

## ***Interactive comment on “On a report that the 2012 $M = 6.0$ earthquake in Italy was predicted after seeing an unusual cloud formation” by J. N. Thomas et al.***

### **Anonymous Referee #2**

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This is a review of "On a report that the 2012 M 6.0 earthquake in Italy was predicted after seeing an unusual cloud formation"

Overall this is a well written, brief, and to the point paper. The science being 'refuted' here, that of cloud formations and earthquakes, is itself very questionable, so it is very good to see papers like this.

I have no substantial suggestions to the main body and text of the analysis, although do have a couple medium level suggestions:

(a) The first paragraph of Section 2, could be slightly more explicit. It states that they

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accessed the same infrared satellite images that Guangmeng and Jie acquired, but it would be helpful to let the reader know the resolution of these images and the repeat time, along with the criteria by which you decided to select an image. The movies do help.

(b) Could you have a table of the final list of 'linear' clouds chosen, with their attributes? This is just a suggestion, but would parallel Table 1.

(c) It would be helpful to have another figure (along with subsequent discussion) included, showing a graph that includes both the EQs from Table 1 and each instance of the clouds.

(d) Rather than immediately go into a 'discussion', I'd suggest another section before this, which is the statistical analysis.

(e) [Very minor: Make the red dot in Figure 2 another shape, so that not only 'colour' distinguishes the two types of dots].

(f) Consider adding high-resolution version of Figure 1 to the supplementary material, as it will be hard in the final version for the paper to see these well. This is just a suggestion.

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Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 2, 5889, 2014.

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