

BIAS CORRECTION METHOD WITH SKEWED DISTRIBUTION FOR PROJECTION OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES MORTALITY RATE BASED ON EXTREME TEMPERATURE



Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

May 2022

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By

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May 2022

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Bias correction method is useful in reducing the statistically downscaled biases of global climate models' outputs and preserving statistical moments of the hydrological series. However, bias correction method is less efficient under changed future conditions due to the stationary assumption and perform poorly for removing bias at extremes thereby causing unreliable bias-corrected data. Thus, the existing bias correction method with normal distribution needs to be improved by incorporating skewed distributions into the model with linear covariate to account for non-stationarity. This study develops bias correction method with skewed distribution using quantile mapping technique to reduce biases in the extreme temperatures data of peninsular Malaysia. The network input is the MIROC5 model output gridded data for the period 1976-2005, and the model target used for bias correcting the input data is the observed extreme temperatures sourced by the Malaysian Department of Irrigation and Drainage for the same period. Results indicate that the proposed model obtains more accurate estimates of future mortality rates based on model diagnostics and precision analysis. Bias correction method with skewed distribution is used for bias correction of MIROC5 modeled projected extreme temperatures for 2006-2100 corresponding to the representative concentration pathways emission scenarios and it can correct the biases of future data, assuming skewed distribution of future extreme temperatures data for emission scenarios. Lognormal and Gumbel with linear covariate are the most appropriate distributions to model the annual extreme temperatures. Simulation study was conducted to validate the results. It was found that Gumbel with covariate is the best fitted distribution for extreme temperature series than other distributions. Higher projection of extreme temperatures is more pronounced under RCP8.5 with precise estimates ranging between 33-42°C compared with that under RCP4.5 with precise estimates ranging 30-32°C. Finally, the projection of extreme temperatures is used to calculate the mortality rate of cardiovascular diseases across all regions in peninsular Malaysia which coincide with high extreme temperatures ranging between 0.002 to 0.014.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

KAEDAH PEMETAAN KUANTIL PEMBETULAN PINCANG DENGAN TABURAN CONDONG UNTUK UNJURAN KADAR KEMATIAN PENYAKIT KARDIOVASKULAR BERDASARKAN UNJURAN SUHU MELAMPAU

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Kaedah pembetulan pincang berguna dalam mengurangkan kecenderungan menurun secara statistik output model iklim global dan memelihara momen statistik siri hidrologi. Walaubagaimanapun, kaedah pembetulan pincang kurang cekap di bawah keadaan masa depan yang berubah-ubah kerana andaian pegun dan menunjukkan prestasi yang tidak memuaskan untuk menghilangkan pincang pada suhu lampau sehingga menyebabkan data pincang yang diperbetulkan tidak boleh dipercayai. Oleh itu, kaedah pembetulan pincang sedia ada dengan taburan normal perlu diperbaiki dengan memasukkan taburan condong ke dalam model dengan kovariat selanjar untuk mengambil kira andaian tidak pegun. Kajian ini membangunkan kaedah pembetulan pincang dengan taburan condong menggunakan teknik pemetaan kuantil untuk mengurangkan pincang dalam data suhu lampau semenanjung Malaysia. Input rangkaian adalah output model MIROC5 data grid untuk tempoh 1976-2005, dan sasaran model yang digunakan untuk membetulkan pincang data input adalah suhu lampau yang diperhatikan yang diperoleh oleh Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran Malaysia untuk tempoh yang sama. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa model yang dicadangkan memperoleh anggaran yang lebih tepat mengenai kadar kematian masa depan berdasarkan diagnostik model dan analisis ketepatan. Kaedah pembetulan pincang dengan taburan condong digunakan untuk membetulkan pincang suhu lampau model MIROC5 untuk 2006-2100 sepadan dengan laluan wakil penumpuan senario lepasan dan ia boleh membetulkan data pincang masa depan, dengan mengandaikan taburan condong data suhu lampau masa depan untuk senario lepasan. Lognormal dan Gumbel dengan kovariat selanjar adalah taburan yang paling sesuai untuk memodelkan suhu lampau tahunan. Kajian simulasi telah dijalankan bagi mengesahkan keputusan tersebut. Didapati bahawa Gumbel dengan kovariat adalah taburan yang paling sesuai untuk siri suhu lampau daripada taburan lain. Unjuran suhu lampau yang lebih tinggi lebih ketara di bawah RCP8.5 dengan anggaran tepat antara 33-42°C berbanding dengan yang di bawah RCP4.5 dengan anggaran tepat antara $30-32^{\circ}$ C. Akhir sekali, unjuran suhu lampau digunakan untuk menganggar kadar kematian CVD di semua daerah di semenanjung Malaysia yang bertepatan dengan suhu ekstrem yang tinggi antara 0.002 hingga 0.014.



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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIC Akaike information criterion

AAD Attributable annual deaths

ADF Augmented Dickey-Fuller test

BIC Bayesian information criterion

BCM Bias correction method

CVD Cardiovascular disease

CI Confidence interval

CDF Cumulative density function

ENSO El-Niño Southern/Oscillation

FRE Frèchet distribution

GAM Gamma distribution

GEV Generalized extreme value distribution

GCM Global climate model

GUM Gumbel distribution

KPSS Kwiatkowski–Phillips–Schmidt–Shin test

LRT Likelihood ratio test

LGNORM Lognormal distribution

MLE Maximum likelihood estimation

MAE Mean absolute error

M1 Model 1

M2 Model 2

M3 Model 3

M4 Model 4

P3 Pearson type 3 distribution

PBIAS Percent bias

PP Predictive precision

PDF Probability density function

QM Quantile mapping

RCP Representative concentration pathways

RMSE Root mean square error

SE Standard error

WEI Weibull distribution

Symbols

x Annual extreme temperature

μ Location parameter

ρ Real number

n Sample size

σ Scale parameter

α Shape parameter

Subscripts

Annual extreme temperature of observation

 x_m Annual extreme temperature of historical GCM

y_o Baseline mortality

 x_{corr} Corrected extreme temperature between observation and historical GCM

 $x_{RCP4.5(corr)}$ Projection of future annual extreme temperature under RCP4.5

 $x_{RCP8.5(corr)}$ Projection of future annual extreme temperature under RCP8.5

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Bias correction method (BCM) is a well-known method in statistical downscaling as they can reduce biases between global climate model (GCM) outputs and observations and are skillful to reduce the coarse resolution of GCMs outputs into finer resolution of observation scale (Cannon et al., 2015; Ngai et al., 2022; Hong et al., 2022). BCM was successful in reproducing the main features of the observed hydrometeorology from the retrospective climate simulation, when applied to statistically downscaled of GCM outputs, as well as competent to preserve the statistical moments of the hydrological series (Sennikovs and Bethers, 2009). BCM is one of the downscaling methods where the procedure employs transfer function to correct the biases in the GCM outputs relative to observations. The underlying idea is the identification of possible biases between observed and historical GCM outputs. BCM is widely used in various applications such as hydrological and meteorological applications due to the advantages of BCM that can capture the biases of GCM outputs. However, the BCM's algorithm is assumed to be stationary and valid for future conditions (Teutschbein and Seibert, 2012). Several BCMs have been developed to downscale the meteorological variables such as temperature from the GCM outputs, ranging from the simple or linear method to sophisticated or nonlinear method (Jakob Themeßl et al., 2011; Teutschbein and Seibert, 2012; Fang et al., 2015). The statistical transformation involving transforming the distribution functions of the modeled variables into the observed ones using a mathematical function, which can be mathematically expressed as $x_0 = f(x_m)$ where, x_0 is observed variable, x_m is modeled variable, and $f(x_m)$ is transformation function (Piani et al., 2010; Enayati et al., 2021). Given that the quantile mapping (QM) technique use the quantile-quantile relation to converge the simulated variables' distribution function to the observed one, with the cumulative distribution function (CDFs) of both observed and simulated variables' time series, their quantile relation can also be determined, as $x_o = F_o^{-1}[F_m(x_m)]$ (Ringard et al., 2017), where, $F_m(x_m)$ is the CDF of x_m and F_o^{-1} is the inverse form of the CDF of x_o , which technically referred to as the quantile function.

1.2 Study Background

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) have been recognized as the leading cause of death throughout the world. CVDs, also known as circulatory diseases, are categorized as heart and blood vessel disorders (Patel et al., 2022). According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), coronary heart disease (CHD), one of the CVDs, was the principal causes of death in Malaysia showing an increasing trend between 2016 and 2019 (DOSM, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020). CVD is sensitive to climate conditions;

hence, temperature-related CVDs have become a growing public health concern. The influence of extreme heat events on human health are significant and diverse (Balbus et al., 2016). The health sector has been identified as the most vulnerable to extreme heat events (Patel et al., 2022). According to Center for Disease Control and Prevention of United States, extreme heat events caused by high temperature are the most influential cause of heat-related human mortality responsible for more deaths per year than hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes (Vaidyanathan et al., 2020). Such events are expected to occur more often and predicted to last longer due to global climate change. Extreme heat events caused more than 150,000 deaths globally from 1990 to 2018 with 2018 recorded as the warmest especially between June and July where extreme heat events swept through Asia, Europe, and North America, hospitalizing thousands of people with heat-related illness and recorded more than 700 deaths in the immediate after-math (WHO, 2014). The World Health Organization (WHO) predicted that there will be almost 92,000 deaths per year from heatwave by 2030 with sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia bearing the largest burdens (WHO, 2014). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that Southeast Asian countries, developing countries such as Malaysia, will be at the greatest risk of the emergence of extreme heat events (Stocker, 2014). To assess climate change on local scales, an approach known as downscaling is used to bridge the gap between the resolution of GCM outputs and the local climatic process (Noor et al., 2018). BCM as one of downscaling methods is widely used in reducing the biases between observed and historical GCM outputs to achieve an understanding of the current pattern of seasonal variations assists in estimating the impact of future climate change.

1.3 Problem Statement

Future climate change exposures are typically derived using simulations from computationally expensive climate models. Even though these models reflect state-ofthe-art knowledge on the climate system, their outputs are known to exhibit complex spatial-temporal biases when compared to observations. Factors contributing to this bias include errors in parameters describing physical and chemical processes, incorrect representation of the underlying processes with mathematical equations, and discretization of meteorological fields in space and in time. Hence, climate-model simulations for the projection period need to be bias-corrected prior to estimating future health impacts (Holthuijzen et al., 2021). BCM is renowned in statistical downscaling because it can reduce biases between GCM outputs and observations, and it skillfully reduces the coarse resolution of GCMs outputs into finer resolution of observation scale (Teutschbein and Seibert, 2012; Cannon et al., 2015; Fang et al., 2015; Ringard et al., 2017; Hong et al., 2022; Ngai et al., 2022). Wood et al. (2004) employed BCM to reduce the statistically downscaled biases of GCM outputs. BCM was successful in reproducing the main features of the observed hydrometeorology from the retrospective climate simulation, when applied to statistically downscaled GCM outputs, and competent to preserve the statistical moments of the hydrological series (Sennikovs and Bethers, 2009). Generally, BCM for future simulation is accomplished in two steps. First, the bias between observations and simulations during the historical period is assessed. Then a correction algorithm is applied to future simulations by assuming the bias can be extrapolated to future periods. Olsson et al. (2015) had stated that QM technique was able to provide temperature data that were sufficiently close to observed discharges in the control period and produced more realistic projections for mean annual and seasonal changes compared to the uncorrected GCM data. Putra et al. (2020) has found that BCM could reduce biases in the GCM outputs relative to observations with coefficient of determination of 0.81 for spatial distribution. Tadese et al. (2020) also showed that BCM and variance scaling performed well in correcting the biases GCM outputs despite the corrected maximum and minimum temperature being slightly overestimated for the mean and standard deviation. Despite the fact that BCM has shown considerable skill in reducing the biases, there are few limitations that need to be addressed. Firstly, the remaining uncertainty regarding how well a calibrated BCM performs for conditions different from those used for calibration. Although a good performance of BCM during the calibration period has been shown, that does not guarantee a good performance under changed future conditions due to the stationary assumption of BCM. Secondly, BCM is less efficient in downscaling both high and low temperature extremes (Maurer and Hidalgo, 2008; Abatzoglou and Brown, 2012). The most commonly used BCMs were based on shifting or scaling climate model simulations that have been shown to perform poorly for removing bias at extremes (Räisänen and Räty, 2013). Thus, BCM has a tendency to overfit on calibration data, especially at extremes where data is scarce and highly variable (Piani et al., 2010; Lafon et al., 2013; Grillakis et al., 2013; Mamalakis et al., 2017; Holthuijzen et al., 2021). The limitation of BCM is mainly because it assumes that the temperature follows the normal distribution (Hempel et al., 2013; Gaitán et al., 2019; Lange, 2019). Pastén-Zapata et al. (2020) tested BCM in simulating the temperature and observed that the existing BCM with normal distribution did not improve the representation of daily temporal variability especially the extremes. These findings are significant for tackling the main part of the statistical modeling process which is the selection of appropriate distribution for the BCM that could be overlooked in the past research. Various studies were conducted to fit a suitable statistical distribution on extreme temperatures and different conclusions were drawn depending on factors such as the area and duration of study. Particularly, the right distribution may enhance the BCM's performance in simulating the extremes. In summary, no single distribution can be concluded to perform the best. Therefore, it is crucial to thoroughly analyze various aspects while selecting the most appropriate distribution for the extreme temperatures to achieve an accurate projection of the CVD mortality rate to avoid misleading results.

1.4 Objectives

The aim of this study is to improvise the existing BCM technique associated with normal distribution by fitting the skewed statistical distribution on annual extreme temperatures into the model which then be used to project the CVD mortality rate based on extreme temperatures projection in peninsular Malaysia.

- 1.4.1 to capture the non-stationary and extreme values in the annual extreme temperature data by incorporating the linear covariate and skewed distributions (i.e., lognormal (LGNORM), gamma (GAM), Pearson type 3 (P3), generalized extreme value (GEV), Gumbel (GUM), Weibull (WEI), and Frèchet (FRE)) in the QM-BCM,
- 1.4.2 to conduct the simulation study of QM-BCM with best skewed distributions and linear covariate, and
- 1.4.3 to estimate the future CVD mortality rate based on future annual extreme temperatures projected by the QM-BCM using the attributable annual death (AAD) equation.

1.5 Significance of Study

The growing number of CVD mortality corresponding to the global warming is becoming a major concern nowadays. Future information on the CVD mortality rate is believed to provide valuable inputs to the stakeholders for taking precautions and preventive measures to flatten the curve trend. The significance of this study rests on the fact that the health sector in Malaysia heavily depends on climatic conditions. Thus, studying future scenarios may provide important information to researchers and local governments, to propose appropriate adaptation measures and increase resilience. Furthermore, appropriate policies and plans can be sanctioned to prepare the public for changes because of extreme temperatures particularly; on CVD mortality. Using the accurate predictions of future mortality rates of CVD, the government can play a crucial role by enacting policies that encourage the provision of preventive healthcare services and promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

1.6 Scope and Limitations Study

In this study, there are several limitations need to be addressed. This study is bounded to constant value of population that assume the population for future period remains the same as in present period (i.e. does not change). The projection is also based on only one GCM output using the secondary data of CVD mortality which were sourced from Global Burden of Disease Collaborative Network based on agestandardized (rate) per 100,000 individuals for both genders. Furthermore, biases that are considered in this study is within the GCM output thereby the biases from other sources such as diversity of model projections, number of projections, multiple BCMs, and model quality are not considered. Finally, the meteorological stations are limited to 58 stations across peninsular Malaysia due to availability of temperature data.

1.7 Outline of Thesis

The thesis comprises of 7 chapters. Chapter 1 consists of introduction, research background, problem statements, objectives, significance of study, scope and limitations, as well as an outline of the thesis. A literature review of previous studies on downscaling and statistical distribution of temperature series is presented in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 describes the meteorological data and present the descriptive statistics of observed annual extreme temperature in peninsular Malaysia. Chapter 4 describes the process of selecting the suitable skewed statistical distribution. To determine the trend in data, Kwiatkowski-Phillips-Schmidt-Shin (KPSS) and Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) tests are used. The Akaike information criterion (AIC), Bayesian information criterion (BIC), and likelihood ratio test (LRT) are used to select the most appropriate distribution to fit peninsular Malaysia's extreme temperatures. An evaluation of the performance of developed model is conducted by using simulation studies and the mathematical formulations of corrected extreme temperatures, as well as the projection of future extreme temperatures under RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 are presented in Chapter 5. A precision analysis of corrected extreme temperatures is analyzed using the mean absolute error (MAE), root mean square error (RMSE), percent bias (PBIAS), and predictive precision (PP). The projection of future CVD mortality rates is presented in the following Chapter 6. The correlation coefficient is calculated to determine the magnitude of the relationship of future extreme temperatures with CVD mortality rate. Lastly, Chapter 7 presents the conclusions from this study and some recommendations for future research has been discussed in this chapter.

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

.Journals:

- Aina Izzati Mohd Esa, Syafrina Abdul Halim, Norzaida Abas, Jing Xing Chung and Mohd Syazwan Faisal Mohd (2020). Projection of Temperature in Relation to Cardiovascular Disease using Bias Correction Method, In *Journal of Quality Measurement and Analysis*. 16(2):193-206.
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