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# BEHAVIOR OF INVERTED PENDULUM CYLINDRICAL STRUCTURES THAT ROCK AND WOBBLE DURING EARTHQUAKES

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### Abstract

The in-plane (2d) response of rigid rocking blocks has been extensively studied. In order to use rocking as a seismic response modification strategy for large structures (such as bridges and chimneys), the rocking motion of bodies in two orthogonal planes (3d rocking) needs to be explored first. Dynamic models of systems allowed to step out or roll out of their initial position and rocking plane have received attention. However, under earthquake excitation such systems may remain stable, but often end their motion with significant residual displacements with respect to their starting position. Such behavior is not acceptable for real structures. This paper studies the 3d motion of a rigid cylinder that is allowed to uplift and sustain rocking and wobbling motion without sliding or rolling-out of its initial position. Like a rectangular body in 2d rocking motion, the cylinder has zero residual displacement at the end of its 3d motion. The 3d dynamic model of the cylinder has two degrees of freedom, making it the simplest 3d extension of Housner's classical rocking model. The development of the 3d cylinder model is presented first. This model is computationally inexpensive and simple enough to perform extensive parametric analyses to understand the roles of the dominant parameters of the 3d rocking and wobbling (unsteady rolling) motion. Modes of motion of the cylinder are identified and presented. Finally, 3d rocking and wobbling spectra are constructed and compared with the classical 2d rocking spectra, to indicate that, in many cases, the 2d approach may lead to unconservative estimates of 3d rocking and wobbling response.

*Keywords: rocking isolation; 3d rocking motion; uplifting structures;* 



## 1. Introduction

To the authors' knowledge, the first modern interest in rocking structures stemmed from the need to estimate the peak acceleration of ground motions by studying overturned blocks. In 1885, Milne [1] published a study which hinges upon the assumption that the uplifting acceleration of a rigid block is enough to overturn it. In an effort to construct an acceleration measuring device, in 1927 Kirkpatrick [2] uncovered that the overturning of a block does not only depend on the ground motion PGA and on the block slenderness, but on but on the ground motion duration and the block size. In 1963, Housner [3] published his seminal paper where he explained the remarkable properties of rocking structures: (a) the larger of two geometrically similar blocks can survive the excitation that will topple the smaller block, and (b) of two same-acceleration amplitude pulses, the one with longer duration is more capable of inducing overturning. These properties, as well as the observation that modern and ancient structures that were unintentionally designed to rock behaved well during earthquakes, have motivated engineers to try to use uplifting of structures as a seismic modification technique. Since then numerous papers have been published, both on solitary blocks [4-33] and on assemblies of rocking bodies [34-42].

All of the above papers treat rocking as a 2d, in-plane problem. The published work on the dynamic response of 3d rocking of rigid bodies is much more limited. In [43-45] the motion of a rigid cylinder under seismic excitation is studied. Other researchers studied the 3d response of ancient conical or cylindrical columns numerically [46, 47], or experimentally [48-50]. Makris et al. [51] experimentally tested scaled models of uplifting bridges [51]. All the above studies conclude that 3d motion is present (so called "wobbling"), even under 2d initial conditions or under single-horizontal-component ground excitation. In fact, Stefanou et al. [52] proved the above observation theoretically. When the initial spin tends to zero, the rocking and wobbling of a rigid cylinder involves a sudden rapid motion of the contact point around the circular base. Srinivasian and Ruina [53] proved that, surprisingly, the net angle of motion of this contact point is nearly independent of initial conditions. This angle of turn depends simply on the geometry and mass distribution of the body.

Beyond the scopes of earthquake engineering, Moffat [54] described the motion of a toy, the so-called "Euler's Disk" (which is not related to Euler but is named after the Euler Angles used to describe its motion). The toy comprises a disk that is given an initial spin on a chromed concave base. The toy spins with an increasing frequency and stops in an abrupt manner. Similar behavior is observed when spinning a coin. Even though there is no evident engineering application of the toy, Moffat's paper received a lot of attention and created a debate about its energy dissipation mechanisms [55-58].

The 3d behavior of non-cylindrical bodies has also recently received attention. Konstantinidis and Makris [59] and Zulli et al. [60] studied the rocking motion of a 3d prism. Chatzis and Smyth [61] studied the motion of a 3d prism on a deformable base, taking sliding into account as well as the 3d dynamics of a rigid body with wheels on a moving base [62]. Greenbaum [63] developed an interesting computer vision method that allows for the experimental measurement of the rigid body translation and rotation time histories in three dimensions.

All the above 3d models are multi degree of freedom (MDOF) and are useful for unconstrained 3d objects. On the contrary, this paper studies a simpler model: a cylinder rocking and wobbling (unsteady rolling) exclusively above the initial position of its base, without sliding. No "rolling-out" is allowed. In that sense, it is a direct extension of Housner's model, which constrains the body to restore to its original position. This 3d model is employed because, if rocking is to be used for seismic isolation, no residual deformation (not to mention roll-out motion) is desired. To achieve this, for example, a recess around a column could be used to constrain roll-out motion. The model investigated herein is much simpler and computationally cheaper than the MDOF models, thereby allowing for extensive parametric studies, which are a subject of ongoing research.

## 2. Model Description and Equations of Motion

#### 2.1 Frames of Reference

The model is shown in Fig. 1. It is a rigid cylinder of mass *m*, base radius *b* and height 2*h*. Its semidiagonal is denoted *R* and its slenderness  $\alpha$  (tan $\alpha = b/h$ ). The main assumptions of the model are:



- a) The cylinder is considered rigid and homogeneous.
- b) The supporting plane surface is considered rigid and therefore the contact is pointwise.
- c) No damping mechanism is included.
- d) The cylinder is constrained not to roll-out of its initial position.

Given the above constraints, the model has only two degrees of freedom: The tilt angle,  $\theta$ , and the rolling angle,  $\varphi$ . The latter determines the contact point between the cylinder and the supporting plane.

The following frames of reference are used: *XYZ* is the inertial reference frame; *xyz* is pinned to the center of the bottom of the cylinder, *B*, and has the same orientation as *XYZ*;  $x_3y_3z_3$  is fixed to *B* and follows the rotations of the cylinder. At rest all three systems have the same orientation and the last two coincide.

*XYZ* and *xyz* differ only by a translation.  $x_3y_3z_3$  is a rotation of *xyz*. The so called 3-2-3 Euler angles are used to describe this rotation [64]. The first angle  $\varphi$  describes a rotation around the axis *z*. This leads to a new coordinate system  $x_1y_1z_1$ . The second angle,  $\theta$ , describes a rotation around the axis  $y_1$ . This leads to the new coordinate system  $x_2y_2z_2$ .  $\theta$  is the tilt angle. The third angle,  $\psi$ , describes a rotation around the axis  $y_2$ . This leads to the new coordinate system  $x_3y_3z_3$ . Since it is assumed that the friction between the cylinder and the foundation is large, it can be proven that  $\psi = -\varphi$ .



Fig.1 *Left*: Geometry of the model. The cylinder is allowed to uplift and wobble but constrained not to roll-out of its original base. *Right*: Fig. 3. "3-2-3" Euler Angles.



Fig.2 *Left*: Vertical section passing from the center of mass of the cylinder, S, and from the contact point with the ground, i.e. the pivot point, T; *Right*: Top View. The circle is the original configuration of the cylinder and B' is the vertical projection of B on the ground.



In order to derive the equation of motion, the translational and rotational motion of the center of mass of the cylinder should be tracked, relative to the inertial reference frame XYZ. Referring to Fig. 2, the position vector of the center of mass, S, is:

$$\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{O}\mathbf{S}} = \mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{O}\mathbf{O}} + \mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{O}\mathbf{B}} + \mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{B}\mathbf{S}} \tag{1}$$

The above components can be written as:

$$\mathbf{r}_{0'0} = u_{gx}\mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{X}} + u_{gx}\mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{Y}} + 0\mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{Z}}$$
(2)

$$\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{OB}} = d_x \mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{x}} + d_y \mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{y}} + d_z \mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{z}}$$
(3)

$$\mathbf{r}_{BS} = 0\mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{x}_3} + 0\mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{y}_3} + h\mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{z}_3} \tag{4}$$

Where **i** are the unit vectors of each frame of reference. The unit vectors are related through the following transformations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{i}_{X} \\ \mathbf{i}_{Y} \\ \mathbf{i}_{Z} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{I} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{i}_{x} \\ \mathbf{i}_{y} \\ \mathbf{i}_{z} \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{i}_{x} \\ \mathbf{i}_{y} \\ \mathbf{i}_{z} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{A}_{1} \cdot \mathbf{A}_{2} \cdot \mathbf{A}_{3} \cdot \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i}_{x_{3}} \\ \mathbf{i}_{y_{3}} \\ \mathbf{i}_{z_{3}} \end{vmatrix}$$
(5)

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where I is the unit matrix and  $A_1 A_2$  and  $A_3$  are the rotation matrices that correspond to the Euler angles:

$$\mathbf{A}_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\varphi & -\sin\varphi & 0\\ \sin\varphi & \cos\varphi & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{A}_{2} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & 0 & \sin\theta\\ 0 & 1 & 0\\ -\sin\theta & 0 & \cos\theta \end{bmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{A}_{3} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\varphi & \sin\varphi & 0\\ -\sin\varphi & \cos\varphi & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
(6)

With reference to Eq. (5)-(6)  $r_{BS}$  can be written in XYZ coordinates:

$$\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{BS}} = h \cdot \cos \varphi \cdot \sin \theta \cdot \mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{X}} + h \cdot \sin \varphi \cdot \sin \theta \cdot \mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{Y}} + h \cdot \cos \theta \cdot \mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{Z}}$$
(7)

or, as a vector

$$\mathbf{r}_{BS} = h \begin{bmatrix} \cos \varphi \cdot \sin \theta \\ \sin \varphi \cdot \sin \theta \\ \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}_{XYZ}$$
(8)

With reference to Fig. 2  $d_x$ ,  $d_y$  and  $d_z$  from Eq. (3) are:

$$d_{x} = b \cdot (1 - \cos \theta) \cdot \cos \varphi$$

$$d_{y} = b \cdot (1 - \cos \theta) \cdot \sin \varphi \qquad (9)$$

$$d_{z} = b \cdot \sin \theta$$

or, as a vector

$$\mathbf{r}_{OB} = b \cdot \begin{bmatrix} (1 - \cos\theta) \cdot \cos\phi \\ (1 - \cos\theta) \cdot \sin\phi \\ \sin\theta \end{bmatrix}_{XYZ}$$
(10)

Therefore Eq. (1) can be written in *XYZ* coordinates:



 $\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{o}\mathbf{s}} = \begin{bmatrix} u_{gx} \\ u_{gy} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_{XYZ} + b \cdot \begin{bmatrix} (1 - \cos\theta) \cdot \cos\varphi \\ (1 - \cos\theta) \cdot \sin\varphi \\ \sin\theta \end{bmatrix}_{XYZ} + h \begin{bmatrix} \cos\varphi \cdot \sin\theta \\ \sin\varphi \cdot \sin\theta \\ \cos\theta \end{bmatrix}_{XYZ}$ (11)

### 2.2 Equations of Motion

The Lagrangian equations of the system are:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial (T - V)}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial (T - V)}{\partial q_i} = 0$$
(12)

where  $q_i$  are the two degrees of freedom of the system ( $\theta$  and  $\varphi$ ) while *T* and *V* are the kinetic and the potential energy of the system, respectively.

The translational kinetic energy of the system is

$$T_{trans} = \frac{1}{2} m \cdot \dot{\mathbf{r}}_{\mathbf{OS}}^{T} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{r}}_{\mathbf{OS}}$$
(13)

The angular velocity of the cylinder, in the  $x_3y_3z_3$  coordinates is [64]:

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \begin{bmatrix} -\dot{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \cdot \cos \boldsymbol{\varphi} \sin \boldsymbol{\theta} - \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \cdot \sin \boldsymbol{\varphi} \\ -\dot{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \cdot \sin \boldsymbol{\varphi} \sin \boldsymbol{\theta} + \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \cdot \cos \boldsymbol{\varphi} \\ \dot{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \cdot \cos \boldsymbol{\theta} - \dot{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \end{bmatrix}_{x_3, y_3 z_3}$$
(14)

The rotational kinetic energy of the system is

$$T_{rot} = \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\omega}^T \cdot \mathbf{I}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega}$$
(15)

where  $I_0$  is the moment of inertia tensor of the cylinder around its principal axis:

$$\mathbf{I}_{0} = \begin{bmatrix} I_{x} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & I_{y} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & I_{z} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3mb^{2} + 4mh^{2}}{12} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \frac{3mb^{2} + 4mh^{2}}{12} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \frac{mb^{2}}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$
(16)

The potential energy V of the system is

$$V = mg\left(b\sin\theta + h\cos\theta\right) \tag{17}$$

Eq. (10)-(17) give the equations of motion:

$$(I_1 + h^2 m + b^2 m) \cdot \ddot{\theta} + bgm \cdot \cos\theta - hgm \cdot \sin\theta + ((I_2 - I_1 + b^2 m - h^2 m) \cdot \cos\theta \cdot \sin\theta - (I_2 + b^2 m) \cdot \sin\theta - hbm \cdot (1 + \cos\theta) + 2hbm \cdot \cos^2\theta) \cdot \dot{\phi}^2 =$$
(18)  
$$= -hm \cdot \ddot{u}_{gx} \cdot \cos\varphi \cdot \cos\theta - bm \cdot \ddot{u}_{gx} \cdot \cos\varphi \cdot \sin\theta - hm \cdot \ddot{u}_{gy} \cdot \sin\varphi \cdot \cos\theta - bm \cdot \ddot{u}_{gy} \sin\varphi \cdot \sin\theta$$

 $16^{th} World Conference on Earthquake, 16WCEE 2017$ Santiago Chile, January 9th to 13th 2017  $\left(\left(I_{1} - I_{2} + h^{2}m - b^{2}m\right) \cdot \sin^{2}\theta + 2 \cdot \left(I_{2} + b^{2}m\right) \cdot (1 - \cos\theta) + 2hbm \cdot \sin\theta \cdot (1 - \cos\theta)\right) \cdot \ddot{\phi} + \left(2 \cdot \left(I_{2} - I_{1} - h^{2}m + b^{2}m\right) \cdot \sin\theta \cdot (1 - \cos\theta) + 2hbm \cdot \left(2\sin^{2}\theta + \cos\theta - 1\right) + 2 \cdot \left(I_{1} + h^{2}m\right) \cdot \sin\theta\right) \cdot \dot{\phi} \cdot \dot{\theta} = (19)$  $= -bm \cdot \ddot{u}_{gy} \cdot (1 - \cos\theta) \cos\phi + bm \cdot \ddot{u}_{gx} \cdot \sin\phi \cdot (1 - \cos\theta) - hm \cdot \ddot{u}_{gy} \cdot \sin\theta \cos\phi + hm \cdot \ddot{u}_{gx} \cdot \sin\phi \cdot \sin\theta$ 

where  $I_1$  is  $I_x$  and  $I_2$  is  $I_z$ . Using Eq. (16) and defining

$$R = \sqrt{h^2 + b^2} \tag{20}$$

Eq. (18) and (19) become:

$$\ddot{\theta} = -p^{2} \left( \sin(\alpha - \theta) + \cos(\alpha - \theta) \left( \cos \varphi \cdot \frac{\ddot{u}_{gx}}{g} + \sin \varphi \cdot \frac{\ddot{u}_{gy}}{g} \right) \right)$$

$$- \left( \left( \frac{5}{4} \sin^{2} \alpha - \frac{4}{3} \cos^{2} \alpha \right) \cdot \cos \theta \cdot \sin \theta - \frac{3}{2} \sin^{2} \alpha \cdot \sin \theta - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{5}{4} + \frac{1}{12} \cos^{2} \alpha \right) \right) \cdot \frac{1}{\left( \frac{5}{4} + \frac{1}{12} \cos^{2} \alpha \right)} \dot{\phi}^{2}$$

$$\left( \frac{1}{12} \left( 3 - 18 \sin^{2} \alpha + 13 \cos^{2} \alpha \right) \cdot \sin^{2} \theta + 3 (1 - \cos \theta) + 2 \sin \alpha \cos \alpha \sin \theta \cdot (1 - \cos \theta) \right) R \cdot \ddot{\phi} + \left( 3 \sin^{2} \alpha \sin \theta + \frac{1}{6} \left( 3 - 18 \sin^{2} \alpha + 13 \cos^{2} \alpha \right) \sin \theta \cos \theta + 2 \cos \alpha \sin \alpha \left( 2 \sin^{2} \theta + \cos \theta - 1 \right) \right) R \cdot \dot{\phi} \cdot \dot{\theta} =$$

$$= \left( \sin \alpha - \sin(\theta - \alpha) \right) \left( \ddot{u}_{gx} \sin \varphi - \ddot{u}_{gy} \cos \varphi \right)$$

$$(21)$$

where *p* is the well-known frequency parameter from the response analysis of the 2d rocking block:

$$p^{2} = \frac{mgR}{I_{o}} = \frac{12}{15 + \cos^{2}\alpha} \frac{g}{R}$$
(23)

where  $I_o$  is the moment of inertia of the cylinder around a point on the circumference of its base. By setting  $\dot{\phi} = 0$  in Eq. (21) and using single-horizontal-component ground excitation one recovers the equation of the 2d rocking motion of a cylinder. However, unlike the equations used to describe the 2d rocking problem (which are non-smooth as they have to treat impact) the equations presented herein are smooth:  $\theta$  is always positive and the change of contact point is a continuous function of  $\varphi$ . There is no instantaneous impact, but the numerical results presented in a next section sometimes show a very rapid (but continuous) change of the pivot point.

Due to the above, for the equations of motion to be solved numerically, 3d motion has to be excited: in the case of free vibration via a non-zero initial spin,  $\dot{\phi}$ , and in the case of earthquake excitation via applying a two-horizontal-component ground excitation.

Using Eq. (21) and by assuming a constant cylinder tilt angle  $\theta$  and no ground excitation one can get the period of cylinder wobbling as a function of  $\theta$ .

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{p} \sqrt{-\frac{\left(\left(\frac{5}{4}\sin^2 \alpha - \frac{4}{3}\cos^2 \alpha\right) \cdot \cos \theta \cdot \sin \theta - \frac{3}{2}\sin^2 \alpha \cdot \sin \theta - \frac{1}{2}\sin^2 \alpha \cdot \sin \theta - \frac{1}{2}\cos \alpha \cdot \sin \alpha \cdot (1 + \cos \theta) + 2\cos \alpha \cdot \sin \alpha \cdot \cos^2 \theta\right)}{\sin(\alpha - \theta)\left(\frac{5}{4} + \frac{1}{12}\cos^2 \alpha\right)}$$
(24)

Fig. 3 plots Eq. (24) for different values of cylinder slenderness tan $\alpha$ . The tan $\alpha$ =1000 value corresponds to a spinning disk. The figure also plots the period of a 2d rocking block, as derived by Housner [3]. Note that



Housner's derivation is linearized and holds only for small values of  $\alpha$  (and then it is independent of the exact value of  $\alpha$ ).



Fig. 3 Period – Tilt angle dependence of the cylinder wobbling period.

#### 2.3 Uplift condition

Uplift occurs when the total ground acceleration is larger than  $gtan\alpha$ :

$$\sqrt{\ddot{u}_{gx}^2 + \ddot{u}_{gy}^2} \ge g \tan \alpha \tag{25}$$

The uplift occurs towards the direction of the D'Alembert inertia forces at the instant of uplift. This direction is given by the angle  $\varphi_0$ 

$$\cos \varphi_0 = -\frac{u_{gx}}{\sqrt{\ddot{u}_{gx}^2 + \ddot{u}_{gy}^2}} \text{ and } \sin \varphi_0 = -\frac{u_{gy}}{\sqrt{\ddot{u}_{gx}^2 + \ddot{u}_{gy}^2}}$$
(26)

### **3 Free vibration results**

The above equations are implemented in Matlab and solved numerically. Fig. 4 plots three characteristic *R*=6m and tan $\alpha$ =0.2 rigid cylinder rocking and wobbling modes in free vibration from a given initial condition. For a very small initial spin (Fig.4 a,b), the cylinder changes its pivot point rapidly (but smoothly, as the solution is continuous). The change of pivot point is defined by an angle of turn, slightly larger than  $\pi$ , which compares well with the prediction of [53]. The abrupt change of pivot point generates large vertical forces at the contact point (in the limit case they become infinite and the motion tends to an impact). Therefore, one source of damping of a wobbling cylinder can be such impact mechanism. However, this model cannot account for such energy dissipation.

Fig.4 (c,d) plots the results for an initial spin defined through Eq. (24). The tilt angle stays constant and the cylinder only wobbles without rocking. Fig. 4 (e.f) plots a combination of the above two modes of vibration.

### **4** Ground motion results

The cylinder with R=6m and  $\tan \alpha = 0.2$  is excited by the 1940 El Centro ground motion (shown in the bottom two rows of Fig. 5). The x-direction excitation is the EW component and the y-direction excitation is the NS component of this motion. The results show that angle  $\varphi$  changes abruptly during the more intense part of the ground motion. Contrary, when the ground motion becomes weaker, the cylinder follows a quasi-free vibration motion and the movement of the contact point is slower and smoother.

## **5** Overturning Spectra

In order to gain insight into the stability of rigid cylinders of different sizes, so called "rocking spectra" are constructed by scaling El Centro ground motion. The authors acknowledge that such a scaling is not realistic. However, it is performed as a first approach to the problem. Fig. 6 (a-c) plots these overturning spectra (i.e.



contour plots of maximum tilt angle,  $\theta$ ) and minimum overturning acceleration spectra (Fig. 6 d), for a given cylinder slenderness tan $\alpha$ =0.1. The abscissa defines the size of the cylinder (through its semidiagonal, *R*). The ordinate defines the normalized maximum acceleration of the total two-horizontal-component ground excitation and of the EW and NS component. Fig. 6(a) shows the 3d response to the scaled El Centro ground motion while Fig. 6 (b) and Fig. 6 (c) plot the 2d response to the two components of the same ground motion. In order to make the results comparable, no damping has been included in the planar models. One can observe that for large blocks, planar analysis is unconservative.



Fig. 4 Orbits of the center of mass (left) and  $\theta$ ,  $\dot{\theta}$ ,  $\varphi$  and  $\dot{\varphi}$  time histories for free vibration with different initial conditions (right).



Fig. 5  $\theta$ ,  $\dot{\theta}$ ,  $\varphi$  and  $\dot{\phi}$  time histories (top 3 rows) for the 1940 El Centro ground motion (bottom 2 rows).



Fig. 6. *Top*:  $\theta/\alpha$  Contour plots for different column sizes, *R*, and for scaled 1940 El Centro ground motion *Bottom:* Minimum overturning acceleration spectra of the top plots.



6. Conclusions

A two-degree-of-freedom model that describes the 3d rocking and wobbling (unsteady rolling) motion of a rigid cylinder was developed. The model describes the dynamic behavior of rigid cylindrical columns that can uplift, rock and wobble with the constraint that they do not slide or roll-out of their original position. This assumption is adequate to describe cylinders whose roll-out motion is prevented e.g. through a recess. The model is the simplest 3d extension of the 2d Housner rigid body rocking model. It was used to study the response of a rigid cylinder in free vibration as well as under earthquake ground motion excitation. The out of plane motion was intense and changed the nature of the cylinder response. For the 1940 ElCentro ground motion, it was found that the 2d model generally gives unconservative estimates of the overturning ground motion intensity.

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