

***Interactive comment on “Analysis of crustal deformation and strain characteristics in the Tianshan Mountains with least-squares collocation” by S. P. Li et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #1**

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The paper from Li et al. is addressing the pattern of deformation in the Tianshan mountains. It claims that a link is established between the seismicity and strain rate measured at the surface. A new scheme of interpolation is presented and applied. This is fine by me except the velocity field is reproduced in very few places (Figure 3). From here it is difficult to go further. Why do we have compression event while the lithosphere is being extended (Figure 5)? I have the same comment about the shear rate map, why is there so many events (strike-slip, near N35; E85) where there is no shear detected? I recommend the authors to redo their strain rate computation before interpreting their results again.

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Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., 7, 3179, 2015.

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