

Transient Response of Hydraulic Engine Mount to a Realistic Excitation: Improved Non-Linear Models and Validation

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ABSTRACT

Competing linear, quasi-linear and non-linear hydraulic mount formulations of fixed and free decoupler types are comparatively evaluated for transient responses. First, features of the realistic excitation conditions are addressed. For instance, the mean load itself may vary with time, and several sinusoidal or transient excitations may be simultaneously present. Second, a multi-staged top chamber compliance model is proposed to capture asymmetric transient responses given step-up (-down) excitations. Third, implicit excitations introduced by the decoupler switching mechanism are identified at the odd harmonics of the explicit excitation frequency. Fourth, discontinuous model of bottom chamber compliance is proposed depending on the operating point(s) and/or dynamic loading. Some of the discrepancies observed between prior models and measurements can be explained using new models.

INTRODUCTION

Hydraulic engine mount is designed to be highly non-linear as its parameters, such as stiffness and damping parameters, significantly vary with the amplitude (X) and frequency (f) of sinusoidal excitation [1-15]. Over the past two decades, extensive experimental and analytical studies have been conducted on the non-linear characterization under steady state condition [1-8], but their non-linear behaviors under transient or arbitrary loading excitations (say with multiple frequency components) are not well understood. To better illustrate the full extent of the underlying research issues, consider the fluid system of Fig. 1, where control volumes are used to describe a free decoupler type mount [2,9-10]. System parameters include the fluid compliances C_1 and C_2 of the top (#1) and bottom (#2) chambers, stiffness k_r and viscous damping b_r of the elastomeric rubber element (#r), fluid resistance R_i and inertance I_i of the inertia track (#i), inertance I_d and resistance R_d of the decoupler (#d). A composite displacement $x^t(t)$ is applied as an excitation under a preload F_m . In general, one should expect the following elements to exhibit non-linear behaviors: (i) non-linear compliances $C_1(p_i)$ and $C_2(x_m)$ due to elastomeric walls where $p_i(t)$ is the dynamic

pressures in the top chamber [9-10] and $x_m(t)$ is the (time-varying) mean displacement; (ii) vacuum formation in the top chamber during the expansion process [2, 10]; (iii) non-linear resistances $R_i(q_i)$ and $R_d(q_d)$ where $q_i(t)$ and $q_d(t)$ are the volumetric flow rates through the inertia track and decoupler, respectively [9-10]; and (iv) the switching mechanism of the decoupler [9-10]. In this paper, we intend to illustrate the roles played by the non-linear chamber compliances and the decoupler switching mechanism, especially under transient and multi-frequency loading conditions.

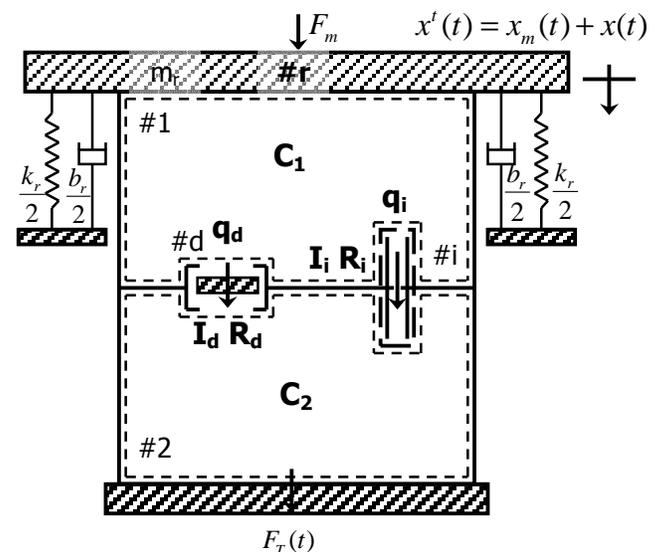


Fig. 1 Lumped fluid model of hydraulic mount with inertia track and decoupler.

PRIOR TESTS AND NON-LINEAR MODELS

Kim and Singh [1-2] initiated the non-linear analysis of hydraulic mounts by measuring non-linear C_1 , C_2 and R_i of a fixed decoupler mount via bench experiments [1]. They successfully formulated a non-linear model that included a preliminary formulation of the decoupler switching mechanism, under harmonic excitations [2]. Colgate et al. [3] tested several mounts under concurrent

sinusoidal excitations and then proposed two separate linear models for large and small amplitudes. Royston and Singh [4] employed Kim and Singh's model [2] as a localized non-linearity and examined its effect on the vibratory power transmission. Jeong and Singh [5] suggested a non-linear time domain model based on a quasi-linear model with frequency- and amplitude-dependent parameters. Empirical coefficients were obtained by observing the effects of resonant frequencies and viscous damping coefficients given measured mount stiffness data. Geisberger et al. [6] tested the top and bottom fluid chambers, inertia track and decoupler. They proposed a non-linear model that, in particular, utilizes a smoothening function to describe the switching and leakage effects through the decoupler. Jazar and Golnaraghi [7] proposed a simple non-linear mathematical model to characterize the decoupler resistance in terms of the Duffing's equation (continuous non-linearity). Foumani et al. [8] conducted a sensitivity analysis and concluded that C_1 and I_i are the most influential parameters in the dynamic stiffness model over the lower frequency range. Tiwari et al. [9] refined the bench experiments [1] and further quantified C_1 and C_2 under several F_m . Also, they investigated the vacuum formation that was first mentioned by Kim and Singh [1-2]. Adiguna et al. [10] examined the mount behavior to idealized transient excitations and successfully predicted the transient responses based on non-linear formulations with empirically obtained parameters or functions. Recently, we proposed an efficient procedure to estimate the frequency- and amplitude-sensitive parameters based on measured steady state dynamic stiffness data [11]. This work has led to the construction of quasi-linear models. Such models are capable of partially predicting the transient response. Nonetheless, some of the discrepancies between predictions and measurements could not be explained by the quasi-linear model.

PROBLEM FORMULATION

Though some non-linear models have been proposed and validated to some extent, one key question still remains: Do we really know all of the non-linearities in such mounts? Also, which non-linearities would be excited under realistic excitation conditions, especially when F_m itself may also vary with time, and when several sinusoidal or transient excitations may be simultaneously present? Further, we need to comparatively evaluate the competing linear, quasi-linear and non-linear formulations. Accordingly, the following objectives have been formulated: First, classify the displacement excitation conditions and illustrate some features of a realistic (measured) displacement profile that will be applied to the models as an excitation. Second, examine the role of decoupler as it could generate an implicit displacement excitation to the system. Third, propose the discontinuous model C_2 and examine the associated non-linear phenomena. Finally, validate the new non-linear formulations by comparing $p_1(t)$ and transmitted force $F_T(t)$ in both time and frequency domains given realistic excitations.

In this paper, we will summarize only those equations that are necessary for further development of the non-linear model of Fig. 1. Considering only the time-varying components, the "virtual" driving point force $F(t)$ could be defined as follows where $x(t)$ is the piston displacement, m_r is the mass of rubber element and A_r is the effective piston area.

$$F(t) = m_r \ddot{x}(t) + b_r \dot{x}(t) + k_r x(t) + A_r p_1(t) \quad (1)$$

Continuity equations for the top and bottom chambers of Fig. 1 yield:

$$A_r \dot{x}(t) - q_i(t) - q_d(t) = C_1(p_1) \dot{p}_1(t), \quad (2)$$

$$q_i(t) + q_d(t) = C_2(x_m) \dot{p}_2(t). \quad (3)$$

Momentum equations for the decoupler and inertia track yield the following:

$$p_1(t) - p_2(t) = I_d \dot{q}_d(t) + R_d(q_d) q_d(t), \quad (4)$$

$$p_1(t) - p_2(t) = I_i \dot{q}_i(t) + R_i(q_i) q_i(t). \quad (5)$$

Note that Eq. (4) dictates the "decoupled" state when the decoupler gap is open, and Eq. (5) is dominant over the "coupled" state with the decoupler gap closes. The dynamic force transmitted to the rigid base $F_T^t(t)$ is often viewed as a measure of mount performance in non-resonant tests [1]. Its dynamic component $F_T(t)$ is derived and related to $F(t)$ as follows:

$$F_T(t) = k_r x(t) + b_r \dot{x}(t) + A_r p_1(t) = F(t) - m_r \ddot{x}(t). \quad (6)$$

DISPLACEMENT EXCITED NON-LINEARITIES

Displacement excitation sources are clarified as: (a) explicit composite excitation $x^t(t) = x_m(t) + x(t)$ that is externally applied; and (b) implicit decoupler displacement $x_d(t)$. The mean component $x_m(t)$ includes the time-varying part $\Delta x(t)$ that could be of the same order of magnitude as the time-averaged $x^t(t)$. The dynamic component $x(t)$ corresponds to fluctuation $\Delta x(t)$ that is much smaller than $x_m(t)$. Using these groupings, we now examine the excitations of Fig. 2 and the associated non-linearities.

First, the sinusoidal excitation of Fig. 2(a) is commonly applied in dynamic stiffness measurement [1-8], where the constant x_m (corresponding to a specific F_m) is usually neglected in the analysis, thus leaving only the sinusoidal component $x(t) = X \sin(2\pi ft + \phi)$. In steady state elastomer tests, the dynamic stiffness $K(f, X)$ is evaluated only at the frequency of excitation f and super-harmonics are ignored [1-8]. A quasi-linear model could also be estimated from the $K(f, X)$ data [11].

Second, simple transient tests conducted under a constant F_m or x_m , such as the triangular pulse excitation of Fig. 2(b) [9]. Transient responses to the special case of $x^t(t) = x_m(t) + x(t)$ have been partially predicted by the

quasi-linear model [11]. This implies that for an idealized transient excitation when applied at a certain loading condition specified by a constant x_m (or F_m), the mount could behave as a linearized system and its effective parameters could be estimated by using the quasi-linear model [11]. We may employ the Fourier series to expand periodic $x(t)$ as $x(t) = \sum X_i \cdot \sin(2\pi f_i t + \phi_i)$, where X_i is the Fourier amplitude.

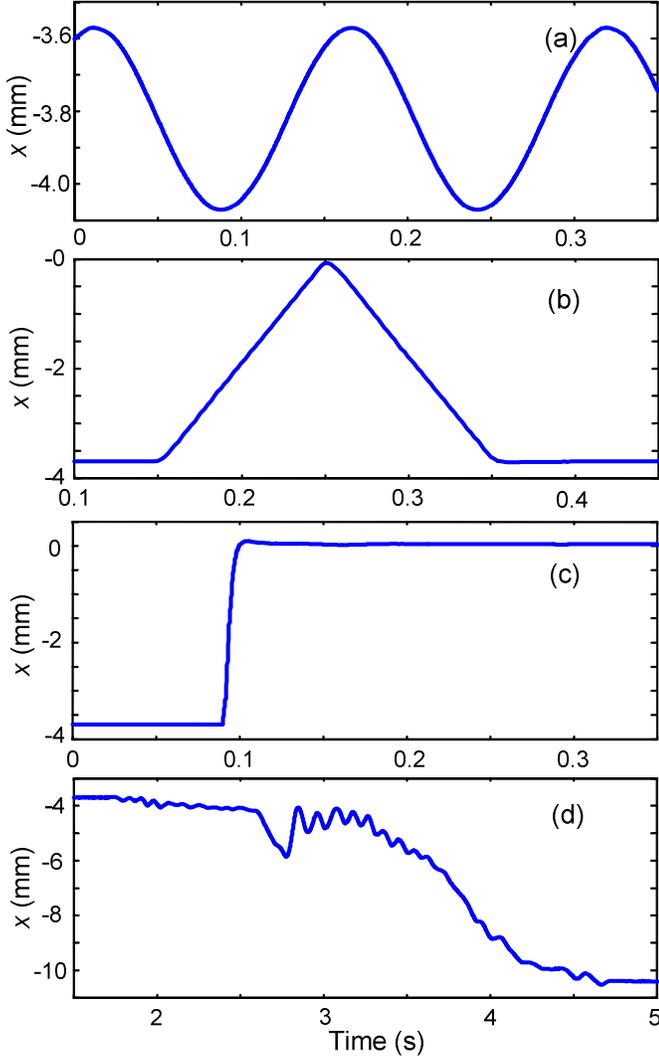


Fig. 2 Measured explicit displacement excitations: (a) sinusoidal excitation $x(t) = X \cdot \sin(2\pi f t + \phi)$; (b) simple triangular pulse excitation $x'(t) = x_m + x(t)$; (c) step-up excitation with a non-ideal rise; and (d) a realistic excitation from the measurements in a vehicle.

Third, transient excitations are considered with a rapid change in the mean loading condition such as the step-up excitation in Fig. 2(c). Adiguna et al. [10] had briefly reported responses to such step-up (-down) excitations. Significant asymmetries were observed in the measured peak values of $F_T(t)$ and $p_1(t)$ for the step-up and step-down responses, suggesting that a different non-linear stage has been introduced. Denoting $x_{m,1}$ and $x_{m,2}$ as the operating conditions before and after the switching event, the step-up (-down) excitation is formulated as follows,

where Δt represents the short time span during which the step function rises or drops (ideally $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$) due to the limitation of test facility:

$$x'(t) = \begin{cases} x_{m,1} & 0 \leq t < t_1 \\ x_{step}(\Delta t) & t_1 \leq t < t_1 + \Delta t \\ x_{m,2} & t_1 + \Delta t < t \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

By using $p_1(t)$ as an indicator of the operating condition, a multi-staged $C_1(p_1)$ model could be developed to capture the asymmetric non-linearity:

$$C_1(p_1) = \begin{cases} C_{10} - a_v p_1^{n_v}(t) & p_1(t) < 0 \\ C_{10} & 0 \leq p_1(t) \leq p_a \\ C_{10} - a_s [p_1(t) - p_a]^{n_s} & p_a < p_1(t) \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

Here, C_{10} is the (constant) nominal compliance measured in the linear region. Empirical coefficients a_v and a_s , polynomial order indices n_v and n_s could be estimated from measurements.

Fourth, the most complicated, yet realistic, excitations are considered, which may include the following terms: time-varying (piece-wise linear) $x_m(t)$ and dynamic $x(t)$ with multiple and non-commensurate sinusoids at f_i :

$$x'(t) = x_{m,j-1} + \Gamma_j (t - t_{j-1}) + \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \sin(2\pi f_i t + \phi_i) \quad A$$

constant slope $\Gamma_j = (x_{m,j} - x_{m,j-1}) / (t_j - t_{j-1})$ is assumed within the j^{th} segment, and a critical slope $\Gamma_c > \Gamma_j$ could be empirically chosen to distinguish Γ_j from the rapid switching case of Eq. (7). The fluctuating $x(t)$ could be simplified by considering only the dominant sinusoidal excitation(s), say via the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT). The $x'(t)$ of Fig. 2(d) was measured at the mount location in a front wheel drive vehicle during a typical gear shift event. This transient record contains approximately 3 seconds of data. Several oscillatory displacements (from 5 to 15 Hz) are superimposed on $x_m(t)$ that increases from -4 to -10.5 mm, corresponding to a shift in F_m from -1200 to -4000 N. A piecewise non-linear $C_2(x_m)$ model is proposed here to fully capture the stiffening effect which gives rise to a significant increase in the mean chamber pressure as observed in measurements. Such details will be given later.

$$C_2(t) = C_{2,j-1} + \frac{C_{2,j} - C_{2,j-1}}{t_j - t_{j-1}} (t - t_{j-1}). \quad (9)$$

MULTI-STAGED NON-LINEAR $C_1(p_1)$ MODEL

Compared with C_2 , which dictates the mean chamber pressure, the $C_1(p_1)$ non-linearity plays a pivot role in transient mount behaviors. Consider the step-up (or step-down) excitation of Fig. 2(c) with a rapid change in the mean load, the multi-staged $C_1(p_1)$ model of Eq. (8) could be derived by analyzing the asymmetric step responses in terms of $F_T(t)$ and $p_1(t)$ measurements.

Experiments were conducted using a take-apart mount D with removable decoupler structure and its parameters are given in Table 1. Here, C_{10} and C_{20} are the linearized nominal values [9-10]; m_d and b_d are the mass and damping of the decoupler; L_i and L_g are the lengths of the inertia track and decoupler gap, respectively. Measurements of the fixed decoupler mount D are compared with predictions using quasi-linear models as shown in Figs. 3-6. Observe that the quasi-linear model fails to predict both the overshoot and the decaying transient due to significant C_1 non-linearity.

Table 1 Parameters of the example case (hydraulic mount D)

k_r	320×10^3 N/m	A_r	3.31×10^{-3} m ²
b_r	0.5×10^3 N-s/m	A_d	1.96×10^{-3} m ²
C_{10}	2.5×10^{-11} m ⁵ /N	R_i	3.45×10^7 kg/s-m ⁴
C_{20}	2.4×10^{-9} m ⁵ /N	L_i	0.236 m
l_i	2.81×10^6 kg/m ⁴	b_d	100 N-s/m
m_d	6×10^{-3} kg	L_g	1.1×10^{-3} m

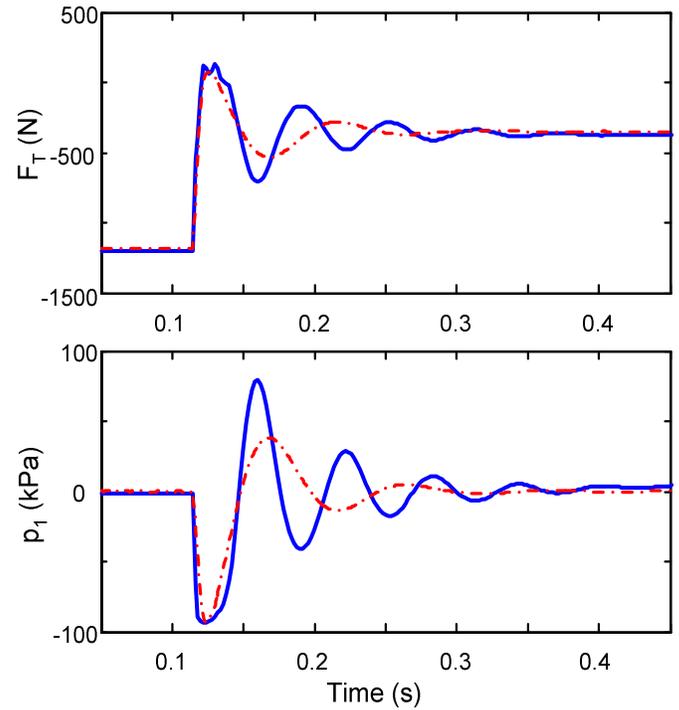


Fig. 4 Estimation of the effective C_{1e} from step-up (x_m from -3.7 to -1.32 mm) response by curve-fitting the overshoot. Key: —, measurement; - - -, simulation with estimated C_{1e} .

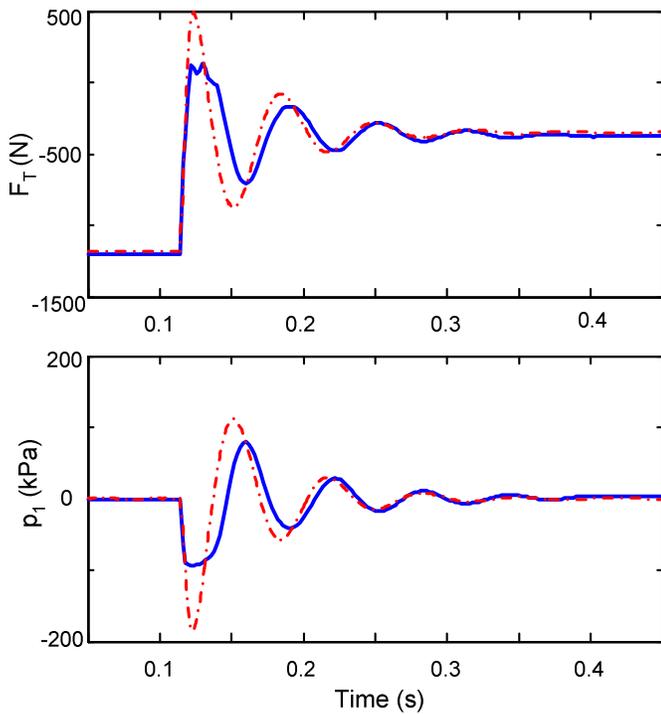


Fig. 3 Estimation of the effective C_{1e} from step-up (x_m from -3.7 to -1.32 mm) response by curve-fitting the decaying transients. Key: —, measurement; - - -, simulation with estimated C_{1e} .

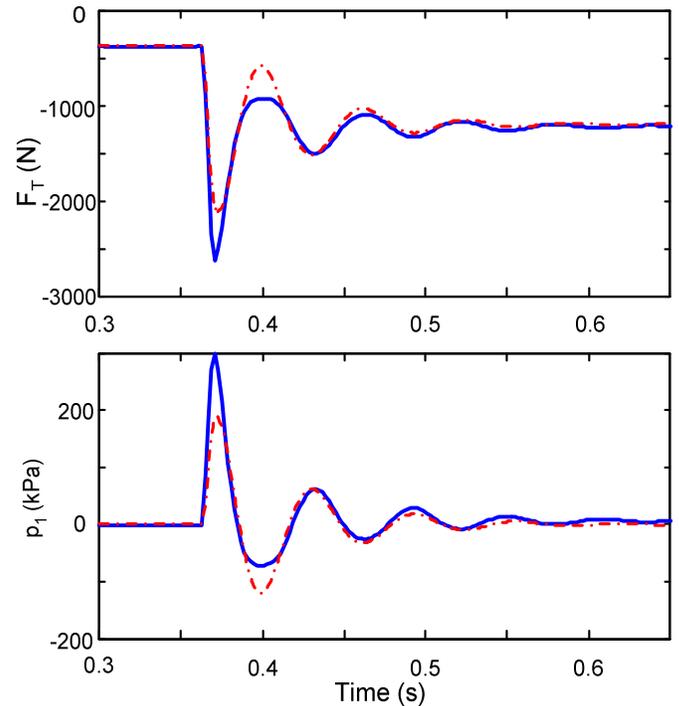


Fig. 5 Estimation of the effective C_{1e} from step-down (x_m from -1.32 to -3.7 mm) response by curve-fitting the decaying transients. Key: —, measurement; - - -, simulation with estimated C_{1e} .

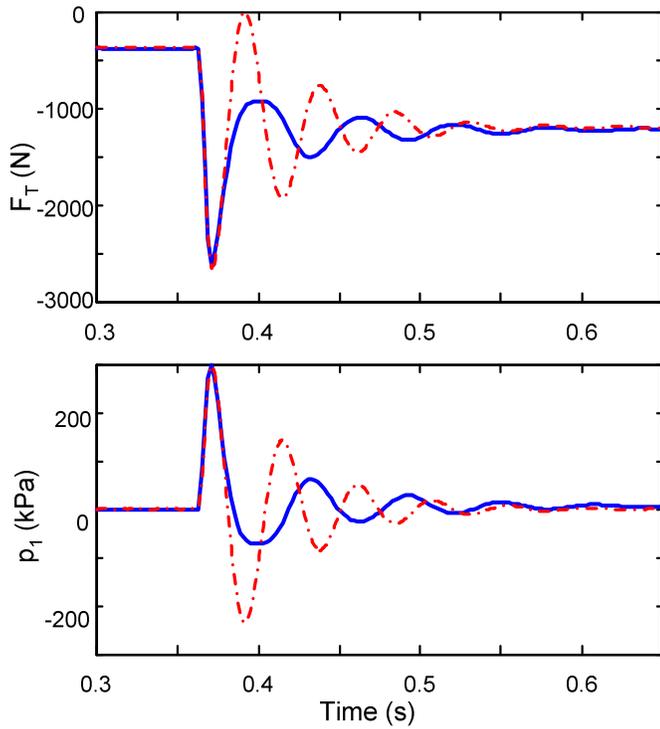


Fig. 6 Estimation of the effective C_{1e} from step-down (x_m from -1.32 to -3.7 mm) response by curve-fitting the overshoot. Key: —, measurement; - - -, simulation with estimated C_{1e} .

As a first estimate, effective C_{1e} values are approximated using the quasi-linear model [11] by best curve-fitting either the overshoot or decaying transient given various step excitations in Figs. 3-6. The curve-fitting results, as listed in Table 2(a), are compared with linearized C_1 values measured at several F_m [9], as listed in Table 2(b). Comparison between Table 2(a) and 2(b) shows that C_{1e} corresponding to the step-up overshoot (from -3.7 to 0 mm) is consistent with the statically measured C_1 under no preload; C_{1e} estimated from the step-down overshoot (from 0 to -3.7 mm) coincides with C_1 measured under $F_m = -1200$ N (or $x_m = -3.7$ mm).

Table 2 Top chamber compliance C_1

(a) Effective C_{1e} estimated from step-up or step-down responses.

Excitation	Estimated	From overshoot	From decay
		C_{1e} (m^5/N)	C_{1e} (m^5/N)
Step-up (-3.7 to 0 mm)		7.63×10^{-11}	2.99×10^{-11}
Step-up (-3.7 to -1.32 mm)		5.28×10^{-11}	2.45×10^{-11}
Step-down (0 to -3.7 mm)		1.09×10^{-11}	2.39×10^{-11}
Step-down (-1.32 to -3.7 mm)		1.26×10^{-11}	2.17×10^{-11}

(b) Measured C_1 values from static tests [9-10]

Condition	F_m (N)	C_1 (m^5/N)
$p_1 > p_a$	0	7.29×10^{-11}
	-800	1.05×10^{-11}
	-1200	1.09×10^{-11}
	-1200	2.5×10^{-11} (C_{10})
$p_1 < p_a$	$C_1 = -7 \times 10^{-45} p_1^7 + 2.5 \times 10^{-11}$ (p_1 in Pa)	

It is implied that the overshoot transients are dictated by the operating conditions after the step takes place. On the other hand, C_{1e} values estimated from the decay transients are consistent for all step responses. Also, note that these C_{1e} (ranging from 2.17×10^{-11} to 2.99×10^{-11} m^5/N) match well with the nominal C_{10} value (2.5×10^{-11} m^5/N), which is a linearized value based on several operational conditions [10]. The fact that C_{10} lies between the effective C_{1e} values estimated from step-up and step-down overshoots implies that (i) a dynamic softening effect exists during the unloading process. This could be explained by the vacuum phenomenon due to a release of the dissolved gas under reduced pressure, as suggested by Kim and Singh [1] and Adiguna et al. [10]. (ii) A dynamic stiffening effect takes control during the loading process. (iii) A linear region exists between the softening and hardening regions, in which a linearized (quasi-linear) model should be sufficient to predict transient responses. By using $p_1(t)$ as an indicator of the operating condition, the multi-staged $C_1(p_1)$ non-linearity is mathematically formulation by Eq. (8). For mount D, the empirical coefficients of Eq. (8) are estimated as: $a_V = 7 \times 10^{-45}$, $a_S = 1.55 \times 10^{-33}$, $n_V = 7$ and $n_S = 4$. Here, the linearized $C_{10} = 2.5 \times 10^{-11}$ m^5/N dictates the decaying response, and $p_a = 101$ kPa is the limiting (atmospheric) pressure beyond which significant stiffening effect will occur. A detailed comparative study of the non-linear step-up (or step-down) transient responses will be reported in another paper [16].

IMPLICIT DISPLACEMENT EXCITATION FROM DECOUPLER

The decoupler displacement $x_d(t)$ is dynamically coupled with instantaneous pressure difference $\Delta p(t)$, excitation amplitude X , excitation frequency f and decoupler gap length L_g . In order to examine the decoupler dynamics, the take-apart mount D of Table 1 was tested both with and without (i.e. fixed decoupler type) the decoupler under the excitations of Figs. 2(a) and 2(d). Predicted $x_d(t)$ of the free decoupler mount D given sinusoidal excitations are shown in Figs. 7(a-c), and Fig. 7(d) shows the $x_d(t)$ given realistic profile excitation. Observe that the period of $x_d(t)$ coincides with the excitation period $T = 1/f$, but its shape deviates from the sinusoidal waveform. Consequently, $x_d(t)$ is categorized as an implicit displacement excitation.

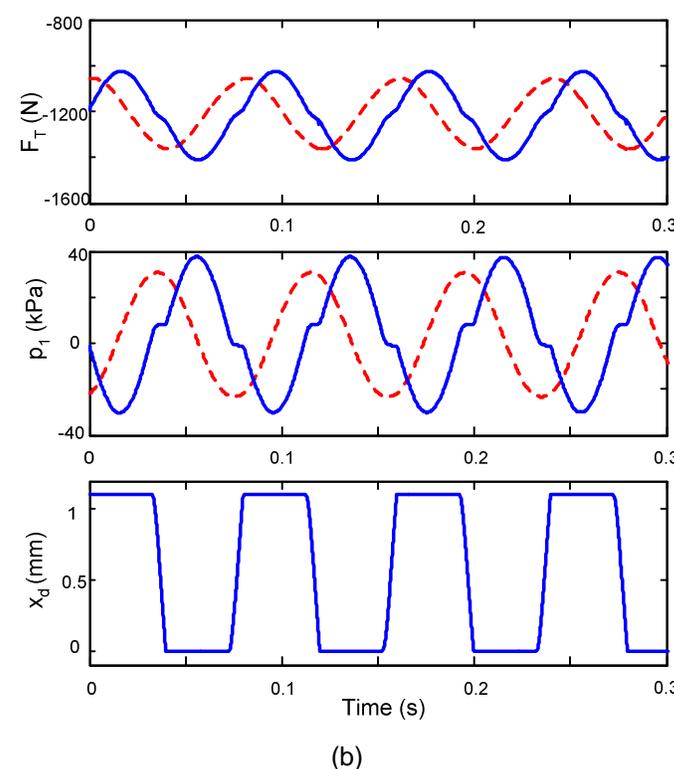
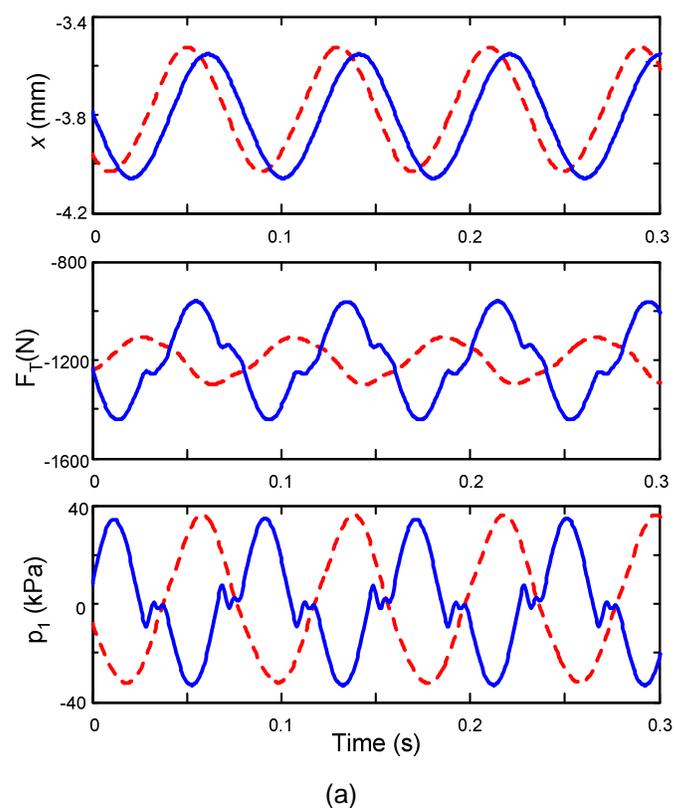
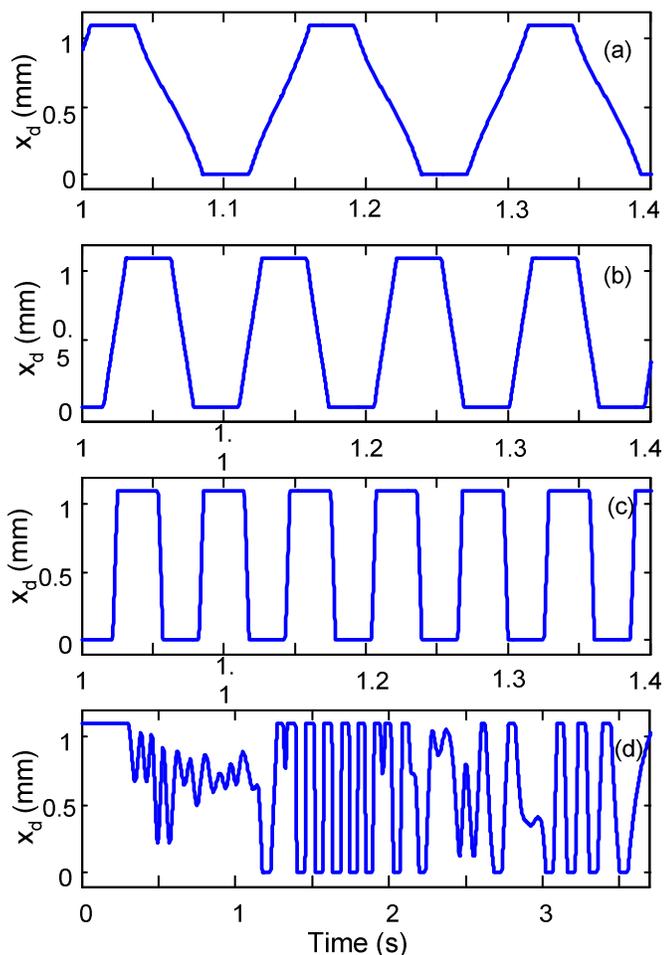


Fig. 8 Dynamic responses of free and fixed decoupler mount D given sinusoidal excitation with $f = 12.5$ Hz and $X = 0.5$ mm (p-p), under $F_m = 1200$ N (or $x_m = 3.7$ mm): (a) measurement; (b) simulation. Key: —, free decoupler mount; - - -, fixed decoupler mount.

Fig. 7 Simulated decoupler displacements $x_d(t)$ given explicit displacement excitations: (a) sinusoidal $x(t)$ with $f = 6.5$ Hz, $X = 0.5$ mm; (b) sinusoidal $x(t)$ with $f = 10.5$ Hz, $X = 0.5$ mm; (c) sinusoidal $x(t)$ with $f = 16.5$ Hz, $X = 0.5$ mm; and (d) realistic excitation $x'(t)$ of Fig. 2(d).

It is shown in Fig. 8 that simulated steady state time histories match well with measurements as excited by a sinusoidal excitation with $f = 12.5$ Hz and $X = 0.5$ mm (p-p), under $F_m = 1200$ N (or $x_m = 3.7$ mm). Observe that the decoupler switching mechanism distorts the sinusoidal-like $p_1(t)$ and $F_T(t)$ waveforms (of a fixed decoupler mount) by introducing flattened regions whenever the decoupler gap opens.

Further, the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) routine is used to convert time histories into frequency domain and spectra of Fourier series amplitudes are depicted in Fig. 9. Compared with $X(f)$, the $X_d(f)$ spectrum shows discrete peaks not only at the external excitation frequency (12.5 Hz), but also at the 3rd harmonic (37.5 Hz) and higher odd harmonics. Fig. 10 shows $P_1(f)$ and $F_T(f)$ spectra for fixed and free decoupler mounts (D) converted from the time histories of Fig. 8. Both measurements and predictions show a significant increase only at the 3rd and higher odd harmonics for the free decoupler mount, which implies that $x_d(t)$ introduces an implicit excitation at the odd harmonics of external excitation frequency.

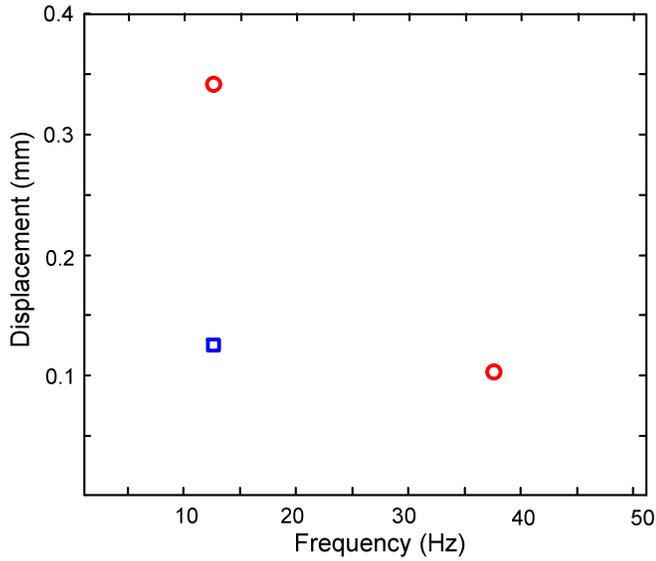


Fig. 9 Fourier amplitudes of displacements in Fig. 8. Key: \square , explicit displacement excitation $X(f)$; \circ , implicit displacement excitation $X_d(f)$.

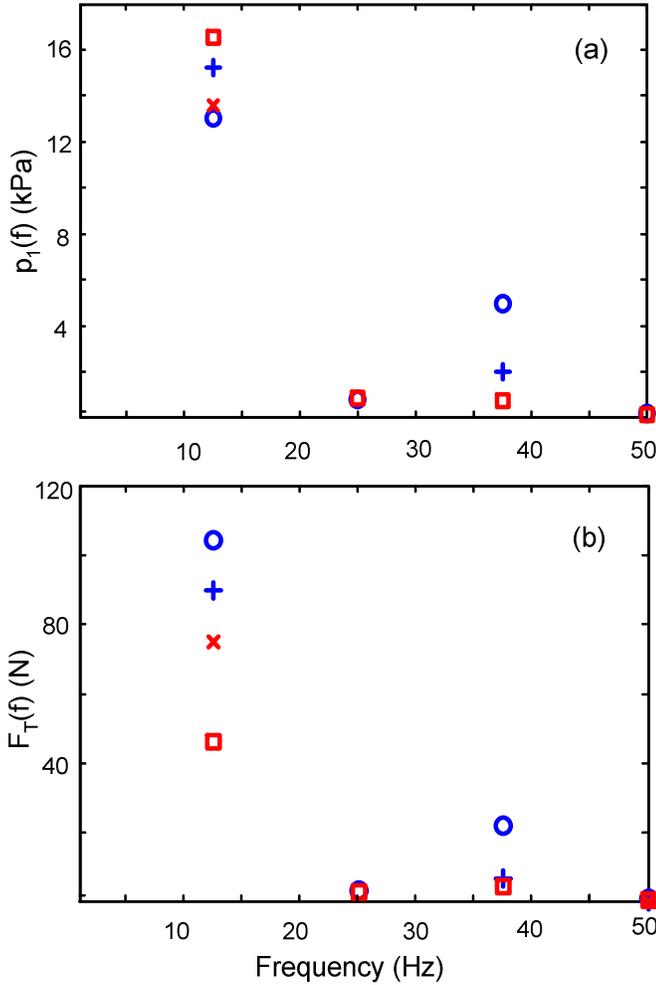


Fig. 10 Fourier amplitudes of $p_1(t)$ and $F_T(t)$ in Fig. 8: (a) top chamber pressure $p_1(f)$; (b) transmitted force $F_T(f)$. Key: \circ , measurement of free decoupler mount; $+$, measurement of fixed decoupler mount; \square , simulation of free decoupler mount; \times , simulation of fixed decoupler mount.

Similar to the sinusoidal excitation responses, the implicit $x_d(t)$ excitation also plays a key factor given the realistic profile excitation of Fig. 2(d). Predicted transient responses are given in Fig. 7(d) and compared with measurements as shown later in Fig. 12. An in-depth analytical study will be reported in a future paper [16].

DUAL-STAGED $C_2(x_m)$ NON-LINEARITY

Constructed using convoluted thin rubber membranes [9], the bottom chamber is intentionally designed to yield a large C_2 to accommodate fluid displaced from the top chamber. Due to the difficulty of analytically calculating C_2 , most researchers [1-5,8-10] assumed a linearized (constant) C_2 value, which could be curve-fitted from measurements at a certain operating point. For instance, a nominal value C_{20} of $2.4 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^5/\text{N}$ was measured for mount D and it seems to work well for triangular excitations under a preload F_m of 1200 N. Note that F_m (or x_m) plays a pivot role on the chamber compliances [2,9-10]: First, F_m determines the operating point about which the non-linear compliances are estimated; second, F_m dictates the mean fluid pressure (under the static equilibrium). This is because typically $C_2 \gg C_1$ by two orders of magnitude [2,9-10], so that the global compliance of the fluid system is dictated by C_2 . For example, the mean pressure measured by Adiguna et al. [10] is virtually equal to the atmospheric pressure when $F_m < 800 \text{ N}$.

However, under real-life operational conditions with time-varying F_m (or x_m), when more displaced fluid (from the top chamber) is accommodated, the bottom chamber membrane expands and gradually tends to lose its essential property as a very compliant accumulator. Hence, the reduced C_2 under higher F_m (or x_m) leads to an increase in the mean chamber pressure, which could be observed from measurements in Figs. 11 and 12. A non-linear $C_2(x_m)$ model is proposed and demonstrated by considering the realistic $x^t(t) = x_m^t(t) + x(t)$ of Fig. 2(d). A piecewise linear $x_m(t)$ is derived as follows:

$$x_m(t) = x_{m,j-1} + (x_{m,j} - x_{m,j-1}) \frac{t - t_{j-1}}{t_j - t_{j-1}}, \quad (10a)$$

By using $x_m(t)$ as an indicator to capture the gradual transition in the operation conditions, a piecewise $C_2(x_m)$ model could be found as:

$$C_2(x_m) = C_{2,j-1} + (C_{2,j} - C_{2,j-1}) \frac{x_m(t) - x_{m,j-1}}{x_{m,j} - x_{m,j-1}}, \quad (10b)$$

By combining Eqs. (10a) and (10b), a simplified time-varying $C_2(t)$ could be derived as already given in Eq. (9). Despite the seemingly piecewise linear formulation, incorporation of $C_2(x_m)$ or $C_2(t)$ leads to non-linear fluid system model. A comparative study is conducted using (i) the quasi-linear model [11]; (ii) non-linear fluid model with a constant C_{20} ; (iii) the non-linear $C_2(x_m)$ model. Fig. 11 confirms that the mean pressure built-up effect could only be captured by the $C_2(x_m)$ model while the quasi-

linear model is capable of predicting the transient dynamic responses.

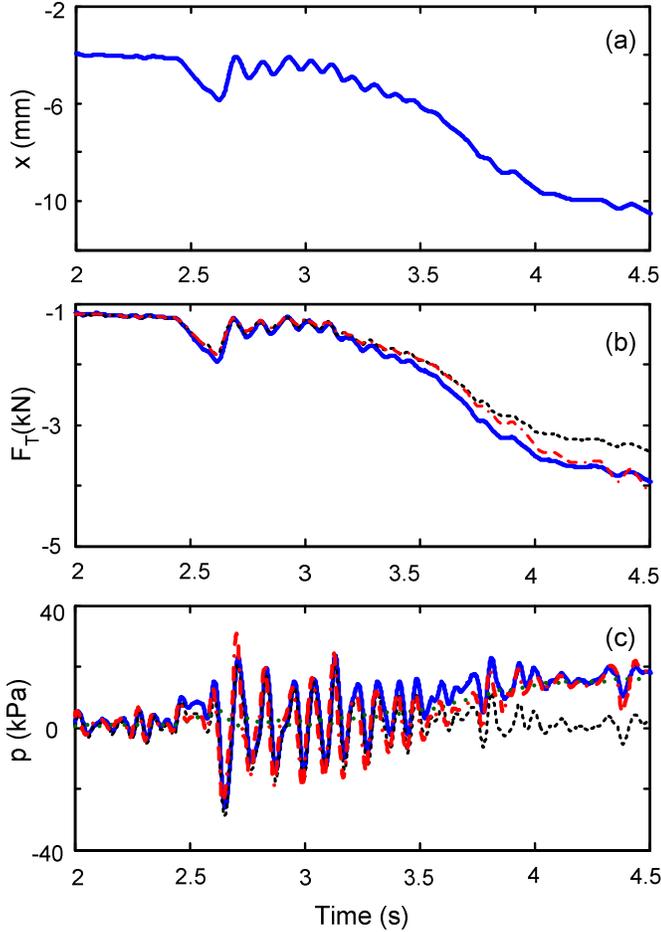


Fig. 11 Responses to a realistic profile excitation for a fixed decoupler mount D: (a) displacement excitation $x(t)$; (b) transmitted force $F_T(t)$; and (c) chamber pressures. Key: -.-, measurement; ----, quasi-linear model prediction; —, non-linear $C_2(x_m)$ model prediction; ····, non-linear $C_2(x_m)$ model prediction of $p_2(t)$ with $C_{2e} = C_{20}/1.8$.

Next, the realistic profile is applied to excite the free decoupler mount D. Measurements are compared with the non-linear models with nominal C_{20} and $C_{2e}(x_m)$ formulations, as illustrated in Fig. 12. The quasi-linear model is not intentionally used since it would not adequately describe the decoupler non-linearity. Observe that the stiffening effect of C_2 becomes increasingly dominant under higher F_m (or x_m). Finally, predictions match with measurements when $C_2(x_m > 8 \text{ mm}) = C_{20}/5$.

CONCLUSION

Chief contribution of this paper is the identification and validation of new non-linearities as excited by realistic excitations with time-varying mean and several oscillation components. A generic category is proposed to understand mount non-linearities in terms of explicit displacement excitations and implicit excitation, which is introduced by the decoupler at the odd harmonics of the

(explicit) fundamental frequency. A multi-staged $C_1(p_1)$ non-linear model is proposed to capture the asymmetric transient response given step-up (-down) excitations. A non-linear $C_2(x_m)$ model is developed depending on the operating point(s) and/or dynamic loading. New non-linear phenomena are explained by the multi-staged (and time-varying) descriptions of C_2 . Competing linear, quasi-linear and non-linear formulations are comparatively evaluated. Finally, the new or refined non-linear formulations are validated by comparing predictions with measurements. Results match well in both time and frequency domains. More mathematical details and results can be found in upcoming article [16].

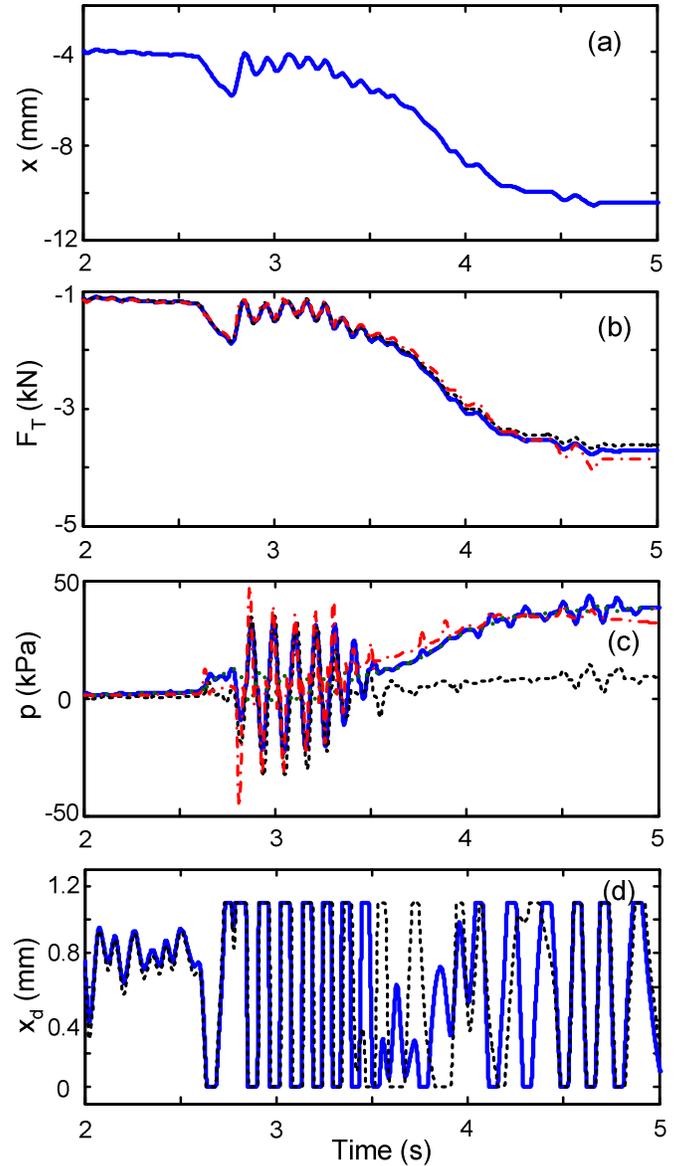


Fig. 12 Responses to a realistic profile excitation for a free decoupler mount D: (a) displacement excitation $x(t)$; (b) transmitted force $F_T(t)$; (c) chamber pressures; and (d) decoupler displacement $x_d(t)$. Key: -.-, measurement; ----, non-linear model prediction with a constant C_{20} ; —, non-linear $C_2(x_m)$ model prediction with $C_{2e} = C_{20}/5$; ····, non-linear $C_2(x_m)$ model prediction for $p_2(t)$ with $C_{2e} = C_{20}/5$.

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