

Editor Decision: Publish subject to technical corrections (22 Dec 2020) by Dimitri Solomatine

Comments to the Author:

All major comments have been addressed, to the satisfaction of the referees.

I still suggest to go through the text, polishing English. Some of the corrections I would suggest to make (this is what I noticed, but there could be more):

L23: "machine and deep learning": deep learning is part of a wider area 'machine learning'... so I would just say 'machine learning'.

L20: drop "matter"

L 24: regardes -> is regarded

L439: "experimental" --> I think better to say "empirical"

Response:

Dear Solomatine,

Thank you for your valuable and kind comments. We agree with all your comments.

The paper was proofread properly and thoroughly to ensure that all grammatical errors and typos are removed wherever possible.

We are thankful to Dr. Solomatine for his valuable comments towards the improvement of our paper.

Editorial Office:

Please note that your reference list has not been compiled according to our standards. Please consider adjusting your reference list with the next revision of your manuscript. The manuscript preparation guidelines can be seen at: [https://www.hydrology-and-earth-system-sciences.net/for\\_authors/manuscript\\_preparation.html](https://www.hydrology-and-earth-system-sciences.net/for_authors/manuscript_preparation.html).

Regarding figure 1: Please add the copyright symbol in the figure itself or in the caption as follows: © Google Maps.

I noticed that your tables contain coloured cells. Please note that this will not be possible in the final revised version of the paper due to HTML conversion of the paper. During the next file upload please update your manuscript accordingly. You can use footnotes or italic/bold font.

Response:

Dear Madam/Sir,

The reference list has been updated with respect to the manuscript preparation guidelines.

The copyright symbol has been added to figure 1

The colour highlights from the table has been removed and we have used italics and bold as suggested.

We are thankful to you for your valuable comments towards the improvement of our paper.