

# EARLY ONLINE RELEASE

This is a PDF of a manuscript that has been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication. As the article has not yet been formatted, copy edited or proofread, the final published version may be different from the early online release.

This pre-publication manuscript may be downloaded, distributed and used under the provisions of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) license. It may be cited using the DOI below.

The DOI for this manuscript is

# DOI:10.2151/jmsj.2021-034

J-STAGE Advance published date: February 22nd, 2021 The final manuscript after publication will replace the preliminary version at the above DOI once it is available.

Investigating Runoff Sensitivity in the Land-Surface
Model MATSIRO to Reduce Low Runoff Bias
Kumiko TAKATA <sup>1,2</sup>
<sup>1</sup> National Institute for Environmental Studies, Ibaraki, Japan <sup>2</sup> Azabu University, Kanagawa, Japan
and
Naota HANASAKI
National Institute for Environmental Studies, Ibaraki, Japan
First submission to J. Meteor. Soc. Japan on April 26, 2020
Revised submission to J. Meteor. Soc. Japan on July 31, 2020
Second-revised submission to J. Meteor. Soc. Japan on December 28, 2020
) Corresponding author: Kumiko Takata, Azabu University, 1-17-71, Fuchinobe, Chuo-ku, agamihara-shi, Kanagawa 252-5201 JAPAN. mail: k-takata@azabu-u.ac.jp el: +81-42-754-1111(ex.2589)

Abstract

31	The Minimal Advanced Treatments of Surface Interaction and RunOff (MATSIRO),
32	which has been used as a land-surface scheme in the global climate model, the Model
33	for Interdisciplinary Research On Climate (MIROC), calculates Dunne runoff and base
34	runoff using the TOPography-based MODEL (TOPMODEL). In past experiments that
35	used MATSIRO, the runoff and its response to precipitation were too low compared to
36	observation. We conjectured that those biases could be attributed to the water table's
37	excessive depth. Its depth was diagnosed based on grid-mean soil moisture, using a
38	saturation threshold that was originally set to almost equal the porosity. In this study,
39	sensitivity experiments, in which the threshold was decreased to 75%, 50%, 25%, and
40	less than 13% of the porosity, were conducted, and the subsequent effects on river flow
41	were investigated in the Chao Phraya River basin, Thailand, as a case study. As a result,
42	both Dunne and base runoff increased along with the response of river flow to
43	precipitation. The simulated river flow matched observations most closely with the
44	threshold of 50% saturation. In addition, soil moisture and the Bowen ratio also changed
45	significantly with the runoff changes induced by the threshold changes. These results
46	suggested the importance of the relationship between grid-mean soil moisture and
47	groundwater level for TOPMODEL. Preliminary global experiments indicate that the runoff
48	sensitivity might be dependent on climate zone.

**Keywords** land-surface model; runoff; soil saturation; water table depth; Chao Phraya River basin

# 52 **1. Introduction**

The importance of the role of terrestrial hydrological processes in climate change has 53 been widely recognized since the 1980s (Manabe and Wetherald, 1987), and the effects of 54 vegetation canopy have also been incorporated (Sellers et al., 1996). The Minimal Advanced 55 Treatments of Surface Interaction and RunOff (MATSIRO; Takata et al., 2003; Nitta et al., 56 2014) model represents land-surface processes in a global climate model, the Model for 57Interdisciplinary Research on Climate (MIROC; e.g., Tatebe et al., 2019). MIROC is a core 58 model used for climate change projections in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate 59Change (IPCC) assessment reports, and MATSIRO has been used in various comparisons 60 of land-surface hydrological models (e.g., Veldkamp et al., 2017). 61

In land-surface models used for climate studies, such as MATSIRO, spatiotemporal 62 distributions of surface temperature, evapotranspiration, runoff, soil moisture and 63 temperature, snow cover, and other variables are calculated from energy and water 64 balances at the ground surface. In the past, MATSIRO significantly underestimated runoff 65 compared to observations. A parameter for base runoff was calibrated (Hirabayashi et al., 66 2005), and the algorithm for diagnosing the depth of the groundwater table was improved 67 (Yoshimura et al., 2006) at a global scale. Yet, MATSIRO still belongs to a group of land-68 surface models with low runoff (e.g., Fig. 2a of Haddeland et al., 2011). 69

In this study, we investigated the behavior of MATSIRO, focusing specifically on the runoff
 generation mechanism (i.e., the relationship between the water table depth and soil

moisture). We conducted offline experiments using meteorological data for the Chao Phraya
River basin in Thailand as a case study to see whether daily runoff values can be close to
observation.

75

#### 76 **2. Method**

77 2.1 Study area

We performed a numerical experiment for the Chao Phraya River basin in Thailand, for 78 which high-resolution input and verification data are available. The average annual 79 temperature in Thailand from 1981 to 2010 was 26.9°C; the annual precipitation was 1,588 80 mm, with 1,265 mm during the rainy season (May to October) and 322 mm during the dry 81 season (November to April; Thai Meteorological Department, 2015). The Chao Phraya River 82 basin has an area of approximately 160,000 km<sup>2</sup> and extends from central Thailand to the 83 northern part of the country. The northern part of the basin is mountainous (with an altitude 84 of about 1,500 m), and the central and southern parts are made up of vast plains (Fig.1). 85 There are two major dams: the Bhumibol dam, on the Ping River in the western upstream 86 area, and the Sirikit dam, on the Nan River in the eastern upstream area. These dams are 87 responsible for controlling floods in the rainy season and supplying water for irrigation in the 88 dry season (Shintani et al., 1994). The Bhumibol dam was selected for analysis in this study; 89 it has a catchment area of 26,214 km<sup>2</sup> and a total water storage capacity of approximately 90 91 13,462 MCM (GRanD v1.1, http://globaldamwatch.org/grand/).

92 2.2 Model

MATSIRO was developed as a model of land-surface hydrological processes for a global 93 climate model. It calculates surface temperature and heat and moisture fluxes using energy 94 and water balances at the ground surface. The following processes are taken into 95 consideration: the effects of the vegetation canopy on radiation, interception of precipitation, 96 turbulent fluxes, and transpiration (modeled with a single layer), the accumulation and 97 ablation of snow (with a variable number of model layers between one and three), and the 98 moisture and temperature conduction in soil. Soil is divided into six layers with depths of 0-99 5 cm, 5–25 cm, 25–100 cm, 1–2 m, 2–4m, and 4–14 m, from the surface to the bottom. See 100 Takata et al. (2003) and Nitta et al. (2014) for details. 101

102 The four types of runoff considered in our calculations are overland runoff when the soil moisture in the uppermost layer exceeds the porosity, infiltration excess runoff (known as 103 104 Horton runoff) when the precipitation intensity exceeds the infiltration capacity at the ground 105 surface, saturation excess runoff (known as Dunne outflow) which is generated from the runoff contributing area or saturated zone, and base runoff (Fig. 2). The sum of these four 106 types of runoff is taken as the total runoff at each grid point. Dunne and base runoff are 107calculated based on the TOPography-based MODEL (TOPMODEL; Beven and Kirkby, 108 1979; Sivapalan et al., 1987; Stieglitz et al., 1997) by simplifying the subgrid-scale 109 110 topography in a grid box.

Dunne runoff is generated from the runoff contributing area, taken as the saturated zone,

calculated using the TOPMODEL. In addition, overland runoff and infiltration excess runof Fig. 2

113 (Horton runoff) are considered to be generated outside the contributing area.

Dunne runoff,  $Q_{dunne}$ , is calculated by multiplying precipitation by the contributing area ( $A_s$ ), and  $A_s$  is calculated from the water table depth ( $z_{WTD}$ ) on the basis of TOPMODEL using the following equation:

118 where

112

119 
$$A_s = 1 - \exp(f \times z_{WTD} - 1),$$
 Eq.(2)

*P* is the precipitation intensity at the ground surface, and *f* is the vertical attenuation parameter of permeability set uniformly to 3.0 (unit: m<sup>-1</sup>).  $z_{WTD}$  (unit: m) is downward positive; a large positive value means a deep water-table depth.  $A_s$  is set to 0 when it is shown to be negative based on Eq.(2); namely,  $z_{WTD}$  is deeper than one third meter. The relationship between  $A_s$  and  $z_{WTD}$ , Eq.(2), is deduced from the analytical solution of the quasi-stationary condition of recharge and base flow in TOPMODEL.  $z_{WTD}$  is diagnosed from soil moisture using a procedure explained below.

127 The base runoff (*Q*<sub>base</sub>) is also calculated based on TOPMODEL, as follows:

128 
$$Q_{base} = K_0 \exp(1 - f \times z_{WTD}) \tan(\beta) / (f \times L), \qquad \text{Eq.(3)}$$

where  $K_0$  is the surface permeability specified according to soil type, and  $\beta$  and L are subgrid topographic parameters for the slope angle and length defined based on the standard deviation of altitude within a grid cell.

 $z_{WTD}$  is diagnosed using two steps. In the first step, the grid-mean matric potential (unit: m) in the *k*-th soil layer (numbered from the surface) is examined to assess whether water table can exist in it. If water table is expected to be in the *k*-th layer, in the second step, saturation judgment is conducted with the grid-mean volumetric soil moisture content in the *k*-th layer ( $\theta_k$ , unit: m<sup>3</sup> m<sup>-3</sup>) as follows:

137	"Saturated": $\theta_k > \theta_s - \varepsilon_{GW}$ ,	Eq.(4a)
138	"Unsaturated": $\theta_k < \theta_s - \varepsilon_{GW}$ ,	Eg.(4b)

where  $\theta_s$  is the porosity, the saturation value (i.e., maximum) of  $\theta_k$ , ranging from 0.404 to 139 0.465 specified according to soil type;  $\varepsilon_{GW}$  is a threshold of saturation judgment in 140diagnosing  $z_{WTD}$ , a standard value being 0.001. When it is judged to be "unsaturated," the 141 142 existence and the depth of water table  $(z_{WTD})$  are diagnosed in the layer. When it is judged to be "saturated," the water table is assumed as being in a shallower layer, and the above 143 two steps are conducted in the adjacent upper layer (k - 1). The procedure begins at the 144bottom layer and is repeated for the upper layers until it is judged to be "unsaturated." In 145 short, *z<sub>WTD</sub>* is diagnosed as being within the deepest "unsaturated" layer. Since the standard 146 value of  $\varepsilon_{GW}$  is small, it is diagnosed as "unsaturated" when  $\theta_k$  is slightly below  $\theta_s$ . 147Consequently,  $z_{WTD}$  tends to be deep in MATSIRO. When  $z_{WTD}$  is diagnosed as being deeper 148 than the bottom of the deepest layer,  $Q_{base}$  and  $A_s$  are considered to be zero. 149

The total runoff, which is the sum of all runoff components calculated at each grid point, flows down along the river channel network scheme, the Total Runoff Integrating Pathways (Oki and Sud, 1998). In this study, the spatial resolution of the channel network is 5 arcmin
 (modified from Kotsuki and Tanaka, 2013), and a constant flow velocity (0.3 m s<sup>-1</sup>) is
 assumed.

155 **2.3 Experiments and analyses** 

We used the surface atmospheric data from the Integrated study on Hydro-Meteorological 156 Prediction and Adaptation to Climate Change in Thailand (IMPAC-T) Forcing Dataset (IFD-157K10) of Kotsuki et al. (2014). This dataset includes precipitation, pressure and wind speed 158 at a temporal resolution of 1 h, temperature and downward longwave radiation at a temporal 159resolution of 3 h, and humidity and downward shortwave radiation at a daily temporal 160 resolution. Precipitation, which is one of the most important climate variables for runoff 161 simulation, was derived from the gauge-based daily data in combination with the satellite-162 based mean monthly diurnal variation. The precipitation was thus rather representative as 163 actual precipitation on a daily or longer time scale since it was based on gauged data 164(Kotsuki and Tanaka, 2013), though its diurnal changes could include uncertainty. The time 165 step of the model was set to 60 minutes. When the time of the input data and the time of the 166 model simulation do not match, time interpolation is performed using the before-and-after 167input data, except that the daily shortwave radiation was divided into an hourly value 168accounting for the solar zenith angle. The study area was bounded by the coordinates 97-169 102°E and 13–20°N, with a spatial resolution of 5 arcmin (approximately 9 km) for the period 1701711981–2004. The initial condition was taken by conducting a separate spin-up experiment

with recursive forcing of 1981, and it was used for all the sensitivity experiments. In our analyses, we used results for 1993 and 2002 as case studies of low- and high-precipitation years, respectively. Vegetation distribution and monthly averaged leaf area index in 2000 (Takata and Hanasaki, 2020) were used. In the control experiment (denoted EP.0),  $\varepsilon_{GW}$  was set to the standard value of 0.001; in

Table 1

our sensitivity experiments EP.1, EP.2, EP.3, and EP.4, this value was changed to 0.1, 0.2, 1770.3, and 0.4, respectively (Table 1). Considering that  $\theta_s$  ranged from 0.404 to 0.465 178 depending on soil type, a soil layer was judged to be "saturated" when  $\theta_k$  was more than 179 approximately 0.3, 0.2, 0.1, and 0.004-0.06 in EP.1, EP.2, EP.3, and EP.4, respectively (Eq. 180 4). In other words, it was judged to be "saturated" when  $\theta_k$  was approximately 75%, 50%, 181 25%, and only 1–13% of the porosity in the sensitivity experiments. Consequently,  $z_{WTD}$  is 182 expected to become shallow if the vertical profile of soil moisture is the same because z<sub>WTD</sub> 183 is diagnosed as being within the deepest "unsaturated" layer (see section 2.2). The 184saturation area ( $A_s$ ) is then expected to increase (Eq. 2);  $Q_{dunne}$  (Eq. 1) and  $Q_{base}$  (Eq. 3) are 185 also expected to increase (Eq. 3). Note that the soil moisture calculation remained 186 unchanged in this study. Only the threshold ( $\varepsilon_{GW}$ ) for saturation judgment in diagnosing  $z_{WTD}$ 187was changed in examinations of the runoff sensitivity. 188

We compared the observed river flow at the Bhumibol dam inlet to the calculated river flow at the model grid point nearest to the Bhumibol dam and examined the sensitivity to  $\varepsilon_{GW}$ . In addition, the sensitivity of runoff,  $z_{WTD}$ , and soil moisture to  $\varepsilon_{GW}$  were investigated in

192 the catchment area of the Bhumibol Dam. Modeled river flow was compared directly to observations because there is no large reservoir or irrigation water intake upstream of the 193 dam, and the river flow scheme in MATSIRO does not consider such human operations. 194 In addition, the sensible heat flux, the latent heat flux, and the Bowen ratio (i.e., the ratio 195 of sensible heat fluxes to latent heat fluxes) was compared with the observation to examine 196 the effects of the sensitivity experiments on surface energy and water balances. The 197observation data from Kim et al. (2014) recorded at Tak (16°56.390'N, 99°25.793'E; located 198 about 50 km downstream of the Bhumibol dam) using the eddy correlation method were 199 provided. The data were compared with the calculated results at the grid point nearest to 200 Tak. 201

202

# 203 **3. Results**

Fig. 3 shows the time series of daily rainfall (used as model input values) averaged over 204the catchment of the Bhumibol dam and the time series of daily river flow at the inlet of the 205 dam. The results from a low-precipitation year (1993, 724 mm year<sup>-1</sup>) and a high-206 precipitation year (2002, 1221 mm year<sup>-1</sup>) are shown; mean precipitation during the study 207period (1981-2004) was 968 mm year<sup>-1</sup>. For both years, the control experiment EP.0 showed 208 that river flow was significantly underestimated compared to observations, and there was 209 almost no response of river flow to precipitation. The Nash-Sutcliffe efficiency (NSE), one 210 211 of the most widely used validation indices for hydrology models, was calculated to compare

the modeled daily river flow with the observation as follows:

213 
$$NSE = 1 - \sum_{t} (Q_m(t) - Q_o(t))^2 / \sum_{t} (Q_o(t) - Q_{o mean})^2, \qquad Eq.(5)$$

where  $Q_m(t)$  is the modeled daily river flow at time t,  $Q_o(t)$  is the observed daily river flow at 214time t,  $Q_{o mean}$  is the mean observed daily river flow during the analysis period, and  $\Sigma_t$  denotes 215 the sum during the analysis period. NSE ranges from negative infinity to 1.0, with NSE = 1 216 being the optimal value (Moriasi et al., 2007). The NSEs in EP.0 were -0.357 and -0.376, 217 respectively, in 2002 and 1993 (Table 2); values lower than 0.0 are generally regarded as 218 unacceptable. River flow increased slightly in EP.1 but was similar to EP.0 in both years. In 219 EP.2, EP.3, and EP.4, river flow increased, and the response to precipitation increased 220 markedly for 2002. The results of EP.2 were closest to the observations and showed a 221 smoothed response to precipitation (at approximately a 10-day scale). NSE in 2002 was 2220.250, generally regarded as acceptable though unsatisfactory; NSE in 1993 was 0.763, 223generally regarded as good (Moriasi et al., 2007). In EP.3, modeled river flow was greater 224than the observations in the rainy season. Furthermore, in EP.4, river flow was also greater 225 than the observations in the dry season. The peaks in the modeled river flow occurred later 226in all sensitivity experiments than they had in the observations. The changes in river flow 227with respect to  $\varepsilon_{GW}$  were similar in both years. 228

Fig. 4 shows the time series in 2002 of the modeled  $z_{WTD}$ ,  $Q_{dunne}$ , and  $Q_{base}$  averaged over the Bhumibol dam catchment area for the control and sensitivity experiments. The results in the high-precipitation year are shown since seasonal changes are generally marked in high-

precipitation years. Note that the arrival of peaks for Q<sub>dunne</sub> and Q<sub>base</sub> were earlier than those 232 of river flow at the inlet of the dam because of the time for passing through the river channels. 233 In EP.0 and EP.1,  $z_{WTD}$  showed similar seasonal change throughout the year; it deepened 234gradually from January to May, reaching a maximum depth of about 6 m, subsequently rose, 235and became shallowest at about 5 m in December.  $z_{WTD}$  in EP.2 was much shallower; it 236 deepened from January to May, became deepest at about 3 m, subsequently rose, and 237became shallowest at about 0.5 m in early September, followed by a gradual deepening to 238 December. Some smoothed increases occurred in response to precipitation events in 239 November at intra-monthly time scales. In EP.3 and EP.4, *z*<sub>WTD</sub> was even shallower and did 240 not deepen from January to May, remaining at a depth of 1.8 m in EP.3 and 1 m in EP.4. 241 Quick rises in response to precipitation (at a time scale of approximately 5 days) were more 242 marked than seasonal changes. 243

The groundwater level measured from July to December in 2006 at the Kog Ma D site in 244 the Bhumibol dam catchment area (Shiraki et al., 2017) rose from July to early September; 245 the shallowest depth was approximately 1.5 m. It deepened toward December, reaching 246 about 2 m deep. Although it is not possible to make a direct comparison owing to the 247difference between the observation and experimental periods and the difference in the 248 spatial scales, the seasonal change of  $z_{WTD}$  in EP.2 gualitatively agreed with the observation; 249 it showed a gradual rise until early September followed by gradual deepening until 250 December. 251

252	$Q_{dunne}$ and $Q_{base}$ both increased with increasing $\varepsilon_{GW}$ . $Q_{dunne}$ markedly increased between
253	EP.1 and EP.2 and between EP.2 and EP.3, which suggests that sensitivity of $Q_{dunne}$ was
254	great near $\varepsilon_{GW}$ = 0.2 (as in EP.2). Q <sub>base</sub> hardly changed between EP.0 and EP.1 but increased
255	significantly in EP.2, EP.3, and EP.4. In EP.2, Q <sub>base</sub> increased gradually from the beginning
256	of the rainy season (from May), peaking in September, with responses to precipitation until
257	November. In EP.3, $Q_{base}$ increased in May, subsequently decreased in June and July, then
258	increased again with a peak in September with marked responses to precipitation during the
259	rainy season. By contrast, in EP.4, Q <sub>base</sub> increased in May and remained high throughout
260	the rainy season.

Our results show that as the saturation threshold  $\varepsilon_{GW}$  increased,  $z_{WTD}$  became shallower, 261 *Q*<sub>dunne</sub> and *Q*<sub>base</sub> became larger, and river flow increased. The increase in *Q*<sub>dunne</sub> was led by 262the increase in the saturated zone A<sub>s</sub>, which induced decreases in infiltration of precipitation 263into the soil, reducing soil moisture. Fig. 5 shows the vertical profiles of monthly soil moisture, 264 averaged over the catchment of the Bhumibol dam in 2002 for the experiments EP.0, EP.2, 265 and EP.4. In EP.0, As was small and infiltration into soil was large. Thus, soil moisture was 266high and its seasonal amplitude at the surface was large, reaching to the fifth layer (2-4 m) 267(Fig. 5a). Since  $\varepsilon_{GW}$  was 0.001 for EP.0, the bottom layer (4-14 m) was the deepest 268 "unsaturated" layer and the water table averaged over the catchment was diagnosed as 269 270varying between 4.8–5.9 m deep in 2002 (Fig. 4a). In EP.2 ( $\varepsilon_{GW}$  = 0.2),  $A_s$  became larger and infiltration into the soil decreased. Consequently, soil moisture and its seasonal 271

amplitude tended to be lower and smaller than EP.0 (Fig. 5b). The deepest "unsaturated" layer varied from the third to the fifth layers (0.25-4 m), and the water table averaged over the catchment was diagnosed as varying between 0.5-3.1 m deep in 2002. In EP.4,  $A_s$  was much larger, infiltration was much smaller, and soil moisture and its amplitude were much smaller (Fig. 5c); the water table averaged over the catchment was much shallower (varying between 0.1-1.1 m in 2002; Fig. 4a).

Such changes in soil moisture influence not only runoff (i.e., water balance at the surface) 278 but also energy balance at the surface. In examining the effects of the sensitivity 279 experiments on the surface energy and water balance, the sensible heat fluxes, the latent 280 heat fluxes and the Bowen ratios were examined along with comparison to observation at 281 Tak. Fig. 6 shows the monthly values in 2003 and 2004, when the periods of observation 282and numerical experiments overlapped. The both fluxes and the Bowen ratios showed 283 seasonal changes similar to the observations. The latent heat fluxes were overall smaller 284than the observations, though, because of the difference in spatial scale and meteorological 285 conditions between the experiments and the observations. The values of the both fluxes and 286 the Bowen ratios for EP.0 and EP.1 were almost the same and their seasonal amplitudes 287were smaller than the observations. The seasonal amplitudes of the both fluxes became 288 large for EP.2; the amplitude of the Bowen ratio was as large as the observations. In EP.3 289 and EP.4, the seasonal amplitudes of the Bowen ratio were larger than the observations, 290 because of the high sensible heat fluxes and the low latent heat fluxes particularly in the dry 291

seasons. These results imply that the change in  $\varepsilon_{GW}$  has significant effects not only on runoff but also on the energy and water balance at the ground surface.

294

# 295 **4. Discussion**

#### 296 4.1 Implications based on sensitivity

MATSIRO is a land-surface hydrology scheme used in the global climate model MIROC, 297 a major model used by the IPCC to make global warming projections since the fourth 298 assessment report (Randall et al., 2007). Although the capability of MIROC is rated highly 299 because of, for example, its ability to reproduce an El Niño event (Watanabe et al., 2010), 300 runoff in MATSIRO has been underestimated in various offline experiments at global and 301 regional scales (e.g., Haddeland et al., 2011). The method used in this study's sensitivity 302 experiments is extremely simple but has not been tried since the model was developed, and 303 it markedly changed runoff in the study area. We speculate that this is because of the 304 conceptual gaps between the assumptions of TOPMODEL and the application in MATSIRO. 305 Specifically, TOPMODEL calculates Q<sub>dunne</sub> from the contributing area according to 306 topographical structure and Q<sub>base</sub> from groundwater with quasi-stationary recharge on 307 slopes in small watersheds. In MATSIRO, these concepts are applied to a grid point whose 308 size ranges from a regional scale (e.g., 10 km) to a global scale (e.g., 100 km). Thus, 309 treatment of subgrid heterogeneity in topography and water table depth is essential to apply 310 311 the TOPMODEL concept to a relatively large grid cell such as MATSIRO. The threshold 312 change in this study is believed to exemplify such treatment.

The seasonal changes in river flow, which increased from the latter half of August to 313 October, agreed with the observation in EP.2 (Fig. 3). However, the peaks in response to 314 the intra-seasonal peaks of precipitation in September and November 2002 were 315 approximately 10 days later than those observed. Moreover, the observed small peaks in 316 May in response to precipitation were not represented in either year. Considering that the 317delays of the observed peaks from precipitation were very small, investigations into the river 318 channel scheme and the uncertainty of observation would also be needed, but other runoff 319 components and parameters should be further examined to sophisticate representation of 320 the runoff response to precipitation. 321

Subgrid topography parameters and the vertical attenuation parameter for hydraulic conductivity can also affect runoff. In addition, the assumption of the uniform topographic index would be a tentative treatment. Lastly, possible introduction of other types of runoff should be considered including subsurface stormflow, macropores, and other preferential flow paths (Brutseart, 2005). A more realistic form of the function should be used in future land-surface models. It should also be noted that runoff sensitivity also depends on the model's temporal and spatial resolution.

329 4.2 Regionality of runoff sensitivity

Runoff depends on climate, geology, topography, soil characteristics, vegetation, and land
 use, and the predominant runoff process varies in time and space depending on the

precipitation intensity and ground-surface conditions preceding precipitation (Sivapalan *et al.*, 1987). Runoff sensitivity may therefore vary regionally.

Next, global experiments were conducted offline with global surface meteorological data (ELSE; Kim *et al.*, 2009); for experiment G-EP.0  $\varepsilon_{gw}$  = 0.001, and for experiment G-EP.2  $\varepsilon_{gw}$ = 0.2. The horizontal resolution was 1 × 1° (about 100 km), and the study period was 1979– 2004.

Fig. 7

The global mean annual runoff (averaged from 1995 to 2004) was 199 mm year<sup>-1</sup> for G-338 EP.0 and 327 mm year<sup>1</sup> for G-EP.2; thus, changing  $\varepsilon_{qw}$  from 0.001 to 0.2 increased the 339 annual runoff by 64%. Fig. 7 shows the global distribution of the rate of change in annual 340 runoff:  $(Q_{G-EP.2} - Q_{G-EP.0})/(0.5 \times Q_{G-EP.2} + 0.5 \times Q_{G-EP.0})$ . The runoff sensitivity to  $\varepsilon_{qw}$  was high in 341 regions with a savanna climate (Africa, India, Indochina Peninsula, northern Australia, and 342South America) and regions with a subtropical dry winter climate (east China, central North 343 America, and Western Europe). In cold regions (north of 50°N), the runoff sensitivity to  $\varepsilon_{gw}$ 344was moderate. By contrast, runoff was not sensitive in regions with a semiarid climate (the 345Middle East, western China, and western North America) or regions with a rainforest 346(Indonesia). In semiarid regions, changing  $\varepsilon_{gw}$  did not change  $z_{WTD}$  significantly, whereas in 347regions with a rainforest, where it is sufficiently humid, changes in  $z_{WTD}$  did not noticeably 348change the total runoff. 349

These results show that runoff sensitivity to  $\varepsilon_{gw}$  is not globally uniform. Therefore, it is important to fully survey modeled river flow by comparing it to observations to understand

the relationship between soil moisture,  $z_{WTD}$ , runoff components, and river flow.

353

### **5. Conclusions**

Aiming to reduce the low biases in runoff with MATSIRO by focusing on the runoff 355 generation mechanism, sensitivity experiments were performed to raise the water table by 356 changing the saturation judgment threshold  $\varepsilon_{GW}$  in diagnosing  $z_{WTD}$  (i.e., without changing 357the soil moisture). Specifically, the threshold was set to approximately 100% (EP.0), 75% 358 (EP.1), 50% (EP.2), 25% (EP.3), and less than 13% (EP.4) saturation. Consequently,  $z_{WTD}$ 359 360 became shallow in accordance with decreasing the judgement level of "unsaturated" soil moisture, Q<sub>dunne</sub> and Q<sub>base</sub> increased, river flow increased, and the response of river flow to 361 precipitation increased in the catchment area of the Bhumibol dam in the Chao Phraya River 362basin. The NSE for the observations was highest in EP.2 in both the high-precipitation and 363 low-precipitation years. Soil moisture and the Bowen ratio changed significantly in 364accordance with the changes in  $\varepsilon_{GW}$ . The results of global experiments imply that runoff 365 sensitivity to  $\varepsilon_{GW}$  may vary by region. 366

- 367
- 368

### Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and by the Integrated

372	Research Program for Advancing Climate Models (TOUGOU), Grant No.
373	JPMXD0717935457, from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and
374	Technology (MEXT), Japan. The authors thank Dr. Seita Emori for providing the draft of Fig.
375	2.
376	
377	References
378	Beven K. J., and M. J. Kirkby, 1979: A physically based, variable contributing area model of basin
379	hydrology. Hydrol. Sci. Bull., 24, 43–69.
380	Brutseart, W., 2005: Hydrology An Introduction, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, pp605.
381	Haddeland, I., D. B. Clark, W. Franssen, F. Ludwig, F. Voß, N. W. Arnell, N. Bertrand, M. Best, S. Folwell,
382	D. Gerten, S. Gomes, S. N. Gosling, S. Hagemann, N. Hanasaki, R. Harding, J. Heinke, P. Kabat, S.
383	Koirala S, T. Oki, J. Polcher, T. Stacke, P. Viterbo, G. P. Weedon, and P. Yeh, 2011: Multimodel Estimate
384	of the Global Terrestrial Water Balance: Setup and First Results. J. Hydrometeor., <b>12</b> , 869–884.
385	Hirabayashi Y., S. Kanae, I. Struthers, and T. Oki, 2005: A 100-year (1901–2000) global retrospective
386	estimation of the terrestrial water cycle. J. Geophys. Res.: Atmos., 110, D19101.
387	Kim H., P. J. F. Yeh, T. Oki, S. and Kanae, 2009: Role of rivers in the seasonal variations of terrestrial
388	water storage over global basins. Geophys. Res. Let., 36, L17402.
389	Kim W., D. Komori, J. Cho, S. Kanae, and T. Oki, 2014: Long-term analysis of evapotranspiration over a
390	diverse land use area in northern Thailand. Hydrol. Res. Let., 8, 45–50.
391	Kotsuki S., and K. Tanaka, 2013: Uncertainties of precipitation products and their impacts on runoff

392	estimates through hydrological land surface simulation in Southeast Asia. <i>Hydro. Res. Let.</i> , <b>7</b> , 79–84.
393	Kotsuki S., K. Tanaka, and S. Watanabe, 2014: Projected hydrological changes and their consistency
394	under future climate in the Chao Phraya River Basin using multi-model and multi-scenario of CMIP5
395	dataset. Hydrol. Res. Let., 8, 27–32.

- <sup>396</sup> Manabe S., and R. T. Wetherald, 1987: Large-Scale Changes of Soil Wetness Induced by an Increase in
- 397 Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide. J. Atmos. Sci., 44, 1211–1236.
- Moriasi, D. N., J. G. Arnold, M. W. Van Liew, R. L. Bingner, R. D. Harmel, and T. L. Veith, 2007: Model
- 399 Evaluation Guidelines for Systematic Quantification of Accuracy in Watershed Simulations. *Transac.*
- 400 ASABE, **50**, 885–900.
- 401 Nitta T., K. Yoshimura, K. Takata, R. O'ishi, T. Sueyoshi, S. Kanae, T. Oki, A. Abe-Ouchi, and G. E. Liston,
- 402 2014: Representing Variability in Subgrid Snow Cover and Snow Depth in a Global Land Model: Offline
- 403 Validation. J. Clim., **27**, 3318–3330.
- 404 Oki T., and Y. C. Sud, 1998: Design of Total Runoff Integrating Pathways (TRIP)—A Global River Channel
- 405 Network. *Earth Interactions*, **2**, 1–36.
- 406 Randall D. A., R. A. Wood, S. Bony, R. Colman, T. Fichefet, J. Fyfe, V. Kattsov, A. Pitman, J. Shukla, J.
- 407 Srinivasan, R. J. Stouffer, A. Sumi, and K. E. Taylor, 2007: *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science*
- 408 Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental
- 409 Panel on Climate Change, ed S Solomon, et al. (Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA:
- 410 Cambridge University Press) pp 1–74.
- 411 Sellers, P. J., D. A. Randall, G. J. Collatz, J. A. Berry, C. B. Field, D. A. Dazlich, C. Zhang, G. D. Collelo,

- 412 and L. Bounoua, 1996: A Revised Land Surface Parameterization (SiB2) for Atmospheric GCMS. Part
- 413 I: Model Formulation. J. Clim., **9**, 676–705.
- 414 Shiraki, K., N. Tanaka, T. Chatchai, and M. Suzuki, 2017: Water budget and rainfall to runoff processes
- in a seasonal tropical watershed in northern Thailand. *Hydrological Research Letters*, **11**, 149–154.
- Sivapalan, M., K. Beven, and E. F. Wood, 1987: On hydrologic similarity: 2. A scaled model of storm runoff
- 417 production. *Water Resour. Res.*, **23**, 2266–2278.
- 418 Stieglitz, M., D. Rind, J. Famiglietti, and C. Rosenzweig, 1997: An Efficient Approach to Modeling the
- Topographic Control of Surface Hydrology for Regional and Global Climate Modeling. J. Clim., 10, 118–
- 420 **137**.
- Takata, K., S. Emori, and T. Watanabe, 2003: Development of the minimal advanced treatments of
   surface interaction and runoff. *Global Planet. Change*, **38**, 209–222.
- 423 Takata, K., and N. Hanasaki, 2020: The effects of afforestation as an adaptation option: a case study in
- 424 the upper Chao Phraya River basin. *Environ. Res. Let.*, **15**, 044020.
- Tatebe, H., T. Ogura, T. Nitta, Y. Komuro, K. Ogochi, T. Takemura, K. Sudo, M. Sekiguchi, M. Abe, F. Saito,
- 426 M. Chikira, S. Watanabe, M. Mori, N. Hirota, Y. Kawatani, T. Mochizuki, K. Yoshimura, K. Takata, R.
- 427 O'Ishi, D. Yamazaki, T. Suzuki, M. Kurogi, T. Kataoka, M. Watanabe, and M. Kimoto, 2019: Description
- 428 and basic evaluation of simulated mean state, internal variability, and climate sensitivity in MIROC6.
- 429 Geosci. Model Dev., **12**, 2727–2765.
- 430 Thai Meteorological Department, 2015: The climate of Thailand. pp 7
- 431 (https://www.tmd.go.th/en/archive/thailand\_climate.pdf).

- 432 Veldkamp, T. I. E., Y. Wada, J. C. J. H. Aerts, P. Döll, S. N. Gosling, J. Liu, Y. Masaki, T. Oki, S. Ostberg,
- 433 Y. Pokhrel, Y. Satoh, H. Kim, and P. J. Ward, 2017: Water scarcity hotspots travel downstream due to
- human interventions in the 20th and 21st century. *Nature Commun.*, **8**, 15697.
- 435 Watanabe, M., M. Chikira, Y. Imada, and M. Kimoto, 2010: Convective Control of ENSO Simulated in
- 436 MIROC. J. Clim., **24**, 543–562.
- 437 Yoshimura, K., S. Miyazaki, S. Kanae, and T. Oki, 2006: Iso-MATSIRO, a land surface model that
- 438 incorporates stable water isotopes. *Global Planet. Change*, **51**, 90–107.

List of Figures 440 441 Fig. 1 Map of the Chao Phraya River basin. Colors indicate altitude (m). The catchment 442of the Bhumibol dam is hatched with '1'. White dots indicate the locations of the 443 Bhumibol Dam, Kog Ma D site, and Tak. 444445 Fig. 2 Schematic figure of runoff in MATSIRO when water table depth  $(z_{WTD})$  is (a) shallow 446and (b) deep.  $A_s$  is contributing area,  $Q_{dunne}$  is Dunne runoff,  $Q_{base}$  is base runoff,  $Q_o$  is 447overland runoff,  $Q_i$  is infiltration excess runoff, and P is precipitation intensity at the 448ground surface. 449 450Fiq. 3 Daily precipitation (blue bars, mm day<sup>-1</sup>) averaged over the catchment area of the 451 Bhumibol Dam and hydrograph daily river flow (lines,  $m^3 s^{-1}$ ) at the inlet of the dam in (a) 4522002 (rainy year) and (b) 1993 (dry year). Observed river flow is indicated by a dotted 453black line, and calculated river flows are shown by solid lines (color legend shown above 454the panels). 455 456(a) Daily water table depth (m) averaged over the catchment area of the Bhumibol 457 Fig. 4 dam for 2002 (rainy year). (b) As in (a) but for Dunne flow (mm day<sup>-1</sup>). (c) As in (a) but 458for base flow (mm day<sup>-1</sup>). See the color legend above the panel. 459460 Fig. 5 Vertical profiles of monthly mean volumetric soil moisture content (m<sup>3</sup> m<sup>-3</sup>) (lines 461 with marks, legends of the colored marks for each month are shown right to the panel) 462 averaged over the catchment area of the Bhumibol dam for 2002 in (a) EP.0, (b) EP.2, 463and (c) EP.4. 464

466	Fig. 6 Monthly mean (a) sensible heat fluxes (W m <sup>-2</sup> ), (b) latent heat fluxes (W m <sup>-2</sup> ), and
467	(c) Bowen ratios, measured (black line with dots) and modeled (all other lines; see
468	legend) at Tak in 2003–2004.
469	
470	Fig. 7 Difference in annual runoff between G-EP.0 ( $\varepsilon_{GW}$ = 0.001) and G-EP.2 ( $\varepsilon_{GW}$ = 0.2),
471	calculated as $(Q_{G-EP,2} - Q_{G-EP,0})/(0.5 \times Q_{G-EP,2} + 0.5 \times Q_{G-EP,0})$ . Mean values from 1995–
472	2004 are shown. The regions where the difference between $Q_{G-EP.0}$ and $Q_{G-EP.2}$ has been
473	smaller than 1 mm year <sup>-1</sup> are uncolored.
474	

475		List of Tables	
476			
477	Table 1	List of experiments.	
478			
479	Table 2	Nash–Sutcliffe efficiency of modeled daily river flow compared to observed river	
480	flow at the inlet of the Bhumibol dam in 2002 (rainy year) and 1993 (dry year).		
481			
482			



Fig. 1



Fig. 2





Fig. 4





Fig. 6





483 Table 1 List of experiments.

Experiment	<b>€</b> G₩	$ heta_{s}$ — $arepsilon_{GW}$
EP.0	0.001	~0.4
EP.1	0.1	~0.3
EP.2	0.2	~0.2
EP.3	0.3	~0.1
EP.4	0.4	~0.0

487 Table 2 Nash–Sutcliffe efficiency of modeled daily river flow compared to observed river

488 flow at the inlet of the Bhumibol dam in 2002 (rainy year) and 1993 (dry year).

Experiment	2002	1993
EP.0	-0.357	-0.376
EP.1	-0.258	-0.358
EP.2	0.250	0.763
EP.3	-1.706	-11.28
EP.4	-5.197	-46.77