

EGU 2020 - Session Isotopes and Tracers

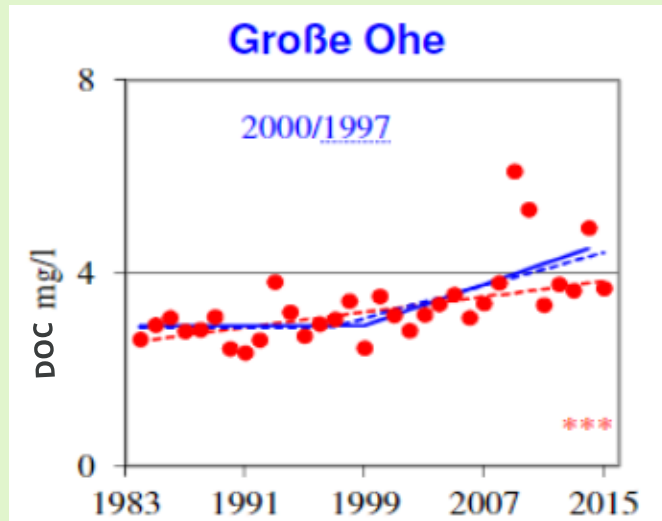
# Hydrological analysis of runoff formation in a small forested mountain catchments using $\delta^2\text{H}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ratios

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# Motivation: Model development for hydrological DOC\* -mobilization

## Rising DOC trends in surface waters



[Junior Research Group:](#)  
Processes of **DOC mobilization**  
in catchments

Export of DOC  
mainly through  
**hydrological  
pathways**

Development  
of  
**hydrological  
model**  
for DOC-  
export from  
catchments

## Field campaign

*collection of field data ( discharge, groundwater table, soil moisture, T, EC, Water Sampling, soil analyses)*

## Process analysis

*identification of runoff formation with multiple natural tracers (i.a.  $\delta^2\text{H}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  ), water origin, pathways, mobilization areas, retention times*

## small scale modeling (hill slope)

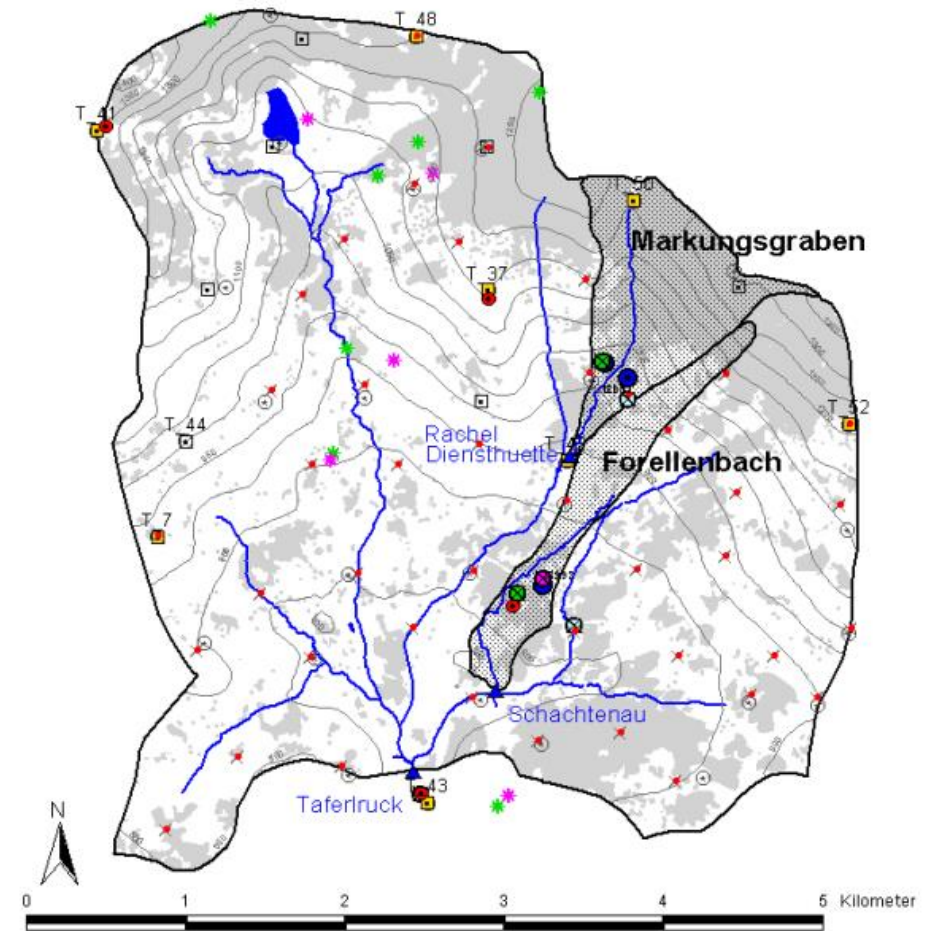
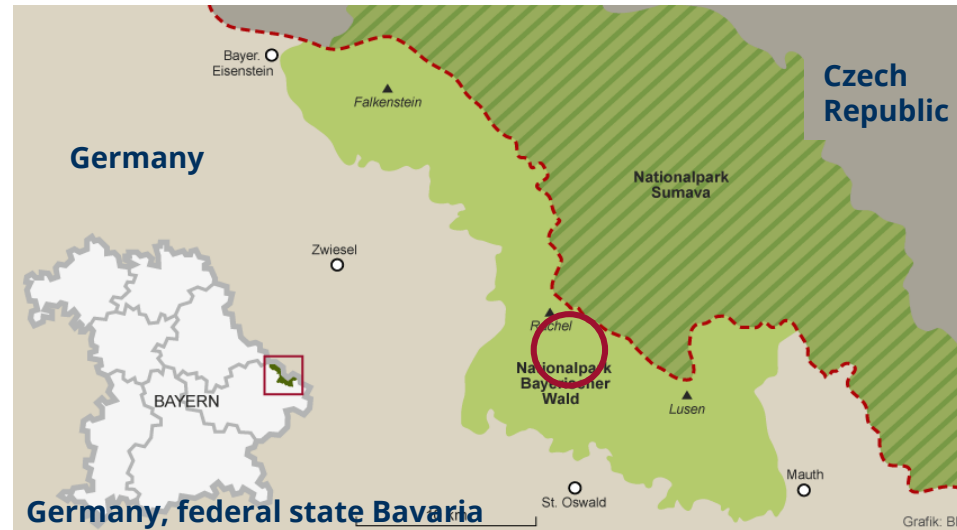
*small scale runoff formation, preferential flow paths*

## conceptual modeling (subcatchment and catchment)

*upscaling steps, identification of dominant processes, development of scalable hydrological runoff model with implementation of DOC-export*

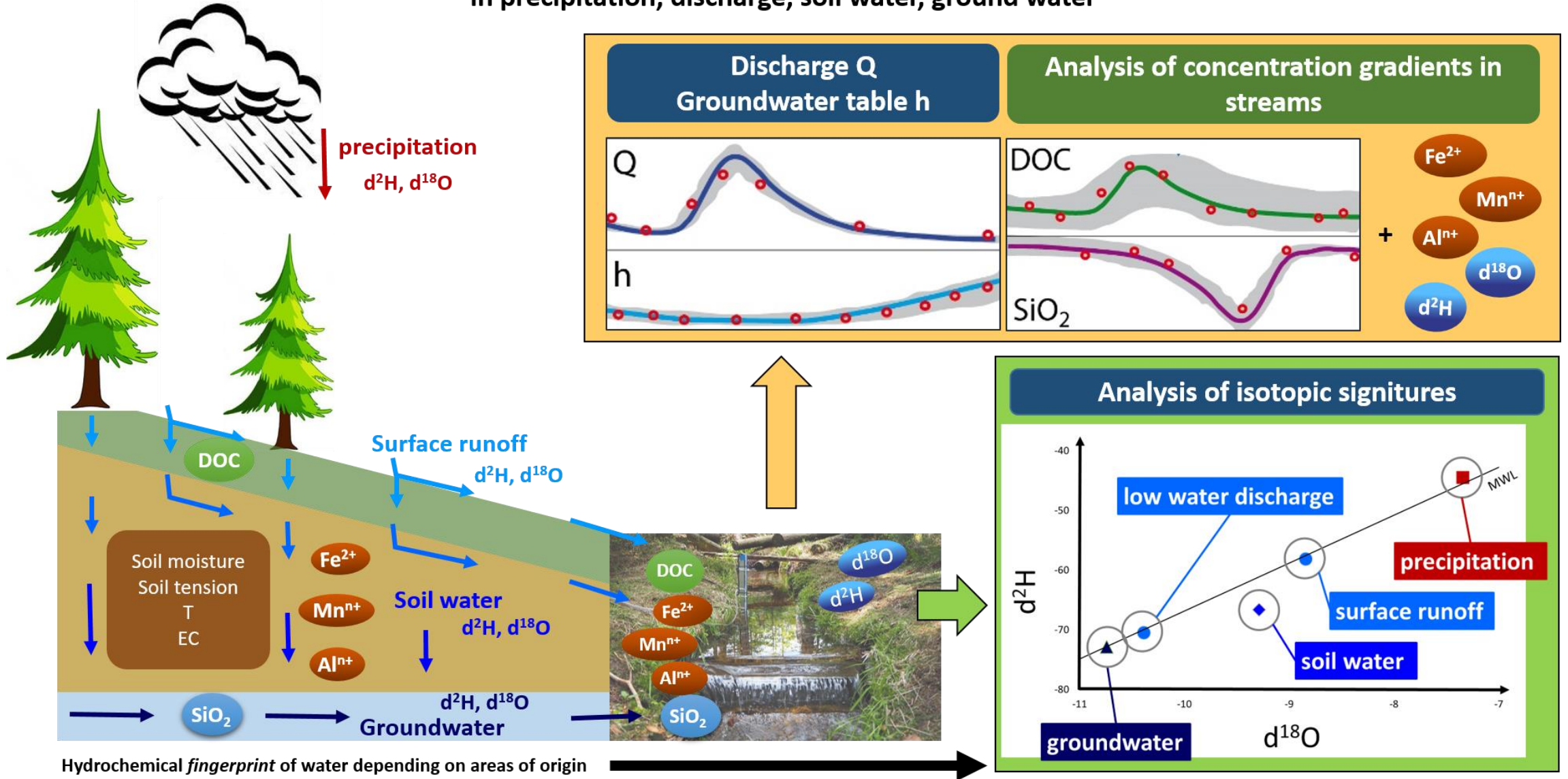
# Study area: catchment „Große Ohe“

- Located in Bavarian Forest National Park
- Head catchment with several subcatchments
- Very few anthropogenical influences
- Dense measuring network
- Long term data series



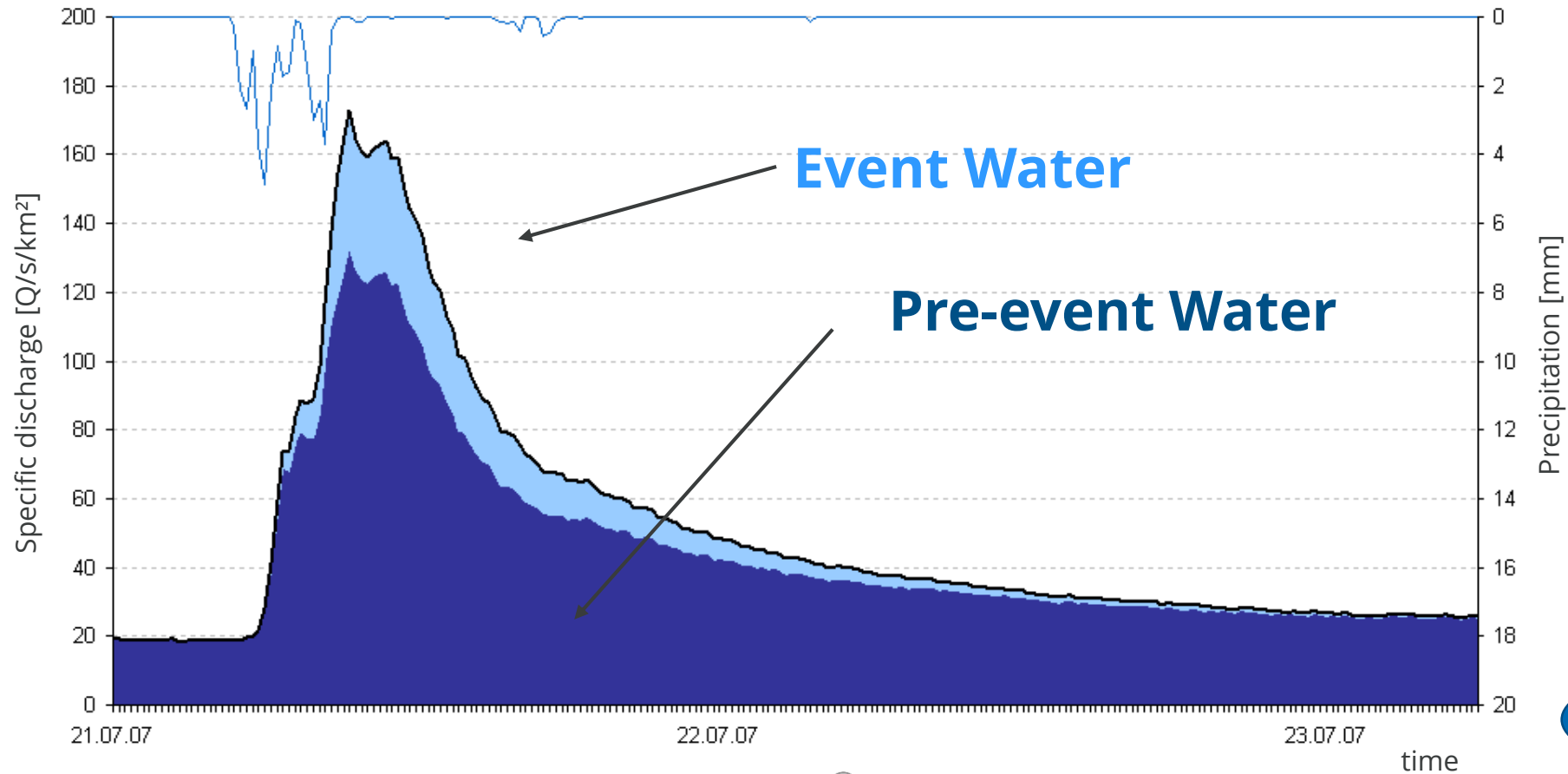
# Analysis of runoff formation with environmental tracers

in precipitation, discharge, soil water, ground water



Hydrochemical fingerprint of water depending on areas of origin


# Isotope based hydrograph separation



Water from  
DOC-rich  
topsoil?

Water from  
mineral  
horizons?

Groundwater?

 former projects, e.g.: [Schwarze and Beudert \(2009\)](#)

→ e.g. 3-component hydrograph separation with chemical tracers

# Summary

- **Identification of dominant processes** in runoff formation on hill slope and on (sub-)catchment scale
- **Flow paths, areas of origin and retention times** in different hydrological compartments at different discharge conditions
- Development of **hydrological forecast model** with implementation of **DOC-export** from catchments
  - modelling with easily accessible data (generalization of concept)
  - transferable to similar catchments

# Acknowledgement

We would like to thank the **GLASER Foundation** and the **PLETTNER Foundation** in the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft for financial support for the doctorate.

We would like to thank the **German Hydrological Society (DHG)** for financial support for the field campaign.

