# Analysis of borehole data

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# Outline

- Advantages of borehole data
- Difficulties of working with these data
- Understanding linear and nonlinear modeling
- Working proposition?

### 1. Advantages of borehole data



Wave propagation from bedrock to surface



# PGA distribution (KiK-net)

Field data observation of soil nonlinearity onset?

Statistical analysis with respect to magnitude and Vs30

## **Calibration of soil models**



Stress computation from deformation data

**Waveform modeling** 

Revealing nonlinear response



- 2011 Tohoku earthquake data
- Predominant frequency more affected than fundamental
- Affected frequency increases as Vs30 increases

### Port Island, Kobe / Kushiro Port



Velocity model is not always enough!

### 2. Difficulties of borehole data



Downgoing wavefield

Site response (outcrop response) is not the same as borehole response



### Vs30 uncertainty (lack of knowledge of the medium)

- Variability within each soil class is important
- This variability is even larger at depths greater than 30 m
- Is Vs30 enough?

3000.0

 Not always core sampling, thus no dynamic soil parameters



# Analysis of KiK-net boreholes

- Similar Vs30 (between 350 and 450 m/s)
- Different velocity distribution at depth
- Different site response
- Is Vs30 enough?

## Vs30 = 400 +/- 5 m/s



### No comments! The data speak alone

# 3. We need to know well the linear response (example of the CORSSA array, Greece)



## Inverting for nonlinear soil properties



Mogi et al. (2010)

- Use of vertical arrays
- Inversion of G/Gmax only

### Inverting for nonlinear soil properties



Assimaki et al. (2010)

Inverting for G/Gmax and damping ratio

## An insight of nonlinear soil response



Gandomzadeh (2011)

### Soil-structure interaction model





(a) Low-strain shear moduli of the profiles

#### Confining pressure dependency

## An insight of nonlinear soil response



Gandomzadeh (2011)

(a) Dissipated energy

(b) Maximum shear strain

(c) Dissipated energy

# What do we observe?

- Energy is strongly dissipated at the bottom of each layer and close to the free surface
- Since shear strength increases with depth, the energy is dissipated in the weaker part (transition between layers)
- Furthermore, the impedance contrast increases at each layer interface
- Thus, nonlinear response has a cumulative effect (number of cycles) and competition between impedance contrast (linear part) and material strength (nonlinear part)
- It is therefore necessary to instrument not only the middle of the layers but near their interfaces

## Conclusions

Sources of uncertainty (variability) in site response

- Input ground motion (e.g. near- and far-field)
- Low strain properties (linear site response)
- Dynamic soil properties (nonlinear site response)
- Methods of computing site response

## What do we need?

- Understanding linear site response
- Inverting earthquake data to obtain dynamical soil properties (up to bedrock?)
- Core sampling and laboratory tests (material strength, granulometry, pore pressure effects, etc.)
- Instrumenting middle of layers and near their interfaces