Hydrologic Uses of Global Satellite Precipitation Datasets in Complex Terrain Regions

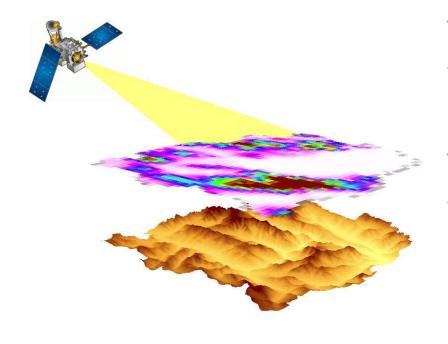
Prof. Emmanouil Anagnostou

University of Connecticut, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Storrs-Mansfield, CT, USA



Nov 23-27 EUMETRAIN Precipitation Event Week

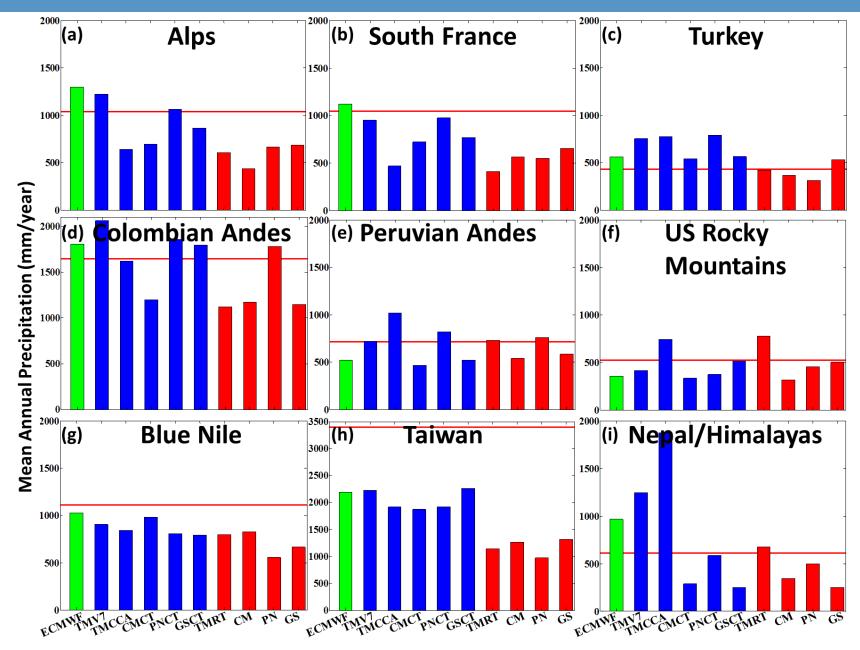
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

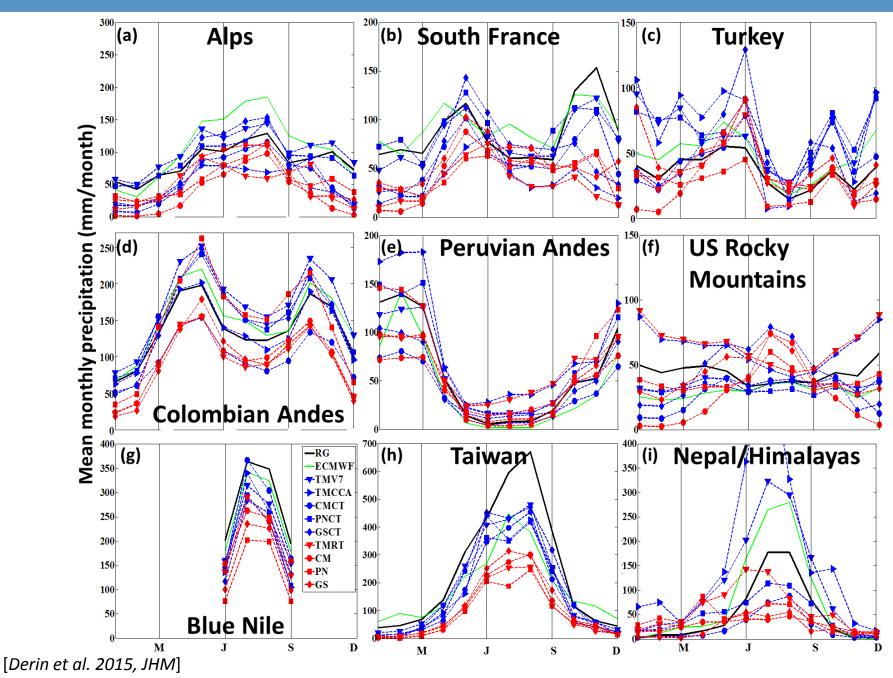


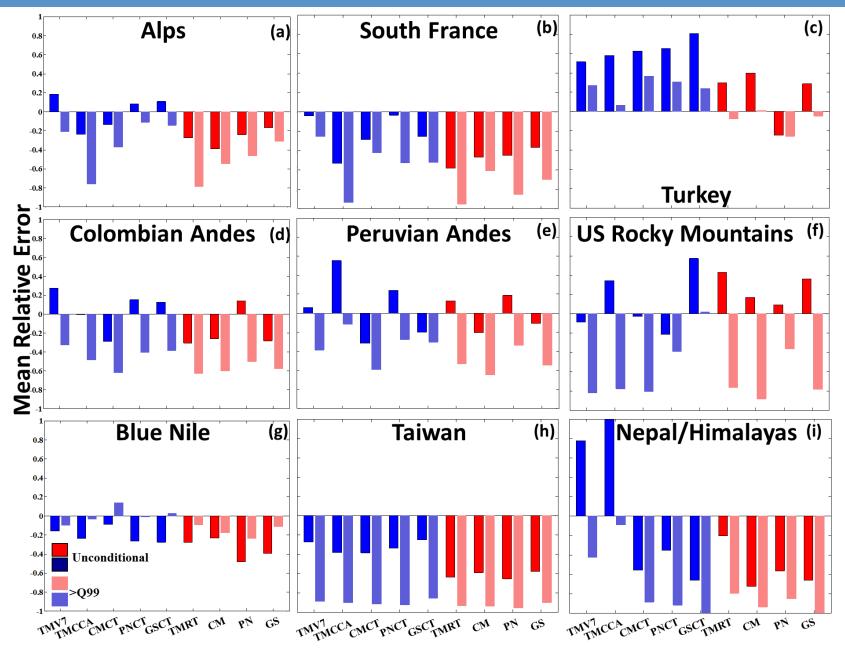
What are the uncertainty characteristics in satellite retrievals and how are those errors propagate in hydrologic simulations

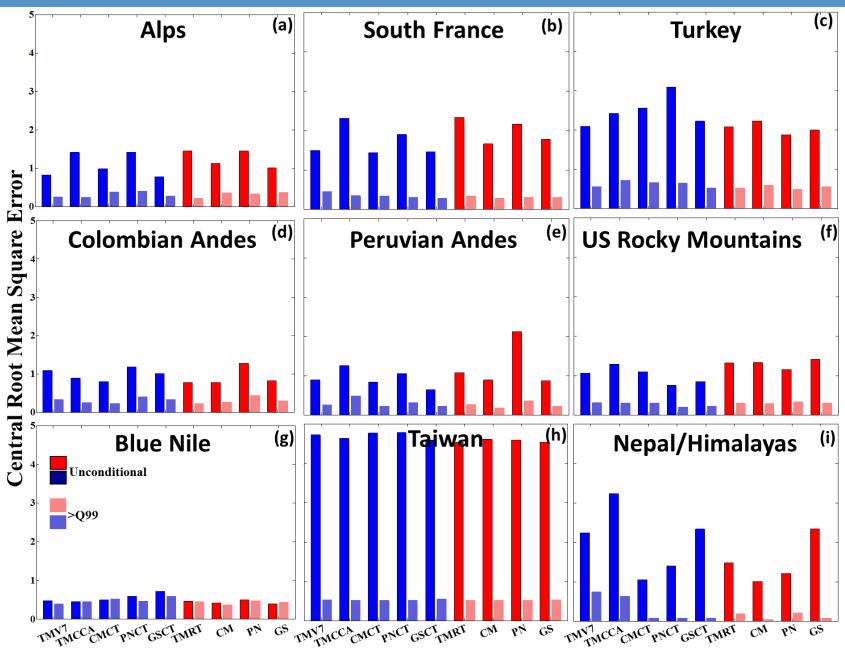
What improvements are obtainable in satellite rainfall estimation of mountainous heavy precipitation events and how those improvements impact flood modelling?

- ✓ How to apply error corrections of satellite rainfall products in absence of ground reference data?
- ✓ What kind of hydrologic modeling, or parameter estimation procedure, is most appropriate in the case of satellite rainfall forcing data considering satellite data uncertainty and spatial resolution.

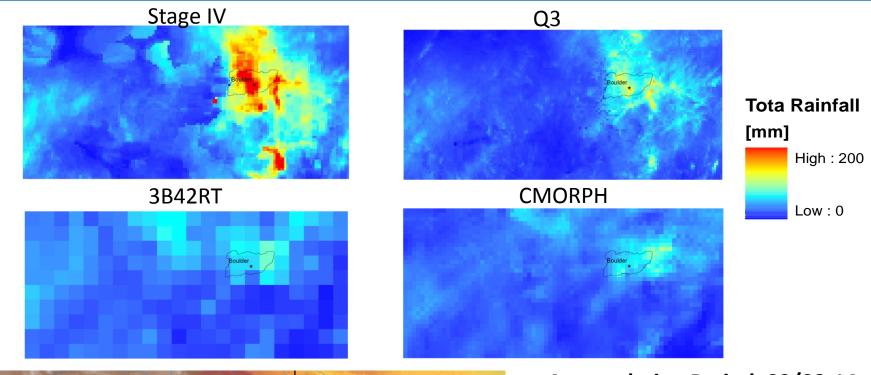


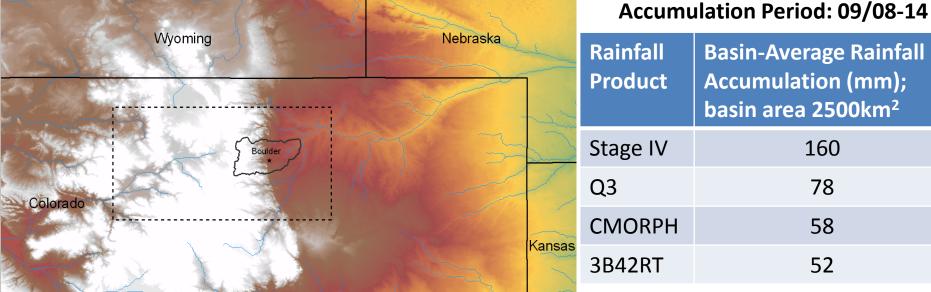




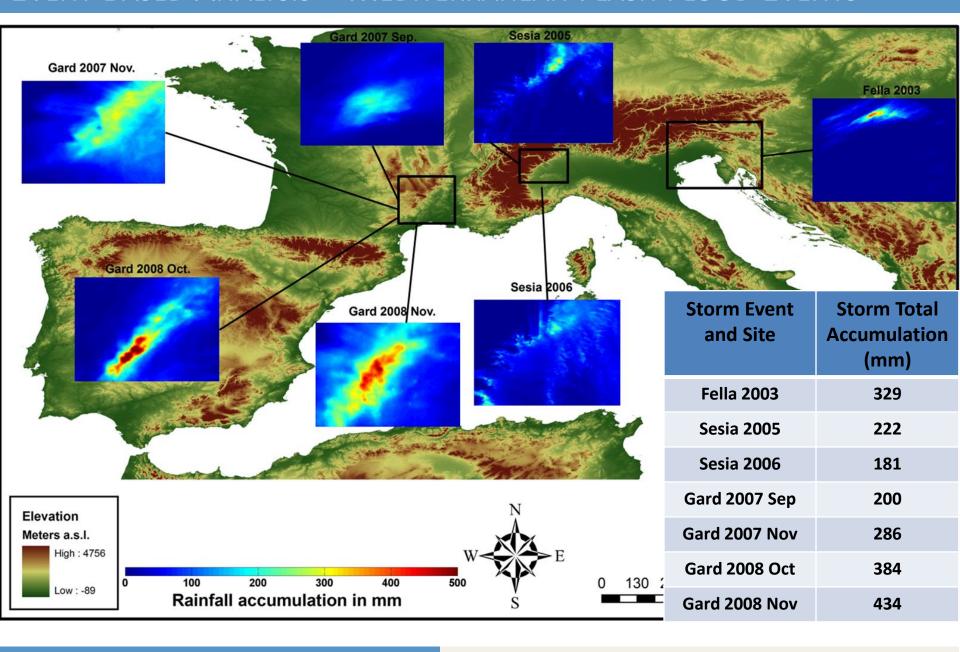


EVENT BASED ANALYSIS: COLORADO FLOODS — SEPTEMBER 2013

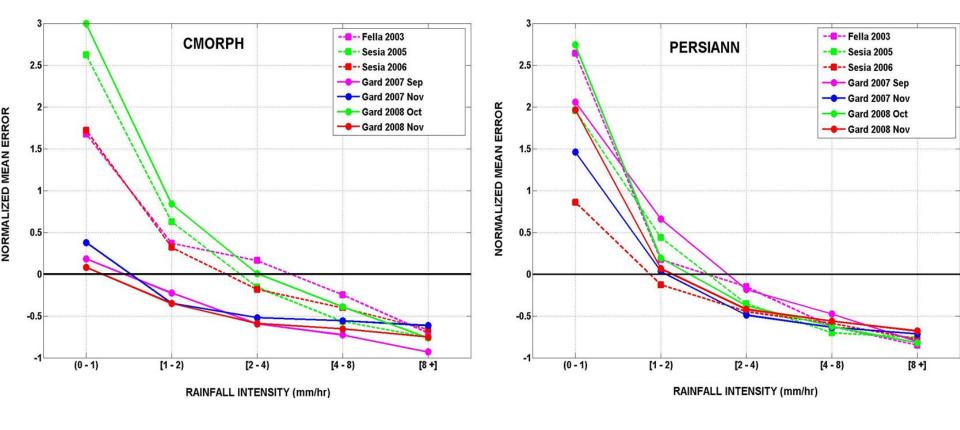




Event Based Analysis – Mediterranean Flash Flood Events

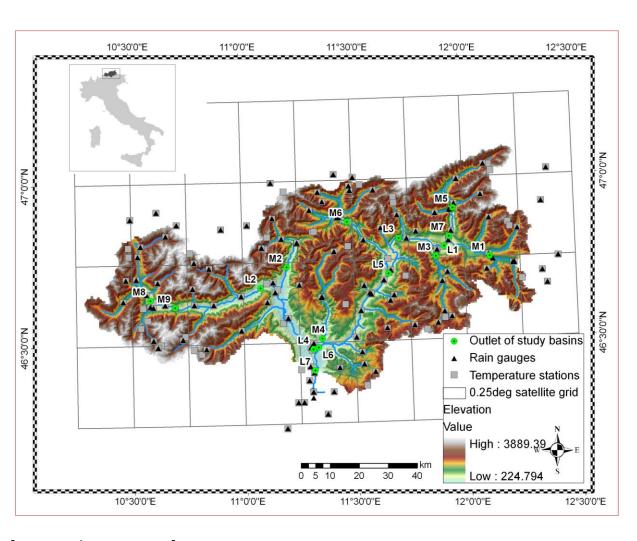


RAINFALL ERROR VS. MAGNITUDE



[Stampoulis and Anagnostou, JoH, 2013]

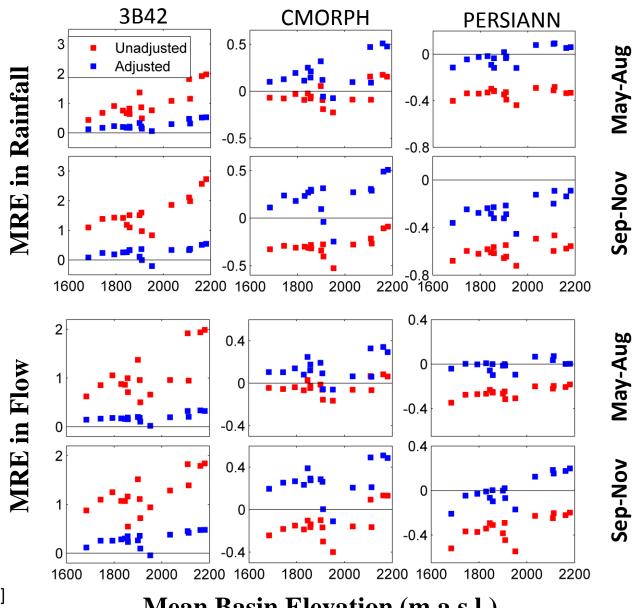
HYDROLOGIC ERROR PROPAGATION



Upper Adige River Basin (6967 km2);

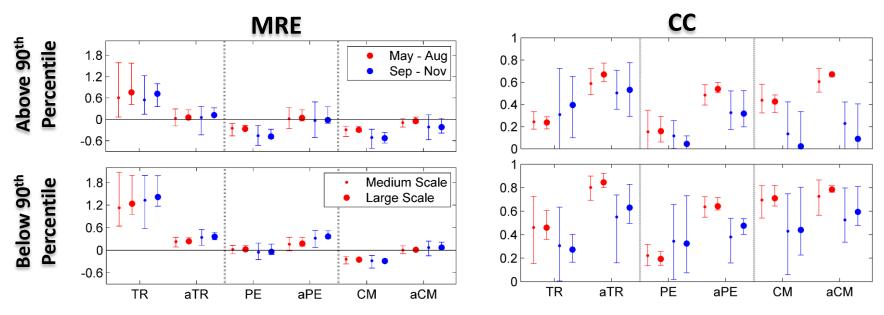
- 104 rain gauges and 143 temperature stations;
- Integrated Catchment Hydrological Model (ICHYMOD):
- snow routine, soil moisture routine, flow routine

Role of elevation on systematic error



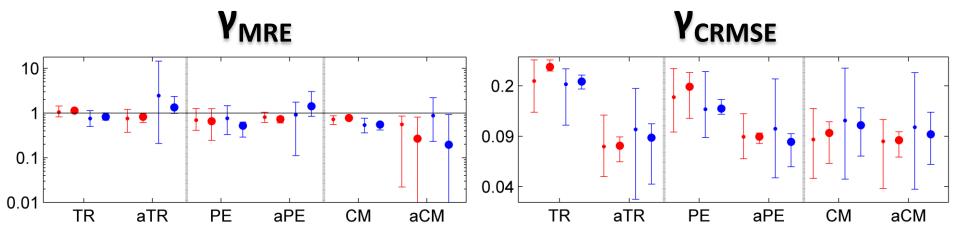
Mean Basin Elevation (m a.s.l.)

EFFECTS OF BASIN SCALE, SEASONALITY AND FLOW SEVERITY

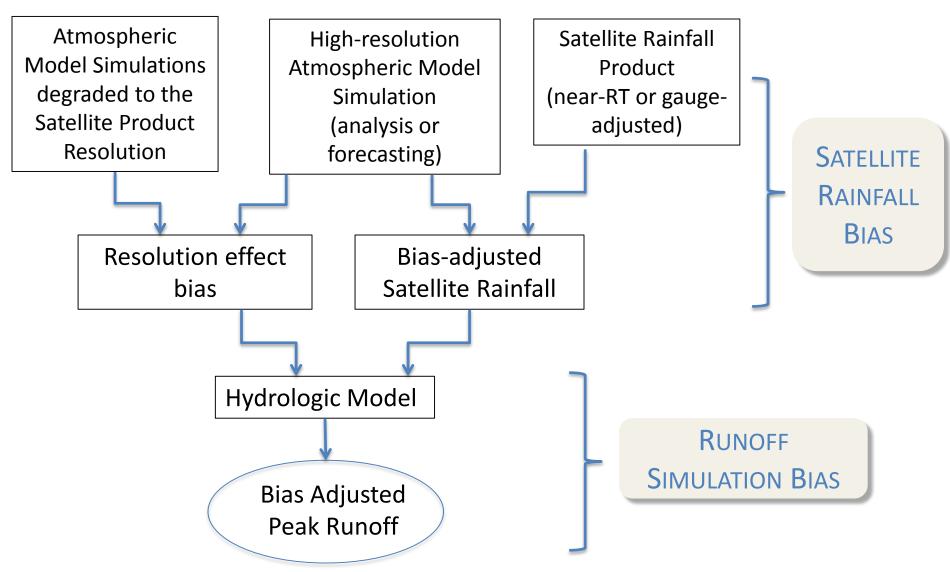


Satellite Precipitation Products

ERROR RATIOS (RUNOFF TO PRECIPITATION)



ERROR ADJUSTMENT FRAMEWORK



[Zhang et al. 2013, 2015 JHM; Nikolopoulos et al. 2015, JHM]

Case Study 1: Mountainous Flash Floods

Boulder 2013

Area mean (mm): 142 | 130

Max (mm): 278 | 313

Fella 2003

Area mean (mm): 212 | 120

Max (mm): 441 | 419

Sesia 2002

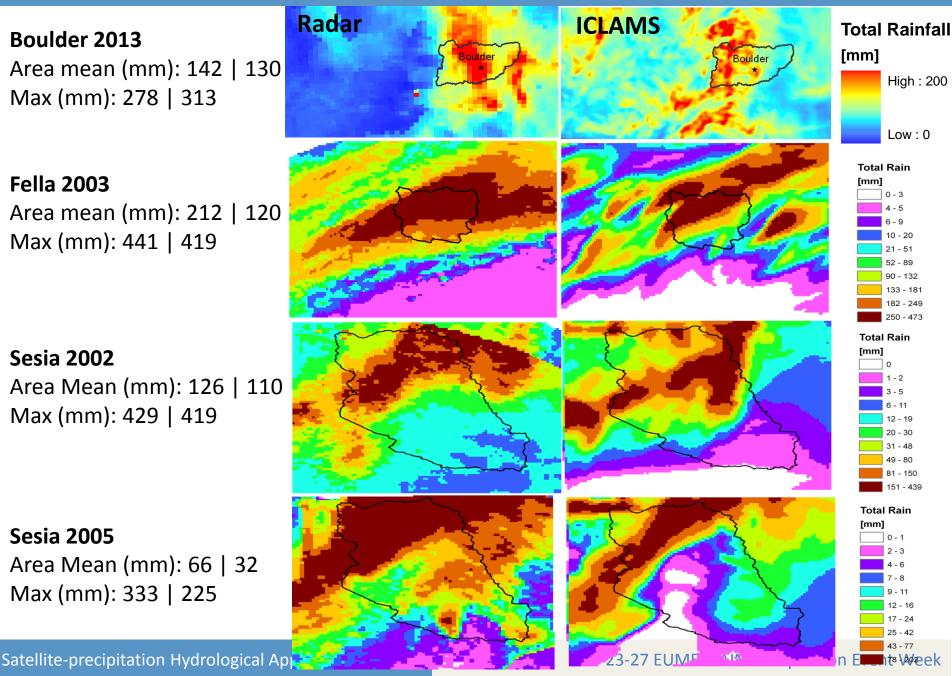
Area Mean (mm): 126 | 110

Max (mm): 429 | 419

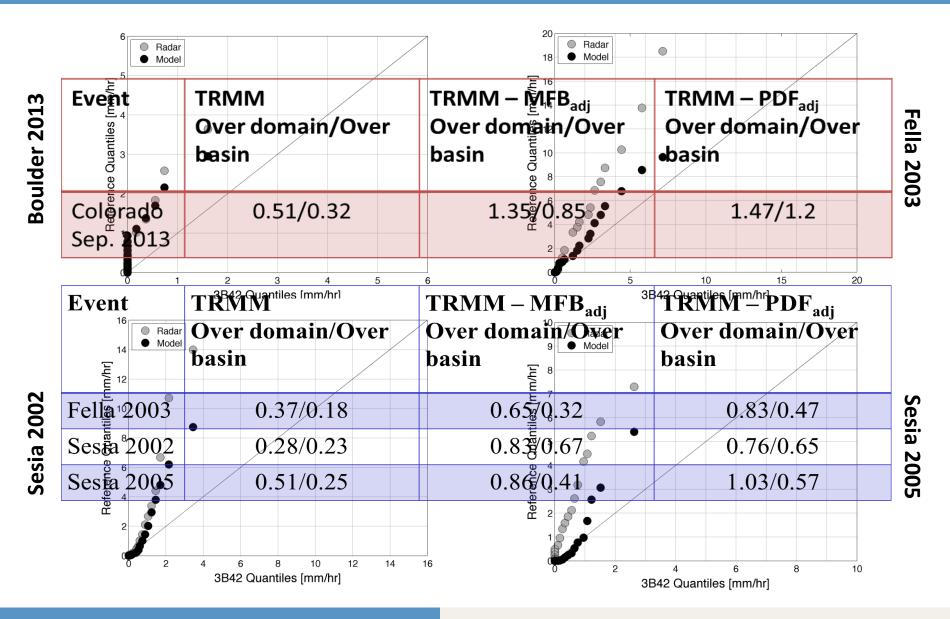
Sesia 2005

Area Mean (mm): 66 | 32

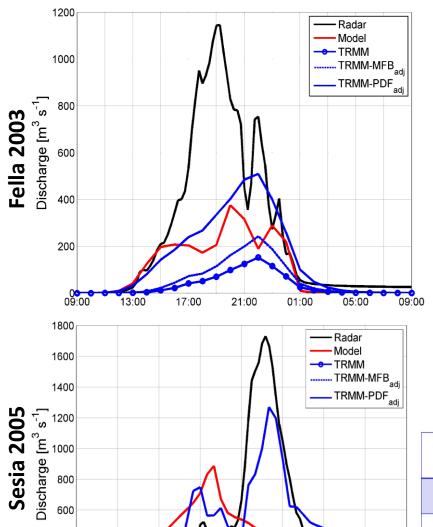
Max (mm): 333 | 225

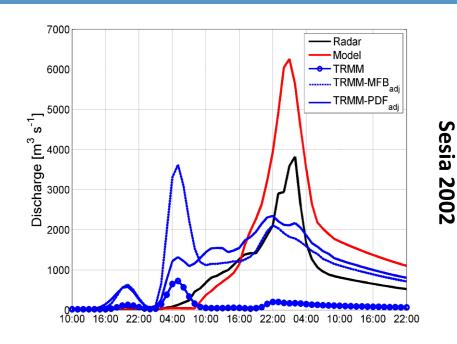


RADAR VS. NWP-SATELLITE RAINFALL ERROR ASSESSMENT



Rainfall-Runoff Simulations — Only Rainfall Bias Adjustment





Peak Flow Simulated Bias

Event	*TRMM	*TRMM – MFB _{adj}	*TRMM – PDF _{adj}	Model
Fella 2003	0.15	0.2	0.45	0.34
Sesia 2002	0.19	0.97	0.60	1.67
Sesia 2005	0.12	0.13	0.76	0.52

13:00

19:00

01:00

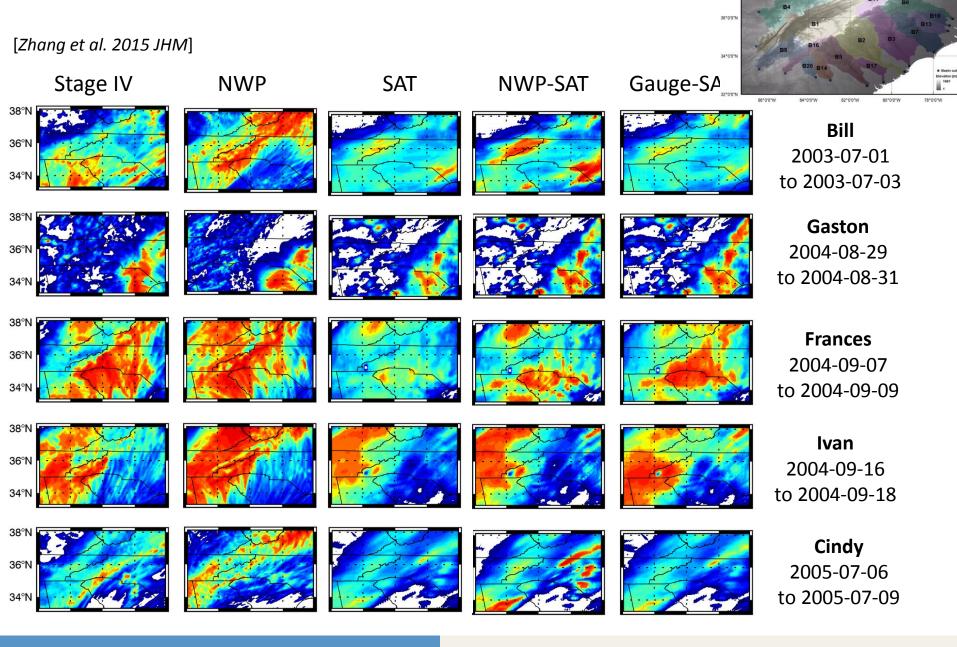
07:00

13:00

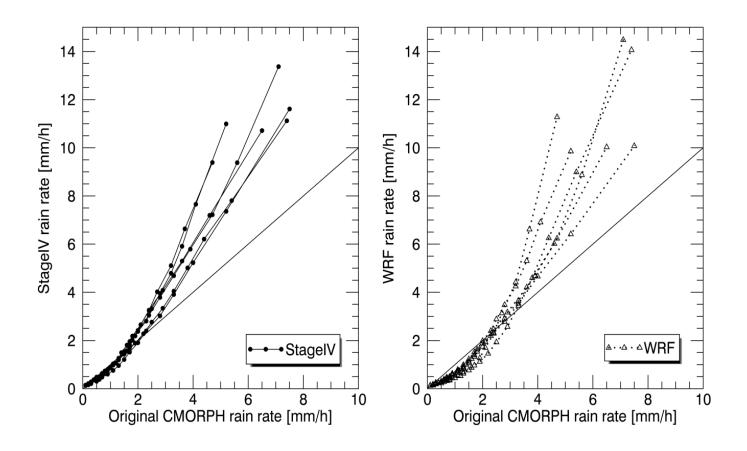
400

200

Case Study 2: Mid-Atlantic Hurricanes

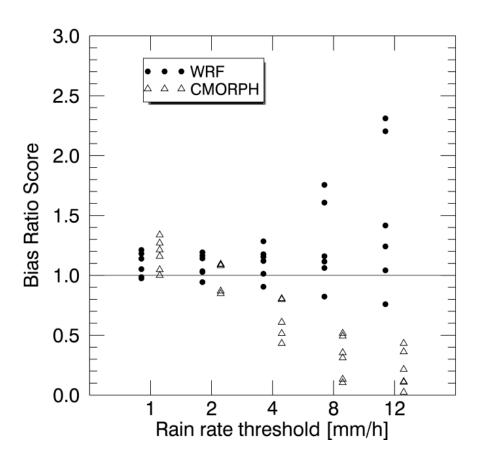


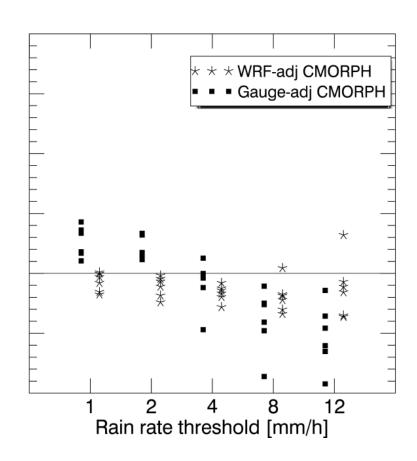
ERROR CORRECTION FUNCTION



[Zhang et al. 2015 JHM]

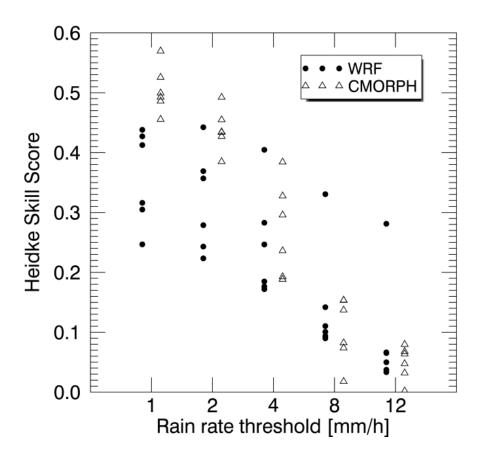
ERROR METRICS

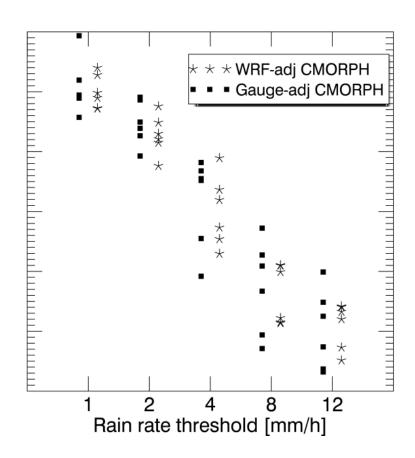




[Zhang et al. 2015 JHM]

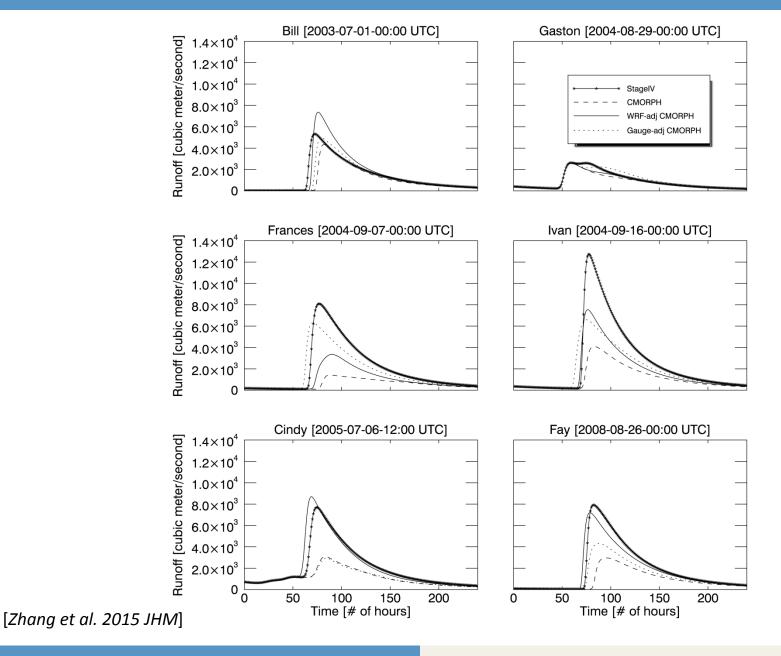
ERROR METRICS



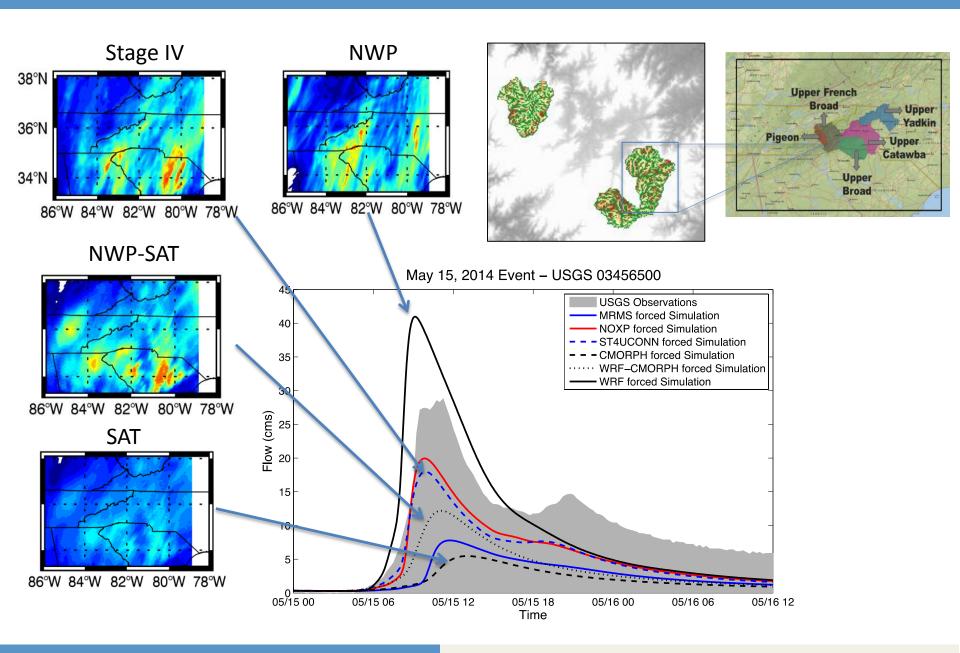


[Zhang et al. 2015 JHM]

ERROR METRICS



RUNOFF ERROR ANALYSIS - MAY 15 2014 IPHEX CASE



CONCLUDING REMARKS

Overall error analyses results show that satellite precipitation exhibits complex error propagation characteristics in flood simulations including dependencies on basin scale, elevation and storm type and severity.

High-resolution (<2km) NWP simulations of mountainous heavy precipitation events can provide realistic rainfall fields that can be used to derive adjustments to satellite estimates.

More realistic hydrologic simulations are achieved using rainfall forcing from the NWP-adjusted satellite estimates relative to non-adjusted satellite or NWP rainfall fields.