

# THE ROLE OF SNOW DEPOSITS IN RAINFALL-RUNOFF SIMULATIONS FOR SMALL HIMALAYAN BASINS, NEPAL

**J. BUCHTELE**

Institute of Hydrodynamics, Czech Academy of Sciences,  
Podbabská 13, 166 12 Prague, Czech Republic

**A. HERRMANN**

Institute for Geography and Geoecology, Technical University,  
Langer Kamp 19c, 38106 Braunschweig, Germany

**O.R. BAJRACHARYA**

Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Babar Mahal,  
Kathmandu, Nepal

The sparse availability of data for the evaluation of water storage in snow covers and glaciers makes conceptual models reasonable tools for an inverse task, i.e. the improved estimation of inputs in the rainfall-runoff process in those cases where precipitation and discharge are known. This problem is obvious and urgent in mountainous areas.

The daily time series of precipitation and discharge and air temperature over six years, from 1988 to 1993 have been used for runoff simulation in the following Himalayan basins: Imja *Khola* of Khumbu region (4,375-8,501masl, 135km<sup>2</sup>, 27% glaciated), Langtang *Khola* (3,800-7,232m, 340km<sup>2</sup>, 38%) and Modi *Khola* of Annapurna area (3,160-8,091m, 148 km<sup>2</sup>, 33%). The modelling tools used were the *Sacramento Soil Moisture Accounting Model* in connection with Anderson's Snow Model.

Due to some uncertainties concerning the representativeness of individual data series, some analyses and comparisons of alternative outputs have been carried out which provide an idea about some aspects of topography (vertical gradients of air temperature and precipitation, their seasonality, etc).

For the estimation of runoff changes caused by land-use changes, simulation in which inputs and parameters have been altered may be used; sensitivity

analysis using incremental scenarios also provides some idea of the possible effects of climatic warming.

Fig. 1 Observed and simulated discharge, Langtang Khola

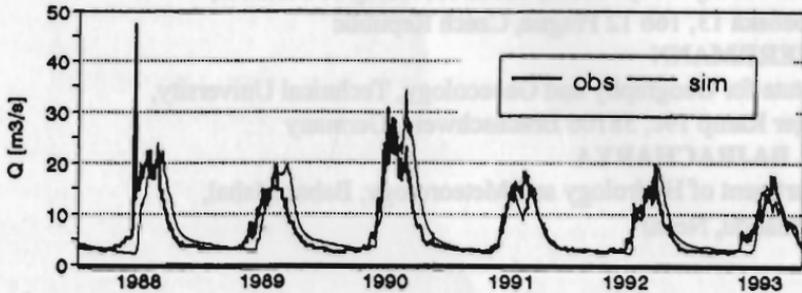


Fig. 2 Influence of air temperature gradient on simulated discharge, Langtang Khola

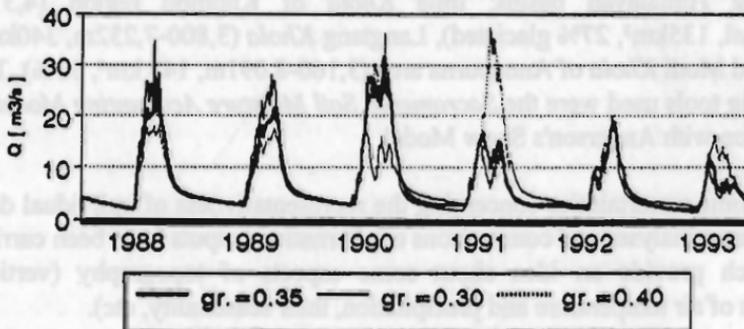
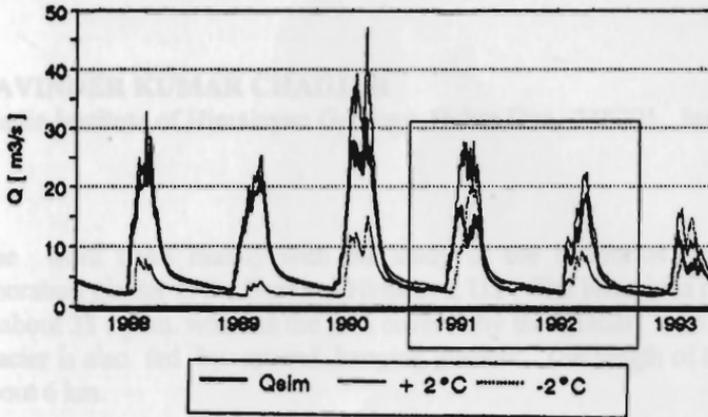


Fig. 3 Effects of air temperature change on simulated discharge, Langtang Khola



Summary: There are two moraines of the glacier, one at the left margin of the glacier and the other at the right margin. Both are at almost the same height, i.e., 3,200m. The origin point of the Mandakini is mainly from the right margin of the glacier. Melt-out water from the left margin also forms the water of the Mandakini and crosses the main channel about 100 m northwest of the Kedarnath temple. It appears that this was a part of a single glacier, which has been divided into two parts separated by its medial moraine before receding (Figure-1). Originally, there was only one glacier when it was in its advancing stage. Extensive melting has thinned the glacier to such an extent that it could not disturb its two medial moraines and has been divided into two parts, thus forming two Chorabari moraines.