

***Interactive comment on “Testing the realism of a topography driven model (FLEX-Topo) in the nested catchments of the Upper Heihe, China” by H. Gao et al.***

**E. Zehe (Editor)**

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Dear Mr. (?) Gao,

I had a close look at your work and at the reviewer comments. I agree with both reviewers that the propose work is novel and deserves without doubt publication in HESS. To optimize your work for the you should thoroughly address especially the comments of reviewer 1. I think he/she points out in a very constructive manner, what is missing to corroborate that accounting for the dominant runoff processes is the key for a better model performance. The study would surely profit from a the proposed

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comparison against a model of similar complexity.

I guess this can be addressed within moderate/ major revisions.

Best regards,

Erwin Zehe

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 10, 12663, 2013.

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