

Further details to

Alpthal, Switzerland: Long-term forest meteorological data from the Long-term Forest Ecosystem Research Programme (LWF), from 1997-2016

Matthias Haeni^{1,*}, Arthur Gessler¹, Martine Rebetez¹

¹ Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL

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Summary

High quality meteorological data are needed for long-term forest ecosystem research, particularly in the light of global change. The long-term data series published here comprises almost 20 years of measurements for one meteorological station in Alpthal in Switzerland which is located within a natural coniferous forest (ALB) with Norway spruce (*Picea abies*; 180-230 yrs) as dominant tree species. The meteorological time series are presented in hourly time resolution of air temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) and wind speed. Alpthal is part of the Long-term Forest Ecosystem Research Programme (LWF) established and maintained by the Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL.

*Correspondence to Matthias Haeni, matthias.haeni@wsl.ch

1 Introduction

High quality meteorological data often found the basis for numerous scientific analyses in the light of global change. The Long-term Forest Ecosystem Research programme (LWF) at the Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL investigates anthropogenic and natural forces on the long-term health and functioning of forests and the potential effects on ecosystem services. For that purpose, a profound understanding of the relationship between processes, causes and effects in forest ecosystem is necessary (Schaub et al., 2011) and weather data usually provide the background information to infer such interrelations.

Within the LWF, measurements have been started in 1995 on 16 forest stations within the level 2 plots of ICP Forests (ICP Forests, 2016; <http://icp-forests.net/>). This data repository here comprises the most important meteorological time series of one of those stations: Alpthal, located in the canton of Schwyz in Switzerland.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Site

The measurements were carried out at Alpthal in the Swiss Canton of Schwyz in the northern Prealps (Fig. 1). Time series of one plot within the forest have been recorded (Fig. 2). Tab. 1 shows further details on the research station characteristics.



Figure 1: Site aerial photo from the Alpthal forest station. Source: Google. 2016. Site aerial photo from the Alpthal forest station. Retrieved November 11, 2016, from <https://www.google.ch/maps>.

Table 1: Meteorological station setting.

Community / canton	Alpthal / SZ
Commissioning date	31 May 1995
Coordinates (Lat. / Long.)	ALB (forest) 47.04872 ° / 8.713054 °
Altitude	1166 m a.s.l.
Orientation	W
Mean slope	26.0 %



Figure 2: ALB: Forest station

Table 2: Forest characteristics.

Woodland association*	Nr. 49; Equiseto-Abietetum
Main tree species (lat.)	<i>Picea abies</i>
Management system	High forest
Silvicultural system	Group selection
Top-height diameter	39.3 cm
Plot size	0.6 ha
Number of trees DBH \geq 12 cm (2011)	N = 321
Maximum tree age <i>Picea abies</i>	180-230 yrs
Geology (German)	Nordpenninikum; Obere Kreide / unteres Eozän, Wägitaler Flysch
Soil types (WSL)	vergleyte Braunerde, Gley

*after [Ellenberg and Klötzli \(1972\)](#)

2.2 Sensors

Sensor and measurement specifications

Each station within the LWF acquires data continuously over ten minute periods. Here with this data set, hourly data is provided. All measurements are post-measurement values (e.g., values from 15:10 o'clock compromise data averaged (temperature, humidity, photosynthetic active radiation and wind speed) or summed up (precipitation) over the period of 15:00:01 to 15:10:00). The sensor types are listed in Tab. 3.

Table 3: Sensor specifications.

Parameter	Unit	Height	Interval	Mode	Producer / Model	Fig.
Temperature	°C	2 m	10 min	Mean	Retronic / MP100A	3
Rel. humidity	%	2 m	10 min	Mean	Retronic / MP100A	3
Precipitation	mm m ⁻²	1.5 m	10 min	Sum	Campbell Sc. / ARG100	4
PAR*	W m ⁻²	3 m	10 min	Mean	Skye Instr. / Quantum	5
Wind speed	m s ⁻¹	4.6 m	10 min	Mean	Vector Instr. / A100R	6

Annotations

Temperature / relative humidity	For both temperature and relative humidity a combined sensor is used. The thermometer is a commonly used DIN Class B sensor (accuracy ± 0.3 K) whereas the hygrometer has an accuracy of ± 1.5 % rH (both at $23 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$).
Precipitation	Precipitation is collected by a raingauge with a funnel width of 254 mm and a tipping bucket registering 0.2 mm of precipitation.
PAR	The PAR sensor measures solar radiation with wavelength between 400 nm and 700 nm.
Wind speed	Wind speed is measured by an anemometer with an accuracy of ± 0.1 m s ⁻¹ at wind speed up to 10 m s ⁻¹ (± 1 % of reading between 10-55 m s ⁻¹).

*Photosynthetically active radiation

3 Results

3.1 Air temperature (temp)

The recorded data from 10 minute intervals have been averaged to the full hour (minutes 30, 40, 50, 00, 10, 20 averaged). First, minor manual data exclusions have been made where data values were in irrecoverably bad shape. Then an absolute filter ($-42^{\circ}\text{C} < x < +47^{\circ}\text{C}$) and a relative filter have been applied (0.001 % quantile). A differential filter removed data entries with jumps larger than 6°C from one hour to the other. Then a relative moving window filter has been applied, where data points have been excluded if they exceeded the 0.1 % quantiles on both ends (0.1 %, > 99.9 %) in a fourteen day moving window for every single hour. After filling small gaps linearly (two hours), we compared the data from the individual station with the partner station (i.e. field vs. forest stations). Large differences between the two time series ($> 20^{\circ}\text{C}$) were removed. Furthermore, in a density plot between field and forest station, data outside of the 99.9 % contour (not including the extreme edges) were removed (for details please contact Matthias Haeni, matthias.haeni@wsl.ch). If the station data correlated in a linear manner with a $R^2 > 0.95$, data gaps were filled with the calculated data from the partner station.

3.2 Relative humidity (rH)

The recorded data from 10 minute intervals have been averaged to the full hour (minutes 30, 40, 50, 00, 10, 20 averaged). First, minor manual data exclusions have been made where data values were in irrecoverably bad shape. Then an absolute filter ($0 \% < x < 110 \%$) and a relative filter have been applied (0.001 % quantile). A differential filter removed data entries with larger jumps than 30 % from one hour to the other. The data have then been compared to Meteonorm computed data ([Meteonorm, 2016; http://www.meteonorm.com/en/](https://www.meteonorm.com/en/)), and the time series have been scaled conservatively for each individual year to counteract large sensor drifts. Then, a relative moving window filter has been applied, where data points have been excluded if they exceeded the 0.1 % quantiles on both ends ($< 0.1 \%$, $> 99.9 \%$) in a fourteen day moving window for every single hour. After filling small gaps linearly (two hours), we compared the data from the individual station with the partner stations (field to forest stations and vice versa). Large differences between the two time series ($> 60 \%$) were removed. Furthermore, in a density plot between field and forest station, data outside of the 99.9 % contour (not including the extreme edges) were removed (for details please contact Matthias Haeni, matthias.haeni@wsl.ch). If the station data correlated in a linear manner with an $R^2 > 0.95$, data gaps were filled with the calculated data from the partner station.

3.3 Precipitation (precip)

The recorded data from 10 minute intervals have been summed up to the full hour (minutes 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 00 to the hour). First, minor manual data exclusions have been made where data values were in irrecoverably bad shape. Then an absolute filter ($0 \text{ mm} < x < 100 \text{ mm}$) has been applied. Long periods with no precipitation (> 120 days of zero values) have been excluded, because in this case a clogged rain gauge system must be assumed. Then we compared the data from the individual station with the partner station (field to forest stations and vice versa). Large differences between the two time series ($> 50 \text{ mm}$) were removed. Furthermore, in a density plot between field and forest station, data outside of the 99.9 % contour not including the extreme edges were removed (for details please

contact Matthias Haeni, matthias.haeni@wsl.ch). If the station data correlated in a linear manner with an $R^2 > 0.8$, data gaps were filled with the calculated data from the partner station.

3.4 Photosynthetically active radiation (PAR)

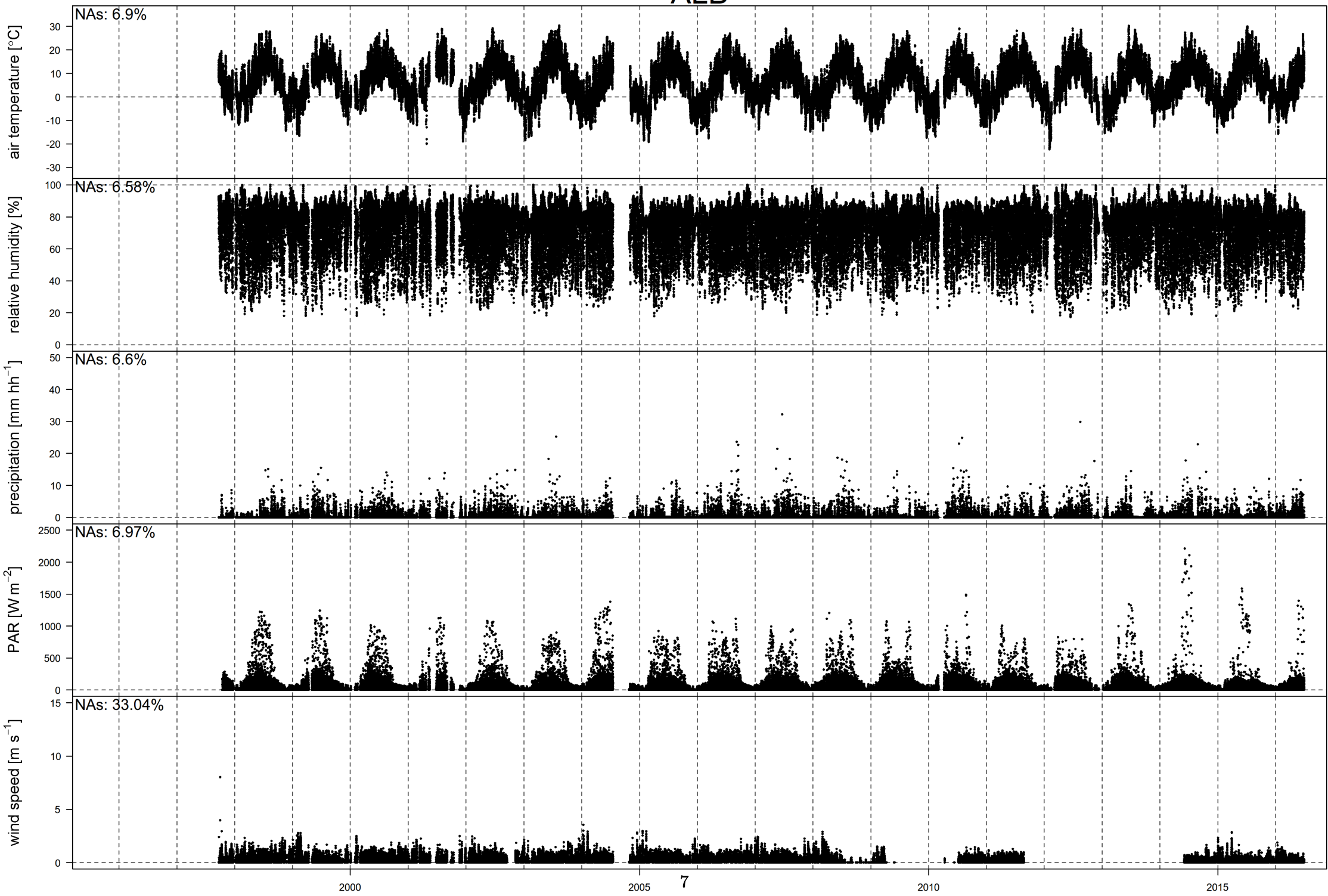
The recorded data from 10 minute intervals have been averaged to the full hour (minutes 30, 40, 50, 00, 10, 20 averaged). First, minor manual data exclusions have been made where data values were in irrecoverably bad shape. Then an absolute filter ($0 \text{ W m}^{-2} < x < 2500 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) has been applied. After filling small gaps linearly (two hours), we conducted a so-called night shift correction. Night time hours have been calculated in two ways: 1) From the data, where in the morning average PAR was first above 100 W m^{-2} and in the evening first below 100 W m^{-2} . From the first so-called 'sunrise' time, half an hour was subtracted and to the latter so-called 'sunset' time, half an hour was added. 2) Sunset and sunrise times have been calculated from the google maps API ([Google, 2016; https://developers.google.com/maps/](https://developers.google.com/maps/)). From both calculated methods, the more conservative 'sunrise' and 'sunset' times were chosen, i.e. the earlier one for 'sunrise' and the later one for 'sunset'. For the hours in-between the 'sunset' and 'sunrise' times (i.e. the night time hours) the absence of sunlight should lead to zero W m^{-2} PAR. The average deviations of these night time hours from zero were then used to correct each individual day. Data were then scaled from year to year by comparing them to the average 99 % density contour of all years and scaling conservatively to counteract large sensor drift (for details please contact Matthias Haeni, matthias.haeni@wsl.ch).

3.5 Wind speed (ws)

The recorded data from 10 minute intervals have been averaged to the full hour (minutes 30, 40, 50, 00, 10, 20 averaged). First, minor manual data exclusions have been made where data values were in irrecoverably bad shape. Then an absolute filter ($0 \text{ m s}^{-1} < x < 100 \text{ m s}^{-1}$) has been applied. Then, we compared the data from the individual station with the partner station (field to forest stations and vice versa). In a density plot between field and forest station, data outside of the 99.9 % contour (not including the extreme edges) were removed (for details please contact Matthias Haeni, matthias.haeni@wsl.ch). If the station data correlated in a linear manner with an $R^2 > 0.8$, data gaps were filled with the calculated data from the partner station.

The data are shown on the next page.

ALB



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Appendix

Pictures of sensors



Figure 3: Combined air temperature and humidity sensor



Figure 4: Precipitation sensor



Figure 5: PAR sensor



Figure 6: Wind speed sensor