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**DRAME**

GRUPE DE RECHERCHE  
SPÉCIALISÉ EN DÉVELOPPEMENT  
ET EN RECHERCHE APPLIQUÉE EN  
MODÉLISATION DE L'EAU

# Stochastic generation of precipitation and temperature: from single-site to multi-site

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# Daily weather generators



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## (1) Single-site weather generator: WeaGETS

<http://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/29136-stochastic-weather-generator--weagets>)

## (2) Multi-site weather generator: MulGETS

<http://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/47537-multi-site-stochastic-weather-generator--mulgets>)

# Key problems (single-site)



## Parametric distribution based weather generators

- Underestimation of heavy and extreme precipitation
  - ❖ Using compound distributions
  
- Underestimation of inter-annual variability
  - ❖ FFT based spectral correction method

Basic input

Enter an input file name (string)

Enter an output file name (string)

Enter a daily precipitation threshold

Enter the number of years to generate

Precip and temperature generation

Smooth the parameters of precipitation occurrence and quantity (1) or not (0)

Yes

Select the order of harmonics to smooth the parameters, 1: First-order; 2: Second-order; 3: Third-order; 4: Fourth-order

No

Select an order of Markov Chain to generate precipitation occurrence, 1: First-order; 2: Second-order; 3: Third-order

Select a distribution to generate wet day precipitation amount, 1: Exponential; 2: Gamma; 3: Skewed normal; 4: Mixed exponential

Select a scheme to generate maximum and minimum temperatures, 1: Unconditional scheme; 2: Conditional scheme

WeaGETS

Inter-annual variability correction

Correct the inter-annual variability of precipitation, maximum and minimum temperatures (1) or not (0)

Yes

Enter a file name of low-frequency variability corrected data (string)

No

Output

Generated and frequency corrected data

Generated data



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# Precipitation occurrence



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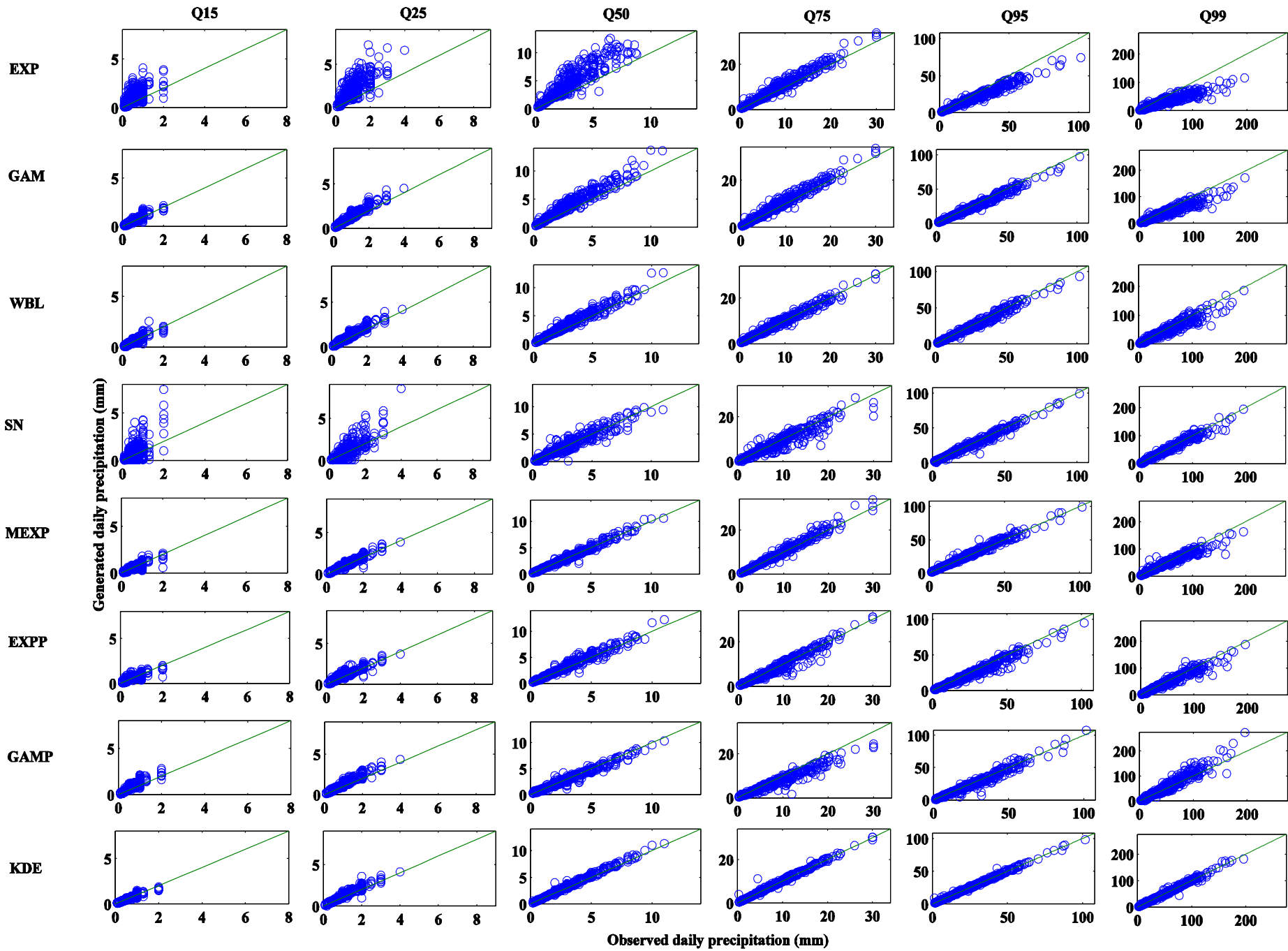
Source		Ottawa (Wet station)				Churchill (Dry station)			
		OBS	M1	M2	M3	OBS	M1	M2	M3
Dry spell	Mean	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
	Stdev	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.5	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.9
	P25th	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P50th	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P75th	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	P95th	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9
	P99th	13	12	12	12	14	14	14	14
	Longest	25	29	30	28	43	32	31	39
	P value of K-S test	-	0.862	0.775	0.994	-	0.112	0.478	0.968
Wet spell	Mean	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
	Stdev	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7
	P25th	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P50th	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P75th	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
	P95th	5	5	4	4	5	6	5	6
	P99th	7	7	7	7	9	8	8	9
	Longest	16	17	14	14	17	26	19	23
	P value of K-S test	-	0.000	1.000	1.000	-	0.119	0.328	1.000

# Precipitation amounts

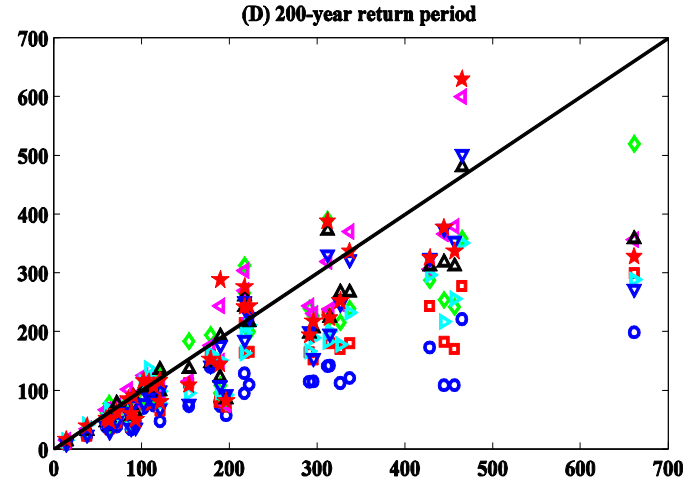
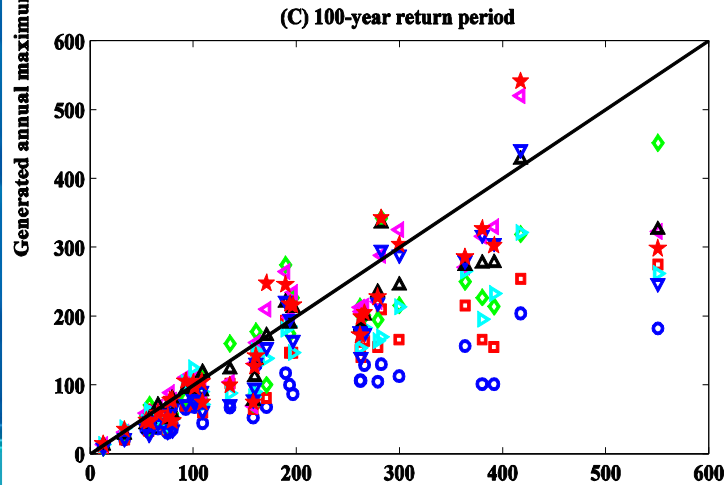
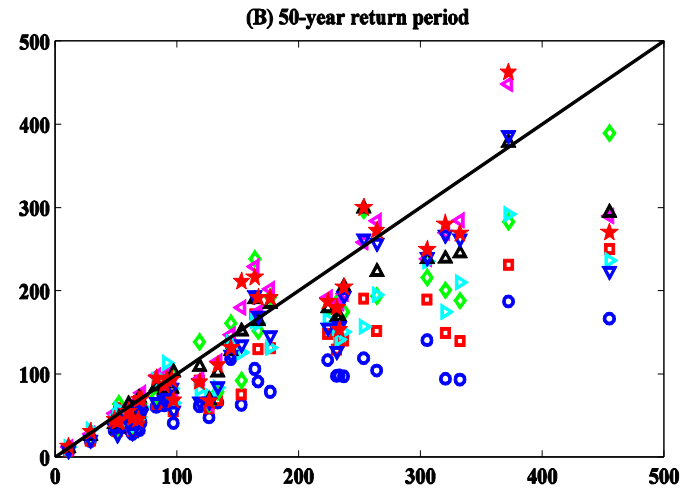
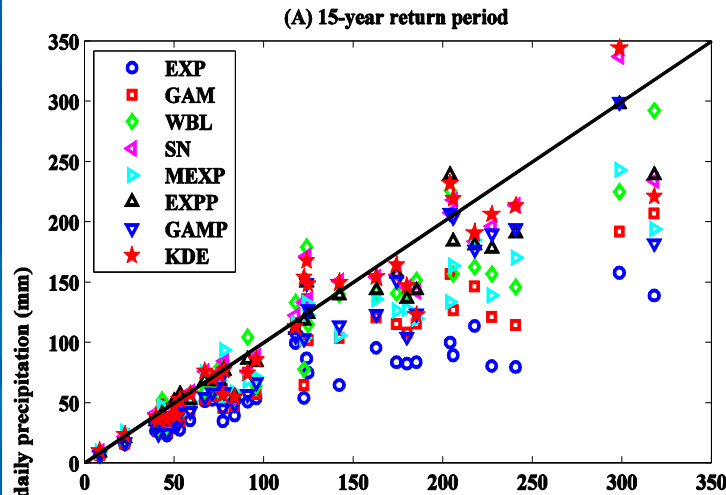


ID	Distribution	Abbreviation	Number of Parameters	Reference
1*	Exponential	EXP	1	Todorovic and woolhiser, 1975
2*	Gamma	GAM	2	Ison et al., 1971; Richardson and Wright, 1984
3	Weibull	WBL	2	Stöckle et al., 1999
4*	Skewed normal	SN	3	Nicks and Gander, 1994
5*	Mixed exponential	MEXP	3	Roldan and Woolhiser, 1982; Wilks, 1999b
6	Hybrid exponential and generalized Pareto	EXPP	3	Li et al., 2012a
7	Hybrid gamma and generalized Pareto	GAMP	4	Vrac and Naveau, 2008; Li et al., 2012a
8	Kernel density estimation	KDE	Nonparametric, Gaussian kernels	Sharma et al., 1997; Mehrotra and Sharma, 2007a, 2007b

**Tested based on 35 stations around the world**



# Precipitation extreme (Frequency analysis)



Observed annual maximum daily precipitation (mm)

EXP

GAM

WBL

MEXP

EXPP

GAMP

SN

KDE





# Inter-annual variability correction



Observed time series

FFT

$$C = X + i * Y \quad (i = \sqrt{-1})$$

$$S = |C| = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2}$$

$$\phi = \tan^{-1}(Y / X)$$

$$C = S * e^{(i * \phi)}$$

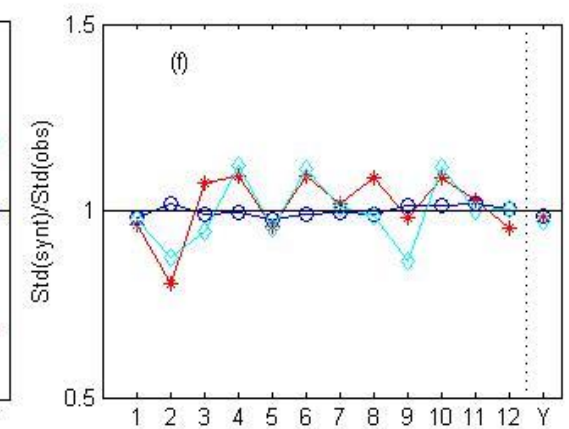
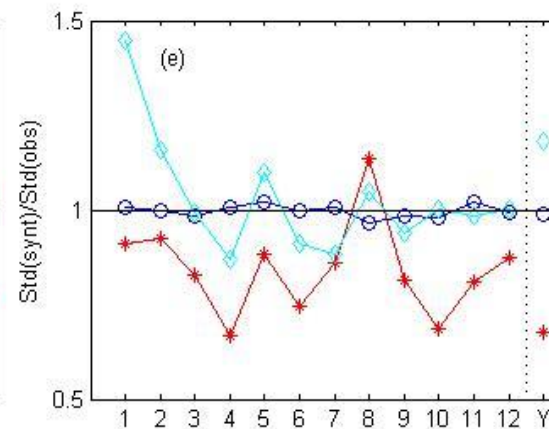
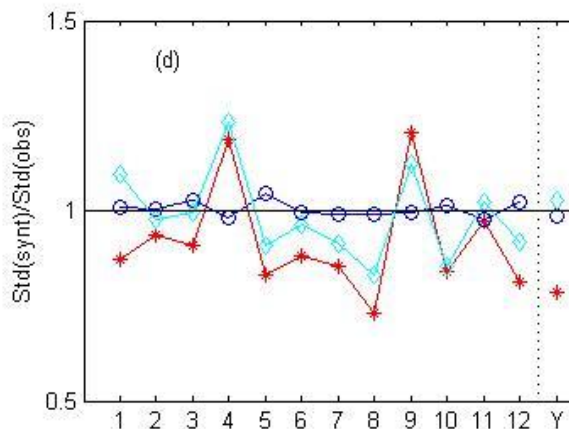
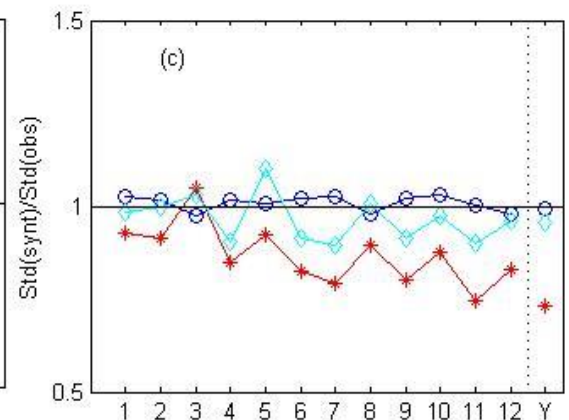
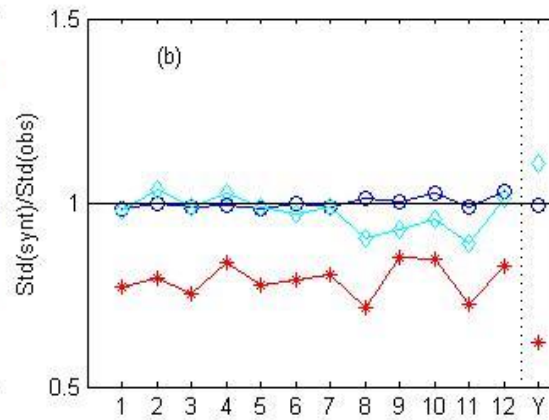
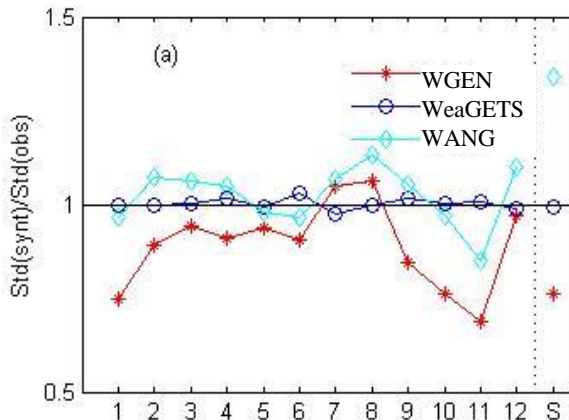
IFFT

Generated time series

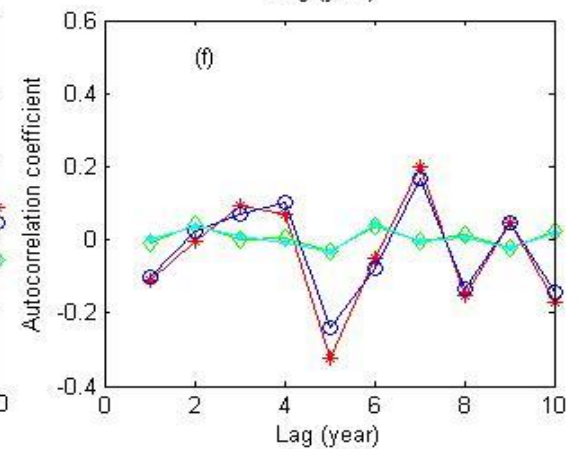
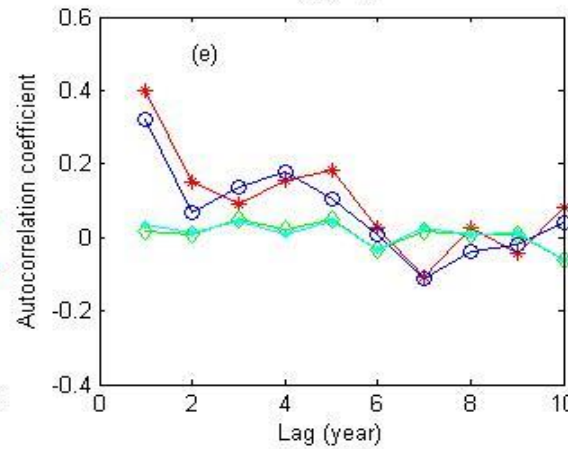
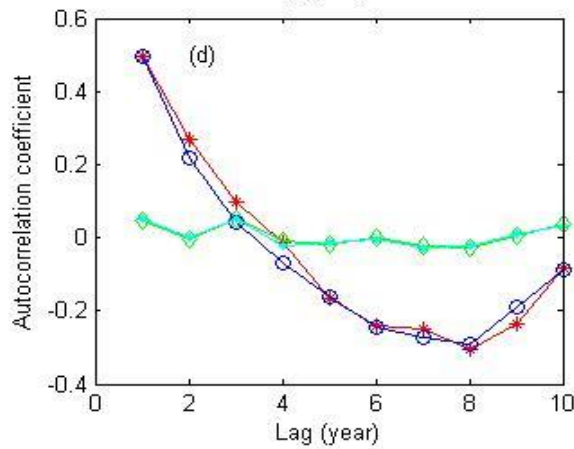
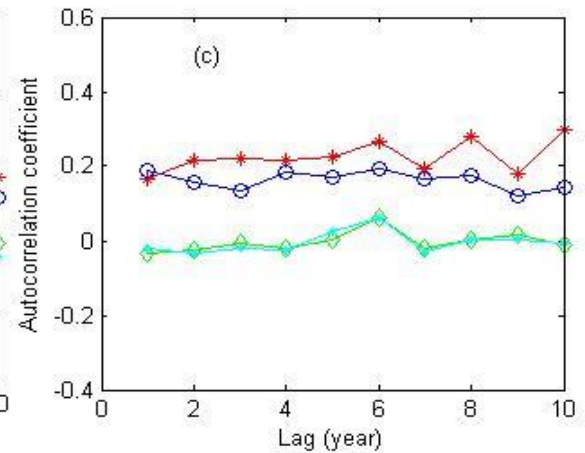
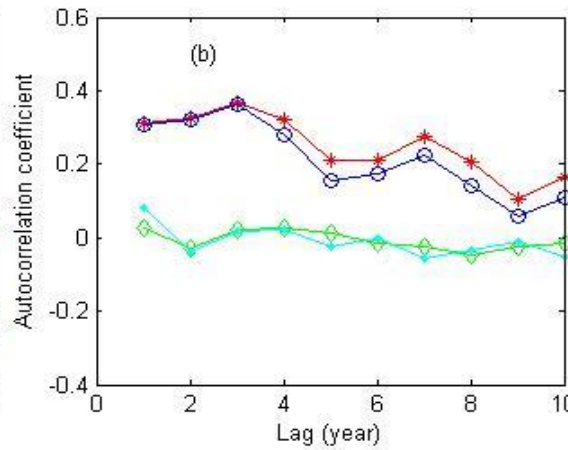
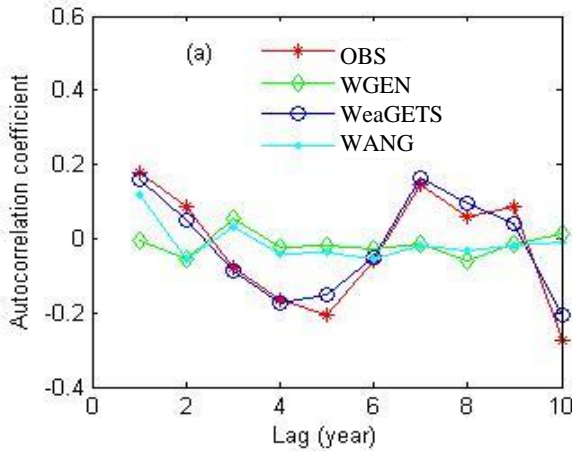
Correcting  
inter-annual  
variability for  
precipitation

Correcting  
inter-annual  
variability for  
temperature

# Precipitation correction



# Precipitation correction





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# Temperature correction



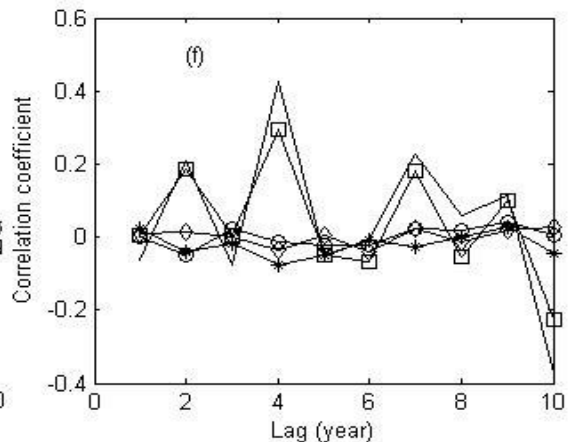
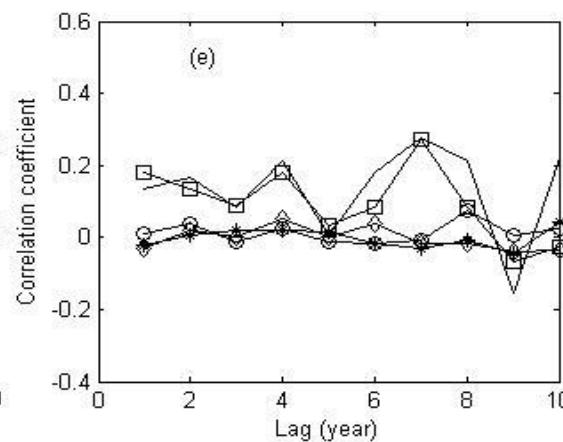
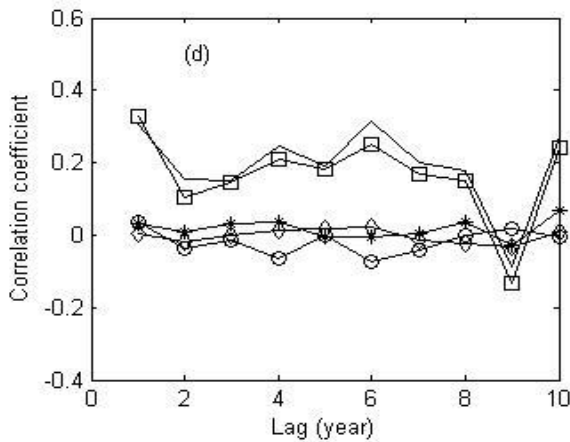
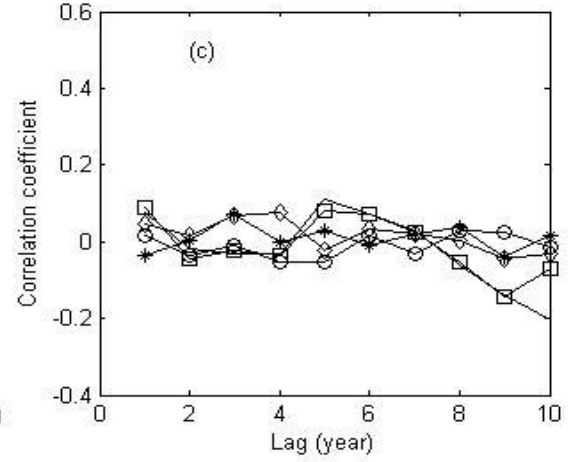
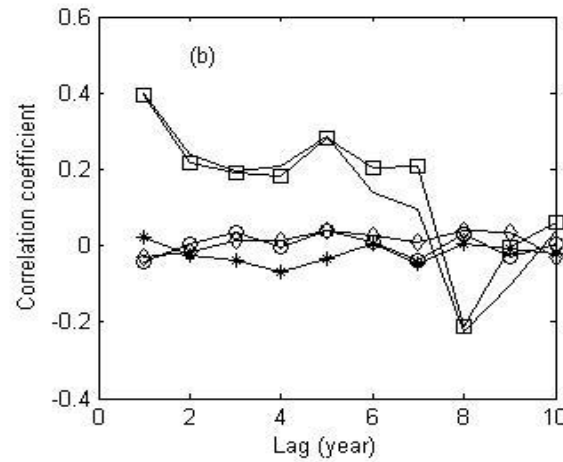
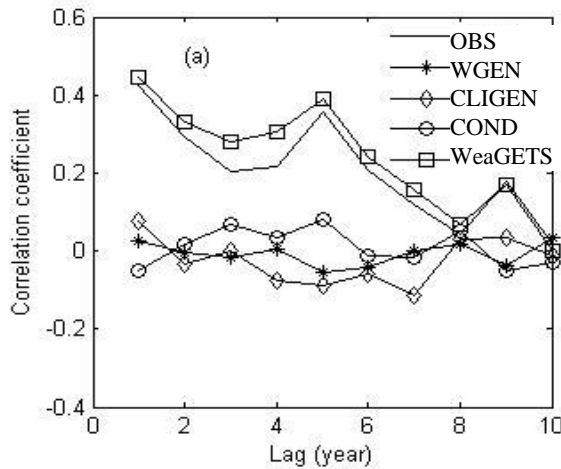
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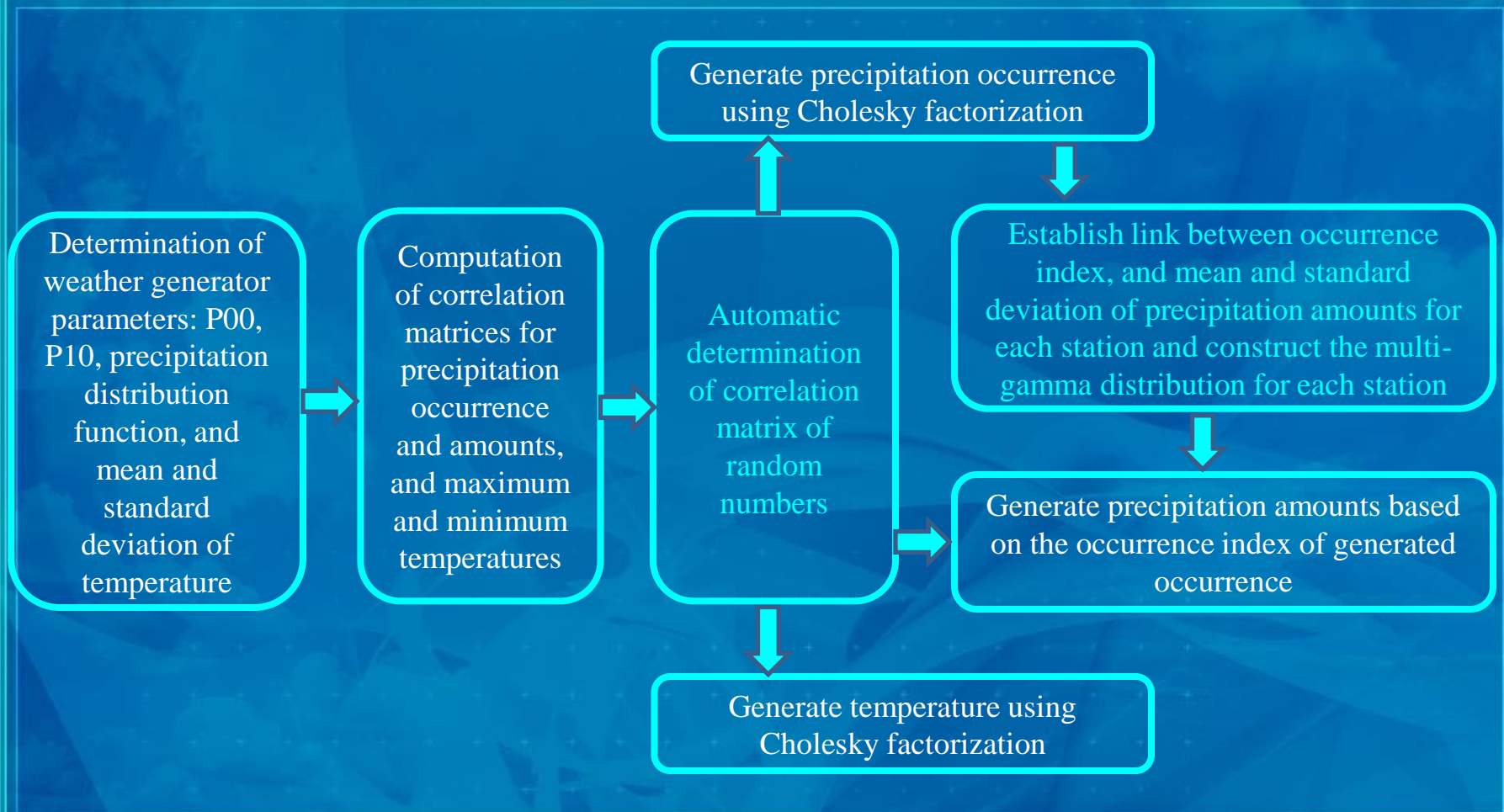
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Station	Tmax				Tmin			
	OBS	WGEN	CLIGEN	WeaGETS	OBS	WGEN	CLIGEN	WeaGETS
Victoria	0.67	0.22*	0.16*	0.67	0.59	0.27*	0.15*	0.59
Langara	0.66	0.19*	0.13*	0.65	0.72	0.26*	0.12*	0.71
VGR	0.88	0.29*	0.24*	0.88	0.95	0.55*	0.22*	0.94
Yellowknife	1.16	0.17*	0.35*	1.13	1.35	0.98*	0.35*	1.33
Churchill	1.25	0.23*	0.37*	1.21	1.18	0.70*	0.30*	1.12
Darval	0.66	0.18*	0.28*	0.64	0.82	0.65*	0.27*	0.79

\* is different from observed time series at  $P = 0.05$ .

# Temperature correction





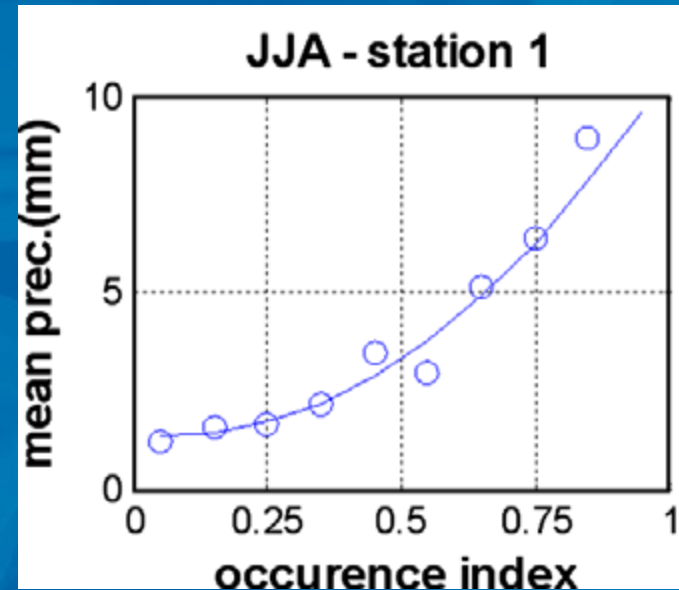
# Key problems (multi-site)



- The generated precipitation occurrence and amounts are less correlated than the observed ones when using the observed correlation matrices to produce the spatially-correlated random number field.

$$C_{R_{i+1}} = C_{R_i} + \eta(C_{obs} - C_{syn})$$

- The left equation may fail to converge when generating precipitation amounts when many of the elements of the correlation matrix of random numbers approach unity. (**spatial intermittence**)





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# Evaluation of MulGETS



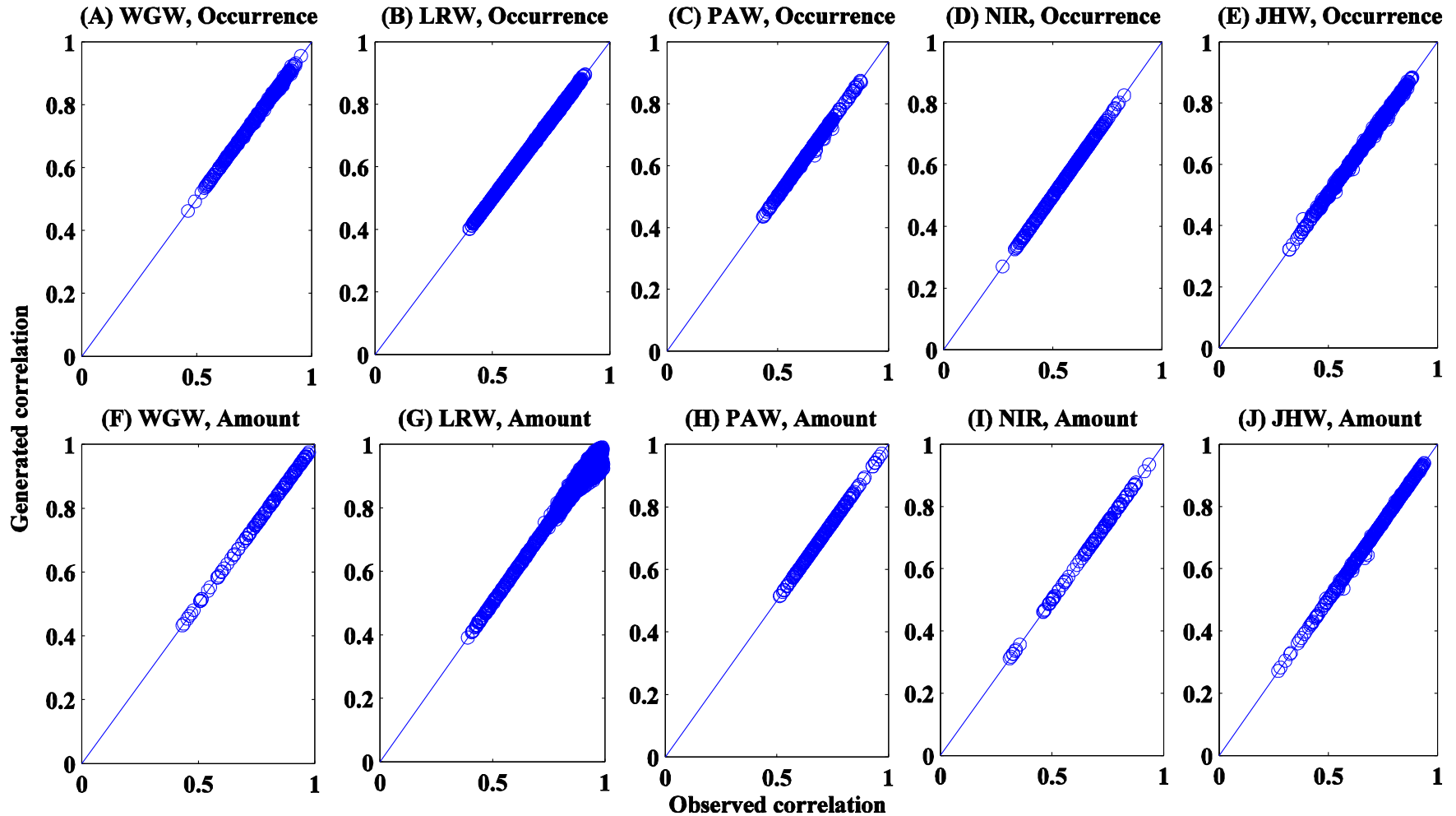
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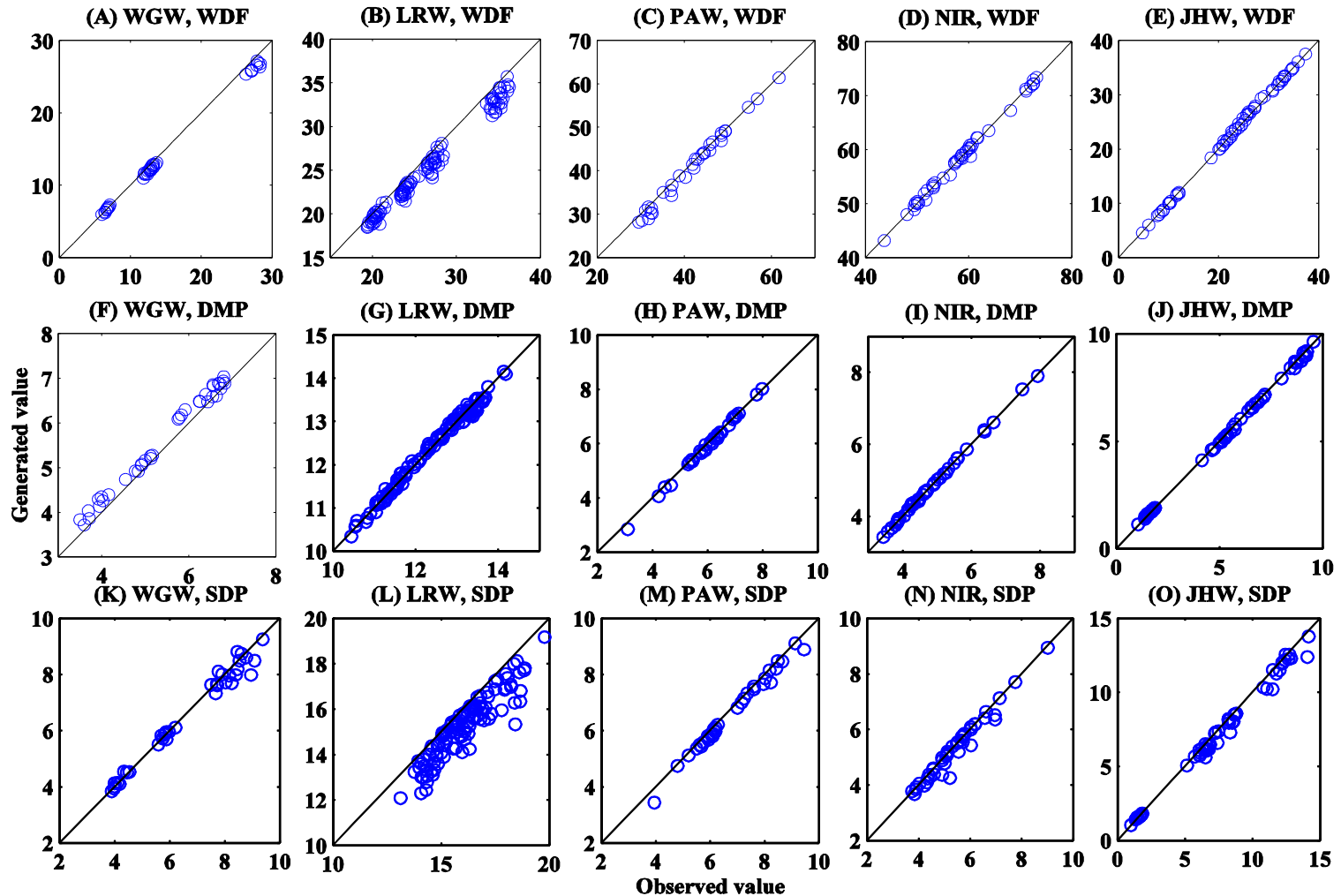
Country	Watershed name and abbreviation	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Number of Stations	Common period for all stations	Mean annual precipitation (mm)
United States	Walnut Gulch Watershed (WGW)	149	9	1964-2012	312.0
United States	Little River Experimental Watershed (LRW)	334	28	1968-2009	1208.1
Canada	Peribonka Watershed (PAW)	9700	8	1964-1990	925.2
United Kingdom	Northern Ireland (NIR)	13843	11	1966-1985	1041.8
China	Jinghe Watershed (JHW)	45421	15	1961-2005	549.9



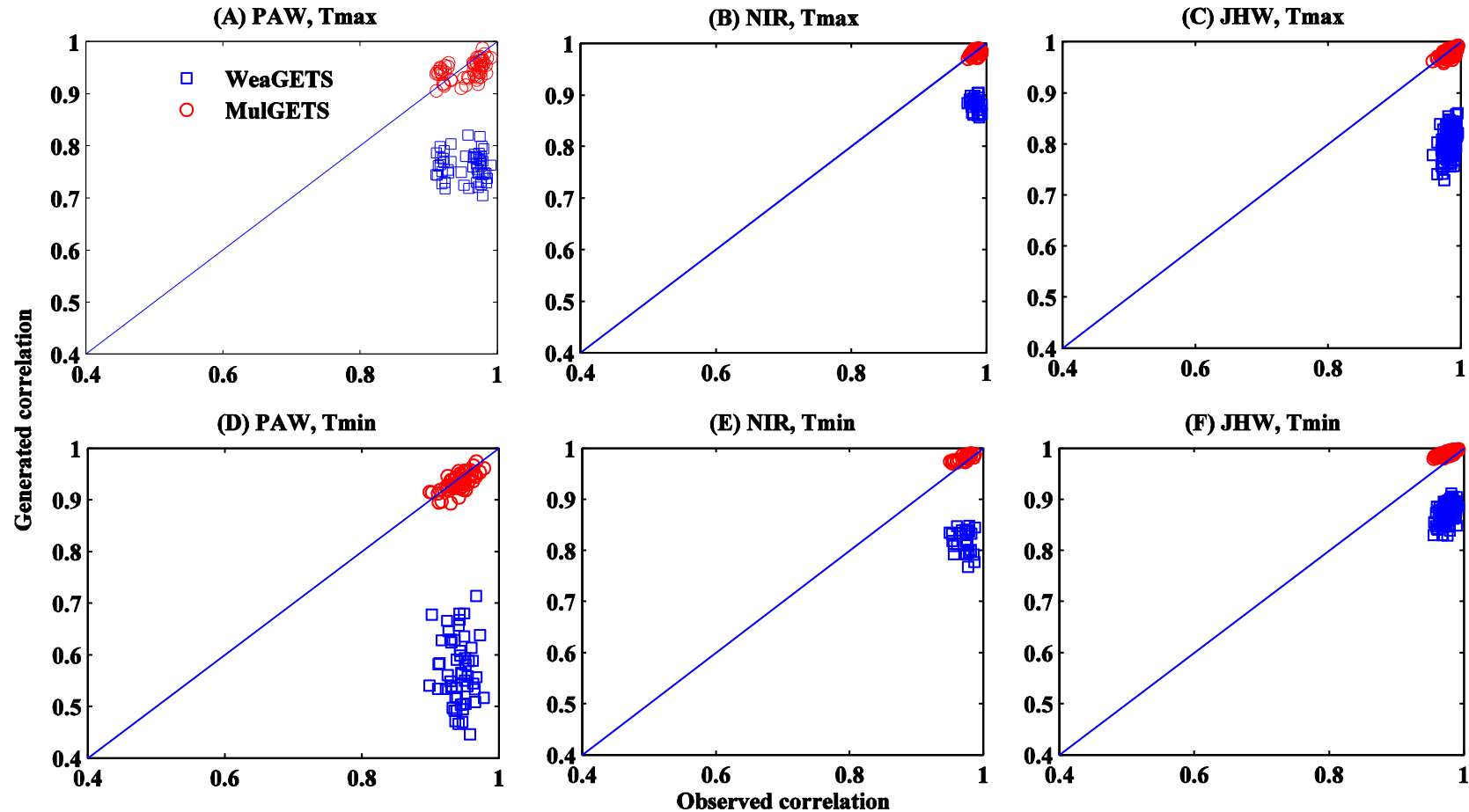
# Precipitation correlation



# Precipitation statistics



# Temperature correlation





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# Hydrological modeling



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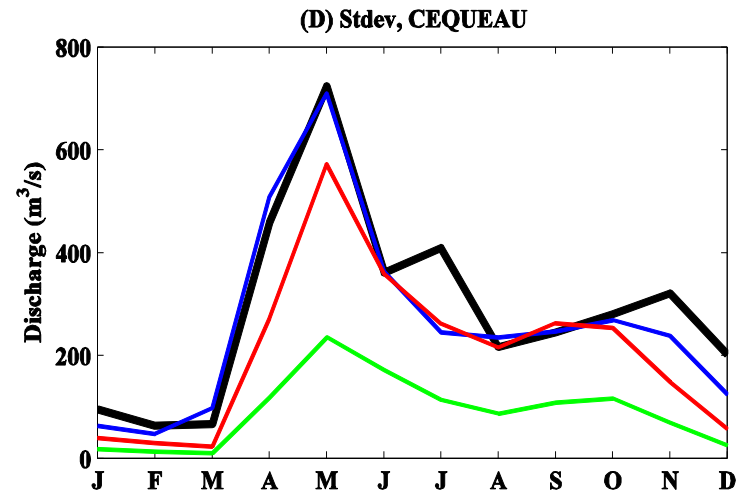
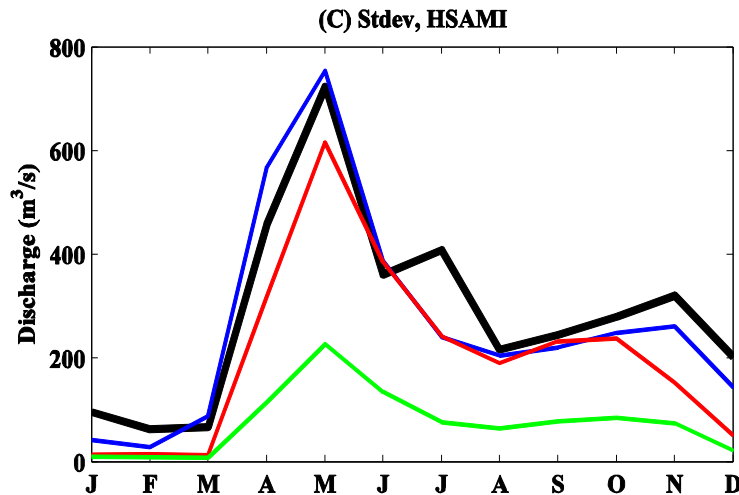
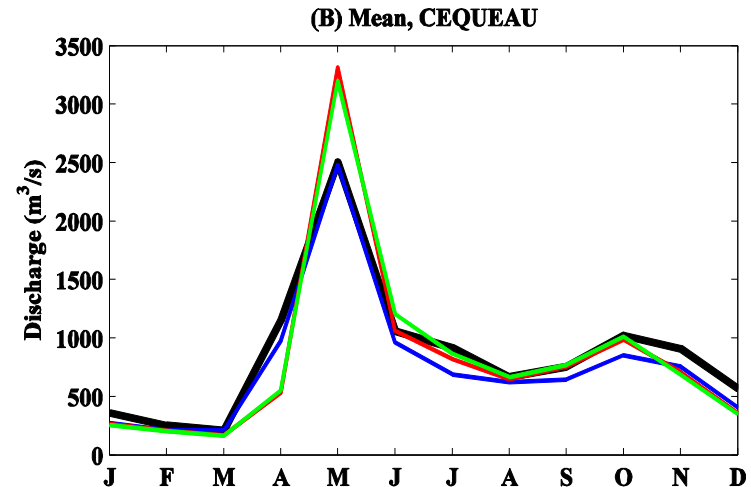
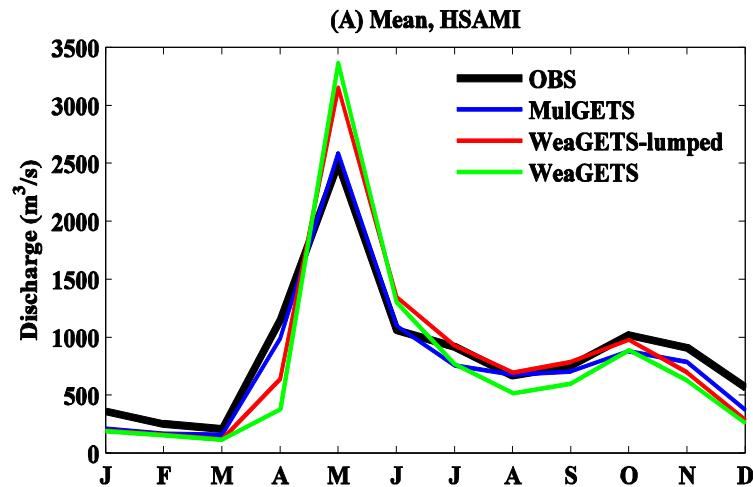
**Watershed:** Lac-Saint-Jean (45432 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Stations:** 15 meteorological stations

**Time period:** 1985-2010

**Hydrological models:** HSAMI (lumped model)  
CEQUEAU (distributed model)

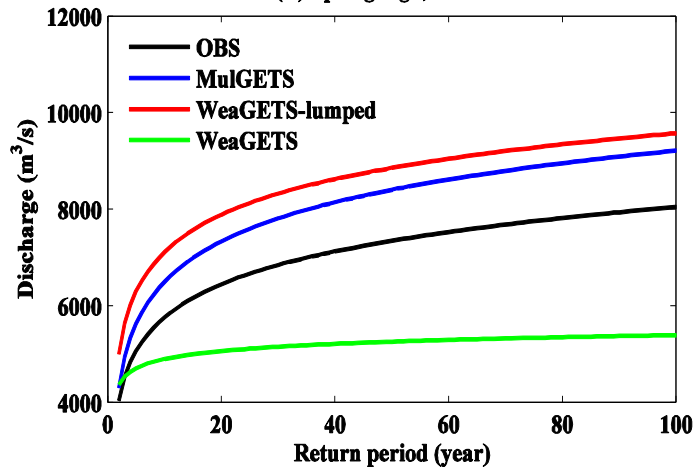
# Mean and stdev of monthly flow



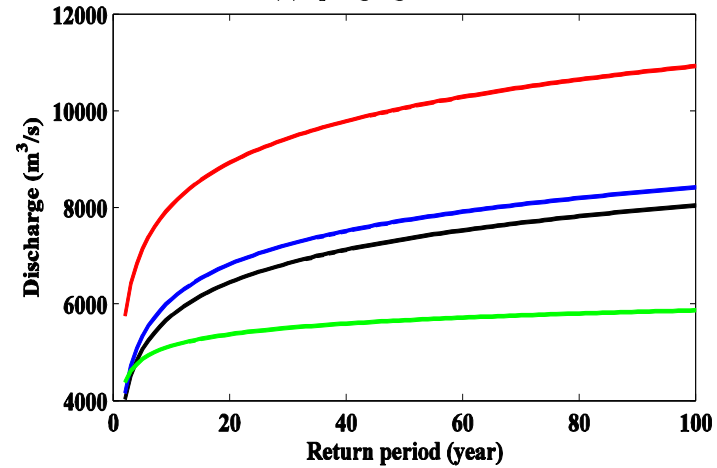
# High and low flows (Frequency analysis)



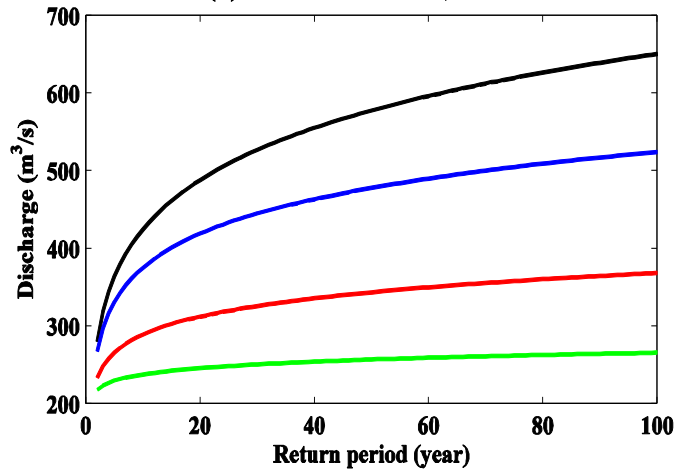
(A) Spring high, HSAMI



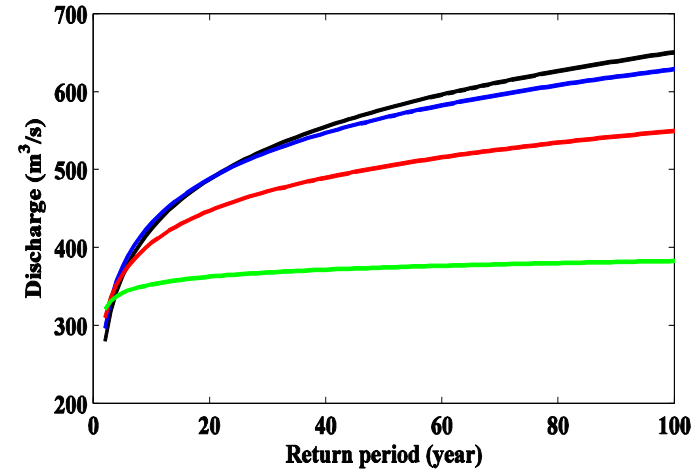
(B) Spring high, CEQUEAU



(C) Summer-autumn low, HSAMI



(D) Summer-autumn low, CEQUEAU



# References



- 1) Chen J., F. Brissette, 2014a. Stochastic generation of daily precipitation amounts: review and evaluation of different models. *Climate Research*, 59, 189–206.
- 2) Chen J., F. Brissette, 2014b. Comparison of five stochastic weather generators in simulating daily precipitation and temperature for the Loess Plateau of China. *International Journal of Climatology*, 34, 3089–3105.
- 3) Chen J., F. Brissette, X.C. Zhang, 2014a. A multi-site stochastic weather generator for daily precipitation and temperature. *Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers*, 57(5), DOI 10.13031/trans.57.10685.
- 4) Chen J., F. Brissette, X.C. Zhang, 2014b. Hydrological modeling using a multi-site stochastic weather generator. *Journal of Hydrology*. (Under review)
- 5) Chen, J., F. Brissette, R. Leconte, A. Caron, 2012. A versatile weather generator for daily precipitation and temperature. *Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers*, 55(3), 895-906.
- 6) Chen, J., F. Brissette, R. Leconte, 2011. Assessment and improvement of stochastic weather generators in simulating maximum and minimum temperatures. *Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers*, 54 (5), 1627-1637.
- 7) Chen, J., F. Brissette, R. Leconte, 2010. A daily stochastic weather generator for preserving low-frequency of climate variability. *Journal of Hydrology*, 388, 480–490.
- 8) Chen J., X. C. Zhang, W. Z. Liu, Z. Li, 2009. Evaluating and Extending CLIGEN precipitation Generation for the Loess Plateau of China. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*, 45 (2), 378-396.
- 9) Chen J., X. C. Zhang, W. Z. Liu, Z. Li, 2008. Assessment and Improvement of CLIGEN Non-Precipitation Parameters for the Loess Plateau of China. *Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers*, 51(3), 901-913.
- 10) Caron, A., R. Leconte, F. Brissette, 2008. An improved stochastic weather generator for hydrological impact studies. *Canadian Water Resources Journal*, 33(3), 233-256.
- 11) Brissette, F. P., M. Khalili, R. Leconte, 2007. Efficient stochastic generation of multi-site synthetic precipitation data. *Journal of Hydrology*, 345(3-4), 121-133.

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