





Combining a large, nationwide ambient noise database with morphometric analyses to map 2D resonance effects in sedimentary basins in Switzerland

Franziska Glueer¹, **Paolo Bergamo**^{*1}, Anastasiia Shynkarenko¹, Afifa Imtiaz¹, Paulina Janusz¹, Xavier Borgeat¹, Francesco Panzera², and Donat Fäh¹

¹Swiss Seismological Service (SED), ETH Zürich, Switzerland

²Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Science, University of Catania, Italy

*paolo.bergamo@sed.ethz.ch



Deeply-incised sedimentary basin (e.g. **Alpine valleys**) **host peculiar** site-effects of ground motion:

- Edge-generated surface waves
- «Trapped» seismic waves
- 2D resonance phenomena

Anti-plane shear mode SH_{00}





Deeply-incised sedimentary basin (e.g. Alpine valleys) host peculiar site-effects of ground motion:

- Edge-generated surface waves
- «Trapped» seismic waves
- 2D resonance phenomena





- Which valleys/basins display 1D vs 2D resonance regimes?
- What are the consequences for the local amplification of ground motion?

Our project: «Elastic response spectra for Alpine valleys»

Swiss Seismological Service (SED) site characterization database





- > 7800 free-field single-station, 3-C ambient noise measurements
- Acquired from 1996 to present day
- Processed with H/V technique -> soil resonance frequencies
- SESAME guidelines for acquisition, processing, interpretation

Collation of bedrock-depth models



Identifying large basins



Identifying large basins



Geometry of large basins



Resonance regime of large basins





▼ Soil resonance frequencies from H/V_{noise}

Morphometric classification:







Directionality of ambient noise and earthquake site response



Morphometric classification of basins:



V Seismic stations

2D resonance stations (14 stations) Stacked polarplots of std. dev. factor across azimuts H/V_{noise} Eq. site ampl.



Conclusions:

- We combine a nation-wide database of ambient noise recordings and morphometric analyses to identify and characterize 1D vs 2D resonance phenomena in sedimentary basins
- Good agreement between classification of basins according to morphometry and experimental data of soil resonance from ambient noise
- The distinction between 1D vs 2D resonance basins and their associated patterns follow straightforward models derived from numerical analyses found in the literature
- 2D resonance regime sets in from shape ratios h/l > 0.3



- Dominant modes of 2D resonance: SH₀₀, SV₀, SH₁₂, SV₂
- Directionality due to 2D resonance modes is sharper in ambient noise recordings than in earthquake site response

Thank you for your attention

paolo.bergamo@sed.ethz.ch, franziska.gluuer@sed.ethz.ch

References

Bard P.-Y. and SESAME working group (2004). Guidelines for the implementation of the H/V spectral ratio technique on ambient vibrations measurements, processing and interpretation. SESAME European research project WP12 – Deliverable D23.12

Bard & Bouchon (1985). The two-dimensional resonance of sediment-filled valleys. Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America

Fiore, J., 2007. Quaternary subglacial processes in Switzerland: Geomorphology of the plateau and seismic stratigraphy of western Lake Geneva. Terre et Env. 69.

Imtiaz et al. (2023). Developing an urban-scale 3D geophysical model for Basel, Switzerland. EGU General Assembly 2023. https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-egu23-3505

Imtiaz et al. (2024). Multimethod strategies for local-scale seismic ground motion amplification mapping in Basel. Swiss Geoscience Meeting 2024

Janusz, P. et al. (2025). Mapping site amplification with the dense recording of ambient vibration for the city of Lucerne (Switzerland): comparison between two approaches. Bull Earthquake Eng 23, 1431–1462 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10518-024-02091-9

Jordan, P., 2010. Analysis of overdeepened valleys using the digital elevation model of the bedrock surface of northern Switzerland. Swiss J. Geosci. 103, 375-384.

Mey, J. et al. Glacial isostatic uplift of the European Alps. Nat Commun 7, 13382 (2016).

Panzera, F., et al. (2022). Reconstructing a 3D model from geophysical data for local amplification modelling: The study case of the upper Rhone valley, Switzerland. *Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering* **155**, 107163 (2022).

1.

Perron, V., et al. Site Amplification at High Spatial Resolution from Combined Ambient Noise and Earthquake Recordings in Sion, Switzerland. *Seismological Research Letters* 93, 2281–2298 (2022).

Roten, D., et al. (2006) "Two-Dimensional Resonances in Alpine Valleys Identified from Ambient Vibration Wavefields." Geophysical Journal International 165, no. 3: 889–905.

van Ginkel J., et al. (2024). Updated soil classification maps for earthquake hazard assessment of the ETH Zürich and PSI areas. Swiss Geoscience Meeting 2024

Schälli, L., 2012. The diffluence of the Rhine glacier at Sargans in connection to the solid-rock surface model of the Rhine and Seez valley. Unpublished Master Thesis, University of Zürich, Switzerland.

Shynkarenko, A., et al. Single-station geophysical and seismological investigations towards revising seismic microzonation of the Basel region, EGU General Assembly 2025, Vienna, Austria, 27 Apr–2 May 2025, EGU25-2900, https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-egu25-2900, 2025.

Swiss Federal Office of Topography, Swisstopo (2019). Felsoberflächenmodell (TopFels25)

Swiss Seismological Service (SED) at ETH Zurich (2015). The Site Characterization Database for Seismic Stations in Switzerland. Zurich: Federal Institute of Technology. doi: 10.12686/sed-stationcharacterizationdb





▼ Soil resonance frequencies from H/V_{noise}



Color legend

Morphometric classification of basins:



Symbol legend

- res. freq. from H/V
- theor. 2D resonance
- modes





▼ Soil resonance frequencies from H/V_{noise}



Color legend

Morphometric classification of basins:



Symbol legend

- res. freq. from H/V
- theor. 2D resonance
- modes



 $f_h = \frac{V_{S,soil}}{4h}$