Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

Felipe Vicencio

Assistant Professor, Facultad de Ingeniería, Universidad San Sebastián

Google Scholar profile

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). It is a drafting aid for the petitioner's counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

A. Overview & Filtering Statement

263	413	37	13
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

Filtering statement — methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper's authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar's known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar's institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar's own circle.

Known limitations — counsel must verify. (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight — re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar's own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

94.1% independent of 34 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	32
Self-citation	2
Co-author	0
Same-institution	0

229 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total — the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing — how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner's choice of comparison field.

Contribution 1

Claim — Contribution 1

The researcher established a foundational framework for analyzing nonlinear soil-mediated dynamic interactions between adjacent buildings, significantly advancing seismic safety standards for dense urban environments.

The researcher's core contribution centers on the 2018 paper 'Dynamic interaction between adjacent buildings through nonlinear soil during earthquakes,' which serves as the anchor for a sustained line of inquiry into complex seismic behaviors. This work appears to address the critical gap in understanding how neighboring structures influence each other through shared soil media during seismic events, a phenomenon often overlooked in traditional isolated building analyses.

Originality is suggested by the chronological progression from this core study to subsequent works. The 2019 follow-up extends the analysis to unsymmetrical plan buildings, indicating a refinement of the initial model to handle geometric complexities. The 2023 state-of-the-art review further consolidates this niche, suggesting the researcher has helped define and systematize the emerging fields of Structure-Soil-Structure Interaction (SSSI) and Site-City Interactions (SCI).

The significance of this body of work is evidenced by substantial citation metrics and broad independent uptake. With the core paper accumulating 68 citations and follow-ups garnering 54 and 40 respectively, the research has clearly resonated within the field. Notably, 94.1% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that this framework has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 15 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

Dynamic interaction between adjacent buildings through nonlinear soil during earthquakes

2018 · Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering 108, 130-141, 2018 · 68 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 43 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Engineering papers from 2018 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Three-dimensional seismic nonlinear analysis of topography–structure–soil–structure interaction for buildings near slopes	Technical College of Imam Sadiq, Technical and Vocational University, University of Hormozgan, Zand Institute of Higher Education	Iran	—
2	Interaction of two adjacent structures coupled by inerter-based system considering soil conditions	Swansea University, Tongji University	China, United Kingdom	Influential
3	Slope topographic effects on the nonlinear seismic behavior of groups of similar buildings	GoharZamin Iron Ore Company, Technical College of Imam Sadiq Technical and Vocational University, University of Hormozgan	Iran	—
4	Influence of seismic wave incidence angle on dynamic responses and vibration control of adjacent liquid storage tanks	Lanzhou University of Technology	P. R. China	—
5	Seismic control of adjacent liquid storage tanks based on vibration barrier considering structure-soil-structure interaction	Lanzhou University of Technology	P. R. China	—
6	Effects of soil–structure cluster interactions on ground motions	College of Architecture and Environment, Sichuan Uni-	China	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
		versity, Southwest Municipal Engineering Design & Research Institute of China		
7	Experimental study of the effect of proximity between adjacent buildings on their dynamic response	The University of Auckland	New Zealand	—
8	Seismic interactions between adjacent and crossing bridges on deep foundations in nonlinear soil	Higher Institute of Earthquake Studies and Research, University of Wolverhampton	Syria, United Kingdom	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

FOLLOW-UP WORK

Dynamic Structure-Soil-Structure Interaction in unsymmetrical plan buildings due to seismic excitation

2019 · Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering 127, 105817, 2019 · 54 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 39 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Engineering papers from 2019 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Slope topographic effects on the nonlinear seismic behavior of groups of similar buildings	GoharZamin Iron Ore Company, Technical College of Imam Sadiq Technical and Vocational University, University of Hormozgan	Iran	—
2	Regional seismic responses of shallow basins incorporating site-city interaction analyses on high-rise building clusters	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Hong Kong	—
3	Experimental and numerical study on the seismic response of a surface frame structure–soil–double-tunnel system	Beijing Univ. of Technology, Liaoning Technical University	China	—
4	Dynamic stability analysis of pile foundation under wave load	Shanghai Institute of Applied Mathematics and Mechanics, Shanghai Univ.	China	—
5	Structure–soil–structure interaction analysis for lateral seismic earth pressure of deeply buried structure in layered ground	McMaster Univ.	Canada	—
6	Seismic structure-soil-structure interaction between two different adjacent piled bridges founded in nonlinear soil	City, University of London	United Kingdom	—
7	An analytical model for 2D seismic tunnel-aboveground structure interaction with considering the influence of tunnel longitudinal shear deformation	Beijing University of Technology, Institute of Geophysics, China Earthquake Administration, Nanjing Tech University	China	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

FOLLOW-UP WORK

A State-of-the-Art review on Structure-Soil-Structure interaction (SSSI) and Site-City interactions (SCI)

2023 · Structures 56, 105002, 2023 · 40 citations (GS)

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher advanced the understanding of seismic soil-structure interaction for inelastic systems, establishing a foundational framework subsequently expanded to assess isolated versus non-isolated structural dynamics.

The researcher's core contribution centers on the 2024 paper titled 'Seismic Structure-Soil-Structure Interaction between inelastic structures,' which serves as the foundation for this line of inquiry. This work appears to address the complex mechanical behaviors occurring when inelastic structures interact with surrounding soil during seismic events, a critical area for improving structural resilience.

Originality in this body of work is suggested by the progression from general inelastic interaction to specific comparative assessments. The 2025 follow-up paper, 'Dynamic interaction of isolated and non-isolated structures: a parametric seismic assessment,' indicates an expansion of the initial framework to evaluate different isolation strategies. This chronological development implies a systematic effort to refine seismic assessment methodologies through parametric analysis.

The significance of this research is evidenced by its rapid uptake within the academic community. With 28 citations for the core paper and a high degree of independence among citing researchers, the work appears to have established a recognized reference point. The fact that the vast majority of citations originate from independent scholars suggests that the findings have been validated and utilized by peers outside the researcher's immediate network, underscoring the broad relevance of the contribution.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

Seismic Structure-Soil-Structure Interaction between inelastic structures

2024 · Earthquake Engineering & Structural Dynamics 53 (4), 2024 · 28 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Generalized Continuous Models for the Analysis of Coupled Shear Walls: A Critical Review of the Literature	Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	—
2	Shake-table test study of dynamic response of soil–pile interaction system in seasonally frozen soil regions	Lanzhou Jiaotong University	China	—
3	Seismic response of a mid-story isolated stilted structure in mountainous areas	Krirk University, School of Civil Engineering & Architecture, Wenzhou Polytechnic	China, Thailand	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

FOLLOW-UP WORK

Dynamic interaction of isolated and non-isolated structures: a parametric seismic assessment

2025 · Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering, 1-23, 2025 · 1 citations (GS)

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Bristol	United Kingdom	SCImago #478 · THE =80 · QS 51	2
Zand Institute of Higher Education	Iran	—	2
Semnan University	Iran	SCImago #8352 · THE 1001–1200	2
Lanzhou University of Technology	P. R. China	SCImago #6575	2
University of Hormozgan	Iran	SCImago #10271 · THE 1501+	2
Sunyani Technical University	Ghana	—	1
Sichuan University	China	SCImago #32 · THE 201–250 · QS =324	1
Hawassa University	Ethiopia	SCImago #6413	1
Wuhan University of Technology	China	SCImago #405 · QS 951-1000	1
Lanzhou Jiaotong University	China	SCImago #4700	1
Nanjing Tech University	China	SCImago #742 · THE 601–800	1
Imperial College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #69 · THE 8 · QS 2	1
Tongji University	China	SCImago #82 · THE =141 · QS =177	1
Amirkabir University of Technology	Iran	SCImago #4657 · THE 351–400 · QS =456	1
Royal Holloway University of London	United Kingdom	SCImago #3466 · THE 401–500 · QS =461	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
China	11
United Kingdom	6
India	5
Iran	5
United States	2
Chile	2
P. R. China	2
Algeria	1
Mexico	1
New Zealand	1

Country	Citing papers
Syria	1
Thailand	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** — the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

F. AAO Precedent Considerations

Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- ☐ Self-citations are disclosed and netted out — a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- ☐ Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- ☐ The petition articulates why the citations show major significance — numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- ☐ For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- ☐ Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- ☐ Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- ☐ Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- ☐ Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- ☐ For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- ☐ Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** — persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition's merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition's exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Dynamic interaction between adjacent buildings through nonlinear soil during earthquakes	15	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) — Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Seismic Structure-Soil-Structure Interaction between inelastic structures	3	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) — Criterion 5