

Interactive comment on “On selection of the optimal data time interval for real-time hydrological forecasting” by J. Liu and D. Han

D. Solomatine (Editor)

d.solomatine@unesco-ihe.org

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It was very interesting to read the discussion with referees. The comments given by the referees are indeed valid, especially about the structure of the paper, separation of the methodology from the results. I think researchers and practitioners need to look at the problem of data in hydrological modelling more (as it is done in this paper); often modellers "use data that they have" without proper attention to the issues of temporal and spatial distribution ("proper" meaning using more-or-less formal methods of analysis). Understandably this is a smaller problem in densely gauged catchments but it is acute in many countries. Characterising dependency of model accuracy/uncertainty on data availability and distribution is not a trivial problem.

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The issue of influence of the spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall mentioned by a referee is of course also worth attention, but maybe in another paper.

The authors are invited to revise the manuscript.

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