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Current estimation, understanding, and forecast of landfalling tropical cyclone rainfall

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Outline

- Current estimation of tropical cyclone rainfall
- Factors impacting TC rainfall during landfall
- Forecast of landfalling TC rainfall
- Summary

Current estimation of tropical cyclone rainfall

Motivation



• Why we care about the TC rainfall estimates

- Accurate estimates of precipitation at both high temporal and spatial resolutions are required for many applications (model verification, initialization, rainfall forecast, et al.)
- Though there have kinds of rain data sources, satellite rain data have high resolution, wide area-coverage and are widely used.
- → gauge rain data (limited resolution, and only on land)
- → Radar retrieved rain data(limited space coverage)
- → Satellite-radar-gauge merged rain data (generally over land)
- How good are the satellite rain data performances for landfalling TCs

Motivation

• The issue we cares

- How are satellite rain estimates doing for TC-related precipitation?
- How about their performances at hourly and daily scales?





- Satellite rain data have been used during 4 years
 (2003 2006)
 - TRMM 3B42 rain data (NOAA, 0.25°, 3h)
 - CMORPH rain data (CPC/NOAA, 0.25°, 3h)
 - <u>GMS5 IR1 TBB retrieved rain data (GMS5-TBB</u> <u>data, Shanghai Typhoon Institute/CMA, 0.05°, 1h)</u>
- <u>Rain gauge data (Shanghai Typhoon Institute/CMA)</u>

Yu et al., JAMC (2009)

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TS, ETS, CC for 24-h rainfall

		1mm	10mm	25mm	50mm	100mm	
TRMM- 3B42	TS	0.59	0.33	0.13	0.03	0	
	ETS	0.33	0.23	0.11	0.03	0	
	CC	0.66					
CMORPH	TS	0.56	0.25	0.07	0.01	0	
	ETS	0.29	0.16	0.06	0.01	0	
	CC	0.60					
GMS5-TBB	TS	0.62	0.47	0.35	0.27	0.17	
	ETS	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.21	0.15	
	CC	0.51					

PS: Correlation Coefficient (CC)

Hits, Bias, RMSE for 24-h rainfall

	TRMM-3B42			CMORPH			GMS5-TBB		
	Hits	Bias	RMSE	Hits	Bias	RMSE	Hits	Bias	RMSE
0-1 mm	8221 (39.2%)	1.1	3.3	7720 (34.3%)	1.0	2.9	10795 (47.9%)	8.3	20.8
1-10 mm	2464 (10.9%)	-1.3	4.8	1826 (8.1%)	-1.9	4.3	6029 (26.8%)	12.3	25.9
10-25 mm	504 (2.2%)	-10.6	12.7	259 (1.2%)	-11.7	13.2	2934 (13.0%)	10.5	31.1
25-50 mm	58 (0.26%)	-25.7	27.4	14 (0.06%)	-27.7	29.0	1147 (5.1%)	3.6	35.2
> 50 mm	1 (0.004%)	-74.2	86.5	0 (0%)	-79.2	91.6	213 (0.9%)	-29.7	63.2



Fig. ETS for 3B42, CMORPH, and GMS5-TBB 24-h rain data for (a) 1, (b) 10, (c) 25, and (d) 50 mm.





Fig. TS for 3B42 and GMS5-TBB 24-h rain data and their TS differences (DIFF) for (a) 1, (b) 10, (c) 25, (d) 50, and (e) 100 mm.





FIG. Mean bias for 24-h 3B42 rain dataset (mm) for (a) 0–1, (b) 1–10, (c) 10–25, (d) 25–50, (e) 50–100, and (f) >100 mm.





		1mm	10mm	25mm	50mm	100mm
TRMM- 3B42	TS	0.35	0.12	0.03	0.01	0
	ETS	0.30	0.11	0.03	0.01	0
	CC	0.38				
CMORPH	TS	0.30	0.06	0.01	0	0
	ETS	0.24	0.06	0.01	0	0
	CC			0.43		
GMS5-TBB	TS	0.27	0.18	0.12	0.07	0
	ETS	0.19	0.15	0.12	0.07	0
	CC			0.37		

Conclusions

• Overall, the TRMM 3B42, CMORPH and GMS-TBB rain data give quite reasonable 6-h and 24-h rainfall distributions, but with skills decreasing with the increase in both latitude and rainfall amount.

• Both 3B42 and CMORPH considerably underestimate the moderate and heavy rainfall and overestimate the very light precipitation.

• For the heavy rainfall events, the GMS5-TBB data perform much better than the 3B42 and CMORPH with almost halved bias.

• The three satellite products evaluated in this study are more accurate for the 24-h rainfall estimates than for the 6-h rainfall estimates.

• Some newer satellite precipitation data are emerging and constantly being updated and require continued research

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Factors impacting TC rainfall during landfall

Stages of Tropical Cyclone Rainfall



Muifa and Hinnamnor in 2022



Tracks



Current basic understanding on rainfall distribution of TCs



Factors to impact TC rainfall

- Intensity
- Track (location/direction/speed)
- Large-scale environment/ET
- Vertical wind shear
- TC size
 - Topography/land-sea (landfall)



• Fourier decomposition

The spatial structure of the first-order asymmetry (M_1) can be represented by

$$M_{1} = [a_{1} \cos(\theta) + b_{1} \sin(\theta)]/R$$
$$a_{1} = \sum_{i} [R_{i} \cos(\theta_{i})], \qquad b_{1} = \sum_{i} [R_{i} \sin(\theta_{i})]$$

Yu et al. 2015, 2017

1) Axisymmetric LTC rainfall prior to,

after landfall



•TRMM 3B42





Symmetric : Asymmetric ~ 50% : 50% WN1 asymmetry: 20%



1) Axisymmetric LTC rainfall prior to, after landfall



•The peak axisymmetric rain rate mostly decreases during landfall but shifts inward after landfall.

• The radial profiles of the azimuthally-averaged rain rate are different for TCs making landfall in different regions over China.

LTC intensity .vs. Rainfall



•TCs of higher intensity have higher peak azimuthal-mean rain rate.





Intensity change .vs. Rain change



•The axisymmetric rainfall change is also closely related with the LTC intensity change.

Different sized TCs



-30 -60 -80 degrees C -50 -70 -90 Knaff et al. 2003



Merrill, 1984

Data and method

✓ Rainfall data (2001-2020) :

GPM (0.1° x 0.1°, hourly)

- ✓ Best track data: 6h, STI+JTWC
- ✓ 168 landfalling TCs in China
- ✓ Focus -24h prior to ~ 24h after landfall



Axisymmetric rainfall evolution for large and small TCs during landfall









Large TCs .vs. Small TCs




2) Asymmetric LTC rainfall prior to, after landfall



the environmental VWS cyclonic rotation.



U, V at 200 hPa

(Yu et al. 2015)

Vertical wind shear

at 24h after landfall

The vertical wind shear is one main factor to the asymmetric rainfall distribution



The wavenumber-one rainfall asymmetry (unit: mm) relative to the vertical wind shear.

■X and Y axes are distance (degree) from the TC center (origins).

■Stage (I) is 24-h prior to landfall, stage (II) is at the time of landfall, and stage (III) is 24-h after landfall. The color scale indicates the amplitude of the asymmetry relative to the VWS.

TC asymmetries relative to TC motion

Motion direction



(a) **HN**

The wavenumber-1 rainfall asymmetry (unit: mm) relative to the storm motion.

■ The storm motion vector is aligned with the positive Y axis (upward).

(c) TW ■X and Y axes are distance (degree) from the TC center (origins). Stage (I) is 24-h prior to landfall, stage (II) is at the (d) FJ time of landfall, and stage (III) is 24-h after landfall. The color scale indicates the amplitude of the asymmetry relative to the (e) ZJ storm motion.

Rainfall asymmetries .vs. TC motion speed



Asymmetric rainfall .vs. intensity



Rainfall asymmetries .vs. coastline & shear



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VWS and land-sea contrast combined effects



Yu, 2018, *Extreme Weather*

Large TCs .vs. Small TCs



Yu et al., 2022

Maximum rain rate .vs. intensity

Maximum rain rate .vs. TC intensity





The relationship between TC intensity and heavy rainfall intensity

For landfalling TCs, no obvious relation with TC intensity

Heavy rainfall is not only from stronger TCs

intensity

TC intensity and Rainfall From Feng and Shu (2018)

A case study of weak landfalling TC rainfall evolution

Weak TC Rumbia (2018) with heavy rainfall

It made landfall in Shanghai as a STS (~ 24 m/s).



- 1. Why the rainfall increased and maintained inland, even Rumbia kept weakening?
- 2. Why the rainfall deviated and located to the right side of the track?

Case rainfall evolution conclusion





Tang, Wang, Yu*, 2021

Factors impacting rainfall distributions in landfalling TCs

- Storm track (location) (directly)
- TC motion speed and direction (depends on VWS)
- Storm intensity and inner-core size (directly) the smaller/stronger the storm, the more it rains
- Landsea-contrast/Coastline/Topography Positive in the upslope areas
- Wind shear (directy) leads to asymmetric rainfall maximum
- Nearby synoptic-scale features/Extratropical Transition

Considerations

Factors leading to higher rainfall

- Smaller inner-core size
- Higher intensity
- Down-VWS side
- Slow moving speed
- Convection should be concentrated near downwind-mainland
- Significant topography
 Favorable trough and moisture transport

Factors leading to lower rainfall

lower intensity (not for the extreme rainfall)

•larger inner-size than average

Vertical wind shear could affect TC intensity

Core of system expected to pass island

Flooding and landslides

- Antecedent precipitation: Saturated soil has greater flood potential than dry soil.
- **Speed of movement of the TC:** Slower movement leads to greater flooding.
- **Orographic enhancement**: Additional lifting of moist air by high terrain produces more precipitation. Intensification due to synoptic forcing: Interaction of the cyclone with midlatitude synoptic systems can sometimes enhance the low pressure and increase precipitation.
- **Hydrology**: Narrow river basins are easier to flood than flat, broad river basins. Confluence of multiple rivers can also aggravate flooding.

Flooding and landslides

- Land use: Urban landscapes are more prone to flash floods because of increased runoff and channeling which causes acceleration of surface water. Denuded hillsides are more prone to landslides; plant roots help to stabilize the soil.
- **Other geographical influences:** Flooding is also influenced by soil type. Soils with slow infiltration lead to greater runoff and flooding.

Conclusions

- The axisymmetric (wavenumber-0) rainfall in landfalling TCs is closely related to the TC intensity and intensity change.
- Small inner-core sized TCs have higher rain rate with higher axisymmetry than large TCs; both small and large TCs have rainfall within a radius of 5 lat. Higher intensity during landfall may partly contribute to the higher rain rate in small TCs than in the large TCs.
- The wavenumber-one rainfall asymmetry shows the downshear to downshear-left rainfall maximum in landfalling TCs. But when VWS is weak (less than 5 m s⁻¹), the coastline could influence the asymmetric rainfall maxima location.
- For the heavy rainfall, weak landfalling tropical cyclones would also produce very heavy rainfall. Heavy rainfall is not only from stronger TCs.
- Flood forecasts need pay attention on the precipitation itself, but also storm motion speed, and land-surface conditions.

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Current forecast of landfalling tropical cyclone rainfall

Outline

- TC QPFs verification
- Some methods to make QPF improvements
- Summary

TC Track forecast errors



for global and regional NWP models from 2007 to 2020 at the lead times of 24, 48 and 72 h.

> From WMO TLFDP progress report (2022)

Official Track forecast errors





TC QPFs verification

Traditional rain verification measures

- Probability of detection:
 POD=H/ (H+M)
- False alarm ratio: FAR=F/ (H+F)
- Critical success index: CSI=H/ (H+M+F)
- ●Equitable threat score: ETS= (H-CH)/ (H+M+F-CH) CH= = (H+M)(H+F)/ (H+M+F+Z)



Observed

What is the main rain forecast error

resource?

- Errors in
 - Location
 - Size
 - Intensity
 - Orientation



- Results can
 - Characterize errors for individual forecasts
 - Show systematic errors
 - Give hints as to source(s) of errors

New verification method is important!

				TS				
		24/36h	48/60h	72/84h	96/108h	120/132h	144/156h	
	F	0.616	0.572	0.552	0.532	0.496	0.464	
≧0.1mm	JMA CMA	0.555 0.561	0.542 0.532	0.521 0.499	0.495 0.484	0.472 0.467	0.456 0.451	
	F	0.294	0.264	0.227	0.203	0.181	0.152	
≧10mm	ЛМА	0.303	0.257	0.213	0.163	0.148	0.138	
	CMA	0.278	0.205	0.165	0.139	0.119	0.097	
≧25mm	F	0.271	0.233	0.193	0.153	0.108	0.078	>50 mn
	JMA CMA	0.218 0.196	0.19 0.161	0.153 0.131	0.078 0.109	0.057 0.071	0.058 0.049	
1.000	F	0.223	0.168	0.129	0.085	0.067	0.044	13. 50.4
≧50mm	JMA	0.164	0.101	0.072	0.017	0.021	0.03	
	CMA	0.116	0.11	0.087	0.047	0.038	0.012	;
	F	0.097	0.078	0.037	0.031	0.029	0.016	
≧100mm	JMA	0.051	0.02	0.021	0	0.011	0	
	CMA	0.065	0.027	0.039	0.013	0.018	0.002	

TC rain forecasts in 2009, from Wang (2012)

>TC rainfall forecast is improved very slowly

>One reason: current conventional verification methods could not analyze

the model error source information.

Both operation and research need it



WMO suggestion notebook, 2018

CRA vs. MODE

	CRA	MODE		
Verification area definition	CRA threshold	Rain threshold		
Error decomposition	Y	Ν		
Location error	Y (explicitly, show direction)	Y (implicitly, through centroid distance and locations)		
Pattern match?	Y, simply use correlation coefficient	Y, Total interest (combination of size, distance, intensity, volume, etc)		
Rain Volume	Υ	Y		
Rain Area	Y, simply compare CRA grid points	Y, also with Intersection and Union, Symmetric difference area		

Contiguous Rain Area (CRA) Approach

Ebert and McBride, J. Hydrol., 2000

- Define entities using threshold (Contiguous Rain Areas)
- Horizontally translate the forecast until a *pattern matching* criterion is met:
 - minimum total squared error between forecast and observations
 - maximum correlation
 - maximum overlap



• The displacement is the vector difference between the original and final locations of the forecast.

CRA error decompositionTotal mean squared error (MSE) $MSE_{total} = MSE_{displacement} + MSE_{rotation} + MSE_{volume} + MSE_{pattern}$ The displacement error is the difference between the mean square error before and after translation $MSE_{displacement} = MSE_{total} - MSE_{shifted}$

 $MSE_{rotation} = MSE_{shifted} - MSE_{shifted+ratated}$ $MSE_{volume} = (\overline{F} - \overline{X})^{2}$ $MSE_{pattern} = MSE_{shifted+ratated} - MSE_{volume}$

The volume error is the bias in mean intensity, where \overline{F} and \overline{X} are the mean forecast and observed values after shifting.

Chen, Ebert, et al, 2015

To find out the error source



- Rain error sources from
 - location
 - area (pattern)
 - intensity
 - orientation

- Could provide
 - Errors for each case
 - Systematic errors
 - Error sources

Yu et al, 2020

Data and methodology

- STI/CMA Best Track data (2012-2015, 25 TCs)
- Satellite-Gauge merged rainfall data (1h, 0.1degree)
- ACCESS_TC rain, track data (1h, 0.11degree)
- CRA verification method
- Time period: 24h before landfall the end of a TC's life

Conventional verification results



Yu et al. 2020
Error decomposition



R, D, V, P: errors of Rotation, Displacement, Volume, Pattern (>50%)

New verification results after shift





Case 1: Rammasun (2014)



Merged rain



Longitude



CRA Rammasun2014.2014.07.17.00-2014.07.18.00,24lead

Verif. grid= 0.10 ° CRA threshold= 30 mm d⁻¹

		Obs	Fcst
Gridpoints >= 30 mm d ⁻¹		3174	2543
Average rainrate (mm d ⁻¹)		59	62
Maximum rainrate (mm d ⁻¹)		203	695
90% rainrate (mm d ⁻¹)		123	165
Rain volume (km³)		32	34
Displacement (E,N,Rot)=[0.47, -0.27, -10]			
	Fcst	Move	M+R
Correlation coefficient	0.54	0.59	0.62
RMSE (mm d ⁻¹)	82.8	75.6	67.5
Skill scores (30mm threshold):			
Probability of detection (POD)	0.62		0.55
False alarm ratio (FAR)	0.28		0.32
Equitable threat score (ETS)	0.39		0.32
Extremal dependence index (EDI)	0.67		0.60
Error decomposition:			
Rotation error = 4%			
Displacement error = 6%			
Volume error = 0%			
Pattern error = 90%			
400			
T and * * * * * *			
	/		
S) D 200			
S 200			
Ü			
0 100 200	300 400		

Merged rain



Forecast



•More work is needed to improve the initialization and prediction of TC structure.

ECMWF Rainfall verification results

台风名称	模式初始时次范围	模式预报次数
Mun	2019.07.02-2019.07.04	4
Wipha	2019.07.30-2019.08.03	7
Lekima	2019.08.08-2019.08.13	8
Bailu	2019.08.24-2019.08.25	4
Podul	2019.08.28-2019.08.29	3
Lingling	2019.09.06-2019.09.07	3
Tapah	2019.09.20-2019.09.22	5
Mitag	2019.09.30-2019.10.02	5

Table 1 Forecast cases for typhoons landing in or approaching near China in 2019.





He and Yu, 2023

QPF Example: Lekima (1909)



A Super typhoon Lekima (1909) reached its maximum wind speed (MWS) of 62 m s⁻¹ and made landfall to Wenling city of Zhejiang province of China, with MWS of 52 m s⁻¹ and MSLP of 930 hPa.

6-h Rainfall evolution near landfall

Lekima (2019)



OBS

FCS



Its structure is asymmetric, like a halved-mooncake. Different TC PBL schemes are used to show that TC structure should be fully considered.



Sensitivity test



1 0 9 13 17 31 20 29 33 27 1, 15 19 35 07 61 65 68 73 77 61 85

Duan and Yu*, 2022

Forecast ability in different landfall stages



He et al. (2022)



Outline

- TC rainfall verification
- Some methods to make QPF improvements
- Summary

1. Data assimilation for TC QPFs

Initial conditions significantly affect the prediction by numerical models. In particular, a poor representation of a TC in the initial condition can lead to poor or even unsuccessful forecasts of the TC structure, and thus false QPFs for the TC. **Doppler radar observations from onshore radar sites provide useful information about the storm structures of a tropical cyclone near landfall.**



FIG. Flowchart of the radar reflectivity data assimilation in minimization procedure of the MM5 3DVAR system. The new additions of the reflectivity assimilation components to the 3DVAR are shaded. From Xiao et al. (2007).

Data assimilation of radar radial wind



(Luo J., 2019)

Hato (2017)

GSI-EnKF data assimilation of radar Reflectivity



2. TC track modification and QPF improvements



Mean errors of TC track and ETS of QPF

(Ji X., 2019)

Corrected Rainfall forecasts based on TC track shift



3. TER - method

for QPF correction considering terrain effects

Consider the additional rainfall caused by terrain (P_{eff}), and add it to the model forecast rainfall (P_{ec}) to get the corrected rainfall forecasts (P_{dz}):

$$P_{dz} = P_{ec} + P_{eff}$$

where,

$$P_{\rm eff} = R * T * E$$

T is time, E is rain effiency (0.25), R is rain rate caused by upslope of terrain.

$$R = \int_{0}^{\infty} w \frac{d\rho_{w_{s}}}{dz} \quad \text{(Smith, 1979)}$$
$$w(z) = \vec{V}(z) \cdot \nabla H = u(z) \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} + v(z) \frac{\partial H}{\partial y}$$

(Xu Y., 2019)

OBS Rainfall



TER method







32N 31N 30N 29N 28N 27N 118E 119E 120E 121E 122E 122E 123E



EC terrain correct 24h precipitation forecast(2022090400-2022090500) 32N



2211 Typhoon Hinnamnor in 2022



EC-TER is the TER method

Conclusions

- For the extremely heavy rain event (>250mm) of LTCs, current model forecast ability is very low.
- The maximum rain forecast error rescource is from the Pattern error in general, while for the very heavy rainfall(>100mm) it is from the Displacement error (which is likely related to the TC track error).
- Rainfall prediction will continue to be improved with improved track prediction.
- But more work is needed on initialization and prediction of TC structure.

Remaining issues and challenges in the rainfall distribution of landfalling TCs (LTCs)

✓ Most of the findings discussed are basic understanding and based on the composite analyses of satellite retrieved products, so that individual LTC may be considerably deviated from the composite because of other possible involved complex scale multiple interactions and the complicated effect of topography.

✓ Limited observational capability of rainfall in LTCs, such that the satellite quantitative precipitation estimates for LTCs still need large improvements because of their existing limitations, e.g., they would underestimate the heavy rain rates and the maximum rain rates.

✓ Still rainfall forecast ability of numerical forecast models is very limited, especially for the extremely heavy rainfall (>250 mm).

✓ The rainfall diurnal cycle in LTCs has recently been revealed, but more work is needed to understand the involved physical mechanisms.

✓ The extreme rainfall in spiral rainbands is another topic not discussed/included here but needs to be investigated because many extreme rainfall events in LTCs could be induced in spiral rainbands not in the inner core region.

✓ Particularly, with the development of both new observing systems and advanced numerical weather prediction models, some important physical processes, such as the boundary layer process and cloud microphysics could be investigated and understood more comprehensively in the near future.

Thank you for your attention! Any qustions?

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