1	Bayesian Event Tree for Eruption Forecasting (BET_EF) at
2	Vesuvius, Italy: a retrospective forward application to the 1631
3	eruption.
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1 Abstract

2 Reliable forecasting of the next eruption at Vesuvius is the main scientific 3 ingredient to define effective strategies to reduce volcanic risk in one of the 4 most dangerous volcanic areas around the world. In this paper, we apply a 5 recently developed probabilistic code for eruption forecasting to new and 6 independent historical data related to the pre-eruptive phase of the 1631 7 eruption. The results obtained point out three main issues: 1) the 8 importance of "cold" historical data (according to Guidoboni 2008) related 9 to pre-eruptive phases for evaluating forecasting tools and possibly 10 refining them; 2) the BET EF code implemented for Vesuvius would have 11 forecast the 1631 eruption satisfactorily, marking different stages of the 12 pre-eruptive phase; 3) the code shows that pre-eruptive signals that 13 significantly increase the probability of eruption were likely detected more 14 than two months before the event.

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Keywords: cold historical data, Vesuvius, 1631 eruption, BET\_EF code,
eruption forecasting

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#### 1 **1. INTRODUCTION**

2 Vesuvius is one of the highest risk volcanoes. Besides being located in a 3 densely populated area, with circa one million of people living on its flanks 4 and in the surrounding area, Vesuvius experienced several large explosive 5 eruptions in the past that re-opened the conduit, ending so-called "close 6 conduit" phases (e.g., Marzocchi and Zaccarelli 2006) such as the current 7 phase of the volcano. Over the last decades, this large threat for society 8 pushed scientists and the Italian Civil Protection to devote a significant 9 effort in order to mitigate volcanic risk in this area. One of the most 10 relevant strategies adopted is the development of an Emergency Plan that 11 is periodically revised and that includes, prior to an eruption, a massive 12 evacuation of the area that is likely to be affected by pyroclastic flows. 13 lahars, and heavy ash falls (the so-called Red Zone). Thus, a key scientific 14 ingredient for an evacuation to be effective and successful is a reliable 15 forecast of the time evolution of the reactivation of Vesuvius.

16 Tracking quantitatively the evolution of the pre-eruptive phase of long-time 17 dormant explosive volcanoes is the main purpose of a recent quantitative 18 tool, named BET EF (Bayesian Event Tree for Eruption Forecasting), developed by Marzocchi et al. (2004; 2008). The method makes 19 20 probabilistic eruption forecasting, accounting for volcanological models, 21 prior beliefs, past data, and monitoring measurements. Besides a general 22 description of the probabilistic model that is potentially applicable to any explosive volcano, the papers also contain a set of monitoring parameters 23

and relative thresholds, in order to apply the technique to pre-eruptive
 phases of Vesuvius.

3 Although the method is scientific, since it provides probabilities that can be 4 used to test the model with independent data, in practice its verification is 5 hampered by the lack of quantitative pre-eruptive data, for Vesuvius as 6 well as for almost all volcanoes of this type. In this respect, we argue that 7 historical documents can partially fill this void, providing useful information 8 about pre-eruptive phenomena. A remarkable example is given by 9 historical reports of the pre-eruptive phase of the 1631 eruption (Guidoboni 2008). These new data give us an unusual opportunity to 10 11 perform a retrospective forward test of the BET EF model implemented for 12 Vesuvius. The "forward" nature of the test is guaranteed by the fact that 13 we use the same parameters published in previous papers, keeping 14 "frozen" all the quantitative rules/parameters/thresholds. The test consists 15 of three basic steps: at first,

1. We translate, where possible, the historical information into 17 reasonable values of some of the monitoring data required by the 18 BET\_EF model for eruption forecasting. In this step we keep 19 separate, as clearly as possible, the "historical data" (in their so-20 called "cold" data form, i.e., not yet interpreted, see Guidoboni 20 2008) from our interpretation.

22 2. We run the BET\_EF code to estimate the time evolution of the23 probability of eruption.

We perform stability checks of the results, acknowledging that our
 quantitative interpretation of historical reports is subjective and
 cannot be univocal. In practice, we evaluate the stability of the
 results when different interpretations of historical reports are
 applied.

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The final goal of the paper is two-fold: beside testing the ability of BET\_EF
to forecast a large explosive eruption in a long-time quiescent volcano, we
also highlight the importance of data coming from historical documents,
as they can partly replace the lack of quantitative pre-eruptive data for
large explosive eruptions.

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## 13 2. THE 1631 VESUVIUS ERUPTION, AND A DETAILED HISTORICAL 14 CHRONOLOGY OF THE PRE-ERUPTIVE PHASE

During its eruptive history, Vesuvius has produced several large explosive 15 16 eruptions that devastated the surrounding area. It last erupted in 1944 with 17 a VEI = 3 weakly explosive event. The most important previous eruptions 18 were VEI = 4 events in 472 A.D. and 1631 (see, e.g., Scandone et al. 1993), and the well-known Pompeii eruption in 79 AD. Presumably, all of 19 20 these large explosive eruptions brought to an end a closed conduit phase, 21 intended, as in Marzocchi and Zaccarelli (2006), as a dormancy of the 22 volcano with no activity, lasting at least few decades (e.g., Guidoboni and Boschi 2006) or centuries (e.g., Cioni et al. 2003) and allowing the closure 23

of the volcanic conduit due to viscous relaxation and cooling of rocks
 within it (Quareni and Mulargia 1993).

After the reactivation of Vesuvius in 1631, volcanic activity switched to persistent activity typical of open conduit behavior, showing frequent eruptions of smaller size and intensity for decades to centuries. Persistent activity prevailed through the early 20th century until 1944. Since then, however, an unusually long repose (60 years and continuing) suggests this volcano may now be in a closed conduit condition (e.g., Marzocchi and Zaccarelli 2006).

10 The 1631 event had a particular importance because it was considered, in 11 a previous version of the Emergency Plan (Presidenza del Consiglio dei 12 Ministri 1995), as a reference scenario for the definition of the "Maximum" 13 Expected Event" (e.g., Barberi et al. 1995; Barberi et al. 1990; Esposti 14 Ongaro et al. 2002; Cioni et al. 2003). The revised Emergency Plan has 15 modified this view, recognizing that an eruption similar to the one occurred 16 in 1631 is not actually the maximum expected event, and not even the 17 most likely (Marzocchi et al. 2004), but it could represent a reasonable 18 reference scenario that balances cost/benefit for practical actions. 19 Nevertheless, the 1631 event is also remarkable because, being the most 20 recent explosive eruption, it has also some noticeable historical reports 21 about the pre-eruptive phase. While Rosi et al. (1993) let us learn what 22 happened during the eruptive phases of 1631 event, recent works by 23 Guidoboni (2004; 2008) made available a large amount of new information 24 on what happened weeks and months before the eruption (see comments 25 in Bertagnini et al. 2006).

- 26
- 27 2.1. The method and the materials studied: the role of "cold"
  28 historical data

29 One of the main problems in the use of historical data to learn about the 30 phenomena of the past, like the activity of volcanoes, is the continuous

and uncontrollable interpretative intervention effected by the 1 2 volcanologists directly upon the sources. The descriptions of the Vesuvius 3 activity (and of other volcanoes of the Italian area) in the treatises written 4 by contemporaries are especially rich in detail, inserted within a lengthy 5 chronological development. Most of the phenomena described in those 6 treatises can thus be pinpointed in time and in geographical space and be 7 elaborated as a fully-fledged sequence of "cold" data, that is, defined 8 before the scientific interpretation. This way of elaborating the historical 9 data is a novelty within the volcanological field, because it allows the 10 relationship between source and interpretation to be made transparent, a 11 relationship that hitherto in the literature had always been presented as a 12 single phase and a single process. The separation of the two levels, i.e. 13 historical and volcanological, which instead has been effected here, 14 obviously does not come without its surprises as well as some problems, 15 because it lays bare some unresolved aspects – and also at times ones 16 that are hard to resolve – possible contradictions between the examined 17 texts, or neglected elements that are not secondary. As compared with 18 the knowledge already gained in the literature, it appears to be a more 19 realistic set of data, but also in some ways more problematic, nonetheless 20 meaningful, for anyone who has to interpret such data within the 21 volcanological sphere.

In our opinion, no other paths can be followed for the critical use of a
wealth of such particular historical data. The results presented here

constitute a new way of using historical data in volcanology, which have been applied for the first time within the *Exploris* project (Guidoboni 2008).

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## 2.2.The description of the 1631 eruption in five contemporaries treatises

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 1631 a violent eruption of Vesuvius started after a long 6 7 period of silence that had led people to forget the danger of this volcano. 8 In order of importance, that of 1631 is the third eruption occurring in the 9 historical era, after those of 79 AD and 472 AD. This eruption in its most 10 acute phase lasted several days, causing over a thousand deaths and 11 substantial economic damage. The phenomenon ended completely only a 12 few years later, but already in January 1632 a number of Neapolitan 13 intellectuals were engaged in writing reports and treatises to recount, 14 interpret, and explain that extraordinary reawakening of Vesuvius.

15 Between 1632 and 1634 numerous pamphlets, notices, letters and reports, 16 along with some treatises written in Italian, Latin and Spanish, were 17 published in Naples. These writings represent a heterogeneous set of 18 materials, as a whole invaluable for becoming acquainted with that scenario. The four treatises (see also Appendix A) presented here have 19 20 been analysed in different steps: the texts of Carafa (1632), Mascolo 21 (1632) and Varrone (1634), in Latin, have been translated and analysed 22 within the scope of the EXPLORIS project (Guidoboni 2004); the text of 23 Braccini (1634) is in Italian, analysed within the Vulcan-3 project - RU 1-Guidoboni (2005-2007) agreement with the Dipartimento della Protezione 24

Civile and INGV. The text by Giovanni Domenico de Arminio (1632), which
 is a treatise in Latin up to now unknown to volcanological literature, has
 been translated and analysed for this work.

The list of chronologically ordered phenomena reported in the five treatises
is given in table 1 (columns 1 to 5).

6 One of the most interesting aspects and so far scarcely used of such texts 7 is their reconstruction of the chronology of the described phenomena. The 8 treatises analysed are situated within production of the witnesses to the 9 1631 eruption. The authors, intellectuals and ecclesiastics of the day, were 10 committed to analysing and explaining everything that they had previously 11 observed before, during and after the eruption: obviously this was done 12 within the cognitive frames of their times. The liveliness and immediacy of 13 their descriptions accompany a literary scholarship, which was typical of 14 the ecclesiastics and the men of law of that day and age.

The description of the eruption is preceded, in all five treatises, by scores of pages dedicated to philological, etymological and historical disquisitions, which are an example of how the culture of the day dealt with the great natural events.

19 The description of the events starts from the summer of 1631, that is, 20 several months before the eruption of Vesuvius. Hence, the treatises give 21 us the chance to observe, through the eyes of an intellectual of the day, a 22 cinematic narrative of the events running up to the great eruption on 16<sup>th</sup> 23 December 1631.

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#### 1 3. BET\_EF APPLICATION TO THE 1631 ERUPTION

#### 2 **3.1 BET\_EF rules for Vesuvius**

3 The BET EF software package implements the Bayesian Event Tree for 4 Eruption Forecasting model published by Marzocchi et al. (2008). The 5 model is based on an event tree in which individual branches are 6 alternative steps from a general prior event evolving into increasingly 7 specific subsequent events. By merging volcanological information, past 8 data and monitoring measurements through a Bayesian inferential 9 method, BET EF computes the long- and short-term probability at each 10 node of the event tree; particularly interesting from a volcanological point 11 of view are the probabilities of volcanic unrest, magmatic unrest, eruption, 12 vent location and eruption size. BET EF also provides estimates of 13 aleatory and epistemic uncertainties on such probabilities.

- 14 The upload of the available information regarding Vesuvius represents the main step in order to run BET EF for this application. Here, we keep the 15 16 same rules used by Marzocchi et al. (2008) during MESIMEX (Major 17 Emergency SIMulation EXercise) experiment, in which the re-awakening 18 of Vesuvius was simulated in order to test Civil Protection and Scientific 19 Institution preparedness in case of such an event. On that occasion, 20 BET EF was run real-time, fed with the simulated monitoring data 21 provided by a scientific pool of experts (Marzocchi et al. 2008).
- 22 In Appendix B, we describe these rules in detail again.

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# 3.2 Strategy adopted for the volcanological interpretation of historical information

In order to verify the eruption forecasting ability of the BET\_EF code on
independent data, we apply it to the 1631 pre-eruptive phase, according to
the historical accounts provided by Guidoboni (2004) and Guidoboni
(2008).

We interpret the historical information in terms of some of the parameters
 routinely monitored at Vesuvius that are a direct input to the BET\_EF
 code.

4 We stress that, in the process of translation of historical information into 5 volcanological input to BET EF, we have to interpret "anomalous" events 6 reported in the chronicles with respect to a background activity of the volcano. In doing so, we necessarily refer to our volcanological experience 7 8 gained from Vesuvius and to its present background state. Thus, the 9 values suggested in the last column of Table 1 represent our subjective 10 perception of the anomaly reported in the historical accounts with respect 11 to the present-day background values. Actually, we do not know if the 12 present- day state of the volcano is similar to the one before 1631 13 eruption. The results we obtain might be indeed biased by this 14 assumption.

15 However, since the BET EF code deals with monitoring measurements in 16 a fuzzy approach (see Appendix B and Marzocchi et al. 2008), the results 17 yielded by BET EF do not change if we input a "wrong" value for a 18 monitoring measure, provided that our value maintains a "degree of anomaly" similar to the one of the reality. For example, if the real occurred 19 20 monthly largest magnitude is 2.1, but we give an interpretation of 3.0, the 21 results will be exactly the same, since (see Table B2 in Appendix B) these 22 values are both below the lowest threshold, thus their degree of anomaly is the same (in particular, they are indicative of NO anomaly). Similar 23 24 considerations can be applied for any monitored variable that we consider.

1 Since historical chronicles refer to ground uplift and not to the 2 corresponding strain, for the deformation parameters (cumulative strain 3  $\varepsilon$  and strain rate d $\varepsilon$ /dt) we interpret the historical reports in terms of 4 observed ground uplift (u), and translate the uplift in terms of 5  $\varepsilon$  (i.e.,  $\varepsilon = U/\Delta h$ , where U is the cumulative total uplift since the beginning of 6 the unrest, and  $\Delta h$  is the supposed thickness of the deformed layer) and 7  $d\varepsilon/dt$  (i.e.,  $d\varepsilon/dt = u/(\Delta h \Delta t)$ , where  $\Delta t$  is the time interval during which the 8 uplift is observed, derived directly from the chronicles). Bertagnini et al. 9 (2006) set the depth of the source of deformation (by a simple Mogi 10 model) to 4Km, implying a deformed layer 4Km thick. Here we assume 11  $\Delta h=5$ Km, a bit more conservative choice (because, given a ground uplift, it 12 implies lower cumulative strain and lower strain rate).

13 On purpose, we decide to translate into numerical values only the historical information undoubtedly linked to a specific monitoring 14 15 parameter. For example, anomalous wild animal behavior (like fleeing from 16 the Vesuvian area, as reported) might have been related to seismic 17 activity, to rockfalls in the crater area, to anomalous gas emission, etc.; in 18 few words, there is no specific and univocal phenomenon that caused the 19 flee of wild animals from their usual territory. Therefore, we do not 20 consider this information in BET EF. Together with the fact that the 21 historical information collected likely represents a subset of all the phenomena occurred in 1631 pre-eruptive phase, this choice implies that 22 23 the results we will obtain are a lower limit on the eruption forecasting ability 24 of BET EF on independent data.

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#### 3.3 Volcanological interpretation of historical information

In Table 1 we provide our interpretation of the historical information in terms of some of the parameters routinely monitored at Vesuvius that are a direct input to the BET\_EF code. In particular, in the two right-most columns of Table 1, we show our "verbal" interpretation of the information given on the rest of the table row (second last column), and its translation into the corresponding specific parameters and values of the monitoring data required as BET\_EF input (last column).

In the following, we will give detailed explanation for the interpretations
adopted, in order of appearance in time (see also Table 1). Since
Bertagnini et al. (2006) and Rosi et al. (1993) already interpreted some of
the historical chronicles used in the present study, we will explicitly
compare our interpretation to theirs.

"Smoke emissions" reported by C (see Table 1) on the beginning of
September. We interpret this as a moderate increase (4 times the present
average flux) in CO<sub>2</sub> flux. In doing so, we postulate that fumaroles
composition remains unchanged (similar to the present-day one), but the
flux becomes larger, and fumaroles become visible.

"Elevation of the ground" reported by B between 16<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup>
 December. We interpret this as naked-eye detectable vertical ground uplift,
 i.e., around 10 cm, occurred during the period of observation (approx
 Δt=two weeks). Since BET\_EF requires strain and strain rate, we transform

1 this into  $\varepsilon = 2x 10^{-5}$  and  $d\varepsilon/dt = 1.3x 10^{-6} d^{-1}$  as illustrated in the previous 2 section.

3 "Moderate seismic activity in the coastal region of Vesuvius" reported by V between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November. Even if Bertagnini et al. (2006) suggest 4 that this piece of Varrone's chronicle is a "convoluted sentence" and that its 5 6 interpretation might be doubtful, this is not our opinion, because the 7 Varrone's chronicle is not limited to the sentence reported by Bertagnini et 8 al (2006). Indeed, the whole paragraph is undoubtably related to seismic 9 activity felt by people on the coastal region of Vesuvius, thus we interpret 10 this as an increase in the rate of earthquakes. At node 1, one of BET EF's 11 seismic input is the monthly number of earthquakes with magnitude larger 12 or equal to 1.9 recorded at OVO station, located on the volcano. We imagine that, with the term "moderate seismicity", people might have felt a 13 14 few earthquakes (let's say 5) of magnitude around 3; considering a power 15 law between the energy of earthquakes and their frequency, i.e., the 16 Gutenberg-Richter (GR) relationship, we have  $Log(N_1)=a-bM_1$ , where  $N_1=5$ 17 (earthquakes with magnitude larger or equal to 3),  $M_1=3$  (magnitude), and b=1. In order to compute  $N_2$ , i.e., the number of earthquakes with 18 19 magnitude larger or equal to 1.9, we consider again the GR law, i.e., Log  $N_2$ =a-b $M_2$ , where  $M_2$ =1.9. By differentiating these two expressions of the 20 21 GR law, we obtain  $Log(N_2/N_1)=b(M_1-M_2)$  from which  $N_2=N_1x10^{5}/b(M_1-M_2)$ 22 M<sub>2</sub>)]≈50. (Note that for this reason, from now on, every time the chronicles 23 report "moderate seismic activity", we add other 50 earthquakes to the 24 monthly count.) For the maximum magnitude of this earthquake burst, again

on a monthly basis at OVO station, we set 3.0, below the lower threshold of
 anomaly. We keep it low because seismicity is felt in Vesuvian area only.

"Emissions with effects on the herbaceous vegetation (wilting)" reported by
V "just before December". Similarly to Bertagnini et al. (2006), and to what
observed during the last unrest episode at Long Valley Caldera (see e.g.
Hill 1996), we interpret this as a further increase in CO<sub>2</sub> flux, up to 20
kg/m<sup>2</sup>d<sup>-1</sup>.

8 - "Major uplifting of the ground" occurring in 5 days and reported by V in the 9 beginning of December. We interpret this as a ground uplift significantly 10 larger than the one reported previously, thus we set a further uplift of 0.5 m 11 in a time window  $\Delta t$ =5 days, and translate this into  $\varepsilon$ =1.2x10<sup>-4</sup> and 12 d $\varepsilon$ /dt=2x10<sup>-5</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>. Due to cumulative strain, which becomes now larger than 13 the upper anomaly threshold, the eruption probability takes a large jump.

"Moderate seismic activity in the Vesuvius area" reported by V between 7<sup>th</sup>
 and 8<sup>th</sup> December. As mentioned above, we keep the same maximum
 magnitude but add other 50 earthquakes to the monthly count.

17 - "Small uplifting of the ground" reported by V between 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 18 December. We interpret this a further uplift of 0.1 m (yielding a total 19 cumulated strain  $\varepsilon$ =1.4x10<sup>-4</sup>), occurring in a time window  $\Delta$ t=7 days, thus 20 lowering the strain rate to d $\varepsilon$ /dt=2.9x10<sup>-6</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>.

"Emission of hot vapours (Vesuvian area)" reported by V in the same
 period. Similarly to Bertagnini et al. (2006), we interpret it as an increase of
 temperature of the fumaroles (T=110C, representing 15% of the present
 usual value).

"Moderate seismic activity (Vesuvian area)" reported by B on 10<sup>th</sup>
 December. As above, we keep the same maximum magnitude, but we add
 other 50 earthquakes to the monthly count.

"Repeated seismic activity felt at Naples and in the Vesuvius area, for a range of about 7.5Km" reported by C, V and M about 8 hours before the onset of the eruption. We interpret this as a major jump in the monthly count of earthquakes (further 150 events), and, more important, an acceleration of the seismic energy released (d<sup>2</sup>E/dt<sup>2</sup>=1), acknowledged also by Bertagnini et al. (2006); we also set a larger maximum magnitude (up to 4.0) motivated by the larger area in which earthquakes are felt.

"Seismic activity, opening of faults" reported by V about 1 hour before
eruption onset. We interpret this as a further jump in the monthly count of
earthquakes (further 200 events), and persisting acceleration of the seismic
energy released (d<sup>2</sup>E/dt<sup>2</sup>=1). Furthermore, we also interpret the opening of
faults as strain acceleration (d<sup>2</sup>ε/dt<sup>2</sup>=1). This is a very important parameter
because, having a double weight, it implies a large jump in eruption
probability.

18- "Opening of the mount in the Atria" reported by B about 1 hour before19eruption onset. We interpret this as a major ground deformation (which20possibly could be the same fact reported by V and just discussed above), in21which cumulative strain exceeds rock strength; we set a further ground22displacement of 1 m in a very short time window ( $\Delta t$ =6 hours), giving23ε=3.4x10<sup>-4</sup> and dε/dt=8x10<sup>-4</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>

"Intense smoke emission" reported by V about 1 hour before eruption onset.
We interpret this as a further strong increase in CO<sub>2</sub> flux (Π<sub>CO2</sub>=100 m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>).
"Rock expulsion (from central crater)" reported by V about 1 hour before eruption onset. We interpret this as occurrence of phreatic explosions (PE=1). This parameter also concurs in causing a large jump in eruption probability.

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#### 3.4 BET\_EF run (the "reference case")

9 At first, we divide the period of time considered into six different sub-10 periods, corresponding to (interpreted) significant changes in the 11 monitoring parameters. For each sub-period, we run a BET EF simulation 12 in order to compute the various probability distributions of interest (valid in 13 the sub-period of the simulation). The results are displayed in Table 2. For 14 the sake of conciseness, for each simulation we show the average 15 absolute probability of unrest and of eruption, the relative 10-, 50- and 90-16 th percentiles of their distributions, and the same quantities for the 17 conditional probabilities of magmatic unrest given unrest and of eruption 18 given magmatic unrest. We define this set of simulations the "reference 19 case".

20 The most striking features of BET\_EF results for the reference case are:

21 ✓ immediate jump in the probability of unrest already from sub-period 1
 (the long-term average for Vesuvius is in the order of 10<sup>-3</sup> (see Marzocchi et al. 2008) while here in sub-period 1 the average jumps to about 10%),
 i.e., months before the eruption; however, the conditional probability of

magma given unrest and of eruption given magmatic unrest are still
 around 50% because unrest is not yet completely clear;

9 ✓ aleatory uncertainty on the probability of eruption is drastically reduced
10 only few hours before the eruption (sub-period 6). This is a quite
11 common feeling among present-day volcanologists who have dealt with
12 large explosive eruptions (for example, the eruption of Mt Pinatubo in
13 1991, see e.g. Cornelius and Voight 1996).

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#### 3.5 Control experiments

16 Since the interpretation of historical information is not univocal, we run 17 some control experiments. The main idea is to assume that the monitoring 18 parameters identified in Table 1 for each sub-period from the historical accounts are exact, but their specific values might change inside 19 20 reasonable ranges, because our interpretation is intrinsically subjective. To account for this, we random vary the values of the monitoring parameters 21 22 inside these ranges for 1000 times, by random sampling (1000 times) from uniform distributions. Then, we run 1000 control simulations for each sub-23 24 period. In doing so, we obviously must respect the temporal trend of the

parameters through the pre-eruptive phase (for example, it is clear from the historical accounts that the monthly number of seismic events had been continuously increasing throughout the whole period). Furthermore, we do not vary the values of the yes/no parameters, i.e., the parameters related to the presence of phreatic explosions and to accelerations in seismic energy release and deformation, since they appear to be certain from the historical chronicles.

8 The monitoring parameters whose values are varied in the control 9 experiments are  $n_e$ ,  $M_d$ ,  $\Phi_{CO2}$ ,  $d\epsilon/dt$ , T and  $\epsilon$ . For all of them, we start from 10 the present-day background value from actual monitoring of Vesuvius 11 (listed in Table 3), and then we set specific ranges in which the increase in 12 their values can be uniformly random sampled, according to what reported 13 in Table 1 from the historical chronicles. Except for T, whose value 14 changes only once during the pre-eruptive crises, we define a range for 15 the increase in the parameter for each time it is reported to have changed. In particular (see also Table 3): 16

T varies only in sub-period 4; we identify a reasonable increase in T in
the order of 5 to 25 degrees Celsius with respect to the present
temperature of the fumaroles, corresponding to a 5 to 30% increase.

M<sub>d</sub> varies twice, i.e. once in sub-periods 2 and once in 5. We identify a
 reasonable increase in M<sub>d</sub> in sub-period 2 in the order of 0 to 1.5 units of
 magnitudes with respect to the present monthly maximum magnitude of
 earthquakes. For sub-period 5, since chronicles report "seismic activity felt

in Naples", we define a further increase in the range of 0 to 1.5 units ofmagnitude.

n<sub>e</sub> varies in sub-periods 2 (once), 4 (twice), 5 (once) and 6 (once). We
identify a reasonable increase in n<sub>e</sub> in sub-period 2 in the order of 0 to 100
events, corresponding to a 0 to 10 times increase of the present rate.
Equal ranges are assumed for the two further increases in sub-period 4.
For sub-periods 5 and 6 we assume a more important increase (from 50 to
300 events per month more) due to the specification of "repeated seismic
activity" in the accounts.

10 -  $\Phi_{CO2}$  varies (once) in sub-periods 1, 3 and 6. For sub-periods 1 we define 11 a reasonable range of increase between 0 and 30 kg m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>, and an equal 12 range for the further increase in sub-period 3 is assumed. For the last sub-13 period we identify a larger increase (20 to 300 kg m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>, representing 14 about 10 and 100 times the present background emission rate) due to the 15 specification of "strong gas emission" in the historical report.

16 For the deformation parameters ( $\epsilon$  and  $d\epsilon/dt$ ), we define ranges for the \_ 17 increase in the observed ground uplift, and translate the uplift in terms of  $\varepsilon$ 18 and  $d\epsilon/dt$  as in section 4.1. In this view, ground uplift varies (once) in subperiods 2, 3, 4 and 6. In sub-period 2, the account simply reports 19 20 "elevation of the ground" in 15 days. We assume that this might 21 correspond to an uplift of 5 cm (about the minimum observable without instruments) to 50 cm. In terms of  $d\epsilon/dt$  this range corresponds to  $6.7 \times 10^{-7}$ 22  $d^{-1}$  to 6.7x10<sup>-6</sup>  $d^{-1}$ , while for  $\varepsilon$  this corresponds to 10<sup>-5</sup> to 10<sup>-4</sup>. In sub-period 23 3, we define a larger further uplift ("major ground uplifting" in 5 days) 24

between 20 cm and 1 m. In terms of  $d\epsilon/dt$  this range corresponds to  $8 \times 10^{-6}$ 1  $d^{-1}$  to  $4x10^{-5} d^{-1}$ , while for  $\varepsilon$  this corresponds to a further increase of  $5x10^{-5}$ 2 to  $3x10^{-4}$ . In sub-period 4, we define a small uplift ("small uplifting of the 3 4 ground" in 7 days) between 5 and 20 cm. In terms of  $d\epsilon/dt$  this range corresponds to  $1.4 \times 10^{-6} d^{-1}$  to  $5.7 \times 10^{-6} d^{-1}$ , while for  $\varepsilon$  this corresponds to a 5 further increase of  $6 \times 10^{-5}$  to  $3.4 \times 10^{-4}$ . In sub-period 6, the deformation 6 7 must be large and rapid ("opening of mount" in few hours, here we take  $\Delta t=6$  hours), between 50 cm and 3 m. In terms of d $\epsilon/dt$  this range 8 corresponds to  $4x10^{-4}$  d<sup>-1</sup> to  $2.4x10^{-3}$  d<sup>-1</sup>, while for  $\varepsilon$  this corresponds to 9  $1.6 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $9.4 \times 10^{-4}$ . 10

11 In this way, we perform 1000 control experiments; in practice, we build up 12 1000 different pre-eruptive phases, with the same anomalous parameters, but assuming different values for them. This is a way of controlling the 13 14 dependence of BET EF forecasting results on the thresholds fixed for 15 Vesuvius and on the errors in input monitoring measurements. In particular, we want to check the stability of our best guess result (the 16 17 average of the probability distribution) with respect to reasonable errors on our subjective interpretation. Since the best guess value is largely related 18 to aleatory uncertainty, i.e., a measure of the intrinsic unpredictability of 19 20 the system, with the control experiment we want to check how stable is the 21 system predictability in relation to errors in our interpretation. Because of 22 this, we will concentrate on the statistics of the control experiments' 23 average, rather than on the statistics of the dispersion.

In figure 1 we show a plot of the dispersion in the estimate of the average
probability of unrest versus time approaching the eruption among the 1000
control experiments. For comparison, we also show the results from the
reference case. It is important to note that the increases of the monitoring
parameters in the reference case are all contained in the ranges identified
above and given in Table 3.

From figure 1, we see that the BET\_EF model immediately takes a jump in
the probability of unrest some months before the eruption, and it
recognizes undoubtedly an unrest phase about a month before the
beginning of the eruption.

11

12 In figures 2, 3 and 4 we show the same as in figure 1, except that we show 13 respectively the average absolute probability of eruption, the average 14 conditional probability of magma given unrest, and the average conditional probability of eruption given magmatic unrest. These figures show that, as 15 16 time approaches the eruption, an escalating trend towards an eruptive 17 characterization of the crisis is evident (figure 2). The conditional 18 probability of magma given unrest (figure 3) is very high (around 80%) already about 10 days before the eruption onset, while the conditional 19 20 probability of eruption given magma (figure 4) is stable around 30-50%, 21 except for a large step up to 90% in the few hours preceding the onset, 22 implying a substantial reduction of the aleatory uncertainty on the eruption absolute probability (up to 70-80%). This is actually a common experience 23

of present-day volcanologists who have witnessed a large explosive
 eruption.

- 3
- 4

#### 4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5 We have applied the BET\_EF code (Marzocchi et al. 2004; Marzocchi et 6 al. 2008) to characterize the time evolution of the 1631 pre-eruptive phase 7 at Vesuvius, by using new and independent (i.e., they were not used to set 8 up the model) "cold" historical data. This application highlights four major 9 points.

Historical researches to study and to model pre-eruptive phases, overall
 for explosive volcanoes that do not have recent and monitored volcanic
 eruption, as for Vesuvius, are of prominent importance, as suggested also
 by Bertagnini et al. (2006).

BET\_EF code (Marzocchi et al. 2004; Marzocchi et al. 2008) applied to
 the 1631 pre-eruptive phase is able to track the time evolution leading to
 the eruption, marking steps in probability of eruption as time approaches
 the eruption onset.

The 1631 pre-eruptive phase shows signals that were able to increase
 the absolute probability of eruption up to 10% about a month before the
 beginning of the eruption; this probability reaches more than 30% 7-10
 days before the onset of the event. In this respect, we do not agree with
 Bertagnini et al. (2006) when they conclude that "the anomalous
 phenomena reported before the end of November appear to be of doubtful
 significance and reliability". Rather, we think that even if the chronicles

report a filtered subset of occurred medium-term precursors, they are
sufficient for estimating a 10% probability of eruption, a month in advance.
We argue that also figures like these are worth being considered. In fact,
Marzocchi and Woo (2007) showed that the call for an evacuation based
on cost/benefit analysis is usually much lower than the higher probabilities
usually adopted by volcanologists, for instance during the MESIMEX
experiment.

The BET\_EF aleatory uncertainty on eruption probability for 1631 event
 resembles the experience of present-day volcanologists who have
 witnessed large explosive eruption, i.e., the aleatory uncertainty on the
 eruption occurrence is low only hours before its onset.

12

Finally, we want to remark that the translation of historical information into 13 14 monitoring parameters always involves "subjective" choices. Here, we 15 have deeply explored the stability of the results ("control experiments") as 16 a function of the assumptions made, and, in any case, we have usually 17 chosen the most conservative options in order to not optimize the results. 18 It is also worth remarking that these results could represent a lower bound 19 of the BET\_EF forecasting capability, because we use only a subset of the 20 real pre-eruptive signals, i.e., we use monitoring parameters that produced 21 signals felt by human beings and not only by instruments. We think that 22 the inclusion of the latter type of signals can improve the results reported 23 here.

24

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#### 1 TABLE 1. Pre-eruptive phase for the 1631 eruption: from the summer to 2 December 16th 4-5am, GMT

- Note that the thick black lines represent different time sub-periods related to different applications
- of the BET\_EF code (see section 4). The question mark "?" means "missing or not defined data",
- while "ca" means "circa". Legend:
- Leftmost column indicates the time sub-period
- Date/chronological range = month day (and, when defined, hour in italics) of the beginning of
- the phenomenon described, and, when available, its end. Time is given in GMT
- 345678910 *Duration*= duration of the phenomenon (in the units specified)
- Time to eruption = time in months, days or hours (as specified) elapsing between the start of
- 11 12 13 the phenomenon described and the onset of the eruption
- Source: A=de Arminio (1632); B=Braccini (1634); C=Carafa (1634); M=Mascolo (1634);
- 14 V=Varrone (1632)

	Date/chronological range	Duration	Time to eruption	Source	Summary of the description	Volcanological interpretation	BET_EF parameters (for the meaning of the
			-				symbols, see Section 3)
	Summer/August?	1month	ca 120days	V	Fires visible at night at Herculaneum ( <i>Resina</i> in the texts) eastern slopes of the volcano		
	Aug	?	ca 120days	A	Smoke emissions from the crater	Increase in CO <sub>2</sub> flux (about 4 times the average)	Π <sub>CO2</sub> =10 kg m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>
1	Sep 1 - Sep 10	11days	107days	С	Lowering of the ground; landslides; ground faulting; smoke emissions; fiery emissions (north-eastern slope)		
	Sep 1 – Dec 16 <i>05am</i>	3.5months	ca 107days	V	Considerable anomalous restlessness among the domestic animals; flight of wild animals from the Vesuvius area		
	Oct 1 - Nov 30	2months	77days	V	Underground noises (from Portici)		
2	ca Nov 16 – Dec 1	0.5month	30days	В	Elevation of the ground	Detection of positive strain (about 0.1m of vertical uplift over $\Delta h=5km$ , i.e., the supposed thickness of the deformed layer); positive strain rate (0.1m of uplift in 0.5mo)	ε=2x10 <sup>-5</sup> dε/dt=1.3x10 <sup>-6</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>
	Nov 19 10pm - Nov 20 07am	9hours	27days	V	Rough seas; moderate seismic activity in the coastal region of Vesuvius	About 50 earthquakes M1.9+ recorded at OVO; maximum magnitude about 3.0	n <sub>e</sub> =50 M <sub>d</sub> =3.0
	"Just before December"	?	ca 18days	V	Emissions, with effects on the herbaceous vegetation [wilting] (Vesuvius area)	Stronger increase in CO <sub>2</sub> flux	Π <sub>CO2</sub> =20 kg m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>
	Beginning of December	5days	ca 16days	AV	Loud noises in the Vesuvius area		
3	Nov 28 - Dec 02	5days	14days	V	Darkening and variation in the water chemistry [salinity] (Vesuvius area); collapse of a great overhanging rock (eastern slope); major uplifting of the ground - (slopes, particularly western)	Increase in cumulative strain (further 0.5m of vertical uplift); higher strain rate, about 0.5m in 5d	ε=1.2x10 <sup>-4</sup> dε/dt=2x10 <sup>-5</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>

					1	1	1
	Dec 07 <i>05pm</i> - Dec 08 <i>05pm</i>	2days	10days	VCM	Moderate seismic activity in the Vesuvius area V; underground noises: in the Vesuvius area M V, and at Herculaneum for some days C	Other 50 earthquakes M1.9+ recorded at OVO; no significant differences in magnitude	n <sub>e</sub> =100 M <sub>d</sub> =3.0
	Dec 08 05pm - Dec 09 05pm	1days	9days	V	Underground noises in the western and south-western slopes of Vesuvius		
	Dec 08 <i>05pm</i> - Dec 15	8days	9days	VCM	Underground noises Vesuvius area; underground noises (Herculaneum and Vesuvius area)		
	8 days before	?	8days	V	Underground noises and thunder in the Vesuvius area		
	Dec 09 - Dec 15	7days	8days	V	Restlessness among the domestic animals in the Vesuvius area; Small uplifting of the ground; emissions of hot vapours (Vesuvius area)	Increase in cumulative strain (further 0.1m of vertical uplift); lower strain rate, about 0.1m in 7d; high temperature of the fumaroles	ε=1.4x10 <sup>-4</sup> dε/dt=2.9x10 <sup>-6</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> T=110 C
4	Dec 10	?	6days	В	Underground noises and thunder in the Vesuvius area		
-+	Dec 10	?	6days	В	Moderate seismic activity (Vesuvius area)	Other 50 earthquakes M1.9+ recorded at OVO; no significant differences in magnitude	n <sub>e</sub> =150 M <sub>d</sub> =3.0
	Dec 10	?	6 days	В	Darkening of the waters of the wells (Vesuvius area)		
	Dec 10	6days	7days	V	Tranquillity of the air (Vesuvius area); calm sea (sea facing the Vesuvius area)		
	Dec 11 05pm - Dec 13 05pm	3days	6days	V	Moderate seismic activity (Vesuvius area)	Same considerations as above, probably related to the same period of time	
	Dec 13 – Dec 16	?	3days	С	Darkening of the waters of the wells (Vesuvius area)		
	Dec 13 – Dec 15 08pm	2days	5days	С	Tranquillity of the air in the area of Vesuvius and in Naples		
	Dec 14 05pm - Dec 15 09pm	28hours	35hours	V	Tranquillity of the air and restlessness of the animals in the Vesuvius area, calm sea in the coastal area of Vesuvius		
	Dec 15 morning	?	1day	В	flashing arcs upon Vesuvius		
	Dec 15 08pm - Dec 16 01am Dec 15 08pm - Dec 16 04am	5hours 8hours	8hours	V CVM	Calm sea (coastal area) Repeated seismic activity felt at Naples and in the Vesuvius area, for a range of ca. 7,5 km	Other 150 earthquakes M1.9+ recorded at OVO; maximum magnitude increases because the earthquakes are felt in Naples; acceleration in seismic energy release	n <sub>e</sub> =300 M <sub>d</sub> =4.0 d <sup>2</sup> E/dt <sup>2</sup> =1
5	Dec 15 09pm - Dec 16 04am	7 hours	7hours	В	Repeated seismic activity felt at Naples and in the Vesuvius area	Same considerations as above, related to the same period of time	
	Dec 15 08pm - Dec 16 05am	8hours	8hours	V	Restlessness among the domestic animals (Vesuvius area, from Portici); moderate and repeated seismic activity (30 shocks); underground noises – Vesuvius area	Same considerations as above, related to the same period of time	

	Dog 15 09pm Dog 16 07-	2 days	Phoure				
1	Dec 15 08pm - Dec 16 07am	2days	8hours	М	Intense and repeated seismic	Same considerations	
					activity in the area of Vesuvius and Naples	as above, related to the same period of time	
	Dec 15 night - Dec 16	са	?	A	Flames and lights from the	same period of time	
		14hours			crater visible at night		
	Dec 15 09pm	7hours	7hours	V	Underground noises and		
					seismic activity – Vesuvius		
					area		
	Dec 16 04am	?	ca 1hour	С	Seismic activity; opening of	Other 200 earthquakes	n <sub>e</sub> =500
					faults and landslides;	M1.9+ recorded at	M <sub>d</sub> =4.5
					landslides between the Atria	OVO; no significant	$d^2 E/dt^2 = 1$
					and the summit of the Veolo,	differences in	d <sup>2</sup> ε/dt <sup>2</sup> =1
					just above the path that goes	magnitude; acceleration	
					from Atria and circles the	in seismic energy	
					Veolo, in the middle of the	release; acceleration in	
					mountain's slopes, closer to	strain	
	Dec 16 after 04am	?	ca 1hour	В	the one facing Atria Opening of the mount in the	Cumulative strain	ε=3.4x10 <sup>-4</sup>
			Su mour	P	Atria	exceeds rock strength;	$\epsilon = 3.4 \times 10^{-4} d^{-1}$
						strain rate must be very	
						high (at least 1m of	
						ground displacement in	
						less than 1d)	
	Dec 16 04am - Dec 16 05am	ca 1hour	ca 1hour	V	Very loud underground	Same considerations	Π <sub>CO2</sub> =100 kg m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>
					noises in the Vesuvius area,	as above, related to the	PE=1
					ebbing of the sea in the Gulf	same period of time.	
6					of Naples, between Pozzuoli	Furthermore: stronger	
					and the coast facing the mouth of the River Sarno;	increase in CO <sub>2</sub> flux; phreatic explosions	
					earthquakes, landslides,	prireatic explosions	
					ground faulting;		
					loud underground; noises in		
					the Atria; intense smoke		
					emissions;		
					fiery emissions;		
					rock expulsion (from the		
					central crater, on the eastern		
	Dec 16 after 04am	ca 1hour	ca 1hour		slope, seawards)	O	
		ca mour	ca mour	В	Opening secondary bocca	Same considerations as above, related to the	
						same period of time	
	Dec 16 04am - Dec 16 05am	ca 1hour	ca 1hour	VCM	Fiery emissions; thunder,	Same considerations	
				B	underground noises and	as above, related to the	
					lightening, rock expulsion,	same period of time	
					ash and soot, emission of a		
					cloud (Vesuvius area), violent		
					seismic activity		
	Dec 16 05am	ERUPTION		VB	Smoke emissions; loud		
					underground noises; ground		
					faulting; opening of a large		
1					chasm; cloud emission		
1					reaching about 37 km in		
					height; haze (from the fracture appearing in the		
					Atria)		
1				1	/ (()())		

### TABLE 2. Results of the simulations over the 6 different time sub-periods for the reference case

Time Sub-period and relative "anomalous monitoring"	Absolute Probability of Unrest			Absolute Probability of Eruption				Conditional Probability of Magma (given Unrest)			Conditional Probability of Eruption (given Magmatic Unrest)					
	Average	10 perc	50 perc	90 perc	Average	10 perc	50 perc	90 perc	Average	10 perc	50 perc	90 perc	Average	10 perc	50 perc	90 perc
<b>1 (Aug to Nov 15)</b> Π <sub>CO2</sub> =10 kg m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.02	0.002	0.02	0.05	0.48	0.12	0.47	0.84	0.48	0.12	0.47	0.84
$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{2 (Nov 16 to Nov 27)} \\ \Pi_{CO2} = 10 \text{ kg m}^2 \text{ d}^{-1} \\ \epsilon = 2 \times 10^5 \\ \text{d} \epsilon / \text{d} t = 1.3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ d}^{-1} \\ \text{n}_e = 50 \\ \text{M}_d = 3.0 \end{array}$	1	1	1	1	0.08	0	0.002	0.29	0.28	0	0.12	0.86	0.28	0	0.09	0.86
$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{3} \ (\textbf{Nov 28 to Dec 02}) \\ \Pi_{CO2} = 20 \ \text{kg m}^2 \ \text{d}^{-1} \\ \epsilon = 1.2 \times 10^4 \\ \text{d}\epsilon / \text{d}t = 2 \times 10^5 \ \text{d}^{-1} \\ n_e = 50 \\ M_d = 3.0 \end{array}$	1	1	1	1	0.13	0	0.02	0.50	0.43	0.004	0.37	0,96	0.34	0	0.22	0,92
$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{4 (Dec 03 to Dec 15} \\ \textbf{morning)} \\ \Pi_{C02} = 20 \text{ kg m}^2 \text{ d}^{-1} \\ T = 110 \text{ C} \\ \epsilon = 1.4 \times 10^4 \\ \text{ d}_\ell / \text{d} t = 2.9 \times 10^{-6} \text{ d}^{-1} \\ \text{ n}_e = 150 \\ \text{ M}_d = 3.0 \end{array}$	1	1	1	1	0.28	0	0.13	0,83	0.82	0.21	1	1	0.35	0	0.24	0,92
$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{5 (Dec 15 08pm to Dec} \\ \textbf{16 night)} \\ \Pi_{C02} = 20 \text{ kg m}^2 \text{ d}^{-1} \\ \Pi^{=} 110 \text{ C} \\ \epsilon = 1.4 \times 10^4 \\ \text{d}\epsilon/\text{d}t = 0 \text{ d}^{-1} \\ \text{n}_e^{= 300} \\ M_e = 4.0 \\ \text{d}^2 E/\text{d}t^2 = 1 \end{array}$	1	1	1	1	0.27	0	0.10	0,85	0.82	0.22	1	1	0.36	0	0.24	0,93
	1	1	1	1	0.77	0.13	0.98	1	0.87	0.38	1	1	0.87	0.41	1	1

### TABLE 3. Control experiments: parameters that are varied in the experiments, present-day background value and relative ranges for the increments in each sub-period. For the deformation parameters (d $\epsilon$ /dt and $\epsilon$ ), we vary the supposed uplift and translate it into the desired parameters. 3 4 5

Parameter	Present-day background	Range of increase
Т	95 °C	Sub-period 4: 5 – 25 °C
M <sub>d</sub>	About 2 – 2.5/month	Sub-period 2: 0 – 1.5 /month
-		Sub-period 5: 0 – 1.5 /month
n <sub>e</sub>	About 10 events/month	Sub-period 2: 0 – 100 events/month
		Sub-period 4 (1): 0 – 100 events/month
		Sub-period 4 (2): 0 – 100 events/month
		Sub-period 5: 50 – 300 events/month
		Sub-period 6: 50 – 300 events/month
$\Phi_{ ext{CO2}}$	2.5 kg m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>	Sub-period 1: 0 – 30 kg $m^{-2} d^{-1}$
		Sub-period 3: 0 – 30 kg m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>
		Sub-period 6: 20 – 300 kg m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>
Uplift	0 m	Sub-period 2: 5 – 50cm/0.5month
		$(d\epsilon/dt: 6.7 \times 10^{-7} - 6.7 \times 10^{-6} d^{-1}; \epsilon: 10^{-5} - 10^{-4})$
		Sub-period 3: 20 – 100 cm/5 days
		(dɛ/dt: 8x10 <sup>-6</sup> – 4x10 <sup>-5</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> ; ɛ: 5x10 <sup>-5</sup> - 3x10 <sup>-4</sup> )
		Sub-period 4: 5 - 20 cm/7days
		$(d\epsilon/dt: 1.4x10^{-6} - 5.7x10^{-6} d^{-1}; \epsilon: 6x10^{-5} - 3.4x10^{-4})$
		Sub-period 6: 50 – 300 cm/6hours
		$(d\epsilon/dt: 4x10^{-4} - 2.4x10^{-3} d^{-1}; \epsilon: 1.6x10^{-4} - 9.4x10^{-4})$

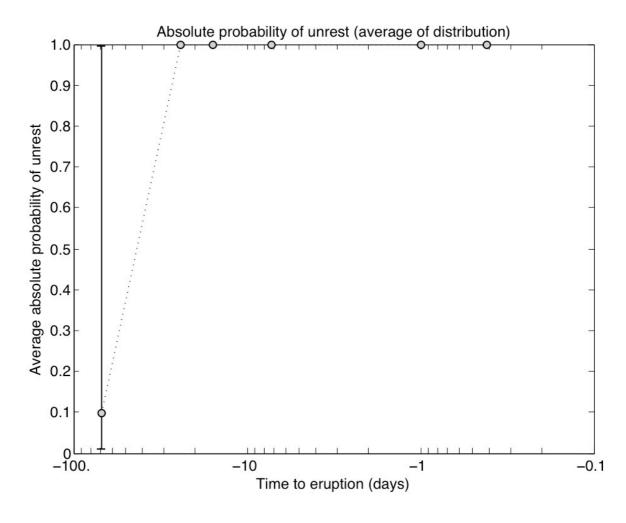


Figure 1. Average absolute probability of unrest in the control experiments for
different sub-periods versus time approaching the eruption. The intervals represent
the 10-90 percentiles of the average probabilities obtained in the 1000 simulations.
The circles represents the value obtained for the reference case.

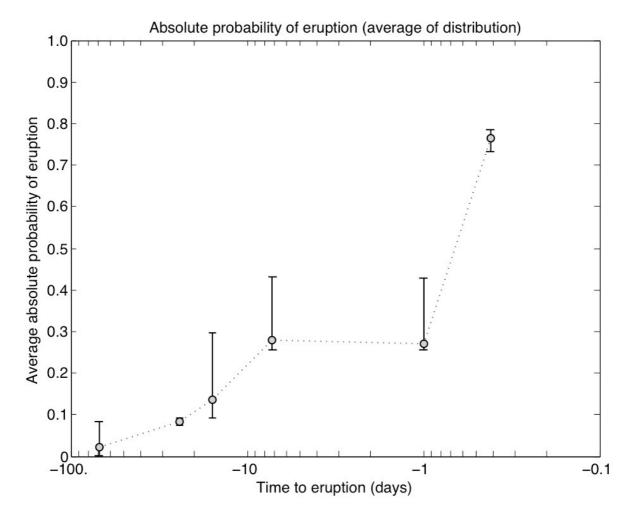
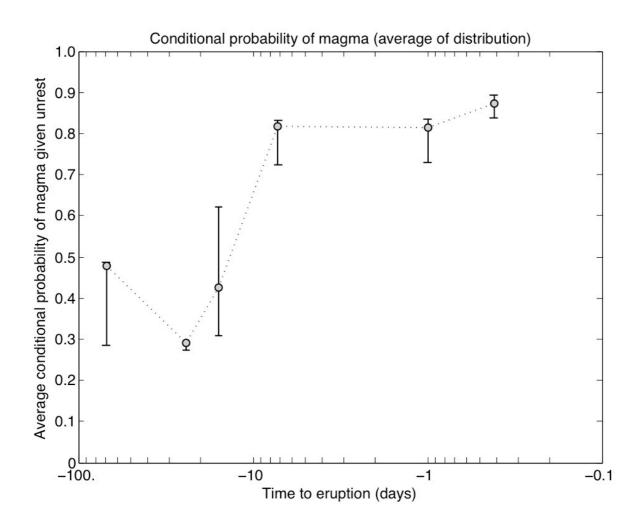


Figure 2. Average absolute probability of eruption in the control experiments for
different sub-periods versus time approaching the eruption. The intervals represent
the 10-90 percentiles of the average probabilities obtained in the 1000 simulations.
The circles represents the value obtained for the reference case.



1 2 3

Figure 3. Average conditional probability of magma given unrest in the control experiments for different sub-periods versus time approaching the eruption. The intervals represent the 10-90 percentiles of the average probabilities obtained in the 1000 simulations. The circles represents the value obtained for the reference case.

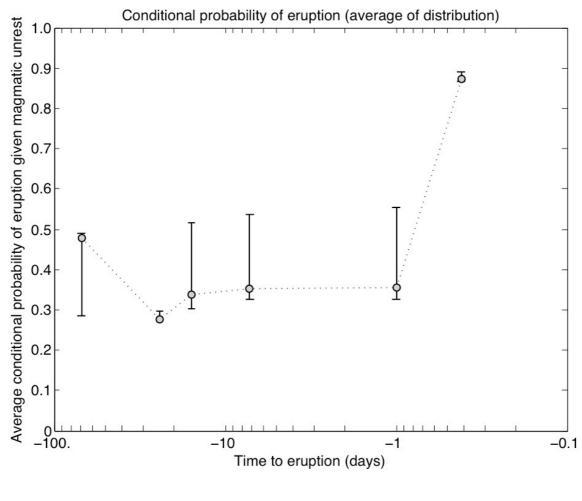


Figure 4. Average conditional probability of eruption given magmatic unrest
in the control experiments for different sub-periods versus time approaching
the eruption. The intervals represent the 10-90 percentiles of the average
probabilities obtained in the 1000 simulations. The circles represents the
value obtained for the reference case.

### **1** Appendix A: The authors of the five treatises examined

The authors of these four texts were Neapolitan intellectuals, men of the cloth or ecclesiastic, all present at the eruption of Vesuvius in 1631. Here is their concise biography, that is useful in order to frame the cultural ambient those authors belonged to.

Giovanni Domenico de Arminio. Hardly anything is known about this author, apart from the fact that he was a doctor at the Ospedale degli Incurabili of Naples, as he himself declares in the presentation of the Treatise. So he was a direct witness to what had happened, above all of what was seen in Naples. His treatise contains many theoretical elements on the causes of the eruption, mainly oriented to an almost anthropomorphic interpretation of the volcanic activity.

13 Gregorio Carafa (1588-1675). Carlo Marcello (later Gregorio) Carafa was born 14 in Naples. He was a philosopher and theologian; he joined the Teatini fathers of 15 Naples, where he held the chair of Philosophy and Theology. It was in those 16 years that he acquired great fame as a preacher and a cultured intellectual. The 17 fame he earned among his contemporaries and his noble origins allowed him to 18 obtain the highest positions in his order. he was also the Bishop of Cassano 19 (Calabria) and Archbishop of Salerno. He held some diplomatic posts: he was 20 the special diplomatic representative of the Emperor Philip IV of Spain with the 21 Pope Innocence X.

*Giovanni Battista Mascolo (1583–1648).* Born in Naples, he became a Jesuit
at a very young age, in 1598. He taught Theology and Philosophy at the
College of his order, of which he was the rector for some time; later he held a

school of rhetoric at his home. He was famed for being a good Latin scholar.
 His treatise *Vesuviani Incendii Historiae libri tres* (Naples, 1634), his most
 complex work, was written in his full maturity, probably using some of his
 previous unpublished writings.

5 Giulio Cesare Braccini (1570-1632) He was a man of law, later an ecclesiast 6 and abbot, born at Gioviano di Lucca. He was appointed apostolic proto-notary 7 by Urban VIII and between 1629 and 1632 he was in Naples, in touch with 8 many leading political characters of the day. As regards Vesuvius, abbot 9 Braccini published two texts: one was a letter to cardinal Girolamo Colonna, 10 disseminated in the first few days after the eruption, to the extent that already 11 between the end of December 1631 and the beginning of 1632 three editions 12 had been published (Relazione dell'incendio del Vesuvio alli 16 dicembre 1631 13 in una lettera diretta all'Em.mo e Re. mo Signore Card. Colonna, printed in 14 Naples at S. Roncagliolo); and the treatise examined here, printed in Naples in 15 September 1632.

Salvatore Varrone (1593–1656.) We have very little information about him. He became a Jesuit in 1612; he taught grammar, humanities and rhetoric, and for six years scholastic theology and morals. He was famous for being a very learned intellectual. In the period of the eruption of Vesuvius, Varrone was staying at Portici, a village on the slopes of Vesuvius, and therefore was an eyewitness to the whole eruption. 1

# Appendix B: Summarizing tables of the BET\_EF rules for Vesuvius

Here we show the rules uploaded in BET\_EF in this application. They are
exactly the same used in Marzocchi et al (2008).

4 A summary of all the rules is provided in Table B1.

5 At each node k of the Bayesian Event Tree we compute two different probability distributions, one by using only monitoring data and the other 6 7 one by using only other kinds of data, e.g. models, past occurrence, expert 8 opinions. These two probability distributions are indicated respectively by  $[\theta_k^{(M)}]$  and  $[\theta_k^{(NM)}]$ , where the index k stands for the k-th node and the 9 10 square brackets denote a probability distribution. In order to compute the actual probability distribution at node k, we linearly combine  $[\theta_k^{(M)}]$  and 11  $[\theta_k^{(NM)}]$  with a relative weight that is function of the state of unrest. Both 12  $[\theta_k^{(M)}]$  and  $[\theta_k^{(NM)}]$  are computed through the Bayes theorem, i.e., by 13 starting from a prior distribution (based on models and beliefs for  $[\theta_k^{(NM)}]$ , 14 and on present monitoring for  $[\theta_k^{(M)}]$ ). The prior distribution is characterized 15 by a mean ( $\Theta_k^{(NM)}$  and  $\Theta_k^{(M)}$  in the two cases), representing our best prior 16 17 guess on the probability at node k, and by a measure of the variance that we call "equivalent number of data" ( $\Lambda_{k}^{(NM)}$  and  $\Lambda_{k}^{(M)}$  in the two cases) 18 because intuitively it translates the confidence we have in our prior guess 19 20 in terms of number of data. The minimum possible "equivalent number of 21 data" is 1 and it represents the maximum variance allowed, implying a very 22 low confidence on our prior guess, while there is no upper limit to its 23 maximum value. The prior distribution is then transformed into the 24 posterior distribution through Bayes theorem, i.e., by multiplying it by the 1 likelihood function, based on past frequencies of occurrence for  $[\theta_k^{(NM)}]$ 2 and on past monitoring (if any) for  $[\theta_k^{(M)}]$ .

An important aspect of BET is the way it deals with monitoring measurements. Through a fuzzy approach, the measured values are translated into degrees of anomaly, from whom the mean of the monitoring probability distribution ( $\Theta_k^{(M)}$ ) is derived (Marzocchi et al, 2008). In practice, for each monitoring parameter, we define a lower and an upper threshold, and an order relationship, used to infer the degree of anomaly for every specific measured value.

In the following, we give a detailed account of the choices on all BET
parameters for Mt. Vesuvius (see also Marzocchi et al, 2004; 2008), as
frozen before this retrospective application.

See Marzocchi et al (2008) for a deeper discussion on BET structure (thenodes), general rules and related concepts.

15

16 B.1 First node: Unrest

# 17 B.1.1 Non-monitoring part: $[\theta_1^{(NM)}]$

18 There is no theoretical model or expert belief to be used for assessing the

19 probability of a volcano entering an unrest phase. Thus here we set up a

20 maximum ignorance prior distribution with mean  $\Theta_1^{(NM)}=0.5$  and  $\Lambda_1^{(NM)}=1$ .

21 Regarding past data, we know that OVO seismic station (see Zollo et al.,

22 2002) has been monitoring Mt. Vesuvius continuously since 1972. We

assume that there has been no episode of unrest ever since. Thus, we

have 0 unrest episodes out of 420 months (i.e., 35 years).

1

B.1.2 Monitoring part:  $\left[\theta_1^{(M)}\right]$ 

From now on, for the monitoring part at each node we give the list of selected monitoring variables used in Marzocchi et al (2004). In particular, for node 1, as summarized in Table B2, they are (from now on, for monitoring parameters we denote in braces the order relationship and the upper and lower thresholds used to define the degree of anomaly of the measured parameter):

n<sub>e</sub> {>;23;150} number of seismic events per month with M<sub>d</sub>≥1.9 recorded
 at OVO station; the thresholds have been chosen on the basis of the
 monthly distribution of the number of seismic events observed at OVO,
 and they represent respectively the 55-th and the 95-th percentiles

M<sub>d</sub> {>;3.4;4.3} largest duration magnitude of the earthquakes recorded
 during last month at OVO station; the thresholds have been chosen on the
 basis of the monthly distribution of the magnitude of seismic events
 observed at OVO, and they represent respectively the 55-th and the 95-th
 percentiles

n<sub>LF</sub> {>;1;3} number of low-frequency (LF) events deeper than 1 Km per
 month; since only sporadic and temporally isolated LF events have been
 observed so far, even a small swarm is indicative of unrest

20 -  $\Pi_{SO2}$  {=;1;1} significant presence SO<sub>2</sub> (0, no; 1, yes)

21 -  $\Phi_{CO2}$  {>;5;30 kg m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>} daily CO<sub>2</sub> emission rate; the thresholds represent 22 respectively about twice and 10 times the background value

1	-	$d\epsilon/dt$ {>;0;0 $d^{-1}$ } strain rate (inflation), assuming that any detected uplift
2		implies unrest

T {>;98;105 °C} temperature of the fumaroles inside the crater; the
thresholds represent respectively about 3% and 10% higher than the value
observed since 1990 (95°C).

- 6 No past monitoring is available. Thus, the posterior for  $[\theta_1^{(M)}]$  is equal to 7 the prior.
- 8

9 B.2 Second node: Magma given Unrest

10 B.2.1 Non-monitoring part:  $[\theta_2^{(NM)}]$ 

11 There is no model to be used for assessing the probability of a volcano 12 unrest being due to magma. Thus here we set up a maximum ignorance 13 distribution with mean  $\Theta_2^{(NM)}=0.5$  and  $\Lambda_2^{(NM)}=1$ .

14 Regarding past data, we have no unbiased past data to infer the origin of 15 past unrest at Vesuvius, since we know much better the magmatic unrest 16 episodes (at least those that yielded an eruption), compared to the 17 hydrothermal ones. Thus, the posterior for  $[\theta_2^{(NM)}]$  remains equal to the 18 prior.

19 B.2.2 Monitoring part:  $[\theta_2^{(M)}]$ 

As summarized in Table B3, from Marzocchi et al (2004), the selected
monitored parameters at node 2 are:

22 -  $\Pi_{SO2}$  {=;1;1} significant presence SO<sub>2</sub> (0, no; 1, yes)

dε/dt {>;5x10<sup>-6</sup>; 5x10<sup>-5</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>} strain rate (inflation), considering that a rapid
 and localized positive strain of the volcanic edifice is usually indicative of
 rising magma

v {<;2.5;3.5 Hz} the dominant spectral frequency of earthquakes; if it is</li>
around the frequency specified by the thresholds, there are probably LF
events or tremor, that might be indicative of magma motion

7  $\xi_e$  {<;0.3;0.4] ratio between average and dispersion of the depth of the 8 earthquakes during unrest. The present value of  $\xi_e$  for Mt. Vesuvius from 9 seismic events recorded in the last 30 years is about 0.4. The thresholds 10 are chosen in order to fuzzify this value, assuming that earthquakes 11 coming closer to the surface and/or occurring in a larger range of depths 12 may indicate an upward migration of magma or a coalescence of small 13 fractures that may facilitate the magma uprising. At the same time, we do 14 not consider shallow earthquakes concentrated in a very small range of depths to be indicative of magma, as they could also be due to 15 hydrothermal activity 16

T {>;98;105 °C} the temperature of the fumaroles inside the crater; the
thresholds are chosen as for node 1.

19 Remarkably, we assume that the parameters  $\Pi_{SO2}$  and T have a weight 20 twice as much as the other parameters in determining a magmatic origin 21 for the unrest.

Neither here past monitoring is available. Thus, the posterior for  $[\theta_2^{(M)}]$  is equal to the prior.

24

- 1 B.3 Third node: Eruption given Magmatic Unrest
- 2 B.3.1 Non-monitoring part:  $[\theta_3^{(NM)}]$

There is no model to be used for assessing the probability of a volcano erupting given that there is an unrest of magmatic origin. Thus here we set up a maximum ignorance distribution with mean  $\Theta_3^{(NM)}=0.5$  and  $\Lambda_3^{(NM)}=1$ .

6 Regarding past data, we have no unbiased past data to infer the 7 frequency of eruptions following past magmatic unrest at Vesuvius, since 8 we know much better the magmatic unrest episodes that yielded an 9 eruption with respect to those that died out without eruption. Thus, the 10 posterior for  $[\theta_3^{(NM)}]$  remains equal to the prior.

11 B.3.2 Monitoring part:  $[\theta_3^{(M)}]$ 

As summarized in Table B4, from Marzocchi et al (2004), the selected
monitored parameters at node 2 are:

- PE {=;1;1} presence of phreatic explosion (0, no; 1, yes)

- 15 dv/dt {<;0;0 Hz d<sup>-1</sup>} rate of change of the average spectral frequency
   16 content of earthquakes
- 17  $\xi_e$  {<;0.3;0.4} ratio between average and dispersion of the depth of the 18 earthquakes during unrest; the thresholds are chosen as for node 2
- 19  $d^2E/dt^2$  {=;1;1} acceleration of seismic energy release (0, no; 1, yes)
- 20  $d^2\epsilon/dt^2$  {=;1;1} acceleration of inflation (0, no; 1, yes)
- ε {>; 5x10<sup>-5</sup>; 5x10<sup>-4</sup>} cumulative strain since the beginning of the unrest;
   the thresholds are just a little bit less than a reasonable value for the
   maximum prefracture strain

1 -  $d\rho/dt$  {>;0;0} change of the ratios HCI/SO<sub>2</sub> and/or HF/SO<sub>2</sub>

2 - REV {=;1;1} sudden reversal of at least one of the above parameters (0,
3 no; 1, yes)

For most of these parameters the thresholds are based on a "yes/no"
choice. This is because we are mainly interested in the time trend of the
parameters.

7 We assume that the parameters  $d^2 \varepsilon/dt^2$ , PE and REV have a weight twice 8 as much as the other parameters in determining the occurrence of the 9 eruption. Neither here past monitoring is available. Thus, the posterior for 10  $[\theta_3^{(M)}]$  is equal to the prior.

11

12 B.4 Forth node: Location of vent given that there is an Eruption

13 B.4.1 Non-monitoring part:  $[\theta_4^{(NM)}]$ 

Since Mt. Vesuvius is a central volcano, and its activity has been mainly 14 15 concentrated in the crater, we assume that there is a very high probability 16 of vent opening in the crater area, and a very small one outside it. With 17 this idea in mind, we divide the volcanic edifice into 5 areas: the crater 18 area, and 4 outer, equal sized areas. We assume that next eruption will 19 take place in one and only one of them. Because of these assumptions, we set up a Dirichlet distribution (see Marzocchi et al, 2008 for further 20 details on such distribution) with mean  $\Theta_4^{(NM)(1)}=0.99$  in the crater area 21 (area 1) and  $\Theta_4^{(NM)(i)}=0.0025$  (i=2,...5) for the surrounding areas (i.e., 22 Areas 2, 3, 4 and 5). Since we are very confident on this assumption, we 23 set  $\Lambda_4^{(NM)}$ =50, which is an (arbitrarily) high equivalent number of data. 24

1

B.4.2 Monitoring part:  $\left[\theta_4^{(M)}\right]$ 

BET allows to localize some or all of the monitored measurements used at
previous nodes to assess the probability of vent opening in different areas,
according to monitoring (see Marzocchi et al, 2008 for further details on
this issue).

6

7 B.5 Fifth node: Size of the Eruption given that there is an Eruption

8 We parametrize the possible sizes with VEI. Since Mt. Vesuvius has been 9 dormant for over 60 years now, it is presumably in a closed conduit 10 regime. Therefore, we assume that next eruption will be at least of VEI=3 11 in order to have sufficient energy to re-open the system. For practical 12 purposes, we define three classes of possible sizes, according to this idea: 13 VEI=3, VEI=4 and VEI≥5.

14 B.5.1 Non-monitoring part:  $[\theta_5^{(NM)}]$ 

15 We use the observation that the worldwide log(frequency)-size relationship 16 for volcanoes is a straight line, implying that the most frequent, and therefore likely, eruptions are the smaller, with a power law relationship. 17 We translate this information by setting up a Dirichlet distribution for the 18 19 three size classes. The mean of each class is set equal to the probability 20 for that class given by the above mentioned worldwide relationship. In this way we have the following means:  $\Theta_5^{(NM)(1)}=0.83$  for VEI=3,  $\Theta_5^{(NM)(2)}=0.14$ 21 for VEI=4 and  $\Theta_5^{(NM)(3)}$ =0.03 for larger eruptions. We also assume the 22 maximum variance on this model, thus  $\Lambda_5^{(NM)}=1$ . 23

For past data, we use the catalog of Mt. Vesuvius eruptions with a repose time larger or equal to 60 years, so that we are sure to consider only past eruptions occurred in closed conduit regime, as it is now the case. We have 7 such eruptions in the catalog, in particular 4 eruptions of VEI=3, 2 of VEI=4 and 1 larger.

6 B.5.2 Monitoring part:  $[\theta_5^{(M)}]$ 

7 Up to present, there is no reliable precursor heralding the size of
8 eruptions. Therefore, we do not use monitoring data at this node.

9

## TABLE B1: BET\_EF settings

NODE	prior model	past data	monitoring parameters	past monitored episodes
1	NO	0 of 384	7 (see Table B2)	0
2	NO	NO	5 (see Table B3)	0
3	NO	NO	8 (see Table B4)	0
4	Means of the 5 areas: 0.99, 0.0025, 0.0025, 0.0025, with Λ₄=50	13, 0, 0, 0, 0		
5	0.83, 0.14, 0.03 with $\Lambda_5 = 1$	4, 2, 1		

symbol	description	thresholds		
n <sub>e</sub>	monthly number of events with Md ≥ 1.9 at OVO station	>23;150		
M <sub>d</sub>	monthly largest magnitude at	>3.4;4.3		

monthly number of LF events

presence of significant SO<sub>2</sub>

temperature of fumaroles in

daily CO2 emission rate

strain rate (inflation)

the crater

deeper than 1 km

n<sub>LF</sub>

 $\Pi_{SO2}$ 

 $\Phi_{ ext{CO2}}$ 

dɛ/dt

Т

#### TABLE B2: Monitoring parameters at NODE 1

### TABLE B3: Monitoring parameters at NODE 2

symbol	description	thresholds	units	weight
$\Pi_{SO2}$	presence of significant SO <sub>2</sub>	=1		2
dɛ/dt	strain rate	>5x10 <sup>-6</sup> ;5x10 <sup>-5</sup>	day⁻¹	1
<v></v>	average spectral frequency	<2.5;3.5	Hz	1
μ	ratio between average and dispertion of earthquake depths	<0.3;0.4		1
Т	as in NODE 1	>98;105	°C	2

units month<sup>-1</sup>

month<sup>-1</sup>

month<sup>-1</sup>

kg m<sup>-2</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>

day⁻¹

°C

>1;3

=1

>5;30

>0;0

>98;105

#### TABLE B4: Monitoring parameters at NODE 3

symbol	description	thresholds	units	weight
PE	Presence of phreatic explosions	=1		2
d <v>/dt</v>	rate of change of <v></v>	<0;0	Hz	1
ξe	as NODE 2	<0.3;0.4		1
d <sup>2</sup> E/dt <sup>2</sup>	acceleration of seismic energy release	>0;0	J day <sup>-2</sup>	1
d²ε/dt²	acceleration of strain (inflation)	>0;0	day⁻²	2
ε	cumulative strain (inflation)	>5x10 <sup>-5</sup> ;5x10 <sup>-4</sup>		1
r	change of the ratios HCI/SO <sub>2</sub> and/or HF/SO <sub>2</sub>	=1		1
REV	sudden reversal of at least one of the parameters above	=1		2