Seismic responses of concrete rectangular liquid storage structure with large height-width ratio

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Abstract. Concrete rectangular liquid storage structure (CRLSS) with a large height-width ratio has good application prospects due to saving land resources. 3-D Solid element and 3-D Fluid element are used to simulate structure and liquid; and free surface is set to simulate the liquid sloshing behavior. Based on potential flow theory, a three-dimensional numerical model for CRLSS with large height-width ratio is established by ADINA. Results show that wall tensile stress exceeds the concrete tensile strength 2.39 MPa when liquid level height reaches to 11.70 m. There are the optimal baffle positions which can ensure that the wall tensile stress is less than the concrete tensile strength when PGA is 0.22 g, and the wall tensile stress reaches the minimum value when the baffle height is 3.6 m. Opening size has little effect on the wall tensile stress, but it has a significant effect on the baffle tensile stress. Seismic capacity of CRLSS with large height-width ratio designed by using the optimal baffle position can meet the requirements when PGA is 0.22 g, and it is necessary to carry out further comprehensive damping measures when PGA reaches 0.62 g. The arrangement of horizontal baffle can provide an effective way for the engineering application of large height-width ratio CRLSS.

Keywords: concrete, rectangular liquid storage structure, large height-width ratio, dynamic response, fluid-solid interaction.

1. Introduction

Earthquake will not only cause damage to the liquid storage structure itself, but also cause secondary disasters such as environmental pollution and fire due to the leakage of some special liquid. The most serious consequence is that people's life safety is threatened, and there are many cases of damage to the liquid storage structure in all previous earthquakes. The frequency of earthquakes increases in the global scope in recent years, and liquid storage structure is developing towards the direction of large-scale and quantization at the same time, in addition liquid types are increasing day by day, which makes the probability and threat of damage of liquid storage structure under the action of earthquakes greater. Most of the traditional CRLSSs are low structures and this type of structure will cause the waste of land resources due to its large area, so its application will be limited with the development of the city and the shortage of land resources. It is necessary to study the CRLSS with large height-width ratio to save land resources. The mechanical behavior of concrete structure under earthquake is complex, the finite element method is widely used in the study of seismic dynamic response of concrete structures [1-7].

Liquid storage structure is in a very complex state of stress under the action of earthquake, and researchers have carried out a lot of research on this kind of structure. Mandal and Maity [8] conducted a nonlinear hydrodynamic analysis of elastic water tank, and found that distribution of nonlinear hydrodynamic pressure was almost similar to the linear pressure due to ground excitation. Musil and Sivý [9] conducted seismic analysis of circular vertical ground-supported tanks and investigated influence of wall flexibility on hydrodynamic pressures. Khanmohammadi

et al. [10] used a series of small-scale experimental tests to investigate the effect of amplitude and frequency of input excitation on responses of concrete rectangular liquid storage tanks. Kormaníková et al. [11] pointed out that pressures and forces acting onto walls and bottom and total hydrodynamic effects under earthquake played fundamental role in the design of liquid on storage tank. Moradi et al. [12] proposed a mechanical model is for evaluating the seismic response of flexible concrete cylindrical tanks under horizontal ground motion. Meng et al. [13] concluded that soil-structure interaction had no apparent effect on the convective frequency and liquid surface wave elevation. Hejazi and Mohammadi [14] investigated liquid sloshing response in partially filled rectangular tanks subjected to earthquake ground motions, and obtained that liquid pressure acting on tank under vertical earthquake could be increased, but its effect on sloshing wave height was negligible. Moslemi et al. [15] investigated effects of important parameters on nonlinear sloshing response of rectangular concrete tanks under seismic excitation, and found that sloshing nonlinearity had a significant effect on seismic performance of liquid containing structures.

As an effective measure to reduce liquid sloshing wave height and liquid pressure, separator has been widely studied. Feng et al. [16] found that the existence of baffles could mitigate sloshing effects and the mitigation performance depended on the shape, structure and location of the baffles. Wang et al. [17] investigated floating circular, wall-mounted ring and floating ring baffles or with inclination for liquid storage tank under laterally-excited action. Cruchaga et al. [18] found that major reduction of the wave height was obtained when larger baffles were positioned closer to the water level at rest. Hosseini et al. [19] proposed a novel sloshing reduction technique by using suspended annular baffle to reduce seismic sloshing of liquid storage tanks. Chu et al. [20] investigated sloshing phenomenon in a rectangular water tank with multiple bottom-mounted baffles, and obtained that sloshing height and hydrodynamic force decrease as baffle height increase. Hajimehrabi et al. [21] evaluated effects of baffle on the seismic behavior of concrete cylindrical tanks. Cheng et al. [22] proposed CRLSS with vertical baffle simplified calculation method. Zang et al. [23] studied effects of the porous baffle length, porosity and design on the sloshing force, wave surface elevation, and velocity field.

Liquid storage structure is in a very complex stress state under earthquake action because of fluid-solid interaction, and a large number of researches on CRLSS are carried out for the small height-width ratio at present. CRLSS with large height-width ratio has a good application prospect because of its large liquid storage capacity and saving land resources, but the research on this kind of structure is very limited. The particularity of this kind of structure lies in that with the increase of height-width ratio and liquid level height, the structure is easy to be damaged due to large liquid pressure. Considering the fluid-solid interaction and sloshing behavior of liquid free surface, a three-dimensional numerical model of CRLSS with large height-width ratio is established based on finite element method and potential flow theory. Variation law of structural response after adding horizontal baffle is investigated, influence law of baffle position, opening size, PGA and seismic action direction on dynamic responses is analyzed. The research results can provide reference for the design and engineering application of CRLSS with large height-width ratio.

2. Solution of fluid-structure interaction

Dynamic equation of the structure under earthquake action can be expressed as [24]:

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{U}} + \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{U}} + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{U} - \mathbf{B}^{T}\mathbf{p} = -\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{u}}_{g} - \mathbf{F},\tag{1}$$

where **M**, **C** and **K** are the mass, damping and stiffness matrices of the structure, respectively; **U** is the displacement vector; $\mathbf{\ddot{u}}_g$ is the earthquake acceleration vector; **p** is the liquid pressure vector; **F** is the force vector equivalent to the element stresses.

Dynamic equation of liquid can be obtained from the fluid dynamics theory based on the liquid sloshing theory as follows:

(2)

 $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{A}\dot{\mathbf{p}} + \mathbf{E}\ddot{\mathbf{p}} + \rho_f \mathbf{B}\ddot{\mathbf{r}} + \mathbf{q}_0 = \mathbf{0},$

where ρ_f is the liquid density; \mathbf{q}_0 is the input excitation vector transferred to the liquid by the structure; **H**, **A**, **E** and **B** are coefficient matrices, and the specific expressions are as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{H} = \iiint_{\Omega} \nabla \mathbf{N} \nabla \mathbf{N} d\Omega, \\ \mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{C} \iint_{S_{r}} \mathbf{N} \mathbf{N}^{T} dS_{r}, \\ \mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{C^{2}} \iiint_{\Omega} \mathbf{N} \mathbf{N}^{T} d\Omega + \frac{1}{g} \iint_{S_{F}} \mathbf{N} \mathbf{N}^{T} dS_{F}, \\ \mathbf{B} = \left(\iint_{S_{l}} \mathbf{N} \mathbf{N}_{S}^{T} dS_{l} \right) A, \end{cases}$$
(3)

where **N** is the shape function.

The fluid-solid coupling equation of the liquid storage structure can be expressed as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M} & \mathbf{0} \\ \rho_f \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{E} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\mathbf{U}} \\ \ddot{\mathbf{p}} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{A} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{U}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{p}} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K} & -\mathbf{B}^T \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{H} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U} \\ \mathbf{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{u}}_g - \mathbf{F} \\ -\mathbf{q}_0 \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (4)

The incremental dynamic finite element equilibrium equation of the structure can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{U}}_{t+\Delta t} + \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{U}}_{t+\Delta t} + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{U}_{t+\Delta t} - \mathbf{B}^{T}\mathbf{p}_{t+\Delta t} = -\mathbf{M}_{s}\ddot{\mathbf{u}}_{g(t+\Delta t)} - \mathbf{F}_{t+\Delta t}.$$
(5)

The following dynamic control equations can be obtained through the iterative calculation of equilibrium:

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{U}}_{t+\Delta t}^{(i)} + \mathbf{C}\dot{\mathbf{U}}_{t+\Delta t}^{(i)} + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{U}_{t+\Delta t}^{(i)} - \mathbf{B}^{T}\mathbf{p}_{t+\Delta t}^{(i)} = -\mathbf{M}_{s}\ddot{\mathbf{u}}_{g(t+\Delta t)}^{(i)} - \mathbf{F}_{t+\Delta t}^{(i)}, \tag{6}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{t+\Delta t} = \int_{V_{t+\Delta t}} \mathbf{B}_{t+\Delta t}^T \tau_{t+\Delta t} dV, \tag{7}$$

where $\mathbf{B}_{t+\Delta t}$ is the matrix between strain and displacement; $\tau_{t+\Delta t}$ is the stress; $V_{t+\Delta t}$ represents the volume.

The incremental dynamic finite element equilibrium equation of the liquid can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{H}\mathbf{p}_{t+\Delta t}^{(i)} + \mathbf{A}\dot{\mathbf{p}}_{t+\Delta t}^{(i)} + \mathbf{E}\ddot{\mathbf{p}}_{t+\Delta t}^{(i)} + \rho_f \mathbf{B}'\ddot{\mathbf{U}}_{t+\Delta t} + \mathbf{q}_{0(t+\Delta t)} = 0.$$
(8)

The damping in the dynamic equation adopts Rayleigh damping model:

$$\mathbf{C} = \alpha \mathbf{M} + \beta \mathbf{K},\tag{9}$$

$$\alpha = 2 \frac{\omega_i \omega_j}{\omega_i + \omega_j} \xi, \quad \beta = \frac{2}{\omega_i + \omega_j} \xi.$$
(10)

3. Numerical calculation model

The size of CRLSS is 6.75 m×6.75 m×13.5 m, the height-width ratio and the wall thickness

are 2 and 0.45 m, respectively. Concrete strength grade is C40, its elastic modulus is 3.25×10^{10} Pa, Poisson's ratio is 0.20, density is 2500 kg/m³, and structure is simulated by 3-D Solid element. The liquid was modeled by potential fluid with density of 1000 kg/m³ and volume modulus of 2.3×10^9 Pa. The 3-D Fluid element was used to simulate the fluid. The free surface boundary is set to simulate the sloshing behavior of the liquid, and the structure and the liquid contact position are set to establish the boundary conditions of the fluid-solid interaction. Five seismic waves including El-Centro, ChiChi, Imperial Valley, Tianjin and Loma Prieta are selected for time-history analysis. Time-history curves of acceleration and response spectrum are shown in Fig. 1. The three-dimensional numerical calculation model of CRLSS established by ADINA is shown in Fig. 2 [25-27].

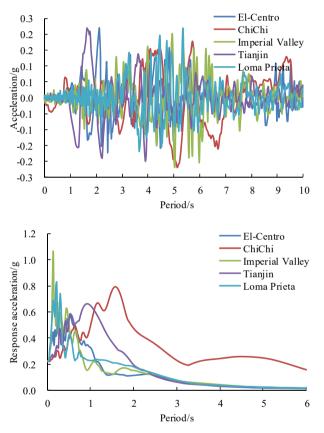


Fig. 1. Seismic waves

4. Key technology of engineering application

With the increase of liquid level height, pressure acting on the wall of CRLSS with large height-width ratio increases, which leads to the bottleneck problem in the application of traditional CRLSS with large height-width ratio (Fig. 3). In order to solve the wall cracking caused by excessive hydraulic pressure, the horizontal baffle is arranged along the height of the liquid storage structure, and opening holes are set on the horizontal baffle to connect the upper and the lower spaces, which is convenient for normal use and later maintenance, as shown in Fig. 4. The baffle position parameters adopt 7 kinds of design schemes, as shown in Table 1. Firstly, the variation law of wall tensile stress under hydrostatic pressure of traditional rectangular concrete liquid storage structure with large height-width ratio is discussed, as shown in Fig. 5.

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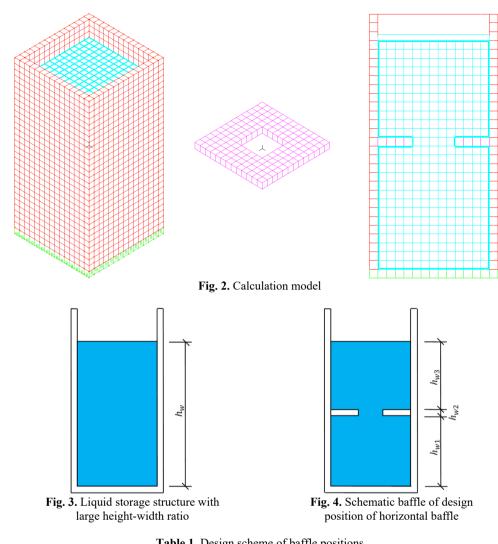


Table 1. Design scheme of baffle positions					
C -1	Parameters				
Schemes	h_{w1} / m h_{w2} / m		<i>h</i> _{w3} / m		
1	1.80	0.45	9.45		
2	2.70	0.45	8.55		
3	3.60	0.45	7.65		
4	4.50	0.45	6.75		
5	5.40	0.45	5.85		
6	6.30	0.45	4.95		
7	7.20	0.45	4.05		

According to Fig. 5, due to the influence of liquid pressure, the wall tensile stress increases with the increase of the liquid level height. The wall tensile stress exceeds the concrete tensile strength 2.39 MPa when liquid level height reaches to 11.70 m. This indicates that the engineering application of CRLSS with large height-width ratio will be limited, so it is of great significance to develop the key technology for CRLSS with large height-width ratio.

As $h_w = 11.70$ m, $h_{w1} = 3.60$ m, $h_{w2} = 0.45$ m and $h_{w3} = 7.65$ m ($h_{w1} + h_{w2} + h_{w3} = 11.70$ m), calculation results of the stress of CRLSS with large height-width ratio without baffle

and with baffle are shown in Figs. 6 and 7, and the influence rule of baffle position on the tensile stress of the wall under the seven design schemes is shown in Fig. 7.

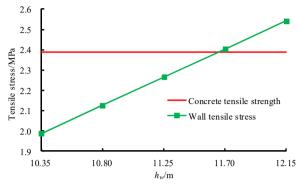
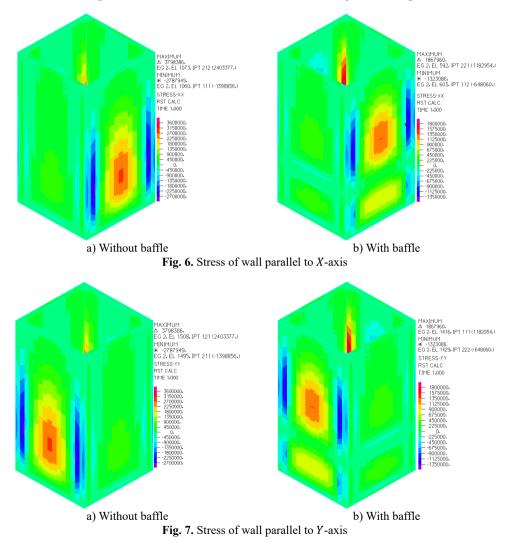


Fig. 5. Variation law of wall tension stress with the liquid level height



As can be seen from Figs. 6-8, the wall tensile stress is significantly reduced after arranging horizontal baffle with hole, and the wall tensile stress is less than the concrete tensile strength when seven kinds of baffle positions are arranged for the CRLSS with large height-width ratio. Besides, setting baffle can change the stress distribution significantly.

With the increase of baffle height, the wall tensile stress firstly decreases and then increases. When $h_{w1} = 3.6$ m, the wall tensile stress reaches the minimum value of 1.183 MPa, which is far less than the tensile strength of concrete 2.39 MPa. The wall thickness of concrete liquid storage structure with large height-width ratio can be further reduced by reasonable baffle arrangement, thus saving materials.

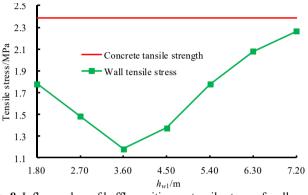
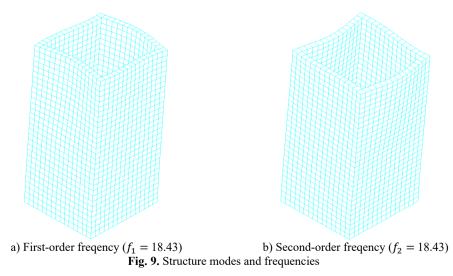


Fig. 8. Influence law of baffle position on tensile stress of wall panel

5. Dynamic responses analysis under earthquakes

In order to consider the system damping, Lanczos iterative method was first used for modal analysis. The first and second order modes and frequencies of the structure and the liquid when $h_{w1} = 3.60$ m, $h_{w2} = 0.45$ m and $h_{w3} = 7.65$ m are shown in Figs. 9 and 10. The results of the first and second order frequencies of the structure and liquid corresponding to 7 kinds of baffle designs are shown in Table 2.

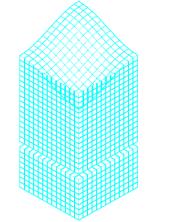


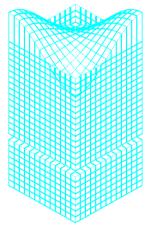
In order to further investigate baffle effects on the mechanical behavior law of CRLSS with large height-width ratio, dynamic responses of CRLSS with large height-width ratio under earthquake is studied after the static analysis. The calculation results of the wall tensile stress

under the 7	7 kinds of	baffle set	ting sch	nemes ar	e shown	in Fig.	11.

h /m	Structure		Liquid		
<i>h</i> _{w1} / m	f_1 / Hz	f_2 / Hz	f_1' / Hz	f_2' / Hz	
1.8	18.61	18.61	0.3660	0.4358	
2.7	18.58	18.58	0.3660	0.4358	
3.6	18.54	18.54	0.3659	0.4358	
4.5	18.49	18.49	0.3658	0.4358	
5.4	18.43	18.43	0.3654	0.4357	
6.3	18.35	18.35	0.3645	0.4356	
7.2	18.25	18.25	0.3620	0.4349	

Table 2. Frequencies of structure and liquid under 7 types of baffle arrangement





a) First-order frequency ($f'_1 = 0.3659$) b) Second-order frequency ($f'_2 = 0.4358$) Fig. 10. Liquid modes and frequencies

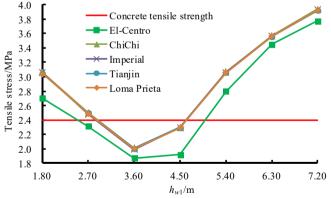


Fig. 11. Influence law of baffle position on tensile stress of wall panel

As can be shown from Fig. 11, with the increase of baffle height position, the wall tensile stress firstly decreases and then increases under the action of five seismic waves. The tensile stress reaches the minimum value when $h_{w1} = 3.6$ m, namely, the effect of baffle height position on the tensile stress of CRLSS with large height-width ratio is very significant. The wall tensile stress does not exceed the concrete tensile strength when $h_{w1} = 3.6$ m and $h_{w1} = 4.5$ m, the wall tensile stress does not exceed the concrete tensile strength only under the action of El-Centro wave when $h_{w1} = 2.7$ m, and the wall tensile stresses under the action of five seismic waves all exceed the concrete tensile strength when $h_{w1} = 5.4$ m, 6.3 m and 7.2 m. It is helpful to improve the seismic capacity of CRLSS when the horizontal baffle closes to the lower part of the structure.

The results show that the location of horizontal baffle is a very important design parameter to ensure the safety of CRLSS with large height-width ratio in seismic fortification area under earthquake action. The optimal design can be achieved by adjusting the baffle height location.

6. Analysis of influencing factors

6.1. Baffle opening size

The opening size is one of the important design parameters of the horizontal baffle of the CRLSS with large height-width ratio. A variety of opening sizes are selected to calculate and analyze the wall tensile stress under the action of five seismic waves. The specific results are shown in Tables 3 and 4. Under El-Centro wave, distributions of baffle tensile stress with different opening sizes are shown in Fig. 12.

Table 3. Wall tensile stress under different opening sizes / MPa					
Seismic waves	Opening sizes				
Seismic waves	1.35 m×1.35 m	2.25 m×2.25 m	3.15 m×3.15 m	4.05 m×4.05 m	
El-Centro	1.858	1.868	1.925	2.035	
ChiChi	2.010	2.006	2.083	2.043	
Imperial Valley	2.002	1.986	2.081	2.041	
Tianjin	2.010	2.002	2.075	2.035	
Loma Prieta	2.001	1.997	2.069	2.029	

Table 3. Wall tensile stress under different opening sizes / MPa

Seismic waves	Opening sizes					
Seisinic waves	1.35 m×1.35 m	2.25 m×2.25 m	3.15 m×3.15 m	4.05 m×4.05 m		
El-Centro	1.335	1.535	2.126	3.337		
ChiChi	1.491	1.747	2.380	3.350		
Imperial Valley	1.493	1.746	2.378	3.352		
Tianjin	1.488	1.470	2.371	3.332		
Loma Prieta	1.488	1.735	2.367	3.329		

Table 4. Horizontal baffle tensile stress of under different opening sizes / MPa

According to Table 3, the wall tensile stress increases with the increase of the opening size under the action of El-Centro seismic wave, however, the wall tensile stress fluctuates with the increase of the opening size and the change range of the tensile stress on the whole is small under the action of ChiChi, Imperial Valley, Tianjin and Loma Prieta seismic waves.

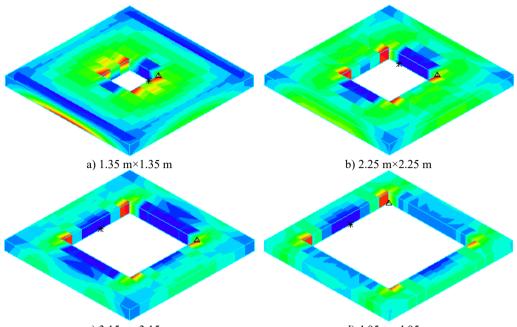
According to Table 4, under action of five seismic waves, horizontal baffle tensile stresses are increased with the increase of the opening size. When the opening size increases to $3.15 \text{ m} \times 3.15 \text{ m}$, horizontal baffle tensile stress will exceed concrete tensile strength and wall crack will be caused. It is further shown from the Fig. 12 that the opening size also has a great influence on the distribution of baffle stress.

Although the opening size has little effect on the wall tensile stress, it has a significant effect on the distribution of baffle stress. Therefore, in order to ensure the safety of large height-width ratio CRLSS, opening size is an important parameter of baffle design, for example, it is better when opening sizes are $1.35 \text{ m} \times 1.35 \text{ m}$ and $2.25 \text{ m} \times 2.25 \text{ m}$ in this paper.

6.2. Earthquake direction and PGA

The PGA of 5 seismic waves is adjusted to 0.22 g, 0.40 g and 0.62 g, respectively, and the calculation results of the wall tensile stress under the seismic action of X, X + Y (X: Y = 1:0.85) and X + Y + Z (X: Y: Z = 1:0.85:0.62) direction are shown in Table 5, in which the X axis is the main axis.

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c) 3.15 m \times 3.15 m d) 4.05 m \times 4.05 m Fig. 12. Tensile stress distribution of horizontal baffle under El Centro wave

g_:	Dimentioner	PGA/g			
Seismic waves	Directions	0.22g	0.40g	0.62g	
	X	1.858	1.876	2.039	
El-Centro	X + Y	1.874	2.081	2.595	
	X + Y + Z	1.896	2.487	3.223	
	X	2.010	2.022	2.042	
ChiChi	X + Y	2.018	2.045	2.227	
	X + Y + Z	2.037	2.425	3.139	
	X	2.002	1.986	2.224	
Imperial Valley	X + Y	1.986	2.278	2.899	
	X + Y + Z	2.133	2.925	3.903	
	X	2.010	2.015	2.031	
Tianjin	X + Y	2.012	2.033	2.159	
	X + Y + Z	1.996	2.097	2.600	
Loma Prieta	X	1.997	2.006	2.364	
	X + Y	2.004	2.422	3.135	
	X + Y + Z	2.154	3.156	4.261	

Table 5. Influence of PGA on wall tensile stress

According to Table 5, in most cases, the wall tensile stress under the action of unidirectional, bidirectional and three-dimensional seismic waves is less than the tensile strength of the concrete 2.39 MPa when PGA is 0.22 g, and the maximum tensile stress is 2.154 MPa under three-dimensional Loma Prieta earthquake. The wall tensile stress under unidirectional earthquake is less than the tensile strength of the concrete when PGA is increased to 0.40 g and 0.62 g, while the wall tensile stress in most cases exceeds the tensile strength of concrete under three-dimensional seismic waves.

The influence of multi-dimensional earthquake on the wall tensile stress is small when PGA is 0.22 g, while the influence of multi-dimensional earthquake on the wall tensile stress is significant when the PGA is 0.40 g and 0.62 g, and the influence of vertical earthquake on the wall

tensile stress is more significant.

In general, for the large height-width ratio CRLSS with horizontal baffle, its seismic capacity can meet the requirements when PGA is 0.22 g, it has certain seismic capacity when PGA is 0.40 g, and its seismic capacity cannot meet the requirements in most cases when PGA is 0.62 g. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the comprehensive vibration control measures for large height-width ratio CRLSS under some rare earthquakes.

7. Conclusions

Aiming at the CRLSS with large height-width ratio, arranging horizontal baffle is put forward to solve the bottleneck problem, a three-dimensional numerical calculation model is established, effectiveness of this measure is investigated, and parameter analysis is also carried out. The main conclusions are as follows:

1) The wall tensile stress will exceed the concrete tensile strength when the liquid level height increases to a large value, which limits the engineering application of CRLSS with large height-width ratio.

2) When a horizontal baffle is installed, the wall tensile stress under static force will not exceed the concrete tensile strength, the wall tensile stress under earthquake first decreases and then increases with the increase of the horizontal baffle height, the wall tensile stress reaches the minimum value when $h_{w1} = 3.6$ m. Therefore, there is an optimal design for the horizontal baffle location of the large height-width ratio CRLSS.

3) The influence of the opening size of the horizontal baffle on the tensile stress of the large height-width ratio CRLSS is small, while the influence of the opening size on the tensile stress of horizontal baffle is very significantly. When the opening size is increased to $2.25 \text{ m} \times 2.25 \text{ m}$, tensile stress of horizontal baffle exceeds concrete tensile strength 2.39 MPa.

4) In most cases, the seismic capacity of large height-width ratio CRLSS with horizontal baffle can meet the requirements when the PGA = 0.22 g. With the increase of PGA, the probability of tensile stress exceeding the concrete tensile strength increases, and the probability of the wall tensile stress exceeding the concrete tensile strength under the multi-dimensional earthquake is very large especially when the PGA is 0.62 g.

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