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Application of Seismic Surveys in Geotechnical Engineering

Multichannel Analysis of Surface Waves (MASW) and Horizontal to Vertical Spectral Ratio (HVSr)

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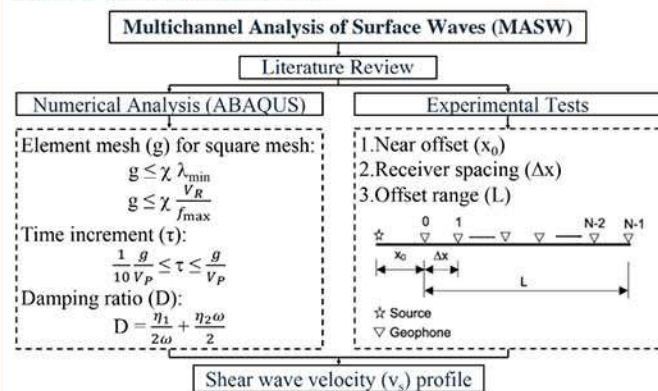
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ABSTRACT

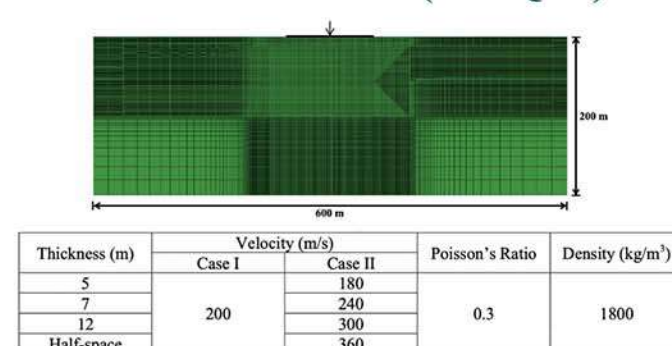
Seismic surveys are conducted to obtain information regarding the soil characteristics in a non-destructive manner using seismic wave propagation, e.g., Multichannel Analysis of Surface Waves (MASW) and Horizontal to Vertical Spectral Ratio (HVSr). MASW is a well-known non-invasive wave test used to construct shear wave velocity (v_s) profile. In the present study, the finite element program ABAQUS is used to simulate full-wave propagation of the MASW tests, and then the results are compared with the field measurements data at NTU Sport Field. Results confirm two important issues, specifically the near-field and soil nonlinearity effects. Near-field effect can also be overcome by setting an appropriate near-offset distance (x_0); however, the far-field effect may occur if the near-offset distance (x_0) is too large. Therefore, the selection of near-offset distance (x_0) must be considered carefully in the future. Meanwhile, the HVSr is commonly conducted to determine the predominant period of the soil profile. Pseudo-response Spectral Acceleration (PSA) and Fourier Amplitude Spectra (FAS) can be used for the calculation of predominant period (T_p). The calculations of the predominant period (T_p) from HVSr tests at NCREE show consistent value. Furthermore, the PSA and FSA are comparable to determine predominant period (T_p). In addition, the v_{s30} of soil profile can be predicted by using the predominant period and peak amplitude of H/V ratio.

MULTICHANNEL ANALYSIS OF SURFACE WAVES (MASW)

METHODOLOGY

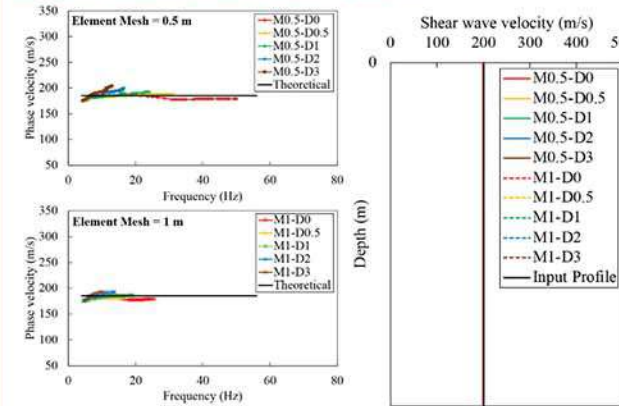


NUMERICAL MODEL (ABAQUS)

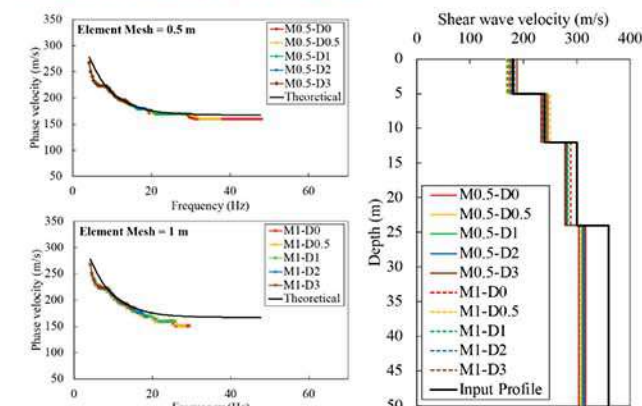


NUMERICAL ANALYSIS: VALIDATION RESULTS

Homogeneous soil layer (Case I)



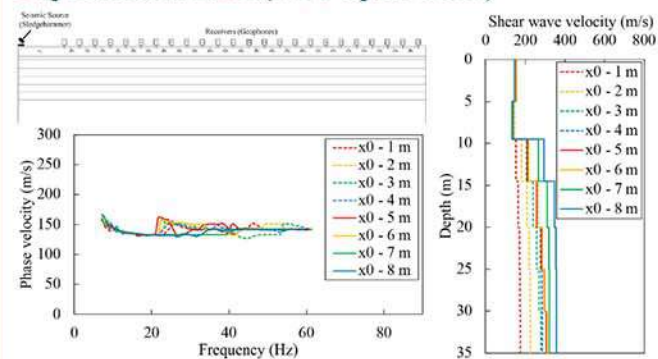
Multiple soil layer (Case II)



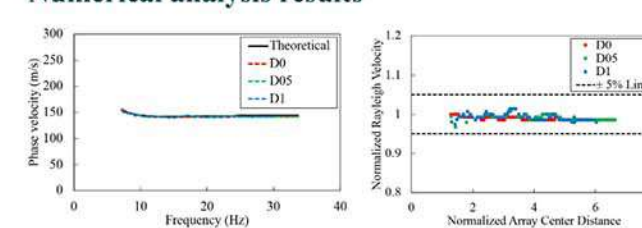
Element mesh (M) influences the identified maximum frequency, whereas the damping ratio influences the phase velocity at a higher frequency. Underestimation of phase velocity due to the near-field effect can be observed at a lower frequency which leads to underestimation of shear wave velocity (v_s) at a deeper soil depth.

EXPERIMENTAL TESTS

Experimental data (NTU Sport Field)



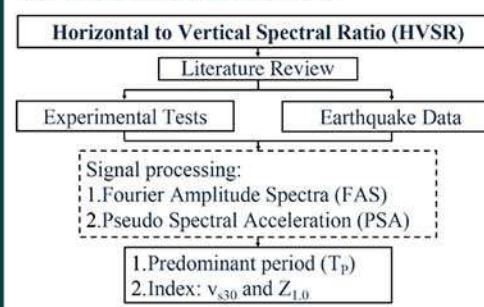
Numerical analysis results



From the numerical analysis, it can be concluded that a near-offset distance (x_0) of 5 m is appropriate for MASW testing at the NTU Sport Field.

HORIZONTAL TO VERTICAL SPECTRAL RATIO (HVSr)

METHODOLOGY



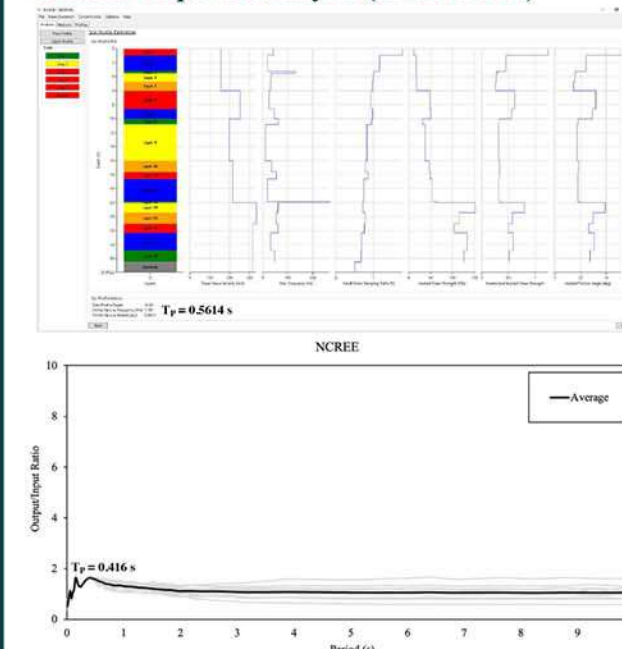
HVSr tests are commonly used to estimate the dynamic characteristics of surface layers by measuring the microtremor of the surface solely. In our future study, the v_{s30} will be calculated by using the equations below (for shallow soil regions: including Japan, China, and Taiwan):

$$\log(v_{s30}) = 2.76 + 0.22 \log(f_p) - 0.49 \log(A_{peak})$$

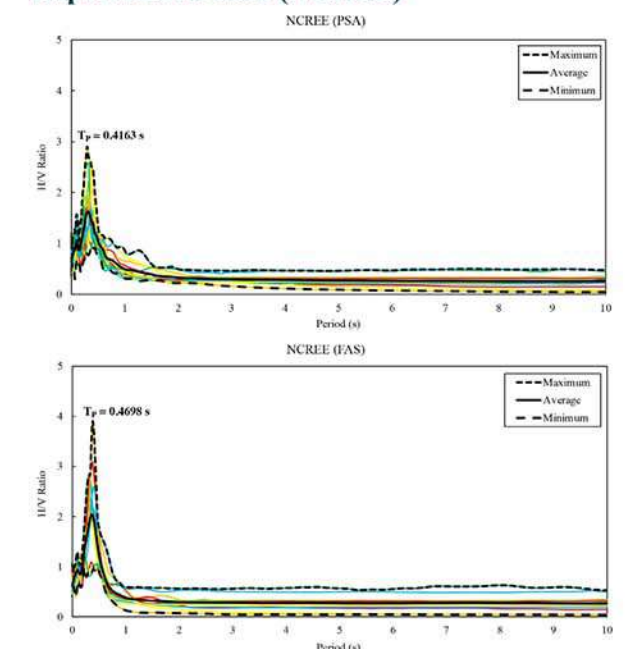
where: f_p , A_{peak} = natural frequency and peak amplitude from HVSr

EXPERIMENTAL TESTS

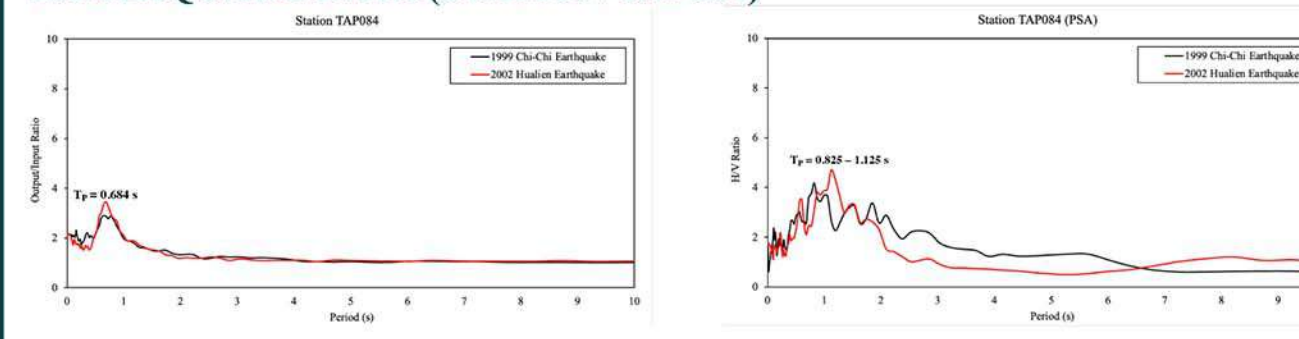
Ground response analysis (DEEPSOIL)



Experimental data (NCREE)



EARTHQUAKE DATA (STATION TAP084)



CONCLUSIONS

- This study confirms two important issues for the MASW tests, specifically the near-field and soil nonlinearity effects. Numerical analysis is recommended to overcome the near-field effect in further study; meanwhile, the detailed damping ratio profile must be carefully determined to overcome the soil nonlinearity effect at the ground surface. Near-field effect can also be overcome by setting an appropriate near-offset distance (x_0); however, the far-field effect may occur if the near-offset distance (x_0) is too large. Therefore, the selection of near-offset distance (x_0) must be considered carefully in the future.
- The calculation of predominant period (T_p) from HVSr testing show consistent value. Meanwhile, the approximation calculation of T_p using soil thickness (H) and shear wave velocity (v_s) is larger than the actual value. In addition, the PSA and FSA methods are comparable to determine predominant period (T_p). However, the predominant period (T_p) increases due to the nonlinear behaviour of the soil during large excitation (e.g., earthquake).

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Name : Maria Desti Natalin
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Research Experiences:

- Bearing resistance of compacted stabilized soils with polymer and cement (2018 - 2019)
- Numerical analysis of seismic responses of geosynthetic reinforces soil (GRS) retaining walls subjected to horizontal and vertical seismic loadings (2019 - 2021)
- Seismic performance of bridge with spread footings (ongoing)



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