

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF FIFTY POTENTIAL EVAPOTRANSPIRATION
MODELS FOR URBAN AREA IN TROPICAL REGION

UMAR FARUK LAWAN

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Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

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Specially dedicated to my father, mother, brothers and sisters, I don't have enough words to thank you, for your immense support, care, and love.

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ABSTRACT

Evaluation of potential evapotranspiration (PET) models against Penman Monteith FAO-56 has become more popular in developing countries. However, it requires complete weather variables data. To overcome this problem, we evaluated a number of PET models which were classified into fourteen-Temperature based models; twelve-Mass transfer based models; twenty one-Radiation based models and three-Combination based models against 20 years-observed pan evaporation data from Subang Jaya meteorological station. Julian day based mean imputation was used to fill the missing data. Tukey's outlier detection method was employed before estimating the PET. The performance of the models were evaluated with percentage of error (% error) in total values, % error in maximum values, % error in minimum values, % error in average values, root mean squared error (RMSE), and the paired t-test of the prediction accuracy. The results showed that Linacre, Meyer, Conchrane-Orcutt, and Kimberly Penman performed better than the other PET models among their categories. The present study also indicated that Kimberly Penman (combination based model) is decided as the best PET model. However, with considering the small difference of RMSE values and number of required weather variables, Conchrane-Orcutt (radiation based model) is recommended for future research and practical hydrological application.

ABSTRAK

Penilaian model potensi penyejatpeluhan (PET) menggunakan Penman Monteith FAO-56 semakin popular di negara-negara membangun. Walau bagaimanapun, model ini memerlukan data pembolehubah cuaca yang lengkap. Untuk mengatasi masalah ini, beberapa model PET yang telah diklasifikasikan kepada empat belas model berasaskan suhu, dua belas model berasaskan pemindahan jisim, dua puluh satu model berasaskan radiasi, dan tiga model berasaskan gabungan dinilai menggunakan data penyejatan pan bagi pemerhatian selama 20 tahun daripada stesen meteorologi Subang Jaya. Hari Julian berasaskan imputasi min telah digunakan untuk mengisi data yang hilang. Kaedah pengesanan titik terpencil Tukey digunakan sebelum menganggarkan PET. Prestasi model dinilai dengan peratusan ralat (% ralat) dalam jumlah nilai, % ralat dalam nilai maksimum, % ralat dalam nilai minimum, % ralat dalam nilai purata, ralat min punca kuasa dua (RMSE), dan ketepatan ramalan ujian t berpasangan. Keputusan menunjukkan prestasi Linacre, Meyer, Conchrane-Orcutt, dan Kimberly Penman adalah lebih baik berbanding dengan model PET lain dalam kategori masing-masing. Kajian ini juga memberikan Kimberly Penman (model berasaskan kombinasi) diputuskan sebagai model PET yang terbaik. Walau bagaimanapun, dengan mempertimbangkan perbezaan kecil nilai RMSE dan pembolehubah cuaca yang diperlukan, Conchrane-Orcutt (model berasaskan radiasi) disyorkan untuk penyelidikan masa depan dan aplikasi hidrologi praktikal.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

ET	-	Evapotranspiration
AET	-	Actual Evapotranspiration
PET	-	Potential Evapotranspiration
ET _o	-	Reference Evapotranspiration
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization
DL	-	Daylight Hours
SDV	-	Saturated Vapour Density

LIST OF SYMBOLS

T	-	Temperature
T _{max}	-	Maximum Temperature
T _{min}	-	Minimum Temperature
T _{mean}	-	Mean Temperature
T _{dew}	-	Dew Temperature
⁰ C	-	Degree Celcius
⁰ K	-	Degree Kelvin
U	-	Wind Speed
RH	-	Relative Humidity
R _s	-	Solar Radiation
R _a	-	Extratrerrestrail Radiation
R _n	-	Net Radiation
P	-	Rainfall
P	-	Atmospheric Pressure
J	-	Julian Day
Z, EL, h-	-	Elevation Abive Sea Level
e _s	-	Saturated vapour Pressure
e _a	-	Actual Vapour Pressure
λ	-	Latent Heat of Vaporization
γ	-	Sychromeric Constant
Δ	-	Slope of the Vapour Pressure Curve
ρ	-	Density
G	-	Soil Heat Flux
⊖	-	Latitude

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Water is the essential element for life on earth planet, where now day different regions suffer from shortages due to the large population growth and reduction of natural resources. The agricultural sector is the human activity that consumes the large amount of water in the world (about 70% of the drinking water sources) and one of the main problems of irrigated agriculture is the correct quantification of crop water requirements (Mendonça et al., 2012). In this sense there is constant search to implement sustainable practices for management of water resources, one of the more efficient of water determination of evapotranspiration (ET), which is the term used to describe the amount of water effectively ceded the land surface to the atmosphere and an important component of the hydrological cycle and used for quantifying the calculation of water balance in soil, detection water stress conditions and use as input for quantitative models of harvesting or other applications (Ferreira et al., 2011).

The process of evapotranspiration is generally considered as an essential aspect in hydrological researches. Evapotranspiration is a combination process of evaporation from the soil, open-water and transpiration from the plant vegetation which transfer water to the atmosphere. It is an important parameter in the study of hydrology, climatology, irrigation planning, and water resources management. Climate change has occurred to intensify the hydrological cycle and to change

evapotranspiration (Huntington, 2006). Climatic conditions, which determine both the scale and temporal distribution of watershed hydrology may satisfy or emphasize evapotranspiration.

Evapotranspiration ET is an important part of climate and hydrological cycles (Zohren and Amin, 2013). It also has vital agricultural, ecological and hydrological roles. Three fifths of the earth solar radiation received globally is used by ET (Wang, 2012; Wild *et al.*, 2013). Also, two thirds of the water that falls on the earth surface is ET, which makes it a major part of water cycle (Baumgartner, 1975). ET is significant in various atmospheric processes because it provides the atmosphere with water that evaporates from oceans and swamps. ET affects several atmospheric processes such as global temperature, pressure and precipitation, in magnitude and distribution (Zveryaev, 2010). Evapotranspiration (ET) is a significant factor of hydrological budgets at various spatial dimensions and is an important variable for knowing regional biological processes. ET is used in calculating actual evapotranspiration (AET) in rainfall-runoff and ecosystem modeling. It is also used in calculating the amount of water that evaporates to the atmosphere. (Band *et al.*, 1996; Hay, 2002)

Evapotranspiration is the most important variable next to rainfall in the context of irrigation to crops, and also its influence as a multivariable and multidimensional hydrological parameter (McMahon *et al.*, 2013). Evapotranspiration comes from the combination of two words, evaporation and transpiration. Evaporation describes the movement of water to air from soil, water bodies and canopy, while transpiration describes the movement of water within a plant through stomata in its leaves. Evaporation from bare ground may be strict but vaporized moisture can rapidly decline without new rainfall, which is a short phenomenon. In contrast, a dense tropical forest occupied by deep-rooted trees can continue to transpire water from deeper soil layer (Oyebande, 1998). Evapotranspiration process also described as largest loss of water from trees and grass wetlands, which has a high impacts stage and salinity of these wetlands (Hayashi *et al.*, 1998). Evapotranspiration process is one of the most important processes in designing and planning all irrigation system management. The

evapotranspiration measure from the reference surface, have sufficient water level, better known as the reference evapotranspiration or reference crop evapotranspiration (Irmak, Suat *et al.*, 2006). The purpose of reference or potential evapotranspiration is to remove any specific change to vegetated crop in the process of evapotranspiration (Jensen, Marvin Eli *et al.*, 1990).

The amount of precipitation that hit the earth's surface returns to the atmosphere by evaporation and/or evapotranspiration is up to 70%. Also the precipitation returns to the atmosphere through evaporation and evapotranspiration process in arid region is 90% (Rosenberg *et al.*, 1983). Actual evaporation is a major component in the water balance of a catchment, reservoir or lake, irrigation region, and some ground water system. For example, across all continents evapotranspiration is 70% precipitation and varies from over 90% in Australia to approximately 60% in Europe (Ritchie. *et al.*, 1974). For major reservoirs in Australia, actual evaporation losses represent 20% of reservoir yield. Compare with the precipitation and stream flow, the magnitude of actual evaporation over a long term is more difficult to estimate than either precipitation or stream flow (McMahon *et al.*, 2013). (Need Pharapres)

Evapotranspiration ET is an essential element that causes high loss of water that may lead to shortage of water and drought especially the urban region. Therefore, the research is set out to highlight and know the importance of evapotranspiration estimation process in urban catchment, and also to identify a conceptual model that is expected to serve as a guide toward the effectiveness of evapotranspiration estimation for tropical urban region especially in the areas where complete data is lacking.

A land use changes have a direct effect on hydrology all the way through its connection with the evapotranspiration feature and in river basin there may be significant variation in both climate and land used across the region. The impact of the difference in the evapotranspiration characteristic assessed for the Tyne Basin in north east England (Taha, 1997). It's also recognized that urban climate vary from those of rural areas and that the absolute of difference can be relatively large at times

depending on weather conditions, urban thermo physical and geometrical characteristics, anthropogenic moisture and heat sources nearby in the area. Therefore, this research is set out to identify the importance of evapotranspiration urban catchment which will be used to identify a conceptual model that is expected to serve as a guide toward the effective evapotranspiration for the urban climate region.

Global water and global warming crises were connected and exacerbated by unprecedented global pressure from over-consumption, population growth, globalization of economic system and trade, reduction in development assistance, and the failure to enact viable policy, legal and traditional reforms (Duda and El-Ashry, 2000). The recurrent themes of the dominant global water crises are the sectoral competition between irrigation and industrial use, between urban and rural area. Therefore, estimation of evapotranspiration is one of the first significant steps for evaluating crop water requirement that will have a special economic importance in rationing of water consumption in the agricultural field under current and future climate conditions.

The fundamental problem of hydrological modeling activities on terrestrial water cycle is the effects of climate change. Climate analysis at various climate stations reveals increase in temperature over a century and fluctuation in precipitation. IPCC predicts a continuation in this trend in future (IPCC, 2007). Law of clausius-clapeyron (Clapeyron., 1834; Krysanova *et al.*, 2008) , assumed that the water holding capacity of the atmosphere will increase in future, arising from mean temperature. From this law, an increase in saturation vapor pressure of 6-7% per degree Celsius can be derived. Hence, a spontaneous increase in evapotranspiration (ET) is obtained. The effect of climate change on ET is estimated using Hydrological model since it cannot be obtained by climate observations and predictions (Bormann, 2011).

Few studies conducted on evapotranspiration estimation in Malaysia (Md. Hazrat Ali and Teang, 2009; Najim *et al.*, 2003; Yusop *et al.*, 2008). Najim *et al.* (2003) examined the sensitivity of evapotranspiration to climate change using eight

evapotranspiration estimation methods with thirty years' daily climate data from seberang park paddy estate, meteorological station, they concluded that the tropical climate was characterized by a high rainfall. Md. Hazrat Ali and Teang (2009) simulates daily time series of evaporation using the Penman equation and potential evapotranspiration using penman montieth. The evaporation and evapotranspiration was predicted under temperature change in muda catchment, Malaysia as an influence by climate data variables. Yusop *et al.* (2008) estimate evapotranspiration rate in the catchment area of oil palm in Johor, Malaysia with three different types of catchments using short time period water budget (SPWB) and catchment water balance (CWB).

1.2 Problem Statement

Evapotranspiration estimation now a day has given more considerable attention by pervious researchers. Thus most of the researchers limited there number of ET equations or models, such as (Bormann, 2011) used 18 ET models while (Tabari et al., 2013) used 31 ET models. Much software also was used in the estimation of ET, which include; EmPest, ETo calculator, AFSIR, AWSET, Cropwat, but they also used limited number of ET equations. This study provide new insight into evapotranspiration estimation, 49 models will be use for the estimation.

Several approaches has been used by previous researchers in estimating evapotranspiration (ET) in Malaysia which include; sensitivity of estimates of evapotranspiration due to change in climate (Najim et al., 2003), rate of evapotranspiration in catchment area of oil palm in Johor, Malaysia (Yusop et al., 2008), estimating evapotranspiration in historical and projected future evapotranspiration in Muda irrigation scheme (Tukimat et al., 2012). However, these studies were localized to agricultural catchments. Noticeably, evapotranspiration estimation is still lacking in the urban region.

Also Selangor is one of the state in Malaysia have a history of water shortage, in which several argument has been made about this issue of shortage of water in the area. The Government saying that this issue of water crises is due to demand growth in the state, while other expertise are saying is due to weather changes (pattern of rainfall has been change) (Yin, 2014). In 2014 Selangor water crises causes multi-million ringgit losses, and at least 30 companies in the state suffer great losses (Zachariah, 2014). Tajuddin (2014) mention that the demand for the state water grow between 3% - 4% annually, He added that in 2014 daily demand for Selangor reach 4,907, million liters, where as the effective supply capacity is only 4,431 million liters, which clearly indicates that Selangor facing water shortage by almost 500 million liters per day, but the government says that the water rationing was due to dry spell season. As a result of this it is very essential for the managers of water resources to know the amount of water loss for necessary measures to reduce or to avoid shortage of water in the urban area now and in the feature time.

1.3 Aim and Objectives

The aim of this research is to study the PET with reference to the relationship between PET model and climate data. The models are categorized to be (Temperature-based model, Mass transfer-based model, Radiation based model and combination model). The study will identify the model that can serve as a guide toward the effectiveness of PET estimation for tropical urban region where complete climate data is lacking. Specifically, the objectives of the study are:

- i. To estimate evapotranspiration values for tropical urban region based on the different groups of equations.
- ii. To compare the performance of various ET models according to their groups (Temperature-based method, Mass transfer-based method, Radiation based method and combination method).

- iii. To examine the applicability of the PET models among the groups.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The study was conducted in Subang a district in a state of Selangor Malaysia. And for the purpose of this study, daily meteorological data for Subang which is an urban area will be used, 50 PET models were apply for the computation, data included are maximum temperature, minimum temperature, wind speed, relative humidity, rainfall and pan evaporation data, while other variables that were not measured will be computed with certain method or equations using the record data. The study is applicable for Subang; 20 years (1985 to 2004) daily meteorological data will be use for estimation of PET.

1.5 Significant of the Study

The present study updates the number of PET models usedfor PET estimation, with climatic data of Subang, Malaysia. Knowledge of this study can be a better tool for water resources managers, government, individual and private organizations to plan for mitigation measures. To ensure the effectiveness on utilization and management of the water resource, water availability and productivity which affect the processes of biomass accumulation and ground water recharge.

However, lack of proper estimation of PET using PET models for urban areas has an implication in knowing the actual loss of water caused by PET. Therefore it is very essential for the managers of water resources to know the amount of water loss for necessary measures to reduce or to avoid shortage of water in the urban area now and in the feature time.

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