



PennState

Differentiable and physics-informed modeling to unify machine learning and physical models and advance Geosciences

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<https://github.com/mhpi>
Hydroml.org

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HydroML Symposium, May 22-26, 2023, Berkeley, CA

Overview

- ***What*** is the fundamental strengths of ML models compared to process-based models?
- ***What*** is *differentiable modeling in geosciences*?
- ***Examples*** of *differentiable modeling in geosciences*?

nature reviews earth & environment

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43017-023-00450-9>

Perspective

 Check for updates

Differentiable modelling to unify machine learning and physical models for geosciences

A list of authors and their affiliations appears at the end of the paper

Water Resources Research

RESEARCH ARTICLE
10.1029/2019WR026793

Enhancing Streamflow Forecast and Extracting Insights Using Long-Short Term Memory Networks With Data Integration at Continental Scales

Special Section:
Big Data & Machine Learning
in Water Sciences: Recent
Progress and Their Use in
Advancing Science

Dapeng Feng¹, Kuai Fang^{1,2}, and Chaopeng Shen¹

¹Civil and Environmental Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, USA, ²Now at: Earth System Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

Streamflow long-term projection or short-term forecast

Geophysical Research Letters

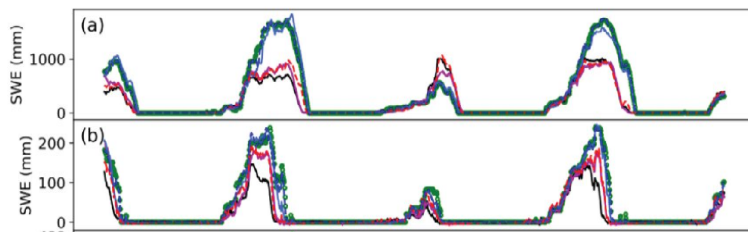
Research Letter | Full Access

A multiscale deep learning model for soil moisture integrating satellite and in-situ data

Jiangtao Liu, Farshid Rahmani, Kathryn Lawson, Chaopeng Shen

First published: 14 March 2022 | <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021GL096847>

Multiscale soil moisture



Song, et al., 2023, **Snow Water Equivalent** (under review)

Geophysical Research Letters

Research Letter | Full Access

Mitigating Prediction Error of Deep Learning Streamflow Models in Large Data-Sparse Regions With Ensemble Modeling and Soft Data

Dapeng Feng, Kathryn Lawson, Chaopeng Shen

First published: 30 June 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021GL092999> | Citations: 1

Data-sparse region

Hydrological Processes

RESEARCH ARTICLE | Full Access

Deep learning approaches for improving prediction of daily stream temperature in data-scarce, unmonitored, and dammed basins

Farshid Rahmani, Chaopeng Shen, Samantha Oliver, Kathryn Lawson, Alison Appling

Rahmani et al., 2021b, **water temperature**

Water Resources Research

Technical Reports: Methods | Full Access

Transferring Hydrologic Data Across Continents – Leveraging Data-Rich Regions to Improve Hydrologic Prediction in Data-Sparse Regions

Kai Ma, Dapeng Feng, Kathryn Lawson, Wen-Ping Tsai, Chuan Liang, Xiaorong Huang, Ashutosh Sharma, Chaopeng Shen

Ma et al., 2021, **Transfer Learning**

The first phase of hydrologic DL

- Success:
 1. DL models very often outperform existing models in accuracy: traditional models **were flawed**.
 2. With some adaptations, DL can offer **an ecosystem of services**.
 3. There is synergy of **big data**.
- Lessons:
 1. DL models are still **difficult to interpret** or extracting scientific insights from.
 2. Surrogate model □ how to improve above the raw model?
 3. May not learn causal relationships.
 4. DL models are limited by the issues of their training data:
Only output observed data; limited data quality; nonstationarity

Similarity & Differences between deep learning (DL) and process-based models (PBM)?



Purely data-driven NNs	Purely process-based models
Similarities	



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Differentiable parameter learning



ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-26107-z>

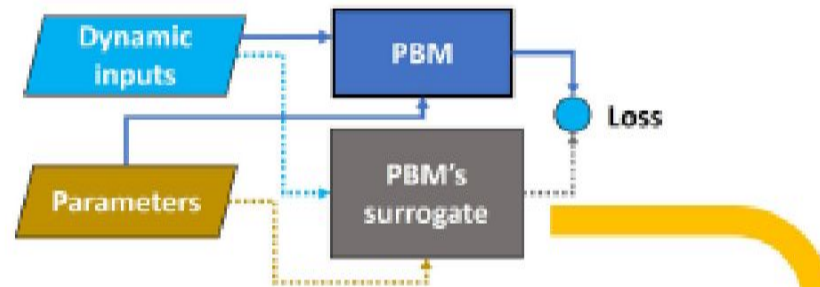
OPEN

Check for updates

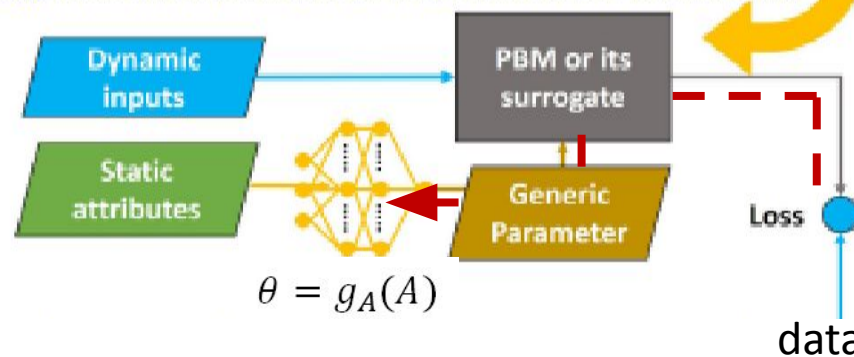
From calibration to parameter learning: Harnessing the scaling effects of big data in geoscientific modeling

Wen-Ping Tsai¹, Dapeng Feng¹, Ming Pan^{2,3}, Hylke Beck⁴, Kathryn Lawson^{1,5}, Yuan Yang^{6,7}, Jiangtao Liu¹ & Chaopeng Shen^{1,5*}

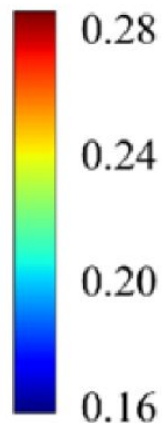
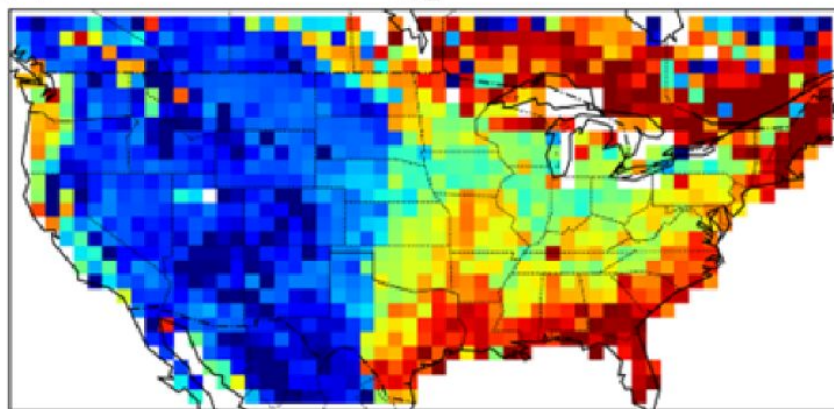
(a) PBM or PBM's surrogate (optional)



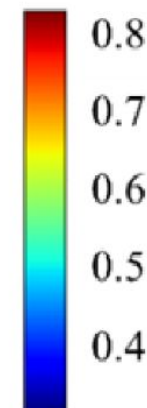
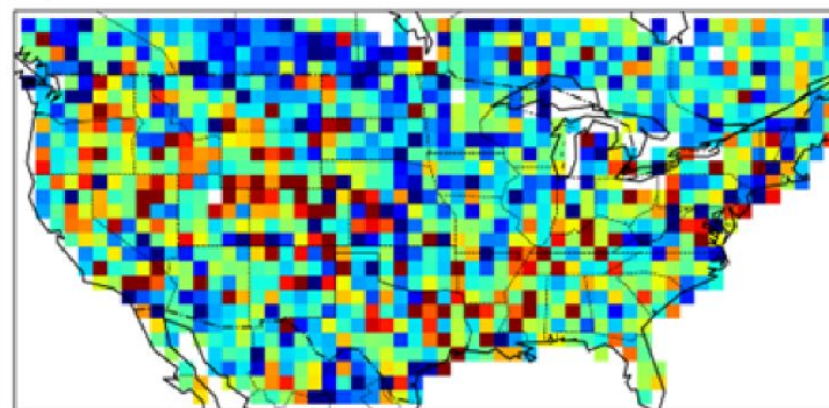
(b) dPL g_A framework (if historical observations are unavailable)



(a) dPL g_z INFILT



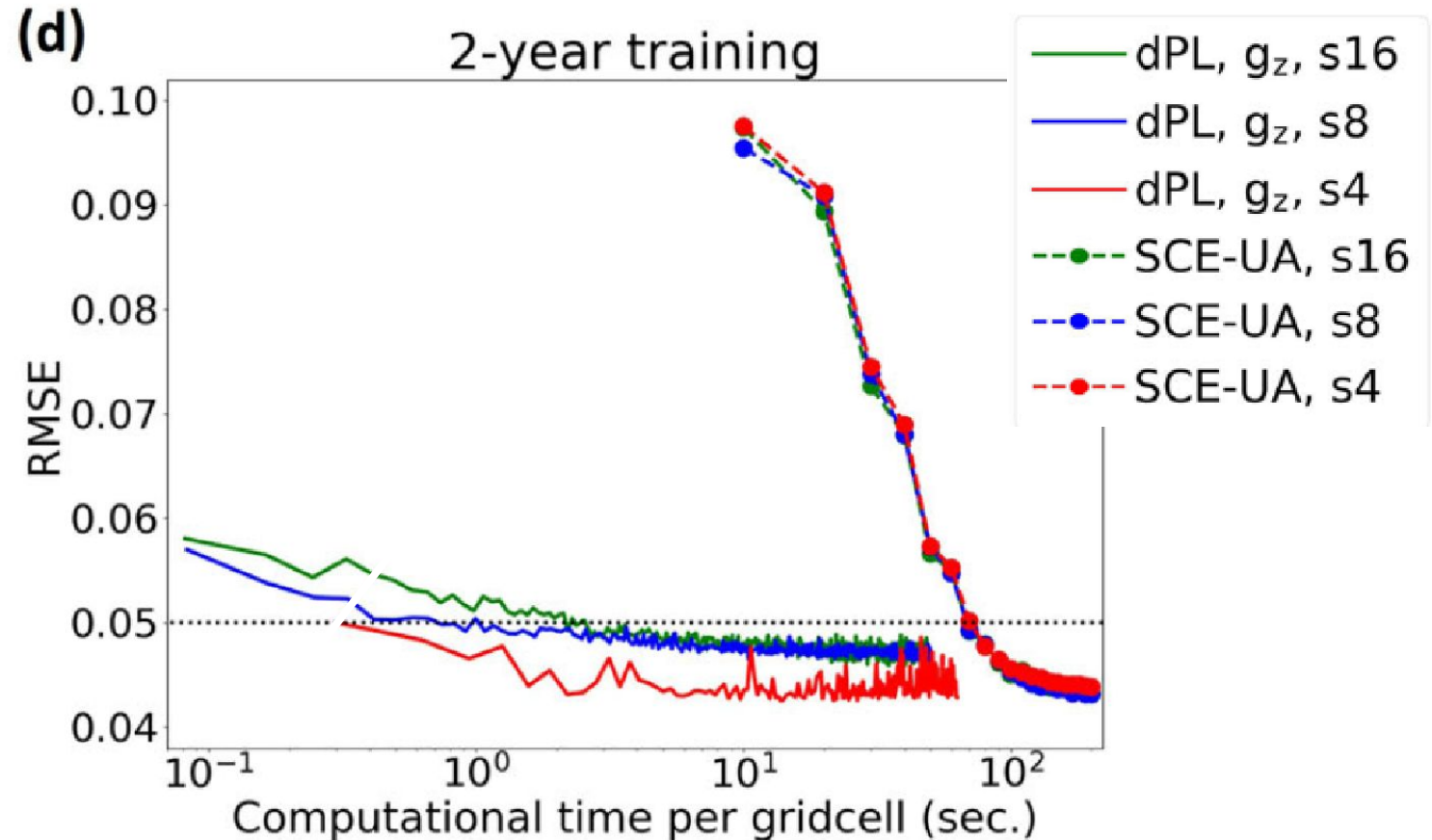
(b) SCE INFILT



Point #1. Data scaling relationships (network effect?)

1. dPL = SCEUA for lowest RMSE
2. dPL scales better with more data
3. Orders of magnitude more efficient
4. (not shown) better results for **untrained** variables and better **spatial generalization** than traditional approach!

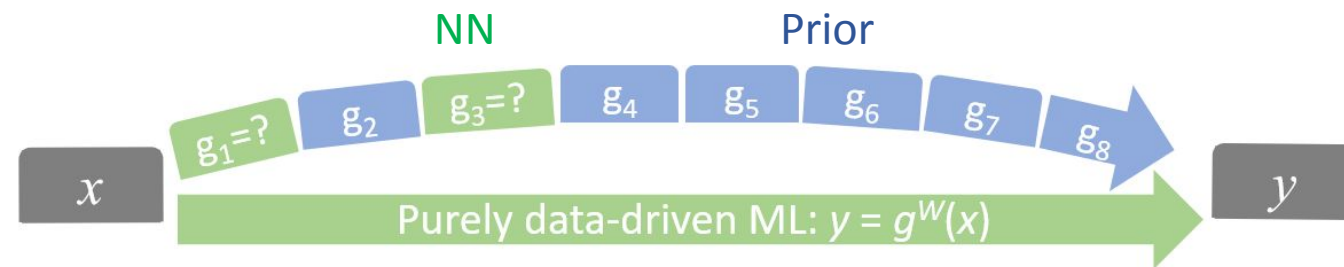
Relies on differentiable programming!



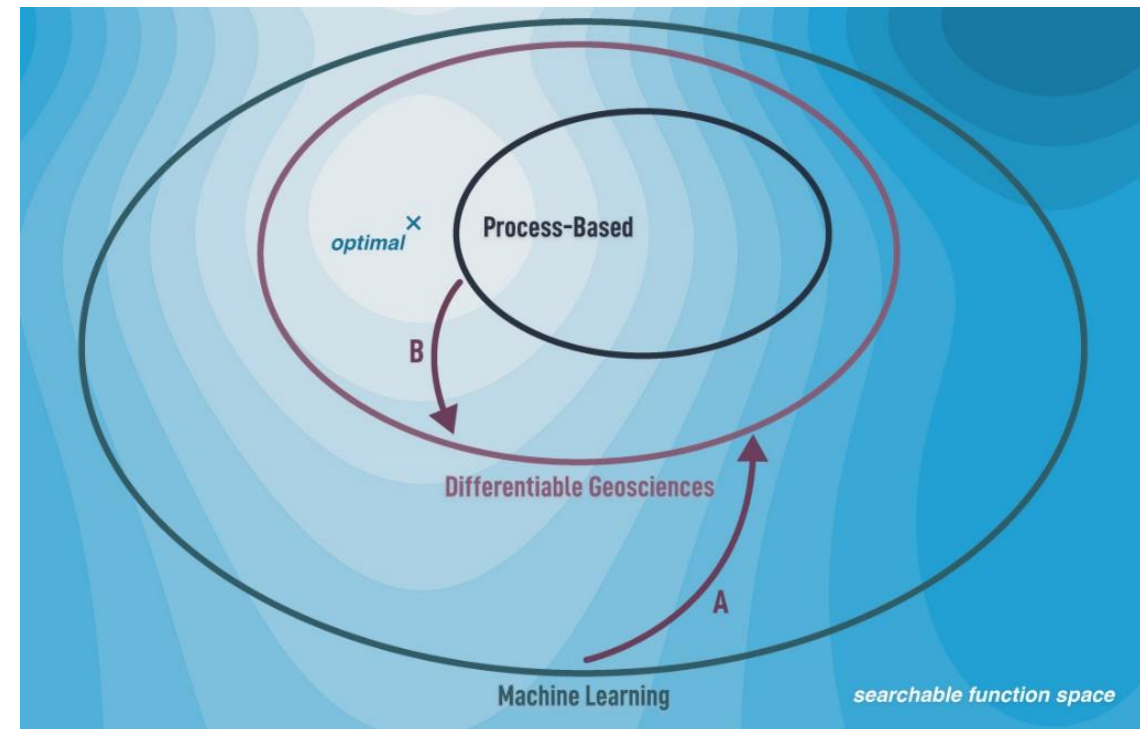
What is Differentiable Modeling (DM) in Geosciences?

Why is it difficult to understand ML

Why can we understand and learn DM better?



2 perspectives

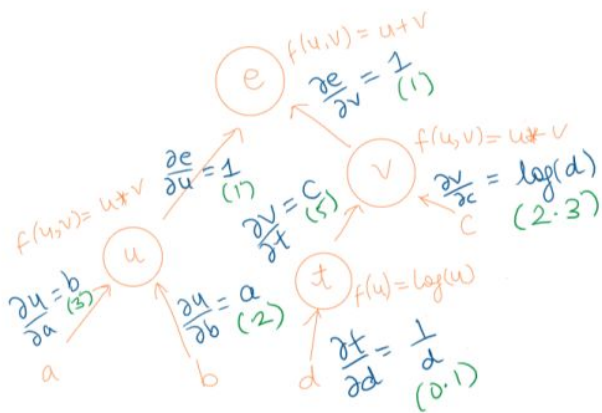


What does “Differentiable” mean?

- The ability to rapidly compute gradients $\frac{dL}{d\theta}$
- Enabling training by gradient descent

Automatic differentiation

Back-propagation:
 e.g. $a=2, b=3, c=5, d=10$



$$e = a * b + c \log(d)$$

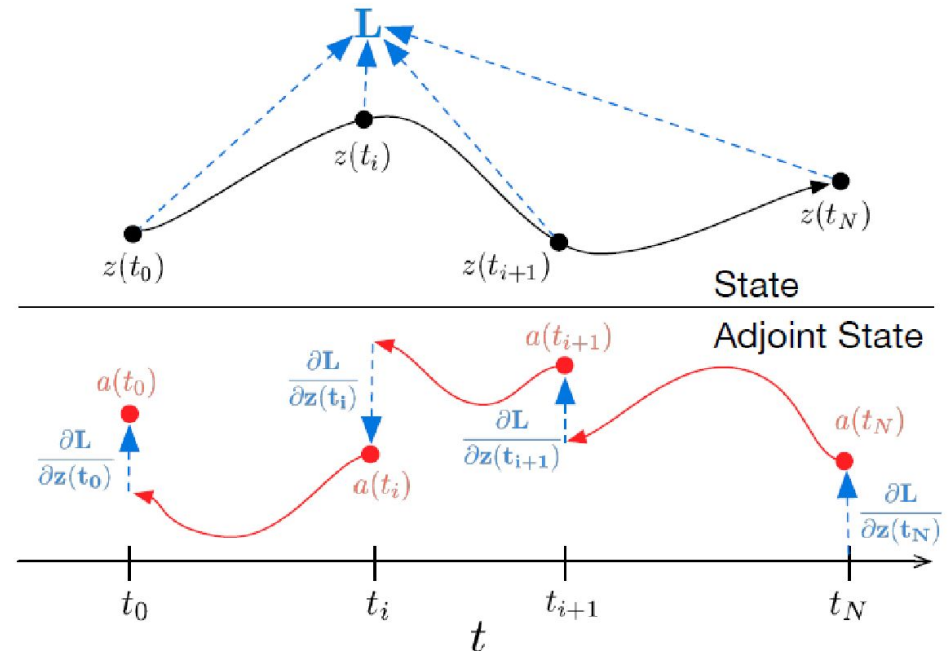
$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial a} = b(1) = b = 3$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial b} = a(1) = a = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial c} = \log d \times 1 = \log d = 2.3$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial d} = \frac{1}{d} \times c \times 1 = \frac{c}{d} = 0.5$$

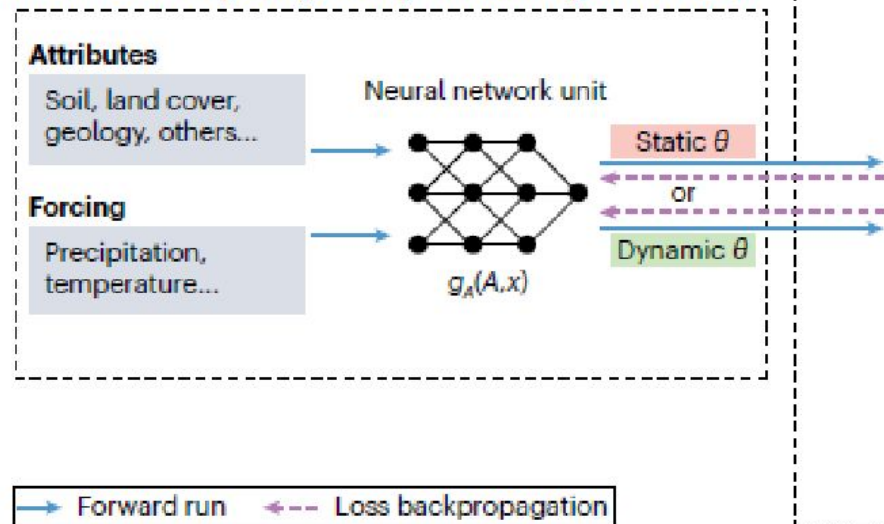
Adjoint State method



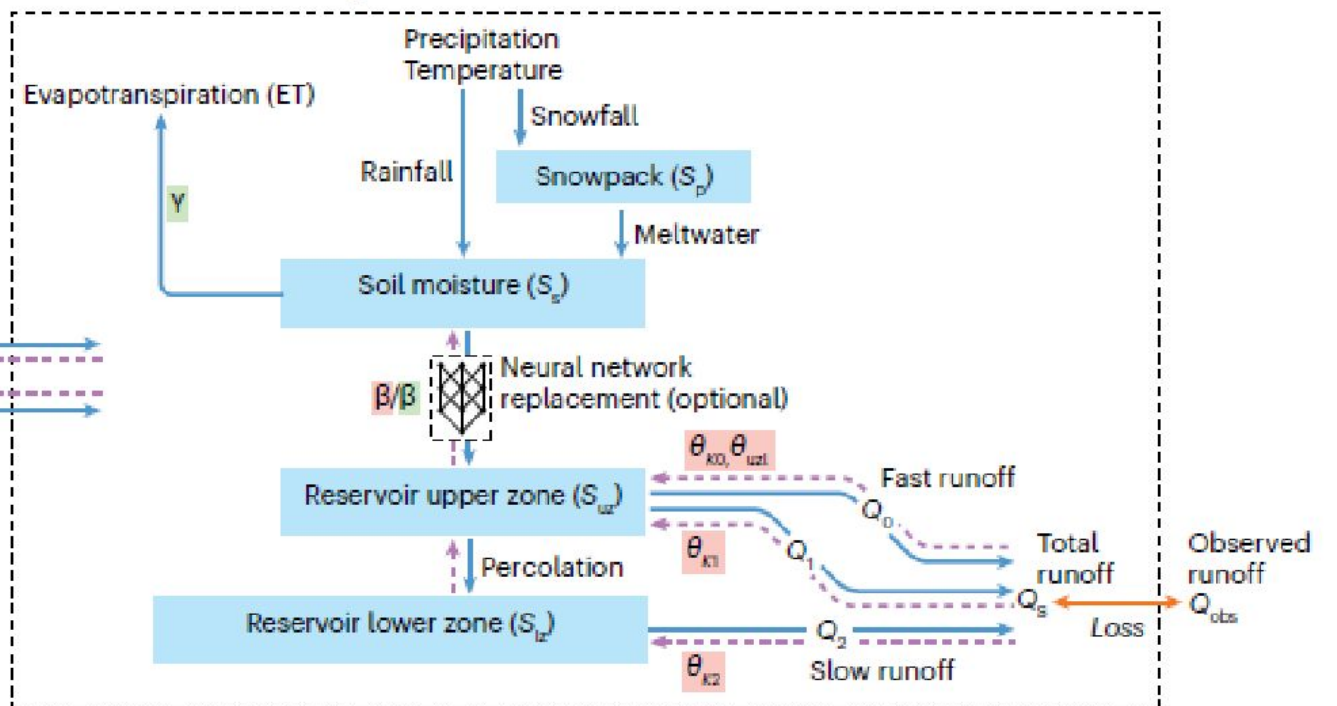
Example 2. differentiable, learnable models to learn functions

a Differentiable hydrological model using a process-based model as a backbone

Machine learning component (parameter regionalization)



Process-based model component



Water Resources Research

Research Article | Full Access

Differentiable, learnable, regionalized process-based models with multiphysical outputs can approach state-of-the-art hydrologic prediction accuracy

Dapeng Feng, Jiangtao Liu, Kathryn Lawson, Chaopeng Shen

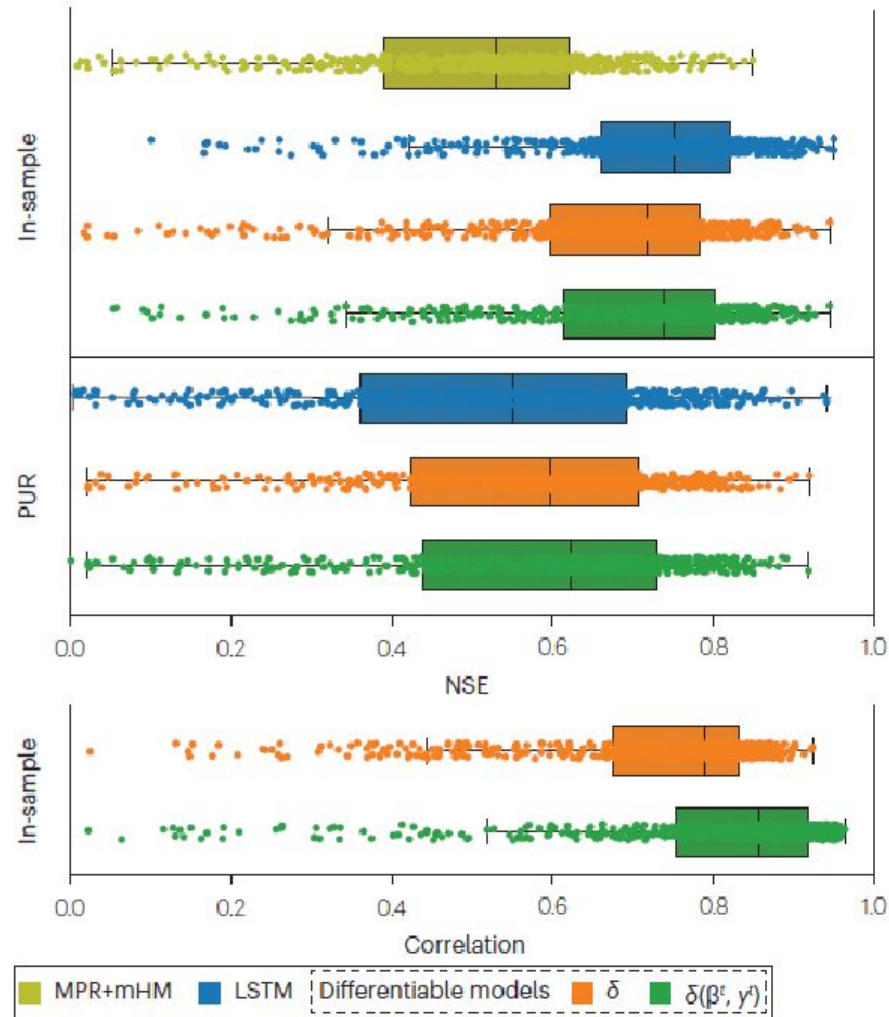
First published: 19 September 2022 | <https://doi.org/10.1029/2022WR032404>

Evolve model structure

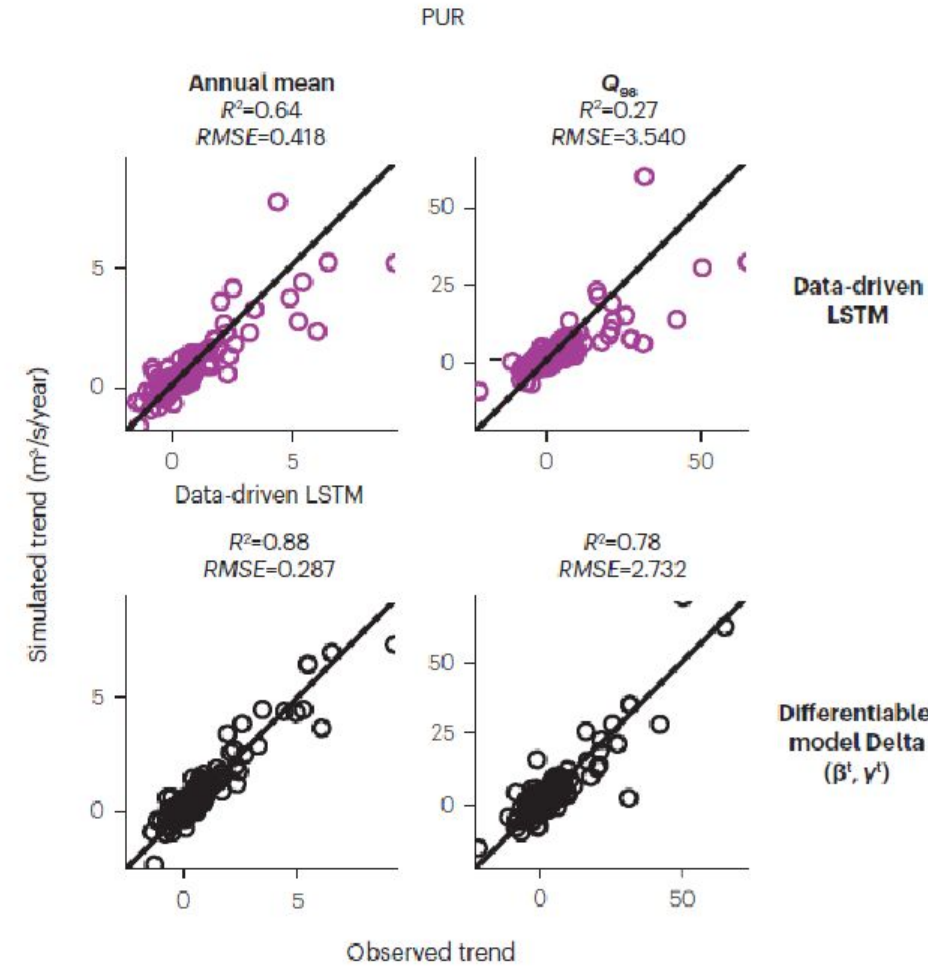
Approaching deep networks! And....

- Output untrained variables.
- Multivariate constraints.
- It extrapolates better.
- It can help us answer questions!

b Differentiable Model approaches ML performance and outperform PBM for volumetric streamflow prediction

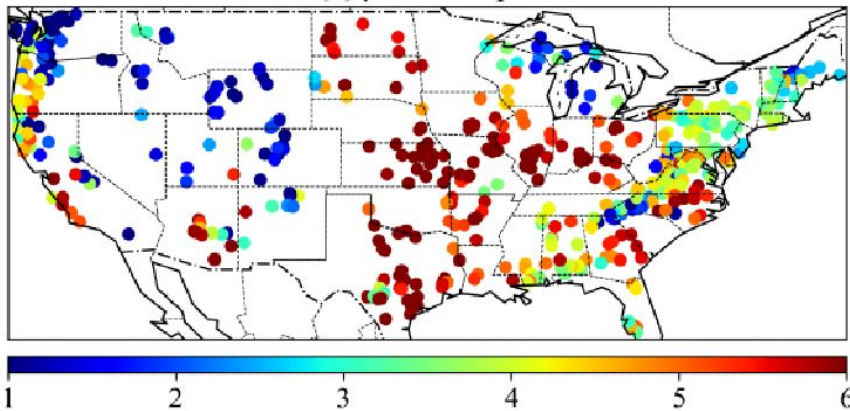


c Prediction in Ungauged Regions: Differentiable model surpasses ML

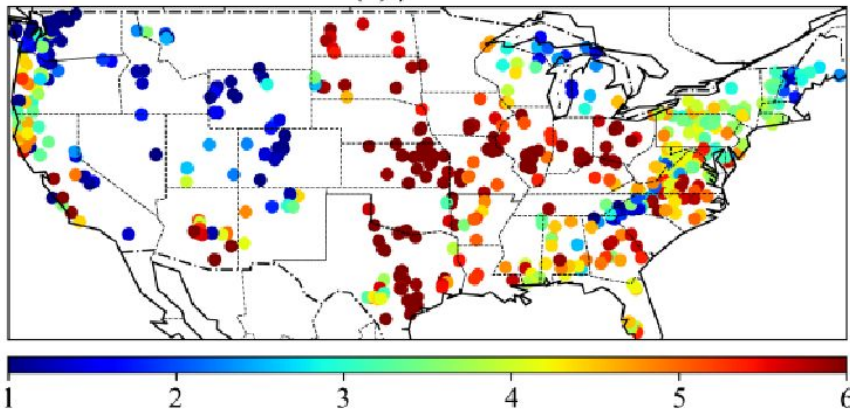


Caveat: not using the ensemble
-- first iteration. Priors do matter.

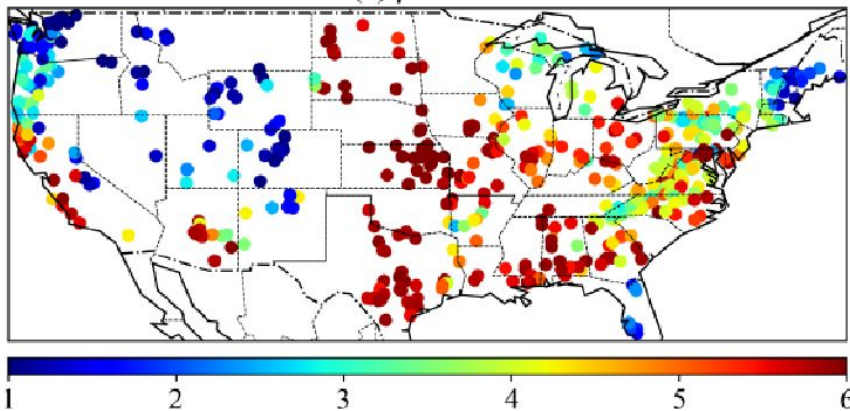
(a) β : in-sample



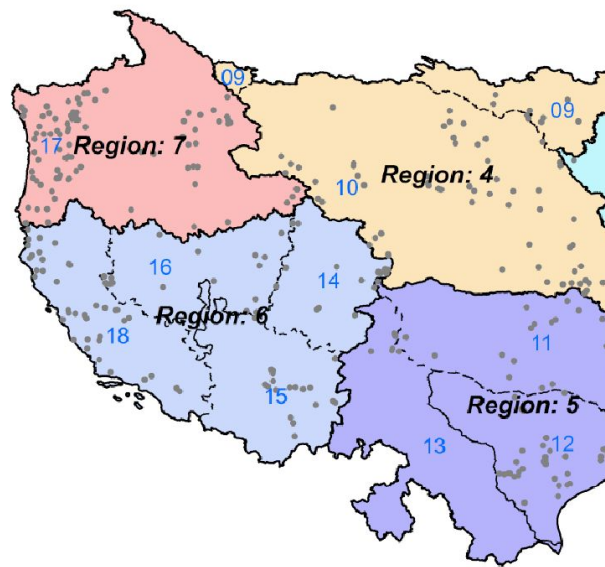
(b) β : PUB



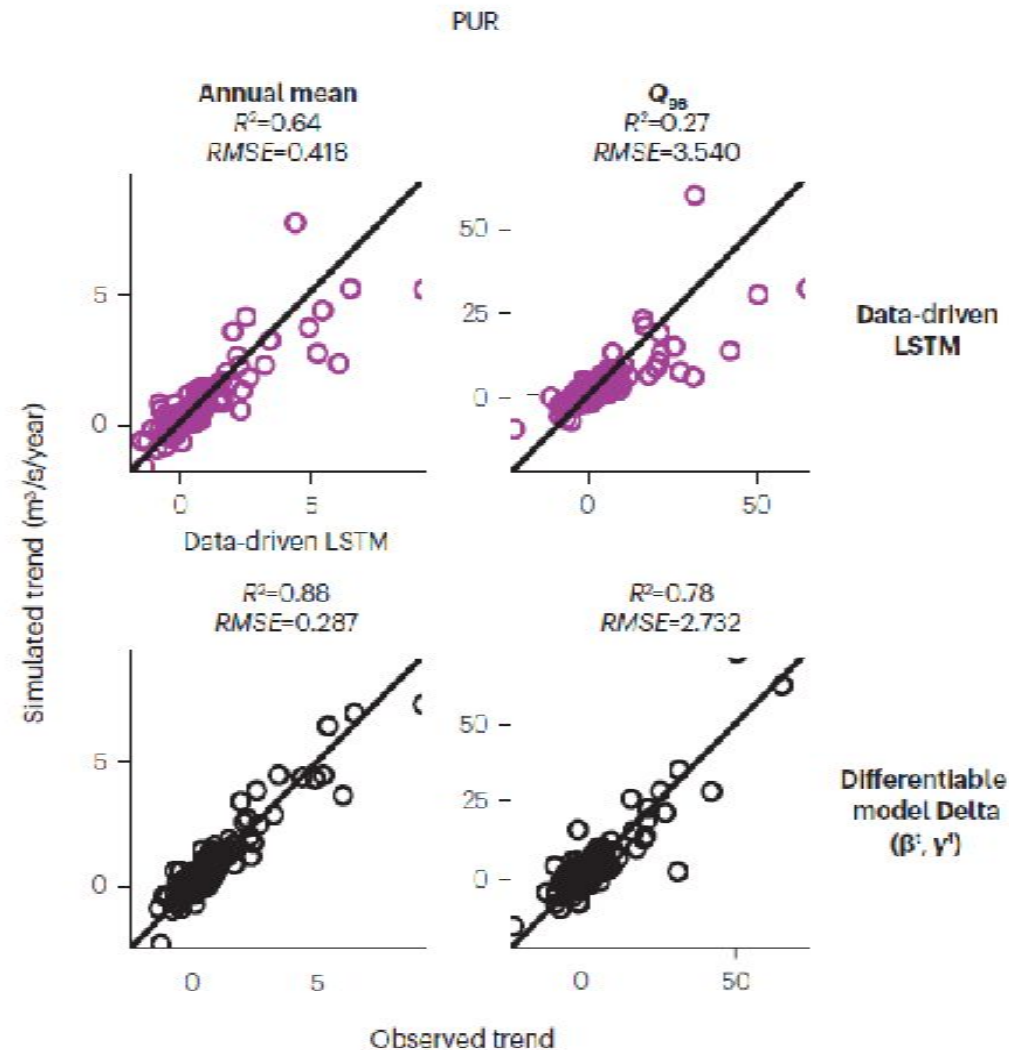
(c) β : PUR



Great for extrapolation!



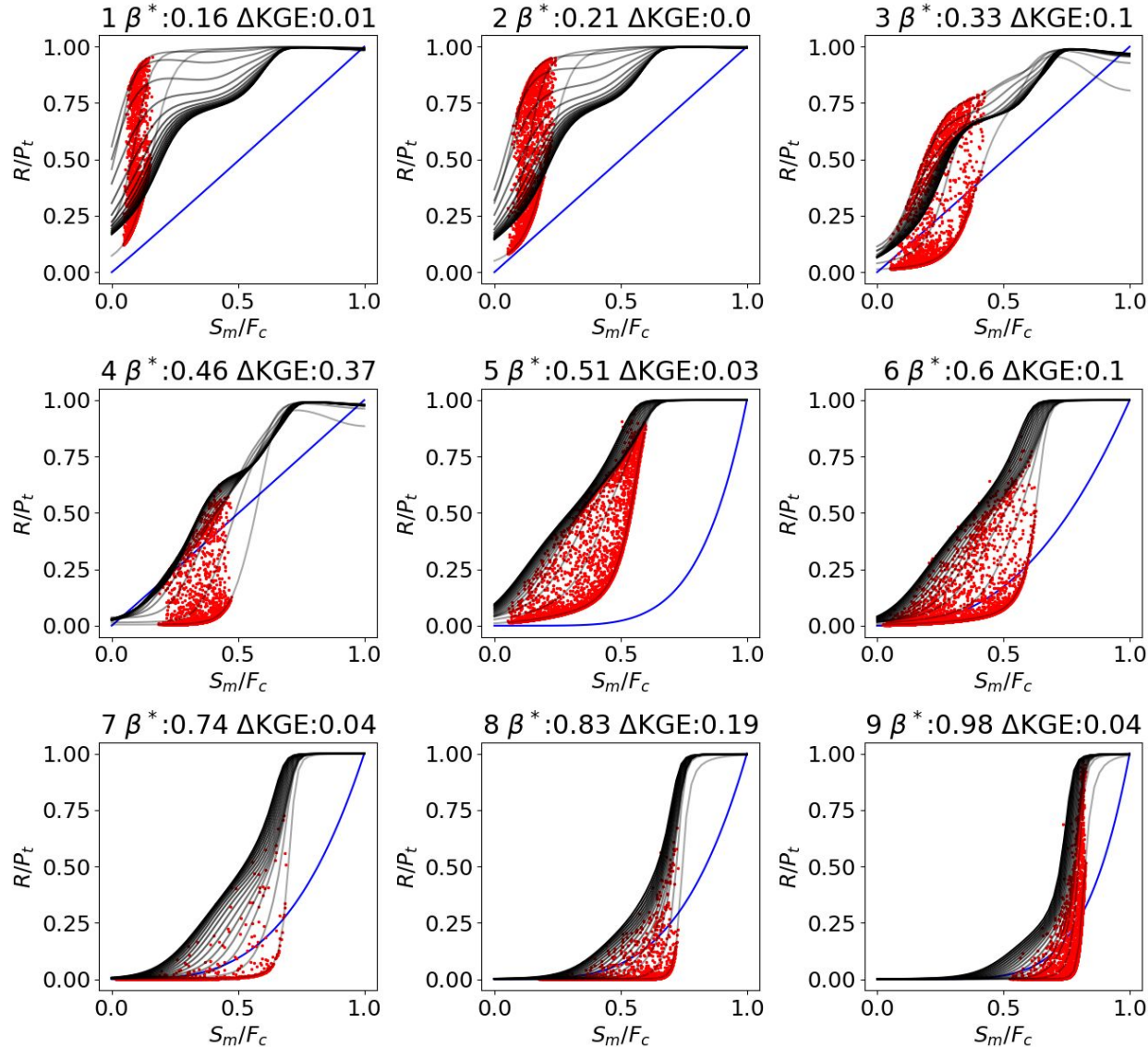
**C Prediction in Ungauged Regions:
Differentiable model surpasses ML**



Feng 2022b HESSD

<https://hess.copernicus.org/preprints/hess-2022-245/>

What the ANN learned functions look like?



$$R/P_t = (S_m/F_c)^\beta$$

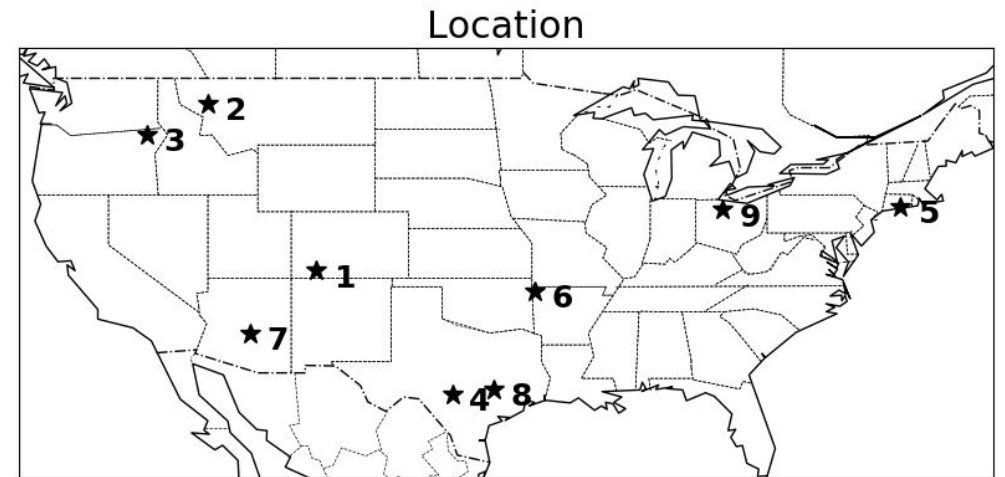


$$R/P_t = ANN(\beta^*, F_c, S_m, S_m/F_c, P_t)$$

Blue line: original power law relation

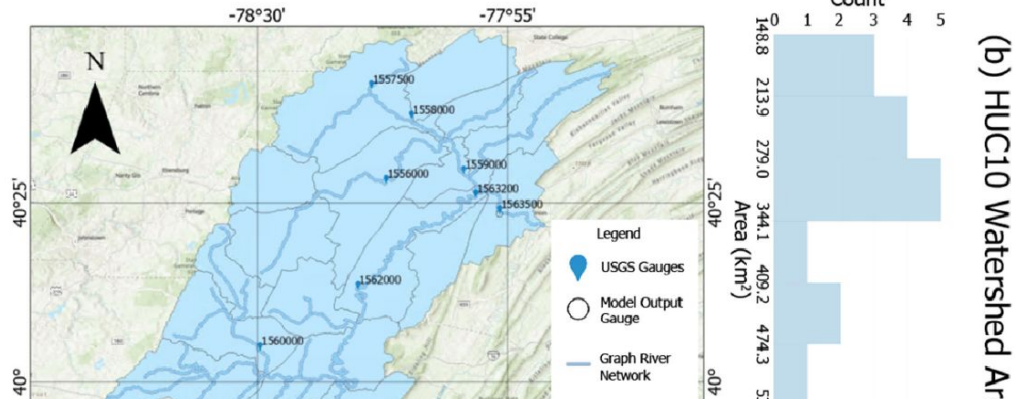
Red dots: ANN simulations

Black lines: continuous plotting of ANN functions

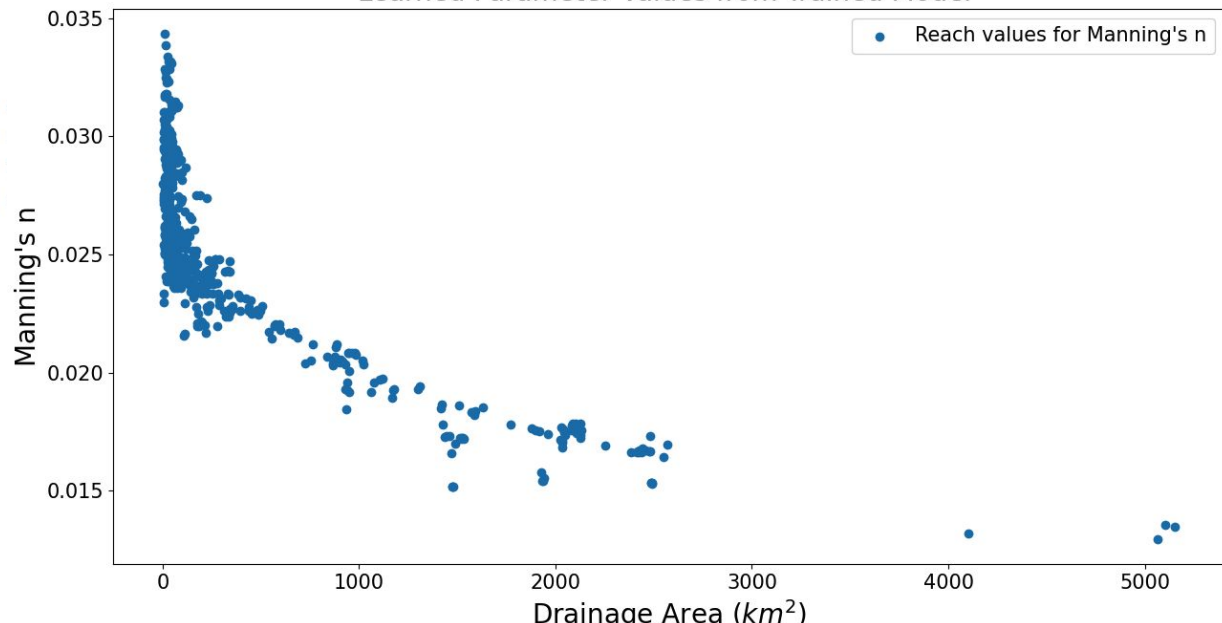


Example 3. River graph

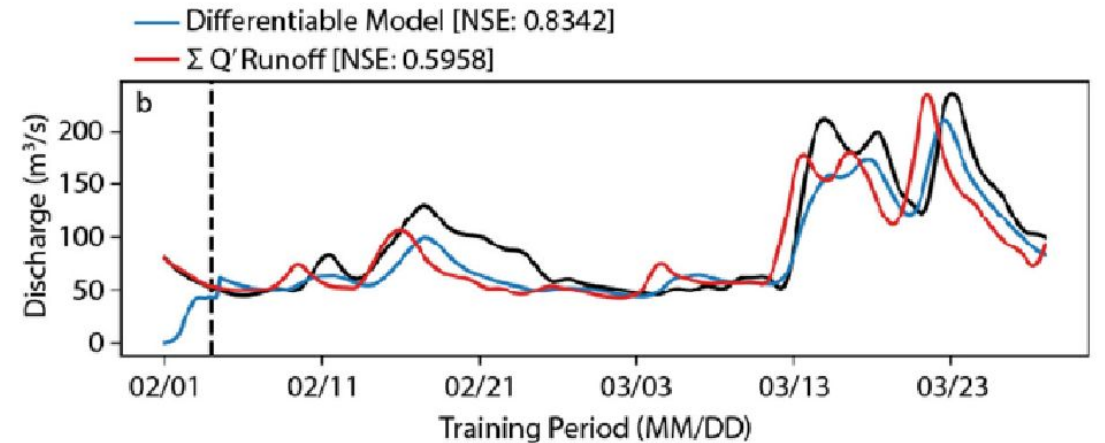
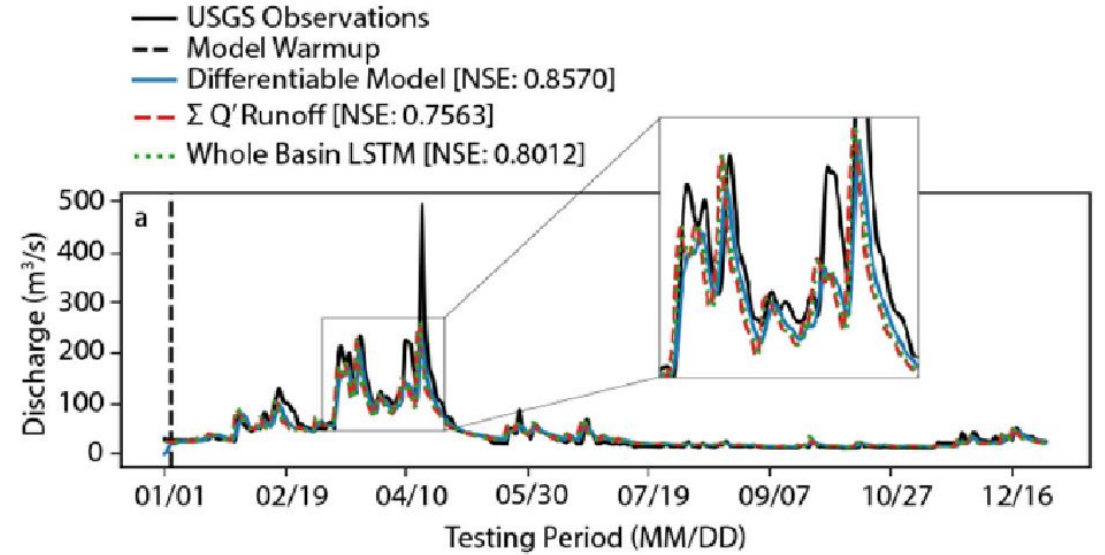
(a) JRB HU10 Watersheds and USGS Gage Information



Learned Parameter Values from Trained Model



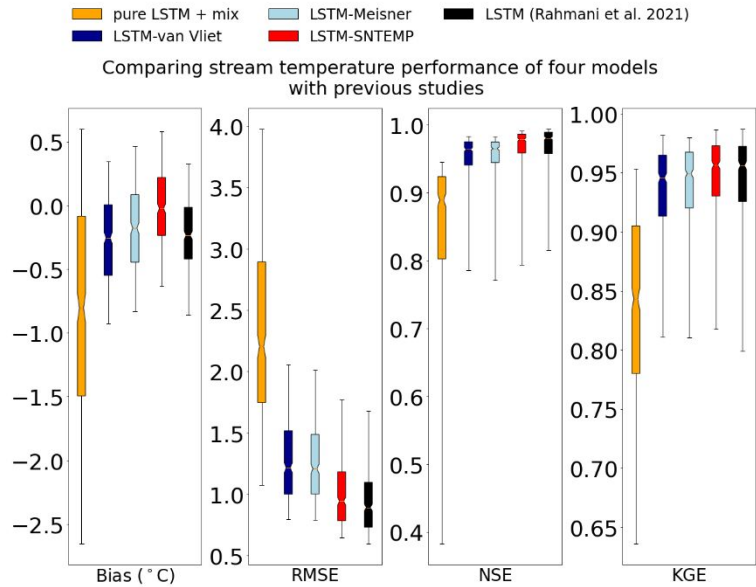
(b) HU10 Watershed Ar



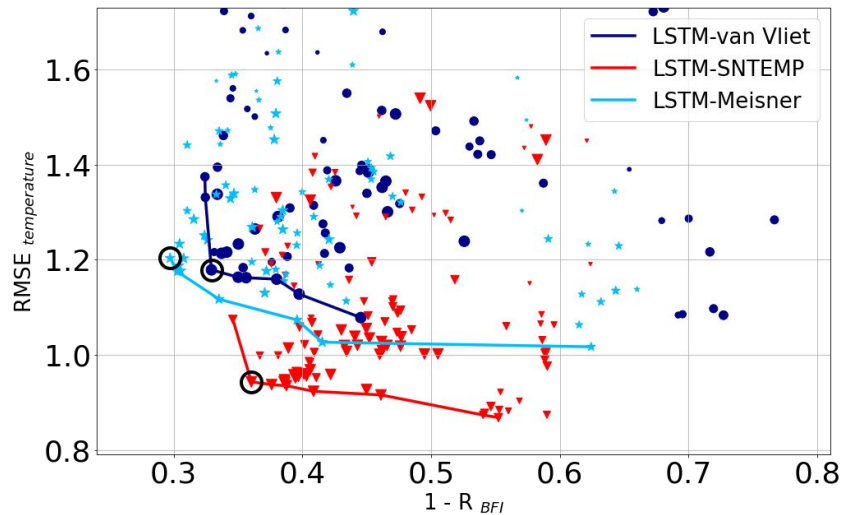
Learn physics on the river graph

<https://doi.org/10.1002/essoar.10512512.1> Bindas¹⁴ (revision)

Example 4. Water temperature modeling



Prior assumptions matter!



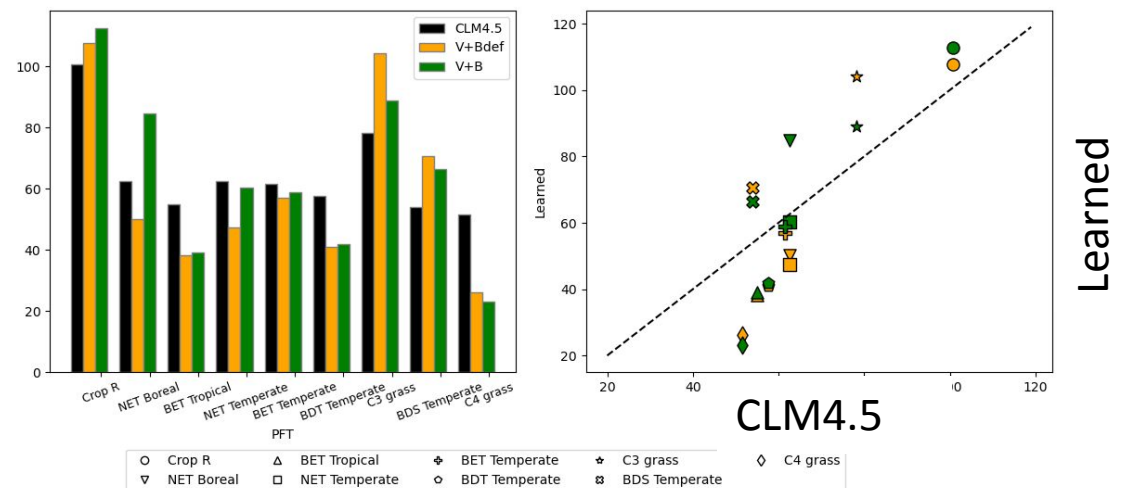
Example 5. Ecosystem modeling

(a) Temporal holdout test for the following system

Runs	Corr		RMSE ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)		Bias ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)		NSE	
	Train	Test	Train	Test	Train	Test	Train	Test
$V_{\text{def}}+B_{\text{def}}$	0.565		6.780		1.476		0.041	
$V_{\text{def}}+B_{\text{def}}^{**}$	0.592		5.488		1.034		0.318	
$V_{\text{def}}+B$	0.678	0.547	5.887	6.730	1.353	1.754	0.321	-0.084
$V+B_{\text{def}}$	0.769	0.593	4.595	5.677	-0.129	-1.368	0.587	0.229
$V+B$	0.800	0.748	4.299	4.421	0.037	0.347	0.638	0.532
$V+B^{**}$	0.774	0.768	4.269	4.198	0.056	0.092	0.597	0.581

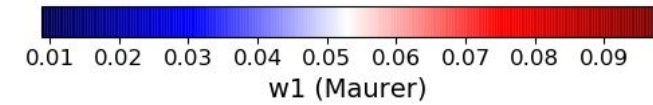
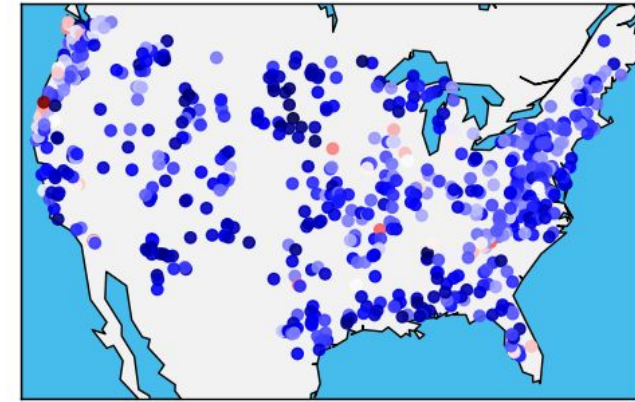
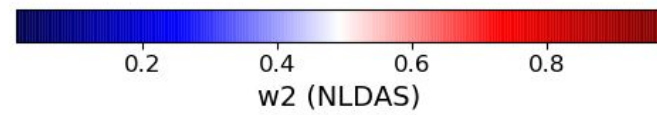
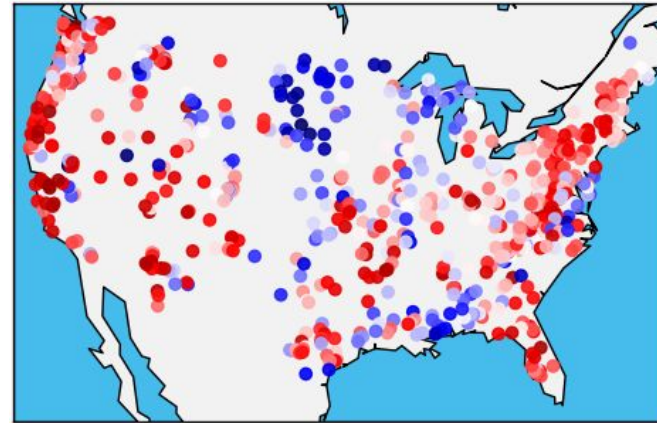
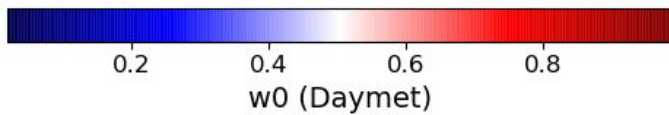
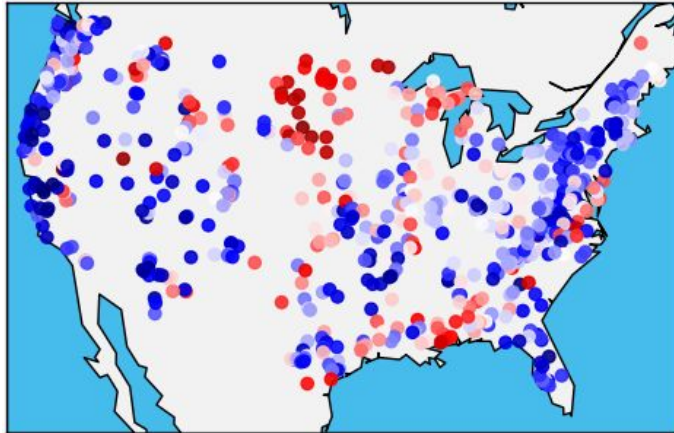
** refers to using C3_only plants in dataset

V_{cmax25} ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{sec}^{-1}$)



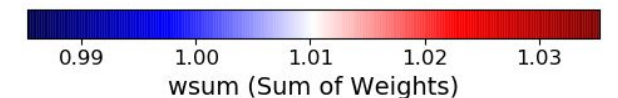
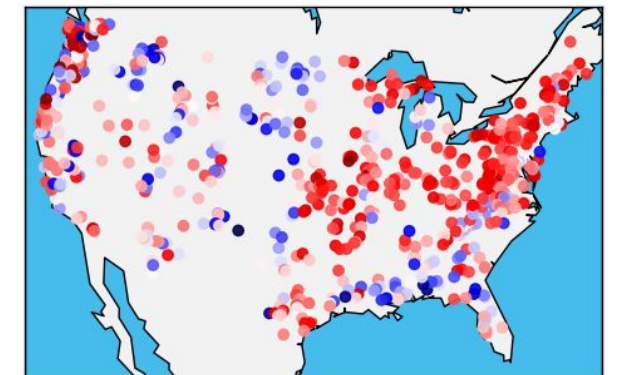
Example 5. Ongoing effort – using streamflow to learn precipitation bias

NLDAS (0.56) > Daymet (0.41) > Maurer (0.03)



Simulation	Forcings	Median NSE	Median KGE	Low flow RMSE (mm/day)	ET correlation with MODS
LSTM	Daymet	0.747	0.720	0.249	-
Differentiable HBV with bias correction	Daymet	0.745	0.748	0.122	0.82
Multiforcing with bias correction	Daymet, Maurer, NLDAS	0.770	0.780	0.082	0.81

Low bias



Thank you!



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<https://github.com/mhpi>



Shen Multi-scale Hydrology, Processes and Intelligence Group (MHPI)

<http://water.engr.psu.edu/shen/hydroDL.html>

[CUAHSI cyberseminar series](#)
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[WRR special issue](#) on BDML

[AGU Editor's review](#)

Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci., 22, 5639–5656, 2018
<https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-22-5639-2018>
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Hydrology and
Earth System
Sciences
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HESS Opinions: Incubating deep-learning-powered hydrologic science advances as a community

Chaopeng Shen¹, Eric Laloy², Amin Elshorbagy³, Adrian Albert⁴, Jerad Bales⁵, Fi-John Chang⁶, Sangram Ganguly⁷, Kuo-Lin Hsu⁸, Daniel Kifer⁹, Zheng Fang¹⁰, Kuai Fang¹, Dongfeng Li¹⁰, Xiaodong Li¹¹, and Wen-Ping Tsai¹

Water Resources Research

REVIEW ARTICLE

10.1029/2018WR022643

Special Section:

Big Data & Machine Learning in
Water Sciences: Recent
Progress and Their Use in
Advancing Science

A Transdisciplinary Review of Deep Learning Research and Its Relevance for Water Resources Scientists

Chaopeng Shen¹

¹Civil and Environmental Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA

deepLDB

deepLDB -- a mac Landslide database

nature COMMUNICATIONS

ARTICLE Check for updates

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-26107-z> OPEN

From calibration to parameter learning: Harnessing the scaling effects of big data in geoscientific modeling

Wen-Ping Tsai¹, Dapeng Feng¹, Ming Pan^{2,3}, Hylke Beck⁴, Kathryn Lawson^{1,5}, Yuan Yang^{6,7}, Jiangtao Liu¹ & Chaopeng Shen^{1,5}✉