Research Article

Modelling Ambient Vibration Responses Induced by Operation of Metro Train on Curved Rail Segment with Small Curvature Radius

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1. Introduction

For the past several decades, urban rail transit has boomed in developing countries, such as China [1]. Metro can greatly relieve the pressure of the urban traffic; however, the Metro train-induced structural vibration, along with the ambient noise, can also cause adverse effects on humans, including physical, physiological, and psychological effects [2–7]. Therefore, ambient vibration along Metro lines has already begun to gain increasing attention.

To analyze the ambient vibration response, obtaining the train vibration load is one of the most important steps; many scholars have done a variety of studies in this area by developing theoretical models or field test methods. As is known, Timoshenko [8] solved the classical problem of the rail dynamic stress based on the elastic foundation beam model, which is the basis of the research in this area. Auerensch [9] established the vehicle-track interaction model and obtained the wheel-rail excitation force of the train. Field measurement and numerical simulation are both needed to analyze these specific engineering problems. Shao et al. [10] carried out numerical simulation by employing the multi-body dynamics, compared with physical experiments to verify the effectiveness of their approach. Sheng et al. [11] put forward the coupling analysis method of the finite element and boundary element and obtained the dynamic response solution of the train vibration. Wolf [12] used the finite difference method software, FLAC3D, to obtain the
ground displacement variations under the Metro load and compared them with the measured values. Hussein et al. [13] exhibited the PiP model for attaining the vibration response from railway tunnel in a multilayered half-space.

In addition, a good number of the former studies focused on the propagation and attenuation laws of the ground vibration induced by the Metro operations. Sheng et al. [14] analyzed the attenuation law of the ground vibration intensity by employing a layered half-space model of the Metro. Yang and Hsu [15] found that the ground vibration caused by the Metro has an amplification zone in the attenuation process. Volberg [16] studied the propagation law and attenuation characteristics of the ground vibration and discovered that the surface wave plays a dominant role in the vehicle-induced vibration. Hayakawa et al. [17] studied the mechanism of the vibration induced by Metro train and the propagation law of the elastic wave on the ground and presented a prediction method of the surrounding environmental vibration caused by the Metro operation. Melke and Kraemer [18] found that when the vibration frequency of the Metro train in operation approaches the inherent frequency of the surrounding soils, the acceleration of the ground surface has a significant increase due to the resonance.

The vibration response of the buildings, caused by the Metro train in operation, has also been broadly studied. Based on the impulse excitation and experimental analysis, Melke and Kramer [19] studied the vibration response of the adjacent buildings around Metro lines. Xia et al. [20] found that the vibration level of the building floors increased with the train speed and decreased with the distance away from the railway; moreover, the vibration in high-rise buildings is stronger than that of the low-rise buildings. Okumura and Kuno [21] studied the influence of the vibration caused by the high-speed train operation on the surrounding buildings, discovering the main influence factors which include the track centerline, train speed, and length of the train.

Note that more and more Metro lines with curved segments have been developed in big cities, especially in China. However, so far, limited studies have focused on the ambient vibration response caused by the trains running on curved segments. Former investigations suggest that the horizontal vibration of the train traveling on the curved segment might enhance the amplitude of the ambient response [22]; such case could be intensified when the curve radius is small, generally meaning less than 650 m [23]. However, to what extent the amplification effect can reach still needs to be further studied.

In this paper, taking a curved segment of Hangzhou Metro Line 1 of China as an example, we demonstrated a wheel-rail model by employing the multibody dynamics method, obtaining the dynamic wheel-rail force of the B-type vehicle passing through a curved segment with a radius of 350 m. Subsequently, the FEM model of the track-tunnel-soil is developed. After validating the model by comparing with the measured results, the ambient vibration response, including the building vibration response, induced by Metro trains on the curved segment with a small radius, is analyzed. The investigation may enhance our understanding of the vibration responses caused by the Metro operation on curved segments.

2. Methodology

2.1. Mathematical Equations of the Wheel-Rail Creep Force. The model analysis method is a method to calculate the wheel-rail creep force of the train by using the finite element software, simulation software, and so on. It is based on the wheel-rail coupling dynamics. The system model mainly consists of vehicle system, track system, and wheel-rail model, as shown in Figure 1.

The vibration behavior of a Metro train on a curved segment is more complicated than that on a straight segment because of the side wear and wave wear [25, 26].

When a train moves on a straight-line segment, the horizontal effect of the track on the train is usually neglected. The vertical wheel-rail force can be determined by Hertzian nonlinear elastic contact theory equations [27] as follows:

\[
P = \frac{1}{G} \cdot \delta \cdot Z \cdot \left(\frac{w}{p} + \frac{Q}{R}\right)^{3/2},
\]

where \(G\) is the contact rail constant and \(\delta \cdot Z\) is the wheel-rail elastic compression.

When a train runs on a curved segment, the wheels collide with the track surface, owing to the irregularity of the track and centrifugal force, which results in the wheel-rail contact force. The action point is at the wheel-rail contact, as shown in Figures 2(a) and 2(b).

As seen from Figure 2(b), the wheel-rail vertical force \(P\) can be regarded as the vertical component of the wheel-rail normal force \(K\) and creep force \(Q\), while the wheel-rail horizontal contact force \(W\) can be regarded as the combination of the horizontal component of \(K\) and \(Q\), as follows:

\[
P = Kp + Qp,
W = Kw + Qw,
\]

where \(K(p)\) and \(K(\omega)\) are the vertical and horizontal component of the wheel-rail normal force \(K\), respectively, and \(Q(p)\) and \(Q(\omega)\) are the vertical and horizontal component of the creep force \(Q\), respectively.

The wheel-rail creep force \(Q\) is related to the vertical, horizontal, and torsional accelerations of the left and right wheel-rail pairs. The corresponding formula yields

\[
Q = Q[L(v), R(\omega)],
\]

where \(L(v)\) and \(R(\omega)\) are the vibration speed related to the left and right rail.

2.2. Vibration Level Formula. Herein, we use the vibration level to describe the variation range of the vibration magnitude of the Metro vibration. The formula for the vibration acceleration level [28] yields
where \( a_0 \) is the reference acceleration. Typically, \( a_0 = 10^{-6} \text{ m/s}^2 \).

\[ V_t = 20 \lg \frac{a_w}{a_0} \]  \hspace{1cm} (4)  

\( a_w \) is the acceleration effective value, also known as the acceleration root mean square value. The formula yields

\[ a_w = \left[ \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T a_w^2(t) \, dt \right]^{1/2}, \]  \hspace{1cm} (5)
Figure 3: A curved segment of Hangzhou Metro Line 1.

Figure 4: Profile of the soil types beneath the tunnel.

Figure 5: FEM model of the track-tunnel-soil-building.
where $a_w(t)$ is the acceleration time history and $T$ is the measurement duration.

3. Case Study

3.1. Engineering Background. Hangzhou Metro Line 1 is located in Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province, China. The Metro line starts from Xianghu Station in the Xiaoshan District and passes through Qiantang River and the commercial district and terminates at the Xiasha Riverside Station in Yuhang District. The total distance of the rail line is 61.434 km, of which the underground segment comprises 41.36 km, and the length of the curved segment accounts for 13.1% of the total distance. Among them, the curved segment of Yan’an Road between Longxiangqiao Station and Anding Road Station passes through residential areas. The target building near the curve segment is 30 m away from the centerline of the right tunnel, 10 m wide, and 3 m high for each floor. As shown in Figure 3, the plane radius of the line is 350 m, the inner diameter of the Metro tunnel 5.5 m, the distance between the two tunnels 12.5 m, and the speed of the Metro 60 km/h. The elastic short sleeper integral ballast bed is adopted. The soil layers mainly consist of the filling soil, silty clay, and silty sand.

3.2. FEM Model. The two-dimensional FEM model of the track-tunnel-soil-building is developed by PLAXIS software. The theory of the dynamic module analysis in PLAXIS software is based on linear elastic model, so all constitutive models in the software can be used for dynamic analysis. The model is located in perpendicular to the track and tunnel. The horizontal distance of the model is 100 m and the height is 60 m. For efficiency, the complex soil layers are simplified to five soil layers, including the rock-filling, silty clay, muddy clay, silty clay, and silty soil mixed with silty sand. The Mohr–Coulomb constitutive model is adopted, and the damping ratio is set as 0.03. On the left and right boundaries of the model, the horizontal direction does not allow the displacement occurrence, whereas the vertical direction permits the deformation occurrence. To avoid the reflection of the elastic waves, viscous absorption boundaries are set on the left, right, and lower sides of the model. A neighbor four-floored building is additionally developed to analyze the ambient vibration response, as shown in Figure 4. The building is 30 m away from the centerline of the right tunnel, 10 m wide, and 3 m high for each floor. The building is a frame structure with isotropic plate elements for walls and floor. The foundation of the building is independent foundation, which is simplified as plate element in the model. Rayleigh damping is used for material damping, in which Rayleigh $\alpha$ and Rayleigh $\beta$ are 0.128 and 0.007, respectively. The strength grade of underground rail concrete is C30; the strength grade of ground rail concrete is C40. Double-layer reinforcements and longitudinal reinforcements adopt $\varphi$14HRB335 threaded reinforcements. The stirrup uses $\varphi$10HPB235 plain round reinforcement, and $\varphi$10HPB235 frame reinforcements are set between the two layers of the reinforcements. The rail adopts DTVI2-1 type fastener. The sleeper dimensions are 220 mm in width, 160 mm in thickness, and 2500 mm in length. The sleepers have larger resistance and rigidity in the transverse and longitudinal directions, smoother disturbance at the rail bottom, and smaller dynamic gradient. The sleepers have high elastic

| Table 1: Parameters of the building material. |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| Material | EA (kN/m²) | EI (kN/m²) | Poisson ratio | Weight (kN/m³) |
| Floor | 3.00E8 | 2.50E5 | 0.2 | 25 |
| Wall | 6.60E6 | 4.95E4 | 0.1 | 20 |

| Table 2: Parameters of soil layers and the tunnel. |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| Soil layers | Layer thickness (m) | Young modulus (MPa) | Poisson ratio | Saturated unit weight (kN/m³) | Internal friction angle $\varphi$ (°) | Cohesive force $C$ (kPa) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ③-1 rock-filling | 3 | 20 | 0.30 | 19.9 | 12 | 25.3 |
| ③-2 silty clay | 6 | 17 | 0.30 | 19.3 | 18 | 27.2 |
| ④-1 muddy clay | 7.5 | 13.5 | 0.30 | 18.8 | 8 | 17.5 |
| ④-2 silty clay | 5 | 15 | 0.30 | 18.9 | 19 | 26.0 |
| ④-3 silty soil mixed with silty sand | 38.5 | 40 | 0.30 | 19.6 | 30 | 11.6 |
| Tunnel lining | — | 35000 | 0.20 | 28 | — | — |
| Tunnel track bed | — | 20000 | 0.20 | 21 | — | — |

| Table 3: Fastener parameters. |
|--------------------------------|
| Fastener type | DTVI2-1 |
| Classification | Elastic separation |
| Suitable range | Rail tunnel for 60 kg/m |
| Pullout resistance of embedded parts | Not less than 60 kN |
| Type | DI spring strip ($\varphi$18) |
| Spring strip | Clamping force |
| | Elastic distance |
| | Tightening torque |
| Static stiffness of the elastic cushion | 20–40 kN/mm |
| Gauge adjustment | +8, −12 mm |
| Horizontal adjustment | 30 mm |
Table 4: Vehicle parameters.

| Parameters                              | Value (mm) | Parameters                              | Value (mm) |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| Metro body length                       | 19,000     | Vehicle distance                        | 12600      |
| Vehicle length (trailer car/m)          | 20450/19520| Fixed wheelbase                         | 2300       |
| Body width (floor area)                 | 2800       | Vehicle weight center height            | 1800       |
| Body height (when bowing down)          | ≤ 3810     | Longitudinal spacing of the axial springs| 550        |
| Inside net height                       | ≥ 2100     | Transverse shock absorber height        | 697        |
| Floor height                            | 1100       | Transverse stop height                  | 465        |
| Coupler height                          | 720        | Lateral stop clearance                  | 25         |
| Bogie center distance                   | 12600      | Wheel rolling diameter                  | 840        |
| Bogie wheelbase                         | 2300       | Rolling circle span                     | 1493       |
| Wheel diameter (new wheel)/(semiabrasion)/(abrasion) | \(\Phi 840/\Phi 805/\Phi 770\) | Transverse spacing of primary suspension spring/lateral spacing of the secondary suspension | 1930/1850 |

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![Figure 6: The simplified model of the metro train [25].](image)

![Figure 7: Track structure model [26].](image)

![Figure 8: Continued.](image)
cushions, which can ensure the uniform elasticity and durable operation life of the track. In order to get more accurate results, the grid density at the important structure is increased. The model consists of 937 units and 8,165 nodes, as shown in Figure 5. The building material parameters are listed in Table 1. The soil layers and tunnel parameters are listed in Table 2. And the fastener parameters are listed in Table 3.

3.3. Train Dynamic Load. Hitherto, tremendous progress has been achieved in the study of the Metro train load

![Figure 8: Irregularity spectrum of the grade five track of US. (a) Lateral irregularity of the left rail. (b) Transverse irregularity of the right rail. (c) Vertical irregularity of the left rail. (d) Vertical irregularity of the right rail.](image_url)
The primary methods to determine the dynamic load of the Metro are field measurements, numerical simulation, and empirical analysis. In this paper, a numerical model of the wheel-rail loads is demonstrated by using the multibody dynamics software, SIMPACK, taking the B-type vehicles, commonly used in urban rail transit in...
China, as the study vehicle. The B-type vehicles have three motor (M) cars and two trailers (T), and the car sequence formation can be coded as +T-M-M-M-T+. The train speed is assumed to be 60 km/h, the radius of the plane curve 350 m, the length of the transition curve 60 m, the length of the circular curve 275 m, and the height of the circular curve 120 mm. Detailed structural parameters of the vehicle are shown in Table 4.

Figure 6 depicts a simplified Metro train model. A metro train is mainly composed of the body, bogie, wheel, and suspension system; the body and bogie are simulated by rigid body, and the suspension system is simulated by spring damping element. Figure 7 is the track structure model. The track structure is a layered structure with alternate elastic layer and rigid layer, mainly composed of the rail, fastener, sleeper, and track bed. The rail is simulated by beam element, which has the function of supporting and guiding. The elastic element is used to simulate the fastener; its elastic modulus is mainly provided by rubber and has high internal resistance; the function of the fastener is to fix the rail on the sleeper, keep the track gauge, and prevent the rail from moving vertically and horizontally. The sleeper and sleeper plate are simulated by beam element, which has the function of making the pressure of the train spread evenly to the foundation.

The random irregularity samples of the track are obtained by using the five-level track irregularity spectrum of the United States, as shown in Figure 8. The dynamic wheel-rail forces of a single trailer car and a single motor car with different load scenarios are obtained, as shown in Table 5. Train mechanical parameters are shown in Table 6.

Assuming that the dynamic wheel-rail forces of the vehicles with the same structure and different positions have only phase difference, the dynamic wheel-rail forces of all the motor vehicles and trailers are calculated according to the delay between the rear vehicle and the front vehicle (speed/workshop distance). For the conciseness, the scope of this paper only focuses on the wheel-rail force of the first wheel pair of the overcrowding-scenario trailer, as shown in Figure 9. When the train dynamic load is applied to the FEM nodes of the track-tunnel-soil-building model as the load spectrum in the time domain, the vibration propagation in the underground structure can be calculated.

3.4. Model Verification. In order to effectively reduce the environmental background noise caused by the flow of people and ensure the accuracy of the data, the field
measurements are arranged during the low passenger flow period of daytime subway operation, and each measuring point is tested many times. Four vibration receiver points, \(P_1, P_2, P_3,\) and \(P_4\), are selected on the ground, located directly above the right tunnel in Figure 4. The points are 0 m, 10 m, 20 m, and 30 m, respectively, away from the center line of the right tunnel.

In this paper, the numerical model is validated through field measurements. The monitoring system consists of the accelerometers, data acquisition system, gateway node, and notebook computer. Figure 10 illustrates the configuration of the monitoring system. Data acquisition was conducted using a JM3870 wireless dynamic/static vibration analysis system, with a sampling frequency of 256 Hz. The AI050 piezoelectric accelerometer is used, whose parameters are shown in Table 7. The test area starts directly above the center line of the right tunnel, and a receiver point is arranged every 10 m, with a total of four receiver points, as shown in Figure 11.

For the conciseness, only the measured and simulated acceleration curves in the both time and frequency domain of \(P_0\) were listed. Figure 12 shows the measured and
simulated acceleration curves of $P_0$ in the time domain. Figure 13 shows the measured and simulated acceleration curves of $P_0$ in the frequency domain. Obviously, the general trend of the simulation and measurement is consistent. In Figure 12, the horizontal vibration acceleration is larger than that of the vertical vibration acceleration. In Figure 13, the measured acceleration frequency of $P_0$ mainly concentrates on 5–15 Hz, while the simulated acceleration frequency concentrates on 4–18 Hz, both in the low frequency band. The measured value is slightly larger than the simulated value, which may be effectuated by the external environmental impacts when the ground vibration is measured.

In horizontal and vertical directions, the error between the simulation and measurement is slight, suggesting that the numerical model is reasonable.

4. Analysis of the Ambient Vibration Responses

4.1. Ground Vibration Response. A total of six scenarios have been developed: Metro train meeting with overcrowding scenario, right train passing through floors with overcrowding scenario, left train passing through floors with overcrowding scenario, Metro train meeting with personnel quota scenario, right train passing through floors with personnel quota scenario, and left train passing through floors with personnel quota scenario.

The ground response of the Metro train meeting with overcrowding scenario is analyzed; Figure 14 shows the contour plots of the horizontal acceleration and displacement, vertical acceleration, and displacement of the simulated overcrowding scenario.

The displacement is related to the variation in the trend of the acceleration, so only the acceleration contour plot is presented here. The results show that the vibration acceleration generated by the Metro running on the curved segment has a certain amplification region in the soil layers. The acceleration does not decrease monotonously with the increase of the distance from the center line of the tunnel. The vertical acceleration tends to distribute symmetrically on both sides of the tunnel, and two amplification regions
exist. Horizontal vibration acceleration has a smaller magnification area in the soil layer on both sides of the building, directly below the building. Horizontal acceleration attenuates faster than vertical acceleration. Note that the absorption of the horizontal elastic waves by the soil layer is stronger than that of the vertical ones.

4.2. Building Vibration Response. Vibration pick-up points A, B, C, and D are selected at the center of 1, 2, 3, and 4 (roof) floors, respectively. These points are used to characterize the vibration response of the building with different scenarios, as shown in Figure 3. Herein, we only illustrate the acceleration time history and frequency spectrum, of each floor in the building, under the overcrowding scenario, as shown in Figures 15–18.

Note that the vibration of the building caused by Metro operation, in Figures 15–18, is mainly of low frequency within 10 Hz along both horizontal and vertical directions. The vertical acceleration is near 0.02 m/s², varying slightly with the height of the building. The horizontal acceleration increases significantly with the height of the building, from 0.005 m/s² to 0.03 m/s², nearly six times; the horizontal acceleration at the top of the building exceeds the vertical acceleration. Based on the fundamental frequencies ratio of the buildings and the foundation soils, the torsional or other modes of the building might be seen. Load frequency might create the resonance effects depending on overlapping degree of the frequencies of the load and structure. In this case, the load frequency focuses on 5 Hz and 10 Hz along the horizontal and 10 and 15 Hz along the vertical, while the first-order frequency of the building structure is only about 0.3 Hz. Therefore, the Metro train load may not generate obvious resonance in the building structure. However, the facilities in the building, such as window glass, furniture, and garniture, which have higher nature frequencies, might resonate under the excitation of Metro train load. Moreover, load frequency exactly creates the secondary vibration upon the building. As a low-rise building, the secondary vibration of the adjacent building

Figure 16: Acceleration of the floor 2 in time and frequency domain under overcrowding scenario. (a) Horizontal acceleration of the time domain. (b) Horizontal acceleration of the frequency domain. (c) Vertical acceleration of the time domain. (d) Vertical acceleration of the frequency domain.
Figure 17: Acceleration of the floor 3 in time and frequency domain under overcrowding scenario. (a) Horizontal acceleration of the time domain. (b) Horizontal acceleration of the frequency domain. (c) Vertical acceleration of the time domain. (d) Vertical acceleration of the frequency domain.

Figure 18: Continued.
induced by the Metro operation does not attenuate with the height of the building, and the horizontal secondary vibration has a significant amplification effect upon the building.

4.3. Vibration Level of the Building. Figure 19 shows the peak acceleration, whereas Figure 20 shows the vibration level for each floor under different scenarios. Obviously, the change rules of the vibration level are consistent with that of the peak acceleration; hence, we analyze the vibration level to exemplify the change rules.

As seen from Figure 20, the horizontal vibration level increases gradually with the height of the building, increasing by 2–5 dB for each floor, while the vertical vibration level does not change significantly with the height of the building. By the mutual comparison among the floor vibration levels from scenarios (left, right, and meeting) of the same train with different load scenarios (personnel quota and overcrowding), we found that the overcrowding scenario of the same floor is 1–2 dB greater than that of the fixed one in both horizontal and vertical directions. The vibration level of the building on the same floor is 0.5–2 dB greater than that on the left. Compared with the single-track
scenario, the horizontal vibration level of each floor in the building is approximately 2–3 dB and the vertical vibration level is about 4–5 dB.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we used the mathematical equations of the wheel-rail creep force and vibration level formula and developed the wheel-rail force model of a B-type car passing through the curved segment based on the multibody dynamics. Taking a curved segment of Hangzhou Metro Line 1 as an example, a tunnel-soil-ground-building model has been demonstrated, and the ambient vibration response induced by the Metro trains on a curved segment with a radius of 350 m was analyzed. The conclusions are as follows:

1. The external rail wheel-rail force is obviously higher than the internal rail wheel-rail force. The vertical force of the outer rail is generally 10–15 kN higher than the vertical force of the inner rail, and the horizontal wheel-rail force of the outer rail is 5–10 kN higher than the horizontal wheel-rail force of the inner rail. This is related to the centrifugal force produced by the train running in the curve segment. The horizontal wheel-rail force is close to half of the vertical force, so the horizontal effect cannot be ignored.

2. The variation trend of the horizontal vibration acceleration with distance is larger, while the vertical vibration acceleration is gentler, and the peak value of the vertical vibration acceleration appears rebound at 20 m. The horizontal vibration level above the tunnel is stronger than 90 dB. With the increase of the distance, the vibration level gradually decreases to about 75 dB at 30 m away from the tunnel.

3. The vibration yields an amplification area in soil layer. Vertical acceleration tends to distribute symmetrically on both sides of the tunnel, where two amplification regions occur. Horizontal acceleration yields smaller amplification regions on both sides of the building in the soil layers. Horizontal vibration attenuates faster than vertical vibration, so that the absorption of the horizontal vibration wave by soil layer is greater than the vertical vibration.

4. The horizontal and vertical vibration induced by Metro building have a frequency lower than 10 Hz. Vertical acceleration changes negligibly with the height of the building, about 0.02 m/s², whereas horizontal vibration acceleration increases significantly with the height of the building, from 0.005 m/s² to 0.03 m/s². Furthermore, the horizontal acceleration at the top of the building exceeds the vertical acceleration. Note that the secondary vibration in the horizontal direction yields a significant amplification effect upon the building.

5. The horizontal vibration level increases gradually, by 2–5 dB, with the rise of each floor. The vertical vibration level changes negligibly with the height of the building. Under the overcrowding scenario, the vibration level of the same floor is 1–2 dB greater than that of the personnel quota scenario along both horizontal and vertical directions. As for the single-track scenario, the vibration level of the building on the same floor on the right line is
0.5–2 dB larger than that on the left line. The vibration level of each floor of the building is 2–5 dB greater than that of the single line under the double-track scenario.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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