

Seismic soil-structure-interaction of multispan bridges with continuous deck

Sottotitolo di Seismic soil-structure-interaction of multispan bridges with continuous deck

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The paper focuses on the effects of soil-structure interaction in the seismic response of multi-span viaducts on pile foundations. Analyses are performed by means of the substructure approach: the soil-foundation systems are studied in the frequency domain to obtain the foundation input motion and the dynamic impedance functions; inertial interaction analyses are carried out in the time domain accounting for the material nonlinear behaviour.

Suitable lumped parameter models are introduced to simulate the frequency dependent behaviour of the soil-foundation system. A specific procedure for selecting and scaling real ground motions is proposed and used for the definition of the spatial seismic input. The seismic response of bridges on compliant base is compared with that obtained from fixed base analyses discussing the significance of soil-structure interaction effects. **Keywords:** Bridges, Nonlinear behaviour, Soil-structure interaction, Substructure approach

Definition of case studies

Seismic design of bridges are generally performed by assuming piers fixed at the base and considering code acceleration response spectra, defined on the basis of local hazard and soil classification. Actually, local soil conditions and soil-foundation interaction may modify the seismic motion to such an extent that code spectra become not conservative¹. In this paper Soil-Structure Interaction (SSI) and site effects on the seismic response of bridges are evaluated with reference to a set of 10-span viaducts having different span length L (25, 50 and 75 m) and pier height H (10, 15 and 25 m) (Figure 1a). The deck is constituted by two I-shaped composite girders and by a 12 m wide concrete slab with mean thickness of 0.30 m.

Valore	1	A
Valore	2	B
Valore	3	C

Tabella 1: didascalia

In both the longitudinal and transverse directions the seismic action is entrusted to the piers, equipped with lock-up devices, while multi-directional bearings are used at the abutments to exclude a dual-path mechanism. A single layer soil deposit of type D (Figure 2a), constituted by normally consolidated clays with properties reported in Figure 2c, is considered; the profile of the shear modulus at low strains G_0 is shown in Figure 2a. The seismic design² of bridges is performed by means of a displacement-based approach by imposing different ductility demands at ultimate: in particular, circular piers of diameter 2.4 m and with different height have been designed to achieve the ductility demand $\mu \approx 1$ (elastic behaviour), $\mu \approx 2$ and $\mu \approx 4$. The soil type D elastic displacement response spectrum of EN 1998-1 (2004) is adopted by considering a peak ground acceleration of 0.47g. The “30%-rule” is used to account for the bidirectional seismic action³. Foundations, constituted by groups of bored concrete piles, are designed according to hierarchy principles in order to avoid the pile plasticization (Figure 2d). Depending on the case study, a certain amount of the bearing capacity is entrusted to the rigid cap.

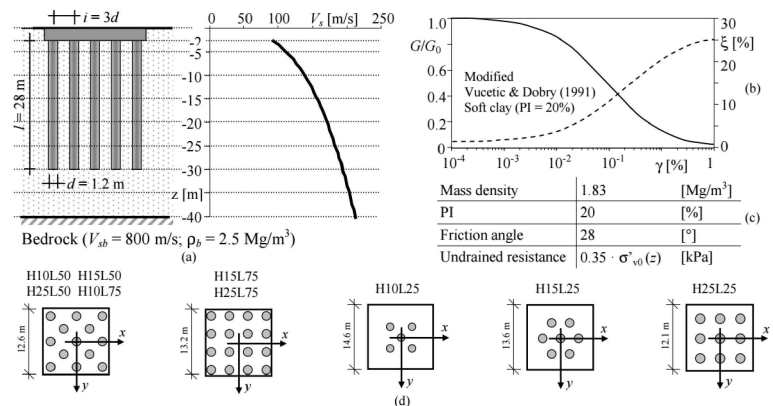


Figure 2. (a) Soil profile and V_s profile; (b) normalized shear modulus and damping ratio curves (c) soil mechanical properties and (d) pile group layouts

Conclusions

SSI effects on the seismic response of multi-span viaducts on pile foundations have been investigated, by considering bridges characterised by ductile and non-ductile behaviours. A specific procedure for the selection and scaling of ground motions is proposed for the definition of the bidirectional seismic input, accounting for site effects and the nonlinear soil behaviour. The seismic response of the bridges on compliant base is compared with that obtained from fixed base analyses discussing the significance of SSI effects. Results demonstrate that, despite bridges are founded on a very soft soil, SSI does not play a significant role in the definition of the structural response.

References

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