

Substantially wrong scientific statements of the Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC) of the German Met Service (DWD)

Though there is a long history of wrong publications by the GPCC I provide only two examples here:

Example 1: Deliberately wrong statements with respect to data base and processing

As head of the GPCC Tobias Fuchs gave a presentation at the annual assembly of the EGU in Vienna in 2009. The title was „The Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC) - in situ observation based precipitation climatology on regional and global scale“. Co-authors were Udo Schneider and Dr. Bruno Rudolf. I informed Tobias way before his presentation that I will publicly answer back in case he spreads wrong information.

Since he discussed the VASCLimO data set (published but not produced by the GPCC and based to a great deal on non-GPCC and non-quality controlled data) I asked him three questions:

- 1.) Is the VASCLimO-data set based solely on quality controlled GPCC data?
- 2.) Is it produced by means of the GPCC?
- 3.) Is any of the statistics and graphics of the data set and its features produced by means of the GPCC?

Tobias answered to the far more than 100 scientists “As far as I know: yes“. This was the reason why I informed the audience that this is wrong and that I gave Tobias proof in June 2006 – nearly three years earlier.

The president of the German Met Service (Wolfgang Kusch) confirmed to the County Court Bonn on 28th January 2010 that the VASCLimO data set is based on uncontrolled FAO long-term means. These data have a broad variability of length from station to station. No quality control is performed with respect of the data and station locations. Therefore the president of the German Met Service contradicts the first statement of the head of the GPCC.

He furthermore wrote to the County Court that the VASCLimO dataset is not produced on computers of the GPCC or the German Met Service but on private laptops and thus again clearly disagrees with the statements of the head of the GPCC. As a witness of his statements the president of the DWD named Dr. Bruno Rudolf, supervisor of Tobias Fuchs and co-author of his contribution to the EGU.

Furthermore it can easily be proven that also the third statement is wrong. The programs generating the data and plots are written in VB6.

We have to conclude that the head of the GPCC published massively wrong information though he was informed and got proof nearly three years earlier.

Second example: Wrong statements with respect to the interpolation method used for the VASClimO data set

On the web page of the GPCC (<http://gpcc.dwd.de>) is the report *Products of the Global Precipitation Climatology Centre 2008* by U. Schneider, T. Fuchs, A. Meyer-Christoffer and B. Rudolf. It is published there that „Ordinary Kriging“ is used to interpolate the VASClimO data set.

Contrary to that, an adapted optimum interpolation was applied. Spatial correlation is modeled around each station used for the interpolation. This is based on many more stations than actually used for the interpolation. Reason is that only long records are used for the interpolation in order to avoid inhomogeneities while even records of 20 or 30 years help modeling and understanding the local correlation structure. The modeled local correlations contain important information and allow for the investigation of many questions. They can be used to easily and automatically identify stations with data that do not fit to the data of their buddies. The local station density can be evaluated and station requirements can be formulated with respect to maximum allowed errors. I suggested all these applications to the GPCC but got ignored. To the contrary, Dr. Bruno Rudolf, who used to be my boss in these dark days, did not allow me to finalize a manuscript on the interpolation method. A five-year research project, led by him, ended without any scientific paper. He got promoted and even today – five years later – he still spreads wrong information and even convinced the president of the DWD to sue me for saying the truth.

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