



# Article Seismic Response Analysis of Prestressed Concrete Rocking Frame

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Abstract: In order to investigate the seismic performance of prestressed concrete rocking frame (PCRF), a theoretical model based on rigid body is established for a one-story single-span PCRF. The PCRF studied in this paper has the connecting interfaces set at the column feet and at the inner faces of the beam–column joints, allowing the columns to be uplifted with the accompanying separation of the beam–column interface and rotation of the beam and column around the interface. The tendons are arranged along the centerline of the beam and columns. The connections between the beam and columns and the anchoring of columns are accomplished by prestressing the tendons. The theoretical model consists of a rigid beam, rigid columns and elastic tendons. The governing motion equation of the PCRF is derived based on the model and a numerical solution of the equation of motion is obtained. The energy dissipation of the PCRF is analyzed and the calculation method for the coefficient of restitution is derived. Time history analysis and parameter analysis of seismic response of the PCRF are conducted and the results show that the PCRF has promising seismic behavior.

**Keywords:** prestressed concrete structure; rocking frame; rocking vibration; rigid body; collision; energy dissipation; seismic response

# 1. Introduction

The rocking structure concept was first proposed by Housner, based on the surveys of earthquake damage [1,2]. With continuous research of resilient structures, the rocking structure has received increasing attention from researchers [3–7]. A rocking structure generally has minor damage after an earthquake and its main components can even be undamaged [8]. Frames are a very common form in concrete structures. The energy dissipation of a traditional frame during an earthquake mainly depends on its structural ductility. Such an earthquake damaged frame usually requires a long repair time with great cost. To deal with this problem, a type of rocking frame is presented based on the conceptual fusion of the rocking structure and frame.

Makris et al. [9] analyzed the rocking response and stability of the rocking frame. It was found that the stability of the rocking frame is strengthened with an increase in cap beam mass. The seismic response of a plane rocking frame with geometric asymmetry was studied by Dimitrakopoulos et al. [10]. Although the rocking mechanism of a symmetrical rocking frame is very different from that of an asymmetric one, the influence of structural asymmetry on the stability of the rocking frame is minute. Vassiliou et al. [11] suggested a new finite element modeling method for a deformable rocking frame based on zero length fiber cross-section elements and Hilber–Hughes–Taylor energy consumption algorithm.

Prestressed tendons are often arranged in the column or beam of a rocking structure in actual projects to enhance the self-centering ability of the structure, to increase the structural stability and to reduce the residual deformation. Based on this measure, different forms of prestressed concrete rocking frame (PCRF) were presented by researchers. Priestley et al. [12] proposed a concrete rocking frame derived from a precast unbonded prestressed concrete frame. Beams can be connected to columns through tendons, and the



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**Copyright:** © 2021 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). disengagement of the beam from the interface for the beam–column joint can be allowed. A cyclic loading test of beam–column joints for precast PCRF was carried out by Cheok et al. [13] and the test results demonstrated that the joints had great ductility. Priestley et al. [14] completed an experimental study on the seismic behavior of joints of an unbonded PCRF. The failure of joints did not occur in the experiment and the damage of tested joints was minor, which can be quickly repaired after an earthquake. Nonlinear static pushover analysis and dynamic time history analysis of an unbonded post-tensioned PCRF were conducted by El Sheikh et al. [15]. The fiber model and spring model used for such structural analysis were also presented. The analysis results showed that the strength, ductility and self-centering ability of an unbonded post-tensioned PCRF can meet the requirements for resisting rare earthquake.

The rocking response and stability of a prestressed rocking frame was studied theoretically by Makris et al. [16]. It was found that the effects of prestress on rocking columns with different sizes are basically the same as that of a single independent prestressed rigid rocking column. The seismic response of a prestressed rocking frame with buckling restrained braces which has flag-shaped hysteretic behavior was analyzed by Giouvanidis et al. [17]. They revealed that prestress is not always beneficial to the seismic performance of the prestressed rocking frame, but this also depends on the size of the frame columns. Lu et al. [18] proposed a kind of controlled rocking concrete frame. A reversed cyclic loading test and shaking table test were accomplished and the corresponding finite element model was built in the study. The research results proved that the frame has excellent seismic performance. A self-centering prestressed concrete frame with web friction devices was devised by Guo et al. [19,20]. The result of a low-cycle reversed loading test implied that the selfcentering prestressed concrete frame has prominent seismic performance and remarkable self-centering ability.

Existing studies show that the PCRF has, in general, superior seismic performance and stability. Nevertheless, the theoretical analysis methods of PCRFs in previous studies are rare and lack depth. Hence, the theoretical model based on rigid body of a one-story single-span PCRF is established in this paper. The model consists of a rigid beam, rigid columns and elastic prestressing tendons. The tendons are arranged along the centerline of the beam and columns. The connections between the beam and columns and the anchoring of columns are accomplished by prestressing the tendons. The governing equation of motion of the PCRF is derived based on the model and a numerical solution of the equation of motion is obtained. The energy dissipation of the PCRF is analyzed and the calculation method for the coefficient of restitution is proposed. The time history and parameter analysis of the seismic response of the PCRF are presented.

### 2. Rigid Body Model of the PCRF

The PCRF has the connecting interfaces set at the column feet and at the vertical inner faces of the beam–column joints, allowing the columns to be uplifted with the accompanying separation of the beam–column interface and rotation of the beam and column around the interface. The theoretical model based on rigid body of a one-story single-span PCRF is shown in Figure 1, which consists of two columns, a beam and prestressing tendons. Relative slips between the rigid members on each interface are not allowed. The tendons are arranged along the centerline of the beam and columns. The connections between the beam and columns and the anchoring of columns are accomplished by prestressing the tendons. The column has a mass  $m_c$ , height 2h and width 2b. Its semi-diagonal and slenderness ratios are  $R_c = \sqrt{h^2 + b^2}$  and  $b/h = \tan \alpha$ , respectively. The beam has a mass  $m_b$ , height  $2h_b$  and length  $2L_b$ . Its half-diagonal length is  $R_b = \sqrt{h_b^2 + L_b^2}$  and its height span ratio is  $h_b/L_b = \tan \gamma$ . The inclined angle between line AB and AD is  $\beta$ . The coordinate system and other geometric parameters are shown in Figure 1 and the clockwise rotation of the beam and column are positive. The mass centers of the columns and beam are  $G_{AB}$ ,  $G_{CD}$  and  $G_{BC}$ .



Figure 1. Rigid body model of prestressed concrete rocking frame (PCRF).

The motion law of the PCRF is the same as that for the planar four-bar linkage mechanism shown in Figures 2–4 when the PCRF is rocking. The rigid body model of the PCRF is a single degree of freedom system and can be described by a generalized coordinate. The rocking mechanism and planar four-bar linkage mechanism of the PCRF during counterclockwise rotation are shown in Figure 2. The dotted lines in Figures 1 and 2 are used to illustrate the four-bar mechanism presented in Figures 3 and 4. Hence, the planar four-bar linkage model can be used to obtain the relationship between the angles of the beam and columns. That is, the motion of the columns and beam when the PCRF is rocking can be represented by the motion of the bars in the four-bar linkage model. The governing equation of motion of the PCRF can be derived by the Lagrangian equation method. The angles of rotation of bars AB, BC and CD are denoted as  $\theta_1$ ,  $\theta_2$  and  $\theta_3$ , respectively. Figure 4 illustrates the planar four-bar model for the case  $\theta_1 < 0$  and the case  $\theta_1 > 0$ .



**Figure 2.** Rocking mechanism and planar four-bar linkage mechanism of PCRF during counterclockwise rotation.



**Figure 3.** Geometrical relationship of planar four-bar linkage mechanism for  $\theta_1 < 0$ .



**Figure 4.** Planar four-bar linkage mechanism of PCRF: (a)  $\theta_1 < 0$ ; (b)  $\theta_1 > 0$ .

# 3. Kinematics of the PCRF

The geometrical relationship of the planar four-bar linkage mechanism for  $\theta_1 < 0$  is shown in Figure 3. Firstly,  $\theta_1$  is assumed as a known angle, and  $\varphi_i$  (i = 1, 2, 3) are calculation auxiliary angles. From the geometry relationships, we have

$$\theta_2 = \varphi_2 + \gamma - \varphi_1 \qquad \theta_3 = \varphi_2 + \varphi_3 - \pi/2 \tag{1}$$

The equations below can be obtained from sine and cosine law:

$$\overline{\mathrm{BD}}^{2}(\theta_{1}) = (2L)^{2} + (2R_{\mathrm{c}}^{\prime})^{2} - 8R_{\mathrm{c}}^{\prime}L\cos(\beta - \theta_{1})$$
<sup>(2)</sup>

$$(2h)^{2} = \overline{\mathrm{BD}}^{2}(\theta_{1}) + (2R_{\mathrm{b}})^{2} - 4R_{\mathrm{b}}\overline{\mathrm{BD}}(\theta_{1})\cos\varphi_{1}$$
(3)

$$\frac{BD(\theta_1)}{\sin(\beta - \theta_1)} = \frac{2R'_c}{\sin\varphi_2}$$
(4)

$$\frac{2h}{\sin\varphi_1} = \frac{2R_{\rm b}}{\sin\varphi_3} \tag{5}$$

The expressions for  $\theta_2$  and  $\theta_3$  can be derived from Equations (1)–(5). The expressions are written as

$$\theta_{2} = \arcsin\left[\frac{2R_{c}'}{\overline{BD}(\theta_{1})}\sin(\beta - \theta_{1})\right] + \gamma - \arccos\left[\frac{4R_{b}^{2} + \overline{BD}^{2}(\theta_{1}) - 4h^{2}}{4R_{b}\overline{BD}(\theta_{1})}\right]$$
(6)

$$\theta_{3} = \arcsin\left[\frac{2R_{c}'}{\overline{BD}(\theta_{1})}\sin(\beta - \theta_{1})\right] + \arcsin\left\{\frac{R_{b}}{h}\sin\left\{\arccos\left[\frac{4R_{b}^{2} + \overline{BD}^{2}(\theta_{1}) - 4h^{2}}{4R_{b}\overline{BD}(\theta_{1})}\right]\right\}\right\} - \pi/2$$
(7)

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Substituting Equation (2) into Equations (6) and (7) yields

$$\theta_{2}(\theta_{1}) = \arcsin\left[\frac{R_{c}'}{\sqrt{L^{2} + R_{c}'^{2} - 2R_{c}'L\cos(\beta - \theta_{1})}}\sin(\beta - \theta_{1})\right] + \gamma - \arccos\left[\frac{R_{b}^{2} + L^{2} + R_{c}'^{2} - 2R_{c}'L\cos(\beta - \theta_{1}) - h^{2}}{2R_{b}\sqrt{L^{2} + R_{c}'^{2} - 2R_{c}'L\cos(\beta - \theta_{1})}}\right]$$

$$\theta_{3}(\theta_{1}) = \arcsin\left[\frac{R_{c}'}{\sqrt{L^{2} + R_{c}'^{2} - 2R_{c}'L\cos(\beta - \theta_{1})}}\sin(\beta - \theta_{1})\right] + \arcsin\left\{\frac{R_{b}}{h}\sin\left\{\arccos\left[\frac{R_{b}^{2} + L^{2} + R_{c}'^{2} - 2R_{c}'L\cos(\beta - \theta_{1}) - h^{2}}{2R_{b}\sqrt{L^{2} + R_{c}'^{2} - 2R_{c}'L\cos(\beta - \theta_{1})}}\right]\right\}\right\} - \pi/2$$
(8)
(9)

Differentiating Equations (8) and (9) with respect to time *t*, the corresponding angular velocities can be obtained and expressed for simplicity as

$$\dot{\theta}_2\Big(\theta_1,\dot{\theta}_1\Big) = \frac{\partial\theta_2}{\partial\theta_1}\dot{\theta}_1 = \partial_{\theta_1}\theta_2(\theta_1)\cdot\dot{\theta}_1 \qquad \dot{\theta}_3\Big(\theta_1,\dot{\theta}_1\Big) = \frac{\partial\theta_3}{\partial\theta_1}\dot{\theta}_1 = \partial_{\theta_1}\theta_3(\theta_1)\cdot\dot{\theta}_1 \qquad (10)$$

where  $\theta_1$  is the angular velocity of bar AB and the upper dot denotes differentiation with respect to time *t*. The symbol  $\partial_{\theta_1}$  denotes a partial derivative with respect to  $\theta_1$ . Similarly, the second partial derivatives of  $\theta_2$  and  $\theta_3$  with respect to  $\theta_1$  can be written as

$$\frac{\partial^2 \theta_2}{\partial \theta_1^2} = \partial_{\theta_1 \theta_1}^2 \theta_2(\theta_1) \qquad \frac{\partial^2 \theta_3}{\partial \theta_1^2} = \partial_{\theta_1 \theta_1}^2 \theta_3(\theta_1) \tag{11}$$

If point A is the coordinate origin, the positions after the deformation of the left column mass center  $G_{AB}$ , beam mass center  $G_{BC}$  and right column mass center  $G_{CD}$  are

$$\begin{aligned} x_{AB}^{G} &= R_{c} \sin(\alpha + \theta_{1}) & y_{AB}^{G} &= R_{c} \cos(\alpha + \theta_{1}) \\ x_{BC}^{G} &= 2R_{c}^{\prime} \cos(\beta - \theta_{1}) + R_{b} \cos(\gamma - \theta_{2}) & y_{BC}^{G} &= 2R_{c}^{\prime} \sin(\beta - \theta_{1}) + R_{b} \sin(\gamma - \theta_{2}) \\ x_{CD}^{G} &= 2L + R_{c} \sin(\alpha + \theta_{3}) & y_{CD}^{G} &= R_{c} \cos(\alpha + \theta_{3}) \end{aligned}$$
(12)

## 4. Rocking Motion Equation

The governing equation of motion of the PCRF can be derived from the Lagrangian equation:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\theta}_1}\right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta_1} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta_1} = Q \tag{13}$$

where *T* and *V* are the kinetic energy and potential energy of the PCRF. If the mass of the tendons is neglected, the potential energy of the PCRF can be calculated by

$$V = V_{\rm F} + V_{\rm T} \tag{14}$$

where  $V_F$  is the gravitational potential energy of frame members, and  $V_T$  is the elastic potential energy due to the elongation of tendons. If AD is regarded as the zero potential energy surface, then  $V_F$  is expressed as

$$V_{\rm F} = g \left[ m_{\rm c} R_{\rm c} \cos(\alpha + \theta_1) + 2m_{\rm b} R_{\rm c}' \sin(\beta - \theta_1) + m_{\rm b} R_{\rm b} \sin(\gamma - \theta_2) + m_{\rm c} R_{\rm c} \cos(\alpha + \theta_3) \right] \tag{15}$$

During rocking motion, the elastic potential energy  $V_{\rm T}$  can be derived as

$$V_{\rm T} = \frac{1}{2}k_{\rm b}(e_{\rm b} + e_{\rm b0})^2 + \frac{1}{2}k_{\rm c}\Big[(e_{\rm cL} + e_{\rm c0})^2 + (e_{\rm cR} + e_{\rm c0})^2\Big]$$
(16)

The additional elongation  $e_{cL}$  of the tendon at the base of the left column can be obtained from the cosine law and the geometry relationship shown in Figure 5. We have

$$e_{\rm cL}^2 = b^2 + b^2 - 2b^2 \cos\theta_1 \tag{17}$$



**Figure 5.** The additional elongation  $e_{cL}$  of the tendon at the base of the left column.

Then the expression of  $e_{cL}$  can be written as

$$e_{\rm cL} = \sqrt{2}b\sqrt{1 - \cos\theta_1} = -\sqrt{2}b\sin(\theta_1/2)$$
 (18)

Similarly, the additional elongation  $e_{cR}$  of the tendon at the right column base is

$$e_{\rm cR} = \sqrt{2}b\sqrt{1 - \cos\theta_3} = -\sqrt{2}b\sin(\theta_3/2) \tag{19}$$

The additional elongation  $e_b$  of the beam tendon can be derived from the cosine law and the geometry relationships shown in Figure 2:

$$e_{\rm b} = \sqrt{2}h_{\rm b}\sqrt{1 - \cos(\theta_2 - \theta_1)} + \sqrt{2}h_{\rm b}\sqrt{1 - \cos(\theta_2 - \theta_3)}$$
(20)

The expression of  $e_b$  can be rewritten as

$$e_{\rm b} = 2h_{\rm b} \left[ \sin\left(\frac{\theta_2 - \theta_1}{2}\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\theta_2 - \theta_3}{2}\right) \right] \tag{21}$$

For simplicity, the two column tendons have the same parameters. Assuming  $P_{c0}$  is the initial pretension force of the column tendons, the initial elongation  $e_{c0}$  of the column tendon is

$$e_{\rm c0} = P_{\rm c0}/k_{\rm c} = 2hP_{\rm c0}/EA_{\rm cs} \tag{22}$$

where  $k_c = EA_{cs}/2h$  is the stiffness of the column tendon, *E* is the Young's modulus of the tendon and  $A_{cs}$  is the cross-section area of the column tendons. Assuming  $P_{b0}$  is the initial pretension force of the beam tendon, the initial elongation  $e_{b0}$  of the beam tendon is

$$e_{b0} = P_{b0}/k_{b} = P_{b0}(2L+2b)/EA_{bs}$$
<sup>(23)</sup>

where  $k_{\rm b} = EA_{\rm bs}/(2L+2b)$  is stiffness of the beam tendon and  $A_{\rm bs}$  is the cross-section area of the beam tendon.

The kinetic energy of the PCRF can be calculated by Equation (24):

$$T = \frac{1}{2}I_{c}\dot{\theta}_{1}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}I_{b}^{G}\dot{\theta}_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}m_{b}v_{b}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}I_{c}\dot{\theta}_{3}^{2}$$
(24)

where  $v_b$  is the velocity of the beam mass center.  $I_c = (4/3)m_cR_c^2$  is the mass moment of inertia of the column with respect to the pivot point A or D.  $I_b^G = m_bR_b^2/3$  is the mass moment of inertia of the beam with respect to its mass center. The expression of  $v_b$  can derived from Equation (25):

$$v_{b}^{2} = v_{bx}^{2} + v_{by}^{2} = \left(\dot{x}_{BC}^{G}\right)^{2} + \left(\dot{y}_{BC}^{G}\right)^{2} = \left[\left(2R_{c}^{\prime}\right)^{2} + 4R_{c}^{\prime}R_{b}\cos(\beta - \gamma - \theta_{1} + \theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} + \left(R_{b}\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2}\right)^{2}\right]\dot{\theta}_{1}^{2}$$
(25)

where  $v_{bx}$  is the velocity along the *x*-axis of the beam mass center.  $v_{by}$  is the velocity along the *y*-axis of the beam mass center. Substituting Equation (25) into Equation (24) yields the kinetic energy of the PCRF:

$$T = \frac{1}{2}I_{c}\dot{\theta}_{1}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}I_{b}^{G}(\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2})^{2}\dot{\theta}_{1}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}I_{c}(\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3})^{2}\dot{\theta}_{1}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}m_{b}\Big[(2R_{c}')^{2} + 4R_{c}'R_{b}\cos(\beta - \gamma - \theta_{1} + \theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} + (R_{b}\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2})^{2}\Big]\dot{\theta}_{1}^{2}$$
(26)

During an admissible rotation  $\delta \theta_1$ , Equation (27) can be derived by the principle of virtual work

 $\delta W = Q \delta \theta_1 \tag{27}$ 

The virtual work caused by the external field forces is

$$\delta W = -\ddot{u}_{g} \left( m_{c} \delta x_{AB}^{G} + m_{b} \delta x_{BC}^{G} + m_{c} \delta x_{CD}^{G} \right)$$
(28)

where

$$\delta x_{AB}^{G} = R_{c} \cos(\alpha + \theta_{1}) \delta \theta_{1}$$
  

$$\delta x_{BC}^{G} = \left[ 2R'_{c} \sin(\beta - \theta_{1}) + R_{b} \sin(\gamma - \theta_{2}) \partial_{\theta_{1}} \theta_{2} \right] \delta \theta_{1}$$

$$\delta x_{CD}^{G} = R_{c} \cos(\alpha + \theta_{3}) \partial_{\theta_{1}} \theta_{3} \delta \theta_{1}$$
(29)

Substituting Equations (28) and (29) into Equation (27) yields the generalized force *Q*:  $Q = -\ddot{u}_{g} \{ m_{c} R_{c} [\cos(\alpha + \theta_{1}) + \cos(\alpha + \theta_{3})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3}] + m_{b} [2R'_{c}\sin(\beta - \theta_{1}) + R_{b}\sin(\gamma - \theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2}] \}$ (30)

The substitution of Equations (15), (16), (26) and (30) into Equation (13) results in the motion equation of the PCRF:

$$I(\theta_1)\ddot{\theta}_1 + J(\theta_1)\dot{\theta}_1^2 + G(\theta_1)g + K(\theta_1) = S(\theta_1)\ddot{u}_g$$
(31)

The terms *I*, *J*, *G*, *K* and *S* in Equation (31) are nonlinear functions of the generalized coordinate  $\theta_1$  and are expressed as Equation (32):

$$I(\theta_{1}) = I_{c} + I_{b}^{G} (\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2})^{2} + I_{c} (\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3})^{2} + m_{b} \left[ (2R_{c}')^{2} + 4R_{c}'R_{b}\cos(\beta - \gamma - \theta_{1} + \theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} + (R_{b}\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2})^{2} \right] \\ J(\theta_{1}) = \left\{ I_{b}^{G} \partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2}\partial_{\theta_{1}}^{2}\theta_{1} + I_{c}\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3}\partial_{\theta_{1}}^{2}\theta_{3} \\ + m_{b}R_{b} \left[ 2R_{c}'\sin(\beta - \gamma - \theta_{1} + \theta_{2})(1 - \partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} + 2R_{c}'\cos(\beta - \gamma - \theta_{1} + \theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}^{2}\theta_{2} + R_{b}\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2}\partial_{\theta_{1}}^{2}\theta_{3} \right] \\ G(\theta_{1}) = - \left[ m_{c}R_{c}\sin(\alpha + \theta_{1}) + 2m_{b}R_{c}'\cos(\beta - \theta_{1}) + m_{b}R_{b}\cos(\gamma - \theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} + m_{c}R_{c}\sin(\alpha + \theta_{3})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3} \right] \\ S(\theta_{1}) = - \left\{ m_{c}R_{c}\left[\cos(\alpha + \theta_{1}) + \cos(\alpha + \theta_{3})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3}\right] + m_{b}\left[2R_{c}'\sin(\beta - \theta_{1}) + R_{b}\sin(\gamma - \theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2}\right] \right\} \\ K(\theta_{1}) = k_{c}\left\{ b^{2}(\sin\theta_{1} + \sin\theta_{3}\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3}) - \sqrt{2}be_{c0}\left[\cos(\theta_{1}/2) + \cos(\theta_{3}/2)\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3}\right] / 2 \right\} \\ + k_{b}h_{b}\left\{ \left[ h_{b}\sin(\theta_{2} - \theta_{1}) + e_{b0}\cos\left(\frac{\theta_{2} - \theta_{1}}{2}\right)\right] (\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} - 1) + 2h_{b}\sin\left(\theta_{2} - \frac{\theta_{1} + \theta_{3}}{2}\right) (\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} - \frac{1 + \partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3}}{2} \right) \\ + \left[ e_{b0}\cos\left(\frac{\theta_{2} - \theta_{3}}{2}\right) + h_{b}\sin(\theta_{2} - \theta_{3})\right] (\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} - \partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3}) - h_{b}\sin\left(\frac{\theta_{3} - \theta_{1}}{2}\right) (\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3} - 1) \right\}$$
(32)

By considering the inherent symmetry of the PCRF, the motion equation of the PCRF for  $\theta_1 > 0$  can be written in the same form as Equation (31), while the expressions of *I*, *J*, *G*, *K* and *S* in this case are instead

$$I(\theta_{1}) = I_{c} + I_{b}^{G} (\partial_{\theta_{1}} \theta_{2})^{2} + I_{c} (\partial_{\theta_{1}} \theta_{3})^{2} + m_{b} \left[ (2R_{c}')^{2} + 4R_{c}'R_{b}\cos(\beta - \gamma + \theta_{1} - \theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} + (R_{b}\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2})^{2} \right]$$

$$J(\theta_{1}) = \left\{ I_{b}^{G} \partial_{\theta_{1}} \theta_{2} \partial_{\theta_{1}}^{2} \theta_{2} + I_{c} \partial_{\theta_{1}} \theta_{3} \partial_{\theta_{1}}^{2} \theta_{3} + m_{b}R_{b} \left[ 2R_{c}'\sin(\beta - \gamma + \theta_{1} - \theta_{2})(\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} - 1)\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} + 2R_{c}'\cos(\beta - \gamma + \theta_{1} - \theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}^{2} \theta_{2} + R_{b}\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} \partial_{\theta_{1}}^{2} \theta_{2} \right] \right\}$$

$$G(\theta_{1}) = -\left[ m_{c}R_{c}\sin(\alpha - \theta_{1}) + 2m_{b}R_{c}'\cos(\beta + \theta_{1}) + m_{b}R_{b}\cos(\gamma + \theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} + m_{c}R_{c}\sin(\alpha - \theta_{3})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3} \right] \right]$$

$$S(\theta_{1}) = -\left\{ m_{c}R_{c}\left[ \cos(\alpha - \theta_{1}) + \cos(\alpha - \theta_{3})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3} \right] + m_{b}\left[ 2R_{c}'\sin(\beta + \theta_{1}) + R_{b}\sin(\gamma + \theta_{2})\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} \right] \right\}$$

$$K(\theta_{1}) = k_{c}\left\{ b^{2}(\sin\theta_{1} + \sin\theta_{3}\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3}) + \sqrt{2}be_{c0}\left[ \cos(\theta_{1}/2) + \cos(\theta_{3}/2)\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3} \right] / 2 \right\}$$

$$+ k_{b}h_{b}\left\{ \left[ h_{b}\sin(\theta_{1} - \theta_{2}) + e_{b0}\cos\left(\frac{\theta_{1} - \theta_{2}}{2}\right) \right] (1 - \partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2}) + 2h_{b}\sin\left(\frac{\theta_{1} + \theta_{3}}{2} - \theta_{2}\right) \left( \frac{1 + \partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3}}{2} - \partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2} \right) \right\}$$

$$(33)$$

The simplified and conservative starting condition for the calculation program can be obtained by ignoring the influence of the prestressing force on the triggering-off condition of the rocking motion for the PCRF. With this assumption, the lower bound solution of the minimum ground acceleration  $\ddot{u}_{g,\min}$  that initiates the rocking motion of the frame can be derived by substituting the initial conditions  $\ddot{\theta}_1 = 0$ ,  $\dot{\theta}_1 = 0$  and  $\theta_1 = 0$  into Equation (31):

$$\lambda_{g} = \frac{\ddot{u}_{g,\min}}{g} = \frac{G(0)}{S(0)}$$
(34)

The calculation of  $\lambda_g$  can be obtained based on the expression of *G* and *S* in Equation (32) or Equation (33):

$$\lambda_{g} = \frac{\ddot{u}_{g,\min}}{g} = \frac{G(0)}{S(0)} = \frac{m_{c}b\left(1 + \partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3}\big|_{\theta_{1}=0}\right) + m_{b}\left(2b + L_{b}\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2}\big|_{\theta_{1}=0}\right)}{m_{c}h\left(1 + \partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{3}\big|_{\theta_{1}=0}\right) + m_{b}\left(2h' + h_{b}\partial_{\theta_{1}}\theta_{2}\big|_{\theta_{1}=0}\right)}$$
(35)

#### 5. Calculation of Collision Energy Dissipation

It is assumed that energy dissipation occurs only during the collisions when the PCRF is rocking, that is, there is no energy consumption in the process of rotation. Considering that the duration of impact is extremely short, it can be assumed that the PCRF is always in a horizontal state during impacts. Collisions occur at the column feet and the inner faces at the beam-column joint in the case of a one-story single-span PCRF. Regardless of the plastic deformation of the tendons, the elongation of the tendons at the moment of collision is the initial elongation. The forces in the tendons are constant during the collision, which will not affect the momentum moments of the PCRF before and after the collision. The following assumptions are introduced to simplify the analysis and calculation of the collision surface concentrate on one point which is the postimpact rotation point of the identical rigid body. Relative slips between rigid members on each collision surface are not allowed. Non-collision forces such as gravity and the inertial force of members can be ignored compared to the collision force.

The case  $\theta_1 < 0$  is taken as an example for analysis. The collision analysis model of the PCRF is shown in Figure 6 and the frame has returned to a zero-rotation state at this time. It is assumed that the angular velocity  $\dot{\theta}_1^-$  just before the collision is known of the frame column represented by bar AB. There are five unknowns: impulse  $I_{Ax}$  and  $I_{Ay}$  at collision point A',  $I_{Dx}$  and  $I_{Dy}$  at collision point D' and the postimpact angular velocity  $\dot{\theta}_1^+$ 

of the frame column represented by bar C'D'. The impulse  $I_i$  at an arbitrary collision point i is defined as

$$I_{i} = \lim_{\Delta t_{i} \to 0} \int_{\Delta t_{i}} F_{ci} dt$$
(36)

where  $F_{ci}$  is the impact force and  $\Delta t_i$  is the duration of impact. The ratio of angular velocity after and before the collision is defined as the coefficient of restitution  $r = \dot{\theta}_1^+ / \dot{\theta}_1^-$ . The solution of simultaneous Equations (37)–(41), which are derived in the following, returns the coefficient of restitution r.



**Figure 6.** Collision energy dissipation of PCRF for  $\theta_1 < 0$ .

• Linear momentum conservation along the *x*-axis for the whole frame

$$I_{Ax} + I_{Dx} = \left[ m_{c}h(1 + \lambda_{13}) + m_{b}(2h' - h_{b}\lambda_{L}) \right] \left( \dot{\theta}_{1}^{+} - \dot{\theta}_{1}^{-} \right)$$
(37)

• Linear momentum conservation along the *y*-axis for the whole frame

$$I_{\rm Ay} + I_{\rm Dy} = [m_{\rm c}(1+\lambda_{13}) + m_{\rm b}]b\left(\dot{\theta}_{1}^{+} + \dot{\theta}_{1}^{-}\right)$$
(38)

• Conservation of moment of momentum about point A' for the whole frame

$$-2LI_{Dy} = [(1 + \lambda_{13})(I_{c}^{G} + m_{c}h^{2} + m_{c}b^{2}) - 2Lbm_{c} - \lambda_{L}I_{b}^{G} + m_{b}(2h - h_{b})(2h' - h_{b}\lambda_{L}) - m_{b}bL_{b}]\dot{\theta}_{1}^{+} - [(1 + \lambda_{13})(I_{c}^{G} + m_{c}h^{2} - m_{c}b^{2}) + 2\lambda_{13}Lbm_{c} - \lambda_{L}I_{b}^{G} + m_{b}(2h - h_{b})(2h' - h_{b}\lambda_{L}) + m_{b}bL_{b}]\dot{\theta}_{1}^{-}$$
(39)

• Conservation of moment of momentum about point B' for the left column

$$-2hI_{Ax} = \left[I_{c}^{G} - m_{c}\left(h^{2} - b^{2}\right)\right]\lambda_{13}\dot{\theta}_{1}^{+} - \left[I_{c}^{G} - m_{c}\left(h^{2} + b^{2}\right)\right]\dot{\theta}_{1}^{-}$$
(40)

• Conservation of moment of momentum about point C' for the right column

$$-(2h'I_{\rm Dx}+2bI_{\rm Dy}) = \left[I_{\rm c}^{G}-m_{\rm c}\left(h^{2}-2hh_{\rm b}+b^{2}\right)\right]\dot{\theta}_{1}^{+}-\left[I_{\rm c}^{G}-m_{\rm c}\left(h^{2}-2hh_{\rm b}-b^{2}\right)\right]\lambda_{13}\dot{\theta}_{1}^{-}$$
(41)

where  $I_c^G = m_c R_c^2/3$  is the moment of inertia of the column with respect to its mass center. The calculated expression for the coefficient of restitution *r* is shown as

$$r = \frac{\dot{\theta}_1^+}{\dot{\theta}_1^-} = \frac{c_1 - c_3 - c_5 + c_6}{c_2 - c_4 - c_5 + c_7}$$
(42)

where

$$c_{1} = \tan \alpha \left[ 2(1+\lambda_{13}) \left( 2 - \tan^{2} \alpha \right) + 6\lambda_{13}\lambda \tan \alpha - \lambda_{L}\kappa \left(\lambda_{h}^{2} + \lambda^{2} - 2\lambda \tan \alpha + \tan^{2} \alpha \right) \right. \\ \left. + 3\kappa \left( 4\lambda_{H} - 2\lambda_{H}\lambda_{h} - 2\lambda_{h}\lambda_{L} + \lambda_{h}^{2}\lambda_{L} + \tan \alpha \lambda - \tan^{2} \alpha \right) \right] \\ c_{2} = \tan \alpha \left[ 4(1+\lambda_{13}) \left( 1 + \tan^{2} \alpha \right) - 6\lambda \tan \alpha - \lambda_{L}\kappa \left(\lambda_{h}^{2} + \lambda^{2} - 2\lambda \tan \alpha + \tan^{2} \alpha \right) \right. \\ \left. + 3\kappa \left( 4\lambda_{H} - 2\lambda_{H}\lambda_{h} - 2\lambda_{h}\lambda_{L} + \lambda_{h}^{2}\lambda_{L} - \tan \alpha \lambda + \tan^{2} \alpha \right) \right] \\ c_{3} = 2\lambda\lambda_{13} \left( 3\lambda_{h} - 1 + 2\tan^{2} \alpha \right) c_{4} = 2\lambda \left( 3\lambda_{h} - 1 - \tan^{2} \alpha \right) \\ c_{5} = 6\lambda\lambda_{H} \left[ (1+\lambda_{13}) + \kappa (2\lambda_{H} - \lambda_{h}\lambda_{L}) \right] \\ c_{6} = 2\lambda\lambda_{H} \left( 1 + \tan^{2} \alpha \right) c_{7} = 2\lambda\lambda_{H}\lambda_{13} \left( 1 - 2\tan^{2} \alpha \right)$$

$$(43)$$

The dimensionless parameters in Equation (43) are the mass ratio of beam to column  $\kappa = m_b/m_c$ , span-height ratio  $\lambda = L/h$  and height coefficient  $\lambda_h = h_b/h$  for the beam and  $\lambda_H = h'/h$  for the column.

## 6. Time History Analysis of Seismic Response of the PCRF

The seismic response analysis of the PCRF is based on a basic model. The sections of the beam and columns are square. The frame is in the zero-rotation state without initial angular velocity and angular acceleration. The parameters of the basic model are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Parameters of the basic model.

Parameter	Value	Parameter	Value
<i>L</i> (m)	3	$A_{\rm pc}$ (m <sup>2</sup> )	$5.6 imes10^{-4}$
<i>b</i> (m)	0.3	$A_{\rm pb}$ (m <sup>2</sup> )	$3.5 imes10^{-4}$
<i>h</i> (m)	1.5	$\sigma_{pc0}$ (Pa)	$3 imes 10^8$
<i>h</i> <sub>b</sub> (m)	0.3	$\sigma_{\rm pb0}$ (Pa)	$3 imes 10^8$
$ ho_{\rm c}$ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	2400	$E_{\rm p}$ (N/m <sup>2</sup> )	$1.95 imes10^{11}$
$m_{\rm c}$ (kg)	2592	$m_{\rm b}$ (kg)	4665.6

The term  $\rho_c$  is the density of concrete, and the fracture elongation of the tendons is taken as 1%. The set of earthquake motion records recommended by the ATC-63 project [21] is selected as the source of earthquake records. The information of the earthquakes is shown in Table 2. Records ER1 to ER11 are far-field earthquakes, records ER12 to ER18 are pulse near-field earthquakes and the rest are no-pulse near-field earthquakes. The values of the peak ground acceleration (PGA) and peak ground velocity (PGV) of each earthquake record are also shown in Table 2.

### Table 2. Earthquake records.

Number	Year	Record	Magnitude	Duration(s)	PGA (g)	PGV (cm/s)
ER1	1994	Northridge	6.7	29.98	0.52	63
ER2	1994	Northridge	6.7	19.98	0.48	45
ER3	1999	Duzce, Turkey	7.1	55.89	0.82	62
ER4	1979	Imperial Valley	6.5	39.03	0.38	42
ER5	1995	Kobe, Japan	6.9	40.95	0.51	37
ER6	1999	Kocaeli, Turkey	7.5	27.18	0.36	59
ER7	1989	Loma Prieta	6.9	39.95	0.53	35
ER8	1989	Loma Prieta	6.9	39.94	0.56	45
ER9	1987	Superstition Hills	6.5	22.29	0.45	36
ER10	1992	Cape Mendocino	7.0	35.98	0.55	44
ER11	1999	Chi-Chi, Taiwan	7.6	89.995	0.44	115
ER12	1979	Imperial Valley-06	6.5	36.815	0.46	108.9
ER13	1972	Cape Mendocino	7.0	35.98	0.63	82.1
ER14	1992	Landers	7.3	48.12	0.79	140.3
ER15	1994	Northridge-01	6.7	19.9	0.87	167.3
ER16	1994	Northridge-01	6.7	39.98	0.73	122.8
ER17	1999	Chi-Chi, Taiwan	7.6	89.995	0.82	127.7
ER18	1999	Duzce, Turkey	7.1	25.88	0.52	79.3

Number	Year	Record	Magnitude	Duration(s)	PGA (g)	PGV (cm/s)
ER19	1976	Gazli, USSR	6.8	16.26	0.71	71.2
ER20	1979	Imperial Valley-06	6.5	37.6	0.76	44.3
ER21	1985	Nahanni, Canada	6.8	20.56	1.10	43.9
ER22	1989	Loma Prieta	6.9	25	0.64	55.9
ER23	1992	Cape Mendocino	7.0	29.98	1.50	119.5
ER24	1994	Northridge-01	6.7	47.765	0.93	70.1
ER25	2002	Denali, Alaska	7.9	89.995	1.16	115.1

Table 2. Cont.

According to the calculation results, the time  $t_{\text{RI}}$  of the rocking motion triggering-off, the time  $t_{\text{EP}}$  of peak ground acceleration (PGA), the maximum rotation  $\theta_{1,\text{max}}$  and its occurrence time  $t_{\text{RM}}$ , as well as the maximum angular velocity  $\dot{\theta}_{1,\text{max}}$  and its occurrence time  $t_{\text{VM}}$ , can be obtained as shown in Table 3, where the maximum values of rotation and angular velocity are given in absolute values without the consideration of direction.

**Table 3.** Time history analysis results of seismic response.

Number	$t_{ m RI}$ (s)	$t_{\rm EP}$ (s)	$\theta_{1,\max}$ (rad)	$t_{\rm RM}$ (s)	$\dot{\theta}_{1,\max}(rad/s)$	$t_{ m VM}$ (s)
ER1	3.340	4.540	0.0224	5.3358	0.4801	5.2497
ER2	4.020	5.030	0.0198	4.1588	0.4512	5.176
ER3	9.760	10.800	0.0179	11.2637	0.4041	9.97
ER4	5.950	10.465	0.0118	6.4653	0.3113	6.5353
ER5	4.940	7.250	0.0216	8.2107	0.4930	7.5844
ER6	7.040	9.170	0.0124	7.285	0.3078	7.2108
ER7	2.690	6.025	0.0284	5.6652	0.6038	5.5797
ER8	4.425	5.120	0.0168	4.8086	0.3823	4.6292
ER9	4.040	6.250	0.0139	4.2969	0.3641	4.3665
ER10	4.240	5.180	0.0178	5.406	0.3988	5.4908
ER11	32.320	36.885	0.0193	32.4585	0.4237	32.5385
ER12	4.815	4.990	0.0165	5.2269	0.4042	5.1482
ER13	2.720	3.280	0.0136	2.9608	0.3003	3.4143
ER14	5.880	14.860	0.0210	6.0186	0.4533	6.0991
ER15	0.780	2.740	0.0248	4.7134	0.5326	4.6309
ER16	3.320	4.200	0.0346	5.0913	0.6778	5.1786
ER17	26.310	47.515	0.0122	26.563	0.3180	26.4905
ER18	2.795	3.420	0.0086	2.9158	0.2555	2.9762
ER19	2.550	8.640	0.0211	2.6878	0.4623	2.9058
ER20	2.665	6.795	0.0208	7.4363	0.4865	7.5139
ER21	1.320	9.160	0.0177	3.2637	0.4117	3.1822
ER22	7.830	10.585	0.0130	8.3379	0.3309	8.0201
ER23	2.520	3.000	0.0340	3.2384	0.6620	3.1545
ER24	2.890	7.775	0.0208	3.8558	0.4960	3.930
ER25	29.840	37.100	0.0175	30.2572	0.3985	30.0497

The result of ER15 is illustrated here to explain the characteristics of the seismic response of the PCRF. The time history curve of ER15 is shown in Figure 7 and the calculation results are presented in Figure 8. As shown in Figure 8a,b,  $t_{EP}$  does not exactly coincide with  $t_{RM}$  and  $t_{VM}$ . After the appearance of PGA and local maximum values of acceleration, the amplitudes of responses decay rapidly. At a time around 10.5 s, the frame motion approached the high-frequency vibration stage, in which the vibration amplitude is small and the peak of angular velocity is basically stable. It can be observed from Figure 8c,d that the phase orbit finally formed a spindle-shaped limit cycle which was centered on the origin in the phase diagram. The energy dissipation in the collisions of the PCRF is continuously supplied by the earthquake. Although the frame vibration in the high-frequency vibration stage is similar to steady-state vibration, it is named pseudo-steady-state vibration, considering that its external excitation is a random earthquake. It can be seen that the influence of external excitation on the frame motion is weakened significantly during this pseudo-steady-state vibration.



Figure 7. Time history of earthquake record ER15.



Figure 8. Cont.



**Figure 8.** Calculation results of basic frame model under ER15: (**a**) time history of rocking rotation; (**b**) time history of angular velocity; (**c**) phase orbit; (**d**) limit cycle.

In order to investigate the relationship between the key time points  $t_{\text{RI}}$ ,  $t_{\text{EP}}$ ,  $t_{\text{RM}}$  and  $t_{\text{VM}}$  of the basic model under different earthquakes, the  $t_{\text{RI}}$  of each response are all set as 1 s. The corresponding unified key time points can be obtained. The unified key time points of far-field and near-field earthquake records are shown in Figures 9 and 10, respectively.

Figure 9 illustrates that, under the far-field earthquakes,  $t_{\rm RM}$  is very close to  $t_{\rm VM}$  and they generally occur shortly after  $t_{\rm RI}$  or near  $t_{\rm EP}$ . In most of the cases that  $t_{\rm RM}$  and  $t_{\rm VM}$ appeared shortly after  $t_{\rm RI}$ , the frame vibration has entered the pseudo-steady-state vibration stage or a stage with very small amplitudes of responses before  $t_{\rm EP}$ . The amplification effect of PGA on frame response is no longer significant in this situation. When the time interval between  $t_{\rm RI}$  and  $t_{\rm EP}$  is small, the peak values of frame response appear around  $t_{\rm EP}$ , or the  $t_{\rm RM}$ , and  $t_{\rm VM}$  are in close proximity to  $t_{\rm RI}$  and  $t_{\rm EP}$ , respectively. Figure 10 suggests that the difference between  $t_{\rm RM}$  and  $t_{\rm VM}$  is very small when the earthquakes are near-field earthquakes and they appear around  $t_{\rm RI}$  or  $t_{\rm EP}$  simultaneously. It can be found that the relationships between  $t_{\rm RI}$ ,  $t_{\rm EP}$ ,  $t_{\rm RM}$  and  $t_{\rm VM}$  are strongly dependent on the specific earthquake. The variety of earthquakes should be considered in the analysis of the PCRF.

The maximum elongations of prestressed tendons can be calculated based on the maximum rotation of the PCRF, as shown in Figure 11. It can be observed from Figure 11

that the maximum elongations of prestressed tendons are less than 0.5%, which have a large surplus from the 1% value of the fracture elongation of prestressed tendons. That is to say, the reserve of deformation capacity is sufficient and the seismic performance of the PCRF is prominent. It is worth emphasizing that the member connections of the PCRF proposed in this study depend mainly on the prestressed tendons and prestressing forces. Therefore, the structure failure of the PCRF will be led by the fracture of the prestressed tendons. Special attention should be given to the calculation of the deformation and elongation of prestressed tendons in analysis and design.



Figure 9. Unified key time points in the case of far-field earthquakes.



Figure 10. Unified key time points in the case of near-field earthquakes.



Figure 11. Maximum elongations of prestressed tendons.

#### 7. Parameter Analysis of PCRF Seismic Response

Eight independent dimensionless parameters can be proposed naturally during the derivation of the motion equation of the PCRF, which are the mass ratio of beam to column  $\kappa$ , span-height ratio  $\lambda$ , column aspect ratio  $\tan \alpha$ , height coefficient  $\lambda_{\rm h}$ , initial prestressing force of beam tendon  $\Pi_{\rm \sigma b} = \sigma_{\rm pb0}A_{\rm bs}/m_{\rm c}g$ , initial prestressing force of column tendon  $\Pi_{\rm \sigma c} = \sigma_{\rm pc0}A_{\rm cs}/m_{\rm c}g$ , linear stiffness of beam tendon  $\Pi_{\rm Eb} = E_{\rm p}A_{\rm bs}/m_{\rm c}g$  and linear stiffness of column tendon  $\Pi_{\rm Ec} = E_{\rm p}A_{\rm cs}/m_{\rm c}g$ . These are kept because any reduction of independent dimensionless parameters will inevitably influence the precision of the analysis in consideration of the nonlinearity of the rocking motion for the PCRF. The values of the dimensionless parameters for the basic frame model are  $\lambda = 2$ ,  $\tan \alpha = 0.2$ ,  $\lambda_{\rm h} = 0.2$ ,  $\kappa = 1.8$ ,  $\Pi_{\rm \sigma b} = 4.13$ ,  $\Pi_{\rm \sigma c} = 6.61$ ,  $\Pi_{\rm Eb} = 2684.1$  and  $\Pi_{\rm Ec} = 4294.6$ . Earthquake record ER15 is used as a test record and a parameter analysis of the PCRF seismic response is conducted.

A frame with a larger  $\kappa$  has a smaller response in the early stage of vibration, as shown in Figure 12. However, the responses of the frame are changed dramatically with the emergence of a large acceleration pulse at 2~3 s. In the meantime, the frame with a larger  $\kappa$  has a significantly larger angle and angular velocity compared with the smaller ones. A number of acceleration pulses appeared around 4 s, which increase the responses of the frame with  $\kappa = 1.8$  further. The other frames have a smaller rotation before encountering multiple acceleration pulses and the amplification effect of multiple acceleration pulses on their response is limited. Different frames with different  $\kappa$  got into the pseudo-steady-state vibration eventually, while the frames with smaller  $\kappa$  entered earlier.

The excessive increase in the response for the frame with  $\kappa = 1.8$  caused by the first large acceleration pulse is counterintuitive. The mechanism of this phenomenon can be explained by the frame with larger  $\kappa$  having greater inertia force and energy after the acceleration pulse, causing a sudden increase in its response. The subsequent multiple acceleration pulses made the system response increase further. This phenomenon can be considered to suggest that the acceleration pulse has amplitude sensitivity to the amplification effect of the response of the PCRF. That is, when the vibration amplitude of the frame is large enough or greater than a threshold, the acceleration pulse has an amplification effect on the system response similar to resonance. The magnification of the system response increases with the enlargement of the system amplitude.

For further study of the influence of  $\kappa$  and the influence of earthquake characteristics, the far-field earthquake record of the Northridge earthquake in 1994, named ER2, is selected for analysis. The time history curve of ER2 and similar calculation results are illustrated in Figure 13. It can be seen that the frame with larger  $\kappa$  had a smaller vibration response in the

whole vibration process and entered into pseudo-steady-state vibration earlier. Based on the above analysis, cases of different ground motion types should be fully considered in the analysis of PCRFs and time history analysis of various earthquake records is necessary.

It can be found in Figure 14 that the responses of frames with different  $\lambda$  are substantially close at the initial stage of vibration and the differences between responses are not changed significantly with the increase in vibration duration. When multiple consecutive acceleration pulses occurred, the response of the frame with smaller  $\lambda$  is obviously reduced, but the response of the frame with larger  $\lambda$  is increased significantly. Frames with different  $\lambda$  have different amplitudes when multiple continuous acceleration pulses are input. The accumulation of response amplification caused by acceleration pulses results in a large difference in subsequent calculation results. Parameter  $\kappa$  is a constant when  $\lambda$  is variational so the inertia forces of beam and columns are consistent in the analysis for  $\lambda$ . The variation range of  $\lambda$  is not very large in the research. It is for the above reasons that the influence of  $\lambda$  on the dynamic response of the PCRF is not similar to  $\kappa$ .



**Figure 12.** Effect of variation in  $\kappa$ : (**a**) time history of rocking rotation; (**b**) time history of angular velocity.



**Figure 13.** Effect of variation in  $\kappa$  for the case of ER2: (a) time history of earthquake record ER2; (b) time history of rocking rotation; (c) time history of angular velocity.



**Figure 14.** Effect of variation in  $\lambda$ : (**a**) time history of rocking rotation; (**b**) time history of angular velocity.

As shown in Figure 15, the frames with different tan  $\alpha$  have different values of motion triggering-off time, which signifies that the frame with a larger column aspect ratio is more likely to be excited. A frame with a smaller column aspect ratio tends to stop at a faster speed. After the occurrence of multiple continuous acceleration pulses, the response of the frame with tan  $\alpha = 0.175$  has a very obvious amplification effect. The response of the frame with tan  $\alpha = 0.225$ , which entered the state of pseudo-steady-state vibration, hardly fluctuates.



**Figure 15.** Effect of variation in tan $\alpha$ : (a) time history of rocking rotation; (b) time history of angular velocity.

Figure 16 illustrates that the frame with a larger  $\lambda_h$  tends to become motionless faster than the smaller  $\lambda_h$  ones. When the first acceleration pulse is imported, it can be clearly seen that the response amplification of the frame with small amplitude is apparently weaker than that of the other frames. The acceleration pulse basically has no response amplification effect on the frame which is in the state of pseudo-steady-state vibration before the appearance of the acceleration pulse. The response of the frame with  $\lambda_h = 0.2$  has a very obvious amplification phenomenon.



**Figure 16.** Effect of variation in  $\lambda_h$ : (**a**) time history of rocking rotation; (**b**) time history of angular velocity.

It can be seen from the time history curves in Figures 17–20 that the influence of dimensionless parameters related to prestressed tendons and initial prestressing forces on the frame responses are relatively consistent. The increase in dimensionless parameters can reduce the historical maximum responses of the frame markedly, which also leads to the earlier appearance of pseudo-steady-state vibration. The difference is that the influences on the vibration response in the initial stage are miscellaneous. A frame with a large initial prestressing force has a relatively large response at the initial stage of vibration, while the cases of the linear stiffness of prestressed tendons are the opposite.



**Figure 17.** Effect of variation in  $\Pi_{\sigma b}$ : (a) time history of rocking rotation; (b) time history of angular velocity.



Figure 18. Cont.



**Figure 18.** Effect of variation in  $\Pi_{\sigma c}$ : (a) time history of rocking rotation; (b) time history of angular velocity.



**Figure 19.** Effect of variation in  $\Pi_{Eb}$ : (a) time history of rocking rotation; (b) time history of angular velocity.



**Figure 20.** Effect of variation in  $\Pi_{Ec}$ : (**a**) time history of rocking rotation; (**b**) time history of angular velocity.

## 8. Conclusions

The theoretical model based on rigid body of a one-story single-span PCRF is established. The corresponding governing motion equation of the PCRF is derived based on the model and the numerical solution of the motion equation is obtained. The energy dissipation of the PCRF is analyzed and the calculation method for the coefficient of restitution is proposed. Time history analyses of the seismic response of the PCRF are carried out with different types of earthquake records. The analysis results show that the maximum rotation of the frame is small and the capacity of structural deformation is sufficient, which means the PCRF has promising seismic performance. The member connections of the PCRF proposed in this study depend on the prestressed tendons and prestressing forces. The structure failure of the PCRF will be led by the fracture of prestressed tendons so the calculation of the deformation and elongation of prestressed tendons should be cautious in analysis and design.

A pseudo-steady-state vibration of the PCRF may appear after some duration of vibration under earthquake excitation, in which case a steady spindle-shaped limit cycle is finally formed by phase orbit in the phase diagram. The influence of external excitation on the vibration of the PCRF is weakened significantly in the state of pseudo-steady-state

vibration. The parameter analysis of the PCRF is conducted based on eight dimensionless parameters. The results reveal the characteristic influences of the dimensionless parameters on the seismic response of the PCRF. The parameters related to prestressed tendons and initial prestressing forces have a consistent influence on the seismic response of the PCRF, and maximum values of seismic response decrease with the increase in the respective parameters. The influences of dimensionless parameters of mass and geometry on the seismic response of the PCRF are complicated, in which case the type of earthquake also needs to be considered. It is worth noting that when the rotational earthquake component and the translational earthquake component are considered simultaneously in the analysis, the motion of the rocking frame will be a three-dimensional motion. The influence of the rotational earthquake component on the seismic response of the PCRF needs further research.

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