

**University of Stuttgart**  
Institute of Geodesy

# Estimation of River Discharge using SWOT: full catchment coverage with optimal space and time resolution (ERDSWOT)

Principle investigators: MJ Tourian, Nico Sneeuw



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SWOT Science Team Meeting, 27-30 June 2022

# Self-introduction



Siqi Ke

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- Main research interest: Hydro-Geodesy (discharge estimation)
- Research Project: ERDSWOT
- Language: Chinese, German, English

2019.Sep



B.Sc. of Engineering in geodesy, University of Stuttgart

2020.Dec



B.Sc. of Engineering in navigation, Wuhan University

2021.May



M.Sc. of Engineering in geodesy, University of Stuttgart

2021.Oct



PhD Stuttgart at Institute of Geodesy, University of Stuttgart

2022.May

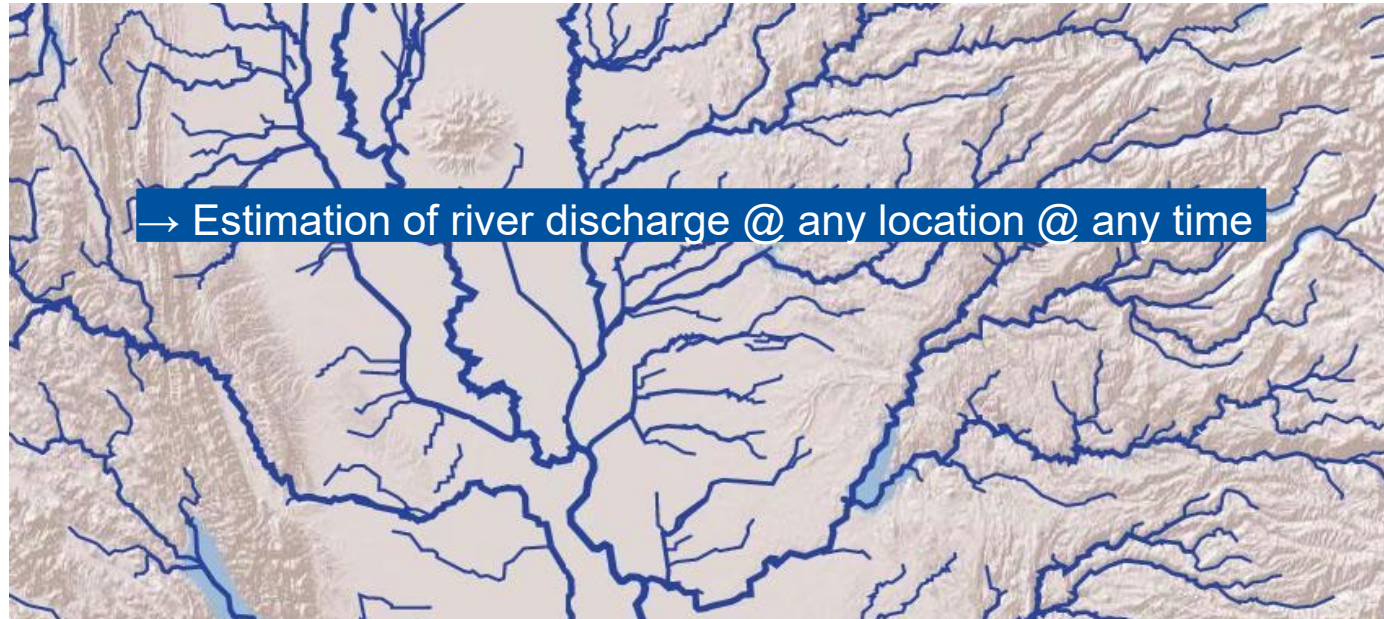


Awarding CSC-Scholarship for PhD Study

# Goal

We have:

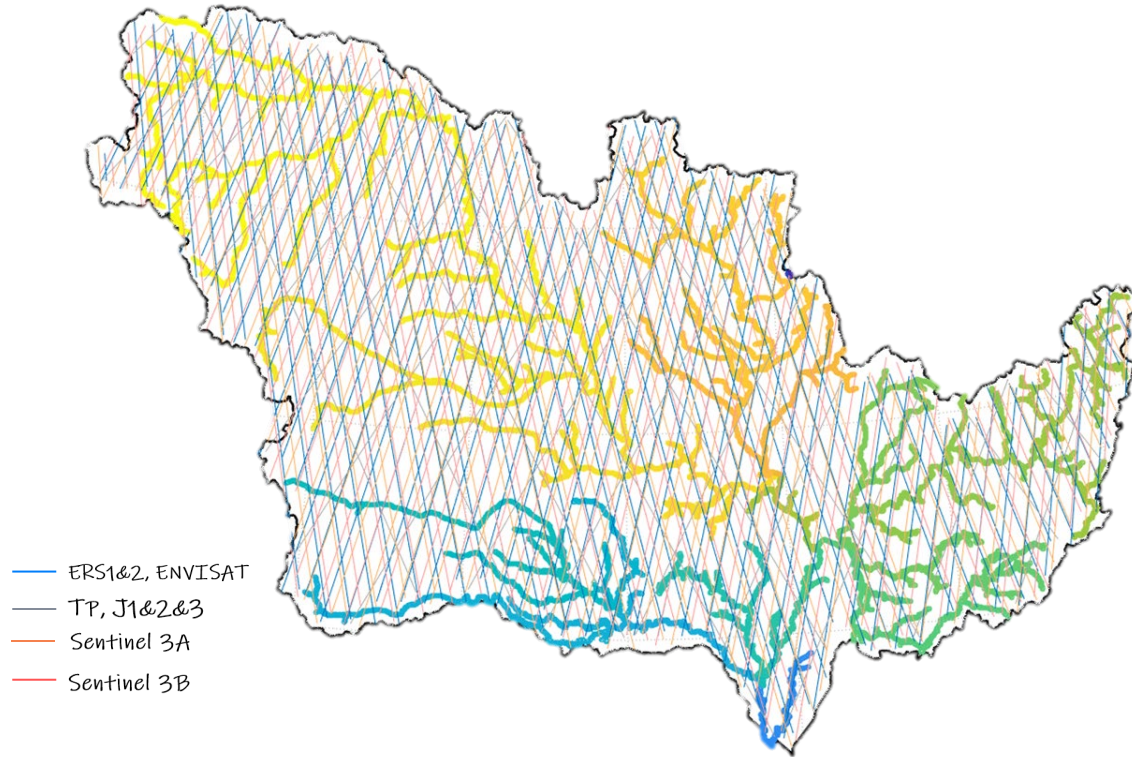
- SWOT
- Satellite altimetry (water level)
- Satellite imagery (surface area)



# Approach 1: Full-catchment river water level time series



# Approach 1: Full-catchment river water level time series



# Approach 2: Generation of an ensemble of discharge time series

## A global framework for SWOT discharge

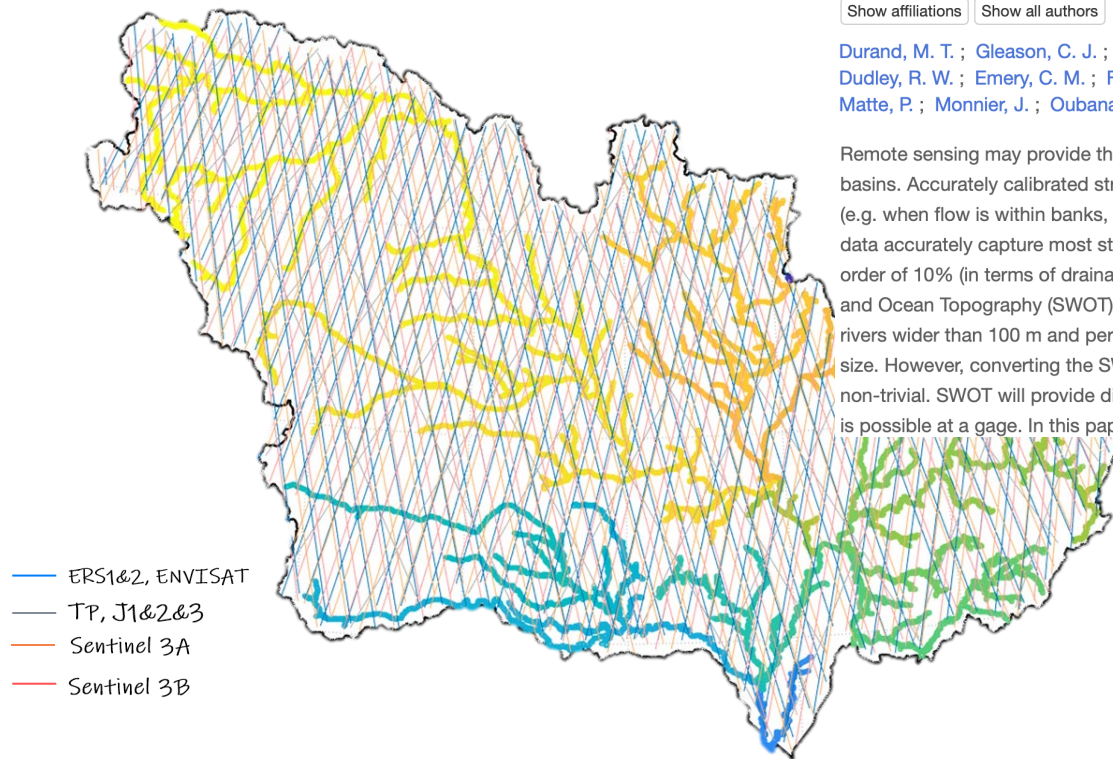
Show affiliations Show all authors

Durand, M. T. ; Gleason, C. J. ; Frasson, R. P. M. ; Pavelsky, T. ; Allen, G. H. ; Bates, P. D. ; Dudley, R. W. ; Emery, C. M. ; Fenoglio-Marc, L. ; Garambois, P. A. ; Hossain, F. ; Larnier, K. ; Lin, P. ; Matte, P. ; Monnier, J. ; Oubanas, H. ; Pan, M. ; Rodriguez, E. ; Schaperow, J. ; Tarpanelli, A. ; ...

Remote sensing may provide the key to one of the longest-standing problems in hydrology: ungaged basins. Accurately calibrated stream gages are accurate to within 10% or better under most conditions (e.g. when flow is within banks, and rating curves are kept up to date). Publicly available stream gage data accurately capture most streamflow into the ocean, but coverage for smaller tributaries is on the order of 10% (in terms of drainage area) for basins 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size. The forthcoming Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) mission will vastly expand measurements of global rivers, measuring rivers wider than 100 m and perhaps as small as 50 m, corresponding to nearly all basins 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size. However, converting the SWOT measurements of height, width and slope into river discharge is non-trivial. SWOT will provide discharge for all SWOT-observed rivers, but at lower accuracy than what is possible at a gage. In this paper, we describe how the SWOT discharge data product will be

### Discharge algorithms:

- geoBAM
- MetroMan
- SAD
- Hi2VDI
- MOMMA
- SIC1DVar



— ERS1&2, ENVISAT  
— TP, J1&2&3  
— Sentinel 3A  
— Sentinel 3B

# Approach 3: EnKF based discharge estimation over entire river network



- ERS1&2, ENVISAT
- TP, J1&2&3
- Sentinel 3A
- Sentinel 3B

$$Q(t,x) = [q^{(1)}(t,x) \ q^{(2)}(t,x) \ \dots \ q^{(n)}(t,x)]$$

$$Q(t,x) = \Phi Q(t-dt, x-dx) + e$$

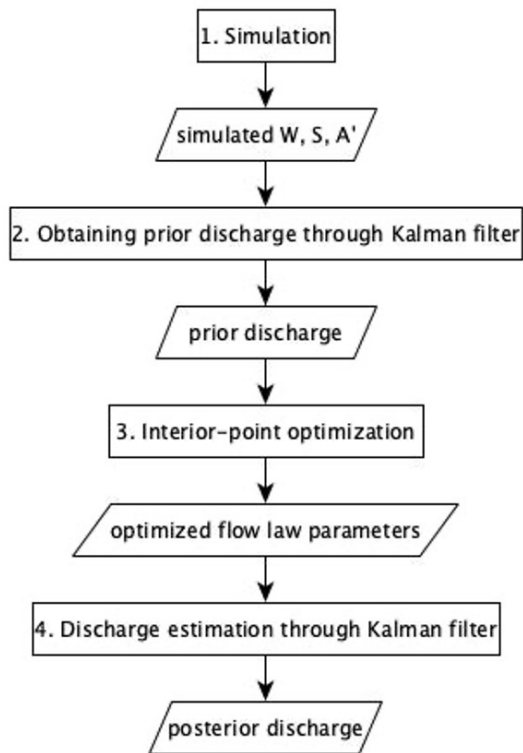
$$Y(t,x) = H Q(t,x) + v$$

↑  
ensemble of  
discharge values

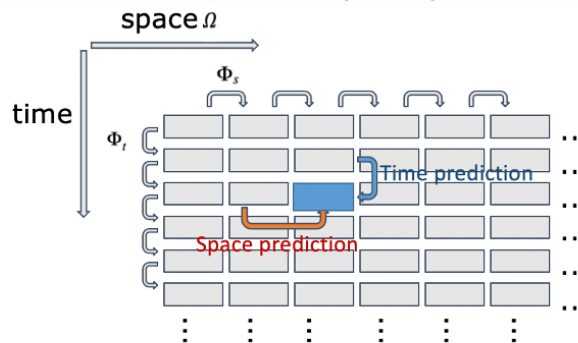
→ Assimilated river discharge at full  
catchment scale

# Current interest

Estimation of river discharge using a mass-conserved Kalman filter approach relying on simulated SWOT observations



- Joint prior from time and space process models



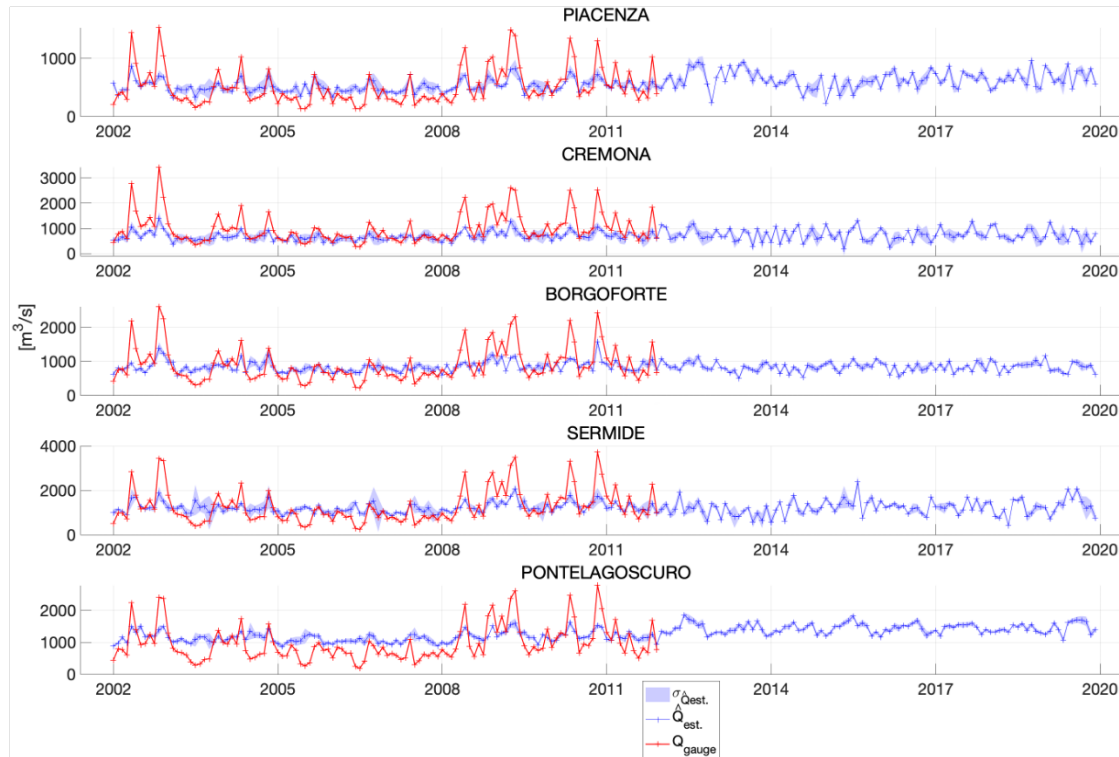
□ : discharge of a reach  $\Omega$   
 $\Phi_s$  : transition matrix in space domain  
 $\Phi_t$  : transition matrix in time domain

- Mass conservation condition as observation equation
- For posterior discharge: recalculated discharge by optimized flow law parameters as additional observations



# Results of monthly discharge estimates in river Po

## Comparison of monthly discharge in gauge stations in time series



**Correlation** **NSE**

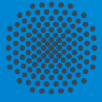
0.44 0.19

0.44 0.18

0.45 0.20

0.44 0.20

0.44 0.17



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**Thank you!**



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