

Interactive comment on “Precipitation and temperature ensemble forecasts from single-value forecasts” by J. Schaake et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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This manuscript describes the application of a method to generate ensemble forecasts from single-value, deterministic forecasts of temperature and precipitation. The method is essentially a "analogue forecast" method in which the conditional distribution of past observations is determined conditioned on the current deterministic forecast.

The method described provides a means to preserve space-time correlations in the forecasts, it is important to preserve such correlations in many applications of weather forecasts - not just streamflow forecasting, the particular application described in this manuscript.

Minor Comments:

The figures showing forecast errors and skill scores (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18,

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19, 20) do not provide any information about confidence intervals or error bars. Such information would be valuable to assess the significance of the results presented.

p4 In 17: "...an appropriate role for the human forecaster needs to be developed to preserve the value added by the forecaster..." would "maximise" be more appropriate than "preserve"?

p5 The explanation of aggregate forecast periods could be clearer, particularly as it seems to be a key concept in the paper.

p7 In 20: typo "Conditional distributions for each even(t)".

p27 sec 6.2 "The units of bias are degrees millimetres" Why is this the unit of bias?

How is the ensemble ranking done in a multivariate sense - with multiple variables in space and time?

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 4, 655, 2007.

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