

Letters in applied hydrology



Duncan W Reed

Health warning!

The book is full of puns
(jeux de mots)

It all depends
~~what you~~
~~mean~~
~~median~~

It all depends

- Correlation is an association between variables.
- “**Dependence**” has a less rigid meaning: helpful when thinking more widely about relationships.
- **Inter-site dependence** is the tendency for behaviour at one site to be linked to behaviour at another.
- I want to show you that studying dependence in extremes can be interesting & relevant!

Some problems that involve dependence

1. Effectiveness of the conjunctive use of water resources

Integrated water management

<http://www.ciwem.org/policy-and-international/current-topics/water-management/integrated-water-management.aspx>

- “Water transfer between river basins can ... result in ecological stress and change. However different river systems can have different hydrological regimes.”
- “The Thames is largely groundwater-driven whereas the larger and less developed Severn obtains most of its runoff from the mountains of Wales.”
- “The risk of a drought occurring in both at the same time is low.”

Some problems that involve dependence

1. Effectiveness of the conjunctive use of water resources
2. Clustering of events in time, especially spatially extensive extreme events



Temporal dependence in extremes

Date	Country	Insured loss, USDm, at 2011 prices
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<http://media.swissre.com/documents/Flood.pdf>

July–Nov 2011	Thailand	12 000
Aug 2002	Germany & Czech Republic	2 900
Jun 2007	United Kingdom	2 700
Aug 2005	Switzerland	2 400
Jan 2011	Australia	2 300
Jul–Aug 1997	Poland & Czech Republic	2 200
Jul 2007	United Kingdom	2 000
Dec 2010	Australia	2 100
Apr 1993	United States	1 900
Jun–Aug 1993	United States	1 600

Top 10
insured
fresh-
water
floods in
history

Some problems that involve dependence

1. Effectiveness of the conjunctive use of water resources
2. Clustering of events in time, especially spatially extensive extreme events
3. Understanding the **structure** of dependence in floods within/between river basins



Spatial structure of dependence in Yorkshire Ouse

Symbols plotted at catchment centroids

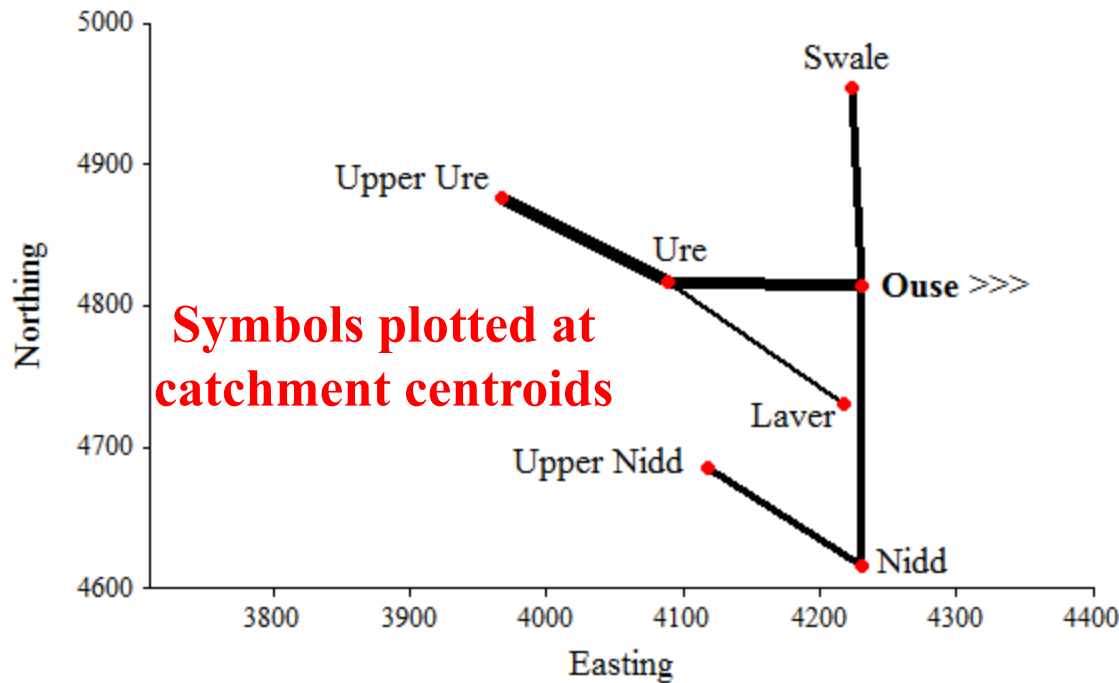
UK National River Flow Archive
<http://www.ceh.ac.uk/data/nrfa>
© NERC (CEH) 2012. For Great Britain: Contains Ordnance Survey and database right 2012.

Ouse at York



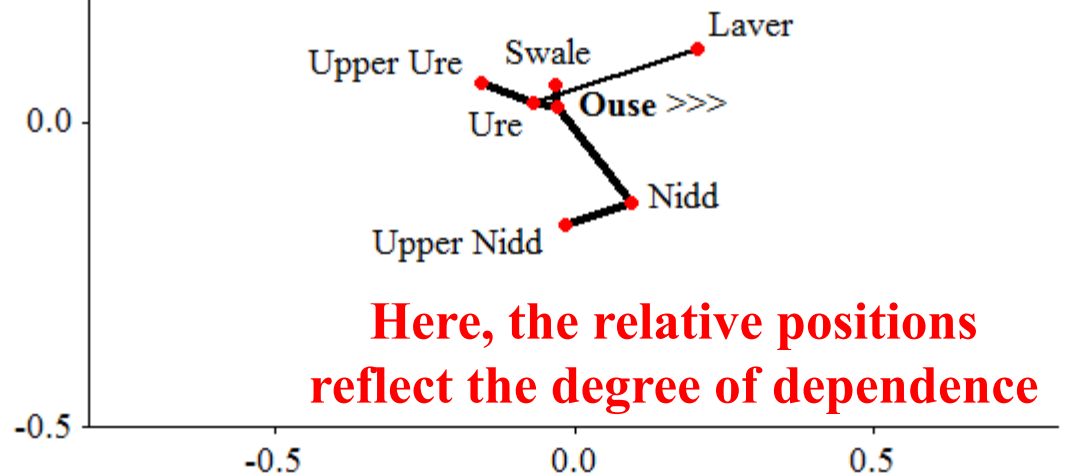
Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

<http://www.ceh.ac.uk/data/nrfa/data/spatialdata.html?27009>



Spatial structure of dependence in Yorkshire Ouse

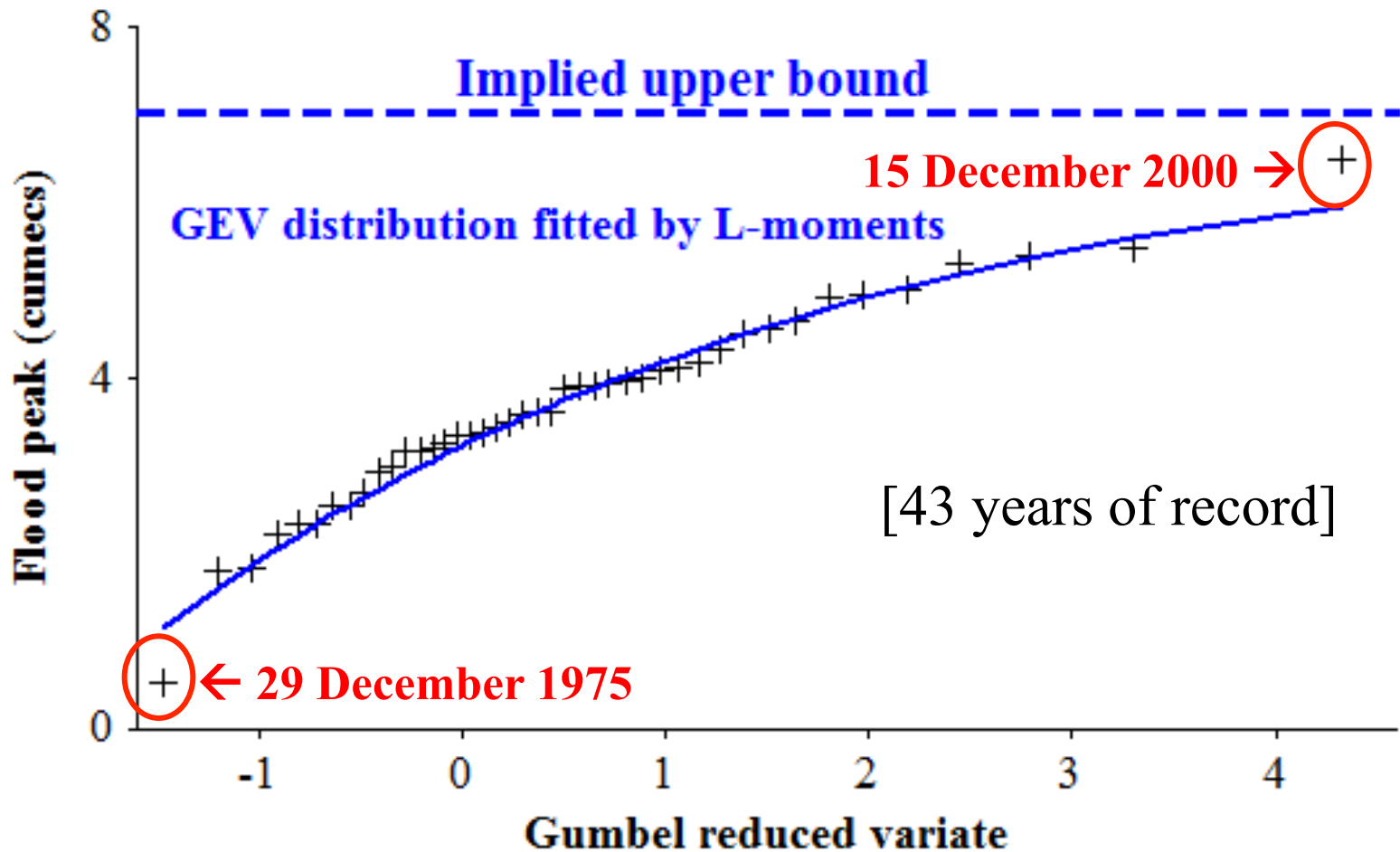
Technique used is multi-dimensional scaling



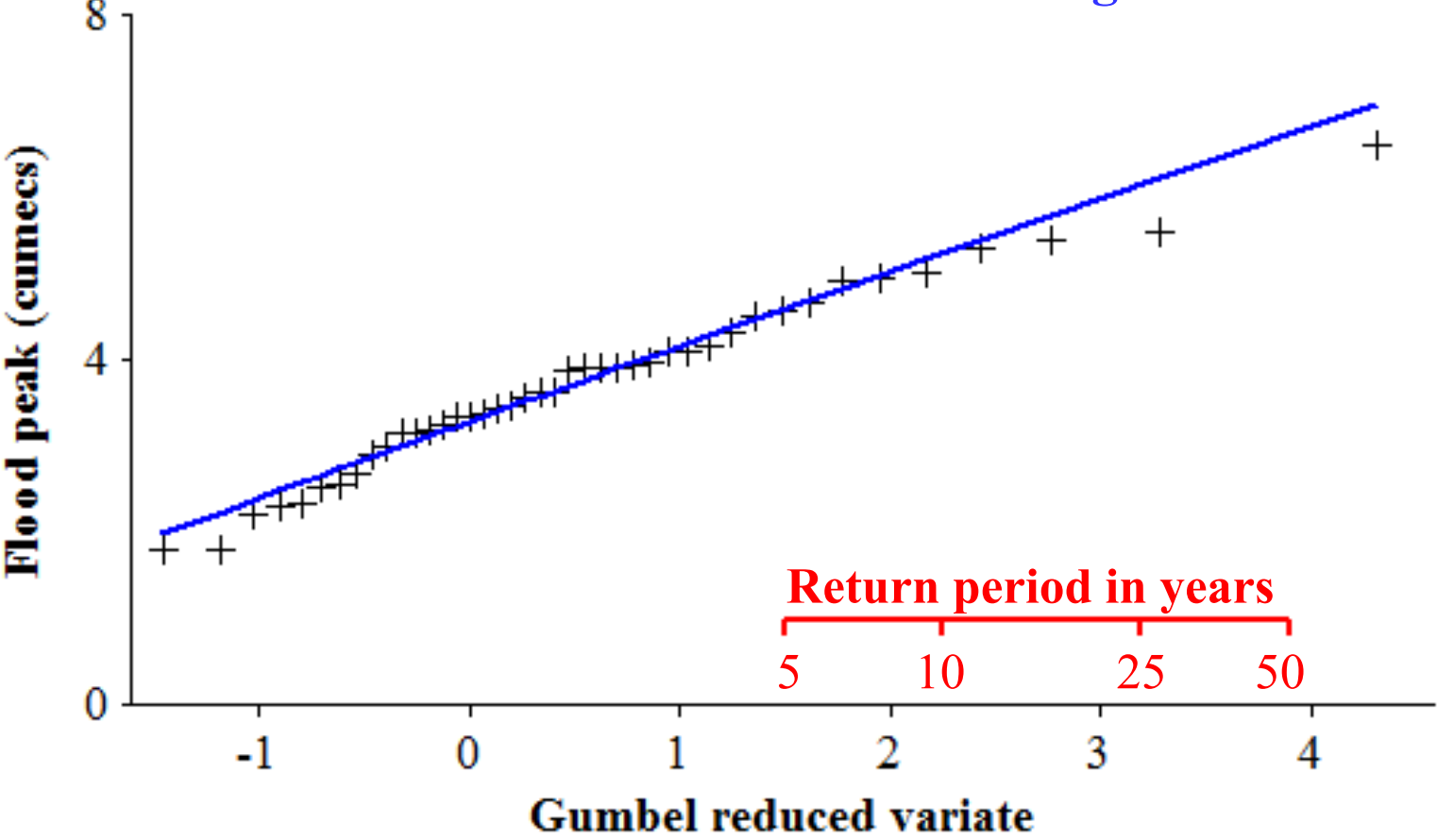
Annual maximum (AM) analysis

- The AM series is natural and convenient. It has a frequency statement built-in. There is exactly one annual maximum per year!
- But why do we analyse AM series rather than 2-year or 5-year maxima?
- Because we are taught to “use all the data” and do not want to omit an important 2nd ranking event.
- The penalty is that we sometimes include non-events.

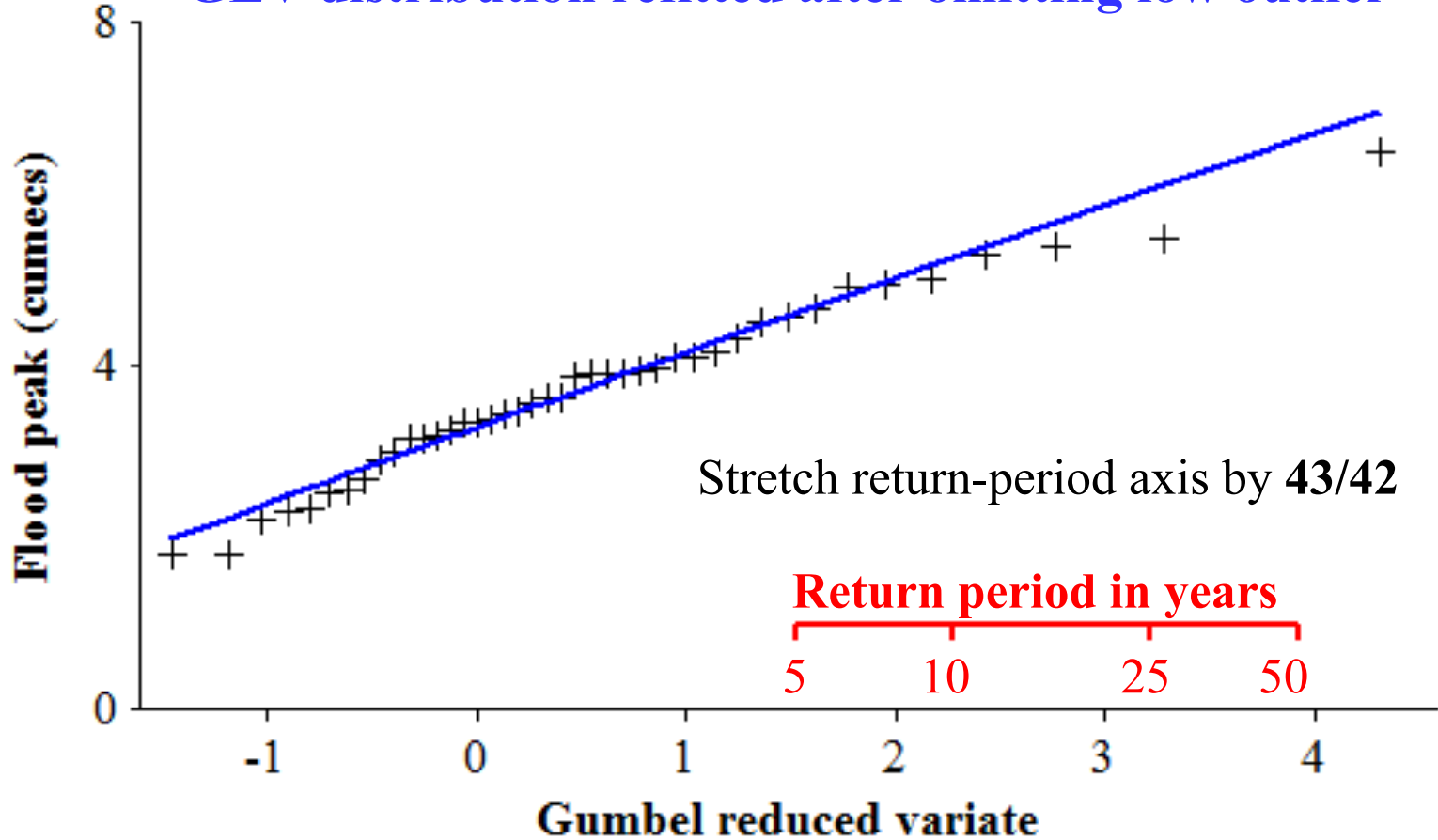
Flood frequency analysis, Coln at Bibury



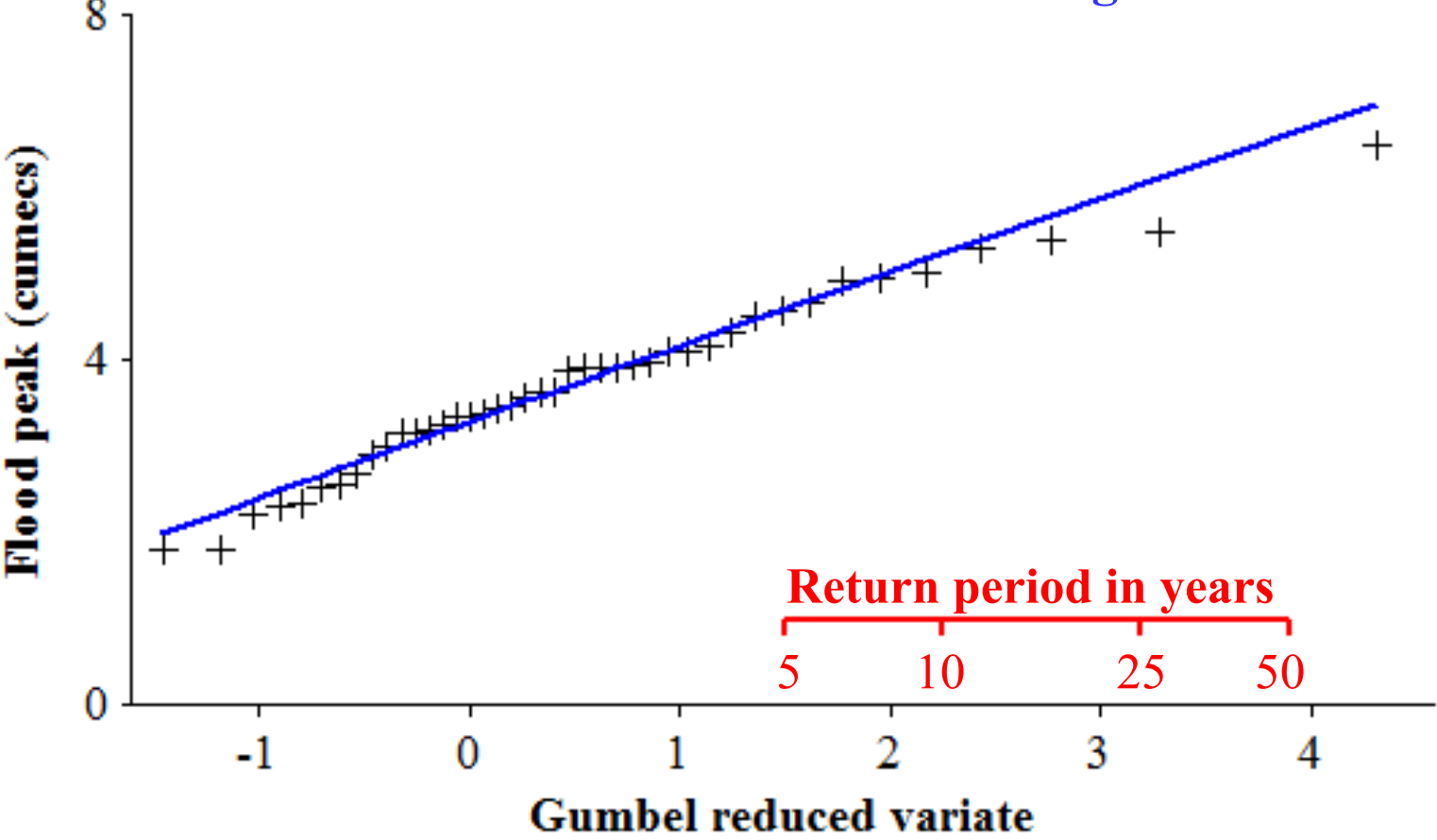
GEV distribution refitted after omitting low outlier



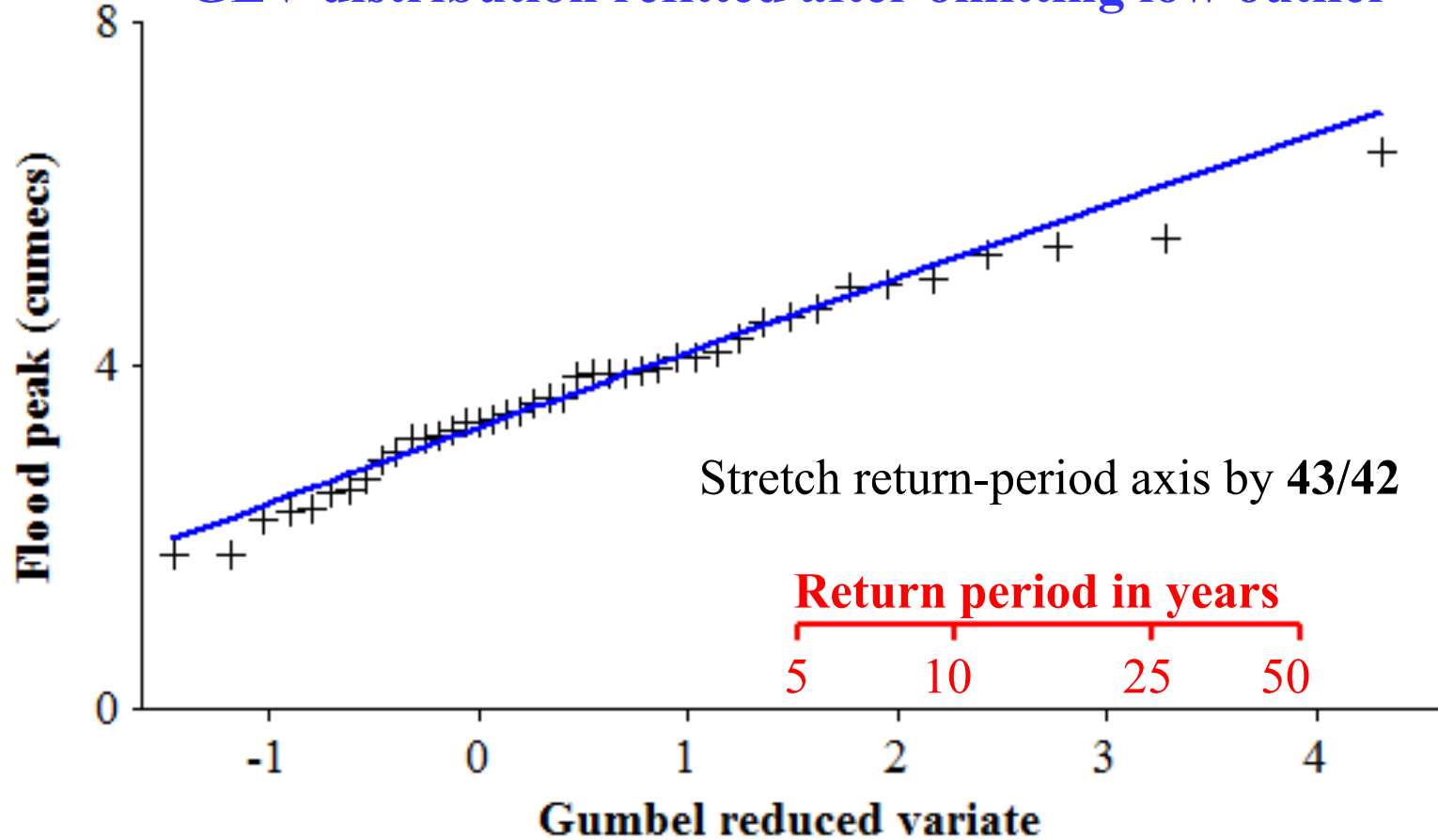
GEV distribution refitted after omitting low outlier



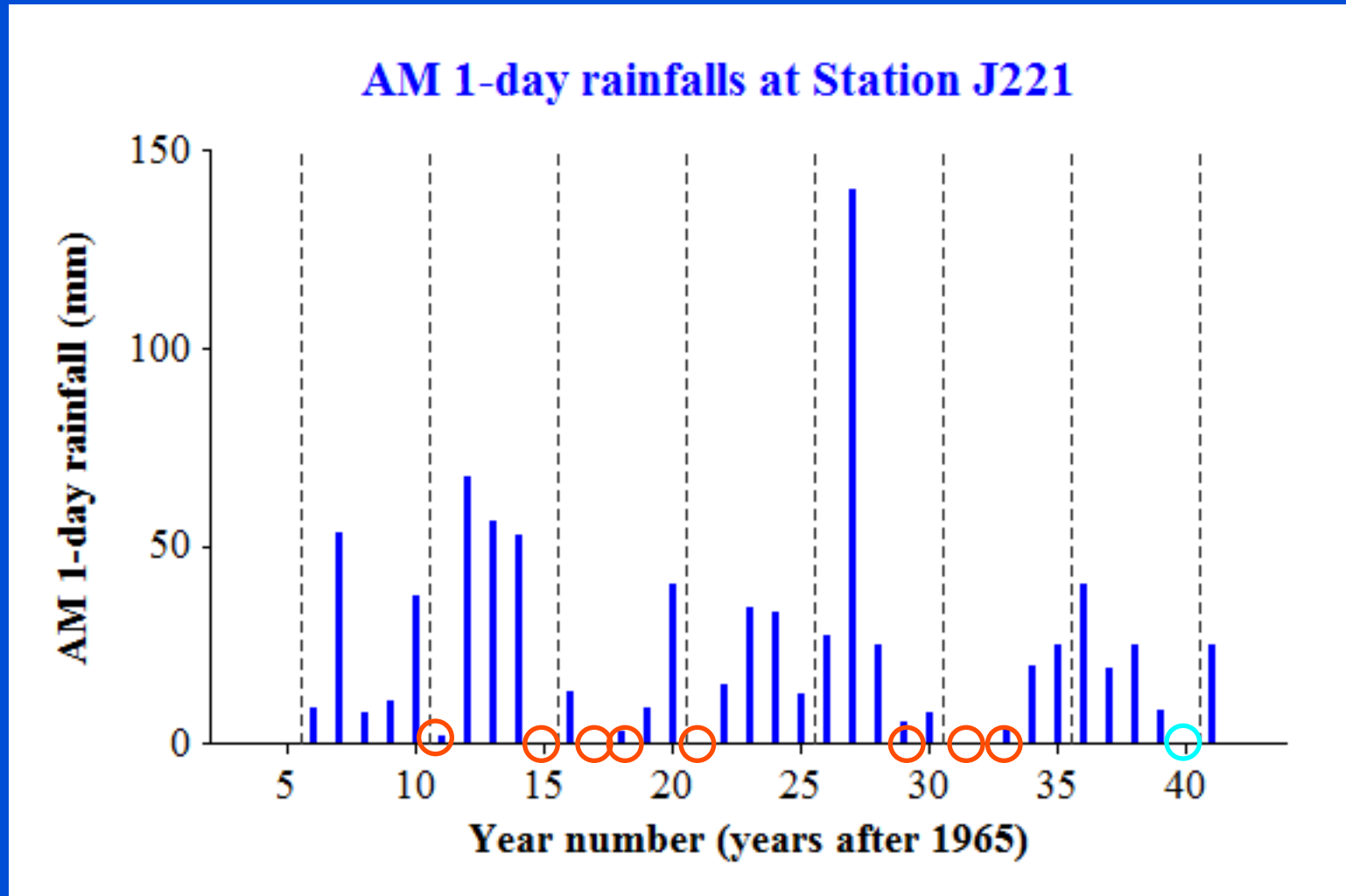
GEV distribution refitted after omitting low outlier



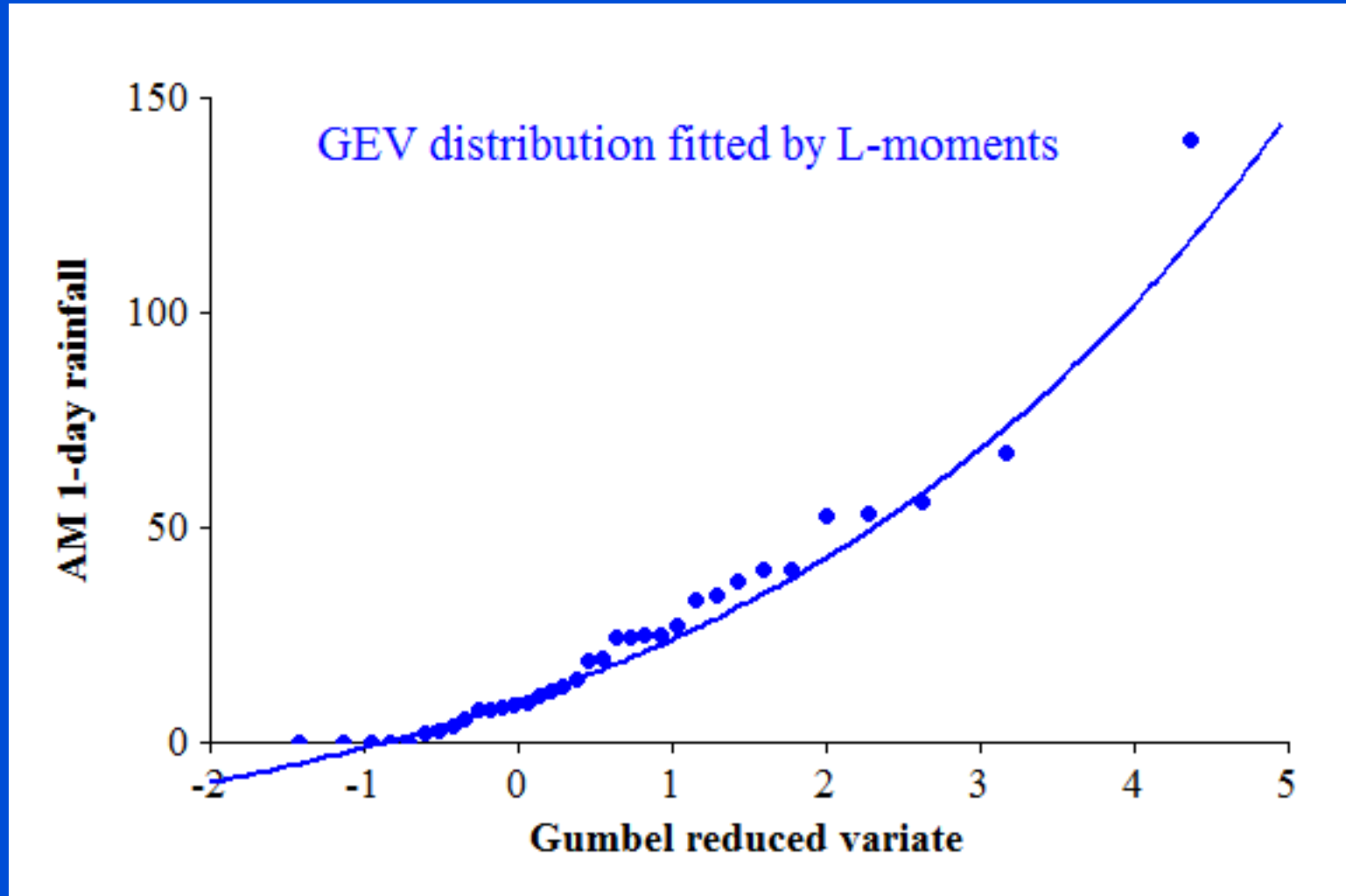
GEV distribution refitted after omitting low outlier



AM rainfalls in an arid zone

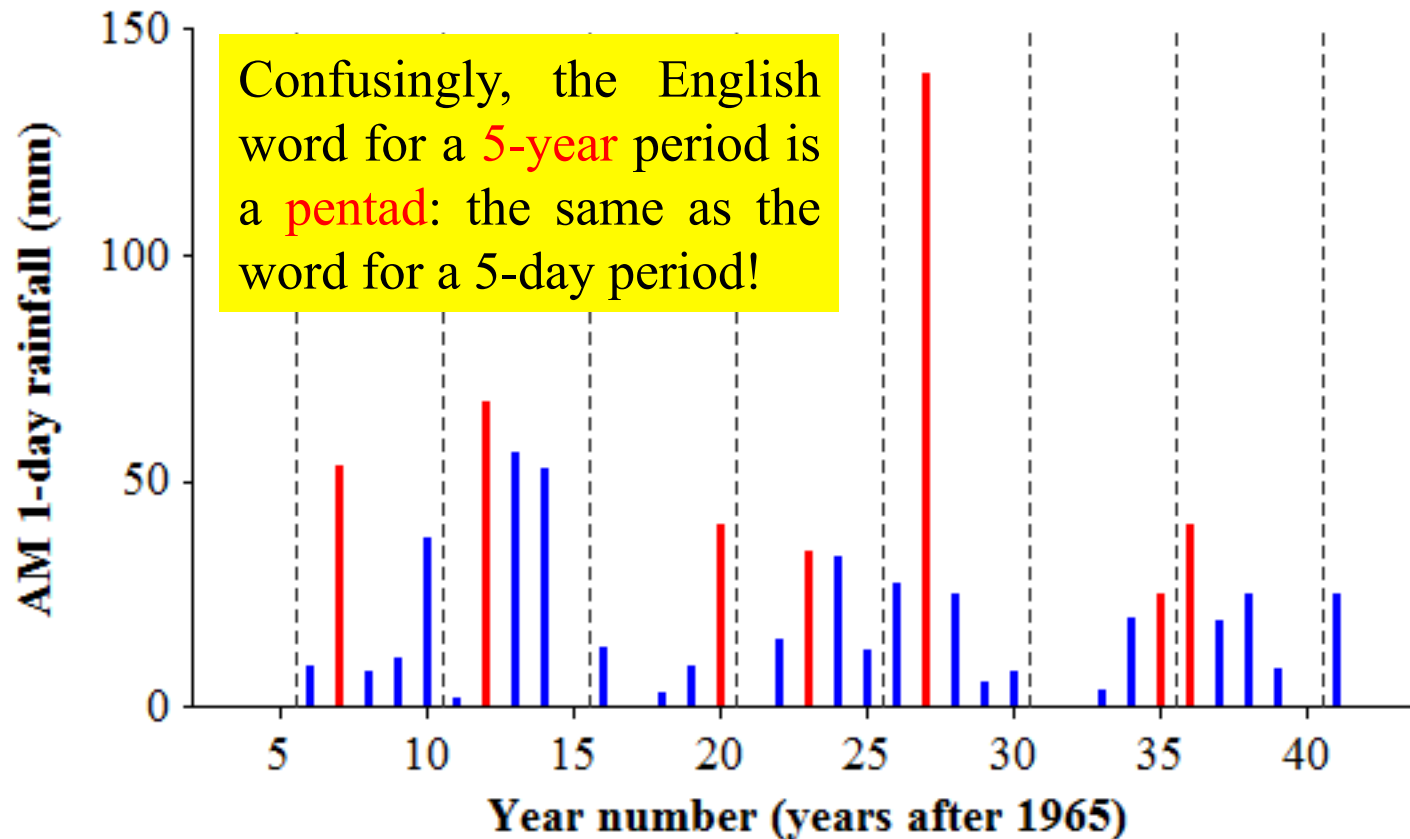


Rainfall frequency analysis (AM series)

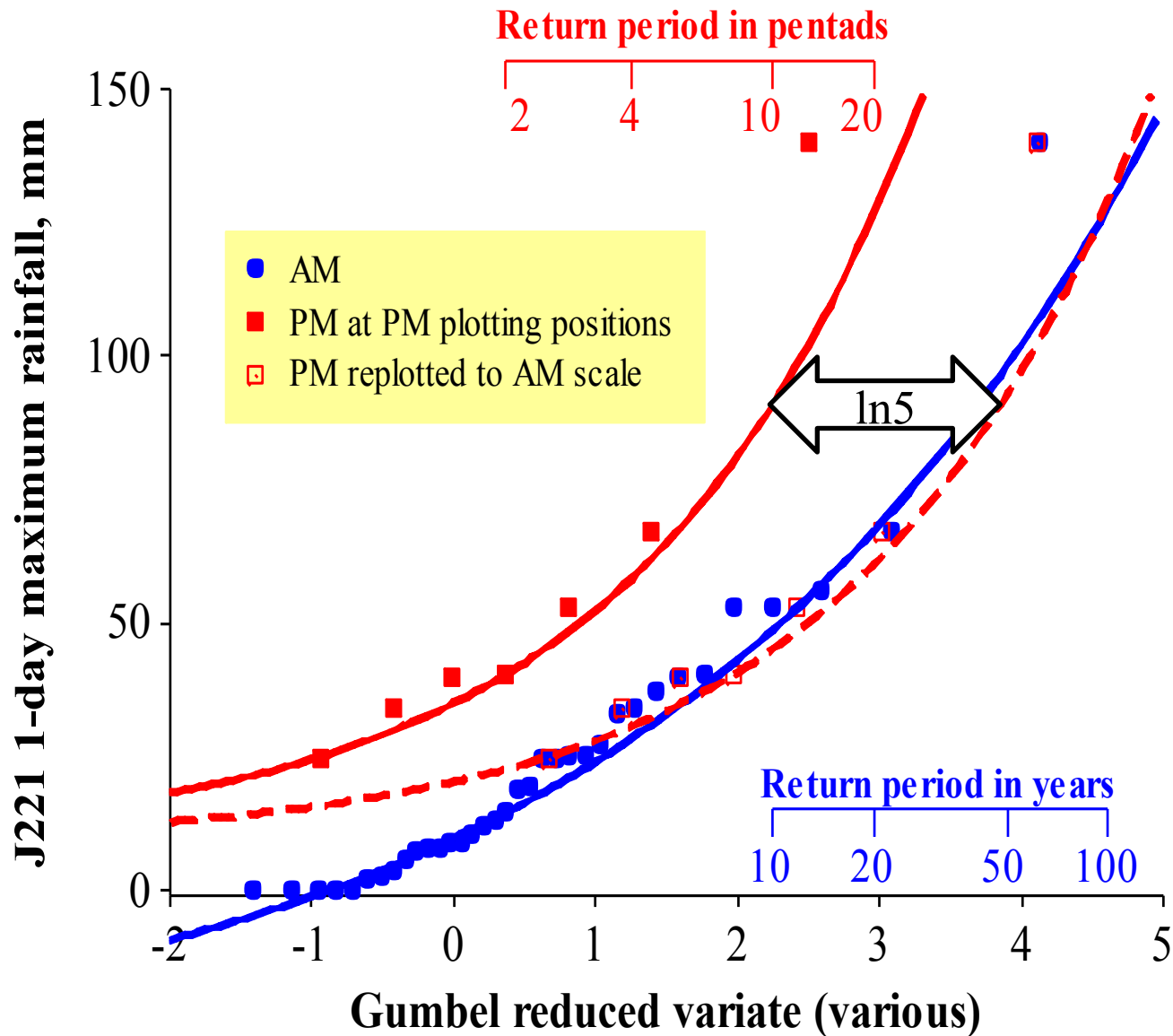


PM rainfalls in an arid zone

AM 1-day rainfalls with Pentad Maxima highlighted



AM analysis v PM analysis



Inter-site dependence in extremes

- The estimation of rare extremes often calls for **pooling** data from catchments judged similar to the subject cat^t.
- There is dependence in AM values across the network.
- If the network is dense, the dependence will be strong. More typically, the network is sparse and dependence is mild.
- A degree of dependence is good news! Were there no dependence in the extreme values being pooled, it is likely that the catchments are **insufficiently similar** for their behaviour to be relevant to the subject site!

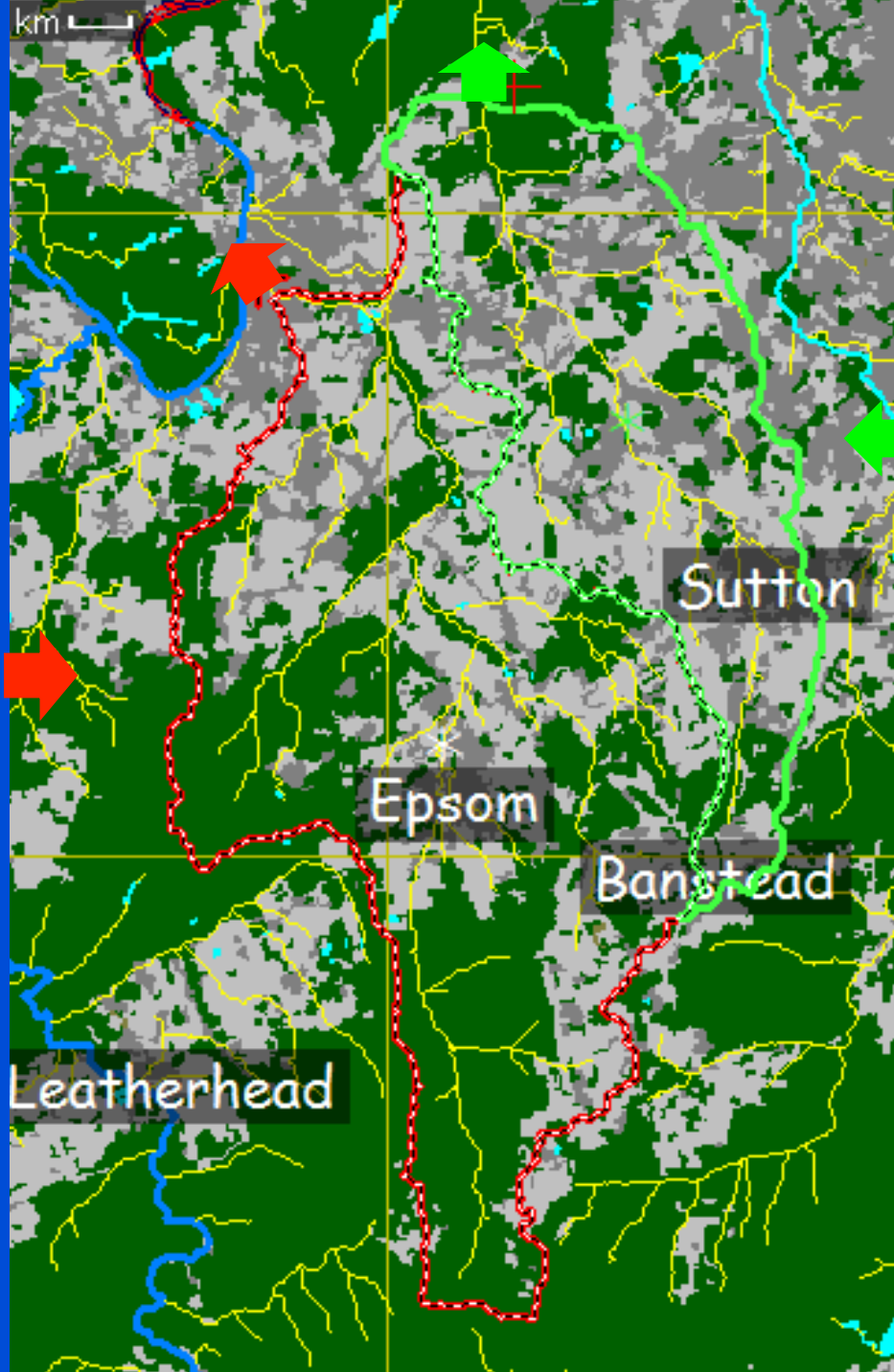
Treatment of inter-site dependence

- It gets complicated when pooling data from N sites.
- The idea of an effective number of independent sites N_e can sometimes be useful. See reference.
- It gets messy if there are gaps in the AM series. One approach is to analyse AMs from the N nearest sites with data that year.
- It is especially tricky in arid zones where the true AM can be very small ... or even zero!

Reference: Dales, M.Y. and Reed, D.W. 1989. Regional flood and storm hazard assessment. Report 102, Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford, UK, 159pp. See <http://www.ceh.ac.uk/products/publications/Regionalfloodandstormhazardassessment.html>

It only takes two

Studying **pairwise dependence** is a pragmatic and powerful approach

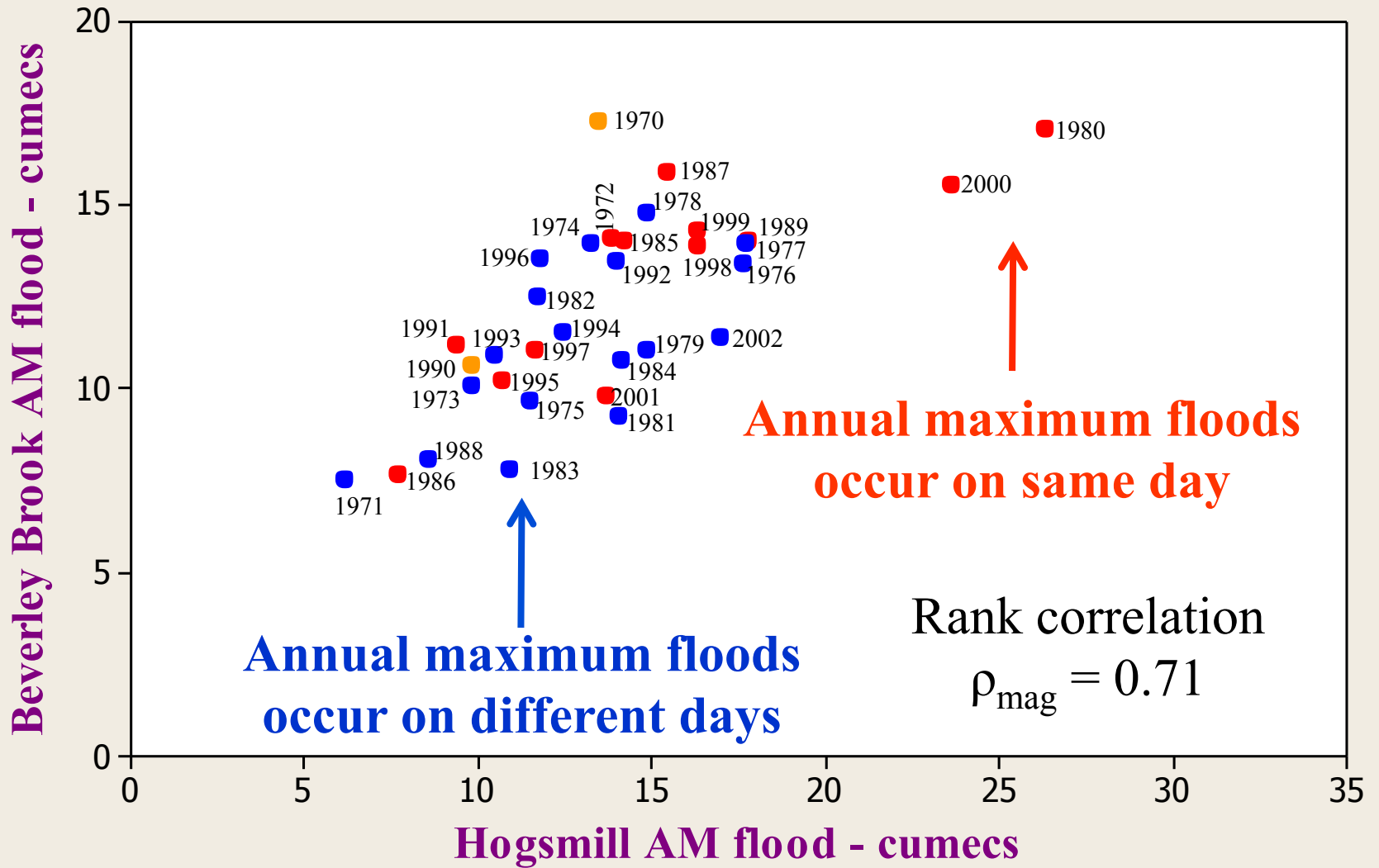


Beverley Brook

Hogsmill

2 urbanised
catchments
in SW
London

Pairwise dependence in AMs



Pairwise analysis is powerful

- Substantial river flood series are held for about a **1000 UK sites**.
- That's $1000 \times 999 / 2$ or almost half a million **pairs of sites**.
- So there is plenty of information about **inter-site dependence** ... if we choose to study it!

a	Analogy
*	Antecedent wetness
A/S	Applied statistics
1/2	Areal reduction factor
BFI	Baseflow index
B	Blending
U	Circular diagrams
◇	Clarity
c²	Climate change
4	Confluence
c	Conservatism
...	Continuous simulation
DMF	Daily mean flow
∩	Dam safety
d²	Data dredging
d	Dependence
d	Design
≡	Development
🎲	Dicey problems

Letters in applied hydrology



Duncan W Reed

👤	Society
📦	Storage
s	Storm
🌊	<u>SuDS</u>
S	Surrogate
→	<u>Tabony</u> tables
†	Testing a model
∫	Transformation
∇	Triangles
T	Trivia
T	Tweaks
u	Uncertainty
UH	Unit hydrograph
U	Upper limit
🏠	Urbanisation
V	Voronoi
w²	Weasel words
Y	Why we model
Z	<u>Zugzwang</u>

Search on ten characters **DWR**consult