

Appendix A: Hymod model in NewAge-JGrass system

The NewAge system executes one Hymod model at each HRU and routes water downslope. Detailed description of the Hymod model is provided in many studies (Moore, 1985; Van Delft et al., 2009; Boyle et al., 2001; Formetta et al., 2011). In Hymod, each HRU is supposed to be a composition of storages of capability C (L) according to distribution (Moore, 1985):

$$F(C < c) = 1 - (1 - \frac{c}{C_{max}})^{B_{exp}}, \tag{A1}$$

where $F(C)$ represents the cumulative probability of a certain water storage capacity (C), C_{max} is the largest water storage capacity within each hillslope, and B_{exp} is the degree of variability in the storage capacity. As shown in the schematic diagram (Fig. A1), the precipitation exceeding C_{max} is sent directly to the volume available for surface runoff. If we call the precipitation volume in a time interval Δt , $J(t) := P(t)\Delta t$, then this “direct” runoff can be estimated according to the following:

$$R_H(t) = \max(0, J(t) + C(t) - C_{max}), \tag{A2}$$

where $C(t)$ defines the fraction of storages already filled at time t . The latter equation is true for any precipitation and storage level, even when the maximum storage C_{max} is not exceeded. When precipitation does not exceed C_{max} , runoff volume can be produced by filling some of the smaller storages. The extent to which this happens can be derived by the knowledge of the storage distribution, Eq. (A1), the initial storage $C(t)$, and the precipitation $J(t)$. This residual runoff is, in fact, given by the following:

$$R(t) = \int_{C(t)}^{\min(C(t)+J(t), c_{max})} F(c) dc. \tag{A3}$$

An analytic expression for the integral in Eq. (A3) is available, which makes the computation easier. Water in storage is made available to evapotranspiration. Water going into the runoff volume, i.e., $R(t)$ and $R_H(t)$, is further subdivided into a surface runoff volume and subsurface storm runoff. Surface runoff, in turn, is composed by the whole of $R_H(t)$ and part of $R(t)$, and $R(t)$ is split according to a partition coefficient α such that the part $\alpha R(t)$ goes into surface runoff volume and $(1 - \alpha)$ into the subsurface storm runoff volume. In Hymod, α is a calibration coefficient.

Finally, surface runoff volumes are routed through three linear reservoirs, and subsurface storm runoff volume is routed through a single linear reservoir. A summary of equations for the surface runoff is therefore as follows:

$$\frac{dS_1(t)}{dt} = \alpha R(t) + R_H(t) - kS_1(t)Q_1(t) = \frac{S_1(t)}{k}, \tag{A4}$$

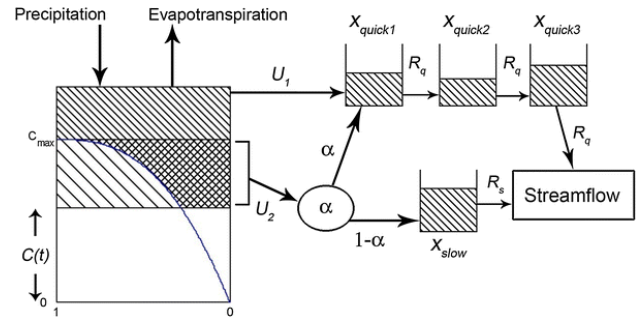


Figure A1. Schematic diagram of the Hymod model (adapted from Van Delft et al., 2009).

where S_1 (L^3) is the storage in the first of the linear reservoirs, and k (T) is the mean residence time in each of the reservoirs. Then, the following applies:

$$\frac{dS_i(t)}{dt} = Q_{i-1}(t) - kS_i(t)Q_i(t) = \frac{S_i(t)}{k} \tag{A5}$$

for the other two reservoirs, where S_i (L) with $i = 2, 3$ is the storage in the two remaining surface reservoirs. Subsurface storm runoff is then modeled by the following:

$$\frac{dS_{sub}}{dt} = (1 - \alpha)R(t) - k_{sub}S_{sub}(t), \tag{A6}$$

where S_{sub} (L^3) is the storage in the subsurface storm-flow system and k_{sub} (T) is its mean residence time. A water-budget equation can be written for the groundwater system as follows:

$$\frac{dS_g(t)}{dt} = (J(t) - R(t) - R_H(t)) - ET(t) - Q_g(t), \tag{A7}$$

where $S_g(t)$ (L^3) is the groundwater storage, and $Q_g(t)$ the groundwater flow which becomes surface flow at the closure of the HRU.

Summarizing, Hymod subdivides each HRU into three reservoirs: a groundwater reservoir (from where evapotranspiration and groundwater flow is allowed), a subsurface storm-water reservoir, and a surface runoff reservoirs set. Partition of precipitation into the three reservoirs is obtained by a calibration coefficient, α , and the use of a probability distribution function of storages’ capacity, $F(c)$.

Appendix B: Model performance criteria

The model evaluation statistics used in the paper are the goodness-of-fit indices. The following indexes are used as objective function and comparison of estimations.

1. PBIAS is the measure of average tendency of estimated values to be large or smaller than their measured values. The value near to zero indicates high estimation,

whereas the positive value indicates the overestimation and negative values indicate model underestimation (Moriassi et al., 2007; Gupta et al., 1999).

$$\text{PBIAS} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - O_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n O_i} 100 \quad (\text{B1})$$

The PBIAS value ranges from -20 to 20 % is considered good, and values between ± 20 and ± 40 % and those greater than ± 40 % are considered satisfactory and unsatisfactory respectively (Stehr et al., 2008).

2. Kling–Gupta efficiency (KGE) is developed by Gupta et al. (2009) to provide a diagnostically interesting decomposition of the Nash–Sutcliffe efficiency (and hence MSE), which facilitates the analysis of the relative importance of its different components (correlation, bias, and variability) in the context of hydrological modeling. Kling et al. (2012) proposed a revised version of this index. It is given by the following:

$$\text{KGE} = 1 - \text{ED}, \quad (\text{B2})$$

$$\text{ED} = \sqrt{(r - 1)^2 + (vr - 1)^2 + (\beta - 1)^2}, \quad (\text{B3})$$

where ED is the Euclidian distance from the ideal point, β is the ratio between the mean simulated and mean observed flows, r is the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient, and v is the ratio between the observed (σ_o) and modeled (σ_s) standard deviations of the time series and takes account of the relative variability (Zambrano-Bigiarini, 2013). The KGE ranges from infinity to a perfect estimation of 1, but a performance above 0.75 and 0.5 is considered to be as good and intermediate, respectively (Thiemig et al., 2013).

3. Pearson correlation coefficient (r) – please refer to Moriassi et al. (2007). The correlation coefficient is best as much as it is close to 1.

The Supplement related to this article is available online at <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-21-3145-2017-supplement>.

Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements. This research has been partially financed by the CLIMAWARE projects of University of Trento (<http://abouthydrology.blogspot.it/search/label/CLIMAWARE>) and by the European Union FP7 Collaborative Project GLOBAQUA (Managing the effects of multiple stressors on aquatic ecosystems under water scarcity, grant no. 603629-ENV-2013.6.2.1). We would like to acknowledge the National Meteorological Agency and the Ministry of Water and Energy of Ethiopia for providing us with the gauge rainfall and discharge data. We also thank the two anonymous reviewers for their work that helped to enhance the paper with their comments.

Edited by: Thomas von Clarmann

Reviewed by: two anonymous referees

References

- Abera, W., Formetta, G., Brocca, L., and Rigon, R.: Complimentary material and data, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.264004>, 2017.
- Abera, W., Antonello, A., Franceschi, S., Formetta, G., and Rigon, R.: The uDig Spatial Toolbox for hydro-geomorphic analysis, British Society for Geomorphology, London, UK, in: geomorphological techniques (online Edn.), edited by: Clarke, L. E. and Nield, J. M., 2014.
- Abera, W., Brocca, L., and Rigon, R.: Comparative evaluation of different satellite rainfall estimation products and bias correction in the Upper Blue Nile (UBN) basin, *Atmos. Res.*, 178, 471–483, 2016.
- Abera, W., Formetta, G., Borga, M., and Rigon, R.: Estimating the water budget components and their variability in a pre-alpine basin with JGrass-NewAGE, *Adv. Water Resour.*, 104, 37–54, 2017.
- Abtew, W., Melesse, A. M., and Dessalegne, T.: Spatial, inter and intra-annual variability of the Upper Blue Nile Basin rainfall, *Hydrol. Process.*, 23, 3075–3082, 2009.
- Abu-Zeid, M. A. and Biswas, A. K.: River basin planning and management, Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, 1996.
- Allam, M. M., Jain Figueroa, A., McLaughlin, D. B., and Eltahir, E. A.: Estimation of evaporation over the upper Blue Nile basin by combining observations from satellites and river flow gauges, *Water Resour. Res.*, 52, 644–659 <https://doi.org/10.1002/2015WR017251>, 2016.
- Allen, R. G., Pereira, L. S., Raes, D., and Smith, M.: Crop evapotranspiration-Guidelines for computing crop water requirements-FAO Irrigation and drainage paper 56, FAO, Rome, 300, 6541, 1998.
- Andrew, M. E., Wulder, M. A., and Nelson, T. A.: Potential contributions of remote sensing to ecosystem service assessments, *Prog. Phys. Geog.*, 38, 328–353, 2014.
- Arking, A.: The radiative effects of clouds and their impact on climate, *B. Am. Meteorol. Soc.*, 72, 795–813, 1991.
- Assouline, S., Li, D., Tyler, S., Tanny, J., Cohen, S., Bou-Zeid, E., Parlange, M., and Katul, G. G.: On the variability of the Priestley-Taylor coefficient over water bodies, *Water Resour. Res.*, 52, 150–163, <https://doi.org/10.1002/2015WR017504>, 2016.
- Bellerby, T.: Satellite rainfall uncertainty estimation using an artificial neural network, *J. Hydrometeorol.*, 8, 1397–1412, 2007.
- Bewket, W. and Sterk, G.: Dynamics in land cover and its effect on stream flow in the Chemoga watershed, Blue Nile basin, Ethiopia, *Hydrol. Process.*, 19, 445–458, 2005.
- Billah, M. M., Goodall, J. L., Narayan, U., Reager, J., Lakshmi, V., and Famiglietti, J. S.: A methodology for evaluating evapotranspiration estimates at the watershed-scale using GRACE, *J. Hydrol.*, 523, 574–586, 2015.
- Block, P. and Rajagopalan, B.: Interannual variability and ensemble forecast of Upper Blue Nile Basin Kiremt season precipitation, *J. Hydrometeorol.*, 8, 327–343, 2007.
- Boyle, D. P., Gupta, H. V., Sorooshian, S., Koren, V., Zhang, Z., and Smith, M.: Toward improved streamflow forecasts: Value of semidistributed modeling, *Water Resour. Res.*, 37, 2749–2759, 2001.
- Brocca, L., Moramarco, T., Melone, F., and Wagner, W.: A new method for rainfall estimation through soil moisture observations, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 40, 853–858, 2013.
- Brocca, L., Ciabatta, L., Massari, C., Moramarco, T., Hahn, S., Hasenauer, S., Kidd, R., Dorigo, W., Wagner, W., and Levizzani, V.: Soil as a natural rain gauge: estimating global rainfall from satellite soil moisture data, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 119, 5128–5141, 2014.
- Brocca, L., Pellarin, T., Crow, W. T., Ciabatta, L., Massari, C., Ryu, D., Su, C.-H., Rüdiger, C., and Kerr, Y.: Rainfall estimation by inverting SMOS soil moisture estimates: A comparison of different methods over Australia, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 121, 12062–12079, <https://doi.org/10.1002/2016JD025382>, 2016.
- Brutsaert, W.: Hydrology: an introduction, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2005.
- Budyko, M. I.: Climate and Life, International Geophysics Series, 18, Academic Press, Oxford, UK, 1978.
- Ciabatta, L., Marra, A. C., Panegrossi, G., Casella, D., Sanò, P., Dietrich, S., Massari, C., and Brocca, L.: Daily precipitation estimation through different microwave sensors: Verification study over Italy, *J. Hydrol.*, 545, 436–450, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2016.12.057>, 2017.
- Conway, D.: A water balance model of the Upper Blue Nile in Ethiopia, *Hydrolog. Sci. J.*, 42, 265–286, 1997.
- Conway, D.: The climate and hydrology of the Upper Blue Nile River, *Geogr. J.*, 166, 49–62, 2000.
- Conway, D.: From headwater tributaries to international river: observing and adapting to climate variability and change in the Nile basin, *Global Environ. Chang.*, 15, 99–114, 2005.
- Conway, D. and Hulme, M.: Recent fluctuations in precipitation and runoff over the Nile sub-basins and their impact on main Nile discharge, *Climatic Change*, 25, 127–151, 1993.
- David, O., Ascough II, J., Lloyd, W., Green, T., Rojas, K., Leavesley, G., and Ahuja, L.: A software engineering perspective on en-

- vironmental modeling framework design: The Object Modeling System, *Environ. Modell. Softw.*, 39, 201–213, 2013.
- Dessie, M., Verhoest, N. E. C., Pauwels, V. R. N., Admasu, T., Poessen, J., Adgo, E., Deckers, J., and Nyssen, J.: Analyzing runoff processes through conceptual hydrological modeling in the Upper Blue Nile Basin, Ethiopia, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 18, 5149–5167, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-18-5149-2014>, 2014.
- Döll, P., Fritsche, M., Eicker, A., and Schmied, H. M.: Seasonal water storage variations as impacted by water abstractions: comparing the output of a global hydrological model with GRACE and GPS observations, *Surv. Geophys.*, 35, 1311–1331, 2014.
- Durand, M., Fu, L.-L., Lettenmaier, D. P., Alsdorf, D. E., Rodriguez, E., and Esteban Fernandez, D.: The surface water and ocean topography mission: Observing terrestrial surface water and oceanic submesoscale eddies, *P. IEEE*, 98, 766–779, 2010.
- Easton, Z. M., Fuka, D. R., White, E. D., Collick, A. S., Biruk Ashagre, B., McCartney, M., Awulachew, S. B., Ahmed, A. A., and Steenhuis, T. S.: A multi basin SWAT model analysis of runoff and sedimentation in the Blue Nile, Ethiopia, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 14, 1827–1841, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-14-1827-2010>, 2010.
- Feddes, R. A., Hoff, H., Bruen, M., Dawson, T., de Rosnay, P., Dirmeyer, P., Jackson, R. B., Kabat, P., Kleidon, A., Lilly, A., and Pitman, A. J.: Modeling root water uptake in hydrological and climate models, *B. Am. Meteorol. Soc.*, 82, 2797–2809, 2001.
- Fenicia, F., McDonnell, J. J., and Savenije, H. H.: Learning from model improvement: On the contribution of complementary data to process understanding, *Water Resour. Res.*, 44, W06419, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2007WR006386>, 2008.
- Fisher, J. B., Tu, K. P., and Baldocchi, D. D.: Global estimates of the land–atmosphere water flux based on monthly AVHRR and ISLSCP-II data, validated at 16 FLUXNET sites, *Remote Sens. Environ.*, 112, 901–919, 2008.
- Formetta, G., Mantilla, R., Franceschi, S., Antonello, A., and Rigon, R.: The JGrass-NewAge system for forecasting and managing the hydrological budgets at the basin scale: models of flow generation and propagation/routing, *Geosci. Model Dev.*, 4, 943–955, <https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-4-943-2011>, 2011.
- Formetta, G., Rigon, R., Chávez, J. L., and David, O.: Modeling shortwave solar radiation using the JGrass-NewAge system, *Geosci. Model Dev.*, 6, 915–928, <https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-6-915-2013>, 2013.
- Formetta, G., Antonello, A., Franceschi, S., David, O., and Rigon, R.: Digital watershed representation within the NewAge-JGrass system, *Boletín Geológico y minero*, 125, 369–379, 2014a.
- Formetta, G., Kampf, S. K., David, O., and Rigon, R.: Snow water equivalent modeling components in NewAge-JGrass, *Geosci. Model Dev.*, 7, 725–736, <https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-7-725-2014>, 2014b.
- Formetta, G., Bancheri, M., David, O., and Rigon, R.: Performance of site-specific parameterizations of longwave radiation, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 20, 4641–4654, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-20-4641-2016>, 2016.
- Gao, H., Tang, Q., Ferguson, C. R., Wood, E. F., and Lettenmaier, D. P.: Estimating the water budget of major US river basins via remote sensing, *Int. J. Remote Sens.* 31, 3955–3978, 2010.
- Gash, J.: An analytical model of rainfall interception by forests, *Q. J. Roy. Meteor. Soc.*, 105, 43–55, 1979.
- Gebremicael, T., Mohamed, Y., Betrie, G., van der Zaag, P., and Teferi, E.: Trend analysis of runoff and sediment fluxes in the Upper Blue Nile basin: A combined analysis of statistical tests, physically-based models and landuse maps, *J. Hydrol.*, 482, 57–68, 2013.
- Goovaerts, P.: *Geostatistics for natural resources evaluation*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, 1997.
- Goovaerts, P.: *Geostatistics in soil science: state-of-the-art and perspectives*, *Geoderma*, 89, 1–45, 1999.
- Goovaerts, P.: Geostatistical approaches for incorporating elevation into the spatial interpolation of rainfall, *J. Hydrol.*, 228, 113–129, 2000.
- Guntner, A.: Improvement of global hydrological models using GRACE data, *Surv. Geophys.*, 29, 375–397, 2008.
- Gupta, H. V., Sorooshian, S., and Yapo, P. O.: Status of automatic calibration for hydrologic models: Comparison with multilevel expert calibration, *J. Hydrol. Eng.*, 4, 135–143, 1999.
- Gupta, H. V., Kling, H., Yilmaz, K. K., and Martinez, G. F.: Decomposition of the mean squared error and NSE performance criteria: Implications for improving hydrological modelling, *J. Hydrol.*, 377, 80–91, 2009.
- Haberlandt, U.: Geostatistical interpolation of hourly precipitation from rain gauges and radar for a large-scale extreme rainfall event, *J. Hydrol.*, 332, 144–157, 2007.
- Hall, J. W., Grey, D., Garrick, D., Fung, F., Brown, C., Dadson, S. J., and Sadoff, C. W.: Coping with the curse of freshwater variability, *Science*, 346, 429–430, 2014.
- Han, S.-C., Kim, H., Yeo, I.-Y., Yeh, P., Oki, T., Seo, K.-W., Alsdorf, D., and Luthcke, S. B.: Dynamics of surface water storage in the Amazon inferred from measurements of inter-satellite distance change, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 36, L09403, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2009GL037910>, 2009.
- Hay, L. E., Leavesley, G. H., Clark, M. P., Markstrom, S. L., Viger, R. J., and Umemoto, M.: Step wise, multiple objective calibration of a hydrologic model for a snowmelt dominated basin, *J. Am. Water Resour. As.*, 42, 877–890, 2006.
- Hong, Y., Hsu, K.-L., Moradkhani, H., and Sorooshian, S.: Uncertainty quantification of satellite precipitation estimation and Monte Carlo assessment of the error propagation into hydrologic response, *Water Resour. Res.*, 42, W08421, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2005WR004398>, 2006.
- Huffman, G. J., Bolvin, D. T., Nelkin, E. J., Wolff, D. B., Adler, R. F., Gu, G., Hong, Y., Bowman, K. P., and Stocker, E. F.: The TRMM multisatellite precipitation analysis (TMPA): Quasi-global, multiyear, combined-sensor precipitation estimates at fine scales, *J. Hydrometeorol.*, 8, 38–55, 2007.
- Jarmain, C., Mengitsu, M., Jewitt, G. P. W., Kongo, V., and Bastiaansen, W.: A methodology for near-real time spatial estimation of evaporation: Report to the Water Research Commission, Pretoria, South Africa, 2009.
- Jiang, D., Wang, J., Huang, Y., Zhou, K., Ding, X., and Fu, J.: The review of GRACE data applications in terrestrial hydrology monitoring, *Advances in Meteorology*, 2014, 725131, <https://doi.org/10.1155/2014/725131>, 2014.
- Johnston, R. M. and McCartney, M.: Inventory of water storage types in the Blue Nile and Volta river basins, vol. 140, IWMI, Colombo, Sri Lanka, <https://doi.org/10.5337/2010.214>, 2010.
- Joyce, R. J., Janowiak, J. E., Arkin, P. A., and Xie, P.: CMORPH: A method that produces global precipitation estimates from passive

- microwave and infrared data at high spatial and temporal resolution, *J. Hydrometeorol.*, 5, 487–503, 2004.
- Karlsson, K.-G., Riihelä, A., Müller, R., Meirink, J. F., Sedlar, J., Stengel, M., Lockhoff, M., Trentmann, J., Kaspar, F., Hollmann, R., and Wolters, E.: CLARA-A1: a cloud, albedo, and radiation dataset from 28 yr of global AVHRR data, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 13, 5351–5367, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-13-5351-2013>, 2013.
- Kebede, S., Travi, Y., Alemayehu, T., and Marc, V.: Water balance of Lake Tana and its sensitivity to fluctuations in rainfall, *Blue Nile basin, Ethiopia, J. Hydrol.*, 316, 233–247, 2006.
- Kennedy, J. and Eberhart, R.: Particle swarm optimization, in: *Proceedings of IEEE international conference on neural networks*, vol. 4, Perth, Australia, 1942–1948, 1995.
- Kim, J. and Hogue, T. S.: Evaluation of a MODIS-based potential evapotranspiration product at the point scale, *J. Hydrometeorol.*, 9, 444–460, 2008.
- Kim, U. and Kaluarachchi, J. J.: Application of parameter estimation and regionalization methodologies to ungauged basins of the Upper Blue Nile River Basin, Ethiopia, *J. Hydrol.*, 362, 39–56, 2008.
- Kim, U. and Kaluarachchi, J. J.: Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources in the Upper Blue Nile River Basin, Ethiopia, *J. Am. Water Resour. As.*, 45, 1361–1378, 2009.
- Kim, U., Kaluarachchi, J. J., and Smakhtin, V. U.: Generation of Monthly Precipitation Under Climate Change for the Upper Blue Nile River Basin, Ethiopia, *J. Am. Water Resour. As.*, 44, 1231–1247, 2008.
- Kjærsgaard, J. H., Cuenca, R. H., Martínez-Cob, A., Gavilán, P., Plauborg, F., Møllerup, M., and Hansen, S.: Comparison of the performance of net radiation calculation models, *Theor. Appl. Climatol.*, 98, 57–66, 2009.
- Kling, H., Fuchs, M., and Paulin, M.: Runoff conditions in the upper Danube basin under an ensemble of climate change scenarios, *J. Hydrol.*, 424, 264–277, 2012.
- Koster, R. D., Brocca, L., Crow, W. T., Burgin, M. S., and De Lannoy, G. J.: Precipitation estimation using L-band and C-band soil moisture retrievals, *Water Resour. Res.*, 52, 7213–7225, 2016.
- Kummerow, C., Barnes, W., Kozu, T., Shiue, J., and Simpson, J.: The tropical rainfall measuring mission (TRMM) sensor package, *J. Atmos. Ocean. Tech.*, 15, 809–817, 1998.
- Landerer, F. and Swenson, S.: Accuracy of scaled GRACE terrestrial water storage estimates, *Water Resour. Res.*, 48, W04531, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2011WR011453>, 2012.
- Martens, B., Miralles, D. G., Lievens, H., van der Schalie, R., de Jeu, R. A. M., Fernández-Prieto, D., Beck, H. E., Dorigo, W. A., and Verhoest, N. E. C.: GLEAM v3: satellite-based land evaporation and root-zone soil moisture, *Geosci. Model Dev.*, 10, 1903–1925, <https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-10-1903-2017>, 2017.
- McCabe, M. F., Ershadi, A., Jimenez, C., Miralles, D. G., Michel, D., and Wood, E. F.: The GEWEX LandFlux project: evaluation of model evaporation using tower-based and globally gridded forcing data, *Geosci. Model Dev.*, 9, 283–305, <https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-9-283-2016>, 2016.
- Mellander, P.-E., Gebrehiwot, S. G., Gardenas, A. I., Bewket, W., and Bishop, K.: Summer rains and dry seasons in the Upper Blue Nile Basin: the predictability of half a century of past and future spatiotemporal patterns, *PLoS One*, 8, 1932–6203, 2013.
- Mengistu, D. T. and Sorteberg, A.: Sensitivity of SWAT simulated streamflow to climatic changes within the Eastern Nile River basin, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 16, 391–407, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-16-391-2012>, 2012.
- Michelangeli, P.-A., Vrac, M., and Loukos, H.: Probabilistic downscaling approaches: Application to wind cumulative distribution functions, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 36, L11708, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2009GL038401>, 2009.
- Miralles, D. G., Holmes, T. R. H., De Jeu, R. A. M., Gash, J. H., Meesters, A. G. C. A., and Dolman, A. J.: Global land-surface evaporation estimated from satellite-based observations, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 15, 453–469, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-15-453-2011>, 2011a.
- Miralles, D. G., De Jeu, R. A. M., Gash, J. H., Holmes, T. R. H., and Dolman, A. J.: Magnitude and variability of land evaporation and its components at the global scale, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 15, 967–981, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-15-967-2011>, 2011b.
- Mishra, A. and Hata, T.: A grid-based runoff generation and flow routing model for the upper Blue Nile basin, *Hydrolog. Sci. J.*, 51, 191–206, 2006.
- Mishra, A., Hata, T., and Abdelhadi, A.: Models for recession flows in the upper Blue Nile River, *Hydrol. Process.*, 18, 2773–2786, 2004.
- Monteith, J. L.: *Evaporation and environment*, Symp. Soc. Exp. Biol., vol. 19, p. 4, 1965.
- Moore, R.: The probability-distributed principle and runoff production at point and basin scales, *Hydrolog. Sci. J.*, 30, 273–297, 1985.
- Moriasi, D., Arnold, J., Van Liew, M., Bingner, R., Harmel, R., and Veith, T.: Model evaluation guidelines for systematic quantification of accuracy in watershed simulations, *T. ASABE*, 50, 885–900, 2007.
- Mu, Q., Heinsch, F. A., Zhao, M., and Running, S. W.: Development of a global evapotranspiration algorithm based on MODIS and global meteorology data, *Remote Sens. Environ.*, 111, 519–536, 2007.
- Mu, Q., Zhao, M., and Running, S. W.: Improvements to a MODIS global terrestrial evapotranspiration algorithm, *Remote Sens. Environ.*, 115, 1781–1800, 2011.
- Muskett, R. R. and Romanovsky, V. E.: Groundwater storage changes in arctic permafrost watersheds from GRACE and in situ measurements, *Environ. Res. Lett.*, 4, 045009, 2009.
- Nash, J. E. and Sutcliffe, J. V.: River flow forecasting through conceptual models part I – discussion of principles, *J. Hydrol.*, 10, 282–290, 1970.
- Norman, J. M., Kustas, W. P., and Humes, K. S.: Source approach for estimating soil and vegetation energy fluxes in observations of directional radiometric surface temperature, *Agr. Forest Meteorol.*, 77, 263–293, 1995.
- Paiva, R. C., Durand, M. T., and Hossain, F.: Spatiotemporal interpolation of discharge across a river network by using synthetic SWOT satellite data, *Water Resour. Res.*, 51, 430–449, 2015.
- Pavelsky, T. M., Durand, M. T., Andreadis, K. M., Beighley, R. E., Paiva, R. C., Allen, G. H., and Miller, Z. F.: Assessing the potential global extent of SWOT river discharge observations, *J. Hydrol.*, 519, 1516–1525, 2014.
- Pejam, M., Arain, M., and McCaughey, J.: Energy and water vapour exchanges over a mixedwood boreal forest in Ontario, Canada, *Hydrol. Process.*, 20, 3709–3724, 2006.

- Pimentel, D., Berger, B., Filiberto, D., Newton, M., Wolfe, B., Karabinakis, E., Clark, S., Poon, E., Abbett, E., and Nandagopal, S.: Water resources: agricultural and environmental issues, *BioScience*, 54, 909–918, 2004.
- Population Census Commission: Summary and statistics report of the 2007 population and housing census, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2008.
- Priestley, C. and Taylor, R.: On the assessment of surface heat flux and evaporation using large-scale parameters, *Mon. Weather Rev.*, 100, 81–92, 1972.
- Ramillien, G., Famiglietti, J. S., and Wahr, J.: Detection of continental hydrology and glaciology signals from GRACE: a review, *Surv. Geophys.*, 29, 361–374, 2008.
- Rientjes, T. H. M., Haile, A. T., Kebede, E., Mannaerts, C. M. M., Habib, E., and Steenhuis, T. S.: Changes in land cover, rainfall and stream flow in Upper Gilgel Abbay catchment, Blue Nile basin – Ethiopia, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 15, 1979–1989, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-15-1979-2011>, 2011.
- Rodell, M., Famiglietti, J., Chen, J., Seneviratne, S., Viterbo, P., Holl, S., and Wilson, C.: Basin scale estimates of evapotranspiration using GRACE and other observations, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 31, L20504, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2004GL020873>, 2004.
- Rodell, M., Chen, J., Kato, H., Famiglietti, J. S., Nigro, J., and Wilson, C. R.: Estimating groundwater storage changes in the Mississippi River basin (USA) using GRACE, *Hydrogeol. J.*, 15, 159–166, 2007.
- Sahoo, A. K., Pan, M., Troy, T. J., Vinukollu, R. K., Sheffield, J., and Wood, E. F.: Reconciling the global terrestrial water budget using satellite remote sensing, *Remote Sens. Environ.*, 115, 1850–1865, 2011.
- Schaeffli, B. and Gupta, H. V.: Do Nash values have value?, *Hydrol. Process.*, 21, 2075–2080, 2007.
- Schiemann, R., Erdin, R., Willi, M., Frei, C., Berenguer, M., and Sempere-Torres, D.: Geostatistical radar-raingauge combination with nonparametric correlograms: methodological considerations and application in Switzerland, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 15, 1515–1536, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-15-1515-2011>, 2011.
- Schulz, J., Albert, P., Behr, H.-D., Caprion, D., Deneke, H., Dewitte, S., Dürr, B., Fuchs, P., Gratzki, A., Hechler, P., Hollmann, R., Johnston, S., Karlsson, K.-G., Manninen, T., Müller, R., Reuter, M., Riihelä, A., Roebeling, R., Selbach, N., Tetzlaff, A., Thomas, W., Werscheck, M., Wolters, E., and Zelenka, A.: Operational climate monitoring from space: the EUMETSAT Satellite Application Facility on Climate Monitoring (CM-SAF), *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 9, 1687–1709, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-9-1687-2009>, 2009.
- Setegn, S. G., Srinivasan, R., and Dargahi, B.: Hydrological modelling in the Lake Tana Basin, Ethiopia using SWAT model, *The Open Hydrology Journal*, 2008, 49–62, <https://doi.org/10.2174/1874378100802010049>, 2008.
- Sheffield, J., Ferguson, C. R., Troy, T. J., Wood, E. F., and McCabe, M. F.: Closing the terrestrial water budget from satellite remote sensing, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 36, L07403, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2009GL037338>, 2009.
- Sheffield, J., Wood, E. F., and Munoz-Arriola, F.: Long-term regional estimates of evapotranspiration for Mexico based on downscaled ISCCP data, *J. Hydrometeorol.*, 11, 253–275, 2010.
- Sheffield, J., Wood, E. F., and Roderick, M. L.: Little change in global drought over the past 60 years, *Nature*, 491, 435–438, 2012.
- Sorooshian, S., Hsu, K.-L., Gao, X., Gupta, H. V., Imam, B., and Braithwaite, D.: Evaluation of PERSIANN system satellite-based estimates of tropical rainfall, *B. Am. Meteorol. Soc.*, 81, 2035–2046, 2000.
- Steenhuis, T. S., Collick, A. S., Easton, Z. M., Leggesse, E. S., Bayabil, H. K., White, E. D., Awulachew, S. B., Adgo, E., and Ahmed, A. A.: Predicting discharge and sediment for the Abay (Blue Nile) with a simple model, *Hydrol. Process.*, 23, 3728–3737, 2009.
- Stehr, A., Debels, P., Romero, F., and Alcayaga, H.: Hydrological modelling with SWAT under conditions of limited data availability: evaluation of results from a Chilean case study, *Hydrolog. Sci. J.*, 53, 588–601, 2008.
- Swenson, S. and Wahr, J.: Post-processing removal of correlated errors in GRACE data, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 33, L08402, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2005GL025285>, 2006.
- Syed, T. H., Famiglietti, J. S., Rodell, M., Chen, J., and Wilson, C. R.: Analysis of terrestrial water storage changes from GRACE and GLDAS, *Water Resour. Res.*, 44, W02433, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2006WR005779>, 2008.
- Tarpanelli, A., Brocca, L., Barbetta, S., Faruolo, M., Lacava, T., and Moramarco, T.: Coupling MODIS and radar altimetry data for discharge estimation in poorly gauged river basins, *IEEE J. Sel. Top. Appl.*, 8, 141–148, 2015.
- Taye, M. T. and Willems, P.: Influence of climate variability on representative QDF predictions of the upper Blue Nile basin, *J. Hydrol.*, 411, 355–365, 2011.
- Teferi, E., Uhlenbrook, S., Bewket, W., Wenninger, J., and Simane, B.: The use of remote sensing to quantify wetland loss in the Choke Mountain range, Upper Blue Nile basin, Ethiopia, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 14, 2415–2428, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-14-2415-2010>, 2010.
- Tekleab, S., Uhlenbrook, S., Mohamed, Y., Savenije, H. H. G., Temesgen, M., and Wenninger, J.: Water balance modeling of Upper Blue Nile catchments using a top-down approach, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 15, 2179–2193, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-15-2179-2011>, 2011.
- Thiemig, V., Rojas, R., Zambrano-Bigiarini, M., and De Roo, A.: Hydrological evaluation of satellite-based rainfall estimates over the Volta and Baro-Akobo Basin, *J. Hydrol.*, 499, 324–338, 2013.
- Uhlenbrook, S., Mohamed, Y., and Gagne, A. S.: Analyzing catchment behavior through catchment modeling in the Gilgel Abay, Upper Blue Nile River Basin, Ethiopia, *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 14, 2153–2165, <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-14-2153-2010>, 2010.
- Van Delft, G., El Serafy, G., and Heemink, A.: The ensemble particle filter (EnPF) in rainfall-runoff models, *Stoch. Env. Res. Risk A.*, 23, 1203–1211, 2009.
- Van Dijk, A. I., Brakenridge, G. R., Kettner, A. J., Beck, H. E., De Groeve, T., and Schellekens, J.: River gauging at global scale using optical and passive microwave remote sensing, *Water Resour. Res.*, 52, 6404–6418, 2016.
- Viste, E., Korecha, D., and Sorteberg, A.: Recent drought and precipitation tendencies in Ethiopia, *Theor. Appl. Climatol.*, 112, 535–551, 2013.

- Vrugt, J. A., Ter Braak, C., Diks, C., Robinson, B. A., Hyman, J. M., and Higdon, D.: Accelerating Markov chain Monte Carlo simulation by differential evolution with self-adaptive randomized subspace sampling, *Int. J. Nonlin. Sci. Num.*, 10, 273–290, 2009.
- Wale, A., Rientjes, T., Gieske, A., and Getachew, H.: Ungauged catchment contributions to Lake Tana's water balance, *Hydrol. Process.*, 23, 3682–3693, 2009.
- Wang, H., Guan, H., Gutiérrez-Jurado, H. A., and Simmons, C. T.: Examination of water budget using satellite products over Australia, *J. Hydrol.*, 511, 546–554, 2014.
- Zambrano-Bigiarini, M.: hydroGOF: Goodness-of-fit functions for comparison of simulated and observed hydrological time series, R package version 0.3-7, 2013.