

Interactive comment on “A description of the global land-surface precipitation data products of the Global Precipitation Climatology Centre with sample applications including centennial (trend) analysis from 1901–present” by A. Becker et al.

J. Grieser

juergen.grieser@rms.com

Received and published: 9 October 2012

The authors of this manuscript discuss the datasets of which they claim they are owned by the GPCC. In fact the VASCLimO dataset they mention (on page 928 lines 1 and 2) is neither produced by means nor on behalf of the GPCC. It is not an intellectual property of the GPCC and the authors (except K. Schamm) have published lots of wrong information about this dataset at several occasions.

In this manuscript the authors shortly discuss their new dataset HOMPRA, which does

C206

not exist yet, as they correctly state. One of the authors already published the existence of this dataset in 2010 (Rudolf, 2010). In 2012 the GPCC collectively gainsaid him (Ziese et al., 2012) in their contribution to the general assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU).

The Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC) has a long tradition in publishing wrong and fraudulent statements.

In 1992 Rudolf et al. published that the interpolation method Spheremap, which they got installed at the GPCC by David Legates deliberately extrapolates out of the range of observations in order to estimate non-observed maxima and minima. They even drew a sketch to visualize this. This was solely a product of their fantasy proofing that they had no idea whatsoever about the equations they correctly copied from the original paper by Shepard.

In 2004, when I was employed at the GPCC, Bruno Rudolf confirmed his wrong understanding of Shepards method again which Christoph Beck (now lecturer at University Augsburg) can confirm.

Shepards method is still the only one used within the GPCC. It uses a maximum of 10 neighboring stations for the interpolation to a grid point. The GPCC has more than 3300 stations in Germany but less than 200 gridpoints. The use of Shepards method ensures that not all stations are taken into account. The major misuse of Shepards method by the GPCC however, is that it uses only stations closer than 5km from a grid point if there is at least one station that close. The aim of Shepards method is to give a best point estimate, not a best grid-area estimate attributed to a point. Shepard method had a lot of advantages compared to inverse-distance weighted averaging schemes when introduced in 1968. It is an adequate tool if grid-point density is considerably higher than station density. The GPCC violates this condition for many years now. I informed the head of the GPCC about that and that these issues can be resolved easily in 2004 but got ignored. Only after I went public via Climlist (at 9 May 2011) and

C207

informed those who are meant to use and trust on the GPCC data, the GPCC started to take this points serious.

While the misuse and the wrong information published about Shepards method can be explained by ignorance, there are several other publications of the GPCC in which they deliberately published wrong information.

Since 2005 they continue to publish that the VASCLimO dataset is interpolated by Ordinary Kriging (e.g. Rudolf and Schneider, 2005, and the website of the GPCC where they also claim that the VASCLimO dataset gets updated every 3 to 4 years although it is not updated for more than 7 years now). The VASCLimO dataset is not interpolated by any version of Kriging. No variogram is calculated. Instead each individual station gets a weight as a function of its representativeness measured by the spatial structure of the temporal correlation with neighboring stations. As a side effect this reduces the influence of erroneous time series which there obviously are in the quality controlled and homogeneity tested station dataset (comprising about 5000 stations instead of the 9343 stations the GPCC claims) I got from the GPCC. Some time series contained in part temperature instead of precipitation data. I removed them.

Furthermore in Schneider et al. (2010) the authors wrote "...for VASCLimO dataset V1.1 using Kriging interpolation and an older climatology version". It is a proven fact that the VASCLimO dataset is not based on any climatology of the GPCC but on the (not quality controlled) data of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. The VASCLimO dataset is published in July 2005. Last time I asked for the GPCC climatic station data was in a letter dated 21.9.2005.

The VASCLimO dataset is no intellectual property of the GPCC. It is neither produced on behalf nor by means of the GPCC. I programmed the code in VB6 to be able to prove this.

Given all this, I clearly state that the GPCC deliberately published wrong information several times. In order to get through with this fraud, Bruno Rudolf gave wrong testi-

C208

mony for a case at the Landgericht Bonn (a County Court in Germany) where proof of this is available.

I cannot judge which of the statements in this manuscript are true and which are wrong. However, the members of the GPCC have proven so often that they do not care whether what they publish is true or not, that I doubt that this manuscript is an exception.

It is a shame for the German Weather Service to not have stopped the GPCC from continuously publishing wrong information. Long term precipitation observations are of high importance for climate-change research. And the GPCC has the largest collection of these data.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or detailed proofs about the fraudulent behaviour of the authors (except K. Schamm).

Juergen Grieser

j.grieser@gmx.de

References:

Rudolf B., H. Hauschild, M. Reiss, and U. Schneider, 1992: Die Berechnung der Gebietsniederschlaege im 2.5 Grad-Raster durch ein objektives Analyseverfahren. *Meteorologische Zeitschrift*, 1, 1, 32:50.

Rudolf B. and U. Schneider, 2005: Calculation of gridded precipitation for the global land-surface using in-situ gauge observations. *Proceedings of the 2nd Workshop of the International Precipitation Working Group*.

Rudolf, B., 2010: Neue globale Rasterdaten des Weltzentrums für Niederschlagsklimatologie (WZN). *DMG Mitteilungen* 2/2010, p 2-4. (Translates: New global gridded data of the global precipitation climatology centre (GPCC). The *DMG Mitteilungen* are a journal of the German Meteorological Society.)

Schneider, U., A. Becker, A. Meyer-Christoffer, M. Ziese and B. Rudolf, 2010: *Global*

C209

Precipitation Analysis Products of the GPCC. Internet publication on gpcc.dwd.de

Ziese, M., U. Schneider, A. Meyer-Christoffer, P. Finger, K. Lehner, E. Rustemeier ,
A. Becker, and B. Rudolf, 2012: Updated Gridded Analysis Products provided by the
Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC), its Quality Control, and Interpolation
Schemes. Geophysical Research Abstracts, Vol. 14, EGU2012-5442.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., 5, 921, 2012.