

# Control of Lateral Motions of the TERRAFOIL Transit Vehicle

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An active ride control system for the TERRAFOIL<sup>TM</sup> vehicle is described. The passenger compartment of this vehicle is supported above the roadway by long flexible struts, and its undercarriage is enclosed in an underground guideway. Lateral loads are imposed on the vehicle by cornering maneuvers, winds, and guideway roughness. This study shows that electrohydraulic servomechanisms designed to apply control moments at the base of the supporting struts can adequately confine the lateral motions of the passenger compartment within specified limits, even with extreme load disturbances. A dynamic model including the flexible strut shows the system to be controllable through the servovalve input signal and observable through feedback signals from the servopiston and an accelerometer mounted on the passenger compartment. Feedback control is achieved through a state estimator and an optimal control law matrix.

## Nomenclature

$\phi$	= state variable associated with the passenger cab position, rads	$P_s$	= constant hydraulic head pressure, $2.1 \times 10^4$ KPa ( $3 \times 10^3$ lb/in <sup>2</sup> )
$\Theta_p$	= state variable associated with the actuator platform rotation, rads	$P_L$	= actuator piston load pressure, Pa
$\Theta_T$	= state variable associated with the undercarriage rotation, rads	$A_R$	= actuator piston effective area, $1.08 \times 10^{-2}$ m <sup>2</sup> (16.7 in <sup>2</sup> )
$x_s$	= state variable associated with the hydraulic spool valve position, m	$Y_R$	= actuator piston displacement, max travel of $\pm 0.076$ m ( $\pm 0.249$ ft)
$\gamma$	= state variable associated with the hydraulic piston displacement and piston load pressure, m <sup>3</sup>	$K_e$	= hydraulic line elastic coefficient, 0.0 liter/Pa-sec
$g$	= acceleration of gravity, 9.81 m/sec <sup>2</sup> (32.2 fps <sup>2</sup> )	$K_L$	= actuator piston leakage coefficient, 0.0 liter/Pa-sec
$U_s$	= strain energy of the flexible strut, Nt/m	$k$	= effective spool valve orifice coefficient
$R$	= strut displacement vector, $4 \times 1$	$x_o$	= servovalve spool underlap, m
$S$	= strut stiffness matrix, $4 \times 4$	$v/K_B$	= hydraulic fluid elasticity coefficient, $2.38 \times 10^{-12}$ m <sup>5</sup> /Nt (0.001 in <sup>5</sup> /lb)
$L$	= strut length, 5.5 m (18.0 ft)	$\omega_n$	= servovalve nature frequency, 785 rads/sec
$\ell$	= radius of gyration of the actuator platform mass, 1.0 m (3.28 ft)	$\zeta$	= servovalve damping ratio, 0.78 rad
$\hat{L}$	= effective total vehicle height, 6.5 m (21.28 ft)	$K_{Ae}$	= servovalve amplifier output voltage
$L_T$	= half the truck assembly's axle length, 0.9 m (3.0 ft)	$M$	= half the mass of passenger cab and payload, $2.7 \times 10^3$ kg, (187 slugs)
$L_p$	= half the distance between the hydraulic actuator chassis pivot points, 0.46 m (1.5 ft)	$M_p$	= mass of the actuator platform, $1.2 \times 10^3$ kg (82 slugs)
$K_T$	= parallel combination of spring rates of one set of dual pneumatic tires, stabilizing wheel and supporting structure, $8.86 \times 10^4$ Nt/m ( $1.20 \times 10^4$ lb/ft)	$J_p$	= polar moment of inertia of the actuator platform, 757 kg-m <sup>2</sup>
$EI$	= effective product of strut modulus of elasticity and area moment of inertia along the strut length, $1.6 \times 10^7$ Nt/m <sup>2</sup> ( $5.5 \times 10^9$ lb-in <sup>2</sup> )	$J_T$	= polar moment of inertia of chassis and truck assembly, 339 kg-m <sup>2</sup> /strut (250 slug-ft <sup>2</sup> /strut)
$Q$	= total hydraulic fluid flow, liter/sec	$M_\phi$	= external moment acting on the $\phi$ coordinate, Nt/m
$Q_o$	= incompressible hydraulic fluid flow component, liter/sec	$M_{\Theta_p}$	= external moment acting on the $\Theta_p$ coordinate, Nt/m
$Q_c$	= compressible hydraulic fluid flow component, liter/sec	$M_{\Theta_T}$	= external moment acting on the $\Theta_T$ coordinate, Nt/m
$Q_L$	= actuator piston leakage flow component, liter/sec	$W_\phi$	= disturbance moment acting on the $\phi$ coordinate, Nt/m
		$W_{\Theta_p}$	= disturbance moment acting on the $\Theta_p$ coordinate, Nt/m
		$W_{\Theta_T}$	= disturbance moment acting on the $\Theta_T$ coordinate, Nt/m
		$A$	= plant matrix, $9 \times 9$
		$x$	= plant state vector, $9 \times 1$
		$B$	= plant input matrix, $9 \times 1$
		$u$	= plant control vector, $1 \times 1$
		$C$	= system output matrix, $2 \times 9$
		$y$	= system output vector, $2 \times 1$
		$\hat{x}$	= estimated system state vector, $9 \times 1$
		$N$	= observer coordinate transformation matrix, $7 \times 7$

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$q$	= plant state vector with respect to the observer coordinates
$F$	= observer matrix, $7 \times 7$
$z$	= observer state vector, $7 \times 1$
$D$	= observer input matrix, $7 \times 2$
$E$	= observer output matrix, $7 \times 1$
$\hat{q}$	= estimated plant state vector with respect to the observer coordinates
$J$	= performance measure
$Q_c$	= state variable weighting matrix, $9 \times 9$
$R_c$	= control weighting matrix, $1 \times 1$
$K$	= optimal control law matrix, $1 \times 9$
$T$	= kinetic energy, Nt/m
$V$	= potential energy, Nt/m
$\mathcal{L}$	= total Lagrangian

### Introduction

THE TERRAFOIL is a new concept rapid transit vehicle.<sup>1-3</sup> The passenger compartment is supported above the surface traffic on two narrow struts in tandem, each of which is connected to the chassis. The chassis and undercarriage travel in an underground enclosed guideway with a narrow longitudinal slot for the supporting struts. Figure 1 shows a model of the proposed TERRAFOIL, and Fig. 2 shows the details of the undercarriage, support structure, and guideway.

The enclosed guideway is continuously supported underground so there is no lateral vehicle motion induced by guideway flexibility or dynamic response characteristics. However, because the passenger compartment is supported a considerable distance above the guideway to clear the surface traffic, it is susceptible to guideway roughness effects, lateral winds, and guideway curvature which can cause lateral motions of the compartment. It is desired to compensate for these affects with a servomechanism designed to apply control moments at the base of the struts to minimize the lateral motions of the passenger cab and to ensure stability and riding comfort. This control problem is therefore akin to similar dynamic problems encountered in control configured vehicles (CCV),<sup>4-7</sup> in hydrofoil boats,<sup>8</sup> and in heavy-lift helicopters (HLH).<sup>9-10</sup>

The two-axle chassis is designed to be torsionally flexible along its longitudinal axis, so that each axle is assumed to act independently for small longitudinal rotations of the axles. The passenger compartment is also designed as a torsionally flexible open channel section so that torsional coupling between the struts at their upper ends is also minimized. This coupling is further minimized because the vertical struts are of stressed-skin aircraft type construction so that almost all of the flexibility of the struts occurs at the bottom, in the narrow, high-strength plates connecting through the roadway slot to the undercarriage. Hence the rotations of the tops of the struts are very small. The inertial coupling between front and rear struts due to rotation of the passenger compartment about the vertical axis is also assumed to be small if the servosystem is working properly. Because of these properties we assume that the dynamic analysis of the lateral motions can be accomplished by treating each strut and its associated parts separately. Should there prove to be significant coupling between the two struts this interaction could be accommodated by appropriate cross-coupling of the servocontrol signals between front and rear. This is not done here, however.

Each truck assembly consists of a supporting frame which houses an axle with dual pneumatic tires, differential d.c. electric drive motor, guidance wheels, a set of stabilizing wheels (which trap the undercarriage in the guideway to prevent overturning), and the electrohydraulic servomechanism consisting of an electrically driven variable displacement pump, servovalves and their electronic drivers, and balanced push-pull hydraulic actuators providing a variable force and variable displacement link between an actuator platform on the strut base and the chassis frame. The

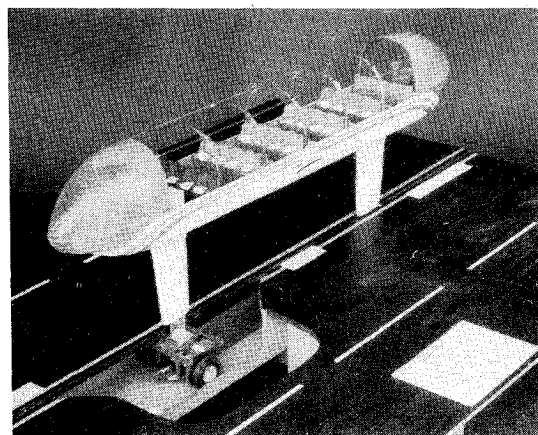


Fig. 1 Model of proposed TERRAFOIL vehicle.

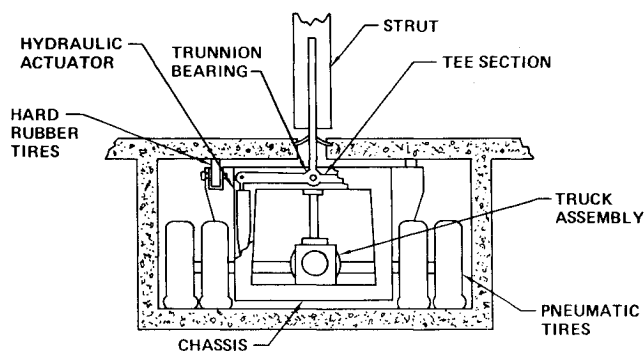


Fig. 2 Undercarriage and guideway configuration.

actuator platform is a high strength steel inverted tee section that joins the strut to the truck assembly. The tee is pinned to the supporting frame at the tee intersection (by a trunnion bearing) with the tee leg extending vertically upward through the slot in the guideway to join the strut. Hydraulic actuators are pinned between each tee end, and the truck supporting frame on each side such as to rotate the strut base when actuated.

The sensors for the lateral vehicle motion are an accelerometer to measure lateral accelerations of the passenger compartment at the top of each strut and piston displacement transducers at the actuators to measure strut base rotation relative to the truck assembly. It is shown in the subsequent sections of this paper that the lateral vehicle motions are controllable by this servosystem using these measurements and a state estimator with an optimal control law matrix.

The supporting struts are taken to be 5.5m (18 ft) long and their mass is lumped with the passenger compartment and actuator platform masses. The actuator platform mass is assumed to act at its point of rotation. The strut, pneumatic tire and actuator platform stiffness used are expected to approximate values for a realistic TERRAFOIL design for a 30 passenger transit vehicle.

### Mathematical Model of the Lateral Axis Dynamics

Figure 3 shows the components considered in the analysis. These are the flexible strut, the passenger compartment, the hydraulic actuator system and the undercarriage mechanisms. Brief discussions of these components follow (a more detailed discussion can be found in Ref. 12).

Since the strut is of aircraft construction, its mass per unit length is negligible; therefore, the energy stored in the strut due to strut deflection is simply the strain energy of the strut, i.e., potential energy, and it may be expressed as a function of the boundary conditions over the strut surface. In deter-



for the  $\Theta_T$  coordinate

$$\ddot{\Theta}_T = -\frac{3EI\ell^2 - M_p g \ell L^3 + 2K_T L^2 T L^3}{(M_p \ell^2 + J_T) L^3} \Theta_T - \frac{3EI\ell - 2K_p L_p^2 L^2}{(M_p \ell^2 + J_T) L^2} \Theta_p + \frac{3EI\hat{L}\ell}{(M_p \ell^2 + J_T) L^3} \phi + \frac{1}{(M_p \ell^2 + J_T)} M_{\Theta_T}$$

for the  $\Theta_p$  coordinate

$$\ddot{\Theta}_p = -\frac{3EI}{J_p L} \Theta_p - \frac{3EI\ell}{J_p L^2} \Theta_T + \frac{3EI\hat{L}}{J_p L^2} \phi + \frac{1}{J_p} M_{\Theta_p}$$

The constraints of the hydraulic actuator system are: for the spool valve dynamics

$$\ddot{x}_s = -2\zeta\omega_n \dot{x}_s - \omega_n^2 x_s + K_A e$$

for the spool valve flow

$$Q = k\sqrt{\frac{P_s - P_L}{2}} x_s - kx_o \sqrt{\frac{2}{P_s - P_L}} P_L$$

for the actuator flow

$$Q = A_R \dot{Y}_R + [K_e + v/K_B] \dot{P}_L + K_L P_L$$

for the undercarriage geometry

$$Y_R = L_p (\Theta_T - \Theta_p)$$

The external moments acting on the independent coordinates are:

$$M_{\phi} = W_{\phi}$$

$$M_{\Theta_p} = -2L_p A_R P_L + W_{\Theta_p}$$

$$M_{\Theta_T} = 2L_p A_R P_L + W_{\Theta_T}$$

where  $W_{\phi}$ ,  $W_{\Theta_p}$ , and  $W_{\Theta_T}$  are disturbance moments.

The hydraulic flow equations may be linearized by making a change of variables and expanding in a Taylor series about the origin.

Let  $\gamma = A_R Y_R + [K_e + (v/K_B)] P_L$ , then expanding and dropping terms of orders higher than one of the flow equations reduces to

$$\dot{\gamma} = -\frac{1}{A_2} \left( \frac{k}{4} \sqrt{\frac{2}{P_s}} + A_3 \right) \gamma + k \sqrt{\frac{P_s}{2}} x_s + \frac{A_1}{A_2} \left( \frac{kx_o}{4} \sqrt{\frac{2}{P_s}} + A_3 \right) Y_R$$

where

$$A_1 = A_R \quad A_2 = (K_e + K_B/v) \quad A_3 = K_L$$

### Controller Design

The linearized dynamic equations for the lateral axis of the vehicle and the electrohydraulic servoactuator may be combined into the standard state variable form

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu$$

where the state vector is:

$$x = [\phi \quad \dot{\phi} \quad \Theta_T \quad \dot{\Theta}_T \quad \Theta_p \quad \dot{\Theta}_p \quad \gamma \quad x_s \quad \dot{x}_s]^T$$

and the control vector, which is a scalar, is  $u = e$ .

The output vector is provided by two instruments, a position transducer at the actuator piston and a laterally mounted accelerometer at the level of the passenger compartment. The system output equations is, therefore

$$y = Cx = [\hat{L} \quad \ddot{\phi} \quad Y_R]^T$$

and the  $C$  matrix is

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{L}a_{21} & 0 & \hat{L}a_{23} & 0 & \hat{L}a_{25} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & L_p & 0 & -L_p & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $a_{21}$ ,  $a_{23}$ , and  $a_{25}$  are elements of the  $A$  matrix which are listed in the Appendix, along with those of the  $B$  matrix.

The controller design is based on the state estimator-optimal control law approach. A Leunberger observer is used to provide an on-line estimate of the state vector as shown in Fig. 4. From the estimated state vector  $\hat{x}$  the control signal  $u$  is derived through the  $1 \times 9$  control law matrix  $K$ ,  $u = K\hat{x}$ .

The vehicle is completely state controllable and completely state observable with the  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  matrices shown here. The nine eigenvalues of the  $A$  matrix are as follows:  $-0.64 \pm j 216$ ,  $-0.07 \pm j 4.13$ ,  $-0.08 \pm j 76.9$ ,  $-613 \pm j 491$ , and  $+0.01$ . Note the single right half plane eigenvalue. This is due to the inverted pendulum characteristic of the suspended vehicle. If the control valve is open, this mode can be excited. If the control valve is shut, the inverted pendulum characteristic is exhibited by a lightly damped, but stable mode. The first bending mode for the strut also appears as one of these lightly damped pairs.

A reduced-order observer can be designed for this system using standard techniques.<sup>13</sup> The dynamic order of the observer is seven because the vehicle is ninth order and there are two linearly independent instruments. The eigenvalues of the observer were arbitrarily chosen to have real parts of  $-1800$  and imaginary parts of  $0$ ,  $\pm 600$ ,  $\pm 1200$  and  $\pm 1800$ . These locations were perhaps unnecessarily far into the left half plane because the convergence time for the observer need be short compared to the mission length and not compared to the time response of the vehicle, because once  $\hat{x}(t)$  converges to  $x(t)$  it will continue to track it, irrespective of the eigenvalues of the observer, provided only that these are in the left half plane, of course.

The dynamic equations of the observer are obtained following Luenberger's procedure.<sup>13</sup> Because the  $C$  matrix is not in the required form  $[I \ 0]$  a change of coordinates is effected,  $q = Nx$ , so that the state variable equations in the  $q$  coordinates are

$$\dot{q} = NAN^{-1}q + NBu$$

$$y = CN^{-1}q$$

and  $CN^{-1}$  has the desired form  $[I \ 0]$ . Thus the observer produces  $\hat{q}$ , an estimate of  $q$ , and this is converted to  $\hat{x}$  at the output of the observer:  $\hat{x} = N^{-1}\hat{q}$ . The observer equations are of the form

$$\dot{z} = Fz + NBu + Dy$$

$$\hat{q} = E \begin{bmatrix} z \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $F$  is  $7 \times 7$ ,  $D$  is  $7 \times 2$ , and  $E$  is  $9 \times 9$ . The elements of these matrices are derived to satisfy the eigenvalue placement and basic estimation requirements.<sup>13</sup>

The optimal control law matrix  $K$  was found to be  $[-349 \ 1047 \ 2314 \ -3.2 \ -1490 \ 4.7 \ -17 \ -360 \ -0.6]$  using the following procedure. A standard quadratic performance

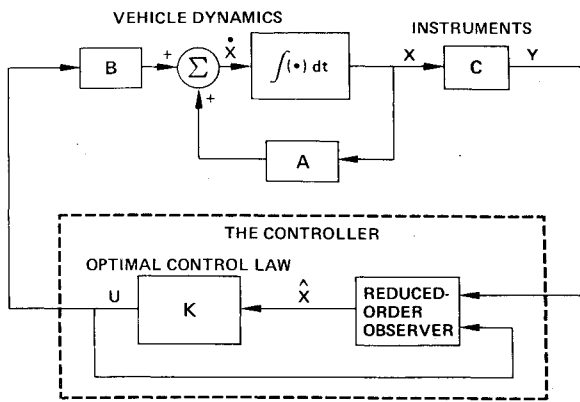
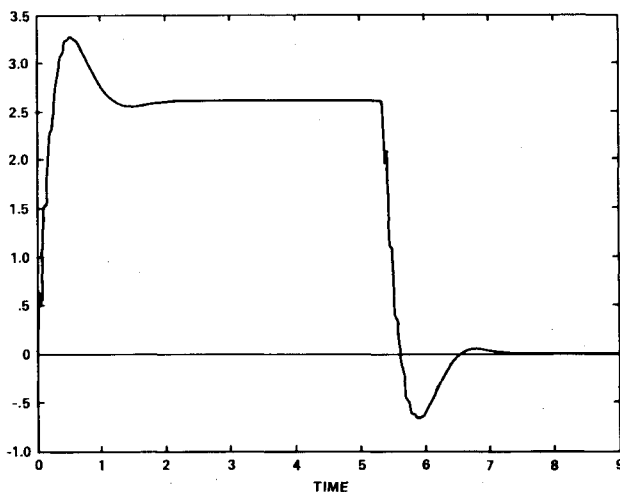


Fig. 4 System block diagram.

Fig. 5 Response to cornering maneuver, lateral acceleration of passenger compartment, m/sec<sup>2</sup>.

function  $J$  was defined

$$J = \int_0^{\infty} [x^T Q_p x + u^T R_p u] dt$$

where  $u = Kx$  and the elements of  $K$  were found such that  $J$  is minimized by standard techniques.<sup>14</sup> This was done for arbitrary values for the elements of the (positive definite)  $Q_p$  and  $R_p$  matrices and for initial values of the state variables corresponding to an impulse of lateral acceleration. This assures that the transient response to such an impulse would be optimal in this sense. Then the resultant  $K$  matrix was used in a transient test of the system subjected to a step disturbance of lateral acceleration, as described below. If the peak values of the various transients in the system exceeded their design levels, then changes were made in the  $Q_p$  and  $R_p$  matrices, a new  $K$  computed, and another transient test was run. This process was repeated until the resultant transient responses were acceptable. This curious approach combining both optimal design and trial and error procedures was feasible because the optimal design portion was completely automated by computer! Because of the separation principle the sixteen eigenvalues of the composite system are those of the observer plus those of the matrix  $[A + BK]$ , which turned out to be  $-900$ ,  $-654$ ,  $-160$ ,  $-30 \pm j218$ ,  $-2.72 \pm j3.39$ , and  $-7.3 \pm j75$ .

### System Simulation and Test Results

The transient tests were conducted via digital simulation. The tests simulated were a cornering maneuver and a lateral wind gust loading. The tests were chosen to be compatible with the ultimate vehicle design requirements. The cornering

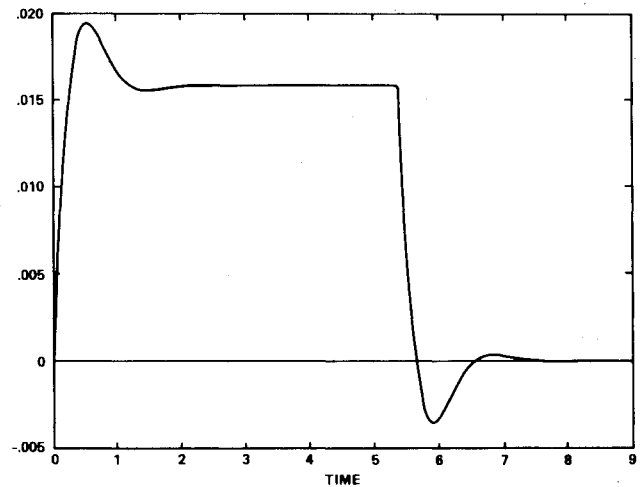


Fig. 6 Response to cornering maneuver, pneumatic tire deflection, m.

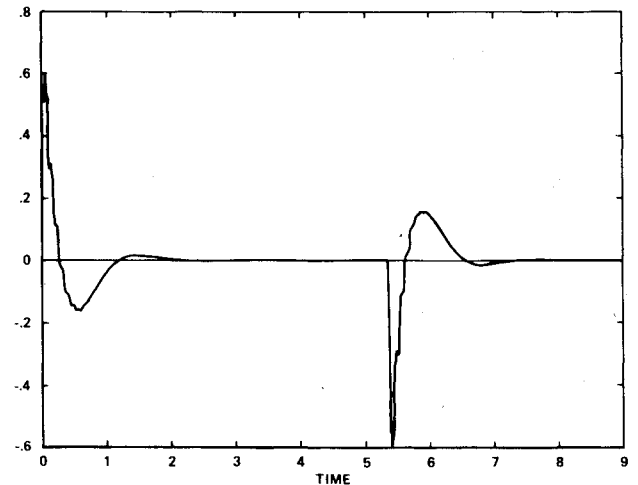


Fig. 7 Response to cornering maneuver, hydraulic fluid flow, l./sec.

maneuver was a ninety degree, 30.4 m (100 ft) radius turn without spiral transition or track banking. The vehicle speed was 9.0 m/sec (20 mph). The lateral gust loading was 44.7 m/sec (100 MPH) with a rise time of one second.

The cornering maneuver generates external moments on the  $\phi$  and  $\Theta_p$  coordinates due to the acceleration of the passenger compartment and actuator platform masses respectively. These moments, of course, increase with increasing  $\phi$  and  $\Theta_p$ . The lateral gust load generates an external moment on the  $\phi$  coordinate only.

The peak transients of design interest are shown in Table 1. Figures 5, 6, and 7 show typical system transients. The transient tests show that the controller has stabilized all vehicle dynamic modes and adequately damped the inverted pendulum and strut bending modes. The vehicle's response to lateral loads is dominated by the inverted pendulum mode which has a damping ratio of 0.63.

For the cornering maneuver test, the peak passenger compartment acceleration transient is 24% greater than the steady state cornering acceleration. (This, of course, could be greatly reduced by adding spiral corner transitions to the roadway). For the wind gust loading test, the max. hydraulic flow was 25% below the valve capacity. All peak undercarriage transients for both maneuvers were within the allowable physical constraints.

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Table 1 Peak transients

	Cornering	Gust load
Pass. comp. displacement	0.16 m	0.58 m
Tire deflection	0.02 m	0.06 m
$\dot{L}\phi$	3.3 m/sec <sup>2</sup>	0.18 m/sec <sup>2</sup>
$Y_R$	$1.4 \times 10^{-3}$ m	$1.7 \times 10^{-3}$ m
$Q$	0.6 L/sec	1.2 L/sec

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### Appendix

Most of the elements of the  $A$  matrix are zero. Those which are not are

$$a_{12} = a_{34} = a_{56} = a_{89} = 1$$

$$a_{21} = \frac{Mg\bar{L}^3 - \alpha\bar{L}}{M\bar{L}\bar{L}^3} \quad a_{23} = \frac{\alpha\bar{L}}{M\bar{L}\bar{L}^3}$$

$$a_{25} = \frac{\alpha}{M\bar{L}\bar{L}^2} \quad a_{41} = \frac{\alpha\bar{L}\bar{l}}{\epsilon\bar{L}^3}$$

$$a_{43} = \frac{M_p g \bar{L}^3 - 2K_T L_T^2 \bar{L}^3 - \alpha\bar{L}^2}{\epsilon\bar{L}^3} - \frac{2L_p^2 A_R^2}{\epsilon\beta}$$

$$a_{45} = \frac{2L_p^2 A_R^2}{\epsilon\beta} - \frac{\alpha\bar{L}}{\epsilon\bar{L}^2} \quad a_{47} = \frac{2L_p A_R}{\epsilon\beta}$$

$$a_{61} = \frac{\alpha\bar{L}}{J_p \bar{L}^2} \quad a_{63} = \frac{2L_p^2 A_R^2}{J_p \beta} - \frac{\alpha\bar{L}}{J_p \bar{L}^2}$$

$$a_{65} = -\frac{\alpha}{J_p \bar{L}} - \frac{2L_p^2 A_R^2}{J_p \beta} \quad a_{67} = -\frac{2L_p A_R}{J_p \beta}$$

$$a_{73} = \frac{A_R L_p}{\beta} \left[ \frac{kx_0}{4} \sqrt{\frac{2}{P_s}} + K_L \right] \quad a_{75} = -a_{73}$$

$$a_{77} = -\frac{a_{73}}{A_R L_p}$$

$$a_{98} = -2\zeta\omega_n$$

$$a_{78} = k \sqrt{\frac{P_s}{2}}$$

$$a_{99} = -\omega_n^2$$

where  $\alpha = 3EI$ ,  $\beta = K_e + v/K_B$ , and  $\epsilon = M_p \bar{L}^2 + J_T$ . Similarly, all the elements of  $B$  are zero except  $b_{19}$ , which is  $K_A$ .

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