

# Decision Support System for Seismic Risks

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**Abstract.** This paper focuses on prediction and prevention of seismic risk through a system for decision making. Data Warehousing and OLAP operations are applied, together with, data mining tools like association rules, decision trees and clustering to predict aspects such as location, time of year and/or earthquake magnitude, among others. The results of the data mining and data warehouse application help to confirm uncertainty about problems behavior in decision making, related to the prevention of seismic hazards.

**Keywords:** earthquake, Data Warehouse, OLAP, data mining.

## 1 Introduction

Earthquakes are sudden movements of the Earth caused by the sudden release of energy accumulated over a long period of time. These are one of the leading causes of deaths and injuries associated with a natural event, that adversely affect the development of many populations, and these are threats that result in the deterioration of the countries and environment economy [1].

Given uncertainty of earthquake occurrence, finding relevant patterns to reduce the impact of earthquakes is of vital importance. Therefore, the technologies used to access and manipulate large volumes of data, to find relevant patterns, are data warehouse and data mining. The first technology is a collection of historical data related to a particular field-oriented, integrated, nonvolatile and time variant [2], which provides operations that can manipulate data through hierarchies. Data mining is a no trivial process to identify valid, novel, potentially useful and ultimately understandable patterns from the data [3]. The basis of data mining is artificial intelligence and statistical analysis. The models obtained are in two lines of analysis:

- Descriptive model: The fundamental mission of data mining is to discover rules; a set of relationships between variables may be established, allowing benefit in analysis and description of the model. In this category are techniques such as correlation and factorizations, clustering and association rules [3].
- Predictive model: Once you have established a number of important rules of the model through the description. Rules can be used to predict some output variables. It may be in the case of sequences over time, future fluctuations in the bag, to prevent catastrophic events such as earthquakes, likes the ones studied in this paper. Working with this model considers tasks like classification and regression [3].

The goal of a decision support system that utilizes data mining techniques is to use a model in order to generate predictions. For this work, we make assumptions based on earthquakes around the world, taking into account the main characteristics of the earthquake magnitude and location.

The term assumption gives us an overview of the work to be done, since there is no statistical basis to tell us with a certain degree of confidence, that an earthquake occurred in a place, can be repeated, taking into account a number of features associated to it. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to identify potential risk areas susceptible to earthquakes. The assumption is that *if an area has suffered several earthquakes in short periods of time, it is also susceptible that events will occur again.*

## 2 Datasets Description

The main external sources of information were: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Seismic System of Mexico (SSN) and National Earthquake Information (NEIC).

- The U.S. Geological Survey is a scientific organization that provides unbiased information on the health of ecosystems and its environment, natural disasters are a threat, the natural resources that are based on the impact of climate change and land use that help providing timely, relevant and useful information [4].
- The National Seismological Service of Mexico is an organization that provides timely information on earthquakes in the country. It is responsible for providing the information needed to improve the ability to evaluate and prevent the risk of earthquakes [5].

- The National Earthquake Information Center determines the location and size of all destructive earthquakes worldwide, it also disseminates this information to national and international scientists and organizations. Moreover, it maintains an extensive global database on seismic parameters of the earthquake and its effects, and it serves as a solid foundation for basic research and applied earth sciences [6].

This project uses data from these organizations, in order to preprocess them and obtain all relevant features to be used for the data mining stage. Table 1 shows information structure from these organizations.

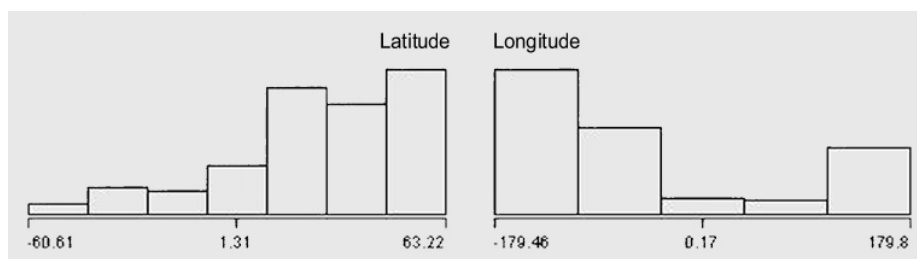
**Table 1.** USGS, SSN and NEIC Data.

Organization	No. of Registres	No. of attributes	Attributes
USGS	12790	10	Size, Date, Location, Depth, Region, Country, No. dead, No. injuries, Losses, Distances
SSN	11981	7	Size, Date, Location, Depth, Region, Country, Distances
NEIC	13948	6	Size, Date, Location, No. dead, No. injuries, Losses

## 2.1 Data Visualization: Correlations and Factorizations

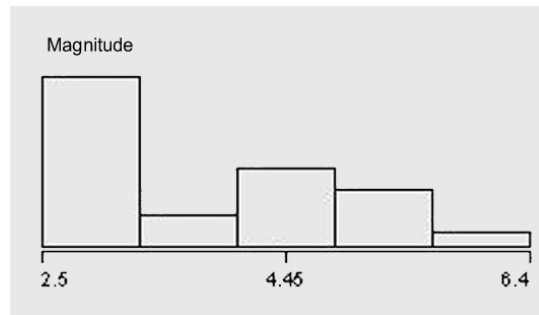
For this work we consider one fact, since an area has experienced many major earthquakes in the past, it is more likely that an earthquake will happen again. In another consideration, after an earthquake, with a high level of dissipated energy and/or with a high level in the scale, has occurred data shows that region is classified as a low risk area; but unfortunately this has not always been met and in many areas designated as low risk, earthquakes have occurred. Analyzing data we came up with a pattern of occurrence that suggests some sort of correlation between latitude and longitude with earthquake occurrence. Looking at both figures separately, from Figure 1, it can be seen that the greatest number of earthquakes are concentrated between the latitude  $63.22^0 \pm 30^0$ , and in longitude, between  $[-179.46^0, 179.8^0]$ .

**Figure 1.** Latitude & Longitude.



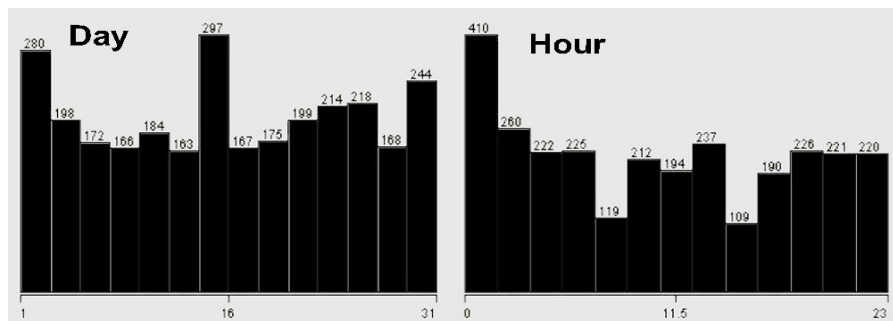
In Figure 2 it can be seen earthquakes ranging from 4.45 to 9.0 on the Richter scale concentrating most of them between 4.45 and 6.4. The average value of the earthquakes selected for this study is 6.16 on the Richter's scale. This value gives an idea of the magnitude of the phenomenon.

**Figure 2.** Magnitude according to Richter's scale.



Recorded data (fig. 3) suggests a relationship between a numbers of earthquakes with the hour and day of an earthquake, the histograms show a higher concentration of earthquakes around the sixteen day of a month and before 4 clock in the morning .

**Figure 3.** Days of month and time of day.



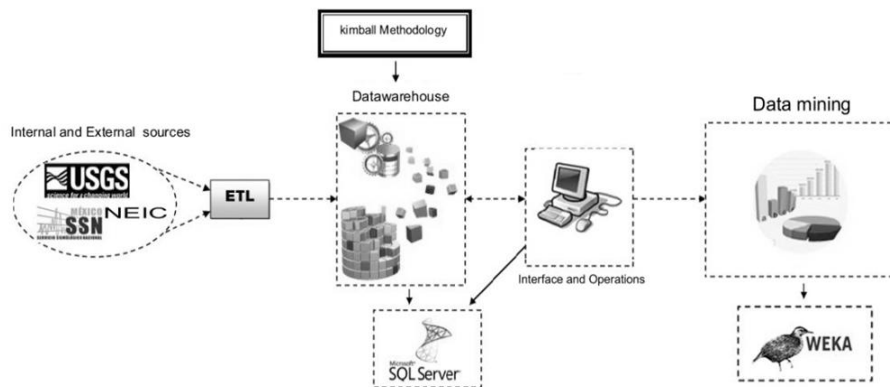
However there is no scientific reason for the occurrence of a seismic event in the morning. In fact it is considered a myth; several strong earthquakes have been in the morning, having surprised the people sleeping in their homes, even though people believe that most of the big earthquakes happen at that time, but reality that earthquakes can occur at any time of day.

### 3 Decision Support System Design

Data warehouses and OLAP systems help to interactively analyze huge amounts of data. These data, extracted from transactional databases, frequently contains spatial

information that is useful for the decision-making process [7]. In this process, the information collected is used to create a data warehouse using SQL server technology. Then, the data warehouse gives us the ability to add data according to defined hierarchies, in order to apply data mining techniques. Figure 4 shows the decision support system proposed in this work for seismic risks.

**Figure 4.** Architecture of the decision support system for seismic risks.



### 3.1 Load Manager Process

The load management process is also known as ETL system (Fig. 4), which stands for Extraction, Transformation, and Load consists of:

Extraction: Once the data were obtained from the USGS, NEIC and SSN, it is analyzed efficiently. As shown in Table 1 the attributes: *size*, *date* and *location* are repeated in the three organizations and attributes *number of injuries*, *deaths* and *losses* are in two organizations. As a part of the extraction process, a dataset is generated to be used in the data warehouse creation (Table 2), avoiding duplication in order to ensure data integrity.

**Table 2.** Integrated Dataset.

Attribute	Instance
Magnitude	9.0
Date	Friday, March 11, 2011 05:46:23
Localization	38.322°N, 142.369°E
Depth	32 km
Region	Honshu Coast
Country	Japan
No. deads	6,539
No. injuries	10,259
Losses	143,000,000
Distance	129 km from Sendai, 177 km from Yamagata, 177 km from Fukushima, 173 km from Tokio

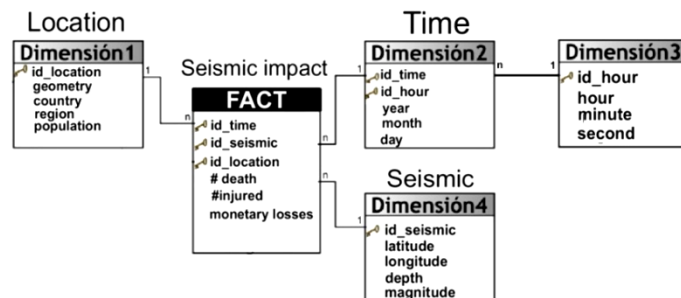
Transformation: Records of seismic events containing five or more null values were eliminated; records with an attribute out of range (values not adjusted for the overall behavior of the data) were also eliminated. To fill the empty data in some measures, it was necessary to exhaustively search in order to have complete events; available attribute values were averaged to complete the records. For seismic event occurrence time, the UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) format was adopted where; time is represented in hours, minutes and seconds. Date format is represented as year, month and day and depth in kilometers.

Load: At this stage, the transformed data were loaded into the system by using SQL Server<sup>1</sup> technology for data warehouse and Weka<sup>2</sup> for data mining. So far, it has only been carried out the initial charge and plans to update the data warehouse annually.

### 3.2 Multidimensional Schema

To develop the data warehouse, we used Kimball's methodology [8,9] based on a bottom-up multidimensional modeling, which will use a snowflake pattern as shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Multidimensional schema for seismic events prevention.



### 3.3 OLAP Operations

OLAP tools present to the user a multidimensional view of data (multidimensional scheme) for each activity which should be analyzed. In doing so, some attributes of the scheme are selected without knowing the internal structure of the data warehouse, creating a query and sending it to the manager consultation system. These tools were implemented to generalize the acquired information. The more significant type of OLAP queries that were made in this work are listed in Table 3.

<sup>1</sup>SQL Server database management system

<sup>2</sup>Weka (Waikato Environment for Knowledge Analysis) machine learning and data mining software

**Table 3.** OLAP Queries.

Query's	Results
No. of deaths from year 1900 to 2011	4,389,402
No. of deaths in earthquakes with magnitude $\geq 8$ ° Richter	448,727
Monetary losses from year 1900 to 2011	\$641,514,875
Monetary losses year 2011	\$1,311,768

The results in Table 3 confirm that the higher the magnitude of a seismic event, it corresponds more human and monetary losses. Such operations consisted on obtain measures on the parameterized facts for each attributes of the dimensions and restricted by conditions imposed on the dimensions.

## 4 Technical Description of Data Mining Applied to Data Sources

The first task of mining is pre-processing data, which can ensure better results during the experiments. This process was already done building the data warehouse.

### 4.1 Application of Data Mining Techniques

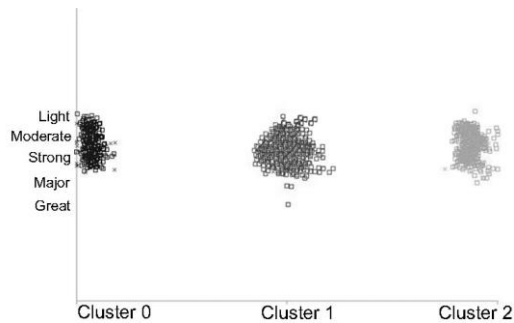
As we already mentioned, the techniques of data mining comes from artificial intelligence and statistics, these techniques are nothing more than algorithms which are applied to a set of data for results. For this particular case, a clustering technique was used, remember in fig. 3 we have some sense of grouping, the histograms suggest that and it is briefly described below:

*Clustering:* It is a process of grouping a series of vectors according to criteria routinely away, which will try to arrange the input vectors so that they are closer those who have common features [3].

*K-Means:* It was the first technique used to preview the dataset, suggesting 3 groups of types of earthquakes according to magnitude, as shown in Figure 6. Since all data is numeric, K-Means fits perfectly. This technique also allows partitioning the data into groups taking into account the Euclidean distance criterion.

*Classification trees:* A set of conditions is organized in a hierarchical structure, so the final decision can be determined according to the conditions to be met from the path from root to some of its leaves. One of the great advantages of classification trees is that, choices from a given condition are mutually exclusive [3]. In particular, J48 algorithm generates a classification tree from data taken by performing a recursive data partition. The tree was constructed using depth-first strategy [10]. The classification trees were used to answer the question, *can you determine the depth of a seismic event due to its magnitude?*

**Figure 6.** Earthquakes' clusters by magnitude.



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## 5 Discussions

This section shows the results of the execution of each data mining technique described in section 4.1.

### A. Clustering

A first experiment, K-Means was applied to the dataset, with  $k = 3$  clusters. As a result we have that *magnitude*, *time* and *depth*, which are discriminatory variables, they help to determine seismic events specially those that occurred during a period of [07, 15] hrs. Moreover, it can be noticed, that most of the earthquakes, has a depth in the range of 63.71 km, indicating that they are shallow earthquakes (occurring in the crust). In table 4, centroids of each cluster, are shown.

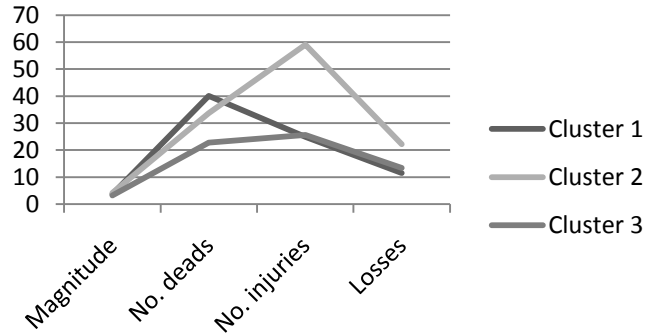
**Table 4.** K-Means results.

Attribute	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3
Magnitude	3.7034	4.1582	3.2767
Month	07	07	07
Day	18	16	18
Hour	17	15	12
Depth	71.5534	63.8709	45.8167
No. deads	40.069	33.7273	22.7667
No. injuries	248.8136	590.7082	256.7512
Losses	115438.3873	221675.1252	134580.22789



Finally, it can be verified according to Figure 7, in terms of economic losses, deaths and injuries, that they are properly classified since the parameters are usually similar to the seismic events of similar magnitude.

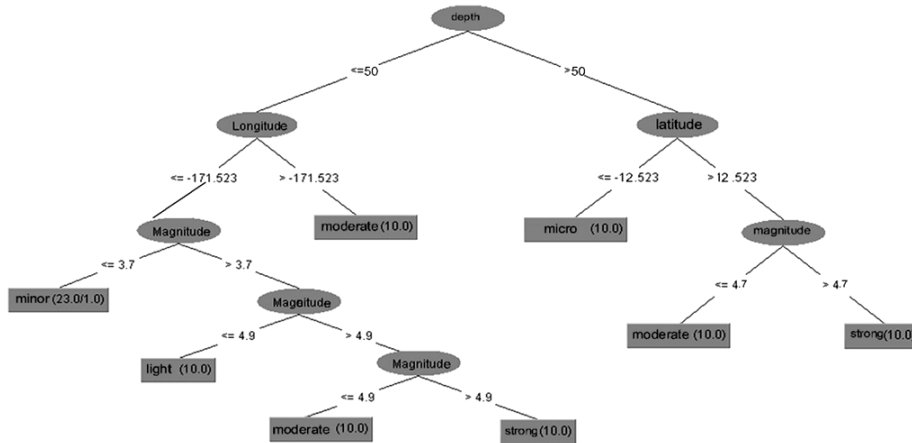
**Figure 7.** Clusters comparison.



*B. Classification tree*

The first step in solving complex problems is to divide them into smaller sub-problems. The classification tree was used to determine a base model according to the patterns. The input to this model is the *depth* attribute allowing determination of the magnitude. Figure 8 is a graphical representation of this tree. According to the question stated, it is indeed possible to determine the depth of the seismic event based on its magnitude.

**Figure 8.** Classification tree of seismic events.



## 6 Conclusions

According to the results, we discovered relationships among different sets. As a result of this analysis, it has been highly correlated with indicators to predict earthquakes; example is the identification of areas where there is a high level of seismic activity and identification of areas with high probability of having a new event. When spatial coordinates, magnitude and time are used we noticed that Pacific coast is an area with high occurrence of earthquakes, also it is important to mention that other areas are also considered.

Predictions of great importance were made, in order to make decisions to greatly reduce the damage and effects on vulnerable areas, thus achieving a beneficial impact to minimize the risk factors as the number of deaths, injuries and losses in construction. In the same way and based on the magnitude of the earthquakes predictions were obtained that will make immediate decisions after the earthquake.

A set of appropriate data and tools i.e. Weka, it allows us drawn conclusions, that at first glance would be difficult to discover. Results reached after various analyses shown, that earthquakes tend to have an average magnitude of 6.16 on the Richter's scale being mostly superficial. Besides, days with increased occurrence of a seismic event were found from 15 to 18 of the month.

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