

Response to **Anonymous referee #1** **Comments on article** **(19 may 2015)**

We agree with the comment about causality. It's a general fact of inductive thinking and scientific research that observations hardly can be univocally related to a set of common causes. We stated that very clearly in our draft (line 110).

Concerning the proposed reference (Fewster, R. 2009) we regard our work as a search for a general dynamical mechanism explaining in first place the observations made in Japan and in second place the earthquake generation process and propagation. We will add a line indicating the interesting work pointed out and also a warning about the generality of the first digit anomaly in multi-decadal datasets. But we would like to add, for completeness, a reference linking first digit anomaly with Weyl's theorem about the distribution of geometric datasets over the circle.