



Dynamical Downscaling of Climate Projection Data

Akihiko Murata

Meteorological Research Institute / Japan Meteorological Agency

Feb 27, 2025



Webinar Series on Climate Change Projection for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia-Pacific Region

What is downscaling?

Purpose

To project future climate on regional and local scales

20-km resolution





2-km resolution



Two types

Dynamical downscaling: Based on numerical simulations
 Statistical downscaling: Based on statistical knowledge

Regional Climate Model (RCM)

- Similar to numerical prediction model for weather forecast
- But for regional- and local-scale climate (not weather)

Present-day climate



Future climate (e.g., the end of 21C)



Experimental design

Numerical Model:

NonHydrostatic Regional Climate Model (NHRCM; Sasaki et al. 2008), based on Japan Meteorological Agency NonHydrostatic Model (JMA-NHM; Saito et al. 2006)



Downscaling methods

Scenario in terms of greenhouse gases

- Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP)
- Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP)

Time sliced

e.g., Around the end of this century: 2080-2100

Using high-speed supercomputer

e.g., Earth Simulator



Earth Simulator



http://www.jamstec.go.jp/es/jp/output/ gallery/images/es3/org/002.jpg

Dynamical downscaling over Southeast Asian countries

High-resolution RCM simulations have been performed for CORDEX-SEA using RCM called NHRCM

Schedules for invited researches

2. Research collaboration

The MRI has invited researchers from the collaborating countries to the MRI in Tsukuba, Japan, for two months to implement custom downscaling technology with a super computer for each region and to adjust the NHRCM program (source code) to improve reproductivity of local climate conditions. Thus far, meteorology/climatology or environment researchers with knowledge of LINUX, Fortran, and meteorological/climatological dynamics have participated in the Joint study. This research collaboration has been supported by the Ministry of Land Infrastructure Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan Society for the Promotion Science (JSPS), Program for Risk Information on Climate Change, and Integrated Research Program for Advancing Climate Models operated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (MEXT). A schedule of Joint study is indicated in Figure 3, and relevant organizations are shown in Figure 4.



Model domains



Studies for each country

- Arpornrat, T., S. Ratjiranukool, P. Ratjiranukool, and H. Sasaki, 2018: Evaluation of southwest monsoon change over Thailand by high-resolution regional climate model under high RCP emission scenario, J. Phys.: Conf. Ser., 1144, 012112.
- Cruz, F. T., H. Sasaki, and G. T. Narisma, 2016: Assessing the sensitivity of the Non-Hydrostatic Regional Climate Model to boundary conditions and convective schemes over the Philippines. J. Meteor. Soc. Japan, 94, 165–179.
- Cruz, F. T, and H. Sasaki, 2017: Simulation of present climate over Southeast Asia using the Non-Hydrostatic Regional Climate Model. SOLA, 13, 13–18.
- Jamaluddin, A. F., F. Tangang, J. X. Chung, L. Juneng, H. Sasaki, and I. Takayabu, 2018: Investigating the mechanisms of diurnal rainfall variability over Peninsular Malaysia using the non-hydrostatic regional climate model. Meteor. Atmos. Phys., 130, 6, 611–633.
- Kieu-Thi, X., H. V. U.-Thanh, T. Nguyen-Minh, D. Le, L. Nguyen-Minh, I. Takayabu, H.Sasaki, and A. Kitoh, 2016: Rainfall and tropical cyclone activity over Vietnam simulated and projected by the Non-Hydrostatic Regional Climate Model – NHRCM. J. Meteor. Soc. Japan, 94A, 135–150.
- Ngai, S. T., H. Sasaki, A. Murata, M. Nosaka, J. X. Chung, L. Juneng, Supari, E. Salimun, and F. Tangang, 2020: Extreme rainfall projections for Malaysia at the end of 21st century using the high resolution non-hydrostatic regional climate model (NHRCM), SOLA, 16, 132–139.
- Mau, N. D., N. M. Truong, H. Sasaki, and I. Takayabu, 2017: Rainfall projection for seasonal rainfall over Vietnam by the end of 21st century under RCP8.5 scenario by the NHRCM model. Vietnam Journal of Hydrometeorology, pp 7–13.
- Mau, N. D., H. Sasaki, and I. Takayabu, 2018: A study of seasonal rainfall in Vietnam at the end of 21st century according to the Non-Hydrostatic Regional Climate Model, Vietnam Journal of Science, Technology and Engineering, 60, 3, 89–96.

An example: Projections of future changes in extreme precipitation over Malaysia

Ngai et al. (2020)

136

SOLA, 2020, Vol. 16, 132–139, doi:10.2151/sola.2020-023



Future changes in extreme rainfall indices

Table 1. List of extreme rainfall indices together with respective definitions.

No.	Indices	Definition	Units
1	SDII	Simple daily intensity index, seasonal total/number of wet days $\geq 1 \text{ mm/day}$	mm/day
2	CDD	Maximum number of consecutive dry days (dry days < 1 mm/day)	days
3	RX1day	Highest one day rainfall amount per time period / Seasonal maximum 1-day rainfall amount	mm
4	R20mm	Number of days with rainfall amount $\geq 20 \text{ mm/day}$	days
5	R95pTOT	Total rainfall amount when daily rainfall amount > 95th percentile of rainfall on wet days in the time period	mm
6	R99pTOT	Total rainfall amount when daily rainfall amount > 99th percentile of rainfall on wet days in the time period	mm

- Overall, all indices are projected to increase
- There are some hotspots
 - Eastern Malaysia (Southern Sarawak)
 - East coast of Peninsula Malaysia

Fig. 5. Future changes (%) in extreme rainfall indices: (a) SDII, (b) CDD, (c) RX1day, (d) R20mm, (e) R95pTOT, and (f) R99pTOT. Hatching area indicated that changes are significant at 90% confidence level. The boxes indicated selected hotspots for the PDFs in Figure 6.

Data for Malaysia

- Present climate: 1980-2000
- Future climate: 2080-2100 (RCP8.5 scenario)
- 5km –mesh: The whole area of Malaysia
 2km-mesh: Peninsula Malaysia
 2km-mesh: East Malaysia

If you are interested in these datasets, just contact me: amurata at mri-jma.go.jp

Summary

Overview of dynamical downscaling

Research program: SENTAN

- Dynamical downscaling for their countries using a nonhydrostatic RCM, called NHRCM, has been conducted
- High-speed computer system, called the Earth Simulator, can be used

https://www.jamstec.go.jp/sentan/eng/



