1	Integrated mechanical and material design of						
2	quasi-zero-stiffness vibration isolator with						
3	superelastic Cu-Al-Mn shape memory alloy bars						
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17							
18	Keywords						
19	Quasi-zero-stiffness (QZS), Vertical vibration isolation, Earthquake ground motion,						
20	Shape memory alloy (SMA), Superelasticity, Cu-Al-Mn alloy, Shaking table test						
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#### 22 Abstract

Quasi-zero-stiffness (QZS) vibration isolators avoid excessive deformation due to gravity, 23 a critical issue in *vertical* vibration isolation, by providing restoring force with high initial 24 25 stiffness and low tangent stiffness around the static equilibrium position. Effective use of geometric nonlinearity often plays a central role in QZS mechanisms. Design of such 26 QZS mechanisms, however, tends to be complex, and it is difficult to realize large loading 27 capacity as well as large stroke length at the same time. This paper attempts to resolve 28 these issues by applying newly developed superelastic Cu-Al-Mn shape memory alloy 29 (SMA) bars, characterized by excellent recoverable strain upon unloading along with 30 small hysteresis and nearly flat stress plateau. These features are realized by material 31 32 design tailored for obtaining mechanical properties required in QZS mechanisms. The use of such tailored superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bars allows us to easily achieve large 33 loading capacity as well as large stroke length while keeping the QZS mechanism simple 34 35 and compact. In this paper, we derive design equations, produce a prototype, and conduct shaking table tests and numerical simulations to demonstrate the feasibility of QZS 36 vibration isolator with superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bars. 37

#### 39 **1. Introduction**

40 In the design of vertical vibration isolators, excessive deformation due to gravity force is one of the main obstacles. To overcome the difficulty, many papers have been published 41 42 on quasi-zero-stiffness (QZS) vibration isolators [1,2]. In QZS vibration isolators, the problem of excessive deformation due to gravity force is overcome by providing restoring 43 force with the following two characteristics: (1) the initial stiffness is high in the small 44 displacement range, and (2) the tangent stiffness is low in the operating range around the 45 static equilibrium position when subjected to gravity force. The term of OZS comes from 46 the second characteristic of the low tangent stiffness. Such vibration isolators are also 47 referred to as high-static-low-dynamic-stiffness (HSLDS) vibration isolators [3]. 48

49 In the literature, geometric nonlinearity, or the nonlinear relationship between the restoring force and the change of geometric configurations, is often used to realize the 50 QZS property [1-3]. In these types of QZS vibration isolators, a combination of linear 51 52 springs and/or post-buckled beams are typically used. Another type of QZS vibration isolators presented in the literature use magnets [4,5]. While a large stroke length of tens 53 to hundreds millimeter is required in some applications like seismic isolation, the stroke 54 length of the QZS isolators presented in the literature is limited to less than ten millimeter. 55 In order to realize a stroke length large enough for seismic isolation, the mechanical 56 design of QZS mechanisms tends to be complex and involved. This is especially true 57 when large loading capacity is also required. 58

Araki et al. [6,7] proposed simple QZS mechanisms having a large stroke length by applying constant-force springs, which sustain constant load regardless of their elongation. The loading capacity of a single constant-force spring is, however, limited to

#### Submitted for possible publication in Journal of Sound and Vibration

Araki Y, Kimura K, Asai T, Masui T, Omori T, Kainuma R: QZS vibration isolator with superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bar

the order of tens to hundreds newton while the size of a constant-force spring is relatively large. To achieve large loading capacity in QZS mechanisms, e.g., several to tens kilonewton, a number of constant-force springs become necessary, which makes the size of QZS mechanisms unnecessarily large. This limits the range of applicability of QZS vibration isolators with constant-force springs to light weight applications.

To resolve this issue, this paper studies the use of superelastic shape memory alloys 67 (SMAs) in QZS vibration isolators. In general, shape recovery of SMAs is caused by 68 either heating or unloading [8,9]. Shape recovery caused by heating is called *shape* 69 memory effect, and that by unloading is called superelastic effect or superelasticity. The 70 SMAs with superelasticity are referred to as *superelastic SMAs*. Superelastic SMAs are 71 72 suitable for passive vibration isolation, and a bunch of literature exists on the use of superelastic SMAs in *horizontal* vibration isolation [8,9]. On the other hand, the literature 73 on the use of superelastic SMAs in *vertical* vibration isolation is scarce. To the authors' 74 75 knowledge, the only exception is the pioneering work by Lagoudas et al. [10]. The stroke length of their QZS vibration isolator is, however, also less than ten millimeter. It appears 76 difficult to increase both the stroke length and the loading capacity because SMAs are 77 used in the form of tube springs. Furthermore, the hysteresis of Ni-Ti superelastic SMAs 78 is relatively large while such large hysteresis degrades the vibration isolation capability in 79 80 vertical vibration isolation [6,7].

In order to realize QZS mechanism having large loading capacity and stroke length along with small hysteresis, this paper explores the feasibility of the use of newly developed superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bars, characterized by the material design tailored for obtaining excellent recoverable strain along with small hysteresis and nearly

flat stress plateau. To obtain excellent recoverable strain, grains much larger than bar 85 diameter are developed by repeating heat treatment [11]. Furthermore, grain orientation is 86 controlled by cold drawing and annealing to achieve small hysteresis and nearly flat stress 87 88 plateau, which are the key features of the superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bars used in this paper. Moreover, compared to most popular Ni-Ti SMAs, Cu-Al-Mn SMAs are superior 89 in material cost, machinability, and loading rate dependence [12-14]. In the present QZS 90 mechanism, elongation of horizontally placed superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bars is 91 converted into vertical motion of the vibration isolator. This mechanism is an extension 92 from the QZS mechanism developed by Araki et al. [7]. The replacement of 93 constant-force springs with superelastic SMA bars is the main difference in the extension. 94 The replacement along with the tailored material design of superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA 95 bars enables us to easily increase the loading capacity by a factor of tens to hundreds 96 97 while keeping the size and the stroke length of the QZS mechanism. Or, conversely, the 98 size of the QZS mechanism can be decreased by a factor of tens to hundreds while keeping the loading capacity and the stroke length. Along with the simplicity of the QZS 99 mechanism, these are the new and key features of the QZS vibration isolator presented in 100 101 this paper.

In this paper, first, we present design equations for the present QZS mechanism. Second, a prototype of the QZS vibration isolator with a superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bar is designed and produced. In the prototype design, we seek the possibility of reducing the size of the QZS mechanism without changing the loading capacity from the QZS vibration isolator with constant-force springs tested in reference [7]. Shaking table tests

- and numerical simulations are finally conducted to assess the performance of the present
   OZS vibration isolator.
- 109

## 110 **2. Design equations**

Figure 1 schematically illustrates the present QZS mechanism. A superelastic SMA bar is 111 112 placed horizontally at the center height of the vibration isolator as shown in Figure 1(a). With this configuration, superelastic SMA bar is subject to only tension force, which 113 minimizes the use of SMA bar. The motion of both ends of the SMA bar is constrained by 114 the upper and lower trapezoidal plates. Each end of the SMA bar is connected to a roller 115 shaft, indicated by a white circle in Figure 1(a). Roller bearings are used to realize 116 117 frictionless contact between the roller shafts and the upper and lower plates. The shapes of the plates are both symmetric with respect to the central vertical axis. Both plates have 118 the same size and are placed symmetrically with respect to the central horizontal axis. 119 120 Define by  $\theta$  the angle between the vertical axis and the side edge of the trapezoid. As shown in Figure 1(b), let u denote the relative displacement between the upper and lower 121 plates whose positive direction is shrinkage. Let f be the restoring force of the vibration 122 123 isolator which is positive when the vibration isolator is subject to compression. Let e and *n* be the elongation and tensile axial force of the SMA bar, respectively. 124

Figure 2(a) shows the free body diagram of the upper plate, where r is the internal force. From this free body diagram, the equilibrium equation in the vertical direction can be written as

$$f = 2r\sin\theta. \tag{1}$$

Figure 2(b) shows the free body diagram of the right end of the SMA bar and the right roller shaft. From this diagram, the equilibrium equation in the horizontal direction can be written as

 $n = 2r\cos\theta. \tag{2}$ 

From equations (1) and (2), the relationship between f and n can be written as

134 
$$\frac{f}{n} = \tan\theta .$$
 (3)

Figure 2(c) depicts the relationship between u and e. The gray objects (lines and circles) indicate the initial configuration while the black ones indicate the deformed configuration. The circles depict the right roller shaft, and the solid lines indicate the right lower corner of the upper plate. From Figure 2(c), the relationship between u and e can be written as

$$\frac{u}{e} = \frac{1}{\tan \theta}.$$
 (4)

Let  $k_{\rm T}$  be the tangent stiffness of the vibration isolator and  $d_{\rm T}$  be the tangent stiffness of the SMA bar. Noting that equations (3) and (4) hold for infinitesimal changes of f, u, n, and e, denoted by d(), we can write the relationship between  $k_{\rm T}$  and  $d_{\rm T}$  as

143 
$$k_{\rm T} = \frac{\mathrm{d}f}{\mathrm{d}u} = \left(\tan\theta\right)^2 \frac{\mathrm{d}n}{\mathrm{d}e} = \left(\tan\theta\right)^2 d_{\rm T}.$$
 (5)

Figure 3(a) illustrates a restoring force curve model of the vibration isolator. This figure also illustrates the shift of axes to consider the vibration around the static equilibrium position. The dotted line shows a hypothetical restoring force curve when no hysteresis exists. Here, *m* is the mass of the object to be isolated, g is the gravitational acceleration, *h* indicates the hysteresis amplitude in *f* originated from the hysteresis of superelastic SMA bars, and  $u_{\rm S}$ ,  $u_{\rm L}$ ,  $u_{\rm U}$  indicate the displacements relative to the base at

the static equilibrium position, the lower bound, and the upper bound, respectively. The lower and upper bounds are determined so that the stroke of the vibration isolator covers the range wherein  $k_{\rm T}$  has a constant value around the static equilibrium position. Define the shifted restoring force  $\Delta f$  and the shifted relative displacement  $\Delta u$  by  $\Delta f = f - mg$ ,  $\Delta u = u - u_{\rm S}$ . (6) As shown in Figure 3(b), the range of  $\Delta u$  is limited by the upper bound  $\Delta u_{\rm U} = u_{\rm U} - u_{\rm S}$ and the lower bound  $\Delta u_{\rm L} = u_{\rm L} - u_{\rm S}$ . Suppose that the vibration isolator is subject to the

base acceleration  $\ddot{u}_{\rm B}$ . Then the equation of motion in the vertical direction for the vibration isolator can be written as

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$$m(\varDelta \ddot{u} + \ddot{u}_{\rm B}) + c\varDelta \dot{u} + k_{\rm T}\varDelta u + q = 0, \qquad (7)$$

where *c* is the damping coefficient and over dot indicates differentiation with respect to time *t*. Here, *q* is the friction force inherent in the vibration isolator, which can be obtained only from the quasi-static tests of the whole vibration isolator. Assume that the friction force can be expressed as Coulomb's friction, where *b* is the amplitude of *q*, i.e., *q* changes between -b and *b* depending on the sign of  $\Delta \dot{u}$  as

165 
$$q = \begin{cases} b & \text{if } \Delta \dot{u} > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } \Delta \dot{u} = 0 \\ -b & \text{if } \Delta \dot{u} < 0 \end{cases}$$
(8)

Also assume that the vibration isolator is designed so that the damping force  $c\Delta \dot{u}$  is negligibly small. Then, this is a well-known bilinear hysteretic oscillator and its properties, e.g., transmissibility, free vibration response, and seismic response, have been extensively studied by many researchers [15-17]. This paper estimates the upper bound of the response acceleration by using the following simple design equation to assess the

171 combined effects of lowered natural frequency and force limiting nature of hysteresis.

172 Define  $\omega_{\rm T}$  by  $\omega_{\rm T} = \sqrt{k_{\rm T}/m}$ . Then, dividing equation (7) by *m*, we obtain

173 
$$\Delta \ddot{u} + \ddot{u}_{\rm B} + \frac{c}{m} \Delta \dot{u} + \omega_{\rm T}^2 \Delta u + \frac{q}{m} = 0.$$
 (9)

174 Let  $\Delta u_{\rm P}$  be the peak (maximum absolute) value of  $\Delta u$ . From equation (9), the absolute

175 response acceleration  $|\Delta \ddot{u} + \ddot{u}_{\rm B}|$  can be bounded as

176 
$$\left| \Delta \ddot{u} + \ddot{u}_{\rm B} \right| \le \frac{h+b}{m} + \omega_{\rm T}^2 \Delta u_{\rm P} \,, \tag{10}$$

where the first and second terms of the right-hand side of equation (10) express the effects of the hysteresis and the natural frequency, respectively. It can be seen from equation (10) that reducing the hysteresis as well as the natural frequency is important for achieving excellent vibration isolation capability.

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## 182 **3. Prototype design**

Compared to the QZS mechanism using constant-force springs [6,7], the use of superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bars enables us to easily increase the loading capacity by a factor of tens to hundreds while keeping the size and the stroke length of the QZS mechanism. Or, conversely, the size of the QZS mechanism can be decreased by a factor of tens to hundreds while keeping the loading capacity and the stroke length. In the prototype design in this paper, we seek the possibility of decreasing the size of the QZS mechanism.

The dimensions of the superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bar used in the present vibration
isolator are shown in Figure 4. The length of the bar is 300 mm with 30 mm threading on

both ends. The diameter is 11 mm in the threaded portions and 7 mm in the remaining 192 193 center portion. In order to obtain excellent recoverable strain, grains much larger than bar diameter, called bamboo grains, are developed by repeating heat treatment [11]. 194 Furthermore, to obtain nearly flat stress plateau and small hysteresis with little 195 dependence on strain amplitude, grain orientations of the Cu-Al-Mn SMA bar in the 196 197 drawing direction are controlled to be <1 1 0> in the bamboo structure, whose estimated recoverable strain is around 8% [12], by cold drawing and annealing. The superelastic 198 Cu-Al-Mn SMA bar is prepared by Furukawa Techno Material Co., Japan. The nominal 199 composition is Cu-17.3 at.% Al-11.4 at.% Mn. The values of Martensite start temperature 200  $M_s$ , Martensite finish temperature  $M_f$ , Austenite start temperature  $A_s$ , and Austenite 201 finish temperature  $A_{\rm f}$  are  $M_{\rm s} = -45.8$ ,  $M_{\rm f} = -71.6$ ,  $A_{\rm s} = -47.9$ , and  $A_{\rm f} = -23.9 \,{}^{\circ}{\rm C}$ . 202

The gray line in Figure 5 depicts the restoring force curve obtained from the quasi-static tensile test conducted on the SMA bar. The tensile test was performed using a hydraulic testing machine with the target strain of 4% (9.36mm) and the strain rate of 3mm/min. As shown by the black line in Figure 5, design parameters are extracted from the tensile test based on a piecewise-linear approximation. The tangent stiffness in the operating range  $d_{\rm T}$  is 217N/mm, and the restoring force at 6mm elongation (center of operating range) is 7.55kN.

Figure 6 shows the photograph of the present vibration isolator. The height of the vibration isolator at the static equilibrium position is 393mm. The stroke length of the vibration isolator is  $\pm 115$ mm. Figure 7 illustrates the plan and elevations of the vibration isolator, respectively. As shown in Figure 7(a), the QZS mechanism is located at the center of the vibration isolator and pantograph mechanisms are located at the outer

portions in the Y direction. The pantograph mechanisms are installed to avoid rocking and 215 216 horizontal motions of the upper table. As shown in these figures, a superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bar, indicated by a black solid line, is placed horizontally in the X direction at the 217 218 center of the QZS mechanism. As shown in Figure 8, each end of the SMA bar is connected to a roller shaft having 4 roller bearings. In Figures 7(a) and 7(c), roller 219 220 bearings are indicated by transparent gray rectangles. The inner roller bearings are in contact with the inclined sides of the upper trapezoidal plates, while the outer roller 221 bearings are in contact with the lower trapezoidal plates. The lower trapezoidal plates are 222 fixed to the base plate, while the upper trapezoidal plates are fixed to the upper table, on 223 which the object to be isolated is placed. With such a composition, the horizontal axial 224 225 force n of the SMA bar is converted into the vertical restoring force f of the vibration 226 isolator. Elongation e of the SMA bar is also amplified into the vertical relative motion of the vibration isolator *u*. 227

In the design of the prototype of the presented vibration isolator, the elongation of 228 the SMA bar at the static equilibrium position is assumed to be 6mm (2.47% strain), and 229 the range of elongation during vibration is assumed to be  $\pm 5$ mm ( $\pm 2.14\%$  strain). Note 230 231 here that the maximum strain of 4.61% in the design is much less than the recoverable strain 8% estimated for the grain orientation of the present SMA bar. To achieve a stroke 232 length over  $\pm 100$ mm for the vibration isolator, the angle  $\theta$  of the trapezoids' sides is 233 designed to satisfy  $\tan \theta = 1/20$ . The stroke length along with the loading capacity can be 234 adjusted by changing the value of only one parameter  $\theta$ , if necessary. Due to this 235 236 characteristic, the adjustment can be performed easily while keeping the size of the vibration isolator compact. The adjustment becomes much easier and quicker if the upper 237

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and lower trapezoidal plates are replaced with the load conversion mechanism presentedin reference [7].

It is worth noting that the size of the space necessary for installing superelastic SMA bar is about 1/100 or less compared to that for installing constant-force springs to achieve the same loading capacity in the QZS mechanism.

243

#### 244 **4. Experiments**

Quasi-static and shaking table tests are performed to assess the vibration reduction
performance of the present vibration isolator.

In the quasi-static tests, forced displacement is applied to the upper table manually with the loading rate slow enough, while the base plate is fixed to the ground. The displacement u of the upper table is obtained by non-contact laser displacement sensors. The restoring force f is obtained by the load cells installed between the ground and the base plate of the vibration isolator.

Figure 9(a) shows the restoring force curve obtained from the quasi-static test, and 252 Figure 9(b) shows a numerical model calibrated to the test result. At the center of the 253 254 range of movement of the vibration isolator, i.e., when the height of the upper table is 393mm, the restoring force is 338.5N and the tangent stiffness  $k_{\rm T}$  is 0.55N/mm. It should 255 be remarked that the experimentally obtained value of the tangent stiffness  $k_{\rm T}$  is in good 256 agreement with the design value of  $k_{\rm T} = 0.54$  N/mm obtained by substituting the 257 experimentally observed value of  $d_{\rm T}$  into equation (5). The sum of the amplified 258 hysteretic force h of the SMA bar and the friction force b inherent in the vibration 259 isolator, i.e. h+b, is 46.0N. From equation (10), the upper bound of the absolute 260

response acceleration can be estimated as 0.136, 0.185, 0.234, and 0.282g for the maximum displacement of 0, 30, 60, and 90mm, respectively.

Shaking table tests are performed to investigate the vibration reduction 263 264 performance of the presented vibration isolator. Figure 10 schematically illustrates the configuration of the experimental setup. The total mass *m* of the isolated object, the upper 265 plate, and the pantograph mechanism is 34.5kg, Acceleration sensors are installed on the 266 upper table of the vibration isolator to measure the response acceleration  $\Delta \ddot{u} + \ddot{u}_{\rm B}$ , and on 267 the shaking table to record the input acceleration  $\ddot{u}_{\rm B}$  at the base of the vibration isolator. 268 Non-contact laser displacement sensors are fixed to a measurement frame placed on the 269 ground to measure the response absolute displacement  $\Delta u + u_{\rm B}$  and the input absolute 270 displacement  $u_{\rm B}$ . Response relative displacement  $\Delta u$  is obtained by subtracting  $u_{\rm B}$  from 271  $\Delta u + u_{\rm B}$ . Sampling rate is 100Hz in both acceleration and displacement measurements. 272

Two types of base accelerations are applied as input waves. One input wave is the 273 up-down (UD) component of the ground motion recorded at K-NET Ojiya station in 274 Japan during the 2004 Mid Niigata Prefecture earthquake. Note here that the input wave 275 276 is amplified so that the peak accelerations is 1.0g while the peak acceleration is 0.83g in the original record of K-NET Ojiya UD ground motion. The other input wave is a 277 sinusoidal wave whose frequency and amplitude are 5Hz and 1.0g, respectively. It should 278 be noted here that the value of the input frequency of 5Hz was selected in accordance with 279 the loading capacity of the shaking table, where the input frequency should be larger than 280 3.9Hz in order to realize the input acceleration amplitude of 1.0g. 281

Figures 11 and 12 show the records of the time histories of the input acceleration 282  $\ddot{u}_{\rm B}$ , the response acceleration  $\Delta \ddot{u} + \ddot{u}_{\rm B}$ , and the response relative displacement  $\Delta u$ . Table 283 1 reports the peak values of  $\ddot{u}_{\rm B}$ ,  $\Delta \ddot{u} + \ddot{u}_{\rm B}$ , and  $\Delta u$ . As can be observed from Figures 11 284 and 12 and Table 1, the peak response acceleration is reduced to about 0.2g, which is 285 usually sufficient for seismic isolation. The upper bound values  $|\Delta \ddot{u} + \ddot{u}_{\rm B}|$  of response 286 acceleration, predicted by substituting the observed peak value of  $\Delta u$  into equation (10), 287 are 0.18g and 0.16g for the earthquake and sinusoidal input waves, respectively. These 288 values are fairly in good agreement with the recorded values shown in Table 1 while a 289 slight discrepancy (0.06g) is observed between the design prediction (0.16g) and the 290 experimental observation (0.22g) in the case of the sinusoidal input wave. This 291 discrepancy is caused by high frequency vibrations induced possibly by backlash and 292 friction in the bearings. 293

294

#### 295 **5. Simulations**

296 In this section, we obtain transmissibility to examine the vibration isolation performance of the present vibration isolator in the frequency domain. For this purpose, numerical 297 298 simulations are performed to obtain stationary response to sinusoidal base accelerations. The reasons for obtaining transmissibility by numerical simulations (not by experiments) 299 are as follows. In the present vibration isolator, transmissibility inherently depends on the 300 input amplitude because its restoring force is nonlinear [10]. Since the present vibration 301 isolator is designed so that relatively large base accelerations (about 1.0g) are reduced to 302 about 0.2g, which is a usual criterion in seismic isolation, the input acceleration 303 amplitude used in the shaking table tests should be much larger than 0.2g. Furthermore, 304

since the present vibration isolator is designed so that its resonant frequency is less than 305 306 1Hz, which is usual for seismic isolation purpose, low frequency input waves should be applied to identify the resonant frequency. In realizing such a large amplitude and low 307 308 frequency input acceleration, the displacement amplitude of the input wave becomes very large (more than 1m). Note again that, as stated in Section 4, 3.9Hz is the lower bound of 309 310 the input frequency for the shaking table used in the tests when the input acceleration amplitude of 1.0g is required. Also the amplitude of the response displacement of the 311 vibration isolator at the resonant frequency can be very large (more than 1m), which is far 312 beyond the stroke length of the present vibration isolator. For these reasons, it is very 313 difficult, if not impossible, to obtain the transmissibility of the present vibration isolator 314 315 from the shaking table tests.

In the numerical simulations, the Runge-Kutta method is used for time integration. The parameters are determined as m=34.5kg, c=0.03Ns/mm,  $k_T=0.54$ N/mm, h+b=46.0N. Here, the values of m,  $k_T$ , and h+b, are determined from the results of the quasi-static tests. On the other hand, the value of c is determined so that the damping ratio defined by  $c/(2\sqrt{mk_T})$  is 10%. This relatively large value of the damping coefficient is selected to examine the effect of neglecting the damping force in deriving equation (10) for estimating the peak response acceleration.

Figure 13 shows the transmissibility of the present vibration isolator to the input acceleration amplitudes of 0.5g and 1.0g obtained by the numerical simulations and by the theoretical predictions using equation (10). For comparison, Figure 13(b) also shows the experimentally obtained transmissibility for the input sinusoidal wave whose acceleration frequency and amplitude are 5Hz and 1.0g, respectively. From Figure 13,

328 good agreement can be observed among the simulation results, theoretical predictions, 329 and the experimental results. From Figure 13, it can also be seen that the resonant 330 frequency is around 0.6Hz, which is much less than that of the vibration isolator with 331 Ni-Ti SMA tube springs reported in reference [10].

332

# 333 6. Conclusions

A QZS vibration isolator with a superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bar has been presented. The 334 tailored material design of superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bars and their application to OZS 335 vibration isolator allow us to increase the loading capacity or to decrease the size of the 336 QZS mechanism by a factor of tens to hundreds while keeping the stroke length large 337 enough. Since the superelastic SMA takes care of the nonlinear properties necessary for 338 QZS mechanism, the QZS mechanism itself and its design are both simple. These are the 339 340 new and key features of the QZS vibration isolator presented in this paper. The feasibility 341 of the present QZS vibration isolator has been demonstrated through shaking table tests, where input seismic and sinusoidal waves with the maximum accelerations of 1.0g were 342 reduced to about 0.2g, which is in good agreement with the design equations derived in 343 this paper. The transmissibility of the present vibration isolator, obtained by numerical 344 simulations, has demonstrated that the resonant frequency of the present vibration isolator 345 was about 0.6Hz and that the estimation error of the design equations was small enough. 346

347

#### 348 Acknowledgement

This research was supported by the Toray Science Foundation. Mr. Nobutoshi Yoshida, a
technical researcher of Kyoto University, and Mr. Yoshito Nojiri, a former undergraduate

- 351 student of Kyoto University helped to conduct the experiments. The authors gratefully
- acknowledge the supports mentioned above.
- 353

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Figure 1. Schematic illustration of the motion conversion mechanism: (a) initial
 (undeformed) configuration and (b) deformed configuration.



- <sup>8</sup> Figure 2. (a) Free body diagram of the upper plate. (b) Free body diagram of the right end of
- 9 the SMA bar and the right roller shaft. (c) Geometric relationship between u and e at the

right roller shaft.

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Figure 5. Restoring force curve of superelastic Cu-Al-Mn SMA bar



Figure 6. Photograph of the prototype of the vibration isolator.



<sup>30</sup> Figure 7. Prototype of the vibration isolator: (a) *X*-*Y* plan, (b) *Z*-*X* plane, and (b) *Y*-*Z* plane.



- <sup>33</sup> Figure 8. Photgraph of the SMA bar, the roller shafts, and the roller bearings.



<sup>35</sup> Figure 9. Restoring force curve: (a) quasi-static loading test result and (b) numerical model.





Figure 11. Time history records of input and response waves for K-Net Ojiya UD.



<sup>46</sup> Figure 12. Time history records of input and response waves for sinusoidal 5Hz wave.



<sup>48</sup> Figure 13. Transmissibility of the vibration isolator: (a) input amplitude=0.5g, (b) input

ampitude=1.0g.

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input wave	$\ddot{u}_{\rm B}({\rm g})$	$\Delta \ddot{u} + \ddot{u}_{\rm B}(g)$	$\Delta u (\mathrm{mm})$
K-Net Ojiya UD	1.05	0.18	28.88
Sinusoidal 5Hz	1.06	0.22	14.98

Table 1.	Recorded	peak v	values	of input	and	response	waves.