



## Evaluation of near-fault ground motions on seismic behavior of the movable folding bridges

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### Review History:

Received: Jan. 11, 2022

Revised: Apr. 03, 2022

Accepted: May, 30, 2022

Available Online: Jul. 03, 2022

### Keywords:

Time History Analysis

Movable Folding Bridge

Near Field Ground Motion

Response Spectrum

**ABSTRACT:** Bridges are structures with great importance, and any interruption could cause financial damage and even life-endangering people's life. Based on the type of structure, bridges can be divided into conventional, cable, and movable bridges. Space limitations in urban areas and the establishment of cities around the rivers attracted designers and engineers to these types of bridges. Considering the importance of foldable bridges, the seismic behavior of the bridge under subsection to near-fault ground motions has been investigated in this paper. Inheriting impulse effects in near-field contents is the main difference with far-field records. The total length of the bridge is 40 meters and consists of three movable spans, which are 3.65, 2.7 and 3.65 meters long. To study the seismic behavior of the bridge, at first modal analysis has been performed in ABAQUS built model and then under subsection to near-fault ground motions, which has been matched according to issue No.463 seismic time history analysis performed. The acceleration response, base shear, and vertical deflection of the bridge induced by perpendicular horizontal excitations were calculated and extracted. The destructive effect of the Varzeghan earthquake is more than other earthquakes, and the numerical value of acceleration response, vertical displacement, base shear, and tower drift is considerably higher than other earthquakes. The connection zone of the tower to the deck is vulnerable to seismic loads, and plastic hinges have been formed.

### 1- Introduction

#### Introduction

Bridges are predominant structures that play a crucial role in connecting and reducing the distance between two points. Movable bridges are also of great importance and are part of complex structures that are usually built on rivers. The dynamic characteristics of bridges are of paramount importance. For this reason, these properties have been studied by researchers and designers. Moving bridges have been built in many forms, including but not limited to the swing bridge, Bascule Bridge, and folding bridge in recent years. Hörn bridge is one example of a foldable bridge which is located in Kiel city in Germany country. To this purpose time history analysis of the Hörn bridge has been carried out in this study. While most of the researchers were focused on the seismic response of the bridges, some tried to be more specific and investigated the effect of the near-fault ground motions [1-5]. Investigation of the seismic behavior of the foldable bridge is missing in the literature, even though many studies concerning bridges' seismic behavior have been carried out. This paper aims to evaluate the seismic performance of the Hörn three-span folding bridge.

### 2- Methodology

The bridge consists of three segmented folding spans,

which are 3.65, 2.7 and 3.65 meters long, respectively and the total length of the bridge is 40 meters. The deck is composed of five longitudinal and two transversal beams at each foldable segment.

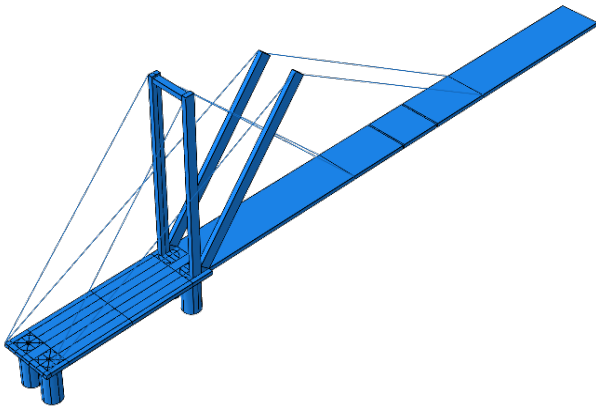
Because of the complexity of the bridge and the inefficiency of traditional methods for evaluating the bridge under lateral and seismic loads, numerical analysis has been carried out. To achieve this goal model of the bridge was prepared in commercial FEM software (ABAQUS) due to the ability of the software for nonlinear analysis as well as Time-History analysis.

For performing time-history analysis, selected ground motions must be matched according to Issue No. 463 [6], while the criteria are almost the same in the AASHTO Recommended LRFD Guidelines for the Seismic Design of Highway Bridge [7]. According to Issue No. 463, an envelope of response spectrum for selected ground motions must be calculated, and then with standard design spectrum must be compared. According to the 4th edition of 2800 seismic code [8], in a designated interval of  $0.2T$  and  $1.5T$ . In which  $T$  stands for a natural period of the bridge, the envelope of the response spectrum should not be less than the standard design spectrum.

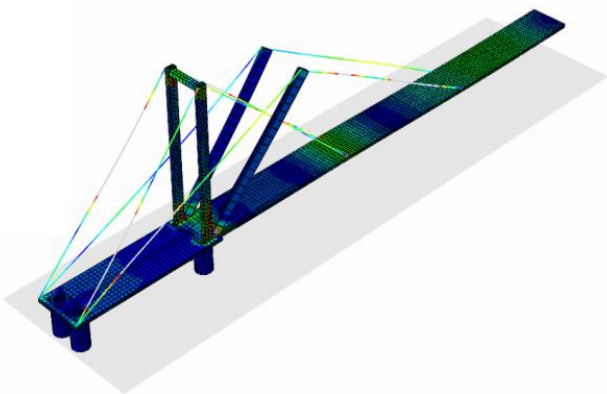
In Figure 1, developed model in ABAQUS commercial software has been displayed.

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**Fig. 1. Developed Model**



**Fig. 3. Stress Contour at Varzeghan record**

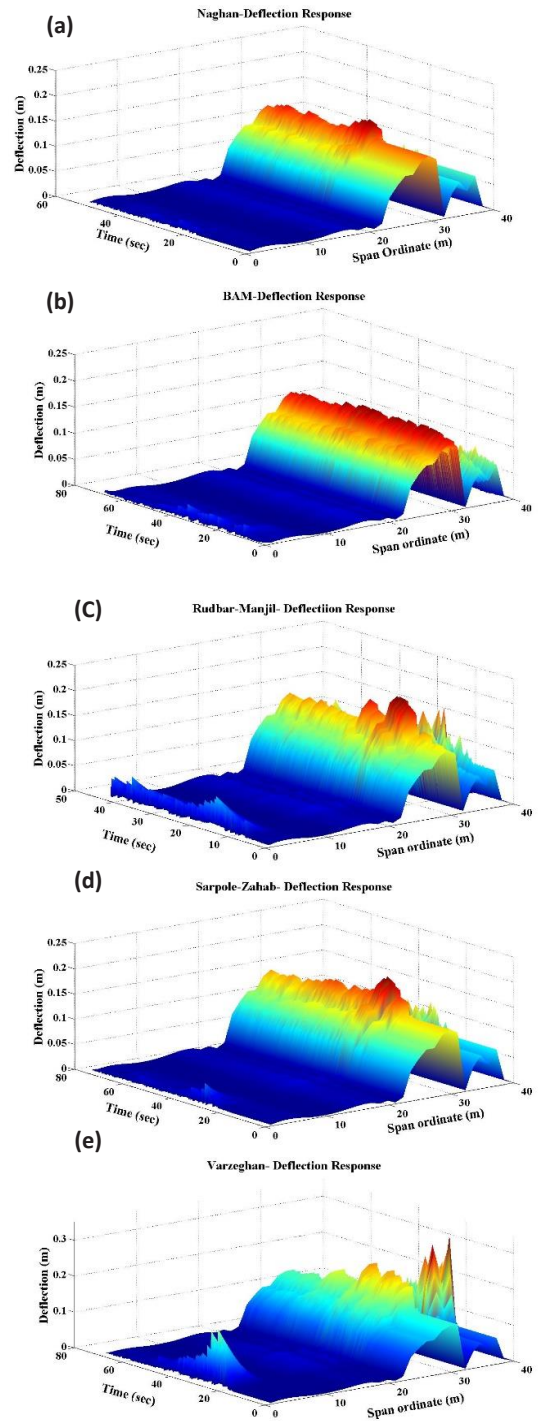
### 3- Results and Discussion

In the first step, modal analysis of the bridge for obtaining mode shapes and the corresponding period has been performed. The six consecutive mode shapes of the bridge were symmetrical vertical, lateral, tower sway, longitudinal, asymmetrical vertical, and torsional, respectively. The modal participation factor for the first and second modes is 76.33 %, 6.74 %, respectively. This significant drop in value for the second mode indicates that the behavior of the bridge is highly affected by the first vibration mode.

Three-dimensional surface of the span ordinate, time, and deflection of the span extracted after completion of the analysis. Mentioned surface for the five ground motions has been shown in Figure 2.

As graphs indicate, there is considerable pressure at the end of the deck towards the pier. Displacement caused by Varzeghan ground motion has higher values in comparison to other ground motions. It seems that due to the closeness of the predominant period of the Varzeghan record to the bridge period, phenomena of resonance have occurred in the bridge, while this effect has minimal effect in the Naghan record.

Stress contours for the bridge have been obtained and illustrated in Figure 3. Contours show there is plastic hinge formation in the connection zone of the towers to the deck and top beam, which connects the first towers' columns.



**Fig. 2. Vertical Deflection Response of the Bridge Span (a) Bam Excitation - (b) Naghan Excitation - (c) Rudbar-Manjil Excitation - (d) Sarpole-Zahab Excitation - (e) Varzeghan Excitation**

### 4- Conclusions

In this paper, a Time-History analysis of the Hörn folding bridge has been performed, and the seismic behavior of the bridge subjected to near-fault ground motions has been evaluated from different aspects. To this purpose, at first modal analysis for matching the selected near-fault ground motions were performed. The first vibration mode of the

bridge was dominant in the seismic behavior and response of the bridge. This phenomenon was observed in the resonance effect that occurred at the Varzeghan record, which has a predominant period value close to the first period of the structure. The landmark outcomes of the study are presented as follows:

- The acceleration response for different ground motions after matching has been achieved, even though PGAs for all of them are equal to 1, the Hörn bridge response was different for each of them.
- Results also indicate that horizontal excitation causes vertical deflections in the bridge structure. There is considerable displacement in the deck, which causes pressure force toward the pile.
- Plastic hinges have been formed in the connection zone of the towers to the deck, which was indicative of more vulnerability to seismic damage than other elements.

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#### HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE

M. H. Taghavi Parsa, A. Ahani, *Evaluation of near-fault ground motions on seismic behavior of the movable folding bridges*, *Amirkabir J. Civil Eng.*, 54(10) (2023) 803-806.

DOI: 10.22060/ceej.2022.20930.7588



