climada module eq_global   23 Dec 2014

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Introduction

An earthquake is the result of a sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust that creates seismic waves. Earthquakes are responsible for great destruction of property and loss of life - in the twentieth century alone, earthquakes destroyed property amounting to billions of dollars, and killed more than a million people worldwide [1]. In many parts of the world, seismic risks are significant, whether they are popularly recognized (as in Japan, where schools conduct earthquake drills) or not. Much of the challenge in assessing and addressing seismic hazards is that large earthquakes are relatively rare on human time scales, but can cause great destruction when they occur.

The Climada module eq_global therefore conducts a probabilistic seismic hazard analysis that allows to quantify the rate (or probability) of exceeding various ground-motion levels at a site given all possible earthquakes. In particular, the module eq_global can be used to derive estimates of the earthquake threat in specific countries. Consider climada module country_risk[1] and/or GDP_entity[2] to generate the centroids for the earthquake model.

All-in-one, you can run the module as:

```
hazard=eq_global_hazard_set(eq_global_probabilistic(...
    eq_isc_gem_read,99,0))
```

Overview of functions implemented

The Climada module eq_global contains the following functions:

- `eq_isc_gem_read` reads the ISC-GEM Catalogue[3]
- `eq_centennial_read` reads the Centennial Earthquake Catalogue[4]
- `eq_signigeq_read` reads the Significant Earthquake Database[5]
- `eq_global_probabilistic` creates the probabilistic epicenters (see `help eq_global_probabilistic for details`)
- `eq_global_hazard_set` creates the climada hazard event set and calls `eq_global_attenuation` for each event. Within eq_global_attenuation, the function `simple_eq_MMI` is called to calculate the intensity of the hazard at the given distance from the epicenter.
- `validate_eq_damage` compares the damage of single earthquake events (which are extracted from larger earthquake dataset by calling `climada_get_single_event`) calculated by Climada to historic damage data.
- `plot_attenuation_parameters` plots different attenuation curves that describe the decrease of the Modified Mercalli Intensity with distance from the epicenter. Attenuation

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[1] See https://github.com/davidnbresch/climada_module_country_risk and there `climada_high_res_entity`
[2] See https://github.com/davidnbresch/climada_module_GDP_entity
[3] The ISC-GEM Catalogue contains homogeneous locations and magnitudes with estimates of uncertainty for the period 1900-2009 prepared, where possible, using uniform techniques; see www.isc.ac.uk/iscgem/index.php
[4] The Centennial Catalogue is a global catalogue of locations and magnitudes of instrumentally recorded earthquakes from 1900 to 2008, see http://earthquake.usgs.gov/data/centennial/
[5] The Significant Earthquake Database contains information on destructive earthquakes from 2150 B.C. to the present; see http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/nndc/struts/form?t=101650&s=1&d=1
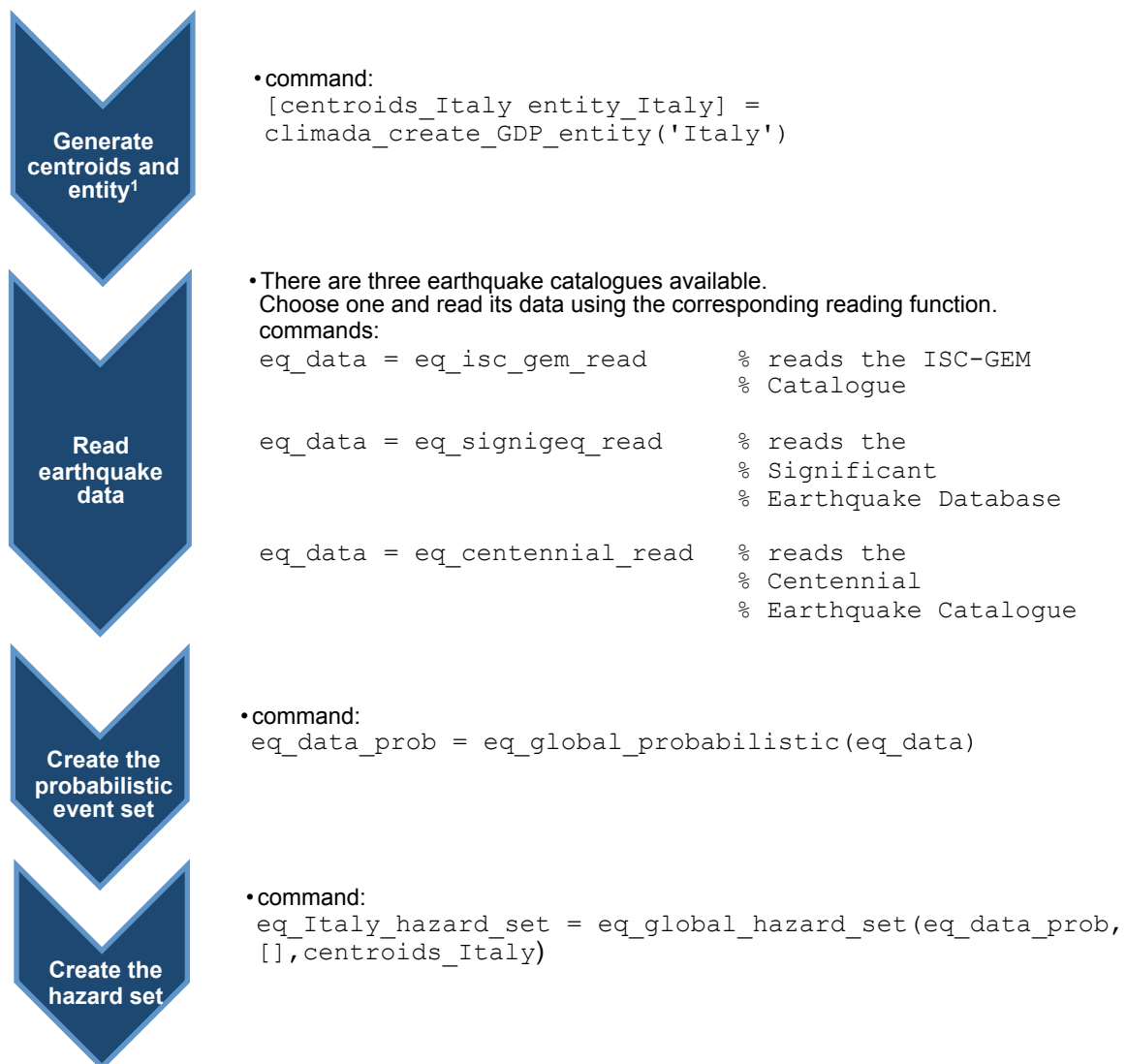
functions vary among different geographic regions and geological settings – `plot_attenuation_parameters` shows a selection of such functions, highlighting the one currently used as default.

- `plot_gutenberg_richter` produces a plot showing the relationship between the magnitude and total number of earthquakes of at least that magnitude.

Seismic hazard analysis: A step-by-step guide

Creating a probabilistic earthquake hazard set for a country of your choice (we will use Italy as an example) requires the following steps:

Generate centroids and entity[1]

- command:
```
[centroids_Italy entity_Italy] =
climada_create_GDP_entity('Italy')
```

Read earthquake data

- There are three earthquake catalogues available.
  Choose one and read its data using the corresponding reading function.
  commands:
```
eq_data = eq_isc_gem_read       % reads the ISC-GEM
                                % Catalogue

eq_data = eq_signigeq_read      % reads the
                                % Significant
                                % Earthquake Database

eq_data = eq_centennial_read    % reads the
                                % Centennial
                                % Earthquake Catalogue
```

Create the probabilistic event set

- command:
```
eq_data_prob = eq_global_probabilistic(eq_data)
```

Create the hazard set

- command:
```
eq_Italy_hazard_set = eq_global_hazard_set(eq_data_prob,
[],centroids_Italy)
```

[1] Please note that the Climada module GDP_entity has to be installed for this step.
Download: https://github.com/davidnbresch/climada_module_GDP_entity

Some definitions:

- **epicenter**: The epicenter is the point on the Earth's surface that is directly above the hypocenter or focus, the point where an earthquake originates.
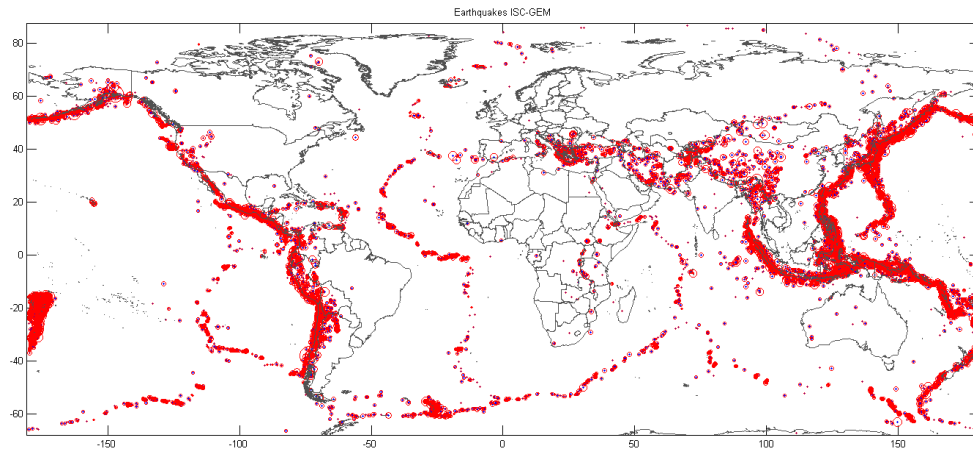
Figure 1: Global distribution of earthquake epicentres. Earthquakes primarily occur at the boundaries where the tectonic plates converge, diverge, or slide past each other. Figure created with the command `eq_isc_gem_read('',1)`

- **Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI)**: The Mercalli intensity scale is a seismic scale used for measuring the intensity of an earthquake. The scale quantifies the effects of an earthquake on the Earth's surface, humans, objects of nature, and man-made structures on a scale from I (not felt) to XII (total destruction).

- **Richter Magnitude:** The Richter magnitude scale assigns a magnitude number to quantify the energy released by an earthquake. The Richter scale is a base-10 logarithmic scale, which defines magnitude as the logarithm of the ratio of the amplitude of the seismic waves to an arbitrary, minor amplitude.

- **attenuation**: Attenuation describes how seismic waves lose energy as they propagate through the earth, partly for geometric reasons because their energy is distributed on an expanding wave front, and partly because their energy is absorbed by the material they travel through.
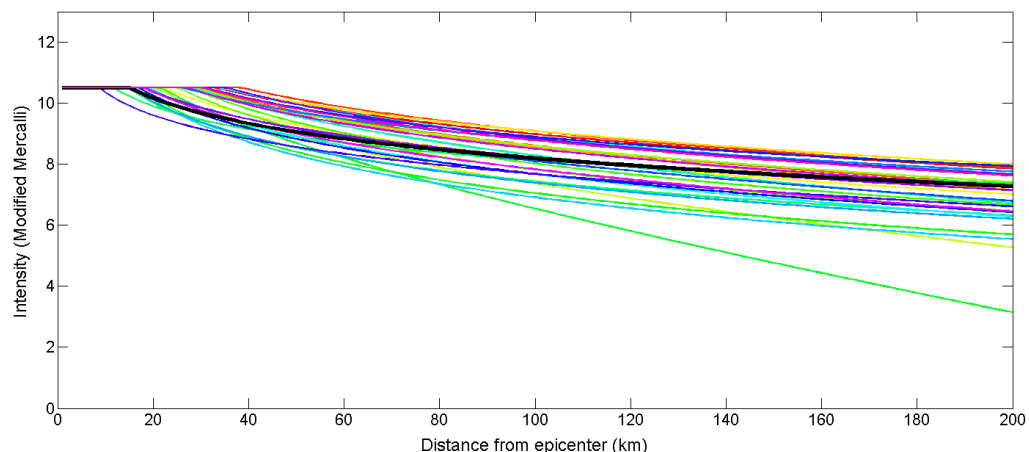
Figure 2: A selection of attenuation curves for different geographic regions, describing the decrease of intensity with increasing distance from the epicentre. Figure created with the command `plot_attenuation_parameters`

- **earthquake hazard:** The hazard is the intrinsic natural occurrence of earthquakes and the resulting ground motion and other effects (e.g., Tsunamis caused by earthquakes).
- **earthquake risk:** The risk is the danger the hazard poses to life and property. Hence, although the hazard is an unavoidable geological fact, the risk is affected by human actions [2].
- **damage function:** the earthquake damage function (i.e. the relation between MMI and damage inflicted at a given asset) is defined in the damagefunctions tab of the entity template[6], look for peril_ID 'EQ'.

Bibliography

[1] C. Scawthorn and W.-F. Chen, Earthquake Engineering Handbook, CRC Press, 2002.

[2] S. Stein and M. Wysession, An Introduction to Seismology, Earthquakes, and Earth Structure, John Wiley & Sons, 2009.

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[6] See climada's root folder, there ../data/entities/entity_template.xls