

**Re: (nhess-2019-167) Real-time probabilistic seismic hazard assessment based on seismicity anomaly by Yu-Sheng Sun, Hsien-Chi Li, Ling-Yun Chang, Zheng-Kai Ye, and Chien-Chih Chen**

Dear Prof. Vallianatos,

Thank you for reviewing this paper. We have made the revision to our manuscript intensively and reply the comments from reviewers carefully for your further consideration on the publication in Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences (*NHESS*).

The authors highly appreciate the support of publication in *NHESS* from the reviewers and their helpful suggestions as well. We have made substantive modifications according to their suggestions and the **English editing by Elsevier Language Editing Services**. We deeply appreciate their suggestions, which have made the manuscript become much better. The annotated responses to the reviewers' comments and the details about our changes in the revised version of our manuscript are made accordingly in the files.

Attached please also find the electronic files of the revised manuscript for your further consideration of publication in *NHESS*. In the revised version, all modifications were marked in red for your reference. Any problem raised please let me know. Thank you very much.

With Best Regards,  
Yu-Sheng Sun



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### **To whom it may concern**

The paper "Real-time probabilistic seismic hazard assessment based on seismicity anomaly" by Yu-Sheng Sun, Hsien-Chi Li, Ling-Yun Chang, Zheng-Kai Ye, and Chien-Chih Chen was edited by Elsevier Language Editing Services.

Kind regards,

**Elsevier Webshop Support**

## Response (in black) to the comments of Reviewer (in blue)

### Reviewer #1:

#### 1. The description of the PI method.

We have added the description of the PI method. (Page 7-9, line 119-150)

In PI computation,  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  represent the beginning and the end of a change interval, respectively, with the length of a change interval being 4 years. The start time of calculation,  $t_0$ , is defined as 12 years before  $t_2$ . Then,  $t_b$  is a sampling reference time between  $t_0$  and  $t_1$ . The  $t_b$  starts from  $t_0$  and shifts forward 3 days in each calculation until the length of time between  $t_b$  and  $t_1$  is a half change interval. The forecasting interval,  $t_3$ , starts after  $t_2$  (Chang, 2018). The seismicity rate in the period  $t_b$  to  $t$  ( $t_b$  to  $t_1$  and  $t_b$  to  $t_2$ ) can be expressed as

$$S(x_i, t_b, t) = \frac{1}{t - t_b} \int_{t_b}^t n(x_i, t) dt \quad (1)$$

We conservatively considered the earthquake number,  $n$ , occurring in the  $x_i$  and its eight neighboring boxes. The rate change during the change interval can be expressed as

$$\Delta S(x_i, t_b, t_1, t_2) = S(x_i, t_b, t_2) - S(x_i, t_b, t_1) \quad (2)$$

$S(x_i, t_b, t)$  is a vector in a Hilbert space that records present seismic activity, so that  $\Delta S$  can be interpreted as an angular drift of  $S$  (Rundle et al., 2002; Tiampo 2002). To reduce the time-dependent background seismicity, we used the temporal standard score normalizing  $\Delta S$ , and obtained  $\Delta \tilde{S}$ . To compare the high and low levels of seismicity rate change in each grid box at the same  $t_b$ , we subsequently used the spatial standard score normalizing  $\Delta \tilde{S}$ , and obtained  $\Delta \hat{S}$ . The average of the absolute value at all  $t_b$  points in each  $x_i$  is

$$\Delta s(x_i) = \frac{1}{|\{t_b\}|} \sum_{t_b=t_0}^{t_b} |\Delta \hat{S}(x_i, t_b, t_1, t_2)| \quad (3)$$

Then, the mean squared change in probability

$$\Delta P(x_i) = \Delta s^2(x_i)$$

was computed (Chen et al., 2005; Chang et al., 2016). We further divided the magnitude range of earthquakes into several segments to separately calculate the relative

probabilities  $\Delta P(x_i)$ . The divided magnitude range is from magnitude 2.0 with window length 0.5, and it shifts forward by 0.2 each time. Then, we calculated the relative probability each time, such as  $\Delta P(x_i)_{2.0 \sim 2.5}$ ,  $\Delta P(x_i)_{2.2 \sim 2.7}$ . Finally, we multiplied all the relative probabilities.

$$\Delta P_M = \prod \Delta P_{i \sim i+0.5} \quad (4)$$

$\Delta P_M$  to forecast the occurrence of earthquakes is referred to as the modified pattern informatics method (Chang, 2018).

### Reference:

- Chang, L.-Y., Chen, C.-c., Wu, Y.-H., Lin, T.-W., Chang, C.-H., and Kan, C.-W.: A Strategy for a Routine Pattern Informatics Operation Applied to Taiwan, *Pure Appl. Geophys.*, 173, 235-244, doi:10.1007/s00024-015-1079-9, 2016.
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- Rundle, J. B., Tiampo, K. F., Klein, W., and Sá Martins, J. S.: Self-organization in leaky threshold systems: The influence of near-mean field dynamics and its implications for earthquakes, neurobiology, and forecasting, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, 99, 2514-2521, doi:10.1073/pnas.012581899, 2002.
- Tiampo, K. F., Rundle, J. B., McGinnis, S., Gross, S. J., and Klein, W.: Mean-field threshold systems and phase dynamics: An application to earthquake fault systems, *Europhys. Lett.*, 60, 481, doi:10.1209/epl/i2002-00289-y, 2002.

### 2. The details of the GMPE method.

We have added it. (Page 11-12, 25, 37; line 180-190, 194-195, 432-434, 548)

To evaluate the ground motion, we used the GMPE published by Lin et al. (2012),

$$\begin{aligned}
\ln y = & C_1 + F_1 + C_3(8.5 - M_w)^2 + [C_4 + C_5(M_w - 6.3)] \ln \left\{ \sqrt{[R^2 + \exp(H)^2]} \right\} \\
& + C_6 F_{NM} + C_7 F_{RV} + C_8 \ln \left( \frac{V_s 30}{1130} \right) \\
F_1 = & C_2(M_w - 6.3), \quad M_w \leq 6.3 \\
F_1 = & -HC_5(M_w - 6.3), \quad M_w > 6.3
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

which was also adopted for the Taiwan PSHA in Lee et al. (2017). In Eq. 5,  $C_1$  to  $C_8$  and  $H$  are the regression coefficients (Table 1);  $R$  is the closest distance (km);  $F_{NM}$  and  $F_{RV}$  represent the earthquake type, namely  $F_{NM} = 1$  and  $F_{RV} = 0$  for a normal fault earthquake and  $F_{NM} = 0$  and  $F_{RV} = 1$  for a reverse fault earthquake.  $V_s$  is eclectically assigned  $V_s = 760$ . Using the conversion equation from Lin and Lee (2008), which was adopted in Lin (2012), turns  $M_L$  into  $M_w$ .

Table 1. Coefficients in the GMPE.

$C_1$	$C_2$	$C_3$	$C_4$	$C_5$	$C_6$	$C_7$	$C_8$	$H$
1.3979	0.3700	0.0000	-1.2273	0.2086	-0.1934	0.1122	-0.4359	1.4877

#### Reference:

Lin, P.-S., Lee, C.-T.: Ground-Motion Attenuation Relationships for Subduction-Zone Earthquakes in Northeastern Taiwan, Bull. Seism. Soc. Am., 98 (1): 220–240. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1785/0120060002>, 2008.

## Reviewer #2:

### 1. The description of the PI method.

Thank you. Please refer to the reply to the first comment from Reviewer#1.

We have added the description of the PI method.

### 2. How do you explain that these values (the zone (9 cells) with the highest probability) do not affect the performance of your model?

We separated the probability distribution of Hualien earthquake (Fig. 1) to examine the affection from the zone. In Fig. 2, we can clearly see the real-time PSHA results corresponding to Fig. 1. When we remove the zone (Fig. 1b), the seismic intensity just slightly decreases in the southeast coast area and southern Taiwan, and the high intensity area in southeast ocean disappears (Fig. 2b). Moreover, the seismic intensity estimated by the GMPE rapidly attenuates from the zone and there is no influence in the northeast area in the estimation of seismic intensity. Thus, although the zone contributes the affection of seismic intensity, it is not significant on land or even negligible.

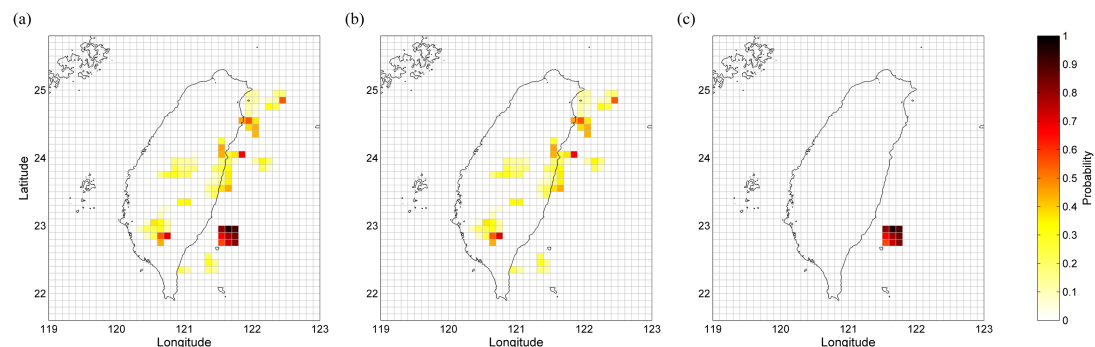


Figure 1. Disassembled probability distribution. (a) Forecasting probability map of the Hualien earthquake from the PI. (b) Remove the zone (9 cells). (c) Only the zone (9 cells).

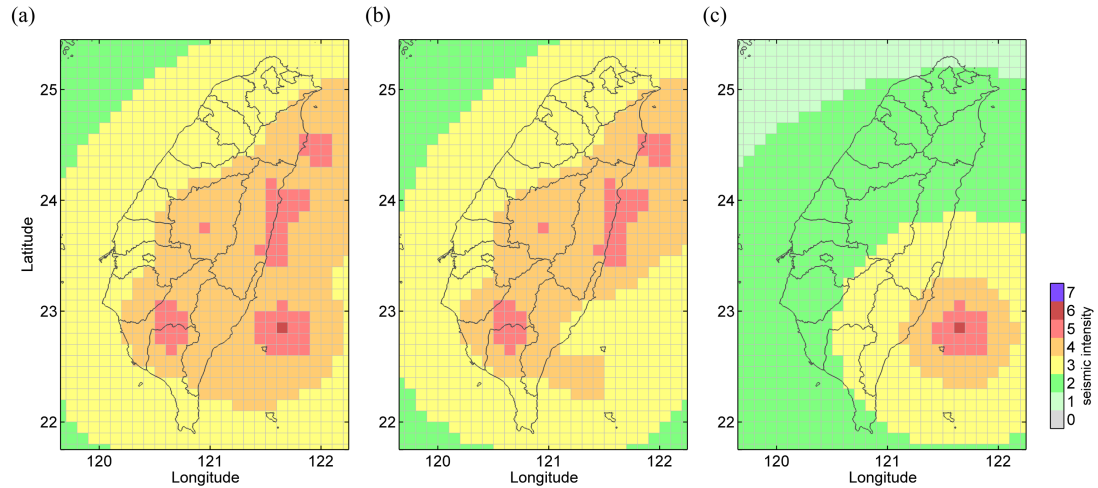


Figure 2. Seismic intensity forecasting maps of real-time PSHA corresponding to Fig. 1. (a) Map of forecasted maximum seismic intensity for Hualien earthquake (b) The result of Fig. 1(b). (c) The result of Fig. 1(c).

### 3. Why do you use only the ROC diagram and have not used others methods that provide important information about the performance of your model?

The ROC test already discusses and verifies the relationship between the space distribution of the forecasting probabilities and number of earthquake events. Under the concept of dichotomy, it is intuitive to shows what the ratio of target earthquakes are hit under the certain percentage of the area of probability distribution. In the calculation, the relationship between the spatial location of the earthquake and the probability distribution is examined. The increased ratio in y-axis represents the ratio of hit target earthquakes, and the shifting in x-axis represents the percentage of the area of probability distribution. Moreover, ROC test would give an absolute value from 0 to 1, not a relative evaluation, which is much intuitive and decisive to show the performance. Therefore, we chose it to test our results. On the other hand, there are still other testing methods presenting the performance. If our goal is to compare the performance between the forecast models, we should be under the same forecasting conditions and test methods to examine that. In our case, we focus on the concept and the calculating process of real-time PSHA so that we simply show that the forecasting results are good enough to be a probability function in the real-time PSHA calculation.

# Real-time probabilistic seismic hazard assessment based on seismicity anomaly

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## Abstract

Real-time Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment (PSHA) was developed in this study in consideration of its practicability for daily life and the rate of seismic activity with time. Real-time PSHA follows the traditional PSHA framework, but the statistic occurrence rate is substituted by time-dependent seismic source probability. Over the last decade, the Pattern Informatics method (PI) has been developed as a time-dependent probability model of seismic source. We employed this method as a function of time-dependent seismic source probability, and we selected two major earthquakes in Taiwan as examples to explore real-time PSHA. These are the Meinong earthquake ( $M_L$  6.6) of 5 February, 2016, and the Hualien earthquake ( $M_L$  6.2) of 6 February, 2018. The seismic intensity maps produced by the real-time PSHA method facilitated forecasting the



maximum expected seismic intensity for the following 90 days. Compared with real ground motion data from the P-alert network, our seismic intensity forecasting maps showed considerable effectiveness. This result indicated that real-time PSHA is practicable and provides useful information that could be employed in the prevention of earthquake disasters.

## **1 Introduction**

Currently, research on and the application of seismic hazard analyses focus on two major aspects of seismic activity, namely the pre-earthquake and post-earthquake phases. Post-earthquake seismic hazard assessment is employed mainly in the Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system (Cooper, 1868; Wu et al., 1998; Wu et al., 2013), which provides people with crucial time to seek refuge before the arrival of larger seismic waves. Pre-earthquake seismic hazard assessment conventionally employs Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis (PSHA; Cornell, 1968; SSHAC, 1997) mainly for engineering design. PSHA determines the probability of exceeding the ground motion level over a specified time period based on the occurrence rate of earthquakes and ground motion prediction equations (GMPEs). The occurrence rate of earthquakes is generally described by the truncated exponential model (Cosentino et al., 1977) and the characteristic earthquake model (Schwartz and Coppersmith, 1984; Wang et al., 2016). The earthquake occurrence rate computed from these models will not change with time regardless of whether the data being used

are from long-term observations or paleoseismic studies. However, seismic activity is a complex dynamic process in time and space, and usually fluctuates greatly over a short time scale (Chen et al., 2006). Furthermore, the assessment is usually computed by using extremely long recurrence intervals, 475 or 2475 years, for the purpose of engineering design (Iervolino et al., 2011). Consequently, it is difficult to verify the accuracy of seismic hazard assessment in relation to the limited lifespan of humans. Although long recurrence intervals are suitable in building construction, the concept of "catastrophic" over such long intervals does not resonate with the general public. In addition, most ordinary people would find it difficult to comprehend an indication such as "10% probability in 50 years". Statistical long-term seismic hazard assessment, therefore, does not have relevance to the daily life of most people.

However, we believe that short-term, time-dependent, pre-earthquake hazard assessment is necessary for everyone's daily use. Accordingly, we propose a preliminary method to achieve this goal by employing time-dependent seismic source probability instead of the static probability used in long-term assessment. We used the Pattern Informatics (PI) method developed over the past decade (Rundle et al., 2000; Tiampo et al., 2002; Wu et al., 2008a; Chang et al., 2016) as a time-dependent seismic source probability method.

Anomalous change in seismicity is used widely as precursory indicator for large earthquakes, and is usually classified into seismic activation or seismic quiescence, depending on an ascending or descending number of seismicity occurrences (Chen et al., 2005; Wu et al., 2008b). In the PI method, large earthquakes tend to occur after precursory anomalous seismic changes, and the occurrence probability can be quantified by the magnitude of the spatiotemporal variation in seismicity. In preliminary research, PI performed well in identifying locations in the vicinity of impending large earthquakes. A modified version of PI developed in recent research has apparently improved the accuracy of identifying the occurrence time interval of large earthquakes. After a series of verifications, an occurrence probability of large earthquakes over the following 90 days was found plausible (Chang et al., 2016; Chang, 2018). Accordingly, we used the modified PI method to compute the time-dependent seismic source probability in Taiwan region.

We illustrate an uncomplicated method to conduct real-time seismic hazard assessment. The crucial difference is to replace statistical seismic probability by the time-dependent probability from the modified PI method. This real-time seismic hazard assessment is able to produce seismic hazard forecasting maps for the following 90 days. Compared with the forecasting time scale and static seismic rate of traditional PSHA, real-time PSHA can be updated by refreshing the earthquake catalog (time-dependent), and can forecast for the near future (short-term). Thus, it can

be referred to as “real-time”.

We illustrate the real-time assessment process by two recent large earthquake events in Taiwan, namely the 2016 Meinong earthquake ( $M_L$  6.6) (Lee et al., 2016; Chen et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2017) and the 2018 Hualien earthquake ( $M_L$  6.2) (Hsu et al., 2018). Detailed parameters of the two earthquakes are listed in Table 1. Finally, we verified the reliability of the seismic hazard forecasting maps by comparing them with real ground motion data recorded by the P-alert network.

## **2 Data**

### **2.1 Central Weather Bureau Seismic Network catalog**

We used data from the seismic network catalog maintained by the Central Weather Bureau (CWB) of Taiwan (R.O.C.) (<https://www.cwb.gov.tw/V7e/earthquake/seismic.htm> and <http://gdms.cwb.gov.tw/index.php>, last accessed July 2018). The completeness magnitude ( $M_c$ ) of this catalog is estimated at approximately 2.0 in local magnitude ( $M_L$ ) (Wu et al., 2008c). In an analysis of focal depth, Wu et al. (2008b) observed that the focal depth of approximately 80% of earthquakes was shallower than 30 km. Accordingly, we used  $M_L$  2.0 and 30 km as the threshold of magnitude and focal depth, respectively, to select the events to be used in the PI calculation.

## 2.2 P-alert Network

We used the ground motion recordings from the P-alert network to verify the effectiveness of the real-time seismic hazard assessments from our model. The National Taiwan University (NTU) commenced developing the P-alert real-time strong motion network for EEW purposes in 2010 with the support of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) (Wu, 2015). The devices of the P-alert network can record real-time three-component acceleration signals, and publish alerts when the peak initial-displacement amplitude ( $Pd$ ) or the peak ground acceleration (PGA) exceeds predefined thresholds (Wu et al., 2013; Wu, 2015; Wu et al., 2016b). Today, there are more than 600 P-alert stations in Taiwan, most located in elementary schools (Wu et al., 2013; Yang et al., 2018). We mainly adopted the P-alert waveform database maintained by the Taiwan Earthquake Research Center (TEC), and we used the data from the NTU as an auxiliary catalog (data from the P-alert network can be downloaded from the Data Center of the TEC at <http://palert.earth.sinica.edu.tw/db/> [last accessed July 2018] or by contacting Prof. Yih-Min Wu at [drymwu@ntu.edu.tw](mailto:drymwu@ntu.edu.tw) for access to the NTU catalog).

The distribution of the P-alert network is still not uniform (see Fig. 2b and 3b), despite the large number of seismic stations covering Taiwan. Obviously, this could cause problems, which will be discussed later.

109

## 110 3 Method

### 111 3.1 Pattern Informatics

112 Phase dynamics is the physical fundamental of the PI method, which describes changes in a system  
113 by rotation of the state vector in the Hilbert space (Rundle et al., 2002; 2003). The evolution of the  
114 state vector in a dynamic fault system is suggested to be related to stress accumulation and release  
115 (Chen et al., 2006). The computational steps we adopted here are a modified version developed by  
116 Chang et al. (2016) and Chang (2018) to improve the spatiotemporal resolution of the PI method.  
117 The research area ( $119^{\circ}\sim 123^{\circ}$  E,  $21^{\circ}\sim 26^{\circ}$  N) was divided into boxes of grid size  $0.1^{\circ}\times 0.1^{\circ}$ , with  
118 each box being indicated by parameter  $x_i$ . Because of the  $M_c$  and the distribution of the focal  
119 depth (mentioned in Section 2.1), we selected all the events with  $M_L \geq 2.0$  and depth  $\leq 30$  km. In  
120 PI computation,  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  represent the beginning and the end of a change interval, respectively,  
121 with the length of a change interval being 4 years. The start time of calculation,  $t_0$ , is defined as  
122 12 years before  $t_2$ . Then,  $t_b$  is a sampling reference time between  $t_0$  and  $t_1$ . The  $t_b$  starts  
123 from  $t_0$  and shifts forward 3 days in each calculation until the length of time between  $t_b$  and  $t_1$   
124 is a half change interval. The forecasting interval,  $t_3$ , starts after  $t_2$  (Chang, 2018). The  
125 seismicity rate in the period  $t_b$  to  $t$  ( $t_b$  to  $t_1$  and  $t_b$  to  $t_2$ ) can be expressed as

$$S(x_i, t_b, t) = \frac{1}{t - t_b} \int_{t_b}^t n(x_i, t) dt \quad (1)$$

We conservatively considered the earthquake number,  $n$ , occurring in the  $x_i$  and its eight neighboring boxes. The rate change during the change interval can be expressed as

$$\Delta S(x_i, t_b, t_1, t_2) = S(x_i, t_b, t_2) - S(x_i, t_b, t_1) \quad (2)$$

$S(x_i, t_b, t)$  is a vector in a Hilbert space that records present seismic activity, so that  $\Delta S$  can be interpreted as an angular drift of  $S$  (Rundle et al., 2002; Tiampo 2002). To reduce the time-dependent background seismicity, we used the temporal standard score normalizing  $\Delta S$ , and obtained  $\Delta \tilde{S}$ . To compare the high and low levels of seismicity rate change in each grid box at the same  $t_b$ , we subsequently used the spatial standard score normalizing  $\Delta \tilde{S}$ , and obtained  $\Delta \hat{S}$ . The average of the absolute value at all  $t_b$  points in each  $x_i$  is

$$\Delta s(x_i) = \frac{1}{|\{t_b\}|} \sum_{t_b=t_0}^{t_b} |\Delta \hat{S}(x_i, t_b, t_1, t_2)| \quad (3)$$

Then, the mean squared change in probability

$$\Delta P(x_i) = \Delta s^2(x_i)$$

was computed (Chen et al., 2005; Chang et al., 2016). We further divided the magnitude range of

earthquakes into several segments to separately calculate the relative probabilities  $\Delta P(x_i)$ . The divided magnitude range is from magnitude 2.0 with window length 0.5, and it shifts forward by 0.2 each time. Then, we calculated the relative probability each time, such as  $\Delta P(x_i)_{2.0 \sim 2.5}$ ,  $\Delta P(x_i)_{2.2 \sim 2.7}$ . Finally, we multiplied all the relative probabilities.

$$\Delta P_M = \prod \Delta P_{i \sim i+0.5}$$

(4)

$\Delta P_M$  to forecast the occurrence of earthquakes is referred to as the modified pattern informatics method (Chang, 2018). According to Chang et al. (2016), the forecasting interval of the PI method reaches 90 days. Finally, the PI method produced a forecasting probability distribution of seismic sources for  $M_L \geq 5.0$  within the forecasting interval.

### 3.2 Real-time PSHA

In the traditional PSHA framework (Cornell, 1968; Wang et al., 2016), the probability of an earthquake occurrence follows the Poisson process and the average recurrence interval for an annual frequency of exceedance can be expressed as

$$v(Z > z) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \dot{N}_i \iint f_{M_i}(m) f_{R_i}(r) P(Z > z | m, r) dm dr$$

(5)



160 where  $f_{M_i}(m)$  and  $f_{R_i}(r)$  are the probability density functions of magnitude and distance,  
 161 respectively;  $P(Z > z | m, r)$  is the conditional probability of ground motion  $Z$  exceeding a  
 162 specified value  $z$  for a specific magnitude  $m$  and distance  $r$ .  $\dot{N}_t$  is the annual occurrence rate  
 163 of earthquakes and is described by the truncated exponential model (Cosentino et al., 1977) and  
 164 the characteristic earthquake model (Schwartz and Coppersmith, 1984). Finally, to consider all  
 165 scenarios, the total probability of  $N_s$  earthquakes is summarized in a given region.

166

167 In real-time PSHA, the occurrence rate of earthquakes used in the traditional PSHA framework is  
 168 replaced by seismic forecasting probability to achieve spatiotemporal variability in the hazard  
 169 assessment. Then, considering the gridded space, real-time PSHA can be expressed as

$$v(Z > z) = \sum_{M_s} \sum_{Loc_s} P_{M_i, Loc_i}(m, loc) P(Z > z | m, loc)$$

(6)

172 where  $P_{M_i, Loc_i}(m, loc)$ , the forecasting probability distribution, is a function of magnitude and  
 173 location. It specifies an occurrence probability for specific magnitude,  $M_i$ , at each spatial location,  
 174  $Loc_i$ . The summations are to consider the whole of the contribution from any possible magnitude,  
 175  $M_s$ , and location,  $Loc_s$ . We adopted the forecasting probability from the PI method as  
 176  $P_{M, Loc}(m, loc)$ .  $Loc$  refers to  $x_i$  in the PI method. The forecasting probability of the PI method

presents a distribution of cumulative forecasting probability for  $M_L \geq 5.0$ . We referred to the average character of the Gutenberg-Richter law in Taiwan (Gutenberg and Richter, 1944; Wang et al., 2015) to convert it into the probability density function (PDF). It can be corresponded to the specific magnitude conditions for  $P(Z > z | m, loc)$ . To evaluate the ground motion, we used the GMPE published by Lin et al. (2012),

$$\ln y = C_1 + F_1 + C_3(8.5 - M_w)^2 + [C_4 + C_5(M_w - 6.3)] \ln \left\{ \sqrt{[R^2 + \exp(H)^2]} \right\} + C_6 F_{NM} + C_7 F_{RV} + C_8 \ln \left( \frac{V_s 30}{1130} \right)$$

$$F_1 = C_2(M_w - 6.3), \quad M_w \leq 6.3$$

$$F_1 = -HC_5(M_w - 6.3), \quad M_w > 6.3$$

(7)

which was also adopted for the Taiwan PSHA in Lee et al. (2017). In Eq. 7,  $C_1$  to  $C_8$  and  $H$  are the regression coefficients (Table 2);  $R$  is the closest distance (km);  $F_{NM}$  and  $F_{RV}$  represent the earthquake type, namely  $F_{NM} = 1$  and  $F_{RV} = 0$  for a normal fault earthquake and  $F_{NM} = 0$  and  $F_{RV} = 1$  for a reverse fault earthquake. In this GMPE, earthquake type is regarded as an important parameter. However, the division of seismic sources in the PI method is no longer based on the geological classification but on the grid box,  $x_i$ . Considering that most faults in Taiwan are reverse faults (Shyu et al., 2016), we adopted the reverse fault parameter setting for the entire research area.  $V_s$  is eclectically assigned  $V_s = 760$ . Using the conversion equation from Lin and

Lee (2008), which was adopted in Lin (2012), turns  $M_L$  into  $M_w$ . Finally, the forecasting maximum PGA from real-time PSHA is transferred to seismic intensity according to the seismic intensity scale of the CWB listed in Table 3 (Wu et al., 2003). This implies that the seismic intensity forecasting map presents the maximum seismic intensity that every site will encounter over the following 90 days.

### 3.3 Performance verification

#### 3.3.1 Receiver Operating Characteristic curve

The Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) diagram is a binary classification model used widely as a tool to quantify the performance of earthquake prediction (Holliday et al., 2006; Nanjo et al., 2006; Wu et al., 2016a). We used the ROC diagram as an objective quantitative indicator to evaluate the performance of the seismic forecasting probability computed by the PI method. For each box,  $x_i$ , there are four situations (parameters) when comparing forecasting hotspots and target earthquakes. Namely,  $a$  means any target earthquake in a hotspot,  $b$  means no target earthquake in a hotspot,  $c$  means no hotspot but at least one target earthquake,  $d$  means no target earthquake and no hotspot. The true positive rate (TPR) is defined as  $a/(a + c)$  and the false positive rate (FPR) is defined as  $b/(b + d)$ . The values of  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$  change with the threshold of forecasting probability and, therefore, TPR and FPR change as well. The value of the

area under the ROC curve (AUC) varies between 0 and 1. AUC=1 is a perfect prediction and AUC=0.5 is a random guess. For each PI forecasting map, we generated 1000 random test maps by re-distributing the hotspots randomly over the research area to examine the possibility that a specific distribution of hotspots could be generated by chance. In Fig. 1c and 1d, the blue line is the 95% confidence interval based on two standard deviations. The standard deviation is calculated by the random test results in each bin of the x-axis. The 95% confidence interval helps to differentiate the distributing range of random tests and the significance of the forecasting probability.

### 3.3.2 Average Percent Hit Rate

The success rate of forecasting seismic intensity is a predictive accuracy of classification problems for which the average percent hit rate (APHR) is arguably the most intuitive discrimination measure. The APHR is a rate at which the forecasting data are classified into the correct classes (Sharda and Delen, 2006). We used the APHR to quantify the forecasting performance of real-time seismic hazard assessments. In the APHR, the exact hit rate, which only counts the correct classifications to the exact same class, can be expressed as:

$$\text{APHR}_{\text{exact}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^g p_i$$

(8)

where, in this study,  $N$  is the total number of the P-alert stations or the boxes on the forecasting hazard map,  $g$  is the total number of seismic intensity classes (=8, according to the CWB seismic intensity scale), and  $p_i$  is the total number of samples classified as class  $i$ . In the random test, we generated 1000 random tests by randomly re-distributing the forecasting maximum seismic intensity over the research area and the stations to examine the possibility that a specific distribution of the forecast could be generated by chance.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Forecasting earthquake occurrences

Figure 1a and 1b show the forecasting probability maps computed with the PI method, and Fig. 1c and 1d show the corresponding forecasting performance verified by the ROC tests. In the case of the 2016 Meinong earthquake,  $t_0$ ,  $t_1$ , and  $t_2$  are 2004/01/31, 2012/01/31, and 2016/01/31. In the case of the 2018 Hualien earthquake,  $t_0$ ,  $t_1$ , and  $t_2$  are 2006/01/31, 2014/01/31, and 2018/01/31. The forecasting intervals of both cases are 90 days after  $t_2$ . The cyan stars in Fig. 1a and 1b indicate the main shock of the 2016 Meinong and 2018 Hualien earthquakes, and the largest earthquake in the forecasting interval. The gray circles in Fig. 1a and 1b are the earthquakes with magnitude  $M_L \geq 5.0$  in the forecasting interval, with more-detailed information about these

earthquakes presented in Table 1. Notably, both main shocks and most large earthquakes are located in or in close proximity to hotspots. Overall, simply from visual inspection, the performance of the PI forecasting probabilities appeared satisfactory.

In Fig. 1c and 1d, the red curves are located far above the blue curves (95% confidence interval). The AUCs of the red curves are 0.91 and 0.94, and are apparently larger than the AUCs of the blue curves, which are 0.73 and 0.70. The ROC tests quantitatively verified that the performance of the PI forecasting probability was significant, and that these patterns were not generated by chance by the random distribution of hotspots. Both distributions of hotspots were found to be physically meaningful. In view of the above, we were able to use these probability maps as the function of earthquake occurrence rate in subsequent calculations for real-time PSHA.

## 4.2 Real-time PSHA

In Figs 2 and 3, panel (a) shows the map forecasting the maximum seismic intensity estimated by real-time PSHA for the forecasting interval, and panel (b) shows the map indicating the maximum seismic intensity recorded by the P-alert network during the forecasting interval. To ensure that it was the absolute maximum intensity during the forecasting interval, we used only the stations that had recorded all the target events ( $M_L \geq 5.0$ ) in the forecasting interval. Although there are over

600 P-alert stations distributed widely in Taiwan, some boxes do not contain any station, e.g., the Central Mountain Range (see Fig. 5a and 5b). Therefore, we estimated the intensities in these boxes by interpolating. However, clearly, our strategy generated an artificial effect, which will be shown later.

Comparing Fig. 2a and 2b, we suggest that both seismic intensity distributions are remarkably similar. An apparent deviation between the forecasted seismic intensities and the recorded values occurs in southwestern Taiwan, particularly the area closer to the 2016 Meinong main shock. Figure 2c shows the difference in seismic intensity between Fig. 2a and 2b, with the blue and red colors indicating that the forecasting value in a box was underestimated or overestimated, respectively. Most boxes have an intensity difference in the range -1 to 1, but some boxes in southwestern Taiwan are underestimated, with the differences being mostly 2 or even up to 3.

Comparing Fig. 3a and 3b, we suggest that both seismic intensity distributions are still extremely similar. In this instance, an apparent deviation between the forecasted seismic intensities and the recorded values occurs in southern Taiwan and a part of the southwestern area. Figure 3c shows that most boxes in southern Taiwan have a smaller recorded intensity, with the recorded intensities in a part of southwestern Taiwan being larger than the forecasting values.

284

285 Figure 4 shows the verifications generated by the APHR to quantitatively evaluate the performance  
286 of forecasting the seismic intensity. We considered the denominator of two classifications in Eq.  
287 8, i.e., the total number of P-alert stations and the total number of boxes in the research area. The  
288 results are indicated by “P-alert” and “Map”, respectively, in Fig. 4. When comparing forecasting  
289 intensity with recorded value, both cases “forecasting = recorded” and “forecasting = recorded +1”  
290 indicate “successful forecasting”. However, defining the tolerance range, which depends on the  
291 perspectives and allowances of different users, is debatable (Hsu et al., 2018). In this study, we  
292 tolerated an overestimation of 1 intensity rather than underestimation, as, in relation to the  
293 prevention or mitigation of earthquake disasters, “overestimation” was considered preferable to  
294 “underestimation”.

295

296 All the red lines are above the maximum hit rate of the random tests and higher than 0.5, not to  
297 mention the random guesses of the eight choices of the seismic intensity scale on each station or  
298 box. This implies that the forecasting ability of the generated seismic intensity maps is significantly  
299 effective, and that this satisfactory performance could not be ascribed to chance. Furthermore, both  
300 hit rates of the “P-alert” cases are higher than the rates of the “map” cases. However, this result  
301 could be attributed to the influence of the artificial effect generated by the interpolation of seismic



intensity from the P-alert data of nonuniform distribution. Finally, it should be emphasized that we focused only on earthquakes with  $M_L \geq 5$  and we cannot deny the possibility that a  $M_L < 5$  earthquake could cause large seismic intensity in the near field.

## **5 Discussion**

The results of the APHR performance test indicated that the maps and stations employed to forecast the maximum seismic intensity by real-time PSHA were significant and effective. Figure 5 is a concretization of the APHR verification and provides more detail. It clearly shows the P-alert station distributions of the “hit” and “not hit”, considering only the station-to-station prediction relationship between the forecasts and records. In both instances, most of the P-alert stations are hit (Fig. 5a and 5b), and the hit percentages are distributed along the diagonal and tolerant ranges (Fig. 5c and 5d). However, some locations or stations produced incorrect forecasts. In the case of the 2016 Meinong earthquake, the stations located in southwestern Taiwan do not match the real records and, at high seismic intensities ( $>3$ ), the forecasting results at some stations are underestimated (Fig. 5c), particularly in the southwestern area. In the case of the 2018 Hualien earthquake, the result from the P-alert APHR appears superior to the former (Meinong), and the distribution of the hit percentage is more concentrated along the diagonal and tolerant ranges (Fig. 5d). Nevertheless, the forecasts in southern and part of southwestern Taiwan were not hit.

320

321 In both instances, the differences between the forecasting results and the recorded seismic  
322 intensities could be ascribed mainly to three aspects. First, the forecasting model that determines  
323 the probability distributions of earthquake occurrences is critical in real-time PSHA. If the  
324 probability distribution misses or is a false alarm in somewhere, it directly leads to inaccurate  
325 forecasts in real-time PSHA. In the PI results, some differences were located on the hotspots with  
326 relatively higher probability, e.g., the area in 22.6° to 23°N and 120.9° to 121.3°E in Fig. 1a, and  
327 22.7° to 23.1°N and 120.4° to 120.8°E in Fig. 1b. Compared with the locations of the earthquakes,  
328 these hotspots shifted slightly and it appeared acceptable. However, in the results of real-time  
329 PSHA, this led to underestimation of the maximum seismic intensity in the area close to the  
330 epicenters and overestimation in the area without any earthquake events but with high probability  
331 of earthquake occurrence. For instance, in the case of the 2018 Hualien earthquake, the maximum  
332 seismic intensity in the southwestern area was underestimated and that in the southern area  
333 overestimated (see Figs 3 and 5b). Therefore, in real-time PSHA, a more accurate and precise  
334 forecasting model would facilitate obtaining results that are more positive. Furthermore, even if  
335 the PI results performed well in the ROC test, the PI method still needed improvement.

336

337 Second, the evaluation of earthquake ground motion is subject to the limitations of GMPEs. We

adopted the GMPE produced by Lin et al. (2012), whose data ( $M_L \geq 5.0$ ) within 50 km represent less than 14% of all the data for regression of GMPE. Therefore, when there is shortage of data in the near field and, for larger events, in the regression of GMPEs, the applicability of GMPEs become limited (Edwards and Fäh, 2014). Accordingly, the limited applicability of GMPEs probably caused the deviation in evaluation of the seismic intensity forecasting maps, e.g., the underestimation of the areas around the two main shocks (Figs 2c and 3c). Furthermore, it is difficult to properly and comprehensively evaluate the site effect in GMPEs, but it dramatically affects the behavior of seismic waves. For example, the amplitudes in the Meinong earthquake were amplified extending along the northwest (in Fig. 2b) because the Western Plain is composed of thick and low-velocity sedimentary deposits (see Fig. 4 in Lee et al., 2016). Consequently, the site effect leads to underestimation in the seismic intensity forecast (Figs 2c and 5a).

In addition, the directivity effect plays a vital role in the distribution of ground motion. As regards the main shocks in the two study cases, the rupture characteristic had a strong directivity effect that caused significant amplification of the ground motion along the rupture direction (Lee et al., 2016; Hsu et al., 2018). However, basically, GMPEs indicate the statistical distribution of PGA generated by all the data at the same radical distance without considering the possible effect of rupture directivity. As a result, GMPEs are only able to provide the ground motion estimation of

radial extension. Furthermore, the forecasting model does not include information on the rupture direction. Therefore, we suggest that some differences along the rupture direction could be ascribed to this effect.

## 6 Conclusion

This study presents a method to achieve real-time seismic hazard assessment by replacing the static seismic rate, i.e., the truncated and characteristic earthquake models, with the time-dependent seismic source probability of the PI method. With regard to this time-dependent seismic source probability, ROC tests verified quantitatively that the performance of the PI forecasting probabilities in the forecasting intervals was quite effective. Therefore, we were able to use the significant probability distributions as the function of the earthquake occurrence rate,  $P(m, loc)$ , in real-time PSHA. The hit rates of our seismic intensity forecasting maps generated with real-time PSHA outperformed the random guesses and were higher than 0.5 for both the Meinong and the Hualien earthquakes. Therefore, we suggest that real-time PSHA maps are effective forecasting tools, and their satisfactory performance cannot be attributed to coincidence. We demonstrated that real-time seismic hazard assessment was attainable and could be realized and updated by time-dependent seismic source probability.

In future, different time-dependent seismic source probability models of earthquake occurrences could be introduced to provide estimation that is more accurate and robust. In addition, a possible improvement to our results could be from estimated PGA distribution, not only by means of state-of-the-art machine learning tools for an extensive databank of the P-alert network but also by physics-based numerical simulations (PBS) of seismic ground motion, instead of empirical GMPEs. Presumably, a real-time forecasting map of seismic intensity would enable governments or businesses to prepare efficiently for earthquake disasters. Furthermore, the seismicity intensity scale based on PGA is related to the vulnerability level of buildings, which will also change over time because of degradation and upgrades (e.g., obsolescence, retrofitting actions, and climate events). Therefore, real-time PSHA and change in vulnerability should be considered when assessing seismic risk fluctuation with time.

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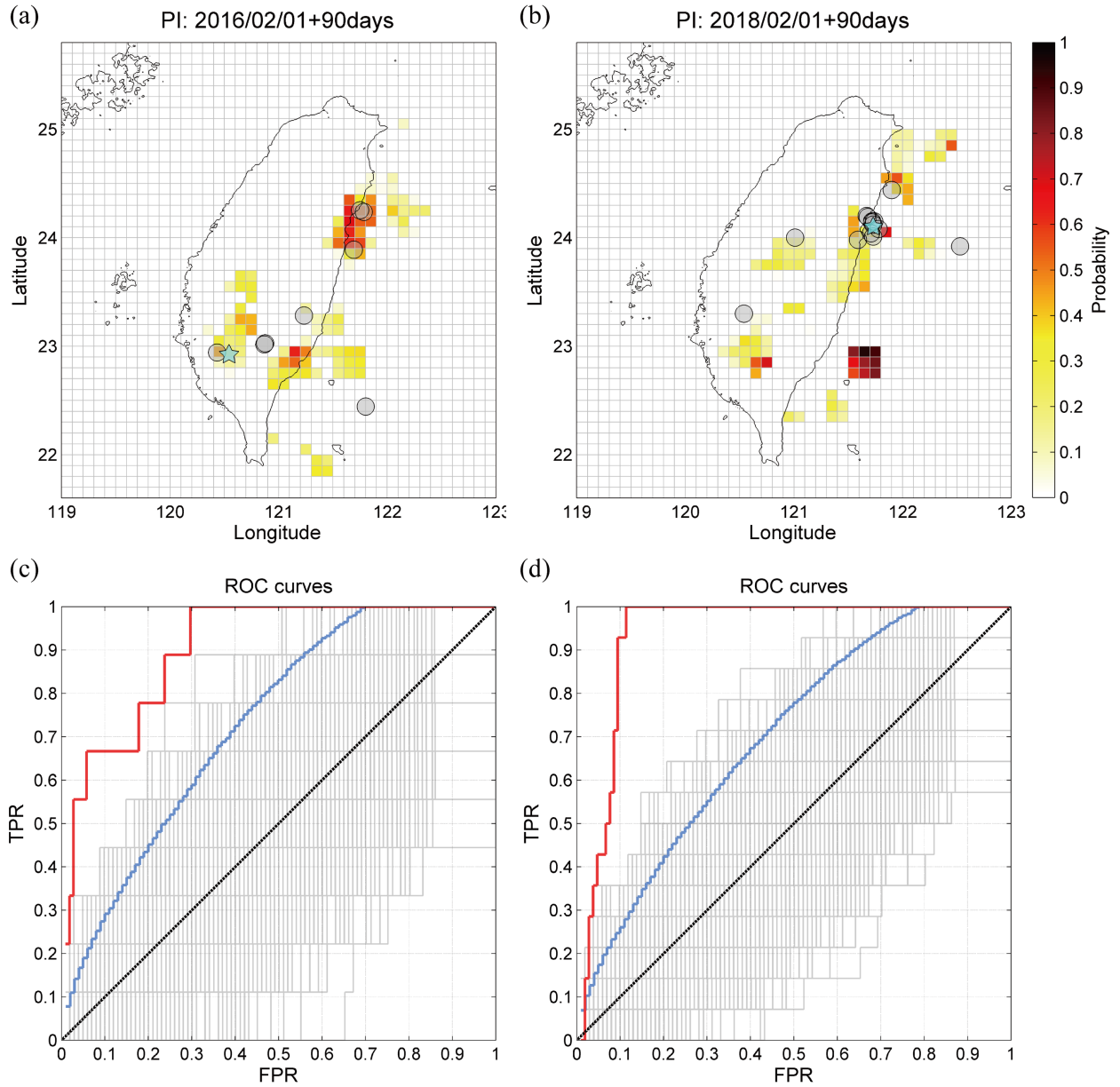
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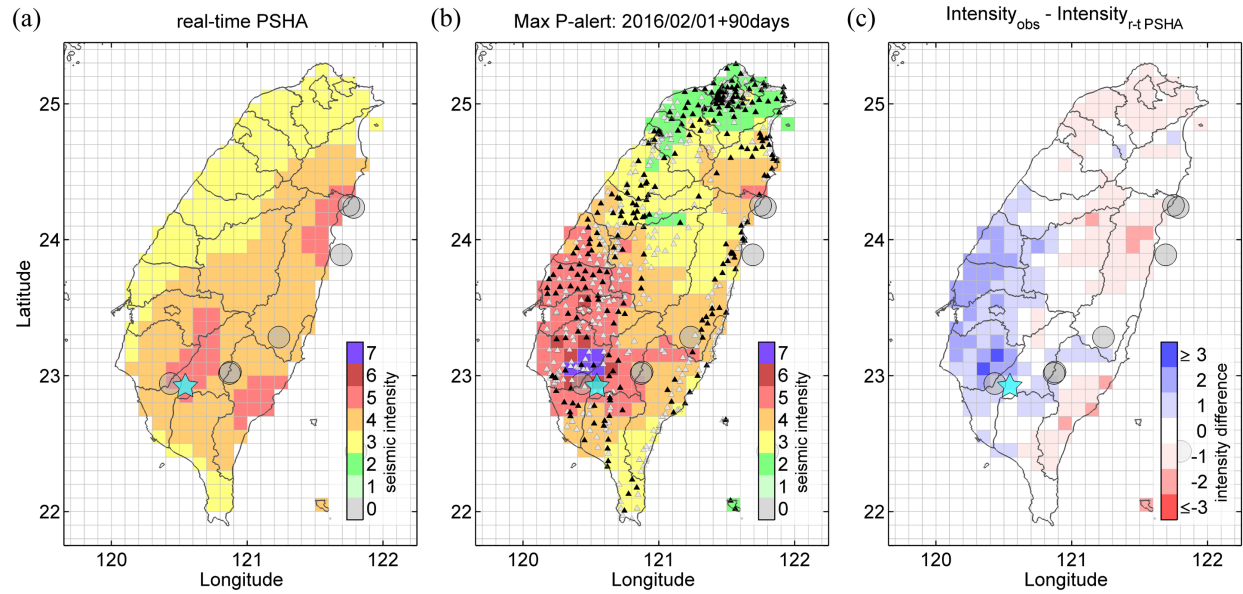
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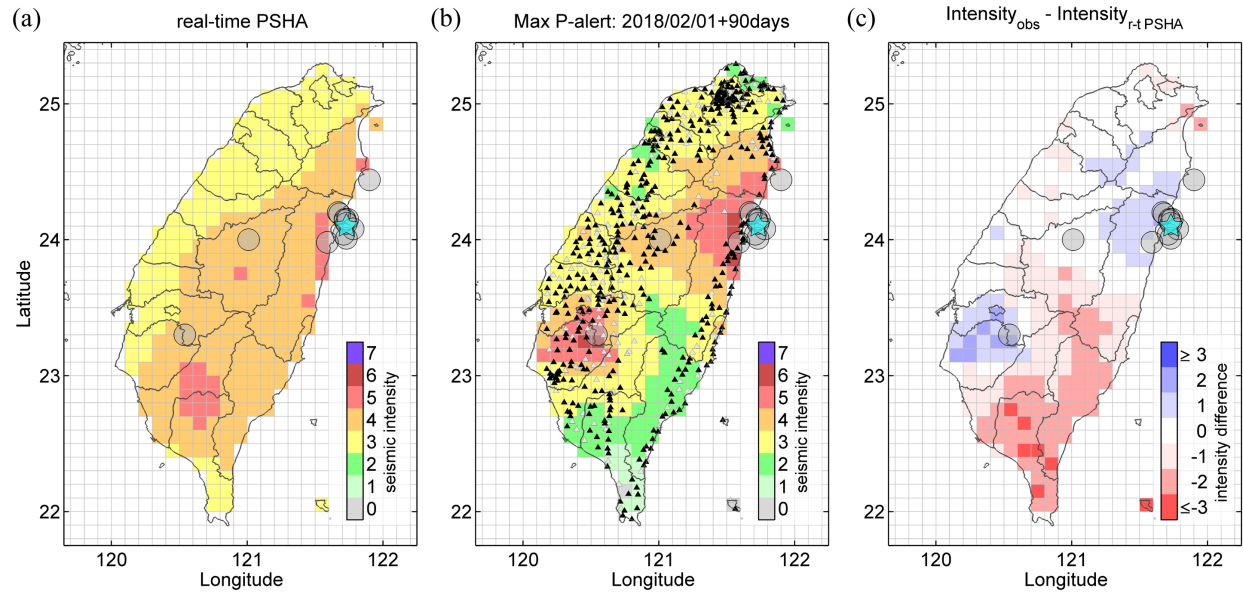
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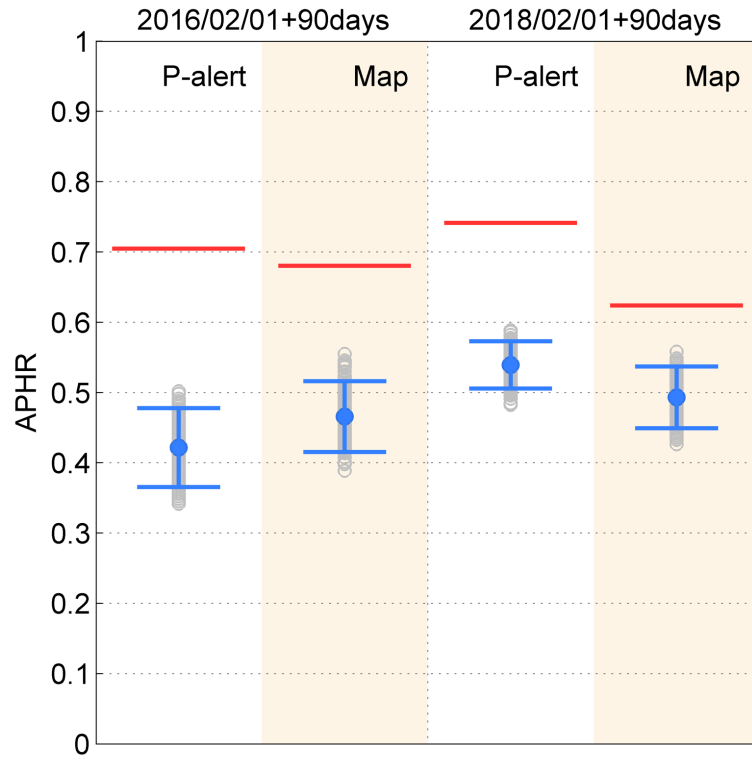
**Figure 1.** Panels (a) and (b) show the forecasting probability maps of the Meinong earthquake and the Hualien earthquake, respectively. Panels (c) and (d) are the ROC curves of (a) and (b), respectively. Red, gray, blue, and black curves represent the forecasting probability map, random tests, 95% confidence interval, and the average of random tests, respectively.



**Figure 2.** The 2016 Meinong earthquake: (a) Map of forecasted maximum seismic intensity by real-time PSHA. The forecasting interval of seismic intensity is 90 days. (b) Map of maximum seismic intensity recorded by the P-alert network. Black and white triangles indicate the P-alert stations that we used and did not use, respectively, in the verification. (c) Difference in seismic intensity between the forecast and the record. The cyan star represents the Meinong earthquake, and the gray circles represent the earthquakes with magnitude  $M_L \geq 5$  in this forecasting interval.

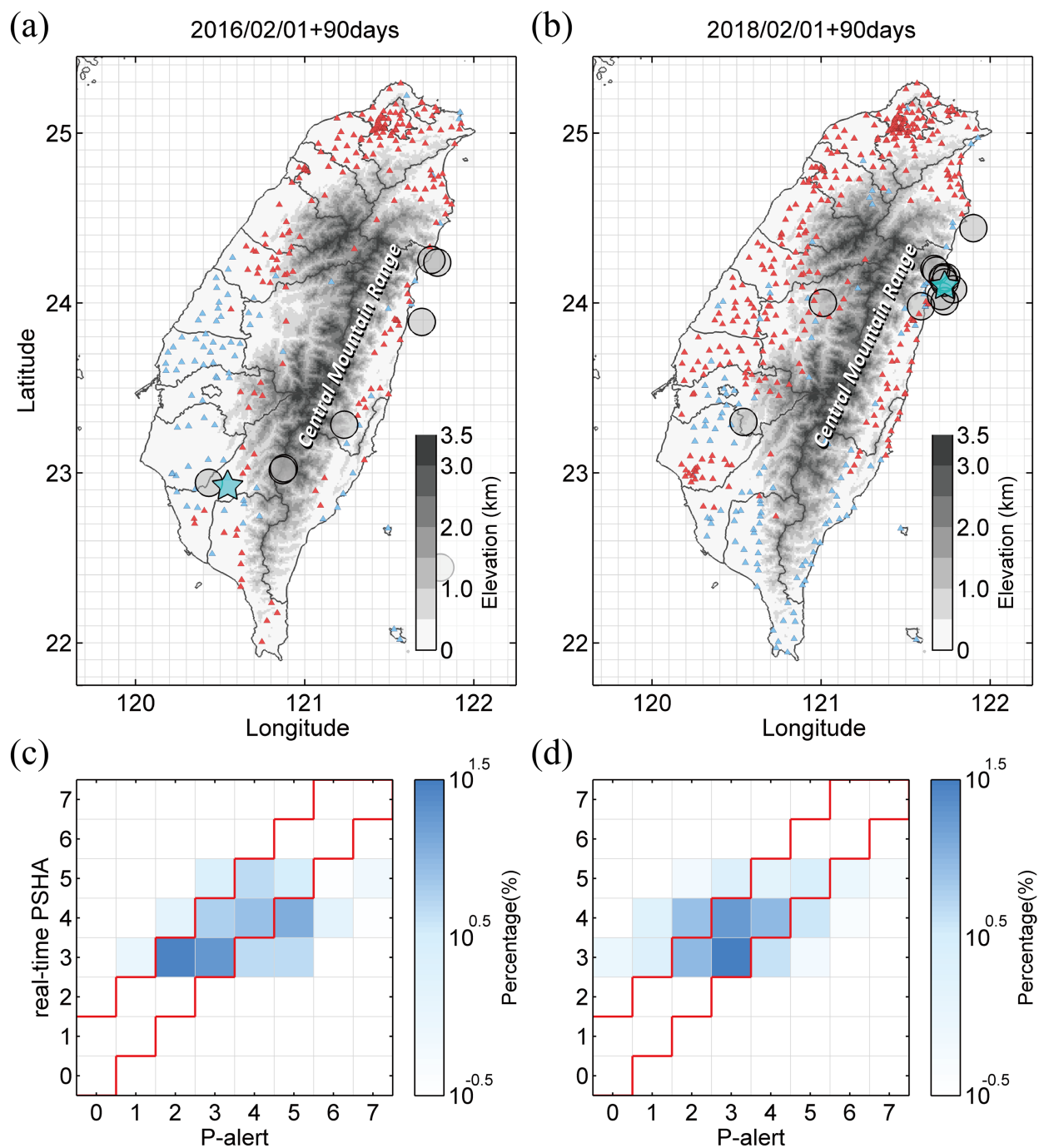


**Figure 3.** The 2018 Hualien earthquake: (a) Map of forecasting maximum seismic intensity. (b) Map of maximum seismic intensity recorded by the P-alert network. (c) Difference in seismic intensity between the forecast and the record. The cyan star represents the Hualien earthquake.



**Figure 4.** Performance test of APHR. The red line indicates the forecasts of real-time PSHA, the gray circle indicates the result of a random test by randomly re-distributing seismic intensities, the blue error bar indicates the interval with two standard deviations over all random tests.





**Figure 5.** Panels (a) and (b) are the P-alert station distributions indicating “hit” and “not hit”. The red and blue triangles represent “hit” and “not hit”, respectively. Panels (c) and (d) are the distributions of the hit percentage for the 2016 Meinong and 2018 Hualian earthquakes,

539      respectively. The red line area represents the acceptable prediction range.

540

541 **Table 1.** Earthquakes occurring in the forecast interval.

(a) Meinong case: 2016/02/01~2016/05/01

Date	Hour	Min.	Lon.	Lat.	Depth	$M_L$	P-alert	Num.
<b>02/05</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>120.54</b>	<b>22.92</b>	<b>14.64</b>	<b>6.60</b>	<b>TEC</b>	<b>338</b>
02/05	19	58	120.43	22.94	18.10	5.26	Nan	Nan
02/09	00	47	121.69	23.89	5.69	5.12	TEC	341
02/18	01	09	120.87	23.02	5.44	5.27	TEC	357
02/18	01	18	120.88	23.03	4.26	5.13	TEC	357
04/16	10	55	121.80	22.44	11.83	5.22	TEC	436
04/27	15	17	121.78	24.24	11.94	5.67	NTU	424
04/27	15	27	121.75	24.25	12.99	5.13	NTU	425
04/27	18	19	121.23	23.28	15.21	5.52	NTU	423

542

(b) Hualian case: 2018/02/01~2018/05/02

Date	Hour	Min.	Lon.	Lat.	Depth	$M_L$	P-alert	Num.
02/04	13	12	121.67	24.20	15.10	5.10	TEC	543
02/04	13	56	121.74	24.15	10.60	5.80	TEC	519
02/04	13	57	121.68	24.19	11.10	5.10	Nan	Nan
02/04	14	13	121.72	24.15	10.30	5.50	TEC	517
02/05	15	58	121.72	24.14	10.00	5.00	TEC	522
<b>02/06</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>121.73</b>	<b>24.10</b>	<b>6.30</b>	<b>6.20</b>	<b>TEC</b>	<b>520</b>
02/06	15	53	121.59	23.98	5.10	5.00	TEC	520
02/06	18	00	121.73	24.12	6.70	5.30	TEC	516
02/06	18	07	121.71	24.04	4.20	5.30	TEC	516
02/06	19	15	121.73	24.01	5.70	5.40	TEC	516
02/07	15	21	121.78	24.08	7.80	5.80	TEC	523
02/25	18	28	121.90	24.44	17.70	5.20	TEC	533
03/20	09	22	120.54	23.30	11.20	5.30	TEC	539
03/29	00	17	121.01	24.00	11.10	5.00	NTU	388

04/23	17	10	122.53	23.92	19.30	5.10	NTU	381
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543 “P-alert” indicates that the P-alert recording was obtained from the Taiwan Earthquake Research  
544 Center (TEC) or the National Taiwan University (NTU). “Num.” indicates the number of recording  
545 stations. “Nan” indicates no P-alert data were recorded from either TEC or NTU, even if the event  
546 was recorded by CWB. Bold font represents the Meinong and Hualian earthquakes.

547

548 **Table 2. Coefficients in the GMPE.**

$C_1$	$C_2$	$C_3$	$C_4$	$C_5$	$C_6$	$C_7$	$C_8$	$H$
1.3979	0.3700	0.0000	-1.2273	0.2086	-0.1934	0.1122	-0.4359	1.4877

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550 **Table 3. Seismic intensity scale of CWB.**

Intensity Scale		Ground Acceleration (cm/s <sup>2</sup> , gal)
Micro	0	<0.8
Very minor	1	0.8~2.5
Minor	2	2.5~8.0
Light	3	8~25
Moderate	4	25~80
Strong	5	80~250
Very Strong	6	250~400
Great	7	≥400