Modeling of Daily Precipitation Process in the

Context of Climate Change

Hoang Lam Nguyen

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Department of Civil Engineering

McGill University, Montreal

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Abstract

Understanding the spatial and temporal variations of the precipitation process is essential for the planning, design, and management of various water resources systems (e.g., urban drainage systems, flood protection dams, etc.). Furthermore, in recent years, climate change impacts on precipitation have been considered as one of the most critical issues for water resources management worldwide. Hence, it is essential to establish the linkage between the large-scale climate variables in the atmosphere with the precipitation characteristics at a local site of interest for impact and adaptation studies. The present study is therefore carried out in order to develop appropriate methods for improving the accuracy of precipitation estimation at a gauged or ungauged local site in the context of a changing climate. This study can be divided into five main parts.

The first part of this research aims to develop a new statistical downscaling (SD) model for describing the linkage between large-scale climate predictors and observed daily precipitation characteristics at a local site. The proposed SD model, referred hereafter as SDGAM, is based on the Generalized Additive Modeling (GAM) method. The feasibility and accuracy of the SDGAM are assessed using the National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) re-analysis data and the observed daily precipitation data available for the 1961–2000 period at ten gauged sites located in Southern Quebec and Ontario, Canada. Results of this illustrative application have indicated that the proposed SDGAM model could provide more accurate results than those given by the currently popular SDSM method in practice.

The second part of this research is to propose a new statistical downscaling approach based on the combination of the *spatial downscaling* method to link large-scale climatic variables provided by Global Climate Models (GCMs) to daily extreme precipitations at a local site using the SDGAM and the *temporal downscaling* procedure to describe the relationships between daily extreme precipitations with sub-daily extreme precipitations using the scaling General Extreme Value distribution and the scaling behavior of the empirical Probability Weighted Moments (GEV/PWM). The proposed approach was assessed using precipitation data from 5 minutes to 24 hours at 10 representative stations across Canada. It was found that the annual maximum precipitation series in Canada displayed different scaling behaviors depending on the locations considered. Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) relations were then constructed for historical period of 1961-2000 and future periods of 2030s, 2060s and 2090s for different Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP 2.6, RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5).

The third part of this research aims to estimate daily precipitation series for ungauged sites in Vietnam. Initially, daily rainfall series data of 155 stations across Vietnam were employed to identify different homogeneous rainfall regions using the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) method. Daily precipitation series at ungauged sites were then estimated using a proposed twostage interpolation method to describe the persistence in rainfall occurrences and amounts for the identified rainfall homogenous regions. The jackknife technique was used to represent the ungauged site condition. Results of this study have shown that Vietnam can be identified into 7 homogeneous rainfall regions. In addition, the proposed estimation procedure can provide the estimated daily precipitation series that are statistically similar to the observed data.

The fourth part of this research is to investigate the presence of trends in daily annual maximum precipitation series using the historical rainfall records available from a network of 175 high-quality stations across Canada and the downscaled regional gridded data from the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP). The Mann-Kendall non-parametric test was adopted for trend detection of historical observed data and the trends were estimated using Sen's method. The trends were computed for two different periods: historical period from 1950 to 2005 (for all datasets) and future period from 2006 to 2100 (for NEX-GDDP dataset). Results of this study have indicated an increasing trend for most stations across Canada, approximately 55% for the observed historical records, and around 80% for the downscaled regional gridded data. In addition, it was found that the CanESM2 model provided the best results in terms of the mean and standard deviation of daily annual maximum precipitation time series for Canada. In particular, the gridded data for British Colombia (BC) showed a widespread variation among the 21 GCMs considered in NEX-GDDP. Furthermore, a positive trend was found for more than 90% stations for the future period.

The final part of this research is to perform a detailed analysis of the variability in time and in space of the daily annual maximum rainfalls and extreme temperatures over the Montreal region for the present and future climates using the data from two different sources: the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) and the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP). More specifically, the evaluation was based on the climate simulation outputs from ten different Global Climate Models downscaled (i) by PCIC to a regional 1/12-degree grid using the BCCAQ and BCSD methods; and (ii) by NASA to a regional 1/4-degree grid. For the present climate, historical data for the 1961-1990 period from observed weather stations in the Montreal region were also used for this evaluation. For the future

climates, climate projections corresponding to the RCP 4.5 scenario for the 2006 – 2100 period were considered. Results of this study have indicated that the downscaled regional gridded data from PCIC are generally more robust and more accurate than those given by NEX-GDDP. However, the downscaled data are different from the observed data at a given station. A bias correction is hence required before these data could be used in planning and design of urban infrastructures.

Résumé

La connaissance sur les variations spatiales et temporelles du processus de précipitation est essentielle pour la planification, la conception et la gestion de divers systèmes de ressources en eau (par exemple, les systèmes de drainage urbain, les barrages de protection contre les inondations, etc.). En outre, ces dernières années, les impacts du changement climatique sur les précipitations ont été considérés comme l'un des problèmes les plus critiques pour la gestion des ressources en eau dans le monde. Par conséquent, il est essentiel d'établir le lien entre les variables climatiques à grande échelle dans l'atmosphère et les caractéristiques des précipitations sur les sites locaux pour les études d'impact et d'adaptation. La présente étude est donc réalisée dans le but de développer des méthodes appropriées pour améliorer la précision de l'estimation des précipitations à un site local jaugé ou non jaugé dans le contexte du changement climatique. Cette étude peut être divisée en cinq grandes parties.

La première partie de cette recherche vise à proposer un nouveau modèle statistique de réduction d'échelle pour décrire le lien entre les prédicteurs climatiques à grande échelle et les caractéristiques des précipitations quotidiennes observées sur un site local. Le modèle proposé, appelé ci-après SDGAM, est basé sur les méthodes d'ajustement du modèle additif généralisé (GAM). La faisabilité et la précision de l'approche suggérée sont évaluées à l'aide des données de réanalyse du Centre national de prévision environnementale (NCEP) et des données de précipitations quotidiennes observées disponibles pour la période 1961-2000 à dix sites jaugés situés dans le sud du Québec et en Ontario, Canada. Les résultats de cette application illustrative ont indiqué que le modèle SDGAM proposé pourrait fournir des résultats plus précis que ceux fournis par la méthode SDSM actuellement la populaire en pratique.

La deuxième partie de cette recherche présente une approche de réduction d'échelle statistique basée sur la combinaison de la méthode de réduction d'échelle spatiale pour relier les variables climatiques à grande échelle fournies par les modèles du climat global (MCG) aux précipitations extrêmes quotidiennes sur un site local en utilisant SDGAM et la procédure de réduction d'échelle temporelle pour décrire les relations entre les précipitations extrêmes quotidiennes avec des précipitations extrêmes sous-journalières en utilisant la distribution des valeurs extrêmes générales (VEG) et le comportement de mise à l'échelle des moments pondérés par la probabilité (VEG/MPP). Le modèle proposé a été évalué à l'aide de données sur les précipitations de 5 minutes à 24 heures à 10 stations représentatives à travers le Canada. On avait constaté que les séries de précipitations maximales annuelles au Canada présentait de multiples comportements d'échelle selon l'emplacement des stations considérées. Les relations intensitédurée-fréquence (IDF) ont ensuite été construites pour la période historique de 1961-2000 et les périodes futures des années 2030, 2060 et 2090 pour différentes voies de concentration représentatives (RCP 2.6, RCP 4.5 et RCP 8.5).

La troisième partie de cette recherche vise à générer des séries de précipitations quotidiennes pour des sites non jaugés au Vietnam. Initialement, les données des séries de précipitations quotidiennes de 155 stations à travers le Vietnam ont été utilisées pour identifier des régions de précipitations homogènes à l'aide de la méthode d'analyse en composantes principales (ACP). Des séries de précipitations quotidiennes en des sites non jaugés sont ensuite générées à l'aide d'une nouvelle méthode d'interpolation en deux étapes pour décrire la dépendance dans l'occurrence des pluies et la quantité de précipitations pour des régions homogènes de précipitations identifiées. La technique du jackknife a été utilisée pour représenter l'état du site non jaugé. Les résultats de cette étude ont montré que le Vietnam peut être identifié en 7 régions de précipitations homogènes. De plus, la méthode d'estimation proposée peut fournir des séries de précipitations quotidiennes qui sont statistiquement semblable aux séries les données observées.

La quatrième partie de cette recherche examine la présence des tendances dans les séries de précipitations annuelles maximales quotidiennes en utilisant les données historiques disponibles aux 175 stations d'observation de haute qualité à travers le Canada et des données régionales maillées à échelle réduite fournies par l'Administration nationale de l'espace aéronautique (NASA) dans le cadre du projet de Projections mondiales à échelle réduite d'Earth Exchange (NEX-GDDP). Le test non paramétrique de Mann-Kendall a été adopté pour la détection des tendances des données observées historiques et les tendances ont été estimées à l'aide de la méthode de Sen. Les tendances ont été calculées pour deux périodes différentes : la période historique de 1950 à 2005 (pour tous les jeux de données) et la période future de 2006 à 2100 (pour le jeu de données NEX-GDDP). Les résultats ont montré une tendance à la hausse à travers le Canada pour la plupart des stations, environ 55% pour les données observées historiques et environ 80% pour les données maillées régionales à échelle réduite. L'étude a également révélé que CanESM2 offre les meilleurs résultats en termes de moyenne et d'écart type des séries chronologiques quotidiennes de précipitations maximales annuelles pour le Canada. En particulier, les données maillées en Colombie-Britannique (C.-B.) ont montré une grande variabilité parmi les 21 MCG de NEX-GDDP. En plus, on avait identifié une tendance positive pour plus de 90% des stations pour la période future.

La dernière partie de cette recherche effectue une analyse détaillée de la variabilité dans le temps et dans l'espace des précipitations maximales annuelles quotidiennes et des températures extrêmes sur la région de Montréal pour les climats présents et futurs en utilisant les données de deux sources différentes: le Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) et la National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP). Plus précisément, l'évaluation était basée sur les sorties de simulation climatique de dix modèles climatiques mondiaux différents réduits (i) par le PCIC à une grille régionale de 1/12 degré en utilisant les méthodes BCCAQ et BCSD; et (ii) par la NASA à une grille régionale de 1/4 de degré. Pour le climat actuel, les données historiques pour la période 1961-1990 provenant des stations météorologiques observées dans la région de Montréal ont également été utilisées pour cette évaluation. Pour les climats futurs, des projections climatiques correspondant au scénario RCP 4.5 pour la période 2006–2100 ont été considérées. Les résultats de cette étude ont indiqué que les données maillées régionales à échelle réduite de PCIC sont généralement plus robustes et plus précises que celles fournies par NEX-GDDP. Les données réduites sont cependant différentes des données observées à une station donnée. Une correction de biais est donc nécessaire avant que ces données puissent être utilisées dans la planification et la conception des infrastructures urbaines.

Dedication

To my family.

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Chapter 1: General introduction

1.1 Problem statement

Understanding the spatial-temporal variations of precipitation process is essential for the planning, design, and management of various water resources systems. For instance, daily precipitation time series are commonly used to assess the availability of water resources in a region, and in particular the extreme rainfall amount for a given return period is required for flood design of various hydraulic structures, (e.g., urban drainage systems, flood protection dams, etc.) (Hershfield, 1961; WMO, 2009). Recently, climate change impacts on precipitation have been considered as one of the most critical issues for water resources management around the world (IPCC, 2007; IPCC, 2014). Hence, it is essential to establish the linkage between the large-scale climate variables in the atmosphere with the precipitation characteristics at local sites for impact and adaptation studies.

General Circulation Models (GCMs) have been commonly used for evaluating the effects of climate change under different scenarios of greenhouse gas emissions on the hydrological regime. Although these GCMs have been recognized to be able to represent the main features of the global distribution of basic climate parameters (Randall et al., 2007), they still cannot reproduce well details of regional climate conditions at temporal and spatial scales of relevance to hydrological impacts and adaptation studies (Nguyen et al., 2006). This is because outputs from GCMs are usually at resolution that is too coarse (as illustrated in [Figure 1-1\)](#page-28-0) for many climate change impact studies, generally greater than 2.5° for both latitude and longitude (approximately 250km). To refine the GCM coarse grid resolution climate projection data to much finer spatial resolutions (regional or local scales) for the reliable assessment of climate change impacts, different downscaling methods have been proposed to resolve this scale discrepancy (Wilby et al., 2002; Fowler et al., 2007; Nguyen and Nguyen, 2008; Maraun et al., 2010; Khalili and Nguyen, 2016; Gooré Bi et al., 2017).

Figure 1-1. Spatial downscaling (Source: P. Gachon & Earthsystemcog.org)

In general, two broad categories of these downscaling procedures currently exist: dynamical downscaling (DD) techniques, involving the extraction of regional scale information from large-scale GCM data based on the modeling of regional climate dynamical processes (Denis et al., 2002; Lenderink et al., 2007), and statistical downscaling (SD) procedures that relied on the empirical relationships between large-scale atmospheric variables and surface environment parameters (Wilby et al., 2004; Diaz-Nieto and Wilby, 2005; Nguyen and Nguyen, 2008; Wilby and Dawson, 2013; Gaur and Simonovic, 2017). It has been widely recognized that the SD methods offer several practical advantages over the DD procedures, especially in terms of flexible adaptation to specific study purposes, and inexpensive computing resource requirement (Xu, 1999; Prudhomme et al., 2002; Wilby et al., 2004; Nguyen et al., 2006). In addition, SD methods are able to account for the observed climate and weather data available at studied sites.

The SD methods can be classified into three sub-categories based on the statistical techniques used: weather typing approaches (Hay et al., 1991; Bárdossy, 1997; Goodess, 1998; Schnur and Lettenmaier, 1998), stochastic weather generators (Richardson, 1981; Semenov and Barrow, 1997); and regression methods (Wilby et al., 2002; Wilby and Dawson, 2013). The major disadvantage of the stochastic weather generators is related to the arbitrary manner of determining the model parameters for future climate conditions, while its of weather classification schemes in the weather typing approaches are somewhat subjective. Of these three approaches, the regressionbased SD procedures are more popular because they are relied on the directly derived statistical relationships between large-scale climate predictors and local-scale parameters. The most popular one in this sub-category is the Statistical Downscaling Model SDSM (Wilby et al., 2002) which describes the daily precipitation process including two separate components: the modeling of the occurrence of rainy days using a linear regression technique, and the modeling of the precipitation amount on a rainy day. However, linear regression model in occurrence process fails to describe the probability of a wet day as the value is outside of the range [0,1]. Furthermore, another limitation of SDSM is less accurate in estimating the variance of daily precipitation amounts.

Hence, it is necessary to develop an improved SD model for describing more accurately the daily precipitation processes at a given site.

In addition, in most practical applications, precipitation data at the locations of interest are often limited or unavailable, consequently the existing statistical downscaling approaches proposed for gaged sites cannot be employed. The estimation and prediction of hydrological variables such as precipitation and flow with climate change conditions for these ungauged sites remains a crucial challenge for managing and planning water resources (Sivapalan, 2003). Although several studies have been proposed to assess the impacts of climate change on water resources for ungauged locations (Creutin and Obled, 1982; Besaw et al., 2010; Candela et al., 2012; Yeo and Nguyen, 2014; Bae and Oh, 2017; Nguyen et al., 2018), there is still no general agreement on what the best approach is. Consequently, it is essential to develop a new SD approach to describing more accurately the linkages between the large-scale climate variables given by GCM simulation outputs and the expected daily precipitation characteristics at locations with limited or without historical rainfall data.

1.2 Objectives of the study

In view of the aforementioned issues, the overall objective of the proposed research is to develop innovative modeling approaches to describe accurately statistical and physical properties of the daily precipitation series at a single site or at many sites concurrently in the context of climate change for cases with sufficient rainfall records (gauged sites) and for cases where data are limited or unavailable (ungauged sites) in order to provide suitable tools for high-quality climate change impact assessment studies. More specifically, the proposed study aims at the following objectives:

i) To develop a new SD model for describing accurately the linkage between large-scale climate variables and the local characteristics of the daily precipitation process at a given gauged location;

ii) To develop a new statistical approach to modeling sub-daily extreme rainfall processes in order to improve the accuracy in the estimation of the Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) relations at a given gauged site in the context of a changing climate;

iii) To develop a new SD approach for downscaling the daily precipitation process at an ungauged location based on the rainfall records available at other sites within a given homogeneous region;

iv) To evaluate the accuracy and reliability of regional climate simulations for present and future periods for Canada; and

v) To evaluate the spatial and temporal variability of temperature and precipitation extremes over Montreal region for present and future climates.

1.3 Organization of the thesis and chapter overview

The thesis consists of eight chapters. Chapter 1 provides the general introduction to the current issues related to rainfall modeling in the context of climate change and describes the main objectives of this research. Chapter 2 presents an overview of existing SD models and proposes a new downscaling model for generating daily precipitation series at a single gauged site. Chapter 3 describes a new SD approach (the so-called spatial-temporal downscaling approach) for modeling the sub-daily annual maximum precipitation (AMP) processes in the context of climate change. Chapter 4 proposes a new approach for generating daily precipitation series at an ungauged site

based on rainfall information available within the same homogeneous region. Chapter 5 evaluates the accuracy and reliability of regional climate simulations over Canada using the NASA Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP) data for present and future climates. Chapter 6 presents the assessment of the variability of precipitation and temperature extremes over Montreal region for present and future climates. The major conclusions and recommendations for further studies are summarized in Chapter 7. Finally, the statement of originality is detailed in Chapter 8.

Chapter 2: A statistical downscaling model for daily precipitation process at a local site

2.1 Introduction

As mentioned in previous section, climate change has been recognized as having a profound impact on the hydrologic cycle at different temporal and spatial scales (Zhang et al., 2011; Arnbjerg-Nielsen et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2019). Global Climate Models (GCMs) have been commonly used in various studies for assessing the potential impacts of climate change. However, resolutions of outputs from these models are considered too coarse (generally greater than 200km) and hence are not suitable for climate change impact studies at a regional or local scale (Nguyen and Nguyen, 2008). Therefore, it is necessary to develop the linkage between daily climate variables at global scale and the daily precipitation at a local site of interest. If this linkage could be established, then the projected change of climate conditions given by a GCM could be used to predict the resulting change of the local precipitation and the resulting runoff characteristics. Different downscaling techniques have been proposed to downscale these global GCM information to the precipitation series at a local site in several previous studies (Yarnal et al., 2001; Nguyen and Yeo, 2011).

Generally, downscaling techniques can be classified into two broad categories: statistical downscaling (SD) and dynamical downscaling (DD). The DD techniques involve the extraction of regional scale information from large-scale GCM data based on the modeling of regional climate dynamical processes (Denis et al., 2002; Lenderink et al., 2007). Being comprehensive physical models, they are able to provide a more detailed physical understanding of the relationship between the large-scale atmospheric variables and the regional weather conditions. The main disadvantage of DD is the fact that it is computationally intensive and too coarse for local site studies (Xu, 1999). On the other hand, statistical downscaling (SD) procedures rely on the empirical relationships between large-scale atmospheric variables and surface environment parameters (Nguyen and Nguyen, 2008; Wilby and Dawson, 2013). Furthermore, SD methods are flexible to adapt to specific study purposes, and inexpensive computing resource requirement (Wilby et al., 2004; Nguyen et al., 2006). Because of these practical advantages, SD methods have been commonly used in many climate change impact studies in practice.

Depending on the selected statistical techniques, SD methods can be further categorized into three main groups: weather typing, stochastic weather generation, and regression based (Kilsby et al., 1998; Wilks and Wilby, 1999; Yarnal et al., 2001; Fowler et al., 2007; Hessami et al., 2008). Firstly, the weather typing approach classifies days into number of discrete weather conditions; however, this classification is somewhat subjective, and this approach is also computationally intensive for large amount of input observed data (Von Storch et al., 1993). Secondly, stochastic weather generation generates synthetic data series that have similar statistical properties as observed data (Richardson, 1981). The challenge of stochastic approach is to establish the linkage between parameters of these models and large-scale climate variables. Finally, regression-based method establishes empirical relationships between global climate predictors and local predictands (e.g., temperature and precipitation). This approach is simple and straightforward; however, the limitation is related to stationary assumption of regression model parameters.

In general, there is still no general agreement about which downscaling method is the most appropriate approach for describing the observed precipitation characteristics for a given site in the context of climate change, depending mainly on the specific study objectives and the specific climatology of a particular study area (Nguyen and Nguyen, 2008). However, the Statistical Downscaling Model SDSM (Wilby et al., 2002) has been considered as the most popular since it is recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Significant limitations of the model have been recognized in some previous studies such as: i) the linear multiple regression model used for modeling the precipitation occurrence process could produce some unrealistic results since the probability of rainfall occurrence could be outside of the range [0,1]; and ii) the observed variance of rainfall occurrences and amounts for every month cannot be accurately reproduced (see for instance the results for Dorval station shown in [Figure 2-1\)](#page-35-0).

Figure 2-1. SDSM model at Dorval station for the period 1961-1980 (i) Occurrence; (ii) Amount; Black markers: Observed data
The present study proposes therefore a new statistical model, hereafter referred to as SDGAM, using the Generalized Additive Modeling (GAM) methods in order to address the shortcomings of the current popular SDSM model. The feasibility and accuracy of the suggested approach are evaluated using the National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) reanalysis data and the observed daily precipitation data available for the 1961–2000 period at ten gauged sites located in Southern Quebec and Ontario, Canada.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Theoretical background

Traditionally, regression analysis is used to describe the linear relationship between the random variable Y (dependent variables) and the random variables X (independent variables) as follow:

$$
Y = \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i X_i + \varepsilon \tag{2-1}
$$

in which β_i denotes the regression parameters, and ε is the error term. However, the relationship between dependent and independent variables cannot always be represented by a linear behavior, for example the relation between the precipitation and the atmospheric predictors. Hence, one could consider the Generalized Additive Model (GAM), which was first introduced by Hastie and Tibshirani (1986), as an extension of the linear regression methods by replacing the linear relation by the smooth function f_i , as follow:

$$
Y = \alpha + \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(X_i) + \varepsilon \tag{2-2}
$$

where α denotes the intercept, X_i denotes independent variables, and ε is error term.

It has been shown that GAM has several advantages over linear regression models because of its flexibility because of the smooth function. Furthermore, data transformation is not required due to the smooth functions f_i . For instance, f_i could be represented by the smooth splines which are curves composed of polynomial functions connected at points named knots. Smooth parameters can be automatically estimated using restricted maximum likelihood (REML) (Wood, 2006). The GAMs have been successfully adopted in some fields of water resources. Villarini and Serinaldi (2012) used GAMs to forecast seasonal rainfall in Romania. Jones et al. (2013) evaluated changes in the frequency and magnitude of extreme daily rainfall in Northern Ireland region. Chebana et al. (2014) applied for regional frequency analysis to estimate flood quantiles at ungauged sites in Canada. Laanaya et al. (2017) proved that GAM outperforms logistic and linear regressions in modeling water temperatures.

In this study, a new statistical downscaling approach, called SDGAM, will be proposed using the GAM for the modeling of the daily rainfall process. Details of the proposed method are provided the following section. The performance of the SDGAM will be assessed using the GAMs package developed by RStudio (RStudio Team, 2020).

2.2.2 Proposed statistical downscaling model for daily precipitation process - SDGAM

- Precipitation Occurrence Process:

$$
\hat{\pi}_i = C_{0k}(a_0 + \sum_{a=1}^n f_{0i}(X_i))
$$
\n(2-3)

in which f_{0i} : smooth function

Xi: the large-scale atmospheric predictors given by GCM simulations

 C _{Ok}: the correction coefficients for the rainfall occurrence process

r_i is a uniform distributed random number, if $r_i \leq \hat{\pi}_i$, precipitation occurs at day i

- Precipitation Amount Process (Ri)

$$
Y = f C_{Ak}(\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(X_i) + \eta_i)
$$
\n
$$
(2-4)
$$

in which α : intercept

 f_i : smooth function

Xi: the large-scale atmospheric predictors given by GCM simulations

 C_{Ak} : the correction coefficients for amount process

 $\eta_i = Z * S_e^i$

 S_e^i : the standard error of month ith

 f : the bias correction coefficient, coming from the deviation of the simulated mean given by GCMs and the estimated mean given by the NCEP re-analysis data. The value of f is set to 1 in the calibration step of the SDGAM model.

> $f = \frac{\text{total mean by NCEP for calibration period}}{\text{total mean by GCMs for calibration period}}$ total mean by GCMs f or calibration period

In both precipitation occurrence and amount processes, the correction coefficients COk and CAk represent the difference between the mean of the observed data and the mean of the simulated results based on the regression of GAM for the percentage of wet-day and precipitation amounts, respectively. These coefficients are automatically computed during the calibration of the SDGAM model such that an adequate agreement between the simulated results and the historical data was found. Initially, the values of these coefficients are set to 1 in the calibration step. [Figure 2-2](#page-40-0) illustrated the steps in the SDGAM model.

Figure 2-2. Scheme of SDGAM model

2.3 Illustrative application

2.3.1 Data

To assess the accuracy and feasibility of the proposed SDGAM model, a case study was conducted using the NCEP re-analysis data (Kalnay et al., 1996) and the observed daily precipitation data available at 10 stations located in Southern Quebec and Ontario regions, Canada (see [Figure 2-3\)](#page-41-0). For comparison purposes, both SDSM and SDGAM models are considered for this study. More specifically, the observed daily precipitation data for the period from 1961 to 2000 were used as detailed in [Table 2-1.](#page-42-0) The 40-year record length are divided into 2 periods: calibration period from 1961 to 1980 and validation period from 1981 to 2000. The NCEP reanalysis data are composed of 26 daily atmospheric variables for the same periods that are selected at grid box covering each of the stations considered [\(Table 2-2\)](#page-42-1).

Figure 2-3. Selected stations in Southern Quebec and Ontario, Canada

Code	Site name	Province	Latitude		Longitude Elevation	Starting
S1	Cornwall	ON	45.47	-74.70	64.0	1961
S ₂	Dorval	QC	45.88	-72.48	36.0	1961
S ₃	Drummondeville	QC	45.90	-72.05	82.3	1961
S ₄	Farnham	QC	45.30	-72.90	68	1961
S ₅	Lennoxville	QC	45.37	-71.82	181	1961
S ₆	Morrisburg	ON	44.92	-75.19	81.7	1961
S7	Oka	QC	45.50	-74.07	91.4	1961
S8	Ottawa CDA	ON	45.38	-75.72	79.2	1961
S ₉	St Alban	QC	46.72	-72.08	76.2	1961
S ₁₀	St Jeromes	QC	45.80	-74.10	169.5	1961

Table 2-1. Information of rain-gaged stations in Southern Quebec and Ontario, Canada

Table 2-2. List of atmospheric variables of NCEP re-analysis data in the grid-box

2.3.2 Evaluation statistical indices

The evaluation of the performance of SDGAM model was carried out in comparison with the SDSM model using different statistical indices as detailed in [Table 2-3.](#page-43-0) These indices were selected to represent the basic statistical properties of the daily precipitation process: average and variance of precipitation, frequency of precipitation occurrence, intensity of precipitation amount, extreme events. For purposes of illustration, results of this comparative study were presented for Dorval station (S2) in the following section, and results of all other stations were presented in Appendix A.

Table 2-3. Evaluation statistics and indices

Categories	Code	Description		Time scale
Basic variable	Precip m	Average of precipitation	mm/day	Month
		Precip std Standard deviation of precipitation	mm/day	Month
Frequency	PRCP1	Percentage of wet days	$\frac{0}{0}$	Season
Intensity	SDII	Mean precipitation amount at wet days	mm/day	Season

In addition, the root-mean-square error (RMSE) was used to compare the performance of the proposed models as given below:

$$
RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum (SI_{model} - SI_{observed})^2}
$$

where *SI* indicates the value of the statistical indices and *N* is the number of sample size. The smaller value of the RMSE indicates the better accuracy of the model considered.

2.4 Results and discussions

As mentioned above, the comparison of the performance of the SDGAM and SDSM for Dorval station are presented in this section, and the results for other stations are given the Appendix A. In addition, it should be noted that the same screening procedure for selecting the significant climate predictors in the SDSM was also used for the SDGAM. More specifically, the significant climate predictors identified by this screening procedure for both models for Dorval station were the surface zonal velocity, the 850 hPa meridional velocity, the surface precipitation, and the specific humidity at 5000 hPa height. The smooth functions of these predictors for Dorval station are shown in [Figure 2-4.](#page-45-0) It can be seen that the proposed SDGAM model displays the non-linear

relations between the climate predictors and the dependent variables. Therefore, the SDGAM could be more flexible in comparison with the current SDSM based on the linear regression.

Figure 2-4. Plots of the smooth functions of each variable used in the generalized additive models (GAMs) for Dorval station. Solid lines: fitted smooth curves, Dashed lines: confidence intervals of the predictions

2.4.1 Numerical analysis

[Table 2-4](#page-46-0) an[d Table 2-5](#page-47-0) demonstrated the computed values of the RMSEs of monthly mean of precipitation (Preceip_m) and monthly standard deviation of precipitation (Precip_std) for the SDSM and SDGAM models for the calibration (1961-1980) and validation periods (1981-2000) at Dorval station. In these tables, bold numbers denoted the case when the RMSE value of the SDGAM is higher than the value of the SDSM; that is, the SDGAM is less accurate than the SDSM. Regarding the mean and standard deviation of precipitation, it could be seen that proposed SDGAM can provide a significant improvement over the SDSM for all months during the calibration period, and for most months for the validation period (except for October for Precip_m and for January, October and November for Precip std). In general, it was found that for both calibration and validation steps, the proposed SDGAM model could provide more accurate results than the SDSM in terms of Precip_m and Precip_std.

Month		Calibration	Validation		
	SDSM	SDGAM	SDSM	SDGAM	
Jan	0.839	0.671	0.969	0.952	
Feb	0.788	0.715	0.821	0.740	
Mar	0.824	0.708	0.954	0.930	
Apr	0.984	0.802	1.236	1.123	
May	0.830	0.725	0.998	0.930	
Jun	1.154	1.083	1.297	1.228	
Jul	1.560	1.409	1.652	1.377	
Aug	1.299	1.068	1.585	1.477	

Table 2-4. RMSEs of Mean of precipitation at Dorval station

Month		Calibration	Validation		
	SDSM	SDGAM	SDSM	SDGAM	
Sep	1.692	1.551	1.219	1.127	
Oct	0.949	0.799	1.021	1.023	
Nov	0.929	0.867	1.289	1.223	
Dec	0.813	0.714	0.883	0.828	

Table 2-5. RMSEs of Standard deviation of precipitation at Dorval station

Regarding the Prcp1, SDII and CDD indices, the proposed SDGAM model could provide significant improvements over the SDSM model. In particular, the SDGAM produced a more accurate result in the simulation of the maximum number of consecutive dry days (CDD), one of the most difficult indices to capture in the modeling process. Regarding the most difficult extreme precipitation index (Prec90p), the SDGAM generally cannot produce an improvement over the SDSM (the same performance for the calibration period but less accuracy for validation period as shown in [Table 2-6\)](#page-48-0). Similar results were found for other stations as presented in Appendix A.

Table 2-6. RMSEs of seasonal indices about frequency, intensity, and extreme of precipitation over calibration and validation period Dorval station (S2)

Indices	Season	Calibration		Validation	
		SDSM	SDGAM	SDSM	SDGAM
	Spring	6.380	5.533	6.059	6.027
Prcp1	Summer	5.435	4.850	6.022	6.027
$(\%)$	Fall	6.041	5.998	5.277	5.219
	Winter	5.920	5.076	6.176	5.692
SDII	Spring	1.595	1.543	1.488	1.321

Indices	Season	Calibration		Validation	
		SDSM	SDGAM	SDSM	SDGAM
(mm/wet-day)	Summer	1.550	1.281	2.151	2.070
	Fall	2.393	2.037	2.276	1.858
	Winter	1.396	1.066	1.643	1.732
	Spring	7.339	7.277	4.000	3.417
CDD	Summer	5.289	5.287	4.777	4.832
(days)	Fall	4.257	3.780	4.729	4.749
	Winter	4.414	4.333	4.024	3.746
	Spring	7.078	7.550	6.271	5.758
Prec90p	Summer	5.426	5.078	8.632	8.914
(mm/day)	Fall	8.058	8.097	7.379	8.158
	Winter	4.408	4.048	5.962	7.096

[Table 2-7](#page-50-0) shows the RMSEs for annual maximum series (AMS) and total yearly precipitation for all stations. Bold values indicated the better results for SDSM. It could be seen that SDGAM model performs better for all station for calibration period and two-third stations for validation period. In brief, the proposed SDGAM model was able to describe well seasonal features of the extreme precipitation, as well as its frequency and intensity for both calibration and validation periods for rain-gaged stations located in Southern Quebec and Ontario, Canada.

	AMS			TAP					
Station		Calibration		Validation		Calibration		Validation	
	SDSM	SDGAM	SDSM	SDGAM	SDSM	SDGAM	SDSM	SDGAM	
S1	20.28	13.90	14.83	13.23	130.67	118.27	131.44	121.51	
S ₂	15.55	14.15	17.83	19.72	112.38	104.01	102.17	92.12	
S ₃	13.59	12.11	19.48	20.58	211.90	200.44	221.42	198.77	
S4	20.53	17.69	21.99	18.49	116.20	95.76	216.40	216.88	
S ₅	11.42	10.52	17.36	15.66	108.21	90.94	162.70	200.72	
S ₆	19.14	13.85	19.15	16.30	137.31	123.57	118.75	86.64	
S7	13.35	11.72	12.74	18.36	105.58	90.05	104.89	99.23	
S ₈	12.00	10.77	17.76	16.98	114.80	105.53	87.94	99.29	
S ₉	19.58	16.79	15.35	16.02	148.46	146.49	87.96	86.83	
S10	14.21	13.43	14.29	13.90	110.40	99.10	131.07	134.49	

Table 2-7. RMSEs of Daily Annual Maximum Precipitation (AMS) and Total Annual Precipitation (TAP) for calibration and validation period Dorval station (S2)

2.4.2 Graphical analysis

A graphical comparison of the accuracy of the SDGAM and SDSM models using the box plots (the closeness between the estimated median value of the model and the observation) and the robustness of the model (the size of the Inter-Quartile Range box) were carried out in this study**.** For purposes of illustration, below figures show the results for the monthly indices of monthly percentage of wet-day (Prcp1) and monthly mean of precipitation (Precip_m) for Dorval Station for the calibration [\(Figure 2-5](#page-51-0) and [Figure 2-6\)](#page-52-0) and validation [\(Figure 2-7](#page-52-1) and [Figure 2-8\)](#page-53-0) periods. It can be seen that the proposed SDGAM model could reproduce more accurate results than those given by the SDSM for Dorval Station. [Figure 2-5](#page-51-0) and [Figure 2-6](#page-52-0) demonstrated that the monthly average of observed daily rainfalls is within the Inter-Quartile Range box of monthly average of generated data for both Precip m and Prcp1 indices for every single month. The accuracy of the results for the percentage of wet days index (Prcp1) and average precipitation (Precip_m) by the SDGAM could indicate that the use of the GAM modeling approach was more appropriate than the ordinary linear regression used in the SDSM for modeling the precipitation occurrence process.

Figure 2-5. Boxplots of monthly percentage of wet-days for SDSM (left) and SDGAM (right) for Dorval station (Black star markers indicate monthly average values of precipitation data, and boxplots indicate model results)

Figure 2-6. Boxplot of monthly means of precipitation for SDSM (left) and SDGAM (right) for Dorval station (Black star markers indicate monthly average values of precipitation data, and boxplots indicate model results)

Figure 2-7. Boxplot of percentage of wet days for SDSM (left) and SDGAM (right) for Dorval station for validation period. Black markers: Observed data

Figure 2-8. Boxplot of monthly means of precipitation for SDSM (left) and SDGAM (right) for Dorval station for validation period. Black markers: Observed data

[Figure 2-9](#page-55-0) presents the boxplots of six common annual indices: mean of precipitation (Precip_m), standard deviation of precipitation (Precip_std), percentage of wet-day (Prcp1), mean of precipitation on wet-days (SDII), consecutive of dry days (CDD), 90th quantiles of wet-days (Prec90p), Annual Maximum Series (AMS), and Total Annual Precipitation (TAP) for the entire record length from 1961 to 2000 at Dorval station (S2). It can be seen that the SDGAM model can capture well the Precip m, Prcp1, SDII and CDD indices but Precip std and Prec90p indices are still underestimated. Similar results for all other stations can be found in Appendix A (*Figure A-3* to *Figure A-11*).

Figure 2-9. Boxplots of annual statistics and indices of SDGAM model: Precip_m, Precip_std, Prcp1, SDII, CDD, Prec90p, AMS and TAP for 1961-2000 period at Dorval station (S2)

2.5 Conclusions

 A new downscaling model (SDGAM) has been developed to accurately simulate the daily precipitation processes at a single site in the context of climate change. The proposed SDGAM

model was based on the combination of the precipitation occurrence and the precipitation amount using the Generalized Additive Model. In brief, the proposed model was able to describe well many features of the daily precipitation process, including its occurrence frequency, intensity, and extremes for both calibration and validation periods for data from 10 rain-gauged stations located in Southern Quebec and Ontario, Canada. In addition, it has been demonstrated that the suggested SDGAM model could provide more accurate results than those given the existing SDSM model in the modeling of daily precipitation process based on both numerical and graphical performance criteria.

Chapter 3: Modeling of short-duration extreme precipitations in the context of climate change

3.1 Introduction

Many water management applications (i.e., design of urban storm drainage systems, flood management and infrastructure operations) require information of rainfall intensity-durationfrequency (IDF). In order to construct the IDF curves, annual maximum series (AMS) of different rainfall durations from a few minutes to days are obtained, commonly from 5 minutes to 1 day. However, in most practical applications, short-duration extreme rainfall data are very limited or even unavailable for a given location of interest while the daily extreme rainfall records are often available. For instance, less than 600 stations in Canada record short-duration extreme rainfall from 5 minutes to 24 hours (Environment Canada, 2020), while the number of stations observe the daily rainfall is more than 1700 stations (Mekis et al., 2018). Hence, it is necessary to develop new methods for modeling extreme rainfall processes over a wide range of time scales such that extreme rainfalls needed at sub-daily time scales for constructing IDF relations for a given location can be estimated from the available daily extreme rainfall data.

General Circulation Models (GCMs) have been commonly used for evaluating the effects of climate change under different scenarios of greenhouse gas emissions on the hydrological regime. Although these GCMs have been recognized to be able to represent the main features of the global distribution of basic climate parameters (Randall et al., 2007), they still cannot reproduce well details of regional climate conditions at temporal and spatial scales of relevance to hydrological impacts and adaptation studies (Nguyen et al., 2006). This is because outputs from GCMs are usually at resolution that is too coarse (as illustrated in [Figure 1-1\)](#page-28-0) for many climate change impact studies, generally greater than 2.5° for both latitude and longitude (approximately 250km). To refine the GCM coarse grid resolution climate projection data to much finer spatial resolutions (regional or local scales) for the reliable assessment of climate change impacts, different downscaling methods have been proposed to resolve this scale discrepancy (Wilby et al., 2002; Fowler et al., 2007; Nguyen and Nguyen, 2008; Maraun et al., 2010; Khalili and Nguyen, 2016; Gooré Bi et al., 2017). The SDGAM based on a combination of a Generalized Additive Models (GAMs) for representing the daily rainfall occurrences and the daily precipitation amounts has been proposed to describe the linkage of the large-scale climate variability to the historical observations of the precipitation process at a local site in previous section.

Several probability models have been conducted to describe the distribution of extreme precipitation at a gauged site (Wilks, 1993; Zalina et al., 2002). Unfortunately, these models are not accurate with all time frames, it is therefore requiring need for formulating models that could statistically and simultaneously matches various properties of the precipitation process at different levels of aggregations. Recently, the scale-invariance (or scaling) concept has increasingly become a popular methodology for modeling of several hydrological processes across a wide range of time scales (Hubert, 2001; Schertzer et al., 2010; Lovejoy and Schertzer, 2012). For instances, Nguyen et al. (2002) proposed a scaling General Extreme Value (GEV) based estimation method that can be used to estimate extreme rainfalls for a given return period at a local site for sub-daily time scales (hourly, 30 minutes, etc.) from the statistical properties of extreme rainfalls at a daily scale. Nguyen (2020) proposed a new mathematical framework for modeling extreme rainfall processes

over a wide range of temporal scales (i.e., from several minutes to one day) based on the threeparameter Generalized Extreme Value (GEV) distribution and the scaling behavior of the PWMs (known as the GEV/PWM model). The proposed model has been tested with data set of long rainfall records from a network of 74 stations located in diverse climatic conditions across Canada.

Climate variability and change have been recognized to have important impacts on the hydrologic cycle at different temporal and spatial scales. The temporal scales could vary from a very short time interval of 5 minutes (for urban water cycle) to a yearly time scale (for annual water balance computation). The spatial resolutions could be from a few square kilometers (for urban watersheds) to several thousand square kilometers (for large river basins). In this study, a suggested approach is based on the combination of the *spatial downscaling* method to link largescale climatic variables provided by GCMs to daily extreme precipitations at a local site using the SDGAM and the *temporal downscaling* procedure to describe the relationships between daily extreme precipitations with sub-daily extreme precipitations using the scaling General Extreme Value (GEV) distribution and the scaling behavior of the PWMs. The feasibility and accuracy of this spatial-temporal downscaling approach have been assessed using the AM precipitation data available at 10 stations across Canada and based on different climate change scenario simulation results available for the study region provided by the Canadian GCMs for the current 1961-2000 period as well as for future 2030s, 2060s, and 2090s periods. Results of this numerical application have indicated that, after a bias-correction adjustment, it is feasible to develop an accurate linkage between the daily AMPs spatially downscaled from GCM simulations with the observed daily AMPs at local stations. These results suggest that it is possible to use the climate predictors given by GCM simulations under different climate scenarios for projecting the variability of AM daily precipitations for future periods. On the basis of these results for daily AMPs, the IDF curves for

the current 1961-2000 period and for future periods (2030s, 2060s, and 2090s) were constructed using the proposed temporal GEV/PWM method for sub-daily AMPs

3.2 A statistical approach to downscaling of extreme precipitation processes

3.2.1 A spatial downscaling approach using SDGAM

The SDGAM model developed in this study can be used to downscale daily precipitation process at a local site. The modeling of this process in the context of climate change involves two components: the modeling of the daily precipitation occurrences and the modeling of the precipitation amounts

$$
\hat{\pi}_i = C_{Ok}(a_0 + \sum_{a=1}^n f_{0i}(X_i))
$$

in which f_{0i} : smooth function

Xi: the large-scale atmospheric predictors given by GCM simulations

 $C_{Ok}:$ the correction coefficients for Occurrence process

r_i is a uniform distributed random number, if $r_i \leq \hat{\pi}_i$, precipitation occurs at day i

- Precipitation Amount Process (Ri)

$$
Y = f C_{Ak}(\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(X_i) + \eta_i)
$$

in which α : intercept

 f i: smooth function

Xi: the large-scale atmospheric predictors given by GCM simulations

 C_{Ak} : the correction coefficients for amount process

 $\eta_i = Z * S_e^i$

 S_e^i : the standard error of month ith

 f : bias correction coefficient, coming from the deviation of the simulated mean given GCMs and the estimated mean given by the NCEP re-analysis data. The value of f is set to 1 in calibration step of SDGAM model.

$$
f = \frac{total \text{ mean by NCEP for calibration period}}{total \text{ mean by GCMs for calibration period}}
$$

In both precipitation occurrence and amount processes, the correction coefficients C_{Ok} and CAk represent the difference between the mean of observed data and the mean of simulated results based on the regression of GAM for the percentage of wet-day and precipitation amounts, respectively. These coefficients are automatically computed during the calibration of the SDGAM model such that an adequate agreement between the simulated results and the historical data could be obtained. Initially, the values of these coefficients are set to 1 in the calibration step.

It has been demonstrated in previous chapter that the SDGAM model was able to describe accurately the linkage between the daily predictands (precipitation occurrence and amount) at a given local site and the large-scale climate predictors provided by GCMs. Hence, it can be used to generate "synthetic predictands" that represents the generated local weather

3.2.2 A temporal downscaling method using the scaling-GEV distribution

The GEV distribution has been commonly used to describe the distribution of extreme rainfalls for different durations and to construct the IDF curves. The cumulative distribution function, $F(x)$, for the GEV distribution is given as:

$$
F(x) = exp\left[-\left(1 - \frac{\kappa(x-\xi)}{\alpha}\right)^{\frac{1}{\kappa}}\right] ; \quad (\kappa \neq 0)
$$

where ξ , α , and κ are the location, scale, and shape parameter, respectively.

The probability weighted moment (PWM) estimators (or method of L-moment, L-MOM) can be used for estimation of the GEV parameters in consideration of the scaling property of these PWMs over different rainfall durations. For a distribution of a random variable X that has a quantile function, $x(u)$, the PWM of r^{th} -order can be expressed as (Hosking and Wallis, 1997):

$$
\beta_r = E(X\{F(X)\}^r) = \int_0^1 x(u)u^r du
$$
\n(3-1)

The PWMs of r^{th} -order, β_r , of the GEV distribution are given as follow:

$$
\beta_r = M_{1,r,0} = E[X \{ F(X) \}^r] = (r+1)^{-1} \left(\xi + \frac{\alpha}{\kappa} \{ 1 - (r+1)^{-\kappa} \Gamma(1+\kappa) \} \right) \tag{3-2}
$$

in which ξ , α , and κ are the location, scale, and shape parameters respectively; and F is the cumulative probability of interest. $\Gamma(.)$ is the gamma function and r must be non-negative.

For a simple scaling process, it can be shown that the relation between the *r*th-order PWMs of rainfalls for two different rainfall durations t and λt can be expressed as:

$$
\beta_r(\lambda t) = \lambda^{\eta_r} \beta_r(t) = \lambda^{\eta} \beta_r(t) \tag{3-3}
$$

where $\eta_r = \eta_0$ is the scaling exponent and can be estimated based on the means of different rainfall durations.

This infers that the scaling exponents η_r are constant across all PWM orders r for the same rainfall scaling regime. In other words, the plot of the scaling exponents η_r (y-axis) with the PWM order r (x-axis) should display a horizontal line rather than a linear sloping line as for the case of the ordinary statistical moments (Nguyen et al., 2002).

Furthermore, let $\tau_3(t)$ and $\tau_3(\lambda t)$ denote the L-skewness of the data samples for two different time scales t and λt respectively (Hosking, 1990). L-skewness is the dimensionless version of the third order L-moment. It is obtained by dividing the third-order L-moment by the second-order L-moment. Hence, for a simple scaling process it can be shown that:

$$
\tau_3(\lambda t) = \frac{6\beta_2(\lambda t) - 6\beta_1(\lambda t) + \beta_0(\lambda t)}{2\beta_1(\lambda t) - \beta_0(\lambda t)} = \frac{\lambda^{\eta}}{\lambda^{\eta}} \cdot \frac{[6\beta_2(t) - 6\beta_1(t) + \beta_0(t)]}{[2\beta_1(t) - \beta_0(t)]} = \tau_3(t)
$$
\n(3-4)

Equation [\(3-4\)](#page-63-0) indicates that the L-skewness is constant over different time scales.

Consequently, for the simple scaling process, the shape parameter of the GEV distribution κ , which is a function of the L-skewness, is also constant over the time scale, that is,

$$
\kappa(\lambda t) = \kappa(t) \tag{3-5}
$$

From Eqn. [\(3-2\)](#page-63-1) and after some mathematical manipulations, the first- and second-order PWMs can be written as follows:

$$
\beta_0 = \xi + \frac{\alpha}{\kappa} \{ 1 - \Gamma(1 + \kappa) \} \tag{3-6}
$$

$$
\beta_1 = \frac{1}{2} \Big[\beta_0 + \frac{\alpha}{\kappa} (1 - 2^{-k}) \Gamma(1 + k) \Big] \tag{3-7}
$$

On the basis of Eqns. [\(3-3\)](#page-63-2), [\(3-5\)](#page-64-0)[-\(3-7\)](#page-64-1) the location and scale parameters of the GEV distribution for different time scales can be related as follows:

$$
\alpha(\lambda t) = \lambda^{\eta} \alpha(t) \tag{3-8}
$$

$$
\xi(\lambda t) = \lambda^{\eta} \xi(t) \tag{3-9}
$$

and the quantiles for different time scales can also be expressed as:

$$
X_T(\lambda t) = \lambda^{\eta} X_T(t) \tag{3-10}
$$

In summary, based on these equations, for a simple scaling regime, it is possible to derive the distributions and statistical properties of short-duration extreme rainfalls from those of longer durations at a given study site as presented right below.

There are two different manners to downscale extreme rainfall quantiles from daily to subdaily and/or sub-hourly intervals: the direct and indirect methods. The direct method scales the quantiles of rainfall duration (λt) from those of duration t directly using Eqn. [\(3-10\)](#page-64-2). Note that the daily extreme rainfall quantiles computed based on different PWM or NCM estimators could be varied. Consequently, the scaled sub-daily and/or sub-hourly extreme rainfall quantiles obtained using the two systems are therefore different. Similarly, though the parameter scaling relationships are identical for the two moment systems, the scaling parameters obtained using two different estimation methods are also different. For the indirect method, the first three PWMs of sub-daily and/or sub-hourly AMSs are first computes using the scaling relationships of PWMs over different rainfall durations. These scaled PWMs are then utilized to solve for the three parameters in order to calculate the rainfall quantiles

3.3 Numerical application

To access the accuracy and feasibility of the proposed spatial-temporal downscaling approach, a case study was conducted using both global GCM climate simulation output CanESM2 and the observed daily precipitation data at 10 stations located in Southern Quebec and Ontario regions, Canada (see [Figure 3-1\)](#page-66-0). For comparison purposes, both SDSM and SDGAM models were considered for this study. More specifically, the daily precipitation data for the period from 1961 to 2000 were used as detailed in [Table 3-1.](#page-66-1)

Figure 3-1. Selected stations across Canada

The computational procedure for the suggested spatial-temporal downscaling method in this study can be summarized as follows:

i) Calibrate and validate the SDGAM model using the at-site daily precipitation as predictand and global GCM atmospheric variables as predictors (spatial downscaling);

ii) Generate 50 samples of 40-year daily precipitation series at a given site using the calibrated SDGAM and the corresponding GCM predictors, and extract daily AM precipitation series from these generated samples;

iii) Perform necessary bias correction of the GCM-downscaled daily AM precipitation series;

iv) Establish the scaling relations between the PWMs of the observed at-site AM precipitations for various durations;

v) Construct IDF curves using the adjusted GCM-downscaled AM daily precipitations and the estimated sub-daily AM rainfall amounts given by the calibrated scaling GEV model.

Repeat steps (ii) to (v) to construct IDF curves for future periods (2030s, 2060s, and 2090s).

3.4 Results and discussions

3.4.1 Spatial downscaling and bias-correction

The SDGAM model was calibrated and used to generate daily AMPs for all stations using the climate simulation outputs from CanESM2 under different RCPs (RCP 26, RCP 45, and RCP 85). The probability plots of AMPs downscaled in comparison of observed AMPs for the historical period 1961-2000 for stations S5 and S7 were presented in [Figure 3-2](#page-68-0) for purposes of illustration. It can be seen that downscaled AMPs are commonly lower than the observed at-site data. The error adjustment functions were established based on data for the 1961-1985 calibration period, then applied for the 1986-2000 validation period to assess their accuracy. In this study, the $4th$ order adjusted functions were employed to correct the differences between downscaled and observed data, results for S5 and S7 stations as shown in [Figure 3-4.](#page-69-0) Results for all other stations can be found in Appendix B.

Figure 3-2. Probability plots of observed daily AMPs and Historical Period (HIST) at S5 & S7

Figure 3-3. Error-Adjustment functions for S5 &S7

Figure 3-4. Probability plots of observed daily AMPs and Historical Period (HIST) after erroradjustment at S5 & S7

To assess the accuracy of the error adjustment method, the relative-root-mean-square-error (RRMSE) was used and can be as follows:

$$
RRMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\frac{X_i^{ob} - X_i^{sc}}{X_i^{ob}} \right)^2}
$$

where N is sample size, X_i^{ob} and X_i^{ob} are observed and downscaled quantiles, respectively. Results can be found in [Table 3-2.](#page-70-0) The smaller RRMSE values mean the results of the adjusted downscaled AMPs were improved in compared to the unadjusted downscaled AM amounts for both calibration and validation periods for all stations.

Table 3-2. RRMSE for daily AMPs with and without bias correction for calibration period of 1961-1985 and validation period of 1986-2000

Stations	Calibration		Validation	
	Before	Adjusted	Before	Adjusted
S ₁	0.637	0.171	0.220	0.202
S ₂	0.362	0.057	0.335	0.207
S ₃	0.503	0.077	0.502	0.214
S ₄	0.246	0.107	0.195	0.340
S ₅	0.130	0.057	0.204	0.126
S ₆	0.263	0.064	0.206	0.101
S7	0.152	0.084	0.210	0.117
S8	0.969	0.067	0.640	0.180
S ₉	0.442	0.113	0.436	0.240
S ₁₀	0.308	0.066	0.181	0.178

3.4.2 Temporal downscaling

To assess the scaling behavior of the observed AMP series, the log-log plots of the five rainfall PWMs against duration are prepared for all 10 stations. The log- linearity exhibited in the plot indicates the power law dependency of the rainfall statistical moments. However, [Table](#page-71-0) 3-3 showed that the AM precipitation series in Canada displayed multiple scaling behaviors depending on the location of stations from East to West, for instance, the breaking points at Dorval and Sydney CS are 30 and 360 minutes, respectively. Hence, for a given location, it is possible to determine the PWMs and the distribution of rainfall extremes for short durations (e.g., 30 minutes) using available rainfall data for longer time scales (e.g., 1 day) within the same scaling regime.

No	Province	Name	Breaking Point (min)
$\mathbf{1}$	AB	CALGARY INT L CS	15
$\overline{2}$	BC	VANCOUVER INTL A	120
3	MB	WINNIPEG A CS	30
4	NB	MONCTON INTL A	120
5	NL	GANDER AIRPORT CS	30
6	NS	SYDNEY CS	360
τ	ON	TORONTO INTL_A	30
8	QC	MONTREAL P.E. INTL (Dorval)	30
9	SK	REGINA INT L A	360
10	YT	WHITEHORSE	15

Table 3-3. Breaking points (BP) of PWM/GEV for all stations
For purposes of illustration, Figure 3-5 shows the log-log plot of the PWMs versus durations for Sydney_CS (S6) and D[orval \(S8\) sta](#page-72-0)tions.

Figure 3-5. Log-log plots of the PWMs versus durations at S6 & S8

Figure 3-6. Scaling exponents plotted against the order of PWMs at S6 &S8

Figure 3-7. Probability plots of Observed AMPs and estimated using traditional and scaling GEV distributions at 1-hr (left) and all duration (right) for Dorval station (S8). Dotted line: Traditional GEV, Solid line: GEV/PWM, circle markers: Observed data

[Figure 3-7](#page-73-0) illustrates the comparison between observed and estimated precipitation by traditional GEV and scaling GEV for 1-hour duration (left) and all 9 - durations from 5 minutes to 24hr (right). It can be seen from the [Figure 3-7](#page-73-0) that scaling GEV approach is in very good agreement with the observed data. In addition, [Table 3-4](#page-73-1) presents numerical IDF relations for Dorval station given by traditional fitted GEV and scaling GEV approaches for the historical period 1961-2000. There is no significant difference between the two methods. Therefore, the scaling GEV approach can be used to estimate sub-daily AM rainfalls from historical or adjusted downscaled daily AM precipitations.

Table 3-4. Numerical IDF curves of AMP estimated by traditional GEV and scaling GEV for Dorval station (1961-2000). Unit of precipitation intensity is mm/hr, Return Period, T in year

3.4.3 IDF curves for the periods of 2030s, 2060s, and 2090s

The proposed spatial-temporal SD was used to construct IDF curves for stations located in Canada under different climate change scenarios (RCP 26, RCP 45, and RCP 85) for the current and future periods (2030s, 2060s, and 2090s). For purposes of illustration, [Figure 3-8](#page-76-0) shows the plots of daily AM precipitations at Dorval station (S8) for the future periods (2030s, 2060s, and 2090s) with different RCP (RCP 26, RCP 45 and RCP 85). It can be seen that there is an increasing trend in the projected extreme rainfalls for future periods.

Figure 3-8. IDF curves for future periods with different RCPs at Dorval Station (S8)

Table 3-5. AMP GCM-projected corresponding to 100-year return period for the current and the future periods. Unit of precipitation intensity is mm/hr

Stations	Current	RCP ₂₆		RCP45			RCP85			
		2030s	2060s	2090s	2030s	2060s	2090s		2030s 2060s 2090s	
S1	7.05	5.78	4.50	6.95	6.42	5.35	6.32	8.22	5.11	7.22
S ₂	1.55	2.50	2.09	2.68	3.19	2.54	2.89	2.66	3.08	3.80
S ₃	3.00	5.03	5.27	6.81	3.35	4.06	3.81	7.10	5.93	4.27
S4	4.06	5.08	4.38	5.40	8.05	5.25	5.83	5.12	5.40	5.95
S ₅	2.49	3.00	2.98	3.54	3.80	4.17	3.42	3.83	2.87	4.14
S ₆	6.14	7.24	8.52	8.90	8.95	9.13	7.68	6.75	7.16	5.95
S7	3.67	5.68	5.69	4.29	3.81	5.80	5.45	3.72	4.69	5.12
S8	4.05	4.94	5.36	4.99	5.53	5.45	4.62	5.37	5.61	4.80
S ₉	1.34	2.23	2.26	2.99	2.32	2.78	3.43	3.01	2.79	3.38
S10	0.90	0.94	0.97	1.06	0.89	0.99	0.90	0.90	0.79	0.96

3.4 Conclusions

A spatial-temporal downscaling approach was proposed in this study to describe the linkage between large-scale climate variables for daily scale to AM precipitations for daily and sub-daily scales at a local site. The feasibility of the proposed downscaling method has been evaluated based on climate simulation outputs from CanESM2 under different RCPs (RCP 26, RCP 45, and RCP 85) using available AM precipitation data for durations ranging from 5 minutes to 24 hours at ten rain-gage stations across Canada. Results have indicated that it is feasible to link daily large-scale climate variables to daily AM precipitations at a given location. In addition, it was found that the AM precipitation series in Canada displayed multiple scaling behaviors depending on the location of stations from east to west regions. Based on this scaling property, the scaling GEV distribution has been shown to be able to provide accurate estimates of sub-daily AM precipitations from GCM-downscaled daily AM amounts. It can be concluded that it is feasible to use the proposed spatial-temporal downscaling method to describe the relationship between largescale climate predictors for daily scale given by GCM simulation outputs and the daily and subdaily AM precipitations at a local site. This relationship would be useful for various climate-related impact assessment studies for a given region.

Finally, the proposed downscaling approach was used to construct the IDF relations for a given site for the historical period of 1961-2000 and for future periods (2030s, 2060s, and 2090s) using climate predictors given by CanESM2 simulations. This result has demonstrated the presence of high uncertainty in climate simulations provided by different RCPs. Further studies are planned to assess the feasibility and reliability of the suggested downscaling approach using other GCMs and data from regions with different climatic conditions.

Chapter 4: A statistical approach to estimating missing daily precipitation series at ungauged sites: a case study using data in Vietnam

4.1 Introduction

As described in previous Chapters, a number of studies have been conducted to establish the linkages between the large-scale climate variables given by GCMs and the observed characteristics of the daily precipitation process at a local site using different downscaling methods (Xu, 1999; Yarnal et al., 2001; Nguyen et al., 2006). These downscaling methods, however, are not suitable for dealing with cases where precipitation data at the location of interest are limited or not available. The estimation and prediction of hydrological variables such as precipitation and flow with climate change conditions for these ungauged or partially gauged sites remains a crucial challenge for managing and planning water resources (Sivapalan, 2003). Several studies dealing with the impacts of climate change on water resources at ungauged locations have been conducted in recent years (Besaw et al., 2010; Candela et al., 2012; Gibbs et al., 2012). For instance, Candela et al. (2012) proposed the use of a rainfall-runoff model to assess impacts by climate change on water resource for ungauged location in Northern Spain. Samuel et al. (2012) suggests the bias correction technique with Regional Climate Models (RCMs) and Global Climate Models (GCMs) for simulating precipitation, temperature, and future flows at gauged and ungauged stations. In particular, Wilby et al. (2006) have identified the three sources of uncertainties in climate change

impact studies: by GCMs relating to unknown future conditions, by both dynamical and statistical downscaling procedure, and by specific application models.

In the context of regional impact studies, many previous approaches have been proposed for the past decades to supplement limited hydrological data at a local site for the current period or for the assessment for future periods in the context of a changing climate (Wilks, 1998; Mehrotra et al., 2006; Nguyen et al., 2006; Samuel et al., 2012). For instance, a procedure for generating spatially correlated and serially independent random numbers in their stochastic multisite downscaling models in order to preserve the spatial dependency amongst rain-gauge stations in a region was conducted (Wilks, 1998; Mehrotra et al., 2006). Another approach was the nearest neighbor resampling to preserve the spatial correlation of the daily precipitation and temperature data (Buishand and Brandsma, 2001; Beersma and Buishand, 2003). Furthermore, the spatial structure of Fourier Coefficients was applied to describe the spatial variability of rainfall series in a region (Lima and Lall, 2009). These studies, however, did not explicitly consider the similarity or homogeneity of the precipitation series at different sites even though this similarity assessment is an important factor in the understanding of the variability of the precipitation phenomenon in space. It is therefore necessary to assess the similarity of historical rainfall series at different locations to ensure that these observed precipitation measurements are produced from the same storm system (Nguyen et al., 2002; González and Valdés, 2008). Regionalization methods are hence frequently used to transfer rainfall information from one location to the other (Nguyen et al., 2007; Samuel et al., 2012). Regionalization methods have been developed and employed according to two main objectives: considering spatial dependency (homogeneity) and reducing uncertainty. Consequently, for precipitation estimation at an ungauged site, the homogeneity of precipitation processes at different sites is a necessity condition to obtain an accurate rainfall estimate with less uncertainty.

For the determination of precipitation homogeneity, cluster analysis and eigenvector analysis are two common approaches. A popular eigenvector-based method for regional precipitation analysis is Principal Component Analysis (PCA). PCA is a multivariate statistical technique used to simplify the original data by representing in dimensions fewer than original number of variables. The first application of PCA in meteorology and climatology was the end of the 1940s and enormous studies on PCA have published since (Preisendorfer, 1988; Johnson and Hanson, 1995; Baeriswyl and Rebetez, 1997; Nguyen, 2003; Yeo, 2013). This technique allows grouping of stations with similar characteristics and the delimitation of climatic regions, especially while handling a large dataset. PCA can be applied to reduce the dimensionality of the data but still contains most of the information of the original variables. PCA can be performed using either the covariance matrix or the correlation matrix. According to Johnson and Hanson (1995), PCA method can better describe the topographic influence on precipitation phenomenon. Baeriswyl and Rebetez (1997) also found that the PCA was a more accurate procedure for regional precipitation analysis in comparison with cluster analysis for precipitation data in Switzerland.

Vietnam is a developing country in Southeast Asia with limited observed rainfall data, leading to difficulty in construction designing and planning. Most of observed data are are only available at daily scale. This paper applied Principal Components Analysis (PCA) to identify homogenous precipitation regions. Regionalization is applied to define homogenous regions of rainfall for Vietnam. After that, a two-stage interpolation method is proposed to generate daily rainfall series at ungauged sites. Finally, GEV scaling technique is employed to infer the sub-daily

and/or sub-hourly extreme rainfalls from daily extreme rainfalls in order to construct IDF curves at the location of interest.

4.2 Data

For this study, a total of 155 observed daily precipitation series with more than 22 years of record across Vietnam were selected (see details of these selected data in Appendix C). These series were selected based on the high quality of the data. In addition, the data with the same concurrent period of record are an important criterion for the main objective of this study that is to estimate the missing data at a location of interest using the available rainfall information from the neighbouring region. Figure 4-1 shows the locations of the selected stations. It can be seen that the density of stations in Northern part is higher than the Southern part, and those stations in the North also have longer record lengths.

Figure 4-1. Selected rain-gauged stations in Vietnam

Figure 4-2 shows some basic statistics of precipitations across Vietnam. Vietnam is located in the tropical area that receives quite a lot of rainfalls in terms of amounts and extreme values. It can be seen that the highest annual precipitation and the extreme daily precipitation are in the Central part, specifically at Thua Thien Hue province - where the Hai Van pass is located. The annual precipitation here is almost 3800 mm yearly, and the maximum daily precipitation is up to 350 mm. The daily extreme rainfall in the South is smallest with the value of less than 100 mm. The Northwest and area surrounding the Hai Van pass have more than 50% of rain day per year.

Figure 4-2. Maps of annual precipitation across Vietnam (a): total annual rainfall, (b): daily annual maximum, (c): percentage of rain day. The value of each point is average over record period

4.3 Methodology

4.3.1 Homogeneous regions

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is a multivariate statistical method that can be employed to reduce the original data by representing in dimensions fewer than the original number of variables. The original dataset of n correlated variables can be transformed into n numbers of uncorrelated principal components (PCs). These PCs are linear transformation of the original variables so that the sums of variances of the original and the new variables are equal. Although the number of PCs and original variables are the same, the first few transformed PCs consist of the majority of the variance in the dataset, reducing the dimensionality of the original dataset. The PCs are sequenced from the highest to the lowest variance as the first PC describes the data's largest proportion of variance. The second highest variance is explained by the second PC and so on. The values of PCs can be obtained from Equations:

$$
PC1 = a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \ldots + a_{1n}x_n = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{1j}x_j
$$

$$
PC2 = a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{2j}x_j
$$

where x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n are the original variables and a_{ij} are the eigenvectors. The eigenvalues are the variances of the PCs. The covariance or correlation matrix of the data set is used to derive the coefficients *a*jj, which are the eigenvectors. The eigenvalues of the data matrix can be calculated as follow:

$$
|C-\lambda I|=0
$$

where *C* is the correlation or covariance matrix, *I* is the identity matrix, and λ is the eigenvalue. The PC coefficients are then calculated by Equation:

$$
|C-\lambda I|ajj=0
$$

The present study used the Principal Components Analysis (PCA) to identify homogenous precipitation regions. In this study, inter-station correlation coefficient matrices based on the annual maximum monthly mean rainfalls were analyzed using PCA. The principal components (PCs) were rotated, and the rotated component pattern was analyzed. The PCs were chosen based on the Kaiser's rule (Kaiser, 1960). The PCA was carried out in this study using the IBM SPSS software (IBM Corp., 2019). Once the homogenous regions of rainfall were identified, a 2-stage interpolation method is proposed to generate daily rainfall series at ungauged sites based on the daily rainfall data available at stations located within the same homogenous region. The method is detailed in the next section.

4.3.2 Estimation of missing daily precipitation series at an ungauged site

In this study, a two-stage interpolation method is proposed to estimate daily rainfall series at ungauged sites: rainfall occurrence stage and rainfall amount stage. Estimated daily precipitation series is compared with the observed data at the same location to assess the feasibility and accuracy of the proposed method.

+ **Stage 1**: For a calendar day (365 day), let O_i^k be daily precipitation occurrence at station k at day i. $O_i^k = 0$ if day i is dry, and $O_i^k = 1$ if day i is wet, threshold of rainfall for wet day is 1 mm. The probability π_i of non-zero precipitation at an ungauged site for day i is defined using IDW as follows:

$$
\pi_i = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N} w_k o_i^k}{\sum_{k=1}^{N} w_k}
$$
, with $w_k = \frac{1}{d_k^2}$

where N is number of stations within the homogenous region having rainfall data on day i; d_k distance from ungauged site to station k. The value of π_i ranges from 0 to 1. For this study, if value of π_i < 0.5, there is no rain at ungauged location of interest, rainfall amount at day i R_i = 0; if value of $\pi_i \ge 0.5$, rainfall occurs at ungauged location of interest, the rainfall amount R_i at day i is estimated in stage 2.

+ **Stage 2**: if rainfall occurs at location of interest at day i, the rainfall amount Ri is estimated as using IDW technique follows:

$$
R_i = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N} w_k R_i^k}{\sum_{k=1}^{N} w_k}
$$
, with $w_k = \frac{1}{d_k^2}$

where R_i^k is rainfall amount at station k at day i; N is number of stations within the region having rainfall data on day i; d_k distance from ungauged site to station k.

By repeating the process for every day of the whole length of record, rainfall series at an ungauged site of interest is calculated based on the rainfall data available at stations located within the same homogenous region. The jackknife technique was used to represent the ungauged site condition. Note that the rainfall is interpolated based on the observed data on the same calendar date.

4.4. Results and discussions

4.4.1 Homogeneous regions

[Table 4-1](#page-87-0) illustrates the computed total variance explained by each principal component. It can be seen that the first component explains the highest variance (52.26% of the total variance of the system). Based on results of PCA, Vietnam can be divided into seven regions of the homogenous groups of rain gauges as shown in [Figure 4-3.](#page-88-0) Regions 1 to 3 are for the Northern part, Region 4 is for the North-central part, Region 5 is for the South-central part, Region 6 is for the Central Highland area, and Region 7 is for Southern part of Vietnam. It can be seen that this grouping is consistent with climate sub-regions of Vietnam (General Satistics Office of Vietnam, 1999). Results have indicated that the topography of mountainous areas plays a decisive role in the determination of the homogenous rainfall regions in Vietnam.

Principal Component	$%$ of variance	Cumulative variance $(\%)$
1	52.26	52.26
2	18.31	70.58
3	7.57	78.14
4	2.55	80.69
5	1.62	82.31
6	1.19	83.49
7	0.81	84.30

Table 4-1. Percentage of variances explained by each component computed for monthly amount of rainfall

Figure 4-3. Seven homogeneous regions of Vietnam: (a) - Proposed method using PCA vs (b) according to Vietnam meteorology department

For this study, the PCA works well for the rainfall data of Vietnam in monthly time scale. However, this approach is considered to be sensitive with the time scale. Hence, when apply with different time scales, i.e., daily or weekly, the number of homogeneous groups obtained are not the same as the number obtained for the monthly time scale as shown in [Table 4- 2.](#page-88-1) This is the disadvantage of PCA; therefore, it is recommended to apply PCA with some caution. Further works will be studied to minimize this sensitivity.

Table 4- 2. Number of regions by different time scale

Once homogenous regions of rainfall obtained, the proposed 2-stage interpolation method is applied to generate daily rainfall series at ungauged sites based on daily rainfall data of stations within the same homogenous region. Results are presented in the following section.

4.4.2 Estimation of precipitation series at an ungauged site

For this study, Region 4 - belongs to North central coast and marked as red stars in [Figure](#page-88-0) [4-3\(](#page-88-0)a) - has been selected for generating precipitation at ungauged sites. This region 4 has been selected due to high quality and uniform of rainfall data including 23 stations with 32 years of record. It is also because of the complexity of rainfall in this region: include stations with the most extreme values in the country. The information and the summary of basic statistics of 23 stations in Region 4 are presented in [Table 4-3.](#page-89-0)

Table 4-3. Statistics of stations of Region 4

No.	Station Code	Lon	Lat	Daily mean (mm)	Daily AMS	Daily Max	No. rain day $(\%)$	Total Annual (mm)
	146	105.34	19.38	4.14	181.8	376.7	38.0	1544.5

Daily rainfall series for all stations in Region 4 were generated using the proposed 2-stage interpolation method. The jackknife technique was used to represent the ungauged site condition for 23 selected sites in Region 4. Basic statistics indices (listed in [Table 4-4\)](#page-91-0) have been performed to assess the computed rainfall series, details are presented in [Figure 4-4](#page-92-0) to [Figure 4-8](#page-95-0) and [Table](#page-95-1) [4-5](#page-95-1) to [Table 4-7.](#page-99-0) Results showed that estimated data are very close to the observed data.

Table 4-4. Statistics indices

No.	Indices	Definition	Unit
1	AP	Annual precipitation	mm
$\overline{2}$	AMS	Daily annual maximum precipitation	mm/day
3	WD	Percentage of wet day	$\frac{0}{0}$
$\overline{4}$	SDII	Mean precipitation amount at wet days	mm
5	CDD	Maximum number of consecutive days	days
6	Prec90pc	90th percentile of rain day amount	mm

It can be seen that there is insignificant difference between estimated and observed data in terms of annual rainfall amount, percentage of wet day and AMS rainfall. In terms of annual rainfall amount, generated data are similar to observed data at almost station except station 12 and 17 as presented in [Figure 4-4.](#page-92-0) Similar results for percentage of wet day at all station except station 5, 16, 17 and 20 are showed in [Figure 4-5.](#page-93-0) [Figure 4-6](#page-93-1) showed that generated data of daily AMS are lower than observed data at all stations. GEV distribution was used to fit daily annual precipitation of both generated and observed data for all stations, then quantiles different return periods $T = 2, 5, 10, 20, 50$ and 100 years were calculated and plotted in [Figure 4-7.](#page-94-0) It displayed that the difference of generated and observed data are mainly at extreme values. Note that comparison results were based generated data, no bias correction was applied for this study.

Figure 4-4. Annual precipitation of observed (Blue) and generated (Red) data for all 23 stations. Each boxplot is conducted from data of the station for entire record length

Figure 4-5. Percentage of wet day of observed (Blue) and generated (Red) data for all 23 stations. Each boxplot is conducted from data of the station for entire record length

Figure 4-6. Daily AMS precipitation of observed (Blue) and generated (Red) data for all 23 stations. Each boxplot is conducted from data of the station for entire record length

Figure 4-7. Q-Q plot of annual precipitation with return periods $T = 2, 5, 10, 20, 50$ and 100 years

[Figure 4-8](#page-95-0) compared results of daily mean precipitation and percentage of wet day of all stations by months. It is found that generated data were very close to observed data. High daily intensity of rainfall as well as numbers of rainy days were from August to November.

Figure 4-8. Boxplots of daily mean precipitation (a) and percentage of wet day (b) for 12 months (Blue: observed data - Red: generated data). Each boxplot is conducted from data of the month for all stations

[Table 4-5](#page-95-1) to [Table 4-7](#page-99-0) compares generated and observed data in terms of mean precipitation amount at wet days (SDII), maximum number of consecutive dry days (CDD), and 90th percentile of rain day amount (Prec90p) by season time scale for all ungauged sites. For this study, Spring is defined from January to March, Summer is from April to June, Fall is from July to September and Winter is from October to December. Highest rainfall intensity at wet days were found in Winter and Spring, which are almost double values in Summer and Fall [\(Table 4-5\)](#page-95-1). The maximum observed value of 30.1 mm/day and generated values 27.9 mm/day were found in Winter while minimum observed value of 9.4 mm/day and generated value of 10.5 mm/day was in Summer. In contrast, longest period of time with no rainfall was found in Summer with longest observed period of 41.2 days and generated period of 40.3 days while shortest period was in Spring with shortest observed period of 13.3 days and generated period of 14.0 days [\(Table 4-6\)](#page-97-0). Threshold is defined 1mm to be considered as rainy day. CDD values were decimal because they were averaged all year of record length for a station. Similar to SDII, highest values of Prec90p were in Winter while smallest values were in Summer [\(Table 4-7\)](#page-99-0). It was found that there is insignificant difference between estimated and observed data for all indices. Hence, it has been demonstrated that the proposed method is feasible and the estimated daily precipitation series are reliable.

SDII (mm): mean precipitation amount at wet days									
Station	Spring		Summer		Fall		Winter		
	Obs	Gen	Obs	Gen	Obs	Gen	Obs	Gen	
S16	19.2	23.9	10.9	12.7	13.1	14.7	20.9	26.0	
S17	27.0	23.7	16.4	14.5	15.8	16.1	28.4	27.4	
S18	22.0	22.8	14.0	13.9	12.6	14.9	24.6	26.3	
S ₁₉	22.4	22.5	13.9	14.1	13.5	13.6	25.4	25.1	
S ₂₀	20.9	23.7	12.8	15.3	15.1	14.6	23.9	26.5	
S ₂₁	20.9	22.6	14.8	16.2	17.1	15.5	25.8	26.1	
S ₂₂	20.5	19.3	16.2	14.5	12.5	14.3	23.5	20.8	
S23	15.5	20.6	11.4	15.3	12.4	13.3	16.6	23.5	

Table 4-6. Maximum number of consecutive dry days

CDD (days): maximum number of consecutive dry days									
Station	Spring		Summer		Fall		Winter		
	Obs	Gen	Obs	Gen	Obs	Gen	Obs	Gen	
S ₂ 3	15.8	14.0	32.0	21.3	25.6	22.3	12.7	19.3	

Table 4-7. 90th percentile of rain day amount

To assess the important role of the identification of homogenous precipitation regions in the proposed method for estimating missing daily rainfall series, three stations S21-S22-S23 located in Region 4 have been selected for testing. They are considered as in difference groups as presented in [Table 4-8.](#page-101-0) After that, the same estimation approach to generate daily rainfall series for those 3 stations was used considering these stations as located in different regions as shown in [Table 4-8.](#page-101-0) The percentage of wet days and the annual precipitation for all scenarios were compared to the observed data to see the uncertainty given by different region scenarios. Results of this uncertainty are presented in [Figure 4-9.](#page-101-1)

No.	Scenarios	No.	Scenarios
	Observed data	$4 \mid$	Region 4+5
$\overline{2}$	Region 4	$5 \mid$	Region 2
3	Region 5	6	Region 7

Table 4-8. Scenarios of regions

Figure 4-9. Compare percentage of Wet day (a) and Annual precipitation (b) of 3 stations with scenarios

It can be seen that the best estimations obtained when these stations are belongs to Region 4 although it can be seen visually that stations 21 to 23 are very close to Region 5. Homogenous regions are divided based on the same rainfall characteristics, precipitation of stations in the same region are therefore similar. It can be concluded that the determination of homogenous regions is crucial for the proposed method in the estimation of missing daily rainfall data at an ungauged site.

4.5 Conclusions

The estimation of missing daily precipitation series for ungauged sites based on the daily rainfall data of neighboring stations is essential for Vietnam region. The estimated data are useful for various applications in practice such as the construction of IDF relations for design and planning of urban infrastructures for regions where the sub-daily rainfall data are limited or unavailable.

It was found that Vietnam can be divided into 7 sub-regions in terms of meteorology based on PCA of daily series rainfall data from 155 stations across the country. The PCA works well for the estimation of missing daily rainfall data in Vietnam based on the identification of homogeneous regions using data for monthly time scale. However, this approach is considered to be sensitive with the time scale. Hence, it is recommended to apply this approach with some caution.

The two-stage daily rainfall interpolation can be used to estimate daily rainfall data for ungauged sites using rainfall information available at the neighboring stations located within the same homogeneous region. The proposed estimation method can provide good estimates of annual rainfall amounts and the number of rain days; however, there is still some limitation in the estimation of extreme values.

Chapter 5: Evaluation of the reliability of present and future NASA Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP) regional climate simulations over Canada

5.1 Introduction

Global warming is currently a critical issue that every nation has to deal with. It has been recognized that the global climate has significantly changed over past 100 years (IPCC, 2014). These changes might have serious impacts on various hydrologic processes (Miller et al., 2003; Whitfield et al., 2003; Ryu et al., 2011; Assani et al., 2012). To understand and predict the climate change, past trends as well as the projections of future climates for different scenarios have been conducted in many studies (Besaw et al., 2010; Candela et al., 2012; Yeo and Nguyen, 2014; Nguyen et al., 2018). General Circulation Models (GCMs) have been commonly used for evaluating the effects of climate change on the hydrological regime under different scenarios of greenhouse gas emissions. While these GCMs could represent well the main features of the global distribution of basic climate parameters (Randall et al., 2007), they still cannot reproduce accurately the details of regional climate conditions at temporal and spatial scales of relevance to hydrological impacts and adaptation studies (Nguyen et al., 2006; Maraun, 2016). This is because

outputs from these GCMs are usually at resolutions that are too coarse for many climate change impact studies, generally greater than 2.5° for both latitude and longitude (approximately 250 km).

To refine the GCM coarse grid resolution climate projection data to much finer spatial resolutions (regional or local scales) for the reliable assessment of climate change impacts, different downscaling techniques have been approached to resolve this scale discrepancy (Wilby et al., 2002; Fowler et al., 2007; Nguyen and Nguyen, 2008; Maraun et al., 2010; Khalili and Nguyen, 2016; Gooré Bi et al., 2017). It can be divided into two main categories: statistical downscaling (SD) and dynamical downscaling (DD). Some downscaled regional gridded datasets can be showed in below [Table 5-1.](#page-104-0) In terms of SD, two commonly-used datasets are: the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) and the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP) (Thrasher et al., 2012; Werner et al., 2019). In terms of DD, coordinated dynamical downscaling comparisons have been undertaken as part of the North American Regional Climate Change Assessment Program (Mearns et al., 2014) and the North America Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment (Mearns et al., 2017). For CORDEX, simulations were run at resolutions of approximately 25 km and 50 km.

Downscaling method	Dataset	Grid	Year available	Duration
Dynamic Downscaling	NARCCAP	50km	2014	1971-2000 2041-2070
	NA-CORDEX	$25-50km$	2017	1950-2100
Statistical downscaling	PCIC	$1/12$ degree $\sim 10x10km$	2019	1950-2100

Table 5-1. Summaries of available precipitation gridded datasets/reanalysis products

(*NARCCAP: The North American Regional Climate Change Assessment Program; CORDEX: the Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment; PCIC: The Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium; NEX-GDDP: NASA Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections)

Recent studies have been conducted to analyse daily extremes of precipitation at the global scale for both historical observed and gridded downscaled data. Alexander and his colleagues found an increase trend of daily maximum and annual precipitation from more than 600 stations covering the Northern Hemisphere and parts of Australia during the 20th century (Alexander et al., 2006). At the global scale, approximately two-thirds of a global dataset of more than 8000 historical stations with the period of record from 1900 to 2009 indicated an increase trend of daily precipitation (Westra et al., 2013). In terms of analysis of downscaled datasets, Kharin and Zwiers (2000) found a positive trend of daily annual maximum precipitation at majority on the globe in the 20th century using data of the first generation Canadian Global Coupled Model (CGCM1). Min and his colleagues (2008) showed a similar result of precipitation trend using ECHO-G model and the third generation Canadian Global Coupled Model (CGCM3).

For Canada region, several studies of precipitation trends have been conducted; however, these studies were interested in total annual precipitation. For instance, Mekis and Vincent (2011) proves an annual rainfall increase of around 12.5% for the period of 1950 - 2009. Some other researchers also indicated the similar positive trend across Canada in terms of annual precipitation during the late 20th and early 21st centuries (Zhang et al., 2000; Zhang et al., 2011; Thistle and Caissie, 2013; Mekis et al., 2018; Vincent et al., 2018). While many water management applications (i.e., design of urban storm drainage systems, flood management and infrastructure operations) require extreme rainfall information in forms of rainfall intensity-duration-frequency (IDF). In order to construct the IDF curves, annual maximum rainfall series (AMS) of different rainfall durations from a few minutes to days are obtained. However, short-duration extreme rainfall data are very limited or even unavailable for a given location of interest while the daily extreme rainfall records are often available. For instance, Environment Canada provides shortduration extreme rainfall data of nine rainfall durations (from 5 minutes to 24 hours) and IDF relations for approximately 600 stations across Canada (Environment Canada, 2020) whereas the total rain-gauged stations from Environment Canada and their partners is more than 1700 stations (Mekis et al., 2018).

To deal with locations of interest where sub-daily and/or sub-hourly data are limited or unavailable, a scaling method to infer the sub-daily and/or sub-hourly extreme from daily extreme rainfalls has been proposed by Nguyen and his group (Nguyen et al., 2007; Nguyen et al., 2018; Nguyen and Nguyen, 2020). This proposed technique can also be applied for locations where daily precipitation observations are unavailable (ungauged sites) using downscaled regional gridded data. There is no doubt that it could bring many benefits to engineering practices in terms of design and management. It is likely, however, IDF relations obtained from this method are relied on variability of extreme rainfalls. This study aims therefore at performing a trend analysis of daily annual maximum precipitation using historical observed data and downscaled regional gridded data for the present and future climates over Canada.

5.2 Data

5.2.1. Historical observed data

The observation datasets were initially considered for this study: historical data and ANUSPLIN. Historical data are available from Environment Canada's website with the period of record from 1840 to present (Environment Canada, 2020). ANUSPLIN is a gridded observation dataset based on non-parametric fitting technique (Hutchinson et al., 2009). Hutchinson (2009) found daily precipitation for Canada region of ANUSPLIN produce a large error. It is therefore this study only considers the historical data from Environment Canada.

Among approximately 600 stations across Canada (Mekis et al., 2018), 175 stations with the record length of more than 30 years and passed the trend detection test were selected for this study. The high density of stations is located in the southern Ontario. The observed stations are quite limited in the Northern part of Canada. Listing from the West to the East coast, and from the North to South, there are 03 stations from Yukon (YT), 05 stations from Northwest Territories (NT), 37 stations from British Columbia (BC), 16 stations from Alberta (AB), 07 stations from Saskatchewan (SK), 13 stations from Manitoba (MB), 50 stations from Ontario (ON), 25 stations from Quebec (QC), 05 stations from New Brunswick (NB), 05 stations from Nova Scotia (NS), 02 stations from Prince Edward Island (PE) and 07 stations from Newfoundland and Labrador provinces. The location of selected stations is presented in [Figure 5-1,](#page-108-0) more detailed information of these stations can be found in Appendix.

Figure 5-1. Selected stations over Canada

These stations were selected based on the high quality, the adequate length of available historical records, and the representative spatial distribution of the rain-gauges. To ensure the high quality of selected data, only historical observed data provided by the Atmospheric Environmental Service of Environment Canada were employed for this study. Every selected station must be more than 30 years of record and pass the Mann–Kendall test for trend detection. In addition, the raingauges were chosen from different geography locations to partially represent the diverse climatic conditions of Canada.

5.2.2. Downscaled regional gridded data

Due to the limitation of scope and access, only NASA Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP) data is analyzed. NEX-GDDP is a daily downscaled dataset \sim 25kmx25km resolution) released in June 2012 by NASA. This dataset was generated from 21 General Circulation Models (GCMs - shown in [Table 5-2\)](#page-109-0) runs conducted under the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) and across two of the four greenhouse gas emissions scenarios known as Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP4.5 and RCP8.5) based on the bias-correction spatial disaggregation downscaling technique (Thrasher et al., 2012). The climate projections include daily maximum temperature, minimum temperature, and precipitation for the historical periods of 1950-2005 and the future period of 2006-2100. Canada is having actions on climate change and projected to archive low emissions level by mid of 21st century (Canada, 2016), it is therefore this study selects projected results of the Representative Concentration Pathway 4.5.

Table 5-2. Information about the 21 Coupled Model Intercomparison Project 5 (CMIP5) general circulation models (GCMs)

Number	Model	Country and institution							
	ACCESS ₁ -0	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and Bureau of Meteorology, Australia							
2	BCC-CMS1-1	Beijing Climate Center, China							
3	BNU-ESM	Institute of global change and Earth System Sciences, Beijing Normal University, Chinaser							

5.3 Methodology

5.3.1. Mann-Kendall test

The results in this paper are based on a popular statistical method for testing whether time series data - the Mann–Kendall nonparametric trend - to evaluate whether there is a monotonic trend in the series. The advantage of this test is that it does not make any assumptions on the distribution of the data, other than that under the null hypothesis, the data are independently distributed in time.

The Mann–Kendall test is a commonly used non-parametric test for evaluating the presence of monotonic trends in time series data (Chandler and Scott, 2011). The test has been applied in analyzing trends of rainfall extremes data (Westra et al., 2013). In this study, the Mann–Kendall analysis was conducted at the significant level of 5% using the MATLAB software (version 2020a).

5.3.2. Sen's method

Sen's method has been commonly used to estimate trends in climate series thanks to its reliability by minimizing sensitivity of outliers in the series in comparison with conventional leastsquares methods (Zhang et al., 2000; Fernandes and G. Leblanc, 2005; Zhang et al., 2011).

Slope and intercept were computed according to Sen's method (Sen, 1968) as follow:

$$
m_k = \frac{R_j - R_i}{j - i}
$$

for $(1 \le i \le n)$ where m is the slope, R denotes the variable, n the number of data, and i, j are indices. The median from all slope s then is calculated: $s = Median(m_k)$.

Trend of precipitation were exanimated for two time period: historical period 1950-2005 and projected period 2006 - 2100 for all stations. To maintain the consistence and accuracy, the trends of NEX-GDDP historical data were computed using the same duration of historical observed data given by Environment Canada.

5.4 Results and discussions

The slopes of 175 historical gauged stations across Canada given by Environment Canada are showed in [Figure 5-2.](#page-113-0) The number of stations for each province by different change intervals of slopes for 175 gauged stations is presented in [Table 5-3.](#page-113-1) According to historical observed data, the number of stations with increase trends is slightly higher than ones with decrease trend (around 55% vs 45%). The highest decrease trend of 40% is Elora_rcs (ON) while the highest increase trend of 50% is at Summerside station (PE). It can be seen that most of Northern and Eastern provinces have increase trends while trends of stations located in ON, MB and BC are quite complicated. SK is the only province that the majority of stations have decrease trend.

Figure 5-2. Change of slope - Historical observed data. Red triangles: stations with decrease trend, blue triangles: stations with increase trend

Table 5-3. Trend statistics of historical observed data

Trend analyses of NEX-GDDP historical data were conducted based on the dataset over 175 grid boxes (called station hereafter) over Canada that historical observed data are available. The slopes of NEX-GDDP dataset for historical period is illustrated in [Figure 5-3](#page-115-0) and summarized in [Table 5-4.](#page-116-0) It showed that the trends ranging from -10% to $+20\%$, only one station has the decrease trend of 10.3% at Sparwood station in BC and two stations have increase trends of over 20% (Medicine_hat_rcs station and Nanaimo airport station in BC with 21.8% and 24%, respectively). It can be seen that more than 80% stations have increase trends. AB is the only province that has more station with decrease trends than ones with increase trends. Note that the value of slopes presented in [Table 5-4](#page-116-0) are the median from 21 GCMs for a single station. Detailed performance of all GCMs is showed in [Figure 5-4.](#page-118-0)

Figure 5-3. Change of slope - Historical NEX-GDDP data. Each value is the median from 21 GCMs. Red triangle: stations with decrease trend, blue triangle: stations with increase trend

No.	Province		Count of stations by Slope change (%)							
	code	$-[30 - 20)$	$-[10 - 0]$	$[0 - 10)$	$[10 - 20]$	$[20 - 30]$				
$\mathbf 1$	$\rm NL$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf 1$	\mathfrak{S}	$\mathbf 1$	$\boldsymbol{0}$				
$\overline{2}$	PE	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\overline{2}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$				
\mathfrak{Z}	$_{\rm NS}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\overline{4}$	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$				
$\overline{4}$	${\rm NB}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	\mathfrak{Z}	$\overline{2}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$				
5	${\bf QC}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	5	19	$\,1$	$\boldsymbol{0}$				
6	\mathbf{ON}	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\sqrt{6}$	41	$\overline{3}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$				
τ	${\rm MB}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\,1\,$	12	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$				
$8\,$	$\rm SK$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	\mathfrak{Z}	$\overline{4}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$				
9	$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$10\,$	6	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$				
10	BC	$\mathbf{1}$	\mathfrak{Z}	22	9	\overline{c} ÷.				
$11\,$	\rm{NT}	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf 1$	$\overline{4}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$				
$12\,$	${\it YT}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\overline{3}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$				
	Total	$\mathbf{1}$	30	125	$17\,$	$\boldsymbol{2}$				

Table 5-4. Trend statistics of NEX-GDDP historical period

The boxplot (a) of [Figure 5-4](#page-118-0) presents slopes of historical NEX-GDDP data (blue) in comparison with slopes of historical observed data (red) for all 175 stations. Each station is illustrated by one boxplot that constructed from 21 values of 21 GCMs. Root mean square error (RMSE) of 21 GCMs for each station was calculated and plotted in [Figure 5-4](#page-118-0) (b), and the average of RMSEs for each province is presented in [Figure 5-4](#page-118-0) (c). The RMSE is given as below:

$$
RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum (S_{GCMs} - S_{observed})^2}
$$

where *S* indicates the slopes of stations and *N* is the number of sample size. It could be seen from [Figure 5-4](#page-118-0) that NEX-GDDP data for BC have widespread slopes from 21 GCMs and average RMSEs of all stations in this province is also highest. It could be explained that downscaling models are limited to capture complex topography of mountainous areas in BC, driving less accurate results for this area.

Figure 5-4. (a) AMS precipitation boxplot for historical period for 175 stations - boxplot (Blue) contains 21 values of 21 GCMs, each value is the average of historical period. Red points are observed data, each point is the average of record period; (b): Boxplot

To assess the performance of 21 GCMs in NEX-GDDP data, a ranking score has been conducted based on the mean (MEAN) and the standard deviation (STD). Steps of calculation are: (*i*) compute the MEAN and STD all stations (historical observed and 21GCMs of historical NEX-GDDP data) over period of time; (*ii*) calculate the absolute bias of 21 GCMs and observe data for both the MEAN and STD; (*iii*) for each station: ranking each GCM according to the bias values calculated in previous step, a rank of 1 (the best model) is given to the GCM having smallest bias, apply for both the MEAN and STD; *(iv)* count the number of stations for each ranking from 1 to 21 for all GCMs; (*v*) ranking score for each GCM: sum of rank of that GCM for 175 stations, apply for both the MEAN and STD; (*vi*) ranking GCMs: lower ranking score, better model. Each cell in [Table 5-5](#page-120-0) shows the total number of stations each ranking for 21 GCMs by the MEAN and STD (upper number: count by MEAN ranking and lower number: count by STD ranking). For instance, GCM "bcc-csm1-1" is ranked 1 at 6 stations in terms of the MEAN and 63 stations in terms of STD.

According to the [Table 5-6,](#page-121-0) it can be seen that the second-generation Canadian Earth System Model (CanESM2) performs the best among 21 GCMs over Canada with rank 2nd in terms of the MEAN and 1st in terms of the STD. In particular, the GCM "CanESM2" is ranked 1 to 4 at more than 65% of stations and ranked 1 to 3 at more than 75% of stations. Beside "CanESM2", two models from China ("bcc-csm1-1", "BNU-ESM") and two models from Japan ("MIROC-ESM", "MIROC-ESM-CHEM") are also considered well performing over Canada region. GCMs "CESM1-BGC", "MIROC5" and "MRI-CGCM3" are considered as worst models over Canada for this study. However, it can be seen that there are high uncertainties from results of total 21 GCMs that unable to estimated and also require an in-depth evaluation of the performance of these all GCMs, it is recommended to use the median of all GCMs for calculation.

Rank GCM	1	$\mathbf{2}$	3	$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
$bcc-csm1-1$	6	27	25	21	25	18	9	7	5	5	1	1	2	2	\overline{c}	3	5	$\overline{4}$	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{4}$	$\mathbf{1}$
	63	11	52	\overline{c}	\overline{c}	$\mathbf{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	1	3	$\overline{2}$	$\mathbf{0}$	2	1	$\mathbf{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	2	1	1	9	10	13
BNU-ESM	7	14	17	14	24	33	14	12	3	6	2	6	2	$\mathbf{0}$	5	4	3	2	2	\overline{c}	3
	32	62	38	1	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	\overline{c}	1	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	1	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	3	$\overline{2}$	1	4	16	11
CanESM2	30	30	24	29	14	12	6	2	$\overline{2}$	$\mathbf{0}$	4	$\mathfrak{2}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\overline{2}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	\overline{c}	$\mathbf{1}$	$\overline{2}$	4	6	3
	42	60	32	1	\overline{c}	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\overline{2}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	13	9	13
CCSM4	10	10	7	5	4	2	$\boldsymbol{0}$	2	3	3	1	$\overline{2}$	2	2	6	4	10	17	25	32	28
	$\overline{2}$	5	10	37	9	4	3	5	3	1	5	5	9	4	8	5	9	20	15	8	8
CESM1-BGC	12	11	4	3	3	3	3	$\mathbf{0}$	1	1	1	5	1	6	6	7	8	13	23	30	34
	30	5	5	8	4	2	1	1	0	1	2	$\overline{2}$	3	$\mathbf{0}$	2	3	1	6	7	25	67
CSIRO-Mk3-	$\overline{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	3	6	8	8	3	9	21	17	24	20	18	11	7	9	6	3	$\mathfrak{2}$
$6-0$	3	29	\overline{c}	3	7	4	2	3	1	2	2	$\overline{2}$	0	6	$\overline{2}$	1	2	3	19	62	20
GFDL-CM3	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{1}$	3	\overline{c}	$\overline{4}$	13	15	19	18	30	20	15	12	6	2	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{0}$	3	4	6
	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	19	13	7	6	10	1	4	$\overline{4}$	5	$\overline{2}$	τ	4	4	7	5	23	42	7	5
GFDL-	2	$\mathbf{0}$	$\overline{4}$	1	7	14	17	23	22	21	14	8	15	7	4	7	3	2	2	0	\overline{c}
ESM2G	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\overline{2}$	14	13	9	$\overline{4}$	7	10	7	$\overline{4}$	5	4	6	6	7	35	34	5	1	\overline{c}
GFDL-	$\mathbf{0}$	2	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	4	12	29	26	30	21	14	8	6	6	3	\overline{c}	3	1	3	4	1
ESM2M	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	5	15	17	14	11	9	6	4	6	8	6	14	29	16	6	5	$\mathbf{1}$	3
inmcm4	$\mathbf{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	\mathfrak{Z}	\mathfrak{Z}	$\mathbf{1}$	5	\mathfrak{Z}	4	8	6	14	18	13	19	23	16	17	14	5	\mathfrak{Z}
	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{1}$	3	7	15	17	10	12	5	\mathfrak{Z}	5	9	10	27	24	8	10	$\sqrt{5}$	$\mathbf{1}$	3
IPSL-CM5A-	54	21	16	21	16	11	3	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{2}$	\mathfrak{Z}	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{1}$	$\overline{4}$	2	$\mathbf{0}$	$\overline{4}$	2	\mathfrak{Z}	8
LR	$\mathbf{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{3}$	14	12	11	12	$\boldsymbol{7}$	$\overline{9}$	13	$\,8\,$	13	28	12	12	$\overline{9}$	3	$\overline{4}$	$\sqrt{5}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$
IPSL-CM5A- MR	$\overline{0}$	$\overline{0}$	$\overline{1}$	$\overline{1}$	$\mathbf{3}$	$\overline{4}$	9	22	24	27	18	$\vert 13 \vert$	9	$5\overline{)}$	13	10	$\,8\,$	3	$\overline{2}$	$\mathbf{1}$	$\overline{2}$

Table 5-5. Count of stations ranking by GCMs in terms of MEAN (upper number) and STD (lower number) of AMS NEX-GDDP historical data

No.	GCM	MEAN score	STD score	Rank by MEAN	Rank by STD
$\mathbf{1}$	$bcc-csm1-1$	1117	1062	5	\mathfrak{Z}
$\overline{2}$	BNU-ESM	1228	1044	6	$\overline{2}$
$\overline{3}$	CanESM2	936	1001	$\overline{2}$	$\mathbf{1}$
$\overline{4}$	CCSM4	2598	1971	18	10
5	CESM1-BGC	2622	2472	19	20
6	$CSIRO-Mk3-6-0$	2258	2490	12	21
$\overline{7}$	GFDL-CM3	1947	2274	10	19
8	GFDL-ESM2G	1730	2231	8	18
9	GFDL-ESM2M	1703	2060	$\overline{7}$	13
10	inmcm4	2518	2130	16	16
11	IPSL-CM5A-LR	926	2035	$\mathbf{1}$	12
12	IPSL-CM5A-MR	1957	1880	11	$\overline{7}$
13	MIROC5	2703	2087	21	14
14	NorESM1-M	1792	1979	9	11
15	ACCESS1-0	2380	1867	14	5
16	CNRM-CM5	2521	2102	17	15
17	MIROC-ESM	1010	1961	$\overline{3}$	9

Table 5-6. Summary ranking scores for 21 GCMs

The slopes of NEX-GDDP dataset for projection period under RCP 4.5 is presented in [Figure 5-5](#page-124-0) and [Table 5-7.](#page-124-1) [Figure 5-5](#page-124-0) illustrated the slopes of all stations by magnitude and spatial spread while [Table 5-7](#page-124-1) counts the number of stations each province by different intervals of slopes. Similarity to historical period, trends of NEX-GDDP data for projection period are between -3% to 10%. Stations with decrease trend are mainly located in AB, SK and MB. It demonstrated that majority of stations have an increase trend with more than 90% number of stations. Stations with decrease trend are insignificant with less than 3% and mainly located in AB, SK, MB which the highest decrease slope of 2.3% at Flin-flon station (MB), only one station located in ON. 10 stations with high increase trend (more than 10% of slope) are entirely located in BC which the highest value of approximately 16% at Penticton airport station. It can be seen that extreme rainfall events are likely to occur frequently in BC other than other provinces of Canada in the future according to the projection of NEX-GDDP.

Figure 5-5. Change of slope - Gridded historical data (NEX-R45). Each value is the median from 21 GCMs. Red triangle: stations with decrease trend, blue triangle: stations with increase trend

Table 5-7. NEX-GDDP trend statistics of projection period (R45)

No.	Province	Count of stations by Slope change Slope (%)					
	code	$-[3 - 0)$	$[0 - 10)$	$[10 - 20]$			
	NL						
$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{L}}$	PE		\mathfrak{D}				
3	NS						

5.5 Conclusions

This study evaluates the trends of daily annual maximum precipitation using data from 175 high-quality historical observed station across Canada and 25kmx25km resolution downscaled regional gridded data NEX-GDDP for past period from 1950 to 2005 and projection period from 2006 to 2100. The trend is estimated using Sen's method. Overall, it can be concluded that majority of stations have increase trends for all periods of time. According to historical observed data, there

is around 40% of stations with decrease trends and most of them are located in the central and western Canada.

Downscaled regional gridded data NEX-GDDP show increase trends for both historical period and projection period with around 80% and 90% of stations, respectively. While trends of NEX-GDDP historical data are mainly from -10% to $+20\%$, trends of NEX-GDDP projection data are only between -3% to 10%. Most of stations with decrease trend are located in the western Canada and stations with highest trends are mainly in BC. Due to the complex topography of mountainous area, stations in the province of BC have widespread trends given by different GCMs.

Regarding the performance of all 21 GCMs of NEX-GDDP data, CanESM2 model is considered the best model over 175 stations in Canada region. Results of CanESM2 model is ranked 1st for majority of stations in terms of the mean and standard deviation of daily annual maximum precipitation. Models from China and Japan are also considered to produce good results over Canada region.

Chapter 6: Evaluation of variability of precipitation and temperature extremes over Montreal region for present and future climates

6.1 Introduction

In recent years, global climate impacts have been recognized as one of the most the critical issues for many nations and/or regions all over the world. It has been recognized that the global climate has significantly changed over past 100 years (IPCC, 2014). To understand and predict the climate change, past trends as well as the projections of future climates for different scenarios have been conducted in many studies (Creutin and Obled, 1982; Besaw et al., 2010; Candela et al., 2012; Yeo and Nguyen, 2014; Nguyen et al., 2018). In Canada, some studies have indicated an increase trend in both temperature and precipitation with an average increase of around 1.4°C for air temperature and around 12.5% for annual rainfall during the second half of the 20th century (Mekis and Vincent, 2011; Zhang et al., 2011). These changes might have significant impacts on various hydrologic processes (Miller et al., 2003; Whitfield et al., 2003; Ryu et al., 2011; Assani et al., 2012).

General Circulation Models (GCMs) have been commonly used for evaluating the effects of climate change on the hydrological regime under different scenarios of greenhouse gas emissions. While these GCMs could represent well the main features of the global distribution of basic climate parameters (Randall et al., 2007), they still cannot reproduce accurately the details of regional climate conditions at temporal and spatial scales of relevance to hydrological impacts and adaptation studies (Nguyen et al., 2006). This is because outputs from these GCMs are usually at resolutions that are too coarse for many climate change impact studies, generally greater than 2.5° for both latitude and longitude (approximately 250km) as shown in [Figure 6-1.](#page-130-0) To refine the GCM coarse grid resolution climate projection data to much finer spatial resolutions (regional or local scales) for the reliable assessment of climate change impacts, different downscaling methods have been proposed to resolve this scale discrepancy (Wilby et al., 2002; Fowler et al., 2007; Nguyen and Nguyen, 2008; Maraun et al., 2010; Khalili and Nguyen, 2016; Gooré Bi et al., 2017). These downscaling methods can be generally classified into two broad categories: dynamical downscaling (DD) and statistical downscaling (SD). It has been widely recognized that the SD methods offer several practical advantages over the DD procedures, especially in terms of flexible adaptation to specific study purposes, and inexpensive computing resource requirement (Xu, 1999; Prudhomme et al., 2002). In addition, SD methods can be used to spatially disaggregate GCM outputs to regional scales or local/point scales (a single site or multi-sites) (Wilby et al., 2002; Khalili and Nguyen, 2016; Werner and Cannon, 2016). Furthermore, when dealing with a large ensemble of GCMs, the SD methods are often in favor because of their computational efficiency and effectiveness in producing physically plausible hydro-climatology data (Wood, 2004; Werner and Cannon, 2016).

Located on an island in the Saint Lawrence River, Montreal is the biggest city of Quebec province and second-largest city of Canada with the population of approximately 1.9 million (Statistics-Canada, 2016). Every year, the city has experienced frequent extreme weather events such as heavy storm rainfalls and heat waves that cause millions of property losses, and in some

cases, the loss of human lives (City-of-Montreal, 2017). These types of extremes events are occurring with increasing frequency. For instance, more than 30 people were killed by a heat wave in Montreal in July 2018 (Cullinane, 2018). Another example is the spring flood in 2017 that affected thousands of people and millions of dollars of damages (Lau, 2017). Furthermore, August 2021 is considered hottest month on record for Montreal consisting of 5 heat wave events with 13 days with the temperature of above the 30-degree - compared to an average of 2 days for the month of August (Graham, 2021). Consequently, information on the spatial and temporal variations of these precipitation and temperature extremes for current and future climates is important for the planning and design of the City's its urban infrastructures to minimize the impacts of these natural disasters. Many studies have been conducted to assess the variability of temperature and precipitation processes in Canada and in other countries (Zhang et al., 2001; Arnbjerg-Nielsen et al., 2013; Thistle and Caissie, 2013; Benmarhnia et al., 2014; City-of-Montreal, 2017) However, very few studies have been carried out specifically on the daily precipitation and temperature extremes for the local City of Montreal region. Therefore, in the present study, a critical evaluation of the spatial and temporal variations of the daily annual maximum rainfalls and daily extreme temperatures over the Montreal region was conducted for the present and future climates using two different datasets that have been statistically downscaled by the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC, 2014) and the National Aeronautics Space Administration Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP) (Thrasher et al., 2012). Information of these two datasets will be detailed in section 6.2.

6.2 Numerical application

6.2.1 Data

[Figure 6-1](#page-130-0) shows a network of seven weather stations in the Montreal region. However, of these seven stations only Montreal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport (Dorval) and McGill stations have good quality of data with long historical records, other stations have either short historical records or a large number of missing data. [Figure 6-1](#page-130-0) also indicates the grids of the two downscaled datasets (red: NEX-GDDP; black: PCIC). It can be seen that the NEX-GDDP grid size is approximately nine time larger than the PCIC grid.

Figure 6-1. Location of measuring stations in Montreal region

Information of PCIC and NEX-GDDP datasets were summarized in [Table 6-1](#page-131-0) below:

	PCIC	NEX-GDDP	Note
Grid size (degree)	1/12	1/4	
Downscaling method	$BCSD^*$, BCCAQ ^{**}	BCSD	
Number of GCMs	24	21	PCIC: 12 for BCCAQ and 12 for BCSD
Variables	T _{max} , T _{min} , Pr	T_{max} , T_{min} , Pr	
Timesteps	Daily	Daily	
Projection duration	1950-2100	1950-2100	
RCP ^{***} scenarios	2.6; 4.5; 8.5	4.5; 8.5	

Table 6-1. Summary of PCIC and NEX-GDDP datasets

(BCSD*: bias-correction spatial disaggregation - see Werner and Cannon (2016) for further details; BCCAQ**: Bias Correction/Constructed Analogues with Quantile mapping reordering; RCP***: Representative Concentration Pathway)

In the present study, only gridded daily annual maximum precipitation and daily extreme temperature data were considered. These data were statistically downscaled from 10 GCMs corresponding to the RCP 4.5 scenario (see [Table 6-2\)](#page-132-0). For the present climates, the available historical data from Dorval and McGill stations and the PCIC and NEX-GDDP gridded data for the same 1961-1990 period were used. For the future climates, climate projections from the climate models corresponding to the RCP 4.5 scenarios for the 2006 – 2100 period were selected.

6.2.2 Statistical indices

In addition, the root-mean-square error (RMSE) was used to compare the performance of the proposed model as given below:

$$
RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum (SI_{model} - SI_{observed})^2}
$$

where *SI* indicates the value of the statistical indices and *N* is the number of sample size. The smaller value of the RMSE indicates the better accuracy of the model considered.

6.3 Results and discussions

6.3.1 Present climate

[Figure 6-2](#page-134-0) presents the spatial distribution of the downscaled daily annual maximum precipitations (AMPs) over the Montreal region from PCIC and NEX-GDDP datasets based on the average of ten GCMs. It can be seen that the mean precipitation given by NEX-GDDP is smaller than PCIC. More specifically, [Table 6-3](#page-134-1) shows the means of daily AMPs at Dorval and McGill stations in comparison with PCIC and NEX-GDDP data. Overall, the gridded downscaled data values are smaller than the observed data at a given station. PCIC data are 11.92% and 22.75% lower than observed AMP at Dorval and McGill stations, respectively, while the values from NEX-GDDP data are 29.24% and 35.92%, respectively. It is therefore necessary to perform a bias adjustment before these gridded downscaled data can be used in the planning and design of urban infrastructures.

For purposes of illustration, the results for daily AMP at Dorval Airport are shown in [Figure 6-3](#page-135-0) using the boxplots, and the results for temperature extremes are presented in [Figure 6-](#page-135-1) [4](#page-135-1) and [Figure 6-5.](#page-136-0) In addition, [Table 6-4](#page-135-2) presents the comparison using the root mean square error (RMSE) values for both precipitation and temperature extremes. In general, it can be seen that the PCIC data are more accurate for AMP and somewhat less accurate for temperature extremes as

compared to the NEX-GDDP data. However, [Figure 6-4](#page-135-1) indicates that results given by PCIC are more robust with narrow boxplots in comparison with NEX-GDDP data. Regarding the standard deviation, NEX-GDDP data is more accurate for daily minimum temperature while PCIC data are more robust for daily maximum temperature.

PCIC NEX-GDDP

Figure 6-2. Daily AMPs over the Montreal region downscaled by PCIC and NEX-GDDP

Figure 6-3. Mean (left) and Standard Deviation (right) of daily AMPs at Dorval station based on downscaled gridded data from ten different GCMs

Table 6-4. RMSE of the means of daily AMP and temperature extremes at Dorval station

RCMs		RMSE						
	T_{min}	T _{max}	Precipitation					
PCIC-BCSD	6.91	5.16	2.90					
PCIC-BCCAQ	6.47	4.75	5.00					
NEX-GDDP	5.71	3.99	12.20					

Figure 6-4. Mean of daily minimum (left) and maximum (right) temperatures at Dorval station based on downscaled gridded data from ten different GCMs

Figure 6-5. Standard deviation of daily minimum (left) and maximum (right) temperatures at Dorval station based on downscaled gridded data from ten different GCMs

6.3.2 Future climate

Daily annual temperature extremes and daily AMPs for the 2006-2100 period downscaled from PCIC and NEX-GDDP were analyzed. It can be seen from [Figure 6-6](#page-138-0) and [Figure 6-7](#page-138-1) that there are increasing trends in both temperature extremes and AMP at Dorval station. [Table 6-5](#page-137-0) shows the values of temperature extremes and AMPs estimated based on the fitted trend regression

lines at the year 2006 and 2100. Results are based on an average of all 10 GCMs given by both datasets. It is estimated that precipitation could increase around 10.77% for the 2006-2100 period. In addition, daily maximum temperature is projected to increase around 8.06% in the same period. Daily minimum temperature could have a projected increase of around 16.69%. Hence, the Montreal region could experience more extreme rainfalls and higher maximum and minimum temperatures in the future.

Variables	2006	2100	% Increase
Precipitation (mm)	41.47	45.93	10.77
Minimum temperature $({}^{\circ}C)$	-26.19	-21.82	16.69
Maximum temperature $({}^{\circ}C)$	33.33	36.02	8.06

Table 6-5. Increase of temperature and precipitation in 2006-2100 period

Figure 6-6. Historical and Projected daily AMPs at Dorval station for entire period 1950-2100. The range donates the maximum and minimum values from all GCMs of each dataset, solid lines are median of each dataset.

Figure 6-7. Historical and projected daily minimum and maximum temperatures at McGill station for entire period 1950-2100. The range donates the maximum and minimum values from all GCMs of each dataset, solid lines are median of each dataset.

6.4 Conclusions

Major findings of this present study can be summarized as follows:

Many climate projection studies have been commonly conducted at global or large regional scales, the present study has been performed specifically at the City of Montreal scale to provide useful information on the variability in time and in space of annual maximum precipitations and temperature extremes for the design and planning of its urban infrastructures using the regional downscaled climate projection data from ten different GCMs under the RCP 4.5 scenario provided by PCIC and NEX-GDDP. In general, the PCIC data with finer grid size of 1/12 degree (or approximately 10x10 km) could produce more robust results than the NEX-GDDP data with a coarser resolution of $\frac{1}{4}$ degree (or approximately 25x25 km).

According to the results downscaled by PCIC and NEX-GDDP, there are projected increasing trends in both temperature extremes and AMPs over the Montreal region. The AMP is projected to increase around 10% for the 2006-2100 period. Minimum and maximum temperatures are projected to increase approximately 16% and 8% respectively by the end of this century.

Downscaled gridded data are different from observed data at a given location. It is therefore essential to perform a bias correction of the gridded data before these data could be used in the planning and design of the urban infrastructures.

Chapter 7: Conclusions and recommendations

7.1 Conclusions

The following main conclusions can be drawn from the present study:

- 1. A statistical downscaling model (called SDGAM) has been proposed for climate change impact assessment studies at a gauged site. The proposed model was based on the combination of the precipitation occurrence and the precipitation amount using the Generalized Additive Modeling method. Results of a numerical application have indicated that the proposed model was able to describe well many features of the daily precipitation process, including its occurrence frequency, intensity, and extremes for both calibration and validation periods for data from 10 rain-gauged stations located in Southern Quebec and Ontario, Canada. In addition, this model could provide a significant improvement over the popular SDSM model in the modeling of daily precipitation process in the context of climate change.
- 2. A spatial-temporal downscaling approach was proposed in this study to describe the linkage between large-scale climate variables for daily scale to AMP for daily and subdaily scales at a local site. The proposed method was based on the combination of the spatial downscaling method to link large-scale climatic variables provided by GCMs to daily extreme precipitations at a local site using the SDGAM model developed in this study and the temporal downscaling procedure to describe the relationships between daily

extreme precipitations with sub-daily extreme precipitations using the scaling GEV/PWM model. The feasibility of the proposed downscaling method has been evaluated based on climate simulation outputs from the CanESM2 model under different RCPs (RCP 26, RCP 45, and RCP 85) and using available AMP data for durations ranging from 5 minutes to 24 hours at ten rain-gage stations across Canada. Results have showed that it is feasible to link daily large-scale climate variables to daily AMP at a local site for climate change impact and adaptation studies at a given location of interest.

- 3. A detailed statistical analysis of AMP series for selected stations representing the diverse climatic conditions across Canada has indicated that these AMP series in Canada displayed different scaling behaviors depending on the location of the station considered. Based on this scaling property, the scaling GEV distribution has been proved to be able to provide accurate estimates of sub-daily AMPs from GCM-downscaled daily AMP amounts.
- 4. A statistical regionalization method using the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) has been proposed to identify homogeneous regions of precipitation regimes. The feasibility and accuracy of the proposed method has been assessed using the daily precipitation data available from a network of 155 rain-gauge stations across Vietnam. Results of this numerical application have indicated that the suggested regionalization method was able to identify homogeneous precipitation regions which were found physically consistent to the particular climatic features of Vietnam.
- 5. A statistical estimation approach has been developed in this study to generate daily precipitation series at an ungauged location using rainfall information available within the same homogeneous rainfall region. The proposed approach was based on a two-stage

interpolation method to describe the persistence in rainfall occurrences and rainfall amounts for the rainfall homogenous region. The feasibility and accuracy of the proposed estimation method has been evaluated using daily rainfall data available from a network of 155 raingauges in Vietnam. Results of this assessment have indicated that the proposed procedure could provide an accurate estimate of the daily precipitation series for an ungauged location.

- 6. A detailed statistical analysis was performed to identify the presence of trends in precipitation series using the historical high-quality rainfall records from a network of 175 stations located across Canada and using the 25kmx25km resolution downscaled regional gridded data from NEX-GDDP for the past period from 1950 to 2005 and for the projection period from 2006 to 2100. It was found that the majority of station data have increase trends, and around 40% of stations located mostly in central and western Canada with decrease trends. For downscaled regional gridded data NEX-GDDP, increase trends was found for both historical and projected periods for more than 80% of stations.
- 7. Among all 21 GCMs of NEX-GDDP data, the CanESM2 model is considered the best model for Canada, especially in terms of the mean and standard deviation of the annual maximum daily precipitation. Models from China and Japan were also found to be able to produce good results over many locations in Canada.
- 8. The PCIC data with finer grid size of 1/12 degree (or approximately 10x10 km) could produce more robust results than the NEX-GDDP data with a coarser resolution of $\frac{1}{4}$ degree (or approximately 25x25 km) over Montreal area. It was also found that these data projected increasing trends in both temperature extremes and AMPs. More specifically, the

AMP was projected to increase around 10% for the 2006-2100 period while minimum and maximum temperatures were projected to increase approximately 16% and 8% respectively by the end of this century for the Montreal region.

7.2 Recommendations for further works

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are suggested for future studies:

- 1. The regression-based downscaling models for generating daily precipitation process for climate impact studies were found to be sensitive to the selection of the large-scale climate predictors given by the GCMs. However, there is still no general agreement for selecting the best approach that could identify the most significant predictors for these models. Hence, it is essential to develop a new screening method for selecting the most significant predictors that could describe more accurately the linkages between these climate predictors and the observed precipitation characteristics at a local site of interest.
- 2. The present study has indicated that the performance of the ungauged precipitation model was significantly influenced by the accuracy in the identification of the homogeneous regions of precipitation. For improving our understanding of the spatial and temporal variation of the precipitation process and for improving the accuracy of the precipitation estimation at an ungauged site it is necessary to explore other similarity criteria based on both precipitation regimes and topographic characteristics that could be used to improve the definition of the similarity of the precipitation variability in time and in space.
- 3. For this study, the PCA works well for rainfall data of Vietnam region in monthly time scale. However, this approach is considered to be sensitive with the time scale of the selected data, it is therefore necessary to develop a more robust method based on, for instance, Ordinary Factor Analysis or Cluster analysis to minimize this sensitivity.
- 4. Further studies should be conducted to evaluate of the variability in time and in space of the daily annual maximum rainfalls and extreme temperatures over Canada region for different other sources of downscaled regional gridded data beside the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP) including the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC), and ANUSPLIN.
- 5. The methods proposed in this study should be tested with different datasets available worldwide from different climate conditions to assess the feasibility and reliability of these suggested approaches.

Chapter 8: Statement of originality

To the best of the author's knowledge, the followings are the original contributions from the present study:

- 1. A new statistical downscaling model (SDGAM) has been developed in this study for describing accurately the linkage between large-scale climate predictors and observed daily rainfall characteristics at a local site. This new model was based on the Generalized Additive Modeling (GAM) method. Results of a comparative study using NCEP re-analysis data and observed daily precipitation data in Canada have demonstrated that the SDGAM could provide more accurate results than those given by the currently popular SDSM model. The proposed SDGAM model is therefore could be an essential tool for high-quality climate change impact assessment studies in practice.
- 2. A novel spatial-temporal downscaling approach was proposed in the present study to provide a more accurate estimation of extreme rainfalls for daily and sub-daily scales at a local site in the context of climate change. The proposed approach was quite useful for improving the accuracy in the construction of the IDF relations at a given site and, consequently, a more accurate estimation of the design storm for urban infrastructures design in a changing climate.
- 3. An original regionalization method based on the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) technique was proposed for identifying homogeneous regions of precipitation

regimes. Results of an illustrative application using observed daily rainfall data in Vietnam have indicated the feasibility and accuracy of the proposed method.

- 4. An original statistical approach has been developed in this study to estimate daily precipitation series at a location where the rainfall data are unavailable (an ungauged site) using rainfall information in the same homogeneous region. The proposed approach was based on a two-stage interpolation method to represent the persistence in rainfall occurrences and rainfall amounts within the same homogeneous region. It has been demonstrated that this new approach could provide the estimated daily precipitation series at an ungauged site having similar statistical properties as those of the observed data.
- 5. A detailed statistical analysis has been performed to identify the presence of trends in the historical records of daily annual maximum precipitation series for different locations and the downscaled regional gridded data from the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP) for Canada. Results of this analysis have provided essential information for improving our understanding of the variability of daily precipitation in Canada for the present and future periods.
- 6. A detailed statistical analysis of the variability in time and in space of the daily annual maximum rainfalls and extreme temperatures over the Montreal region for the present and future climates using the data from two different sources: the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) and the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections

(NEX-GDDP). Results of this analysis have provided valuable information for the planning and design of urban infrastructures for Montreal in the context of a changing climate.

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Appendix A: Supplementary materials for chapter 2

Figure A-1. Boxplots of monthly percentage of wet-day for SDSM (left) and SDGAM (right) for all stations (Black star markers indicate monthly average values of precipitation data)

Figure A-2. Boxplot of monthly mean of precipitation for SDSM (left) and SDGAM (right) for all stations (Black star markers indicate monthly average values of precipitation data)

Indices		Precip-m				Precip-std			
Station	Month	Calibration		Validation		Calibration		Validation	
		SDSM	SDGAM	SDSM	SDGAM	SDSM	SDGAM	SDSM	SDGAM
S1	Jan	1.494	1.357	1.182	1.277	2.778	2.394	2.251	2.534
	Feb	1.047	0.893	1.075	0.912	1.990	1.669	1.971	1.381
	Mar	1.259	1.040	1.007	1.198	2.764	2.058	2.098	2.754
	Apr	1.165	0.939	1.353	1.274	2.145	1.660	2.324	1.999
	May	1.187	0.982	1.152	1.072	2.081	1.722	2.548	2.486
	Jun	1.109	1.006	1.563	1.374	2.684	2.428	2.936	2.759
	Jul	1.348	1.175	1.645	1.496	3.120	2.778	3.223	3.000
	Aug	1.717	1.525	1.480	1.281	3.843	3.280	3.580	2.583
	Sep	1.731	1.454	1.538	1.379	4.690	3.455	3.854	2.600
	Oct	1.137	0.939	1.285	1.149	2.529	2.053	3.127	2.981
	Nov	1.149	0.986	1.189	1.037	2.200	1.792	2.503	1.979
	Dec	1.324	1.149	1.011	0.970	2.317	1.833	1.777	1.565
S ₃	Jan	1.508	1.359	1.581	1.405	2.317	2.138	2.669	2.454
	Feb	1.374	1.238	1.325	1.311	2.647	2.322	3.032	3.086
	Mar	1.398	1.242	1.304	1.238	3.197	2.739	3.021	2.734
	Apr	1.152	0.907	1.427	1.307	1.773	1.581	2.123	1.721
	May	1.131	1.012	1.516	1.475	2.246	2.013	2.853	2.816
	Jun	1.496	1.318	1.773	1.705	3.028	2.689	3.228	3.330
	Jul	2.128	1.963	1.518	1.352	4.261	3.810	2.992	2.504
	Aug	1.929	1.724	1.933	1.831	3.984	3.485	4.931	4.863

Table A-1. RMSEs of monthly Precip-m and Precip-std for all stations

Station	Indices	Season		Calibration	Validation		
			SDSM	SDGAM	SDSM	SDGAM	
		Spring	8.326	8.011	7.489	7.728	
	Prcp1	Summer	6.873	6.533	8.566	7.713	
	$(\%)$	Fall	6.401	6.020	7.012	6.202	
		Winter	7.261	6.902	7.045	6.851	
		Spring	1.958	1.809	1.745	1.878	
	SDII	Summer	1.693	1.345	1.656	1.379	
	(mm/wet-day)	Fall	2.490	2.021	2.906	2.202	
S1		Winter	1.687	1.445	1.794	1.456	
		Spring	8.982	8.648	4.391	4.499	
	CDD	Summer	13.551	13.976	4.928	4.727	
	(days)	Fall	4.497	4.202	5.945	6.223	
		Winter	7.594	7.608	3.749	3.618	
		Spring	7.799	7.836	4.500	4.336	
	Prec90p	Summer	4.700	4.642	5.671	6.030	
	(mm/day)	Fall	8.948	9.158	8.587	7.048	
		Winter	5.368	5.409	4.552	3.596	
		Spring	8.652	8.086	7.596	7.546	
	Prcp1	Summer	6.611	6.295	9.043	9.118	
S ₃	$(\%)$	Fall	11.281	11.281	6.048	5.429	
		Winter	6.644	6.637	6.854	6.601	
	SDII	Spring	2.262	2.101	1.826	1.763	
	(mm/wet-day)	Summer	1.592	1.431	2.807	2.729	

Table A-2. RMSEs of seasonal Prcp1, SDII, CDD, Prec90p for all stations

Figure A-3. Boxplots of annual statistics and indices of SDGAM model: Precip_m, Precip_std, Prcp1, SDII, CDD, Prec90p, AMS and TAP for 1961-2000 period at S1

Figure A-4. Boxplots of annual statistics and indices of SDGAM model: Precip_m, Precip_std, Prcp1, SDII, CDD, Prec90p, AMS and TAP for 1961-2000 period at S3

Figure A-5. Boxplots of annual statistics and indices of SDGAM model: Precip_m, Precip_std, Prcp1, SDII, CDD, Prec90p, AMS and TAP for 1961-2000 period at S4

Figure A-6. Boxplots of annual statistics and indices of SDGAM model: Precip_m, Precip_std, Prcp1, SDII, CDD, Prec90p, AMS and TAP for 1961-2000 period at S5

Figure A-7. Boxplots of annual statistics and indices of SDGAM model: Precip_m, Precip_std, Prcp1, SDII, CDD, Prec90p, AMS and TAP for 1961-2000 period at S6

Figure A-8. Boxplots of annual statistics and indices of SDGAM model: Precip_m, Precip_std, Prcp1, SDII, CDD, Prec90p, AMS and TAP for 1961-2000 period at Dorval station (S7)

Figure A-9. Boxplots of annual statistics and indices of SDGAM model: Precip_m, Precip_std, Prcp1, SDII, CDD, Prec90p, AMS and TAP for 1961-2000 period at S8

Figure A-10. Boxplots of annual statistics and indices of SDGAM model: Precip_m, Precip_std, Prcp1, SDII, CDD, Prec90p, AMS and TAP for 1961-2000 period at S9

Figure A-11. Boxplots of annual statistics and indices of SDGAM model: Precip_m, Precip_std, Prcp1, SDII, CDD, Prec90p, AMS and TAP for 1961-2000 period at S10

Appendix B: Supplementary materials for chapter 3

Figure B-1. Boxplots of monthly mean of percentage of wet-day

Figure B-2. Boxplots of monthly mean of precipitation

Figure B-3. Probability Plot

Figure B-4. Bias correction - Calibration period

Figure B-5. Bias correction Functions

Figure B-6. Bias correction - Validation period

Figure B-7. Log-log plots of the PWMs versus durations

Figure B-8. Scaling exponents plotted against the order of PWMs

Figure B-9. IDF curves for future periods with different RCPs at S1

Figure B-10. IDF curves for future periods with different RCPs at S2

Figure B-11. IDF curves for future periods with different RCPs at S3

Figure B-12. IDF curves for future periods with different RCPs at S4

Figure B-13. IDF curves for future periods with different RCPs at S5

Figure B-14. IDF curves for future periods with different RCPs at S6

Figure B-15. IDF curves for future periods with different RCPs at S7

Figure B-16. IDF curves for future periods with different RCPs at S9

Figure B-17. IDF curves for future periods with different RCPs at S10

Appendix C: Supplementary materials for chapter 4

No.	Code	Station name	Province	Lon	Lat	RL (years)
$\mathbf{1}$	002	DienBien	Lai Châu	103	21.22	32
$\overline{2}$	003	LaiChau	Lai Châu	103.09	22.04	32
3	005	MuongTe	Lai Châu	102.5	22.22	32
$\overline{4}$	006	PhaDin	Lai Châu	103.31	21.34	32
5	008	SinHo	Lai Châu	103.14	22.22	32
6	009	TamDuong	Lai Châu	103.29	22.25	32
τ	011	TuanGiao	Lai Châu	103.25	21.35	32
8	012	BacYen	Son La	104.25	21.15	32
9	013	CoNoi	Son La	104.09	21.08	32
10	014	MocChau	Son La	104.41	20.5	32
11	016	PhuYen	Son La	104.38	21.16	32
12	017	QuynhNhai	Son La	103.34	21.51	32
13	018	SonLa	Son La	103.54	21.2	32
14	019	SongMa	Son La	103.44	21.04	32
15	023	YenChau	Son La	104.18	21.03	32
16	024	ChiNe	Hoà Bình	105.47	20.29	32
17	026	HoaBinh	Hoà Bình	105.2	20.49	32
18	027	KimBoi	Hoà Bình	105.32	20.4	32

Table C-1. Information of selected stations in Vietnam

Appendix D: Supplementary materials for chapter 5

Table D-1. Information of selected stations across Canada

