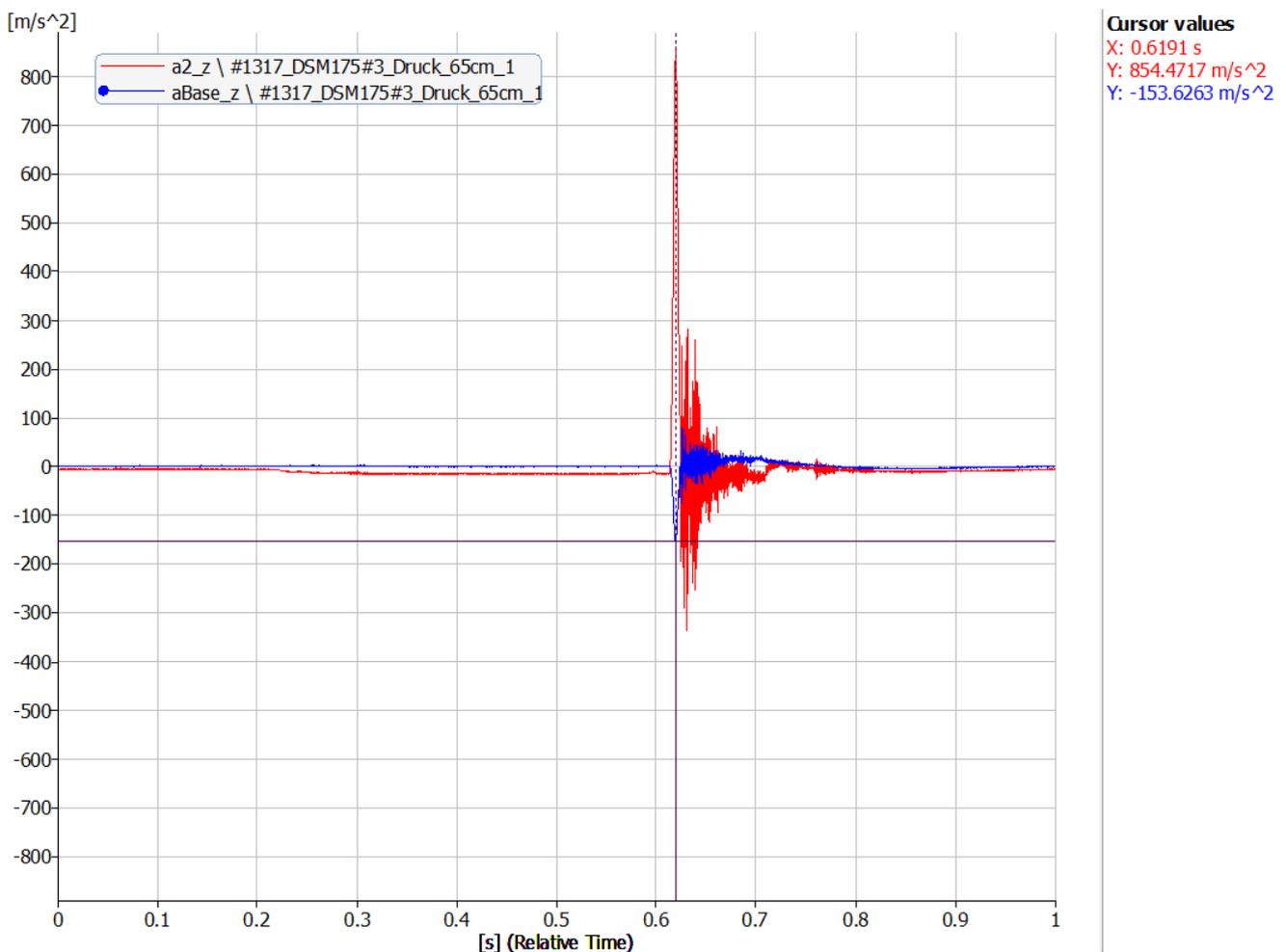
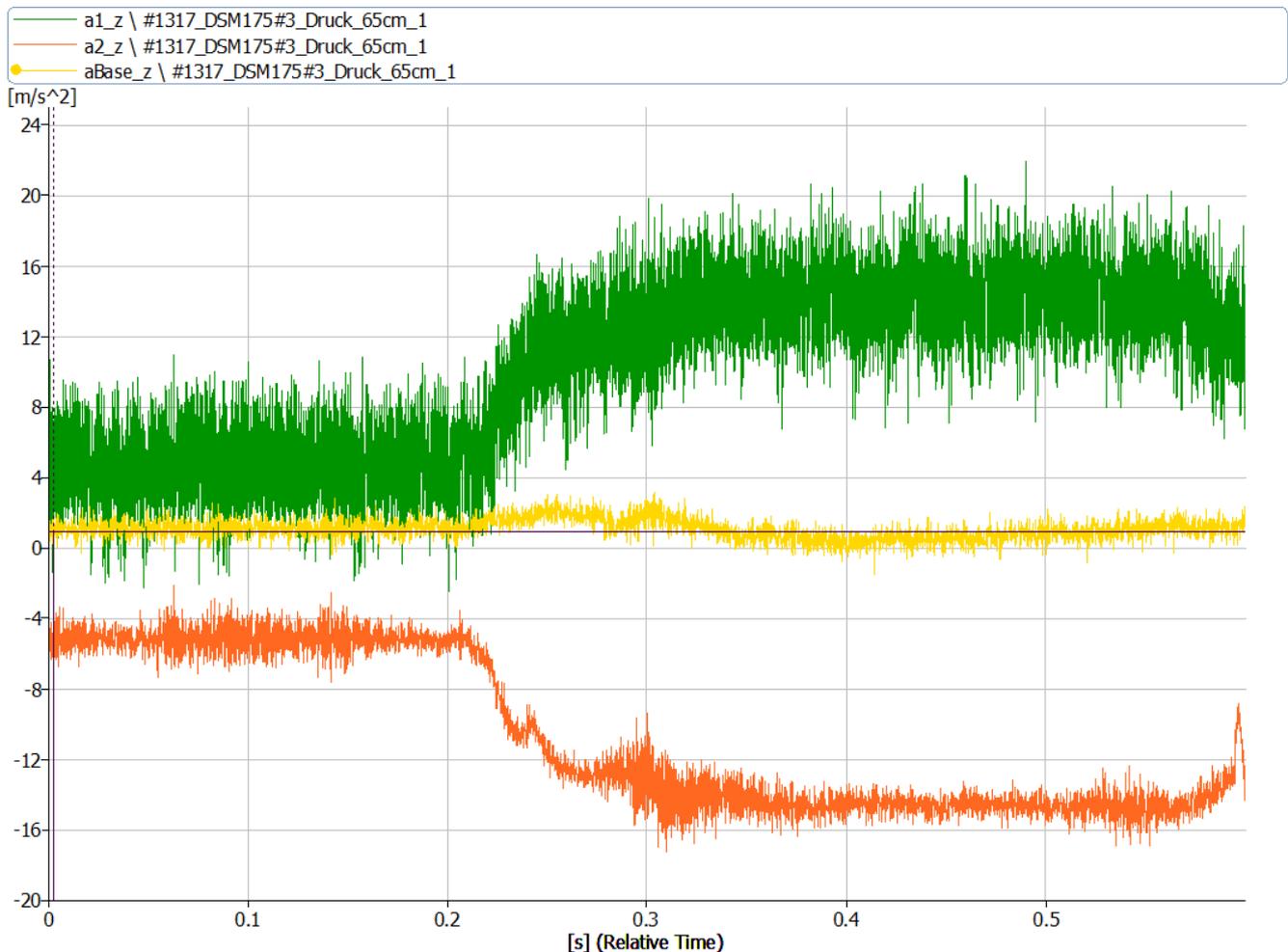


Figure 27. Acceleration signals.

Figure 28 shows in detail the time range before the impact. Now, the shift of basepoint acceleration, a2\_z, can be read as about  $-10 \text{ m/s}^2$ . The value of the sensor at the start of the time record is not zero or 1 g, due to an offset in the signal conditioner. Signal a1\_z (mounted on loading mass) has a shift in the positive direction because it is inverted. Signal inversion is conducted so that negative acceleration and, therefore, negative force values are obtained at the compression of the shockmount, which is the convention in

force-displacement characteristics. Thus, the results will be presented in accordance with the sign convention.



**Figure 28.** Closeup of acceleration signals before impact.

The value of the sensor at the base rises a little due to the relaxing of its air spring support under lower overall weight. It also can be seen that the noise of sensors  $a2_z$  and  $aBase_z$  is lower: these signals are measured with uniaxial accelerometers, where  $a1_z$  is a triaxial one, having higher inherent noise. Since measured data get lowpass-filtered for further use [12], this noise is reduced to a level where all relevant features of motion can be evaluated.

The programmers of the table and base begin to touch at  $t = 0.613$  s, as seen in Figure 29. The basepoint sensor has a haversine shape with a length of about 12 ms. The shock pulse is followed immediately by a high-frequency signal, which reflects the vibration modes of the drop table.

Again, the values measured at the base oppose, as it is pushed downwards by the impact of the table.

The acceleration signal,  $a1_z$ , measured on the loading mass is a highly damped, nonlinear oscillation without a distinct time period, as seen in Figure 30. The data of linear potentiometers for measuring displacement of the shockmounts follow the acceleration at the loading mass, but it is smoother with less high-frequency components, as can be seen in Figure 31.

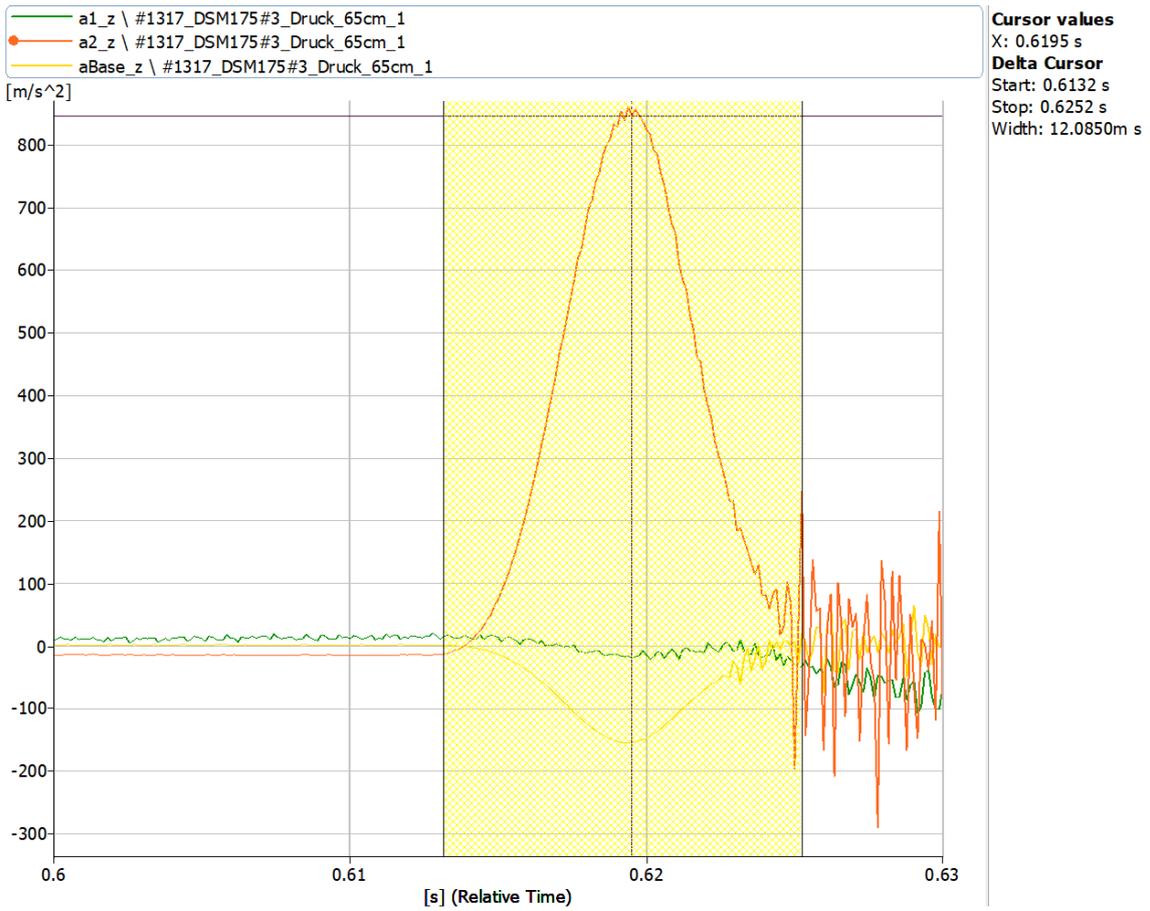


Figure 29. Acceleration signals around impact.

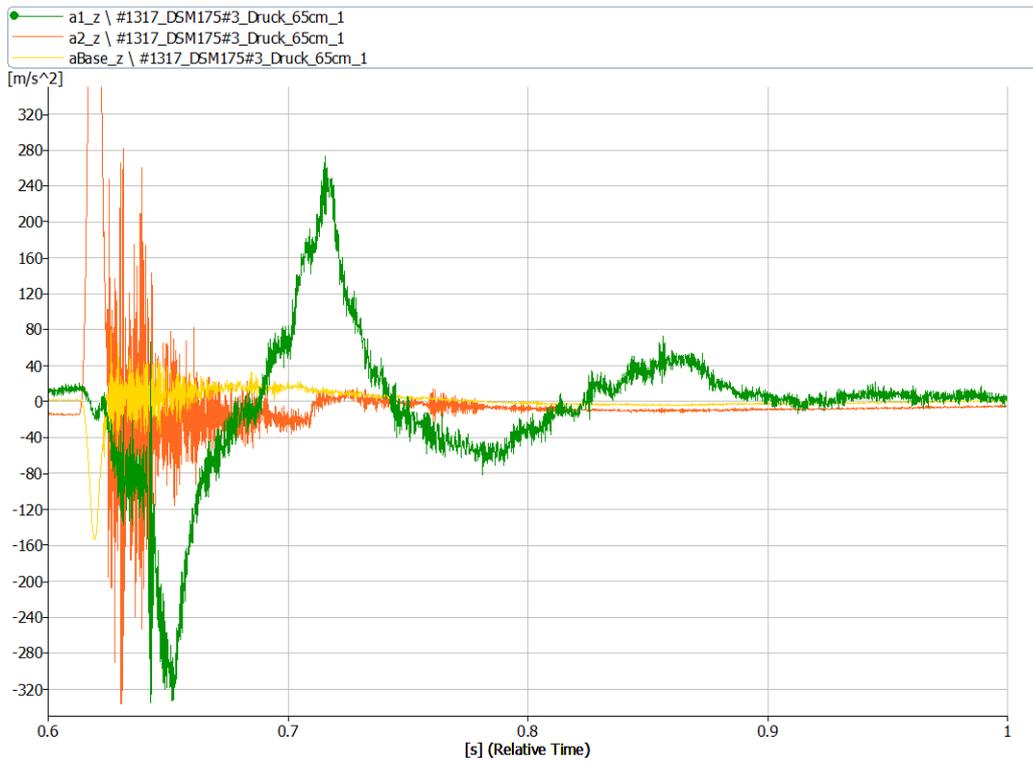


Figure 30. Acceleration signals during and after impact.

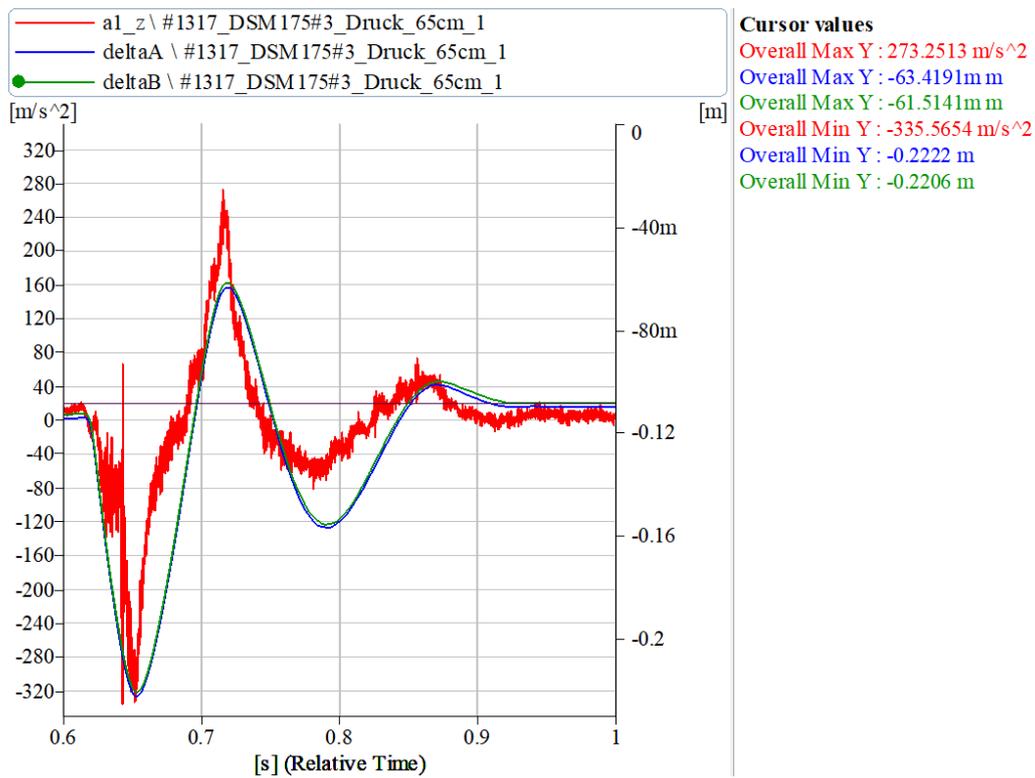


Figure 31. Acceleration signal, a1\_z, and displacement of the shockmount.

Both curves in Figure 31, acceleration of loading mass and displacement of the shockmount, are the basis for calculating the dynamic force-displacement characteristics, as described in detail in [12].

### 2.2.9. Reproducibility

The shock conditions are highly reproducible, as can be seen in Figure 32.

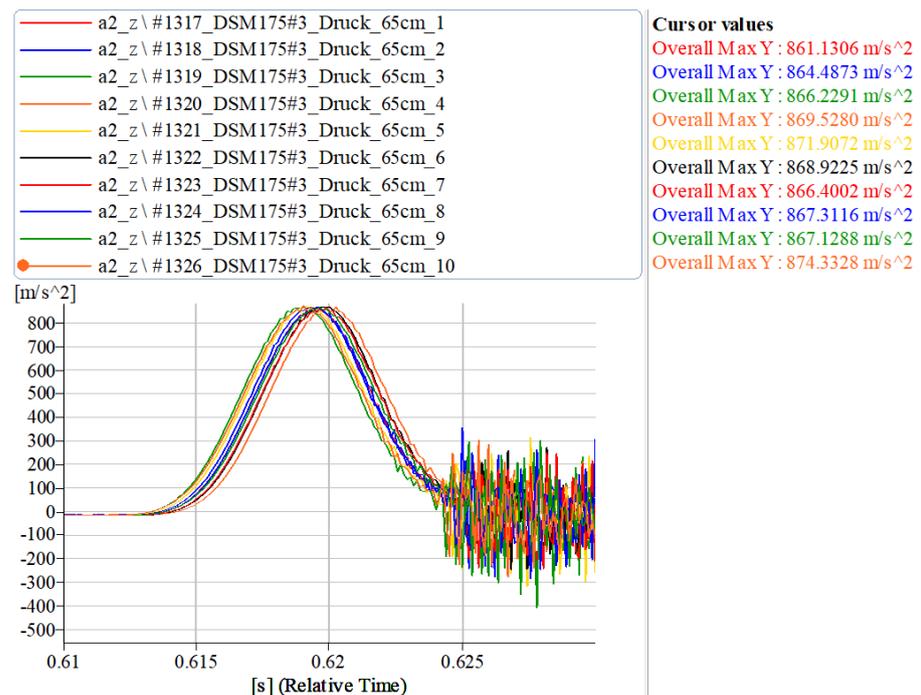
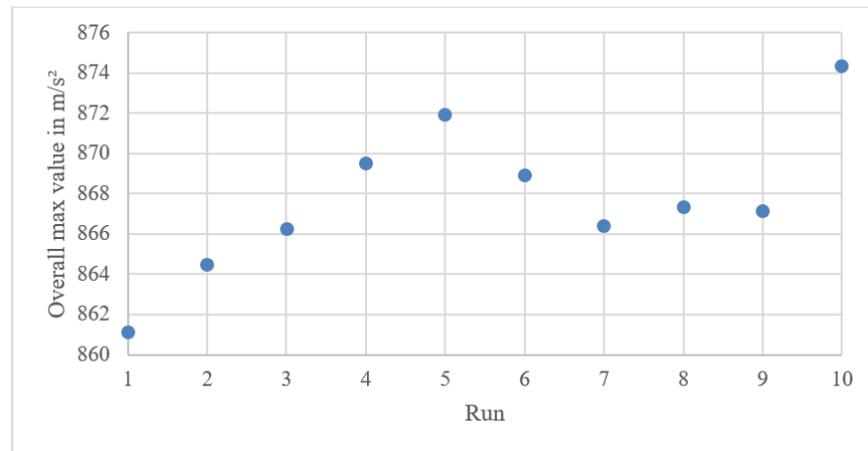


Figure 32. Acceleration signals of basepoint excitation with 10 runs and fixed parameters.

The shapes of all 10 runs shown in the figure are nearly identical. The time shift of the basepoint excitation reveals the varying trigger times. Since the coherent data acquisition of loading mass acceleration and displacement is started by the same trigger, the inaccuracy of the trigger signal has no effect on the accuracy of the measurements.

The absolute deviation between the largest and the smallest overall maximal values is under 1.5%. The maxima have a tendency of rising with the run number, as seen in Figure 33.



**Figure 33.** Overall maximal acceleration with 10 runs and fixed parameters.

### 2.3. Advanced Kelvin–Voigt Model and Parameter Identification

One of the use-cases for the described setup is to generate force-displacement data of the shockmounts, from which parameters for a simulation model can be derived.

The advanced Kelvin–Voigt model, as introduced in [14], has good agreement for elastomer shockmounts and—if the parameters are properly determined—within the first two cycles of decay for wire rope shockmounts. Because this is the regime of interest in terms of shock response, this model is suitable to describe the dynamic behavior of shockmounts sufficiently.

The advanced Kelvin–Voigt model is a basic model describing the shockmount as a nonlinear spring with stiffness parameters,  $k_i$ , in parallel to a viscous damper with a constant damping coefficient,  $b$ . The relation between restoring force,  $F$ , and displacement,  $d$ , is given by:

$$F(d, \dot{d}) = b\dot{d} + \sum_{i=0}^5 k_i d^i. \quad (2)$$

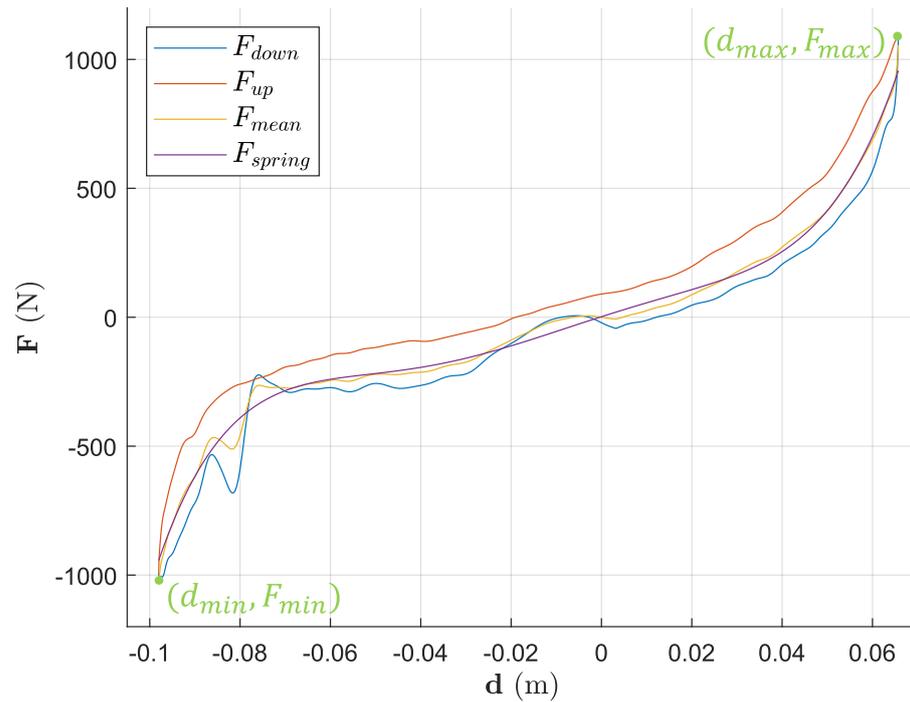
For simulation purposes, the equation of motion for the displacement,  $d$ , of the shockmount is:

$$\ddot{d} + \frac{b}{M}\dot{d} + \frac{1}{M}\sum_{i=0}^5 k_i d^i = -(g + \ddot{z}_2), \quad (3)$$

where  $M$  is the inert loading mass that deforms the shockmount.  $\ddot{z}_2$  is the basepoint acceleration and can be taken from the measurement.

The damping and stiffness parameters,  $n$ ,  $k_i$ , of the model are identified with regard to the properties of a single-mass oscillator (of mass  $M$ ).

Figure 34 shows exemplary experimental force-displacement-hysteresis behavior for the first cycle of oscillation in a measurement for a wire rope shockmount (drop height  $h = 0.65$  m). The force curve,  $F_{down}$  (blue), proceeds from the maximum tension to the maximum compression data point and  $F_{up}$  (red), vice versa. The force curve,  $F_{mean}$ , in Figure 33 is the mean value result of  $F_{down}$  and  $F_{up}$ . It represents the conservative, nonlinear force-displacement characteristics of the shockmount. The enclosed area is a measure of the amount of energy dissipation caused by damping [12].



**Figure 34.** Exemplary force-displacement diagram of a wire rope shockmount.

### 2.3.1. Non-Linear Spring Force

The measured force-displacement characteristics curve can be interpolated by the 5th order polynomial in (2) with a coefficient of determination,  $R^2 = 0.9945$ . The stiffness coefficients are listed in Table 3. The corresponding force curve (without damping) is the violet line in Figure 34.

**Table 3.** Stiffness coefficients of the nonlinear spring force.

Parameter	$k_0$ (N)	$k_1$ (N/m)	$k_2$ (N/m <sup>2</sup> )	$k_3$ (N/m <sup>3</sup> )	$k_4$ (N/m <sup>4</sup> )	$k_5$ (N/m <sup>5</sup> )
Value	2.113	$5.595 \times 10^3$	$-1.912 \times 10^4$	$-4.801 \times 10^5$	$2.293 \times 10^7$	$3.075 \times 10^8$

### 2.3.2. Damping Coefficient

For viscous damping, the damping coefficient,  $b$ , can be substituted by the dimensionless equivalent damping ratio,  $\zeta$ , with:

$$\frac{b}{M} = 2\zeta \omega_0. \tag{4}$$

With the undamped circular eigenfrequency  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{k_{eq}/M}$ , this equation can be modified to:

$$b = 2\zeta \sqrt{k_{eq} M}. \tag{5}$$

The stiffness coefficient,  $k_{eq}$ , and the viscous damping ratio,  $\zeta$ , are derived from experimental results.

For calculating the damping ratio out of force-displacement hysteresis, Equation (6) can be used [12]:

$$\zeta = \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\Delta W}{\Delta d \Delta F} \tag{6}$$

There,  $\Delta d$  and  $\Delta F$  are the span of the measured displacement and the measured force values.  $\Delta W$  is the amount of energy dissipation caused by damping. It is represented by the enclosed area of the hysteresis loop (Figure 34). This energy is computed numerically in MATLAB by stepwise trapezoid area procedure.

From Figure 31, it is obvious that damping in wire rope shockmounts is not, in fact, constant. Therefore, the damping coefficient,  $b$ , is valid only in the range of the first cycle, from which the damping ratio is obtained. This is the reason why the advanced Kelvin–Voigt model yields good results only in the first few cycles for wire rope shockmounts.

For the equivalent stiffness coefficient,  $k_{eq}$ , a linear approach is chosen with the purpose of calculating the constant damping coefficient in Equation (5). It is obtained by:

$$k_{eq} = \frac{\Delta F}{\Delta d} \tag{7}$$

With Equations (6) and (7), all necessary quantities are known to calculate the damping coefficient. The parameters are listed in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Parameters of mass, equivalent stiffness, and damping.

Parameter	$\zeta_{eq}$ (1)	$k_{eq}$ (N/m)	$M$ (kg)	$b$ (Ns/m)
Value	$5.007 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.284 \times 10^4$	3.449	21.05

## 2.4. Simulation

### 2.4.1. State Vectors

The dynamic model (3) is implemented in MATLAB to solve ordinary differential equation problems (ODEs) in the time domain. Since a nonlinear term is included with the 5th order polynomial spring force, an analytical solution for the ODE is difficult to find. Alternatively, a numerical procedure for solving initial value problems can be utilized here [23]. In general, ODEs of second order (or more) have to be interlaced in several state vectors of the first order.

Exemplarily, the state vector

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} d \\ \dot{d} \end{bmatrix} \tag{8}$$

contains the displacement,  $d$ , and velocity,  $\dot{d}$ , while its time derivative

$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{d} \\ \ddot{d} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{d} \\ -\frac{b}{M}\dot{d} - \frac{1}{M}\sum_{i=0}^5 k_i d^i - (g + \ddot{z}_2) \end{bmatrix} \tag{9}$$

is consequently structured in the velocity,  $\dot{d}$ , and acceleration,  $\ddot{d}$ , corresponding to (3). By proposing an initial state vector  $x(0) = [d(0), \dot{d}(0)]$ , the solver system is able to compute the derived state vector,  $\dot{x}$ , as a slope to determine the following state vectors stepwise. Therefore, this state representation is well adapted to the dynamic problem.

### 2.4.2. Basepoint Excitation

The impact on the dynamic model is given by base point excitation, which is a dataset of the acceleration measurements,  $\ddot{z}_2$ , of the drop table. The main excitation happens in the time span of  $0.612 \text{ s} \leq t \leq 0.625 \text{ s}$ , while the acceleration peak occurs at  $t = 0.6188 \text{ s}$  with a magnitude of  $\ddot{z}_2 = 884.9 \text{ m/s}^2$ , as seen in Figure 35.

Immediately after this *haversine* excitation, the brake system of the shock testbench is activated, and the acceleration rapidly tends towards  $\ddot{z}_2 \approx 0 \text{ m/s}^2$ .

It is important to mention that the amount and step size of and between the data points should match with the number and increment of the state vectors of the numerical solution.

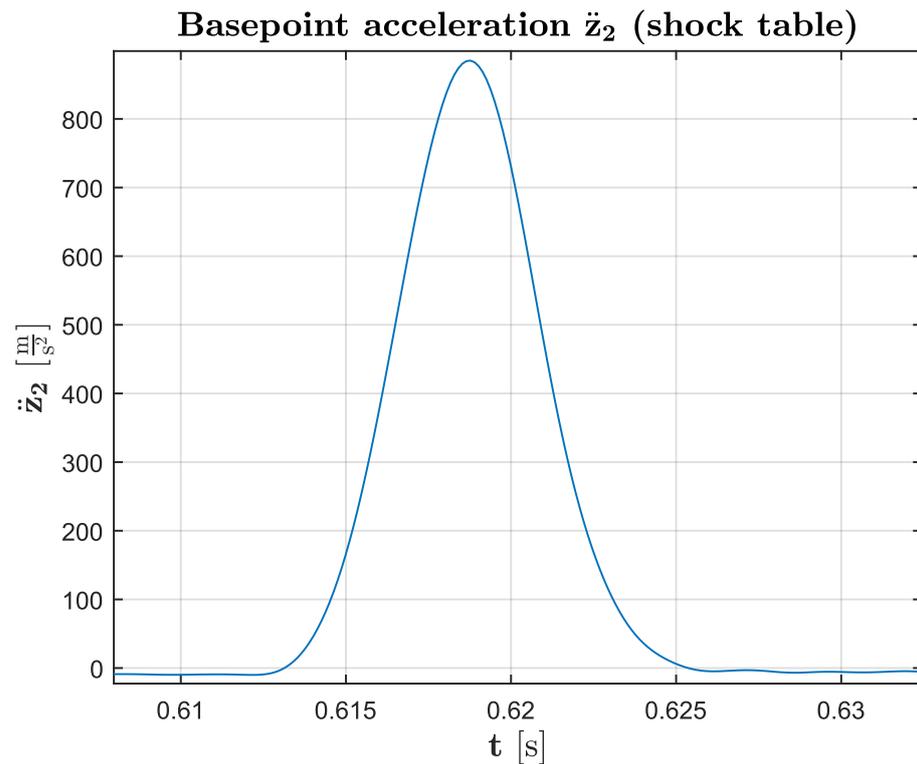


Figure 35. Basepoint acceleration,  $\ddot{z}_2$ .

#### 2.4.3. Numerical ODE45 Solver in MATLAB

In the following section, the main proceedings of programming the simulation in MATLAB are explained by means of Figure 36.

```

% Initial values taken from measurements [x0=displacement, xp0=velocity]
x_start=[x0,v0];
% Time vector of acceleration measurements
tspan=t2pp';
% ODE45 solver
[t,x1]=ode45(@(t,x) odefun(t,x,M,g,b,p,z2pp,t2pp),tspan,x_start);
---
function [xp] = odefun (t,x,M,g,b,p,z2pp,t2pp)
    % Nonlinear relation: spring force ~ displacement p=[k5,k4,k3,k2,k1,k0]
    F_k=p(6)+p(5)*x(1)+p(4)*x(1).^2+p(3)*x(1).^3+p(2)*x(1).^4+p(1)*x(1).^5;
    % Taking the actual data point of the base point acceleration
    a2 = interp1(t2pp,z2pp,t,'linear');
    % xp=time-derivative of state vector x
    xp = zeros(2,1);
    xp(1) = x(2) ;
    xp(2) = -(b/M)*x(2)-F_k/M-(g+0.8*a2);
end
---
```

Figure 36. Simulation programming and solving with ODE45 in MATLAB.

First, the initial value problem requires a start state vector,  $x_{start}$ . In this case, it can be assumed that the displacement as well as the velocity of the SM at  $t = 0$  s (shortly before the shock impact) are neglectably small. Nevertheless, for consistent handling, measurement data can be read in here. Second, the time vector,  $t_{span}$ , for the numerical solution is chosen to coincide with the length of the time vector related to the dataset,  $[t2pp, \ddot{z}_2]$ , of the base point acceleration measurements. Third, the ODE45-solver for the simulation is formulated. It is based on the numerical Runge–Kutta method of 4th order with an estimated error of 5th order. Beginning from  $x_{start}$ , the stepsize within every iteration shall be taken from the increment of  $t_{span}$ .

Finally, the time-derived state vector of (9) shall be declared in a function, called *odefun* here, which communicates with the ODE45-solver. It is fed by a list of parameters, i.e., the damping coefficient  $b$ , the stiffness coefficients  $p = [k5, k4, k3, k2, k1, k0]$  (Tables 3 and 4), and the dataset  $[t2pp, \ddot{z}_2]$ . Within every iteration, the actual state vector of (8) is requested to compute the instantaneous spring force from the nonlinear function,  $F_k$ . Furthermore, the actual base point acceleration,  $a2$  (scalar format), shall be taken from the dataset. This is realized by the *interp1* function, taking the interpolated value of  $z2pp$  at every time point,  $t$ , within  $t2pp$ .

All of the above-mentioned quantities are utilized to compute the time-derivative of the state vector of (9) for every iteration step in the ODE45 algorithm. The solution consists of multiple data pairs in the form of the state vector,  $x1 = [d, \dot{d}]$ .

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Testbench

A series of about 2000 measurements with all combinations of shockmount types and loading orientations and drop heights was conducted. The obtained datasets are useful to generate dynamic force-displacement characteristics, as reported in [12].

They are also sufficient to gain parameters for the advanced Kelvin–Voigt model, as shown in the following subsections. The measurements and the parameters obtained from them confirm the robustness of the advanced Kelvin–Voigt model within the described limitations.

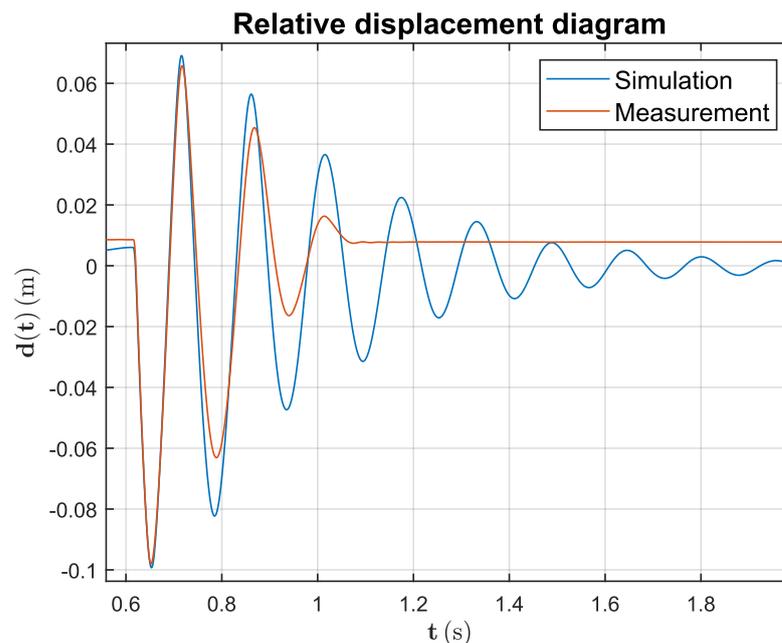
Despite the very good overall usability of the testbench, several aspects should be mentioned:

1. The horizontal traverse of the guiding system, including the housings of the plain bearing bushes, contribute to the loading mass that loads the shockmount. For very soft shockmounts, such as the WSM 175 in shear or roll configurations, almost no additional loading mass is required to displace the shockmount dynamically. In these cases, the mass of the traverse should be as small as possible. Nevertheless, the stiffness of the traverse must be high enough to prevent the bearing housings from oscillating around the middle of the traverse.
2. Even if the linear potentiometers in the proposed setup are attached to the guiding traverse, the displacement could be measured, for example, by non-contact evaluation of highspeed camera images. However, the guiding system is required to prevent shockmount-mass combination from tilting. This is especially true for configurations with wire rope shockmounts, which usually show an asymmetric construction, or for configurations with a high center of gravity when using multiple stacked mass modules.
3. The linear potentiometers for measuring the displacement have a specified shock capability of only 50 g at 11 ms. In the conducted measurement series, basepoint excitations up to 165 g at 10 ms were applied. As long as the potentiometers were loaded axial to the piston rod, they showed good usability without any failure.
4. The intention for using triaxial accelerometers for measuring acceleration of the loading mass was to observe if there is motion of the loading mass in the two directions orthogonally to excitation. Evaluation of measurements showed that there is no significant motion in these directions.

Finally, during the performance of the measurement series, it turned out that the described testbench is very well suited for measuring the force-displacement characteristics for wire rope shockmounts as well as for elastomer shockmounts. If shockmount models other than those used here are to be measured, the measuring adapters must be fitted to the specific shockmount type.

### 3.2. Exemplary Simulation

In this section, the results from the simulation for the exemplary wire rope shockmount, as described in Section 2.4, are presented and compared to those of the measurements. In Figure 37, the time diagram of the relative displacement is introduced.



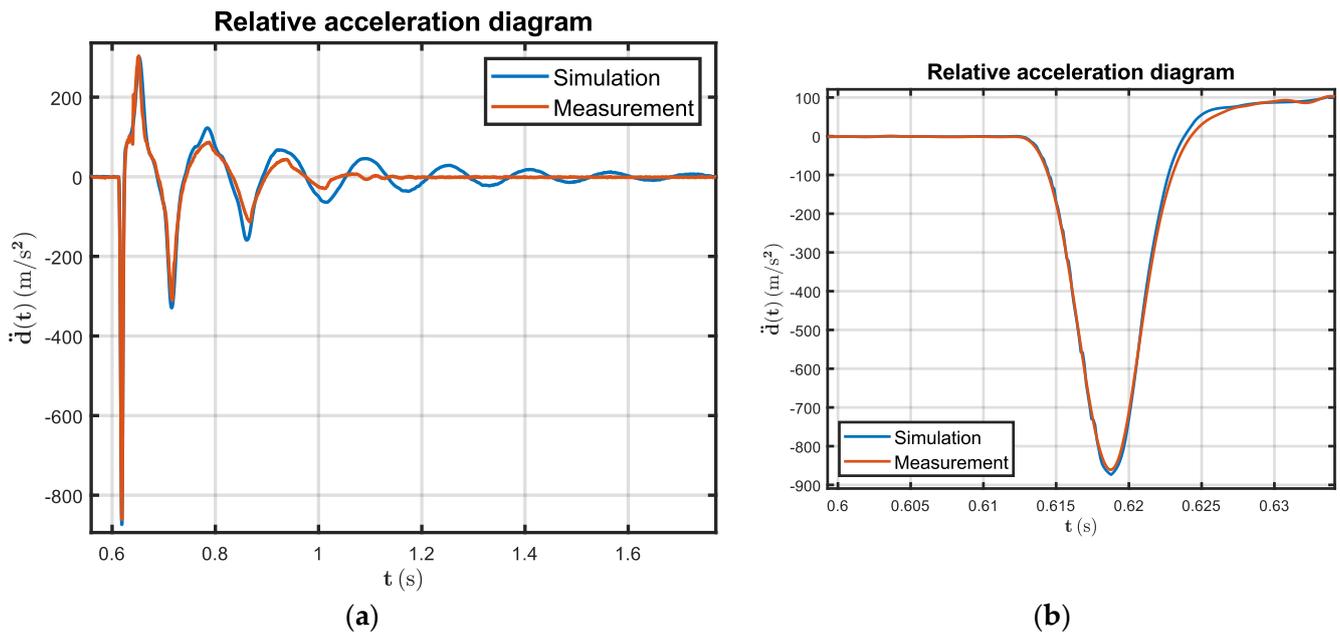
**Figure 37.** Simulation and measurement results of the relative displacement time diagram.

The simulation results are in good agreement with the measurement results for the first two cycles. Beyond this, as expected, the simulation results reveal a longer decay process with nine cycles of oscillation due to the assumption of a velocity-dependent quasi-viscous damping ratio. In the measurement results, the dry friction damping influence of the wire rope shockmount is more effective, so the decay process takes only three cycles of oscillation, while a static displacement of 9 mm remains due to adherence forces within the shockmount.

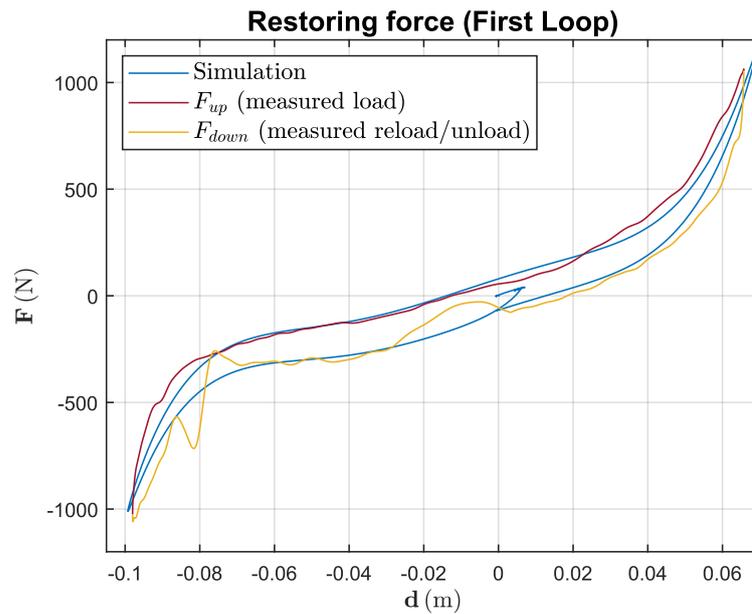
In Figure 38, the time diagram of the relative acceleration is presented. At  $t = 0.6188$  s, the shock mount system reacts to the basepoint excitation of the shock table with  $\ddot{d} = \ddot{z}_1 - \ddot{z}_2 = -884.9$  m/s<sup>2</sup>.

Again, measurement and simulation results are in good agreement for the first two cycles of oscillation. Beyond this, the decay process of the simulation results takes longer than that of the measurement results.

Figure 39 shows the first loop of the force-displacement-diagram. The good agreement concerning the hysteretic behavior of simulation and measurement results is visible, since the load and unload curves form the typical area of energy dissipation caused by damping.



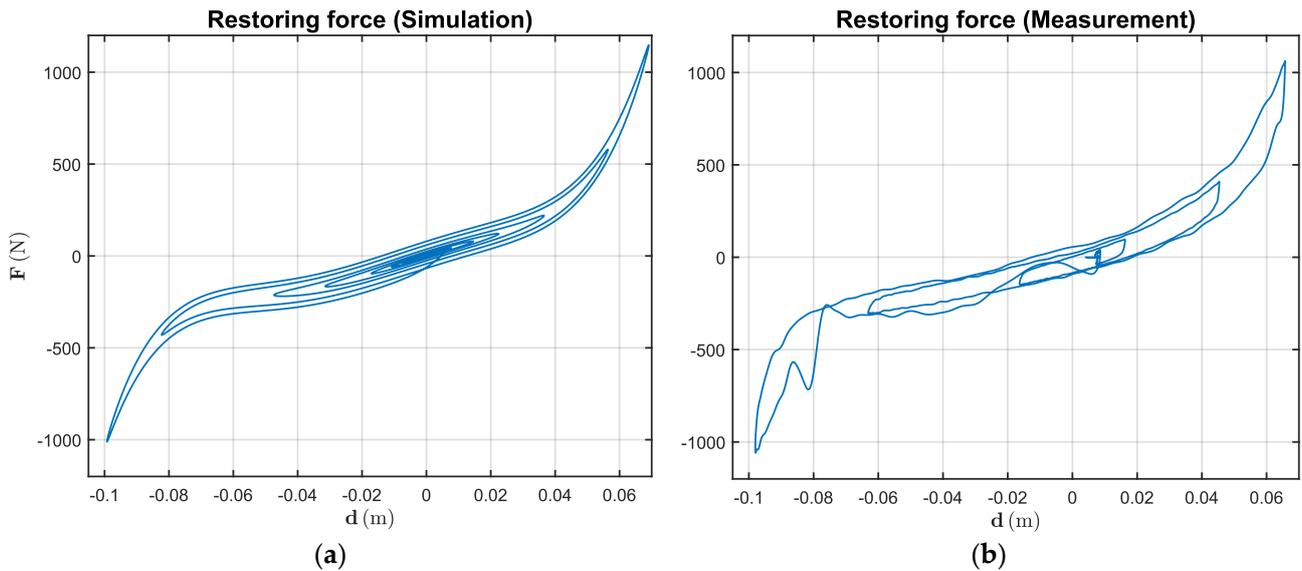
**Figure 38.** Simulation and measurement results of the relative acceleration time diagram: (a) full measured time range; (b) zoom-in of the haversine impact reaction region.



**Figure 39.** Simulation and measurement results concerning the first loop of hysteretic behavior of the restoring force.

At  $d < -0.08$  m and  $d > 0.02$  m, the hysteretic areas of the simulation results have a slimmer shape than those of the measurement results. This is due to the viscous, velocity-dependent damping force of the model, which is relatively small near the turning points from load to unload, or vice versa, where the velocity changes its direction.

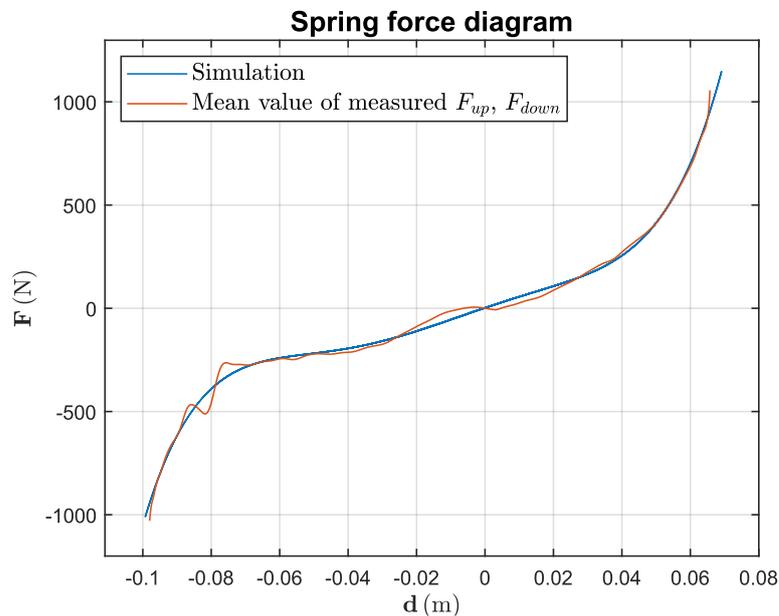
Figure 40 illustrates the complete hysteretic behavior of the restoring force (simulation and measurement) with the long-term constriction due to the decaying oscillation.



**Figure 40.** Simulation (a) and measurement (b) results concerning the complete hysteretic behavior of the restoring force.

Obviously, the simulation result has more hysteresis loops than the measurement result, which again means that the decay process takes longer in the simulation.

Finally, Figure 41 shows the nonlinear spring force diagram where the mean values of the measured load and unload curves are in good agreement with the computed spring force from the simulation results.



**Figure 41.** Simulation and measurement results concerning the nonlinear spring force diagram.

### 3.3. Parameter Sets for the Advanced Kelvin–Voigt Model

Several combinations of shockmount type, specimen, loading orientation, and drop height are selected. This selection is exemplary and reflects the wide bandwidth of possible combinations, as well as the robustness previously shown. Table 5 gives an overview and presents the associated parameter sets for the advanced Kelvin–Voigt model.

**Table 5.** 18 exemplary configurations, and their damping and stiffness parameters. H, M, and L stand for high, middle, and low drop height.

SM	Compr.			Tension			Shear			Roll			Damp.			Stiffness from Parameter Identification				
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	$\zeta$ (%)	$k_0$ (N)	$k_1$ ( $\frac{N}{m}$ )	$k_2$ ( $\frac{N}{m^2}$ )	$k_3$ ( $\frac{N}{m^3}$ )	$k_4$ ( $\frac{N}{m^4}$ )	$k_5$ ( $\frac{N}{m^5}$ )	
ESM32#1 #2 #3	X												2.6	$-2.67 \times 10^2$	$1.34 \times 10^{-1}$	$-1.60 \times 10^{-4}$	$-2.09 \times 10^{-5}$	$7.86 \times 10^{-8}$	$3.66 \times 10^{-9}$	
						X							3.2	$-1.07 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.29 \times 10^{-1}$	$-8.51 \times 10^{-5}$	$-1.84 \times 10^{-5}$	$5.22 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.83 \times 10^{-9}$	
												X	2.2	$5.15 \times 10^{-3}$	$7.76 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.07 \times 10^{-5}$	$-8.85 \times 10^{-6}$	$-4.94 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.22 \times 10^{-9}$	
ESM40#1 #2 #3		X											2.6	$-4.40 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.47 \times 10^{-2}$	$-1.98 \times 10^{-4}$	$-2.44 \times 10^{-5}$	$9.96 \times 10^{-8}$	$4.34 \times 10^{-9}$	
								X					2.6	$-3.01 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.44 \times 10^{-1}$	$-1.27 \times 10^{-4}$	$-2.16 \times 10^{-5}$	$7.63 \times 10^{-8}$	$3.23 \times 10^{-9}$	
										X			2.3	$-8.73 \times 10^{-3}$	$8.96 \times 10^{-2}$	$6.21 \times 10^{-6}$	$-1.01 \times 10^{-5}$	$-2.55 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.37 \times 10^{-9}$	
ESM55#1 #2 #3			X										4.2	$-5.85 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-1}$	$-3.03 \times 10^{-4}$	$-5.09 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.08 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.34 \times 10^{-8}$	
												X		4.6	$-2.21 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.41 \times 10^{-1}$	$5.45 \times 10^{-5}$	$-4.74 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.21 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.17 \times 10^{-8}$
													X	4.1	$-1.67 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.37 \times 10^{-1}$	$3.18 \times 10^{-5}$	$-1.92 \times 10^{-5}$	$-2.54 \times 10^{-8}$	$3.77 \times 10^{-9}$
WSM125#1 #2 #3	X												5.0	$1.27 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.28 \times 10^{-2}$	$9.97 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.91 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.50 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.44 \times 10^{-9}$	
							X					4.3	$1.23 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.58 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.35 \times 10^{-5}$	$-6.05 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.42 \times 10^{-7}$	$6.07 \times 10^{-9}$		
											X	9.8	$-5.03 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.94 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.81 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.01 \times 10^{-6}$	$-5.11 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.55 \times 10^{-10}$		
WSM135#1 #2 #3		X											6.9	$8.92 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.04 \times 10^{-2}$	$5.99 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.93 \times 10^{-6}$	$8.90 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.03 \times 10^{-9}$	
									X				5.0	$-1.11 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.38 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.16 \times 10^{-4}$	$-1.14 \times 10^{-5}$	$-1.01 \times 10^{-7}$	$8.91 \times 10^{-9}$	
												X	9.6	$-2.34 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.52 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.50 \times 10^{-6}$	$2.80 \times 10^{-7}$	$-4.80 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.32 \times 10^{-10}$	
WSM175#1 #2 #3		X											6.4	$9.12 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.16 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.18 \times 10^{-7}$	$-3.09 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.02 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.84 \times 10^{-10}$	
												X	5.0	$3.84 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.15 \times 10^{-3}$	$-3.78 \times 10^{-6}$	$-1.23 \times 10^{-6}$	$2.14 \times 10^{-8}$	$4.90 \times 10^{-11}$	
												X	11.3	$3.68 \times 10^{-4}$	$9.26 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.72 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.34 \times 10^{-7}$	$-1.70 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.03 \times 10^{-11}$	

While the drop height influences the velocity change of the shockmount, the combination of drop height and loading mass always is chosen such that the maximum specified displacement is obtained.

For each of the exemplary configurations, the measured force-displacement characteristics, together with the simulated curve, are included in Appendix A, similar to Figure 41. Inspection of these curves shows that for elastomer shockmounts, the coefficient of determination is  $R^2 = 1.000$  within a three-digit precision, and for wire rope shockmounts,  $R^2 \geq 0.994$ . This shows a very good agreement from simulation to measurement and indicates that the advanced Kelvin–Voigt model for both shockmount types, together with its gained parameters, is suitable for further usage.

#### 4. Conclusions

Concluding the study, there are three main points:

The proposed setup is versatile for investigating wire rope shockmounts and elastomer shockmounts. The measurement data are not only suitable for calculating the force-displacement characteristics of the shockmounts under test but also for identifying their parameters for the advanced Kelvin–Voigt model. The advanced Kelvin–Voigt model, together with the parameter sets identified from measurement data, yields a good representation of the dynamic behavior of the specific shockmounts. For wire rope shockmounts, this applies only in the limited range of the first one to two oscillations after shock excitation.

This study is focused on shockmounts with elastic deformation. One of many open perspectives for the inertia-based approach and this setup is the investigation of the dynamic behavior of shockmounts with plastic deformation. With minor modification, the dynamic force-displacement characteristics of yielding straps and crash elements from the automotive or aviation field can be determined.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, B.H., K.S., M.C., J.D. and D.S.; methodology, B.H. and D.S.; software, B.H. and M.C.; validation, B.H., K.S., M.C. and D.S.; resources, K.S. and B.H.; writing—original draft preparation, B.H., K.S. and M.C.; writing—review and editing, B.H., K.S., M.C. and D.S.; visualization, B.H., K.S. and M.C.; supervision, D.S.; project administration, D.S., J.D. and B.H.; funding acquisition, B.H. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest. The funder had a consulting role in the design of the study and—since it has a military background—gave permission to publish the results.

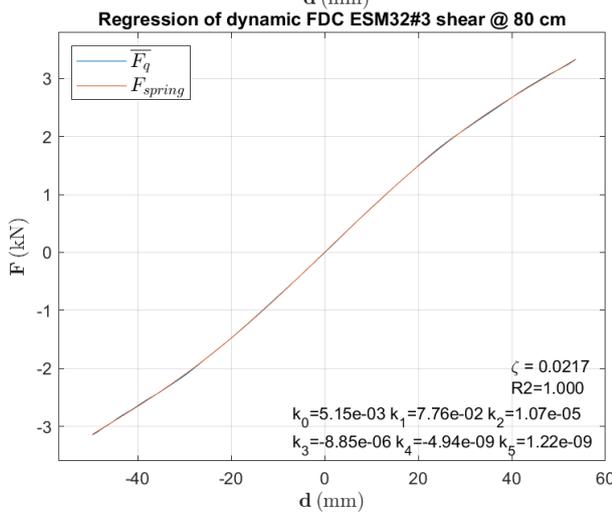
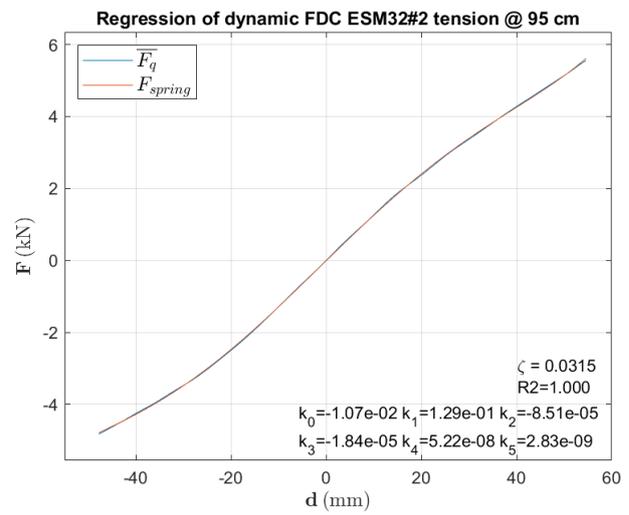
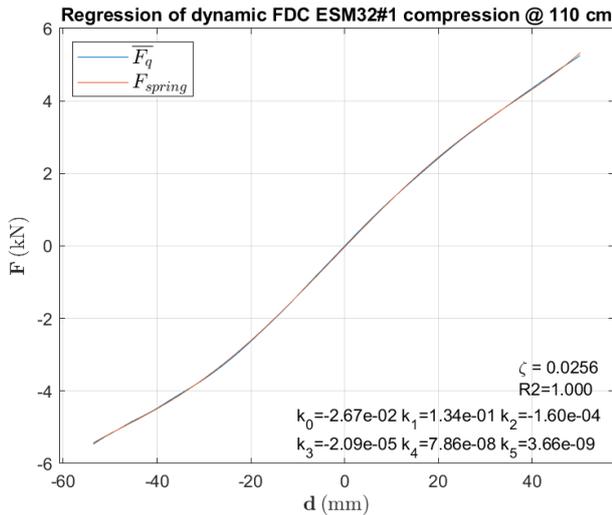
**Appendix A**

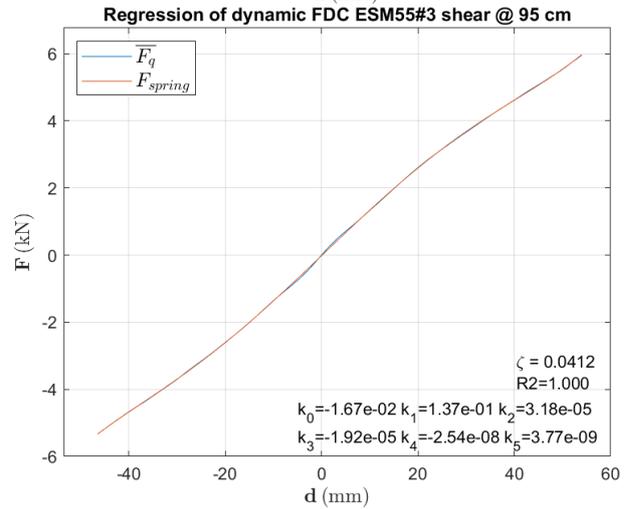
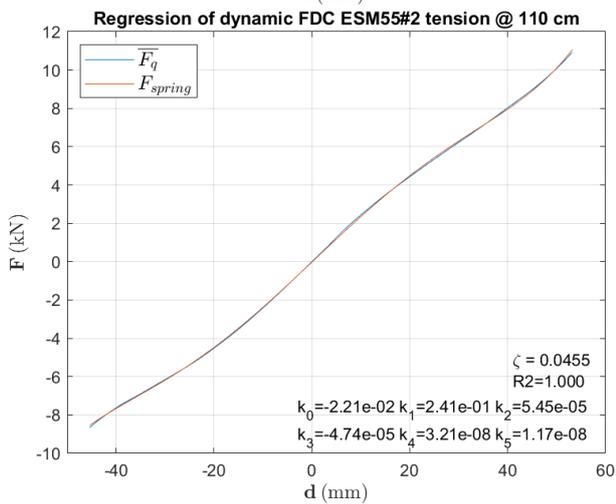
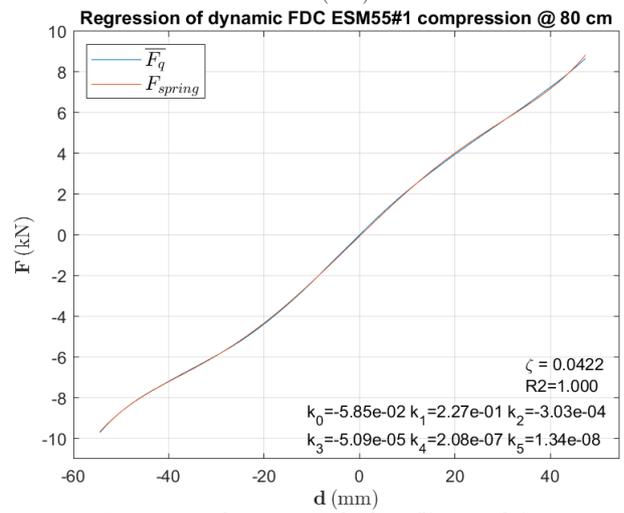
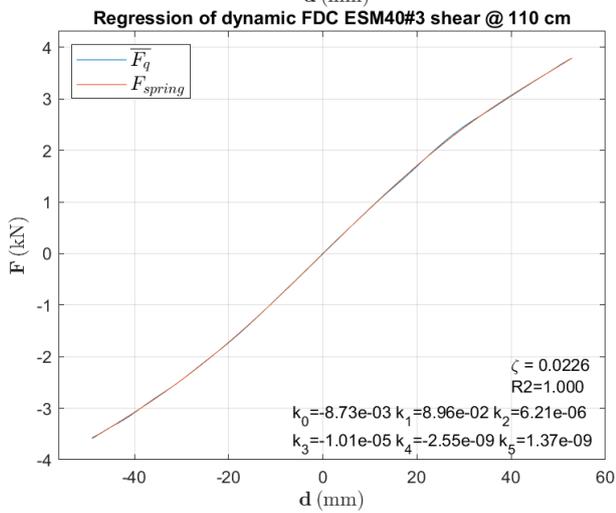
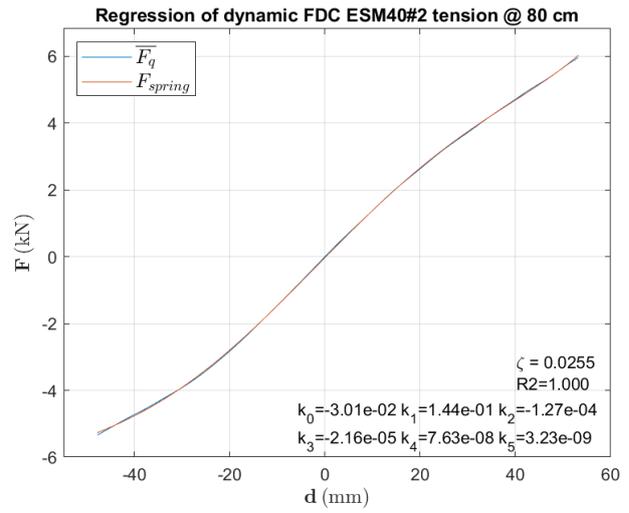
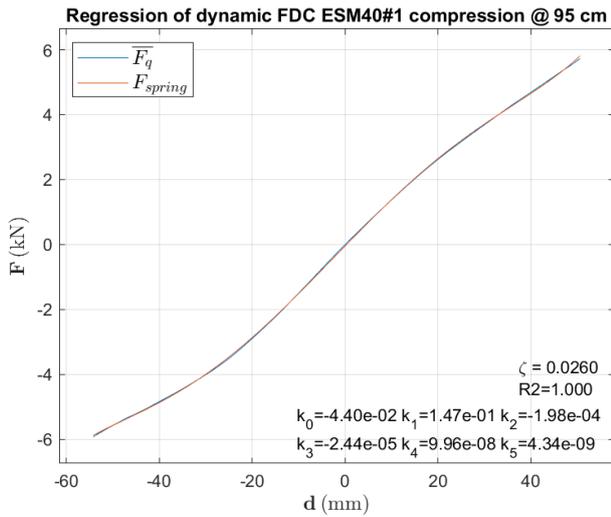
The curves presented here are the calculated (red lines) and measured (blue lines) force-displacement characteristics (FDCs) of the selected shockmount-load combinations. The headings of the printouts reveal the combination:

- Shockmount type (ESM32, ESM40, ESM 55, WSM125, WSM135, WSM175, according to Section 2.1)
- Specimen number (#1, #2, #3) out of three specimens of a shockmount type
- Load directions (compression, tension, shear, roll)
- Drop height (in cm)

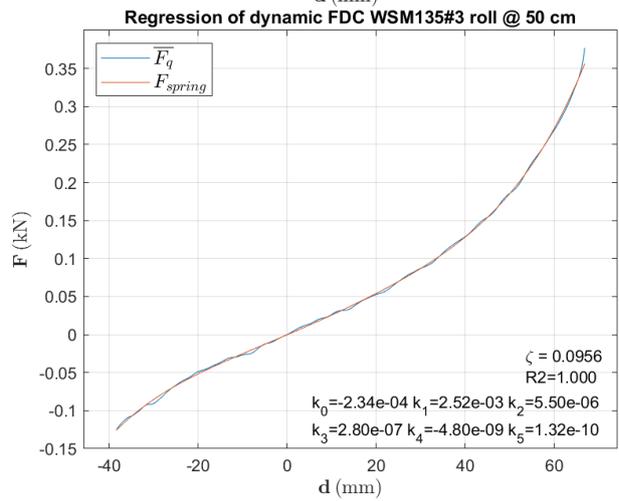
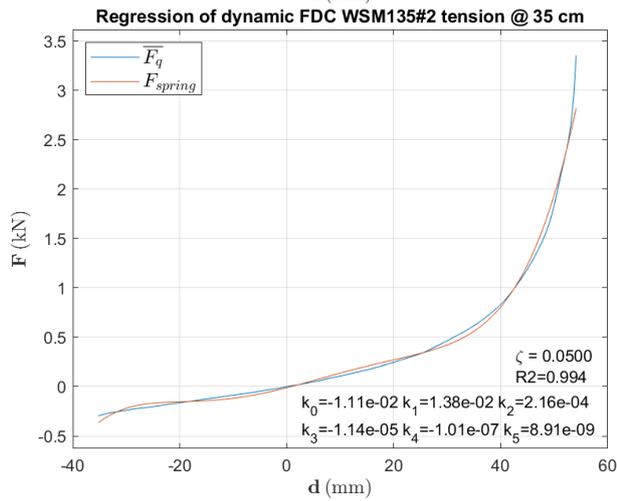
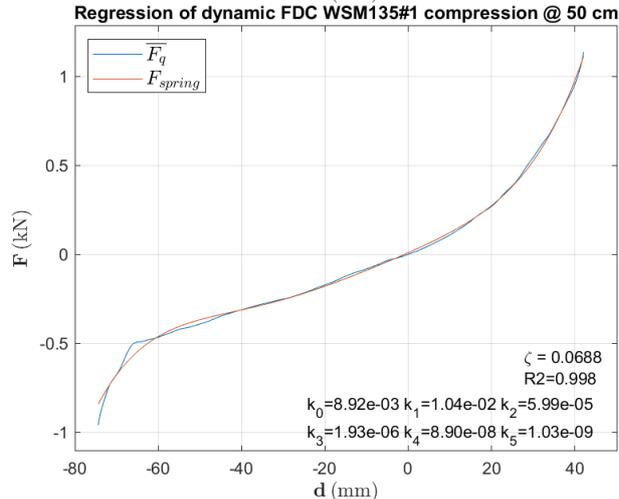
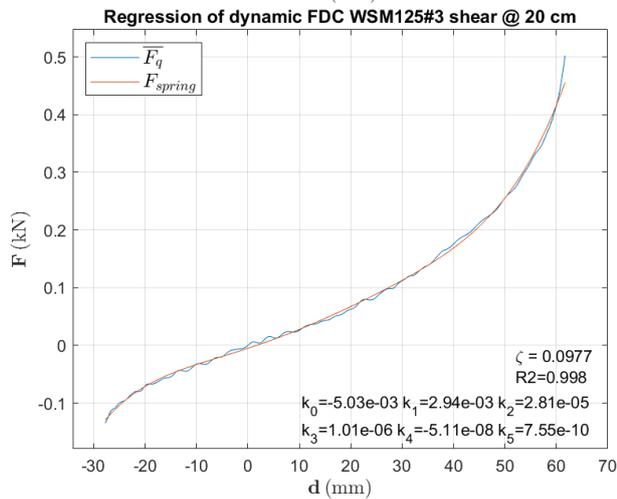
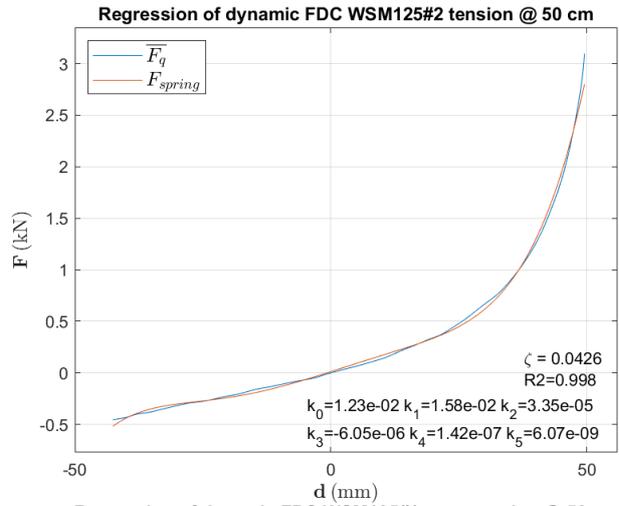
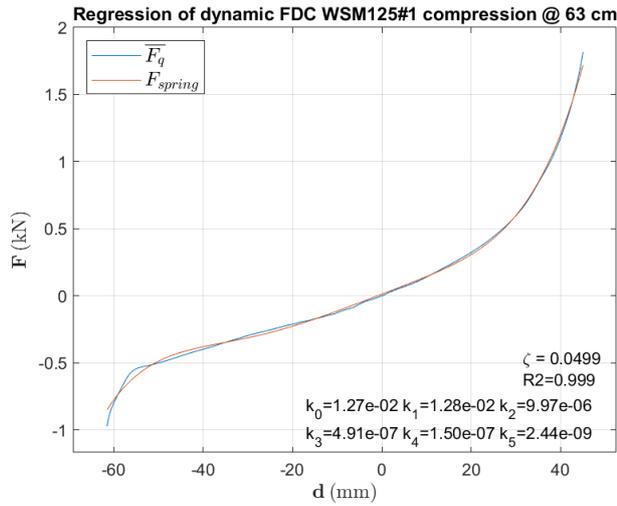
In addition to the curves, the damping ratio,  $\zeta$ , and the stiffness parameters are shown.

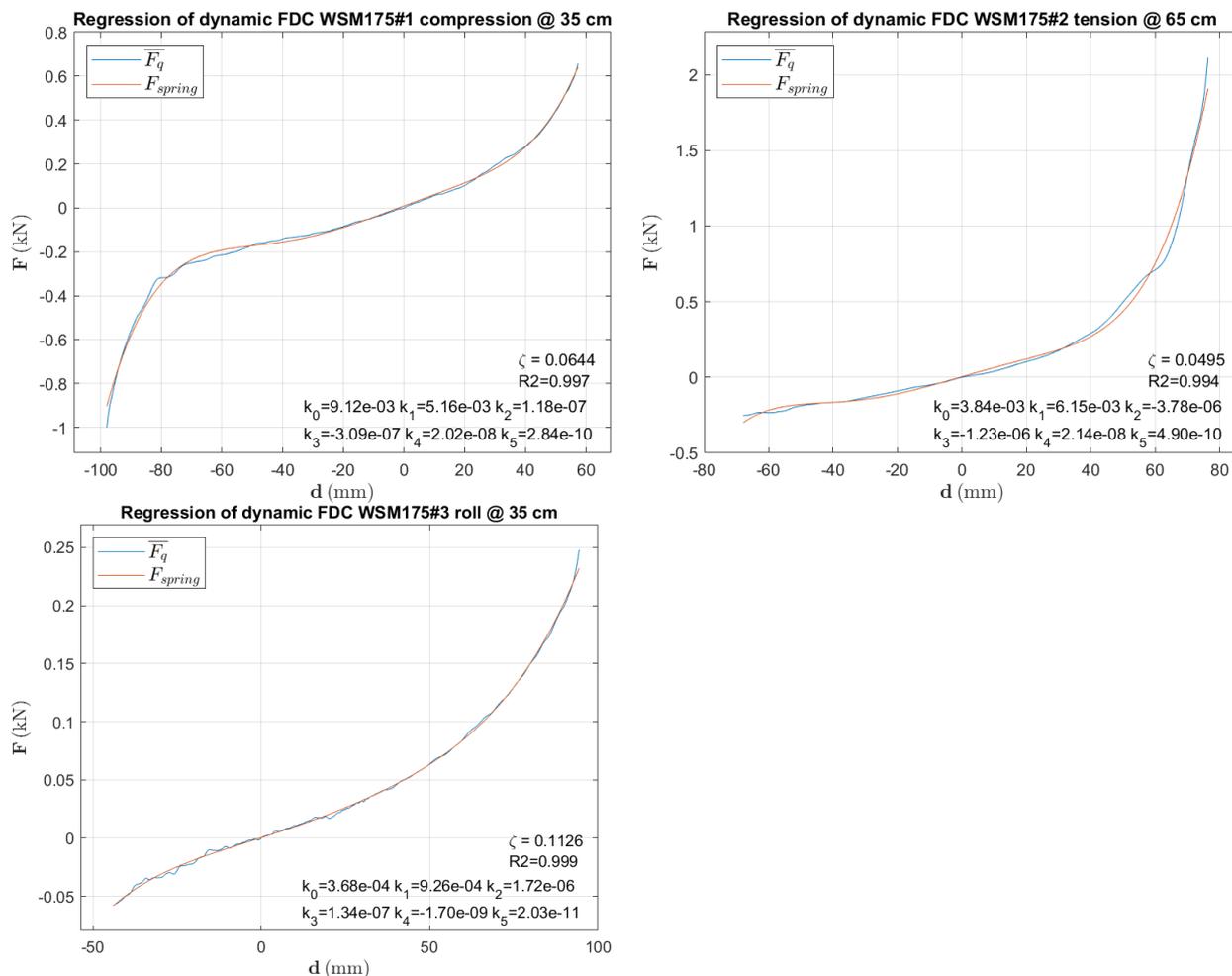
*Appendix A.1. Elastomer Shockmounts*





Appendix A.2. Wire Rope Shockmounts





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