

From Vibrations to Resilience: Pioneering Wind-Induced Vibration Intensity Levels (WIVIL) for Modern Building Design

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As structures become taller and more flexible, the challenges of wind-induced vibrations become increasingly critical. Conventional design approaches, which rely on equivalent static wind load analysis, often fail to capture the full, time-dependent effects of wind forces. Unlike earthquakes, which produce short, high-frequency pulses, wind forces are typically long-duration, low-frequency excitations, making them particularly challenging to model accurately. This mismatch can lead to unexpected serviceability issues, occupant discomfort, and even structural damage in extreme cases.

To address this gap, we developed the Wind-Induced Vibration Intensity Level (WIVIL) framework. WIVIL builds on the principles of Time History Dynamic Finite Element Analysis (THD-FEA) to quantify wind-induced structural responses using real wind loading data. Unlike traditional methods, WIVIL is independent of specific building codes or design standards, allowing engineers to evaluate structures under a wide range of wind conditions and loading scenarios, enhancing both safety and comfort. This independence makes WIVIL a truly universal framework, providing critical insights into structural behavior without the limitations of prescriptive codes.

WIVIL has been successfully tested in various case studies, including high-rise buildings and large-span structures, demonstrating its effectiveness in both assessing occupant comfort and guiding targeted reinforcement and retrofitting strategies. For instance, WIVIL evaluations of high-rise buildings have revealed how vibration intensity varies significantly with height, offering insights for optimizing building stiffness and damping. In factory structures, WIVIL assessments have identified critical roof locations where potential damage risks are highest, guiding targeted reinforcement and retrofit efforts.

As we move towards a more resilient and sustainable built environment, the ability to accurately quantify wind-induced structural performance will become increasingly important. WIVIL is poised to play a critical role in this effort, providing engineers and designers with the tools they need to create safer, more resilient structures. By integrating WIVIL into modern design practices, we can bridge the gap between theoretical research and real-world engineering, transforming the way we understand and manage wind-induced vibrations.

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Experience:

Professor, Department of Architecture, College of Engineering, Nihon University, Koriyama, Japan. (April 2015 - Present)

Project Manager, Civil Engineering, US Navy, Far East Division, US Naval Base Yokosuka, Japan. (April 2003 - March 2006)

Project Engineer, Technology Development Section, Fudo Construction Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan. (October 1994 - March 2003)

M. Eng., & D. Eng., Civil Engineering, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan. (October 1989 - September 1994)

B. Eng., Civil Engineering, Institute Technology Bandung, Bandung, Indonesia. (October 1984 - September 1988)