

# An Approximate Method to Assess the Seismic Capacity of Existing RC Buildings



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## Introduction

- Engineers are not interested when a strong earthquake may occur.
  - They are interested to build safe structures to withstand a strong earthquake, whenever it may occur.
- Increase knowledge  $\xrightarrow{\text{influence}}$  modern design  $\xrightarrow{\text{influence}}$  new regulations  
New regulations  $\xrightarrow{\text{resulting}}$  (In general) safer new buildings
- What about old buildings (before the implementation of the new seismic codes e.g. in Greece 1995)?
- About 80% of the existing buildings stock could be considered as old.
  - Which of them can be considered safe?  $\rightarrow$  Need of assessment

Tools: EC8-3, KANEPE, KADET

- The most accurate procedure

However,

- Need of high level earthquake engineering background

- Time consuming procedure - cost

### Any other solution?

Approximate procedures for a gross evaluation of safety.

## The Approximate Method

### Advantages

- Very quick procedure for an estimation of the seismic vulnerability degree, of R.C. Structures
- Very useful tool when the goal is to identify the most vulnerable structures in a target building stock. Create a ranking order in a number of buildings, according to their vulnerability degree e.g. as in the second level procedure for pre- earthquake assessment of existing buildings, is requested.
- It is based on very simple calculations.
- Ability for a row estimation of the capacity of buildings possibly even when reinforcement details are unknown.

### Disadvantages

- The approximation of the method.

**Scope of the work**  
↓  
Examine the accuracy of the method

### How?

By comparing results with respective ones obtained from more accurate analytical procedures. In the present work the static inelastic (push-over) analytical procedure is used.

## The Approximate Method

### Main Steps of the Method

- Determination of the seismic demand in terms of base shear ( $V_{req}$ )
- Estimation of the seismic resistance of the whole structure ( $V_R$ )
- Determination of a global failure index  $\lambda = V_{req}/V_R$

### 1<sup>st</sup> Step: Seismic Demand $V_{req}$

$$V_{req} = M S_d(T)$$

where,  $M$  is the mass of the building

$S_d$  is the design acceleration, based on the design spectrum of the current seismic code

where  $q$  is the behavior factor for the examined direction and performance level obtained by KANEPE

Values of behavior factor  $q$  for performance level B (Severe Damage) according to KANEPE  
For Level A values are multiplied by 0.6 (accepted into the range 1-1.5) and for level C values are multiplied by 1.4

Standards applied for design (and construction)	Favorable presence or absence of infill walls (1)		Generally unfavourable presence of infill walls (1)	
	Substantial damage in primary elements		Substantial damage in primary elements	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
1995<...	3.0	2.3	2.3	1.7
1985<...<1995(2)	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.3
...<1985	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.1

(1) On the role and effect of infill walls see §5.9 και §7.4.

(2) For buildings of this period, the values of the Table are valid provided that the check for non-formation of plastic hinges in column ends is made according to §9.3.3 (by satisfying  $\Sigma M_{Rc} \geq 1.3 \Sigma M_{Rb}$ ).

For torsionally sensitive structures, or for those with at least 50% of the mass concentrated in the upper 1/3 of their height (inverted pendula), the values of the Table are multiplied by 2/3 but can not be lower than 1.0.

# The Approximate Method

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Step: Seismic Resistance $V_R$

The seismic resistance, of the whole structure,  $V_R$  is estimated as:  $V_R = \beta V_{R0}$

where,  $\beta$  is the reduction factor based on the 13 criteria of the method  
 $V_{R0}$  is the basic seismic resistance

$$V_{R0} = \alpha_1 \sum V_{Ri}^{columns} + \alpha_2 \sum V_{Ri}^{walls} + \alpha_3 \sum V_{Ri}^{short\ columns}$$

$\alpha_1 = 0.5$     $\alpha_2 = 0.7$     $\alpha_3 = 0.9$  in structures with columns, walls and short columns  
 $\alpha_1 = 0.7$     $\alpha_2 = 0.9$  in structures with columns and walls but without short columns  
 $\alpha_1 = 0.7$     $\alpha_3 = 0.9$  in frame structures without walls, and with short columns  
 $\alpha_1 = 0.8$  in frame structures without walls and short columns

The strength of the vertical members,  $V_{Ri}$  is obtained as:  $V_{Ri} = \min[(V_{Rd,s}, V_{R,max}), V_M]$

where  $\rightarrow V_{Rd,s}$  and  $V_{R,max}$  are the shear resistances,

from concrete design formulas or from KANEPE (similar to EC8-3)

(Reinforcement detailing data is considered under tolerable reliability level according to KANEPE or by limited knowledge level according to EC8-3)

$\rightarrow V_M = M_R/L_s$  is the flexural capacity of the member, where  
 $L_s$  is the shear length obtained according to KANEPE, as  $L_s = L_k/2$   
 for columns  $L_k$  is the clear length in the critical floor  
 for walls  $L_k$  is the length of the wall measuring from the base cross-section up to the top of the building

# Approximate Method – Vulnerability Criteria

## Table of Criteria

	Criteria	Morfology factor $\beta_i$					Weight factor $\sigma_i$	
		0 max	1	2	3	4		5 min
1	Over-critical	Existing structural damage						0.10
2		Reinforcement corrosion						0.10
3		Normalized axial load						0.05
4	Regularity in plan							0.05
5	Stiffness distribution in plan – torsion							0.10
6	Regularity in elevation							0.05
7	Stiffness distribution in elevation							0.15
8	Mass distribution in elevation							0.05
9	Short columns							0.15
10	Vertical discontinuities							0.05
11	Force transfer							0.05
12	Pounding with adjacent buildings							0.05
13	Faulty workmanship or non-structural damage that has occurred either during or after construction							0.05

$$\beta = \sum \frac{\sigma_i \beta_i}{5}$$

where,  $\beta_i$  is a morfology factor ( $0 \leq \beta_i \leq 5$ )  
 $\sigma_i$  is a weight factor ( $0 \leq \beta_i \leq 5$ )

# Analytical Inelastic (Pushover) Procedure

## Definition of Resistance

In the present work two alternatives ways are used to determine the seismic resistance of the whole structure

### Local Resistance Definition

When one vertical element reaches first its max. acceptable deformation ( $\delta_{max}$ ) for the examined performance level.

$\delta_{max}$  as follows:  
 where  $\delta_y$  and  $\delta_u$  are the yield and failure deformations of the element.

- A:  $\delta_{max} = \delta_y$
- B:  $\delta_{max} = [0.5(\delta_y + \delta_u)]/\gamma_{Rd}$
- C:  $\delta_{max} = \delta_u/\gamma_{Rd}$

(KANEPE 2017)

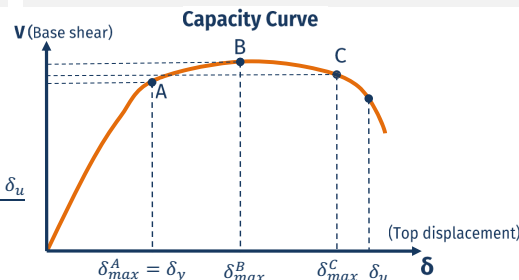
$$\delta_{max}^B = \frac{\delta_y + \delta_u}{2 \gamma_{Rd}} = \frac{\delta_y + \delta_u}{3}$$

$$\delta_{max}^C = \frac{\delta_u}{1.5}$$

### Global Resistance Definition

When the whole structure reaches its max. acceptable deformation ( $\delta_{max}$ ) for the examined performance level.

$\delta_{max}$  as follows:  
 where  $\delta_y$  and  $\delta_u$  are the yield and failure deformations obtained according to KANEPE (or EC8-3) from the capacity curve of the whole structure.



# Failure Index

## Approximate Method

### In terms of base shear

$$\lambda = \frac{V_{req}}{V_R} = \frac{V_{req}}{\beta V_{R0}} = \frac{\lambda_0}{\beta}$$

## Inelastic (pushover) Analysis

### In terms of base shear

- Force Local Values (FLV)
- Force Global Values (FGV)

$$\lambda_V = \frac{V_{req}}{V_R}$$

### In terms of displacement

- Displacement Local Values (DLV)
- Displacement Global Values (DGV)

$$\lambda_\delta = \frac{\delta_t}{\delta_{max}} \quad \delta_t \text{ is the target displacement}$$

## The Case Study

- Performance level B (main investigation) but also A and C

- Seismic Demand  $V_{req} = M S_d(T)$

considering: a)  $T = T_{empirical}$

b)  $T = T_{analysis}$

to investigate the influence of T

- Seismic Resistance  $V_R$

considering: a) Known reinforcement amounts (minimum)

b) Ignoring the presence of reinforcement amounts

to investigate the influence of the reinforcement

## The Case Study

- 5-storey RC building, constructed in 1988
- Square-shaped floor plan: 15 x 15 m
- Ground floor height : 5.50 m
- Remaining floor heights : 3.50 m
- Seismic zone II, (ground acceleration 0.24 g), soil type B

### Columns and Walls cross sections

- 0.60 x 0.60 m (Ground floor)
- 0.50 x 0.50 m (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
- 0.40 x 0.40 m (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floor)
- Π-shaped shear wall 3.00 x 3.00 x 0.25 m

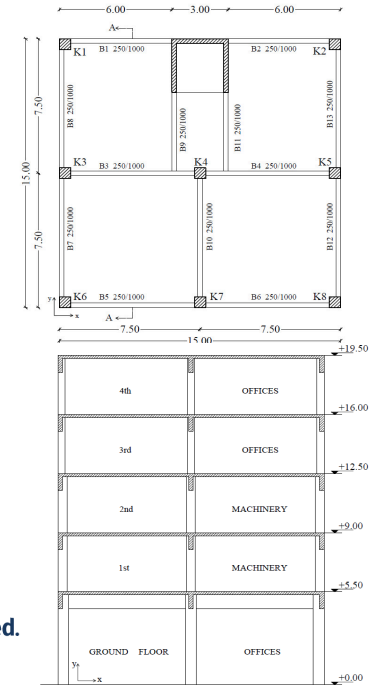
### Beams

- 0.25 x 1.00 m

### Materials

- Concrete: C15/20
- Reinforcing steel : S500

- In the present work, the **infills of the structure are ignored.**



## Dynamic Characteristics

### Empirical Period

According to the approximate equation of EC8:

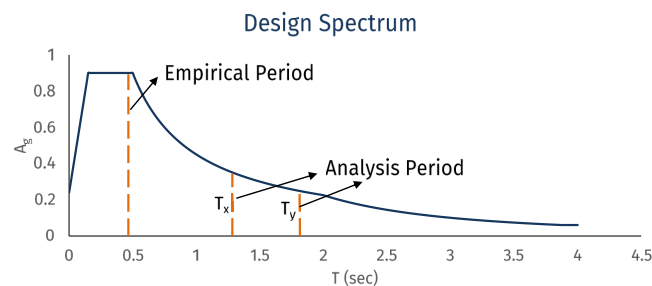
$$T = C_t H^{\frac{3}{4}} = 0.464 \text{ sec} \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{cases} C_t \text{ is equal to } 0.05 \\ H \text{ is the height of the building starting from the foundation} \end{cases}$$

### Analysis Period

It resulted for each direction from modal analysis using the effective stiffness (according to KANEPE) for all the members, which was determined by section analysis.

$$T_x = 1.82 \text{ sec}$$

$$T_y = 1.27 \text{ sec}$$

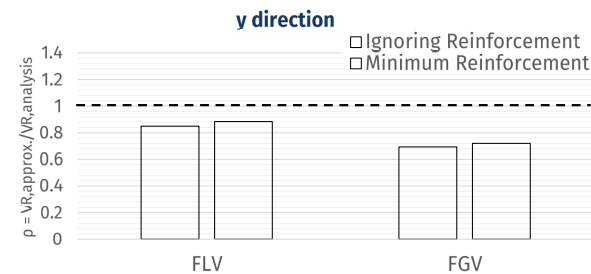
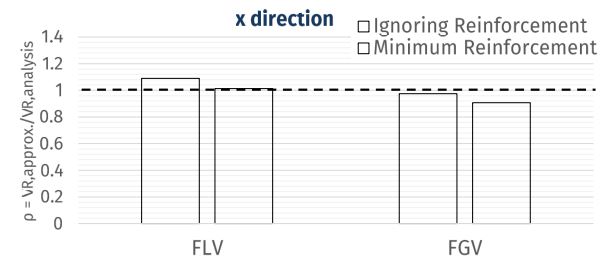


## Seismic Resistances Comparison

$$\rho = \frac{V_{R,approximate}}{V_{R,analysis}}$$

where

**FLV:** Force Local Values  
**FGV:** Force Global Values



### Conclusions

- There is a quite good agreement in the results of both methods, as the ratio  $\rho$  is quite close to unity.
- Higher accuracy is achieved for FLV case, and much higher when the reinforcement amounts are taken into account.
- Using the local values, the approximate method is more conservative.

## Failure Indices Results

**Approximate Method:**  $T = T_{emp}$ ,  $q = q_{KANEPE}$ ,  $V_R = V_{R,approx}$ .

**Analytical Method:**  $T = T_{anal}$ ,  $q = q_{anal}$ ,  $V_R = V_{R,anal}$ ,  $\delta_i = \delta_{anal}$

P.L.	Seismic Direction	Approximate Method (Empirical Period)		Non-linear Static Analysis (Analysis Period)			
		Ignoring Reinforcement	Minimum Reinforcement	Local		Global	
				$\lambda_V$	$\lambda_\delta$	$\lambda_V$	$\lambda_\delta$
A	x	8.34	8.98	2.73	4.72	2.45	3.75
	y	5.08	4.88	2.40	2.44	2.03	1.80
B	x	5.01	5.38	1.40	3.12	1.26	2.32
	y	3.05	2.93	0.99	1.70	0.81	0.91
C	x	3.58	3.85	0.75	1.92	0.69	1.46
	y	2.18	2.09	0.54	1.20	0.43	0.55

Great differences in the values because:

- $T_{empirical} = 0.464 \text{ sec} \ll T_x = 1.82 \text{ sec}, T_y = 1.27 \text{ sec} \rightarrow V_{req,appr} \gg V_{req,anal}$
- In the present work, the infills of the structure are ignored.

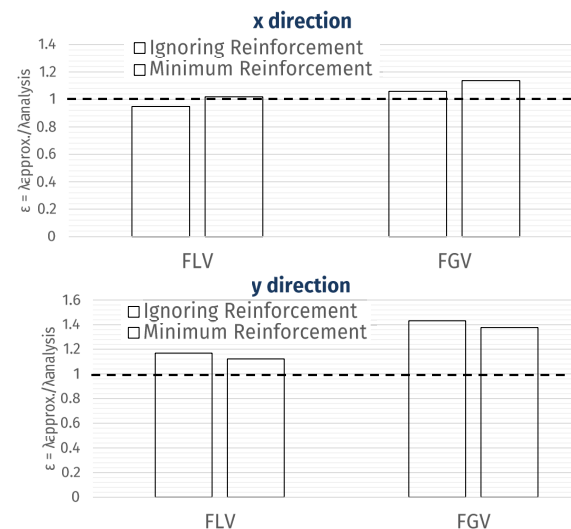
**If the infills are taken into account, the overall stiffness increases and the analysis period decreases, which resulted equal to  $T_x = 1.40 \text{ sec}$ ,  $T_y = 0.75 \text{ sec}$ , and is much closer to the empirical period. Thus, the results of both methods would be closer.**

## Failure Indices Comparison – For $V_{req} (T = T_{empirical} = 0.464 \text{ sec})$ Performance Level B

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\lambda_{approximate}}{\lambda_{V,analysis}}$$

where

**FLV:** Force Local Values  
**FGV:** Force Global Values



### Conclusions

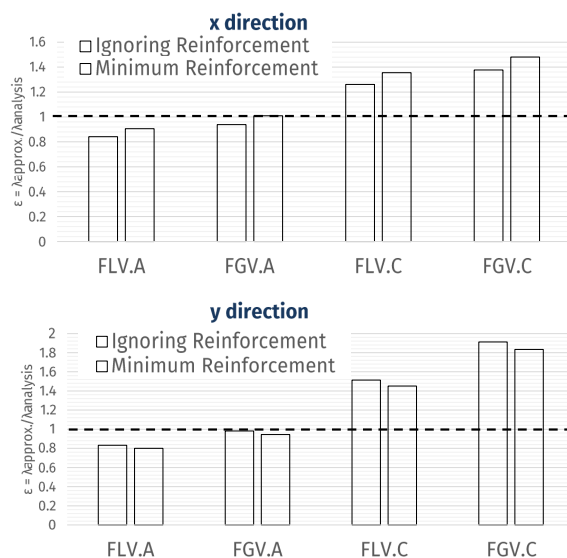
- The ratio  $\varepsilon$  is always  $> 1$ .
- The approximate method is conservative for performance level B.
- The deviations between the two methods are not very high, with the highest one being around 40%.
- Global values are more conservative than local ones.

## Failure Indices Comparison – For $V_{req} (T = T_{empirical} = 0.464 \text{ sec})$ Performance Levels A & C

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\lambda_{approximate}}{\lambda_{V,analysis}}$$

where

**FLV:** Force Local Values  
**FGV:** Force Global Values



### Conclusions

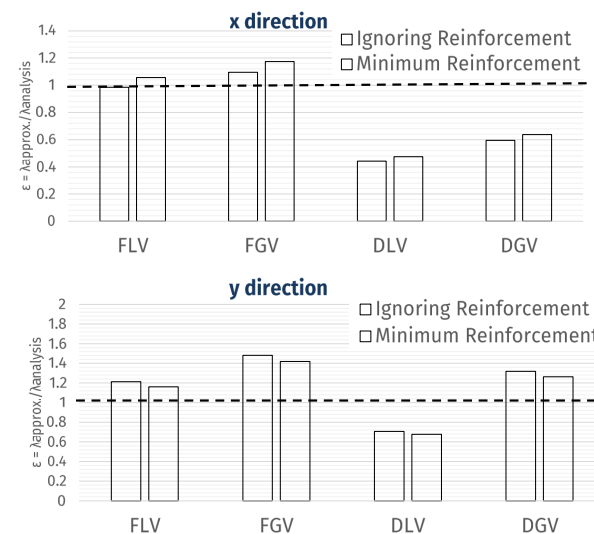
- The approximate method is conservative for performance level C, but not for level A.
- The global values are more conservative than local ones.

## Failure Indices Comparison – For $V_{req} (T = T_{analysis}, T_x = 1.82 \text{ sec}, T_y = 1.27 \text{ sec})$ Performance Level B

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\lambda_{approximate}}{\lambda_{analysis}}$$

where

**FLV:** Force Local Values  
**FGV:** Force Global Values  
**DLV:** Displacement Local Values  
**DGV:** Displacement Global Values



### Conclusions

- Great differences when the results are based on forces and on displacements.
- Higher accuracy is achieved when using forces.
- The approximate method is not conservative when using displacements.
- Higher accuracy is achieved for local values when using forces.

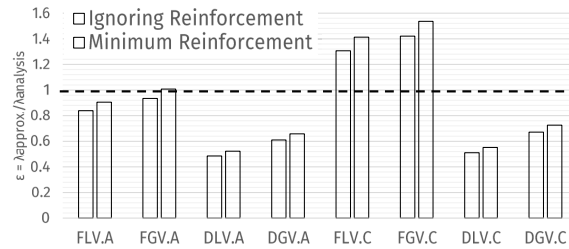
## Failure Indices Comparison – For $V_{req}(T = T_{analysis}, T_x = 1.82 \text{ sec}, T_y = 1.27 \text{ sec})$ Performance Levels A & C

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\lambda_{approximate}}{\lambda_{analysis}}$$

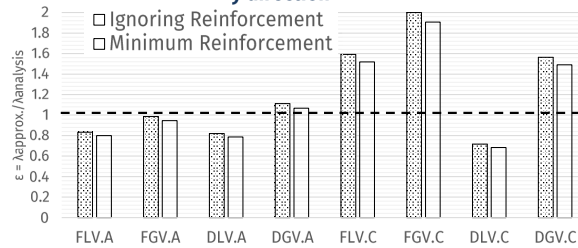
where

**FLV:** Force Local Values  
**FGV:** Force Global Values  
**DLV:** Displacement Local Values  
**DGV:** Displacement Global Values

### x direction



### y direction



### Conclusions

- Great differences when the results are based on forces and on displacements.
- The approximate method is not conservative when using displacements.
- The approximate method is conservative for performance level C, but not for level A.
- The global values are more conservative than local ones.

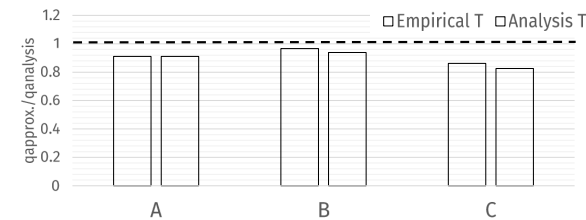
## Behavior Factor q Comparison

Method	Seismic Direction	Performance Level			
		A	B	C	
Approximate (KANEPE)	x	1.02	1.70	2.38	
	y	1.38	2.30	3.22	
Inelastic (pushover) analysis	Empirical T	x	1.12	1.76	2.76
		y	1.18	2.28	3.66
	Analysis T	x	1.12	1.81	2.88
		y	1.18	2.36	3.85

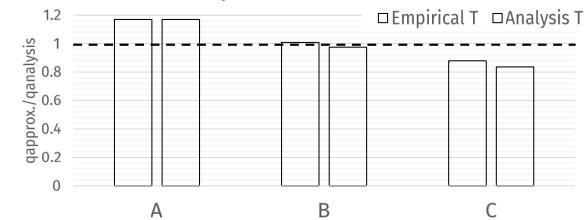
The graphs present the ratio of  $\alpha$

$$\alpha = \frac{q_{approximate}}{q_{analysis}}$$

### x direction



### y direction



### Conclusions

- The approximate method is conservative for all performance levels, except level A for the y direction.
- Higher accuracy is achieved for performance level B. Values are almost the same.

## Conclusions

From the examined case study the following conclusions can be derived:

- The approximate evaluation of the Seismic Resistance  $V_R$**

$$V_{R0} = a_1 \sum V_{Ri}^{columns} + a_2 \sum V_{Ri}^{walls} + a_3 \sum V_{Ri}^{short\ columns}$$

$$\text{Examined in the form } V_R = \beta V_{R0} = \beta \left( 0.7 \sum V_{Ri}^{columns} + 0.9 \sum V_{Ri}^{walls} \right)$$

(Case study with vertical elements: columns and shear walls)

was found in quite good agreement, with analytical results especially when comparing with Local Values.

- Approximate Values of q factor from KANEPE** (used in the approximate method)

In high agreement, with the analytical values. The KANEPE being conservative for almost all performance levels.

- Failure indices  $\lambda_v$**

- Comparison of Approximate ( $T = T_{approx}$ ,  $q = q_{KANEPE}$ ) and Analytical (T and q from Analysis) Procedures**

$$\lambda_{approx} = \frac{V_{req(T)}}{V_{R,approx}} \quad \text{compared with} \quad \lambda_{v,anal} = \frac{V_{req(T)}}{V_{R,anal}} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_{\delta,anal} = \frac{\delta_t}{\delta_{max}}$$

$$\lambda_{approx} : \lambda_{v,anal} : \lambda_{\delta,anal} \approx 5 : 3 : 2$$

## Conclusions

- Comparison of Approximate and Analytical  $\lambda_v$  Values in terms of base shear where**

$$\lambda_{approx} = \frac{V_{req(T)}}{V_{R,approx}}$$

$$\lambda_{v,anal} = \frac{V_{req(T)}}{V_{R,anal}}$$

- Very good accuracy for B Level. The highest when comparing with global values
- Conservative for C Level
- Not always safe for A Level

- Comparison of Approximate and Analytical  $\lambda_\delta$  Values where**

$$\lambda_{approx} = \frac{V_{req(T)}}{V_{R,approx}}$$

$$\lambda_{\delta,anal} = \frac{\delta_t}{\delta_{max}}$$

$$\text{(in terms of displacement)} > \lambda_{v,anal} = \frac{V_{req(T)}}{V_{R,anal}}$$

$$\lambda_{approx} < \lambda_{\delta,anal} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{Approximate not safe}$$

## Conclusions

- In conclusion, the use of different fundamental period affects the seismic demand  $V_{req}$ . Thus, the use of an exact value of the fundamental period is very crucial for a reliable determination of the failure index. The approximate method would be highly improved if accurate fundamental periods are used.
- In all cases, the global values are more conservative than the local ones.
- Ignoring or taking into consideration the reinforcement amounts, there is no great difference in the comparison of failure indices results (5-10%).
- More research is needed (it is in progress), in order to obtain more general concrete conclusions.

## Relative Website



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**Thank you for your attention**