

Imaging velocities of a vibrating object by stroboscopic sideband holography

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Abstract: We propose here to combine sideband holography with stroboscopic illumination synchronized with the vibration of an object. By sweeping the optical frequency of the reference beam such a way the holographic detection is tuned on the successive sideband harmonic ranks, we are able to image the instantaneous velocities of the object. Since the stroboscopic illumination is made with an electronic device, the method is compatible with fast (up to several MHz) vibration motions. The method is demonstrated with a vibrating clarinet reed excited sinusoidally at 2 kHz, and a stroboscopic illumination with cyclic ratio 0.15. Harmonic rank up to $n = \pm 100$ are detected, and a movie of the instantaneous velocities is reported.

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OCIS codes: (090.1995) Digital holography; (090.1760) Computer holography; (200.4880) Optomechanics; (040.2840) Heterodyne; (100.2000) Digital image processing.

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1. Introduction

There is a big demand for full field vibration measurements, in particular in industry. Different holographic techniques are able to image and analyse such vibrations. Double pulse holography [1, 2] records a double-exposure hologram with time separation in the 1...1000 μs range, and measures the instantaneous velocity of a vibrating object from the phase difference. The method requires a quite costly double pulse ruby laser system, whose repetition rate is low. Multi pulse holography [3] is able to analyse transient motions, but the setup is still heavier (4 pulses laser, three cameras).

The development of fast CMOS camera makes possible to analyse vibration efficiently by triggering the camera on the motion in order to record a sequence of holograms that allows to track the vibration of the object as a function of the time [4, 5]. The assessment analysis of the motion can be done by phase difference or by Fourier analysis in the time domain. The method requires a CMOS camera, which can be costly. It is also limited to low frequency vibrations, since a complete analysis of the motion requires a camera frame rate higher than the vibration frequency, because the bandwidth $\Delta\nu$ of the holographic signal, which is sampled at the camera frame rate ν_{CCD} , must be lower than the Nyquist-Shannon frequency limit $\Delta\nu < \nu_{CCD}/2$. For a periodic motion of frequency ν_A , the bandwidth $\Delta\nu \simeq 0$ is much smaller than ν_A , and ν_A can overcome this limit: $\nu_A > \nu_{CCD}/2$. The exposure time must remain nevertheless lower than the vibration period, in order to avoid to wash out the signal, whose phase may vary during exposure. This limits the duty cycle and the thus SNR (Signal to Noise Ratio).

Powell and Stetson [6] have shown that the time averaged hologram of an harmonically vibrating object yields alternate dark and bright fringes. The dark fringes correspond to the zeros of the Bessel function $J_0(z)$, where z is proportional to the vibration amplitude. One gets then a direct mapping of this amplitude. Picard et al. [7] has simplified the processing of the data by performing time averaged holography with a digital CCD camera. Time averaged holography has no limit in vibration frequency and do not involve costly laser system, nor an expensive CMOS fast camera. These advantages yield numerous recent developments of the technique [8–18]. Although the time averaged method gives a way to determine the amplitude of vibration [19], quantitative measurement remain quite difficult, especially for high vibration amplitudes. To solve this problem, Borza proposed high-resolution time-average speckle interferometry and digital holography techniques, which allow subpixel resolution (optical) phase recovery by inverting the Bessel function on its monotonic intervals and works well with larger vibration amplitudes [20–22].

Joud et al. [23] extended the time averaged technique to the detection of the optical signal at the vibration sideband frequency v_n , where n is the harmonic rank. It was demonstrated that the signal amplitude of rank n is then proportional to the Bessel function $J_n(z)$. As in the seminal work of Aleksoff [24], in Sideband holography the reference beam frequency is tuned in order to select the sideband of rank n . This tuning is made by the heterodyne holography technique [25]: the frequency of the illumination and reference beams are shifted by acousto optic modulators (AOMs) so that the reference versus illumination frequency offset can be finely adjusted. Sideband holography, which is able to detect MHz frequency vibrations [26], is able on the other hand to image sidebands up to rank $n = \pm 1000$ [27], and by the way to analyse vibration of large amplitude, which can be studied by time averaged technique at the price of inverse methods [22].

Since both time averaged and sideband holography record the holographic signal over a large number a vibration periods, these two techniques are not sensitive to the phase of the vibration, and are thus unable to measure the instantaneous velocities of the object. To respond this problem, Leval et al. [28] combine time averaged holography with stroboscopic illumination, but, since Leval uses a mechanical stroboscopic device, the Leval technique suffer of a quite low duty cycle (1/144), and is limited in low vibration frequencies ($v_A < 5$ kHz).

We propose here to combine Sideband Digital Holography (SDH) with stroboscopic illumination synchronized with the vibration. To perform the stroboscopic illumination, we make use of two AOMs to control both the frequencies and the amplitudes of the illumination and reference beams. This is done by switching electronically on and off the Radio Frequency signals ($\simeq 80$ MHz) that drive the two AOMs.

If the amplitude of vibration is high, the light scattered by the vibrating object exhibit many sideband components. By sweeping the reference frequency such a way the holographic detection is tuned on the successive sideband harmonic ranks n , stroboscopic sideband holography is then able to detect, for any stroboscopic time delay, all the harmonic ranks generated by Doppler effect. One can then reconstruct the instantaneous velocity map of the vibrating object. The mechanical phase, which is related to the sign of the velocity is obtained by the way. Note that since the stroboscopic illumination is made by AOMs that are electronically driven, there is no practical limitation in the stroboscopic frequency and duty cycle.

In the following we will describe the principle of the method, and our optical and electronic setup. A test experiment is made with a clarinet reed excited sinusoidally at $v_A = 2$ kHz. The amplitude of vibration is such that we get sideband signal up to rank $n = \pm 100$. By sweeping the stroboscopic time delay, and by recording holograms for all harmonic ranks n , we can retrieve images of the reed instantaneous velocity.

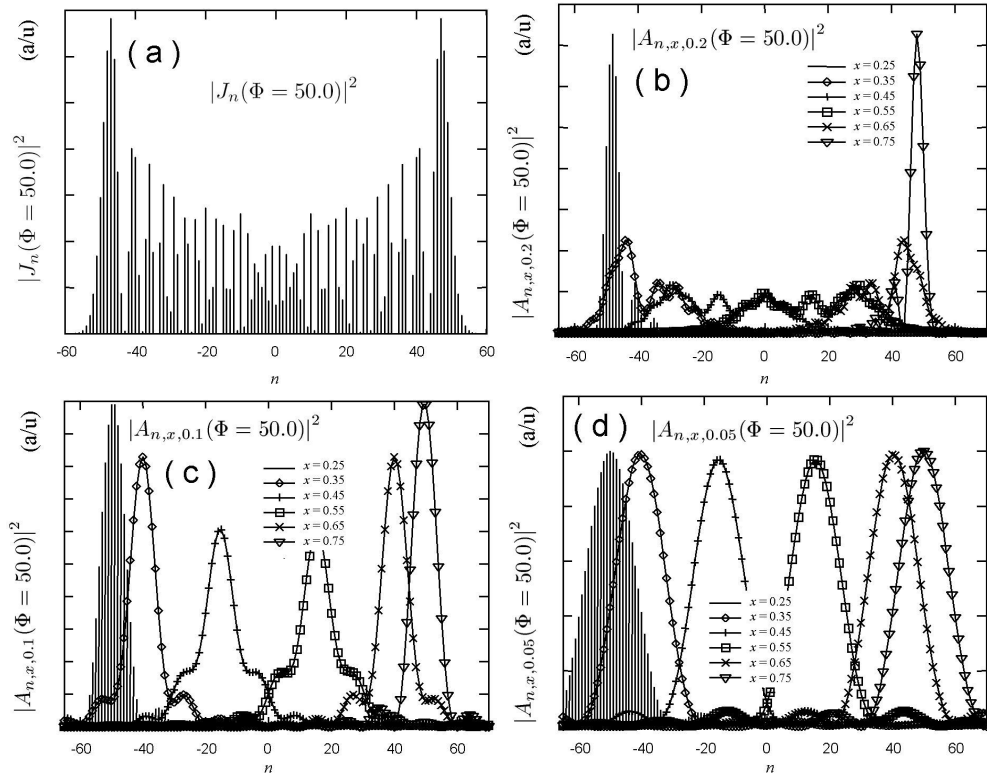


Fig. 1. Distribution on the sidebands energy $|A_{n,x,\delta x}|^2$ as a function of the sideband harmonic n without (a) and with (b-d) stroboscopic illumination. Curves are plotted for different stroboscopic illumination time $t = xT_A$ with $x = 0.25, 0.35, 0.45, 0.55, 0.65$ and 0.75 , and different stroboscopic illumination duration $\Delta t = \delta x T_A$ with $\delta x = 1$ (a), 0.2 (b), 0.1 (c) and 0.05 (d). The vibration amplitude is $\Phi = 50$.

2. Stroboscopic SDH principle

2.1. Periodic sinusoidal motion

Consider a point of the object in vibrating sinusoidal at frequency ν_A and amplitude z_{max} . Its displacement $z(t)$ is:

$$z(t) = z_{max} \cos(2\pi\nu_A t) \quad (1)$$

In backscattering geometry, this corresponds to a phase modulation:

$$\varphi(t) = 4\pi z(t)/\lambda = \Phi \cos(2\pi\nu_A t) \quad (2)$$

where λ is the optical wavelength and $\Phi = 4\pi z_{max}/\lambda$. The scattered field is then

$$\begin{aligned} E(t) &= \mathcal{E} e^{j2\pi\nu_0 t + j\varphi(t)} \\ &= \mathcal{E} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} J_n(\Phi) e^{j2\pi(\nu_0 + n\nu_A)t} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where \mathcal{E} is the complex amplitude of the field, ν_0 the frequency of the illumination optical field E_I , and J_n the n^{th} order Bessel function of the first kind. The scattered field is a sum of

components of frequency ν_n :

$$\nu_n = \nu_0 + n\nu_A \quad (4)$$

where n is the harmonic rank of the sideband ($n = 0$ for the carrier). Equation 3 means that the weight of the field component of frequency ν_n is $\mathcal{E}J_n(\Phi)$. Figure 1(a) shows how the energy of the sideband $|\mathcal{E}|^2|J_n(\Phi)|^2$ varies with n , assuming $\Phi = 50$ rad.

To interpret the spectrum of Fig. 1(a), one can reverse Eq. (4), considering n as a continuous variable related to the frequency $\nu \equiv \nu_n$ of the corresponding sideband component:

$$n(\nu) = (\nu - \nu_0)/\nu_A \quad (5)$$

Here, n is the Doppler frequency shift $\nu - \nu_0$ in ν_A units. This shift is, by definition, related to the distribution of the out-of-plane velocity $V = dz/dt$ of the object:

$$\nu - \nu_0 = n\nu_A = 2V/\lambda \quad (6)$$

where λ is the optical wavelength. The shift of harmonic rank n is confined between the values $\pm\Phi$ that correspond to the maximum velocities $\pm V_{max}$ with $V_{max} = 2\pi\nu_A z_{max}$. The discrete spectrum $|J_n(\phi = 50)|^2$ of Fig. 1(a) remains thus mostly confined between $\pm\Phi$, and drops abruptly from a maximum reached close to $n = \pm\Phi$ to almost zero [27].

In order to reconstruct the object velocity map at given time of the vibration motion, we have considered a stroboscopic illumination. The field $E(t)$ is thus multiplied by the rectangular function $H_{x,\delta x}(t)$ of period $T_A = 1/\nu_A$

$$\begin{aligned} H_{x,\delta x}(t) &= 0 \text{ for } t/T_A < x - \delta x/2 \\ &= 1 \text{ for } x - \delta x/2 < t/T_A < x + \delta x/2 \\ &= 0 \text{ for } x + \delta x/2 < t/T_A \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where xT_A and δxT_A are the illumination time and illumination duration. The scattered field becomes thus:

$$\begin{aligned} E(t) &= \mathcal{E} H_{x,\delta x}(t) e^{j2\pi\nu_0 t + j\varphi(t)} \\ &= \mathcal{E} \sum_n A_{n,x,\delta x}(\Phi) e^{j2\pi\nu_n t} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where $\mathcal{E}A_{n,x,\delta x}$ is the amplitude of the n^{th} sideband component.

We have calculated $A_{n,x,\delta x}$ from Eq. (8) by numerical Fast Fourier Transform, and we have plotted on Fig. 1(b-d) the energy $|A_{n,x,\delta x}|^2$ as a function of n for different illumination phase delays xT_A and different illumination durations δxT_A . The energy $|A_{n,x,\delta x}|^2$ is centered on the Doppler shift \bar{n} corresponding to the instantaneous velocity V at time xT_A :

$$\bar{n}\nu_A = 2 \frac{v(xT_A)}{\lambda} = -2 \frac{V_{max}}{\lambda} \sin(2\pi x) \quad (9)$$

For $\Phi = 50$ and $x = 0.25, 0.35, 0.45, 0.55, 0.65$ and 0.75 , we get $\bar{n} = -50, -40.4, -15.4, +15.4, +40.4$ and $+50$ respectively, in good agreement with the curves plotted of Fig. 1(b-d). As expected, the shape of the energy spectrum $|A_{n,x,\delta x}|^2$ strongly depends on the illumination duration δxT_A .

For short illumination duration (i.e. $\delta x = 0.05$ on Fig. 1(d)), we get a wide distribution of the energy along n , whose shape do not depends on illumination time xT_A . This is expected since the illumination duration is too short to define the Doppler shift frequency precisely. One

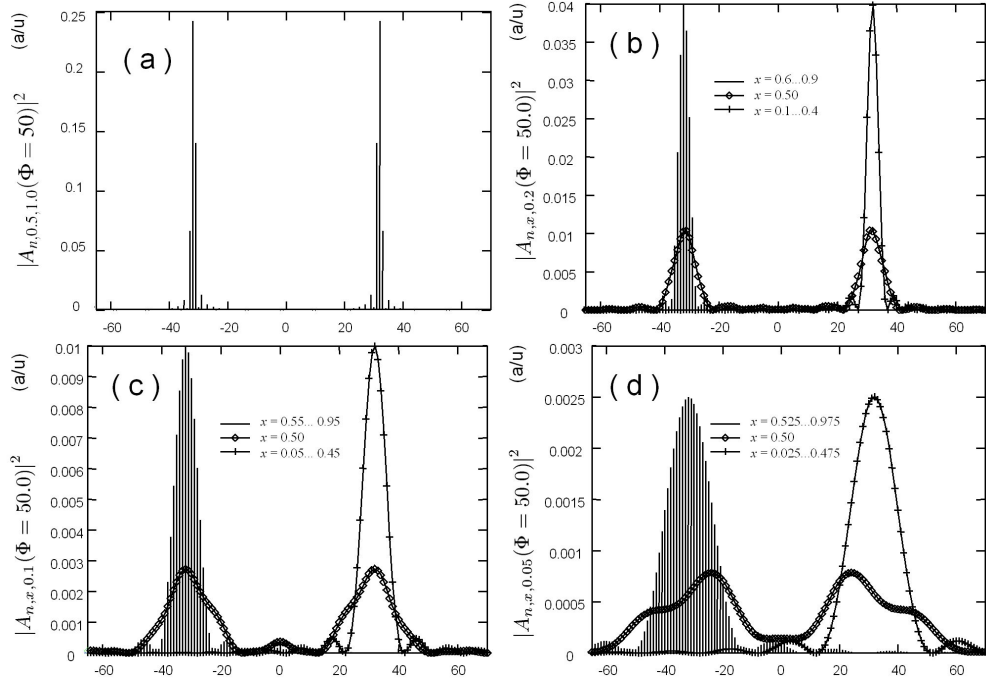


Fig. 2. Distribution on the sidebands energy $|A_{n,x,\delta x}|^2$ as a function of the sideband harmonic n without (a) and with (b-d) stroboscopic illumination for the triangular motion defined by Eq. (10). Curves are plotted for different stroboscopic illumination time $t = xT_A$, and different stroboscopic illumination duration $\Delta t = \delta x T_A$ with $\delta x = 1$ (a), 0.2 (b), 0.1 (c) and 0.05 (d). The vibration maximum amplitude corresponds to $\Phi = 50$.

is limited here by a $\delta t \times \delta \nu \sim 1$ "Fourier uncertainty principle", where $\delta t = \delta x T_A$ is the width in time and $\delta \nu = \delta n \nu_A$ the width in frequency (δn being the width in harmonic rank).

For longer illumination duration (i.e. $\delta x = 0.2$ on Fig. 1(b)), the shape of the energy spectrum $|A_{n,x,\delta x}|^2$ strongly depends on illumination time $x T_A$. It can be narrow (for $x = 0.25$ and 0.75) or wide (for $x = 0.45$ and 0.55), since the Doppler shift may vary slowly ($x = 0.25$ and 0.75) or fast ($x = 0.45$ and 0.55) during the illumination pulse. The best result (i.e. the narrower distribution of n around \bar{n}) is obtained for intermediate value of the illumination duration (i.e. for $\delta x = 0.1$ on Fig. 1(c)).

2.2. Example of non sinusoidal motion: triangular motion

In the more general case of a non sinusoidal but periodic motion of z (period $T_A = 1/\nu_A$), the calculation of the distribution of energy $|A_n|^2$ along the harmonic ranks n can be made similarly. To illustrate the method, we have considered a triangular motion of period T_A : the displacement z increases from $z = -z_{max}$ at $t = 0$ to $z = +z_{max}$ at $t = T_A/2$, and decreases from $z = +z_{max}$ at $t = T_A/2$ to $z = -z_{max}$ at $t = T_A$.

Equation 8 remains still valid for that motion, and can be used to calculate $A_{n,x,\delta x}$ by FFT as done for the sinusoidal motion. Nevertheless, the phase $\varphi(t) = 4\pi z(t)/\lambda$ is no more sinusoidal,

but is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(t) &= (-1 + 4t/T_A)\Phi \\ \varphi(t + T_A/2) &= (+1 - 4t/T_A)\Phi\end{aligned}\quad (10)$$

where $0 < t < T_A/2$ and $\Phi = 4\pi z_{max}/\lambda$.

We have calculated by FFT $A_{n,x,\delta x}$ from Eq. (8) and Eq. (10). We have plotted the energy distribution $|A_{n,x,\delta x}|^2$ without stroboscopic illumination on Fig. 2(a), and with stroboscopic illumination on Fig. 2(b-d). We have plotted $|A_{n,x,\delta x}|^2$ for different illumination phase delays xT_A and different illumination durations δxT_A . The distributions of the energy $|A_{n,x,\delta x}|^2$ plotted here on Fig. 2 are very different than for the sinusoidal motion of same maximum amplitude $\pm z_{max}$ plotted on Fig. 1.

For $0.5 < x < 1.0$, the displacement z decreases at constant velocity, and the shape of the energy distribution $|A_{n,x,\delta x}|^2$, which is shifted to the negative harmonic rank $n < 0$, not depends on the illumination time x . For $0 < x < 0.5$ a similar result is obtained: the shape do not change, but the shift is positive: $n > 0$ since z increases. These results are expected for a triangular motion.

The analysis of distribution of energy $|A_{n,x,\delta x}|^2$ as a function of harmonic rank n , illumination time xT_A and illumination duration δxT_A yields detailed informations on the motion and on its non harmonic components.

3. Experimental setup

The sideband holography setups presented in previous publications does not allow to reconstruct the object at a given time of the vibration motion. To circumvent this problem, we have realized a stroboscopic illumination synchronized on the vibration motion. Figure 3 (a) shows the optical part of our setup, which is similar to the setups previously described [23,27]. Figure 3 (b) shows the electronic, which drives the acousto optics modulators AOM1 and AOM2, and which has been modified to add amplitude modulation abilities. This electronic is based on 3 direct digital synthesizer signal generators (SG1, 2 and 3), which are locked on the same 10 MHz time base. SG1 excites the loudspeaker, which makes the reed vibrate at $\nu_A = 2143$ Hz. SG2 generates a frequency tunable sinusoidal signal at $\nu_{SG2} \simeq 20$ MHz, and a reference fixed frequency 10 MHz signal, which is doubled by a frequency doubler (FD2: Mini Circuit Lab Inc.). SG3 generates a rectangular gate of duration $0.15 \times T_A = 70 \mu s$ at frequency ν_A . This gate (SG3) is synchronized with respect to the reed excitation (SG1) with an electronically adjustable phase delay xT_A .

To realize the stroboscopic illumination, two NAND Logical Gates LG, driven by the SG3 gate, switch on and off the adjustable and the fixed 20 MHz frequency signals. The two 20 MHz gated signals obtained by the way are mixed with the signal of a 100 MHz quartz oscillator by two doubled balanced mixer (ZAD-1H: Mini Circuit Lab Inc.). We get thus two gated signals that exhibit two frequency components $\simeq 100 \text{ MHz} \pm 20 \text{ MHz}$. The signals at $\nu_{AOM1} = 80 \text{ MHz}$ and $\nu_{AOM2} \simeq 80 \text{ MHz}$ that drive the acousto optic modulators AOM1 and AOM2, are thus obtained by filtering the $\simeq 100 \text{ MHz} \pm 20 \text{ MHz}$ signals with two 80 MHz LC resonant amplifiers.

Figure 4 illustrates the synchronization of the various signals. Out of the gate, the ν_{AOM2} and ν_{AOM1} signals are off, and one get no optical signals on the grating orders +1 of the acousto optic modulators AOM1 and AOM2. The illumination and reference beams are then off. Our stroboscopic gate acts thus both on illumination, and on holographic reference (i.e. on holographic detection efficiency).

The data acquisition is made by a computer that drive the three signal generators SG1, SG2 and SG3. For every value of the stroboscopic delay xT_A , the harmonic rank of detection is

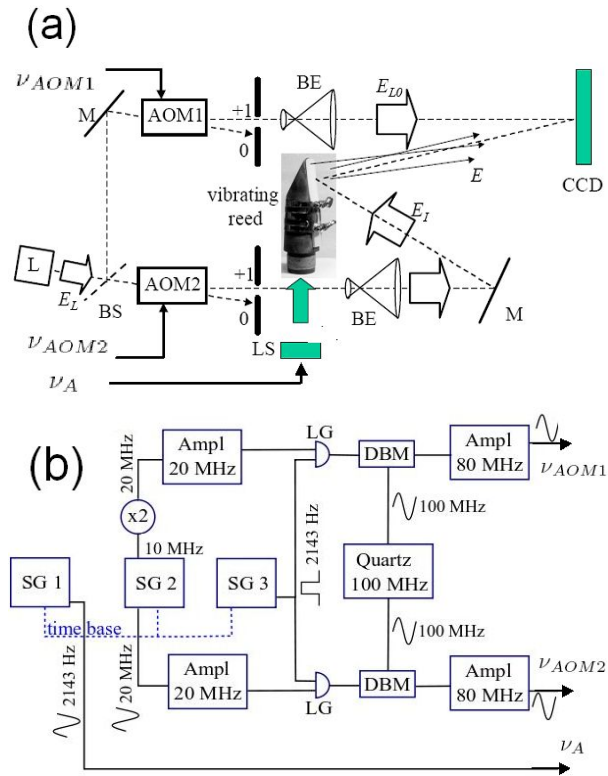


Fig. 3. Optical setup (a), and electronic (b) that drives the acousto optic modulator and the loudspeaker. (a) L: laser; AOM1,2: acousto optic modulators driven at frequency $\nu_{AOM1,2}$; M: mirrors; BS: beam splitter; BE: beam expander; LS: loudspeaker exciting the clarinet reed at frequency $\nu_A/2$; CCD: CCD camera. (b) SG1,2,3: direct digital synthesizer (DDS) signal generators;; Quartz: 100 MHz quartz oscillator; LG: NAND logical gate; DBM: double balanced mixer; Ampl: 20 MHz and 80 MHz LC resonant amplifiers.

swept from $n = -100$ to $n = +100$, i.e., for each n , the computer drives SG2 such a way the frequencies of the acousto-optics modulators signals verify:

$$\nu_{AOM1} - \nu_{AOM2} = n\nu_A + \nu_{CCD}/4 \quad (11)$$

Four-phase heterodyne holography is then performed [25], i.e., a sequence of 4 images I_0, \dots, I_3 is recorded yielding the complex hologram:

$$H = (I_0 - I_2) + j(I_0 - I_2) \quad (12)$$

The optical field image of the reed $E(x,y)$ is reconstructed from $H(x,y)$ with the standard one FFT (Fast Fourier Transform) method [29, 30], where x and y are the coordinates of the 1024×1024 calculation matrix. The reconstructed images intensity $I = |E|^2$ of rank n is stored in a 3D $1024 \times 1024 \times 201$ cube of data with axes x , y and n . To the end, an image of the reed velocities is extracted from the cube.

For each stroboscopic delay xT_A the operations are repeated: the rank n is swept; for each n the holograms are recorded, reconstructed and stored within the cube of data. Images of the velocities are then obtained.

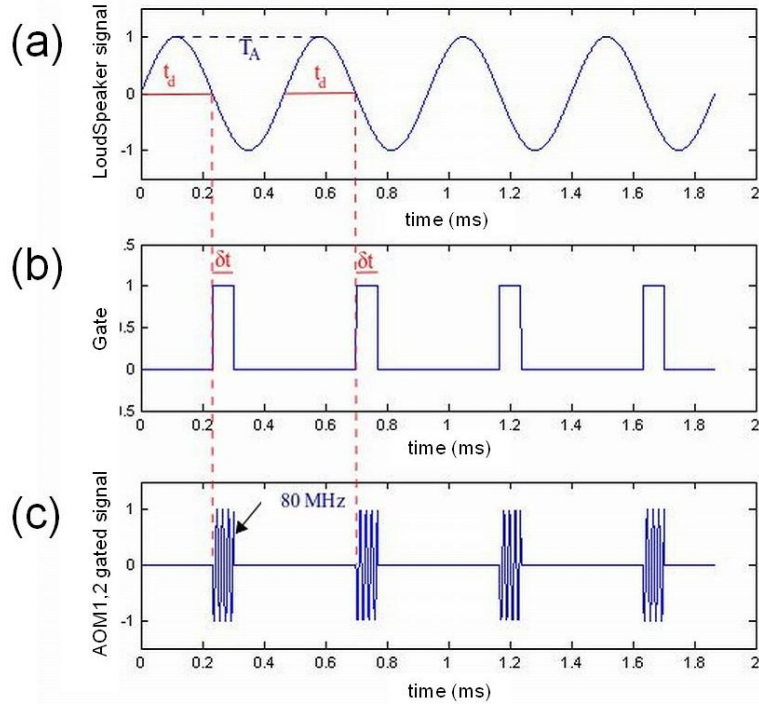


Fig. 4. Chronogram of the signals: (a) SG1 sinusoidal signal of period $T_A = 1/v_A$ exciting the reed; (b) SG3 rectangular gate and (c) ≈ 80 MHz gated signals driving the acousto-optical modulators AOM1 and AOM2.

4. Experimental results

Figure 5 shows nine reconstructed images of the reed with stroboscopic delay xT_A with $x = 0, 0.3$ and 0.7 (respectively from top to bottom), and for $n = -60, 0$ and $+60$ (respectively from left to right). Each image of Fig. 5 represents thus one component n of the instantaneous Doppler spectrum. Since the hologram are recorded off axis, the reed images are off axis too. To center the images of the reed, the 1024×1024 reconstructed images are truncated to 1024×512 on Fig. 5. One recognizes the reed on Fig. 5(b) to (h), and the reed + mouthpiece on Fig. 5(b,e and h). The right part of reed is clamped on the mouthpiece, while the tip, whose motion is free, is on the left.

On each image, we get signal on the zone (x, y) of the reed where the instantaneous Doppler shift $2V(x, y, xT_A)/\lambda$ is close to nv_A . This point is illustrated by Fig. 6 that show as a function of the longitudinal axis y the reed displacement $z(y, xT_A)$ and the reed velocity $V(y, xT_A)$ at illumination time $t = xT_A$. The size, shape and brightness of the zone with signal depend on the time of illumination xT_A (i), on the illumination duration δxT_A (ii), and on the harmonic rank n (iii).

For delay time $xT_A = 0$, we observe signal on a narrow bright zone of the reed for $n = 60$ (Fig. 5(c)), no signal for $n = -60$ (Fig. 5(a)) and some signal for $n = 0$ (Fig. 5(b)). This means that the reed is illuminated when it moves towards the detector, and only the $n > 0$ harmonic are generated, and detected. The narrow bright zone of Fig. 5(c) corresponds to the points of

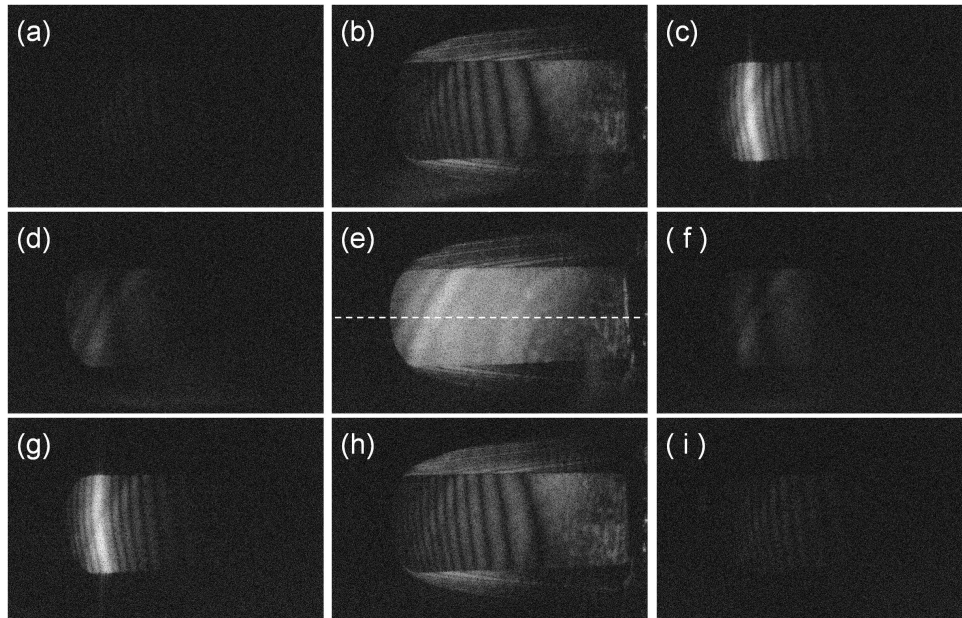


Fig. 5. Reconstruction images of the reed at time $xT_A = 0$ (a,b,c), $0.3 T_A$ (d,e,f) and $0.7 T_A$ (g,h,i) for $n = -60$ (a,d,g), 0 (b,e,h) and $+60.0$ (c,f,i). The images are displayed in logarithmic scale for the field intensity $|E|^2$.

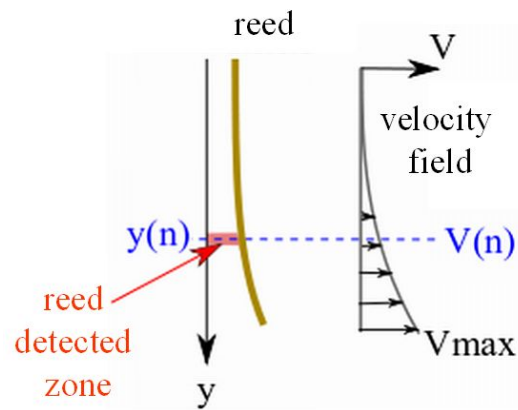


Fig. 6. Reed displacement $z(y, xT_A)$ and the reed velocity $V(y, xT_A)$ at illumination time $t = xT_A$. The holographic signal on sideband of rank n is obtained if $V(y, xT_A)$ is close to $V(n) = n\lambda v_A$.

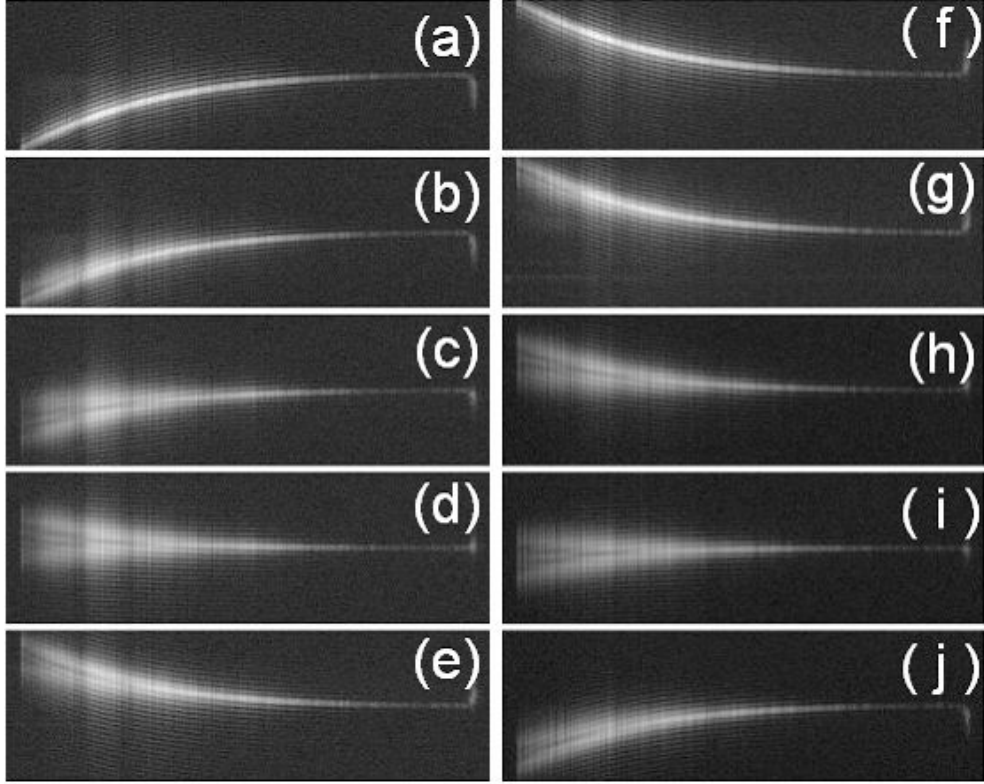


Fig. 7. Successive positions of the reed on a period T_A . These images are obtained by taking the section in the $x = 268$ (horizontal white dashed line of Fig. 5 (e)) of the stack of reconstructed images for $n = -100$ to $+100$. The images are displayed in logarithmic scale for the optical field intensity $|E|^2$.

the reed where the instantaneous velocity at time $xT_A = 0$ is close to

$$V_{n=60} = 60v_A c/v_0 \simeq 8 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m.s}^{-1} \quad (13)$$

For time $0.3T_A$, we observe a uniform signal on the reed for $n = 0$ (Fig. 5(e)) and no signal for $n = \pm 60$ (Fig. 5 (d,f)). This means that the reed is in a position of maximal amplitude of oscillation, with a velocity near zero.

For time $0.7T_A$, the reed goes away from the detector. The results are similar to the ones obtained at time $xT_A = 0$. We observe a narrow bright zone for $n = -60$ (Fig. 5(g)), no signal for $n = +60$ (Fig. 5 (i)), and some signal for $n = 0$ (Fig. 5 (h)).

To image the reed instantaneous velocities during vibration motion, we have swept the illumination time xT_A from 0 to T_A by step of $0.1 T_A$. For each time xT_A , we have recorded the hologram for $n = -100$ to $+100$, and we have stored the 201 reconstructed images in a 3D cube of data with axes x , y and n . The n axis corresponds to the Doppler shift, i.e. to the reed velocity. We have performed cuts of the 3D data in order to extract 2D images along axis x and n (y being fixed). Figure 7 displays the cuts obtained for $y = 256$, which correspond to the horizontal white dashed line in Fig. 5 (e)).

We actually obtain on Fig. 7 a direct visualization of the shape of the reed instantaneous velocity, which varies with the illumination time xT_A . Since the motion is a sine function of

time, the images of the instantaneous velocities of Fig. 7 are similar to images of the reed itself, shifted in phase by $\pi/2$. A movie, made with the 10 images of Fig. 7, is provided in supplementary material ([Media 1](#)). Another movie, with 20 images per period, is also provided ([Media 2](#)). The movie shows the evolution of the reed velocities, or the reed motion (if one neglects the shift of phase).

We must notice that the images of Fig. 7 (or the supplementary material movie) correspond to a huge amount of data, since it is necessary to record, for every time xT_A , 4 images by harmonic rank n with $n = -100$ to $+100$. We record thus $10 \times 4 \times 201 = 8040$ images. The frequency of acquisition of the camera being of 12.5 Hz, the total recording time is approximately 12 minutes. It is necessary to add the time necessary for the calculation of reconstruction of holograms as well as the time needed to control, during acquisition, the change of frequency of the synthesized signal generators SG2 and SG3. To get the 10 images of Fig. 7, the total time is thus about one hour.

5. Conclusion

This experiment demonstrates that it is possible to reconstruct a map of the instantaneous velocities of a vibrating object by combining sideband holography and stroboscopic illumination synchronized with the vibration motion. Although the amount of generated data is huge, its acquisition is quite simple, since it is fully automatized by using a computer that drives, through signal generators (SGs) and acousto optics modulators (AOMs), both the stroboscopic illumination, and the tuning of the sideband detection. The computer then performs both data acquisition and image reconstruction.

The technique is demonstrated here in the case of a simple sinusoidal oscillation. It can be extended to more complex periodic motions. One must notice that the technique is sensitive to the direction of the instantaneous velocity (sign of n). The technique can thus be used to get the geometrical shape of a vibration mode in order to remove any ambiguity.