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Golden Gate Bridges Vibration Studies

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Abstract:

The records of bridge movement obtained over a period of years by means of instruments at ten locations on the Golden Gate Bridge are analyzed. They are plotted against wind velocity and correlated with theoretical analyses of wave response to winds of different velocities. It is shown that the oscillations are almost always in a symmetric mode with a downward deflection of the prevailing west wind as it passes over a high hill before striking the north side span. The oscillation was in an asymmetric torsional mode, uninhibited, and reached amplitudes predicted from the tests installed. Tests indicate that it will prevent a reoccurrence of the objectionable torsional motion.

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