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Vs30 Map for Chinese Mainland Constrained by Local Vs30 Measurements and Incorporating Topographic Slope as Secondary Data via a Cokriging (SCK) Model

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In China, 30 years of engineering construction have generated abundant borehole-based *Vs* measurements — but how can we make full use of these data?

- Large-scale construction projects over the past 30 years have generated hundreds of thousands of borehole data.
- Buildings, bridges, microzonation, etc.





Collected > 3,000 reports,Ongoing dataincluding data > 20,000 boreholes.updating.

2022

2018

The related engineering and microzonation projects span > 20 years.

2007

2025

Developed database, model, and *Vs*30 maps for Chinese mainland We digitized over 10,000 site profile from engineering and microzonation projects.

- We digitized 14,214 borehole profiles from engineering and microzonation projects.
- These profiles cover all provinces of Chinese mainland and over 200 major cities.
- Beyond Vs profiles, these profiles also include geotechnical soil/rock types, geological age, and depositional environment information.
- 53% of the profiles extend beyond 30 meters, and 7% reach depths greater than 100 meters.



Zhou, J. et al., 2021. https://doi.org/10.1785/0120200178

We also collected site *Vs* profiles from seismic stations.

• We have collected borehole-measured site profiles from 1,500 strong-motion stations within China's Earthquake Early Warning System.



We are conducting borehole measurements at 602 seismic stations in the mountainous regions of Sichuan and Yunnan, as part of the Seismic Experimental Site Project (2022–2027).



We developed a site profile database and a data platform

 Structured SQL database format instead of flat file storage



• Geological age, depositional environment, and other textual information were encoded to enable numerical analysis and comparison.



• The data platform enables realtime integration of borehole data from field surveys into the database, with dynamic display on a map interface.

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We developed a cokriging-based *Vs*³⁰ proxy model (SCK model)

- We proposed a V330 proxy model based on the cokriging method (SCK model).
- The model estimates V_{330} using nearby measurement data as constraints and topographic slope as a secondary variable.





Zhou, J. et al., 2022. https://doi.org/10.1785/0120210227

We validated the SCK model using borehole data from other regions.



Using the SCK model, we developed *Vs*³⁰ Maps for Chinese mainland and other regions

- 7,797 *Vs*30 measurements
- Covers most regions of Chinese mainland

VS30 Map for Chinese mainland (2022)



Zhou, J. et al., 2022. https://doi.org/10.1785/0120210227



Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia Jishish

Jishishan, China

Wushi, China





Sichuan Strong-motion Stations Gansu Strong-motion Stations





In 2024, we refined the SCK model.

Where no measurements are available, the model output becomes entirely controlled by topographic slope.

- Emphasized the influence of surrounding terrain on Vs30;
- Ensured azimuth coverage when selecting neighboring *Vs*30 measurements;
- Expanded the model's calculation range.



*Vs*30



Topographic Slope



Consider surrounding slope values rather than the value at a single point.

Similar topographic slope values

The *Vs*³⁰ in the plain is lower than that in the mountain front and basin.

The *Vs*³⁰ in the plain is similar to that of the mountain front and basin.



Zhou, J. et al., 2024. https://doi.org/10.1785/0120240104

Vs30 map for Chinese mainland - 2024 version

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- Based on the refined SCK model
- 7,797 *Vs*30 measurements, plus 142 from strong-motion stations
- 30 arcsec resolution (~900 m)
- Covering all regions of Chinese mainland





The map data can be downloaded at: https://seismisite.net/index_en.html



Zhou, J. et al., 2024. https://doi.org/10.1785/0120240104

Incorporating geological age and depositional environment as new parameters to build a hybrid model

- 1: 1,500,000-scale geology map
- 19 classes based on surface geological age and depositional environment.
- Considered sample bias from preferential sampling within each class.



Consider preferential sampling bias when estimating the mean and std of Vs_{30}

- Preferential sampling occurs when certain values are more likely to be sampled than others.
- Flat terrains are often over-sampled, while mountainous regions are under-sampled.
- This bias cannot be detected solely from the spatial distribution of samples.
- We proposed a method to mitigate preferential sampling bias using a secondary parameter.

Preliminary (unpublished)



zhou et al., 2024. https://doi.org/10.1785/0220230376



Summary

- We digitized over 14,214 Vs30 measurements across Chinese mainland.
- We developed a cokriging-based Vs30 proxy model (SCK model) in 2022 and refined it in 2024.
- We produced a Vs30 map for Chinese mainland using the SCK model and 7,797 Vs30 measurements.
- We updated the map in 2024 using the refined SCK model and 7,939 Vs30 measurements.
- We are incorporating geological age and depositional environment as new parameters to build a hybrid Vs30 model and develop the next version of the Vs30 map for Chinese mainland.
- We addressed preferential sampling bias and proposed a secondary-parameter-based debiasing method.

Related Journal Articles

• Site Profile Database Introduction:

Zhou, J., X. Li, Z. Dai, and K. Chen (2021). Parametrical Model for Estimating *Vs*30 from Shallow Borehole Profiles Using a Database for China, Bull. Seismol. Soc. Am. 111, 1199–1220, https://doi.org/10.1785/0120200178

• Cokriging Vs30 Proxy (SCK) Model and 2022 version of Vs30 Map for Chinese Mainland:

Zhou J., X. Li, X. Tian, and G. Xu (2022). New Framework of Combining Observations with Topographic Slope to Estimate *Vs*30 and Its Application on Building a *Vs*30 Map for Mainland China, Bull. Seismol. Soc. Am. 112, 2049–2069, https://doi.org/10.1785/0120210227

• Refined SCK Model and 2024 version of *Vs*³⁰ Map for Chinese Mainland:

Zhou, J., L. Li, X. Li, N. Xi, and X. Tian (2024). A 30 Arcsec Resolution *Vs*30 Map for Mainland China Using Refined Topographic Slope-Based Cokriging (SCK) Model, Bull. Seismol. Soc. Am. 115, 332–348, https://doi.org/10.1785/0120240104

• Preferential Sampling Debias Method Using Secondary Parameters:

Zhou, J., L. Li, and X. Li (2024). Investigating Sampling Bias in Seismological Research Through Secondary Variable: Insights from *Vs*30 Datasets of Mainland China, Japan, Türkiye, and Taiwan, Seismol. Res. Lett. XX,1–14, https://doi.org/10.1785/0220230376









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Thanks





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