

Multi-fault rupture focal mechanism simulation using spectral element method and its application to seismic analysis of a multi-span continuous highway bridge

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Outline

I. Research Background

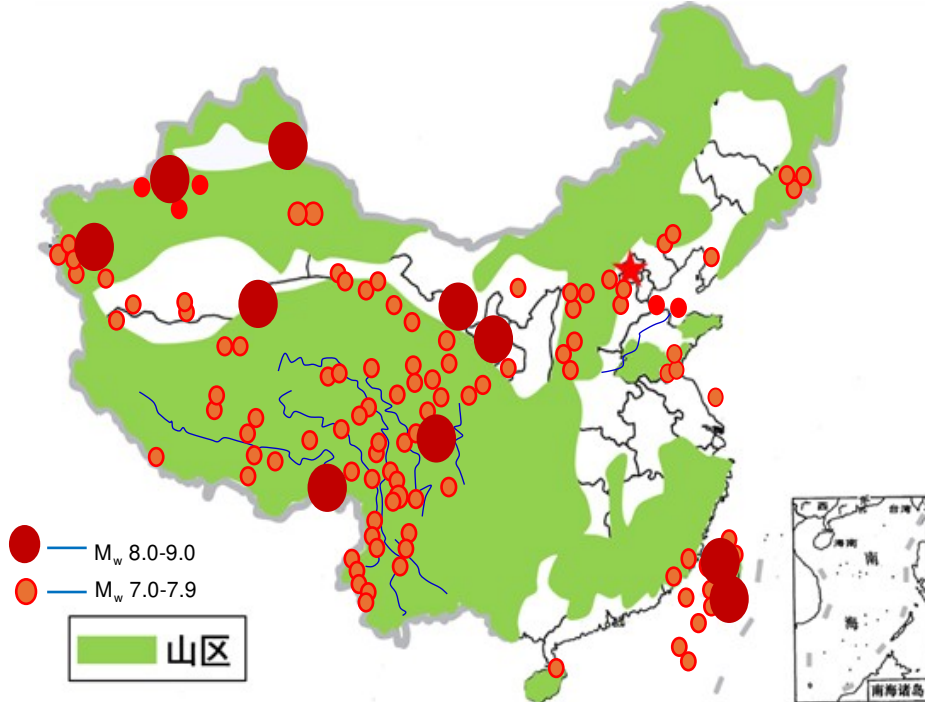
II. Ground-Motion Simulation

III. Bridge Response Analysis

IV. Conclusions

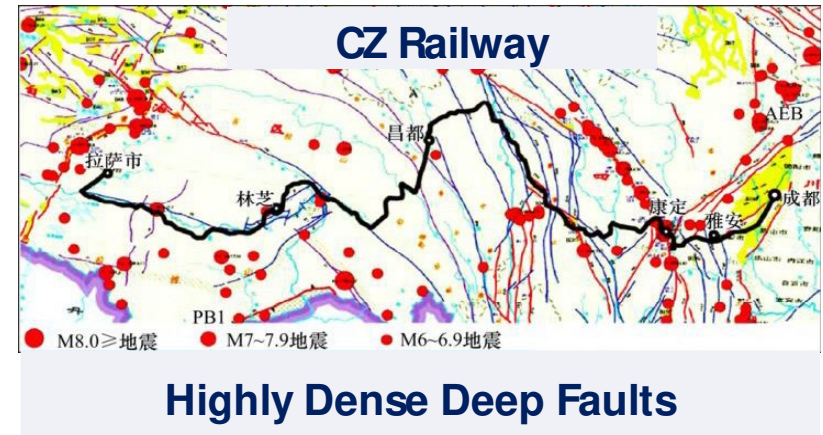
Research Background

- China's transport network is rapidly expanding into mountainous regions like Sichuan and Tibet.



Distribution of Significant Earthquakes in China Since 1900

In the past two decades, **the Sichuan-Tibet region** has experienced **9** strong earthquakes ($M > 7$)



National Strategic Need

Sichuan-Tibet Railway Qinghai-Tibet Railway
Xinjiang-Tibet Railway Yunnan-Tibet Railway
Beijing-Tibet Highway Sichuan-Tibet Highway

14th Five-Year Plan for a Modern Integrated Transport System

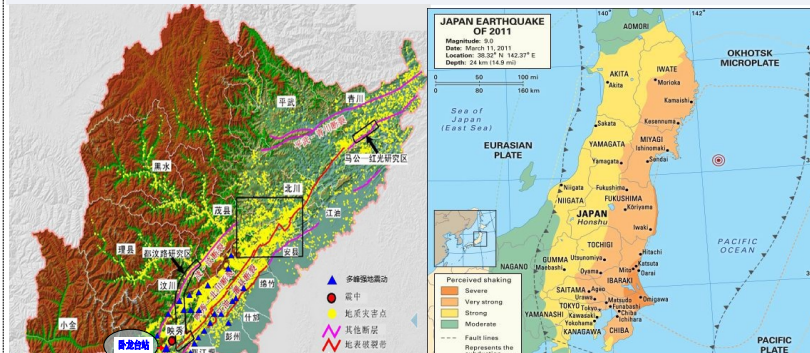
Research Background

- Strong earthquakes occur frequently in active fault-dense regions, where multi-fault rupture is prominent.

Multi-fault rupture-type strong earthquakes



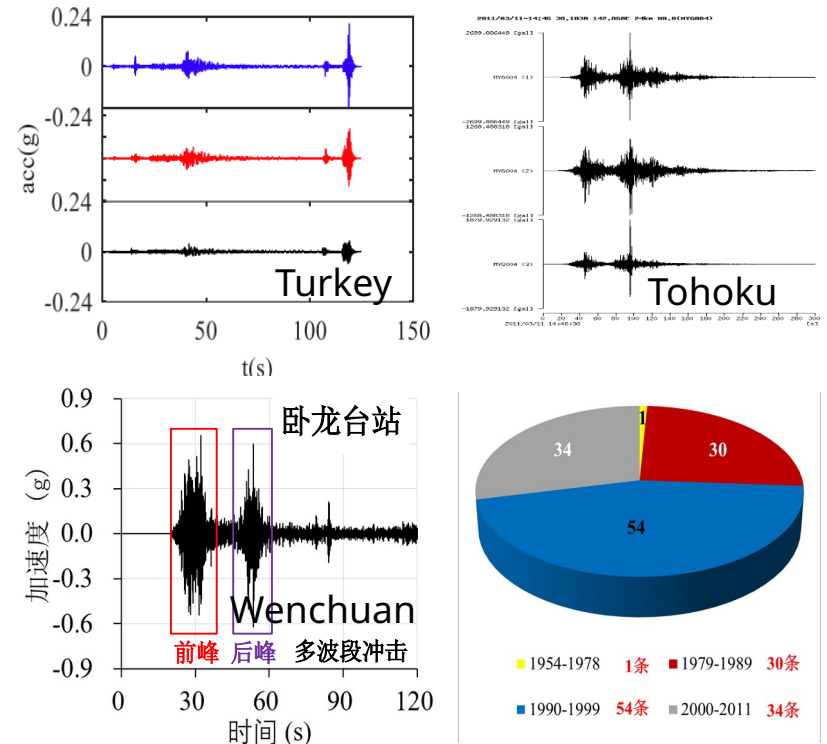
M_w 7.8 Turkey earthquake



M_w 8.0 Wenchuan

M_w 9.0 Tohoku

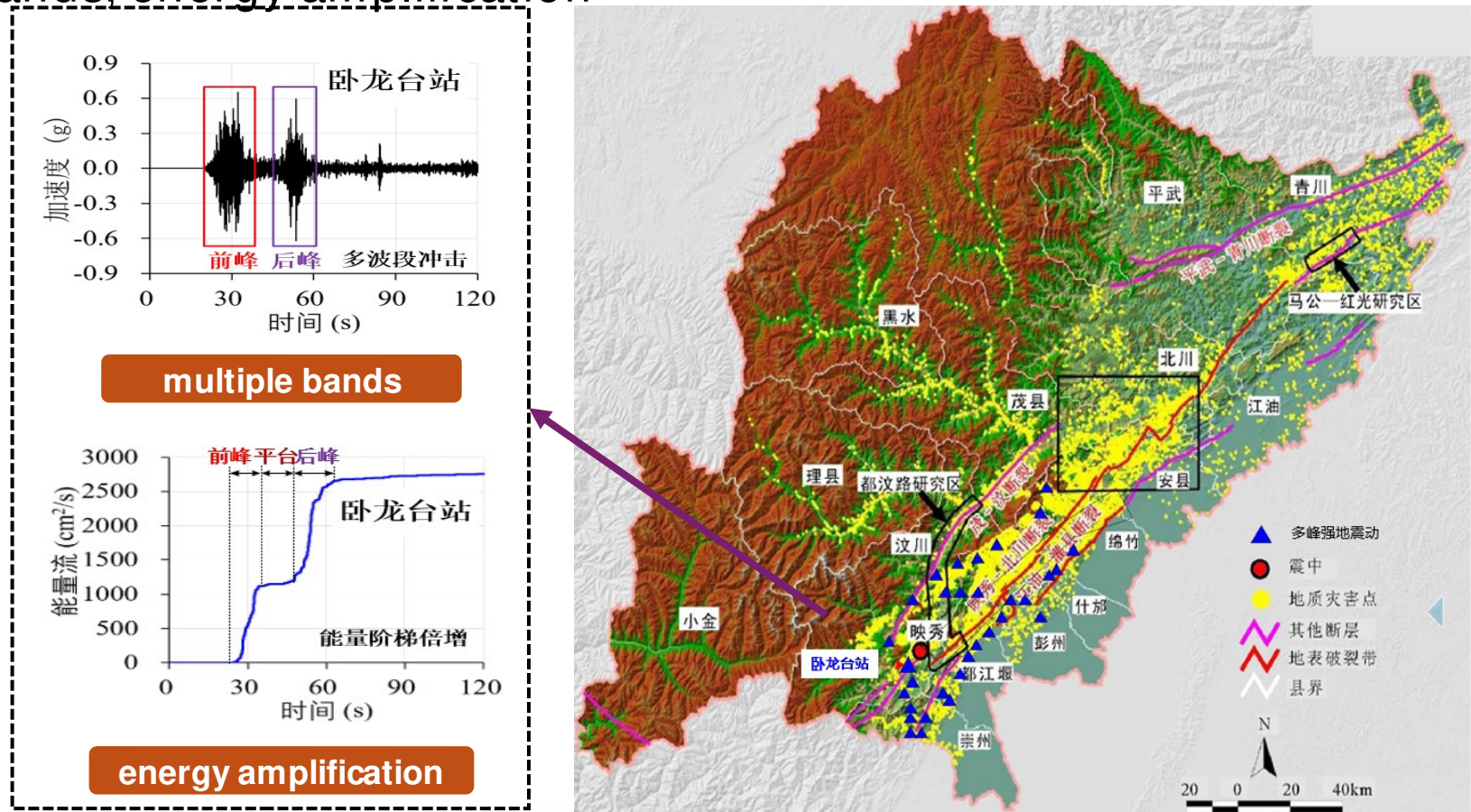
Multiple sequential ground motions



- Available records of multiple sequential strong ground motions remain highly limited

Research Background

- Multiple sequential ground motions are characterized by multiple bands, energy amplification



Earthquake research urgently needs to expand from single-fault rupture to multi-fault rupture.

Outline

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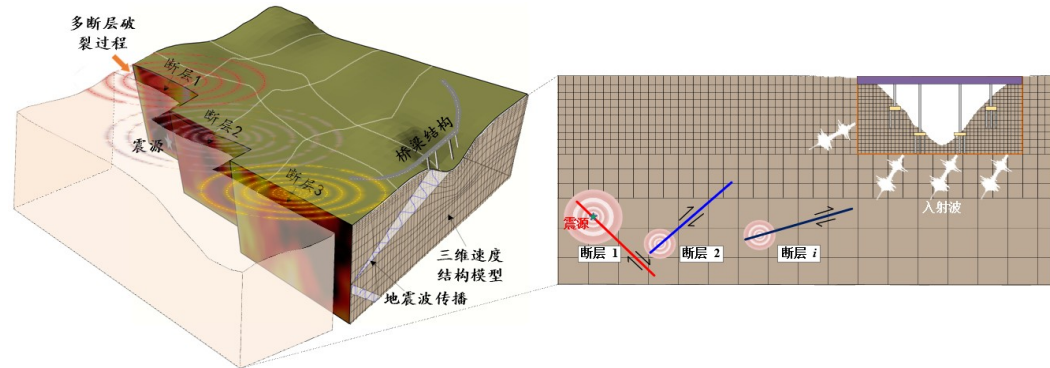
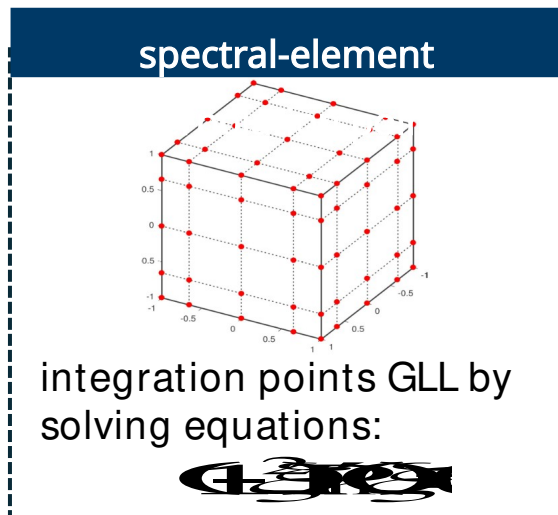
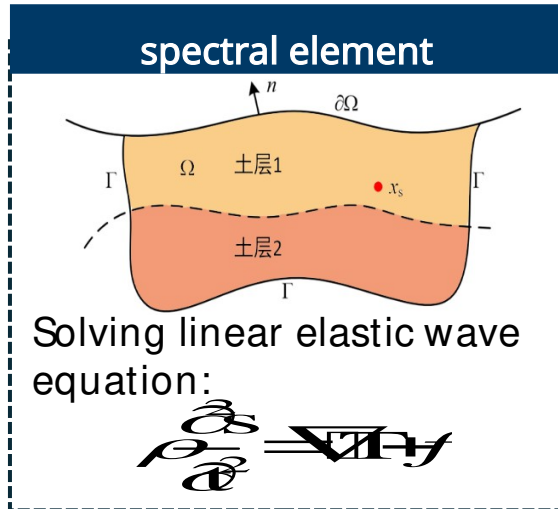
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2 Multi-fault ground-motion simulation

- Spectral Element Method was used for ground motion simulation



Earthquake Engineering
Structural Dynamics

The Journal of the
International Association for
Earthquake Engineering

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Multi-Fault Rupture Focal Mechanism Simulation Using Spectral Element Method and Its Application to Seismic Analysis of a Multi-Span Continuous Highway Bridge

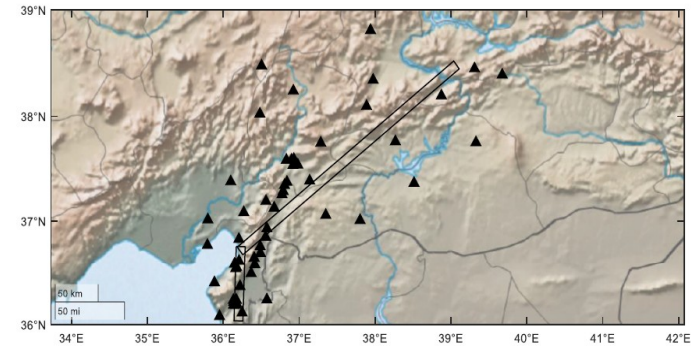
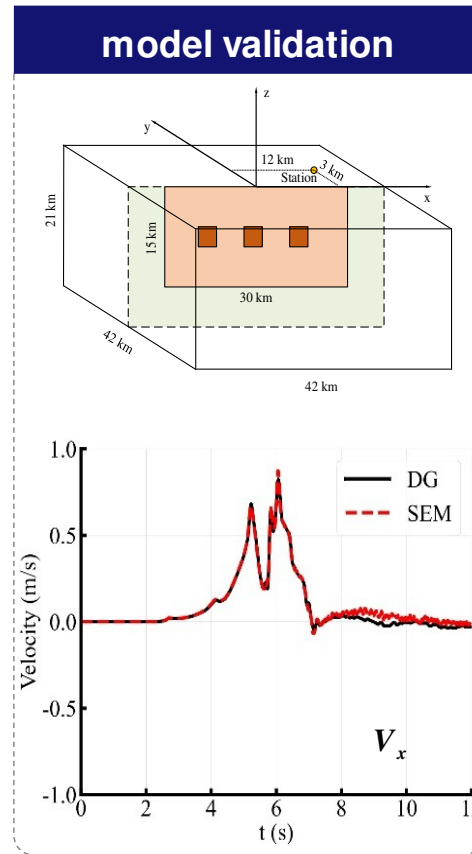
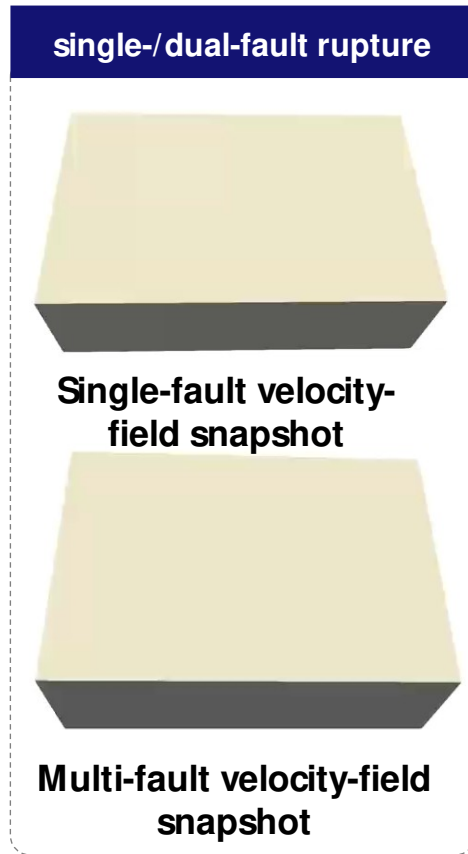
Shuai Li, Wenzhe Wang, Mingdong Wang, Fan Zhang✉, Jingquan Wang✉, M. Shahria Alam, Junwu Dai

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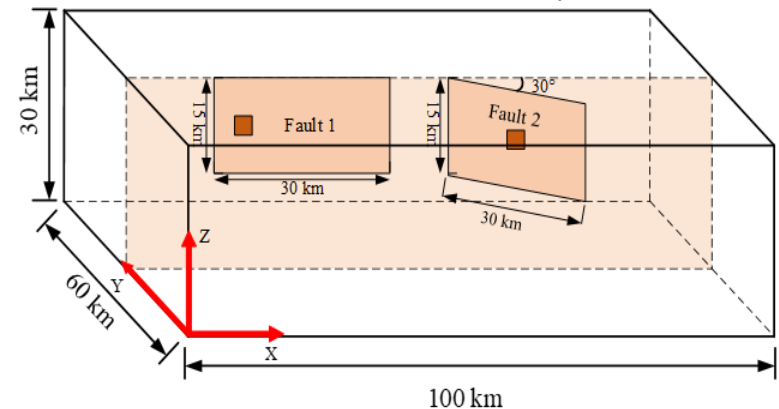
Funding: This study was financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant Number 52278151 and 42430711), Natural Science Foundation of Jiangsu Province (Grant Number BK20230087 and BK20241337), and Jiangsu Transportation Research project (Grant Number CT-SGZT-30 and 2024QD02).

2 Multi-fault ground-motion simulation

- A basic benchmark model was built and the results matched well with the Discontinuous Galerkin method.



2023 Turkey earthquake strong event
(two strike-slip faults; three strong events occurred within a short time: Mw 7.8, 6.7, 7.6)

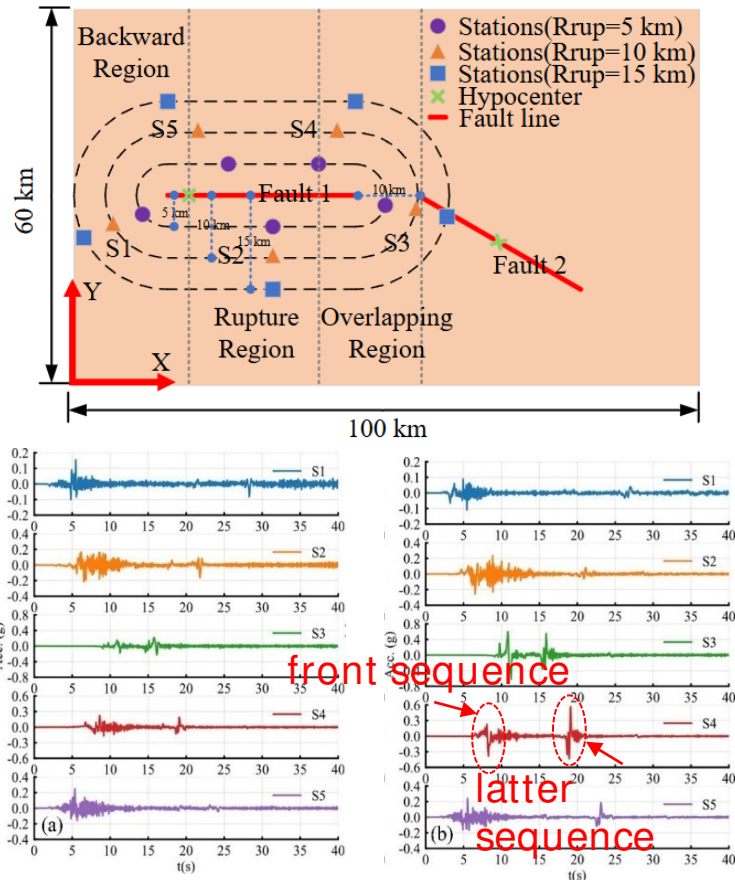


Based on the Turkey earthquake event, a regional-scale model with two strike-slip faults was built

2 Multi-fault ground-motion simulation

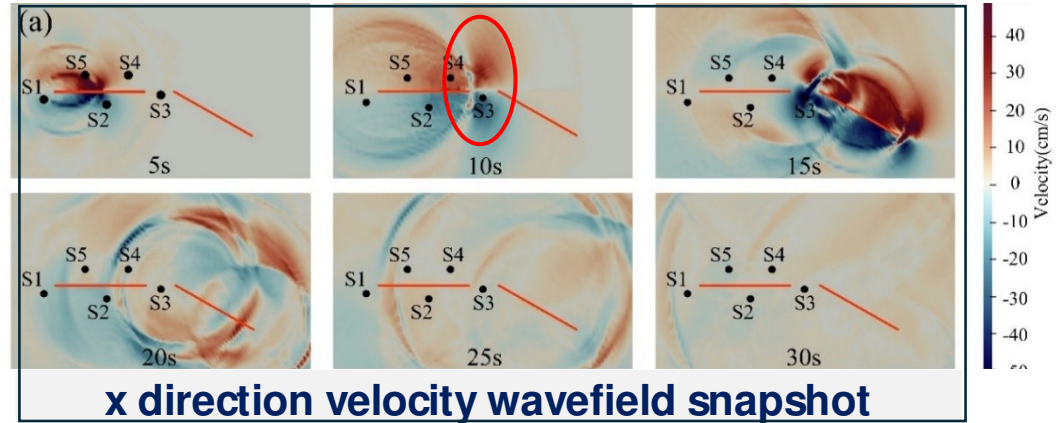
➤ Spatiotemporal distribution characteristics of multi-fault ground

Station Layout

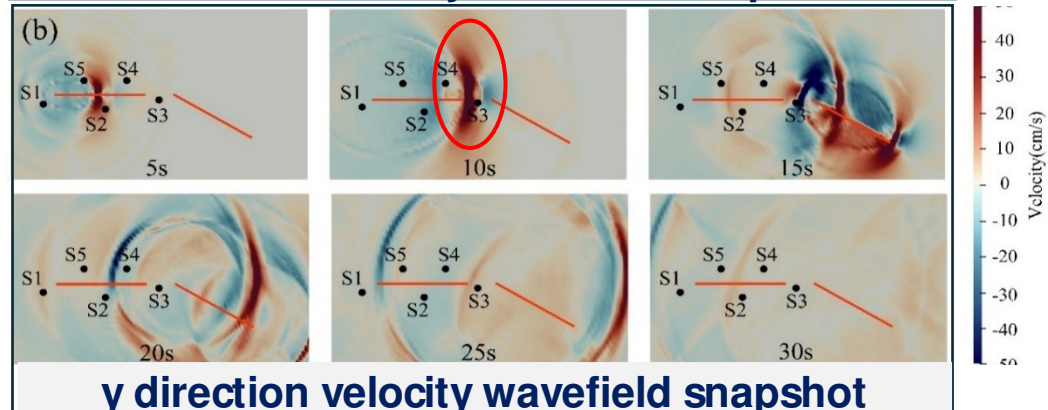


x direction

y direction



x direction velocity wavefield snapshot

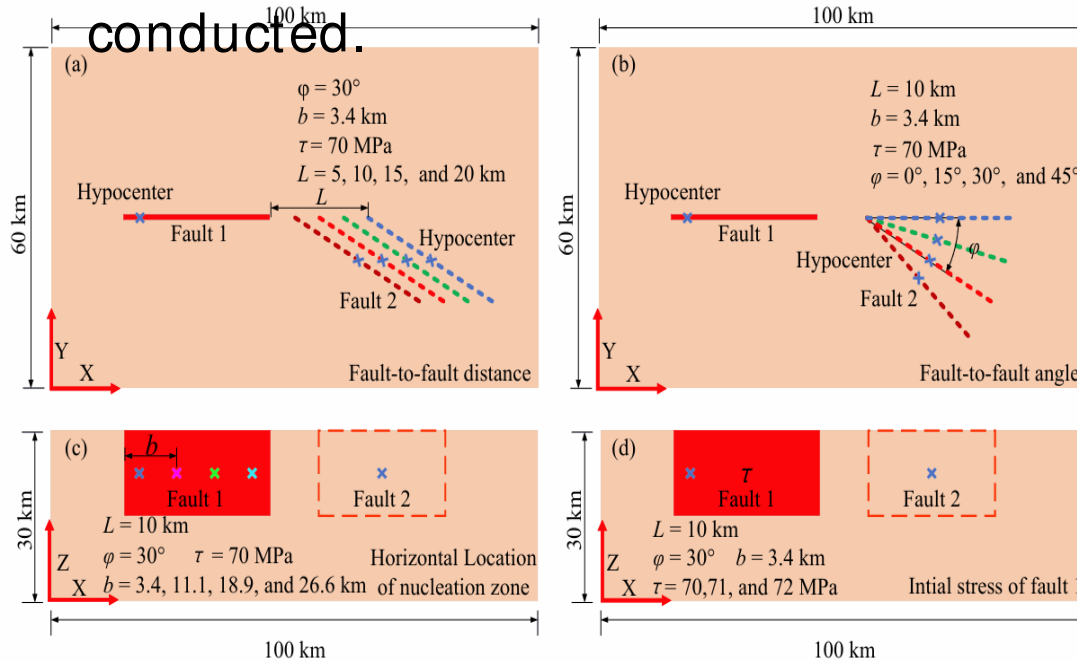


y direction velocity wavefield snapshot

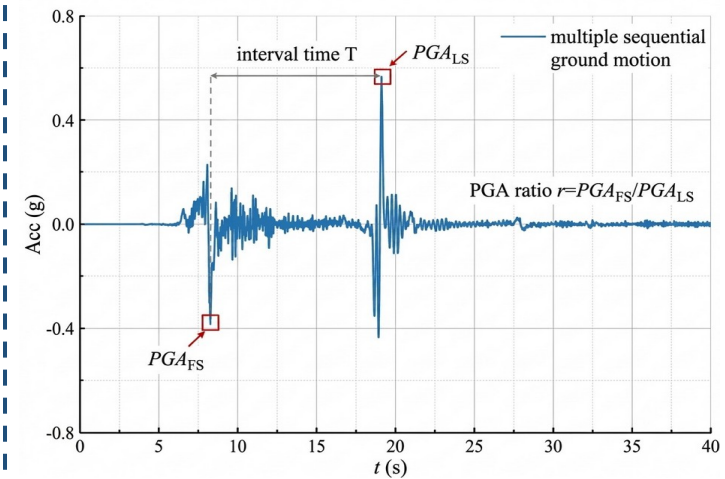
The y-direction ground motions at the S3 and S4 stations exhibit distinct multi-peak and pulse-like characteristics, and the ground-motion amplitude is significantly larger than those at other stations

2 Multi-fault ground-motion simulation

- To study the effects of fault distribution and source parameters on ground motion characteristics, parametric sensitivity analysis was conducted.



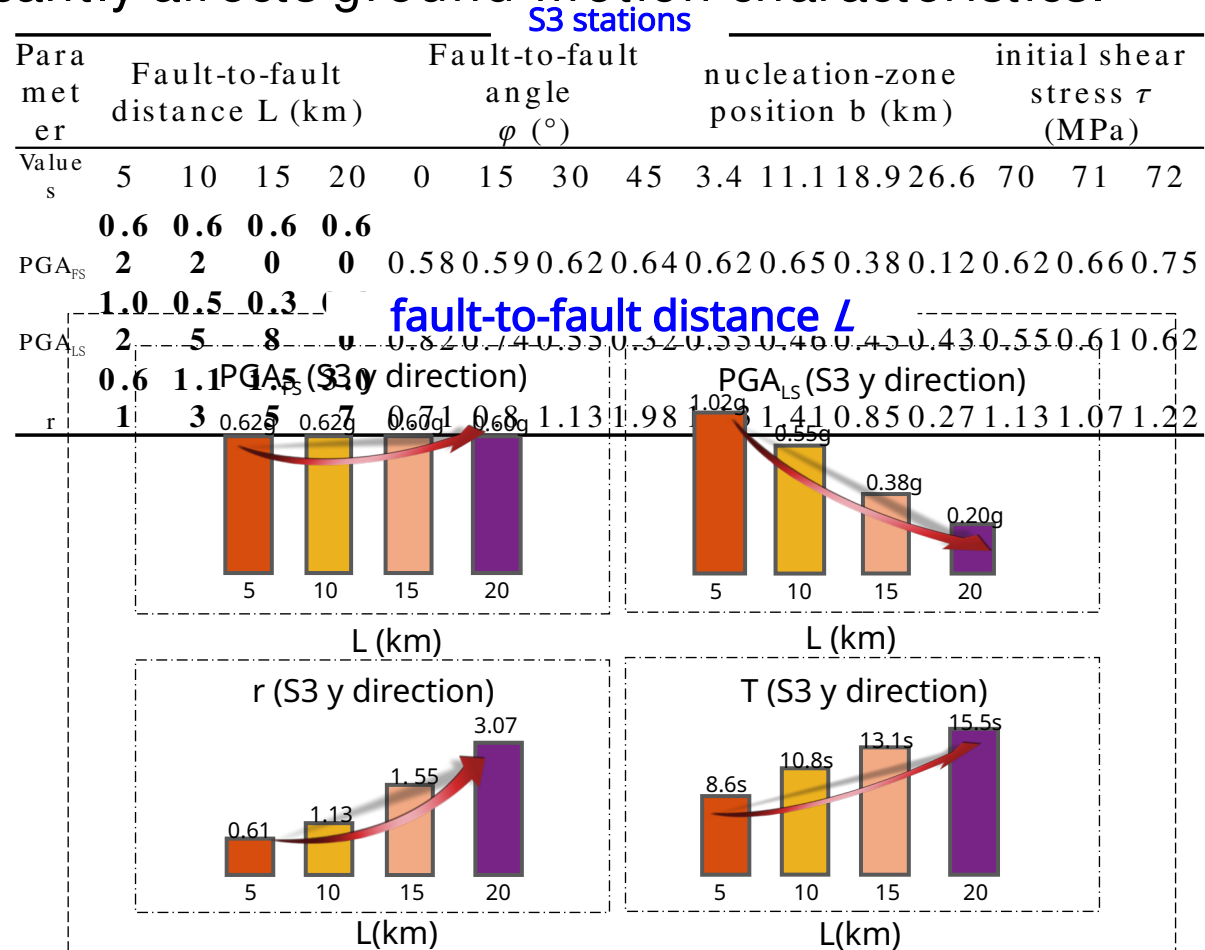
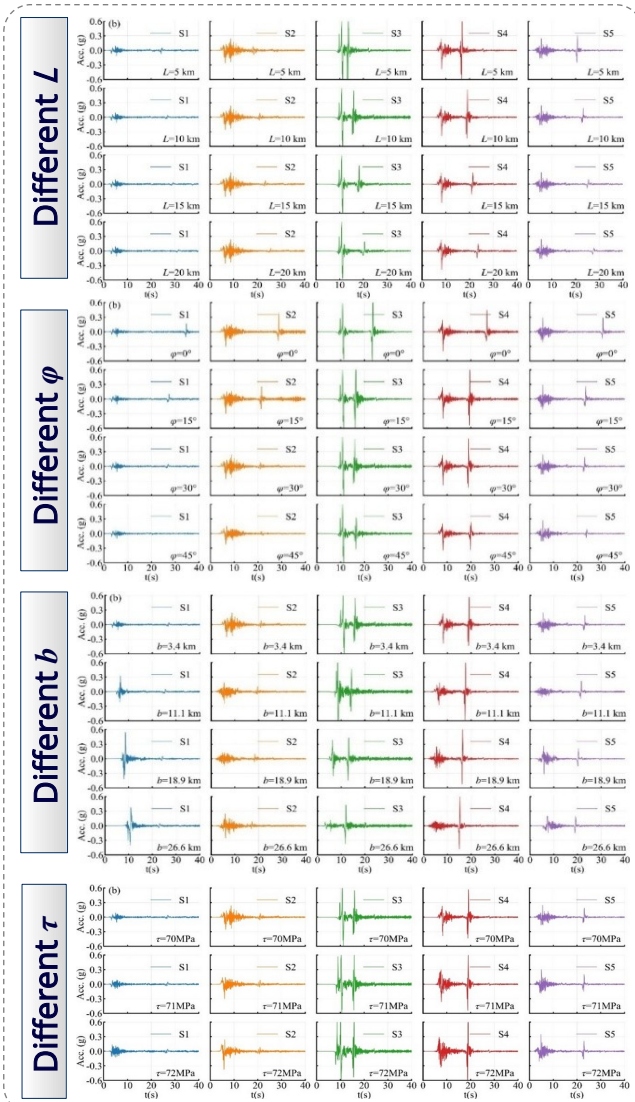
- **Fault-to-fault distance L** : 5, 10, 15 and 20 km
- **Fault-to-fault angle ϕ** : $0^\circ, 15^\circ, 30^\circ$ and 45°
- **nucleation-zone position b** : 3.4, 11.1, 18.9 and 26.6 km
- **initial shear stress τ** : 70, 71 and 72 MPa



- ▣ To quantitatively describe the variations in the characteristics of ground motion under the influence of these parameters, the peak ground acceleration ratio r (PGA_{FS} / PGA_{LS}) and the time interval T between the front and latter sequence are

2 Multi-fault ground-motion simulation

➤ Each parameter significantly affects ground-motion characteristics.



- Fault-to-fault distance and angle mainly affect the latter sequence, while nucleation position and initial shear stress affect both sequences.

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3 Seismic performance analysis of bridges

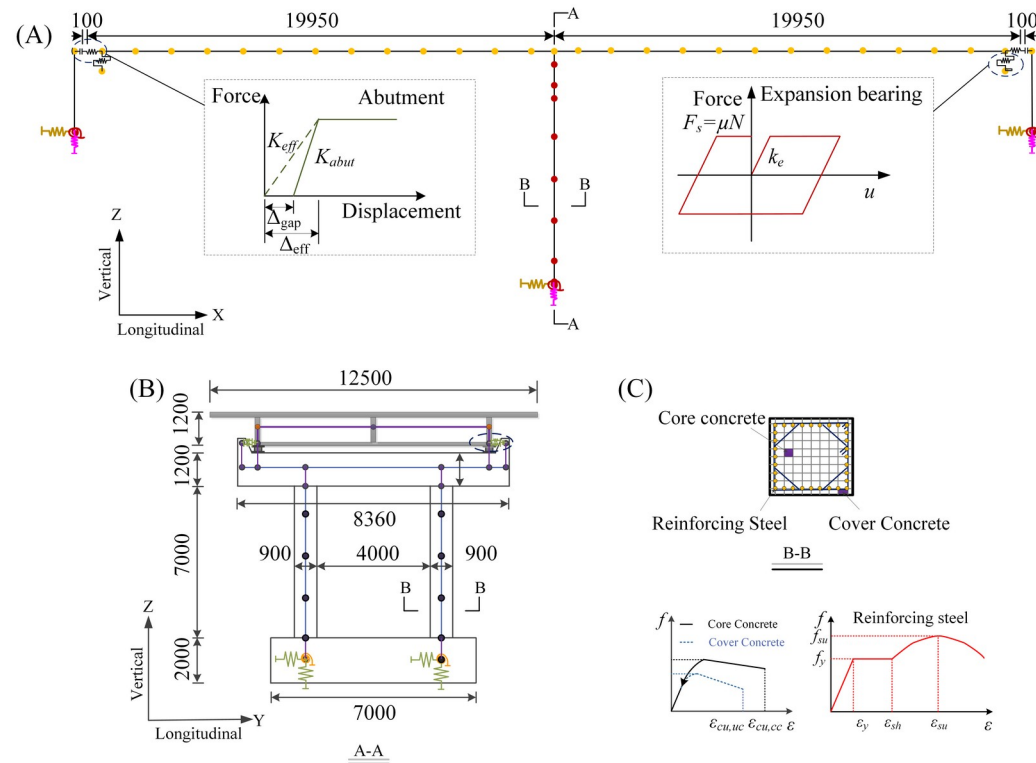
➤ bridge numerical analysis model

■ concrete—Concrete02

■ reinforcement—

Reinforcing Steel

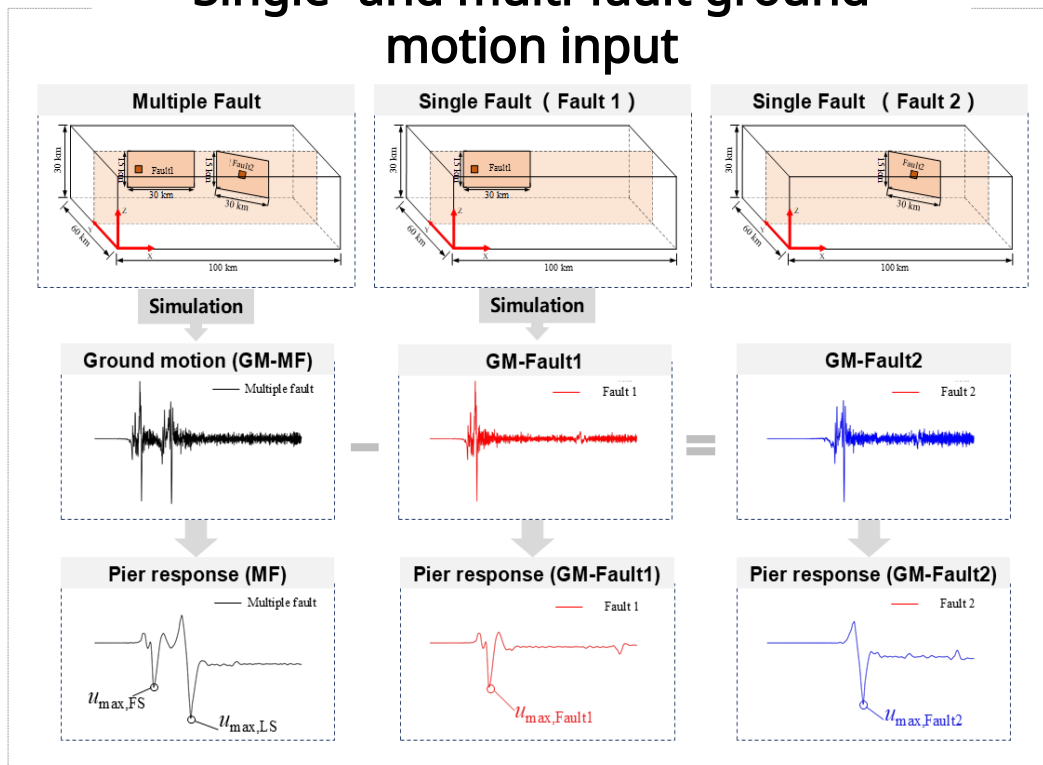
Material	property	Value	Unit
Confined/ unconfined concrete	compressive strength f'_c	30/36.78	MPa
	tensile strength f_t	2.51	MPa
	peak strain ϵ_0	0.26	%
	ultimate strength $0.2f'_c$	6/7.36	MPa
	ultimate compressive strain ϵ_{cu0}	1.4	%
	ultimate tensile strain	0.3	%
	elastic modulus, E_s	200	GPa
	yield	330	MPa



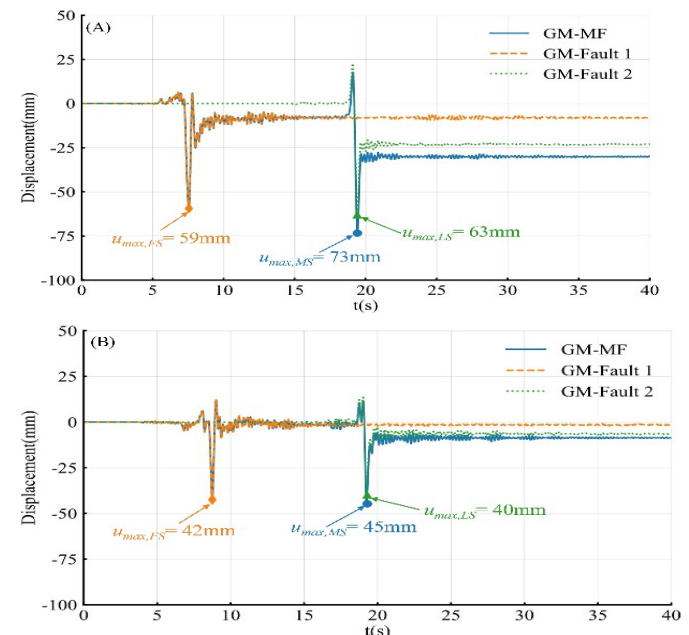
3 Seismic performance analysis of bridges

- ◆ To clearly illustrate the influence of multi-fault rupture, ground motion simulations were conducted for both multi-fault rupture and single-fault rupture.

Single- and multi-fault ground motion input



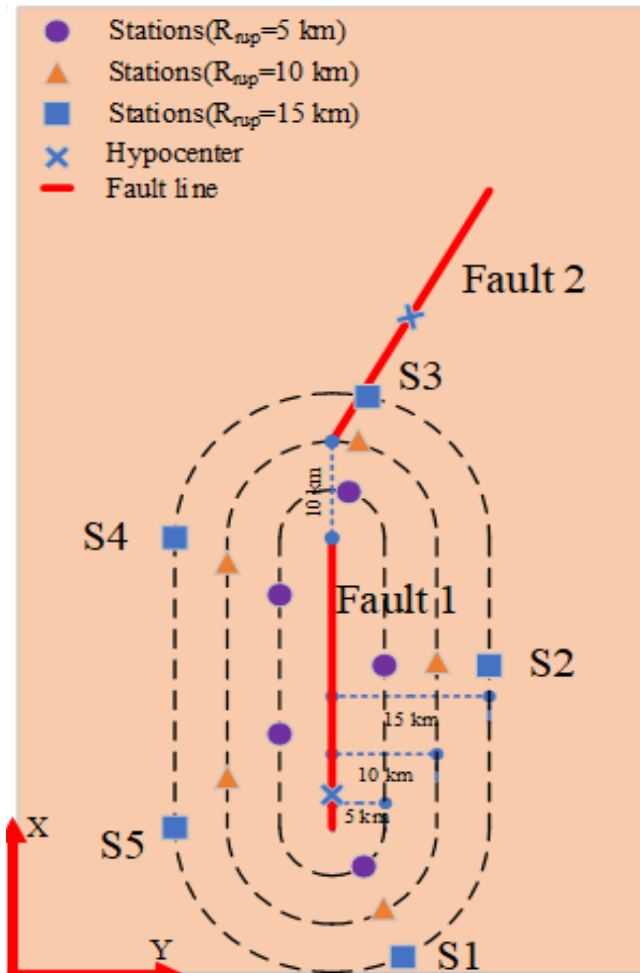
Pier top displacement



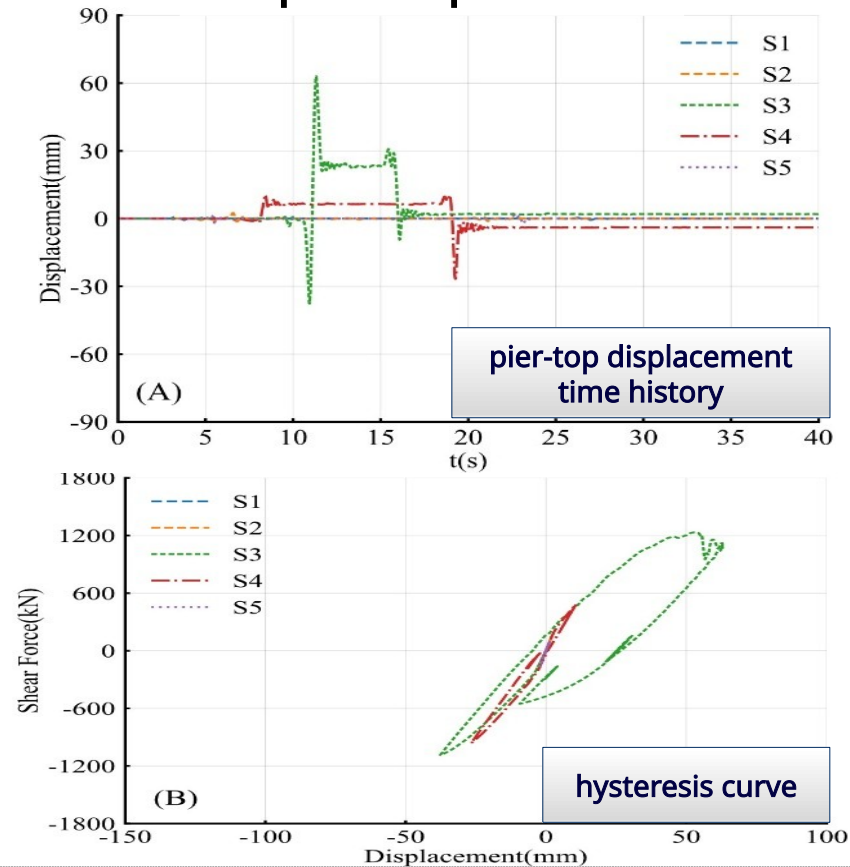
- Multi-fault rupture causes the seismic response of bridge piers to **increase**, with the maximum displacement at the top of the pier **increasing by 10%**

3 Seismic performance analysis of bridges

- ◆ The spatiotemporal distribution of bridge seismic response in different multi-fault regions was studied.
- station layout



pier response

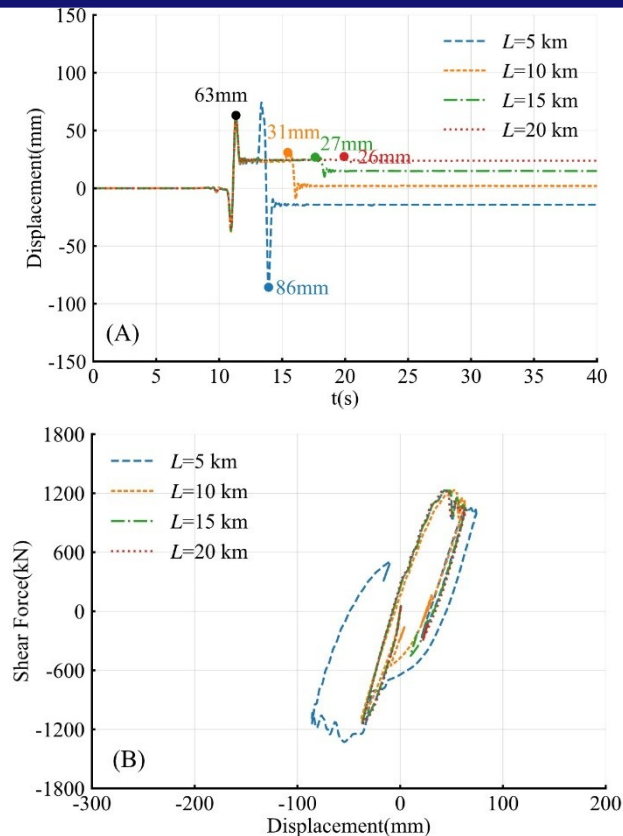


- The seismic response of the bridge at **S3** and **S4** are significantly larger than that at other stations.

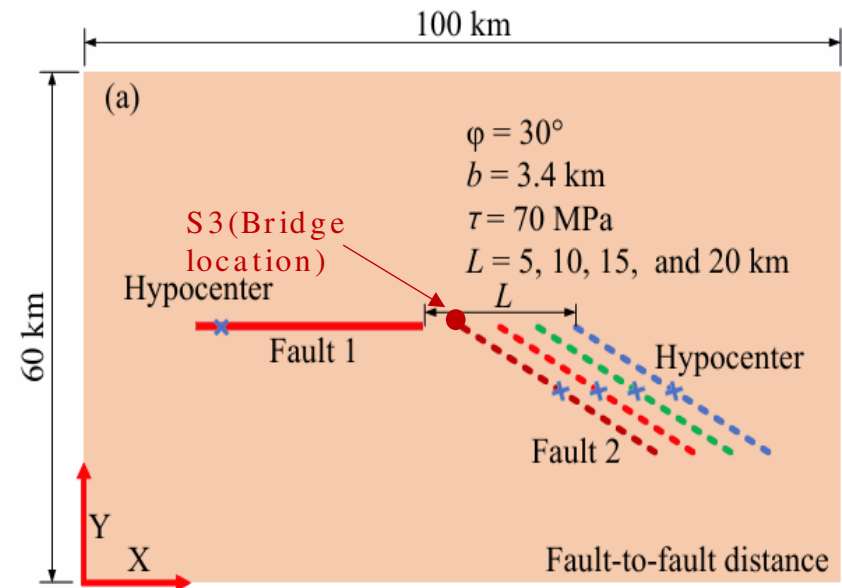
3 Seismic performance analysis of bridges

As L increases from 5 to 20 km, the maximum pier-top displacement under the latter sequence gradually decreases from 86 to 26 mm.

Pier response



Simulation parameter L

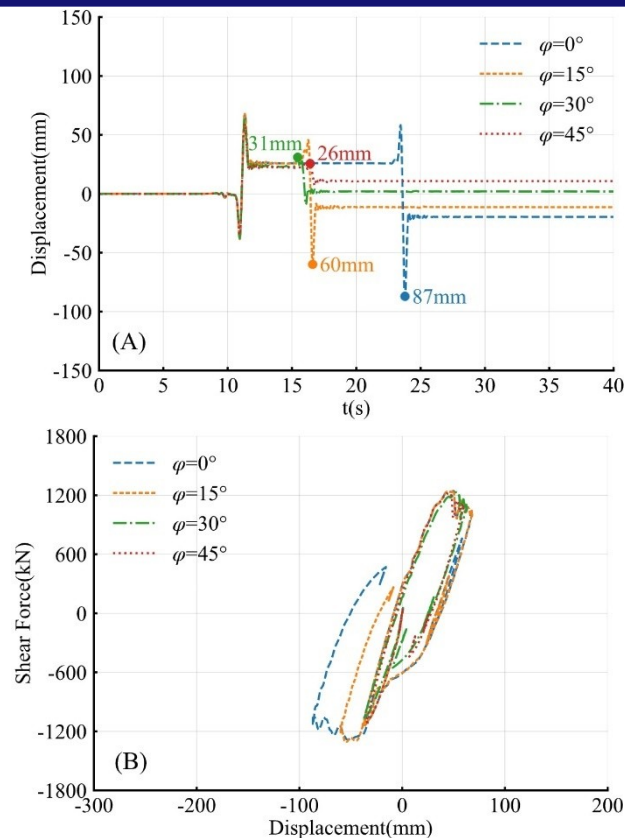


- A smaller fault-to-fault distance leads a greater seismic response in the overlap region

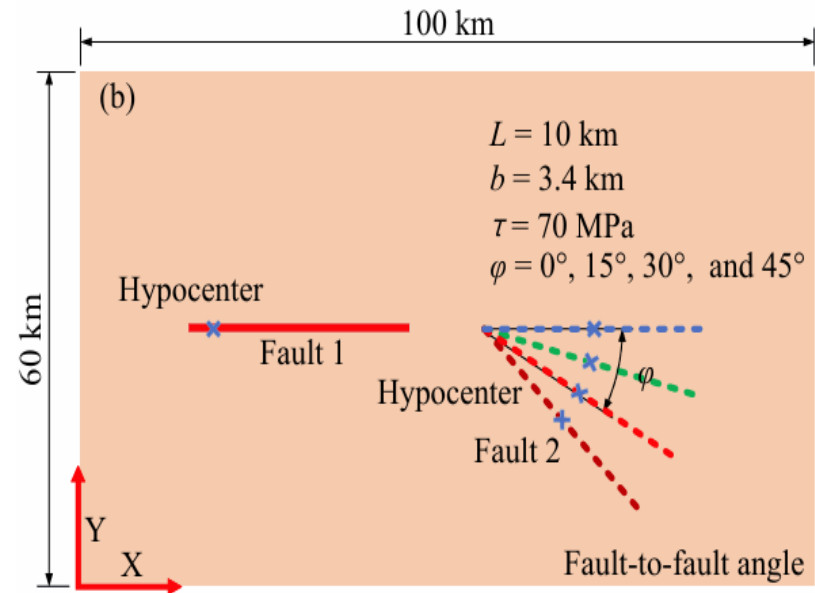
3.2 Seismic performance analysis of bridges

- As the angle increases from 0 to 45°, the maximum pier-top displacement under the latter sequence decreases from 87 to 26 mm

Pier response



Simulation parameter φ

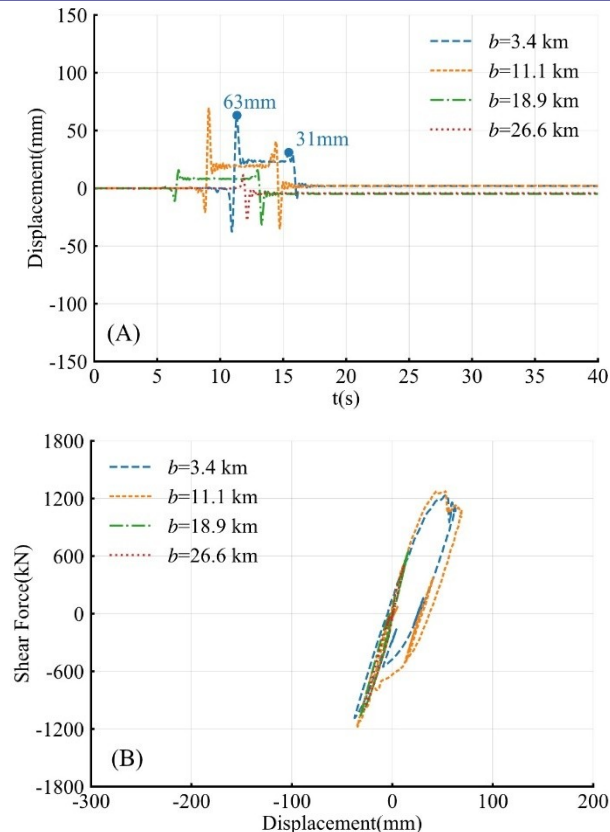


- **Smaller fault-to-fault angles** have the greatest effect on bridge seismic response in the fault-overlap region

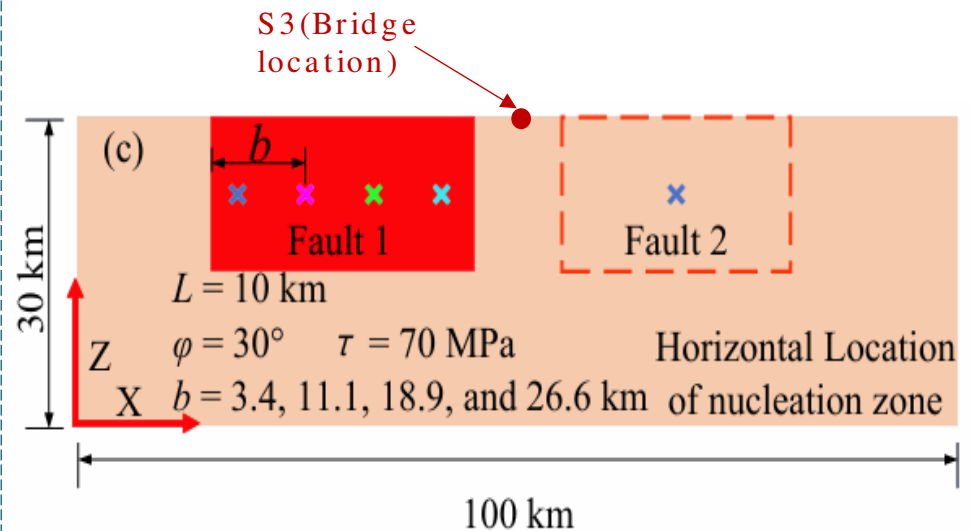
3 Seismic performance analysis of bridges

- As b increases, the seismic response of the bridge piers exhibits a decreasing trend.

Pier response



Simulation parameter b

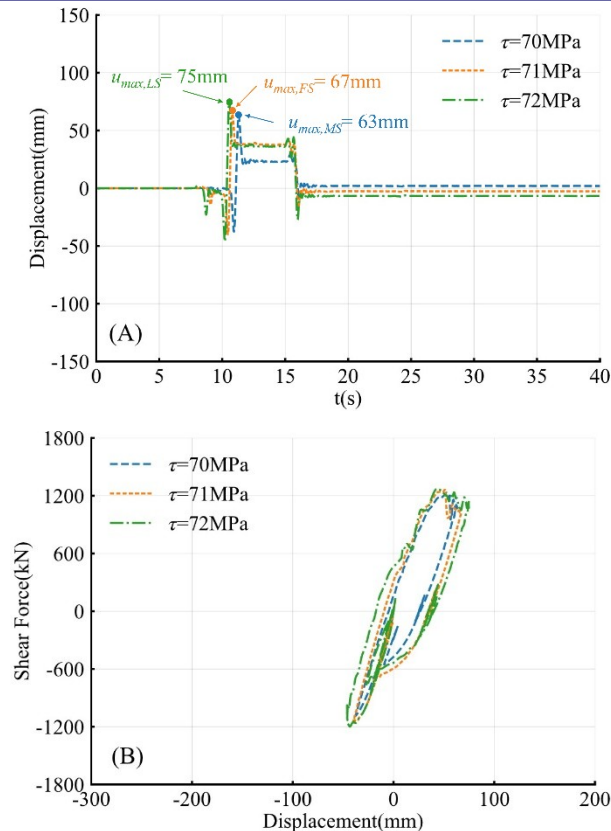


- The variation in hypocenter location alters the fault rupture direction, which consequently weakens forward directivity effect on the bridge.

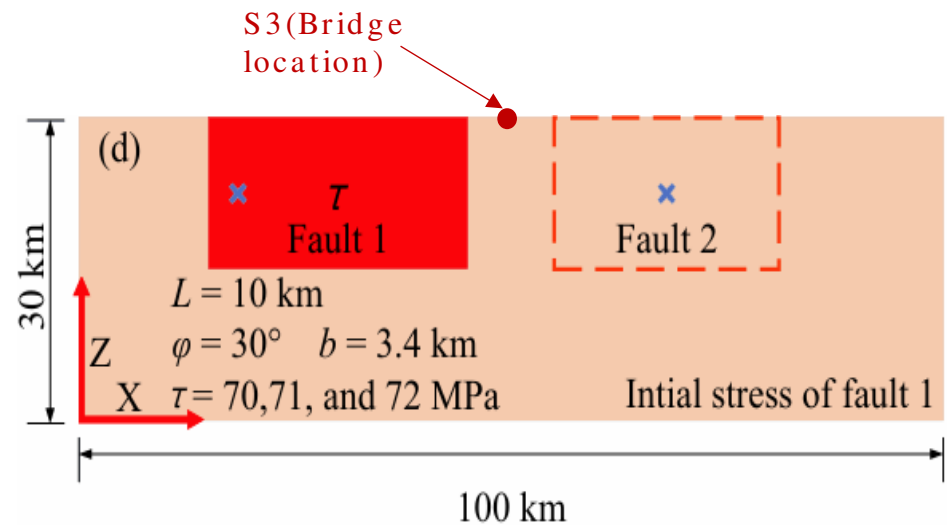
3 Seismic performance analysis of bridges

- As the stress increases, both the maximum pier top displacement and cumulative hysteretic energy gradually increase

Pier response



Simulation parameter τ



- A higher initial shear stress leads to a larger stress drop and releases more rupture energy, which consequently amplifies the overall seismic response of the bridge pier.

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4 Conclusions

- Multi-fault rupture results in ground motions that exhibit multi-peak characteristics, which are particularly pronounced in the **fault rupture overlap zones** (S3 and S4)
- **Smaller fault-to-fault distances and angles** lead to **greater** bridge seismic responses in the fault-rupture overlap region, causing more severe seismic damage
- Multi-fault rupture ground motion significantly amplifies bridge seismic response. Compared with single-fault rupture ground motion, the maximum pier-top displacement increases by **more than 10%**



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Thank you for your attention

Near-Fault Ground-Motion Simulation and High-Resilience

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