

NOAA Storm Database Weather Analysis

Mohammed Ihtesham

January 19, 2017

Reproducible Research : Project-2

Studies on the effect of weather events on personal as well as property damages in US based on NOAA database by Mohammed Ihtesham

=====

1.Synopsis

Storms and other severe weather events can cause both public health and economic problems for communities and municipalities. Many severe events can result in fatalities, injuries, and property damage, and preventing such outcomes to the extent possible is a key concern.

This project involves exploring the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) storm database. This database tracks characteristics of major storms and weather events in the United States, including when and where they occur, as well as estimates of any fatalities, injuries, and property damage.

In this report, effect of weather events on personal as well as property damages was studied. Barplots were plotted separately for the top 8 weather events that causes highest fatalities and highest injuries. Results indicate that most Fatalities and injuries were caused by Tornados. Also, barplots were plotted for the top 8 weather events that causes the highest property damage and crop damage.

2.Data Processing

2.1 Data

The data for this assignment come in the form of a comma-separated-value file compressed via the bzip2 algorithm to reduce its size. You can download the file from the course web site:

Storm Data - There is also some documentation of the database available. Here you will find how some of the variables are constructed/defined.

The events in the database start in the year 1950 and end in November 2011. In the earlier years of the database there are generally fewer events recorded, most likely due to a lack of good records. More recent years should be considered more complete.

2.2 Assignment

The basic goal of this assignment is to explore the NOAA Storm Database and answer the following basic questions about severe weather events.

1. Across the United States, which types of events (as indicated in the EVTYPE variable) are most harmful with respect to population health?

2. Across the United States, which types of events have the greatest economic consequences?

2.3 Process

2.3.1 Loading the data

The data was downloaded from the above mentioned website and saved on local computer. Then it was loaded on the R using the following code.

Loading data into R

```
storm <- read.csv("C:/Users/Md. Ihtesham/Documents/GitHub/Reproducible-Research-Coursera/Project 2/reproducible-research/StormData.csv")
head(storm)
```

```
## STATE__ BGN_DATE BGN_TIME TIME_ZONE COUNTY COUNTYNAME STATE
## 1 1 4/18/1950 0:00:00 0130 CST 97 MOBILE AL
## 2 1 4/18/1950 0:00:00 0145 CST 3 BALDWIN AL
## 3 1 2/20/1951 0:00:00 1600 CST 57 FAYETTE AL
## 4 1 6/8/1951 0:00:00 0900 CST 89 MADISON AL
## 5 1 11/15/1951 0:00:00 1500 CST 43 CULLMAN AL
## 6 1 11/15/1951 0:00:00 2000 CST 77 LAUDERDALE AL
## EVTYPE BGN_RANGE BGN_AZI BGN_LOCATI END_DATE END_TIME COUNTY_END
## 1 TORNADO 0 0 0
## 2 TORNADO 0 0 0
## 3 TORNADO 0 0 0
## 4 TORNADO 0 0 0
## 5 TORNADO 0 0 0
## 6 TORNADO 0 0 0
## COUNTYENDN END_RANGE END_AZI END_LOCATI LENGTH WIDTH F MAG FATALITIES
## 1 NA 0 14.0 100 3 0 0
## 2 NA 0 2.0 150 2 0 0
## 3 NA 0 0.1 123 2 0 0
## 4 NA 0 0.0 100 2 0 0
## 5 NA 0 0.0 150 2 0 0
## 6 NA 0 1.5 177 2 0 0
## INJURIES PROPDMG PROPDMGEXP CROPDMG CROPDMGEXP WFO STATEOFFIC ZONENAMES
## 1 15 25.0 K 0
## 2 0 2.5 K 0
## 3 2 25.0 K 0
## 4 2 2.5 K 0
## 5 2 2.5 K 0
## 6 6 2.5 K 0
## LATITUDE LONGITUDE LATITUDE_E LONGITUDE_ REMARKS REFNUM
## 1 3040 8812 3051 8806 1
## 2 3042 8755 0 0 2
## 3 3340 8742 0 0 3
## 4 3458 8626 0 0 4
## 5 3412 8642 0 0 5
## 6 3450 8748 0 0 6
```

2.3.2 Extracting the required data

This dataset consists of lot of information most of which is not required for our present study. So, here is the code to extract the required data for health and economic impact analysis against weather.

Extracting the required data for health and economic impact analysis against weather

```
event <- c("EVTYPE", "FATALITIES", "INJURIES", "PROPDMG", "PROPDMGEXP", "CROPDMG",  
          "CROPDMGEXP")  
data <- storm[event]
```

2.3.3 Finding property damage

Property damage exponents for each level was listed out and assigned those values for the property exponent data. Invalid data was excluded by assigning the value as '0'. Then property damage value was calculated by multiplying the property damage and property exponent value. The code for this process was listed below

Finding the property damage exponent and levels

```
unique(data$PROPDMGEXP)  
  
## [1] K M B m + 0 5 6 ? 4 2 3 h 7 H - 1 8  
## Levels: - ? + 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 B h H K m M
```

Assigning values for the property exponent data

```
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "K"] <- 1000  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "M"] <- 1e+06  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == ""] <- 1  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "B"] <- 1e+09  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "m"] <- 1e+06  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "0"] <- 1  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "5"] <- 1e+05  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "6"] <- 1e+06  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "4"] <- 10000  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "2"] <- 100  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "3"] <- 1000  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "h"] <- 100  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "7"] <- 1e+07  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "H"] <- 100  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "1"] <- 10  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "8"] <- 1e+08  
## Assigning '0' to invalid exponent data  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "+"] <- 0  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "-"] <- 0  
data$PROPEXP[data$PROPDMGEXP == "?"] <- 0  
## Calculating the property damage value  
data$PROPDMGVAL <- data$PROPDMG * data$PROPEXP
```

2.3.4 Finding crop damage

Crop damage exponents for each level was listed out and assigned those values for the crop exponent data. Invalid data was excluded by assigning the value as '0'. Then crop damage value was calculated by multiplying the crop damage and crop exponent value. The code for this process was listed below

Exploring the crop exponent data

```
unique(data$CROPDMGEXP)
```

```
## [1]    M K m B ? O k 2  
## Levels:  ? O 2 B k K m M
```

```
# Assigning values for the crop exponent data
```

```
data$CROPEXP[data$CROPDMGEXP == "M"] <- 1e+06  
data$CROPEXP[data$CROPDMGEXP == "K"] <- 1000  
data$CROPEXP[data$CROPDMGEXP == "m"] <- 1e+06  
data$CROPEXP[data$CROPDMGEXP == "B"] <- 1e+09  
data$CROPEXP[data$CROPDMGEXP == "O"] <- 1  
data$CROPEXP[data$CROPDMGEXP == "k"] <- 1000  
data$CROPEXP[data$CROPDMGEXP == "2"] <- 100  
data$CROPEXP[data$CROPDMGEXP == ""] <- 1  
# Assigning '0' to invalid exponent data  
data$CROPEXP[data$CROPDMGEXP == "?"] <- 0  
# calculating the crop damage value  
data$CROPDMGVAL <- data$CROPDMG * data$CROPEXP
```

2.3.5 Finding totals of each incident by event type.

It was observed that " most harmful to population health" events are fatalities and injuries. So, only those events with fatalities and injuries were selected.

It was observed that " most harmful to economic problem" events are Property and crop damages. So, only those events with property and crop damage were selected.

Then for each incident (Fatalities, Injuries, Property damage and Crop damage), the total values were estimated. Code for which is as follows.

Totalling the data by event

```
fatal <- aggregate(FATALITIES ~ EVTYPE, data, FUN = sum)  
injury <- aggregate(INJURIES ~ EVTYPE, data, FUN = sum)  
propdmg <- aggregate(PROPDMGVAL ~ EVTYPE, data, FUN = sum)  
croprdmg <- aggregate(CROPDMGVAL ~ EVTYPE, data, FUN = sum)
```

2.3.6 Plotting events with highest fatalities and highest injuries.

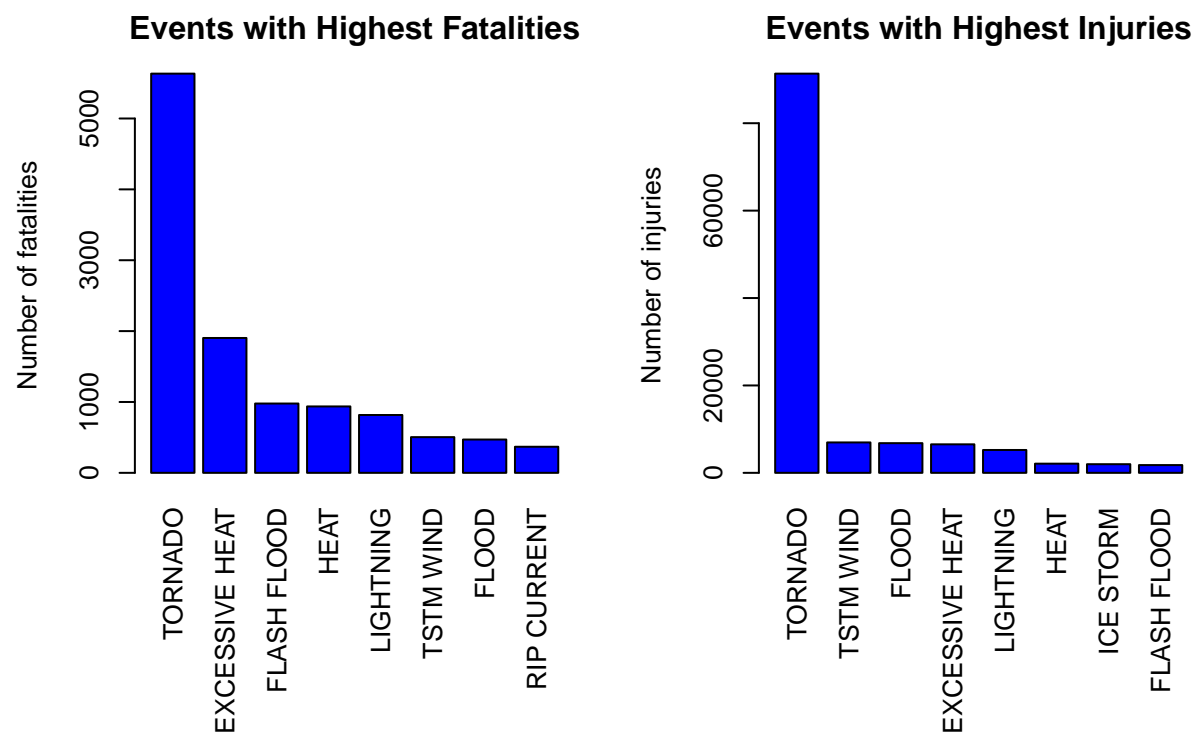
Highest fatalities and highest injuries for Top 8 events were calculated. For better understanding and comparison these values were plotted as follows.

Listing events with highest fatalities

```
fatal8 <- fatal[order(-fatal$FATALITIES), ][1:8, ]
```

Listing events with highest injuries

```
injury8 <- injury[order(-injury$INJURIES), ][1:8, ]
par(mfrow = c(1, 2), mar = c(12, 4, 3, 2), mgp = c(3, 1, 0), cex = 0.8)
barplot(fatal8$FATALITIES, las = 3, names.arg = fatal8$EVTYPE, main = "Events with Highest Fatalities",
        ylab = "Number of fatalities", col = "blue")
barplot(injury8$INJURIES, las = 3, names.arg = injury8$EVTYPE, main = "Events with Highest Injuries",
        ylab = "Number of injuries", col = "blue")
```



2.3.7 Plotting events with highest Property damage and highest crop damage.

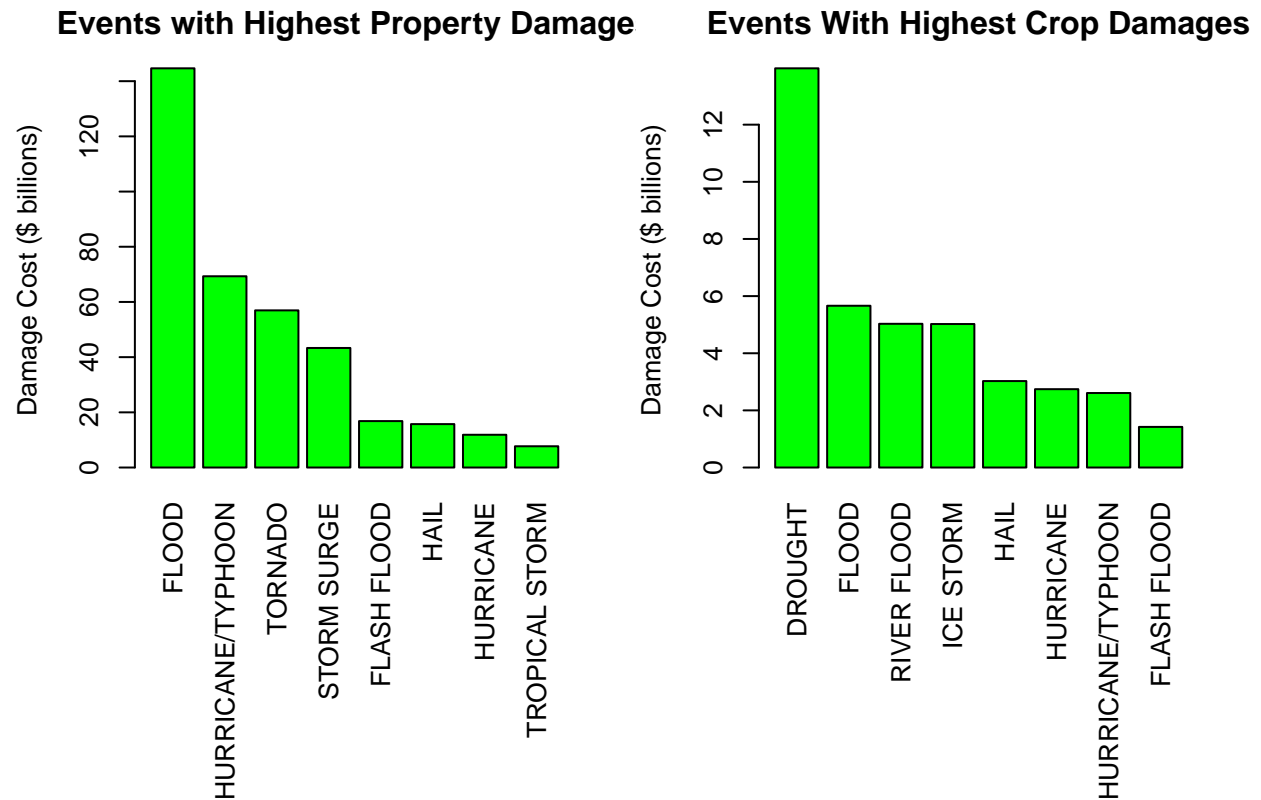
Highest Property damage and highest crop damage for Top 8 events were calculated. For better understanding and comparison these values were plotted as follows.

Finding events with highest property damage

```
propdmg8 <- propdmg[order(-propdmg$PROPDMGVAL), ][1:8, ]
```

Finding events with highest crop damage

```
cropdmg8 <- cropdmg[order(-cropdmg$CROPDMGVAL), ][1:8, ]
par(mfrow = c(1, 2), mar = c(12, 4, 3, 2), mgp = c(3, 1, 0), cex = 0.8)
barplot(propdmg8$PROPDMGVAL/(10^9), las = 3, names.arg = propdmg8$EVTYPE,
        main = "Events with Highest Property Damages", ylab = "Damage Cost ($ billions)",
        col = "green")
barplot(cropdmg8$CROPDMGVAL/(10^9), las = 3, names.arg = cropdmg8$EVTYPE,
        main = "Events With Highest Crop Damages", ylab = "Damage Cost ($ billions)",
        col = "green")
```



3.Results and Conclusions

Tornados caused the maximum number of fatalities and injuries. It was followed by Excessive Heat for fatalities and Thunderstorm wind for injuries.

Floods caused the maximum property damage where as Drought caused the maximum crop damage. Second major events that caused the maximum damage was Hurricanes/Typhoons for property damage and Floods for crop damage.