

# Design and dynamic analysis of the micro-suspended monorail

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**Abstract:** A 20 degree of the freedom model of the micro-suspended monorail is established to analyze a new type of the vehicle system named micro-suspended monorail. The formula of the tire is established by using the magic formula. Through the modal analysis of the vehicle, the modes of the vehicle are obtained, and resonance has little effect on the vehicle. When the vehicle moves in a right turn curve, it yaws in the clockwise direction. Under the action of the guidewheel (stable wheel) force, the front bogie yaws clockwise but the rear one yaws counterclockwise. Moreover, the two bogies and the car body roll during the curve passing process of the vehicle. When the vehicle speed is high enough, the left drive wheel will derail and the anti-overturning moments are provided by the stable wheels. Then, the car body yaws in the counterclockwise direction when it moves out of the curve. In the simulation of the vehicle passing the curve, the clearance between the guide wheel and rail surface will lead to a fatal impact on the bogie. At the same time, the dynamic response of the vehicle under the crosswind is tested. The vehicle will not overturn due to the crosswind. Finally, the collision of adjacent vehicles is analyzed. The results show that there is an intermittent collision force between two vehicles due to the vehicle's non synchronous pitch motion.

**Key words:** micro-suspended monorail; dynamic model; magic formula; shock; coupler force

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Besides solving the problem of serious traffic jams in daily life<sup>[1-4]</sup>, the monorail transportation has many advantages, such as a low turning radius and low noise<sup>[5-6]</sup>. There are two types of monorail: the suspended monorail with the car body suspended under the girder and the straddle monorail with the car body moving above the track beam. These two types of suspended monorail are widely used in the world. The Japanese bogie is more like the railway vehicle bogie; however, the

German bogie is like an automobile. When solid tires are used in the German monorail, the suspension system is more complex. These days, China is devoted to the design of a new type of tour suspended monorail, namely the micro-suspended monorail, in which the bogie is as small as a toy.

The vehicle bridge coupling method, which is widely used in the world, can also be used in the dynamic simulation of the monorail<sup>[7-26]</sup>. Naeimi et al.<sup>[27]</sup> proved their assumption that the vehicle speed can affect the dynamic forces with the method of vehicle-bridge coupling dynamics. Meisinger et al.<sup>[28-29]</sup> studied the dynamic response of the vehicle-bridge system under the periodic excitation. As for the dynamic simulation of monorail, the dynamic deformation of the track beam is always ignored where the dynamic properties of the vehicle system are concerned<sup>[30-44]</sup>. Simulink can also be a good choice to set up the dynamic model for the advantage of manual modification<sup>[43-44]</sup>. With the method of multi-rigid body dynamics, a model of a 20 degree of the freedom micro-suspended monorail is set up in this research.

## 1 Tire Models

To benefit both calculation speed and accuracy, in this research, the Pacejka formula is used to construct the tire model<sup>[37]</sup>.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} Y(x) &= D \sin[ \text{Carctan}\{ Bx - E( Bx - \arctan( Bx) ) \} ] + S_v \\ x &= X + S_h \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (1)$$

where  $Y(x)$  denotes the longitudinal force  $F_x$ , side force  $F_y$  or aligning moment  $M_z$ ;  $X$  denotes the longitudinal creep of  $F_x$  or the sideslip of  $F_y$  and  $M_z$ ; and  $\gamma$  is the camber angle.

The coefficients are functions of  $F_z$  and the camber angle  $\gamma$ .

As for the longitudinal force  $F_x$ , the coefficients of Eq. (1) is given as

$$\begin{aligned} C &= b_0, D = F_z(b_1 F_z + b_2) \\ B &= \frac{1}{CD}(b_3 F_z^2 + b_4 F_z) e^{-b_5 F_z}, E = b_6 F_z^2 + b_7 F_z + b_8 \\ S_h &= b_9 F_z + b_{10}, S_v = b_{11} F_z + b_{12} \end{aligned}$$

As for the side force  $F_y$ , the coefficients of Eq. (1) is given as

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$$\begin{aligned}
C &= a_0, D = F_z(a_1 F_z + a_2) \\
B &= \frac{1}{CD} a_3 \sin\left(a_{15} \arctan\left(\frac{F_z}{a_4}\right)\right) (1 - a_5 |\gamma|) \\
E &= a_6 F_z + a_7, S_h = a_8 \gamma + a_9 F_z + a_{10} \\
S_v &= (a_{11} F_z + a_{12}) \gamma F_z + a_{13} F_z + a_{14}
\end{aligned}$$

As for the aligning moment  $M_z$ , the coefficients of Eq. (1) is given as

$$\begin{aligned}
C &= c_0, D = F_z(c_1 F_z + c_2) \\
B &= \frac{1}{CD} (c_3 F_z^2 + c_4 F_z) (1 - c_6 |\gamma|) e^{-c_5 F_z} \\
E &= (c_7 F_z^2 + c_8 F_z + c_9) (1 - c_{10} |\gamma|) \\
S_h &= c_{11} \gamma + c_{12} F_z + c_{13} \\
S_v &= (c_{14} F_z + c_{15}) \gamma F_z + c_{16} F_z + c_{17}
\end{aligned}$$

The coefficients  $a_0, \dots, a_{15}, b_0, \dots, b_{10}, c_0, \dots, c_{17}$  fitted with the test data is given as  $a_0 = 1.3, a_1 = -22.1, a_2 = 1.011, a_3 = 1.078, a_4 = 4.902, a_5 = 0.022, a_6 = -0.354, a_7 = 0.707, a_8 = 0.029, a_9 = 0, a_{10} = 0, a_{11} = 14.8, a_{12} = 0, a_{13} = 0, a_{14} = 0, a_{15} = 1.82; b_0 = 1.65, b_1 = -21.3, b_2 = 1144, b_3 = 49.6, b_4 = 226, b_5 = 0.069, b_6 = -0.006, b_7 = 0.056, b_8 = 0.486, b_9 = 0, b_{10} = 0; c_0 = 2.4, c_1 = -2.72, c_2 = -2.28, c_3 = -1.86, c_4 = -2.73, c_5 = 0.11, c_6 = 0.03, c_7 = -0.07, c_8 = 0.643, c_9 = -4.04, c_{10} = 0.03, c_{11} = 0.015, c_{12} = 0, c_{13} = 0, c_{14} = -0.066, c_{15} = 0.945, c_{16} = 0, c_{17} = 0.$

## 2 Track Irregularities

Like the traditional suspended monorail, the micro-suspended monorail's track beam is also the box girder with an opening bottom, and the driving wheels and the guide wheels move forward along the inner wall of the box beam. In order to analyze the vehicle's characteristics, the track beam is considered as a rigid body. The road irregularities are generated by the power spectral density  $S(n)$  according to the following equations:

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
z(s_k) &= \sum_{i=0}^N \sqrt{2S(n_i)2\pi\Delta n} \cos(2\pi n_i s_k + \varphi_i) \\
s_k &= k\Delta s \\
n_i &= n_0 + i\Delta n
\end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2)$$

where  $\Delta s$  denotes the step size, m;  $N$  is the number of harmonics;  $n$  is the spatial frequency, cycles/m;  $\Delta n$  is the step size of frequency;  $n_0$  is the minimal frequency;  $\varphi_i$  is the stochastic phase uniform distributed in  $[-\pi, \pi]$ .

$S(n)$  is the PSD function,

$$S(n) = Cn^w \quad (3)$$

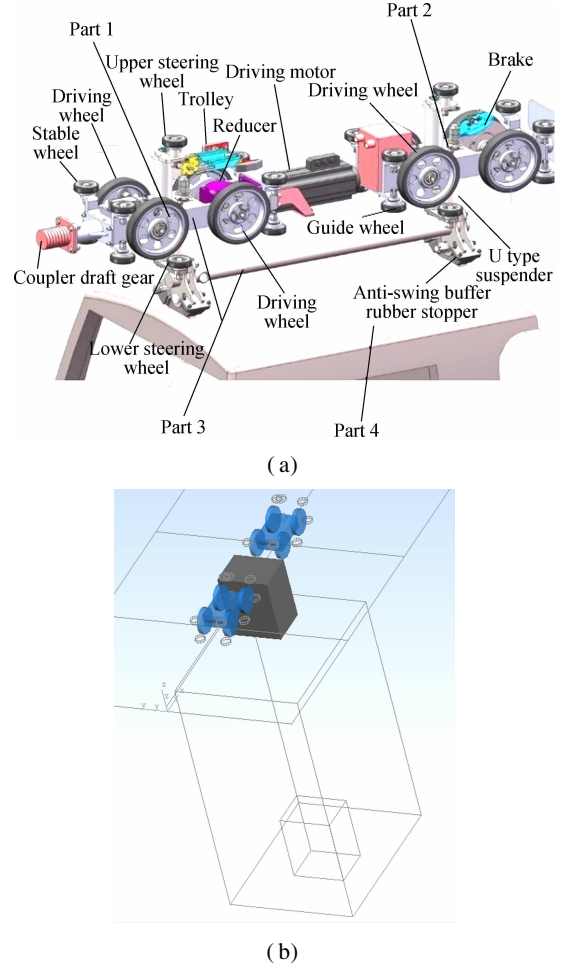
where  $C$  and  $w$  are constants.

The road irregularities of the micro-suspended monorail can be scaled by that of the level A road:

$$Z(s_k) = az(s_k) \quad (4)$$

## 3 Model Establishment

The dynamic model of the micro-suspended monorail consists of the track beams, two bogies, U type suspender and a car body. As shown in Fig. 1(a), the power bogie is treated as part 1; the non-power bogie, part 2; the U type suspender, part 3; and the car body, part 4. Then, a 20-degree-model is established, as shown in Fig. 1(b).



**Fig. 1** Structure of the vehicle. (a) Components of the vehicle; (b) Dynamic model of the vehicle system

We can only verify the model theoretically due to the fact that this vehicle is still under the process of manufacturing. Two steps are required to verify the model. First, the static equilibrium of the model is calculated. If the vibration converges rapidly, it means that there is no error in the dynamic model. Secondly, the online simulation in Simpack is carried out. No strange vibration of this vehicle means that there is no error in this model.

Our simulation result is consistent with the design of the manufacturer, which means that our simulation is precise enough.

## 4 Analysis of Resonance Impact

The dynamic model is linearized. By solving characteristic roots, the natural modes of the vehicle can be obtained, as shown in Tab. 1.

Tab. 1    Vibration modes of the vehicle system

Mode of vibration	AW0		AW3	
	Frequency/Hz	Damping ratio	Frequency/Hz	Damping ratio
Yawing mode of the rear bogie	0.82	0.999 748	1.40	0.999 247
Yawing mode of the front bogie	20.16	0.566 077	20.16	0.566 079
Floating mode of the front bogie	62.08	0.466 445	62.07	0.466 754
Floating mode of the rear bogie	74.80	0.661 970	74.72	0.661 891
Floating mode of the car body	108.80	0.018 538	83.57	0.013 589
Pitching mode of the car body	139.88	0.003 349	103.36	0.000 311
Yawing mode of the car body	140.62	0.000 782	103.66	0.000 783
Rolling mode of the car body	273.02	0.016 166	209.83	0.012 342

According to the standard DBJ51/T099—2018<sup>[45]</sup>, the Sperling index is the only index to judge the stability of the suspended monorail. The Sperling index, which is used to evaluate the vehicle’s ride comfort, can take into account vibration at different frequencies. Therefore, the Sperling index of a certain frequency  $f_i$  can be obtained.

$$W_i = 7.08 \sqrt[10]{\frac{A(f_i)^3}{f_i} F(f_i)}$$

(5)

where  $W_i$  denotes the riding index;  $A(f_i)$  is the vibration acceleration amplitude;  $f_i$  is the vibrational frequency; and  $F(f_i)$  is the weighted value of the Sperling index in the frequency domain

According to the standard<sup>[41]</sup>, when the frequency is within the range of 1 to 10 Hz, the value of weight function of the Sperling index  $F(f)/f$  is large, which means that the vibration in these frequencies can greatly affect the ride comfort of the vehicle. However, the natural mo-

dal frequencies of the micro-suspended monorail are not within that range, which indicates that the resonance will not have a great effect on this vehicle.

5    Analysis of the Vehicle Motion in a Curve

Through simulation, dynamic forces of the micro-suspended monorail can be obtained. The time domain responses of the tire forces when the vehicle passes a R12m curve at the speed of 10 and 15 km/h are shown in Figs. 2 to 5, respectively. The radial maximum/minimum forces of the driving wheels are shown in Tabs. 2 and 3, respectively. It is known that when the speed increases, the radial maximum force of the driving wheels also increases. As for the rear bogie, it can be noticed that, when the speed increases from 10 to 15 km/h, the maximum radial force of the driving wheels in the left of the rear bogie reduces a little and the maximum radial forces of the driving wheels in the left of the rear bogie increase.

Tab. 2    Radial maximum force of the driving wheels N

Load	AW0				AW3			
	Front bogie		Rear bogie		Front bogie		Rear bogie	
	10 km/h	15 km/h	10 km/h	15 km/h	10 km/h	15 km/h	10 km/h	15 km/h
Front left	619.91	663.95	512.24	501.47	933.705	933.018	857.830	857.332
Front right	986.87	1 024.21	730.12	900.17	1 235.810	1 388.940	969.541	1 229.350
Rear left	694.45	735.69	687.47	682.31	1 072.960	1 073.180	1 089.590	1 090.230
Rear right	979.23	1 093.69	837.33	1 028.04	1 238.450	1 447.280	1 108.160	1 439.730

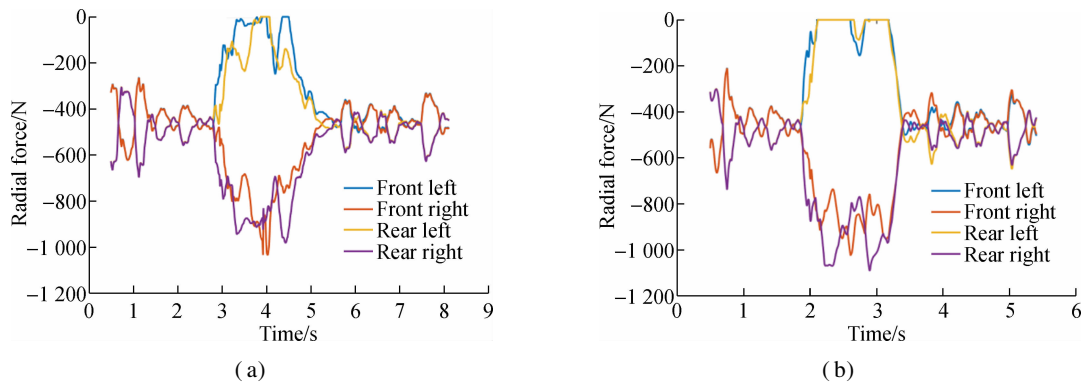
Tab. 3    Radial minimum force of the driving wheels N

Load	AW0				AW3			
	Front bogie		Rear bogie		Front bogie		Rear bogie	
	10 km/h	15 km/h	10 km/h	15 km/h	10 km/h	15 km/h	10 km/h	15 km/h
Front left	0	0	0	0	57.233 3	0	60.492 9	0
Front right	265.078	211.301	126.661	123.096	81.063 7	81.081 9	60.722 7	60.668 6
Rear left	0	0	103.494	0	46.991 9	0	66.949 6	0
Rear right	305.588	301.482	354.163	315.070	85.442 8	85.460 9	67.179 4	67.124 2

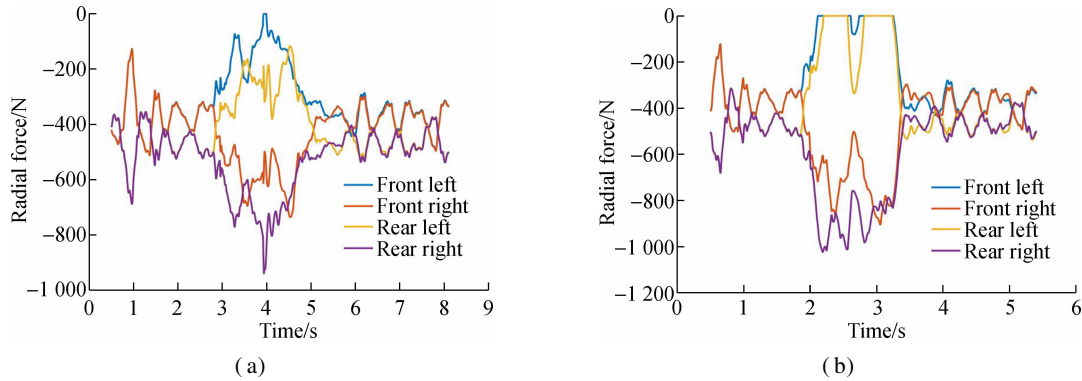
It can be demonstrated that, when the car passes a curve, the front bogie uplifts in the front left position and the left driving wheels derail. As for the rear bogie, the front left driving wheel hangs in the air when the vehicle speed increases from 10 to 15 km/h. However, the rear left wheel does not hang until the vehicle speed increases up to 15 km/h. It can also be learned from the figures that the forces of the right driving wheels increase but the forces of left decrease when the vehicle passes a curve, which shows that there is a rolling motion in the bogie.

As can be seen from Figs. 2 to 5, when the vehicle passes a curve, the maximum radial force of the guide wheels and stable wheels in the front left and rear right of the front bogie increases, but the maximum radial force of the guide wheels and stable wheels in the front right and rear left of the rear bogie increases. The rest of the guide wheels and the stable wheels hang in the air for a long time, which means that there is also a yawing motion of the bogies.

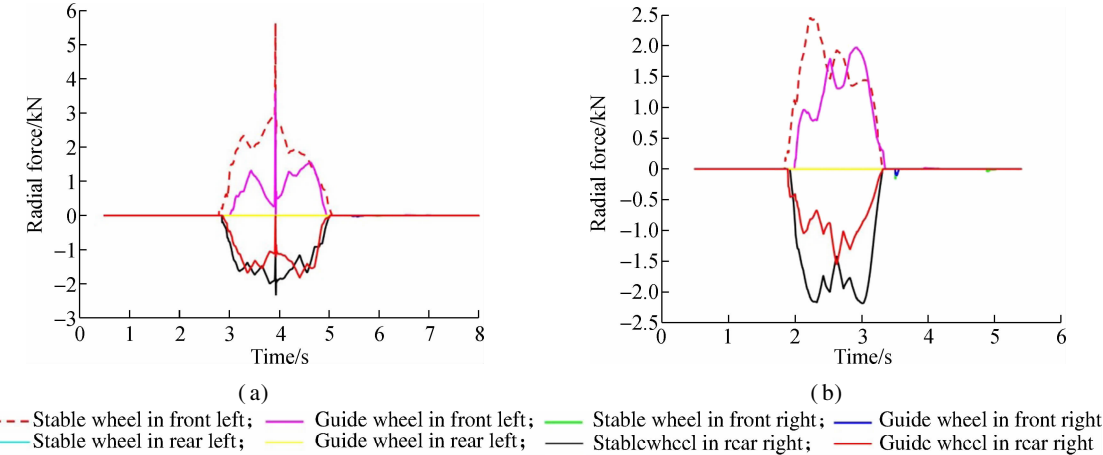
The working condition of AW3 is similar, as shown in



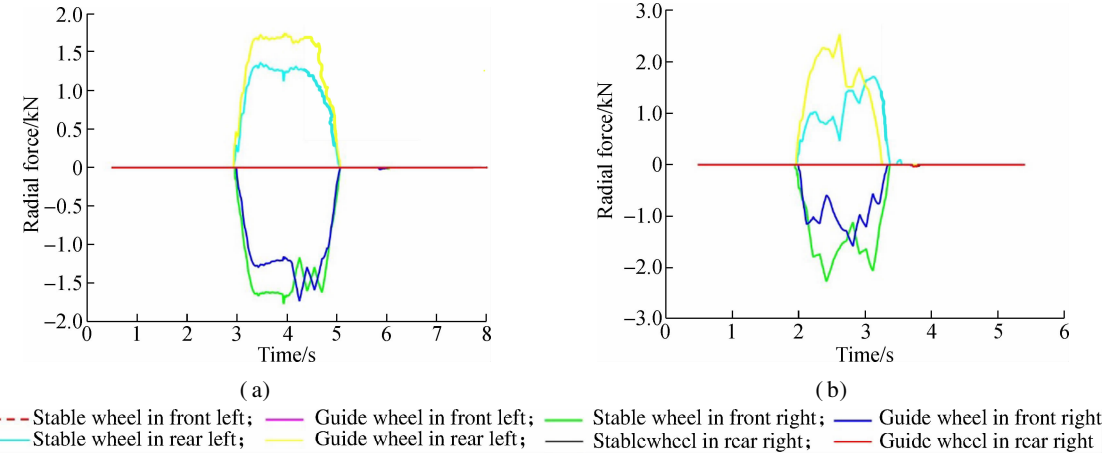
**Fig. 2** Radial force of the driving wheels in the front bogie at different speeds. (a) 10 km/h; (b) 15 km/h



**Fig. 3** Radial force of the driving wheels in the rear bogie at different speeds. (a) 10 km/h; (b) 15 km/h



**Fig. 4** Radial force of the guide wheels in the front bogie at different speeds. (a) 10 km/h; (b) 15 km/h



**Fig. 5** Radial force of the guide wheels in the rear bogie at different speeds. (a) 10 km/h; (b) 15 km/h

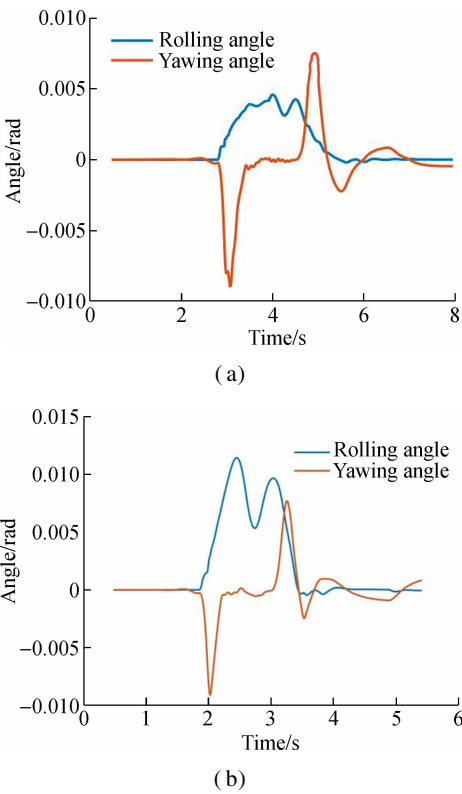
Tab.2 and Tab.3. This work is carried out to ensure the tire forces under different loads are not either too strong or too weak. The variation for driving wheel forces are larger than that of AW0 which means that the rolling motion is stronger. Besides, weaker minimum forces mean that the vehicle under this condition more easily derails.

The stability of the vehicle when it passes through different curves is shown in Tab.4. When the radius of the curve becomes larger, the lateral stability of the vehicle improves. However, the vertical vibration of the vehicle does not change much. In order to prove the above speculation, the deflection angles of the vehicle when it passes

a curve are also calculated, as shown in Fig.6. It can be learned from the figures that when the vehicle moves in and out of the curve, the yawing angle increases. When the speed increases from 10 to 15 km/h, the change of the car body's yawing angle is not obvious. The vehicle's rolling angle increases when the vehicle enters the curve. When the speed increases from 10 to 15 km/h, the maximum rolling angle of the car body increases greatly, which means that the car body rolls when the vehicle enters the curve. The higher the speed is, the more obvious the rolling motion is.

Tab.4    Sperling index under different working conditions

Working condition	AW0(R12m)		AW3(R12m)		AW3(R20m)	
	10 km/h	15 km/h	10 km/h	15 km/h	10 km/h	15 km/h
Lateral	1.881 959	3.123 298	1.856 263	3.131 423	1.642 501	2.726 874
Vertical	1.651 628	1.162 181	1.720 958	1.199 368	1.724 961	1.152 487



6    Vibration and Shock Analysis

The simulation results of the accelerations are shown in Figs. 7 and 8. The first/second positions denote the front/rear bogies, respectively. When the vehicle runs for about 4 s at the speed of 10 km/h, there is a lateral shock to the system. Due to the damping of the suspension system, the shock decreases when the micro suspended monorail travels from the frame to the U type suspender and then to the car body.

It can be seen from Fig.5 that the lateral acceleration increases when the vehicle speed is 15 km/h but the acceleration shock disappears.

It is known from Fig.3 that there is also a shock to the guide wheel forces when the vehicle speed is 10 km/h, which is caused by the wheel-rail collision. It is common in the running process of a traditional suspended monorail since there is a clearance between the guide wheel and guide rail surface. However, for the micro-suspended monorail, the shock will be fatal since the bogies are too light and easily overturned.

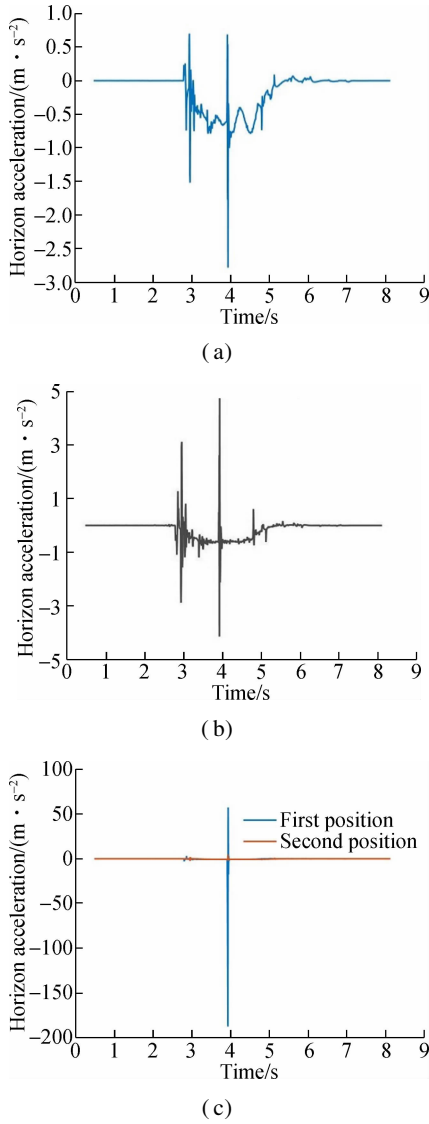
7    Detection of the Vehicle's Crosswind Resistance

According to the Chinese standard GB 8408—2008, the micro suspended monorail vehicle cannot run when the wind speed is higher than 15 m/s. The simulation value of the crosswind wind speed ranging from 7 to 15 m/s is selected for simulation. According to the Chinese national standard CJJ96—2003, the wind load can be calculated. The maximum radial forces of tires under different wind loads can be checked when the vehicle passes the R12m curve at the speed of 15 km/h. The result is shown in Fig.9.

It can be seen from Fig.9 that the driving wheels will not derail under the action of the crosswind. It is known

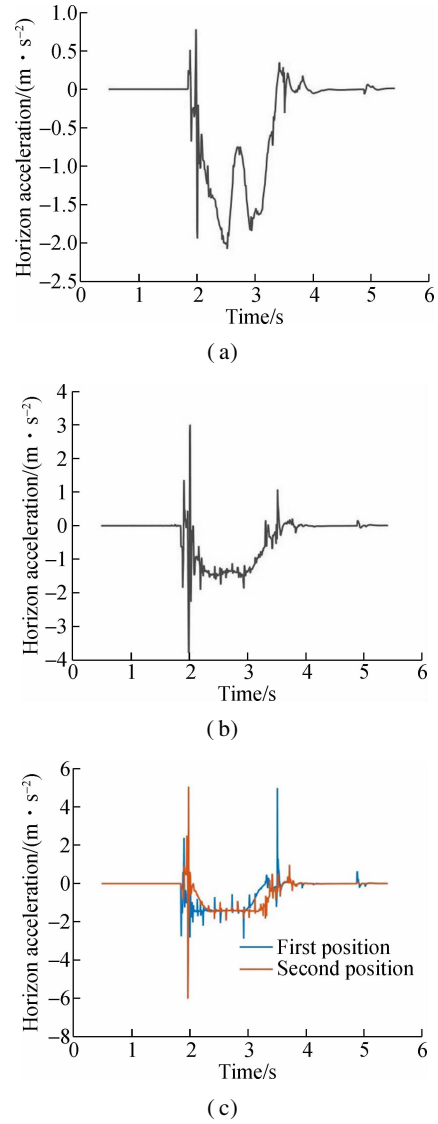
**Fig.6**    The rolling angle and yawing angle of the car body under different speeds. (a)10 km/h; (b)15 km/h

When the vehicle moves in a right turn curve, it yaws in the clockwise direction. Under the action of the guide-wheel (stable wheel) forces, the front bogie yaws clockwise while the rear one yaws counterclockwise. Moreover, the two bogies and the car body rolls during the vehicle passing a curve. When the vehicle speed is high enough, the left drive wheel will derail and the anti-overturning moments are provided by the stable wheels. Then, the car body yaws in the counterclockwise direction when it moves out of the curve.



**Fig. 7** Acceleration of each component when the vehicle runs at 10 km/h speed. (a) Car body; (b) U type suspender; (c) Bogie

that the rear right guide wheel and front right stable wheel on the front bogie will make contact with the rail surface when the wind speed is above 10 km/h, but the rear right guide wheel and the front right stable wheel will derail. We also find that when the wind speed increases, the ride comfort index and the rolling angle generally increases, but the yawing angle decreases slightly. It can be known from Figs. 9(c) and (d) that when the wind speed increases, the vehicle moves right and the guide wheels in the front right begin to make contact with the rail surface, resulting in some differences in ride comfort and deflection angle from previous ones. The yawing movement increases due to the new excitation from the guide wheel in the front right. It can also be learned from Fig. 9(f) that when the wind speed increases, the stable wheel of the rear bogie derails due to the increase in the yawing movement.



**Fig. 8** Acceleration of each component when the vehicle runs at 15 km/h. (a) Car body; (b) U type suspender; (c) Bogie

## 8 Collision Simulation Between Two Cars

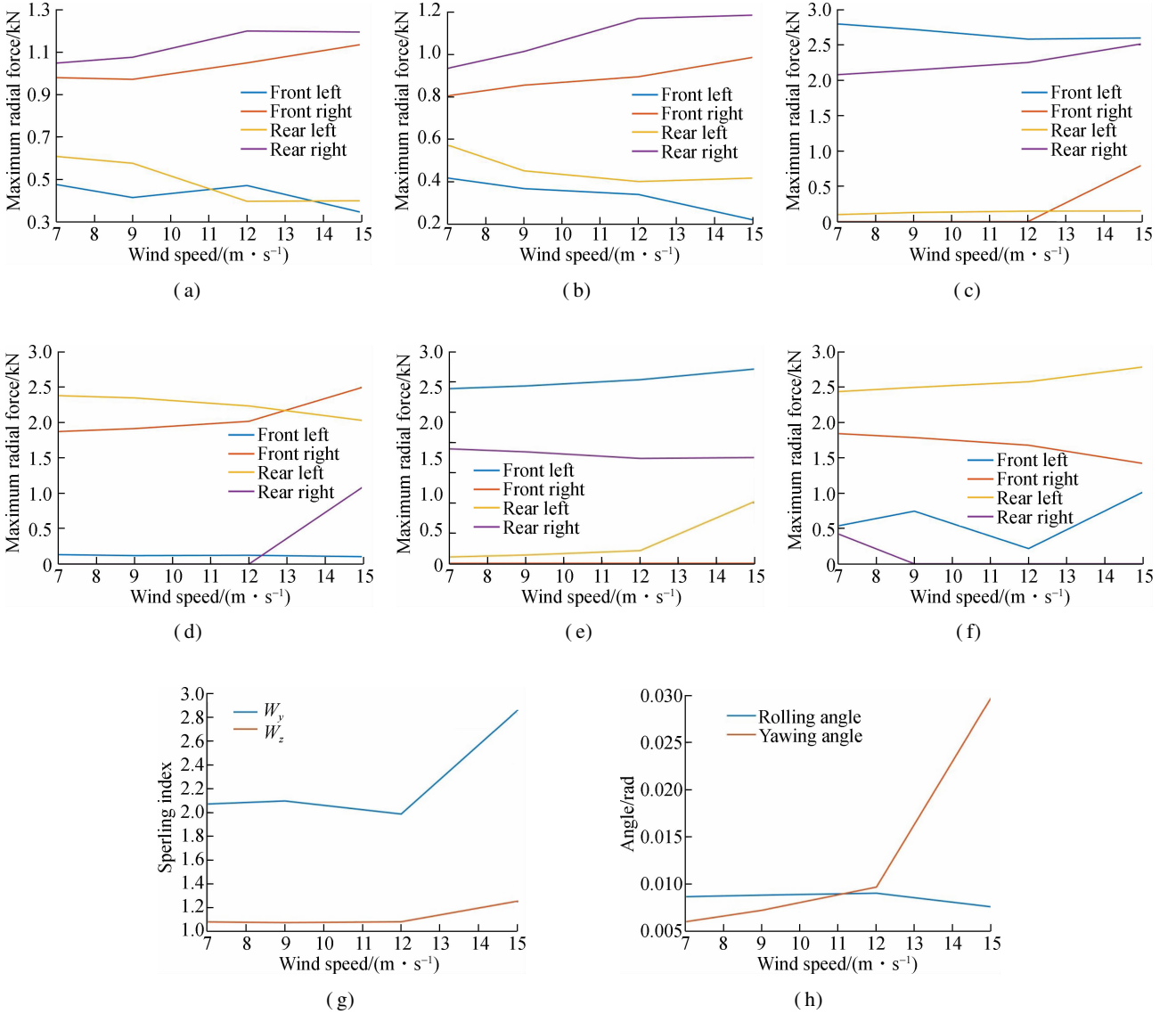
In order to analyze the collision between the two vehicles, we let the front car remain stationary and let the rear car hit the front car at the speeds of 10 and 20 km/h, respectively. The impact parts are the respective couplers.

This complicated process can be simplified as a coupling model of two vehicles. It is assumed that there is a force between the two vehicles, shown as follows:

$$F_{co} = \begin{cases} 0 & x_f - x_r < 0 \\ -K_c(x_f - x_r) & x_f - x_r \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where  $x_f$  denotes the longitudinal coordinate of the rear coupler joint of the front vehicle;  $x_r$  is the longitudinal coordinate of the front coupler joint of the rear vehicle; and  $K_c$  is the coupler stiffness.





**Fig. 9** Dynamic responses of the vehicle under different wind loads. (a) Maximum radial force of the driving wheels in the front bogie; (b) Maximum radial force of the driving wheels in the rear bogie; (c) Maximum radial force of the guide wheels in the front bogie; (d) Maximum radial force of guide wheels in the rear bogie; (e) Maximum radial force of stable wheels in the front bogie; (f) Maximum radial force of stable wheels in the rear bogie; (g) Sperling index; (h) Deflection angle

The results of the coupler force and pitching angle of the cars are shown in Fig. 10.

It can be inferred from these figures that the coupler force is not a transient force but an intermittent force. When the two cars collide in one moment, pitching motion occurs in both cars. Both the rear parts of the front car and the front part of the rear car tilt up. The pitching motions of these two cars continue for a period asynchronously, making the couplers of these two cars collide several times. Then, the intermittent coupler forces are produced.

As is shown in the figures, when the rear vehicle hits the front one at the speed of 10 km/h, a 29 561 N coupler force is produced and the energy is dissipated by 3 times collisions. When the rear vehicle hits the front one at the speed of 10 km/h, a 44 474 N coupler force is produced. The pitching angle and coupler force of these two

cars are much greater. Then, the energy should be dissipated by 4 times collisions.

## 9 Conclusions

1) Resonance can be avoided by avoiding external excitation at the main frequencies of every component. When the frequency is within the range of 1 to 10 Hz, the value of the weight function of the Sperling index  $F(f)/f$  is large, which means that the vibration in these frequencies can greatly affect the ride comfort of the vehicle. However, the natural modal frequencies of the micro-suspended monorail are not within that range, which means that the resonance will not affect the vehicle greatly.

2) When the vehicle moves in a right turn curve, it yaws in the clockwise direction. Under the action of the guidewheel (stable wheel) force, the front bogie yaws clockwise but the rear one yaws counterclockwise. More-

over, the two bogies and the car body roll during the curve passing process of the vehicle. When the vehicle speed is high enough, the left drive wheel will derail and the anti-overturning moments are provided by the stable wheels. Then, the car body yaws in the counterclockwise

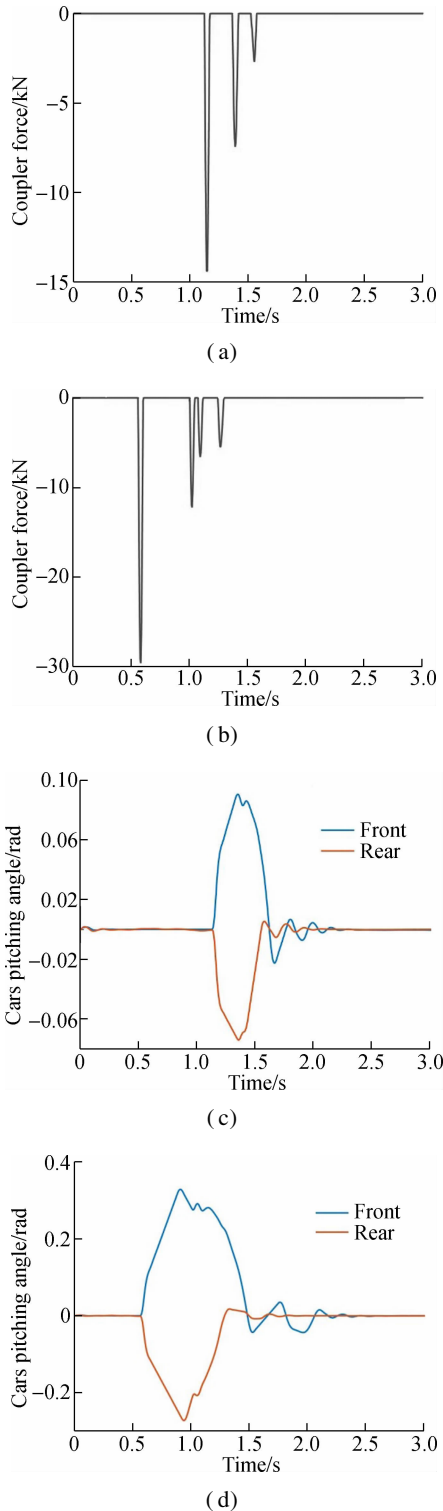
direction when it moves out of the curve. However, the ride comfort of the vehicle is good. It must be noticed that the shock to the guide wheel forces caused by the clearance between the guide wheel and rail surface will be fatal for this type of vehicle since the bogies are too light. However, this type of vehicle will not be easily overturned by the crosswind.

3) The collision simulation of two vehicles shows that there is an intermittent coupler force between two vehicles. When the two cars collide in one moment, pitching motion occurs in both cars. Both the rear parts of the front car and the front part of the rear car tilt up. The pitching motions of these two cars continue for a period of time asynchronously, making the coupler of these two cars collide several times. Then, the energy should be dissipated by the collisions.

4) This paper is merely a preliminary analysis of this kind of monorail and much research concerning the improvement of the dynamic properties of this monorail type is needed in the future.

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**Fig. 10** Dynamic responses of the car when the rear vehicle hits the front at different speeds. (a) Coupler force with the vehicle speed of 10 km/h; (b) Coupler force with the vehicle speed of 20 km/h; (c) Pitching angle of the car with the vehicle speed of 10 km/h; (d) Pitching angle of the car with the vehicle speed of 20 km/h



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微轨设计与动力学分析

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**摘要:**为研究一种名为微轨的新型车辆系统,建立了一个 20 自由度的微轨模型. 利用 Magic 公式建立了轮胎公式. 通过对车辆的模态分析,得到车辆的各阶模态,并得知共振对车辆影响较小. 当车辆在右转弯道上行驶时,会顺时针方向摇头. 在导向轮(稳定轮)力作用下,前转向架顺时针摇头,后转向架逆时针摇头. 此外,2 个转向架和车体在车辆曲线通过过程中发生侧滚. 当车速足够高时,左驱动轮脱轨,稳定车轮提供抗倾覆力矩. 然后,车身偏离弯道时会逆时针方向摇头. 在对车辆过弯道的仿真中,导向轮轨表面的间隙会导致转向架产生巨大的致命冲击. 同时,测试了微轨在侧风作用下的动力学响应,车辆不会因为侧风而发生倾覆. 最后,对相邻车辆的碰撞做出了分析,结果表明,车辆碰撞过程,由于车辆的非同步俯仰运动,两辆车之间存在间歇性碰撞力.

**关键词:**微轨;动力学模型;魔方公式;冲击;车钩力  
**中图分类号:**U270.1;U232