

Design Methodology of a Passive Vibration Isolation System for an Optical System With Sensitive Line-of-Sight

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Abstract: The performance of an optical system with sensitive line-of-sight (LOS) is influenced by rotational vibration. In view of this, a design methodology is proposed for a passive vibration isolation system in an optical system with sensitive LOS. Rotational vibration is attributed to two sources: transmitted from the mounting base and generated by modal coupling. Therefore, the elimination of the rotational vibration caused by coupling becomes an important part of the design of the isolation system. Additionally, the decoupling conditions of the system can be obtained. When the system is totally decoupled, the vibration on each degree of freedom (DOF) can be analyzed independently. Therefore, the stiffness and damping coefficient on each DOF could be obtained by limiting the vibration transmissibility, in accordance to actual requirements. The design of a vibration isolation system must be restricted by the size and shape of the payload and the installation space, and the layout constraints are thus also discussed.

Keywords: Optical system with sensitive LOS; passive vibration isolation system; decoupling conditions; transmissibility

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1. Introduction

In most optical systems, vibration causes the undesired motion of its components and leads to performance loss [1–7]. It can downgrade the precision of sensitive optical telescopes, cause the misalignment of laser communication devices, and induce blurriness in the images of airborne cameras [8–13]. Thus, the suppression and isolation of

vibration are essential concerns for high performance optical systems.

Vibration can be classified in two categories: translational vibration and rotational vibration [14, 15]. Some optical systems such as astronomical telescopes, laser communication devices, and long focal length airborne cameras have very sensitive line-of-sight (LOS) and require very high pointing accuracies [16–22]. For example, the National

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Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Hubble Space Telescope (HST) requires a telescope pointing accuracy of 0.01 arcsec [9], while the pointing accuracy of the deep space optical communication (DSOC) antenna is just a few milliradians [23]. Figure 1(a) shows the image shift of a long focal length airborne camera caused by translational vibration, and the image shift can be obtained by $\delta = d' - d = D(f/H)$, where D is the amplitude of translational vibration, f is the focal length of the camera, H is the flight altitude of the aircraft, d is the distance between the image of the target on the CCD and the center of the CCD before the vibration occurs, and d' is the distance between the image of the target on the CCD and the center of the CCD after the vibration occurs. Figure 1(b) shows the image shift of the same airborne camera caused by the rotational vibration, and the image shift can be obtained by $\delta' = f \sin(\alpha)$, where α is the amplitude of rotational vibration. When $H = 10\text{ km}$, $f = 880\text{ mm}$, $D = 10\text{ mm}$, and $\alpha = 3.0\text{ arcsec}$, the image shifts are $\delta = 0.88\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and $\delta' = 128\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, respectively. For this optical system type, the performance loss caused by the rotational vibration is far more than that caused by the translational vibration. Therefore, the primary task of designing the vibration isolation systems of optical systems with the sensitive LOS is to eliminate the rotational vibration. In fact, for optical systems without the internal vibration, the rotational vibration comes from two sources: transmitted from the mounting base and generated by modal coupling, as shown in Fig. 2. Generally, the rotational vibration transmitted from the mounting base can be predicted by analyzing the working environment and suppressed or isolated by a well-designed vibration isolation system. However, in most instances, the rotational vibration generated by modal coupling is unexpected, which is difficult to predict and eliminated. Therefore, designing an uncoupled vibration isolation system is very important for an optical system with the sensitive LOS.

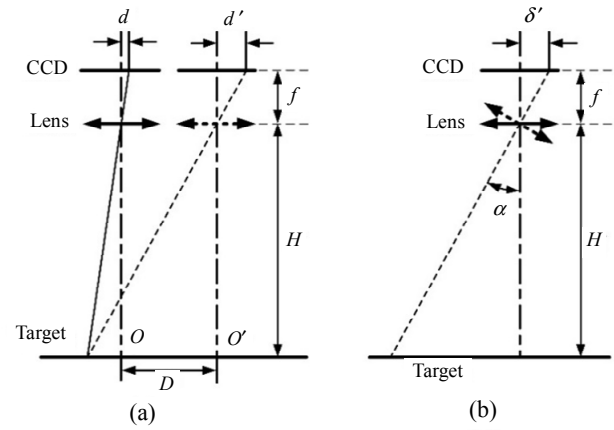


Fig. 1 Image shift of a long focal length airborne camera caused by (a) translational vibration and (b) rotational vibration.

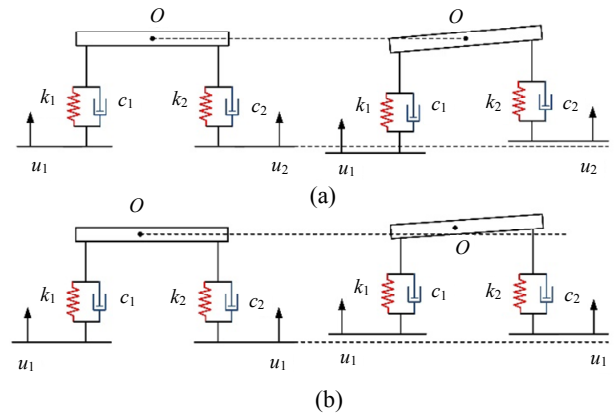


Fig. 2 Sources of the rotational vibration: (a) transmitted from the mounting base and (b) generated by modal coupling.

According to different application purposes, the vibration isolation system can be divided into two categories: one is used as the support of the vibration source to prevent the generation of vibration [24], and the other is used as the support of the sensitive payload to prevent the vibration [25]. Furthermore, depending on these means, the vibration isolation system can also be classified into four different types: passive, active, active-passive hybrid, and semiactive [26]. Davis *et al.* [27] designed a passive viscous damping strut (D-strut) with a very low fundamental frequency to isolate disturbances from a reaction wheel assembly (RWA). Cobb *et al.* [28] designed a vibration isolation and suppression system (VISS) to isolate a precision payload from spacecraft borne disturbances using passive isolation in combination with voice coil

actuators. This research study mainly focuses on the passive vibration isolation for the prevention of the transmission of vibration to the optical payloads.

To obtain an effective, low-cost, and reliable solution, the vibration isolation should be considered from the beginning of the conceptual design of the sensitive optical system. O'Toole [29] discussed the design of a passive isolation system for a high-altitude and long-range oblique reconnaissance camera, and introduced some key factors for passive isolation designs, including the selection and layout of isolators. Hyde [30] proposed a conceptual design methodology for the vibration isolation, including the conceptual design process, performance target allocation, and design tradeoffs. However, none of them provided detailed theoretical analysis and derivation in all degrees of freedom (DOFs).

This study proposes a design methodology of a passive vibration isolation system for an optical system with the sensitive LOS. The remaining parts of this study are organized as follows. The dynamic model of the passive vibration isolation system is established in Section 2. The modal coupling characteristics are analyzed in Section 3. Section 4 introduces the method of selecting the suitable vibration transmissibility. In Section 5, the layout constraints are discussed. Concluding remarks are summarized in Section 6.

2. Dynamic model

An optical payload supported by n isolators is shown in Fig. 3. m is the mass of the payload, and O is the center of mass and the origin of a Cartesian coordinate system. In this case, the coordinate axes are selected to coincide with the principal inertial axes of the payload. The simplified model of the vibration isolation system of the optical payload is shown in Fig. 4, where k_{x1} , k_{x2} , k_{xi} , and k_{xn} , are the stiffnesses of Isolators 1, 2, i , and n , along the X -axis, respectively; k_{y1} , k_{y2} , k_{yi} , and k_{yn} , are the stiffnesses of Isolators 1, 2, i , and n , along the Y -axis, respectively; k_{z1} , k_{z2} , k_{zi} , and k_{zn} , are the stiffnesses of

Isolators 1, 2, i , and n , along the Z -axis, respectively; c_{x1} , c_{x2} , c_{xi} , and c_{xn} , are the damping coefficients of Isolators 1, 2, i , and n , along the X -axis, respectively; c_{y1} , c_{y2} , c_{yi} , and c_{yn} , are the damping coefficients of Isolators 1, 2, i , and n , along the Y -axis, respectively; and c_{z1} , c_{z2} , c_{zi} , and c_{zn} , are the damping coefficients of Isolators 1, 2, i , and n , along the Z -axis, respectively.

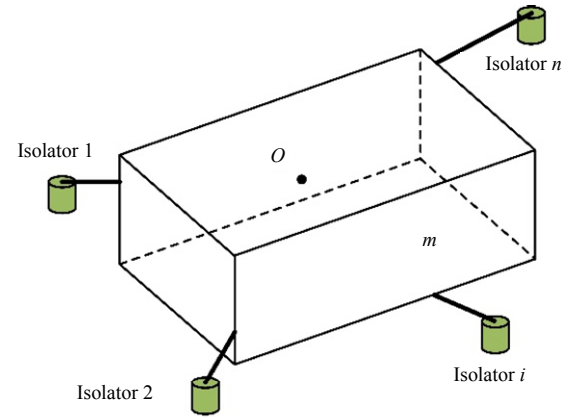


Fig. 3 Schematic diagram of an optical payload supported by n isolators (only four isolators are displayed).

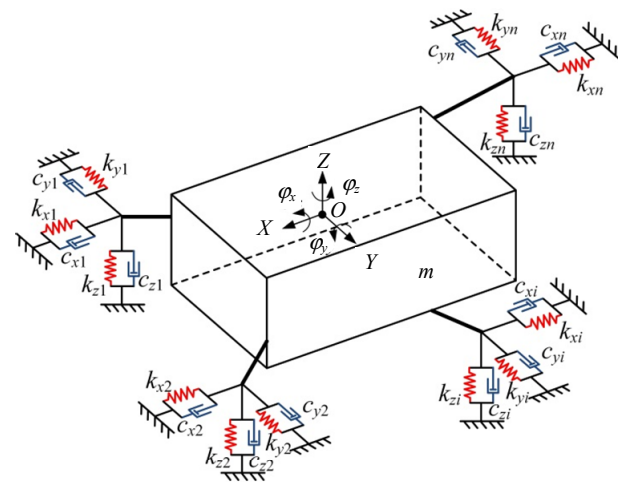


Fig. 4 Simplified model of the vibration isolation system of the optical payload.

Based on Newton's second law of motion, the dynamic equations of the vibration isolation system can be expressed in accordance to the following equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} m \\ m \\ m \\ I_{xx} \\ I_{yy} \\ I_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{x} \\ \ddot{y} \\ \ddot{z} \\ \ddot{\phi}_x \\ \ddot{\phi}_y \\ \ddot{\phi}_z \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} C_x & & & Q_{xz} & Q_{xy} \\ & C_y & & Q_{yz} & Q_{yx} \\ & & C_z & Q_{zy} & Q_{zx} \\ Q_{xz} & Q_{yz} & Q_{zy} & C_{xx} & C_{xy} & C_{xz} \\ Q_{xy} & Q_{yx} & Q_{zx} & C_{xy} & C_{yy} & C_{yz} \\ & & & C_{zx} & C_{zy} & C_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{z} \\ \dot{\phi}_x \\ \dot{\phi}_y \\ \dot{\phi}_z \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} K_x & & & R_{xz} & R_{xy} \\ & K_y & & R_{yz} & R_{yx} \\ & & K_z & R_{zy} & R_{zx} \\ R_{xz} & R_{yz} & R_{zy} & K_{xx} & K_{xy} & K_{xz} \\ R_{xy} & R_{yx} & R_{zx} & K_{xy} & K_{yy} & K_{yz} \\ & & & K_{zx} & K_{zy} & K_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ \phi_x \\ \phi_y \\ \phi_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F_x \\ F_y \\ F_z \\ M_x \\ M_y \\ M_z \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

where I_{xx} , I_{yy} , and I_{zz} are the moments of inertia of the payload with respect to the X -, Y -, and Z -axes, respectively; F_x , F_y , and F_z are the excitation forces acting on the center of mass along the X -, Y -, and Z -axes, respectively; M_x , M_y , and M_z are the

excitation moments acting on the center of mass with respect to the X -, Y -, and Z -axes, respectively. Moreover, the parameters of the stiffness and damping matrices can be derived from the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned}
K_x &= \sum_1^n k_{xi}, K_y = \sum_1^n k_{yi}, K_z = \sum_1^n k_{zi}, K_{xx} = \sum_1^n (k_{yi}l_{zi}^2 + k_{zi}l_{yi}^2), K_{yy} = \sum_1^n (k_{xi}l_{zi}^2 + k_{zi}l_{xi}^2), K_{zz} = \sum_1^n (k_{xi}l_{yi}^2 + k_{yi}l_{xi}^2) \\
C_x &= \sum_1^n c_{xi}, C_y = \sum_1^n c_{yi}, C_z = \sum_1^n c_{zi}, C_{xx} = \sum_1^n (c_{yi}l_{zi}^2 + c_{zi}l_{yi}^2), C_{yy} = \sum_1^n (c_{xi}l_{zi}^2 + c_{zi}l_{xi}^2), C_{zz} = \sum_1^n (c_{xi}l_{yi}^2 + c_{yi}l_{xi}^2) \\
K_{xy} &= K_{yx} = \sum_1^n k_{zi}l_{xi}l_{yi}, K_{xz} = K_{zx} = \sum_1^n k_{yi}l_{xi}l_{zi}, K_{yz} = K_{zy} = \sum_1^n k_{xi}l_{yi}l_{zi} \\
C_{xy} &= C_{yx} = \sum_1^n c_{zi}l_{xi}l_{yi}, C_{xz} = C_{zx} = \sum_1^n c_{yi}l_{xi}l_{zi}, C_{yz} = C_{zy} = \sum_1^n c_{xi}l_{yi}l_{zi} \\
R_{xy} &= \sum_1^n k_{xi}l_{yi}, R_{yx} = \sum_1^n k_{yi}l_{xi}, R_{yz} = \sum_1^n k_{yi}l_{zi}, R_{zy} = \sum_1^n k_{zi}l_{yi}, R_{zx} = \sum_1^n k_{zi}l_{xi}, R_{xz} = \sum_1^n k_{xi}l_{zi} \\
Q_{xy} &= \sum_1^n c_{xi}l_{yi}, Q_{yx} = \sum_1^n c_{yi}l_{xi}, Q_{yz} = \sum_1^n c_{yi}l_{zi}, Q_{zy} = \sum_1^n c_{zi}l_{yi}, Q_{zx} = \sum_1^n c_{zi}l_{xi}, Q_{xz} = \sum_1^n c_{xi}l_{zi} \\
F_x &= \sum_1^n F_{xi}, F_y = \sum_1^n F_{yi}, F_z = \sum_1^n F_{zi}, M_x = \sum_1^n M_{xi}, M_y = \sum_1^n M_{yi}, M_z = \sum_1^n M_{zi}
\end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where l_{xi} , l_{yi} , and l_{zi} are the coordinates of Isolator i on the X -, Y - and Z -axes, respectively.

Equation (1) can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{F} \quad (3)$$

where \mathbf{M} , \mathbf{C} , and \mathbf{K} represent the mass, damping, and the stiffness matrices of (1), respectively, and \mathbf{F} represents the excitation load vector of (1).

Suppose that the initial position and the initial velocities of the vibration isolation system are zero. After the application of the Laplace transformation, (3) can be written as

$$[\mathbf{M}s^2 + \mathbf{C}s + \mathbf{K}]\mathbf{X}(s) = \mathbf{\Phi}(s) \quad (4)$$

where $[\mathbf{M}s^2 + \mathbf{C}s + \mathbf{K}]$ is the impedance matrix of the system, represented by $\mathbf{Z}(s)$.

3. Decoupling condition analysis

From (1), it can be inferred that the impedance matrix is nonsingular. Therefore, this matrix is reversible. Correspondingly, we can obtain that

$$\mathbf{X}(s) = [\mathbf{M}s^2 + \mathbf{C}s + \mathbf{K}]^{-1} \Phi(s) \quad (5)$$

where $[\mathbf{M}s^2 + \mathbf{C}s + \mathbf{K}]^{-1}$ is the admittance matrix of the system.

If we only consider the translational DOF of the system, the following equations could be obtained from (1):

$$\begin{bmatrix} m & & \\ & m & \\ & & m \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{x} \\ \ddot{y} \\ \ddot{z} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} C_x & & \\ & C_y & \\ & & C_z \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{z} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} K_x & & \\ & K_y & \\ & & K_z \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F_x \\ F_y \\ F_z \end{bmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

From (6), it can be seen that the translational DOFs of the system are uncoupled naturally. Thus, we only focus on the coupling situation among the translational and rotational DOFs, and the coupling situation among rotational DOFs.

If the vibration isolation system is totally uncoupled, the admittance matrix of the system must be a diagonal matrix. Correspondingly, the impedance matrix must also be a diagonal matrix.

Based on the above analysis, it can be derived that the vibration isolation system is a completely uncoupled system when the following conditions are satisfied:

$$R_{xy} = R_{yz} = R_{zx} = R_{xz} = R_{zy} = R_{yx} = 0 \quad (7)$$

$$Q_{xy} = Q_{yz} = Q_{zx} = Q_{xz} = Q_{zy} = Q_{yx} = 0 \quad (8)$$

$$K_{xy} = K_{yz} = K_{zx} = K_{xz} = K_{zy} = K_{yx} = 0 \quad (9)$$

$$C_{xy} = C_{yz} = C_{zx} = C_{xz} = C_{zy} = C_{yx} = 0. \quad (10)$$

The admittance matrix of the completely uncoupled system can then be obtained as

$$\mathbf{Z}^{-1}(s) =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{ms^2 + C_x s + K_x} & & & & \\ & \frac{1}{ms^2 + C_y s + K_y} & & & \\ & & \frac{1}{ms^2 + C_z s + K_z} & & \\ & & & \frac{1}{I_{xx}s^2 + C_{xx}s + K_{xx}} & \\ & & & & \frac{1}{I_{yy}s^2 + C_{yy}s + K_{yy}} \\ & & & & & \frac{1}{I_{zz}s^2 + C_{zz}s + K_{zz}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

When (7) and (8) hold true and (9) and (10) do not hold true, the impedance matrix of the system can be written as (12). From (12), it can be observed that only the rotational DOFs are coupled, but the translational and rotational DOFs are uncoupled.

When (7) and (8) do not hold true and (9) and (10) hold true, the impedance matrix of the system can be written as (13). From (13), it can be observed that the rotational DOFs are uncoupled, but the translational and rotational DOFs are mutually coupled.

$$\mathbf{Z}(s) = \begin{bmatrix} m & & & & \\ & m & & & \\ & & m & & \\ & & & I_{xx} & \\ & & & & I_{yy} \\ & & & & & I_{zz} \end{bmatrix} s^2 + \begin{bmatrix} C_x & & & & \\ & C_y & & & \\ & & C_z & & \\ & & & C_{xx} & C_{xy} & C_{xz} \\ & & & C_{yx} & C_{yy} & C_{yz} \\ & & & C_{zx} & C_{zy} & C_{zz} \end{bmatrix} s + \begin{bmatrix} K_x & & & & \\ & K_y & & & \\ & & K_z & & \\ & & & K_{xx} & K_{xy} & K_{xz} \\ & & & K_{yx} & K_{yy} & K_{yz} \\ & & & K_{zx} & K_{zy} & K_{zz} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (12)$$

$$\mathbf{Z}(s) = \begin{bmatrix} m & & & & \\ & m & & & \\ & & m & & \\ & & & I_{xx} & \\ & & & & I_{yy} \\ & & & & & I_{zz} \end{bmatrix} s^2 + \begin{bmatrix} C_x & & Q_{xz} & Q_{xy} \\ & C_y & Q_{yz} & Q_{yx} \\ & & C_z & Q_{zx} \\ & & Q_{zy} & C_{xx} \\ & Q_{xz} & Q_{zy} & C_{yy} \\ Q_{xy} & Q_{yx} & C_{zx} & C_{zz} \end{bmatrix} s + \begin{bmatrix} K_x & & & R_{xz} & R_{xy} \\ & K_y & & R_{yz} & R_{yx} \\ & & K_z & R_{zy} & R_{zx} \\ & & & R_{zy} & K_{xx} \\ R_{xz} & R_{yz} & R_{zx} & K_{yy} & K_{zz} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (13)$$

When (7) and (9) hold true and (8) and (10) do not hold true, the impedance matrix of the system can be written as (14). From (14), it can be observed that all DOFs of the stiffness matrix are uncoupled, but the translational and rotational DOFs of the damping matrix are mutually uncoupled.

$$\mathbf{Z}(s) = \begin{bmatrix} m & & & & \\ & m & & & \\ & & m & & \\ & & & I_{xx} & \\ & & & & I_{yy} \\ & & & & & I_{zz} \end{bmatrix} s^2 + \begin{bmatrix} C_x & & Q_{xz} & Q_{xy} \\ & C_y & Q_{yz} & Q_{yx} \\ & & C_z & Q_{zx} \\ & & Q_{zy} & C_{xx} \\ Q_{xz} & Q_{zy} & C_{yy} & C_{xz} \\ Q_{xy} & Q_{yx} & C_{zx} & C_{zz} \end{bmatrix} s + \begin{bmatrix} K_x & & & & \\ & K_y & & & \\ & & K_z & & \\ & & & K_{xx} & \\ & & & & K_{yy} \\ & & & & & K_{zz} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (14)$$

$$\mathbf{Z}(s) = \begin{bmatrix} m & & & & \\ & m & & & \\ & & m & & \\ & & & I_{xx} & \\ & & & & I_{yy} \\ & & & & & I_{zz} \end{bmatrix} s^2 + \begin{bmatrix} C_x & & & & \\ & C_y & & & \\ & & C_z & & \\ & & & C_{xx} & \\ & & & & C_{yy} \\ & & & & & C_{zz} \end{bmatrix} s + \begin{bmatrix} K_x & & & R_{xz} & R_{xy} \\ & K_y & & R_{yz} & R_{yx} \\ & & K_z & R_{zy} & R_{zx} \\ & & & R_{zy} & K_{xx} \\ R_{xz} & R_{yz} & R_{zx} & K_{yy} & K_{zz} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (15)$$

Based on the above analyses, it can be concluded that (7) to (10) formulate the criteria of determining whether the system is coupled, uncoupled, or partially coupled.

When (8) and (10) hold true and (7) and (9) do not hold true, the impedance matrix of the system can be written as (15). From (15), it can be observed that all DOFs of the damping matrix are uncoupled, but the translational and rotational DOFs of the stiffness matrix are mutually uncoupled.

4. Vibration transmissibility

As mentioned above, our research mainly focuses on preventing the external vibration from being transmitted to the optical payloads. Therefore,

all the excitation loads come from the mounting base of the isolators in the form of motion.

The excitation load vector \mathbf{F} can then be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} F_x \\ F_y \\ F_z \\ M_x \\ M_y \\ M_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_1^n c_{xi} \dot{u}_{xi} \\ \sum_1^n c_{yi} \dot{u}_{yi} \\ \sum_1^n c_{zi} \dot{u}_{zi} \\ \sum_1^n (c_{yi} l_{zi} \dot{u}_{yi} + c_{zi} l_{yi} \dot{u}_{zi}) \\ \sum_1^n (c_{xi} l_{zi} \dot{u}_{xi} + c_{zi} l_{xi} \dot{u}_{zi}) \\ \sum_1^n (c_{xi} l_{yi} \dot{u}_{xi} + c_{yi} l_{xi} \dot{u}_{yi}) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \sum_1^n k_{xi} u_{xi} \\ \sum_1^n k_{yi} u_{yi} \\ \sum_1^n k_{zi} u_{zi} \\ \sum_1^n (k_{yi} l_{zi} u_{yi} + k_{zi} l_{yi} u_{zi}) \\ \sum_1^n (k_{xi} l_{zi} u_{xi} + k_{zi} l_{xi} u_{zi}) \\ \sum_1^n (k_{xi} l_{yi} u_{xi} + k_{yi} l_{xi} u_{yi}) \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

where u_i is the excitation owing to the motion from the mounting base of Isolator i , u_{xi} , u_{yi} , and u_{zi} are the components of u_i along the X -, Y -, and Z -axes, respectively, as shown in Fig. 5.

From Fig. 5, u_{xi} , u_{yi} , and u_{zi} can be expressed as

$$u_{xi} = u_i \cos \alpha_i, \quad u_{yi} = u_i \cos \beta_i, \quad u_{zi} = u_i \cos \gamma_i. \quad (17)$$

Let r_{xi} , r_{yi} , and r_{zi} represent $\cos \alpha_i$, $\cos \beta_i$, and $\cos \gamma_i$, respectively. From (16) and (17), the excitation load vector \mathbf{F} can be expressed as (18).

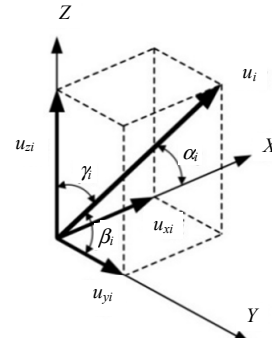


Fig. 5 Components of u_i along the X -, Y -, and Z -axes.

$$\begin{bmatrix} F_x \\ F_y \\ F_z \\ M_x \\ M_y \\ M_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r_{x1} c_{x1} & \cdots & r_{xi} c_{xi} & \cdots & r_{xn} c_{xn} \\ r_{y1} c_{y1} & \cdots & r_{yi} c_{yi} & \cdots & r_{yn} c_{yn} \\ r_{z1} c_{z1} & \cdots & r_{zi} c_{zi} & \cdots & r_{zn} c_{zn} \\ r_{y1} c_{y1} l_{z1} + r_{z1} c_{z1} l_{y1} & \cdots & r_{yi} c_{yi} l_{zi} + r_{zi} c_{zi} l_{yi} & \cdots & r_{yn} c_{yn} l_{zn} + r_{zn} c_{zn} l_{yn} \\ r_{x1} c_{x1} l_{z1} + r_{z1} c_{z1} l_{x1} & \cdots & r_{xi} c_{xi} l_{zi} + r_{zi} c_{zi} l_{xi} & \cdots & r_{xn} c_{xn} l_{zn} + r_{zn} c_{zn} l_{xn} \\ r_{x1} c_{x1} l_{y1} + r_{y1} c_{y1} l_{x1} & \cdots & r_{xi} c_{xi} l_{yi} + r_{yi} c_{yi} l_{xi} & \cdots & r_{xn} c_{xn} l_{yn} + r_{yn} c_{yn} l_{xn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{u}_1 \\ \dot{u}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \dot{u}_i \\ \vdots \\ \dot{u}_n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} r_{x1} k_{x1} & \cdots & r_{xi} k_{xi} & \cdots & r_{xn} k_{xn} \\ r_{y1} k_{y1} & \cdots & r_{yi} k_{yi} & \cdots & r_{yn} k_{yn} \\ r_{z1} k_{z1} & \cdots & r_{zi} k_{zi} & \cdots & r_{zn} k_{zn} \\ r_{y1} k_{y1} l_{z1} + r_{z1} k_{z1} l_{y1} & \cdots & r_{yi} k_{yi} l_{zi} + r_{zi} k_{zi} l_{yi} & \cdots & r_{yn} k_{yn} l_{zn} + r_{zn} k_{zn} l_{yn} \\ r_{x1} k_{x1} l_{z1} + r_{z1} k_{z1} l_{x1} & \cdots & r_{xi} k_{xi} l_{zi} + r_{zi} k_{zi} l_{xi} & \cdots & r_{xn} k_{xn} l_{zn} + r_{zn} k_{zn} l_{xn} \\ r_{x1} k_{x1} l_{y1} + r_{y1} k_{y1} l_{x1} & \cdots & r_{xi} k_{xi} l_{yi} + r_{yi} k_{yi} l_{xi} & \cdots & r_{xn} k_{xn} l_{yn} + r_{yn} k_{yn} l_{xn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_i \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

Equation (18) can thus be written as

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{A}\dot{\mathbf{U}} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{U}. \quad (19)$$

After the application of the Laplace transformation, (19) can be expressed as

$$\Phi = (\mathbf{A}s + \mathbf{B})\mathbf{U}(s). \quad (20)$$

From (5) and (20), the transfer function matrix can be obtained:

$$\mathbf{H}(s) = \frac{\mathbf{X}(s)}{\mathbf{U}(s)} = \mathbf{Z}^{-1}(s)(\mathbf{A}s + \mathbf{B}). \quad (21)$$

From (11), (18), (19), and (21), the transfer function matrix of the totally uncoupled system can be expressed in accordance to the following equation:

$$\mathbf{H}(s) = \text{diag} \left[H_x(s), H_y(s), H_z(s), H_{\varphi x}(s), H_{\varphi y}(s), H_{\varphi z}(s) \right] \quad (22)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} H_x(s) &= \frac{\sum_1^n (r_{xi}c_{xi}s + r_{xi}k_{xi})}{ms^2 + C_xs + K_x} \\ H_y(s) &= \frac{\sum_1^n (r_{yi}c_{yi}s + r_{yi}k_{yi})}{ms^2 + C_ys + K_y} \\ H_z(s) &= \frac{\sum_1^n (r_{zi}c_{zi}s + r_{zi}k_{zi})}{ms^2 + C_zs + K_z} \\ H_{\varphi x}(s) &= \frac{\sum_1^n [(r_{yi}c_{yi}l_{zi} + r_{zi}c_{zi}l_{yi})s + (r_{yi}k_{yi}l_{zi} + r_{zi}k_{zi}l_{yi})]}{I_{xx}s^2 + C_{xx}s + K_{xx}} \\ H_{\varphi y}(s) &= \frac{\sum_1^n [(r_{xi}c_{xi}l_{zi} + r_{zi}c_{zi}l_{xi})s + (r_{xi}k_{xi}l_{zi} + r_{zi}k_{zi}l_{xi})]}{I_{yy}s^2 + C_{yy}s + K_{yy}} \\ H_{\varphi z}(s) &= \frac{\sum_1^n [(r_{xi}c_{xi}l_{yi} + r_{yi}c_{yi}l_{xi})s + (r_{xi}k_{xi}l_{yi} + r_{yi}k_{yi}l_{xi})]}{I_{zz}s^2 + C_{zz}s + K_{zz}}. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Equation (22) is a complex function matrix. If s is replaced in (22) by $i\omega$, then (23) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} H_x(\omega) &= U_x(\omega) + iV_x(\omega) \\ H_y(\omega) &= U_y(\omega) + iV_y(\omega) \\ H_z(\omega) &= U_z(\omega) + iV_z(\omega) \\ H_{\varphi x}(\omega) &= U_{\varphi x}(\omega) + iV_{\varphi x}(\omega) \\ H_{\varphi y}(\omega) &= U_{\varphi y}(\omega) + iV_{\varphi y}(\omega) \\ H_{\varphi z}(\omega) &= U_{\varphi z}(\omega) + iV_{\varphi z}(\omega) \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

where $U_x(\omega)$, $U_y(\omega)$, $U_z(\omega)$, $U_{\varphi x}(\omega)$, $U_{\varphi y}(\omega)$, and

$U_{\varphi z}(\omega)$ represent the real components of $H_x(\omega)$, $H_y(\omega)$, $H_z(\omega)$, $H_{\varphi x}(\omega)$, $H_{\varphi y}(\omega)$, and $H_{\varphi z}(\omega)$, respectively, and $V_x(\omega)$, $V_y(\omega)$, $V_z(\omega)$, $V_{\varphi x}(\omega)$, $V_{\varphi y}(\omega)$, and $V_{\varphi z}(\omega)$ represent the imaginary components of $H_x(\omega)$, $H_y(\omega)$, $H_z(\omega)$, $H_{\varphi x}(\omega)$, $H_{\varphi y}(\omega)$, and $H_{\varphi z}(\omega)$, respectively.

Conversion of (24) into the polar form leads to

$$\begin{aligned} H_x(\omega) &= R_x(\omega)e^{i\theta_x(\omega)}, H_y(\omega) = R_y(\omega)e^{i\theta_y(\omega)} \\ H_z(\omega) &= R_z(\omega)e^{i\theta_z(\omega)}, H_{\varphi x}(\omega) = R_{\varphi x}(\omega)e^{i\theta_{\varphi x}(\omega)} \\ H_{\varphi y}(\omega) &= R_{\varphi y}(\omega)e^{i\theta_{\varphi y}(\omega)}, H_{\varphi z}(\omega) = R_{\varphi z}(\omega)e^{i\theta_{\varphi z}(\omega)} \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

where $R_x(\omega)$, $R_y(\omega)$, $R_z(\omega)$, $R_{\varphi x}(\omega)$, $R_{\varphi y}(\omega)$, and $R_{\varphi z}(\omega)$ represent the amplitudes of $H_x(\omega)$, $H_y(\omega)$, $H_z(\omega)$, $H_{\varphi x}(\omega)$, $H_{\varphi y}(\omega)$, and $H_{\varphi z}(\omega)$, respectively; $\theta_x(\omega)$, $\theta_y(\omega)$, $\theta_z(\omega)$, $\theta_{\varphi x}(\omega)$, $\theta_{\varphi y}(\omega)$, and $\theta_{\varphi z}(\omega)$ represent the phases of $H_x(\omega)$, $H_y(\omega)$, $H_z(\omega)$, $H_{\varphi x}(\omega)$, $H_{\varphi y}(\omega)$, and $H_{\varphi z}(\omega)$, respectively.

The amplitudes and phases of $H_x(\omega)$, $H_y(\omega)$, $H_z(\omega)$, $H_{\varphi x}(\omega)$, $H_{\varphi y}(\omega)$, and $H_{\varphi z}(\omega)$ can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} R_x(\omega) &= \sqrt{U_x^2(\omega) + V_x^2(\omega)}, \theta_x(\omega) = \arctan \left(\frac{V_x(\omega)}{U_x(\omega)} \right) \\ R_y(\omega) &= \sqrt{U_y^2(\omega) + V_y^2(\omega)}, \theta_y(\omega) = \arctan \left(\frac{V_y(\omega)}{U_y(\omega)} \right) \\ R_z(\omega) &= \sqrt{U_z^2(\omega) + V_z^2(\omega)}, \theta_z(\omega) = \arctan \left(\frac{V_z(\omega)}{U_z(\omega)} \right) \\ R_{\varphi x}(\omega) &= \sqrt{U_{\varphi x}^2(\omega) + V_{\varphi x}^2(\omega)}, \theta_{\varphi x}(\omega) = \arctan \left(\frac{V_{\varphi x}(\omega)}{U_{\varphi x}(\omega)} \right) \\ R_{\varphi y}(\omega) &= \sqrt{U_{\varphi y}^2(\omega) + V_{\varphi y}^2(\omega)}, \theta_{\varphi y}(\omega) = \arctan \left(\frac{V_{\varphi y}(\omega)}{U_{\varphi y}(\omega)} \right) \\ R_{\varphi z}(\omega) &= \sqrt{U_{\varphi z}^2(\omega) + V_{\varphi z}^2(\omega)}, \theta_{\varphi z}(\omega) = \arctan \left(\frac{V_{\varphi z}(\omega)}{U_{\varphi z}(\omega)} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Normally, we are only concerned about the amplitude of the transfer function, which is also known as the transmissibility of the system. Transmissibility is one of the most important indicators of the vibration isolation system since it determines its performance. Therefore, it is a

primary factor which should be considered when designing the system.

Figure 6 shows a 1-DOF passive vibration isolation system. The transmissibility of this system can be expressed as

$$R(\omega) = \sqrt{\frac{1 + 4\zeta^2 g^2}{(1 - g^2)^2 + 4\zeta^2 g^2}} \quad (27)$$

where ζ is the damping ratio of the system, and g is the frequency ratio. The damping ratio, the frequency ratio, and the natural frequency can be obtained in accordance to the following equations:

$$\zeta = \frac{c}{2m_{1-D}\omega_n}, \quad g = \frac{\omega}{\omega_n}, \quad \omega_n = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m_{1-D}}} \quad (28)$$

where m_{1-D} , k , and ω_n are the mass, stiffness, and natural frequency of the 1-DOF passive vibration isolation system, respectively.

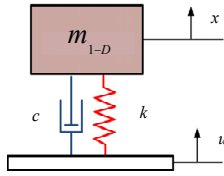


Fig. 6 Passive vibration isolation system with 1-DOF.

The curves of the transmissibility of the 1-DOF passive vibration isolation system at different damping ratios are shown in Fig. 7.

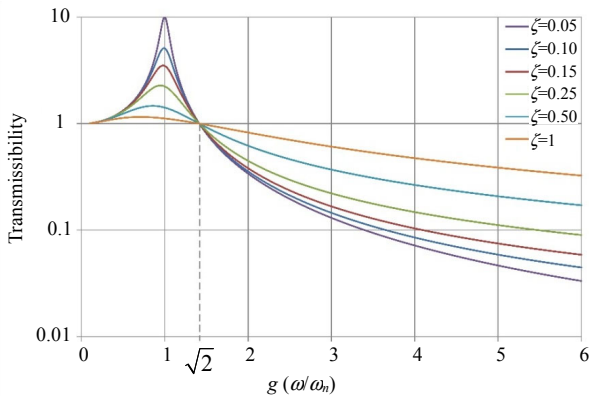


Fig. 7 Transmissibility of a 1-DOF passive vibration isolation system at different damping ratios.

From Fig. 7, it can be observed that the shape of the curve varies as a function of the damping ratio. When $g \leq \sqrt{2}$, instead of suppressing the external vibration, the system amplifies the vibration.

Moreover, the amplitude of this vibration decreases as a function of the damping ratio. When $g > \sqrt{2}$, the isolation capability of the system decreases as a function of the damping ratio. That is to say, the damping ratio and the natural frequency of the system determine the isolation performance of the system. Thus, if we set the requirement of the transmissibility, the range of the damping ratio values and the natural frequencies will be limited.

Figure 8 shows the distribution of the transmissibility with respect to the damping and frequency ratios. The blue part of the surface indicates that the transmissibility of the region is lower than 10%. In other words, to make the transmissibility less than 10%, the values of the damping and the frequency ratios must be within the range covered by the blue part. Furthermore, this range can be obtained from (27) in accordance with

$$R_r(\omega) \geq \sqrt{\frac{1 + 4\zeta^2 g^2}{(1 - g^2)^2 + 4\zeta^2 g^2}} \quad (29)$$

where $R_r(\omega)$ is the required transmissibility.

Generally speaking, the requirement of the vibration isolation has a frequency range, e.g., the transmissibility of the isolation system is lower than 10% at frequencies of 10Hz and above. Moreover, in the effective isolation range (g) of the passive isolation system, the transmissibility decreases as a function of the frequency of the external vibration. Therefore, we only consider the transmissibility of the lower limit of the frequency range. Equation (29) can then be written as

$$R_r(\omega) \geq \sqrt{\frac{1 + 4\zeta^2 (\omega_L/\omega_n)^2}{(1 - (\omega_L/\omega_n)^2)^2 + 4\zeta^2 (\omega_L/\omega_n)^2}} \quad (30)$$

where ω_L represents the lower limit of the frequency range.

The range of the damping ratio and the natural frequency of the required isolation system can be obtained from (30). Based on the characteristics of the isolator, an appropriate set of damping ratios and natural frequencies can be selected.

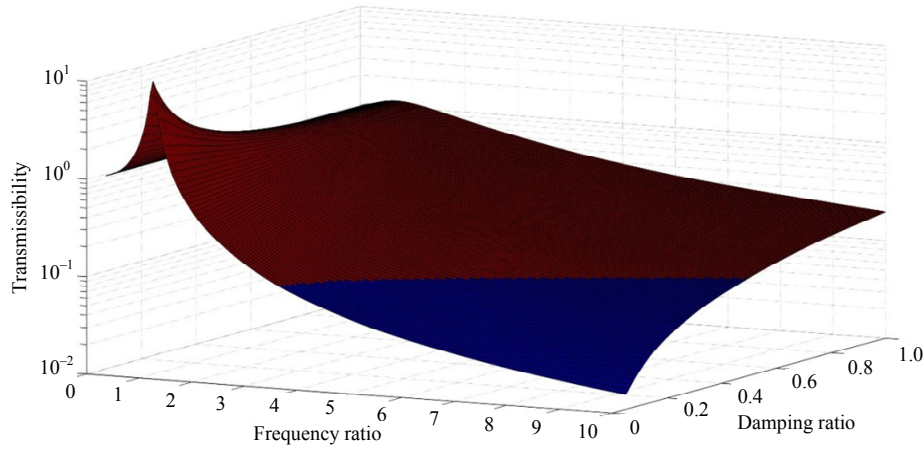


Fig. 8 Distribution of transmissibility with respect to the damping and frequency ratios.

Because the mass of the system is generally known, the stiffness and the damping coefficient of the system can be obtained from (28):

$$k = m_{1-D} \omega_{ns}^2, \quad c = 2m_{1-D} \omega_{ns} \zeta_s \quad (31)$$

where ω_{ns} and ζ_s are the selected natural frequency and damping ratio, respectively.

For an uncoupled 6-DOF isolation system, the stiffness and the damping coefficient on each DOF can be obtained from the transmissibility limits of each DOF as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} K_x &= m \omega_{n-x}^2; & C_x &= 2m \omega_{n-x} \zeta_x \\ K_y &= m \omega_{n-y}^2; & C_y &= 2m \omega_{n-y} \zeta_y \\ K_z &= m \omega_{n-z}^2; & C_z &= 2m \omega_{n-z} \zeta_z \\ K_{xx} &= I_{xx} \omega_{n-\varphi x}^2; & C_{xx} &= 2I_{xx} \omega_{n-\varphi x} \zeta_{\varphi x} \\ K_{yy} &= I_{yy} \omega_{n-\varphi y}^2; & C_{yy} &= 2I_{yy} \omega_{n-\varphi y} \zeta_{\varphi y} \\ K_{zz} &= I_{zz} \omega_{n-\varphi z}^2; & C_{zz} &= 2I_{zz} \omega_{n-\varphi z} \zeta_{\varphi z} \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

where ω_{n-x} , ω_{n-y} , ω_{n-z} , $\omega_{n-\varphi x}$, $\omega_{n-\varphi y}$, and $\omega_{n-\varphi z}$ are the selected natural frequencies of each DOF, respectively, and ζ_x , ζ_y , ζ_z , $\zeta_{\varphi x}$, $\zeta_{\varphi y}$, and $\zeta_{\varphi z}$ are the selected damping ratios of each DOF, respectively.

The designer of the vibration isolation system could choose to limit the transmissibility of all or some DOFs, based on the different application requirements. The constraint equations of the design will then be obtained.

5. Layout constraints

In addition to the above considerations, the number and layout of the isolators of a vibration isolation system must be restricted by the size and shape of the payload and the installation space. For example, a triangularly shaped payload is usually supported by three isolators on three corners, as shown in Fig. 9(a). For a payload with asymmetrical appearance, the isolators are usually symmetrically arranged, as shown in Fig. 9(b). Correspondingly, a circularly shaped payload is usually supported by three or more evenly arranged isolators, as shown in Fig. 9(c).

The examples described above are only general cases, and designers can make appropriate changes based on the actual situations.

Figure 10(a) shows a payload supported by two isolators. From Fig. 10(a), the distance between Isolators 1 and 2 is changeable, and the range of the distances can be expressed as follows:

$$L_{\min} \leq l_1 + l_2 = L \leq L_{\max} \quad (33)$$

where O is the center of mass of the payload; m_1 is the mass of the payload; L is the installation distance between Isolators 1 and 2; l_1 and l_2 are the distances from Isolator 1 and Isolator 2 to the center of mass, respectively; L_{\min} and L_{\max} are the minimum and maximum installation distance between Isolators 1 and 2, respectively.

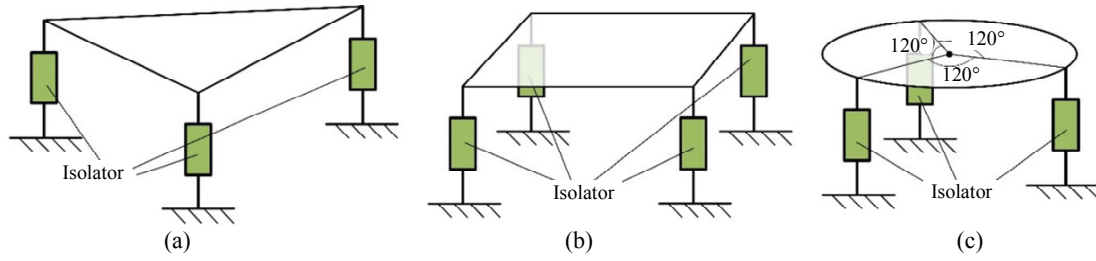


Fig. 9 Several different types of isolators layout: (a) triangularly shaped payload supported by three isolators, (b) rectangular payload supported by four symmetrically arranged isolators, and (c) circularly shaped payload supported by three evenly arranged isolators.

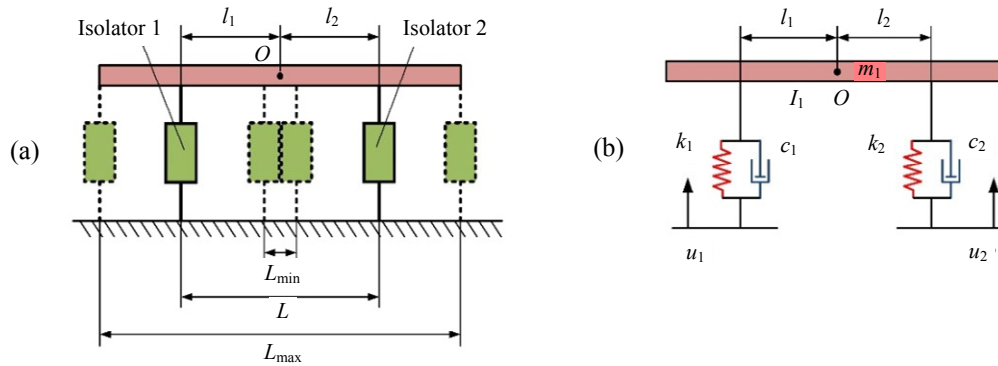


Fig. 10 2-DOF passive vibration isolation system: (a) a payload supported by two isolators and (b) schematic diagram of the 2-DOF passive vibration isolation system.

This system can be treated as a 2-DOF passive vibration isolation system, as shown Fig. 10(b). If we consider that this system is an uncoupled system, the following equations can be obtained:

$$c_1 l_1 = c_2 l_2, \quad k_1 l_1 = k_2 l_2 \quad (34)$$

where m_1 is the mass of the 2-DOF passive vibration

isolation system; c_1 and c_2 are the damping coefficients of Isolators 1 and 2, respectively; k_1 and k_2 are the stiffnesses of Isolators 1 and 2, respectively.

The dynamic equations of this 2-DOF passive vibration isolation system can be obtained as

$$\begin{bmatrix} m_1 \\ I_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{x} \\ \ddot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} c_1 + c_2 & 0 \\ 0 & c_1 l_1^2 + c_2 l_2^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} k_1 + k_2 & 0 \\ 0 & k_1 l_1^2 + k_2 l_2^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (c_1 \dot{u}_1 + c_2 \dot{u}_2) + (k_1 u_1 + k_2 u_2) \\ (c_1 l_1 \dot{u}_1 + c_2 l_2 \dot{u}_2) + (k_1 l_1 u_1 + k_2 l_2 u_2) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (35)$$

If $a = c_1 l_1 = c_2 l_2$ and $b = k_1 l_1 = k_2 l_2$, (35) can be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} m_1 \\ I_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{x} \\ \ddot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} c_1 + c_2 & 0 \\ 0 & a(l_1 + l_2) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} k_1 + k_2 & 0 \\ 0 & b(l_1 + l_2) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (c_1 \dot{u}_1 + c_2 \dot{u}_2) + (k_1 u_1 + k_2 u_2) \\ a(\dot{u}_1 + \dot{u}_2) + b(u_1 + u_2) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (36)$$

The transmissibility of the rotational DOF can be derived from (23) to (26):

$$R_\theta(\omega) = \sqrt{\frac{4a^2\omega^2 + 4b^2}{[b(l_1 + l_2) - I_1\omega^2]^2 + a^2\omega^2(l_1 + l_2)^2}}. \quad (37)$$

From (33) and (34), a and b can be expressed as

$$a = \frac{c_1 c_2}{c_1 + c_2} L, \quad b = \frac{k_1 k_2}{k_1 + k_2} L. \quad (38)$$

Substituting (8) into (37), the transmissibility of

the rotational DOF can be expressed as

$$R_{\theta}(\omega) = \sqrt{\frac{4\omega^2 + 4\left(\frac{k_1}{c_1}\right)^2}{\left(\frac{k_1}{c_1}L - \frac{(c_1 + c_2)I_1}{c_1 c_2 L}\omega^2\right)^2 + \omega^2 L^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{4\left(\frac{c_1}{k_1}\right)^2 \omega^2 + 4}{\left(L - \frac{(k_1 + k_2)I_1}{k_1 k_2 L}\omega^2\right)^2 + \left(\frac{c_1}{k_1}\right)^2 \omega^2 L^2}}. \quad (39)$$

From (39), it can be seen that the transmissibility of the rotational vibration is influenced by the distance between isolators. The larger the distance is, the better the isolation effect of the rotational vibration is. Therefore, it is important to try to make full use of the installation space when designing a vibration isolation system.

6. Conclusions

The performance of an optical system with a sensitive LOS is heavily influenced by the rotational vibration. Thus, the primary task of designing the vibration isolation systems for these optical systems is to reduce as much as possible or eliminate the rotational vibration. The design methodology of a passive vibration isolation system for an optical system with the sensitive LOS is proposed herein. The main steps of the design process are as follows:

(1) The design of a vibration isolation system must be restricted by the size and shape of the payload and the installation space. The number and layout of the isolators of a vibration isolation system should be firstly determined based on these restrictions. It is important to make full use of the installation space. This step is referred to as “layout constraints”.

(2) To reduce the effect of the rotational vibration, the rotational vibration caused by the coupling is reduced or eliminated first. Equations (7) to (10) represent the decoupling conditions of the system. The coupling vibration is eliminated when

the parameters of the isolators fulfill (7) to (10). This step is referred to as “decoupling constraints”.

(3) Transmissibility is one of the most important indicators of the vibration isolation system since it determines the performance of the system. When the system is totally uncoupled, the transmissibility on each DOF is only determined by the stiffness and damping coefficients of the system on the corresponding DOF. Thus, the stiffness and damping coefficient on each DOF of the system can be obtained by limiting the transmissibility on each DOF based on the actual design requirements. This step is known as “transmissibility constraints”.

In most cases, a unique solution cannot be obtained, even if all three types of constraints are met. However, it offers designers the necessary designing freedom to overcome other unexpected constraints.

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