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Title: (NL3) APPLICATION OF FRACTALS IN THE ANALYSIS OF BHUJ EARTHQUAKE OF JANUARY 26, 2001.

Abstract:

The Fractal statistics has been a recent approach to tackle the most unpredictable earthquake distribution of any tectonically active region. The earthquake of January 26, 2001 (M7.6) was considered with special reference to fractal geometry. The preliminary investigations have shown that Bhuj events are caused due to hidden fault near KMF (Kutch Main Fault). The initial result gives the geometrical aspect of fractal analysis of tectonics governing seismic activity in the area. The region has been divided into five blocks and the fractal dimension of each block has been calculated using the box-counting technique. The results show significant low value of fractal dimension of Kutch rift block consisting of the KMF compared to other surrounding blocks which are also having faults and rifts like Cambay rift, Narmada rift. This indicates that cause of earthquakes in this block may be due to asperities and barriers. However, the predominance of after shocks over foreshocks signifies that barriers may be the main cause. The other results, like low value of dimension of fault clustering show that the Kutch block is having faults, which are distributed in clustered manner near source region. In this context, the seismicity of this block seems to be controlled by barriers. These findings are being corroborated with the broadband data of the earthquake and the aftershocks in order to justify the cause due to barriers. The stress drop of the region has been analyzed to support the fractal nature of the region. Some of the physical fractal or chaotic dynamics aspects along with the preliminary results will also be discussed to understand the mechanism of devastating earthquake in the continental region. The present study will help other researchers in mitigation of seismic hazards due to similar active systems in any region.

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