



# Design displacement for lifelines at fault crossings: the code-based approach for Europe

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## Abstract

The earthquake-resistant design of lifelines, such as pipelines, tunnels and bridges, is based on the reliable representation and estimation of the seismic loading. In the case of lifeline–fault crossings, the design fault displacement is typically derived from estimates based on fault dimensions via empirical fault scaling relations for a given “design” scenario event. This approach comes with an unknown level of safety because the fault productivity and the actual distribution of earthquake events are essentially disregarded. To overcome this challenge, a simplified approach is proposed by statistically analyzing the outcome of probabilistic fault displacement hazard analyses (PFDHAs). A selection of faults from the 2020 European Fault-Source Model is used to build the logic tree and to set the range of parameters considered in the PFDHAs. The methodology allows the (mostly conservative) approximation of the fault displacement corresponding to any given return period based on readily available data, namely fault productivity, fault mechanism, fault length, and lifeline crossing location on the fault. The proposed methodology has been proposed and adopted as an informative Annex in prEN 1998-4:2022.

**Keywords** Lifelines · Fault crossing · Design fault displacement · Uncertainties · Eurocodes

## Abbreviations and symbols

EFSM20	2020 European fault-source model
ESHM20	2020 European seismic hazard model
INT	Interplate tectonic environment
MAF	Mean annual frequency
PFDHA	Probabilistic fault displacement hazard analysis
SCR	Stable continental region tectonic environment

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$C_F$	Confidence factor
$L_F$	Fault length
$M$ or $m^*$	Earthquake (moment) magnitude
$PoE$	Probability of exceedance
$S_{\beta,475}$	Design spectral acceleration at period $T_\beta = 1$ s corresponding to a return period of 475 years per EN1998-1-1:2021
$T_R$	Return period
$X_L$	Normalized distance of lifeline–fault crossing point from closest fault end
$b$	$b$ -Value of Gutenberg–Richter law
$v_F$	Recurrence rate of all earthquakes on fault above a minimum magnitude
$v_{F,approx}$	Approximated recurrence rate
$v_{F,approx,u}$	Updated approximated recurrence rate with confidence factor
$\varepsilon$	Residuals of fitted model
$\lambda_{\Delta_F}$	Mean annual frequency of fault displacement at lifeline crossing site
$\sigma_\varepsilon$	Root mean square error of fitted model (prediction error)
$\Delta_F$ or $\delta_F^*$	Fault displacement at lifeline crossing site
*	lowercase letter denotes the value of the variable with uppercase letter

## 1 Introduction

The structural integrity and functionality of critical infrastructure, such as oil, gas, water, and sewage pipelines, as well as roads, tunnels, and bridges in the aftermath of an earthquake is decisive for the management of response actions by the civil protection authorities and heavily influences the seismic resilience of communities (Casari and Wilkie 2005; Fragiadakis et al. 2015; Kilanitis and Sextos 2019; Mazumder et al. 2020). A potential failure may result in injuries and human fatalities, environmental pollution, as well as significant direct and indirect economic losses (Somerville 1995; Basöz et al. 1999; Bird and Bommer 2004; Steinberg and Cruz 2004; Nair et al. 2018). Even though strict standards are applied during the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of these critical infrastructures, failures are still occurring. Among the most catastrophic earthquake-induced actions is the fault offset in case of large-magnitude earthquakes affecting the overlying structures. Fault offset is the differential displacement along a fault plane in the earth's crust, appearing wherever the causative fault rupture propagates up to the ground surface. Any structure subjected to fault offset has to follow the ground displacement by developing excessive deformations. This has been studied for buried pipelines (Girgin and Krausmann 2016), above-ground pipelines (Honegger et al. 2004), pipeline networks (O'Rourke 2010; O'Rourke et al. 2014), tunnels (Roy and Sarkar 2017), and bridges (Anastasopoulos and Gazetas 2007; Yang and Mavroeidis 2018).

The seismic resilience of critical lifelines and infrastructure against tectonic faulting can be secured within the framework of Performance-Based Earthquake Engineering (Cornell and Krawinkler 2000), which requires at first the quantification of the fault displacement hazard at the crossing site. The most appropriate methodology to do so is the Probabilistic Fault Displacement Hazard Analysis [PFDHA (Youngs et al. 2003; Moss and Ross 2011; Petersen et al. 2011; Valentini et al. 2021)]. A comprehensive framework for the performance assessment of buried pipelines at fault crossings has been presented by Melissianos et al. (2017), which was further refined and focused on the fault displacement hazard at lifeline–fault crossings on an engineering basis by Melissianos et al. (2023). PFDHA aims at quantifying the mean annual frequency of exceeding arbitrary fault displacement levels

at the lifeline crossing site, considering the dimensions and the seismological properties of the fault along with the location of the crossing lifeline on the fault trace (i.e., the crossing site). However, this is an advanced analysis with complicated probabilistic calculations based on a set of specialized seismological data [see for example the site-specific analysis for the Milun Fault in Taiwan recently published by Gao et al. (2022)] and thus unsuitable for being incorporated “as is” in code provisions.

In response, a code-compatible statistical approximation is developed for estimating the design fault displacement for application across Europe. A large number of PFDHAs was executed considering the pertinent uncertainties within a logic tree framework (Bommer and Scherbaum 2008) to handle the seismological and geometrical properties of faults obtained from the 2020 European Fault-Source Model [EFSM20 (Basili et al. 2022)] that was used for the development of the 2020 European Seismic Hazard Model [ESHM20 (Danciu et al. 2021)]. Further, the PFDHA results were statistically analyzed and a procedure for estimating the fault displacement was developed.

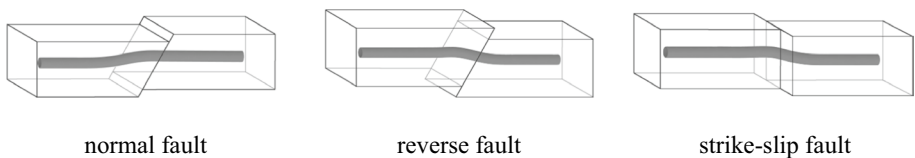
The main outcome of this study is a set of empirically-derived equations that establish a link between the fault displacement and key variables, such as the fault seismic productivity, the fault mechanism, the fault length, and the crossing point on the fault trace. These expressions constitute an engineering orientated and code-compatible methodology that allows the estimation of the design fault displacement for lifelines crossing active tectonic faults. This methodology is a structure-independent and hazard-consistent approach that is applicable by engineers, who are typically not familiar with detailed hazard calculations, as well as specialized seismological and geophysical data. The proposed methodology has been adopted in prEN 1998-4:2022 (European Committee for Standardisation 2022) as an informative Annex. It is important to emphasize that the methodology described should not be considered a substitute for a comprehensive assessment of fault displacement hazard specific to the site in question, particularly in cases involving high-risk infrastructure or when such an assessment is explicitly mandated by the owner of the infrastructure or regulatory authorities.

## 2 Proposed methodology

The proposed methodology for estimating the design fault displacement, referred as the EN1998-4 approach hereinafter, is implemented as follows:

1st step: The fault mechanism, the fault length, and the crossing point are determined for the lifeline–fault crossing at hand. In more detail:

- The fault mechanism determines the mechanical response of the fault-crossing structure. For example, the deformation of a buried pipeline subjected to normal, reverse, and strike-slip faulting is depicted in Fig. 1. Normal faulting causes pipe bending and elongation, reverse faulting causes pipe bending and shortening, while strike-slip faulting causes



**Fig. 1** Fault mechanisms and corresponding pipe deformation (the right block is the stationary, while the left is the moving one)

pipe bending (O'Rourke and Liu 2012). At this point, it shall be noted that the effect of fault trace uncertainty related to the propagation of rupture through soil until reaching the ground surface (e.g., Anastasopoulos et al. 2007, 2008; Loukidis et al. 2009) is not considered.

- The fault (subsurface) length ( $L_F$ ) can be obtained from a geological map or defined by an appropriate survey.
- The crossing point ( $X_L$ ) stands for the ratio of the distance along the fault trace of the lifeline–fault crossing point to the closest fault-end over the fault trace length as per Fig. 2; naturally  $0 < X_L \leq 0.50$ . The crossing point itself results from the lifeline route selection procedure.

2nd step: The recurrence rate ( $v_F$ ) of the fault, representing the earthquake occurrence, is the average annual rate of all earthquakes above a minimum magnitude and is derived either from an available source model or defined by a specialized seismological study. The minimum earthquake magnitude considered is 5.5, assuming that lower magnitudes do not cause enough fault displacement to endanger the lifeline integrity. Alternatively, the recurrence rate can be approximated ( $v_{F,approx}$ ) via the proposed methodology presented in Sect. 5 using the fault length ( $L_F$ ) and the the reference spectral acceleration at period  $T_\beta = 1$  s corresponding to a return period of  $T_R = 475$  years (as estimated via ESHM20) at the crossing site. The recurrence rate is classified into two categories as per Table 1.

3rd step: The return period ( $T_R$ ) of exceeding a selected fault displacement level at the lifeline–fault crossing is estimated as:

$$T_R(\Delta_F) = \frac{1}{C_F v_F f_L(\Delta_F, L_F, X_L)} \tag{1}$$

with  $0.25 \text{ m} \leq \Delta_F \leq 4.00 \text{ m}$  where:  $C_F$  is the confidence factor estimated after Eq. (3),  $v_F$  is the recurrence rate obtained from the 2nd step,  $f_L(\Delta_F, L_F, X_L)$  that depends on the fault

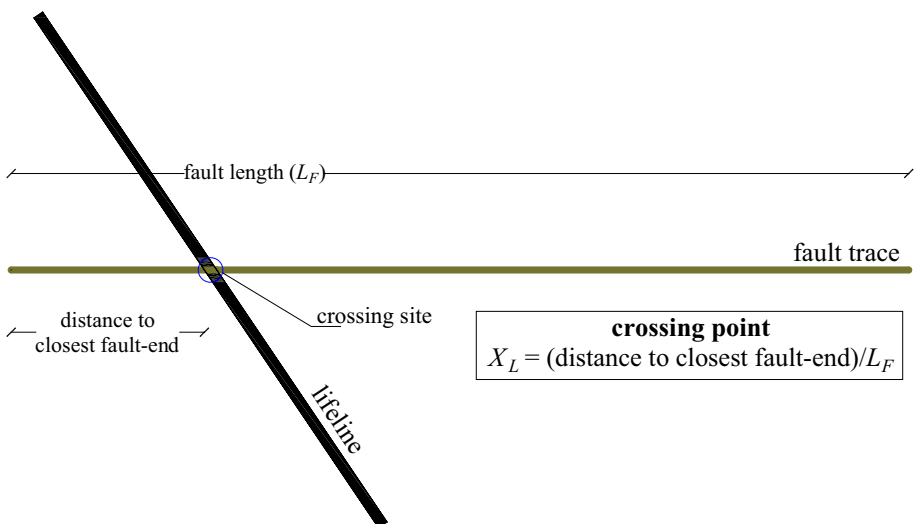


Fig. 2 Lifeline–fault crossing plan view

**Table 1** Recurrence rate ( $v_F$ ) classification

Class	Range in year <sup>-1</sup>
Low	$v_F \leq 0.10$
High	$v_F > 0.10$

mechanism, fault length, and crossing point; estimated for the selected fault displacement after Eq. (2) based on the recurrence rate classification of Table 1.

$$f_L(\Delta_F, L_F, X_L) = \exp \left[ \begin{array}{l} a_1 + a_2 \ln L_F + a_3 X_L + a_4 (\ln L_F)^2 + a_5 X_L \ln L_F + \\ a_6 X_L^2 + a_7 (\ln L_F)^3 + a_8 X_L (\ln L_F)^2 + a_9 X_L^2 \ln L_F \end{array} \right] \quad (2)$$

where  $\ln(\bullet)$  is the natural logarithm of its argument and the coefficients  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_9$  differ per recurrence rate class and  $\Delta_F$  value, as listed in A1 for normal fault, in Table A2 for reverse fault, and in Table A3 for strike-slip fault mechanism

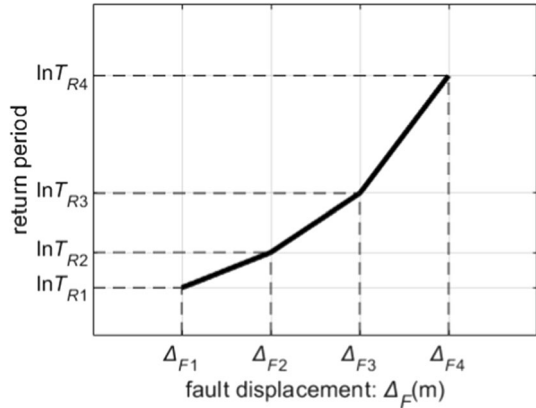
The confidence factor  $C_F$  is estimated as:

$$C_F = \begin{cases} 1.00 & \text{for } v_F \\ \text{Eq. (12)} & \text{for } v_{F,approx} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

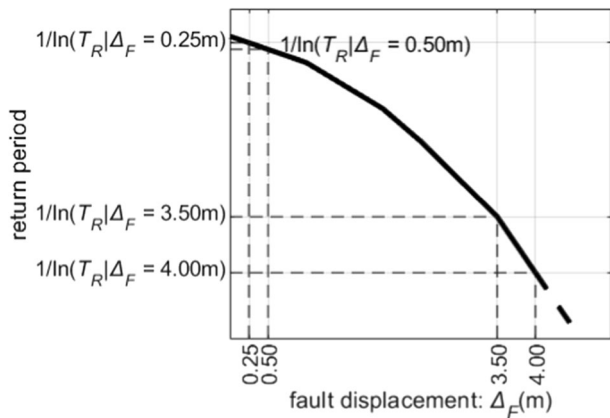
The following remarks should be additionally considered:

1. If there is uncertainty about the crossing point, then  $X_L = 0.50$  should be considered as the worst-case scenario because it yields a higher MAF of exceeding any fault displacement (Melissianos et al. 2023).
2. In case the fault displacement corresponding to a design return period is requested, as it is typically the case in design applications and it is the inverse of what is obtained from Eq. (1), linear interpolation in  $[\Delta_F, \ln T_R(\Delta_F)]$  space may be employed among the values estimated after Eq. (1) as per Fig. 3.
3. If the obtained fault displacement value is outside the range of Eq. (1), namely  $\Delta_F < 0.25$  m or  $\Delta_F > 4.00$  m, then linear extrapolation in the  $[\Delta_F, 1/\ln T_R(\Delta_F)]$  space may be employed as a conservative option (Fig. 4). If values lower than 0.10 m are obtained, then it is suggested to consider  $\Delta_F = 0.10$  m as a minimum design value for safety reasons. If values significantly higher than 4.00 m are estimated, then a more detailed site-specific seismological study should be performed.
4. If the approximated recurrence rate has been employed (see Sect. 5), then the design fault displacement value should be the minimum between the one obtained via the interpolation of Fig. 3 and the deterministic cap of Table 2. The deterministic cap is roughly the 90% percentile of the empirical fault scaling relations of Leonard (2014) that relate the average fault displacement with the fault length.
5. Only principal faulting is considered, while any additional differential displacement appearing at sites away from the fault trace due to distributed/secondary faulting (i.e., displacements, shear, fractures, etc. located up to a few kilometers from the principal fault) is neglected.

**Fig. 3** Determination of the  $\ln T_R(\Delta_F)$  versus  $\Delta_F$  relationship via linear interpolation ( $T_R$  in years)



**Fig. 4** Linear extrapolation of the  $1/\ln T_R(\Delta_F)$  versus  $\Delta_F$  relationship for fault displacement  $\Delta_F < 0.25$  m and  $\Delta_F > 4.00$  m ( $T_R$  in years)



**Table 2** Fault displacement deterministic cap ( $\Delta_{F,det.cap}$ )

Fault mechanism	Fault displacement cap ( $\Delta_{F,det.cap}$ in m and $L_F$ in km)
Normal	$\Delta_{F,det.cap} = 0.182L_F^{0.833}$
Reverse	$\Delta_{F,det.cap} = 0.182L_F^{0.833}$
Strike-slip	$\Delta_{F,det.cap} = 0.130L_F^{0.833}$ for $L_F \leq 40$ km
	$\Delta_{F,det.cap} = 0.451L_F^{0.500}$ for $L_F > 40$ km

### 3 Methodology background

#### 3.1 Fault displacement hazard calculation

The (mostly) rate-independent function  $f_L(\Delta_F, L_F, X_L)$  of Eq. (2) has been derived from the statistical processing of a large number of PFDHA results that were carried out

using the baseline engineering approach developed by Melissianos et al. (2017, 2023). In particular, PFDHA yields the mean annual frequency (MAF) of exceeding a predefined fault displacement ( $\delta_F$ ) on the lifeline crossing site, calculated as:

$$\lambda_{\Delta_F}(\delta_F) = \nu_F PoE \tag{4}$$

where the probability of exceeding ( $PoE$ ) a given fault displacement value is:

$$PoE = \sum_i P(\Delta_F > \delta_F | m_i) P_M(m_i) \tag{5}$$

$P(\Delta_F > \delta_F | m_i)$  the conditional probability that fault displacement  $\Delta_F$  will exceed value  $\delta_F$  given an earthquake of magnitude  $m_i$  has occurred and  $P_M(m_i)$  is the probability of the earthquake magnitude  $M$  being in a bin of  $m_i \pm \Delta m$ , provided that  $M$  ranges between a minimum ( $M_{min}$ ) and a maximum ( $M_{max}$ ) value.  $P_M(m_i)$  is estimated after the Gutenberg–Richter (G-R) bounded recurrence law (Gutenberg and Richter 1944):

$$P_M(m_i) = P(M < m_i + \Delta m | M_{min} \leq m_i \leq M_{max}) - P(M > m_i - \Delta m | M_{min} \leq m_i \leq M_{max})$$

with:

$$P(M < m_i | M_{min} \leq m_i \leq M_{max}) = \frac{1 - \exp[-b(m_i - M_{min})]}{1 - \exp[-b(M_{max} - M_{min})]} \tag{6}$$

where the  $b$ -value is the slope of the curve that provides the “expected” future earthquake magnitudes and is a seismological property of the fault.

The main input for performing the fault displacement hazard calculations is:

- fault mechanism and length, which are available to the engineer from a geological map or a seismic source model,
- the  $b$ -value of the G-R law and the maximum earthquake magnitude ( $M_{max}$ ), which are specialized seismological information, being estimated by other specialists and not engineers,
- and the crossing point, which is defined from the lifeline route selection procedure (e.g., Seel et al. 2014; Hamid-Mosaku et al. 2020).

The fault mechanism, fault length, and the crossing point are direct input parameters for the proposed methodology (Sect. 2), while the  $b$ -value of the G-R law and the maximum earthquake magnitude were considered as epistemic uncertainties related to the model parameters and were handled through logic trees (Bommer and Scherbaum 2008).

### 3.2 Database of active faults

A selection from the ESFM20 database of seismically active faults (Basili et al. 2022) that was created for the development of ESHM20 (Danciu et al. 2021) was exploited through a data mining process. The aim was to identify the main properties of the faults in order to (1) define the range of parameters (fault mechanism, tectonic environment, fault length) for examination and (2) develop the appropriate logic trees for handling the uncertainties on variables. It is noted that for engineering purposes, we excluded from the analysis

faults with length  $L_F < 10$  km and  $L_F > 300$  km, as well as (blind) faults whose uppermost boundary is located deeper than 3 km from the surface.

### 3.2.1 Tectonic environment and fault mechanism

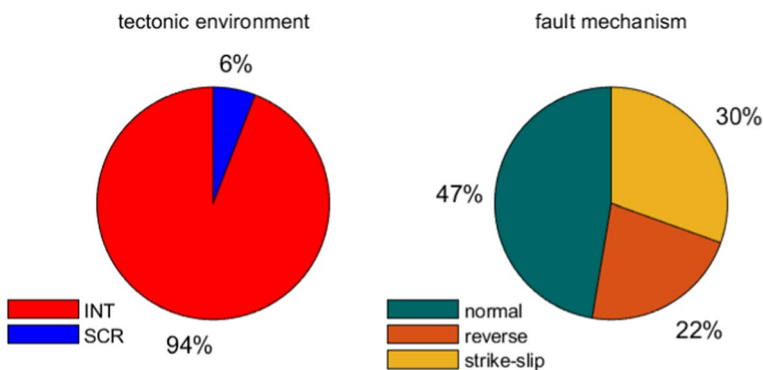
The faults examined are mapped in Fig. 5, distinguished by tectonic environment between Interplate (INT) and Stable Continental Region (SCR). A statistical analysis of the number of faults per tectonic environment and mechanism, separately, is shown in Fig. 6. The vast majority of faults are INT (94%) compared to SCR ones (6%). Regarding the fault mechanism, nearly half of the faults are normal, while reverse faults are the fewest.

### 3.2.2 Gutenberg–Richter law $b$ -value

The G-R law is an integral part of the fault displacement hazard calculation (Kramer 1996) and even though it was developed in the 1940s, it remains a standard tool for estimating the magnitude of future earthquakes (Bommer 2002). The  $b$ -value is a



**Fig. 5** Map of faults classified per tectonic environment (INT: red, SCR: blue), a selection from the EFSM20 database (Danciu et al. 2021; Basili et al. 2022)



**Fig. 6** Tectonic environment and mechanism of examined faults [a selection from the EFSM20 database (Danciu et al. 2021; Basili et al. 2022)]



seismogenic parameter and is the negative slope of the recurrence curve expressing the average ratio of exponentially distributed small and large magnitude earthquakes (Danciu et al. 2021) and affects the shape of the fault displacement hazard curve at the crossing site (Melissianos et al. 2023). In ESHM20, a single  $b$ -value is used for each active tectonic fault, since the sensitivity analysis revealed that the uncertainty of  $b$ -value has lower impact on the magnitude-frequency-distributions compared to the fault slip-rates and  $M_{max}$  uncertainties. The  $b$ -values were calculated via a set of complex procedures presented in the documentation of ESHM20, being related to the declustering of catalogues of recorded earthquakes.

The distribution of  $b$ -values per tectonic environment is presented in Fig. 7, where it is revealed that the predominant value is  $b = 1.00$ , while the number of faults with  $b > 1.00$  is much lower than those with  $b < 1.00$ . The same conclusions are drawn regarding the distribution of  $b$ -values per fault mechanism (Fig. 8).

### 3.2.3 Earthquake recurrence rate

The earthquake recurrence rate of a fault provides the average annual number of events above the minimum earthquake magnitude of engineering significance,  $M_{min}$ . The value  $M_{min} = 5.5$  is adopted on the basis of engineering and scientific judgement and since

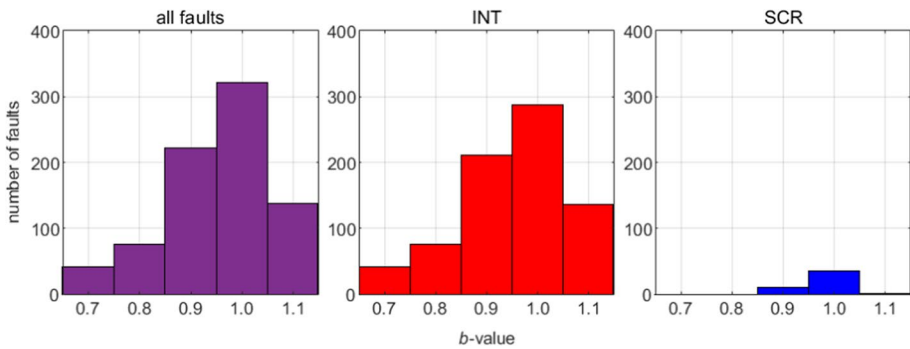


Fig. 7 Histograms of G-R  $b$ -value per tectonic environment

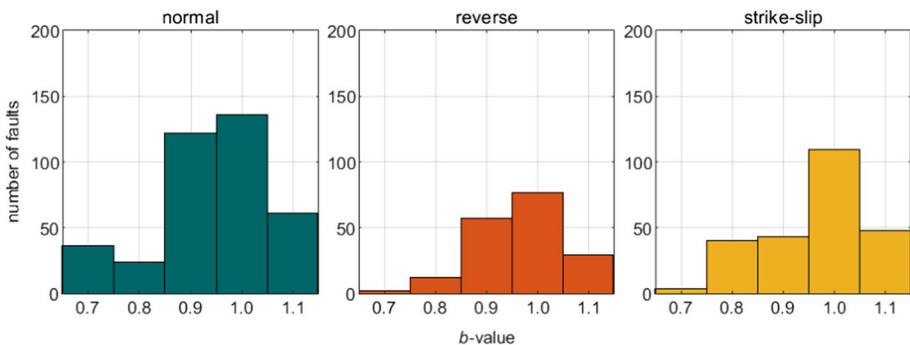


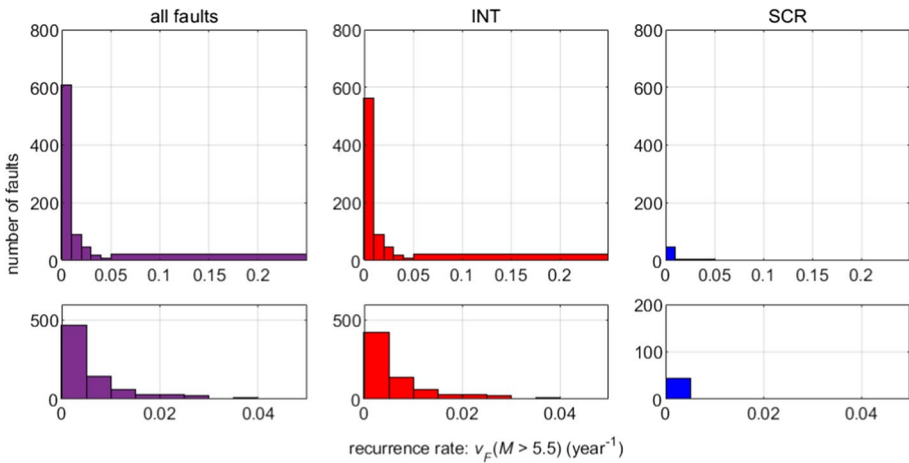
Fig. 8 Histograms of G-R  $b$ -value per fault mechanism

the resulting fault displacement for lower magnitude values is insignificant. The latter is based on the effect of the conditional probability of slip that is an integral part of PFDHA and represents the probability of the rupture reaching the surface, conditioned only on earthquake magnitude. For all three fault mechanisms, a magnitude  $M > 5.50$  event is required to have at least 20% probability for the rupture to even reach the surface (Melissianos et al. 2023).

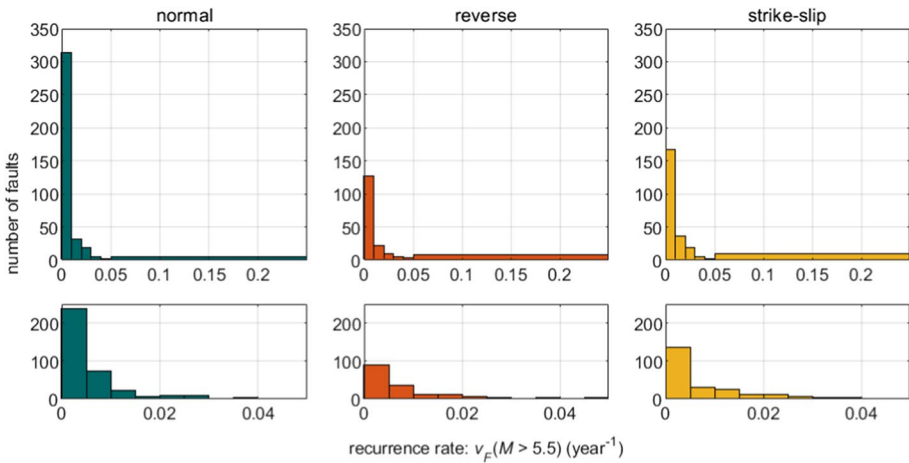
The rate of events with magnitude higher than  $M_{min}$  is estimated via the formula:

$$v_F(M > M_{min}) = 10^{a-bM_{min}} \tag{7}$$

where the  $a$ -value (representing the total seismic productivity of a given fault) and the  $b$ -value (Sect. 3.2.2) can be obtained from a site-specific geological study or (in our case)



**Fig. 9** Histograms of earthquake recurrence rate values,  $v_F(M > 5.5)$ , of faults per tectonic environment (top row: full range of rate values, bottom row: rates lower than  $0.05 \text{ year}^{-1}$ )



**Fig. 10** Histograms of earthquake recurrence rate values,  $v_F(M > 5.5)$ , of faults per mechanism (top row: full range of rate values, bottom row: rates below  $0.05 \text{ year}^{-1}$ )

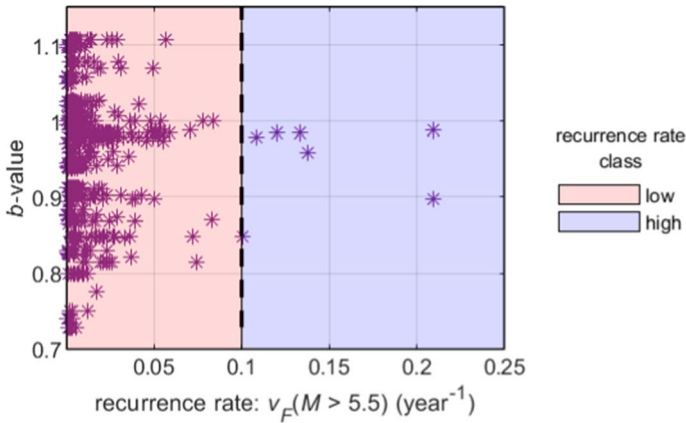


Fig. 11 *b*-value versus  $\nu_F(M > 5.5)$  and definition of recurrence rate classes

the EFSM20. The resulting rate for each fault of the database has been estimated and the results are presented in Fig. 9 per tectonic environment. As expected, the rate of SCR faults is much lower compared to the more active INT faults. The distribution of rates per fault mechanism is depicted in Fig. 10, indicating a significant scattering of values.

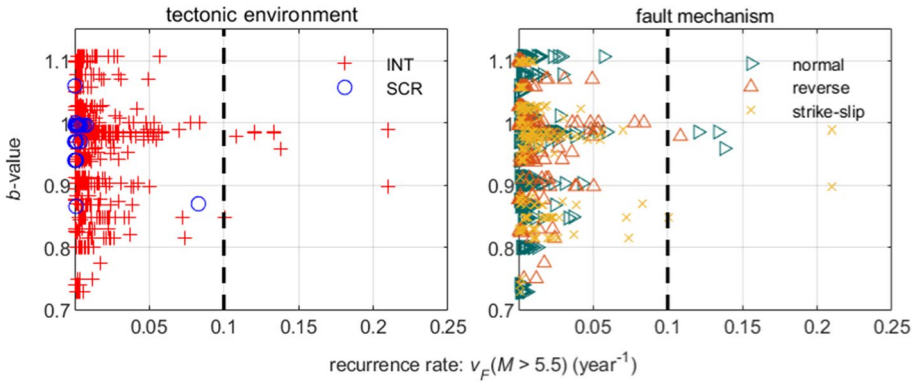
### 3.3 Handling of uncertainties

The epistemic uncertainties related to the model parameters, namely the *b*-value of the G-R law and the maximum earthquake magnitude, are handled through logic trees. Additionally, provided that the SCR faults are few compared to the INT ones, the tectonic environment is also treated as an epistemic uncertainty due to the involvement of expert judgment and sometimes subjective definition. Every logic tree branch leads to an alternative scenario or, in other words, to a different mean annual frequency (MAF) of exceeding a predefined fault displacement.

#### 3.3.1 Logic tree of Gutenberg–Richter *b*-value

The *b*-value is related to the earthquake recurrence rate  $\nu_F$ , as depicted in Fig. 11 for the active faults of the database. Therein, the earthquake recurrence rate is plotted on the horizontal axis and the *b*-value on the vertical one. The two recurrence rate classes (Table 1) are also presented, with their boundary defined empirically based on a direct search for optimal classification.

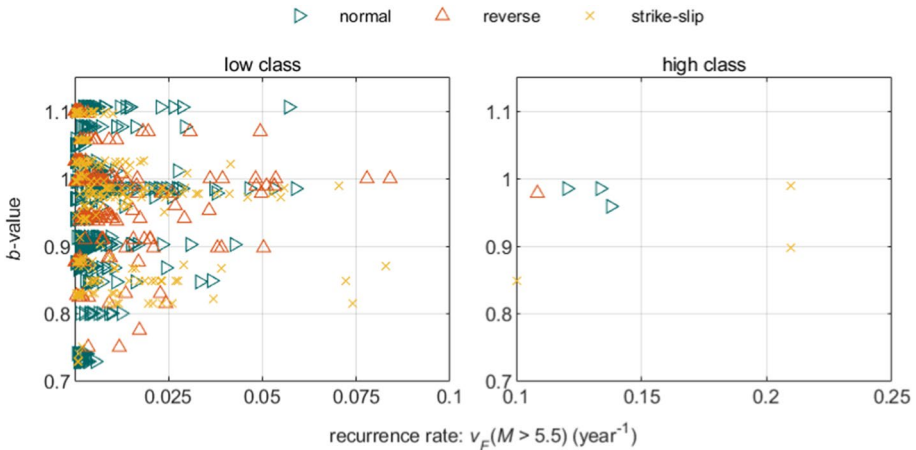
A further breakdown of Fig. 11 per tectonic environment and fault mechanism is provided in Fig. 12. Regarding the tectonic environment, SCR faults could be found only in the low recurrence rate class, as should be expected. Also, significant scattering of the values with respect to the fault mechanism was detected and consequently, it was decided to handle the *b*-values in each recurrence rate class independently per fault mechanism (Table 3). In both classes, distinct patterns of the relationship  $\nu_F(M > 5.5) \sim f(b)$  can be observed given the fault mechanism (Fig. 13).



**Fig. 12** *b*-value versus  $v_F(M > 5.5)$  per tectonic environment and fault mechanism [the dashed vertical line separates the low from high recurrence rate class]

**Table 3** Logic tree formulation for the *b*-value based on  $v_F(M > 5.5)$  classification

Recurrence rate class	Tectonic environment	Fault mechanism
Low	INT, SCR	Normal, reverse, strike-slip
High	INT	Normal, reverse, strike-slip



**Fig. 13** Gutenberg-Richter *b*-value from ESHM20 versus  $v_F(M > 5.5)$  estimated after Eq. (7) using ESHM20 values; results are shown here per fault mechanism in both recurrence rate classes

The logic tree branches for the *b*-value were distinguished using the *k*-means clustering method (Mackay 2005) to near-optimally partition the *b*-values into discrete sets that minimize the within-cluster sum of squares. The clustering was applied separately for each recurrence rate class as per Table 4. Clustering for INT and SCR faults per fault mechanism for the low recurrence rate class is illustrated in Figs. 14 and 15,

**Table 4** Clusters of  $b$ -value per recurrence rate [ $v_r(M > 5.5)$ ] class, tectonic environment, and fault mechanism

Recurrence rate class	Tectonic environment	Fault mechanism						
			C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6
Low	INT	Normal	0.7289 <sup>†</sup> (0.1050) <sup>‡</sup>	0.8681 (0.1603)	0.9027 (0.2362)	0.9853 (0.2303)	1.0259 (0.1399)	1.1063 (0.1283)
		Reverse	0.8260 (0.0833)	0.8830 (0.1488)	0.9409 (0.2143)	0.9960 (0.2383)	1.0259 (0.1190)	1.0985 (0.1190)
		Strike-slip	0.8297 (0.1830)	0.8770 (0.1404)	0.9544 (0.0681)	0.9784 (0.2383)	1.0259 (0.2298)	1.0971 (0.1404)
	SCR	Normal	0.9397 (0.3030)	0.9700 (0.6667)	1.0592 (0.0303)			
		Reverse	0.9960 (0.8750)	1.0000 (0.1250)				
		Strike-slip	0.8700 (0.1667)	0.9960 (0.8333)				
	High	INT	Normal	0.9853 (1.0000)				
			Reverse	0.9784 (1.0000)				
			Strike-slip	0.8734 (0.6667)	0.9891 (0.3333)			

<sup>†</sup>Cluster centroid (logic tree branch value)

<sup>‡</sup>Cluster weight factor (logic tree branch weight factor)

respectively. As expected, a lot of clusters were required for INT faults, contrary to SCR faults. The appropriate clustering of  $b$ -values per fault mechanism for the high recurrence rate class is illustrated in Fig. 16. The limited number of faults with a high recurrence rate in the cases of normal and reverse faults drove the  $k$ -means algorithm to create a single cluster. Finally, all clusters of  $b$ -values (centroid and weight factor) are summarized in Table 4.

### 3.3.2 Logic tree of maximum earthquake magnitude

The G-R law for estimating the probability of future earthquake magnitudes is bounded between a minimum value of engineering significance and a “physics-based” upper bound value ( $M_{max}$ ). The latter is a seismogenic parameter that is usually unknown to the engineer/designer, being highly uncertain and typically related to the dimensions of the fault, namely length, width, area (Wells and Coppersmith 1994; Wang 2018). One can explore the  $M_{max}$  values of the fault database, similarly to what was done for the  $b$ -values. Still, this could lead to multiple clusters of  $M_{max}$  given fault length, resulting to a substantial increase in the size of the logic tree and the needed calculations. Instead, it was decided to take advantage of already available models, i.e., obtain the  $M_{max}$  values from the fault scaling relations of Leonard (2014) based on the fault length. The empirical expressions of Leonard (2014) relating earthquake magnitude and fault length (mean value and standard

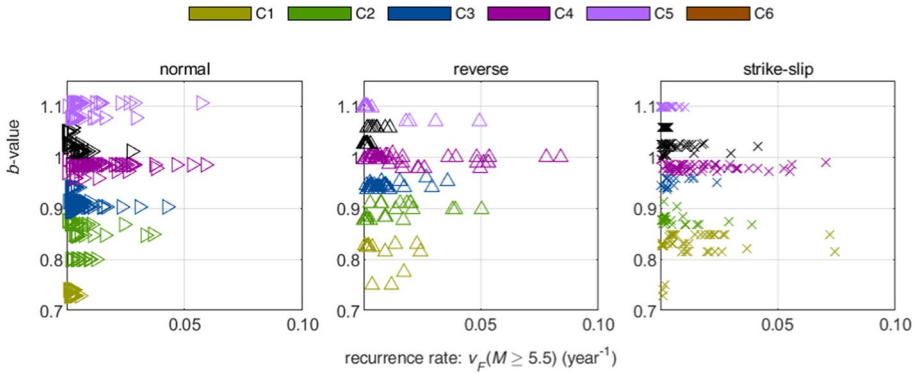


Fig. 14 Clustering of  $b$ -values with respect to  $v_F(M > 5.5)$ : INT faults at low recurrence rate class

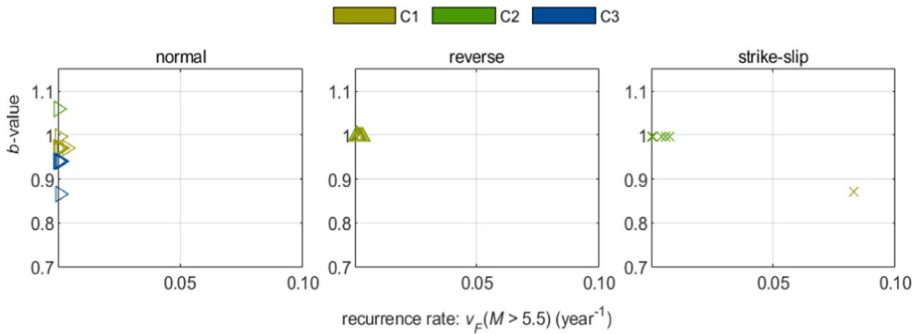


Fig. 15 Clustering of  $b$ -values with respect to  $v_F(M > 5.5)$ : SCR faults at low recurrence rate class

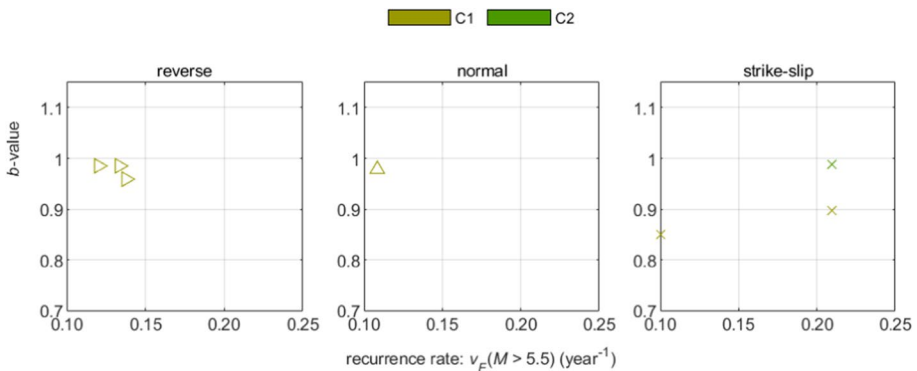


Fig. 16 Clustering of  $b$ -values with respect to  $v_F(M > 5.5)$ : INT faults at high recurrence rate class

deviation) are listed in Table 5. It is noted that the scaling relations of Leonard (2014) were utilized within EFSM20 and ESHM20.

The uncertainty on the estimation of  $M_{max}$  was handled through a logic tree formulation per tectonic environment and style-of-faulting. In each case, three branches were considered as per Table 6, where  $M_{max,A}$  is the average value, while  $M_{max,L}$ ,  $M_{max,U}$  are the

**Table 5** Empirical fault scaling relation  $M_{max} = a + \beta \log_{10} L_F$  after Leonard (2014)

Tectonic environment	Fault mechanism	$a$	$\beta$	$a_{min}^\dagger$	$a_{max}^\ddagger$	Range of $L_F$ (km)
INT	Normal	4.24	1.667	3.81	4.73	> 10.0
	Reverse	4.24	1.667	3.81	4.73	> 10.0
	Strike-slip	4.17	1.667	3.87	4.45	3.4–40.0
SCR		5.23	1.000	4.84	5.62	> 40.0
	Normal	4.32	1.667	4.12	4.51	> 10.0
	Reverse	4.32	1.667	4.12	4.51	> 10.0
	Strike-slip	4.25	1.667	4.07	4.43	10.0–60.0
		5.43	1.000	5.25	5.62	> 60.0

The parameter  $\beta$  is a constant and the standard deviation of the relation equals the standard deviation of parameter  $a$

$^\dagger$ Mean minus one standard deviation

$^\ddagger$ Mean plus one standard deviation

**Table 6** Logic tree formulation for  $M_{max}$

Magnitude value	Weight factor
$M_{max,L} = a_{min} + \beta \log_{10} L_F$	$w_L = (1 - w_m)/2$
$M_{max,A} = a + \beta \log_{10} L_F$	$w_A = w_m$
$M_{max,U} = a_{max} + \beta \log_{10} L_F$	$w_U = (1 - w_m)/2$

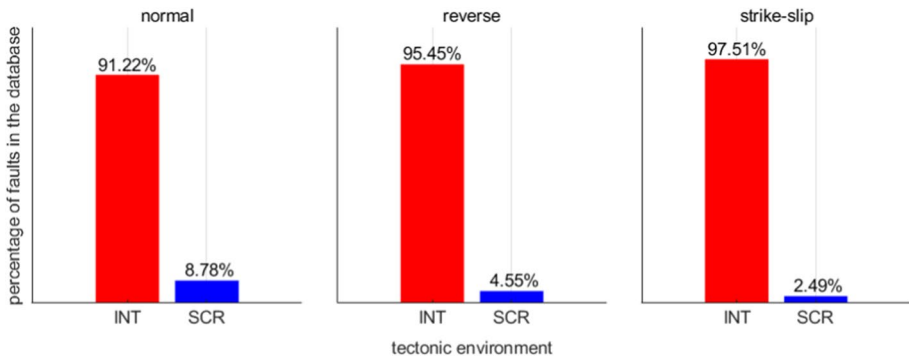
average minus/plus one standard deviation, respectively. The standard deviation is equal to  $(a_{max} - a_{min})/2$ , where  $a_{max}$  and  $a_{min}$  are given in Table 5. The weight factors for each branch are also provided in Table 6, where  $w_m$  was computed for each case so as to obtain the same standard deviation provided by Leonard (2014).

At this point it should be noted that the fault slip rate, which can be instrumentally monitored, is considered constant for a particular fault. Therefore, when the maximum earthquake magnitude is modified within a logic tree formulation as per Table 6, the number of events, as expressed via the recurrence rate  $v_F$ , has to be adjusted in order to be consistent with the constant slip rate. This is because, for example, an event of high magnitude leads to the release of more energy than a low magnitude one. Thus, a high  $M_{max}$  that would allow such high-magnitude events to occur, should be combined with an overall reduced rate events in order for the energy balance to be stable. In other words, the energy released due to earthquakes should balance the energy introduced due to slip. This may be achieved by pairing a high estimate for  $M_{max}$  with a low  $a$ -value for the G-R law and vice versa. Theoretically, an appropriate formula should be used, as the one proposed by Youngs and Coppersmith (1986), to relate the earthquake magnitude, the slip rate, and the recurrence rate among other parameters. However, the proposed methodology is generic and such a formula cannot be practically implemented because the developed logic tree for  $M_{max}$  (Table 6) has to deal with numerous different faults, rather than be optimized for a single one.

To overcome this hurdle and be consistent with the constant slip rate, a generic logic tree is adopted, following the actual trends but correcting via the mean value of many faults. Specifically, the hazard curves calculated with  $M_{max,L}$  (low maximum magnitude value) were weighted by the mean  $(a_{GR,ML})/\text{mean}(a_{GR,MA})$  ratio, while the hazard

**Table 7** Ratios of mean  $a$ -values of the G-R law to account for the constant slip rate, as calculated per given recurrence rate class, tectonic environment, and fault mechanism

Recurrence rate class	Tectonic environment	Fault mechanism	$\text{mean}(a_{GR,ML})/\text{mean}(a_{GR,MA})$	$\text{mean}(a_{GR,MU})/\text{mean}(a_{GR,MA})$
Low	INT	Normal	1.0861	0.9176
		Reverse	1.0716	0.9436
		Strike-slip	1.0769	0.9212
	SCR	Normal	1.1230	0.8167
		Reverse	1.0742	0.9382
		Strike-slip	1.0721	0.9206
High	INT	Normal	1.0313	0.9349
		Reverse	1.0475	0.9501
		Strike-slip	1.0562	0.9410

**Fig. 17** Percentage of faults with respect to the tectonic environment (INT versus SCR) per mechanism for the low recurrence rate class

curves calculated with  $M_{max,U}$  (high maximum magnitude value) were multiplied with  $\text{mean}(a_{GR,MU})/\text{mean}(a_{GR,MA})$ , where the corresponding means were taken over all faults within a “bin” of given tectonic environment, fault mechanism, and recurrence rate class. For the faults falling within each such bin,  $\text{mean}(a_{GR,ML})$  is the mean of pertinent  $a$ -values of the G-R law from the fault database that correspond to the low magnitude value,  $\text{mean}(a_{GR,MA})$  is the mean of  $a$ -values that correspond to the average magnitude value, and  $\text{mean}(a_{GR,MU})$  is the mean of  $a$ -values that correspond to the high magnitude value. The final ratios are tabulated in Table 7.

### 3.3.3 Logic tree of tectonic environment

The tectonic environment of the fault should normally be a known property. Yet, it will most probably be an unknown to a practitioner and code user. Thus, it becomes a source of epistemic uncertainty to be handled within a logic tree formulation for the low recurrence rate class, which is the only environment where both INT and SCR faults can coexist. In



the developed single-level logic tree per fault mechanism, the weight factor of each one of the two branches, namely INT and SCR faults, equals the percentage of faults in each tectonic environment, as illustrated in Fig. 17.

### 3.3.4 Combined 2/3-level logic tree

In total, six logic trees are developed per recurrence rate class and fault mechanism, namely three logic trees (normal, reverse, and strike-slip fault mechanism) in low recurrence rate class and three logic trees (normal, reverse, and strike-slip fault mechanism) in high recurrence rate class. The combined 2/3-level logic trees are presented indicatively for normal fault mechanism at low recurrence rate class in Fig. 18 and at high recurrence rate in Fig. 19. It is recalled that only INT faults can be found in high recurrence rate class (see Sect. 3.3.1, Tables 3, and 4).

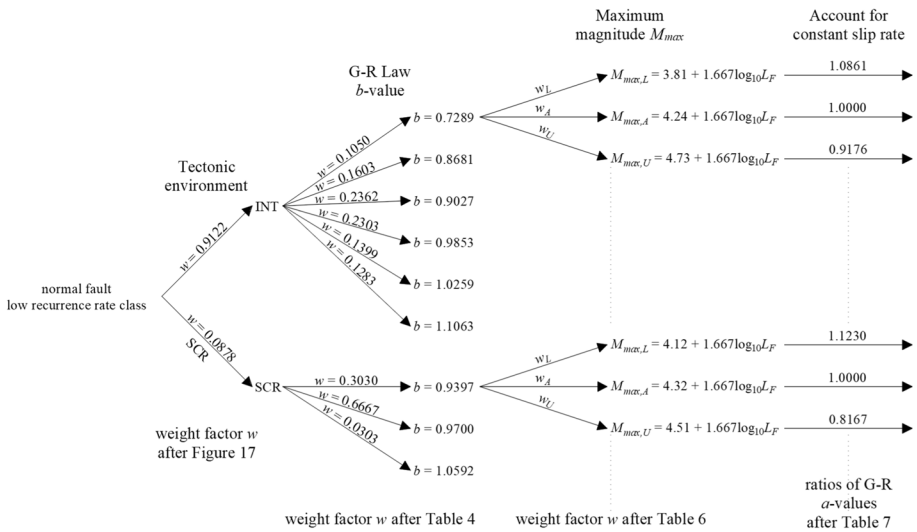


Fig. 18 Logic tree for normal fault at low recurrence rate class

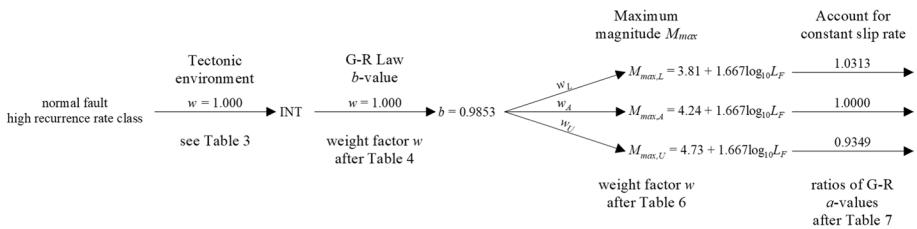


Fig. 19 Logic tree for normal fault at high recurrence rate class

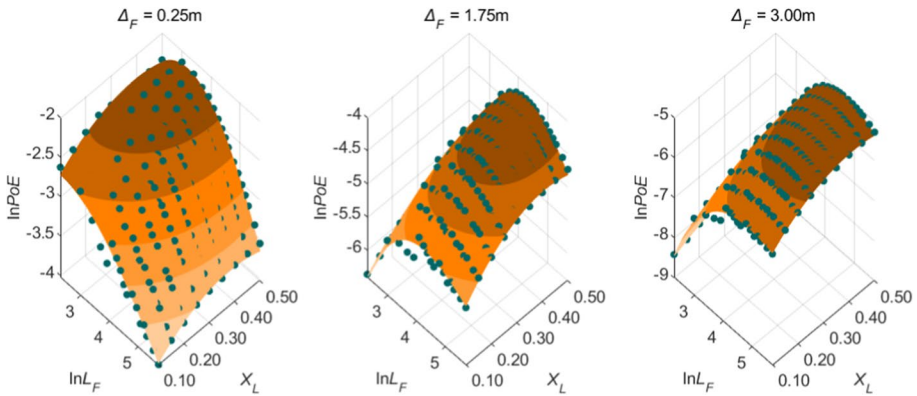
**Table 8** Analysis scheme for each PFDHA

Level		
1	Input parameters	Fault length ( $L_F$ ) and crossing point ( $X_L$ )
2		Recurrence rate class: low / high (Table 1)
3		Fault mechanism: normal / reverse / strike-slip
4	Logic tree	Tectonic environment [interplate (INT) / stable continental region (SCR)]: Analysis per recurrence rate class and fault mechanism: INT and SCR faults considered for low recurrence rate class with weight factors after Fig. 17, while only INT faults are considered for high recurrence rate class
5		G-R b-value: Analysis per recurrence rate class, tectonic environment, and fault mechanism with mean values and weight factors after Table 4
6		Maximum earthquake magnitude ( $M_{max}$ ): Analysis per tectonic environment and fault mechanisms with mean values after Table 5 and corresponding weight factors after Table 6

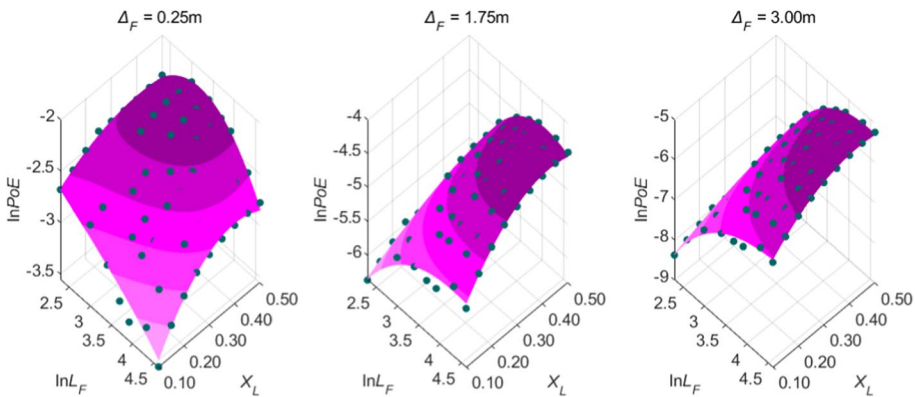
### 3.4 PFDHA results

PFDHAs were carried out following the analysis scheme presented in Table 8 for a range of fault lengths  $10 \text{ km} \leq L_F \leq 300 \text{ km}$  and for crossing points  $0.10 \leq X_L \leq 0.50$ , the latter with a step of 0.05. The probability of exceedance ( $PoE$ ) after Eq. (5) was obtained from each analysis.

Polynomial surface fitting was carried out on the results for predefined fault displacement values of Table A1 through Table A3 with respect to fault length and crossing point. The statistical model of Eq. (2) was developed separately for each recurrence rate class and fault mechanism. Indicative results of the fitted surfaces for normal faults at the low and high recurrence rate classes are depicted in Figs. 20 and 21, respectively. The natural logarithm of the fault length ( $\ln L_F$ ) with  $10 \text{ km} \leq L_F \leq 300 \text{ km}$  (see Sect. 3.2) and the crossing point ( $X_L$ ) with  $0 \leq X_L \leq 0.50$  are shown in the two horizontal axes, while the natural logarithm of the probability of exceedance ( $\ln PoE$ ) obtained after Eq. (5) is shown in the vertical axis. Essentially, the function  $f_L(\Delta_F, L_F, X_L)$  of Eq. (2) is  $f_L(\Delta_F, L_F, X_L) = PoE$ . Note that although a sum-of-square-errors criterion was minimized for optimal fitting, this is not a regression, where overfitting and bias-variance considerations are important; instead, it is a curve-fitting operation, where there is only one valid outcome for every combination of inputs and ease of use is our only limitation in terms of the fitted form.



**Fig. 20** Surface fitting for normal fault, low recurrence rate class, and various fault displacements (fault length  $L_F$  in km)



**Fig. 21** Surface fitting for normal fault, high recurrence rate class, and various fault displacements (fault length  $L_F$  in km)

## 4 Methodology evaluation and application

### 4.1 Evaluation of results

The proposed methodology (abbreviated as the EN1998-4 approach) is applied to an indicative set of faults from the fault database (see Sect. 3.2), featuring different dimensions and seismological properties. The INT faults under examination are listed in Table 9 and the SCR faults in Table 10. The EN1998-4 approach is evaluated by comparing the obtained return period after Eq. (1) for the predefined fault displacement values of Table A1 through Table A3 to the one obtained from a full PFDHA after Eq. (4). It is noted that the maximum earthquake magnitude considered in a fault displacement hazard analysis affects significantly the resulting MAFs (Melissianos et al. 2023) or equivalently the return period. Thus, it is important to examine this effect when comparing the EN1998-4 approach with a

**Table 9** Interplate (INT) faults under examination

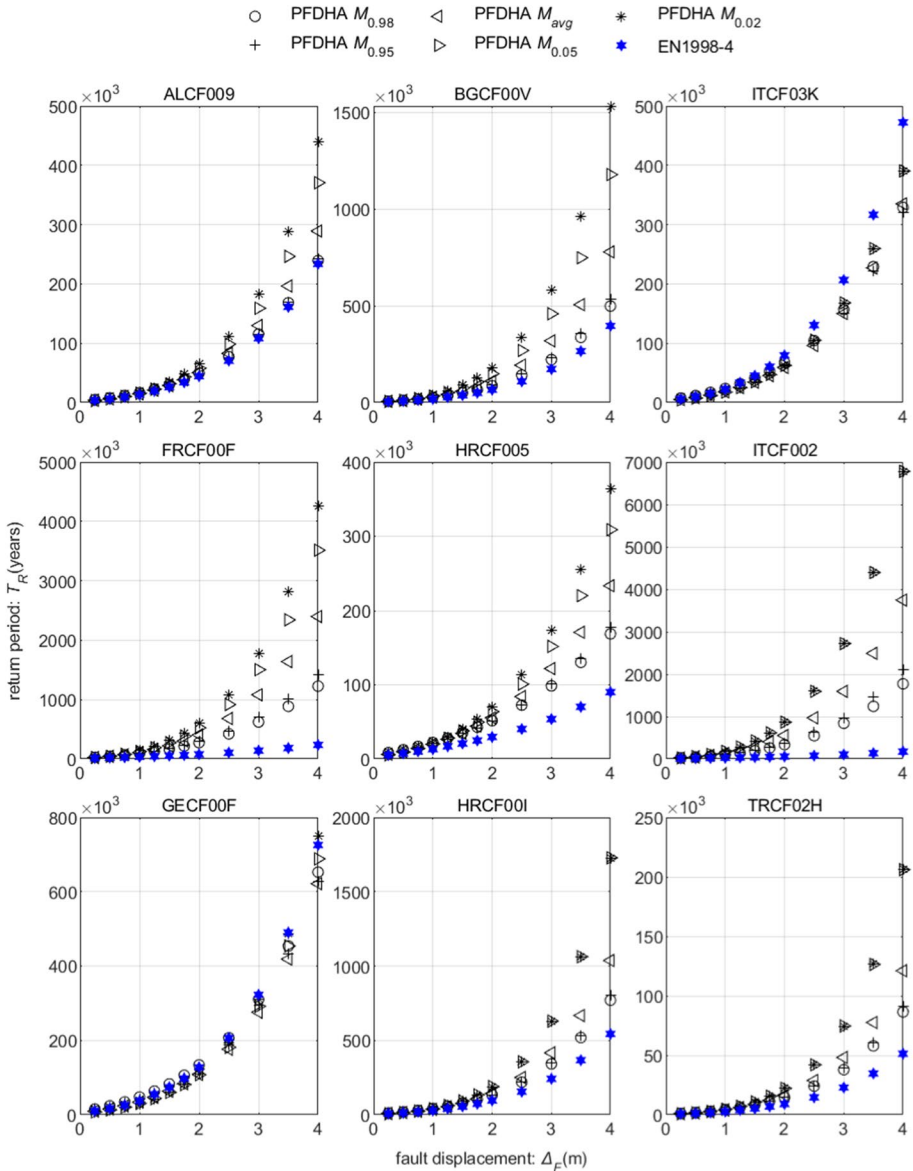
Fault name	Tectonic environment	Fault mechanism	$L_f$ (km)	$M_{0.02}$	$M_{0.05}$	$M_{avg}$	$M_{0.95}$	$M_{0.98}$	$M_{L2014}$
ALCF009	INT	Normal	30.00	6.50	6.60	6.80	7.10	7.20	6.70
BGCF00V	INT	Normal	29.92	6.10	6.20	6.40	6.70	6.80	6.70
ITCF03K	INT	Normal	30.06	6.60	6.60	6.80	7.10	7.20	6.70
FRCF00F	INT	Reverse	159.83	6.40	6.50	6.70	7.00	7.10	7.91
HRCF005	INT	Reverse	159.91	6.90	7.00	7.20	7.50	7.60	7.91
ITCF002	INT	Reverse	160.18	6.20	6.20	6.50	6.80	6.90	7.91
GEFC00F	INT	Strike-slip	49.68	6.80	6.90	7.10	7.40	7.50	6.93
HRCF00I	INT	Strike-slip	49.92	6.40	6.40	6.70	7.00	7.10	6.93
TRCF02H	INT	Strike-slip	49.99	6.40	6.40	6.70	7.00	7.10	6.93

**Table 10** Stable continental region (SCR) faults under examination

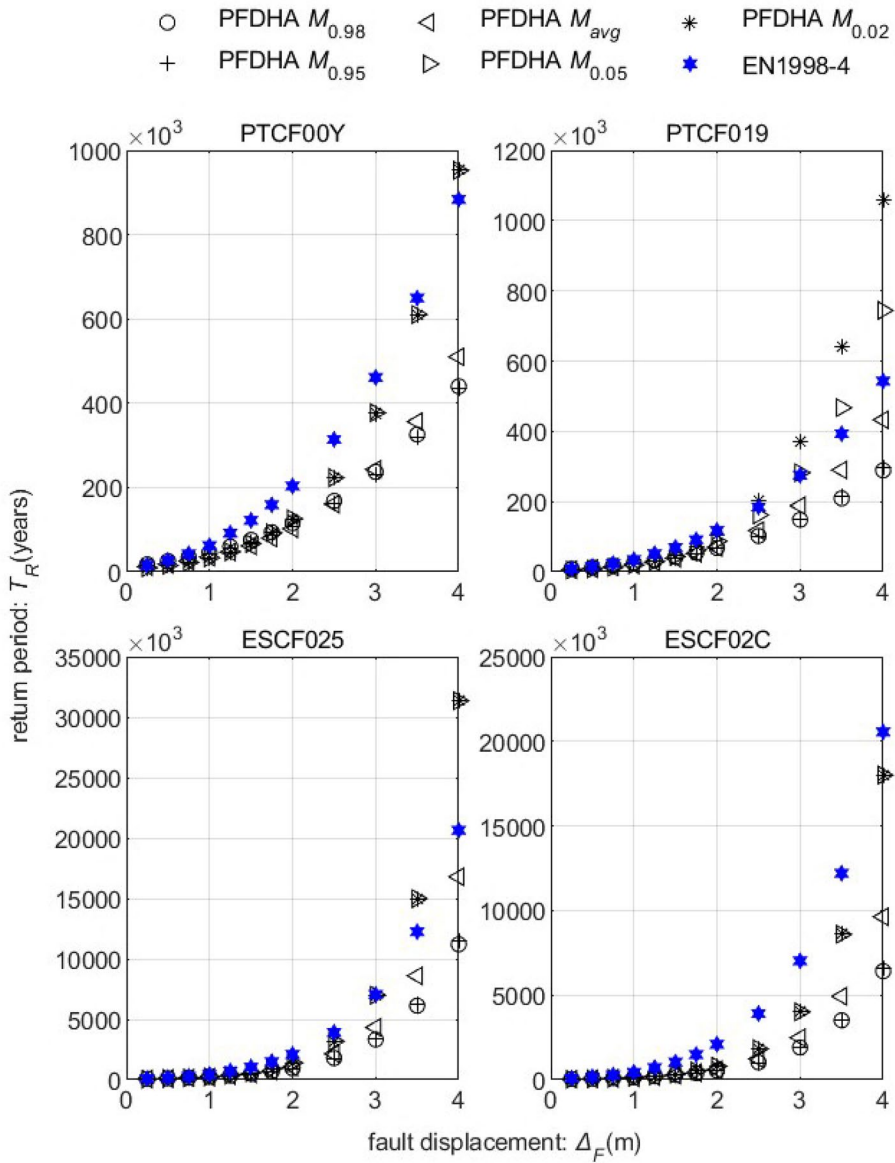
Fault name	Tectonic environment	Fault mechanism	$L_f$ (km)	$M_{0.02}$	$M_{0.05}$	$M_{avg}$	$M_{0.95}$	$M_{0.98}$	$M_{L2014}$
PTCF00Y	SCR	Normal	38.93	6.90	6.90	7.20	7.50	7.60	6.91
PTCF019	SCR	Normal	35.59	6.70	6.80	7.00	7.30	7.40	6.91
ESCF025	SCR	Strike-slip	17.81	6.40	6.40	6.90	6.90	7.00	6.41
ESCF02C	SCR	Strike-slip	17.84	6.40	6.40	6.60	6.90	7.00	6.41

full PFDHA. For the latter case, five values of  $M_{max}$ , obtained from the fault database, were considered for each fault:  $M_{0.02}$  is the 2% value,  $M_{0.05}$  is the 5% value,  $M_{avg}$  is the average value,  $M_{0.95}$  is the 95% value, and  $M_{0.98}$  is the 98% value.

The results for the INT faults are presented in Fig. 22 and for SCR in Fig. 23. It is observed that the EN1998-4 approach is conservative in general, leading to lower return periods than a full PFDHA. It is recalled that the maximum earthquake magnitude considered in the development of the EN1998-4 approach was calculated using the empirical fault scaling relations of Leonard (2014); the mean estimated magnitude is shown in Table 9 and Table 10 as  $M_{L2014}$  for comparison reasons. In the case where the  $M_{L2014}$  value is close to the lower percentiles of the magnitude values from the database, then the return periods obtained from the EN1998-4 approach are quite higher than the ones obtained from PFDHA, e.g., see the ITCF03K, GEFC00F, PTCF00Y, and ESCF02C faults. These form the bulk of the rare cases where the EN1998-4 approach would end up being unconservative.



**Fig. 22** INT faults: comparison of return periods for predefined fault displacement values between the EN1998-4 approach and PFDHA (5 different maximum earthquake magnitude values considered)



**Fig. 23** SCR faults: comparison of return periods for predefined fault displacement values between the EN1998-4 approach and PFDHA (5 different maximum earthquake magnitude values considered)

**Table 11** Case study faults

Area	Fault name	Tectonic environment	Fault mechanism	$L_f$ (km)	$v_f$ (year <sup>-1</sup> )	Recurrence rate class
France–Spain border						
Pyrenees	FRCF00W	INT	Normal	82.39	0.0002	Low
	ESCF01Y	INT	Normal	76.63	0.0004	Low
	ESCF00P	INT	Normal	26.77	0.0005	Low
France						
Northwest	FRCF00V	SCR	Reverse	159.74	0.0008	Low
	FRCF00P	SCR	Normal	36.14	0.0001	Low
	FRCF00S	SCR	Normal	215.71	0.0013	Low
Germany						
Aachen	DECF005	INT	Normal	54.51	0.0009	Low
	DECF007	INT	Normal	21.81	0.0001	Low
Frankfurt	DECF000	INT	Normal	165.70	0.0031	Low
Austria						
Wien	ATCF004	INT	Normal	54.73	0.0019	Low
	ATCF005	INT	Strike-slip	156.25	0.0023	Low
	ATCF008	INT	Strike-slip	116.11	0.0008	Low
	ATCF00A	INT	Strike-slip	103.86	0.0068	Low
Portugal						
Central and North	PTCF010	SCR	Strike-slip	221.16	0.0077	Low
	PTCF013	SCR	Reverse	130.37	0.0033	Low
	PTCF014	SCR	Reverse	161.20	0.0028	Low
	PTCF018	SCR	Normal	12.41	0.0007	Low
Slovenia						
Ljubljana	SICF00A	INT	Strike-slip	13.51	0.0001	Low
	SICF00K	INT	Reverse	16.35	0.0008	Low
	SICF00J	INT	Strike-slip	75.12	0.0049	Low
West	SICF004	INT	Strike-slip	74.94	0.0046	Low
Bulgaria						
Northeast	BGCF011	INT	Normal	89.84	0.0010	Low
	BGCF015	INT	Normal	177.37	0.0014	Low
Sofia	BGCF000	INT	Normal	70.28	0.0028	Low
	BGCF00P	INT	Normal	50.04	0.0036	Low
Italy						
Calabria region	ITCF03N	INT	Normal	65.21	0.0098	Low
	ITCF03Q	INT	Normal	44.76	0.0047	Low
	ITCF03I	INT	Strike-slip	40.14	0.0021	Low
Attica region						
Attica region	GRCF04N	INT	Normal	40.15	0.0149	Low
	GRCF014	INT	Normal	59.70	0.0074	Low
	GRCF020	INT	Normal	14.96	0.0016	Low
	GRCF01I	INT	Normal	32.04	0.0030	Low
Turkey						
Northwest	TRCF00D	INT	Strike-slip	65.68	0.0234	Low
	TRCF00G	INT	Normal	78.90	0.0365	Low
	TRCF049	INT	Strike-slip	29.92	0.0295	Low

**Table 12** Empirical estimates of  $\Delta_{L2014} \sim f(L_F)$  after Leonard (2014)

Tectonic environment	Expression for median value ( $\Delta_{L2014}$ in m, $L_F$ in km)	Expression parameters ( $\alpha/\beta$ ) per fault mechanism		
		Normal	Reverse	Strike-slip
INT	$\log_{10}(\Delta_{sub}) = \alpha + \beta \log_{10}(1000L_F)$ $\Delta_{L2014} = \Delta_{sub}/1.32$	-3.799/0.833	-3.799/0.833	$10 \leq L_F \leq 40$ -3.844 /0.833 $L_F > 40$ -2.310/0.500
SCR	$\log_{10}(\Delta_{sub}) = \alpha + b \log_{10}(1000L_F)$ $\Delta_{L2014} = \Delta_{sub}/1.32$	-3.572/0.833	-3.572/0.833	$10 \leq L_F \leq 60$ -3.615/0.833 $L_F > 60$ -2.022 / 0.500

## 4.2 Case studies

The fault displacement using the EN1998-4 approach was calculated for design return periods of 2500 years ( $\Delta_{F,2500}$ ) and 5000 years ( $\Delta_{F,5000}$ ) for a set of indicative faults in Europe (Table 11) that are located close to industrial areas, large cities, and important infrastructure. It is noted that the 2500 years and 5000 years return periods correspond to the Near Collapse limit state for consequences classes CC3-a and CC3-b, respectively, as dictated by prEN 1998-4:2022 (European Committee for Standardisation 2022). The crossing was assumed to be located at the middle of the fault ( $X_L = 0.50$ ). Additionally, the median estimate of fault displacement by Leonard (2014) after Table 12 are presented for comparison reasons. The aim is to showcase the difference on the obtained fault displacement values between the hazard-consistent EN1998-4 approach and a “seismicity-agnostic” deterministic one, where only the fault dimensions are taken into account. Note that the latter approach disregards the fault seismicity and the magnitude that would correspond to a given return period for each fault (Davis 2008), representing an engineering-level approximation of low fidelity.

The case study faults are examined by country in Fig. 24 through Fig. 26.

**Pyrenees:** Three indicative faults in the Pyrenees at the France–Spain border were examined. It is observed that due to the significantly low recurrence rate (lower than 0.0005 events on average per year with magnitude  $M \geq 5.5$ ), the resulting displacement values for both return periods are set equal to the minimum, namely  $\Delta_F = 0.10$  m (Fig. 24).

**France:** The tectonic environment in the northwest part of France is SCR. The recurrence rate is quite low and, consequently, the resulting fault displacements are set equal to the minimum value ( $\Delta_F = 0.10$  m) [Fig. 24].

**Germany:** Three normal faults were selected as a case study in Germany, one in the greater area of Aachen and the other around Frankfurt. In all cases the resulting fault displacements from the EN1998-4 approach are equal to the minimum value ( $\Delta_F = 0.10$  m), while the obtained values from the empirical fault scaling relations are high, especially for the very long DRCF000 fault with  $L_F = 165.70$  km [Fig. 24].

**Austria:** INT strike-slip and normal faults are located around Wien. The evaluation of analysis results indicates that the recurrence rate is the critical parameter driving the resulting fault displacements (Fig. 25).



Portugal: In the central and north parts of Portugal there are SCR faults with all three mechanisms. They have in general low recurrence rates, leading to low fault displacement values, while the  $\Delta_{L2014}$  values are considerably high due to the large length (Fig. 25).

Slovenia: Numerous faults are located in the northwest part of the Balkan Peninsula in Slovenia. Four indicative INT faults were selected and examined. One should notice the SICF004 and SICF00J strike-slip faults with a higher recurrence rate, compared to the others. The resulting fault displacement values for these faults are roughly equal to  $\Delta_F = 0.50$  m (Fig. 25).

Bulgaria: INT normal faults with various lengths and recurrence rates have been selected in the northeast part of Bulgaria and around the capital Sofia (Fig. 26).

Italy: In the industrial area of Calabria in Italy (south part) there are INT faults with considerable recurrence rates and consequently very high fault displacements, as obtained from the EN1998-4 approach (Fig. 26).

Greece: In the Attica region and in particular north, west, northwest of Athens, there are INT normal faults with relatively short length but high recurrence rates. The obtained fault displacement values are very high, indicating a non-negligible threat for potential crossing lifelines (Fig. 26).

Turkey: The North Anatolian fault system in Turkey is a well-known and studied active seismic area. Three indicative normal and strike-slip faults located at the south of Marmara Sea were selected and studied. Regardless of the length, the considerably high recurrence rates lead to very high design values for the fault displacement for both return periods. Contrarily, the displacement values derived from the empirical fault scaling relations are low (Fig. 26).

In all cases, the main observation is that the recurrence rate is a dominant parameter that clearly differentiates the resulting displacements for faults of similar length. On the other hand, the “seismicity-agnostic” deterministic approach that neglects the rate and only focuses on the dimensions and mechanism of the fault is bound to be overly conservative in low-recurrence-rate cases (e.g., cases examined in France and Portugal), while unconservative in cases of high recurrence rates (e.g., cases examined in Greece and Turkey).

## 5 Recurrence rates approximation

The earthquake recurrence rate of an active fault is a critical aspect of the hazard calculations and, in fact, is an external multiplier in Eq. (4), which is typically estimated by earth science experts, i.e., geologists, geophysicists, seismologists, etc. In the absence of such information, the correlation between the recurrence rate and the resulting ground shaking level in the vicinity of the fault can be used. It is preferable to employ engineering-level quantities that are already available in the relevant design code to accomplish this. Herein, we employ the fault length and a seismic design parameter, i.e.,  $S_{\beta,475}$  estimated at the location of the fault, which is the reference spectral acceleration at period  $T_\beta = 1$  s corresponding to a return period of  $T_R = 475$  years. This is considered superior to the short period reference acceleration,  $S_{\alpha,475}$ , as longer periods are better indicators of large magnitude seismicity that is of interest for fault displacements. Seismic hazard maps of the mean and median  $S_{\beta,475}$  values are provided in EN1998-1-1:2021 (European Committee for Standardisation 2021) based on the ESHM20 (Danciu et al. 2021). It is acknowledged that even on top of a fault,  $S_{\beta,475}$  values may incorporate contributions

**Fig. 24** Fault displacements obtained from the EN1998-4 approach for return periods of 2500 years ( $\Delta_{F,2500}$ ) and 5000 years ( $\Delta_{F,5000}$ ), compared against the “seismicity-agnostic” estimate ( $\Delta_{L2014}$ ): Pyrenees, France, and Germany

from all nearby faults and will be sensitive to ground motion models. Still, it can be conservatively assumed that the underlying fault under consideration contributes the most, indicating a strong positive correlation of  $S_{\beta,475}$  with  $v_F \cdot S_{\beta,475}$  values on each fault trace of the database were obtained through appropriate interpolation on the  $S_{\beta,475}$  seismic hazard maps. To avoid any over-representation of locations, multiple  $S_{\beta,475}$  values were computed along each fault trace, and their average was taken as representative of the entire fault. Such averaged values are derived for both the mean and the median  $S_{\beta,475}$ , and plotted versus  $v_F$  in Figs. 27 and 28, respectively. No clear pattern emerges per tectonic environment or fault mechanism in either case. It was thus decided to build a regression model by considering all faults together.

Equation (8) is the fitted polynomial expression of the model (Fig. 29) for the approximated recurrence rate ( $v_{F,approx}$ ). The model metrics are  $R^2 = 0.7333$  and standard error  $\sigma_{\epsilon,mean} = 0.7539$  when considering the mean acceleration  $S_{\beta,475}$ , versus  $R^2 = 0.7097$  and  $\sigma_{\epsilon,50} = 0.7867$  when considering the median acceleration  $S_{\beta,475}$ , indicating a fair but imperfect fit.

$$\ln v_{F,approx} = p_1 + p_2 S_{\beta,475} + p_3 S_{\beta,475}^2 + p_4 S_{\beta,475} \ln L_F + p_5 (\ln L_F)^2 + p_6 S_{\beta,475}^3 + p_7 S_{\beta,475} (\ln L_F)^2 \tag{8}$$

The model of Eq. (8) can be rewritten in a more straightforward form:

$$v_{F,approx} = \exp \left[ \begin{matrix} p_1 + p_2 S_{\beta,475} + p_3 S_{\beta,475}^2 + p_4 S_{\beta,475} \ln L_F + \\ p_5 (\ln L_F)^2 + p_6 S_{\beta,475}^3 + p_7 S_{\beta,475} (\ln L_F)^2 \end{matrix} \right] \tag{9}$$

$\ln(\bullet)$  is the natural logarithm of its argument and the coefficients  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_7$  are listed in Table 13 for  $L_F$  in km and  $S_{\beta,475}$  in units of g.

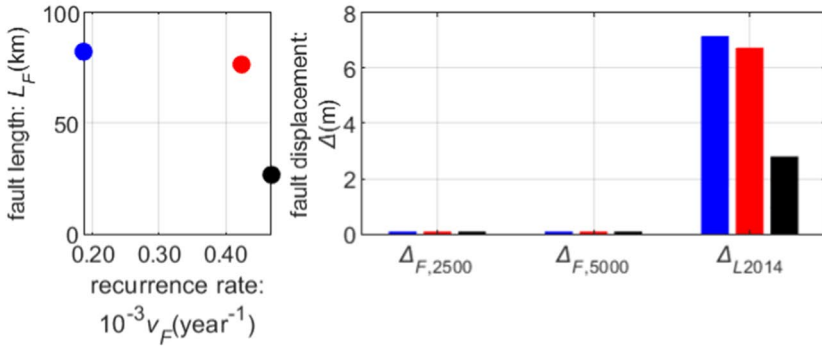
The regression residuals are estimated as

$$\epsilon = \frac{\ln v_F - \ln v_{F,approx}}{\sigma_{\epsilon}} \tag{10}$$

Negative residuals ( $\epsilon < 0$ ) reflect an overestimation of the recurrence rate, which is considered to be acceptable conservatism within the framework of a design code. Contrarily, the underestimation ( $\epsilon > 0$ ) requires some treatment. It is noted here that the aim is not to build an unbiased probabilistic model, but rather a conservative one, suitable for preliminary design.

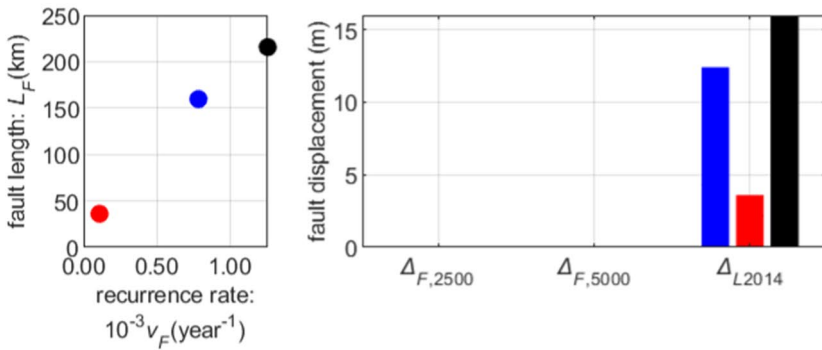
Faults in Pyrenees (France-Spain border)

FRCF00W ESCF01Y ESCF00P



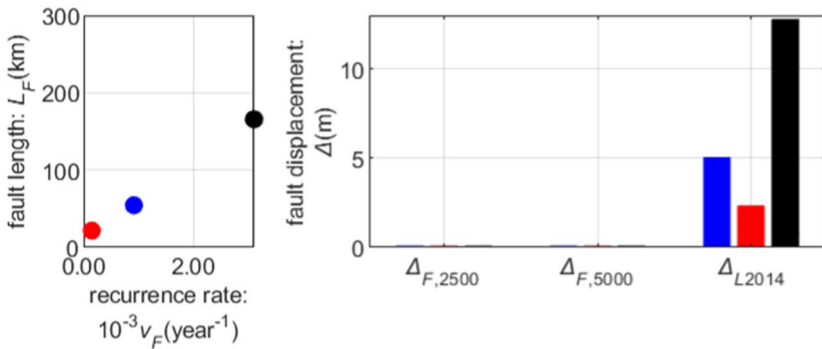
Faults in France (Northwest)

FRCF00V FRCF00P FRCF00S



Faults in Germany (Aachen and Frankfurt area)

DECF005 DECF007 DECF000



**Fig. 25** Fault displacements from the EN1998-4 approach for return periods of 2500 years ( $\Delta_{F,2500}$ ) and 5000 years ( $\Delta_{F,5000}$ ), compared against the “seismicity-agnostic” estimate ( $\Delta_{L2014}$ ): Austria, Portugal, and Slovenia

The regression residuals ( $\epsilon$ ) versus the actual recurrence rate ( $v_F$ ) are illustrated in Fig. 30 along with the 5%, 16%, 50%, 84%, and 95% running quantiles (Haver and Winterstein 2009), employing a symmetric-neighbor window length of 20% of the sample. This is the traditional approach of inspecting a regression model, and it points to a less-than-optimal fit without homoscedastic residuals, indicating unconservative estimates at high actual rates. However, when looking to determine an appropriate confidence factor for correcting (conservatively biasing) the regression model output, the actual rates are not useful; they are not available to the user. Only the approximated rate,  $v_{F,approx}$ , can be employed.

Figure 31 offers this view, showing the residuals against  $v_{F,approx}$ . Attempting to envelop the underestimation area, a multiplicative confidence factor  $C_F$  is employed to update/increase  $v_{F,approx}$ , introducing the needed conservative bias:

$$v_{F,approx,u} = C_F v_{F,approx} \tag{11}$$

Based on Fig. 31, a constant confidence factor  $C_F > 1.00$  is considered for  $\ln v_{F,approx} \leq -3$  with a linear (in log–log space) ramp-down to 1.00 within  $-3 \leq \ln v_{F,approx} \leq -1$  (see Fig. 32):

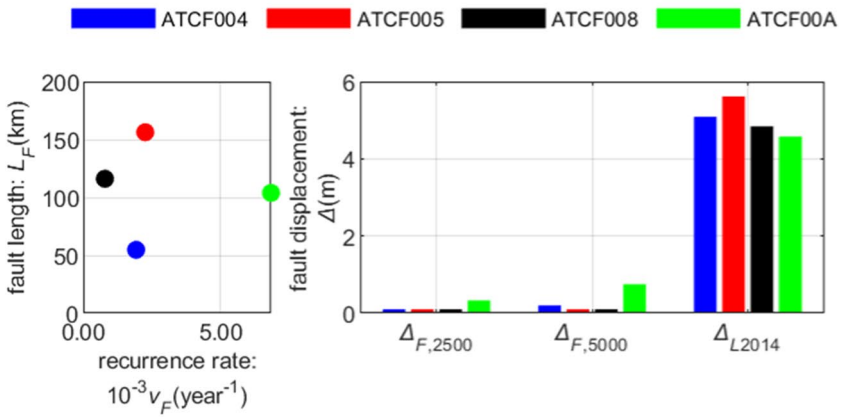
$$C_F = \begin{cases} \exp(a_{CF}) & \ln v_{F,approx} < -3 \\ \exp[a_{CF} - a_{CF}(\ln v_{F,approx} + 3)/2] & -3 \leq \ln v_{F,approx} \leq -1 \\ 1.00 & -1 < \ln v_{F,approx} \end{cases} \tag{12}$$

where  $v_{F,approx}$  is in units of  $\text{year}^{-1}$ ,  $a_{CF} = 1.2975 \times \sigma_{\epsilon,mean} \approx 0.98$  for the mean  $S_{\beta,475}$ , and  $a_{CF} = 1.3323 \times \sigma_{\epsilon,50} \approx 1.05$  for the median  $S_{\beta,475}$ . Note that the multiplier of the standard error is chosen as the residual value roughly conforming to the near-constant value of the 95% quantile for low recurrence rates in Fig. 31. It is noted that the quantiles should normally come closer to zero for high rates, yet the large window length of 20% employed in the running quantile scheme is influenced by nearby values and maintains higher absolute values even in the high-rate region.

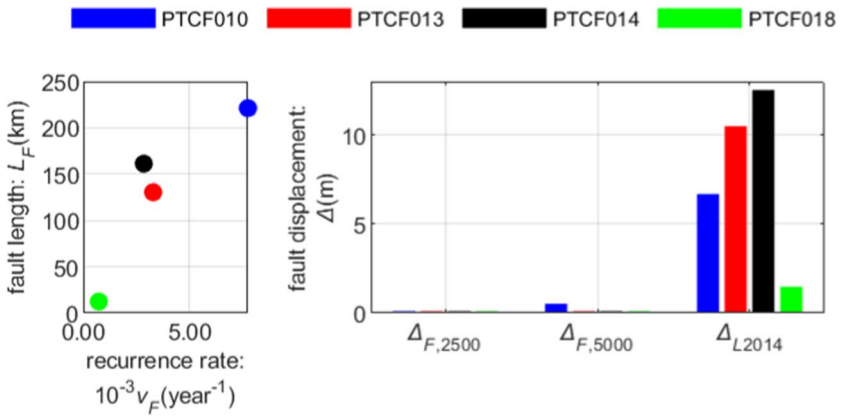
The recurrence rate values from the database and the (uncorrected/non-updated) approximated ones via Eq. (9) are compared in Fig. 33 for both estimates using the mean and the median acceleration  $S_{\beta,475}$ . A roughly 50% of underestimation is detected for both cases, namely 50% of values are below the dashed line, indicating that the actual recurrence rate of the faults is higher than the approximated one. Then, the effect of the confidence factor on the approximated recurrence rate is illustrated in Fig. 34, where the recurrence rate values from the fault database are plotted versus the updated approximated values after Eq. (11). The introduction of the confidence factor drives about 40% more values above the dashed line, yielding a coverage ( $v_{F,approx,u} > v_F$ ) above 90%.

A set of indicative faults with essentially different length and seismological properties is selected from Table 9 and Table 10 to evaluate the results of the recurrence rate

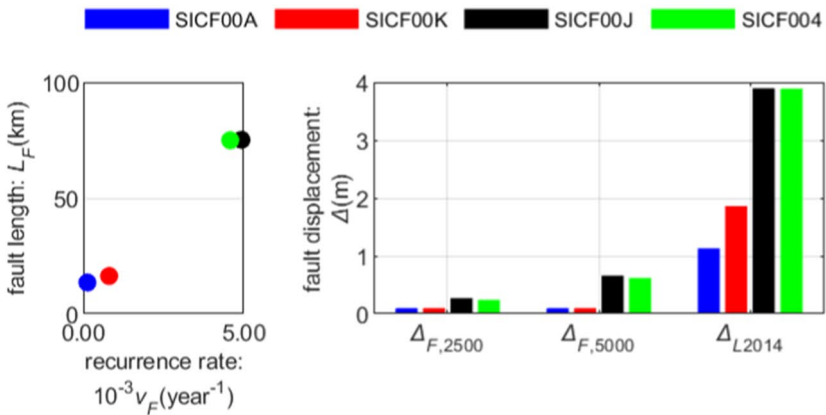
Faults in Austria (Wien area)

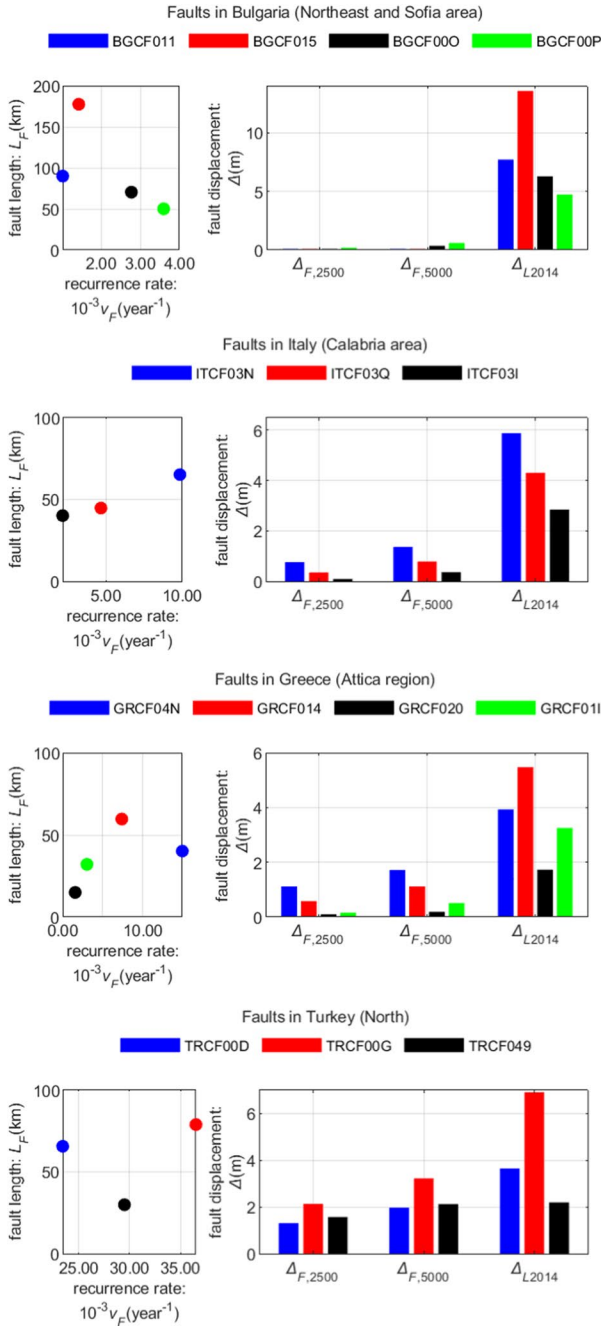


Faults in Portugal (Central and North)

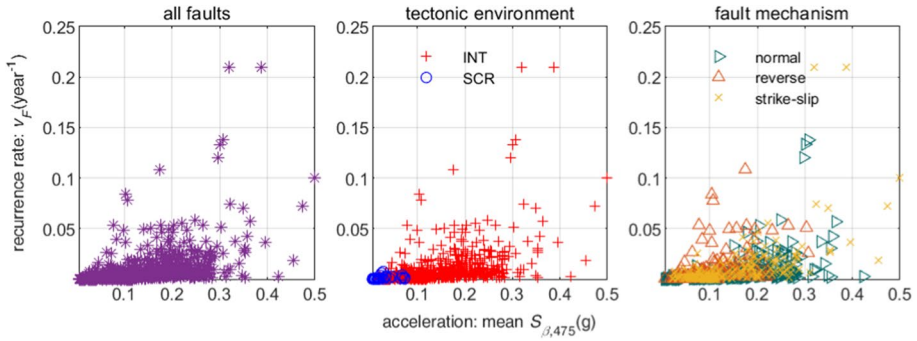


Faults in Slovenia (Ljubljana area and West)

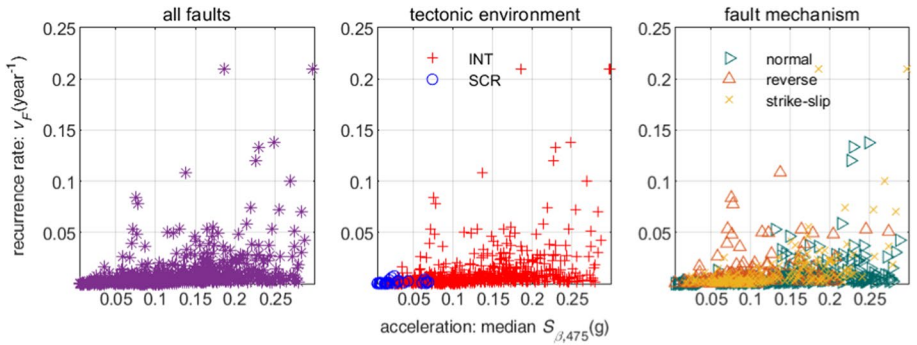




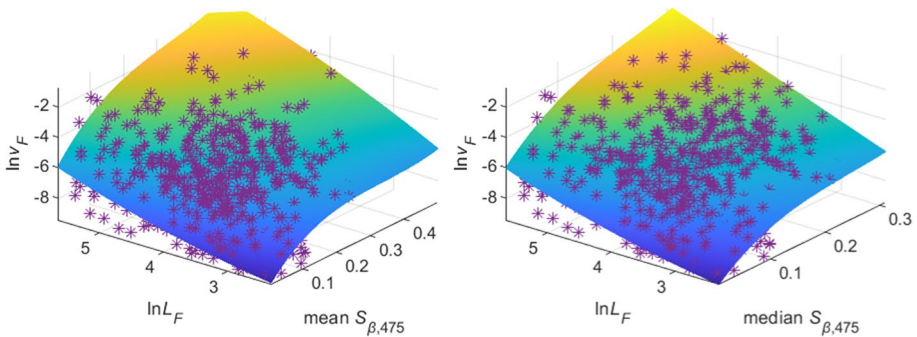
**Fig. 26** Fault displacements obtained from the EN1998-4 approach for return periods of 2500 years ( $\Delta_{F,2500}$ ) and 5000 years ( $\Delta_{F,5000}$ ), compared against the “seismicity-agnostic” estimate ( $\Delta_{L2014}$ ): Bulgaria, Italy, Greece, and Turkey



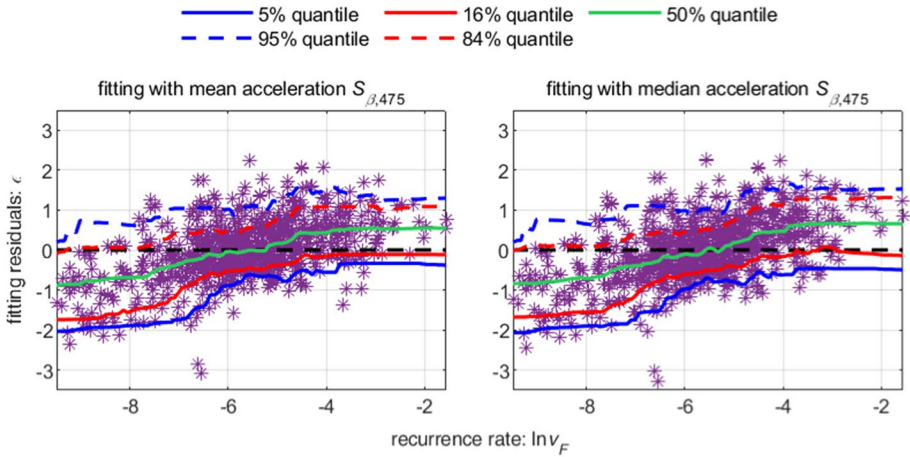
**Fig. 27** Earthquake recurrence rate,  $v_F(M > 5.5)$  in year<sup>-1</sup>, database versus mean  $S_{\beta,475}$  per tectonic environment and fault mechanism



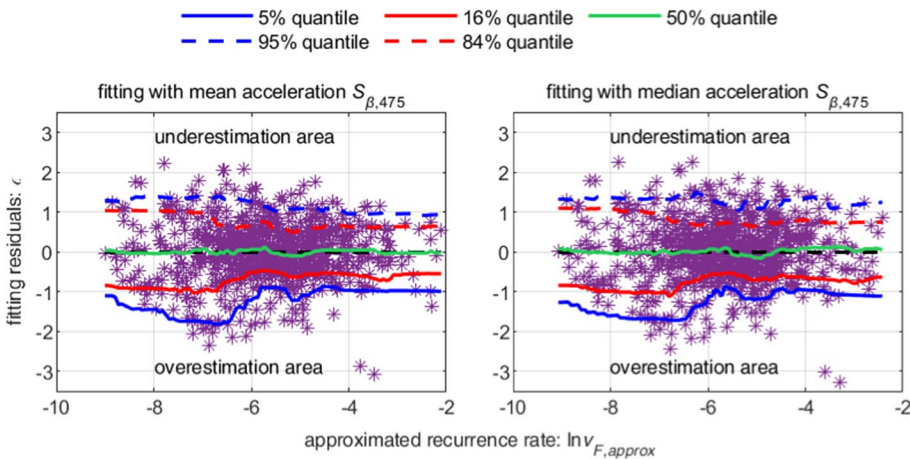
**Fig. 28** Earthquake recurrence rate,  $v_F(M > 5.5)$  in year<sup>-1</sup>, versus median  $S_{\beta,475}$  per tectonic environment and fault mechanism



**Fig. 29** Surface fitting for  $v_F$  versus  $S_{\beta,475}$  and fault length ( $v_F$  in year<sup>-1</sup>,  $S_{\beta,475}$  in g,  $L_F$  in km)



**Fig. 30** Regression residuals ( $\epsilon$ ) versus the actual recurrence rate,  $\nu_F$  (in year<sup>-1</sup>)



**Fig. 31** Fitting residuals ( $\epsilon$ ) of the statistical model versus the approximated recurrence rate,  $\nu_{F,approx}$  (in year<sup>-1</sup>)

**Table 13** Coefficients for estimating the approximated recurrence rate ( $\nu_{F,approx}$ ) after Eq. (9), derived for  $L_F$  in km and  $S_{\beta,475}$  in g

Mean $S_{\beta,475}$		Median $S_{\beta,475}$	
Coeff	Value	Coeff	Value
$p_1$	- 10.1539	$p_1$	- 10.2940
$p_2$	16.7322	$p_2$	23.6696
$p_3$	- 76.0447	$p_3$	- 120.9933
$p_4$	5.4398	$p_4$	5.0275
$p_5$	0.1262	$p_5$	0.1280
$p_6$	74.1251	$p_6$	162.7411
$p_7$	- 0.5065	$p_7$	- 0.4092



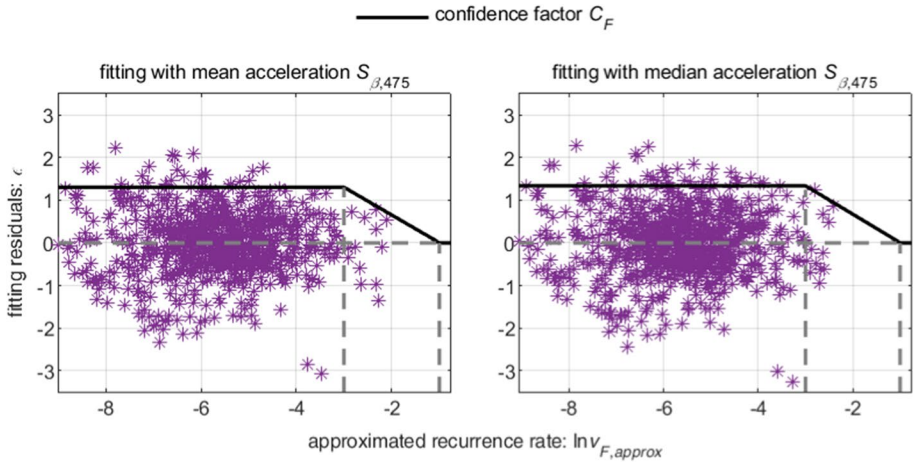


Fig. 32 Confidence factor ( $C_F$ ) for the approximated recurrence rate  $v_{F,approx}$  (in  $\text{year}^{-1}$ )

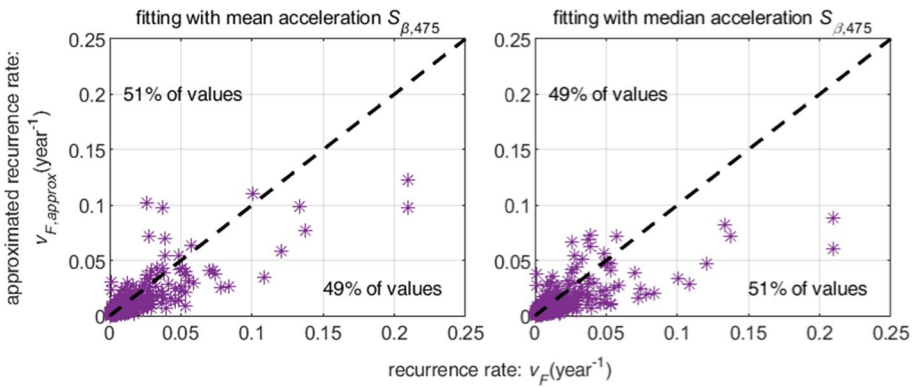


Fig. 33 Comparison of actual recurrence rates ( $v_F$ ) versus the approximated ones ( $v_{F,approx}$ )

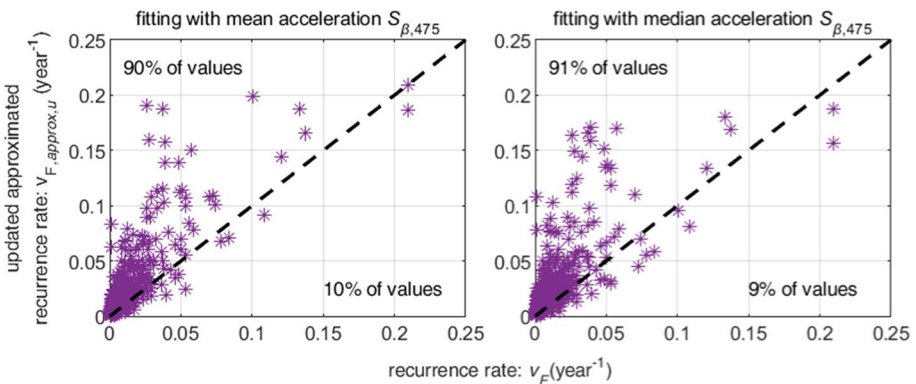
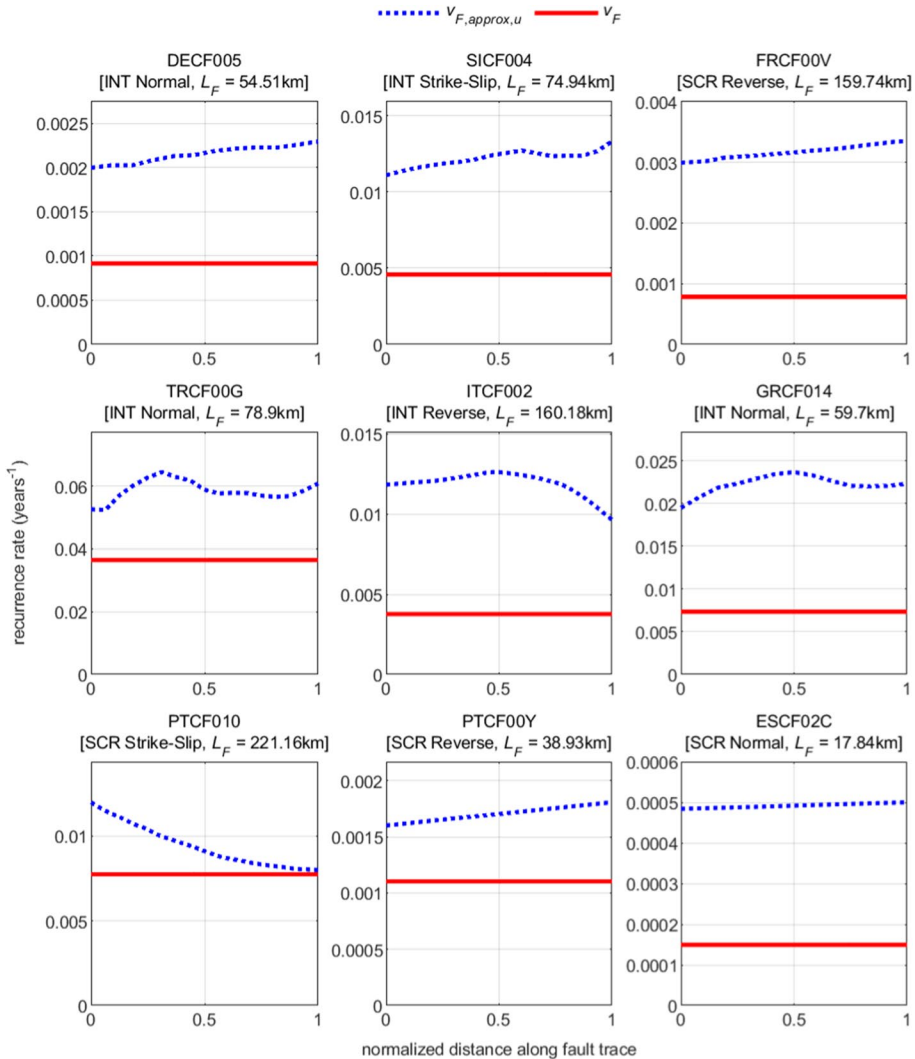


Fig. 34 Comparison of actual recurrence rates ( $v_F$ ) versus the updated approximated ones ( $v_{F,approx,u}$ )



**Fig. 35** Comparison of the actual recurrence rate ( $v_F$ ) versus the updated approximated ones ( $v_{F,approx,u}$ ) calculated at different points along the fault using the mean  $S_{\beta,475}$ ; the distance is measured according to the fault trace node sequence, which is ordered following the right-hand rule (Aki and Richards 1980)

approximation. The mean acceleration  $S_{\beta,475}$  is computed via interpolation from the seismic hazard map for several locations on the mapped fault trace. At each location, the updated approximated rate ( $v_{F,approx,u}$ ) is calculated via Eqs. (9), (11), and (12) and is plotted in Fig. 35 with dots. As expected, the rate is changing along the fault trace due to the variation of the acceleration. The actual recurrence rate  $v_F$  obtained from the fault database is plotted for comparison with a straight horizontal line. It is observed that the recurrence rate approximation is a conservative approach, as designed so, leading to higher rates and consequently higher fault displacement values for a given return period. This is the reason for

introducing the deterministic cap [see note (4) in Sect. 2] in order to limit the displacement estimates with respect to the fault length.

## 6 Summary and conclusions

Lifelines, tunnels, and bridges are vulnerable to permanent ground displacements, such as those resulting from tectonic fault movement. The estimation of the design fault displacement via empirical fault scaling relations may lead to a result of unknown safety and conservatism. On the other hand, a full Probabilistic Fault Displacement Hazard Analysis (PFDHA) is the most appropriate tool to incorporate fault productivity in terms of events per year in the calculations. PFDHA yields the mean annual frequency of exceeding predefined fault displacement values and is essentially the first step for the performance-based design of critical infrastructures. However, this approach is not compatible with the code due to the required specialized seismological data and the sophisticated calculations. To overcome these drawbacks and at the same time offer a code-compatible hazard-consistent approach, a simplified methodology for estimating the design fault displacement at lifeline–fault crossings was developed. A set of empirically-derived equations for calculating the displacement is offered given the fault productivity (as represented by the recurrence rate), the fault mechanism, the fault length, and the crossing location of the lifeline on the fault (crossing site). These equations were developed from the statistical processing of results from PFDHA by considering the pertinent epistemic uncertainties and a range of input variables, both derived and obtained, respectively, from a selection of faults from the 2020 European Fault-Source Model database (Basili et al. 2022).

The fault displacement obtained from the proposed methodology was compared to the one from a full PFDHA to a set of relevant active faults in Europe, revealing a fair match, erring towards the conservative side. The proposed methodology has been adopted as an informative Annex in prEN 1998-4:2022 (European Committee for Standardisation 2022) and it may serve as a screening tool within the lifeline route selection procedure, or as a preliminary design tool to indicate whether a specialized seismological study is needed. Finally, the methodology may be easily implemented via the spreadsheet that accompanies the paper as an electronic supplement.

## 7 Supplementary material

The online version contains the supplementary material.

## Appendix

[A1](#), [A2](#), [A3](#).

**Table A1** Coefficients of Eq. (2) for normal fault mechanism

$\Delta_F$ (m)	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Recurrence rate class		Coeff	Recurrence rate class					
	Low	High		Low	High		Low	High							
0.25	$a_1$	-3.6511	-0.9265	1.00	$a_1$	-8.4603	-6.3450	1.75	$a_1$	-12.5074	-10.9173	3.00	$a_1$	-18.4061	-17.9528
	$a_2$	0.6921	-1.1847		$a_2$	2.3952	1.0138		$a_2$	4.0081	3.1454		$a_2$	6.6007	6.8172
	$a_3$	-0.7924	-8.7234		$a_3$	-1.0443	-7.5878		$a_3$	-1.7911	-7.6197		$a_3$	-2.8321	-8.2978
	$a_4$	-0.2225	0.1750		$a_4$	-0.4926	-0.2241		$a_4$	-0.7666	-0.6528		$a_4$	-1.2284	-1.4322
	$a_5$	2.8574	6.4744		$a_5$	3.0686	5.9413		$a_5$	3.3464	5.8859		$a_5$	3.6840	6.1005
	$a_6$	-4.8378	1.8547		$a_6$	-3.6788	2.2074		$a_6$	-2.5522	2.8103		$a_6$	-1.2756	3.6963
	$a_7$	0.0139	-0.0140		$a_7$	0.0291	0.0117		$a_7$	0.0457	0.0427		$a_7$	0.0748	0.1014
	$a_8$	-0.3513	-0.6960		$a_8$	-0.3312	-0.5885		$a_8$	-0.3293	-0.5536		$a_8$	-0.3322	-0.5506
	$a_9$	-0.0829	-2.1222		$a_9$	-0.5931	-2.3689		$a_9$	-0.9582	-2.5759		$a_9$	-1.3206	-2.8295
0.50	$a_1$	-5.4586	-3.0263	1.25	$a_1$	-10.0535	-8.1157	2.00	$a_1$	-13.7728	-12.4003	3.50	$a_1$	-20.7246	-20.7531
	$a_2$	1.3003	-0.3635		$a_2$	3.0145	1.8095		$a_2$	4.5498	3.8982		$a_2$	7.6813	8.3474
	$a_3$	-0.6753	-7.9911		$a_3$	-1.3295	-7.5455		$a_3$	-2.0188	-7.7081		$a_3$	-3.2224	-8.7129
	$a_4$	-0.3152	0.0316		$a_4$	-0.5966	-0.3807		$a_4$	-0.8619	-0.8109		$a_4$	-1.4266	-1.7618
	$a_5$	2.8847	6.1622		$a_5$	3.1807	5.8946		$a_5$	3.4242	5.9055		$a_5$	3.8044	6.2535
	$a_6$	-4.5365	1.8317		$a_6$	-3.2148	2.4433		$a_6$	-2.2497	2.9971		$a_6$	-0.8632	4.0569
	$a_7$	0.0189	-0.0053		$a_7$	0.0353	0.0228		$a_7$	0.0516	0.0545		$a_7$	0.0875	0.1264
	$a_8$	-0.3391	-0.6424		$a_8$	-0.3299	-		$a_8$	-0.3295	-0.5490		$a_8$	-0.3350	-0.5596
	$a_9$	-0.2635	-2.1945		$a_9$	-0.7496	-2.4551		$a_9$	-1.0488	-2.6330		$a_9$	-1.4273	-2.9241

**Table A1** (continued)

$\Delta_F$ (m)	Coeff	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Coeff	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Coeff	Recurrence rate class					
		Low	High			Low	High			Low	High				
0.75	$a_1$	-7.0224	-4.7633	1.50	$a_1$	-11.2729	-9.4956	2.50	$a_1$	-16.0707	-15.1360	4.00	$a_1$	-23.0154	-23.5015
	$a_2$	1.8573	0.3394		$a_2$	3.4990	2.4528		$a_2$	5.5441	5.3084		$a_2$	8.7735	9.8655
	$a_3$	-0.8239	-7.7106		$a_3$	-1.5614	-7.5652		$a_3$	-2.4315	-7.9561		$a_3$	-3.6064	-9.1820
	$a_4$	-0.4041	-0.0962		$a_4$	-0.6787	-0.5102		$a_4$	-1.0375	-1.1088		$a_4$	-1.6291	-2.0889
	$a_5$	2.9716	6.0194		$a_5$	3.2655	5.8820		$a_5$	3.5581	5.9812		$a_5$	3.9223	6.4306
	$a_6$	-4.1048	2.0057		$a_6$	-2.8729	2.6267		$a_6$	-1.7353	3.3418		$a_6$	-0.4880	4.4234
	$a_7$	0.0239	0.0030		$a_7$	0.0403	0.0322		$a_7$	0.0626	0.0769		$a_7$	0.1007	0.1512
	$a_8$	-0.3338	-0.6104		$a_8$	-0.3294	-0.5608		$a_8$	-0.3304	-0.5465		$a_8$	-0.3387	-0.5721
	$a_9$	-0.4390	-2.2858		$a_9$	-0.8590	-2.5171		$a_9$	-1.1959	-2.7326		$a_9$	-1.5204	-3.0177

**Table A2** Coefficients of Eq. (2) for reverse fault mechanism

$\Delta_F$ (m)	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Recurrence rate class					
	Low	High		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High				
0.25	$a_1$	-3.5809	-0.7625	1.00	$a_1$	-10.0475	-8.6611	1.75	$a_1$	-16.8189	-17.4403	3.00	$a_1$	-30.1500	-35.2076
	$a_2$	0.2308	-1.7508		$a_2$	2.5888	1.9420		$a_2$	5.7183	7.0093		$a_2$	12.9626	18.6243
	$a_3$	-0.1928	-8.1037		$a_3$	-0.5416	-7.9898		$a_3$	-2.1580	-10.4494		$a_3$	-6.1739	-18.9437
	$a_4$	-0.1184	0.3233		$a_4$	-0.4646	-0.3807		$a_4$	-1.0185	-1.4862		$a_4$	-2.4301	-4.1774
	$a_5$	2.5577	6.1146		$a_5$	2.0486	4.5334		$a_5$	1.7454	3.8369		$a_5$	1.3568	3.9245
	$a_6$	-5.1595	1.8046		$a_6$	2.8557	13.3393		$a_6$	12.4648	27.4079		$a_6$	31.0118	57.4639
	$a_7$	0.0063	-0.0267		$a_7$	0.0225	0.0175		$a_7$	0.0552	0.0979		$a_7$	0.1464	0.3034
	$a_8$	-0.3181	-0.6493		$a_8$	-0.1351	-0.2240		$a_8$	0.0269	0.1038		$a_8$	0.3020	0.5877
	$a_9$	-0.0133	-2.1196		$a_9$	-1.9875	-5.0396		$a_9$	-4.1008	-8.4000		$a_9$	-7.9999	-15.5374
0.50	$a_1$	-5.8650	-3.5924	1.25	$a_1$	-12.5237	-11.8077	2.00	$a_1$	-19.3740	-20.8612	3.50	$a_1$	-36.4058	-43.5066
	$a_2$	0.9791	-0.5353		$a_2$	3.6702	3.6747		$a_2$	7.0405	9.1662		$a_2$	16.5995	24.3589
	$a_3$	0.0958	-7.4030		$a_3$	-1.0989	-8.7274		$a_3$	-2.7887	-11.6557		$a_3$	-8.6270	-24.5889
	$a_4$	-0.2168	0.1087		$a_4$	-0.6486	-0.7496		$a_4$	-1.2687	-1.9762		$a_4$	-3.1650	-5.5465
	$a_5$	2.3057	5.3286		$a_5$	1.9307	4.2143		$a_5$	1.6295	3.6812		$a_5$	1.3425	4.6262
	$a_6$	-2.9934	5.2232		$a_6$	6.4181	18.3916		$a_6$	15.9571	32.8782		$a_6$	40.0859	72.8599
	$a_7$	0.0101	-0.0147		$a_7$	0.0329	0.0437		$a_7$	0.0710	0.1347		$a_7$	0.1952	0.4106
	$a_8$	-0.2507	-0.4754		$a_8$	-0.0730	-0.0958		$a_8$	0.0842	0.2146		$a_8$	0.4155	0.7509
	$a_9$	-0.6062	-3.0354		$a_9$	-2.7857	-6.2540		$a_9$	-4.8456	-9.7000		$a_9$	-9.8821	-19.2053

Table A2 (continued)

$\Delta_F$ (m)	Coeff	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Coeff	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Coeff	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Coeff	Recurrence rate class	
		Low	High			Low	High			Low	High			Low	High
0.75	$a_1$	-7.9772	-6.1239	1.50	$a_1$	-14.5634	-14.4616	2.50	$a_1$	-24.3737	-27.5073	4.00	$a_1$	-42.9989	-52.2117
	$a_2$	1.7541	0.6466		$a_2$	4.6127	5.2084		$a_2$	9.7104	13.4480		$a_2$	20.5191	30.5038
	$a_3$	-0.1424	-7.5533		$a_3$	-1.6038	-9.4959		$a_3$	-4.2428	-14.6526		$a_3$	-11.5853	-31.5342
	$a_4$	-0.3311	-0.1170		$a_4$	-0.8156	-1.0847		$a_4$	-1.7842	-2.9611		$a_4$	-3.9668	-7.0337
	$a_5$	2.1602	4.8702		$a_5$	1.8448	4.0155		$a_5$	1.4712	3.6458		$a_5$	1.4446	5.7725
	$a_6$	-0.1287	9.2241		$a_6$	9.3248	22.6500		$a_6$	22.8852	43.9777		$a_6$	49.9537	89.8675
	$a_7$	0.0154	-0.0005		$a_7$	0.0428	0.0682		$a_7$	0.1040	0.2095		$a_7$	0.2490	0.5283
	$a_8$	-0.1904	-0.3408		$a_8$	-0.0248	0.0016		$a_8$	0.1886	0.4016		$a_8$	0.5256	0.8834
	$a_9$	-1.2983	-4.0361		$a_9$	-3.4229	-7.2690		$a_9$	-6.3050	-12.3316		$a_9$	-11.9228	-23.2660

**Table A3** Coefficients of Eq. (2) for strike-slip fault mechanism

$\Delta_F$ (m)	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Coeff	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	coeff	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	coeff	Recurrence rate class		
	Low	High			Low	High			Low	High			Low	High	Low
0.25	$a_1$	-5.1391	-9.3774	1.00	$a_1$	-13.5015	-11.8186	1.75	$a_1$	-20.6864	-14.1208	3.00	$a_1$	-31.4180	-17.5211
	$a_2$	2.2983	3.9922		$a_2$	6.7661	4.2274		$a_2$	10.6812	4.7091		$a_2$	16.6515	5.6120
	$a_3$	-0.9885	11.1942		$a_3$	-0.7515	9.7195		$a_3$	-1.5496	8.7087		$a_3$	-3.2521	7.8030
	$a_4$	-0.6845	-0.8118		$a_4$	-1.6635	-0.8127		$a_4$	-2.5042	-0.8686		$a_4$	-3.7658	-0.9866
	$a_5$	2.4665	-1.9394		$a_5$	2.3699	-1.2698		$a_5$	2.6156	-0.8941		$a_5$	3.1914	-0.5850
	$a_6$	-2.4378	-9.3626		$a_6$	-0.7217	-8.0084		$a_6$	0.6696	-7.0357		$a_6$	2.2288	-6.1299
	$a_7$	0.0536	0.0495		$a_7$	0.1265	0.0491		$a_7$	0.1879	0.0522		$a_7$	0.2786	0.0585
	$a_8$	-0.2615	0.1078		$a_8$	-0.2027	0.0839		$a_8$	-0.1959	0.0722		$a_8$	-0.2235	0.0646
	$a_9$	-0.5319	1.0160		$a_9$	-1.1461	0.4657		$a_9$	-1.5466	0.1559		$a_9$	-1.9478	-0.1081
0.50	$a_1$	-8.2578	-10.1806	1.25	$a_1$	-16.3084	-12.7178	2.00	$a_1$	-22.9875	-14.8385	3.50	$a_1$	-35.6177	-18.8653
	$a_2$	3.9467	3.9855		$a_2$	8.2895	4.4017		$a_2$	11.9600	4.8859		$a_2$	19.0106	6.0152
	$a_3$	-0.5955	10.7400		$a_3$	-1.0127	9.2691		$a_3$	-1.8706	8.4761		$a_3$	-4.0269	7.5352
	$a_4$	-1.0469	-0.7921		$a_4$	-1.9925	-0.8321		$a_4$	-2.7764	-0.8908		$a_4$	-4.2601	-1.0425
	$a_5$	2.3360	-1.6912		$a_5$	2.4470	-1.0983		$a_5$	2.7207	-0.8113		$a_5$	3.4636	-0.4996
	$a_6$	-1.8781	-8.9335		$a_6$	-0.1404	-7.5833		$a_6$	1.0450	-6.8059		$a_6$	2.7332	-5.8693
	$a_7$	0.0806	0.0479		$a_7$	0.1506	0.0502		$a_7$	0.2076	0.0534		$a_7$	0.3138	0.0616
	$a_8$	-0.2296	0.0996		$a_8$	-0.1968	0.0782		$a_8$	-0.1988	0.0699		$a_8$	-0.2421	0.0626
	$a_9$	-0.7664	0.7988		$a_9$	-1.3189	0.3268		$a_9$	-1.6473	0.0862		$a_9$	-2.0682	-0.1786



**Table A3** (continued)

$\Delta_F$ (m)	Coeff	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	Coeff	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	coeff	Recurrence rate class		$\Delta_F$ (m)	coeff	Recurrence rate class	
		Low	High			Low	High			Low	High			Low	High
0.75	$a_1$	-10.9863	-11.0185	1.50	$a_1$	-18.4723	-13.4162	2.50	$a_1$	-27.1565	-16.1709	4.00	$a_1$	-39.7137	-20.1969
	$a_2$	5.4089	4.0921		$a_2$	9.4655	4.5483		$a_2$	14.2669	5.2306		$a_2$	21.3144	6.4324
	$a_3$	-0.6038	10.1893		$a_3$	-1.2646	8.9707		$a_3$	-2.5219	8.1105		$a_3$	-4.8251	7.2923
	$a_4$	-1.3679	-0.7991		$a_4$	-2.2447	-0.8491		$a_4$	-3.2639	-0.9353		$a_4$	-4.7406	-1.1015
	$a_5$	2.3303	-1.4567		$a_5$	2.5248	-0.9887		$a_5$	2.9392	-0.6866		$a_5$	3.7467	-0.4245
	$a_6$	-1.2750	-8.4390		$a_6$	0.2766	-7.2929		$a_6$	1.6667	-6.4369		$a_6$	3.1922	-5.6418
	$a_7$	0.1046	0.0483		$a_7$	0.1691	0.0511		$a_7$	0.2427	0.0558		$a_7$	0.3479	0.0648
	$a_8$	-0.2126	0.0907		$a_8$	-0.1952	0.0749		$a_8$	-0.2084	0.0670		$a_8$	-0.2631	0.0606
	$a_9$	-0.9722	0.6136		$a_9$	-1.4379	0.2354		$a_9$	-1.8084	-0.0217		$a_9$	-2.1743	-0.2376

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**Author's contributions** VEM: Formal analysis and investigation, Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing – original draft preparation, Writing – review and editing. DV: Conceptualization, Methodology, Supervision, Writing – review and editing. LD: Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing – review and editing. RB: Methodology, Writing – review and editing.

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**Data availability** All data is available in the supplementary material.

**Code availability** The code is available in the supplementary material.

## Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

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