The Long-term Projection of Surface Runoff in the Regions above Danjiangkou in Hanjiang River Basin based on Water-energy Balance

Jun Yin¹, Zhe Yuan²*, Run Wang¹

¹Faculty of Resources and Environmental Science, Hubei University, Wuhan 430062, China; ²Changjiang River Scientific Research Institute, Changjiang Water Resources Commission of the Ministry of Water Resources of China, Wuhan 430010, China;

Abstract: The projection of surface runoff in the context of climate change is important to the rational utilization and distribution of water resources. This study did a case study in regions above Danjiangkou in Hanjiang River Basin. A basin scale hydrological model was built based on macroscale processes of surface runoff and water-energy balance. This model can describe the quantity relationship among climatic factors, underlying surface and surface runoff. Driven by hypothetical climatic scenarios and climate change dataset coming from CMIP5, the climate change impacts on surface runoff in the regions above Danjiangkou in Hanjiang River Basin can be addressed. The results showed that: (1) Compared with other distributed hydrological models, the hydrological model in this study has fewer parameters and simpler calculation methods. The model was good at simulating annual surface runoff. (2) The surface runoff was less sensitivity to climate change in the regions above Danjiangkou in Hanjiang River Basin. A 1°C increase in temperature might result in a surface runoff decrease of 2~5% and a 10% precipitation increase might result in a streamflow increase of 14~17%. (3) The temperature across the Fu River Basin were projected to increase by 1.4~2.3°C in 1961 to 1990 compared with that in 1961 to 1990. But the uncertainty existed among the projection results of precipitation. The surface runoff was expected to decrease by 1.3~23.9% without considering the climate change projected by NorESM1-M and MIROC-ESM-CHEM, which was much different from other GCMs.

1 Introduction

According to IPCC AR5, since the last century, most places in the world has been suffering climate change whose main characteristic is global warming. Mean temperature of the global sea and land surface has increased by 0.85°C from 1880 till 2012. What’s more, the surface temperature amplification during the recent 30 years is higher than any period since 1850[1]. Increase of temperature will accelerate the general atmospheric circulation and hydrologic cycle, thus resulting the reallocate of global water resource in different scale and affecting the global ecological environment and economic development of society[2-3]. So the projection of the surface runoff variation in the context of climate change will provide scientific proof for the planning management, development and utilization and ecological environment protection of water resources[4], and it has become a hot spot and frontier issue[5-7].

Mostly, the projection of surface runoff variation in the context of climate change will follow a pattern which is “design of future scenario-hydrological model-impact assessment”[8-13]. Hydrological model is the key tool to project the future surface runoff. Three challenges exist in methods based on the refined hydrological simulation to project surface run off variation in big scale. On the theoretical level, since the dominant factor of water cycle will differ as the time scale differs. Parameter calibration and model test will be done in relatively small time scales, such as monthly and daily scale. When the results are applied on the surface runoff analysis in yearly or multi-year scale, whether the model and parameters can reflect the dominant process and parameter characteristics in a large time scale still remains to be discussed[12-14]. On the technological level, due to the significant difference of climatic and under surface characteristics of different basins in China, it is of great difficulty to establish one hydrological model which is universal in China and in the meantime could reflect regional characteristics[15]. On the application level, refined hydrological model has a high requirement for data and calculation. Detailed climatic information, under surface data, water intake and use data and project scheduling data are all needed[16]. This kind of refined hydrological model can be used in typical basin and region, but is hard to be widely promoted in large region.

This research chose the regions above Danjiangkou in
Hanjiang River Basin as the study area. With the macroscopic mechanism of surface runoff formation as the starting point, basin scale hydrological model which could describe quantitative relation between climatic factors, under surface factors and surface runoff in large scale was established. The sensitivity of the study area to climate change was assessed. With the aid of the output of CMIP5, future surface runoff in the study area has been projected, so as to provide reliable scientific proof for the planning design, development and utilization and operation management of water resources system in the regions above Danjiangkou in Hanjiang River Basin.

2 Study area

Hanjiang River is the largest tributary of the left bank of middle reaches in Yangtze River. Hanjiang River originates from the south of Qinling Mountains and flows through Shaanxi Province and Hubei Province with its length of 1577km. Dragon King Temple in Hankou Wuhan City is the place where Hanjiang River affluxes into the Yangtze River. Hanjiang River Basin is located between 30°4′~34°12′N and 106°5′~114°17′E whose total area is 159000 km²[17]. Hanjiang River Basin shows an character of “higher northwest part and lower southeast part” on the whole. Regions above Danjiangkou has big relief amplitude whose south part is the Jingshan mountain area of Daba Mountain and north part is the Huaiyang mountain area of Qinling. Regions below Danjiangkou has relatively small relief amplitude and it is the river valley and flooded plain[18].

There are five fourth and above fourth level rivers in Hanjiang River Basin, which are Hanjiang, jushui River, Duhe River, Danjiang River and Tangbaihe River. Hanjiang River Basin is divided into upper, middle and lower reaches with Danjiangkou and Zhongxiang. The average gradient of reaches above Danjiangkou of Hanjiang River Basin is larger than 0.6%. The river length is 925km and is about 59% of the whole length of the main stream. The area of the regions above Danjiangkou of Hanjiang River Basin is 95200 km² and is 60% of the total basin[19-20].

3 Data and method

3.1 Data

Observed meteorological data used in this research is the daily ground climatological data set of China (V3.0) provided by National Meteorological Information Center (NMIC) of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA). This data set covers meteorological data (atmospheric pressure, temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, evaporation, wind direction, wind speed, et al.) from 824 national ground stations. This research used data from 21 meteorological stations located in and around the study area ranging from 1956~2013. Daily inflow of Danjiangkou reservoir from 1956~2008 was used as runoff data, which was further processed to get the surface runoff depth in the regions above Danjiangkou of Hanjiang River Basin.

Interpolated and corrected output of five climate models provided by ISI-MIP (The Inter-Sectoral Impact Model Intercomparison Project) was used in this research. Interpolation and correction were carried out by bilinear interpolation and statistical bias correction based on probability distribution[21-23]. The selected five climate models in ISI-MIP are GFDL-ESM2M, HADGEM2-ES, IPSL-CM5A-LR, MIROC-ESM-CHEM and NORESM1-M. Output of these five climate models includes temperature and precipitation with a resolution of 0.5°×0.5°. These five climate models include four scenarios: RCP2.6, RCP4.5, RCP6.0 and RCP8.5. Time ranges of simulation is from Jan 1st, 1960 to Dec 31st, 2099. In this research, we used three scenarios, which are RCP2.6, RCP4.5 and RCP8.5, to stand for low, middle and high scenario. Study phase is 1960~2050. Surface runoff depth in 2020~2050 was projected.

3.2 Hydrological-thermal balance model in basin scale

For a certain closed basin, its hydrological and climatic characteristics fit into the water balance equation and energy balance equation. During the hydrology research, water balance and energy balance are often used to establish water balance model to simulate the water cycle in a basin.
Based on water balance and energy balance, correlational relationship between precipitation, evaporation, land use and runoff can be built. Thus, the hydrological-thermal balance model in basin scale can be established:

\[ R = P - E + \Delta W \]  

(1)

\[ R_e = \lambda E + H + G \]  

(2)

\[ E = f(E_0, P) \]  

(3)

where, \( P \) is precipitation; \( E \) is actual evaporation; \( \Delta W \) is variation of soil moisture content which is close to 0 in long time scale; \( R_e \) is the net radiation flux reaching the ground; \( G \) is the soil thermal flux; \( \lambda E \) is latent heat flux of vaporization; \( H \) is the sensible heat flux; \( E_0 \) is evaporative capacity; \( \omega \) is soil parameters related to land use type. \( E_0 \) can be calculated by Penman-Monteith method recommended by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

\( E \) is actual evapotranspiration, which can be calculated by Budyko curve. The Budyko assumption considers that a coupled equilibrium relation (hydrological-thermal balance relation) exists between the water and energy in a basin. An empirical relation curve was also given to describe the quantitative relation between multi-year average precipitation, latent evapotranspiration and actual evapotranspiration. The most widely used Budyko curves are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1 The Expressions of Budyko curve**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equation</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ E / P = 1 - \exp^\phi ]</td>
<td>Schreiber (1904) [24]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ E / P = \phi \tanh(1/\phi) ]</td>
<td>Ol’dekop (1911) [25]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ E / P = \left[ 0.9 + (1/\phi)^2 \right]^{-0.5} ]</td>
<td>Turc (1953) [26]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ E / P = \left[ 1 + (1/\phi)^2 \right]^{-0.5} ]</td>
<td>Pike (1964) [27]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ E / P = \left[ \phi \tanh(1/\phi) \left( 1 - \exp^{-\phi} \right) \right]^{0.5} ]</td>
<td>Budyko (1974) [28]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ E / P = 1 + \phi - (1 + \phi^\omega)^{1/\omega} ]</td>
<td>Baopu Fu (1981), Zhang et al. (2004) [29-30]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ E / P = 1 - \left( \phi \cdot \gamma \cdot \frac{E}{E_0} \exp^{-\gamma} \left[ \Gamma\left( \frac{E}{E_0} \right) - \Gamma \left( \frac{E_0}{E_0} \right) \right] \right)^{-1/\omega} ]</td>
<td>Porporato et al. (2004) [31]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During many Budyko curves, the Baopu Fu equation is a analytic expression with mathematical physical meaning[32]. This equation describes the relationship between precipitation, evaporative capability and actual evaporation as follows:

\[ \frac{E}{E_0} = 1 + \frac{P}{E_0} - \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{P}{E_0} \right)^{\omega} \right]^{1/\omega} \]  

(4)

where, \( E \) is actual evaporation; \( E_0 \) is evaporative capacity; \( P \) is annual precipitation; \( \omega \) is empirical parameter which is related to land use type.

Based on equation (4) and (1), hydrological-thermal balance model in basin scale based on Baopu Fu can be obtained. Then runoff simulation and projection can be made[33].

\[ R = E_0 \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{P}{E_0} \right)^{\omega} \right]^{1/\omega} - 1 \]  

(5)

where, \( \omega \) can be calibrated by runoff \( R \), precipitation \( P \) and evaporative capability \( E_0 \) over a given period.

Determination coefficient \( (R^2) \), Nash-Sutcliffe efficiency coefficient \( (NSE) \) and relative error \( (RE) \) were selected to assess the performance of model. Equations are listed as follows:

\[ R^2 = 1 - \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{N} (q_{obs}(t) - \overline{q_{obs}})(q_{sim}(t) - \overline{q_{sim}})^2}{\sum_{t=1}^{N} (q_{obs}(t) - \overline{q_{obs}})^2 \sum_{t=1}^{N} (q_{sim}(t) - \overline{q_{sim}})^2} \]  

(6)

\[ NSE = 1 - \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{N} [q_{obs}(t) - q_{sim}(t)]^2}{\sum_{t=1}^{N} [q_{obs}(t) - \overline{q_{obs}}]^2} \]  

(7)

\[ RE = \frac{\overline{q_{sim}} - \overline{q_{obs}}}{\overline{q_{obs}}} \times 100\% \]  

(8)

where, \( q_{obs}(t) \) and \( q_{sim}(t) \) are the observed and simulated monthly runoff respectively; \( \overline{q_{obs}} \) and \( \overline{q_{sim}} \) are the average value of observed and simulated monthly runoff respectively. In general, higher \( R^2 \), bigger \( NSE \) and smaller \( |RE| \) means better performance. When \( R^2 > 0.6 \), smaller means better performance.
3.3 Analysis on the impact of climate change on runoff

This research analyzed the impact of climate change on runoff from two respects: ① presumed climate change scenarios were established to analyze the sensitivity of runoff to climate change; ② output of future climate change were utilized to drive the hydrological-thermal balance model, so as to project the impact of future climate change on runoff. Specific process is as follows:

The precipitation and temperature were presumed to change by a certain degree (ΔP and ΔT). Combined with the established hydrological-thermal balance model, equation (9) can be used to quantify the sensitivity of runoff to climate change.

\[
δ(ΔP, ΔT) = \left( \frac{f(P + ΔP, T + ΔT) - f(P, T)}{f(P, T)} \right) \times 100% \tag{9}
\]

Where, \(P\) and \(T\) stand for precipitation and temperature respectively; \(ΔP\) and \(ΔT\) stand for the variation amplitude of precipitation and temperature respectively and they are the response function between runoff and precipitation and temperature; \(δ(ΔP, ΔT)\) stands for the sensitivity of runoff to climate change. This research took 1961-1990 as the baseline. Based on this, the precipitation was presumed to change by +30%, +20%, +10%, 0%, -10% and -20% respectively and the temperature was presumed to change by +3°C, +2°C, +1°C, 0°C, -1°C, -2°C and 3°C\[37-38]\.

In order to eliminate the impact of systematic deviation of climate model simulation, precipitation and temperature simulated by climate models were used to drive the hydrological-thermal balance model. Relative change of simulated runoff was used to stand for the future variation. The base line is also 1961~1990 and the future projected period is 2020~2050.

4 Results

4.1 Assessment of hydrological-thermal balance model simulation in basin scale

This research took runoff depth in the regions above Danjiangkou in Hanjiang River Basin during 1956~2013 to do calibration and verification. The calibration period is 1956~2000 and the verification period is 2001~2013. The calibrated parameter \(ω\) is 1.804. NSE, \(R^2\) and \(RE\) during the calibration period are 0.90, 0.93 and -0.97% respectively and those during the verification period are 0.89, 0.94 and 5.02% respectively (Fig. 2 and Table 2). Simulated results show that it is feasible to use basin scale hydrological-thermal balance model to simulate the runoff depth in regions above Danjiangkou of Hanjiang River Basin and it can be utilized to project the runoff depth in the study area.

![Fig.2](https://doi.org/10.1051/matecconf/201824601099)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>NSE</th>
<th>(R^2)</th>
<th>(RE(%))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calibration Period (1956~2000)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>-0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verification Period (2001~2013)</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>5.024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2 Sensitivity of surface runoff depth variation to climatic factors in the study area

Monthly mean temperature (\(Tm\)) and monthly potential evapotranspiration (\(ET_0\)) during 1961-2010 in the study area were used to establish the statistical relationship between \(Tm\) and \(ET_0\). It can be seen that temperature and potential evapotranspiration approximately fit exponential relation (Fig. 3). Based on the presumed climate change scenario and statistical relationship between temperature and evapotranspiration, potential evapotranspiration in different scenarios can be calculated. Furthermore, combined with the established hydrological-thermal balance model of the study area, surface runoff depth in different climate scenarios can be simulated. According to equation (9), the impact of precipitation change and temperature change on surface runoff depth can be calculated (Fig. 4): ① when the precipitation is constant, surface runoff depth will decrease by 2 to 5% (9 to 20 mm) as temperature increases by each degree centigrade; when the temperature is constant, surface runoff depth will...
increase by 14 to 17% (60 to 70 mm) as precipitation increases by each 10%.

Research by Chiew (2006) showed that bigger runoff coefficient in a basin means less sensitivity to climate change in general. The multi-year mean precipitation and surface runoff depth of the study area are 875.5 mm and 396.4 mm respectively and the runoff coefficient is 0.45. According to the research carried out by Chiew, regions above Danjiangkou in Hanjiang River Basin is not sensitive to climate change. In this research, results based on hydrological-thermal balance model are consistent with that.

4.3 Projection of surface runoff depth in regions above Danjiangkou in Hanjiang River Basin in the context of climate change

Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 show the annual temperature and annual precipitation variation in regions above Danjiangkou in Hanjiang River Basin during 1961-2050. Future temperature has consistent changing trend. Under RCP 2.6, RCP4.5 and RCP8.5, multi-year mean temperature during the changing period (2020-2050) increased by 1.4~2.1℃, 1.4~2.0℃ and 1.9~2.3℃ respectively compared to that during the baseline (1961-1990) (Fig. 8(a)). The variation of future precipitation has a certain degree of uncertainty: multi-year mean precipitation in the changing period will change by 7.9~3.7% (RCP 2.6), -9.7~5.9% (RCP 4.5) and -12.7~0.5% (RCP 8.5) compared to the baseline. Under RCP 2.6 and RCP 8.5 scenario, projected precipitation by HadGEM2-ES and NorESM1-M will increase by 3.7% (RCP 2.6, HadGEM2-ES), 0.5% (RCP 8.5, HadGEM2-ES) and 3.4% (RCP 2.6, NorESM1-M), 0.3% (RCP 8.5, NorESM1-M); while the precipitation projected by other models shows a decreasing trend. Under the RCP 4.5 scenario, precipitation projected by MIROC-ESM-CHEM and NorESM1-M will increase by 5.9% and 4.5% respectively; while other models projected decreasing precipitation (Fig. 7 (b)).

Fig. 7 shows the inter-annual variation of surface runoff depth in regions above Danjiangkou in Hanjiang River Basin during 1961-2050. Among the selected 3×5=15 scenarios, future surface runoff depth under 12 scenarios will decrease, thus having apparent consistency. Climate models which projected increasing surface runoff depth are NorESM1-M under RCP 2.6 scenario (+0.8%) and NorESM1-M and MIROC-ESM-CHEM under RCP4.5 (+1.9% and +3.9%). Under other scenarios, surface runoff depth all shows a decreasing trend (-1.3~23.9%). The projection of surface runoff depth differs in different climate models and different scenarios: the projection of GFDL-ESM2M and IPSL-CM5A-LR decreases significantly (-15.0~23.9% and -15.0~17.4% respectively). The average of multi-climate models shows that future surface runoff depth will decrease by 8.3%, 7.1% and 12.4% under RCP 2.6, RCP4.5 and RCP 8.5 respectively.
5 Conclusions

In this research, hydrological-thermal balance model in regions above Danjiangkou in Hanjiang River Basin was established. Based on five climate models, future surface runoff depth under RCP2.6, RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 in the study area has been projected. The results are as follows:

1. The established hydrological-thermal balance model in the study area performed well in the simulation of yearly runoff. During calibration period and verification period, $R^2$ and NSE are both above 0.89, and $RE$ is less than 5.02%. Thus this model can be used in the projection of future surface runoff in the study area. Compared with other distributed hydrological models, hydrological-thermal balance model established in this study has less parameters and simpler calculation.

2. The response amplitude of surface runoff depth to climate change is related with the dry and wet background of a basin. The runoff coefficient of the study area is 0.45 and the study area is relatively humid. The study area is not sensitive to climate change: when the precipitation is constant, surface runoff depth will decrease by 2 to 5% (9 to 20 mm) as temperature increases by each degree centigrade; when the temperature is constant, surface runoff depth will increase by 14 to 17% (60 to 70 mm) as precipitation increases by each 10%.

3. Results show that the temperature in the study area has consistent increasing trend: multi-year mean temperature during the changing period (2020-2050) increased by 1.4–2.1℃, 1.4–2.0℃ and 1.9–2.3℃ respectively compared to that during the baseline (1961-1990). The variation of future precipitation has a certain degree of uncertainty: multi-year mean precipitation in the changing period will change by 7.9~3.7% (RCP2.6), - 9.7~5.9% (RCP4.5) and -12.7~0.5% (RCP8.5) compared to the baseline. As to the interannual variation of surface runoff depth, among the selected 3×5=15 scenarios, future surface runoff depth under 12 scenarios will decrease. The main reason is that during the projection period, the variation of precipitation is relatively small which has small impact of runoff; while the increase of temperature is relatively big which will have big impact of runoff.

Acknowledgment

This research is supported by the CRSRI Open Research Program (Program SN:CKWV2018493/KY); National Natural Science Foundation of China (grant number:51709008); the Open Research Fund of State Key Laboratory of Simulation and Regulation of Water Cycle
in River Basin (China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research)(grant number: IWHR-SKL-KF201804).

Reference


