

A Major Project Report on  
**DYNAMIC INSTABILITY OF COLUMN SUBJECTED TO  
PERIODIC AXIAL LOAD**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Award of the Degree of  
**MASTER OF TECHNOLOGY**

**IN  
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING**

By

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**CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that **Mr. M. Pradeep**, a student of final semester M.Tech (Structural Engineering), Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, during the session 2010-2012 has successfully completed the project work on "*Dynamic Instability of Column Subjected to Periodic Axial Load*" under my guidance and supervision and has submitted a satisfactory report in partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of Master of Technology.

The assistance and help received during the course of investigation have been fully acknowledged. He is a good student and we wish him good luck in future.

Dr. Sarat Kumar Panda

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## Declaration

I Certify that

- a. The work contained in this thesis is original and has been done by me under the guidance of my supervisor.
- b. The work has not been submitted to any other Institute for any degree or diploma.
- c. I have followed the guidelines provided by the University in preparing the thesis.
- d. I have conformed to the norms and guidelines given in the Ethical Code of Conduct of the Institute.
- e. Whenever I have used materials (data, theoretical analysis, figures, and text) from other sources, I have given due credit to them by citing them in the text of the thesis and giving their details in the references.

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## *List of Symbols*

The Various notations and symbols used in the text or in the figures have been enlisted below for ease of reference. Symbols not contained in the list have been explained in the sections when they appear first.

$E$	Young's Modulus
$I$	Moment of Inertia
$m$	mass per unit length of column or rod
$\omega$	Frequency of vibrations
$\omega_0$	Natural frequency of column
$\nu$	Excitation frequency
$T$	Time period
$\mu$	Loading parameter
$\mathcal{A}()$	Averaging operator
$a$	Amplitude
$\Delta$	Detuning parameter
$k$	Frequency ratio
$q$	Displacement function
$\zeta$	Damping coefficient
$\gamma$	Nonlinearity coefficient

## Abstract

Geometric effects cause structural instability failure in elastic structures. Nonlinearities are introduced by the geometry of deformation which amplify the stresses calculated based on the initial undeformed configuration of the structure. Different definitions of stability are used for different problems. However, dynamic stability definition is applicable to all structural stability problems. The structures appear stable from static buckling analysis when subjected to dynamic axial loads but actually they fail due to ever increasing amplitude of vibration. This is correctly detected by dynamic analysis. The new phenomena are existence of solution for all values of the frequency rather than only for a set of characteristic values and dependence of amplitude on frequency. In this project the simply supported column, uniform in cross-section along the length subjected to periodic longitudinal force. The stability boundaries are derived which are periodic solution of second order differential equation with period  $T$  and  $2T$  to the Mathieu equation. Usual assumptions are made i.e. Hooke's law is valid and plane sections remain plane. Different zones of instability of column under periodic axial loading are plotted and instability of different points on amplitude frequency curve are studied through phase portraits.