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Thermometric and pluviometric trend on homogeneous series in Piedmont (NW, Italy)

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The study of the temperature and precipitations deserves great attention because being part of a recent past, they allow us to analyze in detail the variations which have occurred and their causes.

In order to correctly study these variations we must have at our disposal some homogeneous series (MAUGERI ET AL., 2006; PETERSON ET AL., 1998). In this report, we have studied the daily thermo - pluviometric series of 21 meteorological stations in Piedmont. The meteorological stations, belonging to ex-SIMN (Hydrographic and Marigraphic National Service), have been operating with continuity during 53 years, from 1951 to 2003.

As a first step, an historical research over each station pertaining to the two agencies has been carried out. In this way, the variations due either to the location or to the replacement of the equipment have been determined. For the ex-SIMN stations, the Annals (Hydrographic and Marigraphic National Service archives, 1951-1990), in which the geographic coordinates of each station (latitude, longitude and elevation) were recorded with great precision every year, have been consulted. Subsequently, the values of the ex-SIMN observations have been checked in order to reduce the errors caused by an incorrect reading of, or by a wrong transcription from the original paper diagrams.

Then we have reconstructed the monthly series and we have applied the homogeneity test SNHT (ALEXANDERSSON ET AL., 1997). This method allows to estimate and individuate the gradual or sudden change of the average value of a particular series comparing it to the reference series which has been obtained by evaluating the result

of the adjacent series and which is considered homogeneous.

We have reconstructed some monthly amounts for creating a serially complete (no missing data). We have chosen four different methods of spatial interpolation (EISCHEID ET AL., 1995; EISCHEID ET AL., 2000). These are defined as the 1) normal ratio method (NR), 2) simple inverse distance weighting (IDW), 3) multiple regression (MR) and 4) median of the previous tree method (MED).

We have enforced the homogeneity test (SNHT) to climate data set and have detected and adjusted several inhomogeneities that correspondents to the factor that make these data unrepresentative of the actual climate variation occurring over time.

These method have afforded to estimate the real trend on every series. The non-parametric Mann-Kendall (MK) statistical test has been used to assess the significance of trend on thermo-pluviometric time series.