

# Day 3

## Hands-On Practice for Uncertainty Analysis

- PEST (Parameter EStimation Tool)
  - PEST official website: <https://pesthomepage.org/>
  - Tutorial Videos: <https://pesthomepage.org/videos>
  - Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@gmdsi>
  - Practice with Jupyter notebooks: [https://github.com/gmdsi/GMDSI\\_notebooks](https://github.com/gmdsi/GMDSI_notebooks)
  - Groundwater Modeling Decision Support Initiative <https://gmdsi.org/>
- swatmf
  - Python Library: <https://github.com/spark-brc/swatmf>
  - Workflow: [https://github.com/spark-brc/swatmf\\_wf](https://github.com/spark-brc/swatmf_wf)

Seonggyu Park: [seonggyu.park@brc.tamus.edu](mailto:seonggyu.park@brc.tamus.edu)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [swat.tamu.edu/conferences/](http://swat.tamu.edu/conferences/). The page header includes the SWAT logo and navigation links for Software, Docs, and Data. A main content area features a large white box containing the text "Save the date for these future SWAT conferences:" followed by a bullet point: "• 23-27 June, 2025 - Jeju Island, South Korea".

오늘 데이터셋

# All models are wrong!

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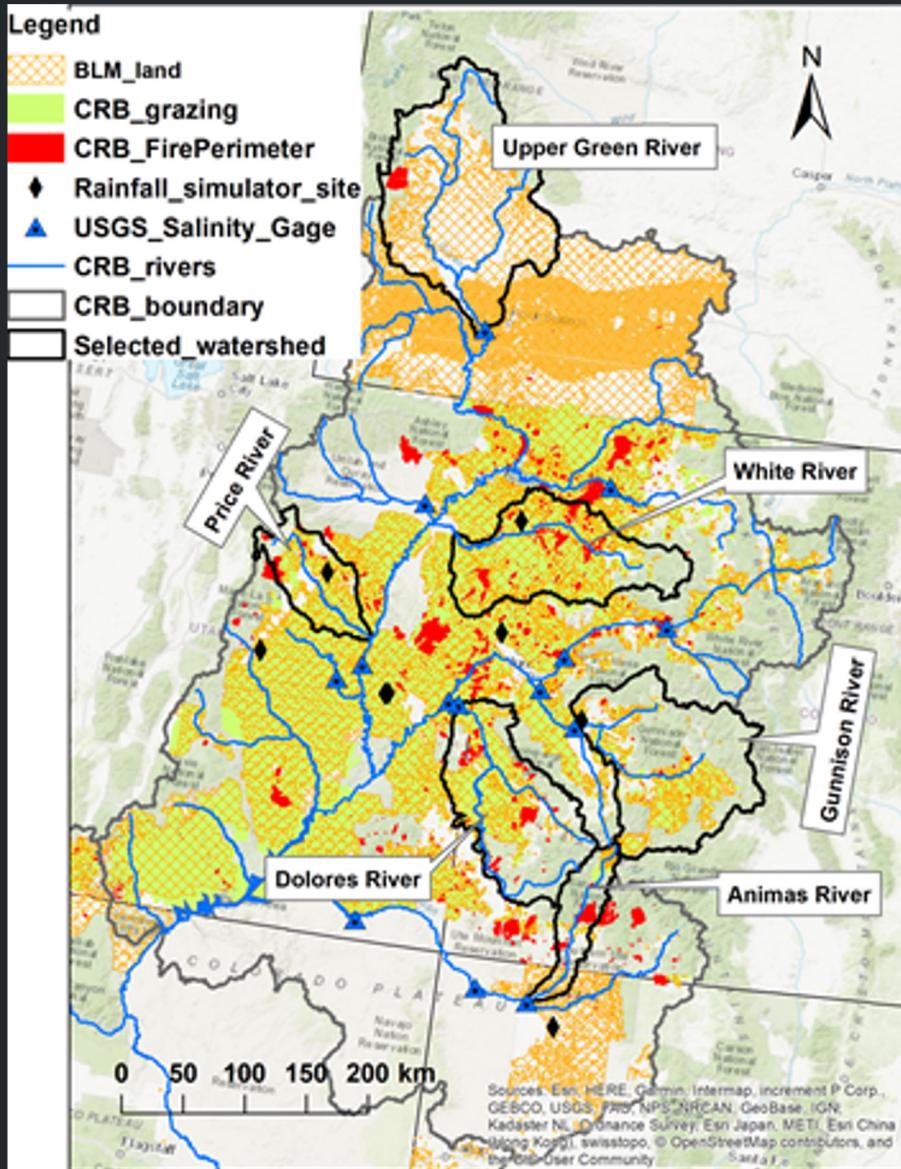
*All models are wrong  
but some are useful*



George E.P. Box

All models are approximations. Essentially, all models are wrong, but some are useful. However, the approximate nature of the model must always be borne in mind.

# Project Background



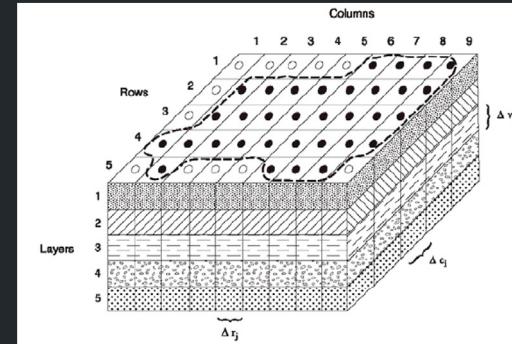
- Colorado river transports **7-9 million tons** of salt annually to the Gulf of California.
- **Irrigated agricultural districts** causes **highly saline conditions**.
- Salinity contributes to more than **\$300 million dollars per year** in economic damage.
  - **Assess** the sources of salinity and its transportation in the Colorado River Basin and
  - **Develop** effective management strategies.

# Approaches | Model Integration & Development



developed and maintained by  
USDA United States Department of Agriculture TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH

- The Agricultural Policy / Environmental eXtender (APEX) model was developed and included
  - crop growth algorithms
  - nutrient cycling in the soil profile
  - nutrient transport and
  - loading to streams in surface runoff, soil lateral flow, and groundwater flow, and in-stream transport.

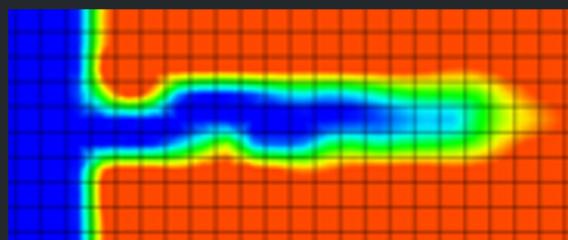


Partial Differential Equation: develop water balance for each point (cell) in the aquifer

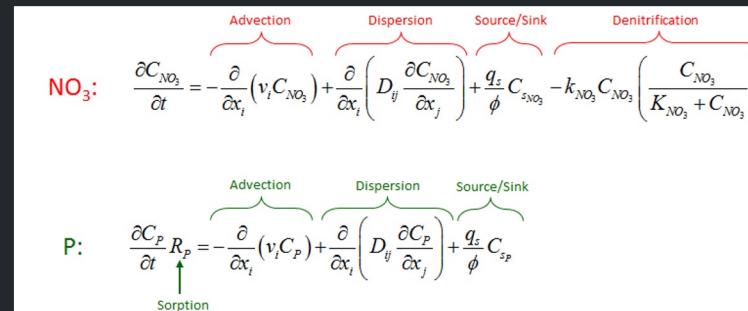
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( h K_x \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( h K_y \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} \right) + Q_{rech} - Q_{pump} - Q_{ET} = S_y \frac{\partial h}{\partial t}$$

- MODFLOW is the U.S. Geological Survey modular finite-difference flow model
  - solve the groundwater flow equation,
  - simulate the flow of groundwater through aquifers.

## Reactive Transport in 3 Dimensions



<https://www.pnnl.gov/downloads-rt3d> (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)



Salinity Module 8 major ions  
(SO<sub>4</sub>, Ca, Mg, Na, Cl, K, CO<sub>3</sub>, HCO<sub>3</sub>)

# Approaches | Model Integration & Development



developed and maintained by

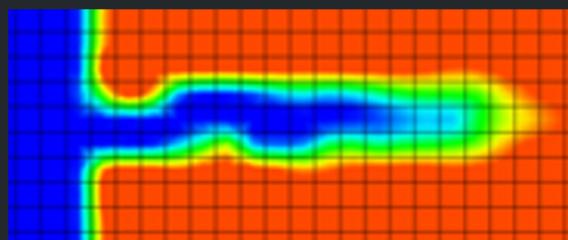


United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
RESEARCH

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Columns

Environmental Modelling and Software 143 (2021) 105093

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environmental Modelling and Software

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envsoft](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envsoft)

ELSEVIER

APEX-MODFLOW: A New integrated model to simulate hydrological processes in watershed systems

Ryan T. Bailey <sup>a,\*</sup>, Ali Tasdighi <sup>a</sup>, Seonggyu Park <sup>b</sup>, Saman Tavakoli-Kivi, PhD <sup>a,d</sup>, Tadesse Abitew <sup>b</sup>, Jaehak Jeong <sup>b</sup>, Colleen H.M. Green <sup>c</sup>, Abeyou W. Worqlul <sup>b</sup>

difference flow model

- solve the groundwater flow equation,
- simulate the flow of groundwater through aquifers.

Journal of Hydrology 610 (2022) 127873

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Hydrology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jhydrol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jhydrol)

ELSEVIER

**NO<sub>3</sub>:**  $\frac{\partial C_{NO_3}}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$

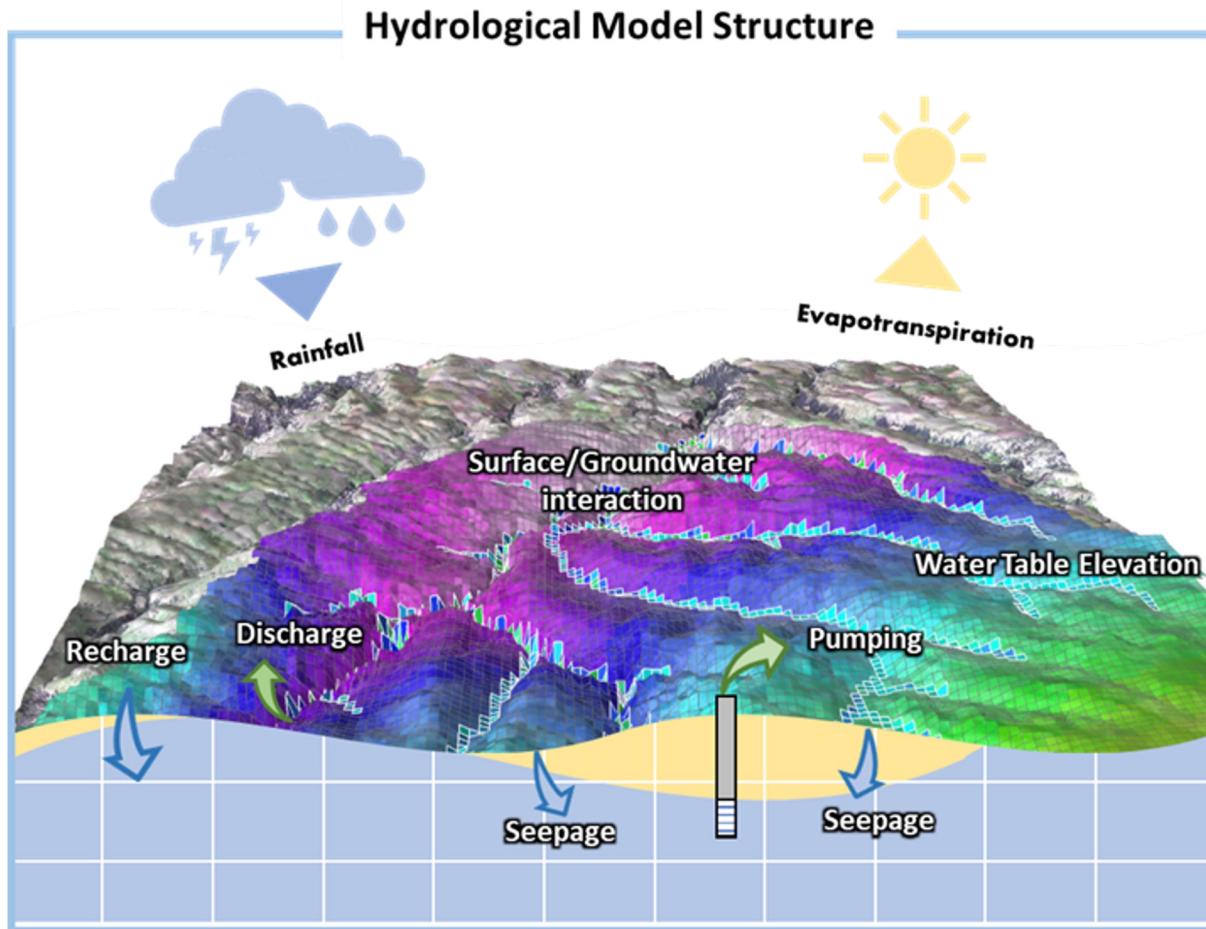
**P:**  $\frac{\partial C_P}{\partial t} R_P = - \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$

Advection (red arrow), Research papers (green arrow), Sorption (blue arrow)

Simulating salinity transport in High-Desert landscapes using APEX-MODFLOW-Salt

Ryan T. Bailey <sup>a,\*</sup>, Jaehak Jeong <sup>b</sup>, Seonggyu Park <sup>b</sup>, Colleen H.M. Green <sup>c</sup>

# Challenges | Source of uncertainty

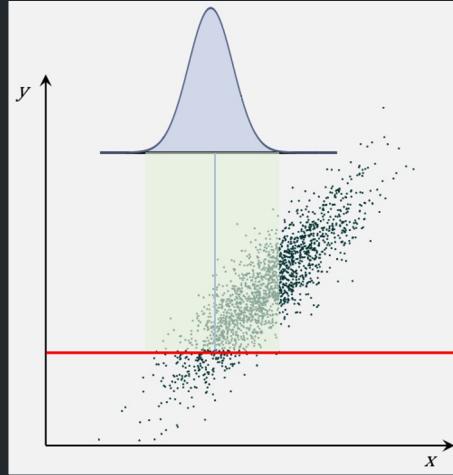
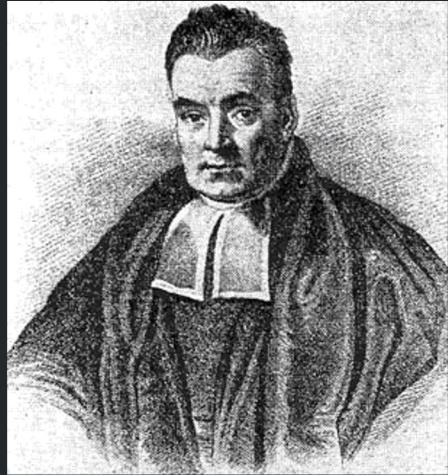


## Parameters for APEX-MODFLOW-RT3D-Salt (Source of Uncertainty)

- Field Parameters: Available water capacity of the soil layer, Runoff curve number, Soil evaporation coefficient, Transmissivity (T), Hydraulic Conductivity (K), Specific Storage (S<sub>s</sub>), Specific Yield (S<sub>y</sub>)
- Boundary Parameters: Initial Head Boundary, Riverbed Conductance, Thickness
- Decision Parameters: Rainfall, Recharge, Evapotranspiration, Pumping and Injection Rates
- Numerical Algorithm: Spatio-Temporal Variation
- Salinity: Initial Salt Ion Concentrations / fractions

# Uncertainty Analysis | Bayes Theorem

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$$P(\theta|X) = P(X|\theta)P(\theta)$$

- Conditional Probability
- Prior
- Posterior
- Likelihood

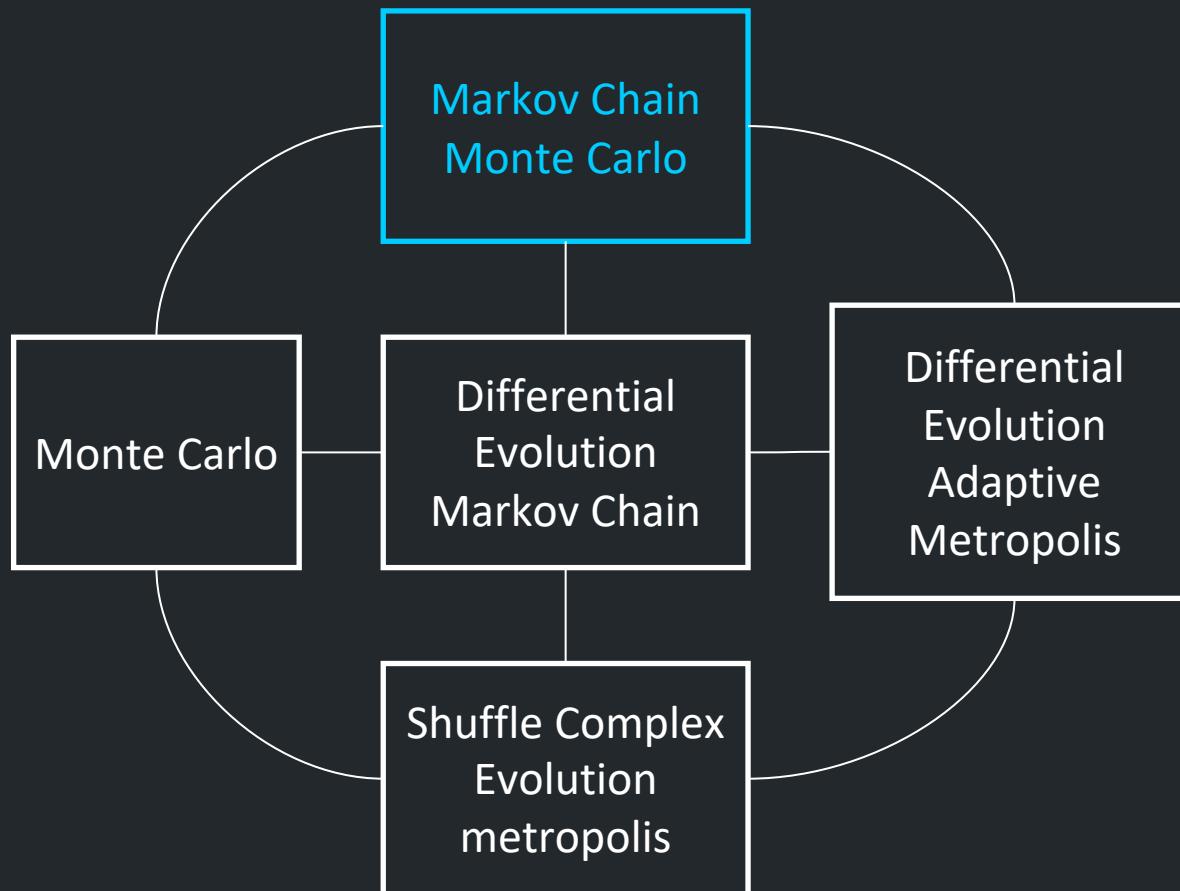
# Uncertainty Analysis | Sampling the posterior parameter probability distribution

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- Populate a model with realizations of parameter fields
- Filter realizations based a metric of likelihood function

# Uncertainty Analysis | Sampling the posterior parameter probability distribution

- Populate a model with realizations of parameter fields
- Filter realizations based a metric of likelihood function



- Less than 1000 parameters
- Short model run time
- Long convergence time

# Uncertainty Analysis | Ensemble Method

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- Fundamental Concept:  
approximate model-based relations with **ensembles**
- **Ensemble methods:** optimization (minimization) algorithms that use ensembles to approximate first-order (partial first derivatives) between parameters and outputs to enable (very) high-dimensional data assimilation (White et al, 2018)

**Ensembles:** a collection of randomly-sampled model inputs and the corresponding collection of model outputs

**Ensemble Methods: Monte Carlo + Linear Algebra**

# Uncertainty Analysis | Ensemble Method

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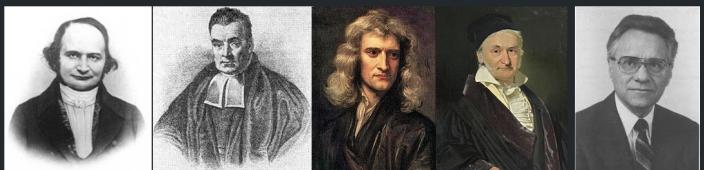
- Model-based relations of interest:
  - Covariance between measured and unmeasured model outputs
    - State estimation
  - Cross-covariance (e.g. gradient) between model inputs and outputs
    - Parameter estimation
- **What's Great:** uncertainty analysis and history matching in a single algorithmic workflow
- **What's Great:** forces you to think about model input uncertainty from the very beginning!

# Uncertainty Analysis | Iterative Ensemble Smoother (IES)

**P** ( ne x npar)

	hk	mineral fraction	Initial sconc
real1	0.123	0.9	12.3
real2	0.321	0.0001	32.1
real3	0.987	0.2	69.0
real N	0.789	0.2345	54.1

model runs = ne (number reals)  
(e.g. Monte Carlo)



**D<sub>sim</sub>** ( ne x nobs)

	head	sload instream	sconc in aquifer
real1	1.11	0.0001	3.21
real2	2.22	0.003	1.23
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realN	4.44	0.001	1.45

# Uncertainty Analysis | Iterative Ensemble Smoother (IES)

$$\Delta_P \propto (P - \bar{P})$$

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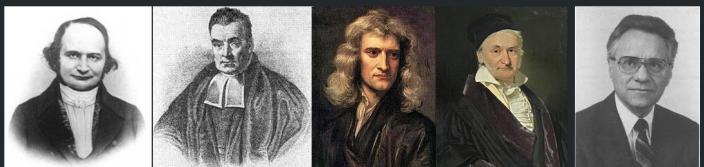
$$J \propto \Delta_{D_{sim}}^T \Delta_P^{-1}$$

$$\Delta_{D_{sim}} \propto (D_{sim} - \bar{D}_{sim})$$

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# Uncertainty Analysis | Iterative Ensemble Smoother (IES)

$$P_{\Delta} = -((J^T \Sigma_{\varepsilon}^{-1} J) + (1 + \lambda) \Sigma_P^{-1})^{-1} (\Sigma_P^{-1} (P - P_0) + J^T \Sigma_{\varepsilon}^{-1} (D_{sim} - D_{obs}))$$

upgraded parameter matrix      Approx Hessian      dampening      parameter change matrix      residual vector

$$\Delta_P \propto (P - \bar{P})$$

$$J \propto \Delta_{D_{sim}}^T \Delta_P^{-1}$$

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# Uncertainty Analysis | Iterative Ensemble Smoother (IES)

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- Number of forward model runs required is controlled by the number of realizations.

# Uncertainty Analysis | Iterative Ensemble Smoother (IES)

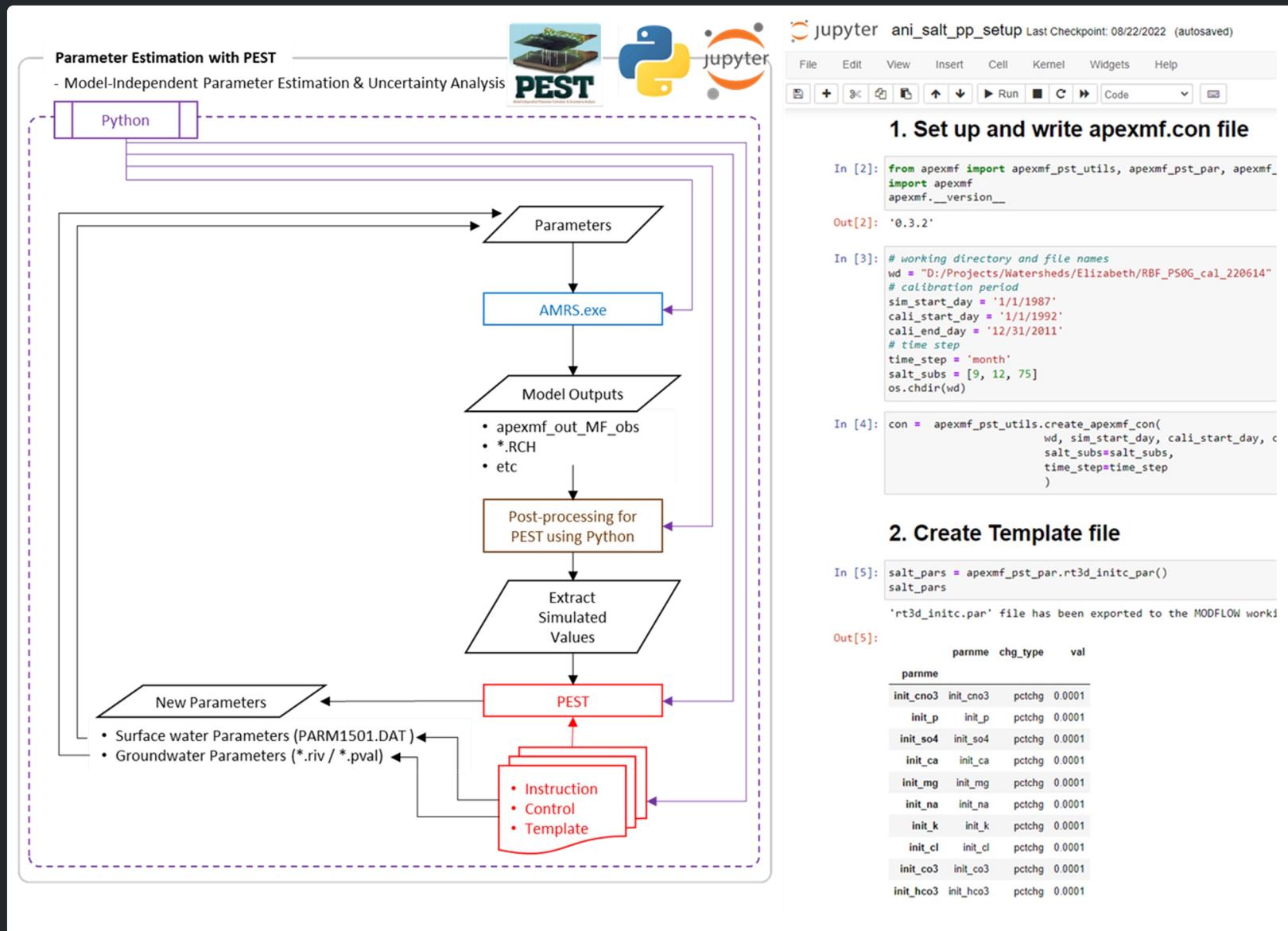
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- Number of forward model runs required is controlled by the number of realizations.
- The parameter ensemble is a sample of the posterior parameter distribution which we can use for uncertainty analysis.

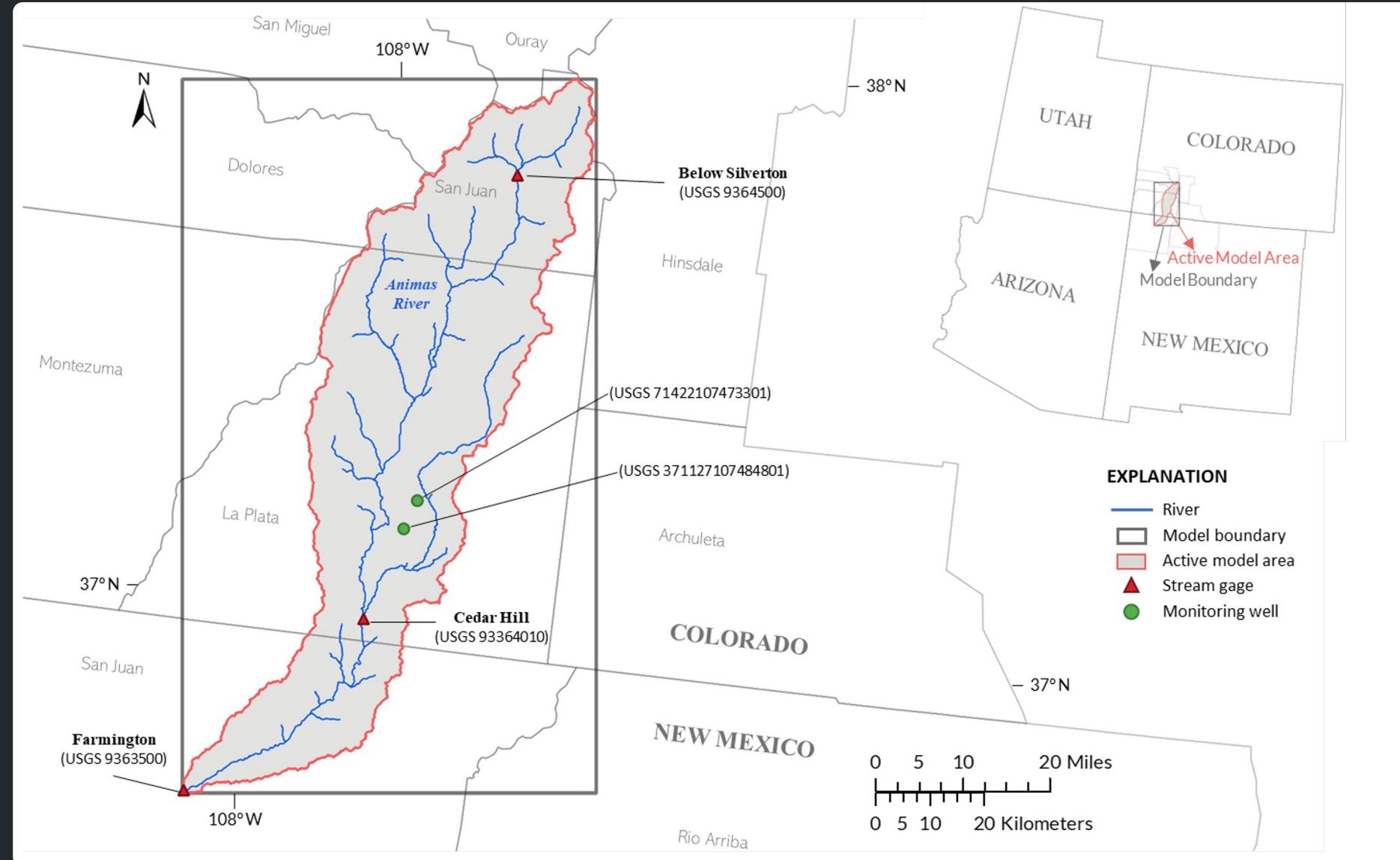
# Uncertainty Analysis | Framework



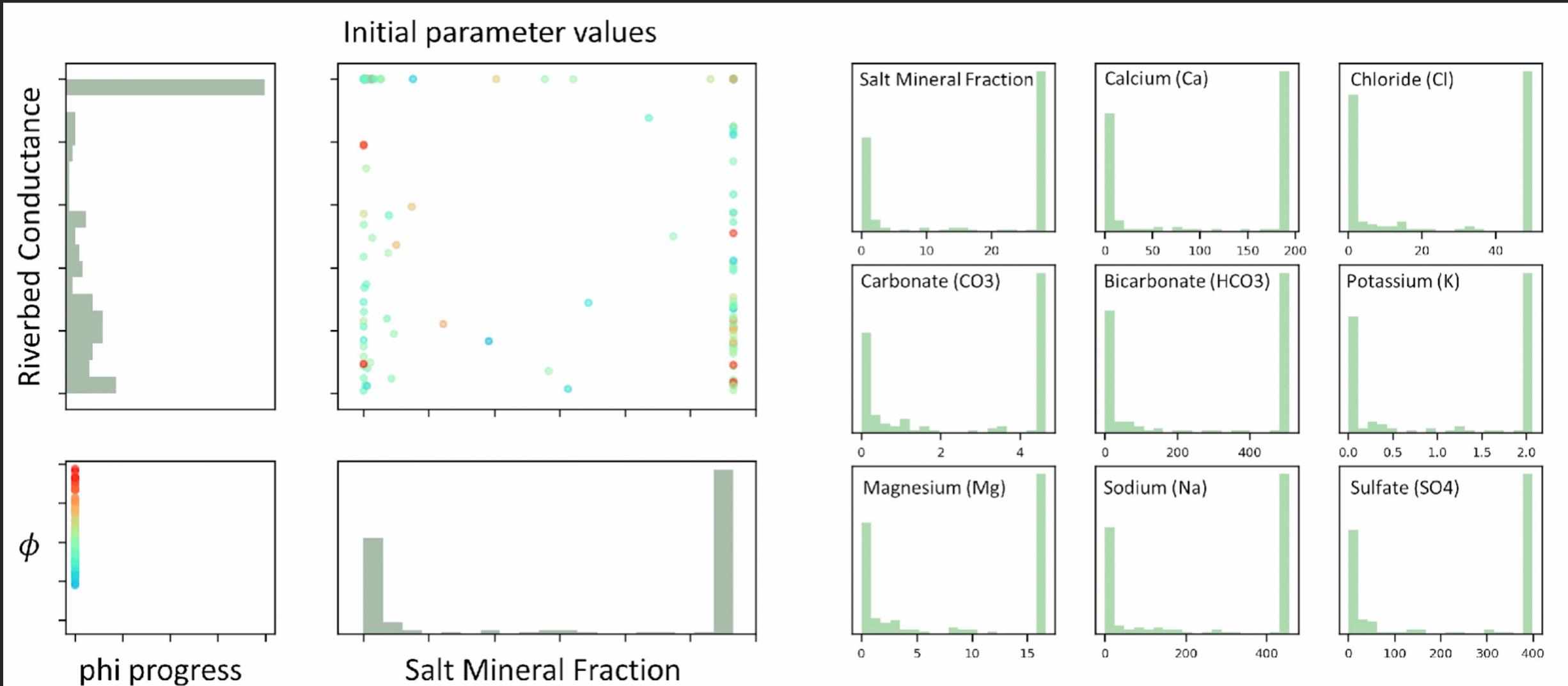
pyEMU + FloPy + apexmf



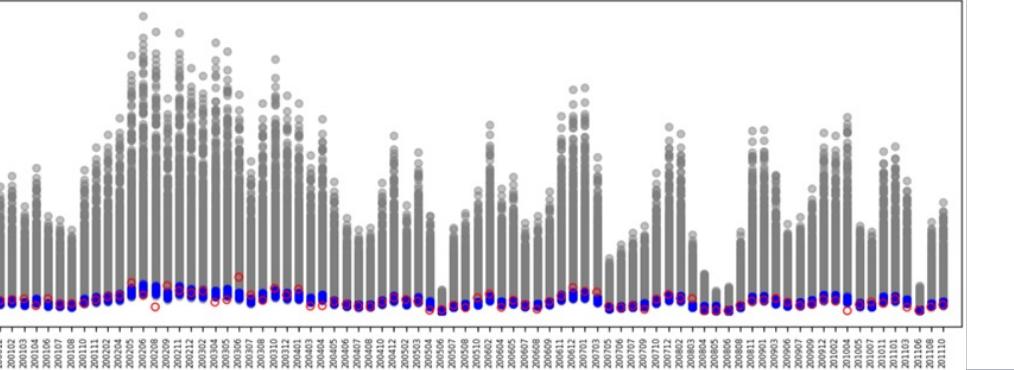
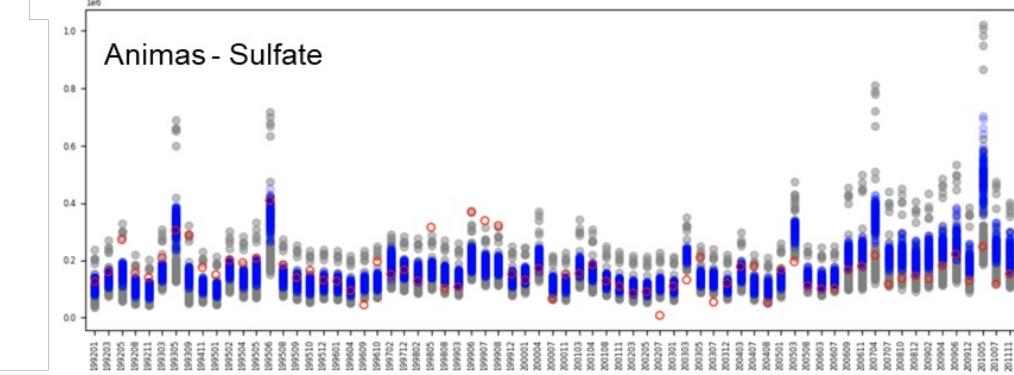
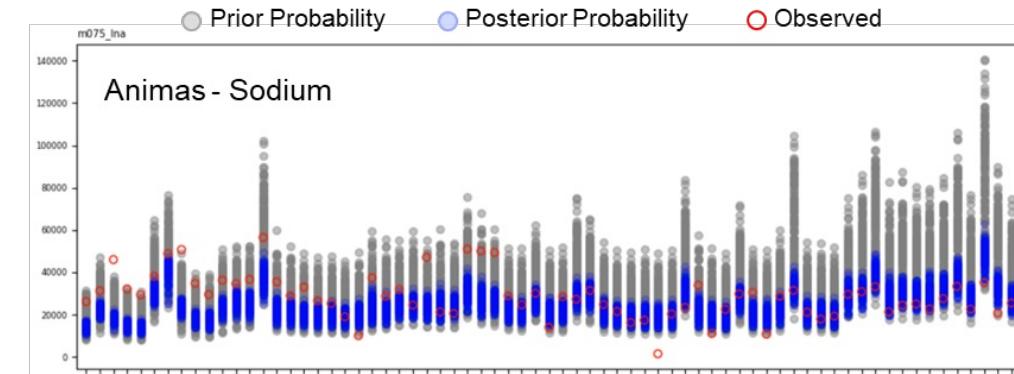
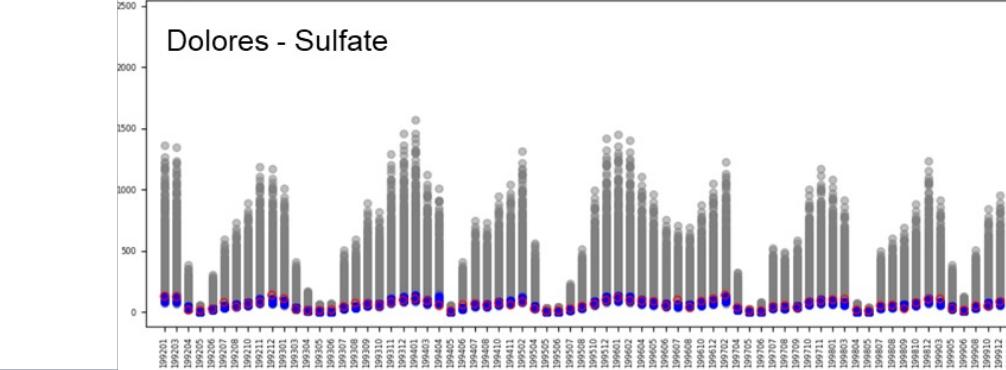
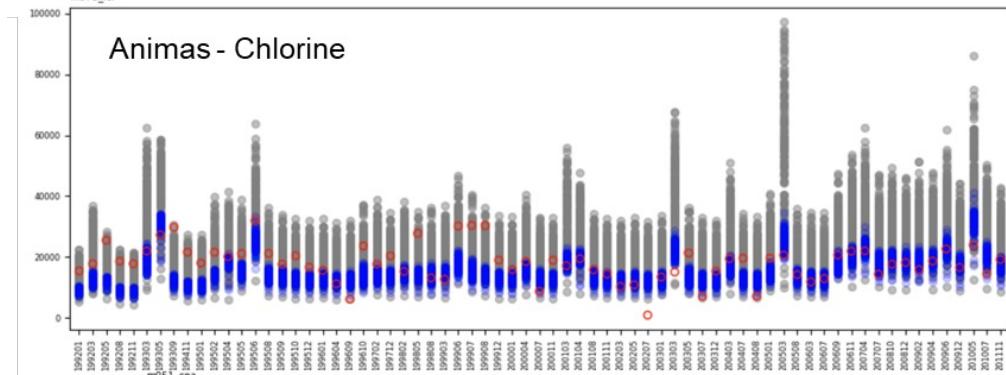
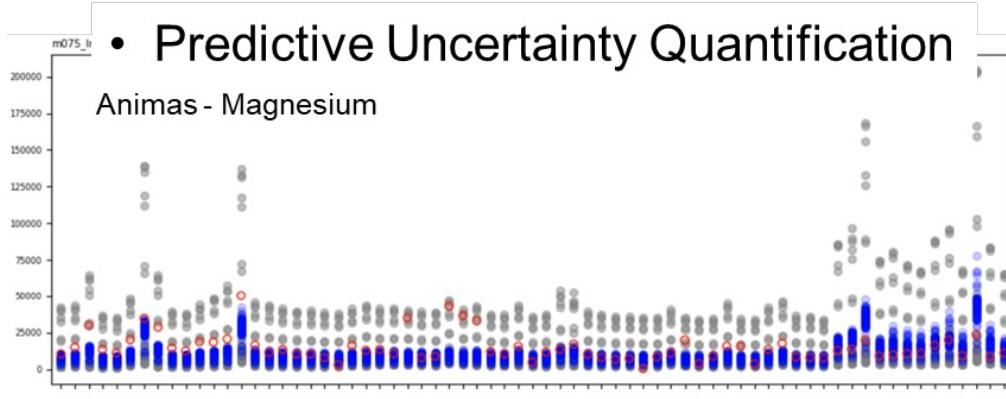
# A Worked Example | Animas River Watershed



# A Worked Example | Animas River Watershed



# A Worked Example | Animas River Watershed



# References

- Algorithm Guide:
  - SPOTPY: [https://spotpy.readthedocs.io/en/latest/Algorithm\\_guide/](https://spotpy.readthedocs.io/en/latest/Algorithm_guide/)
- Bayesian Theorem:
  - Probabilistic-Programming-and-Bayesian-Methods-for-Hackers: <https://github.com/CamDavidsonPilon/Probabilistic-Programming-and-Bayesian-Methods-for-Hackers>
  - Bayesian Modeling and Computation in Python: <https://bayesiancomputationbook.com/welcome.html>
  - PyMC: <https://www.pymc.io/welcome.html>
- DREAM:
  - Vrugt, J.A., 2016. Markov chain Monte Carlo simulation using the DREAM software package: Theory, concepts, and MATLAB implementation. *Environmental Modelling & Software* 75, 273–316. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsoft.2015.08.013>

# References

- DREAM:
  - Tasdighi, A., Arabi, M., Harmel, D., Line, D., 2018. A Bayesian total uncertainty analysis framework for assessment of management practices using watershed models. *Environmental Modelling & Software* 108, 240–252.  
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  - Laloy, E., Vrugt, J.A., 2012. High-dimensional posterior exploration of hydrologic models using multiple-try DREAM<sub>(ZS)</sub> and high-performance computing: EFFICIENT MCMC FOR HIGH-DIMENSIONAL PROBLEMS. *Water Resour. Res.* 48.  
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