

Verification Software Overview for OB8.2

1.0 Introduction

The NWSRFS Verification System is a collection of programs that allow the user to verify stage, discharge, temperature, and precipitation forecasts.

The software runs on the archive machines at the river forecast centers. In order to properly use the verification software, observed data corresponding to forecast data to verify must be stored in one of these tables of the archive database: pccrsep, pcdrsep, peoosep, pehpsep, pedpsep, peqpssep. Furthermore, forecast data to verify must be stored in one of these tables of the archive database: pedfsep, pehfsep, peqfsep, pedcsep.

There are five programs in the Verification System:

1. Vfyruninfo Editor: This graphical user interface is a tool for editing the vfyruninfo table in the archive database. This table is required by the Interactive Verification Program (IVP) and its batch software in order to determine for which forecast points verification statistics are allowed to be calculated. Furthermore, it provides information about which physical elements, forecast type sources, durations, extremums, and observed sensor preferences to include in the forecast-observed data pairing process.
2. IVP Batch Program: This program processes batch command (ASCII) text files and serves two primary functions, both of which depend on a properly filled in vfyruninfo table:
 - a. Construct forecast and observed river stage data pairs and stores them in the vfypairs table of the archive database.
 - b. Calculate verification statistics from previously constructed data pairs and generate graphics displaying the statistics.
3. Verify Pairs Ingestor: This program provides another mechanism to place forecast-observed data pairs into the archive database. It extracts data pairs from a properly formatted tabular pairs file (Verify ob3-r24 and earlier) and inserts them into the vfypairs table, but only if the data pair matches an entry in the vfyruninfo table.
4. IVP Batch Builder: This graphical user interface can be used to build IVP Batch Program batch files, run the IVP Batch Program, and view resulting output text files.
5. Interactive Verification Program (IVP): This graphical user interface is a tool that can be used to examine verification data pairs, edit them, and graphically view verification statistics. Statistics can be plotted against the location, forecast type source, lead time intervals, issuance time intervals, forecast valid time intervals, and categories. The appearance of a graphic can be modified and a batch file can be saved to allow for reconstruction of the graphic using the IVP Batch Program.

Documentation for these programs can be found at the following URL:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hrl/verification/verification_doc_ob82.php