# Points in Polygon Analysis

QGIS Tutorials and Tips

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## Points in Polygon Analysis

The power of GIS lies in analysing multiple data sources together. Often the answer you are seeking lies in many different layers and you need to do some analysis to extract and compile this information. One such type of analysis is Points-in-Polygon. When you have a polygon layer and a point layer – and want to know how many or which of the points fall within the bounds of each polygon, you can use this method of analysis.

## Overview of the task

Given the locations of all known significant earthquakes, we will try to find out which country has had the highest number of earthquakes.

### Get the data

We will use NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center's Significant Earthquake Database as our layer represenging all major earthquakes. Download the tab-delimited earthquake data.

Natural Earth has Admin 0 - Countries dataset. Download the countries

### Procedure

1. Open Layer > Add Delimited Text Layer and browse to the downloaded *signif.txt* file.

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2. Since this is a tab-delimited file, choose Tab as the File format. The X field and Y field would be auto-populated. Click OK.

#### Note

You may see some error messages as QGIS tries to import the file. These are valid errors and some rows from the file will not be imported. You can ignore the errors for the purpose of this tutorial.

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3. As the earthquake dataset has Latitude/Longitude coordinates, choose WGS 84 EPSG:436 as the CRS in the Coordinate Reference System Selector dialog.

Coordinate Reference	System Selector ?	×
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4. The earthquake point layer would now be loaded and displayed in QGIS. Let's also open the Countries layer. Go to Layer > Add Vector Layer. Browse to the downloaded ne\_10m\_admin\_0\_countries.zip file and click Open. Select the ne\_10m\_admin\_0\_countries.shp as the layer in the Select layers to add... dialog.

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5. Click on Vector > Analysis Tools > Point in Polygon

See more tutorials at http://qgistutorials.com



6. In th pop-up window, select the polygon layer and point layer respectively. Name the output layer as *earthquake\_per\_coutry.shp* and Click OK.

#### Note

Be patient after clicking OK, QGIS may take upto 10 minutes to calculate the results.

7. When asked whether you want to add the layer to TOC, click Yes.

×.	Count Points in Polygon
?	Created output shapefile: C:/Users/ujaval/Downloads/earthquakes_per_country.shp
	Would you like to add the new layer to the TOC?
	Yes No

8. You will see a new layer is added to the table of content. Open the attribute table by right-clicking on the layer and selecting Open Attribute Table.



9. In the attribute table, you will notice a new field named *PNTCNT*. This is the count of number of points from the earthquakes layer that fall within each polygon.

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	REGION_WB	NAME_LEN	LONG_LEN	ABBREV_LEN	TINY	HOMEPART	PNTCNT						
0	Latin America	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00	-99.00	0.00000000000						
1	South Asia	11.00	11.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	57.0000000000						
2	Sub-Saharan Af	6.00	6.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00 ج	0.00000000000						
3	Latin America	8.00	8.00	4.00	-99.00	-99.00	0.00000000000						
4	Europe & Centr	7.00	7.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	44.0000000000						
5	Europe & Centr	5.00	13.00	5.00	5.00	-99.00	0.00000000000						
6	Europe & Centr	7.00	7.00	4.00	5.00	1.00	0.00000000000						
7	Middle East &	20.00	20.00	6.00	-99.00	1.00	0.00000000000						
8	Latin America	9.00	9.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	20.0000000000						
9	Europe & Centr	7.00	7.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	14.0000000000						
10	East Asia & Pac	14.00	14.00	9.00	3.00	-99.00	0.00000000000						
11	Antarctica	10.00	10.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	0.00000000000						
12	East Asia & Pac	23.00	27.00	7.00	-99.00	-99.00	0.00000000000						
13	Sub-Saharan Af	22.00	35.00	10.00	2.00	-99.00	0.00000000000						
14	Latin America	17.00	19.00	6.00	4.00	1.00	0.00000000000						
15	East Asia & Pac	9.00	9.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	9.00000000000						
16	Europe & Centr	7.00	7.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	4.00000000000						
17	Europe & Centr	10.00	10.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	15.0000000000						
18	Sub-Saharan Af	7.00	7.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	1.00000000000						
19	Europe & Centr	7.00	7.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	2.00000000000						
20	Sub-Saharan Af	5.00	5.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	1.00000000000 📤						
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10. To get our answer, we can simply sort the table by **PNTCNT** field and the country with highest count will be our answer. Click 2-times on the **PNTCNT** columnto get it sorted in descending order. Click on the first row to select it and close the Attribute Table.

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	REGION_WB	NAME_LEN	LONG_LEN	ABBREV_LEN	TINY	HOMEPART	PNTCNT						
42	East Asia & Pac	5.00	5.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	540.000000000						
108	Middle East &	4.00	4.00	4.00	-99.00	130	345.000000000						
112	Europe & Centr	5.00	5.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	263.000000000						
230	Europe & Centr	6.00	6.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	259.000000000						
146	Latin America	6.00	6.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	157.000000000						
238 ·	North America	13.00	13.00	6.00	-99.00	1.00	152.000000000						
102	East Asia & Pac	9.00	9.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	129.000000000						
90	Europe & Centr	6.00	6.00	6.00	-99.00	1.00	119.000000000						
41	Latin America	5.00	5.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	111.000000000						
177	Latin America	4.00	4.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	110.000000000						
179	East Asia & Pac	11.00	11.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	101.000000000						
116	East Asia & Pac	5.00	5.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	87.0000000000						
104	South Asia	5.00	5.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	70.0000000000						
50	Latin America	8.00	8.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	64.0000000000						
1	South Asia	11.00	11.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	57.0000000000						
67	Latin America	7.00	7.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	52.0000000000						
232	East Asia & Pac	6.00	6.00	6.00	-99.00	1.00	46.0000000000						
4	Europe & Centr	7.00	7.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	44.0000000000						
174	South Asia	8.00	8.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	42.0000000000						
66	Middle East &	7.00	7.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	40.0000000000						
77	Europe & Centr	6.00	6.00	3.00	-99.00	1.00	38.0000000000 📤						
2A2 •	Latin America	9.00	9.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	38.000000000000000000000000000000000000						
S S	how All Features												

11. Back in the main QGIS window, you will see one feature highlighted in yellow. This is the feature linked to the selected row in the attribute table which had the highest number of points. Select the Identify tool and click on that polygon. You can see that the country with the highest number of Significant earthquakes is China.

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We determined from the simple analysis of 2 datasets that China has had the highest number of major earthquakes. You may refine this analysis further by taking into consideration the population as well as the size of the country and determine which is the most adversely affected country by major earthquakes.