Experience with Nonlinear Seismic Analysis of Buildings

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Philosophy of my computer simulation research

- I write and use my own special purpose software:
- More flexible
- Runs fast
- Only my own bugs to worry about
- Avoid dealing with poor documentation

Program features for moment-frame buildings

- 2d-analysis of planar frames
- Beam/column elements with implicit plastic hinges (hardening/softening behavior, axial-bending strength interaction, shear deformations)
- Full geometric nonlinearity
- Panel zone elements (finite size, shear nonlinearity)
- Diaphragm springs
- Implicit time integration with iterations
- Seven damping schemes

Example 20-story building (SAC post-Northridge design for LA)



Features of analysis

- Both moment and gravity frames explicitly modelled
- 3-element beams to model cover plated end segments
- 2-element columns at splice locations
- 1722 degrees of freedom
- Strong ground motion causing beam plastic hinge rotations > 6%
- 2500 time steps at $\Delta t = 0.01$ seconds
- Dell laptop with Intel i7-6700HQ 2.60GHz processor

Run time: 37 CPU seconds

Efficiency: solving equation of motion

$$\begin{split} [M] \big\{ \ddot{a}^{(j+1)}(t + \Delta t) \big\} + [C] \big\{ \dot{a}^{(j+1)}(t + \Delta t) \big\} + \Big[K_I^{(j)} \Big] \big\{ \Delta a^{(j)} \big\} \\ &= \{ f(t + \Delta t) \} - \{ R^{(j)}(t + \Delta t) \} \end{split}$$

$[K_I]$ and $\{R\}$ decisions



Efficiency: panel zones



Modelling problems

- Diaphragms: tie adjacent frames together, constrain nodes of a floor to move together in horizontal direction
- Plastic hinges: coupling between axial and bending stiffnesses
- Damping: large damping moments with Rayleigh damping in nonlinear analysis

Amplified damping moments when using Rayleigh damping in nonlinear analysis

Two explanations:

- 1980's caused by rotational mass, which should be included in an analysis
- 1995 associated with massless (rotational) degrees of freedom

Assessment of damping moments



For lower level beams in the 20-story building and 3% damping: $M_{ratio} \approx 0.20$ using $\dot{\Phi} = 0.1$ rad/sec

SAC LA35/LA36 Ground Motion (half scale)









Damping: other considerations

• Interior nodes to capture secondary framing



- Higher damping (5% for concrete buildings)
- Higher stiffness to strength ratio (concrete buildings)
- Braced frames
- Vertical ground motion

Stay active Anil. There are still lots of interesting problems to work on.



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