

RAINFALL MODELLING

by D. Koutsoyiannis, N. Mamassis & E. Foufoula-Georgiou

Research work

- ★ Development of the Scaling Model of Storm Hyetograph
- ★ Development of a disaggregation procedure for the rainfall process
- ★ Analysis of storm-producing weather types
- ★ Development of a conditional simulation scheme for stochastic rainfall forecasting

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

Mathematical background for the scaling model

Main hypothesis

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

where $\xi(t)$: instantaneous rainfall intensity

D : duration of the event

t : time ($0 \leq t \leq D$)

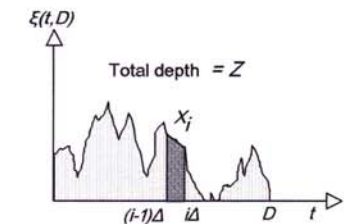
H : scaling exponent

Secondary hypothesis: Weak stationarity (= stationarity within the event)

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

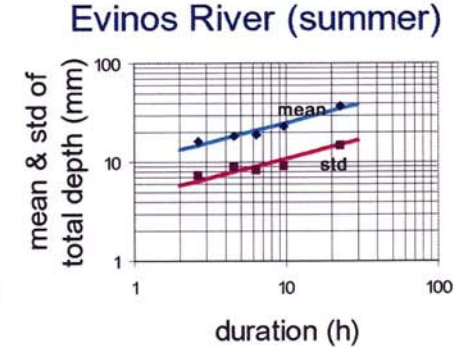
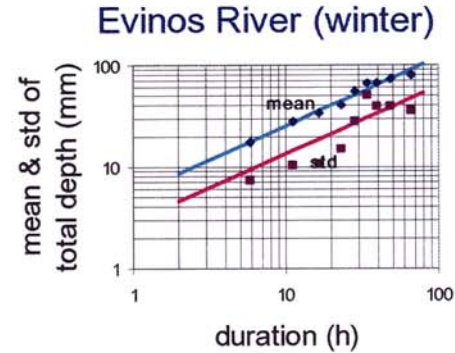
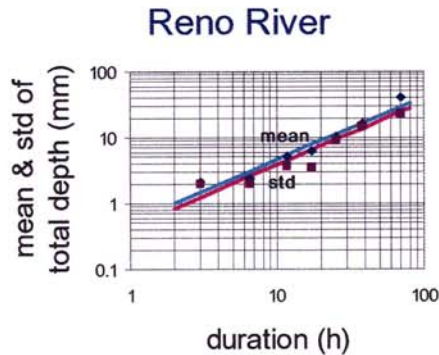
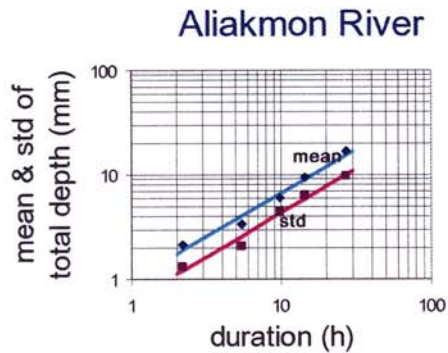
$$E[\xi(t, D) \xi(t + \tau, D)] = \varphi(\tau / D) D^{2H}$$

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

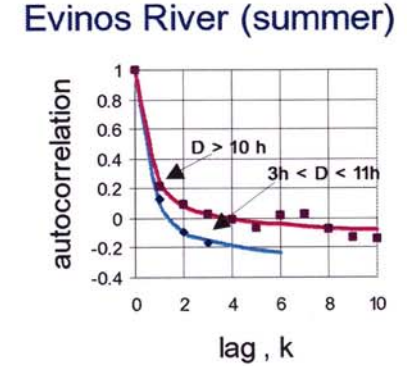
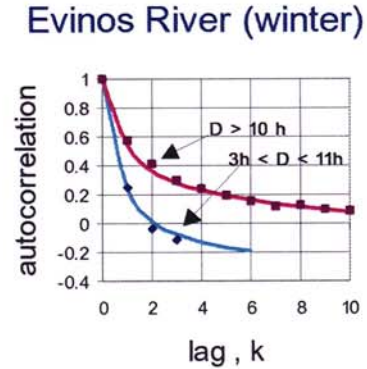
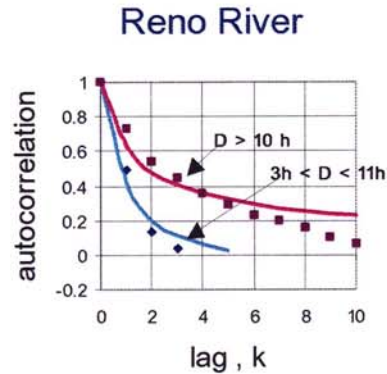
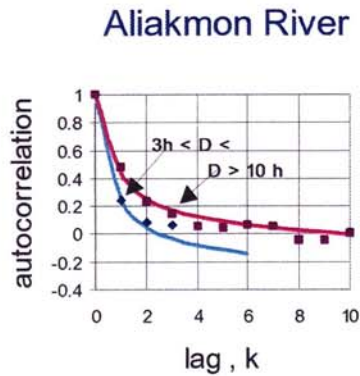


Performance of the scaling model. Some examples

Mean and standard deviation of total depth

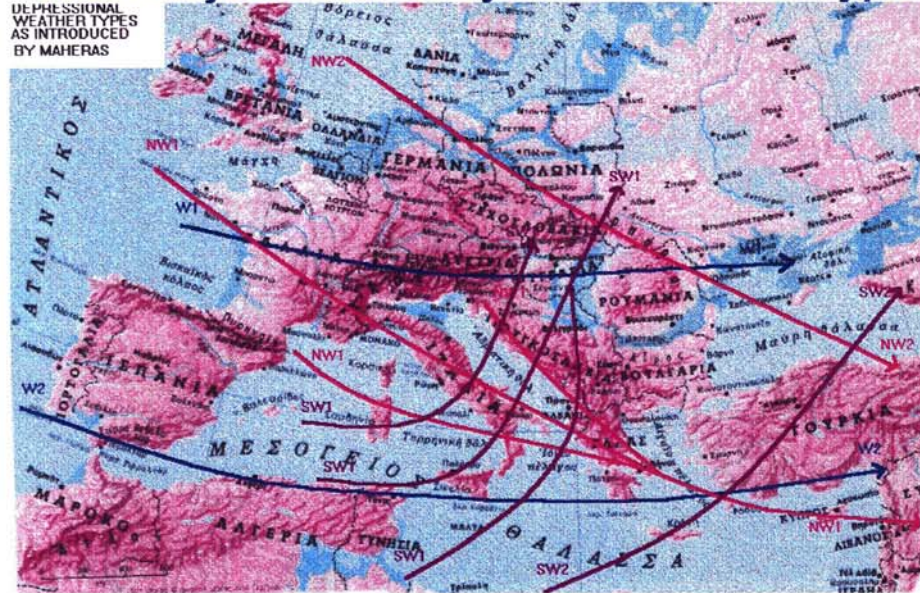


Autocorrelation function of hourly depth



Analysis of weather types

Main trajectories of cyclonic weather types



Classification of weather types

Definition and classification of weather types in Greece (by Maheras)

Criteria	The location of centers of anticyclones The main trajectories of cyclones Some special synoptic situations in surface and 500 mb level
Seasons	Wet (October - April) Dry (May - September)
Weather types	5 anticyclonic (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5) 6 cyclonic (SW1, SW2, NW1, NW2, W1, W2) 2 mixed (MT1, MT2) 3 characteristic (DES, MB, DOR)
Time period	Maheras developed a daily calendar of weather types in Greece for the period 1950-1990

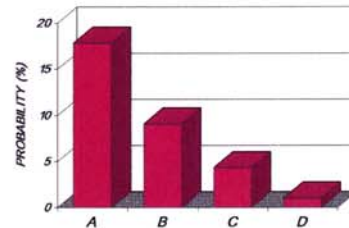
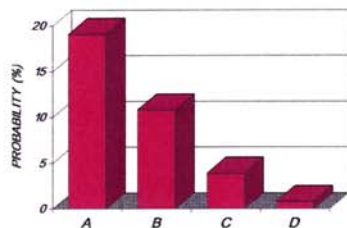
Remarks

- ★ Statistically significant differences in the probability of occurrence of intense rainfall flood events, among the various weather types.
- ★ Large variance in all rainfall event characteristics, for all weather types.
- ★ Significant differences in the stochastic structure and characteristics of the intense rainfall events, between dry and wet season.
- ★ No statistically significant differences in the rainfall and flood event characteristics among the weather types of the wet season. Slight significant differences among the weather types of the dry season.
- ★ A small percentage of the total variance of rainfall characteristics, is explained by introducing the concept of weather type. The double percentage is explained merely by the duration of the event.

Probability of occurrence of intense rainfall events per weather type

Wet season

Dry season



A : W1, W2, NW1, SW1
B : SW2, NW2
C : MT2, DOR
D : A1-A5, MT1, DES, MB

A : W2, NW1, DOR
B : SW1, SW2
C : W1, NW2, MT1, DES, MB
D : A1-A5, MT2

Forecasting by conditional simulation

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)

Step 2 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

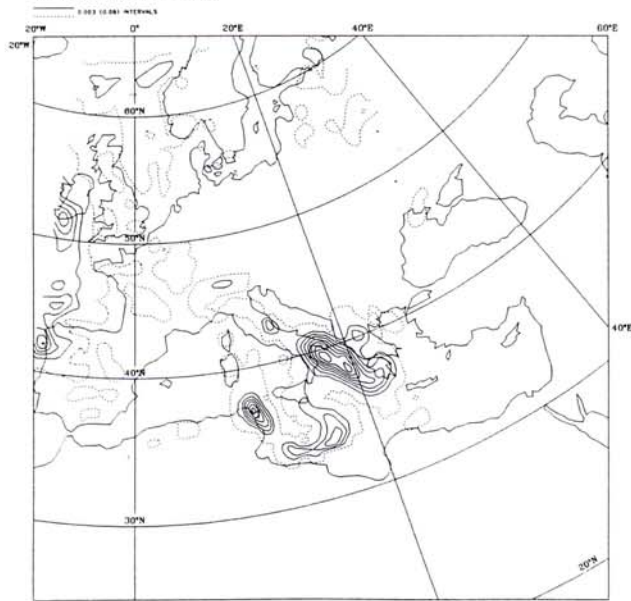
Generation scheme

Sequential scheme

Disaggregation scheme

Coupling with meteorological forecasts

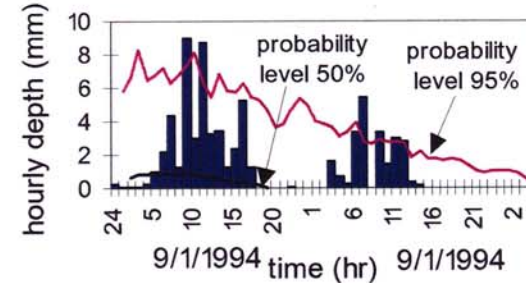
Saturday 8 January 1994 12z ECMWF Forecast t+ 24 VT: Sunday 9 January 1994 12z
SURFACE: total precipitation



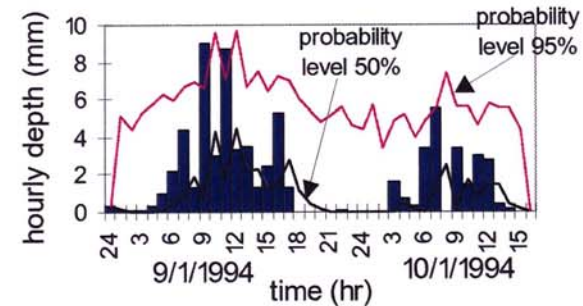
MAGICS 4.1a SGI - alex 17 February 1994 10:38:58 - NOWCASTING PRODUCT

Application of the model

Case 1. Known past for duration and depth. Not fixed lead time.



Case 2. Known past for duration and depth. Fixed 1 hour lead time.



Case 3. Known past for duration and depth. Not fixed lead time. Estimates for future duration and total depth.

