In the previous two reviews, I strongly suggested validation at multiple locations because capability of robust flood forecasts cannot be claimed from the result at a single streamflow gauge location. However, rigorous verification at multiple locations is not included in the latest revision. Except for the use of large ensemble, unfortunately, it is hard to find novelty in this manuscript. Especially, the proposed method for dynamic selection of ensemble cannot be considered as a new approach because it just follows the basic procedures of particle filtering which was introduced in hydrology 15 years ago (Moradkhani et al., 2005; Weerts and El Serafy, 2006). The capability of this selection method is not also demonstrated properly. In the authors' response, they argued that "the new method is established under the mathematical framework of particle filtering and data assimilation in general and the theory here does not depend on its application for any specific location". This is the argument which should be demonstrated with clear evidence. Compared to their previous companion paper in NHESS, however, the study domain for flood forecasts rather reduced from two catchments to one. When I briefly searched for availability of streamflow observations from Japanese websites (e.g. www.river.go.jp see the figure below), it turns out that there are a lot of streamflow gauges and dam reservoirs in the impacted area. Therefore, I am not positive that any readers can have meaningful implications from the limited analysis shown in the manuscript. Without additional evidence, I do not recommend the final publication. I think the form of discussion paper without final publication would be appropriate for this result.

Fig 3. Mean precipitation

Streamflow observation gauges

From river.go.jp

Study area for flood modeling
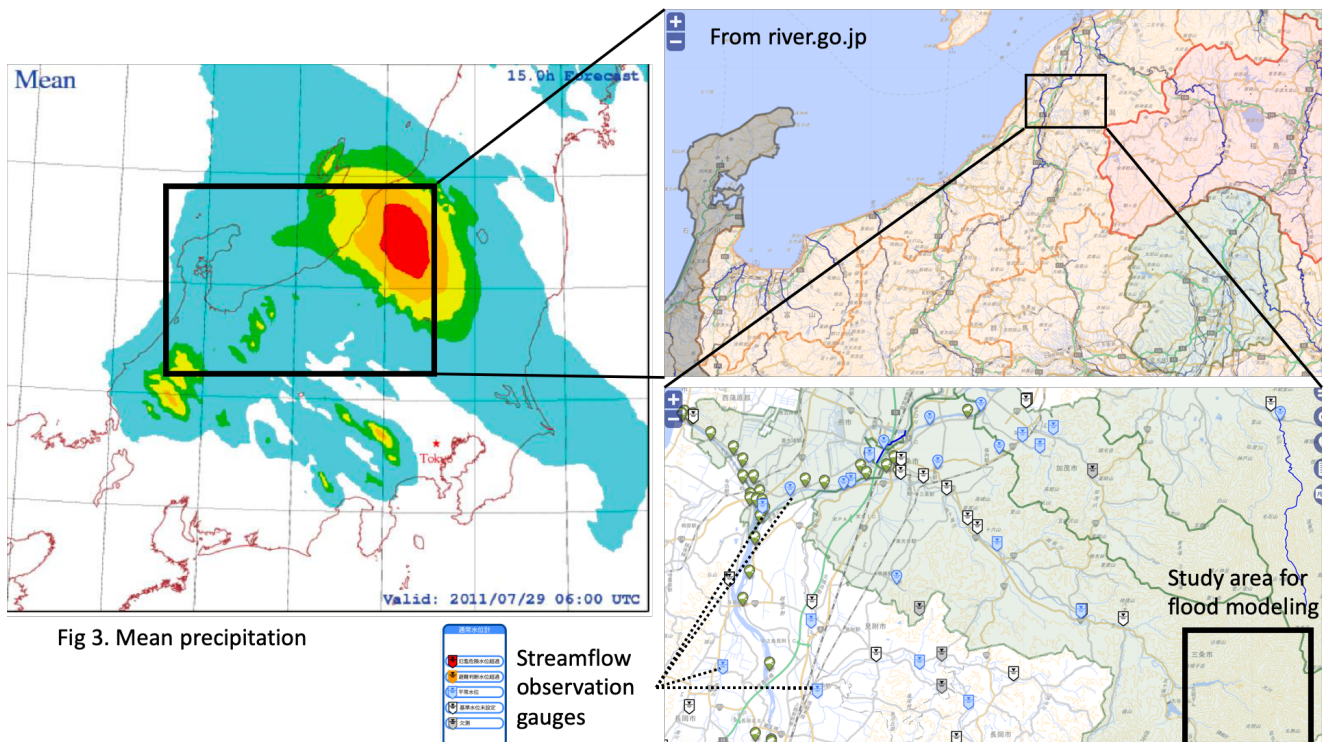
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