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Hydroinformatics Challenge II: comparison of results and construction of ensemble forecasts

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This paper presents a comparative analysis of submitted results for the second Hydroinformatics Challenge that involved the River Ouse Dataset. Models are assessed on the testing period using numerical and graphical analysis performed with HydroTest (www.hydrotest.org.uk). This provides a set of consistent statistical descriptors. The submitted results are also used for the development of ensemble forecasts. Ensemble forecasting offers two potential advantages with regard to superior hydrological modelling: it can be used to develop solutions that are more accurate or more robust and in so doing encompass the best aspects of each individual model; it offers a practical solution for the quantification and assessment of forecasting uncertainties. Limited investigation has been performed on the use of different methods for producing multi-model forecasts and a number of preferred options will be compared and contrasted.