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# Stochastic rainfall forecasting by conditional simulation using a scaling model

Presentation at the XIX EGS General Assembly  
Session HS2/OA13/02 "Stochastic Modelling of Rainfall in Space and Time"

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## Topics of the presentation

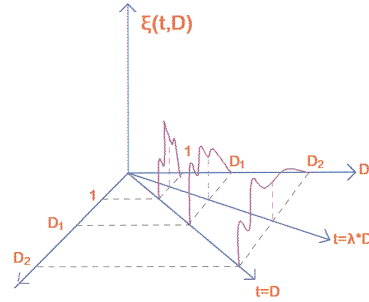
- ☆ Synopsis of the Scaling Model of Storm Hyetograph
- ☆ Data presentation and model parameters
- ☆ Performance evaluation
- ☆ General simulation scheme
- ☆ Conditional simulation scheme
- ☆ Application of the model for conditional simulation
- ☆ Conclusions

## The Scaling Model of Storm Hyetograph – General Structure

### Main hypothesis

$$\{\xi(t, D)\} \stackrel{d}{=} \{\lambda^{-H} \xi(\lambda t, \lambda D)\}$$

where  $\xi()$ : instantaneous rainfall intensity  
 $D$ : duration of the event  
 $t$ : time ( $0 \leq t \leq D$ )  
 $H$ : scaling exponent



### Secondary hypothesis: Weak stationarity

(= stationarity within the event)

$$E[\xi(t, D)] = c_1 D^H$$

$$E[\xi(t, D) \xi(t + \tau, D)] = \varphi(\tau / D) D^{2H}$$

$$\varphi(\tau / D) = k(\tau / D)^{-\beta}$$

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## The Scaling Model of Storm Hyetograph – Main statistics

### Statistics of total depth, $Z$

$$E[Z] = c_1 D^{H+1}$$

$$\text{Var}[Z] = c_2 D^{2(H+1)}$$

$$\text{where } c_2 = c_1^2 + 2k / [(1 - \beta)(2 - \beta)]$$

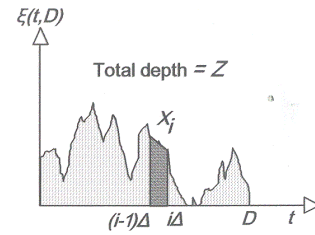
### Statistics of incremental depth, $X$

$$E[X_i] = c_1 \delta D^{H+1}$$

$$\text{Var}[X_i] = [(c_2 + c_1^2) \delta^{-\beta} - c_1^2] \delta^2 D^{2(H+1)}$$

$$\text{Cov}[X_i, X_j] = [(c_2 + c_1^2) \delta^{-\beta} f(|j - i|, \beta) - c_1^2] \delta^2 D^{2(H+1)}$$

$$\text{where } \delta = \Delta / D, \quad f(m, \beta) = \frac{1}{2} [(m - 1)^{2-\beta} + (m + 1)^{2-\beta}] - m^{2-\beta} \quad (m > 0)$$



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## The Scaling Model of Storm Hyetograph - Estimation of parameters

### Parameters

$H$	scaling exponent	} estimated from $E[Z] = c_1 D^{H+1}$ (by least squares)
$c_1$	mean value parameter	
$c_2$	variance parameter	
$\beta$	correlation decay parameter	estimated from $\beta = 1 - \frac{\ln(E[X_i X_{i+1}] / E[X_i^2] + 1)}{\ln 2}$

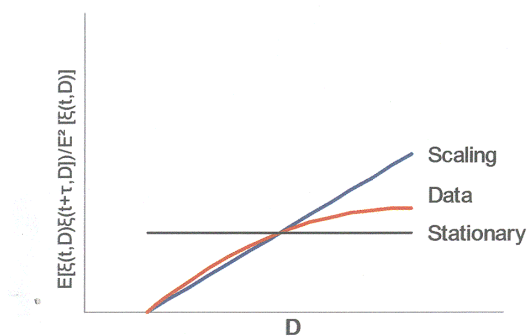
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## The Scaling Model of Storm Hyetograph – Modification

### Dependence of covariance structure on duration (logarithmic plot)



### Correction to the correlation decay parameter

$$\beta = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln(D) \quad (\beta_1 < 0)$$

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## The Scaling Model of Storm Hyetograph – General properties

- Not description of the structure of a specific storm
- Statistical description and efficient parametrisation of a population of storms
- This population can include:
  - ◆ All storms,
  - ◆ Storms of a specific season,
  - ◆ Storms with intensity and/or depth greater than a given threshold, etc.
  - ◆ Point rainfall or areal (average) rainfall
- Simple construction of generation schemes for simulation (sequential, disaggregation, conditional)
- Consistency with, and parametrisation of, normalised mass curves

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## Data presentation and model parameters

### Data sets

River Basin	Aliakmon (Greece)	Reno (Italy)	Evinos (Greece)	Evinos (Greece)
Point or areal rainfall	Point	Areal	Point	Point
Event type	All	hourly depth > 1 mm	hourly depth > 7 mm or daily depth > 25 mm	hourly depth > 7 mm or daily depth > 25 mm
Season	April	All year	Oct. - Apr.	May - Sep.
Record period	13 years (1971-1983)	2 years (1990-1991)	20 years (1971-1990)	20 years (1971-1990)
Number of events	89	149	200	93

### Model parameters

H	-0.163	-0.051	-0.332	-0.604
c1	0.964	0.518	5.475	10.042
c2	0.392	0.190	8.373	19.232
$\beta_0$	0.635	0.434	0.620	0.608
$\beta_1$	-0.1	-0.065	-0.109	-0.020

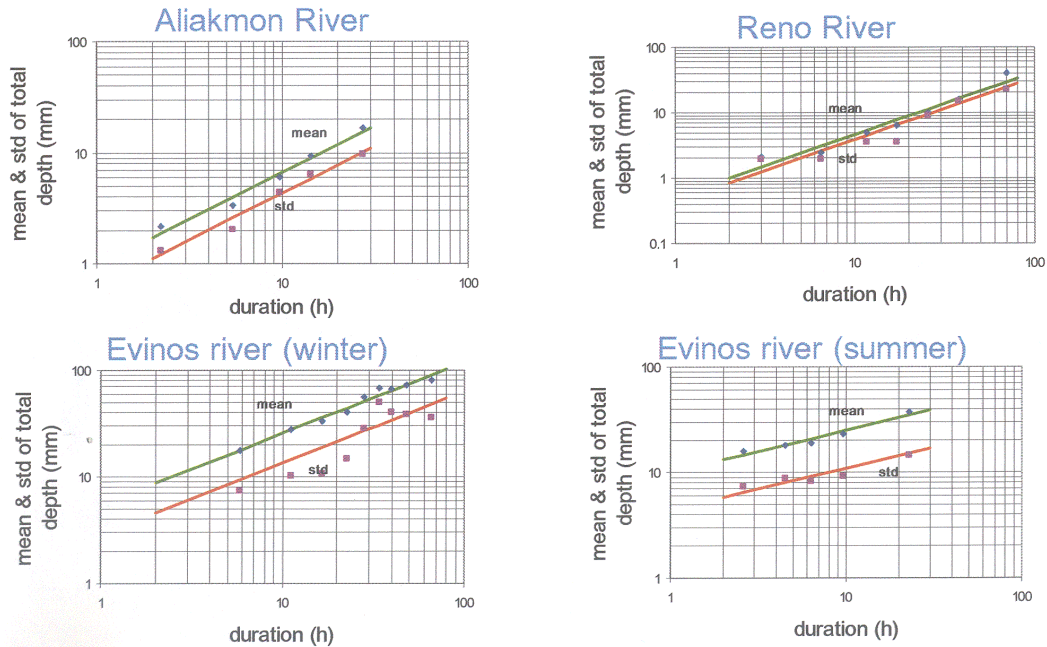
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## Performance evaluation

### Mean and standard deviation of total depth

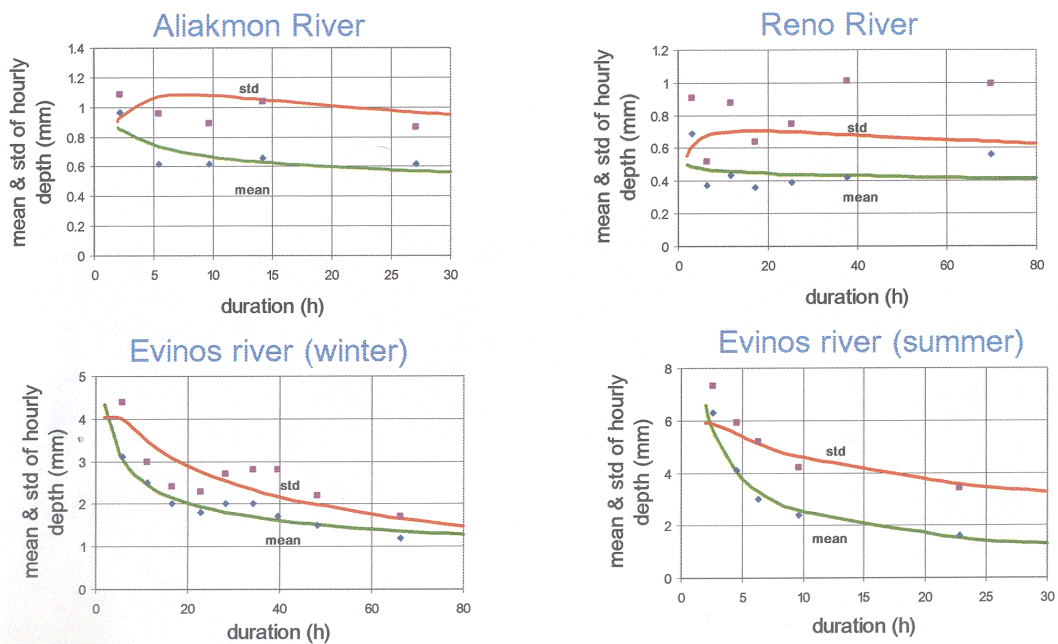


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## Performance evaluation

### Mean and standard deviation of hourly depth



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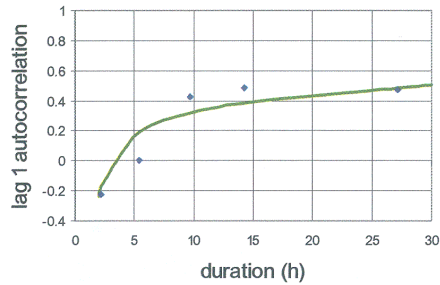
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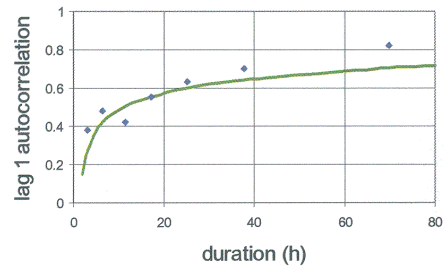
## Performance evaluation

### Lag 1 autocorrelation coef. of hourly depth

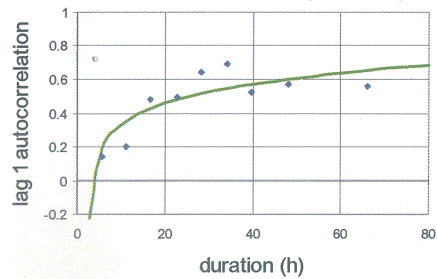
Aliakmon River



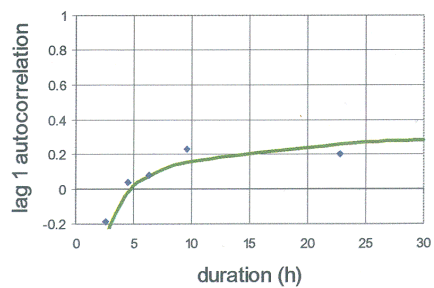
Reno River



Evinos river (winter)



Evinos river (summer)



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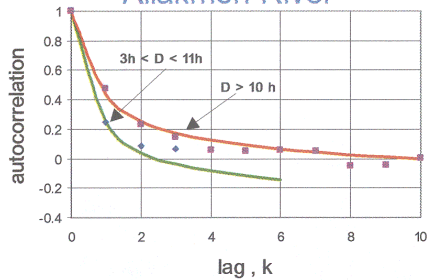
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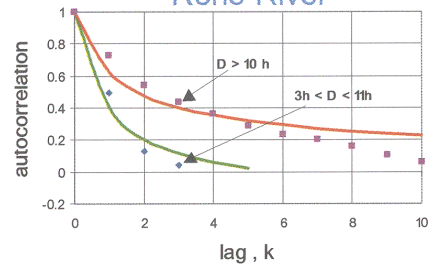
## Performance evaluation

### Autocorrelation function of hourly depth

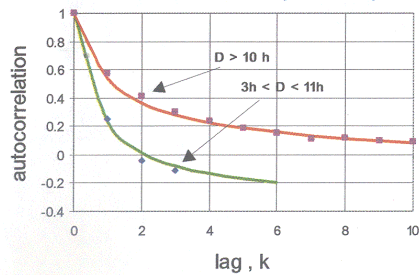
Aliakmon River



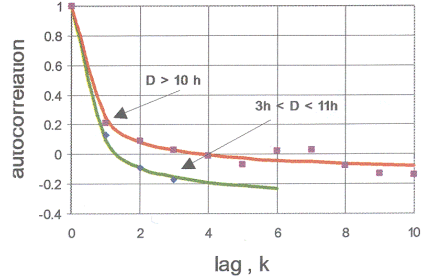
Reno River



Evinos river (winter)



Evinos river (summer)



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## General simulation scheme

### Sequential scheme

1. **Calibration of scaling model:** Estimation of parameters  $c_1, c_2, \beta$  (or  $\beta_0, \beta_1$ ),  $H$
2. **Calculation of**  $E[X], \text{Cov}[X, X], \mu_3[X]$
3. **Formulation of generating scheme**

$$\begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \vdots \\ X_k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_{11} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \omega_{21} & \omega_{22} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \omega_{k1} & \omega_{k2} & \cdots & \omega_{kk} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \\ \vdots \\ V_k \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{\Omega V} \text{ ( } V_j \text{ independent, appr. 3-par. gamma)}$$
4. **Estimation of parameters of the generating scheme**
  - a. Coefficient matrix  
 $\mathbf{\Omega} \mathbf{\Omega}^T = \text{Cov}[\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}] \Rightarrow \mathbf{\Omega}$  by decomposition (lower triangular)
  - b. Statistics of  $V_i$   
 $\omega_{ii} E[V_i] = E[X_i] - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \omega_{ij} E[V_j]$   
 $\text{Var}[V_i] = 1$   
 $\omega_{ii}^3 \mu_3[V_i] = \mu_3[X_i] - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \omega_{ij}^3 \mu_3[V_j]$
5. **Generation of  $V_i$**
6. **Calculation of  $X_i$**

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## General simulation scheme

### Disaggregation scheme

1. **Generation of total depth  $Z$**
2. **Application of the sequential procedure to obtain an initial sequence  $X'_i$**
3. **Determination of the final (adjusted) sequence**  $X_i = \frac{X'_i}{\sum_{j=1}^k X'_j} Z$

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## Conditional simulation scheme

### Step 1 Generation of duration D

#### Conditions

Known past  
(Total duration >  
current duration)

Predicted future (Total duration  
is given approximately from  
meteorological forecasts)

### Step2 Generation of hourly depths $X_j$

#### Lead time

Fixed, L  
(adaptation  
of parameters  
every L steps)

Not fixed  
(Generation of all  
remaining steps)

#### Conditions

Known past

Known past + Predicted future  
Total depth is given  
approximately from  
meteorological forecasts

Known past + Predicted  
future Total depth for a  
future time period (6 hours)  
is given approximately from  
meteorological forecasts

#### Generation scheme

Sequential  
scheme

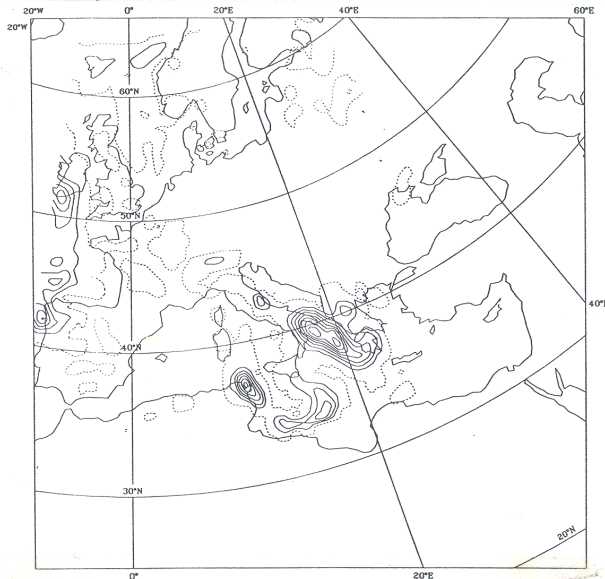
Disaggregation scheme

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## Coupling of meteorological forecast

Example of ECMRWF quantitative  
precipitation forecast

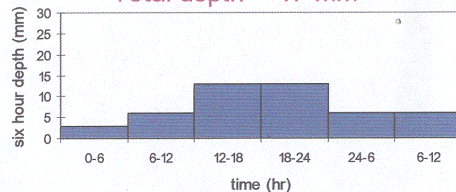
Map of 9/1/94, 06-12 G.M.T.



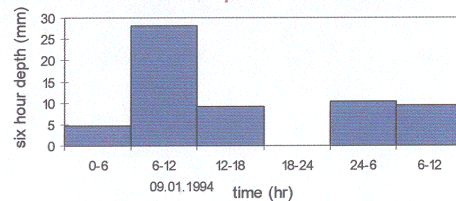
MAGICS 4.1a SGI - alex 17 February 1994 10:38:58 - NOWCASTING PRODUCT

Comparison of forecast and  
observed precipitation at Evinos  
River Basin (6 hours intervals)

ECMRWF forecast  
Total depth = 47 mm



Observed areal precipitation  
Total depth = 62 mm

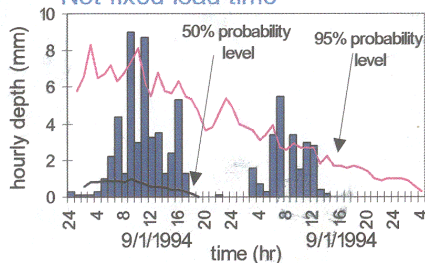


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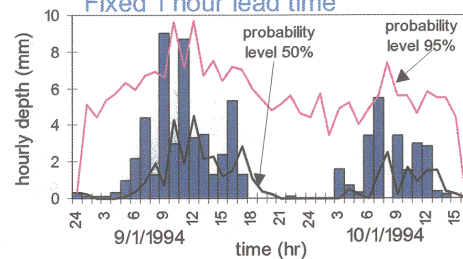


## Application of the model for simulation

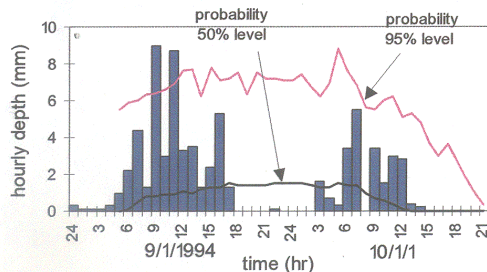
Known past for duration and depth  
Not fixed lead time



Known past for duration and depth  
Fixed 1 hour lead time



Known past for duration and depth. Not fixed lead time  
Estimates for future:  $Z_i < Z < Z_h$  where  $|Z_{i,h} - Z| = 0.3 * Z$   
 $D_i < D < D_h$  where  $|D_{i,h} - D| = 0.2 * D$



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## Conclusions

1. The Scaling Model of Storm Hyetograph is suitable for a variety of data sets regardless of season and rain type.
2. It can support a variety of stochastic simulation schemes taking into account any information (condition) for the past or future of rainfall.
3. Specifically, it can be combined with a meteorological forecast to disaggregate it into smaller time steps, also adding a stochastic component to the deterministic forecast.

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