LANDIS-II Base Hurricane v2.0

Extension User Guide

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# Introduction

This document describes the **Base Hurricane** extension for the LANDIS-II model. For information about the model and its core concepts, see the *LANDIS‑II Conceptual Model Description.*

Base Hurricane models landscape-scale wind events (e.g., tropical cyclones) of varying strength making landfall along a coast. The model is concerned only with sustained wind. Rainfall, storm surge, tornadoes, or inland flooding are not modelled.

Mortalities are computed based on the maximum wind speed of the entire event. Though wind speeds in reality vary over the duration the event, only the maximum wind speed is considered for mortality computation. Other factors such as the effect of soil saturation may be considered to be included in the statistical representation of the Wind Speed Vulnerabilities table.

The terms "hurricane", "tropical cyclone", and "storm" are used interchangeably in this documentation.

## Hurricane Disturbances

During a hurricane time step, multiple tropical cyclone events may occur on the landscape. A storm which is generated by the model may hit the study area, but it may miss it. If a storm passes far enough away from the study area such that the maximum wind speed is too low, no damage is computed.

For any year, the number of wind events is randomly generated.

For each storm, initiation parameters are created: Landfall Latitude, Maximum Wind Speed at Landfall, and Storm Track Heading.

Based on these initiation parameters, a Maximum Wind Speed Field is generated on a continental grid, which is then used to compute maximum wind speed for each site of the study area.

Cohort mortality probabilities are computed based on cohort species and age compared to the maximum wind speed based on the Wind Speed Vulnerabilities table.

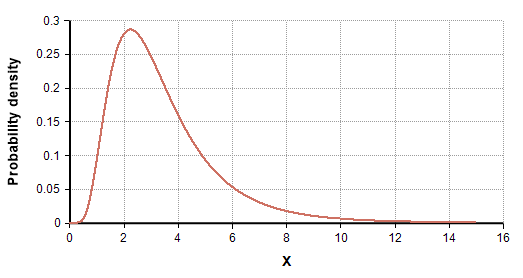
Base Hurricane does not provide a way to allow storm occurrence probabilities to change over time or to allow maximum wind speed over time.

## Modelling of Landfall Wind Speed

An important controlling parameter for the model is the maximum wind speed of the storm when it makes landfall. After landfall the wind speeds are assumed to decrease.

Each storm is assigned a random landfall wind speed on a log-normal distribution. The scale of these values is determined by three parameters set in the input file: LowBoundLandfallWindSpeed, ModeLandfallWindSpeed, and HighBoundLandfallWindSpeed.

The distribution is depicted in Figure 1 with labels for the three controlling values.



High Bound

Landfall Wind Speed

Mode Landfall Wind Speed

Low Bound

Landfall Wind Speed

Probability

Wind Speed

Figure 1: Log-Normal Distribution of Randomly Generated Landfall Wind Speed ValuesNote that the image for Figure 1 has been modified by revising the axes and adding labels. Modified from <http://wiki.analytica.com/index.php?title=File%3ALogNormal(median%3D3,stddev%3D2).png>

## Locating the Coast Line

To simulate large storms with a direction and width, it is necessary to spatially identify a ‘coastline’ that storms intersect before proceeding towards and into the study area. The coastline need not literally represent a coastline; it can be any plane through which storms travel before striking the study area (Figure 2).

The coastal center point (the average storm landfall location) is identified with an X and Y coordinate located within the study area. A coastal slope determines the relationship of the coast to the storm center point.

A storm can originate anywhere along the coastline (randomly selected from a normal distribution that describes the distribution of storms along the coastline) and will progress in a direction determined from a normal distribution.

## Major Releases

### Version 2.0

The first official release of Base Hurricane.

## Minor Releases

## Acknowledgements

Funding for the development of this LANDIS-II extension has been provided by the United States Department of Defense and the National Science Foundation.

# Input File

The input parameters for this extension are specified in one input file. This text file must comply with the general format requirements described in section 3.1 Text Input Files in the LANDIS-II Model User Guide.

## LandisData

This value of this parameter must be "Base Hurricane".

## Timestep

This parameter is the timestep of the hurricane extension. Value: integer > 0. Units: years.

## InputUnitsEnglish (boolean, optional)

InputUnitsEnglish, is optional. When present, it directs the model to interpret all wind speeds in the input file as statute miles per hour. It is a single word with no other parameters.

If the instruction is omitted, wind speeds in the input file are interpreted as kilometers per hour.

This instruction only impacts interpretation of speed in the Base Hurricane input file. Wind speeds reported in the .gis output file are in kilometers per hours in every case.

Internally all wind speeds are converted to kilometers per hour.

## HurricaneRandomNumberSeed (integer, optional)

New to LANDIS-II: The user can determine a random number seed that is separate from the Core random number seed. Doing so allows other stochastic events to vary separately from hurricanes. For example, the user might want all fires to remain the same while hurricanes varied or vice versa.

## StormOccurrenceProbabilities (table)

The number of storms which make landfall in a given year is determined with the Storm Occurrence Probabilities table. The number of storms is randomly generated at each time step. The probabilities should add up to 1.0

Column 1: Storms per year (integer)

Column 2: The probability of that number of storm.

An example:

>> Likelihood a given year will have this number of storms

>> On the US southeastern seaboard, based on 1979 -- 2018.

>> For climate change, adjust this table

StormOccurrenceProbabilities

>> Storms

>> Per

>> Year Probability << Sum must = 1.0

0 0.60

1 0.33

2 0.06

3 0.01

## Landfall Wind Speed

Landfall Wind Speed is randomly determined with parameters controlled by three input file variables.

### LowBoundLandfallWindSpeed (integer)

This is the lowest wind speed that a tropical cyclone may have.

### ModeLandfallWindSpeed (integer)

This is the most frequent wind speed that a tropical storm may have.

### HighBoundLandfallWindSpeed (integer)

This is the highest wind speed that a tropical storm may have.

## CenterPointLatitude (integer)

Latitude of the center point of the study area relative to the coastline is determined via:

LandfallLatitude = CenterPointLatitude \* UniformDouble + CenterPointDistance

## CenterPointDistance (integer)

Distance from the study area center point to the nearest point on the coast. Units are kilometers (or Miles if InputUnitsEnglish is set.)

## MeanStormDirection (integer)

The average storm direction in degrees. The heading of each storm is determined as:

StormTrackHeading = MeanStormDirection \* UniformDouble + MeanStormOffset

## MeanStormOffset (integer)

Storm offset in degrees.

## ExposureMaps (table)

New for version 2: The land surface can vary by exposure, dependent on wind direction. For example, a storm out of due south may affect north facing slopes to a lesser degree. Therefore a table is now required indicating a map and an associated degree. For each storm generated, the closest degree map will be used to modify wind speeds.

The map itself should contain nine (9) classes, each associated with a proportion reduction in wind speed (0.0 – 1.0). See exposure classes table??

The table has two columns (there is no header):

Column 1: Degree

Column 2: Map Name

## WindSpeedVulnerabilities (table)

High winds kill cohorts at different rates according to species and age. To represent this, the mortality probabilities are entered into the Wind Speed Vulnerabilities table, a segment of which is depicted here.

WindSpeedVulnerabilities

>> Species MaxAge Mortality Probabilities

LobPine 30 60:0.05 75:0.18 110:0.75 140:1.0

LobPine 60 60:0.1 75:0.23 110:0.75 140:1.0

LobPine 999 60:0.1 75:0.29 110:0.75 140:1.0

Column 1: The name of the species. This should be consistent with species names in the species txt file.

Column 2: The maximum cohort age in years for the given table row. The final row for any species should have a very high age (such as 999) to represent the oldest cohorts.

Column 3: Contains the colon-delimited pairs of values where the first number is the wind speed and second number is the probability of mortality. For example, a value of "60:0.05" means that site wind speeds of less than 60 kph (or mph if set to English) result in 5% cohort mortality.

## MapNames

This file parameter is the template for the names of the wind severity output maps. The parameter value must include the variable “timestep” to ensure that the maps have unique names (see section 3.1.8.1 Variables in the LANDIS-II Model User Guide). The user must indicate the file extension. The user must also include sub-directory name(s) as needed.

## LogFile

The file parameter is the name of the extension’s event log file.

# Output Files

The wind extension generates two types of output files: a) a map of maximum wind speed for each impacting storm, and b) a log of hurricane events for the entire scenario.

## Max Wind Speeds Maps

The max wind speeds map shows the maximum wind speed for each cell of the study area for a given storm, but only if that storm has impact on the study area.

## Hurricane Events Log

The event log is a comma-separated-value text file that contains information about every storm over the course of the scenario. Every storm is logged whether it impacts the study area or not. The following shows a few example lines from a Hurricane Events log:

Time,Year,Hnumber,LandfallLatitude,LandfallMaxWindSpeed,PathHeading,StudyAreaMaxWS,StudyAreaMinWS,ImpactsStudyArea,

2, 0, 1, 37.496244969, 184.59228, 287.20567103, 50.741793923, 50.118503489, No,

4, 3, 1, 33.328035624, 117.59228, 310.33885173, 95.055793432, 89.084047488, No,

6, 4, 1, 36.707886883, 99.59228, 321.156182736, 50.352382226, 49.772806788, No,

6, 4, 2, 33.718704734, 117.5922, 337.996077723, 102.67339822, 95.937507593, Yes,

In this example, the first three storms do not impact the study area because they are so far from it that the highest maximum wind speed is lower than the minimum impactful wind speed from the Wind Speed Vulnerabilities table. In year four, two storms made landfall, but only the second one impacts the study area.

Year 1 and year 2 have no rows because zero storms were generated for those years.

### Time

The time step of the given storm.

### Year

The year number of the given storm.

### HNumber

The hurricane number of the given storm in the current year.

### LandfallLatitude

The latitude where the given storm makes landfall (crosses the coast line).

### LandfallMaxWindSpeed

The wind speed of the given storm at the point of landfall.

### PathHeading

The direction (in Azimuth form) that the given storm takes as it progresses inland.

### StudyAreaMaxWindspeed

The highest maximum wind speed of any active site in the study area.

### StudyAreaMinWindspeed

The lowest maximum wind speed of any active site in the study area.

### ImpactsStudyArea

"Yes" if the given storm has a chance of causing any mortalities in the study area. "No" if it does not.

# Example Input File

LandisData "Base Hurricane"

Timestep 2

InputUnitsEnglish

>> Likelihood a given year will have this number of storms

StormOccurrenceProbabilities

>> Storms

>> Per

>> Year Probability << Sum must = 1.0

0 0.60

1 0.33

2 0.06

3 0.01

>> Max Wind Speed at Landfall is on a log normal distribution

LowBoundLandfallWindSpeed 42 >> mph

>> For climate change, adjust these two upwards

ModeLandfallWindSpeed 74 >> mph

HighBoundLandfallWindSpeed 150 >> mph Values greater than this are recomputed, so it truncates here.

>> Study area location (Center point of the raster)

>> These are for Fort Bragg

CenterPointLatitude 35.11 << decimal degrees

CenterPointDistanceInland 100 << miles

WindSpeedVulnerabilities

>> Species MaxAge Mortality Probabilities

LobPine 30 60:0.05 75:0.18 110:0.75 140:1.0

LobPine 60 60:0.1 75:0.23 110:0.75 140:1.0

LobPine 999 60:0.1 75:0.29 110:0.75 140:1.0

LongleafPine 30 60:0.05 75:0.18 110:0.75 140:1.0

LongleafPine 60 60:0.1 75:0.23 110:0.75 140:1.0

LongleafPine 999 60:0.1 75:0.29 110:0.75 140:1.0

ShortPine 30 60:0.05 75:0.18 110:0.75 140:1.0

ShortPine 60 60:0.1 75:0.23 110:0.75 140:1.0

ShortPine 999 60:0.1 75:0.29 110:0.75 140:1.0

SlashPine 30 60:0.05 75:0.18 110:0.75 140:1.0

SlashPine 60 60:0.1 75:0.23 110:0.75 140:1.0

SlashPine 999 60:0.1 75:0.29 110:0.75 140:1.0

WhiteOak 20 60:0.01 75:0.05 95:0.45 110:1.0

WhiteOak 60 60:0.01 75:0.10 95:0.55 110:1.0

WhiteOak 999 60:0.1 75:0.30 95:0.65 110:1.0

TurkeyOak 20 60:0.01 75:0.05 95:0.45 110:1.0

TurkeyOak 60 60:0.01 75:0.10 95:0.55 110:1.0

TurkeyOak 999 60:0.05 75:0.30 95:0.65 110:1.0

SweetGum 20 60:0.01 86:0.06 110:0.45 140:1.0

SweetGum 90 60:0.01 86:0.06 110:0.45 140:1.0

SweetGum 999 60:0.01 86:0.06 110:0.45 140:1.0

RedMaple 30 60:0.1 75:0.50 110:0.86 140:1.0

RedMaple 50 60:0.1 75:0.80 110:0.86 140:1.0

RedMaple 999 60:0.1 75:0.80 110:0.86 140:1.0

TulipTree 30 60:0.1 75:0.50 110:0.833 140:1.0

TulipTree 50 60:0.1 75:0.80 110:0.833 140:1.0

TulipTree 999 60:0.1 75:0.80 110:0.833 140:1.0

>> >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

MapNames hurricane/maxWindspeeds-{timestep}.gis

LogFile hurricane/hurlog.csv