

Topical Editor Decision: Reconsider after major revisions (07 Feb 2018) by Claire Levy

Answer Comments to the Topical Editor :

The authors did work on some changes in the paper. My reading of these changes indicates that authors answered a number of line by line comments of the reviewer. They also added some details on the coupling in the computational implementation section.

The authors would like to thank the Topical editor for the time spent helping us improve this paper. Our replies are marked in red color, as described below:

Still, authors do not seem to fulfil the reviewers requests for making a major revision by adding a short introduction to the principles of PSO in contrast to PEST; explain the actual coupling is done regarding the fitting process; and clarify what the fitting data are, and the assumptions

Response: The document was re-elaborated, taking into account the comments of the Editor and reviewers 1 and 2. All the comments have been considered. Please check the lines 59 to 76, 151 to 157, 172 to 176 and modified figure 1a,b.