



**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology

# *dorado* Lagrangian particle transport

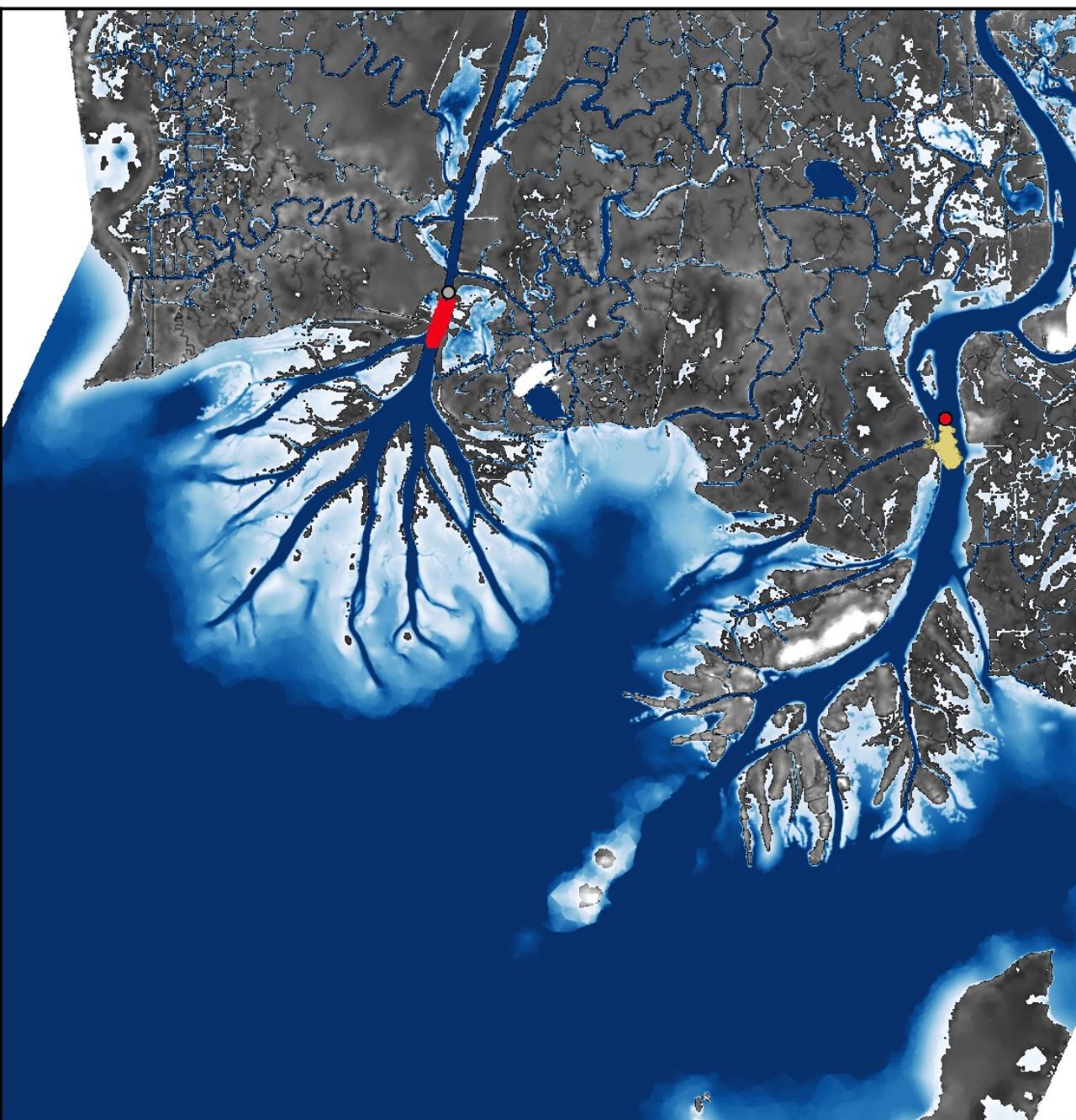
<https://passah2o.github.io/dorado/index.html>

**Delta-X Workshop 2024**  
**May 8<sup>th</sup>, Baton Rouge**

Muriel Brückner  
Assistant Professor  
Louisiana State University

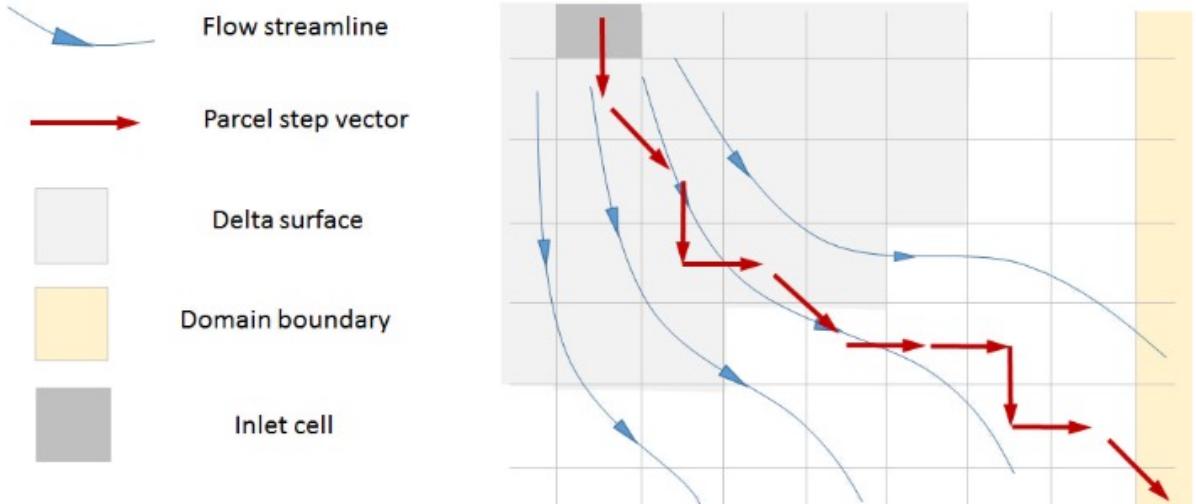
Antoine Soloy  
Postdoctoral Researcher  
JPL

Hour 1.0

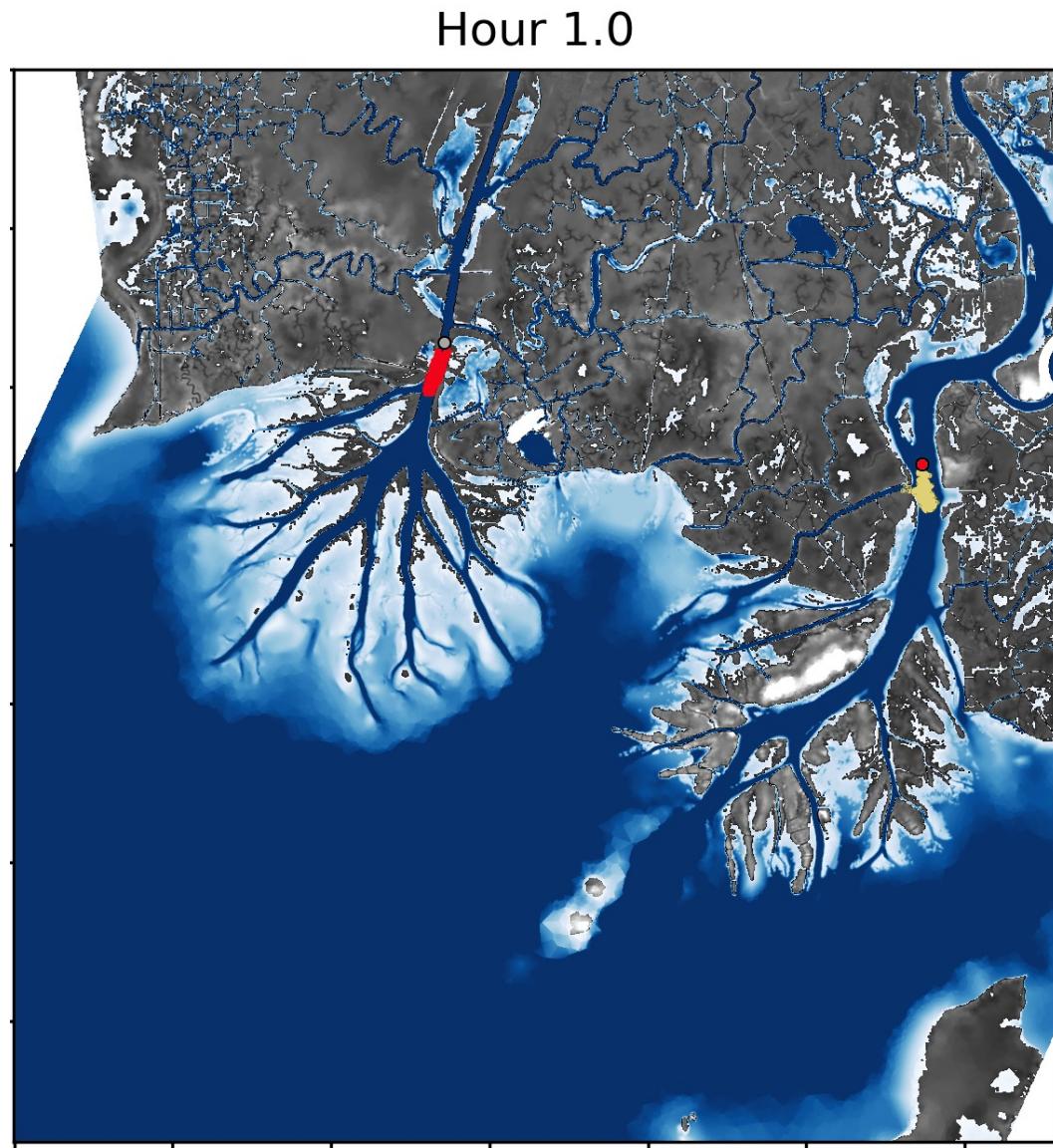


# Reduced-complexity approach – weighted random walk

- cellular routing scheme
- Stepping defined by a set of rules



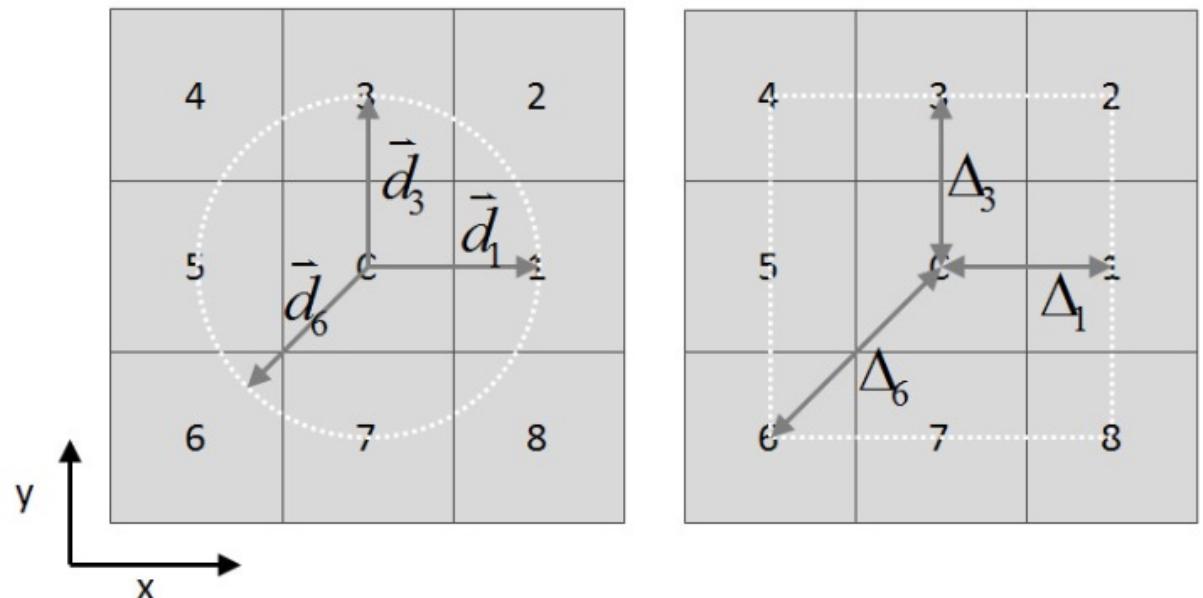
Liang et al. (2015)



# Reduced-complexity approach – weighted random walk

- transport direction (flow/water level gradient)
- resistance in downstream cell

Liang et al. (2015)

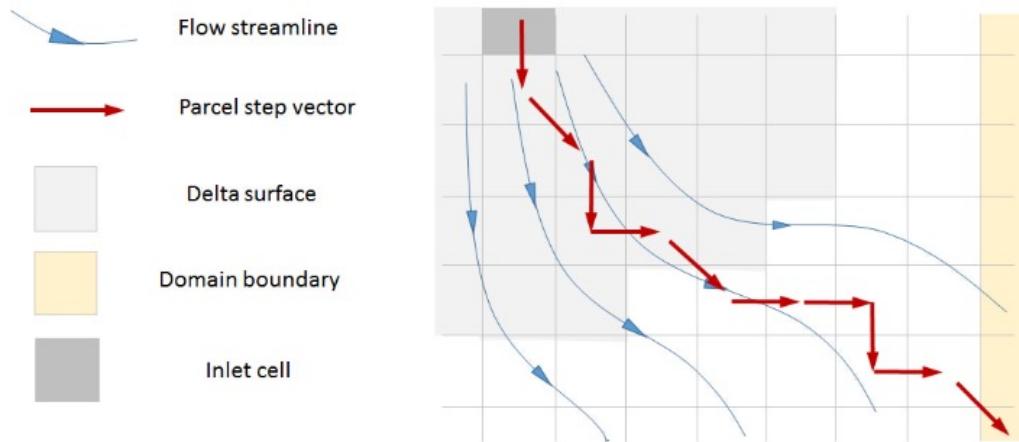


**Figure 3.** Definition of cellular direction  $\vec{d}_i$  and cellular distance  $\Delta_i$ . For example,  $\vec{d}_1 = (1, 0)$ ,  $\vec{d}_6 = \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$ ,  $\Delta_1 = 1$ ,  $\Delta_6 = \sqrt{2}$ .

# *dorado* – weighted random walk

- $F^*$ : transport direction based on inertia and water surface slope

$$(1) \quad F^* = \gamma F_{sf\,c} + (1 - \gamma) F_{int}$$



Liang et al. (2015)

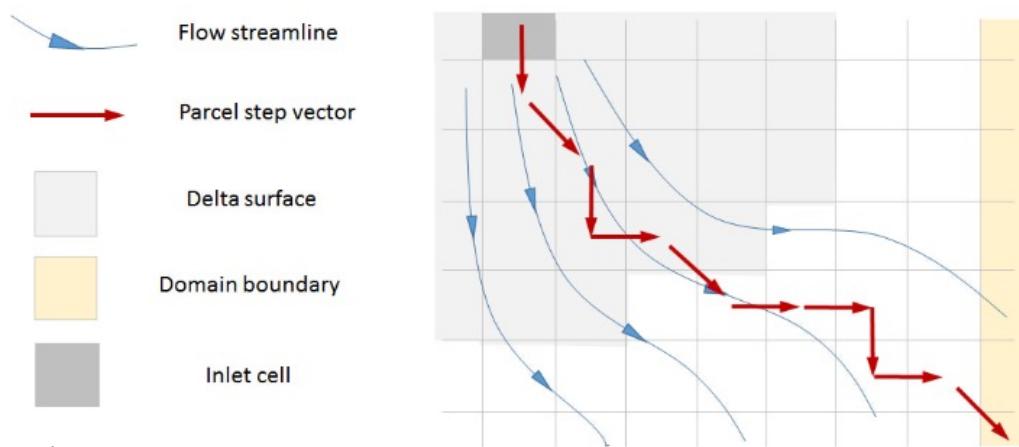
# *dorado* – weighted random walk

- $F^*$ : transport direction based on inertia and water surface slope

Routing direction      Surface gradient      Inertial component

(1) 
$$F^* = \gamma F_{sfc} + (1 - \gamma) F_{int}$$

Indirect diffusivity



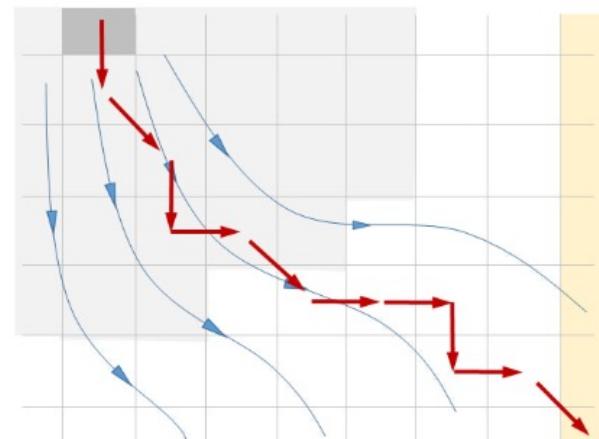
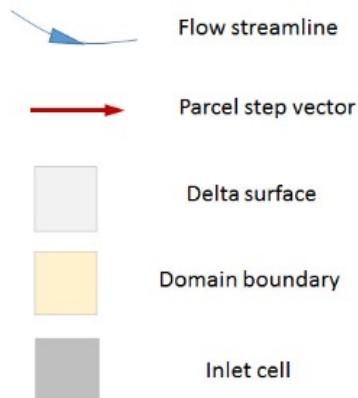
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# *dorado* – weighted random walk

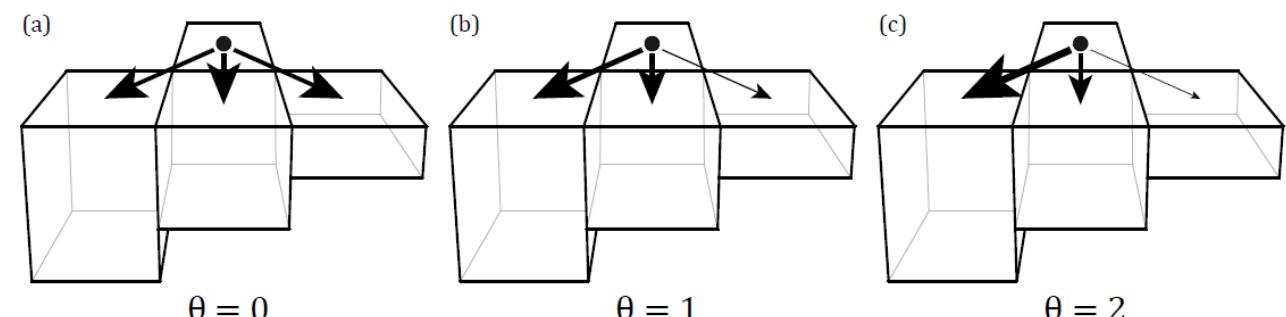
- $w_i$ : weighting of the particles towards deeper water

$$(1) \quad F^* = \gamma F_{sf\alpha} + (1 - \gamma) F_{int}$$

$$(2) \quad w_i = \frac{h_i^\theta \max(0, F \cdot d_i)}{\Delta_i}$$



Liang et al. (2015)



Wright et al. (2022)

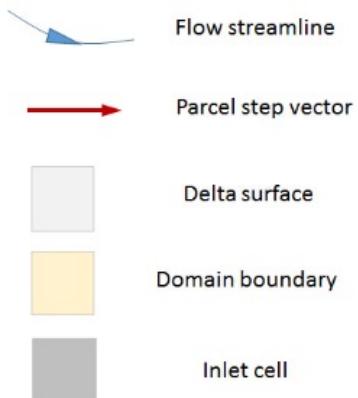
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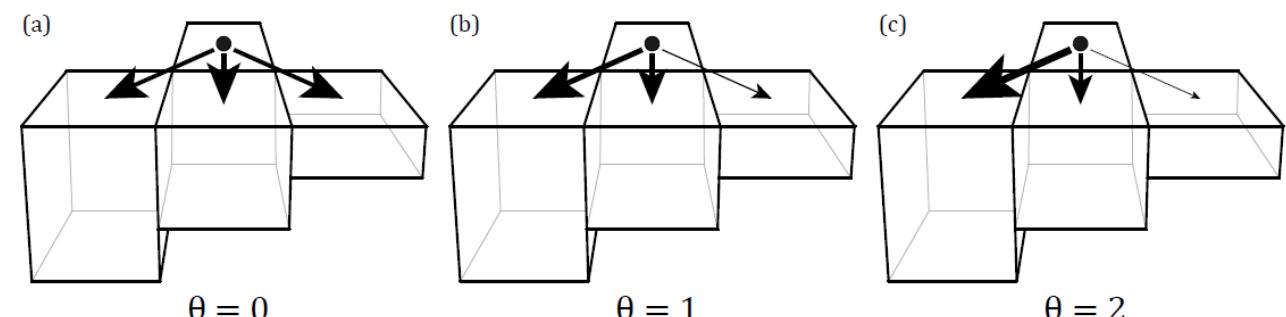
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Relative weight  
Local water depth  
Unit vector  
D8 cellular distance



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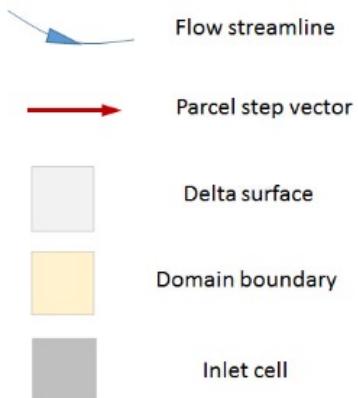
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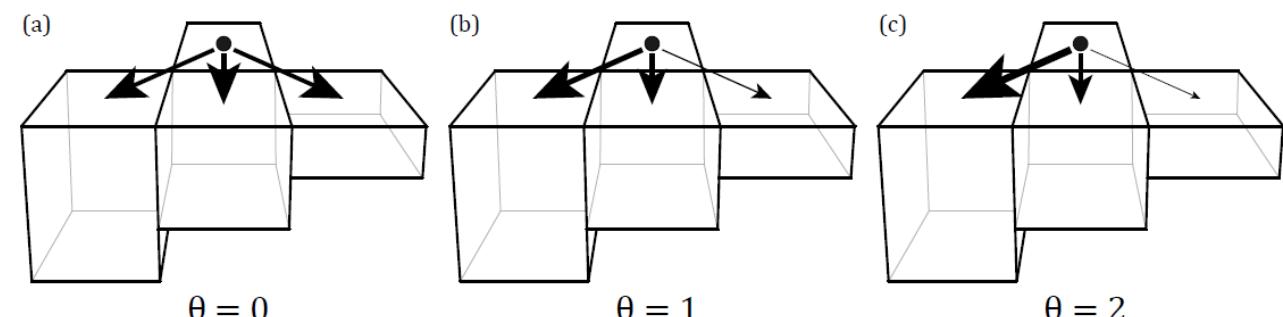
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Relative weight  
Local water depth  
Dependence on water depth  
Unit vector  
D8 cellular distance

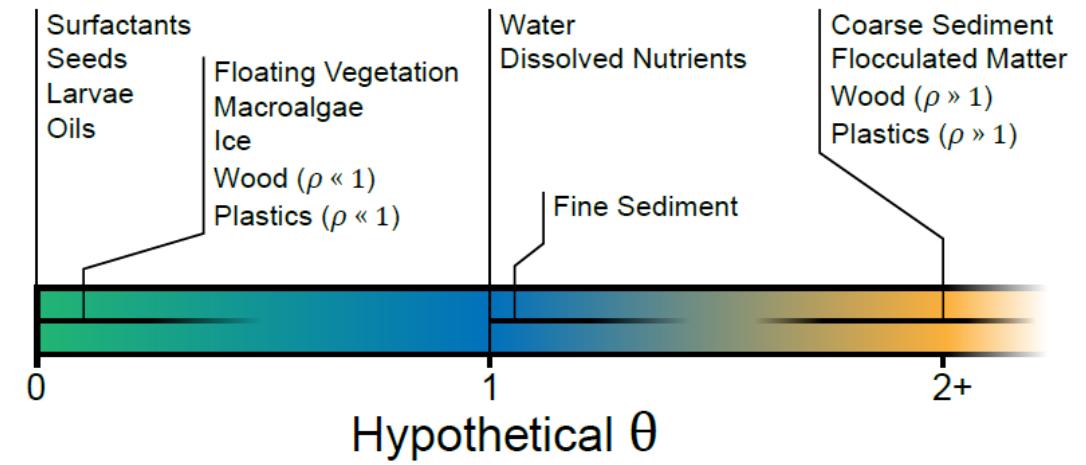
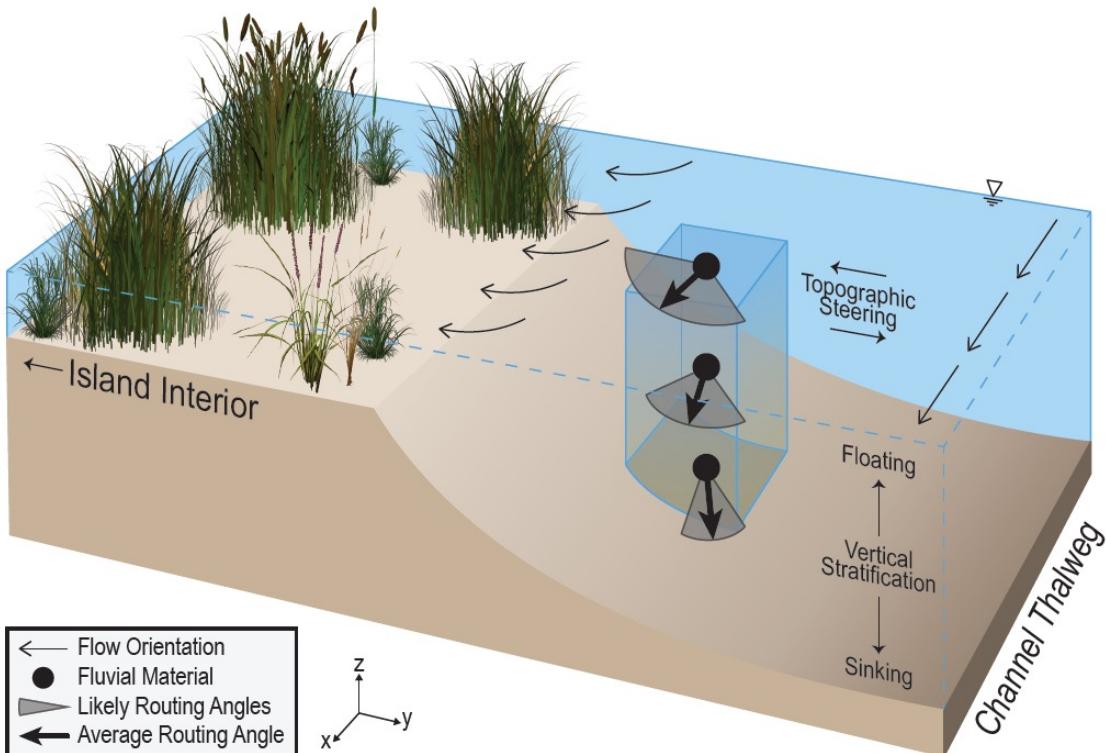


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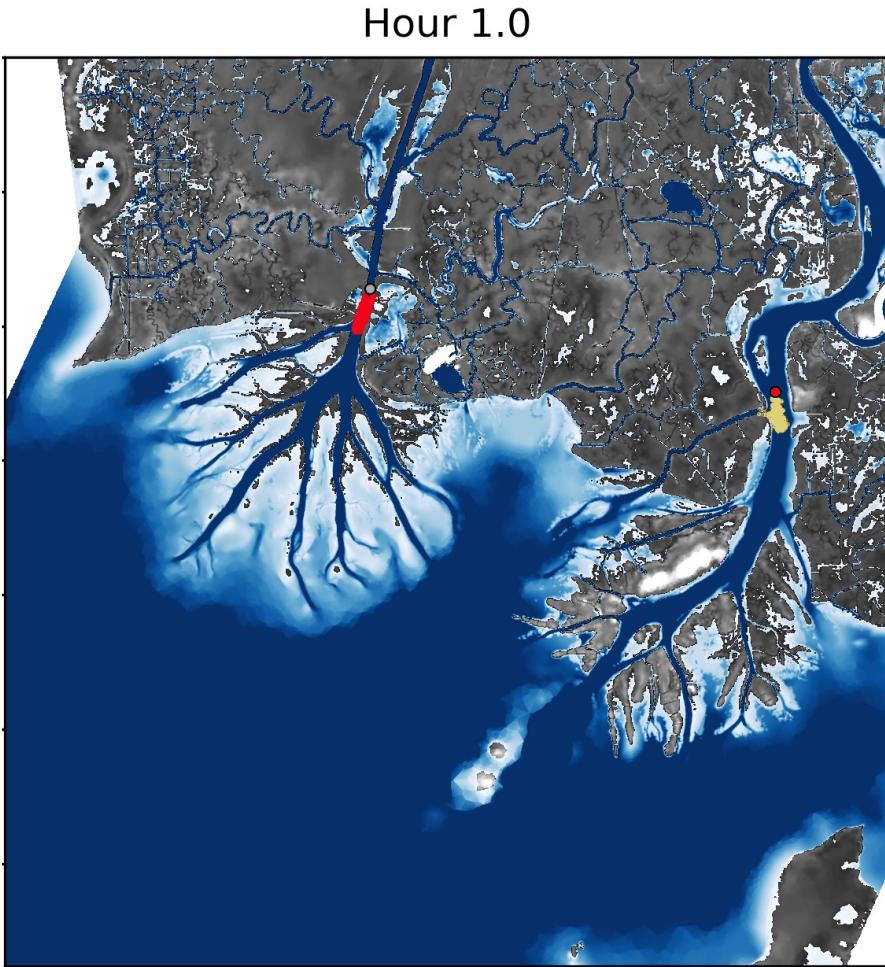


Wright et al. (2022)

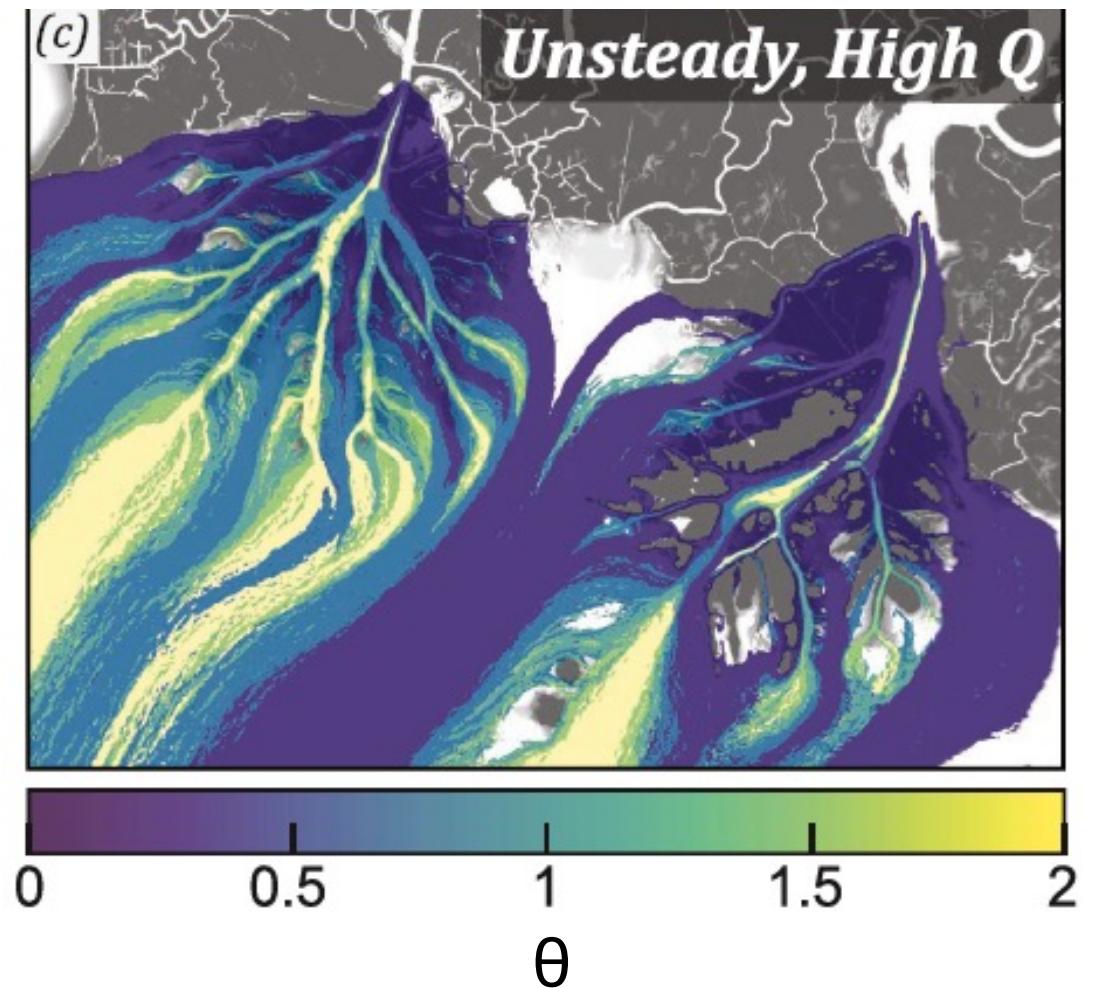
# Particle routing depends on the water depth



# Transport pathways can be estimated



Wright et al. (2022)



# How can this be useful?

- Flow path relative to particle properties
- Probability of nourishment of an area depending on seeding location (particles entering an area)
- Residence times or exposure times in an area

Potential for deposition, nutrient uptake, algal bloom production, ...

Compared to sediment transport models/morphodynamic models  
time-efficient, straightforward, lower calibration efforts

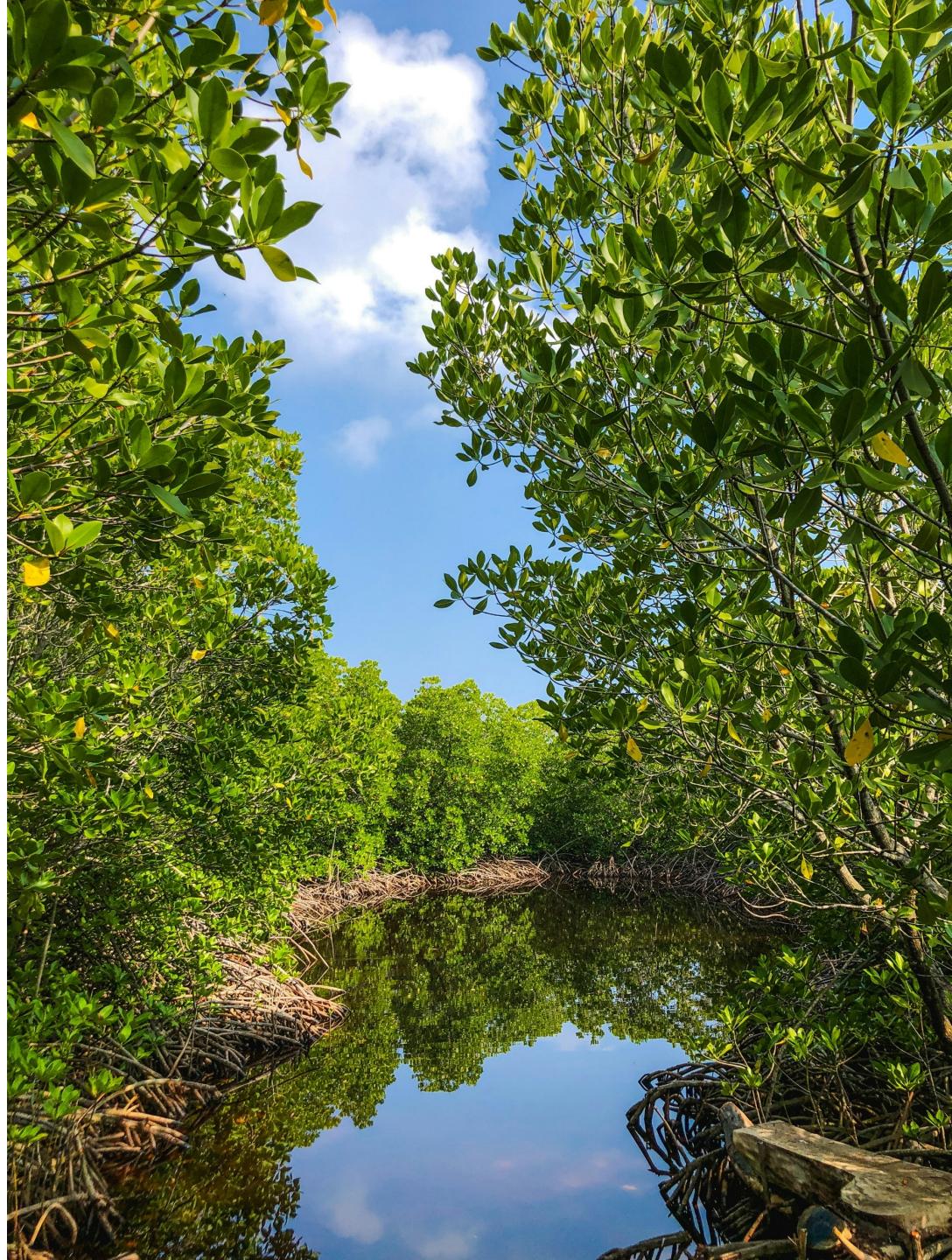
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# Nourishment of wetlands



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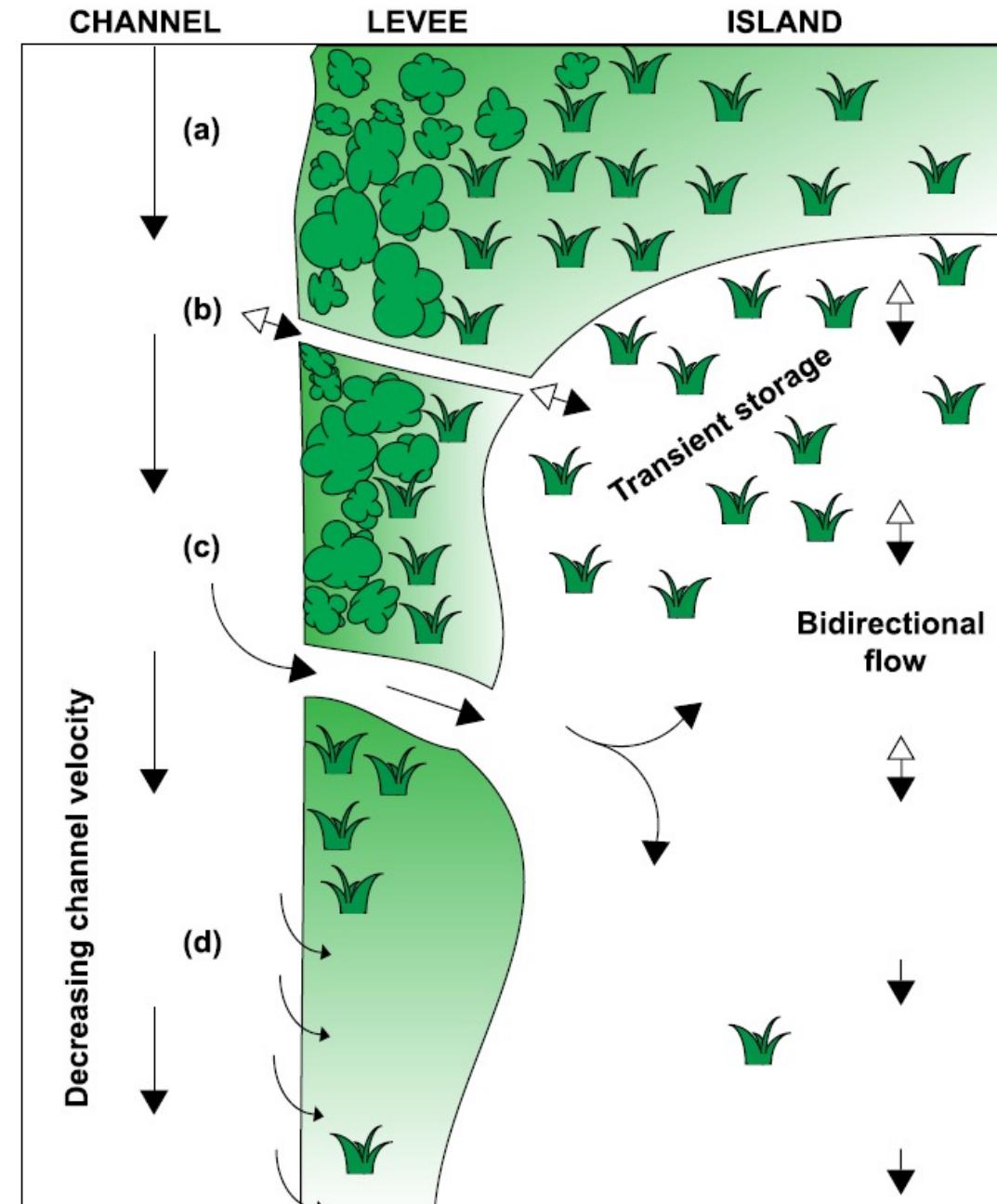
What type of particles enter wetlands  
and under which conditions?



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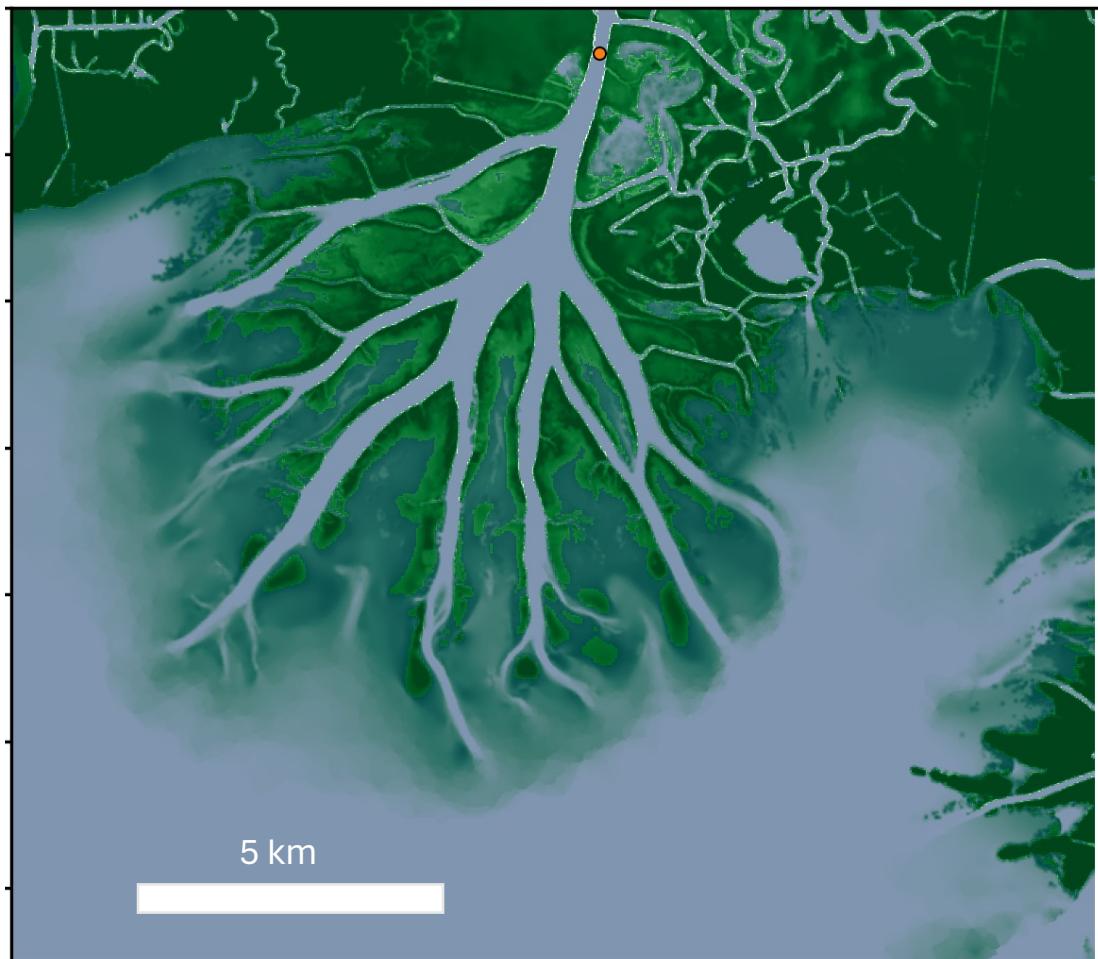
How does channel-island connectivity  
affect nourishment of wetlands?



# Sand and mud transport in Wax Lake Delta

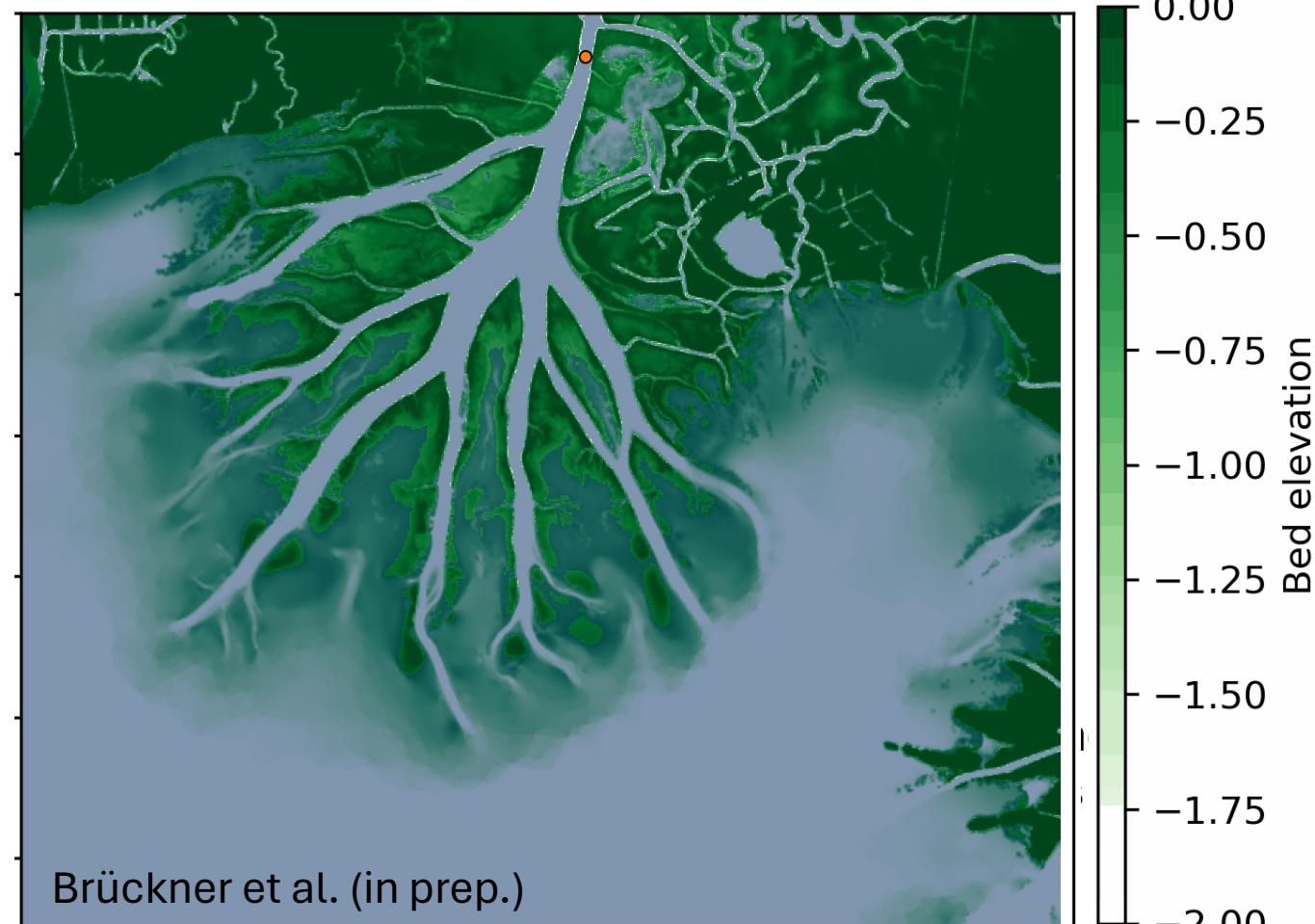
High connectivity:

low vegetation density, high river discharge



Low connectivity:

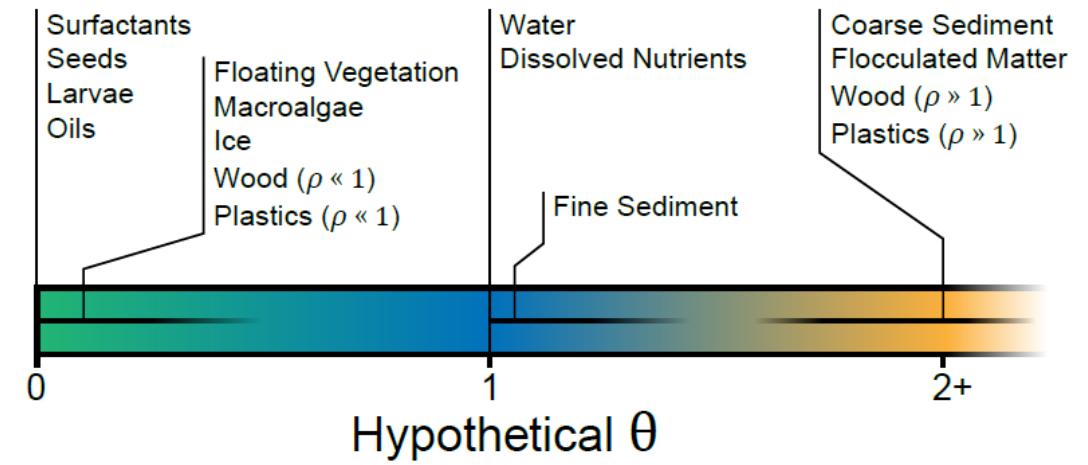
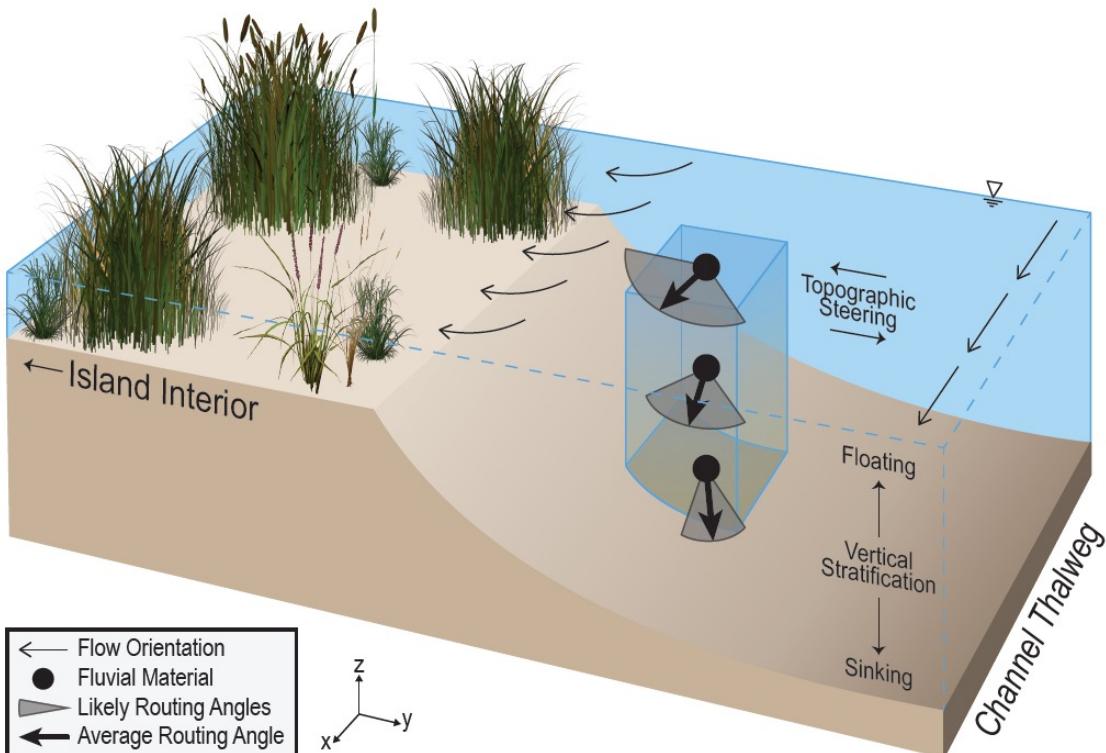
high vegetation density, low river discharge



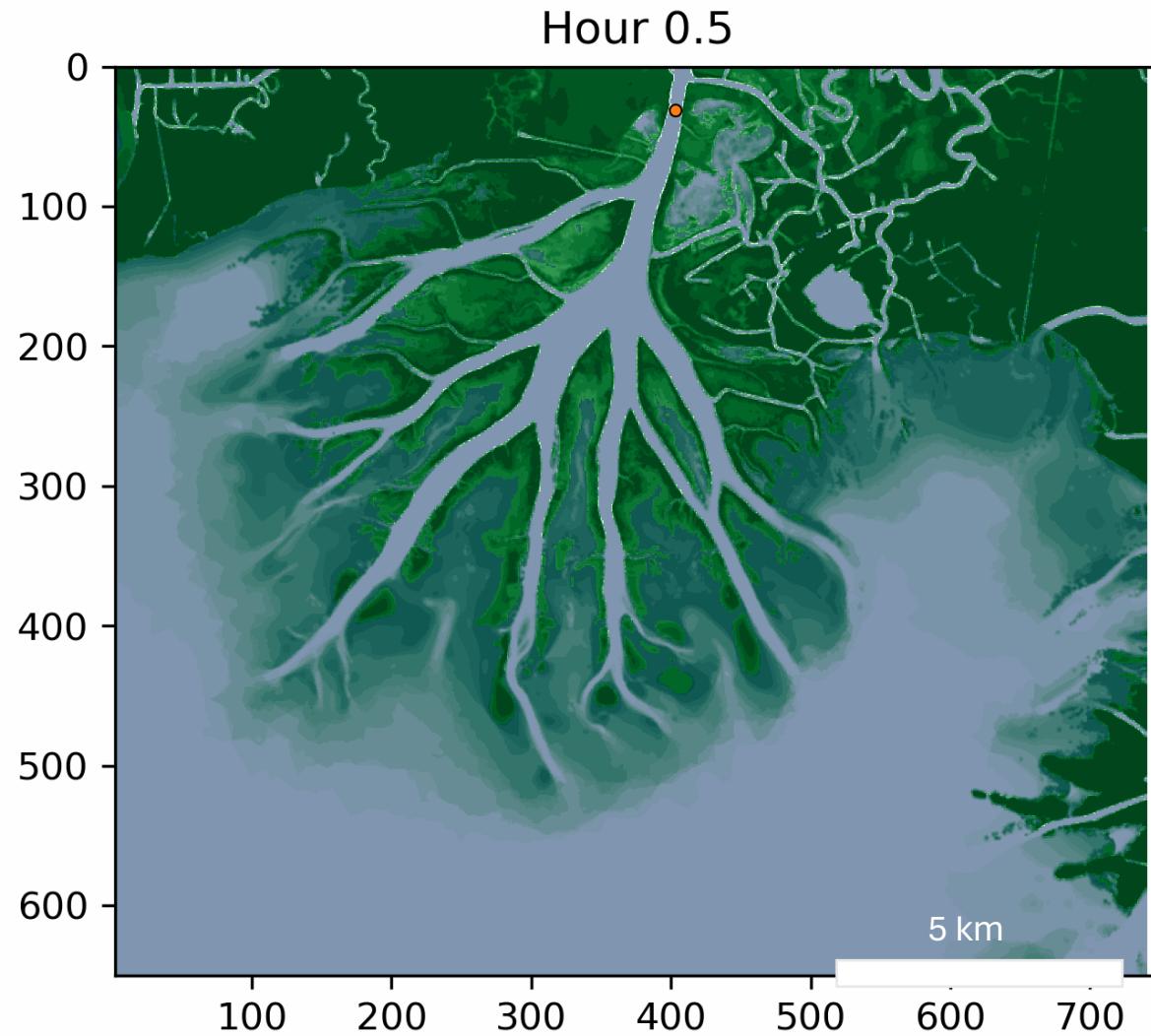
Brückner et al. (in prep.)

# Particle routing depends on the water depth

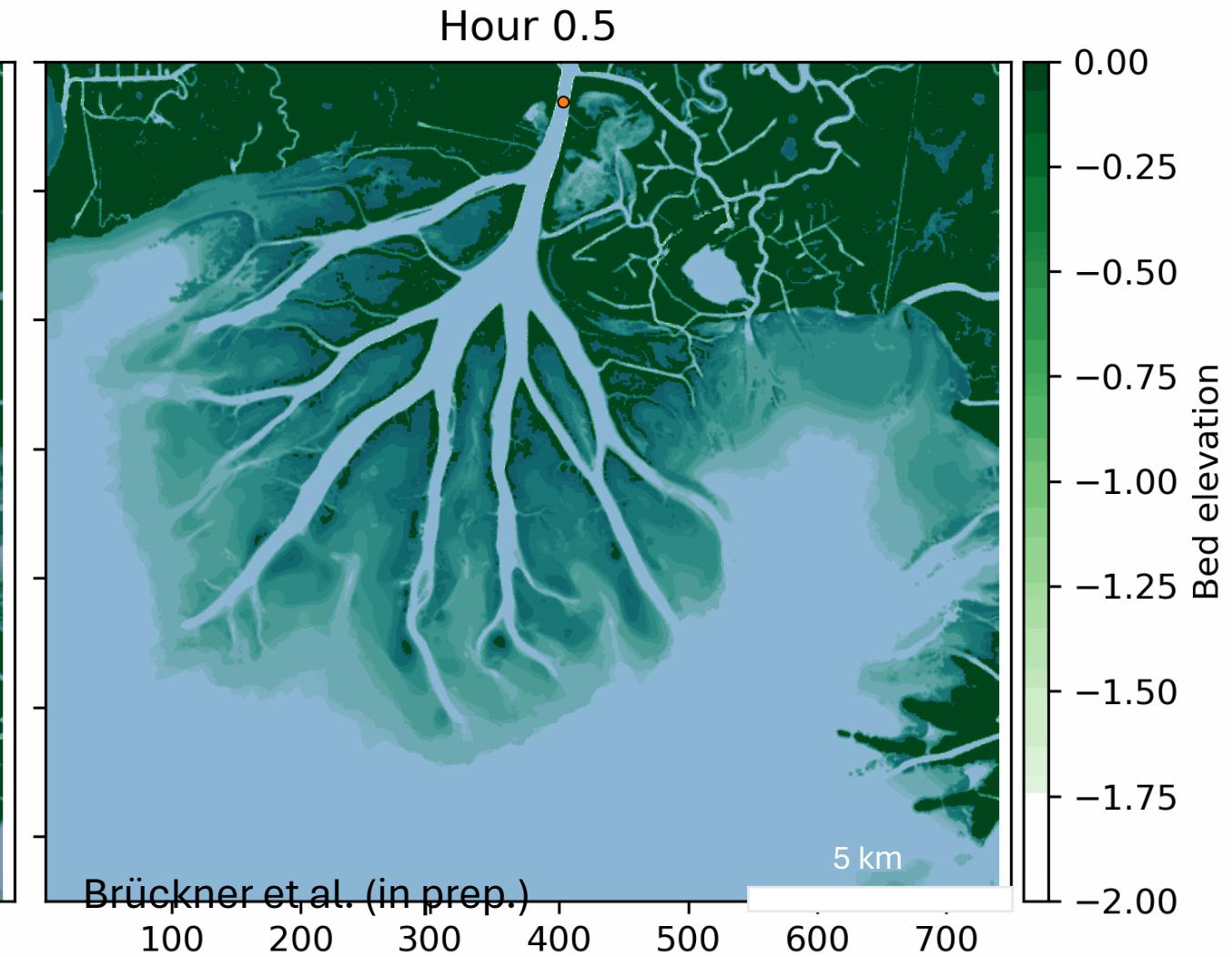
- mud  $\theta = 1.25$  and sand  $\theta = 2.0$



High connectivity:  
low vegetation density, high river discharge

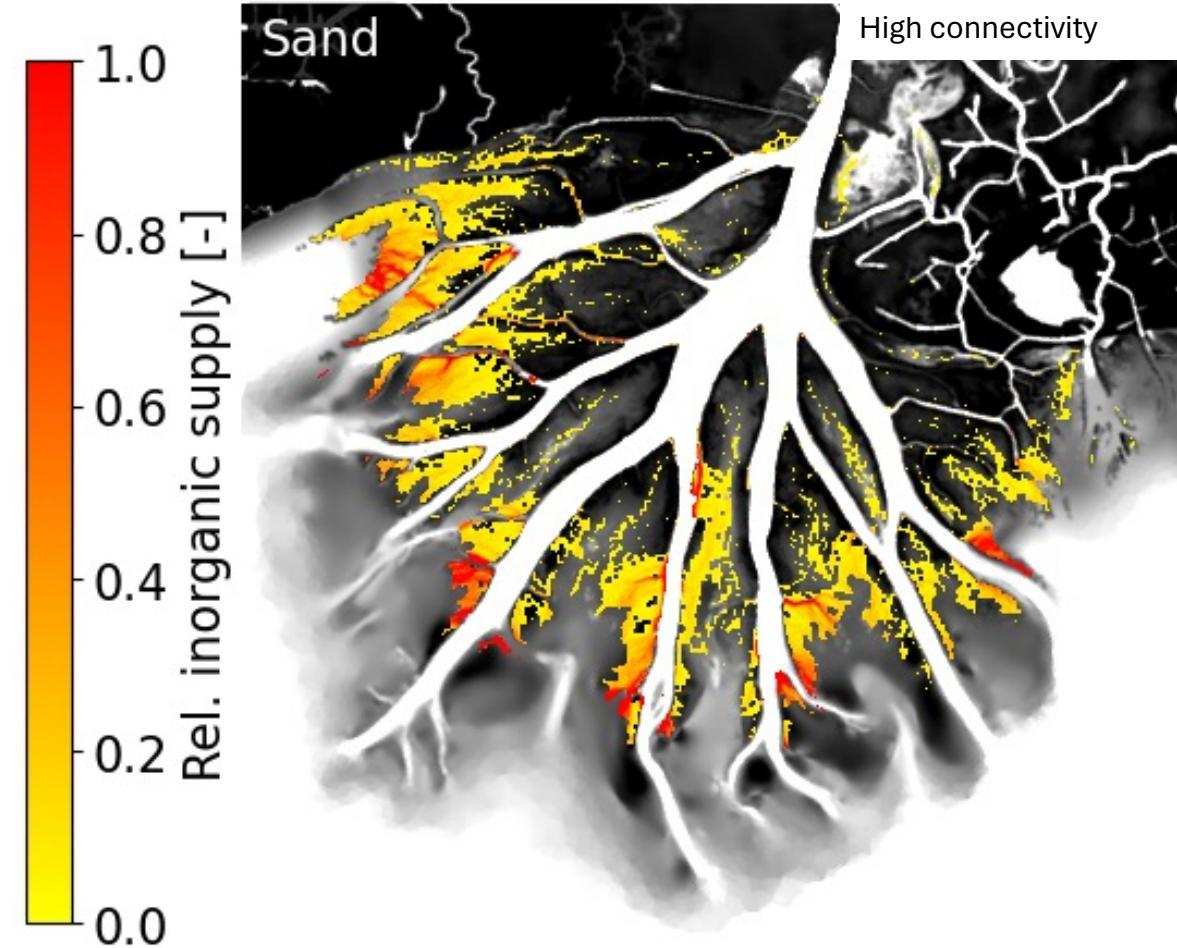
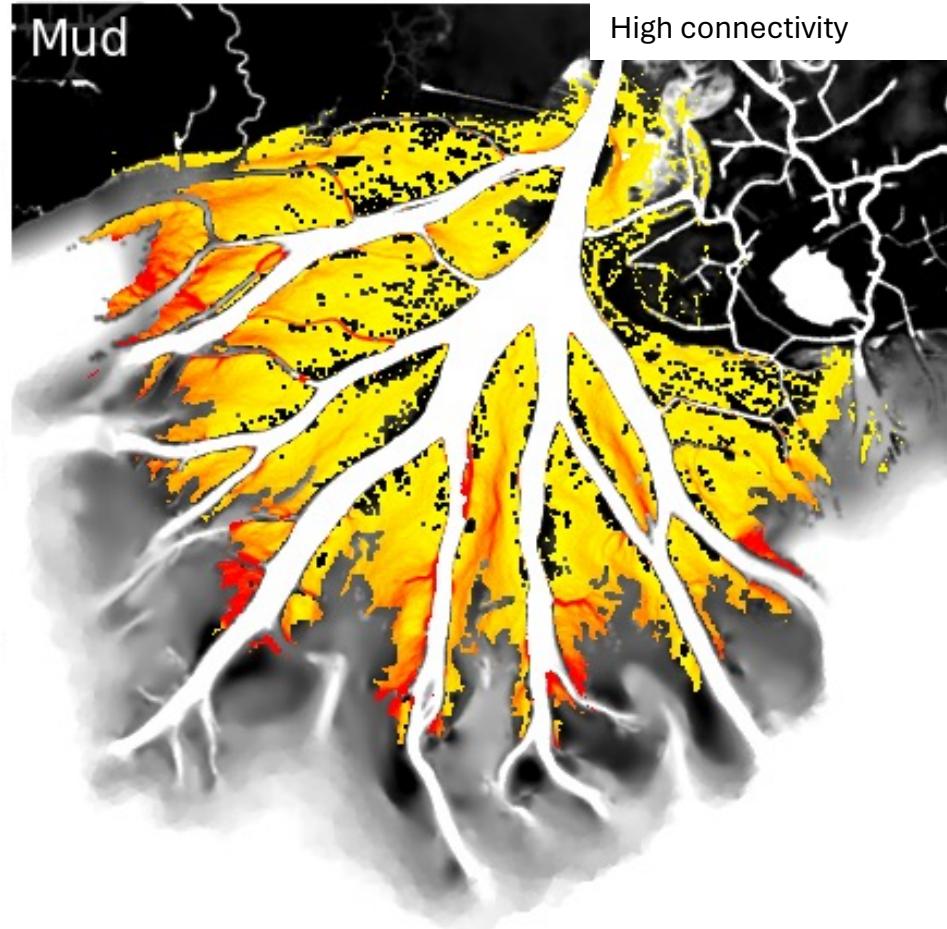


Low connectivity:  
high vegetation density, low river discharge

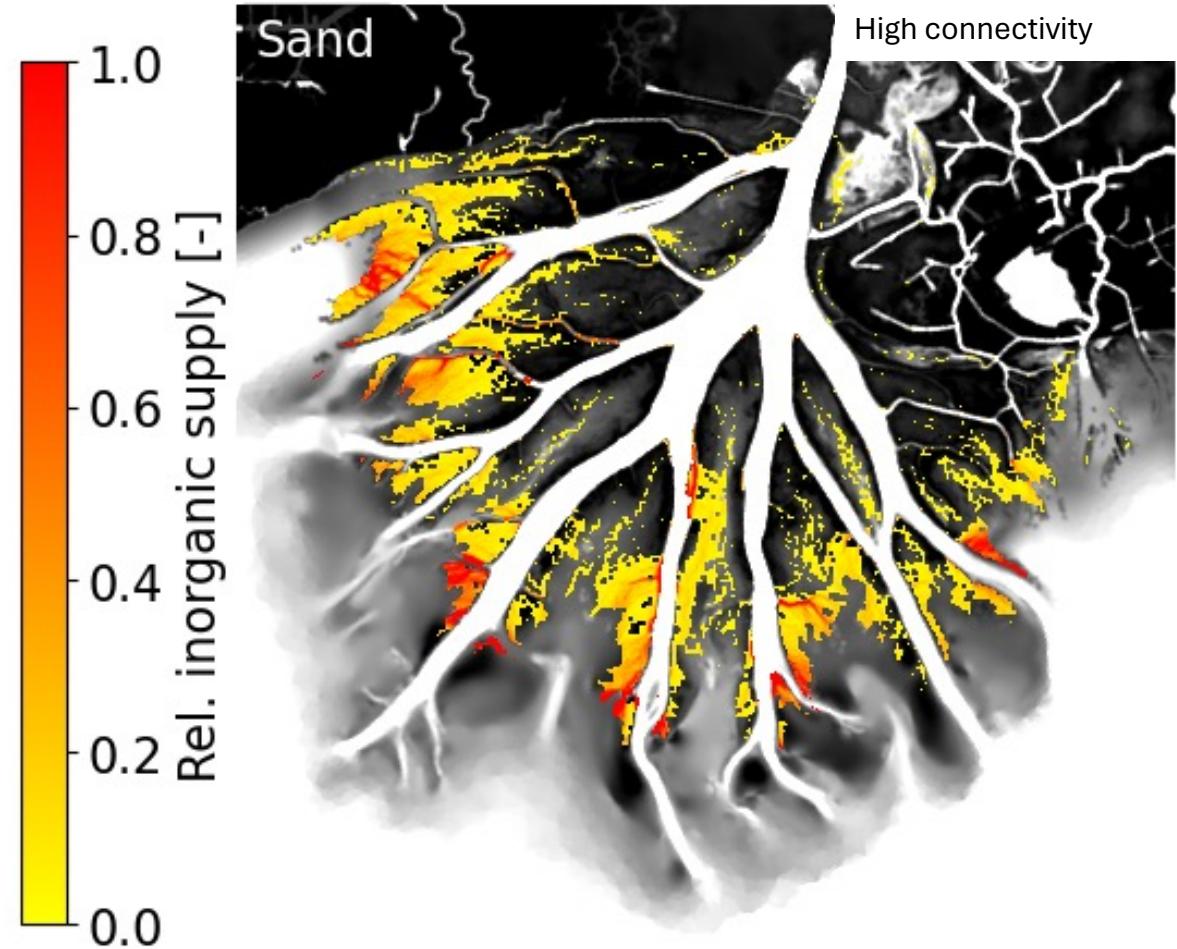
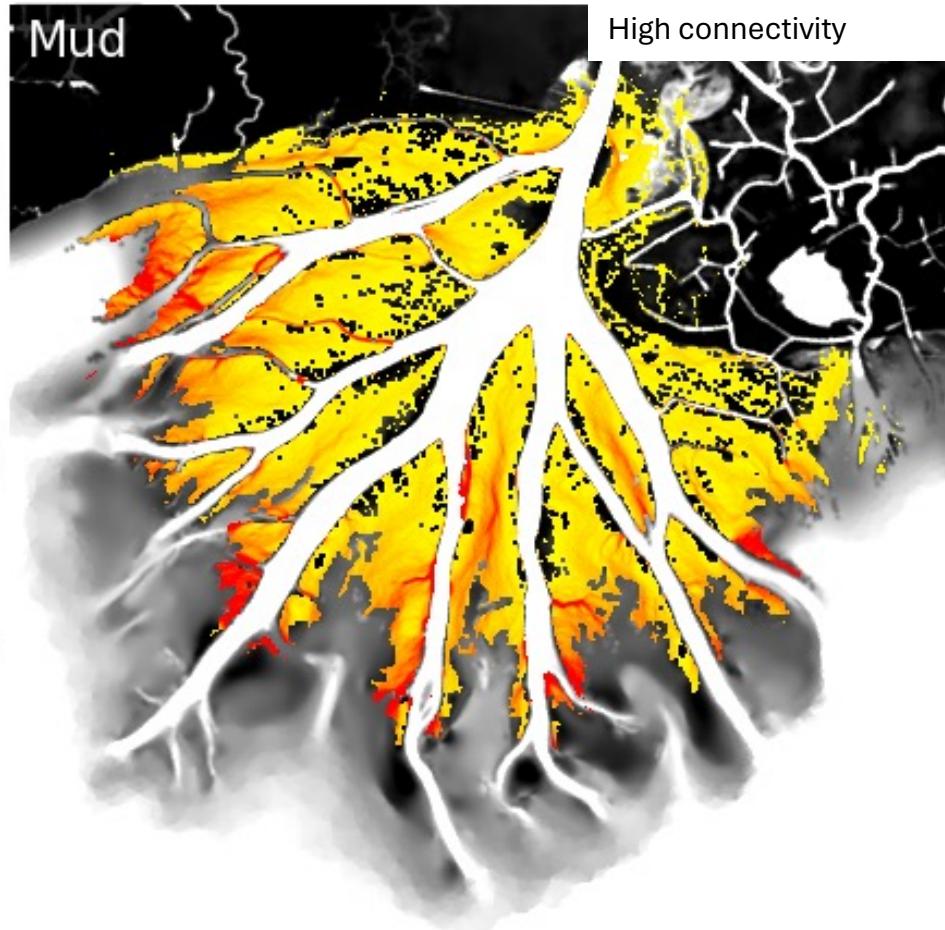


Nourishment = relative number of particles  
entering an area/domain

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# Local nourishment of the inner islands depends on connectivity/particle properties



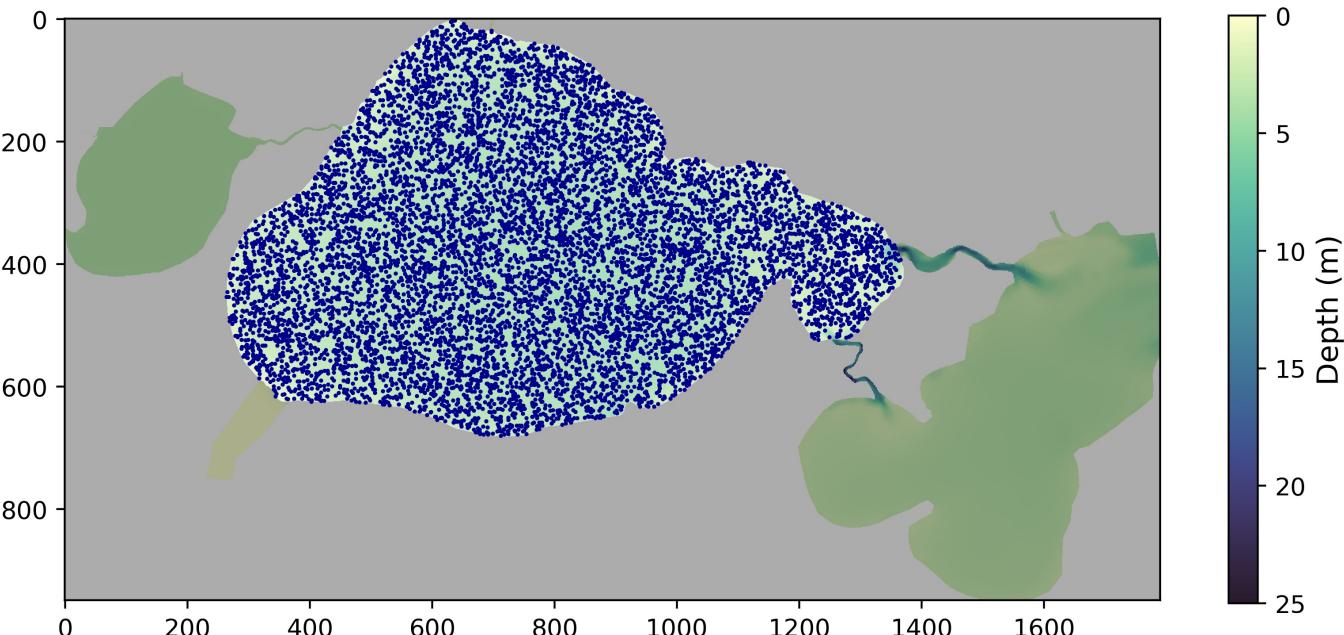
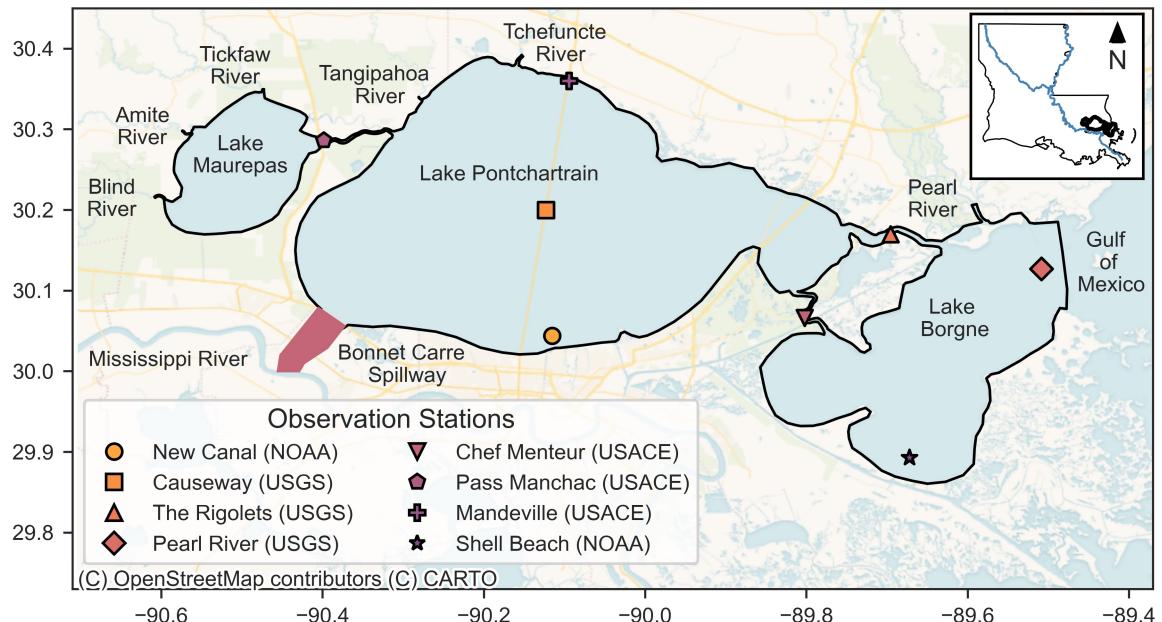
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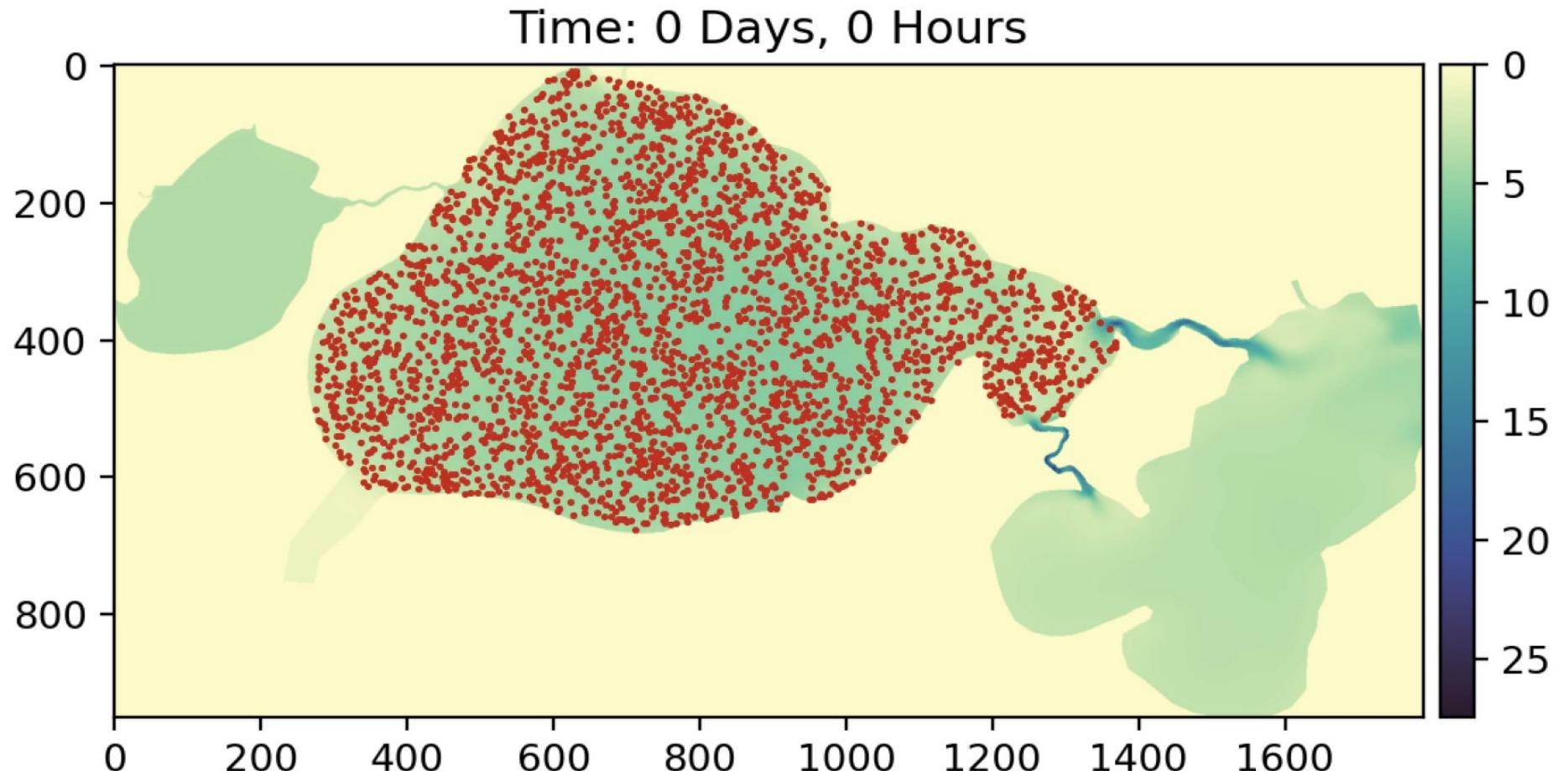
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# How are water exposure times affected by varying discharge scenarios in Lake Pontchartrain?

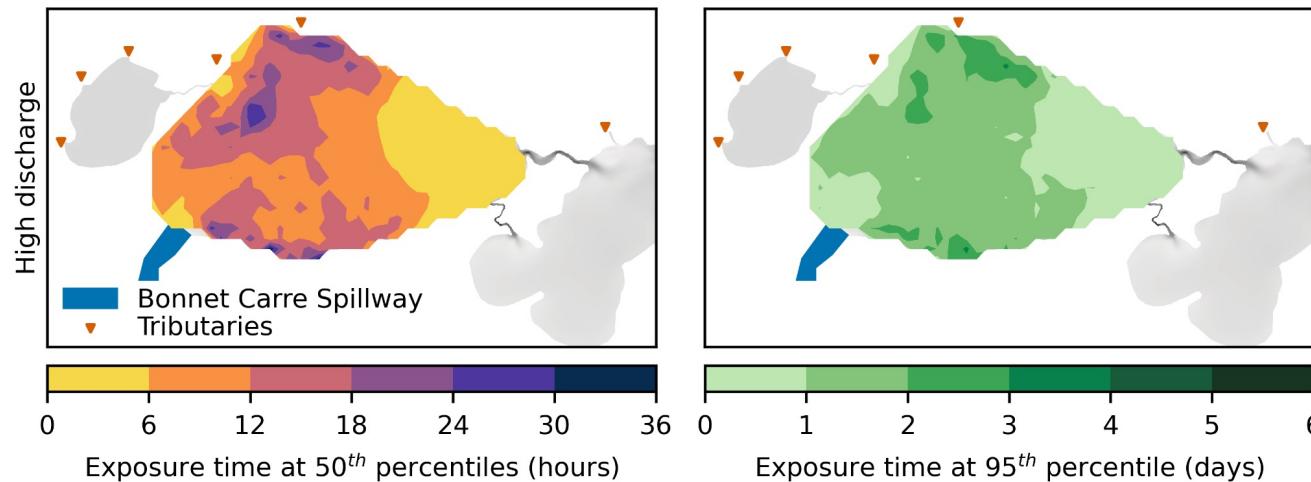


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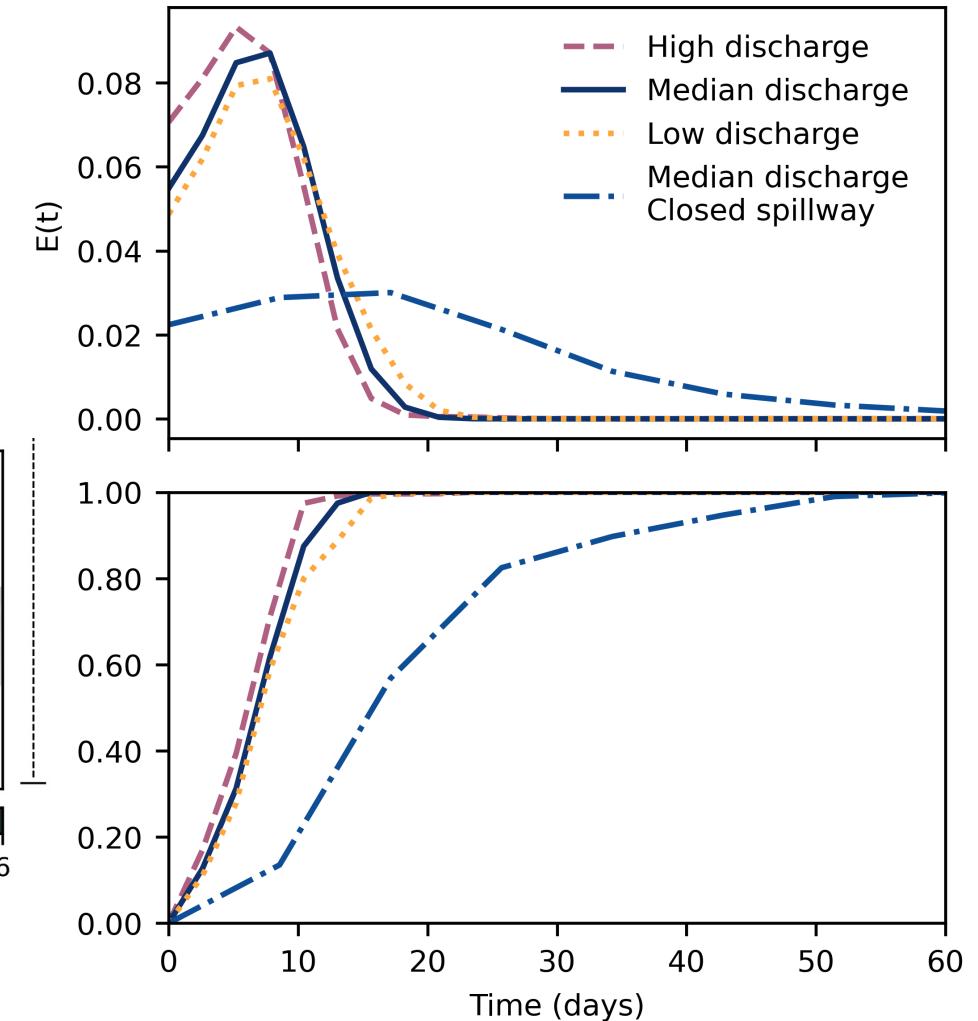


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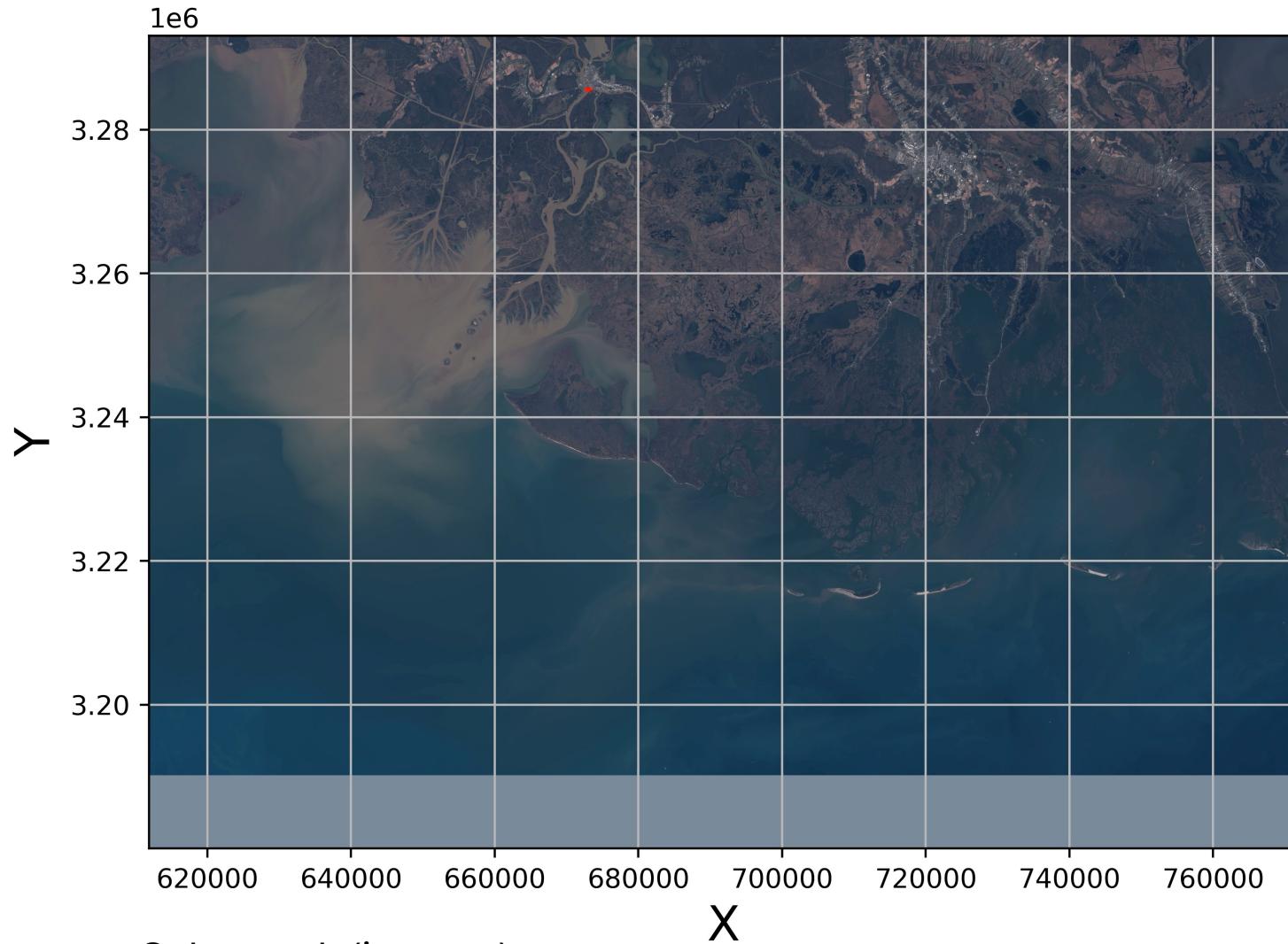
- Calculate exposure times (number of particles entering the area)
- Identify „flushing“-scenarios



Turner et al. (in prep.)



# *Dorado* allows for easy and efficient upscaling



For this research project,

- Dorado was modified to allow sediment settling and entrainment mechanisms
- Particles are seeded at the most upstream points along the river and followed for 4 weeks
- Seasonal patterns are studied and compared before and after the construction of a major river bypass.

# The workflow in *dorado*

Initialize parameters  
of the model  
(particle.track)

Initialize parameters  
of the particles  
(particle.track)

Simulate particle  
evolution  
(routines.py)

# The workflow in *dorado*

Initialize parameters  
of the model  
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Initialize parameters  
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Simulate particle  
evolution  
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## Initialize parameters: Class `modelParams()`

- grid cell length (`dx`);
- 2 of 3: water depth (`depth`), water stage (`stage`), topography (`topography`)
- 1 of 2: water velocity (`u` and `v`), water discharge (`qx` and `qy`)

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- grid cell length (*dx*);
- 2 of 3: water depth (*depth*), water stage (*stage*), topography (*topography*)
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Optional: define theta and gamma

# The workflow in *dorado*

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## Initialize parameters: Class `generate_particles()`

- Number of particles (`Np_tracer`)
- Seeding location (list of coordinates/indices `seed_xloc`, `seed_yloc`)

# The workflow in dorado

Initialize parameters  
of the model  
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Initialize parameters  
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Simulate particle  
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## Initialize parameters: Class `generate_particles()`

- Number of particles (`Np_tracer`)
- Seeding location (list of coordinates/indices `seed_xloc`, `seed_yloc`)

### Optional:

- `seed_time` (time that particles will be run – useful for several seeding instances)
- `method` (random or exact)
- `previous_walk_data` (dictionary of x/y locations and travel times - when several seeding instances)

# The workflow in *dorado*

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Simulate particle  
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## Simulate particle evolution: Class `run_iteration()`

- 1 of 2: target time or number of iterations

Options to use wrappers provided in routines.py (`steady_plot()`, `unsteady_plots()`)

# The workflow in *dorado*

Initialize parameters  
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Simulate particle  
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Functionalities can be found in the dorado documentation  
([passah2o.github.io/dorado](https://passah2o.github.io/dorado)) or in the installation folder on your machine

To access the scripts: navigate to your installation folder or to [passah2o.github.io/dorado](https://passah2o.github.io/dorado)

- Default path is your C-drive (Windows)

