

Vector and Scalar IMs in Structural Response Estimation: Part I - Hazard Analysis

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A realistic assessment of building economic losses and collapse induced by earthquakes requires monitoring several response measures both story-specific and global. The prediction of such response measures benefits from using multiple ground motion intensity measures (IMs) that are, in general, correlated. To allow the inclusion of multiple IMs in the risk assessment process it is necessary to have a practical tool that computes the vector-valued hazard of all such IMs at the building site. In this paper, Vector-valued Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis (VPSHA) is implemented here as a post processor to scalar PSHA results. A group of candidate scalar and vector IMs based on spectral acceleration values, ratios of spectral acceleration values, and spectral accelerations averaged over a period range are defined and their hazard evaluated. These IMs are used as structural response predictors of 3D models of reinforced concrete buildings described in a companion paper (Kohrangi et al., 2015b).

INTRODUCTION

Performance-based earthquake engineering (PBEE) (Cornell and Krawinkler, 2000) has become commonplace in the industry for assessing response of buildings and other structures subjected to seismic loading. Studies based on PBEE are now routinely used by a variety of stakeholders such as building owners, developers, insurers, lending institution and earthquake

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25 engineers. For instance, owners of important buildings use it to make critical decisions about
26 buying an appropriate level of earthquake insurance or identifying a retrofitting solution.
27 Engineers use it for designing structural components to withstand forces and control
28 displacements induced by target design ground motions with a margin of safety consistent
29 with well performing, code-compliant structures. Regardless of the specific PBEE
30 application, it is critical that estimates of the likelihood that a structure's response exceeds a
31 given level of severity, ranging from onset of damage to incipient collapse, be as accurate as
32 reasonably possible.

33 To increase the accuracy of estimating the structure's response, engineers have taken
34 advantage of the computational capabilities of modern computers by developing more
35 realistic two-dimensional (2D) and three-dimensional (3D) numerical models. These
36 computer models are subjected to many different ground motions of different intensities to
37 assess the structure's performance. Statistical techniques are typically used to provide
38 functional relationships between the IMs of the ground motion and response measures that
39 are associated with required levels of performance (e.g., operational, life safety or collapse).

40 The response of such complex models, however, is better estimated by monitoring
41 multiple response measures, which are often referred to as Engineering Demand Parameters
42 (EDPs). In turn, estimates of the maximum values of these measures are better predicted by a
43 pool of IMs of the ground motion in both horizontal (and sometimes vertical) directions
44 rather than by a single IM. For example, a good predictor of Maximum Inter Story Drift
45 Ratio in the X- direction of a building (MIDRX) may be the spectral acceleration at the first
46 period of vibration, T_{1x} , of the structure in its X-direction, $S_{a_x}(T_{1x})$; and similarly, $S_{a_y}(T_{1y})$ is a
47 good predictor for MIDRY, where T_{1y} is the first period of vibration of the structure in its Y-
48 direction. The collapse of a building, however, is more likely to happen when both MIDRX
49 and MIDRY and, therefore, $S_{a_x}(T_{1x})$ and $S_{a_y}(T_{1y})$, are large rather than when either one is
50 large. In addition, damage to structural, non-structural components and equipment of a
51 building are better estimated by different EDP types (e.g. peak floor spectral ordinate and
52 maximum inter story drifts), whose estimation is better served by utilizing different
53 appropriate IMs.

54 If EDPs are estimated via multiple IMs, the long-term risk computations require the
55 convolution of IMs versus EDPs relationships (FEMA-P-58 2012) and, therefore, the
56 knowledge of the joint hazard probability distributions of the (generally correlated) IMs at
57 the building site. The methodology for computing the joint hazard was first introduced in
58 1998 and was called vector-PSHA (Bazzurro, 1998; Bazzurro and Cornell, 2001 and 2002) or
59 VPSHA for short. A few software programs were developed since for such a purpose
60 (Bazzurro, 1998; Thio, 2003; 2010; 2010) but were limited to a vector of two *IMs* and were
61 not capable of providing the disaggregation of the joint hazard. To avoid the complexity of
62 the joint hazard computation for a vector of IMs, researchers over the years introduced
63 several complex scalar IMs that are combination of multiple IMs (e.g., Fajfar et al., 1990,
64 Cordova et al., 2002, followed by Vamvatsikos and Cornell, 2005, Luco et al., 2005a; Luco
65 and Cornell, 2007, Mehanny, 2009, Bianchini et al., 2010, Bojórquez and Iervolino, 2011).
66 These complex IMs are often more effective in the prediction of EDPs than each single IM
67 that compose them but arguably less effective than considering a vector of those IMs in the
68 response prediction.

69 To help promoting the use of VPSHA, a methodology was developed and implemented
70 (Bazzurro et al., 2009 and 2010) that allows the computation of the joint hazard using results
71 from any standard scalar PSHA software. This “indirect” approach to VPSHA is more
72 computationally efficient than the original VPSHA “direct” integration method. It also has a
73 major advantage over the direct integration method: it can accommodate a higher number of
74 Random Variables (RVs) without significant loss of joint hazard accuracy.

75 In this paper, we review the direct and indirect VPSHA methodologies and elaborate on
76 the pros and cons of each. The “indirect” method is then used to compute the VPSHA for a
77 set of IMs in terms of spectral acceleration and average spectral acceleration for a site close
78 to Istanbul based on the scalar PSHA results computed using the software OpenQuake. In the
79 companion paper (Kohrangi et al., 2015), these PSHA and VPSHA results are used to
80 perform a risk-based assessment of three 3D models of reinforced concrete infilled frame
81 buildings of 3-, 5- and 8-stories typical of the European Mediterranean countries.

82 VECTOR-VALUED PROBABILISTIC SEISMIC HAZARD ANALYSIS (VPSHA)

83 As mentioned earlier, the original methodology for computing the joint hazard of
84 multiple ground motion IMs (e.g., Peak Ground Acceleration, PGA, and $S_a(1.0s)$), which are
85 dependent RVs (Bazzurro, 1998; Bazzurro and Cornell, 2001 and 2002), is based on direct
86 integration of the joint probability density function (pdf) of the same IMs at a site caused by
87 each earthquake considered in the analysis. The joint distribution of correlated IMs at a site,
88 which can be modeled as a multivariate Gaussian distribution if the IMs are represented by
89 their natural logarithms (Jayaram and Baker, 2008), is computed separately for each
90 earthquake scenario. The total hazard is obtained by summing the contributions from all
91 scenarios weighted by their occurrence rates. This method contains no approximation besides
92 the implicit numerical accuracy of the integration solver. This so-called “direct method” is
93 considered in this study only to obtain a set of joint hazard results for the many ground
94 motion IMs considered. These results are used as a benchmark to validate the results from the
95 indirect method.

96 The joint Gaussian pdf conditional on the parameters of the earthquake (i.e., magnitude
97 M , source-to-site distance R , number of standard deviations from the mean GMPE prediction,
98 ε , the rupture mechanism, and the soil conditions) can be computed when ground motion
99 prediction Equations (GMPEs) are available for the IMs involved and with the knowledge of
100 their variance-covariance matrix. Inoue (1990) and, more recently, Baker and Jayaram
101 (2008), Goda and Hong (2008) and Akkar et al. (2014), have empirically derived the
102 correlation structure for spectral accelerations with different periods and different record
103 component orientations. Figure 1(a) shows one example of such empirical correlation
104 structure. In addition, Bradley (2011a, 2011b, 2012a, 2012b) obtained empirical correlations
105 between a few alternative IMs, such as Peak Ground Velocity (PGV), cumulative intensity
106 measures, and ground motion duration. For example, Figure 1(b) shows the contours of the
107 joint pdf for $S_a(1.0s)$ and $S_a(0.3s)$ for a site with $V_{s30}=760$ m/s located 7km from a $M_w=7.3$
108 event with a strike-slip mechanism as predicted by the GMPE by Boore and Atkinson (2008).
109 According to Baker and Jayaram (2008), the correlation coefficient for $S_a(1.0s)$ and $S_a(0.3s)$
110 is 0.5735 for this particular case. Although conceptually straightforward, direct integration is
111 numerically challenging, especially when (a) high precision in the tails of the distribution is

112 sought; (b) the number of earthquake scenarios is large, which is usually the case in realistic
113 applications; and (c) the number of IMs exceeds three or four. In fact, to our best knowledge
114 of direct-VPSHA codes in existence, the only software capable of carrying out the
115 computations for more than two RVs is documented in Bazzurro et al. (2010) and all the
116 previous studies are limited to only two RVs (Bazzurro, 1998; Thio, 2003; Gülerce and
117 Abrahamson, 2010). As a consequence, the so-called *direct approach*, due to its complexity
118 and heavy numerical computations, has not been used much so far in the scientific and
119 engineering communities. In the computational efforts in the direct method, one approach
120 would be application of the Monte Carlo simulation. For instance, Bazzurro et al. 2010 used
121 an integration algorithm based on a quasi-Monte Carlo simulation developed by Genz and
122 Bertz, 1999, 2002. Although, these integration techniques seem appealing, still it might not,
123 in any way, alleviate the computational burden of the direct method. To overcome this
124 hurdle, Bazzurro et al. (2009) proposed an alternative approach for the calculation of VPSHA
125 based on processing only the results of available scalar PSHA codes. This is what we called
126 here the *indirect method*, which is discussed in the next section.

127 **Figure 1.** (a) The variance-covariance structure of log spectral accelerations at different periods in a
128 random horizontal component of a ground motion record (Jayaram and Baker, 2008); (b) the joint pdf
129 for $Sa(1.0s)$ and $Sa(0.3s)$ for a given scenario earthquake (adopted from Bazzurro et al., 2010).

130 **INDIRECT APPROACH TO VPSHA**

131 Under the rational of joint normality of log IMs (Jayaram and Baker, 2008), the joint
132 Mean Rate Density, MRD (for definition and details, see Bazzurro and Cornell, 2002) or,
133 similarly, the Mean Annual Rate (MAR) of occurrence of any combination of values of a
134 pool of ground motion IMs could be computed only with the knowledge of the following
135 items (Bazzurro et al., 2009):

- 136 1. *Site-specific seismic hazard curves of the ground motion IMs considered in the*
137 *vector*— The vector of ground motion IMs is denoted herein as S . This vector could
138 include, for example, three parameters: the spectral acceleration at two different periods
139 in one of the horizontal directions, and at one period in the orthogonal horizontal
140 direction. These periods could correspond, for example, to the first and second mode of

141 vibrations of a building in the longitudinal directions and the first mode in the transverse
142 direction. The three hazard curves corresponding to these periods can be obtained with
143 any standard PSHA code.

144 2. *The variance-covariance matrix of all the ground motion IMs*—Empirical estimates of
145 this variance-covariance matrix are available in the literature as discussed in previous
146 section (see the reference list for some such studies).

147 3. *The disaggregation results from scalar PSHA* —The joint distributions of all the basic
148 variables, \mathbf{X} , including M , R , ε , the style of faulting, the distance to the top of the co-
149 seismic rupture, and all other variables required by the GMPE of choice that contribute to
150 the joint occurrence of specific values of IMs at the site. This is a straightforward
151 extension of the disaggregation results routinely available from standard scalar PSHA
152 codes.

153 For brevity, following Bazzurro et al. (2009) the details of the methodology are presented
154 below only for the case of three IMs that, in this specific case, are spectral accelerations.
155 However, this approach, which requires some straightforward matrix algebra, is scalable to a
156 larger number of (RVs) and can include any other ground motion parameters (e.g., ground
157 motion duration, near-source forward-directivity pulse period, Arias intensity and cumulative
158 absolute velocity) if the proper correlation structure and prediction equations are available.
159 For simplicity, in the derivations below the RVs are treated as discrete rather than continuous
160 quantities.

161 Let $S=[Sa_1;Sa_2;Sa_3]$ denote the vector of RVs for which we seek to obtain the joint hazard
162 expressed by the mean annual rate of occurrence of the three spectral acceleration quantities
163 Sa_1 , Sa_2 and Sa_3 in the neighborhood of any combination of three spectral acceleration values
164 a_1 , a_2 and a_3 , respectively. Mathematically, this is $MAR[Sa_1; Sa_2; Sa_3] = MAR_{Sa_1; Sa_2; Sa_3}[a_1;$
165 $a_2; a_3]$. Note that Sa_1 , Sa_2 and Sa_3 represent here the natural logarithm of the spectral
166 accelerations but the logarithm operator has been dropped to avoid lengthy notations. The
167 quantity $MAR[Sa_1; Sa_2; Sa_3]$ could, for example, denote the Mean Annual Rate (MAR) of
168 observing at a building site values in the neighborhood of (the natural logarithm of) 1.0g,
169 1.5g, and 0.8g for the spectral acceleration quantities at the periods of the first and second
170 modes of vibration in the building longitudinal direction and the spectral acceleration at the
171 period of the first mode in the building transverse direction. These spectral acceleration

172 values may be related to the onset of an important structural limit-state determined from a
 173 statistical analysis of the response of a structure subjected to many ground motion records.
 174 Then, using the theorem of total probability, one can express the following:

$$\text{MAR}[Sa_1; Sa_2; Sa_3] = P[Sa_1 | Sa_2; Sa_3] \cdot P[Sa_2 | Sa_3] \cdot \text{MAR}[Sa_3], \quad (1)$$

175 where:

$$P[Sa_1 | Sa_2; Sa_3] = \sum_{\mathbf{X}} P[Sa_1 | Sa_2; Sa_3; \mathbf{X}] \cdot P[\mathbf{X} | Sa_2; Sa_3] \quad (2)$$

176 Equation (2) represents the conditional distribution of Sa_1 , Sa_2 and Sa_3 . This term can be
 177 numerically computed by conditioning it to the pool of variables \mathbf{X} in a standard PSHA that
 178 appear in the selected GMPE and integrating over all possible values of \mathbf{X} , as shown on the
 179 right hand side of Equation (2). Exploiting the joint log normality of \mathbf{S} , for every possible
 180 value of \mathbf{X} , the quantity $P[Sa_1; Sa_2; Sa_3]$ can be computed simply with the knowledge of the
 181 variance-covariance matrix of Sa_1 , Sa_2 and Sa_3 and the GMPE of choice. Further details on
 182 the mathematics are provided below. $P[\mathbf{X} | Sa_2; Sa_3]$ can be obtained via disaggregation and
 183 Bayes theorem as follows:

$$P[\mathbf{X} | Sa_2; Sa_3] = \frac{P[\mathbf{X}, Sa_2 | Sa_3]}{\sum_{\mathbf{X}} P[Sa_2 | Sa_3; \mathbf{X}] \cdot P[\mathbf{X} | Sa_3]} = \frac{P[Sa_2 | Sa_3; \mathbf{X}] \cdot P[\mathbf{X} | Sa_3]}{P[Sa_2 | Sa_3]} \quad (3)$$

184 Where $P[\mathbf{X} | Sa_3]$ can be derived using conventional scalar PSHA disaggregation. $P[Sa_2 | Sa_3;$
 185 $\mathbf{X}]$, as for the $P[Sa_1 | Sa_2; Sa_3; \mathbf{X}]$ term above, can be computed with the knowledge of the
 186 variance-covariance matrix of Sa_2 and Sa_3 and the adopted GMPE. $\sum_{\mathbf{X}} P[Sa_2 | Sa_3; \mathbf{X}] \cdot P[\mathbf{X} | Sa_3]$
 187 can be evaluated as explained above. $\text{MAR}[Sa_3]$ is the absolute value of the discretized
 188 differential of the conventional seismic hazard curve for the scalar quantity Sa_3 at the site.
 189 After some simplifications, Equation (1) can be rewritten as follows:

$$\text{MAR}[Sa_1; Sa_2; Sa_3] = \text{MAR}[Sa_3] \cdot \sum_{\mathbf{X}} P[Sa_1 | Sa_2; Sa_3; \mathbf{X}] \cdot P[Sa_2 | Sa_3; \mathbf{X}] \cdot P[\mathbf{X} | Sa_3] \quad (4)$$

190 The two first conditional terms in Equation (4) (i.e., $P[Sa_1 | Sa_2; Sa_3; \mathbf{X}]$ and $P[Sa_2 | Sa_3;$
 191 $\mathbf{X}]$) can be evaluated using the multivariate normal distribution theorem. In general, if $\mathbf{S} =$
 192 $[Sa_1, Sa_2, \dots, Sa_n]^T$ is the vector of the natural logarithm of the random variables for which
 193 the joint hazard is sought, then \mathbf{S} is joint normally distributed with mean, $\boldsymbol{\mu}$, and variance-
 194 covariance matrix, $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$, i.e., in mathematical terms $\mathbf{S} \sim \mathbf{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$. If \mathbf{S} is partitioned into two

195 vectors, $\mathbf{S}_1 = [Sa_1 ; Sa_2; \dots, Sa_k]^T$ and $\mathbf{S}_2 = [Sa_{k+1} ; Sa_{k+2}; \dots, Sa_n]^T$, where \mathbf{S}_2 comprises the
 196 conditioning variables (in the example above $\mathbf{S}_1 = [Sa_1]^T$ and $\mathbf{S}_2 = [Sa_2, Sa_3]^T$), one can write
 197 the following:

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}_1 \\ \mathbf{S}_2 \end{bmatrix} \square N \left(\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\mu}_1 \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{11} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{12} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{21} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right) \quad (5)$$

198 For jointly normal distribution, the conditional mean and variance can be determined as:

$$\mathbf{S}_1 | \mathbf{S}_2 \square N(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{1|2}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{1|2}), \quad (6)$$

199

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{1|2} = \boldsymbol{\mu}_1 + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{12} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{22}^{-1} \cdot (\mathbf{S}_2 - \boldsymbol{\mu}_2); \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{1|2} = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{11} - \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{12} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{22}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{21} \quad (7)$$

200 Equation (1) can be generalized to n variables as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MAR}[Sa_1; Sa_2; Sa_3; \dots; Sa_{n-1}; Sa_n] = \\ \sum_{\mathbf{X}} \text{P}[Sa_1 | Sa_2; Sa_3; \dots; Sa_{n-1}; Sa_n; \mathbf{X}] \cdot \text{P}[Sa_2 | Sa_3; \dots; Sa_{n-1}; Sa_n; \mathbf{X}] \\ \cdot \text{P}[Sa_3 | Sa_4; \dots; Sa_{n-1}; Sa_n; \mathbf{X}] \cdot \text{P}[Sa_{n-1} | Sa_n; \mathbf{X}] \cdot \text{MAR}[Sa_n] \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

201

DIRECT VERSUS INDIRECT APPROACHES

202 Bazzurro et al. (2010) performed a series of comparison tests between the results obtained
 203 by both “direct” and “indirect” VPSHA. That study shows that, while both methods have
 204 their respective strengths and weaknesses, the indirect method has several qualities that,
 205 arguably, make it superior to the direct integration method. The advantages of the indirect
 206 method are:

- 207 1) its implementation does not require much modification of already existing scalar
 208 PSHA codes;
- 209 2) It can compute the joint hazard for a higher number of IMs than the direct method;
- 210 3) it is computationally faster than the direct method for two reasons. First,
 211 integrating multivariate standard normal distributions with three or more
 212 dimensions with very high accuracy is typically an extremely time consuming task.
 213 It should be noted that the indirect method has also mathematical challenges, such
 214 as matrix inversions, which, however, require considerably lower computation
 215 time. Second, in the direct method multi-dimension integration needs to be

216 repeated for every earthquake considered in the PSHA. In the indirect method, the
217 number of events affects only the total run time of the scalar hazard analyses,
218 which is negligible when compared to the total run time of a comparable joint
219 hazard study.

- 220 4) It is easily scalable to higher dimensions of variables;
- 221 5) given its recursive nature, when adding the n -th dimension, the indirect method can
222 re-use results previously computed for the first $n-1$ dimensions. Conversely, adding
223 an additional dimension in the direct method requires restarting the hazard
224 analysis.

225 In fairness, the “indirect” method has also some weaknesses such as:

- 226 1) it requires larger computer memory space than the direct method;
- 227 2) It yields results that are approximate when the number of bins used to discretize
228 the domains of the RVs is limited, a restriction which becomes a necessity in
229 applications with four or more IMs. However, a judicious selection of bins guided
230 by disaggregation results can limit the error in the estimates of the joint and
231 marginal MARs to values typically lower than 3% for the entire range of IMs of
232 engineering significance (Bazzurro et al., 2010).

233 In light of the considerations above, the “Indirect VPSHA” methodology is applied herein
234 to evaluate the joint hazard of vectors of IMs that contain average spectral accelerations over
235 a period range and ratios of spectral accelerations at different periods. The definition of such
236 IMs and the technicalities needed for their inclusion in the VPSHA framework are presented
237 in the sections below.

238 **AVERAGE SPECTRAL ACCELERATION**

239 The average spectral acceleration, Sa_{avg} , is a complex scalar IM that is defined as the
240 geometric mean of the log spectral accelerations at a set of periods of interest (Cordova et al.,
241 2000; Bianchini et al., 2010). These periods, for example, could be equally spaced in the
242 range from $0.2 \cdot T_1$ to $2 \cdot T_1$, where T_1 is the first-mode elastic period of the structure. This array
243 of periods might cover higher mode response and also the structural period elongation caused
244 by the nonlinear behavior due to the accumulation of damage. Alternatively, perhaps more

245 effectively, Sa_{avg} could be defined as the geometric mean of log spectral accelerations at
 246 relevant vibration periods of the structure, such as T_{1x} , T_{1y} , T_{2x} , T_{2y} , $1.5 \cdot T_{1x}$, and $1.5 \cdot T_{1y}$,
 247 where x and y refer to the two main orthogonal axes of the buildings and the indices 1 and 2
 248 refer to the first and second vibration modes of the structure in those directions.
 249 Mathematically, Sa_{avg} can be defined in the following two equivalent ways:

$$Sa_{avg} = \left[\prod_{i=1}^n Sa(T_i) \right]^{1/n}, \quad (9)$$

250

$$\ln(Sa_{avg}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} \right) \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(Sa(T_i)) \quad (10)$$

251 Therefore, from Equation (10) it is clear that the mean and variance of $\ln(Sa_{avg})$ are:

$$\mu_{\ln(Sa_{avg})} = \left(\frac{1}{n} \right) \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_{\ln(Sa(T_i))}, \quad (11)$$

252

$$\text{var}(\ln Sa_{avg}) = \left(\frac{1}{n} \right)^2 \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \rho_{\ln Sa(T_i), \ln Sa(T_j)} \cdot \sigma_{\ln Sa(T_i)} \cdot \sigma_{\ln Sa(T_j)} \quad (12)$$

253 where $\mu_{\ln Sa(T_i)}$ and $\sigma_{\ln Sa(T_i)}$ are the logarithmic mean and standard deviation of spectral
 254 accelerations at the i -th period obtained from a standard GMPE and $\rho_{\ln Sa(T_i), \ln Sa(T_j)}$ is the
 255 correlation coefficient between $\ln Sa(T_i)$ and $\ln Sa(T_j)$. The correlation coefficient of two

256 average spectral acceleration at two orthogonal directions, $Sa_{avgX} = \left[\prod_{i=1}^n (Sa_x(T_i)) \right]^{1/n}$ and

257 $Sa_{avgY} = \left[\prod_{j=1}^m (Sa_y(T_j)) \right]^{1/m}$, could be computed as follows:

$$\rho_{\ln Sa_{avgX}, \ln Sa_{avgY}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \rho_{\ln Sa_x(T_{ix}), \ln Sa_y(T_{jy})} \cdot \sigma_{\ln Sa_x(T_{ix})} \cdot \sigma_{\ln Sa_y(T_{jy})}}{m \cdot n \cdot \sigma_{\ln Sa_{avgX}} \cdot \sigma_{\ln Sa_{avgY}}} \quad (13)$$

**SPECTRAL ACCELERATION RATIO: GMPE AND CORRELATION
COEFFICIENTS**

258
259

260 The vectors of *IMs* considered here include both spectral accelerations and also ratios of
261 spectral accelerations at different ordinates of the spectrum. Ratios are considered to avoid
262 any negative collinearity effects (e.g., Kutner et al., 2004) due to the presence of high
263 correlation between spectral accelerations at different but closely spaced periods. This
264 operation, however, requires the evaluation of correlation coefficients of ratios of spectral
265 accelerations and spectral accelerations at different periods. Equations (14) and (15), which
266 show such correlation coefficients, were derived based on the hypothesis of joint normality of
267 the distribution of the logarithm of spectral accelerations.

$$\rho_{\ln[Sa(T_1)], \ln\left[\frac{Sa(T_3)}{Sa(T_2)}\right]} = \frac{\rho_{1,3} \cdot \sigma_1 \cdot \sigma_3 - \rho_{1,2} \cdot \sigma_1 \cdot \sigma_2}{\sigma_{3/2}}, \quad (14)$$

$$\rho_{\ln\left[\frac{Sa(T_2)}{Sa(T_1)}\right], \ln\left[\frac{Sa(T_4)}{Sa(T_3)}\right]} = \frac{\rho_{1,3} \cdot \sigma_1 \cdot \sigma_3 + \rho_{2,4} \cdot \sigma_2 \cdot \sigma_4 - \rho_{1,4} \cdot \sigma_1 \cdot \sigma_4 - \rho_{2,3} \cdot \sigma_2 \cdot \sigma_3}{\sigma_{2/1} \cdot \sigma_{4/3}} \quad (15)$$

268 in which $\rho_{i,j}$ is the correlation coefficient between $Sa(T_i)$ and $Sa(T_j)$, $\sigma_{i/j}$ is $\sigma_{\ln[Sa(T_i)/Sa(T_j)]}$,
269 the dispersion of the spectral acceleration ratio. The mean and variance of this variable can be
270 computed using the following equations based on a preferred GMPE and the corresponding
271 correlation coefficients:

$$\mu_{\ln\left[\frac{Sa(T_i)}{Sa(T_j)}\right]} = \mu_{\ln Sa(T_i)} - \mu_{\ln Sa(T_j)}, \quad (16)$$

$$\sigma_{\ln\left[\frac{Sa(T_i)}{Sa(T_j)}\right]}^2 = \sigma_{\ln Sa(T_i)}^2 + \sigma_{\ln Sa(T_j)}^2 - 2 \cdot \rho_{\ln Sa(T_i), \ln Sa(T_j)} \cdot \sigma_{\ln Sa(T_i)} \cdot \sigma_{\ln Sa(T_j)} \quad (17)$$

272 where $\mu_{\ln Sa(T_i)}$ and $\mu_{\ln Sa(T_j)}$ are the mean logarithm (or, equivalently, the logarithm of the
273 median) of values of $Sa(T_i)$ and $Sa(T_j)$ obtained from the GMPE.

274 **SITE SPECIFIC SEISMIC HAZARD ANALYSIS**

275 The OpenQuake (Monelli et al., 2012) open-source software for seismic hazard and risk
276 assessment, developed by the Global Earthquake Model (GEM) foundation, was used to

277 perform the seismic hazard computations. These computations are based on the area source
278 model and the Fault Source and Background (FSBG) model (black and red lines in

279 Figure 2(a), respectively) developed during the SHARE Project (Giardini et al., 2013).
280 The former model assumes a homogeneous distribution of earthquakes in time and space.
281 Area sources are polygons, each one comprising a region of homogeneous seismic
282 activity. The latter model uses fault specific information, most importantly the fault slip rate,
283 to estimate earthquake activity rates. This is different from the area source model, which uses
284 solely the earthquake catalog to estimate the rates of occurrence of earthquakes occurring in a
285 zone. These SHARE models were constructed via an iterative process of collecting,
286 reviewing and updating national and regional models (Giardini et al., 2013). We adopted the
287 GMPE proposed by Boore and Atkinson (2008).

288 INTENSITY MEASURES TESTED IN THIS STUDY

289 The group of considered scalar and vector IMs is listed in Table 1. The effectiveness of
290 these IMs in the estimation of building EDPs is compared in the companion paper (Kohrangi
291 et al., 2015) while herein we only address the details of the hazard analysis methodology
292 carried out for each IM. The IMs selected here are different combinations of the predictors
293 most commonly available to engineers, namely the elastic pseudo spectral accelerations at
294 different periods used singularly or jointly for assessing the response of 3D buildings (as
295 opposed to 2D models, as often done). Therefore, other more complicated nonlinear IMs,
296 such as inelastic spectral displacement (Tothong and Cornell, 2007) are not considered here.
297 Still, it is important to note that IMs of practically any complexity can be incorporated in the
298 assessment without needing to rerun the structural analyses. As observed by Vamvatsikos
299 and Cornell (2005), changing the IM is simply an exercise in post processing. On the other
300 hand, the estimation of hazard will need to be repeated using appropriate GMPEs, which are
301 available for all the IMs tested herein, but not necessarily for other less common ones (e.g.,
302 the so-called Fajfar Index, I_v defined in Fajfar et al., 1990).

303 The spectral acceleration at the first modal period of the structure, $Sa(T_1)$, termed Sa_{S1} in
304 Table 1, is the most commonly adopted scalar IM for seismic response assessment of 2D
305 structural models. However, the selection of the value of T_1 might not be obvious for 3D

306 structural models of buildings especially when the first modal periods in the two main
 307 horizontal directions are significantly different.

308 Alternatively, the engineer may decide to carry out the assessment for each direction
 309 separately, hence disregarding the interaction between the responses of the building in the
 310 two main horizontal axes. This latter approach is often adopted with the understanding that it
 311 produces conservative results. In this context, FEMA P-58 (2012) suggests using the spectral
 312 acceleration at the average of the period in the two main horizontal orthogonal axes of the
 313 building, $\bar{T} = (T_{1x} + T_{1y}) / 2$, termed Sa_{S2} . However, this approach might not be effective for
 314 structures with well-separated periods in the two horizontal axes.

Table 1. IMs considered in the response estimation

INTENSITY MEASURE (IM)**	ABBREVIATION*
SCALAR IMs	
Natural logarithm of arbitrary spectral acceleration at the first modal period $\ln[Sa_x(T_{1x})] \text{ or } \ln[Sa_y(T_{1y})]$.	Sa_{S1}
Natural logarithm of the geometric mean of spectral acceleration at the average period, $\ln[Sa_{g.m.}(\bar{T} = (T_{1x} + T_{1y}) / 2)]$.	Sa_{S2}
$\ln[Sa_x(\alpha_1 \cdot T_{1x}) \cdot Sa_x(T_{1x}) \cdot Sa_x(\alpha_u \cdot T_{1x}) \cdot Sa_y(\alpha_1 \cdot T_{1y}) \cdot Sa_y(T_{1y}) \cdot Sa_y(\alpha_u \cdot T_{1y})]$	Sa_{S3}
$\ln\left(\left[\prod_{i=1}^n (Sa_x(T_{xi}))\right]^{1/n}\right) \cdot \ln\left(\left[\prod_{j=1}^m (Sa_y(T_{yj}))\right]^{1/m}\right)$, $\alpha_1 \cdot T_1 \leq T_i \leq \alpha_u \cdot T_1, m = n = 10$ §	Sa_{S4}
Natural logarithm of the geometric mean of Peak Ground Acceleration, $\ln[PGA_{g.m.}]$	PGA
VECTOR IMs	
$\ln\left\{Sa_x(T_{1x}), \frac{Sa_y(T_{1y})}{Sa_x(T_{1x})}, \frac{Sa_x(1.5 \cdot T_{1x})}{Sa_y(T_{1y})}, \frac{Sa_y(1.5 \cdot T_{1y})}{Sa_x(1.5 \cdot T_{1x})}\right\}$	Sa_{V1}
$\ln\left\{Sa_{g.m.}(\bar{T}), \frac{Sa_{g.m.}(0.5 \cdot \bar{T})}{Sa_{g.m.}(\bar{T})}, \frac{Sa_{g.m.}(1.5 \cdot \bar{T})}{Sa_{g.m.}(0.5 \cdot \bar{T})}\right\}$	Sa_{V2}
$\ln\left\{\left[Sa_x(\alpha_1 \cdot T_{1x}) \cdot Sa_x(T_{1x}) \cdot Sa_x(\alpha_u \cdot T_{1x})\right]^{1/3}, \left[Sa_y(\alpha_1 \cdot T_{1y}) \cdot Sa_y(T_{1y}) \cdot Sa_y(\alpha_u \cdot T_{1y})\right]^{1/3}\right\}$	Sa_{V3}
$\ln\left\{\left[\left[\prod_{i=1}^n (Sa_x(T_{xi}))\right]^{1/n}\right], \left[\left[\prod_{j=1}^m (Sa_y(T_{yj}))\right]^{1/m}\right]\right\}$, $\alpha_1 \cdot T_1 \leq T_i \leq \alpha_u \cdot T_1, m = n = 10$	Sa_{V4}

*All the IMs are based on natural logarithm transformation. The notation ln is removed from the abbreviations for brevity

** α_1 is equal to 0.8, 0.2 and 0.2 for the 3-, 5- and 8-story, respectively. α_u is equal to 1.5 in all cases.

§ The periods are equally spaced.

316 In addition, as the structure becomes nonlinear, the structural response is more correlated
317 with spectral acceleration at vibration periods longer than the linear elastic response at T_1 .
318 Vamvatsikos and Cornell (2005) and Baker and Cornell (2008) showed also that for tall
319 structures one needs to account for both longer and shorter periods rather than just T_1 to
320 appropriately describe both the inelastic response and the spectral shape (related to higher
321 modes) expressed in terms of Maximum IDR. On the other hand, a desirable IM should be an
322 efficient and sufficient predictor of *multiple response quantities* (i.e. IDRs and peak floor
323 accelerations, PFAs, along the structure's height) rather than performing very well for
324 predicting one EDP type and very poorly for predicting others. An efficient IM provides low
325 dispersion of the predicted response given IM and a sufficient IM offers statistical
326 independence of the response given IM from ground motion characteristics, such as
327 magnitude, distance, etc. Efficiency helps reduce the number of time history analysis for
328 reliable assessment of response, while sufficiency is a *sine qua non* requirement for
329 combining PSHA with structural analysis results. See Luco and Cornell (2007) for more
330 detailed definitions of efficiency and sufficiency. As discussed by Kazantzi and Vamvatsikos
331 (2015) and in the companion paper (Kohrangi et al. 2015), an IM that is effective for
332 predicting both IDR and PFA responses at all story levels should combine spectral
333 accelerations at a wide range of periods bracketing the first mode. To this end, the hazard
334 calculations for several scalar and vector IMs are addressed here.

335 Sa_{V1} and Sa_{V2} are vectors of $Sa(T_1)$ and the ratio(s) of spectral accelerations at different
336 spectral ordinates and orientations. In Sa_{V1} the focus has been on addressing the IDR
337 response estimation and, therefore, we utilized the arbitrary spectral acceleration component
338 (Sa_{arb} , referred to Sa_x or Sa_y in Table 1) since it can capture the 3D response of both
339 orthogonal directions separately. This IM, however, is expected to be less effective in PFA
340 response estimation since it lacks information about spectral accelerations at periods
341 consistent with higher modes of the structure. Sa_{V2} , on the other hand, is a three-component
342 vector IM based on the geometric mean of spectral acceleration at \bar{T}_1 and two periods lower
343 and higher than \bar{T}_1 . This IM is expected to be appropriate for both IDR and PFA response
344 prediction; however, it might fail in capturing the 3D modeling effect, as explained earlier.
345 Two scalar IMs in the form of average spectral acceleration (Sa_{S3} and Sa_{S4} in Table 1) were

346 also defined using the geometric mean to combine the intensities in two orthogonal
347 directions. Sa_{S3} is constructed with the spectral accelerations at three building-specific
348 spectral ordinates in both directions for a total of six components, whereas Sa_{S4} is defined
349 over ten periods for a total of 20 components. Either of these two IMs is expected to be
350 promising for different applications. Again, since Sa_{S3} and Sa_{S4} combine the two orthogonal
351 excitations with equal weights, they are expected to be less effective for 3D asymmetric
352 structural models whose vibrations may be very different in the two main orthogonal
353 directions. Hence, Sa_{V3} and Sa_{V4} are introduced as the corresponding vector IMs by
354 separating the contribution of each horizontal ground motion component into a two-element
355 vector.

356 In the range of periods longer than T_1 , the value of $T=1.5 \cdot T_1$ has been selected as an
357 appropriate upper period limit for all IMs. This was decided based on a preliminary nonlinear
358 response history analysis for the three buildings (see Kohrangi et al., 2015) where
359 $Sa(T=1.5 \cdot T_1)$ consistently provides the lowest dispersion in response estimation for all
360 directions. As stressed earlier, in the range of periods lower than T_1 , one needs to provide a
361 balance in the efficiency of the same IM in the estimation of both PFA and IDR. It is well
362 known that values of PFA are considerably more influenced by higher modes compared to
363 those of IDR. In other words, adding many short period ordinates to a vector IM, or averaged
364 spectral acceleration scalar IM, may help in PFA prediction only but it may not be as
365 effective for predicting IDR. Opposite considerations hold when adding many spectral
366 ordinates with periods longer than the fundamental one in the predictive vector. Therefore,
367 care should be exercised when selecting the relative weight placed on the short versus the
368 long period ranges for each building. In this study, minimum periods of 0.8, 0.2 and 0.2 of T_1
369 for the considered 3-, 5- and 8-story buildings, respectively, were observed to provide such
370 balance in the response prediction. The PGA is also considered as a candidate IM here
371 because it is expected to be a valuable predictor for estimating PFA, especially for short and
372 relatively rigid structures or at lower floors of taller buildings, as confirmed in the companion
373 paper (Kohrangi et al., 2015). Finally, as mentioned earlier, to avoid problems caused by
374 multi-collinearity of different predictors in the vector IMs of Sa_{V1} and Sa_{V2} , all spectral
375 accelerations other than the first component of the vector (i.e., $Sa_x(T_{1,x})$) are normalized to the
376 previous component in the series.

377 **PSHA AND VPSHA ANALYSIS RESULTS**

378 A site in the south of the Sea of Marmara in Turkey was considered in this study and all
379 earthquake sources within 200 km from it were included in the hazard calculations.

380 Figure 2(a) shows the site map along with the considered faults. A reference “stiff or soft
381 rock” soil class with average shear wave velocity over the top 30m (V_{s30}) equal to 620 m/s
382 was assumed to be present at the site. The minimum magnitude of engineering significance
383 used in the hazard analysis was $M_w = 4.5$. The hazard calculations are based on the GMPE
384 proposed by Boore and Atkinson (2008) that provides GMRotI50 of spectral acceleration
385 (i.e., a median value of the geometric mean over multiple incident angles) rather than the
386 geometric mean of the spectral accelerations of two recorded horizontal components or the
387 spectral acceleration of one arbitrarily chosen component. Baker and Cornell (2006) showed
388 that even though the GMRotI50, the geometric mean ($Sa_{g.m.}$) and the arbitrary component
389 (Sa_{arb}) have statistically similar median values for any given earthquake at any given
390 location, their logarithmic standard deviations are different (the values for Sa_{arb} being higher
391 due to the component-to-component variability). Therefore, one should be careful in
392 consistently applying the same definition of spectral acceleration both in hazard calculations
393 and in the response assessment. In this study, consistent definitions of spectral acceleration
394 variables (arbitrary component or geometric mean) were used by modifying the standard
395 deviation of the applied GMPE, according to the definition of spectral acceleration
396 considered.

397

398 **Figure 2.** Hazard Analysis results: (a) Site map showing the location of fault sources (blue lines),
399 background source model (red lines), the area source model (black lines), and the assumed location of
400 the building (yellow pin), (b) Mean Annual Rate (MAR) of exceedance of Sa at periods of relevance
401 to the 8-story building (Kohrangi et al., 2015) (solid line: $Sa_{g.m.}$, dashed line: Sa_{arb}) and Sa_{avg} made
402 of the same spectral accelerations.

403

404 Figure 2(b) shows the hazard curves related to the 8-story building described in the
405 companion paper for spectral acceleration at four different periods (solid lines for the
406 geometric mean and dashed lines for the arbitrary component) corresponding to $T_{1x}=1.30s$
407 and $T_{1y}=0.44s$ and periods 1.5 times the first vibration mode of each direction, along with the
408 curve for their average, Sa_{avg} . As mentioned earlier, the VPSHA *indirect* approach was

409 implemented using the PSHA output of OpenQuake. The disaggregation results for finely
410 discretized bins of 0.5 magnitude unit and 2.5 km distance were considered. In the PSHA, the
411 hazard curves for the spectral accelerations were computed for values ranging from 0.0001g
412 to 3.5g with a logarithmic increment of $\ln(0.2)$ and the spectral acceleration ratios ranging
413 from 0.01 to 50 with a constant logarithmic increment of $\ln(1.17)$. Such fine discretization of
414 spectral acceleration hazard curves was employed as required to achieve sufficiently accurate
415 estimates of the marginal MARs (see Bazzurro et al., 2010). Bazzurro et al., (2010),
416 performed a sensitivity analysis on the effect of bin size on the precision of the method and
417 the interested reader is referred to that study.

418 The same GMPE (Boore and Atkinson, 2008) and site conditions were adopted for
419 VPSHA for consistency reasons. In a real, complex case problem in which several GMPEs
420 are considered in a logic tree format, the VPSHA indirect computations may also be
421 complicated by the handling of multiple GMPEs and the corresponding proportions, which
422 was avoided here. An additional simplification adopted is the assumption that all the
423 earthquakes were generated by a strike-slip rupture mechanism. This eliminates the need for
424 rupture mechanism bookkeeping when disaggregating the site hazard. The correlation
425 coefficients proposed by Baker and Jayaram (2008) via Equations (13), (14) and (15) were
426 used for the computation of the hazard of complex IMs. Note that, for simplicity, these
427 correlation coefficients were applied to every scenario event, although a recent study
428 (Azarbakht et al., 2014) has shown some dependence of the correlation structure on
429 magnitude and distance.

430 As an example,

431 Figure 3(c) shows VPSHA results for a selected vector case with two components.

432 Figure 3(d) displays the M and R disaggregation of the joint hazard at
433 $Sa(T_1=0.57s)=0.067g$ and $Sa(1.5 \cdot T_1)/Sa(T_1)=1.021$, which are IMs relevant for the 3-story
434 building analyzed in the companion paper (Kohrangi et al., 2015). The code generated in this
435 study is capable of computing the joint hazard for a vector up to 4 components. One simple,
436 but not necessarily sufficient, validation for the vector PSHA is the comparison between the
437 hazard curves obtained using scalar PSHA for each IM in the vector, with the marginal
438 distributions of the joint IM distribution obtained from VPSHA for the same IMs. Such

439 validation was performed for the entire vector computations tested here and good consistency
440 was observed in all cases.

441 Figure 3 (c) shows one such comparison for the VPSHA case of equaling pairs of
442 $Sa(1.5 \cdot T_{1x})/Sa(T_{1x})$ and $Sa(T_{1x})$ values (see

443 Figure 3(a)). In

444 Figure 3(b), the MAR of exceeding for this example is shown.

445

446 **Figure 3.** Hazard Analysis results: (a) MAR of equaling joint values of $Sa_x(T_{1x})$ and of
447 $Sa_x(1.5 \cdot T_{1x})/Sa_x(T_{1x})$ at $T_{1x} = 0.57s$, (b) MAR of exceeding joint values of $Sa_x(T_{1x})$ and of
448 $Sa_x(1.5 \cdot T_{1x})/Sa_x(T_{1x})$ at $T_{1x} = 0.57s$ c) comparison of the MAR of equaling derived from the scalar
449 PSHA and from the marginal of VPSHA; d) disaggregation results for a joint MAR of equaling at a
450 given ground motion intensity level with $Sa_x(T_{1x}) = 0.067g$ and $Sa_x(1.5 \cdot T_{1x})/Sa_x(T_{1x}) = 1.021$ at
451 $T_{1x} = 0.57s$.

452 It should be noted, again, that to achieve a good accuracy of the hazard estimates the
453 domain of all the random variables considered in the VPSHA calculations must be well
454 discretized especially around the region where the probability density function is more
455 concentrated. For instance, the joint MAR of equaling for $Sa_x(T_{1x})$ and $Sa_x(1.5 \cdot T_{1x})/Sa_x(T_{1x})$
456 ratio for $T_{1x} = 0.57s$ shown in

457 Figure 3(a) needs a fine discretization especially in the 0.5 to 1.0 range for the
458 $Sa_x(1.5 \cdot T_{1x})/Sa_x(T_{1x})$ ratio and of 0.001g to 1.0g for $Sa_x(T_{1x})$. As explained earlier, in this
459 study a constant and rather fine discretization was considered to cover all the ranges
460 appropriately. However, the user can adopt different discretization schemes with respect to
461 the importance of each adopted range, perhaps to reduce the analysis time and to reach the
462 accuracy of interest.

463 An improvement of this software for carrying out VPSHA compared to previous ones is
464 the ability to compute the contributions to the joint hazard in terms of the M , R , and, if
465 needed, the rupture mechanism of the causative events. Although not implemented here, the
466 joint hazard disaggregation could also be extended to identify the latitude and longitude of
467 the events, so that the specific faults that control the hazard can be uniquely recognized
468 (Bazzurro and Cornell, 1999). Several refinements of the disaggregation exercise can be

469 carried out to meet the requirements of the users. For example, in a 2D joint hazard case, the
470 disaggregation can be implemented to extract the contributions to the MAR of “equaling” a
471 certain joint IM cell (e.g., $Sa(0.3s)=0.2g$ and $Sa(1.0s)=0.1g$), or to the MAR of equaling or
472 exceeding it (e.g., $Sa(0.3s) \geq 0.2g$ and $Sa(1.0s) \geq 0.1g$). One example of such results is shown
473 in

474 Figure 3(d). The VPSHA software developed for this study in MatLab is available at
475 Kohrangi, 2015a.

476 CONCLUSIONS

477 Computing the seismic risk of realistic buildings for both loss estimation and collapse
478 assessment requires monitoring building response measures that may include story-specific
479 measures, such as peak inter story drifts and floor response spectra at all stories, and global
480 measures, such as maximum peak inter story drift along the height of the building and
481 residual, post-earthquake lateral displacement. A confident assessment of these response
482 measures requires sophisticated structural and non-structural modeling that is better served
483 by using 3D computer models of the building. Predicting the response of such models in both
484 the main horizontal axis and, in some cases, vertical direction (e.g., for assessing the damage
485 to suspended ceilings) is facilitated by the use of more than one IM of the ground motion in
486 one or more directions and at one or more oscillator periods.

487 Estimating response measures as a function of different IMs involves statistical and
488 probabilistic techniques that have been already, in large part, developed and fine-tuned.
489 However, which IMs are superior for a practical estimation of *both losses and collapse* of
490 buildings modeled as 3D structures and how to compute the joint hazard of these IMs at the
491 building site is still a very fertile ground for research.

492 This article and its companion one (Kohrangi et al., 2015) describe the use of more than
493 one IM for assessing building response for both loss and collapse estimation. The present
494 article focuses on defining the IMs that are jointly used as predictors of building response in
495 the companion paper and outlines a method for performing vector-valued PSHA for these
496 IMs. Performing vector-valued PSHA for complex IMs that are derived from common ones
497 (e.g., spectral accelerations at different periods) is not trivial and requires modifying the

498 existing ground motion prediction models and computing the variance-covariance matrix of
499 such IMs.

500 All these aspects are covered here for the most common practical IMs appearing in the
501 literature namely spectral accelerations, ratios of spectral accelerations and averages of
502 spectral accelerations over different periods and orientations, which are used as predictors of
503 building response both in scalar form and in vector form. More precisely, the scalar IMs
504 considered here are spectral accelerations at first mode period of the structure in each
505 orthogonal main directions of the building, or at the average of the first modal periods in the
506 two orthogonal directions. Another scalar IM used is the averaged spectral acceleration at
507 multiple periods of oscillation that are important for the structures considered. It is
508 emphasized, however, that the methodology described for performing vector-valued PSHA
509 goes beyond the boundaries of these specific applications that use only spectral accelerations.
510 Other less conventional IMs (e.g. *PGV*, *PGD*, Arias Intensity, duration, and Cumulative
511 Absolute Velocity), can be used following the same approach provided that legitimate ground
512 motion prediction models and correlation coefficients for those IMs are available.

513 For the applications at hand, the conventional scalar PSHA for scalar IMs and the vector-
514 valued PSHA were performed using the software OpenQuake. The vector-valued PSHA were
515 carried out using a methodology that was called the “Indirect” approach since it does not
516 implement the numerical integration of the joint distribution of all the correlated IMs
517 considered, as the “direct” approach does. The “indirect” approach uses the marginal hazard
518 curve for each IM, the disaggregation results from those IMs, and the correlation coefficients
519 for each pair of IMs to obtain the joint hazard. Hence, this method could be considered as a
520 simple post processor of any available scalar PSHA code. This “indirect” method is arguably
521 superior to the “direct” integration approach in many aspects as explained in the body of the
522 paper. However, when applying the “indirect” approach to vector PSHA, care should be
523 exercised in the selection of the bin sizes that discretize the multi-dimensional domain of the
524 IMs. The bin sizes should be rather small especially in the part of the domain where the
525 highest concentration of probability is concentrated.

526 The software that post-process scalar PSHA results and that produced the joint hazard
 527 estimates used in this study is available at Kohrangi, 2015. As will be discussed in the
 528 companion paper (Kohrangi et al., 2015), using vectors of IMs in seismic performance
 529 assessment of structures is a very promising avenue. It is hoped that the software for
 530 performing vector PSHA made available here will decrease the hurdle that has hindered its
 531 use in the past and will enable more complex and accurate seismic response assessment
 532 studies of realistic buildings.

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537 APPENDIX: INCORPORATING MULTIPLE GMPES IN VPSHA

538 In a complex PSHA, where multiple GMPEs are used, one could proceed either by using a
 539 single GMPE, but accepting some level of inaccuracy; or by incorporating all the GMPEs in
 540 computing the median and standard deviation of the corresponding IM. In the latter option,
 541 the values of the median and the standard deviation needed in equations (A.1) and (A.2)
 542 could be approximately obtained using the following equations:

$$543 \quad \mu_{\ln IM_i |rup} \approx \sum_k P_k \mu_{\ln IM_{i,k} |rup} , \quad (A.1)$$

$$544 \quad \sigma_{\ln IM_i |rup} \approx \sqrt{\sum_k P_k \left(\sigma_{\ln IM_{i,k} |rup}^2 + \left(\mu_{\ln IM_{i,k} |rup} - \mu_{\ln IM_i |rup} \right)^2 \right)} , \quad (A.2)$$

545 In which:

546 $\mu_{\ln IM_i |rup}$, is the logarithmic mean obtained incorporating all the GMPEs of the i -th IM in the
 547 vector of IMs given a scenario (Magnitude, distance, etc.).

548 $\mu_{\ln IM_{i,k} |rup}$, is the logarithmic mean obtained from k -th GMPE in the logic tree of the i -th IM
 549 in the vector of IMs given a scenario (Magnitude, distance, etc.).

550 P_k is the PSHA weight assigned to the k -th GMPE in the logic tree.

551 $\sigma_{\ln IM_i, \text{rup}}$, is the logarithmic standard deviation obtained by incorporating all the GMPEs of
552 the i -th IM in the vector of IMs given a scenario (Magnitude, distance, etc.).

553 $\sigma_{\ln IM_{i,k}, \text{rup}}$, is the logarithmic standard deviation obtained from k -th GMPE in the logic tree of
554 the i -th IM in the vector of IMs given a scenario (Magnitude, distance, etc.).

555

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