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Failure of Marmolada Glacier (Dolomites, Italy) in 2022: data-based back analysis of possible collapse mechanisms

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S1 Introduction

The detailed study of the Marmolada failure was possible through the construction of a large digital database of the glacier including glaciological and meteo-climatic data, historical cartography, modern numerical cartography, aerial and satellite images, geophysical images, geological and geomorphological data collected over the last 20 years (Table S1).

S2 Geology and morphology

The Marmolada massif, located in the Eastern Alps in Italy (Fig. S1), is primarily composed of Ladinian limestone, specifically the Calcare della Marmolada, which is part of the Dolomia dello Sciliar formation (Antonelli et al., 1990; Bosellini, 1996). This massif provides a stratigraphic record of the Dolomites' complex geological history, including remnants of Paleozoic volcanism and Triassic carbonate platform development. The massif exhibits a monoclinal structure, characterized by northward-dipping bedding planes, which contribute to its stepped morphology known as "cuesta."

The Marmolada massif is bounded by several major valleys, including the Ombretta, Contrin, Avisio, and Pettorina valleys. The southern flank is marked by a near-vertical fault that extends through the Ombretta Valley, forming one of the highest and most challenging climbing walls in the Alps, nearly 1000 m high. Evidence of past glacial activity is widespread (Carton and Varotto, 2011), with geomorphological features such as moraine ridges, roches moutonnées, hanging valleys, and glacial cirques preserved across the landscape (Carton et al., 2017; Bondesan & Francese, 2023). The massif also preserves evidence of ancient geological processes, from Permian volcanic activity to Triassic tropical atoll environments, highlighting its significance in understanding the broader geodynamic evolution of the Dolomites (Bosellini, 1996).

During World War I, the Marmolada Glacier played a strategic role as Austro-Hungarian forces excavated an extensive network of tunnels and underground defenses within the ice, accommodating approximately 300 soldiers (Bondesan et al., 2015). Today, remnants of these wartime structures are occasionally uncovered due to ongoing glacial melting.

S3 Data and methods

S3.1 Climatic variables

Time series of temperature, rainfall and snow cover were provided by ARPAV. Stations (Fig. S2 and Table S2) from two different networks were considered. Malga Ciapela (MAO), Punta Rocca (PRC), Passo Pordoi (PPR) and Arabba (ARB) belong to the standard meteorological network (sampled parameters: temperature, precipitation, wind, and humidity) while M.A. Ornella (MAO), C. Pradazzo (CPR), C. Baldi (CBL), Ra Valles (RVL) and Piz Boé (PZB) are part of a specific “snow & avalanche forecasting” network (sampled parameters: temperature, precipitation, wind, humidity, solar radiation, thermal gradient in the snowpack, albedo and snow thickness). A 30m deep borehole was drilled in 2010 nearby the PZB station and it was equipped with a T probe. Base analysis was conducted over the period 1990-2020 (a 31-year reference), to spot anomalies and compare the average yearly and monthly trends with the 2022 records. About 7.9% of the values were missing in the temperature time series while in the rainfall and snow cover time series were missing 0.8% and 2.1% of the values respectively (see Table S2 for time series completeness).

Missing data were either retrieved from other sources (ENEL, PAT, REVEN, etc.) or estimated from nearby stations using various prediction techniques (Acock & Pachepsky, 2000; Kotsiantis et al., 2006). In addition to guess the temperature of long missing intervals monthly correlation functions were calculated between station pairs. Four pairs (MAO-MCP; MCP-PRC;) required the calculation of 144 functions (4 pairs * 12 months * 3 T values – min, avg, max). Once the correlation algorithm was implemented (MATLAB, 2018) the misfit between observed and predicted values was graphed (Fig. S3). Each missing monthly interval was then restored using the algorithm with the minimum misfit.
Late spring and early summer of 2022 proved to be a particularly anomalous period (Fig. S4), with three months (May, June, and July) during which average temperatures exceeded the standard deviation range. The most significant deviation occurred in June, when the maximum temperature was approximately 4.5 degrees higher than the reference line (1990–2020). Also in the spring–summer of 2003, particularly anomalous conditions were observed (Fig. S4), with complete glacier snow cover loss and abundant meltwater production. However, the period of positive deviation from the standard deviation range lasted only one month (June), with a deviation of 3.5 degrees with respect to the reference line (1990-2020).

S3.2 Permafrost

The modeled permafrost occurrence (on a 25 m by 25m grid) in the Marmolada massif (Boeckli et al., 2012) indicates permafrost conditions at and around the failure site. With such estimated surface temperatures, permafrost depth could be significantly deep. Borehole temperatures compiled for comparable surface temperatures could exceed 100 m of depth (Etzelmüller et al., 2020).

S3.3 Glaciological data

These data mostly refer to the periodic measurements of the xyz position of the glacial front at specific sites. The Italian Glaciological Committee, (born as a working group of the Italian Alpine Club – CAI in 1895) is responsible for such measurements and annual bulletins of the glaciological campaign were yearly published since 1914.
First measurements in the Marmolada glacier date back to 1971 and these measures were systematically organized since 1985. Dxyz (inclined distance) and Dz (vertical distance) were taken from specific benchmarks during each campaign. The glacier was divided in three sectors (eastern, central and western) and a single benchmark was located in each sector (Fig. S5). The records are almost complete and just few years are missing.

S3.4 DTMs-Digital Terrain Models

Several types of DTMS were generated for the purpose of estimating the time-lapse reduction of the ice area/surface/volume (Fig. S6) by aid of: historical cartography, aerial/satellite images, numerical cartography and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data (see Table S5 for available data sources).
DTMs of the glacier surface
DTMs for the years 1905 1954, 1971 were obtained digitizing the elevation contours after proper geo-referencing of the map. Geo-referencing result was affected by errors mostly caused by cartographic distortion despite the elevate number of control points. A maximum of 10 m shift was observed (Table S3). As an example the overall geo-referencing RMSE for the 1905 map was equal to 10.6 m (Bondesan & Francese, 2023 – Supplementary Information).
DTMs for the years 1982, 1994, 2000, 2006 were obtained by image correlation (Siebert et al., 2014). This process runs under the same basic conditions as stereoscopic photogrammetry. A series of overlapping images are used in order to get a 3D model of the study area. This model is then tuned and validated using a series of ground control points (GCP). As an example the final RMSE for the 1982 map was equal to 4.8 m (Bondesan & Francese, 2023 – Supplementary Information).

The DTM for the year 2015 was directly obtained by LIDAR data while the DTMs post-2015 were again constructed via image correlation techniques.

DTM of the outcropping bedrock

The DTM of the outcropping bedrock was realized merging digital contour lines from CTP and from CTRNV and including several other key points (topographic peaks and troughs) as well as undersampled LIDAR datasets.

Gridding was obtained via a standard Kriging algorithm with a variable search radius from 2 m to 20 m according to data density. Using this approach, the weight factors were calculated in such a way that the estimation error in each output node was minimized (Krige, 1996). DTMs were finally interpolated over an identical grid geometry (cell size: 2.5 m) prior to undertake area, surface and volume calculations.

The high-resolution DTM of the failure zone and of its surroundings was constructed via a process of data fusion. Satellite stereo imagery (Table S5) and UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) LIDAR data were used to reconstruct the residual surface of the glacieret, the detachment niche and the rocks surroundings the niche. Several LIDAR datasets (PAT 2009, ARPAV 2014 and PAT 2014) as well as digital cartography (CTRNV 2001, CTP 2015, CTP 2020), associated with several topographic points, were used to reconstruct the morphology of the outcropping rocks of the slope immediately below the detachment. The same datasets were utilized to reconstruct the morphology of the rocky ridge above the failure. LIDAR data also served as a vertical reference datum for correcting the satellite imagery DTM. The process resulted in a grid of 355 m by 490 m with 0.5 m of aperture.

S3.5 Subglacial bedrock (glacier bed) model

Ice-covered bedrock was modeled via high-resolution geophysical imaging. GPR (Ground Probing Radar) mapping along with Multisource ERT (Electrical Resistivity Tomography) were the best survey choices (Fig. S7).

GPR data were collected during five different campaigns (Table S4) by use of:

- a single channel radar device, namely GSSI Subsurface Interface Radar 4000, equipped with antennas operating at 70 MHz (unshielded) and 200/500 MHz (shielded). The nominal wavelength (λ) in alpine ice is equal to 2.1 m, 0.8 m and 0.3 m respectively. Vertical resolution could be estimated in $\lambda/4$ - $\lambda/8$ (Widess, 1973);
- a multi-channel radar system, namely IDS Stream X operating simultaneously 15 channels and equipped with bistatic antennas operating at 200 MHz;
- a single-channel radar system, namely PULSEKKO IV, equipped with a bistatic antenna operating at 100 MHz (Pasta et al., 2004);
- a single-channel radar system, namely GSSI Subsurface Interface Radar 3000, equipped with an unshielded monostatic antenna operating at 35 MHz (Pasta et al., 2004).

The signature of the ice-bedrock interface was more or less sharp all over the glacier but nearby the Marmolada crest where electro-magnetic signal scattering was observed during various surveys. The radar device was always coupled with a geodetic GPS (Global Positioning System) device to accurately survey GPR scan position.

ERT data were collected with a MultiSource system (LaBrecque et al., 2013; Bocchia et al., 2021). It comprises several stand-alone transceivers synchronized via GPS timing and controlled via a 900 MHz radio signal. The primary feature of this system is its capability of transmitting the current simultaneously with multiple dipoles thus resulting in a better illumination of the buried targets.

S3.6 DTM error estimation

Several sources of errors should be considered in the generation of the DTMs: cartography; geo-referencing distortion, geophysical and topographical instrument accuracy, positioning, etc. A rough estimate of the major errors is summarized in Table S3 and Table S4.

Area - A

A quick calculation could be done considering the glacial area A equivalent to the area of a rectangle with sides $x \pm \Delta x$ and $y \pm \Delta y$ where Δx and Δy are the uncertainties of the surface point position in the two directions. The relative error ΔA/A could be expressed as:

$$\frac{\Delta A}{A} = \frac{\Delta x}{x} + \frac{\Delta y}{y}; (S1)$$

and

$$\Delta A = A\left(\frac{\Delta x}{x} + \frac{\Delta y}{y}\right) = xy\left(\frac{\Delta x}{x} + \frac{\Delta y}{y}\right) = y\Delta x + x\Delta y; (S2)$$

In case of a glacial area A equivalent to the area of a square the two errors could be considered equal (Δx = Δy). In this case the relative error ΔA/A is:

$$\Delta A = A\left(2\frac{\Delta x}{x}\right) = x^2\left(2\frac{\Delta x}{x}\right) \rightarrow \Delta A \approx 2\Delta x\sqrt{A}; (S3)$$

Volume - V

A quick calculation could be done considering the glacial volume V equivalent to the volume of a prism of rectangular area A and average thickness $\bar{z} \pm \Delta z$, where Δz is the uncertainty in the vertical direction. The volume V could be expressed as $A\bar{z}$ and considering equation (S2):

$$\Delta V = \bar{z}\Delta A + A\Delta z = \left(\frac{V}{A}\right)\Delta A + \Delta z; (S4)$$

In case the rectangle A is a square equation (S4) could be simplified as follows:

$$\Delta V \approx \frac{2V}{\sqrt{A}}\Delta x + A\Delta z; (S5)$$

The overall errors related to area/surface/volume calculations were then estimated with the above equations.

S3.7 Glacial front and area, surface and volume calculations

Area, surface area and volume quantities were computed for the following years: 1880, 1905, 1954, 1971, 1982, 1994, 2000, 2006, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021. For the reconstruction of the glacier in the year 1880, three different cartographic sources were used, as none of them contained complete data.

The glacier perimeter (Fig. S6) was directly extracted from the DTMs or from the geo-referenced aerial and satellite images (Table S5). Direct measurements of the glacial front (collected during the annual CGI campaign) were used to constraint and validate the process. The digital models of the time-varying glacial surface and of the buried bedrock allowed for the computation of area, surface and volume changes undergone over time.

The first quantity to be computed was the area of the glacier. The quantity was directly computed by projecting the xyz boundary on a horizontal plane. In case of multiple glacier units, the overall area was obtained summing partial areas while in case of rock windows the area of each rock window was subtracted from the sum. The computed areas are comparable with the values provided by other authors (Varotto and Ferrarese, 2011).

The surface of the glacier was computed on the 3D models as the cumulative area of the triangles forming the TIN (Triangular irregular Network) approximation of the glacial surface.

The ice volume was finally computed using the top/bottom (bedrock/glacier) surfaces enclosed by the glacier perimeter.

S3.8 Ice and snow melting prior to collapse

The mean melt rates in the weeks precedent to the collapse were computed via the degree-day model (Pellicciotti et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2019) using the solar global daily radiation provided in the Italian Atlas of the solar radiation (ENEA, 2023) and corrected for the presence of surface

debris (Xue et al., 2020). Details on the calculations are provided in the Supplementary Information of Bondesan & Francese, 2023. Based on these calculations, crevasses could quite safely be considered water-filled at the time collapse occurred.

S3.9 Satellite imagery

Pre- and post-event (Fig. S1) satellite images were taken by the Pléiades Neo constellation (AIRBUS Defence & Space), pansharpened, pancromatic 30 cm native GSD; 6 multi-spectral channels, 1.2 m native GSD. Pancromatic sensors span from ~450 nm to ~800 nm; multispectral sensors span from ~380 nm to ~880 nm.
A pre-failure shot was taken on Jun 20, 2022, h 10:06:67 GMT while two post-failure shots were taken on Jul 8, 2022, h 10:02:07 GMT and Jul 9, 2022, h 10:20:21 GMT respectively.
Details about coarse and fine orthorectification and geo-referencing along with processing errors are provided in the Supplementary Information of Bondesan & Francese, 2023.
Additional processing was required to get a better insight on specific features. The resolution of each normalized band was increased by a factor 3 to provide the user with a better readable picture on a 4k display. This is a critical step in which only minimal alterations of the image spectral contents are acceptable. Different techniques can be exploited to balance the user's perceptual experience with the fidelity to the data; they range from bicubic interpolation to methods based on machine learning such as convolutional neural networks (CNN) (Liebel et al., 2016) or generative adversarial networks (GAN) (Ledig et al., 2017). In this study a Lanczos-3 interpolation kernel was used, since it provides a good compromise between visual image quality and the introduction of undesired spectral components; it has also already proved to be effective on remote sensing images (Madhukar et al., 2013).
The high frequency content of each normalized band was then enhanced by subtracting from the data the output of a linear Gaussian filter having standard deviation equal to 0.9 and a gain factor of 2.
The Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) was finally calculated. For this index two definitions can be used, based respectively on the difference between the NIR and blue bands (Huggel et al., 2022), or the NIR and green bands (McFeeters, S.K., 1996). In our experiments the latter was chosen, since it can detect also melt water on glaciers and water-rich soil (Aggarwal, 2016).

S3.10 Seismology

The failure-generated earthquake was located using an automatic routine based on the HYPO71 algorithm (Lee & Lahr, 1975) that mostly uses logic and arithmetic resulting in high computational efficiency. Additional information was retrieved via the filter picker algorithm (Lomax et al., 2012). The time-frequency analysis of the event (Fig. S8) exhibits signals in the 1.5–5 Hz interval, with longer-lasting shaking visible in the H2 channel (AGOR E). Because the failure occurred close to the surface, the seismic records are dominated by the horizontal component of Rayleigh and Love waves. The first major impact on the glacier surface appears at about 25 s (showing a frequency peak around 3 Hz mostly visible in the H2-channel). Most of the energy is released in the range between 50 s and 80 s (with a spectral band of 3-4 Hz but including also frequencies lower than 2 Hz) and it is visible in the horizontal channels H1 and H2 (AGOR N, E). The higher frequencies are probably to be correlated with the spreading of the ice debris on the lower glacial surface at 2500-2600 m asl. A diffuse band (in the frequency range lower than 2 Hz) of weak amplitudes is outlined in the vertical channel Z (AGOR V). These signals are present in the entire wave train but, due to the lack of constraints, they should be better classified as background noise.

S3.11 Airborne thermal infrared (IR) imaging

Some IR images of east-west segment of the failure surface were taken on Oct 14, 2022 at approximately 7:00 AM CET. The IR images were recorded using a NEC avionic thermo tracer H2640 (Fig. S9). The infrared detector is an uncooled focal plane array (microbolometer) with a spectral range from 8μm to 14 μm and an accuracy of ±2%.
The camera was mounted on the side of a helicopter with the sensor kept more or less parallel to the failure surface and the shots were taken at a distance of approximately 20-25 m from the failure face. The images were processed using the NRG. The minimum air temperature recorded during the night before the measurements was -3.5°.

S3.12 Back analysis and overall slope stability

Glacier stability was assessed by means of the Limit Equilibrium Method (LEM), which is routinely used for slope stability analyses in geotechnical engineering. LEM considers the equilibrium of a rigid body, such as the slope or the glacier in this case, along a slip surface of any shape. From this equilibrium, the driving actions are calculated and compared to the available resistance calculated according to Mohr-Coulomb's shear strength criterion. From this comparison, the Factor of Safety (FoS) is derived. FoS is the ratio between resisting and driving actions:

$$FoS = \frac{resisting\ actions}{driving\ actions}; (6)$$

The lower the FoS the higher the possibility of instability and collapse. In particular, if FoS is less than one, the slope is unstable and FoS = 1 is assumed as the limit stability value. Among the variety of methods of slices available to determine FoS, three different methods were used in this analysis, namely, Janbu simplified (J) (Janbu et al., 1956), Janbu corrected (Jc) (Janbu ,1954; 1973), and GLE/Morgenstern-Price (Morgenstern and Price, 1965). The stability analyses have been computed using the Slide2 software (Rocscience®) considering different scenarios to assess, by back analysis, the conditions that plausibly led to the collapse of the glacier.

Software packages
Seismic Un*x package R4426
GoCad 7.0
Matlab R2022a
Autocad Map 3D 2022
ArcMap 10.8.1
Surfer 22.0
Origin 8.1.9
Catalyst 2222.0.6
Slide2 9.027

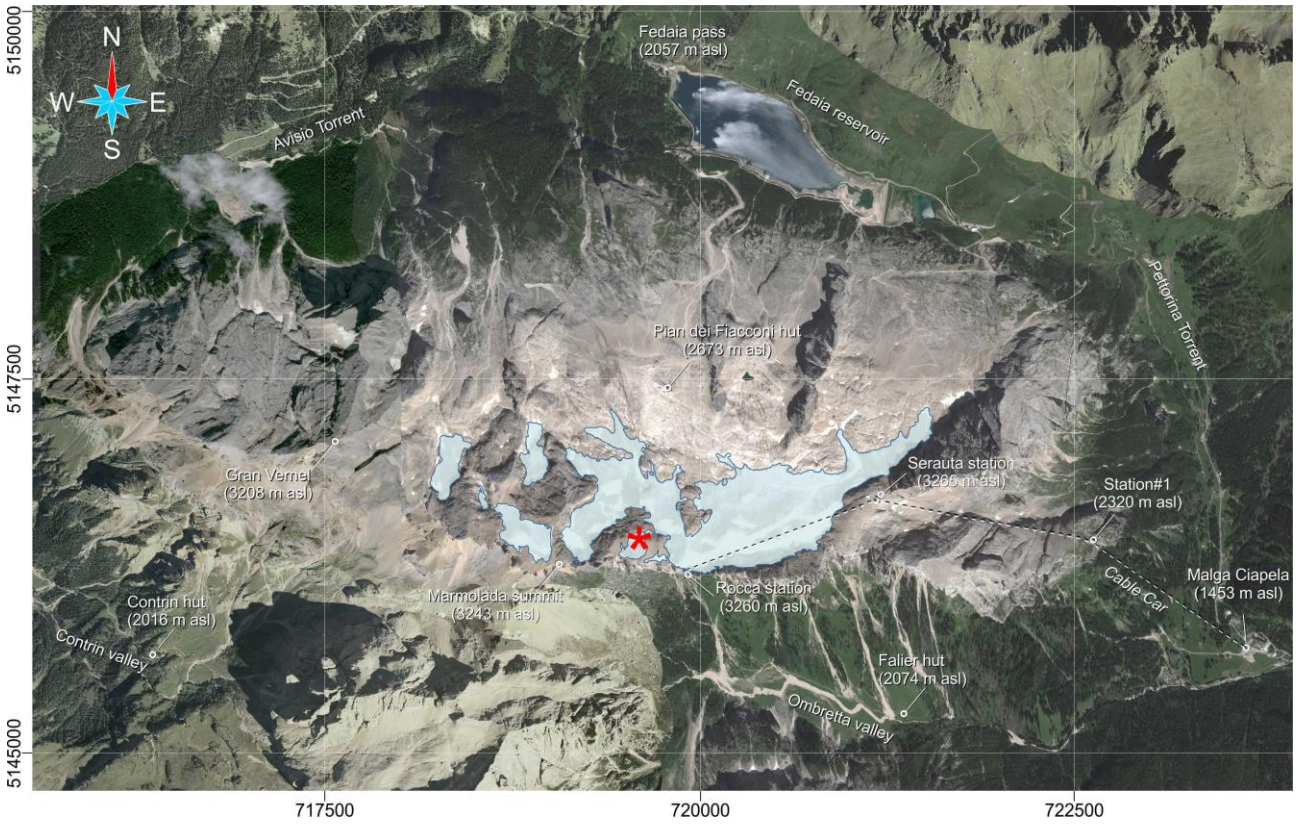

Fig. S1. Satellite ortomosaic of the Marmolada Massif. Date of acquisition: July 8 and July 9, 2022, Pléiades Neo, AIRBUS Defence & Space. The red asterisk marks the failure. Aerial and satellite imagery source: Pléiades Neo, AIRBUS Defence & Space; Autonomous Province of Trento (PAT).

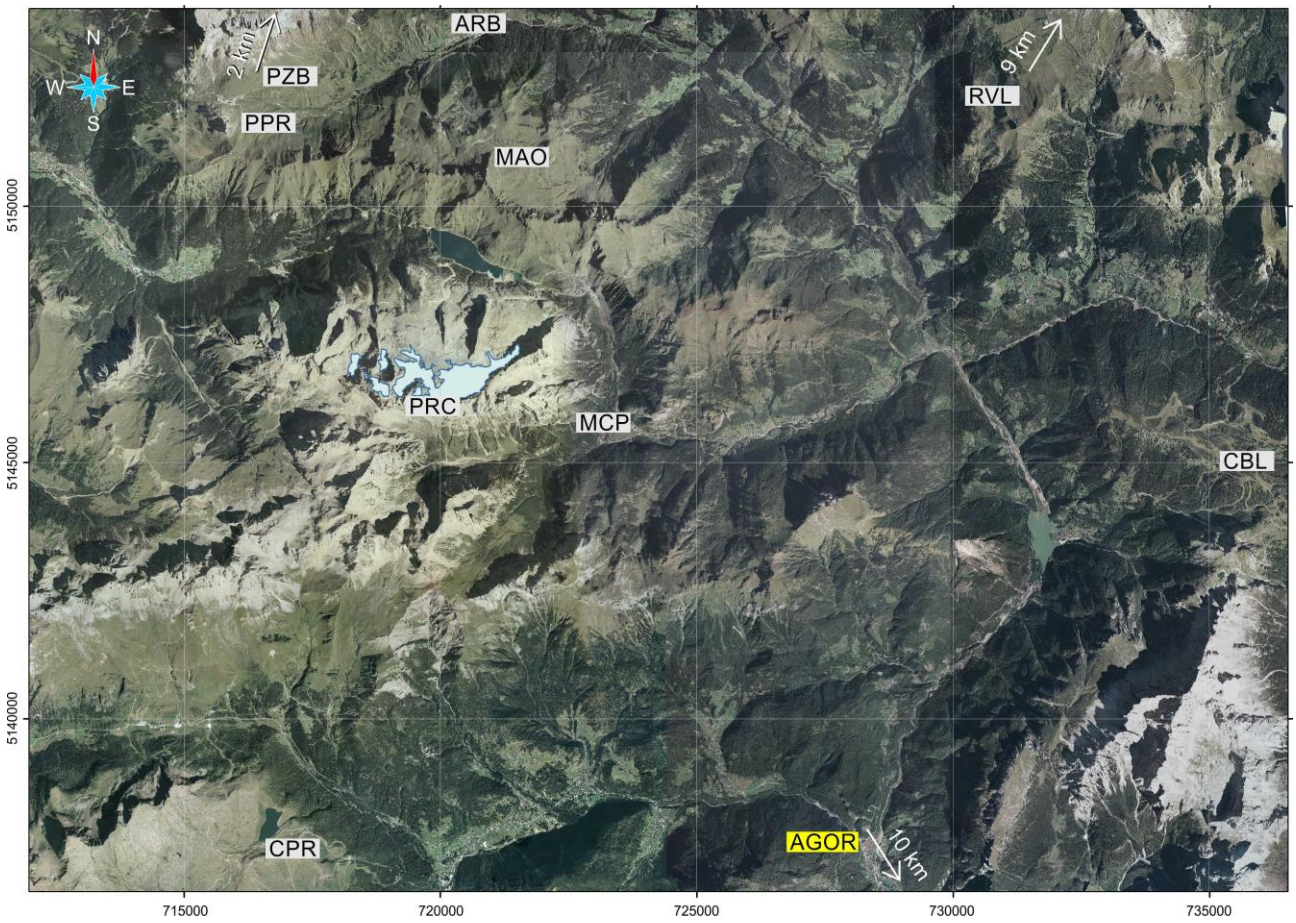

Fig. S2. Aerial image with indicated the meteorological stations located around the Marmolada massif. ARB – Arabba (R); PPR – Pordoi pass (R); MCP – Malga Ciapela (R,T); PRC – Punta Rocca (T); CPR – Cima Pradazzo (T,S) and CBL – Col dei Baldi (T,S); PZB – Piz Boé (S); RVL – Ra Valles (S). T=Temperature, R=Rainfall, S=SnowThickness; AGOR: Seismological station (see also Table S2). Aerial and satellite imagery source: Autonomous Province of Trento (PAT).

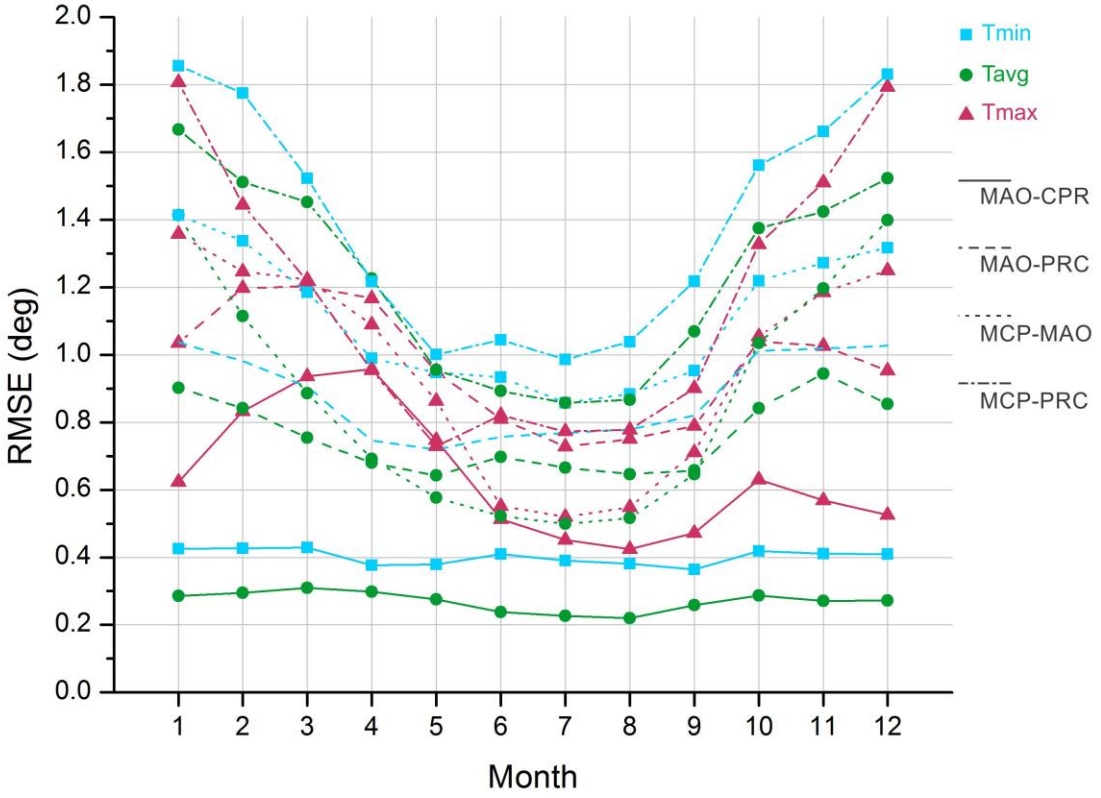

Fig. S3. RMSE of the correlation function between station pairs. Missing data points of the temperature time series were computed using the correlation function with the minimum misfit for that specific month.

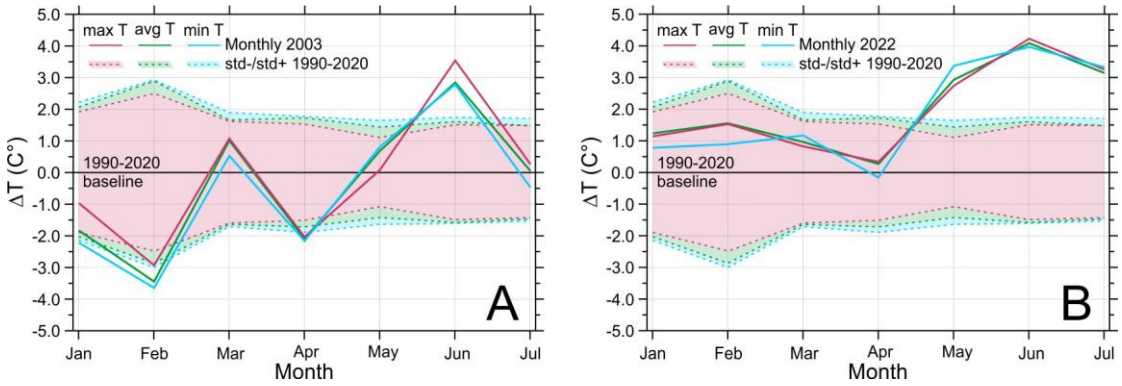

Fig. S4. Comparison between the monthly averages of the year 2003 (A) and those of 2022 (B), relative to the mean values of the ~30-year reference period 1990–2020. In the year 2022, a three-month period was observed with values above the standard deviation range, with a maximum positive deviation in the maximum temperature of approximately 4.3 °C compared to the reference line. In contrast, in the year 2003, only one month was observed to be above the standard deviation range, with a positive deviation of approximately 3.5 °C.

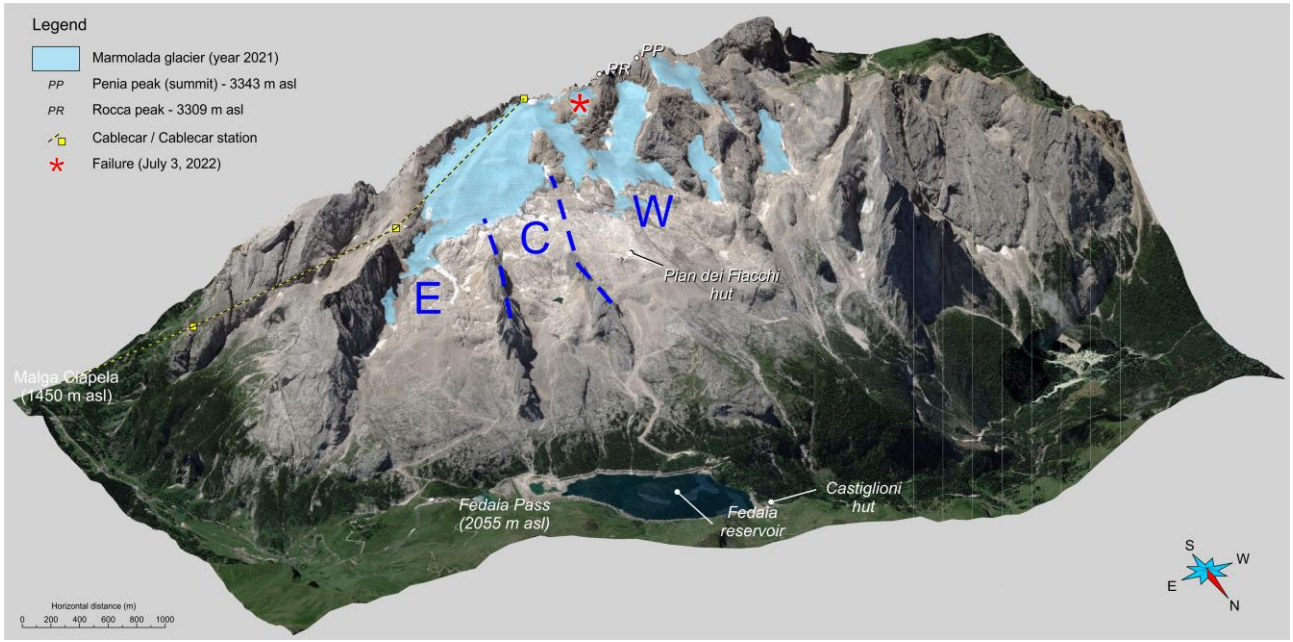

Fig. S5. Glaciological partition of the Marmolada glacier. E – eastern sector; C – central sector; W – western sector. Reference points are available for each one of the three sectors. Aerial and satellite imagery source: Pléiades Neo, AIRBUS Defence & Space; Autonomous Province of Trento (PAT).

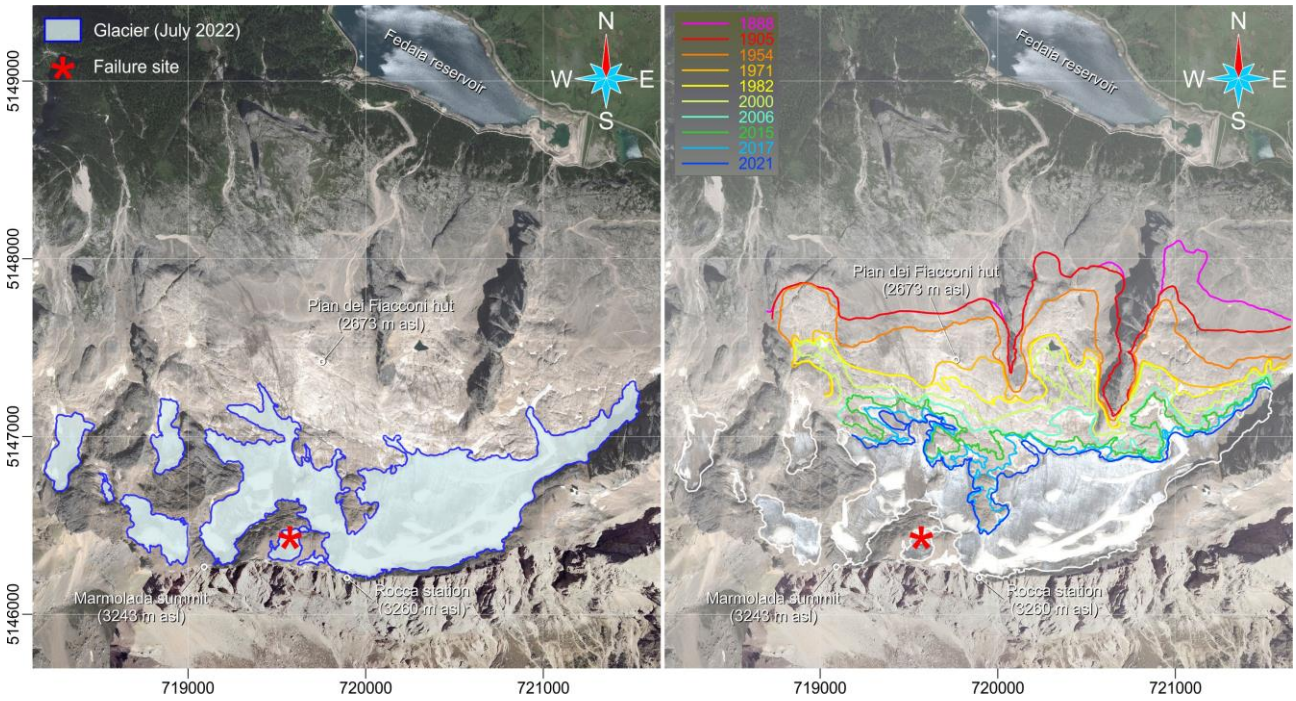

Fig. S6. Marmolada glacier (left panel) and front migration over the period 1880-2021 (right panel). Basemap: Pléiades Neo, AIRBUS Defence & Space (date of acquisition: July 8 and July 9, 2022). The detachment zone is marked with an asterisk. The 2022 glacier evidenced in both panels (blue outline and light blue fill on the left; white outline on the right). Aerial and satellite imagery source: Pléiades Neo, AIRBUS Defence & Space.

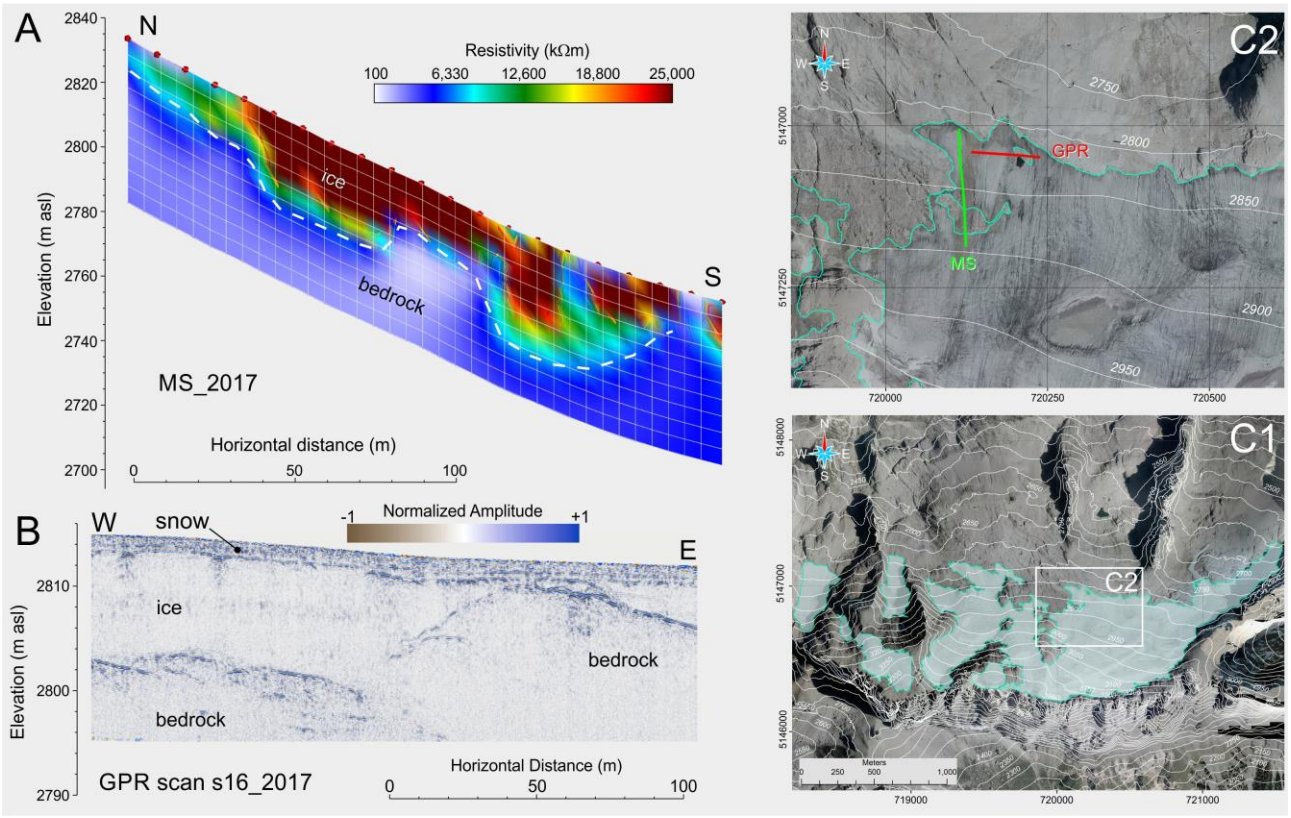

Fig. S7. Geophysical surveys on the Marmolada Glacier. Ice-covered bedrock was modeled via high-resolution geophysical imaging. Data were collected in five different campaigns from 2004 to 2022. Multisource ERT (A) and GPR (B) were utilized to outline geometry and properties of buried bedrock and ice. (C) Map showing geophysical profiles (panel A and panel B) collected during the 2017 campaign.

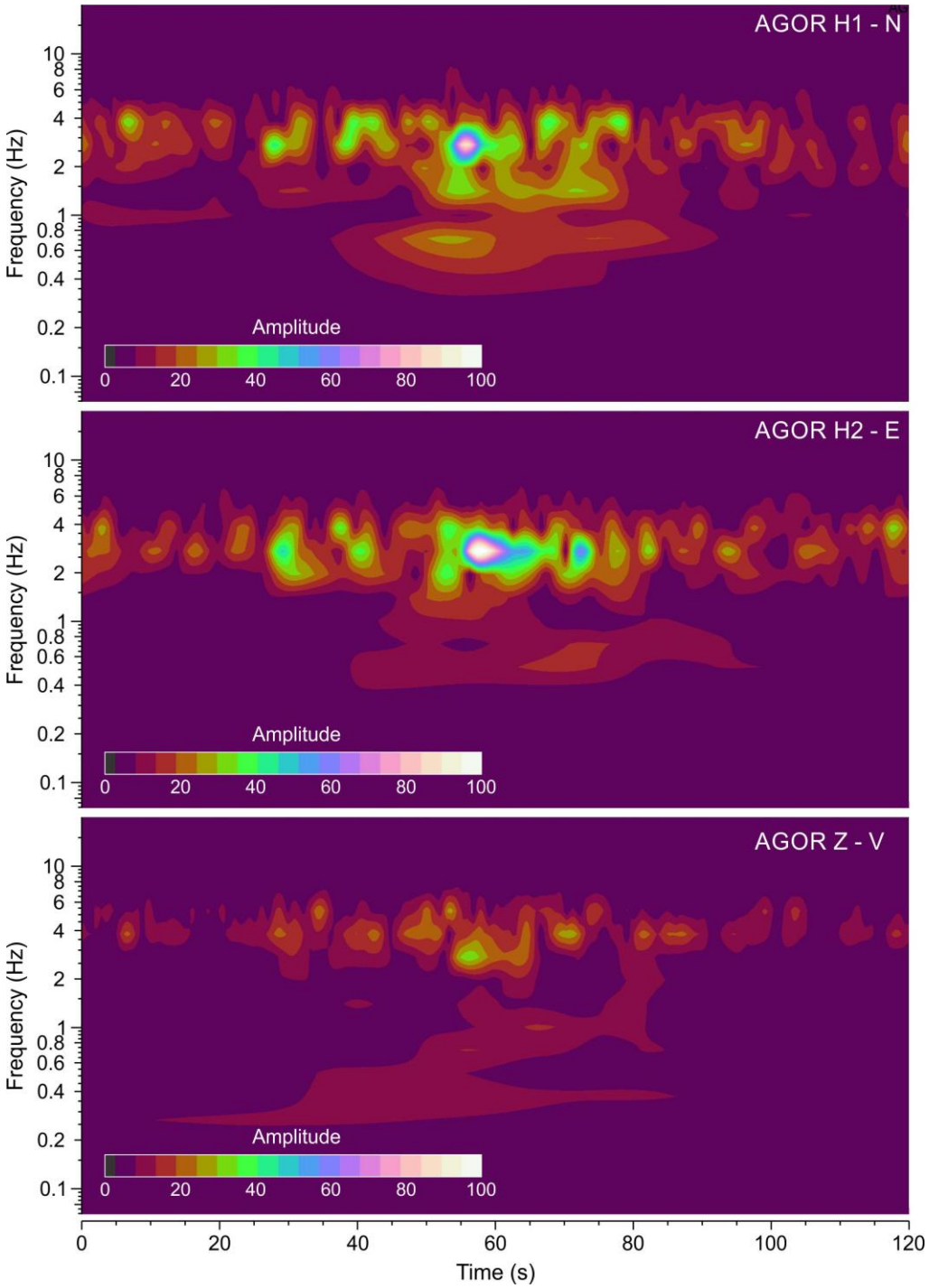

Fig. S8. Time frequency analysis of the failure-generated earthquake. (Top panel) – horizontal N component; (Middle panel) horizontal – E component; (Bottom panel) vertical – Z component.

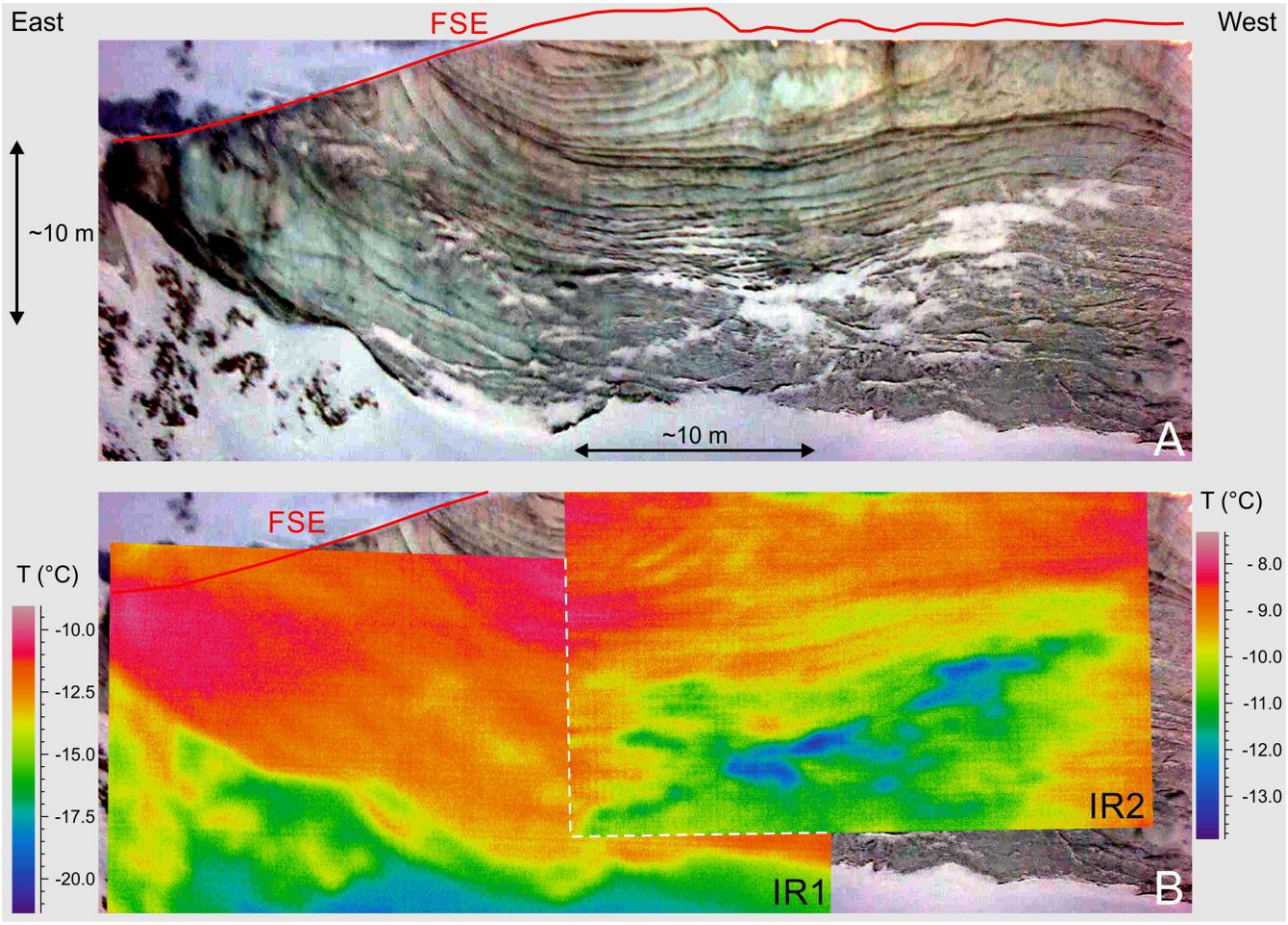

Fig. S9. Uncalibrated IR image of the north face of the failure scarp taken on Oct 14, 2022. The IR images were taken on Oct 14, 2022 at approximately 7:00 AM CET with a NEC Thermo Tracer H2640. (A) Photomosaic of RGB images; (B) shots IR1 and IR2 overlaid on the RGB image. FSE: Failure Scarp Edge. Snow is clearly biased cold.

Table S1. Digital database of the Marmolada massif. LIDAR - Light Detection and Ranging; TLS - Terrestrial Laser Scan; GPR – Ground Probing Radar; EMI - Electro-Magnetic Induction; ERT – Electrical Resistivity Tomography; MAG – Gradiometry.

Time span (years)	Data source	Data collector	Type	UM	Value
1871-1932	Historical cartography	seeTable S5	Geo-referenced digital image	n	8
1932-1977	Cartography	seeTable S5	Geo-referenced digital image	n	2
1977-2021	Modern digital cartography	seeTable S5	Raster/shapefile	n	6
1945-2017	Aerial images	seeTable S5	Geo-referenced digital image	n	19
2019-2022	Satellite images	seeTable S5	Geo-referenced digital image	n	5
2009-2022	LIDAR & TLS	seeTable S5	Binary	n	5
2004-2022	Geophysics (GPR),	seeTable S5	Binary	km	77.9
2015-2017	Geophysics (MAG),	seeTable S5	Binary	km	1.5
2015-2017	Geophysics (EMI & ERT)	seeTable S5	Binary	km	1.7
1985-2022	Snow and meteorological station		ASCII time series	n	9

Table S2. Weather stations. T=Temperature (min, max, avg), R=Rainfall, S=SnowThickness, P=Permafrost.

Station	Elevation (m asl)	Distance from failure (km)	Sampling	Processed parameters	Completeness (%)	Time span (years)
PRC	3250	~0.4	daily	T	75.4	1990-2022
MCP	1475	~3.6	daily	T	99.7	1990-2022
“	“	“	“	R	99.8	1990-2022
MAO	2227	~4.9	daily	T	96.1	1990-2022
“	“	“	“	S	98.4	1990-2022
PPR	2154	~6.1	daily	R	98.4	1990-2022
ARB	1642	~6.9	daily	R	99.4	1990-2022
PZB	2905	~8.6	daily	S,P	100	2011-2022
CPR	2195	~9.3	daily	T	97.1	1990-2022
“	“	“	“	S	97.5	1990-2022
RVL	2615	~21	daily	S	100	2021-2022
CBL	1915	~16	daily	T	N/A	1990-2022

Table S3. Data processing strategy for the reconstruction of the glacial surface. HM – geo-referenced historical map; GM – geo-referenced map; ASI – aerial/satellite images; LIDAR – light detection and ranging.

Year	Data source	Process	Mesh (m)	Expected errors (m)			
				Cartography		Geo-referencing	
				xy	z	xy	z
1880	HM	Digitization of glacier boundary	10	100	N/A	25	N/A
1905	HM	Digitization of elevation contours	10	25	N/A	10	N/A
1954	GM	Digitization of elevation contours	10	15	N/A	10	N/A
1971	GM	Digitization of elevation contours	10	5	N/A	5	N/A
1982	ASI	Generation of 3D point cloud	5	N/A	N/A	< 5	< 5
1994	ASI	Generation of 3D point cloud	5	N/A	N/A	< 5	< 5
2000	ASI	Generation of 3D point cloud	5	N/A	N/A	< 5	< 5
2006	ASI	Generation of 3D point cloud	5	N/A	N/A	< 3	< 3
2015	LIDAR	Direct measurements	2.5	N/A	N/A	<1	<1
2017	ASI	Generation of 3D point cloud	2.5	N/A	N/A	<2	<2
2019	ASI	Generation of 3D point cloud	2.5	N/A	N/A	<2	<2
2021	ASI	Generation of 3D point cloud	2.5	N/A	N/A	<2	<2

Table S4. Data processing strategy for the reconstruction of the ice-covered bedrock. GPR – ground probing radar; ERT – electrical resistivity tomography.

Year	Data source	Process	Transducer (MHz)	Wavelength - λ in ice (m)	Vertical resolution λ/8 criterion / cell size (m)
2004	GPR	Geophysical imaging	35	4.71	0.60
2004	GPR	Geophysical imaging	100	1.65	0.20
2015	GPR	Geophysical imaging	500	0.33	0.04
2017	GPR	Geophysical imaging	200	0.83	0.10
2018	GPR	Geophysical imaging	500	0.33	0.04
2022	GPR	Geophysical imaging	500	0.33	0.04
2017	ERT	Geophysical imaging	N/A	N/A	1.00

Table S5. Synopsis of the data sources used in the study.

a. Aerial and satellite images

Year	Type of survey	Scale	Institution/Company
1945	Aerial	1:33,000	IGM
1954	Aerial	1:33,000	GAI (contracted by IGM)
1973	Aerial	1:33,000	EIRA (contracted by PAT)
1982	Aerial	1:33,000	REVEN
1988	Aerial	1:33,000	CGR (contracted by PAT)
1991	Aerial	1:33,000	REVEN
1992	Aerial	1:33,000	REVEN
1994	Aerial	1:33,000	CGR (contracted by PAT)
2000	Aerial	1:33,000	TerraItaly, PAT
2001	Aerial	1:33,000	REVEN
2003	Aerial	1:33,000	PAT
2006	Aerial	1:33,000	CGR (contracted by PAT)
2008	Aerial	1:33,000	AGEA
2009	Aerial	1:33,000	PAT
2011	Aerial	1:33,000	AGEA
2012	Aerial	1:33,000	REVEN
2014	Aerial	1:33,000	CTA
2015	Satellite		BING
2015	Aerial	1:33,000	TERRA (contracted by PAT)
2017	Satellite		AGEA
2019	Aerial	1:33,000	SAT
2021	Satellite		AGEA
2021	Satellite		ESRI WORLD IMAGERY
2022	Satellite		PLEIADES NEO

b. Historical Cartography and cartography

Year	Title of the map	Scale	Institution/Company
1874	Karte der Dolomit Alpen	1:100,000	P. Ritter von Wiedenmann
1885	Karte der Alpen Tyrol	1:600,000	Jos. Ant. Finsterlin
1888	Monte Marmolada, F11, II, NE	1:25,000	IGM
1903	Übersichtskarte der Dolomiten	1:100,000	G. Freytag & Berndt, Wien
1903	Monte Marmolada, F11, II, NE	1:25,000	IGM
1905	Karte der Marmolata Gruppe	1:25,000	G. Freytag & Berndt, Wien
1926	Karte der Marmolata Gruppe	1:25,000	G. Freytag & Berndt, Wien
1932	Monte Marmolada, F11, II, NE	1:25,000	IGM
1963	Monte Marmolada, F11, II, NE	1:25,000	IGM
1971	Ghiacciaio della Marmolada	1:25,000	Rossi, CGI

c. Recent maps

Year	Title of the map	Scale	Institution/Company
1981	Carta Tecnica Regionale del Veneto	1:10,000	REVEN
1982	Carta Tecnica Regionale del Veneto	1:10,000	REVEN
1986	Monte Marmolada, F11, II, NE	1:25,000	IGM
2015	Carta Tecnica Provinciale	1:10,000	PAT
2016	Carta Tecnica Regionale del VENETO	1:10,000	REVEN
2021	Carta Tecnica Provinciale	1:10,000	PAT

d. LIDAR & TLS surveys

Year	Grid size (m)	Type	Institution/Company
2009	1x1	LIDAR	PAT
2011	1x1	LIDAR	PAT
2014	1z1	LIDAR	PAT
2014	1x1	LIDAR	ARPAV
2022	0.1x0.1	TLS	OGS, UNIPR
2022	0.05x0.05	UAV LIDAR	OGS, UNIPR

e. GPR surveys

Year	Type / antenna frequency (MHz)	Overall scan (km)	Institution/Company
2004	single Channel / 70 single Channel / 100	18.5	UNIGE (contracted by ARPAV)
2015	single channel / 500	0.5	UNIPD, UNIPR & OGS
2017	multichannel / 200	54.0	UNIPD, UNIPR & OGS
2018	single channel / 500	3.5	UNIPR & OGS
2022	single channel / 50 single channel / 200	1.0 0.3	UNIPR & OGS

Glossary

Acronym	Name (Italian)	Description (English)
AGEA	Agenzia per le Erogazioni in Agricoltura	*Funding Agency for Agriculture*
ARPAV	Agenzia Regionale per la Prevenzione e Protezione Ambientale del Veneto	*Environmental Prevention and Protection Agency of the Veneto Region*
BING	Microsoft Bing	*Microsoft Bing*
CAI	Club Alpino Italiano	*Italian Alpine Club*
CGR	Compagnia Generale Riprese Aeree	*General Contractor for Aerial Surveys*
CGI	Comitato Glaciologico Italiano	*Italian Glacial Committee*
CTA	Consorzio Telerilevamento Agricoltura	*Remote Sensing Consortium for Agriculture*
CTP	Carta Tecnica Provinciale (1:5,000; 1:10,000)	*Digital Vector Map of the Province of Trento*
CTRNV	Carta Tecnica Regionale Numerica del Veneto (1:5,000; 1:10,000)	*Digital Vector Map of the Veneto Region*
EIRA	Ente Italiano Rilievi Aerofotogrammetrici	*Italian Institute for Aerophotogrammetric Surveys*
ENEL	Ente Nazionale Energia Elettrica	*National Electric Company*
ESRI		*Environmental Systems Research Institute*
GAI	Gruppo Aereo Italiano	*Italian Air Group*
IGM	Istituto Geografico Militare Italiano	*Italian Military Geographical Institute*
OGS	Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale	*National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics*
PAT	Provincia Autonoma di Trento	*Autonomous Province of Trento*
REVEN	Regione del Veneto	*Veneto Region*
SAT	Società Alpinisti Tridentini	*Tridentine Society of Alpinists*
TERRA	Terra Messflug GmbH	*Terra Messflug GmbH*
UNIPD	Università degli Studi di Padova	*University of Padova*
UNIPR	Università degli Studi di Parma	*University of Parma*

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