

Set 2 Part 1 Test Cases

General Instructions (same as Set 1)

- Please provide mean hazard results (probability of exceedance) for peak horizontal acceleration (PGA) defined at 0.001, 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3, 0.35, 0.4, 0.45, 0.5, 0.55, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, and 1.0 g. (*Note Test Case 2.5 has different PGA values specified)
- Assume a Poisson model when converting rates to annual probabilities of exceedance
- Use 16.05 (not 16.1) in the equation $\log M_0 = 16.05 + 1.5M$
- Use 3×10^{11} dyne/cm²
- Use a magnitude integration step size small enough to define the specified magnitude density function. The bin size for magnitude integration should be defined such that the M_{\min} is at the lower edge of a bin, not in the center (i.e., If your magnitude step size is 0.01, one magnitude bin should be from M 5.0 to 5.01)
- When integrating over the magnitude density function (balancing the moment), integrate from zero (not M_{\min})
- $\sigma = 0$ for the ground motion model implies that the sigma in the relationship is artificially set to zero, not that the sigma is truncated
- Note that equation for $\ln(y)$ in Table 3.1 of Sadigh et al. (1997) has a typo in the third term. It should read $C3*(8.5-M)^{2.5}$ to match equation 2.2.
- Rupture dimension relationships:
 - $\text{Log}(A) = M - 4$ $\sigma_A = 0$
 - $\text{Log}(W) = (0.5 * M) - 2.15$ $\sigma_W = 0$
 - $\text{Log}(L) = (0.5 * M) - 1.85$ $\sigma_L = 0$
 - ($\sigma_A = \sigma_W = \sigma_L = 0$ for all test cases in this set)
 - Aspect Ratio (L/W) = 2
- Maintain the aspect ratio defined until maximum width is reached, then increase length (conservation of area at the expense of aspect ratio)
- Rupture plane location is uniformly distributed along strike and down dip. Do not allow rupture off the ends of fault. This results in uniform slip with tapered edges. Downdip and along-strike integration step size should be small enough to produce uniform rupture location. (*Note Test Case 2.4b has a different distribution specified downdip)
- You should be using as small a step size as feasible/necessary to produce stable results (for both magnitude density function and rupture distribution). This may be much smaller than you normally use on projects.

Case 2.1 – Multiple sources, Deaggregation

Description: Calculate the hazard for Site 1 shown in Figure 2.1 due to the area source, Fault B, and Fault C.

Area Source: circle with $r = 100$ km, point source depths = 5-10 km, $N(M \geq 5) = 0.0395$, use 1 km grid spacing of point sources or small faults on the horizontal plane to simulate uniform distribution (for depth distribution use 1 km spacing inclusive of 5 and 10 km, so there are 6 depths - 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 km, equal weighting)

Magnitude Density Function: truncated exponential model, $M_{\min} = 5.0$, $M_{\max} = 6.5$, b -value = 0.9

Fault B: $L = 85$ km, fault plane depths = 0-12 km, strike-slip, dip 90° , slip rate = 2 mm/yr

Magnitude Density Function: characteristic model (Youngs and Coppersmith [1985]), b -value = 0.9, $M_{\min} = 5.0$, $M_{\text{char}} = 6.75$, $M_{\max} = 7.0$

Fault C: $L = 50$ km, fault plane depths = 0-12 km, strike-slip, dip 90° , slip rate = 1 mm/yr

Magnitude Density Function: characteristic model (Youngs and Coppersmith [1985]), b -value = 0.9, $M_{\min} = 5.0$, $M_{\text{char}} = 6.5$, $M_{\max} = 6.75$

Ground motion model: Sadigh *et al.* (1997), rock, σ untruncated

Rupture plane (for faults):

$$\text{Log}(A) = \mathbf{M} - 4 \quad \sigma_A = 0$$

$$\text{Log}(W) = (0.5 * \mathbf{M}) - 2.15 \quad \sigma_W = 0$$

$$\text{Log}(L) = (0.5 * \mathbf{M}) - 1.85 \quad \sigma_L = 0$$

$$\text{Aspect Ratio } (L/W) = 2$$

Maintain the aspect ratio defined until maximum width is reached, then increase length (conservation of area at the expense of aspect ratio)

Uniform distribution along strike and down dip

Case 2.1 – Multiple sources, Deaggregation (continued)

Deaggregation: Provide deaggregation results for the following three PGA values at Site 1:

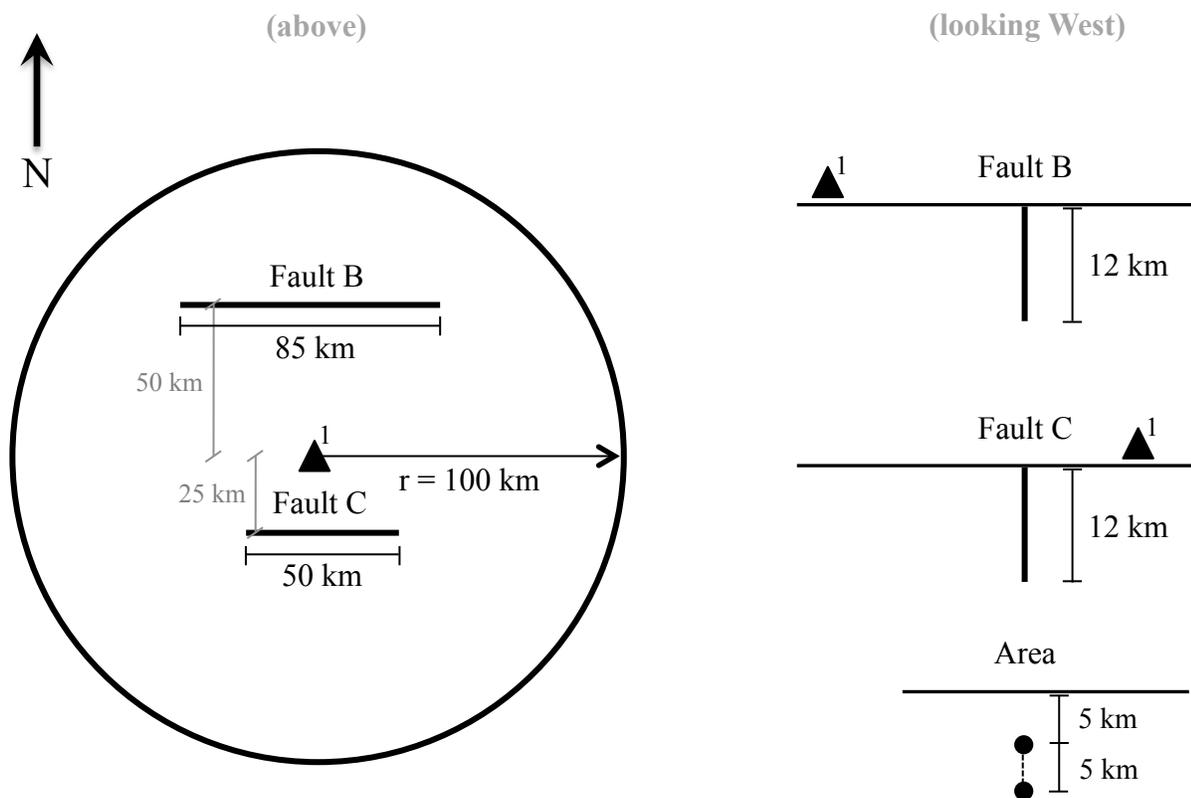
- a. PGA 0.05g
- b. The PGA corresponding to a hazard (annual exceedance probability) of 0.001.
- c. PGA 0.35g

Tables: Provide a table for each PGA with distance (R_{rup}), magnitude, and epsilon* bins. Distance bins should each be ~~10~~ 20 km, starting at 0 km and ending at 100 km with an extra bin for >100 km (~~5~~ 6 bins). Magnitude bins should each be 0.1 M, starting at M 5.0 and ending at M 7.0 (20 bins). The epsilon* bins should be defined as <-1, -1 to 0, 0 to 1, 1 to 2, >2 (5 bins).

Distance (km)	Magnitude	Epsilon*	Deaggregation Results
0-10 0-20	5.0-5.1	<-1	
10-20 20-40	5.0-5.1	<-1	
↓	5.0-5.1	<-1	
80-90 80-100	5.0-5.1	<-1	
90-100 >100	5.0-5.1	<-1	
0-10 0-20	5.1-5.2	<-1	
10-20 20-40	5.1-5.2	<-1	
↓	5.1-5.2	<-1	
80-90 80-100	5.1-5.2	<-1	
90-100 >100	5.1-5.2	<-1	
	↓		
	6.9-7.0	<-1	
		↓	
		>2	

Averages: Provide the mean values \bar{M} , \bar{R} , $\bar{\epsilon}^*$ for each PGA at Site 1. For this test case the distance term is R_{rup} (further explanation on deaggregation terms attached).

Figure 2.1 – Multiple sources, Deaggregation



Note: figures not to scale

Fault coordinates

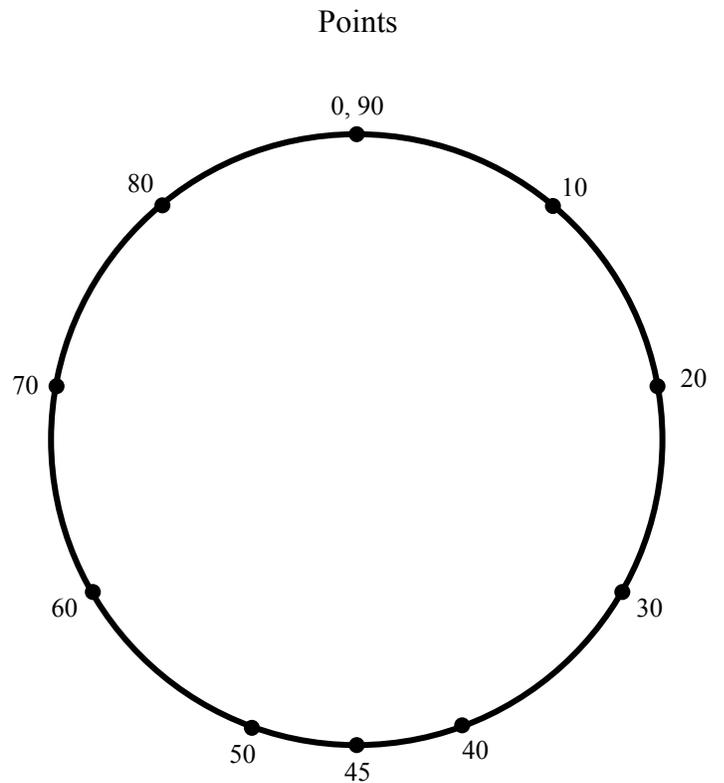
Latitude	Longitude	Comment
0.44966	-65.38222	West end of Fault B
0.44966	-64.61778	East end of Fault B
-0.22483	-65.22484	West end of Fault C
-0.22483	-64.77516	East end of Fault C

Site coordinates

Site	Latitude	Longitude	Comment
1	0.00000	-65.00000	In center of area source

Area source coordinates

Point	Latitude	Longitude
0	0.8993	-65.0000
1	0.8971	-64.9373
2	0.8906	-64.8748
3	0.8797	-64.8130
4	0.8645	-64.7521
5	0.8451	-64.6924
6	0.8216	-64.6342
7	0.7940	-64.5778
8	0.7627	-64.5234
9	0.7276	-64.4714
10	0.6899	-64.4219
11	0.6469	-64.3753
12	0.6017	-64.3316
13	0.5537	-64.2913
14	0.5029	-64.2544
15	0.4496	-64.2211
16	0.3942	-64.1917
17	0.3369	-64.1662
18	0.2779	-64.1447
19	0.2176	-64.1274
20	0.1562	-64.1143
21	0.0940	-64.1056
22	0.0314	-64.1012
23	-0.0314	-64.1012
24	-0.0940	-64.1056
25	-0.1562	-64.1143
26	-0.2176	-64.1274
27	-0.2779	-64.1447



Area source coordinates

Point	Latitude	Longitude
28	-0.3369	-64.1662
29	-0.3942	-64.1917
30	-0.4496	-64.2211
31	-0.5029	-64.2544
32	-0.5537	-64.2913
33	-0.6017	-64.3316
34	-0.6469	-64.3753
35	-0.6889	-64.4219
36	-0.7276	-64.4714
37	-0.7627	-64.5234
38	-0.7940	-64.5778
39	-0.8216	-64.6342
40	-0.8451	-64.6924
41	-0.8645	-64.7521
42	-0.8797	-64.8130
43	-0.8906	-64.8748
44	-0.8971	-64.9373
45	-0.8993	-65.0000
46	-0.8971	-65.0627
47	-0.8906	-65.1252
48	-0.8797	-65.1870
49	-0.8645	-65.2479
50	-0.8451	-65.3076
51	-0.8216	-65.3658
52	-0.7940	-65.4222
53	-0.7627	-65.4766
54	-0.7276	-65.5286

Point	Latitude	Longitude
55	-0.6889	-65.5781
56	-0.6469	-65.6247
57	-0.6017	-65.6684
58	-0.5537	-65.7087
59	-0.5029	-65.7456
60	-0.4496	-65.7789
61	-0.3942	-65.8083
62	-0.3369	-65.8338
63	-0.2779	-65.8553
64	-0.2176	-65.8726
65	-0.1562	-65.8857
66	-0.0940	-65.8944
67	-0.0314	-65.8988
68	0.0314	-65.8988
69	0.0940	-65.8944
70	0.1562	-65.8857
71	0.2176	-65.8726
72	0.2779	-65.8553
73	0.3369	-65.8338
74	0.3942	-65.8083
75	0.4496	-65.7789
76	0.5029	-65.7456
77	0.5537	-65.7087
78	0.6017	-65.6684
79	0.6469	-65.6247
80	0.6889	-65.5781
81	0.7276	-65.5286

Area source coordinates

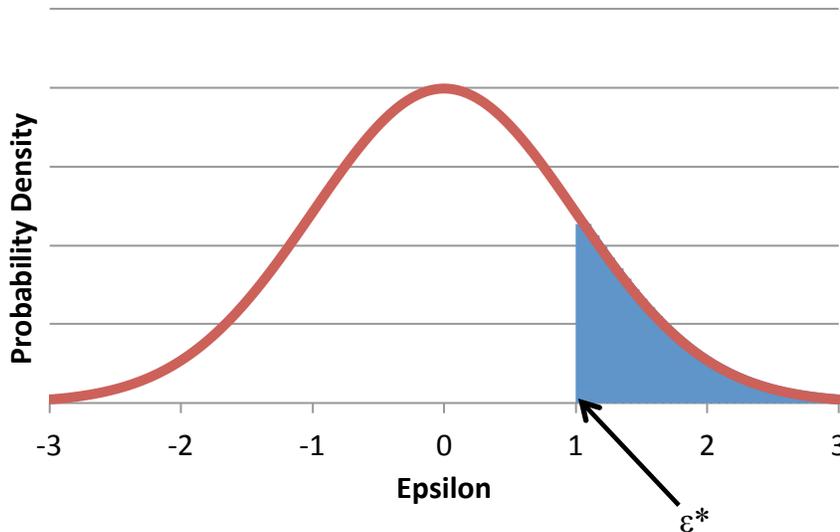
Point	Latitude	Longitude
82	0.7627	-65.4766
83	0.7940	-65.4222
84	0.8216	-65.3658
85	0.8451	-65.3076
86	0.8645	-65.2479
87	0.8797	-65.1870
88	0.8906	-65.1252
89	0.8971	-65.0627
90	0.8993	-65.0000

(Point 90 is a duplicate of point 0 and closes the circle)

Case 2.1 Explanation – Multiple sources, Deaggregation

Epsilon*

The epsilon corresponding to a particular ground motion would just be epsilon, but in PSHA we calculate the probability of EXCEEDING a particular ground motion. Therefore, the epsilon (which we've denoted epsilon*) actually corresponds to any ground motion greater than the ground motion specified, and can be thought of as the minimum epsilon needed to exceed that ground motion, as illustrated below:



Mean deaggregation values

Starting with the typical equation for a seismic hazard analysis, the total annual rate of events, ν , with spectral accelerations, Sa , that exceed a specified value, z , is given by:

$$\nu(Sa > z) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{source}} N_i(M_{min}) \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \int_{m=M_{min}}^{M_{max}} f_{m_i}(m) f_{r_i}(r) P(Sa > z | m, r) dr dm$$

Where $N_i(M_{min})$ is the annual rate of earthquakes with magnitude greater than or equal to M_{min} , r is the distance from the source to the site, m is earthquake magnitude, $f_m(m)$ and $f_r(r)$ are probability density functions for magnitude and distance, and $P(Sa > z | m, r)$ is the conditional probability of observing a spectral acceleration, Sa , greater than z for a given earthquake magnitude and distance.

The mean magnitude and mean distance values are the weighted averages with the weights given by the deaggregation. More specifically, the mean is the conditional mean given the exceedance of the specified ground motion. The equation for the mean magnitude is given by multiplying the magnitude inside the hazard integral (in other words multiplying the magnitude by the marginal hazard). Likewise, the equation for the mean distance is given by multiplying the distance inside the hazard integral:

Case 2.1 Explanation – Multiple sources, Deaggregation (continued)

$$\bar{M} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{Source}} N_i(M_{\min}) \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \int_{m=M_{\min}}^{M_{\max}} M f_{m_i}(m) f_{r_i}(r) P(Sa > z | m, r) dr dm}{v(Sa > z)}$$

$$\bar{R} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{Source}} N_i(M_{\min}) \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \int_{m=M_{\min}}^{M_{\max}} R f_{m_i}(m) f_{r_i}(r) P(Sa > z | m, r) dr dm}{v(Sa > z)}$$

The mean epsilon* is computed in exactly the same way, but for clarity, let's first rewrite the seismic hazard equation to replace the $P(Sa > z | m, r)$ term with an equation that explicitly shows ϵ^* :

$$P(Sa > z | m, r) = 1 - \Phi(\epsilon^*)$$

$$v(Sa > z) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{source}} N_i(M_{\min}) \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \int_{m=M_{\min}}^{M_{\max}} f_{m_i}(m) f_{r_i}(r) [1 - \Phi(\epsilon^*)] dr dm$$

Where $\Phi()$ is the standard normal cumulative distribution function, and ϵ^* is computed by:

$$\epsilon^* = \frac{\ln z - \overline{\ln Sa}}{\sigma_{\ln Sa}}$$

Now the equation for the mean epsilon* is given by multiplying the epsilon* inside the hazard integral:

$$\bar{\epsilon}^* = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{Source}} N_i(M_{\min}) \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \int_{m=M_{\min}}^{M_{\max}} \epsilon^* f_{m_i}(m) f_{r_i}(r) [1 - \Phi(\epsilon^*)] dr dm}{v(Sa > z)}$$

For an example of how to compute the mean magnitude, mean distance, and mean epsilon*, please see the excel file, "Deaggregation."

Case 2.2 – NGA West 2 Ground Motion Models

Description: Calculate the hazard for the six sites shown in Figure 2.2 due to Fault 3 using the specified NGA West 2 ground motion models.

Magnitude Density Function: truncated exponential, $M_{\min} = 5.0$, $M_{\max} = 7.0$, $b\text{-value} = 0.9$

Source: Fault 3, $L = 85$ km, fault plane depths = 0-12 km, strike-slip, dip 90° , slip rate = 2 mm/yr

Ground motion models:

- ~~a1. Abrahamson, Silva, and Kamai 2014, $\sigma = 0$~~
- a2. Abrahamson, Silva, and Kamai 2014, σ untruncated
- ~~b1. Boore, Stewart, Seyhan, and Atkinson 2014, $\sigma = 0$~~
- b2. Boore, Stewart, Seyhan, and Atkinson 2014, σ untruncated
- ~~c1. Campbell and Bozorgnia 2014, $\sigma = 0$~~
- c2. Campbell and Bozorgnia 2014, σ untruncated
- ~~d1. Chiou and Youngs 2014, $\sigma = 0$~~
- d2. Chiou and Youngs 2014, σ untruncated

Damping ratio = 5%

$V_{S30} = 760$ m/s

V_{S30} is measured

$Z_{1.0} = 0.048$ km

$Z_{2.5} = 0.607$ km

Region = California

Rupture plane:

$\text{Log}(A) = \mathbf{M} - 4$ $\sigma_A = 0$

$\text{Log}(W) = (0.5 * \mathbf{M}) - 2.15$ $\sigma_W = 0$

$\text{Log}(L) = (0.5 * \mathbf{M}) - 1.85$ $\sigma_L = 0$

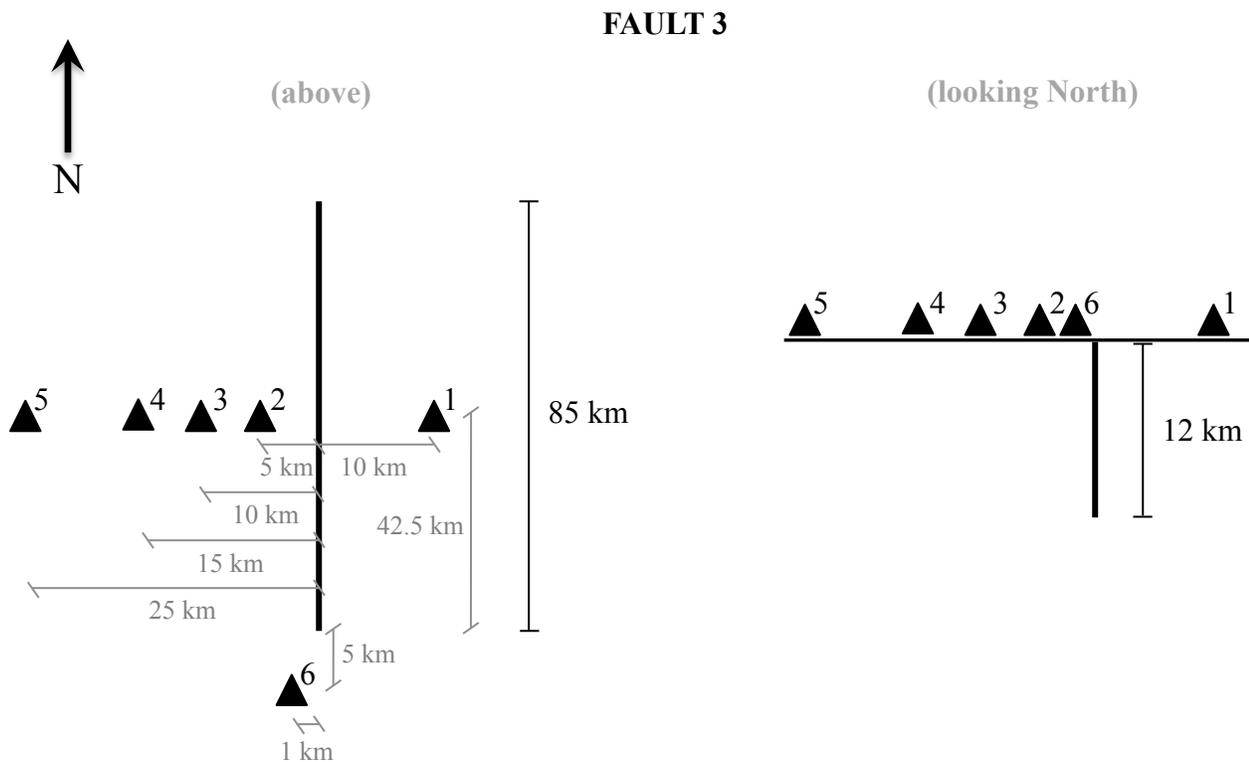
Aspect Ratio (L/W) = 2

Maintain the aspect ratio defined until maximum width is reached, then increase length (conservation of area at the expense of aspect ratio)

Uniform distribution along strike and down dip

Use a hypocenter depth location in the geometric center of the rupture plane

Figure 2.2 – NGA West 2 Ground Motion Models



Note: figures not to scale

Fault coordinates

Latitude	Longitude	Comment
0.38221	-65.00000	North end of fault
-0.38221	-65.00000	South end of fault

Site coordinates

Site	Latitude	Longitude	Comment
1	0.00000	-64.91005	10 km east of fault, at midpoint along strike
2	0.00000	-65.04497	5 km west of fault, at midpoint along strike
3	0.00000	-65.08995	10 km west of fault, at midpoint along strike
4	0.00000	-65.13490	15 km west of fault, at midpoint along strike
5	0.00000	-65.22483	25 km west of fault, at midpoint along strike
6	-0.42718	-65.00900	5 km south of southern end, 1 km west

Case 2.3 – Hanging Wall

Description: Calculate the hazard for the six sites shown in Figure 2.3 due to a single-magnitude event on Fault 4 using the specified NGA West 2 ground motion models.

Magnitude Density Function: delta function at **M** 7.0

Source: Fault 4, L = 85 km, fault plane depths = 1-12 km, reverse, dip 45°, slip rate = 2 mm/yr

Ground motion models:

- a. Abrahamson, Silva, and Kamai 2014, $\sigma = 0$
- b. Boore, Stewart, Seyhan, and Atkinson 2014, $\sigma = 0$
- c. Campbell and Bozorgnia 2014, $\sigma = 0$
- d. Chiou and Youngs 2014, $\sigma = 0$

Damping ratio = 5%

$V_{S30} = 760$ m/s

V_{S30} is measured

$Z_{1.0} = 0.048$ km

$Z_{2.5} = 0.607$ km

Region = California

Rupture plane:

$\text{Log}(A) = \mathbf{M} - 4$ $\sigma_A = 0$

$\text{Log}(W) = (0.5 * \mathbf{M}) - 2.15$ $\sigma_W = 0$

$\text{Log}(L) = (0.5 * \mathbf{M}) - 1.85$ $\sigma_L = 0$

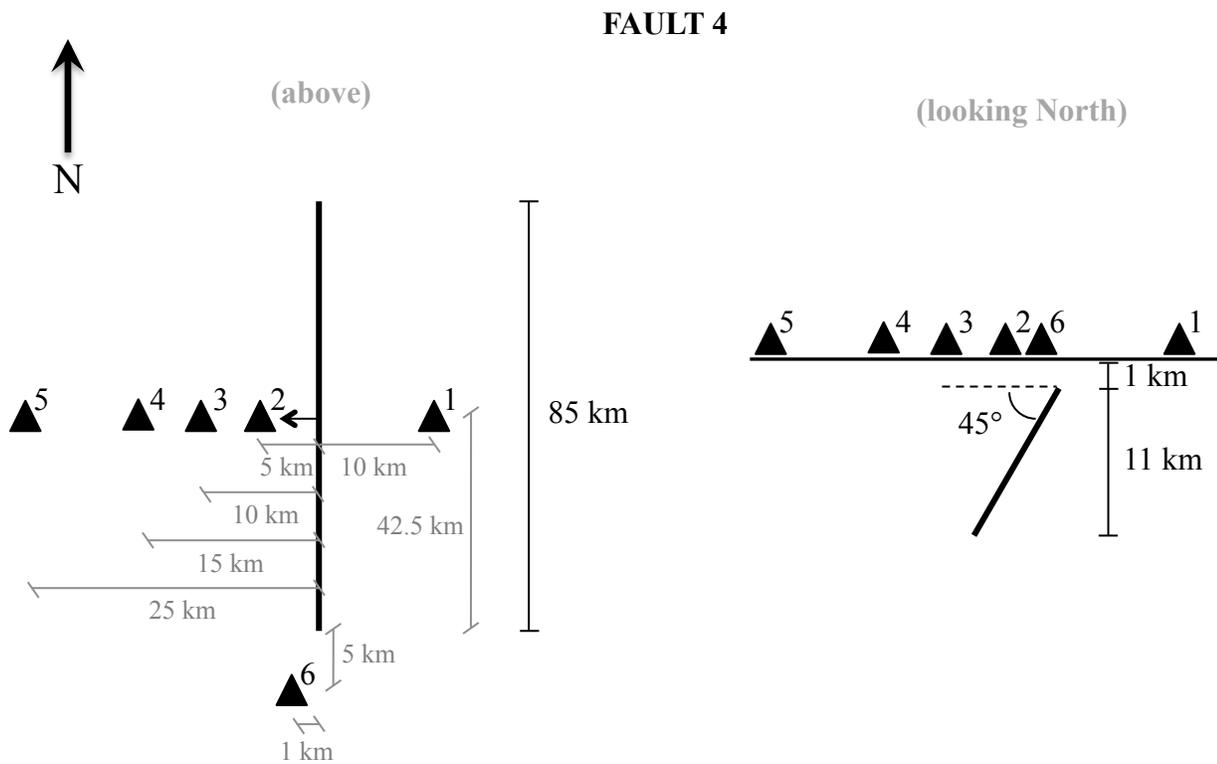
Aspect Ratio (L/W) = 2

Maintain the aspect ratio defined until maximum width is reached, then increase length (conservation of area at the expense of aspect ratio)

Uniform distribution along strike and down dip

Use a hypocenter depth location in the geometric center of the rupture plane

Figure 2.3 – Hanging Wall



Note: figures not to scale

Fault coordinates

Latitude	Longitude	Comment
0.38221	-65.00000	North end of fault
-0.38221	-65.00000	South end of fault

Site coordinates

Site	Latitude	Longitude	Comment
1	0.00000	-64.91005	10 km east of fault, at midpoint along strike (FW)
2	0.00000	-65.04497	5 km west of fault, at midpoint along strike (HW)
3	0.00000	-65.08995	10 km west of fault, at midpoint along strike (HW)
4	0.00000	-65.13490	15 km west of fault, at midpoint along strike (HW)
5	0.00000	-65.22483	25 km west of fault, at midpoint along strike (HW)
6	-0.42718	-65.00900	5 km south of southern end, 1 km west (HW side)

Case 2.4 – Uniform, Triangular distribution of hypocenter locations down dip

a. Uniform distribution down dip

Description: Calculate the hazard for the site shown in Figure 2.4 due to a single-magnitude event on Fault 5 using the specified NGA West 2 ground motion models. (The purpose of this test is to have a comparison for the triangular distribution in part b).

Magnitude Density Function: delta function at **M** 6.0

Source: Fault 5, $L = 25$ km, fault plane depths = 0-30 km, strike-slip, dip 90° , slip rate = 2 mm/yr

Ground motion models: Chiou and Youngs 2014, $\sigma = 0$

Damping ratio = 5%

$V_{S30} = 760$ m/s

V_{S30} is measured

$Z_{1.0} = 0.048$ km

$Z_{2.5} = 0.607$ km

Region = California

Rupture plane:

$\text{Log}(A) = \mathbf{M} - 4$ $\sigma_A = 0$

$\text{Log}(W) = (0.5 * \mathbf{M}) - 2.15$ $\sigma_W = 0$

$\text{Log}(L) = (0.5 * \mathbf{M}) - 1.85$ $\sigma_L = 0$

Aspect Ratio (L/W) = 2

Maintain the aspect ratio defined until maximum width is reached, then increase length (conservation of area at the expense of aspect ratio)

Uniform distribution along strike and down dip

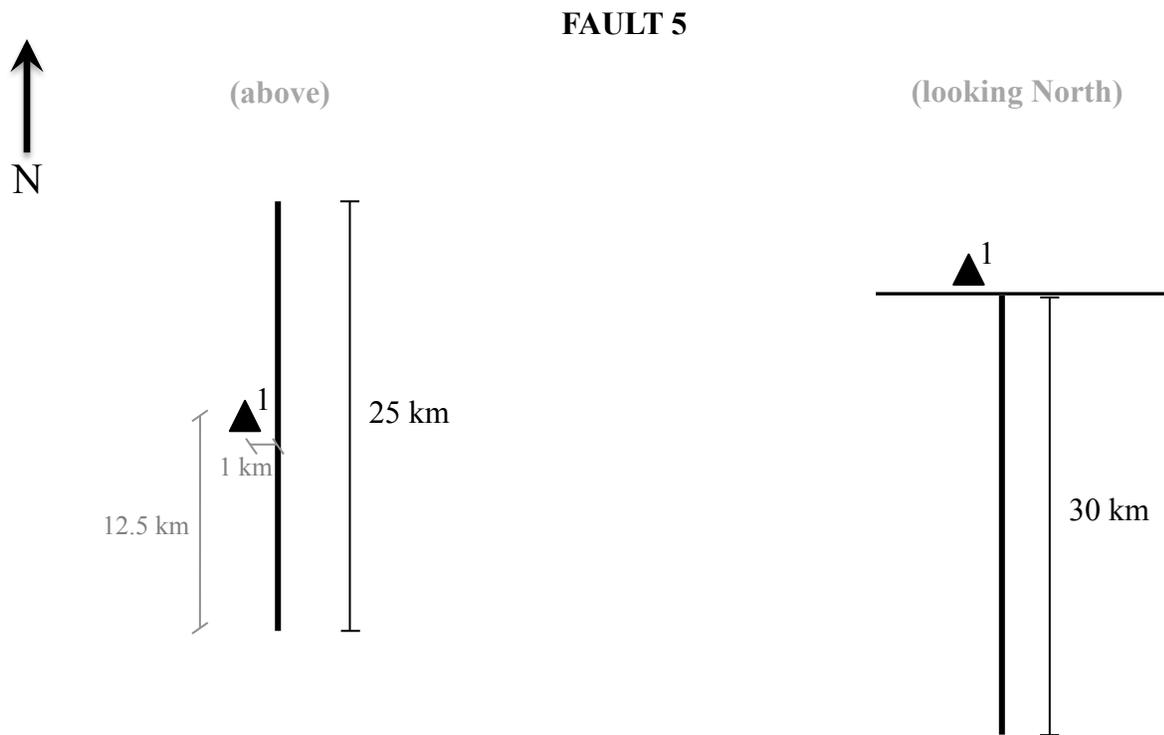
Use a hypocenter depth location in the geometric center of the rupture plane

b. Triangular distribution of hypocenter locations down dip

Description: Use the same specifications above, but replace the uniform distribution down dip with a triangular distribution of hypocenter locations down dip (further explanation on triangular distribution attached).

Triangular distribution of hypocenter locations down dip (0 km, 10 km, 30 km)

Figure 2.4 - Uniform, Triangular distribution of hypocenter locations down dip



Note: figures not to scale

Fault coordinates

Latitude	Longitude	Comment
0.11240	-65.00000	North end of fault
-0.11240	-65.00000	South end of fault

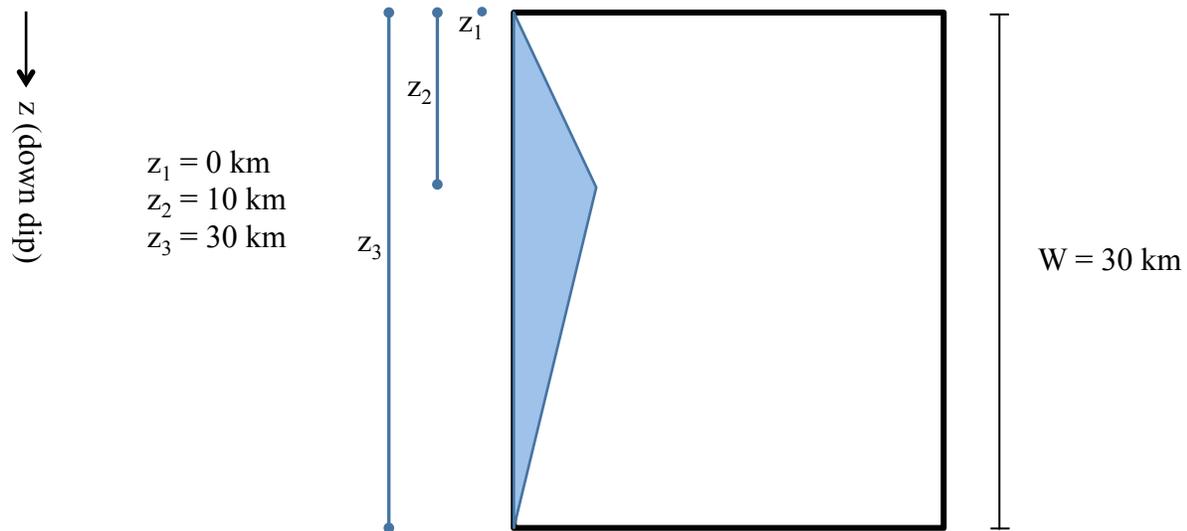
Site coordinates

Site	Latitude	Longitude	Comment
1	0.00000	-65.00900	1 km west of fault, at midpoint along strike

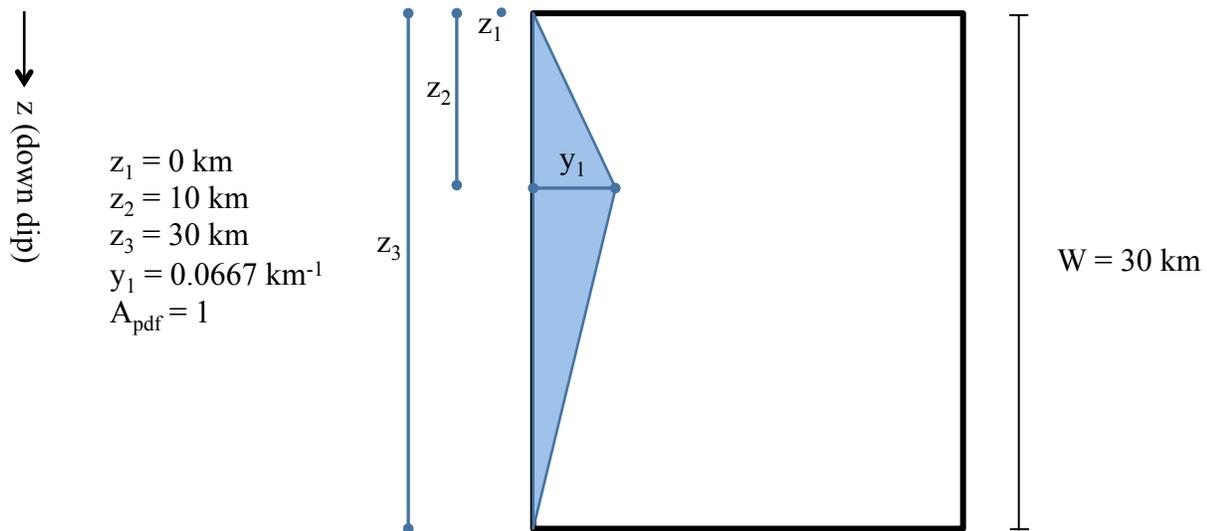
Case 2.4 Explanation – Triangular distribution of hypocenter locations down dip

The location of the rupture plane on the fault in the down dip direction is based on hypocenter observations. When the source characterization experts specify a triangular distribution they are basing that on hypocenter locations on the fault plane. Therefore, it is not simply the rupture plane that follows the triangular distribution, but specifically the hypocenter location on the rupture plane.

We specified the distribution of the hypocenter down dip as a triangle (0 km, 10 km, 30 km). Looking at the fault plane, the triangle looks like this:

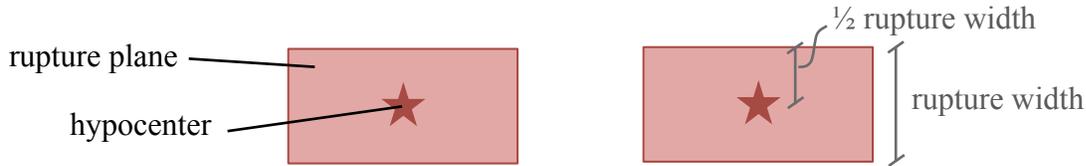


The area of the triangle (which is a probability density function) must be equal to 1. With the given specifications, the value of y_1 is $1/15 \text{ km}^{-1}$ or 0.0667 km^{-1} (note y_1 is not drawn to scale).

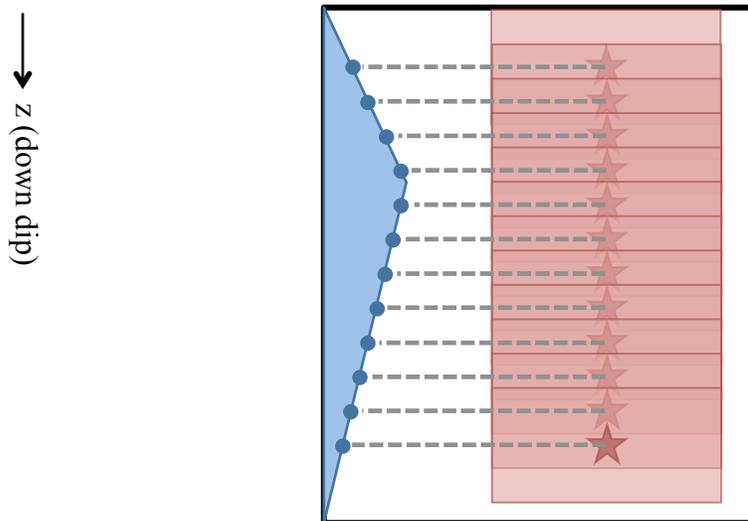


Case 2.4 Explanation – Triangular distribution of hypocenter locations down dip (continued)

The location of the hypocenter on the rupture plane itself can be modeled with a probability density function. For simplicity, we're going to use a delta function, with the hypocenter location always in the center of the rupture plane, or at one half the rupture plane width:



Now we move the rupture plane down the dip of the fault. Because we don't allow ruptures to go into the air, the first rupture plane's top edge is at a depth of zero, and its hypocenter is at a depth of $\frac{1}{2}$ the rupture width. As we move the rupture plane down the dip of the fault, the location of the hypocenter corresponds to a probability density on the triangular distribution. Below I've used a relatively large step size for illustrative purposes only. For the validation exercise you should use a step size as small as necessary to reach stable results:



In the above illustration the blue dots represent the portion of the pdf that we sampled. Because the entire pdf was not sampled, our probabilities will not sum to one and we must renormalize the pdf so that the probabilities sum to one. The pdf should be renormalized based on the hypocenter locations that were sampled.

Case 2.5 – Upper Tails, Mixture Model

a. Upper Tails

Description: Calculate the hazard for the site shown in Figure 2.5 due to a single-magnitude event on Fault 5 using the specified NGA West 2 ground motion model. The purpose of this scenario is to test the ability to model a normal distribution out to high epsilon values. Because we are interested in the upper tails of the distribution, we need to change the PGA values. Please provide mean hazard results (probability of exceedance) for peak horizontal acceleration (PGA) defined at 0.001, 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0, 1.25, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, and 7.0 g.

Magnitude Density Function: delta function at M 6.0

Source: Fault 5, $L = 25$ km, fault plane depths = 0-12 km, strike-slip, dip 90° , slip rate = 2 mm/yr

Ground motion model: Chiou and Youngs 2014, use a fixed $\sigma = 0.65$, untruncated

Damping ratio = 5%

$V_{S30} = 760$ m/s

V_{S30} is measured

$Z_{1.0} = 0.048$ km

$Z_{2.5} = 0.607$ km

Region = California

Rupture plane:

$\text{Log}(A) = M - 4$ $\sigma_A = 0$

$\text{Log}(W) = (0.5 * M) - 2.15$ $\sigma_W = 0$

$\text{Log}(L) = (0.5 * M) - 1.85$ $\sigma_L = 0$

Aspect Ratio (L/W) = 2

Maintain the aspect ratio defined until maximum width is reached, then increase length (conservation of area at the expense of aspect ratio)

Uniform distribution along strike and down dip

Use a hypocenter depth location in the geometric center of the rupture plane

b. Mixture Model

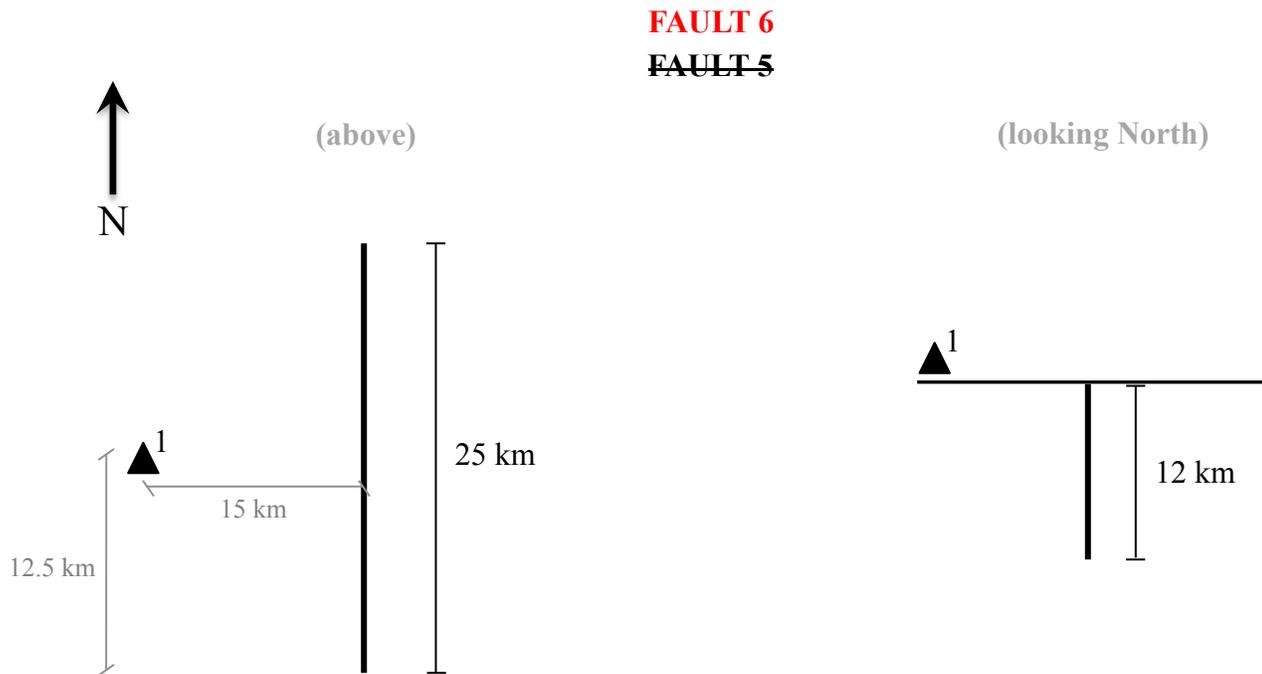
Description: Use the same specifications above, but adjust the sigma (still fixed $\sigma = 0.65$) with the following mixture model specifications (further explanation on mixture models attached):

Mixture Model: two normal distributions

Distribution 1: weight, $w_{\text{Mix1}} = 0.5$, sigma, $\sigma_{\text{Mix1}} = 1.2 \sigma$

Distribution 2: weight, $w_{\text{Mix2}} = 0.5$, sigma, $\sigma_{\text{Mix2}} = 0.8 \sigma$

Figure 2.5 – Mixture Model



Note: figures not to scale

Fault coordinates

Latitude	Longitude	Comment
0.11240	-65.00000	North end of fault
-0.11240	-65.00000	South end of fault

Site coordinates

Site	Latitude	Longitude	Comment
1	0.00000	-65.13490	15 km west of fault, at midpoint along strike

Case 2.5 Explanation – Mixture Model

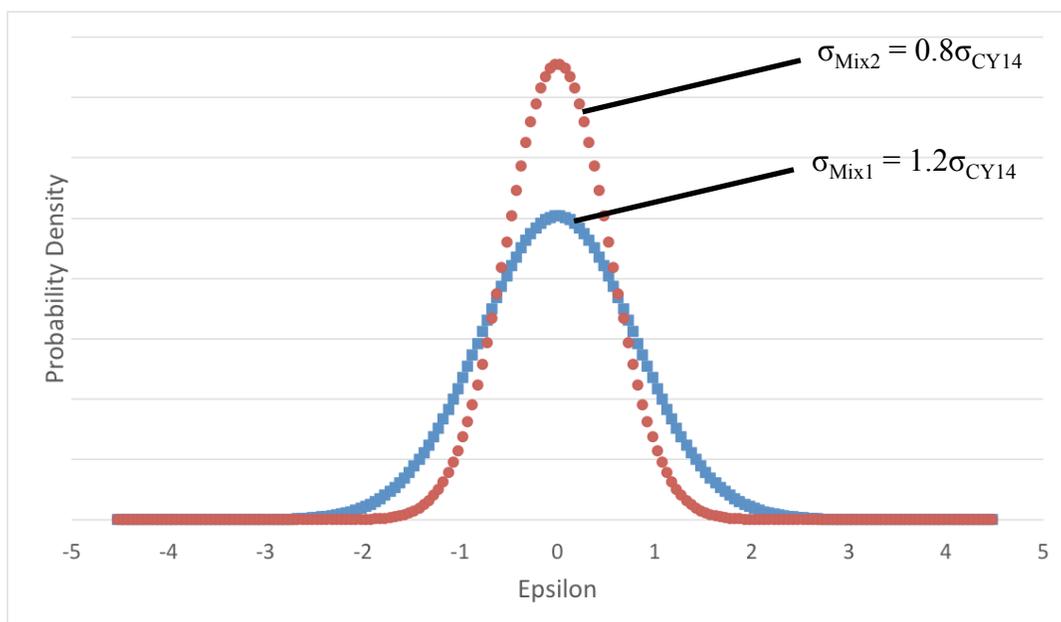
*Note that this explanation uses the CY14 sigma, but the test case now specifies a fixed sigma value.

A mixture model is a combination of two distributions. In our case, the ground motion mixture model is a combination of two normal distributions. The mixture model is used because the earthquake data do not exactly fit the typical normal distribution at high epsilons. For the case of shallow crustal earthquakes, the normal distribution is a good model for ground motions up until the tails of the distribution (epsilons of about 2.5) and then the data start to deviate from a normal distribution. If you plot the observed shallow crustal earthquake data density against the assumed normal distribution from the NGA West 2 GMPEs you will start to see that the data show heavier tails than the predicted values (meaning that observations show a higher probability of extremes than provided by the normal distribution). For most projects these high epsilon values are beyond the range of interest, but for projects like Yucca Mountain this misfit can be important.

The typical approach to represent a heavy-tailed distribution for ground motions is to use a mixture model consisting of a weighted mixture of two normal distributions, one with a larger variance, and one with a smaller variance. The standard deviation for each distribution is specified as a ratio of the standard deviation of the ground motion model. The two mixtures are combined by specifying a weight for each distribution. If you calibrate the mixture model using the CY14 residuals, the standard deviation ratios are 1.2 and 0.8 and the weight for each distribution is 50%. For this mixture model the conditional probability of exceeding a ground motion level Z is given by:

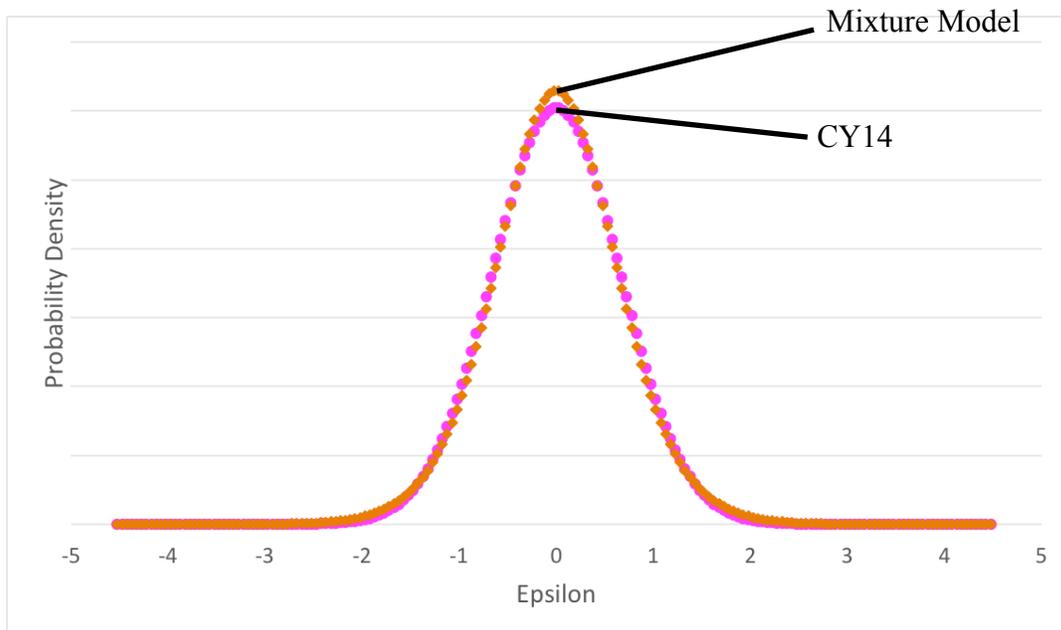
$$P(Z > z) = w_{Mix1} \left\{ 1 - \Phi \left(\frac{z - \mu}{\sigma_{Mix1}} \right) \right\} + w_{Mix2} \left\{ 1 - \Phi \left(\frac{z - \mu}{\sigma_{Mix2}} \right) \right\}$$

The two normal distributions with sigmas equal to $0.8\sigma_{CY14}$ and $1.2\sigma_{CY14}$ look like this:

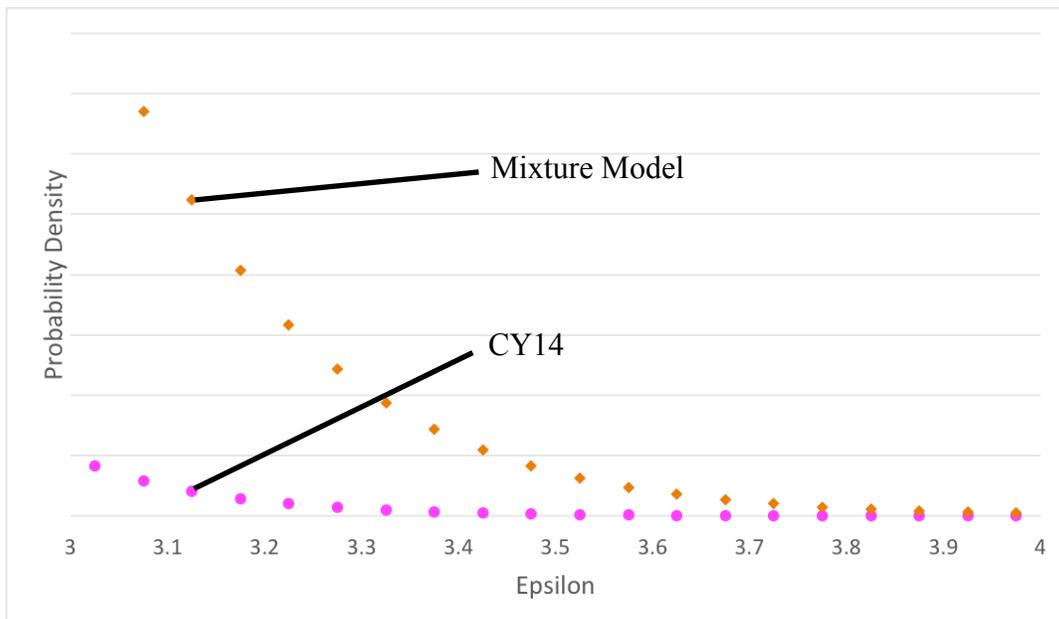


Case 2.5 Explanation – Mixture Model (continued)

Comparing the distribution for the CY14 ground motion model with the distribution for the mixture model shows that the distributions are nearly the same for the epsilon range -2.5 to 2.5, where the single normal distribution was a good fit for the data:

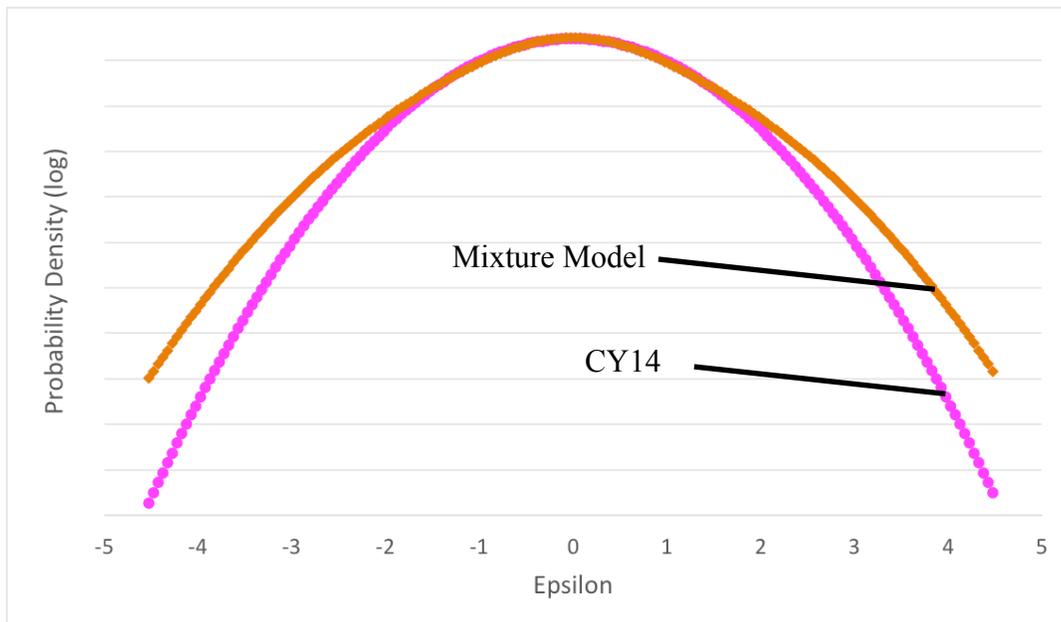


The above figure makes it difficult to see how the mixture model accounts for the heavier tails that were needed, but if we zoom in at the high epsilon range we can see the increased probability density at high epsilons:

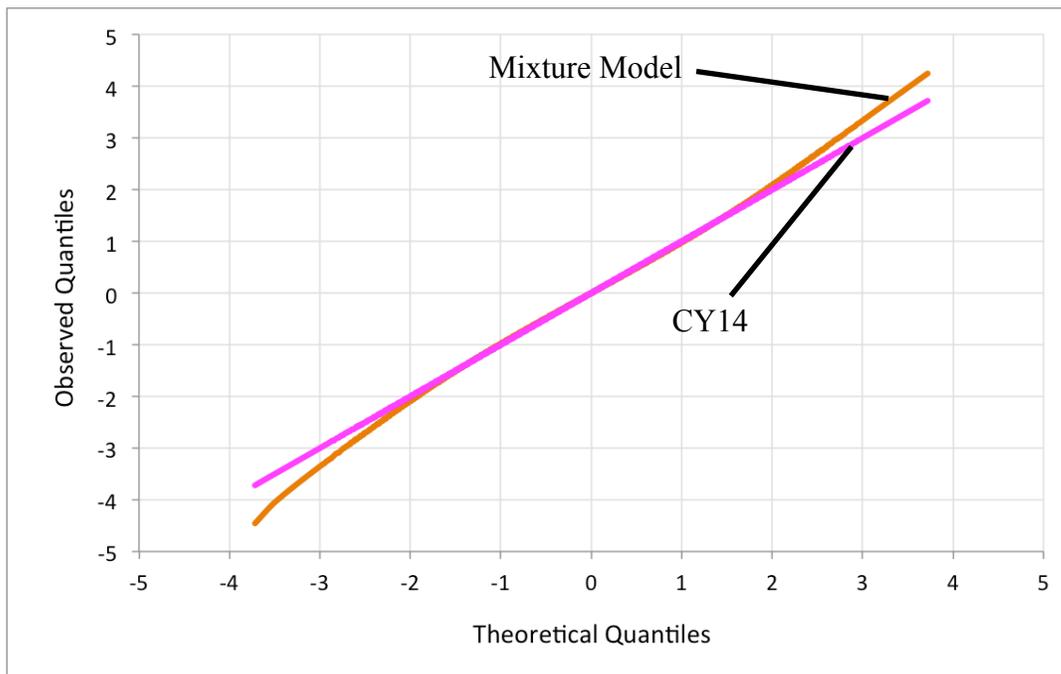


Case 2.5 Explanation – Mixture Model (continued)

In order to see the difference between the two distributions for the full range of epsilons we need to compare the distributions on a plot with the probability density (y-axis) on a log scale. This plot shows the heavier tails of the mixture model:



We could also look at the distributions on a Q-Q plot, where we consider the CY14 model the theoretical distribution and the mixture model the observed:



Reference for Mixture Model explanation: Southwestern U.S. Ground Motion Characterization SSHAC Report, draft.