GIS TOOL FOR SEMI-AUTOMATIC HAZARD ASSESSMENT OF EARTHQUAKE-TRIGGERED LANDSLIDES

J.C. Román-Herrera¹, M.J. Rodríguez-Peces¹, J. Delgado², M. Tsige¹

(1) Department of Geodynamics, Stratigraphy and Paleontology. University Complutense of Madrid. Ciudad Universitaria. s/n. 28040-Madrid, Spain. jorom01@ucm.es
(2) Department of Environment and Earth Sciences, University of Alicante

INTRODUCTION
We are developing a new GIS code to analyze the risk of slope instabilities seismically induced to obtain maps that show the areas with the highest risk level. The semi-automatic program that we are writing in Phyton, uses ArcGIS software and feeds on geological-geotechnical data. The code consists in the implementation of the Newmark method at a local and regional scale, with the aim of obtaining Newmark’s displacement maps and critical acceleration. For that purpose, we need to use an infinite slope limit equilibrium model by means of a geographic information system. It is important to emphasize that the code obtains safety factors and critical acceleration values for circular and non-circular fault surfaces based on different limit equilibrium methods, such as Bishop or Janbu and Morgenstern-Price. To feed the program, we need a large amount of empirical data that might be difficult to obtain, for example, the geological-geotechnical lithological classification. This data can be obtained from the standard penetration test (SPT) of the field campaign, in case that it is a soil. However, if there are rock substrates we need to know the resistance parameters present in the discontinuities of the rock. For example: cohesion or friction angle. On the other hand, you have to take into account the slope maps. These are essential for instability. Depending mainly on the lithology, the hydrological conditions (dry or saturated) and other external factors (intensity level of the shaking soil during an earthquake). For that purpose, we are using geotechnical data from Lorca seismic event that happened in Murcia (Spain) on the 11th of May of 2011.

ORIGIN OF THE DATA: SEISMIC EVENT IN LORCA (SPAIN)

Lorca is located in the Alto Guadalentín region in the Southeast of the Iberian Peninsula. Lorca is located in the Bética Mountain Range, which is the most Western end of the Alpine belt (result of the separation of the Eurasian and African plates). During the last 9-10 million years it has continued to produce an important stress field and deformation of the crust but in a different tectonic regime. In this new framework is configured the current landscape of basins and mountains associated with the activity of the numerous faults that dip and raise blocks of bark, including the Alhama Fault of Murcia (FAM). On May 11th 2011, at 15:05 UTC there was a fatal seismic event of Mw 4.5. This event was followed by a small other, approximately on the North of FAM, 2 km Northwest of the city of Lorca. However, most of the replicas are concentrated on the Southeast of this area. The geological source of the earthquake corresponds to FAM. FAM was first described by Bousquet et al. (1979) and has been the subject of numerous works in which its active character and its high seismogenic potential are evident. It is a sinistral tear fault with an inverse component that varies from one segment to another of the fault; the FAM extends along the NW edge of the Guadalentín depression, from the vicinity of Alcantarilla to the surroundings of Gríñan in Almería, reaching a total length of at least 85 kilometers. The fault is segmented into several sections with different directions and internal structure of the variable complexity shear zone.

METHODOLOGY: NEWMARK METHOD AND HIS APLICATION IN TO SCRIPT

The selected method for the development of the semiautomatic tool is based on the Newmark methods (1965), Jibson et al. (2000) and Jibson (2007), which allows to predict the displacements originated in the natural slopes as a result of a seismic movement obtaining maps of greater risk. This methodology begins analysing the stability of the slopes from a static and seismic point of view, which allow us to obtain the safety factor of a hillside in case of a landslide. Jibson et al. (2000) proposed this equation (1) based on the infinity slope. To consider the dynamic effect of the earthquake, the critical acceleration is incorporated in the second phase of the analysis, which is defined as the minimum acceleration necessary to shear resistance and initiate the displacement of the rigid block. Newmark (1965) defined that acceleration is inclined to the slope and it is a product of the safety factor and the angle of thrust, thus obtaining equation (2).

\[ a_c = (SF) \frac{g}{g} \tan \alpha \]

\[ SF = \frac{a_c}{\frac{F_u}{F_c} + \frac{g}{g} \tan \gamma} \]

Equation 2: Critical Acceleration from Newmark (1965)

Acknowledgments
This work has been partially funded by the research Project BOS2009-5325 (MINRESSER/HIDROCARBUROS).

BIBLIOGRAPHY