La Palma Earthquakes

Steve Purves

Rowan Cockett

2024-08-27

Abstract

In September 2021, a significant jump in seismic activity on the island of La Palma (Canary Islands, Spain) signaled the start of a volcanic crisis that still continues at the time of writing. Earthquake data is continually collected and published by the Instituto Geográphico Nacional (IGN). …

## 1 Introduction

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Figure 1: Timeline of recent earthquakes on La Palma |

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

Based on data up to and including 1971, eruptions on La Palma happen every 79.8 years on average.

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

Studies of the magma systems feeding the volcano, such as Marrero et al. (2019), have proposed that there are two main magma reservoirs feeding the Cumbre Vieja volcano; one in the mantle (30-40km depth) which charges and in turn feeds a shallower crustal reservoir (10-20km depth).

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

Eight eruptions have been recorded since the late 1400s ([Figure 1](#fig-timeline)).

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

Data and methods are discussed in [Section 2](#sec-data-methods).

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

Let denote the number of eruptions in a year. Then, can be modeled by a Poisson distribution

where is the rate of eruptions per year. Using [Equation 1](#eq-poisson), the probability of an eruption in the next years can be calculated.

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 1: Recent historic eruptions on La Palma   | Name | Year | | --- | --- | | Current | 2021 | | Teneguía | 1971 | | Nambroque | 1949 | | El Charco | 1712 | | Volcán San Antonio | 1677 | | Volcán San Martin | 1646 | | Tajuya near El Paso | 1585 | | Montaña Quemada | 1492 | |

[Table 1](#tbl-history) summarises the eruptions recorded since the colonization of the islands by Europeans in the late 1400s.

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Figure 2: Map of La Palma |

La Palma is one of the west most islands in the Volcanic Archipelago of the Canary Islands ([Figure 2](#fig-map)).

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Figure 3: Locations of earthquakes on La Palma since 2017. |

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

[Figure 3](#fig-spatial-plot) shows the location of recent Earthquakes on La Palma.

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

## 2 Data & Methods

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

## 3 Conclusion

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

## References

Source: [Article Notebook](https://Ryan3Lima.github.io/ATUR-KARST/index.ipynb.html)

Marrero, José, Alicia García, Manuel Berrocoso, Ángeles Llinares, Antonio Rodríguez-Losada, and R. Ortiz. 2019. “Strategies for the Development of Volcanic Hazard Maps in Monogenetic Volcanic Fields: The Example of La Palma (Canary Islands).” *Journal of Applied Volcanology* 8 (July). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13617-019-0085-5>.