

Multi-source satellite data
assimilation for large-scale
modelling and drought
monitoring

Belgian Science Policy Office



PROJECT SCOPE

Drought is an important problem in many areas of the world

with devastating consequences...

- Is a drought event about to strike?
- Where is it occurring?
- How severe is the drought event?

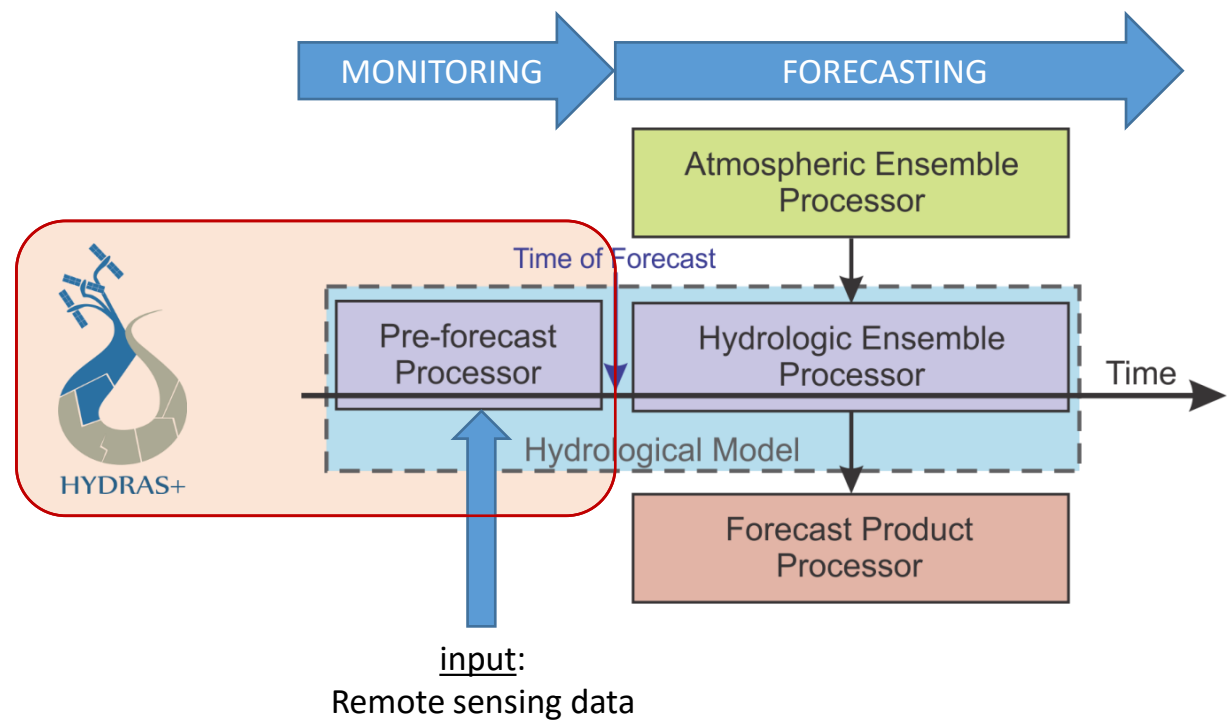
➔ Drought monitoring & early-warning systems

... at a catchment scale



DROUGHT MONITORING AND FORECASTING

CURRENT DROUGHT MONITORING AND PREDICTION SYSTEMS



→ CONTRIBUTION TO ENHANCED MONITORING AND BETTER INITIAL CONDITIONS FOR FORECASTS

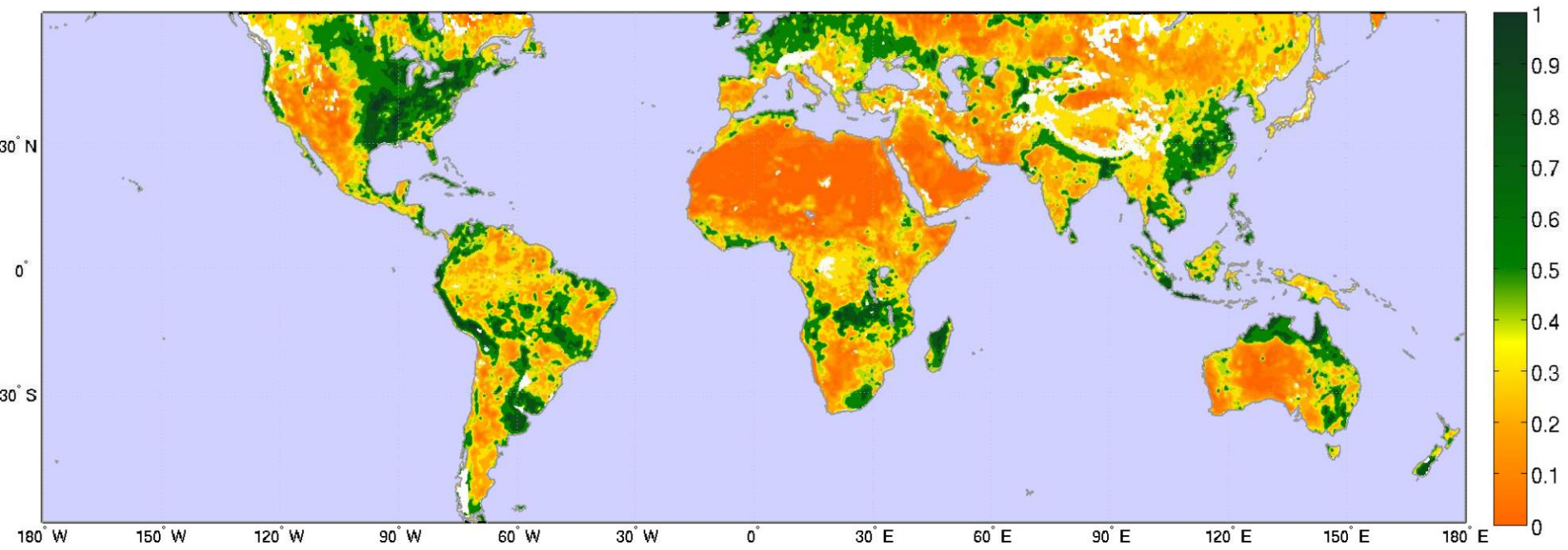
SATELLITE SOIL MOISTURE

PASSIVE L-BAND 1.4 GHZ RADIOMETERS (SMOS, SMAP)

ACTIVE RADAR SYSTEMS (ASCAT, SENTINEL 1)

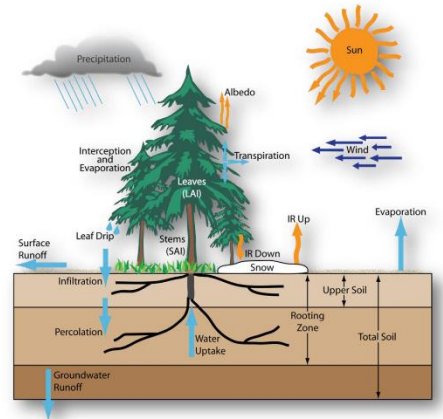
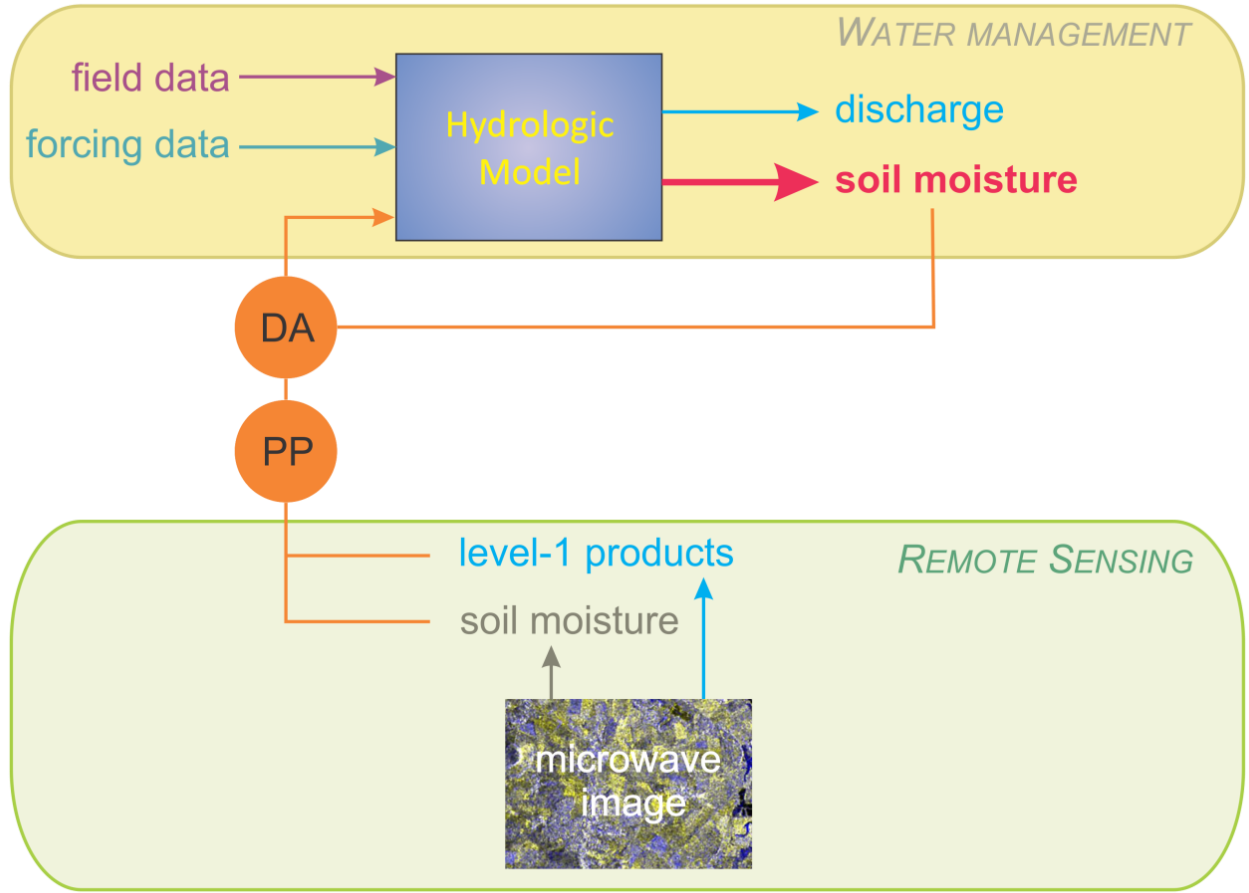
SATELLITE SOIL MOISTURE PRODUCTS ARE “CONTAMINATED” BY ANCILLARY DATA

→ ASSIMILATION OF RAW DATA



DATA ASSIMILATION

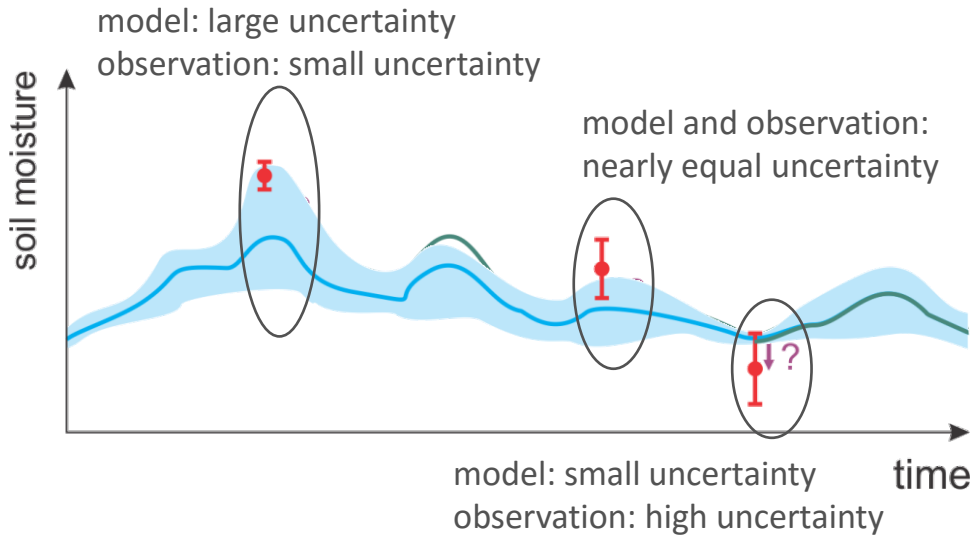
SATELLITE DATA ASSIMILATION FOR SOIL MOISTURE



DATA ASSIMILATION

PASSIVE L-BAND 1.4 GHZ RADIOMETERS (SMOS, SMAP)

Principle of data assimilation

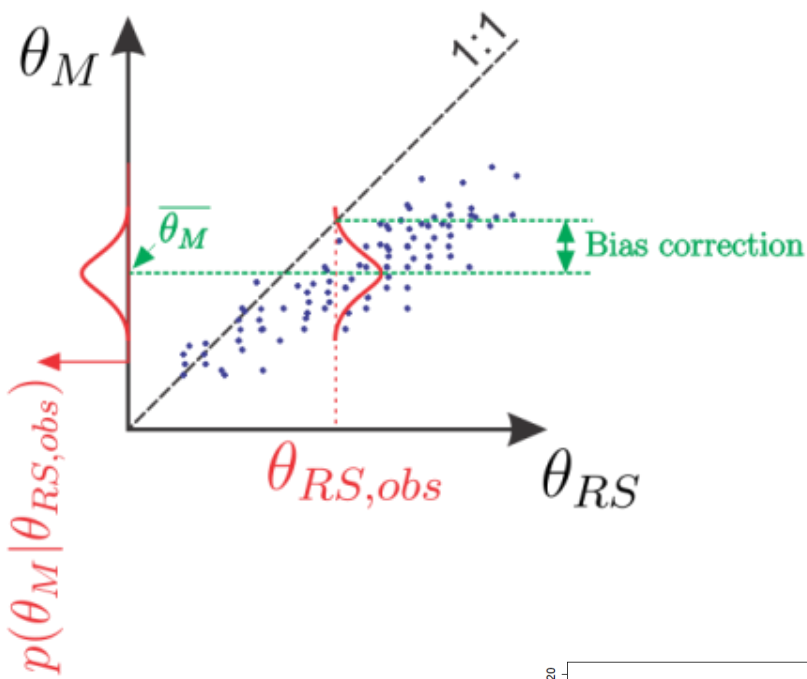


➔ model state update should be a function of uncertainty in both model state and observations

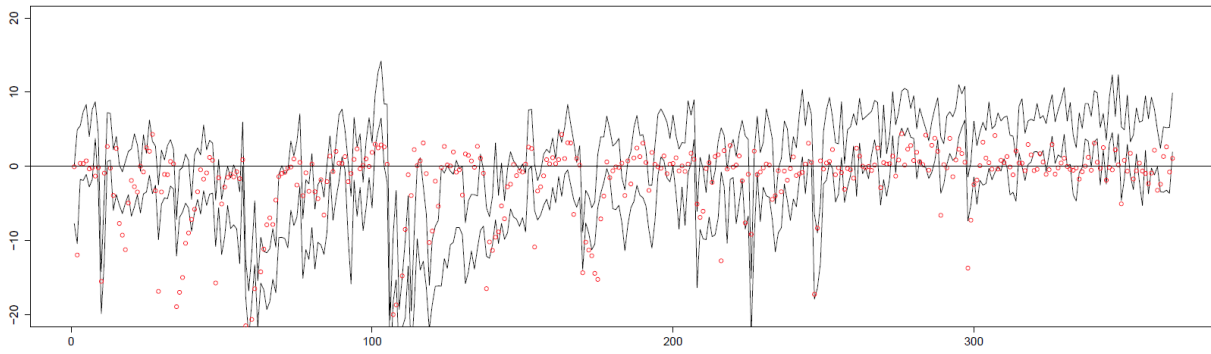
➔ Ensemble Kalman Filter

DATA ASSIMILATION

SATELLITE DATA ASSIMILATION FOR SOIL MOISTURE

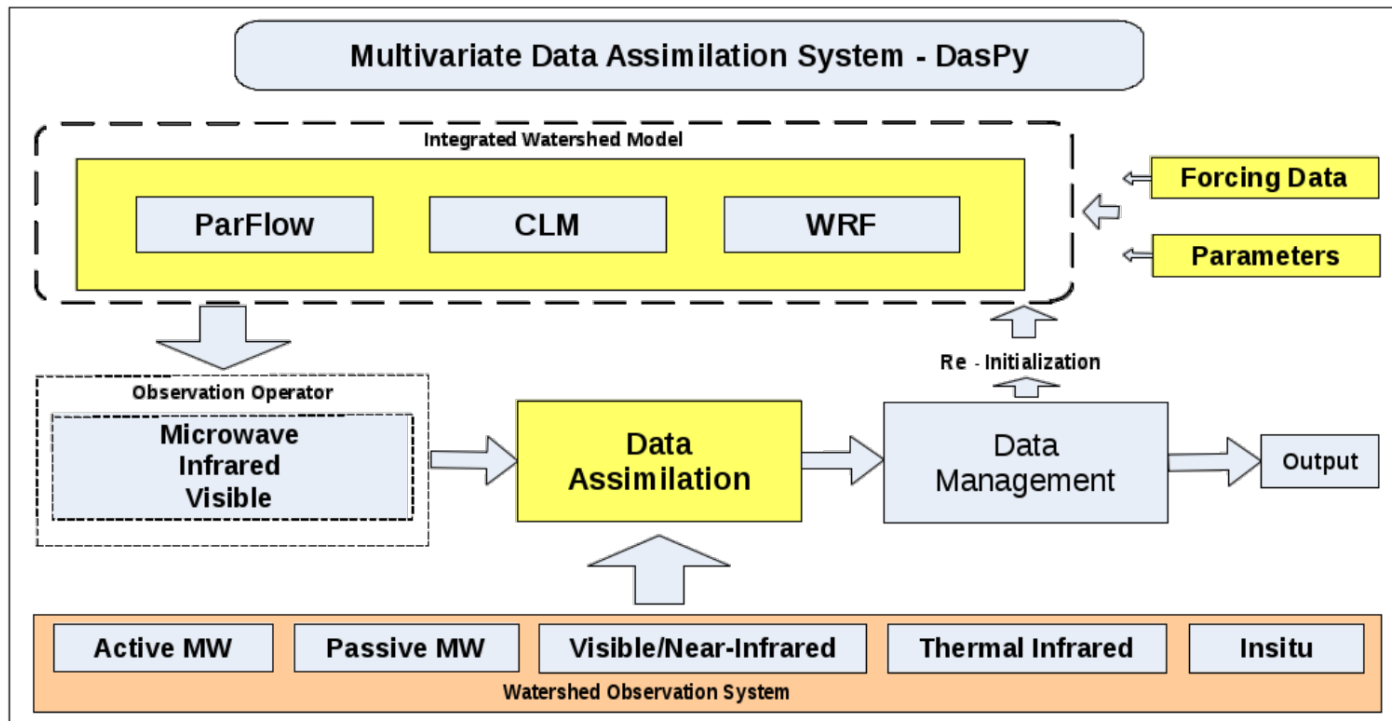


- OBSERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO BE UNBIASED
- BOTH ANOMALY / CDF MATCHING APPROACH ARE FOLLOWED AS WELL AS A COPULA FRAMEWORK
- COPULA FRAMEWORK USED TO SPATIALLY DOWNSCALE OBSERVATIONS TO FINER MODEL

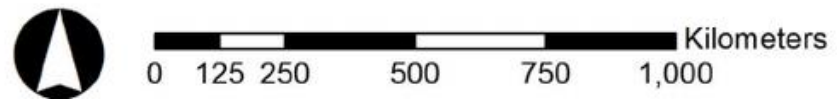
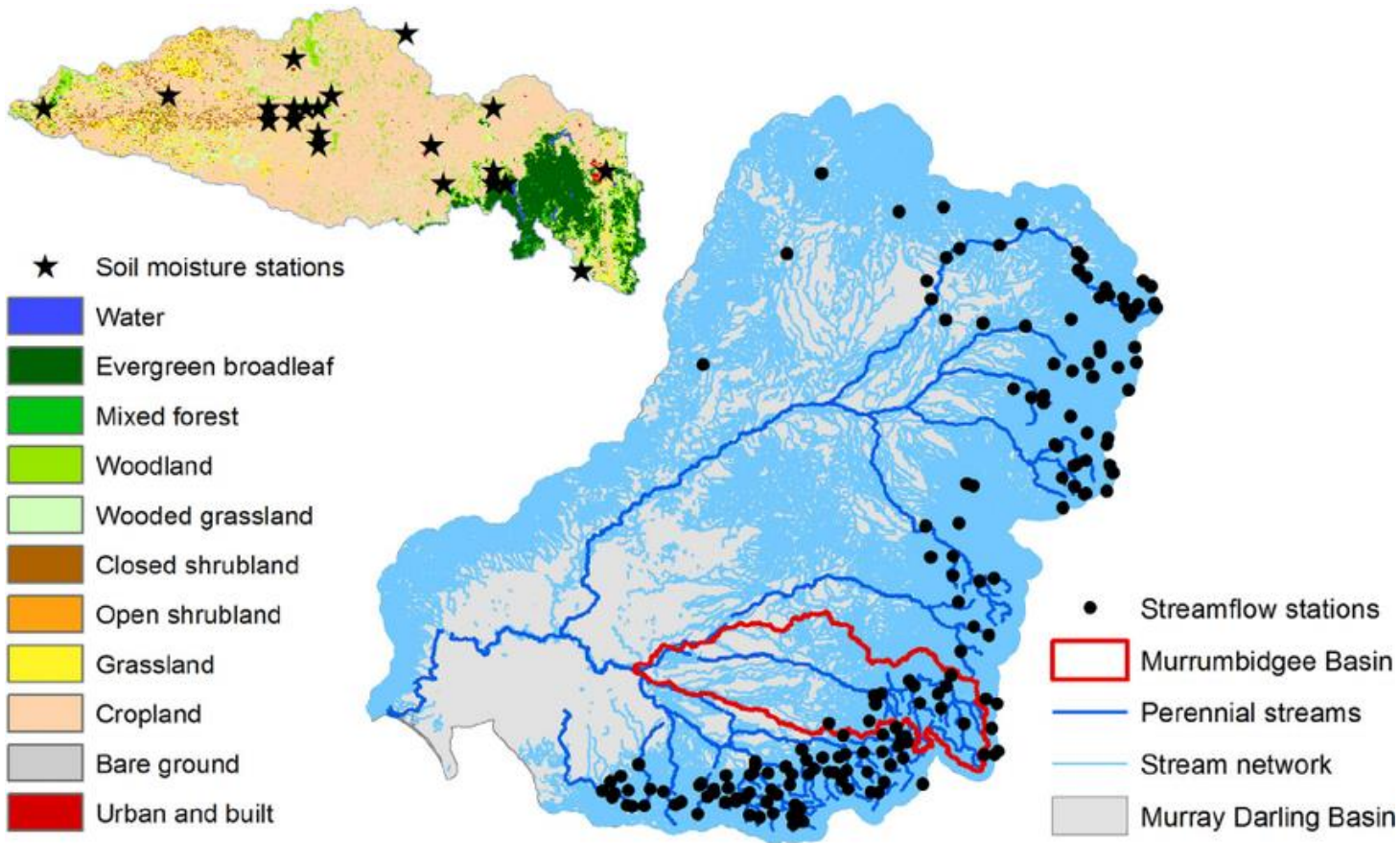


DATA ASSIMILATION FRAMEWORK DASPY

PYTHON + MODULES, OPENMP, MPI, FORTRAN, F2PY ...

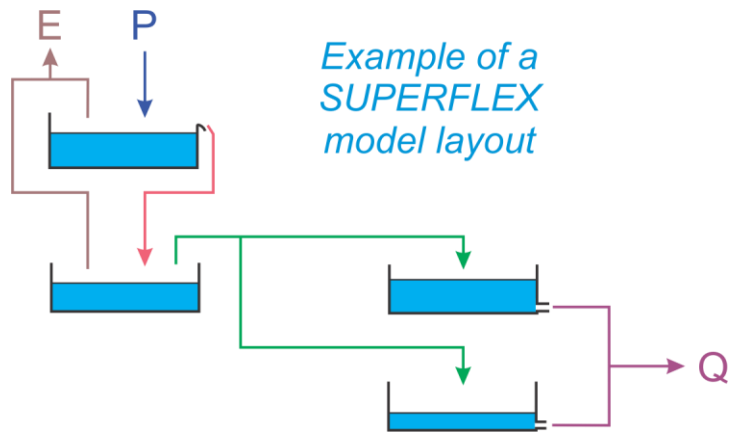
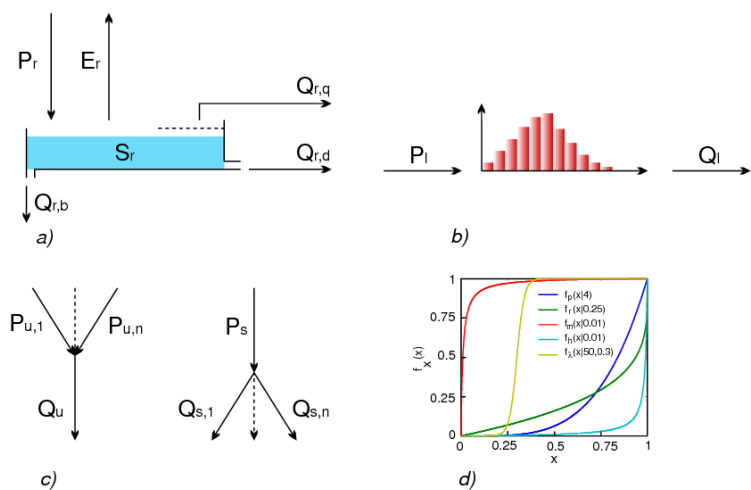


INITIAL FOCUS AREA

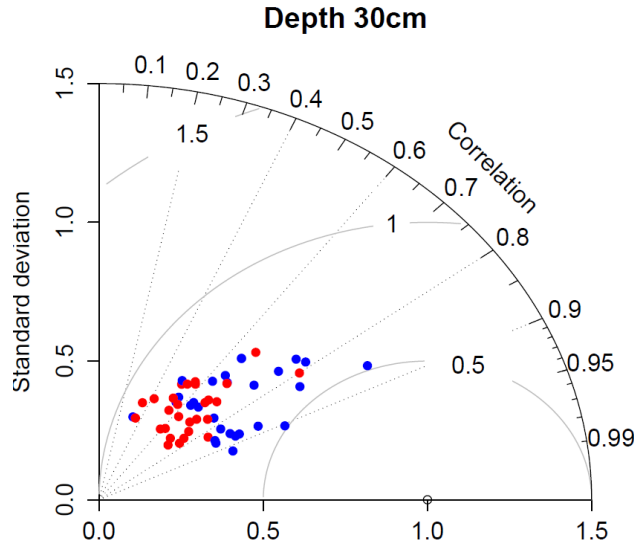
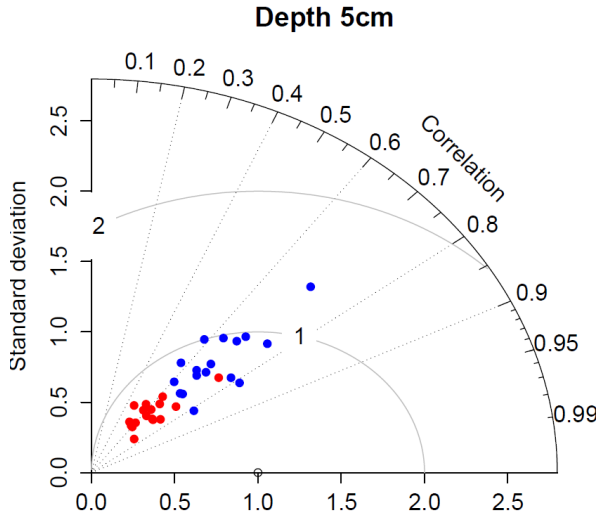
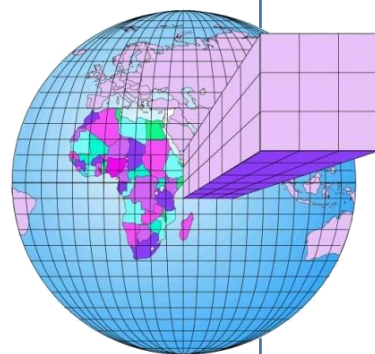


COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT MODELLING APPROACHES

SUPERFLEX Modelling Framework

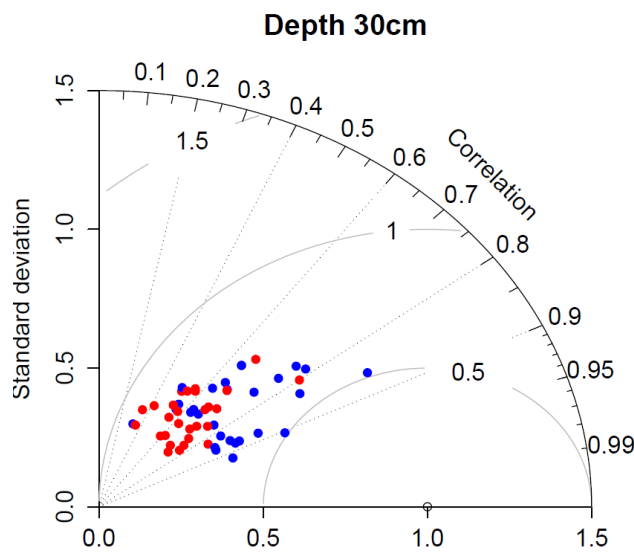
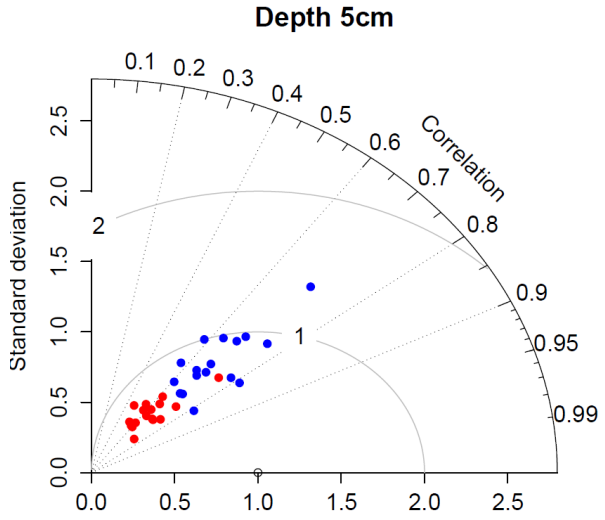
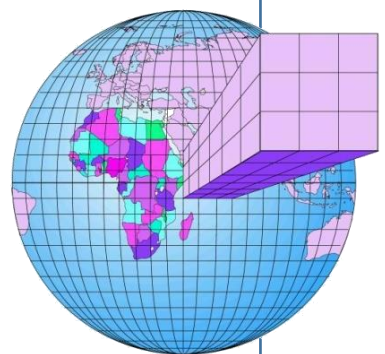
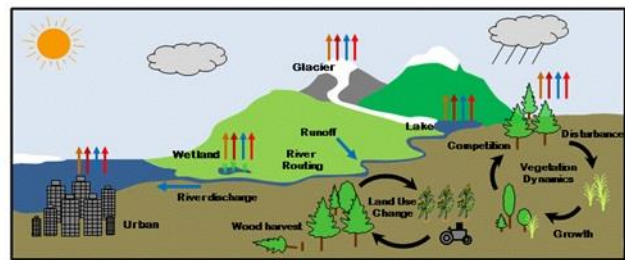
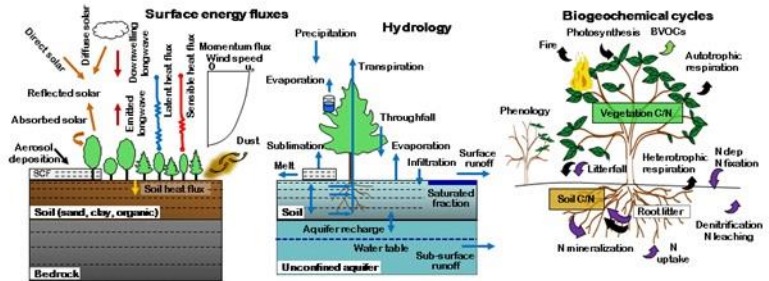


Example of a SUPERFLEX model layout

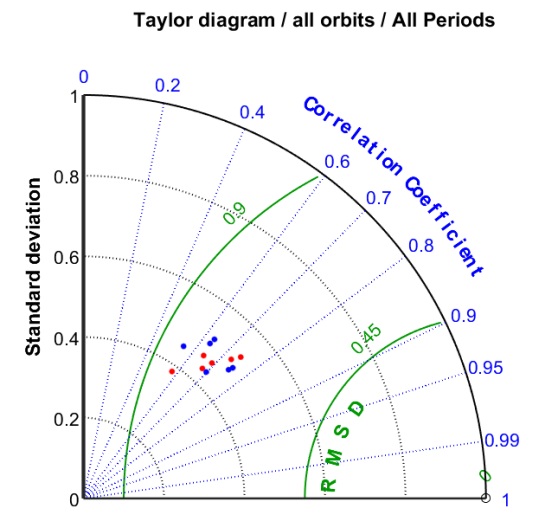
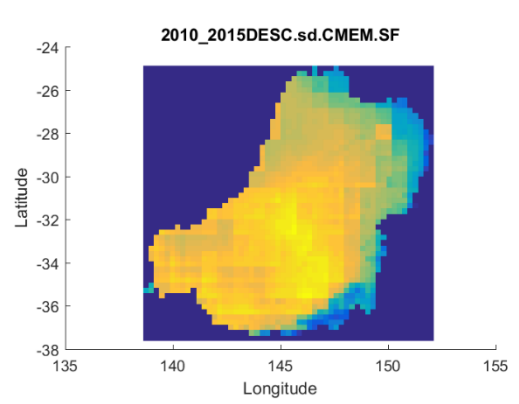
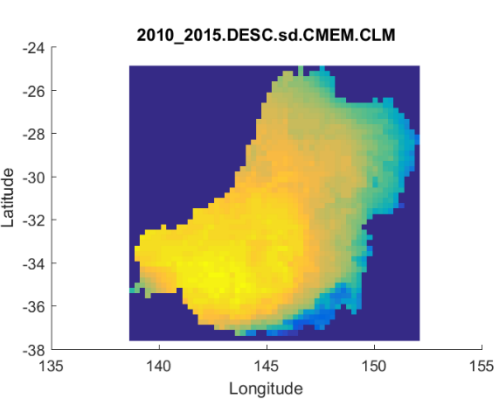
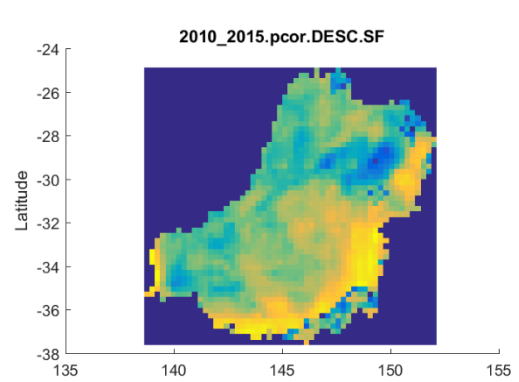
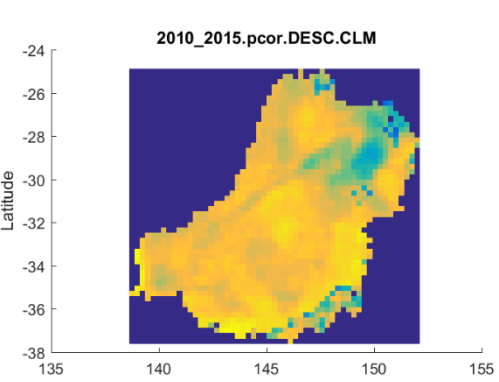


COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT MODELLING APPROACHES

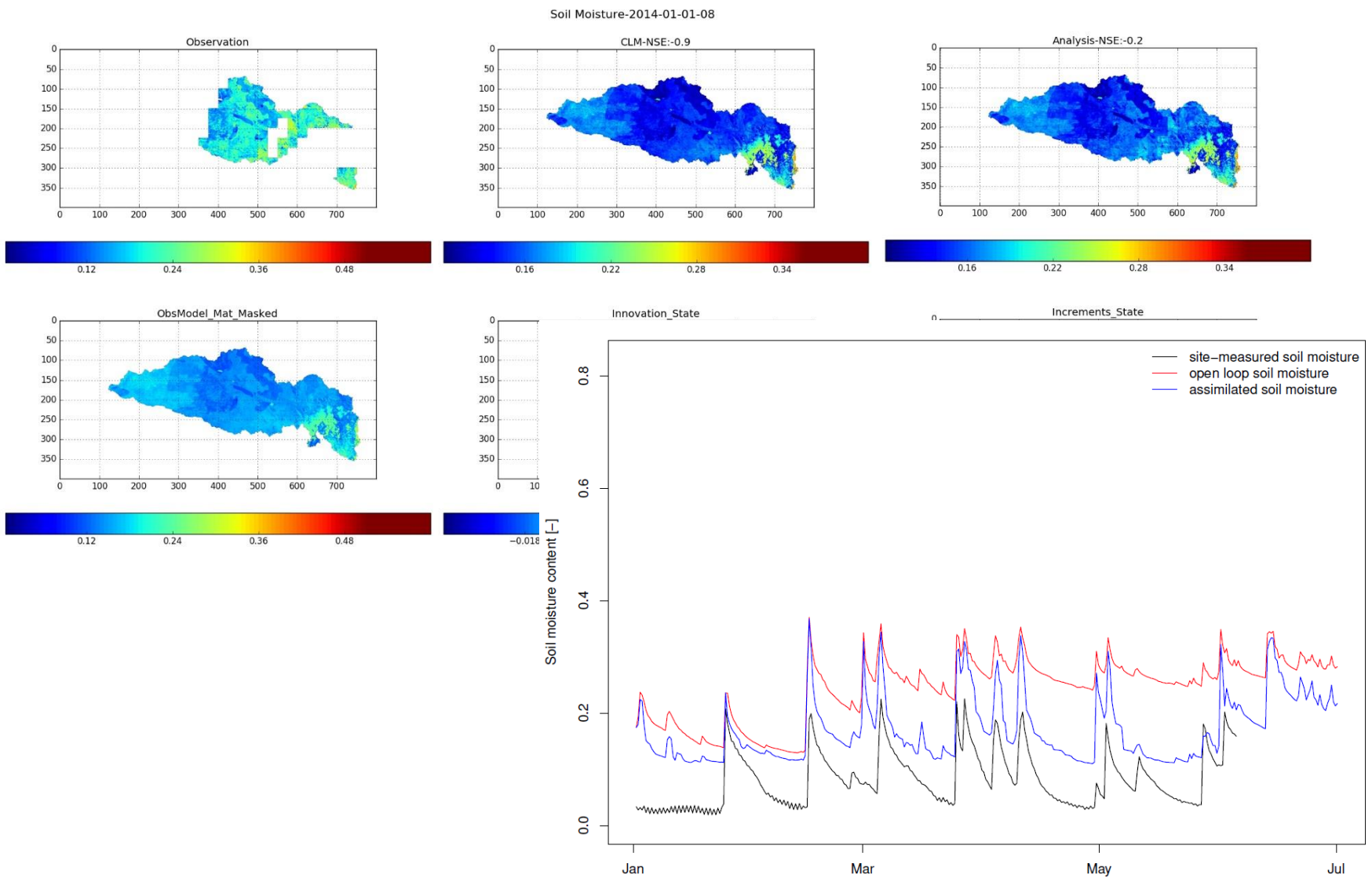
Community Land Surface Model



Community Land Surface Model



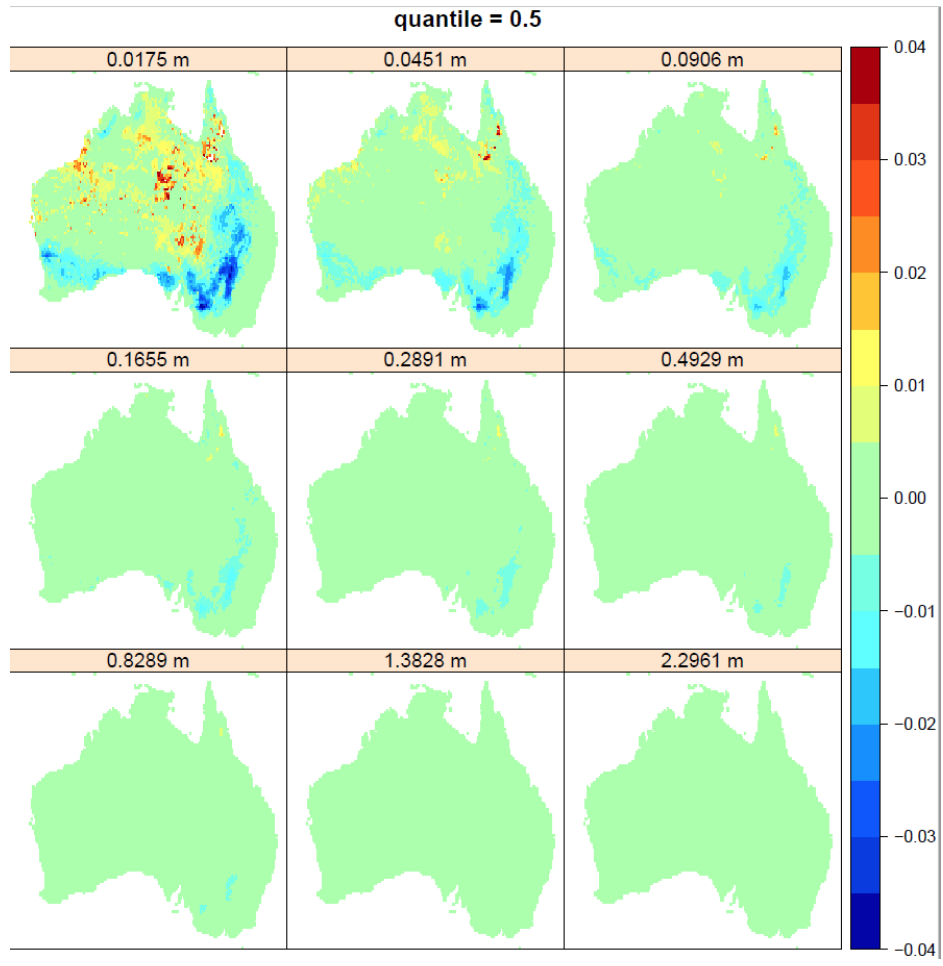
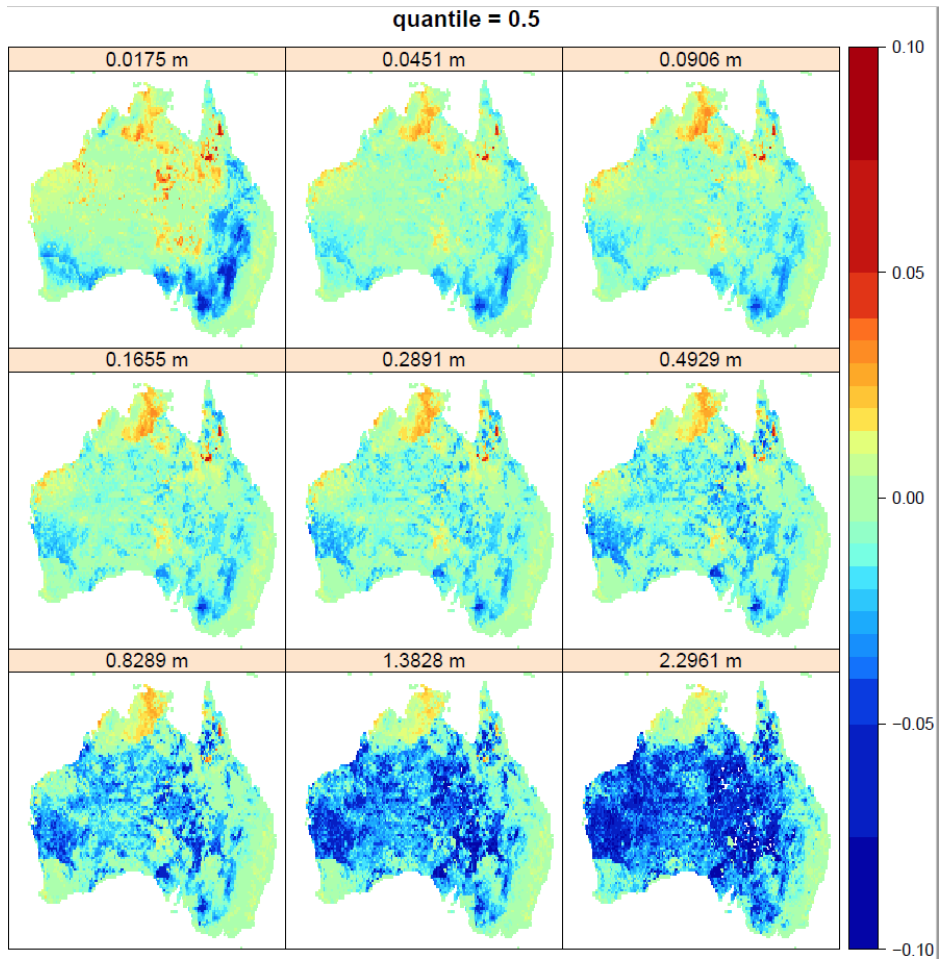
REGIONAL ASSIMILATION WITHIN THE MURRUMBIDGEE CATCHMENT



6 YEARS PASSIVE MICROWAVE ASSIMILATION OVER AUSTRALIA

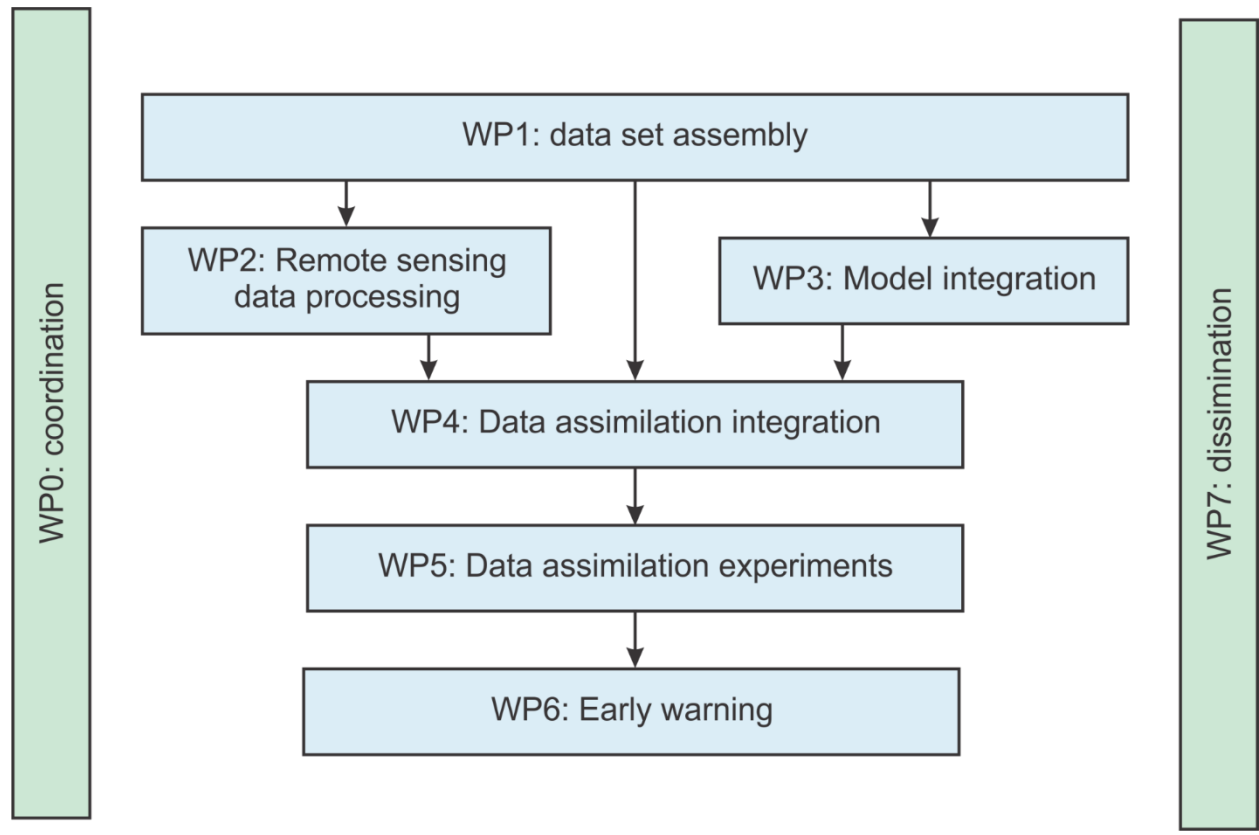
SMOS 2010 – 2015 ASSIMILATION OVER AUSTRALIA

→ POSITIVE EFFECT ON CORRELATION COEFFICIENT, EFFECT ON LONG-TERM STATISTICS?



CURRENT STATUS

ASSIMILATION EXPERIMENTS ONGOING
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- NEXT SMAP AND SENTINEL 1 ASSIMILATION (ASCAT)
- DROUGHT STATISTICS