

Introducing DL-GLOBWB

a deep-learning surrogate of a
process-based global
hydrological model

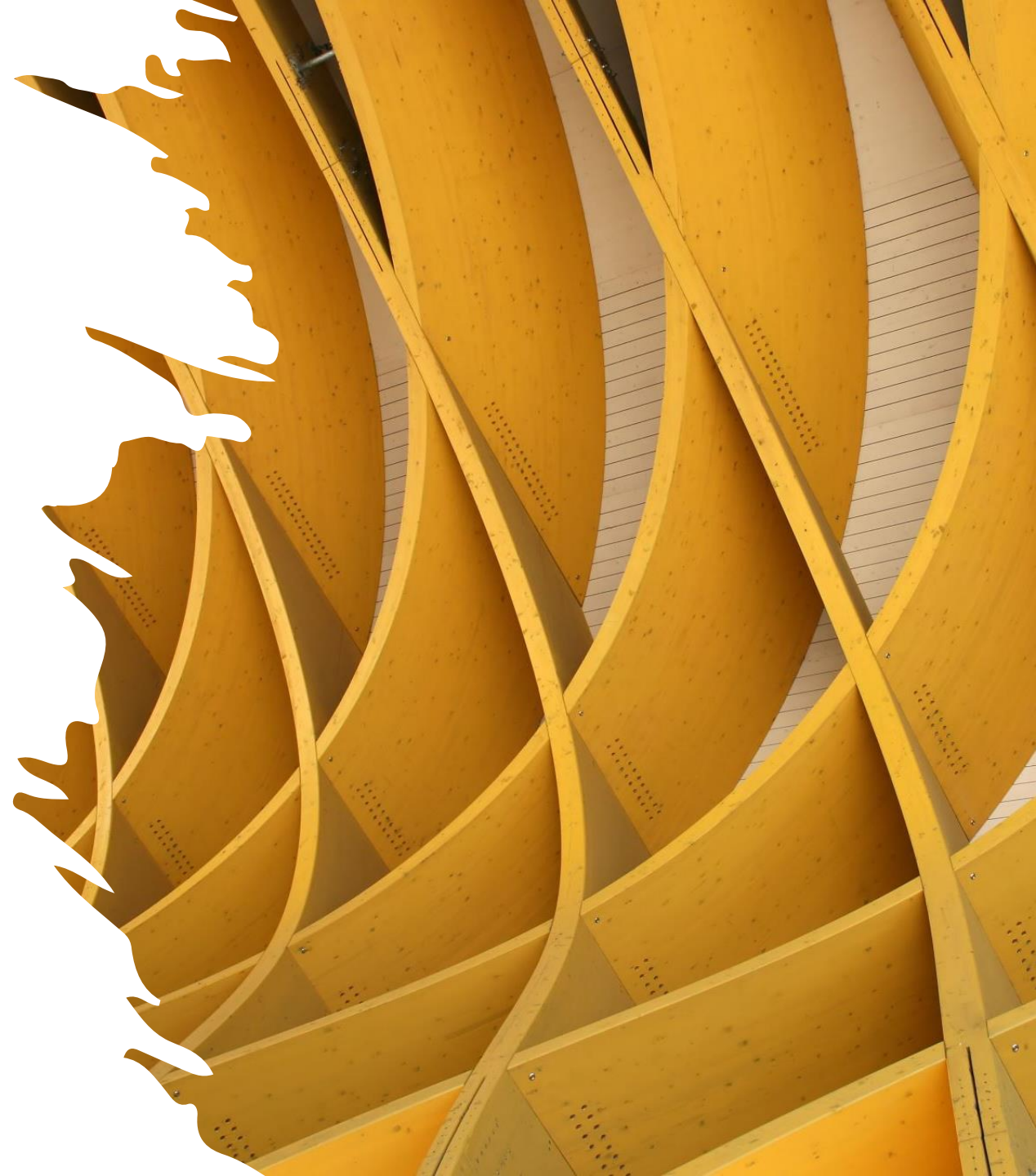
Bram Droppers, Myrthe Leijnse,
Marc F.P. Bierkens and Niko Wanders



**Utrecht
University**



Why a deep-learning
model surrogate?



Why a deep-learning model surrogate?

“Global hydrological models have become essential tools (...) in support of global change research and environmental assessments”

Satanudjaja et al. (2018) PCR-GLOBWB 2: a 5 arcmin global hydrological and water resources model. Geoscientific Model Development.



Why a deep-learning model surrogate?

30 arc-minute resolution



05 arc-minute resolution



30 arc-second resolution

“Global hydrological models have become essential tools (...) in support of global change research and environmental assessments”

Satanudjaja et al. (2018) PCR-GLOBWB 2: a 5 arcmin global hydrological and water resources model. Geoscientific Model Development.



Why a deep-learning model surrogate?

“Global hydrological models have become essential tools (...) in support of global change research and environmental assessments”

Satanudjaja et al. (2018) PCR-GLOBWB 2: a 5 arcmin global hydrological and water resources model. Geoscientific Model Development.



30 arc-minute resolution



05 arc-minute resolution



30 arc-second resolution



250 km²
70.000 cells



100 km²
2.000.000 cells

1 km²
200.000.000 cells

Why a deep-learning model surrogate?

Classical process-based approach

Scenario analysis

Sub-process states and fluxes

Computational limitations

Why a deep-learning model surrogate?

Classical process-based approach

Scenario analysis

Sub-process states and fluxes

Computational limitations

Classical deep-learning approach

Limited extrapolation

No intermediate processes

Very fast

Why a deep-learning model surrogate?

Classical process-based approach

Scenario analysis
Sub-process states and fluxes

Train surrogate outside historical context and for all water-balance components

Computational limitations

Classical deep-learning approach

Limited extrapolation
No intermediate processes

Very fast

Why a deep-learning model surrogate?

Classical process-based approach

Scenario analysis
Sub-process states and fluxes

*Train surrogate outside historical context and for
all water-balance components*

Computational limitations

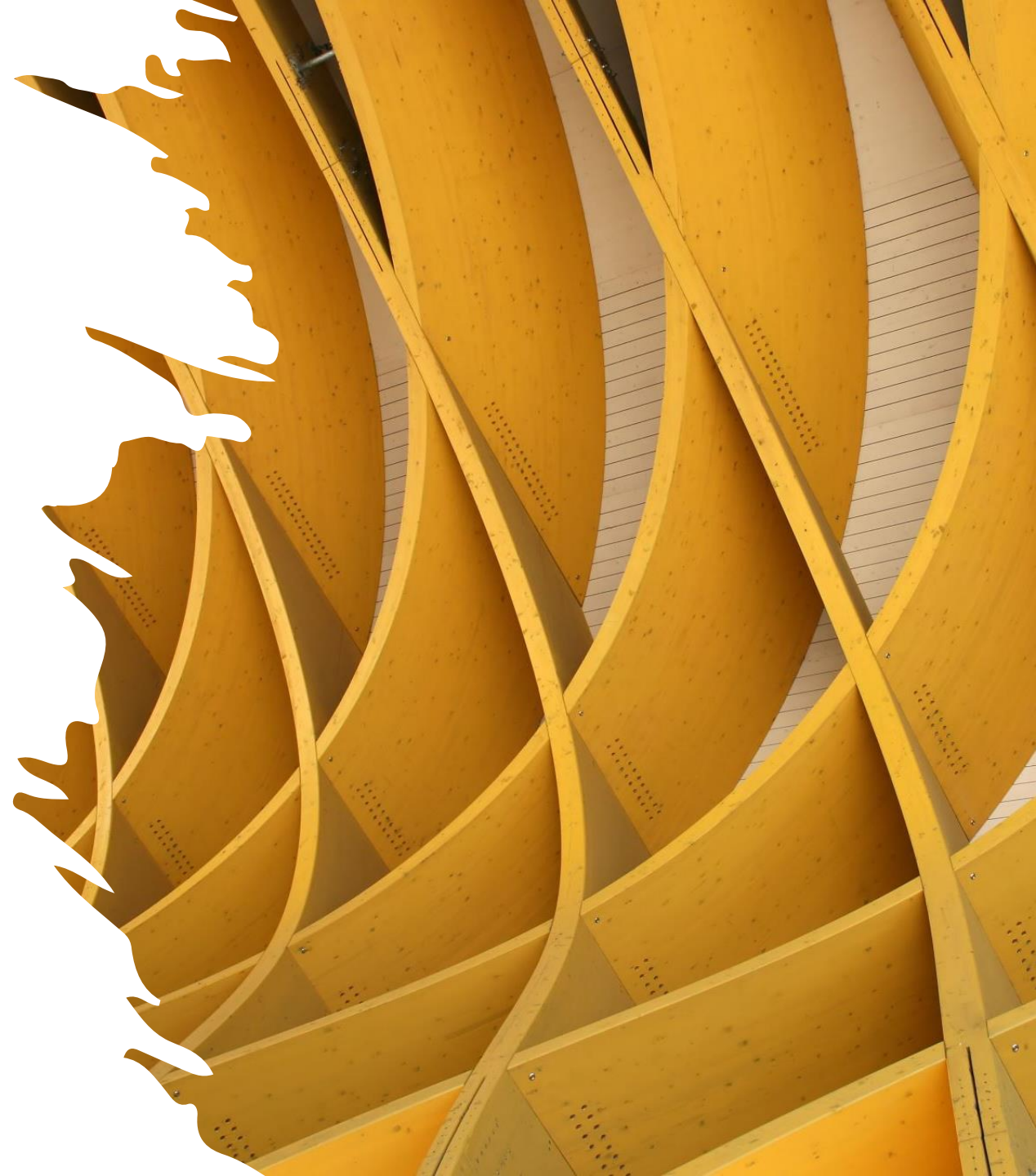
Classical deep-learning approach

Limited extrapolation
No intermediate processes

Very fast

GPU computation

Deep-learning surrogate design



Deep-learning surrogate design

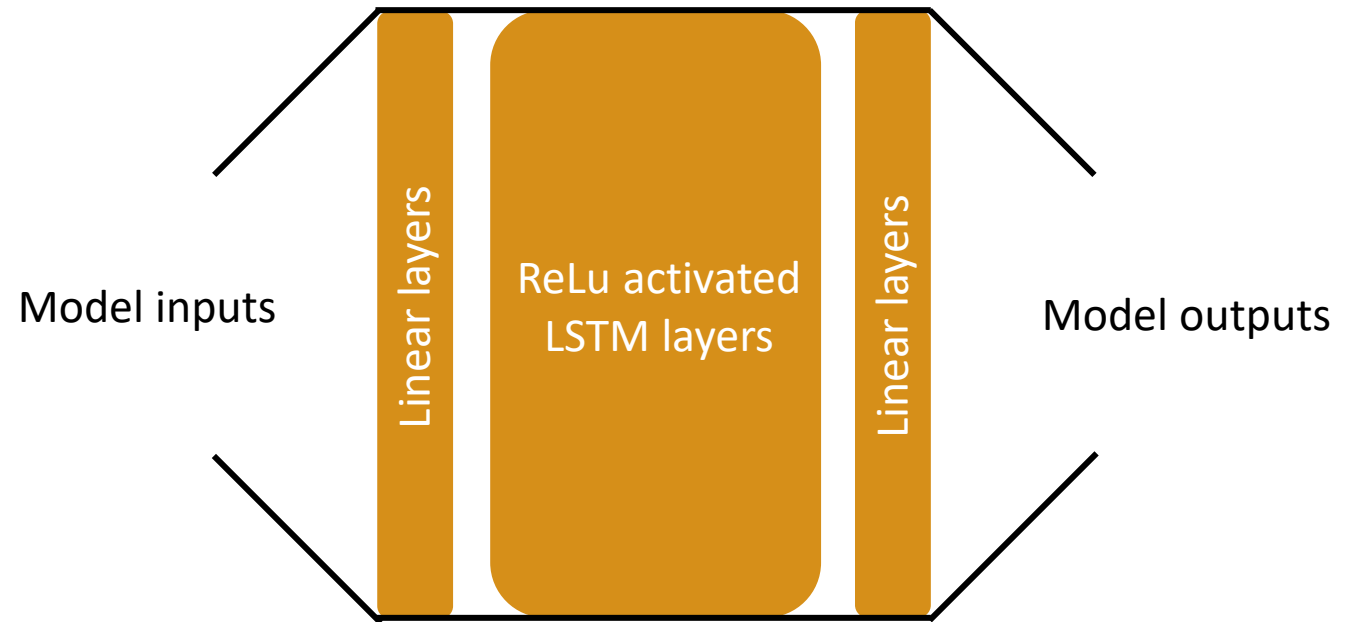
Network

- Primarily a LSTM neural network

Deep-learning surrogate design

Network

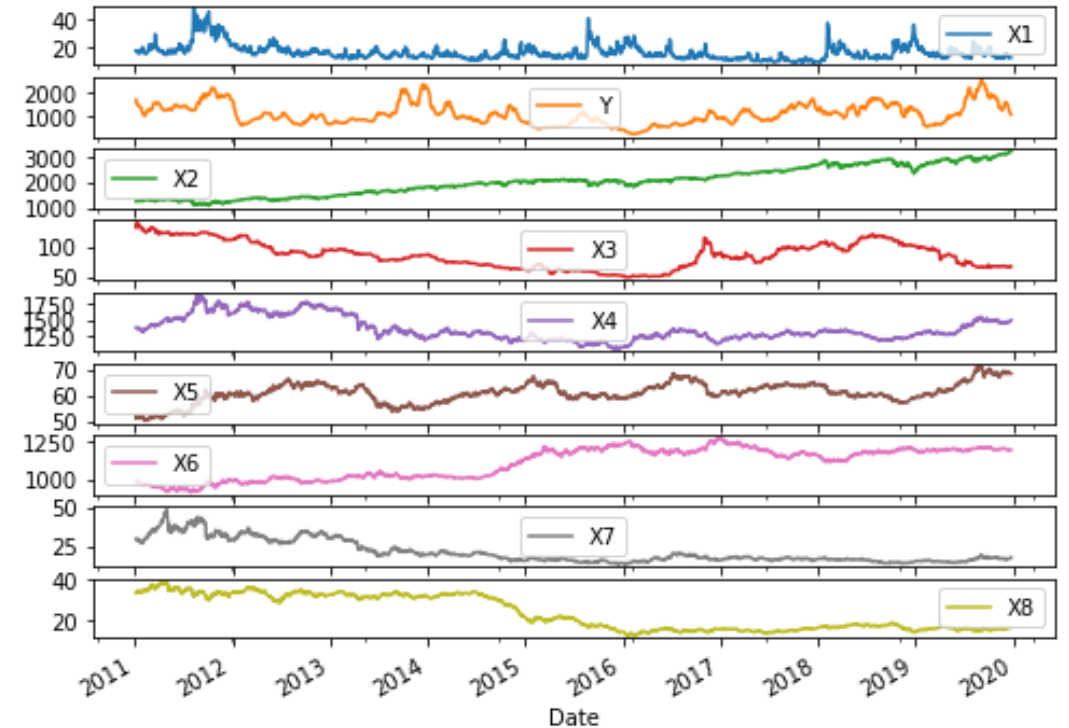
- Primarily a LSTM neural network



Deep-learning surrogate design

Training and testing

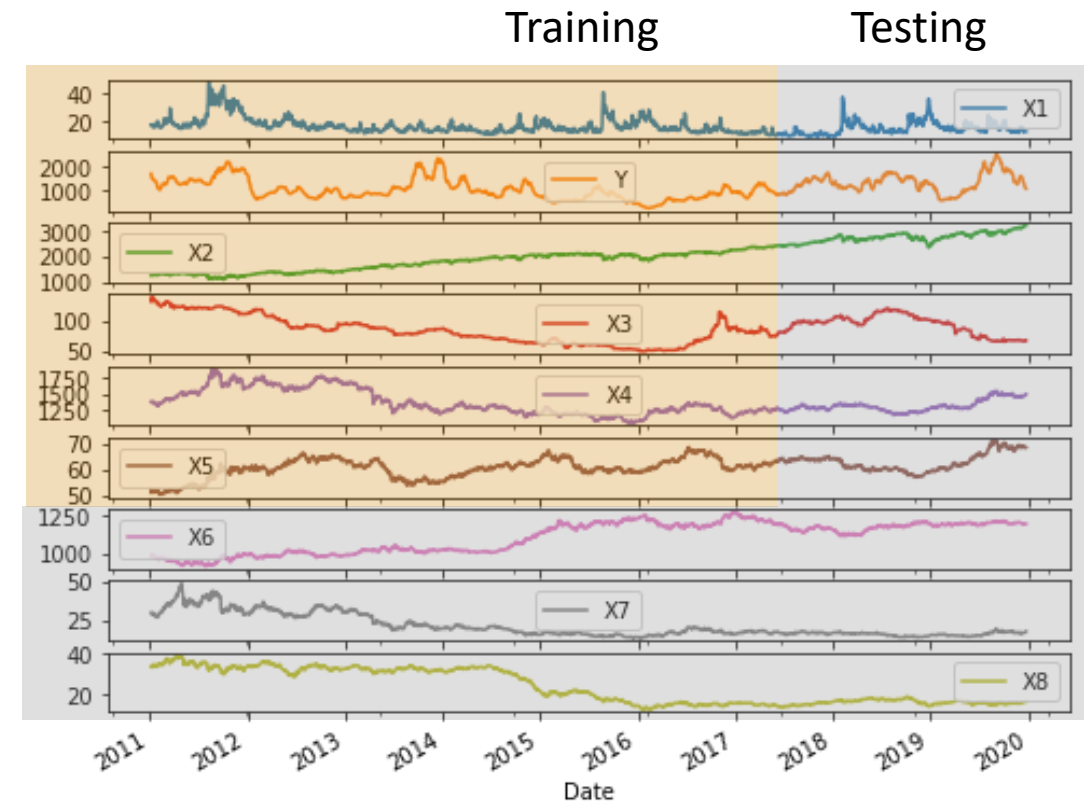
- Subsample of all global cells for training and testing



Deep-learning surrogate design

Training and testing

- Subsample of all global cells for training and testing
- Two thirds of both samples and dates for training, rest for testing



Deep-learning surrogate design

Multiple resolutions

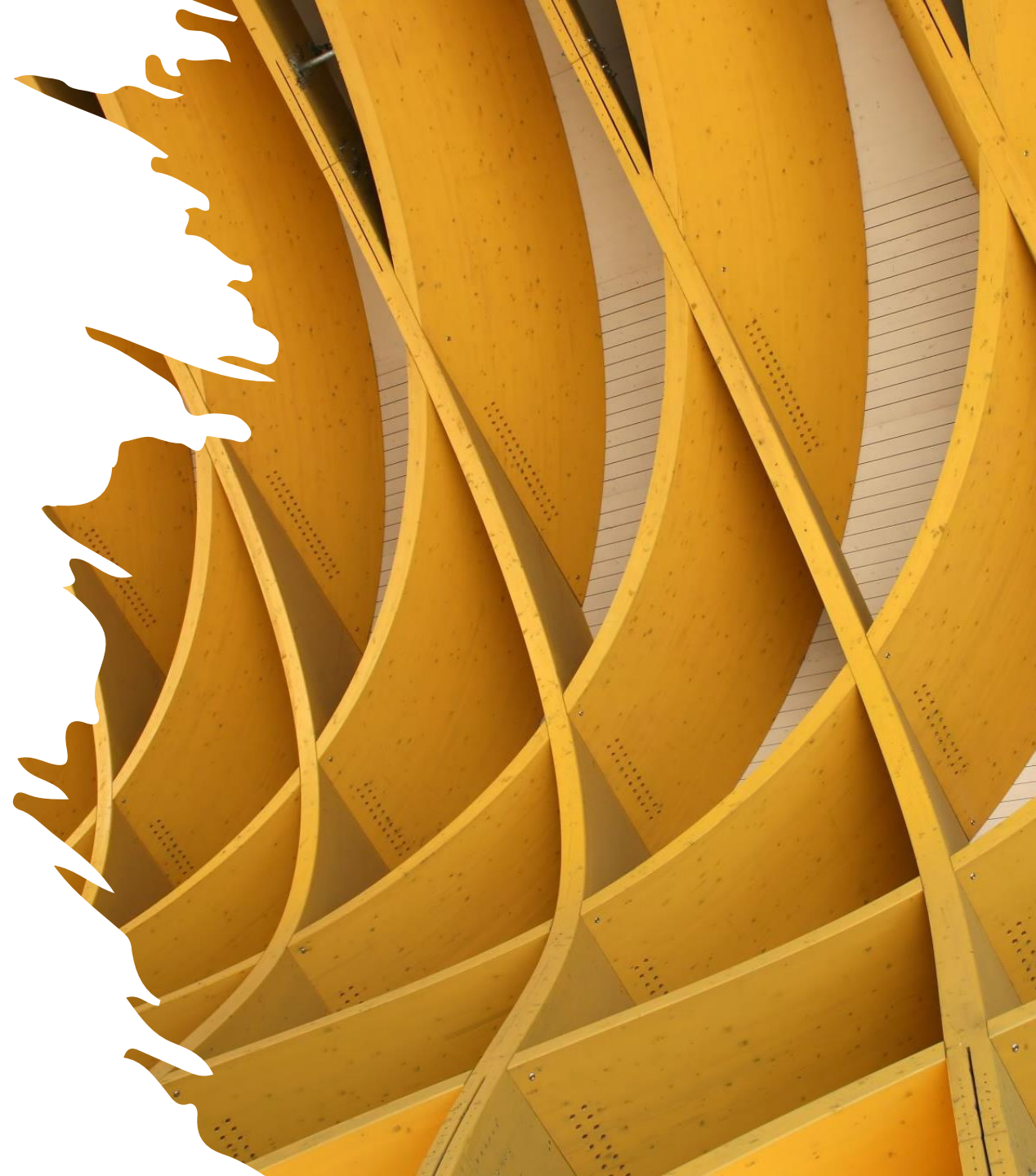
- Requirement for resolution scalability

Deep-learning surrogate design

Multiple resolutions

- Requirement for resolution scalability
- Train models at three different spatial resolutions
 - 30 arc-minute resolution
 - 05 arc-minute resolution
 - Multi-resolution (half of 30 arc-minute and half of 05 arc-minute)

Performance



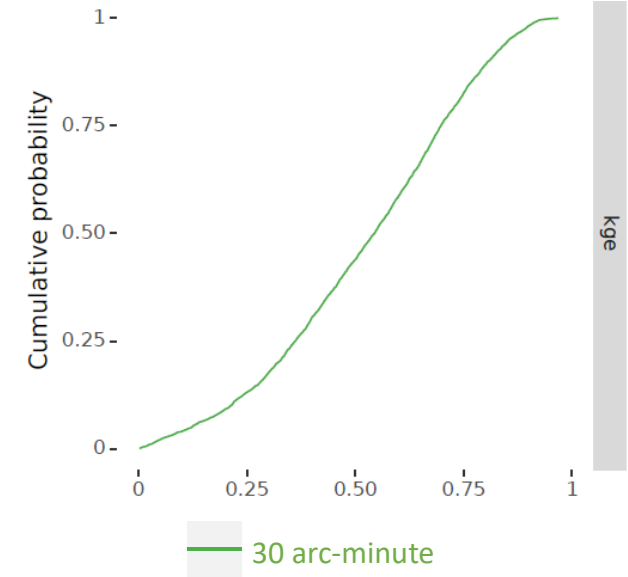
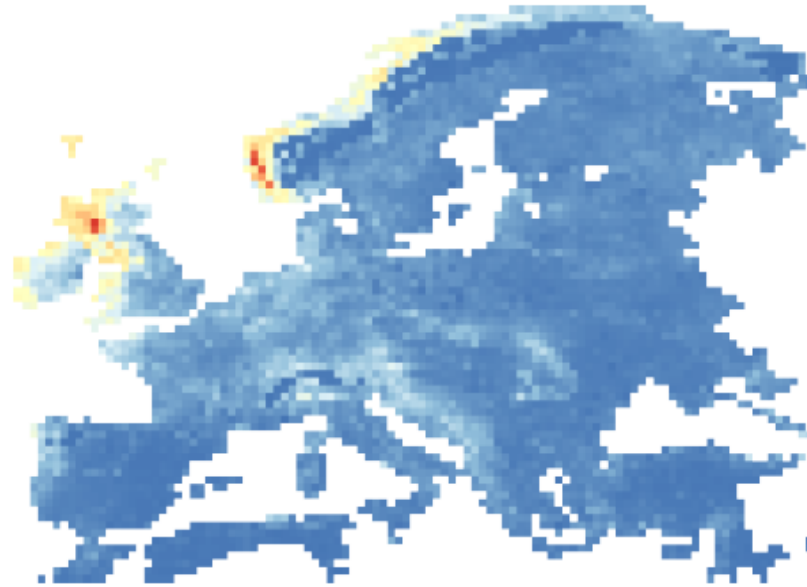
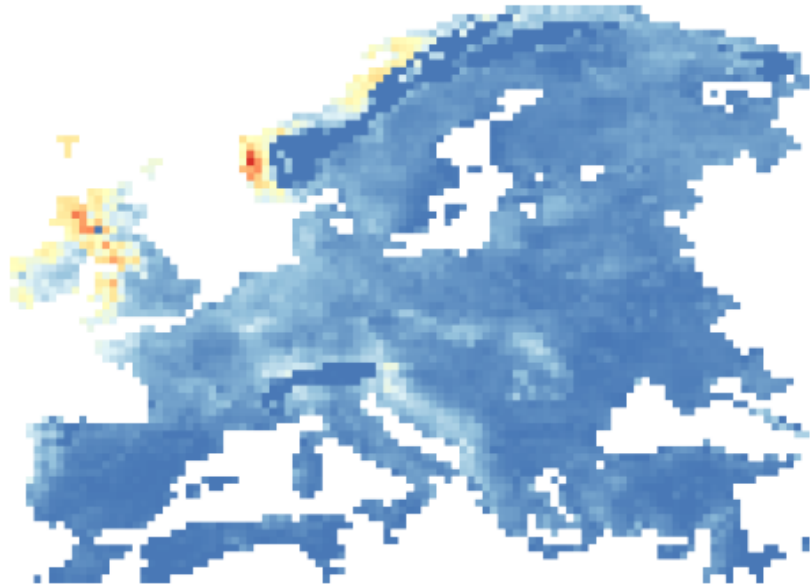
Performance

- Generally good spatiotemporal performance over all output variables

Target mean baseflow (m day⁻¹)

Predicted mean baseflow (m day⁻¹)

30 arc-minute model
30 arc-minute data

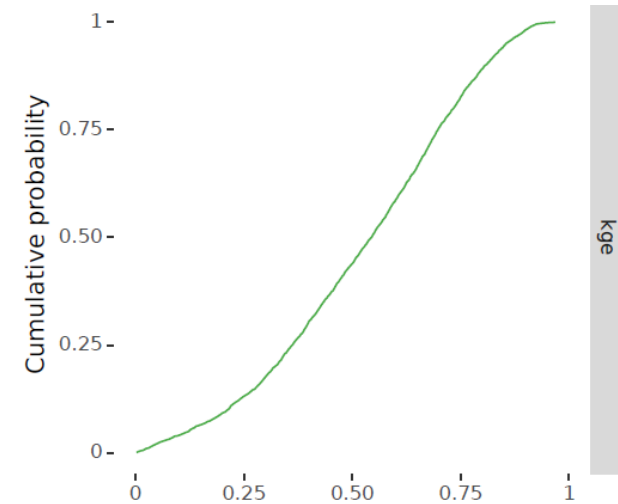
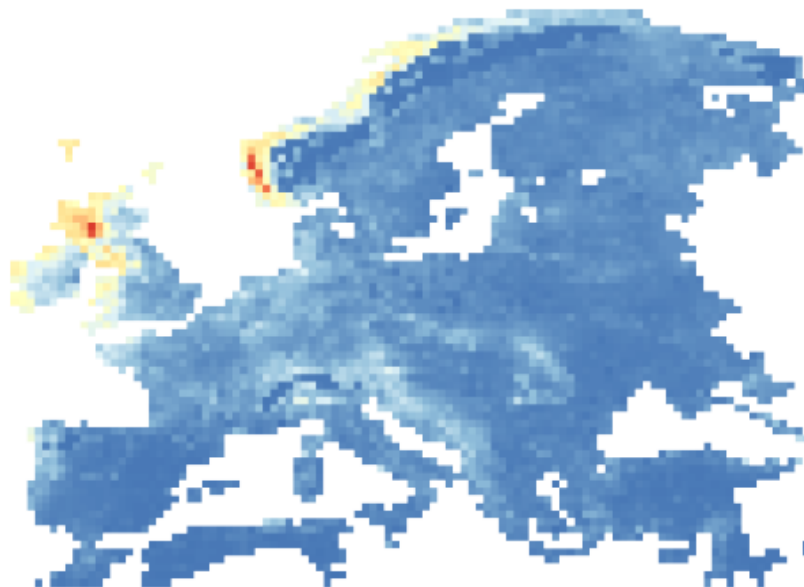
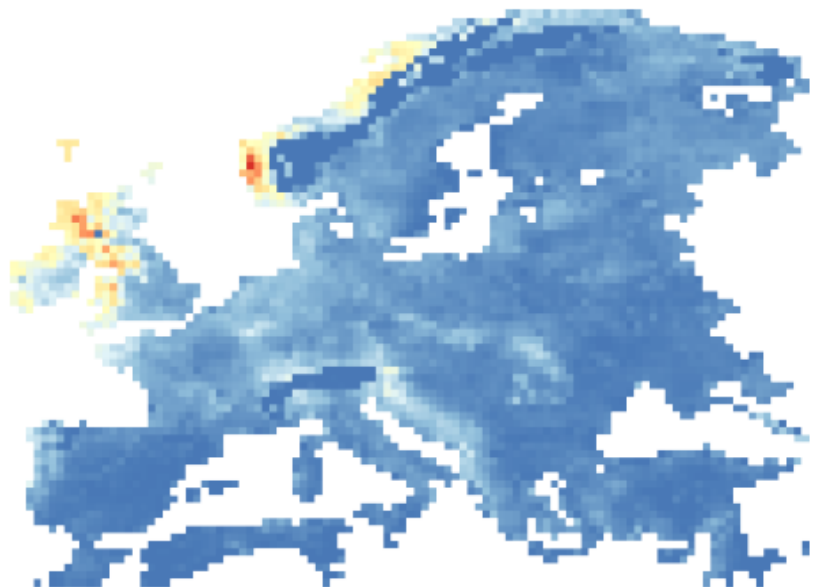


Target mean baseflow (m day⁻¹)

Predicted mean baseflow (m day⁻¹)

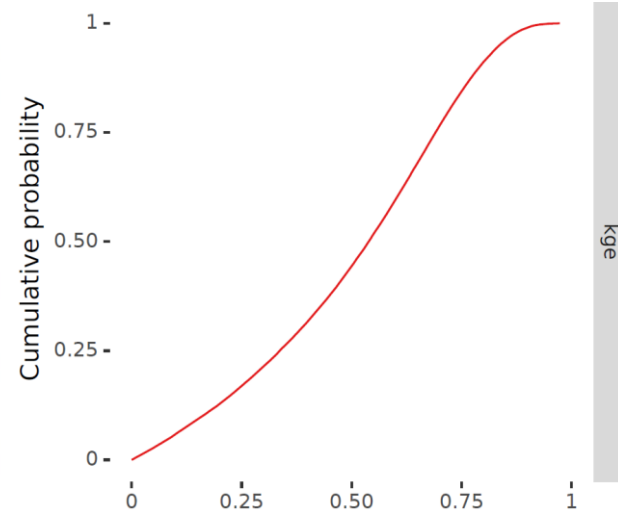
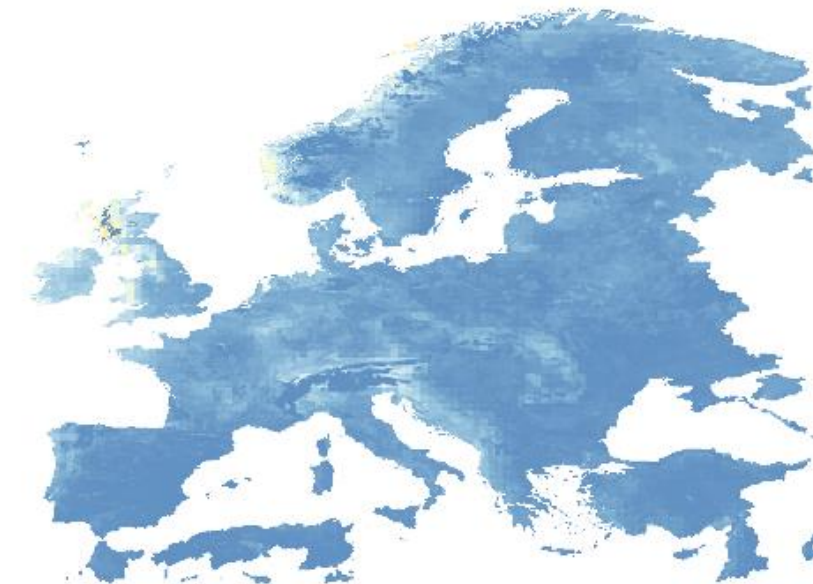
30 arc-minute model

30 arc-minute data



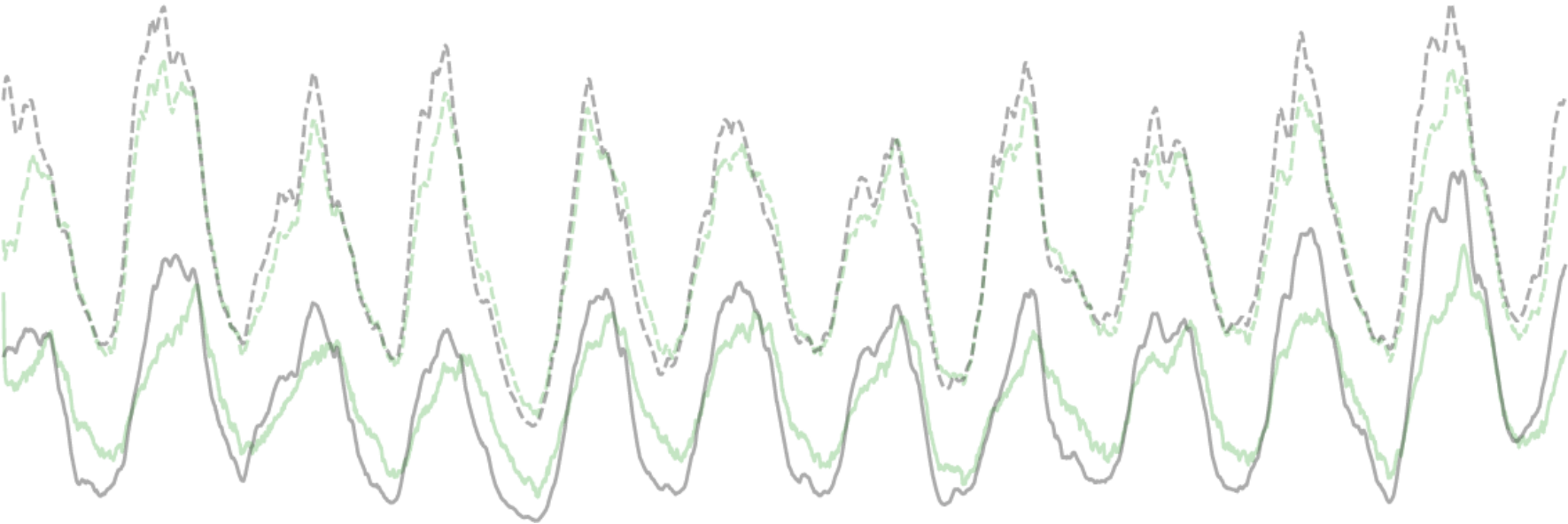
05 arc-minute model

05 arc-minute data



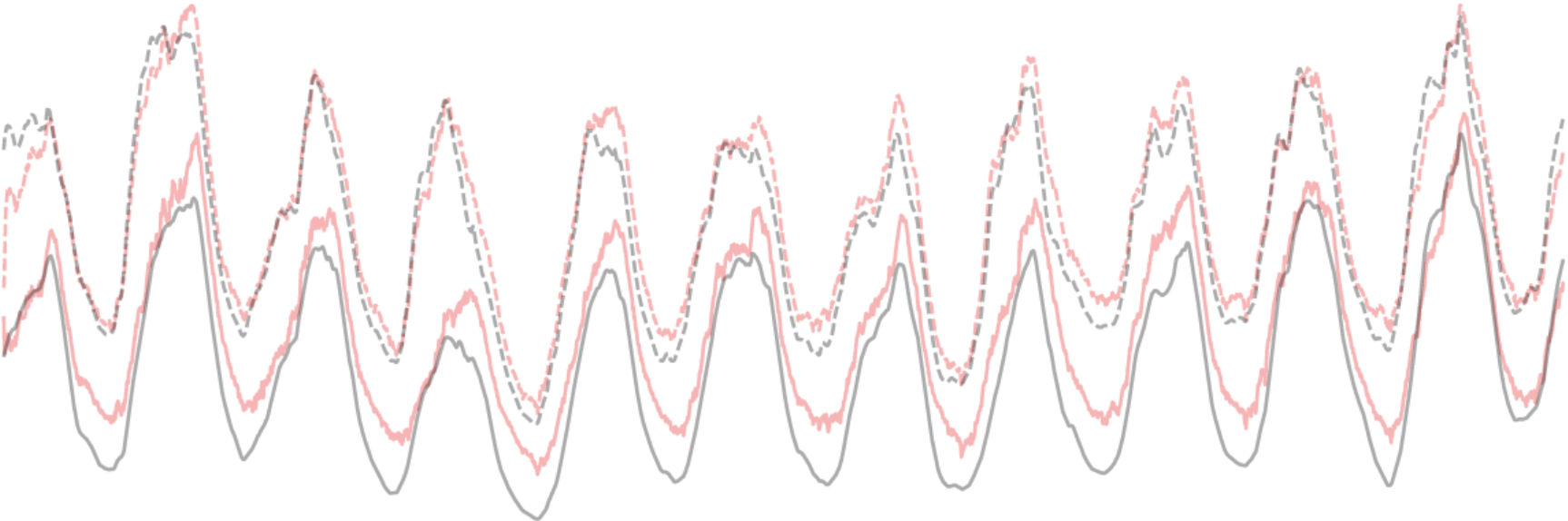
Mean baseflow (m day⁻¹)

30 arc-minute model
30 arc-minute data



target
30 arc-minute
05 arc-minute

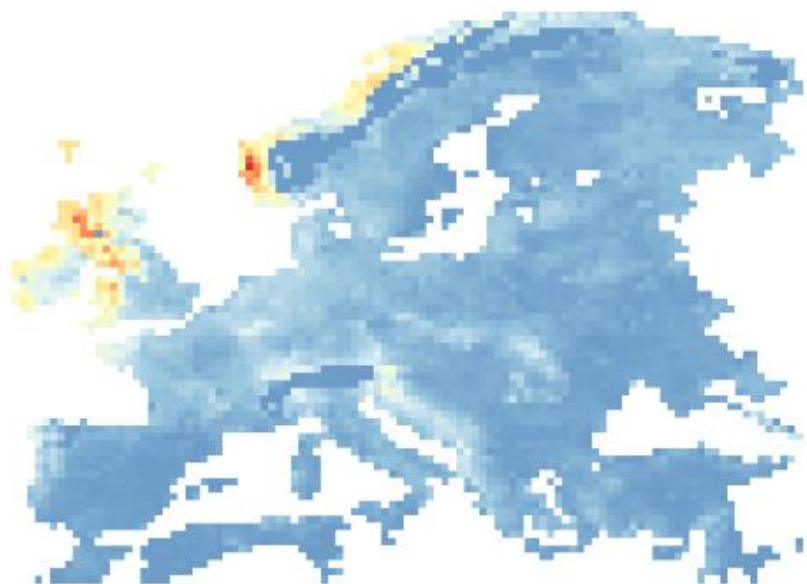
05 arc-minute model
05 arc-minute data



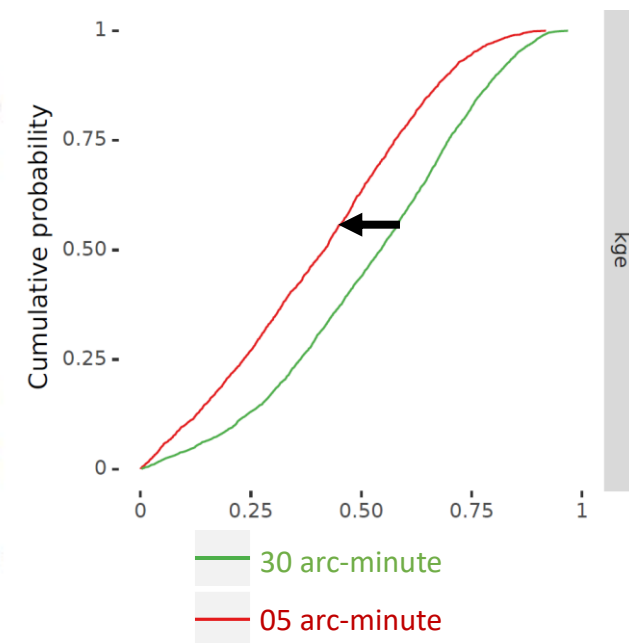
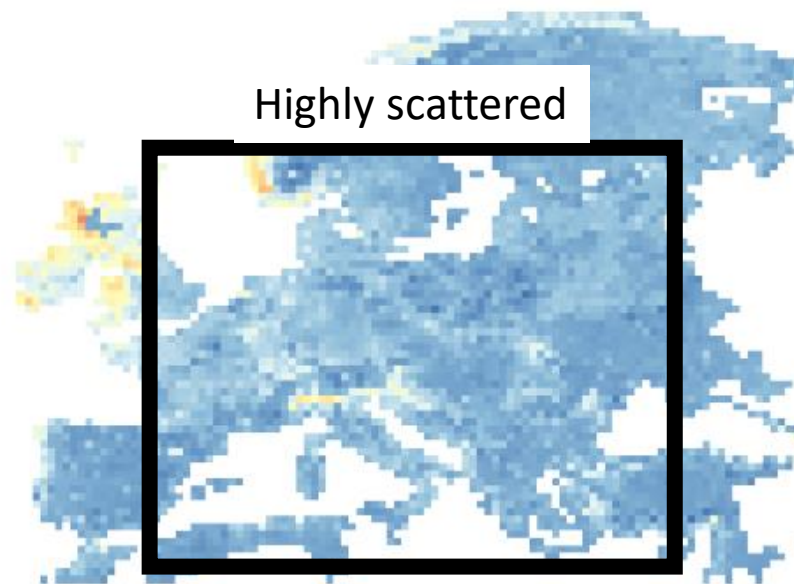
Performance

- Generally good spatiotemporal performance over all output variables
- Single-resolution models scale poorly to other resolutions

Target mean baseflow (m)



Predicted mean baseflow (m)

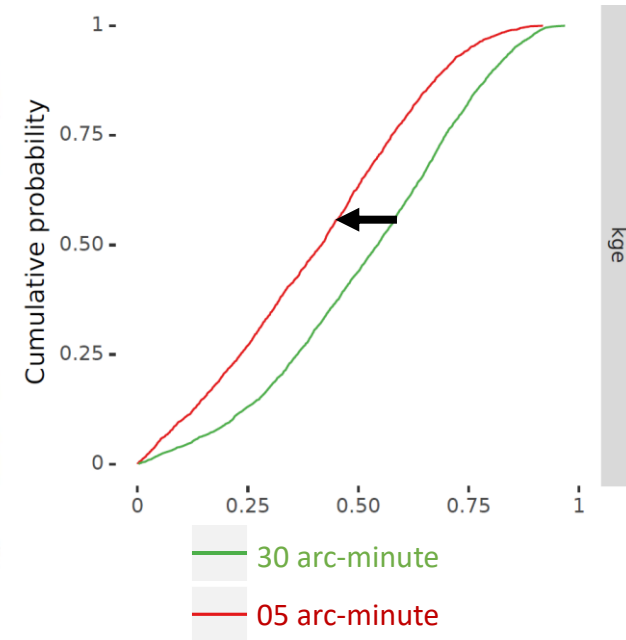
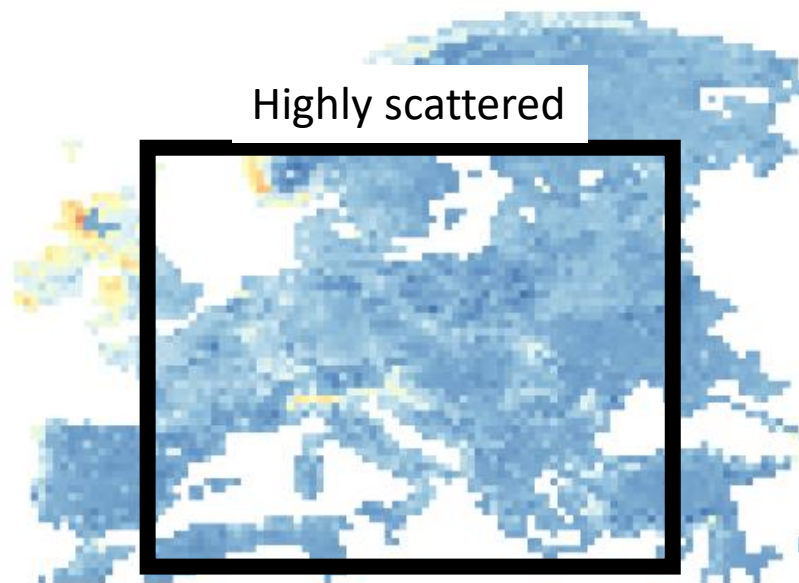
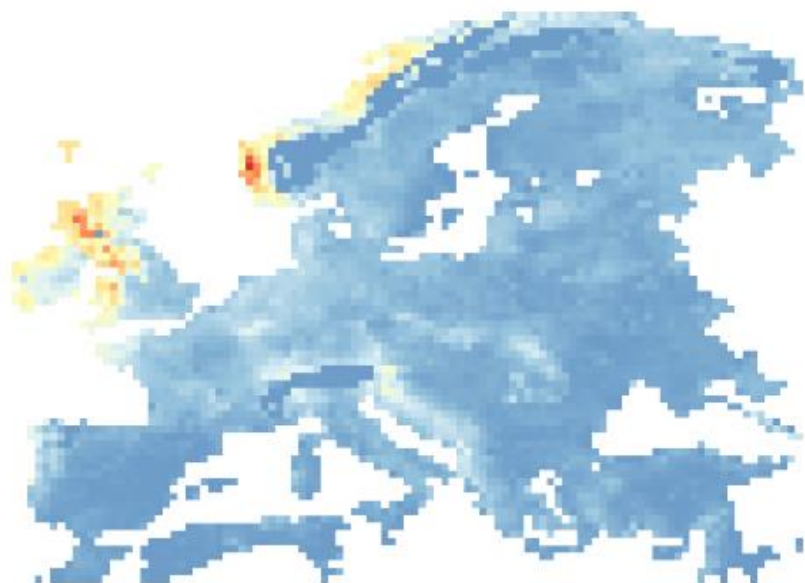


Target mean baseflow (m)

Predicted mean baseflow (m)

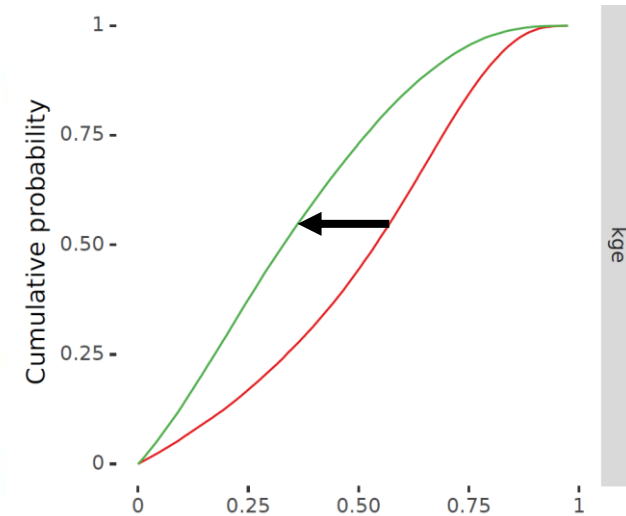
05 arc-minute model

30 arc-minute data



30 arc-minute model

05 arc-minute data



Performance

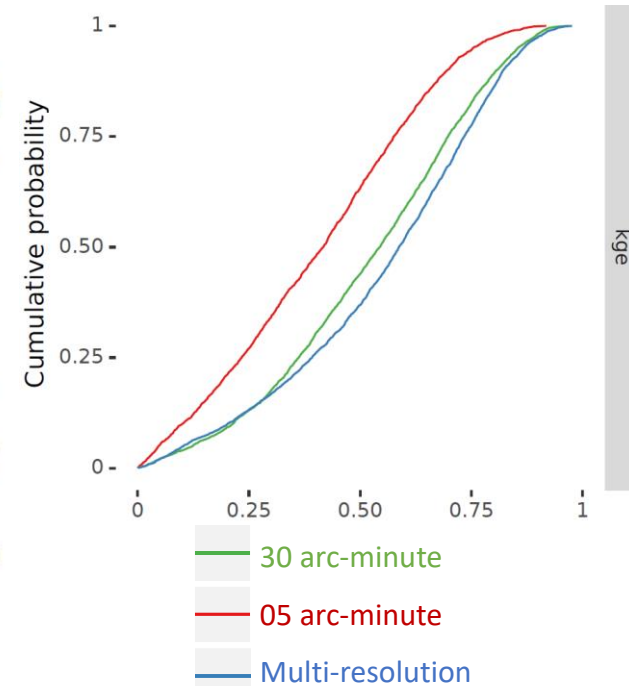
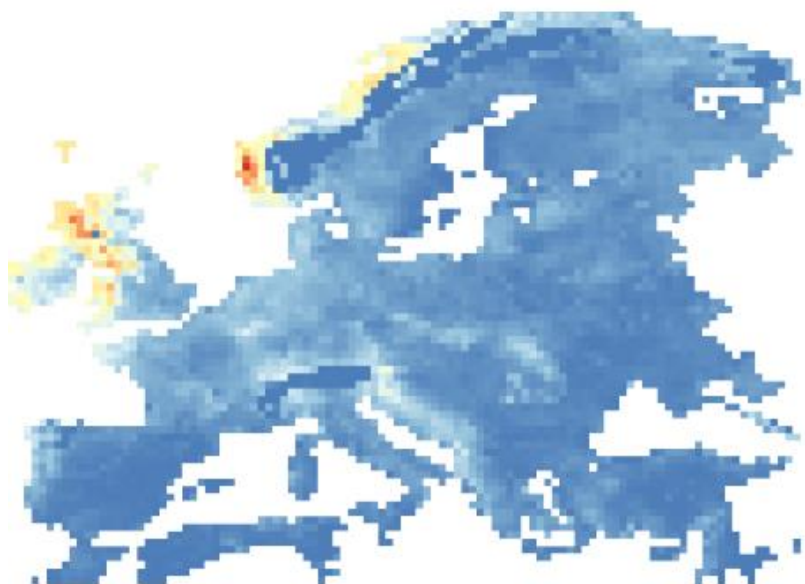
- Generally good spatiotemporal performance over all output variables
- Single-resolution models scale poorly to other resolutions
- Multi-resolution models scale well to other resolutions
 - Multi-resolution models often even outperform single-resolution models on their target resolutions

Target mean baseflow (m)

Predicted mean baseflow (m)

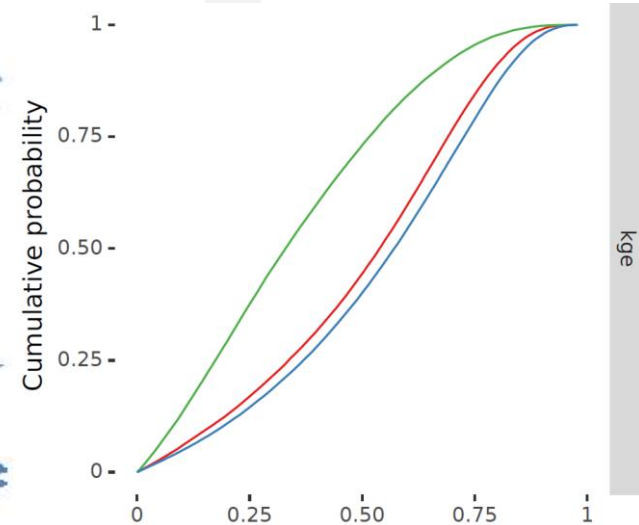
multi-resolution model

30 arc-minute data



multi-resolution model

05 arc-minute data



Conclusion

We successfully developed a deep-learning surrogate of a global process-based hydrological model

- Includes all water-balance components
- Scalable over different resolutions

This process-based model surrogate helps us to support global assessments

- Makes high-resolution modeling more accessible
- Allows for climate-change and adaptation scenario analysis

Conclusion

We successfully developed a deep-learning surrogate of a global process-based hydrological model

- Includes all water-balance components
- Scalable over different resolutions

This process-based model surrogate helps us to support global assessments

- Makes high-resolution modeling more accessible
- Allows for climate-change and adaptation scenario analysis

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](#) 

Introducing DL-GLOBWB

a deep-learning surrogate of a
process-based global
hydrological model

Bram Droppers, Myrthe Leijnse,
Marc F.P. Bierkens and Niko Wanders



**Utrecht
University**



b.droppers@uu.nl



[@DroppersBram](https://twitter.com/DroppersBram)

