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Hydrology and Earth System Sciences Discussions

Interactive comment on "A global evaluation of streamflow drought characteristics" *by* A. K. Fleig et al.

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General statement

The paper presents an analysis of several hydrological drought characteristics determined from daily streamflow data based on the threshold method. The advantages and disadvantages of three pooling procedures are presented in context with the flow regime of the studied rivers (intermittency, flashiness, etc.). The paper is well and clearly written.

The manuscript was reviewed by three reviewers, who are all experts in different aspects of drought analysis, and accepted by all as worthy of publication in HESS subject to some revision and clarification. I share the view of the reviewers and encourage the authors to (a) respond carefully to the individual comments of all reviewers in a sin-

gle “Author Comment” which they submit to HESSD; (b) prepare and submit a revised version of their manuscript in accordance with the reviewer’s comments.

A recurring issue in the reviews was the fact that the paper should state more clearly that behind most drought analyses is the “ultimate subjectivity due to the lack of an universal definition of droughts” (A. Cancelliere, S1222). The reviewer pointed this out on (a) the choice of the threshold level and parameters of the pooling methods, and (b) the choice of the time scale/resolution of the analysis. I suggest that the authors discuss this issue in greater depth in the revised manuscript, in particular the way in which it confounds the comparison of drought characteristics determined from different rivers around the world.

Interactive comment on Hydrology and Earth System Sciences Discussions, 2, 2427, 2005.