Quarry induced collapse, an issue of particular concern in the mining industry, is a typical form of man-made disaster. Identification of the morphological characteristics of such collapses is commonly based on seismic records but comprehensive studies regarding the mechanism and energy conversion mode utilizing the seismic record is seldom undertaken. A huge collapse event at the Biyutan mining cavern at Changyu Dongtian in Wenling city, China, lasting for about 20 seconds, was observed on August 11, 1997. After the collapse, nearly 11 million m$^3$ of rock blocks were left on the floor. By conducting a field survey on engineering geology, retrospectively analyzing the collapsing process through interviewing local residents, referring to related documents, and identifying the seismic records obtained from 3 surrounding seismic stations, it was established the roof collapse at the Biyutan cavern, excavated in massive tuff, was due to over excavation of several pillars, which substantially affected the stress field in cavern roof giving rise to a local failure of the roof that gradually developing into a widespread failure in an area EW 800m long, SN 460m wide. During the collapse, outbursts of water and air shock waves result in loss of life and property within a distance of 150m from the mine opening. This reminds us that reasonable allocation of sufficiently strong safety pillars and installation of monitoring system are absolutely essential in quarrying operations to avoid overall failure and ensure the safety of the people nearby.

Introduction

The “room and pillar” mining method leaves caverns that generally disturb the balance of stress in rock mass (Merad et al., 2004). If the rock mass is subjected to intolerable stress variations, such as great tensile or compressive stress concentrations (Hatzor et al., 2002), the caverns may collapse producing seismic waves and in some cases reactivate inactive faults causing minor mining induced or collapse earthquakes (Alvarez-Garcia et al., 2013). A critical in-situ stress field is not the necessary prerequisite to the occurrence of a collapse earthquake. Unlike a natural earthquake, it does not indicate a change of regional in-situ stress, nor is it closely related to regional seismic activity and does not serve as an evidence of the existence of active faults (Hu et al., 1998).

To distinguish between tectonic earthquakes, explosion induced earthquakes and collapse earthquakes, the Datong seismic station (DSS, 1974) in north China collected and analyzed seismic records over a period of one and a half years, and characterized the collapse earthquake as follows: (1) the first motion direction at the vertical record chart is downward, indicating a compression wave; (2) both the longitudinal wave $P$ and transverse wave $S$, especially the latter, have a period greater than, and much purer waveform than, tectonic or explosion induced earthquakes because the latter two have more complex secondary waves; (3) The seismic wave of a collapse induced earthquake has a greater attenuation than tectonic or explosion induced earthquakes. Zhao et al. (1995) distinguished the three types of earthquakes using a telemetric seismic network in the Beijing area. Zhang et al. (2013) investigated the corner frequencies of tectonic and collapse earthquakes at the Three Gorges Reservoir and found that an obvious surface wave was observed in collapse earthquakes and that the corner frequency of $P$ and $S$ waves from tectonic earthquakes is significantly greater than those of collapse earthquakes. They believed this to be generally applicable and that it can be used as an index for identifying different earthquake types. The surface wave, which is hardly seen in tectonic earthquakes, can be clearly observed in the seismic record of both collapse and explosion induced earthquakes. Therefore, a seismic record with a strong surface wave could indicate either a collapse or explosion induced earthquake (Li and Dong, 2001).

Based on the seismic records of 7 tectonic earthquakes and 4 collapse earthquakes registered by a seismic network at south-central Shandong Province, Lin et al. (1990) studied the earth’s internal structure and the focal features of earthquakes through the attenuation curves of phase and amplitude versus distance, as well as the travel
time curves of earthquakes. Di et al. (2009) compared seismic records of 50 collapse earthquakes from a digital seismic network at Shan’ anxi Province, and analyzed the basic characteristics of collapse earthquakes in Yulin City in terms of their waveform, occurrence time, and position. At Datong coal mine where the coal seam roof is strong, the area of individual caverns totals tens of thousands square meters. If these caverns collapse, the collapsed area would be as large as 20,000 to 40,000 m² or, in some cases, 80,000 to 130,000 m², sufficient to cause huge collapse earthquakes (He et al., 1997). Before impoundment of Three Gorges Reservoir, the seismic activity in that area was weak but, subsequently, the causes have been complicated, including natural earthquakes, explosion earthquakes in mining (Yang et al., 1993; Hu et al., 1998), earthquakes occurring after intense rainfall, and collapse earthquakes caused by subsidence of overburden (Gu, 1982).

Farahani and Zare (2014) compared H/V amplification functions for the three kinds of seismic sources and demonstrated higher ratios in quarry blasts due to the importance of surface waves from shallow quarry blasts than for earthquakes or microtremors.

The study of the seismic record, analysis of the mechanism of collapse and consideration of the hazard from the shock wave is important from the perspective of engineering geology and rock mechanics. This permits systematic consideration of the kinetic energy revealed by the seismic record and field investigation. Results are of great significance.

The mine voids at Changyu Dongtian (which are referred to as “cavern groups” in Chinese) are within Wenling City, Zhejiang province. These caverns occupying a total area of 1.55 km² have existed for some 1500 years, and still serve as an important mining complex.

The extractive operation in Changyu Dongtian began over 1500 years ago (Chinese Southern and Northern dynasties 420-589 A.D.) and, during the Song Dynasty, a primitive mining industry was begun. It was not until the morning of August 11, 1997 that a catastrophic roof collapse occurred in the Biyutan cavern group that caused mining operations to cease. Before that event, the cavern group consisted of 1314 single caverns and occupied an area of 318,000m². According to research, the stone excavated from Changyu Dongtian were originally used for building tombs. During Southern Song Dynasty, the authority constructed weirs and dams along the seashore and river bank to meet the great demand for stone which significantly boosted the development of the mining industry in Wenling.

When it came to the Ming Dynasty, to defend against the invasion of foreign enemies, the local leader, He Tang (1326-1395A.D.) had more than 70 cities built along the coast of East China Sea, which further expanded the demand for stone from Changyu. During the late Ming Dynasty and early Qing Dynasty, some caverns were used by local people as a religious venue and these were also often visited by scholar-bureaucrats. Meanwhile, a sculpture industry also flourished in this region (Chen and Zhu, 2012).

In 1997 that the Changyu Dongtian area became a scenic spot because it is an integral part of the Yandang Mountain World Geopark. About 1300 caverns, belonging to 28 cavern groups, were identified in Changyu Dongtian (Wenling Tourism Management Bureau, 2005). The Biyutan cavern group is one of the 28 groups, which is separated from the northern Shuiyundong cavern group by an east-west striking stone transport road (STR) (now being transformed into a passage to the caverns) (Fig.1). At 7:01 am on August 11, 1997, during the tunneling process, the Biyutan cavern group collapsed, leaving 11 million m³ rock blocks on the floor. We undertook field investigations tracing the collapse process, analyzed the seismic records, studied the mechanism of collapse and proposed advice to prevent similar disasters from occurring.

Environmental conditions

Climate

Changyu Dongtian has a subtropical maritime monsoon climate. The extremely low and high temperatures are 6.6°C and 40.6°C (July 2004), respectively, and the annual average temperature is 17.3°C. The mean annual precipitation is 1660 mm, and the average annual evaporation is 1270.2 mm. There are two obvious rainy seasons: the “plum rain” from May to June and typhoon and tropical storm affected rainy season from July to September. Typhoons and heavy rains often result in geohazards such as landslides and rock avalanches.

Landforms

This district is located in a coastal hilly and plain region of Zhejiang Province consisting of denudation hills and pluvial landform areas. The GPS coordinates of the collapsed area are E 121°25′54.33″ and N 28°26′8.64″, and the elevation of the platform and the top of the mountain above sea level is 50m~271 m. The fluctuation of the hilly topography is quite large with the greatest height difference from 160m~220m. The slope gradient is generally 30°~40°, and at some places reaches 40°~60° (Fig.1).

Strata and structures

This district is located in the Mesozoic era active volcanic zone of the coastal area of east Zhejiang, and also the middle of Wenhuan plain. The geological characteristics are controlled by the Jinqiao-Changyu caldera which was formed in late Jurassic epoch. These strata of the south China stratigraphic region II, belong to the Upper Jurassic Zhuji formation (J₄z), which consists of acidic welded tuff with sedimentary interlayers, a type of subvolcanic rocks near volcano channels. Quaternary residual and talus deposits (Q₄) are observed in the valleys and on the slope surfaces (Fig.2). At some locations of the mountain, green grey diabase dykes with stable attitude and thickness are found (Fig.3).

The collapse area is located on the south side of Huangjian Mountain. The south boundary of the collapse area is an erect steep cliff (stretching EW as in Fig.1b, Fig.4). Also, a large gully called Shichuangou, with a strike of 38° along a normal fault striking NE, can be seen at left top in Fig.4. This lies to the east of the collapsed area (Fig.1b).

By microscopic observation in thin section of the rock samples collected in site, it was found that the petrology in the collapse area is mainly purple grey massive rhyolitic and trachytic rock with a welded tuff texture and a rhyoxatic structure. Slight development of rigid breccia and compressed plastic fragments are observed occasionally (Fig.3d).

In the massive tuff, a moderately thick (1.5m~2.9 m thick) gently dip diabase dyke (attitude 357°∠75°) is observed. A clear smooth boundary separates the tuff and the dyke, therefore we suggest that the dyke formed by intrusion along extensive joints. In addition, the authors carried out a general chemical analysis of samples collected
from dark green gray dolerite dykes (CY-1, CY-1P). The results show that the rock samples are rich in SiO$_2$, Al$_2$O$_3$, Fe$_2$O$_3$ and MgO (Table 1).

**Structural geology**

Changyu Dongtian is located in south China fold system (first order tectonic I$_1$), southeast Zhejiang belt (secondary structure II$_2$), Wenzhou-Linhai depression (III$_3$), Huangyan-Xiangshan fault depression (IV$_{11}$) (ZGMB, 1989). The Taishun-Huangyan Fault striking NE passes borders this region on the northwest. The dominant strikes of regional tectonic framework are NE and NW (Fig.2). The regional tectonics are simple and large scale faults are seldom seen. Therefore, the discontinuities are mainly joints and fissures. The compression-shear joints form several conjugate joint systems. The predominant strike directions of joints are N and SSW, while the secondary dominant direction strikes SE (Fig.1b, Fig.2).

In terms of current tectonic movements, the characteristic period of the seismic response spectrum is 0.35s, and the seismic peak acceleration is not more than 0.05 g (National Standard of PRC, GB50011-2010). Earthquakes are limited to magnitude Ms 4.0, with the seismic intensity less than six degree (National Standard of PRC, GB18306-2001). Therefore, the regional crust is generally stable.

Tectonic discontinuities are few and scattered with high dip angles. The structural planes are uneven, mostly formed by shearing, but in some locations the tensio-shear faults are also observed, e.g. the fault exposed in Shuiyun cavern wall which has an attitude of $20^\circ \angle 75^\circ$, and the width of the opening is 5cm~10 cm. The 15 sets of joints measured at that site strike EW overall, consistent with the strikes of the rear cliff and side peaks (Fig.5).

**Physical and mechanical parameters**

To evaluate the engineering geological conditions of the collapse site, we sampled representative massive tuffs and layered diabases, and carried out laboratory tests on the intact rock samples. The results are given in Table 2. It can be seen that the density of tuff is smaller, as are the compressive and tensile strengths of the tuffs, but the diabase has a much greater density and elastic modulus than the tuff. Both can be classified as hard rocks that have strong resistance to weathering and water softening.

**Evaluation of the engineering geological conditions**

The NE strike faults control boundary conditions of different zones in this area and the volcanic vent dominates the south side of the Changyu Dongtian. Some small scale veins are parallel with faults...
(Fig.2). According to the available records before 1997 when the collapse occurred and the field surveys and laboratory tests completed, it is known that the surrounding rocks in Biyutan cavern group had a massive and block structure (Gu, 1979; Wang et al., 1984), and the strata dipped westward. So, apparently, the engineering geological conditions were, overall, excellent.

**Mining operations**

Based on our observations on the existing extractive sites, the extraction methods used in Changyu Dongtian are of three types: surface quarrying, semi-surface quarrying, and underground mining. The Biyutan cavern group belongs to the last category. This may be due to the fact that, if the ancient miners first adopted surface quarrying, they would have to move the thick Quaternary overburden. Therefore the process of mining they employed was as follows. Firstly, a nearly horizontal adit was excavated; then stone was excavated from top to bottom to form a vertical bell-shaped cavern; another horizontal adit was then advanced beneath the previous one. Following these procedures, a huge group of caverns was finally formed. The heights of the caverns mainly range between 30m~40m, with the maximum of 60m, and in many cases, nearly 20m~40m of the 30m~40m are submerged in water (Fig.1a). Surface water flows into the cavern, gathered together and becomes pools that were regarded as a set of “green jade sinks” (Biyutan in Chinese).

On August 10, 1997, in order to get more stone, the miners extricated several rock pillars that had been retained in the cavern using drilling and blasting method at 5:00~6:00 pm. The next morning, when the workers went back to the mine, they found that the caverns had collapsed. It should be mentioned that in July, 2001, the Wenling Tourist Administration Bureau had launched a tourism program focusing on the area that collapsed to remind people of the disasters that can arise from over extraction of stone. A tourist trail had already been completed.

**Collapse hazard**

According to the surveys of the remains, the collapsed Biyutan cavern group interviews with the mine technical directors, and the seismic records of the collapse (compliments of Zhejiang Seismological Bureau), it is established that at 7:01 am, August 11, 1997, Biyutan cavern group collapsed as a whole and the process lasted for about 20~40s. The south boundary of the massif fell along a fault, the strike of which was nearly EW. The falling blocks were as large as one hundred meters. There were 9 people inside the cavern, all of whom were killed by falling rocks. Water in the sinks (pools) was rapidly and suddenly squeezed and sprayed out of the cavern, casting rocks tens of meters in diameter into the air. Strong airflow and a shock wave formed immediately outside the cavern, mingled with the water flow. This firstly passed the minor ravine separating the two groups of Biyutan (at

| Sample | SiO₂ | TiO₂ | Al₂O₃ | Fe₂O₃ | MnO | MgO | CaO | Na₂O | K₂O | P₂O₅ | LOI | Total |
|--------|------|------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-------|
| CY–1   | 48.26| 1.01 | 17.05 | 9.52  | 0.18| 5.83| 4.79| 4.38 | 3.11| 0.28 | 5.69| 100.10|
| CY–1P  | 48.17| 1.02 | 17.01 | 9.55  | 0.18| 5.86| 4.81| 4.35 | 3.09| 0.28 | 5.73| 100.05|

| Sample | FeO (%) | Ba (ppm) | Cr (ppm) | Ni (ppm) | Sr (ppm) | V (ppm) | Zr (ppm) |
|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| CY–1   | 4.89    | 760      | 18       | 12       | 1433     | 215     | 91       |
| CY–1P  | 4.78    | 742      | 15       | 14       | 1426     | 221     | 91       |

Note: the two set of results all reflect the same group of diabase samples.

Table 2 Physical and mechanical parameters of the intact rock * data in Table 2, minimum – maximum / average

| Petrology | Dry density ρd g/cm³ | Specific gravity Gs | Compressive strength Dry Rd MPa | Wet Rd MPa | Tensile strength Dry σtσt MPa | Wet σtσt MPa | Elastic modulus E GPa | Poisson’s ratio μ |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Tuff      | 2.31                 | 2.57                | 50.3~75.5                     | 36.4~59.7   | 10.4                         | 5.99~13.9    | 22.0~30.5            | 0.25            |
| Diabase   | 2.74                 | 2.88                | 77.8~90.0                     | 59.2~73.5   | 8.89                         | 5.20~6.44    | 33.0~37.0            | 0.24            |
south) and Shuiyundong (at north), and hit the north cliff in which the Shuiyundong cavern group had been excavated. After that, it flowed downward past the opening of the Shuiyundong cavern group scenic area, breaking off all the trees on the way. Three people (miners) walking at the gate were hit by the shock wave and found dead in the Shichuangou gully (Fig.1b, Fig.4). In addition, a house in the present emergency evacuation position was hit by rolling rocks and an elderly woman was buried. Therefore, the collapse hazard results in a total of 13 deaths totally.

Also, four stone houses including two one-story power generation buildings, and two three-story residential buildings, constructed beside of the 3.6m-wide road connecting the entrance of Changyu Dongtian and the gate of the Shuiyundong cavern group scenic area were completely destroyed by the rush of water (Fig.1b). The south end of the 25m-long group of buildings nearest to the gate of Shuiyundong cavern group scenic area is 81m away from a parking area to the north of the gate. Moreover, a Honda heavy motorcycle parked 151m away from the north end of the stone houses was directly swept away by the airflow into the Shichuangou gully. Therefore this collapse had caused heavy losses to lives and property.

According to the mass and moving distance of the object, the power \( W \) that the shock wave exerted on the object can be back calculated. With the velocity known, the kinetic energy \( E \) of the moving object can be calculated. The relevant formulae are

\[
W = F \cdot S \quad (1) \\
E = \frac{1}{2}(mv^2) \quad (2)
\]

 Assuming the mass of the tractor \( m \) is 1000 kg, the lateral movement \( S \) is precisely 1m, and the friction coefficient is 0.3, the power \( W_t \) on the tractor is:

\[
W_t = 3000 J \quad (3)
\]

Besides, according to the Chinese National standard (GB6722-2011), the allowable vibration velocity for an ordinary house is \( v = 1 \) cm/s. Considering that four houses were completely destroyed, \( v \) takes 1m/s here. The mass of the house is 10000 kg, so the kinetic energy of the house \( E_h \) is:

\[
E_h = 5000 J \quad (4)
\]

Supposing the mass of the Honda heavy motorcycle is 200kg, and its moving velocity is 10m/s, the kinetic energy of the motorcycle \( E_m \) is:

\[
E_m = 10000 J \quad (5)
\]

According to the equations (3)~(5), at the location 80m away from the quarry collapse site, the energy released by the shock wave was much greater than 18000J. It destroyed houses, moved tractor and motorcycle, indicating tremendous kinetic energy.

Seismic records

Seismic record curves

Some researchers (e.g. Hasegawa, 1989) proposed that due to the effects of gravity, regional stress and slope stress, the area above the mine goaf tends to form normal faults while the area below goaf is prone to form thrust faults which could slide along both joints and
bedding planes. Therefore, where joints have flexible striking that could be deemed a result of the rock mass sliding along multiple fractures (Yang et al., 1993).

As shown in Fig.1a, Wenzhou seismic station (WEZ) lies 93 km south to the collapse area, Biyuntan (BYT). It is built of granite, its geographical coordinate is E 120.67° and N 27.93°, and its elevation above sea level is 20 m. It recorded the seismic event, i.e., the ceiling collapse of the Biyuntan cavern group (Fig.6). Meanwhile, Ningbo seismic station (NIB) lying to the northeast and 172 km far from BYT, also recorded the collapse event (Table 3). The instrument used in the three stations is the DD-1 short period analog seismograph, which is widely used in Zhejiang Province at that time (Qiu, 1994; Lin, 2001).

Richter (1935) defined the instrumental local event magnitude scale as

\[
M_L = \log A - \log A_0(\Delta)
\]

Where, \(M_L\) is the local event magnitude, also called Richter scale. \(A\) is the maximum amplitude in seismic record, which is a mean value of the two horizontal components, mm. \(A_0(\Delta)\) is the calibration function, the physical meaning of the logarithmic value of the amplitudes at different epicentral distances on the 0.0 Richter scale.

Li (1958) modified the equation (6) to equation (7), which connects with short and long period seismographs commonly used in China.

\[
M_L = \log A_0 + R(\Delta)
\]

Here, \(A_0\) is the maximum displacement of ground motion, which is defined as the mean values of the maximum amplitudes of the two horizontal components (N-S and E-W) of displacements of ground motion, \(R(\Delta)\) is a calibration function, the physical meaning of which is the compensation of seismic wave attenuation with distance. \(\Delta\) is the epicentral distance, km.

Records reflect that collapse earthquake as characteristically greatly affected by geological media and have an uncommon high frequency wave, well developed surface wave with short duration, and fast attenuation with distance. The parameter values from seismic records and calculation results from equations (6) and (7) are listed in Table 3. The mean value of the Richter scale from the three seismic record stations is \(M_L = 2.76\). Meanwhile, from the amplitude and duration time (Bormann, 2012), it is inferred that the \(M_L\) is also about 2.8.

Compared with other seismic records of collapse earthquakes, that of the Changyu Dongtian event is relatively simple in waveform, with a small amplitude and low frequency. The shear wave \(S\) is seldom observed, and the compression wave \(P\) is faint. Wenzhou station records show that the weak \(P\) wave in the up-down direction arrived at 7:01:20, and that the near-field \(S\) wave in north-south direction arrived at 7:01:30.7. The maximum amplitude was 1.5–1.8 (relative unit in Fig.6). The amplification factors of the DD-1 seismograph in the up-down direction arrived at 7:01:30.7. The maximum amplitude was 1.5~1.8 (relative unit in Fig.6). The amplification factors of the DD-1 seismograph in the up-down direction arrived at 7:01:30.7. The maximum amplitude was 1.5~1.8 (relative unit in Fig.6). The amplification factors of the DD-1 seismograph in the up-down direction arrived at 7:01:30.7. The maximum amplitude was 1.5~1.8 (relative unit in Fig.6). The amplification factors of the DD-1 seismograph in the up-down direction arrived at 7:01:30.7. The maximum amplitude was 1.5~1.8 (relative unit in Fig.6).

Energy conversion in collapse

It was reported that during the 10 hours from the evening when the supporting pillars were excavated to the next morning when the collapse occurred, the surrounding rock masses especially those at

![Fig. 6. Seismic spectrum curves of Changyu Dongtian collapse earthquake recorded at the 3 stations in the morning of August 11, 1997](image)

![Fig. 7. Procedure schematic of mining induced collapse and disasters at Biyuntan cavern group](image)
cavern roof, had experienced local instability and stress redistribution, which finally led to the overall collapse (Fig. 7).

Therefore excessive extraction of pillars had triggered a major roof collapse which, in turn, gave rise to a collapse earthquake that was recorded by the three nearby seismic stations. According to the post-earthquake damage evaluation, the seismic Mercalli intensity reached III, and the magnitude was recorded at $M_L=2.8$. Based on the common measurement that earthquake at magnitude 1.0 releases an energy of $2 \times 10^{13} \text{erg}$ ($2 \times 10^{13} \text{J}$), and that at magnitude 2.0 releases an energy of $6.3 \times 10^{14} \text{erg}$ ($6.3 \times 10^{14} \text{J}$), the energy produced in this collapse earthquake is roughly estimated $6.12 \times 10^{13} \text{J}$. If we suppose that the water spraying from the cave weighed about 20000 kg and had a velocity of 15 m/s, the energy consumed against the potential energy of water is $4.5 \times 10^{13} \text{J}$. According to equations (3)~(5), at the location 80m away from the collapse site, the energy released by the shock wave was more than $1.8 \times 10^{13} \text{J}$.

**Lessons from this mining induced collapse disaster**

After the catastrophic roof failure of Biyutan cavern group, Changyu Dongtian was developed as a scenic area in order to get rid of the risk that another collapse event might occur because of excessive excavation of supporting pillars. But some experiences obtained from

### Table 4 Comparison of characteristics of collapse earthquakes in six different regions of China

| Collapse events at different regions | Body wave | Surface wave | Amplitude | Wave form | $P$-wave first motion direction | Ref. |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|------|
| Seismic phase analysis of four collapse earthquakes in a center-south network of Shandong Province | The direct wave $P$ and $S$ have large cycle. The cycle of the body wave band is generally 0.2-0.5 s waveform is simple and neat, contain little of the high-frequency component | There are obvious short cycle surface waves in seismic wave column. and surface wave cycle is generally within 0.5-1.6 s. waveform develop, and has obvious frequency dispersion characteristics | The amplitude attenuates fast, and the duration time of seismic wave is 10-15 s ($M_L=2.6-3.2$, double amplitude is 4mm) | Waveform has a large head feature in the network records | Records near the earthquake source show the direction of the $P$-wave first motion is pointed towards the earthquake source | Lin et al., 1990 |
| Waveform of the collapse earthquake $M_L=3.9$ on August 10, 2008 at Shennu, Shan’ansi Province | $S$-wave is more obvious, its cycle is larger, and has no significant difference with the cycle of surface wave | Whether the epicenter distance is large or not, the surface wave appears, then it develops and its cycle is larger | The high frequency components are a bit low. The wave form looks smooth. | The focal depth of various small earthquake is very shallow | Di et al., 2009 |
| On August 8 to 10, 1975, within a range of hundreds of square kilometers at eight districts of Changyang and Zigui in Hubei Province, heavy rain-fall after a long drought, there occurred debris flow, ground fissure, landslide, rockfall, subsidence, spray, earthquake and other hazards | Most of the $P$-wave is weak, $S$-wave is large and intensity is high | The magnitude is very small ($M_L=2.1-1.4$) | The high frequency components are a bit low. The wave form looks smooth. | The focal depth of various small earthquake is very shallow | Gu, 1982 |
| The seismic phase analysis of collapse earthquake happened in junction of Anhui and Zhejiang, Dingyuan, Huaihe, Huaian, and south Shandong | High-frequency components are absorbed, the body wave has larger cycle than the natural earthquake, the speed-type cycle is generally 0.02s to 1.6Hz. Shear wave is not developed | There are obvious short cycle surface waves called $R_g$ wave in seismic wave column. The speed-type cycle is generally 0.1s to 0.2Hz in the surface wave. Waveform develop, and has obvious positive dispersion characteristics, namely high cycles at first, small cycles afterwards | The amplitude attenuates fast, and the duration time of seismic wave is shorter than the comparable natural earthquakes | Waveform of the whole band is simple and neat contain very little high-frequency component. In the records, the body wave has a small head feature. | Wang et al., 2012 |
| The collapse earthquake $M_L=2.2$ at 1:56 on April 14, 1987 in Yamen village, Baisha Town, Yangshuo County | Cycle compared to tectonic earthquakes on the same level and the same epicenter distance is about 0.25 larger. | The amplitude of $P$ and $S$ is relatively larger. As $|Ap|>10$ | The amplitude of $P$ and $S$ is relatively larger. As $|Ap|>10$ | The amplitude of $P$ and $S$ is relatively larger. As $|Ap|>10$ | Yao, 1989 |
| At 7:01 on August 11, 1997 Changyu collapse earthquake | Body wave signals are not developed, small amplitude | Surface wave growth but its frequency is low and amplitudes are small | Shear wave $S$ does not develop | The direction of $U$ is down when $P$-wave first motions | This paper |
this event are applicable to other mines in terms of disaster prevention: (1) do not adopting risky mining behavior, e.g., excavating supporting pillars; (2) installing complete systems to monitor the deformation and acoustic emission at key positions so as to make mining procedures flexible when necessary; (3) timely evacuation of people nearby if a large scale collapse seems likely to occur, and hence minimizing loss of lives and property.

Conclusions

The large scale roof collapse at Changyu Dongtian quarry in August 11, 1997 was a major failure triggered by local instability caused by excessive excavation of supporting pillars. The seismic waves produced by this collapse earthquake were fortunately recorded by the three seismic stations as the Wenzhou 93km to the south, Ningbo 172km to the northeast and Xin’anjiang 240km to the northwest. The recorded waves mainly comprised low frequency and small amplitude surface waves with no evident body waves. This shallow collapse earthquake was therefore propagated mainly in the form of surface waves and the area of influence was comparatively small.

According to the seismic records, the collapse earthquake magnitude is roughly estimated at Ml=2.8, and the seismic intensity was inferred to be III based on field observations of the damage. The seismic energy was mainly transformed as potential energy of water and kinetic energy of objects impacted by the shock wave. There were 13 people killed and several houses destroyed within 150m. Experiences obtained from this case study therefore are relevant to the prevention of roof collapse disasters in mining industry.

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