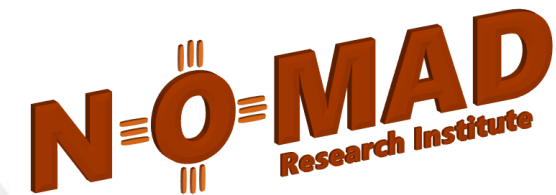




Exceptional service in the national interest



NOMAD XIII FINAL PRESENTATION

Implementing Multiple-Input-Multiple-Output Shock Capabilities

Students: Garrek McCune, Rushil Negandhi,
Uriel Quintero

*Mentors: Chris Beale, Ryan Schultz, Dan Rohe, Dagny Beale,
Debby Fowler, Julie Kraus, Evan Saunders*

Presented at the NOMAD XIII Final Presentations on August 4, 2026



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SAND2026-24726PE

IN THIS PRESENTATION

- **Overview**
 - **Background & Motivation**
 - **Goals**
- Methodology
 - Environmental specification methods
 - Experimental setup
- Results
 - SRS metrics (single realization and NTL)
 - Method comparison
 - FEA model

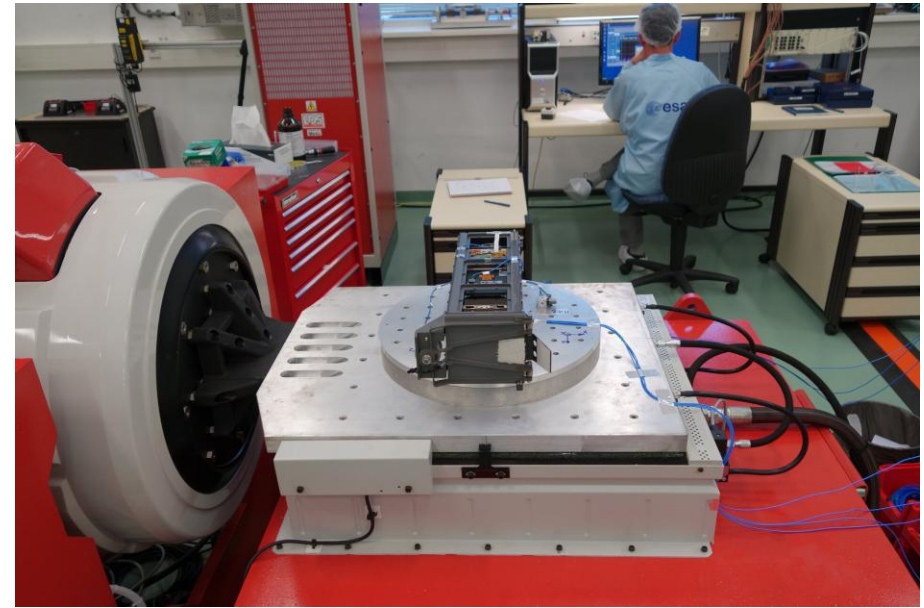


MOTIVATION & BACKGROUND

- **Why shock testing?** Critical for validating engineering structures under realistic conditions
- **Traditional methods:** Single-axis testing has limitations—incorrect boundary conditions, resonance risks, costly redesigns
- **MIMO testing:** Offers more accurate boundary conditions, modular setups, and cost savings

[1] https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2014/11/Vibration_test_set-up

[2] <https://www.sandia.gov/labnews/2024/07/25/transforming-testing-one-shake-at-a-time/#:~:text=%E2%80%9Csingle-axis%20testing%2C%20we%20test,multiple%20input%2C%20multiple%20output%20test.>



Single-axis Testing Table [1]



6-DOF Shaker Table for MIMO Testing [2]

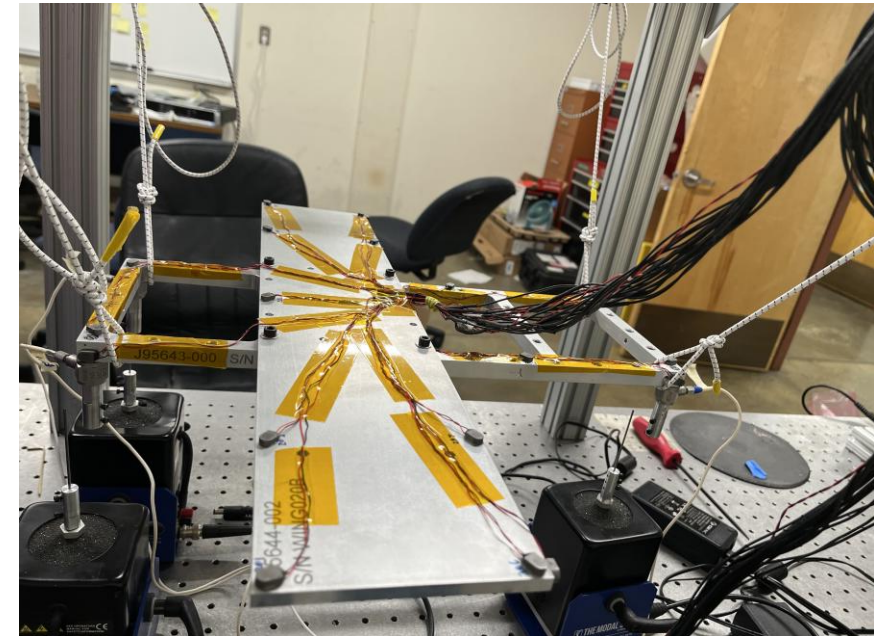


PROJECT GOALS

- **Objective:** Demonstrate and validate MIMO shock specification and testing approaches
- **Key question:** How well can lab tests replicate real-world shock environments?



Aircraft Hard Landing [3]



Round Robin Frame-wing Structure

IN THIS PRESENTATION

- Overview
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- **Methodology**
 - **Environmental specification methods**
 - **Experimental setup**
- Results
 - SRS metrics (single realization and NTL)
 - Method comparison
 - FEA model



METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW



Step 1: Impart shock load using modal hammer (**field test**)

Step 2: Run modal burst test for **system identification** and **basis data**

Step 3: Derive MIMO **shock specifications** and test inputs from field data and basis data

Step 4: Apply shaker inputs in lab, **collect experimental data**

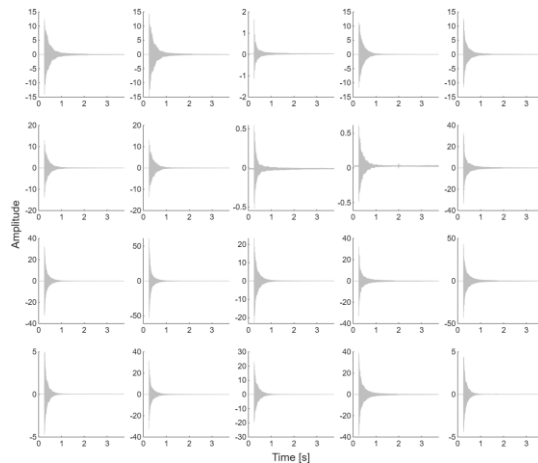
Step 5: **Compare** MIMO response to target specification and field response

Step 6: **Validate** with Finite Element Analysis (FEA) modeling

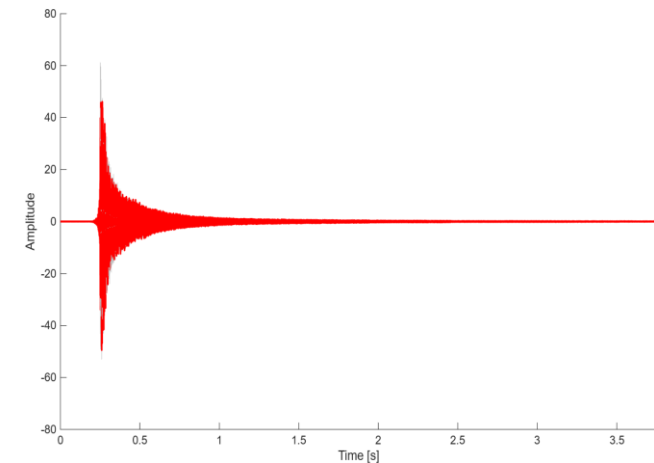
MAXIMUM PREDICTED ENVIRONMENT



- **Goal:** Generate a synthetic maximum predicted environment (MPE) using a normal tolerance limit (NTL) based on the SRS, FFT, or wavelet nodal energies of an ensemble of field time histories (representation of extreme case for an environment)
- **NTL with $P = 95\%$ and $C = 50\%$** $\rightarrow$ 50% confident that NTL will exceed 95% of the data
 - Population mean and standard deviation are unknown, so sample parameters are used
 - $P_{\mu,\sigma}(\underbrace{\bar{X} + kS}_{\text{NTL}} \geq X_p) = C$
 - $n = 20$ **samples** were used



**Ensemble of time histories
from field testing**



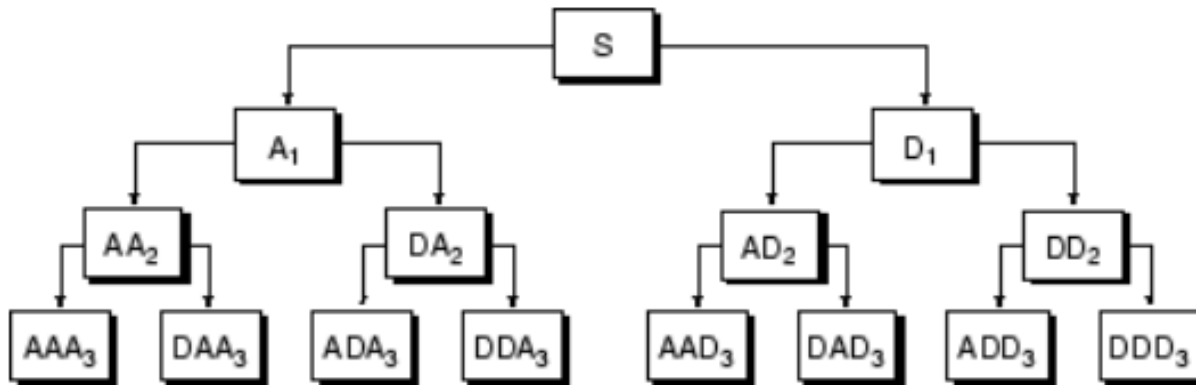
MPE time history

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION METHODS

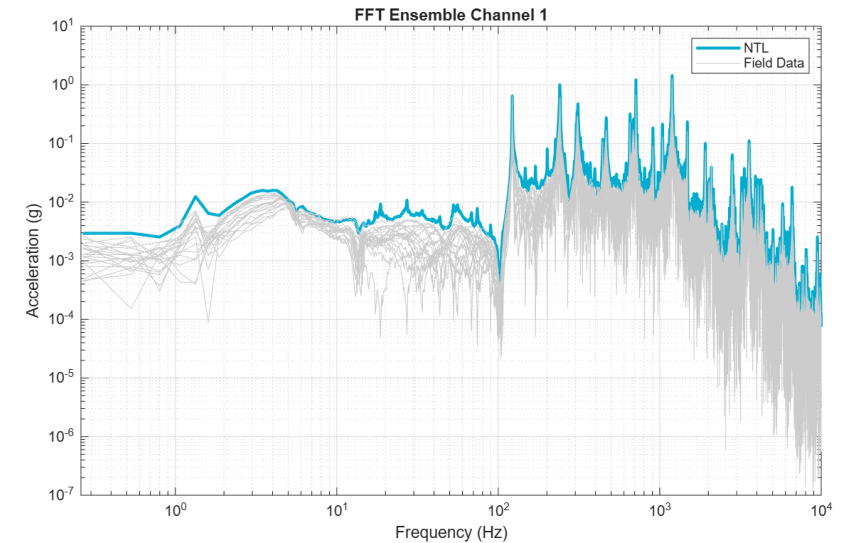
- **Direct time history methods**

1. Wavelet packet transform (WPT)
2. Fast Fourier transform (FFT)

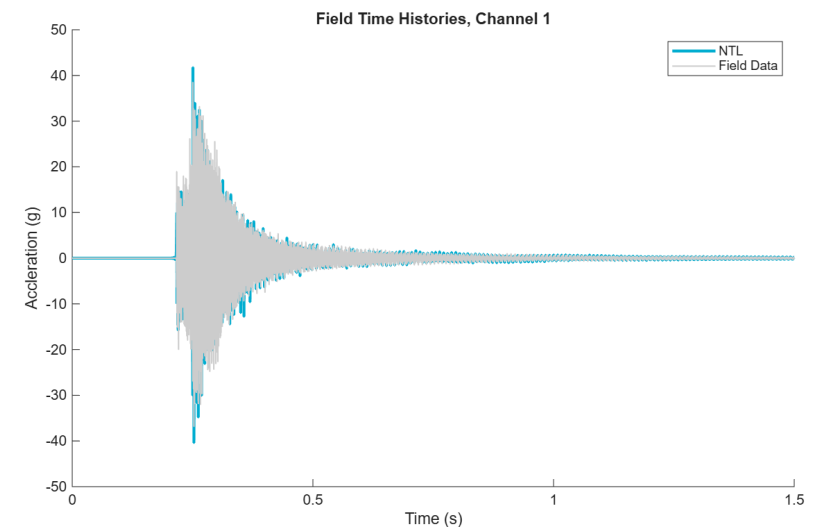
Wavelet packet decomposition tree with level 3 decomposition



FFT of NTL and ensemble samples for field test 2, FFT method



Time history of NTL and ensemble samples for field test 2, wavelet method

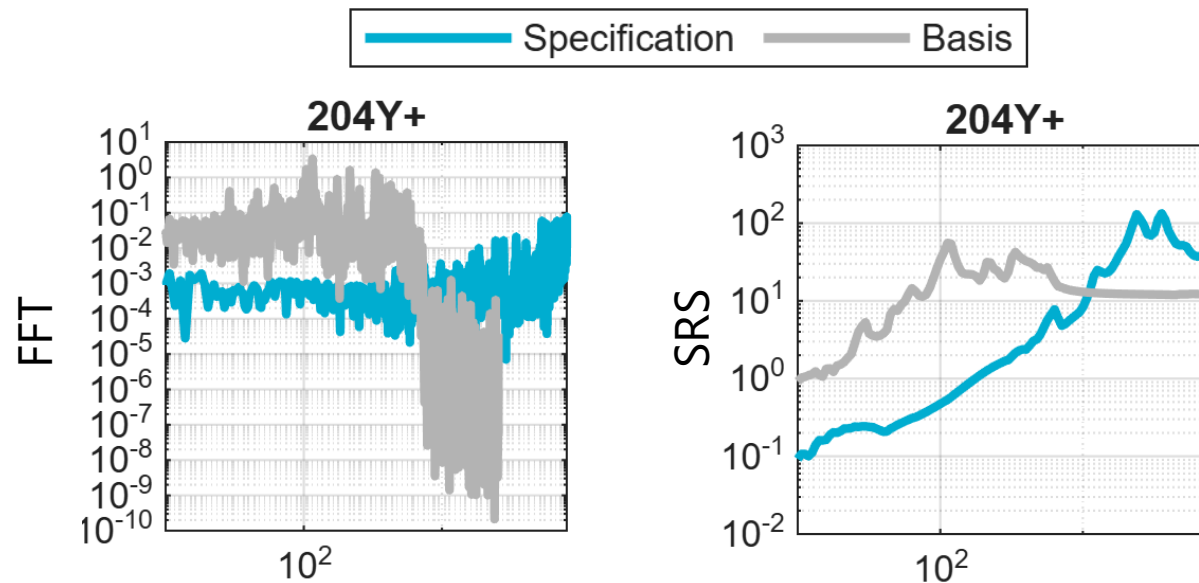


ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION METHODS

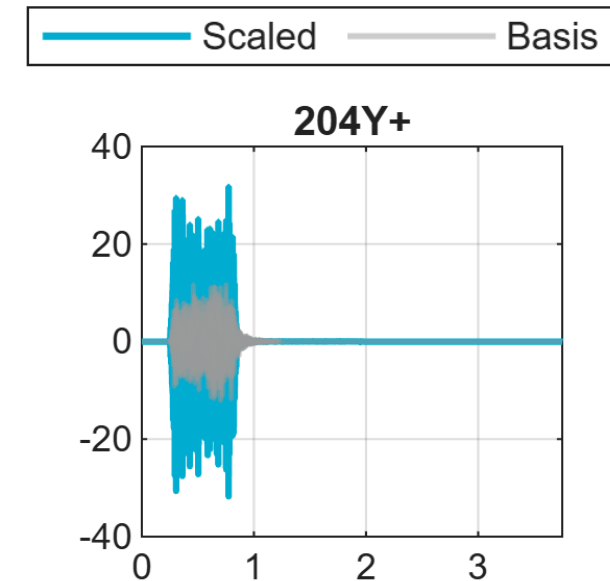


- **Basis scaling methods**

3. WPT with basis scaling
4. FFT with basis scaling
5. SRS with basis scaling



Scale the SRS, FFT, or WPT nodal energy of the basis data to the same metric of the specification (field data NTL)



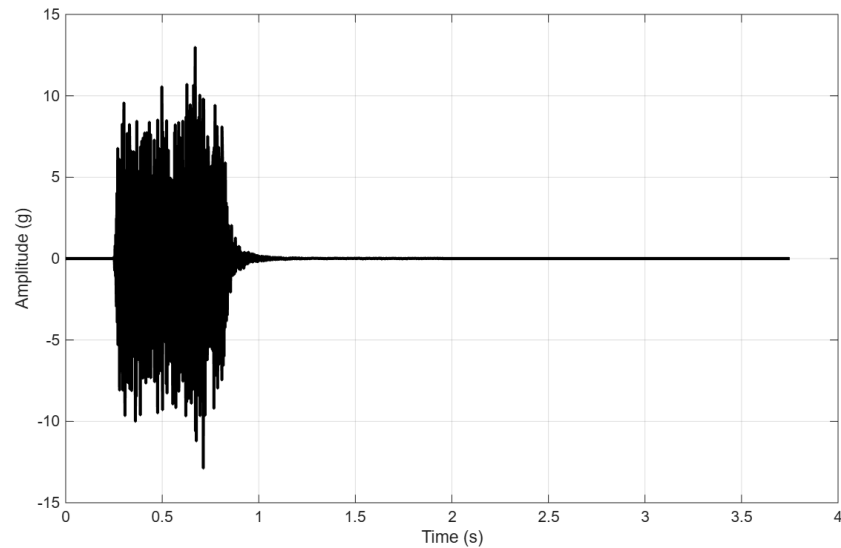
Convert back into time domain to obtain the time history that the MIMO experiment is controlled to

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION SCRIPT OVERVIEW

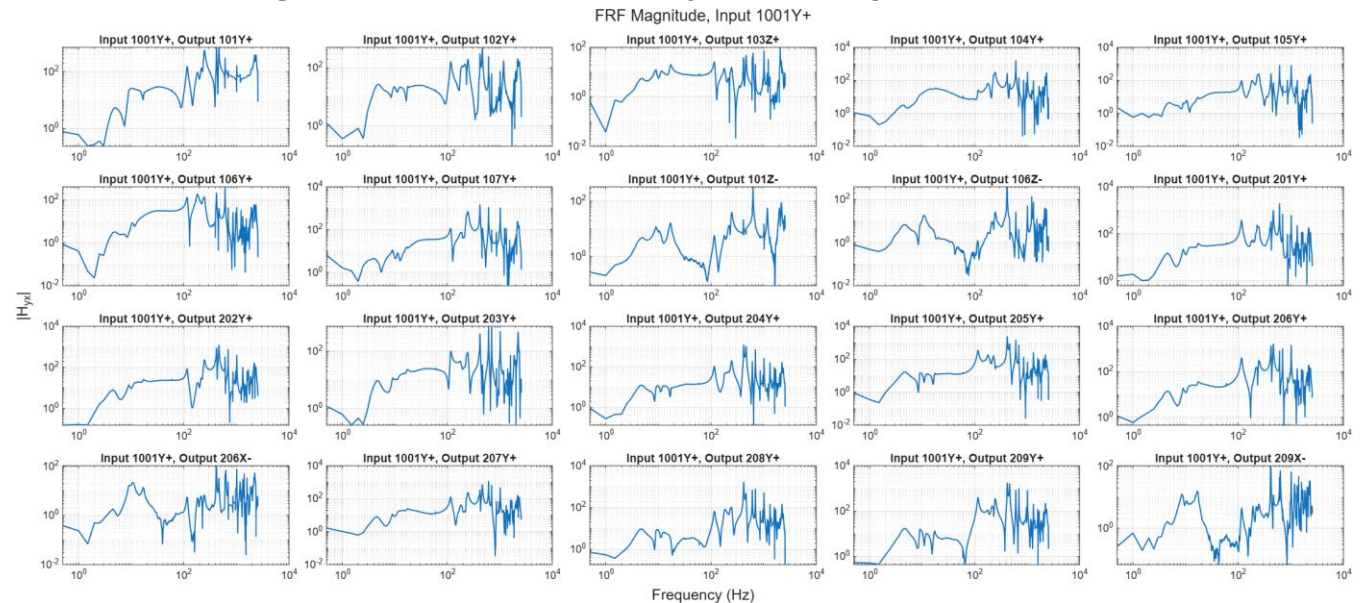


1. Extract system ID data (burst random test, mimics shock)

Isolated burst from modal test time history with zero-padding for basis data, channel 1 (sample rate: 5120 Hz)



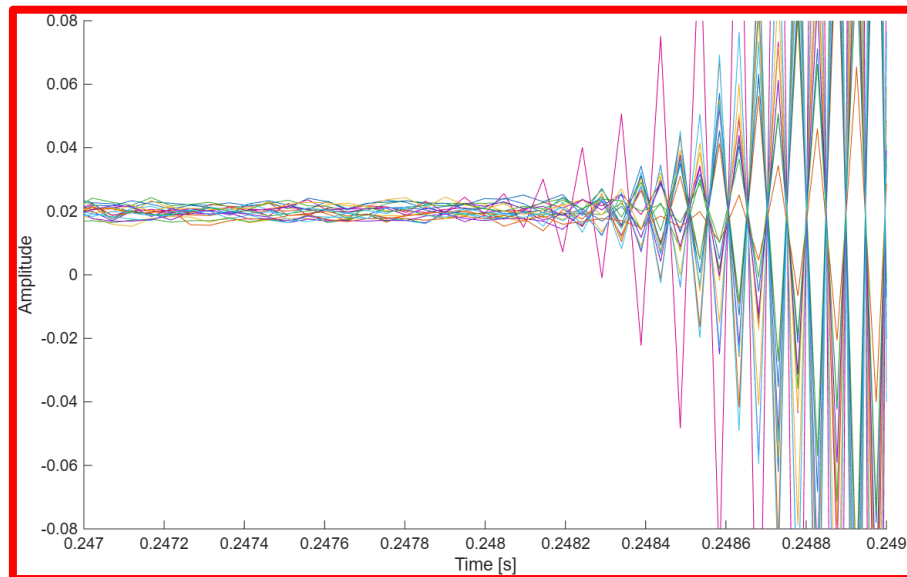
FRF magnitudes extracted from system ID repeated burst modal test



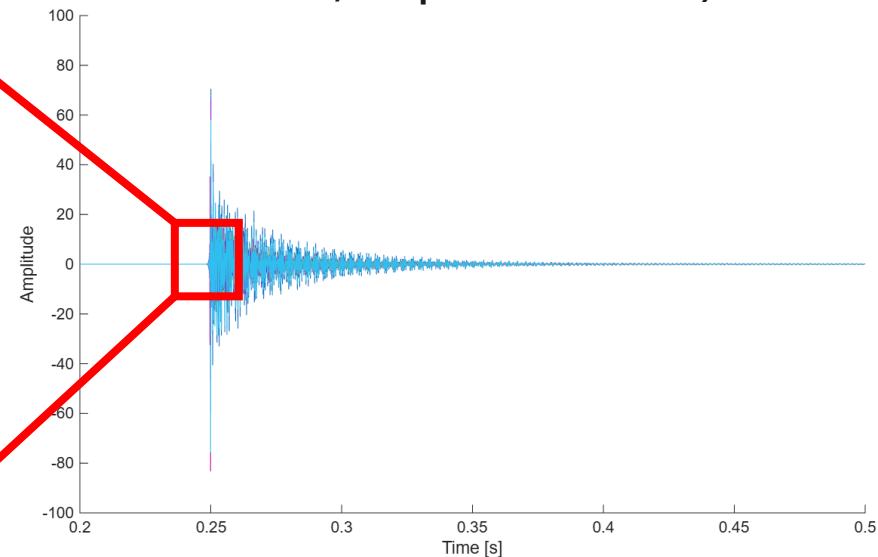
ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION SCRIPT OVERVIEW



1. Extract system ID data (burst random test, mimics shock)
2. Extract field data and align



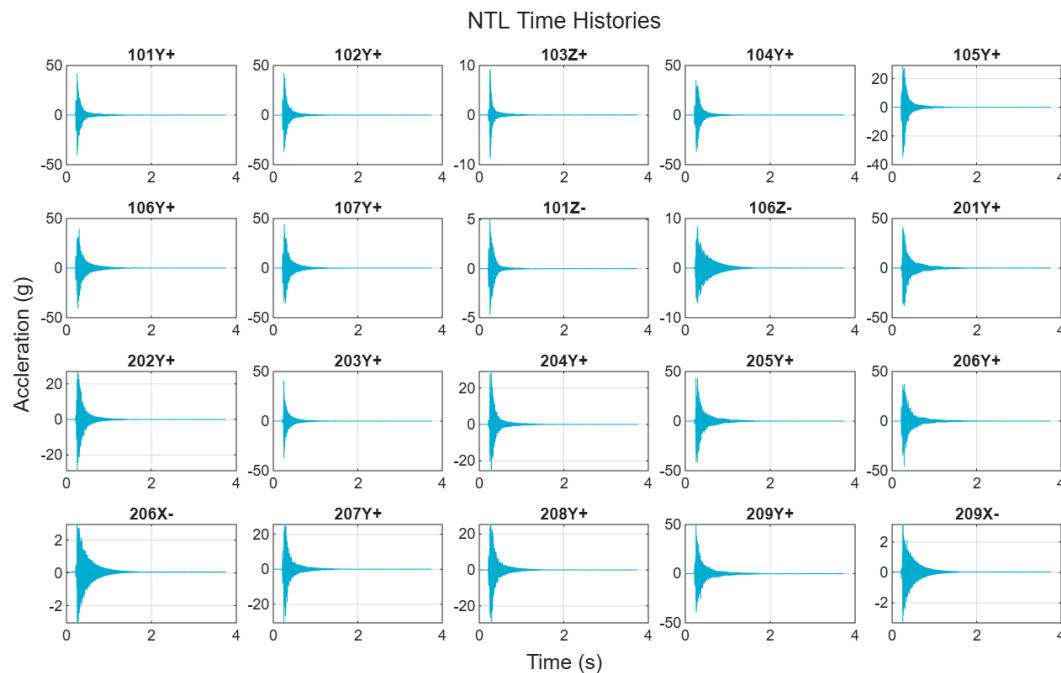
Field test 1 (simple shock landing) time histories by channel overlayed, wavelet method (bandwidth: 10-8000 Hz, sample rate: 20480 Hz)



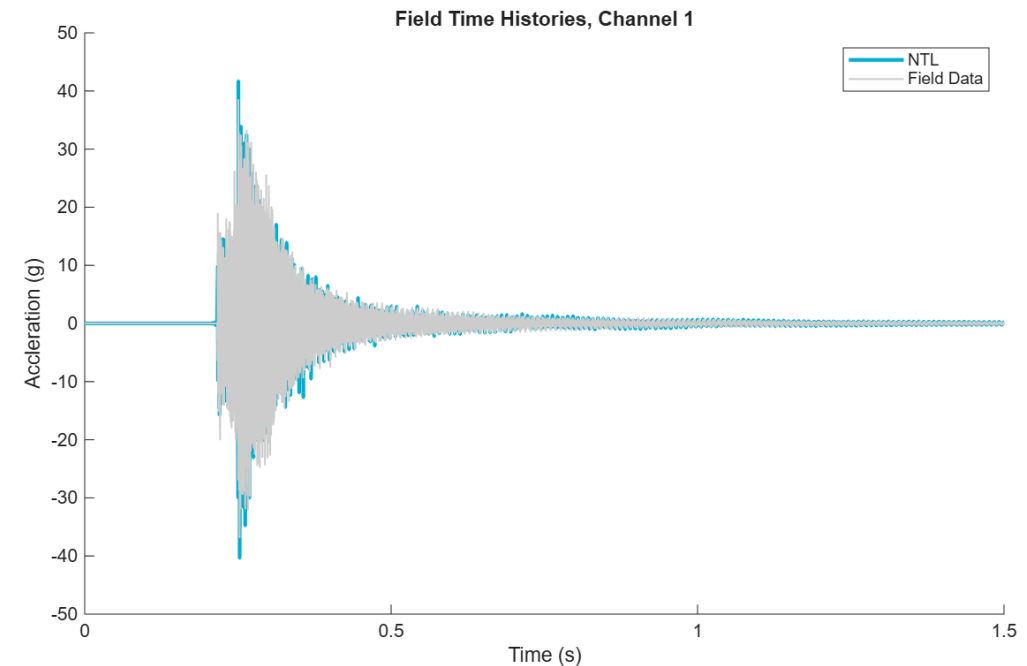
ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION SCRIPT OVERVIEW



1. Extract system ID data (burst random test, mimics shock)
2. Extract field data and align
3. Determine specification (MPE)



Wavelet-based MPE time histories by channel for field test 1

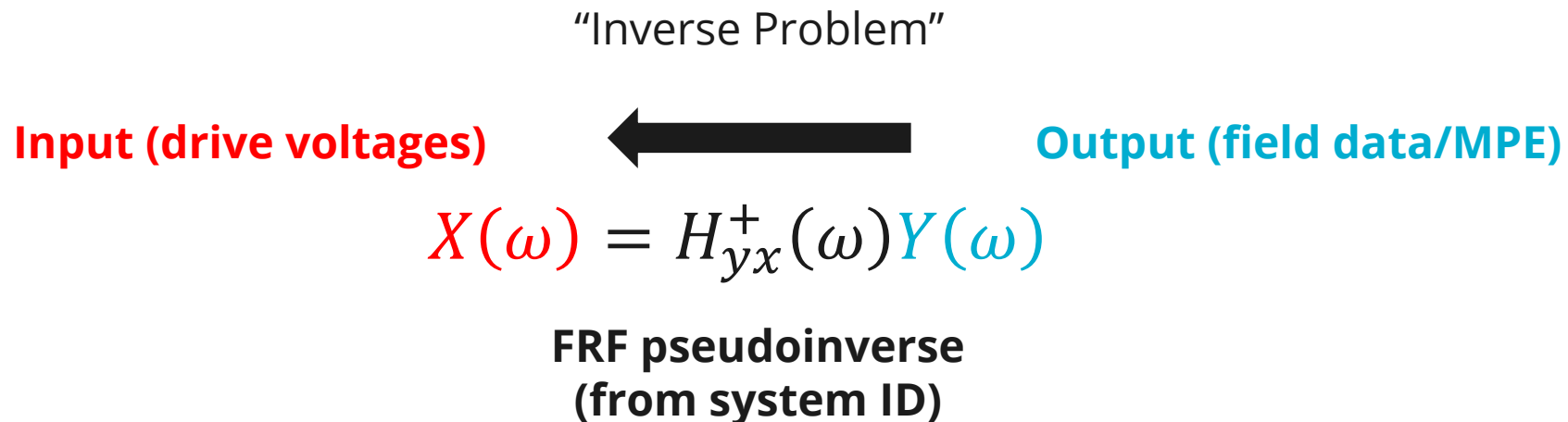


Wavelet-based MPE time history for channel 1

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION SCRIPT OVERVIEW



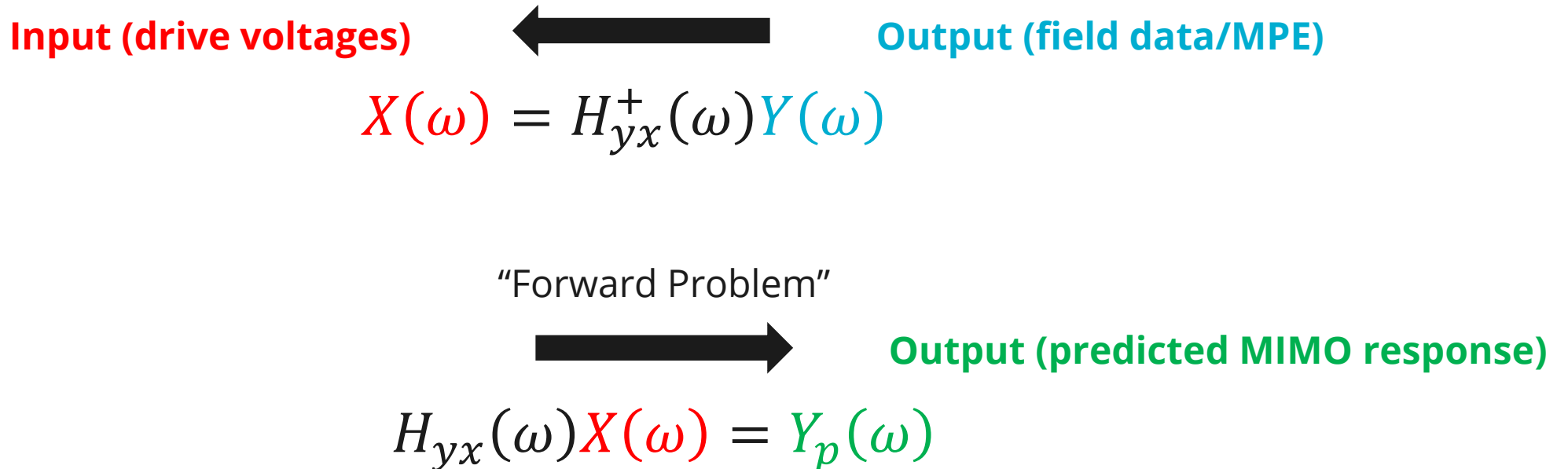
1. Extract system ID data (burst random test, mimics shock)
2. Extract field data and align
3. Determine specification (MPE)
4. Find shaker drive voltages by solving the inverse problem (TWR)



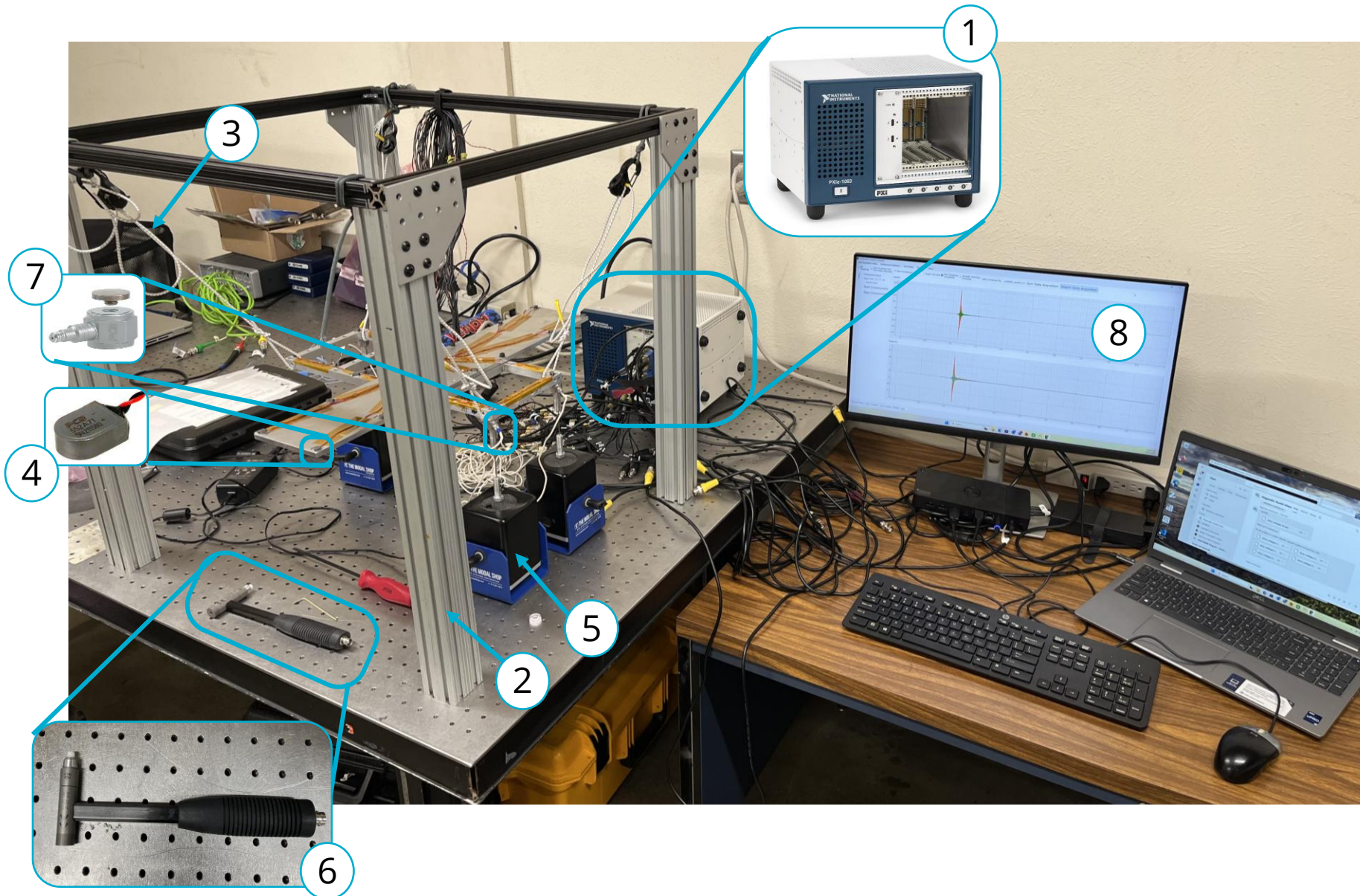
ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION SCRIPT OVERVIEW



1. Extract system ID data (burst random test, mimics shock)
2. Extract field data and align
3. Determine specification (MPE)
4. Find shaker drive voltages by solving the inverse problem (TWR)
5. Solve the forward problem to predict the response



THE SETUP/INSTRUMENTATION



Instrumentation

1. NI PXIe-1083 DAQ

2. Optical rail frame

3. Bungee cords

4. PCB 352A71
uniaxial
accelerometers

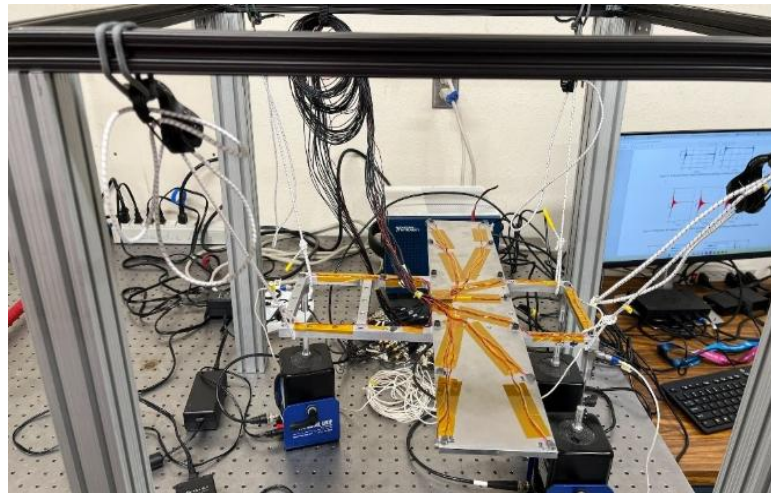
5. Mini SmartShakers

6. Modal hammer

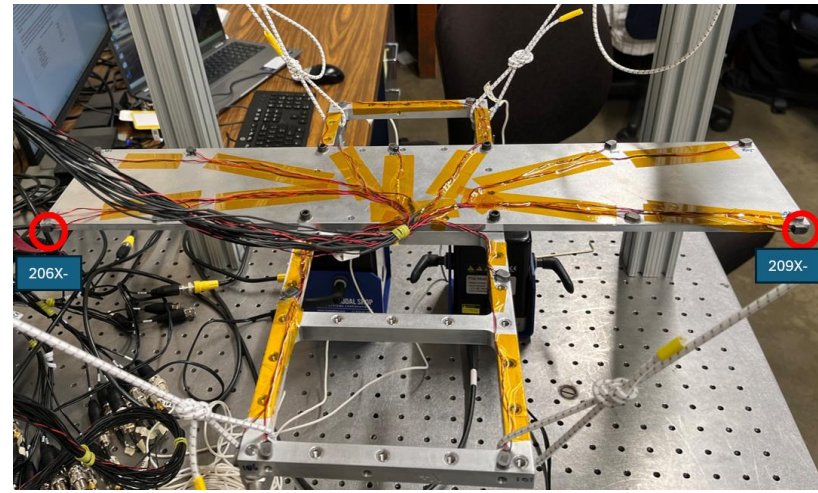
7. PCB 208C03 force
sensors

8. Rattlesnake
Controller software

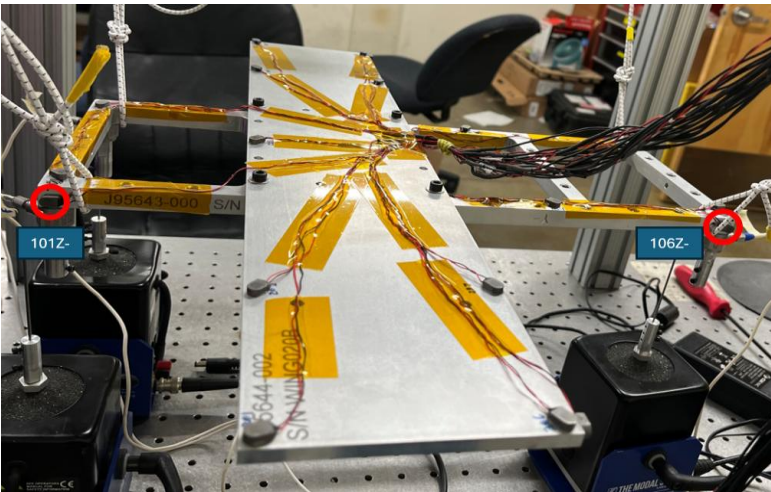
THE SETUP/INSTRUMENTATION



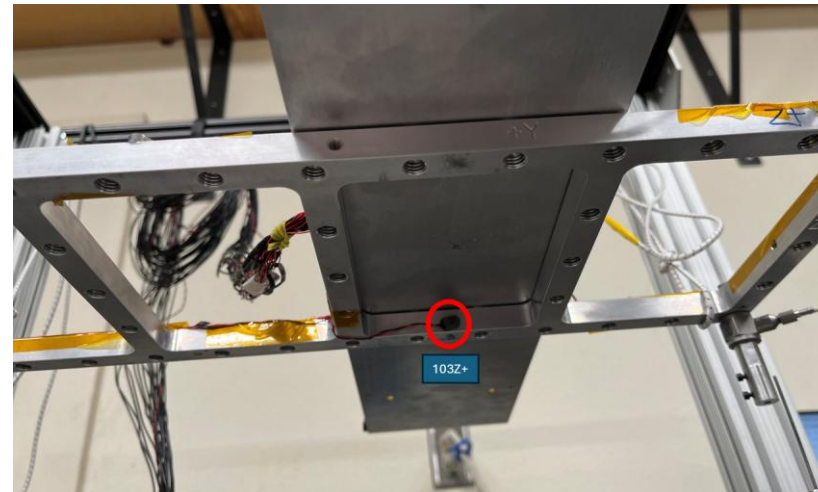
Frame-Wing Structure Experimental Setup



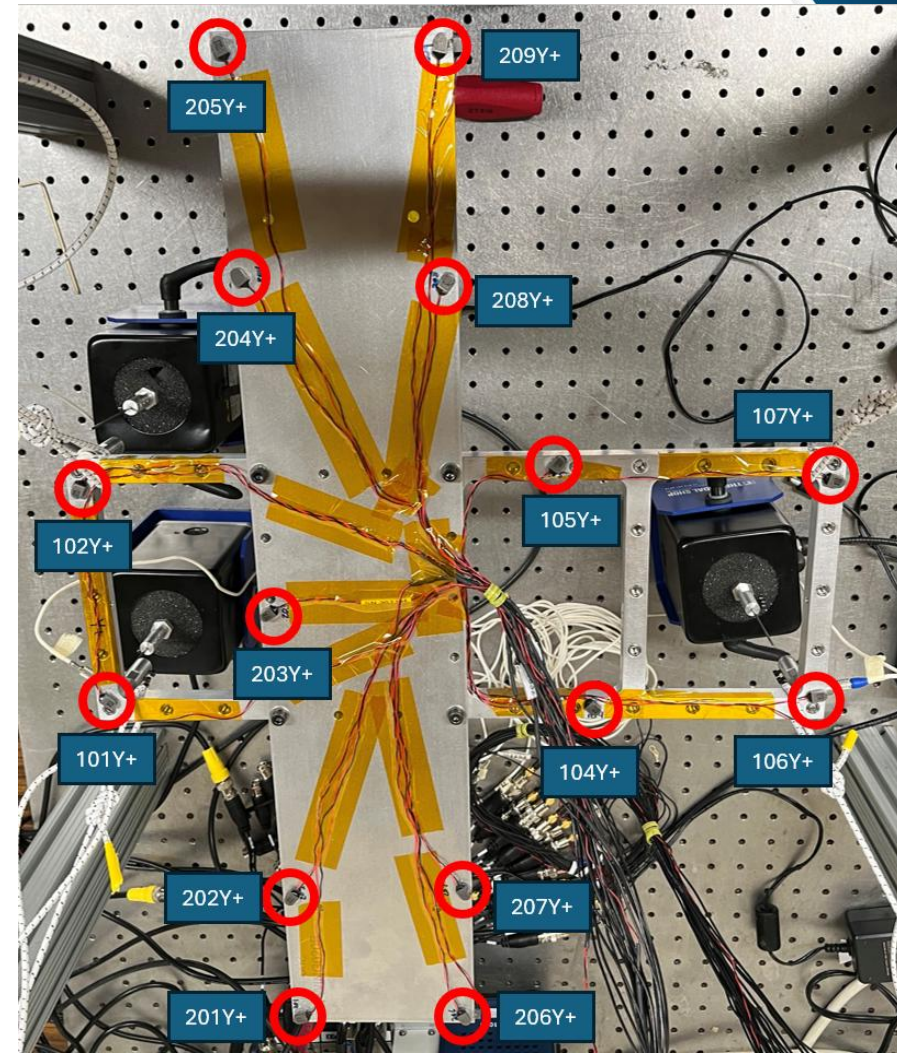
Wing Tips



Side of Frame



Underneath Wing



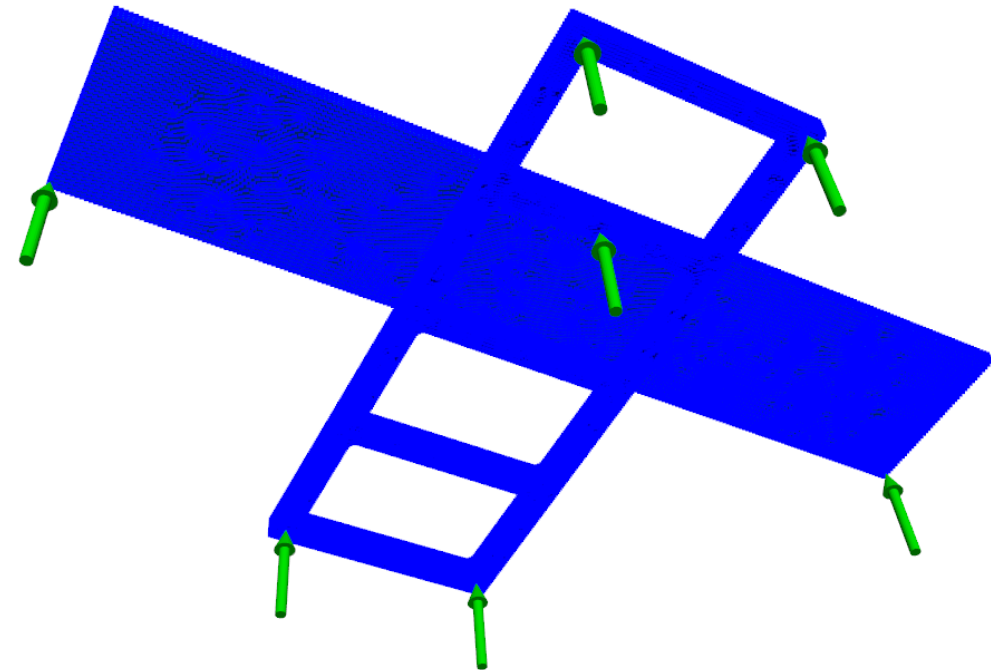
Accelerometer Location Across DUT

MODAL TESTING

- **Purpose:** Validate FE model
- **Procedure:** 7 modal hammer tests done using Rattlesnake's "Modal Testing" environment

Test specifications

Parameter	Value
Sampling Rate	4000 Hz
Frame Time	2 sec
Frequency Spacing	0.5 Hz
Averaging Type	Linear
Number of Averages	5
FRF Window	Rectangle

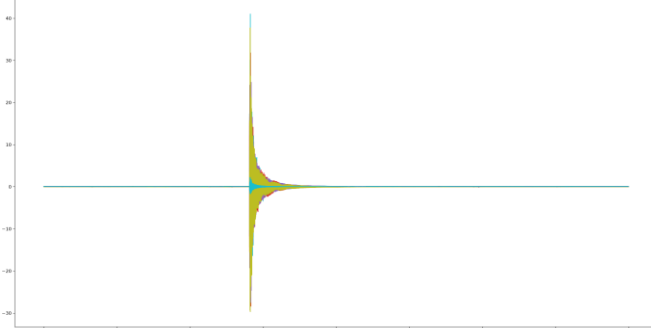


Impact Hammer Locations for Modal Tests

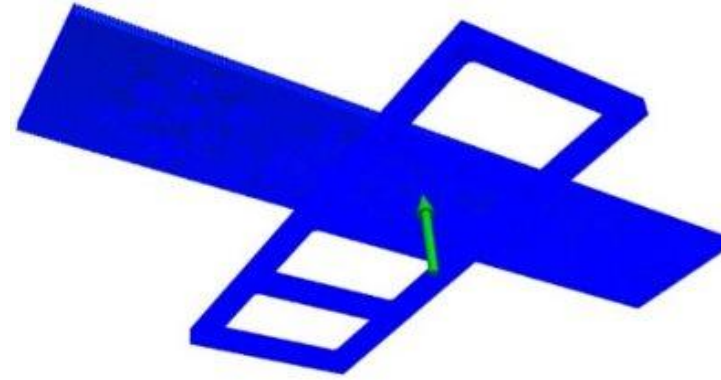
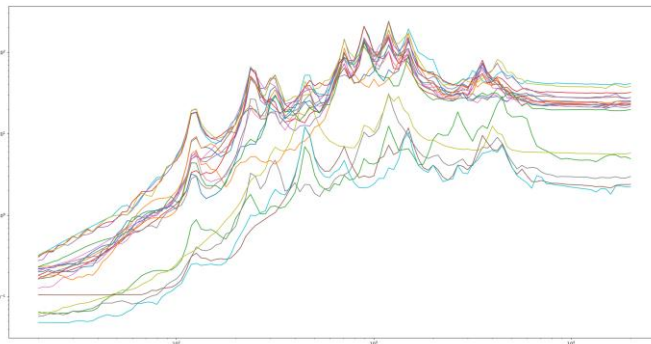
FIELD TESTING

- **Shocks:** 5 aircraft environment shocks
- **Procedure:**
 - 20.48 kHz sampling rate
 - 20 samples for each field
 - No shakers/force gauges attached

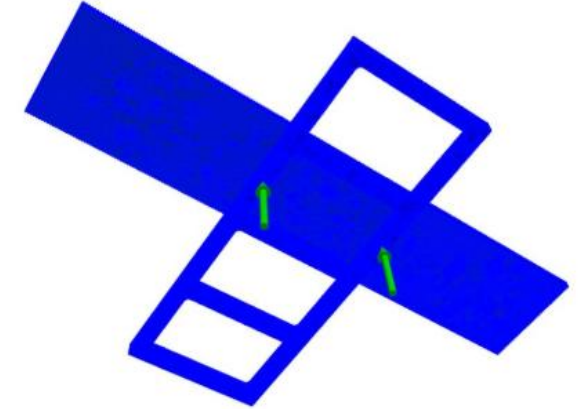
Time History
of Field Test 2



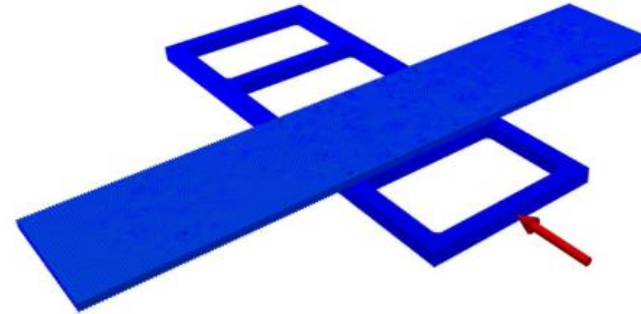
SRS of Field
Test 2



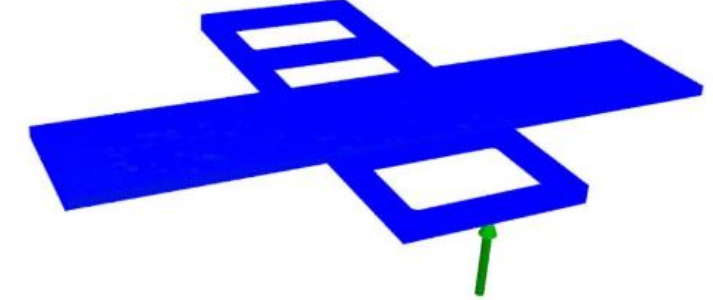
1. Simple Landing Shock



2. Landing Gear shock

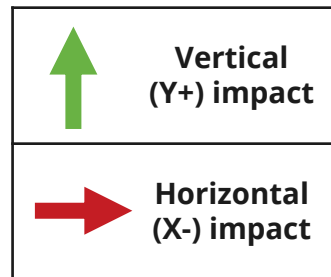
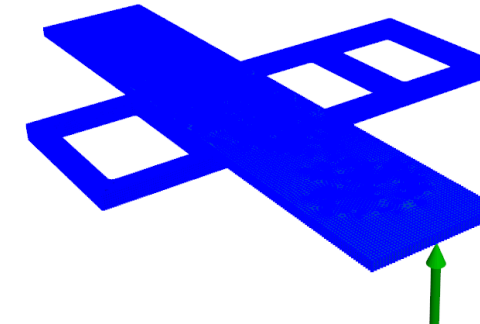


3. Nose Bird Strike



4. Nose Wind Gust

5. Wing Tip Wind Gust

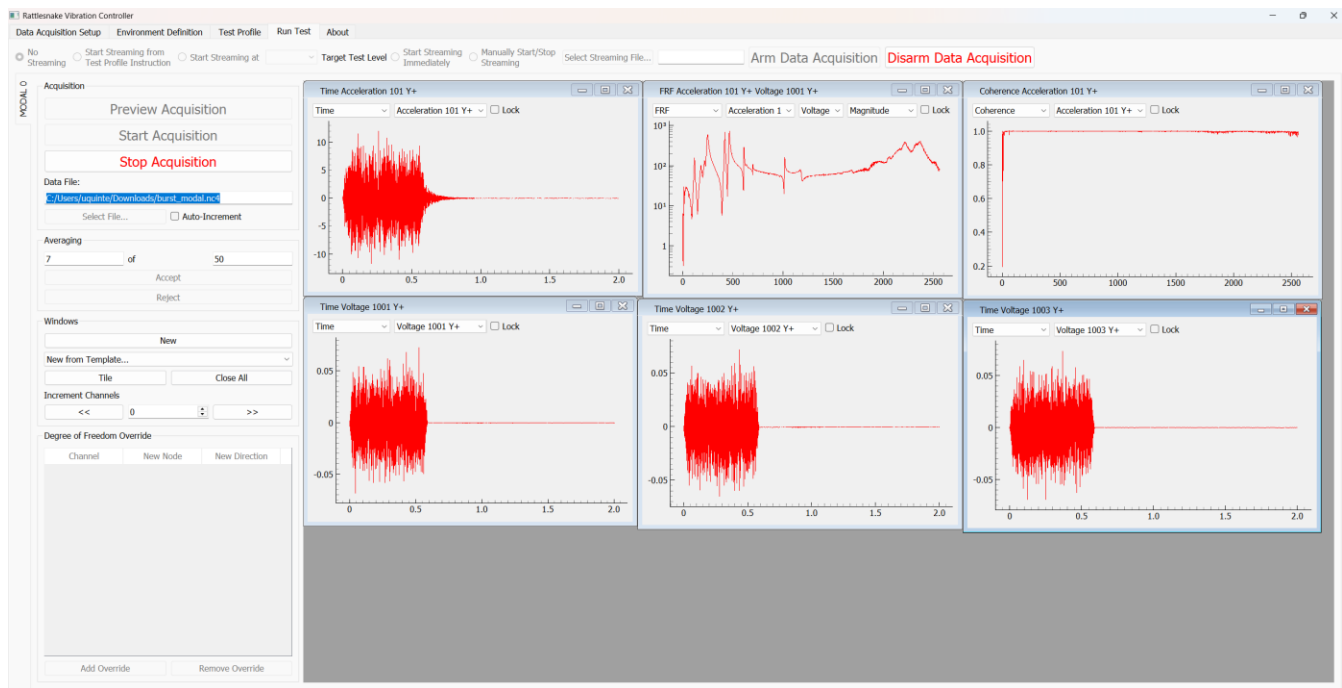


SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION



Test specifications

- **System ID:** Burst random test, modal analysis for transfer functions
 - Same shaker locations for MIMO tests
 - Burst duration determined from 10% rule for shock response
 - Rattlesnake "Modal Testing" environment utilized



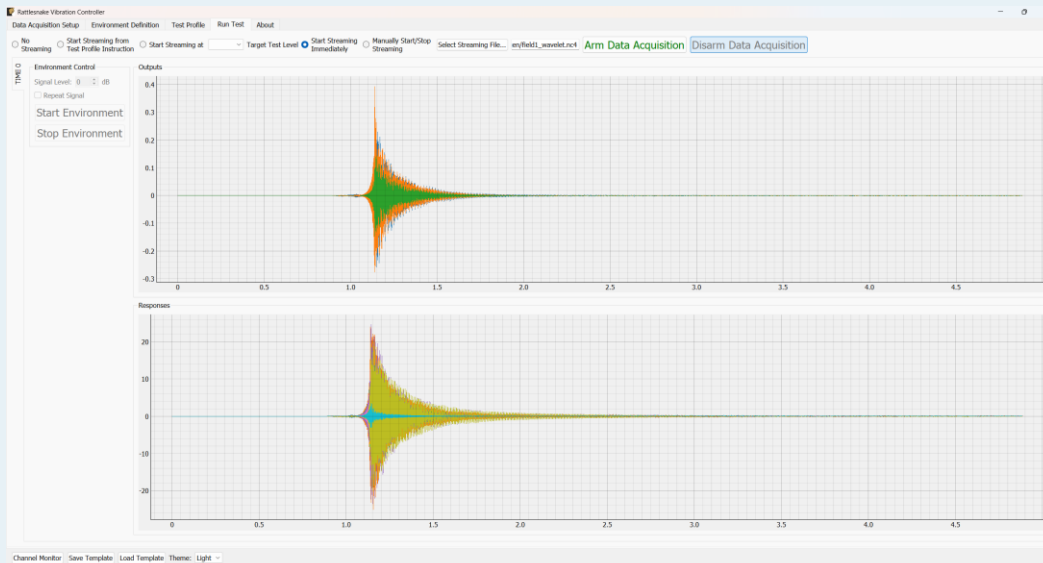
Burst Random Test in Rattlesnake

Parameter	Value
Sampling Rate	5120 Hz
Frame Time	2 sec
Frequency Spacing	0.5 Hz
Averaging Type	Linear
Number of Averages	50
FRF Window	Rectangle
Signal Type	Burst Random
Signal Bandwidth	2560 Hz
Signal % of Frame	29.50 %
Signal Duration	0.5900 s

MIMO Shock Control with Rattlesnake

Time Signal Generation

- Takes voltage time histories as inputs
- The inverse problem is solved “offline” in MATLAB/Python



“Run Test” Tab for Time Signal Generation

MIMO Shock

- Sum-of-Decayed-Sines method
- Takes SRSs for each control channel as inputs
- Solves the inverse problem “online” in Rattlesnake



IN THIS PRESENTATION

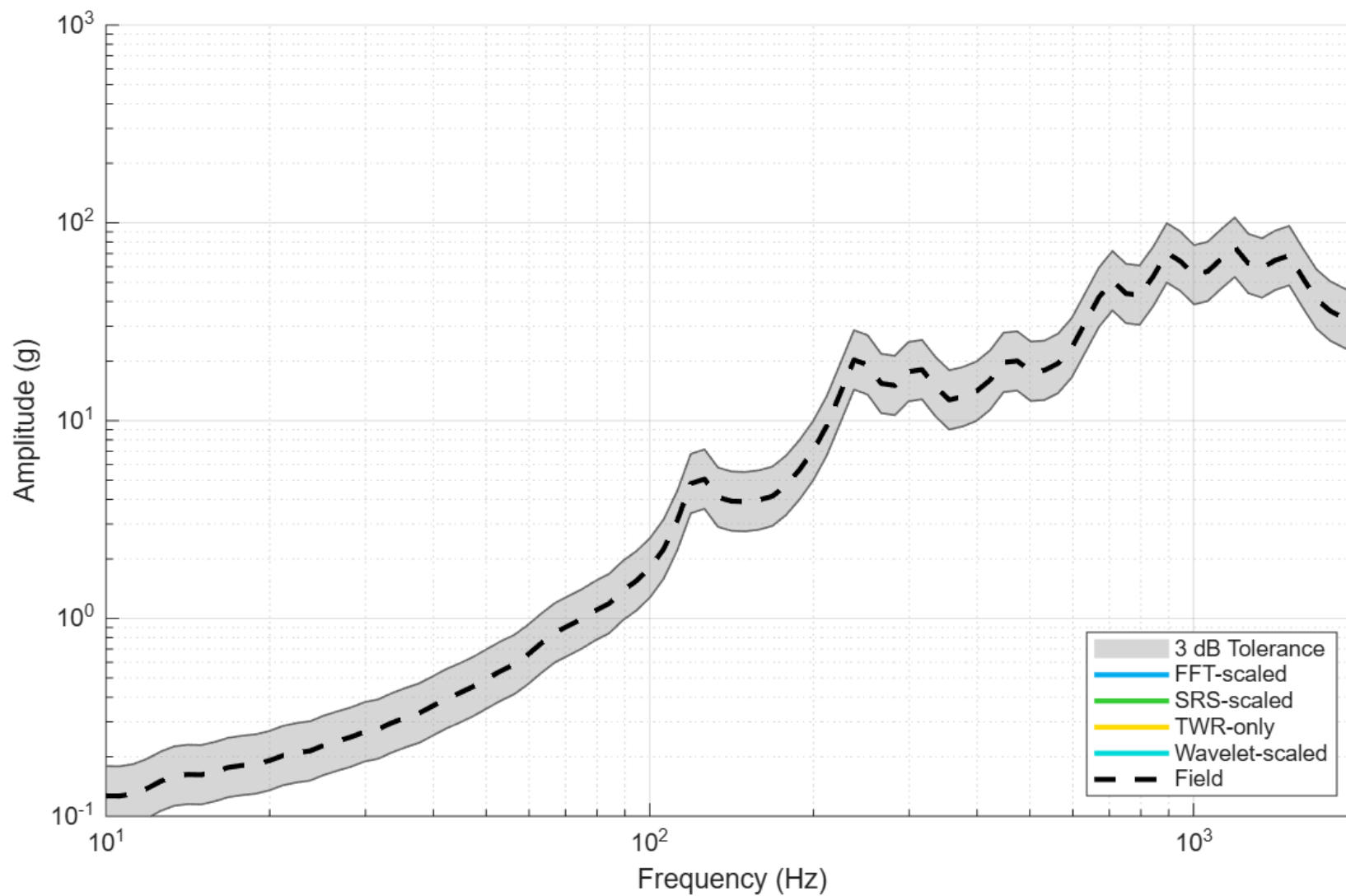
- Overview
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 - **SRS metrics (single realization and NTL)**
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 - **FEA model**





SRS Average Spectrum by Method

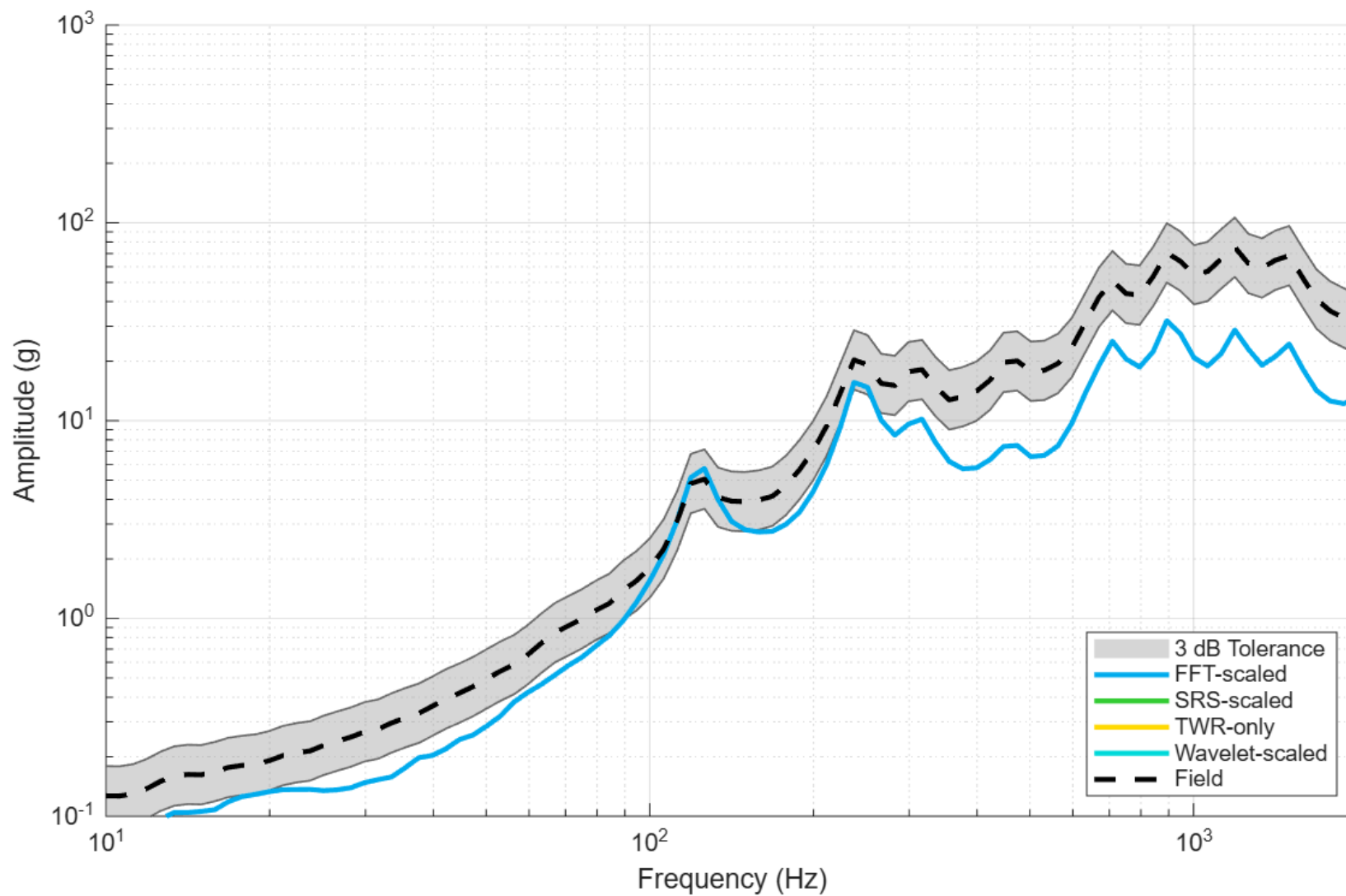
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, Single Realization





SRS Average Spectrum by Method

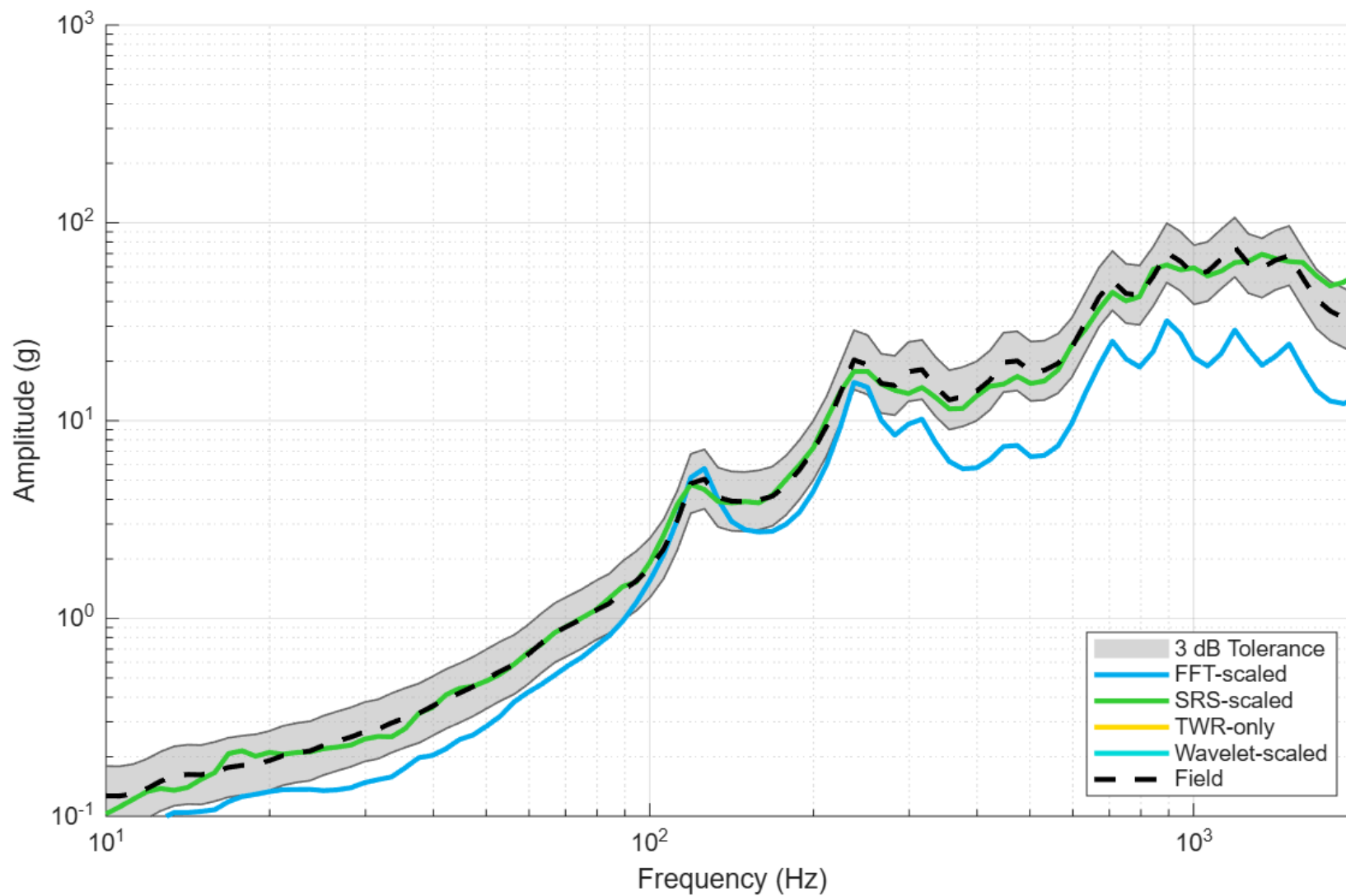
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, Single Realization





SRS Average Spectrum by Method

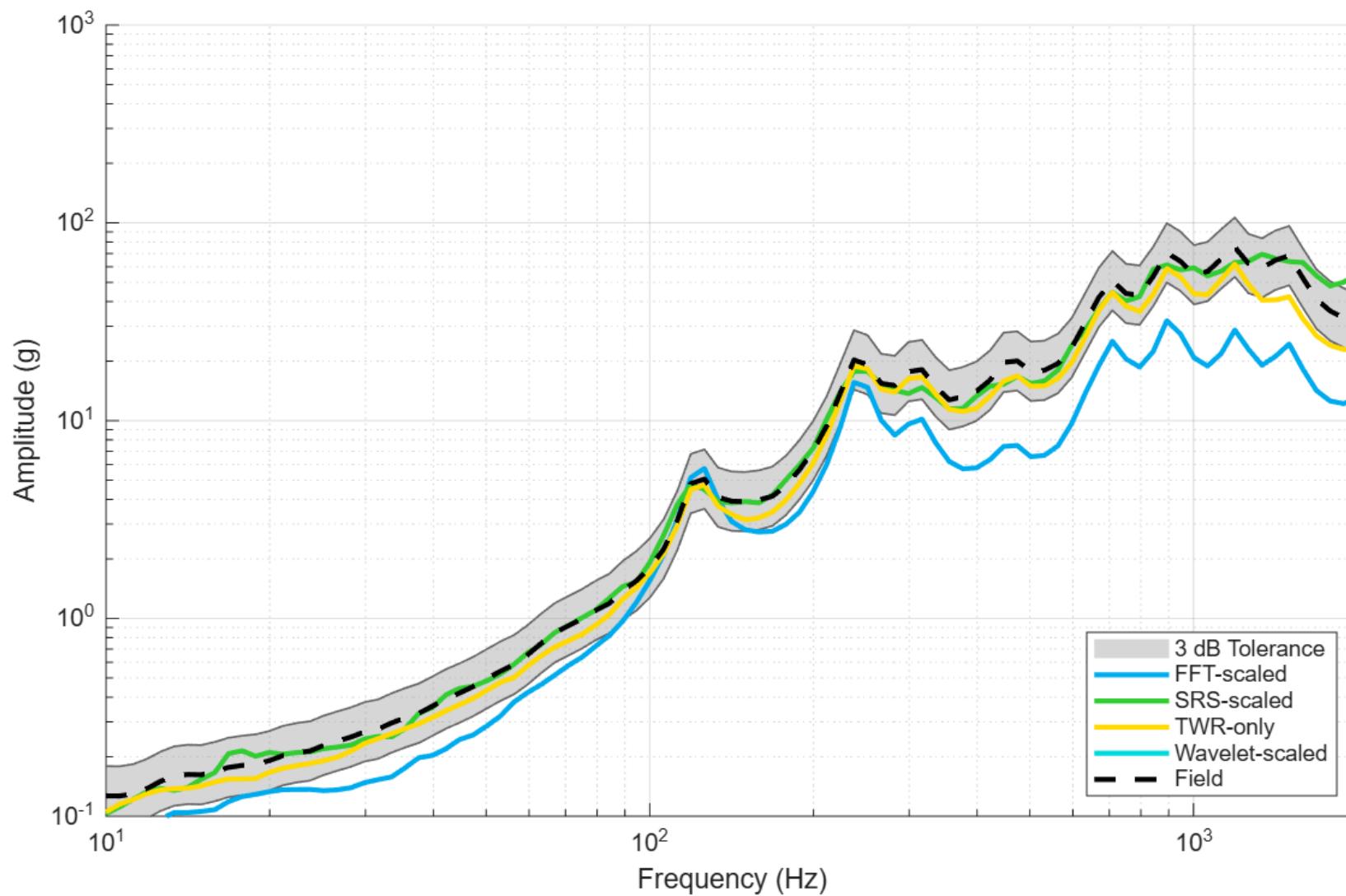
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, Single Realization





SRS Average Spectrum by Method

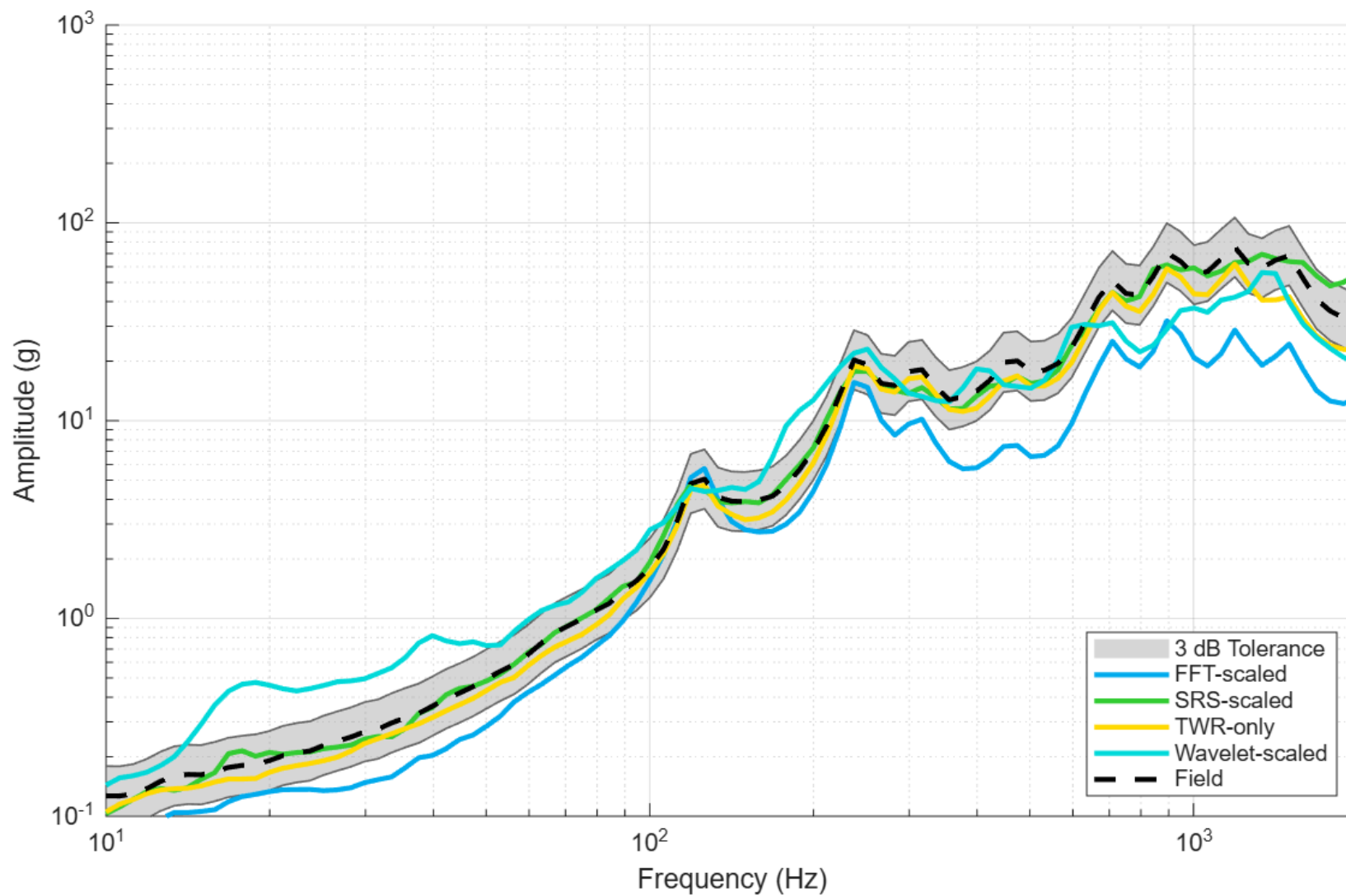
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, Single Realization





SRS Average Spectrum by Method

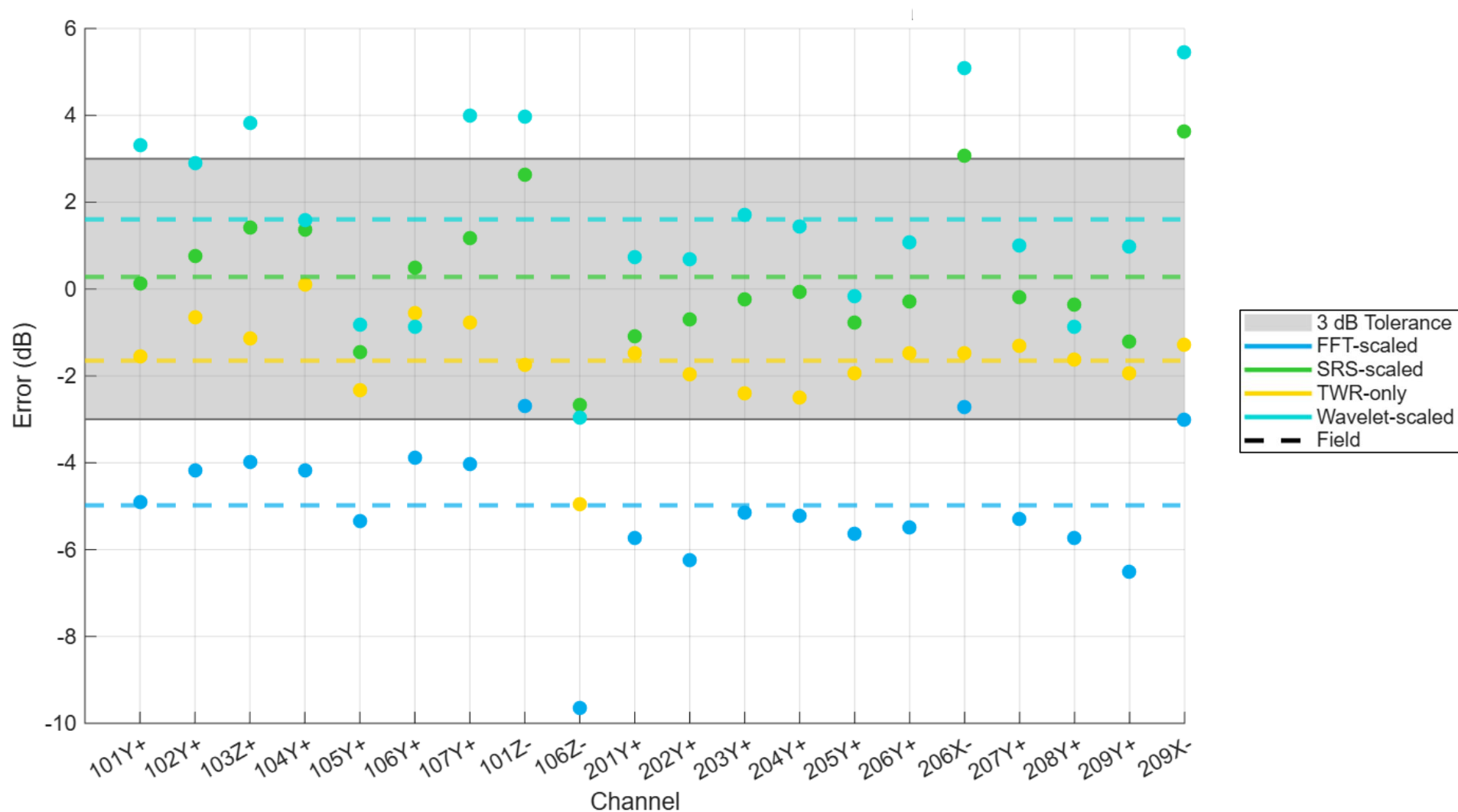
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, Single Realization





SRS Mean Error by Channel

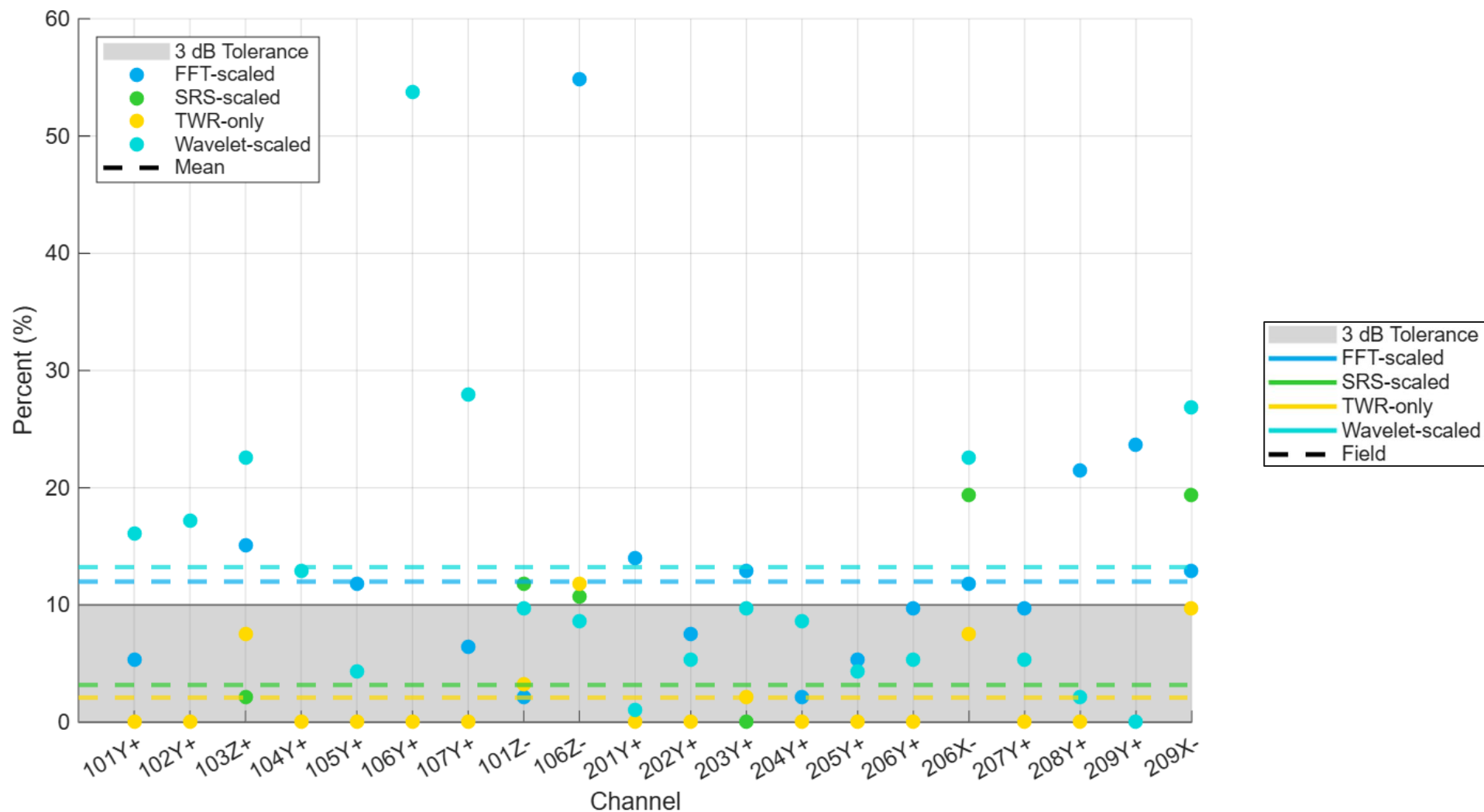
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, Single Realization





SRS Frequency Lines Failed by Channel

Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, Single Realization

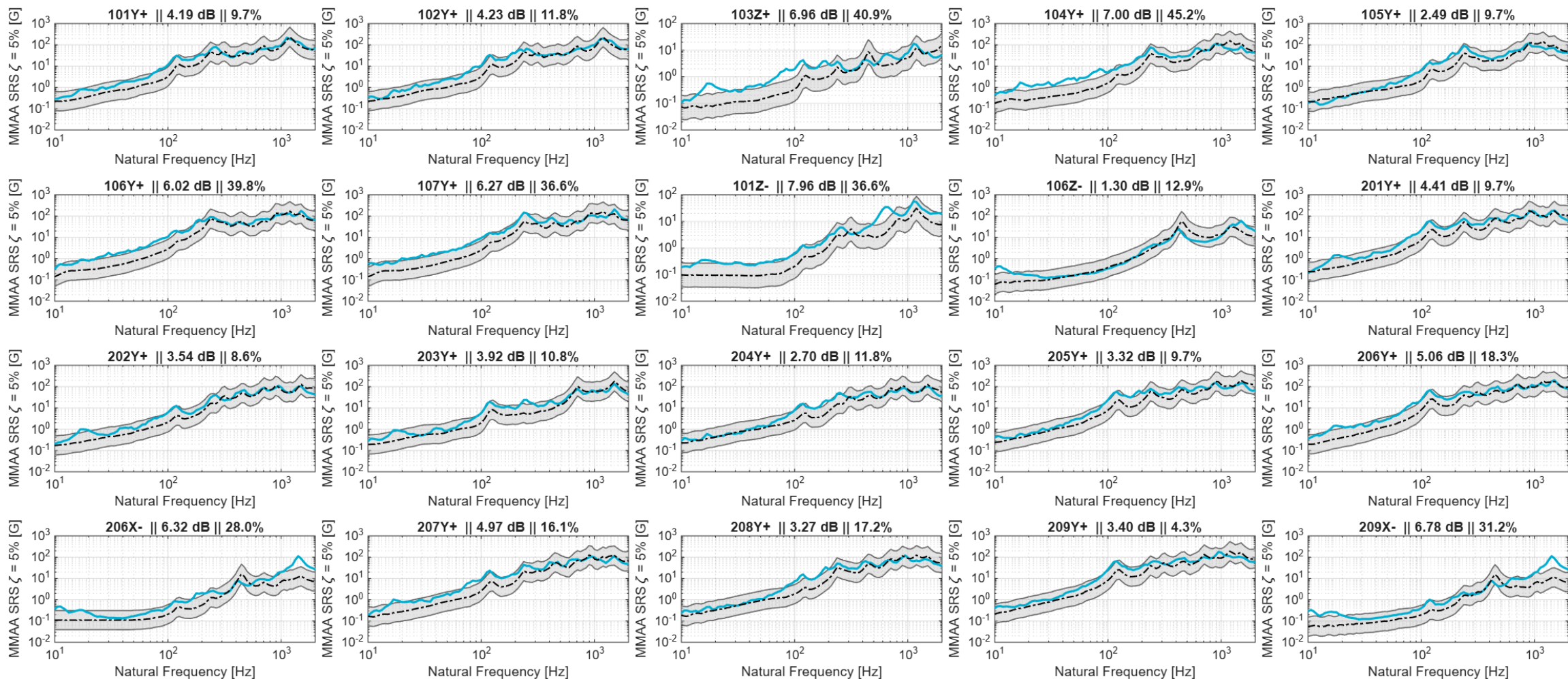




SRS Accuracy by Channel

Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock – Wavelet-scaled Method, NTL

Tolerance — Bounds — Test — Field

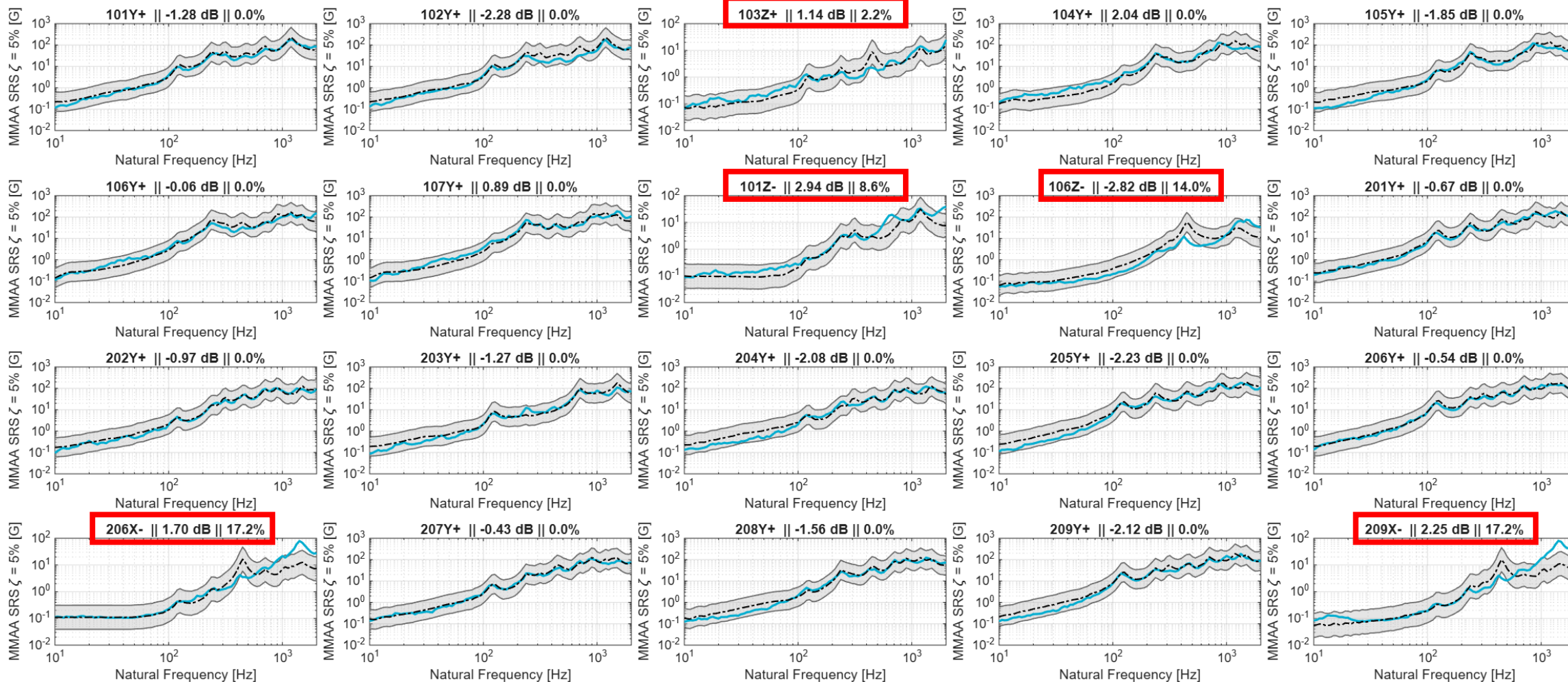




SRS Accuracy by Channel

Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock – SRS-scaled Method, NTL

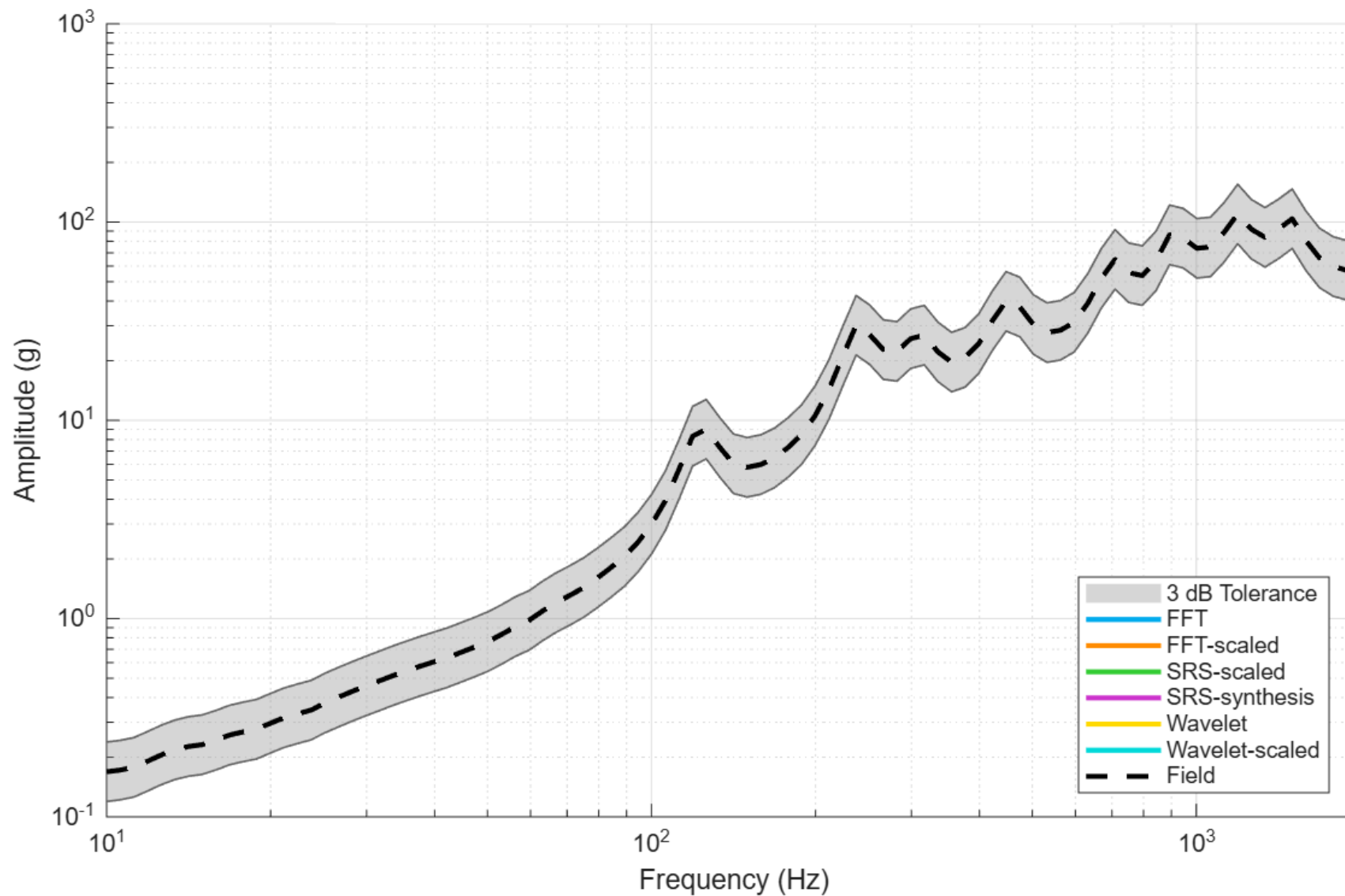
Tolerance — Bounds — Test — Field





SRS Average Spectrum by Method

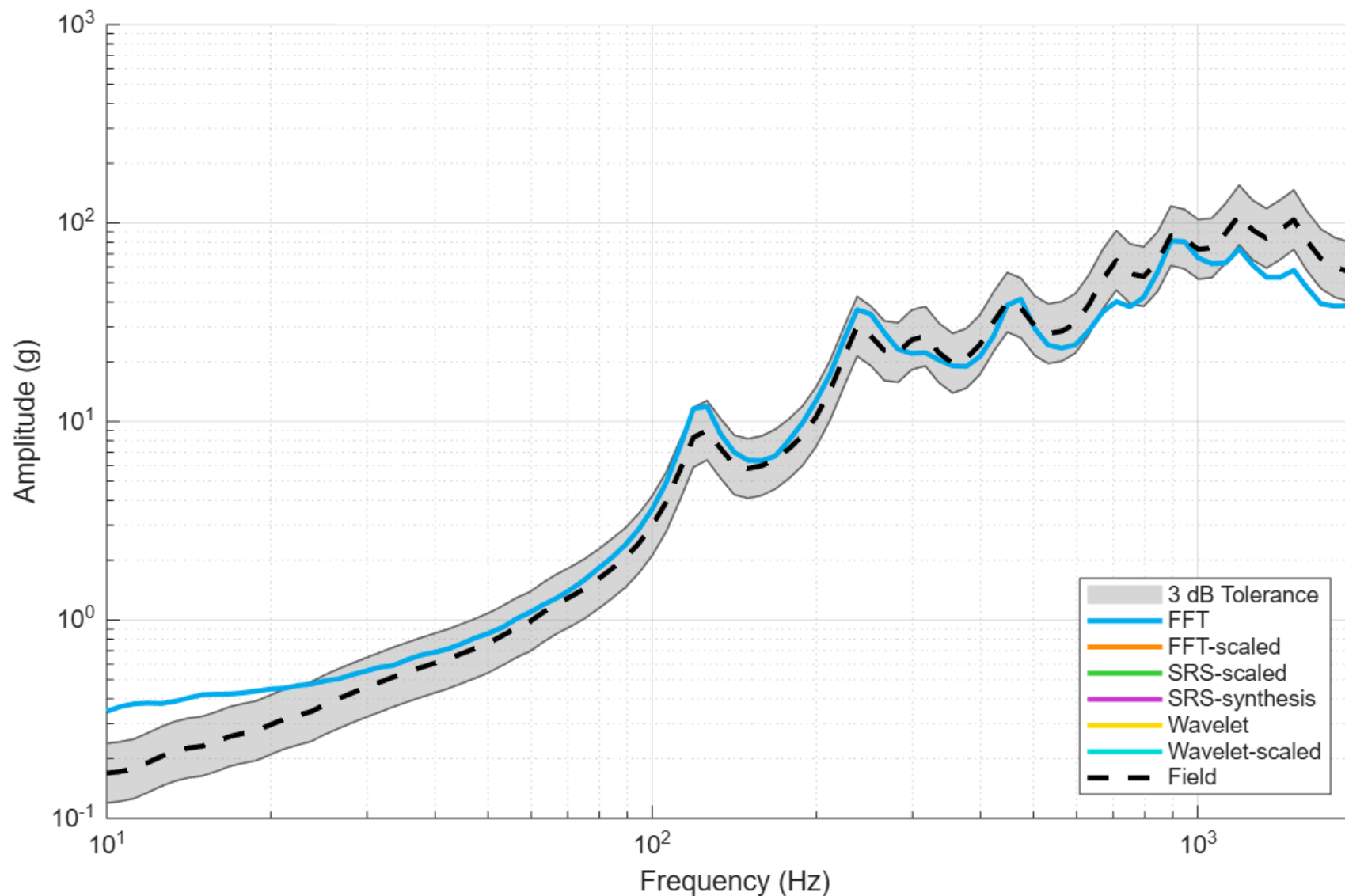
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, NTL





SRS Average Spectrum by Method

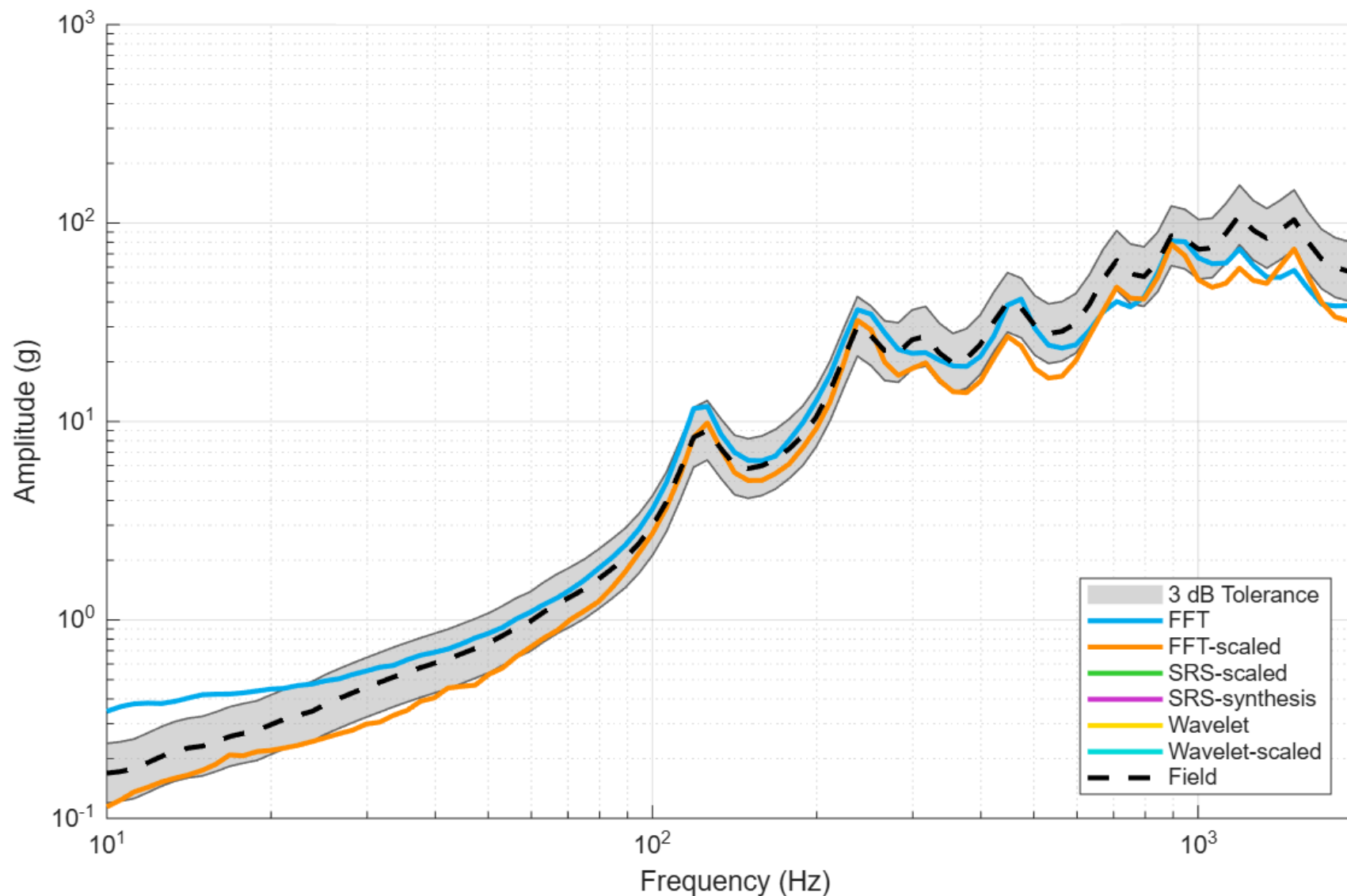
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, NTL





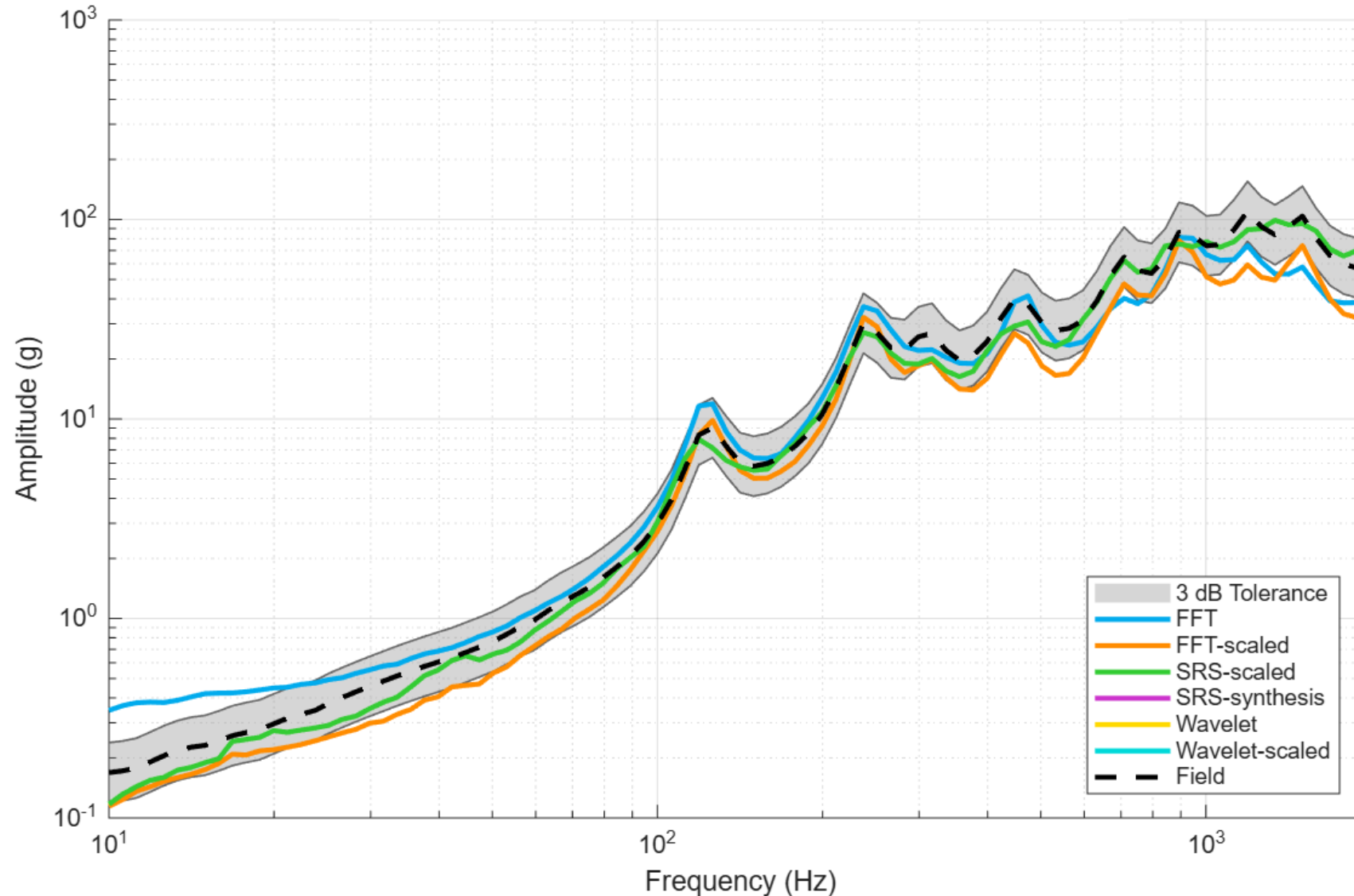
SRS Average Spectrum by Method

Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, NTL



SRS Average Spectrum by Method

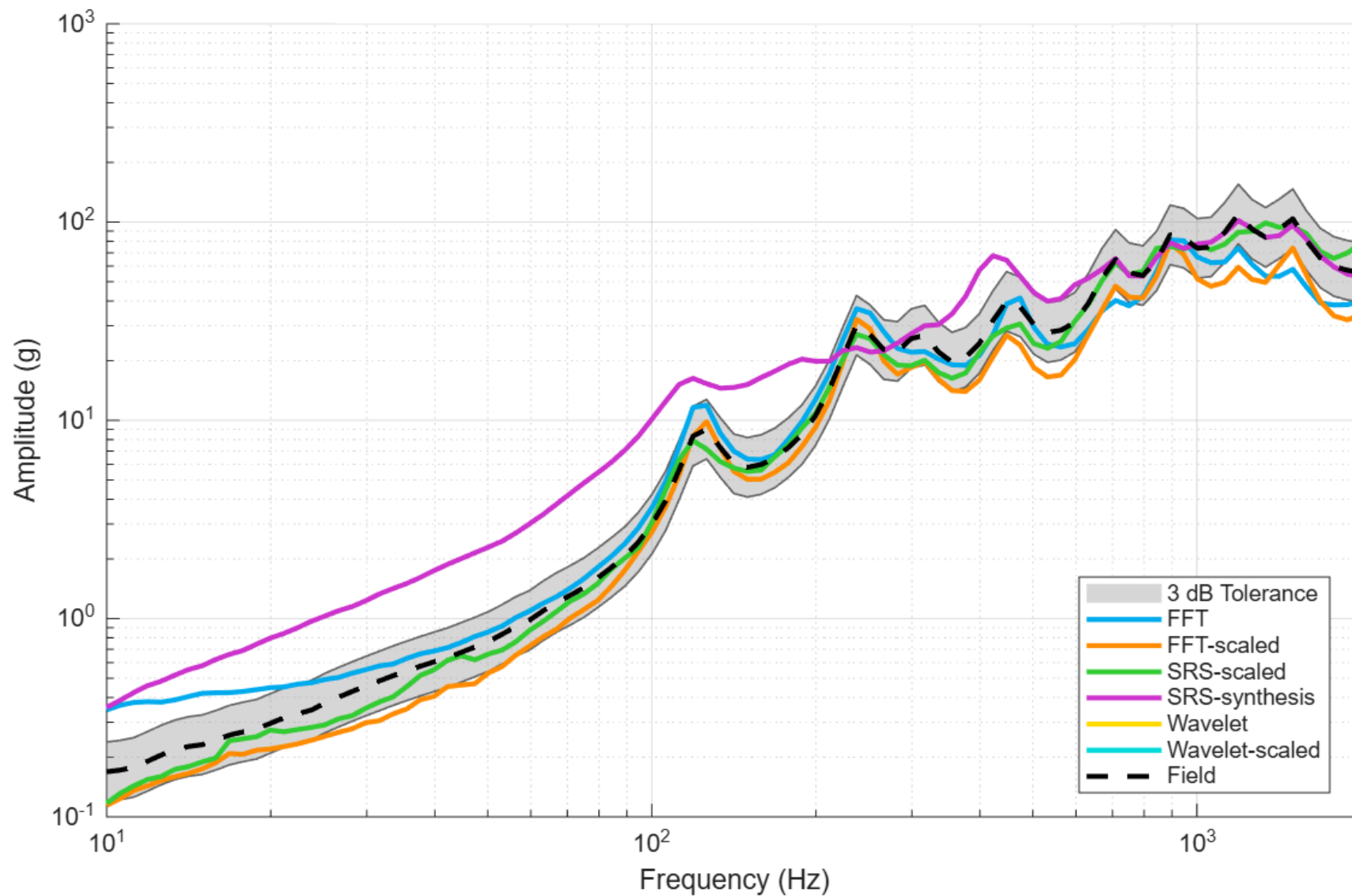
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, NTL





SRS Average Spectrum by Method

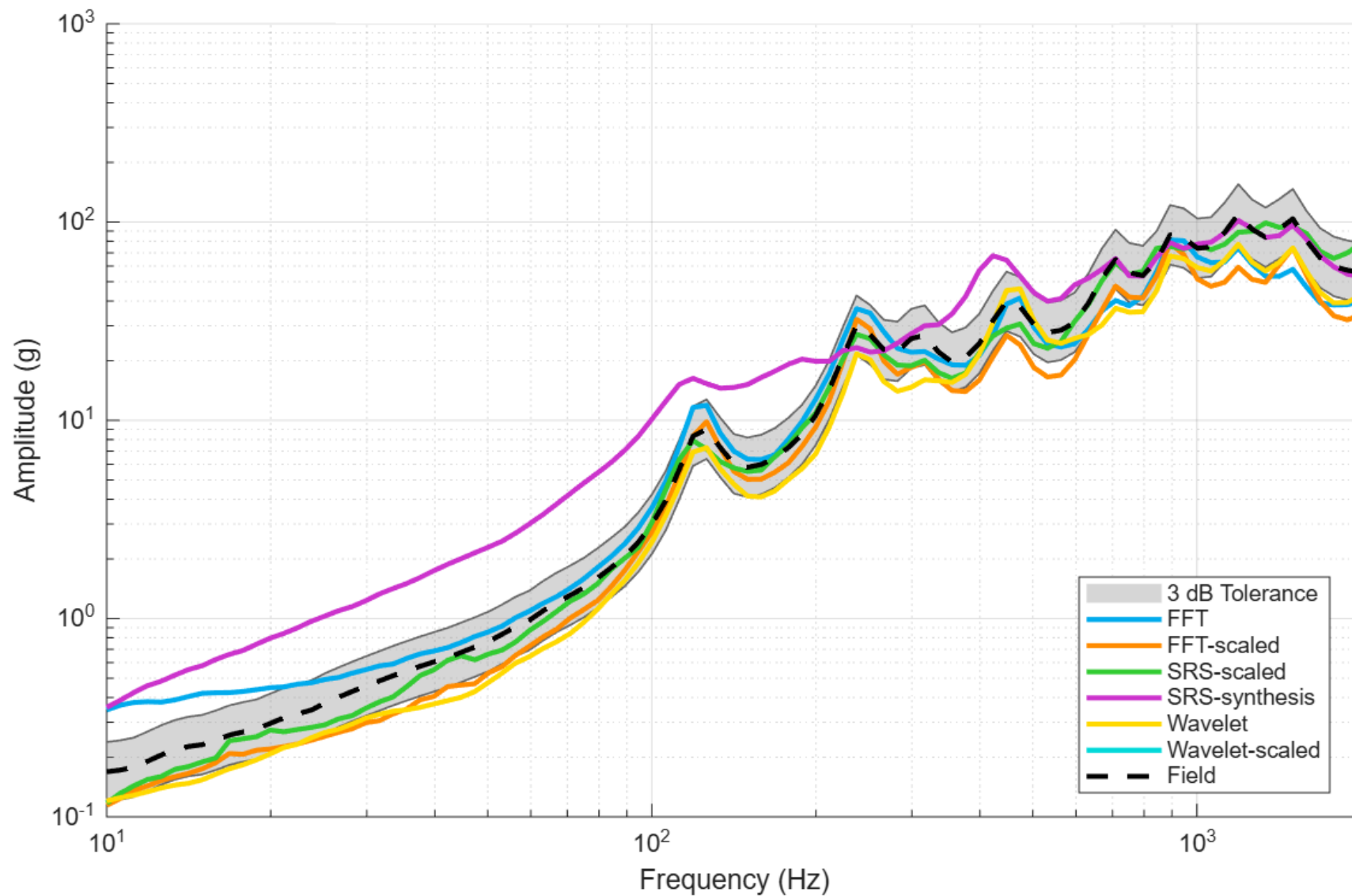
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, NTL





SRS Average Spectrum by Method

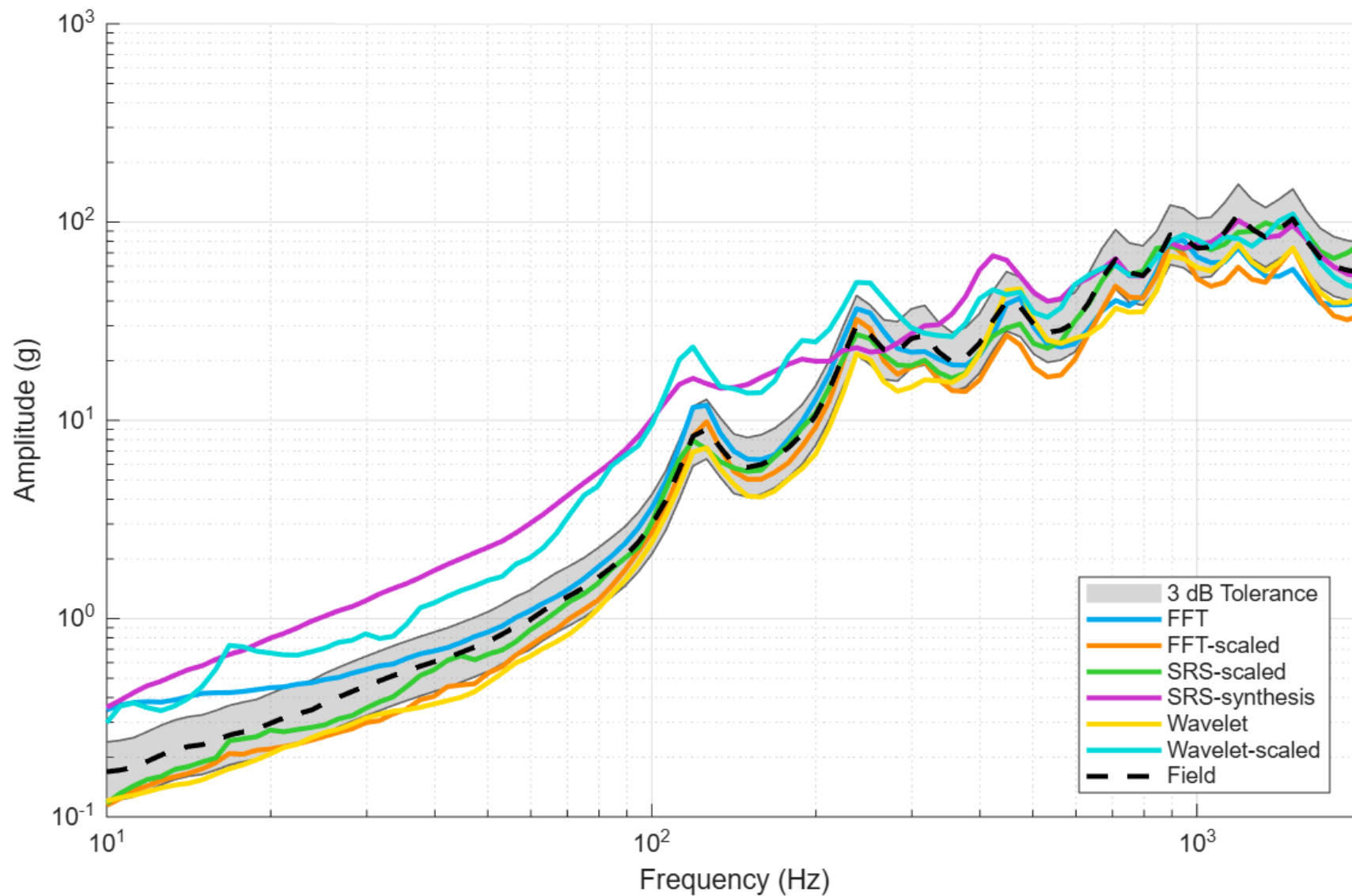
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, NTL





SRS Average Spectrum by Method

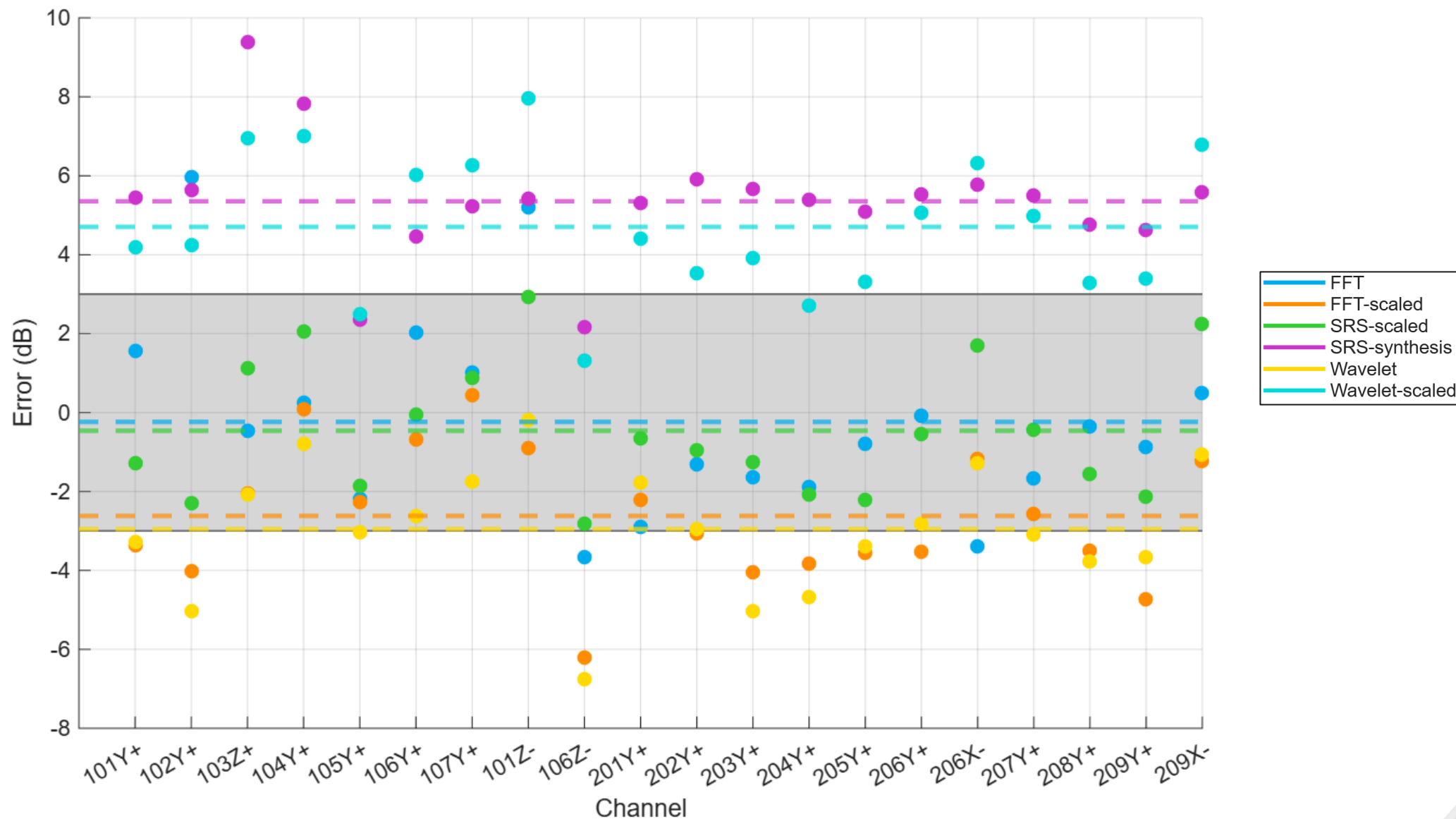
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, NTL





SRS Mean Error by Channel

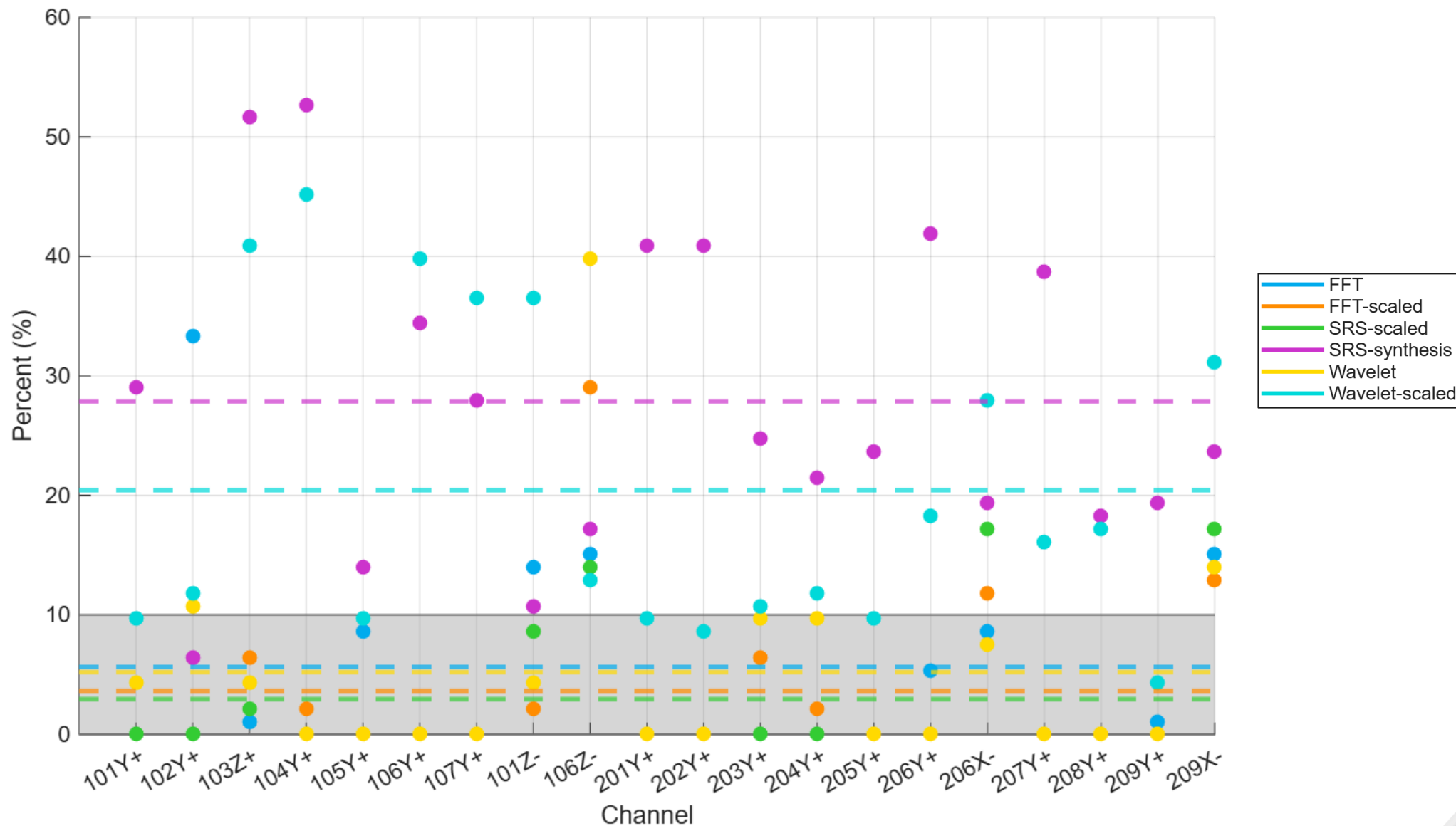
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, NTL





SRS Frequency Lines Failed by Channel

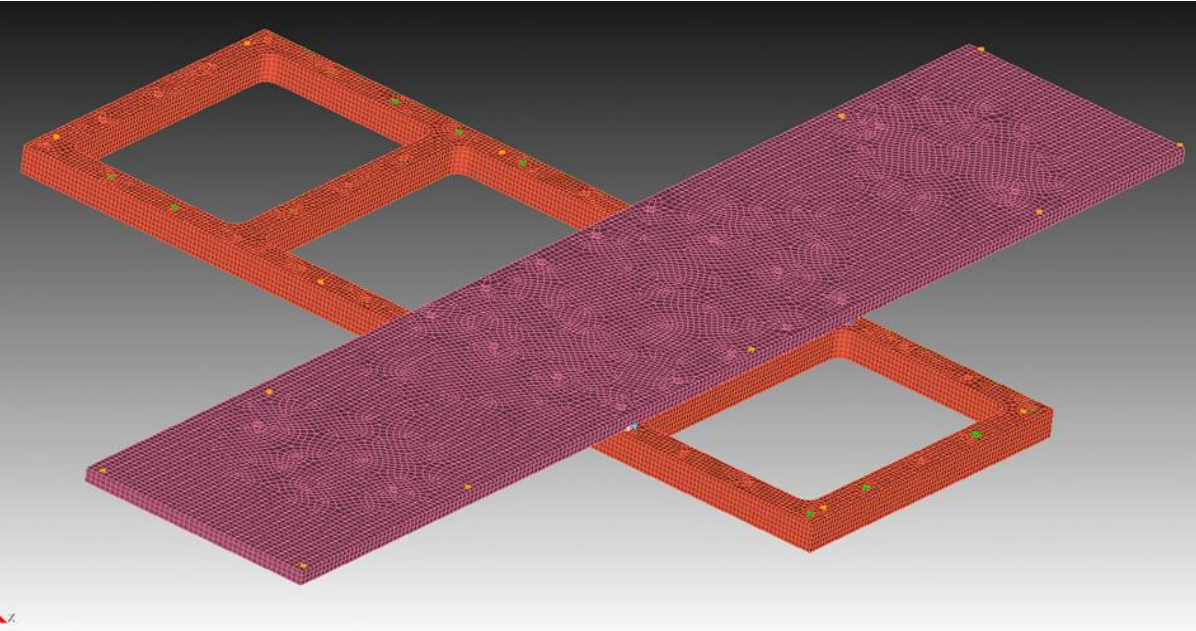
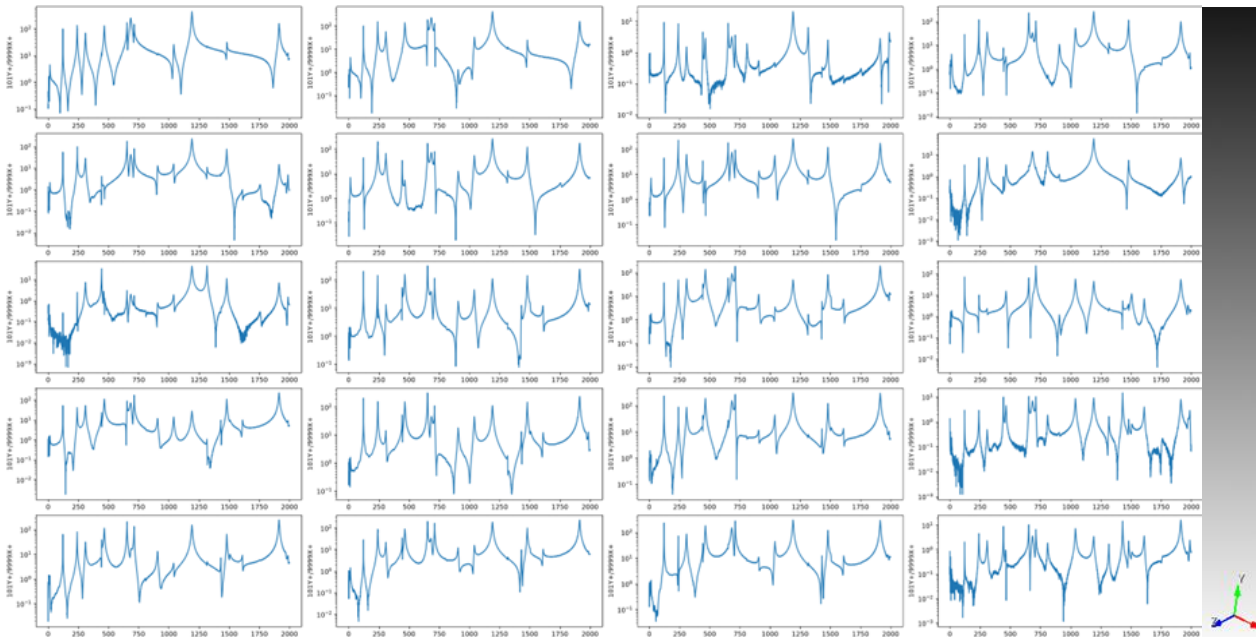
Field Test 2: Landing Gear Shock, NTL



FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS - SETUP



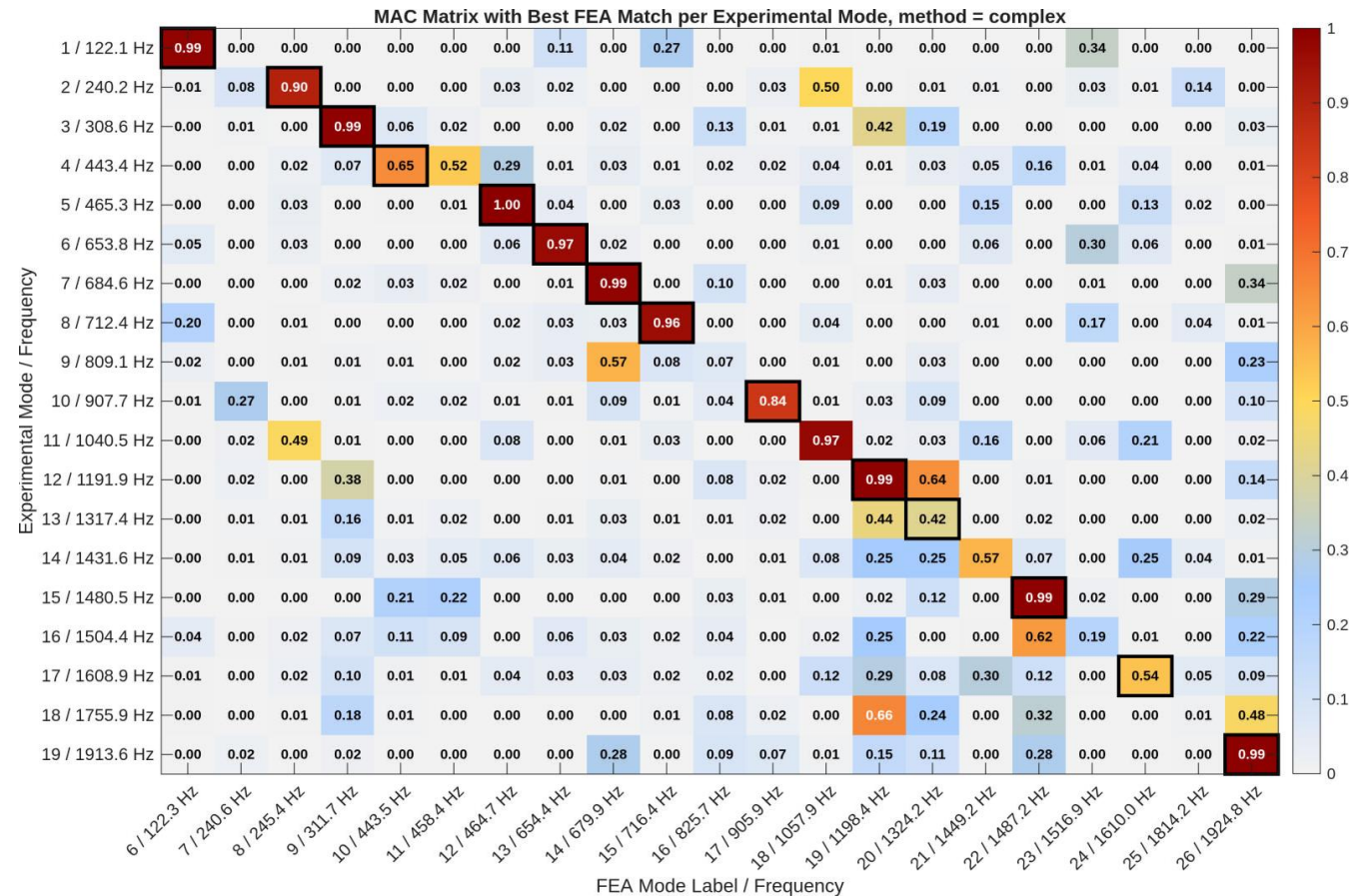
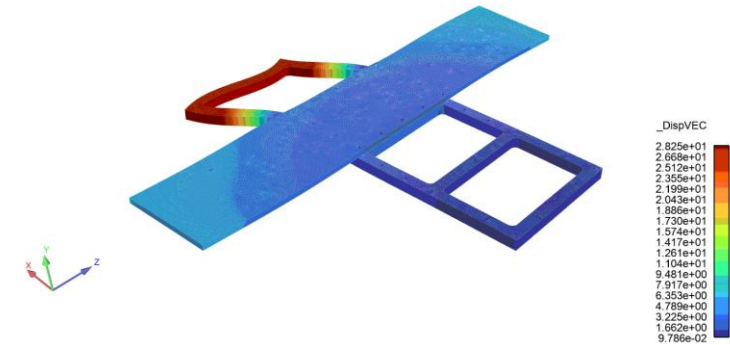
- **Objective:** Comparison of achieved vs. predicted data
 - Achieve better future predicted results
 - Interpolate values not measured, such as stress, strain, and accelerations where not instrumented
 - Verify similar results between shocks and shaker replicated shocks



FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS – VALIDATION

- **Purpose:** Confirm FEA simulations mirror lab test results
 - Modal results were gathered in the lab
 - Tested/tuned against the models modal results

Freq = 827 Hz

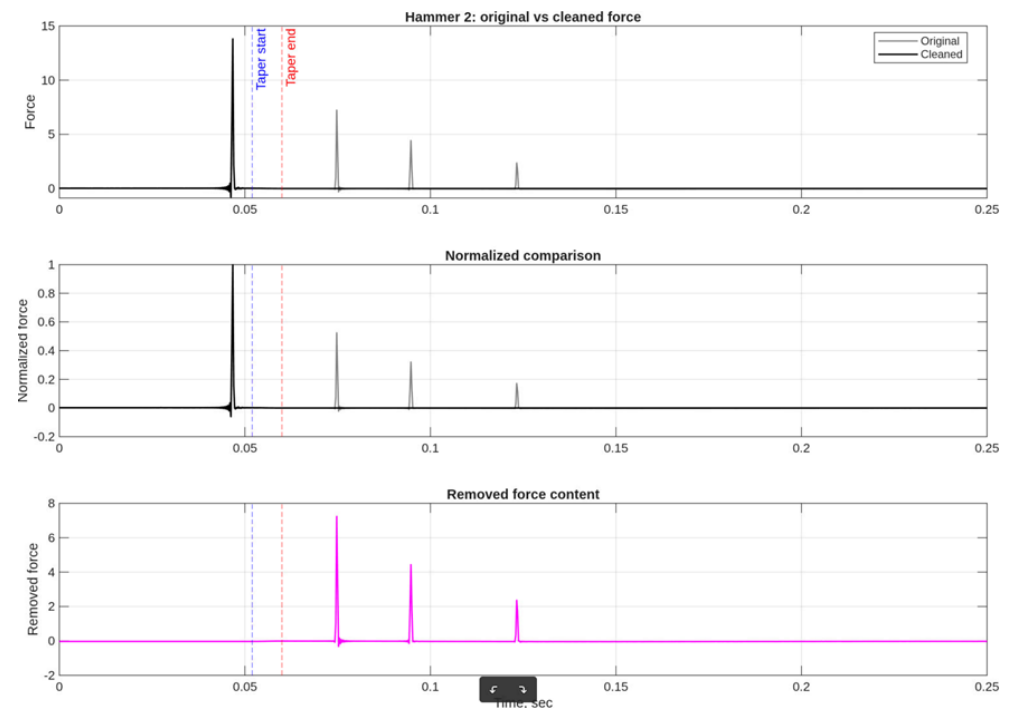
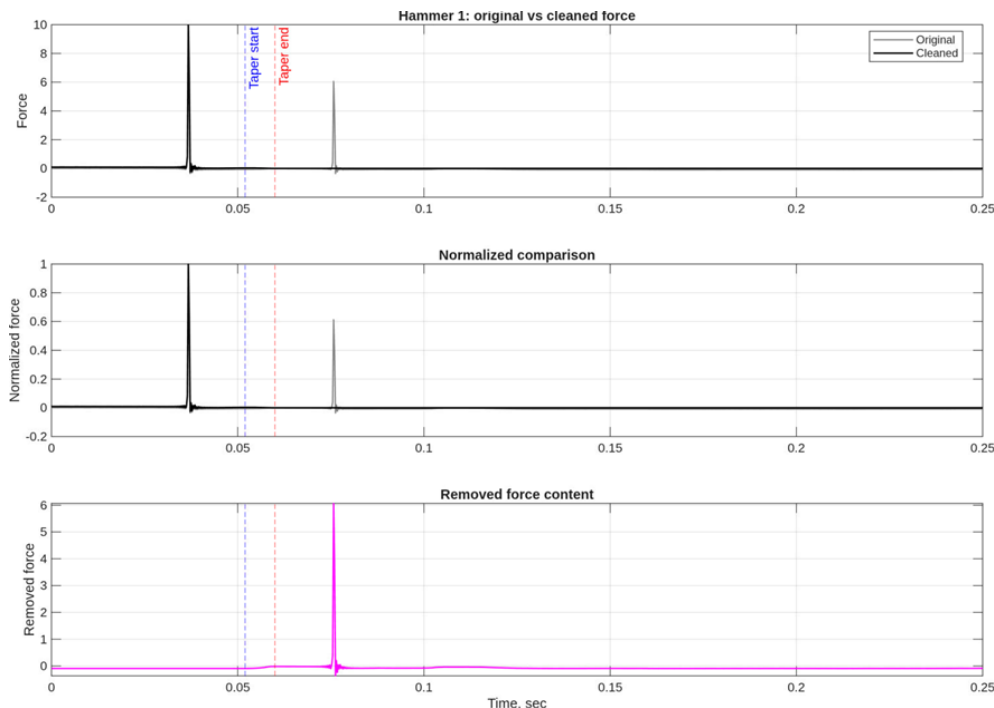


FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS – REPLICATION I

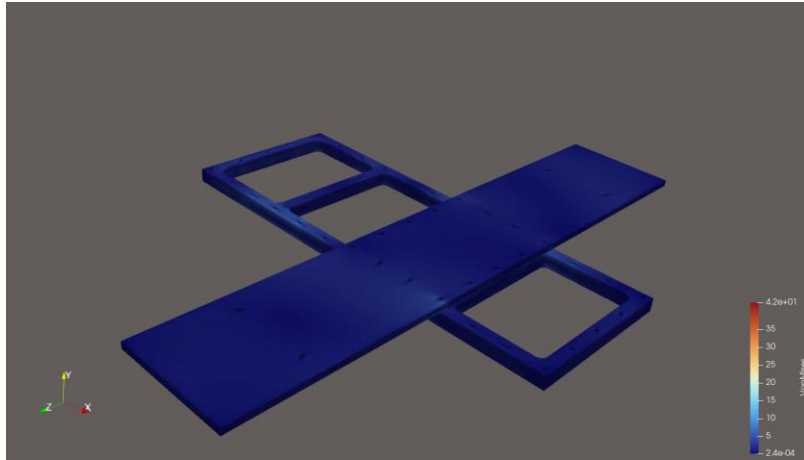


- **Windowing, Smoothing, and Retuning**

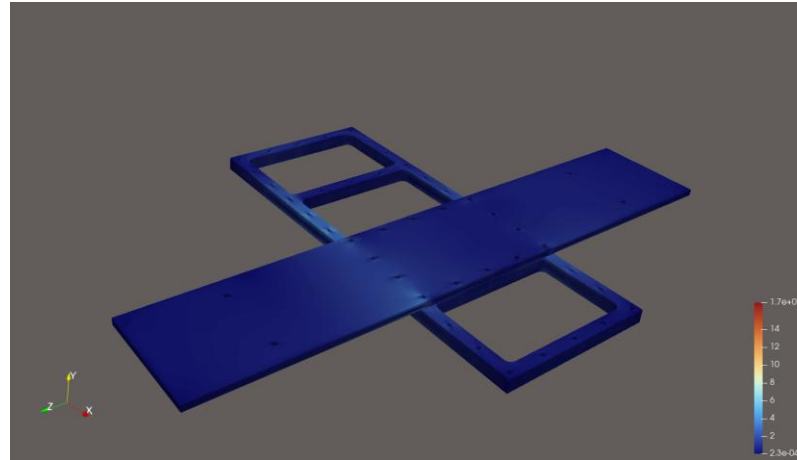
- Windowing input force data to resolve non-impacting forces
- Apply a zero-phase filter to both experimental and analytical acceleration data to smooth higher frequency noise
- Retune after applying these changes to match the new data



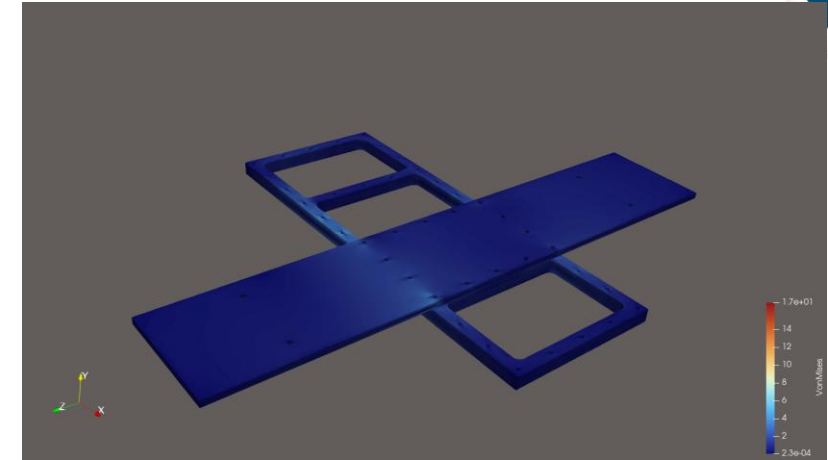
FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS – REPLICATION II



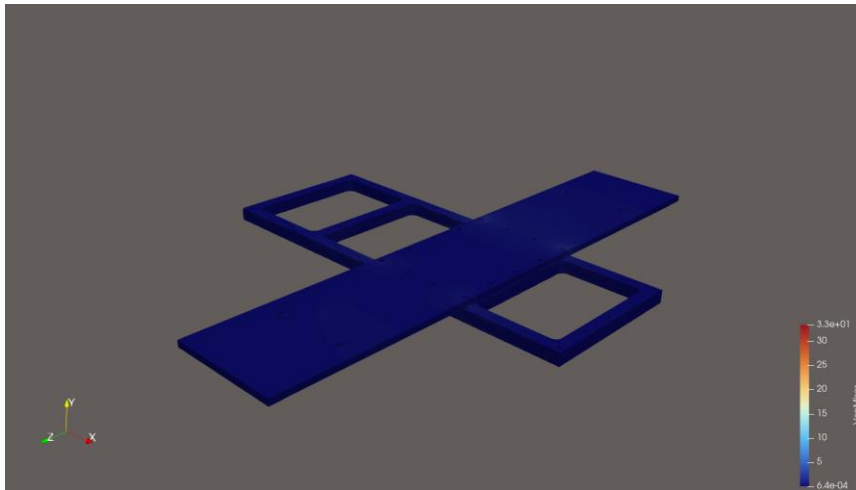
Stress From MIMO Shaker Shock – SRS-scaled



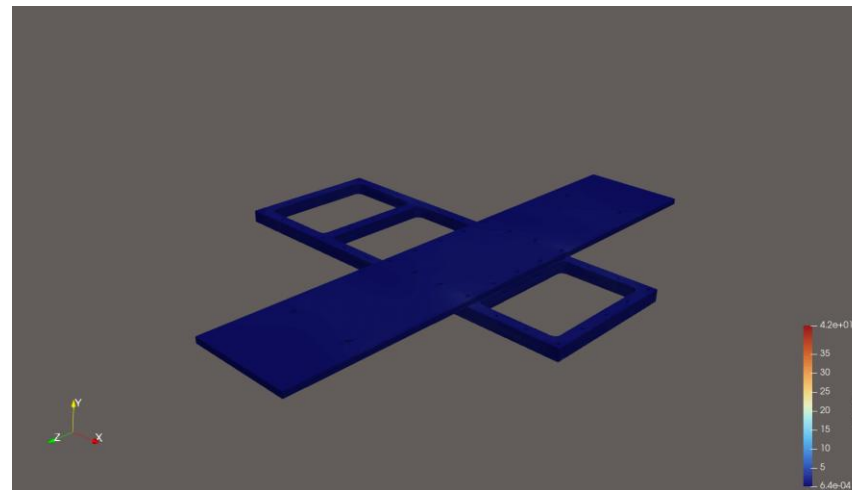
Stress From MIMO Shaker Shock – FFT-scaled



Stress From MIMO Shaker Shock – TWR



Stress From Field Test - Hammer Shock



Stress From MIMO Shaker Shock – Wavelet NTL

CONCLUSION & FUTURE WORK



- **Summary:**

- MIMO shock testing methods validated, lab replication shown effective
- SRS method for environmental specification performs best, but still exceeds tolerances for some channels
- Highest errors in accelerometers measuring directions in X or Z directions

- **Next steps:**

- Varying shaker locations and directions to optimize replication of field results
- Refining specification methods and TWR process by tuning certain parameters to improve performance
- Testing at higher sample rate to correspond with highest frequency levels in SRSs
- Further FEM refinement, finetuning, and comparison

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