

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Baoxiang Pan

Ph.D. Applicant

The unpaved muddy yard after a heavy summer rain is the heaven of earthworms, toads, plants and my childhood's imagination. The inherent inclination to the beauty of nature mystically led me to the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources when I was choosing field to major in. The academic training during the past 6 years tells that nature will not reveal its true beauty without one's tireless work in decoding it. The academic life is not as cosy as I have imagined, but I hold a strong determination to continue this hard way because of the challenges and their aesthetic returns.

As is depicted in my Github time bar, the probable track of my academic interests could be roughly divided into two forks, with one focusing on hydrological data analysis and the other on hydrological simulation. The idea that well-organized data could reveal mechanism(model) while models could compress data in turn is widely accepted but only imprecisely described. Among all the related research works, I believe the series works by Doctor Steve Weijs, Professor Marc Parlange from EPFL make the most theoretically gracious contribution to unifying the two fields.

An important section of my graduate thesis is to apply the information-theory-based framework to estimate the information of hydrological observations and their connections across temporal scales. The primary results responds to the temporal upscaling scheme of stochastic process descriptions of catchment hydrological patterns as is clarified in the former chapter. I can not appreciate more for the theoretical foundations lay by the pioneers in EPFL.

The AGU 2014 fall meeting offered me a chance to make a close look at the world geoscience community. The face-to-face communication with Steve, together with the flourishing academic atmosphere, greatly reinforced my determination to make my contribution to this field. I want to expand the hydrological information-analysis work to the frequency domain to distinguish the impacts of periodicity in hydrological simulation. I want to make analogy and comparison between the ideas from Shannon and Kolmogorov in detecting information of systems. I want to know the connection between the information framework and the classic Bayesian framework in hydrological simulation diagnosis. I want to figure out the elastic factors that determine the long-term hydrological patterns based on catchment stochastic descriptions. I want to find out if these ideas are too naïve or of some value through discussions with Hoshin and many other research colleagues. I want to gain my position in the academic community.

The intolerance of math misapplication and sloppily-formulated programming has delayed my research work from publication. It's time to put down the reservedness and hone the ideas through discussion in the community in the forefront of the field. I sincerely look forward your favourable consideration regarding my application to the Ph.D. program.

Best wishes.