



## *Methodological approach to conservation*



Erasmus+

# Methodological Approach to Conservation: Physical Approach

2 ECTS

SH

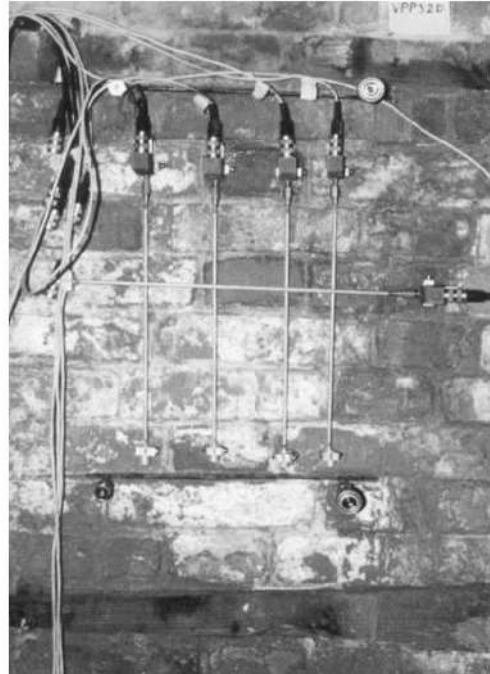
Sustainable Heritage



# Methodological Approach to Conservation: Physical Approach

1. Introduction to Methodological Approach
2. Geometrical Survey
3. Geometrical Survey: traditional method
4. Geometrical Survey: new tools
5. Material Survey.
6. Mechanical Survey.
7. Damage maps I: degradation problems
8. Degradation types.
9. Damage maps II: fissure and crack problems
10. Damage maps III: moisture problems
- 11. Damage tests on masonry constructions I**
12. Damage tests on masonry constructions II
13. Survey, maps and tests on wooden construction.
14. Archaeology.
15. Stratigraphy.

# Methodological Approach to Conservation: Physical Approach



## LESSON 11. DAMAGE TESTS ON MASONRY CONSTRUCTIONS I



# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY

## **Introduction: the necessity of undertaking tests**

Following an accurate structural survey and an in-depth and critical historical analysis, it is possible to identify possible extensions, tampering, raised areas, closures and openings in rooms, hidden cavities, shallow or deep lesions, further manifestations of static instability (detachment, rotations, subsidence, sinking, etc.), presence of humidity.

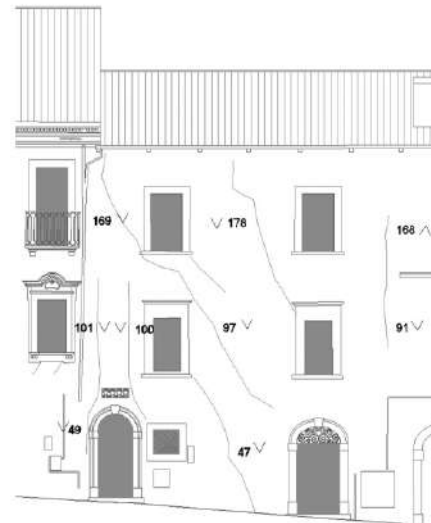
The above cannot always be detected through a simple direct visual examination of the monument by resurrecting the damage or deficiency inside the structures or hidden by the presence of plaster; on the other hand, this type of approach does not always allow to establish with certainty the cause generating the specific phenomenon or the static instability found. As far as the historical-archival analysis is concerned, the limitation may lie in the partial or total lack of documentation, as well as in the difficulties that are however legal in the temporal reconstruction of the successive construction phases and sometimes overlapped over the centuries.



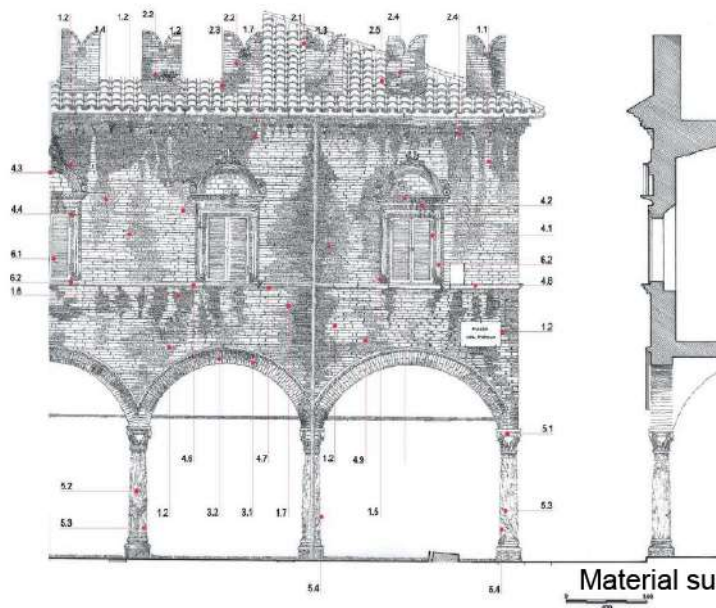
# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY

## Starting point

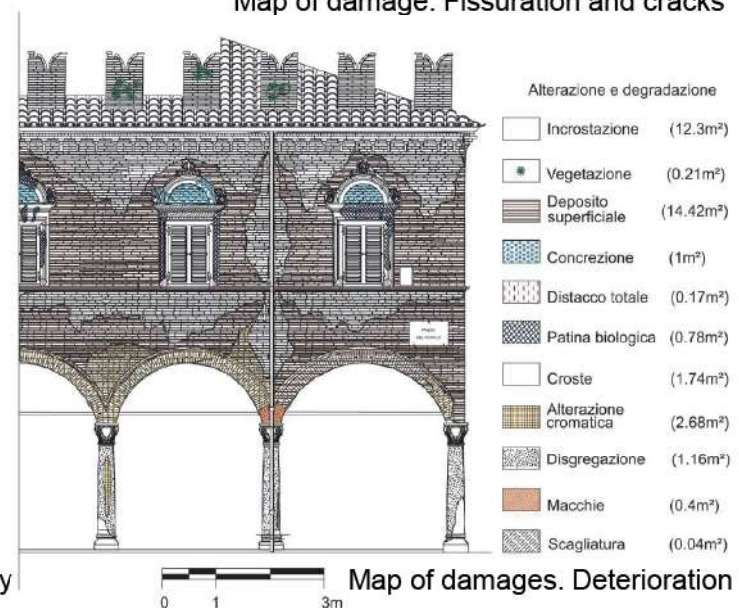
The starting-point for the planification of the test are the material and mechanical survey and the maps of damage, including the different damage causes (deterioration, mechanical lesions and humidity problems).



Map of damage. Fissuration and cracks



Material survey

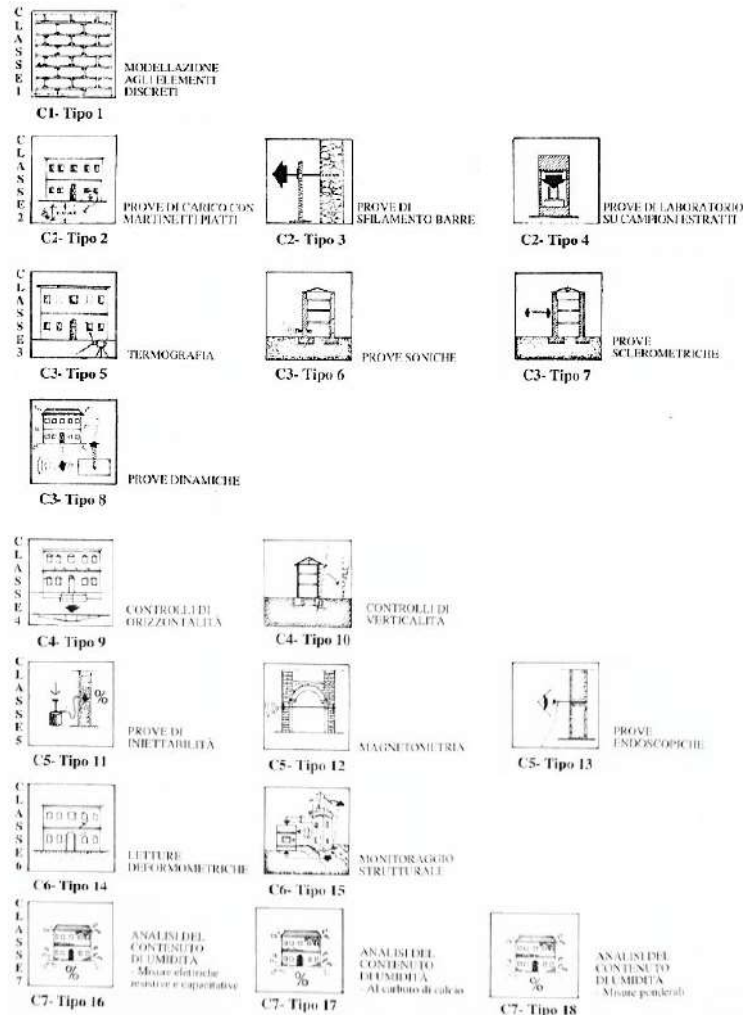


Map of damages. Deterioration

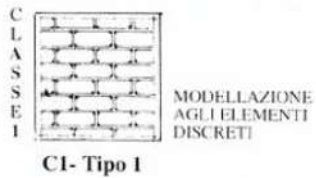
# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY

## Test classification

Class I	Theoretical analysis
type 1	Discrete element modeling
Class II	Mechanical analysis
type 2	In situ flat-Jack load test
type 3	In situ bar extraction test
type 4	Sample extraction for laboratory test
Class III	Quantitative analysis
type 5	Thermography
type 6	Sonic test
type 7	Sclerometric test
type 8	Dynamic test
Class IV	Instability verification
type 9	Horizontality verification
type 10	Verticality verification
Class V	Elementary tests
type 11	Instability test
type 12	Magnetometry
type 13	Endoscopic test
Class VI	Periodic analysis
type 14	Deformation measure
type 15	Structural monitoring
Class VII	Humidity content analysis
type 16	Electric resistance and capacity measure
type 17	Calcium carbide analysis
type 18	Pondering measurement

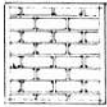


## CLASS I: Theoretical analysis





# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY

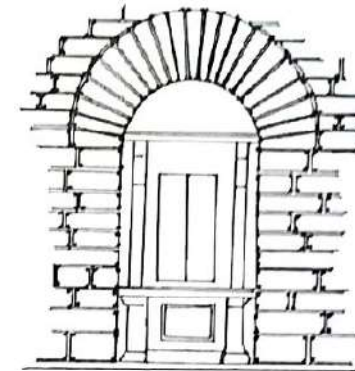


## CLASS I Type 1 THEORETICAL ANALYSIS Discrete element modeling

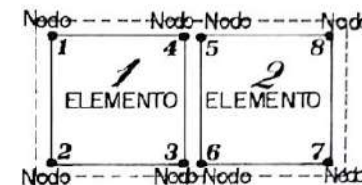
### DESCRIPTION

The theoretical analysis with the method of the discrete elements allows to examine systems of structural elements, interacting with each other, without the postulate of the continuity and homogeneity of the constituent material, fundamental assumptions in the analysis of the finite elements, through which the structure is schematised as a continuum composed of a finite number of elements delimited by nodes.

Precisely for this reason, the discrete elements find the most suitable application in the field of masonry composed of blocks of stone or brick and sliding surfaces represented by appeals and mortar joints. Using data from the entire diagnostic campaign to support it, it is also possible to formulate a hypothesis on the behavior of the structure considering the system consisting of a series of bodies in itself whose movements are regulated by the interaction with the neighboring elements.

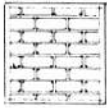


DISCRETIZZAZIONE DELLA STRUTTURA  
UN NUMERO VARIABILE DI ELEMENTI



INDIVIDUAZIONE DEGLI ELEMENTI  
DEFINITI DA PUNTI DETTI NODI

## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY

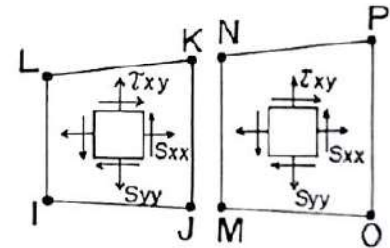


CLASS I  
Type 1

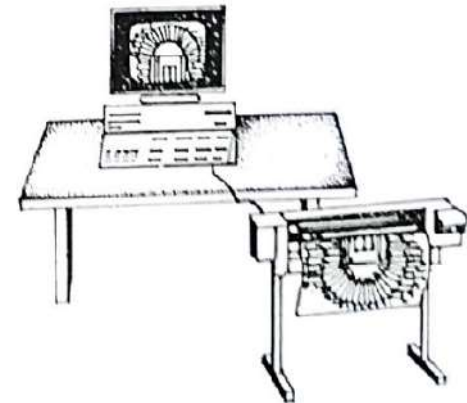
THEORETICAL ANALYSIS  
**Discrete element modeling**

### EXECUTION

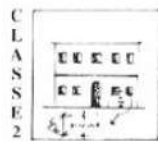
- a) Discretization of the structure into single elements delimited by nodes.
- b) Following the solicitation the initial contacts between the elements vary mutually; the elements adjacent to each other at the beginning of the analysis can, following displacements and rotations, lose the previous contacts and develop new ones.
- c) Forecasting of loading conditions and analysis, by computer processing, of a static or dynamic type.
- d) Graphicization of structures discretized by means of "Plotters" in plans, elevations, sections and axonometries.
- e) Elaboration of representative diagrams of normal stresses, bending moments and deformed moments.



SOLECITAZIONI PRESENTI NEI SINGOLI ELEMENTI

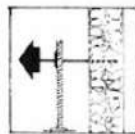


## CLASS II: Mechanical analysis



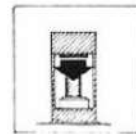
C2- Tipo 2

PROVE DI CARICO CON  
MARTINETTI PIATTI



C2- Tipo 3

PROVE DI  
SFILAMENTO BARRE



C2- Tipo 4

PROVE DI LABORATORIO  
SU CAMPIONI ESTRATTI

## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY

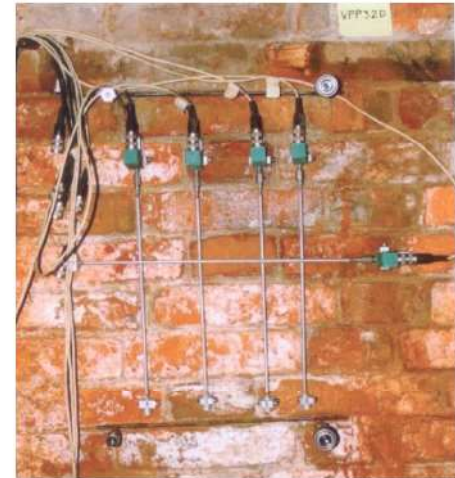


CLASS II  
**Type 2**

MECHANICAL ANALYSIS  
**In situ flat-jack load test**

### DESCRIPTION

The load test with the flat jacks has the purpose of determining the tensile state of the walls and their elastic modulus. It is of the non-destructive type - with the exception of irregular walls - since the cut is performed in mortar applications and the jack can be easily removed. The test instrumentation is simple and relatively quick execution. If consolidation operations are carried out, it is also possible to use the jacks, previously installed, as pressure cells, leaving them connected to a pressure gauge, to detect any changes in voltage consequent to the work carried out, always taking into account the influence of temperature variations. By positioning a second jack orthogonal to the first one can determine the shear strength of the masonry, a parameter of considerable importance in the seismic area.





## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



CLASS II  
Type 2

MECHANICAL ANALYSIS  
In situ flat-jack load test



Reading of the vertical movements with the flat jack inserted in the masonry wall.



Hydraulic system connected to the flat jack inserted in the masonry wall.

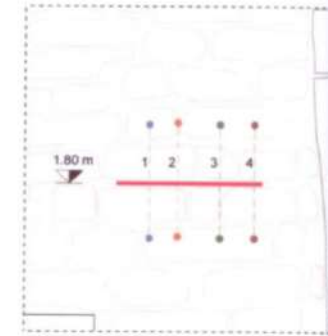
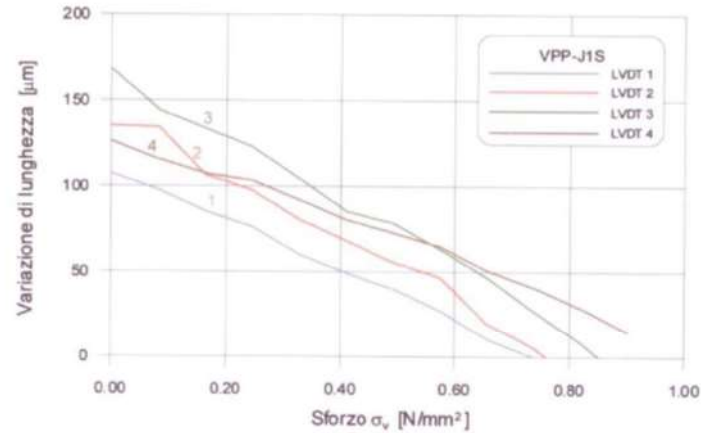
Single flat jack tests  
(PP.MM. Laboratory, Politecnico di Milano)

## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



CLASS II  
Type 2

MECHANICAL ANALYSIS  
In situ flat-jack load test



Disposizione delle basi di misura

Prova VPP-J1S. Andamento della distanza tra le basi di misura in funzione dello sforzo applicato

Single flat jack test results  
(PP.MM. Laboratory,  
Politecnico di Milano)

Prova VPP-J1S	
Base di riferimento	SFORZO (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )
Base 1	0.74
Base 2	0.76
Base 3	0.85
Base 4	-
<b>Stato di sforzo medio</b>	<b>0.78</b>

Sforzo corrispondente all'annullamento della variazione di lunghezza tra le singole basi (valori interpolati)

# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



CLASS II  
Type 2

MECHANICAL ANALYSIS  
In situ flat-jack load test

## EXECUTION

- a) Identification of the most representative areas, favouring the lower parts, more loaded, and avoiding wads of doors or windows.
- b) Positioning of three pairs of measurement bases and initial reading  $\delta_0$ .
- c) Execution of a horizontal cut in the normal direction to the surface and of two lateral cuts to allow free transversal expansion; reading  $\delta_1 < \delta_0$ .
- d) Insertion of the jack, connection to a hydraulic circuit, gradual increase in pressure; readings at each load level until it returns to the value  $\delta_0$ , this load corresponds to the existing original stress.
- e) Increase of the load up to the formation of the first lesions, indicative of the breakage of the masonry, and construction of the load movements chart.
- f) Determination of the deformability characteristics by means of further deformometric bases in the masonry portion not disturbed by the cut.



# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



## CLASS II MECHANICAL ANALYSIS Type 2 In situ flat-jack load test

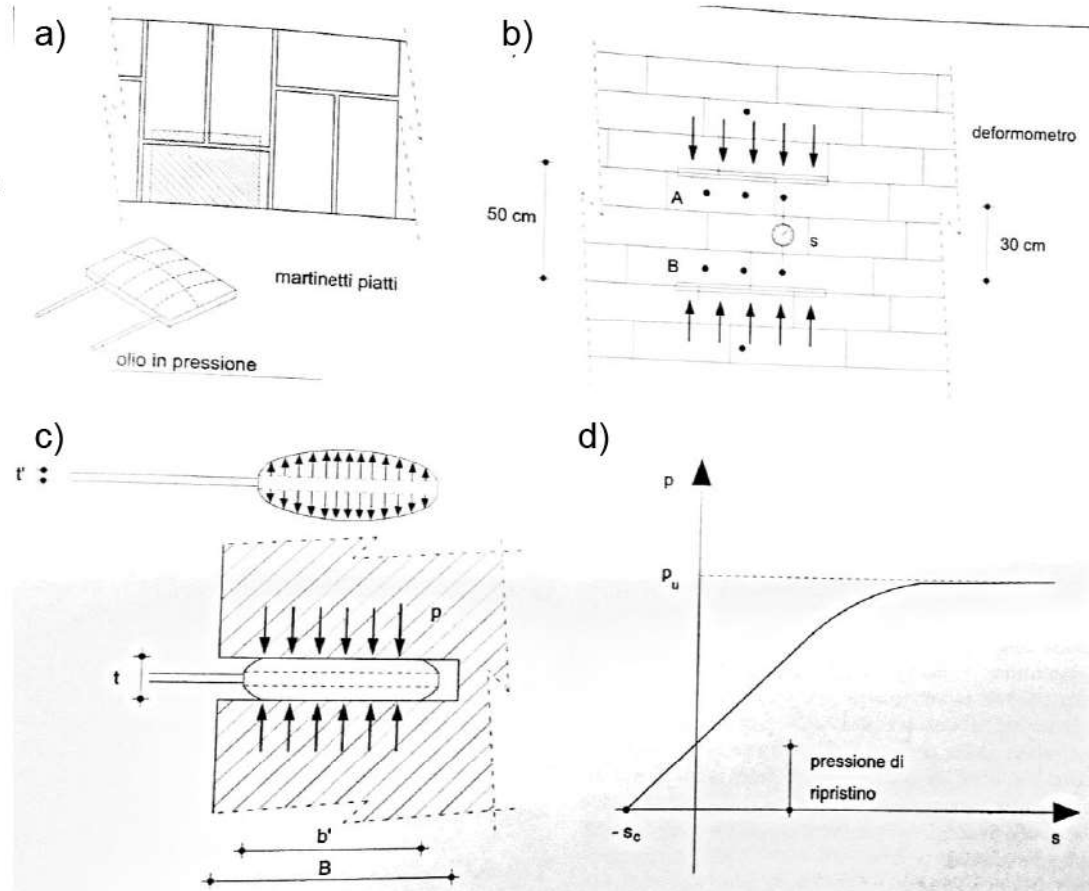
### EXECUTION

a) Compressive strength test of masonry wall with flat jacks and size of jack.

b) Compartments in the masonry for the two jacks and deformation meter.

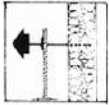
c) Extension of the contact surface between jack and masonry wall.

d) Loading-Deformation diagram.





## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



CLASS II  
Type 3

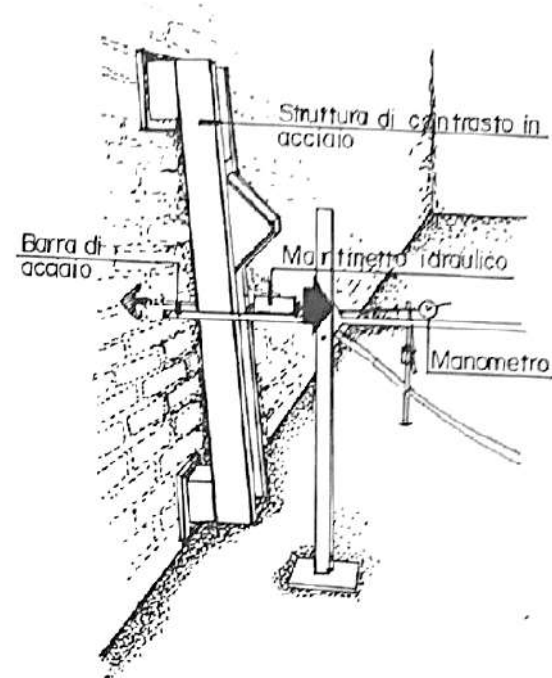
MECHANICAL ANALYSIS  
In situ bar extraction test

### DESCRIPTION

The in situ slip test allows the detection of the limit tangential stresses present in the masonry to be examined. It consists in the tensile stress of a steel bar, previously inserted and anchored in the wall, by means of a jack, with the consequent extraction of a portion of masonry. By measuring the magnitude of the load until it breaks and detecting the surface of the extracted solid, the shear strength of the examined structure is evaluated.

### CHARACTERISTICS

This type of methodology allows defining, together with the compression tests - in situ with flat jacks, in the laboratory on extracted samples - the "breaking domain" of the masonry. the proof allows the direct verification of the values and is sometimes able to reconstruct very realistic conditions such as anchorages, chains.



Load application with hidraulic jack

## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY

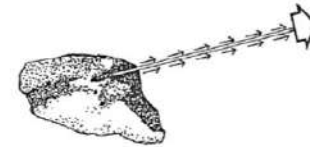


CLASS II  
Type 3

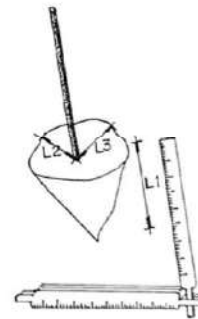
MECHANICAL ANALYSIS  
In situ bar extraction test

### EXECUTION

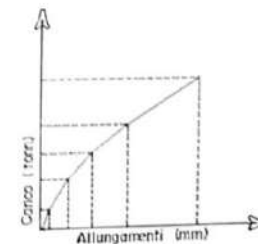
- a) Insertion and anchoring of a steel bar in the wall to be examined.
- b) Applying a steel contrast structure and applying a pulling force by means of a hydraulic jack, driven by a pump, to the steel bar previously inserted.
- c) Measurement of the applied load gradually, until it breaks, by means of a precision manometer inserted in the hydraulic circuit.
- d) Relief of the extracted solid, of conical shape, and determination of the limit tangential tensions.



ESTRAZIONE DEL SOLIDO DI DISTACCO



RILIEVO DEL SOLIDO ESTRATTO



DETERMINAZIONE DELLE TENSIONI  
TANGENZIALI LIMITE

## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



CLASS II  
**Type 4**

MECHANICAL ANALYSIS  
**Sample extraction for laboratory test**

### DESCRIPTION

The execution of direct tests on samples taken on site is of great use to the end of the quantitative evaluation of the mechanical, deformability and resistance characteristics, and of the chemical and physical characteristics of the examined masonry. It is important to pay attention in extracting the samples and for these to have sufficient dimensions to be sufficiently representative of the behavior of the masonry. The extraction of the specimen must be carried out using suitable instruments so as not to disturb the static equilibrium of the masonry and of the sample itself until its arrival in the laboratory. Once the core removal operation has been completed, the missing portion of masonry will have to be rebuilt, restoring the continuity of the wall with stone elements or bricks similar to those existing with mortar.



Sample extraction with rotating tube



Extracted sample



Mono-axial stress test

# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



CLASS II

MECHANICAL ANALYSIS

**Type 4**

**Sample extraction for laboratory test**

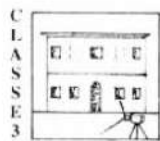
## EXECUTION

- a) Identification of the most representative areas and extraction of the sample.
- b) Conduction of the extracted specimen in the laboratory in order to submit it to:
  - b1) monoaxial compression test; longitudinal stress; determination of the breaking load and the deformation diagram;
  - b2) direct cutting test; loading the specimen and its stress in the normal direction increasing the load up to determine the sliding of the upper part with respect to the lower part to define the horizontal displacements according to the constant vertical load;
  - b3) direct traction test; application of a monoaxial tensile stress to obtain the breaking load;
  - b4) indirect tensile test; stress, compression in a horizontal direction along two opposed generators and, indirectly, tensile.



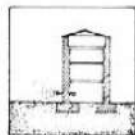


## CLASS III: Quantitative analysis



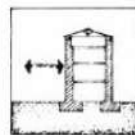
C3- Tipo 5

TERMOGRAFIA



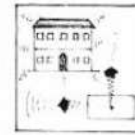
C3- Tipo 6

PROVE SONICHE



C3- Tipo 7

PROVE  
SCLEROMETRICHE



C3- Tipo 8

PROVE DINAMICHE

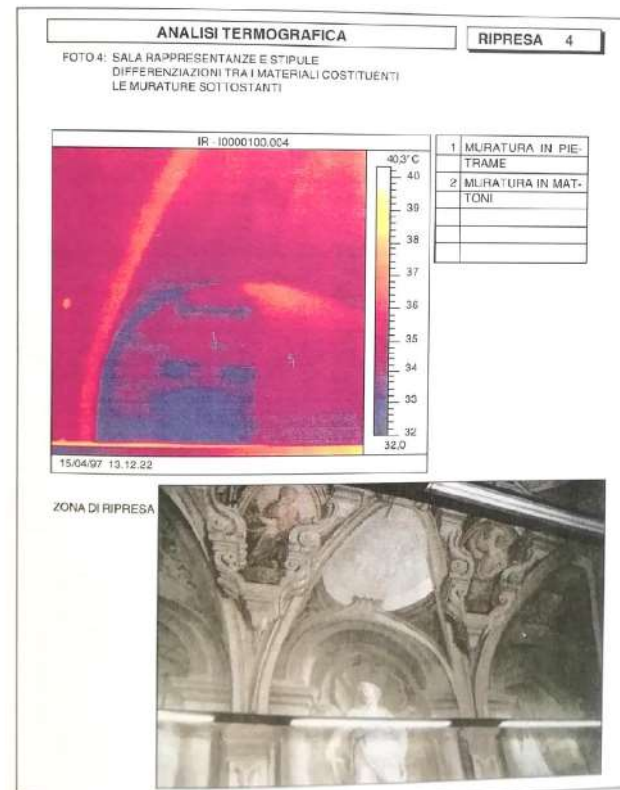
## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



### CLASS III Type 5 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS Thermography

#### DESCRIPTION

The thermographic analysis allows a quick and non-invasive detection of a series of information on structural and construction elements hidden by the presence of plaster. In particular, it makes it possible to identify the presence of: load-bearing structures, reinforced concrete elements, hidden stone elements, flues, voids, infills, tears, detachments, fractures, humidity, etc. The plaster is affected by the differences in temperature between the different materials underlying it and returns them, though attenuating them, on the external surface. Thermography is essentially based on the ability of a material to retain or transmit heat. Through the detection of the thermal radiation emitted by the hot irradiated bodies it is possible to obtain, through thermographic images, video or photographic, a representative mapping of the materials present.



## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



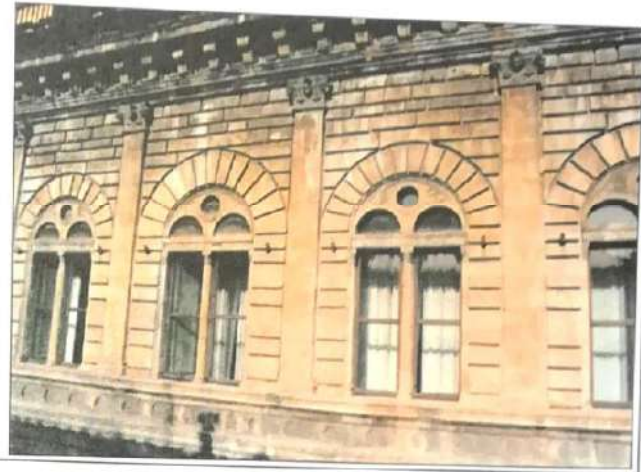
CLASS III  
**Type 5**

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS  
**Thermography**

*IMMAGINE ALL'INFRAROSSO*



*fotografia luce reale*



# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



## CLASS III QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS Type 5 Thermography

### EXECUTION

- Analysis of the camera framed surface and transmission of the signal detected to a control unit. It varies according to the infrared radiation emitted by each individual point.
- The field framed by the objective is divided into lines and focused points with very close intervals by means of a scanning system with rotating optical prisms, each element of the image is associated with an integer that varies from 0 (black) to 255 (white) according to the shade of grey.
- Formation of an image in different shades of grey where the lighter areas correspond to the points of greatest radiance and therefore of greater temperature.
- Recording of the digitized images on magnetic tape or photographic print of the same directly from the monitor.



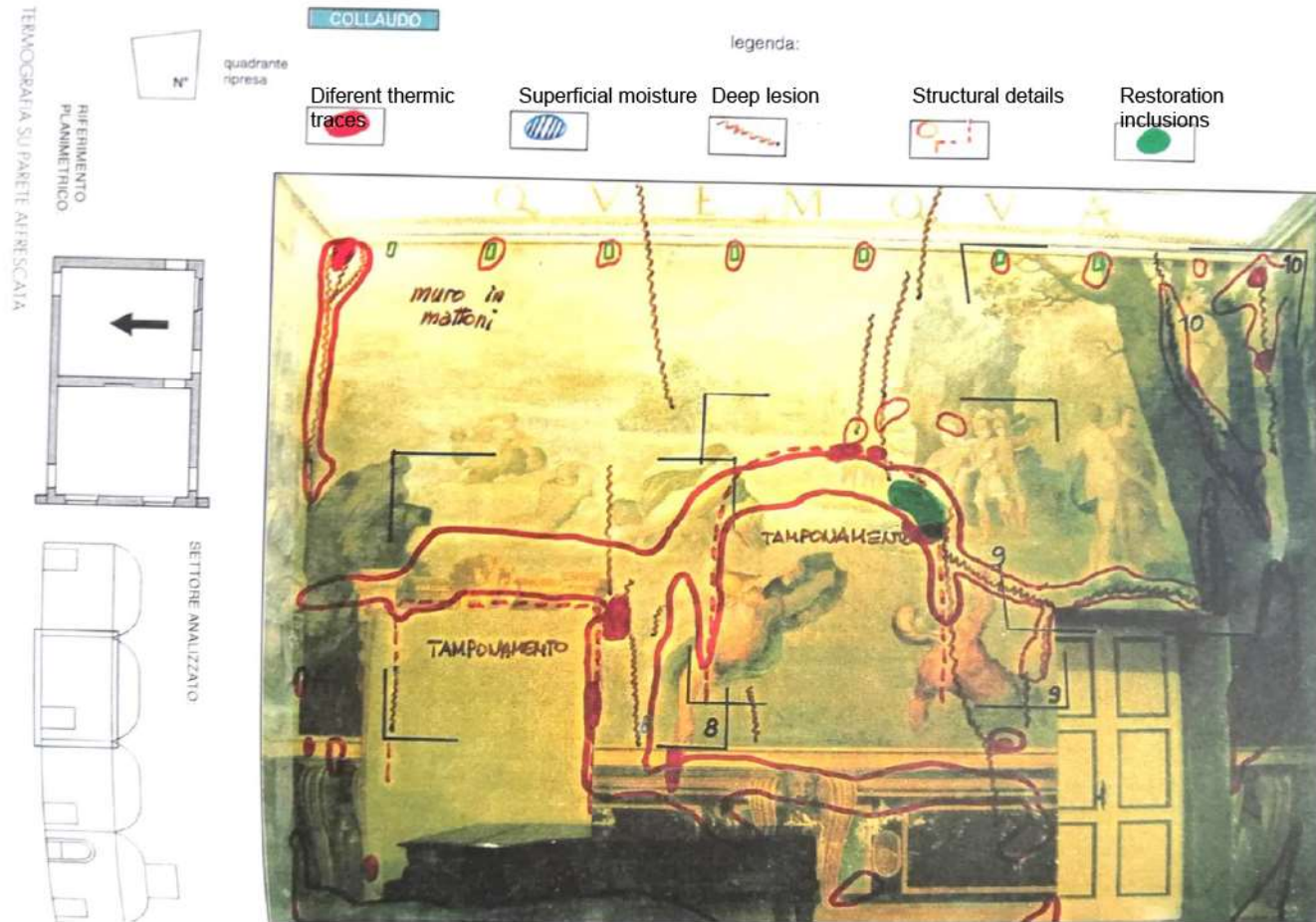


# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



CLASS III  
Type 5

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS  
Thermography



Thermographic disgnostic

## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY

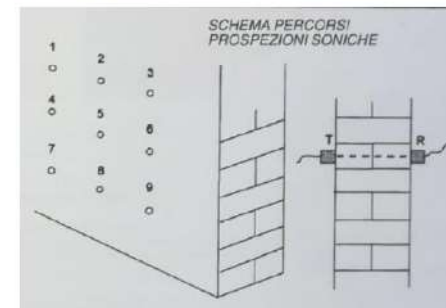


CLASS III  
**Type 6**

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS  
**Sonic test**

### DESCRIPTION

The dynamic auscultation method of a material allows to determine, in an absolutely non-destructive way and with a good level of precision, the quality as well as the heterogeneity of the medium, be it stone, brick, lumber or concrete. The sonic tests consist in direct measurement of the propagation speed of the sound waves through an element and on the examination of the received signal. The more the material is compact and homogeneous, the greater the propagation speed of the sound impulses, since it does not find any attenuation or interference along its path, deriving from the presence of voids or discontinuities. The sonic investigations basically allow to verify the distribution of the state of degradation - usually unevenly variable in the historical walls - as a completion to the remaining static surveys.



# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY

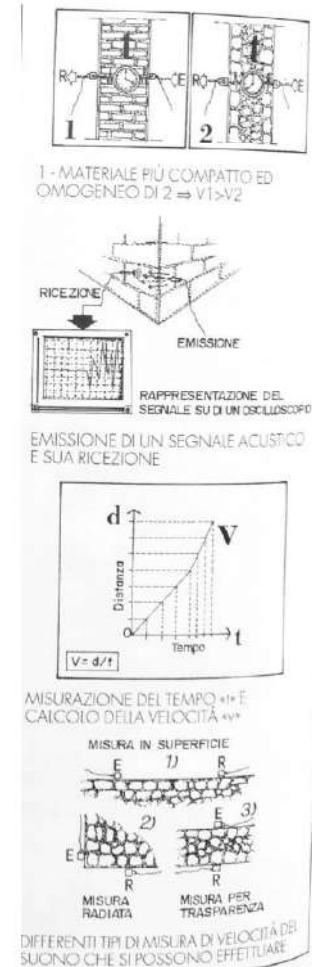


CLASS III  
Type 6

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS  
Sonic test

## EXECUTION

- a) Start of the measurement of time by sending a synchronized acoustic signal emitted by a transmitter placed in contact with the masonry portion to be examined and recording the arrival of the sound wave through a receiver, this in turn sends the signal to the receiver. measuring device that represents it on an oscilloscope.
- b) Measurement of the time "t" between the emission and reception and analysis of the following parameters: frequency, amplitude, damping, reflection.
- c) Note the distance "d", path of the acoustic signal, the velocity "V" ( $V = d / t$ ) is directly proportional to the mechanical qualities of the material.
- d) It is possible to carry out three different types of measurements according to the location of the two transducers: on the surface on the same face; radiated on two adjacent faces; for transparency on two opposite sides.



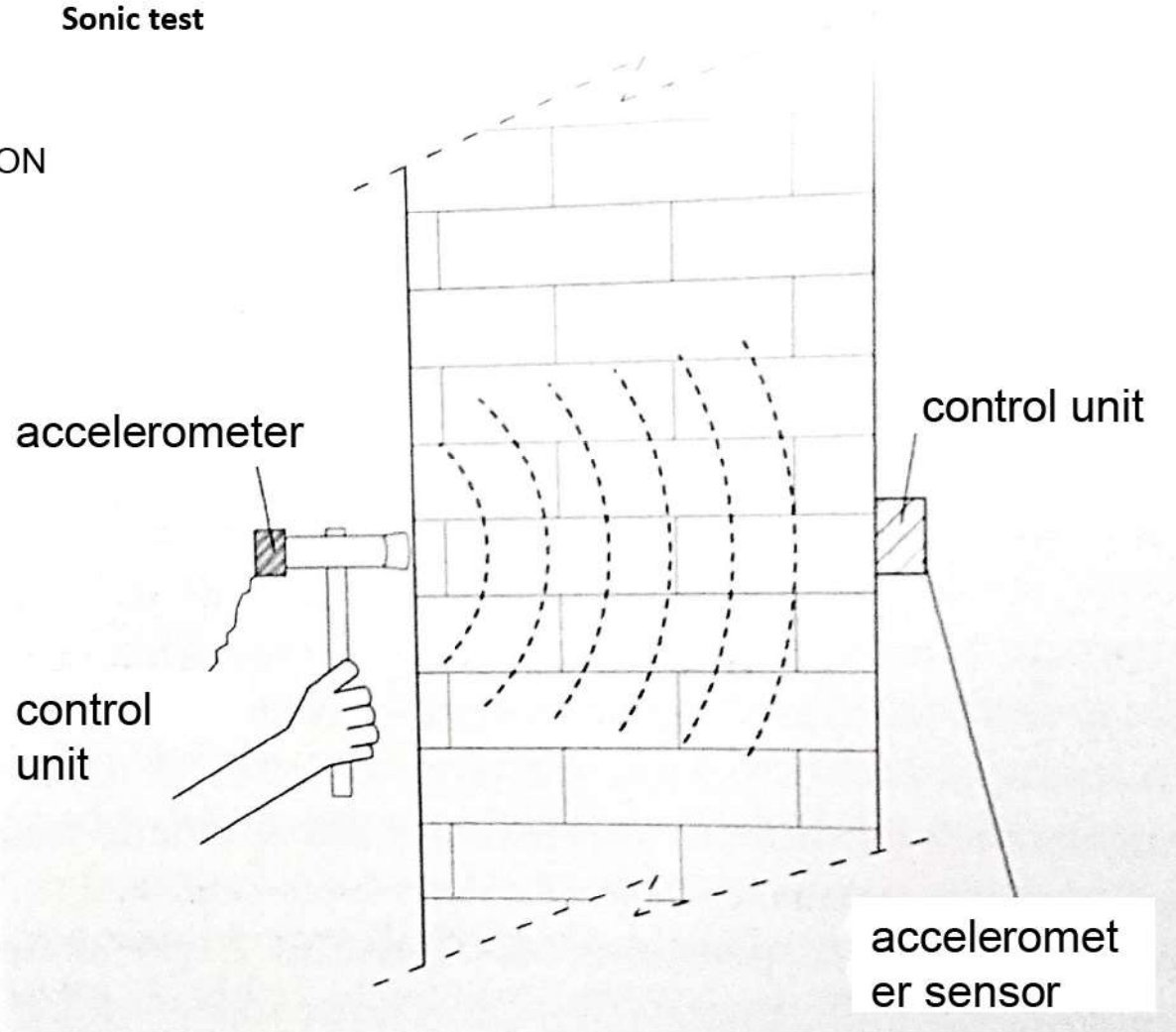
## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



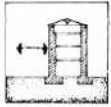
CLASS III  
Type 6

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS  
Sonic test

### TEST EXECUTION



## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



CLASS III  
**Type 7**

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS  
**Sclerometric test**

### DESCRIPTION

The sclerometric tests fall into the category of non-destructive tests to be carried out on site for the historical walls, not requiring the extraction of any sample. They consist in the detection of an indirect quantity by means of a special instrument, the sclerometer, defined by the rebound of a hurled flying mass, through a suitable mechanism, on the wall under examination. The parameter thus obtained, superficial hardness of the material, allows the determination of the maximum breaking strength by compression of the investigated structure.



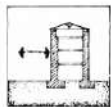
Sclerometre or Schmidt jack



Sclerometric test



# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



CLASS III

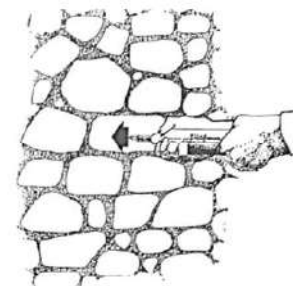
Type 7

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

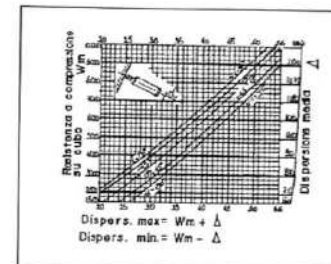
Sclerometric test

## EXECUTION

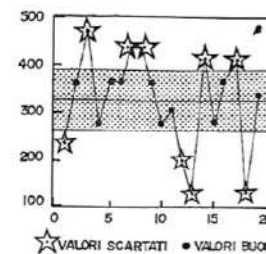
- Removal of the plaster for a wall portion such as to perform from 5 to 10 beats at increasing pressure on the sclerometer continuously with spring loading; the rod retransmits the reaction to the mass by means of a rebound, the greater the more the examined surface is hard and compact.
- Reading of the value of the same rebound on the graduated scale from which, through a suitable diagram, according to the chosen stop angle, the corresponding value of the compressive strength is obtained.
- Average between measures taken by discarding those having a dispersion higher than the average square deviation replacing them with new ones.
- The instrument can be used both on vertical surfaces and on floors, ceilings, and inclined surfaces. Resenting the rebound of gravity uses different curves depending on the different positions or angles.



PRESSIONE DELLO SCLEROMETRO CC  
CARICAMENTO DELLA MOLLA



CURVA DI TARATURA



SOSTITUZIONE DELLE BATTUTE

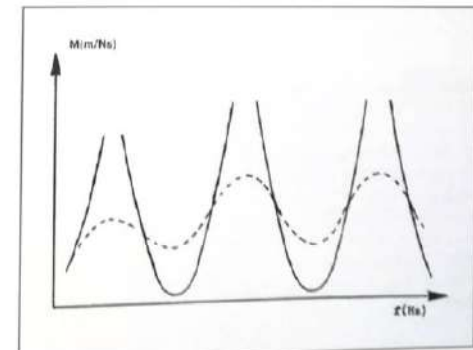
# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



## CLASS III Type 8      QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS Dynamic test

### DESCRIPTION

Non-destructive investigations conducted by means of dynamic tests are a valid tool for judging and controlling the conservation of the product. These aim to verify directly the stability of the building and to provide an overall evaluation of its dynamic characteristics according to different modalities: survey and analysis of the vibrational disturbances already present on the structure to be examined, of a continuative nature, such as road or rail traffic, or occasional, such as neighboring site activities, bell motions, wind, and low intensity forced vibration tests. Once the behavior of the building has been defined, it will be possible to calculate its structural response against dynamic actions having known characteristics, for example it will be possible to evaluate their real exposure to seismic risk.



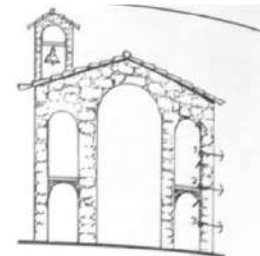
# DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



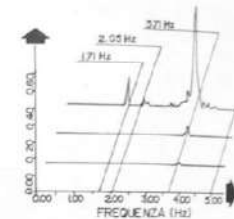
## CLASS III QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS Type 8 Dynamic test

### EXECUTION

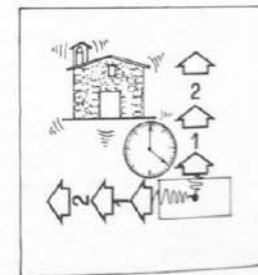
- a) Placement of seismometers at various altitudes located in the selected areas.
- b) Possible recourse to an electrodynamic exciter:
  - b1) subjecting of the elements under analysis with forced dynamic excitation at low intensity, in order not to compromise the integrity of the structure;
  - b2) repetition of the excitation at regular intervals in two directions, parallel and normal, orthogonal to the plane of arrangement of the investigated structure.
- c) Determination of modal parameters, frequencies, modal forms and damping, by means of the measured values and calculation of the dynamic response, in terms of displacements, velocities and accelerations, to the reference spectrum.
- d) Interpretation of the response and evaluation of the structural integrity of the complex; possible realization of a finite element model, with proper distribution of masses and constraints.



DISPOSIZIONE DEI SISMOMETRI A VARIE QUOTE



SPETTRI DI RISPOSTA RELATIVA A DIVERSE QUOTE E DEFINIZIONE DELLE RISONANZE STRUTTURALI



ECCITAZIONE AD INTERVALLI REGOLARI SECONDO DUE DIREZIONI

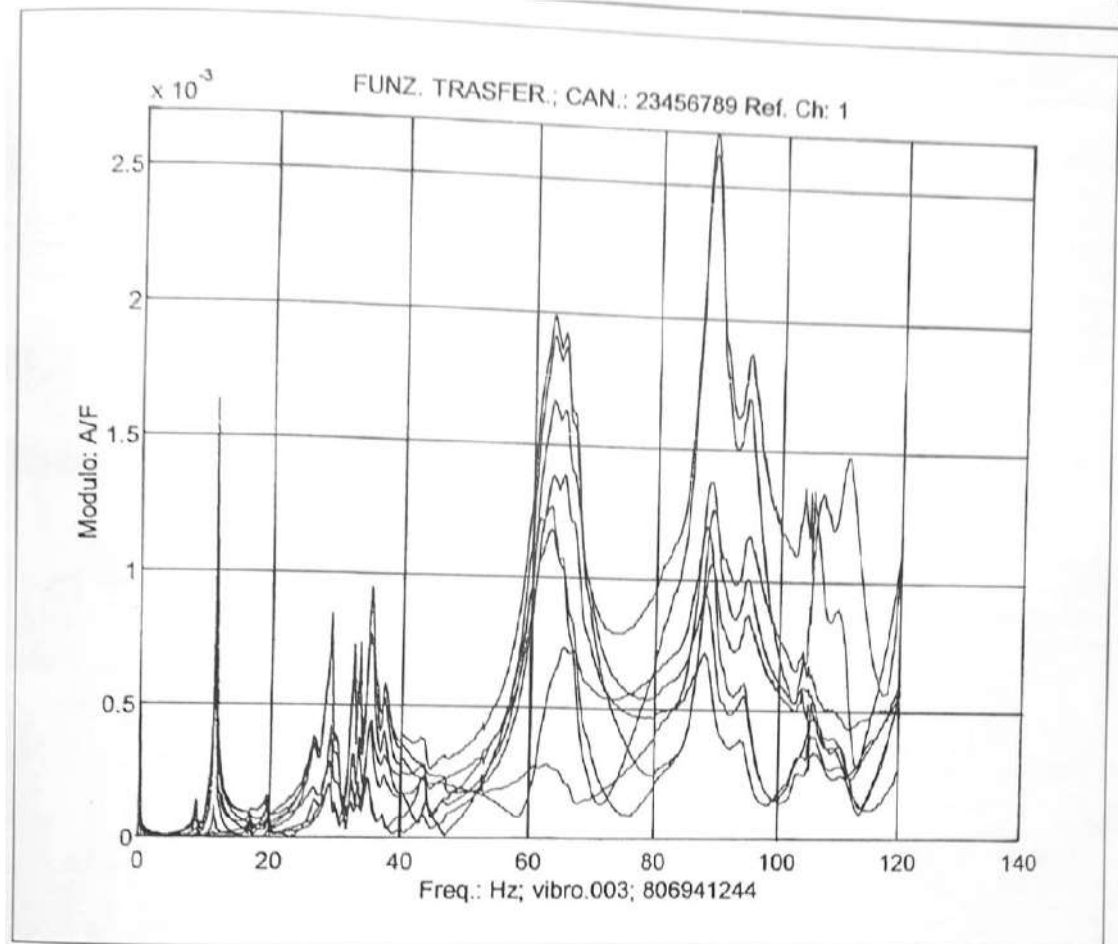
## DAMAGE TESTS IN MASONRY



CLASS III  
Type 8

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS  
Dynamic test

Curves related to the  
resonance of a  
seismometer





**Project "SURE - Sustainable Urban Rehabilitation in Europe"  
implemented in frames of Erasmus+ Programme  
Key Action 2: Strategic Partnership Projects  
Agreement n° 2016-1-PL01-KA203-026232**

**This publication has been funded within support from the European Commission.**

**Free copy.**

**This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.**

**Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union**

