

A SPATIO-TEMPORAL DROUGHT PREDICTION FOR SRI LANKA USING STANDARD PRECIPITATION INDEX

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Department of Mathematics

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work, and this Dissertation does not incorporate any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other University or Institute of higher learning without an acknowledgement. To the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text. I retain the right to use this content in whole or part in future work.

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The above candidate has carried out research for the Name of the Degree Dissertation under my supervision. I confirm that the declaration made above by the student is true and correct.

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ABSTRACT

This research intends to construct an efficient drought forecasting model employing Spatio-Temporal Interpolation with Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI). Notable deviations in rainfall are now observed across the globe due to the global increase in mean annual temperature causing recurrent drought events, and Sri Lanka is among the severely affected by these incidents bringing serious economic impacts, particularly to its agricultural sector. Hence, accurate draught predictions are imperative for early alerts to mitigate its consequences and execute readiness measures. This study thus scrutinizes geostatistical and deterministic descriptive Spatio-Temporal interpolation techniques to find an optimal method. Research findings based on cross validation suggest that Geostatistical Spatio-Temporal methods significantly outperform Deterministic Spatio-Temporal methods for drought forecasting in this region. The combined use of SPI-3 and SPI-6 enabled the formulation of reliable forecasts regarding the onset, intensity and offset of drought conditions. Consequently, this model was able to successfully predict drought hazards for the upcoming season. It is therefore recommended that the affected districts prepare accordingly with revised cropping and harvesting strategies suitable for YALA and MAHA seasons in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Spatio-Temporal Prediction, Seasonal Time Series, Standard Precipitation Index

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	x
LIST OF APPENDICES	xii
CHAPTER 1	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Research Gap.....	3
1.2 Problem Statement	4
1.3 Significance of the Study	4
1.4 Research Objective.....	5
1.5 Research Outline	5
CHAPTER 2	6
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	6
CHAPTER 3	11
METHODOLOGY.....	11
3.1 Introduction to Study Design	11
3.2 Data	12
3.3 Descriptive Data Analysis for Rainfall Variability	13
3.4 Determining an SPI Monitoring System	14
3.5 Time Series Analysis for Rainfall Forecasting.....	18

3.6	Spatio-Temporal Prediction for Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI).....	23
3.7	Spatio-Temporal Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) Model Evaluation ...	28
CHAPTER 4		31
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION		31
4.1	Data Preparation	31
4.2	Descriptive Data Analysis for Monthly Rainfall Data	32
4.3	Determining Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) Monitoring System.....	38
4.4	Time Series Forecasting for Rainfall.....	40
4.4.1	Pilot Study for Monthly Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station	40
4.4.2	Time Series Forecast for Sample Rainfall Stations.....	53
4.5	Spatio-Temporal Prediction for Standard Precipitation Index (SPI).....	54
4.5.1	Spatio-Temporal Inverse Distance Weighted (STIDW) Method.....	57
4.5.2	Spatio-Temporal Kriging (STK) Method	58
CHAPTER 5		68
CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK		68
5.1	Conclusion.....	68
5.2	Limitations.....	69
5.3	Recommendation.....	69
5.4	Further Work	70
REFERENCES.....		71
APPENDICES		78

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Area of Study and the study sample locations.....	13
Figure 2: Standard procedure for formulating SPI.....	17
Figure 3: Box-Jenkins Standard Time Series Forecasting Method using ARIMA.....	19
Figure 4: Annual Average Seasonal Paddy Production for Cropping seasons	22
Figure 5: Four Space-Time Data Layouts (Cressie, N., & Wikle, C. K., 2011)	24
Figure 6: Missing data Corrected Monthly Rainfall Series	32
Figure 7: Histograms for Spatial Distribution.....	34
Figure 8: Time Series Plots for Monthly rainfall Variability.....	35
Figure 9: Time Series Autocorrelation for Monthly rainfall Data	36
Figure 10: Spatial and Time dependency in Monthly rainfall in Sri Lanka.....	37
Figure 11: STSV for Monthly rainfall in Sri Lanka from 1991JAN-2021DEC	38
Figure 12: Simulated SPIs of the most affected area for the selected Drought Seasons .	39
Figure 13: Monthly Rainfall Variability in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station	41
Figure 14: Seasonal Patterns in Rainfall at Anuradhapura Rainfall Station	43
Figure 15: Transformed Monthly Training Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station .	44
Figure 16: Stationary Series for Monthly Training Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station.....	45
Figure 17: Model Residual Diagnostics for Stationary Monthly Training Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station.....	48

Figure 18: Training Data Validation for Stationary Monthly Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station.....	49
Figure 19: Testing Data validation for Stationary Monthly Rainfall in Anuradhapura rainfall station.....	49
Figure 20: Testing Data validation for Observed Monthly Rainfall in Anuradhapura rainfall station.....	50
Figure 21: Final Model Residual Diagnostics for Stationary Monthly Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station.....	51
Figure 22: Model Estimation and Forecast for Transformed Monthly Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station.....	52
Figure 23: Rainfall Forecast for Observed Monthly Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station.....	52
Figure 24: Observed SPI3 Variability at Sample Locations and Estimated SPI3 Variability at Sample Locations for Prediction Window	55
Figure 25: Observed SPI3 Variability at Sample Locations and Estimated SPI3 Variability at Sample Locations for Prediction Window	56
Figure 26: Test Data LOOCV for SPI3 Using STIDW Prediction with $\alpha=2$	57
Figure 27: Test Data LOOCV for SPI6 Using STIDW Prediction with $\alpha=2$	58
Figure 28: Experimental STSV for SPI3 and SPI6.....	59
Figure 29: Theoretical STSV analysis for SPI3.....	60
Figure 30: Theoretical STSV analysis for SPI6.....	61
Figure 31: Test data LOOCV for SPI3 Using STOK	62
Figure 32: LOOCV for SPI6 Test Data Using STOK	63

Figure 33: LOOCV-RMSE score for time steps and sample Locations64

Figure 34: Spatio-Temporal SPI3 and SPI6 forecast for drought in Sri Lanka for year
2022 and 202365

Figure 35: Drought Impact on Cropping Season for year 2022/2023.....67

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Recent Drought History of Sri Lanka	15
Table 2: The Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) Categorization for Sri Lanka	17
Table 3: Missing Data Summary.....	31
Table 4: Descriptive Data Statistics for Observed Rainfall	33
Table 5: Box Tests for Independence of Monthly rainfall Data	36
Table 6: Unit Root Test Summary for Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station	42
Table 7: Unit Root Test Summary for Stationary Monthly Training Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station.....	46
Table 8: Possible SARIMA Models.....	46
Table 9: Model Summary for Stationary Monthly Training Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station	47
Table 10: Final Model Summary for Stationary Monthly Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station	51
Table 11: Time Series Model Summary for Sample Locations	53
Table 12: MSE for plausible Spatio-temporal Semi Variogram models for SPI3	60
Table 13: MSE for plausible Spatio-temporal Semi Variogram models for SPI6	61
Table 14: Model Summary for optimal STSVs for SPI3 and SPI6	61
Table 15: LOOCV-RMSE score for time steps and sample Locations.	64

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACF	-	Autocorrelation Function
ADF	-	Augmented Dickey Fuller
AIC	-	Akaike Information Criterion
ARIMA	-	Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average
CDR	-	Climate Data Record
CH	-	Canova And Hansen
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Production
HEGY	-	Hylleberg, Engle, Granger and Yoo
IDW	-	Inverse Distance Weighting
JB	-	Jarque Bera's
KPSS	-	Kwiatkowski Phillips Schmidt Shin
LB	-	Ljung Box's
LOOCV	-	Leave One Out Cross Validation
MAPE	-	Mean Absolute Prediction Error
MSE	-	Mean Squared Error
MSPE	-	Mean Squared Prediction Error
PACF	-	Partial Autocorrelation Function
PDSI	-	Palmer Drought Severity Index

RMSPE	-	Root Mean Squared Prediction Error
SARIMA	-	Seasonal Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average
SMDI	-	Soil Moisture Drought Index
SPEI	-	Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index
SPI	-	Standardized Precipitation Index
STIDW	-	Spatio-Temporal Inverse Distance Weighting
STK	-	Spatio-Temporal Kriging
STOK	-	Ordinary Spatio-Temporal Kriging
STSK	-	Simple Spatio-Temporal Kriging
STSV	-	Spatio-Temporal Semi-Variogram
STUK	-	Universal Spatio-Temporal Kriging

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX-A: Spatial Correlation of Rainfall	78
APPENDIX-B: Scatterplots for Spatial Rainfall Variability	79
APPENDIX-C: ACF and PACF of the Stationary Series for the Sample 25 Rainfall Stations after their suitable transformations	80
APPENDIX-D: Residual Diagnostics for the sample 25 rainfall stations	81
APPENDIX-E: Test data cross-validation for stationary series of the sample 25 rainfall stations after their suitable transformations	82
APPENDIX-F: Time Series Forecast for Sample Rainfall Stations	83
APPENDIX-G: Script for Descriptive Data Analysis	83
APPENDIX-H: R-Script for Computing SPI Scales	85
APPENDIX-I: R-Script for Time Series Analysis for Rainfall in Anuradhapura Rainfall Station	85
APPENDIX-J: R-Script for Inverse Distance Weighted (IDW) method	89
APPENDIX-K: R-Script for Ordinary Kriging (ST-OK) method	89