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Analytical versus observational fragilities: the case of Pettino (L'Aquila) damage data database

De Luca Flavia, Verderame Gerardo M.^{*}, Manfredi G.

Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, DiSt, Via Claudio 21, 80125 Napoli

Abstract

A damage data database of 131 reinforced concrete (RC) buildings, collected after 2009 L'Aquila (Italy) earthquake, is employed for the evaluation of observational fragility curves. The specific interpretation of damage data allowed carrying out fragility curves for slight, moderate, and heavy damage, (i.e., DS1, DS2, and DS3), defined according to EMS 98 macroseismic scale. Observational fragility curves are then employed for the calibration of FAST analytical methodology. FAST method is a spectral based approach, meant for the estimate of fragility curves of infilled RC buildings up to DS3, evaluated, again, according to EMS98. Kullback-Leibler divergence is employed to check the matching between analytical and observational fragilities. FAST input variables can vary in quite large ranges and the calibration provides a valuable suggestion for the application of the method in other cases in which field damage data are not available. Results showed that optimizing values, for the input variables calibrated, are in good agreement with typical values assumed in literature. Analytical results showed a very satisfactory agreement with observational data for DS2 and DS3, while systematic underestimation was found for the case of DS1.

Keywords: *L'Aquila earthquake, EMS98, observational fragilities, FAST method, infills.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Usability and damage data collected after earthquakes represent a key tool for validation of analytical vulnerability procedures. Herein, a database of 131 reinforced concrete (RC) buildings collected after 2009 L'Aquila earthquake, in the neighborhood of Pettino, is employed to carry out observational fragility curves for *Slight*, *Moderate* and *Heavy* damage states classified according to EMS 98 (Grünthal et al. 1998). Other than being available outcomes of official usability inspections collected by Italian National Civil Protection right after the event, further data (e.g., transversal and longitudinal dimensions in plan), on the population of buildings, were collected during independent field surveys (Polidoro, 2010). Notwithstanding the fact that the population is not so large (131 buildings), the combination of the two sources of information resulted in a quite accurate database.

Observational fragility curves, carried out in this study, are in good agreement with other vulnerability results available in literature for the same earthquake (Liel and Lynch 2012), and based on a larger database. The observational fragilities obtained are then employed for the calibration of FAST method, a large scale vulnerability approach for infilled RC moment resisting frames (MRF). This methodology has been applied to different earthquake cases (De Luca et al. 2013a; Manfredi et al. 2013), such as Lorca (2011), Spain, and Emilia (2012), Italy. The approach belongs to the wider family of vulnerability assessment methodologies based on spectral displacements (e.g., Kircher et al. 1997; Erdik et al. 2004, among others) in which damage states are classified according to the 1998 European Macroseismic Scale (Grünthal et al. 1998). On the other hand, in analogy with other vulnerability approaches available in literature (e.g., Ricci 2010), it is able to capture the structural contribution provided by nonstructural masonry infills. The latter represent a key aspect of the method; in fact, recent reconnaissance reports after earthquakes in the Mediterranean area (e.g., Sezen et al. 2003; Decanini et al. 2004; Ricci et al. 2011a) emphasized that infills provide a first source of capacity for RC MRF frames. On the other hand, infills' stiffness contribution often results in a localization of damage at lower storeys (e.g., Ricci et al.

^{*} Corresponding author: verderam@unina.it

2013), and local interaction between RC elements and masonry infills can lead to undesirable brittle failures in the elements (e.g., [Vederame et al. 2011](#)). Notwithstanding the fact that FAST method is not able to capture damage states resulting from brittle failures in RC elements because of local interaction with masonry infills or because of lack of detailing in transversal reinforcement; it represents a very straightforward and easy-to-apply approach aimed at capturing damage states from slight to heavy.

Even if comparisons of FAST with damage data have been made also for Lorca and Emilia earthquakes (see [De Luca et al. 2013a](#); [Manfredi et al. 2013](#)), this is the first case in which damage data are enough accurate to carry out observational fragility curves to be compared to FAST analytical fragilities. Thus, it was possible to calibrate input variables of FAST method and select the optimal choice to get a satisfactory agreement between observational and analytical data. Optimal variables leading to the best matching between observational results are selected assuming the Kullback-Leibler divergence ([Kullback and Liebler 1951](#)) as measure of optimization.

Section 2 provides a description of the database and of the hypotheses made to carry out observational fragilities. Section 3 describes the basis of FAST method and uncertainties considered for analytical fragility curves. Finally, section 4 and section 5 provide results of the calibration and main conclusions of this study.

2. PETTINO (L'AQUILA) DAMAGE DATA DATABASE

The database considered in this study is made of 131 infilled RC MRF frames located in Pettino neighborhood in L'Aquila. Pettino area was very close to the epicenter of the mainshock event of L'Aquila 2009 earthquake. The 131 buildings are selected according to data collected from the official post-earthquake inspection forms by Italian National Civil Protection ([Polidoro 2010](#)). The 131 buildings are (i) RC buildings, (ii) regular in plan and elevation, and (iii) characterized by regular distribution of the infills.

In the following, a brief overview of earthquake characteristics and a description of database characteristics are provided. This information are then employed for the evaluation of observational fragilities according to the methodology employed by Liel and Lynch ([2012](#)), and described in Porter et al. ([2007](#)).

2.1 L'Aquila earthquake

On 6th April 2009, an earthquake of magnitude $M_w=6.3$ struck the Abruzzo region; the epicenter was only about 6 km from the city of L'Aquila. The event resulted in casualties and damage to buildings, lifelines and other infrastructures. The closest stations to the epicenter were located on the fault trace (AQA, AQP, AQR, AQS). The maximum Peak Ground Acceleration (PGA) registered was 613.8 cm/s^2 on the East-West component of AQP station, whose soil type was classified according to cross-hole test as type B ([Chioccarelli et al. 2009](#)).

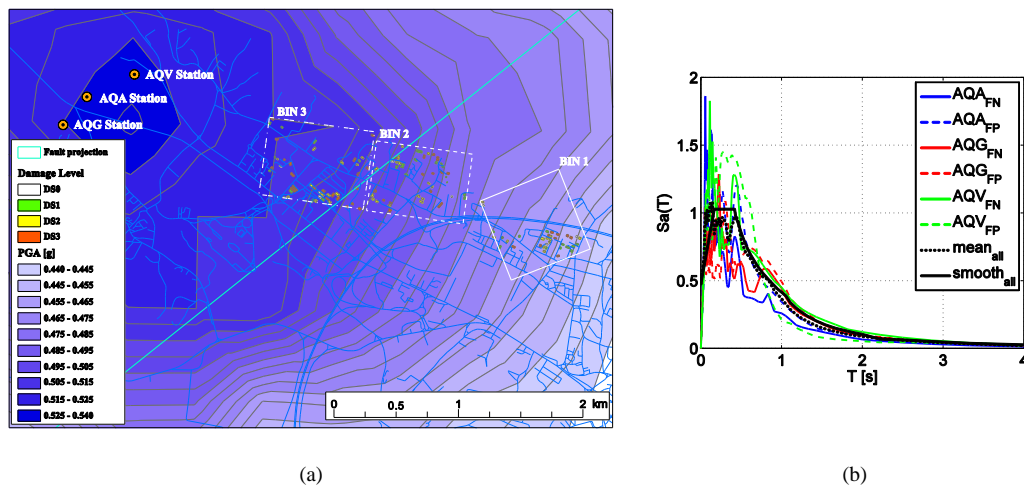


Figure 1. Map of Pettino area, location of AQA, AQP, AQS station, part of fault projection and shake map data according to INGV, (a); response spectra from ground motion recordings at stations AQA, AQP, AQS in fault normal (FN) and fault parallel (FP) directions, mean spectra of the six signals ($mean_{all}$), and smoothed response spectra ($smooth_{all}$), (b).

The database of 131 buildings is located in Pettino, a neighborhood of L'Aquila. Pettino is very close to three stations (AQA, AQG, AQV), see [Figure 1a](#). The three stations are located in the epicentral area and part of Pettino is located within fault projection. In [Figure 1b](#) response spectra from ground motion recordings at stations AQA, AQG and AQV are shown. Recorded signals have been rotated from North-South (NS) and East-West (EW) (original directions of the accelerometers) to strike-normal (FN) and strike-parallel (FP) components. Notwithstanding different evaluations of strike angle available in literature for 2009 L'Aquila earthquake (e.g., [Walters et al. 2009](#)), strike angle was assumed equal to 127° , according to the evaluation provided by Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, INGV, (<http://itaca.mi.ingv.it/ItacaNet/>).

Mean PGA value of the six signals is equal to 0.476g. A smoothed spectrum ($smooth_{all}$ in [Figure 1b](#)), evaluated from the mean spectra of the six signals ($mean_{all}$ in [Figure 1b](#)), was computed through the procedure provided in [Malhotra \(2006\)](#). The smoothed spectrum allows identifying values of T_C and T_D for the smoothed Newmark-Hall spectral shape. T_C represents the right bound period of the constant acceleration branch, while T_D is the right bound period of constant velocity branch. T_C and T_D are equal, respectively to 0.42s and 0.97s.

2.2 Database description and EMS98 classification

The database considered in this study is made of 131 RC buildings, located in the area of Pettino. These buildings have been inspected after 2009 L'Aquila earthquake; in particular, the population has been divided in three bins (*BIN 1*, *BIN 2*, and *BIN 3*), defined according two main criteria. First criterion is a different average PGA characterizing each BIN, second criterion is that each BIN has approximately the same number of buildings, (see [Figure 1a](#)).

The database was assembled through fieldwork ([Polidoro 2010](#)) and collection of data available from official inspection forms ([Baggio et al. 2000](#)).

The official Italian inspection form, the so-called AeDES[†] form, conjugates safety evaluation and damage assessment ([Baggio et al. 2000](#); [Goretti and Di Pasquale 2006](#)). The Italian AeDES form is made of nine sections. In section 1 are collected all the necessary information for the identification of the building (e.g., city, municipality, street address). In section 2 general building information are collected (e.g., number of storeys, interstorey height, average surface in plan, age of construction). In section 3, building typology (RC, steel, masonry) is identified, and lateral (e.g., frame, wall) and horizontal structural systems are classified. Furthermore, in section 3, information about regularity in elevation and in plan because of the structural system and because of masonry infills are collected. Section 4 provides damage evaluation for structural components and infill walls, as it will be discussed above. Section 5 provides information about damage to non-structural elements (e.g., plaster, chimneys,...), section 6 collects information about danger for usability caused by adjacent structures, and section 7 is focused on foundations and soil. Finally, section 8 collects risk evaluation and the final outcome of the usability survey, with the possibility to add further information in section 9. A detailed description of the form is provided in the field manual by [Baggio et al. \(2000\)](#).

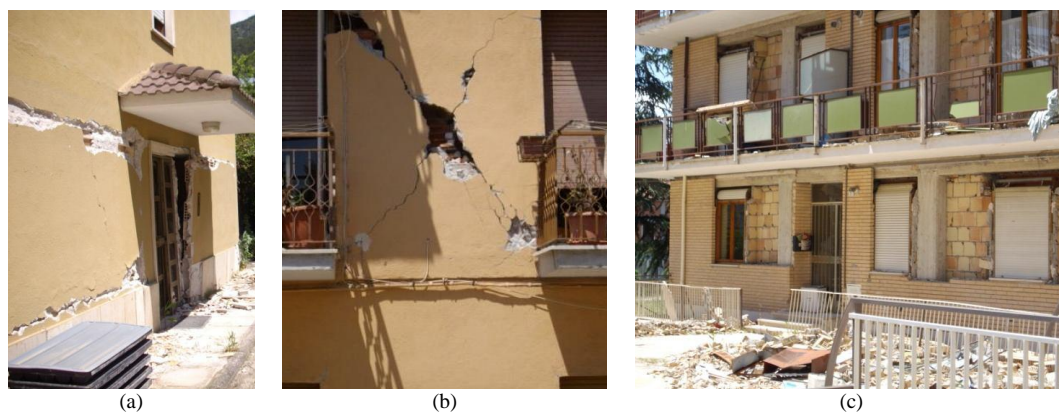


Figure 2. Examples of damage to infills in the area of Pettino

[†] Available at http://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/resources/cms/documents/Scheda_AEDES.pdf

A further selection with respect to data of Polidoro is made: buildings selected are approximately rectangular in plan, and they are characterized by approximately regular distribution of infills in elevation. Database includes each building's location, street address, area in plan, and a rough estimation of transversal and longitudinal dimensions. The latter information (transversal and longitudinal dimensions) is not available in the inspection form, and it was collected through fieldwork *in loco*, and further controls were made through Google Maps ®. Figure 2 shows some examples of RC buildings in the area of Pettino.

The database of 131 buildings considered is characterized by number of storeys varying from one up to seven storeys. Most buildings are characterized by three to five storeys, see Figure 3a. It is worth noting that the storeys' trend in this database reflects the trends in other databases (Liel and Lynch, 2012), and data for RC buildings in the whole municipality of L'Aquila, see Ricci et al. (2011a).

Most buildings were realized between 1972 and 1991, see Figure 3b, and they are characterized by a longitudinal to transversal ratio in plan (L_x/L_y) between 1 and 2, see Figure 3c. Data in Figure 3a and 3b are collected from section 2 of AeDES form, while data in Figure 3c were retrieved by Gis and field inspection data by Polidoro (2010).

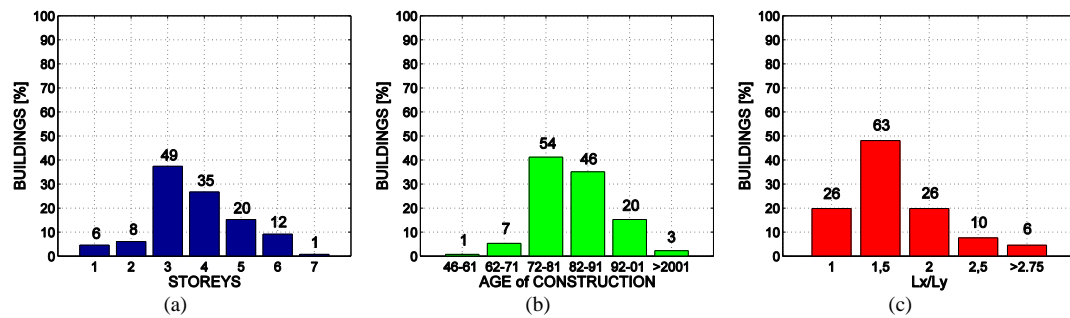


Figure 3. Storeys' distribution (a), age of construction (b), and longitudinal over transversal ratio in plan, L_x/L_y , (c) in the database.

As it was emphasized before, in section 4 of the AeDES form, damage states and their extension are assessed through the form provided in Figure 4a; damage is classified in percentage as less than 1/3, between 1/3 and 2/3, greater than 2/3. It is possible to select more than one damage grade as long as the sum of relative extensions is limited to one. Null damage (DS0) is the only damage grade that cannot coexist with other damage levels.

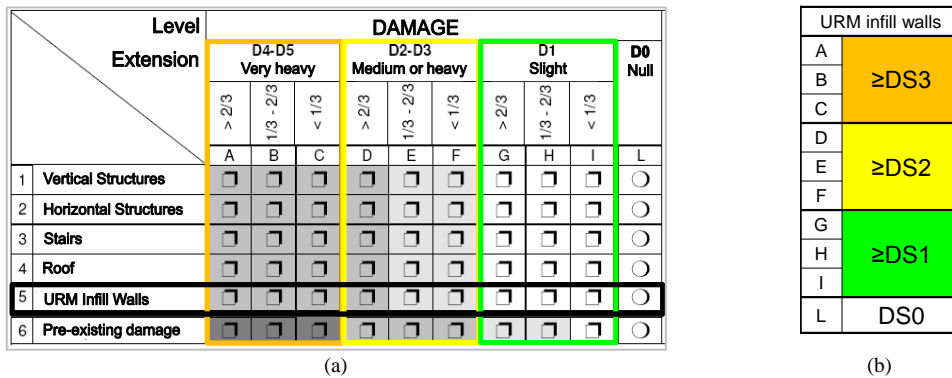


Figure 4. Section 4 of the AeDES form (a), and damage classification adopted in this study (b).

An interpretation of data collected in section 4 of the AeDES forms, for the 131 buildings, is carried out, aimed at providing a damage database that fits with EMS98 classification. This interpretation is quite straightforward; in fact, damage definition in the AeDES form is based on EMS98 damage scale as it is stated on the top of each damage column (see Figure 4a), and in the explicative notes at the end of the form.

Damage data of the 131 buildings are post processed according to different assumptions. First of all, damage classification of each building was made through the only damage of masonry infill walls (URM infill walls), thus only line 5 of the damage form was employed (see Figure 4a).

Secondly, the extension of damage was discarded and each building is classified according to the highest damage level ticked in the inspection form, see Figure 4b. Finally, EMS 98 description of damage for RC buildings (Grünthal et al. 1998) is employed to classify damage grade of infills.

Damage interpretation according to EMS 98 is made referring to damage descriptions for infills.

- *Slight* damage to infills is classified, in this study, as exceedance of grade 1 (DS1 in the following), according to the expression “*fine cracks in partitions and infills*” provided in EMS 98 scale.
- *Medium or heavy* damage to infills is classified, in this study, as exceedance of grade 2 (DS2 in the following), according to the expression “*cracks in partition and infill walls, falls of brittle cladding and plaster*”.
- *Very heavy* damage to infills or *collapse* of infills is classified, in this study, as exceedance of grade 3 (DS3 in the following), according to the expression “*large cracks in partition and infill walls, failure of individual infill panels*”, see Figure 4b.

For the case of exceedance of DS1 and DS2 the matching is perfectly compatible with the lower bound of AeDES form damage suggestion (see “D1” and “D2” in Figure 4a). In the case of exceedance of DS3, the suggested lower bound damage for columns A, B, and C, in the AeDES form, is DS4 (see “D4” in Figure 4a); on the other hand such classification is referred to all the elements in section 4 (e.g., vertical structures, horizontal structures,...), and the form has to consider that very heavy damage to RC elements is attained, in EMS98 scale, at DS4, while the same very heavy damage to the only infills is firstly attained at DS3. Thus, in the case of columns A, B, C, ticked for the URM infill row of the AeDES form, the exceedance of DS3 was assumed.

Table 1 and Figure 5 show damage classification of the 131 buildings made according to the above hypotheses; 35% of the buildings are characterized by DS3 exceedance, while 29%, and 27% are the percentages of exceedance of DS2 and DS1, respectively. The above classification includes only the exceedance of damage states up to 3, since they are the damage that can be visually interpreted by means of masonry infills and they allows the numerical calibration of analytical methodologies based on infill damage (see section 3 and 4).

Table 1. Damage classification of the 131 buildings.

BIN	DS0	DS1	DS2	DS3	N _{tot}
1	4	12	11	9	36
2	2	14	16	15	47
3	3	10	12	23	48

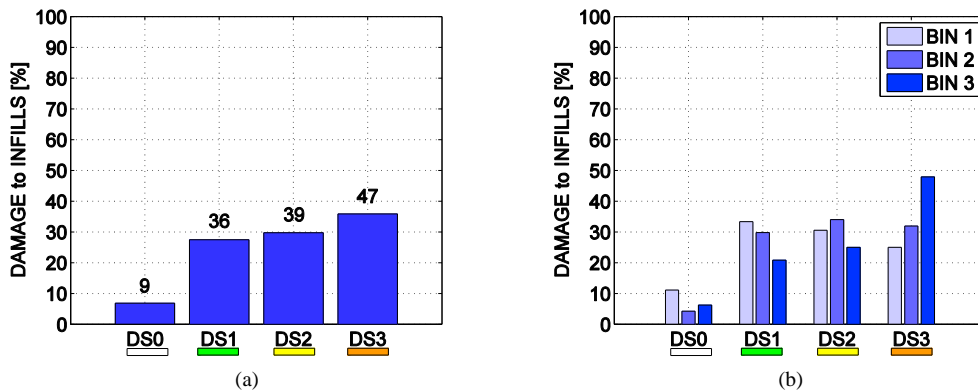


Figure 5. Distribution of damage states (DS) in the database and number of buildings for each DS class (a), distribution of damage states divided according to PGA BINs in Figure 1a. (b).

2.3 Observational fragilities

The database of 131 buildings was divided in three bins characterized by three different values of PGA and a similar number of buildings in each bin. The three bins considered are shown in Figure 1a, in which:

- *BIN 1* represents the area characterized by an average PGA of 0.46g,
- *BIN 2* represents the area with an average PGA of 0.49g,
- *BIN 3* represents the area with an average PGA of 0.51g.

The average PGA of each BIN was extrapolated from the shake map provided by INGV (<http://shakemap.rm.ingv.it/shake/index.html>). The shake map in the area of Pettino has been downscaled according to the PGA ranges provided in Figure 1a; then after the three BINs have been defined, the weighted mean PGAs for each bin have been evaluated taking into account the location of the buildings in each bin.

Figure 5b shows data distributions for the three BINs considered in terms of damage classification. It is worth noting that PGA values for the three bins are in a narrow range; this is caused by the fact that the database is located in a small area (Pettino neighborhood). On the other hand, the three close stations provide a sufficiently accurate estimation of PGA that, in turn, allows the subdivision in three bins necessary for the regression procedure to follow. Still observational fragility curves are compared with those from other studies for a further validation of bins' definition.

In Figure 6a, the cumulative distributions of exceeding a specific damage state for the database of 131 buildings are shown for each of the three BINs considered. According to the procedure suggested by Porter et al. (2007), and employed also by Liel and Lynch (2012), it is possible to perform a linear regression for the evaluation of the median PGA and the logarithmic standard deviation σ_{log} , as shown in Figure 6b, finally aimed at defining the lognormal distributions for the fragility curves for DS1, DS2, and DS3.

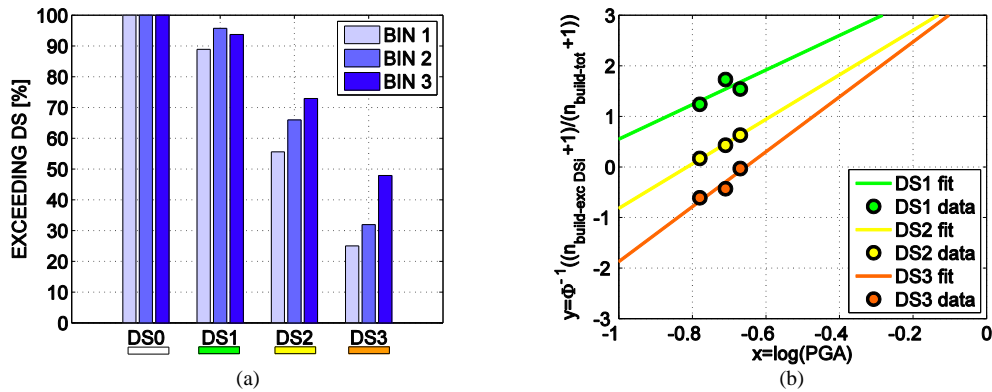


Figure 6. Cumulative distributions of exceeding a specific damage state in the database (a), linear regression parameters for the evaluation of lognormal distributions for DS1, DS2, and DS3 according to Porter et al. (2007).

The fragility curves obtained for Pettino database are shown in Figure 7a. The exceedance of DS1 is characterized by a median PGA of 0.31g and σ_{log} equal to 0.29, for DS2 median PGA is equal to 0.44g and σ_{log} equal to 0.23, finally, for DS3, median PGA is equal to 0.52 and σ_{log} equal to 0.18. The obtained observational fragilities are also compared with fragilities estimated by Liel and Lynch on other L'Aquila post-earthquake data (see Table 2) and evaluated for insignificant or insignificant to moderate damage (I or I/M), moderate or moderate to heavy damage (M or M/H), and heavy damage (H), qualitatively corresponding to DS1, DS2, and DS3, in this study. Differences between the estimated median PGA are within 15%. The estimated median PGA for DS2 and DS3, in this study, are higher than that estimated by Liel and Lynch; while the median PGA for DS1 is slightly lower with respect to that by Liel and Lynch. Logarithmic standard deviations are quite different for the cases of DS1 and DS2 (0.29 versus 0.17, and 0.23 versus 0.12), while they are quite similar for the case of DS3 (0.18 versus 0.17), as emphasized by the comparison of Figure 7a and 7b. The differences between median PGA are quite limited, and they can be justified by the differences between the two database, and by the fact that Liel and Lynch employed a larger database not so localized in the area with highest PGA according to the shake map (close to AQQ station). The latter observation can explain the overestimation (within 15%) of median PGA for DS2 and DS3. Notwithstanding the fact that the database is made of only 131 buildings, the values of logarithmic standard deviations found in this study are close to those obtained in other studies that include data of different earthquakes (e.g., Rossetto and Elnashai, 2003).

Fragility curve for DS1 has been obtained through observational points that are close to the right tail of the distribution (see Figure 7a). This is a natural effect of the magnitude of the event (medium-high) that is not perfectly suitable for characterization of slight damage. Thus, in the

calibration procedure, described in the following, DS1 fragility is going to be employed only partially.

Table 2. Observational fragilities' parameters obtained in this study and those obtained in Liel and Lynch (2012)

DS1		DS2		DS3	
median [g]	σ_{\log}	median [g]	σ_{\log}	median [g]	σ_{\log}
0.31	0.29	0.44	0.23	0.52	0.18
I or I/M		M or M/H		H	
median [g]	σ_{\log}	median [g]	σ_{\log}	median [g]	σ_{\log}
0.33	0.17	0.39	0.12	0.45	0.17

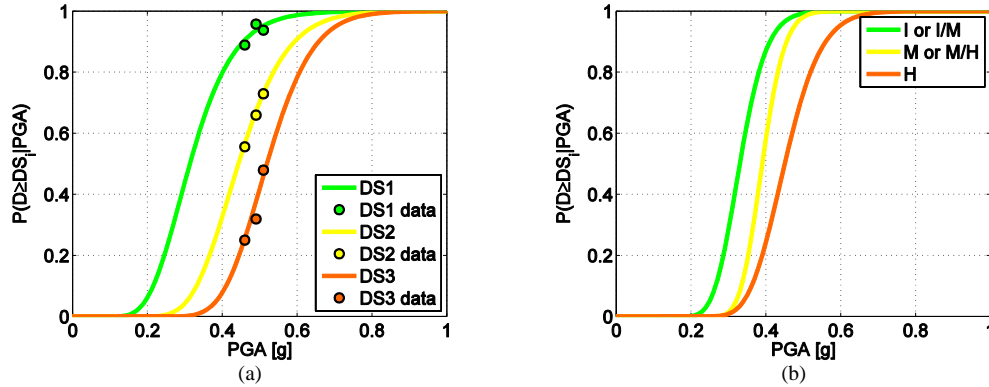


Figure 7. Observational fragility curves obtained according to Porter et al. (2007) on the database of 131 buildings in Pettino (a), observational fragilities obtained in the study of Liel and Lynch (2012) (b).

3. “FAST” APPROACH METHODOLOGY

It is well known that structural contribution of infills provides an increase in lateral strength and stiffness of the building (resulting in a decrease in the fundamental period). On the other hand, it also leads to global strength degradation after the attainment of the maximum resistance because of the brittle behavior of masonry infills. This structural behavior is mainly representative of uniformly infilled existing buildings (e.g., Ricci et al. 2013). The idealized pushover curve of a uniformly infilled RC MRF building can be represented by a quadrilinear backbone (Dolšek and Fajfar, 2005). According to FAST, the simplified pushover curve has a softening branch characterized by a drop. The latter is an additional simplifying hypothesis with respect to the idealized backbone provided by Dolšek and Fajfar (2005), and represents the limit situation in which softening slope is infinite (significant brittle behavior of infills).

3.1 Capacity curve and IDA

FAST capacity curve is evaluated in the hypothesis of attainment of a soft-storey plastic mechanism in the building at its first storey (e.g., Dolce et al. 2005). This capacity curve can be defined in the acceleration displacement response spectrum (ADRS) format (S_a - S_d) through the definition of four parameters (see also De Luca et al. 2013a; Manfredi et al. 2013):

- $C_{s,max}$, the inelastic acceleration of the equivalent single degree of freedom (SDOF) at the attainment of the maximum strength;
- $C_{s,min}$, the inelastic acceleration of the equivalent SDOF at the attainment of the plastic mechanism of the RC structure (all the infills of the storeys involved in the mechanism have attained their residual strength);
- μ_s , the available ductility up to the beginning of the degradation of the infills;
- T , the equivalent elastic period computed from the fundamental period T_o of the infilled RC building.

Equations 1 to 3 show the formulations assumed for the definition of the first two parameters. The value of μ_s is assumed equal to 2.5; this assumption is made through the comparison of

detailed assessment studies available in literature on gravity load designed buildings (Ricci et al. 2013; Verderame et al. 2012a).

$$C_{s,max} = \alpha C_{s,design} + \frac{\tau_{max} \cdot \rho_w}{N \cdot m \cdot \lambda} \quad (1)$$

$$C_{s,min} = C_{s,design} + \frac{\beta \cdot \tau_{max} \cdot \rho_w}{N \cdot m \cdot \lambda} \quad (2)$$

$$C_{s,design} = S_{a,d}(T) \cdot R_\alpha \cdot R_\omega \quad (3)$$

in which, N is the number of storeys, m is the average mass of each storey normalized by the building area (e.g., equal to $0.8t/m^2$ for residential buildings), λ is a coefficient for the evaluation of the first mode participant mass with respect to the total mass of the multiple degree of freedom (MDOF) according to (CEN, 2004), τ_{max} is the maximum shear stress of the infills according to Fardis (1997), and equal to 1.30 times the cracking shear stress of the infills (τ_{cr}), ρ_w is the ratio between the infill area, A_w , (internal+external infills) - evaluated along one of the principal directions of the building - and the building area A_b .

α , and β are coefficients that account, respectively, for RC elements' strength contribution at the attainment of infill peak strength and for the residual strength contribution of the infills at the attainment of the plastic mechanism of the bare RC structure. $C_{s,design}$ is the design acceleration coefficient of the bare structure at the attainment of the plastic mechanism of the bare RC structure. It can be evaluated made considering obsolete seismic design provisions in terms of design spectral acceleration, amplified by structural redundancy factor (R_α) and overstrength material factor (R_ω), see De Luca et al. (2013a) for details.

Last parameter to be evaluated for the definition of the capacity curve is the equivalent elastic period T . The first branch of the curve represents both the initial elastic and the post-cracking behavior occurred in both RC frame and infills. Hence, the equivalent elastic period T of the idealized capacity curve is higher than the fundamental elastic period T_o , correspondent to the tangent stiffness of the capacity curve. In particular, in this study, T is evaluated through a relationship with T_o . In FAST, T_o is computed through equation 4, (Ricci et al. 2011b), given its good agreement with experimental data, and the presence of variables already employed in the evaluation of the simplified capacity curve (see equations 1 and 2). Finally, the switch from T_o to the equivalent elastic period T is made through the amplification coefficient κ , calibrated on analytical data (Manfredi et al. 2012; Verderame et al. 2012a), and equal to 1.40.

$$T_o = 0.023 \frac{H}{\sqrt{100\rho_w}} = 0.0023 \frac{H}{\sqrt{\rho_w}} \quad (4)$$

The simplified capacity curve allows consequent definition of approximate Incremental Dynamic Analysis curves (IDA or IN2). Capacity curve and approximate IDA curve are related by an R- μ -T relationship. In the following the R- μ -T relationship, also known as SPO2IDA, by Vamvatsikos and Cornell (2006), is employed. SPO2IDA provides a relationship between an engineering demand parameter (EDP), e.g. SDOF displacement (S_d), and an intensity measure (IM), e.g. elastic spectral acceleration S_a or PGA, and it evaluates record to record variability providing directly not only median approximate IDA curves but also their 16° and 84° percentiles. Other FAST applications available in literature (De Luca et al. 2013a; De Luca et al., 2013b; Manfredi et al. 2013) employed the R- μ -T relationship calibrated on infilled RC buildings by Dolšek and Fajfar (2004). Both R- μ -Ts provides similar results, and FAST results are not strictly affected by this choice.

3.2 Damage analysis and seismic capacities

The IDA curve represents the specific building (or building class) relationship between S_d - S_a of the equivalent SDOF. This relationship allows the transformation of specific displacement thresholds (for DS1, or DS2, or DS3) in terms of corresponding IM thresholds (in terms of S_a , or PGA). These IMs values represent the capacity of the structure (or the class of structures) at the considered DSs in terms of IM. Thus, for the evaluation of the IM capacity, it is firstly necessary

to provide an estimation of damage threshold for the specific buildings in terms of spectral displacement (S_d).

The evaluation of the SDOF displacement corresponding to a specified DS level ($S_{d/DSi}$) can be made through interstorey drift ratios at which the specific DSs are attained ($IDR_{/DSi}$). DSs in terms of IDR can be defined through an empirical-mechanical interpretation of damage classification of the EMS-98 scale (Grünthal et al. 1998). Definition of $IDR_{/DSi}$ is made for the DSs characterized by a specific definition of infill damage in the EMS98 scale. In particular, such procedure can be pursued up to DS3:

- DS1: *fine cracks in partitions and infills*. This DS is defined at the end of the phase in which infills are characterized by an elastic uncracked stiffness. The $IDR_{/DS1}$ could be evaluated as the drift characterizing the attainment of the cracking shear in the infill backbone (Fardis, 1997). Hence, from a mechanical point of view the lateral drift corresponding to this DS can be defined as the ratio of tangential cracking stress (τ_{cr}) to the shear elastic modulus (G_w) of the infills. Considering the values suggested for τ_{cr} and G_w in Circolare 617 (02/02/2009) for typical clay hollow bricks employed in Italy, and taking into account the experimental results in Colangelo (2003; 2012), the range in which $IDR_{/DS1}$ can vary is [0.02% ÷ 0.1%].
- DS2: *cracks in partition and infill walls, fall of brittle cladding and plaster*. After cracking, with increasing displacement, a concentration of stresses along the diagonal of the infill panel takes place, together with an extensive diagonal cracking, up to the attainment of the maximum resistance. Thus, $IDR_{/DS2}$ can be assumed at the achievement of maximum strength in the infills. In a pure mechanical approach, $IDR_{/DS2}$ could be evaluated as the drift corresponding to the peak of infill backbone according to Fardis' model (1997). $IDR_{/DS2}$ could be assumed in the range [0.2% ÷ 0.4%], whose boundary values are similar, respectively, to that in Dolšek and Fajfar (2008), and Colangelo (2003; 2012).
- DS3: *large cracks in partition and infill walls, failure of individual infill panels*. At this stage the generic infill panel shows a significant strength drop with a consequent likely collapse of the panel. According to Fardis' backbone, the drift at this stage is strictly dependent on the softening stiffness of the infill. On the other hand, the softening stiffness is characterized by a large variability depending on the specific kind of infill (mechanical properties, type of bricks, etc.). $IDR_{/DS3}$ could be assumed in the range [0.8% ÷ 1.6%], whose boundary values are similar respectively to that in Dolšek and Fajfar (2008), and Colangelo (2003; 2012).

It is worth noting that IDR ranges considered above are characteristic of clay hollow brick infills, typical in the Mediterranean area, and for which a fair number of experimental tests are available in literature. Once $IDR_{/DSi}$ is computed, roof displacement $\Delta_{/DSi}$ of the MDOF can be defined through the evaluation of an approximate deformed shape. The switch from roof displacement $\Delta_{/DSi}$ to SDOF displacement $S_{d/DSi}$ is, then, obtained through the first mode participation factor Γ_1 evaluated according to the tabulated values in ASCE/SEI 41-06 (2007), the so called coefficient C_o (equivalent to Γ_1).

The deformed shape at a given DS level is evaluated according to the following assumptions:

- the $IDR_{/DSi}$ is attained at the first storey;
- the deformed shape of the (N-1) storeys is evaluated as function of their stiffness with respect to that expected at the first storey.

In the case of DS1 and DS2, the SDOF displacement $S_{d/DSi}$ is evaluated according to equation 5 and 6, in which h_{int} is the interstorey height of the building (generally considered equal to 3.0m). The IDR of the i^{th} ($i > 1$) storey is evaluated considering the inverted triangular distribution of lateral forces as shown in equation 7, in which H_i and H_j are the heights of the i^{th} and j^{th} storeys above the level of application of the seismic action (foundation or top of a rigid basement). Coefficient γ in equation 5 is the average of the ratio, $\gamma_i = K_1/K_i$, between the stiffness of the first storey (K_1) and that of the i^{th} storey (K_i); all evaluated considering the only infills' contribution and neglecting concrete stiffness contribution at the different storeys.

$$S_{d|DS1,2} = \frac{1}{\Gamma_1} (IDR_{DS} \cdot h_{int} + \gamma \cdot \sum_{i=2}^N IDR_i \cdot h_{int}) \quad (5)$$

$$S_{d|DS3} = S_{d|DS2} + \frac{(IDR_{DS3} - IDR_{DS2}) \cdot h_{int}}{\Gamma_1} \quad (6)$$

$$IDR_i = IDR_{DS} \left(1 - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \frac{H_j}{\sum_{j=1}^N H_j}\right) \quad (7)$$

For DS1, the stiffness of all the storeys is still elastic; hence, γ is equal to 1.0. For DS2 the deformed shape is computed considering secant stiffness at the first storey and a combination of stiffness at the other $(N-1)$ storeys. For DS3, $S_{d|DS3}$ is evaluated assuming the same deformed shape for the $(N-1)$ storeys carried out for DS2. Thus, $S_{d|DS3}$ increasing is generated by IDR_{DS3} , as shown in [equation 7](#). The latter assumption implies that the unloading stiffness of the $(N-1)$ storeys is infinite. From a theoretical point of view, γ can vary in a wide range $[0.0 \div 1.0]$. If $\gamma=1.0$, it means that each storey has attained the same secant stiffness of the first storey; while in the case of $\gamma=0$ the remaining $(N-1)$ storeys do not provide any contribution to $S_{d|DS2}$. In other words, the coefficient γ allows evaluating the deformed shape of the remaining $(N-1)$ storeys. In previous studies it was shown that $\gamma=0.40$ has a fair agreement with observational data ([De Luca et al. 2013a](#); [Manfredi et al. 2013](#); [De Luca et al. 2013b](#)).

$S_{d|DSi}$ for DS1, DS2, and DS3 allows the consequent definition of the spectral acceleration threshold at a given DS, $S_{a|DSi}$ through the IDA curve. Given $S_{a|DSi}$, the switching to $PGA_{|DSi}$ (i.e., PGA threshold at a given DS) is pursued through a spectral scaling procedure. This is the first step in which it is necessary to assume a spectral shape.

According to data available in each case it is possible to employ a spectral shape from a recorded accelerograms ([De Luca et al. 2013a](#)), or a code spectral shape ([Manfredi et al. 2013](#)), or a smoothed spectral shape (see [Figure 1b](#)). The above description of FAST method allows the definition of the median PGA capacity characterizing the exceedance of DS1, DS2, and DS3 for infilled RC MRF buildings ($PGA_{|DSi}$).

An example application of FAST method on a complex model of a single building is provided in Verderame et al. (2012a) and a comparison with other accurate numerical approaches is provided.

3.3 Fragility curves and uncertainties

A Monte Carlo simulation, carried out after the definition and characterization of uncertainties to be considered, allows providing fragility curves through FAST method at the three DS considered. FAST input variables of the method can be divided in:

- variables defining building characteristics (*building variables*). Building variables are the number of storeys (N), interstorey height (h_{int}), the ratio between infill area and building area along a direction (ρ_w), and the storey specific mass (m). Such variables depends on geometrical and usage characteristics of the building;
- variables defining the design practice at the time of construction (*design variables*) for the area considered, such as the design spectral acceleration $S_{ad}(T)$ or the redundancy factor R_α (see [equation 3](#));
- variables characterizing material mechanical properties (*material variables*): such as the peak shear stress of the infills ($\tau_{max}=1.30\tau_{cr}$) and the overstrength factor R_o , mainly ascribed to the overstrength factor between mean steel yielding strength and design strength (f_{ym}/f_d);
- variables characterizing damage state thresholds (*damage state variables*), i.e., $IDR_{|DSi}$;
- variables defining FAST method hypotheses (*method variables*), i.e., $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \kappa, \mu_s$.

Notwithstanding the fact that all variables can be characterized by specific uncertainties given the kind of information available; in the following are described the typical assumption made for FAST application in this study and in previous studies that employs this methodology.

Building and design variables are generally assumed as deterministic. As an example, interstorey height can be easily estimated from code prescription and literature data (e.g., [Bal et al. 2006](#)), as well as the design spectral acceleration $S_{a,d}(T)$ can be obtained from code prescription at the age of construction. R_α is a result of the design approach that reflects obsolete design practice more than current capacity design provisions and it is conservatively estimated equal to 1.10. For rectangular buildings, the estimation of $\rho_{w,i}$ ($\rho_{w,i}=2L_it_w/A_b$) can be directly evaluated, if dimensions in plan of the building are available, through the estimation of a typical thickness for infills (e.g., $t_w=0.20\text{m}$), or through the assumption of a specific ratio between transversal and longitudinal dimensions in the class considered (e.g., [Figure 3c](#)). Thickness assumption is referred to typical double layer hollow clay bricks commonly employed in Italy and in the Mediterranean area.

Method variables are assumed as deterministic, α , β , κ , and μ_s have been evaluated from results of numerical investigations ([Ricci, 2010](#); [Verderame et al. 2012a](#); [Manfredi et al. 2012](#); [Ricci et al. 2013](#)); in the following, $\alpha=0.5$, $\beta=0$, $\kappa=1.4$, and $\mu_s=2.5$. The parameter γ is evaluated according to the hypotheses described in the previous section, and its estimate ($\gamma=0.4$), based on linear degradation of stiffness along the height of the building, has shown to have a fair agreement with observational damage data ([De Luca et al. 2013b](#)).

Random variables assumed for the evaluation of fragility curves are *material variables* and *damage state variables*. Probability Density Functions (PDF) describing the expected values and the corresponding variability for each one of the variables can be defined according to experimental data available in literature. As an example, τ_{cr} can be estimated through experimental results by [Calvi et al. \(2004\)](#). Steel yield strength can be evaluated through STIL software ([Verderame et al. 2012b](#)), providing statistics about main mechanical characteristics of steel as a function of few parameters, such as the age of construction and the type of reinforcement (plain or deformed bars). Considering steel yielding strength as random variable, its PDF can be assumed equal to that of the overstrength factor $R_\omega(=f_y/f_d)$. Finally, IDR thresholds' distributions at a given DS (IDR_{DSi}) can be evaluated according to data available in [Colangelo \(2012\)](#) and based on experimental data provided by the same author ([Colangelo, 2003](#)).

Record to record variability can be estimated directly through the dispersion of IM given EDP ([Vamvatsikos and Fragiadakis, 2010](#)). Thus, the effect of aleatory randomness can be estimated in FAST method through SPO2IDA, evaluating $\sigma_{\log,R}$ according to [equation 8](#).

$$\sigma_{\log,R} \approx \frac{1}{2} (\ln S_a^{84\%} - \ln S_a^{16\%}) \quad (8)$$

Notwithstanding the fact that spectral acceleration is a more efficient and sufficient intensity measure with respect to PGA (e.g., [Tothong and Cornell, 2007](#); [Jalayer et al. 2012](#)), all FAST applications employ PGA as IM. This choice is related to the fact that PGA shake maps are easily available right after events. Moreover, it is worth to note that in the range of period of interest for infilled RC MRF frames spectral acceleration and PGA are highly correlated. As an example, in the case of smoothed spectral shape assumed in [Figure 1b](#), spectral acceleration and PGA are highly correlated up to T equal to 0.6 seconds ([Malhotra, 2006](#)). This observation allows switching from spectral acceleration capacity to PGA capacity through a spectral scaling procedure discarding the uncertainties introduced by the employment of a different IM. The characterization of epistemic and aleatory uncertainties allows the definition of fragility curves through FAST. Thus, given the specific building or class of buildings and defined its *building variables* and its *design variables*, for each random variable considered a PDF is assumed.

A Monte Carlo simulation is performed; a number of samplings for random variables is carried out. So, a population of samples is generated, each one corresponding to a different set of values of the defined random variables. Therefore, if S_a (or PGA) capacity, at a given DS, is calculated for all the generated samples (see [Figure 8](#)), the corresponding cumulative frequency distributions of the obtained S_a (or PGA) capacities provides the fragility curves at each DS. The fragility curve at each DS for the single building, independent on the direction, is obtained through the evaluation of the cumulative frequency distribution of the minimum PGA capacities between longitudinal and transversal direction (identified by $\rho_{w,x}$ and $\rho_{w,y}$) for each Monte Carlo sample.

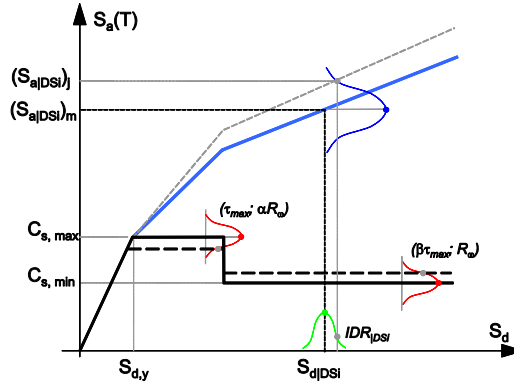


Figure 8. Graphical example of generation of fragility curves in FAST method, the black dashed line represent the estimate through median values of random variables, while grey dashed line represents the j^{th} Monte Carlo sample.

4. FAST CALIBRATION ON PETTINO FRAGILITIES

Observational fragility curves carried out in section 2 allow a calibration of fragilities obtained via FAST, based on L'Aquila earthquake scenario. The calibration procedure is aimed at defining key input variables to be assumed in FAST method within ranges that have a counterpart in experimental and analytical data available in literature. The calibration procedure is carried out in four basic steps: (i) characterization of input variables from the database; (ii) choice of the uncertainties to be considered for the evaluation of analytical fragilities; (iii) assumption of the variables to calibrate, and their numerical ranges; (iv) assumption of an optimizing index to select the values with the closest agreement between analytical and empirical fragilities.

The first step includes definition of charactering parameters for each building in the database: N and ρ_w are input information provided for each single building (see Figure 3a and 3c). In particular, the value of ρ_w is available for both the directions of the buildings and two capacity curves are evaluated for each building (one per direction). It is worth noting that for each building are available dimensions in plan for longitudinal and transversal directions (i.e., L_x , L_y), and $\rho_{w,x}$ and $\rho_{w,y}$ are computed through the assumption of typical infill thickness. Regarding external infills, thickness (t_w) is considered equal to 20 cm. For the evaluation of internal infills, it is assumed that their area in each direction is equal to 50% of the area of external infills, in analogy with the assumption made by Bal et al. (2006). Openings are computed through the strength reduction coefficients provided by Kakaletsis and Karayannis (2009). In particular, for external infills the average value of window opening coefficient is assumed (equal to 0.85), while for internal infills the average value of door opening coefficient is assumed (equal to 0.7). Design is made according to L'Aquila seismic classification up to 2003 (second category), given age of construction data in Figure 4b, see Ricci et al. (2011a), and Manfredi et al. (2013) for details. R_{α} and R_{ω} are considered equal to 1.1, and 1.45, respectively, see De Luca et al. (2013a).

The second step of the calibration is the choice of the uncertainties to be considered for the evaluation of analytical fragilities. Analytical fragilities are the result of four epistemic uncertainties; in particular τ_{cr} , and IDR thresholds at each DS considered (IDR_{DSi}). Variability ascribed to steel yielding strength f_y and characterizing R_{ω} , is not considered, since it is negligible (≤ 0.10) with respect to other variables considered in the calibration. For each variable a lognormal distribution is assumed, and a Monte Carlo simulation is performed for each building of the database. The fragility curves for the whole database are then collected together to compute median PGA and standard deviation of logarithms, estimated at each DS. Record to record variability is not considered since the calibration is provided for the specific scenario of L'Aquila earthquake. Thus, the approximate IDA for each single building is the median computed through SPO2IDA. The smooth spectrum in Figure 1b is considered for the switch from S_a to PGA. CoVs of the random variables considered are not the object of the present calibration. Thus, the whole process is performed assuming the same CoV for each determination of analytical fragilities at each DS for the database, and only median values of lognormal distributions vary.

The third step of the calibration process involves the choice of the input variables to be calibrated. The calibration process will involve median values of the variables characterizing epistemic uncertainties (τ_{cr} , IDR_{DS1} , IDR_{DS2} , IDR_{DS3}); Table 3 shows the values assumed for each

calibration variable and the assumptions made on the coefficients of variation (CoV) for the variables. In particular, for τ_{cr} the CoV value is based on data available in Calvi et al. (2004), while CoVs for each damage thresholds are those suggested by Colangelo (2012).

The calibration process involves 500 possible combinations of parameters (see the second column in Table 3) for which the Monte Carlo simulation is performed and results in terms of fragility curves of the whole database are considered. Medians assumed for the random variables vary in the ranges provided in section 3.2. Median value of τ_{cr} is based on experimental, numerical data (e.g., Colangelo, 2003; Dolsek and Fajfar, 2004), not discarding code suggestions for this parameter (CS. LL. PP., 2009), covering the range of shear cracking stress for typical Italian hollow clay brick infills.

Table 3. Simulation values for the calibration of FAST

Calibration Variables	Distribution	Simulation Values	CoV
τ_{cr}	lognormal	0.2 - 0.3 - 0.4 - 0.5 [MPa]	0.30 [Calvi et al. 2004]
IDR_{DS1}	lognormal	0.2 - 0.4 - 0.6 - 0.8 - 1.0 [%]	0.67 [Colangelo, 2012]
IDR_{DS2}	lognormal	2.0 - 2.5 - 3.0 - 3.5 - 4.0 [%]	0.75 [Colangelo, 2012]
IDR_{DS3}	lognormal	0.8 - 1.0 - 1.2 - 1.4 - 1.6 [%]	0.50 [Colangelo, 2012]

The fourth step of the calibration is characterized by the choice of a proper optimizing parameters aimed at compare analytical and observational fragilities. The optimization parameter selected is the Kullback-Leibler divergence, D_{KL} in the following. In probability theory and information theory, the D_{KL} is a non-symmetric measure of the difference between two probability distributions P and Q (Kullback and Leibler, 1951; Kullback, 1959). Specifically, the D_{KL} of Q from P, denoted $D_{KL}(P|Q)$, is a measure of the information lost when Q is used to approximate P. Typically, P represents the *true* distribution of data, observations, or a precisely calculated theoretical distribution. The measure Q typically represents a theory, model, description, or approximation of P. If P and Q are continuous random variables and p and q denote the PDF of P and Q, $D_{KL}(P|Q)$ can be evaluated according to equation 9.

$$D_{KL}(P|Q) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \log_2 \left(\frac{p(x)}{q(x)} \right) p(x) dx \quad (9)$$

The logarithms in these formulas are taken to base 2, if information is measured in units of bits; on the other hand, most formulas involving the D_{KL} hold irrespective of log base. $D_{KL}(P|Q)$ can be seen as the divergence of Q from P as this best relates to the idea that P is considered the underlying "true" or "best guess" distribution, while Q is some divergent, less good, approximate distribution. D_{KL} has been used in earthquake engineering as measure of sufficiency of an intensity measure with respect to another (e.g., Jalayer et al, 2012).

In the context of the calibration provided herein, D_{KL} is seen as the divergence of FAST analytical fragilities (i.e., Q) with respect to the observational fragilities (i.e., P) provided in section 2.3 for the three DS considered. Equation 9 is employed considering as p(x), the lognormal PDF of the observational fragilities, and as q(x) the i^{th} lognormal PDF in terms of PGA, obtained for the whole population of 131 buildings through Monte Carlo simulations for the i^{th} of the 500 combinations of input variables listed in Table 3. The minimization of D_{KL} evaluated for each DS_i ($D_{KL,DSi}$) results in one or more than one optimal combinations of τ_{cr} , and IDR_{DSi} , that best match the observational fragilities. It is worth noting that the minimization of $D_{KL,DS1}$ provides information on the choice of τ_{cr} and IDR_{DS1} , the minimization of $D_{KL,DS2}$ provides information on the choice of τ_{cr} and IDR_{DS2} , while the minimization of $D_{KL,DS3}$ provides information on the choice of τ_{cr} and IDR_{DS3} .

The procedure is performed for the three DSs together, so that when evaluating the capacities in terms of S_d , it is also checked if $S_{d|DSi}$ is greater or equal with respect to $S_{d|DSi-1}$. This kind of control is made to produce from each simulation a consistent result from FAST at the three DSs, avoiding that a specific realization provides a S_a and PGA capacity at DS_i that is lower with respect to that evaluated at DS_{i-1}. It is clear that this choice affects also the resulting variability in the fragility curves at each DS for the single building. Given the i^{th} combination of variables from the possible 500 combinations considered, the 131 fragilities (one for each building) at each DS

are collected together to determine the median PGA and the logarithmic standard deviation of the lognormal PDF representing the fragility at each DS. Finally, the 500 resulting lognormal PDF distributions are considered for the evaluation of the $D_{KL,DSi}$ for each of the 500 trials with respect to the observational fragilities.

4.1 Results

The evaluation of the 500 $D_{KL,DSi}$ are shown, and the trend of this optimization parameter with each variable is analyzed. In Figure 9, $D_{KL,DSi}$ are shown in a normalized form ($norm D_{KL,DSi}$), so that, at each DS, the minimum value of the 500 trials has a $norm D_{KL,DSi}$ equal to 0 and the maximum value is equal to 1. This choice is justified by the fact that the values of $D_{KL,DSi}$ for the three DS can be of different order of magnitude. In particular, $D_{KL,DS1}$ are significantly higher with respect to $D_{KL,DS2}$ and $D_{KL,DS3}$. This means that the experimental and literature ranges considered are able to match better the observational fragilities at DS2 and DS3 with respect to that at DS1. Furthermore, $D_{KL,DS2}$ has a lower variability with respect to $D_{KL,DS3}$. The latter is the result of the constraint imposed in the Monte Carlo simulation on $S_{d_{DSi}}$ with respect to $S_{d_{DSi-1}}$. The best combination of values obtained through Figure 9 is then plotted in terms of comparison between fragility curves in Figure 10.

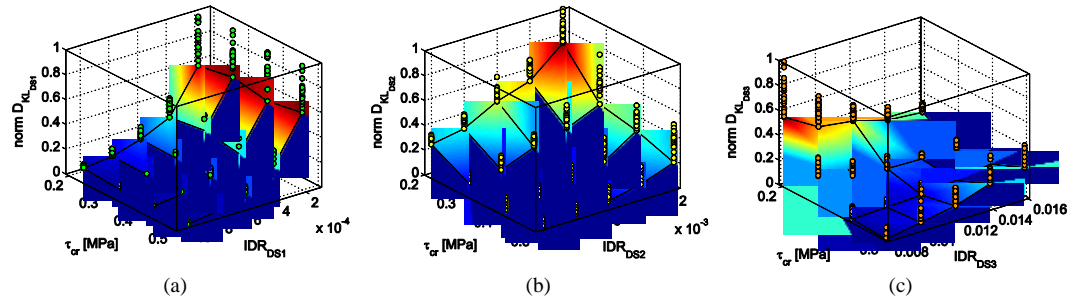


Figure 9. D_{KL} for each DS evaluated in normalized form: $D_{KL,DS1}$ minimum envelope surface as function of τ_{cr} and IDR_{DS1} (a), $D_{KL,DS2}$ minimum envelope surface as function of τ_{cr} and IDR_{DS2} (b), $D_{KL,DS3}$ minimum envelope surface as function of τ_{cr} and IDR_{DS3} (c).

Figure 9a shows the trend of $D_{KL,DS1}$ for each couple of τ_{cr} and IDR_{DS1} . 25 green dots corresponds to each of the 20 different couples of τ_{cr} and IDR_{DS1} , and the surface shown represent the envelope of the minimum $norm D_{KL,DS1}$ values. Figure 9 emphasizes that the fragility at DS1 that best matches the observational one is that characterized by τ_{cr} equal to 0.5 MPa and IDR_{DS1} equal to 1‰. On the other hand, this couple of values results in $D_{KL,DS1}$ equal to 953, and the comparison of the two fragility curves provided in Figure 10a still emphasize a significant difference between the fragilities. In fact, the optimal FAST fragility for DS1 is characterized by a median PGA equal to 0.25g and σ_{log} equal to 0.51 (to be compared to 0.31g and 0.29 for the observational DS1). It is worth noting that calibration output for DS1 is less reliable with respect to the other DS since the magnitude of the event allowed a calibration of the DS1 observational fragility on the basis of tail data (see section 2).

Figure 9b shows the trend of $D_{KL,DS2}$ for each couple of τ_{cr} and IDR_{DS2} , assuming the same plot criterion of Figure 9a. Figure 9b emphasizes that the fragility at DS2 that best matches the observational one is that characterized by τ_{cr} equal to 0.4 MPa and IDR_{DS2} equal to 4‰. This couple of values has the minimum $D_{KL,DS2}$ equal to 240 and the comparison of the two fragility curves provided in Figure 10b emphasizes a fair agreement between FAST and observational fragilities. In fact, the optimal FAST fragility case for DS2 is characterized by a median PGA equal to 0.40g and σ_{log} equal to 0.38 (to be compared to 0.44g and 0.23 for the observational DS2). Figure 9c show the trend of $D_{KL,DS3}$ as function of the values of τ_{cr} and IDR_{DS3} . In this case, Figure 9c emphasizes that the fragility at DS3 that best matches the observational one is that characterized by τ_{cr} equal to 0.4 MPa, IDR_{DS3} equal to 8‰. The comparison of the two fragility curves provided in Figure 10c still emphasizes a fair agreement between FAST and observational fragilities. In fact, the optimal FAST fragility case for DS3 is characterized by a median PGA equal to 0.51g and σ_{log} equal to 0.31 (to be compared to 0.52g and 0.18 for the observational DS3).

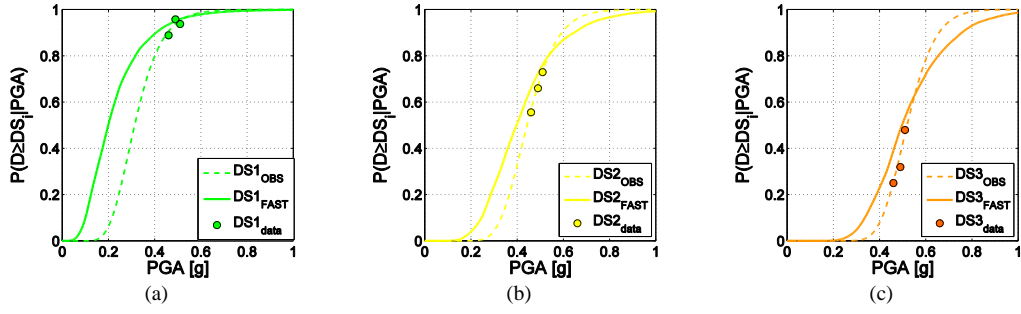


Figure 10. Comparison of observational fragilities with FAST fragilities for DS1 evaluated in correspondence of minimum $D_{KL,DS1}$ (a), for DS2 evaluated in correspondence of minimum $D_{KL,DS2}$ (b), for DS3 evaluated in correspondence of minimum $D_{KL,DS3}$ (c).

In Table 4, are provided the optimizing values for the parameters considered. It is worth noting that τ_{cr} value is optimized according to the results of DS2 and DS3, so assuming 0.4 MPa in agreement with results in Figure 9b and 9c. Through the application of FAST method with parameters in Table 4, it is possible to collect the three analytical fragilities and compare them with the observational fragilities and with the three frequency points employed for the calibration of observational fragilities (see Figure 11). In Table 5 are provided median and σ_{log} of the fragility curves showed in Figure 11, the fragility curve for DS1 in Figure 11 is different with respect to that shown in Figure 10a, since the former is computed with τ_{cr} equal to 0.5 MPa, while the latter is computed with τ_{cr} equal to 0.4 MPa.

Table 4. Output median values for the variable object of the calibration

τ_{cr}	IDR_{DS1}	IDR_{DS2}	IDR_{DS3}
0.4 MPa	1‰	4‰	8‰

Table 5. FAST fragilities' parameters obtained in this study assuming the parameters in Table 4

DS1		DS2		DS3	
median [g]	σ_{log}	median [g]	σ_{log}	median [g]	σ_{log}
0.19	0.53	0.40	0.38	0.51	0.31

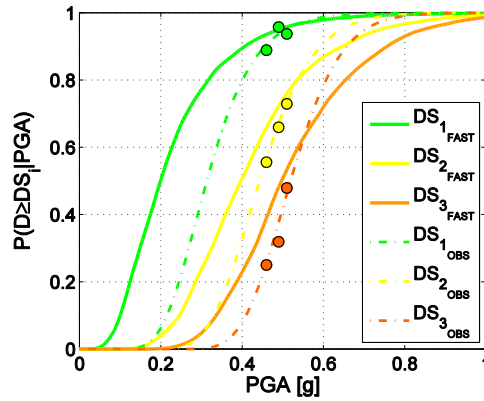


Figure 11. Fragility curves obtained through FAST employing median values in Table 4, and compared with the observational fragility curves and observational cumulative frequencies.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The case study of L'Aquila earthquake and a database of 131 buildings are employed to calibrate median input parameters for FAST large scale vulnerability method for infilled RC MRF frames. The analysis and interpretation of damage data provided by the official Italian inspection form (AeDES form) for post-earthquake inspections for the 131 buildings considered, allow carrying out observational fragilities for the first three damage states evaluated according to EMS98 scale. Damage classification of the buildings is made on the basis of damage information

on infill walls from the AeDES form, and though the evaluation of equivalence with EMS98 description of damage to infills for damage states from 1 to 3. The observational fragilities obtained showed a fair agreement with other fragilities carried out for the same earthquake by other authors.

Data available for each building of the database allow applying FAST method on the same database. On the other hand, input data for FAST can vary in quite large intervals according to experimental and numerical data available in literature. Thus, a calibration procedure on median variables of the most significant input parameters of the method is carried out. In particular, the value of the cracking shear stress of the infills, and the interstorey drift (IDR) thresholds, for the definition of capacity at each damage state, are object of the calibration procedure. The approach provided allows calibrating median values for each of the four variables considered. Ranges assumed for each variable considered have always a numerical or experimental counterpart in literature aimed at obtaining values for each parameter that are compatible with those assumed in mechanical vulnerability approaches.

Results of calibration emphasize that:

- ranges of variables considered allow a fair matching of FAST fragilities with observational curves for DS2 and DS3 defined according to EMS98;
- analytical results are very conservative with respect to observational data for the case of DS1.

FAST method fails to capture the observational fragility at DS1. This result can be justified by two reasons: (i) the observational classification of DS1 is strictly affected by the operator's judgment. DS1 classification often does not have any repair measure as consequence, the building is very frequently usable, and DS1 mechanical interpretation has weak observational counterpart; (ii) the database is collected in the epicentral area, characterized by significant values of PGA registered during the event and the observational DS1 fragility is evaluated on the basis of its right tail (very high percentiles).

The outcome of the calibration emphasizes the reliability of other FAST applications, since input variables employed in previous FAST applications, and evaluated on mechanical basis, are quite similar with the results obtained in this calibration study. Finally, it can be emphasized that FAST method can be a useful and straightforward method for large scale post-emergency vulnerability analyses aimed at the prioritization of interventions.

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