

# Modeling the Mississippi River Basin with RAPID

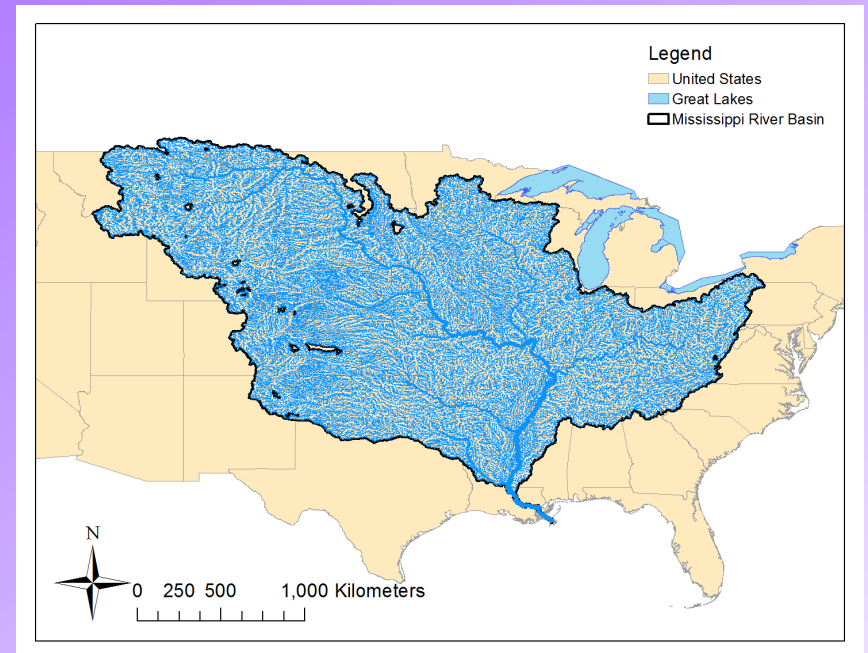
Cédric H. David  
James S. Famiglietti  
Zong-Liang Yang  
Victor Eijkhout

Continental scale hydro model inter-comparison for  
SWOT

31 Aug 2016

# Outline

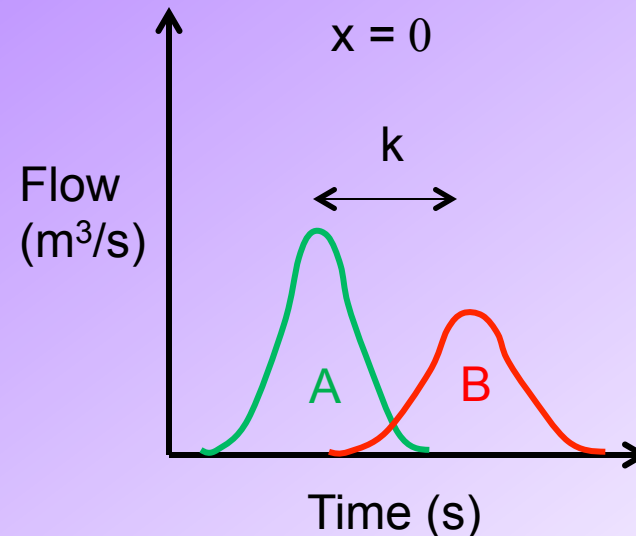
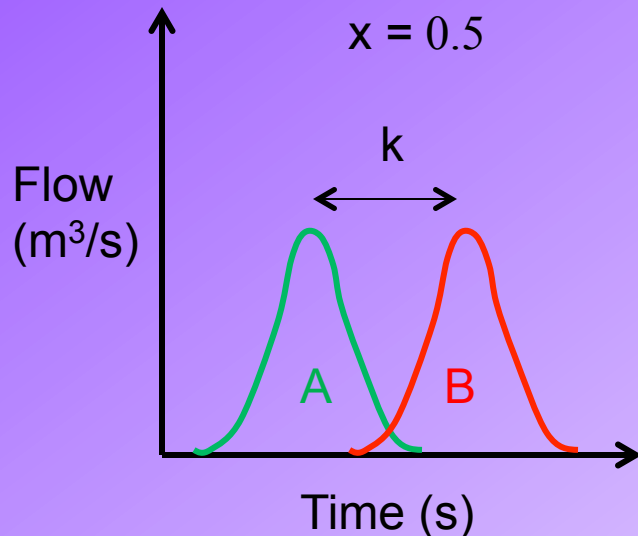
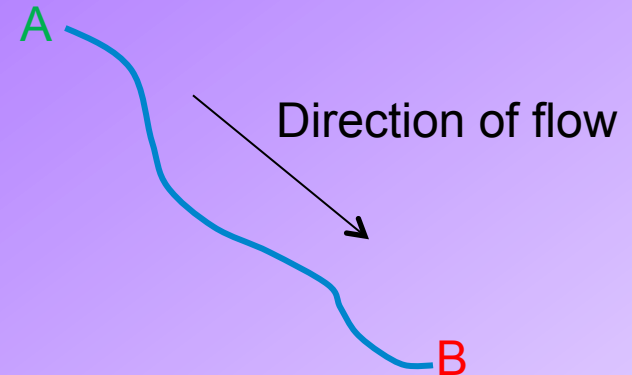
- **RAPID**
- Some data processing
- Simulations
- Discussion



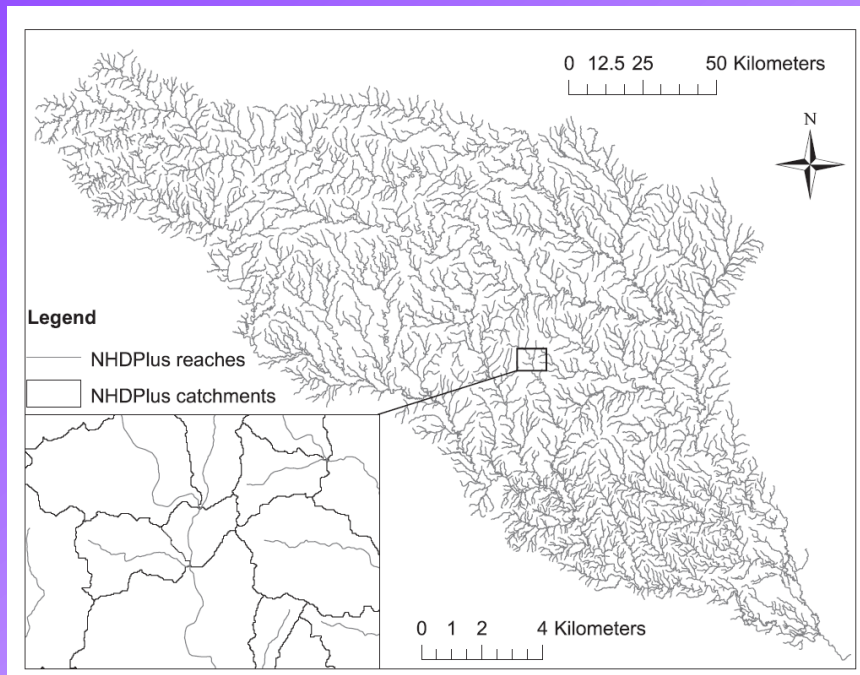
# RAPID is based on the Muskingum method

$k$  is a time ( $k \geq 0$ ) related to the celerity of the flow wave

$x$  is a non-dimensional parameter ( $0 \leq x \leq 0.5$ ) related to diffusion of the flow wave



# Relationship between rivers and their catchments in RAPID

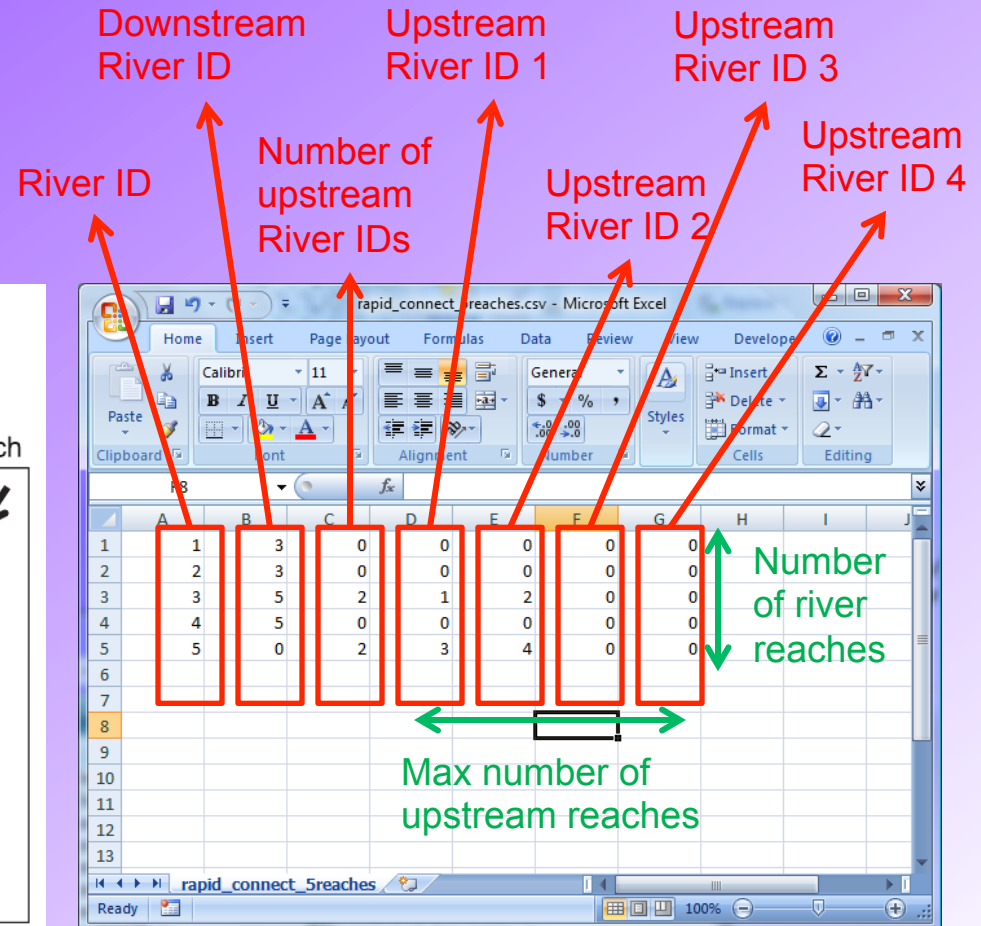
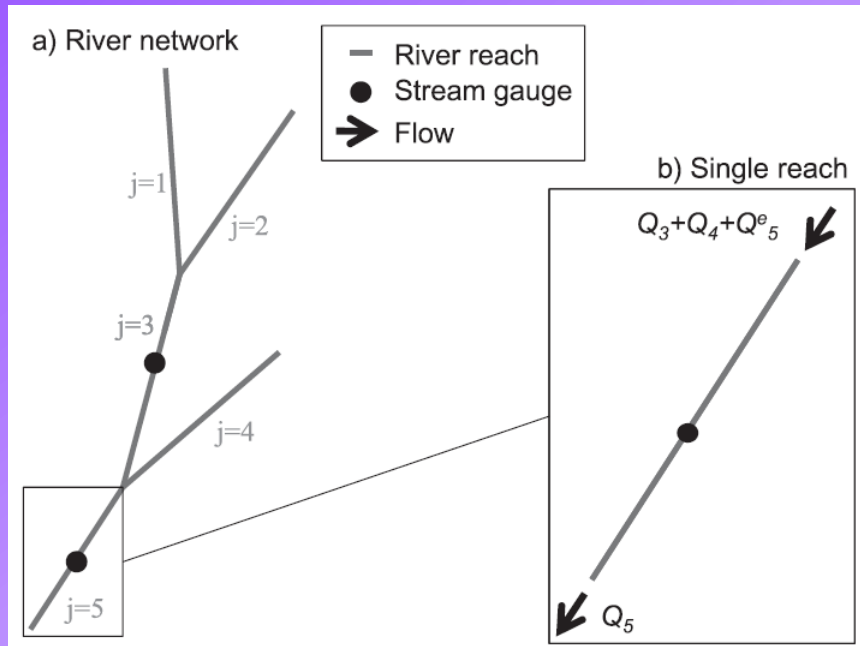
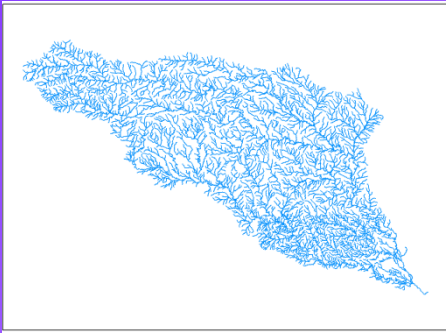


From David et al. 2011 (JHM)

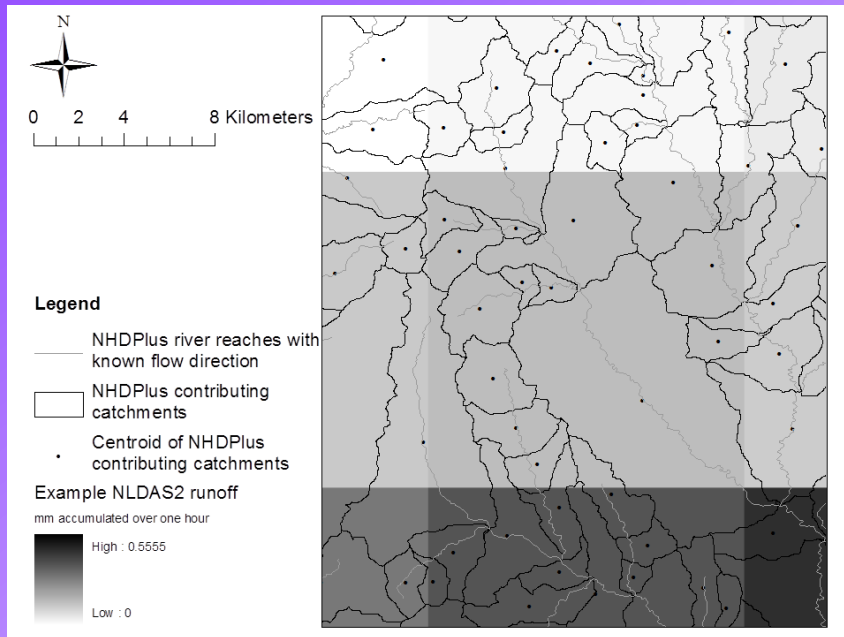
1 river reach  $\longleftrightarrow$  1 catchment



# River network connectivity in RAPID



# Compute the inflow to rivers from runoff

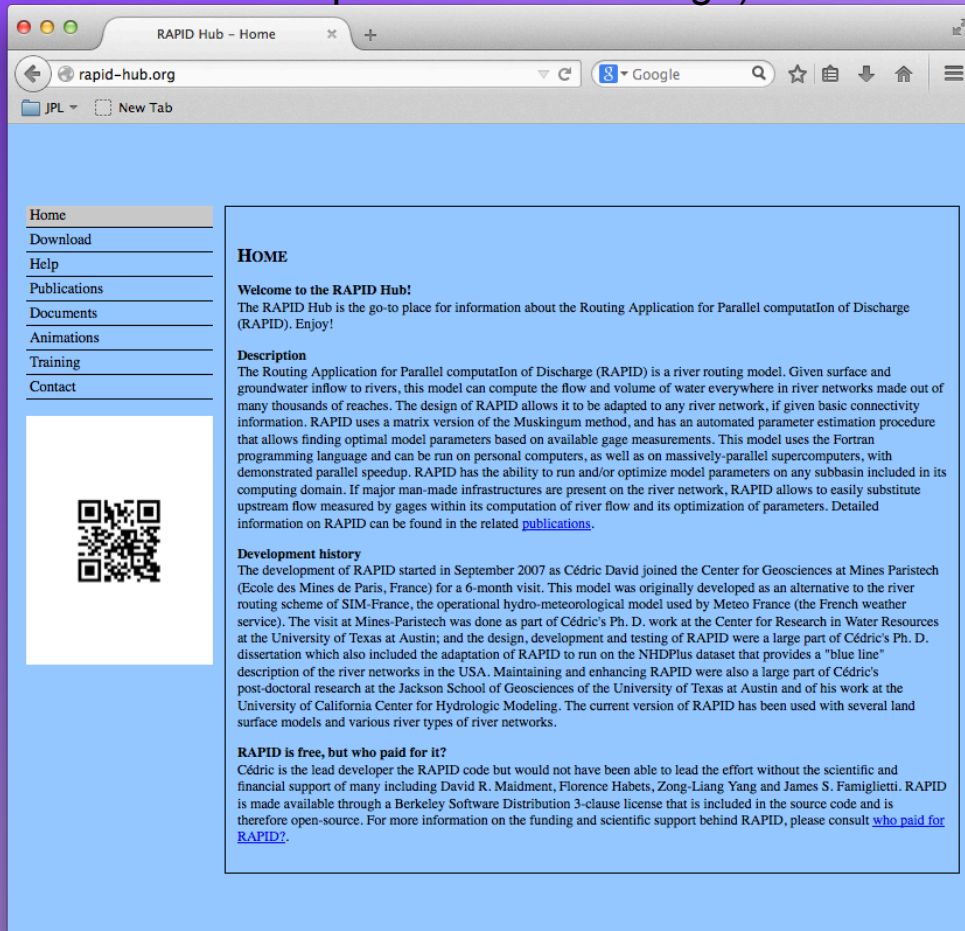


- Superimpose with map of catchments
- Using runoff value at catchment centroid and catchment area

David, Hong and Yang (2013, EMS)

# RAPID website and documentation

**RAPID** (Routing Application for Parallel computation of Discharge)



The screenshot shows the RAPID Hub website. The browser address bar displays 'rapid-hub.org'. The page has a light blue header with a navigation menu on the left containing links: Home, Download, Help, Publications, Documents, Animations, Training, and Contact. Below the menu is a QR code. The main content area is titled 'HOME' and includes a welcome message, a description of the RAPID model, a development history, and information about the software being free and open-source.

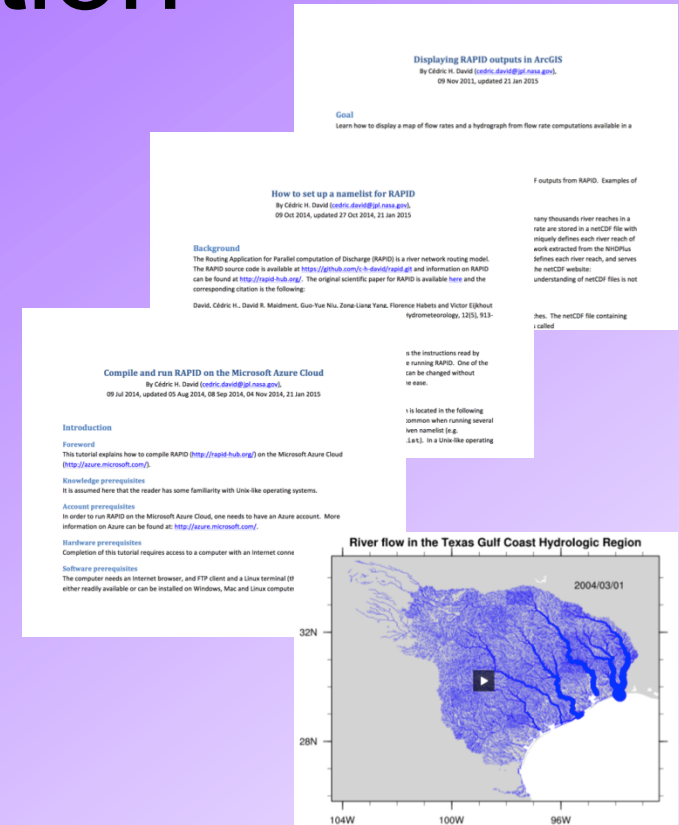
**HOME**

**Welcome to the RAPID Hub!**  
The RAPID Hub is the go-to place for information about the Routing Application for Parallel computation of Discharge (RAPID). Enjoy!

**Description**  
The Routing Application for Parallel computation of Discharge (RAPID) is a river routing model. Given surface and groundwater inflow to rivers, this model can compute the flow and volume of water everywhere in river networks made out of many thousands of reaches. The design of RAPID allows it to be adapted to any river network, if given basic connectivity information. RAPID uses a matrix version of the Muskingum method, and has an automated parameter estimation procedure that allows finding optimal model parameters based on available gage measurements. This model uses the Fortran programming language and can be run on personal computers, as well as on massively-parallel supercomputers, with demonstrated parallel speedup. RAPID has the ability to run and/or optimize model parameters on any subbasin included in its computing domain. If major man-made infrastructures are present on the river network, RAPID allows to easily substitute upstream flow measured by gages within its computation of river flow and its optimization of parameters. Detailed information on RAPID can be found in the related [publications](#).

**Development history**  
The development of RAPID started in September 2007 as Cédric David joined the Center for Geosciences at Mines Paristech (Ecole des Mines de Paris, France) for a 6-month visit. This model was originally developed as an alternative to the river routing scheme of SIM-France, the operational hydro-meteorological model used by Météo France (the French weather service). The visit at Mines-Paristech was done as part of Cédric's Ph. D. work at the Center for Research in Water Resources at the University of Texas at Austin; and the design, development and testing of RAPID were a large part of Cédric's Ph. D. dissertation which also included the adaptation of RAPID to run on the NHDPlus dataset that provides a "blue line" description of the river networks in the USA. Maintaining and enhancing RAPID were also a large part of Cédric's post-doctoral research at the Jackson School of Geosciences of the University of Texas at Austin and of his work at the University of California Center for Hydrologic Modeling. The current version of RAPID has been used with several land surface models and various river types of river networks.

**RAPID is free, but who paid for it?**  
Cédric is the lead developer the RAPID code but would not have been able to lead the effort without the scientific and financial support of many including David R. Maidment, Florence Habets, Zong-Liang Yang and James S. Famiglietti. RAPID is made available through a Berkeley Software Distribution 3-clause license that is included in the source code and is therefore open-source. For more information on the funding and scientific support behind RAPID, please consult [who paid for RAPID?](#)



This block contains a collage of various documentation pages from the RAPID website. The pages include:

- Displaying RAPID outputs in ArcGIS**: A page by Cédric H. David, dated 09 Nov 2014, updated 27 Jan 2015.
- Goal**: A page explaining how to display a map of flow rates and a hydrograph from flow rate computations available in a netCDF file.
- How to set up a namelist for RAPID**: A page by Cédric H. David, dated 09 Oct 2014, updated 27 Oct 2014, 21 Jan 2015.
- Background**: A page explaining the Routing Application for Parallel computation of Discharge (RAPID) as a river network routing model.
- Compile and run RAPID on the Microsoft Azure Cloud**: A page by Cédric H. David, dated 09 Jul 2014, updated 05 Aug 2014, 08 Sep 2014, 04 Nov 2014, 21 Jan 2015.
- Introduction**: A page containing a forward, knowledge prerequisites, account prerequisites, and hardware prerequisites.
- River flow in the Texas Gulf Coast Hydrologic Region**: A page featuring a map of the region with a play button icon, dated 2004/03/01.

Animations, tutorials, publications:  
All on the RAPID website:  
<http://rapid-hub.org>

# Fostering community development

33 previously released versions of the RAPID code

Revisions tracked with



4 official releases

# GitHub

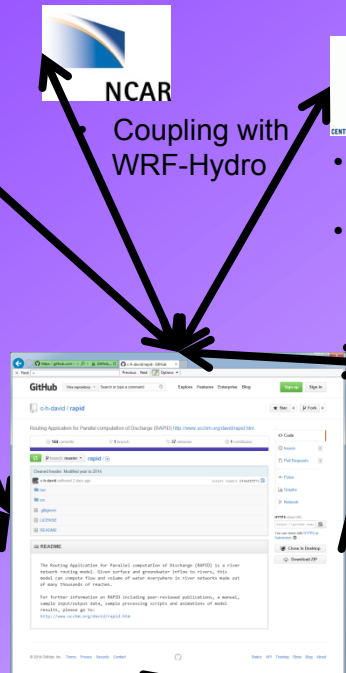


[Fork RAPID on GitHub](#)  
[Star RAPID on GitHub](#)

[Follow me on GitHub](#)



Travis CI



- Parallel performance
- Reservoirs/diversions
- Large-scale modeling
- Preparation for SWOT



- Online coupling with Noah-MP
- Reservoir work



- Flood forecasting app



- National Flood Interoperability experiment



- Optimization of water allocations



- Online coupling with groundwater model



Coupling with WRF-Hydro



- Computation of water elevation
- Two new flow wave propagation schemes



Microsoft Research

- Cloud computing

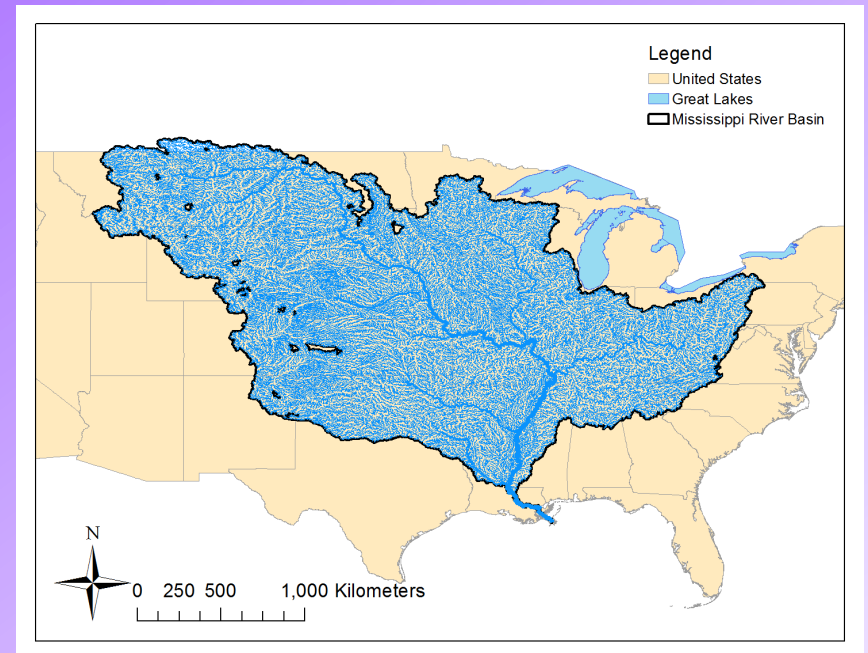


- Processing toolbox

RAPID is now on GitHub!!!

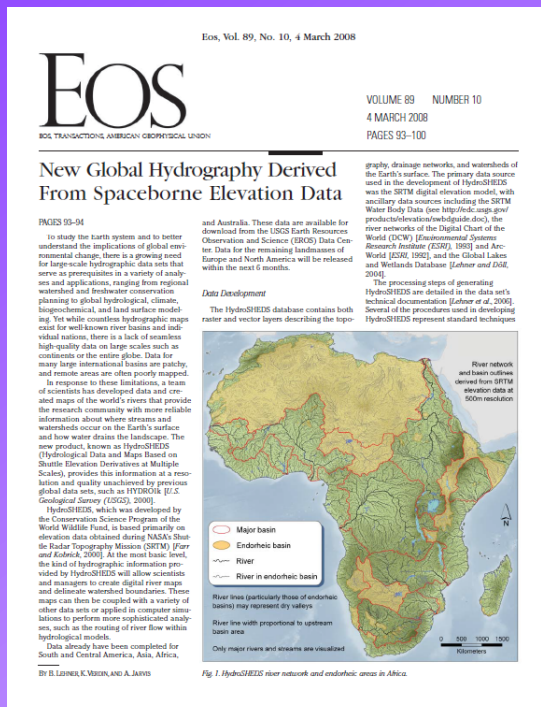
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- RAPID
- **Some data processing**
- Simulations
- Discussion





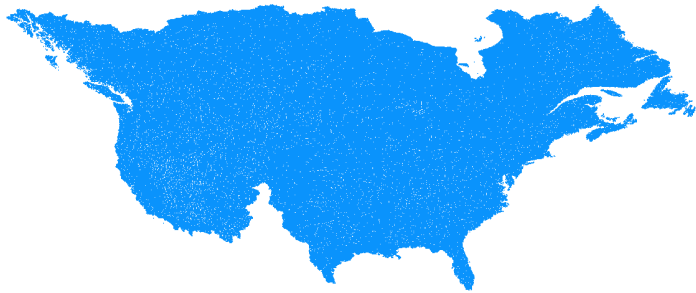
# HydroSHEDS



Lehner et al. (2008)

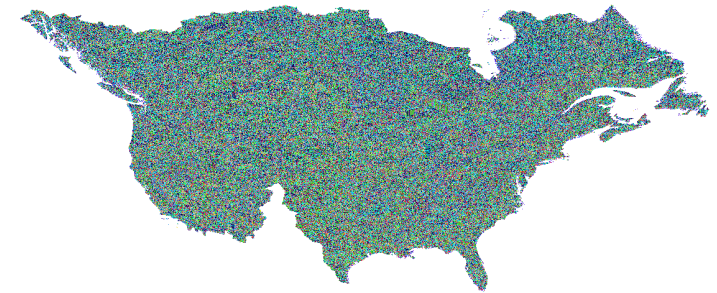
The screenshot displays the HydroSHEDS website. At the top, there is a USGS logo with the tagline "science for a changing world" and a WWF logo. The main heading is "HydroSHEDS". Below this, there is a section titled "Data Produced by:" which includes the WWF logo and a list of data sources: "HydroSHEDS (Hydrological data and maps based on Shuttle Elevation Derivatives at multiple Scales)". To the right of this text is a map of the Amazon Basin. Below the map, there is a section titled "HydroSHEDS" which describes the product as a mapping product that provides hydrographic information for regional and global-scale applications. It lists various data sets available, including river networks, watershed boundaries, drainage directions, and flow accumulations. The text states that HydroSHEDS is based on high-resolution elevation data obtained during a Space Shuttle flight for NASA's Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM). Below this, there is a section titled "Resources:" which includes links for "DATA DOWNLOAD", "LEAFLET", and "DOCUMENTATION". At the bottom, there is a section titled "In Partnership with:" which lists the logos of CIAT, The Nature Conservancy, and CESR. Below these logos, there is a section titled "Funding Sponsor:" which lists the logo of JohnsonDiversey.

# HydroSHEDS for North America



Rivers (vector file)

FID	Shape *	ARCID	UP_CELLS
0	Polyline	1	291
1	Polyline	2	183
2	Polyline	3	544
3	Polyline	4	167
4	Polyline	5	449
5	Polyline	6	285
6	Polyline	7	147
7	Polyline	8	102
8	Polyline	9	137
9	Polyline	10	243
10	Polyline	11	208
11	Polyline	12	903
12	Polyline	13	122
13	Polyline	14	106
14	Polyline	15	131
15	Polyline	16	109
16	Polyline	17	220
17	Polyline	18	128
18	Polyline	19	101
19	Polyline	20	827
20	Polyline	21	126
21	Polyline	22	174
22	Polyline	23	2660
23	Polyline	24	417
24	Polyline	25	206
25	Polyline	26	355
26	Polyline	27	1121
27	Polyline	28	1473
28	Polyline	29	2532
29	Polyline	30	114
30	Polyline	31	3180
31	Polyline	32	176
32	Polyline	33	3450



Flow direction (raster file)

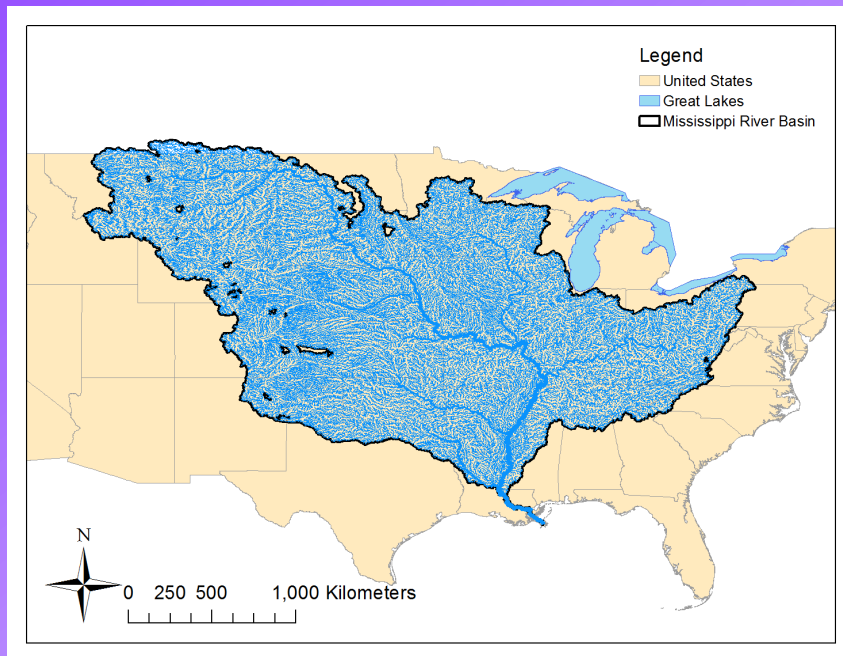


Major Basins (vector file – beta)

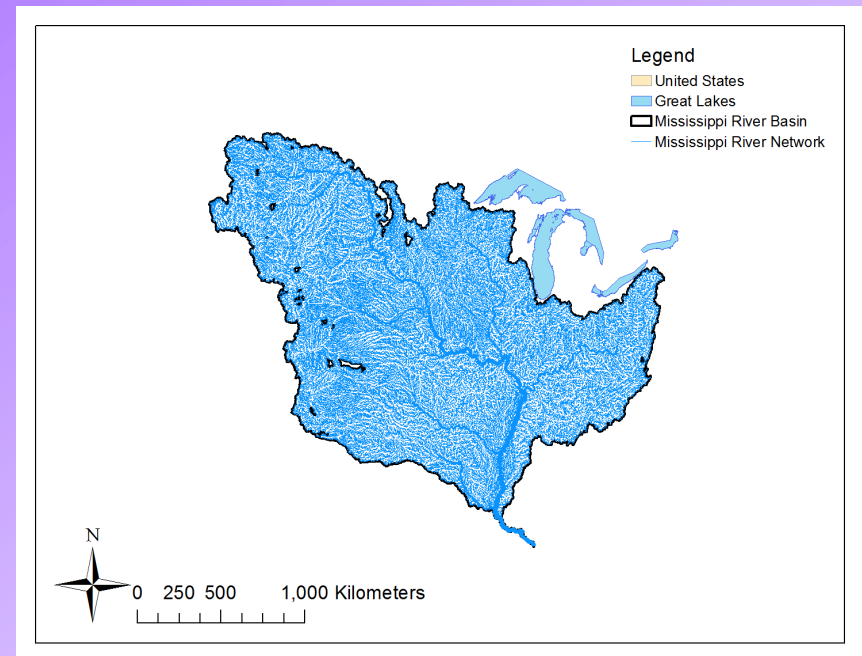
FID	Shape *	BASIN_ID	AREA_SQKM
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1	Polygon	2	0.2
2	Polygon	3	0.2
3	Polygon	4	0.2
4	Polygon	5	0.2
5	Polygon	6	0.1
6	Polygon	7	0.1
7	Polygon	8	0.1
8	Polygon	9	0.1
9	Polygon	10	0.1
10	Polygon	11	0.1
11	Polygon	12	0.1
12	Polygon	13	0.1
13	Polygon	14	0.2
14	Polygon	15	0.2
15	Polygon	16	0.2
16	Polygon	17	0.2
17	Polygon	18	0.1
18	Polygon	19	0.1
19	Polygon	20	0.1
20	Polygon	21	0.1
21	Polygon	22	0.2
22	Polygon	23	0.2
23	Polygon	24	0.2
24	Polygon	25	0.1
25	Polygon	26	0.1
26	Polygon	27	0.1
27	Polygon	28	0.1
28	Polygon	29	0.1
29	Polygon	30	0.1
30	Polygon	31	0.1
31	Polygon	32	0.1
32	Polygon	33	0.3

Also DEM, conditioned  
DEM, and Flow  
accumulation

# Computing the length of each river reach



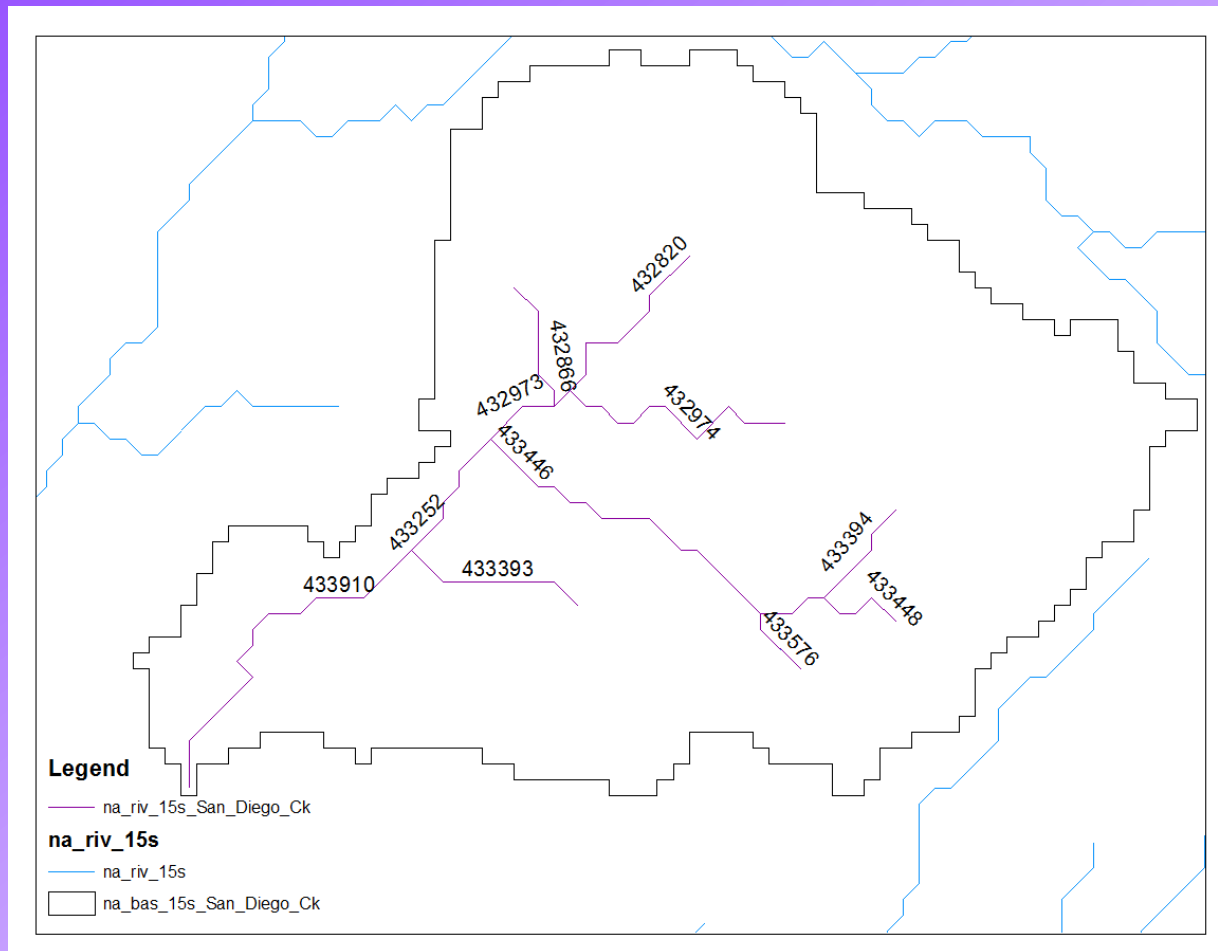
Geographic Coordinate System



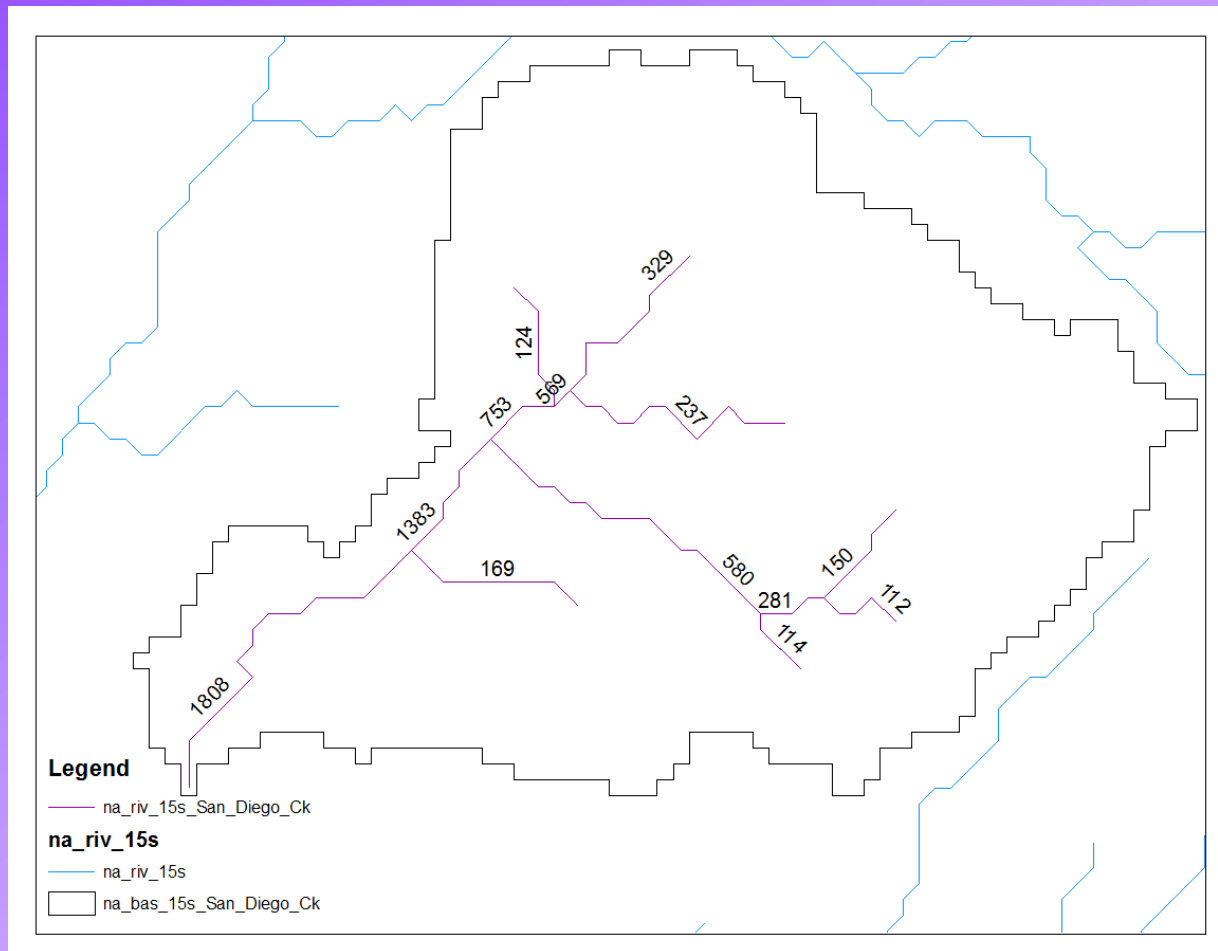
Projected Coordinate System

(Because RAPID flow wave celerity based on length)

# HydroSHEDS river IDs



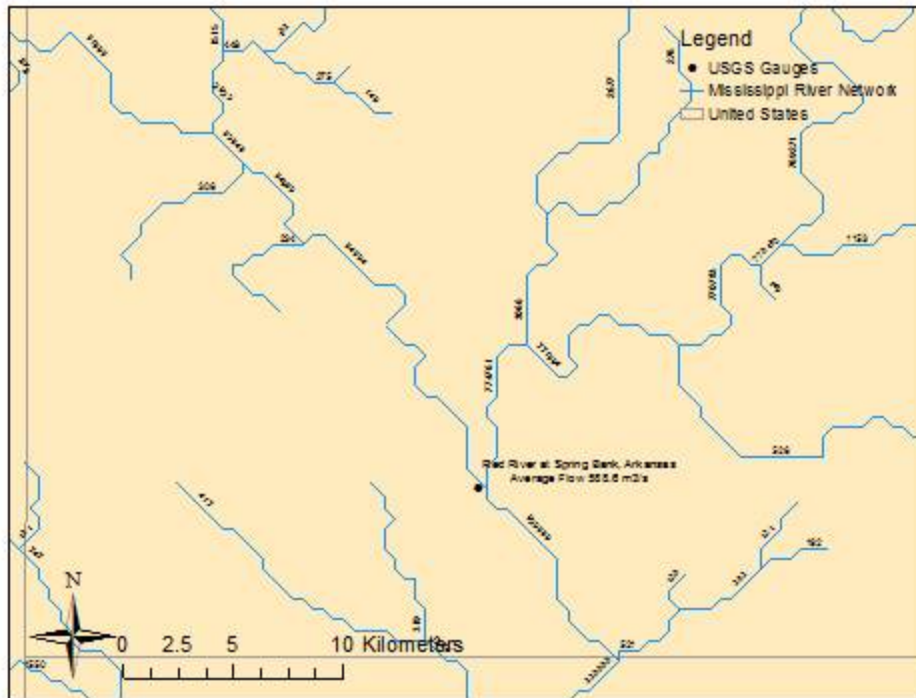
# HydroSHEDS cumulative catchment size



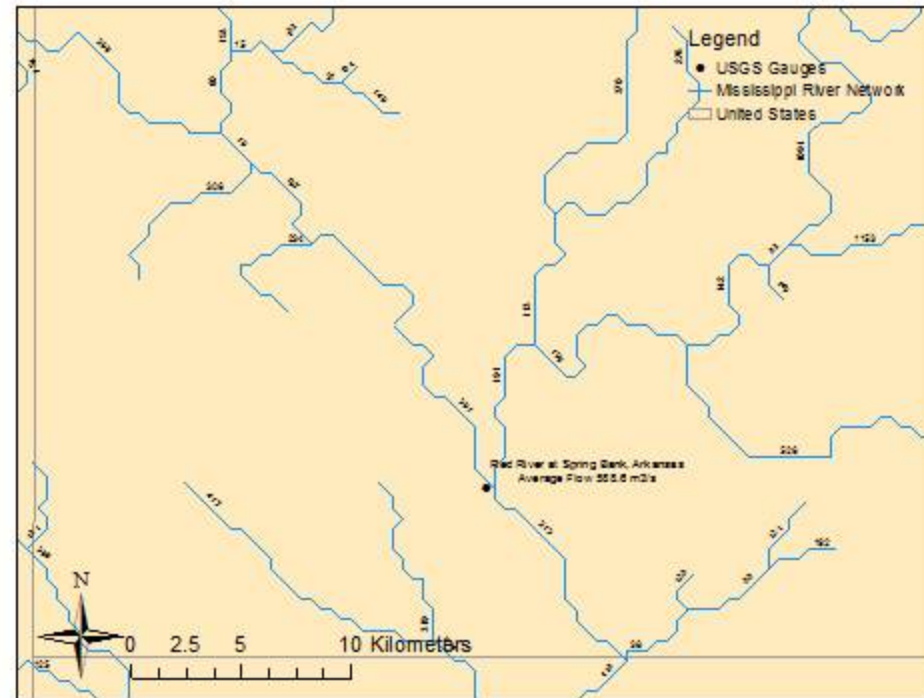
The unit for catchment size is number of 15-second grid cells



# Compute the non-cumulative catchment area



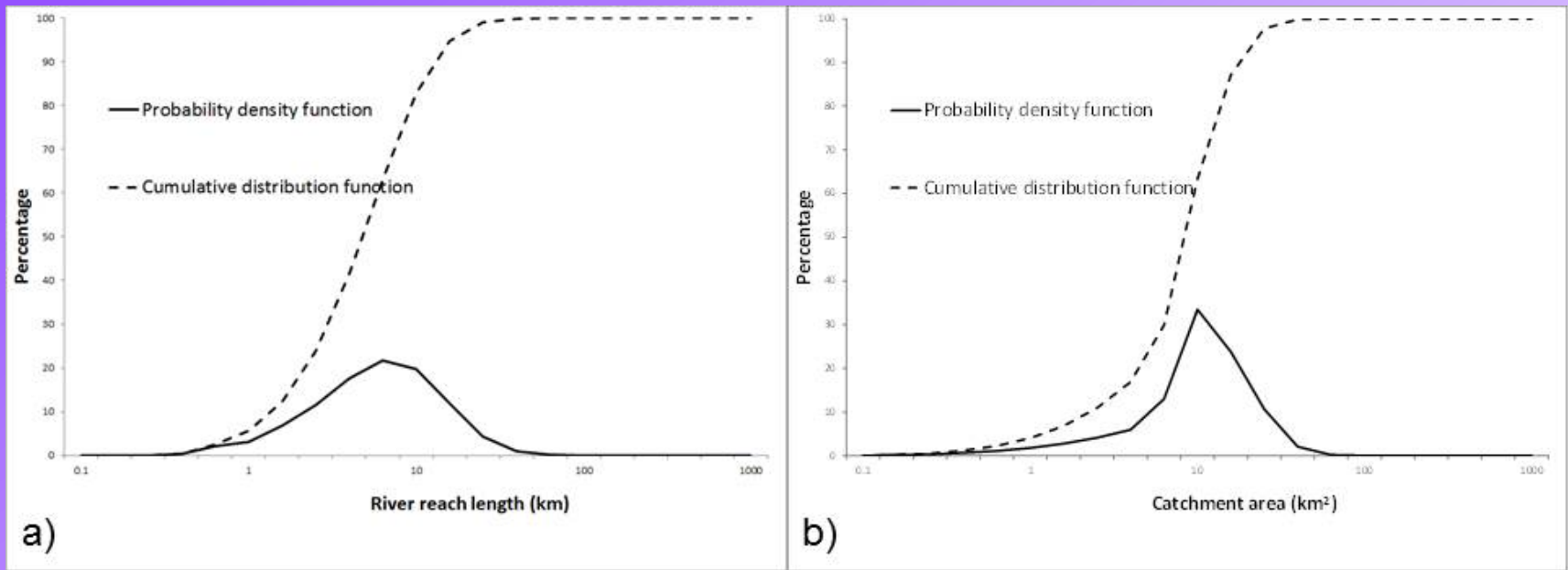
Cumulative



Non-cumulative

# Some statistics about the computing domain

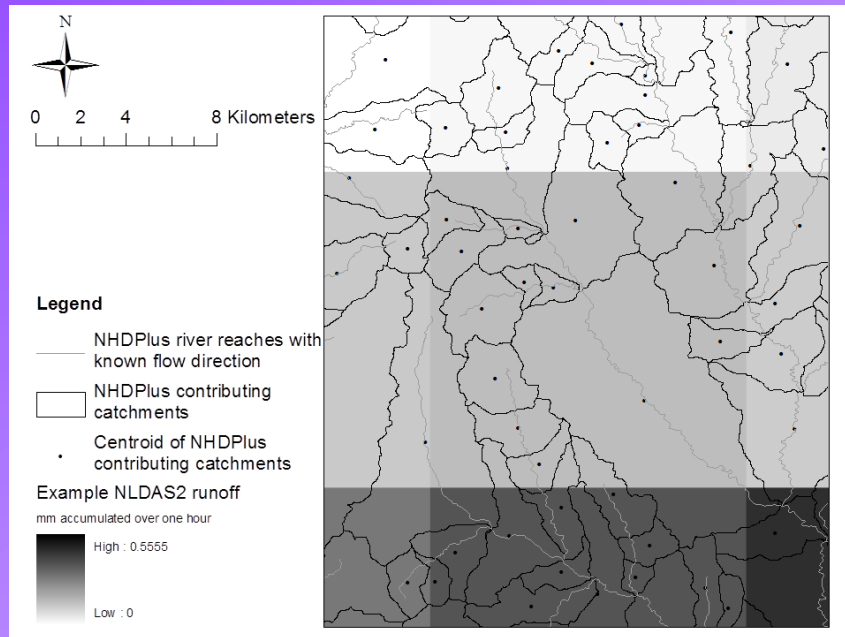
102,229 river reaches and catchments



**River reaches** vary in size from 0.29 to 101.50 km (**mean: 6.20 km**, median: 4.79 km, standard deviation 5.29 km).

**Contributing catchments** vary in size from 0.14 to 542.78 km<sup>2</sup> (**mean: 31.11 km<sup>2</sup>**, median: 24.79 km<sup>2</sup>, standard deviation 25.66 km<sup>2</sup>).

# Compute the inflow to rivers from NLDAS2



David, Hong and Yang (2013, EMS)

- Download NLDAS2 .grb files
- Convert .grb to .nc files and extract runoff fields
- 3-hourly average
- 6-hour shift (UTC-CST)
- Superimpose with map of catchments

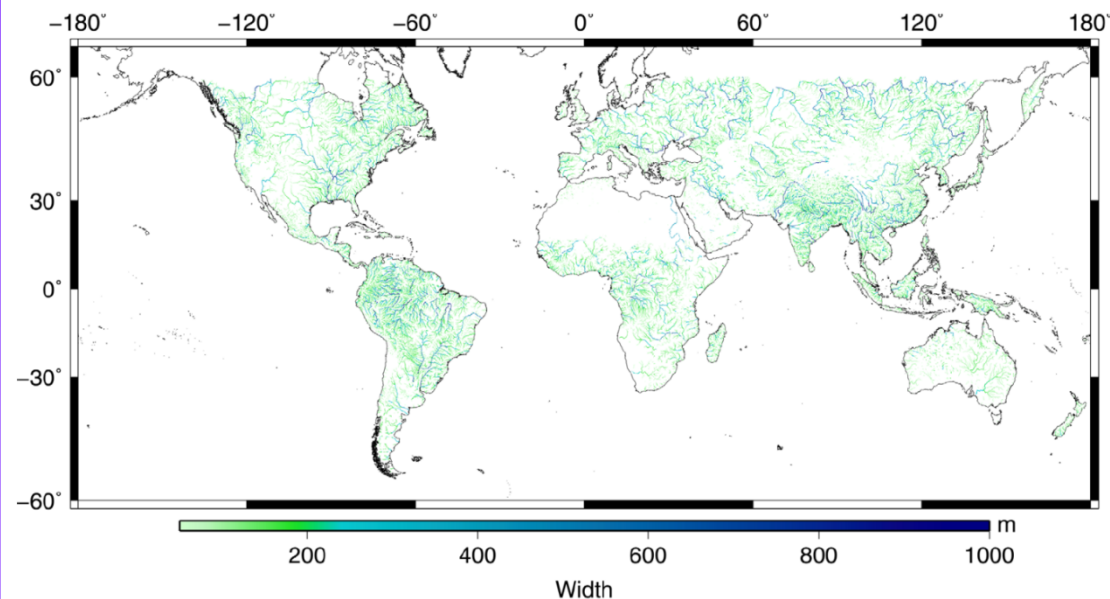
# Advantages of using HydroSHEDS for SWOT

WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH, VOL. 49, 1–5, doi:10.1002/wrcr.20440, 2013

## A simple global river bankfull width and depth database

Konstantinos M. Andreadis,<sup>1</sup> Guy J.-P. Schumann,<sup>1</sup> and Tamlin Pavelsky<sup>2</sup>

Received 25 October 2012; revised 15 July 2013; accepted 19 July 2013.



**Figure 2.** Map of river widths globally, with a threshold of 50 m (not shown) and 1000 m (reaches with larger widths reset with this value) applied for display purposes.

Derived from SRTM measurements

Vector-based (blue lines and not grid cells) → SWOT will see actual water bodies (10-100 m swath resolution), not 1° grid cells

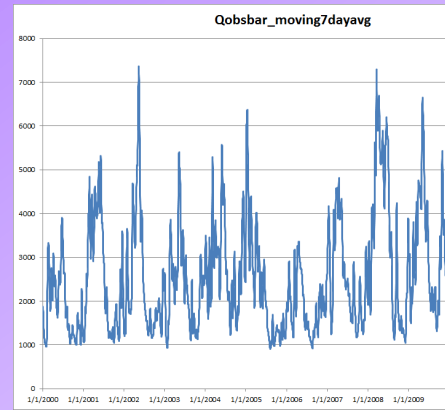
Some existing preliminary interest from the SWOT community

# Selecting gauging stations

Missouri River at Bismarck, North Dakota
Missouri River at Omaha, Nebraska
Missouri River at Hermann, Missouri
Mississippi River at Saint Paul, Minnesota
Mississippi River at Keokuk, Iowa
Mississippi River at Grafton, Illinois
Mississippi River at Saint Louis, Missouri
Mississippi River at Thebes, Illinois
Ohio River at Sewickley, Pennsylvania
Ohio River at Louisville, Kentucky
Ohio River at Metropolis, Ohio
Arkansas River near Haskell, Oklahoma
Arkansas River at Murray Dam near Little Rock, Arkansas
Red River at Spring Bank, Arkansas

2000 is the driest  
and 2008 is the  
wettest  
(Upper  
Mississippi  
Floods of 2008)

year	average flow
2000	1893.3
2001	2629.5
2002	2516.3
2003	2345.8
2004	2847.8
2005	2229.2
2006	1908.5
2007	2585.4
2008	3464.0
2009	3152.1

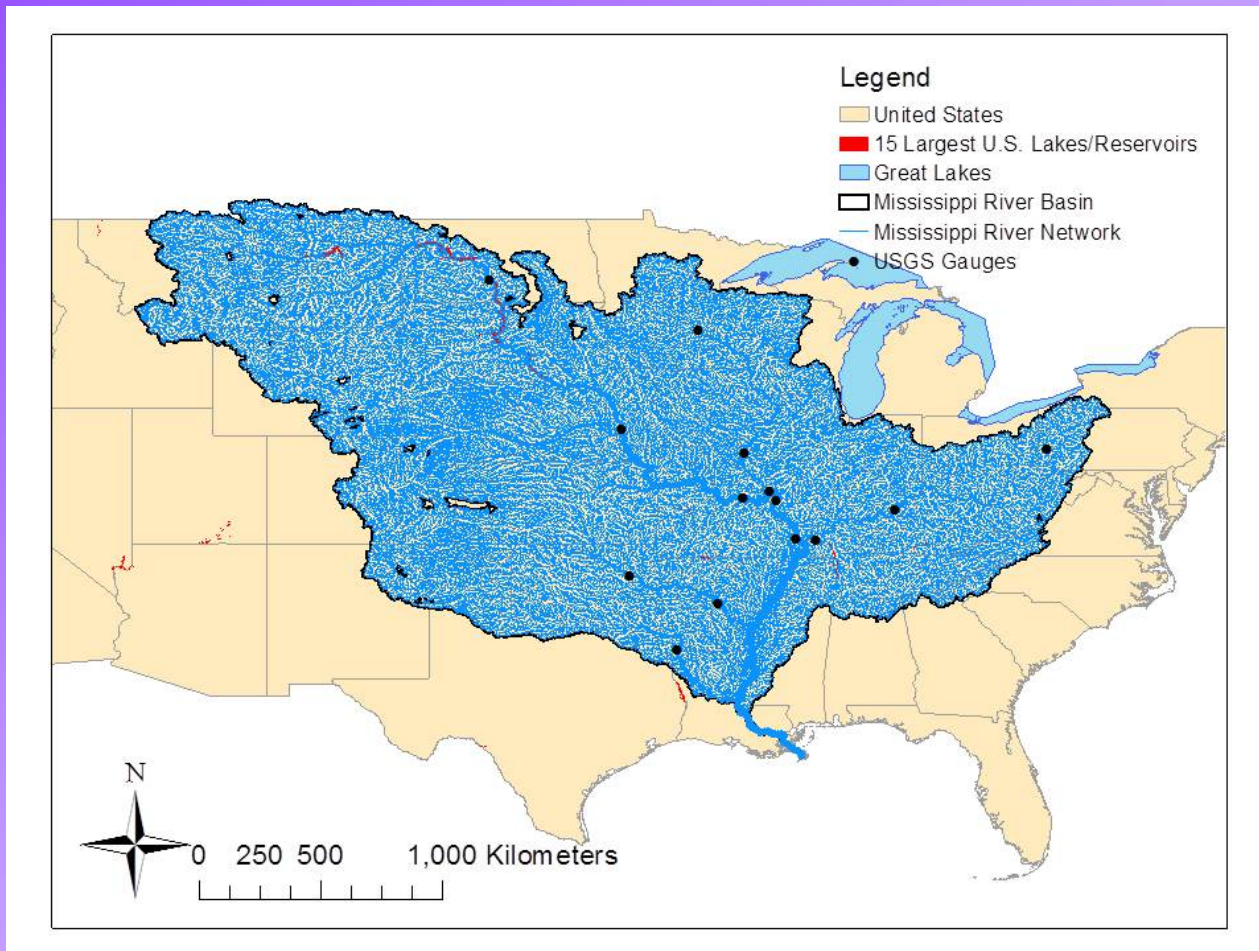


Selection  
based on 6  
published  
studies

Close to gauge: Missouri River at Garrison Dam, North Dakota (used in published studies)	Wood et al. [1997]
	Wood et al. [1997]
Upstream of confluence with Mississippi River	Wood et al. [1999], Maurer et al. [2001], Lohmann et al. [2004]
Close to large metropolitan area, centennial gauge	
	Maurer et al. [2001], Lohmann et al. [2004]
Downstream of confluence with Illinois River	
Centennial gauge, downstream of confluence with Missouri River	
Upstream of confluence with Ohio River	David et al. [2013a]
Close to large metropolitan area (Pittsburg)	
Close to large metropolitan area	
Downstream of confluence with Tennessee River, upstream of confluence with Mississippi River	Maurer et al. [2001], Lohmann et al. [2004]
	Abdulla et al. [1996]
Close to gauge: Arkansas River at Little Rock, Arkansas (used in published studies)	Abdulla et al. [1996], Lohmann et al. [1998]
Close to gauge: Red River at Shreveport, Louisiana (used in published studies)	Abdulla et al. [1996], Lohmann et al. [1998]

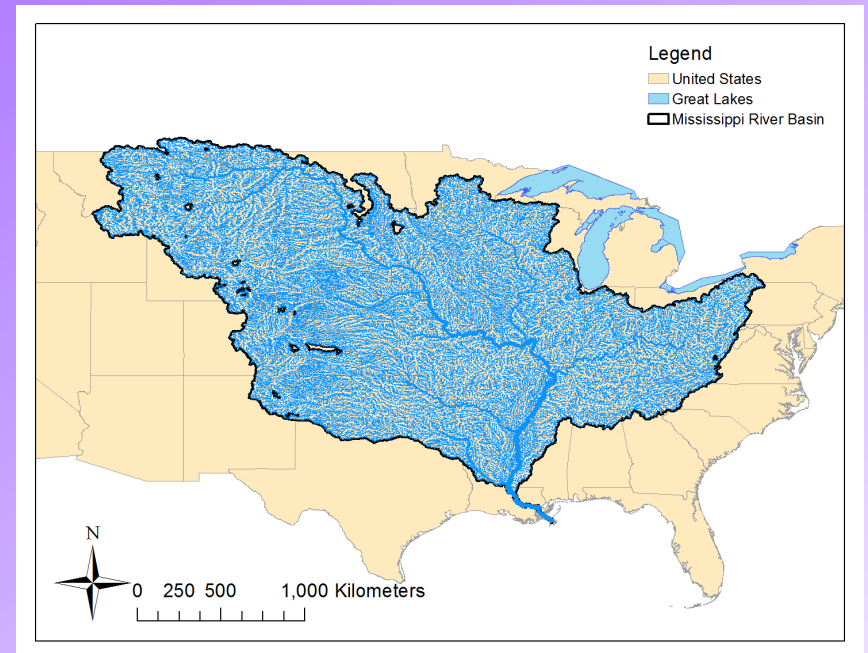


# Ready to run!

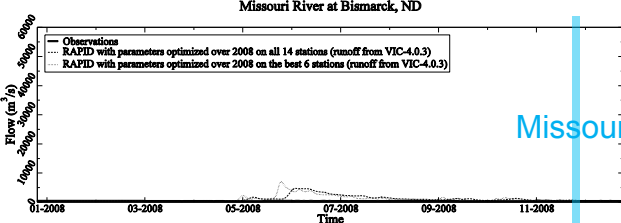


# Outline

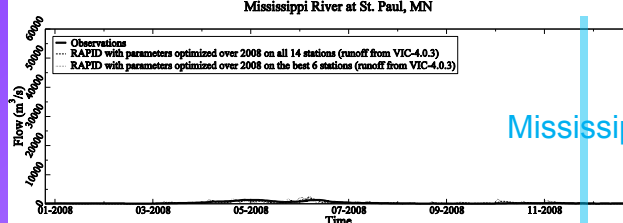
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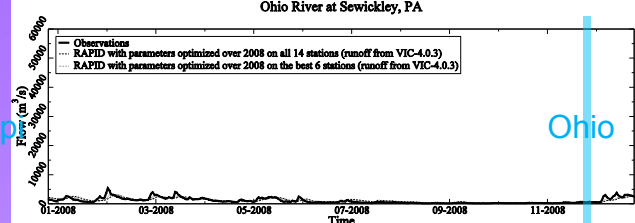
Missouri



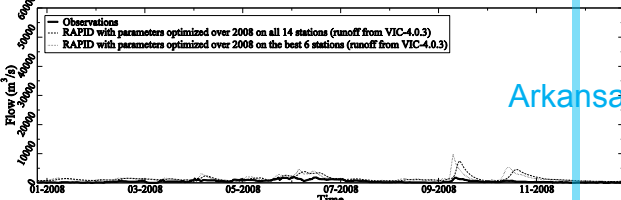
Mississippi



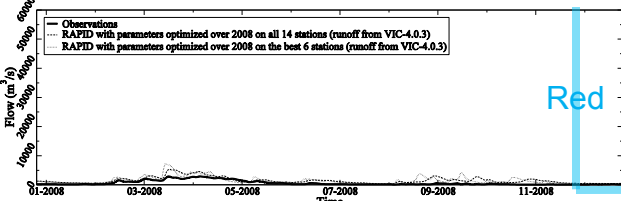
Ohio



Arkansas



Red



# Aftermaths: flow statistics

Name	rivID	Average Flow (observat)	Initial optimization (slower celerity)			Further optimization (faster celerity)		
			Average Flow (model)	RMSE	E	Average Flow (model)	RMSE	E
Missouri River at Bismarck, North Dakota	231083	466.9	907.3	843.4	-55.32	908.5	885.8	-61.14
Mississippi River at Saint Paul, Minnesota	266984	401.5	477.0	380.0	0.24	477.1	520.3	-0.42
Missouri River at Omaha, Nebraska	328965	755.6	1919.2	1809.9	-50.45	1921.8	2000.6	-61.87
Ohio River at Sewickley, Pennsylvania	339344	989.5	1002.6	573.9	0.53	1003.3	457.1	0.70
Mississippi River at Keokuk, Iowa	341237	2188.4	2974.8	1299.4	0.26	2977.9	1539.4	-0.04
Mississippi River at Grafton, Illinois	363260	3417.3	4439.1	1678.7	0.46	4445.6	1962.6	0.27
Missouri River at Hermann, Missouri	367121	2083.1	4969.0	4048.3	-7.23	4976.8	4276.9	-8.19
Mississippi River at Saint Louis, Missouri	368199	5546.1	9504.1	5381.2	-1.37	9520.4	5617.9	-1.58
Ohio River at Louisville, Kentucky	373295	3622.7	4357.8	2695.2	0.28	4369.3	2170.3	0.54
Ohio River at Metropolis, Ohio	389189	8127.9	10375.1	4580.0	0.42	10413.0	3577.2	0.64
Mississippi River at Thebes, Illinois	389491	6078.5	10237.9	5669.8	-1.20	10257.4	5788.0	-1.30
Arkansas River near Haskell, Oklahoma	407204	303.4	1019.5	997.3	-6.49	1020.3	1030.7	-7.00
Arkansas River at Murray Dam near Little Rock, Arkansas	420653	1294.1	2986.1	2355.2	-1.77	2990.0	2442.9	-1.98
Red River at Spring Bank, Arkansas	440065	588.4	1418.0	1195.6	-1.73	1420.0	1310.5	-2.28

Missouri River: poor simulations (modeling system produces twice the observed flow)

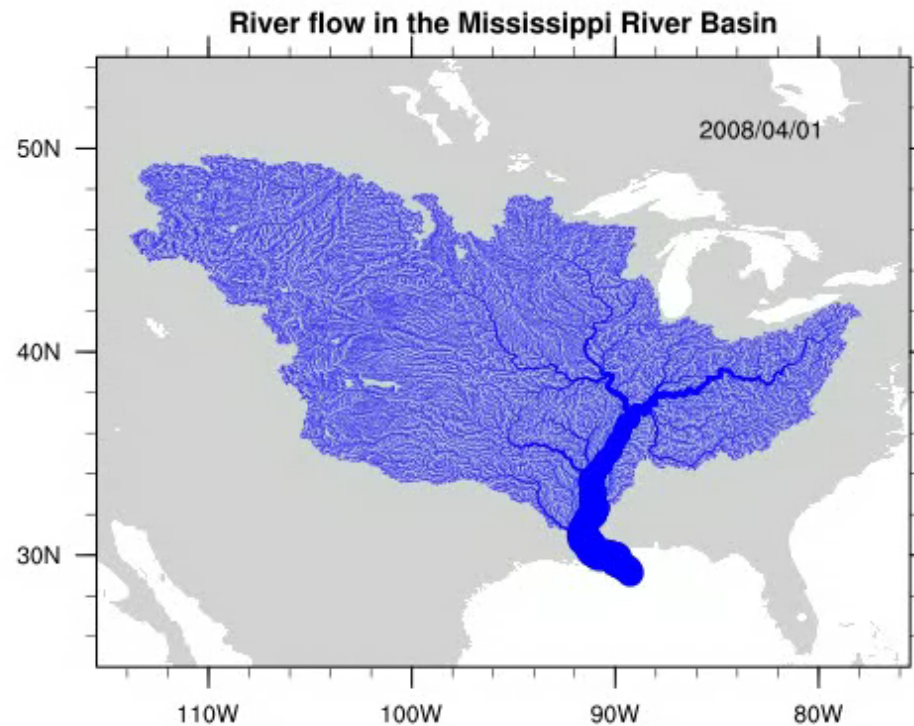
Upper Mississippi River: good simulations (better stats when slow wave)

After confluence of Upper Mississippi and Missouri: poor simulations

Ohio River: good simulations (better stats when fast wave)

Arkansas and Red River: poor simulations (modeling system produces twice the observed flow)

# Animation



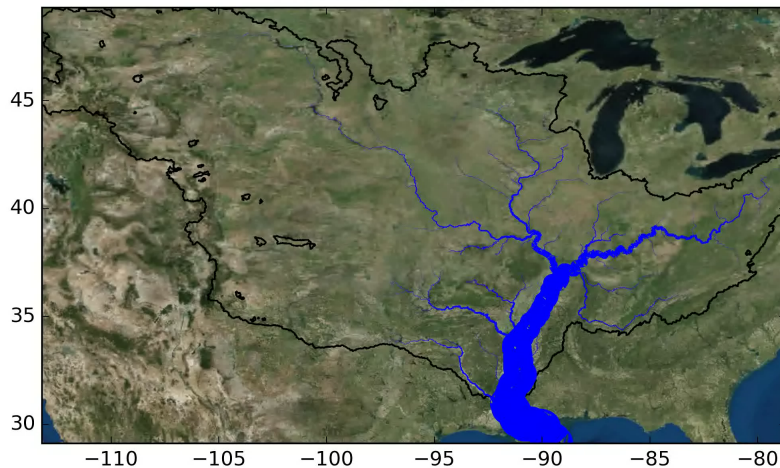
<http://www.ucchm.org/david/rapid.htm>

David et al. (201x), in preparation



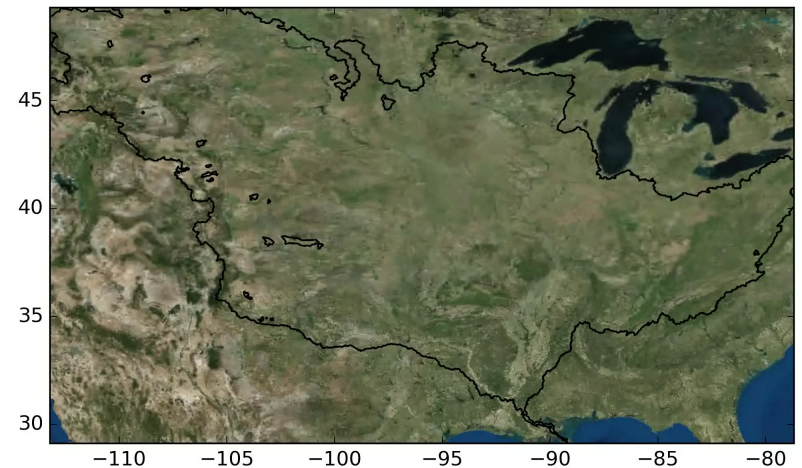
# SWOT data look alike

River flow in the Mississippi River Basin  
2008-04-01 00:00 UTC



<https://github.com/c-h-david/rrr>

River flow in the Mississippi River Basin  
2008-04-01 00:00 UTC

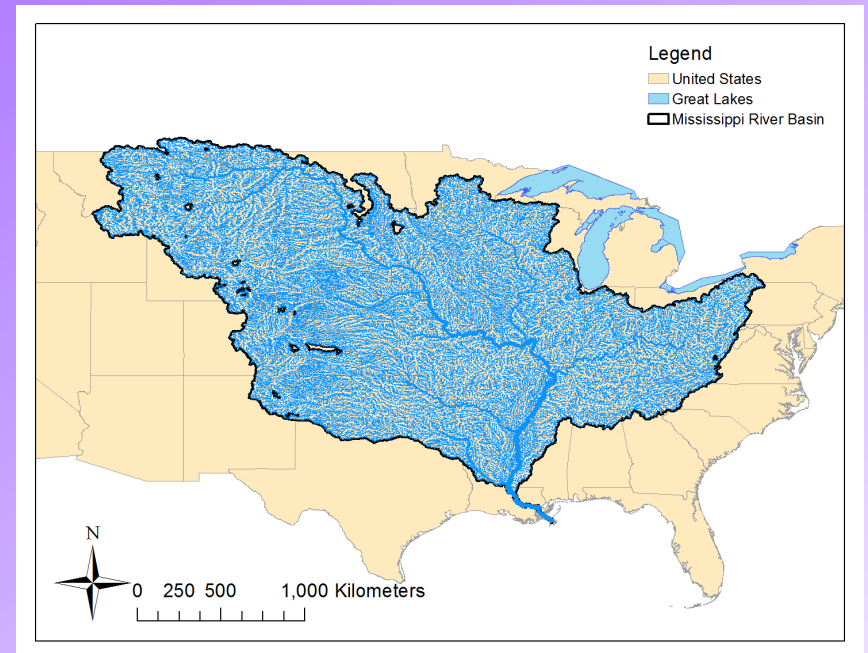


<https://github.com/c-h-david/rrr>

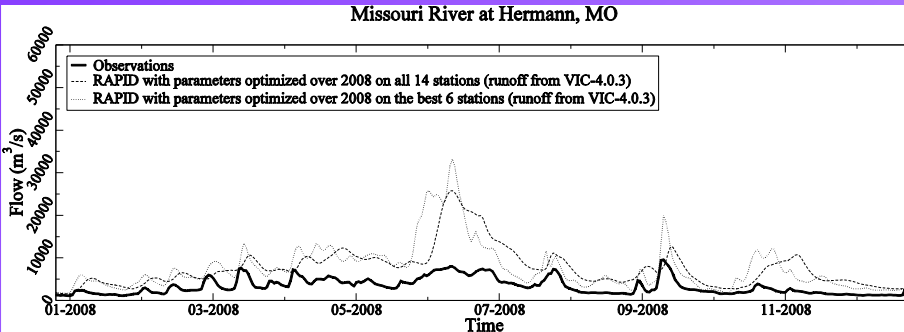
Thickness of blue lines is function of simulated *discharge*  
10-year simulation using RAPID (2000-2009), 15-min time step, output every 3-hr  
Sub-sampling based on orbit at 890 km altitude, 77.6° inclination, 20.86 days repeat  
*No observational error* accounted for here

# Outline

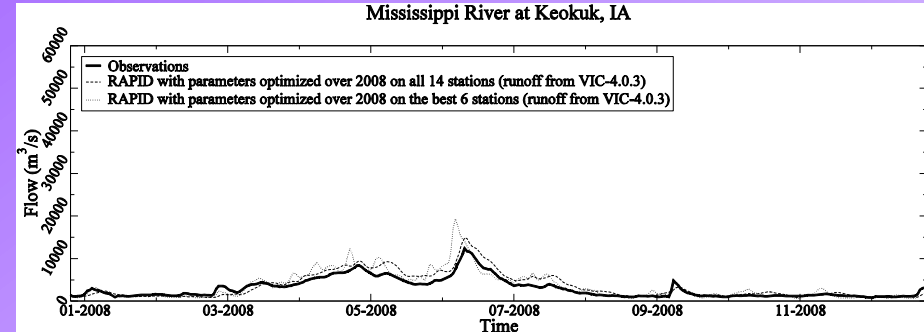
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- Simulations
- **Discussion**



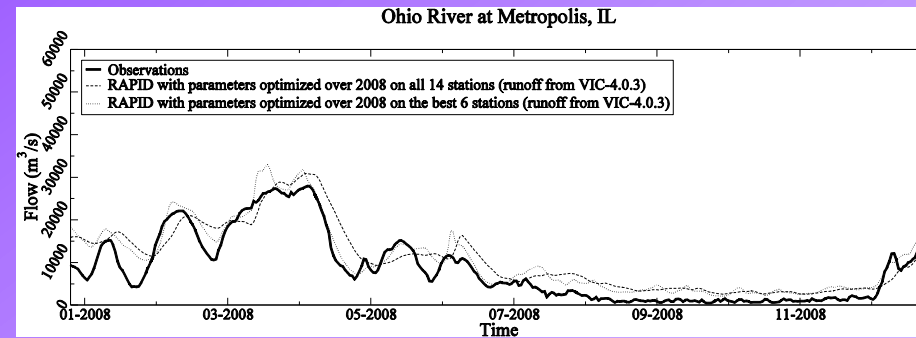
# Aftermaths: hydrographs



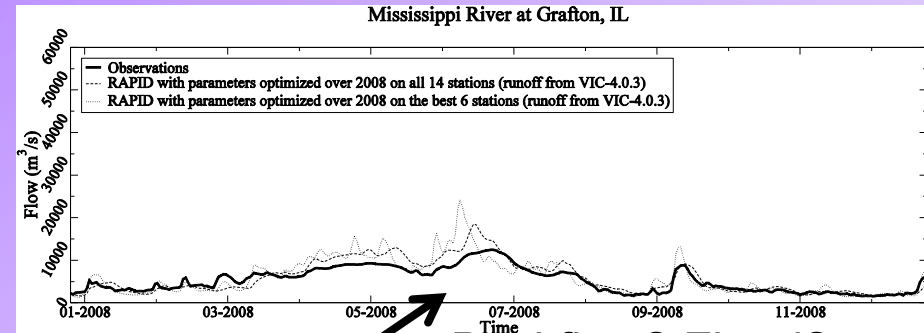
RAPID lacks  
reservoir module



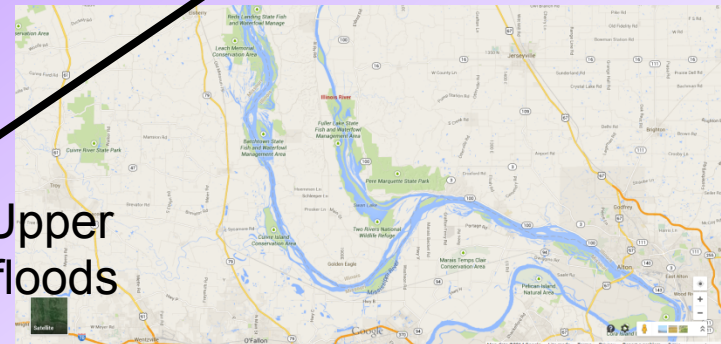
Not bad!



Not bad!



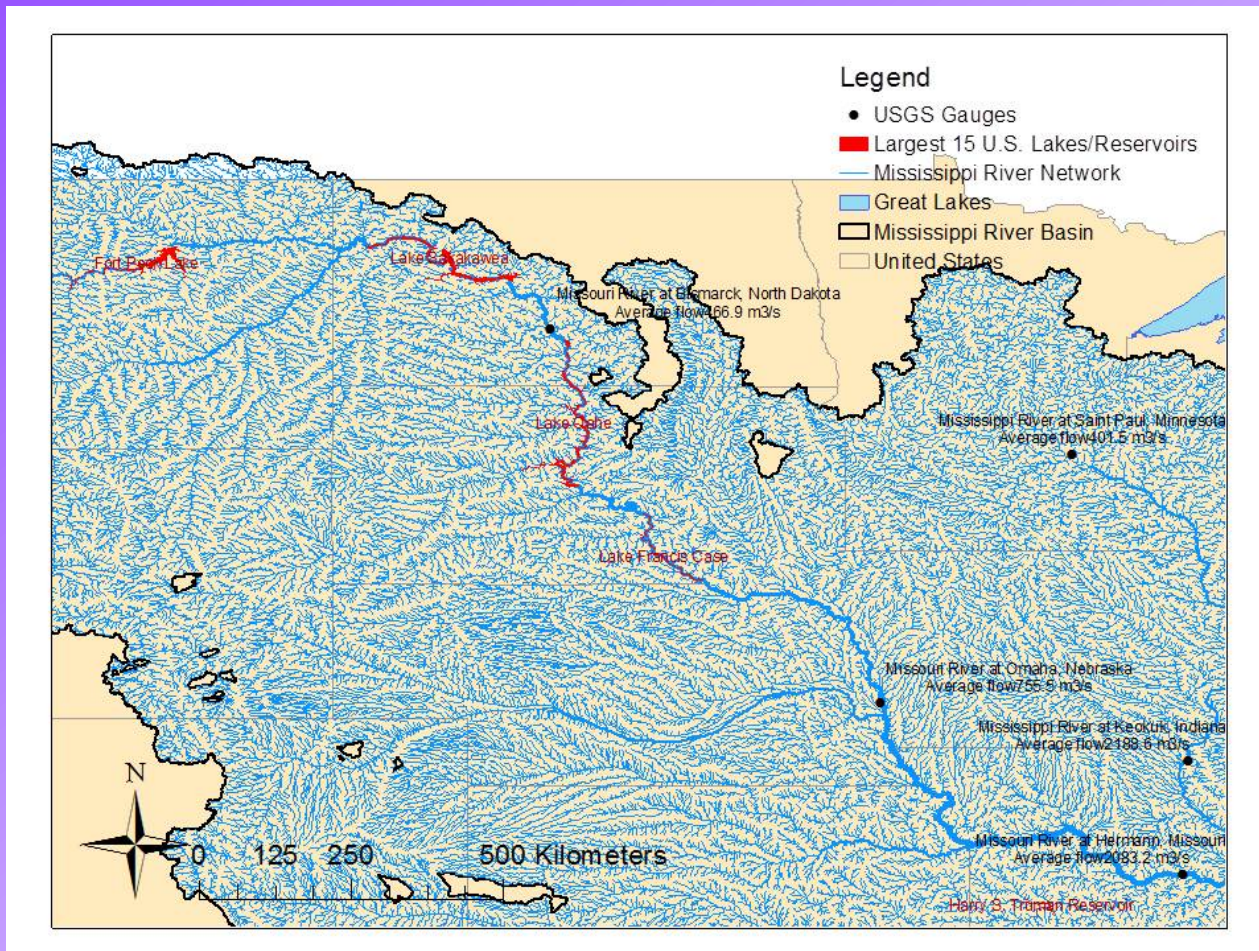
Backflow? Flood?



June 2008 Upper  
Mississippi floods



# 8 of the 15 largest U.S. lakes/ reservoirs are in domain



Thank you!  
Questions?

