



Comparing probability distributions for the World's Maximum Observed Floods

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A database of annual maximum daily river discharges extracted from the Catalogue of World's Maximum Observed Floods (International Association of Hydrological Sciences) is analyzed. Several probability distributions are tested against each other in terms of the goodness of fit, in order to identify whether a single distribution can adequately describe all time series in spite of the various climatic regimes, location and geomorphologic conditions. The analysis is relevant to the ongoing and intensifying discussion about climate variability and the intensity of extreme phenomena such as river discharges.