

Extreme Forecasting


Addressing the Problem of Scale


Justin Terry, PE, CFM
Principal, Terry Consulting
TFMA Mar. 2023

Overview

- Introduction
- Forecast Systems Basics
- Needs and Challenges
- Case Study
- Takeaways
- Questions

Mar. 2023



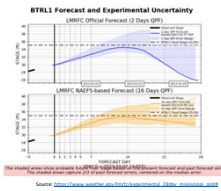
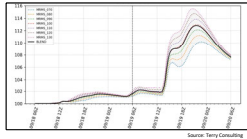


What's Extreme Forecasting?

Mar. 2023

Flood Forecasting... What Is It?

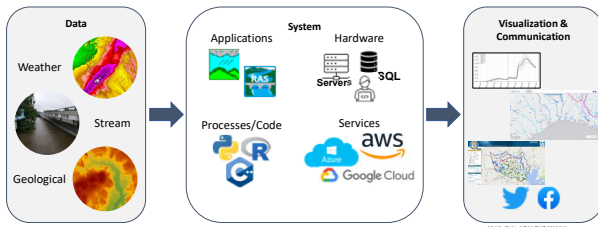
- A prediction
- Derived from data and modeling
- Dependent on experts
- Decision support



Mar. 2023



Components of a Forecast System

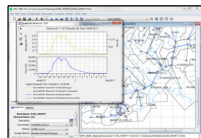


Mar. 2023



Building a Forecast System

- Gauges/Observation Points
 - Owned or USGS
- Models
 - Purpose built
 - Calibrated to historical events
- Ownership/Expertise
 - Subject Matter Expert (SME)
 - Internal (preferred) and external (beneficial)
- Funding
 - Capital/Start-Up
 - Staffing/Consulting
 - Systems/Platform Services
 - Maintenance
 - Future Development

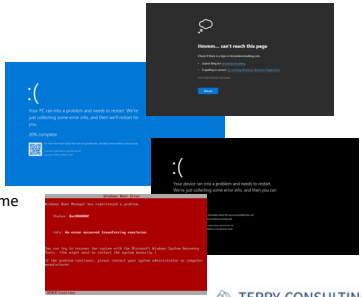


Mar. 2023




Common Challenges

- Reliability
 - Data variability
 - Model accuracy
- Infrastructure
 - Software/system errors
 - Data/storage management
 - IT policies...
- Maintenance
- Availability
 - Data feed outages
 - Data and model processing time
- Scalability
 - Model Complexity



Mar. 2023

TERRY CONSULTING
ENGINEERING. DATA. MODELING.



TERRY CONSULTING
ENGINEERING. DATA. MODELING.

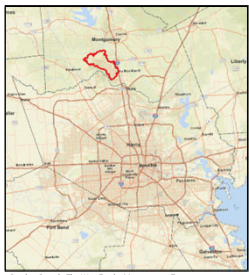
Case Study

Tropical Storm Imelda - Sep. 2019
Panther Branch, The Woodlands, TX

Mar. 2023

Case Study – Overview

- Problem
 - Standard methods limit use of advanced models in forecast applications
 - Modeling capabilities (e.g., 2D modeling) have outpaced forecasting methods
- Objectives
 - Identify approach that addresses *reliability, availability and scalability*.
 - Demonstrate the possibility of running advanced models (2D) in forecast scenarios



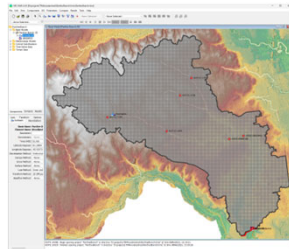
Panther Branch, The Woodlands, Montgomery, Texas

Mar. 2023

TERRY CONSULTING
ENGINEERING. DATA. MODELING.

Case Study – Model Setup

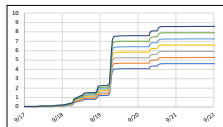
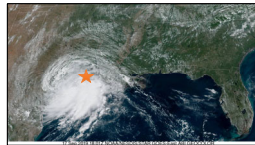
- Domain
 - 30.2 Sq. Mi
 - ~21,000 cells (~200 ft cells)
- Methods
 - Diffusion Wave
 - Normal Depth TW
- Applications
 - HMS 4.10 & Python 3.9
- Hardware
 - Laptop, 2.5/4.9GHz (8/16), 64GB, 2TB
- Base model provided by Andy Yung, PE, CFM, D.WRE, ayung@walterpmoore.com



Mar. 2023

Case Study – Event Rainfall

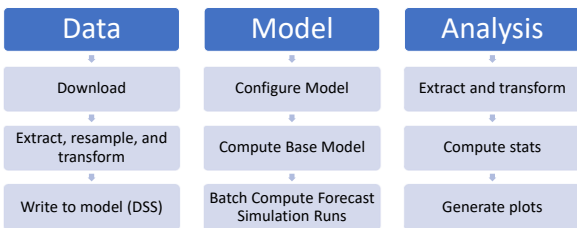
- Tropical Storm Imelda (9/2019)
 - 30-44" from Winnie to Orange, TX
 - 6-7" for Panther Branch
- Source
 - Multi-Radar Multisensor (MRMS)
 - 2-Min PrecipRate (raw)
 - 9/14/2019 – 9/30/2019
 - 10,800 files downloaded and processed
- 7 scenarios
 - 70% to 130% in 10% increments



Mar. 2023



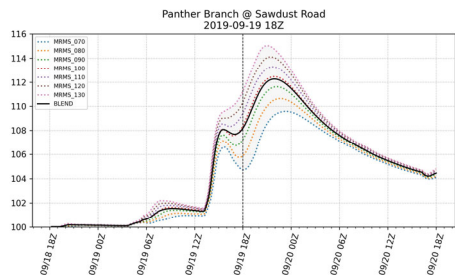
Case Study – Procedure



Mar. 2023



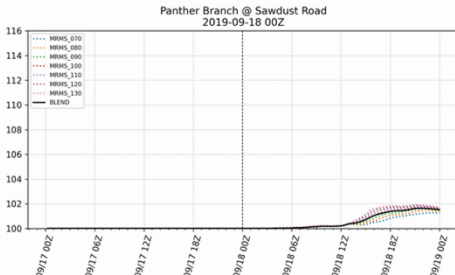
Case Study – Results Snapshot



Mar. 2023



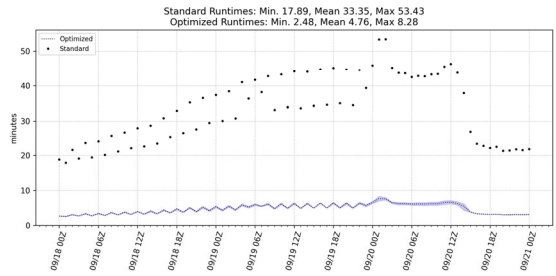
Case Study – Simulated Results



Mar. 2023



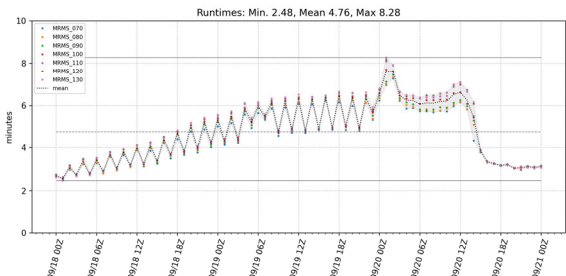
Case Study – Model Runtime Comparison



Mar. 2023



Case Study – Optimized Runtime Statistics



Mar. 2023 

Case Study – Takeaways

- Optimized approach provides 7x speed up over standard
- Performance improvements allows for more advanced models
- Owner
 - Increased reliability, shorter runtimes providing availability, and ability to scale model complexity.
- Engineers Benefit
 - Decreased runtime and flexibility to run more simulations (design and analysis) in less time.
- Limitations
 - Hardware



Mar. 2023 

Thank You!



Justin Terry, PE, CFM
 Founder, Principal
 941-773-9741
justin.terry@terryconsulting.net
www.terryconsulting.net



Mar. 2023 