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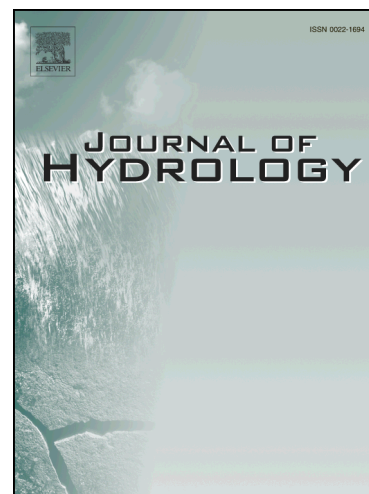
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Daily pan evaporation modeling from local and cross-station data using three tree-based machine learning models

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Abstract

Accurate estimation of pan evaporation (E_p) is required for many applications, e.g., water resources management, irrigation system design and hydrological modeling. However, the estimation of E_p for a target station can be difficult as a result of partial or complete lack of local meteorological data under many conditions. In this study, daily E_p was estimated from local (target-station) and cross-station data in the Poyang Lake Watershed of China using four empirical models and three tree-based machine learning models, including M5 model tree (M5Tree), random forests (RF_s) and gradient boosting decision tree (GBDT). Daily meteorological data during 2001-2010 from 16 weather stations were used to train the models, while the data from 2011 to 2015 were used for testing. Two cross-station

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