

Analysis of Semi active Suspension System with Bingham Model Subjected to Random Road Excitation Using MATLAB/Simulink

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ABSTRACT: In this paper, a brief introduction to vehicle primary suspension system is presented along with analysis of a semiactive suspension system with Bingham model for MR damper. Isolation from the forces transmitted by external excitation is the fundamental task of any suspension system. The heart of a semiactive suspension system is the controllable damper. In this paper, the ride and handling performance of a specific vehicle with passive suspension system is compared to semiactive suspension system. The body suspension wheel system is modeled as a two degree of freedom quarter car model. Simulation is carried out using MATLAB/Simulink. The developed design allows the suspension system to behave differently in different operating conditions, without compromising on road-holding ability. Controller has been developed for semi active suspension. The result shows improvement over passive suspension method.

KEYWORDS: Bingham model, MR damper, Passive, Ride comfort, Road handling, Semiactive

I. INTRODUCTION

Suspension is the term given to the system of springs, shock absorbers and linkages that connects a vehicle to its wheels and allows relative motion between the two. Isolation from the forces transmitted by external excitation is the fundamental task of any suspension system.

The automotive suspension on a vehicle typically has the following basic tasks:

1. To isolate a car body from road disturbances.
2. To keep good road holding, and
3. To support the vehicle static weight[1].

Primary suspension is the term used to designate those suspension components connecting the axle and wheel assemblies of a vehicle to the frame of the vehicle. This is in contrast to the suspension components connecting the frame and body of the vehicle, or those components located directly at the vehicle's seat, commonly called the secondary suspension. There are two basic types of elements in conventional suspension systems. These elements are springs and dampers. The role of the spring in a vehicle's suspension system is to support the static weight of the vehicle. The role of the damper is to dissipate vibrational energy and control the input from the road that is transmitted to the vehicle. The basic function and form of a suspension is the same regardless of the type of vehicle or suspension. Vehicle Primary Suspensions is divided into passive, active and semi-active systems.

In Semiactive suspension system, the conventional spring element is retained, but the damper is replaced with a controllable damper. Magnetorheological (MR) damper is a kind of semiactive device. A wide range of Magneto-rheological (MR) fluid based dampers are currently being explored for their potential implementation in various systems, such as vibration control devices and suspension system. The main function of vehicle suspension systems are to minimize the vertical acceleration transmitted to passengers to provide ride comfort and to maintain the tire road contact to provide holding characteristics, and to keep suspension travel small. In this paper, performance of semiactive suspension model (2DOF) based on the **Bingham** model subjected to random road excitation is compared with passive suspension system. This semiactive vehicle suspension shows improvement over passive vehicle suspension.

II. MODELLING OF SYSTEM

2.1 Quarter Car Model with Passive Suspension System

To simulate the performance of vehicle subjected to random road surface the passive quarter car model as shown in Fig.1 is taken for study.

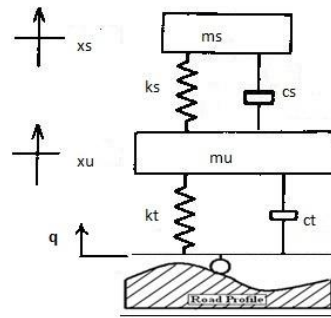


Fig.1:TDOF Passive Quarter Car Model.

The equations of motion for this linear model is

$$m_s \ddot{x}_s = - \left[k_s (x_s - x_u) + c_s (\dot{x}_s - \dot{x}_u) \right] \quad (1)$$

$$m_u \ddot{x}_u = - \left\{ - \left[k_s (x_s - x_u) + f_a \right] + \left[k_t (x_u - q) + c_t (\dot{x}_u - \dot{q}) \right] \right\} \quad (2)$$

2.2 Quarter Car Model with Semiactive Suspension System

The proposed system is 2DOF quarter car vehicle with a MR damper. The dynamics of the damper are modeled with the Bingham model i.e. first model used to describe the behavior of MR damper [2]. The Bingham model contains the nonlinear behavior of a viscous fluid going through an orifice.

Bingham model

The idealization of the visco-plastic MR damper model presented in [2] uses similarities in the rheological behavior of ER and MR fluids and the similar techniques in the modelling of ER dampers.

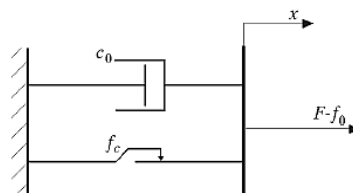


Fig. 2: Rheological Structure of a MR Damper for the Bingham Model.

In the rheological structure in Fig.2, on which the Bingham model is based, there is a Coulomb friction element f_c placed parallel to the dashpot c_0 . According to Bingham's MR damper model, for non-zero piston velocities \dot{x} , the damping force f_a can be expressed as

$$f_a = f_c \operatorname{sgn} \dot{x} + c_o \dot{x} + f_o \tag{3}$$

Where f_c is the frictional force, c_o is the viscous damping parameter; f_o is the force due to the presence of the accumulator. This last simplification in the model results from the assumption that the elasticity replacing the accumulator activity has a low stiffness and linear characteristics.

Fig.3 shows the semi active quarter car model with MR damper and controller. In Fig. 3, m_s represents one quarter of sprung mass; m_u represents unsprung mass (wheel, damper and spring etc.); x_s and x_t are the masses displacement and q represents the road disturbances, k_t is the tire stiffness; k_s is the spring between wheel and chassis.

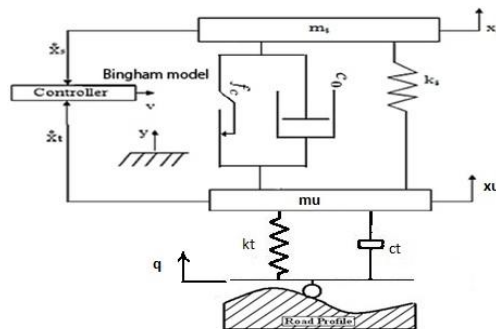


Fig.3: Quarter Car Vehicle Model with MR Damper [3].

For the controller, (\dot{x}_s) and (\dot{x}_t) represents absolute velocity of sprung mass and unsprung mass respectively. Controller generates the voltage v in the MR damper and it modifies the force f_a of semi active suspension.

The motion equations of the car body and wheel of this model areas follows,

$$m_s \ddot{x}_s = -[k_s(x_s - x_u) + f_a] \tag{4}$$

$$m_u \ddot{x}_u = -\{ -[k_s(x_s - x_u) + f_a] + [k_t(x_u - q) + c_t(\dot{x}_u - \dot{q})] \} \tag{5}$$

The values for parameters for Bingham model are adopted from the [3]. Table 1 shows the values of parameters for different currents.

| Current | Value of the parameter | | |
|---------|------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| I [A] | f_c [N] | c_0 [Ns/m] | f_0 [N] |
| 0.0 | 43.95 | 735.90 | 195.51 |
| 0.4 | 262.13 | 3948.70 | 186.28 |

Table 1: Parameters of Bingham Model.

III. ANALYSIS

The MATLAB/Simulink models for passive and semiactive suspension system are prepared and the sprung mass acceleration for random road excitation is obtained for suspension parameters given in Table 2.

Road data used as input is adopted from [5] which were measured by mounting accelerometer at the axle level of the vehicle. Fig.6 shows the simulation of random road excitation.

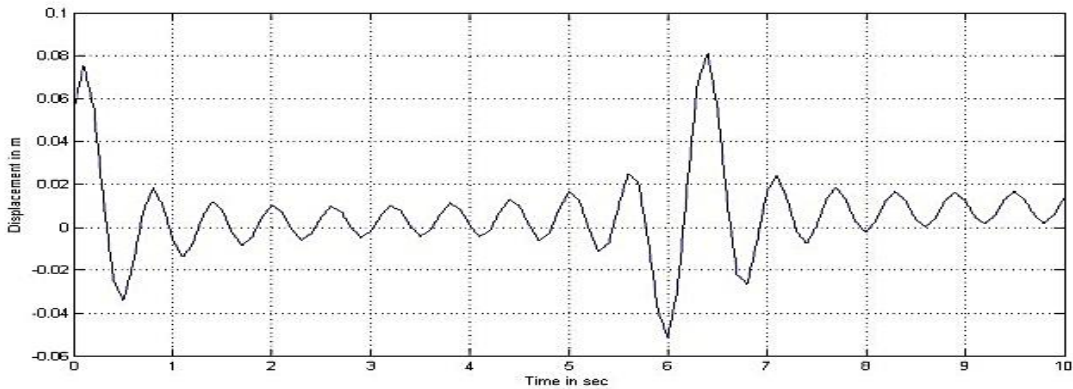


Fig.6: Random Road input

3.3 Simulation Results

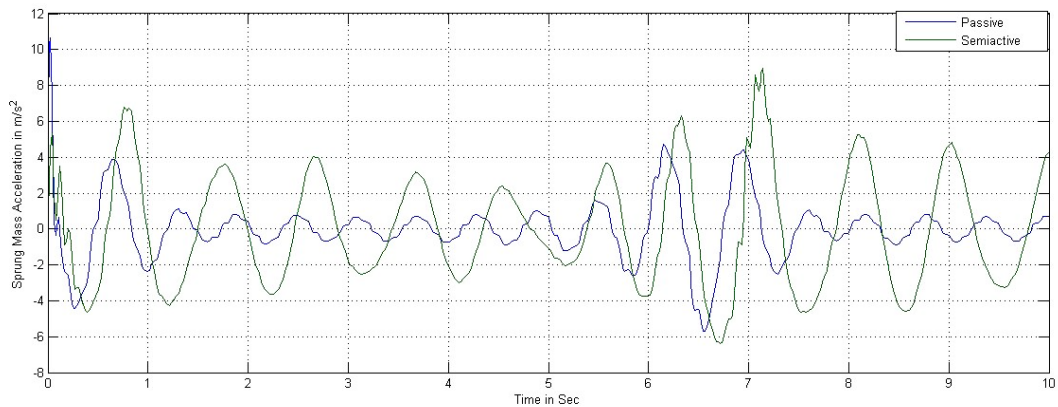


Fig.7: Sprung Mass Acceleration of Passive and Semiactive Suspension System

Table 3 shows the difference in maximum value of acceleration response for passive and semiactive suspension system.

| Suspension System | Maximum Sprung Mass Acceleration (m/s^2) |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Passive Suspension System | 11.01 |
| SemiactiveSuspension System | 8.75 |

Table 3: Maximum Value of Sprung Mass Acceleration Response for Passive and Semiactive Suspension System.

IV. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The percentage variation in maximum sprung mass acceleration of semiactive suspension system based on Bingham model is 20.52% from passive suspension system. So it shows that semiactive suspension system gives lower value of maximum sprung mass acceleration for given random road excitation.

V. CONCLUSION

The passive suspension system and semiactive suspension system with MR damper (Bingham Model) is simulated. The simulation results shows that semiactive suspension system with Bingham model gives lower value of maximum sprung mass acceleration for given random road excitation. Hence suspension model with semiactive suspension provides good passenger comfort and vehicle stability than passive suspension system.

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