An Estimation of the Probability Distribution of Wadi Bana Flow in the Abyan Delta of Yemen

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Abstract

Wadi Bana is one of the main Wadies in Yemen, where different quantities of water reach the Delta and depends on the amounts of rainfall in the wadi watershed. In order to estimate the spate water flow distribution probability, data on water flow were collected during the period from 1948 to 2008. Seven probability distributions, namely, Gamma, Weibull, Pearson 6, Rayleigh, Beta, Kumaraswamy and Exponential distributions were tested to model the distribution of the Wadi Bana flows and Kolmogorov-Smirnov, Anderson-Darling and Chi- Squared goodness-of-fit tests were used to evaluate the best fit at 5 % level of significance. It suggests that the best frequency distribution obtained for the Wadi Bana flows in the Abyan Delta of Yemen is Gamma followed by weibull distribution for both summer and autumn seasons. The annual maximum runoff was 286.6 million m³ in the 1957 and the minimum runoff was 30.4 million m³ in 1974. The estimated flow during wet, medium and dry years were 103–134, 76–103 and 55–76 million m³ respectively for autumn season and 52–81, 29–52 and 15-29 million m³ respectively for summer season. The flow in autumn season reaches about 70% of total annual flows.

Keywords: Spate water flows, Probability distribution, Wadi Bana, Delta Abyan, Yemen

1. Introduction

The Abyan delta plain is located in an arid to sub-tropical area, approximately between latitudes 13° 04' to 13° 18' N, and longitudes 45° 08' to 45° 30' E. It lies at the Gulf of Aden, about 55 km east of Aden. Wadi Bana is one of the main Wadies in Yemen, where different quantities of water reach the Delta and depending on the amount of rainfall in the wadi watershed. Catchment area of wadi Bana upstream is about 7,200 sq km.

The flow of Wadi Bana is distinguished by flood fluctuation (flash floods). Under normal condition, the average annual flow is 162 million m^3 , or 6 % of the total of catchment rainfall, the annual frequency of flood is fairly high and reaches 19 floods per year (Atkins W.S. And Partner, 1984). Average annual peak flood is 980 m^3 s–1, and baseflow is estimated 400 million m^3 (Negenman, 1995). 90 % of the flood is utilized for irrigation, of which 66 % is applied during autumn irrigation season (1 July to 15 October) and the remaining during the summer season (16 March to 31May). The fluctuation in flood flow is a major hydraulic criteria for assessment of flood risk , water resources management and hydraulic structure design such as dams, reservoirs, irrigation canals, weirs and irrigation ditches, and prevention of damages due to flood require an adequate knowledge of extreme events of high return periods (Tao, et al, 2002). It is necessary to determine the recurrence or timing for flood flow, and quantitative flow of flood and intervals, which can be achieved by flood frequency analysis methods and involves the measurement of distribution pattern and extrapolation of cumulative distribution functions to calculate the extreme flood values.

The selection of appropriate model depends mainly on the characteristics of available flood flow data at the

particular site. Hence, it is necessary to evaluate many available distributions in order to find a suitable model that could provide accurate extreme flood flow estimates.

Spate hydrology is distinguished by a vast change in flood frequency and quantitative aspect which directly has an impact on availability of water for irrigation.

This issue have been emphasized by, Abdul Krim M.D., and Chowdhury J. U. (1995) who studied several distributions for flood flows in Bangladesh, Abida and Ellouze (2008) applied several distributions for flood flows in Tunisia, and Ghorbani et al (2010) who compared several distributions for flood frequency analysis in Iran. This study aimed to determine the best fit probability distribution for the prediction of flows in Wadi Bana in Abyan Delta of Yemen.

2. Literature Review

Reference to Benson (1968), and Vogel et al. (1993) used several distributions for describing flood flows in the USA. The Natural Environment Research Council undertook a flood study for UK conditions (NERC, 1975). McMahon and Srikanthan (1981) evaluated flood distributions for Australian conditions. Rossi et al. (1984) and Ahmed et al. (1988) studied flood distributions for Italy and Scotland, respectively. The flood distributions for Turkey were investigated by Haktanır (1991, 1992) and Haktanır and Horlacher (1993), while Mutua (1994) compared several frequency distributions for floods in Kenya.

Vogel and Wilson (1996) summarize investigations around the world and show that a consensus is emerging that the distribution of annual maximum floods is perhaps best approximated by a generalized extreme value (GEV) PDF. They also document that the GEV PDF provides a good fit to annual flood series at 1,490 sites across the continental United States.

Abida H. and Ellouze M. (2008) applied L (Linear) moments to calculate regional flood frequency distributions for different zones in entire Tunisia, trough data collection from 42 stations for a period of 27 years. five frequency distributions are used for analysis of hydrologic extreme variables, they are: (i) Generalized Extreme Value (GEV), (ii) Pearson Type III (P3), (iii) Generalized Logistic (GLO), (iv) Generalized Normal (GN), and (v) Generalized Pareto (GPA). Spatial trends, with respect to the best-fit flood frequency distribution, are distinguished: Northern Tunisia was shown to be represented by the GNO distribution while the GNO and GEV distributions give the best fit in central/southern Tunisia.

Topaloglu F. (2002), applied the Gumbel, log-Logistic, Pearson-3, log-Pearson-3 and log-Normal-3 distributions to the series of annual instantaneous flood peaks and annual peak daily precipitation for 13 flow gauging and 55 precipitation gauging stations in the Seyhan basin, respectively. The parameters of the distributions were estimated by the methods of moments (MOM) and probability weighted moments (PWM). A detailed chi-squared and Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) goodness-of-fit tests were also applied. According to the evaluations of chi-squared tests, Gumbel (MOM) for both flow and precipitation stations in the Seyhan river basin were found to be the best models. As a result of the K-S test, log-Normal-3 (MOM) and log-Pearson-3 (MOM) models were determined to be the best for flow and precipitation stations, respectively.

Olukanni D.O. and Salami A.W. (2008), evaluated several probability distribution analysis methods for the prediction of reservoir inflow at hydropower dams in Nigeria which includes Kainji, Shiroro and Jebba. The reservoir inflow data were subjected to probability distribution analysis including Gumbel, normal, log-Pearson type III, and log-normal. The selection of the appropriate probability distribution model for each hydropower dams are r = 0.95, $R^2 = 0.96$ for Kanji, r = 1.00, $R^2 = 0.99$ for Shiroro, and r = 0.88, $R^2 = 0.96$ for Jebba. For the Kanji and Shiroro hydropower dams the log-Pearson type III model gave the best fit, while for Jebba the best fit model was log-normal.

Aksoy, H. (2000, 2007), Karmakar, S. and Simonovic, S.P. (2009), Hughes, B. L. and Saunders, A. M. (2002) reported that gamma distribution is the best analysis tool for prediction of flood frequency.

3. Material and Methods

The Wadi Bana flow data for the period of 61 years from 1948 to 2008 were obtained from the Irrigation Department in the Delta Abyan, Agricultural Affice, Abyan Governorate. The nature of data involves flood flow volumes (million cubic meter) recorded for autumn and summer seasons of the year. Probability distribution analysis of Wadi Bana flow was detected in accordance with the following equations (Georgiev G. V. et al. (1991):

$$M_m = \frac{\sum M_i}{n} \tag{1}$$

$$C_{v} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (K_{i}-1)^{2}}{n-1}}$$
(2)

$$K_i = \frac{M_i}{M_m} \tag{3}$$

$$C_{s} = \frac{\sum (K_{i} - 1)^{3}}{(n - 1)C_{v}^{3}}$$
(4)

$$P_i = \frac{i}{n+1} \ 100 \tag{5}$$

$$K_p\% = \frac{M_p\%}{M_m} = \emptyset C_v + 1$$
 (6)

$$M_p \% = K_p \% * M_m = M_m (\emptyset C_v + 1)$$
(7)

Where:

 M_m - mean flow, $\sum M_i$ - total flow, n-number of years, C_v - Coefficient of variation, K_i - percent of the respective observed flow into the mean flow, C_s - coefficient of asymmetry, P_i - probability distribution, K_p %- correction factor, θ - Foster factor from Foster-Ribkin table, M_p %- Estimated flow corresponding to the ranked probability. Values of θ were calculated by using the Foster and Ribkin table at the deferent values of coefficient of asymmetry corresponding to the deferent probability.

For determination of the fitting probability distribution of Wadi Bana flows, the software EasyFit professional version 5.4 (http://www.mathwave.com) is used . EasyFit is a data analysis program and simulation application that enables fitting probability distributions to sample data, select the best model, and apply the analysis results to make better decisions.

Seven different probability distributions are considered, some of which are very widely used in hydrologic frequency analysis. These distributions include: Gamma, Weibull, Pearson 6, Rayleigh, Beta, Kumaraswamy and Exponential distributions. These distributions and their probability density functions are presented in Table 1. Three goodness-of-fit tests were conducted, Kolmogorov-Smirnov, Anderson-Darling and Chi-Squared evaluate the best fit at 5 % level of significance. In this study, the software CumFreq (www.waterlog.info) is used for determination of return periods of maximum flow.

4. Results and Discussion

During the 61 year period between 1948 and 2008, the maximum annual runoff was recorded at 286.6 million m³ in 1957 while the minimum runoff was registered at 30.4 million m³ in 1974 (table 3). Over the same period the average runoff value calculated at 83.152 Million cubic meters for autumn and 38.415 for summer. Meanwhile, the general statistical analysis of the flows data indicates that the skewness for autumn is 1.2827 and for summer is 1.8176. The coefficient of variation recorded at 0.4601 and 0.8316 for autumn and summer respectively (Table 3).

The obtained results of probability flow were calculated accordingly to the year classification, very wet, wet, medium, dry and very dry Saloua, R et al, (2012), Adejuwon J.O et al, (2007).

The estimated flow during wet, medium and dry years were 103 - 134, 76 - 103 and 55 - 76 million m³ respectively for autumn season and 52 - 81, 29 - 52 and 15 - 29 million m³ respectively for summer season (Table 4). The flow in autumn season occupies about 70% of total annual flows.

The applied statistical results in this study is in agreement with the results obtained by application of Gamma Distribution, with average run-off recorded during study period. The average actual recorded data for autumn and summer are 83.15 and 38.42 million m^3 /year respectively (Table 3) and is identical with the value calculated by Gamma Distribution by using the software EasyFit professional version 5.4 (table 4),and similarly agree with statistical parameters coefficient of variation, Standard deviation (Tables 3 and 5).

Comparison of maximum and minimum actual run-off recorded and applied in this study with those obtained from EasyFit program, we observed the quantities are close with the data found from Gamma Distribution, where the maximum ran-off quantity frequent every 33 years with probability of 3 %, where as the minimum run-off will occur every 33 years with probability 97 % (Table 7).

Figures 1 and 2 show the theoretical curve of the probability flow and distribution of the observed flow during autumn and summer respectively, the correlation coefficient between them has been 0.98 and 0.98 respectively. Figures 3 and 4 show the cumulative distribution during the autumn and summer respectively, where it is noted a direct proportion between observations (x) and the cumulative distribution f(x).

Summary of statistical analysis for Wadi Bana flows during the period of (1948 - 2008) under the studied distributions are shown in table 5. The obtained fitting results-parameters of distribution equations used in this study have been shown in table 2.

Kolmogorov-Smirnov, Anderson-Darling and Chi-Squared goodness-of-fit tests indicate that all the models can be used to describe the distribution of spate flows of Wadi Bana in the Abyan Delta of Yemen. From the results of seven frequency distributions applied in this study, it suggests that the best frequency distribution obtained for the Wadi Bana spate flows in the Abyan Delta of Yemen is Gamma followed by weibull distributions for the both seasons autumn and summer (Table 6). These results are supported with previous studies Aksoy, H. (2000, 2007), Karmakar, S. and Simonovic, S.P. (2009), Hughes, B. L. and Saunders, A. M. (2002).

Tables 7 and 8 Show the quantile estimates for return periods up to 100 and 500 years by using Easyfit and CumFreq software programs respectively for cumulative frequency analysis.

Table 8 shows the quantitative and frequency of flood run-off in Wadi Bana during the seasons autumn and summer by utilizing CumFreq Program and selection of the best fitting of all distributions, where the frequency of flood run-off every 100 years is estimated approximately 266 and 113 million m³/year during autumn and summer respectively, compared to the quantity of run-off for the same period by utilizing EasyFit Program, it is observed that Pearson 6 Distribution is closer and recorded 262 million m³/year during autumn season only , but does not fit for the seasonal run-off during summer season (Table 7), in comparison with other distributions, it is observed that the quantity of run-off frequency for every 100 years (Table 7) fluctuates than those shown in table 8. This is explained that prediction of run-off can be relied by application of studied distributions for 100 year frequency period or less, and also depend on the prediction of run-off when the frequency period exceeds 100 years and probably reaches 500 years or more by application of CumFreq Program and selection of the best fitting of all distributions.

The obtained results may be useful for engineering planning, designs and irrigation planning in future and maximum season flows of Wadi Bana events can be predicted.

5. Conclusions

Basic statistical characteristics of Wadi Bana flows in the Abyan Delta of Yemen have been obtained using annual data recorded for 61 years. Seven probability distributions, namely, Gamma, Weibull, Pearson 6, Rayleigh, Beta, Kumaraswamy and Exponential distributions were tested to model the distribution of the Wadi Bana flows and Kolmogorov-Smirnov, Anderson-Darling and Chi-Squared goodness-of-fit tests were used to evaluate the best fit at 5 % of level significant. It suggests that the best frequency distribution obtained for the Wadi Bana flows in the Abyan Delta of Yemen is Gamma followed by weibull distribution for both summer and autumn seasons.

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Distribution	PDF	CDF
Gamma	$f(x) = \frac{x^{\alpha - 1}}{\beta^{\alpha} \Gamma(\alpha)} \exp(-x/\beta)$	$F(x) = \frac{\Gamma_{x/\beta}(x)}{\Gamma(x)}$
Weibull	$f(x) = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \left(\frac{x}{\beta}\right)^{\alpha - 1} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{x}{\beta}\right)^{\alpha}\right)$	$F(x) = 1 - \exp\left(-\left(\frac{x}{\beta}\right)^{\alpha}\right)$
Pearson 6	$f(x) = \frac{(x/\beta)^{\alpha_1 - 1}}{\beta B(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) (1 + x/\beta)^{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}}$	$F(x) = I_{x/(x+\beta)}(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$
Rayleigh	$f(x) = \frac{x}{\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x}{\sigma}\right)^2\right)$	$F(x) = 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x}{\sigma}\right)^2\right)$
Beta	$f(x) = \frac{1}{B(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)} \frac{(x-a)^{\alpha_1 - 1}(b-x)^{\alpha_2 - 1}}{(b-a)^{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 - 1}}$	$F(x) = I_z(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$
Kumaraswamy	$f(x) = \frac{\alpha_1 \alpha_2 z^{\alpha_1 - 1} (1 - z^{\alpha_1})^{\alpha_2 - 1}}{(b - a)}$	$F(x) = 1 - (1 - z^{\alpha_1})^{\alpha_2}$
Exponential	$f(x) = \lambda \exp(-\lambda x)$	$F(x) = 1 - \exp\left(-\lambda x\right)$

Table 1. Probability distributions and their density functions

Table 2. Fitting Results-Parameters

Distribution	Autumn	Summer
Gamma	α=4.7238 β=17.603	α=1.446 β=26.566
Weibull	α=2.6145 β=91.259	α=1.3755 β=44.954
Pearson 6	α_1 =2.8057 α_2 =1.9423E+8 β =6.2924E+9	α_1 =1.6929 α_2 =1.6469E+7 β =4.0009E+8
Rayleigh	σ=66.346	σ=30.651
Beta	$\alpha_1 = 1.7683 \alpha_2 = 3.864$ a=13.2 b=228.8	α_1 =0.20711 α_2 =1.2975 a=1.8039E-15 b=217.71
Kumaraswamy	$\alpha_1 = 1.0 \ \alpha_2 = 1.2$ a=16.5 b=228.8	α_1 =0.24352 α_2 =1.2103 a=2.4163E-15 b=182.48
Exponential	λ=0.01203	λ=0.02603

Year	Aut.	Sum.	Total	Year	Aut.	Sum.	Total	Year	Aut.	Sum.	Total
1948	64	3.7	67.7	1969	94.2	42.2	136.4	1990	127.3	0	127.3
1949	58.1	29.5	87.6	1970	81	56.6	137.6	1991	29.5	42.9	72.4
1950	167.7	41.4	209.1	1971	44.4	38.1	82.5	1992	50.6	37.8	88.4
1951	149.1	39	188.1	1972	74	74.4	148.4	1993	63.3	23.1	86.4
1952	102.8	18.6	121.4	1973	94.4	1.2	95.6	1994	53.2	3.6	56.8
1953	128	50.9	178.9	1974	16.5	13.9	30.4	1995	61.3	2.2	63.5
1954	228.8	50.1	278.9	1975	55.6	0	55.6	1996	120	50	170
1955	125.4	40.8	166.2	1976	25.1	54.7	79.8	1997	130	60	190
1956	107.1	20.8	127.9	1977	64.9	24.7	89.6	1998	90	40	130
1957	117.9	168.7	286.6	1978	57.7	30	87.7	1999	60	20	80
1958	59.5	25.5	85	1979	72.2	52.3	124.5	2000	65	30	95
1959	111.8	19	130.8	1980	78.4	75.6	154	2001	60	30	90
1960	55.5	72	127.5	1981	94.4	0	94.4	2002	60	20	80
1961	76.9	13.8	90.7	1982	42.2	112.4	154.6	2003	70	30	100
1962	136.2	15.1	151.3	1983	91.6	39.3	130.9	2004	66	29.5	95.5
1963	127	137.8	264.8	1984	63.6	29.4	93	2005	84	58.2	142.2
1964	163.5	52	215.5	1985	56.7	18.2	74.9	2006	61.5	25.3	86.8
1965	68	38.9	106.9	1986	53.9	0	53.9	2007	61.5	25.3	86.8
1966	79.3	17.7	97	1987	68.1	95.9	164	2008	58.2	32.1	90.3
1967	75.9	72.7	148.6	1988	96.1	2.6	98.7	-	-	-	-
1968	128.5	50.4	178.9	1989	44.9	43.4	88.3	-	-	-	-

Table 3. Observed	Wadi Bana	i Flows Du	ring the per	iod of 1948-2008

Descriptive Statistics						
Statistic	Autumn	Summer				
Sample Size	61	61				
Range	212.3	168.7				
Mean	83.152	38.415				
Variance	1463.7	1020.5				
Std. Deviation	38.259	31.946				
Coef. of Variation	0.4601	0.8316				
Std. Error	4.8985	4.0903				
Skewness	1.2827	1.8176				
Excess Kurtosis	2.4561	4.8495				

Table 4. Probability Distribution of Wadi Bana Flow Million Cubic meter

Casaan		Pro	C	0				
Season	5	10	25	50	75	90	C _v	Cs
Autumn	156	134	103	76	55	44	0.460	1.2
Summer	102	81	52	29	15	8	0.832	1.8
Total	258	215	155	105	70	52		

Distributions	Mean	Standard Division	C.V.	Skewness	Kurtosis
		Autumn			
Gamma	83.15	38.26	0.460	0.920	1.270
Weibull	81.07	33.33	0.411	0.309	- 0.186
Pearson 6	90.90	54.27	0.597	1.194	2.138
Rayleigh	83.15	43.47	0.523	0.631	0.245
Beta	80.89	38.85	0.480	0.541	- 0.307
Kumaraswamy	113.0	59.09	0.523	0.155	- 0.124
Exponential	83.15	83.15	1.0	2.0	6.0
		Summer			
Gamma	38.41	31.95	0.832	1.663	4.149
Weibull	41.09	30.23	0.736	1.969	1.969
Pearson 6	41.12	31.61	0.768	1.537	3.544
Rayleigh	38.41	20.08	0.523	0.631	0.245
Beta	29.97	47.40	1.58	1.9	2.879
Kumaraswamy	27.44	41.52	1.51	1.787	2.763
Exponential	38.41	38.41	1.00	2.0	6.0

Table 5. Summary of statistics for Wadi Bana Flows (1948 – 2008)

Table 6. Goodness-of-fit test ranking with the studied Distributions

Distribution	Kolmogorov Smirnov			erson ling	Chi-Squared		
	Autumn	Summer	Autumn	Summer	Autumn	Summer	
Gamma	1	1	1	1	2	4	
Weibull	2	2	2	2	5	1	
Pearson 6	3	3	4	3	3	2	
Rayleigh	4	4	3	5	1	3	
Beta	5	7	5	7	4	N/A	
Kumaraswamy	6	6	7	6	6	N/A	
Exponential	7	5	6	4	7	5	

Note: Ranking is in the order of 1,2,3,4,5,6 ,7. 1 is the best ranking and 7 the worst ranking; NA: implies not applicable (By using EasyFit 5.1 Software program

Table 7. Quantile Estimates for Various Return Periods by EasyFit Program

Probability, %	1	3	5	10	25	50	75	90	95	97	99
Character		Very wet	-	W	'et	Medium]	Dry		Very dr	у
Return Period, Year	100	33	20	10	4	2	4	10	20	33	100
Autumn											
Gamma	197	168	154	134	105	77	55	39	32	27	20
Weibull	164	147	139	126	103	79	57	39	29	24	16
Pearson 6	262	216	194	164	119	80	51	32	23	19	12
Rayleigh	201	176	162	142	110	78	50	30	21	16	9
Beta	180	163	153	136	107	76	50	33	26	23	18
Kumaraswamy	224	217	211	198	162	110	62	34	25	22	18
Exponential	383	292	249	191	115	58	24	9	4	3	1
summer											
Gamma	148	116	101	81	53	30	15	7	4	3	1
Weibull	136	112	100	82	57	34	18	9	5	4	2
Pearson 6	147	117	103	83	56	33	18	9	6	4	2
Rayleigh	93	81	75	66	51	36	23	14	10	8	4
Beta	194	166	144	104	40	5	0.2	0.002	0	0	0
Kumaraswamy	166	145	127	94	38	6	0.3	0.007	0	0	0
Exponential	177	135	115	88	53	27	11	4	2	1	0.4

Year	Cumulative Frequency	Autumn	Summer
5	0.800	110	60
10	0.900	139	74
25	0.960	183	89
50	0.980	222	102
100	0.990	266	113
200	0.995	317	124
500	0.998	396	136

Table 8. Quantile estimates for various return periods, (million m³) by CumFreq Program

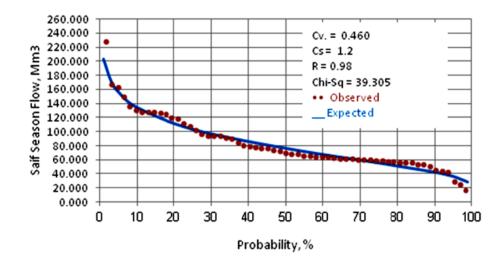


Figure 1. Flow probability Curve for the Autumn Season of Wadi Bana (1948-2008)

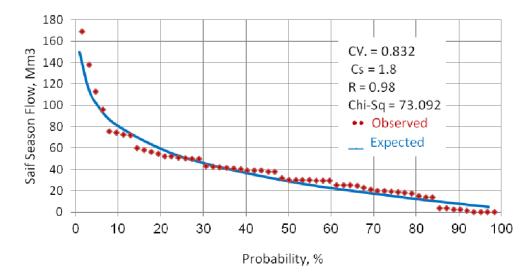


Figure 2. Flow probability Curve for the Summer Season of Wadi Bana (1948 - 2008)

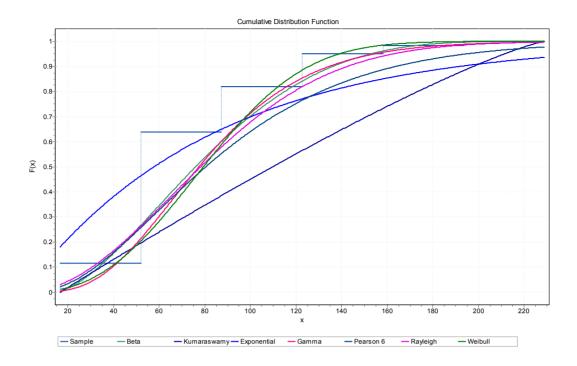


Figure 3. Cumulative Distribution Function for Autumn

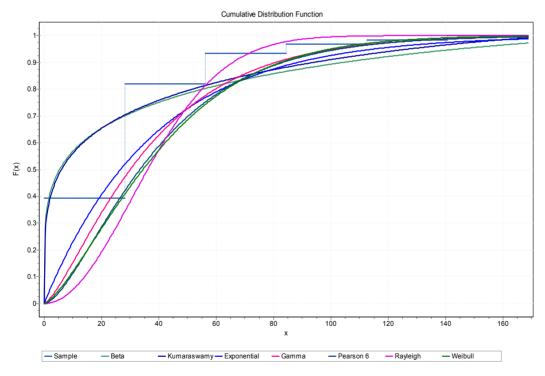


Figure 4. Cumulative Distribution Function for Summer