



Quality Control of the Belgian Historical Weather Data

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Thanks to a digitization project, time series of daily extreme (minimum and maximum) temperature and precipitation data are now available since 1880 for a number of climatological stations in Belgium. However, no measuring technique is perfect and errors can occur in meteorological observations for a wide variety of reasons, the most common being instrument faults, observer errors, errors in data transmission, and clerical error in data processing. The present contribution describes the quality control (QC) procedures developed at the Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium to handle climate data. First, a special care is paid to the records digitized by the staff [i.e. 1880 – 1950] as they require a stricter QC to avoid major mistakes in data digitization. Second, automated procedures are applied to isolate and flag potentially errant values as well as for ensuring internal consistency and temporal and spatial coherence of the data. At the end of the process a quality flag (i.e. validated, suspicious or corrected) is attributed to each controlled values.