

# Response to Referee #2

## General comments

1. The paper needs major revisions to increase its readability and clarify the adopted methodology (esp. the MC simulations). The title of the paper contains the word “Monte Carlo simulations”. Hence, it is pertinent that the authors include a succinct description of what they mean by the term and how they actually go about utilizing the MC methodology in the context of the paper. For example, any picture showing their sampling of the different parameters (magnitude and depth) would be helpful to the readers to visualize the different scenarios. Thus, in this regard, the current description in Section 2 is inadequate.

Authors appreciate this comment. In fact, explanations for the application of MC simulations have already been revised in Section 2 according to the first referee's comments. We kindly request the referee to reread especially the lines between 175-195 for rephrased explanations.

2. While generating the 100 scenarios for the MC simulations, the PIF fault is defined as a characteristic fault. This crops up in many places in the manuscript. Is this choice because of computational constraints with the simulations or difficulties in applying the MC methodology to multi-segment ruptures or does the seismicity in the PIF does not warrant it? It will be helpful if the authors elaborate on this aspect/choice.

Application of MC simulation technique and the calculation of multi-segment rupture probabilities is a complex problem. Therefore, in this study, only single fault is selected as a source and characteristic model is applied to PTHA as a basic case study. This study can be developed including some connected fault segments to the PIF with static Column stress changes, as mentioned in the manuscript.

## Specific comments on the technical content

1. Throughout the paper the tsunami wave height, inundation depth etc. are mentioned as hydrodynamic “parameters”. Since the term parameter is usually used for physical constants in a model, or for independent variables, it is suggested that another word (e.g. quantities) may be used instead.

In literature, the general classification of wave parameters such as velocity, acceleration, height etc. are “hydrodynamic parameters”. Also, there are many examples of using the phrase “tsunami hydrodynamic parameters” in literature (i.e. Brill et al., 2014 <https://www.jcronline.org/doi/abs/10.2112/JCOASTRES-D-13-00206.1?journalCode=coas>). Therefore, authors would prefer using the term “parameter”.

2. Lines 38-39 – Inclusion of references for studies “regarding the fault mechanisms, ... and triggered tsunamis” will benefit the readers.

Following references are added to the manuscript; Armijo et al., 2002; Armijo et al., 2005; Okay et al., 1999; Le Pichon et al., 2001; Yaltirak 2002; McNeill et al., 2004; Aksu et al., 2000; Imren et al., 2001; Le Pichon et al., 2001; Pondard et al., 2007, Yalçın et al., 1999; Yalçın et al., 2002; Aytore et al., 2016 ; Hebert et al., 2005; Altınok et al., 2001; Altınok et al., 2003; Guler et al., 2015; Cankaya et al., 2016; Tufekci et al., 2018; Latcharote et al., 2016

3. Lines 39-40 – Please consider merging or rephrasing the sentence “The region is attractive ... mega-city.” as it seems to be a repetition of facts in lines 34-37.

The sentence was rephrased as: “The region has distinctive characteristics in terms of its complex tectonic structure and high possibility of an earthquake occurrence with the magnitude larger than 7.0 offshore Istanbul mega-city.”

5. Lines 44-45 – Figure 1 gives a nice overview of the seismicity in the region. In the inset figure inside Figure 1, the labels describing the general tectonic map of Turkey are not clear even after zooming in. Consider either enlarging the inset figure or increasing the fonts of the labels or increasing resolution of the image.

The small figure that shows the tectonic mechanism of Turkey is enlarged.

6. Lines 59-61 – It is not clear why the sentence “Therefore, making ... quite difficult” has been added. Does this difficulty somehow influence the methodology or modelling in the paper?

Conducting a segmentation model for the offshore parts of the NAFZ is quite challenging, which causes the fault dimensions, such as its length and width, to include a sum of error margin. This command is also added to manuscript.

7. Lines 75-78 – Consider splitting the sentence “After the 1999 Izmit ... megacity Istanbul” for increasing readability and clarifying the flow of thought.

This sentence was split into two as, “After the 1999 Izmit event seismic energy along the 150 km long northern part of the NAFZ has been accumulated continuously since 22 May 1766 earthquake. This fault zone extend right next to south of Istanbul beneath the Marmara Sea, and this situation increases the rupture possibility of the PIF and the risk for megacity Istanbul (Stein et al., 1997; Barka 1999; Bohnhoff et al., 2013).”

8. Lines 78-90 – The critical importance of the PIF fault in generating the next earthquake has been brought out nicely in this paragraph. Inclusion of concrete numbers/facts from Ergintav et al. will add strength to the argument.

Some certain numbers are included and the sentences was rephrased as, “Ergintav et al., (2014) also indicated that the PIF segment accumulates stress  $15\pm 2$  mm/yr and the 3.7m slip deficit has been accumulated since the 1766 events and this makes PIF most likely to generate the next  $M > 7$  earthquake along the Sea of Marmara segment of the NAF.”

9. Line 82 – Please list suitable references related to “studies on historical tsunami records” at the end of the sentence. Would it be possible to replace “majority” by a concrete number?

In the literature, the certain number of the earthquake-related tsunami events is not mentioned. Therefore, authors prefer to use the word “majority”.

10. Line 86-88 – A restructuring of the sentence “The recent one ... tsunami.”, would make this fact more readable.

This sentence has been modified as “The recent one happened after the 17 August 1999 Izmit earthquake and after the earthquake, E-W trending tectonic deformation along the basin and submarine failures generated a tsunami.”

11. Line 91 – Please list suitable references related to “tsunami hazard estimation

studies” at the end of the sentence.

Following references are added “Ozer Sozdinler et al., 2019; Hancilar, 2012; Aytore et al., 2016; Hebert et al., 2005”

12. Lines 93-95 – A rewording of the sentence “When focused on ... normal component”, would make the argument clearer.

This sentence was rephrased as “The 40 km long fault in Eastern Basin of Marmara Sea, with a significant normal component, may generate tsunami wave which can reach maximum 2 m height along the Istanbul coast with locally considerable inundation (Hebert et al., 2005).”

13. Lines 98 – Please list suitable references related to “probabilistic seismic and tsunami hazard analyses” at the end of the sentence.

Following references are added; “Murru et al., 2016; Erdik et al., 2004; Hancilar, 2012”

14. Lines 105-107 – Consider restructuring the sentence “However, probabilistic ... probabilistic studies.”, for better clarity. The readers will benefit more, if the authors can cite a few other reasons as to why a probabilistic hazard assessment is important.

The sentence was changed as “However, probabilistic tsunami hazard assessment is important to calculate the tsunami exposure and risk on human populations and infrastructures since probability calculations consider all possible earthquakes in a fault even they occur with very low probability (Lovholt et al., 2012; Lovhot et al., 2015; Grezio et al., 2017). “

15. Lines 107-109 – The difference of the current work from previous approaches needs to be made clearer here. I found it difficult to lock on to the unique contribution of the paper by reading this.

The statement was changed: “Different from previous probabilistic approaches in Marmara Sea, the probability of earthquake occurrences in one fault segment, PIF, are taken into account for the preparation of high-resolution tsunami inundation maps and distribution of hydrodynamic parameters due to the probability of occurrence of associated earthquakes on PIF determined by MC Simulations.”

17. Lines 127-131 – The sentence “Such studies ... maps” is quite long. Consider splitting it up for clearing the flow of the argument.

This sentence was split into two; “Such kind of studies consider the events that generated by co-seismic sea floor displacement, Seismic Probabilistic Hazard Analysis (SPTHA), but numerous tsunami simulations are required to consider all expected combination of seismic sources. This problem can be solved by applying a simplified event tree approach and a two-stage filtering procedure to reduce the number of required source scenarios without decreasing the quality and accuracy of inundation maps (Lorito et al., 2015).”

18. Line 137 – Please give the expansion of the abbreviation “PSHA”. The word “should” is quite strong. Consider replacing it by a milder alternative or adding a sentence or two to justify its usage.

The word “should be” was changed with “can be”

19. Line 139 – Please clarify the phrase “passive margins”.

The explanation is added.

20. Line 144 – Please list suitable references related to “Paleoseismologic studies” here.

Following references are added: “Ryall et al., 1966; Allen, 1968; Schwartz and Coppersmith, 1984”

21. Line 146-147 – It is not at all clear what the authors intend to convey by the sentence “According to Aki ... seismic cycles”.

The sentence is rephrased as “According to Aki (1984), characteristic earthquake is generated as a result of constancy of barriers to rupture through repeated seismic cycles.”

22. Line 170 – The authors are requested to clarify if they perform “seismic zonation” for this work, or use existing results.

The following explanation is added: “In this study, fault segment model proposed in Ozer Sozdinler et al. (2019) is used and PIF is the only segment for seismic source.”

23. Lines 174-175 – The sentence “Tsunami risk ... local ones”, seems to be a repetition of the previous one. Please consider merging the two sentences.

The following sentence is removed: “Regional PTHA studies can be used as a guide for further local studies to develop of a more effective tsunami warning systems.”.

24. Line 180 – The term “randomly” is quite vague. The authors are requested to situate the term in their context by giving more details about say, the sampling etc..

The term “randomly” changed with depth as “uniformly distributed random numbers in a given interval”

25. Line 182 – It is not clear what is conveyed by “represents the number of iterations randomly done in MC simulations”. The authors can either explain it/cite references as to why 100 seems to be representative of the number of samples.

This part was changed as “Therefore, selecting 100 earthquake scenarios would cover a time period of  $100 \times 250$  years= 25,000 years which is considered as an adequate catalog duration in this study” regarding to comments of first referee.

26. Line 192 – The authors are requested to verify the range of magnitudes “Mw 6.5-7.1” vis-a-vis the constants given in line 194. It would be better to supply the particular values of a and b (apart from the standard errors and deviations) that have been used to arrive at the range.

The characteristic model assumes that an earthquake releases all of the seismic energy during the fault rupture and the magnitude of the earthquake depends on the dimension of fault (Abrahamson and Bommer, 2005) and PIF zone is assumed that it has potential to generate a characteristic earthquake and rupture the entire fault. Therefore, this fault can generate an event between the Mw 6.5 – 7.1 by rupturing entire fault area every time. Standard errors of a and b value are removed.

27. Lines 206-211 – The authors are requested to clarify what is the range of depths used for generating the scenarios. Is it 5 - 14 km or 10 - 14 km? It would be beneficial to the readers if the ranges of parameters used for the MC simulations were included in Table 1, alongside the other fault parameters.

This sentence was added “Therefore, depth of events vary between 5 to 14 km in MC simulations.”

Authors prefer to keep Table 1 in this way, otherwise the information about depth and magnitude range will be given before the explanation of how they are retrieved.

28. Line 218 – Please list suitable references related to “Brownian passage time (BPT), log-normal or another probability distribution” here.

Following references are added “Matthews et al., 2002; Ellsworth et al., 1999; Davis et al., 1989; Rikitake 1974”

29. Lines 218-220 – The sentence “In this model ... elapsed time.”, needs to be rephrased or split for better readability.

The sentence was rephrased as: “In this model, in addition to the recurrence time of earthquake, variability of the frequency of events and the elapsed time from the last characteristic event are the additional required information and the longer elapsed time causes to increase of probability of an event occurrence (Cramer et al., 2000; Petersen et al., 2007).”

30. Lines 221-224 – It is not clear what the authors mean to convey by this paragraph. Is this relevant to the application of the method used in this work?

The following sentence is added “Therefore, this model is suitable for calculating the probability of occurrence of an earthquake on a single fault.”

31. Lines 228-232 – This paragraph is a repetition of lines 70-74 and should be deleted.

It was deleted.

32. Line 236 – The authors can share the reasons for adopting the simplification: “earthquake releases all energy loaded on the fault and then starts the new failure cycle.”. Is it because of lack of earthquake cycling models with residual energy or perhaps, due to incompatibility with the BPT model?

The sentence is rephrased as: “A characteristic event occur when the load-state process reaches to the failure threshold; an earthquake releases all energy loaded on the fault and then starts the new failure cycle. ”

33. Lines 247-249 – The authors are suggested to cite a reference for the definition of  $T_r$  so that interested readers may look into it.

The following reference is added “Ren and Zhang, 2013”

34. Lines 269-270 – The linear version of the SW equations is usually faster than the non-linear version, needs lesser memory and is accurate in deep water where nonlinear effects may be neglected. Thus, the reasons given by the authors here are not convincing. A NSW model is, of course, a better model than the linear case because it models the physics better. The authors can supply a sentence or two as to why the use of NSW is attractive in this work.

There is typo in this sentence, thanks the referee for the correction. It was corrected as Linear shallow water equations.

35. Line 274 – The authors have used Okada equations for calculating deformation due to the fault. A figure of the PIF segmentation (maybe in Figure 2, left figure) portraying one of the scenarios from the 100 cases would be helpful to visualize the fault.

The figure is added to manuscript as Figure 5.

36. Lines 279-280 – Accurate coastal bathymetry is crucial for accuracy in high-resolution simulations near the coast. The authors can clarify the source for the bathymetry-topography data at 3m resolution. Is it simply the downscaled version of 30m ASTER and 900m GEBCO data? Or is it another, local dataset? Also, when merging the different bathymetry datasets, a common problem is the fixing of the coastline. How do the authors decide the coastlines between GEBCO and ASTER, as well as the digitized coastline from ArcGIS(?). A few sentences describing their adopted methodology would be appropriate.

The explanation for bathymetry- topography data was added.

37. Line 292 & Figure 4 – The ratio 1 : 3 has been employed here for scaling of consecutive mesh resolutions for simulation. Is there a similar guideline for appropriate spacing between the different nested grids? In Figure 4, the nesting rectangles for 3m, 9m, and 27m are bunched together on their right (eastern) sides. This would create a sharp gradient of mesh resolution from 3m to 27m in that region. The authors can comment on the possible repercussions due to this on the results.

Although the nested domains seem like they are located very close to each other, this is just because of map resolution. In fact, there are enough number of grid nodes between two consecutive domains in order to have stable calculations in NAMIDANCE. Besides, it doesn't cause stability problem to have even only one grid node between two domains.

38. Lines 323-325 – The authors make a good point about the importance of the minimum wave height in terms of stranding of ships. A citation/past example would make this point even better.

The example of 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 Bodrum-Kos earthquake and tsunami (Yalçın et al., 2017) is added.

39. Lines 348,471 – The inundation depth calculated in worst case earthquake scenario is given as “4:48m”. I am unable to find this number in Figures 5 or 6. The authors can clarify this. Also, should it be “2:16m” or -2:16m, as is written in line 471?

The inundation depth should be 1.6m instead of 4.48. Therefore, it was changed with 1.6m.

40. Line 352 – I was very interested in the hazard of small amplitude waves dragging people. A citation would be relevant for readers (like me) who would want to dig more into this aspect.

The following reference is added; “Jonkman and Penning-Rowsell, 2008”

41. Line 363 - Do the authors mean “mean (average) inundation depth values” or mean (average) probability values? It would be more clarifying to include a step-by-step/ point-by-point procedure of calculating the exceedance probabilities from the 100 MC simulations.

The calculations steps are explained gradually as suggested.

42. Lines 434-444 - This discussion of uncertainties does not shed enough light on the results. As such, it is better positioned in the methodology section (maybe? before line 233/discussion of BPT model). Otherwise, the authors can expand this section a bit more with concrete connections to the numbers in the numerical results.

The discussion of uncertainties has already extended according to comments of the first referee.