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Kristen S Moore* (ksmoore@math.lsa.umich.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Michigan, 525 East University Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1109, and P.J. McKenna (mckenna@math.uconn.edu). Torsional Oscillations in Suspension Bridges: Bifurcation and Stability Results for Nonlinearly Coupled Beam and Wave Equations. Preliminary report.

I will discuss numerical results on the bifurcation and stability properties of periodic solutions to nonlinearly coupled beam and wave equations which govern the torsional and vertical motions of a suspension bridge. We observe that, even in the absence of torsional forcing, a small purely vertical motion can give rise to large amplitude torsional oscillation. (Received October 03, 2000)