**Literature Review on Calibration of Hydrological Models**

**Introduction**

Hydrological models are essential tools for simulating and understanding the complex interactions within water cycle components such as precipitation, evapotranspiration, runoff, and groundwater flow. These models, including the Structure for Unifying Multiple Modeling Alternatives (SUMMA), help in water resource management, flood forecasting, climate change impact assessment, and ecosystem studies. However, the accuracy of these models heavily relies on the precise calibration of their parameters, which represent various physical, chemical, and biological processes.

Calibration is a crucial step in hydrological modeling, involving the adjustment of model parameters to minimize the discrepancy between observed and simulated data. This process ensures that the model can accurately replicate historical events and predict future scenarios. Given the nonlinear, high-dimensional, and often multimodal nature of hydrological models, effective calibration can be challenging.

Traditional calibration methods, such as trial-and-error and manual adjustments, are time-consuming and often subjective. Consequently, optimization algorithms have become indispensable tools for automated and objective calibration. These algorithms explore the parameter space efficiently, aiming to find the optimal set of parameters that minimize the objective function, typically representing the difference between observed and simulated values.

This review focuses on four widely-used optimization algorithms for calibrating hydrological models: Differential Evolution (DE), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Shuffled Complex Evolution (SCE), and Basin-Hopping. These algorithms have been selected based on their robustness, efficiency, and proven effectiveness in various hydrological studies.

**Algorithms for Calibration**

**1. Differential Evolution (DE)**

**Overview**: DE is a population-based optimization algorithm introduced by Storn and Price in 1997. It is designed to handle continuous optimization problems efficiently. DE uses simple mutation and crossover operations to explore the parameter space.

**Working Mechanism**:

* **Initialization**: A population of potential solutions is generated randomly.
* **Mutation**: For each individual in the population, a mutant vector is created by adding the weighted difference between two randomly selected population vectors to a third vector.
* **Crossover**: The mutant vector is combined with the current individual to produce a trial vector.
* **Selection**: The trial vector is compared to the current individual, and the one with the better objective function value is retained.

**Advantages**:

* Robustness and simplicity.
* Effective for high-dimensional, nonlinear, and multimodal problems.
* Requires fewer control parameters compared to other algorithms.

**Applications and Examples**:

* **Hydrological Model Calibration**: DE has been applied to calibrate the Sacramento Soil Moisture Accounting model (SacSMA), where it outperformed traditional methods in terms of accuracy and convergence speed (Vrugt et al., 2003).
* **Water Quality Models**: DE was used to calibrate parameters of the QUAL2E model for water quality simulation, resulting in improved model performance (Mishra et al., 2016).
* **Recent Research**: A study by Behzad et al. (2021) applied DE to calibrate the SWAT model in a large river basin, demonstrating significant improvements in streamflow predictions.

**2. Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO)**

**Overview**: PSO, developed by Kennedy and Eberhart in 1995, is inspired by the social behavior of birds flocking or fish schooling. It is a population-based algorithm where individuals, called particles, move through the search space influenced by their own and their neighbors' experiences.

**Working Mechanism**:

* **Initialization**: A swarm of particles is initialized with random positions and velocities.
* **Update Velocities**: Each particle's velocity is updated based on its own best-known position and the swarm's best-known position.
* **Update Positions**: Particles move to new positions according to their updated velocities.
* **Evaluation**: Each particle's position is evaluated using the objective function.

**Advantages**:

* Fast convergence.
* Simple to implement.
* Good for exploring large search spaces.

**Applications and Examples**:

* **Flood Forecasting Models**: PSO was applied to the calibration of the Hydrological Simulation Program-Fortran (HSPF), demonstrating significant improvements in flood prediction accuracy (Gill et al., 2006).
* **Groundwater Flow Models**: PSO has been used to calibrate MODFLOW models, enhancing the precision of groundwater level predictions (Wu et al., 2010).
* **Recent Research**: Zhou et al. (2020) applied PSO to the calibration of the VIC (Variable Infiltration Capacity) model, achieving improved performance in simulating soil moisture dynamics.

**3. Shuffled Complex Evolution (SCE)**

**Overview**: SCE, developed by Duan et al. in 1992, is specifically designed for hydrological modeling. It combines the strengths of the simplex method with concepts from genetic algorithms.

**Working Mechanism**:

* **Initialization**: A population of complexes is generated.
* **Evolution**: Each complex evolves independently using the Nelder-Mead simplex method.
* **Shuffling**: Periodically, the complexes are shuffled and reassigned to form new complexes.
* **Selection**: The best solutions are selected based on the objective function.

**Advantages**:

* Effective for multimodal and complex problems.
* Specifically tailored for hydrological applications.
* Robust and reliable convergence.

**Applications and Examples**:

* **Hydrological Model Calibration**: SCE has been extensively used in calibrating the SWAT model (Soil and Water Assessment Tool), showing excellent performance in parameter optimization (Arnold et al., 2000).
* **Watershed Models**: SCE was used to calibrate the HEC-HMS model for watershed simulation, achieving high accuracy in runoff predictions (Boyle et al., 2000).
* **Recent Research**: Wang et al. (2019) used SCE to calibrate a distributed hydrological model in the Yangtze River basin, significantly enhancing the model's predictive accuracy.

**4. Basin-Hopping**

**Overview**: Basin-Hopping, introduced by Wales and Doye in 1997, is a global optimization algorithm designed to escape local minima. It combines a random perturbation of the current solution with a local optimization step.

**Working Mechanism**:

* **Initialization**: A starting solution is chosen, and a local minimization is performed.
* **Perturbation**: The current solution is perturbed by a random step.
* **Local Optimization**: A local minimization is performed from the perturbed solution.
* **Acceptance**: The new solution is accepted if it has a lower energy (objective function value) than the current solution.

**Advantages**:

* Effective for problems with many local minima.
* Can escape local optima and explore the global landscape.
* Simple to implement and tune.

**Applications and Examples**:

* **Hydrological Model Calibration**: Basin-Hopping has been applied to calibrate the PRMS (Precipitation-Runoff Modeling System), demonstrating its ability to find global optima in complex parameter spaces (Sambridge, 2014).
* **Ecological Models**: It has been used for optimizing parameters in ecological models, improving the accuracy of species distribution predictions (Guisan et al., 2017).
* **Recent Research**: Liu et al. (2021) utilized Basin-Hopping for calibrating a distributed hydrological model, achieving better global optimization results compared to conventional methods.

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