

Poyang lake water level change trend in nearly 60 years*

Ying-Ying Lan

*Academy of Hydraulic and Ecology Engineering,
Nanchang Institute of Technology,
Nanchang, China.
E-mail: lan-yy@163.com*

Represented by the Xingzi Station, it was studied that the Poyang Lake water level change trend in nearly 60 years. The improved MK test and homogeneity test are used to detect trend and change points in the series of maximum and minimum water levels. Furthermore, the relationship among extreme water levels, precipitation and human activities are discussed. Some meaningful results are obtained as follows. There are an abrupt change late 1960s and early 2000s about all of the low water level (LWL) and high water level (HWL). This is consistent with the regional precipitation changing trend and human activities. LWL and HWL rose significantly in 1995~2003 and 1982-2002 respectively. The region rainfall has a clear upward trend in the 80's and 90's. Many hydraulic projects play a role such as the Three Gorges Dam after 2000s. Those levels were consistent with the regional precipitation changing trend and human activities.

Keywords: Mann-Kendall test; Trend Analysis; Time Series; Poyang Lake.

1. Introduction

In recent years with growing concerns over environmental degradation and about the implications of green-house gases on the environment, researchers and practitioners have frequently applied the non-parametric Mann-Kendall (MK) statistical test[1,2] to detect trend in recorded hydrologic time series such as water level, stream flow, and precipitation time series. Trend analysis has proved to be a useful tool for effective water resources planning, design, and management since trend detection of hydrological variables such as stream flow and precipitation provides useful information on the possibility of change tendency of the variables in the future. The MK test is one of the most popularly applied tests to detect trends in hydrologic time series. Water level change is the lake important hydrological process and dynamic reflection of water balance, that has the important influence to water quality, sediment, aquatic organisms

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and so on factors of ecological environment. Poyang Lake as one of the most significant lakes on the earth and the largest fresh water lake of China that water level descending in dry period goes to the extent of leading to drought and many ecological problems. Hydrologic time series contains abound of information on hydrological systems, it is not only evolved previous hydrological events, and can be used to predict future patterns and trends [3].

2. Background

Poyang Lake locates at the middle and lower reaches, south bank of Yangtze River, within the northern territory of Jiangxi province, between 115°49"-116°46" East longitude and 28°24"-29°46" North latitude. As one of the few lakes that are still freely connected with the river, it plays an important role in the maintenance of the unique biota of the Yangtze floodplain ecosystem. Ecosystem services in Poyang Lake area mainly refer to the services of ecological systems and the natural capital stocks, which is critical to the functioning of the Earth's life-support system in Poyang Lake area. It means that the ecological, environmental and social benefits from the ecosystem of Poyang Lake area satisfy people [4]. The climate is monsoonal with a mean annual air temperature of 17.2°C, mean annual evaporation of 1184 mm, and mean annual precipitation of 1482.3 mm. Poyang Lake had been shrinking in dry season when Xingzi station (Figure 1) water level decent from 21.6 m to 6 m, the water area decent from 5000 km² to 600 km². In winter, the lake resembles a river, retaining a water area only 5% of its largest area. Undoubtedly, many factors effect on current situation and cause this trend exacerbating, such as demographic developments, anthropogenic, agricultural developments, water resources management and dams, natural and climatic factors. So it is very urgent to analysis changing trend of Poyang Lake water level for proper management and control.

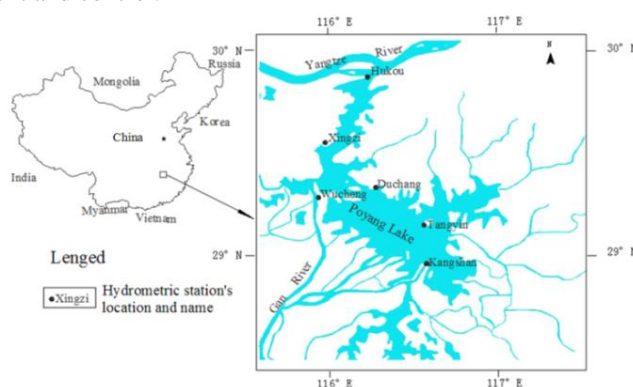


Fig. 1. Poyang Lake hydrological station distribution

3. Methodology

The data is collected during the period from 1953 to 2010. The hydrological parameters (daily data) are collected from the hydrological stations of Jiangxi province, China. The meteorological parameters (daily data) are collected from China Meteorological Department.

The MK test is a non-parametric trend analysis for identifying the increasing and decreasing pattern in time series of the data. It compares the relative magnitudes of sample data rather than the data values themselves [5]. The data values evaluated as ordered time series are compared with all subsequent data values. If a data value from a later time period is higher than a data value from an earlier time period, the statistic S_k is incremented by 1. On the other hand, if the data value from a later time period is lower than a data value sampled earlier, S_k is decremented by 0. The net result of all these increments and decrements yields the final value of S_k [6,7,8,9]. The MK test statistic S_k is computed as:

$$S_k = \sum_{i=1}^k r_i \quad (k = 2, 3, \dots, n)$$

$$r_i = \begin{cases} +1 & x_i > x_j \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, i) \\ 0 & x_i \leq x_j \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, i) \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where x_j and x_k are the annual values in different years j and k , $j > k$, respectively.

$$UF_k = \frac{[S_k - E(S_k)]}{\sqrt{Var(S_k)}} \quad (k=1, 2, \dots, n) \quad (2)$$

$UF_1=0$, $E(S_k)$, $Var(S_k)$ is the mean and variance of accumulative S_k . they are independent of each other in x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n . They can be calculated by the next formula if they are with the same continuous distribution.

$$E(S_k) = \frac{n(n+1)}{4} \quad (3)$$

$$Var(S_k) = \frac{n(n-1)(2n+5)}{72} \quad (4)$$

UF_i is the standard normal distribution, is the sequence of statistics calculated flowing the time series. Given the significant level α , if $UF_i > U_\alpha$, indicates the sequence there is an obvious trend. According to the time sequence x reverse x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_1 , Repeat the above process, and made $UB_k = -UF_k$, $k=n, n-1, \dots, 1$, $UB=0$. The advantage of this method is not only the calculation is simple, and can clear the starting time of the mutation, and points out that the mutation area. That is a kind of common mutation detection method. Calculation steps:

(1) Calculate the order column sequence of time series s_k , and UF_k

(2) Calculating reverse the order of time sequence s_k , and UB_k

(3) Given the level of significance, $\alpha=0.5$, and the critical value $u_{0.5}=1.96$

That indicates that sequence is on the rise if UF_k or UB_k greater than zero. Or not it indicates a downward trend. When they exceed the critical line, show that rising or falling trend is obvious. Onset of mutation is outside the range of critical path for the area. If two lines of UF_k and UB_k appear intersection, and the intersection between the critical paths, then the node corresponding to the moment is the starting time of the mutation.

4. Analysis and Results

From the overall change trend, there are an abrupt change late 1960s and early 2000s about all of the low water level (LWL) (Figure 2 (a)) high water level (HWL) (Figure 2 (b)). As for temporal changes, there is a slightly increasing trend in both the LWL and HWL between 1968~2009, but rising trend is not obvious. LWL and HWL presented a downward trend between 1953~1968. LWL and HWL rose significantly in 1995~2003 and 1982~2002 respectively. What's more, the temporal variations of annual LWL are bigger than those of the HWL. The region rainfall has a clear upward trend in the 80's and 90's. Many hydraulic projects play a role such as the Three Gorges Dam after 2000s. Those levels were consistent with the regional precipitation changing trend and human activities.

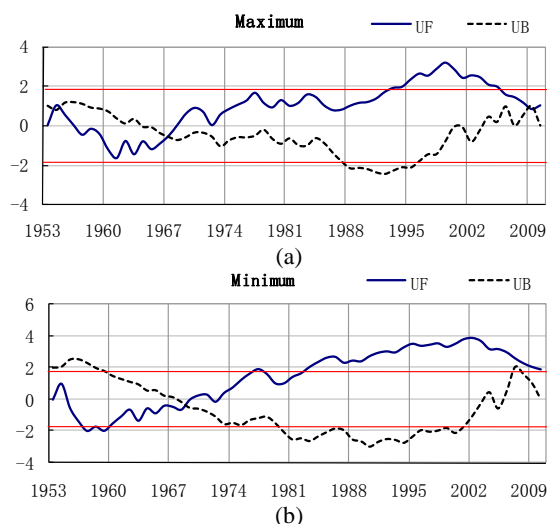


Fig. 2. Calculation data and MK calculation results

5. Conclusions

The paper comes to the conclusion that there are differences between the

characteristics of extreme water level changes and rainfall variations in the study region, and anthropogenic influence have played more and more important roles in the process of water level changes, while human activities also have a certain impact.

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