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A vehicle-structure interaction method for analyzing the train running safety

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1. Introduction

Motivation and objectives



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Wheel-rail contact



The geometrical contact problem consists of solving a system of nonlinear equations to detect the position of the contact point between wheel and rail.



Wheel-rail contact

Nonlinear Hertz theory

The nonlinear Hertz contact theory is used to solve the normal contact problem.

$$F_n = K_h \,\delta^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

The normal contact force depends on the deformation between wheel and rail when they contact eachother, on the mechanical properties of the bodies in contact and on the curvatures of the bodies at the contact point.





Wheel-rail contact

Kalker's rolling contact theory

The Kalker's nonlinear rolling contact theory is used to solve the tangential contact problem.

The creep forces are calculated by the USETAB routine, based on Kalker's exact three dimensional theory, and by the Kalker's linear theory for small creepages.







Wheel-rail contact





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Numerical solution of the interaction problem

• The direct method developed by Neves et al. 2012^a is used to solve the interaction problem.

• The governing equilibrium equations of the vehicle and structure are complemented with additional constraint equations that relate the displacements of the contact nodes of the vehicle with the corresponding nodal displacements of the structure.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \overline{\mathbf{K}}_{FF} & \overline{\mathbf{D}}_{FX} \\ \overline{\mathbf{H}}_{XF} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \mathbf{a}_{F}^{i+1} \\ \Delta \mathbf{X}^{i+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{\psi} \left(\mathbf{a}_{F}^{c,i}, \mathbf{X}^{c,i} \right) \\ \overline{\mathbf{g}} \end{bmatrix}$$

• Neves et al. 2014^b proposed and extension of the direct method to account the nonlinear characteristics of contact. In the present work there are three contact directions (normal and two tangential).

^a S. G. M. Neves, A. F. M. Azevedo, R. Calçada, A direct method for analyzing the vertical vehicle-structure interaction, Engineering Structures, 2012.

^b S. G. M. Neves, P. A. Montenegro, A. F. M. Azevedo, R. Calçada, A direct method for analyzing the nonlinear vehicle–structure interaction, Engineering Structures (accepted).



Validation using results from an experimental test developed in the RTRI

Lateral accelerations inside the carbody above the rear bogie^a



Bending shape L=40m

^a P. A. Montenegro, S. G. M. Neves, R. Calçada, M. Tanabe, M. Sogabe, *Wheel-rail contact method for analyzing the lateral train-structure dynamic interaction*, Computers & Structures (under review).



3. Finite element model of the viaduct and train Alverca viaduct

Finite element model of the Alverca viaduct





3. Finite element model of the viaduct and train

Japanese Shinkansen high-speed train

Finite element model of the Shinkansen









3. Finite element model of the viaduct and train

Dynamic properties of the viaduct and train



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4. Running safety analysis Seismic action

- Artificial accelerograms generated with the software SeismoArtif[®];
- Moderate seismic intensities with T = 95, 150, 225 and 310 years. These level of intensities do not cause significant damage to the structure but may jeopardize the train running safety.
- Target elastic spectra defined for the seismic zone 2.3 of the Portuguese territory, soil type A and importance factor 1.0 (NP EN 1998-1, 2009).



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T = 310 years

4. Running safety analysis Results





4. Running safety analysis

Influence of the seismic intensity

	-	-	-
Seismic level	Nadal (0.8)	Prud'homme (1.0)	Wheel unloading (0.9)
No earthquake	0.26	0.37	0.72
T = 95 years	0.71	0.89	0.76
T = 150 years	0.70	1.17	0.82
T = 225 years	1.02	1.35	0.89
T = 310 years	1.05	1.42	0.89

V = 350 km/h and regular operation limit irregularities

Left wheel, 2^{nd} wheelset, V = 350 km/h, regular operation limit irregularities



4. Running safety analysis

Influence of the track quality

		-	-
Track quality level	Nadal (0.8)	Prud'homme (1.0)	Wheel unloading (0.9)
Regular operation limit	0.26	0.37	0.72
Alert limit	1.45	1.68	1.00

V = 350 km/h and no earthquake



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4. Running safety analysis

Running safety charts



P. A. Montenegro, R. Calçada, N. Vila Pouca, M. Tanabe, *Running safety assessment of trains moving over bridges subjected to moderate earthquakes*, Earthquake Engineering & Structural Dynamics (under review).

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5. Conclusions

• A study about the running safety assessment of trains moving over bridges subjected to earthquakes is presented. A train-structure interaction method that takes into account the geometry of the wheel and rail, is adopted to solve the dynamic problem.

• The influence of the seismic intensity level and track quality in the running safety of a high-speed railway vehicle moving over a viaduct is discussed.

• Even considering only moderate seismic intensities, the train safety is put at risk in a considerable number of scenarios, especially due to the risks of derailment caused by wheel flange climbing.

• The results prove the importance of taking low intensity earthquakes into account in the design of railway bridges, even if they do not represent a major threat to the structure integrity.



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Thank you for your attention

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