

Interactive comment on “Multilevel and multiscale drought reanalysis over France with the Safran-Isba-Modcou hydrometeorological suite” by J.-P. Vidal et al.

Anonymous Referee #4

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I agree with the other reviewers that the authors are to be commended for this comprehensive analysis of drought in France and also recommend the paper for publication. The paper would, however, benefit from more concise and more scientific presentation. In particular, it is very descriptive and mixes discussion into the presentation of the results, which makes it difficult for the reader to extract the key findings about propagation of drought and scale. These could definitely be highlighted better.

The abstract should not only state what was analyzed but also needs one or two sentences on the findings/results.

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The introduction lists a lot of studies, but falls short on summarizing what groups of studies actually found and which conclusions they drew that are relevant to this study. The aims are a bit hidden within the text and could be brought out better, preferably together with some research questions such as in the beginning of section 5 (where there should be only results and no repetition of research questions).

In sections 2.2 and 2.3 in particular I found it difficult to distinguish between review of methods and the exact choice of methods that were applied in this study and why. This needs to be made clearer.

The presentation of drought characteristics are very good and illustrative. By immediately jumping into comparisons with the literature, however, the great results of this study seem to drown a bit. The work would be highlighted better if the results were presented plainly first just as they are, and all discussion with respect to the literature was moved to a more structured and more expansive discussion section.

Discussion and conclusion would benefit from more focus on the multi-level and multi-scale aspects that were actually found. Otherwise the title promises too much.

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