

Article

Vector-Valued Intensity Measures Based on Spectral Shape to Predict Seismic Fragility Surfaces in Reinforced Concrete Buildings

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Abstract: Although some studies have been conducted to compute fragility surfaces of buildings using vector-valued seismic intensity measures (IMs), in all the cases, the first component of the vector usually is the spectral acceleration at first mode of vibration of the structure $Sa(T_1)$. In this study, fragility surfaces of three reinforced concrete buildings (RCB) subjected to narrow-band ground motions obtained from soft soil of Mexico City are computed considering vector-valued IMs based not only on $Sa(T_1)$, but also the velocity $V(T_1)$, pseudo-velocity $Sv(T_1)$, and normalized input energy by the mass $E_I/m(T_1)$ as the first component. As second component of the vector-valued IMs, the Peak Ground Acceleration (PGA), Peak Ground Velocity (PGV), effective duration (t_D), earthquake damage potential (I_D) and four N_p spectral shape-based parameters obtained through spectral acceleration (N_{pSa}), velocity (N_{pV}), pseudo-velocity (N_{pSv}), and input energy (N_{pEI}) have been analyzed. In order to obtain fragility surfaces, Multinomial Logistic Regression (MLR) was applied. It is observed that those vector-valued IMs based on the spectral shape proxies were more efficient to predict the probability of failure of RCB. For this reason, it is important to consider spectral shape vector-valued IMs in order to reduce uncertainty in the structural response of buildings under earthquakes. Thus, the use of two parameters instead of a single intensity measure improves the efficiency. Moreover, the fragility surfaces can be used for the seismic risk evaluation of buildings.

Keywords: vector-valued seismic intensity measures; spectral shape; structural response; seismic performance; probability of failure; fragility surfaces



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1. Introduction

One of the crucial parameters to define hazard, fragility and seismic risk studies are ground motion intensity measures. Most seismic design codes in the world use $Sa(T_1)$ as IM; however, several studies have shown serious limitations of this parameter since this parameter does not properly represent the inelastic effect [1] and therefore more advanced IMs have been proposed [1–5]; Then, some of these IMs were applied in the analysis of buildings [6]. As IMs have evolved, there was a tendency to incorporate new parameters that improve the prediction of structural response in buildings. For this reason, vector-valued IMs based on two or three components have been proposed in recent years to improve the efficiency of IMs [6–14], which consists of the ability of an IM to estimate the structural response with the least uncertainty. Over the last decade there has been a dedication to determining the seismic performance of vector-valued IMs [15–19]. The results of many researchers [20–26] highlight the use of more sophisticated IMs such as those based on spectral shape, since they have the ability to predict the structural response more properly and, above all, a lower uncertainty in buildings which are in the inelastic range [4,6]; therefore, in recent years, N_p spectral shape-based IMs have been proposed

[27–29]. On the other hand, they have not only studied the efficiency of these IMs in predicting the structural response but also in obtaining seismic fragility curves. Fragility surfaces are composed by a set of seismic fragility curves. These are used to assess the vulnerability of structures to earthquakes by estimating the levels of damage reached [30]. At the present time, they are used for multiple purposes in civil engineering (e.g., loss estimation, collapse risk assessment, design review, and others). They can be applied to different types of structures (e.g., irregular buildings, underground tunnels, docks, wind turbines, masonry structures, to name just a few). This makes them an important tool for evaluating structures [31]. Nevertheless, they only used traditional IMs or vector-valued IMs with $Sa(T_1)$ as the first component of the vector and N_p based only on $Sa(T_1)$ as the second component; moreover, applying it only to bidimensional steel frames [10]. In other words, the key factor in a vector-valued IM is to determine the best combination of parameters to estimate the probability of failure, or seismic fragility, with the least uncertainty to reduce the limitations of traditional IMs [4,10]. It is precisely this need that has motivated the present research. Hence, in this study, the efficiency of 32 vector-valued IMs in predicting the probability of failure of three-dimensional reinforced concrete buildings is evaluated. The vector-valued IMs considered $Sa(T_1)$, $V(T_1)$, $Sv(T_1)$, and $E_I/m(T_1)$ as the first component. As for a second component PGA , PGV , t_D , I_D , Np_{Sa} , Np_V , Np_{Sv} , and Np_{EI} have been selected. An incremental dynamic analysis (IDA) was performed by subjecting 30 narrow-band ground motions to three spatial reinforced concrete buildings considering the maximum inter-story drift ratio (MIDR) as an engineering demand parameter (EDP). On the other hand, MLR was applied to compute seismic fragility surfaces that determine which vector-valued IMs presents a better relation associated with seismic fragility in terms of probability of failure.

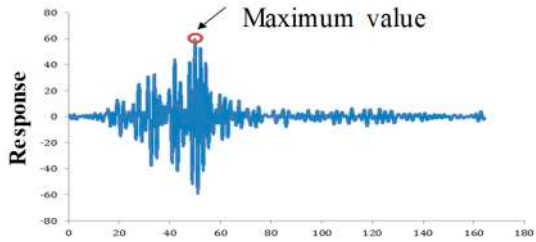
2. Methodology

This section shows the procedure carried out to obtain the seismic fragility surfaces of reinforced concrete buildings. The steps to follow can be summarized in the flow diagram of Figure 1. In the subsequent sections the procedure for each step is detailed.

2.1. Selected Seismic Intensity Measures

As it was indicated before, the vector-valued IMs considered are $Sa(T_1)$, $V(T_1)$, $Sv(T_1)$, and $E_I/m(T_1)$ as the first component, while as the second component PGA , PGV , t_D , I_D , Np_{Sa} , Np_V , Np_{Sv} , and Np_{EI} are used. Where Np_{Sa} , Np_V , Np_{Sv} , and Np_{EI} represent the ratio between the average spectrum of pseudoacceleration (Sa_{avg}), velocity (V_{avg}), pseudovelocity (Sv_{avg}), and input energy ($E_{I_{avg}}$), for the range of periods from T_i to T_f (initial and final period, respectively) with respect to the corresponding spectrum at period j (within the range from T_i to T_f). The eight parameters selected as the second component of the vector-valued IMs are shown in Table 1 (including their mathematical formulation). It is important to emphasize that in this study not only the spectral acceleration at the fundamental period of the structure $Sa(T_1)$, from now on called only Sa , was used as the first component of the vector, but also the Velocity V , pseudo-Velocity Sv , and normalized input energy by the mass E_I/m (from now on called only E_I) were used, where m represents the mass of the structural system and E_I is obtained according with the suggestion of Uang and Bertero [32]. The above means that the vector-valued IMs are composed as shown in Table 2.

Table 1. Selected second component of the vector-valued IMs.

Intensity Measures	Mathematical Formulation
Peak Ground Acceleration (PGA)	
Peak Ground Velocity (PGV)	
Effective duration (t_D) ¹	$I_A = \int_0^{t_f} a^2(t) dt$
Earthquake damage potential (I_D)	$I_D = \frac{\int_0^{t_f} a^2(t) dt}{PGA \cdot PGV}$
Spectral parameter Np_{Sa}	$Np_{Sa} = \frac{Sa_{avg}(T_i \dots T_f)}{Sa(j)}$
Spectral parameter Np_V	$Np_V = \frac{V_{avg}(T_i \dots T_f)}{V(j)}$
Spectral parameter Np_{Sv}	$Np_{Sv} = \frac{Sv_{avg}(T_i \dots T_f)}{Sv(j)}$
Spectral parameter Np_{EI}	$Np_{EI} = \frac{EI_{avg}(T_i \dots T_f)}{EI(j)}$

¹ Time it takes to go from 5% to 95% of the Arias Intensity (I_A), where $a(t)$ represents the ground acceleration and t_f the ground motion duration.

Table 2. Set of vector-valued IMs used.

Vector-Valued IMs	Peak Ground Response	Duration	Spectral Shape
<Sa, PGA>	*		
<Sa, PGV>	*		
<Sa, t_D >	*	*	
<Sa, I_D >	*	*	
<Sa, Np_{Sa} >	*		*
<Sa, Np_V >	*		*
<Sa, Np_{Sv} >	*		*
<Sa, Np_{EI} >	*		*
<V, PGA>	*		
<V, PGV>	*		
<V, t_D >	*	*	
<V, I_D >	*	*	
<V, Np_{Sa} >	*		*
<V, Np_V >	*		*
<V, Np_{Sv} >	*		*
<V, Np_{EI} >	*		*
<Sv, PGA>	*		
<Sv, PGV>	*		
<Sv, t_D >	*	*	
<Sv, I_D >	*	*	
<Sv, Np_{Sa} >	*		*
<Sv, Np_V >	*		*
<Sv, Np_{Sv} >	*		*
<Sv, Np_{EI} >	*		*
<E _L , PGA>	*		
<E _L , PGV>	*		

Table 2. Cont.

Vector-Valued IMs	Peak Ground Response	Duration	Spectral Shape
$\langle E_I, t_D \rangle$	*	*	
$\langle E_I, I_D \rangle$	*	*	
$\langle E_I, Np_{Sa} \rangle$	*		*
$\langle E_I, Np_V \rangle$	*		*
$\langle E_I, Np_{Sv} \rangle$	*		*
$\langle E_I, Np_{EI} \rangle$	*		*

* Corresponds to the type of response that characterizes the IM.

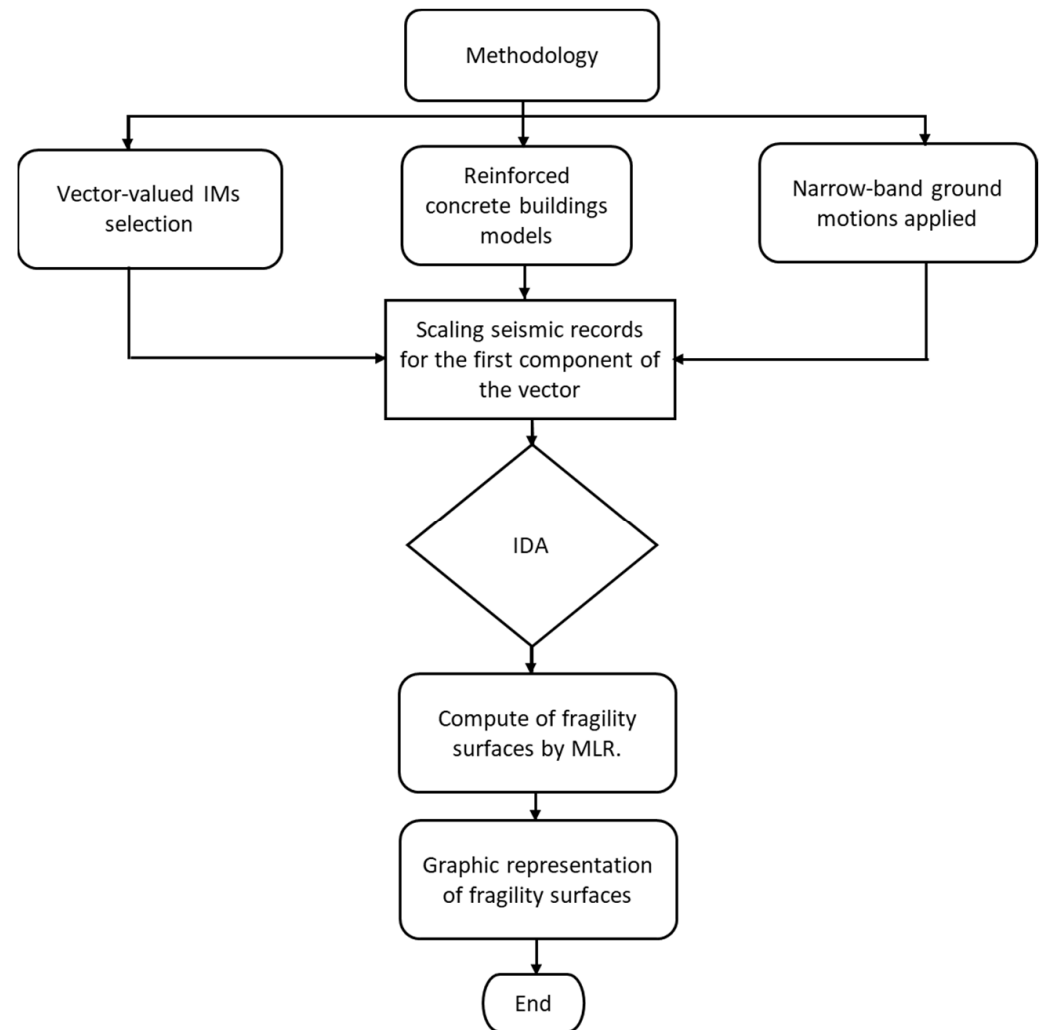


Figure 1. Methodology to compute fragility surfaces.

2.2. Reinforced Concrete Buildings Models

Most of the buildings damaged by the well-known 1985 Mexican Earthquake correspond to reinforced concrete buildings located in the soft soil of Mexico City, particularly those buildings sensitive to the softening effects (structures with periods smaller to the soil period). Notice that in this case the soil period is about 2 sec. For this reason, the selection of the structural models was based on the indication given before. The models to be analyzed consist of three RCB of 4, 7, and 10 stories of 3.5 m height each, 3 bays in X and Y direction with 7 m length each. The buildings were designed according to the Mexico City Building Code (MCBC) [33] considering use for offices. In Figure 2 the general topology of the structures is illustrated. Some of the main characteristics of the reinforced concrete buildings are shown in Table 3. In Table 3, T_1 corresponds to the structural vibration

period, C_y and D_y are the seismic coefficient and displacement at yielding obtained from push-over analysis. The buildings were seismically analyzed with the nonlinear dynamic analysis computer program RUAUMOKO [34]. For the nonlinear dynamic analysis, the damping corresponding to all the frames is 5% of the critical damping. The base columns are assumed to be fixed. Beams and columns were modeled as frame elements which concentrate their inelastic response in plastic hinges located at their ends (lumped plasticity nonlinear frame elements). The Modified Takeda hysteretic behavior was used to model the nonlinearity of all the frame elements. More information about the Modified Takeda hysteretic model can be found in [34].

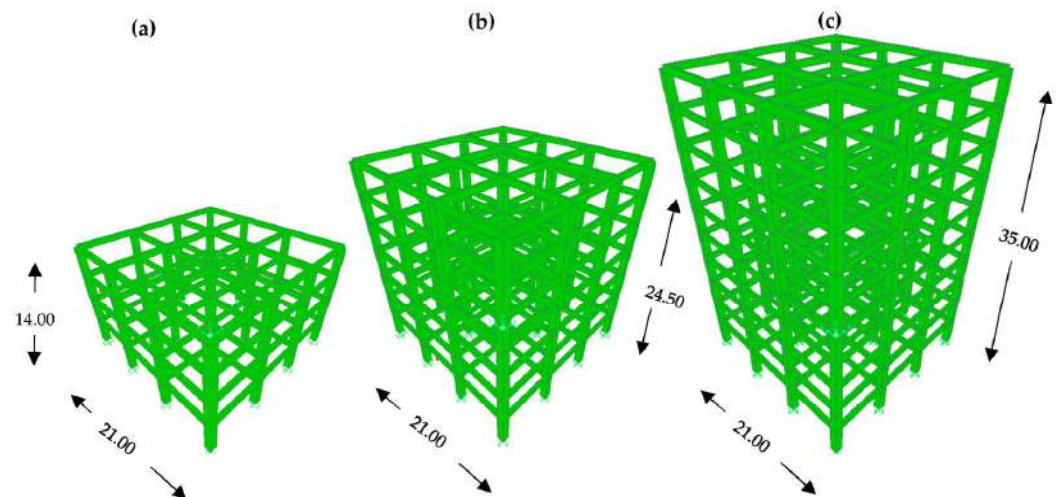


Figure 2. RCB structural models for (a) 4, (b) 7, and (c) 10-story, dimensions in meters.

Table 3. Important characteristics of the RCB.

Frame	Number of Stories	T_1 (s)	C_y	D_y (m)
F4	4	0.50	0.45	0.136
F7	7	0.90	0.42	0.189
F10	10	1.07	0.36	0.226

2.3. Narrow-Band Ground Motions

The selection of seismic records was carried out taking into consideration earthquakes that were characteristic of México City (CDMX) and its outskirts, presenting magnitudes equal or greater than 6.8 in the moment magnitude scale (M_w) since these subject the structures to bigger demands compared to other types of earthquakes [35]. The search returned a total of 6 earthquakes (30 narrow-band time histories) that occurred on the Mexican Pacific coast, which were recorded at the different seismic stations in the city. Table 4 shows the selected earthquakes and some important data from them. Notice that the ground motion records have been obtained from the Mexican Strong Motion Database of the Mexican Society of Earthquake Engineering.

Table 4. Selected Earthquake ground motions.

Event	Date	Seismic Station	Longitude (°) ¹	Latitude (°) ¹	Magnitude (Mw)	PGA (cm/s ²)	PGV (cm/s)	t _D (s)	I _D
1	19/09/1985	SCT	−102.468	18.419	8.1	178.0	59.5	63.3	13.1
2	21/09/1985	Tláhuac Deportivo	−101.681	17.828	7.6	48.7	14.6	133.8	0.8
3	25/04/1989	Alameda	−99.275	16.795	6.8	45.0	15.6	115.8	17.1
4	25/04/1989	Garibaldi	−99.275	16.795	6.8	68.0	21.5	117.8	8.8
5	25/04/1989	SCT	−99.275	16.795	6.8	44.9	12.8	128.4	14.2
6	25/04/1989	Sector Popular	−99.275	16.795	6.8	45.1	15.3	117.4	28.3
7	25/04/1989	Tlatelolco TL08	−99.275	16.795	6.8	52.9	17.3	118.9	9.4
8	25/04/1989	Tlatelolco TL55	−99.275	16.795	6.8	49.5	17.3	132.3	7.3
9	14/09/1995	Alameda	−98.667	16.752	7.3	39.3	12.2	105.3	13.8
10	14/09/1995	Garibaldi	−98.667	16.752	7.3	39.1	10.6	89.6	24.1
11	14/09/1995	Liconsa	−98.667	16.752	7.3	30.1	9.62	92.3	14.1
12	14/09/1995	Plutarco E.C	−98.667	16.752	7.3	33.5	9.37	95.9	16.7
13	14/09/1995	Sector Popular	−98.667	16.752	7.3	34.3	12.5	122.1	36.4
14	14/09/1995	Tlatelolco TL08	−98.667	16.752	7.3	27.5	7.8	142.4	28.2
15	14/09/1995	Tlatelolco TL55	−98.667	16.752	7.3	27.2	7.4	124.7	56.9
16	09/10/1995	Cibeles	−104.245	18.993	8.0	14.4	4.6	125.3	35.9
17	09/10/1995	CU Juárez	−104.245	18.993	8.0	15.8	5.1	122.5	34.6
18	09/10/1995	C.U.PJ	−104.245	18.993	8.0	15.7	4.8	130.1	33.2
19	09/10/1995	Córdoba	−104.245	18.993	8.0	24.9	8.6	113.5	23.4
20	09/10/1995	Liverpool	−104.245	18.993	8.0	17.6	6.3	147.1	17.2
21	09/10/1995	Plutarco E.C	−104.245	18.993	8.0	19.2	7.9	99.0	33.7
22	09/10/1995	Sector Popular	−104.245	18.993	8.0	13.7	5.3	123.9	37.9
23	09/10/1995	Valle Gómez	−104.245	18.993	8.0	17.9	7.18	131.3	24.5
24	11/01/1997	CU Juárez	−102.580	18.340	7.1	16.2	5.9	117.7	21.4
25	11/01/1997	C.U.PJ	−102.580	18.340	7.1	16.3	5.5	109.5	23.3
26	11/01/1997	García Campillo	−102.580	18.340	7.1	18.7	6.9	104.6	9.3
27	11/01/1997	Plutarco E.C.	−102.580	18.340	7.1	22.2	8.6	112.3	14.3
28	11/01/1997	Estación 10 Roma A	−102.580	18.340	7.1	21.0	7.76	88.7	25.6
29	11/01/1997	Estación 11 Roma B	−102.580	18.340	7.1	20.4	7.1	96.5	27.1
30	11/01/1997	Tlatelolco TL08	−102.580	18.340	7.1	16.0	7.2	120.9	14.9

¹ Epicenter coordinates.

2.4. Incremental Dynamic Analysis

For the IDA curves, the approach proposed by Vamvatsikos and Cornell [36] was considered. The first step in the incremental dynamic analysis is to scale the 30 seismic records to a desired intensity level. In this study, the intensity level must correspond to the parameters selected as first component (S_a , V , S_v , and E_I). Thus, the ground motion records are scaled at different values of S_a , V , S_v , and E_I . Subsequently, the scaling factor necessary to reach the desired intensity at the fundamental period of the structure was obtained. Additionally, scaling factors were applied to the corresponding seismic records, to compute a total of 20 scaled seismic records, one for each scaling level, for each component of the selected seismic record. All the buildings are subjected to the ground motion records scaled for each intensity value and in terms of the IM under consideration (S_a , V , S_v , and E_I) in order to assess the structural demand (engineering demand parameter). The EDP considered in this study was the MIDR, due to its wide use in current construction codes. The structural performance under seismic loads was obtained with the support of the RUAUMOKO 3D as it was indicated before. The most important parameters that were required for this software were the type of analysis (dynamic), the characteristics of the building (number of nodes, elements, cross sections, vibrating shapes, damping), the creation of each node and bar element of the structure with their respective arbitrary

coordinates, the nodes where the inter-story drift are estimated, the properties of the cross sections (modulus of elasticity and shear, effective area, moment of inertia), the loads that are transmitted to the nodes according to the structural analysis carried out in accordance with the provisions of the construction code [33] and finally the time interval of 0.01 s as well as the duration of the time history of the earthquake that excites the structure. The reader is encouraged to review the manuals that the RUAUMOKO 3D software has in order to delve even deeper into all the functions that can be carried out with it. Finally, subjecting the RCB to the ground motions, it is possible to estimate the variation for the IM associated with the EDP for each scaling level. As an illustrative example, Figure 3 shows the IDA for the three RCB in terms of spectral acceleration as IM and MIDR as EDP.

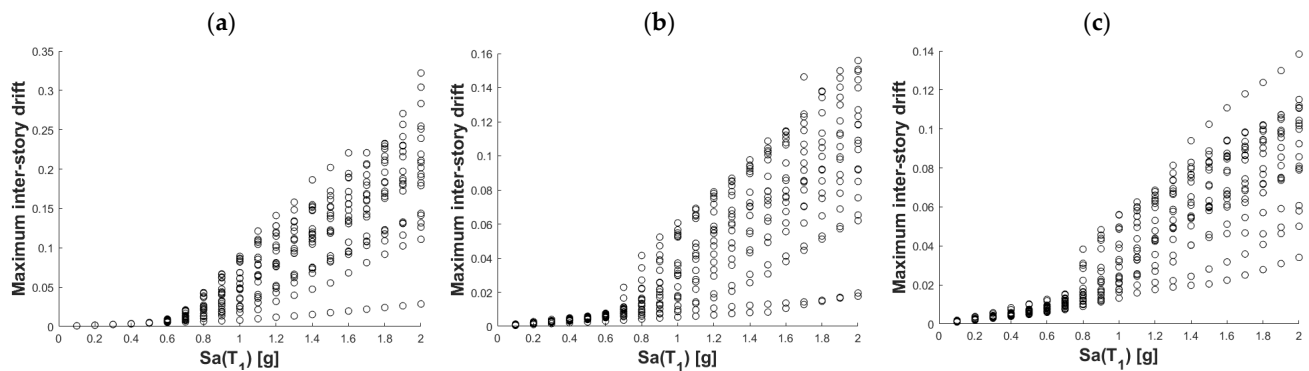


Figure 3. IDA for frame (a) F4, (b) F7, and (c) F10 with $Sa(T_1)$ as IM and MIDR as EDP.

2.5. Seismic Fragility Surfaces

The fragility surfaces were estimated considering the probability of failure of the building when the EDP exceeded its reference value or exceedance rate. In the case of the MIDR, a limit value of 0.03 was considered, according to the current construction code [33], to evaluate the failure or no-failure of the structure. The probability of failure was indicated equal to 1 (failure) when the MIDR exceeded the limit value and 0 (no-failure) when it was lower. These values were then associated with the calculated IMs, PGA, PGV, t_D , I_D , Np_{Sa} , Np_V , Np_{SV} , and Np_{EI} for each seismic record used. Finally, considering the values of each component of the vector-valued IMs, Equation (1) was applied to perform a MLR to obtain the fragility surfaces that estimate the behavior of the probability of failure when using an IM or another. Figure 4 shows an example of a seismic fragility surface and how the probability of failure varies as the values of the vector-valued IMs change.

$$P_F = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\beta_0 - \beta_1 \cdot x_1 - \beta_2 \cdot x_2}} \quad (1)$$

where

P_F = Probability of failure.

x_1 = First parameter of the vector or IM_1 value.

x_2 = Secondary parameter of the vector or IM_2 value.

β_0 , β_1 y β_2 = Coefficients obtained from regression of the results for the scaled records varying both $IM_1 = x_1$ and $IM_2 = x_2$.

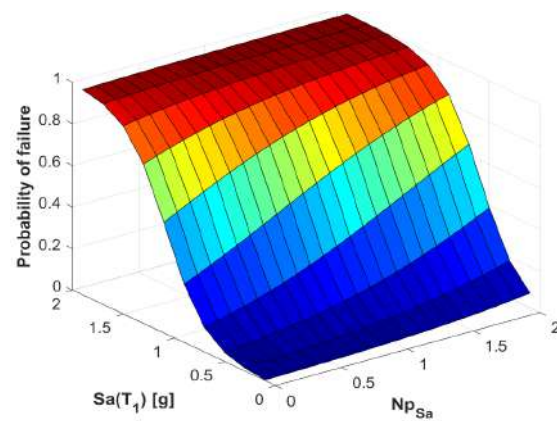


Figure 4. Illustrative seismic fragility surface for the vector $\langle Sa, Np_{Sa} \rangle$.

3. Numerical Results

For this section, it is important to mention that although the results are especially shown for the 10-story frame for the sake of brevity of the manuscript. Similar results are valid for all the selected reinforced concrete buildings. In addition, seismic fragility surfaces also are presented for the most efficient vector-valued IMs to predict fragility surfaces of all the buildings under consideration.

A total of 12 IDA were computed for the three reinforced concrete buildings, four first-component intensity measures and 30 ground motion records. As an example, the results of the IDA for the 10-stories RCB are shown in Figure 5 where the IMs associated with the EDP (MIDR) and the variation it presents for each scaling level is shown. From this IDA applied to the 10-stories RCB subjected to the 30 scaled seismic records, it can be seen the dispersion of the results of scaling for the MIDR when Sa and E_I were used as intensity measure. For this reason, it is important to reduce the uncertainty in the prediction of the structural response using advances intensity measures as in the case of vector-valued ground motion intensity measures. Hence, this study computes seismic fragility surfaces of 3D reinforced concrete buildings using several vector-valued ground motion intensity measures. Figures 6–9 illustrate the seismic fragility surfaces obtained for the 10 story RCB and all the selected 32 vector-valued intensity measures (with Sa , V , Sv and E_I as the first component of the vector).

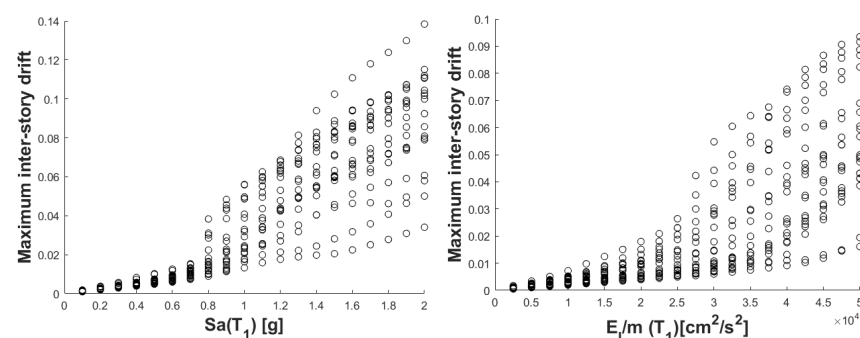


Figure 5. IDA of the 10-story RCB subjected to scaled seismic records with $Sa(T_1)$ and $E_I/m(T_1)$ as IM for MIDR as EDP.

Regarding the fragility surfaces results, in Figure 6a,b, corresponding to PGA and PGV for the 10-story frame, we can see a very similar behavior between them where the trend seems to be flat along the vector-valued IMs, which represents a low influence on its ability to estimate fragility surfaces. The case improves for Figure 6c where a slight increase is seen as the effective duration t_D increases. However, Figure 6d (I_D) tends to behave like the first two vectors which seem to have little influence on the response (or the structural probability of failure). A significant change can be seen in Figure 6e, which represents a

spectral shape-based parameter Np_{Sa} , noting a clear influence on the probability of failure when using this vector-valued IM. The same occurs for the case of Figure 6f,g (Np_V and Np_{Sv} , respectively), although to a lesser extent since the regression is not so pronounced. Finally, for the case of Figure 6h (Np_{EI}), it again presents a more appropriate, and even superior, behavior than the other vector-valued IMs, since the response is clearly influenced as the IM increases.

A similar behavior is observed for the case where V is used as the first component of the vector, since in Figure 7a the vector-valued IM again shows little influence as PGA increases, although with a slight improvement but does not represent a significant change in the result. In the case of PGV (Figure 7b), the surface continues to show low efficiency because its behavior remains flat as the vector-valued IM increases. In reference to t_D (Figure 7c), which had shown good behavior in the previous figure, it seems to maintain it since its ability to influence the probability of failure increases at the same time as the vector-valued IM does, unlike I_D who shows in Figure 7d a behavior more like the first two cases. Next, the vector-valued IM $\langle V, Np_{Sa} \rangle$ improves its performance and in fact outperforms the other vector-valued IMs in terms of its ability to better estimate the fragility surface (Figure 7e). Np_V also has an acceptable behavior (Figure 7f) if we compare it with IMs based on peak ground response. In the case of Np_{Sv} , its graph shows a good surface when increasing the vector-valued IM (Figure 7g) and shows a very marked similarity to the case where Sa is used. Finally, in Figure 7h Np_{Sa} shows a good behavior but slightly lower than that of the other vector-valued IMs with spectral shape-based parameters. Likewise, we can perform an analysis for Figure 8 with Sv as the first component of the vector-valued, where it is observed that in Figure 8a,b (PGA and PGV, respectively) they are practically the same except that the latter has a more pronounced curvature, but for purposes of reliability as an estimator of the fragility surfaces it generates uncertainty due to its flat behavior despite the increase in vector-valued IMs. The same occurs with t_D and I_D (Figures 8c and 8d, respectively) as they present improvements in the probability of failure but not enough to determine their use as vector-valued IMs in seismic fragility analysis. The interesting part comes again with the vector-valued IMs based on the spectral shape, since in Figure 8e a graph that estimates the probability of failure for $\langle Sv, Np_{Sa} \rangle$ in a good way is obtained. In Figure 8f corresponding to Np_V , a better fragility surface is also obtained compared to the other vector-valued IM. For the case of Np_{Sv} (Figure 8g), it results in a considerable similarity with respect to the vector-valued IMs based on the Np parameter. Of the vector-valued IMs based on this spectral shape parameter, Np_{EI} turns out to be the most consistent throughout the analyses, because in Figure 8h an appropriate behavior can be seen again on the fragility surface by significantly influencing the probability of failure as the vector-valued IM increases, this gives certainty to its efficiency as an estimator of the structural response when using these vector-valued IMs.

Finally, regarding the case of E_I as the first component of the vector-valued IMs, the constant of the IMs based on peak ground response PGA and PGV (Figure 9a,b) and duration t_D and I_D (Figure 9c,d) is maintained where there is uncertainty about its efficiency to estimate the structural response due to the low influence that these parameters have in the estimation of fragility surfaces. On the other hand, the vector-valued IMs based on the spectral shape- Np parameter have a more appropriate behavior as we can see in Figure 9e with Np_{Sa} . The same occurs, although to a lesser extent, for Figure 9f (Np_V) where a flatter but equally significant behavior is seen. In addition, in Figure 9g, corresponding to Np_{Sv} , it stands out for its similarity compared to the vector $\langle EI, Np_{Sa} \rangle$, which translates into a desired behavior for this case as it has the same effects in estimating the probability of failure. Finally, we have Figure 9h where the probability of failure is clearly influenced as the vector $\langle EI, Np_{EI} \rangle$ changes. For this reason, it has been established that the vector-valued IMs based on the spectral shape, in particular on the parameter Np addressed in this study, have a better relation as an estimator of the structural response and in this case in the estimation of seismic fragility surfaces.

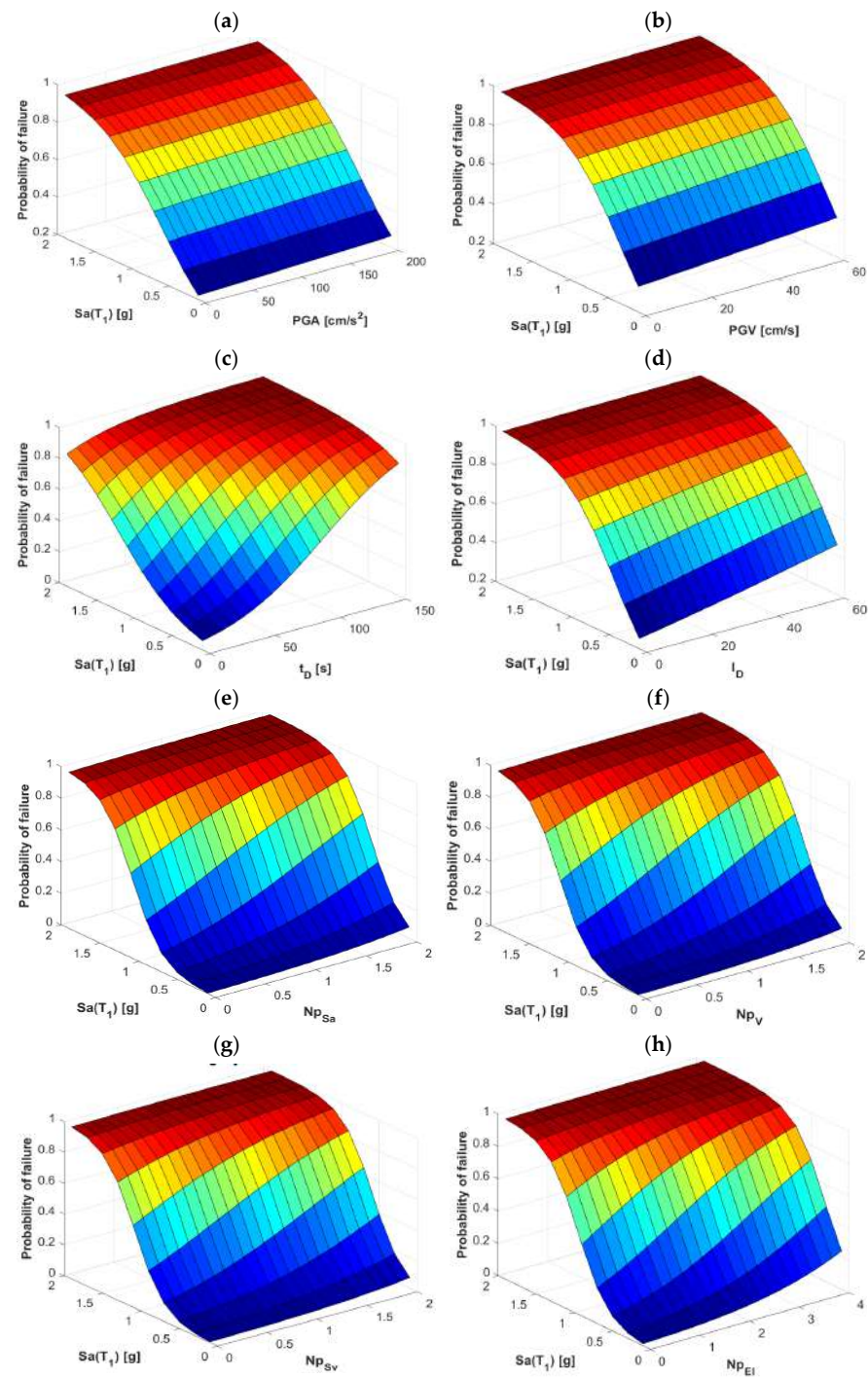


Figure 6. Probability of failure for the frame F10 with S_a as the first component of the vector-valued IM and (a) PGA, (b) PGV, (c) t_D , (d) I_D (e) NP_{Sa} , (f) NP_V , (g) NP_{Sv} and (h) NP_{EI} , as the second component.

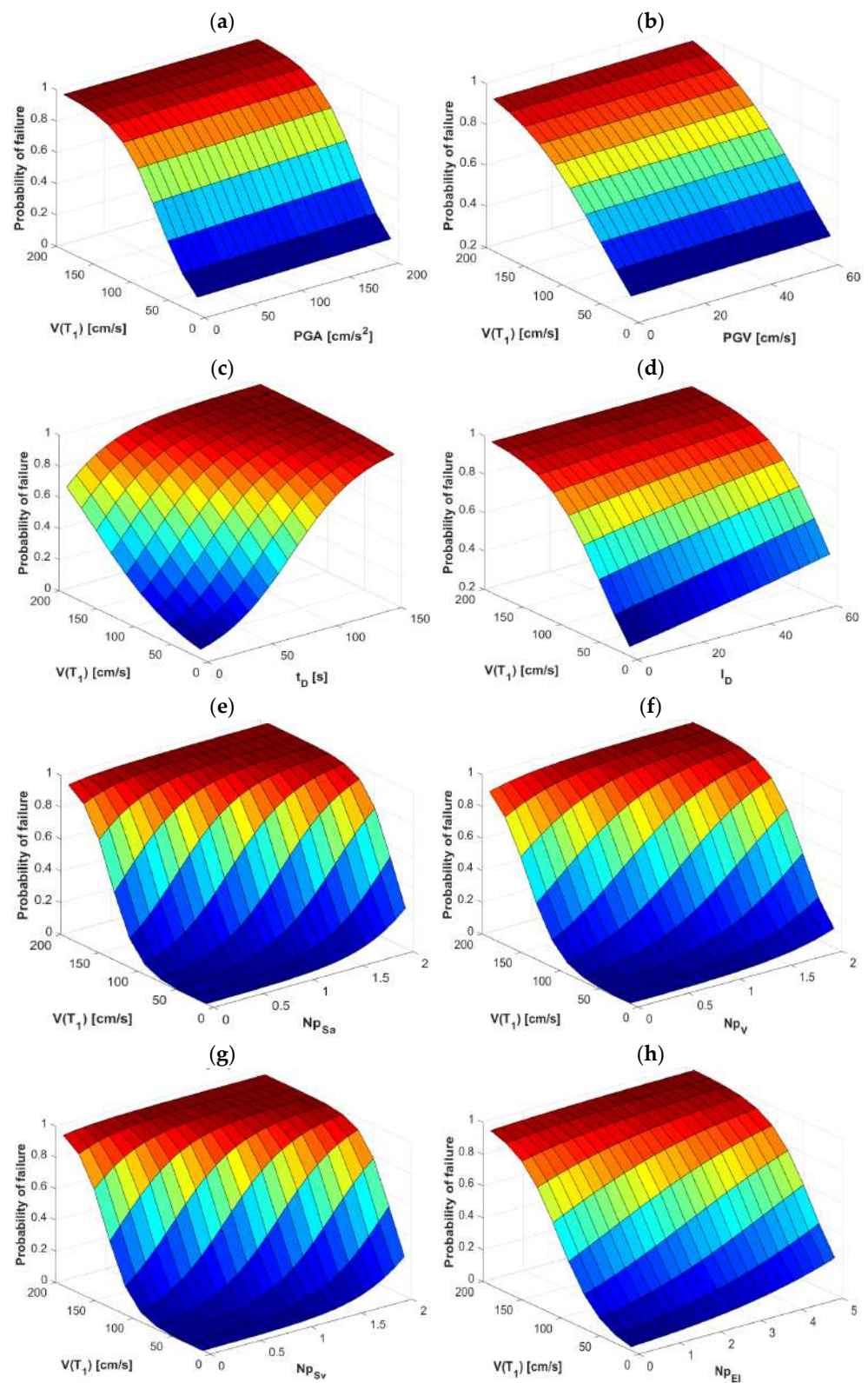


Figure 7. Probability of failure for the frame F10 with V as the first component of the vector-valued IM and (a) PGA, (b) PGV, (c) t_D , (d) I_D , (e) N_{pSa} , (f) N_{pV} , (g) N_{pSv} and (h) N_{pEI} , as the second component.

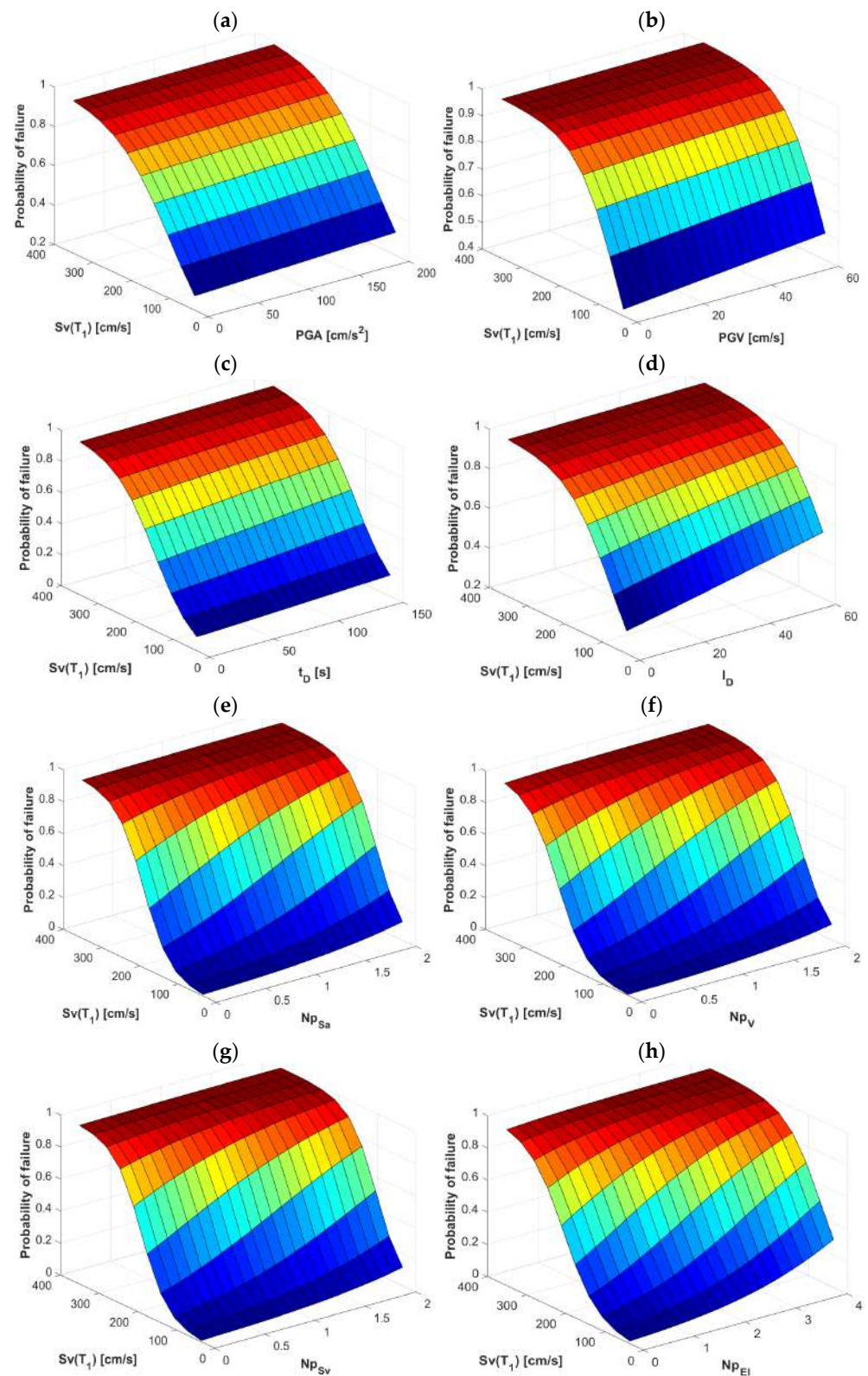


Figure 8. Probability of failure for the frame F10 with Sv as the first component of the vector-valued IM and (a) PGA, (b) PGV, (c) t_D, (d) I_D, (e) N_{pSa}, (f) N_{pV}, (g) N_{pSv} and (h) N_{pEI}, as the second component.

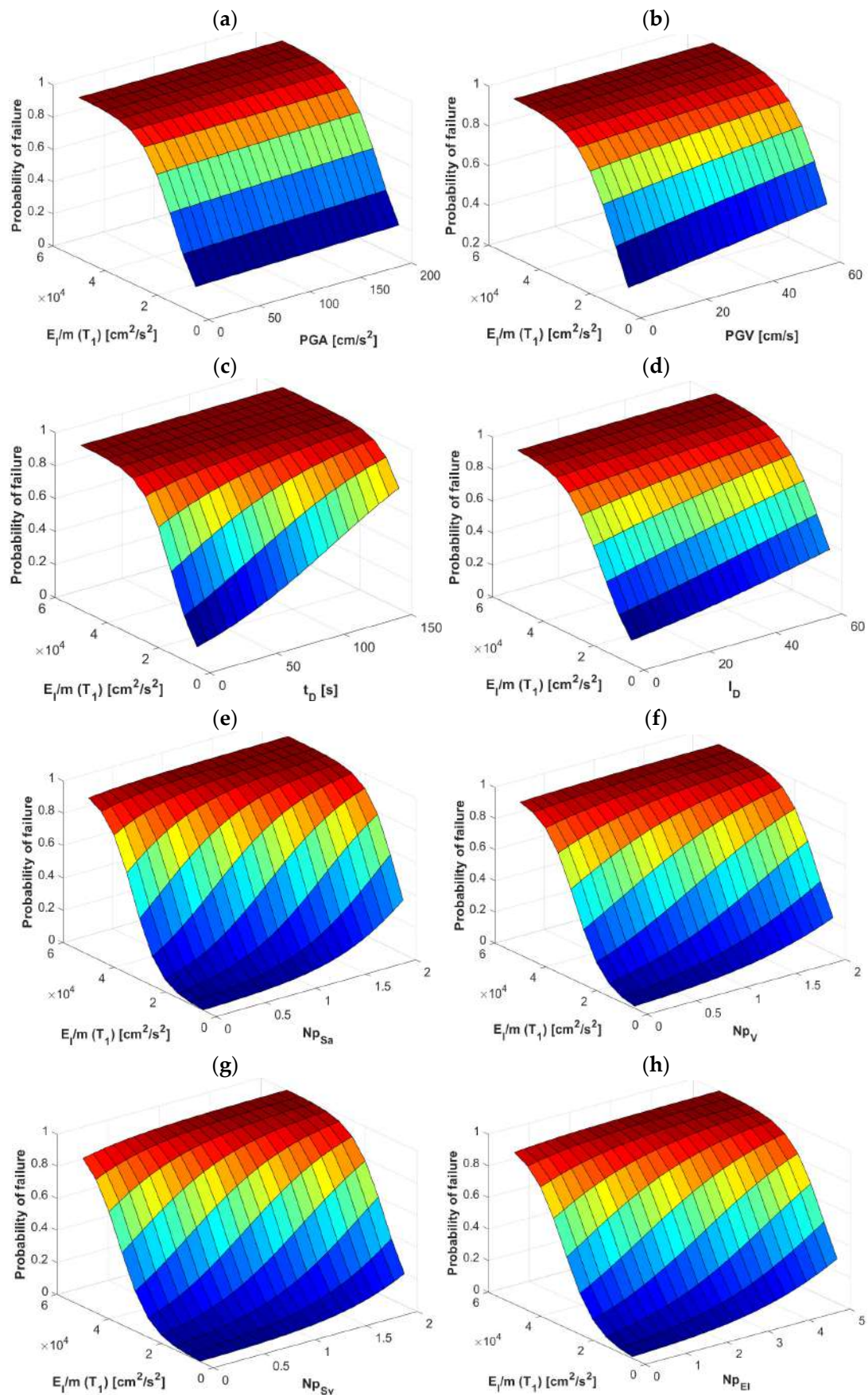


Figure 9. Probability of failure for the frame F10 with E_I as the first component of the vector-valued IM and (a) PGA, (b) PGV, (c) t_D , (d) I_D , (e) Np_{Sa} , (f) Np_V , (g) Np_{Sv} , and (h) Np_{EI} as the second component.

In order to observe how the same vector-valued IM influences the different buildings analyzed in this study (F4, F7, and F10), Figures 10–13 compare the fragility surfaces for all the buildings under consideration and the N_p -based intensity measures. Figure 10 shows a similar behavior in the fragility surfaces for the three cases when the vector-valued IM $\langle S_a, N_{p_{S_a}} \rangle$ is considered. The 4-story building seems to be more affected by the variation of the IMs that compose the vector. In the case of the 7-story frame, the fragility surface has a more stable behavior and is even better when we analyze the 10-story frame. However, in all three cases, there is a marked influence when varying the values of the vector-valued IMs, as noted in the previous section. Likewise, in Figure 11, we have the vector $\langle S_a, N_{p_V} \rangle$ with fragility surfaces where now the flattest behavior is obtained in the 7-story frame, while for buildings F4 and F10 the fragility surfaces are quite similar. We can also mention that the vector-valued IM $\langle S_a, N_{p_{S_v}} \rangle$ is consistent with the previous cases and confirms that S_v behaves very similarly to S_a in this type of analysis (Figure 12). Finally, Figure 13 shows the behavior of the three buildings using $\langle S_a, N_{p_{EI}} \rangle$, making it clear that this vector-valued IM does not change its ability to predict the response by analyzing the different types of buildings. This is useful because it infers that this vector could be efficient to analyze different types of buildings regardless of their height or even their topology.

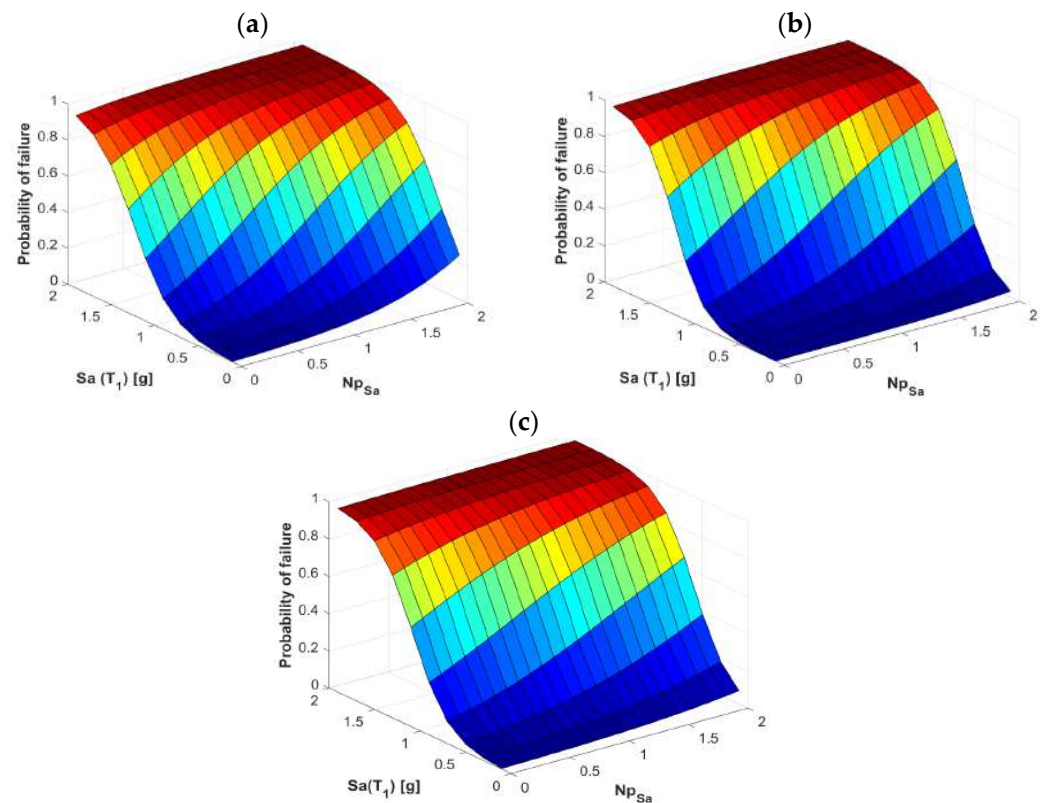


Figure 10. Probability of failure comparison for the frames (a) F4, (b) F7, and (c) F10 using the vector-valued IM $\langle S_a, N_{p_{S_a}} \rangle$.

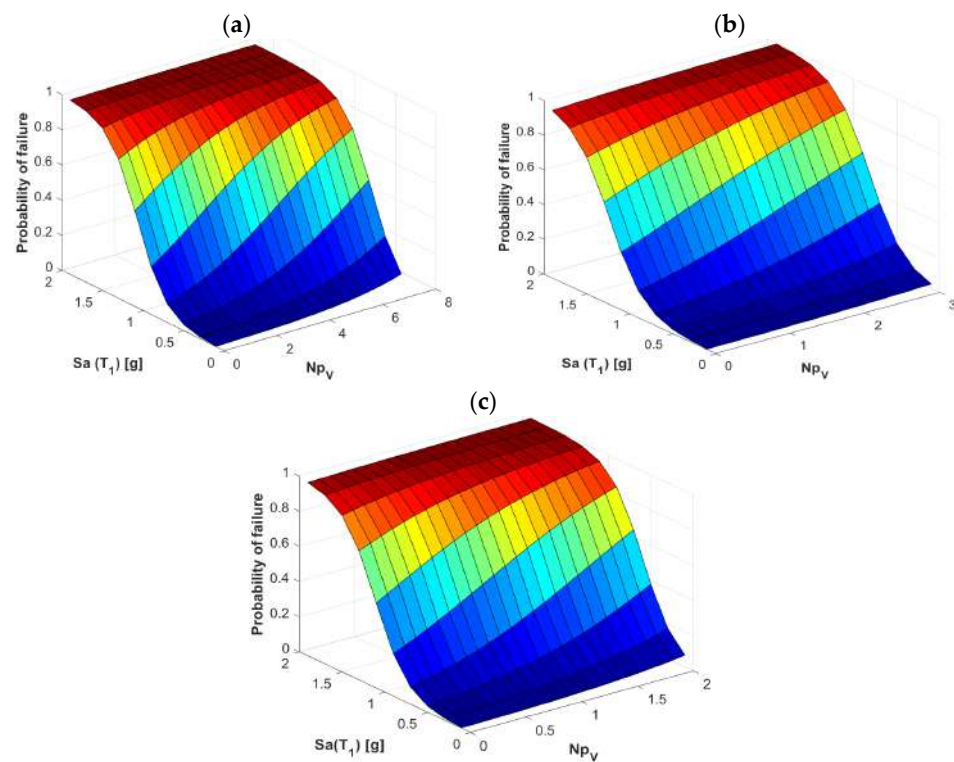


Figure 11. Probability of failure comparison for the frames (a) F4, (b) F7, and (c) F10 using the vector-valued IM $\langle Sa, Np_V \rangle$.

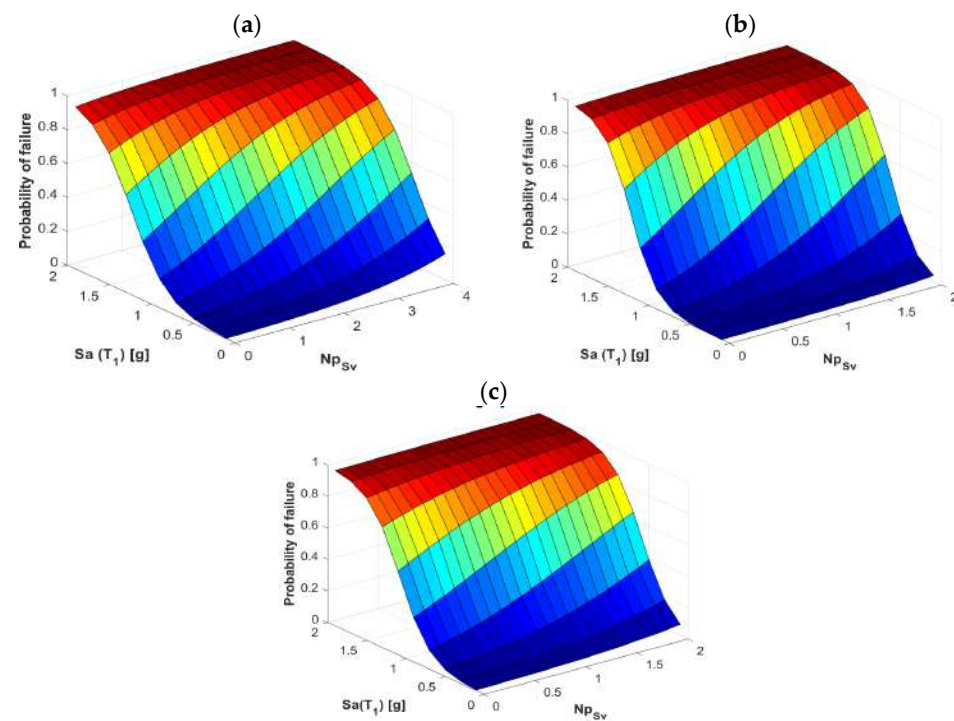


Figure 12. Probability of failure comparison for the frames (a) F4, (b) F7, and (c) F10 using the vector-valued IM $\langle Sa, Np_{SV} \rangle$.

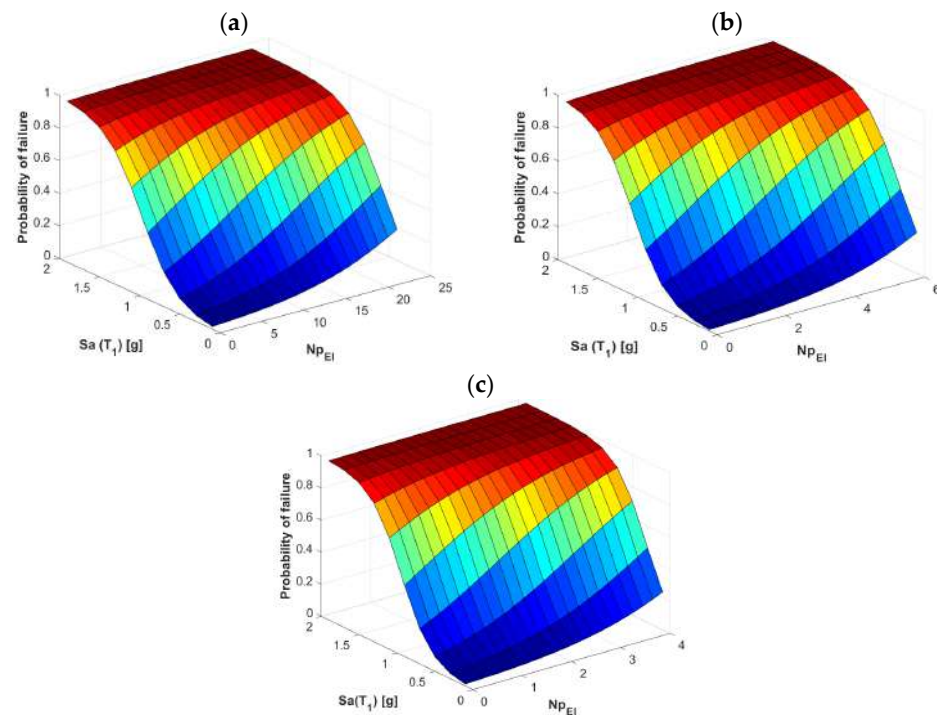


Figure 13. Probability of failure comparison for the frames (a) F4, (b) F7, and (c) F10 using the vector-valued IM $\langle Sa, Np_{EI} \rangle$.

4. Discussion

The above results are consistent with previous works [8,12,15,37] regarding the efficiency of vector-valued IMs since it has been documented that vector-valued IMs based on peak ground response and duration do not obtain reliable results in estimating the structural response when analyze non-linear behavior or behavior beyond the elastic range. The usefulness of vector-valued IMs based on spectral shape, particularly those represented by the spectral shape parameter Np , has also been highlighted as more appropriate IM [11,29,38,39]. The importance of this study addresses spectral shape IM with different characteristics that present higher efficiency to estimate the structural response and apply its use in obtaining seismic fragility surfaces based on the probability of failure of the structure. Notice that this is the first time that fragility surfaces are obtained by using S , S_v and E_I as the first component of the vector; moreover, this fragility surfaces consider Np based on different spectral shape parameters. Finally, the results of the study can be summarized as follows:

1. In each of the cases of vector-valued IMs, PGA and PGV had low influence when they were used as the second component of the vector.
2. t_D tended to behave well in some cases, but it was inconsistent in others, so its reliability still requires further study; I_D presented better results than PGA and PGV, but its use did not imply a clear advantage over other IMs with better results.
3. The vector-valued IMs based on the spectral shape Np had higher influence on the structural response and were more appropriate parameters in the estimation of the probability of failure for trace seismic fragility surfaces.
4. The IM with the best results as the first component of the vector were $Sa(T_1)$ and $V(T_1)$ since they generated the fragility surfaces that were most influenced by varying the vector-valued IMs. In addition, the vector $\langle V, Np_{Sa} \rangle$ had the best results and was established as the best estimator for seismic fragility surfaces based on the probability of failure of buildings.
5. The vectors $\langle Sa, Np_{Sa} \rangle$, $\langle Sa, Np_V \rangle$, $\langle Sa, Np_{Sv} \rangle$, and $\langle Sa, Np_{EI} \rangle$ were used to analyze the reinforced concrete buildings of 4, 7, and 10 stories. The results showed that in all cases, there was an important influence on the estimation of the probability of failure

regardless of the building being analyzed. The above is valid only for the frames analyzed in this study; further investigation is required for buildings with different heights and topologies.

The present study has demonstrated the usefulness of using vector-valued IMs based on spectral shape over IMs based on peak ground response and duration. However, there is still uncertainty whether spectral shape-based IMs will be better estimators of the structural response when used as the first component in vector-valued IMs. This is precisely the aim of our future research with the implementation of new IMs and EDP as the reported for [40,41]. Finally, the fragility surfaces can be used for the seismic risk evaluation of buildings as we have seen in [42].

5. Conclusions

In the present work, seismic fragility surfaces were estimated considering the efficiency of 32 vector-valued IMs composed of the parameters $Sa(T_1)$, $V(T_1)$, $Sv(T_1)$, and $E_I/m(T_1)$ as the first component of the vector while PGA, PGV, t_D , I_D , Np_{Sa} , Np_V , Np_{Sv} , and Np_{EI} were used as the second component. The study corresponded to three 3D reinforced concrete buildings subjected to 30 narrow-band ground motions, performing 12 incremental dynamic analysis considering the maximum inter-story drift as engineering demand parameter, and a total of 96 fragility surfaces were obtained. The present study has demonstrated the usefulness of using vector-valued IMs based on spectral shape over IMs based on peak ground response and duration. The efficiency to predict the probability of failure is increasing when spectral shape-based IMs based on the generalized spectral shape parameter Np is selected as second component of the vector. Notice that there is still uncertainty whether spectral shape-based IMs will be better estimators of the structural response when used as the first component in vector-valued IMs. This is precisely the aim of our future research with the implementation of new IMs and EDP. In the near future, it is interesting to work on this research field with intention of improving the IMs used in the design of structures in order to optimize costs and/or performance without compromising structural security. The results obtained here serve as a basis for future works and can be implemented to be applied in other types of structural systems in order to improve current building codes toward the perfect prediction of the structural response of buildings under earthquakes.

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