

Wind Induced Vibration of Cable Stay Bridges Workshop  
April 25-27, 2006

# Experience with Visco-Elastic and Hydraulic Dampers for Stay Cables

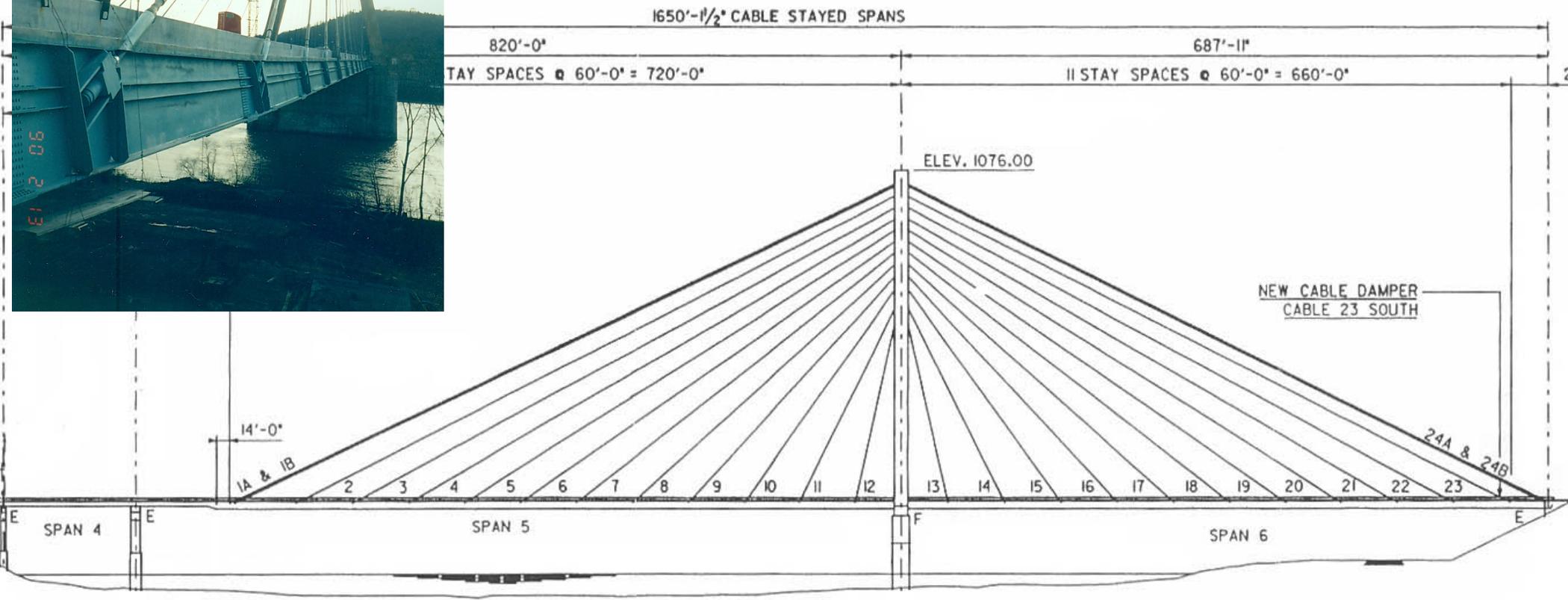
by  
Peter King & Barry Vickery



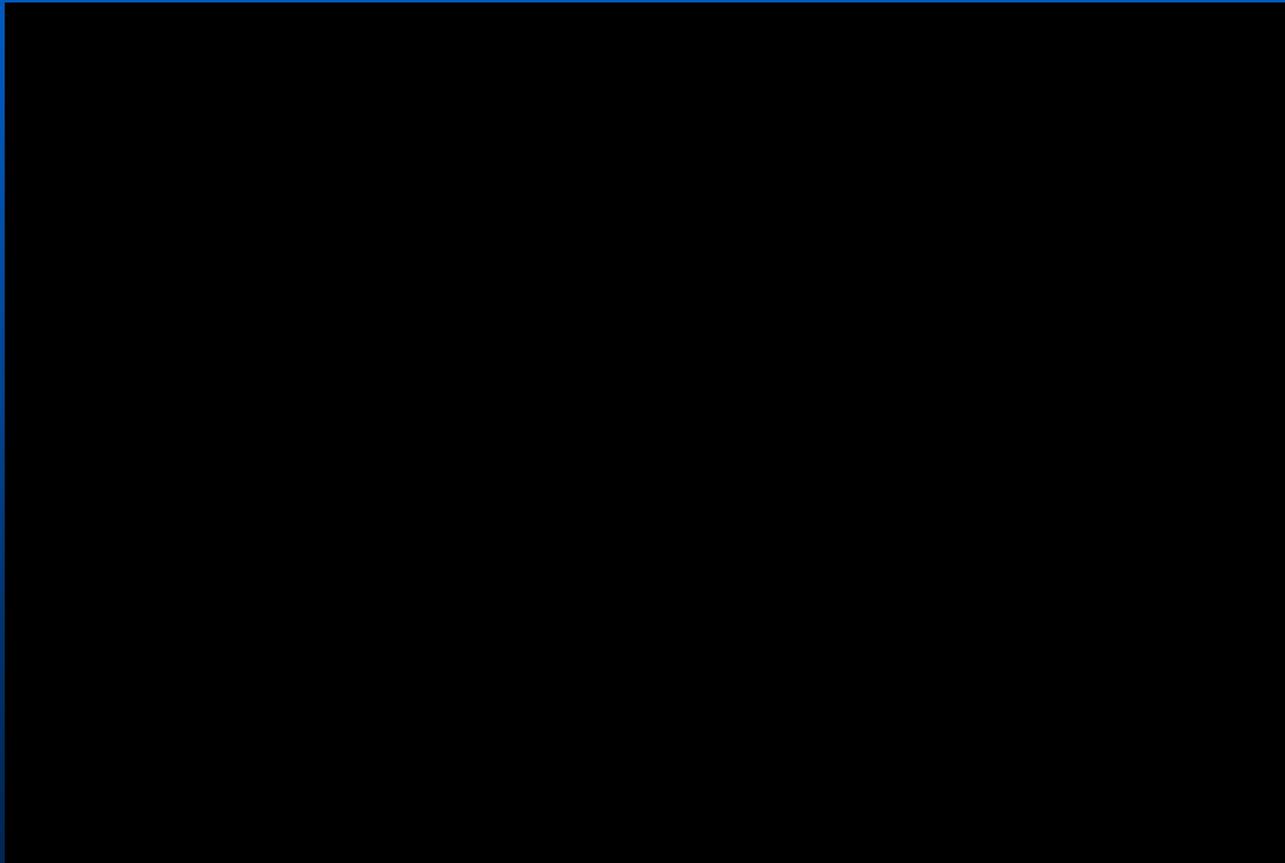
*Alan G. Davenport Wind Engineering Group*



# The Veterans Memorial Bridge (Weirton, WV - Steubenville, OH)

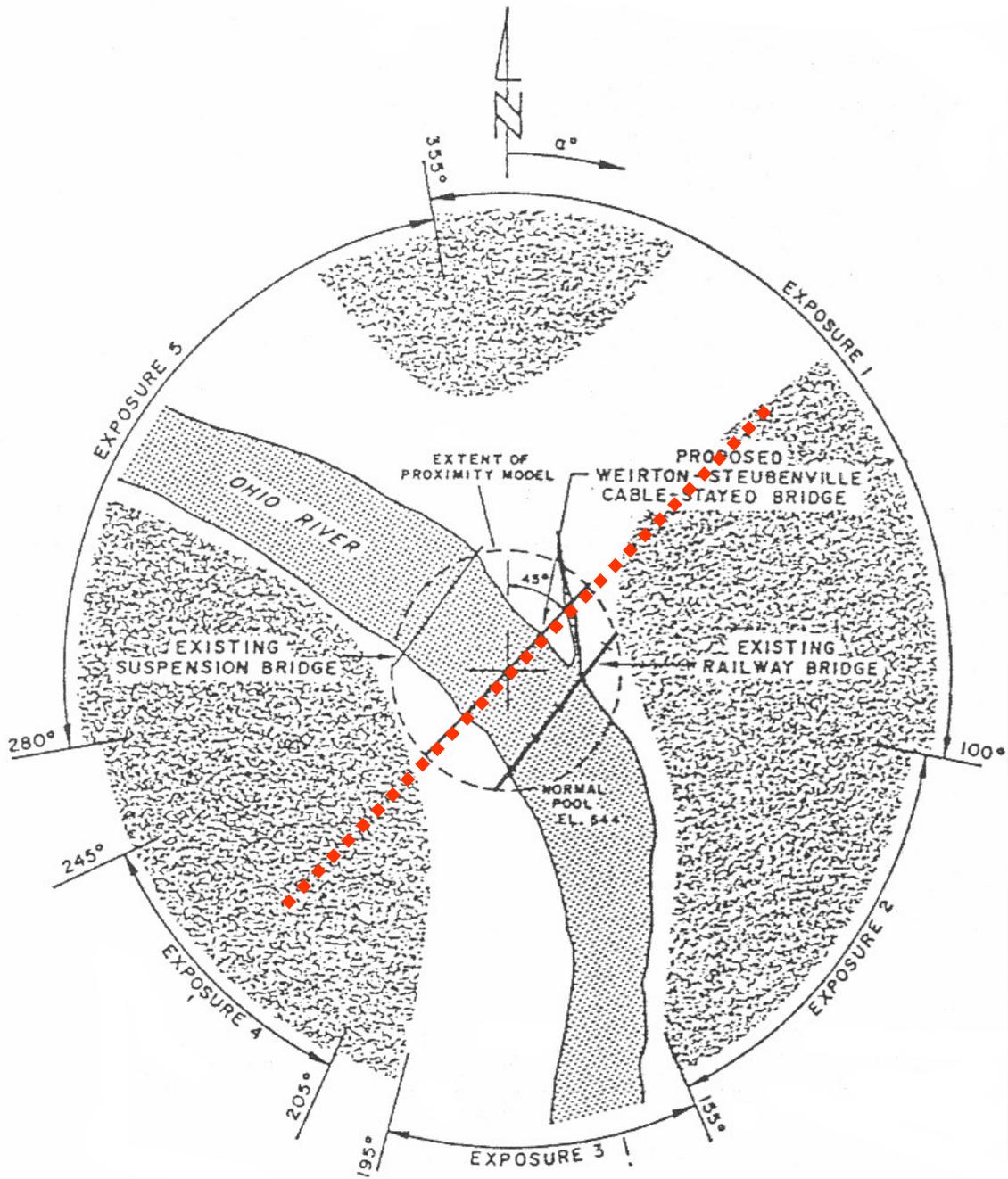


# Cable Motion – 1<sup>st</sup> Mode



# Cable Motion – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mode

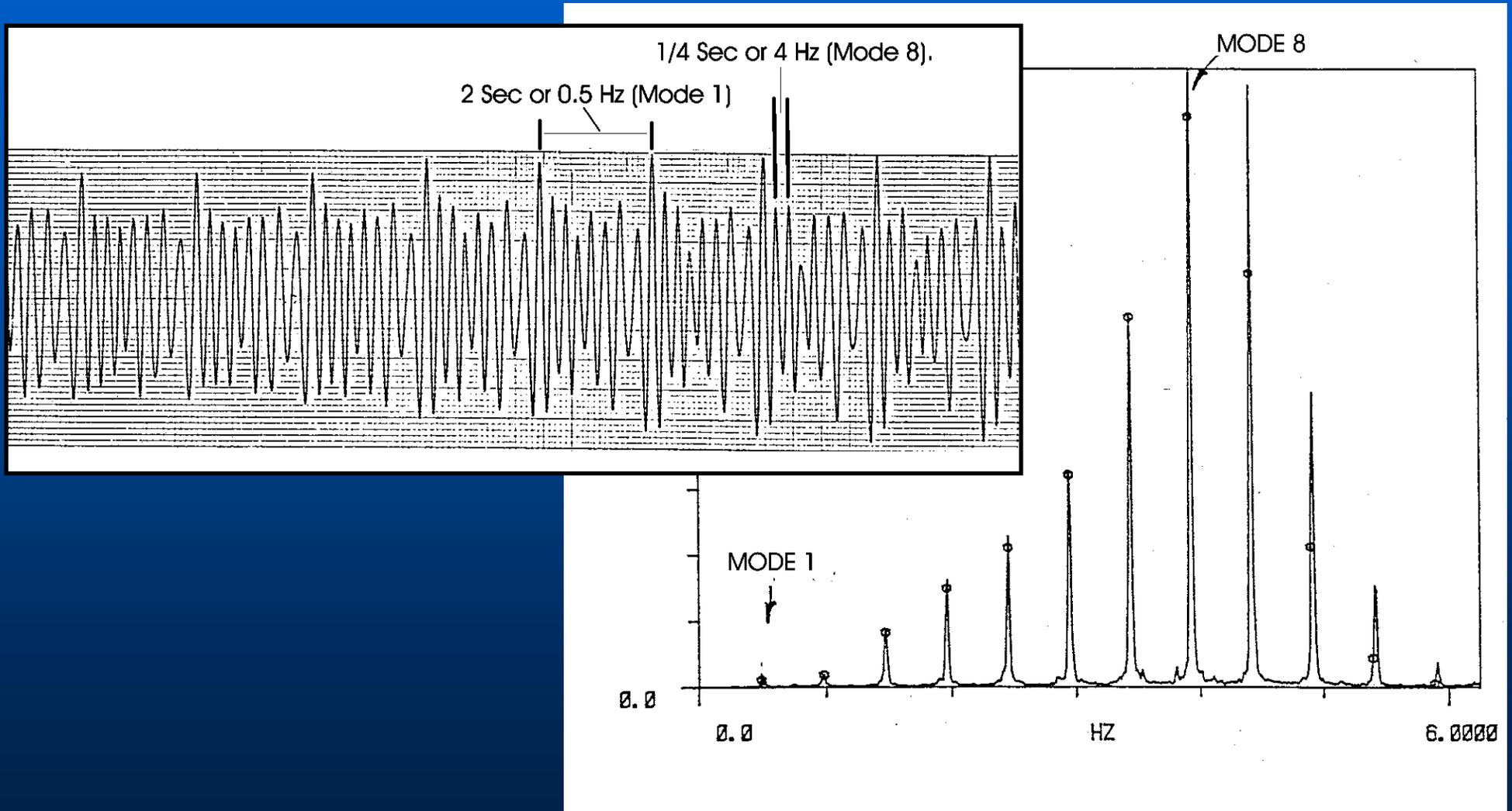




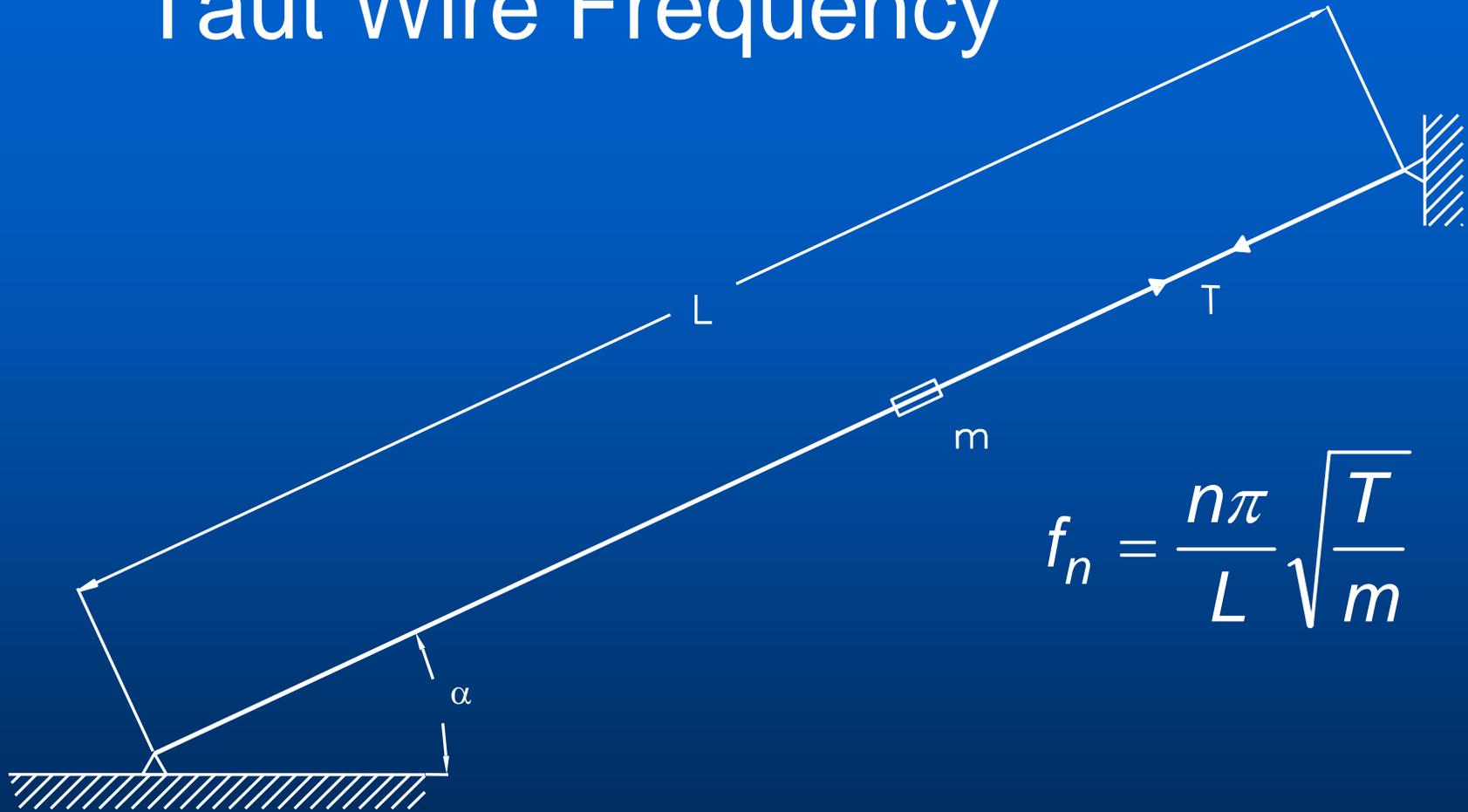
# Immediate Solution – Cable Tie



# 1990 Ambient Vibration – Wind & Traffic



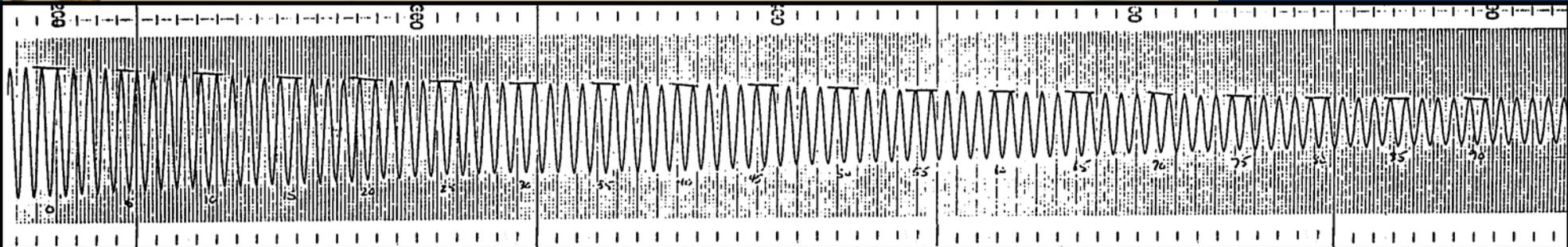
# Taut Wire Frequency



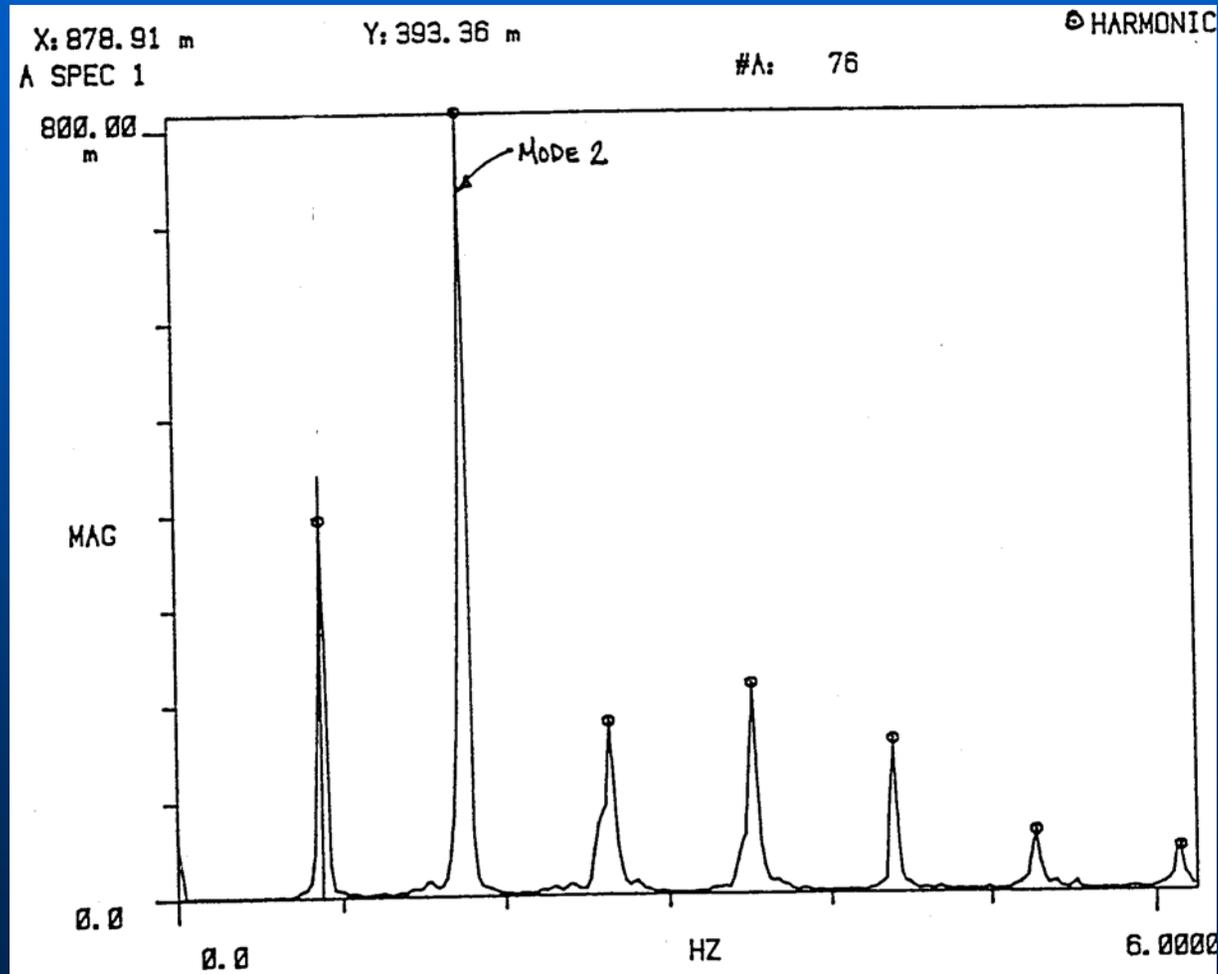
# Manual Excitation of Mode 1



$$\zeta = 0.18\%$$



# Spectrum of Acceleration under Forced Oscillation



# Neoprene “Damper Ring”

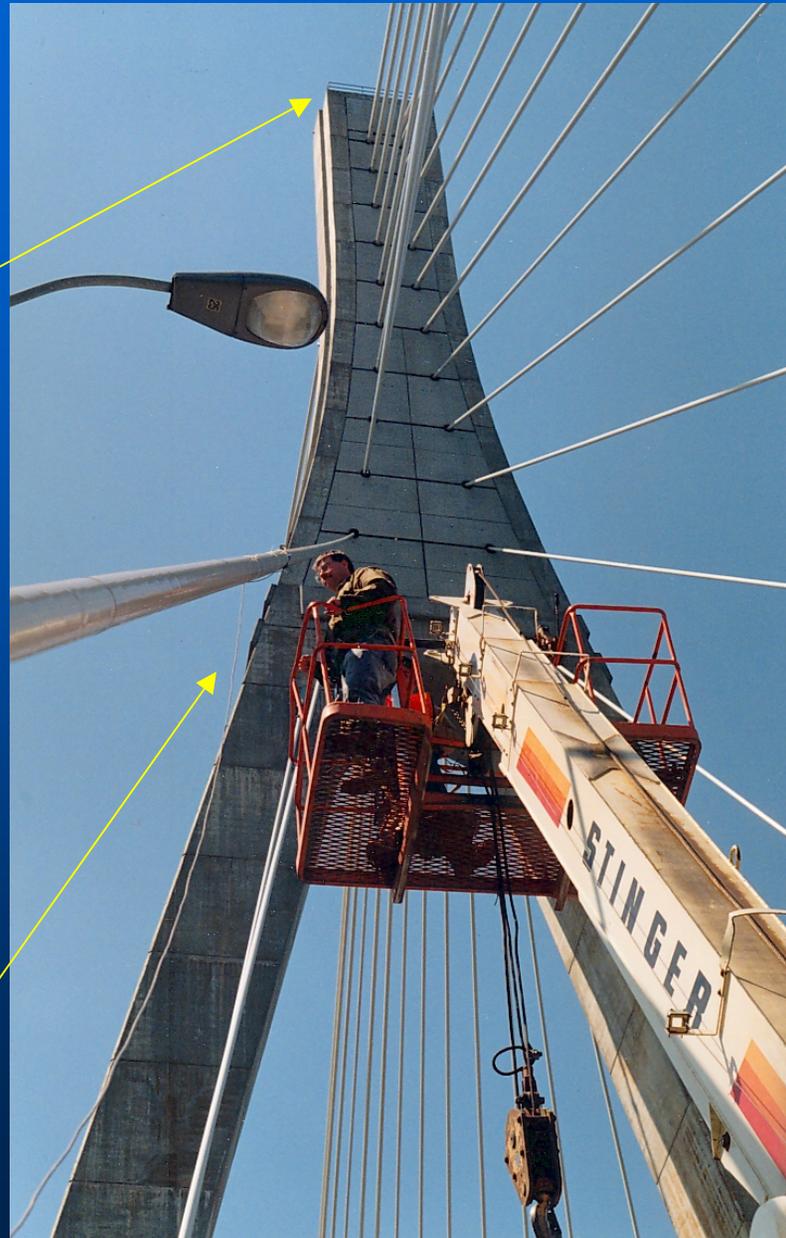
	Mode 1	Mode 2
Without Ring	0.07%	0.06%
With Ring	0.15%	0.08%



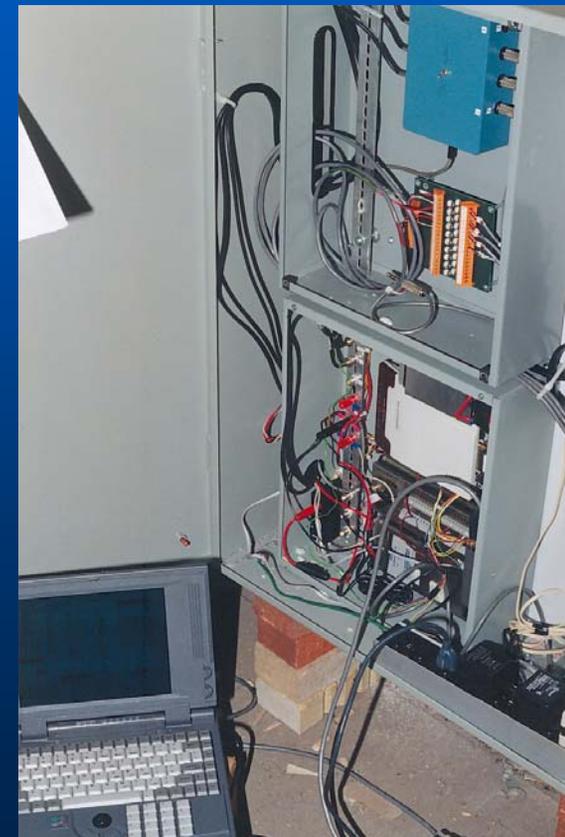
Anemometer &  
Rain Gage on  
Tower Top

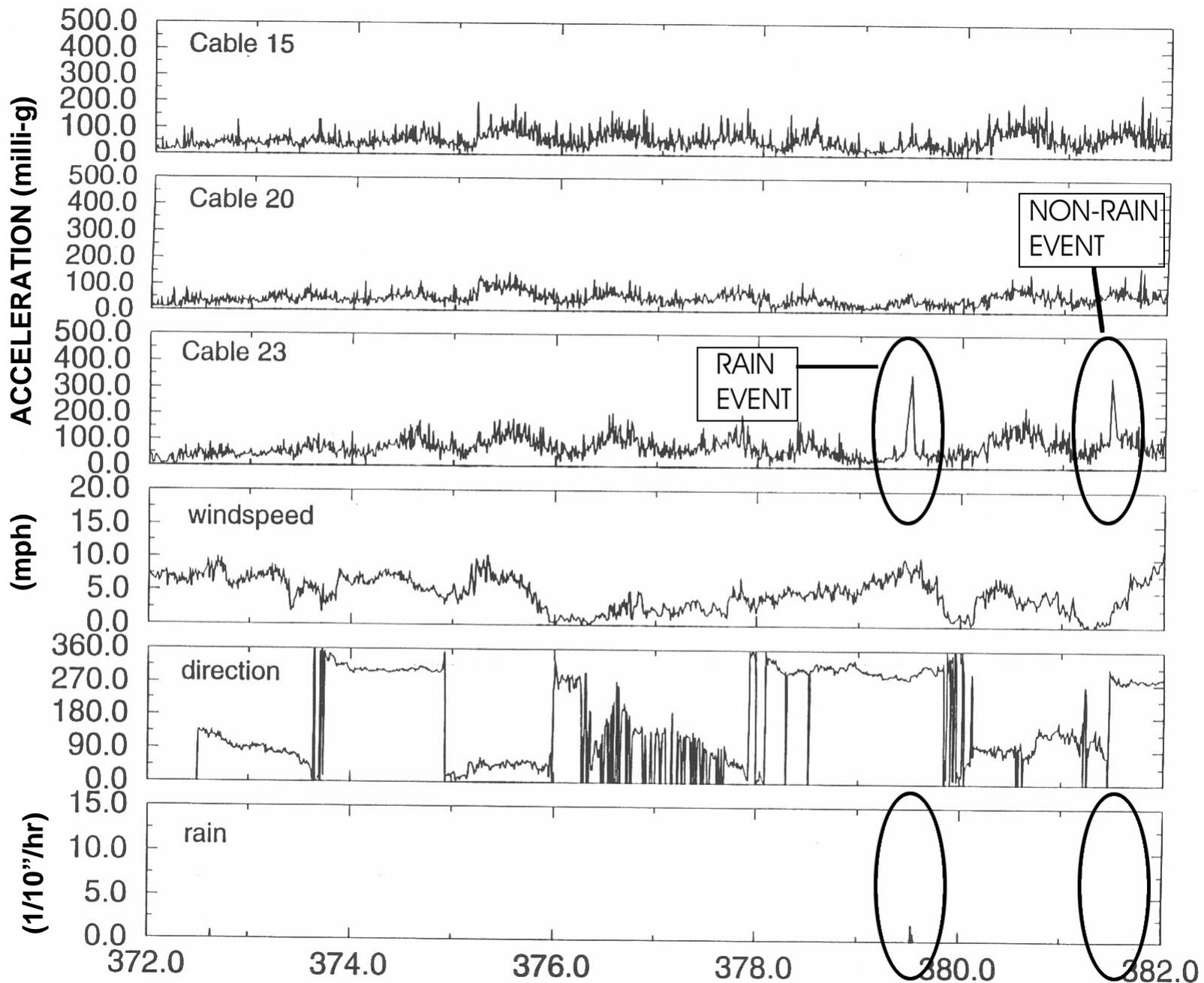


Installation of  
Accelerometer

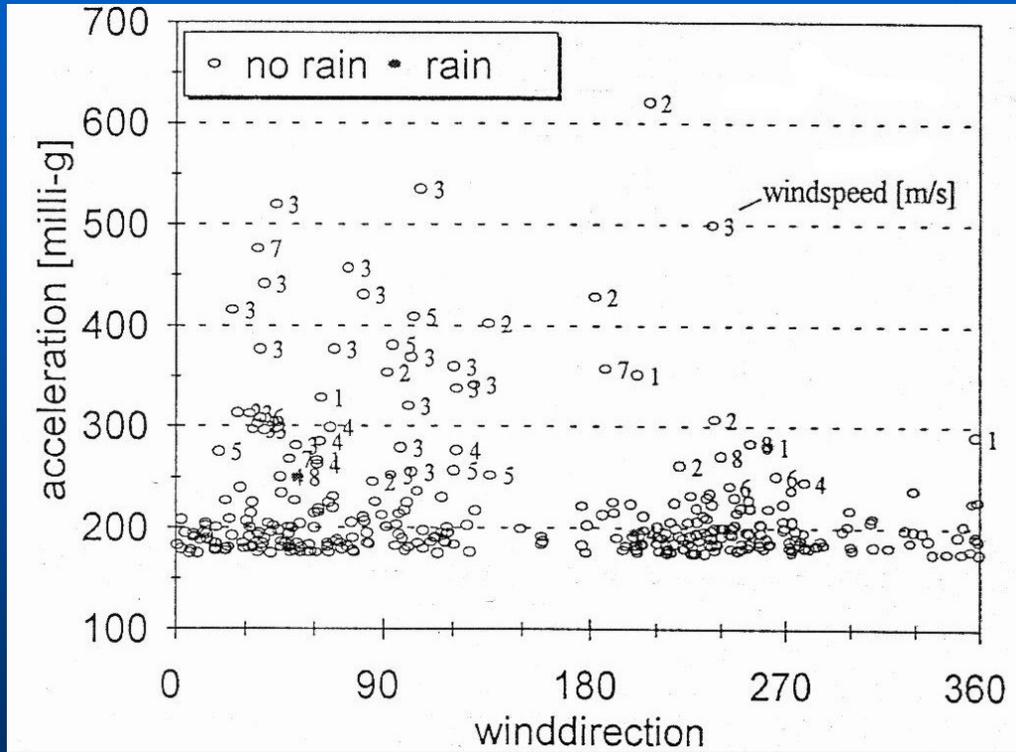


Data Logger  
inside Tower

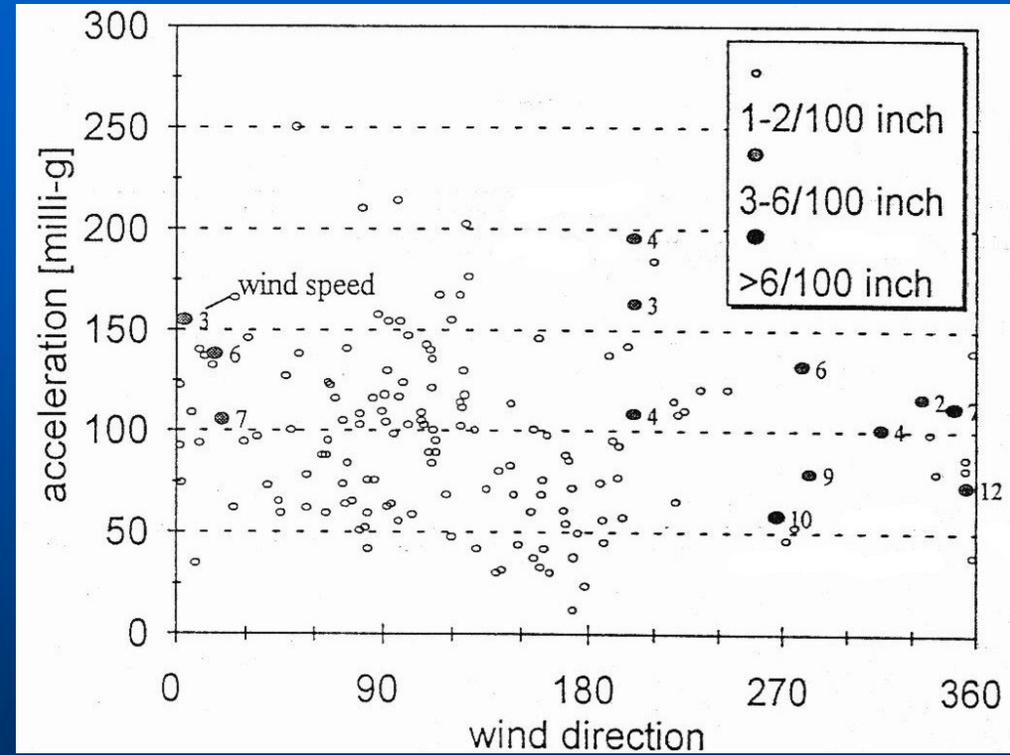




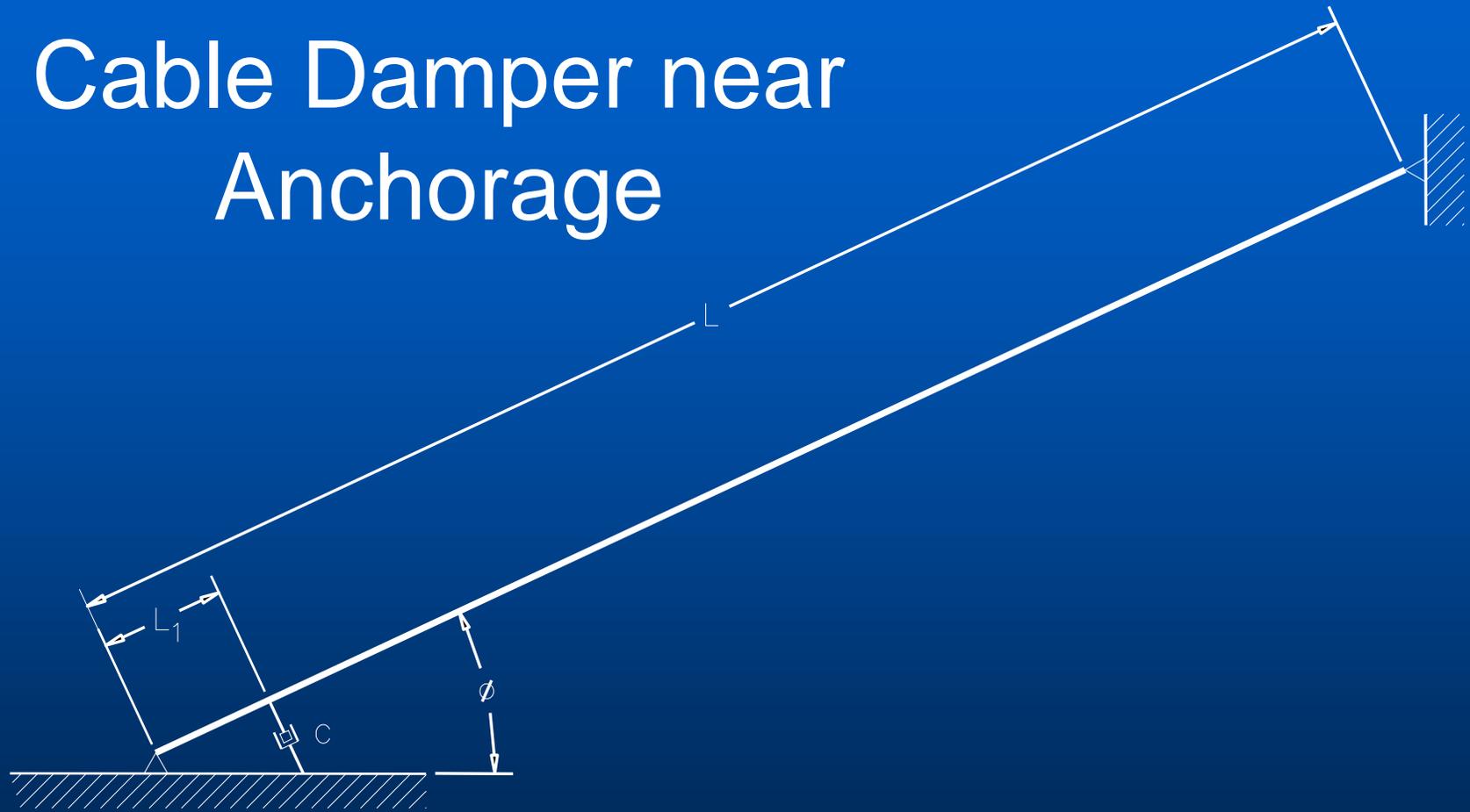
# ALL EVENTS



# RAIN EVENTS



# Cable Damper near Anchorage



# How much Damping is Enough?

- Aerodynamic tests in wind tunnel indicated damping of the order of 0.6-0.8% of critical would be sufficient
  - Solution:
    - Hydraulic Dampers
    - Visco-elastic dampers

# V-E dampers

## Damping:

$$\zeta = \frac{G'' A / t d^2}{2m(2\pi f^2)}$$

where :

$G''$  = Loss Modulus of VE material

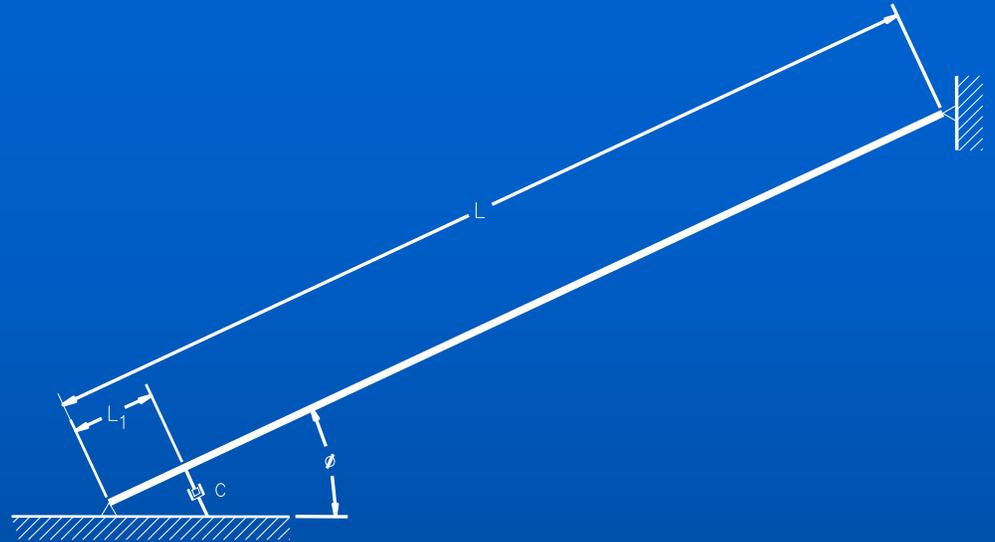
$A$  = Surface area of VE layer

$t$  = thickness of VE layer

$m$  = modal mass of cable

$f$  = frequency of cable

$d$  = shear displacement

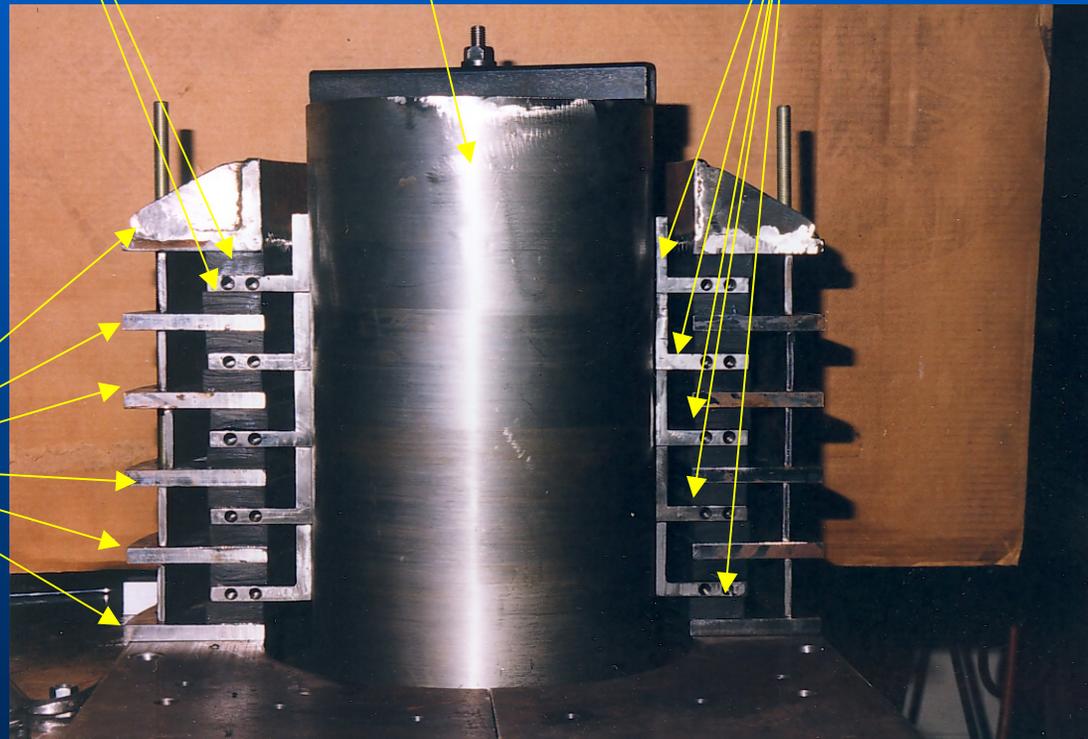


Viscoelastic Material

Cable

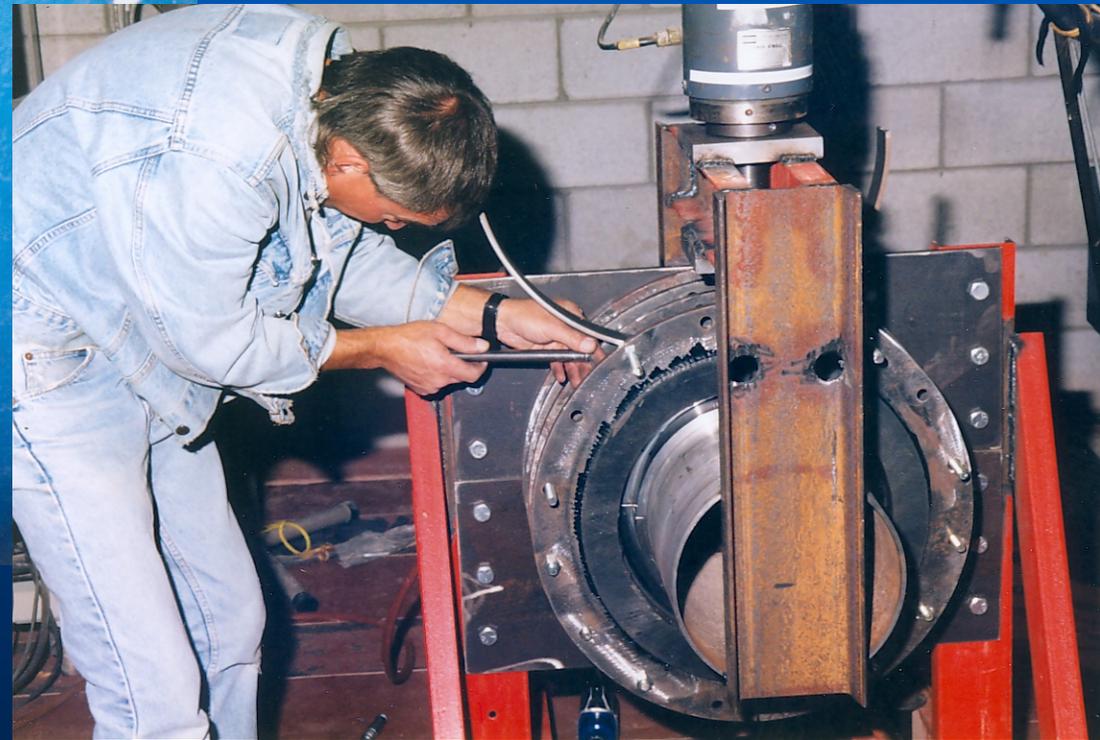
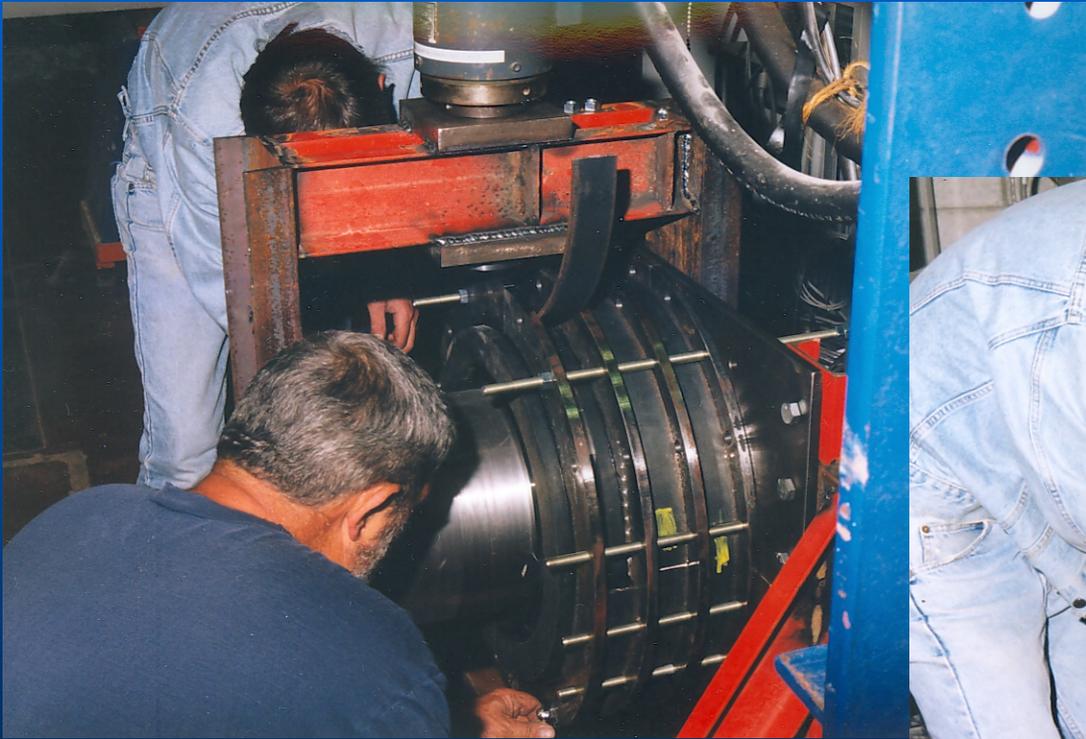
Free Rings

Fixed Rings

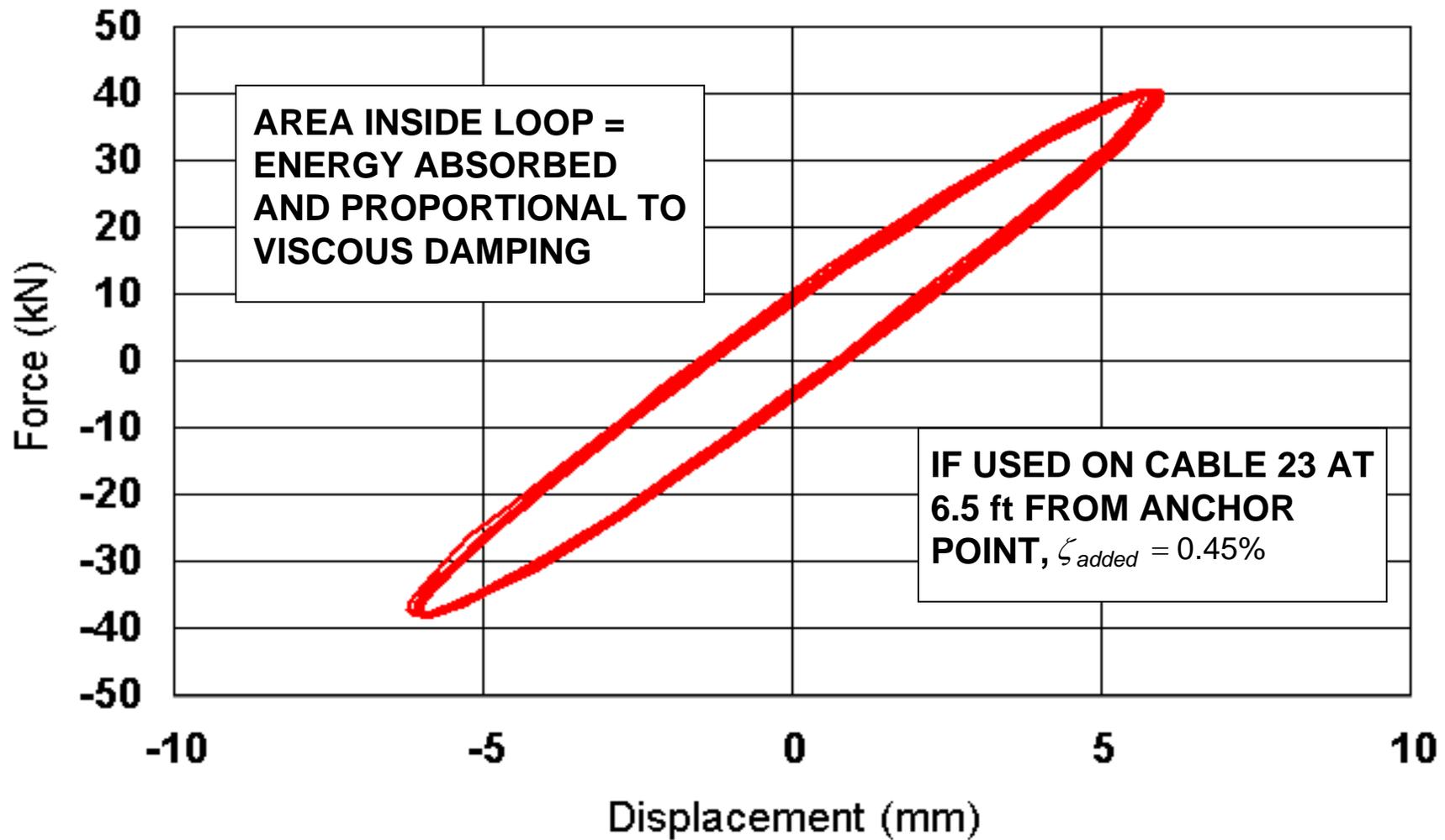


# Lab Study

Hydraulic Ram



# DYN409: 1.0Hz, +/-6mm



# V-E Dampers - Field Installation







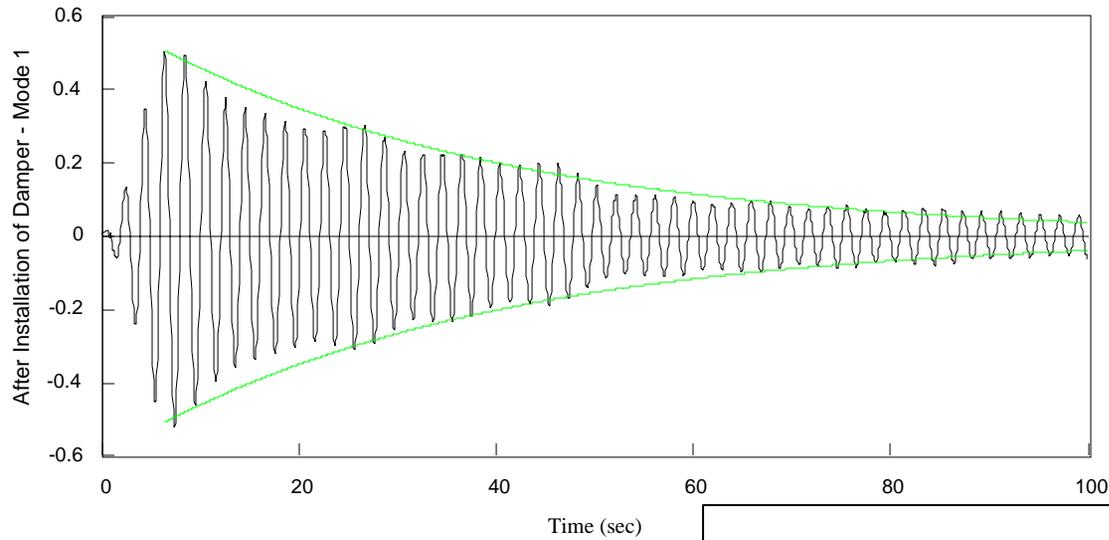


# INSTRUMENTING CABLE

ACCELEROMETER

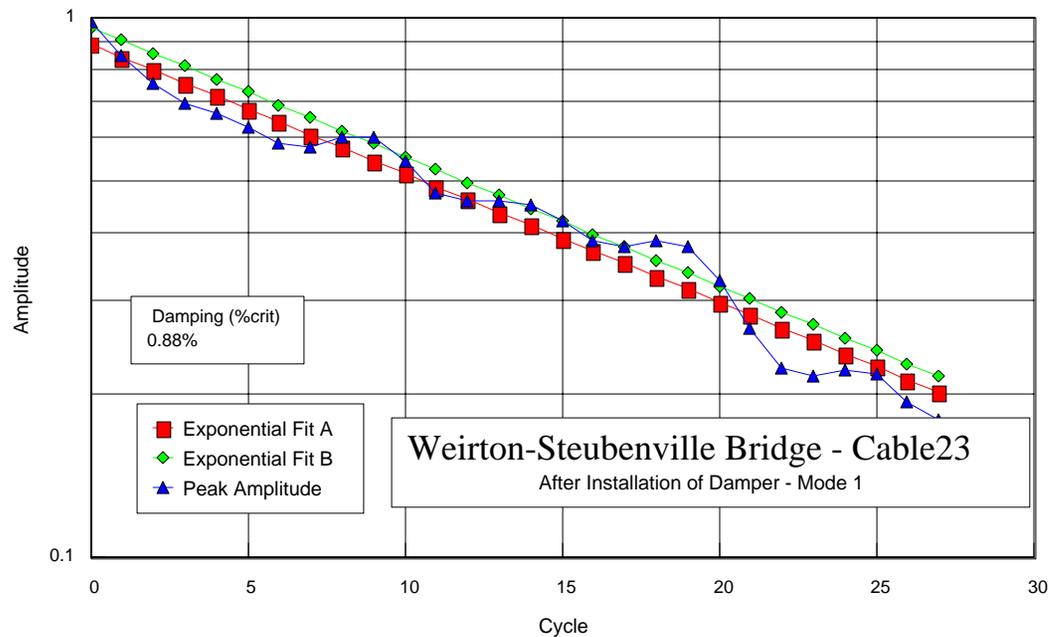


### Weirton-Steubenville Bridge - Cable23



After Installation of  
Visco-Elastic damper  
Assembly

Damping = 0.88% of Critical



# Monitoring

- Cable fitted with Visco-elastic damper monitored for 18 months along with another “control” cable
- No excessive motions observed:  
+/-2” vs +/- 12” prior to damper installation
- Damper performed well even in winter months

# V-E damper

Mild corrosion at 18 month inspection

But:

- costly to manufacture
- aesthetics questioned
- satisfactory performance

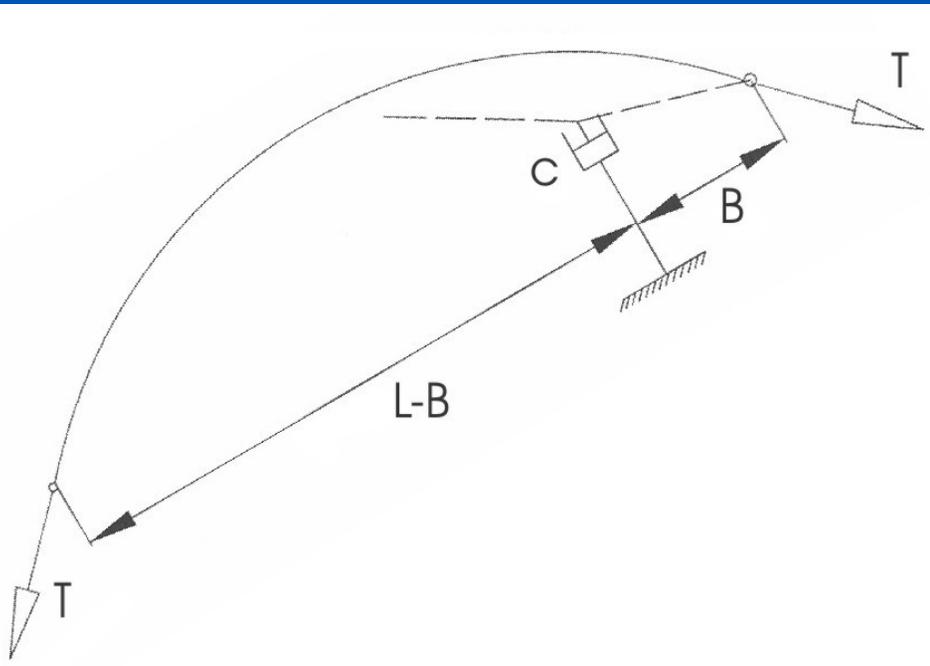


# Hydraulic Damper

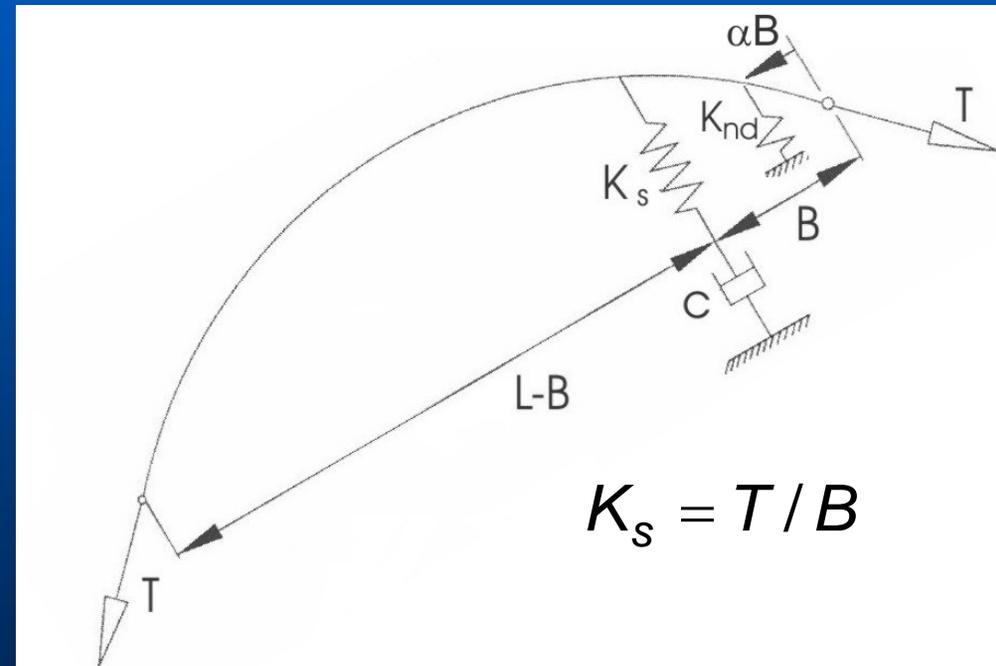
- Design methodology well established on several cable stayed bridges
- Able to install damper assemblies behind precast fascia panels in tower head
- Relatively economical

# DESIGN PARAMETERS

Actual  
(deformed mode)



Equivalent  
(spring added)



- Taking Neoprene “Damper” Stiffness into account:  
Equivalent Distance to Anchor Point:

$$B_e / B = \frac{1 - \alpha}{1 - \left\{ \frac{\alpha}{k\alpha(1 - \alpha) + 1} \right\}}$$

$$k = K_{nd} \cdot B / T$$

Note that as :

$$k \Rightarrow 0 \quad \text{then} \quad B_e / B \Rightarrow 1$$

and

$$k \Rightarrow \infty \quad \text{then} \quad B_e / B \Rightarrow (1 - \infty) \text{ and the Neoprene Damper Ring}$$

becomes the anchor point



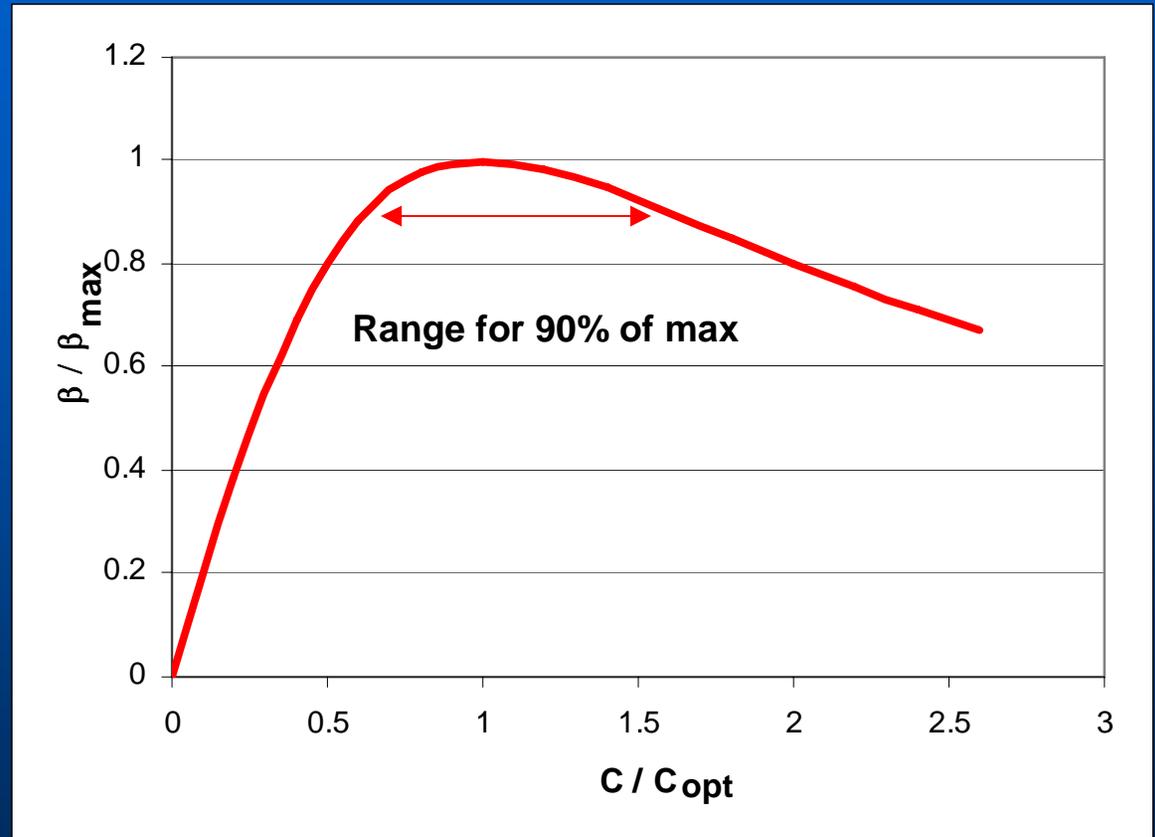
# Added Damping to Cable:

Function of:

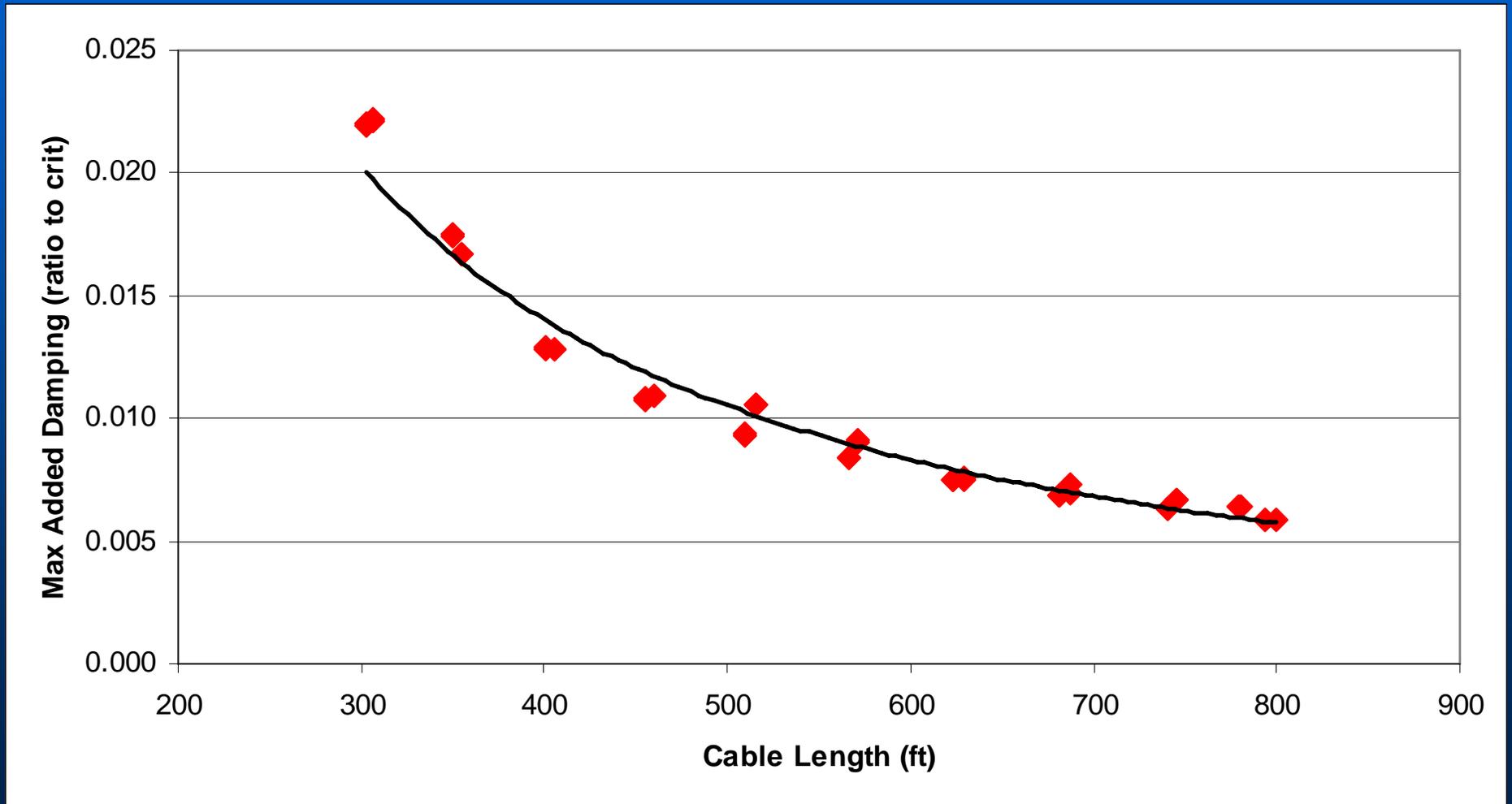
- Damper Capacity,  $c$  and Placement,  $B_e$
- Mass,  $m$ , Length,  $L$  Frequency of Cable  $\omega_1$
- Equivalent Stiffness of Damper and Neoprene Plug,  $K_e$

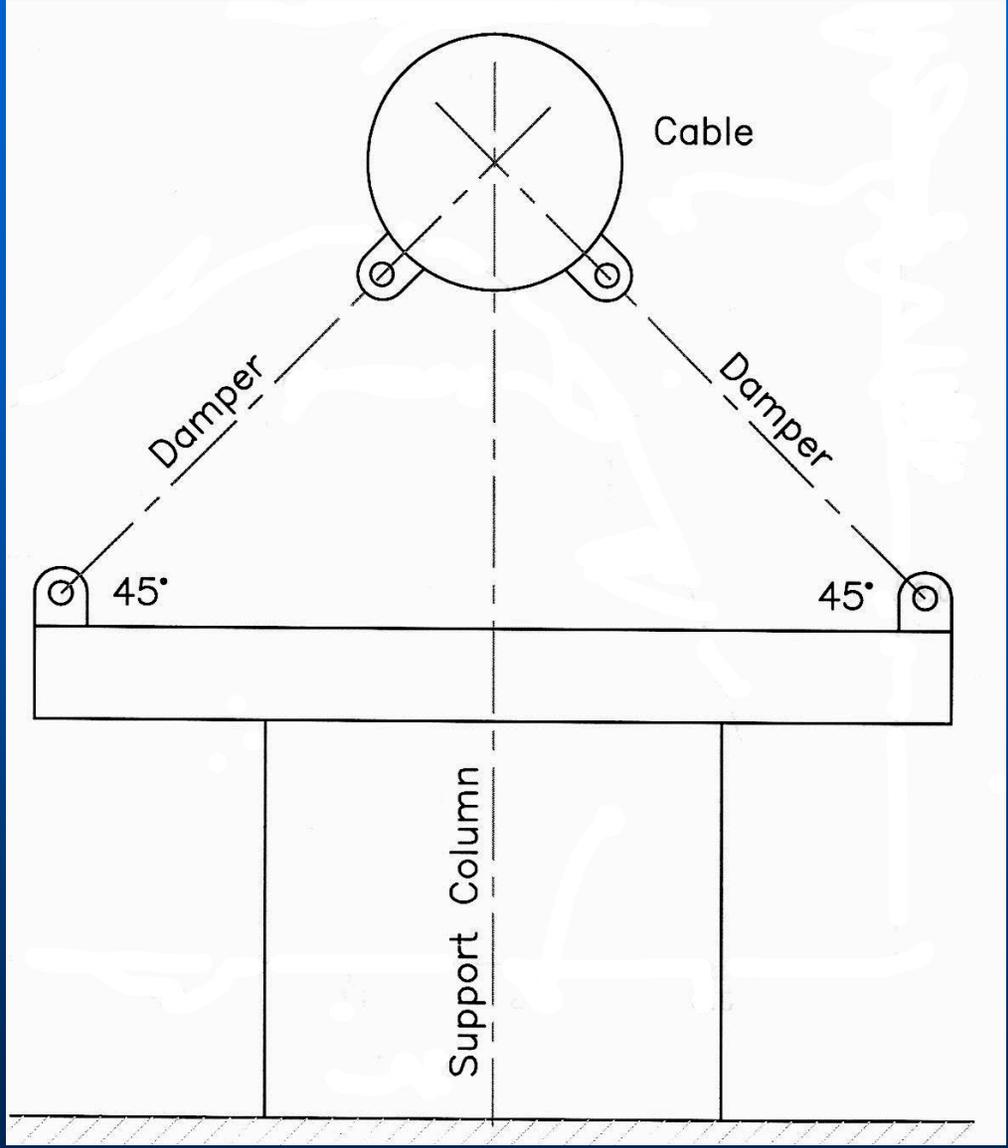
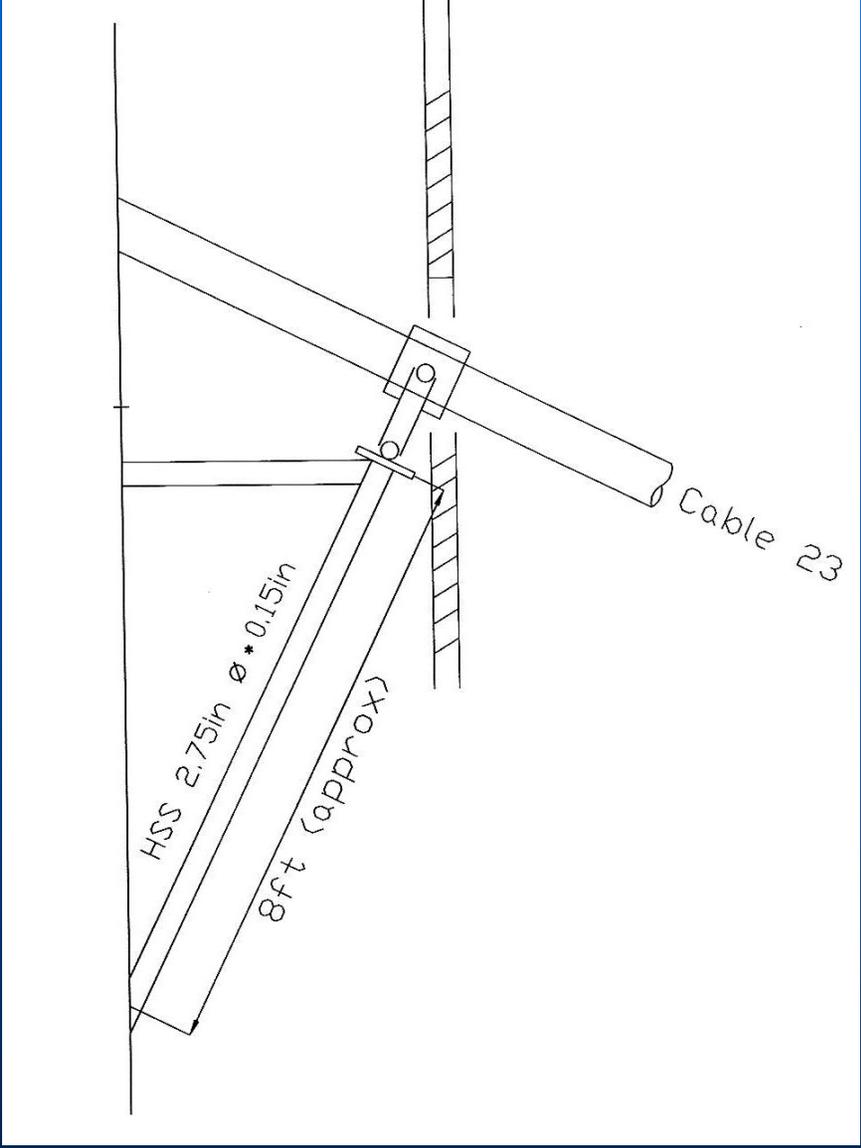
$$\beta = \frac{\frac{c}{mL\omega_1} \left( \frac{\pi B_e}{L} \right)^2}{1 + \left( \frac{c\omega_1}{K_e} \right)}$$

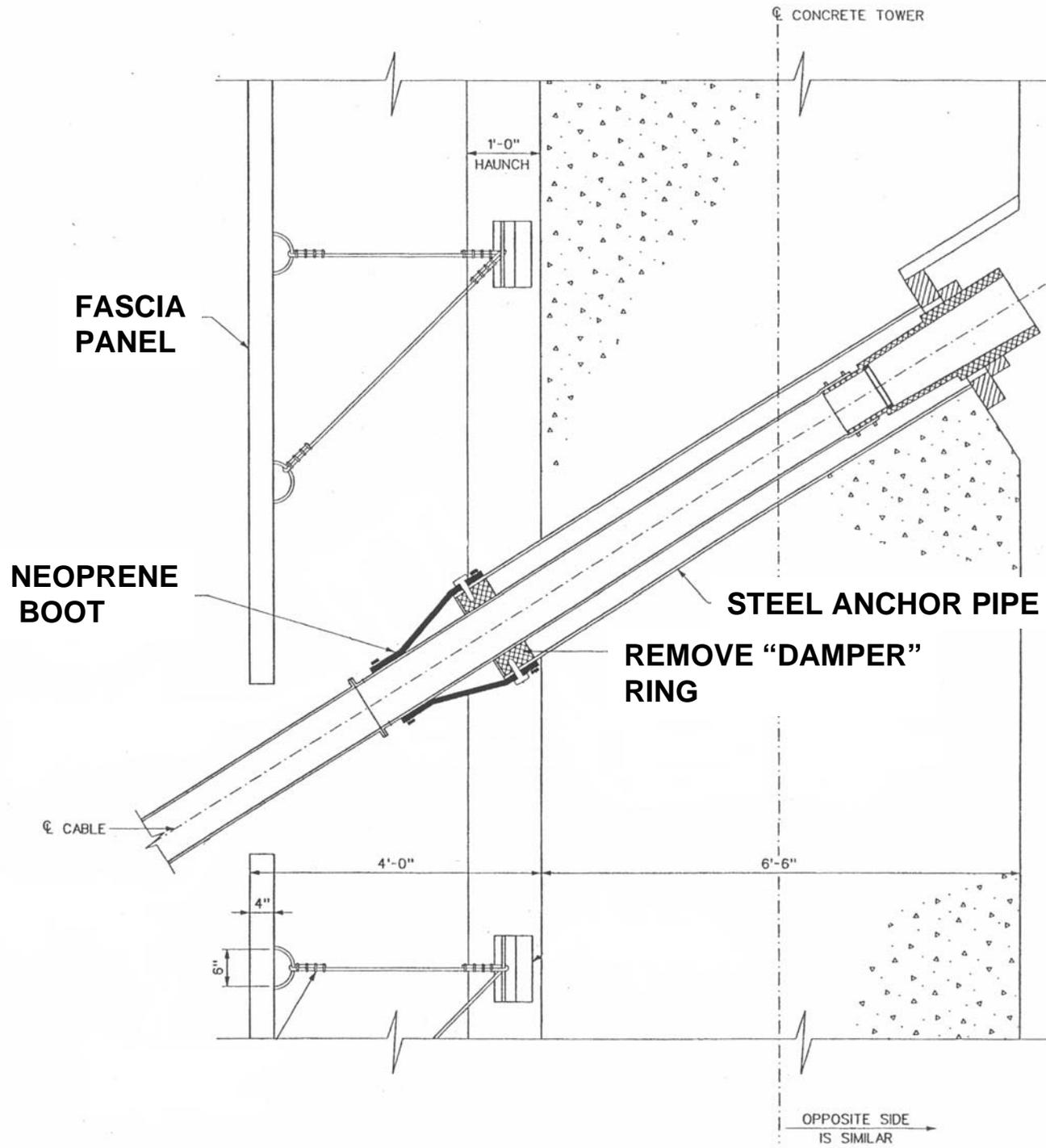
- Desirable to maximize Damping provided
- Optimum damper capacity for maximum damping provided

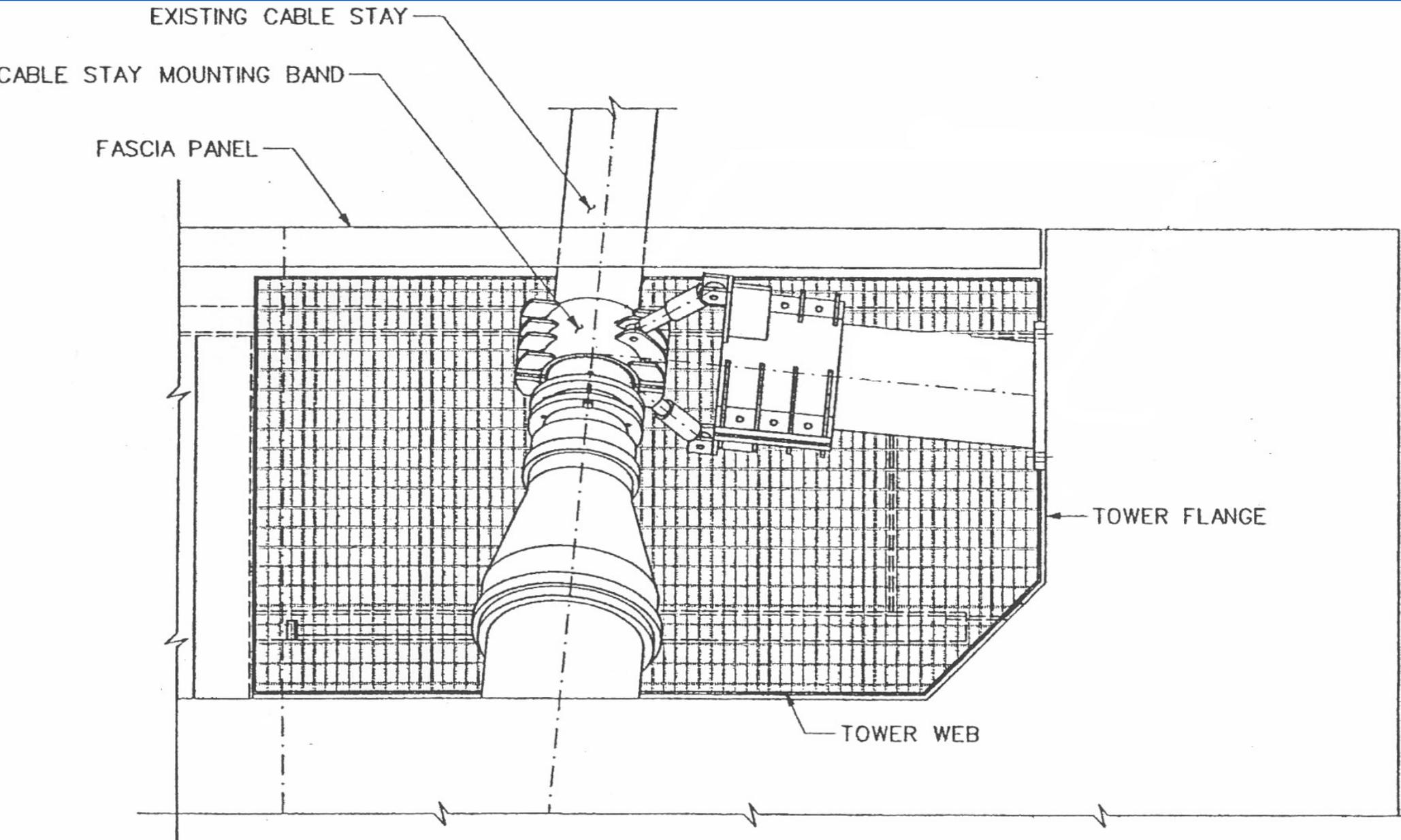


# Maximum Added Damping









EXISTING CABLE STAY

CABLE STAY MOUNTING BAND

FASCIA PANEL

TOWER FLANGE

TOWER WEB

PLAN

# Conclusions

- Viscoelastic Dampers can provide additional damping to stay cables at levels sufficiently high to prevent wind-induced oscillations
- Hydraulic Damper systems are at present, a more practical and economical option



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# Acknowledgements

- WVADOT
- Michael Baker Jr. Inc.
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- Technical Staff at BLWTL
- Graduate students



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