

Plenary Lecture - 8



## Surface wave analysis: one step beyond shear wave velocity

Presented by

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## Outline

- Motivation: Site response analyses (but not only)
- Interpacific Guidelines: Standard practice
- Simplified procedure for bedrock depth estimation (V<sub>R</sub> + HVSR)
- Attenuation Analysis: V<sub>s</sub> & D profiles
- Final Remarks

## Stratigraphic amplification of seismic ground motion

Cesi villa





(EQ Umbro-Marchigiano 1997 M6.0)

### Site response analyses

The shear wave velocity profile is the input parameter that **governs the wave propagation** in the elastic medium

This parameter has to be estimated via in-situ geophysical tests (Stewart et al. 2014)



## Seismic tests: In-hole vs surface methods (Invasive vs Non-invasive methods)



Cross-Hole Test (CHT) Down-Hole Test (DHT) Seismic Cone (SCPT) Seismic Dilatometer (SDMT) P-S Suspension Logging Vertical Seismic Profiling (VSP)



Surface Waves Methods SWM (SASW, MASW, microtremors) Seismic Refraction (P-waves or SH-waves) Seismic Reflection (P-waves or SH-waves)

## **Geometric Dispersion**



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## Surface wave methods





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## SWM techniques for near surface characterization



# The guidelines for surface wave analysis of the Interpacific project

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER



#### Guidelines for the good practice of surface wave analysis: a product of the InterPACIFIC project

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## Scope of the guidelines

- 1D
- R-waves
- Fundamental mode
- Target: non-expert users
- Not a Standardization for Execution and Interpretation (several alternatives are adequate)
- Acquisition, Processing, Inversion
  + notes on application to earthquake engineering
- Appendices: advanced topics (array geometries, higher modes, joint inversions, Love waves, ReMi, attenuation and damping)

### Philosophy of the guidelines

- A pre-cooked set of rules cannot be defined: the survey has to be designed;
- The design of the survey relies on the knowledge of the surface wave propagation features;
- The quality of the results relies on the quality of the data;
- The capability to assess the respect of the method assumptions is of paramount importance;
- A good professional result means also a well organised workflow and an informative final report with a clear assessment of the quality of the obtained results.

## Guidelines - ToC

#### 1. OVERVIEW

- Basic principles of surface waves
- Surface wave analysis
- Limitations of surface wave testing

#### 2. ACQUISITION

- Active Prospecting
- Passive Survey

#### 3. PROCESSING

- Numerical techniques for measuring surface wave dispersion
- Dispersion curve identification
- Quality control
- 4. INVERSION
  - Parameterization
  - Local Search Methods
  - Global Search Algorithms
- 5. APPLICATIONS AND USE OF SURFACE WAVES SURVEY
  - FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING STUDIES
- 6. REFERENCES

### **Guidelines - ToC**

Appendix 1 - examples of theoretical Rayleigh modes

Appendix 2 - geometry of arrays for ambient vibration analysis

Appendix 3 - equipment testing and verification

Appendix 4 - examples of field datasheets

Appendix 5 - higher modes

Appendix 6 - joint inversions with other geophysical tests

Appendix 7 - joint inversion with HVSR of ambient vibrations

Appendix 8 - Love wave analysis

Appendix 9 - passive measurements on linear arrays (e.g. ReMi)

Appendix 10 - analysis of surface wave attenuation

Appendix 11 - example of a final report

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Simplified procedure for bedrock depth estimation

 $V_{s}$  & D profiles

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## **PSWD: Database of Surface Wave Tests from PoliTO**

It includes the results of Surface wave tests at over 70 sites around Italy performed in the past 30 years.

At all sites the fundamental Rayleigh mode is clearly dominant in the experimental dispersion curve





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### Surface wave methods



Detection of motion on the ground surface



Experimental dispersion curve: Phase velocity of Rayleigh waves vs frequency



Variations of Shear Wave velocities with depth

$$\int G_0 = \rho \cdot V_S^2$$

Small Strain Stiffness profile (G<sub>0</sub> vs depth)



 $Z \downarrow$ 

#### Mainly active tests (MASW) with 24 or 48 geophones

**PSWD** 

Standard fk transform

Stochastic inversion approach (Montecarlo implementation with scale properties, see Boiero and Socco, 2008)

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### Time-weighted average shear wave velocity

It is often used for adopting site categories in seismic building codes

The depth of 30 m is conventionally adopted as a reference in several building  $V_{S,z} = \frac{\sum h_i}{\sum \frac{h_i}{V_{S_i}}}$  codes (e.g. BSSC, 1994; CEN, 2004). The related time-weighted average shows wave velocity (i.e.  $V_{S,30}$ ) is also assumed as reference parameter for several applications of earthquake engineering, e.g. to develop Ground Motion codes (e.g. BSSC, 1994; CEN, 2004). The related time-weighted average shear applications of earthquake engineering, e.g. to develop Ground Motion Prediction Equations (GMPES).

How it is typically evaluated from Surface Wave Tests (e.g. MASW):



## Time-weighted average shear wave velocity

A direct estimate of  $V_{S,30}$  from the dispersion curve is also possible



### The wavelength-depth transformation W/D



The W/D relationship is site specific and allows for the evaluation of the Timeweighted average shear wave velocity profile  $V_{S_7}$ directly from the experimental dispersion curve (skipping the solution of the inverse Rayleigh problem which is ill-posed and ill-conditioned and therefore affected by solution non-uniqueness)

(Comina et al. 2022 - SDEE)

### The wavelength-depth transformation calibration on PSWD



The W/D relationship can be generalized using the dataset of the PoliTO Surface Wave Database

$$z_i = 0.84 \cdot w_i - 2.84$$

It can be used for a direct estimate of the  $V_{S,z}$  profile from the experimental dispersion curve

(Comina et al. 2022 - SDEE)

## Application: seismic bedrock identification

Several seismic codes use the position of the seismic bedrock h and the average shear wave velocity in the soil deposit  $V_{s,h}$  as a parameter for site classification (e.g. Paolucci et al, 2021 BEE for the new draft of Eurocode 8)

Using the generalized W/D relationship obtained with the PSWD, it is possible to use the experimental Rayleigh wave dispersion curve (e.g. from MASW testing) and the experimental natural frequency of the soil deposit  $f_0$  (e.g. from HVSR tests) to get a direct estimate of h and V<sub>S,h</sub>

#### INPUT

Rayleigh wave dispersion curve Natural frequency f<sub>o</sub>





### **Application: seismic bedrock identification**



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## Case study: Mirandola (Italy)

Emilia

2012





- Multiple  $V_s$  profiles from surface wave and invasive methods are available
- The participants of the project analyzed a set of **common** surface waves data. Both active and passive data were collected close to the boreholes
- Several participants also performed and interpreted invasive measurements. Several companies **repeated** measurements in order to assess **repeatability** with different acquisition strategies and equipment
- Results of the blind tests in Garofalo et al., 2016 SDEE:
  - $\checkmark$  part I: surface wave tests;
  - ✓ part II: inter-comparison SWM vs invasive

Geol. Info.: Soft Soil Alluvial deposits

## Case study: Mirandola (Italy)

#### Invasive + mean Non-invasive + mean Interval velocity models 50 50 50 Depth (m) 100 100 100 (Passeri et al. 2019a) Invasive -Non Invasive 150 150 150 800 1000 200 400 600 800 1000 200 400 600 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0 0 Logarithmic standard deviation, $\sigma_{\ln(Vs)}$ (-) Interval shear wave velocity, $V_{s}$ (m/s)

 $V_{\text{S}}$  profiles from Interpacific Blind test

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### Example of application: Mirandola (Italy)



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## **SMALL-STRAIN PARAMETERS**

**ESTIMATION TECHNIQUES: MULTICHANNEL ANALYSIS OF SURFACE WAVES (MASW)** 

A promising methodology for the in situ estimate of  $V_s$  and  $D_{s,0}$  relies on geophysical tests, as the **multichannel analysis of surface waves (MASW)**.



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### Available methods for attenuation analysis

- Regression of attenuation data (Rix et al., 2000; Xia et al., 2002);
- Transfer Function Method (**TFM**; Lai et al., 2002);
  - generalized version (trace deconvolution; Foti, 2003)
- Generalized half-power bandwidth method (GHPB; Badsar et al., 2010)
- Circle Fit Method (**CFM**; Verachtert et al., 2018);
- Wavefield Decomposition approach (WD; Bergamo et al., 2019);
- Wavefield Conversion (Aimar, 2022; Aimar et al., 2024)
  - FDBF-Attenuation (+ Modal Filtering)
  - Cylindrical FDBF-Attenuation (+ Modal Filtering)

## **Transfer Function Method**

(Lai et al., 2002; Foti, 2003)

Experimental Transfer Function

 $T(r,\omega) = \frac{u_z(r,\omega)}{F \cdot e^{i\omega t}}$ 

**Theoretical Transfer Function** 





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### **Generalized half-power bandwidth method**

(Badsar et al. 2010)



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### Circle Fit Method

(Verachtert et al., 2018)



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### Wavefield Decomposition approach

(Bergamo et al., 2019)



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## **DATA PROCESSING**

### **WAVEFIELD TRANSFORMATION**

### (FREQUENCY DOMAIN BEAMFORMING-ATTENUATION - FDBFa)

The attenuation estimate relies on the following transformation of the wavefield:

 $v(r,\omega) = [u(r,\omega)]^{i}$ 

Where  $u(r,\omega)$  is the particle displacement (expressed in the frequency domain)

It can be demonstrated that the wavenumber of the transformed wavefield corresponds to the attenuation of the original one

The attenuation is obtained from the dispersion analysis of  $v(r,\omega)$ 



(Aimar et al. 2024 - GJI)

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## **DATA PROCESSING** Source influence



(Aimar 2023 - PhD Dissertation)

The influence of the source type on the estimated dispersion and attenuation data is investigated.

- ✓ Reference data: HB-HN
- ✓ Reference method: CFDBFaMF

Available source types

Sledgehammer







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## **DATA PROCESSING** Source Influence: HB-HN

#### (Aimar 2023 – PhD Dissertation)

- ✓ **Reliability**: The median estimates are quite compatible with each other, for both  $V_R$  and  $\alpha_R$
- ✓ Accuracy: Sledgehammer-based data are affected by larger  $\sigma_{ln}$  (influence of incoherent noise)
- ✓ Effectiveness: Shaker-based data allow investigating at slightly lower frequencies, but the maximum identified wavelength is anyway 50 ÷ 60 m

→ although with greater variability, the use of the sledgehammer allows capturing the mean trend in R HB site wave parameters

→ the sledgehammer is suitable also for attenuation characterization



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## **DATA PROCESSING** RECEIVER INFLUENCE: HB-DAS

Distributed acoustic sensing (DAS) technology

- ✓ Enhanced spatial resolution
- ✓ Easy instrument handling
- ★ Lower signal-to-noise ratio
- ★ Issues in measuring high-frequency R-waves

This study investigates the capability in retrieving both velocity and attenuation data from the DAS technology

#### → HB-DAS vs. HB-GEO

(Aimar et al. 2023)





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## **DATA PROCESSING** RECEIVER INFLUENCE: HB-DAS

#### Results

- > Strong compatibility in the estimated  $V_R$  and  $\alpha_R$ .
- DAS faces some issues in identifying R-wave parameters at low frequencies.
- Smaller variability of DAS data (enhanced spatial resolution).

ightarrow Same reliability as geophones and reduced variability

DAS  $\rightarrow$  DAS technology is suitable for the estimation of phase velocity and attenuation data



(Aimar et al. 2023)

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## **DATA INVERSION**

## **IMPROVED MONTE CARLO ALGORITHM**

Input: Set of experimental R-wave data

- 1. Definition of the **parameter space**;
- 2. Generation of **random earth models**;
- 3. Computation of the **theoretical R-wave parameters** for each trial earth model (forward problem);
- 4. Application of the scaling properties of the R-wave forward problem in viscoelastic media;
- 5. Quantification of the degree of fit with experimental data, by means of a **misfit function**;
- 6. Definition of a reference suite of earth models



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## CASE STUDY: GARNER VALLEY DOWNHOLE ARRAY ESTIMATED GROUND MODELS

The inversion procedure returned a suite of potentially valid earth models, from which a reference suite of 30 models is selected.

We address the quality of the estimated earth models, in terms of:

- > Variability;
- Reliability, with respect to available geotechnical data and ground response.





(Aimar et al. 2024b - GJI)



## **CASE STUDY: GARNER VALLEY DOWNHOLE ARRAY** ESTIMATED GROUND MODELS: RELIABILITY

Estimated ground models (best-fit model) vs. results from past studies

- ✓ V<sub>s</sub> profiles: good matching, except some variation in V<sub>s</sub> at large depths;
- ✓  $D_s$  profiles: strong compatibility with the generic labbased  $D_s$ , except in the shallow portion; smaller than alternative values, inferred from DH array data (different scales and dissipation mechanisms involved).







## **CASE STUDY: GARNER VALLEY DOWNHOLE ARRAY** ESTIMATED GROUND MODELS: RELIABILITY (Aimar et al. 2024b - GJI)

**Predicted vs. measured** ground motion amplification at the GVDA: The amplification is quantified as **acceleration transfer function** *TF*.

- ✓ Sensors 6 m and 22 m to surface: relatively good fit, both in terms of peak amplitude and location
- ✓ Sensor 15 m to surface: bad fit at the fundamental resonance peak, with improvement at high frequencies
- ✓ Vantassel and Cox (2019) assessed the *TF* from SWM and invasive data, facing similar issues with the sensor 15 m to surface → potential issues in the low-frequency data recorded by the downhole sensor



Empirical values (ETF) extracted from Vantassel and Cox (2019)

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## Passive data (AVA) + MASW



Synthetic data – Homogeneous halfspace



(Abbas et al. 2024 - EQ Spectra)

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## Synthetic data Layered medium



(Abbas et al. 2024 – EQ Spectra)

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Case study Drainage Farm Site in Logan, UT, USA





(Abbas et al. 2024 – EQ Spectra)

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## Final remarks

- The Interpacific Guidelines are devised to provide the general framework for non-expert users and for end-users of the results. They are on purpose limited to standard practice (analysis of the fundamental mode of Rayleigh wave to obtain the shear wave velocity profiles).
- The PoliTO Surface Wave Database has been used for the calibration a linear depthwavelength transform that can be used also for the estimate of bedrock location and timeaverages shear wave velocity of the sediments above. This is a robust estimate that does not require the solution of the complex inverse mathematical problem and therefore can be used to get a preliminary estimate or a reference value to be used to doublecheck the results of a formal inversion.
- Analysis of surface wave dispersion and attenuation allows for the simultaneous estimate of shear wave velocity and damping ratio (Q-factor) profile with the same experimental dataset. The proposed procedure for processing can be applied to both active (MASW) and passive (ambient vibration analysis) surveys.

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## Thank you for your kind attention!



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