

Improvement of Forecasting Method of Recession Characteristics of River Flow Rate into a Dam by using Estimation of Steady State

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Abstract

This paper describes an application of neural networks for forecasting the flow rate upper district of dams for hydropower plants. The forecasting of recession characteristics of the river flow after rainfalls is important with respect to system operation and dam management. We present a method for improving the precision of forecasting flow rate upper district of dams by utilizing steady-state estimation and recession time constant of the river flow. A case study was carried out on the upper district of the Yahagi River in Central Japan. It is found from our investigations that the forecasting accuracy is improved to 18.6

Index terms— river flow rate, recession time constant, estimation, forecasting, steady state of river flow, neural network

1 Introduction

Recently, natural energy is paid to attention because environmental problems such as global warming and acid rain become remarkable. In such situation, it is necessary that the hydro-energy stored in water reservoirs is converted into electric energy as effectively as possible in hydropower plants [1].

On the other hand, it is important to accurately grasp the inflow to the dam due to rainfall from the viewpoint of safety in the downstream area and efficient operation of the reservoir [2]. So far, "unit-hydrograph" [3], [4], "tank model method" [5], [6], "storage function method" [7], "Kalman filter method" [8], etc. have been used for river flow forecasting. These have been used for dam discharge control and power supply operation [2], [9]. However, in these forecasting methods, the flooding phenomenon due to rainfall and snowmelt is expressed using various mathematical models, but it is difficult to determine the parameters of the model [10].

Until now, we have developed a practical forecasting method of time series of river flow rate following rainfall upstream of a dam. The method is based on the artificial neural network theory [4] [5].

It is important that the water level on dam operation and management after peak rainfalls is forecasted. This paper describes an application of neural network for estimation of the recession time constant of river flow rate into a dam after the rainfall. We proposed the forecasting system of recession characteristics of river flow rate by using estimated recession time constant. An estimation system of recession time constant composed by neural network is developed through a case study on a dam for hydropower plant located the upper district of the Yahagi River in Central Japan. The estimation possibility of recession time constant and forecasting possibility of water level of dam is discussed.

2 II.

3 Steady State of River Flow and Recession Time Constant a) Basin used as a Case Study

In order to confirm the forecasting of the river flow rate, we used the upper district of the Yahagi River in Central Japan as shown in Figure ?? 1. The basin is 505 km² area and gradually elevated from west to east. There are five rain gauges as shown by A to F in Figure ?? 1.

forecast the flow rate from both the T RTC and q_{fin} estimated values and the peak flow rate. Both the T RTC and q_{fin} estimation methods, and forecasting system of the recession characteristics of river flow rate using these estimated values are described in the following chapters as case study.

8 III. Estimation of Steady State of River Flow and Recession time Constant

We have constructed a estimating system for the steady flow rate and recession time constant using a neural network with various features. Actually, the verification result of the proposed method is described below for the upper district of the Yahagi River in a case study.

Flow rate at time t 1 Forecasted river flow rate T RTC Recession time q_{fin} in q_{fin} in q_{fin} in a) Steady State Values of River Flow

The steady state value of river flow rate q_{fin} shown in equation (??) is a parameter necessary for forecasting the recession characteristics of the flow rate. Therefore, the value of q_{fin} is estimated at the peak of the flow rate.

9 i. Correlation between q_{fin} and various quantities

In order to select the optimum input information for the estimation of q_{fin} , we investigated the correlation between q_{fin} and various quantities obtained at the peak flow rate. Among the results, the peak flow rate, the accumulated rainfall up to the peak, and the correlation between the base flow and the steady state value after the peak are shown in (a) to (c) of Figure ??, respectively. (The value of the correlation coefficient is shown by the caption R in each figure).

According to these figures, it can be confirmed that although the correlation coefficient $R = 0.66$ to 0.39 , there are many variations, but the steady flow rate tends to show a large value when there are many quantities. When the correlation with other quantities was investigated, it was confirmed that the correlation with the steady flow rate was lower than that of the quantities shown in Figure ??.

ii

10 . Estimating System of Steady State Value of River Flow

The top three information (base flow $R=0.66$, peak flow $R=0.49$, total amount of rainfall $R=0.39$) in descending order of the value of the correlation coefficient between the steady state of river flow rate and various quantities are taken up. An estimation system of steady state value of river flow q_{inf} is constructed using these as input information is shown in Figure 6. The system consists of a three-layer and simple hierarchical neural network, which gives "peak flow", "total amount of rainfall" and "base flow" are corresponded to the input layer, and "steady state value of river flow" to the output layer. As for the middle layer, as in Figure 6, we selected three units that give a small estimation error at the early learning stage of the neural network. The back propagation method [18] was used for learning the estimation system. For the hidden layer, we selected three units that gave a small estimation error at the early stage of learning when learning the neural network.

11 iii. Estimated Results of Steady State Value of River Flow

The estimation system was trained using 16 cases (No. 1 to 16) in Table 1, and the steady state of river flow rate was estimated by the rainfall of the remaining 10 cases (No. 17 to 26). As a result, the error of estimated value was calculated by equation (??) and summarized by the "Estimated-value-1" in Table In addition, the results of using the base flow rate instead of the steady state of river flow rate are also shown by the "Estimated-value-2" in the same Table-2. From the table, the estimation error of the steady state of river flow rate decreases from 47.0% to 17.1%. From this result, it is expected that the forecasted accuracy of river flow rate will be improved significantly by using the estimated value of steady flow rate.

12 b) Recession time constant

As in the previous section, the recession time constant T RTC shown in equation (??) is taken as a parameter necessary for forecasting the recession characteristics of the river flow rate, and the value of T RTC is estimated at the peak of the flow rate. In order to select the optimum input information for T RTC estimation, we investigate the correlation between various quantities obtained at the peak flow rate and T RTC, and propose an estimation system of recession time constant.

13 i. Correlation between T RTC and various quantities

In estimating the recession time constant, we investigated the correlation with various quantities obtained at the peak flow rate. Of the results, the correlations with peak flow rate discharge, total rainfall, and rainfall intensity are investigated and shown in (a) to (c) in Figure 7 respectively (The value of the correlation coefficient is shown by the caption R in each figure). According to these figures, although there are many variations in the correlation coefficient $R = -0.56$ to -0.38 , it can be confirmed that the decreasing time constant tends to show a small value

when there are many quantities. When the correlation with other quantities, such as the duration of rainfall to the peak, was also examined, it was confirmed that the correlation with the decreasing time constant was lower than the quantities shown in Figure 7.

14 ii. Estimating System of Recession Time Constant

The top three information (rainfall intensity $R = -0.56$ up to the peak flow rate, peak flow rate $R = -0.49$, cumulative rainfall up to the peak $R = -0.38$) in descending order of the absolute value of the correlation coefficient between the recession time constant and various quantities are taken up. An estimation system of recession time constant T_{RTC} is constructed using these as input information is shown in Figure 8. The system consists of a three-layer and simple hierarchical neural network, which gives "peak flow", "total amount of rainfall" and "rainfall intensity" are corresponded to the input layer, and "recession time constant" to the output layer. As for the middle layer, as in Figure 6, we selected three units that give a small estimation error at the early learning stage of the neural network.

15 iii. Estimated Results of Recession Time Constant of River Flow

The estimation system was trained using 16 cases (No. 1 to 16) in Table 1, and the recession time constant of river flow rate was estimated by the rainfall of the remaining 10 cases (No. 17 to 26). As a result, the estimation error is summarized in Table-3. The estimation error of the recession time constant is represented by the subtraction (hours) from the actual value, which is reduced from 8.2h to 1.4h.

16 Forecasting River Flow Rate for Recession Term

The river flow after the peak flow rate was forecasted based on the estimated results of the steady-state of flow rate and the recession time constant obtained up to the previous section. Based on the forecasting system shown in Figure ??, the time variation of flow rate was calculated using the steady-state ones q_{fin} in Table 2, the recession time constant T_{RTC} in Table 3, and the peak flow rate $q(t_1)$ as input information. Among the results, Figure ?? shows an example of rainfall concentrated in a relatively short time (33 mm in 5 hours), and Figure 10 shows an example of rainfall in a relatively long time (84 mm in 16 hours). In addition, the measured value of the flow rate is indicated by a circle, and the forecasted value of the decreasing part is indicated by a broken line. The predicted values in both figures as a whole are relatively close to the actual values. In detail, there is an increase or decrease in the measured flow rate during the time when rainfall is not observed. The reason seems to be the rainfall at points other than the rainfall observation point. Table 4 shows the forecasted error seen from the total amount of runoff. The table also shows the forecasted results when the basal flow rate is used instead of the steady flow rate value.

According to the table, the forecasted error is reduced from 25.0% to 18.6% on average of the absolute values when the steady flow rate is used compared to when the base flow rate is used. This 6% reduction in prediction error corresponds to the amount of electricity used by approximately 22,800 households per day, which can improve the economic operation of thermal power generation (Appendix-2). In addition, the forecasted error is smaller when the estimated steady-state value of flow rate is used for seven of the ten cases than when the basal flow rate is used. From the above results, the effectiveness of using the estimated steady-state value of flow rate can be confirmed.

17 Conclusions

In this paper, we proposed a method for estimating the recession time constant of the river flow rate and the steady flow value for the outflow after rainfall and improved the accuracy of the flow forecasting. We confirmed the effectiveness of the forecasted method for the upper section of the Yahagi River in central Japan. The features of the proposed method are as follows.

1. Regarding the prediction of the recession characteristics of the river flow rate into a dam, the steady state flow rate q_{inf} is taken up as a necessary parameter. The correlation between the various quantities obtained at the peak flow rate and q_{inf} was investigated. As a result, although there were many variations in peak flow rate, total rainfall up to the peak, and base flow rate, it was confirmed that the larger the various quantities, the larger the steady-state flow rate.
2. We proposed a estimation system of the steady-state value of the flow rate by giving "total rainfall up to the flow rate peak", "peak flow rate" and "base flow rate" to the input layer and "steady-state value of flow rate" to the output layer. According to the simulation results of the steady-state estimation of river flow rate, the estimation error was significantly reduced from 47.0% to 17.1% compared with the case where the base flow rate was used as the estimated value instead of the steady-state flow rate.
3. The recession time constant T_{RTC} is taken up as a parameter necessary for predicting the recession characteristic of the flow rate. Although there were many variations in the peak flow rate obtained at the peak flow rate, the cumulative rainfall up to the peak, and the rainfall intensity, it was confirmed that the larger the various quantities, the smaller the recession time constant.
4. We proposed a estimation system of the recession time constant of the flow rate by giving "peak flow rate", "total rainfall up to the flow rate peak" and "rainfall intensity

up to the flow rate peak” to the input layer and ”recession time constant” to the output layer. The simulation error of the recession time constant of river flow rate was significantly reduced from 47.0% to 17.1%⁵. Based on the estimation results of the steady flow rate and the recession time constant, we proposed a forecasting system of the flow rate after the peak flow. The error of the forecasting result using both estimated values of the steady states and the recession time constant reduced from 25.0% to 18.6%. A reduction of about 6% in the forecasting error corresponds to the daily power consumption by about 22,800 households, which can improve the economic operation of thermal power generation.

The proposed forecasting method of the recession characteristic can be applied when the rainfall after the forecasting point (peak flow rate point) is about 30 mm or less and can be ignored. If there is rainfall again after the flow rate peak, it is considered that the same prediction can be applied with the re-occurred flow rate peak point as the new flow rate peak point.

In the future, we would like to investigate the effect of rainfall after the forecast time on the flow rate forecasted result, verify the forecasting method when the rainfall is 30 mm or more after the peak flow rate occurs. And using the forecasted rainfall after the peak we would like to study the forecasting method of the flow rate in the recession time. Furthermore, we will confirm the versatility by applying the proposed method to other rivers.

The objective function J 1 for deriving the estimation formula of the coefficient a using the least squares method from the actual data of q (t i) and the formula (A-2) in the recession period of the flow rate is as follows.

(A-5)

The value of the coefficient a that minimizes equation (A-5) is obtained by . .

18 Therefore,

Therefore, the estimated value of the recession time constant T RTC is calculated by the following equation.?(A-6)

ii. Estimating the steady state value q inf of flow rate equation (A-1) is rewritten and expressed by .

(A-7)

The objective function J 2 for deriving the estimation formula of the steady flow rate q fin from the actual data of q (t i) in the recession period of the flow rate and equation (A-7) using the least squares method is as follows.

(A-8)

The value of q fin that minimizes equation (A-8) is obtained by .

Therefore, Accordingly, the estimated value q fin is calculated by the following equation.

(A-9)

To obtain the estimated values T RTC and q fin for the unknown parameters T RTC and q fin , give q BASE (base flow rate) instead of q fin , and obtain T RTC from equation (A-6). Furthermore, the obtained T RTC value is given to (A-9) to obtain q fin . T RTC and q fin , are calculated mutually to find a stable solution.

Figure 1 shows the calculation flow for obtaining the estimated values T RTC and q fin for T RTC and q fin .

19 A-2 Power generation

The amount of power generated for the flow rate equivalent to a forecasted error of 1% in the upper reaches of the Yahagi River (from) ((2 1 1 i n i i i t a t t z a J ? ? = ? ? ? = ? ? = ? = n i i n i i i t t t z a 1 2 1) ()) ((2 1 1 i n i i i t a t t z a J ? ? = ? ? ? = 0)) ((2 1 2 = ? ? ? = ? = n i i i i a t t t z 2 1 1)) ((? = ? = n i i i a t t z J ? ? = ? = n i i i n i i R T C t t z t T ? ? = + ? = ? ? ? i i p i p i t x q t x q q t x q q t q 2 1 2)) 1) (() ((? = ? ? ? ? = n i i i p i t x q t x q t q J 0 1 = ? ? ? q J 0) 1) ((}) 1) (() (({ 2 1 2 = ? × ? ? ? = ? ? ? = ? ? i n i i p i t x t x q t x q t q J 0 }) 1) (() ({ }) 1) (() (({ 1 1 = ? + ? = ? ? ? ? ? = ? = ? n i i i p i n i i p i t x q t x q t q t x q t x q t q ? ? = ? ? ? ? = n i i n i i p i t x t x q t q q 1 1) 1) (() (R T C T 1 ? = q fin

q fin q fin q fin q fin q fin q fin q fin q fin q fin When the flow rate equivalent to 1% error per rainfall (0.1 × 106m 3) is converted into the amount of power generated at the target power plant, it can be calculated as follows. If the monthly power consumption of one household is 300kWh and the daily power consumption of one household is 10kWh, 38,575kWh is equivalent to the daily power consumption of about 3800 households. Therefore, an improvement in prediction accuracy of 6% is equivalent to the daily power consumption of 22,800 households, and the economic operation of thermal power generation can be improved. 0 1 = ? ? a J q fin (A-2) (A-3) ? ? ? ? q q q t q e p i T t R T C i) (? ? ? ? ? q q q t q T t p i R T C i) (log) (i i t z a t ? q f i n q f i n q f i n q f i n R T C T a 1 ? ? ? ? ? ? q q q t q t z p i i) (log) (q f i n q f i n

20 Yes

Noq ? = q ? T RTC =T RTC ~Solition; q ? = q ? T RTC =T RTC Stop ~~~~~¹



1

Figure 1: Figure 1 :

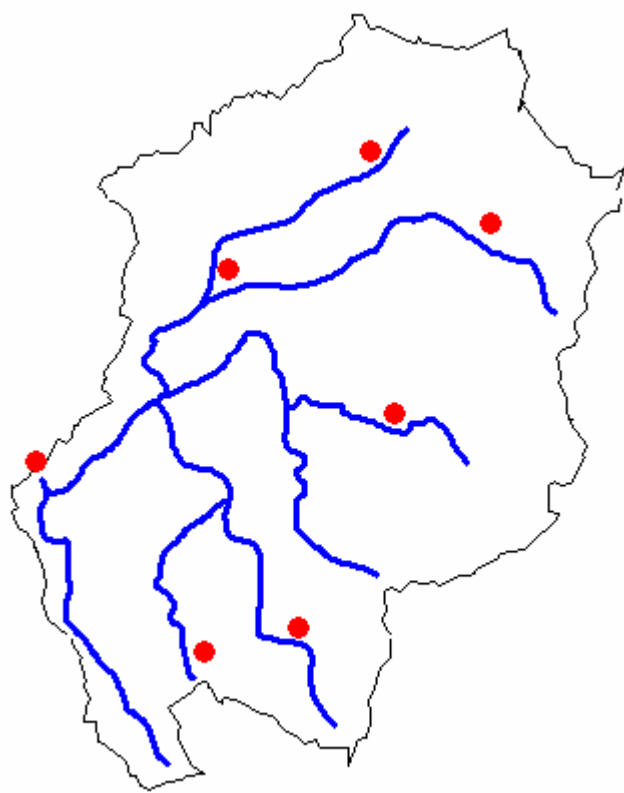


3

Figure 2: Figure 3 :



Figure 3: Global



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Figure 4: Figure 4 :Figure 5 :

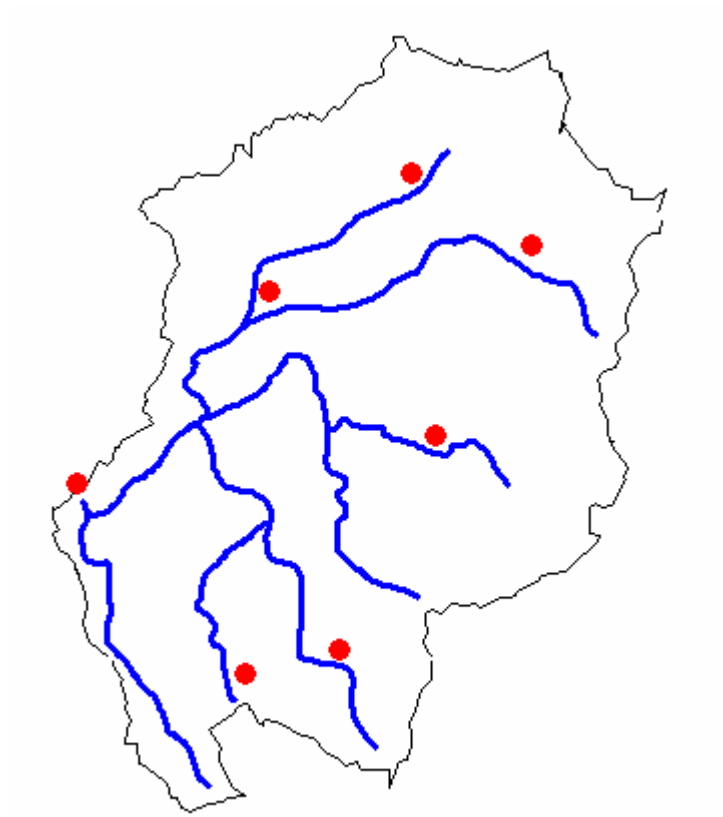


Figure 5:

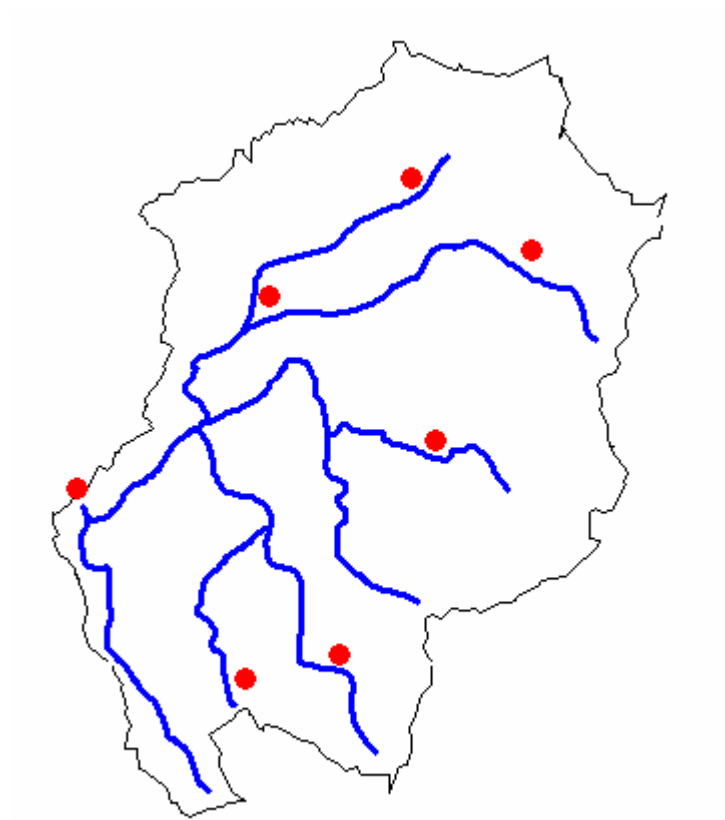
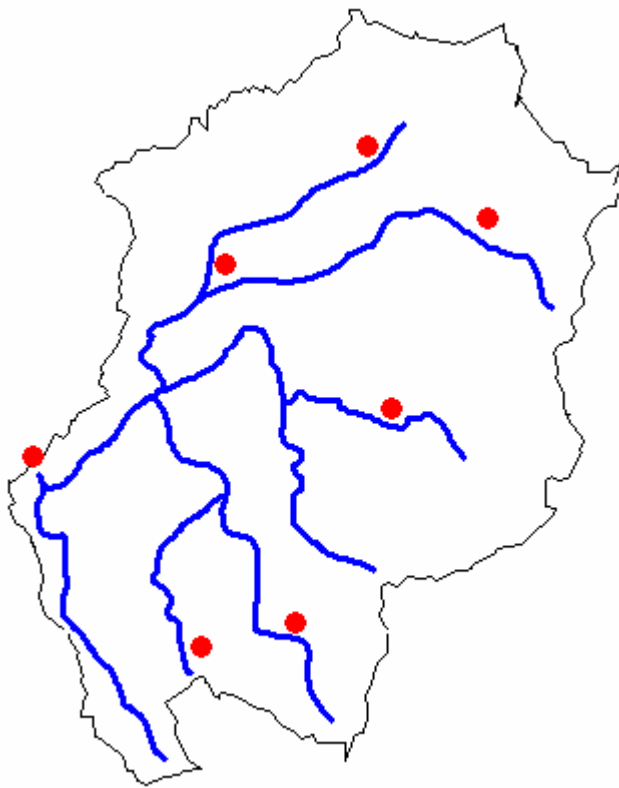


Figure 6:



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Figure 7: Figure 6 :

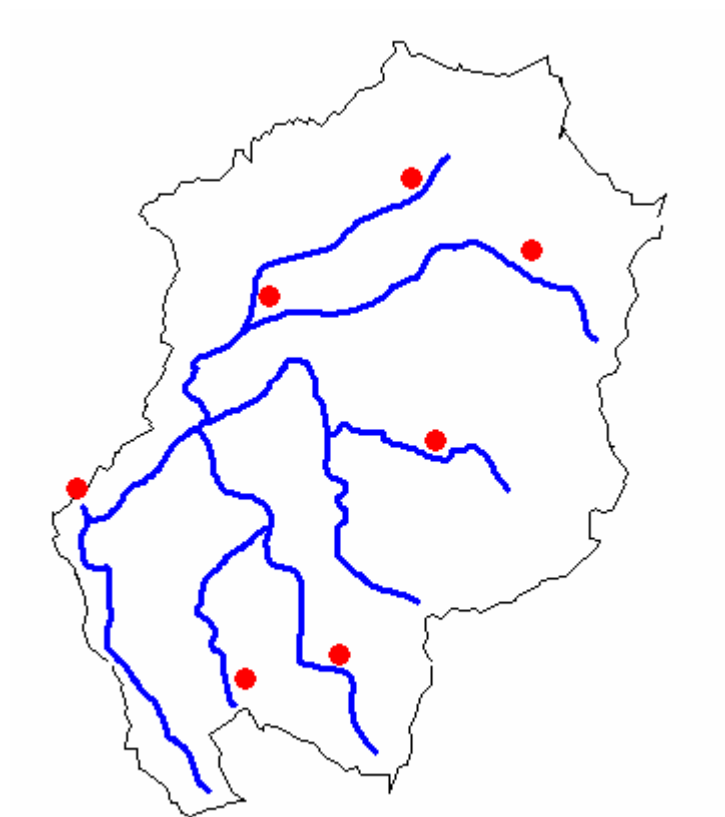
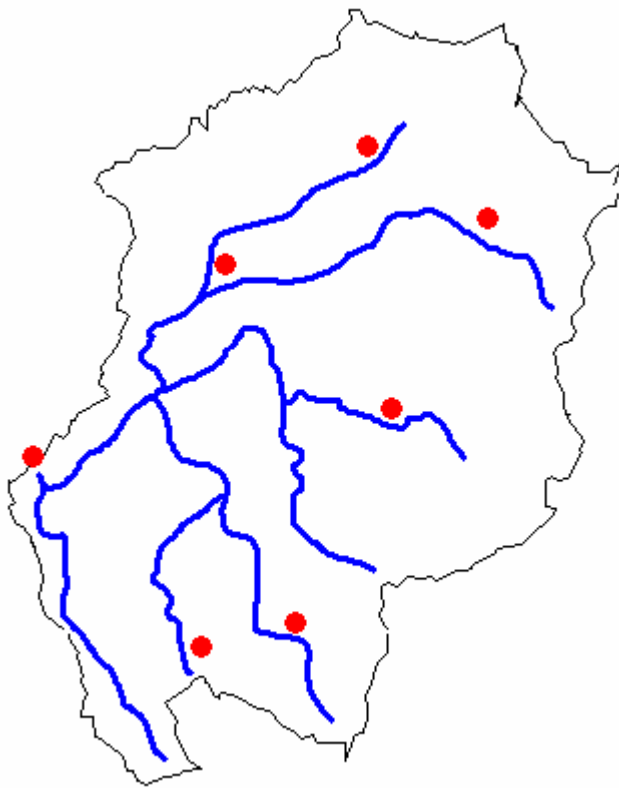
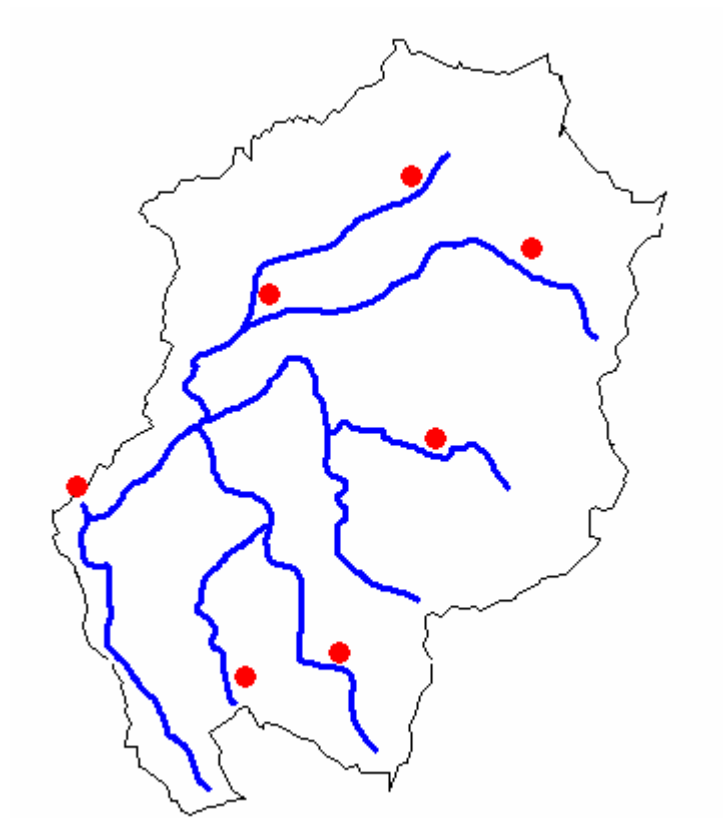


Figure 8:



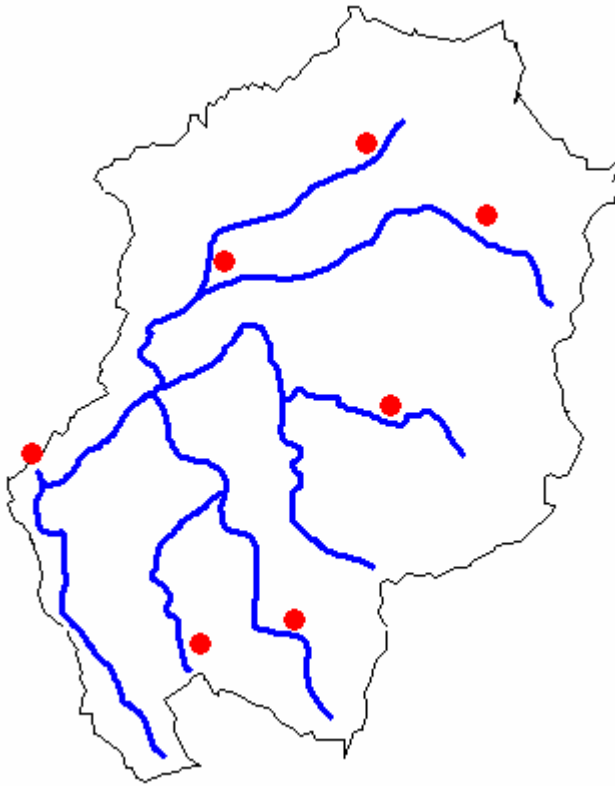
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Figure 9: Figure 7 :



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Figure 10: Figure 8 :



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Figure 11: Figure 9 :Figure 10 :



Figure 12:



Figure 13:



Figure 14:)



A1

Figure 15: Figure A1 :

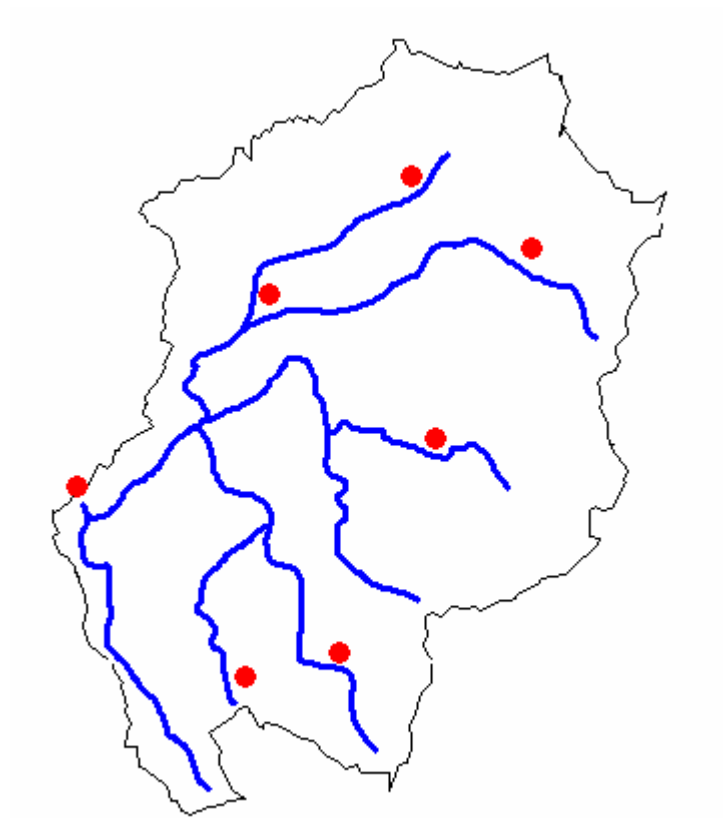


Figure 16:

1

Rain No.	Peak flow of rainfall				Steady states of river flow rate			
	Base flow		Obtained until peak flow		(estimated)		q ? q fin	
	Base flow rate	Peak flow rate	Total amount of rain- fall	dura- tion	Rainfall inten- sity	Total amount of rainfall	Steady state value of flow river	Recessi on time con- stants of river
	m ³ /s	m ³ /s	mm	h	mm/h	mm	m ³ /s	h
1	12.4	163.9	44.0		15.0	2.9	14.3	32.1
2	62.2	143.0	31.4		12.0	2.6	0.7	60.3
3	23.5	206.6	56.0		19.0	2.9	9.7	42.0
4	26.5	171.7	38.0		11.0	3.5	17.9	56.8
5	19.0	254.2	53.0		5.0	10.6	1.4	44.5
6	23.7	161.5	53.7		17.0	3.2	5.0	41.7
7	18.5	222.3	40.0		12.0	3.3	7.4	26.7
	?			?	?		?	
16	37.5	419.2	71.1		12.0	5.9	18.0	54.2
17	15.3	140.2	28.6		10.0	2.9	20.9	28.1
18	18.4	135.1	36.2		11.0	3.3	20.6	33.7
19	18.8	132.4	42.7		16.0	2.7	1.7	31.0
20	16.4	153.3	70.0		17.0	4.1	10.4	37.1
21	16.6	339.0	87.3		18.0	4.8	7.1	36.6
22	22.8	173.1	33.0		5.0	6.6	18.7	30.0
23	12.3	186.2	83.8		16.0	5.2	5.5	28.9
24	16.6	209.1	48.2		5.0	9.6	3.3	36.7
25	42.1	444.7	96.8		17.0	5.7	8.0	90.5
26	20.5	219.3	41.5		21.0	2.0	22.2	33.9

Figure 17: Table 1 :

2

Rain No.	Observed m ³ /s	Estimated-value-1	Estimated-value-2 (Neural network)	(Base flow)	m ³ /s Error
17	28.1	33.1	18.1	15.3	-45.5
18	33.7	34.0	1.1	18.4	-45.3
19	31.0	33.8	8.9	18.8	-39.4
20	37.2	31.2	-16.0	16.4	-55.9
21	36.6	40.0	9.2	16.6	-54.6
22	30.0	38.7	28.8	22.8	-24.1
23	28.9	28.1	-2.7	12.3	-57.4
24	36.7	33.9	-7.8	16.6	-54.8
25	90.5	53.3	-41.1	42.1	-53.5
26	33.9	46.5	37.1	20.5	-39.7
Average absolute error		—	17.1	—	47.0

[Note: Estimated-value-1: Estimated values of steady states of river flow rate by using neural network Estimated-value-2: Estimated values of steady states of river flow rate by using base flow instead of steady flow rate]

Figure 18: Table 2 :

3

Rain No.	Observed h	Estimated-value-1 (Neural network)		Estimated-value-2 (Base flow)	
		h	Error h	h	Error h
17	6.3	6.2	-0.1	6.7	0.5
18	9.3	6.7	-2.6	17.3	8.0
19	4.3	8.0	3.7	13.4	9.1
20	5.1	6.8	1.7	16.8	11.8
21	4.1	5.0	0.9	13.0	9.0
22	3.5	4.0	0.5	11.6	8.1
23	6.7	4.2	-2.5	13.1	6.4
24	3.3	3.4	0.1	15.3	12.1
25	3.8	3.9	0.1	13.8	10.0
26	3.6	5.9	2.3	11.2	7.6
Average absolute error		—	1.4	—	8.2

[Note: Estimated-value-1: Estimated values of steady states of river flow rate by using neural network Estimated-value-2: Estimated values of steady states of river flow rate by using base flow instead of steady flow rate]

Figure 19: Table 3 :

4

	Observed	Estimated-value-1 (Neural network)		Estimated-value-2 (Base flow)	
Rain No.	?	?	Error ?	?	Error ?
17	7.6	8.3	9.2	5.9	-22.4
18	9.4	8.6	-8.5	10.4	10.6
19	7.0	8.9	27.1	8.8	25.7
20	8.6	8.6	0.0	10.9	26.7

Figure 20: Table 4 :

4

in the main

Figure 21: Table 4

.1 Acknowledgments

We would like to thank our gratitude for using the Hydrological and Water Quality Database of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism for the rainfall and river flow data used in the analysis.

.2 Appendix

.3 A-1 Estimating formula for steady flow rate and recession time constant

In this paper, the runoff characteristics to the river during the recession period after the peak flow rate are expressed by the following equation.

where, T_{RTC} is the recession time constant, q_{inf} is the steady flow rate value, $q(t_i)$ is the flow rate at time t_i , q_p is the flow rate at the peak flow rate.

For the estimation of T_{RTC} and q_{inf} , given $q_{inf} = q_{BASE}$ (base flow rate), T_{RTC} is estimated by equation (A-1). Next, the obtained T_{RTC} is given to Eq (A-1) and q_{inf} is estimated. Here after, T_{RTC} and q_{inf} are calculated mutually to find a stable solution. The derivation of each estimation formula for T_{RTC} and q_{inf} is shown below.

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