Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 21, EGU2019-10838, 2019 EGU General Assembly 2019 © Author(s) 2019. CC Attribution 4.0 license.



Simulating snow conditions in ski resorts with the physically based snowpack models AMUNDSEN, Crocus, and SNOWPACK/Alpine3D

Florian Hanzer (1,2), Carlo Maria Carmagnola (3), Pirmin Philipp Ebner (4), Franziska Koch (5), Fabiano Monti (6), Mathias Bavay (4), Matthias Bernhardt (5), Matthieu Lafaysse (3), Michael Lehning (4,7), Ulrich Strasser (1), Hugues François (8), and Samuel Morin (3)

(1) Department of Geography, University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria (florian.hanzer@uibk.ac.at), (2) Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change, University of Graz, Austria, (3) Univ. Grenoble Alpes, Université de Toulouse, Météo-France, CNRS, CNRM, Centre d'Etudes de la Neige, Grenoble, France, (4) WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, Davos, Switzerland, (5) Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria, (6) ALPsolut S. r. l., Livigno, Italy, (7) School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, (8) Univ. Grenoble Alpes, Irstea, LESSEM, Grenoble, France

Physically based snowpack models are commonly used for the simulation of the snow cover in mountain regions in a high level of detail and process representation. Beyond the simulation of natural snow conditions only, for the application of these models in ski resorts recently much progress has been made regarding the inclusion of snow management practices while explicitly resolving the underlying processes. This includes the physical description of the snowmaking and grooming processes under consideration of the ambient conditions (e.g. wet-bulb temperature and wind speed) and ski resort infrastructure (snow gun locations and efficiency, water availability, pumping capacity, etc.), but also the associated socioeconomic decisions (when and where to produce snow and to groom). In the frame of the H2020 project PROSNOW, the snowpack models AMUNDSEN, Crocus, and SNOW-PACK/Alpine3D are being applied in nine pilot ski resorts across the European Alps for forecasting snow conditions in time scales from days to several months ahead. In our contribution, we present an overview and comparison of the three models while focusing on the individual approaches for the simulation of snowmaking and grooming, and show how individual ski resorts, their infrastructure, and management practices are represented. Finally, we demonstrate how different snow management configurations are considered in the operational model runs and show preliminary simulation results for the PROSNOW pilot ski resorts.