

Fault System Solution File Format

The UCERF3 model introduced Fault System Rupture Sets and Solutions as data containers for earthquake rupture forecasts. A Rupture Set defines all of the on-fault supra-seismogenic ruptures in a fault system, and their properties (magnitude, rake, etc). A Solution defines the annual rate of occurrence of each rupture, and may also supply information about gridded seismicity.

Data are stored in a zip file consisting primarily of JSON, GeoJSON, and CSV files for ease of human and machine readability. Rupture sets and solutions are stored in the `ruptures` and `solution` subdirectories of the zip file, respectively.

Example files presented here are often shortened for brevity, indicated by

A small but complete Fault System Solution (that, by definition, also contains a Rupture Set) can be [downloaded here for testing](#).

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Fault System Rupture Set

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Fault System Rupture Sets define a set of fault sections and supra-seismogenic ruptures (and their properties) on those sections. Their data are stored in the ruptures subdirectory of a zip file.

Here is a summary of files likely to be in a rupture set zip file:

File Name	Required?	Format	Description
ruptures/ fault_sections.geojson	YES	GeoJSON	Fault section geometries
ruptures/indices.csv	YES	CSV	Lists of section indices that comprise each rupture
ruptures/properties.csv	YES	CSV	Rupture properties (mag, rake, length, area)
ruptures/ average_slips.csv	(no)	CSV	Average slip information for each rupture
ruptures/ tectonic_regimes.csv	(no)	CSV	Tectonic regime information for each rupture
ruptures/modules.json	(no)	JSON	

File Name	Required?	Format	Description
			Manifest of Rupture Set modules, used by OpenSHA

Fault Section Data

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Rupture sets usually contain a large number of fault *subsections*, which are small equal-length subdivisions of each parent fault section (typically with length approximately equal to half the seismogenic thickness of the fault). Those *subsections* are stored in the Fault Section GeoJSON format (see [geospatial_file_formats.pdf](#)) with the added requirement that each section be listed in order of their `ids`, starting with `id=0` and ending with `id=(numSections-1)`. The GeoJSON will be stored in `ruptures/fault_sections.geojson`.

Here is an example fault section data file with 9 subsections spanning two faults:

```
{
  "type": "FeatureCollection",
  "features": [
    {
      "type": "Feature",
      "id": 0,
      "properties": {
        "FaultID": 0,
        "FaultName": "Demo S-S Fault, Subsection 0",
        "DipDeg": 90.0,
        "Rake": 180.0,
        "LowDepth": 12.0,
        "UpDepth": 0.0,
        "DipDir": 0.0,
        "AseismicSlipFactor": 0.0,

```

```

        "CouplingCoeff": 1.0,
        "SlipRate": 10.0,
        "ParentID": 11,
        "ParentName": "Demo S-S Fault",
        "SlipRateStdDev": 1.0
    },
    "geometry": {
        "type": "LineString",
        "coordinates": [
            [
                -118.0,
                34.7
            ],
            [
                -118.000000000000001,
                34.75
            ]
        ]
    }
},
...
{
    "type": "Feature",
    "id": 8,
    "properties": {
        "FaultID": 8,
        "FaultName": "Demo Reverse Fault, Subsection 2",
        "DipDeg": 45.0,
        "Rake": 90.0,
        "LowDepth": 12.0,
        "UpDepth": 0.0,
        "DipDir": 0.0,
        "AseismicSlipFactor": 0.0,
        "CouplingCoeff": 1.0,

```

```

        "SlipRate": 3.0,
        "ParentID": 25,
        "ParentName": "Demo Reverse Fault",
        "SlipRateStdDev": 0.5
    },
    "geometry": {
        "type": "LineString",
        "coordinates": [
            [
                -118.29993824145802,
                35.300020582168905
            ],
            [
                -118.35,
                35.35
            ]
        ]
    }
}

```

Rupture Section Indices

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The ruptures/indices.csv file lists the participating subsections for each rupture. It is stored in a CSV file. The first row of the CSV file shall contain column headings, but the content of the header is not checked and need not exactly match the example given below (for example, the ‘# 1’, ‘# 2’, etc., columns are included here for readability but can be omitted). Ruptures should then be listed in order, and the first rupture shall be index 0.

The participating subsections are indicated by their (0-based) index, so for the example below, rupture 0 consists of subsections 0 and 1, and rupture 1 consists of subsections 0, 1, and 2. The total number of columns in the CSV file is equal to the number of sections in the largest rupture plus 2, and each line may have different column counts.

An example is given below with 28 ruptures on the 9 previously defined fault subsections:

Rupture Index	Num Sections	# 1	# 2	# 3	# 4	# 5	# 6	# 7	# 8	# 9
0	2	0	1							
1	3	0	1	2						
2	4	0	1	2	3					
3	5	0	1	2	3	4				
4	6	0	1	2	3	4	5			
5	8	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	2	1	2							
8	3	1	2	3						
9	4	1	2	3	4					
10	5	1	2	3	4	5				
...
27	2	7	8							

Rupture Properties

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Rupture properties are stored in `ruptures/properties.csv` that gives the magnitude, rake, area, and length of each rupture. It is stored in a CSV file. The first row of the CSV file shall contain column headings, but the content of the header is not checked and need not exactly match the example given below. Ruptures should then be listed in order, and the first rupture shall be index 0.

An example is given below with 28 ruptures on the 9 previously defined fault subsections:

Rupture Index	Magnitude	Average Rake (degrees)	Area (m ²)	Length (m)
0	6.105	180.0	1.33434E8	11119.5
1	6.329	180.0	2.00151E8	16679.3
2	6.496	180.0	2.66868E8	22239.0
3	6.625	180.0	3.33585E8	27798.8
4	6.73	180.0	4.00302E8	33358.5
5	6.972	148.7	6.43906E8	47713.0
6	7.062	137.6	7.65707E8	54890.2
7	6.105	180.0	1.33434E8	11119.5
8	6.329	180.0	2.00151E8	16679.3
9	6.496	180.0	2.66868E8	22239.0
10	6.625	180.0	3.33585E8	27798.8
...
27	6.367	90.0	2.43603E8	14354.5

Optional Rupture Set Modules

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Extra information or data beyond the requirements outlined above may be attached via optional OpenSHA modules. If present (as will be the case for files written by OpenSHA), the `ruptures/modules.json` file will list all included modules as well as their associated data files and Java class name within the OpenSHA codebase. Some common modules are documented below.

Optional Module: Average Slips

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The optional average slips module, if present, includes the average slip for each rupture across the entire rupture surface. When combined with rupture rates, this can be used to compute solution slip rates or moment rates. Average slip data are stored in `ruptures/properties.csv`, a two column CSV file (with a header row) that lists the rupture index and average slip data (in meters) for each rupture. Average slip data must always be listed in order and for every rupture (with 0-based indexing). An example is given below:

Rupture Index	Average Slip (m)
0	1.1647160534906944
1	1.426480989099377
2	1.4490078253186767
3	1.57199038614192
4	1.6860260586392295
5	1.792822904443835
...	...
27	0.8620093923941858

Optional Module: Tectonic Regimes

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The optional tectonic regimes module, if present, lists the associated tectonic regime for each rupture. This is most often used in hazard calculations to select the appropriate ground motion models for each rupture. Data are stored in `ruptures/tectonic_regimes.csv`, a two column CSV file (with a header row) that lists the rupture index and OpenSHA tectonic regime enum constant. Data must always be listed in order and for every rupture (with 0-based indexing). An example is given below:

Rupture Index	Tectonic Regime
0	ACTIVE_SHALLOW
1	ACTIVE_SHALLOW
2	ACTIVE_SHALLOW
3	ACTIVE_SHALLOW
4	ACTIVE_SHALLOW
5	ACTIVE_SHALLOW
...	...
27	ACTIVE_SHALLOW

Fault System Solution

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Fault System Solutions define the rate of each rupture from a Rupture Set (called a ‘solution’ because those rates are usually the result of an inversion). They may optionally also include gridded seismicity data. Their data are stored in the `solution` subdirectory of a zip file.

A solution must also contain a rupture set (in the `ruptures` top-level subdirectory). In addition to the standard rupture set files, here is a summary of files likely to be in a solution zip file:

File Name	Required?	Format	Description
<code>solution/rates.csv</code>	YES	<u>CSV</u>	Annual rates for each rupture

File Name	Required?	Format	Description
solution/grid_region.geojson	(no)	<u>GeoJSON</u>	Gridded seismicity region
solution/ grid_source_locations.csv	(no)	<u>CSV</u>	Locations and indexes of gridded seismicity sources
solution/grid_sources.csv	(no)	<u>CSV</u>	Gridded seismicity ruptures
solution/rup_mfds.csv	(no)	<u>JSON</u>	Magnitude-frequency distributions for each rupture, often generated when computing branch-averaged solutions.
solution/modules.json	(no)	JSON	Manifest of Solution modules, used by OpenSHA

Rate Data

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Solution annual rate data for each rupture is stored in a simple 2-column CSV file, `solution/rates.csv`. The first row of the CSV file shall contain column headings, but the content of the header is not checked and need not exactly match the example given below. Ruptures should then be listed in order, and the first rupture shall be index 0. An example is below:

Rupture Index	Annual Rate
0	0.005320239194616782
1	0.005298660169966246
2	7.834210706407277E-4
3	1.8703779639406976E-7
4	0.0026397968587955787
5	1.4234970401212632E-8
6	5.675850061305903E-4
7	9.987701252958843E-9

Rupture Index	Annual Rate
8	3.866169289703722E-7
9	3.636288131991794E-7
10	4.219820930141324E-7
...	...
27	3.7916393801626976E-7

Gridded Seismicity Data

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Solutions may optionally provided gridded seismicity information. For a fault system solution, gridded seismicity can refer to either off-fault earthquakes (those ‘unassociated’ with any fault) or sub-seismogenic ruptures on a fault but smaller than the ruptures defined in the [rupture set](#). This data is stored in multiple files, each of which is summarized below.

Gridded Seismicity Region

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The gridded region used to define the set of gridded seismicity locations is stored in `solution/grid_region.geojson`. It follows the OpenSHA Gridded Region File Format (see [geospatial_file_formats.pdf](#)), and is omitted here for brevity, but the region used for the examples below has 81 grid nodes.

This optional file is for information purposes and easy plotting of the gridded seismicity region. Locations of gridded seismicity sources are found in the [Gridded Seismicity Source Locations](#) file.

Gridded Seismicity Source Locations

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The solution/grid_source_locations.csv CSV file lists the indexes and locations of each gridded seismicity source. The first row of the CSV file shall contain column headings, but the content of the header is not checked and need not exactly match the example given below. Grid nodes should then be listed in order, and the first node shall be index 0.

Grid Index	Latitude	Longitude
0	34	-120
1	34	-119.75
2	34	-119.5
3	34	-119.25
4	34	-119
5	34	-118.75
6	34	-118.5
7	34	-118.25
8	34	-118
9	34.25	-120
10	34.25	-119.75
...
80	36	-118

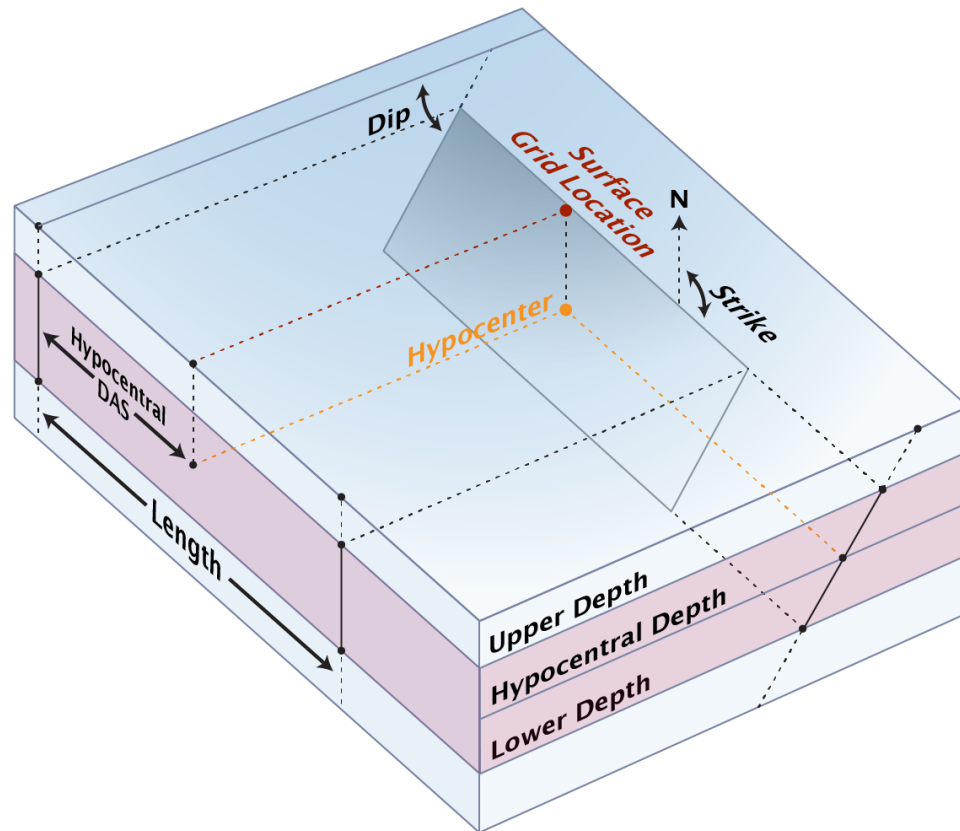
Gridded Seismicity Sources

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The solution/grid_sources.csv CSV file lists properties and rates of each gridded seismicity source. The first row of the CSV file shall contain column headings, but the content of the header is not checked and need not exactly match the example given below. The columns are:

<i>Column Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
Grid Index	Grid node index from the grid_source_locations.csv file
Magnitude	Gridded rupture magnitude
Annual Rate	Gridded rupture annual rate of occurrence
Rake	Gridded rupture rake angle (degrees)
Dip	Gridded rupture dip angle (degrees)
Strike	Gridded rupture strike angle (degrees), or blank for unknown
Upper Depth (km)	Upper depth of the rupture (kilometers)
Lower Depth (km)	Lower depth of the rupture (kilometers)
Length (km)	Length of the rupture (kilometers)
Hypocentral Depth (km)	Hypocentral depth of the rupture (kilometers). This will typically only be used if the strike angle is also supplied (or if random-strike ruptures are built in hazard calculations). If omitted (blank), the hypocentral depth is assumed to be halfway between the upper and lower depth. See schematic below.
Hypocentral DAS (km)	Hypocentral distance along strike (DAS) of the rupture (kilometers). This will typically only be used if the strike angle is also supplied (or if random-strike ruptures are built in hazard calculations). If omitted (blank), the hypocentral DAS is assumed to be halfway along the rupture (half of the length). See schematic below.
Tectonic Regime	Tectonic regime for this rupture; one of the OpenSHA enum constants listed here
Associated Section Index 1	Optional: section index from the rupture set for which this gridded rupture is associated. The fraction of that association is given in the following column, and additional sections will be listed as additional column pairs.
Fraction Associated 1	Optional: fractional association of the fault section index supplied in the previous column

Below is a schematic diagram showing each column visually for the case where a rupture strike has been assigned. If the strike is not assigned, various point-source approximations exist to approximate finite fault effects and average source-to-site distances. If a true point source is desired, set the length to 0, the upper and lower depths to the same value, and leave the strike field blank.



Here is an example, showing both associated and unassociated ruptures:

Grid Index	Magnitude	Annual Rate	Rake	Dip	Strike	Upper Depth (km)	Lower Depth (km)	Length (km)	Hypocentral Depth (km)	Hypocentral DAS (km)	Tectonic Regime	Associated Section Index 1	Fraction Associated 1	Associated Section Index N	Fraction Associated N
0	5.05	0.00514342	0	90		5	6.23	1.84			ACTIVE_SHALLOW				
0	5.05	0.00257171	90	50		5	5.94	1.84			ACTIVE_SHALLOW				
0	5.05	0.00257171	-90	50		5	5.94	1.84			ACTIVE_SHALLOW				
0	5.15	0.00408556	0	90		5	6.44	2.16			ACTIVE_SHALLOW				
0	5.15	0.00204278	90	50		5	6.1	2.16			ACTIVE_SHALLOW				
0	5.15	0.00204278	-90	50		5	6.1	2.16			ACTIVE_SHALLOW				
0	5.25	0.00324528	0	90		5	6.68	2.53			ACTIVE_SHALLOW				
0	5.25	0.00162264	90	50		5	6.29	2.53			ACTIVE_SHALLOW				
0	5.25	0.00162264	-90	50		5	6.29	2.53			ACTIVE_SHALLOW				
...				
35	5.05	0.0240135	0	90		5	6.23	1.84			ACTIVE_SHALLOW	3	0.224517	4	0.224517 5 0.224517 6 0.112259
35	5.05	0.0120067	90	50		5	5.94	1.84			ACTIVE_SHALLOW	3	0.224517	4	0.224517 5 0.224517 6 0.112259
35	5.05	0.0120067	-90	50		5	5.94	1.84			ACTIVE_SHALLOW	3	0.224517	4	0.224517 5 0.224517 6 0.112259
35	5.15	0.0190746	0	90		5	6.44	2.16			ACTIVE_SHALLOW	3	0.224517	4	0.224517 5 0.224517 6 0.112259
35	5.15	0.00953728	90	50		5	6.1	2.16			ACTIVE_SHALLOW	3	0.224517	4	0.224517 5 0.224517 6 0.112259
35	5.15	0.00953728	-90	50		5	6.1	2.16			ACTIVE_SHALLOW	3	0.224517	4	0.224517 5 0.224517 6 0.112259
...				

Legacy (MFD-Based) Gridded Seismicity Data files

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An earlier version of this file format gave gridded seismicity data by specifying magnitude-frequency distributions at each grid node. Although conceptually simple, that format didn't supply enough information about how to implement the gridded seismicity sources in hazard calculations and has been deprecated. Its format is archived below for posterity.

Legacy Gridded Seismicity Focal Mechanism Rates

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Each gridded seismicity node can have ruptures of various focal mechanisms: strike-slip, normal, and reverse. This file gives the fraction of seismicity associated with each node that corresponds to each of those focal mechanisms. This data is stored in `solution/grid_mech_weights.csv` and the format is given below. The first row of the CSV file shall contain column headings, but the content of the header is not checked and need not exactly match the example given below. Grid nodes should then be listed in order, and the first node shall be index 0.

Node Index	Latitude	Longitude	Fraction Strike-Slip	Fraction Reverse	Fraction Normal
0	34.0	-120.0	0.5	0.25	0.25
1	34.0	-119.75	0.5	0.25	0.25
2	34.0	-119.5	0.5	0.25	0.25
3	34.0	-119.25	0.5	0.25	0.25
4	34.0	-119.0	0.5	0.25	0.25
5	34.0	-118.75	0.5	0.25	0.25
6	34.0	-118.5	0.5	0.25	0.25
7	34.0	-118.25	0.5	0.25	0.25
8	34.0	-118.0	0.5	0.25	0.25
9	34.25	-120.0	0.5	0.25	0.25
10	34.25	-119.75	0.5	0.25	0.25
...
80	36.0	-118.0	0.5	0.25	0.25

Legacy Gridded Seismicity MFDs

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Magnitude-Frequency distributions (MFDs) for each grid node are stored in a CSV file format. Each grid node can have 2 MFDs, one for sub-seismogenic ruptures associated with a fault (`solution/grid_sub_seis_mfds.csv`), and another for ruptures unassociated with any fault (`solution/grid_unassociated_mfds.csv`), but many grid nodes will only have 1 of those types.

The format for each file is identical, and the first row of each CSV file shall contain column headings which are used to define the X-values of the MFD (this may vary from model to model). Grid nodes need not be listed in order and can be skipped if no MFD exists for a particular node (or, alternatively, rows can be left blank after the 3-column row header to indicate that no MFD exists for a node).

Here is an example file that contains MFDs for some nodes and omits them for others:

Node Index	Latitude	Longitude	5.05	5.15	5.25	5.35	...	8.4
8	34	-118	0.0381873	0.0303332	0.0240946	0.019139	...	0.0
17	34.25	-118	0.0311113	0.0247126	0.0196299	0.0155926	...	0.0
26	34.5	-118	0.0381873	0.0303332	0.0240946	0.019139	...	0.0
35	34.75	-118	0.0381873	0.0303332	0.0240946	0.019139	...	0.0
44	35	-118	0.0381873	0.0303332	0.0240946	0.019139	...	0.0
52	35.25	-118.25	0.00806943	0.00640978	0.00509147	0.0040443	...	0.0
53	35.25	-118	0.0381873	0.0303332	0.0240946	0.019139	...	0.0
59	35.5	-118.75	0.00806943	0.00640978	0.00509147	0.0040443	...	0.0
60	35.5	-118.5	0.00807135	0.0064113	0.00509268	0.00404526	...	0.0
62	35.5	-118	0.0381873	0.0303332	0.0240946	0.019139	...	0.0
67	35.75	-119	0.00806943	0.00640978	0.00509147	0.0040443	...	0.0
68	35.75	-118.75	0.00807135	0.0064113	0.00509268	0.00404526	...	0.0
71	35.75	-118	0.0381873	0.0303332	0.0240946	0.019139	...	0.0
75	36	-119.25	0.00806943	0.00640978	0.00509147	0.0040443	...	0.0
76	36	-119	0.00807135	0.0064113	0.00509268	0.00404526	...	0.0
80	36	-118	0.0381873	0.0303332	0.0240946	0.019139	...	0.0

Optional Solution Modules

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Extra information or data beyond the requirements outlined above may be attached via optional OpenSHA modules. If present (as will be the case for files written by OpenSHA), the `solution/modules.json` file will list all included modules as well as their associated data files and Java class name within the [OpenSHA codebase](#). Some common modules are documented below.

Rupture Magnitude-Frequency Distributions (MFDs)

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Rupture magnitudes often vary across branches of a logic tree. When building a single branch-averaged solution, properties including magnitude are weight-averaged. The optional rupture MFDs module keeps track of all of the original magnitudes for each rupture and their respective rates (scaled by their weight in the logic tree). Using this file instead of the average magnitudes and rates (in `ruptures/properties.csv` and `solution/rates.csv`) can allow users to get closer to the true mean hazard (i.e., where hazard is computed separately for each logic tree branch and then averaged, rather than a single hazard calculation on a branch-averaged model).

Rupture MFD data are stored in `solution/rup_mfds.csv` and their format is as follows:

Rupture Index	Magnitude	Rate
0	6.443793444390055	2.8601638487926432E-5
0	6.563793444390054	1.2366670242578025E-5
0	6.663793444390055	2.130396212441838E-5
0	6.763793444390054	6.257225498340316E-6
1	6.638621409592868	2.6865976599265078E-5
1	6.739884703445732	9.167346095156307E-6
1	6.8398847034457315	1.5714092387296576E-5
1	6.939884703445731	4.595274483987466E-6
2	6.805206391737252	1.033716992838189E-5
2	6.864823440054019	2.112632478161733E-6

Rupture Index	Magnitude	Rate
2	6.96482344005402	3.6153856845827895E-6
2	7.0648234400540195	1.0536393332833122E-6
...

If a rupture is missing from this file, it either has a zero rate in all logic tree branches, or had the same magnitude on all branches. Note that branch-averaging usually only considers branch weights and not the rate of individual ruptures on those branches, so calculating a rate-averaged magnitude from this file will not match the magnitudes listed in `ruptures/properties.csv`.

Solution Logic Tree

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Unlike a regular Fault System Solution, Solution Logic Trees contain information from multiple solutions across multiple logic tree branches. Individual files that make up a solution are often only affected by some logic tree branching levels. For example, fault section data (`fault_sections.geojson`) is often affected by fault and deformation model branching levels, but not scaling relationships nor rate model branches. We store information efficiently for each branch by not duplicating those files that are constant across multiple branches.

All relevant files are stored in the ‘`solution_logic_tree`’ directory. Solution and rupture set files will be stored in branch-specific subdirectories and follow the same formats described previously. Unzipping these files are generally not recommended because their contents can be very large when inflated; instead, consider writing code using a library that can read data from within the zip file directly (or use OpenSHA). Information on the logic tree branches available and their file mapping structure are available in the following files:

File Name	Required?	Format	Description
<code>solution_logic_tree/logic_tree.json</code>	YES	JSON	Logic Tree JSON file listing all logic tree branches, weights, and details of the branch levels. Most users will probably want to read the simpler mappings file instead.

File Name	Required?	Format	Description
solution_logic_tree/ logic_tree_mappings.json	(no)	<u>JSON</u>	File name mappings and weights for each logic tree branch. This file is not used by OpenSHA, but is written to help external users quickly identify the location of each solution or rupture set file for individual logic tree branches.
solution_logic_tree/ solution_processor.json	(no)	JSON	The Solution Logic Tree file format does not support all optional modules that can be attached to a solution or rupture set. Instead, a solution processor class in OpenSHA can be used to provide additional modules as a function of logic tree branch. This file, if present, gives the class name in OpenSHA of that processor.

Logic Tree Mappings

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This file gives list all branches of the logic tree, their weights, and the file name mappings needed to reconstruct the rupture set and solution file. Here is an example with just a single branch listed:

```
[
  {
    "branch": [
      "WUS_FM_v3",
      "GEOLOGIC",
      "LogA_C4p3",
      "SupraB0.0",
      "EvenFitPaleo",
      "None"
    ],
    "weight": 1.0,
    "mappings": {
      "fault_sections.geojson": "solution_logic_tree/WUS_FM_v3/GEOLOGIC/fault_sections.geojson",
      "indices.csv": "solution_logic_tree/WUS_FM_v3/indices.csv",
      "properties.csv": "solution_logic_tree/WUS_FM_v3/GEOLOGIC/LogA_C4p3/properties.csv",
      "rates.csv": "solution_logic_tree/WUS_FM_v3/GEOLOGIC/LogA_C4p3/SupraB0.0/EvenFitPaleo/None/rates.csv"
    }
  }
]
```

```
]
  }
}
```

The branch element lists names of each choice on the given logic tree branch. The weight element gives the weight of that branch in the logic tree. The mappings element gives a mapping from rupture set/solution file names (e.g., rates.csv) to the location of that file for the given branch (e.g., solution_logic_tree/WUS_FM_v3/GEOLLOGIC/LogA_C4p3/SupraB0.0/EvenFitPaleo/None/rates.csv). Note that a single file may be used by multiple branches, as is unusually the case for fault section data and rupture indices.