

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**CURRENT MOTION OF
PENINSULAR MALAYSIA USING
HIGH PRECISION GNSS**

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Research Background

The outermost layer of the Earth is divided into around 15 large slabs known as tectonic plates. These slabs make up the lithosphere, which is made up of the crust (continental and oceanic) and the upper layer of the mantle. Plates tectonic move slowly compared to each other, often a few millimetres per year, but this creates massive deformation near plate borders, which results in earthquakes. The surface of the Earth's motion and tension in the topmost few hundred meters of the Earth's crust are measured using geodetic methods(Murray-Moraleda, 2009). These data capture minor fault-related displacement of the Earth's mantle that fails to produce seismic waves but does cause fast motion during earthquakes. Most earthquakes are associated with tectonic plate boundaries, according to previous research. Tectonic earthquakes are those that occur as a result of plate movements or other causes that are primarily shearing. They are largely caused by defects' stick-slip characteristics (Robert, 2014). Figure 1 shows the tectonic plates in the world.



Figure 1.1: Plate tectonic map of the world

The majority of earthquakes are caused by movement in small zones along plate borders. The majority of seismic activity occurs along plate borders that are divergent, convergent, or transform. The majority of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur in certain regions, such as along plate borders. The circum-Pacific Ring of Fire, where the

ABSTRACT

Peninsular Malaysia is located relatively distant from Sumatra's seismic source zone, the closest earthquake location to Malaysia is around 350 kilometres away. Sumatran earthquakes have caused vibrations on multiple occasions. Peninsular Malaysia has been hit by major earthquakes from West Sumatra on occasions. The displacement of MyRTKnet stations owing to co-seismic motion from the 2004 Sumatra earthquake ranged from 1.5 to 17.0 cm, with the majority of displacement happening in the south-west direction. Similarly, the data multiple from the 2005 and 2007 earthquakes shows displacements of 1.0 to 6.5 cm and 1.0 to 3.0 cm in the south-west direction, respectively. Meanwhile, the earthquakes of 2012 produced displacements in the north-east direction ranging from 0.3 to 4.8 cm. The study area covers the entire of Peninsular Malaysia. GNSS precise point positioning (PPP) is a useful tool for obtaining more accurate estimates of point displacement up to millimetres. MyRTKNet data were processed via high GPS Processing Software known as GIPSY. The estimation of Peninsular MyRTKNet station's velocities was obtained following the plotted of time series. This study analysed the coordinates time series to predict the strain rate estimation. From the estimated strain rate, Peninsular Malaysia's motion were interpreted. The directions of the station's magnitude were towards South East region. Station magnitudes range from 18.8 to 30.23 mm/yr. Peninsular Malaysia was undergoing a variety of deformations from north to south. The findings in this study helps to detect the motion occur at MyRTKNet station in Peninsular Malaysia due to the impact of the earthquakes that occur in Sumatra Subduction Zone and surrounding. Besides, the deformation analysis helps the authority in forming a solution and plan a mitigation to this matter.

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