United States Patent Application Publication	20250261756
Kind Code	A1
Publication Date	August 21, 2025
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STABILIZER SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING TIPPING OF FURNITURE

Abstract

A stabilizer system for controlling a tipping of a furniture includes at least one stabilizer assembly coupled to a wall and including a telescopic rod configured to telescopically extend and retract and an engagement structure coupled to the telescopic rod, and configured to be arranged in an expanded configuration and a stowed configuration. In the expanded configuration, the engagement structure is arranged to contact the furniture. A plurality of weight sensors is coupled to the furniture and configured to detect a weight imbalance of the furniture. A controller is configured to extend the telescopic rod to engage the at least one stabilizer assembly with the furniture to prevent the tipping of the furniture in response to the detected weight imbalance being above a predefined limit.

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Family ID: **1000007698680**

Appl. No.: **18/581067**

Filed: **February 19, 2024**

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: **A47B97/00** (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC **A47B97/00** (20130101); A47B2097/008 (20130101)

Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present disclosure relates, generally, to a stabilizer system for a furniture, and more particularly relates to a stabilizer system suitable to prevent a tipping or overturning of the furniture.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Furniture Tip-Over is when furniture falls onto someone, because of stability, which is undesirable.

SUMMARY

[0003] One aspect of the disclosure relates to a stabilizer system for controlling a tipping of a furniture. The stabilizer system includes at least one stabilizer assembly coupled to a wall. The at least one stabilizer assembly includes a telescopic rod configured to telescopically extend and retract. The telescopic rod has a first end attached to the wall and a second end arranged distally from the wall. Further, the at least one stabilizer assembly includes an engagement structure coupled to the second end of the telescopic rod, and configured to be arranged in an expanded configuration and a stowed configuration and biased to the expanded configuration. In the expanded configuration, the engagement structure is arranged to contact the furniture. The stabilizer system includes a plurality of weight sensors coupled to the furniture and configured to detect a weight imbalance of the furniture. Further, the stabilizer system includes a controller arranged in communication with the plurality of weight sensors and the at least one stabilizer assembly and configured to extend the telescopic rod to engage the engagement structure with the furniture to prevent the tipping of the furniture in response to the detected weight imbalance being above a predefined limit.

[0004] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, the engagement structure includes an elongated rod rotatably attached to the second end of the telescopic rod and is adapted to move between a first position and a second position and is biased to the first position.

[0005] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, the engagement structure includes a spring biasing the elongated rod to the first position.

[0006] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, in the expanded configuration, the elongated rod is arranged in the first position and is adapted to contact the furniture to prevent the tipping of the furniture, and in the stowed configuration, the elongated rod is arranged in the second position.

[0007] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, the telescopic rod includes a main tube and at least one auxiliary tube configured to telescopically extend and retract relative to the main tube. Also, the at least one auxiliary tube defines an axially extending groove and the elongated rod is arranged inside the groove, in the second position.

[0008] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, the engagement structure includes a spring loaded pin coupled to the elongated rod and adapted to extend inside an opening of the at least one auxiliary tube in the first position of the elongated rod to prevent a rotation of the elongated rod relative to the at least one auxiliary tube.

[0009] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, the stabilizer system includes at least one actuator operatively coupled to the telescopic rod to extend and retract the telescopic rod.

[0010] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, the controller is arranged in communication with the at least one actuator and configured to operate the at least one actuator to control the extension and retraction of the telescopic rod based on input from the plurality of weight sensors.
[0011] In accordance with another embodiment of the disclosure, a stabilizer system for controlling a tipping of a furniture is disclosed. The stabilizer system includes at least one stabilizer assembly coupled to a wall and including a telescopic rod having a main tube attached to the wall and at least one auxiliary tube arranged to telescopically extend and retract relative to the main tube. Further the at least stabilizer assembly further includes an elongated rod pivotally coupled to the at least one auxiliary tube and adapted to pivot between a first position and a second position. Moreover, the elongated rod is biased to the first position. In the first position, the elongated rod is arranged to contact the furniture. Further, the stabilizer system includes a plurality of weight sensors coupled to the furniture and configured to detect a weight imbalance of the furniture. Furthermore, the stabilizer system includes a controller arranged in communication with the plurality of weight sensors and the at least one stabilizer assembly and configured to extend the at least one auxiliary tube to engage the associated elongated with the furniture to prevent the tipping of the furniture in response to the detected weight imbalance being above a predefined limit.
[0012] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, a spring biases the elongated rod to the first position.
[0013] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, the at least one auxiliary tube defines an axially extending groove and the elongated rod is arranged inside the groove, in the second position.
[0014] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, at least one stabilizer assembly includes a spring loaded pin coupled to the elongated rod and adapted to extend inside an opening of the at least one auxiliary tube in the first position of the elongated rod to prevent a rotation of the elongated rod relative to the at least one auxiliary tube.
[0015] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, the stabilizer system also includes at least one actuator operatively coupled to the at least one auxiliary tube to extend the at least one auxiliary tube.
[0016] In some additional, alternative, or selectively cumulative embodiments, the controller is arranged in communication with the at least one actuator and configured to operate the at least one actuator to control the extension of the at least one auxiliary tube based on input from the plurality of weight sensors.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCOMPANYING DRAWINGS
[0017] Having thus described example embodiments of the present disclosure in general terms, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, which are not necessarily drawn to scale, and wherein:
[0018] FIG. **1** illustrates a schematic view of a stabilizer system having three stabilizer assemblies arranged to prevent a tipping of a furniture, in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;
[0019] FIG. **2** illustrates a side schematic view of an example stabilizer assembly of FIG. **1** depicting a telescopic rod and an engagement structure arranged at an end of the telescopic rod with the engagement structure arranged in an expanded configuration, in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;
[0020] FIG. **3** illustrates a side schematic view of the stabilizer assembly of FIG. **2** depicting the engagement structure arranged in a stowed configuration, in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;

[0021] FIG. **4** illustrates a top schematic view of a portion of the stabilizer assembly depicting an elongated rod of the engagement structure arranged inside a groove of a first auxiliary tube of the telescopic rod, in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure; and

[0022] FIG. **5** illustrates a top schematic view of a portion of the stabilizer assembly depicting the elongated rod of the engagement structure arranged at a first position, in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0023] In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present disclosure. It will be apparent, however, to one skilled in the art that the present disclosure can be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, apparatus and methods are shown in block diagram form only in order to avoid obscuring the present disclosure.

[0024] Reference in this specification to "one embodiment" or "an embodiment" means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. The appearance of the phrase "in one embodiment" in various places in the specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment, nor are separate or alternative embodiments mutually exclusive of other embodiments. Further, the terms "a" and "an" herein do not denote a limitation of quantity, but rather denote the presence of at least one of the referenced items. Moreover, various features are described which may be exhibited by some embodiments and not by others. Similarly, various requirements are described which may be requirements for some embodiments but not for other embodiments.

[0025] Some embodiments of the present disclosure will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which some, but not all, embodiments of the disclosure are shown. Indeed, various embodiments of the disclosure may be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will satisfy applicable legal requirements. Like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout. The use of any term should not be taken to limit the spirit and scope of embodiments of the present disclosure.

[0026] The embodiments are described herein for illustrative purposes and are subject to many variations. It is understood that various omissions and substitutions of equivalents are contemplated as circumstances may suggest or render expedient but are intended to cover the application or implementation without departing from the spirit or the scope of the present disclosure. Further, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of the description and should not be regarded as limiting. Any heading utilized within this description is for convenience only and has no legal or limiting effect.

[0027] Referring to FIG. **1**, a stabilizer system **100** to restrict or prevent tipping or overturning/falling of a furniture **200** standing on a surface, for example, a ground surface. The stabilizer system **100** includes at least one stabilizer assembly **102**, for example, three stabilizer assemblies **102***a*, **102***b*, **102***c*, attached to at least one wall **300** of a building. It may be appreciated that each of the stabilizer assemblies **102***a*, **102***b*, **102***c* is similar in construction and assembly, therefore, for the sake of clarity and brevity, a construction and assembly only one stabilizer assembly **102***a* is described in detail. As shown, the stabilizer assembly **102***a* includes a telescopic rod **104** attached to the wall **300** and extending substantially perpendicularly to the wall **300**. The telescopic rod **104** includes a first end **106** attached to the wall **300** and a second end **108** arranged distally from the wall **300**. The telescopic rod **104** is adapted to be arranged between an extended position and a retracted position. In the extended position, the second end **108** of the telescopic rod **104** is arranged relatively distally from the wall **300**, while in the retracted position, the second end **108** is arranged relatively proximally to the wall **300**.

[0028] Referring to FIGS. **2** and **3**, the telescopic rod **104** includes a main tube **110** fixedly attached

to the wall **300** and at least one auxiliary tube telescopically coupled to the main tube **110** and configured to telescopically extend and retract relative to the main tube **110**. In the illustrated embodiment, the at least one auxiliary tube includes a first auxiliary tube **112**, a second auxiliary tube **114**, and a third auxiliary tube **116**. As shown, the third auxiliary tube **116** is arranged to telescopically extend and retract relative to the main tube **110**, while the second auxiliary tube **114** is arranged to telescopically extend and retract relative to the third auxiliary tube **116**. Moreover, the first auxiliary tube **112** is telescopically coupled to the second auxiliary tube **114** and configured to extend and retract relative to the second auxiliary tube **114**. Although three auxiliary tubes **112**, **114**, **116** are shown and contemplated, it may be appreciated that the telescopic rod **104** may include a single auxiliary tube or more than two auxiliary tubes depending on a desired length of the telescopic rod **104** in the extended position. Also, as shown in FIG. **5**, the first auxiliary tube **112** includes an axially extending groove **118** having an opening **120** defining by an upper surface **122** of the first auxiliary tube **112**.

[0029] Further, as shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**, to telescopically move the at least one auxiliary tube, the stabilizer assembly **102***a* includes at least one actuator operatively engaged with the telescopic rod **104**. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the stabilizer assembly **102***a* includes a first actuator **124** to telescopically extend the first auxiliary tube **112** relative to the second auxiliary tube **114**, and a second actuator **126** to telescopically move/displace the second auxiliary tube **114** relative to the third auxiliary tube **116**. Moreover, the stabilizer assembly **102***a* includes a third actuator **128** to telescopically extend and retract the third auxiliary tube **116** relative to the main tube **110**. Accordingly, a number of actuators may vary depending on a number of auxiliary tubes of the telescopic rod **104**. In an embodiment, the actuators **124**, **126**, **128** may be cylinders. In some embodiments, the actuators **124**, **126**, **128** may include linear screw actuators to linearly and telescopically move the auxiliary tubes **112**, **114**, **116**.

[0030] Additionally, the stabilizer assembly **102***a* includes an engagement structure **130** attached to an end **132** of the first auxiliary tube **112** i.e., the second end **108** of the telescopic rod **104**. The engagement structure **130** is configured to be arranged in an expanded configuration (shown in FIG. **2**) and a folded/stowed configuration (shown in FIG. **3**). In an embodiment, the engagement structure **130** is an elongated rod **134** rotatably attached to the end **132** of the first auxiliary tube **112** (i.e., second end **108** of the telescopic rod **104**). The elongated rod **134** is adapted to be moved/displaced between a first position (shown in FIGS. **2** and **5**) and a second position (shown in FIGS. **3** and **4**) and is biased to the first position. In the first position, the elongated rod **134** extends substantially perpendicularly to the first auxiliary tube **112**, while in the second position, the elongated rod **134** extends in the axial direction and is arranged substantially parallel to the first auxiliary tube **112** and inside the groove **118**, as shown in FIG. **3** and FIG. **4**, of the first auxiliary tube **112**. To bias the elongated rod **134** in the first position, a spring **150**, best shown in FIGS. **4** and **5**, is arranged at a connection of the first auxiliary tube **112** with the elongated rod **134**. The spring **150** is arranged to apply a biasing force on the elongated rod **134** to move the elongated rod **134** out of the groove **118** to the first position by displacing the elongated rod **134** between 250 degrees to 280 degrees relative to the first auxiliary tube **112** i.e., telescopic rod **104**.

[0031] Further, referring to FIGS. **4** and **5**, to rotatably couple the elongated rod **134** with the first auxiliary tube **112** i.e., the telescopic rod **104**, the engagement structure **130** includes at least one first barrel **152** arranged at a first end **154** of the elongated rod **134**, while the first auxiliary tube **112** includes at least one second barrel **156** arranged at the end **132** of the first auxiliary tube **112**. End portion of first barrel **152** extends inside the second barrel to rotatably engaged/couple the elongated rod **134** with the first auxiliary tube **112** i.e., telescopic rod **14**. It may be appreciated a diameter of the first barrel **152** is smaller than a diameter of the second barrel **156** to enable an insertion of a portion of the first barrel **152** inside the second barrel **156** and to enable the rotation of the first barrel **152** relative to the second barrel **156** about a central axis **158**.

[0032] Further, to lock the elongated rod **134** relative to the first auxiliary tube **112** in the first

position, the second barrel **156** defines a radial opening **160**, and the engagement structure **130** includes a spring-loaded pin **162** (shown in FIG. **5**) attached to the end portion of the first barrel **152** arranged inside the second barrel **156** and extending radially outwardly of the first barrel **152**. The pin **162** is arranged to extend inside the opening **160** of the second barrel **156**, when the elongated rod **134** is arranged at the first position, due to the biasing force of the spring of the spring-loaded pin, as shown in FIG. **5**. The extension of the pin **162** inside the opening **160** prevents the rotation of the first barrel **152** relative to the second barrel **156** about the central axis **158**, thereby locking the elongated rod **134** at the first position.

[0033] To move/displace the elongated rod **134** to the second position i.e., engagement structure **130** to the folded configuration, a rotation of the elongated rod **134** relative to the first auxiliary tube **112** i.e., rotation of the first barrel **152** relative to the second barrel **156** is to be enabled. For so doing, a user pushes the pin **162** and moves the pin **162** inside the second barrel **156** and out of the opening **160**. Accordingly, to move the engagement structure **130** to the folded configuration, the pin **162** is moved out of the opening **160** by pressing the pin **162** in the radial direction, and then the user rotates the elongated rod **134** to the second position and arrange the elongated rod **134** inside the groove **118** of the first auxiliary tube **112**. Thereafter, to keep the elongated rod **134** at the second position and inside the groove **118**, the user displaces the first auxiliary tube **112** and retracts the first auxiliary tube **112** inside the second auxiliary tube **114**. In an embodiment, the user manually pushes the first auxiliary tube **112** inside the second auxiliary tube **114** upon positioning/arranging the elongated rod **134** inside the groove **118**.

[0034] To control the extension of the telescopic rod **104** and hence to control the at least one actuator, i.e., the first, second, and third actuators **124**, **126**, **128** the stabilizer system **100** includes a controller **180**, shown in FIG. **1**, arranged in communication with the actuators **124**, **126**, **128**. The controller **180** is configured to actuate the actuators **124**, **126**, **128** to cause the extension of the telescopic rod **104** in response to a determination of a titling of the furniture **200** beyond a predefined angle. To determine the tilting, angle of tilting, and direction of the tilting of the furniture **200**, the stabilizer system **100** includes a plurality of weight sensors **182**, shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, connected to the furniture **200**. The weight sensors **182** may be arranged proximate to a bottom of the furniture and may be arrayed along an outer periphery of the furniture **200**. The weight sensors **182** are configured to detect/measure weight distribution of the furniture **200**. It may be appreciated that a weight distribution changes when a tilting of the furniture **200** occurs or about to occur. Accordingly, the weight sensors **182** predicts/determines the tilting of the furniture **200** quickly. Also, based on the changes in the weight measured by each of the weight sensors **182**, a direction of impending tilting of the furniture **200** is detected/determined. It may be appreciated that the weight distribution may change due to addition of a weight on the furniture **200**. In some embodiments, the weight sensors **182** are configured to detect changes in the weight of the furniture **200**.

[0035] In an embodiment, the controller **180** may detect the tilting or impending tilting of the furniture **200** in a forward direction based on the input from the weight sensors **182**. The controller **180** determines the tilting or impending tilting of the furniture in response to the detect weight imbalance being above a predefined value. Based on such detection, the controller **180** operates the associated actuators **124**, **126**, **128** to fully extend the first auxiliary tube **112**, the second auxiliary tube **114**, and the third auxiliary tube **116**. Due to extension of the first auxiliary tube **112** out of the second auxiliary tube **114**, the elongated rod **134** is displaced to the first position due to the biasing force of the spring **150**, and contacts the furniture **200**. Also, as the elongated rod **134** moves to the first position, the pin **162** aligns with the opening **160** and extends through the opening **160** of the second barrel **156**, locking the elongated rod **134** at the first position i.e., the engagement structure **130** in the expanded configuration, preventing the rotation of the elongated rod **134**, thereby preventing the furniture **200** to tip/further tilt in the forward direction.

[0036] In some embodiments, the controller **180** may detect the tilting of the furniture **200** in one

of the sidewise directions, for example, left hand side direction or right hand side direction. In such a case, the controller **180** may actuate the at least one actuator associated with the stabilizer assembly **102***b* or the stabilizer assembly **102***c* depending upon the direction of the tilting of the furniture **200**. For example, the controller **180** actuates and extends the telescopic rod associated with the stabilizer assembly **102***b* in response to the determination of the tilting of the furniture **200** in the right hand side direction, and fully extend the telescopic rod **104** associated with the stabilizer assembly **102***c* when the furniture **200** tilts in the left hand side direction. In some embodiments, all the telescopic rods are actuated simultaneously irrespective of the direction of the tilting of the furniture **200**.

[0037] To retract the telescopic rod **104** i.e., the auxiliary tubes **114**, **116**, the controller **180** actuates/operates the actuators **126**, **128**. Before the controller **180** actuates the actuators **126**, **128**, the controller **180** may determine the position of the first auxiliary tube **112** and the engagement structure **130** i.e., elongated rod **134**, and actuates the actuators **126**, **128** to retract the second and third auxiliary tubes **114**, **116** when the elongated rod **134** is arranged at the second position and the first auxiliary tube **112** is arranged inside the second auxiliary tube **114**. It may be appreciated that the elongated rod **134** is moved to the second position and the first auxiliary tube **112** is retracted, manually by a user, as described above. Thereafter, in some embodiments, the user may manually operate a switch to operate the actuators **126**, **128** to retract the telescopic rod **104**, and hence the auxiliary tubes **116**, **114**.

[0038] Many modifications and other embodiments of the disclosures set forth herein will come to mind to one skilled in the art to which these disclosures pertain having the benefit of the teachings presented in the foregoing descriptions and the associated drawings. Therefore, it is to be understood that the disclosures are not to be limited to the specific embodiments disclosed and that modifications and other embodiments are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claims. Moreover, although the foregoing descriptions and the associated drawings describe example embodiments in the context of certain example combinations of elements and/or functions, it should be appreciated that different combinations of elements and/or functions may be provided by alternative embodiments without departing from the scope of the appended claims. In this regard, for example, different combinations of elements and/or functions than those explicitly described above are also contemplated as may be set forth in some of the appended claims. Although specific terms are employed herein, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation.

Claims

1. A stabilizer system, comprising: at least one stabilizer assembly coupled to a wall and including a telescopic rod configured to telescopically extend and retract and having a first end attached to the wall and a second end arranged distally from the wall, and an engagement structure coupled to the second end of the telescopic rod and configured to be arranged in an expanded configuration and a stowed configuration and biased to the expanded configuration, wherein in the expanded configuration, the engagement structure is arranged to contact the furniture; a plurality of weight sensors coupled to the furniture and configured to detect a weight imbalance of the furniture; and a controller arranged in communication with the plurality of weight sensors and the at least one stabilizer assembly and configured to extend the telescopic rod to engage the engagement structure with the furniture to prevent the tipping of the furniture in response to the detected weight imbalance being above a predefined limit.

2. The stabilizer system of claim 1, wherein the engagement structure includes an elongated rod rotatably attached to the second end of the telescopic rod and is adapted to move between a first position and a second position and is biased to the first position.

3. The stabilizer system of claim 2, wherein the engagement structure includes a spring biasing the

elongated rod to the first position.
4. The stabilizer system of claim 2, wherein in the expanded configuration, the elongated rod is arranged in the first position and is adapted to contact the furniture to prevent the tipping of the furniture, and in the stowed configuration, the elongated rod is arranged in the second position.
5. The stabilizer system of claim 2, wherein the telescopic rod includes a main tube and at least one auxiliary tube configured to telescopically extend and retract relative to the main tube, wherein the at least one auxiliary tube defines an axially extending groove and the elongated rod is arranged inside the groove, in the second position.
6. The stabilizer system of claim 5, wherein the engagement structure includes a spring-loaded pin coupled to the elongated rod and adapted to extend inside an opening of the at least one auxiliary tube in the first position of the elongated rod to prevent a rotation of the elongated rod relative to the at least one auxiliary tube.
7. The stabilizer system of claim 1 further including at least one actuator operatively coupled to the telescopic rod to extend and retract the telescopic rod.
8. The stabilizer system of claim 7, wherein the controller is arranged in communication with the at least one actuator and configured to operate the at least one actuator to control the extension and retraction of the telescopic rod based on input from the plurality of weight sensors.
9. A stabilizer system for controlling a tipping of a furniture, the stabilizer system comprising: at least one stabilizer assembly coupled to a wall and including a telescopic rod having a main tube attached to the wall and at least one auxiliary tube arranged to telescopically extend and retract relative to the main tube, and an elongated rod pivotally coupled to the at least one auxiliary tube and adapted to pivot between a first position and a second position and is biased to the first position, wherein in the first position, the elongated plate is arranged to contact the furniture; a plurality of weight sensors coupled to the furniture and configured to detect a weight imbalance of the furniture; and a controller arranged in communication with the plurality of weight sensors and the at least one stabilizer assembly and configured to extend the telescopic rod to engage the engagement structure with the furniture to prevent the tipping of the furniture in response to the detected weight imbalance being above a predefined limit.
10. The stabilizer system of claim 9, wherein a spring biases the elongated rod to the first position.
11. The stabilizer system of claim 9, wherein the at least one auxiliary tube defines an axially extending groove and the elongated rod is arranged inside the groove, in the second position.
12. The stabilizer system of claim 9, wherein at least one stabilizer assembly includes a spring-loaded pin coupled to the elongated rod and adapted to extend inside an opening of the at least one auxiliary tube in the first position of the elongated rod to prevent a rotation of the elongated rod relative to the at least one auxiliary tube.
13. The stabilizer system of claim 9 further including at least one actuator operatively coupled to the at least one auxiliary tube to extend the at least one auxiliary tube.
14. The stabilizer system of claim 13, wherein the controller is arranged in communication with the at least one actuator and configured to operate the at least one actuator to control the extension of the at least one auxiliary tube based on input from the plurality of weight sensors.