

## ***Interactive comment on “A history of the concept of time of concentration” by Keith J. Beven***

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Received and published: 25 February 2020

The length of the two reviews suggests that the paper does not have many issues. However, whereas that may be the case for one of them, there is the other review that poses a more principal question. Is this paper about time of concentration or on rainfall-runoff? In the background, this second review also poses a question that might concern all of us working on history of hydrology: the way hydrologists (and other water scholars) have used mathematics to make water work for them, even when the mathematics is not entirely "correct".

I do understand the response of the author to the question whether this is about rainfall-runoff. However, stating that it is not may not be enough in itself. I do not think that the paper needs to be rewritten, but a slightly more extensive engagement with the argumentation of the second reviewer would be welcome to position the paper in the

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general discussion.

It is also clear that the paper is dealing with a historical phenomenon, but does so without taking a typical historical angle of studying how the societal issues of the time were related to the work of hydrologists, how professional struggles may have influenced the outcome of scholarly debates, etcetera. As such, the paper tends to isolate the debate on time of concentration somewhat from the larger historical contexts. However, the paper does show that something like a mathematical approach to catch an observation from the field has to be understood as a historical product with its own trajectory of debates, disagreements and changes.

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2019-588>, 2020.

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