

Interactive comment on “On the clustering of winter storm loss events over Germany” by M. K. Karremann et al.

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Received and published: 29 April 2014

An additional comment: an interesting result remarked upon by the authors (p.1928, l.20) is that the overdispersion index Ψ decreases for higher return levels. The authors express some surprise about this behaviour as it is at variance with previous results in Pinto et al 2013. However, it could be argued that the behaviour is not so surprising: as is clear from Fig. 3, clusters usually mix storms of different intensities, so it is natural to expect more clusters when considering lower intensity thresholds (i.e. lower return levels), while exceedances of higher thresholds will more likely occur in isolation and will therefore be closer to a Poisson process. The different behaviour found in Pinto et al. 2013 may be because that paper looks at very low thresholds, where the sheer

C539

number of cyclones leads to regular (undersdispersive) behaviour as there is an upper limit to the density of cyclones in space and time. This effect will decrease as one moves from very low to higher thresholds, yielding an increase in clustering. There may thus be an optimal return value that maximises clustering. Perhaps the authors can comment on this issue in the revised paper.

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 2, 1913, 2014.

C540