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Passive and active hydraulically interconnected suspensions and their applications

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In this talk, the mechanism and modelling of system dynamics in the frequency domain of a vehicle fitted with a hydraulically interconnected suspension (HIS) using a 4-DOF half-car model is briefly presented. A set of coupled, frequency-dependent equations, which govern the dynamics of the integrated half-car system, are derived and the applications of these equations to both free and forced vibration analysis are presented. The experimental validation of the analytical results of the free and forced vibrations of the roll-plane half-car is provided.

A brief introduction is given on a 9-DOF model of a vehicle fitted with an HIS and simulations of a fishhook manoeuvre to assess its handling performance. The fluid subsystem of the HIS is modelled using a nonlinear finite-element approach, resulting in a set of coupled, first-order nonlinear differential equations, which describe the dynamics of the integrated mechanical and hydraulic vehicle system. Both the simulation and test results indicate that, in general, the HIS-equipped vehicle possesses superior handling performance, as measured by the sprung mass roll angle, roll rate, roll acceleration, lateral acceleration and the vehicle's Rollover Critical Factor.

The applications of the passive HIS to several vehicles are presented. The obtained results, which clearly demonstrate the superior performance of the HIS technology, are discussed. Furthermore, the semi-active and active HIS, including the mechanism of active HIS hardware and the motion mode dependent active control approach, are also briefly introduced. The preliminary experimental results on the active HIS are given to show the applicability of the active HIS mechanism and controllers. Discussions are also provided on the current issues encountered in applications of passive and active HIS and the future research challenges. Concluding remarks are given on the key findings obtained from the conducted studies.