

1 **The importance of mean and variance in predicting changes in temperature**
2 **extremes**

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9

10 **Abstract** The important role of the evolution of mean temperature in the changes
11 of extremes has been recently documented in the literature and variability is
12 known to play a role in the occurrence of extremes too. This paper aims at further
13 investigating the role of their evolutions in the observed changes of temperature
14 extremes. Analyses are based on temperature time series for Eurasia and the
15 United States and concern absolute minima in winter and absolute maxima in
16 summer of daily minimum and maximum temperature. A test is designed to check
17 whether the extremes of the residuals after accounting for a time-varying mean
18 and standard deviation can be considered stationary. This hypothesis is generally
19 true for all extremes, seasons and locations. Then, relationships exist to retrieve
20 the Generalized Extreme Value distribution (GEV) parameters of the observed
21 temperature time series from those of the residuals. The comparison between the
22 directly fitted parameters and the retrieved ones through these relationships
23 compare favorably. Finally, a method is proposed to compute future return levels
24 using this link based on the stationary return levels of the residuals and the
25 projected mean and variance at the desired time horizon. Comparisons with return
26 levels obtained through the extrapolation of significant linear trends identified in
27 the parameters of the GEV distribution show that the proposed method gives
28 relevant results. It allows taking mean and/or variance trends into account in the
29 estimation of extremes even though no significant trends in the GEV parameters
30 can be identified. Moreover, the role of trends in variance cannot be neglected.
31 Lastly, first results based on two CMIP5 climate models show that the identified
32 link between mean and variance trends and trends in extremes is correctly
33 reproduced by the models and is maintained in the future, which allows applying
34 the method to estimate return levels until the end of the century.

36 1 Introduction

37 Global temperature has increased since the beginning of the last century and will
38 most likely continue to do so in the next decades [IPCC, 2007]. This increasing
39 trend may induce more frequent and more intense heat waves in the future [Meehl
40 and Tebaldi, 2004; Fischer and Schaer, 2010; Barriopedro et al., 2011]. Coumou
41 and Rahmstorf [2012] recently showed that the unprecedented occurrence of
42 record-breaking events in the last decade can be attributed to anthropogenic
43 climate change. As temperature extremes may cause multiple severe social and
44 economic impacts, their evolutions have been studied using different approaches.
45 Some studies are based on the analysis of observed daily data, recently made
46 available through homogenized or, at least, scrutinized series regarding
47 homogeneity, like the European Climate Assessment and Dataset (ECA&D)
48 project series or the Caesar et al. [2006] gridded dataset. Important decreases are
49 found in the number of frost days, while coherent increases appear in extreme
50 night time temperatures [Alexander et al, 2006; Frich et al., 2002]. Generally,
51 trends in extreme night time temperature are higher than trends in day time
52 maximum temperature, and the warming is largest in the northern hemisphere
53 during winter and spring. Moreover, Kiktev et al. [2003] showed that these
54 evolutions are linked to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. It is thus clear
55 that the highest and lowest temperatures exhibit trends all over the world. One
56 question thus concerns the link between these trends and that of the mean and/or
57 of other moments of the distribution.

58 This question has been tackled by Barbosa et al. [2011], for daily mean
59 temperature in Central Europe using quantile regression and clustering. They
60 showed that for most of their studied stations, the slopes of the lowest and highest
61 quantiles are not the same as those of the median, and thus that the trends are not
62 the same for all parts of the distribution. Using a different approach, Ballester et
63 al. [2010a] analyzed the link between trends in extreme and in mean temperature.
64 Using climate simulation results from the European PRUDENCE project and the
65 E-OBS gridded observation dataset [Haylock et al., 2008] they showed that the
66 increasing intensity of the most damaging summer heat waves over Central
67 Europe is mostly linked to higher base summer temperatures.

68 Few papers analyze the most extreme events using statistical EVT. *Zwiers et al.*
69 [2011] used Generalized Extreme Value (GEV) distributions and climate model
70 simulations of the CMIP3 project database to detect anthropogenic influence.
71 They found that the most detectable influence of external forcing is on annual
72 maximum daily minimum temperature (TN) and the least detectable on annual
73 maximum daily maximum temperature (TX). They also stated that the waiting
74 time for the 1960's 20-year return level (expected to recur once every 20 years)
75 has now increased for annual minimum TX and TN and decreased for annual
76 maximum TN. *Brown et al.* [2008] went further in studying the link between the
77 identified trends in extreme and in mean temperature. They used an EVT-model
78 with time varying parameters to study the global changes in extreme daily
79 temperatures since 1950 from the *Caesar et al.* [2006] gridded daily dataset.
80 Applying the Marked Point Process technique, they found that only trends in the
81 location parameter are significant and that both maximum and minimum TN
82 present higher trends than their TX counterparts. They then compared the trends
83 in the location parameter to the trends in mean, and found that the trends in
84 extremes are consistent with the trends in mean.

85 Starting from these results, this paper aims at going further in researching the link
86 between the evolutions of extremes and of the bulk of the distribution of
87 temperature. It can obviously be expected that if the mean is changing, the
88 induced shift of the tails of the distribution will lead to changes in extremes. *Katz*
89 *and Brown* [1992] and *Fisher and Schär* [2009] highlighted the role of variability
90 in the occurrence of extremes. Other moments of the distribution could be studied.
91 For example, *Ballester et al.* [2010b] use standard deviation and skewness of the
92 annual distribution of detrended temperature. Using climate model simulation
93 results only, they stress the role of standard deviation change in the modification
94 of frequency, intensity and duration of warm events, whereas skewness change is
95 also important for cold extremes.

96 This study focuses on the estimation of temperature extremes in the climate
97 change context. One commonly used methodology relies on the identification and
98 estimation of trends in the parameters of the EVT distributions [*Coles*, 2001;
99 *Parey et al.*, 2007; *Parey et al.*, 2010b]. However, such trends are identified on
100 relatively short samples made of the highest (or lowest) observed values and may
101 not be as robust as trends identified on the whole dataset. Therefore a systematic

102 study of the link between trends in extremes and trends in mean and variance is
103 helpful to determine whether extremes exhibit unique trends in addition to those
104 induced by trends in mean and variance. If they do not, future extremes can be
105 derived from the stationary extremes of the residuals, after accounting for a time-
106 varying mean and standard deviation, and the changes in mean and variance of the
107 whole dataset, as proposed in Parey et al. 2010b. The aim of this paper is then to
108 check this link for a large number of time series of temperature from weather
109 stations. It will therefore be organized as follows: section 2 is dedicated to the
110 observational data and section 3 to methods descriptions. The link between the
111 non-parametric trends in mean and variance and in extremes is investigated and
112 discussed in section 4, as well as its use in the estimation of future return levels,
113 before concluding with a discussion and perspectives in section 5.

114 **2 Observational data**

115 For Eurasia, weather station time series are taken from the ECA&D project
116 database. The project gives indications of homogeneity through the results of
117 different break identification techniques [*Klein Tank et al., 2002*]. For this study
118 the series which could be considered as homogenous (stated as “useful” in the
119 database) over the period 1950-2009 have first been selected for both TN and TX.
120 Then, these series have been checked for missing data and those with more than
121 5% missing data have again been excluded. This selection left 106 series for TX
122 and 120 for TN (many TX series, mostly in Russia, have missing values from
123 2007 onward whereas the corresponding TN series have missing values only in
124 2009).

125 For the United States, weather station TX and TN time series are obtained from
126 the Global Historical Climatology Network – Daily Database (GHCN daily)
127 [*Menne et al., 2011*]. These time series have been quality checked through an
128 automated quality insurance described in *Durre et al. [2010]*. The first step has
129 been to select the highest quality time series, as stated by the quality indicators,
130 with less than 5% of missing data. Then, only the series starting before 1966 and
131 ending after 2008 are kept. Finally a new check-up for missing values has been
132 conducted, together with a visualization of the evolution of annual mean values.
133 The TX time series for the station of Eureka (Arizona) and the TN time series for
134 Ajo (California) present a stepwise-like evolution between 1970 and 1980 looking

135 like a break and have been eliminated (figure 1), which leaves us with 86 series
136 for TX and 85 for TN.

137 **3 Statistical methods**

138 **3.1 Extreme value theory**

139 EVT relies on the well known Extremal Types Theorem which states that, if the
140 maximum of a large sample of observations, suitably normalized, converges in
141 distribution to G when the sample size tends to infinity, then G belongs to the
142 GEV family [Coles, 2001]. The assumptions behind the theorem are that the data
143 in every block are stationary and weakly dependent with a regular tail distribution.
144 Temperature maxima are expected to occur mostly in summer and temperature
145 minima in winter. For each time series, the distribution of the 2, 3 or 5 highest or
146 lowest values each year in the different months is computed. Then the months
147 with more extremes than expected under the identical distribution assumption are
148 selected. For maximal TN or TX, the months of June, July, August or July,
149 August, September occur quite regularly as the favored ones, and thus the summer
150 season is defined as a period of 100 days between the 14th of June and the 21st of
151 September. The selection of 100 days is convenient but may appear somewhat
152 arbitrary. It is a good compromise between length and weak remaining
153 seasonality. In fact, tests with different selections in these months of June to
154 September showed that the results are not sensitive to this choice (not shown). For
155 minimal TN or TX, the minima rather occur during the month of January,
156 followed by December or February, but no other months emerge. Thus the winter
157 season is defined as the 90 days of the months of December, January and
158 February (the 29 February is omitted during leap years, except if the temperature
159 is lower than that of the 28 in which case it is considered as the temperature of the
160 28). Then the choice of block length is based on the classical bias / variance trade-
161 off. Defining 2 blocks per season (blocks of 50 days in summer and 45 days in
162 winter) have been chosen as a reasonable balance, leading, with series of around
163 50 to 60 years to more than 100 block maxima or minima.
164 Thus the GEV distribution will be fitted to the maxima of TN and TX in summer
165 and the minima of TN and TX (maxima of the opposite series) in winter
166 considering 2 blocks per season.

167 3.2 Trends

168 3.2.1 Non-parametric trends in mean and variance

169 Let $X(t)$ be an observed temperature time series. For each day t , $m(t)$ and $s^2(t)$
170 (continuous time functions) represent the associated mean and variance,
171 respectively. If $\Gamma(t)$ is a (k,T) matrix, where T is the length of the time period,
172 whose components are associated to different characteristics of the process at time
173 t , then $\Gamma(t)$ is called multidimensional trend [Hoang *et al.*, 2009]. For instance,
174 $\Gamma(t)$ consists here of the trends in mean and standard deviation, but skewness and
175 kurtosis trends could also be considered. The goal is to estimate as objectively as
176 possible $\Gamma(t)$, in order to capture the structure in the data and in the same time, to
177 smooth local extrema. As in Hoang *et al.* [2009] or in Parey *et al.* [2010a and b],
178 the LOESS (Local regression, Stone, 1977) technique is used to do so. The choice
179 of the smoothing parameter (and thus the window length) has to be adapted to the
180 analyzed data to keep the trend identification as intrinsic as possible. This is made
181 by using a modified partitioned cross-validation (MPCV) technique [Hoang,
182 2010]. Cross-validation has to be modified in order to eliminate as far as possible
183 time dependence and take heteroscedasticity into account. The idea of MPCV is to
184 partition the observations into g subgroups by taking every g^{th} observations, for
185 example the first subgroup consists of observations 1, 1+ g , 1+2 g ,..., the second
186 subgroup consists of observations 2, 2+ g , 2+2 g ,... The observations in each
187 subgroup are then less dependent-independent. Chu and Marron [1991] define the
188 optimal bandwidth for Partitioned Cross-Validation in the case of constant
189 variance as $h_{PCV} = h_0 g^{1/5}$, with h_0 estimated as the minimiser of

$$190 \quad PCV_g(h) = \frac{1}{g} \sum_{k=1}^g CV_{0,k}(h) \quad (CV_{0,k} \text{ is the ordinary Cross-Validation score for the } k\text{-}$$

191 th group). This approach has been modified to take heteroscedasticity into account.
192 Then, the optimal g corresponds to the minimum of a more complicated
193 expression [Hoang, 2010] (expression 6.1 in appendix) and in practice, it is
194 preferred to estimate h_{MPCV} (the optimal bandwidth of the Modified Partitioned
195 Cross Validation) for different values of g and to retain the values of g for which
196 h_{MPCV} is not too badabsurd (that is not too close to zero and not higher than 0.7).
197 For each g the trends m and s are estimated by loess with bandwidth \hat{h}_{MPCV}^g to

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198 obtain an estimator of ε and of its autocovariance with which expression 6.1 can
199 be estimated. The value of g corresponding to the minimum value is retained,
200 giving the corresponding optimal bandwidth h_{MPCV} . Until to day this algorithm
201 seems to be one of the best for CV in these situation for which mathematical
202 theory is not complete.— For temperature, the dependence between the dates can
203 be assumed as negligible if the dates are distant by more than 5 days. We used a
204 cross validation method on data sampled every 10 days ($g=10$) to be conservative,
205 and an optimal parameter is computed for each temperature time series.

206 3.2.2 Non-parametric trends in extremes

207 In the same way, if EVT can be applied and $G(t)$ is the GEV distribution at time t ,
208 $\Theta(t)$ represents the parameters of $G(t)$, that is location $\mu(t)$, scale $\sigma(t)$ and shape
209 $\xi(t)$. The shape parameter ξ is the most difficult to estimate, and it could be tricky
210 to differentiate possible evolutions from estimation errors. In their study, *Zhang et al.*
211 [2004] did not consider any trend in this parameter, as they assume that it is
212 not likely to show a trend in climate series. Tests on different periods of a long
213 observation series have shown that this parameter does not significantly evolve
214 with time [*Parey et al.*, 2007], and more sophisticated non-parametric studies lead
215 to the same conclusion [*Hoang*, 2010]. Thus, in the following, the shape
216 parameter ξ will be considered constant. Then, the trends in location and scale
217 parameters are estimated in a non-parametric way using cubic splines (through
218 penalized likelihood maximization, *Cox and O'Sullivan* [1996]) and the classical
219 cross validation technique (in an iterative way) since the extremes are selected as
220 independent values. Cubic splines are preferred here because they are convenient
221 to deal with edge effects for the relatively short series of maxima. An iterative
222 procedure is used to smooth both the location and scale parameters consistently.
223 The estimation of constant parameters is obtained through likelihood
224 maximization (see section 3.3).

225 3.3 Stationarity test

226 The question we wish to address is whether trends in extremes can mostly be
227 characterized by trends in mean and variance. To analyse this, $Y(t)$ is defined as
228 the standardized residuals:

229
$$Y(t) = \frac{X(t) - m(t)}{s(t)} \quad (1)$$

230 The hypothesis we want to test becomes: “the extremes of $Y(t)$ in every block can
 231 be considered as a stationary sequence”, which means that both the location μ and
 232 scale σ parameters are constant. A methodology to test this hypothesis has been
 233 proposed and detailed in *Hoang* [2010] and is summarized here. First, $Y(t)$ is
 234 estimated as $\hat{Y}(t) = \frac{X(t) - \hat{m}(t)}{\hat{s}(t)}$ and the stationarity of its extremes is tested. The

235 set of possible evolutions of the extreme parameters of $Y(t)$ is very large. So the
 236 test cannot easily be formulated as a choice between two well defined alternatives.
 237 This is the reason why the use of a squared distance Δ between two functions of
 238 time, defined as:

239
$$\Delta(f, g) = \int_{t \in D} (f(t) - g(t))^2 dt, \quad D \text{ being the time period,} \quad (2)$$

240 is preferred. If any function of time f is estimated by g , $\Delta(f, g)$ is a measure of the
 241 quality of g as an estimate of f . Two different estimations of the parameters $\mu(t)$
 242 and $\sigma(t)$ can be made: they can be estimated non-parametrically as $\tilde{\mu}(t)$ and $\tilde{\sigma}(t)$
 243 or as constant $\hat{\mu}$, $\hat{\sigma}$. The stationarity hypothesis being true or not, $\tilde{\mu}(t)$ and $\tilde{\sigma}(t)$
 244 converges to the ‘real’ values μ , σ when the sample size T tends to infinity, the
 245 rate of convergence depends on the supposed smoothness of the function. The
 246 situation is of course different for $\hat{\mu}$, $\hat{\sigma}$: if the stationarity hypothesis is true, they
 247 converges to μ , σ with a rate of the order of \sqrt{T} and in this case $\Delta(\hat{\mu}, \tilde{\mu})$ is, for a
 248 large sample, very close to $\Delta(\mu, \tilde{\mu})$. On the contrary if the hypothesis is false,
 249 $\hat{\mu}$ converges to a constant which is of course different from the non constant
 250 function $\mu(t)$ and $\Delta(\hat{\mu}, \mu)$ does not tend to zero and remains larger than some $\Lambda > 0$.

251 The intuitive reason is that we try to find μ in a set of functions “far away” from μ
 252 if the hypothesis is false. The same is true for $\Delta(\hat{\sigma}, \tilde{\sigma})$. A test could be based on
 253 an asymptotic result [*Hoang*, 2010]. We prefer the use of a numerical approach
 254 based on simulation. Our proposed solution is then to statistically evaluate (by
 255 simulation or bootstrapping) the distribution of $\Delta(\hat{\mu}, \tilde{\mu})$ if the hypothesis is true,
 256 that is the distribution of the distances between the non-parametric estimates and
 257 the best constant to estimate μ . To do this, we simulate a large number of samples
 258 of the stationary GEV (μ_Y, σ_Y, ξ_Y) distribution with the same size as the series of

259 the maxima of $Y(t)$. From each sample, we estimate the GEV parameters in two
260 ways: first, by considering them as constant; second, by considering them as
261 functions of time. Then we calculate the distances between these two estimates
262 and obtain a distribution of the statistical error of estimation provided the
263 hypothesis is true. If the distances obtained from the observations are found lower
264 than the 90th percentile, then the hypothesis is considered satisfied: the distances
265 cannot be distinguished from such arising due to statistical errors. This has to be
266 done for each temperature time series.

267 **4 Results for temperature time series**

268 **4.1 Stationarity test**

269 *Brown et al.* [2008], among others, have shown that significant trends can be
270 identified in the evolutions of temperature extremes, especially the location
271 parameter. The investigated issue is whether these trends can mostly be
272 characterized by trends in mean and variance. Therefore, the previously described
273 test has been applied to different temperature time series for different variables
274 (TN and TX), parameters (location and scale) and locations (Eurasia and the
275 United States).

276 The results are shown in figure 2. Grey points indicate that the cross validation
277 could not converge to an optimal smoothing parameter for the non-parametric
278 estimation of the location and scale parameters, and thus, the test could not be
279 performed. This mostly happens in winter in the United-States: around 20% of the
280 stations (18.8% for minimal TN and 19.8% for minimal TX) experience this
281 problem. The reason for this will have to be more carefully investigated in future
282 work. For the other seasons and locations, this concerns less or around 10% of the
283 stations. Among points where the test could be performed, the hypothesis is
284 accepted for both location and scale parameters for around 80 to 90% of the
285 stations (from 76.6% for maximum TN in summer in the United-States to 94.2%
286 for minimum TN in winter in the United-States), and for at least one of the
287 parameters for more than 94% of the stations (from 94.7% for maximum TX in
288 summer in the United-States to 100% for minimum TX and minimum TN in
289 winter in the United-States and minimum TX in winter in Eurasia). This means

290 that the stationarity of the extremes of the standardized residuals can reasonably
291 be assumed globally.

292 **4.2 Impact on Return Level estimation**

293 Previous results show that the trends in extremes closely follow that of mean and
294 variance. The extreme distribution parameters of the observed temperature time
295 series $X(t)$ are linked to those of the standardized residuals $Y(t)$ in the following
296 way:

$$297 \begin{cases} \xi_X = \xi_Y \\ \sigma_X(t) = \sigma_Y(t) * s(t) \\ \mu_X(t) = m(t) + \mu_Y(t) * s(t) \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

298 where μ , σ and ξ are respectively the location, scale and shape parameters of the
299 GEV distribution, subscripts X and Y referring to the observed temperature time
300 series and the residuals time series, and $m(t)$ and $s(t)$ are the trends in mean and
301 variance. We thus first compare the non-parametric GEV parameters directly
302 obtained from $X(t)$, with their bootstrap confidence intervals, to the same
303 parameters reconstructed from the constant $Y(t)$ parameters and the non-
304 parametric trends in mean and standard deviation of $X(t)$ by using (3). The plot
305 obtained for the French station of Déols in figure 3 shows that the reconstructed
306 parameters fall most of the time inside the 95% bootstrap confidence interval of
307 the directly computed ones, which checks the validity of the tested hypothesis.

308 Then, the GEV parameters for a given future period can be derived from those of
309 $Y(t)$, which are constant, and future values of the mean and the standard deviation,
310 to compute some future Return Level (RL), as proposed in *Parey et al.* [2010b].

311 As an example, 50-year RLs are computed for the year 2030 for TX in Eurasia:

- 312 1) through extrapolation of optimal linear trends (according to a likelihood
313 ratio test with a 10% significant level) in location and scale parameters of
314 the GEV for $X(t)$
- 315 2) through (3) with $m(t)$ and $s(t)$ being significant linear trends extrapolated
316 to 2030 (m and s are computed over 10 years around 2030). Trend
317 significance is assessed with a Mann-Kendall test on seasonal means and
318 variances with a 10% significance level.

319 In each case, confidence intervals are computed by bootstrapping, in order to take
320 uncertainties in the identified trends into account. The obtained differences in RL

321 do not exceed 3°C, and method 2 generally gives higher RLs. The confidence
322 intervals of the two methods do not overlap for 16 out of the 106 TX time series
323 (figure 4). The confidence intervals are said “not overlapping” if the RL computed
324 with method 1 does not fall in the confidence interval of the RL computed with
325 the method 2 and vice-versa. This avoids choosing a threshold to eliminate small
326 overlapping. For 14 of them, no trends are found in the GEV parameters but a
327 significant trend in mean, in variance or in both mean and variance is identified,
328 and for the 2 others a significant trend is found for the location parameter of the
329 GEV and in mean and variance. For these 16 TX time series, the second approach
330 leads to a higher RL, except for Gurteen in Ireland (open red circle in figure 4).
331 This can be explained by differences in the shape parameter obtained for the
332 extremes of X(t) and those of Y(t) in this case. Theoretically, the shape parameters
333 are identical (equation 3), but due to adjustment uncertainties, in practice, it may
334 not be the case (the confidence intervals are large for this parameter). For the
335 Gurteen TX time series $\xi_x = -0.13$ and $\xi_y = -0.33$. If the RL is computed with
336 $\xi_y = \xi_x$ with method 2, then the two confidence intervals do overlap.

337 The role of a trend in variance can be illustrated by the TX time series of Dresden
338 and Berlin in Germany. For these two time series, no significant trends are
339 identified in the location and scale parameters of the GEV. If the non-parametric
340 trends are drawn for these parameters, it can be seen that they show a small
341 increasing trend, which is not found significant through the likelihood ratio test
342 when looking for a linear trend (figure 5). The two time series differ regarding the
343 mean and variance evolutions: whereas in Berlin a significant linear trend is found
344 for both mean and variance, in Dresden, only the linear trend in mean is
345 significant (figure 6). Then, the 50-year RL in Dresden computed with method 2
346 falls inside the confidence interval of the RL computed with method 1:

347 Method 1: RL=36.9°C [35.7;38.1] Method 2: RL=37.8 [36.3;38.7]

348 whereas in Berlin, it does not:

349 Method 1: RL=38.2°C [37.2;39.3] Method 2: RL=40.9°C [39.1;42.4]

350 The proposed method based on mean and variance trends allows taking changes in
351 extremes into account, even though no significant trends in the GEV parameters
352 are identified. Furthermore, the role of a variance change in the computed RL is
353 not negligible and has to be taken into account.

354 **4.3 First results with climate models**

355 A preliminary study has been made with climate model results to check:

- 356 - whether the stationarity of the extremes of the residuals found with
357 observations is reproduced
- 358 - whether this stationarity remains true in the future with continued
359 increasing greenhouse gas emissions

360 The TN and TX time series for Eurasia and the United States for only two CMIP5
361 model simulations have been considered: IPSL-CM5B-LR and CNRM-CM5
362 (made available by the French teams of the Institut Pierre Simon Laplace and
363 Météo-France/CERFACS), with the highest RCP8.5 emission scenario. For both
364 models, the historical period is 1950-2005 and the considered future period
365 extends from 2006 to 2100 for IPSL-CM5B-LR and from 2006 to 2060 for
366 CNRM-CM5. Because the computation of the test is time consuming (500
367 simulations are done for each temperature time series), all grid points time series
368 could not be considered for testing. Only the land grid points are considered, and
369 among those, all are tested in the US and only one over two points in longitude for
370 Eurasia for IPSL-CM5B-LR and one point over two in the US and one over two
371 in longitude in Eurasia for CNRM-CM5. The results obtained for minimum TN in
372 winter and maximum TX in summer show that for both periods and both models,
373 our hypothesis is likely to be true (figures 7 and 8). This means that these models
374 correctly reproduce the observed link between trends in extremes and trends in
375 mean and variance, and maintain it in the future. This has the interesting
376 consequence that future RLs can be computed with our proposed method by using
377 climate model results, and thus, projections are possible at later time horizons,
378 which is not reasonably possible when extrapolating observed linear trends.

379 **5 Discussion and perspectives**

380 In this paper, two sets of observed temperature time series, in Eurasia and in the
381 United States, chosen to be as homogenous as possible over the period 1950-2009,
382 have been used to extend studies on the role of mean and variance change in the
383 evolutions of temperature extremes.

384 This role may be well known, but here a test is proposed and applied to check the
385 stationarity of the extremes of the residuals. The results show that, for
386 temperature, trends in mean and variance mostly explain the trends in extremes

387 for both TN and TX, in winter and in summer, and in Eurasia and in the United
388 States. This allows estimating future return levels from the stationary return levels
389 of the residuals and the projected mean and variance at the desired future period.
390 Trends in mean and variance are more robustly estimated than trends in the
391 parameters of the extreme value distribution, as they rely on much larger samples.
392 Then, in case significant trends in the parameters of the GEV distribution cannot
393 be detected, this method allows computing the future return levels in taking mean
394 and/or variance trends into account. Furthermore, some significant trends in
395 variance are found and their impact on the estimated future return level is not
396 negligible. One practical difficulty with the proposed method lies in the fitting of
397 the shape parameters: although the shape parameters of the observed time series
398 and of the residuals are theoretically the same, practically they may differ and
399 induce differences in the return levels. If this happens, it is advised to consider the
400 lowest of both values as the same shape parameter for both time series.
401 Then, the reproduction by two climate models of the identified link between
402 trends in mean and variance and trend in extremes for temperature has been
403 verified. Moreover, the same models maintain the validity of the link in the future,
404 until 2100, which allows the use of the proposed method to estimate future return
405 levels based on model projected mean and variance at any desired future horizon.
406 These findings are important for practical applications, because most safety
407 regulations are based on the estimation of rare events, defined as long period
408 return levels. In the climate change context, at least for temperature, it is not yet
409 possible to apply EVT as if the time series were stationary to make such
410 estimations. The proposed method is a way of tackling this problem.
411 Only point-wise results are shown, and it could be interesting to further
412 investigate field significances. However in practice, return levels are often
413 required for specific locations.

414 **6. Appendix**

415 **6.1 Modified Partitioned Cross-Validation**

416 Let us consider the model $X_i = m(x_i) + s(x_i)\varepsilon_i$ with $s(x)$ a scale function and ε a
417 random process. Modifications in the Partitioned Cross Validation are needed to
418 take non constant variance s into account.

Commentaire [d1]: Je pense qu'il faut soit supprimer le commentaire en renvoyant à la these de Titou ou cette partie nous en avons discuté a été rédigée plus que mal! Ou vraiment repréciser chaque chose

419 Inheriting the results of *Chu and Marron [1991]* and ignoring the weight function
 420 W (added to avoid the boundary effect) for the considered model with s constant,
 421 h_0 , the asymptotically optimal global **bandwidth** is given by:

422 $\hat{h}_0 = C_{PCV(g)} g^{1/5} n^{-1/5} (1 + o(1))$ and the optimal bandwidth h_M can be
 423 asymptotically expressed as: $h_M = C n^{-1/5} (1 + o(1))$ where $C_{PCV(g)} = V_{PCV(g)} / 4B_2$

424 and $C = V / 4B_2$ with $B_2 = \frac{1}{4} \mu_2^2 \int (m'')^2$, $V = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} c(k) s^2 v_0$ and

425 $V_{PCV} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} c(k) s^2 v_0 - 4s^2 K(0) \sum_{k>0} c(k)$, $c(k)$ being the k order autocovariance of

426 ε , K a kernel, $\mu_2^2 = \beta \int u^2 K^2(u) du$? and v_0 ? **JE NE SAIS PAS POUR v_0**

427 When s varies with time, *Hoang [2010]* showed that the optimal g satisfies:

428 $|C v_0 - g^{1/5} (C_1(g, s, \varepsilon) v_0 + 4K(0) C_2(g, s, \varepsilon))| \approx 0$ (6.1) with

429 $C_1(g, s, \varepsilon) = 1/n \sum_{i=1}^n s_i^2 c(0) + 2C_2(g, s, \varepsilon)$ and $C_2(g, s, \varepsilon) = 1/n \sum_{k=1}^{n-g} \sum_{i=1}^{(n-i)/g} s_i s_{i+kg} c(kg)$

430 6.2 Power of the test

431 A synthetic study is first presented to check the ability of the test to assess
 432 stationarity of the GEV parameters. To do so, 1000 samples are drawn from a
 433 distribution with imposed trends in mean and standard deviation, but not in
 434 extremes:

435 $X(t) = m(t) + s(t)\varepsilon$, where $m(t) = at + b$ and $s(t) = ct + d$ and ε is drawn from a GEV
 436 distribution with location 0, scale 1 and shape -0.15. Coefficients a to d has been
 437 chosen to be reasonable for temperature: $a = 3.8 * 10^{-4}$; $b = 23.8$; $c = 4.4 * 10^{-5}$; $d = 4.4$.

438 For each sample, $m(t)$ and $s(t)$ are re-estimated through LOESS with a smoothing
 439 parameter of 0.17 to compute the residuals $Y(t)$. Then non-parametric and
 440 constant GEV parameters for the extremes of $Y(t)$ are computed in the previously
 441 described way, and the table of distances under stationarity is calculated, to test
 442 whether the GEV parameters are found constant, with a 10% significance level.

443 The non-parametric (splines) estimates of the GEV parameters converge for 943
 444 of the 1000 samples. Among these, the test accepts the stationarity of μ for 925
 445 samples (98%), the stationarity of σ for 846 ($\cong 90\%$) and the stationarity of both μ
 446 and σ for 837 samples ($\cong 89\%$), which results in around 10% false rejection,
 447 coherent with the 10% significance level used.

Commentaire [d2]: Il y a deux optimalités incompréhensibles

448 Now, to compute the power of the test, we consider a sample for which
449 stationarity is rejected. We then compute 500 distances between constant and non-
450 parametric estimates of the GEV parameters of the extremes of $Y(t)$ for a non
451 stationary GEV and count the number of times the distance falls in the rejection
452 region of the table computed with a stationary GEV. 84.4% of these distances fall
453 in the rejection region, which gives a power of 84.4%.

454

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463

464 **7 References**

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