

How does topography impact hydrology at large scales?

Sebastian Gnann¹

Mark Cuthbert²

Tom Gleeson³

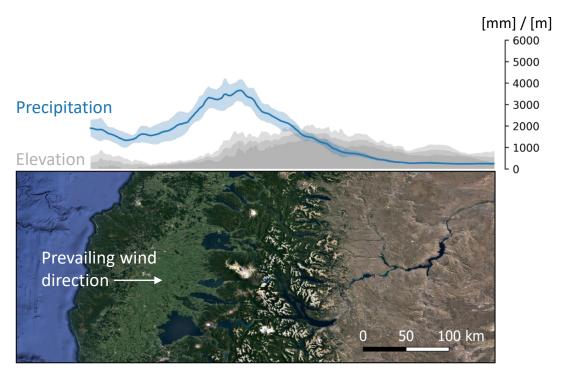
Thorsten Wagener¹



¹University of Potsdam ²Cardiff University ³University of Victoria



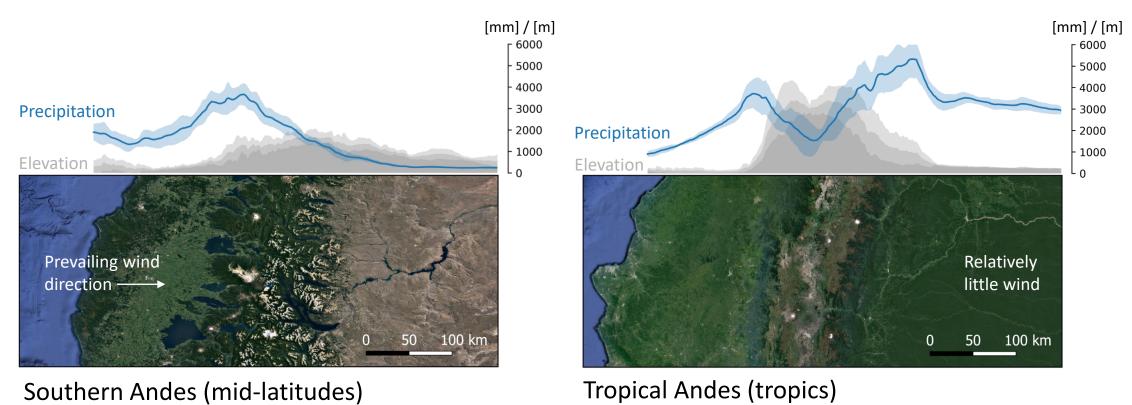
In many places precipitation increases with elevation



Southern Andes (mid-latitudes)



In many places precipitation increases with elevation, but this pattern is not universal.





Stiftung/Foundation

The climatic water balance shows typical patterns in temperate and tropical regions

Mid-latitudes Tropics Temperature Water PET P PET limited limited Elevation Energy Energy limited limited Water limited Flux Aridity





The climatic water balance shows typical patterns in temperate and tropical regions

Mid-latitudes Tropics Temperature PET/P Water PET/P limited limited Energy Energy limited limited Water limited Aridity Aridity

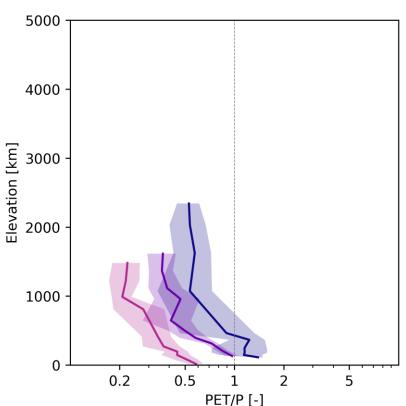




In the same mountain range, aridity-elevation profiles show similar patterns but different magnitudes

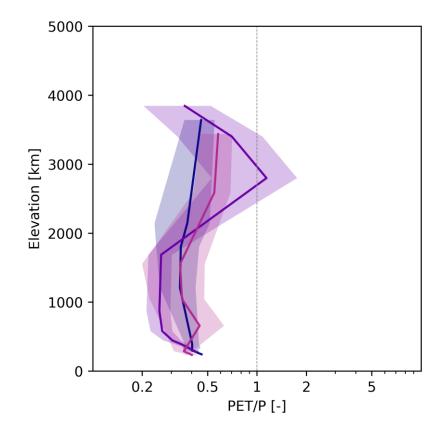
Mid-latitudes

Chilean Andes



Tropics

Ecuadorian Andes







Topography affects the climatic water balance, but does so differently in different regions.

There's much beyond the climatic water balance, and we should bring together what we know!

