



Original Research Article

# Kinematics and Dynamics Analysis of McPherson Suspension Based on Planar 1/4 Vehicle Model

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## ABSTRACT

The nonlinear asymmetric problem of McPherson suspension has become a challenging problem in the process of establishing the system model. This paper presents a planar 1/4-vehicle model that not only takes into account the vertical vibration of the sprung mass (chassis), but also includes: i) spring mass (wheel assembly) sliding and rotation; ii) longitudinal wheel mass and its moment of inertia; iii) tire damping and lateral deflection. This dynamic kinematic model provides a solution to two important shortcomings of the traditional 1/4 vehicle model: it explains geometric modeling and tire modeling. This paper provides a systematic development of the planar model and a complete mathematical equation. This analysis model can be applied to hardware in the rapid calculation of ring applications. In addition, the model also gives a repeatable Simulink simulation implementation. The model has been compared with the actual Adams / View simulation to analyze the vibration and rebound motion of the wheel, as well as two related motion parameters: the dynamic characteristics of the camber and the pitch change.

**KEYWORDS:** suspension, modeling, McPherson suspension, multi-rigid body system, nonlinear model, simulation

## 1. Introduction

Because McPherson suspended with light weight, small size, low cost characteristics, it is widely used in small and medium-sized vehicles. [1] This suspension system (Figure 1) includes a suspension arm or control arm, and a pillar that is securely attached to the wheel assembly. According to such a geometrical structure, the road pavement disturbance causes a large and asymmetric change in the camber angle and the wheelbase to cause the wheel to vibrate vertically, which is also closely related to the occurrence of tire wear and direction instability. [2,3]

The current extensive research on active or semi-active suspension systems is mainly focused on the analysis of control strategies to improve ride comfort, handling stability and running quality. [4] Despite this, the development of high-performance suspension control systems still requires a reliable suspension model. Even with such importance, few products are focused on the study of dynamic kinematic suspension modeling. [10,11]

The variable geometry of the McPherson suspension leads to its kinematic and kinetic nonlinear properties, which cannot be analyzed using the traditional 1/4 vehicle linear model [12-14] It ignores the effect of the actual structure of the suspension. [15] Some improvements to the linear model can be achieved by taking the stiffness equivalent parameter and the attenuation coefficient containing the geometrical features as a function of the wheel position. [16,17] In addition, in most products with linear models, tire dynamics are considered as a single-axis spring during modeling while ignoring longitudinal damping and lateral deflection. [4,18]

The two-dimensional model can capture the nonlinear geometric effect of the McPherson suspension. [19-22] In addition, the tire vertical damping and lateral deflection have been included in a planar response model of a double wishbone suspension. [11] In the McPherson suspension, this has a more special connection. The small changes in the geometric parameters of the suspension will greatly affect kinematics and dynamic response. [23,24] However, in the two-dimensional dynamic model of the McPherson suspension, tire damping and lateral deflection caused by the suspension mechanism have not been considered. [20-22]

The mathematical model of mathematics has been proposed and used to study the kinematics of the McPherson suspension. [1, 10, 24-26] However, the three-dimensional dynamics model is a complex problem, and according to estimates, modeling will become very expensive. [27] In this sense, the analytical plane model can provide a simpler and faster implementation for hardware-in-the-loop applications.

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In the previous work, the authors presented a preliminary analytical development for the two-dimensional McPherson suspension model to calculate the geometrical structure as well as the tire lateral stiffness. [28] The model takes into account the two-dimensional rotation and sliding of the unsprung mass (wheel assembly) in the experiment. In addition, the model uses the moment of inertia of the longitudinal wheel.

This paper extends the following results [28]:

- Provides a planar model of system development as well as a complete mathematical equation.

A repeatable Simulink implementation of simulation.

- New experimental results for different key points and parameters of the suspension and comparison with the actual Adams / View simulation to analyze the vibration and rebound motion of the wheel, as well as two related motion parameters: the camber and the pitch change Dynamic characteristics.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Chapter 2 is the establishment of a planar model based on the kinematics-kinetic equations; Chapter 3 compares Simulink simulations for this model and the validation models developed with Adams / View as a case To study; Chapter 4 for the conclusion.

## 2. Plane model of McPherson suspension

Figure 2 (a) is a schematic diagram of the model. The main components of the McPherson suspension system are: (1) chassis (spring quality), (2) control arm, (3) support, (4) wheel assembly (unsprung mass). The displacement of the sprung mass is the displacement of the unsprung mass, the pavement disturbance is, and the meaning of the other symbols is shown in Table 1.



## 2.2. McPherson suspension in Adams software to establish and analyze

Adams / View software can be used as a model validation tool because it provides a real simulation of multi-body dynamics. [11,22,23,30]

In this work, the McPherson suspension system of the 1/4 plane model shown in Figure 5 (a) has been established. The following motion constraints have been determined: the chassis movement is guided by the moving pair; the control arm is connected to the chassis by the rotary pair and connected to the wheel assembly by the ball; the support is modeled as a moving pair, at its upper end by a rotating pair Connected to the chassis, the bottom of which is fixed to the wheel assembly; the wheel is modeled as a vertical deflection of the moving pair and horizontal deflection of the lateral spring. The model for kinematic analysis is shown in Fig. 5 (b), where it is assumed that the chassis is fixed (ie) and the center of the wheel is in the vertical direction. [11]

In addition, Table 3 summarizes the characteristic response values of the displacement and acceleration of the sprung mass. Where 'peak' is the maximum value of the response curve, and the 'setup time' is the time at which the value curve reaches the final value of 2%. The acceleration of the two models is very close to the establishment time, while the displacement is slightly shorter than the plane model. In spite of this, the establishment time of the planar model maintains a difference from the dynamic response under the perturbation of the flange and potholes.

In the case of kinematics, this model analyzes the changes in the camber and the wheelbase that the linear simplification model does not consider. Figures 9 and 10 show the experimental results for a vertical motion of  $\pm 0.1$  m wheels. The experimental results show that there is a very good consistency in the vicinity of the linearization point, and the camber and the track are very good. When the wheel displacement is large, the model will produce a certain deviation, which is a normal phenomenon in the approximate model. [11,18,22]. Nevertheless, the model is very accurate for bumps (such as wheel vertical motion), and successfully reproduces the asymmetry of the McPherson suspension.

In addition, the experimental results obtained by the planar model in the above experiments were described as a case study of a McPherson suspension with different geometric and kinetic parameters, as described in [28].

## 3. Conclusions

Even if the commercial multi-body dynamics simulation software can analyze the vehicle suspension based on the physical model, the rapid calculation of the hardware-in-the-loop application still requires an accurate analysis of the model. The widely used McPherson suspension has made it a difficult problem because of its nonlinear asymmetry. The plane 1/4 vehicle model proposed in this paper not only takes into account the vertical vibration of the sprung mass (chassis), but also includes: ix spring mass (wheel assembly) sliding and rotation; ii longitudinal wheel quality and its Moment of inertia; iii Tire damping and lateral deflection. These improvements make it possible to analyze changes in kinematic parameters such as camber and track; these cannot be solved with conventional 1/4 vehicle models. [31]

This paper extends the following results [28]:

- Provides a planar model of system development as well as a complete mathematical equation.

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The model has been compared with the actual Adams / View simulation to analyze the vibration and rebound motion of the wheel, as well as two related motion parameters: the dynamic characteristics of the camber and the pitch change. The experimental results have shown that the plane model is in good agreement with the Adams model, and that the plane model successfully reproduces the asymmetric properties of the McPherson suspension.

In the future work, the model will be applied to the real-time suspension control system. In addition, it will also be interesting to associate changes in camber and track with vertical control logic.

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