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Climate services and applications: Derived variables and their interpretation

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When analyzing regional climate change and producing information that is relevant for climate services for decision makers, the main source is the set of 'standard' properties. It includes regional information on, e.g., temperature, precipitation, sunshine or wind likely to occur in a changed future climate. It will be shown that derived variables which are based on thresholds extend the standard information in an application-oriented way. These include quantities for assessments of the changed thermal regime such as heating degree days or ecology/agriculture-relevant quantities such as begin/end/length of the growing season. Moreover, a wealth of extreme indicators can be supplied to further assist the decision processes. Practical advice concerning the application and interpretation of the derived variables will be given.