



Article

Refining Rates of Active Crustal Deformation in the Upper Plate of Subduction Zones, Implied by Geological and Geodetic Data: The E-Dipping West Crati Fault, Southern Italy

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Abstract: We investigate crustal deformation within the upper plate of the Ionian Subduction Zone (ISZ) at different time scales by (i) refining geodetic rates of crustal extension from continuous Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) measurements and (ii) mapping sequence of Late Quaternary raised marine terraces tectonically deformed by the West Crati normal fault, in northern Calabria. This region experienced damaging earthquakes in 1184 (M 6.75) and 1854 (M 6.3), possibly on the E-dipping West Crati fault (WCF) which, however, is not unanimously considered to be a seismogenic source. We report geodetic measurements of extension and strain rates across the strike of the Edipping WCF and throughout the northern Calabria obtained by using velocities from 18 permanent GNSS stations with a series length longer than 4.5 years. These results suggest that crustal extension may be seismically accommodated in this region by a few normal faults. Furthermore, by applying a synchronous correlation approach, we refine the chronology of understudied tectonically deformed palaeoshorelines mapped on the footwall and along the strike of the WCF, facilitating calculation of the associated fault-controlled uplift rates. Raised Late Quaternary palaeoshorelines are preserved on the footwall of the WCF indicating that "regional" uplift, likely related to the deformation associated either with the subduction or mantle upwelling processes, is affected by local footwall uplift. We show that GIS-based elevations of Late Quaternary palaeoshorelines, as well as temporally constant uplift rates, vary along the strike of the WCF, implying normal faulting activity through time. This suggests that (i) the fault slip rate governing seismic hazard has also been constant over the Late Quaternary, over multiple earthquake cycles, and (ii) our geodetically derived fault throw rate for the WCF is likely a more than reasonable value to be used over longer time scales for an improved seismic hazard assessment. Overall, we emphasize the importance of mapping crustal deformation within the upper plate above subduction zones to avoid unreliable interpretations relating to the mechanism controlling regional uplift.

Keywords: earthquake; active fault; crustal deformation; subduction zone; GNSS; DEM mapping



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1. Introduction

Destructive earthquakes with a magnitude higher than nine, such as the 1960 Chile earthquake (M 9.5) [1–3], 1964 Alaska earthquake (M 9.2) [1,4], 2004 Sumatra earthquake (M 9.1) [5,6], and 2011 Japan earthquake (M 9.1) [7], have occurred on tectonic plate boundaries associated with subduction of oceanic crust. Processes of subduction produce uplift of the overriding plate that can be recorded by flights of marine terraces that are cut into the land by the sea [8,9]. These terraces record the history of tectonics and sea-level changes over the Quaternary [10]. Data of uplift from overriding plates above active subduction

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zones are commonly used to derive knowledge on (i) coupling and slip distributions along the subduction interface and (ii) mantle upwelling processes [11–16]. However, there is growing evidence showing that overriding plates above subduction zones are affected by crustal deformation seismically accommodated by active faults, recorded by long-term uplifted palaeoshorelines [9,17–23] and short-term decadal GNSS measurements [24–27]. These studies, at different timescales, can provide continuous spatial and temporal deformation rates along and across the strike of multiple overriding plate active faults. However, there is little or lack of knowledge on crustal deformation rates through time along and across the strike of the E-dipping West Crati Fault, structurally controlling the Plio-Pleistocene Crati sedimentary basin in northern Calabria (southern Italy) [28]. Indeed, this region lies within the geologically uplifting and seismically deforming overriding plate of the Calabrian-Peloritani Arc above the Ionian Subduction Zone (ISZ), historically hit by damaging upper-plate earthquakes such as the 1184 "Valle del Crati" (M 6.75) and the 1854 "Cosentino" (M 6.3) seismic events [29], possibly rupturing the E-dipping West Crati Fault. Yet, it is still debated if this fault may be considered an active seismogenic source over multiple seismic cycles [30,31]. Moreover, associated throw rates (vertical component of slip rates) for this fault through time, representing key parameters controlling the geography of the seismic hazard and the recurrence rate of earthquakes [32-34], are still a matter of debate. Indeed, for the West Crati normal fault, several fault throw rates have been proposed within a range of 0.4–1.4 mm/yr by some authors [28,35–37] (throughout this paper, the symbol yr indicates the non-SI unit year). Yet, there is no agreement if these rates were constant or varying through time and consequently on the associated Earthquake Recurrence Intervals (ERI, or T_{mean}). Furthermore, for the investigated region as well as the entire Calabrian-Peloritani forearc, it is understudied if (i) "regional" uplift, associated with subduction/mantle upwelling processes [9,38,39], is affected by local crustal deformation related to the E-dipping West Crati normal fault and (ii) how these two signals may be discerned. Indeed, flights of Late Quaternary uplifted marine terraces are preserved on the footwall of the West Crati Fault and likely suggest Middle to Late Pleistocene crustal deformation [40,41]. However, rates of uplift and the effect of local active faulting on the "regional" uplift are poorly constrained and still unknown for the investigated region [42].

In the last few decades, the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) has been used for geodetic investigations worldwide because of the growing availability of high-quality time series provided by dense networks [24,43–48]. A GNSS time series can generally be modelled as a linear trend affected by noise and seasonal disturbances [48]. Under the condition that the time series are sufficiently long, at least 4.5 yr as minimum series length [49], and adequate noise models are used [50], velocities from GNSS stations can be assessed and in turn used to compute the strain rate at both regional and continental/global scales [24,51]. In particular, northern Calabria was geodetically investigated using time series of permanent GNSS stations having at least 2.5 yr duration and compared the implications of the obtained strain field with the known seismicity [52]. However, previous authors did not focus on the potential role of the active faults, controlling across the strike of the Crati Valley and the northern Calabria in accommodating the ongoing crustal extension at different timescales. Moreover, for some stations, the above-mentioned minimum limit for time series length was not reached.

This paper provides new and refined horizontal and vertical deformation rates at different timescales for the E-dipping West Crati Fault and across the strike of northern Calabria. We challenge to better understand the relationship between historical seismicity, regional uplift, and processes of crustal extension. We attempt for the investigated region to (i) clarify the uplift rate related to subduction/mantle upwelling; (ii) study along-strike uplift rate variations, which, if affected by faulting activity of the West Crati Fault, will confirm Late Quaternary activity on the fault; (iii) investigate tilting rates through time for palaeoshorelines along the strike of the fault to refine gradients of fault displacement; and (iv) estimate fault throw rates from geodetic measurements. Alongside, we also use a new GNSS velocity field to calculate refined values of short-term regional extension and

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strain rates, in order to assess the internal crustal deformation of the northern Calabria. Finally, we combine our geological and geodetic results to discuss local and regional tectonic implications and seismic hazard assessment within the overriding plate above the ISZ, in terms of regional extensional processes seismically accommodated by a few active normal faults.

2. Material and Methods

2.1. The E-Dipping West Crati Fault

2.1.1. Geological Background

The geological setting of the fault-controlled Crati Valley is associated with Palaeozoic crystalline basement outcropping on both on the footwalls of the West and East Crati normal faults, representing structural highs as previously shown by some [36]. Since ~5 Ma, post-orogenic deposits such as marine clastic successions are unconformably overlying in places Palaeozoic units [36]. The N–S oriented Crati Valley, structurally representing a graben and bounded by two horsts identified by the footwalls of the West and East Crati normal faults, shows in the lower part of the basin clastic deposits such as conglomerates, sands, and clays of Upper-Miocene–Lower-Pliocene age [36,53]. These deposits are overlaid by fanglomerates, sands, and marine clays of the Early Pleistocene in age [28,36,53]. This succession, within the basin, is topped by Middle Pleistocene–Holocene alluvial deposits. [36].

More in general, the fault-controlled Crati Valley lies within the Calabrian-Peloritani Arc, representing the overriding plate of the ISZ, linking the NW-SE-oriented southern Apennines thrust belt and the E-W oriented Maghrebide thrust belt of northern Sicily [28] (Figure 1). The Calabrian–Peloritani Arc represents one of the most tectonically active regions in the Mediterranean, formed as a response to the ongoing southeastwardly subduction of the Ionian plate beneath Calabria, probably associated with the opening of Tyrrhenian Extensional Basin and the Neogene-Quaternary Africa-Eurasia continental collision [54-58]. Since the Pliocene, processes of crustal extension accommodated by normal faults have fragmented the structural features formed by Neogene shortening producing a geomorphological landscape characterized by structural highs and sedimentary basins [9,59-64]. Short-term active extension and uplift are confirmed by GNSS investigations and historical seismicity for the Calabrian–Peloritani Arc [47,52,65–67]. Indeed, different rates of extension and strain rate have been proposed from GNSS measurements with values of 3 mm/yr and 65 nstrain/yr across the Messina Strait separating southern Calabria and Sicily [24], where nstrain is the non-SI unit nanostrain, i.e., 10^{-9} (actually a pure number, not a true unit), and a range of values between 2 mm/yr and 1.4 mm/yr in northern Calabria and 26 nstrain/yr and 18 nstrain/yr [46,52]. Moreover, historical damaging upper-plate earthquakes have been described within the investigated region of the Crati Valley [29]. For example, seismic events have been located within and close to the faultbounded basin such as the 1184 "Valle del Crati" earthquake (M 6.75), the 1854 "Cosentino" earthquake (M 6.3), and the 1870 "Cosentino" earthquake (M 6.2) (Figure 1).

It is still unclear whether these seismic events have ruptured (or not) the West Crati Fault or other active faults across the strike. Empirical scaling correlations between fault size and expected earthquake magnitude may yet be used to suggest that the ~40 km mapped fault length of the E-dipping West Crati Fault could be capable of producing seismic events as large as Mw 6.7–7 [68,69]. However, this potential seismogenic source is still considered a "Debated Seismogenic Source" within the Database of Individual Seismogenic Sources (DISS) [30,31], even if it shows very similar fault geometry and size to other mapped "Individual Seismogenic Source", deforming recent sedimentary deposits [9,63]. Indeed, we bear in mind the concept that any evidence of fault movement since the Middle/Late Pleistocene has been accepted by some as the definition of an "active fault" [70,71]. We report that the West Crati Fault could be capable of producing earthquake ruptures affecting the topographic surface because previous authors show kinematic measurements taken from striated fault scarp with dip-slip normal movement, indicating slip at the surface [36].

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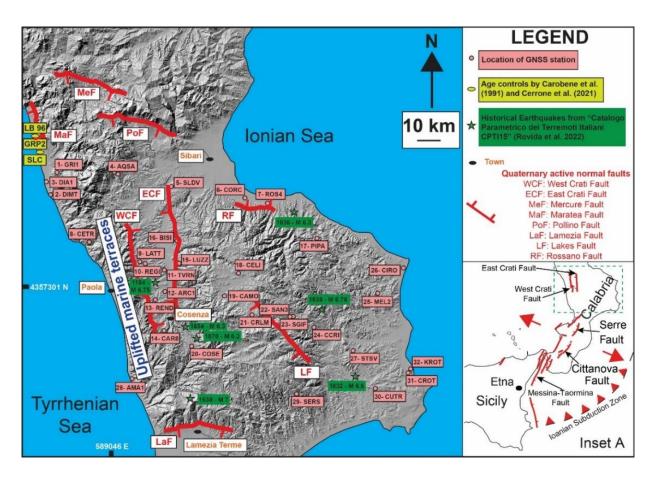


Figure 1. Map of the investigated area. Sketched fault map of the northern Calabria is shown, across the strike of the E-dipping West Crati Fault and where uplifted marine terraces are mapped. Locations of age controls are shown from literature (Table 1). Green-coloured stars show that historical earthquakes occurred within the investigated area. Pink-coloured dots show the network of continuous GNSS stations. Inset A shows Quaternary active normal faults within the Calabrian–Peloritani Arc and the trace of the Ionian Subduction Zone (ISZ) [29].

2.1.2. Raised Middle–Late Quaternary Palaeoshorelines and Existing Age Controls in Northern Calabria, in the Tyrrhenian Side

Regional uplift is affecting the Calabrian-Peloritani Arc above the ISZ, likely due either to the collision/subduction processes or mantle upwelling beneath the crust of Calabria or a combination of these processes [38,39,72]. The main geological signature of interaction between regional uplift and active faulting within the Calabrian-Peloritani Arc is the presence of dramatic flight of marine terraces, formed since the Middle Pleistocene [9,63,73–81]. We here focus on evidence that tectonically deformed sequences of palaeoshorelines have been recording the effects of Middle-Late Pleistocene normal faulting activity within the Calabrian–Peloritani Arc [9,63,80,82,83]. Moreover, as previous authors proposed in the past, we recognize on DEM, using 10 m high resolution DEMs [84], seaward-sloping marine surfaces as terraced surfaces cut by wave action, updip bounded by palaeo sea cliff, with their shoreline angle (or inner edge) identifying the palaeo mean sea level at the formation of the terrace [85–88]. In particular, within the footwall of the West Crati Fault, these palaeoshorelines can be traced parallel to the present-day coastline between the towns of Coreca and Cetraro (Figures 2 and 3). These marine terraces are carved either into calcarenites and clays deposits of Upper Miocene age or in places into the Palaeozoic crystalline basement [41].

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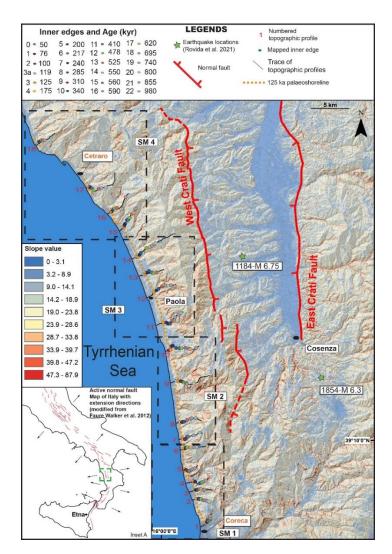


Figure 2. A map with locations of serial topographic profiles along the strike of the West Crati Fault is shown. Coloured dots identify inner edges and associated refined ages along a serial of topographic profiles intercepting raised marine terraces. Dashed squares show where a "zoom–in" has been carried out as Supplementary Material (SM) to better show traces of topographic profiles and locations of inner edges with refined ages on a 10 m high–resolution digital elevation model. Dashed orange trace shows the mapped palaeoshoreline identifying the Last Interglacial Maximum (LIG), MIS 5e [29].

Age controls associated with this sequence of marine terraces are limited, and in this section, we review existing constraints as shown in Table 1. Furthermore, these ages are slightly located north compared to the investigated region where local tectonic effect from active faults is less prominent, in Scalea and Grotta del Prete towns (Figure 1). Indeed, these age controls lie between the southern fault tip and the hanging wall of the "Maratea Fault" [89], likely suggesting a quasi-negligible "hangingwall subsidence" local effect. For instance, in Grotta del Prete town, an age of 329 (+196 and -64) ka for the associated marine terrace at 14–22 m.a.s.l has been firstly proposed, implied by U/Th dating on corals (LB 96 sample—Table 1 from Carobene et al., 1991) [90]. However, we discard this age because new investigations have demonstrated that those corals showed re-crystallization, suggesting a younger age of 83.8 \pm 3.6 ka (GRP2 sample from [56]) for the same marine terrace [91]. Furthermore, close to Scalea town, a marine terrace mapped at 16 m is assigned to the Marine Isotope Stage 5c (100 ka) implied by U/Th dating measurements on corals (SLC sample—Table 2 from [56]). The latter samples of U/Th absolute dating (GRP2 and SLC) permit suggestion of an averaged uplift rate of ~0.45 mm/yr over the Late

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Pleistocene [91] for a region just a few kilometres away, north of our investigated area (Figure 1). Furthermore, these latter samples show robust activity ratios for U/Th dating on corals (δ 234 Ui) with values of 190 (GRP2) and 335 (SLC), in agreement with present-day oceanic δ 234 Ui value of ~145 [19,73].

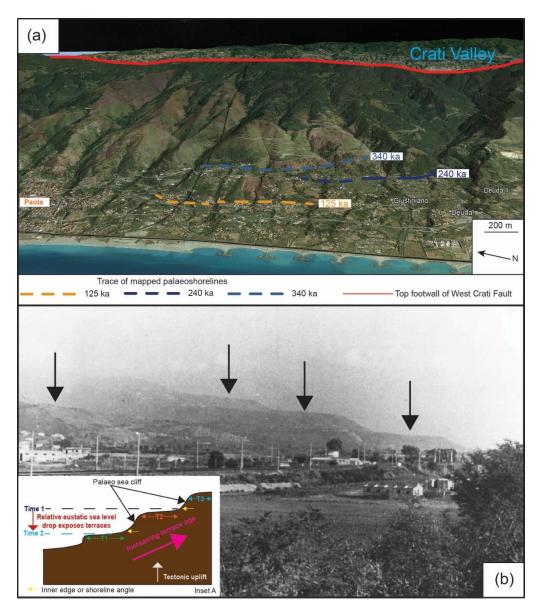


Figure 3. Evidence of raised marine terraces and their associated palaeoshorelines: in (a) three prominent sea-level highstands such as the 125 ka (MIS 5e), the 240 ka (MIS 7e), and the 340 ka (MIS 9e), which are mapped from Google Earth just south of Paola town, close to our Profile 11; in (b) a modified photo taken from Westaway (1993), showing a sequence of marine terraces from field close to Profile 1, close to Coreca town. Inset A shows a sketch of conceptual evolution when marine terraces form.

This lack of absolute age constraints for outcropping yet mapped marine terraces within the footwall of the West Crati normal fault is a common problem for regions affected by relatively low uplift rates [9,19,63,88]. For this reason, it is important to use the knowledge of dated palaeoshorelines to estimate ages of other undated palaeoshorelines. In the past, several authors have tried to estimate uplift rates by applying a "sequential correlation" approach [85,92–96]. This approach is based on the concept that, given a dated palaeoshoreline, the next higher and older palaeoshoreline should belong to the next

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older glacio-eustatic sea-level highstand; this is shown in previous investigations using raised marine terraces with relatively low uplift rates [95–97]. Yet, this approach is prone to erroneous uplift rate derivations because it does not take into account the well-known "re-occupation or overprinting problem" [38] where older marine terraces are re-occupied by subsequent younger and higher palaeo-sea-level highstands, identifying a new marine terrace [9,19,20,63,73,88]. If this is not taken into account, it may lead to incorrect age assignments for undated marine terraces, with likely erroneous uplift rate derivations through time [9]. However, previous investigations have shown a different approach, named "synchronous correlation" approach, whereby given an uplift rate driven by age controls, it allows calculations of all expected/predicted elevations of glacio-eustatic sea-level highstands identified by marine terraces [19,98]. These predicted elevations are correlated with all GIS-based mapped and measured palaeoshoreline elevations synchronously rather than sequentially; this permits overcoming of the "overprinting problem", allowing more robust scenarios for uplift history to be provided, as widely shown by some within the Mediterranean realm [9,19,20,63,73].

Table 1. Age controls associated with the studied sequence of marine terraces taken from the literature.

Ref.	Dating Method	Dated Sample Description	Profile Number	Reported Age (ka)	Assigned Highstand (ka)	Palaeoshoreline Elevations (m a.s.l)
Carobene et al., 1991, [93]	U/Th dating on corals	"Cladocora coespitosa bearing biocalcarenite is present along almost the entire studied portion of the coast. The deposit appears as a relic of the original one after the action of the marine erosion. [] The age was confirmed by field observations and age determinations carried out in Calabria." "The inferred elevation of the platform	North Profile 18	329 (+196 and -64)	340 (MIS 9e)	14–15
Cerrone et al., 2021, [56]	U/Th dating on corals	inner edge is +22 m with a ± 1 m uncertainty because of a colluvial cover. The abrasion platform is mantled by an up to 20 cm thick conglomerate composed of pebble- to boulder-size clasts. The matrix is locally abundant and consists of coarse- to very coarse-grained sandstone. An overlying bioconstruction consists of encrusting algae, bryozoans, gastropod and bivalve shells, and colonial C. caespitosa corals (samples GRP1 and GRP2; Figure 7b). The bioconstructed body is blanketed by coarse-grained sandstones to granule-grade deposits showing horizontally to low-angle lamination; at the top beds are bundled into weakly discordant sets	North Profile 18	83 ± 3.6	100 (MIS 5c)	22
Cerrone et al., 2021, [56]	U/Th dating on corals	(Figure 7c)." "A C. caespitosa colony and a flowstone coating a coral bioconstruction have been sampled for U-series dating (samples SLC and SLC05, respectively] []. At Scalea, the T2 abrasion platform is located at elevations of >12 m (outer edge). For the T2 inner edge, which is hidden by the slope deposits, we inferred an elevation in the range of 16 ± 1 mby integrating GPS measurements with topographic data."	North Profile 18	98 ± 4.0	100 (MIS c)	16

Table 2. Values of sea-level highstands derived from Siddall et al. (2003) and Rohling et al. (2014) used to calculate predicted palaeoshoreline elevations iterating values of uplift rate.

Age (ka)	Elevation of Highstands (mm)	Age (ka)	Elevation of Highstands (mm)	Age (ka)	Elevation of Highstands (mm)
0	0	200	-5000	550	10000
30	-80000	217	-30000	560	3000
50	-60000	240	-5000	590	20000
76.5/80	-30000	285	-30000	620	20000
100	-25000	310	-22000	695	10000
115	-21000	340	5000	740	5000
119	-5000	410	-5000	800	20000
125	5000	478	0	855	20000
175	-30000	525	20000	980	25000

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2.2. Methods

In this section, we present how we investigate (i) refining changes in space and time of uplift and the associated rates along and across the strike of the West Crati Fault and (ii) deriving strain and extension rates from GNSS measurements for investigated region in northern Calabria. This was aimed at better understanding if the regional uplift is affected by local active faulting and if different timescale deformation rates may lead to a refined seismic hazard assessment for the West Crati normal fault and across the strike of the northern Calabria. Below, we describe methodologies used in this study.

2.2.1. Elevation Data from DEM-Based Topographic Analysis of Mapped Marine Terraces

We have carried out detailed GIS-based topographic and geomorphological analysis by using 10 m high resolution digital elevation model (DEM) provided by INGV TINITALY [84]. This approach has been widely proposed where raised marine terraces are used for tectonic and crustal deformation investigations in the Mediterranean realm [9,20,63,73,87]. In particular, we have produced several topographic profiles perpendicular both to the actual coastline and the strike of the fault over the ~40 km extent of the fault (Figures 2 and S1-S4), where each profile intercepts a sequence of marine terraces outcropping on the fault footwall. We have mapped inner edges (or shoreline angles) identifying palaeoshorelines (Figure 3 and Inset A), representing glacio-eustatic palaeo-sea level associated with a highstand. These are confirmed in many locations by the existence of prominent breaks of slope identifying palaeoshoreline inner edges on the DEM, where scarp-like palaeo-sea cliffs bound a seaward sloping flat marine updip. Palaeoshoreline indicators and the topography are used to depict the location of each topographic profile; for instance, areas affected by fluvial incision caused by the coupled action of rivers and uplift are avoided to ascertain that we investigated geomorphological features associated with marine and not fluvial geomorphological features [63]. Indeed, our topographic profiles are produced along uplifting interfluvial areas where marine terraces are better preserved and mapped.

2.2.2. Synchronous Correlation Approach to Model Multiple Glacio-Eustatic Sea-Level Highstands and Multiple Raised Marine Terraces

This method has been widely described by previous studies where uplifted marine terraces are used for tectonic and seismic hazard investigations in the Mediterranean realm and elsewhere, outlined in [9,19,20,63,73,86,88,98]. This approach is based on the concept that glacio-eustatic sea-level highstands, which combined with tectonic uplift are thought to produce marine terraces [10], are unevenly spaced in time, indicating that for a constant uplift rate over time, uplifted marine terraces will be preserved in the landscape unevenly spaced in elevation [19,98]. It is important to highlight that this approach also works if uplift rates change through time as demonstrated by previous studies in Greece and southern Italy [19,99]. Furthermore, re-occupation of marine terraces within regions showing relatively low uplift rates may occur for both constant and fluctuating uplift rate scenarios. Indeed, this occurs where palaeo-sea level at a highstand lies beneath the level of present-day sea level because of reduced volume of global ocean at that particular time, combined with a low uplift rate [73]. These coupled processes imply that younger sealevel highstands with larger volume of global ocean and higher palaeo-sea-level elevation overcome and re-occupy older palaeoshorelines during sea-level rise [38,73]. We report that the synchronous correlation technique overcomes this problem due to the fact that all palaeoshoreline elevations are calculated on topographic profiles, yet sequential correlation tends to mislead for uplift rate calculations in this scenario if the "re-occupation" problem is not taken into account [19,73]. Furthermore, age constraints drive the uplift rate iteration, and it is desirable to have at least one dated palaeoshoreline across the investigated area. This allows us to test the first and simplest assumption of having a constant uplift rate through time and evaluate if the iteratively calculated glacio-eustatic sea-level highstand elevations match the measured and mapped palaeoshoreline elevations [73]. If a robust

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correlation is not found for the simplest scenario, a changing uplift rate through time is investigated, with iteration of uplift rates driven by age constraints aimed to find the best match with DEM-mapped and measured palaeoshoreline elevations [73]. For the calculation of glacio-eustatic sea-level elevations, well-known sea-level curves for our palaeoshoreline modelling are used (Table 2) [100,101], with negligible differences in terms of uplift rate derivation if different sea-level curves are used [20].

Our topographic analysis of marine terraces is carried out by constructing topographic profiles intercepting the palaeoshorelines from DEM data (Figure 2). In order to perform the synchronous correlation, iteration of uplift rates is enabled by the so-called "Terrace Calculator" built in Excel already available in the literature where data from sea level highstands derived by well-known sea level curves are input [9,63,73]. As previously shown, this "Terrace Calculator" allows using uplift rate (UR) as input data, which is iterated to compute the predicted elevations (PE) of all sea-level highstands using the age of the highstands (T) and the sea-level elevations of each highstand (SLE) using the formula $PE = (UR \times T) + SLE$ [9,20,63,73]. In more detail, rates of uplift are iterated for the entire topographic profile, constrained where available by dated palaeoshorelines, in order to find the best match between multiple measured palaeoshoreline elevations and multiple predicted sea-level highstand elevations (within a range of ± 10 m). This allows for assigning predicted ages of glacio-eustatic sea-level highstands to undated palaeoshorelines. We then perform linear regression analysis, forcing the R^2 value to maximize, to quantify if a correlation exists between the "measured" (or mapped) elevations of all palaeoshorelines from DEM data and the "predicted" (or expected) elevations identifying sea-level highstand elevations implied by iteration of uplift rates driven by age controls and by means of wellaccepted sea-level curves for the last ~1 Ma (Table 2) [100,101]. Finally, we replicate this iteration for each topographic profile, constructed across the strike of the marine terraces and along the entire strike of the fault in order to determine the extent of the deformation caused by the fault.

2.2.3. GNSS Data Analysis and Strain Rate Computation

We have studied the crustal deformation for the investigated area by using GNSS measurements. In northern Calabria, there are 32 regionally well-distributed permanent GNSS stations. However, only 19 of them can be considered for our study because they must show a time series of at least 4.5 yr, which is the minimum time-series length compatible with reliable results, as suggested by [49]. Moreover, one station, KROT, is placed on an unstable slope; thus, it cannot be used to estimate strain rates and crustal extension, as already outlined by previous studies [47,52]. For these reasons, we have used 18 GNSS stations for our study, whose main details are summarized in Table 3, and, including the WGS84 coordinates (EPSG 4326), in Table S1 (Supplementary Material). We also report that for the investigated region in northern Calabria, there is no reliable time series from non-permanent GNSS stations to our knowledge.

The time series used for this study were the 24 h final solutions available at Nevada Geodetic Laboratory (NGL) database [102]. These time series have been processed by NGL by means of JPL GipsyX v1.0 software on the basis of several parameters such as nominal troposphere, troposphere delay models from VMF data server, elevation-weighted observations, higher order ionospheric calibrations, improved JPL Repro 3 orbits, and the global reference frame IGS14. Since northern Calabria is close to the southern margin of the Eurasian plate, two plate-fixed reference frames were considered: (i) Eurasian Plate (EU) and African Plate (AF). In both cases, the plate rigid motion has been removed using the Euler poles defined previously by [103], allowing the recognition of plate rotation effects.

We have processed the EU and AF time series for each considered station after having obtained daily positions from NGL, in order to obtain horizontal velocity components in east and north directions and the associated standard deviations (SDs). In particular, for each station and each direction, we have estimated parameters such as (i) the seasonal and half-seasonal components and (ii) models for chosen noises such as white noise and power

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law noise by means of the maximum likelihood estimation (MLE) method implemented in HECTOR software package [50]. It is important to note that before estimating the above-mentioned parameters, we carried out offset recognition and outlier removal. Specifically, we defined measurements outside three times the interquartile range (IQR) as outliers and therefore removed them.

Table 3. Some data about GNSS stations in the studied area. More data are shown in Table S1 which can be downloaded as Supplementary Material.

GNSS Station		Time Series		UTM33N Coordinates (m)			Velocity (EU Plate) (mm/yr)						
#	Name	Nearby town	L ^a (y)	U ^b	East	North	Up	V_E	σ_E	V_N	σ_N	V_Z	σ_Z
1	GRI1	Grisolia	6.4	Y	573088	4399248	553	0.72	0.11	3.80	0.14	0.2	0.4
2	DIMT	Diamante	2.5	N c	570497	4392120	79	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	DIA1	Diamante	1.8	N c	569428	4396439	88	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	AQSA	Acquaformosa	9.6	Y	592906	4397353	882	0.62	0.05	4.43	0.08	0.09	0.20
5	SLDV	San Lorenzo V.	6.4	Y	609955	4392139	309	1.31	0.07	3.96	0.12	0.9	0.4
6	CORC	Corigliano C.	3.0	N c	633640	4386851	85	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	ROS4	Rossano	4.7	Y	640893	4384649	96	1.69	0.23	4.92	0.16	-0.3	0.5
8	CETR	Cetraro	9.7	Y	582077	4375918	674	0.74	0.08	3.72	0.06	-0.38	0.19
9	LATT	Lattarico	1.2	N c	597897	4368776	445	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	REGI	Regina	4.1	N c	599804	4367691	388	-	-	-	-		
11	TVRN	Taverna	4.6	Y	605516	4365324	197	1.37	0.16	4.14	0.12	-2.3	0.4
12	ARC1	Quattromiglia	9.6	Y	605613	4358221	280	1.11	0.10	4.23	0.11	-1.6	0.4
13	REND	Rende	4.4	N c	602285	4355735	364	_	_	-	_	_	_
14	CAR8	Carolei	12.5	Y	604490	4345552	679	1.25	0.03	4.06	0.07	-0.02	0.13
15	LUZZ	Luzzi	11.3	Ÿ	610828	4367063	437	1.32	0.10	4.11	0.11	0.1	0.3
16	BISI	Bisignano	3.1	N c	610636	4374498	429	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	PIPA	Pietrapaola	14.6	Y	656177	4372174	479	2.00	0.06	4.11	0.07	0.67	0.13
18	CELI	Celico	10.1	Ÿ	629925	4362586	1277	1.74	0.06	3.97	0.06	0.09	0.18
19	CAMO	Camigliatello	8.0	Ÿ	624871	4355509	1313	1.59	0.08	3.92	0.09	-0.8	0.4
20	COSE	Cosenza	3.9	Ν°	613116	4339900	663	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	CRLM	San Giovanni F.	5.3	Ϋ́	633435	4348768	1610	1.12	0.16	3.90	0.17	0.5	0.4
22	SAN3	San Giovanni F.	1.0	Ν̈́c	645715	4347322	1178	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	SGIF	San Giovanni F.	3.0	Ν°	646751	4347342	1087	_	_	_	_	_	-
24	CCRI	Caccuri	5.3	Ŷ	653302	4343359	710	2.29	0.16	4.03	0.16	0.2	0.4
25	MEL2	Melissa	3.5	Ν̈́c	674763	4353026	157		-	-	-	-	-
26	CIRO	Ciro Marina	2.9	Ν°	683641	4360671	52	_	_	_	_	_	_
27	STSV	Santa Severina	5.3	Ŷ	665484	4334947	377	2.75	0.13	3.76	0.16	0.5	0.5
28	AMA1	Amantea	4.7	Ŷ	593103	4330645	59	0.95	0.09	4.27	0.14	-0.1	0.5
29	SERS	Sersale	16.2	Ŷ	646184	4322129	1215	1.95	0.05	3.70	0.05	0.55	0.11
30	CUTR	Cutro	8.8	Ϋ́	671901	4322204	269	2.66	0.10	1.84	0.16	1.4	1.0
31	CROT	Crotone	0.7	Νc	682886	4326561	78	50	-	-	-	-	-
32	KROT	Crotone	9.0	N d	683809	4327804	62	6.57	0.09	3.90	0.12	-2.0	0.2
32	KKOI	CIOIOTIE	9.0	11	003009	4527004	02	0.57	0.09	5.90	0.12	-2.0	0.2

^a Time-series length. ^b Used time series (Yes, No). ^c Time series not used because it is too short (lower than 4.5 yr).

Once the velocities of the GNSS stations and the corresponding standard deviations were obtained, we then computed the horizontal strain rate field on a regular grid by means of the modified least square (MLS) approach implemented in grid_strain MATLAB toolbox [104]. The contribution of a GNSS station to the strain-rate estimation in a grid point is weighted by $\exp(-d/d_0)/\sigma_v^2$, where σ_v is the standard deviation (SD) of the station velocity, d is the station-node distance, and d_0 is a scale factor introduced to define the level of locality of the estimation. This allows for carrying out different analyses focusing, for instance, on the area across either one or more of the faults or on the entire region. We provide, for each scale factor and for each node of the chosen grid: (i) the strain rate, i.e., maximum and minimum principal strain rates $\dot{\epsilon}_{max}$ and $\dot{\epsilon}_{min}$; (ii) the rate of change in area (or dilatation), i.e., the trace of the strain-rate tensor (first invariant of the strain rate tensor) $\dot{\Delta} = \dot{\epsilon}_{max} + \dot{\epsilon}_{min}$; (iii) the field of the engineering shear rate $\dot{\gamma} = \dot{\epsilon}_{max} - \dot{\epsilon}_{min}$ normalized to Δ , i.e., γ/Δ . Both the rates Δ and γ allow the recognition of the zones of the studied area characterized by different behaviour. However, the rate of change in area Δ neglects nature and geometry of the strain tensor and therefore allows an evaluation of the deformation pattern inside an area having a specific behaviour (extensional or compressional). Instead, the normalized engineering shear rate, γ , also provides information on the sign of both the principal strains and therefore is particularly suitable to the recognition of the boundaries between areas characterized by different kinematics. Our analysis also provides the uncertainties of the computed parameters and a map of the geometric significance of the results. In particular, the results obtained in a grid node are considered to have high

^d Time series not used because it is placed on an unstable slope.

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geometric significance if the GNSS stations within the scale factor are distributed on all four 90° quadrants around this node, whereas they are considered to have mid geometric significance if no more than three quadrants are filled. In all the other cases, the results are considered to have low significance. Since the strain rate does not depend on the choice of a specific reference frame, it was computed with the EU velocities only.

2.2.4. Vertical Co-Seismic Deformation Calculation to Estimate Earthquake Scenarios for the West Crati Fault

In order to (i) investigate possible earthquake scenarios associated with the co-seismic rupture of the entire length (~40 km) of the West Crati Fault and (ii) test if a correlation may exist between co-seismic and long-term crustal deformation, we carried out elastic half-space modelling using Coulomb 3.4 software [105]. We used a modified trace of the fault from [37], according to the geomorphology mapped using Google Earth and high resolution DEMs. The mapped fault trace was used as input information into the modelling using a new MATLAB code [106] into Coulomb 3.4 software proposed in the past for other investigations where curvilinear faults are used to derive co-seismic vertical deformations and Coulomb stresschange calculations, producing corrugated 3D fault surface [73,87,106,107]. Indeed, this code allows for calculations of vertical and horizontal displacements arising from seismic events rupturing active faults with variable-strike geometry [107]. It is important to note that it is well-recognized that geometry of active faults affects Coulomb stress transfer [106,108,109], consequently influencing strain and displacements nearby the causative fault. We then used an averaged value of fault dip angle of 45° for the West Crati Fault, based on several field data provided in the literature [28,36,37,110]. We also used a concentrical slip distribution according to well-known scaling relationships between earthquake magnitude, slip at depth, and fault length [68], as already proposed by some in southern Italy [73,107], to obtain a modelled earthquake magnitude of ~Mw 6.7-6.8, which are values that match magnitudes of the historical earthquakes, within a margin of error, shown in Figure 2. Finally, we correlate co-seismic and long-term crustal deformation along the N-S-oriented West Crati normal fault.

3. Results

In the following, we firstly show that our synchronous correlation technique advocated in the previous section allows us to replicate measured palaeoshoreline elevations by finding the best match with predicted sea-level highstand elevations. We attempt to correlate elevations of palaeoshorelines mapped on the uplifting footwall and along the strike of the West Crati Fault. We therefore use the derived temporal and spatial constraints related to the geometries of palaeoshorelines to derive long-term rates of uplift over the Late Quaternary and how these are associated with displacements on the West Crati normal fault. We finally show refined short-term rates of extension and strain from new GNSS measurements and how these rates relate to the long-term fault-controlled crustal deformation implied by investigating raised marine terraces.

3.1. Synchronous Correlation Modelling to Refine Ages for Undated Marine Terraces

We present our synchronous correlation between DEMs-based palaeoshoreline elevations and those predicted by iterating rates of uplift (Figures 4 and S5–S10). It is important to note that this iteration is driven by age constraints (Table 1) identified north of the northern fault tip of the West Crati Fault (Figure 1); they lie between the hanging wall yet very close to the southern fault tip of the Maratea Fault and over its southern tip, suggesting minimum to negligible deformation from local upper-plate faulting. Indeed, we have iterated rates of uplift to find the best match between mapped and predicted elevations of marine terraces following a few criteria already proposed by previous studies [9,63], such as (i) prominent mapped marine terraces were iteratively assigned to the most common sea-level highstands mapped worldwide (125 ka–MIS 5e, 240 ka–MIS 7e, and 340 ka–MIS 9e, Figure 3) [9,63,73,111] and (ii) maximizing the coefficient of determination,

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R² value, showing how well other less clearly mapped marine terraces fit the predicted sea-level elevations. For the first time, refined ages are proposed (Table 4) for mapped yet undated raised marine terraces outcropping on the footwall of the West Crati Fault by applying a synchronous correlation approach, which takes into account the "re-occupation" problem for relatively low uplifting regions such the Calabrian–Peloritani Arc [9,63]. This permits us to investigate marine terrace elevations and associated uplift rates along the strike of the West Crati Fault. Note that we have used 10 m high-resolution DEMs as proposed previously for other studies within the Calabrian–Peloritani Arc [9,63,112] where excellent correlations have been shown between marine terraces mapped on DEMs and in the field, suggesting a reliable robustness of our GIS-based marine terraces mapping for this study.

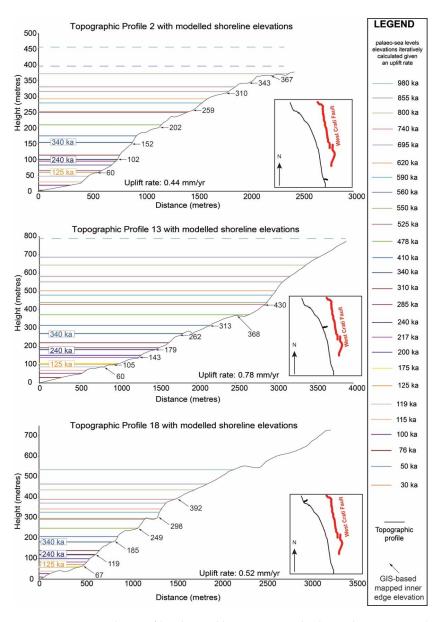


Figure 4. Topographic profiles derived by using 10 m high-resolution DEMs (Tarquini et al., 2012) from fault tips area and the centre of the fault showing modelled palaeoshoreline elevations. Sea-level highstands, identifying and predicting palaeoshoreline elevations, are represented by coloured lines that are calculated by iterating values of uplift rate to find the best match with the mapped (numbered arrows) palaeoshorelines. All topographic profiles are shown in Figures 2 and S5–S10. Inner edge elevations with refined ages are also shown in Table 4.

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Table 4. Mapped inner edges from DEM analysis with refined ages for marine terraces assigned via synchronous correlation.

Profile Number (Sea-Level Highstand Referred to Figure 2, Figure S1–10)	(Sea-Level Coordinate stand Referred to (Easting)		DEMs Elevations (m)	Predicted Elevations (m)	Our Proposed Age (ka)		
1 (3)	594,577	4,326,672	52	55	125		
1 (7)	594,735	4,326,814	95	91	240		
1 (11)	594,882	4,326,948	158	159	410		
1 (12) 1 (13)	595,085 595,143	4,327,075 4,327,196	197 225	191 230	478 525		
1 (13)	595,182	4,327,196	253 253	256	590		
1 (19)	595,236	4,327,598	300	301	740		
2 (3)	593,615	4,329,939	60	60	125		
2 (7)	593,817	4,329,954	102	101	240		
2 (10) 2 (12)	593,945 594,190	4,329,965 4,329,907	152 202	155 210	340 478		
2 (12)	594,447	4,329,735	259	251	525		
2 (18)	594,771	4,329,687	310	316	695		
2 (19)	594,981	4,329,601	343	331	740		
2 (20)	595,181 502,517	4,329,519	367	372	800		
3 (3) 3 (5)	593,516 593,572	4,331,156 4,331,165	67 76	61 85	125 200		
3 (7)	593,639	4,331,176	103	103	240		
3 (10)	593,727	4,331,215	154	158	340		
3 (13)	593,982	4,331,238	255	256	525		
3 (16)	594,071	4,331,229	288	286	590		
3 (17) 3 (20)	594,265 594,603	4,331,201 4.331,131	305 383	299 380	620 800		
3 (20)	594,700	4,331,137	399	405	855		
4(3)	593,293	4,332,364	63	65	125		
4 (7)	593,539	4,332,240	109	110	240		
4 (10)	594,151	4,332,030	165	168	340		
4 (11) 4 (12)	594,300 594,445	4,332,070 4,332,127	200 227	192 229	410 478		
4 (12)	594,686	4,332,127	296	303	590		
4 (19)	594,929	4,332,296	360	360	740		
5 (3)	592,302	4,333,971	71	71	125		
5 (7)	592,363	4,333,940	118	122	240		
5 (9) 5 (10)	592,439 592,708	4,333,898 4,333,730	139 182	142 185	310 340		
5 (12)	592,863	4,333,758	251	253	478		
5 (13)	592,989	4,333,783	297	298	525		
5 (16)	593,250	4,333,869	325	333	590		
5 (17)	593,449	4,333,953	352	349	620		
5 (18) 6 (3)	593,572 592,317	4,334,011 4,336,706	374 74	378 75	695 125		
6 (7)	592,452	4,336,784	130	129	240		
6 (9)	592,489	4,336,817	152	152	310		
6 (10)	592,584	4,336,878	199	195	340		
6 (12)	592,792 503,107	4,336,883	276	268	478		
6 (17) 6 (21)	593,197 593,662	4,336,855 4,336,811	373 496	367 499	620 855		
6 (22)	594,081	4,336,843	570	574	980		
7 (3)	592,273	4,338,099	80	85	125		
7 (7)	592,533	4,337,959	151	149	240		
7 (9) 7 (10)	592,617 592,829	4,337,983 4,338,233	173 222	176	310 340		
7 (10)	592,829 592,961	4,338,295	250	223 257	410		
7 (11)	593,762	4,338,410	452	455	695		
7 (22)	594,576	4,338,738	676	652	980		
8 (3a)	592,094	4,340,246	70	71	119		
8 (7) 8 (9)	592,286 592,419	4,340,264	142 172	149 176	240 310		
8 (10)	592,630	592,419 4,340,312	222	223	340		
8 (13)	593,024	4,340,539	350	356	525		
8 (19)	593,451	4,340,643	500	479	740		
8 (21)	593,668	4,340,708	560	567	855		
8 (22)	594,133 501,047	4,340,657	659 60	652 76	980 110		
9 (3a) 9 (3)	591,947 592,186	4,345,746 4,345,688	69 89	76 90	119 125		
9 (7)	592,521	4,345,721	152	158	240		
9 (9)	592,673	4,345,653	198	189	310		
9 (11)	592,859	4,345,548	273	274	410		
9 (12)	592,988 593,223	4,345,472	326 392	325 384	478 550		
9 (14) 9 (17)	593,223 593,271	4,345,444 4,345,348	392 441	384 442	620		
9 (18)	593,673	4,345,181	488	483	695		
9 (20)	594,214	4,345,271	554	564	800		

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Table 4. Cont.

Profile Number (Sea-Level Highstand Referred to Figure 2, Figure S1-10)	UTM 33N Coordinate (Easting)	UTM 33N Coordinate (Northing)	DEMs Elevations (m)	Predicted Elevations (m)	Our Proposed Age (ka)		
10 (2)	591,186	4,349,900	54	55	100		
10 (3)	591,463	4,349,932	107	105	125		
10 (5)	591,496	4,350,360	155	155	200		
10 (7)	591,802	4,350,462	193	187	240		
10 (10)	592,191 502,420	4,350,125	275	277	340		
10 (11) 10 (12)	592,420 592928	4,350,009 4,350,068	327 380	323 382	410 478		
10 (12)	592,448	4,350,068	438	440	525		
10 (16)	593,914	4,349,906	495	492	590		
10 (17)	594,075	4,349,832	530	516	620		
10 (21)	594,834	4,349,974	715	704	855		
11 (3)	590,748	4,353,620	105	108	125		
11 (5)	591,116	4,353,604	164	159	200		
11 (7)	591,307 501,562	4,353,447	193	192	240		
11 (10) 11 (13)	591,562 591,888	4,353,463 4,353,856	282 445	282 451	340 525		
11 (13)	592,297	4,354,227	575	580	695		
11 (21)	592,801	4,354,534	724	721	855		
11 (22)	593,148	4,354,702	829	829	980		
12 (3)	589,780	4,357,753	111	114	125		
12 (7)	590,100	4,357,968	204	204	240		
12 (10)	590,263	4,358,080	304	301	340		
12 (12)	590,853 500,054	4,358,420	425	416	478		
12 (13) 12 (17)	590,954 591,183	4,358,466 4,358,598	455 554	477 559	525 620		
12 (17)	591,352	4,358,517	620	615	695		
12 (10)	591,717	4,358,500	718	716	800		
12 (22)	592,090	4,358,504	791	764	980		
13 (3a)	588,572	4,360,157	82	88	119		
13 (3)	588,760	4,360,207	105	103	125		
13 (5)	588,993	4,360,370	143	151	200		
13 (7)	589,152	4,360,359	179	182	240		
13 (10) 13 (11)	589,293 589,581	4,360,576 4,360,361	262 313	270 315	340 410		
13 (11)	589,878	4,360,252	368	373	478		
13 (13)	590,251	4,360,329	430	430	525		
14 (3a)	587,763	4,362,534	83	84	119		
14 (3)	587,859	4,362,554	100	99	125		
14 (7)	588,166	4,362,794	165	175	240		
14 (10)	588,335	4,363,026	265	260	340		
14 (12)	589,246	4,363,683	365	359	478		
14 (17) 14 (18)	589,538 589,821	4,363,728 4,363,867	489 535	485 531	620 695		
14 (18)	590,165	4,364,055	570	560	740		
14 (20)	590,381	4,364,175	630	620	800		
14 (22)	591,149	4,364,526	770	760	980		
15 (3)	586,354	4,366,727	88	91	125		
15 (5)	586,425	4,366,856	127	133	200		
15 (7) 15 (10)	586,510	4,367,020	166	161	240		
15 (10)	586,796 586,047	4,367,527	237 284	240 278	340 410		
15 (11) 15 (12)	586,947 587,177	4,367,589 4,367,781	327	330	478		
15 (12)	587,531	4,368,309	385	382	525		
15 (17)	587,735	4,368,448	455	448	620		
15 (20)	587,945	4,368,854	565	572	800		
15 (21)	588,070	4,368,963	605	610	855		
16 (3)	584,796	4,368,769	92	88	125		
16 (7)	584,884	4,368,840	151	153	240		
16 (10)	585,129 585,276	4,369,074	238	229	340		
16 (12) 16 (13)	585,276 585,597	4,369,194 4,369,189	306 375	315 367	478 525		
16 (19)	586,844	4,370,578	500	493	740		
17 (3)	582,033	4,372,206	80	83	125		
17 (7)	582,224	4,372,186	148	144	240		
17 (ÌÍ)	582,468	4,372,026	255	249	410		
17 (12)	582,591	4,371,740	298	296	478		
17 (13)	583,393	4,371,879	340	346	525		
17 (18)	583,727 584,211	4,371,973	452	441	695		
17 (22) 18 (3)	584,311 575,729	4,372,050 4,378,547	623 67	633 70	980 125		
18 (3)	575,729 575,820	4,378,637 4,378,637	119	70 120	240		
18 (10)	576,010	4,378,722	185	182	340		
18 (12)	576,223	4,378,824	249	249	478		
18 (13)	576,317	4,378,805	298	293	525		
18 (19)	576,628	4,378,786	392	390	740		

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Figure 5 shows a very robust synchronous correlation between our multiple mapped palaeoshoreline elevations and the predicted ones (Figure 4, Table 2, and Spreadsheet S1) within a margin of error, suggesting we have obtained consistent uplift rate estimates. This is a crucial key observation because it also suggests that rates of uplift mapped on the footwall of the West Crati Fault have been constant through time. Furthermore, we have mapped 17 order of palaeoshorelines, in agreement with previous studies, for the Calabrian–Peloritani Arc [37,38,42,113] associated with the sea-level highstands as old as 100–980 ka (not all mapped within a single topographic profile), as previously recognized elsewhere within the Mediterranean realm [9,19,20,63,73,88]. Evidence in places of marine terraces as old as 980 ka confirm that the investigated region has been uplifting since then, in agreement with previous investigations [37,38]; however, we cannot rule out that the onset of the uplifting process may likely be older. This is in contrast with the previous proposed onset at 700 ka for the "regional" uplift of the Calabrian–Peloritani Arc [38].

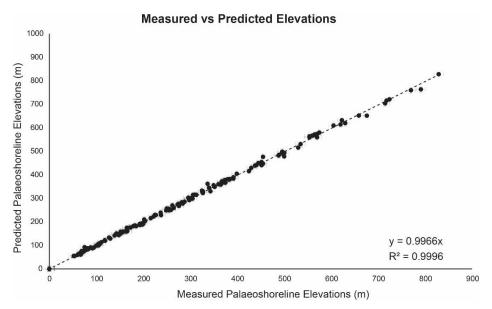


Figure 5. Graph showing a linear regression analysis between iteratively calculated sea-level high-stand elevations and our mapped palaeoshoreline elevations on DEMs. Note that the predicted elevations have been derived by defining a constant uplift rate through time and iterating this value to find the best match to the measured and mapped palaeoshorelines.

3.2. Uplift and Uplift Rates along the Strike of the West Crati Normal Fault

Figure 6a shows spatial changes of uplift along the strike of the West Crati Fault, which have been recorded by the geometry of the marine terraces. In particular, our synchronous correlation shows that rates of uplift are constant over the Middle-Late Pleistocene yet change spatially, with values of uplift rates between 0.87 mm/yr in the centre of the fault footwall, diminishing towards the fault tips and beyond where the uplift rates are 0.4 (southern tip) and 0.52 (northern tip) mm/yr (Figure 6b). The latter value is not surprising if we consider that [56] show an averaged value of ~0.45 mm/yr where a quasi-negligible effect may be considered from the hanging-wall tectonic subsidence due to the Maratea Fault activity in the northern area. Furthermore, our refined uplift rates are in agreement with previous studies where values of ~0.86 mm/yr had been proposed for this region since the end of the Early Pleistocene (700 ka) [114]. It is important to note that beyond the fault tips, no active faults are mapped, yet a "regional" signal of uplift is recorded (Figure 6b), suggesting that mapped and uplifted marine terraces on the footwall of the West Crati Fault represent a combination of the "regional" uplift signal and the "local" fault-controlled uplift. Moreover, we have tested whether the tilting process of palaeoshorelines (Figure 6a) has occurred over the Middle-Late Pleistocene or anachronously to the formation of all marine terraces. Following an approach from

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previous investigations [9,20,63], we assess tilting values along the strike of the fault and if these change for different ages of marine terraces; if faulting activity by the West Crati Fault has occurred with time, we would assume older marine terraces to be more tilted compared to younger ones, along the strike of the fault. Indeed, Figure 6c shows that higher and older marine terraces present higher tilt angle values, implying that they have experienced a longer history of faulting activity with a constant rate, a key observation shown by others when marine terraces are used for deriving faulting activity through time [9,20,63].

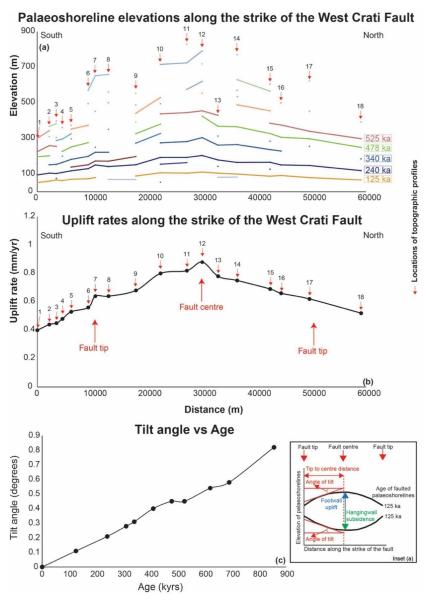


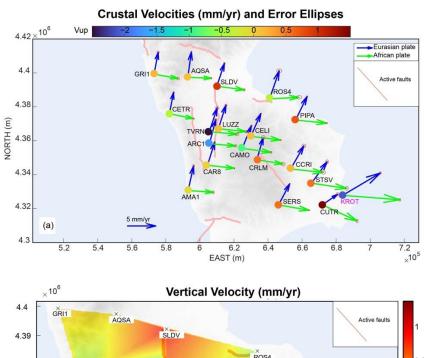
Figure 6. Crustal uplift (**a**) and uplift rates (**b**) over the Quaternary. Topographic profiles from Figure 2 are labelled. Palaeoshoreline elevations change along the strike of the West Crati Fault, suggesting Late Quaternary faulting activity (**a**). Spatially changing rates of uplift measured along the strike of the West Crati Fault outcropping on its uplifting footwall are also mapped (**b**). Values of tilting angles in degrees are calculated for each mapped marine terrace and are presented in (**c**), showing that older palaeoshorelines have higher tilt angles; this suggests that they have experienced a longer history of differential uplift and that differential uplift was ongoing progressively during the Late Quaternary. Note that values of tilt angle for each investigated marine terrace have been calculated as a \tan^{-1} of a gradient m of a straight line (equation y = mx), as proposed by previous studies [20,63,73].

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We interpret the spatially changing (i) palaeoshoreline elevations, (ii) uplift rates and the temporally varying tilting angle values along the strike as evidence to indicate that the West Crati Fault has been active, with a constant rate of deformation, over time during the progressive formation of the investigated sequence of marine terraces. Moreover, it is not surprising to show that higher uplift rates allow the preservation of a higher number of marine terraces (Figure 6a,b), which is a diagnostic stratigraphic evidence to show variations along the strike in fault activity rate, in agreement with other regions deformed by active normal faults [9,19,20,63,85].

3.3. Strain Rate, Extension Rate, and Vertical Rates from GNSS Measurements

Figure 7a shows the MLE-based horizontal velocity vectors for both EU and AF plate fixed-reference frames, including the corresponding error ellipses, whereas Figure 7b shows a contour plot of the MLE-based vertical velocity.



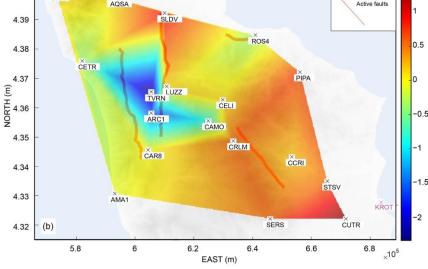


Figure 7. (a) Estimated velocities of GNSS stations in the studied area. The horizontal velocity vectors (for both EU and AF plate fixed reference frames and corresponding error ellipses at 95% confidence level) are shown. The vertical velocity components are shown as colours of the station markers. The KROT station name is magenta-coloured because it is excluded from the strain rate computation; (b) map of interpolated vertical velocity. In Figure S12, time series and modelled trend/periodic components are shown.

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As already stated, the station KROT (point 32 in Table 3 and Figure 7a) is affected by a motion mainly due to local slope instability; therefore, it cannot be used for the strain-rate computation at a regional scale even if the corresponding time series is 9 yr long. In all figures, the WGS84/UTM33N (EPSG 32633) coordinate system is used. Moreover, in Figures 7 and 8, only those stations whose time series have a duration of at least 4.5 years are shown.

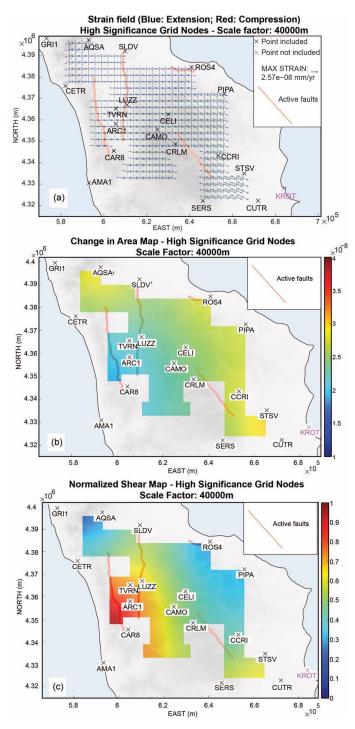


Figure 8. (a) Principal strain-rate axes, computed in the grid nodes characterized by high geometric significance; (b) map of the field of change in area (i.e., the trace of the strain-rate tensor); (c) map of the field of engineering shear normalized to the change in area. The strain-rate field is also shown in Figure S13 (Supplementary Material), where the data related to mid significance nodes are also shown.

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The distance between the stations varies from 5.6 km to 131 km, and the mean distance between the Crati normal faults varies from 12 km to 16 km. Moreover, the stations across the area between these faults are ~20-35 km away from it. In order to have a spatial resolution of the strain-rate field compatible with the minimum distance, a 4 km side grid was chosen. Moreover, the chosen scale factor was 40 km in order to highlight the effect of the stations close to the fault and to reduce that of very distant stations. In Figure 8a, we show the principal directions of the strain rate in the area characterized by high geometric significance, whereas in the large-sized Figure S13 (Supplementary Material), besides the strain-rate tensors in the high geometric grid nodes (solid vectors), the ones in the mid geometric significance nodes are also shown (dotted vectors). The strain rate is nearly everywhere characterized by extension, prominently E–W-oriented. In particular, we show that in the northern part of the Crati Valley the maximum strain rate is \sim 19 \pm 3 nstrain/yr with an angle with respect to the north direction in the range between -88 and -90° ; whereas in the southern part of this valley the maximum strain is \sim 18 \pm 2 nstrain/yr, with an angle with respect to the north direction from -81 to -83° . The extension rate in the area between the two faults is 0.2–0.3 mm/yr.

The map of the field of the rate of change in area, also called dilatation (i.e., the sum of principal strain rates, which is the trace of the strain rate tensor and is the first invariant of strain), and of the field of engineering shear rate normalized to the change in area are shown in Figure 8b,c, respectively, where the faults are also shown. Both the plots show the results in the high geometric significance areas. This map highlights that, in the region, there are no areas characterized by peculiar kinematics and that the behaviour is generally homogenous within the investigated region, with subtle variations. In particular, the kinematics of the Crati Valley seems to be similar if compared to neighbouring areas, even if in a N–W portion of the valley the results are characterized by no more than mid geometric significance (i.e., there are stations within the scale factor in three 90° quadrants).

Finally, since the maximum width of the studied area, throughout northern Calabria, is ~90 km, we choose a 100 km scale factor, which allows us the estimation of the corresponding regional strain rate. Indeed, we estimate a mean strain rate of ~21 nstrain/yr, which results in an extension rate at a regional scale of ~2.3 mm/yr in the direction 81–83°.

Finally, we carried out the analysis of the distribution of the vertical velocity components of the 18 considered stations. The corresponding map, computed by linear interpolation of these velocities, is shown in Figure 7b. We highlight that even though the expected behaviour over the Late Quaternary in the area is a widespread uplift [38,110], short-term subsidence is observed in the western coastline of northern Calabria and within the Crati valley. However, it should be noted that, as shown in Table 1, the uncertainties on the vertical velocity components are relatively high. In particular, the uncertainties related to the stations GRI1, AQSA, LUZZ, CELI, CCRI, STSV, and CUTR (affected by uplift) and ROS4, CAR8, and AMA1 (affected by subsidence) have the same order of magnitude of the corresponding values.

This does not happen for the horizontal components, for which the relative error is on average 7%, ranging from 1.5% to 15%.

4. Discussion

In this study, we have refined rates of crustal deformation, at different scales, within the uplifting Calabria–Peloritani Arc, throughout the northern Calabria region, by (i) synchronously correlating multiple raised Middle–Late Pleistocene marine terraces and (ii) computing new strain, extension, and vertical rates from GNSS measurements (Figures 4–8). This has permitted us to study the relationship between the "regional" signal of uplift and the "local" effect of faulting activity along and across the strike of the West Crati Fault. We stress that the obtained results agree with the ones obtained by D'Agostino et al. (2011). In particular, there is an agreement between the strain rates computed in the Crati valley both in intensity (18–19 nstrain/yr) and direction (almost E–W). However, our study has used a higher number of stations (18 instead of 12) and longer time series. In particular, as

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already stated (Table 3), all the time series had a duration of at least 4.5 yr, and 10 out of 18 had a duration of at least 8 yr. The mean duration of all the used time series was 10.8 yr. The percentage of gaps of the used time series was generally in the range 5–12%. Previous authors have demonstrated that a time series should have at least 4.5 yr of duration to provide meaningful time series for geodetic investigations, and 8 yr of minimum duration should be recommended [49]; this is an advance from the viewpoint of GNSS data analysis.

In this section, we now discuss our results in terms of local and regional tectonic implications associated with refined throw rates, T_{mean} , correlation between potential megathrust earthquakes investigations and intracrustal upper-plate seismic deformation, and possible co-seismic deformation scenario for the West Crati normal fault.

4.1. Local Tectonic Implications: Estimating Geodetic Fault Throw Rate and ERI for the West Crati Fault

The investigated area shows clear evidence that rates of uplift have changed along the strike of the West Crati Fault since the Middle Pleistocene, indicating that this fault has to be considered active, if the definition of "active fault" by some [70,71] is followed. Furthermore, this is not surprising given that this region has been historically hit by damaging seismic events such as the 1184 "Valle del Crati" earthquake (M 6.75) and the 1854 "Cosentino" earthquake (M 6.3) (Figure 1), which may have likely ruptured the West Crati normal fault. However, it is important to note that we cannot rule out that the abovementioned seismic events may have occurred on the antithetic, W-dipping, East Crati Fault. This would suggest that more investigation is needed, even though for this study this is beyond the scope of the paper.

In this study, it is important to highlight that we are not able to derive direct measurements of long-term fault throw rates from faulted marine terraces, and for this reason we estimate geodetically derived fault throw rates from our geodetic refined strain and extension rates throughout northern Calabria (Figures 7 and 8). Indeed, we know that a seismically active crustal extension accommodated by normal fault systems, between tectonic plate boundaries, needs to accommodate regional deformation rates [115]. This implies that summed deformation rates (throw rates on faults) across all the involved fault segments (i) will equal the regional deformation rates associated with the plate motions and (ii) will be temporally constant if all the same number of faults remains active over time [115]. However, it has also been demonstrated that throw rates on faults can change through time within normal fault systems due to fault interaction processes; this would imply that some faults would accelerate and others would decelerate, changing their throw rates through time to equal the regional deformation [19,32,115,116]. It is important to note that in places within the Calabrian–Peloritani Arc, rates of crustal deformation have been studied at three different timescales, with negligible discrepancies: those measured (i) over a few tens of years (from GNSS measurements), (ii) over a few thousand years (Holocene palaeoseismology), and (iii) over tens to hundreds of thousands of years (deformed Quaternary marine terraces) [9,46,117,118]. This would suggest long-term constant rates of crustal deformation confirmed by some [9,63]. Our results show a constant fault throw rate through time for the West Crati Fault from refined constant fault-controlled uplift rate evidence by modelling uplifted and deformed marine terraces, a crucial key observation for detailing the geography of the seismic hazard in northern Calabria. This suggests that fault interaction across the strike of active faults within the investigated region may be likely ruled out. This may be in contrast with the view of some proposing fault interaction in northern Calabria from fault-controlled uplift rates between 100 and 300 ka, where the timing of changes may be relatively imprecise, as results came from an inversion of river profile data and not absolute dating of deformed horizons [119]. If we then assume that strain and extension are homogenously accommodated across the strike of active faults such as the West and East Crati Faults and the Lakes Fault (Figure 9) with fault throw rates constant through time, deforming northern Calabria, estimates of geodetically derived fault throw rates may likely be more than reasonable values to be used over longer time

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scales. Note that estimates of geodetic fault throw rates are derived by using a qualitative trigonometric geometrical approach where the heave (H, horizontal component) and the throw (T, vertical component) are equal if the fault dip angle (α) is assumed to be 45° (Figure 9). This would suggest that our regional, geodetically derived extension rate of 2.3 mm/yr accommodated by all three before-mentioned active normal faults with an averaged fault dip angle of 45° would imply throw rates of \sim 0.8 mm/yr (Figure 9, inset A). This value is not surprising, taking into account that throw-rate values measured for other active normal faults that have been accommodating the Plio–Pleistocene crustal extension along the Italian Apennines and the Calabrian Arc are within the range 0.3 to 2.0 mm/year [9,116,120,121].

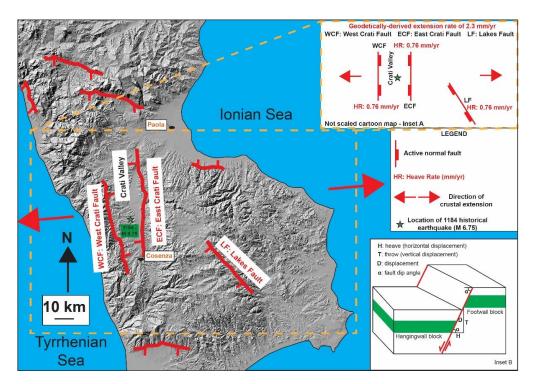


Figure 9. A schematic structural map is shown where active faults are accommodating our geodetically derived crustal extension of 2.3 mm/yr across the strike of the E-dipping West Crati Fault and throughout northern Calabria. The green star indicates the location of the 1184 "Valle del Crati" earthquake (M 6.75) from the INGV historical catalogue [29]. Inset A shows a no-scaled cartoon where homogenous heave rates (HR) from computed extension rates are assigned among the active faults such as the West Crati Fault, East Crati Fault, and the Lakes Fault. Inset B shows a scheme of a normal fault with the three components where the deformation is measured and the fault dip angles: heave, throw, and displacement. Note that for a 45° fault dip, angle, throw, and heave will be equal.

Furthermore, we have also iterated geodetically derived fault throw rates for the East Crati Fault and Lakes Fault, hypothetically sharing 66% of our total refined computed regional extension (\sim 0.8 \times 3 faults \sim 2.3 mm/yr), iterating their fault dip angles (30° to 60°) (Spreadsheet S2). For instance, given a homogeneously partitioned geodetic heave rate of \sim 0.8 mm/yr for each fault, we show that for fault dip angles of 60° and 58°, respectively, for the East Crati Fault and Lakes Fault, values in agreement with previous field studies [35,122,123], we obtain geodetic throw rates of \sim 1.3 for the East Crati Fault and 1.2 mm/yr for the Lakes Fault. These latter geodetic-derived values are in agreement with geological long-term throw rates obtained by previous studies for the same active faults [37,117]. For this reason, we stress that our geodetically derived fault throw rate of \sim 0.8 mm/yr for the West Crati Fault (with an averaged dip angle of 45° from literature data) may be the most likely scenario for seismic hazard modelling investigations, even for a longer timescale. Furthermore, it is important to stress that debated geological

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fault throw rates had been proposed within a poorly constrained range between 0.4 and 1.4 mm/yr [28,35–37], therefore misleading estimations of T_{mean} ; our proposed geodetically derived throw rate of 0.8 mm/yr agrees with one of these previously proposed geological throw rates [37]. This would also suggest a refined value for the T_{mean} if well-known empirical correlations between maximum expected magnitude, fault length, and maximum expected displacement are applied [68,69]. Indeed, we are able to estimate a T_{mean} for the West Crati Fault, considering the length of the fault (~ 40 km) capable of producing earthquakes with a maximum magnitude (M) of 6.8. Given a maximum co-seismic slip event of ~1500 mm in M 6.8, in the centre of the fault and assuming a rupture of the entire fault length, to produce a fault throw rate of ~0.8 mm/yr would imply a T_{mean} ~1875 yr; this value is not unusual if compared to those describing active normal faults along the Italian territory [9,116].

4.2. Regional Implications for Upper-Plate Crustal Deformation above Subduction Zones

Our results from marine terraces modelling to derive refined long-term fault-controlled uplift rates show that the "regional" uplift from either ongoing subduction or deep-seated (mantle upwelling) processes has been spatially affected by "local" faulting activity; this has been observed throughout the Calabrian–Peloritani Arc [9,63] and should be considered when attempts for seismic hazard assessment for subduction-related megathrust earthquakes are studied. This is crucial if we consider that some studies show that the Ionian subduction may be active [124,125] and then capable of producing megathrust earthquakes, even though it is important to highlight there is an ongoing debate regarding if this subduction zone is either seismically coupled or aseismic. For instance, a previous study has shown an apparent "decoupling" about the crustal deformation occurring on the Calabrian upper plate and deformation on this subduction zone; this is also suggested by the fact that there is no record of strong subduction earthquakes, with a relatively aseismic "zone" at least in the first 30–60 km [112,124,126]. This would agree with the idea proposed by [39,127] of having (i) rising asthenosphere just beneath the Calabrian crust producing uplift and (ii) particular thermal conditions in the crust suggesting a poor coupling between the Ionian subducting plate and the upper plate of the Calabrian arc. From this, some speculation may be carried out on the maximum compressive earthquake (Mw ca. 6.0), where strong shallow crustal earthquakes are limited to the upper plate, while aseismic creep dominates along the subduction interface [112]. Yet, if we assume the Ionian subduction zone as an active one potentially producing megathrust earthquakes as suggested previously, permanent and long-term uplift may be ascribed to several seismic and aseismic processes [128], one of which is the slip along the subduction interface with a locked (or coupled) section [128,129]. If we then assume coupling between the subducting slab and the uplifting and extending upper plate within the Ionian Subduction Zone, long-term uplift may be explained as the result of the interseismic continuous elastic deformation due to locking on the plate interface, as proposed for other regions in the Mediterranean realm [128]. However, more investigations are needed to (i) refine the convergence rate, (ii) quantify the "aseismic" amount of subduction, and (iii) take into account deep-seated processes such as mantle upwelling beneath the Calabrian crust [39] if the interseismic continuous elastic deformation is aimed to be studied for this region. Indeed, it is worth noting that the Ionian subduction associated with the process of slab rollback [130] and, in places, the possibility of mantle upwelling beneath the Calabrian continental crust [127,131] identifies its onset synchronously to the uplift of the investigated forearc since the Middle Pleistocene. However, even though geodetic measurements show a spatially homogeneous uplift for the Calabrian-Peloritani forearc [132] with local geodetic-derived subsidence evidence in places likely controlled by interseismic slip on faults on their shear zone [133], as shown in this study (Figure 7), geological and long-term values of "regional" uplift rates still remain unclear and likely spatially changing throughout the forearc. Indeed, different values of geological uplift rates have been mapped beyond fault tips of upperplate active faults where the "local" signal from faults should be zero, such as in NE Sicily

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(0.89 mm/yr) [63], close to Vibo Valentia in the Capo Vaticano Peninsula (1.75 mm/yr) [9] and this study (0.4–0.52 mm/yr). The cause of this variation should be tested, with more detailed mapping of marine terraces beyond and over fault tips of upper-plate active faults, and future investigations should address whether this variation could be either associated with the locations throughout the forearc and their different distances from the subduction zone or locally differential mantle upwelling process.

Moreover, we stress that the forearc shows prominent intracrustal vertical deformation as also shown in this study from long-term uplift measurements. Quaternary deformation has mostly acted in the form of active normal faulting controlling the topography of this region (Figure 1), with topographic structural highs identified by footwalls of active normal faults [9,63,82,134,135]. Indeed, it has been demonstrated that upper-plate seismogenic sources have been affecting the "regional" uplift signal, implying that these normal faults should be better identified and mapped. For this reason, if the "local" signal from active faults is not considered, this may lead to mistaken subduction interface slip distributions and consequently to a misleading seismic hazard assessment for subduction-related megathrust earthquakes. This would improve the seismic hazard assessment associated with both (i) upper-plate seismic deformation and (ii) subduction-related seismic events.

4.3. Co-Seismic Deformation Scenario Associated with the West Crati Fault

We also simulate co-seismic vertical displacement assuming the simplest scenario that the entire \sim 40 km West Crati Fault would rupture during a seismic event (Figure 10). We performed this by inputting the curvilinear trace of the mapped West Crati Fault into the Coulomb 3.4 software [105], using a relatively new MATLAB code [106]. This code permits us to model vertical displacements arising from earthquakes on faults with variable-strike geometry. Indeed, it is well established that fault geometry influences Coulomb stress transfer [105,106,109] and therefore will influence strain and displacements surrounding the causative fault. We assume an averaged dip angle of 45°, e.g., [35,36], and an assumed maximum slip at a depth of 3 m at around 9–10 km (Figure 10, Inset a), for a total coseismic rupture of \sim 40 km long. These parameters are typical for normal faulting-related earthquakes in the Apennines and the Calabrian Forearc [107,136–138] to simulate reliable co-seismic vertical displacements.

We show that the co-seismic footwall uplift region (light-yellow-coloured region defined by isolines of co-seismic uplift) coincides with the long-term footwall uplift deformation mapped by looking at raised marine terraces (Figure 10 and Figure S11 for the C-D profile trace and signal variations). This is another piece of evidence suggesting that marine terraces have been likely deformed by successive seismic events over the Late Quaternary. Moreover, the maximum co-seismic subsidence coincides with the estimated location of the 1184 seismic event, as well as its modelled magnitude of 6.75. Note that we estimate a maximum co-seismic uplift and subsidence, in the centre of the West Crati Fault, of 0.064 m and -0.810 m (Figure 10, Inset B), respectively, which are not unusual values if compared with other normal faulting-related earthquakes such as the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake (M 6.3) [139] and the 1983 Borah Peak earthquake (M 7.3) [140]. It is important to stress that the maximum expected displacement of 1500 mm (1.5 m) used to estimate $T_{\rm mean}$ in Section 4.1, if a ~40 km long fault seismically ruptures, is not the vertical component (throw); it is yet estimated along the displacement D (inset B from Figure 9 for clarification) as suggested by others [68].

We interestingly report that the maximum co-seismic subsidence (dark blue region, Figure 10) coincides with the area where we show the maximum rate of GNSS-derived subsidence within the hanging wall of the fault (Figure 7b).

For this reason, we finally speculate that future works can be made based on an old but simple concept that seismicity rates on brittle faults are controlled by strain rates of viscous deformation at depth on faults' shear zones [141,142]. Indeed, more investigations are needed to test if GNSS measurements on the hanging wall of the West Crati Fault are showing an active shear zone, slipping at its long-term interseismic rate, causing

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subsidence at the surface, after having ruled out local non-tectonic signals from GNSS measurements; indeed, slip in the upper crust is driven by slip on viscous shear zones in the lower crust, with the viscous flow process on shear zones, as shown by previous investigations [133,141,143].

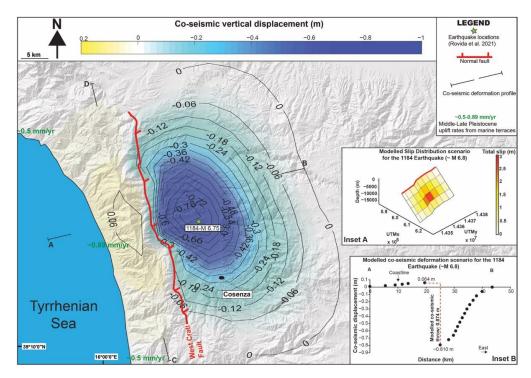


Figure 10. Modelled co-seismic displacement showing co-seismic uplift and subsidence if the entire fault length of the West Crati Fault (~40 km) would seismically rupture, producing a modelled earthquake of M 6.8. Inset A shows a 3D view of the modelled seismogenic source (the West Crati Fault) with the associated slip distribution in depth, with a maximum value of 3 m. Co-seismic uplift/subsidence contours produced by our preferred modelled fault in the half-elastic space are shown along the profile A-B, with a maximum co-seismic uplift and subsidence of 0.064 m and 0.810 m, respectively, Inset B. Furthermore, a crustal deformation profile (C-D) is produced comparing the co-seismic and long-term footwall uplift along the strike of the fault (Figure S11). Note that the estimated magnitude for the 1184 "Valle del Crati" earthquake is 6.75 and matches our modelled magnitude (M 6.8); moreover, the location of this historical seismic event lies where we estimate the maximum co-seismic subsidence [29].

5. Conclusions

In this paper, we use (i) refined GNSS measurements and (ii) the synchronous correlation approach for raised marine terraces modelling to refine rates of crustal deformation at different timescales. This has permitted us calculations of improved rates of uplift through time mapped on the footwall of the West Crati Fault, spanning the Late Quaternary. It has been shown that (i) elevations of marine terraces vary along the strike of the investigated fault, (ii) higher uplift rates are mapped in the centre of the fault, suggesting that the West Crati Fault needs to be considered active, and (iii) older and higher marine terraces are more tilted because of experiencing a longer history of faulting activity.

We show a constant fault-controlled uplift rate over the Late Quaternary, implying that the throw rate on this fault is constant over time, a key observation for the long-term seismic hazard assessment. We also present new refined strain and extension rates throughout northern Calabria of 21 nstrain/yr and ~2.3 mm/yr, respectively, across the strike, likely accommodated by the West and East Crati normal faults and the Lakes Fault, suggesting that geodetically derived throw rates may be more the reasonable values to consider for longer timescales. In particular, we qualitatively estimate the throw rate,

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obtained with a simplified trigonometric approach and assuming an averaged 45° fault dip angle. We stress that a future development will concern the reanalysis of the data (with further lengthened time series) in a 3D approach and using numerical modelling methods proposed by some in the past [24,144] in order to estimate more quantitively geodetic slip rates across the strike of the Crati valley and northern Calabria. Indeed, we qualitatively estimate a fault throw rate and $T_{\rm mean}$ of $\sim\!0.8$ mm/yr and $\sim\!1875$ years for the West Crati Fault, if an averaged fault dip angle of 45° is assumed given the computed extension rate from GNSS measurements. Constant rates over the Quaternary of crustal deformation shown in this study are not surprising if we consider that the quasi-E–W oriented ongoing crustal extension is accommodated by a few active faults across the strike. In other words, if more active faults across the strike are accommodating "distributed" strain, this will gradually change their slip rates over time to maintain the regional deformation rate as described by some in the past [32]. Indeed, the Calabrian–Peloritani Forearc is affected by crustal extension accommodated by a more "localized" strain on a few active faults across the strike.

Finally, we stress that it is crucial to consider upper-plate crustal deformation when slip distributions in the subduction interface are estimated using data of uplift to avoid misleading and erroneous subduction-related earthquakes.

Supplementary Materials: The following supporting information can be downloaded at: Mendeley Data, V1, https://doi.org/10.17632/sf628sb2cn.1, (accessed on 4 September 2022).

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Data Availability Statement: Publicly available datasets were analysed in this study. These data can be found here: http://geodesy.unr.edu/ (Nevada Geodetic Laboratory). The results of data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author, M.M., upon reasonable request.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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