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PREDICTION OF PM₁₀ EXTREME CONCENTRATIONS IN URBAN MONITORING STATIONS IN SELANGOR, MALAYSIA USING THREE PARAMETERS EXTREME VALUE DISTRIBUTIONS (EVD)

Hasfazilah Ahmat*, Ahmad Shukri Yahaya, Nor Azam Ramli

Clean Air Research (CARE) Group, School of Civil Engineering, Engineering Campus, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 14300 Pulau Pinang, Malaysia Article history Received 15 July 2015

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*Corresponding author hasfazilah.ahmat@gmail.com

Graphical abstract



Abstract

Objective: The purpose of the study was to determine the best distribution to predict the extreme concentrations of PM₁₀ using the three parameters Weibull, Generalized Extreme Value (GEV) and Generalized Pareto Distribution (GPD). *Methodology*: The study used maximum concentration of daily PM₁₀ data recorded in the period of 2000-2012 in Klang and Shah Alam, Selangor. The parameters of all distributions were estimated using the method of Maximum Likelihood Estimator (MLE). The goodness of fit of the distribution was determined using performance indicators namely; the accuracy measures and error measures. The best distribution was selected based on the highest accuracy measures and the smallest error measures. *Results*: The findings showed that the three parameters GEV was the best fit for daily maximum concentration for PM₁₀ in these two stations. The result also demonstrated that the predicted number of days in which the concentrations of PM₁₀ exceeded the Malaysia Ambient Air Quality Guideline (MAAQG) for daily concentrations of 150µg/m³ were more than 85% in compliance of the actual number of days. Hence, the GEV can be used for the prediction of the PM₁₀ extreme concentrations.

Keywords: Extreme value theory (EVT); Extreme value distribution (EVD); Weibull; Generalized Extreme Value (GEV);Generalized Pareto Distribution (GPD); PM10; air pollution; prediction

Abstrak

Objektif: Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menentukan taburan yang terbaik untuk meramalkan kepekatan ekstrem PM₁₀ menggunakan tiga parameter Weibull, Nilai Melampau Teritlak (GEV) dan Taburan Pareto Teritlak (GPD). *Metodologi:* Kajian menggunakan kepekatan maksimum data harian PM₁₀ yang dicatatkan dalam tahun 2010 - 2012 di Klang dan Shah Alam, Selangor. Parameter untuk semua taburan dianggarkan menggunakan kaedah Penganggar Kebolehjadian Maksimum (MLE). Kebaikan penyesuaian taburan ditentukan dengan menggunakakan penunjuk prestasi iaitu pengukuran kejituan dan pengukuran ralat. *Dapatan:* Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa tiga parameter GEV adalah taburan terbaik untuk kepekatan maksimum harian bagi PM₁₀ di kedua-dua stesen. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa tiga parameter GEV adalah taburan terbaik untuk kepekatan maksimum harian bagi PM₁₀ di kedua-dua stesen. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa tiga parameter GEV adalah taburan terbaik untuk kepekatan maksimum harian bagi PM₁₀ di kedua-dua stesen. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa anggaran bilangan hari kepekatan PM₁₀ melebihi Garis Panduan Kualiti Udara Ambien Malaysia (MAAQG) bagi kepekatan harian PM₁₀ iaitu 150 µg/m³ lebih daripada 85% dalam pematuhan jumlah sebenar hari. Oleh itu, GEV boleh digunakan untuk peramalan kepekatan melampau bagi PM₁₀.

Kata kunci: Teori Nilai Melampau (EVT);Taburan Nilai Melampau (ECD);Weibull;Nilai Melampau Teritlak (GEV);Taburan Pareto Teritlak (GPD);PM₁₀;pencemaran udara; peramalan © 2015 Penerbit UTM Press. All rights reserved

Full Paper

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The existence of air pollutants in the form of gaseous, liquid or fine particles suspended in air is generally termed as air pollution. It takes place as a result of natural processes (volcanic activity, forest fires and windblown dust) along with anthropogenic activity. Anthropogenic activity can further be categorized into mobile and stationary sources. Motor vehicles either public or private, are examples of mobile sources, whilst stationary sources refers to industrial processes with examples such as power plants, incinerators, cements factories and iron and steel mills. In general, air pollutant in Malaysia is transported in the wind direction pattern of the northeast monsoon and southwest monsoon [1]. Previous studies showed that it can generate damaging effects to human health, crops and environment [2-4].

Reference [5] states that PM₁₀, which is identified as coarse particle and filterable particulate matter with aerodynamic diameter less than 10 micrometer (µm), continues to be the predominant pollutant in several areas in Malaysia that can cause unhealthy conditions during the dry period, as a result of the southwest monsoon. Several unhealthy days in some locations in Malaysia during this period were due to transboundary pollution. Particulate Matter (PM) is among the common six criteria pollutants [6].

For a decade, power plants and industrial have been the major sources of PM_{10} in Malaysia. However in 2012, there was a significant increase of more than 50% in motor vehicles as the major contributor of PM_{10} where Malaysia recorded significant increase in number of registered vehicles and active vehicles on road.

A guideline published by [8] as presented in Table 1 pointed out that the increase in mortality of around 2.5% for each 50 μ g/m³ increment in the daily concentration was expected. Thus, it was expected 5% increase in daily mortality as the effect of the increase of PM₁₀ concentration of 150 μ g/m³. The findings of a study conducted by [9] in Beijing also indicated that daily mortality has significant associations with PM₁₀.

The trend of the annual average levels of PM_{10} concentration in the ambient air between 2000 and 2013 was in compliance with the Malaysian Ambient Air Quality Guidelines (MAAQG) of $50\mu g/m^3$ as shown in Figure 1. Though the averages were lower than the annual permissible value, there were incidences during 2000 – 2013 whereby the concentrations of PM_{10} occasionally exceeded the stipulated hourly MAAQG value of $150\mu g/m^3$.

 Table 1
 WHO air quality guidelines and interim targets for

 PM based on 24-hour concentrations (source : [7])

	PM10 (ug/m ³)	Basis for selected level
Interim target-1 (IT-1)	150	Based on published risk coefficients from multi-centre studies and meta-analyses (about 5% increase of short-term mortality over the AQG value)
Interim target-2 (IT-2)	100	Based on published risk coefficients from multi-centre studies and meta-analyses (about 2.5% increase of short-term mortality over the AQG value)
Interim target-3 (IT-3)*	75	Based on published risk coefficients from multi-centre studies and meta-analyses (about 1.2% increase of short-term mortality over the AQG value)
Air quality guideline (AQG)	50	Based on relationship between 24- hour and annual PM ₁₀ levels.

In the period of 2004 – 2013, Malaysia experienced several short spell of high particulate event as the result of the local peat land and trans-boundary smoke fires from the neighbouring country particularly during the dry period of between May to September [10]. Researches had long attracted to studies involving natural phenomena such as rain, wind speed, air pollution, ocean wave heights and erosion [3, 4] using extreme value theory (EVT). Though hydrological studies utilized the EVT the most, the application in air pollution is irrefutably important.

A review of the literature shows that the Extreme Value Distribution (EVD) does not appear to have been employed for the analysis of any air pollution data until late 1970s. Reference [13] provides a comprehensive review of the principles and underlying assumptions of extreme value statistics in the application of the EVD in air pollution data. EVD is widely used method for assessing and estimating the concentrations of air pollutions [14]–[23]. Reference [24] had applied EVT in their air pollution study.

Measure of central tendency is a single value that attempts to explain a set of data by recognizing the central position within that set of data. Mean concentration of air pollution data may be best fitted using the method of central fitting. However, it does not fit precisely for high concentration or extremes of air pollution data [25]. Extreme PM₁₀ concentrations need to be modelled by suitable statistical distributions that give the best inferences of the behaviour of the extremes. Such application in air pollution studies for PM₁₀ is still not widely explored particularly in Malaysia. Reference [25–27] had applied EVD in PM₁₀ studies in Malaysia.



Figure 1 Annual average of PM10 concentrations in Malaysia from 2000 – 2013 (Source : [5])

This study was undertaken with the objective of determining the best model to predict the extreme concentrations of PM_{10} using the three parameters Weibull, Generalized Extreme Value (GEV) and Generalized Pareto Distribution (GPD).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Area and Monitoring Records

Figure 2 describes the flow of research methodology. The daily maximum concentration records of PM_{10} for the period of 2000 – 2012 were furnished by the Department of Environment, Malaysia. The records were collected through a continuous monitoring by Alam Sekitar Sdn. Bhd. (ASMA) using Beta Attenuation Method [5] from the air monitoring station in Klang and Shah Alam in the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia as shown in Figure 3.

The Klang Valley area experiences continuous exposures to the problem of air quality due to its geographical location and as one of the most urbanized areas following rapid population growth, industrial and commercial activities [28]. The unhealthy days in this area were caused by PM₁₀ mainly from trans-boundary pollution during the Southwest Monsoon [5]. Reference [29] stated that a high density of vehicles contributes to high concentrations of PM₁₀ in Klang and Shah Alam.

2.2 Extreme Value Distribution (EVD)

This research analyzed the PM_{10} records using the three parameters extreme value distributions, namely: Generalized Extreme Value (GEV), Weibull and



Figure 2 Flow of research methodology

Generalized Pareto Distribution (GPD). The EVD of type III was formulated by Waloddi Weibull (1887-1979), a Swedish engineer and scientist well-known for his work on strength of materials and fatigue analysis. It was not until 1951 that the distribution was known in



Figure 3 Location of continuous monitoring stations in Peninsular Malaysia (source : [5])

serious way for modeling the statistical variations of the data which then named as Weibull distribution after his name [33].

A single Generalized Extreme Value (GEV) distribution is as a result of a combination of a family of continuous probability distribution which was proposed for statistical stability. The GEV which was popularised by Jenkinson in 1955 [34] uses three parameters, namely: location, scale and shape. Location parameter, μ (mu) determining the shifting of a distribution in a specified direction on the horizontal axis. The dispersion of the distribution is measured by the scale parameter, σ (sigma) and it indicates where the concentration of the distribution lies. The distribution is said to expanse or more spread out if the scale parameter increases. Shape parameter, λ (lambda) on the other hand, affects the shape of distributions and tails of the distribution. Skewness governs the shape parameter as to where the majority of data concentrated, thus, creates the tail(s) of distribution [35].

The Generalized Pareto Distribution (GPD), which is a special case of both exponential and Wakeby distribution was introduced by Pickands in 1975 as a distribution of the sample of excesses (or exceedances) above a sufficiently high threshold [36]. It has been used widely by many scientists particularly in meteorological studies.

The EVT is gradually applied in the study of PM₁₀ in

Distribution	PDF and CDF	Source				
GEV	$PDF: f(\mathbf{x};\lambda,\sigma,\mu) = \frac{1}{\sigma} \left[1 + \lambda \left(\frac{\mathbf{x}-\mu}{\sigma} \right)^{-1/\lambda - 1} \right] \exp \left\{ - \left[1 + \lambda \left(\frac{\mathbf{x}-\mu}{\sigma} \right)^{-1/\lambda} \right] \right\}$					
	$\left[\exp\left\{-\left[1+\lambda\left(\frac{\mathbf{x}-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^{-1/\lambda}\right]\right\} \lambda \neq 0$					
	CDF: $F(x; \lambda, \sigma, \mu) = \begin{cases} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\$					
	$\left\{\exp\left\{-\exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)\right\}\right\} \qquad \lambda = 0$					
Weibull	$PDF: f(x; \lambda, \sigma, \mu) = \frac{\lambda}{\sigma} \left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)^{\lambda - 1} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)^{\lambda}\right] \text{ for } x \ge \mu; \qquad \sigma, \lambda > 0$	52.62				
	CDF: $F(x; \mu, \sigma, \lambda) = 1 - \exp\left[-\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^{\lambda}\right]$ for $x \ge 0, \lambda > 0, \sigma > 0$					
GPD	PDF: $f(x;\lambda,\sigma,\mu) = \frac{1}{\sigma} \left[1 - \lambda \left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} \right) \right]^{1/\lambda - 1}, \mu \neq 0$					
	$CDF: F(x;\lambda,\sigma,\mu) = \left\{ 1 - \left[1 - \lambda \left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} \right) \right]^{1/\lambda}, \ \lambda \neq 0 \text{ for } x \ge \mu \text{ when } \lambda \ge 0 \text{ and } x < \mu - \sigma/\lambda \text{ and } x $					
	when $\lambda < 0$					

Table 2 The Probability Density Function (PDF) and Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) of the distributions

Notation : μ - location parameter ; σ - scale parameter ; λ - shape parameter ; x - observed values

the recent years. The majority of the PM10 studies utilised the Weibull distribution though the Gumbel distribution is the most prevalent distribution in the studies of other air pollutants. The GPD is not commonly applied in the air pollution studies. The characteristic of the GPD is to investigate exceedances over high thresholds rather than average over certain period of time [16]. A huge gap was observed in the application of the GPD in air pollution studies may be due to the selection of hourly/daily/monthly/annual data rather than concentrations above certain threshold. Both of the GEV and GPD were not commonly used due to their complexities and many parameters have to be considered and the interpretation of the results might be difficult compared to the simple model [37].

The application of GEV and GPD were explored in this study since both were mainly used in other pollutants except PM_{10} . All the PDFs and CDFs of the distributions are presented in Table 2.

2.3 Parameter Estimates

There are several methods to estimate parameters for each EVD, however there is no consensus about which is the most appropriate. The appropriateness of the methods shall be determined by the performance indicators or error measures. All the parameters of the distributions in this study were estimated using the method of Maximum Likelihood Estimators (MLE). The formulae are different for every distribution which are listed in Table 3.

2.4 Performance Indicators

Six performance indicators were used to select the best distribution to represent the data. The accuracy measures were the prediction accuracy (PA), coefficient of determination (R²) and Index of Accuracy (IA). The accuracy value is between 0 and 1 and as the value approaches 1, the model is appropriate. On the other hand, as the value of error

Source

Table 3 Formulae for parameter estimates

Formulae

Notation : μ - location parameter ; σ - scale parameter ; λ - shape parameter ; n – number of observations ; x_i - observed values

Distribution

measures approaching 0, the model is deemed to be the best model. The error measures used in this study were the root mean squared error (RMSE), the normalized absolute error (NAE) and the mean absolute error (MAE) [22, 23]. The accuracy measures have the advantages that they are dimensionless and bounded between 0 and 1, that is independent of the unit of data while the error measures are scale and unit-dependent [39].

The formulae for all performance indicators are listed in Table 4.

2.5 Software

A software called MATLAB® ver. 11 [43], a high-level language and interactive environment for numerical computation, visualization, and programming package for engineers was used to estimate the parameters, calculate the performance indicators and plot the cumulative distribution functions (CDF) of the distributions. The IBM SPSS ver. 18, a statistical package for the social sciences was used to plot time series records of the two stations.

3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Statistical Characteristics of PM10

Table 5 depicts the descriptive statistics of the PM_{10} concentrations records for the period of 2000 - 2012. The average concentrations of PM_{10} recorded were 74.9µg/m³ and 61.3µg/m³ for Klang and Shah Alam respectively. The average values were slightly above the MAAQG for the annual average of 50 µg/m³ [5]. The PM₁₀ concentrations were skewed to the right (skewness > 0) which indicated the existence of the extreme concentrations of PM₁₀ exist during the period under study.

The maximum concentrations recorded in Klang was higher ($643 \ \mu g/m^3$) than that of Shah Alam ($587 \ \mu g/m^3$). Both of the maxima were recorded in 2005 as represented by time series plot in Figure 4. The extreme concentrations in the year 2005 in Klang and Shah Alam normally occurred in the third quarter of the year. The following month recorded low concentrations as a result of the wind had blown all the particulates further northwards.

Box-and-Whisker plot in Figure 5 shows that extreme concentrations existed every year in 2000 – 2012.

3.2 Parameter Estimates and Performance Indicators

Table 7 lists the values for the location parameter, μ , scale parameter, σ and shape parameter, λ of the distributions.

Based on performance indicators in Table 6, the distributions were then ranked to represent the best distribution to predict the PM_{10} exceedances with concentrations more than $150\mu g/m^3$. The best distribution was the three parameters GEV as it has the

highest accuracy measures and the smallest error measure.

Indicators	Equations
Prediction Accuracy (PA)	$PA = \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{(\mathbf{p}_{t} - \overline{\mathbf{p}})(\mathbf{O}_{t} - \overline{\mathbf{O}})}{(n-1)\sigma_{\mathbf{p}}\sigma_{\mathbf{O}}}$
Coefficient of Determination (R ²)	$1 - \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{n} (O_{t} - P_{t})^{2}}{\sum_{t=1}^{n} (O_{t} - \overline{O})^{2}}$
Index of Accuracy (IA)	$1 - \frac{\displaystyle\sum_{t=1}^{n} (P_t - O_t)^2}{\displaystyle\sum_{t=1}^{n} \left(\left P_t - \overline{O} \right - \left O_t - \overline{O} \right \right)^2}$
Root Mean Square Error (RMSE)	$\sqrt{\frac{\displaystyle\sum_{t=1}^{n}\left(O_{t}-P_{t}\right)^{2}}{n}}$
Normalized Absolute Error (NAE)	$\frac{\sum_{t=1}^{n} (P_t - O_t)}{\sum_{t=1}^{n} O_t}$
Mean Absolute Error (MAE)	$\frac{\sum_{t=1}^{n} (O_t - P_t) }{n}$

Notation :

n = number of observations,

Ot = Observed values,

$$\overline{O} = \text{Mean of observed values} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} O_{t} ,$$

$$\overline{O} = \text{Mean of observed values} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} O_{t} ,$$

$$P_{t} = \text{Predicted values},$$

$$\overline{P}$$
 = Mean of predicted values = $\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}P_{t}$

n

Table 5 Descriptive statistics of PM_{10} (µg/m³)

	Klang	Shah Alam
N valid	4741	4732
missing	8	17
Mean	74.88	61.33
Median	68.00	56.00
Std. Deviation	33.98	27.58
Variance	1154.69	760.37
Skewness	4.09	5.22
Kurtosis	40.32	76.24
Minimum	21.00	17.00
Maximum	643.00	587.00
Coefficient of variation	0.45	0.45







Figure 4 Time series plot for (a) Klang and (b) Shah Alam

3.3 PDF and CDF of the distribution

Figure 6 depicts the Probability Density Function (PDF) of the concentrations in Klang and Shah Alam. The GEV MLE fits the observations well in both monitoring stations with long tails to the right – an indication of existence of extreme concentrations in both of the monitoring stations.

Cumulative distribution functions (CDF) of the three-parameter GEV for Klang and Shah Alam are presented in Figure 7. The probabilities of the concentrations exceeding the levels of MAAQG of 150 μ g/m³ were predicted in Klang and Shah Alam.

Table 6 lists the probability, actual number and predicted number of days of concentrations

exceeding 150 μ g/m³. From the table, the predicted numbers of days were 132 and 43 for Klang and Shah Alam respectively which were more than 85% in compliance with the actual number of days. Approximately, extreme concentrations occur 10 days and 3 days on average in Klang and Shah Alam yearly.



Figure 5 Box-and-Whisker Plot for (a) Klang and (b) Shah Alam



Figure 6 Probability density function (PDF) for (a) Klang and (b) Shah Alam



Figure 7 Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) for (a) Klang and (b) Shah Alam

Table 6 Probability, actual number and predicted number of days which concentrations exceeding 150 μ g/m³

	Prob.	Actual number of days	Predicted number of days	% compliance
Klang	0.0277	155	132	85%
Shah Alam	0.0090	44	43	98%

4.0 CONCLUSION

In the study of air pollutions, the researchers focused on high concentrations of pollutants as it is detrimental to human health.

This is paper discussed the probability and the number of days of the extreme concentrations which permissible value exceeded the of PM10 concentrations of 150µg/m³ in two monitoring stations in the west coast of Malaysia. Three parameters extreme value distributions, namely: Weibull, Generalized Extreme Value (GEV) and Generalized Pareto Distribution (GPD) were used to analyze the daily maximum of PM10 concentrations with the parameter estimator of MLE.

From the findings, the average readings of the PM_{10} concentrations in the monitoring stations were well above the stipulated MAAQG for the yearly average

of 50 μ g/m³ with the maximum readings recorded in Klang. The highest concentration recorded in 2005 was due to trans-boundary smoke from forest fires in Sumatera which was transported by South-westerly winds. The central region of Peninsular Malaysia was the most affected by the unfavourable weather conditions of hot and dry periods as the effect of South-westerly winds.

The GEV gave the best estimator for both of the monitoring stations with the smallest errors (NAE, RMSE and MAE) and the highest accuracy measures (PA, R^2 and IA) when compared to the other two distributions. The method gave the accuracy of more than 93% in PA, IA and R^2 for both stations and the smallest errors.

From the plots, the probabilities of the concentrations exceeded the levels of MAAQG of 150 μ g/m³ were estimated and the predicted numbers of day were calculated. The estimated number of days for Klang and Shah Alam were more than 85% in compliance with the actual number of days.

Since most of the literatures employed the other Extreme Value Distributions (EVD) such as the Gumbel, Frechet and Weibull for air pollution studies, this study explored the possibilities of GEV and GPD distributions to the concentrations of PM₁₀.

To conclude, the GEV MLE had an advantage over the Weibull and GPD, thus, it can be used to estimate future exceedances of PM_{10} extreme concentrations. As a result, it may help the policy makers in the respective field to plan suitable measures to curb the occurrence of PM_{10} extreme concentrations and eventually may reduce the effects on human health and environment.

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Table 7 Parameters estimation and performance indicators										
Station Dist.	Pe	D	Performance Indicators					Best		
	Para	lamelers	NAE	PA	R ²	RMSE	IA	MAE	Distribution	
3 Klang		μ	20.9990							
	3Weibull	σ	60.7897	0.2538	0.9735	0.9473	20.6289	0.9165	19.0028	
		λ	1.7447							
		μ	60.4816							
	GEV	σ	19.1367	0.0187	0.9907	0.9812	5.0077	0.9942	1.3990	GEV
		λ	0.1450							
		μ	21.0000							
3	3GPD	σ	81.0916	0.3711	0.9483	0.8988	39.0770	0.8459	27.7855	
		λ	-0.1221							
		μ	16.0034							
3 Shah Alam	3Weibull	σ	51.0523	0.2732	0.9521	0.9061	18.8394	0.8963	16.7535	
		λ	1.7820							
		μ	49.7773							
	GEV	σ	16.9558	0.0154	0.9683	0.9373	7.0179	0.9821	0.9468	GEV
		λ	0.0938							
		μ	17.0000							
	3GPD	σ	65.7384	0.3694	0.9334	0.8709	33.79	0.8304	22.6544	
		λ	-0.1049							

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