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La Palma Earthquakes

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Abstract

In September 2021, a significant jump in seismic activity on the island of La Palma (Canary Islands, Spain) signaled the start of a volcanic crisis that still continues at the time of writing. Earthquake data is continually collected and published by the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN). We have created an accessible dataset from this and completed preliminary data analysis which shows seismicity originating at two distinct depths, consistent with the model of a two reservoir system feeding the currently very active volcano.

0.1 Introduction

The content of your notebook may be broken into any number of markdown or code cells. Markdown cells use Quarto markdown. Quarto markdown supports an extended version of the basic Markdown syntax originally created by John Gruber, which adds support for many common document elements including citations, figures, tables, admonitions, and more. Quarto markdown also supports the use of LaTeX for mathematical equations, advanced layout control, as well as other advanced formatting.

La Palma is one of the west most islands in the Volcanic Archipelago of the Canary Islands, a Spanish territory situated in the Atlantic Ocean where at their closest point are 100km from the African coast Figure 1. The island is one of the youngest, remains active and is still in the island forming stage.

Figures may be added to your notebook using [markdown images](#) or [special markdown elements](#) ('fenced divs'). They may refer to images saved in your `images/` folder (or other folders), images from the web, or generated directly using code cells. You may embed figures produced in other notebooks using the [embed shortcode](#) (this embeds figures, tables, or any other content from Jupyter Notebooks). Refer to figures by their label (e.g. `@fig-map`).



Figure 1: Map of La Palma in the Canary Islands. Image credit [NordNordWest](#)

La Palma has been constructed by various phases of volcanism, the most recent and currently active being the *Cumbre Vieja* volcano, a north-south volcanic ridge that constitutes the southern half of the island.

0.1.1 Eruption History

A number of eruptions were recorded since the colonization of the islands by Europeans in the late 1400s, these are summarised in Table 1.

Quarto supports a number of ways to create tables using both standard markdown tables (pipe tables) and more complex markdown tables using a grid style syntax (grid tables). In addition, Quarto provides the ability to control column width, caption position, create subtables, and more. See [Quarto's table document](#) to learn more. Refer to tables in the text by their label (e.g. `@tbl-history`).

Table 1: Recent historic eruptions on La Palma

Name	Year
Current	2021
Teneguía	1971
Nambroque	1949
El Charco	1712
Volcán San Antonio	1677
Volcán San Martin	1646
Tajuya near El Paso	1585
Montaña Quemada	1492

This equates to an eruption on average every 79 years up until the 1971 event. The probability of a future eruption can be modeled by a Poisson distribution Equation 1.

Numbered equations may be defined using ‘dollar math’ by placing equations between matching pairs of dollar signs. Learn more about Quarto’s equation here: <https://quarto.org/docs/authoring/cross-references.html#equations>. Refer to equations in the text by their label (e.g. `@eq-poisson`).

$$p(x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!} \tag{1}$$

Where λ is the number of eruptions per year, $\lambda = \frac{1}{79}$ in this case. The probability of a future eruption in the next t years can be calculated by:

$$p_e = 1 - e^{-t\lambda} \tag{2}$$

So following the 1971 eruption the probability of an eruption in the following 50 years — the period ending this year — was 0.469. After the event, the number of eruptions per year moves to $\lambda = \frac{1}{75}$ and the probability of a further eruption within the next 50 years (2022-2071) rises to 0.487 and in the next 100 years, this rises again to 0.736.

0.1.2 Magma Reservoirs

You may provide the bibliography directly as a bibtex, biblatex, CSL JSON, or CSL YAML file (defined in the document front matter or `_quarto.yml` project file) then embed the citation by citation key in your text using the `[@cite]` or `@cite` for parenthetical or textual citations, respectively. The

67 following paragraph provides an example of this. Quarto's [documentation on](#)
 68 [citations](#) provides more details on working with bibliographies and citations.

69 Studies of the magma systems feeding the volcano, such as Marrero et al. (2019) has
 70 proposed that there are two main magma reservoirs feeding the Cumbre Vieja vol-
 71 cano; one in the mantle (30-40km depth) which charges and in turn feeds a shallower
 72 crustal reservoir (10-20km depth).

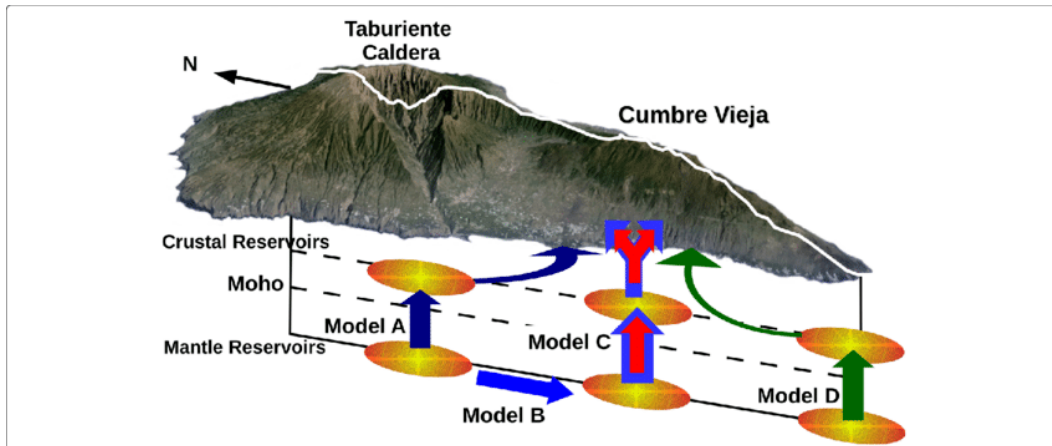


Figure 2: Proposed model from Marrero et al

73 In this paper, we look at recent seismicity data to see if we can see evidence of such
 74 a system action, see Figure 2.

75 1 Dataset

76 All data used in the notebook should be present in the `data/` folder so note-
 77 books may be executed in place with no additional input.

78 The earthquake dataset used in our analysis was generated from the [IGN web por-
 79 tal](#) this is public data released under a permissive license. Data recorded using the
 80 network of Seismic Monitoring Stations on the island. A web scraping script was
 81 developed to pull data into a machine-readable form for analysis. That code tool is
 82 [available on GitHub](#) along with a copy of recently updated data.

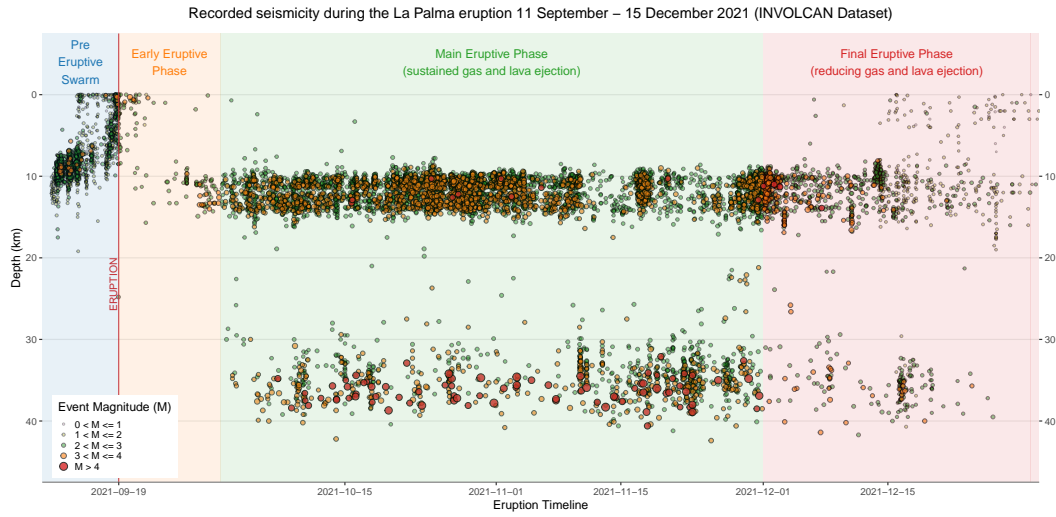
83 1.1 Main Timeline Figure

84 Code cells may be seamlessly interleaved with markdown cells. There are a
 85 variety of execution options to control the behavior of code cells - learn more
 86 in [Quarto's documentation on execution options](#).

87 1.2 Visualising Long term earthquake data

88 Data taken directly from the IGN Catalog

89 Supported cell outputs below include `pandas` dataframe, raw text output,
 90 `matplotlib` plot, and `seaborn` plot.

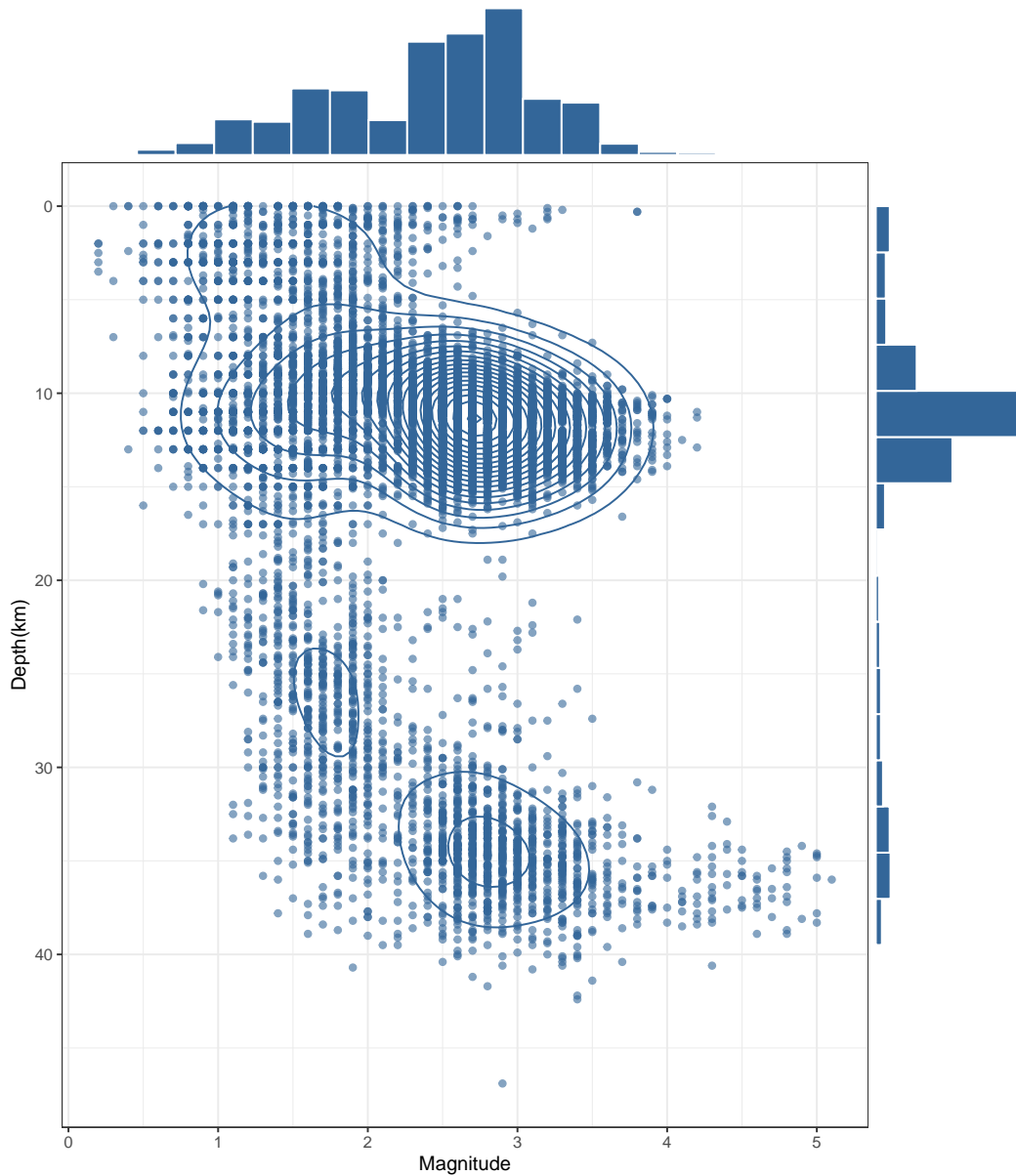


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1.3 Cumulative Distribution Plots

Cumulative Events 01-01-2017 to 01-01-2022



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2 Results

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The dataset was loaded into this Jupyter notebook and filtered down to La Palma events only. This results in 5465 data points which we then visualized to understand their distributions spatially, by depth, by magnitude and in time.

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From our analysis above, we can see 3 different systems in play.

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Firstly, the shallow earthquake swarm leading up to the eruption on 19th September, related to significant surface deformation and shallow magma intrusion.

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After the eruption, continuous shallow seismicity started at 10-15km corresponding to magma movement in the crustal reservoir.

103 Subsequently, high magnitude events begin occurring at 30-40km depths correspond-
104 ing to changes in the mantle reservoir. These are also continuous but occur with a
105 lower frequency than in the crustal reservoir.

106 **3 Conclusions**

107 From the analysis of the earthquake data collected and published by IGN for the
108 period of 11 September through to 9 November 2021. Visualization of the earth-
109 quake events at different depths appears to confirm the presence of both mantle and
110 crustal reservoirs as proposed by Marrero et al. (2019).

111 Data availability statement should be specified in a separate cell with meta-
112 data "part": "availability", similar to the abstract.

113 AGU requires an Availability Statement for the underlying data needed to
114 understand, evaluate, and build upon the reported research at the time of
115 peer review and publication.

116 A web scraping script was developed to pull data into a machine-readable form
117 for analysis. That code tool is available on [GitHub](#) along with a copy of recently
118 updated data.

119 **References**

120 Marrero, J., García, A., Berrocoso, M., Llinares, Á., Rodríguez-Losada, A., & Ortiz,
121 R. (2019). Strategies for the development of volcanic hazard maps in mono-
122 genetic volcanic fields: The example of La Palma (Canary Islands). *Journal of*
123 *Applied Volcanology*, 8. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13617-019-0085-5>