



# Differentiable modeling to unify machine learning and physical models and advance Geosciences

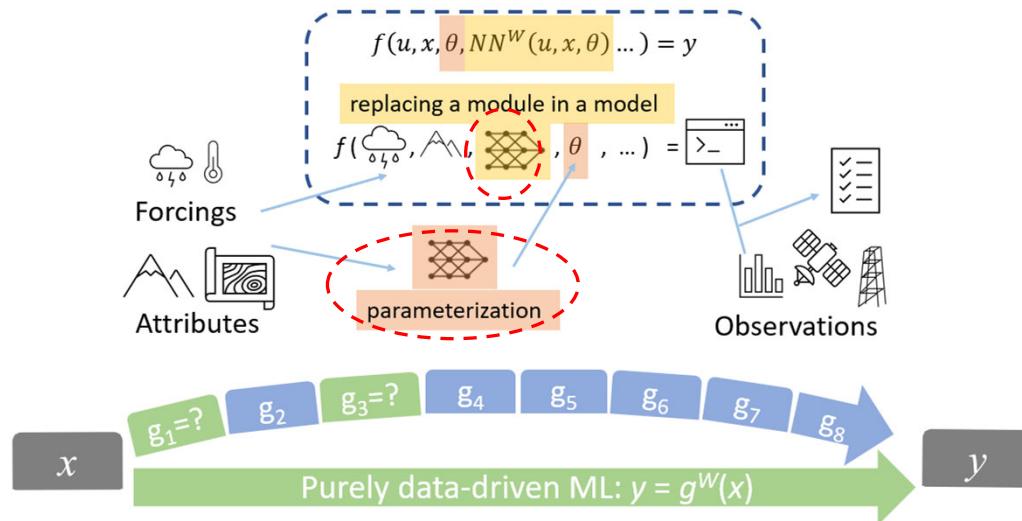


@ChaopengShen

<https://github.com/mhpi>

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2301.04027>

## Differentiable Modeling in Geosciences



**Chaopeng Shen**

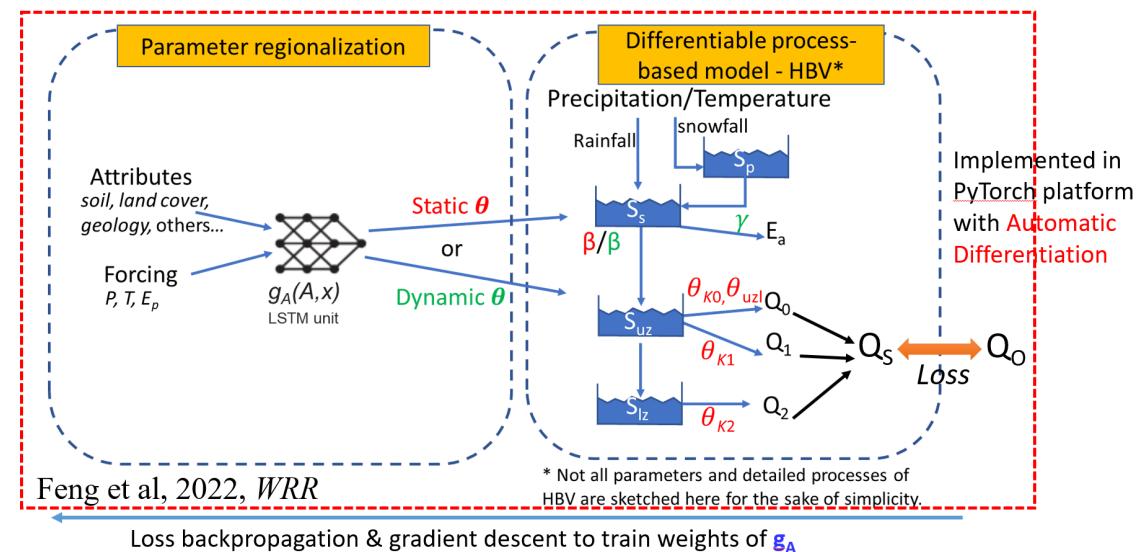
<sup>1</sup>Civil and Environmental Engineering, Penn State University

cshen@engr.psu.edu



[www.hydroml.org](http://www.hydroml.org). HydroML Symposium  
Phase 2 in Berkeley. May 22-24 2023!

# Example 3. differentiable, learnable models to learn functions



## 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*



ARTICLE

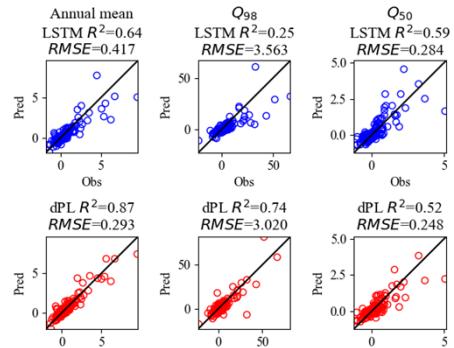
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-26107-z> OPEN

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

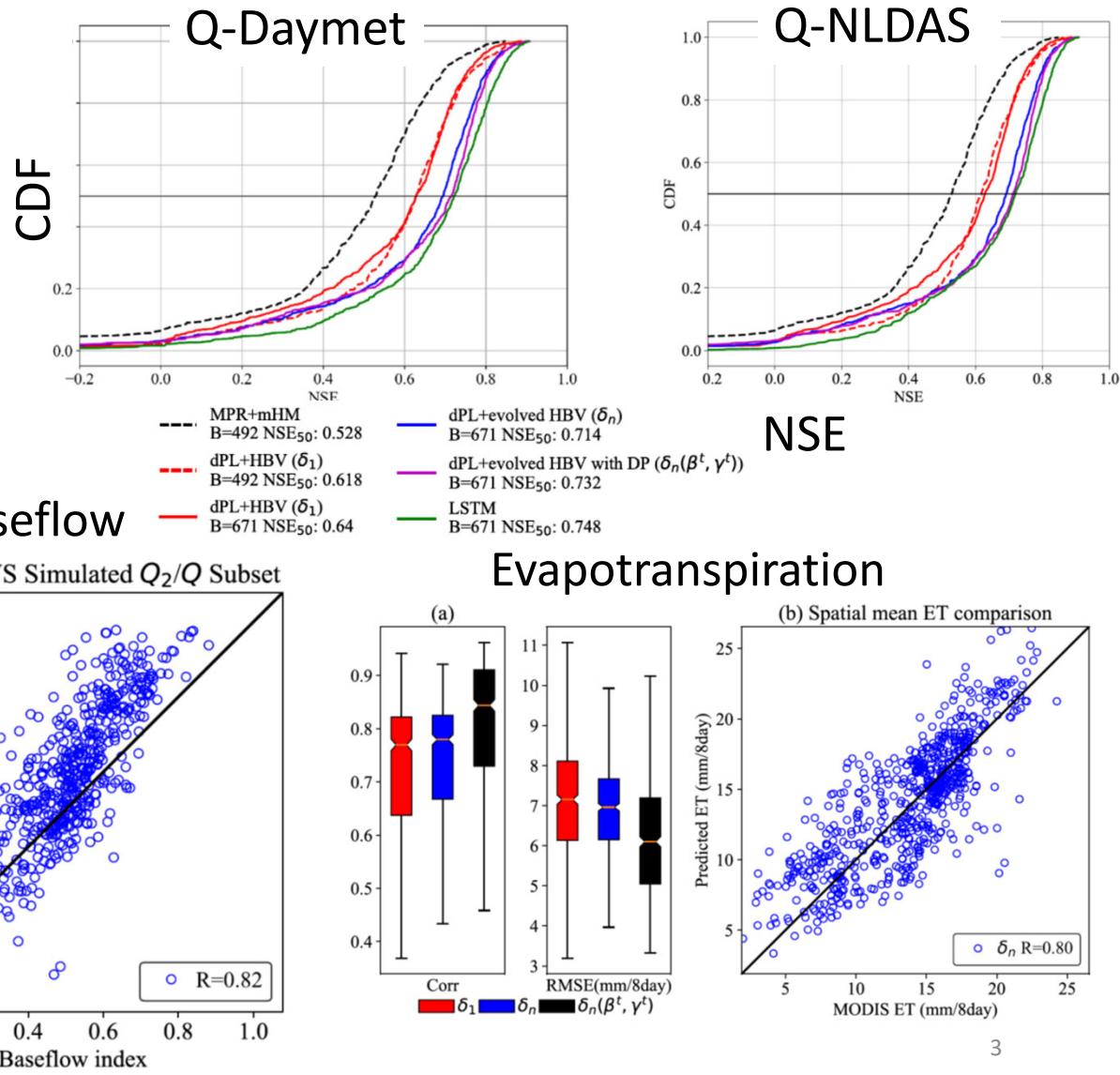
Wen-Ping Tsai , Dapeng Feng , Ming Pan , Hylke Beck , Kathryn Lawson , Yuan Yang , Jiangtao Liu , & Chaopeng Shen <sup>1,5<sup>✉</sup></sup>

Approaching LSTM!  
But....

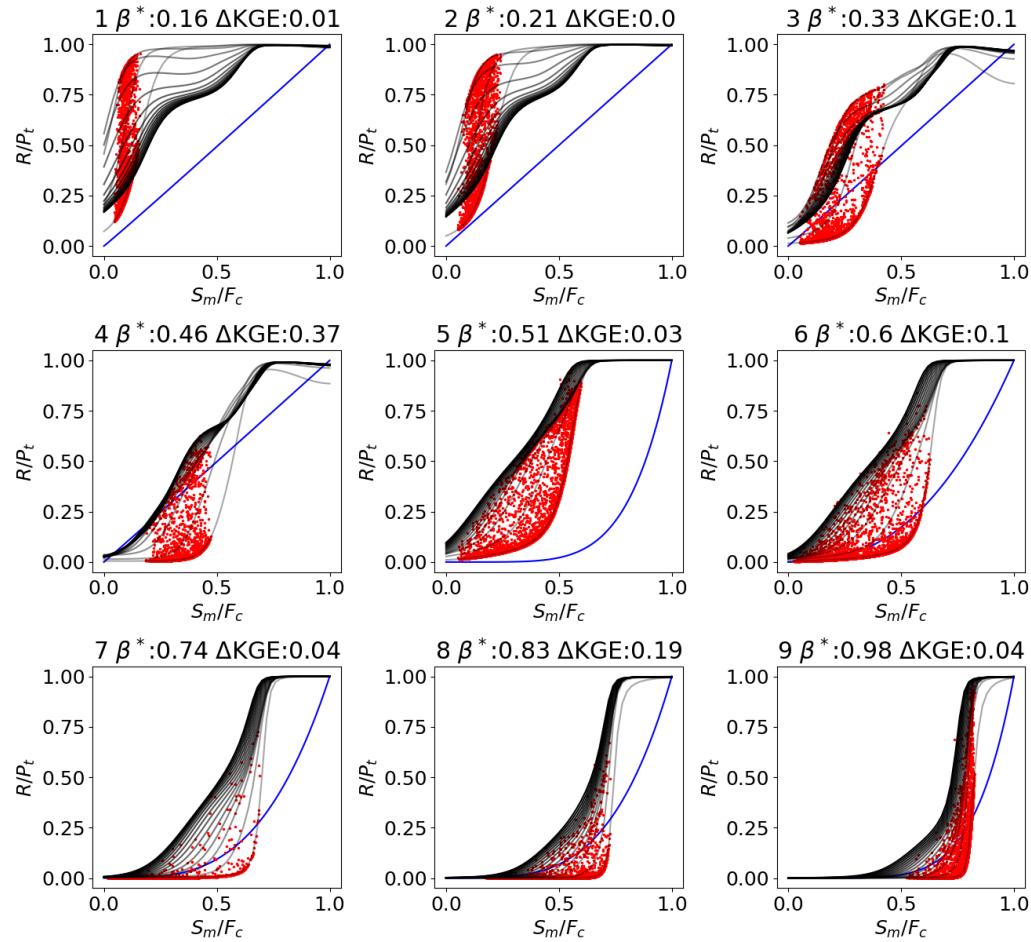
- Output untrained variables.
- Multivariate constraints.
- It extrapolates better.
- It can help us answer questions!



[https://hess.copernicus.org/preprint/  
ts/hess-2022-245/](https://hess.copernicus.org/preprint/ts/hess-2022-245/)



# What the ANN learned functions look like?



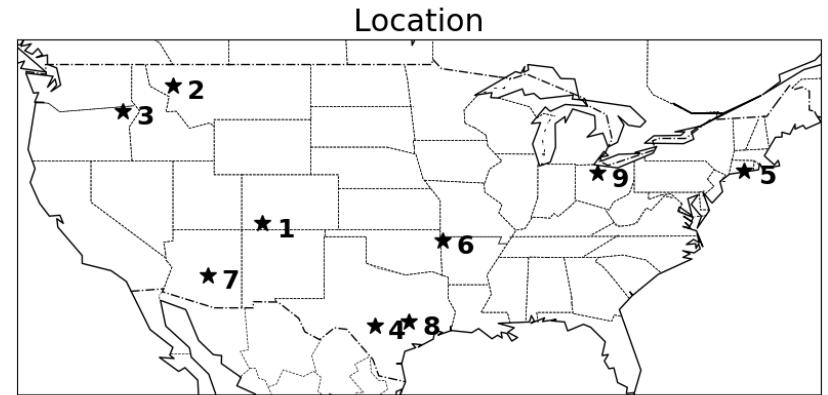
$$R/P_t = (S_m/F_c)^\beta$$

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

Blue line: original power law relation

Red dots: ANN simulations

Black lines: continuous plotting of ANN functions



# Thank you!



@ChaopengShen  
cshen@engr.psu.edu

Hydroml.org

<https://github.com/mhpi>



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

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

[CUAHSI cyberseminar series](#)  
on BDML

[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>  
© Author(s) 2018. This work is distributed under  
the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.



Hydrology and  
Earth System  
Sciences  
Open Access  
EGU

## HESS Opinions: Incubating deep-learning-powered hydrologic science advances as a community

Chaopeng Shen<sup>1</sup>, Eric Laloy<sup>2</sup>, Amin Elshorbagy<sup>3</sup>, Adrian Albert<sup>4</sup>, Jerad Bales<sup>5</sup>, Fi-John Chang<sup>6</sup>, Sangram Ganguly<sup>7</sup>, Kuo-Lin Hsu<sup>8</sup>, Daniel Kifer<sup>9</sup>, Zheng Fang<sup>10</sup>, Kuai Fang<sup>1</sup>, Dongfeng Li<sup>10</sup>, Xiaodong Li<sup>11</sup>, and Wen-Ping Tsai<sup>1</sup>

## 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 Shen<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Civil and Environmental Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA

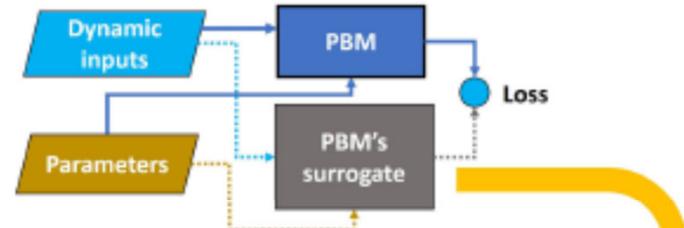
The screenshot shows a research article titled "deepLDB -- a machine learning-based Landslide database" published in *Nature Communications*. The article is an open-access review. The authors listed are Wen-Ping Tsai<sup>1</sup>, Dapeng Feng<sup>1</sup>, Ming Pan<sup>2,3</sup>, Hylke Beck<sup>4</sup>, Kathryn Lawson<sup>1,5</sup>, Yuan Yang<sup>6,7</sup>, Jiangtao Liu<sup>1</sup>, and Chaopeng Shen<sup>1,8</sup>. The URL for the article is <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-26107-z>.

# Differentiable parameter learning

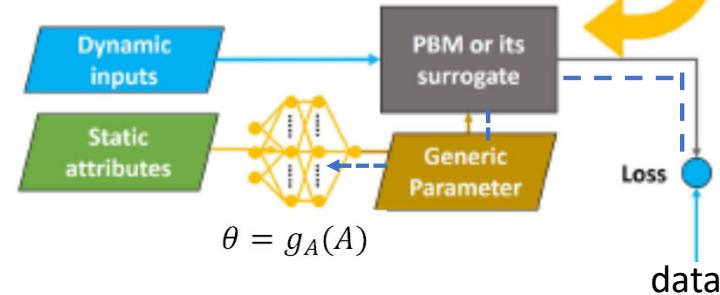


ARTICLE  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-26107-z> OPEN  
Check for updates  
From calibration to parameter learning: Harnessing the scaling effects of big data in geoscientific modeling  
Wen-Ping Tsai<sup>1</sup>, Dapeng Feng<sup>1</sup>, Ming Pan<sup>2,3</sup>, Hylye Beck<sup>4</sup>, Kathryn Lawson<sup>1,5</sup>, Yuan Yang<sup>6,7</sup>,  
Jiangtao Liu<sup>1</sup> & Chaopeng Shen<sup>1,5\*</sup>

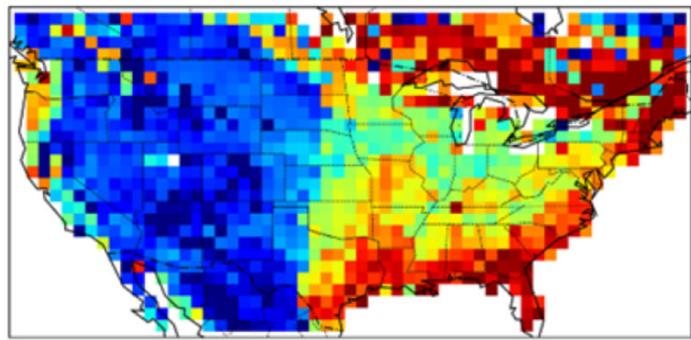
(a) PBM or PBM's surrogate (optional)



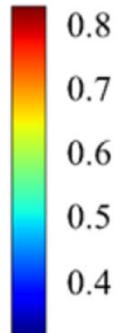
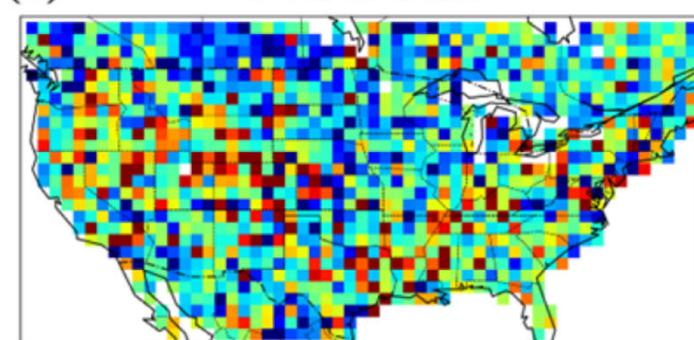
(b) dPL  $g_A$  framework (if historical observations are unavailable)



(a) dPL  $g_z$  INFILT



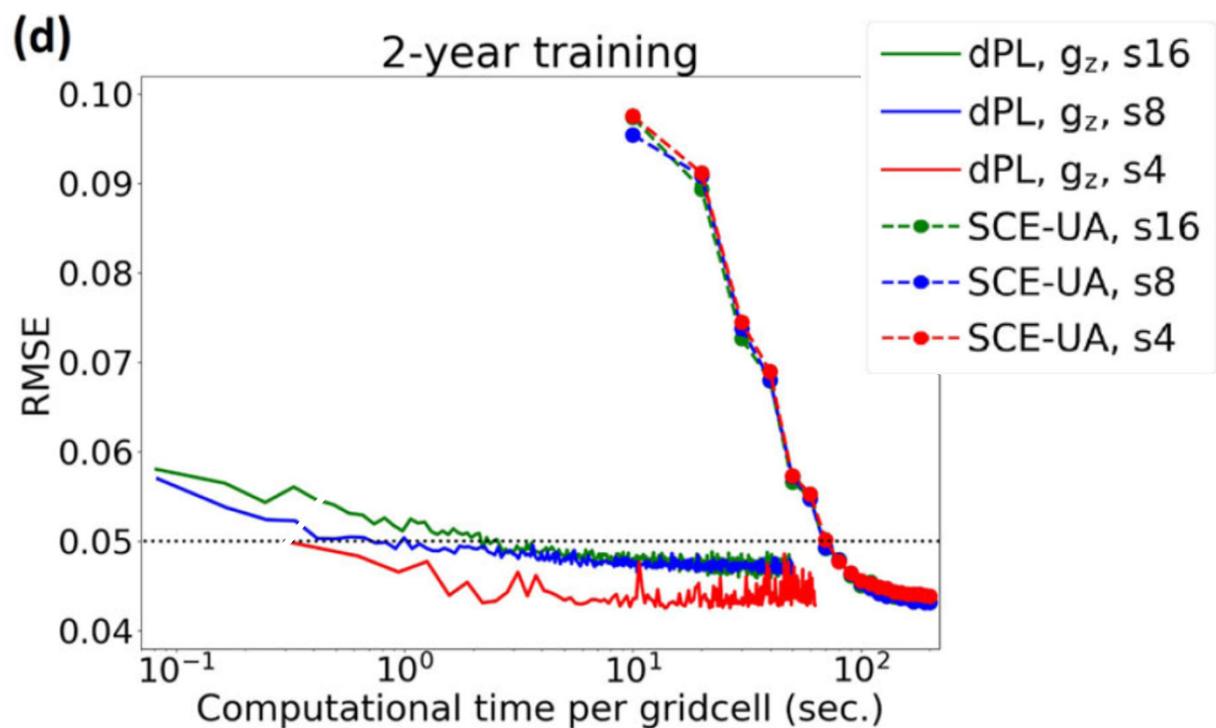
(b) SCE INFILT



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

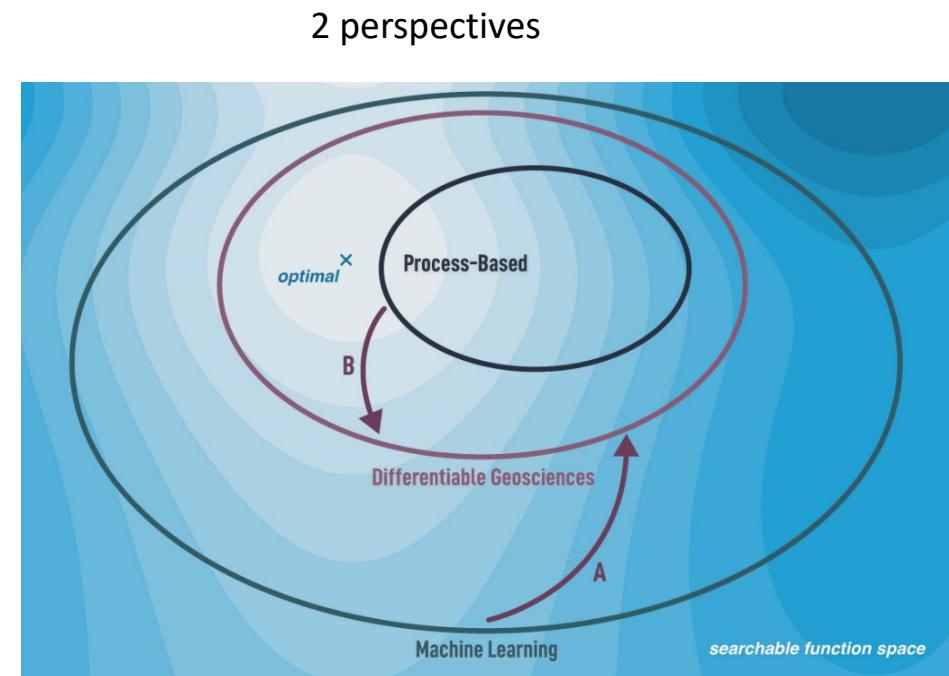
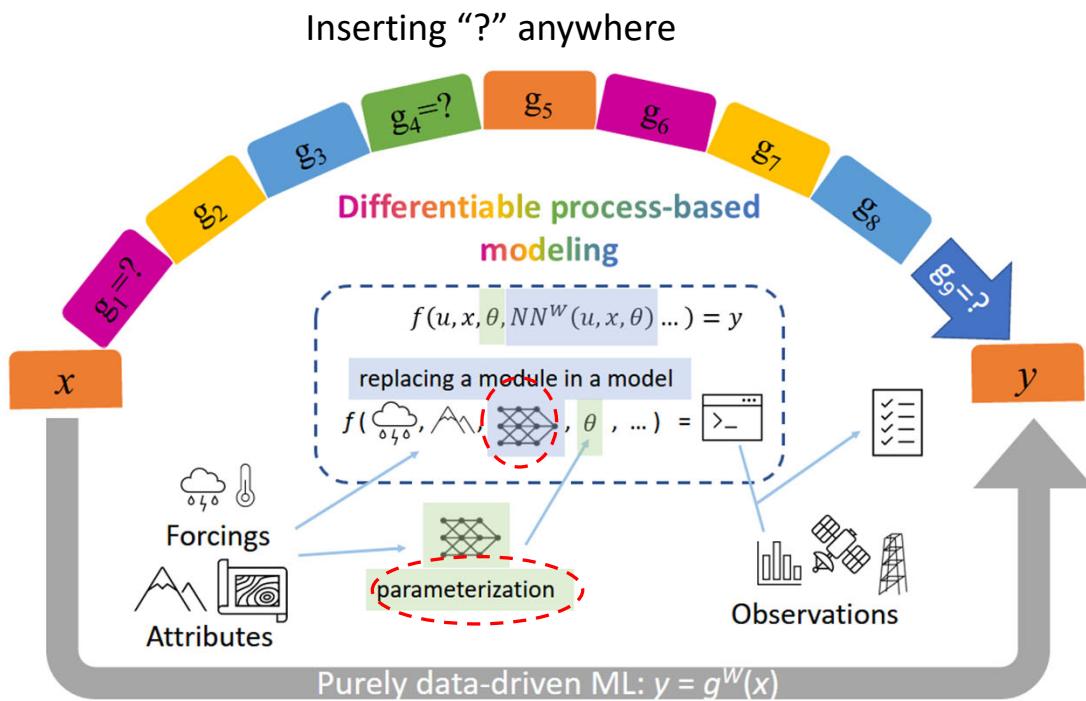
1. dPL = SCEUA for lowest RMSE
2. dPL scales better with more data
3. Orders of magnitude more efficient
4. (not shown) better results for **untrained** variables and better **spatial generalization** than traditional approach!

Relies on differentiable programming!

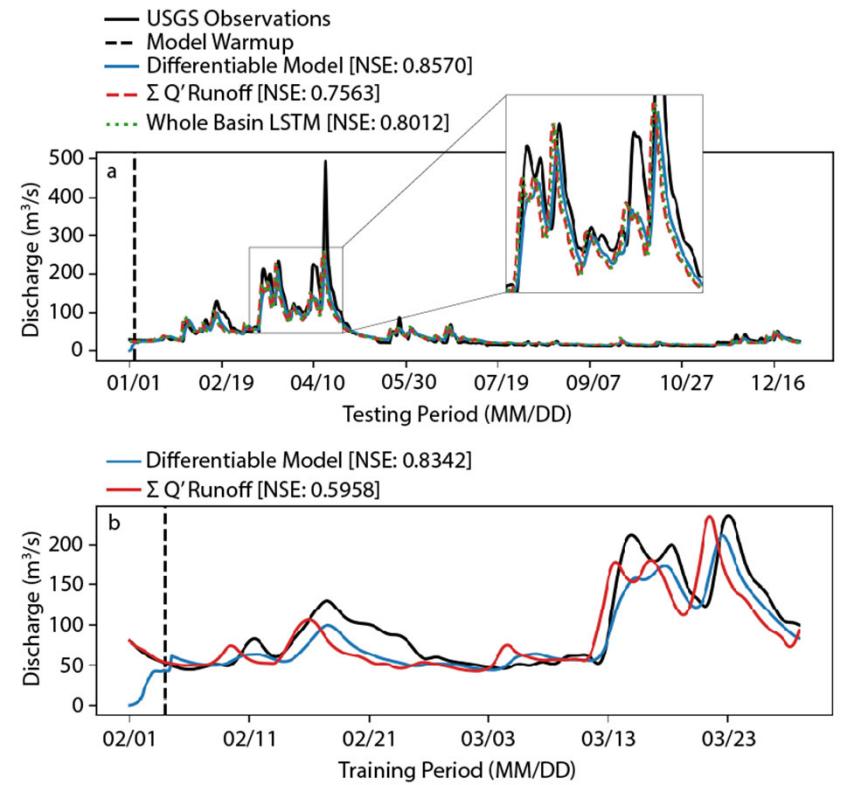
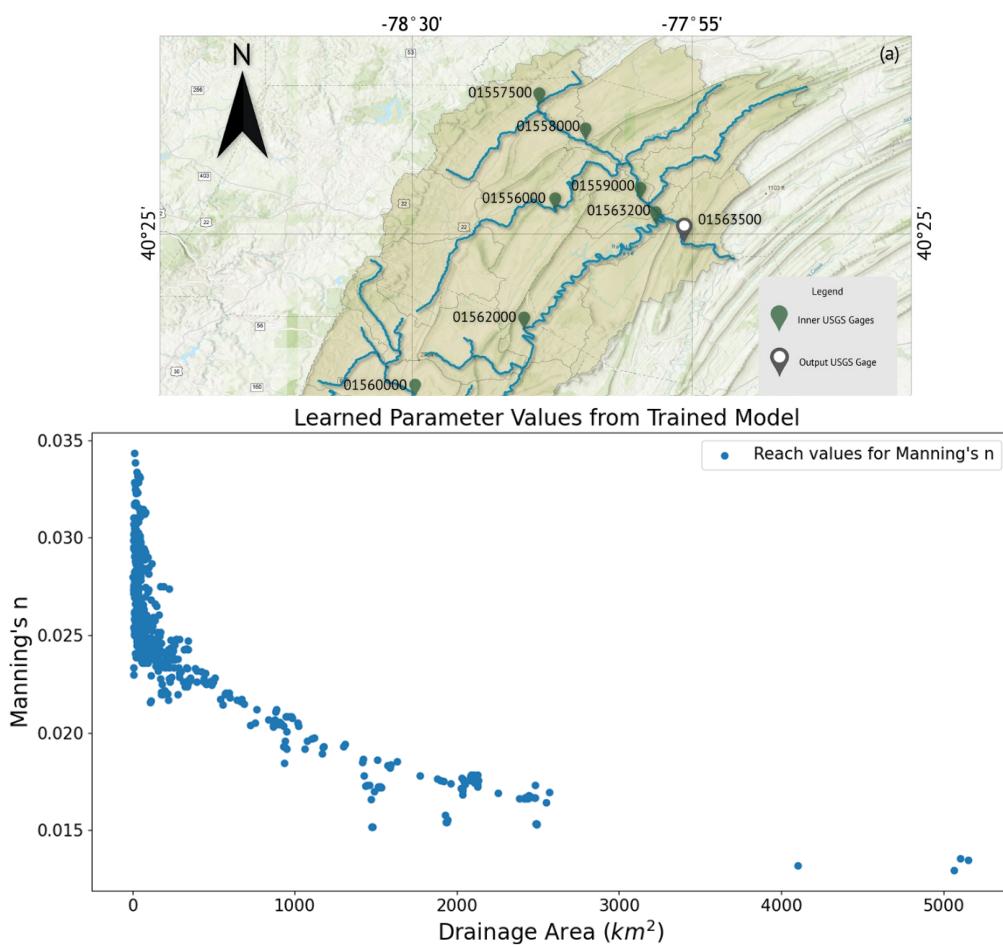


*Tsai et al. 2021, Nature Communications*

# What is Differentiable Geoscientific Modeling (DG)?



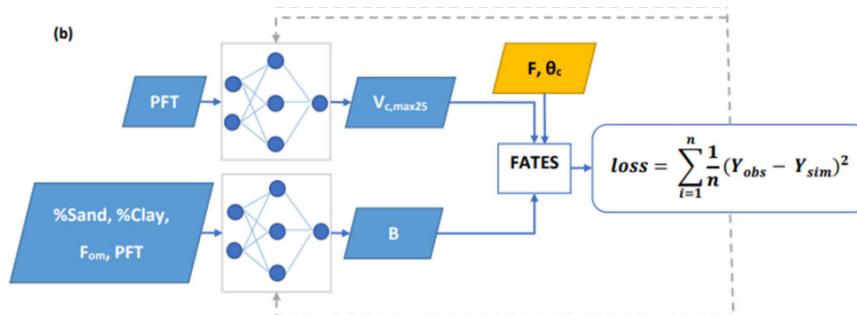
# Example 2. River graph



*Learn physics on the river graph*

<https://doi.org/10.1002/essoar.10512512.1>

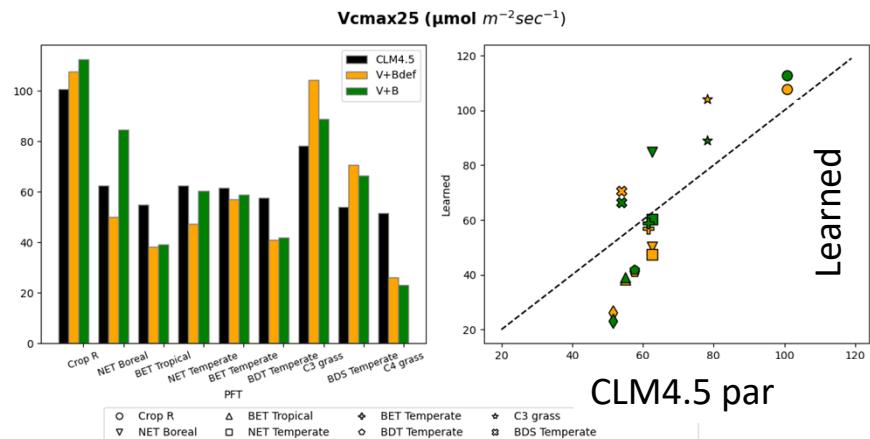
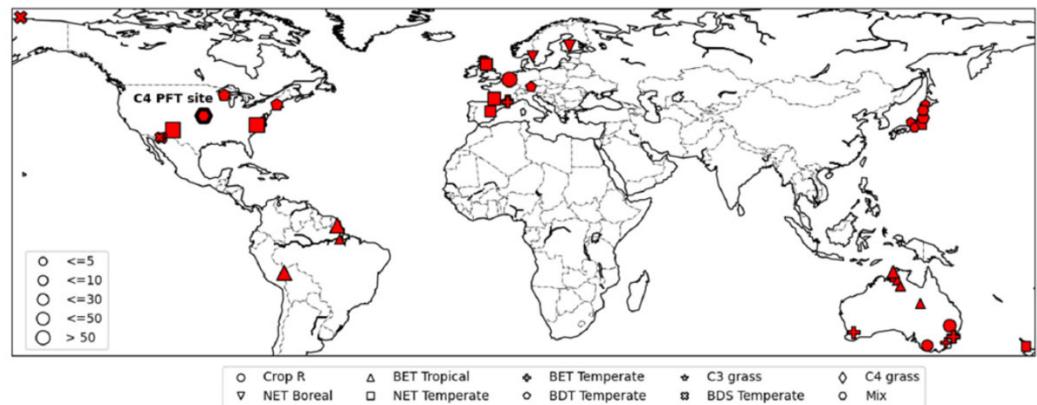
# Example 3. Ecosystem modeling (photosynthesis)



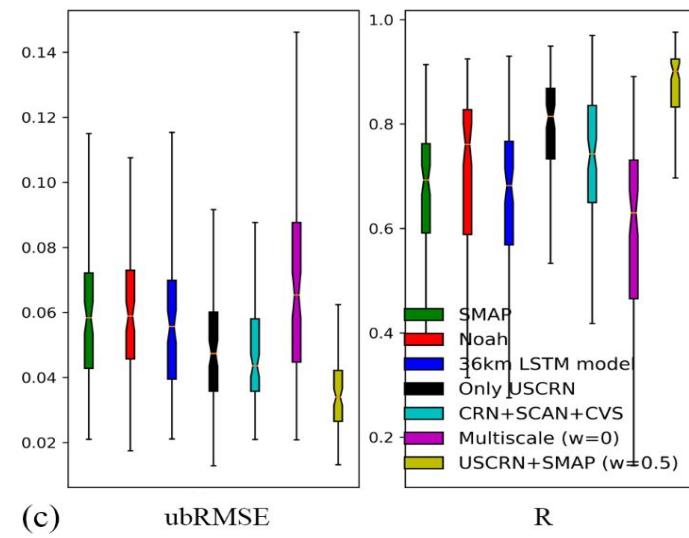
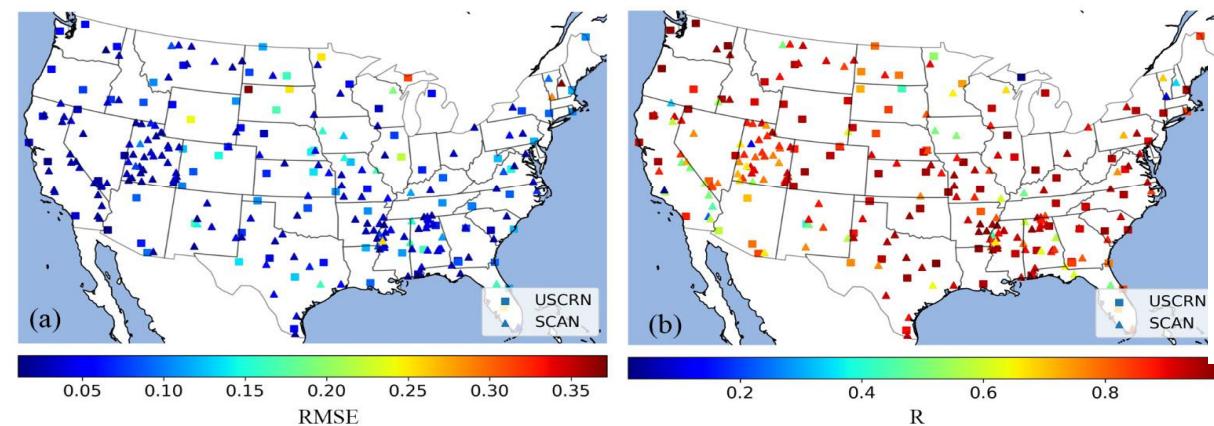
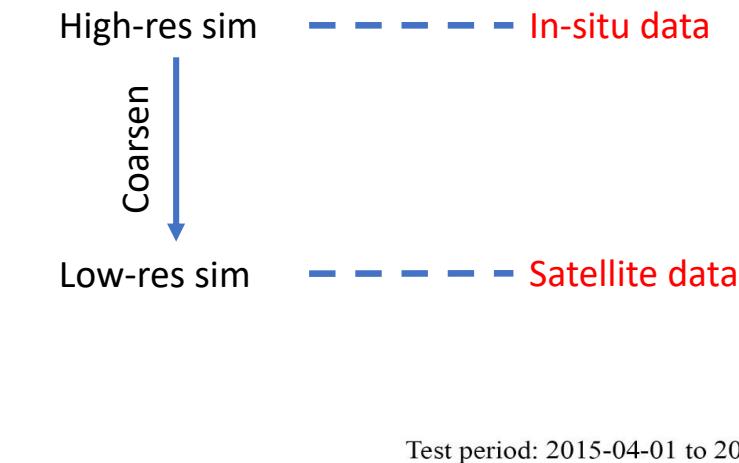
(a) Temporal holdout test for the following system

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 <sub>def</sub> +B <sub>def</sub>	0.565		6.780		1.476		0.041	
V <sub>def</sub> +B <sub>def</sub> **	0.592		5.488		1.034		0.318	
V <sub>def</sub> +B	0.678	0.547	5.887	6.730	1.353	1.754	0.321	-0.084
V+B <sub>def</sub>	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



# Example 4. Multiscale soil moisture – learning from two teachers



**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>