# The Earthquake Catalogues for Turkey 

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#### Abstract

The earthquake data from instrumental records in the last 40 years indicate the general seismicity of the earth. However, examining historical records is necessary to understand long-term seismicity. Catalogue studies about historical earthquakes in Turkey are limited. All these catalogues are on printed paper and a digital database has not yet been prepared. On the other hand, there is no common database for the focal mechanism solutions of the recent destructive earthquakes ( $\mathrm{Mw} \geq 5.5$ ) in the region. The present study aims to prepare two new digital databases for earth scientists so that the earthquake parameters can be reached from a single source. The first one is 'The Historical Earthquake Catalogue of Turkey' which includes parameters of the earthquakes occurring between 2100 B.C. and 1963 A.D. This database contains approximately 2285 events and is presented as an electronic supplement. The second dataset, 'The Focal Mechanism Solutions Catalogue of Turkey', contains fault plane solution parameters of the destructive earthquakes occurring between 1938 and 2004. All available mechanism solutions of the destructive earthquakes were collected, although the global moment tensor solutions reported via the internet were not included in the present study.


Key Words: Turkey, historical earthquakes, focal mechanism solutions, earthquake catalogue

## Türkiye Deprem Kataloğu

Özet: Son 40 yilda aletsel kayitlardan elde edilen deprem verileri yeryüzünün günümüz depremselliğini genel anlamda ortaya çıkarmaya yeterli olmaktadır. Ancak, uzun dönemli depremselliğin anlaşılması için tarihsel kayıtların incelenmesi gerekmektedir. Türkiye'de meydana gelmiş tarihsel depremlerle ilgili katalog çalışmaları sınırlı düzeydedir. Katalogların tamamı kağıt ortamında mevcuttur ve henüz sayısal ortamda bir veri tabanı oluşturulmamıştır. Ayrıca bölgede meydana gelmiş güncel yıkıcı depremlerin ( $\mathrm{Mw} \geq 5.5$ ) odak mekanizması çözümleri için de ortak bir veri tabanı yoktur. Yerbilimcilerin bu verilere ortak bir kaynaktan ulaşabilmeleri amacıyla iki yeni sayısal veri tabanı oluşturulmuştur. Bunlardan ilki M.Ö. 2100 ile M.S. 1963 yılları arasında meydana gelen depremlerin parametrelerini içeren 'Türkiye Tarihsel Deprem Kataloğu'dur. Mevcut olan tüm yazilı kaynaklar kronolojik sırayla taranmıştır. Bir depreme ait parametre seçilirken ortak referansı en fazla olan değer dikkate alınmıştrr. Oluşturulan bu katalog yaklaşık 2285 deprem içermektedir ve elektronik olarak sunulmaktadır. İkinci veri seti ise 1938-2004 yılları arasında meydana gelmiş yıkıcı depremlerin odak mekanizması çözümlerini içeren 'Türkiye Odak Mekanizması Çözümleri Kataloğu'dur. Bu katalog için mevcut olan tüm mekanizma çözümleri derlenmiştrir. Ancak internet üzerinden erişilebilen moment tensör çözümleri veri tabanına dahil edilmemiştrir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Türkiye, tarihsel depremler, odak mekanizması çözümleri, deprem kataloğu

## Introduction

Turkey, which is a natural laboratory for earth sciences, covers one of the most seismically active regions on the earth. The complex plate interaction among Arabia, Eurasia and Africa has created different fault systems in Anatolia and the surrounding region. The northward motion of the Arabian Plate has resulted in continental collision in Eastern Turkey and the Caucasus. Although thrust faults have been observed in the east, there are several active strike-slip fault segments that generate destructive earthquakes ( $\mathrm{M} w>5.5$ ). The North Anatolian

Fault System (NAFS) and the East Anatolian Fault System (EAFS) are the main strike-slip fault belts in Turkey. These fault systems facilitate the westward escape of the Anatolian micro-plate. Normal fault systems are dominant in western and central Anatolia because of the northsouth extensional regime in the Aegean.

Earthquake data collected over the last 40 years indicate that most earthquakes occur in eastern and western Anatolia, and on the two main fault systems (NAFS and EAFS). Existing digital databases are inadequate to study the long-term seismicity and
recurrence interval of the large earthquakes in the region, so more data needs to be collected in order to increase information about historical events. Cataloguing historical data is very important to access the earthquake information easily. For this purpose, in this study, two new digital datasets have been created on the earthquakes in Turkey. The first one is 'The Historical Earthquake Catalogue of Turkey', which includes parameters of the earthquakes occurring between 2100 B.C. and 1963 A.D. The second dataset is 'The Focal Mechanism Solutions Catalogue of Turkey' that includes faulting parameters of the destructive earthquakes occurring between 1938 and 2004.

## Databases

## The Historical Earthquake Catalogue of Turkey

## (2100 B.C. - 1963 A.D.)

There are several printed catalogues about historical earthquakes in Turkey and the surrounding area (Pinar \& Lahn 1952; Ergin et al. 1967, 1971; Soysal et al. 1981; Güçlü et al. 1986; Ambraseys \& Finkel 1995; Ambraseys \& Jackson 1998). There are also some reports that cannot be accessed easily, so it is necessary to compile various catalogues and make a digital database.

Two important publications contain information about historical earthquakes in Turkey (Soysal et al. 1981; Ambraseys \& Finkel 1995). Soysal et al. (1981) presented 1175 events occurring between 2100 B.C. and 1900 A.D. Ambraseys \& Finkel (1995) gave details and maps about historical earthquakes of the region. However, some earlier reports became a basis for recent studies. The first one, prepared by Pınar \& Lahn (1952), contains information about destructive earthquakes but gives no data on their coordinates and magnitudes. Ergin et al. (1967) compiled the first detailed catalogue according to accepted methods and recommended by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Meeting on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (April 21-30, 1964, Paris, UNESCO/NS/SEISM/5). This catalogue includes epicentre coordinates and intensity of the events from 11 to 1964. The updated version of the catalogue was published by Ergin et al. (1971). The historical earthquakes of Turkey are also given in the databases of neighboring countries (i.e. Guidoboni et al. 1994; Papazachos et al. 1997; Shebalin \& Tatevossian 1997; Kondorskaya \& Ulomov 1999).

In this study, all the references are chronologically searched and all the available historical events were inserted into a new catalogue. All the previous publications reported only large events and most of them gave different parameters for the same earthquake. Therefore, while selecting parameters for an event, only the widely accepted values in different published catalogues were used. There are also many events having no magnitude. Ergin et al. $(1967,1971)$ presented only intensity values for the historical earthquakes using reported damage and gave no information for the magnitudes. The intensity-magnitude relation formula $\left(\mathrm{M}^{*}=0.592 \mathrm{I}_{0}+1.63\right)$ as given by İpek et al. (1965), used in other catalogues, was used also here to calculate approximate magnitude ( $\mathrm{M}^{*}$ ) from intensity ( $\mathrm{I}_{0}$ ).

All available parameters of the historical earthquakes between $34^{\circ}-43^{\circ} \mathrm{N}$ and $25^{\circ}-46^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$ were collected as shown in Figure 1. Because of approximately 2285 entries, the parameters could only be presented as an electronic supplement. The date, time, location, magnitude and depth information of the earthquakes are given in a single text file. Table 1 shows the column structure and the reference abbreviations in the database. The list was terminated at the end of 1963 because the ISC began to report earthquake information systematically from 1964 on. The USGS-NEIC also has a large database beginning from 1973. Boğaziçi University Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute (KOERI), European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) and Engdhal et al. (1998) also give earthquake lists for the period of instrumental seismology. These databases can easily be reached via the Internet.

## The Focal Mechanism Solutions Catalogue of Turkey (1938-2004)

Focal mechanism solutions are one of the important parts of active tectonic studies. Shida (Kyota University) first discovered a systematic distribution of the two senses of P-wave polarity in azimuth about epicenter (Kasahara 1981). Then, Byerly (1955) proposed a simple and quick graphical technique to use P-wave polarity data, in which all available P-wave up (compression) and down (dilatation) polarity readings from the station records are collected and plotted on a stereonet. The up and down polarity groups are divided by two perpendicular lines (fault and auxiliary planes). The power of solution depends on a high number of clear polarity around the


Table 1. Description of the parameters in the historical earthquake database. A sample table is given below. The latitude and longitude of the events are given in the first and second columns. Calculated surface (Ms) and moment (MW) magnitudes that were reported in the original reference are shown in the third and fourth columns. M refers to unknown magnitude type. $\mathrm{M}^{*}$ represents magnitude which was calculated with the intensity relation formula (ipek et al. 1965). Column five is the depth of the event. The date and time are given in the sixth and seventh columns. The dates B.C. are represented with negative (-) sign. Column eight is the reference. AJ: Ambraseys \& Jackson (1998); AJ2: Ambraseys \& Jackson (2000); EG: Guidoboni et al. (1994); HS: Soysal et al. (1981); KE: Ergin et al. (1967, 1971); KU: Kondorskaya \& Ulomov (1999); PA: Papazachos et al. (1997); ST: Shebalin \& Tatevossian (1997).

| Latitude $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | Longitude $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | Magnitude | Magnitude Type | Depth <br> (km) | Date (yy mm dd) | Time (hhmmss) | Ref. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 35.50 | 25.50 |  |  |  | -2100 |  | HS |
| 35.50 | 25.50 |  |  |  | -1890 |  | HS |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 39.10 | 43.90 | 7.00 | Ms | 15.0 | 16950415 |  | ST |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 40.65 | 29.00 | 6.10 | Mw | 20.0 | 19030526 | 0609 | KU |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 34.10 | 24.90 | 5.18 | M* |  | 19380102 | 105444 | KE |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 38.40 | 45.30 | 4.50 | M | 33.0 | 19631231 | 151808 | KE |

epicentre. Because the nearest stations to the earthquake source are located at the edge of the stereonet, the planes are confined, thus decreasing the error in the solution. The P-wave first motion polarity method lets us define only the strike and dip angles of the both nodal (fault and auxiliary) planes.

Computers have been used in earthquake wave analysis since the 1980s. By using computers, a seismologist can determine faulting parameters more accurately with complex mathematical models than ever before. Modelling shape and amplitude of waves improves observation details of the source parameters. For this purpose, P and S phases of earthquake waveforms from several stations are collected and analyzed with inversion techniques. Many parameters, such as strike, dip, rake, centroid depth and seismic moment can be found with earthquake waveform inversion. Energy release as a function of time, meaning rupture history of an earthquake, is also determined in that inversion method. Changes of synthetic waveforms give more realistic error values for faulting parameters.

Several focal mechanism solutions have been reported in various publications for the Turkish earthquakes. Therefore, researchers must search all of these for available solutions in their study area. When all the solutions are imported into a single database, a very useful resource is established for further studies. In this study, all available P-wave first motion and body waveform inversion solutions of the destructive earthquakes have been collected (Table 2, Figure 2).

However, the global moment tensor solutions reported by Harvard University and USGS have not yet been included. These databases can be accessed on the web sites and solution details can be obtained from the ftp servers (http://www.globalcmt.org/; http://neic.usgs.gov/ neis/sopar/).

Coordinate and time information for a given earthquake may have been reported differently in previous studies. As inconsistencies may arise due to different epicentre databases (i.e. ISC, USGS) or preliminary information, the ISC parameters are used in this study for all events in order to standardize the time and coordinate parameters. Nevertheless, the parameters of the earthquakes that occurred before 1964 were taken from the ISS (International Seismological Summary). The first and second nodal plane values are given in degrees and are in agreement with Aki \& Richards (1980) convention. Most of the first motion solutions were not given according to Aki \& Richards' convention. Additionally, some of the nodal planes were not perpendicular and rake angles were not reported in the publications. Also, several typographical errors were found in these papers. Hence, the parameters were changed by a few degrees to calculate both nodal planes but deranging tectonic meaning of the solution was not allowed. 74 first motion and 87 inversion solutions were collected for 108 earthquakes, occurring between 1938 and 2004. The faulting parameters are summarized in Table 2 and the lower hemisphere equal area projection plots are shown in Figure 3.
Table 2. The earthquake focal mechanism solution catalogue of Turkey (1938-2004). Time, latitude (Lat.), longitude (Lon.), body ( $m_{b}$ ) and surface ( $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{s}}$ ) magnitudes and focal depth (FD) of each event are from ISC database (ISC 2001). Strike (S), dip (D) and rake (R) values of $1^{\text {st }}$ and $2^{\text {nd }}$ nodal planes are given in degrees. h represents focal depth given by the author for the first motion solutions (FM) and centroid depth for the body waveform inversion solutions (I). Fault type according to the rake angels is also given (see the text). The last column is used for abbreviations for reference. mul. refers to focal mechanism solution of the multiple of that event. A86: Alptekin et al. (1986); AK00: Aktar et al. (2000); BN96: Braunmiller \& Nábelek (1996); C72: Canıtez (1972); CT71: Canıtez \& Toksöz (1971); Ca02: Çalışkan (2002); E99: Eyidoğan et al. (1999); EB96: Eyidoğan \& Barka (1996); EJ85: Eyidoğan \& Jackson (1985); F97: Fuenzalida et al. (1997); JK82: Jackson et al. (1982); JM84: Jackson \& McKenzie (1984); K83: Kudo (1983); MK72: McKenzie (1972); MK78: McKenzie (1978); N84: Nábelek (1984); P91: Papazachos et al. (1991); PI98: Pınar (1998); R04: Roumelioti et al. (2004); S83: Şengör et al. (1983); T91a, b: Taymaz et al. (1991a, b); T92: Taymaz \& Price (1992); T93: Taymaz (1993); T96: Taymaz (1996); T97: Taymaz (1997); T99: Taymaz (1999); Tan04: Tan (2004); Tl01: Tibi et al. (2001); To78: Toksöz et al. (1978); TT99: Taymaz \& Tan (1999); TT01a: Tan \& Taymaz (2001); TTO1b: Taymaz \& Tan (2001);TT03a, b: Tan \& Taymaz (2003a, b); TT04: Tan \& Taymaz (2004); TT05: Tan \& Taymaz (2005); TT06: Tan \& Taymaz (2006); TTY04: Taymaz et al. (2004); U03: Utkucu et al. (2003); W99: Wright et al. (1999).

| No | Date (dd mm yy) | Time (hh:mm:ss) | Lat. <br> ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ) | Lon. <br> $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | $\mathrm{m}_{\mathrm{b}}$ | M | $\begin{gathered} \text { FD } \\ (\mathrm{Km}) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{S} 1 \\ & \left({ }^{\circ}\right) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { D1 } \\ & \left({ }^{\circ}\right) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{R} 1 \\ & \left({ }^{\circ}\right) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{S} 2 \\ & \left({ }^{\circ}\right) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { D2 } \\ & \left({ }^{\circ}\right) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { R2 } \\ & \left({ }^{\circ}\right) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{h} \\ (\mathrm{Km}) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Mo} \\ \left(10^{16} \mathrm{Nm}\right) \end{gathered}$ | Sol. <br> Type | Fault <br> Type | Ref. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 19041938 | 10:59:17 | 39.50 | 33.70 | - | 6.8 | 35 | 30 | 60 | 4 | 298 | 87 | 150 | - | - | FM | LL | JM84 |
| 2 | 26121939 | 23:57:16 | 39.70 | 39.70 | - | 8.0 | 35 | 108 | 86 | 151 | 200 | 61 | 4 | - | - | FM | RLwR | MK72 |
| 3 | 20061943 | 15:32:50 | 40.80 | 30.40 | 6.2 | - | 35 | 86 | 90 | 166 | 176 | 76 | 0 | - | - | FM | RL | MK72 |
| 4 | 23071949 | 15:03:30 | 38.60 | 26.30 | 6.8 | - | - | 250 | 56 | -149 | 141 | 65 | -38 | - | - | FM | RLwN | MK72 |
| 5 | 13081951 | 18:33:30 | 40.80 | 33.40 | 6.8 | - | - | 81 | 70 | -172 | 348 | 83 | -20 | - | - | FM | RL | MK72 |
| 6 | 18031953 | 19:06:13 | 40.00 | 27.30 | 7.1 | - | - | 150 | 84 | 14 | 59 | 76 | 174 | - | - | FM | LL | MK72 |
| 7 | 16071955 | 07:07:10 | 37.60 | 27.20 | 6.8 | - | - | 55 | 51 | -133 | 292 | 55 | -49 | 6 | - | FM | NwRL | MK72 |
| 8 | 20021956 | 20:31:37 | 39.90 | 30.40 | 6.0 | - | - | 140 | 56 | -51 | 264 | 50 | -133 | 9 | - | FM | NwLL | MK72 |
| 9 | 24041957 | 19:10:13 | 36.37 | 28.59 | 6.9 | - | 48 | 83 | 63 | 16 | 346 | 76 | 152 | 50 | - | FM | LL | MK72 |
| 10 | 25041957 | 02:25:42 | 36.47 | 28.56 | 7.1 | - | 53 | 58 | 85 | 19 | 325 | 71 | 174 | 0 | - | FM | LL | MK72 |
| 11 | 26051957 | 06:33:34 | 40.67 | 30.86 | 7.0 | - | - | 87 | 78 | 180 | 358 | 90 | -12 | 0 | - | FM | RL | MK72 |
| 12 | 25041959 | 00:26:39 | 37.97 | 28.50 | 6.1 | - | - | 65 | 76 | -70 | 188 | 24 | -144 | 43 | - | FM | NwLL | MK72 |
| 13 | 18091963 | 16:58:08 | 40.80 | 29.13 | 6.2 | - | - | 118 | 20 | -69 | 276 | 70 | -97 | 33 | - | FM | NwLL | MK72 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 268 | 70 | -125 | 152 | 40 | -32 | 33 | - | FM | NwRL | JM84 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 304 | 56 | -82 | 110 | 35 | -102 | 15 | 96 | I | N | T91a |
| 14 | 14061964 | 12:15:31 | 38.13 | 38.51 | 5.5 | - | 3 | 0 | 80 | -90 | 180 | 10 | -90 | 8 | - | FM | N | MK72 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 227 | 29 | -28 | 342 | 77 | -116 | 11 | 63 | I | LLwN | T91b |
| 15 | 06101964 | 14:31:23 | 40.30 | 28.23 | 6.0 | - | 34 | 122 | 54 | -90 | 302 | 36 | -90 | 10 | - | FM | N | MK72 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 273 | 40 | -95 | 101 | 44 | -87 | - | - | FM | N | P91 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 110 | 40 | -90 | 290 | 50 | -90 | 14 | 410 | I | N | T91a |
| 16 | 13061965 | 20:01:50 | 37.85 | 29.32 | 5.1 | - | 33 | 101 | 70 | -90 | 281 | 20 | -90 | 16 | - | FM | N | MK72 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 259 | 38 | -90 | 79 | 62 | -90 | - | - | FM | N | P91 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 102 | 67 | -100 | 306 | 25 | -68 | - | - | FM | N | W93 |
| 17 | 23081965 | 14:08:58 | 40.51 | 26.17 | 5.2 | - | 33 | 177 | 41 | 6 | 82 | 86 | 131 | 12 | - | FM | LL | CT71 |
| 18 | 07031966 | 01:16:08 | 39.20 | 41.60 | 5.2 | - | 26 | 310 | 60 | 143 | 60 | 58 | 36 | 38 | - | FM | RLwR | MK72 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 95 | 65 | 125 | 216 | 42 | 39 | 10 | 36 | , | RwRL | T97 |
| 19 | 27041966 | 19:48:51 | 38.14 | 42.52 | 4.9 | - | 28 | 195 | 67 | -17 | 292 | 74 | -156 | 40 | - | FM | LL | MK72 |
| 20 | 19081966 | 12:22:10 | 39.17 | 41.56 | 5.8 | - | - | 304 | 64 | 147 | 50 | 61 | 30 | 33 | - | FM | RLwR | MK72 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100 | 65 | 130 | 217 | 46 | 36 | 10 | 833 | I | RwRL | T97 |
| 21 | 20081966 | 11:59:09 | 39.42 | 40.98 | 5.3 | - | 14 | 104 | 86 | -166 | 13 | 76 | -4 | 12 | - | FM | RL | MK72 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100 | 90 | 177 | 190 | 87 | 0 | 10 | 159 | I | RL | T97 |
| 22 | 10121966 | 17:08:33 | 41.09 | 33.56 | 4.8 | - | 13 | 75 | 90 | 180 | 345 | 90 | 0 | 13 | - | FM | RL | MK72 |
| 23 | 07041967 | 18:33:31 | 37.36 | 36.24 | 4.9 | - | 32 | 0 | 90 | -90 | 180 | 0 | -90 | 39 | - | FM | N | MK72 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 47 | 80 | -62 | 156 | 30 | -159 | 39 | - | FM | NwLL | JM84 |
| 24 | 22071967 | 16:56:58 | 40.67 | 30.69 | 6.0 | - | - | 93 | 90 | 180 | 3 | 90 | 0 | 4 | - | FM | RL | MK72 |

Table 2. (Continued)

Table 2. (Continued)

Table 2. (Continued)


Figure 2. Locations of the earthquakes given in the focal mechanism solution catalogue. Numbers refer to the events in Table 2. The thick line is the boundary for the database.


Figure 3. Lower hemisphere equal area projection plots of the focal mechanism solutions of earthquakes in Table 2. The shaded parts are compressional quadrants. Pressure ( P ) and tension ( T ) axes are plotted with black and white circles respectively. Event number (in brackets) and reference abbreviation are given above focal sphere. The strike, dip and rake values of the first nodal plane are below.


Figure 3b. (Continued)

Faulting types according to the rake angles of the first nodal plane ( $R 1$ ) are also given in the $18^{\text {th }}$ column of the table to help researchers. Left-lateral, right-lateral, normal and reverse faulting are abbreviated as LL ( $R 1=0^{\circ}$ ), RL ( $R 1=180^{\circ}$ ), $\mathrm{N}\left(R 1=-90^{\circ}\right)$ and $\mathrm{R}\left(R 1=90^{\circ}\right)$ respectively according to the Aki \& Richards' convention. Oblique faulting is named with combination of the main types (i.e. RLwR means right-lateral strike-slip fault with reverse component). Where the rake of the first nodal plane differentiates $\pm 20^{\circ}$ from the main faulting value the fault is defined as oblique. For example, rake angle range is $-20^{\circ} \leq R 1 \leq+20^{\circ}\left(0^{\circ} \pm 20^{\circ}\right)$ for a left-lateral fault (LL) and $+21^{\circ} \leq R 1 \leq+45^{\circ}$ is for a left-lateral strike-slip fault with reverse component (LLwR). A normal fault with right-lateral component (NwRL) is limited to $-135^{\circ} \leq$ $R 1<-110^{\circ}$. It is difficult to give an exact angle limit but $\pm 20^{\circ}$ gives a good and practical approximation for defining and reporting the faulting mechanism.

## Discussions and Conclusions

There have been fewer than 30 earthquakes in Turkey larger than magnitude 6.0 in the last 40 years. When smaller events ( $\mathrm{M} \geq 4.0$ ) are considered, it can be seen that they cluster in the western and eastern parts of Anatolia (Figure 1). Note that, based on Figure 1, the North Anatolian Fault System displays very low activity. However, it is well known that the fault system is capable of generating destructive earthquakes and there have been six large events ( $\mathrm{M} \geq 6.5$ ) between 1939 and 1957. Hence, the observations in the modern instrumental period of seismology in Turkey are insufficient to understand the behaviour of the fault systems. Researchers should mention the historical events. The
earliest historical records are very sparse and locations given may be questionable. There have been only 35 events before Christ, and the seven events between 2100 and 1400 B.C. were very close to Crete. In Anatolia there have been no reported events in the records before 600 B.C.

The earliest focal mechanism solution was reported for the 1938 Kırşehir-Keskin earthquake, which was the single large event in Central Anatolia (Jackson \& McKenzie 1984). After McKenzie (1972), focal mechanism studies became a very powerful tool in understanding the faulting properties of the Turkish earthquakes. The solutions for more than hundred earthquakes were reported by several researchers, but the data from these studies are unavailable.

The catalogues constitute important base information for future researches. With this aim, the first digital database about earthquakes in Turkey has been established. The parameters of the historical earthquakes and the focal mechanism parameters of 108 destructive earthquakes have been compiled in this database. These datasets reported here are believed to facilitate and enhance future earthquake studies.

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