Statistics-based Numerical Study on the Influential Area of Basin Effects for Shallow Basins

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Abstract

Basin effects have been proven to be of significance to seismic ground motion by many researchers, yet 1D site response analysis, especially based on equivalent nonlinear method, has been dominating in engineering practice. With the aim of contributing to the incorporation of complex site effects into seismic provisions, quantification of the influential area of basin effects for shallow basins is conducted in this research based on statistics-based numerical analysis to a total of 50 vertically heterogeneous basin configurations subject to real earthquakes recorded on rock sites. It is concluded that for a shallow basin, calibration to the acceleration spectra is only needed to locations within the close-to-edge region of which the width is linear correlated to the basin depth.

Keywords: site effects, basin, 2D, surface waves, statistics

1. Introduction

Researchers have observed and then recognised the basin effects as the topographical, geotechnical and geophysical effect of superficial soil layers on strong ground motion (Hanks, 1975; Tucker and King, 1984; King and Tucker, 1984; Bard and Bouchon, 1980a,b) for several decades. Basin effects have received much attention as they not only involve spatially varying and elongated ground motion as well as anomalous amplification, but also because of the fact that many urban areas in the world, such as Los Angeles, Tokyo, Osaka and Kathmandu, are situated atop alluvial basin configurations.

Numerous studies on basin effects have thus been conducted (Aki and Larner, 1970; Trifunac, 1971; Bard and Bouchon, 1980a, b; among others). These studies contribute to the understanding of the underpinning mechanisms and the features exclusive to multidimensional basin effects, including (a) 2D resonance (Bard and Bouchon, 1985; Rail and Ling, 1992; Roten et al., 2006; Ermert et al., 2014, among many others); (b) Surface waves (Bard and Bouchon, 1980a, b; Raptakis, et al., 2004; Makra et al., 2016; Zhu et al., 2015, 2016; Zhu and Thambiratnam, 2016, among many others); (c) Other wave phenomena due to the multidimensional geometries, such as focusing effect (Hudson, 1963, among many others).

Although the mechanism of the multi-dimensional site effects have long been clarified, modern seismic regulations are still mainly based on 1D assumptions which has proved to be unable to reproduce the ground motions of some basins where basin effects need to be taken into account (Chávez-García and Faccioli, 2000; Makra and Chávez-García, 2016). To contribute to the eventual incorporation of the multi-dimensional site effects into seismic codes, a quantitative estimation to the influential area of basin effects is necessary. Given the uncertain nature of this problem, a statistical study is needed to provide a compelling result. Therefore, a statistics-based quantitative study on the influential area of basin effects is carried out in this research.

2. Methodology

In order to quantify basin effects, some researchers tried to introduce basin depth into ground motion attenuation model through the analysis of strong ground motion data (Trifunac and Lee, 1978, Campbell, 1997; Field, 2000; Lee and Anderson, 2000; Somerville, 2004; Hruby and Bersnev, 2003; Choi et al., 2005, among many others).

Chávez-García and Faccioli (2000) explored a different way by introducing an "aggravation factor" (*AG*) which is defined as the ratio between response spectra computed at the surface of the 2D model and the response spectra computed at the surface of the equivalent 1D model to quantify the additional amplification or de-amplification caused by basin effects, thus bridging the gap between 1D and multi-dimensions (Faccioli and Vanini, 2003; Raptakis et al., 2004; Makra et al., 2005; Vessi and Russo, 2013; Riga, 2015).

Based on the aggravation factor proposed by Chávez-García and Faccioli (2000), a more comprehensive gauge - Spectral Aggravation factor (SAG), was introduced in our previous studies (Zhu and Thambiratnam, 2016) to account for both the frequency and spatiality dependency of AG:

$$SAG(T/T_0, x/L) = \frac{SA_{2D}(T/T_0, x/L)}{SA_{1D}(T/T_0, x/L)}$$
(1)

where $SA_{2D}(T/T_0, x/L)$ and $SA_{1D}(T/T_0, x/L)$ - spectral acceleration (SA) at receiver x/L of 2D model and its corresponding 1D model respectively, x- distance of a surface point from the basin centre; L-basin half-width; T- spectral period, T_0 - fundamental period of the equivalent plane layers of a basin by weighted average method. The present research aims to provide a statistical value of SAG.

3. Numerical modelling

There exist only a very few basins or valleys to which both detailed information on geometry as well as dynamic property and high-quality strong ground motions are available, which renders it significantly difficult, if not impossible, to conduct statistical study on strong ground motions recorded on a large enough number of real basins. Thus, numerical study on a large number of hypothetic basins is implemented in this study.

3.1 Modelling method

Seismic response of a basin is simulated by an explicit FD (finite difference) code- 2DFD_DVS developed by Moczo et al. (2004). This FD method solves the equations of motion in the 2D heterogeneous isotropic viscoelastic structures with a planar free surface. The scheme is 4th-order accurate in space and 2nd-order accurate in time. The computational region is an area of a rectangle with the bottom, left and right sides representing non-reflecting boundaries. Upper cut-off frequency f_{cut} is set to 10 Hz, and correspondingly, the spatial step is one tenth of the minimum wavelength to balance the numerical efficiency and accuracy.

The critical time step of the dynamic analysis is set to satisfy the stability condition for the 4^{th} -order staggered grid FD scheme based on the spatial step and maximum P-wave velocity of the model:

$$\Delta t \le \frac{6h}{7\sqrt{2}\nu_p} \tag{2}$$

where h is the grid spacing, and v_p is the compressional wave velocity.

The rheology of the medium corresponds to the generalised Maxwell body, which makes it possible to guarantee the quality factor (Q) variable for different materials but constant within the frequency range of interest. Quality factor for shear (Q_s) and compressional (Q_p) waves are defined as:

$$Q_s = v_s/10 \tag{3}$$

$$Q_p = 2Q_s \tag{4}$$

where Q_s and Q_p - quality factor for shear and compressional waves respectively; vs - shear wave velocity. This technique was thoroughly verified in details by Makra et al. (2012) and Riga (2015).

3.2 Basin configurations

Previous researches show that seismic ground motion of shallow basins is dominated by the propagation of surface waves initiated at basin edges, triggering intense ground motion in the close-to-edge areas, while for deep basins, 2D resonance will be dominant, mobilising the whole basin (Bard and Bouchon, 1985). Since shallow basins present a different ground motion pattern from deep basins when subjected to seismic motion, only shallow basins are studied in the present research.

Based on a preliminary study on several real basin geometries, a generic shallow basin configuration (Fig. 1) is proposed, a symmetrical trapezoidal shape with constant basin half-width L=2500 m, to guarantee that all the basins are broad enough so as to eliminate the possibility of 2D resonance (Bard and Bouchon, 1985) without compromising the generality of the basin geometry from an engineering practice perspective.

Our previous study (Zhu, et al., 2016) detailed that, in comparison with 1D analysis, lower peak ground acceleration (PGA) and PGA shifts above the wedge in 2D analysis arose in essence out of the wave energy loss upon entry into the wedge and the wave deflection by the edge after entry, which was referred to as "wedge effect". The wedge effect is mainly limited to the edge region, of which the aggravation factor is either approximately equal to unity (small dip angle) or less then unity (large dip angle). Due to the slope angel's already-know effects in both qualitative and quantitative senses, α is thus fixed at 45° in the present study.

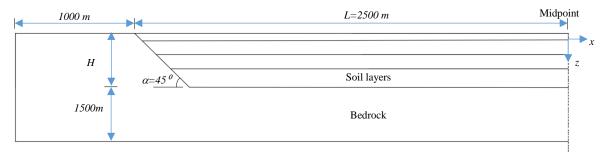


Fig. 1 Schematic diagram of FD model (only half of the model is displayed because of symmetry)

A total of 50 hypothetic shallow basins with constant L and α (Table 1 in Appendix) are configured with vertical inhomogeneity. Among them, 31 basin models are configured based on real 1D soil profiles (Table 2) compiled from KiK-net database. Another 19 2D configurations are constructed based on hypothetic 1D profile in order to achieve a set of basins well distributed in the H_{800} - $v_{s,30}$ chart, as shown in Fig. 2. In Fig. 2, H_{800} presents the depth of the top of the first layer with shear wave velocity greater than 800 m/s and $v_{s,30}$ is the average shear wave velocity of the topmost soil layers within 30m.

The lateral boundaries of the FD model are placed 1000m away from the corresponding basin edges, while the horizontal boundary is set 1500m below the bottom of the basin (Fig. 1), to minimise the influence of any possible boundary reflections. Receivers are evenly distributed along the basin surface with an interval of 20 m.

3.3 Input motions

A total of nine strong ground motions (Table 3) recorded on bedrock site ($v_{s,30}$ >760 m/s) are selected from the *Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Centre Strong Ground Motion Database* as

vertically incident SH waves. All these seismic records are baseline-corrected and bandpass-filtered with cut-off frequencies of 0.2 and 10.0 Hz. The acceleration response spectra of these input motions are depicted in Fig. 3, which shows that these excitations are compatible with the spectra recommended for rock site in $Eurocode\ 8$ (**reference spectra**). Each basin models are excited by these nine records. $SAG\ (T,\ x/L)$ is then averaged over the nine incidences, and the average $SAG\ (T/T_0,\ x/L)$ is referred to as $\overline{SAG}\ (T/T_0,\ x/L)$:

$$\overline{SAG} \left(T / T_0, \ x / L \right) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{9} SAG(T / T_0, \ x / L)}{9}$$
 (5)

where \overline{SAG} $(T/T_0, x/L)$ is the mean of the SAGs of the nine excitations.

Table 2 Soil profile of OSMH01 from KiK-net Thickness Depth (m/s) (m) (m) (m/s)

Bedrock

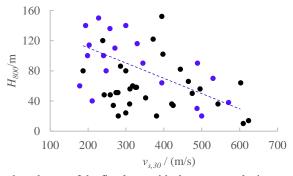


Fig. 2 H_{800} vs. $v_{s,30}$ at the centre (x/L=0) of all basins. H_{800} is the depth to the top of the first layer with shear wave velocity greater than 800 m/s, and $v_{s,30}$ is the average shear wave velocity of the topmost soil layers within 30m. Blue dots are basins configured from hypothetic 1D profile; Black dots are basins configured on real 1D profile from KiK-net;

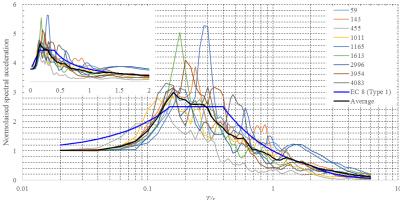


Fig. 3 Acceleration response spectra (ξ =5%) of the nine input motions in both logarithmic coordinates and Cartesian coordinates (upper left corner).

Table 3 List of earthquake records used as vertically incident SH waves

Code	Earthquake	Year	Station Name	Magn.	Rrup. (km)	<i>v_{s,30}</i> (m/s)
59	"San Fernando"	1971	"Cedar Springs Allen Ranch"	en Ranch" 6.6		813.48
143	"Tabas Iran"	1978	"Tabas" 7.4		2.05	766.77
455	"Morgan Hill"	1984	"Gilroy Array #1"	6.2	14.91	1428.14
1011	"Northridge-01"	1994	"LA - Wonderland Ave" 6.7		20.29	1222.52
1165	"Kocaeli Turkey"	1999	"Izmit"	7.5	7.21	811.00
1613	"Duzce Turkey"	1999	"Lamont 1060"	7.1	25.88	782.00
2996	"Chi-Chi Taiwan- 05"	1999	"HWA003"	6.2	50.44	1525.85
3954	"Tottori Japan"	2000	"SMNH10"	6.6	15.59	967.27
4083	"Parkfield-02 CA"	2004	"PARKFIELD - TURKEY FLAT #1 (0M)"	6.0	5.29	906.96

4. Results and statistical analysis

Each of these 50 basin models (Table 1) are excited by the nine seismic records (Table 3) for both 1D and 2D scenarios. Thus, a total of 900 cases are simulated in this investigation. \overline{SAG} (T/T_0 , x/L)s are then derived for each of these 50 basin configurations.

$4.1 \overline{SAG} (T/T0, x/L)$

 \overline{SAG} (T/T_0 , x/L)s of basin YMTH10 and FKIH04 are displayed in Fig. 4, which well exemplifies the multivariate nature of \overline{SAG} (T/T_0 , x/L), namely T/T_0 - x/l dependence. It would be too onerous to be applicable if aggravation factor is variable with either different periods or locations. A more applicable indicator than \overline{SAG} (T/T_0 , x/L) is thus to be explored.

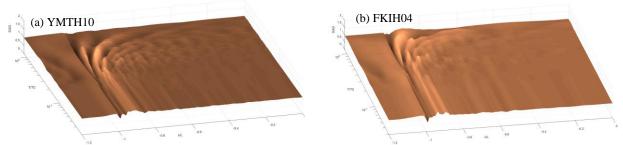


Fig. 4 \overline{SAG} (T/T_0 , x/L) of (a) YMTH10 (Type B); and (b) FKIH04 (Type C)

$4.2 \overline{SAG} (x/L)$

Fig. 4 is re-presented in a 2D chart as shown in Fig. 5. It can be observed from Fig. 5 that the 2D effect manifests itself only within a certain period range, regardless of location (x/L). The same pattern can also be observed from all the other basin configurations. Moreover, this observation is consistent with these of Chávez-García and Faccioli (2000) and Riga (2015) who recommended to consider basin effects within $T \le T_0$. From the results of this study (Fig. 4 and 5), this period interval is proposed to be from 0.1s to T_0 . Accordingly, a new indicator is introduced - \overline{SAG} (x/L), which is the maximum value of \overline{SAG} (T/T_0 , x/L) within $0.1s < T \le T_0$:

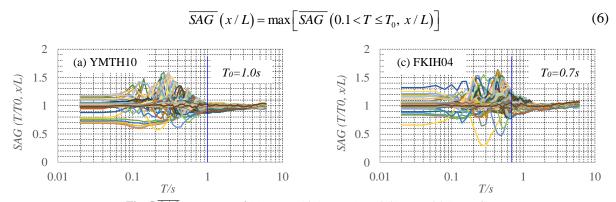


Fig. 5 \overline{SAG} (T/T_0 , x/L) of (a) YMTH10 (Type B); and (b) FKIH04 (Type C)

 \overline{SAG} (x/L)s of model YMTH10 and FKIH04 are depicted in Fig. 6, with a schematic basin configuration presented below. Fig. 6 shows the spatial-dependence of the \overline{SAG} (x/L), which indicates that the 2D site effects influence different basin surface regions to different extents. The fact that the \overline{SAG} (x/L) peaks in an area close to basin edge suggests that the implication of 2D effects is only limited to the close-to-edge region, and this is expected for shallow basins (Zhu and Thambiratnam, 2016).

 \overline{SAG} (x/L)s of all the Type B and C sites are shown in Fig. 7 (a) and (b) respectively, which illustrate the concentration of 2D effects. The maximum values of each \overline{SAG} (x/L) curves shown in Fig. 7 (a) and (b) are depicted against $v_{s,30}$ and H_{800} in Fig. 8 (a) and (b) respectively.

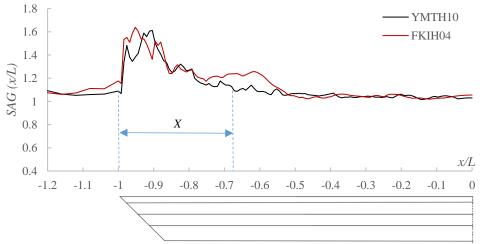


Fig. 6 $\overline{SAG}(x/L)$ of basin model YMTH10 and FKIH04

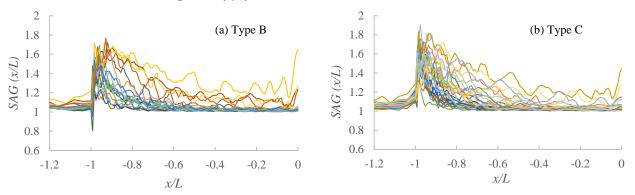


Fig. 7 $\overline{SAG}(x/L)$ of all (a) Type B basins; and (b) Type C basins

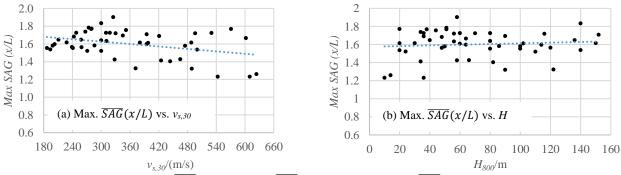


Fig. 8 Maximum of $\overline{SAG}(x/L)$. (a) Max. $\overline{SAG}(x/L)$ vs. $v_{s,30}$; (b) Max. $\overline{SAG}(x/L)$ vs. H_{800} .

In comparison with Type C sites, a broader region of the Type B sites tend to be affected by 2D site effects (Fig. 7), which can be attributed to the generally higher attenuation of Type C sites than Type B sites. However, Type C sites tend to be of higher amplitude than C sites (Fig. 8a), which is in accordance with the conclusion that aggravation factor increases with the impedance ratio (Chávez-García and Faccioli, 2000; Riga, 2015). Fig. 8 also suggests that the maximum values of \overline{SAG} (x/L) are less irrelevant to the H_{800} than to $v_{s, 30}$.

4.3 Influential area

As shown in Fig. 7, 2D site effects cannot extend to the whole surface area of a broad shallow basin, but are limited to an area close to the edges. It is thus imperative to pinpoint the width of this close-to-edge region X (Fig. 6). This close-to-edge region is referred to as "influential area" hereafter. The width X of the influential area is defined in this study as the distance from the edge $(x_1/L=-1)$ to the point x_2 whose $\overline{SAG}(x_2/L)$ satisfies the following condition:

$$\overline{SAG}(x_2/L) = \text{Max. } \overline{SAG}(x/L) - [\text{Max. } \overline{SAG}(x/L) - \text{Min.} \overline{SAG}(x/L)].85\%$$

The widths X of the influential areas of these 50 basin configurations are derived from the \overline{SAG} (x/L) (Fig. 7). And then the variations of X versus v_s , 30 and H_{800} are illustrated in Fig. 9 (a) and (b) respectively. Fig. 9 indicates that the width of the influential area X is more correlative to H (v_s =800 m/s) than to v_s , 30. A linear fit can be derived from Fig. 9 (b):

$$X = 5H_{800} + 200\tag{7}$$

where *X* is the width of the influential area.

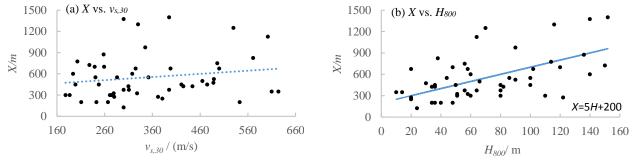


Fig. 9 Influential area X. (a) X vs. $v_{s,30}$; (b) X vs. H_{800} .

5. Conclusion

With the aim of contributing to quantify the 2D sites of shallow basins, statistics-based numerical study is undertaken in this investigation. Based on the study to a total of 50 vertically heterogeneous shallow basins configured from either real or hypothetic 1D soil profiles, it can be concluded that for a shallow basin, calibration to the acceleration spectra is only needed to locations within the close-to-edge region with a width from the edge $X = 5H_{800} + 200$ by a factor with a maximum around 1.6

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8. Appendix

MC12

MC13

Table 1 Vertically inhomogeneous basin models configured from 1D soil profiles										
No.	Type	KiK-net Code	Vs,30	$H(v_s=800)$	Type	KiK-net Code	Vs,30	$H\left(v_{s}=800\right)$		
1		AICH16	352	44		ABSH05	624	14		
2		EHMH09	267	34		ABSH10	610	10		
3		FKIH04	300	80	В	KGSH01	603	64		
4		FKIH05	187	80		RMIH04	543	36		
5		GIFH06	300	24		KOCH12	496	56		
6		HRSH06	279	51		AKTH01	475	50		
7		HYGH11	274	51		ABSH15	465	66		
8		IBUH07	259	48		ISKH04	444	82		
9		KKWH10	328	58		SMNH03	425	34		
10		KKWH11	243	48		GNMH11	421	36		
11		NGNH32	310	36		YMTH10	398	102		
12		NIGH18	311	56		AICH14	395	152		
13		OSMH01	239	120		NGSH05	381	20		
14		SBSH08	325	58		YMTH07	372	122		
15	C	SMNH07	318	60		MB1	488	30		
16		SRCH02	280	20		MB2	530	70		
17		YMTH15	286	86		MB3	395	64		
18		MC1	345	90		MB4	489	90		
19		MC2	199	100		MB5	500	20		
20		MC3	271	110		MB6	571	38		
21		MC4	248	80						
22		MC5	300	140						
23		MC6	178	60						
24		MC7	211	40						
25		MC8	241	100						
26		MC9	194	140						
27		MC10	228	150						
28		MC11	330	116						