

# Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

## Recent Work

**Title**

EARTHQUAKE ROCKING RESPONSE OF RIGID BODIES

**Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/07b7w0rv>

**Author**

Aslam, M.

**Publication Date**

1978-08-01

LBL-7983

c2

RECEIVED  
LAWRENCE  
BERKELEY LABORATORY

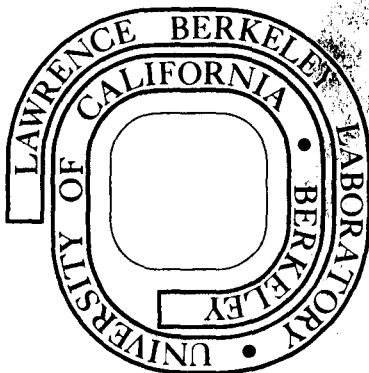
DEC 22 1978

LIBRARY AND  
DOCUMENTS SECTION

# Earthquake Rocking Response of Rigid Bodies

*M. Aslam  
W. G. Godden  
and  
D. T. Scalise*

August 1978



TWO-WEEK LOAN COPY  
This is a Library Circulating Copy  
which may be borrowed for two weeks.  
For a personal retention copy, call  
Tech. Info. Division, Ext. 6782

LBL-7983  
c2

## **DISCLAIMER**

This document was prepared as an account of work sponsored by the United States Government. While this document is believed to contain correct information, neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor the Regents of the University of California, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by its trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof, or the Regents of the University of California. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof or the Regents of the University of California.

EARTHQUAKE ROCKING RESPONSE OF RIGID BODIES

by

Mohammad Aslam,<sup>1</sup> A. M. ASCE; William G. Godden,<sup>2</sup> M. ASCE

and

D. Theodore Scalise<sup>3</sup>

SUMMARY

This paper describes an analytical and experimental study of the earthquake induced rocking and overturning response of rigid blocks, a commonly encountered problem in seismic safety. This study, together with a previously reported study of the earthquake sliding response of rigid bodies, was motivated to establish safe design criteria for radiation shielding systems under strong motion earthquakes.

---

<sup>1</sup>Associate Engineer, Dept. of Civ. Engrg., Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA.

<sup>2</sup>Professor, Dept. of Civ. Engrg., University of California, Berkeley, CA.

<sup>3</sup>Dept. Head, Engineering Sciences Dept., Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, CA.

KEYWORDS

Aspect Ratio; Coefficient of Restitution; Dynamic Response; Earthquake Response; Overturning; Rigid Blocks; Rocking Motions; Radiation Shielding Systems; Sliding Motions.

ABSTRACT

The rocking response of rectangular rigid bodies under earthquake motions is studied analytically and experimentally. A good agreement is shown between theoretical predictions and shaking table tests on concrete blocks using simultaneous horizontal and vertical harmonic table motions. Using a computer program, the rocking and overturning response of rectangular blocks of various sizes and aspect ratios is studied under several strong motion earthquakes. The effect of coefficient of restitution and of vertically prestressing the blocks to the floor is also studied. This investigation was undertaken primarily to study the response of solid concrete block stacks used as radiation shields in particle accelerator laboratories. Results from this study indicate that rocking should be prevented in such systems on account of the possibility of overturning once rocking commences, unless a tie-down design is used. The paper also points out the sensitivity of overturning to small changes in base geometry and coefficient of restitution as well as to the form of the ground motion. This suggests that it may be difficult to use data from observations on standing and overturned rigid bodies after an earthquake to provide much useful information on the intensity of ground motion.

## INTRODUCTION

The rocking response and the possibility of overturning of rigid bodies in earthquakes are central considerations in seismic safety problems. While the present investigation is directed to large concrete blocks, any massive equipment such as heavy electrical or mechanical machinery presents a similar problem to the structural engineer.

A rigid rectangular block resting on a plane surface and responding in the rocking mode has a load-displacement characteristic that is completely different from the more common structural system where seismic response is based on the concepts of flexibility and ductility. Hence the large body of research associated with the seismic behavior of structural systems cannot be applied directly to the safety of rigid systems subject to overturning. An elastic system has a positive load-deflection characteristic and a set of natural frequencies. In contrast a rocking block has a load-deflection characteristic that is negative from overturning with a large discontinuity in the zero position, and no discrete natural frequencies. The basic difference between the two systems can scarcely be overstated. In this study the block is considered as completely rigid and may either be vertically prestressed to the floor or unconnected. The results are equally applicable to systems that can be considered as 'stiff' in terms of ground motion, that is, their natural frequencies are high enough to be out of range of the ground frequencies generally associated with the damaging effects of seismic events.

This study is part of an investigation into the earthquake response of radiation shielding systems used in particle accelerator laboratories. These shields typically consist of massive concrete blocks stacked in various configurations, individual block sizes commonly being 3 x 4 x 5 ft (0.9 x 1.2 x 1.5 m) and weighing 7 tons (heavy concrete), or 5 x 5 x 5 ft (1.5 x 1.5 x 1.5 m) weighing 10 tons (ordinary concrete). The block stacks may be as high as 20 ft (6.1 m). A typical concrete shield is shown in Fig. 1.

There are two response modes that should be considered in designing such a system:

1. If the stack is allowed to slide freely, this in effect uncouples or partially uncouples the block from the horizontal component of ground motion. The control quantity in this case for purposes of design is the value of the base friction coefficient  $\mu$ . The response of a block under these conditions has been reported (1).
2. If the aspect ratio of the block is greater than  $1/\mu$  it will not slide under the action of ground motion; depending on the intensity of motion it will rock and possibly overturn if not adequately anchored to the ground. A simultaneous vertical component of ground motion alters the critical value of aspect ratio.

This paper deals with the two-dimensional rocking problem. It considers the case of a rigid rectangular block under the action of an in-plane horizontal component of arbitrary ground motion together with a vertical component. It is assumed that if a shielding system consists of a stack of blocks as indicated in Fig. 1, they are tied

together in such a way that the system rocks as a unit from the base.

A computer program was written to solve numerically the equation of motion of the block, with the option of including vertical prestressing to increase the stability of the system. The loss of energy due to impact is represented by a simple coefficient of restitution. Tests were conducted on a shaking table using concrete blocks subjected to harmonic as well as to simulated earthquake notions.

After establishing the reliability of the analytical model, some parametric studies were made on the rocking and overturning of rigid blocks of varying sizes and aspect ratios, and different values of coefficient of restitution, under selected strong motion earthquakes. The effect of a vertical prestressing force was also studied. Based on these data, some general observations are presented.

ANALYSIS

Boundary between Rocking and Sliding

Consider the block shown in Fig. 2 having width and height dimensions of B and H respectively and subjected to simultaneous horizontal and vertical accelerations  $\ddot{u}(t)$  and  $\ddot{v}(t)$ . If sliding is prevented the block will rock if

$$M\ddot{u}(H/2) > W(1 + \ddot{v}/g) \cdot B/2 \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

or

$$\ddot{u} > g(1 + \ddot{v}/g) \cdot B/H$$

in which

M = mass of the block ,

W = weight of the block,



$g$  = acceleration of gravity.

If sliding and rocking are both possible, then it can be shown (1) that the block will start rocking only if

$$\mu_s > B/H \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

in which  $\mu_s$  = static coefficient of friction. However, if  $\mu_s < B/H$ , the block will slide.

Free Vibrations

The rigid block shown in Fig. 3 will oscillate about the edges when it is given an initial angular displacement  $\theta_0$ . The equation of motion for the free rocking block has been given by Housner (2) as follows:

$$I_0 \ddot{\theta} = -WR \sin(\alpha - \theta) \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

in which

$I_0$  = mass moment of inertia about edge 0,

$$R = \frac{1}{2} (\sqrt{B^2 + H^2}),$$

$\alpha$  = angle of block shown in Fig. 3.

For tall slender blocks ( $\sin \alpha \approx \alpha$ ), Eq. (3) may be written in the following form.

$$\ddot{\theta} - p^2 \theta = -p^2 \alpha \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

in which  $p = \sqrt{3g/(4R)}$ . Equation 4 is independent of the density of the block material. If the block is given an initial displacement  $\theta_0$ , the solution of Eq. 4 is given by

$$\theta = \alpha - (\alpha - \theta_0) \cosh(pt) \dots\dots\dots (5)$$

It can be shown (2) that the natural period of vibration T of a slender block can be approximated by the following equation:

$$T = \frac{4}{p} \cosh^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{1 - \theta_o/\alpha} \right) \dots \dots \dots (6)$$

Equation 6 gives the period T in terms of  $\theta_o/\alpha$ . Figure 4 shows that the period is strongly dependent on the amplitude ratio  $\theta_o/\alpha$ , indicating the highly non-linear nature of the rocking problem.

Coefficient of Restitution

During the rocking of the block, there is some dissipation of energy at each impact. Under free rocking, this results in the period of each half-cycle being shorter than that which immediately preceded it. The coefficient of restitution v is defined as

$$v \equiv \sqrt{I_o \dot{\theta}_{i+1}^2 / I_o \dot{\theta}_i^2} = \dot{\theta}_{i+1} / \dot{\theta}_i \dots \dots \dots (7)$$

in which  $\dot{\theta}_i$  = angular velocity before impact,  
 $\dot{\theta}_{i+1}$  = angular velocity after impact .

The value of v will in general be dependent on  $\dot{\theta}_i$  and the material properties.

Rocking due to Half Sine-Wave Pulse

To gain some general insight into overturning, Housner (2) considered the stability of a slender block subjected to a half sine-wave acceleration ground pulse. For a pulse period  $T_s$ , amplitude a, and for  $\omega/p > 3$  (where  $\omega = 2\pi/T_s$  and  $p = \sqrt{3g/4R}$ ), the block will overturn if

$$\frac{aT_s}{2} > 2\pi\alpha\sqrt{Rg/3} \dots\dots\dots (8)$$

The quantity  $aT_s$  is simply the product of the amplitude of the pulse and its duration. Also, the block will overturn only if  $a/g > B/H$ . From Eq. 8 the following observations can be made:

1. For a given value of  $\alpha$  (that is, for geometrically similar blocks) the product of pulse amplitude and duration must increase proportionately with  $\sqrt{R}$  to overturn the block. Stability increases with size.
2. For a given value of  $R$ ,  $aT_s$  must increase proportionately with  $\alpha$  to overturn the block. For a given size, the stability of a block increases with reduction in aspect ratio.

It should be noted that although these are true for a half sine-wave input, they are not strictly true for all earthquake ground motions, though the general behavior is similar.

Rocking under Earthquake Ground Motions

The acceleration pulses in an earthquake accelerogram are randomly distributed, and once a block starts rocking in an earthquake there is an energy build-up in the system as the block is subjected to successive pulses. In this situation the block can overturn at much smaller peak accelerations than those predicted by a single half-sine pulse of given duration. Hence the single pulse solution is of limited value when considering the rocking and overturning response of blocks to arbitrary ground motions. The following analysis is quite general in that it treats any ground motion input and imposes no restriction on the geometry of the block.

Consider the block shown in Fig. 5 subjected to arbitrary horizontal and vertical ground accelerations  $\ddot{u}(t)$  and  $\ddot{v}(t)$  respectively. The distances  $b$  and  $h$  locate the centroid  $G$  from the bottom corner of the block as shown in Fig. 5. Let  $K$  and  $F_0$  be the stiffness and initial value of the vertical prestress. Prestressing may or may not be present. Using virtual displacements and taking moments of all forces about the edge of the block  $O$ , the following equation of motion can be derived for rocking

$$I_O \ddot{\theta} - M\ddot{u}(b \sin \theta + h \cos \theta) + M(\ddot{v} + g)(b \cos \theta - h \sin \theta) + S(F_0 + K\Delta_1) \cos \theta + (B-S)(F_0 + K\Delta_2) \cos \theta = 0 \dots \dots \dots (9)$$

in which  $S$  defines the position of the prestressing force, and  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$  are the extensions in the prestressing rods. In the derivation of the above equation, the prestressing rods are assumed to be linearly elastic and hinged at the floor level, and the expression for the moments due to the rod forces about  $O$  are sufficiently accurate for practical values of  $\theta$ .

If  $K = 0$  and we substitute for  $I_O = 4/3 MR^2$  in Eq. 9, we obtain

$$\frac{4}{3} R^2 \ddot{\theta} - \ddot{u}(b \sin \theta + h \cos \theta) + (\ddot{v} + g)(b \cos \theta + h \sin \theta) = 0 \dots \dots (10)$$

The only other necessary information to solve Eqs. 9 or 10 is the coefficient of restitution. In the absence of prestressing rods the response of the block is a function of the block dimensions and is independent of block mass.

### Assumptions in the Analytical Model

The following assumptions were made to solve the equations of motion:

1. The conditions given by Eqs. 1 and 2 are satisfied, that is, the block responds in the rocking mode without sliding.
2. The coefficient of restitution  $U$  is assumed to be constant. This is not strictly necessary, and any relationship between  $U$  and angular velocity at the time of impact could be incorporated into the computer program.
3. The bottom surface of the block is plane or slightly concave so that the block rocks on its edges.
4. One edge of the block is always in contact with the ground. This defines the contact geometry between block and ground, and assumes that the block does not bounce on impact.

### Solution of the General Equations of Motion

A computer program BLOKROK was written to solve Eq. 9 using a step-by-step numerical integration procedure based upon a predictor corrector approach. The conditions for initiation of rocking and the energy loss represented by the coefficient of restitution were incorporated. The computer program includes the effects of arbitrary horizontal and vertical ground motions as well as any prestressing forces. Ground motions are read in the form of acceleration-time histories and the results are plotted using the Calcomp plotter.

A typical Calcomp plot of the response of a rigid block 2 ft (0.61 m) wide and 8 ft (3.24 m) high is shown in Fig. 6. The coefficient

of restitution  $U$  (COR) is 0.95. There is a single centrally located vertical prestressing rod with an axial stiffness of  $0.4 W/\text{in.}$ , and an initial prestressing force of  $0.4 W$ . The graphs from top to bottom are the horizontal and vertical earthquake accelerations (San Fernando earthquake), and angular acceleration velocity and displacement of the block. The two parallel lines shown in the displacement plot are drawn at  $\theta = \alpha$  and  $\theta = -\alpha$ .

The total force  $P$  in the rods is given by  $0.4 W\Delta + 0.4 W$  where  $\Delta$  is the extension of the rod. In this example the block rocks to a maximum value of  $\theta/\alpha = 0.3$  and does not overturn. Without the vertical restraint the block does overturn, indicating the effectiveness of vertical prestressing even when the stiffness and initial prestress are both very small.

## EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

### Block Design and Instrumentation

To check the accuracy of the analytical model, tests were made on a 6 in. (15.2 cm) wide, 30 in. (76.2 cm) high concrete block (Fig. 7). To achieve the required boundary condition at the base of the block, a 3/8 in. (0.95 cm) thick aluminum plate, slightly concave on the lower surface, was cemented to the block. Also, a plane surface on which the block would rock was provided by a 1 in. (2.54 cm) thick steel plate hydrostoned and prestressed to the shaking table.

The displacement at the top of the block was measured by means of two lightly spring-loaded potentiometers. The use of two potentiometers was necessary to cancel the effects of the small horizontal forces which

each exerted on the block. The potentiometers were mounted on stiff steel posts fixed to the shaking table. Horizontal displacements measured at the top of the block were converted to angular displacement  $\theta$ . Horizontal cantilever beams on each side of the block and fixed to the steel posts were used as stops to prevent the total overturning of the block and to prevent damage to the potentiometers. The space between the stops and the block forces permitted a ratio  $\theta/\alpha > 1.5$ , thus ensuring that the block had effectively overturned.

Tests were conducted on the 20 ft  $\times$  20 ft (6.1 m  $\times$  6.1 m) shaking table at the University of California which is capable of applying both horizontal and vertical ground motions (4). The recorded data included digitized time-histories of the following quantities taken at 50 samples per second: horizontal and vertical components of table displacement and acceleration, and the horizontal displacement of the block top relative to the table.

#### Coefficient of Restitution U

The value of U was determined by free rocking tests on the block shown in Fig. 7. The block was given an initial displacement  $\theta_0$  less than the block angle  $\alpha$ , and was allowed to rock freely from a zero initial velocity. A continuous record of the angular displacement was digitized and plotted against time as shown in Fig. 8.

Using the computer program BLOKROK an analysis was carried out using different values of U and initial test displacement  $\theta_0$ . For each value of U the analytical response curve of the block was compared with the test result until the two matched as shown in Fig. 8.

The value  $U = 0.925$  which in this case gave the best fit was taken as the effective value of the coefficient of restitution. The comparison also demonstrated that  $U$  was effectively constant. Tests conducted on a 36 in.  $\times$  9 in. (97.4 cm  $\times$  22.9 cm) block produced similar results.

#### Shaking Table Tests

Tests were carried out using harmonic as well as simulated earthquake ground motions (4). All such tests were conducted on the 30 in.  $\times$  6 in. (76.2 cm  $\times$  15.2 cm) block shown in Fig. 7.

The harmonic tests used a frequency of 2 Hz for both horizontal and vertical motions, and the amplitudes used were such that the block overturned in each case. The experimental data from these was found to be repeatable and hence suitable for comparing with equivalent analytical results. It was found, however, that similar tests using simulated earthquake motions were not exactly repeatable and hence could not be used for a precise comparison with theory. The reason for the lack of repeatability was attributed to a slight pitching motion in the shaking table and the sensitivity of the rocking response of the block to the precise ground motion.

#### Comparison of Test and Analytical Results

1. Free Rocking Tests: As indicated above, the free rocking test was conducted for the purpose of determining the value of  $U$  by fitting an analytical solution to the experimental data. This comparison is also given in Fig. 9 where the period of free rocking is plotted against the angular displacement: this is a highly nonlinear phenomenon with the period of rocking varying from zero to infinity



as  $\theta$  varies from zero to  $\alpha$ . This characteristic should be taken into account in selecting a time increment in the analytical solution.

2. Ground Motion Tests Figures 10 and 11 show a comparison of the measured and predicted angular displacement  $\theta$  of the 30 in.  $\times$  6 in. (76.2 cm  $\times$  15.2 cm) block under harmonic ground motions of 2 Hz frequency. The ground acceleration traces shown in these figures indicate the measured shaking table motions for harmonic input. Figure 10 is the response under horizontal accelerations only, whereas Fig. 11 also includes vertical ground acceleration. The analytical results were obtained by using the measured table motions and a constant value of  $U = 0.925$  which was obtained from a prior free rocking test. It can be seen in these figures that the measured and predicted results match reasonably well, and the block overturns at approximately the same time and in the same direction in both cases. The stable region in these figures is enveloped by  $|\theta| = \alpha$ . Comparisons of test data and analytical results were made only for harmonic table motions due to the difficulty of obtaining repeatable test results with simulated earthquake motions as discussed above.

The step size required for accurate integration in the computer solution is dependent on the size and aspect ratio of the block and on the characteristics of the ground motion. If the response is such that the block immediately starts to rock with a large amplitude, and hence a long period, the time increment is not critical. For example, in the response of the free to long period harmonic motion shown in Fig. 10, the block starts by rocking at a period of

approximately 0.5 sec without any small amplitude build up. In this case a step size of 0.005 sec is quite adequate. However if there is an initial small amplitude response, the associated shorter period requires a smaller step size. In studies with the Pacoima Dam record a 0.001 sec step size was required for satisfactory results, and for the artificial earthquakes A-1 and B-1 an even shorter step size was required. In general the analysis should be checked using a decreasing step size until satisfactory agreement is attained.

#### ROCKING RESPONSE OF RIGID BLOCKS TO EARTHQUAKE MOTIONS

The rocking response of free rigid blocks under various strong motion earthquakes was studied by computer. Time-history responses of different sized blocks and with varying aspect ratios was carried out and the results plotted. Three different base widths were studied, namely 1 ft (0.31 m), 2 ft (0.61 m) and 3 ft (0.91 m); and for each of these three, four different aspect ratios, namely, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1 and 5/1, were studied. Results were also obtained for 15 × 5 ft (4.58 × 1.53 m) and 16 × 4 ft (4.88 × 1.22 m) blocks. Each of these fourteen blocks was subjected to five different strong motion earthquakes: the S16<sup>0</sup>E and S74<sup>0</sup>W components of the Pacoima Dam Record from the San Fernando Earthquake of 1971, the ground motion generated for a study of the Olive View Hospital for the same earthquake, and two further artificially generated earthquakes A-1 and B-1 representing earthquakes of magnitude 8 and 7 respectively (3). In addition, two values of coefficient of restitution were used in each case,  $\nu = 1.0$  representing no energy loss on impact, and  $\nu = 0.90$  or  $0.95$ . The recorded vertical

accelerogram at Pacoima Dam was included in the analysis of the first two cases, and in the remaining cases only the horizontal component was used. In all of these cases the blocks were taken as free to rock without vertical tie-down.

The results are presented in Tables 1, 2, and 3, and show the maximum angular displacement  $\theta$  expressed in terms of  $\alpha$  the block angle. A value of F indicates overturning.

#### General Observations on Rocking Response

From parametric studies summarized in Tables 1, 2 and 3, the following general observations can be made on the rocking, stability, and overturning behavior of rigid free-standing blocks under earthquake motions:

1. For a given aspect ratio  $H/B$  (that is, for a constant value of  $\alpha$ ) as the size of the block is increased (that is, as  $R$  is increased) the response given as  $\theta/\alpha$  under a given ground motion decreases. This is in line with the earlier observation that for a given value of  $\alpha$  a block with larger  $R$  will be more stable under a half sine-wave pulse ground motion. For example, three blocks with aspect ratio of 2/1 and with base widths of 1 ft (0.31 m), 2 ft (0.61 m) and 3 ft (0.91 m) have angular displacements of  $\theta/\alpha = 0.63, 0.42, \text{ and } 0.20$  respectively (Table 3).
2. For a given base width, the rocking response and danger of overturning generally increases with the height or aspect ratio of the block. That there are also exceptions to this general trend will be observed in the response of the 2 ft (0.61 m) wide block under the

Pacoima Dam Record (S74<sup>O</sup>W) in Table 3. The 6 ft (1.83 m) high block has a higher response than the 8 ft (2.44 m) block.

3. The response of a given block under a given ground motion will generally decrease as the coefficient of restitution is decreased. That this is not always the case, however, may be seen in Table 1 from the response of the 15 × 3 ft (4.58 × 0.92 m) block at  $U = 1.0$  and  $U = 0.95$  under the Olive View Hospital record. The response values are  $\theta/\alpha = 0.30$  and  $\theta/\alpha = 0.34$  respectively. This is due to the highly nonlinear nature of the problem where the period of rocking is amplitude-sensitive and thus differs substantially from a lightly damped linear system where an increase in viscous damping will generally reduce the response.
4. All the free blocks in this study would overturn or approach overturning under one of the five earthquakes considered with the exception of the 15 × 5 ft (4.58 × 1.53 m) ( $U = 0.95$ ), and the 6 × 3 ft (1.83 × 0.92 m) ( $U = 0.90$ ), and the 9 × 3 (2.75 × 0.92 m) ( $U = 0.90$ ) blocks. Considering observation #1 above, it would appear that blocks larger than 15 × 5 ft (4.58 × 1.53 m) and 6 × 3 ft (1.83 × 0.92 m) for aspect ratios of 3/1 and 2/1 respectively would have little probability of overturning in a strong earthquake.
5. Unlike a linear elastic problem, the rocking problem is very sensitive to small changes. This can be seen in Fig. 12 where a small change in the value of  $U$  completely changes the time-history response under the same ground motion, in this example the Olive View Hospital record. The difference in sensitivity between the

elastic problem, where a small increase in damping causes a reduction in dynamic response, and the block problem, where a slight change in coefficient of restitution may completely alter the dynamic response, can be seen in this example.

6. The rocking response is extremely sensitive to the boundary condition at the base of the block as already discussed. For this reason it seems unlikely that much useful data can be derived regarding the precise strength of an earthquake from a casual listing of the dimensions of solid bodies that overturn and remain standing after an earthquake, unless the rocking surfaces are precisely defined. Any slight convexity in the surface of the block or of the ground invalidates the results given in this paper.
7. Clearly the addition of a vertical tie-down does improve rocking stability. The  $8 \times 2$  ft ( $2.44 \times 0.61$  m) free block which overturns under the Pacoima Sl6<sup>0</sup>E record motion becomes stable with a small central prestressing in Fig. 6. In such a solution, the tensile force produced in the vertical restraint must be considered in the design of the foundation.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The rocking response of rigid bodies under the action of ground motion is quite different from the typical response associated with a structural system, either elastic or ductile. The block problem is highly nonlinear, its rocking frequency being amplitude-dependent, and the rocking response is very dependent on the boundary condition at

its base. The computer program developed for this study gives results which agree closely with shaking table tests conducted with large amplitude low frequency harmonic table motions. Correlation with seismic-type input was not achieved as the experimental response was not found to be repeatable. Parametric studies on block response to various strong motion earthquakes shows the sensitivity of the response to aspect ratio, block size, and coefficient of restitution. In general, stability is greater for lower coefficient of restitution, smaller aspect ratio, and larger blocks, but the computed results show exceptions to all of these general trends.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This investigation was sponsored by the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory of the University of California and was done with support from the United States Department of Energy. The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this paper are those of the writers and not necessarily of the sponsors.

APPENDIX I - REFERENCES

1. Aslam, M., Godden W. G., and Scalise, D. T., "Sliding Response of Rigid Bodies to Earthquake Motions," LBL-3868, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, Sept., 1975.
2. Housner, G. W., "The Behavior of Inverted Pendulum Structures During Earthquakes," Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America, Vol. 53, No. 2, Feb., 1963.
3. Jennings, P. C., Housner, G. W., and Tsai, N. C., "Simulated Earthquake Motions," California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, April. 1968.
4. Rea, D., and Penzien, J., "Structural Research Using an Earthquake Simulator," Proceedings, Structural Engineering Association of California Conference, Monterey, 1972.

APPENDIX II. - NOTATION

The following symbols are used in this paper:

$a$  = amplitude of acceleration

$B$  = width of block

$b$  =  $B/2$

$g$  = acceleration of gravity

$H$  = height of block

$h$  =  $H/2$

$K$  = stiffness

$M$  = mass of block

$R = \sqrt{b^2+h^2}$

$t$  = time

$T$  = period of vibration

$\ddot{u} = d^2u/dt^2$  = horizontal ground acceleration

$\ddot{v} = d^2v/dt^2$  = vertical ground acceleration

$W$  = weight of block

$\alpha = \tan^{-1}(B/H)$  = block angle

$\theta$  = angular displacement of block

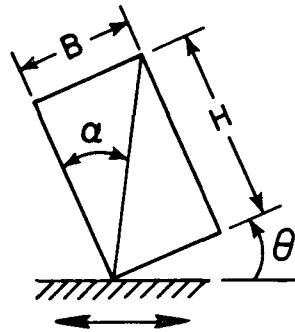
$\dot{\theta} = d\theta/dt$  = angular velocity

$\ddot{\theta} = d^2\theta/dt^2$  = angular acceleration

$U$  = coefficient of restitution

$\mu$  = coefficient of friction





F = OVERTURNING

		MAXIMUM $\theta/\alpha$ VALUES UNDER EARTHQUAKES				
		SAN FERNANDO EARTHQUAKE			ARTIFICIAL EARTHQUAKE	
H/B (ft)	COR $\nu$	PACOIMA DAM		OLIVE VIEW HOSPITAL RECORD	A-1	B-1
		S16°E	S74°W			
15/5	1.00	F	0.13	0.15	0.35	0.08
	0.95	0.55	0.10	0.11	0.01	0.01
16/4	1.00	F	0.59	0.32	F	0.67
	0.95	0.82	0.33	0.24	0.60	0.54
15/3	1.00	F	F	0.30	F	F
	0.95	F	0.99	0.34	F	0.41

TABLE 1 ROCKING RESPONSE OF A RIGID BLOCK UNDER VARIOUS STRONG MOTION ACCELEROGRAMS

XBL 784-8375

TABLE 2 ROCKING RESPONSE OF A RIGID BLOCK UNDER VARIOUS STRONG MOTION ACCELEROGRAMS ( $\nu = 1.0$ )

HEIGHT/WIDTH (H/B) (ft/ft)	MAXIMUM $\theta/\alpha$ VALUES UNDER EARTHQUAKES			
	SAN FERNANDO EARTHQUAKE		ARTIFICIAL EARTHQUAKE	
	PACOIMA DAM RECORD		A-1	B-1
	S16°E	S74°W		
2/1	F	0.63	0.0	0.0
3/1	F	F	F	F
4/1	F	F	F	F
5/1	F	F	F	F
4/2	F	0.42	0.0	0.0
6/2	F	0.38	F	0.40
8/2	F	0.73	F	F
10/2	F	F	F	F
6/3	F	0.20	0.0	0.0
9/3	F	0.29	F	0.16
12/3	F	0.65	F	0.72
15/3	F	F	F	F

XBL 784-8376

TABLE 3 ROCKING RESPONSE OF A RIGID BLOCK UNDER VARIOUS STRONG MOTION ACCELEROGRAMS ( $\nu = 0.90$ )

HEIGHT/WIDTH (ft/ft)	MAXIMUM $\theta/\alpha$ VALUES UNDER EARTHQUAKES			
	SAN FERNANDO EARTHQUAKE		ARTIFICIAL EARTHQUAKE	
	PACOIMA DAM RECORD		A-1	B-1
	S16°E	S74°W		
2/1	F	F	0.00	.000
3/1	F	F	0.005	.002
4/1	F	F	F	F
5/1	F	F	F	F
4/2	F	0.30	0.000	0.000
6/2	F	0.58	0.003	0.001
8/2	F	0.43	0.33	0.62
10/2	F	0.75	F	0.66
6/3	0.38	0.23	0.00	0.00
9/3	0.75	0.22	0.002	0.001
12/3	F	0.28	0.22	0.56
15/3	F	0.43	F	0.37

XBL 784-8377

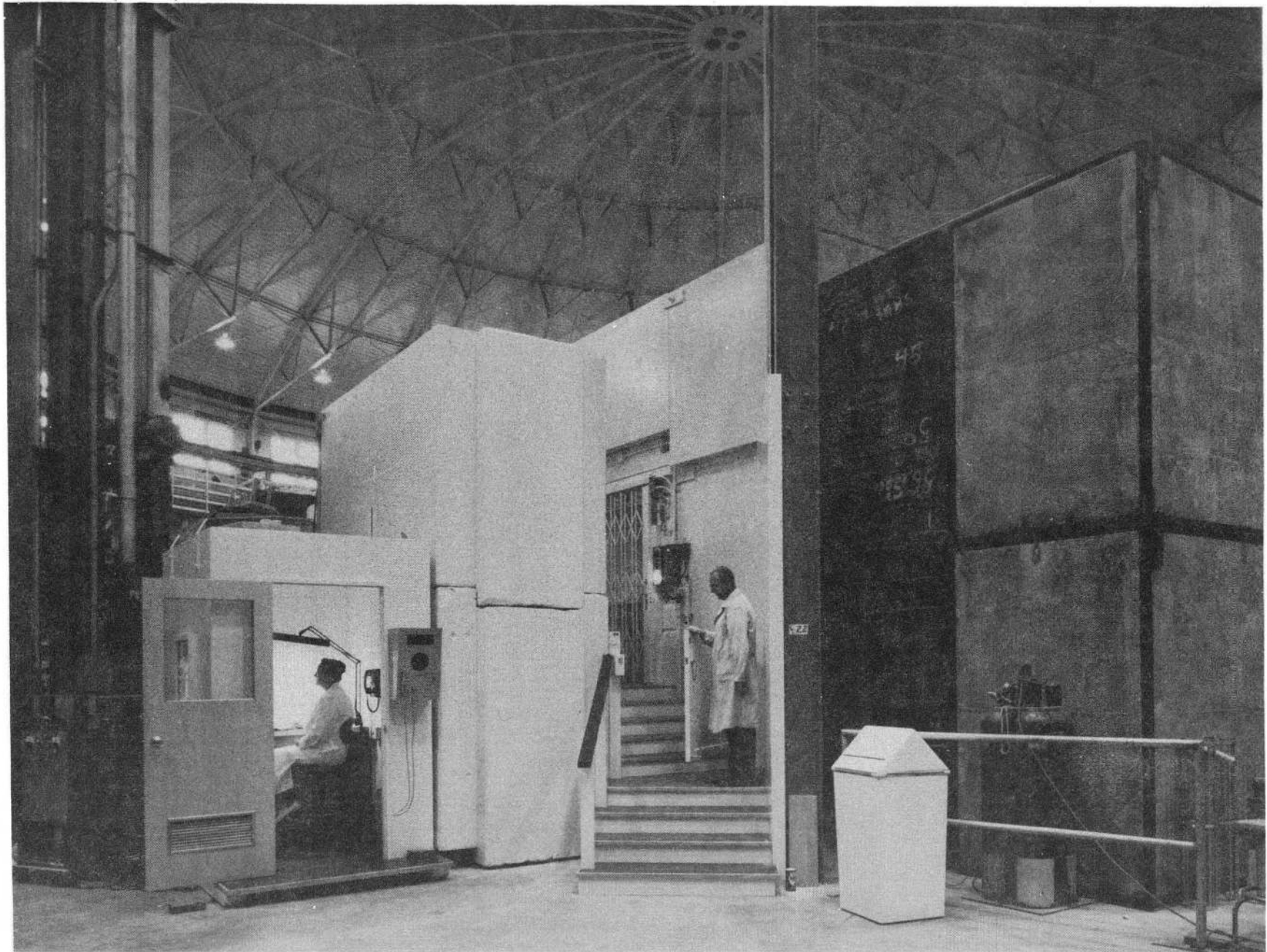


FIG. 1. A TYPICAL RADIATION SHIELDING SYSTEM. (PATIENT POSITIONER AT MEDICAL CARE OF 184-IN. SYNCHROCYCLOTRON AT LAWRENCE BERKELEY LABORATORY).

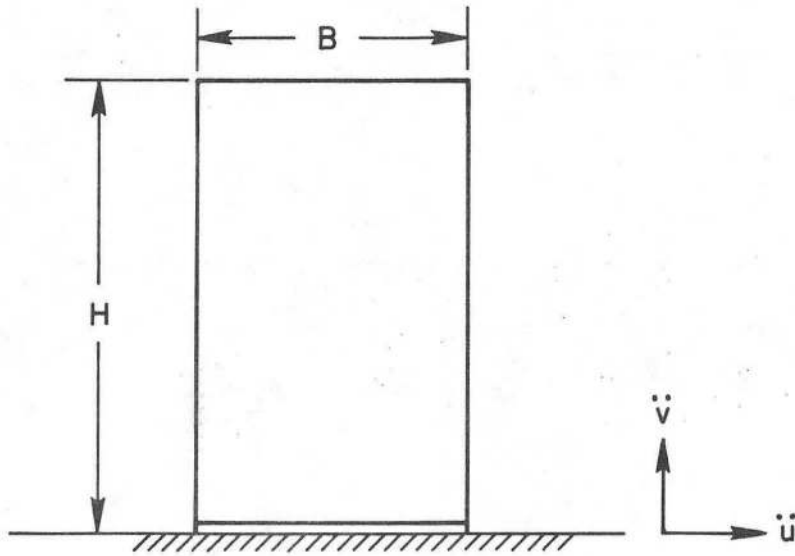


FIG. 2 RIGID BLOCK UNDER GROUND ACCELERATIONS

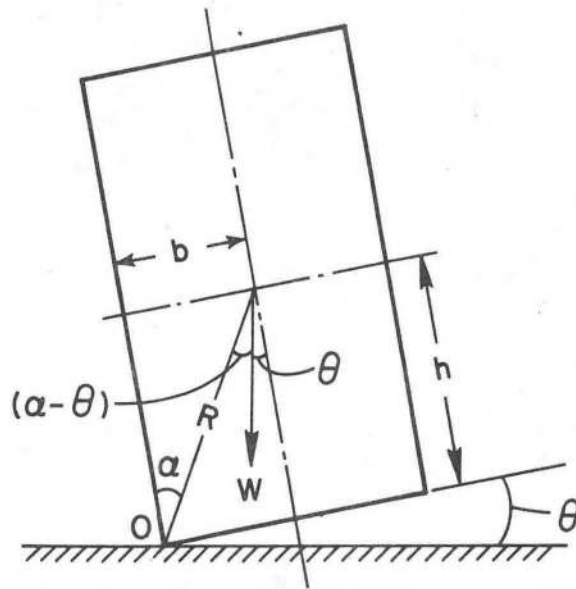


FIG. 3 A FREELY ROCKING BLOCK

XBL 784-8357A

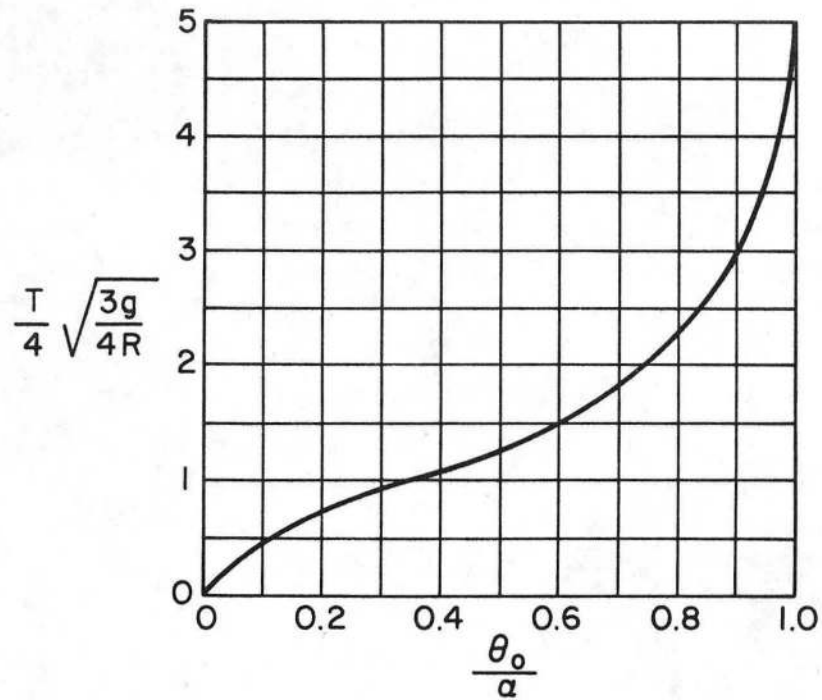


FIG. 4 PERIOD T OF BLOCK ROCKING WITH AMPLITUDE  $\theta_0$   
[AFTER HOUSNER (2)]

XBL 784-8348 A

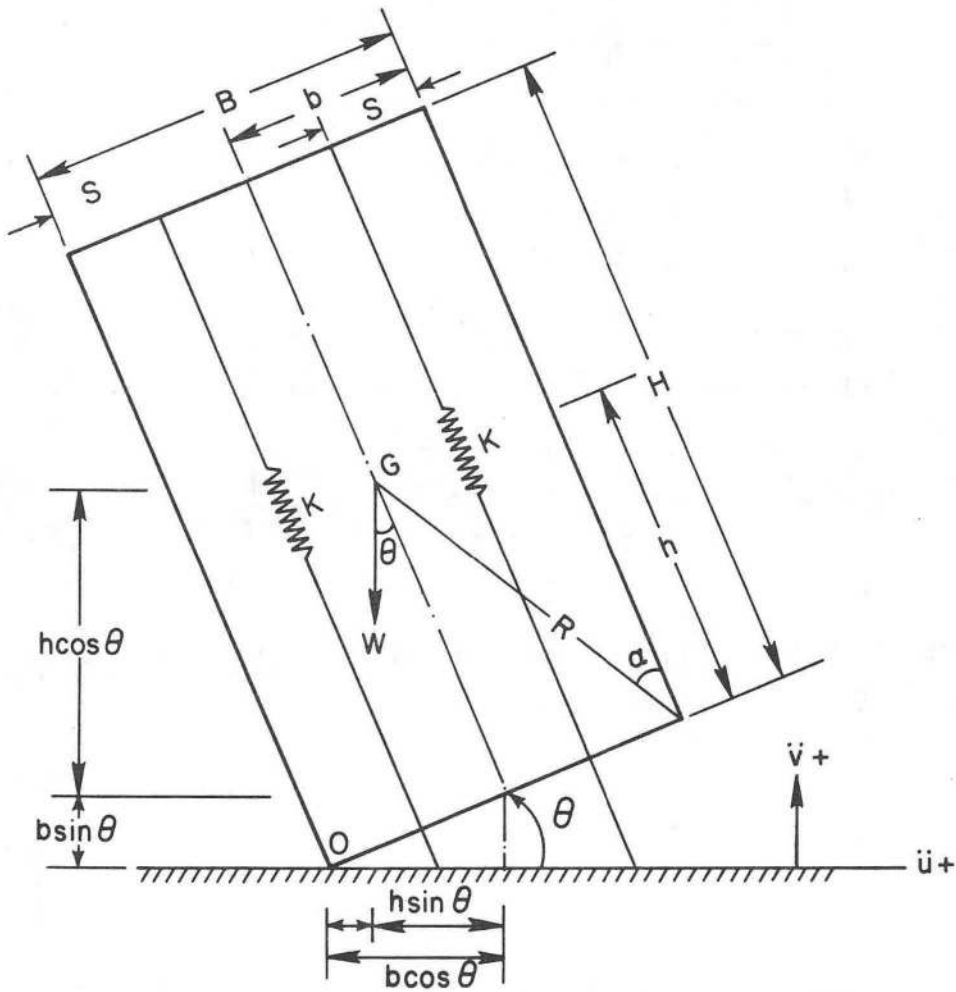


FIG. 5 ROCKING OF A BLOCK UNDER GROUND ACCELERATIONS

XBL 784-8353 A

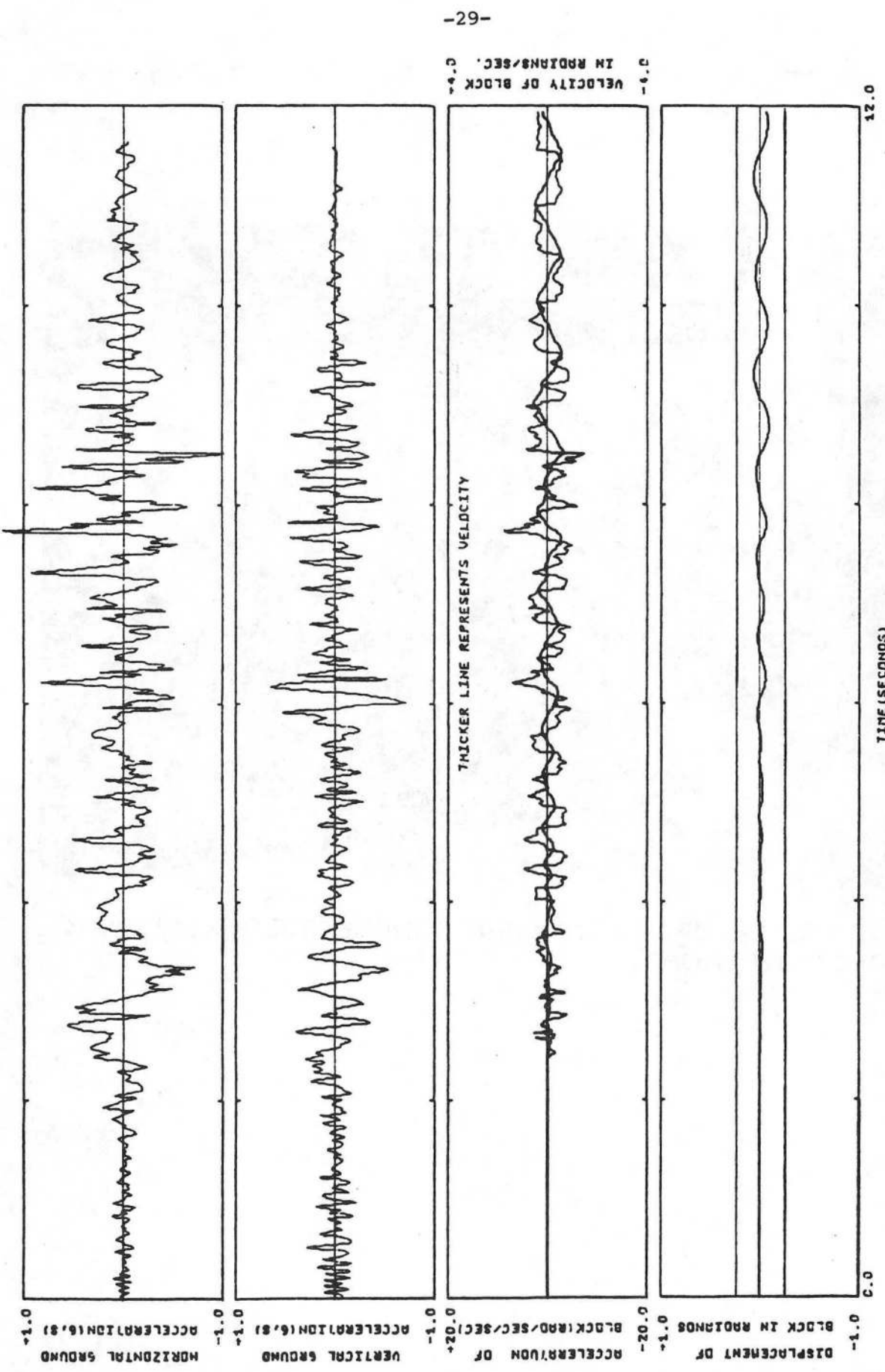


FIG. 6 ROCKING OF A BLOCK SUBJECTED TO SAN-FERNANDO EARTHQUAKE 1971 (PACDIAMA DAM RECORD S16E) B=24 IN., H=96 IN, CDR=0.95 K=0.4W/IN, PRESTRESSING FORCE=0.4W



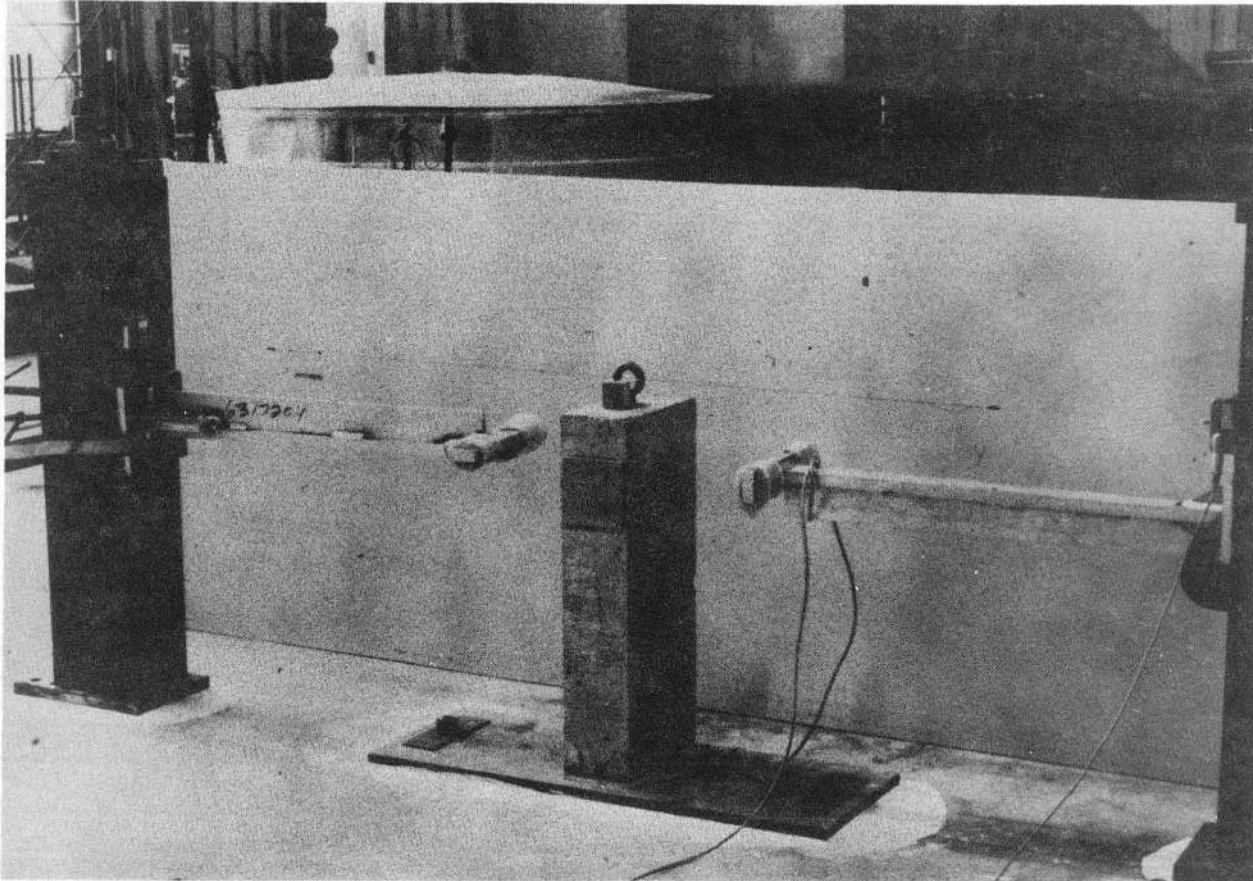
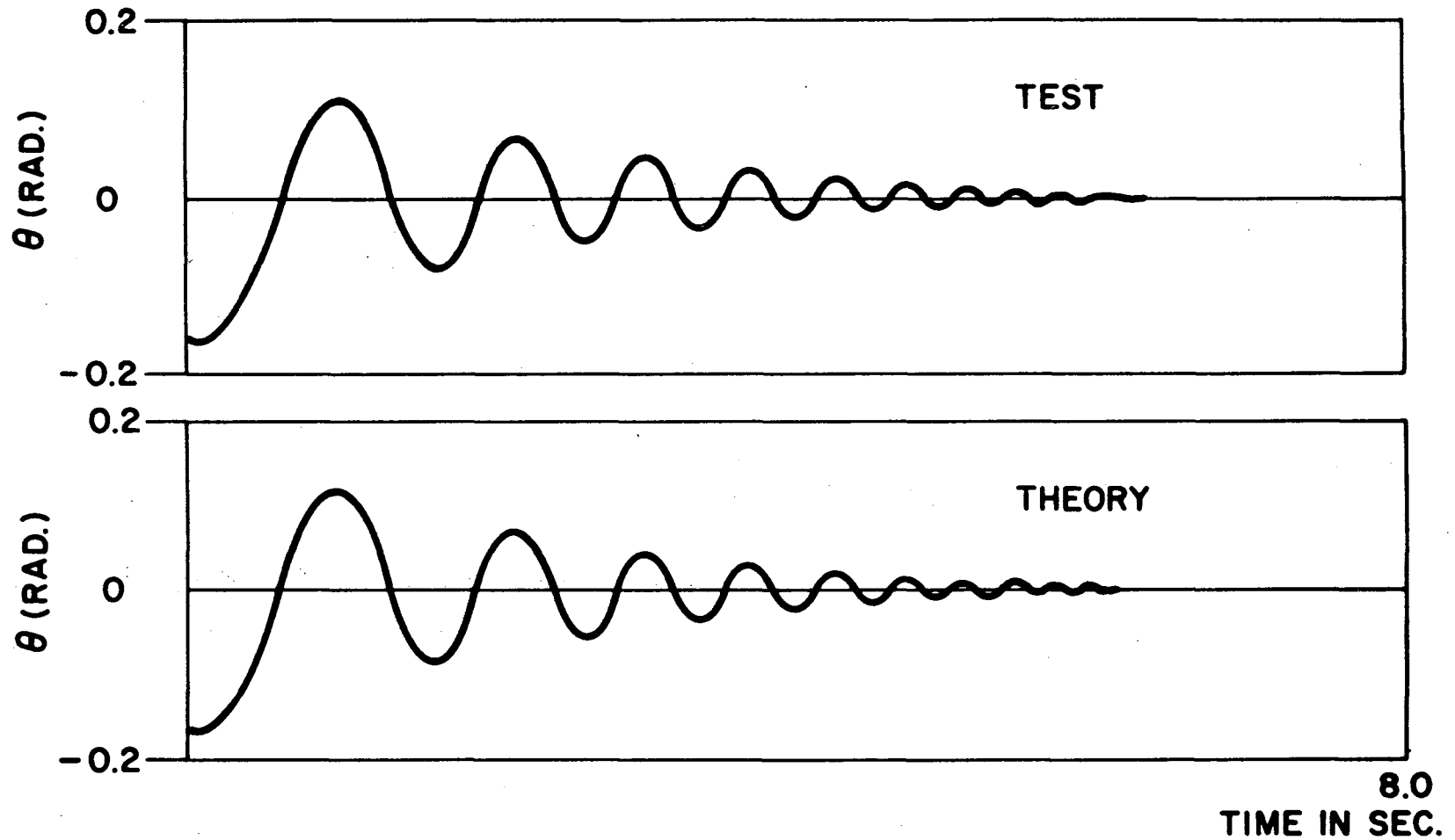


FIG. 7. TEST SETUP OF A 30 IN. × 6 IN. CONCRETE BLOCK SHOWING INSTRUMENTATION.

XBB-785-5069



-31-

FIG. 8 COMPARISON OF ANGULAR DISPLACEMENTS OF A FREELY ROCKING 30 x 6 IN. BLOCK ( $\nu = 0.925$ )

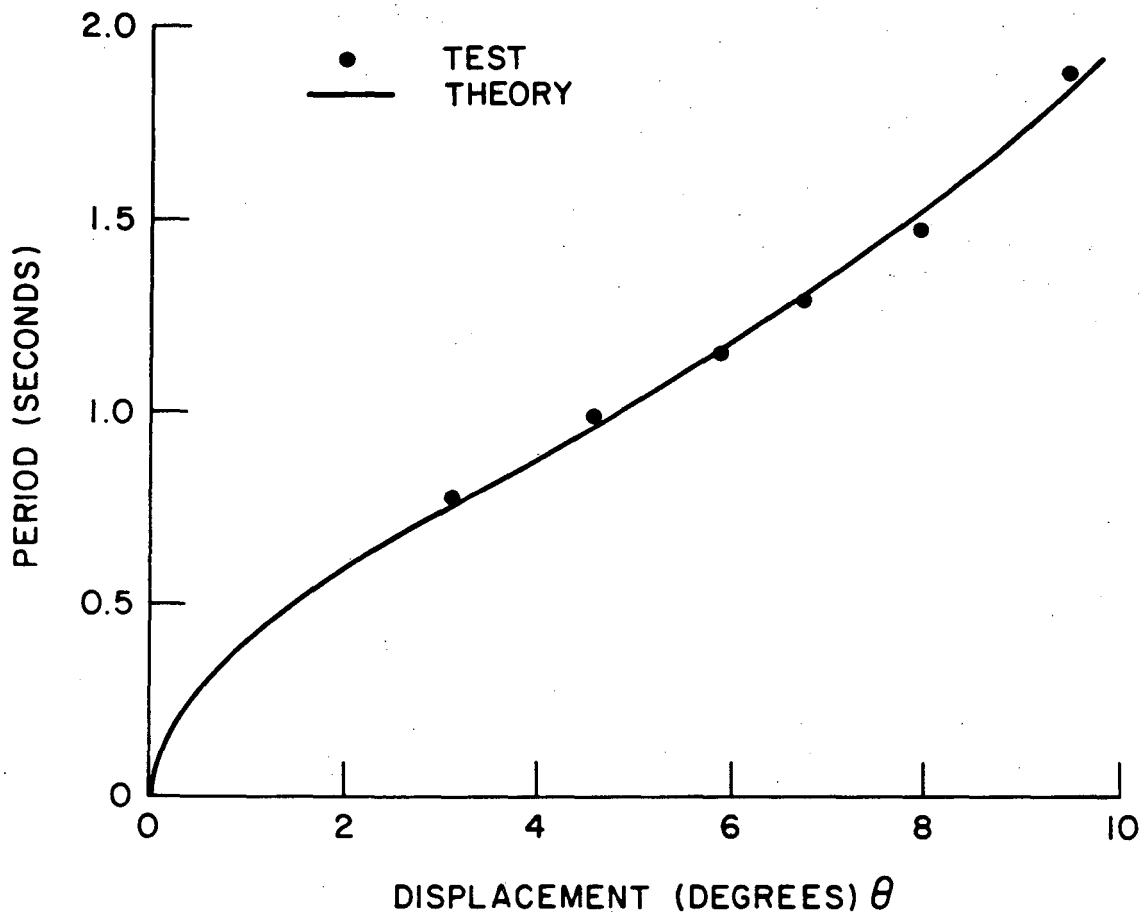


FIG. 9 TEST AND COMPUTED VALUES OF NATURAL PERIOD OF A BLOCK ROCKING WITH AMPLITUDE  $\theta$ , HEIGHT AND WIDTH OF THE BLOCK ARE 36 IN. AND 9 IN. RESPECTIVELY

XBL 784-8351 A

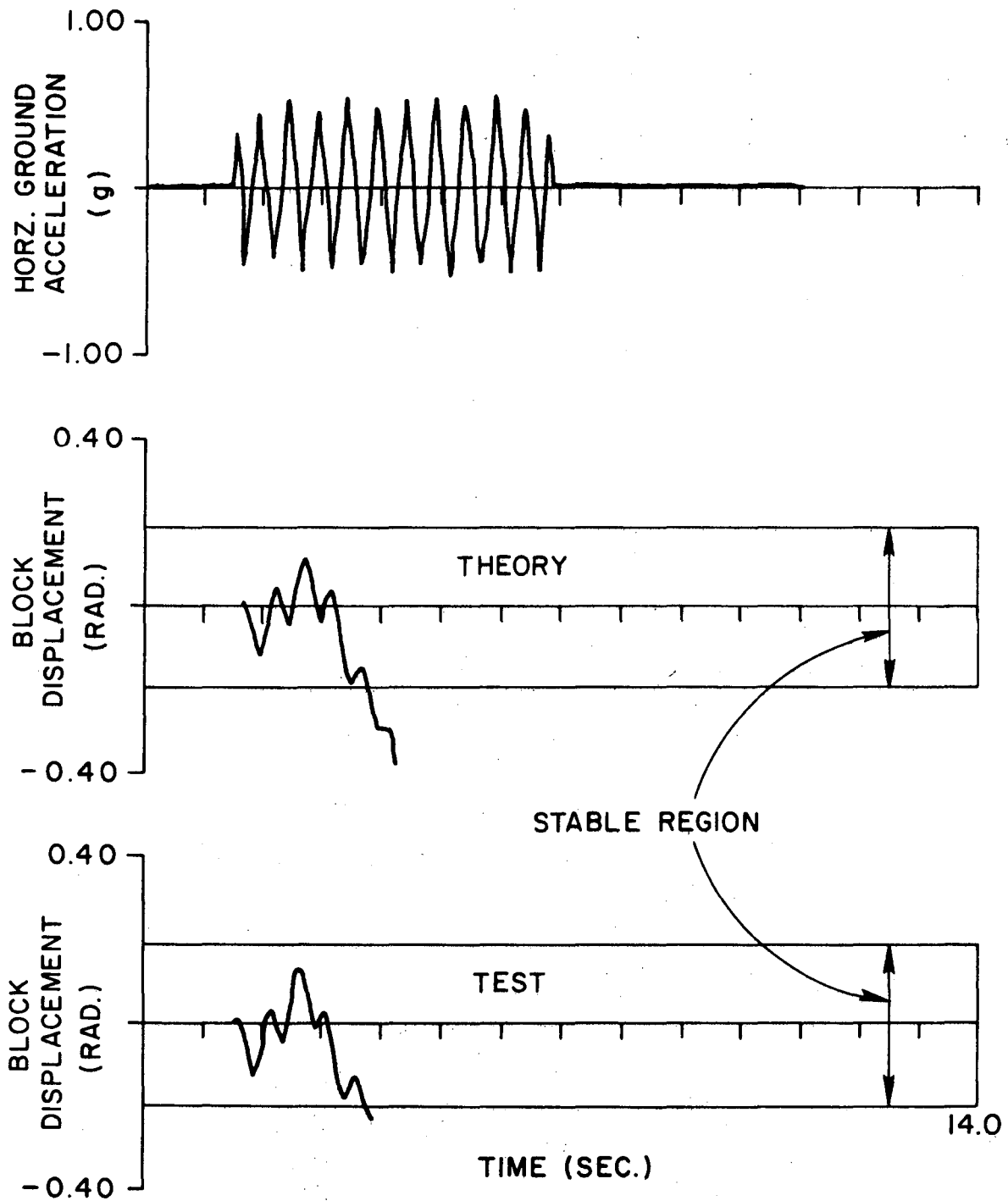


FIG. 10 COMPARISON OF TEST AND THEORETICAL DIS-  
PLACEMENTS OF A 30x6 IN. ROCKING BLOCK  
UNDER HORIZONTAL GROUND ACCELERATION

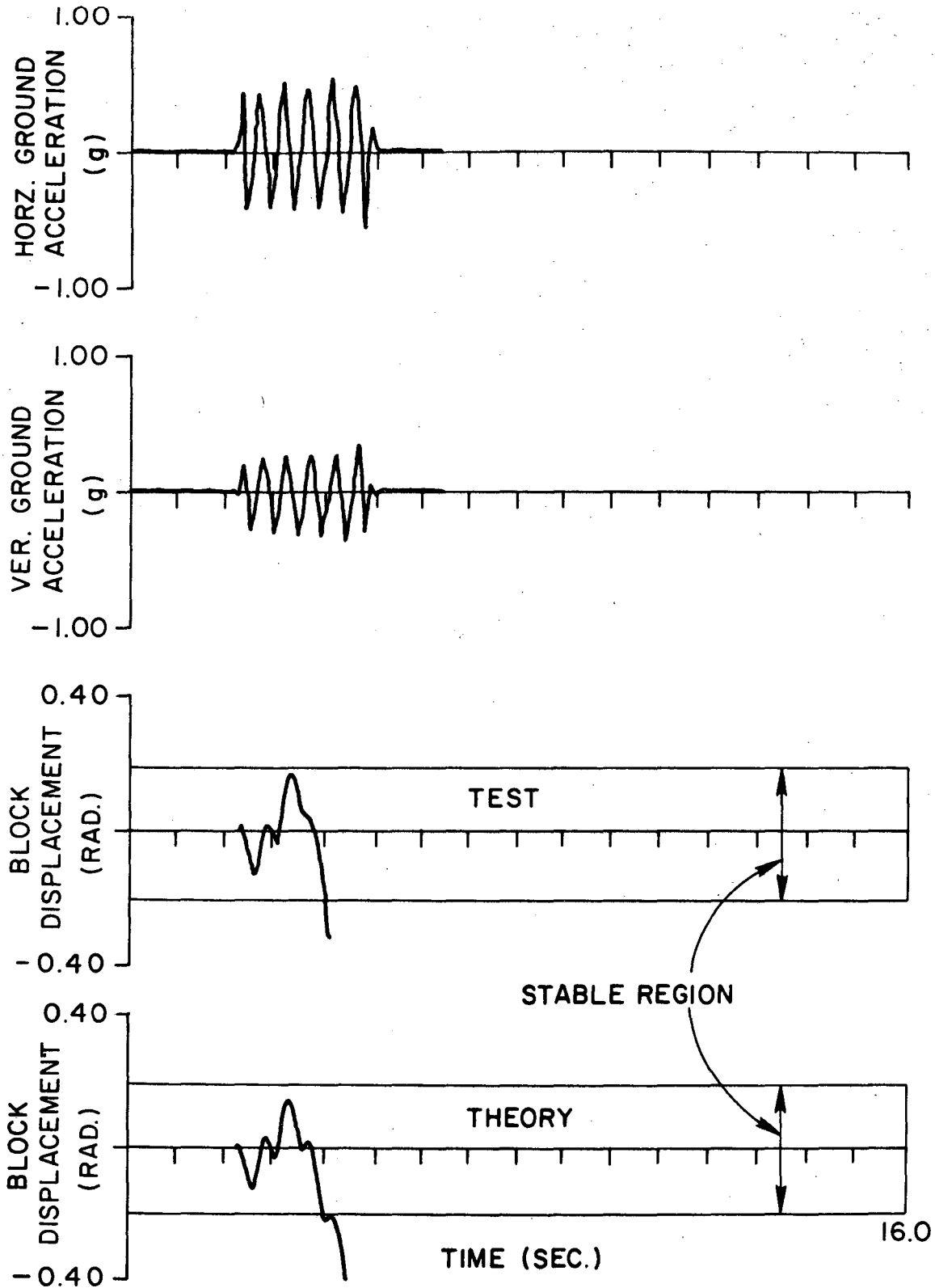


FIG. II COMPARISON OF TEST AND THEORETICAL ANGULAR DISPLACEMENTS OF A 30 x 6 IN. BLOCK UNDER HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL GROUND ACCELERATIONS

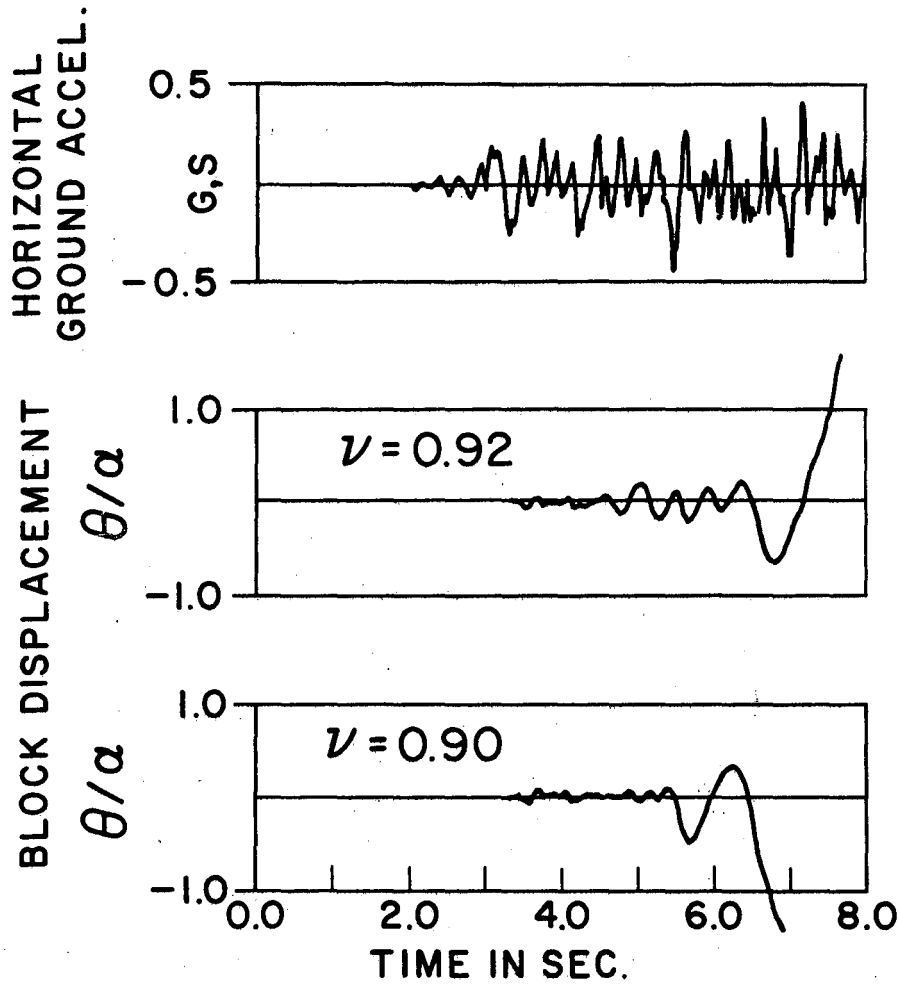


FIG. 12 ROCKING RESPONSE OF A 30x6 IN. BLOCK TO THE OLIVE VIEW HOSPITAL GROUND MOTION SHOWING SENSITIVITY TO COEFFICIENT OF RESTITUTION.

This report was done with support from the Department of Energy. Any conclusions or opinions expressed in this report represent solely those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of The Regents of the University of California, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory or the Department of Energy.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
LAWRENCE BERKELEY LABORATORY  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720