

## Hazard analysis and modeling of snow avalanches: recent results from Italy

Daniele BOCCHIOLA, Maria Cristina RULLI, Renzo ROSSO



daniele.bocchiola@polimi.it

#### And, in sort of cronological order:

Betty Sovilla, Alberto Riboni, Michele Medagliani, Elisa Gorni, Emanuela Bianchi, Alice Pagani, Giovani Sala, Christoph Marty, Michael Lehning, Edmondo Arena Lo Riggio, Mirko Mura,

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Some remarks





# Snow and avalanahe @POLIMI

**Ongoing projects** 

2005-2008 AWARE: a tool for monitoring and forecasting <u>Available WAter RE</u>source in mountain environment. GMES – Global Monitoring for Environment and Security FP6-2003-SPACE-1.

Including: CNR IRSA, TU Wien, SLF Davos, Universidad de Jaume I en Castellon de la Plana, SRDE, Institut Cartografic de Catalunia

2005-2008 <u>Integral Risk Management of Extremely Rapid Mass</u> <u>Movements</u> "IRASMOS" European project. SUSTDEV-2004-3.IV.1.3 Long-term forecasting of landslides and avalanches.

Including: SLF Davos, CUDAM University of Trento, University Pavia, Meteo France, CEMAGREF, BOKU Wien, NGI Oslo

2007-2009 CARIPANDA, Climatic change and water resources in the Adamello park, Cariplo Foundation.

Including: Parco dell'Adamello, Università degli Studi di Milano, Istituto di Fisica Generale Applicata, Dip. di Scienze della Terra, ARPA Lombardia, Università di Brescia







### 0) Rationale

The European Alps are characterized by relevant tourism during winter and feature a considerable amount of ski resort areas. Every year, several avalanches occur in the area, and a large number of casualties occurred in the last 20 years all over the Alps; in more than 1/3 of the cases the people involved died.



The number of fatalities has decreased recently due to the new prevention techniques and risk mapping



Casualties of avalanches Italy 1967-2003



### 0) Rationale



# The risk involves all the "users" of the mountain areas

The number of avalanche events is strictly correlated with the snow amount and the presence of people in dangerous areas, the maximum value is in January and February



### 1) Criteria for avalanche hazard mapping

Hazard: intrinsic to avalanche phenomena Exposition: value of the properties Vulnerability: degree of damage

#### Swiss procedure, also used in Italy

R=HEV



### 2) Runout of avalanches: AF(A?)S approach.



Runout distance/Altitude

 $R = x_i - x_0 \quad v \quad s_i - s_0$ 

The greatest yearly runout can be modeled According to the theory of extremes



year

Problems: **Topographic control** No pressures

Use:

 $T = \frac{N_{years}}{N_{years}}$ 

 $R(T) \cong F(\Theta \mid T)$ 

N<sub>exceed</sub>

1) Zone mapping

2) Cross check of dynamic models

## 2) Runout of avalanches: AF(A?)S approach.



### 3) Deterministic-statistic approach for hazard mapping

Input factors Swiss guidelines, also used in Italy

 $C_{3d} = H_{72}$ : Maximum annual three days cumulated snow fall Among other factors,  $H_{72}$  noticeably affects avalanche volume, runout and eventually hazard mapping exercise



## 3) Deterministic-statistic approach for hazard mapping

### Design values of H<sub>72</sub>

Single site series analysis is often used for evaluation of T-years design value of H<sub>72</sub> for hazard mapping procedure.

Evaluation of H72i(T) for a single site station (20 years of observations). Notice the **low predicted return periods** using the site observed data ( $Y_i$ =15 years) and the considerable uncertainty for the highest return periods



For the design of more reliable estimates one can carry out evaluation of *H72* using regional approach. Regional approach is often adopted in the field of hydrology for evaluation of floods and storms statistics. This in turn requires assessment of regional homogenity



## 4) Regional approach to evaluation of the climatic forcing



Several avalanches occur in the area, and in the period from 1990 to 2000 at least 7200 avalanche events were mapped, with at least 215 casualties,

### Analysis based on L-coefficients

**Evaluation of**  $H_{72}$  using regional approach (*e.g.* Barbolini, Natale, Savi, 2002) requires assessment of regional homogenity The area investigated is found climatically homogenous according to former studies (e.g. De Michele and Rosso, 2002), and the regime of daily snow precipitation is found to be reasonably homogeneous (Bocchiola and Rosso, 2007). On this basis, the distribution of  $H_{72}$  is investigated The approach proposed by Hosking an Wallis (*e.g.* Hosking and Wallis, 1993) is used here to test the homogeneity of the region in term of  $H_{72}$ 

L-CVH72 L-

L-coefficients maps are evaluated

L-KU H72





#### Proper statistical tests show a reasonable degree of homogeneity of the region

$D_i = \frac{1}{3} \left( u_i - \overline{u}_i \right)^t S^{-1} \left( u_i - \overline{u}_i \right)$	$D_i \leq 3$ indicates that the site is homogeneous			
$u_i = \begin{bmatrix} L_i - CV_{H72^*} & L_i - SK_H \end{bmatrix}$	$L_{H72^*} L_i - KU_{H72^*} ]^t$			
$S = (N-1)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (u_i - \overline{u}_i) (u_i - \overline{u}_i)$	$\overline{u}_i)^t$			

#### >3 only for VAM stations ( $D_i$ = 4.99)



$ar_{LCV} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_i (LCV_i - L)}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_i}$	$(CV_{av})^2$	$Var_{LSK} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N}}{\sum_{i=1}^{N}}$	$Y_i \Big[ (LCV_i -$	$(LCV_{av})^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N Y$	$(LSK_i - I)$	$\left[ (SK_{av})^2 \right]^{0.5}$
$Var_{LKU} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_i [(LSK_i - $	$\frac{LSK_{av})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{N}}$	$+ (LKU_i - LK_i)$	$(U_{av})^2$ <sup>0.5</sup>	No.	2	
$H_{j} = \frac{Var_{j} - \mu}{\sigma_{Varj}}$	U <sub>Varj</sub>	$H \le 2$ for r homogeneo	oticeably ous behavi	or	6	A
L-coeff.	n <sub>sim</sub>	L-coeff <sub>avj</sub>	Var <sub>obs</sub>	$\mu_{Varj}$	$\sigma_{Varj}$	$H_{j}$
$L-CVH_{72*}$ ( $j = 1$ )	1000	0.26	0.0019	0.0017	0.0004	0.53
<i>L</i> - <i>SKH</i> <sub>72*</sub> $(j = 2)$	1000	0.21	0.0871	0.0932	0.0110	-0.56
$L$ - $KUH_{72*}(j = 3)$	1000	0.17	0.0972	0.1088	0.0117	-1.02

#### Index value approach to evaluation of H<sub>7</sub>

Dimensionless values of  $H_{72}$  with respect to an index value can be grouped together to provide a T-years quantile growth curve.  $F_i$  is the distribution function, valid at each site

Generally, the **index value** is given by the single site *i* sample average

$$\mu_{H72i} = \frac{1}{Y_i} \sum_{y=1}^{Y_i} H_{72i,y}$$

Distribution fitting provides the analytical expression of the growth curve

$$H_{72}^{*}(T) = \varepsilon_{p} + \frac{\alpha_{p}}{k_{p}} \left( 1 - \exp\left(-k_{p} y_{T}\right) \right)$$

Dist.	$\mathcal{E}_p$	$\alpha_p$	$k_p$	AD	AD 5%	KS	KS 5%
GEV	0.785	0.370	-0.005	0.453	0.055	0.029	0.038
EV1	0.787	0.369	-	0.477	0.055	0.031	0.038



 $H_{72i}^* = \frac{H_{72i}}{\mu_{H72i}} \approx F_i(1;..)$ 

Regional snow depth frequency curves for avalanche hazard mapping in central Italian Alps

Daniele Bocchiola \*, Michele Medagliani <sup>1</sup>, Renzo Rosso <sup>2</sup>

#### Sensitivity analysis of hazard mapping H<sub>72</sub>

The approaches currently adopted for the sensitivity analysis of the avalanche hazard maps require probabilistic assessment of the distribution of the input value  $H_{72i}(T)$ , *i.e.* the design value  $H_{72i}(T)$ , and a measure of its uncertainty, *e.g.* its standard deviation,  $\sigma_{H72iT}$ . The regional approach yields a standard deviation that is smaller than that provided by the approach based on single site distribution fitting

$$\sigma_{H72^*}(T) = \left[ \left( \frac{\alpha_p^2}{n_{tot}} \right) \exp\left( y_T \exp\left( -1.823 \, k_p - 0.165 \right) \right) \right]^{0.5} \qquad \sigma_{\mu H72i}^2 = \mu_{H72i} \cdot CV / \sqrt{Y_i}$$

$$f_{i} = \frac{\sigma_{H72iT}}{H_{72i}(T)} = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_{\mu H72i}^{2} \sigma_{H72*}^{2} + \sigma_{H72*}^{2} \mu_{H72i}^{2} + \sigma_{\mu H72i}^{2} H_{72}^{*2}}{\mu_{H72i}^{2} H_{72}^{*2}}} = \sqrt{\sigma}$$

$$\sqrt{\sigma_{\mu i}^{*2} \sigma_{H72^{*}}^{*2} + \sigma_{H72^{*}}^{*2} + \sigma_{\mu i}^{*2}}$$

Here the standard deviation is given with respect to the design value of  $H_{-}(T)$ 

 $\sigma_{\tau}$ 

This is evaluated against the number of available years of observations  $Y_i$  to estimate the local average. Notice the decrease in the standard deviation using the regional approach



### Increase of H<sub>72</sub> with altitude

In ungagued sites, the average value of  $H_{72}$  has to be estimated using indirect approach Often, (linear) scaling with altitude is adopted Use of coupled cluster and scaling analysis showed two areas with defined scaling of  $\mu_{H72}$ 



### Exporting the regional approach

### The case of Switzerland

- 114 measurement stations
- About 25 E<sup>3</sup> KM<sup>2</sup>
- •On the average, 45 years of data

•The data base of the gauging stations is managed by the personnel of SLF Davos



DYNAMIC CALCULATIONS OF AVALANCHES: A STUDY ON SNOW COVER HEIGHT IN SWITZERLAND WITH REGIONAL APPROACH

Relatore: Prof. Ing. Daniele BOCCHIOLA Correlatore: Dott. Ing. Betty SOVILLA

> Tesi di Laurea di: Emanuela BIANCHI JANETTI Matr. n. 674830 Elisa GORNI Matr. n. 673165





Legena

BEOB Stations

#### Physical map

#### Elevation above sea level

< 600 m</li>
 600 m - 1400 m
 600 m - 2000 m
 2000 m - 2600 m
 2000 m - 2600 m

REGIONAL EVALUATION OF THREE DAY SNOW DEPTH FOR AVALANCHE HAZARD MAPPING IN SWITZERLAND Bocchiola, D., Bianchi Janetti, E., Gorni, E., Marty, C., Sovilla, B., Submitted NHESS, February 2008

### Homogeneous regions of Switzerland



• Laternser (2002) used a cluster analysis based on  $H_s$ 

Here, the homogenous regions were defined according to an iterative procedure with respect to  $H_{72}$ :

-Homogeneity tests

-Relation of H<sub>72</sub> to altitude A

Region 1, the north west belt crossing the country from west to east, Region 2W, the Rhone Valley, Region 2E, the Gotthard Range and Region 5, the northern part of Grison. Region 3, the southern valleys of east Valais, Region 4W covering Ticino and Region 4E covering the southern part of Grison.



### **Extreme** values distributions



Region 1 is accommodated by a GEV distribution featuring k>0, indicating upper boundary and a slower increase variation with return period.

Regions from 2 to 5 are accommodated by a EV1 (Gumbel) distribution, featuring k=0, indicating no upper boundary and a faster increase variation with return period.



### Scaling with altitude





A[m a.s.l]

A noticeable difference in the regional scaling of  $E[H_{72}]$  against altitude is observed.

This is confirmed by the available literature and is linked to climatic and orographic patterns leading to heavy snowfall

Site Reg 2E

■ Site Reg 2W

O Reg 2E

□ Reg 2W

0 0

100

120



### 5) Case studies of hazard mapping: the Lombardia region.

Vallecetta avalanche site, Bormio (So)

#### 3D view of historical endmark, 16/5/1983



#### A number of mapped events

1600

200





Riboni, A., Sovilla, B., Bocchiola, D., Rosso, R., *A regional approach to the calculation of the avalanche depth at release and application to two case studies in Lombardia*, Neve e Valanghe, 55, 22-39, 2005. Paper in Italian language

Validation of AVAL1D



#### Hazard mapping- sensitivity analysis



Single site





### Regional

Adv. Geosci., 14, 201–209, 2008 www.adv-geosci.net/14/201/2008/ © Author(s) 2008. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons License.



### Application of a regional approach for hazard mapping at an avalanche site in northern Italy

D. Bocchiola and R. Rosso

Politecnico di Milano, L. Da Vinci Square 32, 20133 Milano, Italy

Received: 2 May 2007 - Revised: 19 February 2008 - Accepted: 20 February 2008 - Published: 10 April 2008

### 6) A case study in Switzerland

Mungtal Hiesenberg Hungtal Hiesenberg Klosters Sapiedan

### 21 January 1951: Samedan avalanche, Engadina Return period labeled: T=300 years

## $H_{72}(T)$ in Samedan



Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences (2002) 2: 169–179 © European Geosciences Union 2002



### RAMMS

#### Observations and modelling of snow avalanche entrainment

B. Sovilla and P. Bartelt Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, Flüelastrasse, 11, CH-7260 Davos Dorf, Switzerland

### Samedan avalanche

#### Data

Volume at release

• Run out

**Critical stress** 

Model tuning using run out distance:  $\mu = 0.15$  $\xi = 2500 \, ms^{-1}$  $\tau_{cr} \cong 195 - 220 \,\mathrm{kPa}$  $\lambda = 2.5$ 

 $H_{72}(T)$ 

Use of regional approach (+ uncertainty)  $h_r$  regional analysis =  $H_{72}(T)$ -H, variable with altitude= H72(T,Alt)





 $H_e(T, Alt)$ 

### Hazard maps





Sensitivity analysis: Blue and red zones, 95% reference level

Annals of Glaciology 49 2008

Regional snow-depth estimates for avalanche calculations using a two-dimensional model with snow entrainment

Emanuela BIANCHI JANETTI,<sup>1,2</sup> Elisa GORNI,<sup>1,2</sup> Betty SOVILLA,<sup>1</sup> Daniele BOCCHIOLA<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>WSL Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, Flüelastrasse 11, CH-7260 Davos-Dorf, Switzerland <sup>2</sup>Dipartimento di Ingegneria Idraulica, Ambientale, Infrastrutture Viarie e Rilevamento, Politecnico di Milano, Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32, J-20133 Milan, Italy E-mali: daniele.bocchiola@polimi.it



### 7) Long term simulation of avalanche frequency

Lo

A collection of data related to avalanche events in Bormio region was gathered

Data from 69 avalanche events were gathered, dating back until 1886 These include avalanche type, snow conditions, morphology, release altitude, depth, area, runout lenght and volume.

In 68% of the events, avalanche cause is related to heavy snowfall

h<sub>o</sub>: depth at release W<sub>o</sub>: width "" L<sub>o</sub>: length "" V<sub>o</sub>: volume ""

I: runout length
R: absolute runout

#### Reported in:

Bocchiola, D., Medagliani, M. (2007). Morfologia delle valanghe, uno studio nell'area del Bormiese [Morphology of avalanches: a study in the Bormio area], Neve e Valanghe, 3, 70-79, in Italian language with Abstract in English. Available upon request or at: http://www.aineva.it/presenta.html

Wo





### **Regional similarity**



Avalanche track geometry.  $E[s_0]$  is average track slope including the release area,  $E[s_f]$ is average track slope including the flow area,  $E[s_f]$  is average track slope including the runout area (average track slope).  $L_0$ 'is percentage of track length including release area,  $L_f'$  is percentage of track length including flow area.

		CER	GAN	NOV	RAS	VCA	VCE	E[.]	CV[.]
	$\mathrm{E}[s_0]$ [°]	30.2	30.3	30.0	30.1	29.2	28.3	29.7	2.6%
	$E[s_f]$ [°]	25.7	28.5	29.2	31.1	28.1	24.2	27.8	8.9%
	$E[s_r]$ [°]	20.9	23.2	25.6	29.7	24.9	21.5	24.3	13.2%
	$L_{0}'[\%]$	35%	30%	29%	39%	28%	30%	32%	13.1%
÷	$L_{f}'[\%]$	78%	73%	79%	80%	78%	78%	77%	3.1%

Reasonable geometric similarity might indicate a possible statistical homogeneity of scaled geometric properties



### **Regional similarity**

A regional approach based on index value is tentatively adopted to increase sample dimensionality for distribution fitting of the observed avalanche properties



Avalanche release probability is evaluated as a function of dimensionless snow depth, as

$$h_0^* = h_0 / \mu_{H72}$$
 Prel = F<sub>0</sub> (h<sub>0</sub>)

Release altitude is accommodated as a Normal (NR) distribution







0.8 0.6 F[.] O CEF GAN A NO\ RAS VCA VCE 0.2 •GA GA+ a=5% GA- a=5% 0.0 0.5 2.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 3.0 35 10  $L_{0}^{*}[.]$ 

Avalanche release widht and length are accommodated using a GA distribution

### Dynamic model

### Dynamic model: Voellmy-Salm (insofar)



### A case study

Case study: Vallecetta mountain

**Climatic input:** H<sub>72</sub> calculated @ the release altitude **Avalanche occurrence:** 







Input snow depth  $H_{72}$  is used to give release probability,  $p_{rel}$ . Random extraction from a Uniform distribution,  $p_u$  is used to evaluate occurrence using a binomial approach (yes,  $p_u > p_{rel}$ ; no  $p_u <= p_{rel}$ ) Avalanche release altitude: Drawn from the proposed NR statistical distribution Avalanche release width, length: Drawn from the proposed GA statistical distributions Avalanche release volume:  $V_0 = W_0 \times L_0^* H_{72}^* f(\text{slope})$ 

Bocchiola, D., Medagliani, M., Rosso, R., Use of a regional approach for long term simulation of snow avalanche regime: a case study in the Italian Alps, Arctic Antarctic and Alpine Research, March 2008, Submitted.



### Hazard mapping

Vo

Fitting to the regionalized plotting position is verified to indirectly validate the approach

R

Release volume, runout







### Hazard maps



Ser 6

### A simple developed avalanche model



We preliminarily developed and tested a simple avalanche dynamics model, to be used joint with long term simulation module

### Mass centre, 1D, energy based model H Sez.1 Sez.2

#### Vallecetta (Again ????): calibration of observed runout



Edmondo Arena Lo Riggio, Mirko Mura, Daniele Bocchiola, Maria Cristina Rulli, Renzo Rosso, Un modello a formulazione energetica per il calcolo dinamico delle valanghe [An energy conservation based model for avalanche dynamics]. Neve e Valanghe, in press. Paper in Italian language, abstract in english. Available upon request

### 9) Some remarks

Land use planning in mountain range requires reliable avalanche hazard mapping, forecasting and design of countermeasures

Lack of avalanche data requires coupling of dynamic modelling and long term snow fall series for design of extreme events

Statistical methods based on regional approaches might be used to increase sample dimensionality, so gaining considerable information and decreasing uncertainty in avalanche design exercise

Long term assessment of avalanche hazard based on synthetic simulation provides a tool avalanche for hazard mapping based on full simulation of avalanche history Also, synthetic simulation may provide input for long term assessment of avalanche risk for human settlements, and the impact of countermeasures, in case under climate change scenarios

EU and nationally fostered projects like IRASMOS are <u>highly necessary to stimulate</u> <u>the debate</u> and provide the researchers with means to bring forward new techniques and concepts

# .....and watch your track !!!

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