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# Aftershocks' Effect on Structural Design Actions in Italy

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## Abstract

Although earthquakes generally form clusters both in space and time, only mainshocks, usually the largest magnitude events within a cluster, are considered by probabilistic seismic hazard analysis (PSHA; Cornell, 1968). On the other hand, aftershock probabilistic seismic hazard analysis (APSHA), based on the modified Omori law, allows the quantification of the aftershock threat (Yeo and Cornell, 2009). Classical PSHA often describes event occurrence via a homogeneous Poisson process, whereas APSHA describes occurrence of aftershocks' via cluster-specific nonhomogeneous Poisson processes, the rate of which is a function of the mainshock magnitude. It is easy to recognize that clusters, each of which is made of the mainshock and the following aftershocks, occur at the same rate of mainshocks. This recently allowed the generalization of the hazard integral to account for aftershocks in PSHA (i.e., Iervolino et al., 2014), which resulted in the formulation of the so-called sequence-based probabilistic seismic hazard analysis (SPSHA). In the present study, SPSHA is applied to Italy countrywide, using the same source model (Stucchi et al., 2011) lying at the basis of the official PSHA used for structural design, to quantitatively assess the increase in seismic design actions for structures when accounting for the aftershocks.

## Introduction

The state-of-the-art in structural engineering codes is such that design seismic accelerations are derived from probabilistic seismic hazard analysis (PSHA; Cornell, 1968, McGuire, 2004). The latter provides, for a site of interest, the ground motion intensity measure (*IM*) value that corresponds to a given rate of

28 exceedance. The  $IM$  is typically an ordinate of a pseudo-acceleration response spectrum, and structures  
29 must be designed against values corresponding to rates that are functions of the desired seismic  
30 performance.

31 Even if seismic events generally occur in time-space clusters, classical PSHA describes the  
32 occurrence of earthquakes via a homogeneous Poisson process or HPP. (This model is used to determine  
33 seismic design actions in Italy, that is the case investigated herein; however, other occurrence processes  
34 can be used for PSHA, see for example Beauval et al., 2006). From the HPP assumption of earthquake  
35 occurrence, it follows that the events causing the exceedance of an  $IM$ -value at a site of interest occur  
36 according to a HPP (Cornell, 1968). To be compatible with this modeling hypothesis, only mainshocks,  
37 typically the largest magnitude earthquakes within each cluster, are considered via procedures generally  
38 known as catalog declustering (e.g., Gardner and Knopoff, 1974).

39 For short-term risk management purposes during seismic sequences, aftershock probabilistic seismic  
40 hazard analysis (APSHA) has been developed (Yeo and Cornell, 2009). APSHA models the occurrence  
41 of aftershock via cluster-specific nonhomogeneous Poisson processes (NHPP), the rate of which is a  
42 function of the magnitude of the mainshock that has triggered the sequence, via the modified Omori law  
43 (Utsu, 1961). Because earthquake sequences, made of mainshocks and following aftershocks, occur at  
44 the same rate of the mainshocks, it is possible to combine HPP-based PSHA and APSHA to include the  
45 effect of aftershocks in probabilistic seismic hazard analysis, still working with a declustered catalog.  
46 The mathematics of this stochastic model, named sequence-based probabilistic seismic hazard analysis  
47 (SPSHA), was presented in Iervolino et al. (2014).

48 For any given  $IM$ -value, SPSHA provides the rate of mainshock-aftershock clusters that cause its  
49 exceedance at the site, and its main advantages are: (i) it is probabilistically rigorous in the framework  
50 of PSHA and APSHA, (ii) it allows the retention of the HPP hypothesis for their occurrence, and (iii) it  
51 avoids the issues of non-declustered catalogs such as completeness (see also Marzocchi and Taroni,  
52 2014). It should also be noted that SPSHA, although stimulated by the work of Boyd (2012), is different  
53 mainly because it does not consider foreshocks, makes recourse to APSHA to describe aftershocks, and  
54 provides an analytical framework extending the classical PSHA integral.

55 To quantify the effect of aftershocks on design accelerations, SPSHA is applied herein to Italy to  
 56 develop maps of two spectral (pseudo) accelerations corresponding to four return periods, those that are  
 57 most common for design of structures according to the Italian seismic code (Stucchi et al., 2011). To  
 58 this aim, the same source model (i.e., Meletti et al., 2008) of the current official seismic hazard of Italy  
 59 is considered. The obtained SPSHA maps are compared with those based on the same source model, yet  
 60 from classical PSHA, to help in quantitatively assessing the effects of aftershocks for structural design,  
 61 a relevant issue from the earthquake engineering perspective.

62 The remainder of the paper is structured such that the essentials of SPSHA are recalled first. Then,  
 63 disaggregation of SPSHA, not originally provided in Iervolino et al. (2014) is formulated. It allows the  
 64 assessment of how much the exceedance of a ground motion *IM*-value is contributed by aftershocks  
 65 with respect to mainshocks, and is helpful for the scopes of this study. Subsequently, after introducing  
 66 the considered source model for Italy, SPSHA results, in terms of countrywide maps of spectral  
 67 accelerations for given return periods of exceedance, are presented along with the PSHA counterpart.  
 68 Moreover, two sites, exposed to comparatively low and high hazard according to PSHA, are also  
 69 considered for more detailed discussions. The modeling consistency between PSHA and SPSHA allows,  
 70 finally, the direct comparison of the obtained results and the discussion of the engineering significance  
 71 of accounting for aftershocks in seismic hazard assessment in Italy.

## 72 **Sequence-based probabilistic seismic hazard analysis**

73 The main result of PSHA for a site of interest is the average number of earthquakes in one year (i.e., the  
 74 rate) causing exceedance of a given *IM* threshold, say *im*. The rate of exceedance of *im*, herein indicated  
 75 as  $\lambda_{im,E}$ , is typically obtained via Equation (1), which is written, for simplicity, for the case of a single  
 76 seismic source zone.

$$77 \lambda_{im,E} = \nu_E \cdot \int_{r_{E,\min}}^{r_{E,\max}} \int_{m_{E,\min}}^{m_{E,\max}} P[IM_E > im | x, y] \cdot f_{M_E, R_E}(x, y) \cdot dx \cdot dy \quad (1)$$

78 In the equation,  $\nu_E$  is the rate, from a declustered catalog (e.g., Reiter, 1990), of earthquakes above a  
79 minimum magnitude of interest ( $m_{E,\min}$ ) and below the maximum magnitude ( $m_{E,\max}$ ) of the considered  
80 seismic source. The term  $P[IM_E > im | x, y]$ , provided by a ground motion prediction equation (GMPE),  
81 represents the probability that the intensity threshold is exceeded given an earthquake of magnitude  
82  $M_E = x$ , from which the site is separated by a distance  $R_E = y$ , where  $R_E \in (r_{E,\min}, r_{E,\max})$ . The term  $f_{M_E, R_E}$   
83 is the joint probability density function (PDF) of mainshock magnitude and distance random variables  
84 (RVs). If these two RVs may be considered stochastically independent,  $f_{M_E}$  can be, for example,  
85 described by a truncated exponential distribution, derived by the Gutenberg-Richter (GR) relationship  
86 (Gutenberg and Richter, 1944), and  $f_{R_E}$  is obtained on the basis of the source-site geometrical  
87 configuration. The integral limits are the magnitudes bounding the magnitude PDF and the distances  
88 defining the domain of possible  $R_E$  values.

89 Because  $\nu_E$  is from a declustered catalog, and  $f_{M_E, R_E}$  refers to mainshocks, then the subscript  
90 ( $E$ ) was added to distinguish the obtained rate,  $\lambda_{im, E}$ , from the one by SPSHA, to follow. Finally, in the  
91 case of multiple seismic source, say  $s$  in number, Equation (1) is computed one source at a time and the  
92 results summed up:  $\lambda_{im, E} = \sum_{i=1}^s \lambda_{im, E, i}$ .

93 SPSHA aims to evaluate the average number of seismic sequences (mainshocks and following  
94 aftershocks) that in one year cause at least one exceedance of  $im$  at the site. This rate, called  $\lambda_{im}$ , is still  
95 that of a HPP. It was demonstrated in Iervolino et al. (2014) that, under the hypotheses for aftershock  
96 hazard of Yeo and Cornell (2009),  $\lambda_{im}$  can be computed via Equation (2); i.e., a generalization of  
97 Equation (1).

$$98 \lambda_{im} = \nu_E \cdot \left\{ 1 - \iint_{M_E, R_E} P[IM_E \leq im | x, y] \cdot e^{-E[N_{A|t}(0, \Delta T_A)]} \cdot \iint_{M_A, R_A} P[IM_A > im | w, z] \cdot f_{M_A, R_A | M_E, R_E}(w, z) \cdot dw \cdot dz \cdot f_{M_E, R_E}(x, y) \cdot dx \cdot dy \right\} \quad (2)$$

99 The terms:  $\nu_E$ ,  $P[IM_E \leq im | x, y] = 1 - P[IM_E > im | x, y]$ , and  $f_{M_E, R_E}(x, y)$  are the same as defined in  
100 Equation (1). Also  $M_E \in (m_{E,\min}, m_{E,\max})$  and  $R_E \in (r_{E,\min}, r_{E,\max})$ ; i.e., the integral limits are also the same.

101 The exponential term within the integral refers to aftershocks and is worth of a description. It is the  
102 probability that none of the aftershocks, following the mainshock of features  $\{M_E = x, R_E = y\}$ , cause  
103 exceedance of  $im$ . This probability depends on  $P[IM_A > im | w, z]$  that is the probability that  $im$  is  
104 exceeded given an aftershock of magnitude  $M_A = w$  and source-to-site distance  $R_A = z$ . The term  
105  $f_{M_A, R_A | M_E, R_E}$  is the distribution of magnitude and distance of aftershocks, which are conditional on the  
106 features  $\{M_E, R_E\}$  of the mainshock. This distribution can be written as  $f_{M_A, R_A | M_E, R_E} = f_{M_A | M_E} \cdot f_{R_A | M_E, R_E}$ ,  
107 where  $f_{M_A | M_E}$  is the PDF of aftershock magnitude (i.e., GR-type), and  $f_{R_A | M_E, R_E}$  is the distribution of the  
108 distance of the site to the aftershocks. The aftershock magnitude is bounded by a minimum magnitude,  
109  $m_{\min}$ , and the mainshock magnitude; i.e.,  $M_A \in (m_{\min}, x)$ . (Note that  $m_{\min}$  may coincide with the  
110 minimum mainshock magnitude; i.e.,  $m_{\min} \equiv m_{E, \min}$ .) Given the location of the site, the aftershock  
111 distance,  $R_A \in (r_{A, \min}, r_{A, \max})$ , depends on the magnitude and location of the mainshock (see Iervolino et  
112 al., 2014, for details).  $E[N_{A|x}(0, \Delta T_A)]$  is the expected number of aftershocks, to the mainshock of  
113 magnitude  $M_E = x$ , in the  $\Delta T_A$  time interval, which is the considered length of the aftershock sequence  
114 (assuming that the mainshock occurred at  $t = 0$ ). This number, consistent with APSHA, can be  
115 computed as in Equation (3), where  $\{a, b, c, p\}$  are the parameters of the modified Omori law (Yeo and  
116 Cornell, 2009).

$$117 \quad E[N_{A|x}(0, \Delta T_A)] = \frac{10^{a+b \cdot (x - m_{\min})} - 10^a}{p - 1} \cdot [c^{1-p} - (\Delta T_A + c)^{1-p}] \quad (3)$$

118 In fact, Equation (2) represents a hazard integral for aftershocks (exponential term), conditional to  
119  $M_E = x$  and  $R_E = y$ , nested in a classical PSHA integral. It is easy to recognize that it must be  $\lambda_{im} \geq \lambda_{im, E}$   
120 ; i.e., accounting for aftershocks necessarily increases the hazard. Moreover, Equation (2) precisely  
121 degenerates in Equation (1) in case aftershocks are neglected; i.e.,  
122  $E[N_{A|x}(0, \Delta T_A)] = 0, \forall x \in (m_{E, \min}, m_{E, \max})$ . Thus, the latter equation generalizes the former.

123 Finally, it should be noted that, for design, earthquake engineering is interested in the probability  
 124 that at least one exceedance of a ground motion intensity measure is observed during the design-life of  
 125 the structure,  $\Delta T$ . In SPSHA, because the computed rate is still that of an HPP, such a probability can  
 126 be computed via  $1 - e^{-\lambda_{im} \cdot \Delta T}$ , exactly as in the PSHA case. Thus, design seismic actions can be updated  
 127 accounting for the aftershock effect within the classical probabilistic framework.

### 128 *Aftershock disaggregation*

129 A side result of SPSHA formulation, is the probability that exceedance of  $im$  is caused by an aftershock  
 130 rather than by a mainshock. This probability, which quantifies the contribution of aftershocks to hazard,  
 131 can be regarded as a disaggregation in much the same way classical hazard disaggregation (e.g.,  
 132 Iervolino et al., 2011) provides the probability that exceedance of design accelerations is caused by  
 133 specific magnitude-distance pairs, or other random variables possibly involved in the hazard assessment.

134 SPSHA disaggregation is defined in Equation (4) as  
 135  $P[IM_{UA} > im \cap IM_E \leq im | IM_{UA} > im \cup IM_E > im]$ . The symbol  $IM_E$  represents the mainshock  $IM$ , while  
 136  $IM_{UA}$  is the maximum  $IM$  of the following aftershock sequence. Then, the sought probability is the  
 137 probability that, given that exceedance of  $im$  has been observed during the mainshock-aftershock  
 138 sequence due to the mainshock or at least one of the aftershocks, that is  $(IM_E > im \cup IM_{UA} > im)$ , it was  
 139 in fact an aftershock to cause it, while the mainshock was below the threshold: i.e.,  
 140  $(IM_{UA} > im \cap IM_E \leq im)$ .

$$141 \quad P[IM_E \leq im \cap IM_{UA} > im | IM_E > im \cup IM_{UA} > im] =$$

$$142 \quad \frac{\nu_E}{\lambda_{im}} \cdot \iint_{M_E, R_E} P[IM_E \leq im | x, y] \cdot \left( 1 - e^{-E[N_{A|x}(0, \Delta T_A)] \cdot \iint_{M_A, R_A} P[IM_A > im | w, z] \cdot f_{M_A, R_A | M_E, R_E}(w, z) \cdot dw \cdot dz} \right) \cdot f_{M_E, R_E}(x, y) \cdot dx \cdot dy \quad (4)$$

142 The equation, the derivation of which is given in the appendix, uses terms already introduced to define  
 143 SPSHA. It will be useful for the scope of this work, as illustrated in the following countrywide  
 144 application to Italy.

145 **SPSHA for Italy**

146 *Mainshock model (classical hazard)*

147 The source model considered herein for Italy is the one by Meletti et al. (2008), which features thirty-  
148 six seismic source zones (Figure 1) and lies at the core of the Italian hazard study described in Stucchi  
149 et al. (2011). The latter, in turn, provides uniform hazard spectra (UHS) to define engineering structural  
150 seismic actions according to the enforced code.

151 The seismic hazard study of Stucchi et al. (2011) features a fairly-complex logic tree. Herein, the  
152 branch named 921 is considered; it is the single branch producing the hazard results claimed to be the  
153 closest to those of the full logic tree (this is for simplicity only, as modeling uncertainty can be  
154 considered in SPSHA in analogy to what done in PSHA). Branch 921 considers the mentioned zones  
155 and the GMPE by Ambraseys et al. (1996) to compute  $P[IM_E > im | x, y]$  on rock soil conditions.

156 Herein, the GMPE is applied within its definition ranges of magnitude and distance: these are  
157 magnitudes between 4.0 and 7.5 and the closest horizontal distance to the surface projection of the fault  
158 plane up to 200 km. The effects of earthquakes with magnitude and distance outside these intervals are  
159 neglected. Assuming a uniform epicenter distribution in each seismogenic zone, epicentral distance is  
160 converted into the metric required by the GMPE according to Montaldo et al. (2005). The style-of-  
161 faulting correction factors proposed by Bommer et al. (2003) are also applied to the GMPE, consistent  
162 with the rupture mechanism associated to each seismic source zone by Meletti et al. (2008).

163 As it regards the mainshock rates of the zones, in branch 921 of Stucchi et al. (2011) they are not  
164 provided as GR relationships, but for surface-wave magnitude bins. These, provided by Carlo Meletti  
165 (see Data and Resources), are given in Table 1. The central magnitude of the lowest bin is generally 4.3  
166 (apart from the zone 936 which is the Etna's volcanic area and has a central magnitude of the lower bin  
167 equal to 3.7), while the maximum depends on the zone of interest (as it can be inferred from the largest  
168 magnitude bin with rate larger than zero in Table 1).

169 This model is used either to compute PSHA for the country (to provide a point of comparison), as  
170 well as to compute SPSHA, which considers the same mainshock rates and zones.

171 *Aftershock model*

172 The parameters used in the modified Omori law, Equation (3) are from Lolli and Gasperini (2003) for  
173 generic Italian aftershock sequences:  $a = -1.66$ ,  $b = 0.96$ ,  $c = 0.03$  (in days),  $p = 0.93$ . The minimum  
174 magnitude of generated aftershocks ( $m_{\min}$ ) corresponds to the minimum mainshock magnitude of the  
175 seismic source zones: that is, 4.15 for all the seismogenic zones, except zone 936 for which it is 4.0.  
176 Indeed, zone 936 is able to generate earthquakes with magnitude lower than 4.0; however, the GMPE is  
177 applied within its definition range, which constrains the aftershocks' minimum magnitude to 4.0.

178 It is assumed that aftershocks are located, with uniform probability, in a circular area centered  
179 on the mainshock location. The size of this area,  $S_A$ , depends on the magnitude of the mainshock  
180 ( $M_E = x$ ) via Equation (5), in squared kilometers (Utsu, 1970).

$$181 \quad S_A = 10^{x-4.1} \quad (5)$$

182 *Working hypotheses*

183 Some working hypotheses that were taken mostly for simplicity, are believed not to affect the general  
184 conclusions; nevertheless, they could be possibly refined in more detailed studies.

185 The aftershock area is considered circular for simplicity, although an elliptical shape, for  
186 example along the Apennines mountain chain (in central Italy) that is the typical strike orientation in the  
187 region, would better reflect knowledge of seismicity. Within the aftershock area, locations are uniformly  
188 distributed, while their probability is zero outside. On the other hand, an aftershock probability gradually  
189 decreasing as the distance from the mainshock increases is often preferred (it was verified in Iervolino  
190 et al., 2014, that this hypothesis negligibly affects the results). Moreover, the limits of the aftershock  
191 area can exceed the boundaries of the seismic source zone.

192 Equation (5) was originally calibrated for  $5.5 < M_E < 7.5$ ; in the applications shown in this  
193 paper, it is extended to the minimum magnitudes considered. The Ambraseys et al. (1996) GMPE is  
194 used for both  $P[IM_A > im | w, z]$  and  $P[IM_E \leq im | x, y]$  terms of Equation (2); i.e., for both mainshock  
195 and aftershocks, also keeping the same style of faulting recommended for the zone in question by Meletti  
196 et al. (2008).

197 Finally, following Yeo and Cornell (2009), the duration of the aftershock sequence ( $\Delta T_A$ ) was  
198 considered arbitrarily equal to ninety days since the occurrence of the mainshock, although, in principle,  
199 this duration could be mainshock-magnitude-dependent. In any case, it has been verified that assuming  
200  $\Delta T_A = 365$  days leads to negligible differences in results compare to  $\Delta T_A = 90$  days.

## 201 **Analysis and results**

202 In the following sections, SPSHA results for Italy are presented along with their PSHA counterpart (all  
203 calculations are carried out via a recent version of the software described in Iervolino et al., 2016). First,  
204 hazard maps are reported for several return periods and two spectral ordinates. Then, considering two  
205 specific sites, hazard curves, uniform hazard spectra and aftershock disaggregation are provided and  
206 discussed.

### 207 *Hazard maps*

208 To compute hazard maps, a uniformly-spaced grid of more than four-thousand points covering the inland  
209 Italian territory is considered. Peak ground acceleration (PGA) and spectral accelerations at 1 second  
210 natural vibration period,  $Sa(1s)$ , on rock, are considered as the *IMs*. The hazard maps refer to four return  
211 periods ( $T_r$ ): 50yr, 475yr, 975yr and 2475yr. Results are reported in Figure 2 and Figure 3, for PGA  
212 and  $Sa(1s)$  respectively. In each figure, the upper line of panels, that is maps from (a) to (d), result from  
213 PSHA. The lower line, maps from (e) to (h), are the corresponding results from SPSHA. To compare  
214 PSHA and SPSHA for the same return period in both figures, one should consider panels: (a) and (e)  
215 for  $T_r = 50yr$ , (b) and (f) for  $T_r = 475yr$ , (c) and (g) for  $T_r = 975yr$ , (d) and (h) for  $T_r = 2475yr$ . It can be  
216 preliminary observed that, in general, the effect of aftershocks tends to be more relevant in areas exposed  
217 to comparatively high hazard according to classical PSHA; i.e., areas with larger acceleration values in  
218 the top panels of Figure 2 and Figure 3.

219 To more quantitatively assess the hazard increase due to aftershocks, Figure 4 shows absolute  
220 differences between SPSHA and PSHA in terms of *IMs* that, at the same site, correspond to the same  
221 return period (for example, panel (a) of Figure 4 is the map obtained subtracting the map in panel (a)

222 from that of panel (e) in Figure 2). Figure 5 reports the percentage increase; i.e., it is obtained by dividing  
223 the maps in Figure 4 by the corresponding PSHA maps of Figure 2 and Figure 3. It can be observed  
224 that: (i) absolute differences are generally larger for larger return periods; (ii) considering the same  
225 return period, differences in terms of PGA are larger than those in terms of  $Sa(1s)$ ; (iii) considering the  
226 same return period and the same intensity measure, largest differences are recorded at the sites enclosed  
227 into the zone with highest maximum magnitude, that is zones 923, 927, 929 and 935; (iv) percentage  
228 increases are not monotonic as a function of  $T_r$ ; (v) also percentage increases in terms of PGA are  
229 generally larger than those in terms of  $Sa(1s)$ .

230 Table 2 summarizes average and maximum percentage differences (ave. perc. diff. and max.  
231 perc. diff., respectively) over the country and maximum absolute differences (max. abs. diff.) from the  
232 maps of Figure 4 and Figure 5. Average percentage increases for  $Sa(1s)$ , as a function of the return  
233 period, are between 10.4% and 7%, with the largest value occurring for  $T_r = 50yr$ . The range for PGA  
234 is similar, that is around 10%, yet narrower. The maximum percentage increases are about 28% for PGA  
235 at  $T_r = 2475yr$  and 17% for  $Sa(1s)$  at  $T_r = 475yr$ . The former occurs just outside zone 935, while the  
236 latter within it. It is interesting to note that, for  $Sa(1s)$ , maximum increase does not correspond to the  
237 largest return period. This issue is looked at deeper in the following sections in which two specific sites  
238 are considered and site-specific hazard curve, uniform hazard spectra and aftershock disaggregation are  
239 reported and discussed. Maximum absolute differences for PGA are equal to 0.012g, 0.058g, 0.084g  
240 and 0.116g for return periods equal to 50yr, 475yr, 975yr and 2475yr, respectively. Maximum  
241 differences in terms of  $Sa(1s)$  are equal to 0.007g, 0.035g, 0.051g and 0.075g for return periods equal  
242 to 50yr, 475yr, 975yr and 2475yr, respectively. For PGA, the maximum differences for return periods  
243 up to 975yr correspond to sites located within zone 929, while the maximum difference for  $T_r = 2475yr$   
244 occurs at a site enclosed into zone 935; for  $Sa(1s)$ , maximum differences for  $T_r = 50yr$  and  $T_r = 475yr$   
245 occur within zone 929, while they occur within the 935 zone for  $T_r = 975yr$  and  $T_r = 2475yr$  (see Figure  
246 1).

247 *Site-specific hazard analysis and aftershocks disaggregation*

248 Two sites have been selected to analyse in more details the aftershocks effect on the hazard assessment.  
249 The sites are L'Aquila in central Italy (13.40°E, 42.35°N) and Milan in Northern Italy (9.18°E,  
250 45.47°N): they are selected to be representative of the high (L'Aquila) and low (Milan) PSHA hazard  
251 according to classical PSHA (see Figure 2 and Figure 3).

252 Results for L'Aquila are given in Figure 6. More specifically, Figure 6a shows the site location  
253 and the fifteen seismogenic zones contributing to the hazard (i.e., within 200 km). The zone in which  
254 the site is enclosed is the 923, which is one of the three zones from Meletti et al. (2008) with largest  
255 maximum magnitude (the others are 929 and 935; see Table 1). In Figure 6b, the hazard curves for PGA  
256 (black lines) and  $Sa(1s)$  (grey lines) are reported (dashed is PSHA and solid is SPSHA). The range of  
257  $IM$  in which the analyses are performed is such that the maximum return period is equal to ten thousand  
258 years. On the other hand, the maximum rate is 2.41, that is, the rate of mainshocks (then also clusters)  
259 occurring within 200km from the site; i.e., the rate of exceedance when  $IM$  tends to zero, see Equation  
260 (1) and Equation (2). Figure 6c reports the increase of  $im$  between SPSHA and PSHA as a function of  
261 the decreasing rate of exceedance (i.e., increasing return period). These differences are non-monotonic  
262 for both PGA and  $Sa(1s)$ . Maximum increase for PGA is 17.9% and it occurs for a return period of  
263 1350 years whereas the maximum increase for  $Sa(1s)$ , equal to 12.6%, corresponds to a return period  
264 of about 530 years. The non-monotonic trend of hazard increase motivates the evidence that maximum  
265 increase for  $Sa(1s)$  at a national scale occurs at a 475yr return period (see Table 2). Uniform hazard  
266 spectra for the four return periods of 50yr, 475yr, 975yr and 2475yr are reported in Figure 6d. The  
267 spectra, indicated as  $PSHA_{T_r}$  and  $SPSHA_{T_r}$ , are computed considering the forty-seven natural vibration  
268 (spectral) periods,  $T$ , between zero and two seconds provided by the adopted GMPE. Increase between  
269 SPSHA and PSHA for the selected return periods is reported in Figure 6e as a function of the spectral  
270 period. When the return period is 50yr, hazard increase is about 10% for all the vibration periods. On  
271 the other hand, for return periods of 475yr, 975yr and 2475yr, hazard increase is between 15% and  
272 20% for spectral periods lower than 0.7s, and are between 10% and 15% for spectral periods larger than

273 0.7s. Finally, aftershock disaggregation is reported in Figure 6f as a function of the increasing return  
274 period. As discussed above, SPSHA disaggregation according to Equation (4) provides the probability  
275 that, once exceedance of  $im$  is observed, it is caused by an aftershock rather than a mainshock; in this  
276 sense, it may help in assessing the contribution of aftershock to hazard. Also these curves show a non-  
277 monotonic trend. The probability that exceedance of the  $IM$  threshold of interest is caused by aftershocks  
278 initially rises with the rising return period. The maximum values of probability from aftershock  
279 disaggregation are equal to 0.34 for PGA and 0.19 for  $Sa(1s)$ , and correspond to  $T_r = 1900\text{yr}$  and  
280  $T_r = 2000\text{yr}$ , respectively. For longer return periods, aftershock disaggregation decreases. The difference  
281 in disaggregation curves for PGA and for  $Sa(1s)$  is such that at the lower return periods the contribution  
282 of aftershocks is similar for the two spectral ordinates, while at the larger return periods is larger for  
283 PGA than  $Sa(1s)$ . This may provide insights for the trends observed in Figure 6e.

284 Figure 7 shows the analogous results for Milan. The site is not enclosed in any seismogenic  
285 zone and its hazard is affected by the zones reported in Figure 7a. The rates of earthquake occurrence  
286 above minimum magnitude (i.e., the value hazard curves tend to when  $IM$  tends to zero) is 1.40 and the  
287 considered maximum return period is, similarly to the previous case, ten-thousand years. Hazard curves  
288 for PGA and  $Sa(1s)$  are reported in Figure 7b while increases are in Figure 7c. In the latter, maximum  
289 values equal to 8.5% and 9.0% for PGA and  $Sa(1s)$ , respectively. The corresponding return periods are  
290 six and ten years. Figure 7d shows the UHS for the four return periods. Hazard increase (Figure 7e) due  
291 to SPSHA with respect to PSHA is, for this site, between about 4% and 10% for all the vibration periods  
292 and return periods here considered. However, the largest increases are observed for the lower return  
293 periods, which is explained by the trend observed in Figure 7c for PGA and  $Sa(1s)$ . Hazard  
294 disaggregation is reported in Figure 7f: maximum probability value for PGA is 0.22 and it corresponds  
295 to a return period of 1200 years whereas maximum  $Sa(1s)$  is 0.16 for an  $im$  threshold with 60 years  
296 exceedance return period. It should be noted that the maximum values of the probability that an  
297 aftershock is causative for exceedance in Milan are significantly lower with respect to the case of  
298 L'Aquila, mainly because the former site is outside any seismic source zone, while the latter is within

299 one of the most seismically relevant, as per Table 1. To deepen how the trends, observed at this and the  
300 other site considered, depend on an interplay of source-site configuration, the interested reader is  
301 referred to Chioccarelli et al. (2018).

## 302 **Conclusions**

303 Sequence-based probabilistic seismic hazard analysis (SPSHA) includes the aftershock's effect in  
304 probabilistic seismic hazard assessment. The modified hazard integral relies on the modified Omori law  
305 and is probabilistically rigorous in the framework of the considered models. The SPSHA stochastic  
306 model was introduced in 2014; herein it is applied at a national scale using Italy as a case-study. The  
307 hazard increase due to aftershocks is evaluated considering the same source model lying at the basis of  
308 the official seismic hazard of Italy used for structural design. Comparison was carried out in terms of  
309 maps of two spectral ordinates with four return periods of exceedance between 50yr and 2475yr on rock  
310 site conditions, as well as full hazard curves and SPSHA disaggregation for two sites differently exposed  
311 to seismic hazard according to classical PSHA. Beyond the obvious fact that accounting for the  
312 aftershocks' effect increases the hazard in Italy, the analysis allowed pointing out the following issues:

- 313 • increase of  $im$  for a given return period can be as high as about 30%; in absolute terms, up to  
314 0.12g for PGA when the return period of the exceedance is 2475 years (the site for which the  
315 percentage increase is maximum is not the one for which the absolute increase is the largest);
- 316 • as expected, increase due to aftershocks tends to be more significant within or around areas  
317 exposed to comparatively higher hazard according to classical PSHA; however, increases are  
318 not analogous for different  $IMs$ ; e.g., PGA and  $Sa(1s)$ ; as expected by the fact that magnitudes  
319 and source-to-site distances contribute differently to hazard of different spectral ordinates;
- 320 • disaggregation of sequence-based probabilistic hazard, at least in the considered examples,  
321 shows that the contribution of hazard is not monotonic with the increasing return period of  
322 exceedance (the specific trend at each site depends on the source-site configuration).

323 It may be concluded that, notwithstanding the working hypothesis behind this application, which could  
324 be refined in more detailed studies, introducing Omori-type aftershock sequences can have a non-  
325 negligible effect on design actions in Italy.

## 326 **Data and resources**

327 All data and resources used in this study are from the listed references, except magnitude rates, which  
328 were kindly provided by Carlo Meletti (Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Italy).

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378 **Appendix**

379 This appendix provides the derivation of aftershock disaggregation given in Equation (4). The symbols  
380 used in the derivation, some of which have been given already in the body of text, are as follows:

- 381 •  $v_E$ : mainshock (and sequence) occurrence rate;
- 382 •  $M_E \in (m_{E,\min}, m_{E,\max})$ : mainshock magnitude;
- 383 •  $M_A \in (m_{\min}, x)$ : aftershock magnitude;
- 384 •  $R_E \in (r_{E,\min}, r_{E,\max})$ : mainshock source-to-site distance;
- 385 •  $R_A \in (r_{A,\min}, r_{A,\max})$ : aftershock source-to-site distance;
- 386 •  $E[N_{A|x}(0, \Delta T_A)]$ : mean number of aftershocks in a sequence of duration  $\Delta T_A$  triggered by a  
387 mainshock of  $M_E = x$ ;
- 388 •  $E[N_{A,im|x}(0, \Delta T_A)]$ : mean number of aftershocks exceeding the  $im$  threshold in a sequence of  
389 duration  $\Delta T_A$  triggered mainshock of  $M_E = x$ ;
- 390 •  $\lambda_{im}$ : rate of exceedance of  $im$  according to SPSHA.
- 391 •  $IM_E$ : mainshock  $IM$ ;
- 392 •  $IM_A$ : single aftershock  $IM$ ;
- 393 •  $IM_{UA}$ : maximum aftershock  $IM$  in during a sequence.

394 It is sought the probability that, once exceedance of  $IM$  is observed, it is caused by an aftershock. Such  
395 a probability is formulated considering the following two events: (1) exceedance is observed and it could  
396 be possibly observed in the mainshock and/or during the aftershock sequence ( $IM_E > im \cup IM_{UA} > im$ );  
397 (2) exceedance is observed in the aftershock sequence and it is not observed in the mainshock  
398 ( $IM_E \leq im \cap IM_{UA} > im$ ) . Consequently, the sought probability is:

399  $P[IM_E \leq im \cap IM_{UA} > im | IM_E > im \cup IM_{UA} > im]$  that can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
& P[IM_E \leq im \cap IM_{\cup A} > im | IM_E > im \cup IM_{\cup A} > im] = \\
400 \quad & \frac{P[IM_E > im \cup IM_{\cup A} > im | IM_E \leq im \cap IM_{\cup A} > im] \cdot P[IM_E \leq im \cap IM_{\cup A} > im]}{P[IM_E > im \cup IM_{\cup A} > im]} =, \quad (A1)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{P[IM_E \leq im \cap IM_{\cup A} > im]}{P[IM_E > im \cup IM_{\cup A} > im]}$$

401 where it is easy to recognize that  $P[IM_E > im \cup IM_{\cup A} > im | IM_E \leq im \cap IM_{\cup A} > im] = 1$  given that  
402 exceedance has been observed during the aftershock sequence, it is certain that exceedance has been  
403 observed; i.e., the latter event is included in the former  $(IM_E > im \cup IM_{\cup A} > im) \subseteq (IM_E \leq im \cap M_{\cup A} > im)$   
404 . Now, applying the total probability theorem to the numerator of Equation (A1) gives,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{P[IM_E \leq im \cap IM_{\cup A} > im]}{P[IM_E > im \cup IM_{\cup A} > im]} = \frac{\iint_{M_E, R_E} P[IM_E \leq im \cap IM_{\cup A} > im | x, y] \cdot f_{M_E, R_E}(x, y) \cdot dx \cdot dy}{P[IM_E > im \cup IM_{\cup A} > im]} = \\
405 \quad & \frac{\iint_{M_E, R_E} P[IM_E \leq im | x, y] \cdot P[IM_{\cup A} > im | x, y] \cdot f_{M_E, R_E}(x, y) \cdot dx \cdot dy}{P[IM_E > im \cup IM_{\cup A} > im]} \quad (A2)
\end{aligned}$$

406 In this latter equation, it is considered that the *IM*s of mainshocks and aftershocks are conditionally  
407 independent given the mainshock features (Yeo and Cornell, 2009).

408 It can be now recognized that the probability that exceedance of *IM* is not observed during the  
409 aftershock sequence is given by Equation (A3), which follows the NHPP assumption of APSHA (see  
410 Iervolino et al., 2014).

$$411 \quad P[IM_{\cup A} > im | x, y] = 1 - e^{-E[N_{A|v}(0, \Delta T_A)]} = 1 - e^{-E[N_{A|v}(0, \Delta T_A)] \cdot \iint_{M_A, R_A} P[IM_A > im | w, z] \cdot f_{M_A, R_A | M_E, R_E}(w, z) \cdot dw \cdot dz} \quad (A3)$$

412 At this point, replacing Equation (A3) in Equation (A2), and multiplying numerator and denominator  
413 by  $v_E$ , provides the sought result:

$$\begin{aligned}
& P[IM_E \leq im \cap IM_{\cup A} > im | IM_E > im \cup IM_{\cup A} > im] = \\
414 \quad & \frac{v_E}{\lambda_{im}} \cdot \iint_{M_E, R_E} P[IM_E \leq im | x, y] \cdot \left( 1 - e^{-E[N_{A|v}(0, \Delta T_A)] \cdot \iint_{M_A, R_A} P[IM_A > im | w, z] \cdot f_{M_A, R_A | M_E, R_E}(w, z) \cdot dw \cdot dz} \right) \cdot f_{M_E, R_E}(x, y) \cdot dx \cdot dy \quad (A4)
\end{aligned}$$

415 The equation takes advantage of  $v_E \cdot P[IM_E > im \cup IM_{\cup A} > im] = \lambda_{im}$ . As a matter of fact, the rate of  
416 exceedance of *im* in SPSHA is the rate of occurrence of seismic sequences times the probability that a  
417 sequence causes at least one exceedance of *im*.

Table 1. Annual rates of mainshocks for the seismic source model of Figure 1.

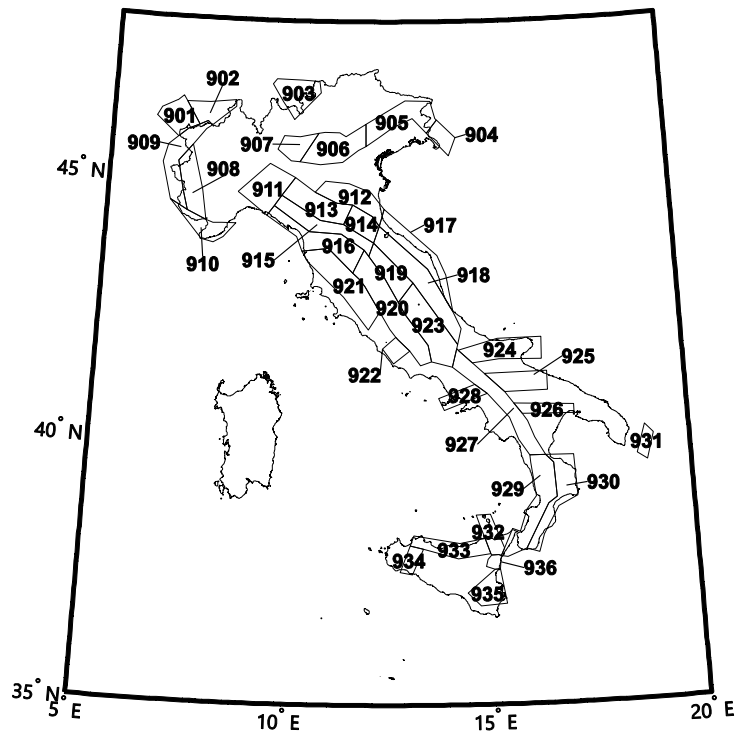
	Magnitude												
	3.55-3.85	3.85-4.15	4.15-4.45	4.45-4.75	4.75-5.05	5.05-5.35	5.35-5.65	5.65-5.95	5.95-6.25	6.25-6.55	6.55-6.85	6.85-7.15	7.15-7.45
901	0	0	0.0153	0.0076	0.0166	0.0033	0.0021	0.0021	0	0	0	0	0
902	0	0	0.0534	0.0153	0.0166	0.0099	0	0.0064	0.0014	0	0	0	0
903	0	0	0.0992	0.0076	0.0099	0	0	0.0021	0	0	0	0	0
904	0	0	0.0305	0.0153	0	0	0.0042	0	0	0	0	0	0
905	0	0	0.1687	0.0904	0.0254	0.0106	0.0085	0.0071	0	0.0033	0.0022	0	0
906	0	0	0.0663	0.0482	0.0127	0.0021	0.0042	0	0	0.0011	0	0	0
907	0	0	0.0302	0.0301	0.0021	0	0.0021	0.0014	0	0	0	0	0
908	0	0	0.1069	0.0076	0.0166	0.0066	0.0021	0	0	0	0	0	0
909	0	0	0.0305	0.0076	0.0099	0.0066	0.0021	0	0	0	0	0	0
910	0	0	0.0611	0.0076	0	0.0066	0.0021	0.0064	0	0.0014	0	0	0
911	0	0	0.0305	0.0076	0.0099	0	0.0021	0	0	0	0	0	0
912	0	0	0.0482	0.0120	0.0106	0.0148	0.0021	0.0028	0.0012	0	0	0	0
913	0	0	0.1145	0.0602	0.0169	0.0042	0.0085	0.0014	0	0	0	0	0
914	0	0	0.0843	0.0663	0.0148	0.0085	0.0021	0.0057	0.0014	0	0	0	0
915	0	0	0.1832	0.0763	0.0398	0	0.0042	0.0042	0.0014	0.0014	0	0	0
916	0	0	0.0458	0.0305	0.0085	0.0042	0.0021	0	0	0	0	0	0
917	0	0	0.0542	0.0301	0.0114	0.0085	0.0106	0.0064	0.0012	0	0	0	0
918	0	0	0.1527	0.0229	0.0170	0.0057	0.0085	0.0064	0.0042	0.0014	0	0	0
919	0	0	0.1298	0.0534	0.0297	0.0106	0.0042	0.0071	0.0043	0.0025	0	0	0
920	0	0	0.1832	0.0687	0.0568	0.0085	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
921	0	0	0.1756	0.0840	0.0254	0.0085	0.0021	0.0028	0	0	0	0	0
922	0	0	0.0458	0.0229	0.0169	0.0042	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
923	0	0	0.4122	0.0992	0.0767	0.0227	0.0085	0.0106	0.0021	0.0057	0.0043	0.0014	0.0014
924	0	0	0.0687	0.0382	0.0372	0.0279	0.0140	0	0.0042	0	0.0017	0	0
925	0	0	0.0458	0.0153	0.0047	0	0	0	0	0.0033	0.0017	0	0
926	0	0	0.0305	0.0076	0.0186	0	0.0047	0	0	0	0	0	0
927	0	0	0.2150	0.0561	0.0512	0.0093	0.0047	0.0064	0.0021	0.0042	0.0066	0.0066	0
928	0	0	0.0154	0.0153	0.0186	0	0.0042	0.0021	0	0	0	0	0
929	0	0	0.2243	0.0374	0.0651	0.0186	0.0140	0.0140	0.0085	0.0021	0.0017	0.0066	0.0017
930	0	0	0.1028	0.0093	0.0047	0.0093	0.0093	0.0047	0.0021	0.0021	0.0017	0	0
931	0	0	0.0193	0.0192	0	0	0.0047	0	0	0	0	0.0021	0
932	0	0	0.0748	0.0187	0.0166	0.0033	0	0	0.0042	0	0	0	0
933	0	0	0.1145	0.0153	0.0132	0.0199	0.0066	0.0021	0.0021	0	0	0	0
934	0	0	0.0280	0.0001	0.0099	0.0033	0	0	0.0021	0	0	0	0
935	0	0	0.0534	0.0001	0.0166	0.0099	0.0042	0	0.0021	0	0.0023	0	0.0012
936	0.3359	0.0458	0.0382	0.0153	0.0132	0.0033	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

420

Table 2. Nationwide percentage and maximum increase of  $im$  of SPSHA with respect to PSHA.

	PGA				$Sa(1s)$			
$T_r$ [yr]	50	475	975	2475	50	475	975	2475
Ave. perc. diff. [%]	9.7	10.1	10.3	9.8	10.4	8.7	8.0	7.0
Max. perc. diff. [%]	16.4	22.3	25.6	27.9	16.2	16.7	16.6	14.8
Max. abs. diff. [g]	0.012	0.058	0.084	0.116	0.007	0.035	0.051	0.075

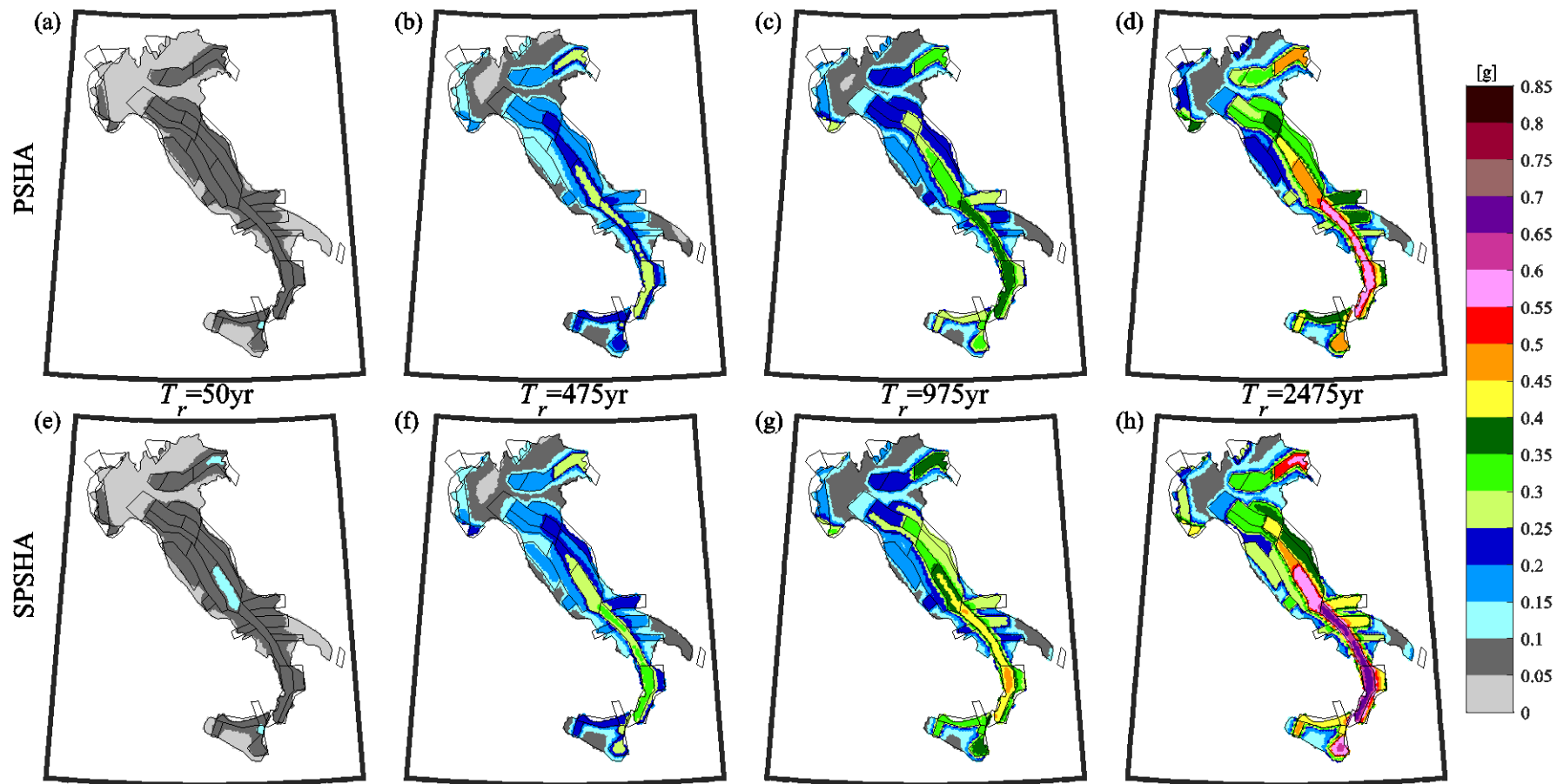
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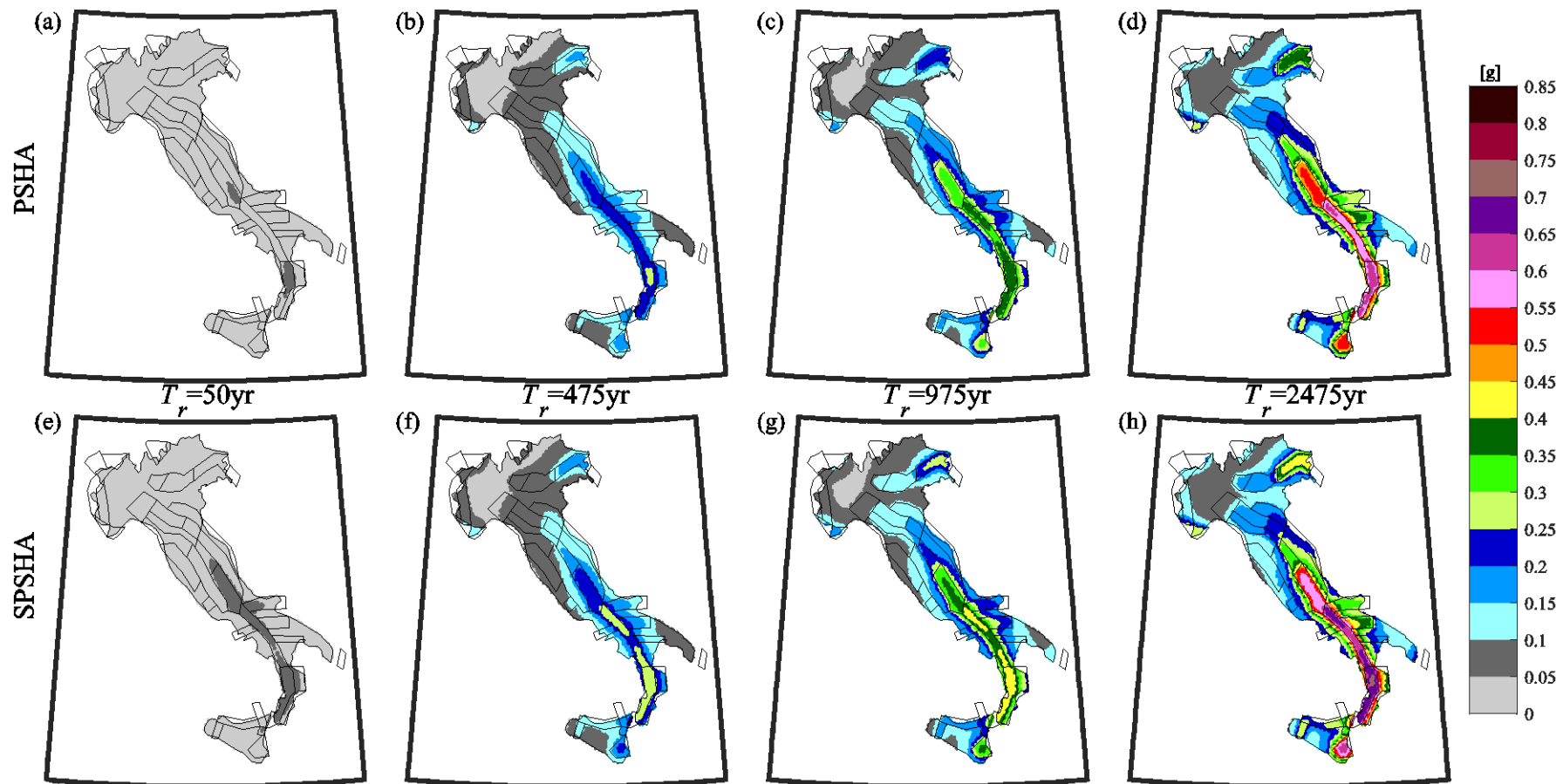
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Figure 1. The seismic source zone model for Italy, according to the model of Meletti et al. (2008).



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425 Figure 2. Maps of PGA:  $im$  on rock with four return periods of exceedance equal to: 50yr, 475yr, 975yr and 2475yr. Panels from (a) to (d) are computed via PSHA, (e) to  
 426 (h) are computed via SPSHA.



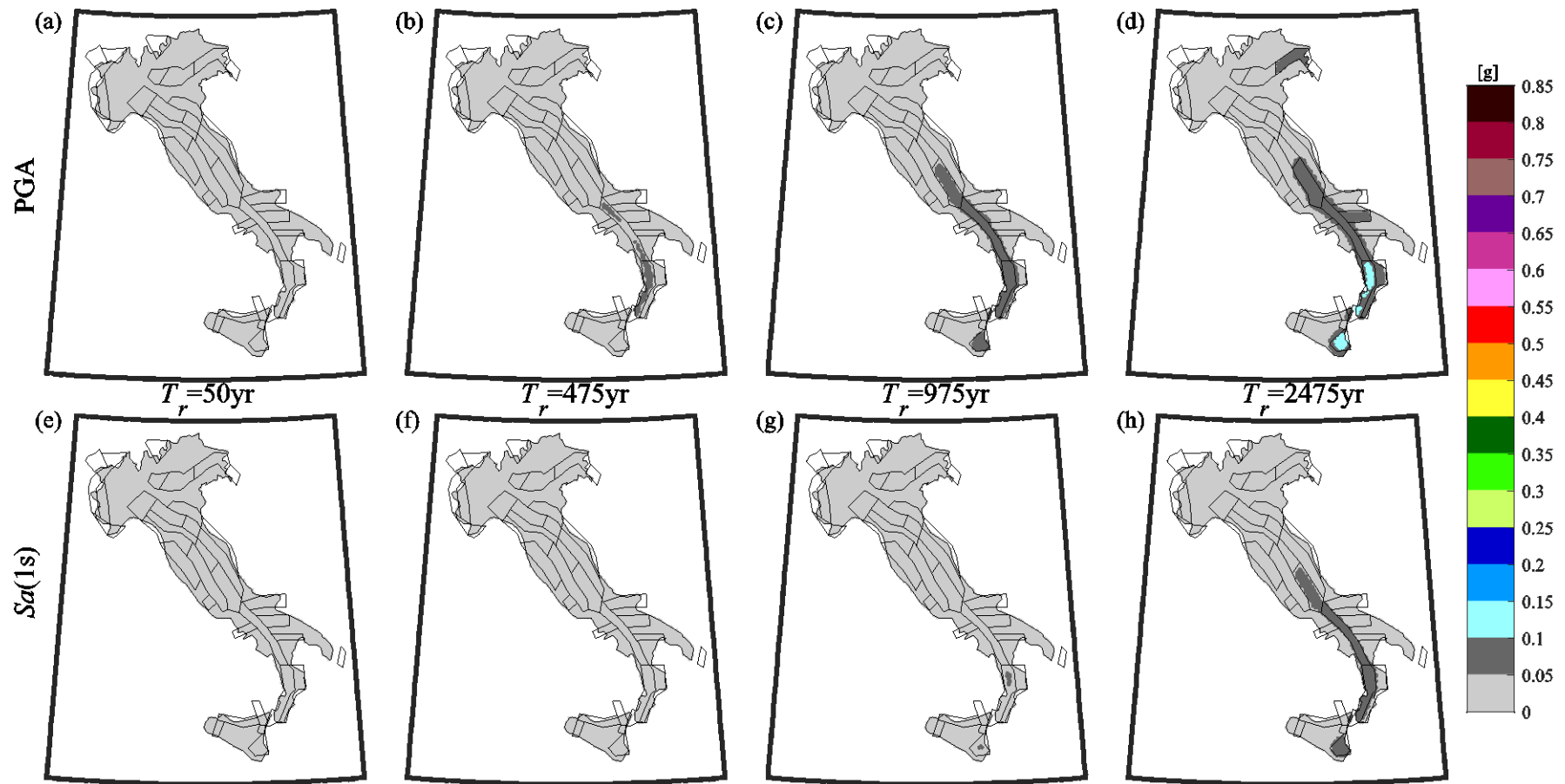
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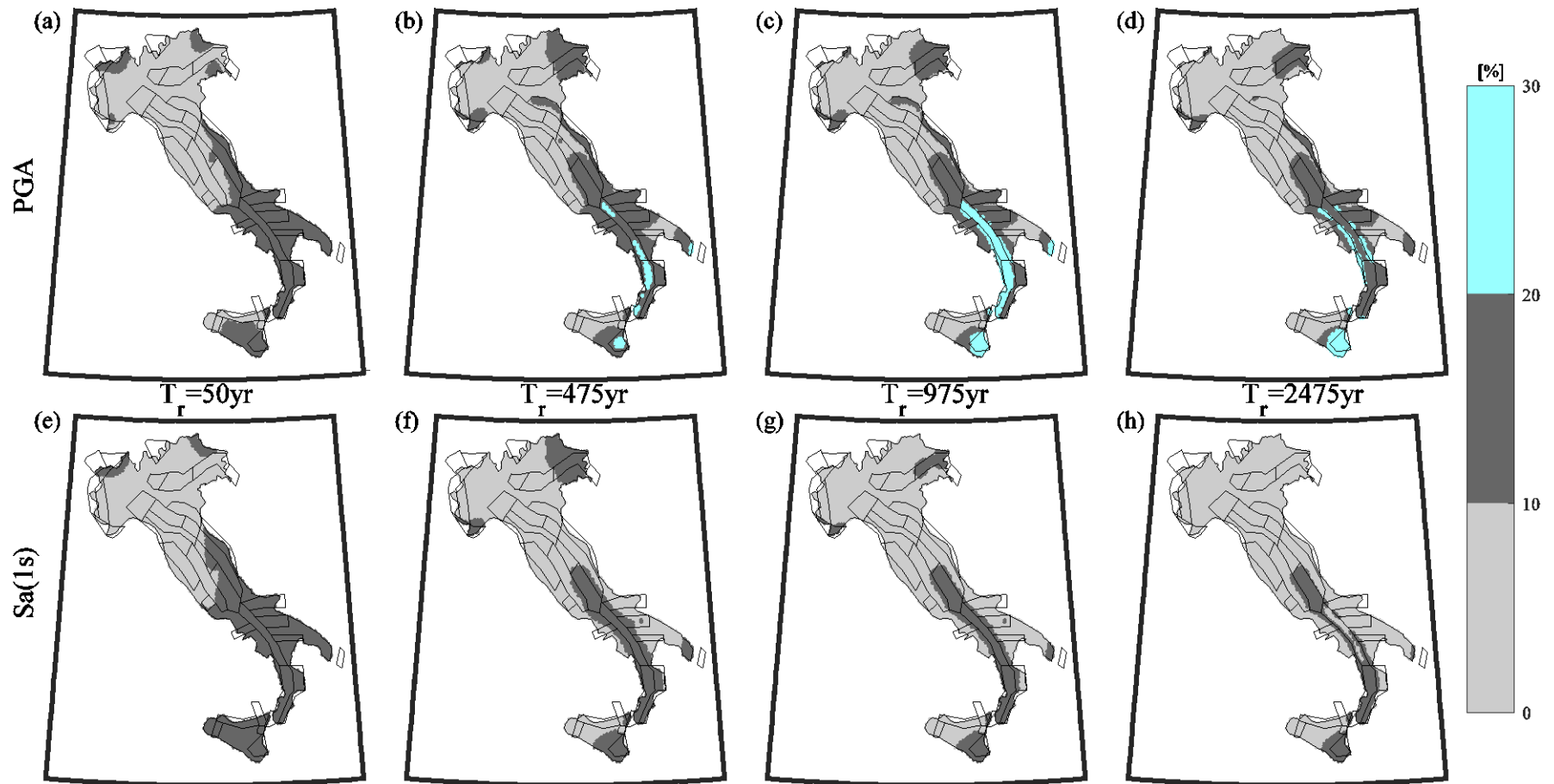
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Figure 3. Maps of  $Sa(1s): im$  on rock with four return periods of exceedance equal to: 50yr, 475yr, 975yr and 2475yr. Panels from (a) to (d) are computed via PSHA, (e) to (h) are computed via SPSHA.



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Figure 4. Differences between SPSHA and PSHA in terms of  $im$  with 50yr, 475yr, 975yr and 2475yr return periods of exceedance on rock. Panels from (a) to (d) are PGA, from (e) to (h) are  $Sa(1s)$ .

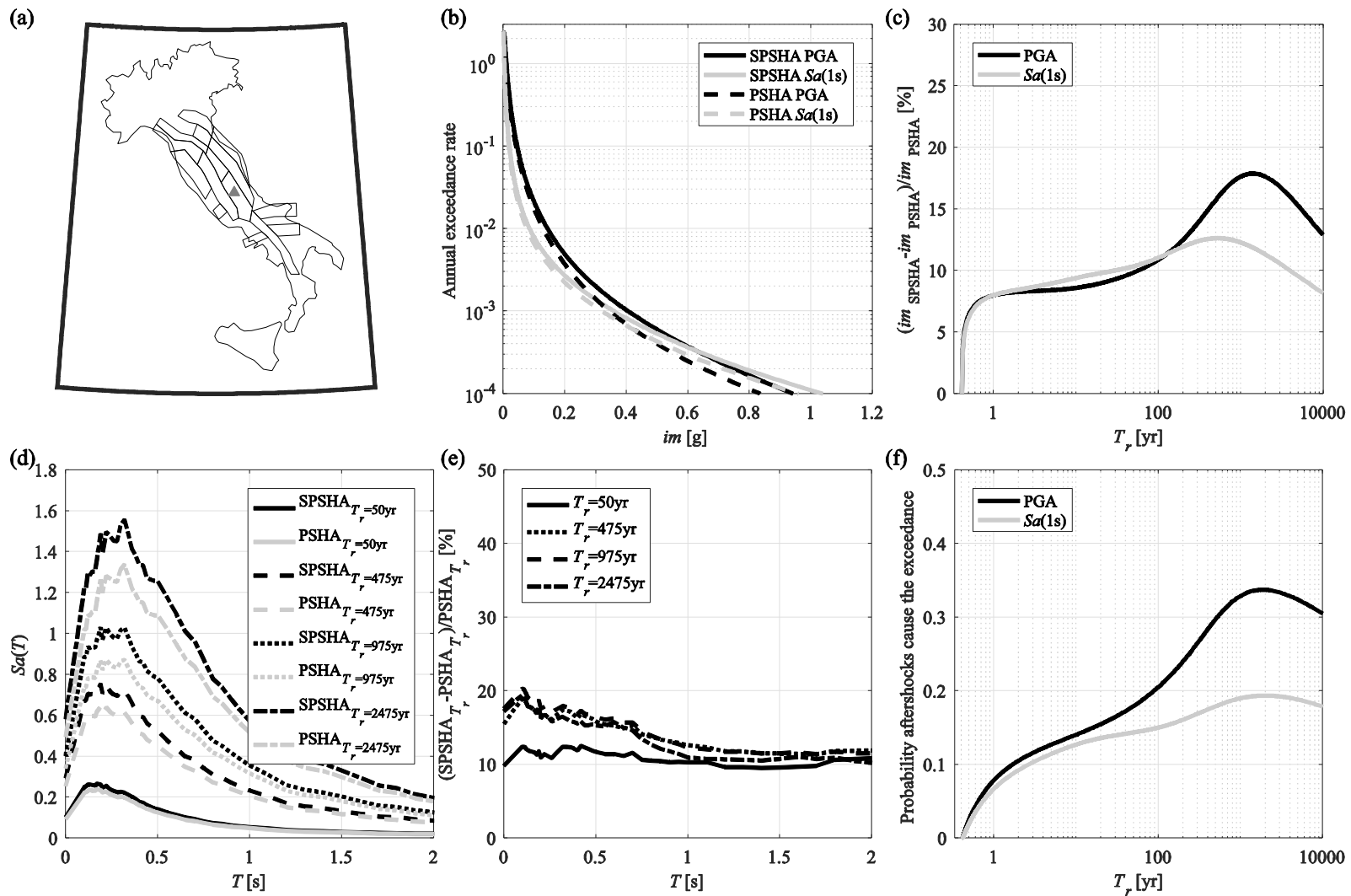


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Figure 5. Percentage increase from SPSHA with respect to PSHA in terms of  $im$  with 50yr, 475yr, 975yr and 2475yr return periods of exceedance on rock. Panels from (a) to (d) are PGA, from (e) to (h) are  $Sa(1s)$ .



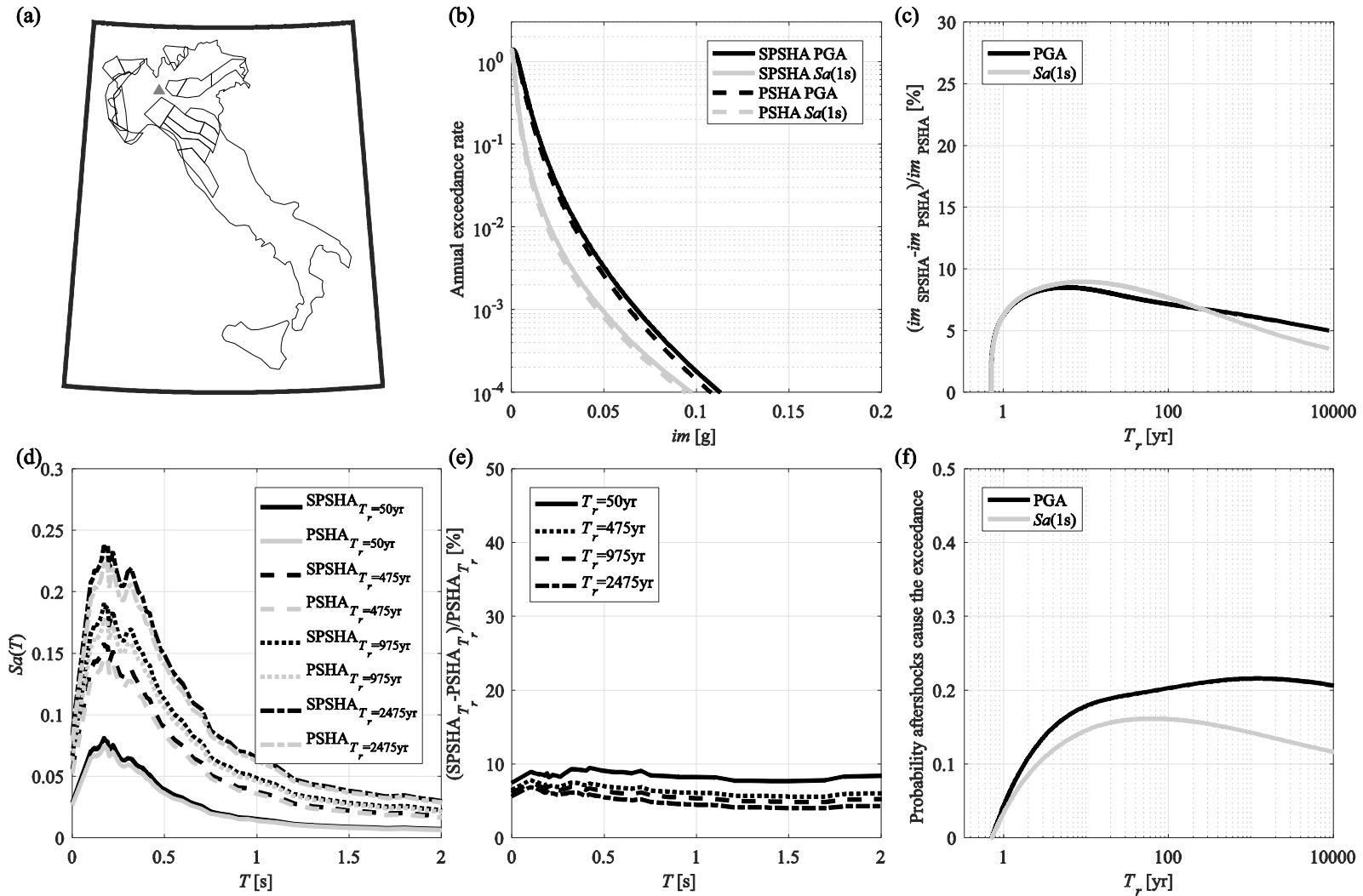
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Figure 6. Results of hazard analyses for L'Aquila: (a) location of the site and source zones contributing to its hazard; (b) hazard curves for PGA and  $Sa(1s)$ ; (c) hazard increase as a function of the exceedance rate of  $im$ ; (d) UHS for 50yr, 475yr, 975yr and 2475yr; (e) hazard increase as a function of the spectral period and for fixed return periods; (f) aftershock disaggregation for PGA and  $Sa(1s)$ .



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Figure 7. Results of hazard analyses for Milan: (a) location of the site and source zones contributing to its hazard; (b) hazard curves for PGA and  $Sa(1s)$ ; (c) hazard increase as a function of the exceeding rate of the  $im$ ; (d) UHS for 50yr, 475yr, 975yr and 2475yr years; (e) hazard increase as a function of the spectral period and for fixed return periods; (f) aftershock disaggregation for PGA and  $Sa(1s)$ .