

Investigating the impacts of streamflow disturbances on water quality using a data-driven framework



Delaware River Basin Commission



US Geological Survey

Charuleka Varadharajan
ESS Cyberinfrastructure Meeting
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

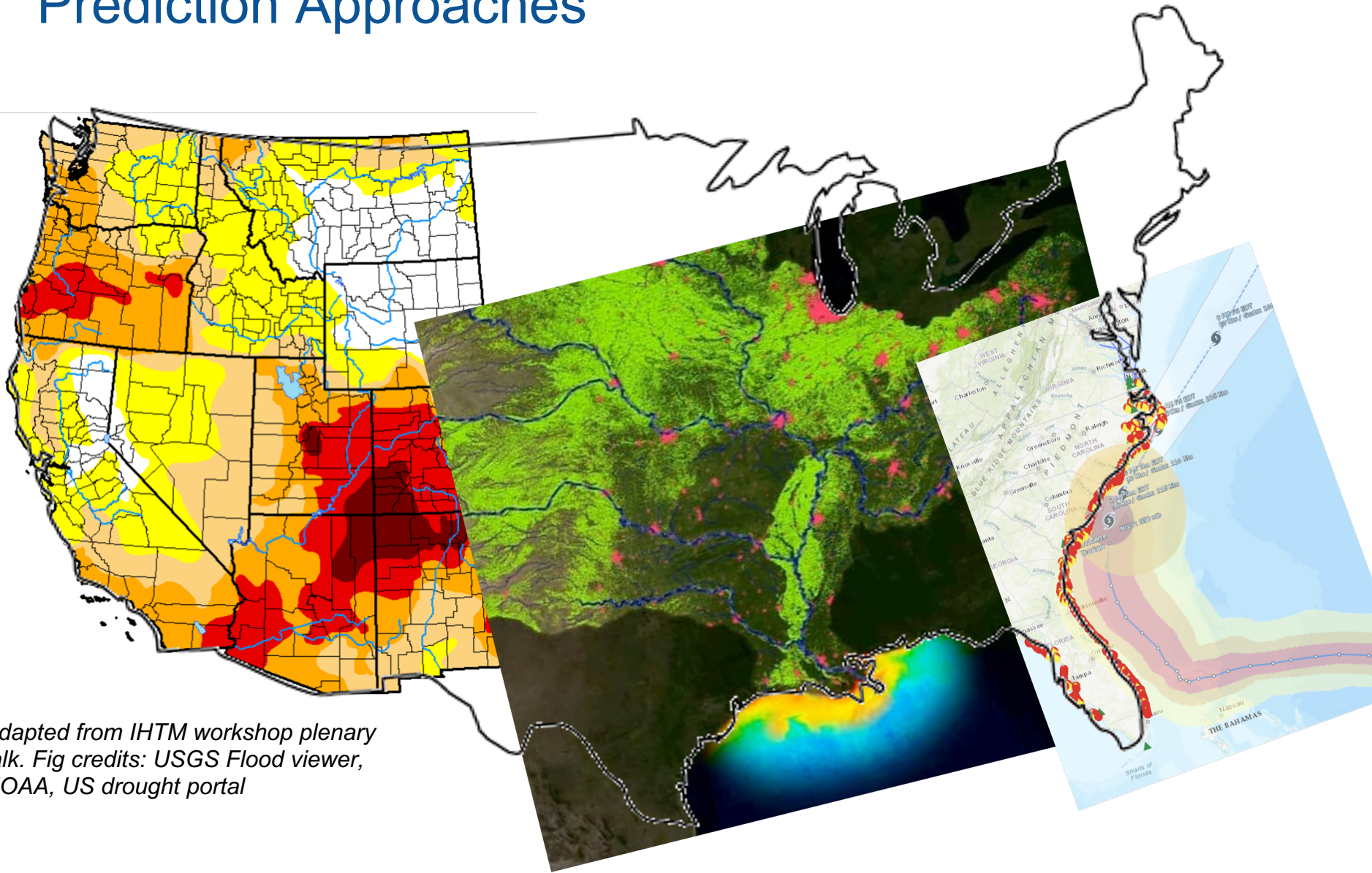


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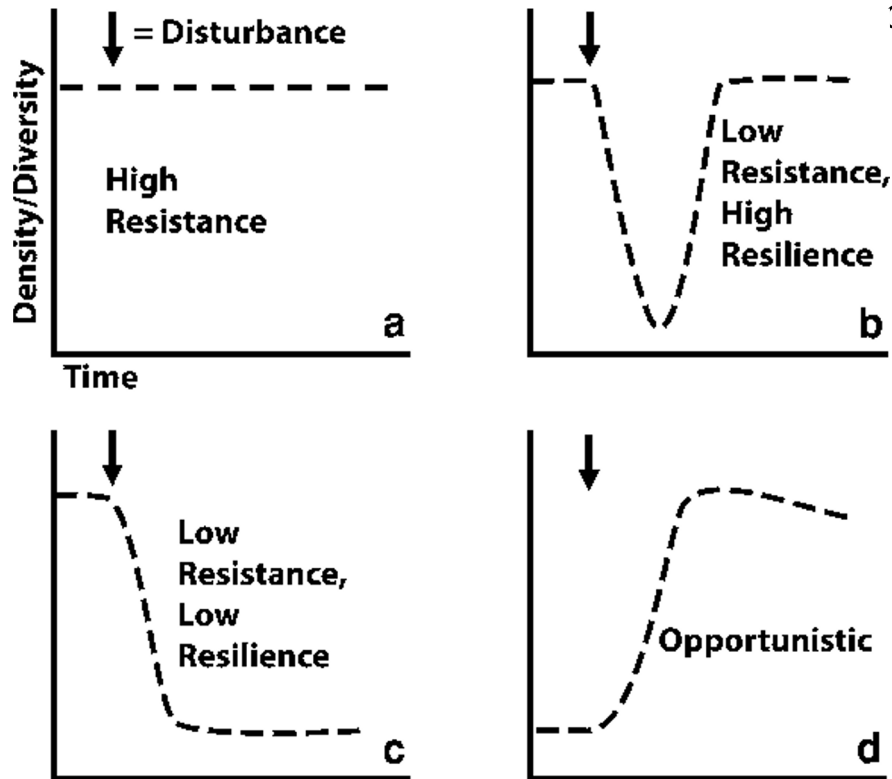
The Nation's Priority Water Challenges Need New Prediction Approaches



Adapted from IHTM workshop plenary talk. Fig credits: USGS Flood viewer, NOAA, US drought portal

Research Objective

To determine watershed emergent properties - **resistance/resilience** - to streamflow disturbances, and predict impacts to water quality using a new, open framework for data-driven analyses and modeling



Carey et al., HP (2010), McCluney et al. Fr. Ecology and Env. (2014)

Water Quality:
Temperature, Dissolved
Oxygen, Electrical
Conductivity (Salinity)

**Variables of critical
importance to aquatic
life and water managers
with high-resolution
datasets**

Anderson and Ferrington, Hydrobiologia (2012)

Driving Science Questions

S1: How do the intensity, duration, and frequency of streamflow disturbance events change water quality at a given location in the short and long-term?

S2: How far do disturbance-related water quality changes propagate further downstream?

S3: How do the impacts of streamflow disturbances on water quality vary across watersheds with different characteristics of geomorphology, soil properties, climate, land use, and land cover?

Watershed Resistance/Resilience Index = f (disturbance event, watershed characteristics)

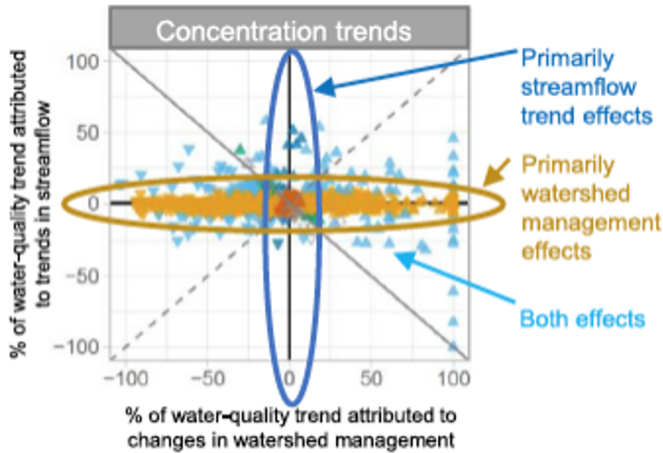
Multiscale Testbeds for 3 River Corridors



Built using USGS NLDI. Yellow and pink dots represent locations of streamflow and water quality observations.

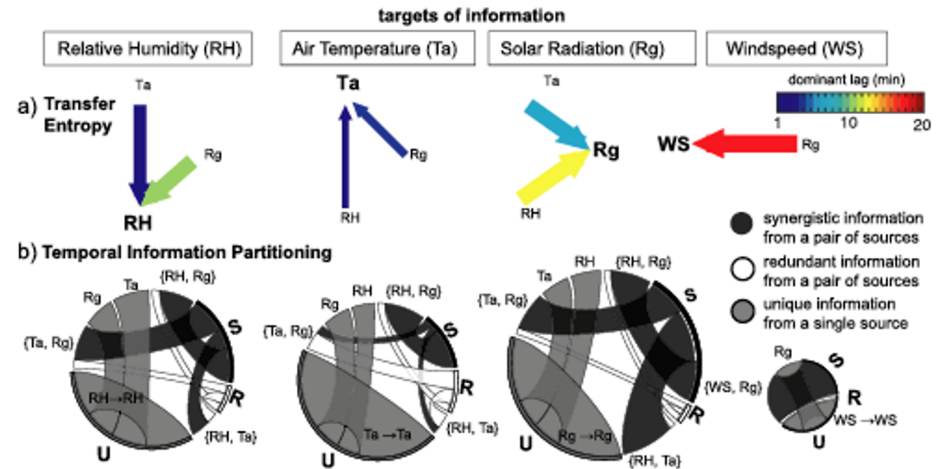
Data-Intensive Approaches Used in Isolation; Opportunity for Better Predictions with Integration

Classical Statistics on Long-Term Monitoring Network Data



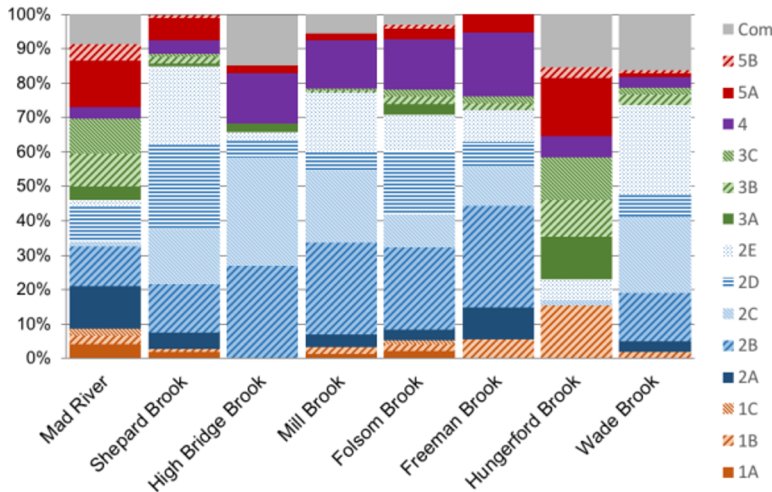
Murphy & Sprague, STOTEN (2019)

Information Theory/Causal Inference



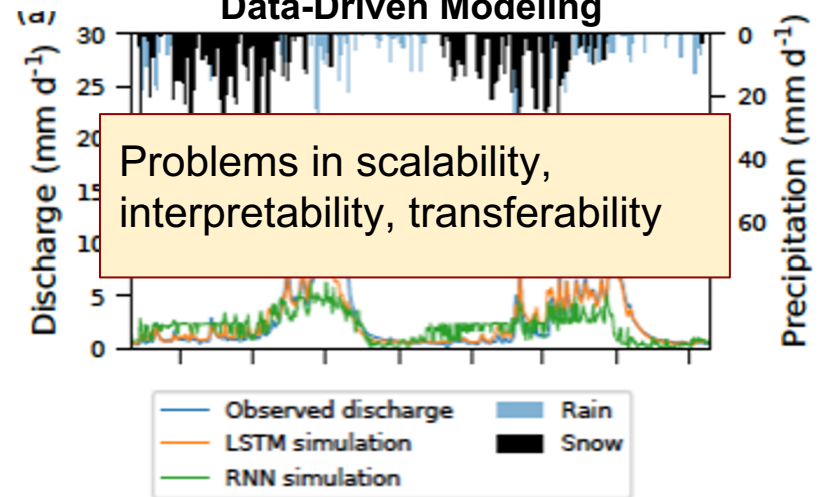
Goodwell Et Al, WRR (2019)

Classification/Pattern Recognition



C-Q Storm Event Classification Hamshaw Et Al. (2019)

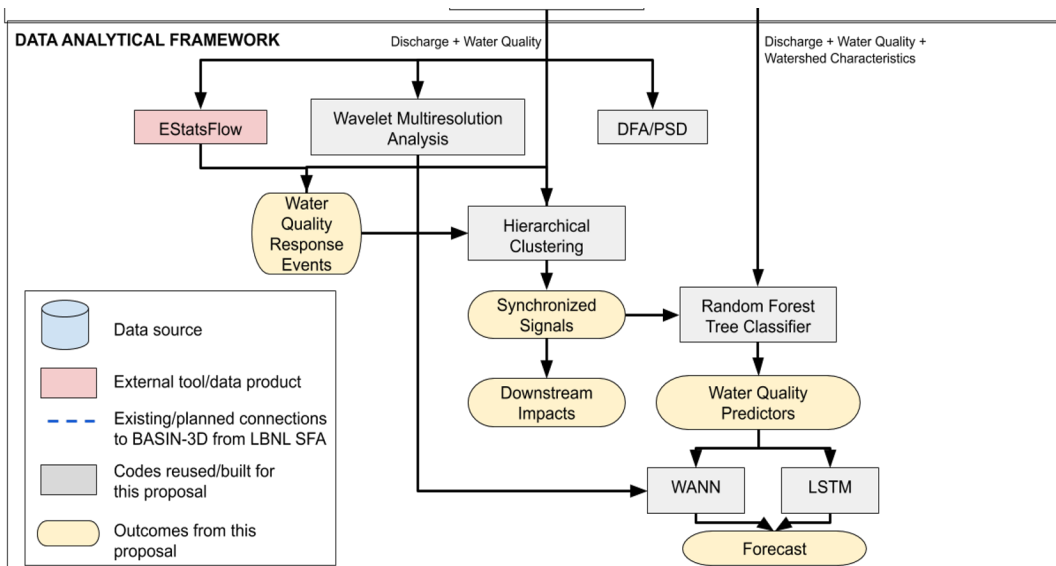
Data-Driven Modeling



Rainfall-runoff modeling using deep neural networks Kratzert Et Al., HESS (2018)

My Approach: Integrating data-driven synthesis, analysis and modeling in open framework

Variable(s)	Name of dataset	Source
Discharge	NWIS	USGS
Water Quality	Water Quality Portal, Murphy & Sprague, NWIS	USGS, EPA, USDA, various agencies
Topography, Geomorphology, River network	NHDPlus HR	USGS
Land use/Land Cover	NLCD	USDA
Soil properties	SSURGO/STATSGO2	USDA
Climate	GHCN, PRISM,	NOAA, Oregon State Univ.
Disturbance	LANDFIRE, Hydro Disturbance Index	
Integrated products	StreamCat, CAMELS, GAGES-II	USEPA, UCAR, other datasets



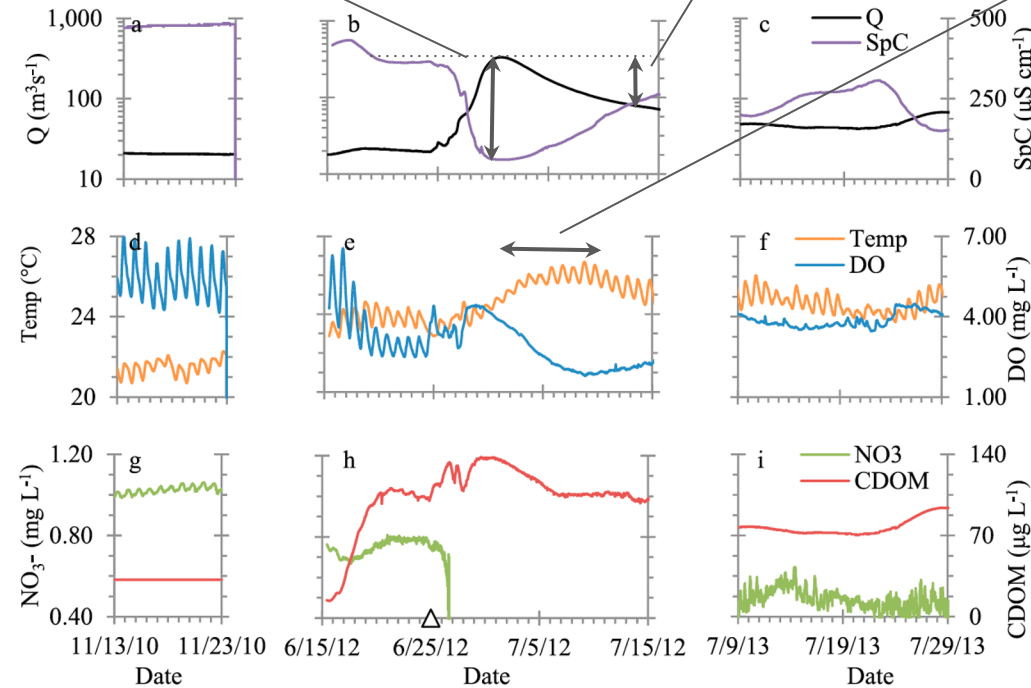
Physical Information into ML Model Derived from Analyses for Science Questions

S1: How do the intensity, duration, and frequency of streamflow disturbance events change water quality at a given location in the short and long-term?

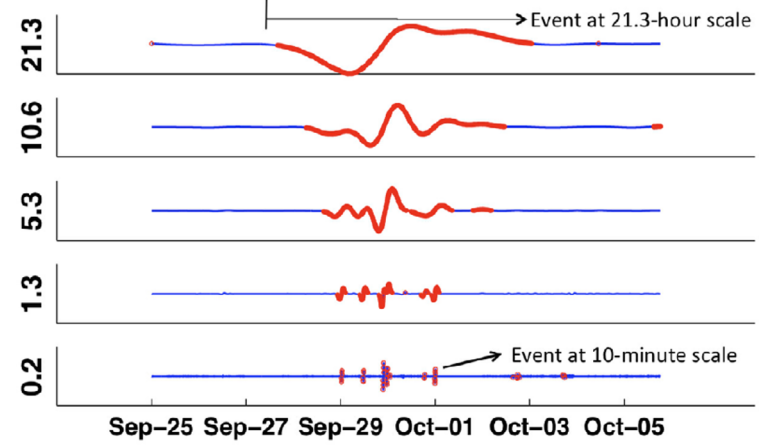
H1: Resistance (Chemostasis)

H2: Resilience

H3: System Lag/Memory Effects



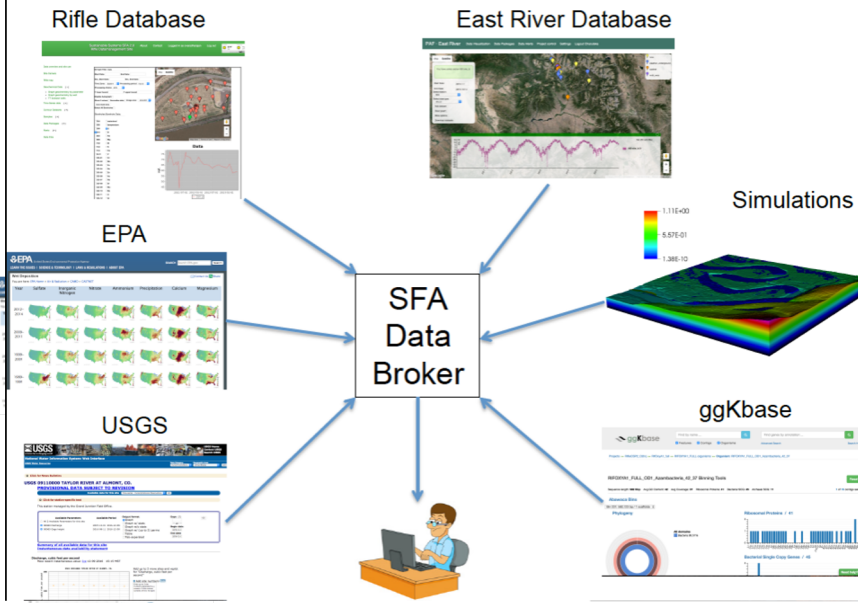
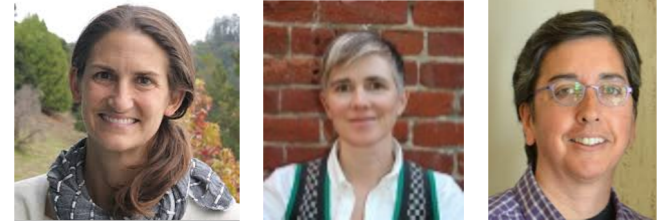
Scale (hours)



Observed impacts of Tropical Storm Debby in the Santa Fe river, FL. Hensley et al. (2019)

Wavelet-based event identification. Varadharajan and Hemond (2012)

Early Work: Applying a Data Broker For Repeatable Synthesis



BASIN-3D :
Data Integration Broker
that transforms data and
metadata to standardized
format for synthesis

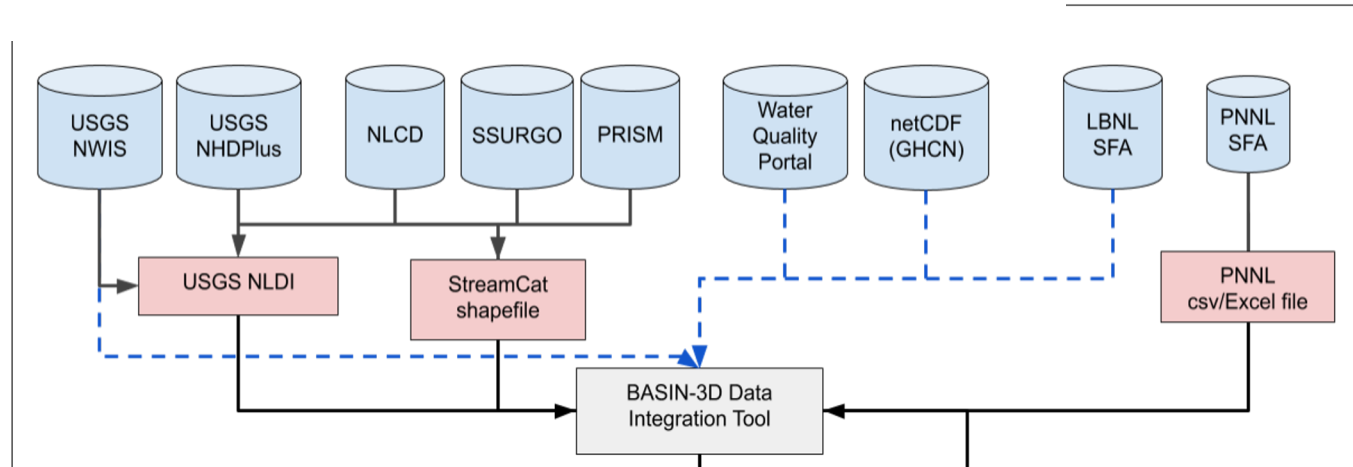
BASIN-3D is
different from
other data
integration tools

PANGEO

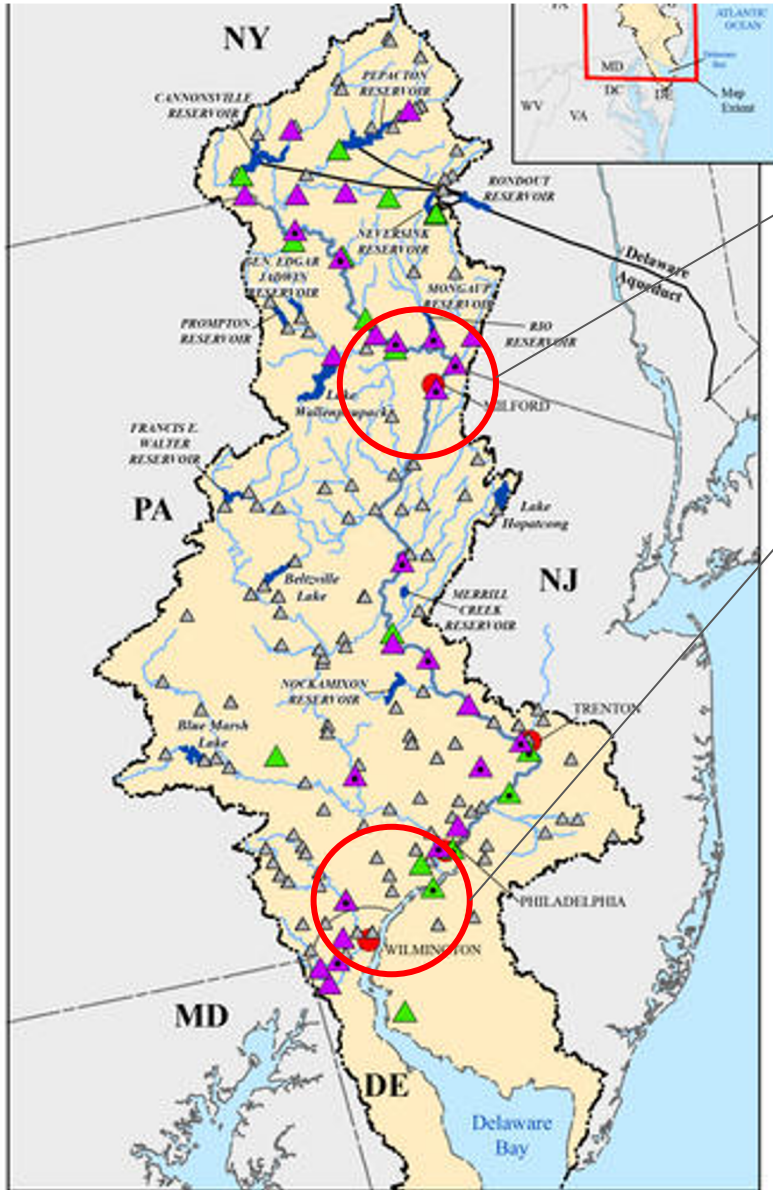


INTAKE

Varadharajan et al. (2019), Varadharajan et al. in prep.

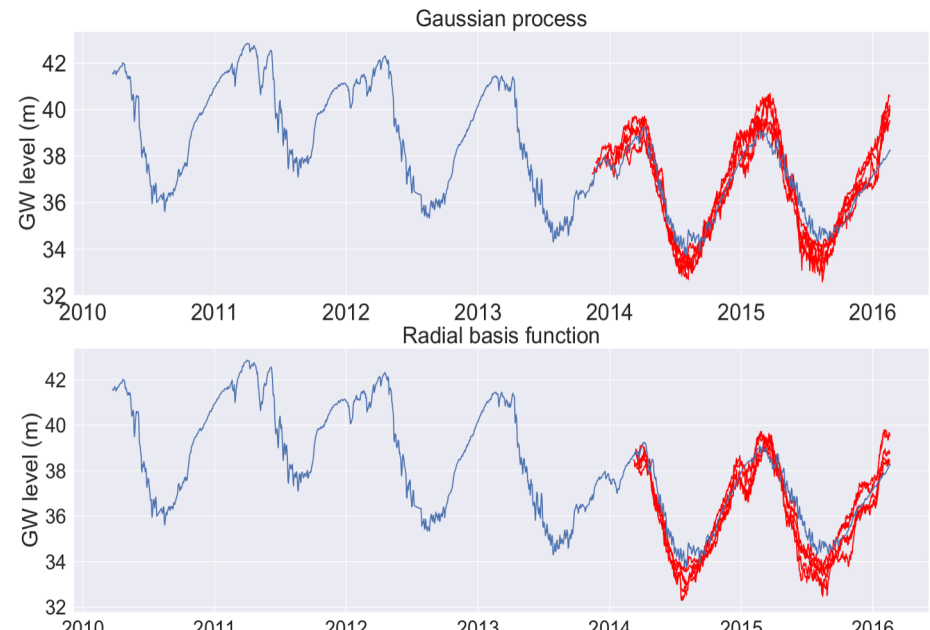


Early Work: ML for Delaware River Corridor



Reservoir/thermal plant impacts on stream temperature

Salt Wedge movement to Flood/Drought and relationship to groundwater



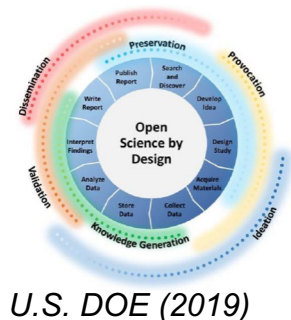
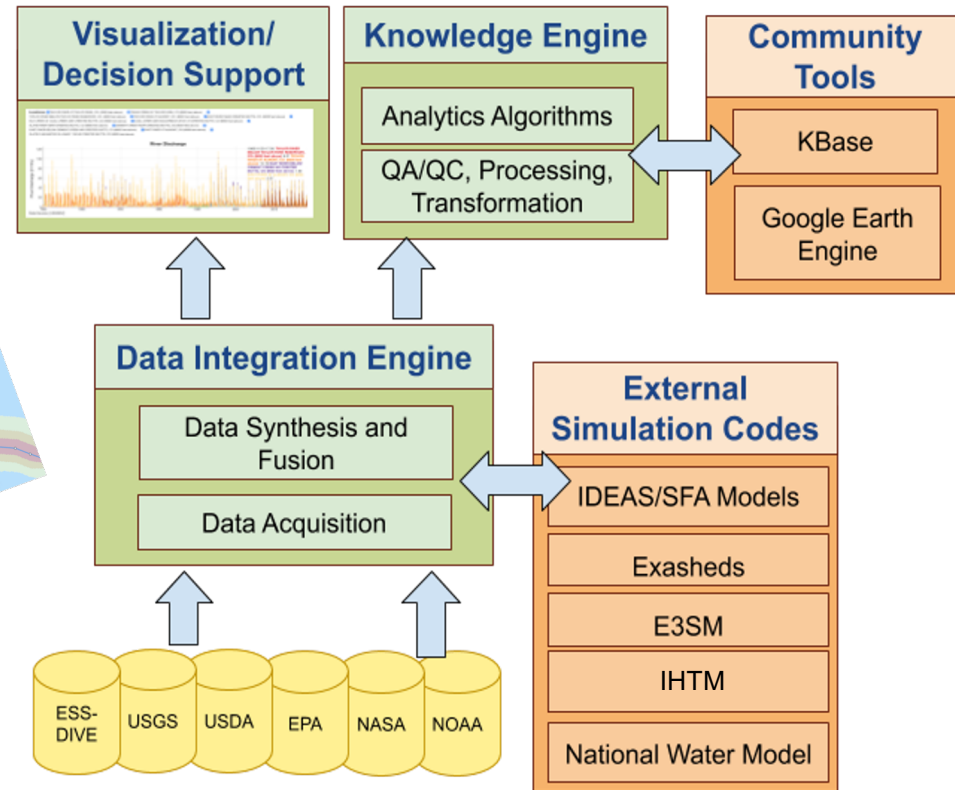
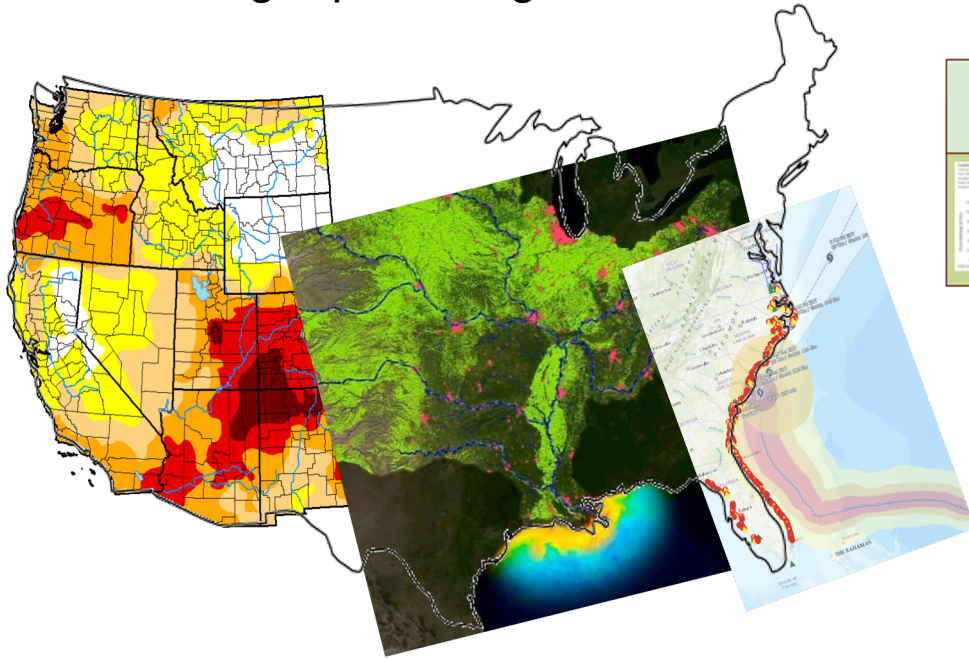
Predictions of groundwater level in Butte County, CA using optimized neural networks (MLP)

Mueller et al. (2019), Sahu et al. in prep, Berkeley Lab LDRD

Scientific, Technical, and Social Vision

Transferable concepts of impacts of flow disturbances on water quality to guide predictions in other flood/drought-prone regions

Open data-ML framework, reproducible benchmark datasets will be a foundation for an interagency water quality prediction capability



Acknowledgements

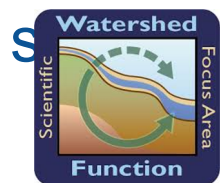
Funding



Facilities



Team



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Watershed Surrogate
Modeling Berkeley Lab LDRD

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