

Water injection wells and earthquakes in Oklahoma:

(From Kaggle)

<https://www.kaggle.com/ksuchris2000/oklahoma-earthquakes-and-saltwater-injection-wells>

Context

Beginning in 2009, the frequency of earthquakes in the U.S. State of Oklahoma rapidly increased from an average of fewer than two 3.0+ magnitude earthquakes per year since 1978 to hundreds per year in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Thousands of earthquakes have occurred in Oklahoma and surrounding areas in southern Kansas and North Texas since 2009. Scientific studies attribute the rise in earthquakes to the disposal of wastewater produced during oil extraction that has been injected deeply into the ground. (Wikipedia)

Injection wells are utilized to dispose of fluid created as a byproduct of oil and gas production activities. Likewise, hydraulic fracturing, ie "fracking", produces large byproducts of water. This byproduct is then injected deep back into the earth via disposal/injection wells.

Content

This dataset contains two data files. One detailing "active" saltwater injection wells in Oklahoma, as of September 2017. The second file lists earthquakes in the Oklahoma region (Oklahoma and surrounding states) since 1977.

Questions

- 1) Do wastewater injection wells cause the increase in earthquake activity?
- 2) Is it the volume of wells in a given area or the volume of injection that drives the activity?
- 3) Can current/past injections be used to predict future earthquakes and/or intensity?

Method

Part 1 will mainly be visualization, it will be interesting to see line plots of the number of earthquakes with notation of when wells come on line. Another (possibly more informative) way to look at it would be a line plot of the number of wells over time and number of earthquakes but only include earthquakes within a certain radius of the newly online wells (various sizes to be tested)

Part 2 will be interesting to experiment with, similar to part one several plots will be made this time exploring total volume injected not just number of wells online

Part 3 will utilize time series analysis with a neural network using Keras to try to predict the number/location of future earthquakes. This will have to train on incremental times to try to predict the next 3 or 6 months. Then that time frame of testing data will be included in the training and the next increment of time becomes the test set. I will probably do it every 6 months from when the earthquakes became more frequent until the end of the data, 2009-2017.

Wells Dataframe:

Int64Index: 11125 entries, 0 to 11124

Data columns (total 21 columns):

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	API#	11125 non-null	float64
1	Operator	11125 non-null	object
2	Operator ID	11125 non-null	float64
3	WellType	11125 non-null	object
4	WellName	11124 non-null	object
5	WellNumber	11124 non-null	object
6	OrderNumbers	11124 non-null	float64
7	Approval Date	11125 non-null	object
8	County	11125 non-null	object
9	Sec	11125 non-null	object
10	Twp	11125 non-null	object
11	Rng	11125 non-null	object
12	QQQQ	11125 non-null	object
13	LAT	11125 non-null	float64
14	LONG	11125 non-null	float64
15	PSI	9689 non-null	object
16	BBLS	9689 non-null	object
17	ZONE	11125 non-null	object
18	Unnamed: 18	0 non-null	float64
19	Unnamed: 19	0 non-null	float64
20	Unnamed: 20	0 non-null	float64

dtypes: float64(8), object(13)

Earthquakes Dataframe:

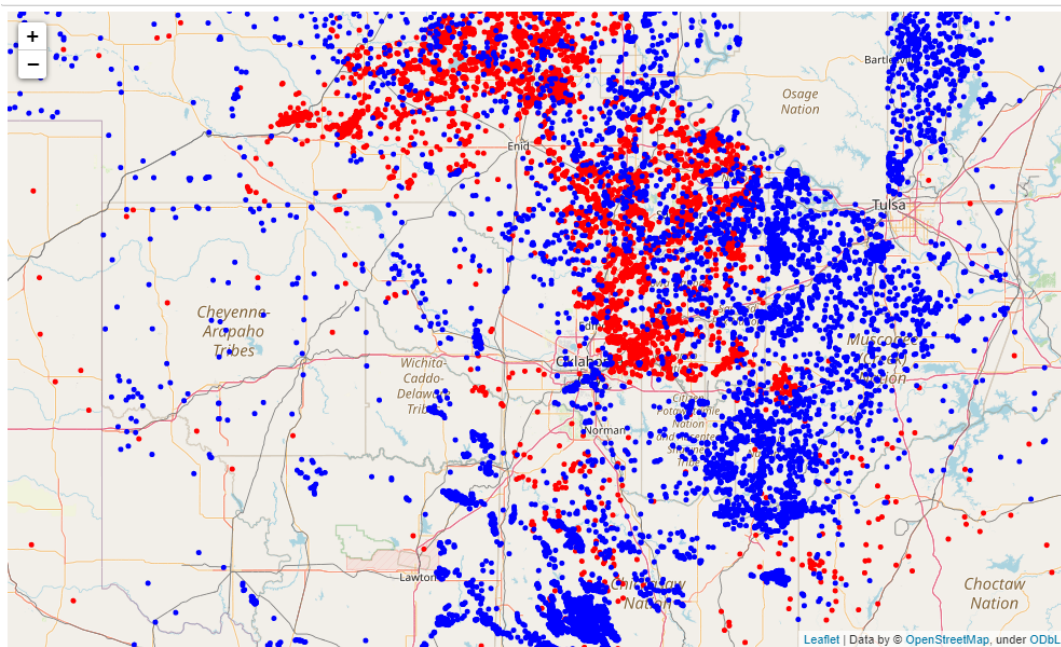
RangeIndex: 13954 entries, 0 to 13953

Data columns (total 23 columns):

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	time	13954 non-null	object
1	latitude	13954 non-null	float64
2	longitude	13954 non-null	float64
3	depth	13954 non-null	float64
4	mag	13948 non-null	float64
5	magType	13933 non-null	object
6	nst	5389 non-null	float64
7	gap	12433 non-null	float64
8	dmin	5621 non-null	float64
9	rms	12749 non-null	float64
10	net	13954 non-null	object
11	id	13954 non-null	object
12	updated	13954 non-null	object
13	place	13954 non-null	object
14	type	13954 non-null	object
15	horizontalError	10756 non-null	float64
16	depthError	12144 non-null	float64
17	magError	6055 non-null	float64
18	magNst	6133 non-null	float64
19	status	13954 non-null	object
20	locationSource	13954 non-null	object
21	magSource	13954 non-null	object
22	marker_color	13948 non-null	category

dtypes: category(1), float64(12), object(10)

Locations of wells and earthquakes:



Red dots = Earthquakes

Blue dots = Active Injection Wells