Seismic soil-structure interaction analysis of wind turbine support structures using augmented complex mode superposition response spectrum method

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Abstract. In this study, the seismic soil-structure interaction (SSI) of wind turbine support structures is investigated based on the complex mode superposition approach. For accurate and efficient estimation of seismic loadings on wind turbine support 10 structures, an augmented complex mode superposition response spectrum method (RSM) is developed, where the maximum shear force and bending moment of the non-classically damped system is analytically derived. An empirical formula of the modal damping ratios with a threshold value for the allowable damping ratio is also proposed to improve the prediction accuracy of the shear force acting on the footing. Furthermore, additional loadings to consider the contribution of the mass moment of inertia of rotor and nacelle assembly and P–Δ effect to the bending moment on the tower are analytically derived. 15 The proposed formulae are first demonstrated upon 2-MW wind turbine supported by two different types of foundations. A parametric study is then carried out by changing the tower geometries and soil conditions to propose the threshold value for the allowable damping ratio.

1 Introduction

Over the past few decades, growing demand for wind energy has increased the construction of wind turbines in earthquake-20 prone regions, e.g., Japan, and damages on wind turbine support structures caused by huge earthquakes have been reported. A piled foundation was damaged at Kashima wind farm during the 2011 off Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake (Ashford et al., 2011) and a wind turbine tower was buckled at Kugino wind farm during the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake (Harukigaoka Wind Power Inc., 2016). To ensure the structural integrity of wind turbine support structures against such huge earthquakes, development of an accurate and efficient method for estimating seismic loadings acting on wind turbine support structures is 25 necessary.

Response spectrum method (RSM) (Der Kiureghian, 1981; Chopra, 2011) has been widely incorporated into the codes for seismic design of various types of structures, including bridges, high-rise buildings, and nuclear power plants, due to its simplicity and efficiency (see, e.g., Eurocode 8, 2006; the Building Standard Law of Japan, 2004; American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), 2006). However, it has been recognized that these codes are generally not applicable for designing wind

turbine support structures owing their unique structural characteristics. First, wind turbines have significantly low structural damping (e.g., about 0.2 % for mega-watt (MW) class wind turbines) compared with the other types of structures. Response spectra of the structure with a low structural damping demonstrate large fluctuations, while damping correction factors in the above codes cannot accurately capture such uncertainty in the response spectra. To cope with this issue, Ishihara et al. (2011) have proposed a new damping correction factor for wind turbine support structures, in which the uncertainty in the response spectra is taken into account by employing a quantile value. More recently, Kitahara and Ishihara (2020) have extended the applicability of the damping correction factor for MW class wind turbine support structures.

Second, the mass ratio between the super- and sub-structures of wind turbines is significantly different, and the footing mass can reach about six times total masses of the tower, rotor, and nacelle particularly in earthquake-prone regions (Ishihara ed., 2010). Therefore, seismic responses of wind turbine support structures are severely affected by soil-structure interaction (SSI) (Wolf, 1989; Zhao et al., 2019). An efficient approach to account for the effect of SSI in seismic analysis is to describe the soil-structure system as a seismic SSI model, where the coupling between the soil and foundation is substituted with a set of springs and dashpots at the soil-foundation interface. This approach has been widely utilized for seismic analysis of wind turbine support structures (Bazeos et al., 2002; Butt and Ishihara, 2012; Stamatopoulos, 2013). However, by introducing the dashpots, the seismic SSI model will be a non-classically damped system, and thus classical modal damping models, such as the Rayleigh damping model, cannot accurately represent its modal damping properties. Although the modal damping ratios of non-classically damped systems can be computed by solving a complex eigenvalue problem, the modal damping ratios of complex eigenmodes cannot be directly used in conventional RSM, where real eigenmodes are employed, because complex eigenmodes do not generally coincide with real eigenmodes. In order to overcome this obstacle, Kitahara and Ishihara (2020) has proposed a modal decomposition method to identify equivalent modal damping ratios of real eigenmodes from the modal damping ratios of complex eigenmodes and have estimated seismic loadings acting on wind turbine support structures by the framework of conventional RSM.

On the other hand, studies have also been conducted on the superposition of complex eigenmodes for seismic analysis of non-classically damped systems (Zhou et al., 2004; Domenico and Ricciardi, 2019). The complex mode superposition is, in general, formulated based on velocity and displacement responses of each mode, and hence the velocity and displacement response spectra are necessary to employ it for RSM. Recently, Gao et al. (2020) has developed an efficient complex mode superposition RSM, where the velocity and displacement response spectra are approximately estimated from the acceleration response spectrum by the so-called pseudo spectrum transformation. This method has been demonstrated upon 3- and 6-story shear structures to be capable of accurately and efficiently estimate peak values of story drifts based on a design acceleration response spectrum. However, in these structures, highly damped modes are not dominant on the seismic responses; thus, the estimation accuracy of the seismic responses of highly damped systems by this method has not been clarified. Comparatively, the most dominant mode on the shear force acting on substructures of wind turbines such as footings can demonstrate a very large damping ratio in the case where soft soil profiles are assumed. Therefore, it is still necessary to further investigate the applicability of the complex mode superposition RSM for seismic analysis of wind turbine support structures.

The aim of the present work is consequently to develop an augmented complex mode superposition RSM for accurate and efficient estimates of seismic loadings acting on wind turbine support structures. Section 2 describes the seismic SSI model for wind turbine support structures and input acceleration response spectrum. In section 3, The maximum shear force and bending moment of the non-classically damped system are analytically derived by the complex mode superposition, and an empirical formula of modal damping ratios with a threshold value for the allowable damping ratio is proposed to suppress underestimation of the shear force on footings. Furthermore, additional loadings caused by the mass moment of inertia of the rotor and nacelle assembly (RNA) and the P−Δ effect are also derived using the complex mode superposition. The proposed formulae are validated by the comparison with time history analyses (THA) considering the uncertainty of the input ground motions in Section 4. The threshold value of the allowable damping ratio is proposed based on a parametric study that varies the damping ratio of the most dominant mode on the shear force on acting the footing from 6 % to 58 % by changing tower geometries and soil conditions. The conclusions are summarized in Section 5.

2 Wind turbine support structures under earthquake

In this study, wind turbine support structures subjected to a horizontal ground motion are investigated, aiming at estimating seismic loadings on towers and footings. First, a sway-rocking (SR) model for wind turbine support structures is constructed in Section 2.1, where the effect of SSI is considered using a pair of springs and dashpots in the sway and rocking directions, respectively. The methods to estimate the stiffness constants and damping coefficients are briefly summarized for two types of the foundation employed, i.e., the gravity and piled foundations. An input acceleration response spectrum is then defined in Section 2.2, accounting for the effects of soil amplification and damping correlation.

2.1 Seismic SSI model for wind turbine support structures

Fig. 1 shows the seismic SSI model for wind turbine support structures represented as a SR model, where x and z denote the horizontal and vertical coordinates, respectively, the $k(=1,\cdots,n-1)$th node represents each degree of freedom (DOF) of the steel tower and footing. The number of DOFs is set as $n=27$, which fulfils the requirement in the guidelines for design of wind turbine support structures and foundations by Japan Society of Civil Engineers (Ishihara ed., 2010). The tower and footing are modeled by lumped masses at each node and Euler-Bernoulli beam elements. Furthermore, in this model, RNA is simplified as a lumped mass at the hub height ($k=n$) and is connected to the tower using a rigid beam. It has been validated that this simplification does not affect the prediction accuracy of seismic loadings acting on the tower and footing, excluding the underestimation of the bending moment at the hub height due to no consideration of the mass moment of inertial of RNA (Kitahara and Ishihara, 2020). In this study, this underestimation is compensated by an additional loading due to the angular acceleration at the hub height, which will be further investigated in Section 3.2.

Two types of the foundation, i.e., the gravity and piled foundations, are considered. The gravity foundation is typically employed in the case where stiff soil profiles are considered, while the piled foundations are necessary to be installed in the case where soft soil profiles are considered. Regardless of the foundation type, the soil-foundation system is substituted with

a pair of springs and dashpots in the sway and rocking directions, respectively, connected to the footing bottom. It should be noted that, for simplification, the frequency dependencies of the springs and dashpots, cross-coupling between the sway and rocking springs, and mass moment of inertia of the piles are all neglected in this model. These simplifications are reasonable, since the slightly embedded footing with a small embedment ratio, that is defined as the ratio of the footing depth to width, is

100   employed in this study.

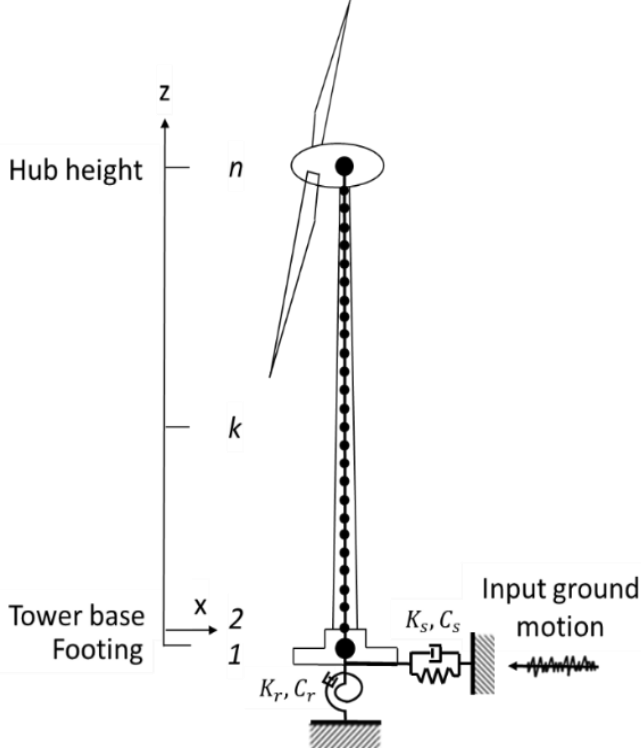



Figure 1: The seismic SSI model for wind turbine support structures.

The dynamic finite element equation of the seismic SSI model with respect to relative motions can be written as:

$$
\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_T & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & M_F & 0 \\ \mathbf{0} & 0 & J_F \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \ddot{\tilde{\mathbf{u}}}_T \\ \ddot{u}_F^R \\ \ddot{\theta}_F \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_{TT} & \mathbf{C}_{TF} & -\mathbf{C}_{FF}\mathbf{h} \\ \mathbf{C}_{FT} & C_{FF} + C_s & \mathbf{C}_{FT}\mathbf{h} \\ -\mathbf{h}'\mathbf{C}_{TT} & \mathbf{h}'\mathbf{C}_{TF} & \mathbf{h}'\mathbf{C}_{TT}\mathbf{h} + C_r \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \dot{\tilde{\mathbf{u}}}_T \\ \dot{u}_F^R \\ \dot{\theta}_F \end{Bmatrix}
$$

$$
+ \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{TT} & \mathbf{K}_{TF} & -\mathbf{K}_{FF}\mathbf{h} \\ \mathbf{K}_{FT} & K_{FF} + K_s & \mathbf{K}_{FT}\mathbf{h} \\ -\mathbf{h}'\mathbf{K}_{TT} & \mathbf{h}'\mathbf{K}_{TF} & \mathbf{h}'\mathbf{K}_{TT}\mathbf{h} + K_r \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_T \\ u_F^R \\ \theta_F \end{Bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_T & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & M_F & 0 \\ \mathbf{0} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}\ddot{u}_{g0} ,
$$

(1)

where $\mathbf{M}_T$ is the mass matric of the tower; M_F and J_F mean the mass and mass moment of inertia of the footing; $\mathbf{C}_{TT}$ and $\mathbf{C}_{TF}$

105   denotes the damping matrices of the tower and coupling between the tower and footing; C_{FF}, C_s, and C_r indicate the damping coefficients of the footing and dashpots in the sway and rocking directions; $\mathbf{K}_{TT}$ and $\mathbf{K}_{FT}$ denote the stiffness matrices of the

tower and coupling between the tower and footing; K_{FF}, K_s, and K_r mean the stiffness constants of the footing and springs in the sway and rocking directions; $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_T$ is a column vector of the relative displacement of the tower; u_F^R and θ_F indicate column vectors of the relative displacement and rotational angle of the footing; $\mathbf{h}$ is a column vector of the height at each DOF of the tower relative to the footing; $\mathbf{I}$ means a unit column vector; $\ddot{u}_{g0}$ is the input ground motions at the footing bottom.

In this study, a Rayleigh damping model is used based on the first and second natural frequencies and modal damping ratios to obtain the damping matrix in Eq. (1), except for the contribution of the dashpots in the sway and rocking directions. The first and second modal damping ratios are assumed to correspond the structural damping of steel towers, since these two modes correspond the sway motion of the tower. The structural damping of steel towers can vary dependent on their size and an empirical formula to estimate the structural damping from the characteristic period of the fixed foundation model of wind turbine support structures has been proposed as (Oh and Ishihara, 2018):

$$\zeta_s = \max(2.0e^{-1.3T_s} + 0.15, 0.2)\,\%\,, \tag{2}$$

where T_s denotes the characteristic period; 0.2 % indicates the maximum value of the structural damping of unlined welded steel stacks as shown in ISO 4354 (2009).

For the gravity foundation, the parameters of the soil-foundation system in Eq. (1), K_s, K_r, C_s, and C_r, can be obtained using the cone model as detailed in Architectural Institute of Japan (AIJ) (2006). For the piled foundation, on the other hand, K_s and K_r can be calculated by Francis and Randolph models, respectively (Francis, 1964; Randolph, 1981), while C_s and C_r can be estimated using Gazetas model (Gazetas and Dobry, 1984). The detailed derivation of these parameters is provided by Ishihara and Wang (2019).

2.2 Input acceleration response spectrum

The design acceleration response spectrum is typically defined at the bedrock condition. The input ground motions $\ddot{u}_{g0}$ at the footing bottom can be obtained by generating simulated waves from it accounting for a given phase property and amplifying them by the one-dimensional site transfer function. Meanwhile, RSM uses the input acceleration response spectrum defined at the footing bottom. Several formulae are proposed such as Eurocode (2006), the Building Standard Law of Japan (2004), and ASCE (2006), and the following equation that is defined in the Building Standard Law of Japan (2004) is employed in this study:

$$S_a(T, \zeta) = \begin{cases} a_0 G_s \left\{ 1 + \left(F_\zeta \beta_0 - 1 \right) \dfrac{T}{T_B} \right\} & (0 \leq T < T_B) \\ a_0 G_s F_\zeta \beta_0 & (T_B \leq T < T_C) \\ a_0 G_s F_\zeta \beta_0 \left(\dfrac{T_C}{T} \right) & (T_C \leq T < T_D) \\ a_0 G_s F_\zeta \beta_0 \left(\dfrac{T_C}{T_D} \right)^{K_1} \left(\dfrac{T_D}{T} \right)^{K_2} & (T_D \leq T) \end{cases}, \tag{3}$$

where T and ζ mean the characteristic period and damping ratio; a_0 is the peak ground acceleration at the bedrock condition; G_s is the soil amplification factor; F_ζ is the damping correction factor; β_0 is the acceleration response magnification ratio for the region where the acceleration response becomes constant; T_B, T_C, T_D, K_1, and K_2 are coefficients describing the shape of the response spectrum. The parameters used for in this study are listed in Table 1. The peak ground acceleration a_0 is chosen such that its return period is 475 years as recommended in IEC61400-1 (2019). In addition, the soil amplification factor G_s is obtained using the response spectrum-based method proposed by Okano and Sako (2013).

Table 1: Parameters of the input acceleration response spectrum.

a_0 (m/s^2)	β_0	K_1	K_2	T_B (s)	T_C (s)	T_D (s)
3.2	2.5	1	1	0.16	0.64	3.0

The damping correction factor F_ζ is the key component in the acceleration response spectrum, because it quantifies the uncertainty in the spectra of the input ground motions caused by the low structural damping of wind turbines. In this study, the following equation is employed (Kitahara and Ishihara, 2020):

$$F_\zeta = \begin{cases} \left(\dfrac{5.2}{0.2 + 100\zeta}\right)^{-0.05T + 0.35\gamma + 0.3} & (\zeta < 0.05) \\ \left(\dfrac{2}{-3 + 100\zeta}\right)^{0.15 \log_{10}\frac{T}{1.5\gamma} + 0.3} & (\zeta > 0.05) \end{cases}, \tag{4}$$

where γ denotes the quantile value. By changing the quantile value γ, the resultant input acceleration response spectrum can consider different reliability level of the input ground motions, e.g., the mean or maximum spectra. One can refer to Kitahara and Ishihara (2020) for more details of the damping correlation factor.

3 Augmented complex mode superposition RSM

A state-of-the-art RSM based on the complex mode superposition, called complex mode superposition RSM (Gao et al. 2020) is employed in this study. Section 3.1 gives a brief review of the complex mode superposition RSM, and then it is extended in Section 3.2 for estimating seismic loadings on wind turbine support structures. The maximum shear force and bending moment of the multi-DOF system are analytically derived to estimate these on the tower and footing. An empirical formula of the modal damping ratios is then proposed to suppress underestimation of the shear force of the footing. Finally, additional loadings due to the mass moment of inertia of RNA and the P−Δ effect are also analytically derived.

3.1 Complex mode superposition RSM in Gao et al. (2020)

In the complex mode superposition RSM, Eq. (1) is converted into a first order matrix equation as (Foss, 1958):

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{M} \\ \mathbf{M} & \mathbf{C} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \ddot{\mathbf{u}} \\ \dot{\tilde{\mathbf{u}}} \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{M} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{u}} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \end{Bmatrix} = -\begin{Bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{MI} \end{Bmatrix} \ddot{u}_{g0}, \tag{5}$$

with

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_T & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & M_F & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & J_F \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_{TT} & \mathbf{C}_{TF} & -\mathbf{C}_{FF}\mathbf{h} \\ \mathbf{C}_{FT} & C_{FF} + C_s & \mathbf{C}_{FT}\mathbf{h} \\ -\mathbf{h}'\mathbf{C}_{TT} & \mathbf{h}'\mathbf{C}_{TF} & \mathbf{h}'\mathbf{C}_{TT}\mathbf{h} + C_r \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{K} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{TT} & \mathbf{K}_{TF} & -\mathbf{K}_{FF}\mathbf{h} \\ \mathbf{K}_{FT} & K_{FF} + K_s & \mathbf{K}_{FT}\mathbf{h} \\ -\mathbf{h}'\mathbf{K}_{TT} & \mathbf{h}'\mathbf{K}_{TF} & \mathbf{h}'\mathbf{K}_{TT}\mathbf{h} + K_r \end{bmatrix},$$

and $\tilde{\mathbf{u}} = [\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_T \quad u_F^R \quad \theta_F]^T$. The complex eigenvalue problem of this first order matrix equation is written as:

$$\left(\lambda_j \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{M} \\ \mathbf{M} & \mathbf{C} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{M} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{K} \end{bmatrix} \right) \boldsymbol{\Phi}_j = \mathbf{0}, \text{for } j = 1, 2, \cdots, n\,, \tag{6}$$

where λ_j means the jth complex eigenvalue; $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_j = \{\lambda_j \boldsymbol{\phi}'_j \; \boldsymbol{\phi}'_j\}'$, with the jth complex mode shape $\boldsymbol{\phi}_j$, means the jth complex eigenvector. Noted that, the eigenvalue λ_j and eigenvector $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_j$ are in complex-conjugate pairs with $\hat{\lambda}_j$ and $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_j = \{\lambda_j \widehat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}'_j \; \widehat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}'_j\}'$, respectively. Based on the jth complex eigenvalue λ_j, the jth natural frequency and modal damping ratio can be obtained as:

$$\omega_j = |\lambda_j|, \text{and } \zeta_j = -\text{Re}(\lambda_j / |\lambda_j|)\,. \tag{7}$$

Conversely, the first order matrix equation in Eq. (5) can be also decoupled into the n single DOF equations as:

$$\ddot{q}_j + 2\zeta_j \omega_j \dot{q}_j + \omega_j^2 q_j = -\ddot{u}_{g0}, \text{for } j = 1, 2, \cdots, n\,, \tag{8}$$

where q_j indicates the displacement response of the single DOF system. By the superposition of the solutions of Eq. (8), the relative displacement in Eq. (5) can be written as:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \left(\mathbf{A}_j q_j + \mathbf{B}_j \dot{q}_j \right)\,, \tag{9}$$

with

$$\mathbf{A}_j = \omega_j \zeta_j \mathbf{B}_j + i\omega_j \sqrt{1 - \zeta_j} \left(D_j \boldsymbol{\phi}_j - \widehat{D}_j \widehat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_j \right), \text{and } \mathbf{B}_j = D_j \boldsymbol{\phi}_j + \widehat{D}_j \widehat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_j\,,$$

where

$$D_j = \frac{-\boldsymbol{\phi}'_j \mathbf{MI}}{2\lambda_j \boldsymbol{\phi}'_j \mathbf{M} \boldsymbol{\phi}_j + \boldsymbol{\phi}'_j \mathbf{C} \boldsymbol{\phi}_j}, \text{and } \widehat{D}_j = \frac{-\widehat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}'_j \mathbf{MI}}{2\hat{\lambda}_j \widehat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}'_j \mathbf{M} \widehat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_j + \widehat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}'_j \mathbf{C} \widehat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_j}\,.$$

The maximum relative displacements can be obtained using the complex complete quadratic combination rule as (Gao et al., 2020):

$$|\tilde{\mathbf{u}}|_{max} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{l=1}^{N} \{ \rho_{jl}^{dd} \mathbf{A}_j \mathbf{A}_l S_{dj} S_{dl} + 2\rho_{jl}^{vd} \mathbf{B}_j \mathbf{A}_l S_{vj} S_{dl} + \rho_{jl}^{vv} \mathbf{B}_j \mathbf{B}_l S_{vj} S_{vl} \}}\,, \tag{10}$$

where $N(\leq n)$ denotes the highest mode considered in the calculation; S_{dj} and S_{vj} are the relative displacement and relative velocity response spectra of the jth mode; ρ_{jl}^{dd}, ρ_{jl}^{vd}, and ρ_{jl}^{vv} refer to the displacement–displacement, velocity–displacement, and velocity–velocity correlation coefficients between the jth and lth modes, respectively. By utilizing the so-called pseudo spectrum transformation, the displacement and velocity response spectra can be approximately obtained based on the given acceleration response spectrum as (Gao et al., 2020):

$$S_{dj} \cong S_a(T_j, \zeta_j)/\omega_j^2, \text{ and } S_{vj} \cong S_a(T_j, \zeta_j)/\omega_j \,, \tag{11}$$

where $S_a(T_j, \zeta_j)$ indicates the acceleration response spectrum in Eq. (3) with the jth natural period and modal damping ratio. Moreover, the correlation coefficients ρ_{jl}^{dd}, ρ_{jl}^{vd}, and ρ_{jl}^{vv} are expressed as:

$$\rho_{jl}^{dd} = \frac{8\sqrt{\zeta_j \zeta_l}(r_{jl}\zeta_j + \zeta_l)r_{jl}^{3/2}}{\left(1 - r_{jl}^2\right)^2 + 4\zeta_j \zeta_l r_{jl}\left(1 + r_{jl}^2\right) + 4\left(\zeta_j^2 + \zeta_l^2\right)r_{jl}^2}, \tag{12}$$

$$\rho_{jl}^{vd} = \frac{8\sqrt{\zeta_j \zeta_l}(1 - r_{jl}^2)r_{jl}^{1/2}}{\left(1 - r_{jl}^2\right)^2 + 4\zeta_j \zeta_l r_{jl}\left(1 + r_{jl}^2\right) + 4\left(\zeta_j^2 + \zeta_l^2\right)r_{jl}^2}, \tag{13}$$

$$\rho_{jl}^{vv} = \frac{8\sqrt{\zeta_j \zeta_l}(\zeta_j + r_{jl}\zeta_l)r_{jl}^{3/2}}{\left(1 - r_{jl}^2\right)^2 + 4\zeta_j \zeta_l r_{jl}\left(1 + r_{jl}^2\right) + 4\left(\zeta_j^2 + \zeta_l^2\right)r_{jl}^2}, \tag{14}$$

where $r_{jl} = \omega_l/\omega_j$ refers to the natural frequency ratio of the jth to lth modes.

3.2 Augmentations for seismic loadings estimate on wind turbine support structures

Whereas the complex mode superposition RSM derives the maximum relative displacement in Eq. (10), the maximum shear force and bending moment are defined based on the maximum acceleration. Hence, they are newly derived herein as:

$$|Q_k|_{max} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{N} Q_{jk}} \,, \text{ and } |M_k|_{max} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{N} M_{jk}} \,, \tag{15}$$

with

$$Q_{jk} = \sum_{l=1}^{N} \left[\rho_{jl}^{dd}\left\{\sum_{k=i}^{n} A_{jk}A_{lk}S_{dj}\left(\frac{2\pi}{T_j}\right)^2 S_{dl}\left(\frac{2\pi}{T_l}\right)^2 m_k\right\} + 2\rho_{jl}^{vd}\left\{\sum_{k=i}^{n} B_{jk}A_{lk}S_{vj}\left(\frac{2\pi}{T_j}\right)S_{dl}\left(\frac{2\pi}{T_l}\right)^2 m_k\right\} \right.$$
$$\left. + \rho_{jl}^{vv}\left\{\sum_{k=i}^{n} B_{jk}B_{lk}S_{vj}\left(\frac{2\pi}{T_j}\right)S_{vl}\left(\frac{2\pi}{T_l}\right)m_k\right\} \right],$$

and

$$M_{jk} = \sum_{l=1}^{N} \left[\rho_{jl}^{dd} \left\{ \sum_{k=i}^{n} A_{jk} A_{lk} S_{dj} \left(\frac{2\pi}{T_j} \right)^2 S_{dl} \left(\frac{2\pi}{T_l} \right)^2 m_k (z_n - z_k) \right\} \right.$$

$$+ 2\rho_{jl}^{vd} \left\{ \sum_{k=i}^{n} B_{jk} A_{lk} S_{vj} \left(\frac{2\pi}{T_j} \right) S_{dl} \left(\frac{2\pi}{T_l} \right)^2 m_k (z_n - z_k) \right\}$$

$$\left. + \rho_{jl}^{vv} \left\{ \sum_{k=i}^{n} B_{jk} B_{lk} S_{vj} \left(\frac{2\pi}{T_j} \right) S_{vl} \left(\frac{2\pi}{T_l} \right) m_k (z_n - z_k) \right\} \right],$$

where A_{jk} and B_{jk} indicate the kth component of $\mathbf{A}_j$ and $\mathbf{B}_j$, respectively; m_k and z_k are the mass and height of the kth node, respectively. Eq. (15) will demonstrate to estimate seismic loadings on the tower and footing of a 2-MW wind turbine in the next section.

Gao et al. (2020) have demonstrated the complex mode superposition RSM upon 3- and 6-story shear structures, where highly damped and over-damped modes arise at the fundamental frequencies. However, these modes are not dominant on the seismic responses, i.e., peak values of story drifts; hence, the estimation accuracy of the seismic responses of highly damped systems by this method has not been clarified. In particular, this method might underestimate the seismic responses of highly damped and over-damped modes, since the velocity-displacement correlation for a large damping ratio cannot be accurately evaluated based on the correlation coefficient in Eq. (12). On the other hand, one of the fundamental modes of wind turbine support structures corresponds to the sway motion of the footing, and this mode can show an excessively large damping ratio in the case where soft soil profiles are considered, due to the soil radiational damping. As will be detailed in the next section, this mode is not dominant on seismic loadings on the tower and footing, except for the shear force on the footing. However, the shear force on the footing is the key component for designing the piled foundations, and hence its underestimation could result in unsafe piled foundations. To prevent the underestimation of the shear force on the footing, an empirical formula of the modal damping ratios is proposed in this study as:

$$\zeta_j = \max(-\text{Re}(\lambda_j / |\lambda_j|), \zeta_{\text{thr}}), \tag{16}$$

where ζ_{thr} denotes a threshold value of the allowable modal damping ratio. This formula substitutes a given threshold value for the excessive values of the modal damping ratios. It is found that 0.1 is a reasonable choice of the threshold value ζ_{thr} based on the parametric study varying the modal damping ratio of the most dominant mode on the shear force on the footing from 6 % to 58 %, which will be detailed in Section 4.2.

Moreover, to compensate the underestimation of the bending moment at the hub height because of no consideration of the mass moment of inertial of RNA, an additional loading by the angular acceleration at the hub height is proposed as:

$$M_k^{RNA} = C \times I_y \times \ddot{\theta} \times \left(\frac{z_k}{z_n} \right)^6 = C \times I_y \times \frac{\ddot{u}_n^1 - \ddot{u}_{n-1}^1}{z_n - z_{n-1}} \times \left(\frac{z_k}{z_n} \right)^6, \text{with } C = 0.5, \tag{17}$$

where M_k^{RNA} denotes the additional loading the kth node; I_y is the mass moment of inertial of RNA; $\ddot{\theta}$ indicates the angular acceleration at the hub height; $\ddot{u}_n^1$ indicates the maximum acceleration of the first mode at the nth node; C is the correction factor. The maximum acceleration $\ddot{u}_n^1$ of the first mode at the nth node can be estimated as:

$$\ddot{u}_n^1 = \sum_{l=1}^{N}\left[\rho_{1l}^{dd}A_{1n}A_{ln}S_{d1}S_{dl}\left(\frac{2\pi}{T_1}\right)^2 + 2\rho_{1l}^{vd}B_{1n}A_{ln}S_{vj}S_{dl}\left(\frac{2\pi}{T_1}\right)^2 + \rho_{1l}^{vv}B_{1n}B_{ln}S_{v1}S_{vl}\left(\frac{2\pi}{T_1}\right)^2\right]. \tag{18}$$

Besides, the P–Δ effect is also proposed to be considered as an additional loading using the framework of the complex mode superposition RSM as:

$$M_k^{PD} = \sum_{j=k+1}^{n} m_k g\left(\tilde{u}_j - \tilde{u}_k\right), \text{for } k = 1, 2, \cdots, n-1, \tag{19}$$

where g means the gravitational acceleration; $\tilde{u}_k$ is the maximum relative displacement at the kth node obtained by Eq. (10). These additional loadings will be demonstrated in the next section by a comparison with the mean profiles of the maximum bending moment on the tower and footing, estimated by THA of the full finite element (FE) models of wind turbine support structures including the detailed configuration of the rotor and nacelle.

4 Numerical verification and discussion

The proposed augmented complex mode superposition SRM is first demonstrated on a typical 2-MW wind turbine supported by different types of foundations in Section 4.1. The gravity foundation is used for a typical stiff soil profile, while the piled foundation is utilized for a typical soft soil profile. In Section 4.2, to demonstrate the proposed threshold value, $\zeta_{thr} = 0.1$, in Eq. (17), a parametric study where the modal damping ratio of the most dominant mode on the shear force on the footing is varied from 6 % to 58 % is then conducted by changing tower geometries and soil conditions.

4.1 Seismic loadings on a 2-MW wind turbine support structures

Table 2 details the outline of the 2–MW wind turbine and its support structures. The structural damping ratio is estimated as $\zeta_s = 0.2$ % by Eq. (16). The footing mass is about six times total masses of the tower, rotor, and nacelle. The embedded ratio of the footing is assumed as 0.2. On the other hand, Fig.2 illustrates the shape of the footing and piles. Totally eight piles are embedded and extended to the depth of the bedrock condition. The water depth is assumed to be under the pile bottom.

As the soil profiles, typical stiff and soft soil profiles, namely Soil type I and II, shown in AIJ (2006) are considered in this study. Table 3 details the description of the one-dimensional layered soil models for these two soil profiles. The gravity foundation is utilized for Soil type I, while the piled foundation is used for Soil type II. In addition, Table 4 summarizes the stiffness constants and damping coefficients of the soil-foundation system, i.e., the pair of springs and dashpots in the sway and rocking directions, for both soil profiles.

Table 2: The outline of the 2-MW wind turbine and its support structures.

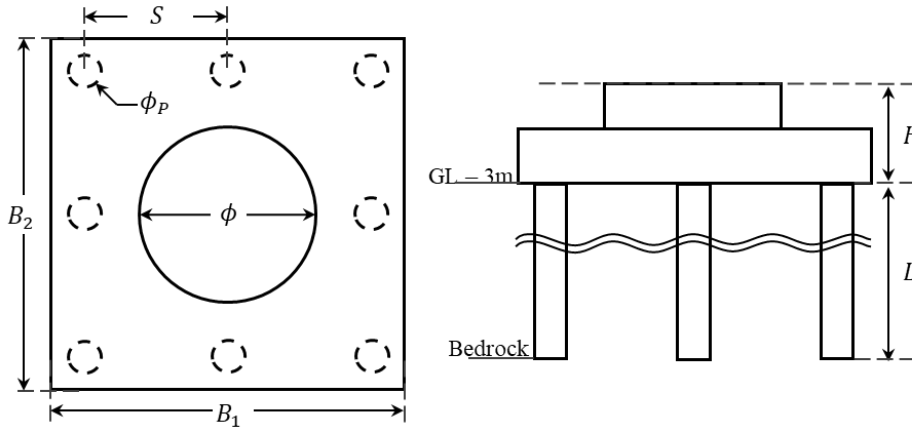
Item	Description
Rotor diameter (m)	83
Tower height (m)	67
Rotor and nacelle mass (kg)	112000
Tower mass (kg)	165100
Tower top diameter (m)	2.34
Tower top thickness (mm)	13
Tower bottom diameter ϕ (m)	4.23
Tower bottom thickness (mm)	35
Structural damping ratio ζ_s (%)	0.2
Footing width $B = B_1 = B_2$ (m)	16
Footing depth H (m)	3
Footing mass M_F (kg)	1551170
Pile diameter ϕ_P (m)	1.5
Pile distance S (m)	6.5
Pile length L (m)	22
Number of piles in the x–direction	3
Number of piles in the y–direction	3
Total number of piles	8
Young's modulus of the pile (kN/m²)	22800000
Density of the pile (kg/m³)	2446.5

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Figure 2: The shape of the piled foundation.

Table 3: The description of one-dimensional layered soil models.

(a) Soil type I

Layer No.	Depth D (m)	Density ρ (t/m³)	S-wave Velocity V_S (m/s)	P-wave Velocity V_p (m/s)	Soil type
1	3.0	1.7	130	320	Sand
2	5.7	1.8	340	720	Sand
3	10.0	1.7	280	720	Clay
4	17.4	1.9	380	1980	Sand
Bedrock	—	2.1	510	1980	Rock

(b) Soil type II

Layer No.	Depth D (m)	Density ρ (t/m³)	S-wave Velocity V_S (m/s)	P-wave Velocity V_p (m/s)	Soil type
1	4.5	1.8	90	1360	Clay
2	10.0	1.6	150	1560	Sand
3	17.0	1.8	210	1560	Sand
4	18.5	1.7	150	1560	Clay
5	25.0	1.8	260	1560	Sand
Bedrock	—	1.8	400	1700	Rock

Table 4: Stiffness constants and damping coefficients for the soil-foundation system.

Soil profile	Sway		Rocking	
	Stiffness constant (N/m)	Damping coefficient (Nsec/m)	Stiffness constant (Nm/rad)	Damping coefficient (Nmsec/rad)
Soil type I	8.56×10^8	2.07×10^7	5.74×10^{11}	7.04×10^8
Soil type II	7.90×10^8	3.02×10^7	4.03×10^{11}	1.02×10^9

Fig. 3 depicts the input acceleration response spectra at the footing bottom obtained for both soil profiles, together with the design acceleration response spectrum at the bedrock condition. In these response spectra, the damping ratio is assumed as $\zeta = 0.05$ and the soil amplification factor G_s is estimated by Okano and Sako (2014). Compared with the design response spectrum at the bedrock condition, the input response spectrum is amplified in the short period range less than 0.5 s for Soil type I and in the long period range larger than 0.5 s for Soil type II. Note that, the response spectra in Fig. 3 are not directly employed for RSM, but instead, the damping correction factor F_ζ is estimated for each modal damping ratio by Eq. (4) and is multiplied with these response spectra to estimate the seismic response of each mode. On the other hand, 15 simulated waves are generated from the design response spectrum considering different phase properties. The four simulated waves utilize the phase properties of famous observed earthquake records, called El Centro NS, Taft EW, Hachinohe EW, and JMA Kobe NS, (Building Performance Standardization Association; Japan Meteorological Agency), and the other 11 simulated waves utilize random phase property. The Input ground motions $\ddot{u}_{g0}$ at the footing bottom are then obtained for both soil profiles from the simulated waves by the equivalent linearization method using DYNEQ (Yoshida and Suetomi, 1995), which allows similar analysis as SHAKE (Schnabel et al. 1972). It is important to note that, the shear strain is less than 1 % for both soil profiles, and thus the use of the equivalent linearization method is reasonable for both soil profiles. The acceleration response spectra of the four input ground motions with the phase properties of the observed earthquake records are also shown in Fig. 3. It can be seen that the response spectra of these input ground motions indicate good agreement with the input acceleration response spectrum, implying that the obtained input response spectra properly represent the input ground motions. However, they vary due to differences in the phase properties in particular for Soil type II. Such variability of the input ground motions can result in the variability of seismic loadings acting on wind turbine support structures by THA using these input ground motions. In the proposed RSM method, the uncertainty of the input ground motions is considered by the quantile value γ in the damping correction factor.

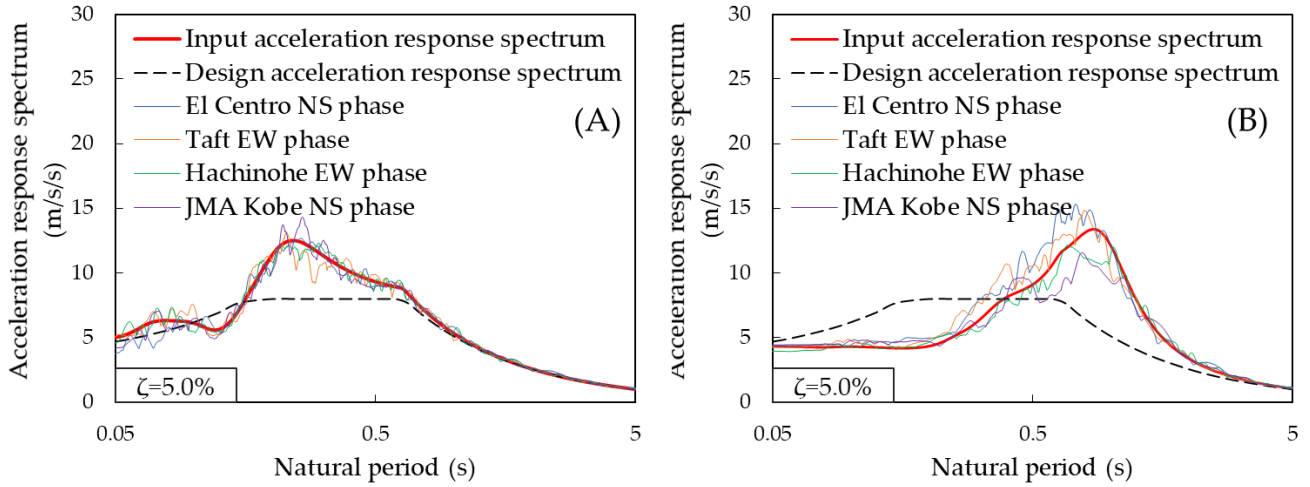



Figure 3: Input acceleration response spectra at the footing bottom: (A) Soil type I, (B) Soil type II.

Table 5 details the first five natural frequencies and modal damping ratios of the 2-MW wind turbine support structures obtained by solving a complex eigenvalue problem. In addition, the real parts of corresponding modal participation functions $D_j \phi_j$, for $j = 1, \cdots, 5$, are depicted in Fig. 4. Note that, considering up to the fifth mode fulfils the criteria of Model Code for Concrete Chimneys (CICIND, 2011). It can be seen that all the modal damping ratios are less than 10 % for the case where Soil type I is considered, while an excessive damping ratio larger than 40 % arises at the third mode for the case where Soil type II is considered. As can be seen in the modal participation function shown in Fig 4 (b), this mode corresponds the sway motion of the footing, and thus it can be considered that the excessive damping ratio arisen at this mode is caused by the soil radiational damping. Contrary to that, for the case where Soil type I is considered, the sway motion of the footing is arisen in the fourth mode, while the amplitude of the sway motion is relatively small as shown in Fig. 4 (a). Hence, the contribution of the soil radiational damping is not so large, resulting in the relatively small modal damping ratio. In the following procedure, the above excessive value of the modal damping ratio is substituted with 10 % by Eq. (15) as provided in the parentheses in Table 6 to avoid the underestimation of the shear force acting on the footing.

Table 5: Modal properties of the 2-MW wind turbine support structures.

Mode	Soil type I		Soil type II	
	Natural frequency (Hz)	Damping ratio (%)	Natural frequency (Hz)	Damping ratio (%)
1st	0.404	0.2	0.404	0.2
2nd	3.021	0.2	3.003	1.5
3rd	8.850	0.8	3.534	40.8 (10.0)
4th	11.765	8.5	8.929	0.8
5th	17.241	1.1	17.241	1.1

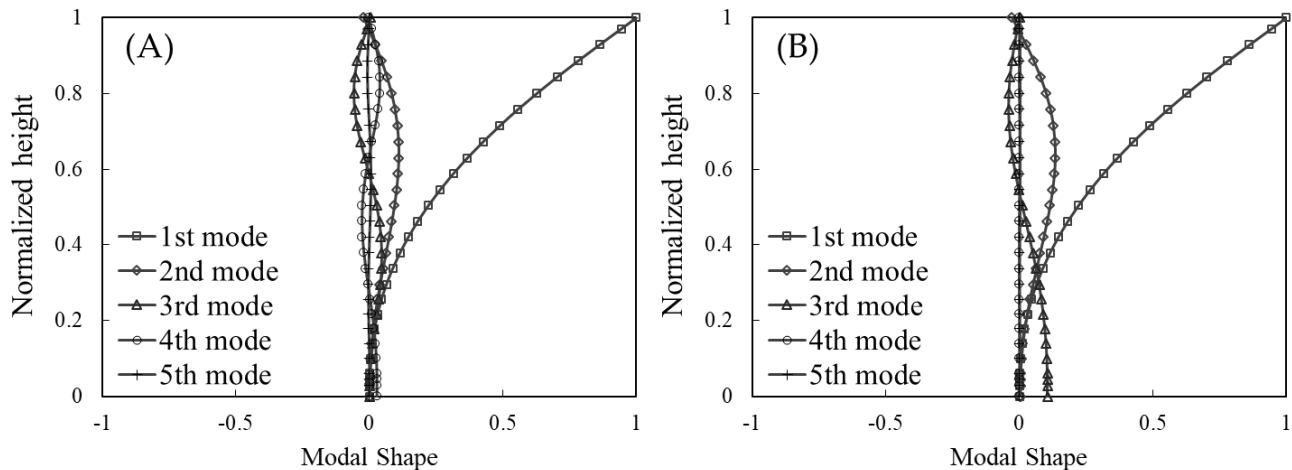



Figure 4: Real parts of complex modal participation functions: (A) Soil type I, (B) Soil type II.

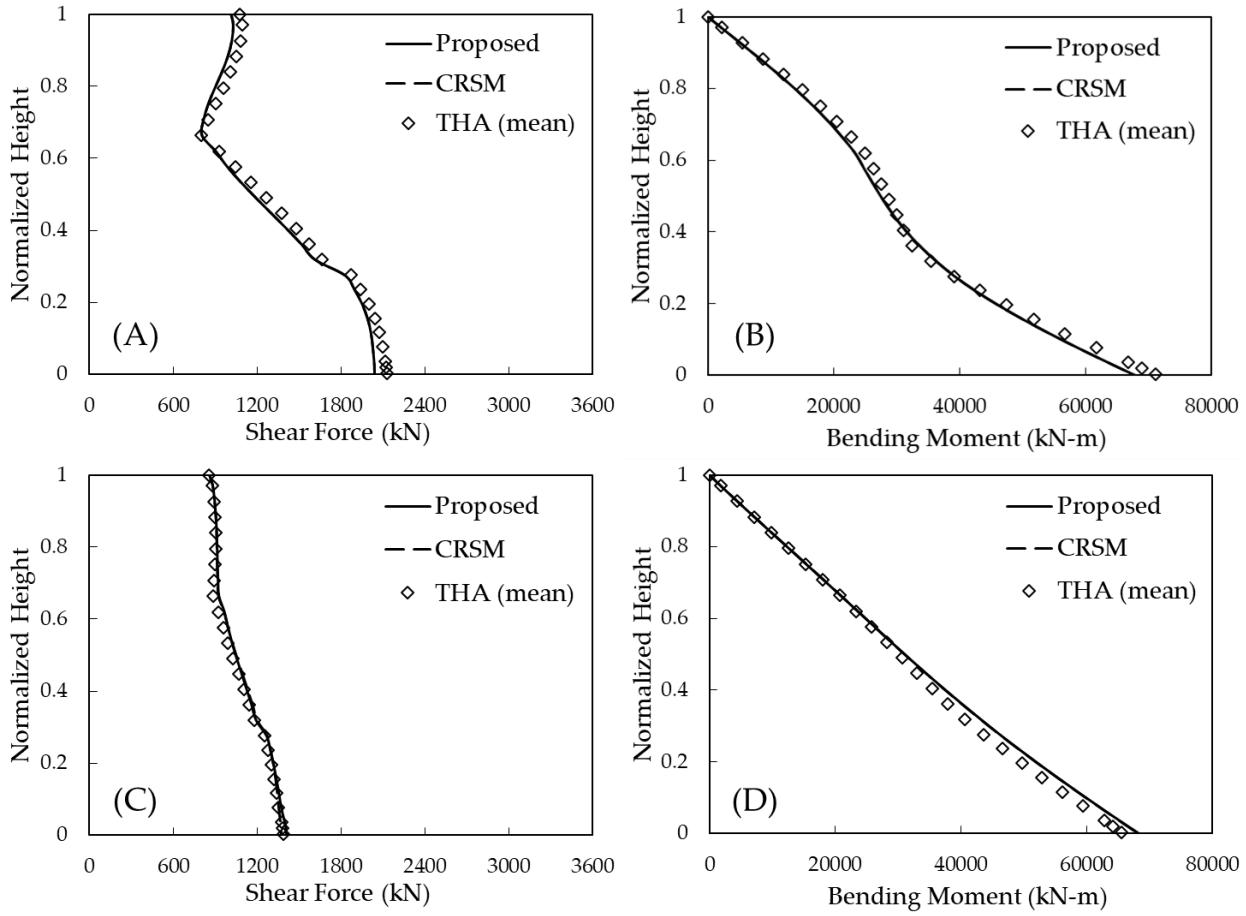
Fig. 5 illustrates the mean profiles of the maximum shear force and bending moment acting on the tower estimated by the proposed method, together with the those obtained by THA using the 15 input ground motions. To demonstrate the effect of the proposed empirical formula of the modal damping ratios in Eq. (16), those estimated by Eq. (15) based on the modal damping ratios obtained by Eq. (7) instead are also shown in this figure. It is noted that, this approach is hereafter termed as CRSM. In the proposed method and CRSM, the quantile value in the damping correction factor is set as $\gamma = 0.5$ to estimate the mean profiles. It can be seen that the proposed method and CRSM result in similar profiles which both show favourable agreement with the results by THA, demonstrating that Eq. (15) is capable of accurately estimating the seismic loadings on the tower. As investigated in Kitahara and Ishihara (2020), the first and second modes that correspond to the sway motion of the tower are dominant on these seismic loadings, and the damping ratios of those modes are both less than 10 %. Therefore, the proposed method herein degrades into CRSM. On the other hand, Fig. 6 depicts a comparison of the mean values of the shear force and bending moment acting on the footing that are obtained by the proposed method, CRSM, and THA. It can be seen that, the proposed method and CRSM result in similar values which show favorable agreement with those obtained by THA, excluding the shear force for the case where Soil type II is considered. The accurate estimates of the bending moments can be explained similarly as the aforementioned case, since the first and second modes are dominant on them (Kitahara and Ishihara, 2020). Comparatively, the fourth mode for the case where Soil type I is considered and the third mode for the case where Soil type II is considered both correspond to the sway motion of the footing and are dominant on the shear forces. In the former case, the fourth modal damping ratio is less than 10 %; thus, the proposed method degrades into CRSM and both can result in the accurate estimate. In the latter case, however, the third modal damping ratio is excessively larger than 10 %; thus, CRSM leads to the significant underestimate. In the proposed method, this excessive damping ratio is hence substituted with 10 % to avoid such underestimations, and the resultant estimate of the shear force consequently well coincides with that obtained by THA.

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Figure 5: Mean profiles of seismic loadings on the tower: (A) Shear force for Soil type I, (B) Bending moment for Soil type I, (C) Shear force for Soil type II, (D) Bending moment for Soil type II.

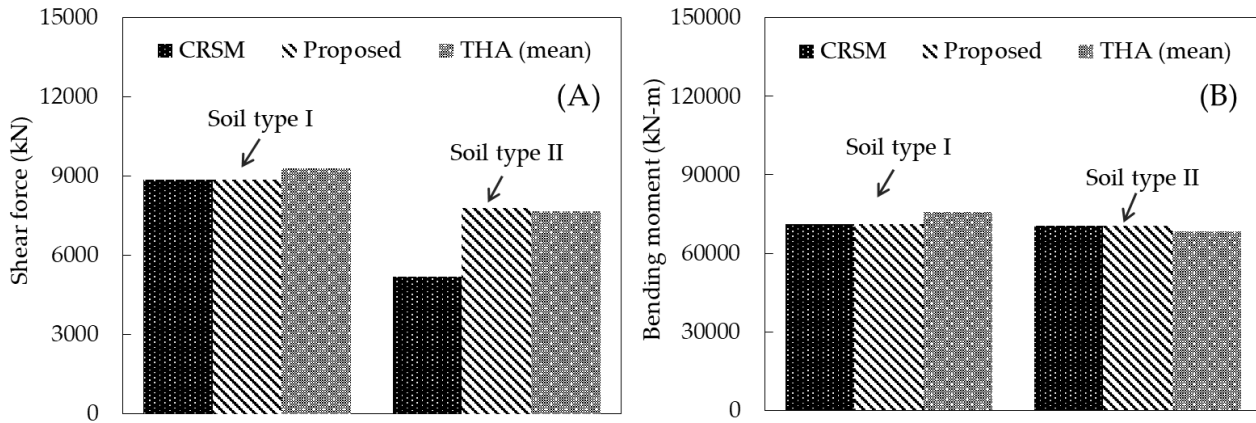



Figure 6: Seismic loadings on the footing: (A) Shear forces, (B) Bending moments.

295   Table 6 summarizes prediction errors in the seismic loadings at the tower base and footing by the proposed method and CRSM compared with the results by THA. As can be seen, the prediction accuracy of the proposed method is quite well and prediction errors are less than 6 % for all cases regardless of the soil profile, whereas CRSM significantly underestimates the shear force on the footing and the prediction error is larger than 30 %.

Table 6: Prediction errors (%) in the seismic loadings.

		Shear force		Bending moment	
		Tower base	Footing	Tower base	Footing
Soil type I	CRSM	-4.21	-5.08	-4.90	-5.99
	Proposed	-4.21	-5.08	-4.90	-5.99
Soil type II	CRSM	-1.13	-32.30	3.73	3.25
	Proposed	1.77	1.39	3.76	3.32

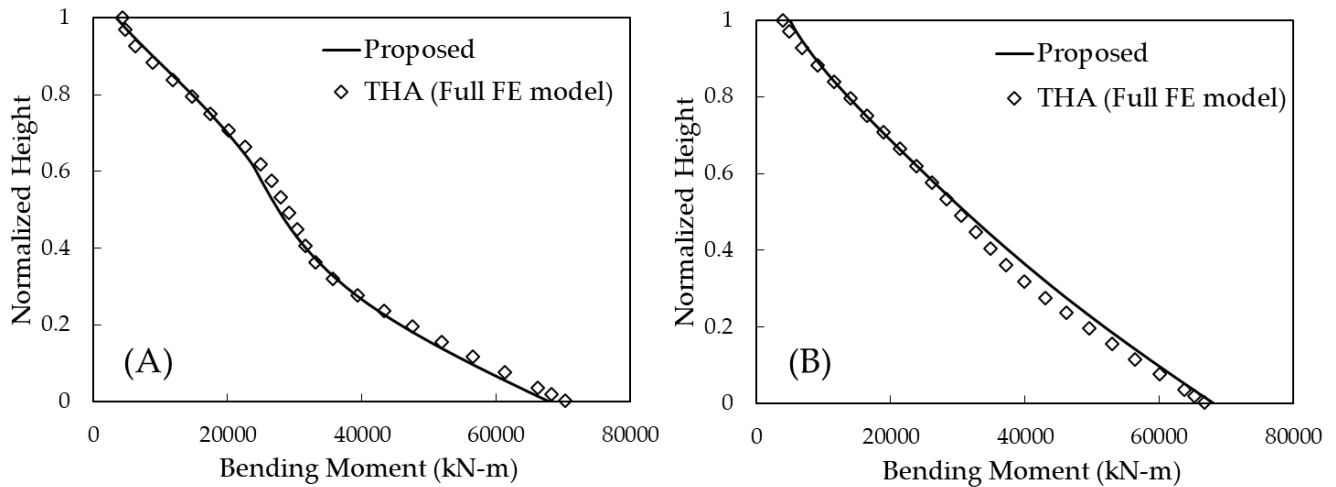
300   In addition, the additional loadings to consider the contribution of the mass moment of inertial of RNA and P–Δ effect are estimated using Eqs. (17) and (19). In Eq. (17), The mass moment of inertial of RNA is assumed as $I_y = 3814.3$ kN. Fig. 7 illustrates the mean profiles of the maximum bending moment acting on the tower by the proposed method with the above additional loadings, together with the mean results by THA of the full FE model that includes the detail configuration of the rotor and nacelle. It can be seen that these two profiles estimated by the proposed procedure show favourable agreement with
305   those by THA, implying that the proposed additional loadings can accurately consider the mass moment of inertial of RNA and P–Δ effect. Table 7 presents the additional loadings due to the P–Δ effect M_2^{PD} at the tower base ($k = 2$), and the ratios of those additional loadings to the bending moments $|M_2|_{max}$ at the tower base. It can be seen that $M_2^{PD}/|M_2|_{max}$ is less than 3 % for both soil profiles, and thus the P–Δ effect can be ignored in the practical application.

310   **Figure 7: Vertical profiles of bending moments on the tower considering the additional loadings: (A) Soil type I, (B) Soil type II.**

Table 7: Additional loading by the P–Δ effect at the tower base.

	M_2^{PD} (kN–m)	$M_2^{PD}/|M_2|_{max}$
Soil type I	1313	1.8 %
Soil type II	1538	2.2 %

4.2 Parametric study for different tower geometries and soil conditions

To further demonstrate the recommended threshold value, $\zeta_{thr} = 0.1$, of the allowable modal damping ratios in the proposed method, a parametric study is conducted by changing tower geometries and soil conditions. First, for considering differences in tower geometries, the rated power of the wind turbine is varied as 1-, 1.5-, 2-, 2.5-, and 3-MW based on the configuration of the 2-MW piled foundation supported wind turbine. Table 8 shows the outline of the five wind turbines constructed based on Xu and Ishihara (2014). Noted that, the shape of the piles is assumed as same as that shown in Fig. 2 for all wind turbines. Second, for considering differences in soil conditions, the equivalent S-wave velocity of the soil model is varied as 140, 200, 250, 300, and 350 m/s based on Soil type II whose equivalent S-wave velocity is 140 m/s as shown in Kitahara and Ishihara (2020). The 2-MW piled foundation supported wind turbine is used for all cases. Table 9 shows the parameters of the springs and dashpots given for each soil model. Moreover, the damping ratios of the most dominant mode on the shear force on the footing are summarized for each case in the last row of these two tables. It can be seen that the modal damping ratios vary from 6 % to 58 %.

Table 8: The outline of the piled foundation supported wind turbines with different rated powers.

Item	Description				
Rated power (MW)	1	1.5	2	2.5	3
Rotor diameter (m)	56	72	83	92	95
Tower height (m)	56	60	67	72	75
Rotor and nacelle mass (kg)	60200	89400	112000	130500	136000
Tower mass (kg)	90300	107500	165100	179000	187200
Turbine total mass (kg)	1505000	196900	277100	309500	323900
Footing width (m)	13	14	16	16	16
Footing depth (m)	2	2.5	3	3	3
Footing mass (kg)	813422.3	989678.8	1551170	1551170	1551170
Natural frequency of the first mode (Hz)	0.483	0.475	0.404	0.378	0.371
Structural damping (%)	0.285	0.280	0.230	0.214	0.210
Modal damping ratio (%)	57.5	52.2	40.8	40.8	40.9

Table 9: The outline of the piled foundation supported wind turbines with different rated powers.

Item	Description				
V_{se} (m/s)	140	200	250	300	350
Stiffness constant in the sway direction K_s (N/m)	7.90×10^8	2.76×10^9	4.22×10^9	5.90×10^9	7.77×10^9
Stiffness constant in the rocking direction K_r (Nm/rad)	4.03×10^{11}	3.31×10^{11}	5.05×10^{11}	6.76×10^{11}	8.39×10^{11}
Damping coefficient in the sway direction C_s (Nsec/m)	3.02×10^7	2.56×10^7	1.96×10^7	1.55×10^7	1.37×10^7
Damping coefficient in the rocking direction C_r (Nsec/m)	1.02×10^9	6.06×10^8	6.68×10^8	7.01×10^8	7.18×10^8
Modal damping ratio (%)	40.8	18.5	10.0	6.7	5.9

As candidate values for the threshold ζ_{thr} of the modal damping ratios, 0.05, 0.1 (proposed), and 0.15 are investigated. Fig. 8 plots the normalized shear forces that are obtained by dividing the maximum shear forces estimated from RSM by those obtained from THA for all the cases summarized in Tables 8 and 9. It can be seen that, if the modal damping ratio of the most dominant mode on the shear force is less than 10 %, CRSM (i.e., no threshold is employed) can accurately estimate
330 the shear force with relative errors less than 10 %, while otherwise it significantly underestimates the shear force, implying that it is necessary to use the proposed formula of the modal damping ratios in Eq. (16) to suppress the underestimation. On the other hand, if the threshold value $\zeta_{thr} = 0.05$ is chosen for Eq. (16), the shear force is significantly overestimated for the cases where the modal damping ratio is larger than 18.5 %, and, if the threshold is set as $\zeta_{thr} = 0.15$, it is still relatively underestimated with relative errors larger than 10 % for the cases where the modal damping ratio is larger than 40.8 %. In
335 contrast, if the threshold $\zeta_{thr} = 0.1$ is selected, the shear force is accurately estimated with relative errors less that 10 % for all cases, indicating that 0.1 is a reasonable choice for the threshold value ζ_{thr} of the modal damping ratios to estimate the shear force acting on the footing with a satisfactory accuracy.

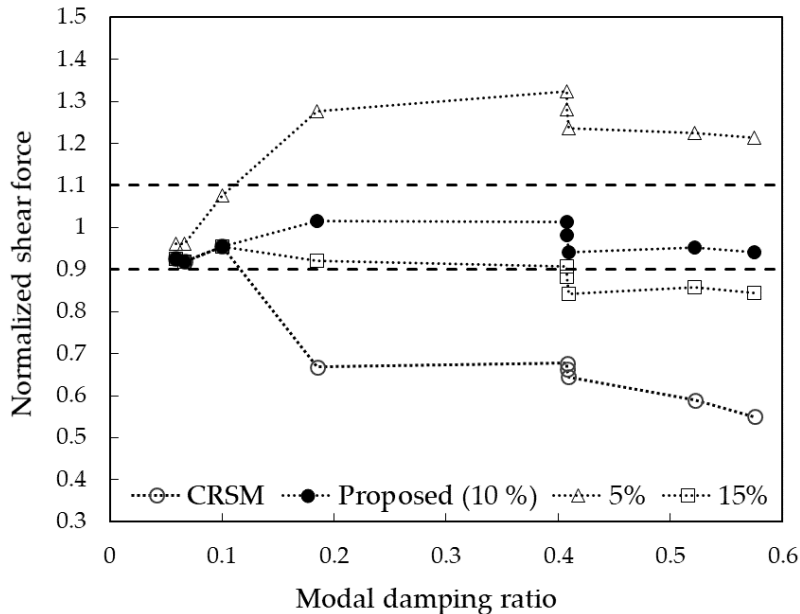



Figure 8: Normalized shear force on the footing for different modal damping ratios.

340 Finally, Fig. 9 depicts a comparison of the mean values of the maximum shear forces and bending moments at the 1/2 height and tower base estimated by the proposed method, where threshold $\zeta_{thr} = 0.1$ is considered, and THA to demonstrate the estimation accuracy of the seismic loadings acting on the tower based on the proposed method. It can be seen that, for all the cases, the estimates of the seismic loadings on the tower by the proposed method show favourable agreement with those by THA. Consequently, the novel augmented complex mode superposition RSM is demonstrated to be capable of accurately
345 and efficiently estimating seismic loadings on wind turbine support structures.

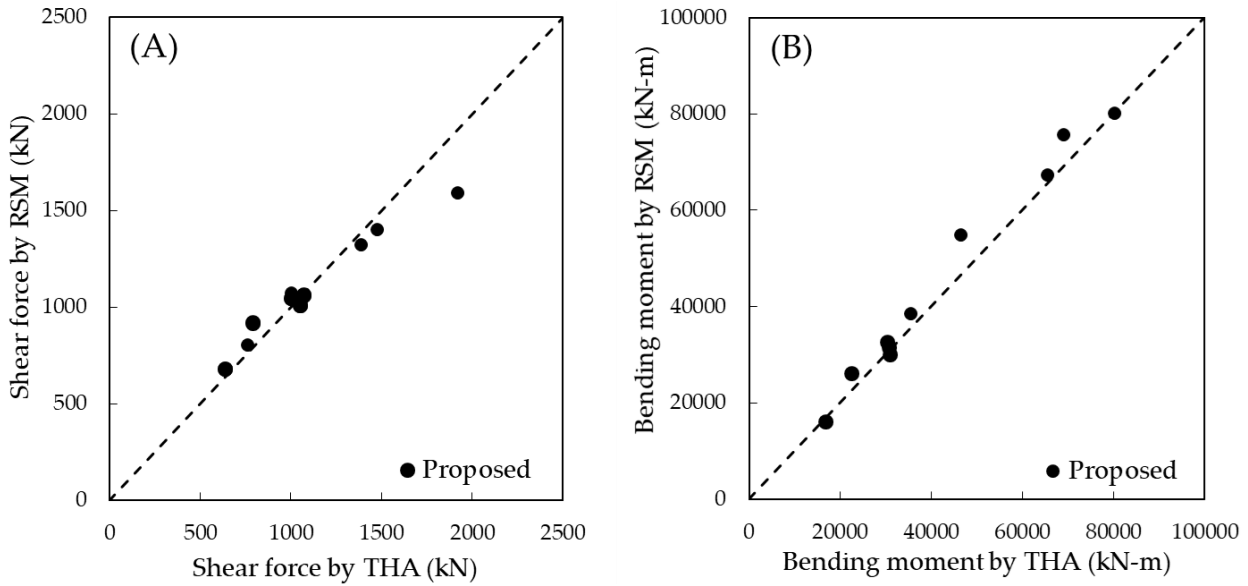



Figure 9: The comparison of seismic loadings on the tower by the proposed method and THA: (A) Shear forces, (B) Bending moments.

4 Conclusion

350 In this study, the seismic SSI of wind turbine support structures is investigated based on the complex mode superposition approach, where the SR model is employed to model them as a non-classically damped system. To estimate seismic loadings on the tower and footing analytically, an augmented complex mode superposition RSM is proposed based on CRSM that has been developed by Gao et al. (2020). The proposed method is demonstrated on the typical 2-MW wind turbine supported by different types of foundations, i.e., the gravity and piled foundations. Furthermore, the parametric study changing the tower

355 geometries and soil conditions is carried out for demonstrating the recommendation value for the threshold in the empirical formula of the modal damping ratios proposed in this study. Some conclusions of this study are summarized below:

1. The maximum shear force and bending moment of the non-classically damped system are analytically formulated by the proposed method. These formulae are demonstrated on the 2-MW wind turbine support structures that they are capable of estimating seismic loadings on the tower and footing with a satisfactory accuracy;

360 2. Additional loadings to consider the contribution of the mass moment of inertia of RNA and P–Δ effect to the bending moment on the tower are analytically formulated by the proposed method and are demonstrated by the comparison with the full FE model including the detail configuration of the rotor and nacelle;

3. An empirical formula of the modal damping ratios with a threshold value of the allowable damping ratio is proposed to suppress underestimation of the shear force on the footing due to the excessive modal damping. The parametric study

365 demonstrates that 0.1 is a reasonable choice for the allowable modal damping ratio when the modal damping ratios of the most dominant mode on the shear force on the footing are larger than 10 %.

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