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Improving short range hydrological forecasts by using nowcasting technique and data assimilation in meteorological models

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Forecasting flash floods some hours in advance is still a challenge, especially in environments made up of many small catchments, where uncertainties in magnitude and spatial location of forecast rainfall are generally high. The scope of this work is to exploit both observations and modelling sources to improve the discharge prediction in

small catchments with a lead time of 2–8 h.

We used a nowcasting model and a meteorological where a data assimilation technique is applied with high frequency, to generate rainfall fields which are merged by a blending technique. These latter are used to feed a hydrological model and produce streamflow predictions.

Results seem to evidence that the implemented approach is quite promising in order to improve flood forecast

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