GROUND-MOTION SELECTION FOR PEER TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

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Abstract: Dynamic structural analysis is commonly used in performance-based earthquake engineering to predict the response of a structure subjected to the earthquake ground motions. It is important to select appropriate input ground-motion time histories in order to obtain unbiased estimates of the structural response. The goal of this study is to select a standardized set of ground motions for the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research (PEER) Transportation Research Program that can be used to analyze a variety of buildings, bridges and geotechnical systems located in different sites in California. Since these goals are neither structure specific nor site specific, ground-motion selection techniques developed in previous PEER projects are not directly applicable here.

In this study, we use a ground-motion selection algorithm proposed by Jayaram et al. (2009) to select a set of ground-motion time histories from the Next Generation Attenuation (NGA) database whose response spectra match a target response spectrum median and variance over a range of periods. The target median and variance are computed using the Boore and Atkinson (2008) ground-motion prediction model for a scenario earthquake of magnitude 7 occurring at a distance of 10km, and ground-motion time histories are selected for both soil and rock sites. This manuscript summarizes a variety of properties of the selected ground motion time histories. These time histories can be used as input ground-motions for the applications described earlier, as well as any other applications requiring the use of strong ground motions typical of high-seismicity regions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Dynamic structural analysis is commonly used in performance-based earthquake engineering to predict the response of a structure subjected to the earthquake ground motions. It is important to select appropriate input ground-motion time histories in order to obtain unbiased estimates of the structural response. Much progress has been made by the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research (PEER) Center and others in recent decades to understand the properties of earthquake ground motions that affect geotechnical and structural systems (e.g., Haselton et al. 2009, Power et al. 2007). This has led to insights for structure-specific ground-motion selection, which is done to obtain a set of ground motions whose intensity (measured by an intensity measure such as the spectral acceleration) is exceeded with some specified probability at a given site.

This recent progress has focused primarily on cases where the structure and the location of interest are known (so that ground motions can be selected and modified with specific structural properties and seismic hazard information in mind). The goal of this study, in contrast, is to select a standardized set of ground motions for the PEER Transportation Research Program (http://peer.berkeley.edu/ transportation/index.html) that can be used to analyze a variety of buildings, bridges and geotechnical systems located at a variety of locations. It is also desired to select a single set of ground motions that can be used with multiple structural systems at a given site in order to facilitate comparisons of different systems, even though structural parameters such as periods of interest might change from system to system. Since these goals are neither structure specific nor site specific, ground-motion selection techniques developed in previous PEER projects are not directly applicable here.

In this study, we use a ground-motion selection algorithm proposed by Jayaram et al. (2009) to select separate sets of ground-motion time histories for soil and rock sites that are usable over a wide range of high-seismicity sites such as California for studying the earthquake structural response of a wide variety of structures. This manuscript describes the selection procedure and summarizes the properties of the selected ground-motion time histories. The selected time histories are available at http://www.stanford.edu/~bakerjw/PEER_gms.html.

2. OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the study is to select site-independent and structure-independent ground motions, but several decisions were made to constrain the scope of the ground-motion selection:

- Although the sites of interest will vary, we are generally interested in high-seismicity sites that may experience strong ground motions from mid- to large-magnitude earthquakes at close distances.
- There are a variety of structures to be studied, some of which are also sensitive to excitation at a wide range of periods. This means that it is not useful to focus on a specific period or a narrow range of periods when selecting ground motions.
- 3. The primary period range of interest is between 0 and 3 seconds, with secondary interest in periods as long as 5 seconds.
- 4. The users are willing and able to utilize a relatively large number of ground motions (i.e., dozens to hundreds) in order to identify probability distributions and statistical trends in system responses.
- 5. Three component ground motions are needed.
- 6. Separate sets of unscaled ground-motion time histories are needed for rock sites and soil sites.

Site and structure-specific ground-motion selection methods often involve selecting a set of ground motions whose response spectra match a site-specific target median response spectrum (e.g., Haselton et al. 2009, Bazzurro and Luco 2005, Naeim and Lew 1995), without any consideration of the inherent variance in the response spectrum. Estimates of structural response obtained using the ground motions selected only based on the median values will show smaller than 'actual' variance. As a result, there has recently been a bigger focus on selecting ground motions based on not only the target median response, but also a target variance (e.g., Kottke and Rathje 2008). The current work follows a similar approach and focuses on selecting ground motions considering both the median and the variance. Since it is desired to obtain ground motions that can be used at multiple locations, ground motions are selected such that the median and the variance of their response spectra resemble what can be expected from the following 'generic earthquake scenario' typical of high-seismicity sites:

Magnitude = 7.

Closest distance = 10 km.

Earthquake mechanism = strike slip.

 $V_s 30 = 250$ m/s for soil sites and 760m/s for rock sites,

where $V_s 30$ is the average shear-wave velocity in the top 30m of the soil.

The median and the variance values corresponding to the above scenario are obtained using the Boore and Atkinson (2008) ground-motion model.

3. GROUND-MOTION SELECTION ALGORITHM

Selecting time histories only based on a target median response spectrum is computationally inexpensive since it can be done by choosing time histories whose response spectra individually deviate the least from the target. When matching a target median and a target variance, however, it does not suffice to treat ground motions individually, but rather requires comparisons of the median and variance of sets of ground motions to the target values. That is, the suitability of a particular ground motion can only be determined in the context of the complete ground-motion set in which it might be included. There is generally an intractably large number of possible ground-motion sets, and so identifying the best set is a computationally-expensive combinatorial optimization problem (e.g., Kottke and Rathje 2008). The current work uses a ground-motion selection algorithm recently proposed by Jayaram et al. (2009) for this purpose. This algorithm uses the fact that the logarithmic spectral accelerations at multiple periods in a single ground motion follow a multivariate normal distribution (Jayaram and Baker 2008). This distribution can be parameterized using the target mean and the target covariance of the logarithmic response spectrum, which are related to the target median and the target covariance of the response spectrum based on the properties of the multivariate normal distribution. The selection algorithm first probabilistically generates multiple realizations of response spectrum from this distribution, and then selects recorded ground-motion time histories whose response spectra individually match the simulated response spectra. The following subsections briefly highlight the steps involved in the algorithm. A complete description of the algorithm can be found in Jayaram et al. (2009).

3.2.1 Step 1: Parameterization of the target response distribution

The first step is to parameterize the multivariate normal distribution of the logarithmic spectral accelerations at multiple periods (i.e., the distribution of $[\ln S_a(T_l), \ln S_a(T_2), ..., \ln S_a(T_n)]$, where $\ln S_a(T_l)$ denotes the logarithmic spectral acceleration at period T_l). The two parameters of the multivariate normal distribution are the mean matrix and the covariance matrix of the logarithmic spectral accelerations. Based on the target earthquake scenario (defined in Section 3.1), the mean value and the standard deviation of each $\ln S_a(T_l)$ can be obtained from an empirical ground-motion model (e.g., Boore and Atkinson 2008) as follows:

$$\ln S_a(T_i) = \ln S_a(T_i) + \sigma(T_i)\varepsilon(T_i)$$
(1)

where $\ln S_a(T_i)$ denotes the predicted (by the ground-motion model) mean logarithmic spectral acceleration at period T_i , which depends on parameters such as magnitude, distance and local-site conditions; $\varepsilon(T_i)$ denotes the normalized (total) residual and $\sigma(T_i)$ denotes the logarithmic standard deviation that is estimated as part of the ground-motion model.

Therefore, the target mean matrix of the vector $[\ln S_a(T_1), \ln S_a(T_2), ..., \ln S_a(T_n)]$ can be expressed as follows:

$$\mu = \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\ln S_a}(T_1) \\ \overline{\ln S_a}(T_2) \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \overline{\ln S_a}(T_n) \end{pmatrix}$$
(2)

While ground-motion models provide estimates of the standard deviation of a single $\ln S_a(T_i)$ (i.e., $\sigma(T_i)$), they do not provide any information about the correlation $\rho(T_i,T_j)$ between $\ln S_a(T_i)$ and $\ln S_a(T_j)$, which is required for obtaining the covariance matrix of the vector $[\ln S_a(T_i), \ln S_a(T_2), ..., \ln S_a(T_n)]$. Therefore, in this study, we used estimates of this correlation provided by Baker and Jayaram (2008). The covariance matrix can then be estimated as follows:

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma(T_1)^2 & \rho(T_1, T_2)\sigma(T_1)\sigma(T_2) & \dots & \rho(T_1, T_n)\sigma(T_n)\sigma(T_n) \\ \rho(T_2, T_1)\sigma(T_2)\sigma(T_1) & \sigma(T_2)^2 & \dots & \rho(T_2, T_n)\sigma(T_2)\sigma(T_n) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \rho(T_n, T_1)\sigma(T_n)\sigma(T_1) & \rho(T_n, T_2)\sigma(T_n)\sigma(T_2) & \dots & \sigma(T_n)^2 \end{bmatrix}$$
(3)

The rest of the steps of the algorithm are intended to select ground motions whose logarithmic response spectra have the mean and covariance matrices described by Equations 2 and 3 respectively.

3.2.2 Step 2: Response spectrum simulation

The second step in the ground-motion selection algorithm is to simulate response spectra using the mean and covariance matrices defined in Equations 2 and 3 respectively. This can be done by sampling multiple times from a multivariate normal distribution (for instance, this can be done using the *mvnrnd* command in MATLAB) with the above-mentioned mean and covariance matrices (Law and Kelton 1991). The number of response spectra to be simulated equals the desired number of ground motions.

3.2.3 Step 3: Ground-motion time history selection

In the third step, ground-motion time histories are selected whose response spectra match the response spectra simulated in Step 2. One effective criterion for determining the similarity between a ground-motion response spectrum and a simulated response spectrum is the sum of squared errors (*SSE*) described below:

$$SSE = \sum_{j=1}^{p} \left(\ln S_a(T_j) - \ln S_a^{(s)}(T_j) \right)^2$$
(4)

where $\ln S_a(T_j)$ is the ground-motion logarithmic spectral acceleration at period T_j , $\ln S_a^{(s)}(T_j)$ is the simulated logarithmic spectral acceleration at period T_j . For each simulated response spectrum, the ground motion which minimizes *SSE* is selected. Since the simulated response spectra have the desired mean and covariance structure, the response spectra selected using this approach will also have the desired mean and covariance.

3.2.4 Step 4: Greedy improvement algorithm

When a small number of ground motions are selected using the approach described above, the sample means and variances can deviate slightly from the target values due to the small size. In such cases, a 'greedy' algorithm is used to further improve the match between the sample and the target means and variances. In this approach, each time history selected in Step 3 is replaced one at a time with a time history from the ground-motion database that causes the best improvement in the match between the target and the sample means and variances (diagonals of the covariance matrix in Equation 3). If none of the potential replacements causes an improvement, the original ground-motion time history is retained. The mismatch between the target and the sample means and the variances is estimated as the sum squared difference between the target and the sample values over the period range of interest.

$$SSE_s = \sum_{j=1}^{p} \left[\left(\hat{m}_{\ln S_a(T_j)} - \overline{\ln S_a}(T_j) \right)^2 + w \left(\hat{s}_{\ln S_a(T_j)} - \sigma(T_j) \right)^2 \right]$$
(6)

where SSE_s is the sum of squared error of the subset, which



Figure 1 Response spectra of the selected ground motions for soil sites (a) Log-Log plot, and (b) Linear plot.



Figure 2 Soil sites: (a) Comparison of the target and the sample medians, and (b) Comparison of the target and the sample logarithmic standard deviations.

is the parameter to be minimized, $\hat{m}_{\ln S_a(T_j)}$ is the subset mean logarithmic spectral acceleration at period T_j , $\hat{s}_{\ln S_a(T_j)}$ is the subset standard deviation of the logarithmic spectral acceleration at period T_j , w is a weighting factor indicating the relative importance of the errors in the standard deviation and the mean (a typical starting value for w equals 1), and p denotes the total number of periods (T_j) at which the error is computed.



4. PROPERTIES OF THE SELECTED GROUND MOTIONS

Figure 3 Magnitudes and closest distances for soil site ground-motion records.

This section describes the properties of two sets of forty ground-motion time histories selected for soil and rock sites based on the algorithm described in Section 3. The ground motions are selected from the PEER Next Generation Attenuation (NGA) database (Power et al. 2007). The NGA database time histories are rotated to the strike-normal and the strike-parallel directions before selection.

4.1 Ground motions for soil sites

A set of ground motions was desired that was representative of those observed at site conditions commonly observed in California. In order to ensure that the objectives defined earlier (Section 2) are satisfied, only NGA database records satisfying the following criteria are considered for selection.

- 1. The magnitude corresponding to the record ranges between 6 and 8.
- 2. The closest distance between the source and the recording site is less than 50km.
- 3. The recording site $V_s 30$ ranges between 200m/s and 400m/s.

No restrictions are placed on the number of recordings that can be selected from the same earthquake. A total of 391 records satisfy the above-mentioned criteria and are



Figure 4 Response spectra of the selected ground motions for rock sites (a) Log-Log plot, and (b) Linear plot.

considered for selection.

Figure 1 shows the response spectra of the forty ground-motion time histories (Table 1) selected for the soil sites. The figure also shows the target median response spectrum (exponential of the target means shown in Equation 2, based on the properties of the normal distribution) and the 95 percentile confidence interval for the response spectrum. These ground-motion response spectra have the desired medians and logarithmic standard deviations (the diagonals in the covariance matrix shown in Equation 3) as indicated by Figure 2. Figure 3 shows the magnitudes and the closest distances of the selected ground-motion records. Note that while some magnitudes and distances differ significantly from the target event's, the properties of the response spectra of the selected ground motions match the target properties as desired.



Figure 5 Rock sites: (a) Comparison of the target and the sample medians, and (b) Comparison of the target and the sample logarithmic standard deviations.

4.2 Ground motions for rock sites

A second set of ground motions was desired to be representative of those observed at rock sites (or to be used as bedrock level ground motions for site response analyses). On account of the fewer number of rock-site ground motions in the NGA database, all records at sites with V_s30 values over 625m/s are considered for selection, irrespective of the magnitude corresponding to the record or the distance of the recording site from the earthquake source. A total of 282 NGA database ground-motion records qualify under this criterion for selection.

Figure 4 shows the response spectra of the forty ground motions (Table 2) selected for the rock sites. The figure also shows the target median response spectrum and 95 percentile confidence interval for the response spectrum. Figure 5 shows a very good match between the target and the sample median values and a reasonably good match



Figure 6 Magnitudes and closest distances for rock site ground-motion records.

between the target and the sample logarithmic standard deviations. Figure 6 shows the magnitudes and the closest distances of the selected ground-motion records. It can be seen from this figure that the selected records primarily correspond to magnitudes between 6.5 and 7.5 and source-to-site distances less than 50km.

5. STRUCTURE-SPECIFIC SCALING OF THE SELECTED GROUND MOTIONS

Often, a structure-specific response analysis is performed using a set of ground-motion time histories whose spectral acceleration at the structure's fundamental period equals a pre-specified value (e.g., Baker 2009). The target conditional mean and variance of the logarithmic response spectrum in such cases can be obtained using the conditional mean spectrum (CMS) method (Baker 2009).

5.1 Target conditional mean and variance

The target mean and variance for a conditional logarithmic response spectrum can be obtained as follows: Define the parameter $\varepsilon(T)$ as follows (rearranging Equation 1):

$$\varepsilon(T) = \frac{\ln S_a(T) - \ln S_a(T)}{\sigma(T)}$$
(5)

Let *S* denote the target spectral acceleration at period T^* , the fundamental period of the structure. Note that $\varepsilon(T^*)$ is known since $S_a(T^*)$ equals *S* (the target).

The target conditional means of logarithmic spectral accelerations (i.e., $\ln S_a(T)$) can then be obtained as

$$E\left[\ln S_a(T_i) \mid \ln S_a(T^*)\right] = \overline{\ln S_a}(T_i) + \rho(T_i, T^*)\varepsilon(T^*)\sigma(T_i)$$
(6)

where $E[\ln S_a(T_i)| \ln Sa(T^*)]$ denotes the target conditional mean of $\ln S_a(T_i)$, and $\rho(T_i, T^*)$ denotes the correlation coefficient between $\ln Sa(T_i)$ and $\ln Sa(T^*)$. The target conditional medians of spectral accelerations can be obtained as the exponential of $E[\ln S_a(T_i)| \ln Sa(T^*)]$ (based on the properties of a normal distribution).

The target conditional variance of logarithmic spectral accelerations equals

$$Var\left[\ln S_{a}(T_{i}) \mid \ln S_{a}(T^{*})\right] = \sigma(T_{i})^{2} \left[1 - \rho(T_{i}, T^{*})^{2}\right]$$
(7)

where $Var[\ln S_a(T_i)| \ln Sa(T^*)]$ denotes the target conditional variance of $\ln S_a(T_i)$.



Figure 7 Case 1: Conditional response spectra of the scaled selected ground motions for soil sites (a) Log-Log plot, and (b) Linear plot.

5.1 Obtaining conditional ground motions from the selected unconditional ground motions

Though the ground motions selected in this study are not conditioned on any particular spectral acceleration, they can be scaled so that their spectral accelerations at the fundamental period equal the pre-specified value before being used for any response analysis. This section compares the medians and variances of such scaled ground motions to the corresponding targets defined in Equations 6 and 7.



Figure 8 Case 1: (a) Comparison of the conditional target and sample medians, and (b) Comparison of the conditional target and sample logarithmic standard deviations.

5.2.1 Case 1: $\varepsilon(T^*) = 0$

Let the target spectral acceleration at period T^* equal $\ln S_a(T^*)$ (from Equation 5 for $\varepsilon(T^*) = 0$). Figure 7 shows the selected soil-site ground motions scaled such that their logarithmic spectral accelerations at 1s (assumed value of T^*) equal this target. The figure also shows the target conditional median spectrum along with the confidence interval obtained using the CMS method. Figure 8a shows that the target median conditional spectrum and the sample median spectrum (median of the scaled selected ground-motion response spectra) match very well. Figure 8b shows a good match between the target and the sample conditional logarithmic standard deviation values at periods

close to 1s (the fundamental period). At periods farther away from 1s, a small mismatch can be seen between the sample and the target values. A theoretical explanation for this mismatch is provided subsequently in the manuscript.

5.2.2 Case 2: $\varepsilon(T^*) = 1s$

Let the target spectral acceleration at period T^* equal $\ln S_a(T^*) + \sigma(T^*)$ (from Equation 5 for $\varepsilon(T^*) = 1$). Figure 9 shows the selected soil-site ground motions scaled such that their logarithmic spectral accelerations at 1s equals this target. Figure 10a shows some mismatch between the target median conditional spectrum and the sample median spectrum. (Incidentally, this mismatch also manifests in



Figure 9 Case 2: Conditional response spectra of the scaled selected ground motions for soil sites (a) Log-Log plot, and (b) Linear plot.

Figure 9.) Figure 10b is identical to Figure 8b since the sample conditional logarithmic variance is independent of $\varepsilon(T^*)$ (subsequently shown theoretically).

5.3 Theoretical explanation for the observed results

Let $S_a(\mathbf{T})$ (i.e., $[S_a(T_1), S_a(T_2), ..., S_a(T_n)]$) denote the response spectrum of a selected unscaled ground motion record. Let $S'_a(\mathbf{T})$ denote the response spectrum of the ground motion after scaling such that the value of $S'_a(T^*)$ equals S. $S'_a(T_i)$ can be obtained in terms of $S_a(T_i)$ as follows:

$$S_{a}^{'}(T_{i}) = S_{a}(T_{i}) \frac{S}{S_{a}(T^{*})}$$
(8)

Therefore,

$$\ln S_{a}'(T_{i}) = \ln S_{a}(T_{i}) + \ln S - \ln S_{a}(T^{*})$$
(9)



Figure 10 Case 2: (a) Comparison of the conditional target and sample medians, and (b) Comparison of the conditional target and sample logarithmic standard deviations.

Hence,

$$E\left[\ln S_{a}'(T_{i})\right] = \overline{\ln S_{a}}(T_{i}) + \left(\overline{\ln S_{a}}(T^{*}) + \varepsilon(T^{*})\sigma(T^{*})\right) - \overline{\ln S_{a}}(T^{*})$$
$$= \overline{\ln S_{a}}(T_{i}) + \varepsilon(T^{*})\sigma(T^{*})$$
(10)

$$Var\left[\ln S_{a}'(T_{i})\right] = Var\left[\ln S_{a}(T_{i}) - \ln S_{a}(T^{*})\right]$$
(11)
$$= \sigma(T_{i})^{2} + \sigma(T^{*})^{2} - 2\rho(T_{i},T^{*})\sigma(T_{i})\sigma(T^{*})$$

It can be seen that the sample mean in Equation 10 equals the target mean in Equation 6 only when $\varepsilon(T^*) = 0$ (Case 1). For other values of $\varepsilon(T^*)$, the mismatch between the two means is small at periods close to T^* (because

 $\rho(T_b T^*)$ is approximately equal to 1) and increases as the difference between T_i and T^* increases (as $\rho(T_b T^*)$ decreases). While this discrepancy in mean values cannot be addressed simply by changing the scaling of these ground motions, it can in theory be addressed by post-processing the structural analysis results to account for the impact of this known discrepancy (e.g., Haselton et al., 2010).

The variance of the scaled response spectrum (Equation 11) does not exactly match the target variance obtained using the CMS method (Equation 7) irrespective of the value of $\varepsilon(T^*)$. The two variance terms are, however, similar when $\sigma(T_i)$ approximately equals $\sigma(T^*)$ and $\rho(T_i, T^*)$ equals 1 (i.e., T_i equals T^*). When T_i differs from T^* , the variance term in Equation 11 is generally larger than that in Equation 7, as seen in Figure 8b at periods longer than 3s. At other periods, the closeness of the expected sample and the target variances along with sample variability obscures this effect.

6. CONCLUSIONS

In this study, two sets of ground-motion time histories were selected for soil and rock sites that are usable at a wide range of high seismicity sites for analyzing a wide variety of structures. The selection was carried out using a ground-motion selection algorithm proposed by Jayaram et al. (2009), which selects time histories whose response spectra match a target response spectrum mean and variability. In order to ensure that the ground motions are usable at multiple sites, they were selected such that the median and the variance of their response spectra resemble what can be expected from a magnitude 7 earthquake at a distance of 10km, which is presumed to be a typical earthquake for high seismicity sites. The manuscript described the properties of the selected ground-motion sets for both the soil and the rock sites. It was seen that the sample mean and variance values closely match the corresponding target values.

Though the ground motions selected in this study were not conditioned on any particular spectral acceleration, they can be scaled so that their spectral accelerations at a particular period (e.g., the fundamental period of a structure) equal a pre-specified value. This enables the use of the selected ground motions for structure-specific earthquake response analysis. The manuscript illustrated this scaling approach, and showed that the properties of these scaled conditional ground motions may reasonably match the target conditional properties in some cases, while in other cases, some post processing of structural analysis results may be needed to account for discrepancies.

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7. APPENDIX: TABLES OF SELECTED GROUND MOTIONS

The following tables provide basic summary data for the selected ground motions. Additional summary data, along with the time history files for these ground motions, are available at: http://www.stanford.edu/~bakerjw/PEER gms.html. Complete summary data for these ground motions can be obtained by cross-referenceing the NGA record sequence numbers given here with the corresponding "NGA values in the flatfile" at http://peer.berkeley.edu/nga/documentation.html.

| Record number | NGA Record Sequence Number | Earthquake Name | Year | Magnitude | Closest Distance (km) | Preferred Vs30 (m/s) |
|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 231 | Mammoth Lakes-01 | 1980 | 6.1 | 15.5 | 345 |
| 2 | 1203 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 16.1 | 233 |
| 3 | 829 | Cape Mendocino | 1992 | 7.0 | 14.3 | 312 |
| 4 | 169 | Imperial Valley-06 | 1979 | 6.5 | 22.0 | 275 |
| 5 | 1176 | Kocaeli, Turkey | 1999 | 7.5 | 4.8 | 297 |
| 6 | 163 | Imperial Valley-06 | 1979 | 6.5 | 24.6 | 206 |
| 7 | 1201 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 14.8 | 379 |
| 8 | 1402 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 38.4 | 375 |
| 9 | 1158 | Kocaeli, Turkey | 1999 | 7.5 | 15.4 | 276 |
| 10 | 281 | Trinidad | 1980 | 7.2 | - | 312 |
| 11 | 730 | Spitak, Armenia | 1988 | 6.8 | - | 275 |
| 12 | 768 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 14.3 | 222 |
| 13 | 1499 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 8.5 | 273 |
| 14 | 266 | Victoria, Mexico | 1980 | 6.3 | 19.0 | 275 |
| 15 | 761 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 39.9 | 285 |
| 16 | 558 | Chalfant Valley-02 | 1986 | 6.2 | 7.6 | 271 |
| 17 | 1543 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 26.8 | 215 |
| 18 | 2114 | Denali, Alaska | 2002 | 7.9 | 2.7 | 329 |
| 19 | 179 | Imperial Valley-06 | 1979 | 6.5 | 7.1 | 209 |
| 20 | 931 | Big Bear-01 | 1992 | 6.5 | - | 271 |
| 21 | 900 | Landers | 1992 | 7.3 | 23.6 | 354 |
| 22 | 1084 | Northridge-01 | 1994 | 6.7 | 5.4 | 251 |
| 23 | 68 | San Fernando | 1971 | 6.6 | 22.8 | 317 |
| 24 | 527 | N. Palm Springs | 1986 | 6.1 | 12.1 | 345 |
| 25 | 776 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 27.9 | 371 |
| 26 | 1495 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 6.4 | 273 |
| 27 | 1194 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 19.1 | 278 |
| 28 | 161 | Imperial Valley-06 | 1979 | 6.5 | 10.4 | 209 |
| 29 | 1236 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 37.5 | 273 |
| 30 | 1605 | Duzce, Turkey | 1999 | 7.1 | 6.6 | 276 |
| 31 | 1500 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 17.2 | 273 |
| 32 | 802 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 8.5 | 371 |
| 33 | 6 | Imperial Valley-02 | 1940 | 7.0 | 6.1 | 213 |
| 34 | 2656 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan-03 | 1999 | 6.2 | 31.8 | 273 |
| 35 | 982 | Northridge-01 | 1994 | 6.7 | 5.4 | 373 |
| 36 | 2509 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan-03 | 1999 | 6.2 | 35.1 | 223 |
| 37 | 800 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 32.8 | 271 |
| 38 | 754 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 20.8 | 295 |
| 39 | 1183 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 40.4 | 211 |
| 40 | 3512 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan-06 | 1999 | 6.3 | 45.7 | 215 |

Table 1Selected ground-motion records for soil sites.

 Table 2
 Selected ground-motion records for rock sites

| Record number | NGA Record Sequence Number | Earthquake Name | Year | Magnitude | Closest Distance (km) | Preferred Vs30 (m/s) |
|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 72 | San Fernando | 1971 | 6.6 | 25.1 | 822 |
| 2 | 769 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 18.3 | 663 |
| 3 | 1165 | Kocaeli, Turkey | 1999 | 7.5 | 7.2 | 811 |
| 4 | 1011 | Northridge-01 | 1994 | 6.7 | 20.3 | 1223 |
| 5 | 164 | Imperial Valley-06 | 1979 | 6.5 | 15.2 | 660 |
| 6 | 1787 | Hector Mine | 1999 | 7.1 | 11.7 | 685 |
| 7 | 80 | San Fernando | 1971 | 6.6 | 21.5 | 969 |
| 8 | 1618 | Duzce, Turkey | 1999 | 7.1 | 8.0 | 660 |
| 9 | 1786 | Hector Mine | 1999 | 7.1 | 61.2 | 685 |
| 10 | 1551 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 9.8 | 653 |
| 11 | 3507 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan-06 | 1999 | 6.3 | 24.8 | 664 |
| 12 | 150 | Coyote Lake | 1979 | 5.7 | 3.1 | 663 |
| 13 | 572 | Taiwan SMART1(45) | 1986 | 7.3 | - | 660 |
| 14 | 285 | Irpinia, Italy-01 | 1980 | 6.9 | 8.2 | 1000 |
| 15 | 801 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 14.7 | 672 |
| 16 | 286 | Irpinia, Italy-01 | 1980 | 6.9 | 21.3 | 1000 |
| 17 | 1485 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 26.0 | 705 |
| 18 | 1161 | Kocaeli, Turkey | 1999 | 7.5 | 10.9 | 792 |
| 19 | 1050 | Northridge-01 | 1994 | 6.7 | 7.0 | 2016 |
| 20 | 2107 | Denali, Alaska | 2002 | 7.9 | 50.9 | 964 |
| 21 | 1 | Helena, Montana-01 | 1935 | 6.0 | - | 660 |
| 22 | 1091 | Northridge-01 | 1994 | 6.7 | 23.6 | 996 |
| 23 | 1596 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 1.8 | 664 |
| 24 | 771 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 79.8 | 642 |
| 25 | 809 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 18.5 | 714 |
| 26 | 265 | Victoria, Mexico | 1980 | 6.3 | 14.4 | 660 |
| 27 | 1078 | Northridge-01 | 1994 | 6.7 | 16.7 | 715 |
| 28 | 763 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 10.0 | 730 |
| 29 | 1619 | Duzce, Turkey | 1999 | 7.1 | 34.3 | 660 |
| 30 | 957 | Northridge-01 | 1994 | 6.7 | 16.9 | 822 |
| 31 | 2661 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan-03 | 1999 | 6.2 | 22.2 | 653 |
| 32 | 3509 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan-06 | 1999 | 6.3 | 33.6 | 653 |
| 33 | 810 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 18.4 | 714 |
| 34 | 765 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 9.6 | 1428 |
| 35 | 1013 | Northridge-01 | 1994 | 6.7 | 5.9 | 629 |
| 36 | 1012 | Northridge-01 | 1994 | 6.7 | 19.1 | 706 |
| 37 | 1626 | Sitka, Alaska | 1972 | 7.7 | 34.6 | 660 |
| 38 | 989 | Northridge-01 | 1994 | 6.7 | 20.5 | 740 |
| 39 | 748 | Loma Prieta | 1989 | 6.9 | 44.1 | 628 |
| 40 | 1549 | Chi-Chi, Taiwan | 1999 | 7.6 | 1.8 | 664 |