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21 July 2006

I propose that we do away with the term “attenuation relations” to describe the equations predicting ground motion. I realize that this term is deeply ingrained in our profession, but so are other jargon terms in various fields. This does not make it right. The problem is that the equations do more than predict attenuation (the change of amplitude with distance), they also predict absolute levels of ground motion and therefore also the change in amplitude as a function of earthquake magnitude at a given distance (as controlled largely by source scaling). In addition, ground motions along a given profile might actually increase with distance (think “Moho bounce”), and in the future more sophisticated path- and/or regionally-dependent predictions of ground motion might include an increase of motion at some distance ranges. Finally, there is the potential for confusion, because some people really do mean *Q* and geometrical spreading when using the term “attenuation relations”. What do I suggest as a replacement? I doubt that any term is without potential misunderstanding or would receive universal approval. Here are several possibilities: “ground-motion prediction equations”, although some people do not like the word “prediction”; “ground-motion estimation equations”; “ground-motion models” (a term preferred by Ken Campbell, recognizing that some models are in the form of lookup tables rather than equations). All of the phrases can be preceded by one of these qualifiers, as appropriate: [empirical] [hybrid] [theoretical].

For your entertainment, here is Tom Hanks's view of the matter, from Hanks, T.C. and C.A. Cornell, “Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis: A Beginner's Guide”, to be published in *Earthquake Spectra*: “Finally we need what's known in the trade as a ground-motion attenuation relation. (What is really meant here is the excitation/attenuation relationship, admittedly a polysyllabic mouthful for our language-challenged colleagues who nevertheless know perfectly well that earthquake strong ground motion is a function of magnitude (excitation) and distance (attenuation)).”

--Dave Boore