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HYDROLOGICAL DATA INTERPOLATION USING ENTROPY

Masengo Ilunga

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of the Witwatersrand, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Johannesburg, 2004

DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis is my own, unaided work. It is being submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other University.

_____

Masengo Ilunga

_____ day of _____(year)_____

ABSTRACT

The problem of missing data, insufficient length of hydrological data series and poor quality is common in developing countries. This problem is much more prevalent in developing countries than it is in developed countries. This situation can severely affect the outcome of the water systems managers' decisions (e.g. reliability of the design, establishment of operating policies for water supply, etc). Thus, numerous data interpolation (infilling) techniques have evolved in hydrology to deal with the missing data.

The current study presents merely a methodology by combining different approaches and coping with missing (limited) hydrological data using the theories of **en**tropy, **a**rtificial **n**eural **n**etworks (ANN) and **ex**pectation-maximization (EM) techniques. This methodology is simply formulated into a model named ENANNEX model. This study does not use any physical characteristics of the catchment areas but deals only with the limited information (e.g. streamflow or rainfall) at the target gauge and its similar nearby base gauge(s).

The entropy concept was confirmed to be a versatile tool. This concept was firstly used for quantifying information content of hydrological variables (e.g. rainfall or streamflow). The same concept (through directional information transfer index, i.e. DIT) was used in the selection of base/subject gauge. Finally, the DIT notion was also extended to the evaluation of the hydrological data infilling technique performance (i.e. ANN and EM techniques). The methodology was applied to annual total rainfall; annual mean flow series, annual maximum flows and 6-month flow series (means) of selected catchments in the drainage region D "Orange" of South Africa. These data regimes can be regarded as useful for design-oriented studies, flood studies, water balance studies, etc.

The results from the case studies showed that DIT is as good index for data infilling technique selection as other criteria, e.g. statistical and graphical. However, the DIT has the feature of being non-dimensionally informational index. The data interpolation

techniques viz. ANNs and EM (existing methods applied and not yet applied in hydrology) and their new features have been also presented. This study showed that the standard techniques (e.g. Backpropagation-BP and EM) as well as their respective variants could be selected in the missing hydrological data estimation process. However, the capability for the different data interpolation techniques of maintaining the statistical characteristics (e.g. mean, variance) of the target gauge was not neglected.

From this study, the relationship between the accuracy of the estimated series (by applying a data infilling technique) and the gap duration was then investigated through the DIT notion. It was shown that a decay (power or exponential) function could better describe that relationship. In other words, the amount of uncertainty removed from the target station in a station-pair, via a given technique, could be known for a given gap duration. It was noticed that the performance of the different techniques depends on the gap duration at the target gauge, the station-pair involved in the missing data estimation and the type of the data regime.

This study showed also that it was possible, through entropy approach, to assess (preliminarily) model performance for simulating runoff data at a site where absolutely no record exist: a case study was conducted at Bedford site (in South Africa). Two simulation models, viz. RAFLER and WRSM2000 models, were then assessed in this respect. Both models were found suitable for simulating flows at Bedford.

To my beloved son

Jonathan Kabeya

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

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Ilunga, M. and Stephenson, D. (2003a) Performance of hydrological data infilling techniques using entropy approach: expectation maximization algorithms, *11 th South African National Hydrology Symposium*, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, pp.1-6.

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CONTENTS

Page

Declaration……ii

Abstract……..iii

Dedication……..v

Acknowledgements……vi

List of publications……vii

Contents……viii

List of Figures……....xviii

List of Tables……xliii

Glossary……xlviii

Notation……xlix

CHAPTER I

GENERAL INTRODUCTION……1-1

1.0 INTRODUCTION……..1-1

1.1 PROBLEM STATEMENT……1-3

1.2 OBJECTIVES……1-4

1.3 LIMITATIONS AND SPECFICATIONS……..1-5

1.4 LAYOUT OF THE THESIS……..…..1-6

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE SURVEY……..2-1

2.0 INTRODUCTION……..2-1

2.1 MISSING DATA AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES……2-1

2.2 HYDROLOGICAL INFORMATION……...2-4

2.2.1 Value of information in hydrology……2-4

2.2.1.1 Types of data……...2-4
2.2.1.2 Levels of information……..…2-5
2.2.2 Information measures of hydrological variables……2-6
2.2.2.1 Traditional statistical methods……2-6
2.2.2.2 Entropy concepts……2-9
2.2.2.2.1 Preamble……..…2-9
2.2.2.2.2 Formulation of entropy in hydrology……..…2-10
2.2.2.2.3 Directional information transfer index (DIT)…….……2-16
2.2.2.2.4 Principle of maximum entropy (POME)……2-18
2.2.2.2.5 Prior distributions for entropy calculations……2-21
2.2.2.2.5.1 Normality test…….2-25
2.2.2.2.5.1.1 Univariate distributions…….…….2-26
2.2.2.2.5.1.2 Multivariate distributions……...2-26
2.2.2.2.6 Limitations of entropy theory……2-27
2.2.2.2.7 Entropy and developing countries…….2-28
2.3 EXISTING DATA INFILLING TECHNIQUES……..2-29
2.3.1 Preamble……2-29
2.3.2 Assessment of data infilling methods and techniques……...2-30
2.3.2.1 EM techniques……...2-32
2.3.2.1.1 Background……..2-32
2.3.2.1.2 The E-step and the EM-step of EM…….2-35
2.3.2.1.3 EM theory for exponential families…….2-37
2.3.2.1.4 The bivariate case with data missing from one site only in the context of linear regression……2-37
2.3.2.1.5 The bivariate case with missing at both sites……...2-41
2.3.2.1.6 Momentum EM (MEM) algorithm …….2-43
2.3.2.1.7 Expectation constrained maximization (ECM) algorithm …...……...2-44
2.3.2.1.8 Expectation constrained maximization (ECME1) algorithm……...2-45
2.3.2.2 Artificial neural networks (ANNs)……2-48
2.3.2.2.1 Background……2-48

2.3.2.2.2 Introduction to ANNs…….2-49
2.3.2.2.3 Architecture of neural networks…….2-50
2.3.2.2.4 Training methods for neural networks……2-52
2.3.2.2.4.1 Supervised training…….2-53
2.3.2.2.4.2 Grading training……..2-53
2.3.2.2.4.3 Self organized training……2-53
2.3.2.2.5 Learning laws……..2-54
2.3.2.2.5.1 Hebbs' rule……..2-54
2.3.2.2.5.2 Delta rule…….2-55
2.3.2.2.5.3 Steepest (gradient) descent rule……...2-55
2.3.2.2.5.4 Backpropagation (BP) learning law……2-56
2.3.2.2.5.5 Other ANN techniques……2-65
2.3.2.2.5.5.1 BP algorithm with momentum (MBP)……2-65
2.3.2.2.5.5.2 Variable learning rate BP (VLR) algorithm ……...2-66
2.3.2.2.5.5.3 Generalized BP (GenerBP) algorithm…….2-67
2.3.2.2.5.5.4 Quick backpropagation (QBP) algorithm……2-68
2.3.2.2.5.5.5 Strengths and limitations of neural networks……..2-69
2.4 MODEL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA…….…….2-71
2.5 CONCLUSION OF THE LITERATURE SURVEY……..2-73

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY……..3-1

3.1 SUMMARY…….3-1
3.2 MODEL ASSUMPTIONS, SPECIFICATIONS AND JUSTIFICATIONS……3-5
3.3 MODEL DEVELOPMENT……3-12
3.3.1 Step 1: Testing data series independence……3-17
3.3.2 Step 2: Checking normality assumption…….3-18
3.3.3 Step 3: Computation of Transinfromation (T) and Directional information transfer index (DIT)……..3-19

3.3.4 Step 4: Determination of base/target gauge……3-20
3.3.5 Step 5: Creating artificial gaps for complete data series…….……....3-21
3.3.6 Step 6: Filling in data by ANNs and EM techniques…….….3-22
3.3.6.1 ANNs techniques……3-22
3.3.6.1.1 Standard backpropagation (BP)……..……3-22
3.3.6.1.2 Momentum Backpropagation (MBP)…….3-27
3.3.6.1.3 Variable Learning BP (VLR) module…….3-28
3.3.6.1.4 Generalized BP (GenerBP) module……3-28
3.3.6.1.5 Quick Backpropagation (QBP) module……..3-29
3.3.6.1.6 The Golden Search BP (GoldSBP) module……3-30
3.3.6.1.7 Pseudo Mac Laurin order 1 BP (McL1BP) and
Pseudo Mac Laurin order 1 BP (McL2BP) modules……..3-31
3.3.6.2 Expectation maximization (EM) techniques……..3-33
3.3.6.2.1 Standard EM (EM) module……3-33
3.3.6.2.2 Momentum EM (MEM1) module ……..…3-35
3.3.6.2.3 Second and third version of the MEM module
(i.e. MEM2 and MEM3 modules)…….3-36
3.3.6.2.4 Expectation constrained maximization (ECM) module and
its versions……..3-37
3.3.6.2.5 Expectation constrained maximization either (ECME1) module
and its versions..…….3-38
3.3.7 Step 7: Technique performance assessment……...3-39
3.3.8 Step 8: Transformation back to original data…….3-42
3.4 DATA AVAILABILITY ……...3-44
3.4.1 Introduction……3-44
3.4.2 Physical characteristics of the Orange drainage river system……....3-44
3.4.3 Secondary drainage river systems considered for this study. ……3-45

CHAPTER 4

MODEL TESTING ON STREAMFLOWS:

I. ANNUAL MEAN FLOWS.……...4-1

4.1 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION…….4-1

4.1.0 Preamble…….4-1

4.1.1 Selection of base/subject gauge……..4-2

4.1.2 Training and assessment of streamflow data infilling techniques……..4-3

4.1.3 Infilling missing annual mean flows at the target gauge D1H003 with base gauge D1H009……...4-4

4.1.3.1 Using 6.7 % missing annual mean flows at gauge D1H003……..4-4

4.1.3.1.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for flow infilling at D1H003……4-4

4.1.3.1.2 Comparison of performance of ANN techniques at gauge D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……..4-12

4.1.3.1.3 Comparison of performance of EM techniques at gauge D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……4-15

4.1.3.1.4 Comparison of performance of ANN and EM techniques at gauge D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……4-17

4.1.3.2 Using 13.4 % missing annual mean flows at gauge D1H003……4-18

4.1.3.2.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for flow infilling at D1H003…….4-18

4.1.3.2.2 Comparison of performance of ANN techniques at gauge D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……4-24

4.1.3.2.3 Comparison of performance of EM techniques at gauge D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……4-26

4.1.3.2.4 Comparison of performance of ANN and EM techniques at gauge D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……4-28

4.1.3.3 Using 20 % missing annual mean flows at gauge D1H003……...4-30

4.1.3.3.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for flow infilling at D1H003…….4-30

4.1.3.3.2 Comparison of performance of ANN techniques at gauge D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……4-33
4.1.3.3.3 Comparison of performance of EM techniques at gauge D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……4-35
4.1.3.3.4 Comparison of performance of ANN and EM techniques at gauge D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……..4-35
4.1.4 Infilling mean annual flows at gauge D1H009 with base gauge D1H003……..4-37
4.1.4.1 Using 6.7 % missing annual mean flow at gauge D1H009……..4-37
4.1.4.1.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for flow infilling at D1H009……4-37
4.1.4.1.2 Comparison of performance ANN techniques at gauge D1H009 using base gauge D1H003……4-43
4.1.4.1.3 Comparison of performance of EM techniques at gauge D1H003……...4-45
4.1.4.1.4 Comparison of performance of ANN and EM techniques at gauge D1H009 using base gauge D1H003……...4-47
4.1.4.2 Using 13.4 % missing annual mean flow at gauge D1H009……4-48
4.1.4.2.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for flow infilling at D1H009……4-48
4.1.4.2.2 Comparison of performance ANN techniques at gauge D1H009 using base gauge D1H003……..4-54
4.1.4.2.3 Comparison of performance EM techniques at gauge D1H009 using base gauge D1H003……..4-56
4.1.4.2.4 Comparison of performance ANN and EM techniques at gauge D1H009 using base gauge D1H003……4-58
4.1.4.3 Using 20 % missing annual mean flow at gauge D1H009……..4-60
4.1.4.3.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for flow infilling at D1H009……4-60
4.1.4.3.2 Comparison of performance of ANN techniques at gauge D1H009 using base gauge D1H003……..4-65

4.1.4.3.3 Comparison of performance of EM techniques
at gauge D1H009 using base gauge D1H003……..4-68
4.1.4.3.4 Comparison of performance of ANN and EM techniques
at gauge D1H009 using base gauge D1H003……..4-69
4.1.4.4 Using 30 % of missing annual mean flows at D1H009……...4-71
4.2 SUMMARY…….4-75

CHAPTER 5

MODEL TESTING ON STREAMFLOWS:

II. ANNUAL MAXIMUM FLOWS…….5-1

5.1 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION……..5-1
5.1.0 Preamble…….….5-1
5.1.1 Selection of base/subject station..……5-2
5.1.2 Training and assessment of streamflow data infilling techniques……..….5-3
5.1.3 Infilling annual maximum flows at subject gauge D1H003
using base gauge D1H009……...5-4
5.1.3.1 Using 7.6 % of missing annual maximum flows
at gauge D1H003……...5-4
5.1.3.1.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for flow infilling
at D1H003……..5-4
5.1.3.1.2 Comparison of performance of ANN techniques
at gauge D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……5-10
5.1.3.1.3 Comparison of performance of EM techniques at
D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……...5-14
5.1.3.1.4 Comparison of performance of ANN and EM techniques
at D1H003 using base gauge D1H009……..5-17
5.1.4 Infilling annual maximum flows at gauge D1H009
with base gauge D1H003……..5-19
5.1.4.1 Using 7.6 % of missing annual maximum flows at gauge D1H009…..…..5-19
5.1.4.1.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for flow infilling

at D1H009…….5-19
5.1.4.1.2 Comparison of performance of ANN
at D1H009 using base gauge D1H003……..5-26
5.1.4.1.3 Comparison of performance of EM techniques
at D1H009 using base gauge D1H003……..5-29
5.1.4.1.4 Comparison of performance of ANN and EM techniques
at D1H009 using base gauge D1H003……..5-32
5.2 SUMMARY……5-34

CHAPTER 6

MODEL TESTING ON RAINFALL:

II. ANNUAL TOTALS……..6.1

6.1 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION……6-1
6.1.0 Preamble……6-1
6.1.1 Selection of base/subject gauge…….……6-2
6.1.2 Training and assessment of rainfall data infilling techniques……...6-3
6.1.3 Infilling annual total rainfall at gauge 0228495
with base gauge 0228458……..…….……6-4
6.1.3.1 Using 7.6 % of missing annual total rainfall at gauge 0228495……6-4
6.1.3.1.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for rainfall
Infilling at 0228495 using base gauge 0228458……..6-4
6.1.3.1.2 Comparison of performance of ANN techniques at gauge
0228495 using base gauge 0228458……6-10
6.1.3.1.3 Comparison of performance of EM techniques at gauge
0228495Using base gauge 0228495…….……6-13
6.1.3.1.4 Comparison of performance of ANN and EM techniques
at gauge 0228495 using base gauge 0228458……..6-16
6.1.3.2 Using 13.6 % of missing annual total rainfall at gauge 0228495……..6-18
6.1.3.2.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for rainfall
gauge infilling at 0228495 using base gauge 0228258……..……..6-19

6.1.3.2.2 Comparison of performance of ANN techniques
at gauge 0228495 using base gauge 0228258…….6-24
6.1.3.2.3 Comparison of performance of EM techniques
at gauge 0228495 using base gauge 0228258……..6-27
6.1.3.2.4 Comparison of performance of ANN and EM techniques
at gauge 0228495 using base gauge 0228258…….……6-29
6.1.4 Infilling annual total rainfall at gauge 0228458 with
base gauge 0228495……..6-31
6.1.4.1 Using 7.6 % of missing annual total rainfall at gauge 0228458……6-31
6.1.4.1.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for rainfall
infilling at 0228458 using base gauge 0228495……..6-31
6.1.4.1.2 Comparison of performance of ANN techniques at gauge
0228458 using base gauge 0228495…….6-37
6.1.4.1.3 Comparison of performance of EM techniques at gauge
0228458 using Using base gauge 0228495……..6-40
6.1.4.1.4 Comparison of performance of ANN and EM techniques
at gauge 0228458 using base gauge 0228495……..6-41
6.1.4.2 Using 13.6 % of missing annual total rainfall at gauge 0228458….…….6-43
6.1.4.2.1 Selection of ANN and EM techniques for rainfall
infilling at 0228458 using base gauge 0228458……..6-43
6.1.4.2.2 Comparison of performance of ANN techniques at gauge
0228458 using base gauge 0228495……6-49
6.1.4.2.3 Comparison of performance of EM techniques at gauge
0228458 using base gauge 0228495……6-52
6.1.4.2.4 Comparison of performance of ANN and EM techniques at gauge
0228458 using base gauge0228495……6-54
6.2 SUMMARY……..6-56

CHAPTER 7

ENTROPIC MEASURES FOR COMPARING FLOW SIMULATION MODELS……7-1

7.1 INTRODUCTION……7-1
7.2 ENTROPY APPROACH AS HYDROLOGICAL MODEL PERFORMANCE CRITERION……..7-1
7.3 SHORT NOTE ON RAFLER AND WRSM 2000 MODELS…….7-3
7.4 STUDY AREA AND DATA AVAILABILITY…….7-4
7.5 MODEL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR SIMULATED FLOWS AT BEDFORD SITE……..……...7-4
7.6 SUMMARY…..……...7-7

CHAPTER 8

INFILLING STREAMFLOWS USING BACKPROPAGATION TECHNIQUES…….8-1

8.1 INTRODUCTION……..8-1
8.2 STANDARD BP SIGMOID FUNCTION APPROXIMATED BY PSEUDO MAC LAURIN POWER SERIERS……8-2
8.3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION…….8-3
8.4 SUMMARY……8-8

CHAPTER 9

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS……..9-1

9.1 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS…….9-1
9.2 RECOMMENDATIONS……9-7

REFEREENCES…….……...10-1

LIST OF FIGURES

Page

CHAPTER 2

Figure 2.1: A three-layered feedforward ANN…….2-58
Figure 2.2: A typical ANN node……...2-59

CHAPTER 3

Figure 3.1: Summary of ENNANEX model……...3-4
Figure 3.2: Flow chart for model development……..3-13
Figure 3.3: An example of missing data in station x (bi-series case)…….…3-19
Figure 3.4: An example of potential base station candidates (e.g. 2, 3, 4 and 5)
and a potential subject 1…….…..3-21
Figure 3.5: Standard backpropagation procedure (BP) procedure…….…3-23
Figure 3.6: Unscaling for ANNs……3-27

CHAPTER 4

Figure 4.1a: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using standard BP with base gauge D1H009……..4-8
Figure 4.1b: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using MBP with base gauge D1H009…….4-8
Figure 4.1c: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using McL1BP with base gauge D1H009……...4-8
Figure 4.1d: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using GenerBP with base gauge D1H009……..4-9
Figure 4.1e: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using VLRBP with base gauge D1H009……4-9

Figure 4.1f: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using BP (hyperbolic tangent hidden layer)
with base gauge D1H009……4-9
Figure 4.1g: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using QBP with base gauge D1H009…….4-10
Figure 4.1h: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using Standard EM with base gauge D1H009……4-10
Figure 4.1i: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using MEM1-2 with base gauge D1H009……..4-10
Figure 4.1j: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using MEM3 with base gauge D1H009…….4-11
Figure 4.1k: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge D1H009……..4-11
Figure 4.1l: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge D1H009……4-11
Figure 4.2: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT (6.7 % missing annual mean
flows from 1965 at D1H003) using base gauge D1H009…….4-14
Figure 4.3: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs
(6.7 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009…….…….4-14
Figure 4.4: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of DIT
(6.7 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009…….4-16
Figure 4.5: Comparison of EM techniques in terms hydrographs at D1H003
(6.7 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009…….4-16
Figure 4.6: Comparison between ANNs and EM techniques in terms of
DIT (6.7 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……..4-17
Figure 4.7: Comparison of ANNs and EM techniques in terms of
hydrographs (6.7 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)

using base gauge D1H009……4-18
Figure 4.8a: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using standard BP with base gauge D1H009…….4-20
Figure 4.8b: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using MBP with base gauge D1H009……4-20
Figure 4.8c: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using GenerBP (s = 2) with base gauge D1H009…..……..4-20
Figure 4.8d: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using McL1BP with base gauge D1H009……..4-21
Figure 4.8e: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using BP (hyperbolic tangent hidden layer)
with base gauge D1H009……4-21
Figure 4.8f: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using QBP with base gauge D1H009…….4-21
Figure 4.8g: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using VLRBP with base gauge D1H009……4-22
Figure 4.8h: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using Standard EM with base gauge D1H009……4-22
Figure 4.8i: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using MEM1-3 with base gauge D1H009……..4-22
Figure 4.8j: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using MEM2 with base gauge D1H009…….4-23
Figure 4.8k: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge D1H009……4-23
Figure 4.8l: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge D1H009……..4-23
Figure 4.9: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT (13.4 % missing annual mean
flows from 1965 at D1H003) using base gauge D1H009……...4-25
Figure 4.10: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs
(13.4 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……..……4-26

Figure 4.11: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of DIT
(13.4 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……..4-27
Figure 4.12: Comparison of EM techniques in terms hydrographs at D1H003
(13.4 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……4-27
Figure 4.13: Comparison between ANNs and EM techniques in terms of DIT
(13.4 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……4-29
Figure 4.14: Comparison between ANNs and EM techniques in terms of
hydrographs (13.4 % missing annual mean
flows from 1965 at D1H003) using base gauge D1H009……..4-29
Figure 4.15a: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (20 % missing from 1965)
using standard BP with base gauge D1H009…….4-32
Figure 4.15b: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (20 % missing from 1965)
using QBP with base gauge D1H009…….4-32
Figure 4.15c: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (20 % missing from 1965)
using GenerBP with base gauge D1H009……..4-32
Figure 4.15d: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (20 % missing from 1965)
using Standard EM, MEM1-2-3, ECM1-2, ECME1-2-3
with base gauge D1H009……..4-33
Figure 4.16: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT (20 % missing annual mean
flows from 1965 at D1H003) using base gauge D1H009……..4-39
Figure 4.17: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs
(20 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……..4-39
Figure 4.18: Comparison between ANNs and EM techniques in terms of DIT
(20 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009…….4-36
Figure 4.19: Comparison between ANNs and EM techniques in terms of
hydrographs (20 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)

using base gauge D1H009……..4-36
Figure 4.20a: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using standard BP with base gauge D1H003…….4-39
Figure 4.20b: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using MBP with base gauge D1H003……4-39
Figure 4.20c: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using McL1BP with base gauge D1H003……..4-39
Figure 4.20d: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using GenerBP with base gauge D1H003……..4-40
Figure 4.20e: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using BP (hyperbolic tangent hidden layer)
with base gauge D1H009……..4-40
Figure 4.20f: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using QBP with base gauge D1H003…….4-40
Figure 4.20g: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using VLRBP with base gauge D1H003……4-41
Figure 4.20h: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using Standard EM with base gauge D1H003……4-41
Figure 4.20i: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using MEM1-2 with base gauge D1H003……..4-41
Figure 4.20j: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using MEM3 with base gauge D1H003…….4-42
Figure 4.20k: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge D1H003……...4-42
Figure 4.20l: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge D1H003…….4-42
Figure 4.21: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT (6.7 % missing annual mean
flows from 1965 at D1H009) using base gauge D1H003……...4-44
Figure 4.22: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs
(6.7 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……...4-45

Figure 4.23: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of DIT
(6.7 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……...4-46
Figure 4.24: Comparison of EM techniques in terms hydrographs
(6.7 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003…….……..4-46
Figure 4.25: Comparison between ANNs and EM techniques in terms of DIT
(6.7 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……..4-47
Figure 4.26: Comparison between ANNs and EM techniques in terms of
hydrographs (6.7 % missing annual mean flows
from 1965 at D1H009) using base gauge D1H003…….4-48
Figure 4.27a: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using standard BP with base gauge D1H003…….4-50
Figure 4.27b: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using MBP with base gauge D1H003……...4-50
Figure 4.27c: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using GenerBP with base gauge D1H003…….4-50
Figure 4.27d: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using McL1BP with base gauge D1H003…….4-51
Figure 4.27e: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using BP (hyperbolic tangent hidden layer)
with base gauge D1H003……..4-51
Figure 4.27f: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using QBP with base gauge D1H003……4-51
Figure 4.27g: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using VLRBP with base gauge D1H003……...4-52
Figure 4.27h: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using Standard EM with base gauge D1H003……...4-52
Figure 4.27i: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using MEM1-3 with base gauge D1H003…….4-52

Figure 4.27j: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using MEM2 with base gauge D1H003……4-53
Figure 4.27k: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge D1H003……4-53
Figure 4.27l: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (13.4 % missing from 1965)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge D1H003……4-53
Figure 4.28: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT
(13.4 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……..4-55
Figure 4.29: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs
(13.4 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……4-56
Figure 4.30: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of DIT
(13.4 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……..4-57
Figure 4.31: Comparison of EM techniques in terms hydrographs
(13.4 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……4-57
Figure 4.32: Comparison between ANNs and EM techniques in terms of DIT
(13.4 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……4-59
Figure 4.33: Comparison between ANNs and EM techniques in terms of
hydrographs (13.4 % missing annual mean flows
from 1965 at D1H009) using base gauge D1H003……4-59
Figure 4.34a: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (20 % missing from 1965)
using standard BP with base gauge D1H003……4-62
Figure 4.34b: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (20 % missing from 1965)
using BP (hyperbolic tangent hidden layer)
with base gauge D1H003……..4-62
Figure 4.34c: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (20 % missing from 1965)
using QBP with base gauge D1H003……...4-62

Figure 4.34d: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (20 % missing from 1965)
using GenerBP with base gauge D1H003…….4-63
Figure 4.34e: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (20 % missing from 1965)
using GoldSP with base gauge D1H003……4-63
Figure 4.34f: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (20 % missing from 1965)
using VLR with base gauge D1H003……....4-63
Figure 4.34g: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (20 % missing from 1965)
using Standard EM with base gauge D1H003……..4-64
Figure 4.34h: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (20 % missing from 1965)
using MEM1-2 with base gauge D1H003…….4-64
Figure 4.34i: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (20 % missing from 1965)
using MEM3 with base gauge D1H003……4-64
Figure 4.34j: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (20 % missing from 1965)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge D1H003…….4-65
Figure 4.34k: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (20 % missing from 1965)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge D1H003……....4-65
Figure 4.35: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT (20 % missing annual mean
flows from 1965 at D1H009) using base gauge D1H003…….4-67
Figure 4.36: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs
(20 % missing annual mean flows at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……..4-67
Figure 4.37: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of DIT
(20 % missing annual mean flows at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……..4-69
Figure 4.38: Comparison between ANNs and EM techniques
in terms of DIT (20 % missing annual mean flows at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……4-70
Figure 4.39: Comparison between ANNs and EM techniques in terms of
hydrographs (20 % missing annual mean flows at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003…….4-70
Figure 4.40a: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (30 % missing from 1965)

using VLR with base gauge D1H003……4-72
Figure 4.40b: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (30 % missing from 1965)
using Standard EM with base gauge D1H003……...4-72
Figure 4.40c: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (30 % missing from 1965)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge D1H003……..4-72
Figure 4.40d: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (30 % missing from 1965)
using MEM1-2 with base gauge D1H003…….4-73
Figure 4.40e: Annual mean flows at D1H009 (30 % missing from 1965)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge D1H003……4-73
Figure 4.41: Comparison of ANN and EM techniques in terms of DIT
(30 % missing annual mean flows at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……...4-73
Figures 4.42 (a-c) DIT versus gap size for annual mean flows at D1H003:
(a) BP, (b) McL1BP and (c) GenerBP…….4-77
Figure 4.42d (DIT) versus gap size for annual mean flows at D1H003:
(d) EM……..…4-78
Figures 4.43 (a-c) DIT annual mean flows at D1H009:
(a) BP, (b) McL1BP and (c) GenerBP…….4-79
Figure 4.43d DIT versus gap size for annual mean flows at D1H009:
(d) EM……....4-80

CHAPTER 5

Figure 5.1a: Annual maximum flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using standard BP with base gauge D1H009……5-7
Figure 5.1b: Annual maximum flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using McL1BP with base gauge D1H009…….5-7
Figure 5.1c: Annual maximum flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using GenerBP with base gauge D1H009…….5-7
Figure 5.1d: Annual maximum flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using QBP with base gauge D1H009……5-8

Figure 5.1e: Annual maximum flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using GoldSBP with base gauge D1H009…….5-8
Figure 5.1f: Annual maximum flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using standard EM with base gauge D1H009……...5-8
Figure 5.1g: Annual maximum flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using MEM1-3 with base gauge D1H009…….5-9
Figure 5.1h: Annual maximum flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using MEM2 with base gauge D1H009……5-9
Figure 5.1i: Annual maximum flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge D1H009……..5-9
Figure 5.1j: Annual maximum flows at D1H003 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge D1H009……...5-10
Figure 5.2a: Comparison of ANNs in terms of T
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using gauge D1H009……5-12
Figure 5.2b: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT
(6.7 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……5-13
Figure 5.3: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……..5-13
Figure 5.4a: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of T
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……..5-15
Figure 5.4b: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of DIT
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……..5-16
Figure 5.5: Comparison of EM techniques in terms hydrographs
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009…….5-16
Figure 5.6a: Comparison of ANNs and EM techniques in terms of T

(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……...5-18
Figure 5.6b: Comparison of ANNs and EM techniques in terms of DIT
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009……...5-18
Figure 5.7: Comparison of ANNs and EM techniques in terms of hydrographs
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H003)
using base gauge D1H009…….5-19
Figure 5.8a: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using standard BP with base gauge D1H003……...5-22
Figure 5.8b: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using McL1BP with base gauge D1H003……5-22
Figure 5.8c: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using GenerBP with base gauge D1H003……5-22
Figure 5.8d: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using QBP with base gauge D1H003……...5-23
Figure 5.8e: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using GoldSBP with base gauge D1H003……5-23
Figure 5.8f: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using VLRBP with base gauge D1H003……..5-23
Figure 5.8g: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using Standard EM with base gauge D1H003……..5-24
Figure 5.8h: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using MEM1 with base gauge D1H003……5-24
Figure 5.8i: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using MEM2 with base gauge D1H003……5-24
Figure 5.8j: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using MEM2 with base gauge D1H003……5-25
Figure 5.8k: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge D1H003……..5-25
Figure 5.8l: Annual maximum flows at D1H009 (6.7 % missing from 1965)

using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge D1H003……5-25
Figure 5.9a: Comparison of ANNs in terms of T
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using gauge D1H003……5-27
Figure 5.9b: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT
(6.7 % missing annual mean flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……5-28
Figure 5.10: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows at from 1965 D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……..….5-28
Figure 5.11a: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of T
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003…….5-31
Figure 5.11b: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of DIT
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003…….5-31
Figure 5.12: Comparison of EM techniques in terms hydrographs
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003…….5-32
Figure 5.13a: Comparison of ANNs and EM techniques in terms of T
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……...5-33
Figure 5.13b: Comparison of ANNs and EM techniques in terms of DIT
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003……5-33
Figure 5.14: Comparison of ANNs and EM techniques in terms of hydrographs
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows from 1965 at D1H009)
using base gauge D1H003…….5-34
Figures 5.15 (a-c) DIT versus gap size for annual maximum flows
from 1965 at D1H003:
(a) BP, (b) McL1BP and (c) QBP……5-37

Figures 5.15 (d-e) DIT versus gap size for annual maximum flows at D1H003:
(d) GoldSBP and (e) EM techniques……5-38
Figures 5.16 (a-c) DIT versus gap size for annual maximum flows at D1H009:
(a) BP, (b) McL1BP, (c) QBP……..……..5-39
Figures 5.16 (d-f) DIT versus gap size for annual maximum flows at D1H009:
(d) GoldSBP, (e), VLR, (f) EM techniques…….5-40

CHAPTER 6

Figure 6.1a: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard BP with base gauge 0228458…….6-7
Figure 6.1b: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using GenerBP with base gauge 0228458……..6-7
Figure 6.1c: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using McL1BP with base gauge D1H009……..6-7
Figure 6.1d: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using GoldSBP (hyperbolic tangent hidden layer)
with base gauge 0228458……6-8
Figure 6.1e: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using QBP with base gauge 0228458…….6-8
Figure 6.1f: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using VLRBP with base gauge 0228458……6-8
Figure 6.1g: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using Standard EM with base gauge 0228458……6-9
Figure 6.1h: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using MEM1 with base gauge 0228458…….6-9
Figure 6.1i: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using MEM2-3 with base gauge D1H009……..6-9
Figure 6.1j: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge total rainfall at 0228458……..6-10
Figure 6.1k: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)

using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228458…….6-10
Figure 6.2a: Comparison of ANNs in terms of T
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using gauge 0228458…….…….6-12
Figure 6.2b: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458…….6-12
Figure 6.3: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……...6-13
Figure 6.4a: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of T
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……...6-14
Figure 6.4b: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of DIT
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……...6-15
Figure 6.5: Comparison of EM techniques in terms hydrographs
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……...6-15
Figure 6.6a: Comparison of ANN and EM techniques in terms of T
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……...6-17
Figure 6.6b: Comparison of ANN and EM techniques in terms of DIT
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……6-17
Figure 6.7: Comparison of EM techniques in terms hydrographs
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……6-18
Figure 6.8a: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard BP with base gauge 0228458…….6-21
Figure 6.8b: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)

using McL1BP with base gauge D1H009……..6-21
Figure 6.8c: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using GenerBP with base gauge 0228458……..6-21
Figure 6.8d: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using GoldSBP (hyperbolic tangent hidden layer)
with base gauge 0228458……6-22
Figure 6.8e: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using VLRBP with base gauge 0228458……6-22
Figure 6.8f: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using Standard EM with base gauge 0228458……6-22
Figure 6.8g: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using MEM1-3 with base gauge 0228458……..6-23
Figure 6.8h: Annual mean flows at D1H003 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using MEM2 with base gauge D1H009……..6-23
Figure 6.8i: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge total rainfall at 0228458……..6-23
Figure 6.8j: Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228458…….6-24
Figure 6.9a: Comparison of ANNs in terms of T
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using gauge 0228458…….…….6-25
Figure 6.9b: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall
from 1935 at 0228495) using base gauge 0228458……6-26
Figure 6.10: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……..6-26
Figure 6.11a: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of T
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458…….……..6-28
Figure 6.11b: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of DIT

(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……...6-28
Figure 6.12: Comparison of EM techniques in terms hydrographs
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……...6-29
Figure 6.13a: Comparison of ANN and EM techniques in terms of T
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……6-30
Figure 6.13b: Comparison of ANN and EM techniques in terms of DIT
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……6-30
Figure 6.14: Comparison of EM techniques in terms hydrographs
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using base gauge 0228458……6-31
Figure 6.15a: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard BP with base gauge 0228495…….6-34
Figure 6.15b: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using GenerBP with base gauge 0228495……..6-34
Figure 6.15c: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using QBP with base gauge 0228495…….6-34
Figure 6.15d: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using VLRBP with base gauge 0228495……....6-35
Figure 6.15e: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using GoldSBP (hyperbolic tangent hidden layer)…….6-35
Figure 6.15f: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using McL1BP with base gauge 0228495……..6-35
Figure 6.15g: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using Standard EM with base gauge 0228495……...6-36
Figure 6.15h: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (7.6 % missing from 1965)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge total rainfall at 0228495……..6-36
Figure 6.15i: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (7.6 % missing from 1935)

using MEM1-2-3 with base gauge 0228495……..6-36
Figure 6.15j: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (7.6 % missing from 1965)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228495…….6-37
Figure 6.16a: Comparison of ANNs in terms of T
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228458)
using gauge 0228495…….……...6-39
Figure 6.16b: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……6-39
Figure 6.17: Comparison of hydrographs for ANNs
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……..6-40
Figure 6.18a: Comparison of ANN and EM techniques in terms of T
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495…….6-42
Figure 6.18b: Comparison of ANN and EM techniques in terms of DIT
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……6-42
Figure 6.19: Comparison of ANN and EM techniques in terms hydrographs
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……...6-43
Figure 6.20a: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard BP with base gauge 0228495……6-46
Figure 6.20b: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using GenerBP with base gauge 0228495…….6-46
Figure 6.20c: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using GoldSBP (hyperbolic tangent hidden layer)
with base gauge 0228495……..6-46
Figure 6.20d: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using VLRBP with base gauge 0228495……..6-47
Figure 6.20e: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (13.6 % missing from 1935)

using Standard EM with base gauge 0228495……..6-47
Figure 6.20f: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using MEM1-3 with base gauge 0228495……6-47
Figure 6.20g: Annual mean flows at 0228458 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using MEM2 with base gauge 0228495……6-48
Figure 6.20h: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (13.6 % missing from 1965)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge total rainfall at 0228495…….6-48
Figure 6.20i: Annual total rainfall at 0228458 (13.6 % missing from 1965)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228495……6-48
Figure 6.21a: Comparison of ANNs in terms of T
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228495)
using gauge 0228458……..……..6-50
Figure 6.21b: Comparison of ANNs in terms of DIT
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……..……6-51
Figure 6.22: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 1935 at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……6-51
Figure 6.23a: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of T
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall from 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……...6-53
Figure 6.23b: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of DIT
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……..6-53
Figure 6.24: Comparison of EM techniques in terms of hydrographs
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……..6-54
Figure 6.25a: Comparison of ANN and EM techniques in terms of T
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……...6-55
Figure 6.25b: Comparison of ANN and EM techniques in terms of DIT

(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……...6-55
Figure 6.26: Comparison of EM techniques in terms hydrographs
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall at 0228458)
using base gauge 0228495……...6-56
Figures 6.27 (a-c): DIT versus gap size for annual total rainfall at 0228495
(base station 0228458):
(a) BP, (b) GoldSBP and (c) GenerBP…….6-59
Figure 6.27d: DIT versus gap size for annual mean flows at 0228495
(base station 0228458): (d) EM…….…….6-60
Figures 6.28 (a-c): DIT versus gap size for annual mean flows at 0228458
(base station 0228495):
(a) BP, (b) GoldSBP and (c) GenerBP…….6-61
Figure 6.28d: DIT versus gap size for annual mean flows at 0228458
(base station 0228495): (d) EM…….6-62

CHAPTER 7

Figure 7.1: Simulated annual hydrographs at Bedford……..7-6
Figure 7.2: Simulated annual probability distribution at Bedford
(using RAFLER)……..7-6
Figure 7.3: Simulated probability distribution at Bedford
(WSRM20000)…….7-7

CHAPTER 8

Figure 8.1a: DIT versus gap size for seasonal mean flows at D1H004
(base gauge D1H001): Standard BP……..8-5
Figure 8.1b: DIT versus gap size for season al mean flows at D1H004
(base gauge D1H001): McL1BP……8-6
Figure 8.1c: DIT versus gap size for season al mean flows at D1H004

(base gauge D1H001): McL2BP……8-6
Figure 8.2a: Comparson of ANNs in terms of hydrographs at D1H004
(6.7 % missing seasonal mean flows from 1934)
using base gauge D1H001……..8-7
Figure 8.2b: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs at D1H004
(13.3 % missing seasonal mean flows from 1934)
using base gauge D1H001……..8-7
Figure 8.2c: Comparison of ANNs in terms of hydrographs at D1H004
(20 % missing seasonal mean flows from 1934)
using base gauge D1H001……..8-8

APPENDIX A

Figure A.1: Geographical location of streamflow gauges
D1H003, D1H006 and D1H009…….A-1
Figure A.2: Geographical location of streamflow gauges
D1H001 and D1H004…….A-1
Figure A.3: Geographical location of rainfall stations 0228495, 0228170
and 0228458…….A-2

APPENDIX C

Figure C.1a Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard BP with base gauge 0228495……...C-13
Figure C.1b Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using McL1BP with base gauge 0228495……C-13
Figure C.1c Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using GenerBP with base gauge 0228495……C-13
Figure C.1d Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using QBP with base gauge 0228495……..C-14
Figure C.1e Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 % missing from 1935)

using GoldSBP with base gauge 0228495……...C-14
Figure C.1f Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using VLR with base gauge 0228495……...C-14
Figure C.1g Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard EM with base gauge 0228495……..C-15
Figure C.1h Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 missing from 1935)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge 0228495……C-15
Figure C.1i Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 missing from 1935)
using MEM1 with base gauge 0228495……C-15
Figure C.1j Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 missing from 1935)
using MEM2-3 with base gauge 0228495……C-16
Figure C.1k Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 missing from 1935)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228495……...C-16
Figure C.2a Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard BP with base gauge 0228495……...C-16
Figure C.2b Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using McL1BP with base gauge 0228495……C-17
Figure C.2c Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using GenerBP with base gauge 0228495……C-17
Figure C.2d Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using GoldSBP with base gauge 0228495……C-17
Figure C.2e Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using VLRBP with base gauge 0228495……..C-18
Figure C.2f Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard EM with base gauge 0228495……..C-18
Figure C.2g Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 missing from 1935)
using MEM1-3 with base gauge 0228495……...C-18
Figure C.2h Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 missing from 1935)
using MEM2 with base gauge 0228495……C-19
Figure C.2i Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 missing from 1935)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge 0228495……C-19

Figure C.2j Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 missing from 1935)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228495……..C-19
Figure C.3a Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard BP with base gauge 0228495……...C-20
Figure C.3b Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using McL1BP with base gauge 0228495……C-20
Figure C.3c Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using GenerBP (s = 5) with base gauge 0228495……C-20
Figure C.3d Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using QBP (acc = 0.15, lr = 0.85, Weight Cond.)
with base gauge 0228495……C-21
Figure C.3e Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using GoldSBP with base gauge 0228495……..C-21
Figure C.3f Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using VLRBP with base gauge 0228495…….C-21
Figure C.3g Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard EM with base gauge 0228495…….C-22
Figure C.3h Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 missing from 1935)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge 0228495……...C-22
Figure C.3i Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 missing from 1935)
using MEM1 with base gauge 0228495……...C-22
Figure C.3j Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 missing from 1935)
using MEM2-3 with base gauge 0228495……C-23
Figure C.3k Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 missing from 1935)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228495……..C-23
Figure C.4a Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using standard BP with base gauge 0228495……..C-23
Figure C.4b Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using GenerBP (s = 5) with base gauge 0228495……...C-24
Figure C.4c Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using QBP (acc = 0.15, lr = 0.85, Weight Cond.)

with base gauge 0228495……C-24
Figure C.4d Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using GoldSBP with base gauge 0228495……..C-24
Figure C.4e Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (30.3% missing from 1935)
using VLRBP with base gauge 0228495…….C-25
Figure C.4f Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using standard EM with base gauge 0228495…….C-25
Figure C.4g Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge 0228495……C-25
Figure C.4h Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228495……..……C-26
Figure C.4i Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using MEM1 with base gauge 0228495……...C-26
Figure C.5a Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard BP with base gauge 0228170……..C-26
Figure C.5b Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using GenerBP with base gauge 0228495……..C-27
Figure C.5c Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using QBP with base gauge 0228170……..C-27
Figure C.5d Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using GoldSBP with base gauge 0228170……...C-27
Figure C.5e Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6% missing from 1935)
using VLRBP with base gauge 0228170……..C-28
Figure C.5f Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard EM with base gauge 0228495……..C-28
Figure C.5g Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (7.6 % missing from 1935)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge 0228170……C-28
Figure C.5h Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using MEM1 with base gauge 0228170……C-29
Figure C.5i Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using MEM2-3 with base gauge 0228170……C-29

Figure C.5j Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228170……..C-29
Figure C.6a Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard BP with base gauge 0228170……..C-30
Figure C.6b Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using McL1BP with base gauge 0228495……C-30
Figure C.6c Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using GenerBP with base gauge 0228495……C-30
Figure C.6d Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using GoldSBP with base gauge 0228170……C-31
Figure C.6e Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using VLRBP with base gauge 0228170……..C-31
Figure C.6f Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard EM with base gauge 0228495……..C-31
Figure C.6g Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using MEM1-2 with base gauge 0228170……C-32
Figure C.6h Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using MEM3 with base gauge 0228170……C-32
Figure C.6i Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge 0228170…….C-32
Figure C.6j Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (13.6 % missing from 1935)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228170……C-33
Figure C.7a Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard BP with base gauge 0228170……...C-33
Figure C.7b Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using McL1BP with base gauge 0228495……C-33
Figure C.7c Annual total rainfall at 0228170 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using GenerBP with base gauge 0228495……C-34
Figure C.7d Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using GoldSBP with base gauge 0228170……C-34
Figure C.7e Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (19.6 % missing from 1935)

using VLRBP with base gauge 0228170……...C-34
Figure C.7f Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using standard EM with base gauge 0228495……..C-35
Figure C.7g Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge 0228170……C-35
Figure C.7h Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using MEM2 with base gauge 0228170……C-35
Figure C.7i Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using MEM1-3 with base gauge 0228170…….C-36
Figure C.7j Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (19.6 % missing from 1935)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228170……C-36
Figure C.8a Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using VLRBP with base gauge 0228170……...C-36
Figure C.8b Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using standard EM with base gauge 0228495……..C-37
Figure C.8c Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (30.3% missing from 1935)
using ECM1-2 with base gauge 0228170…….C-37
Figure C.8d Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using ECME1-2-3 with base gauge 0228170……C-37
Figure C.8e Annual total rainfall at 0228495 (30.3 % missing from 1935)
using MEM1 with base gauge 0228170……C-38
Figures C.9 (a-c) DIT versus gap size for annual total rainfall at 0228495
(base gauge 0228170): (a) BP, (b) GoldSBP and (c) GenerBP….C-39
Figure C.9d DIT versus gap size for annual mean flows at 0228495
(base gauge 0228170): (d) Standard EM…….C-40
Figures C.10 (a-c) DIT versus gap size for annual total rainfall at 0228170
(base gauge 0228495): (a) BP, (b) GoldSBP and (c) GenerBP…..C-41
Figure C.10d DIT versus gap size for annual mean flows at 0228170
(base gauge 0228495): (d) Standard EM…….C-42

LIST OF TABLES

Page

CHAPTER 3

Table 3.1: Total catchment area, precipitation and mean annual riverflow of the primary Orange River system…….3-45
Table 3.2: Geographical location of selected rivers of secondary drainage D1……3-48
Table 3.3: Mean monthly flows of selected rivers of secondary drainage D1……..3-48
Table 3.4: Geographical location of selected rivers of secondary drainage D33…..3-49
Table 3.5: Mean monthly flows of selected rivers of secondary drainage D33……4-49

CHAPTER 4

Table 4.1a: Marginal entropy of annual mean flows for different gauges…….4-2
Table 4.1b: Informational matrix (e.g. T) of annual mean flows for different site-pairs)……4-2
Table 4.1c: Informational matrix (e.g. DIT) of annual mean flows for different site-pairs)……4-2
Table 4.2: Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H003 (6.7 % missing annual mean flows) using the target gauge D1H009..……..4-6
Table 4.3: Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H003 (13.4 % missing annual mean flows) using the base gauge D1H009……..4-21
Table 4.4: Entropy calculations and statistics at the target the gauge D1H003 (20 % missing annual mean flows) using the base gauge D1H009……..4-35
Table 4.5: Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H009 (6.7 % missing annual mean flows) using the base gauge D1H003…….4-44
Table 4.6: Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H009 (13.4 % missing annual mean flows) using the base gauge D1H003……4-59

Table 4.7: Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H009
(20 % missing annual mean flows) using the base gauge D1H003……...4-74
Table 4.8: Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H009
(30 % missing annual mean flows) using the base gauge D1H003……...4-90

CHAPTER 5

Table 5.1a: Marginal entropy of annual maximum flows for different gauges……5-2
Table 5.1b: Informational matrix (e.g. T) of annual maximum flows
for station-pairs……..5-2
Table 5.1c: Informational matrix (e.g. DIT) of annual maximum flows
for different station-pairs……5-2
Table 5.2: Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H003
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows)
using the base gauge D1H009…….5-6
Table 5.3: Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H009
(6.7 % missing annual maximum flows)
using the base gauge D1H003…….5-21

CHAPTER 6

Table 6.1a: Marginal entropy of annual total rainfall for different gauges……6-2
Table 6.1b: Informational matrix (e.g. T) of annual total rainfall
for different site-pairs……..6-2
Table 6.1c: Informational matrix (e.g. DIT) of annual total rainfall
for different site-pairs……..6-2
Table 6.2: Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228495
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 02283458…….6-6
Table 6.3: Entropy calculations and statistics at the subject the gauge 0228495
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall)

using the base gauge 0228458……..6-20
Table 6.4: Entropy calculations and statistics at the subject gauge 0228495
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228458……..6-33
Table 6.5: Entropy calculations and statistics at the subject gauge 0228495
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228458……..6-45

CHAPTER 7

Table 7.1: Simulated statistical parameters at Bedford…….7-5
Table 7.2: Model performance evaluation at Bedford……...7-5

CHAPTER 8

Table 8.1: DIT for seasonal mean flows station pair…….8-4
Table 8.2: Performance of standard BP, McL1BP and McL2BP……..8-4

APPENDIX B

Table B.1 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H003
(30 % missing annual mean flows)
using the base gauge D1H009…….B-1
Table B.2 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H003
(13.4 % missing annual maximum flows)
using the base gauge D1H009…….B-2
Table B.3 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H003
(20 % missing annual maximum flows)
using the base gauge D1H009…….B-3

Table B.4 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H003
(30 % missing annual maximum flows)
using the base gauge D1H009…….B-4
Table B.5 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H009
(13.4 % missing annual maximum flows)
using the base gauge D1H003…….B-5
Table B.6 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H009
(20 % missing annual maximum flows)
using the base gauge D1H003…….B-6
Table B.7 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge D1H009
(30 % missing annual maximum flows)
using the base gauge D1H003…….B-7

APPENDIX C

Table C.1 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228495
(19.7 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228458…….C-1
Table C.2 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228495
(30.3 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228458…….C-2
Table C.3 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228458
(19.7 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228495……C-3
Table C.4 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228458
(30.3 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228495……C-4
Table C.5 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228495
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228170……C-5
Table C.6 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228495

(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228170……C-6
Table C.7 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228495
(19.7 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228170……C-7
Table C.8 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228495
(30.3 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228170……C-8
Table C.9 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228170
(7.6 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228495……C-9
Table C.10 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228170
(13.6 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228495……..C-10
Table C.11 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228170
(19.7 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228495……..C-11
Table C.12 Entropy calculations and statistics at the target gauge 0228170
(30.3 % missing annual total rainfall)
using the base gauge 0228495……..C-12

GLOSSARY

ANN: Artificial neural network

BP (or Stand BP): Backpropagation or standard backpropagation

DIT: Directional information index

T: Transinformation

EM: Expectation maximization (or standard EM)

ECM1: Expectation constrained (conditional)

ECM2: Expectation constrained (conditional), version 2

ECM1-2: Expectation constrained (conditional) and
Expectation constrained (conditional) version 1

ECME1: Expectation constrained (conditional) either

ECME2: Expectation constrained (conditional) either, version 2

ECME3: Expectation constrained (conditional) and
Expectation constrained (conditional) version 3

ECME1-2-3: Expectation constrained (conditional) either,
Expectation constrained (conditional) either version 2 and
Expectation constrained (conditional) either version 3

MEM1: Momentum EM

MEM2: Momentum EM version 2

MEM3: Momentum EM version 3

MEMx-y-z: Momentum EM version x, Momentum EM version y and Momentum version z (x, y and z may take any of the values 1, 2 or 3)

Mm^3: Million-meter cube

GenerBP: Generalized backpropagation

GoldSBP (or GoldenBP): Golden Search backpropagation

McL1BP (or MacL1BP): pseudo Mac Laurin power series order 1 backpropagation

McL2BP: pseudo Mac Laurin power series order 2 backpropagation

QBP (or QPROBP): Quick backpropagation

VLR (or VLRBP): Variable learning rate backpropagation

NOTATION

Following are the notations that are applied frequently in the thesis (e.g. refer to results in tables):

acc: acceleration coefficient
u: momentum
lr: learning rate
k: number of iterations
Hyp.Tg.h.l: hyperbolic tangent hidden layer
Ratio mean: ratio of the mean of the observed series to the mean of the estimated series
Ratio variance: ratio of the variance of the observed series to the variance of the estimated series
Weight Cond: Weight condition