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# AEROELASTICITY AND FLUID-STRUCTURE INTERACTION

**Complement**  
**Sloshing Dynamics**  
*Equivalent Mechanical Model*

# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

*In certain situations, sloshing can influence the behavior of the structure surrounding the moving liquid  
→ there is a need to incorporate its effects into structural models.*

1.



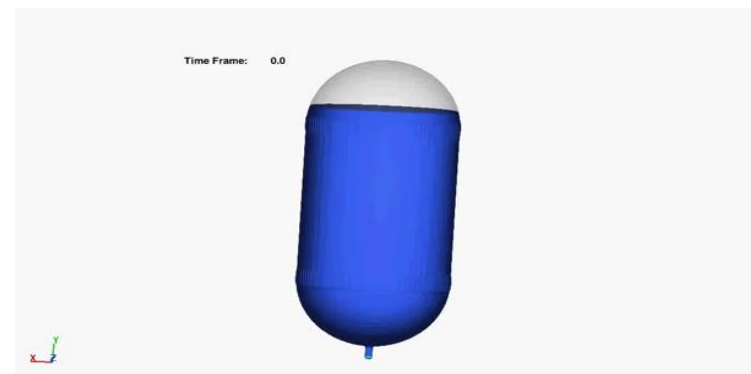
2.



1. *Coffee mug*
2. *Cruise ship swimming pool.*
3. *Rocket liquid O<sub>2</sub> fuel tank*

- *Find the first asymmetric natural frequency for case 1 and 2.*
- *How to model the fluid-structure interactions?*

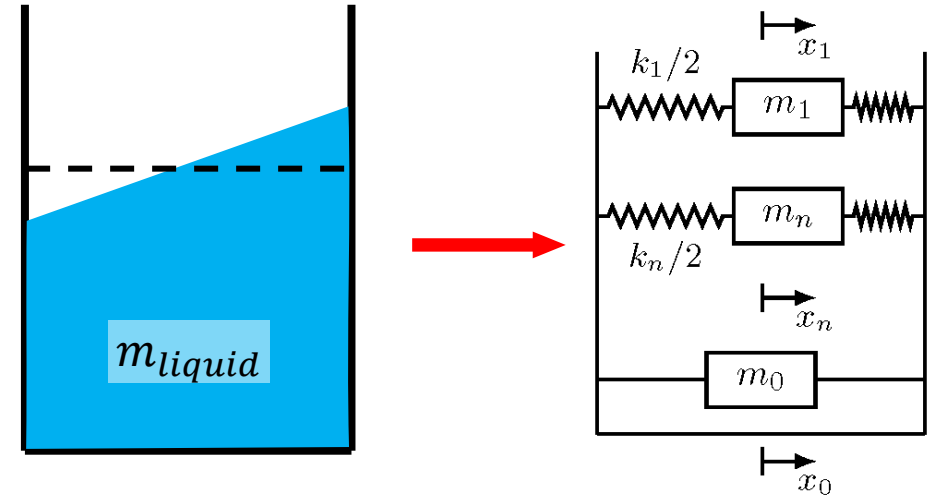
3.



# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

To incorporate the effects of sloshing in a dynamical system, it is often convenient to conceptually replace the liquid by an equivalent linear mechanical system:

- We will use a linear spring-mass model. Each of the  $n$  spring-mass corresponds to one of the infinite sloshing modes.



Main benefits:

- Easier to include in a system
- Reduced computation cost
- Fluid damping can be easily incorporated in the model by adding linear dashpots

- How to define the parameters  $m_n$  and  $k_n$ ?

# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

## Defining the model parameters for horizontal motion

- **Static properties:**

- The sum of all the masses must be the same as the liquid mass

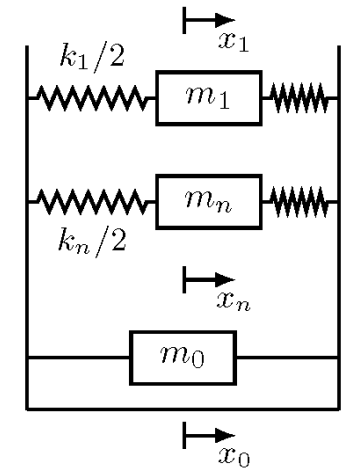
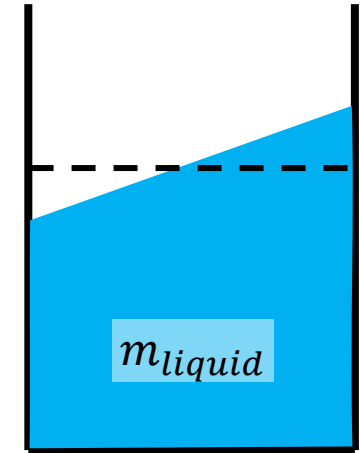
$$m_{liqu} = m_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m_n$$

- **Dynamic properties:**

- The natural frequencies must duplicate the ones of the liquid

$$\frac{k_n}{m_n} = \omega_n^2$$

where  $\omega_n$  is the natural frequency of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  sloshing mode.  
(known from potential theory)



# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

## Defining the model parameters for horizontal motion

- Dynamic properties:**

- The force components exerted on the tank under certain excitation must be equivalent to the one produced by the actual system (= the ones derived from the potential flow theory)

$$-F = m_0 \ddot{x}_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m_n (\ddot{x}_n + \ddot{x}_0)$$

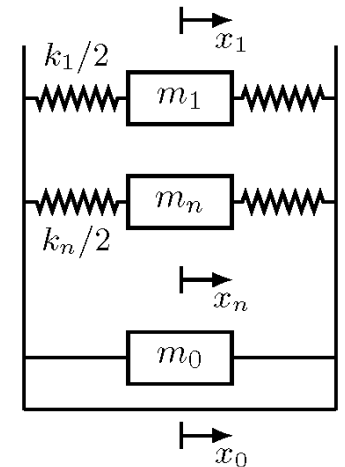
- In the case of pure translational excitation of the tank:  $x_0(t) = X_0 \sin(\Omega t)$

From the steady state solution of the undamped equation

$$m_n (\ddot{x}_n + \ddot{x}_0) + k \ddot{x}_n = 0 \text{ we obtain } x_n = \frac{\Omega^2}{\omega_n^2 - \Omega^2} X_0 \sin(\Omega t)$$

$$F = X_0 \Omega^2 \sin(\Omega t) \left[ m_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m_n \left( \frac{\Omega^2}{\omega_n^2 - \Omega^2} + 1 \right) \right]$$

$$= m_{liqu} X_0 \Omega^2 \sin(\Omega t) \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{m_n}{m_{liqu}} \left( \frac{\Omega^2}{\omega_n^2 - \Omega^2} \right) \right]$$



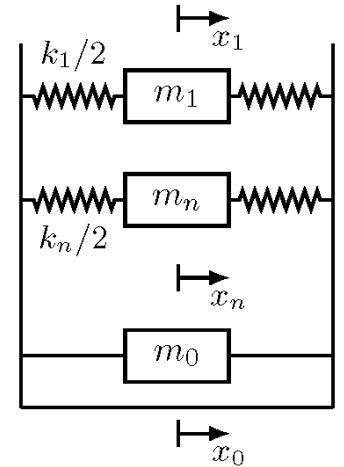
# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

## Defining the model parameters for horizontal motion

- **Dynamic properties:**

$$F = X_0 \Omega^2 \sin(\Omega t) \left[ m_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m_n \left( \frac{\Omega^2}{\omega_n^2 - \Omega^2} + 1 \right) \right]$$
$$= m_{liqu} X_0 \Omega^2 \sin(\Omega t) \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{m_n}{m_{liqu}} \left( \frac{\Omega^2}{\omega_n^2 - \Omega^2} \right) \right]$$

- *By comparing the force  $F$  with the one obtained from potential flow theory for a similar motion, the ratio  $\frac{m_n}{m_{liqu}}$  can be evaluated (not demonstrated here)*

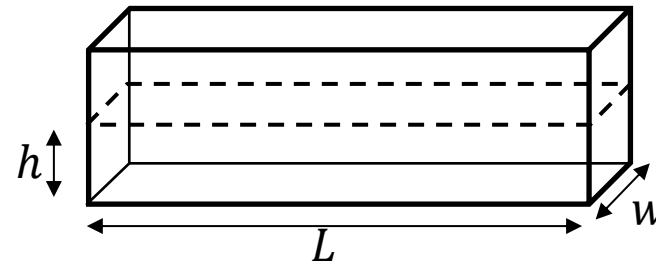


# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

## Defining the model parameters for horizontal motion

- *The model parameters depend on the liquid and on the tank shape (not demonstrated here)*  
**Rectangular tank with motion along the  $a$ -direction**

- $m_{liqu} = \rho Lbh$
- $\frac{m_n}{m_{liqu}} = 8 \left(\frac{L}{h}\right) \frac{\tanh((2n-1)\pi\frac{h}{L})}{(2n-1)^3\pi^3}$
- $\frac{k_n}{m_{liqu}} = 8 \left(\frac{g}{h}\right) \frac{\tanh^2((2n-1)\pi\frac{h}{L})}{(2n-1)^2\pi^2}$



- *One may observe that the masses rapidly decrease for all modes exceeding the first one.*

# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

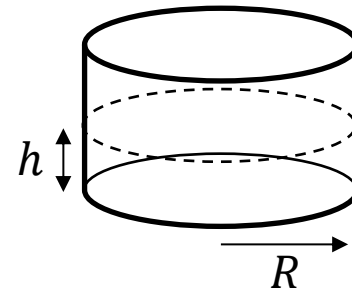
## Defining the model parameters for horizontal motion

- The model parameters depend on the liquid and on the tank shape (not demonstrated here)  
**Cylindrical tank with motion along the R-direction (linear sloshing)**

- $m_{liqu} = \rho\pi R^2 h$

- $\frac{m_n}{m_{liqu}} = \left( \frac{2R}{\varepsilon_{1n} h (\varepsilon_{1n}^2 - 1)} \right) \tanh \left( \frac{\varepsilon_{1n} h}{R} \right)$

- $\frac{k_n}{m_{liqu}} = \left( \frac{2g}{h(\varepsilon_{1n}^2 - 1)} \right) \tanh^2 \left( \frac{\varepsilon_{1n} h}{R} \right)$



- $\varepsilon_{1n}$  corresponds to the roots of the derivatives of the Bessel function of the first kind ( $\varepsilon_{11} = 1.841, \varepsilon_{12} = 5.331, \varepsilon_{13} = 8.536, \dots$ )
- Since  $\varepsilon_{1n}$  increases with  $n$ , the size of the masses also decreases for all modes exceeding the first.

# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

- *From potential theory we can model the free-response motion.*

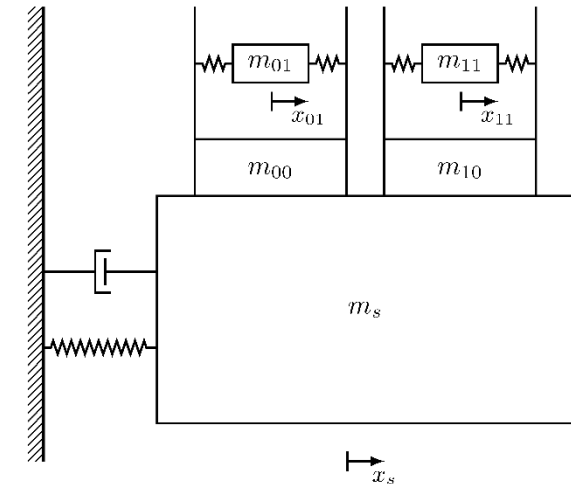
$$\ddot{x} + \omega_1^2 x = 0$$

$$\omega_1 \approx \frac{2\pi g}{L}, 1.841 \frac{g}{R} (h \gg 2L, \text{ respectively Rect. Cyl. })$$

→ *We can now model dynamic interaction with any force as a function of time*

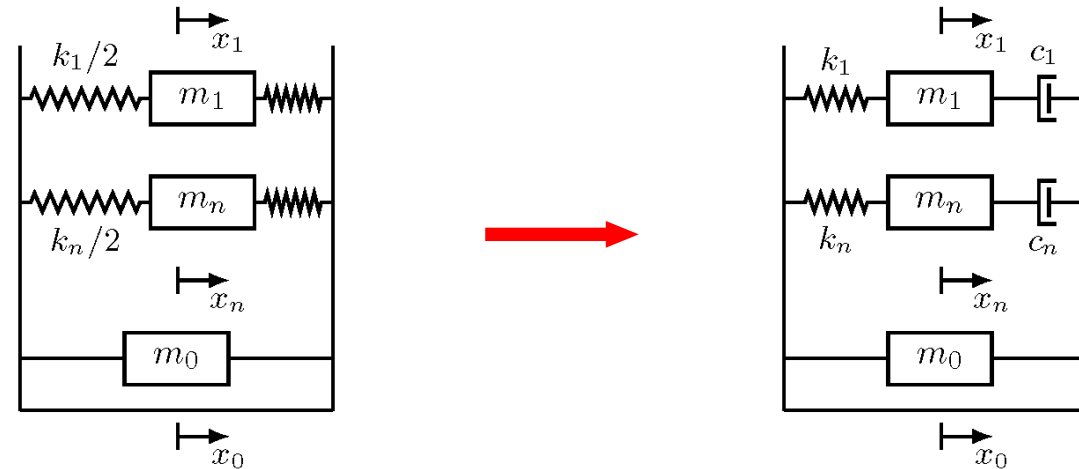
$$\ddot{x} + \frac{k_1}{m_1} x = F(t)$$

→ *Or model coupled dynamical systems*



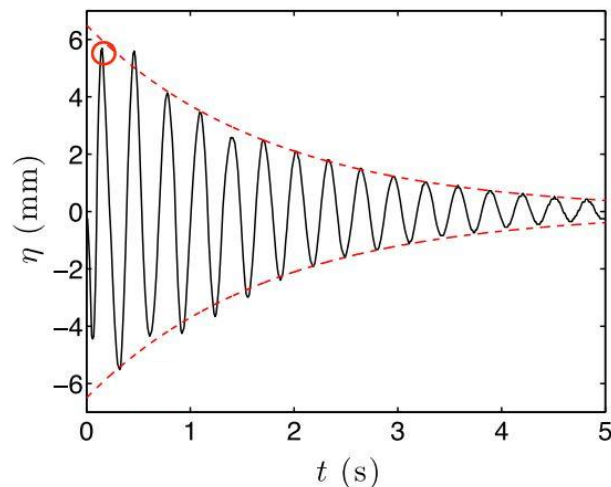
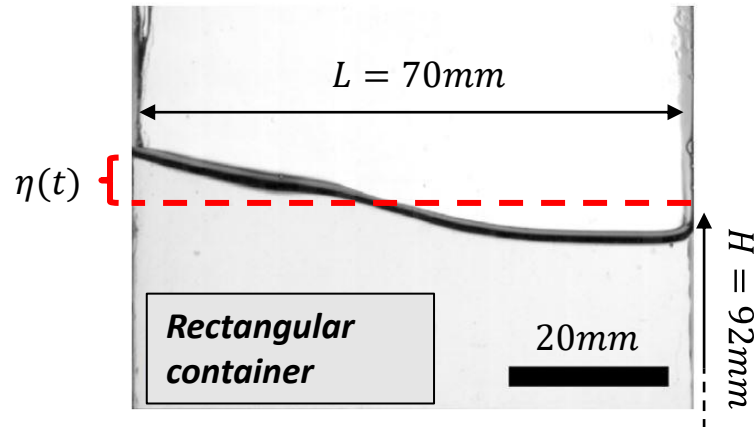
# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

- *Isn't there something missing to model our experimental observations?*  
→ *Viscous damping !*



# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

## Modeling the liquid damping – linear dashpots



Damping of liquid sloshing by foams: from everyday observations to liquid transport, Capello et al., 2015

- Experiments show that the free-surface elevation, after an impulse motion, follows a damped harmonic motion:

$$\eta(t) = \eta_0 e^{(-t/\tau)} \cos(2\pi f t)$$

With  $f_1 = \frac{\omega_1}{2\pi} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{g k_1 \tanh(k_1 H)} = 3.34 \text{ Hz}$

$\rightarrow f_{exp} = 3.22 \pm 0.11 \text{ Hz}$

- In the linear framework, the effect of damping can thus be modeled by a set of linear dashpots.

# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

## Modeling the liquid damping – linear dashpots

- *In real liquids, energy dissipation occurs at the tank walls and free surface due to the viscous boundary layer and within the liquid because of viscous stresses.*
- *For small tanks, the boundary layer dissipation dominates, while for large tanks, the dissipation in the liquid interior may be the larger contribution.*
- *Most results for the damping ratio have been obtained experimentally (first sloshing mode):*
  - *In cylindrical tanks (Stephens et al. 1962):*

$$\zeta_1 = 0.83 \sqrt{\frac{\nu}{g^{1/2} R^{3/2}}} \left[ \tanh\left(\frac{\varepsilon_{11} h}{R}\right) \left( 1 + 2 \frac{1 - \frac{h}{R}}{\cosh\left(\frac{\varepsilon_{11} h}{R}\right)} \right) \right]$$

- *In rectangular tanks (Sun, 1991):*

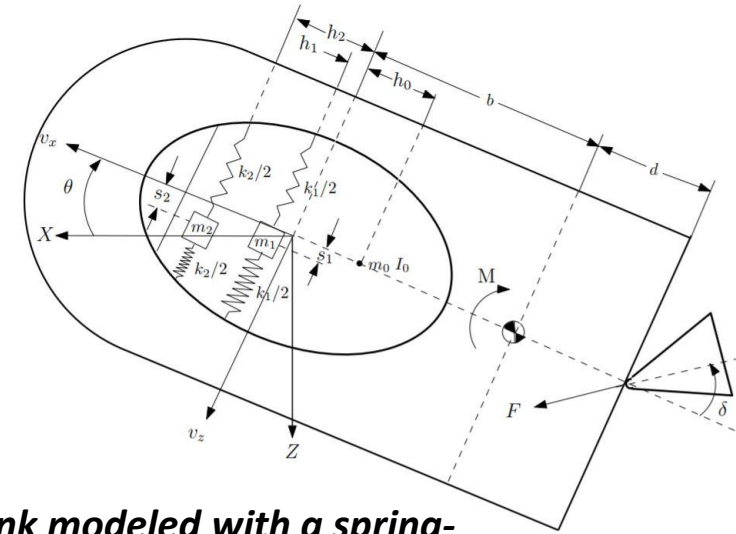
$$\zeta_1 = \frac{1}{2h} \sqrt{\frac{2\nu}{\omega_1}} \left( 1 + \frac{h}{w} \right) \quad \nu \text{ is the liquid kinematic viscosity}$$

# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

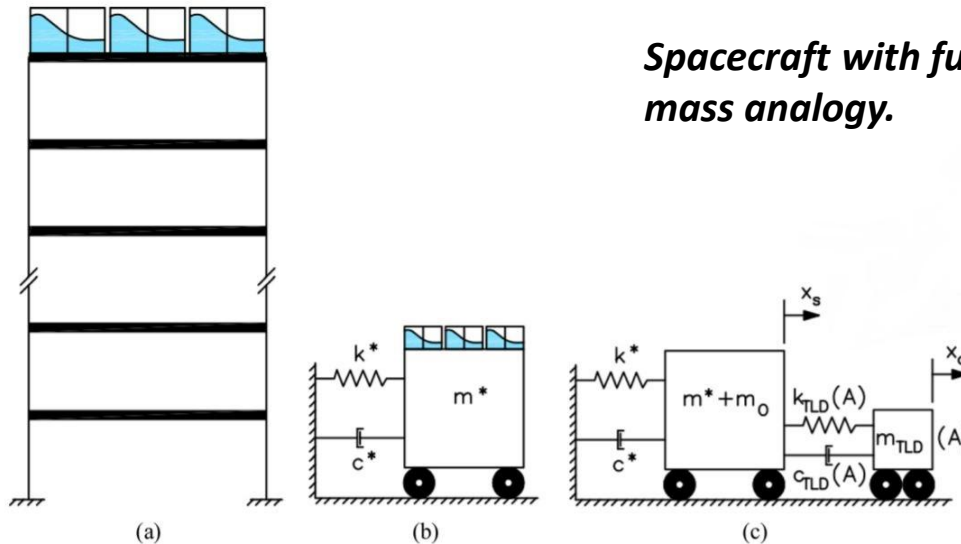
Dynamics and Control of Higher-Order Nonholonomic Systems, Jaime Rubio Hervas, PhD Thesis, 2013

## Examples of application:

- **Control of spacecraft with liquid fuel tanks**
- **Vibration absorption (Tuned Liquid Dampers or TLD)**
- **Modeling of fuel tanks in aircraft wings , in oil tankers or in trucks**
- ...



**Spacecraft with fuel tank modeled with a spring-mass analogy.**



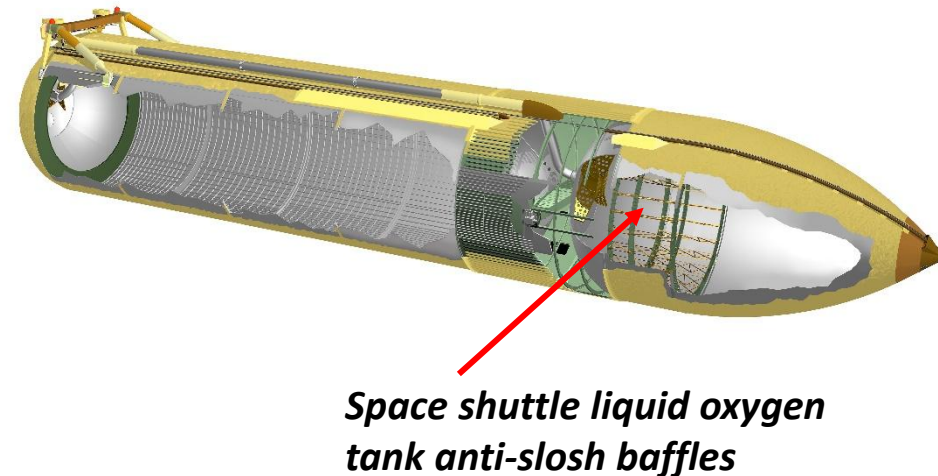
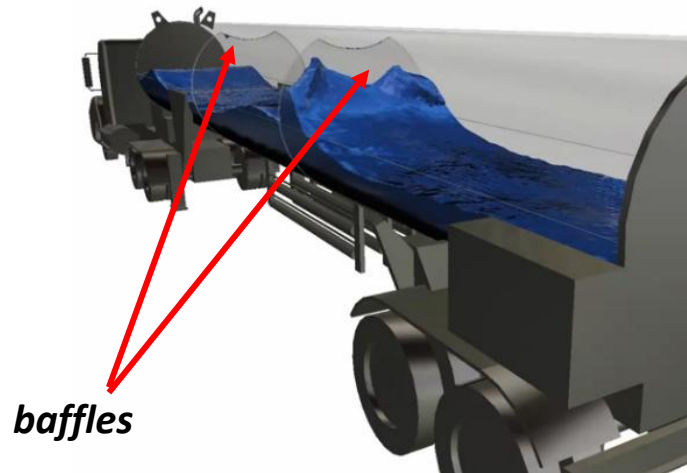
**The evolution of (a) a structure-TLD system into, (b) a generalized structural system with TLDs and then into, (c) a system with equivalent Tuned Mass Damper (TMD) representation**

Development and Validation of Finite Element Structure-Tuned Liquid Damper System Models, Soliman et al., 2015

# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

## Sloshing mitigation techniques

- **Liquid containers: Sub-division with baffles or bulkheads are widely used**
  - **Reduces wave amplitude and wall pressure, increases the liquid damping**
  - **Ongoing research to define the optimal shape, number and locations of the baffles**



# Sloshing Dynamics – Equivalent Mechanical Model

## Sloshing mitigation techniques – the effect of a foam layer

- *The addition of foam of the free surface damps the sloshing of the liquid.*

Entry #: V0052

Why beer does not spill:  
foam damps sloshing

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- *Foam generates an additional friction force that adds damping to the fluid oscillations.*
- *This additional force scales as:*

$$f_{\text{foam}} \sim K\gamma Ca^{2/3}$$

*where  $\gamma$  is the foam surface tension,  $K$  represents geometrical properties of the foam layer and  $Ca = \frac{\mu\dot{x}}{\gamma}$  is the capillary number  $\rightarrow$  the foam friction force in non-linear.*

## Exercise 1 – Tuned Liquid damper.

Consider a tall building represented by a cylinder with an equivalent diameter,  $D_s = 50$  m and a total height  $H_s = 300$  m as depicted on figure 1. The structure is subjected to strong winds, vortices are periodically shed from its surface thus forcing the structure to oscillate. To dampen those oscillations, a tuned liquid damper (TLD), in the form of rectangular tank partially filled with water, is installed within the building. The tank measures  $L = 10$  m by  $w = 6$  m.

