

Neural Network Approach to Response of Buildings Due to Earthquake Excitation

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ABSTRACT

The present article investigates the physical phenomena associated with the wave passage effect into a building considering the ground floor as the soft floor with the conformity of the up-to-date scenario of the construction of high rise buildings, due to shear excitation of the base. The aim of the study is to analyse the post-earthquake situation of the building in respect to its health. With this vision, the ensuing problem on two-dimensional building models, non-incorporating soil-structure interaction, is being tackled by both analytical and neural network approaches. Computational results from both ends (of the approaches) show that the wave energy does not always propagate from the ground into the building, but for lower frequency range it sails to the building without any disturbances. However, for higher frequency range, the computational results show that the building experiences large “torsional” deformations, as a result the building may collapse. Finally, both the approaches maintain a good agreement among themselves. The present investigation may lead to a long way in contributing to better and more rational, simplified design criteria.

Keywords: Neural Network; Anisotropic Building; Soft Ground Floor

1. Introduction

Structural buildings may experience vibrations excited by ground waves, which are generated by earthquakes, by explosions, or by some other vibration sources. Soviet Academy of Sciences, Krivelev [1] suggested several models to study the seismic action on long buildings and presented the shear wave velocities for the equivalent building models (in the range of 300 - 1800 m/s). Kojic *et al.* [2] analysed the earthquake response of long building like Imperial County Services Building in EI Centro, USA and observed very little damage of the upper part of such buildings during strong earthquake. Gupta and Trifunac [3-6] studied the earthquake response of multi-degree-of-freedom system from the stochastic point of view. Kojic *et al.* [7] also studied earthquake response of arch dams to non-uniform canyon motion. Gupta and Trifunac [8] discussed the earthquake response of simple symmetric buildings due to torsional excitation. Chandler *et al.* [9] have directed their effort in predicting the amplification behaviour of seismic waves affecting a site for any given earthquake scenario.

For architectural reasons, many buildings possess the ground, or the ground and the first floors with stiffness smaller than the stiffness of the upper floors. These buildings possess typical house stories or various corri-

dors (passages) and open spaces, which can be designated as soft floor, in which the partitions (in the passages) are made of glass, ply-wood etc., rather than that of concrete, steel or masonry. To tackle such type of buildings, it is optimistic to minimise the fundamental frequency of the soil-structure system from the range of large earthquake excitation and in some cases to increase hysteretic damping, base-isolation system may be introduced. This type of flexible soft first-storey concept allows the seismic stress resultant throughout the structure to be significantly reduced. Several investigators (Chopra *et al.* [10]), Lee and Medland [11], Skinner *et al.* [12] have proposed their thoughts in this respect.

The effects of travelling seismic wave on extended structures, for example long bridges, was studied by Werner *et al.* [13], Kashefi and Trifunac [14]. However, the effect of seismic waves on buildings has been studied to a very lesser extent. Tzenov and Boncheva [15] and Tzenov [16] noted the need for two-dimensional model of “long-in-plan” buildings to account for the phase difference between the excitation at different points of the foundation. But, they did not consider the excitation to be propagating waves. The nature of the seismic energy transfer from the ground into the foundation of a building, as well as the transport of the energy within the building itself has been discussed by Todorovska *et al.* [17], To-

dorovska and Trifunac [18], Todorovska and Lee [19], Todorovska and Trifunac [20]. Hall *et al.* [21] and Halting and Hall [22] have conducted a series of studies on the effects of near-field ground motion on flexible buildings and base-isolated structures. Todorovska and Trifunac [20] also investigated the propagation of earthquake waves in building considering the first floor as the soft one. Wolf and Oberhuber [23] studied effects of horizontally propagating waves on the response of structures with a soft first storey. They have shown that compared to a conventional structure, travelling-wave effects become more important for R-waves in a structure with a horizontal soft first storey. Chakraborty *et al.* [24] discussed the frequency-response analysis of shear vibration of long structures due to surface excitation. Their investigation reveals the existence of wave passage effect during the dynamic response of the structure under the optimum conditions on frequencies (low or high) for proper analysis of the resulting deformation of the foundation. Chakraborty and Sarkar [25] also conducted a study on the seismic response of multi-storey buildings on flexible foundation, with soft ground floor, due to seismic excitation. It has been observed from the study that the presence of the flexible foundation influences the propagation of polarised shear motion to such an extent that the motion causing disturbances in the ground floor cannot make headway to the upper part of the building. This effect may be possible as a result of the contribution of an antisymmetric mode of vibration to the overall response.

Over the last two decades, artificial neural networks (ANN) have gradually been established as a powerful tool in pattern recognition, signal processing, control and complex mapping problems, because of their excellent learning capacity and their high tolerance to partially in accurate data. Artificial neural networks have, recently, been further applied to assess damage in structures. Wu *et al.* [26] used a back-propagation neural network (BPN) to elucidate damage states in a three-storey frame by numerical simulation. Elkordy *et al.* [27] used a back-propagation neural network with modal shapes in the input layer, to detect the simulated damage of structures. Pandey and Barai [28] detected damage in a bridge truss by applying ANN of multilayer perceptron architectures to numerically simulated data. Using static displacements, natural frequencies and modal shapes, Zhao *et al.* [29] applied a counter-propagation neural network to locate damage in beams and frames. Masri *et al.* [30] established a method for detecting damage, based on non-linear system identification, in which measured displacement, velocity, acceleration responses and input forces were used to train a back-propagation neural network.

The present article investigates the physical phenomena associated with the wave passage effect into a build-

ing considering the ground floor as the soft floor with the conformity of the up-to-date situation of the construction of high rise buildings, due to shear excitation of the base. Closed form analytical solutions are obtained for two-dimensional building models, non-incorporating soil-structure interaction. It has been shown that the wave energy does not always propagate from the ground into the building, but for frequency ranging from 0.35 Hz - 1.00 Hz it sails to the building without any disturbances. However, for higher frequency range, ranging from 1.50 Hz - 3.50 Hz the computational results show that the buildings experience large “torsional” deformations that result to horizontal stresses. These large torsional deformations may be responsible for failure of the building. Thus, for higher values of frequencies, the whole upper part of the building would rotate almost as a rigid body. As a result of this rotational effect, the building may collapse.

A neural network based-approach is being implemented to the aforesaid model to assess the health monitoring of the building after the earthquake excitation. The issues relating to the design of network and learning paradigm are addressed and network architectures have been developed with reference to different input parameter of buildings. The training patterns are generated for a building and performance of the networks with one hidden layers are examined. A comparative study between analytical and neural-based results has been carried out.

2. Formulation of the Model

Consider a two-dimensional, semi-infinite elastic beam with horizontal discontinuity in the material properties and prescribed displacement at the ground surface $z = H$. Assume L and H as the length and the height of the building, h_1 is the sum of heights of the upper floors, h_2 is the height of the ground floor, as shown in **Figure 1**. The shear moduli and shear wave velocities of the upper floors and ground floor possess nature of anisotropy of orthotropic type *i.e.* having different values in the x - and in the z -directions, e.g., $(Q_3)_{i,x}$, $\beta_{i,x}$ and $(Q_1)_{i,z}$, $\beta_{i,z}$, $i = 1, 2$. Neglecting floor-foundation interaction, such a model may lead to a closed-form solutions for displacement response to shear motion at the base.

3. Solution

The displacements in the layers, $v^{(i)}(x, z, t)$, $i = 1, 2$, satisfy the two-dimensional wave equations

$$\beta_{i,x}^2 \frac{\partial^2 v^{(i)}}{\partial x^2} + \beta_{i,z}^2 \frac{\partial^2 v^{(i)}}{\partial z^2} = \frac{\partial^2 v^{(i)}}{\partial t^2}, \quad (1)$$

$$i = 1, 2$$

in which

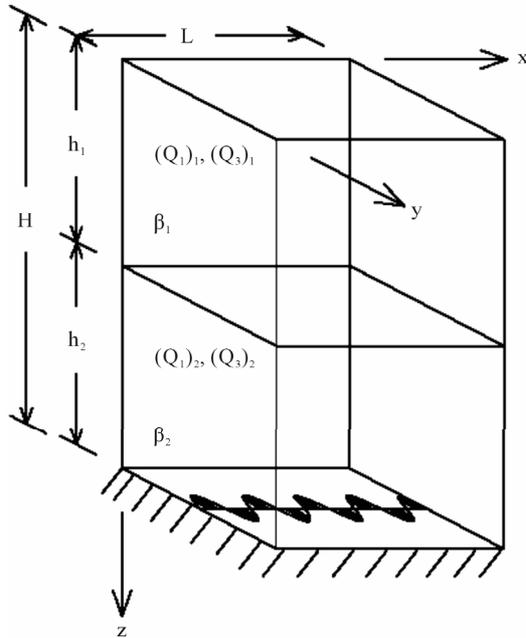


Figure 1. Modelling of building with soft ground floor, subjected to base excitation at $z = H$.

$$\beta_{i,x} = \left[\frac{(Q_3)_{i,x}}{\rho_i} \right]^{1/2}, \tag{1a}$$

$$\beta_{i,z} = \left[\frac{(Q_1)_{i,z}}{\rho_i} \right]^{1/2}$$

are the shear wave velocities along x - and z -directions respectively.

The eigen function expansion of the displacement in the beam, v , is

$$v(x, z, t) = \sum_n C_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \frac{Z_n(z)}{Z_n(H)} e^{i\omega t} \tag{2}$$

where

$$Z_n(z) = \cos k_{z,n}^{(1)} z, \tag{2a}$$

$$0 \leq z \leq h_1$$

$$Z_n(z) = A_n^{(2)} \cos k_{z,n}^{(2)} z + B_n^{(2)} \sin k_{z,n}^{(2)} z, \tag{2b}$$

$$h_1 \leq z \leq H$$

is the n^{th} shape function in the z -direction and

$$k_{z,n}^{(i)} = \frac{\beta_{i,x}}{\beta_{i,z}} \sqrt{\left(\frac{\omega}{\beta_{i,x}} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2} \tag{2c}$$

is the wave number, along z -direction, in the i^{th} layer.

The boundary conditions to be satisfied are

$$\tau_{xy}^{(i)} = 0 \text{ at } x = 0, \quad 0 \leq z \leq H, \quad i = 1, 2 \tag{3a}$$

$$\tau_{xy}^{(i)} = 0 \text{ at } x = L, \quad 0 \leq z \leq H, \quad i = 1, 2 \tag{3b}$$

and

$$\tau_{zy}^{(1)} = 0 \text{ at } z = 0, \quad 0 \leq x \leq L, \tag{3c}$$

where

$$\tau_{xy}^{(i)} = (Q_3)_{i,x} \frac{\partial v^{(i)}}{\partial x}, \tag{3d}$$

$$\tau_{zy}^{(i)} = (Q_1)_{i,z} \frac{\partial v^{(i)}}{\partial z}$$

are the shear stresses in the i^{th} layer. At the interface between the two layers, the continuity conditions are

$$v^{(1)}(x, h_1, t) = v^{(2)}(x, h_1, t) \tag{4a}$$

$$\tau_{yz}^{(1)}(x, h_1, t) = \tau_{yz}^{(2)}(x, h_1, t) \tag{4b}$$

In addition, the free-field displacement on the surface of the half-space is being considered as

$$v^{(2)} = e^{i\omega[t - (x/c)]} \text{ at } 0 \leq x \leq L, \quad z = H \tag{5}$$

when the incident wave possesses frequency ω and propagates with phase velocity c in the positive x -direction, following $c = \beta_s / \sin \theta$ (where β_s is the shear wave velocity of the soil and θ is the angle between the direction of propagation of the incident wave and the normal).

The coefficients $A_n^{(2)}$ and $B_n^{(2)}$ of the n^{th} mode shape are obtained from conditions (4a) and (4b),

$$A_n^{(2)} = \cos k_{z,n}^{(1)} h_1 \cos k_{z,n}^{(2)} h_1 + \frac{(Q_1)_{1,z}}{(Q_1)_{2,z}} \frac{k_{z,n}^{(1)}}{k_{z,n}^{(2)}} \sin k_{z,n}^{(1)} h_1 \sin k_{z,n}^{(2)} h_1 \tag{6a}$$

$$B_n^{(2)} = \cos k_{z,n}^{(1)} h_1 \sin k_{z,n}^{(2)} h_1 - \frac{(Q_1)_{1,z}}{(Q_1)_{2,z}} \frac{k_{z,n}^{(1)}}{k_{z,n}^{(2)}} \sin k_{z,n}^{(1)} h_1 \cos k_{z,n}^{(2)} h_1 \tag{6b}$$

The coefficients of the expansion C_n , $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ derived from the displacement condition (5) are

$$C_0 = \frac{1}{\omega L} \left[\sin \frac{\omega L}{c} + i \left(\cos \frac{\omega L}{c} - 1 \right) \right] \tag{7a}$$

$$C_n = \frac{2}{L} \frac{\frac{\omega}{c}}{\left(\frac{\omega}{c} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2} \cdot \left[(-1)^n \sin \frac{\omega L}{c} + i \left((-1)^n \cos \frac{\omega L}{c} - 1 \right) \right], \tag{7b}$$

$n \geq 1$

when $\frac{\omega}{c} \neq \frac{m\pi}{L}$, $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. Under the limiting condition, $\omega/c \rightarrow 0$, the coefficients $C_0 = 1$ and $C_n = 0$, $n \geq 1$.

On application to the model of the type of a “stiff” building with “soft” ground floor, it may be seen from Equation (2c) that the wave numbers $k_{z,n}^{(1)}$ and $k_{z,n}^{(2)}$ will be real only for finite number of modes. Consequently, the shape functions $Z_n(z)$ in the layers may be harmonic or exponential functions of z . Thus, such modes may allow the wave energy to be carried only into the soft ground floor from the base. The building will be in resonance with excitation when the denominator in Equation (2)

$$A_n^{(2)} \cos k_{z,n}^{(2)} H + B_n^{(2)} \sin k_{z,n}^{(2)} H \rightarrow 0 \quad (8)$$

as a result of which, the displacements of the model become unbounded.

The displacement of the building can be expressed explicitly in the following fashion,

$$v = S(\eta) \frac{G(kz)}{G(kH)} e^{i\omega t} \text{ (zero}^{\text{th}} \text{ mode)} \quad (9)$$

where

$$S(\eta) = 2 \sin 2\pi\eta / 2\pi\eta, \quad \eta = L/cT$$

$$G(kz) = g(kz) [1 + g(kh_1) \cdot g(kh_1, kz)]$$

$$G(kH) = g(kH) [1 + g(kh_1) \cdot g(kh_1, kH)]$$

$$g(kh_1) = g(\beta_{2,1|z}, kh_1) / f(\beta_{2,1|z}, kh_1)$$

$$g(\beta_{2,1|z}, kh_1) = 1 + Q_{1,2|z} \beta_{2,1|z} \tan q_{1|x,z} kh_1 \tan q_{2|x,z} kh_1$$

$$f(\beta_{2,1|z}, kh_1) = 1 + Q_{1,2|z} \beta_{2,1|z} \tan q_{1|x,z} kh_1 \cot q_{2|x,z} kh_1$$

$$g(kh_1, kz) = \tan q_{2|x,z} kh_1 \tan q_{2|x,z} kz$$

$$g(kh_1, kH) = \tan q_{2|x,z} kh_1 \tan q_{2|x,z} kH$$

$$g(kz) = \cos q_{2|x,z} kz,$$

$$g(kH) = \cos q_{2|x,z} kH$$

$$(Q)_{1,2|z} = (Q_1)_{1,z} / (Q_1)_{2,z},$$

$$\beta_{2,1|z} = \beta_{2,z} / \beta_{1,z}$$

$$q_{1|x,z} = (Q)_{1|x,z} \cdot c / \beta_{1,x},$$

$$(Q)_{1|x,z} = [(Q_3)_{1,x} / (Q_1)_{1,z}]^{1/2}$$

$$q_{2|x,z} = (Q)_{2|x,z} \cdot c / \beta_{2,x},$$

$$(Q)_{2|x,z} = [(Q_3)_{2,x} / (Q_1)_{2,z}]^{1/2} \quad 9(a)$$

Similarly, for the other modes, the displacement can also be evaluated.

Next, we will discuss the implementation of Artificial Neural Network to the ensuing model. Finally, a comparative study of the analytical results to the ANN results has been interacted.

4. Artificial Neural Network

Artificial neural networks are modelled on the concept of present understanding of the functioning of the brain thus comprising a massively interconnected network of a large number of artificial neurons or computational units.

Neural network models are specified by the net topology, node (artificial neuron) characteristics and training or learning rules. The function of a neural network is determined by these parameters. The architecture of the network determines the inputs of each node. The node characteristics (threshold, transfer function and weights) determine the output of the node. The training or learning rules determine how the network will react when an unknown input is presented to it.

A neural network is typically characterized by its computational elements, its network topology and the learning algorithm. Among the several different types of ANN, the feed forward, multilayered, supervised neural network with the error Back Propagation Algorithm—the BPN [31]—is by far the most frequently applied neural network learning model, due to its simplicity. The architecture of BP networks, depicted in **Figure 2**, includes an input layer, one or more hidden layers, and an output layer. The nodes in each layer are connected to each node in the adjacent layer. Notably, Hecht-Nielsen [32] proved that one hidden layer of neurons suffices to model any solution surface of practical interest. Hence, a network with only one hidden layer is considered in this study. Before an ANN can be used, it must be trained from an existing training set of pairs of input-output elements.

5. NARX Neural Network

The most popular type of neural network is the Multi-Layer Feed Forward (MLFF). A schematic diagram of a typical MLFF neural network architecture is depicted in **Figure 2**.

The network usually consists of an input layer, some hidden layers and an output layer. Usually knowledge is stored as a set of connection weights. The process of modifying the connection weights, in some orderly fashion, uses a suitable learning method called training.

The back-error propagation is the most widely used learning algorithm. It is one of the most powerful learning algorithms in neural networks. The back-propagation neural network was proposed by McClelland and Rumelhart [33] in a ground-breaking study originally focused on cognitive computer science. In this paper the structure of neural network includes three layers: the

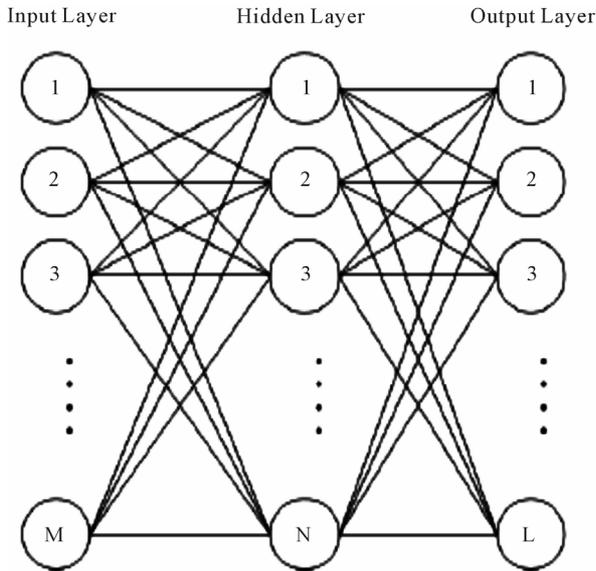


Figure 2. A multi-layer feed forward neural network architecture.

input layer, hidden layer, and output layer. The variable M shows the total neuron number in the input layer, variable N shows the total neuron number in the hidden layer, and the variable L shows the total neuron number in the output layer. Values w_{MN} are the weights between the input and the hidden layer.

The operation of back error propagation is consisting of three steps:

1) Feed-forward step:

$$v_j = w_{LN}(n) \cdot u_{j+1}(m); \tag{10}$$

$$o_j = \varphi(v_j(n)) = \frac{2}{1 + \exp(-v_j(2n))}; \tag{11}$$

where o_j is output, v_j is input, u_{j+1} is output of hidden layer and φ is a transfer function.

2) Back-propagation step:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_j &= e_j(n) \cdot \varphi\{v_j(n)\} \\ &= \{d_j(n) - o_j(n)\} \cdot o_j(n) \{1 - o_j(n)\} \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

where δ_j represents the local gradient function, e_j shows the error function, o_j means the actual output and d_j is desired output.

3) Adjust weighted value:

$$\begin{aligned} w_{NM}(n+1) &= w_{NM}(n) + \Delta w_{NM}(n) \\ &= w_{NM}(n) + \eta \delta_j(n) \cdot o_j(n); \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

where η is the learning rate. Repeating these three steps results to the value of the error function will be zero or a constant value.

In the present model one neural network is employed for desired output. Networks consist of an input layer, a

hidden layer and an output layer with 12, 5 and 1 neurons, respectively. In a network, transfer functions for neurons of *hidden and output layers* are Tansig and Purline, and are defined as Equation (14) and (15) respectively.

$$f(x) = \frac{2}{(1 + \exp(-2x)) - 1} \tag{14}$$

$$f(x) = x; \tag{15}$$

6. Numerical Results and Discussions

The transfer of energy of SH-waves from the ground into the building is being illustrated in **Figure 3**. From Snell's law,

$$c = \frac{\beta_s}{\sin \theta} = \frac{\beta_{2,x}}{\sin \alpha} = \frac{\beta_{1,x}}{\sin \gamma} \tag{16}$$

(β_s , the shear wave velocity of the soil) it may be observed that α will be real, and the wave energy will propagate into the soft layer if $c/\beta_{2,x} \geq 1$. If $c/\beta_{2,x} < 1$, then α will be purely imaginary and thus γ will also be purely imaginary (since $\beta_{1,x} > \beta_{2,x}$) and as a result of which the wave energy will not propagate into the upper part of the building. The transfer of wave energy into the upper part of the building depends on the ratio, $\beta_{2,x}/\beta_{1,x}$. The energy will propagate into the upper part of the building only if $c/\beta_{1,x} = (c/\beta_{2,x})(\beta_{2,x}/\beta_{1,x}) \geq 1$ when $c/\beta_{1,x} < 1$, the displacement in the hard layer will be exponentially decaying towards the top of the building, and it will vibrate as a rigid box welded to the soft layer.

As an example, for numerical calculations, the height of the ground floor is considered to be 1/4 of the total height of the building ($H = 12$ m), assuming the material properties of the layers of orthotropic type.

The pattern of energy transfer occurring during the passage of the wave with fundamental mode into the buildings with a soft ground floor has been depicted in **Figures 4(a) and (b)** (from both analytical and Neural observations). **Figure 4** indicate the displacement of an

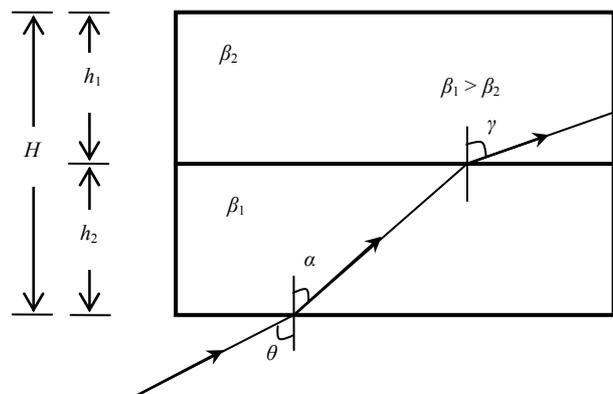


Figure 3. Illustration of transfer of wave energy from below the soft ground floor into the building.

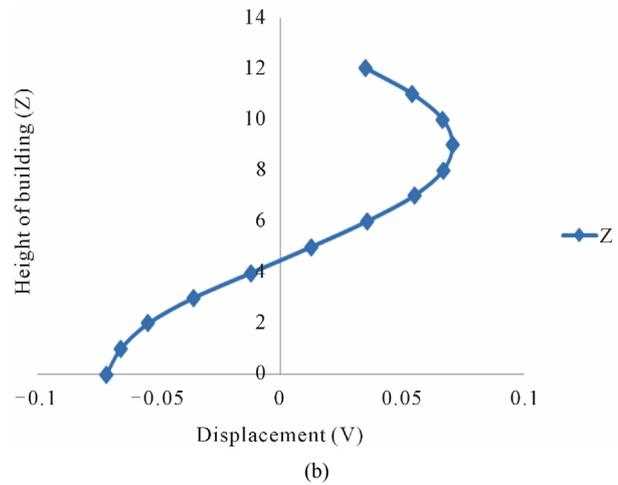
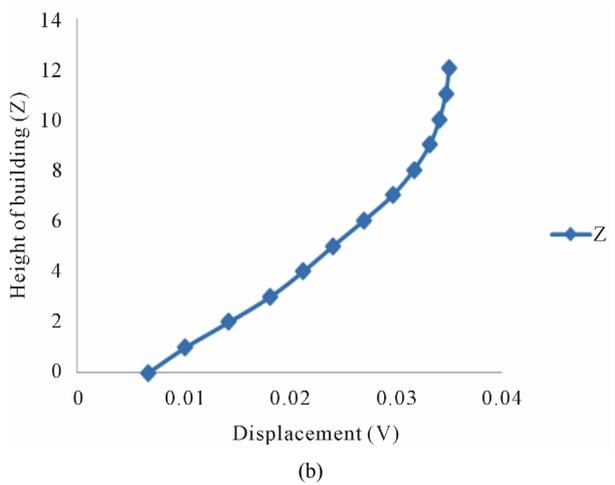
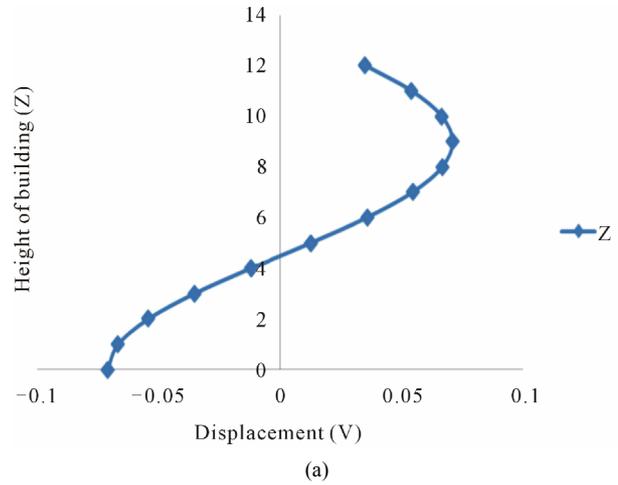
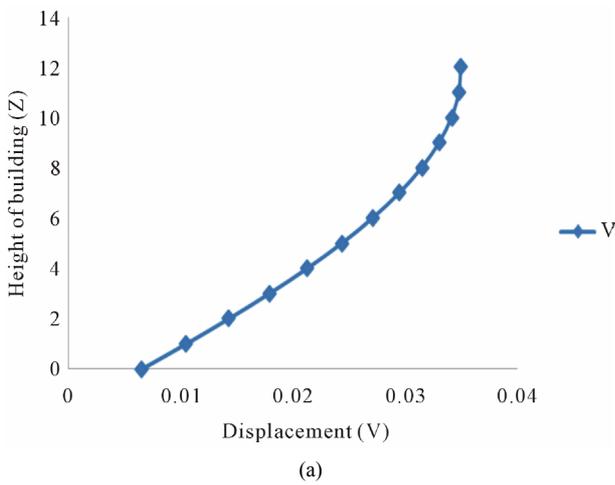


Figure 4. Displacement response of building (Anisotropic Model), with soft ground floor, due to propagating SH-wave ($c/\beta_2 = 0.05$, $\beta_1/\beta_2 = 0.25$, $\nu = 0.35$ Hz). (a) Analytical result; (b) Neural network.

Figure 5. Displacement response of building (Anisotropic Model), with soft ground floor, due to propagating SH-wave ($c/\beta_2 = 0.05$, $\beta_1/\beta_2 = 0.25$, $\nu = 0.96$ Hz). (a) Analytical result; (b) Neural network.

anisotropic building for $c/\beta_{1,x} = 0.9$, $c/\beta_{2,x} = 1.25$ and $\beta_{2,z}/\beta_{1,z} = 0.25$. The **Figure 4(a)** illustrates the displacements of the anisotropic (orthotropic type) layers in a manner that the energy propagates through the ground floor via the soft floor to the upper floors without any disturbance to the building (for frequency 0.35 Hz). Almost similar is the case with the **Figure 4(b)** (source, the Neural observation, under the same frequency level). Thus, for the above mentioned frequency of 0.35 Hz, a lesser part of energy of the impulsive wave disturbs the first floor but not the upper part, which is not at all harmful to the whole building. For the frequency of the impulse as close to 1 Hz, the displacement response, ν , of the building can be expressed as a summation of the responses to the translational and rotational excitations (may be observed from **Figures 5(a)** and **(b)**). The pattern of responses for frequencies 1.60 Hz, 2.25 Hz, 2.85 Hz and 3.20 Hz shows that the buildings experience large “torsional” deformations that result to horizontal stresses

(**Figures 6-9**). These large torsional deformations may be responsible for failure phenomena of the building. Thus, for higher values of frequencies, the whole upper part of the building would rotate almost as a rigid body. As a result of this rotational effect, the building may collapse.

The following observations are evolved from the trained Artificial Neural Network (ANN) using the input of the structural properties of buildings, such as incremental height of building, height of each floor, orthotropic elastic moduli of soft floor and upper floors, velocity ratios with respect to shear wave etc.

- 1) Trained network is fruitful to predict the displacement of building.
- 2) The learning and momentum parameters are assumed as 0.5 and 0.9 respectively.
- 3) The iterations and other queries like regression coefficient, gradient, mean square error are being dealt by network for distinct values of frequency (ν) in one hidden

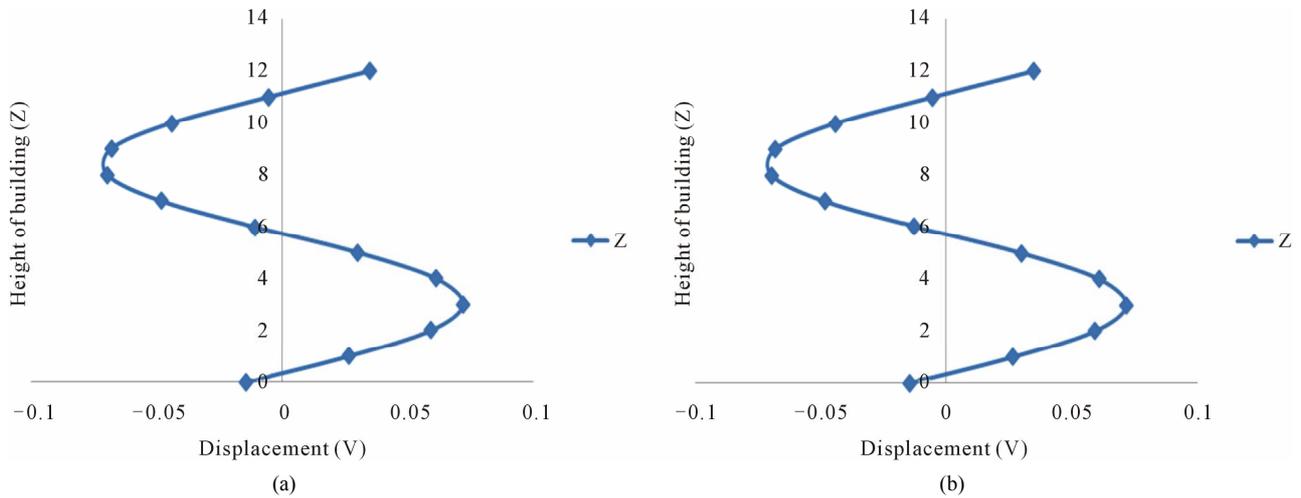


Figure 6. Displacement response of building (Anisotropic Model), with soft ground floor, due to propagating SH-wave ($c/\beta_2 = 0.05, \beta_1/\beta_2 = 0.25, \nu = 1.60$ Hz). (a) Analytical result; (b) Neural network.

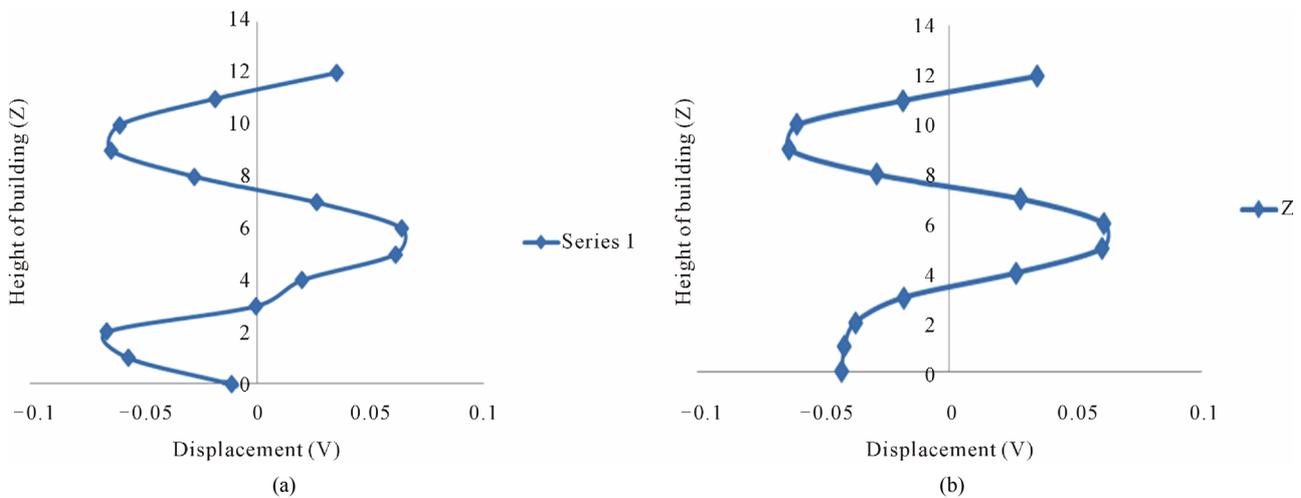


Figure 7. Displacement response of building (Anisotropic Model), with soft ground floor, due to propagating SH-wave ($c/\beta_2 = 0.05, \beta_1/\beta_2 = 0.25, \nu = 2.25$ Hz). (a) Analytical result; (b) Neural network.

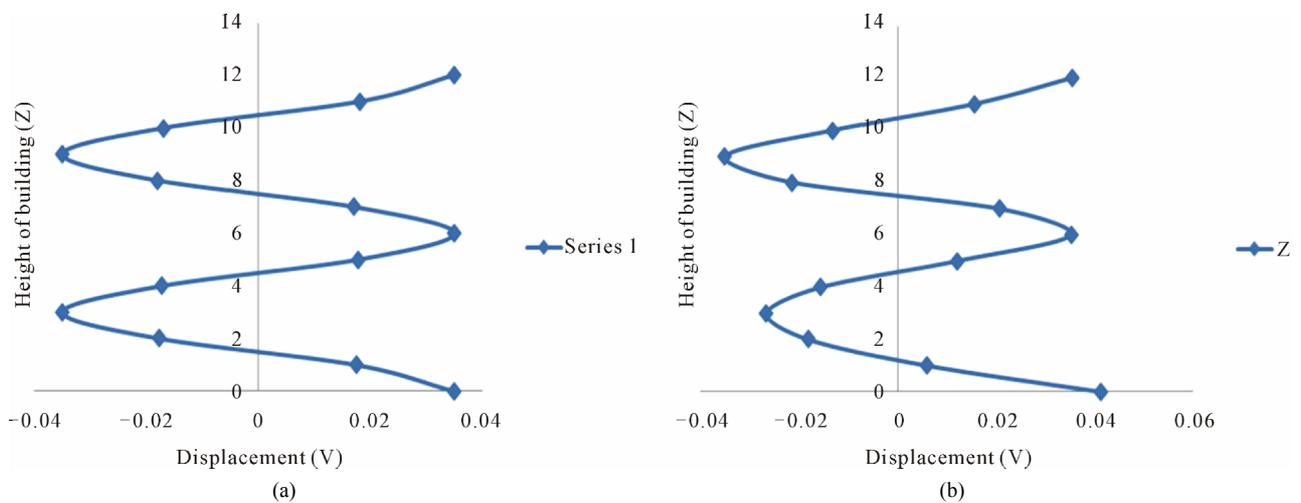


Figure 8. Displacement response of building (Anisotropic Model), with soft ground floor, due to propagating SH-wave ($c/\beta_2 = 0.05, \beta_1/\beta_2 = 0.25, \nu = 2.85$ Hz). (a) Analytical result; (b) Neural network.

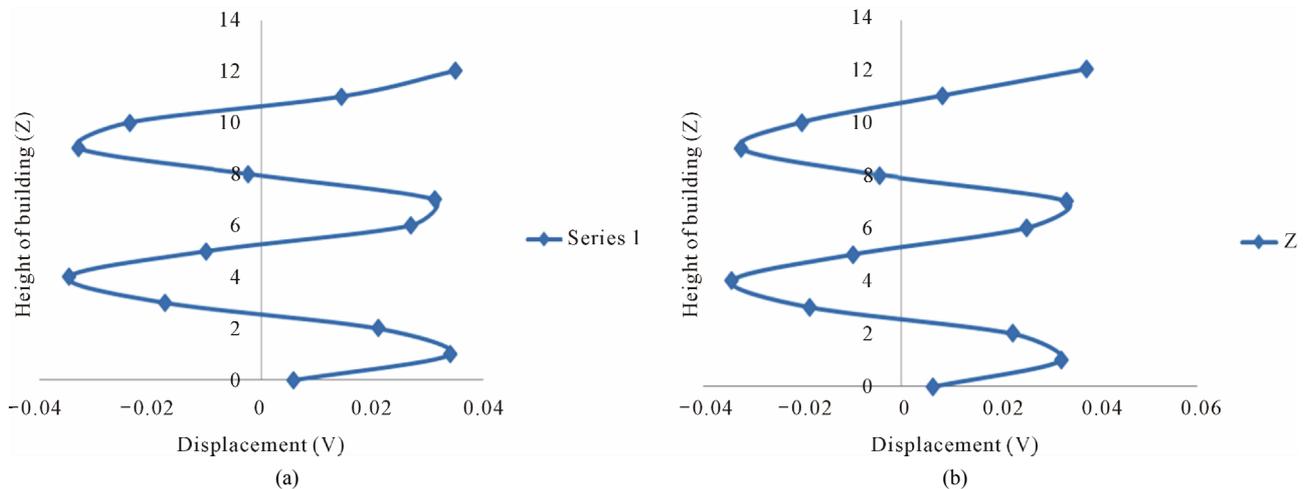


Figure 9. Displacement response of building (Anisotropic Model), with soft ground floor, due to propagating SH-wave ($c/\beta_2 = 0.05$, $\beta_1/\beta_2 = 0.25$, $\nu = 3.20$ Hz). (a) Analytical result; (b) Neural network.

layer architecture is given in the **Table 1**.

4) The CPU time required for training the network on MATLAB 7.6.0 (R2008a) is less than 30 minutes in all the exercise undertaken here.

The results obtained from the computational experimentation by ANN approach are quite promising.

The characteristics results for several frequencies obtained from ANN Architecture (12-5-1) (MATLAB) are presented in **Table 1**.

It has been observed from the computational results of both the analytical and ANN approaches that ANN approach is equally effective as analytical one.

One of the salient features of the investigation is that the “soft” ground floor does not always act as an “isolator” for the upper part of the buildings, and occasionally, for horizontally propagating seismic excitation, the wave energy can propagate into the whole building. These results the vibration of the upper part of the building like a “rigid” box placed over flexible column.

7. Conclusions

If the SH ground motion under buildings with soft ground floor has finite phase velocities in the horizontal direction, then it may happen that: 1) the wave energy does not propagate from the ground into the building; 2) it propagates only into the “soft” ground floor; and 3) it propagates into the whole building. In the case, where it propagates into the soft ground floor, the ground floor may experience very large displacements while the displacement of the upper part of the building are small and there is a possibility of exponentially decaying towards the top of the building.

In conventional earthquake response analyses, which ignore the propagating wave effects, selection of the soft ground floor may reduce the overall design loads on the

Table 1. Error estimation via ANN.

Frequency (Hz)	Iteration	Value of R	Gradient	Mean Square Error
0.35	500	0.999	4.68×10^{-6}	1.34×10^{-9}
0.96	1000	0.999	9.53×10^{-5}	7.51×10^{-8}
1.60	1000	0.843	0.000143	0.000649
2.25	1000	0.861	1.83×10^{-3}	0.000583
2.85	1000	0.981	0.0317	2.48×10^{-5}
3.20	1000	0.997	0.00424	2.95×10^{-6}

building. The analysis shows the nature of the additional deformations of the soft floor that should be taken into account in selecting the optimum strength and ductility of the ground floor structural member. Finally, Neural Network approach predicts the displacement at different floors of the building at different frequencies due to earthquake excitation.

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