ABSTRACT: Stay cables, such as are used in cable-stayed bridges, are prone to vibration due to their low inherent damping characteristics. Transversely-attached passive viscous dampers have been implemented in many bridges to dampen such vibration. Several studies have investigated optimal passive linear viscous dampers; however, even the optimal passive device can only add a small amount of damping to the cable when attached a reasonable distance from the cable/deck anchorage. This paper investigates the potential for improved damping using semiactive devices. The equations of motion of the cable/damper system are derived using an assumed modes approach and a control-oriented model is developed. The control-oriented model is shown to be more accurate than other models and facilitates low-order control designs. The effectiveness of passive linear viscous dampers is reviewed. The response of a cable with passive, active and semiactive dampers is studied. The response with a semiactive damper is found to be dramatically reduced compared to the optimal passive linear viscous damper for typical damper configurations, thus demonstrating the potential benefits using a semiactive damper for absorbing cable vibratory energy.

INTRODUCTION

Long steel cables, such as are used in cable-stayed bridges and other structures, are prone to vibration induced by the structure to which they are connected and by weather conditions. In particular, light-to-moderate wind combined with light-to-moderate rain has been observed to induce significant cable motion in cables of various cable-stayed bridges; this phenomenon is generally termed “rain-wind induced vibration” (e.g., Hikami 1986; Hikami and Shiraishi 1988; Matsumoto 1998; Main and Jones 1999). The extremely low damping inherent in such cables, typically on the order of a fraction of a percent (Yamaguchi and Fujino 1998), is insufficient to eliminate this vibration, causing reduced cable and connection life due to fatigue and/or breakdown of corrosion protection (Watson and Stafford 1988; Poston 1998), as well as the risk of losing public confidence in such structures.

Several methods have been proposed and/or implemented to mitigate this problem, though each has its limitations (e.g., Yamaguchi and Fujino 1998). Tying multiple cables together is a sensible approach, but detracts from the aesthetics of the bridge. Changes to cable roughness or other aerodynamic measures have been effective only for certain classes of vibration, are difficult to implement for retrofit, and have disadvantages at high wind velocities. Active transverse and/or axial control of cable vibration (e.g., Fujino et al. 1993; Yamaguchi and Dung 1992) may require power sources beyond practical limits, given the number of cables on a typical cable-stayed bridge and the isolated locations at which they are often placed. Discrete passive viscous dampers attached perpendicular to the cables have been used on a number of bridges, such as the Brotonne Bridge in France (Gimsing 1983), the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in Florida (Watson and Stafford...
1988) and the Aratsu Bridge in Japan (Yoshimura *et al.* 1989), though the damper attachment location is typically restricted to be within 5% (of the cable length) from the cable anchorage.

For an attached discrete linear viscous damper, it has been demonstrated (*e.g.*, Kovacs 1982; Sulekh 1990; Pacheco *et al.* 1993; Krenk 2000) that an optimal damper size exists for a given cable configuration. This is easily understood when one considers that approaching a zero damping constant in the viscous damper, the cable vibrates nearly unimpeded, and approaching an infinite damping constant, the cable again vibrates nearly unimpeded but in the span beyond the location of the attached damper; the optimum, then, must fall somewhere in between. Fujino and colleagues (Sulekh 1990; Pacheco *et al.* 1993) derived an approximate relationship that may be used to estimate the optimal damper design for a given cable configuration and attachment location.

Several studies (*e.g.*, Kovacs 1982; Pacheco *et al.* 1993; Krenk 2000; Main and Jones 2002a) have shown that the maximum amount of damping added to the cable with a transverse passive linear damper is approximately proportional to the distance, relative to the cable length, between the damper and the cable/deck anchorage. Similar damping levels are also achieved by nonlinear passive dampers (Main and Jones 2002b; Krenk and Høgsberg 2005). Further, any device rigidity reduces passive damper performance and while adding mass can increase damping (Krenk and Høgsberg 2005), it is still likely to be on the same order as that of a linear passive damper. Modern cable-stayed bridges are using longer and longer cables, such as cables on the Tatara and Normandie Bridges which are more than 450 meters long (Endo *et al.* 1991; Virloguex *et al.* 1994) (a planned 1100 meter main-span bridge in Hong Kong (Russell 1999) would require even longer stay cables). With such long cables, approaching a 5% connection point may be infeasible without significant changes to the aesthetics of the structure. Rather, a 1% to 2% location is more likely. In such a case, passive dampers may add insufficient damping to the cables. Therefore, other methods of mitigating excessive cable vibration must be explored.

Semiactive dampers, whether of the variable orifice, controllable friction, or controllable fluid varieties, have proven to be of significant interest in many applications (Housner *et al.* 1997; Spencer and Sain 1997) and can potentially achieve performance levels nearly the same as comparable active devices with few of the detractions. This paper investigates the efficacy of employing a semiactive damper as an alternative to a transverse passive viscous damper for reducing cable motion. It will be demonstrated via simulation that a semiactive device may provide dramatic reductions in cable response over the optimal linear viscous damper and achieve nearly the same performance as a comparable active damper.

**CABLE DYNAMICS**

Stay cables typically have small sag (on the order of 1% sag-to-length ratio) with high tension-to-weight ratios. With small sag, the inclination, the static deflection due to gravity, and the flexural rigidity may be neglected since they are second order effects. Consequently, the motion of the cable may be modeled by the motion of a taut string (Irvine 1981). Consider the transverse motion of a cable with a damper attached transverse to the cable as shown in Fig. 1. For small deflection, this system has the following nondimensional partial differential equation of motion
with boundary conditions

\[ v(0, t) = v(1, t) = 0 \quad \text{for all } t \]

where \( v(x, t) \) is the transverse deflection of the cable, \( c \) is the viscous damping per unit length, \((\quad)' \) and \((\quad)''\) denote partial derivatives with respect to \( x \) and \( t \), respectively, \( f(x, t) \) is the distributed load on the cable, \( F_d(t) \) is a transverse damper force at location \( x = x_d \), and \( \delta(\cdot) \) is the Dirac delta function. The nondimensional quantities are related to their dimensional counterparts, shown with overbars, according to the following relations

\[
\begin{align*}
  t &= \omega_0 i \\
  x &= \bar{x}/L \\
  c &= \bar{c}/\rho\omega_0 \\
  v(x, t) &= v(\bar{x}, i)/L \\
  \omega_0^2 &= T\pi^2/\rho L^2 \\
  \delta(x - x_d) &= L\delta(\bar{x} - \bar{x}_d) \\
  f(x, t) &= L\tilde{f}(\bar{x}, i)/\pi^2 T \\
  F_d(t) &= F_{d}(i)/\pi^2 T
\end{align*}
\]

where \( L \) is the length of the cable, \( \omega_0 \) is the fundamental natural frequency of the undamped cable, \( T \) is the cable tension, and \( \rho \) is the cable mass per unit length. (Note that, unless otherwise specified, all quantities in the remainder are nondimensional.)

The excitation \( f(x, t) \) is assumed to be a stochastic process. For convenience, assume the excitation may be approximated by

\[
f(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i(x)\beta_i(t)
\]

where the \( \alpha_i(x) \) are deterministic functions of position along the cable and the \( \beta_i(t) \) are the components of a stationary, ergodic, zero-mean stochastic vector process.

**Approximation using Series**

The transverse deflection may be approximated using a finite series

\[
v(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^{m} q_j(t)\phi_j(x)
\]
where the \( q_j(t) \) are generalized displacements and the \( \phi_j(x) \) are a set of shape functions that are continuous with piecewise continuous slope and that satisfy the geometric boundary conditions \( \phi_j(0) = \phi_j(1) = 0 \). Substituting (5) into the nondimensional equation of motion (1), using a standard Galerkin approach (Craig 1981) (i.e., assume the truncation error is orthogonal to the shape functions retained), multiplying by \( \phi_i(x) \) and integrating over the length of the cable gives

\[
m_{ij} = \frac{1}{0} \int \phi_i(x) \phi_j(x) dx \quad c_{ij} = c \frac{1}{0} \int \phi_i(x) \phi_j(x) dx
\]

\[
k_{ij} = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \int \phi_i'(x) \phi_j'(x) dx \quad f_i(t) = \frac{1}{0} \int f(x, t) \phi_i(x) dx
\]

\[
M \ddot{q} + C \dot{q} + K q = f + \phi F_d(t)
\]

with mass \( M = [m_{ij}] \), damping \( C = [c_{ij}] \), and stiffness \( K = [k_{ij}] \) matrices, generalized displacement vector \( q = [q_i(t)] \), externally applied load vector \( f = f(t) = [f_1 \ f_2 \ \ldots \ f_m]^T \), and damper load vector \( \phi = \phi(x_d) = [\phi_1(x_d) \ \phi_2(x_d) \ \ldots \ \phi_m(x_d)]^T \).

**Solution by Sine Series Approximation**

Pacheco *et al.* (1993) assumed sinusoidal shape functions, \( \phi_i(x) = \sin \pi i x \), identical to the mode shapes of the cable without the damper, to compute the damping with attached viscous dampers. Since these sinusoidal shape functions are mutually orthogonal, the mass, damping and stiffness matrices are diagonal. Using a linear viscous damper, \( F_d(t) = -c_d \dot{v}(x_d, t) \), the cable/damper system may be posed in state space form as

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\dot{q} \\
\dot{\dot{q}}
\end{bmatrix} =
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & I \\
-[i^2 \delta_{ij}] & -c I - 2 c_d \phi \phi^T
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
q \\
\dot{q}
\end{bmatrix} +
\begin{bmatrix}
0 \\
2 I
\end{bmatrix} f
\]

where \( \delta_{ij} \) is the Kronecker delta. (Note: the \( c_d \) used here is nondimensional; the corresponding dimensional term is given by \( \bar{c}_d = \rho a_0 L c_d \).) A simple eigenvalue analysis of the state matrix in (8) may be used to compute the damping in the system. Figure 2 shows the normalized modal damping as a function of the damper coefficient \( c_d \); this particular graph was generated using the first mode with a damper location \( x_d = 0.02 \), but is similar for other damper locations and other modes (Pacheco *et al.* 1993). Additionally, the inherent cable damping \( c \) was assumed here to be zero; typical values of \( c \) for real cables are sufficiently small that the graph would change insignificantly. Two important observations may be drawn from Fig. 2. First, there is a linear viscous damper that maximizes the damping in the first mode, as was observed in a number of previous studies (e.g., Kovacs 1982; Sulekh 1990; Pacheco *et al.* 1993). Second, as was also noted by Pacheco *et al.* (1993), the number of terms required to accurately compute the optimal damping is quite large. This observation may also be seen in Fig. 3, which shows the computed value of \( \zeta_1 \), the damping ratio in the first mode, as a function of the number of terms used in the series approximation for the optimal damper coefficient \( (c_d = 5.07) \) at location \( x_d = 0.02 \). The series using sinusoidal shape functions converges rather slowly, requiring hundreds of shape functions for convergence of \( \zeta_1 \).
Development of a Control-Oriented Model

Using several hundred terms in the sine series to compute the system eigenvalues, and even to simulate the system, is possible on today’s computers, though it does take considerable computation effort. However, when trying to use active or semiactive control of the system, controllers for systems of such complexity are problematic in the control design, evaluation and implementation stages (e.g., numerical conditioning can become poor for the matrices used in control design for large systems, the computation speed in implementing controllers is limited, etc.). A control-oriented model of modest order is required.

Much of the demand for using so many terms in the series is associated with the need to approximate the kink in the damped modes of the combined cable/damper system such as shown in Fig. 4c. Introducing a shape function based on the deflection due to a static force at the damper location can reduce this demand. The static deflection shape function is shown in Fig. 4b and is given by

\[ \phi_1(x) = \begin{cases} 
  x / x_d, & 0 \leq x \leq x_d \\
  (1 - x) / (1 - x_d), & x_d \leq x \leq 1 
\end{cases} \]  

(9)
Using a linear combination of the static deflection shape and the first sine term, as shown in Fig. 4, closely approximates the first damped eigenfunction of the system with a passive linear viscous damper with high damping coefficient. Consequently, including the static deflection as a shape function should allow two terms in the series to closely approximate the first mode of the combined cable/damper system and, therefore, decrease the number of terms required for comparable accuracy.

The other shape functions remain sinusoidal, \( \phi_j(x) = \sin \pi j x \), and a standard Galerkin approach can be taken, resulting in mass and stiffness matrices
and damping matrix \( C = c M \). The state-space representation can be formulated as

\[
\begin{align*}
\eta &= A \eta + B F_d(t) + G f \\
z &= C_z \eta + D_z F_d(t) + H_z f \\
y &= C_y \eta + D_y F_d(t) + H_y f + v
\end{align*}
\]

where \( \eta = \begin{bmatrix} q^T & \dot{q}^T \end{bmatrix}^T \) is the state vector, \( z = \begin{bmatrix} q^T & \ddot{q}^T \end{bmatrix}^T \) is a vector of quantities to be regulated (includes the generalized displacements, velocities, and terms \( \ddot{q} = q - M^{-1} f \) related to the generalized accelerations), \( y = [v(x_d, t) \quad \ddot{v}(x_d, t)]^T + v \) is a vector of noisy sensor measurements (includes the displacement and acceleration at the damper location), \( v \) is a vector of stochastic sensor noise processes, and

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ -M^{-1} K & -M^{-1} C \end{bmatrix} \\
B &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ M^{-1} \phi \end{bmatrix} \\
G &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ M^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \\
C_z &= \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \\
D_z &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
H_z &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
C_y &= \begin{bmatrix} \phi^T & 0 \\ -\phi^T M^{-1} K & -\phi^T M^{-1} C \end{bmatrix} \\
D_y &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \phi^T M^{-1} \phi \end{bmatrix} \\
H_y &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \phi^T M^{-1} \end{bmatrix}
\end{align*}
\]

**Assessment of Control-Oriented Cable Model**

A control-oriented model of the cable should, with only a few terms, adequately describe the dynamic characteristics of the cable, including the natural frequency \( \omega_i \), damping ratio \( \zeta_i \), and eigenfunction \( \phi_i(x) \) for each mode. To investigate the convergence rate for the two series approximations, consider the passive linear viscous damper located at \( x_d = 0.02 \) that maximizes the damping in the first mode (i.e., \( c_d = 5.07 \)). Figure 3 shows that the damping in the first mode converges very fast when using the static deflection shape compared to without it. In fact, the relative error in the damping estimate computed using only the static deflection shape and the first sinusoid is less than 0.001, compared to over 1000 sinusoids alone for the same accuracy. Similar trends occur for higher modes as well.
A second test of the convergence of the cable model is to examine the convergence of the damping as a function of the viscous damper coefficient. Figure 2 shows the normalized modal damping with and without the static deflection shape function for several numbers of terms in the series. Again, including the static deflection shape allows the same accuracy with only a few terms as would be attained with hundreds of terms in the sine-only series.

A third demonstration of the convergence properties may be seen by computing the error in the first several eigenfunctions (i.e., the mode shapes of the combined system). Define the relative eigenfunction error as

$$\text{relative eigenfunction error} = \frac{\| \tilde{\phi}_i^m(x) - \tilde{\phi}_i^{499s + sd}(x) \|_2}{\| \tilde{\phi}_i^{499s + sd}(x) \|_2}$$

(13)

where $\tilde{\phi}_i^m(x)$ is the $i^{th}$ eigenfunction computed using $m$ shape functions, $\tilde{\phi}_i^{499s + sd}(x)$ is the $i^{th}$ eigenfunction when using 499 sine terms plus the static deflection shape (used here as the measure against which less accurate models are compared), and $\| \cdot \|_2$ is a standard 2-norm. The relative eigenfunction error (13) may be computed directly from the eigenvectors of the state matrix (Johnson et al. 2001). The resulting relative error as a function of $m$, the number of shape functions in the series, is shown in Fig. 5 for the first three modes when including and omitting the static deflection term (passive damper $c_d = 5.07$ at $x_d = 0.02$). The convergence is notably faster when including the static deflection shape; 12 sine terms plus the static deflection gives the same
accuracy as 1000 sine terms alone for the first three eigenfunctions. Similar trends exist for higher modes as well.

Thus, using the static deflection shape function will provide a low-order control-oriented model with accuracy sufficient to capture the salient dynamics of the combined cable/damper system.

**CONTROL OF CABLE VIBRATION**

Three types of dampers are considered in this study. The damper of primary interest is a general semiactive device, one that may exert any required dissipative force. However, comparison with passive linear viscous dampers, similar to the oil dampers that have been installed in numerous cable-stayed bridges, is vital to demonstrate the improvements that may be possible with semiactive damping technology. Additionally, comparison with active control devices is useful as they bound the achievable performance.

**Passive Viscous Damper**

If the damping device is a passive linear viscous damper, then the damper force is \( F_d(t) = -c_d \dot{v}(x_d, t) \) where \( c_d \) is a nondimensional damping constant and \( \dot{v}(x_d, t) \) is the nondimensional velocity at the damper location \( \dot{v}(x_d, t) = \phi^T \dot{q} = [0 \ T \ \phi^T] \eta \). The resulting state-space equations are

\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{\eta} &= A_p \eta + G f \\
z &= C_p \eta + H_z f 
\end{align*}
\]  \hspace{1cm} (14)

where

\[
A_p = A + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -c_d M^{-1} \phi \phi^T \end{bmatrix} \quad C_p = C_z + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -c_d M^{-1} \phi \phi^T \end{bmatrix} \hspace{1cm} (15)
\]

As noted above, the modal damping may be determined for this system via a straightforward eigenvalue analysis. When the distributed viscous damping is negligible, which is typically the case for long stay cables, Fig. 2 shows the damping ratio for various levels of viscous damping \( c_d \). It may be noted that the shape of the curve this curve is similar for higher modes but with the peak at different locations; consequently, the optimal choice of \( c_d \) is different for maximizing the modal damping for different modes of the combined system.

**Alternate Measures of Damper Performance**

Modal damping ratios provide a useful means of determining the effectiveness of linear viscous damping strategies. However, using a semiactive damper introduces a nonlinearity into the combined system. Consequently, performance measures other than modal damping must be used for judging the efficacy of nonlinear damping strategies in comparison with linear (passive or active) dampers.
Using the root mean square (RMS) or peak response of the cable at some particular location (or several locations) is one possible measure of damper performance. However, it may be possible for one control strategy to decrease the motion significantly in some regions of a structure but allow other parts to vibrate relatively unimpeded. Thus, the primary measure of damper performance considered herein is the root mean square (RMS) cable deflection \( \sigma_{\text{displacement}} \) defined by

\[
\sigma_{\text{displacement}}^2(t) = E \left[ \int_0^1 v^2(x, t) \, dx \right] = \text{trace} \left\{ M^{1/2} E[\mathbf{q}(t)\mathbf{q}^T(t)]M^{1/2} \right\}
\]  

(16)

The corresponding RMS cable velocity and a term related to the cable acceleration may be computed using

\[
\sigma_{\text{velocity}}^2(t) = E[\mathbf{q}^T(t)\mathbf{Mq}(t)] = \text{trace} \left\{ M^{1/2} E[\mathbf{\dot{q}}(t)\mathbf{\dot{q}}^T(t)]M^{1/2} \right\}
\]

\[
\sigma_{a}^2(t) = E[\mathbf{\ddot{q}}^T(t)\mathbf{Mq}(t)] = \text{trace} \left\{ M^{1/2} E[\mathbf{\ddot{q}}(t)\mathbf{\ddot{q}}^T(t)]M^{1/2} \right\}
\]

(17)

where \( \mathbf{\dot{q}} = \mathbf{\dot{q}} - \mathbf{M}^{-1}\mathbf{f} \) (i.e., the generalized acceleration minus the effect of the external load). Of course, if the focus is on the stationary response — which is the case herein — then all three of these performance measures are constant and not functions of time.

For the linear systems (passive linear viscous dampers and active dampers), these quantities may be computed by solving a Lyapunov equation. For example, if the excitation vector \( \mathbf{f} \) is a zero-mean Gaussian white noise vector process with \( E[\mathbf{f}(t)\mathbf{f}^T(t + \tau)] = 2\pi \mathbf{S}_0 \delta(\tau) \) where \( \mathbf{S}_0 \) is the spectral density matrix, and the damper is a passive linear viscous damper, \( \sigma_{\text{displacement}} \) may be computed from (16) where \( E[\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T] = [\mathbf{I} \quad \mathbf{0}]\mathbf{\Sigma}[\mathbf{I} \quad \mathbf{0}]^T \) and where \( \mathbf{\Sigma} = E[\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^T] \) is the solution of the Lyapunov equation \( \mathbf{A}_p \mathbf{\Sigma} + \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{A}_p^T + \mathbf{G} 2\pi \mathbf{S}_0 \mathbf{G}^T = \mathbf{0} \).

**Active Damper**

The optimal passive viscous damper provides one benchmark against which to judge semiactive dampers. The other end of the spectrum of control possibilities is an ideal active damper, which may exert any desired force. The performance of the actively controlled systems give a performance target for semiactive control.

Four LQR (linear quadratic regulator) control designs are considered in this study. These state feedback controllers use force proportional to the state of the system, \( F_{\text{active}}(t) = -\mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{n} \), where \( \mathbf{L}_k \) is the feedback gain that minimizes one of four cost functions. The first controller, using cost \( J_1 \), weights the cable displacement \( \sigma_{\text{displacement}}^2 \), the second the velocity \( \sigma_{\text{velocity}}^2 \), the third a combination of displacement and velocity \( \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{\text{displacement}}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{\text{velocity}}^2 \), and the fourth a term \( \sigma_{a}^2 \) related to the acceleration. These cost functions can be written in general form

\[
J_k = \lim_{T \to \infty} E \left[ \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T (\mathbf{z}^T \mathbf{Q}_k \mathbf{z} + RF_{d}^2) \, dt \right], \quad k = 1, 2, 3, 4
\]

(18)

where
The feedback gain that minimizes the cost (18) is

\[ PA = (P_k B + C^T z_{D_k} D_z)(R + D^T z_{Q_k} D_z)^{-1}(B^T P_k + D^T z_{Q_k} C_z) = -C^T z_{Q_k} C_z \]  

(20)

Varying the control weight \( R \) will then give four families of state feedback controllers. Note that because of the certainty equivalence principle (e.g., Stengel 1986), the zero-mean external excitation vector \( f \) drops out of the state feedback control design.

Of course, it is unreasonable to assume that one has perfect full state information for a cable system. Consequently, some of the designs in this study use a Kalman filter to estimate the states of the system based on (noisy) sensor measurements of displacement and acceleration at the damper location. (These two measurements are likely to be the easiest to use in a full-scale implementation as they could be packaged as a part of the damper system.) The resulting estimator is dynamic with order equal to that of the cable state space model, and is given by

\[ \dot{\hat{x}} = A_{KF} \hat{x} + B_{KF} y + \sum G_{KF} F_d(t) \]  

(21)

where \( \hat{x} \) is an estimate of the states \( x \), \( A_{KF} = A - L_{KF} C_y \), \( B_{KF} = L_{KF} \), \( G_{KF} = B - L_{KF} D_y \), \( L_{KF} = (\tilde{P} C_y + G_{KF} Q_{HF} H^T)(R_{KF} + H_{Q_{KF}} Q_{HF})^{-1} \) is the estimator gain and \( \tilde{P} \) is computed from the Riccati equation

\[ \tilde{P} A + \tilde{P} A^T - (\tilde{P} C^T_y + G_{KF} Q_{HF} H^T)(R_{KF} + H_{Q_{KF}} Q_{HF})^{-1}(C_y \tilde{P} + H_{Q_{KF}} Q_{HF}) = -G_{KF} Q_{HF} G^T \]  

(22)

Semiactive Damper

Unlike an active device, a semiactive damper, such as a variable-orifice viscous damper, a controllable friction damper, or a controllable fluid damper (Spencer and Sain 1997; Fujino et al. 1996; Housner et al. 1997), can ideally only exert dissipative forces. Herein, a generic semiactive device model is assumed that is purely dissipative. Essentially, this requirement dictates that the force exerted by the damper and the velocity across the damper must be of opposite sign; i.e., \( F_d(t) \) \( \dot{v}(x_d, t) \) must be less than zero. Figure 6 shows this constraint graphically. (In many physical semiactive devices, there are also
maximum force levels; this limit is neglected here.) This generic semiactive device model gives a first approximation of the performance potential possible with smart dampers.

In previous studies of the control of semiactive dampers (e.g., Dyke et al. 1996a,b; Johnson et al. 1999a,b), a clipped optimal strategy, employing a two-stage control design, has performed well. The control algorithm considered here falls into this category. The primary controller is one of the same LQR or LQG control designs used for the active damper. The secondary controller, which accounts for the nonlinear nature of the semiactive device, may be given by

\[ F_d(t) = \begin{cases} \alpha(\dot{\psi}(x_d, t))F_{d, \text{active}}(t), & F_{d, \text{active}}(t)\dot{\psi}(x_d, t) < 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \] (23)

Primarily, this secondary controller ensures that the control system does not command non-dissipative damper forces. Of course, in a physical device (as opposed to simulation), this restriction is enforced by the nature of the device. (However, one would still need a secondary controller for the physical device since most semiactive devices are not linear in the relationship between command input and force exerted. Herein, it is assumed that as long as the force is dissipative, it can be commanded directly.)

The second purpose of this secondary controller is to modulate the force, via the function \( \alpha(\cdot) \), when the velocity at the damper location is near zero; this is motivated by both physical and numerical reasons. In simulations with no modulation function, the following scenario often occurs: in one time step, the velocity has changed sign making the desired damper force dissipative, so the damper force is turned on; during the following time step, the large damper force drives the velocity back across zero but with the damper force still on and some displacement occurs so energy is incorrectly dissipated; the damper force is subsequently turned back off, which will make the velocity change sign again in the third time step. This cycle tends to repeat itself, resulting in many narrow but tall dissipation loops that cannot be repeated in a real semiactive device. Essentially, the damper is trying to lock up and make the cable velocity exactly zero at the damper location. This numerical dissipation can be reduced only by using extremely small time steps (on the order of \( 10^{-8} \) natural periods), which renders response simulation computationally intractable. Further, physical semiactive damping devices, such as MR dampers, cannot produce large damping forces for near-zero velocities (Spencer et al., 1997; Yang et al., 2002). Thus, in this study, the modulation function \( \alpha(\dot{\psi}_d) = \tanh(\mu \dot{\psi}_d) \) is used. Large \( \mu \) causes \( \alpha(\cdot) \) to approach the sign(\( \cdot \)) function, modulating only when the velocity is very small, and requiring an extremely small integration time step again. In contrast, small \( \mu \) accommodates larger integration time step but can reduce the control effectiveness since it modulates the forces even at larger velocities. An extensive parameter study found that \( \mu = 10 \) is an acceptable trade off of control strategy performance and simulation tractability.

**NUMERICAL RESULTS**

A series of numerical studies were conducted to compare and contrast semiactive damper performance with that of optimal passive linear viscous dampers and linear active dampers. The inherent distributed viscous damping \( c \) was chosen to be nearly negligible: \( c = 0.0001 \) (which, in the absence of any other damping device, gives a damping ratio of 0.005 % in the first mode). Using 20 shape functions (19 sine terms plus the static deflection term) gives less than 0.01%
error in the first three combined system eigenfunctions (compared to 499 sine terms plus the static deflection term), and gave RMS response nearly identical (less than one percent error) to using more terms; consequently, all results shown below use these 20 shape functions. A range of damper locations was studied; the results discussed here are primarily for \( x_d = 0.02 \) but similar behavior may be observed for other small \( x_d \).

The phenomena that cause rain-wind induced vibration, including the aerodynamic forces, motion of water rivulets, the nonlinear coupling with the cable motion, and so forth, are not well understood (Main and Jones 1999); consequently, there are no well established models of this behavior (Scanlon 1999). However, it has been observed that the response tends to be dominated by the first few modes. Here, the excitation is assumed to be a subset of the series in (4) using just one term

\[
f(x, t) = W(t) \sin \pi x
\]

(24)

where \( W(t) \) is a zero-mean Gaussian white noise process with \( E[W(t)W(t + \tau)] = \delta(\tau) \). In the absence of a damper, this excitation would result in first-mode response.

The results for the active and passive strategies are computed exactly (eigenvalue analysis for modal parameters and Lyapunov solutions for stationary response). Computing the statistics of the response for the semiactive system requires simulation due to the nonlinear nature of semiactive dampers. The RMS responses with a semiactive damper are determined from simulation time histories (generated using SIMULINK®) of duration 1600 to 4000 periods of the fundamental mode of the cable alone (systems with less damping require longer time histories for accurate estimation of the RMS response). The sensor noise vector \( \mathbf{v} \) is taken to be a zero-mean Gaussian white noise vector process with diagonal spectral density magnitude matrix. The magnitudes are chosen such that using band-limited white noise (nondimensional sampling time of 0.01) in the simulation (for sensor noise and excitation) gives a certain level of RMS error in each of the two sensor signals. Two different noise levels are studied here: 1% RMS sensor noise, typical of what one might expect in practice, and 10% RMS sensor noise, included to better understand the sensitivity of the semiactive damper results to sensor noise.

**Damping Ratio for Linear Control Strategies**

The damping ratio in the first several modes was computed for the linear strategies, that is, for passive linear viscous dampers and for active dampers with the four state feedback control laws. Varying the damper coefficient for the passive designs and the control weight \( R \) for the active designs results in five families (one passive, four active) of combined cable/damper systems.

The effect on the first mode damping ratio is of particular interest since it may be compared to previous results using a linear viscous damper. Figure 7 shows the natural frequency and the damping ratio of the first mode of the system for the active damper with state feedback and for the passive viscous damper. (The horizontal \( c_d \) axis is scaled such that a passive system with a particular damper coefficient \( c_d \) and an active system with the corresponding control weight \( R \) use the same RMS damper force.) The peak damping ratio using a passive viscous damper is about 1%, whereas the active control may achieve 35% or higher damping ratios. The acceleration-weighting control design shows a marked decrease in the first modal frequency compared to the cable alone. While this is not surprising, it suggests that this controller may be adding negative stiffness, which cannot be achieved with a purely dissipative semiactive device. Furthermore, nega-
tive stiffness should tend to increase displacements. Consequently, as will be shown in the next section, the acceleration-weighting control design performs poorly in simulations of the semi-active system.

**RMS Cable Response**

Figure 8 shows the RMS cable displacement for the passive linear viscous dampers, the active dampers with four LQR control strategies, and semiactive dampers with four clipped LQR control strategies. (As before, the passive linear viscous damper results are plotted so as to line up with that of active dampers of approximately the same RMS force.) The best viscous damper is able to achieve a significant response decrease compared to the case with no damping device. The active damper is able to further decrease that by 76.1% using the displacement weighted LQR control strategy. The clipped optimal semiactive damper with the same primary control strategy is able to do nearly as well, with 62.8% decreased RMS deflection over the optimal viscous damper. Similar trends occur for the RMS cable velocity (see Johnson et al. 2001).

Weighting the cable velocity, as expected, decreases cable velocity relative to the displacement-weighted control but also increases cable displacements. Weighting displacement and velocity equally gives a nice balance, but underperforms the displacement-weighted controller.

![Figure 7: Natural Frequency and Damping Ratio in the First Mode for the Linear Designs.](image-url)
(though the latter uses larger damper forces). As expected, the semiactive damper with acceleration weighting performs poorly, mostly due to the primary controller commanding predominantly non-dissipative forces.

The root mean square forces exerted by the various dampers are shown in Fig. 9. The force levels are similar between the various types of dampers. The control weight $R$ that gives minimum RMS displacement and velocity produces forces that are several times larger than the optimal passive damper (see also Table 1).

**Comparison of State and Output Feedback**

State feedback would require knowledge of the displacement and velocity at all points along the length of the cable. This is, of course, infeasible, so it is necessary to add a Kalman filter to estimate the states of the system based on sensor measurements. The sensors used here are the displacement and acceleration of the cable at the damper location. The responses of the cable/damper system with two values of the noise magnitude were computed, with the noise RMS being 1% of the signal RMS, and 10% of the signal RMS.

![Figure 8: RMS Displacement for Semiactive, Passive Viscous, and Active Dampers.](image-url)
Using the displacement-weighted control (cost $J_1$ in the previous section) of a semiactive damper, the RMS response using state feedback (LQR) and output feedback (LQG) with both noise magnitudes was computed for a range of damper locations. At each damper location, the control weight $R$ was chosen so as to minimize RMS cable displacement. Figure 10 shows that using output feedback control achieves nearly the same responses as the state feedback controller.

Performance of Damping Strategies over a Range of Damper Locations

The achievable performance of semiactive dampers, in comparison with active and passive devices, may be seen in Fig. 11 and in Table 1. The active and semiactive strategies here both use the displacement-weighting controller with output feedback and 1% sensor noise, and the passive damper is the linear viscous damper giving minimum response for the excitation given above in (24). At each damper location, the displacement-weighted LQG controller that best reduced the RMS displacement is used. (Due to the computational intensity required for finding the control weight $R$ that results in the best semiactive damper performance for a particular damper location, a limited number of values of $R$ were used; consequently, the true optimal semiactive performance may be slightly better (i.e., lower response) than reported here.) For damper locations...
distant from the cable anchorage, around \( x_d = 0.10 \), the response reduction using a semiactive damper rather than a passive damper is good, about 43% reduction compared to the optimal passive linear viscous damper. This reduction is more significant for damper locations closer to the end of the cable: 52% reduction at \( x_d = 0.05 \), 63% reduction at \( x_d = 0.02 \), and 67% reduction at \( x_d = 0.01 \).

This improvement does come at the expense of larger damper forces, as may be seen in Table 1. However, the force levels are still reasonable and well within the capabilities of today’s semiactive devices. For example, consider the rain-wind induced cable vibration that was observed on the Aratsu bridge, prior to the installation of passive dampers, with 60 cm peak-to-peak deflections (Yoshimura et al. 1989). A semiactive damper at \( x_d = 0.02 \) used to reduce this motion by about 87% relative to a typical uncontrolled cable would have a peak damper forces on the order of 19 kN (4.2 kips), which is quite feasible with modern semiactive devices; this semiactive response is about 58% reduced compared to the ideal passive damper which would use peak forces around 8 kN (Johnson et al. 2001). Additionally, it is important to recall that the passive linear viscous damper results reported in Fig. 11 are the optimal — no better RMS performance may be achieved using such a device (for the excitation considered herein). If the semiactive force levels are too large to accommodate, there is still much room for using a less aggressive control strategy that would still improve significantly over the passive damper for
Figure 11: Comparison of Passive, Active, and Semiactive Damping Strategies for Various Damper Locations (active and semiactive use displacement-weighted, output feedback LQG controllers, and 1% sensor noise).

Table 1: Optimal Performance Values for Different Control Schemes\(^a\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damper Location (x_d)</th>
<th>Type of Damping Strategy</th>
<th>Parameter (Active/Semi. (R,) Passive (c_d))</th>
<th>RMS Responses</th>
<th>Viscous Damping (\zeta_1 [%])</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Displ.</td>
<td>Velocity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>Passive (c_d = 10.000)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.939</td>
<td>4.964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Active (R = 3.981\times10^{-7})</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.851</td>
<td>4.779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semiactive (R = 1.000\times10^{-7})</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.630</td>
<td>4.942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>Passive (c_d = 6.310)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.504</td>
<td>3.548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Active (R = 1.000\times10^{-7})</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.839</td>
<td>5.504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semiactive (R = 1.000\times10^{-7})</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.297</td>
<td>3.386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Passive (c_d = 2.512)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.159</td>
<td>2.228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Active (R = 1.000\times10^{-7})</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.802</td>
<td>5.628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semiactive (R = 1.000\times10^{-4})</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.034</td>
<td>2.416</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\)Responses of active and semiactive strategies are for output feedback (LQG) control with the displacement-weighting and 1% RMS sensor noise.
small $x_d$. For example, with a damper location $x_d = 0.02$, the displacement-weighted, output feed-
back, semiactive damping strategy that gave the minimum RMS displacement response used a 
control weight $R = 10^{-7}$, and achieved a 63% decrease in RMS displacement compared to the 
optimal passive damper with RMS force 6.7 times that of the passive device. By using a slightly 
less aggressive control design, with a control weight $R = 10^{-4}$, the RMS response is still 57% 
lower than the optimal passive damper but with a force only 2.5 times that of the passive device; 
with $R = 10^{-2}$, the RMS displacement is 50% smaller than that with a passive viscous damper but 
only 1.7 times the force.

Table 1 also shows the first-mode viscous damping ratio for the passive and active systems 
computed from the eigenvalues of the closed-loop system. Since the semiactive damper is nonlin-
ear, no viscous damping ratio may be computed. However, since the optimal semiactive damper 
provides RMS response reduction similar to that of the fully active system, it may be inferred that 
an “equivalent” damping ratio on the order of 8% is achievable with a semiactive device.

CONCLUSIONS

The potential of using semiactive dampers to control stay cable vibration has been demon-
strated through an analysis of RMS responses and comparison with both passive linear viscous 
dampers and active dampers with several control designs. The limitations of the response reduc-
tions with a passive damper were reviewed. A control-oriented model using an assumed modes 
method with a static deflection shape was developed. This model was shown to be quite accurate, 
requiring only a few terms for accuracy comparable to that with hundreds of sine-only terms. 
Consequently, this control-oriented model facilitates low-order control design, evaluation and 
implementation. Several families of controllers for the active and semiactive devices were 
designed. Response of the passive and active systems were computed exactly via a Lyapunov 
equation, whereas semiactive system responses were computed using simulation.

A semiactive damper located 2% of the distance from the end of the cable, using a clipped 
optimal control algorithm with output feedback, weighting cable RMS displacement, was seen to 
decrease RMS responses to 63% lower than that of an optimal viscous damper, nearly the 76% 
achieved by fully active devices. Similar improvements may be observed at other damper loca-
tions. The equivalent modal damping of the first mode with a semiactive damper is significantly 
higher — about 8% of critical — than the optimal passive device, which can only add 1% 
damping for a damper location at $x_d = 0.02$. Thus, semiactive dampers have the potential to 
provide significantly improved mitigation of stay cable vibration.

There are several additional issues, such as the complexity of the cable model, not discussed 
herein that have been studied elsewhere. While the level of sag in cables of cable-stayed bridges 
is typically small (Irvine 1981), passive damper performance is reduced some by cable sag (e.g., 
Sulekh 1990; Xu and Yu 1998; Krenk and Nielsen 2002); a study by the authors of the perform-
ance of semiactive damping for inclined flat-sag cables with axial flexibility is reported in 
Johnson et al. (2003). Additionally, Irvine (1981) also indicates that the flexural rigidity present 
in most cables is small, but cable bending stiffness is known to decrease the performance of the 
optimal passive damper; while this has not been extensively studied for semiactive control, the 
performance of active control was shown in Christenson (2001) to be relatively unaffected by 
cable flexural rigidity. Christenson (2001) also investigates more realistic models of semiactive 
dampers, such as magnetorheological fluid dampers, for cable vibration mitigation. Finally, a lab-
Semiactive Damping of Stay Cables 20

oratory experiment is discussed in Christenson (2001) and Christenson et al. (2006), and full-scale applications in Duan et al. (2005).

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APPENDIX I. REFERENCES


**APPENDIX II. NOTATION**

The following symbols are used in this paper:
\( (\cdot)' \), \((\cdot) \) partial derivatives with respect to \( x \) and \( t \)

\( \cdot \) dimensional quantity

\( \| \cdot \|_2 \) eigenfunction \( L_2 \) norm

\( A, B, G \) matrices in state equation

\( A_{KF}, B_{KF}, G_{KF} \) estimator state equation matrices

\( c \) cable damping per unit length

\( c_d \) viscous damping coefficient of attached passive linear viscous damper

\( C_z, D_z, H_z \) matrices in regulated outputs equation

\( C_y, D_y, H_y \) matrices in sensor equation

\( A_p, C_p \) modified state and output matrices for passive damper

\( E[\cdot] \) expectation operator

\( F_d^{active}(t) \) force commanded by primary controller

\( f, f \) external load coefficient on \( i^{th} \) generalized displacement, external load vector

\( f(x, t) \) external distributed load on the cable

\( J_k \) \( k^{th} \) cost function

\( L, T, \rho \) cable length, tension, mass per unit length (dimensional)

\( L_k \) state feedback gain for the \( k^{th} \) cost function

\( L_{KF} \) Kalman filter estimator gain

\( M, C, K \) mass, damping, and stiffness matrices

\( m \) number of shape functions used in expansion of \( v(x, t) \)

\( m_{ij}, c_{ij}, k_{ij} \) elements of mass, damping, and stiffness matrices

\( \tilde{P} \) solution to estimator algebraic Riccati equation

\( P_k \) solution to control design algebraic Riccati equation

\( Q_k \) weight on output for the \( k^{th} \) cost function

\( Q_{KF}, R_{KF} \) covariance (or spectral density magnitude) of excitation and sensor noise

\( q_i(t), q(t) \) \( i^{th} \) generalized displacement and generalized displacement vector

\( R \) control weight in cost function

\( S_0 \) excitation spectral density magnitude matrix

\( v \) sensor noise vector

\( v(x, t) \) transverse deflection of the cable

\( v(x_d, t), \dot{v}(x_d, t) \) displacement and acceleration at the damper location

\( \dot{v}(x_d, t), \ddot{v}_d \) velocity at the damper location

\( W(t) \) zero-mean Gaussian white noise excitation process

\( x_d, F_d(t) \) damper location and its force

\( y \) vector of noisy sensor measurements
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$z$</td>
<td>vector of generalized coordinates and their derivatives $[q^T \quad \dot{q}^T \quad \ddot{q}^T]^T$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha_f(x), \beta(t)$</td>
<td>variables used in expansion of external distributed load</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha(\dot{v})$</td>
<td>force modulation function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\delta(\cdot)$</td>
<td>Dirac delta function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\delta_{ij}$</td>
<td>Kronecker delta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\eta$</td>
<td>state vector $[q^T \quad \dot{q}^T]^T$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\hat{\eta}$</td>
<td>estimate of the state vector $\eta$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Sigma$</td>
<td>the solution to a Lyapunov equation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\sigma_{acceleration}$</td>
<td>RMS cable acceleration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\sigma_{displacement}$</td>
<td>RMS cable displacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\sigma_{velocity}$</td>
<td>RMS cable velocity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\phi_i(x), \Phi(x)$</td>
<td>$i^{th}$ shape function and shape function vector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\bar{\phi}_m^i(x)$</td>
<td>$i^{th}$ mode computed using $m$ shape functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\bar{\phi}_s^{999 s + sd}(x)$</td>
<td>$i^{th}$ mode computed using 499 sine shapes plus the static deflection shape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\varphi_i, \Phi$</td>
<td>damper load coefficient on $i^{th}$ generalized displacement, damper load vector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\omega_0$</td>
<td>fundamental natural frequency of the undamped cable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\omega_i, \zeta_i, \phi_i(x)$</td>
<td>natural frequency, damping ratio, and eigenfunction of the $i^{th}$ mode</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>