Ground-Building Frequency Resonance Effect in Kathmandu Valley during the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake

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About me

- Full Name: Netra Prakash Bhandary
- Nepalese national, Born: 1969 in Nepal
- Educated in Nepal until high school
- University: India (Aligarh Muslim University)

- Work Experience: 1 year in a construction company, 3 years in an engineering college in Nepal
- Graduate Study: Ehime University (Master: 1998-2000, Doctor: 2000-2003)
- Current job: Associate Professor, Ehime University (Since 2003)
- What I teach? Mechanics, Differential and Integral Calculus, Soil Mechanics, etc.
- Family Structure: Four (with two daughters: 19 and 10)

Old buildings/houses

Deteriorated Brick Buildings





Slender buildings/houses (Improper design??)

Narrows Streets, Improperly Constructed Buildings



Kathmandu Valley Ground



Geological Structure of Kathmandu Valley



Towards Earthquake Disaster Risk Mitigation

- Brick Masonry: Mud mortar, Lime mortanr, Cement mortar, Historical structures old and weak
- RC frammed structures: Beam-column with brick or concrete block walls/partitions

XMain Problems

- Hospitals, Number of Beds
- Second-stage disaster (Fire, Diseases, etc.)
- Shelter Area (not identified), Tundikhel and other free grounds
- Lifeline damage: Water pipes (very old), Power lines, Road damage due liquefaction and landslides, etc.

Major Investigations/Studies

- **UNDP** study (1992)
- JICA study (2001-2002)
 - Scenario Earthquakes (3 cases)
 - Liquefaction hazard prediction
 - Landslide hazard prediction
 - Lifeline damage prediction (Power line, Water line, Roads, Bridges, Telephone line, etc.)
 - Building structural damage prediction
 - Human casualty estimation
 - Evacuation routes and Evacuation space
 - Etc.
- Disaster Mitigation Activities of NSET and International Agencies

Ehime University Plan/Studies (%2008 onwards)

- Geo-info database preparation and use
- Ambient vibration measurement and earthquake motion analysis
- Earthquake accelerometer installation and data acquisition
- Ground subsidence due to groundwater exploitation (planned)
- Earthquake disaster education

Network Concept for Geo-info Database of Kathmandu Valley



Available Borehole Data in Kathmandu (1980~2002)



Geo-info Database Preparation (Preliminary)

Borehole Information:

Multi-purpose boring





Estimated Sediment Deposit in Kathmandu Valley



Typical feature of Kathmandu deposit







Small-scale Shake Table Demo (Resonance Effect)





Instrument used in MT Survey

Three components (EW, NS and UP) of ground motion (velocity) measured at single station





Microtremor sources



Kathmandu:

- Vehicle movement
- Winds
- Industrial machines

• etc.

(From Tokyo Soil Research)



Fourier Analysis



Second-stage Ambient Vibration Measurement

(Paudyal et al. 2012)

Total: 176 points





H/V spectral ratio of 5 zones

 Study area is divided into five different range of predominant period using natural break technique which regroups similar values together and represents the distribution properly

Predominant period range	Description of zone
Α	0.11 s to 0.60 s
В	0.60 s to 0.80 s
С	0.80 s to 1.01 s
D	1.01 s to 1.30 s
Ε	1.30 s to 2.05 s





> Period in central part varies from 1-2 s, which covers about 30% of the urban area of the valley

Predominant period contours for the Kathmandu Valley

NEA Talk Program 2017.3.10



Higher period range in the eastern and western part of the valley is separated by the long low period line extended from north-west to south-east in the valley





Soft sediment depth mapping formulae in different parts of the world

- > Ibs-von Seht and Wohlenberg (1999), h=96 $f_r^{-1.388}$
- Parolai et al. (2002), h=108 f_r^{-1.551}
- > Dinesh et al. (2010), h=(58+-8.8) $f_r^{(-0.95+-0.1)}$
- > Hinzen et al. (2004), $h = 137 f_r^{-1.190}$
- **Solution** Garcia-Jerez et al. (2006), $h = 194.6 f_r^{-1.140}$
- > Motamed et al. (2007), $h = 135.2 f_r^{-1.979}$
- > D'Amcio et al. (2008), $h = 140 f_r^{-1.172}$
- ➢ Gosar et al. (2010), h=105.5 f_r^{-1.25}
- > Delgardo et al. (2000), $h = 55.11 f_r^{-1.256}$
- > Birgoen et al. (2009), $h=150.99 f_r^{-1.1531}$
- > Ozalaybey et al. (2011), $h = 141 f_r^{-1.27}$
- > Sukumaran et al. (2011), $h = 102.1 f_r^{-1.47}$

Selected relationships

> Ibs-von Seht and Wohlenberg (1999), h=96 $f_r^{-1.388}$

- Parolai et al. (2002), h=108 f_r^{-1.551}
- Birgoen et al. (2009), $h=150.99 f_r^{-1.1531}$
- Ozalaybey et al. (2011), $h = 141 f_r^{-1.27}$

- Poposed relationships are based on the observed data in the area of varying depth ranging from few meter to 1257 m
- The results of the propsed relationship showed very strong relationship (R² value 0.995) between resonant frequency and thickness of the sediment

In this study, it is assumed that the H/V spectral ratio depends primarily on the site characteristics rather the geographical location Comparison between depths calculated using Ibs-von Seht and Wohlenberg (1999), Parolai et al. (2002), Birgöen et al. (2009) and Özalaybey et al. (2011) relationships



- **Depth** of sediment is calculated using the proposed relationship
- □ The circle indicates the average value whereas the length of the line suggests deviation from the average
- Average standard deviation = 41.88

Comparison between depths calculated using Ibs-von Seht and Wohlenberg (1999), and Parolai et al. (2002) relationships (Group First)



□ The circle indicates the average value whereas the length of the line suggests deviation from the average

□ Average standard deviation = 48.55

Comparison between depths calculated using Birgöen et al. (2009) and Özalaybey et al. (2011) relationships (Group Second)



- The depth calculated using these proposed equations show
 significantly smaller variations in the thickness due to
 comparable geotechnical characteristics of the geological
 formation
- Further averaged the values estimated to obtained the best fit equation
- **D** Proposed frequency depth relationship for Kathmandu Valley $D=146.01 f_r^{-1.2079}$

Basement Contour map for the Kathmandu Basin based on the proposed relation, $D=146.01f_r^{-1.2079}$











The 2015 Gorkha Earthquake

















Earthquake Acceleration Data (DMG Nepal 2015)

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Borehole and sediment distribution in the Kathmandu Valley

- Digital Elevation Model of the Kathmandu Basin
- Shows the borehole
 location and cross section in west to east
 and south to north

 340 borehole points in KV.
 Depth ranging from few meters to 550 m at central part of KV





Borehole and sediment distribution in the Kathmandu Valley

Variation of thickness of sediments in different location of valley (area enclosed by black dotted line represents the soft soil layer)



These soft sediments and large thickness are the main parameters those can change the property of seismic waves and hence responsible for amplification of the ground motion



Soft ground effect



The soil profile acts as filter modifying the amplitude and nature of the motions.

Study Locations

Microtremor



33 tall-buildings and nearby freefield Measure microtremeor in strong ground motion sites as well i.e. DMG and THM, UGC

Microtremor Measurement

Three components (EW, NS and

UP) for ground motion (velocity)

measured at single station



And three components (Longitudinal direction (X), Transvers direction (Y) and Vertical direction (Z)) for buildings



Analysis and Results



Building: Guna Colony (No. 6) Story:12 Building Type: Reinforce Cement Concrete (RCC) Predominant Period of Bldg. in longitudinal dir. (TBX) = 0.9 s Predominant Period of Bldg. in transverse dir. (TBY)=0.85 s Predominant Period of nearby free field (Tavg) = 1.15 s



Building: Park Horizon Dhapasi (No. 13) Story:17 Building Type: Reinforce Cement Concrete (RCC) Predominant Period of Bldg. in longitudinal dir. (TBX)= 1.82 s Predominant Period of Bldg. in transverse dir. (TBY) = 1.92 s Predominant Period of nearby free field (Tavg)= 1.85 s

X(H/H) - floor-spectral ratio vs. period graph for longitudinal direction of building Y(H/H) - floor-spectral ratio vs. period graph for transverse direction of building G(H/V) - the horizontal-to-vertical spectral ratio vs. period graph in nearby free-field **Comparative diagram of Period along Longitudinal direction (TBX) and Period along Transverse direction (TBY) of Building and Fundamental Period of free-field (TGAvg)**



- Predominant period of about 60% tall-buildings are close to the predominant period of ground
- □ About 25% tall buildings predominate period are almost equal to that of the free-field's predominant period

Analysis and results

Comparative diagram of Period along Longitudinal direction (TBX) and Period along Transverse direction (TBY) of Building using MT observation and Period based on Kramer (1996) (T=0.1N, N-number of story of building)



Building Nos/Ground Points

- □ Fundamental periods of vibration of about **20% tall buildings are equivalent to** the calculated period from Kramer (1996) (T=0.1N).
- □ About 80% buildings periods are found to be lower than the calculated period according to Kramer (1996) (T=0.1N).
- Period obtained from Kramer (1996) is usually higher than the actual period of the buildings obtained using microtremor measurement (Al-Nimry et al. (2014).