

The logo for the SWAT 2015 conference. It features a blue rectangular background. At the top, there is a white graphic of stylized water waves. Below this, the text "SWAT 2015" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath that, in smaller white capital letters, is "PULA / SARDINIA / ITALY".

SWAT 2015

PULA / SARDINIA / ITALY

Climate Change effects in a medium-sized Mediterranean basin using the tRIBS hydrologic model



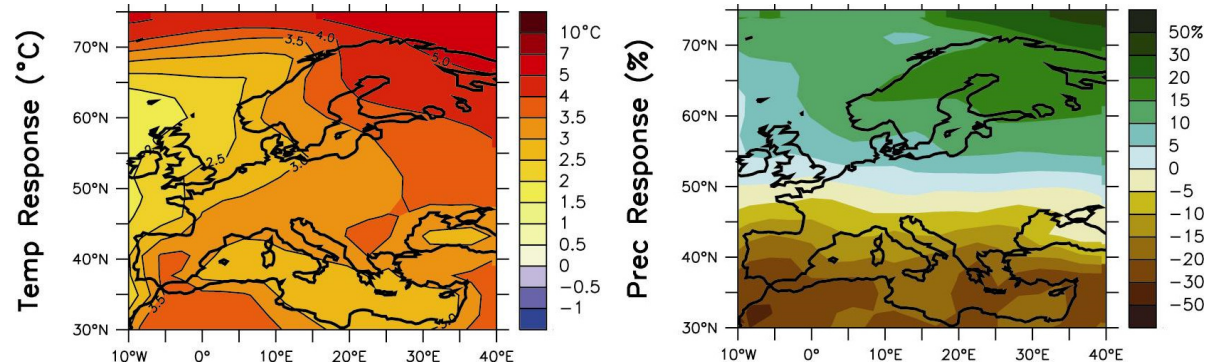
M. Piras⁽¹⁾, G. Mascaro^(1,2), R. Deidda⁽¹⁾, E. R. Vivoni⁽²⁾

(1) CINFAI, University of Cagliari, Italy

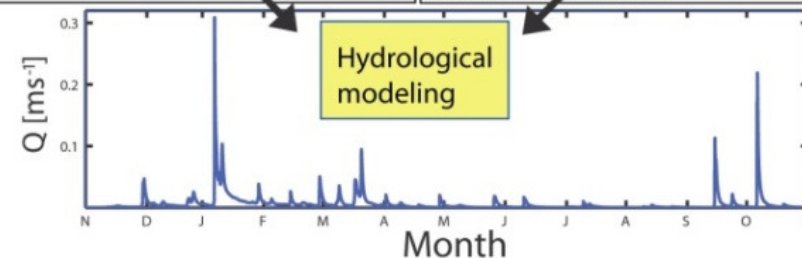
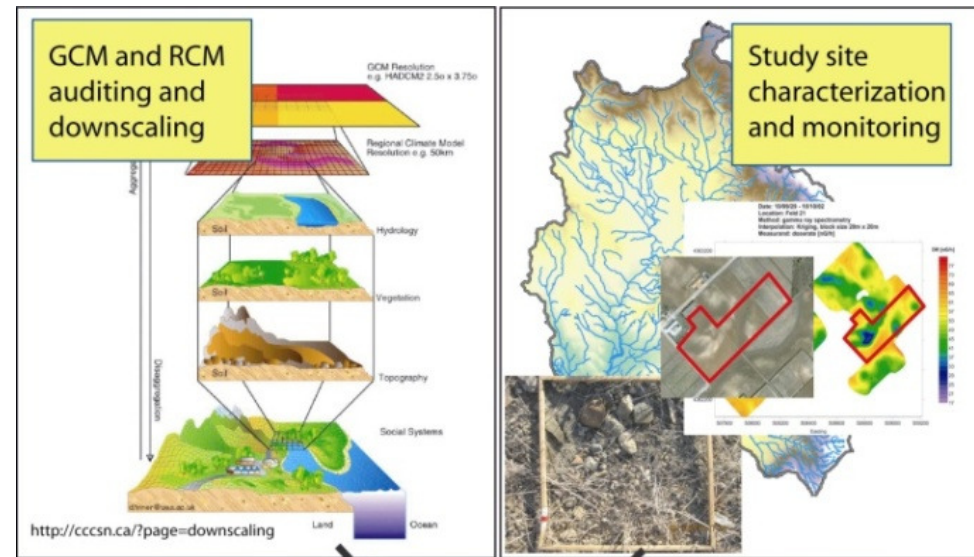
(2) Arizona State University, USA

Pula, June 24th 2015

- The **Mediterranean basin** is expected to be at risk under **climate change** (CC), in particular water resources. CC projections suggest increasing frequency of extremes.
- The local impacts on hydrological cycle and water resources due to CC may be evaluated by coupling **global and regional climate models** with **distributed hydrological models**.
- **Downscaling techniques** can be used to bridge the scale mismatch between climate and hydrological models.



MMD-A1B simulations. Annual mean. IPCC 2007



Develop a modeling approach which allows evaluating local hydrological impacts of climate change in a study site in Sardinia, Italy.

1. Use different future climate scenarios as driving inputs of hydrological simulations in the future period 2041-2070.
2. Apply a hydrological model (tRIBS) to simulate land-surface water and energy fluxes at high spatial and temporal resolution.
3. Compare results with simulations of other hydrologic models and characterize uncertainty using multi-model ensemble techniques

Provide high resolution spatio-temporal information which can be used to support management water resources at local scale.

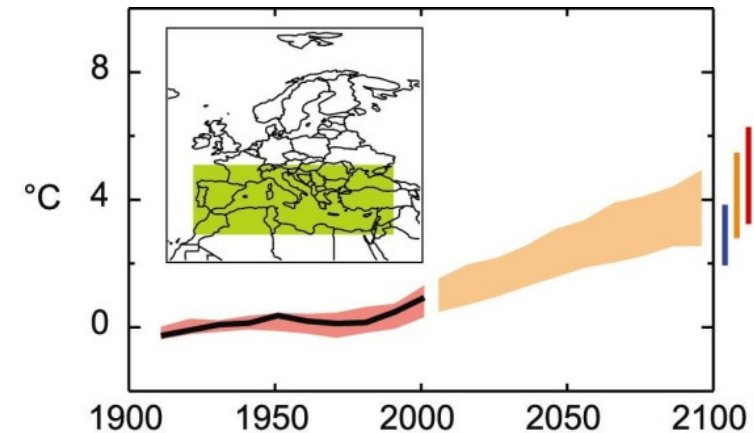
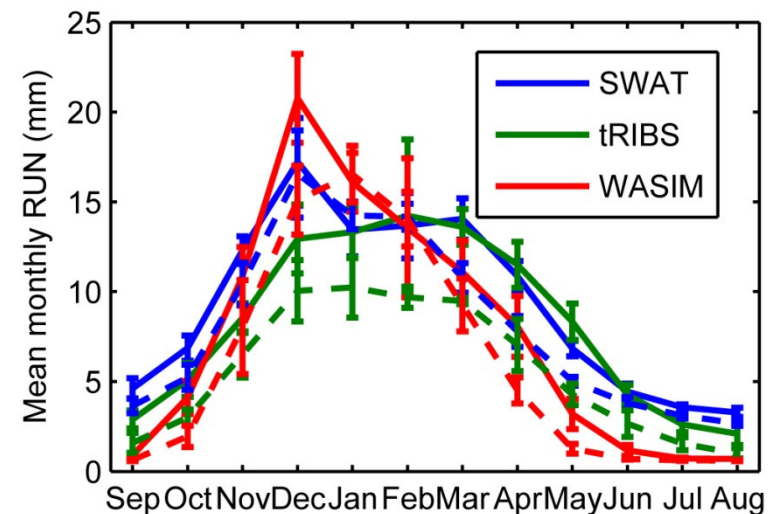


Fig. 11.4. IPCC Report on Regional Climate Projections





Outline

- Case study and data collection
- Hydrologic model tRIBS:
 - Overview of the tRIBS model
 - Description of the downscaling strategies
 - Calibration and validation in Rio Mannu basin
- Evaluation of local hydrologic impact of climate change:
 - Climate models outputs
 - Hydrologic impact of CC
 - Propagation of precipitation extremes into discharge extremes
 - Comparison of Coarse and Fine simulations
- Conclusions



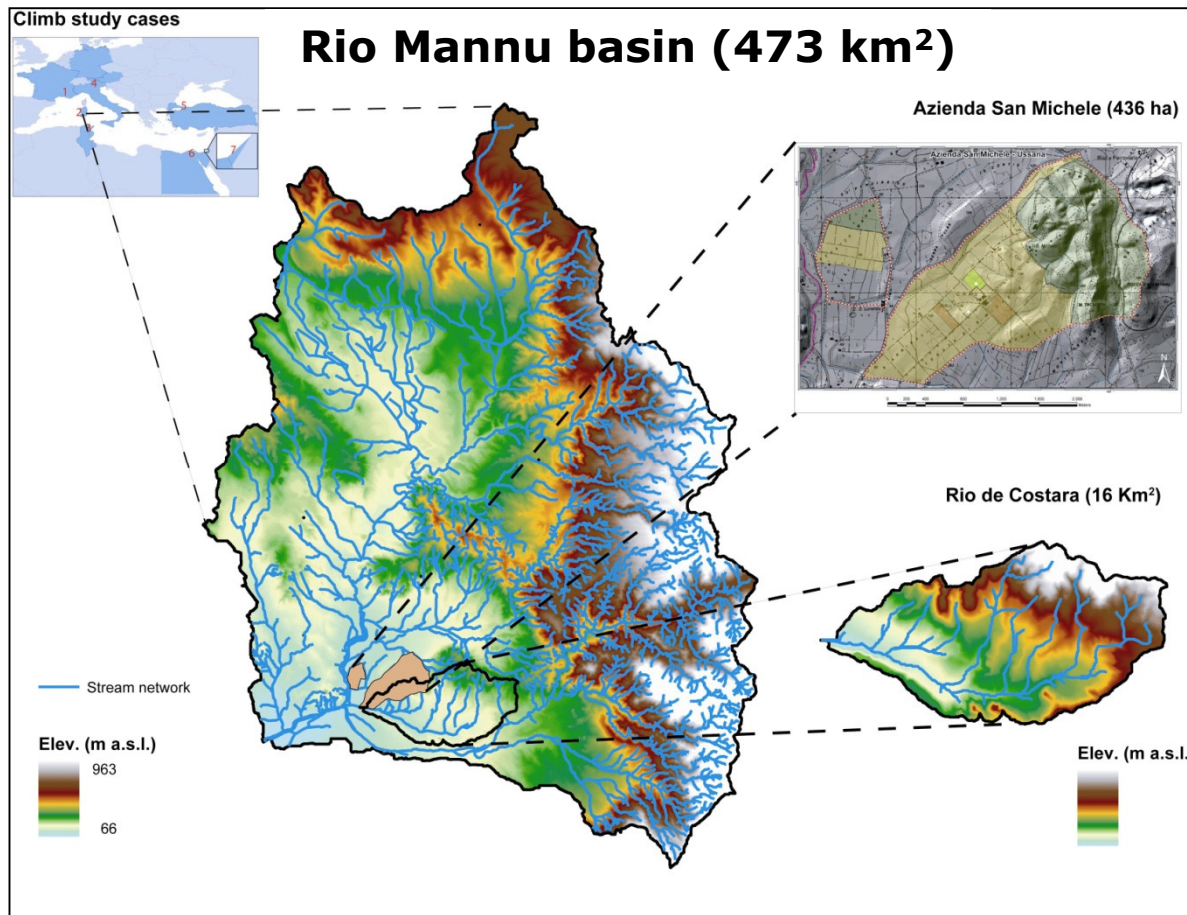
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Case study

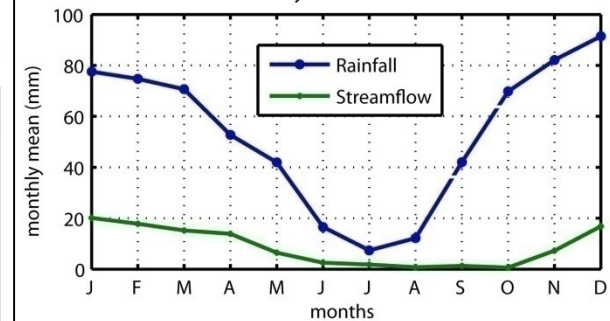
The case study is the Rio Mannu (RM) basin, Sardinia, Italy

Study case location and terrain (*Mascaro et al. 2013*)

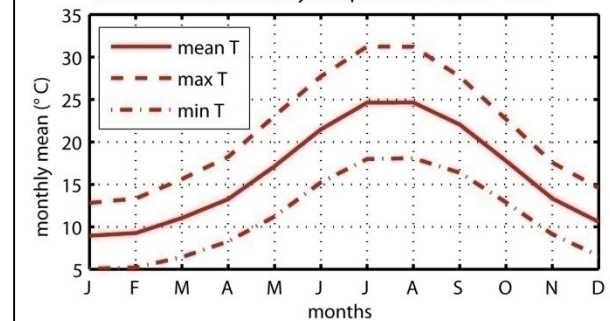


Average intra-annual variability of precipitation, streamflow and temperature

Trend of mean monthly rain and streamflow 1922–1996



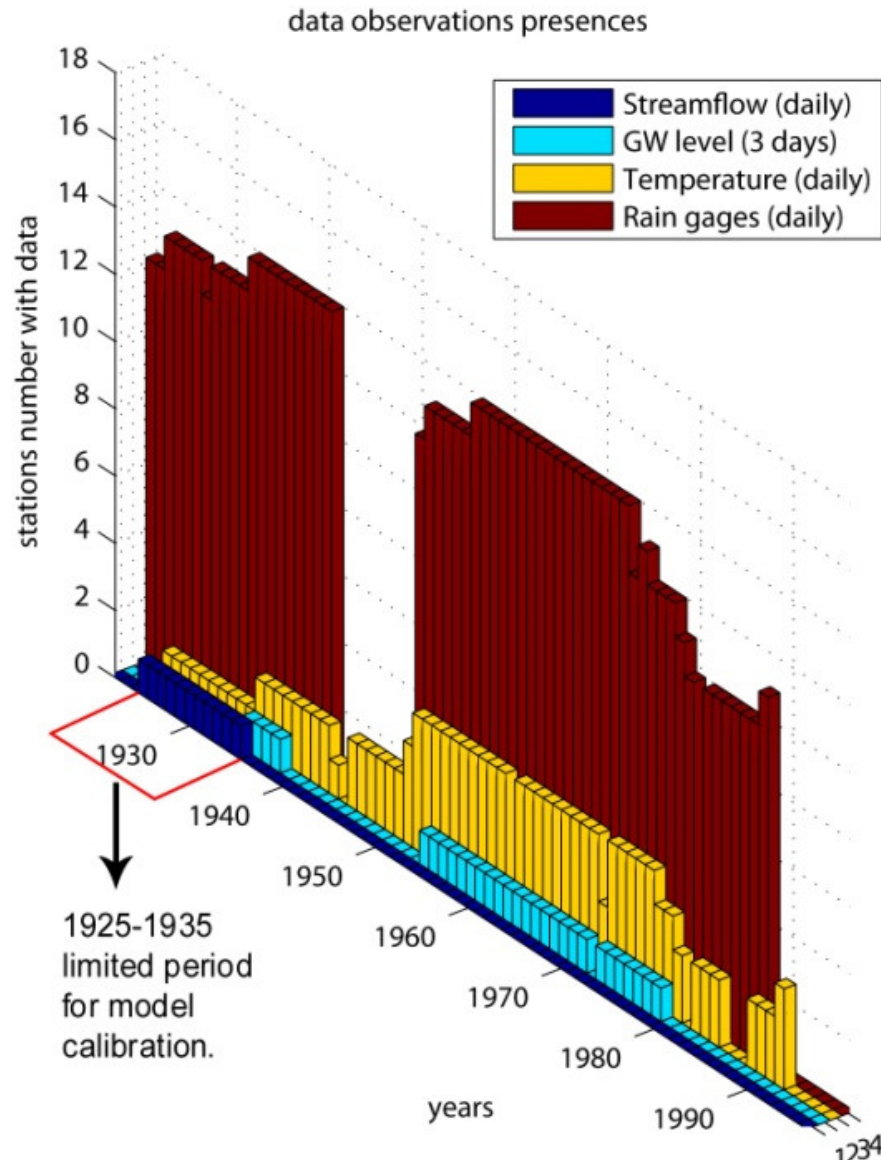
Trend of mean monthly temperatures 1922–1996



Rio Mannu physiographic properties (from 10-m DEM)

| H _{min} | H _{max} | H _{mean} | S |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------|
| [m] | [m] | [m] | [%] |
| 66 | 963 | 296 | 17.3 |

Limited data availability and uncertainty

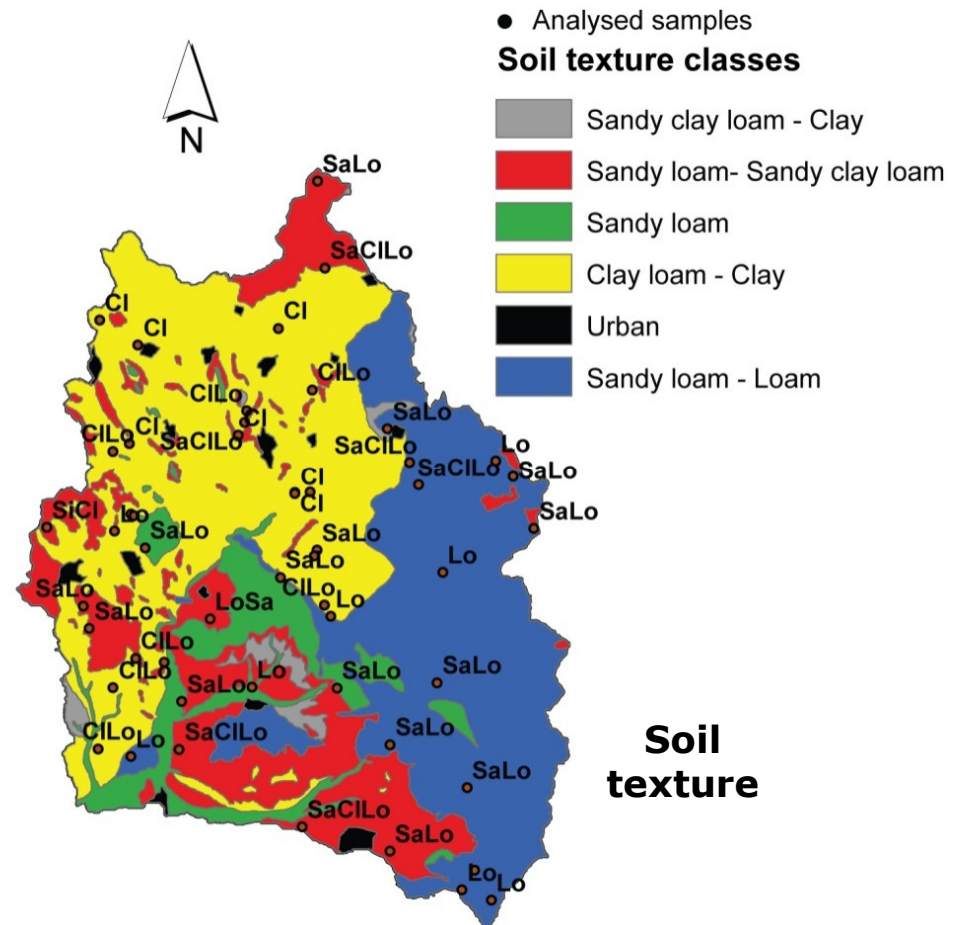
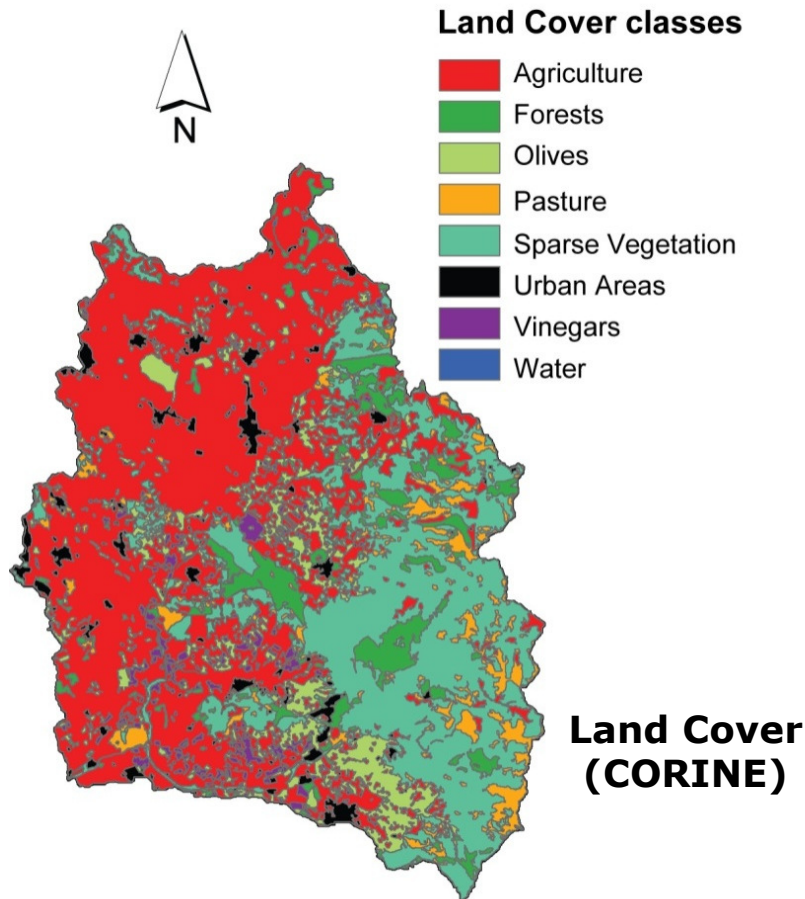


- Streamflow measurements covering only eleven years (1925-1935)
 - 12 rain gages working at the same time.
 - One station with minimum and maximum temperatures.
- ↓
- *Limited data availability for hydrological model calibration.*
 - *Limited period for model calibration, constrained by the presence of streamflow data.*
 - *Uncertainties in streamflow data published from Italian technical reports (Annali Idrologici).*
 - *Daily resolution too coarse for hydrologic simulations.*



Case study

Field campaigns to characterize the RM basin properties.





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TIN based real time Integrated basin Simulator (**tRIBS**) is a fully-distributed model of coupled hydrologic processes.

Model history

- Originally developed at MIT by Prof. Rafael Bras' research group.
- Heritage of RIBS (*Garrote and Bras, 1995*) and CHILD (*Tucker et al., 2001*) models:

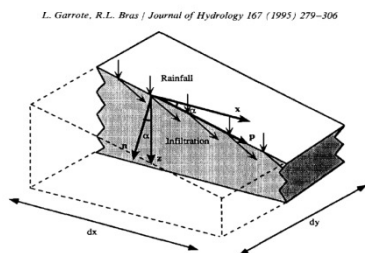


Fig. 1. Coordinate systems used for infiltration analysis on a grid element.

Garrote and Bras (1995)

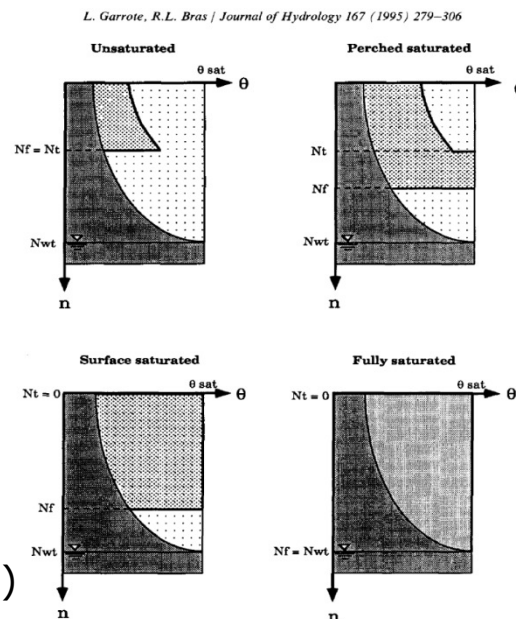


Fig. 4. Four runoff-generation states for a soil column.

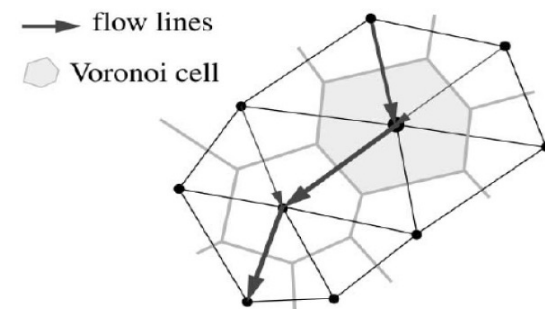


Fig. 5. Illustration of steepest-descent flow routing in TIN framework.

Tucker et al. (2001)

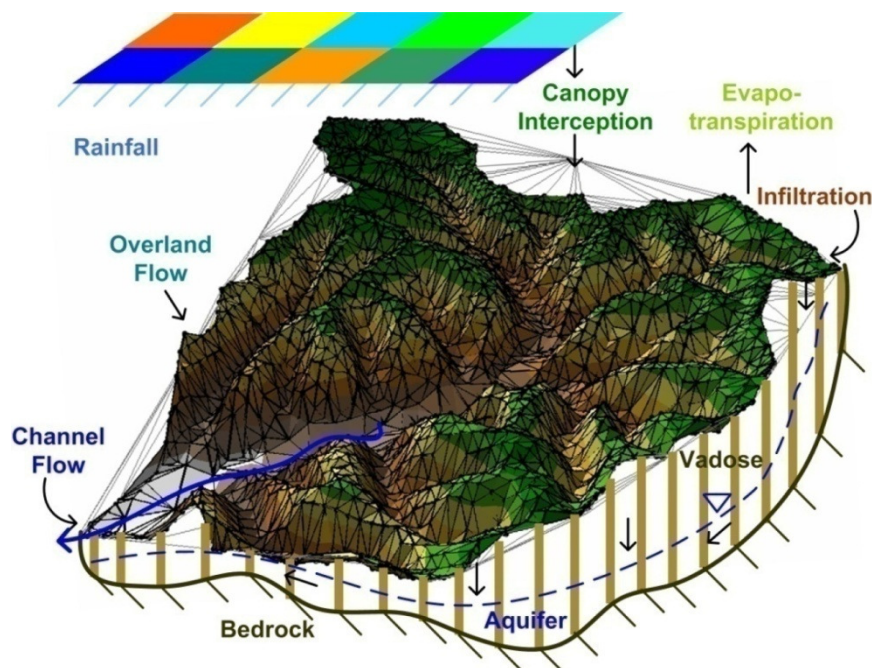
- Model description in *Ivanov et al. (2004a)*.



tRIBS overview

tRIBS represents the terrain through TINs and models the different hydrologic processes:

Schematisation of hydrological processes represented in tRIBS model (Ivanov et al. 2004a, 2004b).



- Interception (*Rutter et al. 1972*), evaporation and transpiration (*Wigmosta et al., 1994; Deardorff, 1978*).
- Solar radiation and energy balance (*Lin, 1980; Hu and Islam, 1995*).
- Infiltration in heterogeneous and anisotropic soils (*Cabral et al., 1992; Beven, 1982,1984*).
- Soil humidity redistribution (*Morel-Seytoux et al. 1974; Neuman 1976*). Coupled vadose and saturated zones with dynamic water table.
- Topography-driven lateral fluxes in vadose and groundwater (*Smith et al., 1993; Childs et al., 1969*).
- Four runoff generation mechanisms.
- Hydrologic and hydraulic routing.



tRIBS overview

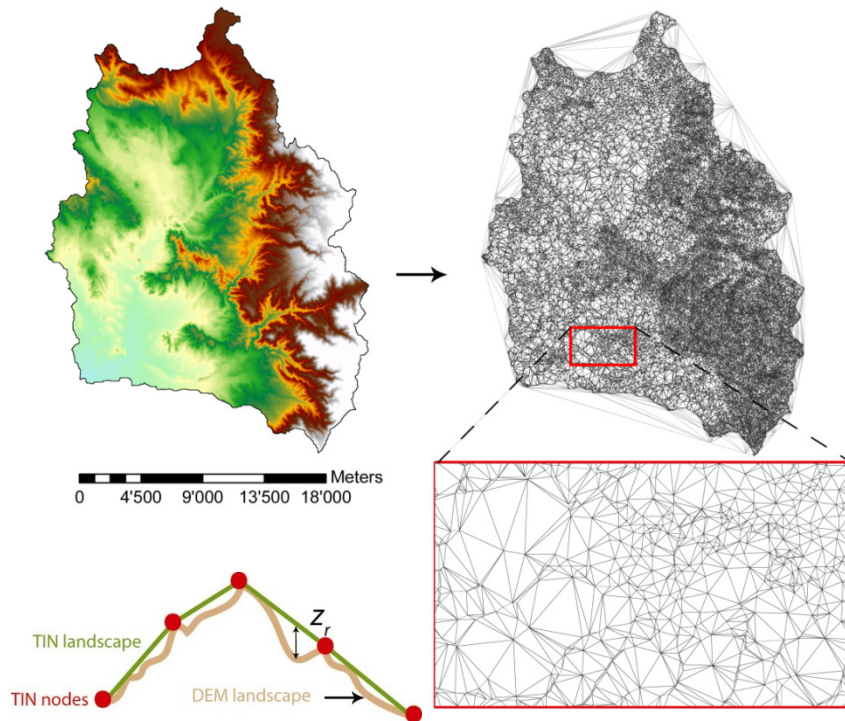
Topographic representation via Triangulated Irregular Networks (TINs)

DEM 10-m resolution.

TIN with $z_r = 3$ m.

Advantages:

- Significant reduction of computational nodes as compared to grid-based models (*Vivoni et al., 2004 and 2005*).
- Multiple resolution domains.
- Preservation of linear features such as stream networks and terrain breaklines.



Parameters used to quantify spatial aggregation from DEM to TIN:

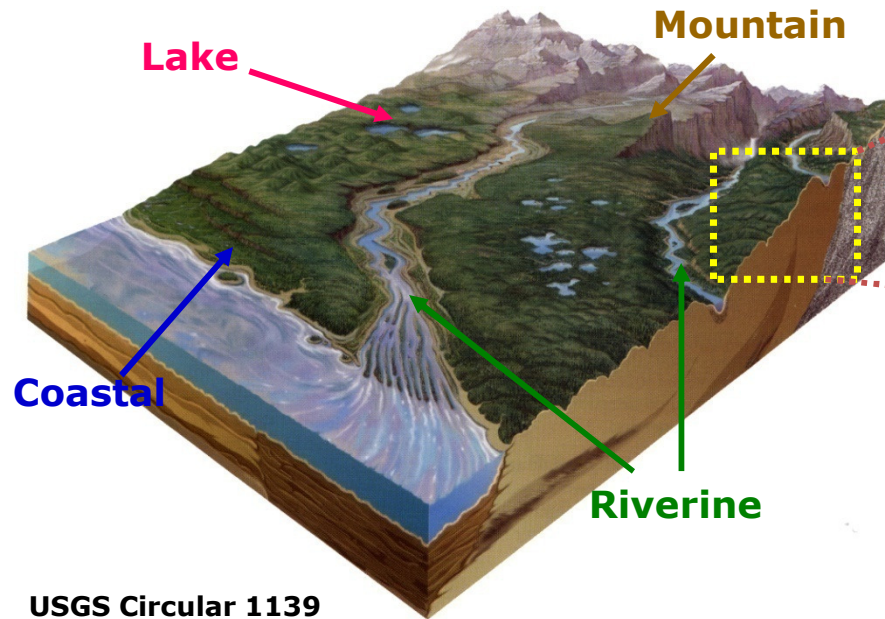
$$d = \frac{n_t}{n_g} \text{ Horizontal point density.}$$

$$z_r \text{ Vertical tolerance.}$$



Hydrologic Processes

Unsaturated-Saturated dynamics

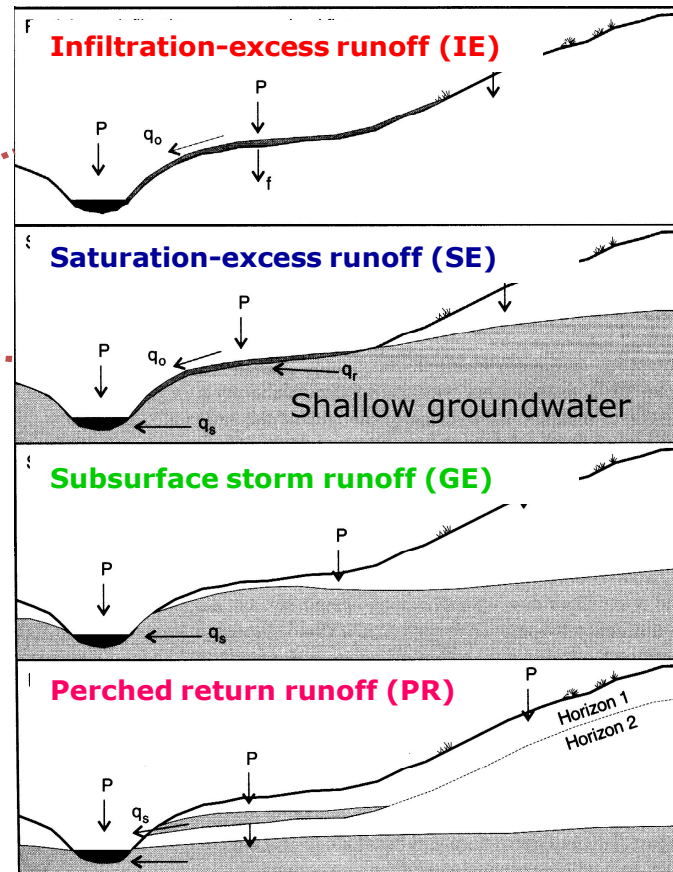


USGS Circular 1139

Surface-Groundwater Interactions in different Landscapes and Scales

Runoff is generated via multiple mechanisms depending on the interactions of infiltration fronts and the water table. Runoff types can differ in time and among cells.

Hillslope runoff processes



Beven (2002) Rainfall-Runoff Modeling



tRIBS: Applications

tRIBS applications

- Multiyear, continuous simulations using NEXRAD (*Ivanov et al., 2004a, 2004b*).
- Event-based hydrograph predictions based on radar now-casting fields (*Vivoni et al., 2006*) or short-lead-time NWP fields.
- Track hydrologic response to coarse satellite-derived or climate models precipitations forcing downscaled with two different disaggregation schemes (*Forman et al., 2008; Mascaro et al., 2010*).
- Assess the impact of climate change (*Liuzzo et al., 2010*).
- Assess the effects of different initialization on hillslopes and basin response (*Noto et al. 2008*).

Liuzzo et al. (2010). →

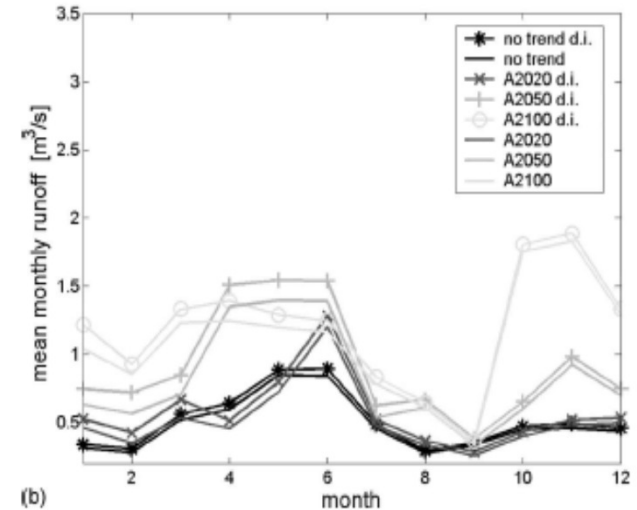


Fig. 4. Mean monthly runoff (mm) for: (a) Group A; (b) Group B scenarios

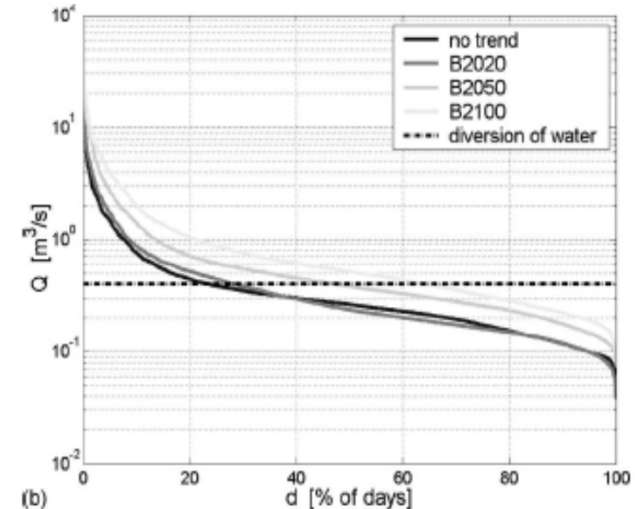


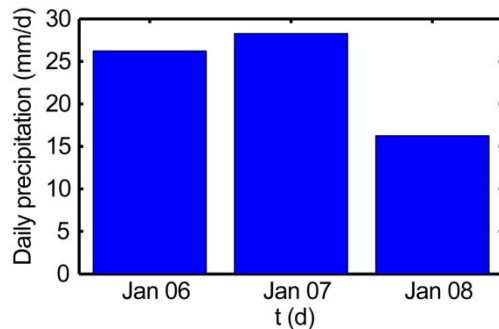
Fig. 6. Exceedance curves for the climate scenarios in: (a) Group A; (b) Group B for the same initial groundwater table positions



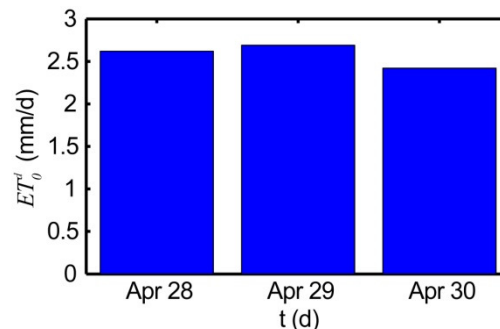
Downscaling strategies

Downscaling of daily hydrometeorological data (*Mascaro et al., 2013*).

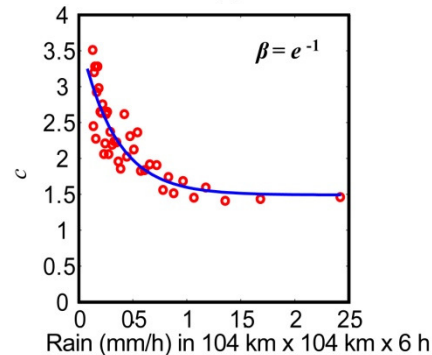
Daily rainfall



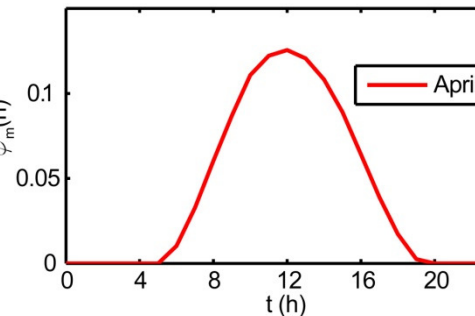
Daily evapotranspiration



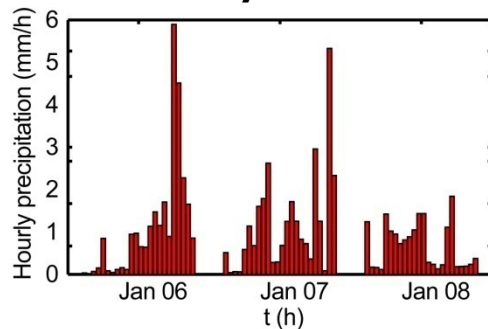
STRAIN model
Deidda et al. 1999.



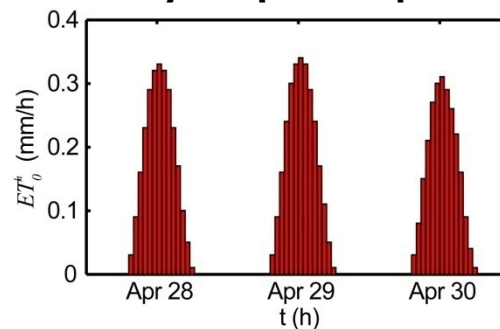
Dimensionless
function.



Hourly rainfall



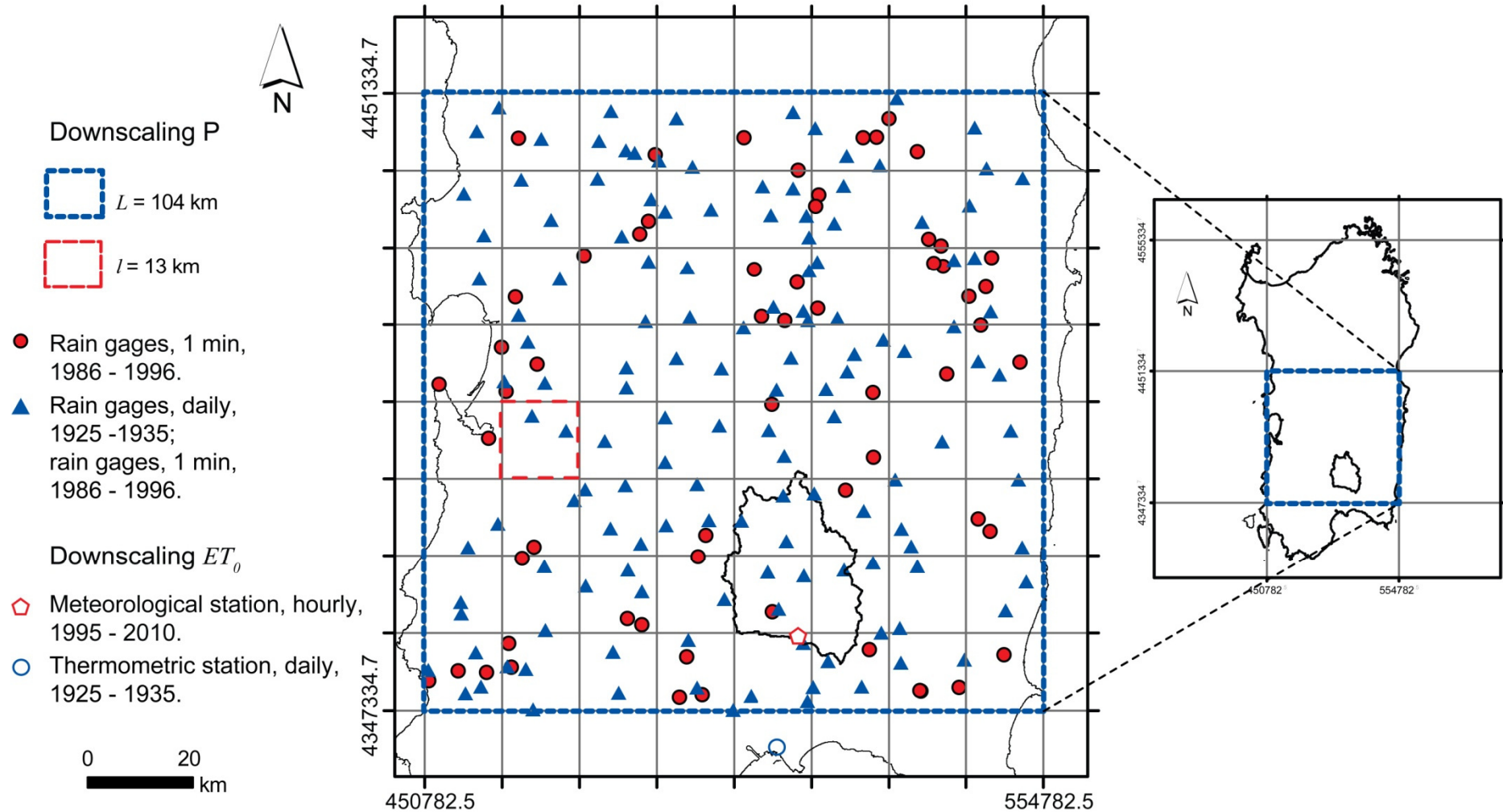
Hourly evapotranspiration



- tRIBS requires hourly hydrometeorological variables as inputs.
- Observed hydrometeorological data in the calibration period have daily resolution.
- Two downscaling strategies have been implemented to disaggregated daily precipitation and potential evapotranspiration (*Mascaro et al., 2013*).

Downscaling strategies

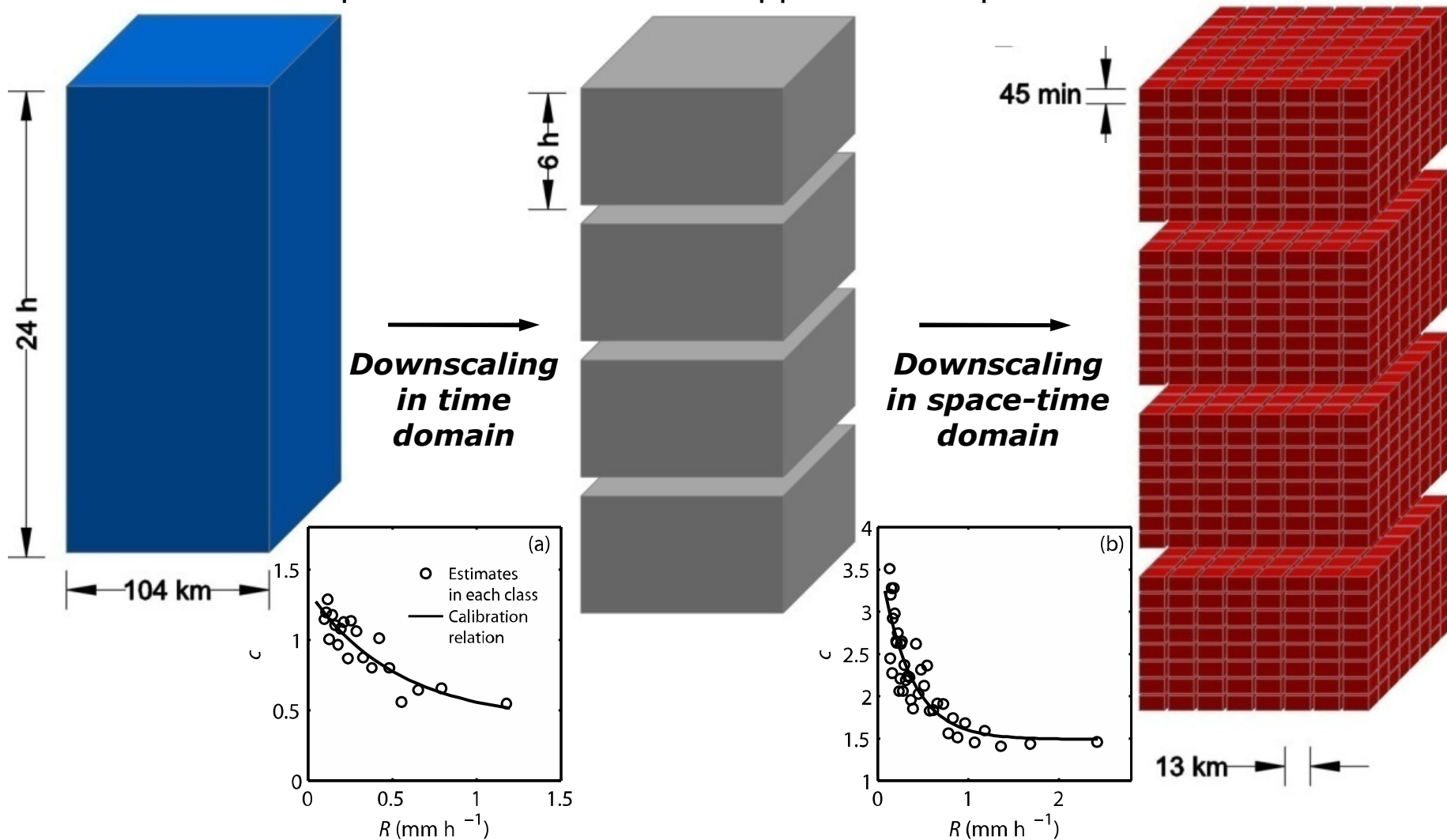
Database used to calibrate the downscaling tools



Downscaling strategies

Downscaling strategy for precipitation

A spatio-temporal precipitation downscaling algorithm (*Deidda, 1999, 2000*) has been calibrated in the period 1986–1996 and applied in the period 1925–1935.

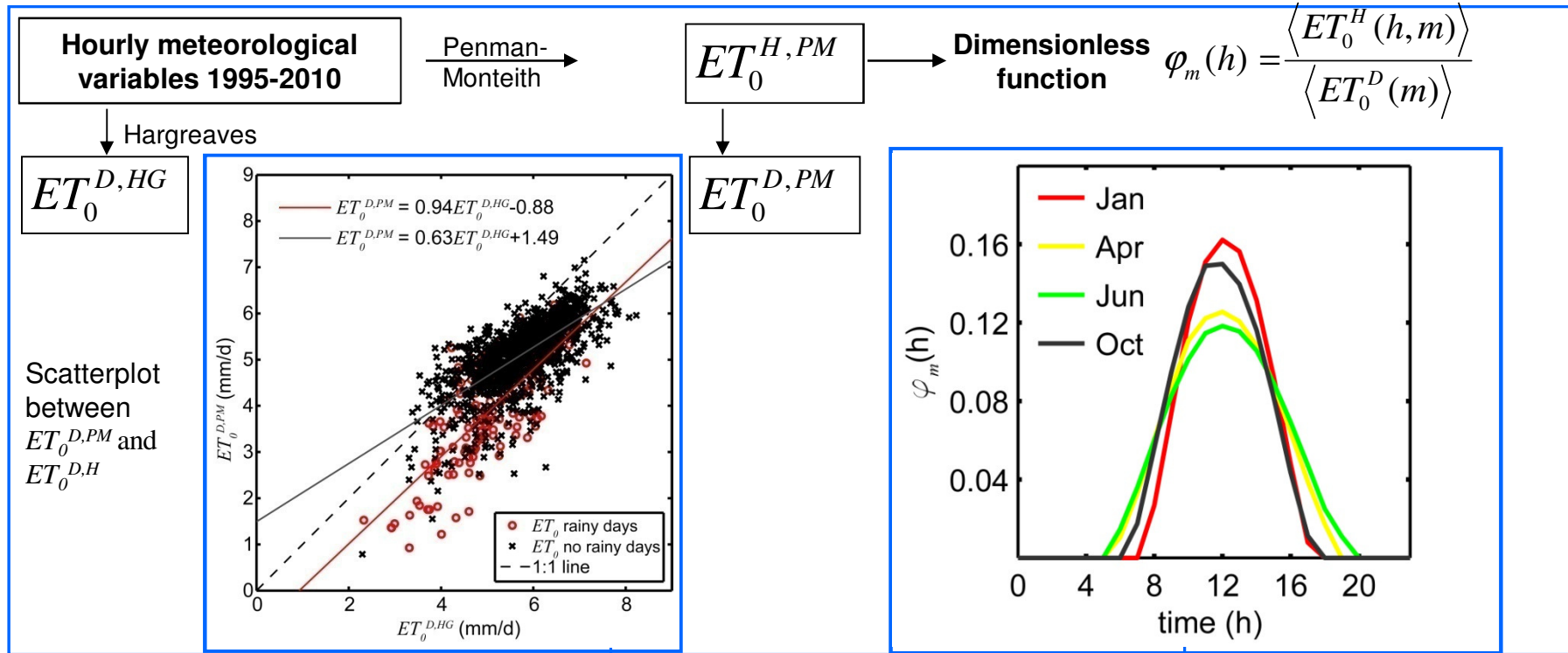




Downscaling strategies

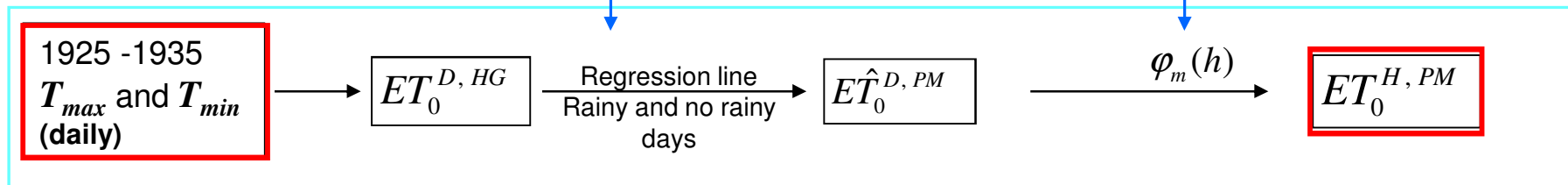
Downscaling strategy for ET_0

Calibration



Application

Mascaro et al. (2013).

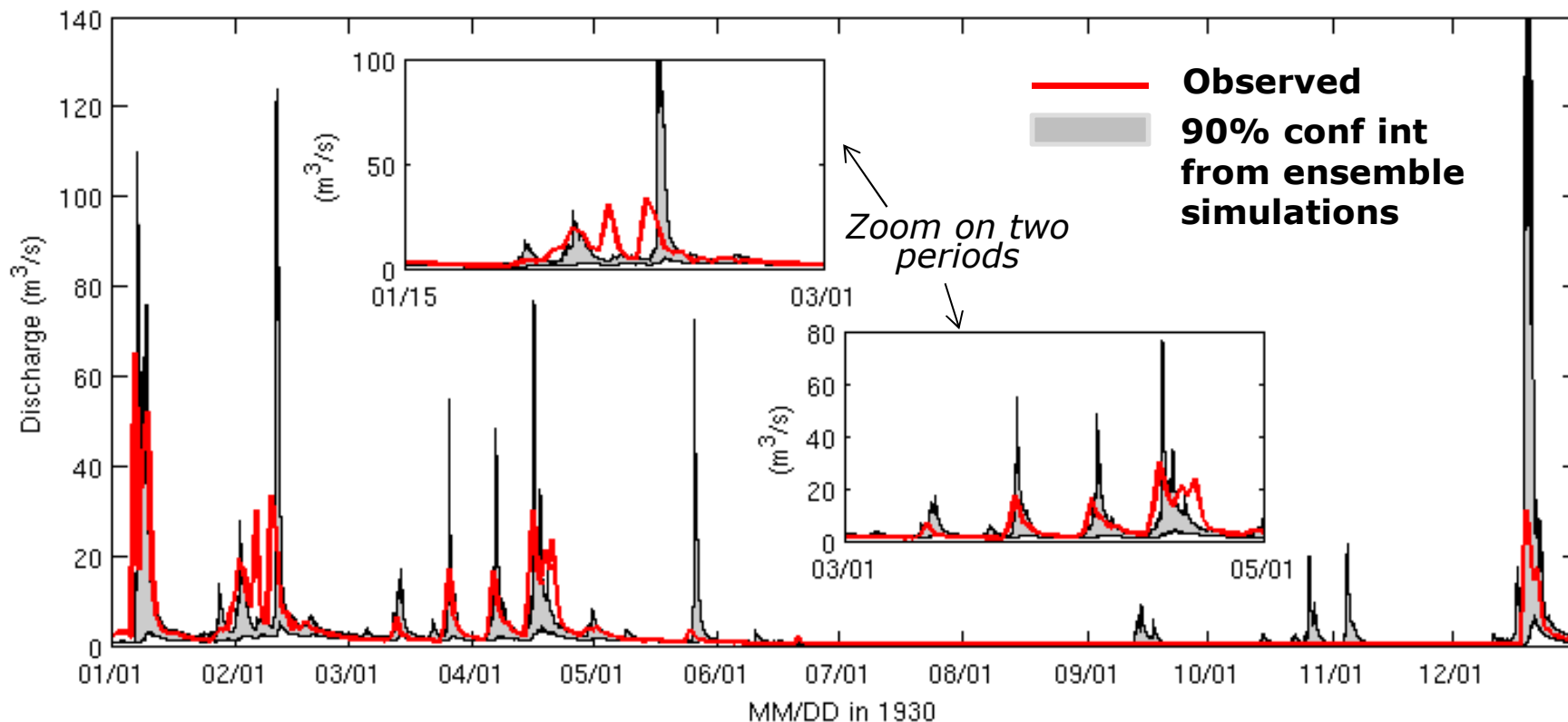




tRIBS calibration

- We selected the **year 1930** as calibration period due to higher streamflow variability and higher confidence in published discharge data (*Mascaro et al., 2013*).
- We created an **ensemble of 50 disaggregated rainfall fields** and run the tRIBS model.

| Time scale | Calibration NSC Min, Mean, Max |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Daily | -3.53, 0.07, 0.61 |
| Weekly | -5.50, 0.46, 0.83 |
| Monthly | -0.06, 0.55, 0.89 |



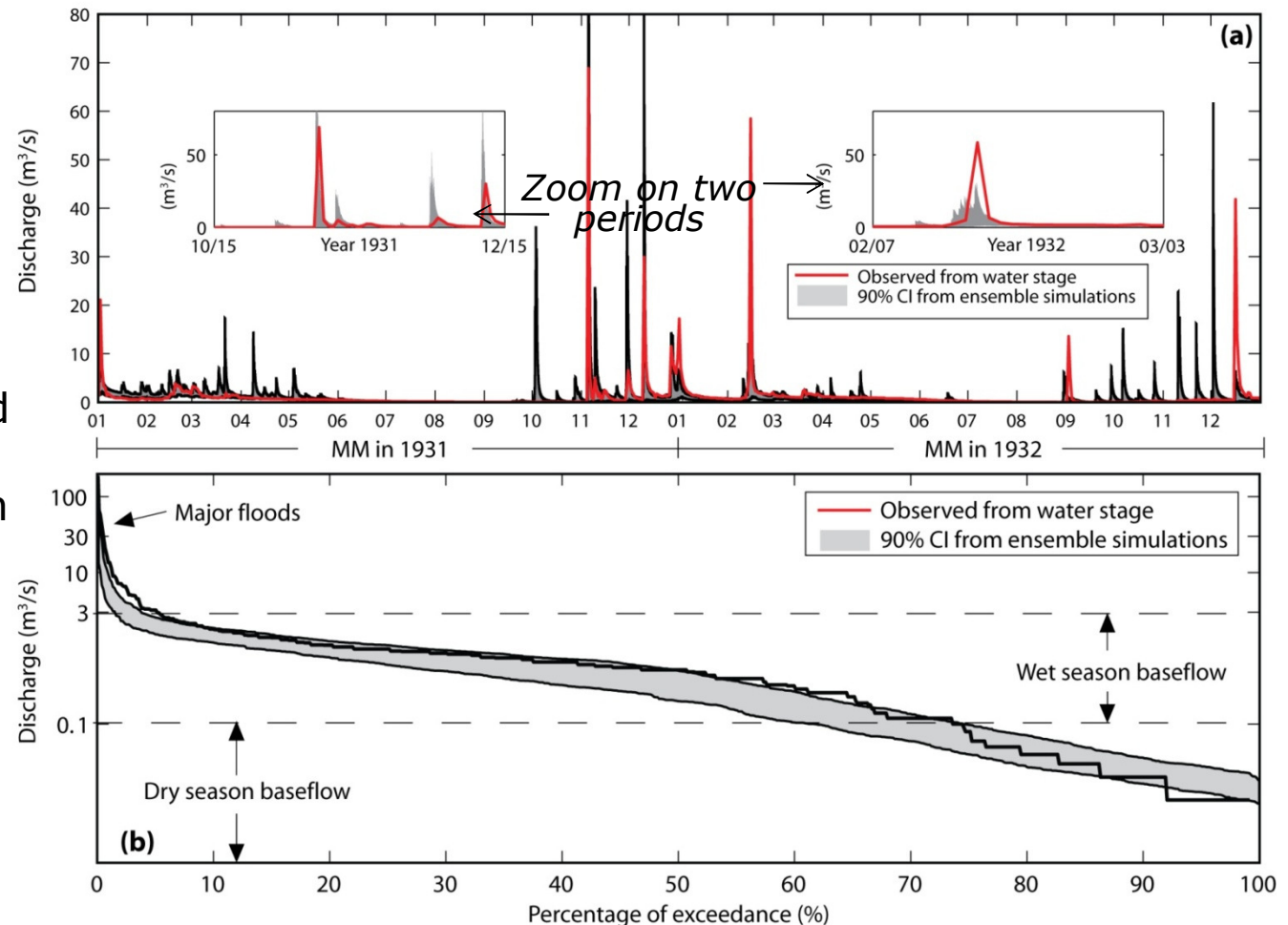


tRIBS validation

- **Years 1931-1932** were used as validation period (*Mascaro et al., 2013*).

Good performances in reproducing the discharge time series over year 1931 and most of 1932.

Excellent agreement between the shapes of observed and simulated FDCs, even in the range of the dry season base flow.



| Time scale | Validation NSC |
|------------|-------------------|
| | Min, Mean, Max |
| Daily | -0.99, 0.02, 0.42 |
| Weekly | -0.72, 0.13, 0.47 |
| Monthly | 0.30, 0.25, 0.74 |



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Climate models outputs

Selection and validation of climate models

- Climate models of the ENSEMBLES project have been analysed and validated by comparison with CRU E-OBS data (*Deidda et al., 2013*).
- Future previsions are based on the emission scenario A1B (*Nakićeović et al., 2000*).
- Selection of 4 models: best combination of 2 GCMs and 3 RCMs.

| | Climatological center and model | Acronym | | | Acronym of selected CMs |
|------|---|----------|--------|----------|-------------------------|
| GCMs | Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction, Met Office, UK HadCM3 Model (high sensitivity) | HadCM3 H | GCMs | HadCM3 → | RCA → HCH-RCA |
| | Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Germany ECHAM5 / MPI OM | ECHAM5 E | | | |
| RCMs | Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), Sweden RCA Model | RCA RC | ECHAM5 | → | → REMO → ECH-REMO |
| | Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany REMO Model | REM RE | | | → RACMO → ECH-RMO |
| | Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut (KNMI), Netherlands RACMO2 Model | RMO RM | | | |

- Outputs of the 4 climate models have been downscaled and bias corrected to be used as input for hydrologic models.

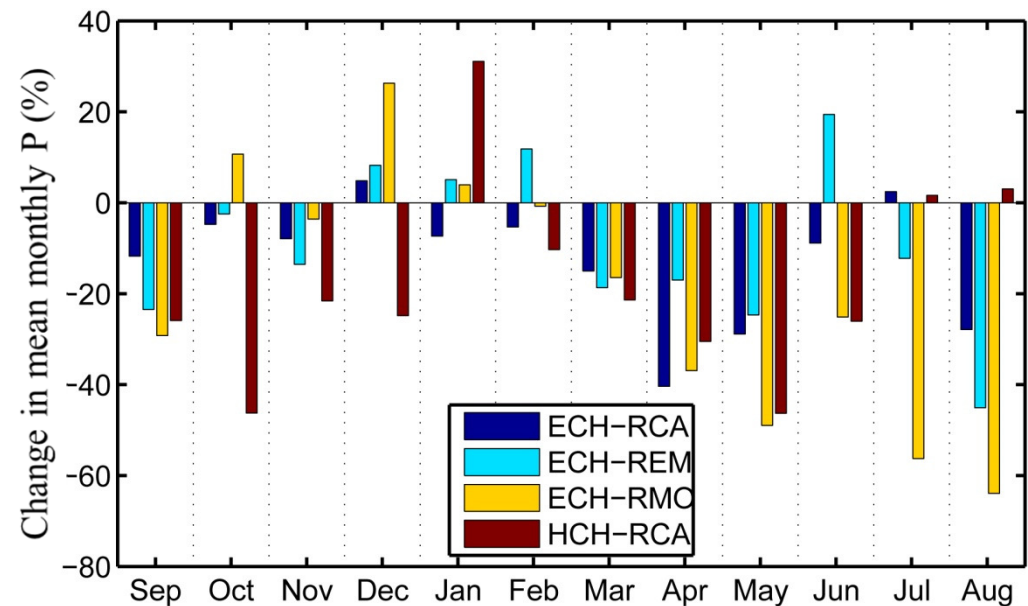
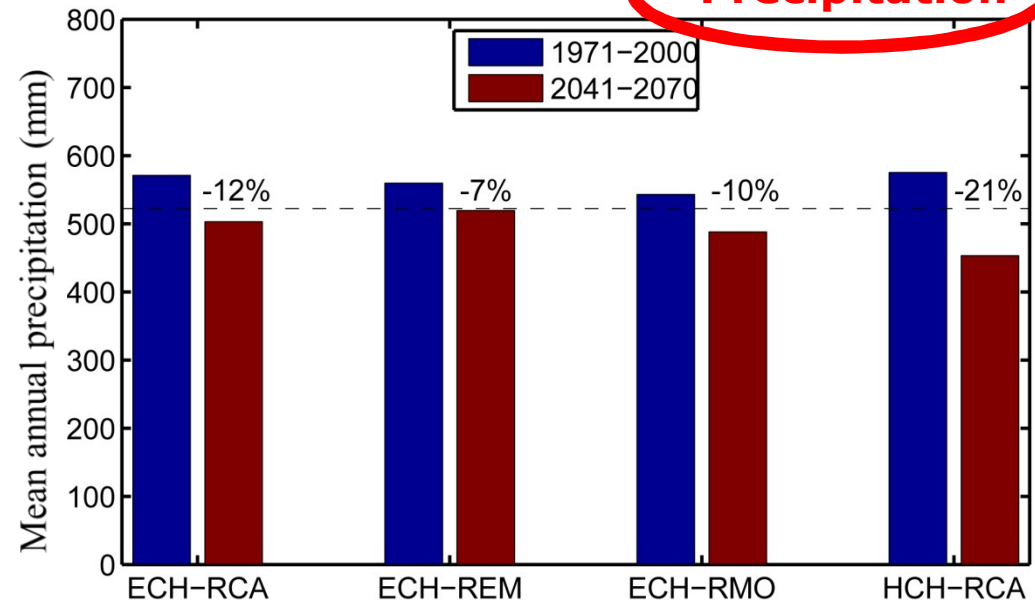


Climate models outputs

Analyses of RCMs outputs

- Comparison between **reference (1971-2000)** and **future (2041-2070)** periods.
- All climate models predict decreasing mean annual precipitation, P (average $\sim 12\%$).
- According to some CMs, precipitation could increase in winter months.
- Slight changes in seasonality of precipitations is observed.

Precipitation



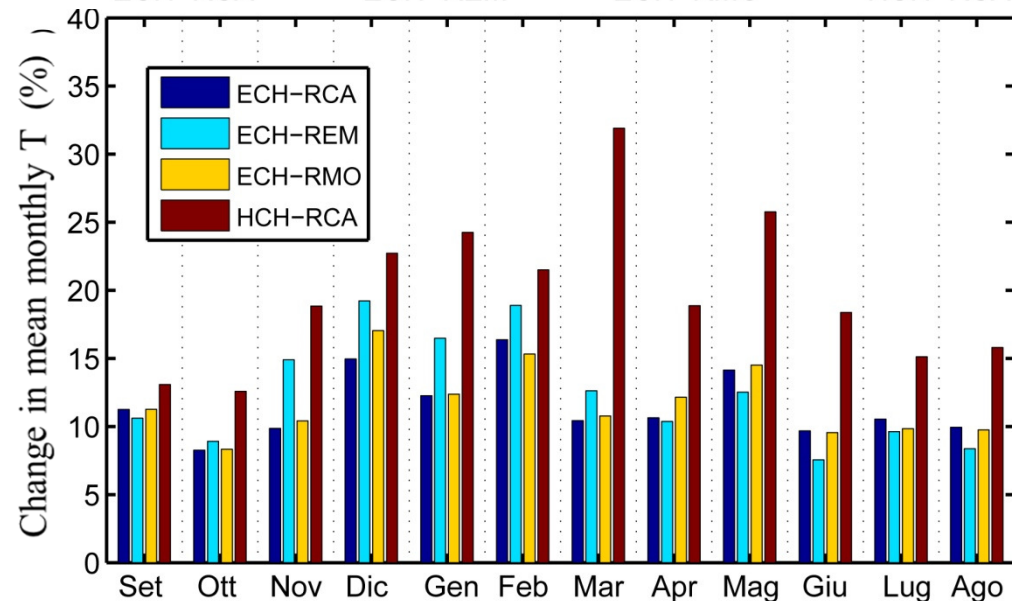
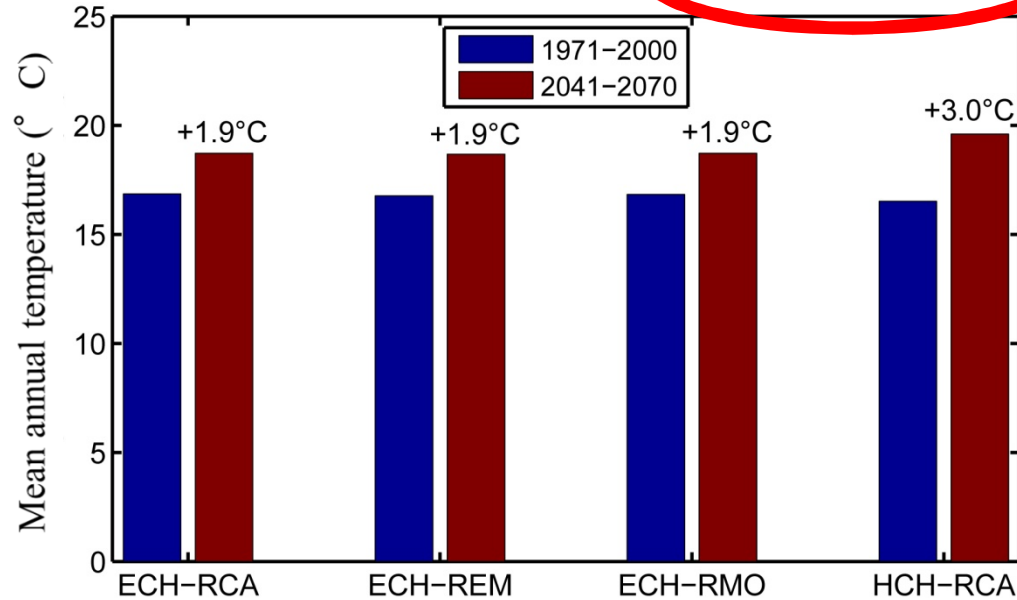


Climate models outputs

Analyses of RCMs outputs

- All climate models predict increasing annual temperatures (average of $\sim 2.2^{\circ}\text{C}$). The HCH-RCA model predicts the most increasing temperature (3.0°C).
- Temperatures raise in FUT is confirmed by monthly mean values where again the HCH-RCA model gives the highest increases.

Temperatures





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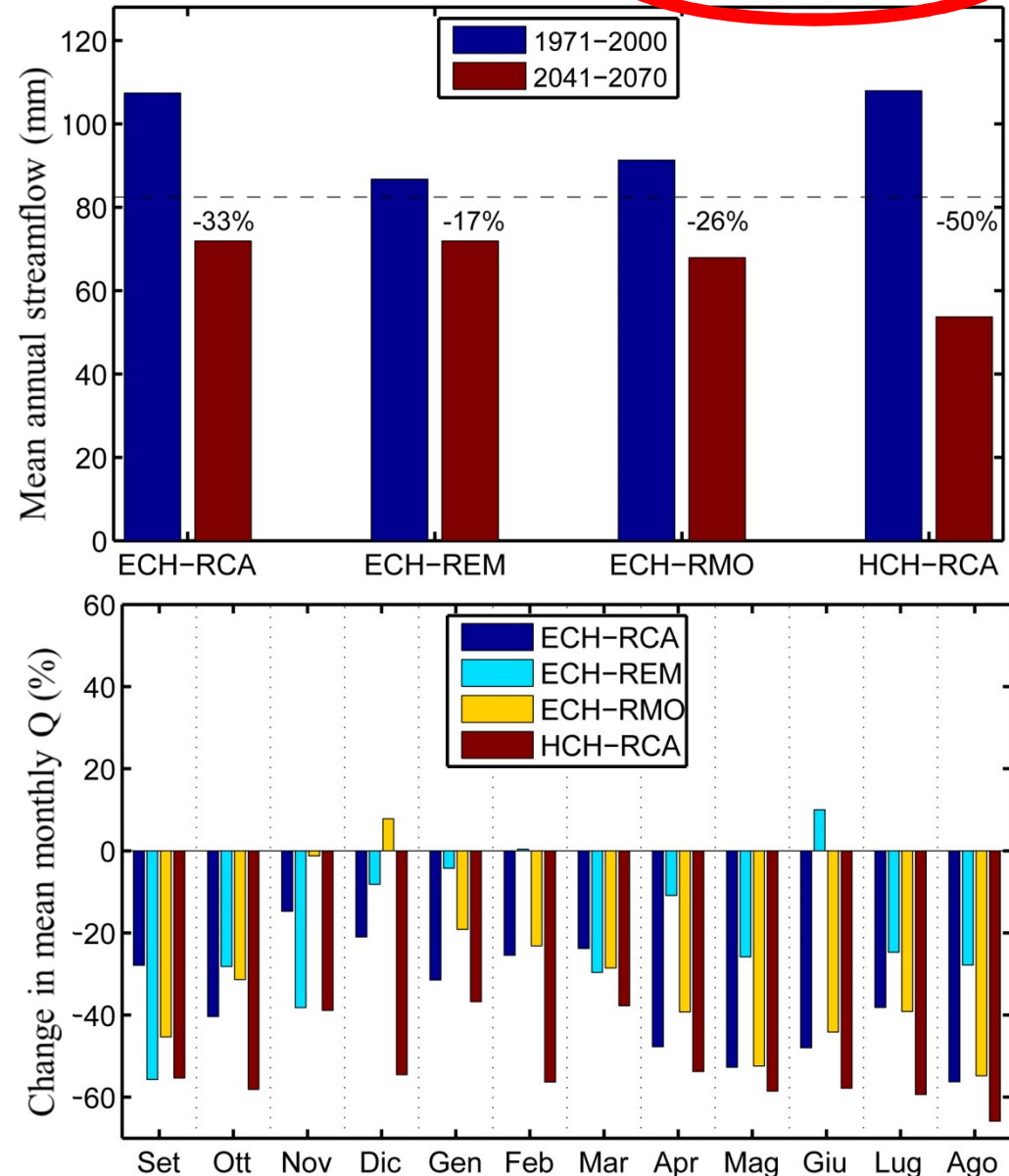


Hydrologic impact of CC

Simulations results:

- **Outputs** of the 4 **CMs** have been **downscaled** at hourly resolution, applying the same downscaling strategies used in the calibration period.
- The calibrated tRIBS model has been forced with hourly disaggregated data using a super computer of ASU.
- **Outputs** of **tRIBS** are post-processed to evaluate the possible change in the **hydrological response** of the Rio Mannu (*Piras et al., 2014*).
- All simulations predict a **reduction** of the mean annual **streamflow Q**. Monthly streamflow will decrease throughout the year.

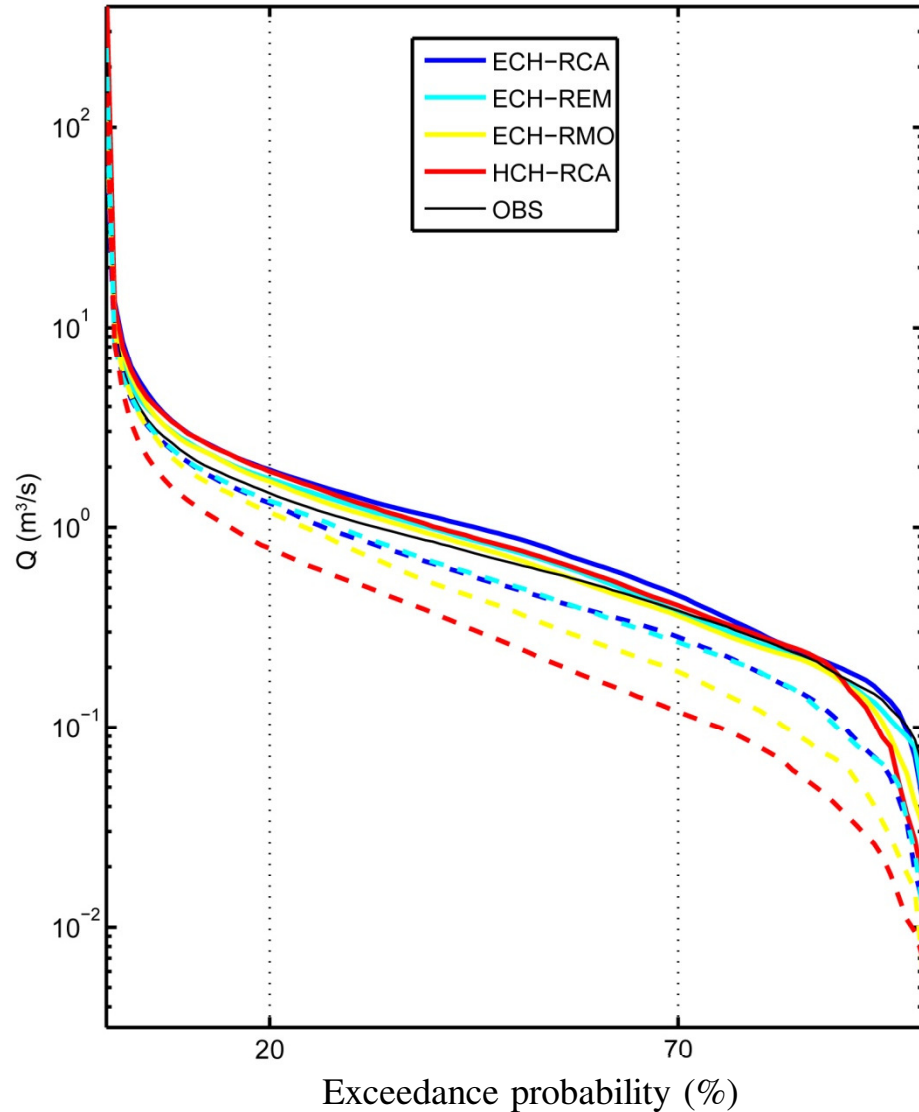
Streamflow



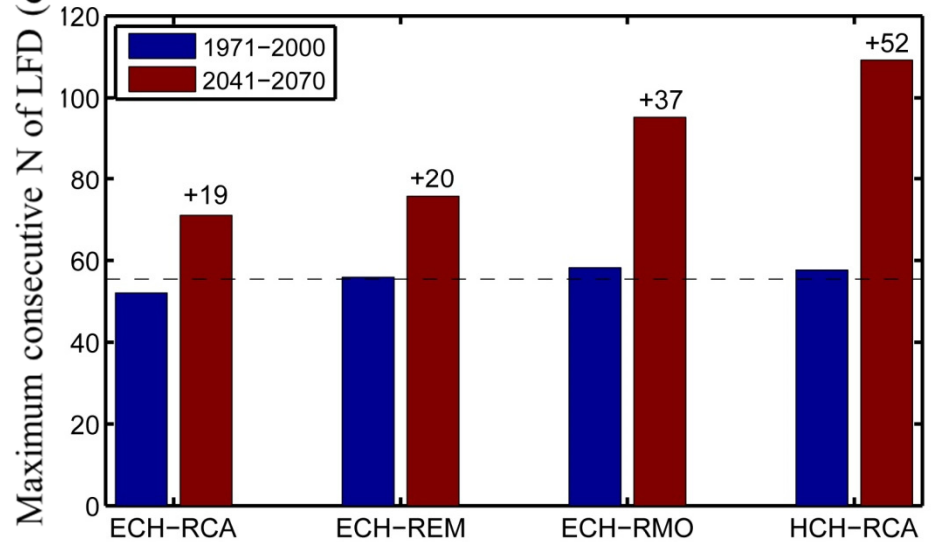
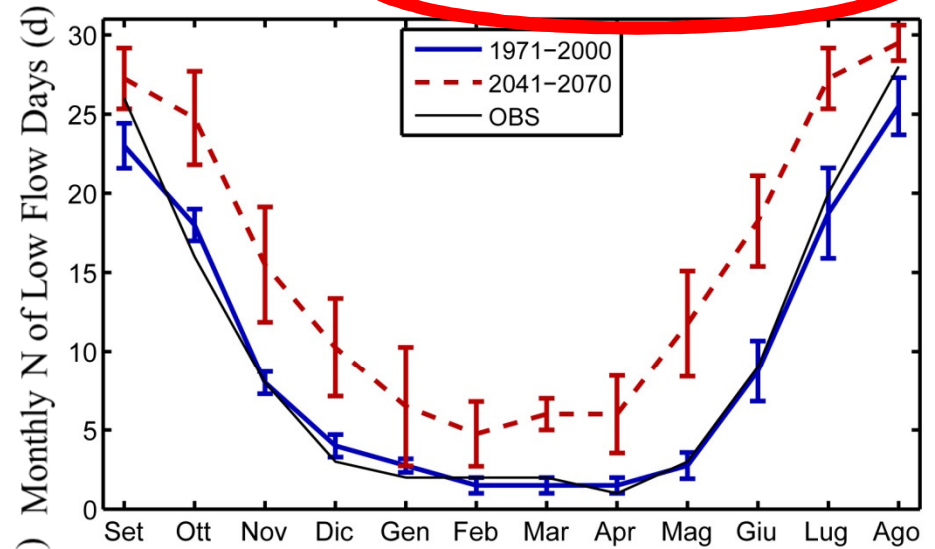


Hydrologic impact of CC

Simulations results:

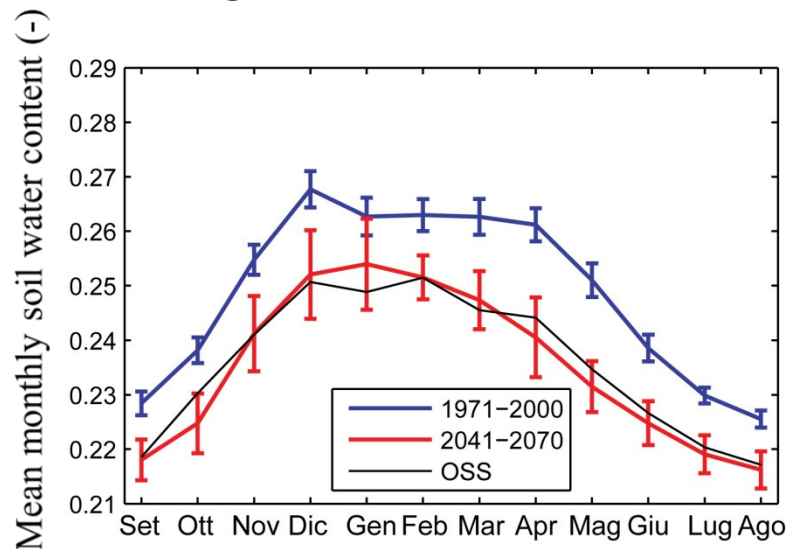


Flow Duration Curves

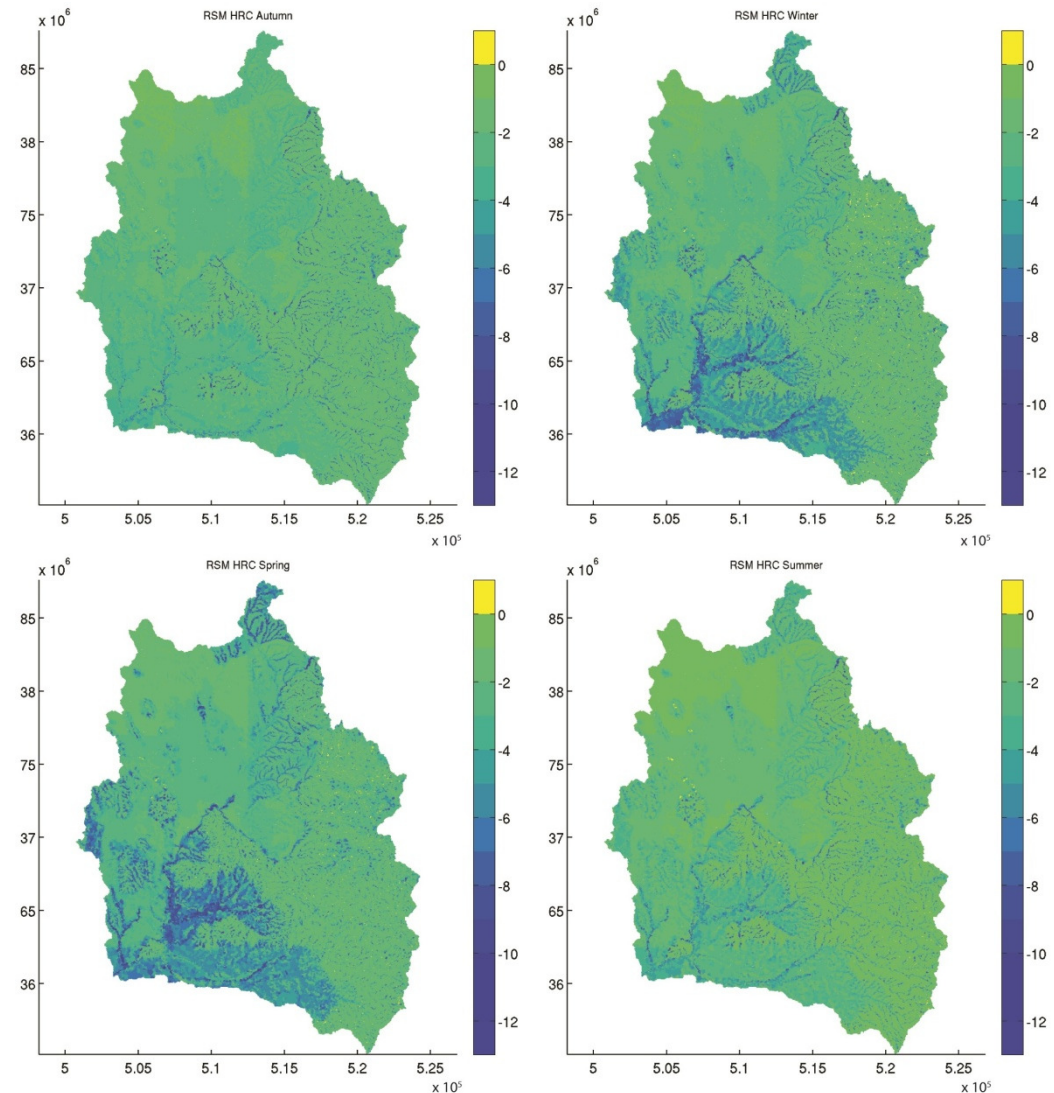


Simulations results: soil water content

- All configurations predict a reduction of soil water content at the different depths (10 cm, 1 m) in future period.
- Variations in soil humidity are affected by terrain, with higher decreases in areas of saturation close to the drainage network.

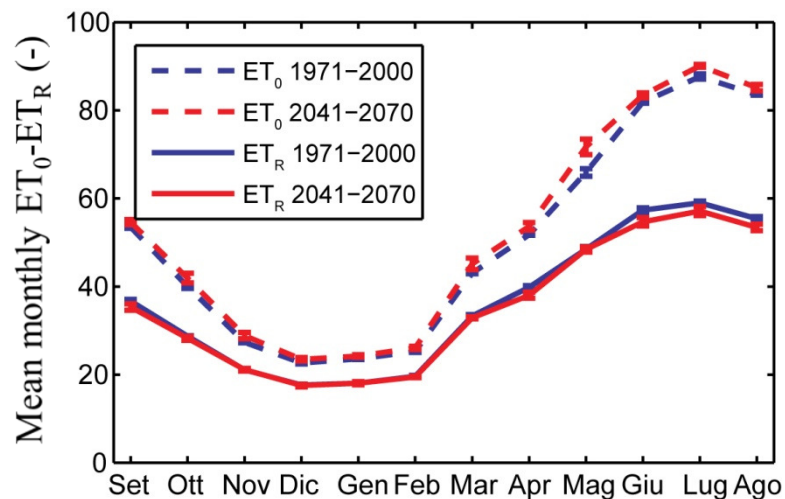


Variation of soil humidity predicted by HCH-RCA configuration

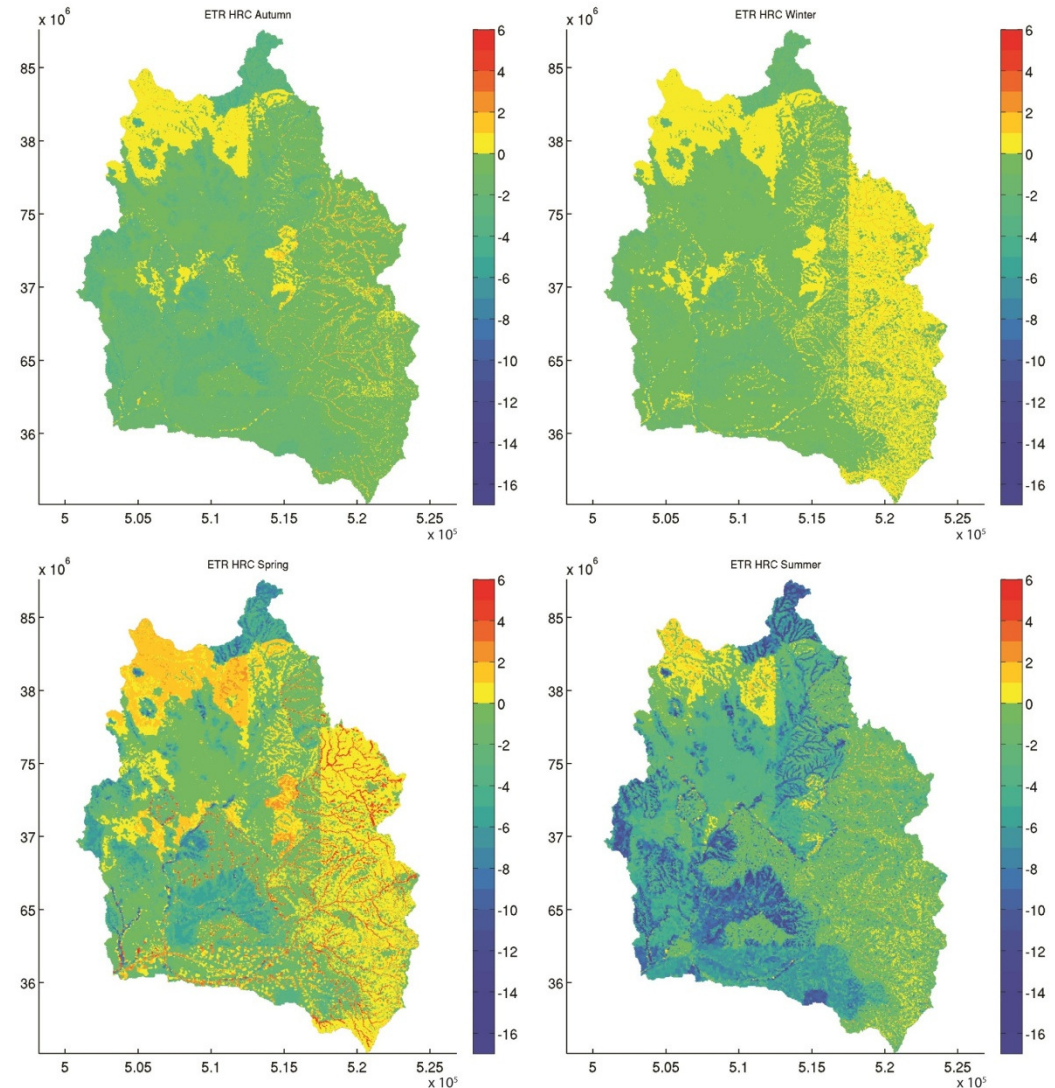


Simulations results: evapotranspiration

- Hydrologic simulations predict a decrease in actual evapotranspiration (ET_a) despite a slight increase in ET_0 due to drier soils.
- Variation in ET_a are influenced by terrain attributes, soil texture and patterns of gridded inputs.



Variation of actual evapotranspiration predicted by HCH-RCA configuration

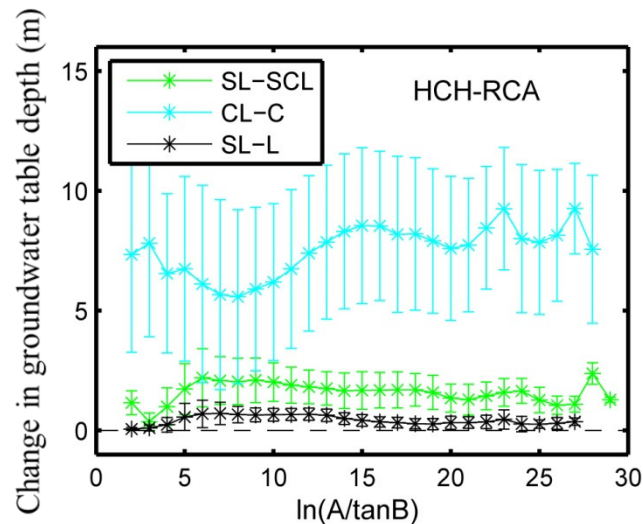




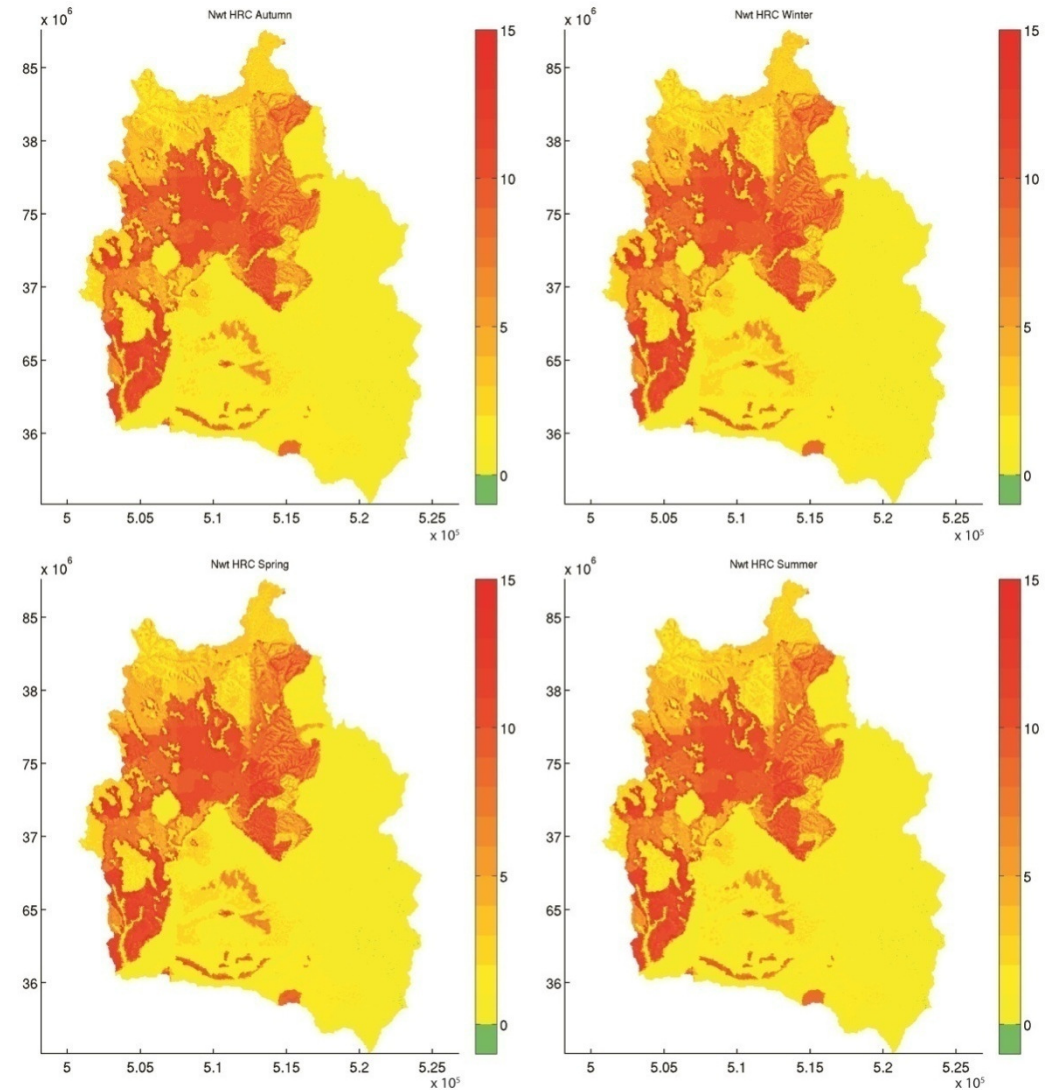
Hydrologic impact of CC

Simulations results: groundwater

- All simulations predict a drop in the water table depth, meaning a reduction in groundwater resource.
- Variations in water table depth are related to soil texture, with higher drops of the water table in clay soils.



Change in groundwater table depth predicted by HCH-RCA configuration





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Analyses of P and Q extremes

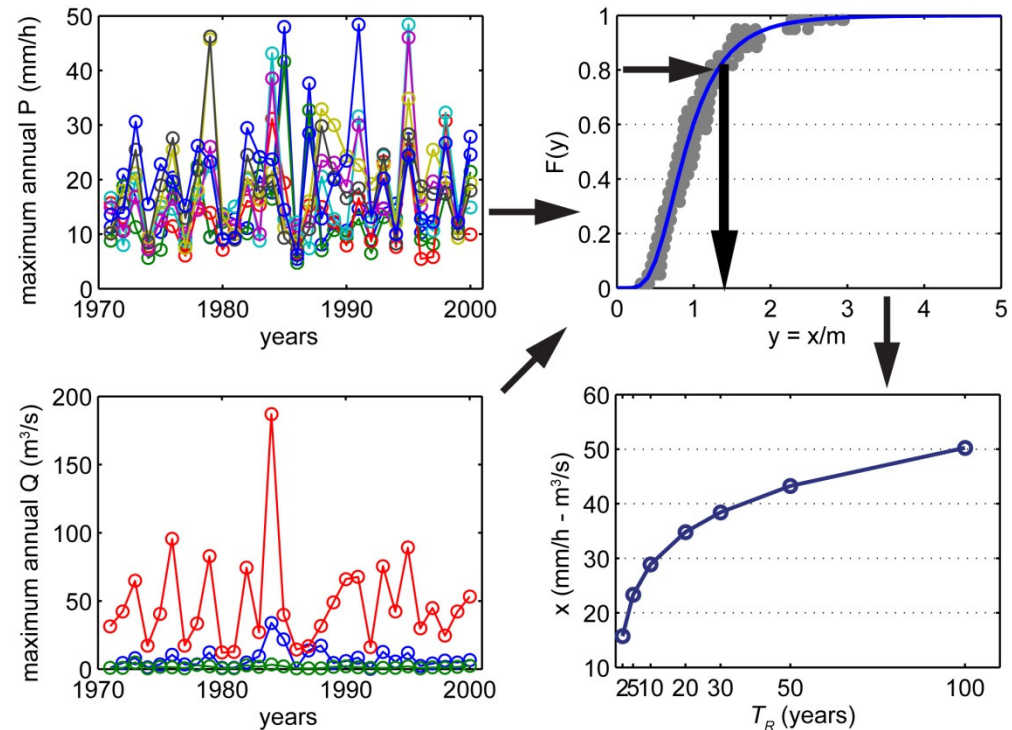
Analyses of extreme events with GEV distribution

- Representation of the statistical distribution of annual maximum P and annual maximum peak Q with the Generalized Extreme Value (GEV) distribution.
- Assumption of homogeneous regions with identical frequency distributions at the sites and a multiplicative factor varying from site to site:

$$x(F) = m \cdot y(F)$$

m = index-precipitation or index-flood,
 $y(F)$ = dimensionless function (regional growth curve).

- Assumption of a single homogeneous region for both P and Q, given the relatively small size of the study area.

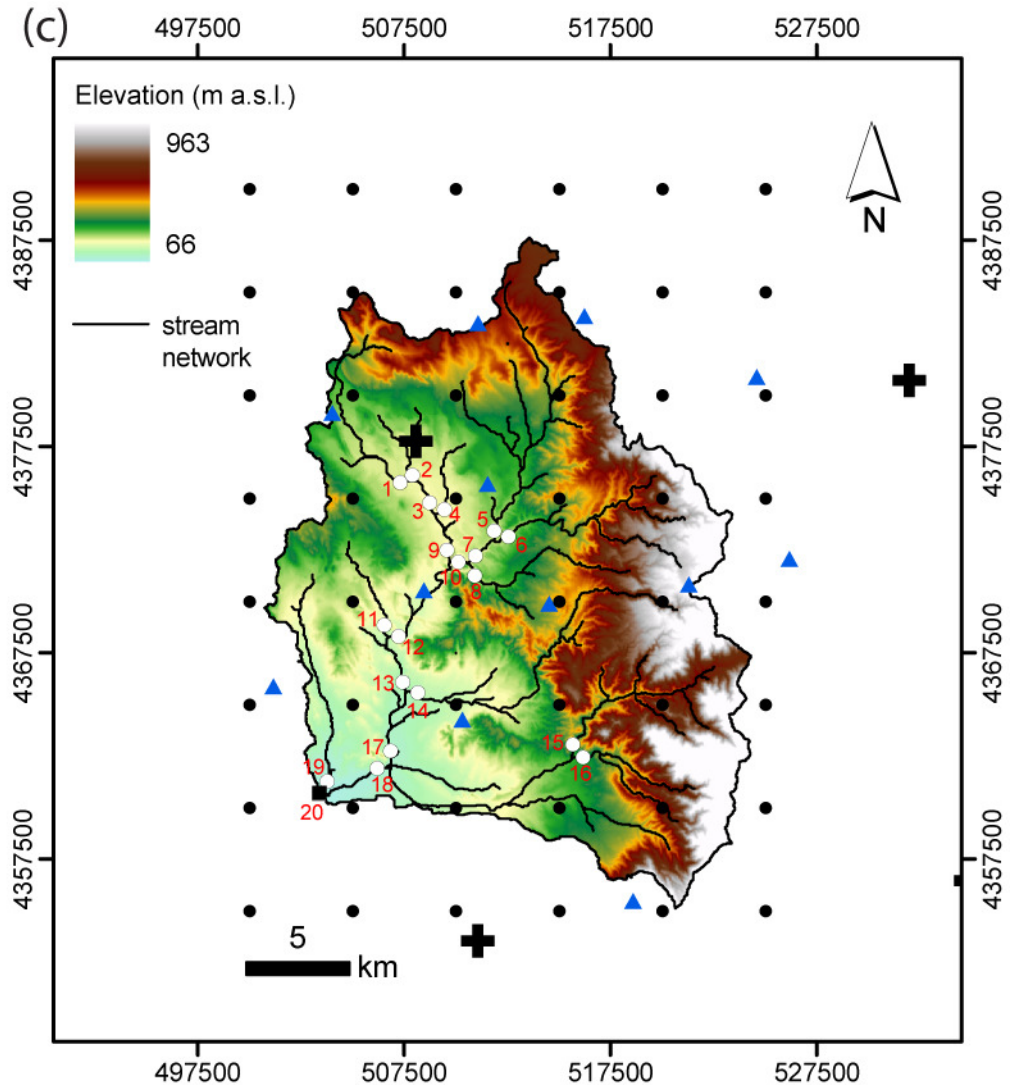
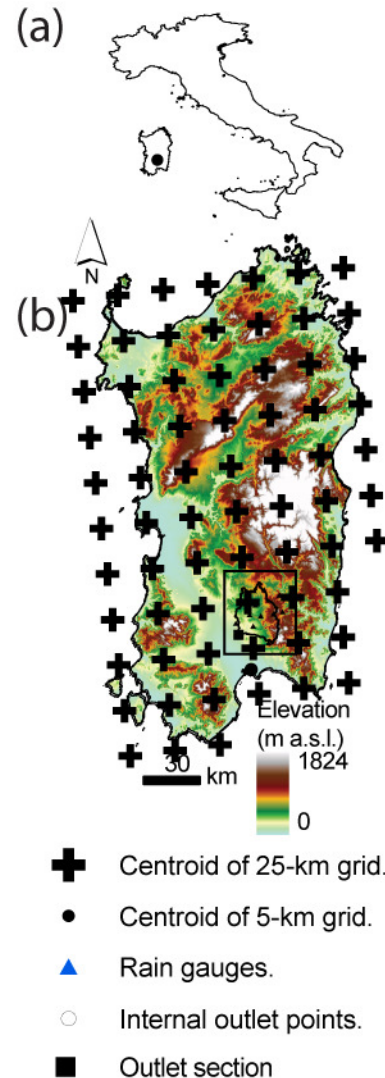


$$F(x; \mu, \sigma, k) = \begin{cases} \exp\left\{-\left[1 + k\left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)\right]^{-1/k}\right\} & k \neq 0 \\ \exp\left\{-\exp\left[-\left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)\right]\right\} & k = 0 \end{cases}$$

$\sigma > 0$ = scale parameter
 $\mu (-\infty, +\infty)$ = location parameter
 $k (-\infty, +\infty)$ = shape parameter
 $k = 0$ Type I Gumbel distribution
 $k > 0$ Type II Fréchet distribution
 $k < 0$ Type III Weibull distribution

Analyses of extreme events with GEV distribution

- For P the samples at the 48 grid points belong to the same homogeneous zone.
- For Q the series of annual maxima at the outlet and nineteen internal sections were considered to be part of a unique region.





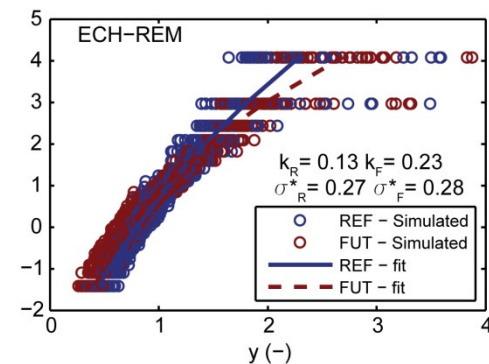
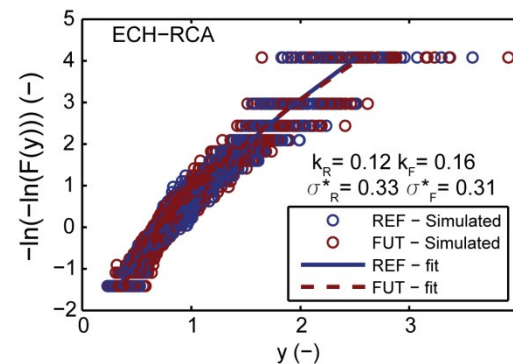
Analyses of P and Q extremes

Analyses of extreme P events with GEV distribution

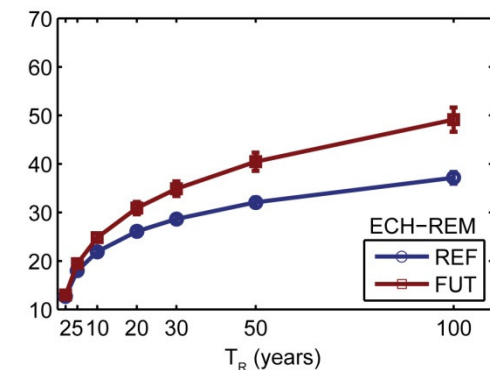
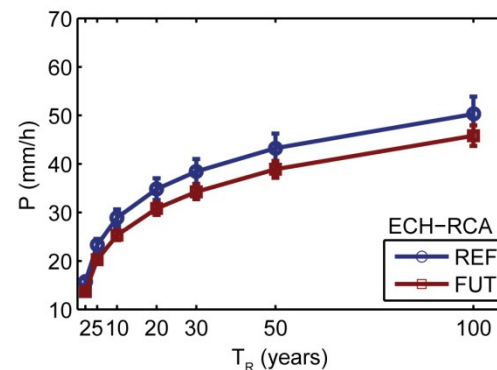
- GEV parameters differ across the 4 CMs, for daily and hourly maxima, in **REF** and **FUT** period.

| | Res | k | σ^* | | Res | k | σ^* | |
|---------|------|------|------------|------|------|------|------------|------|
| ECH-RCA | 0.12 | 0.16 | 0.33 | 0.31 | 0.02 | 0.08 | 0.32 | |
| ECH-REM | 0.13 | 0.23 | 0.27 | 0.28 | 0.13 | 0.15 | 0.23 | |
| ECH-RMO | h | 0.12 | 0.17 | 0.32 | 0.33 | d | 0.09 | 0.03 |
| HCH-RCA | 0.27 | 0.16 | 0.31 | 0.37 | 0.21 | 0.07 | 0.28 | |
| CV | 0.46 | 0.19 | 0.08 | 0.11 | 0.69 | 0.59 | 0.12 | |

- Maxima follow the Frèchet distribution ($k > 0$) with heavy right tails, hence high probability of extreme storms.



- Expected increase of max annual P for all TR for ECH-REM and ECH-RMO, the opposite is true for ECH-RCA and HCH-RCA.





Analyses of P and Q extremes

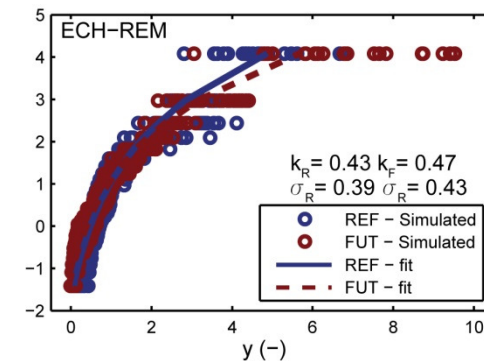
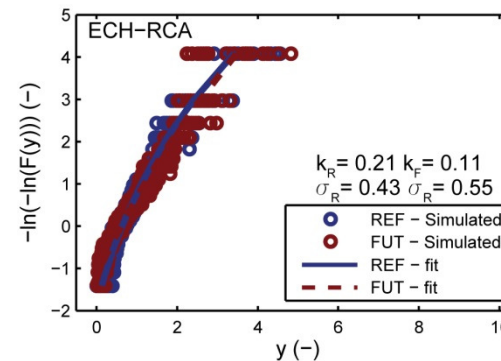
Analyses of extreme Q events with GEV distribution

- Amplification of the outcomes obtained with P: k estimates differ among configurations and in REF and FUT periods.

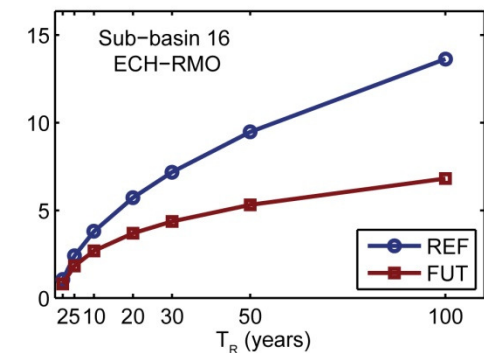
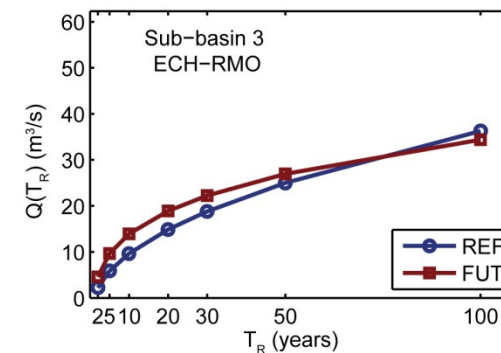
| | k | | σ^* | |
|---------|------|------|------------|------|
| ECH-RCA | 0.21 | 0.11 | 0.43 | 0.55 |
| ECH-REM | 0.43 | 0.47 | 0.39 | 0.43 |
| ECH-RMO | 0.49 | 0.26 | 0.37 | 0.50 |
| HCH-RCA | 0.61 | 0.28 | 0.32 | 0.56 |
| Mean | 0.43 | 0.28 | 0.38 | 0.51 |
| CV | 0.38 | 0.52 | 0.12 | 0.12 |

| Sub-basin ID | A_c (km ²) | Slope (%) | Main soil texture classes | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| | | | SL-SCL | CL-C | SL-L |
| 3 | 50.17 | 8.96 | 7.44 | 89.02 | 0.00 |
| 16 | 23.96 | 34.58 | 5.57 | 0.09 | 94.18 |
| 20 (Outlet) | 472.50 | 17.30 | 19.61 | 36.67 | 31.91 |

- Frèchet family ($k > 0$), general tendency of all simulations except ECH-REM to shift towards lower k from REF to FUT.



- The relations between T_R and the corresponding Q values from the GEV distribution reveal the dependence of Q extremes on sub-basins characteristics and CMs.





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- **Evaluation of local hydrologic impact of climate change:**
 - Climate models outputs
 - Hydrologic impact of CC
 - Analyses of precipitation and discharge extremes
 - **Comparison of Coarse and Fine simulations**
- Conclusions

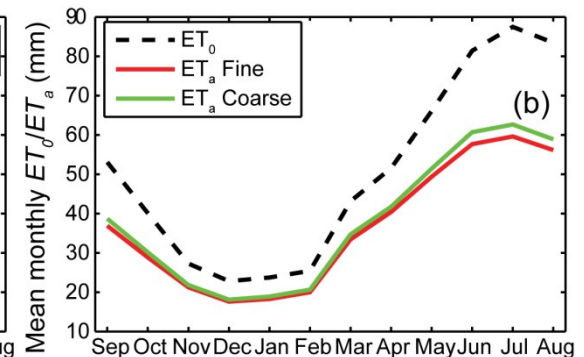
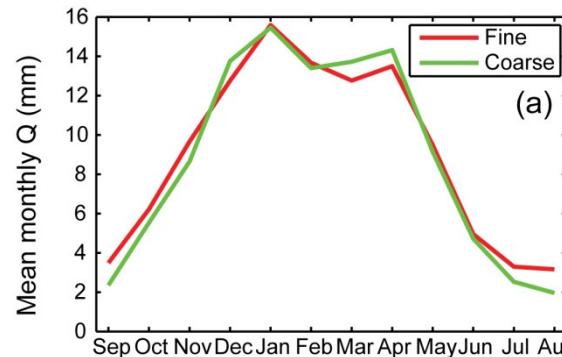


Coarse and Fine simulations

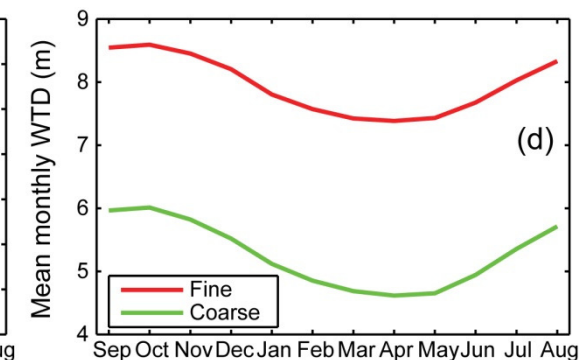
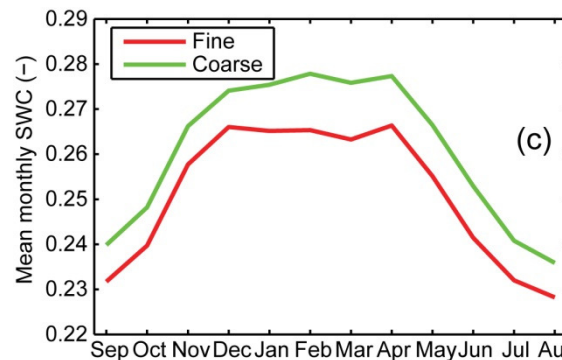
Effect of climate model resolution on hydrologic components

- Comparison of two sets of hydrologic simulations: **Fine** (fine-resolution disaggregated P forcings) and **Coarse** (P outputs at the original resolution of the ECH-RCA climate model).

- The total P is almost the same in the two cases. Hence, the mean monthly Q at the basin outlet and the ET_a do not significantly change.



- Soil water content in the top 1 m and water table depth present instead more differences for the Fine and Coarse simulations.

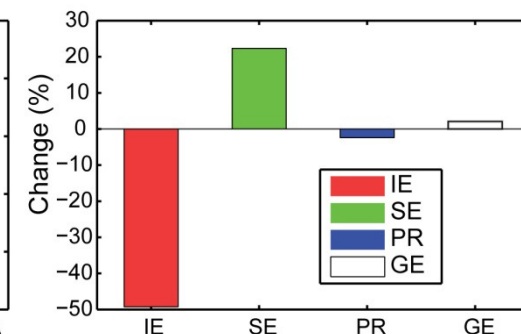
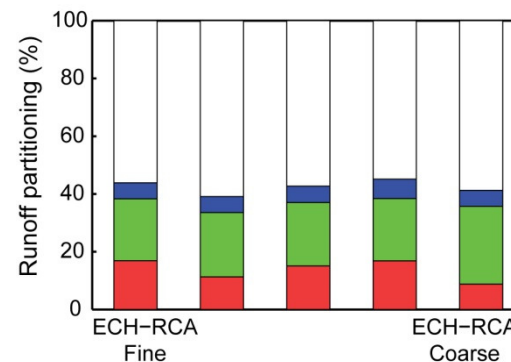
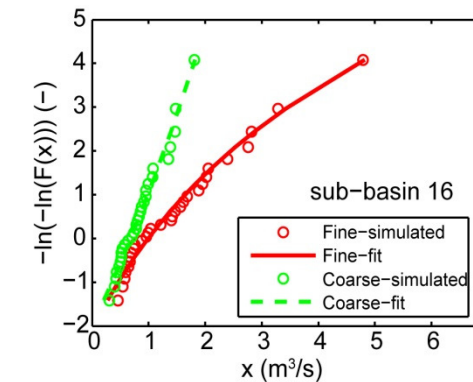
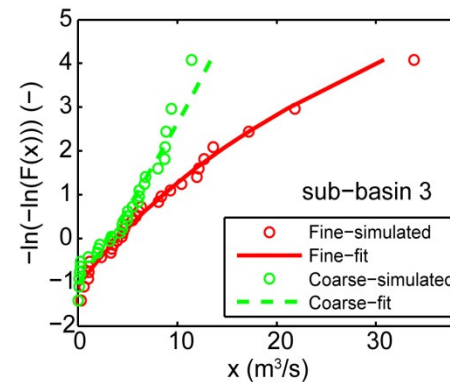
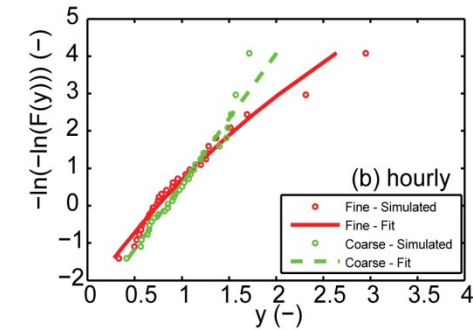
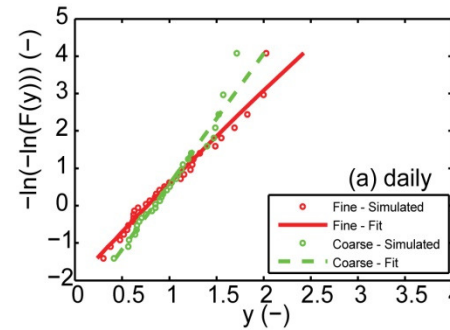




Coarse and Fine simulations

Effect of climate model resolution on extremes

- For Coarse simulation the distribution of both hourly and daily maxima result the same ($k = 0.024$). For Fine simulation the distribution switches to Fréchet domain ($k = 0.124$).
- The distribution of annual maximum Q switches from Gumbel ($k \sim 0$) to Fréchet ($k = 0.212$) when hydrologic simulations are conducted with Coarse and Fine P forcings, respectively.
- The use of coarse P forcings impacts the occurrence of the two types of surface runoff, with IE sensibly decreasing ($\sim 50\%$) and SE growing ($\sim 22\%$).





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Conclusions

Conclusions

- This study is part of the **EU CLIMB** project (*Ludwig et al., 2010*).
- We focused on the **Rio Mannu** basin in Sardinia, a study site with **limited data availability**.
- Using **two downscaling strategies**, we **calibrate**, with reasonable accuracy, a **distributed hydrologic model, tRIBS** (*Mascaro et al., 2013*).
- We applied the downscaling strategies to disaggregate outputs of 4 selected CMs in the **reference (1971-2000)** and **future (2041-2070)** periods.
- The impact of future climate change on **the hydrologic response** of the Rio Mannu basin was quantified by combining the process-based distributed hydrologic model with outputs of the four CMs (*Piras et al., 2014*).
- All CMs predict **lower mean annual precipitation and higher mean temperatures** in the future period.
- The **hydrologic simulations** under future climate forcing **indicate a decrease in mean annual runoff, in mean real evapotranspiration**, likely due to **drier soil moisture conditions**, and in mean level of the **groundwater table**.



Conclusions

Conclusions

- The future changes in the mean values of the hydrologic variables are influenced by the spatial patterns of **topography** and **soil texture**.
- Our results predict that in the future the Rio Mannu basin will be affected by **decreasing water resources conditions** with possible effects on agriculture activities and on the water demand for different sectors.
- There is **high uncertainty** in the **statistical analyses of P and Q extremes**, which both show a tendency towards the Fréchet distribution, significant variations of the shape parameter. Parameters estimated for Q have larger variability.
- The comparison of **coarse** and **fine simulations** highlights the **benefit of applying downscaling algorithms** to climate model outputs better capturing the small-scale variability of precipitation.
- All phases of this study are affected by **uncertainties and limitations**, hence the **results** should be considered as **possible scenarios** obtained with the best information currently available.



Thank you!



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