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## Model updating effects on the seismic behavior of tall buildings under far and near-fault ground motions

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### Abstract

The study investigates ambient vibration based model updating effects on the seismic behavior of a RC tall building subjected to far and near-fault ground motions. A 17-storey building built in Giresun, Turkey is selected as an application. Firstly, 3D initial finite element model of the selected building is created and determined analytical dynamic characteristics. Then, experimental dynamic characteristics of the building (frequencies, mode shapes, damping ratios) are determined by Operational Modal Analysis Method using the ambient vibration test data. According to experimental results, initial finite element model is calibrated by using boundary conditions and material properties. Initial and calibrated finite element models of the building are analysed under far and near-fault ground motions. Two models are compared with each other in terms of displacement, velocity, acceleration, base bending moment, base shear force, compressive and tensile stresses.

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## 1. Introduction

Nowadays, in developed and in developing countries, a considerable increase is observed in the construction of tall buildings. Safety evaluation of existing tall buildings to earthquake motions is very important. Dynamic characteristics such as natural frequencies, damping ratios and mode shapes are one of the most important parameters for the safety evaluation of tall buildings. Determining the change of modal parameters may help carried out to condition assessment of the structure or even damage detection in the process of construction or during its service life [1]. Acceleration data plays an important role, based on which modal parameters of the structures can be obtained [2-4]. The dynamic characteristics of engineering structures can be obtained by finite element method and experimental measurement methods. The most commonly used experimental measurement method is Operational Modal Analysis (OMA). In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in determination of dynamic characteristics of tall buildings by OMA. Ventura and Schuster [5], Wu and Li [6], Miyashita et al. [7], Xu and Zhan [8], Li et al. [9-12], Brownjohn et al. [13], Boroschek and Yáñez [14], Li and Yi [15], Liu et al. [16], Zang et al. [17] implemented full-scale measurements of tall buildings. Li and Wu [18] created seven 3D FE models of a 78-story super-tall building, and numerical results were compared with their field measurements to identify the modelling errors for the purpose of updating FE models. Pan et al. [19] presented numerical studies on dynamic responses of the tallest building in Singapore with correlation with their field measurements. Chassiakos et al. [20] performed a study on ambient vibration data collected before, during, and after the structural retrofitting. Archila et al. [21] conducted a modal test using ambient vibrations on a 22 story building repaired after the earthquake to determine its dynamic properties. Pan et al. [22]

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presented the signal processing results for a 128 storey building by using the Frequency Domain Decomposition and the Enhanced Frequency Domain Decomposition techniques. The most significant lateral and torsional mode shapes and associated periods of vibration were determined within the frequency range of 0.1–2 Hz.

Near-fault ground motions which expose the structure to high input energy in the beginning of the earthquake have the potential to cause a large response and considerable damage to structures [23]. Therefore, structural response to near-fault ground motions has received much attention in recent years. The effects of near-fault ground motions on civil engineering structures such as buildings and bridges, etc., have been investigated in many recent studies [24-29].

This paper aims to investigate the effects of ambient vibration based model updating on the seismic behaviour of a RC tall building subjected to far and near-fault ground motions. Firstly, the analytical dynamic characteristics are obtained by using the initial finite element model. Then experimental dynamic characteristics are extracted using Enhanced Frequency Domain Decomposition technique. Finite element model of the building is updated by changing of material properties and boundary conditions to eliminate the differences between analytical and experimental dynamic characteristics. Linear seismic behaviours of the building for both initial and updated finite element models are determined under the selected earthquake ground motions.

**2. Formulation**

The experimental dynamic characteristics of the structure were determined by Enhanced Frequency Domain Decomposition (EFDD) technique. In this technique, the natural frequencies, modal damping ratios and mode shapes were extracted from the power spectra by selecting peak values [30-32]. The relationship between the unknown input and the measured responses can be written as;

$$G_{yy}(j\omega) = H(j\omega)^* G_{xx}(j\omega) H(j\omega)^T \tag{1}$$

where  $G_{xx}$  is the Power Spectral Density (PSD) matrix of the input signal,  $G_{yy}$  is the PSD matrix of the output signal,  $H$  is the Frequency Response Function (FRF) matrix, and  $*$  and  $T$  denote complex conjugate and transpose, respectively [32]. The FRF can be written in partial fraction, i.e. pole/residue form;

$$H(j\omega) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{R_k}{j\omega - \lambda_k} + \frac{R_k^*}{j\omega - \lambda_k^*} \tag{2}$$

where  $n$  is the number of modes  $\lambda_k$  is the pole and,  $R_k$  is the residue [32]. Then Eq. (1) becomes as:

$$G_{yy}(j\omega) = \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{s=1}^n \left[ \frac{R_k}{j\omega - \lambda_k} + \frac{R_k^*}{j\omega - \lambda_k^*} \right] G_{xx}(j\omega) \left[ \frac{R_s}{j\omega - \lambda_s} + \frac{R_s^*}{j\omega - \lambda_s^*} \right]^H \tag{3}$$

where  $s$  is the singular values, superscript  $H$  denotes complex conjugate and transpose [32]. Multiplying the two partial fraction factors and making use of the Heaviside partial fraction theorem, after some mathematical manipulations, the output PSD can be reduced to a pole/residue form as follows;

$$G_{yy}(j\omega) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{A_k}{j\omega - \lambda_k} + \frac{A_k^*}{j\omega - \lambda_k^*} + \frac{B_k}{-j\omega - \lambda_k} + \frac{B_k^*}{-j\omega - \lambda_k^*} \tag{4}$$

where  $A_k$  and  $B_k$  are the  $k$ -th residue matrices of the output PSD [32]. In the EFDD identification, the first step is to estimate the PSD matrix. The estimation of the output PSD known at discrete frequencies is then decomposed by taking the SVD of the matrix;

$$G_{yy}(j\omega_i) = U_i S_i U_i^H \tag{5}$$

where the matrix  $U_i = [u_{i1}, u_{i2}, \dots, u_{im}]$  is a unitary matrix holding the singular vectors  $u_{ij}$ , and  $S_{ij}$  is a diagonal matrix holding the scalar singular values. The first singular vector  $u_{ij}$  is an estimation of the mode shape. PSD function is identified around the peak by comparing the mode shape estimation  $u_{ij}$  with the singular vectors for the frequency lines around the peak. From the piece of the SDOF density function obtained around the peak of the PSD, the natural frequency and the damping can be obtained [32].

### 3. Application

#### 3.1. Description of the Selected Building

The seventeen-storey building that was constructed in Giresun, Turkey is one of the highest buildings in the city. It was built to be used as a residence. It has a rectangular plan, two basements, a ground floor, fourteen normal floors, and an attic. The height of the building is 47.6m and its dimensions are 20m x 30m. The floor height of the building is 2.8m. The building has a raft foundation. While performing measurement, all floors were built with brick walls. The view, plan and section of the building are given in Fig. 1.

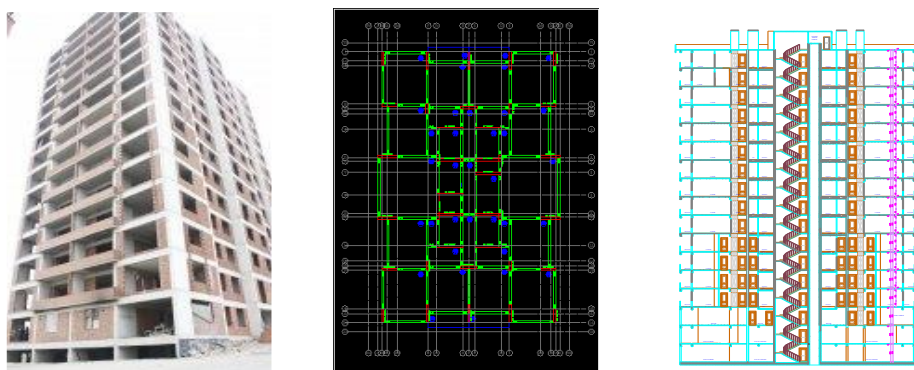


Fig. 1. The view, plan and section of the selected building

#### 3.2. Theoretical Modal Analysis of the Building

Three-dimensional finite element model of the building was created by SAP2000 [33] program. The building was modelled by using plane and frame elements. The beams were modelled by the frame elements, and the shear walls and floors were modelled by the plane elements. 35053 joints, 4522 frames, and 41068 plane elements were used to model of the building. Firstly, all degrees of freedom under base of the building were assumed as fixed. The initial finite element model is given in Fig. 2.

Two different material properties were considered such as concrete and brick. The material properties assumed in the analyses are given in Table 1. The first three natural frequencies and mode shapes obtained from analytical modal analysis of the building are given in Fig. 3.

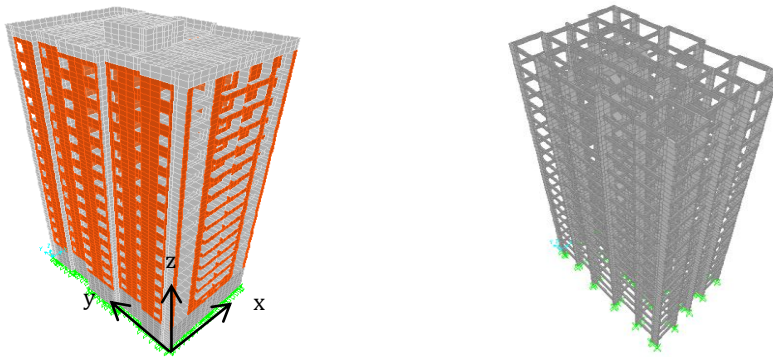


Fig. 2. The initial finite element model of the building

Table 1. Material properties used in theoretical modal analysis of the building

Material	Modulus of Elasticity (N/m <sup>2</sup> )	Poisson Ratio	Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Concrete	3.2E10	0.2	2450
Brick	3.2E9	0.2	1600

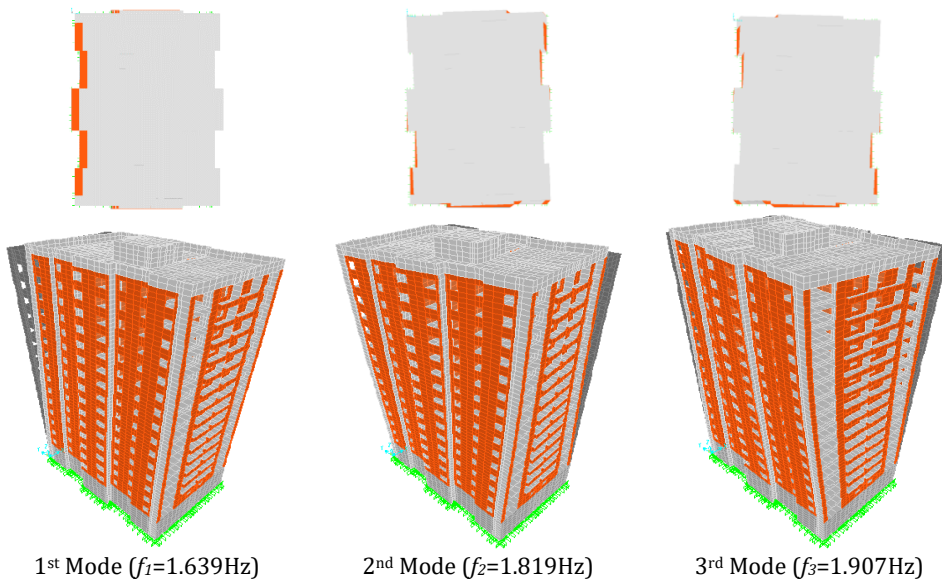


Fig. 3. The first three analytical mode shapes of the building

The first three analytical frequencies were obtained between 1-2 Hz. The first three mode shapes of the building were obtained as transverse mode, torsional mode and torsional mode, respectively.

### 3.3. Operational Modal Analyses of the Building

The dynamic characteristics obtained from the finite element model of the building give an idea on the dynamic behaviour of the building, but are not sufficient alone to determine the current behaviour of the building. For this reason, the results obtained

from finite element model of the building must be confirmed by the results obtained by experimental method. Accordingly, the full-scale vibration test of the building was conducted by Operational Modal Analysis (OMA) method under ambient vibrations. During the ambient measurements of the building, B&K 8340 type uni-axial accelerometers which have 10V/g sensitivity, B&K 3560 type data acquisition system with 17 channels, PULSE [34] and OMA [35] softwares were used.

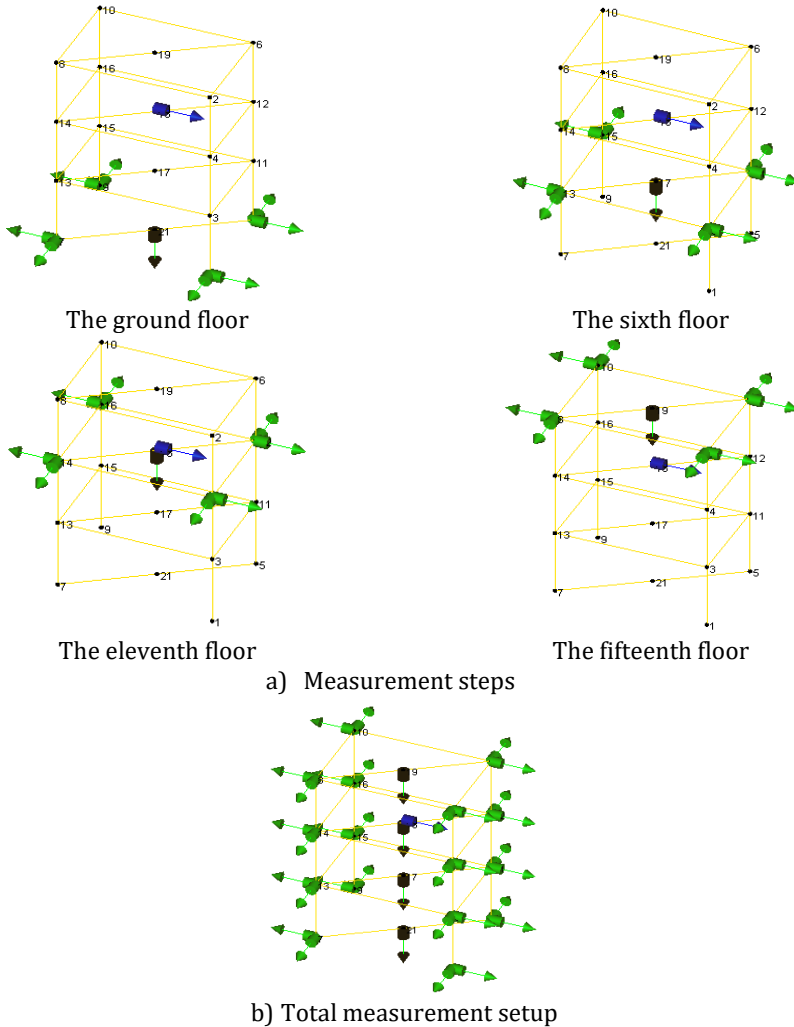


Fig. 4. Total measurement setup and location of the accelerometers

The experimental dynamic behaviour of the building was determined by taking the measurements from different floor levels. Total four different measurements with a reference sensor were implemented. The measurements were taken from the ground floor, the sixth floor, the eleventh floor and the fifteenth floor, which is attic. And the eleventh floor was selected as reference point. All measurements were taken for 30 minutes. The four corners of the building were chosen as measurement points. Total ten accelerometers were used for the measurements. The eight accelerometers were placed in the longitudinal and horizontal directions on the surfaces of shearwalls. The one

accelerometer was placed in the vertical direction on the floor. And the reference accelerometer was placed in the longitudinal direction on the shearwall of 11th floor. The measurement setup and location of the accelerometers are given in Fig. 4.

Mounting of accelerometers and data acquisition system are given in Figs. 5-6, respectively.



a) Mounting of the accelerometers



b) Mounting of reference accelerometer

Fig. 5. Details of accelerometer mounting



Fig. 6. Data acquisition system and the connection cables

Response signals obtained from the measurements were analysed and evaluated. The modal parameters (frequencies, mode shapes, and modal damping ratios) were obtained using the Enhanced Frequency Domain Decomposition (EFDD). The natural frequencies, modal damping ratios and mode shapes were extracted from the power spectra by selecting peak values. The power spectral density function of the building obtained using the EFDD technique is depicted in Fig. 7.

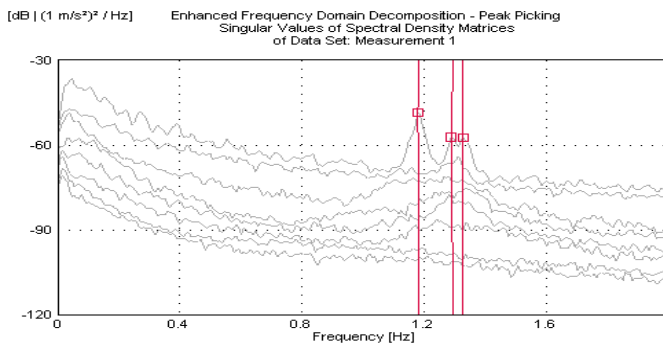


Fig. 7. The power spectral density function obtained from the EFDD technique



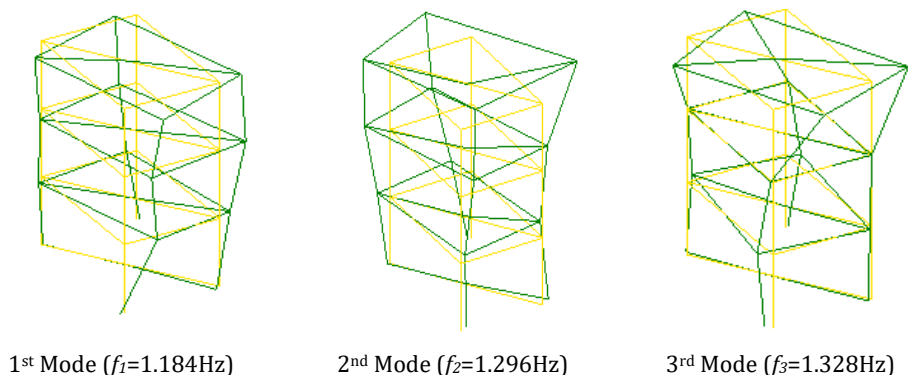


Fig. 8. The first three experimental mode shapes of the building

The mode shapes of the building determined by the EFDD technique are given in Fig. 8. The first three experimental frequencies were obtained between 1.1-1.4 Hz. The first three mode shapes of the building were obtained as torsional mode, transverse mode and longitudinal mode, respectively.

### 3.4. Finite Element Model Updating of the Building

When the natural frequencies and mode shapes obtained from the analytical and experimental studies are compared, it is seen that there are some differences between the results. It is thought that these differences result from some uncertainties in the finite element model of the building. Therefore, it is needed to calibrate the initial analytical model in order to determine the real behaviour of the building. For the calibration, modulus of elasticity of brick and boundary conditions were considered. As boundary condition, spring was assigned to the building base and the outer surfaces of the basement floors in order to consider the soil-structure interaction. Material properties and spring coefficients used in the updated model are given in Table 2 and Table 3, respectively. At the end of the calibration process, the experimental, initial and updated natural frequencies are presented in Table 4.

Table 2. The updated material properties of the building

Materials	Modulus of Elasticity (N/m <sup>2</sup> )	Poisson Ratio	Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Concrete (C30)	3.2E10	0.2	2 450
Brick	1.08E9	0.2	1 600

Table 3. The spring coefficients of the updated finite element model of the building

Boundary Conditions	Spring Coefficients (kN/m)		
	Transverse	Longitudinal	Vertical
Under the base	36 600	36 600	36 600
On the basement walls	12 200	12 200	12 200



Table 4. The experimental and analytical natural frequencies of the building

Mode Numbers	Natural Frequencies (Hz)			
	Experimental Results	Initial Model	Updated Model	Differences (%)
1	1.184	1.639	1.184	0.00
2	1.296	1.820	1.291	0.39
3	1.328	1.907	1.370	3.16

It can be seen from Table 4 that the average difference in the natural frequencies is approximately attained as 3% for the first three modes. The calibrated mode shapes are presented in Fig. 9.

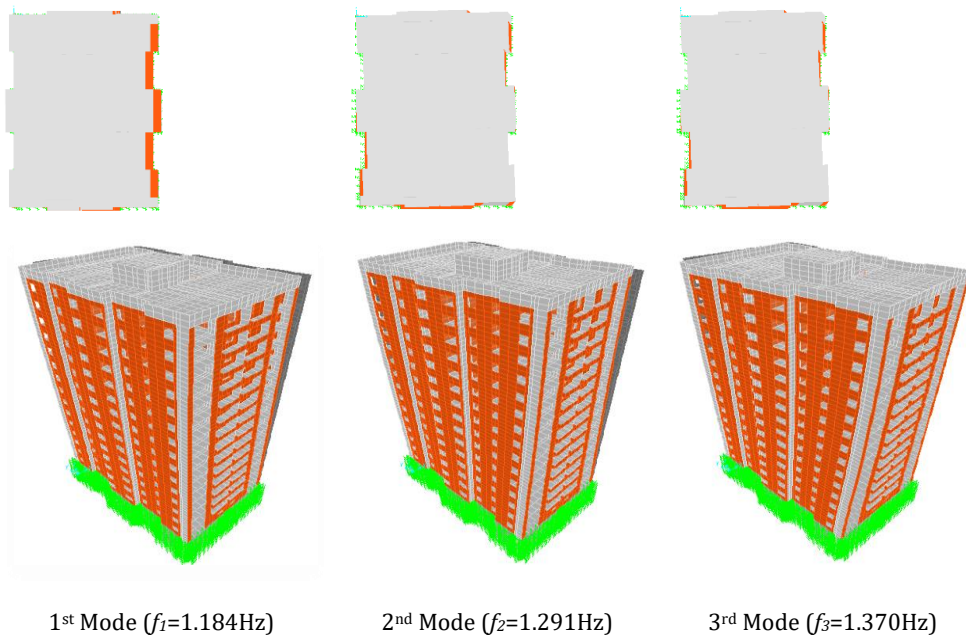


Fig. 9. The first three mode shapes of the updated building model

The first three updated analytical frequencies were obtained between 1.1-1.4 Hz. The first three mode shapes of the building were obtained as transverse mode, torsional mode and torsional mode, respectively.

It can be seen from Fig. 9 that updated mode shapes of the building have not a good harmony with experimental mode shapes. It is considered that this disharmony results from especially uncertainties about boundary conditions.

### 3.5. Analyses of the Building for Earthquake Motions

Duzce earthquake in 1999 as a near-fault ground motion and Imperial Valley earthquake in 1979 as far-fault ground motion were selected for the analysis. Some characteristics of these earthquakes are given in Table 5 (M: magnitude, d: distance, PGA: peak ground acceleration, PGV: peak ground velocity, PGD: peak ground displacement).

Table 5. Characteristics of the selected near and far-fault ground motions [36]

Earthquake	Record/Component	M	d (km)	PGA (cm/s <sup>2</sup> )	PGV (cm/s)	PGD (cm)
1999 Duzce	DUZCE/DZC270	7.1	8.2	524.84	83.5	51.59
1979 Imperial Valley	IMPVAL/H-VCT345	6.5	54.1	163.83	8.3	1.05

The initial and updated analytical models of the building were analysed linearly under earthquake motions. The ground motions were applied to the building in X-axis direction (in the weak direction of the building). The relationship between height and displacements under earthquake motions is given in Fig. 10. As can be seen from Fig. 10, the displacements increase with increasing story height. In addition, it is seen that the displacements obtained from the calibrated model are bigger than these of the initial model for both far and near-fault ground motions.

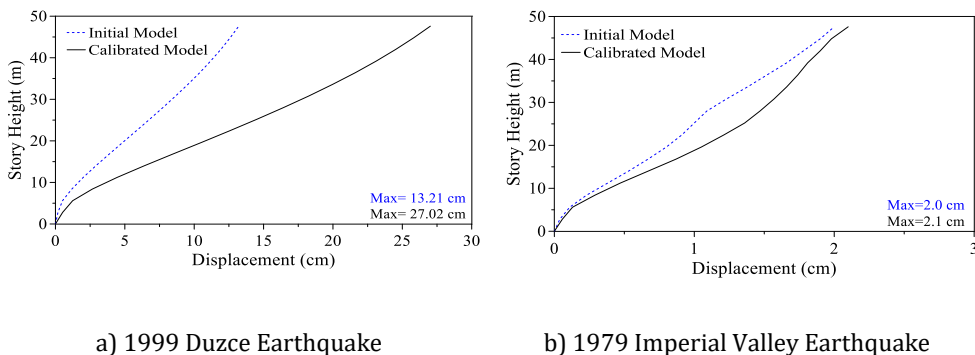


Fig. 10. The relationship between height and displacement under near and far-fault ground motions

Displacements, velocities and accelerations occurring on the 17th floor of the building under far and near-fault ground motions are comparatively plotted in Fig. 11. Frequency contents of displacement, velocity and acceleration obtained from the initial and the calibrated models under near and far-fault ground motions were observed to be compatible with each other.

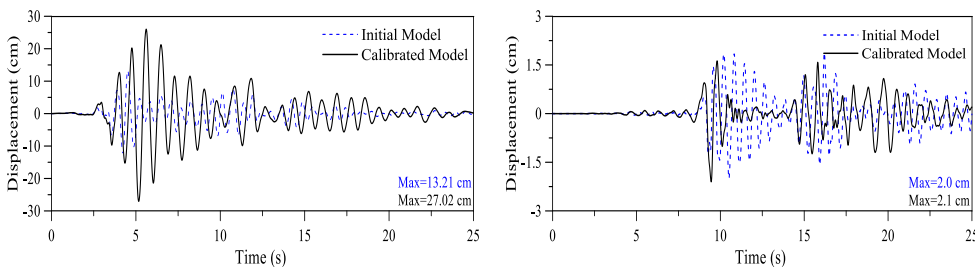




Fig. 13. Time histories of base shear force for the earthquakes

As can be seen from Figs. 12-13, although calibrated model increases the bending moment and shear force under near-fault ground motion, it reduces them under far-fault ground motion.

Max compressive and tensile stresses occurred under the earthquake ground motions are given in Figs. 14-15, respectively.

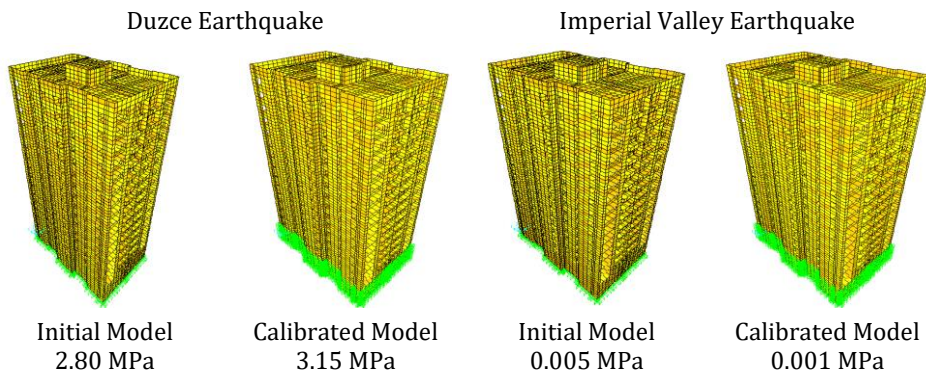


Fig. 14. Compressive stresses obtained from the earthquakes

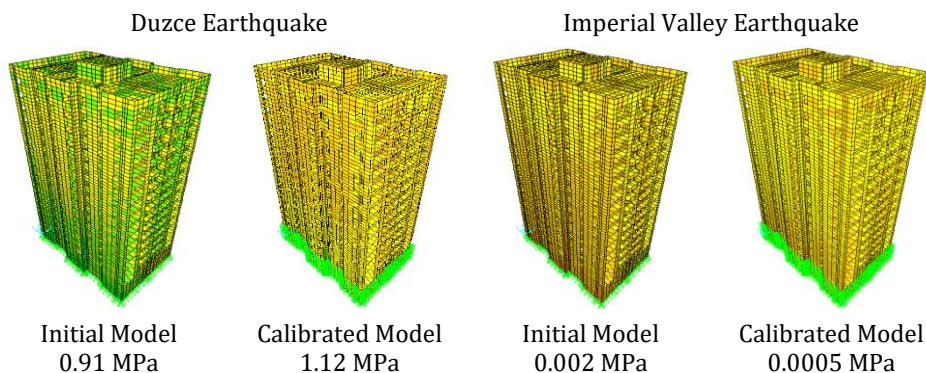


Fig. 15. Tensile stresses obtained from the earthquakes

As can be seen from Figs. 14-15, the compressive and tensile stresses increase in calibrated model under near-fault ground motion, but they reduce under far-fault ground motion.

#### 4. Conclusions

The paper investigates the effects of ambient vibration based model updating on the seismic behaviour of a RC tall building under earthquake motions. The results obtained from the study are summarized below:

- Approximately 43% difference between the initial analytical and experimental natural frequencies of the building for the first three modes is observed. After model calibrating, the differences between calculated and experimental natural

frequencies are reduced to approximately 3%. But mode shapes have not a good harmony each other because the boundary conditions are not met exactly by the analytical model.

- Difference between displacements obtained from the initial and the calibrated models along the height of the building under the near-fault ground motion is bigger than under the far-fault ground motion.
- The displacements, velocities and accelerations calculated from the calibrated model for near-fault ground motion are generally larger than these of the initial model. However, it is observed opposite situation for the far-fault ground motion.
- Frequency contents of the displacement, velocity and acceleration obtained from the initial and the calibrated models are generally compatible with each other.
- Unlike the results of far-fault ground motion, the base bending moments and base shear forces obtained from the calibrated model for near-fault ground motion are bigger than these of the initial model.
- Max compressive and tensile stresses obtained from the calibrated model for near-fault ground motion are bigger than these of the initial model, whereas the opposite situation prevails for the far-fault ground motion. And, because the compressive and tensile stresses obtained from both the models are smaller than concrete's, the building is safe in terms of compressive and tensile stresses.

It can be generally said that the effects of finite element model updating and near-fault ground motion in the assessment of tall RC buildings must be taken into account.

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