

## Nonlinear cable's moving boundary problem: boundary modulation vs. quasi-static drift

T.D. Guo<sup>1,2</sup>, G. Rega<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>College of Civil Engineering, Hunan University, Changsha, China  
 guotd@hnu.edu.cn

<sup>2</sup>Department of Structural and Geotechnical Engineering,  
 Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy  
 giuseppe.rega@uniroma1.it

**Abstract** A nonlinear suspended cable excited by a boundary motion is attacked in two different formulations, i.e., the boundary modulation formulation and the quasi-static drift formulation.

Cable's nonlinear vibration [1] excited by a kinematic boundary motion of a support (deck or tower) is important for cable-stayed structures, and also, theoretically, an interesting fundamental dynamics problem. Indeed, it can be regarded as one of the two key building blocks - the other one being the support dynamics excited by cable tension - for the boundary modulation concept [2], which allows to deal with the two-way (cable-support) coupled problem. This presentation focuses on two different approaches for attacking the first (support-to-cable) coupling problem, i.e., the boundary modulation approach [2] and the quasi-static drift formulation [3][4]. Their conditional equivalence will be analytically established, and differences, limitations will also be reported. Furthermore, an interesting logical connection between the common empirical shape function [3] and the new rationally derived one, will be discussed. A cable with boundary motion is formulated as

$$\ddot{w} + 2c\dot{w} - w'' - \alpha(w'' + y'') \left[ s_d(t) \cdot \sin \beta_0 + \int_0^1 (y'w' + 0.5w'^2) dx \right] = 0 \quad (1)$$

where  $\beta_0$  is boundary motion inclination,  $w(x,t)$  and  $s_d(t)$  represent the cable's and the support's displacements, respectively. The cable's non-dimensional stiffness is  $\alpha$ , and initial sag is  $y(x)=4fx(1-x)$ , where the sag-to-span ratio is  $f=b/l$ , with  $b, l$  denoting the sag and span. The cable's boundary conditions at  $x=0$  and  $x=1$  are  $w(0,t)=0, w(1,t)=s_d(t)\cos\beta_0$ . A single-mode cable is chosen, and  $\omega_m$  is its dominant frequency. The support motion is assumed to be  $s_d(t)=Y_0 e^{i\Omega_d t}/2 + cc.$ ,  $\Omega_d = 2\omega_m + \varepsilon^2\sigma_1$ , which means the cable is excited parametrically.

In the boundary modulation formulation, one key assumption is introduced, i.e., the moving boundary is too weak to affect cable's linear modal dynamics while its effects are only on cable's higher order dynamics [2], i.e.,  $O(w) \sim O(\varepsilon), O(s_d) \sim O(\varepsilon^2)$ . Thus, the moving boundary can be transformed analytically to a weak boundary modulation term on cable's slow dynamics through a standard multi-scale expansion ( $w(x,t) = \sum \varepsilon^j w_j(x, T_0, T_2)$ ). After finding the solvability condition at the order  $O(\varepsilon^3)$ , we get the corresponding reduced model

$$D_2 A_m = -\mu_m A_m - \frac{i}{2\omega_m} \Gamma_m A_m |A_m|^2 - \frac{i}{2\omega_m} \underbrace{[\kappa_{S1}(\beta_0) + \kappa_{S2}(\beta_0)]}_{\kappa_S} \bar{A}_m Y_0 e^{i\sigma_1 T_2} \quad (2)$$

Here,  $A_m$  is cable's dominant modal amplitude appearing in  $w_1 = A_m(T_2)\phi_m(x)e^{i\omega_m T_0} + cc.$ , and the boundary modulation coefficient  $\kappa_{S1}(\beta_0), \kappa_{S2}(\beta_0)$  can be analytically derived.

In the quasi-static drift formulation, as the cable's standard boundary condition (fixed at both ends) has been relaxed, a modification induced by the moving boundary is introduced, i.e.,

$$w = \psi_0(x)s_d(t) \cos \beta_0 + \phi_m(x)q_m(t) \quad (3)$$

where the quasi-static drift function  $\psi_0(x)$  satisfies  $\psi_0(0)=0$  and  $\psi_0(1)=1$ , and the elastic mode shape  $\phi_m(x)$  satisfies  $\phi_m(0)=\phi_m(1)=0$ . Two empirical drift functions are  $\psi_0(x)=x$  [3] and  $\psi_0(x)=x^2$  [4]. By substituting Eq.(3) into Eq.(1) and using Galerkin discretization technique, we get (similar ordering assumption is also used  $O(w) \sim O(q_m) \sim O(\varepsilon)$ ,  $O(s_d) \sim O(\varepsilon^2)$ )

$$\ddot{q}_m + 2\mu\dot{q}_m + a_1q_m - a_2q_m^2 - a_3q_m^3 + a_4\ddot{s}_d + a_5\dot{s}_d - a_6s_d + a_7q_ms_d + O(\varepsilon^4) = 0 \quad (4)$$

Using a proper multi-scale expansion ( $q_m(t) = \sum \varepsilon^j q_{mj}(T_0, T_2)$ ,  $j=1,2,3,\dots$ ), the reduced model is established through finding the solvability condition

$$D_2 B_m = -\mu B_m - \underbrace{\frac{i}{2\omega_m} \left( 3a_3 + \frac{10a_2^2}{3\omega_m^2} \right)}_{\tilde{\Gamma}_m} |B_m|^2 B_m - \underbrace{\frac{i}{2\omega_m} \left( -\frac{a_6}{2} - \frac{a_4 a_2 \Omega_d^2 - a_5 a_2}{3\omega_m^2} \right)}_{\tilde{\kappa}_S} \bar{B}_m Y_0 e^{i\sigma_1 T_2} \quad (5)$$

Here  $B_m$  is the cable's dominant modal amplitude appearing in  $q_{m1} = B_m(T_2) e^{i\omega_m T_0} + cc$ . The coefficients  $a_1 \sim a_7$  can be analytically derived. A full comparative study will be based upon these two different reduced models (Eq.(2) and Eq.(5)), as illustrated in Fig. 1 below.

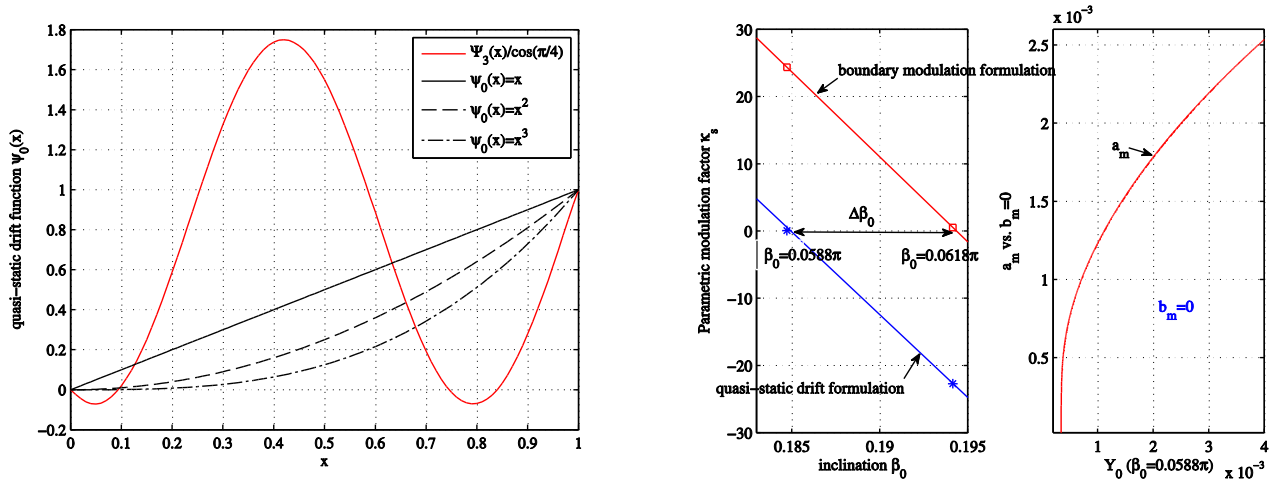


Figure 1: Different shape functions, and two formulation comparisons:  $\mu=0.001$ ,  $\omega_m=4.21369$ ,  $\sigma_1=0.0$ .  $\psi_0=x$  (\*),  $\psi_0=\Psi_3/\cos(\beta_0)$  (□)

## References

- [1] G. Rega, Nonlinear vibrations of suspended cables - Part I: Modeling and analysis, *Applied Mechanics Reviews* 57, 443-478, 2004.
- [2] T.D. Guo, H.J. Kang, L.H. Wang, Y.Y. Zhao, Cable's mode interactions under vertical support motions: Boundary resonant modulation, *Nonlinear Dynamics* 84, 1259-1279, 2016.
- [3] L.H. Wang, Y.Y. Zhao, Large amplitude motion mechanism and non-planar vibration character of stay cables subject to the support motions, *Journal of Sound and Vibration* 327, 121-133, 2009.
- [4] C.T. Georgakis, C.A. Taylor, Nonlinear dynamics of cable stays. Part I: Sinusoidal cable support excitation, *Journal of Sound and Vibration* 281, 537--564, 2005.