Experiments and Design Recommendations for Single Column Rocking Bridge Piers



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Many bridge column tests: Improve understanding and numerical models





16.5"

- Unidirectional and multidirectional shaking
 Intense near-fault motions
- Intense near-rault motions
 Subduction zone motions
- Subduction zone motions

Recent focus on bridge systems



Modern SDC-compliant columns behave quite well:

- Under design level excitations have moderate spalling of cover
- Ductile behavior under rare events
 →buckling and fracture of rebar
 →occasional geometric instability



After First Maximum Level Event (µ=6)

But...



Be careful what you ask for ...

Ductile systems may have large residual displacements



About 100 columns with a tilt of more than 1.75% drift were demolished after 1995 Kobe Earthquake although they did not collapse



Residual Displacements



Japanese Design Specifications for Highway Bridges

Explicit design criteria

$$d_R \leq d_{Ra} = 1\%$$
 drift

$$d_R = C_R(\mu_r - 1)(1 - r)d_y$$

Applied to some typical SDC Columns

Aspect Ratio	μ_{design}	<i>d</i> _{<i>R</i>} %
4	5.7	1.9
6	5.2	2.6
8	4.9	3.2

For continued operation, or to minimize residual displacements, we need to design for much higher forces:

- Stronger foundations
- → Stronger decks
- ➔ More costly



Reducing residual displacements

 Increased post-yield stiffness
 Unbonded high strength steel added to normal mild steel reinforcement (Iemura et al)



Seismic isolation

Many isolation and supplemental energy dissipation devices (numerous investigators)



Caltrans-supported tests of single and Multiple span bridge systems (Mahin, Fenves & Makris)

Current PEER research effort underway





Reducing residual displacements

Origin-oriented hysteretic loops

- Post-tensioned precast columns for rapid construction (Priestley, Mander, Billington, Sanders, etc.)
- Partially prestressed RC columns (Park, Zatar, Ikeda, Mahin & Sakai, etc.)
- Rocking foundations (Fenves, Hutchinson, Kawashima, Mahin, Yim, etc.)







Rocking/Uplifting Foundations

UC Berkeley and UC Davis

Mahin, Kutter, and Jeremic

Analyses, plus shaking table and centrifuge tests to develop and validate simplified methods for design and analysis of shallow spread footings allowed to rock on competent soil

For soils where spread footings are feasible, engineers often find that footing width needs to be increased, or anchored using piles, so a plastic hinge can develop in column

- Earthquake experience suggests foundation uplift can be an effective earthquake resistant mechanism
- Significant amounts of research confirms this

QuickTime[™] and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.





Literature Review

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But....

Concept is still not used

- Lack of demonstration that mechanism works for bridge-like structures
- Absence of sufficiently simple but general guidelines for application in design



Test Concept



(b) experimental model used in shake table test



Shaking Table Tests



UC Berkeley Earthquake Simulator



Test matrix

Test Group	Α	В	С	D	Ε	F
	Los Gatos	Los Gatos	Tabas	Tabas	Los Gatos	Tabas
1) 1D – X						
2) 1D – Y	10% original record	35% original record	11% original record	40% original record	35% original record	50% original record
3) 2D – X, Y						
4) 2D – X, Z					Period shift $dt = \sqrt{2*dt_o}$	
5) 3D – X, Y, Z						



Footing & Neoprene Pad Details



Shake Table Test Movies

QuickTime[™] and a MPEG-4 Video decompressor are needed to see this picture.

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Y Component - Los Gatos

X+Y Component Los Gatos



Base Rocking Detail

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X+Y+Z Components - Los Gatos

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Note twisting of footing about vertical axis



Experimental Results: Typical test



Experimental Data Tabas 2D X+Y input (D group)





Peak Displacements for 5 Los Gatos Record Inputs (B group)





Can a column uplift then yield?

Footing increased to $3D_c \times 5D_c$



Rocking only for low and moderate excitations

Rocking any yielding for large excitation

YES

So still generally need ductile detailing



Experimental Results: Typical test

Center of Mass Displacement

 $\mathbf{u}_{\text{total}} = \Delta \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{h} \mathbf{\theta}$

1989 Loma Prieta (Los Gatos)

Excitation Level:

- $\mu=2$ fixed base design
- No yielding for rocking system



Analytic Model



Validation of Analytic Model global displacements





Validation of Analytic Model footing uplift







Initial Parametric Analyses on Rocking of Bridge Piers

Parameters include:

- Column Height (L)
- Column Diameter (D_c)
- Footing Width/Length
- Soil Strength (FS: Gravity Factor of Safety)
- Soil Model Type
 - Elastic Perfectly Plastic Springs
 - QZ Simple Soil Spring/Dashpots
- Ground Motions
 - $\Box X, Y, X+Y, X+V, Y+V, X+Y+V$
 - Suites with 10% and 2% in 50yr probability of exceedence for Los Angeles (firm ground)
- Column Strength (Ductility of reference fixed base column)



Rocking System Characteristics Spectral Displacement





Rocking System Characteristics





Observations from experiments

- Rocking does not produce global instability for tested configurations
- Plastic hinging can occur following rocking without fixity condition at base
- Rocking mechanism reduces flexural displacement demands for smaller than typical footing dimensions for competent soil conditions





Observations from analytical studies

Analytical investigation of the rocking behavior of spread footings supporting bridge piers:

- Confirms that rocking can provide a viable means of resisting earthquake effects for many bridges
- Peak displacements were similar to or smaller than would be expected for a comparable elastic or yielding system for moderate and long periods.
- Rocking columns expected to have less flexural damage, and overall to re-center
- More research needed to validate design guidelines



