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Identifying long-term variations in vegetation and climatic variables and their scale-dependent relationships: a case study in Southwest Germany

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Abstract: Geographic time series are usually non-stationary and contain different frequency components (e.g., seasonal variations, long-term and short-term fluctuations) which may significantly affect the overall variance structure in the original data. Based upon the monthly normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI), precipitation and temperature data for six different vegetation types in two precipitation regimes (low and high precipitation regimes) of Rhineland-Palatinate (Southwest Germany), this study aims to examine the temporal trends in the original time series of these variables and their relationships. In addition, the further objectives are to evaluate which time-scale is dominantly responsible for the trend production found in the original data and find out the certain time-scales that represent the strongest correlation between NDVI and climatic variables (i.e., precipitation and temperature). A combined approach using the discrete wavelet transform (DWT), Mann-Kendall (MK) trend test and correlation analysis was implemented to achieve these goals. The trend assessment for the original data shows that the monthly NDVI time series for all vegetation types in both precipitation regimes have upward trends, most of which are

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