Engineering Seismology and Seismic Hazard - 2019

Lecture 17

Ground Motion Prediction Equations

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Ground Motion Prediction

Ground Motion Prediction Equations (GMPEs) are the simplest **empirical** (and in few cases analytical) answer to the following question:

"If we know where a major earthquake is likely to occur, how large will the ground motion be at a particular site?"

History of Ground Motion Prediction

Empirical models still the basis of almost all PSHAs (except in stable low-seismicity regions)

Boxes indicate those methods often used in research and/or practice

Prediction vs Simulation

Why an empirical prediction? Ground motion could also be estimated by numerical simulation. However….

1) Numerical simulation is computationally expensive and does not (directly) provide estimates of the uncertainty. It also requires many parameters of difficult calibration.

Nonetheless, simulated ground motion at the end still needs to be compared with actual data!

Prediction vs Simulation

2) Engineers need a fast, simple and cost effective approach to be used massively, as in Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis.

They also need a reliable assessment of the **prediction uncertainty**, which is often more important that accuracy of the mean estimate.

Prediction Variables

- (1) Intensity or Magnitude (ML, mb, Ms, Mw)
- (2) Distance, using different metrics (Rrup, Rjb, Rhypo, Repi...)
- (3) Site term, generally by proxy (Vs30, f0)
- (4) Faulting style and mechanism (strike-slip, normal, reverse)
- (5) Fault orientation and geometry
- (6) Focal depth
- (7) Others….

Ground Parameters

Predicted ground motion can be expressed in term of:

- PGA, PGV
- PSA, PSV
- Intensity
- Actual ground acceleration and velocity (rarely)
- Duration (as accessory parameter)

A combination of the horizontal components is usually considered, such as:

- Arithmetic mean
- Geometric mean
- Largest component
- Random

Source-Path-Site Components

Ground motion at any site can be seen as the combination of three contributions:

- **Source characteristics** (fault size, magnitude, seismic moment, etc)
- **Wave propagation** (geometrical and anelastic attenuation, scattering and dispersion),
- **Site amplification** due to both the site response and the other effects

GMPE Functional Form

The functional form of empirical ground motion model is created following physical principles i.e. trying to reproduce the basic physics of the process.

Here is an "simple" example:

$$
\log(Y) = c_0 + c_1 M + c_2 M^2 + c_3 \log(\sqrt{(R^2 + h^2)}) + \sigma
$$

Different set of coefficients are defined for each ground motion measure type.

Equation (1) predicts 5% damped horizontal-component pseudospectral acceleration (PSA, in cm/s²) for B/C site conditions, peak ground acceleration (PGA, in cm/s²), and peak ground velocity (PGV, in cm/s). The standard deviation of residuals (σ total) and its intraevent and interevent components are also given.

GMPE Functional Form

More recent GMPEs are far more complex and can have tens of coefficients!

$$
\ln y_{ref} = c_1 + \left\{c_{1a} + \frac{c_{1c}}{\cosh(2\max(M-4.5,0))}\right\} F_{RV} + \left\{c_{1b} + \frac{c_{1d}}{\cosh(2\max(M-4.5,0))}\right\} F_{NM}
$$

+ $\left\{c_7 + \frac{c_{7b}}{\cosh(2\max(M-4.5,0))}\right\} \Delta Z_{TOR} + \left\{c_{11} + \frac{c_{11b}}{\cosh(2\max(M-4.5,0))}\right\} (\cos \delta)^2$
+ $c_2(M-6) + \frac{c_2 - c_3}{c_n} \ln\left[1 + e^{c_n(c_M - M)}\right] + c_4 \ln\{r_{rup} + c_5 \cosh[c_6 \max(M - c_{HM}, 0)]\}$
+ $(c_{4a} - c_4) \ln \sqrt{r_{rup}^2 + c_{RB}^2} + \left\{c_{r1} + \frac{c_{r2}}{\cosh(\max(M - c_{r3}, 0))}\right\} r_{rup}$
+ $c_8 \max\left[1 - \frac{\max(r_{rup} - 40, 0)}{30}, 0\right] \min\left[\frac{\max(M - 5.5, 0)}{0.8}, 1\right] e^{-c_{8a}(M - c_{8b})^2} \Delta DPP$
+ $c_9 F_{HW} \cos \delta \left[c_{9a} + (1 - c_{9a}) \tanh\left(\frac{R_x}{c_{9b}}\right)\right] \left[1 - \frac{\sqrt{r_{jb}^2 + Z_{TOR}^2}}{r_{rup} + 1}\right]$
 $\ln y = \ln y_{ref} + \phi_1 \min\left[\ln\left(\frac{V_{s,30}}{1130}\right), 0\right]$
 $\phi_2 \left\{e^{\phi_3[\min(V_{s,30}, 1130) - 360]} - e^{\phi_3(1130 - 360)}\right\} \ln\left(\frac{y_{ref} + \phi_4}{\phi_4}\right)$
 $\phi_5 \left(1 - e^{-\Delta Z_{1.0}/\phi_6}\right)$
 $\Delta Z_{TOR} = Z_{TOR} - E[Z_{TOR}]$
 $E[Z_{TOR}] = \max[2.704 - 1.226 \max(M - 5.849, 0), 0$

Chiou and Youngs 2014

Abrahamson

Implementation Workflow

Classical procedure used to derive a GMPE (from Douglas, 2003):

- Earthquakes are recorded using strong-motion instruments to get a set of records for analysis.
- If the earthquakes were recorded on analogue accelerographs, which use paper or film, then the accelerograms are digitized to get the data into a form usable for numerical analysis.
- The digitized strong-motion records are processed to remove short- and long-period noise, which is introduced in the recording and digitization stages. This processing usually consists of fitting a zero baseline to the record and then applying a bandpass filter.
- A dependent variable is selected and calculated from the strong-motion records. This dependent variable, such as peak ground acceleration or spectral acceleration, should be useful for seismic design and analysis.
- Independent variables, such as magnitude and source-to-site distance, that characterise the strong-motion records in the data set are then collected for all the time-histories used.
- Regression analysis is performed to derive equations to estimate the dependent variable (a strong-motion parameter) given the independent variables. At the same time, the standard deviation of the equations are calculated.
- The derived equations are used in seismic hazard analysis, either deterministic or probabilistic, to give estimates of the strong ground motion that could be expected at a site during a future earthquake.

Implementation Workflow

Strong Motion Databases

ITACA is the Italian on-line Strong Motion Archive. It contains more than 2000 three component waveforms (corrected and uncorrected) generated by more than 1000 earthquakes.

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<http://itaca.mi.ingv.it/ItacaNet/>

Strong Motion Databases

Kyoshin Net (**K-NET**) is the Japanese strong motion network Probably the densest national strong-motion network in the world, with more than 1000 stations.

2011/03/11-14:46 38.103N 142.860E 24km M9.0

Strong Motion Databases

The Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (**PEER**) provides a global database of homogeneously processed strong motion recordings for Shallow Crustal Earthquakes in Active Tectonic Regimes.

http://peer.berkeley.edu

Showhide Map

Available Data In Europe

Regional M-D Distributions

Empirical vs Simulation Data

1) When have data (rare for most of the world):

• Regression analysis of observed data

2) When adequate data are lacking:

- Regression analysis of simulated data (making use of motions from smaller events if available to constrain distance dependence of motions).
- Hybrid methods, capturing complex source effects from observed data and modifying for regional differences.

Data Regression

Two are the most common methodologies:

- Two step regression method (Joyner and Boore 1981; Joyner and Boore 1993, 1994) → **weighted least square**
- One-stage mixed-effects model regression algorithm (Abrahamson and Youngs, 1992) → **maximum likelihood**

Both these algorithms, in their current form, assume that the intraevent residuals are independent

Simple regression techniques should generally be excluded unless they are capable to account for:

- . The correlation between subsets of recordings (e.g. recordings for a single earthquake from many stations)
- The unbalancing in the dataset (e.g. each earthquake can have a different number of recordings available)

Data Regression

Remember that GMPE regression is a multidimensional fitting problem, depending on the number of predictor variables used.

Thus, it might be difficult to visualize!

Errors: Lack of Data

Lack of data is particularly critical in the near-field. Extrapolation in this region can bring to significant errors in the prediction.

Errors: Effect of Triggering

Censoring of triggered data can lead to bias in coefficients

Effect of Magnitude

Source scaling theory predicts a general increase with magnitude for a fixed distance, with more sensitivity to magnitude for long periods and possible nonlinear dependence on magnitude.

Of the different magnitude scales, the **Moment Magnitude** (Mw) is the most useful for prediction, because:

- Best single measure of overall size of an earthquake
- Base on non-saturated data
- Can be determined from ground deformation or seismic waves
- Can be estimated from paleoseismological studies
- Can be related to slip rates on faults

$$
M_0 = \mu SA
$$
 $M_w = \frac{2}{3} \log(M_0) - 10.7$

Effect of Magnitude

Effect of Distance

Generally, ground motion will decrease with distance (it will attenuate \rightarrow that is why GMPE are also called attenuation functions) due to:

- \rightarrow Geometrical spreading (1/r in uniform media)
- \rightarrow Intrinsic attenuation and scattering

Wave propagation in a heterogeneous earth predicts more complicated behavior e.g., increase at some distances due to critical angle reflections ("**Moho-bounce**").

Equations assume average over various crustal structures.

Effect of Distance

Distance Metrics

Many different measures of distance (**distance metrics**):

- Repi \rightarrow Epicentral distance
- Rhypo \rightarrow Hypocentral (focal) distance
- $Rrup \rightarrow Rupture$ distance
- R jb \rightarrow Joyner-Boore distance, the distance to the vertical projection on the surface of the rupture
- \bullet **Rseis** \rightarrow Seismogenic distance, the distance to the seismogenic part of the rupture

Distance Metric Examples

Spatial Pattern

distance matrix has a significant impact on the computed ground motion in the **near-field**

Focal Depth

Focal depth only has physical significance, for small crustal earthquakes

For small earthquakes can be dominant factor at short distances

LARGE

 \mathbf{O}_{MC}

SURFACE

SMALL

SCHIZOSPHERE

Relation to Period

Effect of Faulting Style

Empirical observations show some differences in the levels of ground motion produced by reverse (R), normal (N) and strike-slip (SS) events.

- Most recent equations model difference between reverse and strike-slip
- Few equations model difference between normal and strike-slip
- Still uncertainty and no common agreement in size of such effect

Effect of Faulting Style

Effect of Faulting Style

Faulting mechanism is related to the crustal stress, therefore major tectonic domains usually have a predominant mechanism. **Regionalization** is therefore important in GMPEs

Hanging Wall Effect

Sites located above the fault rupture on the hanging wall will have larger ground motions than sites at the same rupture distance located on the footwall because the hanging-wall sites are closer to a larger area of the source than the footwall sites.

Observations documented an increase of up to 50% in PGA on the hanging wall close to the fault.

Site Effects

Low-velocity layers strongly affect ground motion:

- Impedance contrast amplification between bedrock and softer layers
- Resonance of soft layers (amplification and deamplification)
- High frequency attenuation (deamplification)

Different schemes as prediction variable:

- Soil classes (NEHRP, EC8, SIA)
- Vs30 (continuous variable)
- Fundamental frequency of resonance (fo)

* Shear velocity is averaged over the upper 30 m.

PGA Saturation

Recent GMPE functional forms incorporate the idea that high frequency ground motion saturates close to the fault (i.e. less dependent on magnitude than far from fault).

Aleatory Variability

Ground motion variability not captured by the relation is partially epistemic and partially aleatory.

Aleatory Variability Components

The total variability of the ground motion σ is usually broken up into a between-events standard deviation (T) and a within-event standard deviation (ϕ) , assuming normally distributed.

$$
\sigma = \sqrt{\tau^2 + \phi^2}
$$

 R_{run} (km)

Cause of Uncertainty

- Observational not experimental
- Inappropriate independent variables
- Functional form too simple
- Unmodelled (or undocumented) source, path and site effects
- Poor or heterogenous datasets

GMPEs are usually associated with a specific tectonic region; the use of a GMPE is generally recommended for a single TR.

First regionalisation of the world: Gutenberg and Richter (1954)

Major tectonic regions considered (Abrahamson and Shedlock, 1997):

- Stable continental regions
- Subduction zones
- Shallow earthquakes in active tectonic regions

Regions lacking (or with a few) GMPEs due to the scarcity of recordings:

- Continental rifts
- Volcanic areas
- Deep events in active tectonic regions (e.g. Vrancea)

Flinn–Engdahl regions proposed in 1965, mostly for earthquake localization. It follows political boundaries.

Figure 17. The maps shows the tectonic regionalisation model derived from our study for top 30 km.

Chen et al. 2017 - Merging information from:

- Seismicity (magnitude)
- Smoothed Moment rate
- S-wave velocity
- **QLG** distribution

Current Standards

Summarizing, this is minimum requirement for a state-of-art ground motion prediction equation:

- Prediction variables: Geometric mean of PGA, PSA and PGV
- Processing: Low-cut filtering with record-specific cut-offs
- Source: Mw and normal/strike-slip/reverse categories, nonlinear M scaling
- Path: Joyner-Boore distance or rupture distance, Mdependent decay
- Site: Vs,30 or handful of Vs,30-based site classes (e.g. EC8)
- Derivation: Random-effects/Maximum-likelihood regression
- Sigma: Between- and within-event sigmas

Would you like to make your own GMPE???

Number of Published GMPEs

Decreasing Uncertainty (?)

Although the many GMPE and recent developments, uncertainty did not significantly decreased over the years.

GMPE Selection Criteria

For regional hazard study it not practical to implement a new GMPE each time. Existing relations must be used.

But how to select the proper GMPE?

A) If local data available (not common):

 \rightarrow Compare and select the best matching GMPE

B) If data not available (most cases):

 \rightarrow Select best GMPE based on indirect criteria (e.g. Cotton et al 2006)

- Similarity of region type
- Robustness of calibration data
- Suitability of functional form
- Is state-of-art

Selection: Trellis Plots

Selection: Helpful Resources

Title

Text