

Exploring the ENSO Impact on Basin-Scale Floods toward Better Monthly-to Seasonal Flood Forecast

Huan Wu, Yan Yan, Zhijun Huang (Sun Yat-sen University)

Guojun Gu, Robert F. Adler (U. of Maryland) Lorenzo Alfieri (CIMA Foundation) Philip. J. Ward (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) Lifeng Luo (Michigan State University)



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Precipitation-related flood-generation mechanisms

Spatial distributions of the four climatological precipitation indices during the TRMM period (1998-2013)





Three objectives of this study:

- (1) Furnish a climatological quantification of global floods (frequency, duration, and intensity) during the TRMM period (1998-2013)
- (2) Quantify the likely relationships between flood events and various aspects of precipitation;
- (3) Assess the possible impact of climate modes specifically the ENSO on both precipitation and floods.

CAGU PUBLICATIONS



Water Resources Research

RESEARCH ARTICLE 10.1002/2013WR014710

Key Points:

- Coupled VIC with a physically based routing model for real-time flood estimation
- GFMS gives promising flood estimation with satellite-based

Real-time global flood estimation using satellite-based precipitation and a coupled land surface and routing model

Huan Wu^{1,2}, Robert F. Adler^{1,2}, Yudong Tian^{1,2}, George J. Huffman², Hongyi Li³, and JianJian Wang^{1,2}

¹Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA, ²NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA, ³Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington, USA



Dominant river tracing-Routing Integrated with VIC Environment (DRIVE) model (Wu et al., 2011, 2012, 2014 Water Resources Research; Wu et al., 2017, JHM; Wu et al., 2018, 2019 Wu et al. RSE; Jiang et al., 2020, RS;)





Flood event identification and flood indices

Evaluation of Global Flood Detection Using Satellite-Based Rainfall and a Hydrologic Model

Huan Wu and Robert F. Adler

Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center, University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland





14 precipitation/extreme precipitation indices:

Pr (mm/day)	Monthly precipitation rate
F01 (days/days)	Total rainy days (R>1 mm day-1) / total days in a month
F10 (days/days)	Total rainy days $(R \ge 10 \text{ mm day}^{-1}) / total days in a monthe-$
F25 (days/days)	Total rainy days $(R \ge 10 \text{ mm day}^{-1}) / \text{total days in a monthe}$
F50 (days/days)	Total days with $R \ge 50 \text{ mm day}^{-1} / \text{total days in a month} <$
R01 (mm/day)	Total R \geq 1 mm day ⁻¹ precipitation / days with R \geq 1 mm day ⁻¹ in a month \triangleleft
R10 (mm/day)~	Total R \geq 10 mm day ⁻¹ precipitation / days with R \geq 10 mm day ⁻¹ in a month \leftarrow
R25 (mm/day)	Total R \geq 25 mm day ⁻¹ precipitation / days with R \geq 25 mm day ⁻¹ in a month \leftarrow
R50 (mm/day)₽	Total R \geq 50 mm day ⁻¹ precipitation / days with R \geq 50 mm day ⁻¹ in a month \leftrightarrow
Pr01 (mm/day)↔	Total R \geq 1 mm day ⁻¹ precipitation / total days in a month \sim
Pr10 (mm/day)↔	Total R \geq 10 mm day ⁻¹ precipitation / total days in a month \leftarrow
Pr25 (mm/day)↔	Total R \geq 25 mm day ⁻¹ precipitation / total days in a month \leftarrow
Pr50 (mm/day)↔	Total R \geq 50 mm day ⁻¹ precipitation / total days in a month \leftarrow



Climatological mean precipitation and floods (1998-2013)



Max correlated precipitation indices with FF/FD/FI/FTI



FF and FD might be more related to precipitation frequency, while precipitation amount and/or intensity tend to be more relevant to FI and FTI.



The ratios of grids with the largest correlations and the total grids



- The dominant role of the frequency of extreme precipitation events in the occurrence and duration of of floods.
- Flood intensity (FI and FTI) tends to be more associated with total precipitation volume especially for those extreme precipitation events.

Yan, Y., H. Wu et al., Journal of Climate, 2020



Peak months of flood indices

49,101 River Basins (Wu et al., 2011, 2012, WRR)



The most frequent flood month for a river basin might not necessarily be the month with those (most) intense flood events.

Peak months of precipitation indices



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Jan







50N

40N

30N

20N

10N

10S

20S

30S

40S

50S

50N

40N

30N

20N

10N

10S

20S

30S

40S

50S

Mar

Feb

0

(n) Pr50

120W 90W 60W

301

Apr

0



30E

May



(c) F10













The existence of different effects on floods of these precipitation indices, representing various precipitation characteristics (Yan et al., 2020).

Simultaneous correlations between flood indices and Nino 3.4 in the respective peak months



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Simultaneous correlations between precipitation indices and Nino 3.4



-0.7

-0.5

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- The ENSO effect on floods in many regions might mostly go through the ENSO related variations in precipitation
 - Higher correlations with ENSO is seen in FF/FD than in precipitation indices for many basins.















120W 90W 60W 30W 30E 60E 90E 120E 150E 180 0



month 0.7 -0.3 -0.1 0.1 0.3 0.5



The Nino 3.4 leading-months with the highest correlations between Nino 3.4 and flood indices



Maximum correlations with Nino 3.4 leading Flood indices by one to five months appear in many river basins and can reach the 90% confidence level.

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The maximum Nino3.4 leading months with significant correlations between Nino3.4 and Flood indices





Take home messages

- Flood frequency (FF) and duration (FD) tend to be more related to daily precipitation frequency globally especially to the mid-to-high-end daily frequencies (F10, F25, F50). Flood intensity (FI and FTI) tend to be more associated with daily precipitation volume corresponding to those extreme precipitation events (>Pr10), while with a weak relation to daily precipitation intensity except the very high end one (R50).
- Significant simultaneous correlations and ENSO-leading-floods relations between flood indices and Nino 3.4 appear in many flood-prone river basins across the world.
- The ENSO impact on floods can sometimes be traced back to the modulation of various characteristics of precipitation events by ENSO, which further confirms the ENSO-precipitation relations in these regions/river basins.
- The ENSO-floods-relations especially the ENSO-leading-floods relations identified here for river basins/catchments of interest can greatly enhance our understanding of how floods may vary on the interannual time scale and can further be applied to improve monthly-to-seasonal flood forecasting.



References

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