

Interactive comment on “Using R in hydrology: a review of recent developments and future directions” by Louise J. Slater et al.

Louise J. Slater et al.

louise.slater@ouce.ox.ac.uk

Received and published: 18 March 2019

We would like to thank Reviewer 1 for constructive comments on our manuscript. We feel that many of these comments are helpful and will improve the quality of our review paper. Below we provide the Reviewer’s comments verbatim in black italic text, and our responses are immediately below each comment in blue text.

“This manuscript represents a substantial contribution to scientific progress in hydrology in that it makes readers aware of the new task view in R for Hydrological Data and Modeling. Because there are almost 14,000 packages available in R and countless more in other repositories, it is difficult for analysts to keep up on packages potentially

[Printer-friendly version](#)

[Discussion paper](#)



useful to them. Having a hydrology Task View is an important maturation in the use of R in the hydrology community, that many might not be aware of for quite some time without some targeted messaging to the hydrology community"

We thank the reviewer for the positive comments on the manuscript, and we agree that it was important to highlight the new Task View as part of this review paper.

"The discussion of many packages available to hydrologists is good. While the authors cannot discuss them all, they have a fitting selection of useful packages. For example, an analyst may be aware of the trend analysis functions in R in multiple packages, but not the spatial analysis/GIS functionality, and this article helps bring together diverse analysis methods in one discussion of the hydrology community.

Thank you. Yes, indeed, one aim of the paper was to provide a broad overview of all the different tools and techniques that are available to hydrologists in R.

"The mention of the traceability of package authors through their ORCID IDs is another important, relatively recent addition to R. As an active member of the R community, I was unaware of this and found that many packages do not use this yet. However, this is another way to judge the background of package developers and find related articles excellent information to provide to the R Hydro community."

Yes, absolutely; we agree that adding ORCID IDs to packages is a useful recent development in R!

"The scientific quality of this article is excellent, providing a brief history of software languages used in hydrology and a brief history of R, while making good arguments for the use of R in hydrology. Reproducible research benefits all scientific work and is an

Printer-friendly version

Discussion paper



area with continued need for improvement in hydrology can help."

Thank you for the positive comments!

"The figures and graphics are appropriate for the article and are informative. The paper is well written and carefully edited prior to review (much appreciated by reviewers)."

Again, we thank the reviewer for the positive comments on the manuscript.

" The scientific resources listed were good. It could have even been better if some of the authors were from the US and able to describe additional developments, providing a more global view."

We appreciate the reviewer's opinion. The authors of this manuscript are from the UK, France, Italy, and Morocco; it originated from past contributions to the European Geosciences Union short course "Using R in Hydrology" in Vienna, which may explain why the authorship is mostly euro-centric. However, we have tried to provide a balanced, objective perspective throughout the manuscript, and we welcome suggestions if we have missed any additional developments in the manuscript.

"A suggested improvement to the article is in the inclusion of the useR! Conference (URL provided) in the discussion of scientific resources and courses. These annual conferences are not specific to hydrology and earth sciences, but usually have some environmental science or ecology sessions as well as sessions or short courses of general interest on learning R, best practices, spatial analysis and statistical methodology incorporated in various R packages."

Thank you, we will mention this conference in the manuscript. Many of these R conferences (RStudio, satuRdays or eRum) now stream the R talks and/or make the re-

sources available after the event. We can certainly learn from these approaches too.

"Another suggested improvement is more discussion on setting up repositories. What are a few good options for hydrologists? Many subscribe to the workflow provided, but are still somewhat mystified by the repository step, that is actually rather easy once someone clears the initial hurdles of selection and setup."

This is a very useful comment. We entirely agree and will provide a succinct overview of how to set up a repository.

"On page 14, lines 8 and 9, the "(Mann-)Kendall testing" punctuation is a bit awkward, exacerbated by the line break in it. I suggest leaving it as Mann-Kendall testing because readers will know what that is referring to whether they know it as Kendall or Mann-Kendall."

Yes, thank you, we will alter this accordingly.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2019-50>, 2019.

HESSD

Interactive
comment

Printer-friendly version

Discussion paper

