DATA SET DESCRIPTION

Hourly station observations of solar incoming (total/diffuse) and longwave downward radiation for Germany

Version recent

Cite data set as: DWD Climate Data Center (CDC): Hourly station observations of solar incoming (total/diffuse) and longwave downward radiation for Germany, version recent, last accessed: <date>.

INTENT OF THE DATASET

These data are derived from DWD stations and legally and qualitatively equivalent partner stations operated for climatological and climate related applications. Comprehensive station metadata (station relocation, instrument change, time zones, change of algorithms) are included.

POINT OF CONTACT

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DATA DESCRIPTION

Spatial coverage stations in Germany

Temporal coverage 01.01.1937 - month before last month

Temporal resolution hourly

Format(s) The station observations (produkt_*.txt) are zipped together with the station metadata. The latter are given in *.txt as well as *.html. The file Metadaten_Parameter* contains a listing of the parameters measured at the station (the parameter portfolio) with begin, end, units, measurement procedures, averaging formulas, measurement times and applied time units (e.g., MOZ or UTC) which are all related to the Station Id and the station name valid now. The instrument history is sorted according to the parameters (see file Metadaten_Geraete*). There the history of sensor height, type of instrument and measurement procedure is given, together with the historical station names. The station ID is unique and does not change over time. For a convenient documentation of station name change, see Metadaten_Stationsname*. The geographical metadata of the station (longitude, latitude, height) is listed in Metadaten_Geographie*.txt together with the Stations_id and the current station name. All these information is combined into a single zip-file for each station: *_[Stations_id]_[from]_[to]_hist.zip An overview over all stations with start and end dates is given in the station list: Stationsliste. Note that for convenience, the list comprises not only stations given here, but also stations with more complicated copyright regulations which may be obtained for certain applications, requiring discussion with the point of contact.

Parameters The file produkt*.txt contains:

STATIONS_ID	station identification number	
MESS_DATUM	end of interval in UTC	yyyymmddhh:mm
QN_592	quality level of next columns	coding see paragraph "Quality information"

ATMO_STRAHL	hourly sum of longwave downward radiation	J/cm^2
FD_STRAHL	hourly sum of diffuse solar radiation	J/cm^2
FG_STRAHL	hourly sum of solar incoming radiation	J/cm^2
SD_STRAHL	hourly sum of sunshine duration	min
ZENITH	solar zenith angle at mid of interval	degree
MESS_DATUM_WOZ	end of interval in local true solar time	yyyymmddhh:mm
eor	end of record	can be ignored

with missing values are marked as -999. The solar zenith angle is between 0-180 and is related to solar height with: SONNENZENIT=90-solar_height. The solar incoming radiation includes the direct and the diffuse part of the solar radiation with respect to the horizontal plane. It is sometimes also referred to as "shortwave", including the solar spectrum up to 2.8 micron, as opposed to "longwave" , which refers to the thermal radiation of the atmosphere.

Uncertainties

The stations are nowadays selected and operated according to WMO guidelines. Though these guidelines aim at minimizing possible local effects, still some applications of certain parameters may require the consideration of local and regional effects. Note that when going back to historical times, such guidelines might not have been in place. Depending on the application, local, regional and influences changing with time should be considered, which can be location- and parameter specific. Sources of long-term uncertainty are (1) changes in station height when station was re-located, information on this is within the station's zip-files in Metadaten_Geographie* ; (2) changes in the observation times and (3) changes in the averaging interval. Details on (2) and (3) can be found in the stationwise zipped Metadaten_Parameter*. Uncertainties are also expected from (4) changes in instrumentation, see Metadaten_Geraete* and possibly also from (5) varying quality control procedures (Behrendt et al., 2011). Further, uncertainties are known to come from (6) errors during data transfer or errors in the software, (7) change of observing personnel, and (8) others, see Freydank, 2014 .

Quality information

The quality levels "Qualitätsniveau" (QN) given here apply for the respective following columns. The values are the minima of the QN of the respective daily values. QN denotes the method of quality control, with which erroneous values are identified and apply for the whole set of parameters at a certain time. For the individual parameters there exist quality bytes in the internal DWD data base, which are not published here. Values identifed as wrong are not published. Various methods of quality control (at different levels) are employed to decide which value is identified as wrong. In the past, different procedures have been employed. The quality procedures are coded as following:
quality level (column header: QN_)
1- only formal control during decoding and import
2- controlled with individually defined criteria
3- ROUTINE control with QUALIMET and QCSY
5- historic, subjective procedures
7- ROUTINE control, not yet corrected
8- quality control outside ROUTINE
9- ROUTINE control, not all parameters corrected
10- ROUTINE control finished, respective corrections finished

DATA ORIGIN

These climate data are from the station networks of Deutschen Wetterdienst which are regularly updated with recent data, and with recovered historical data. From 1997 onwards, the data are collected in the central MIRAKEL data base and archived, see Behrendt et al., 2011, and Kaspar et al., 2013. For details on the currently applied measurement and observation procedures see VuB 3 Beobachterhandbuch (DWD, 2014a), VuB 3 Technikerhandbuch (DWD, 2014b) and VuB 2 Wetterschlüsselhandbuch (DWD, 2013). Note that when going back to historical times, guidelines on observation procedure, instruments and observation times were issued by the authority in charge, and might be incompletely recorded in the metadata.

VALIDATION AND UNCERTAINTY ESTIMATE

Considerations of quality assurance are explained in Becker and Behrens, 2012, see also Long und Dutton, 2002: several steps of quality control, including automatic tests for completeness, temporal and internal consistency, and against statistical thresholds based on the software QualiMet (see Spengler, 2002) and manual inspection had been applied. Data are provided “as observed”, no

homogenization has been carried out. The history of instrumental design, observation practice, and possibly changing representativity has to be considered for the individual stations when interpreting changes in the statistical properties of the time series. It is strongly suggested to investigate the records of the station history which are provided together with the data. Note that in the 1990s many stations had the transition from manual to automated stations, entailing possible changes in certain statistical properties.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPLICATIONS

When investigating long term changes or trends, consider changes in station location, changes in instrumentation, measurement procedures and observation intervals - see the various metadata information provided Metadaten_Parameter*, Metadaten_Geraete* und Metadaten_Geographie*. Starting in the nineties, the metadata are electronically recorded and provided together with the station measurements. For the time before, efforts are continuing to digitize the most relevant metadata based on the paper records however, many gaps are still remaining. For detailed studies, DWD can grant access to the station records.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There are still issues to be discovered in the historical data. We welcome any hints to improve the data basis (see contact).

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REVISION HISTORY

This document is maintained by the Climate Data Center (CDC) of DWD, last edited 19.12.2018.