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Discussions

Interactive comment on "Forecasters priorities for improving probabilistic flood forecasts" *by* F. Wetterhall et al.

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This develops into an interesting discussion. I somehow had a different interpretation of Massimiliano's comment to Fredrik - and maybe that is really down to how do you define skill.

I think that Gut feeling in pure numerical skills is actually possible or better that the understanding of why people have a certain perception can be introduced as properties of a performance score. For me a prime example is the "Peak-Flow Box approach (Zappa et al. 2013) - in which a property of a forecast namely peak flow in a probabilistic forecast (highlighted through listening to forecasters) has been transformed into a numerical diagnostic, which supports other performance measures etc. For me there

is no obvious obstacle why the type of gut feeling described by Fredrik cannot be integrated into a decision making system at some point in the future. This of course leads to the discussion whether we still need human forecasters - which I strongly do and may it be not necessarily to do a forecast in the traditional sense, but to set priorities or in the communication process.

Latter leads to my understanding of Massimiliano's comment. Gut feeling is especially important to establish trust into a probabilistic forecast system which then becomes vital in the communication and forecast process - leading to a better performance of the entire system (linking back to Liz question) and less focus on the high resolution forecast as anchoring point. Skill and trust are of course to some extend intrinsically linked.

Zappa M, Fundel F, Jaun S. 2013. A "Peak-Flow Box" Approach for Supporting Interpretation and Evaluation of Operational Ensemble Flood Forecasts. Hydrological processes. 27: 117-131. doi:/10.1002/hyp.9521

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