





# GIS-based modeling approach to estimate nitrogen loading and load reduction in lakes/ reservoirs with application to the San Antonio and Guadalupe basins

**Ahmad A. Tavakoly**, David R Maidment, Zong-Liang Yang, Tim Whiteaker, Lisa H. Meyer and Cedric H. David

Texas Water Forum III October 14-15 2013

## Importance of nutrient pollutant

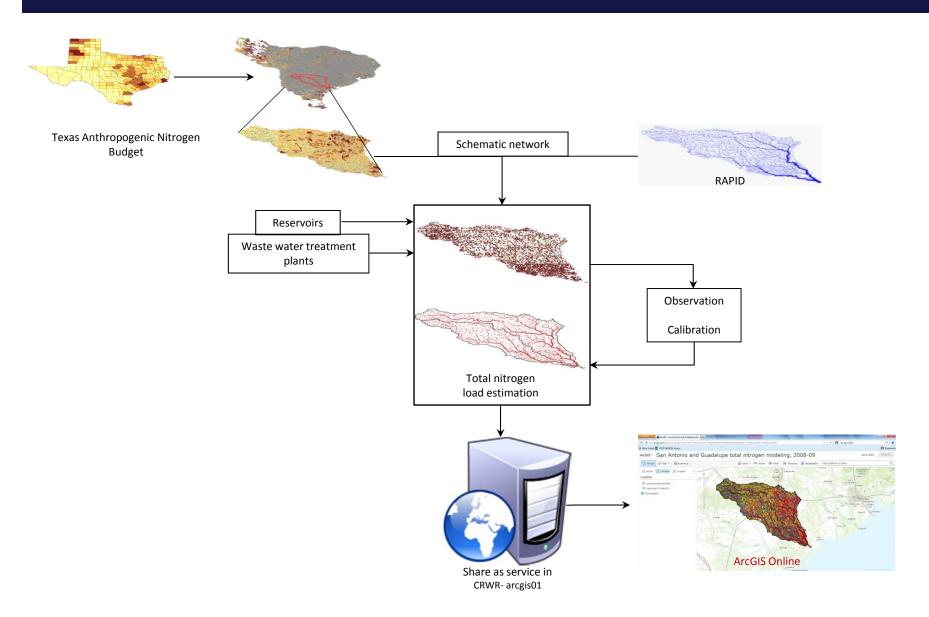
- Organisms require carbon (C), nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) for critical cellular processes
- During the past century, human activities have been rapidly changing. Most importantly this has led to increases in energy and food production, use of fertilizer and animal manure, atmospheric deposition of nutrients, and wastewater flows
- ■Non-point source (NPS) pollution from agricultural land is the leading cause of water quality deficiencies in the United States (USEPA, 2007)

## Objectives

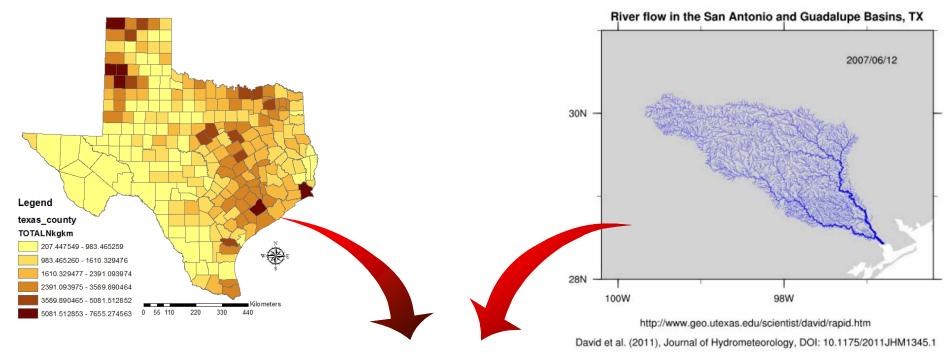
## We use the Texas gulf coast region study to answer the following questions:

- (1) How total nitrogen delivered to streams spatially contribute in San Antonio and Guadalupe basins?
- (2) To what extent GIS framework could be applied for nitrogen transport in large scale river network?
- (3) How can we link nitrogen database with river routing model?
- (4) How can we use Schematic Processor for flow and transport modeling in large scale river network?

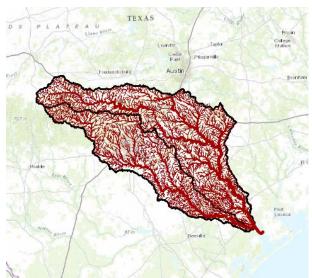
## **GIS-based steady-state modeling framework**



## Next step ...

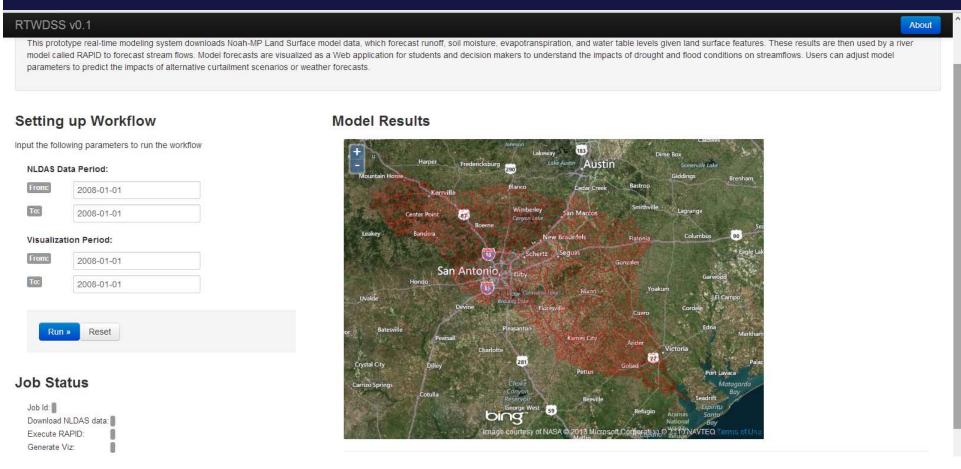


Apply the lumped annual nitrogen load for nitrogen modeling



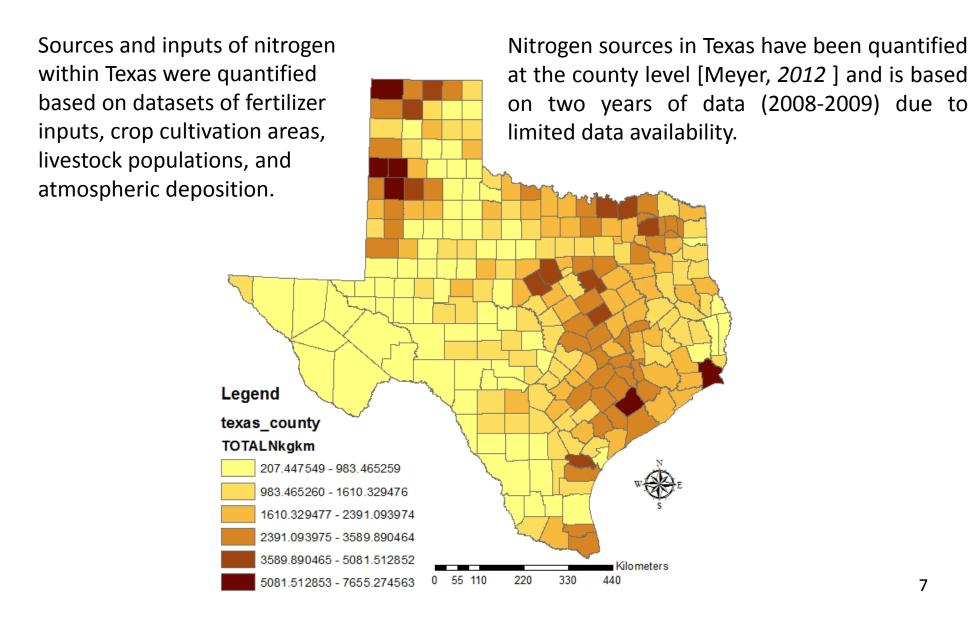
Add nitrogen modeling to river modeling

## River routing model, RAPID

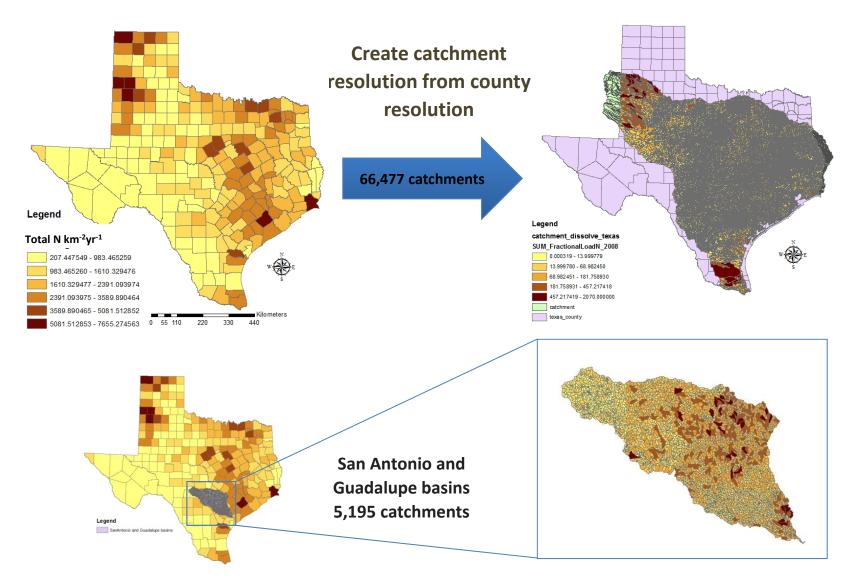


The Noah-MP data are used by a river model called RAPID to forecast stream flows. RAPID uses a matrix-based version of the Muskingum method to compute the flow and volume of water in river networks and is applied to the NHDPlus dataset. The real time water decision support system is developed in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## **Texas Anthropogenic Nitrogen budget**



## Nitrogen load for every catchment

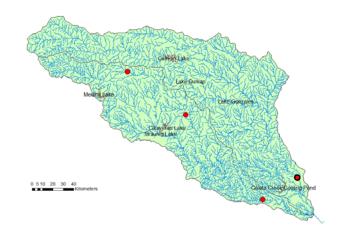


## **Data Acquisition and Processing**

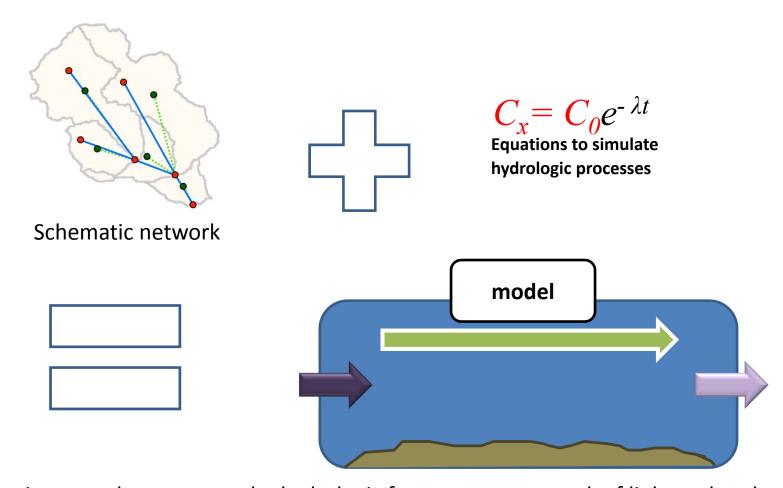
The vector-based river network and reservoir data from the enhanced version of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHDPlus)
<a href="http://www.horizon-systems.com/nhdplus/">http://www.horizon-systems.com/nhdplus/</a>

Point source from EPA:
Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Pollutant Loading Tool
<a href="http://cfpub.epa.gov/dmr/">http://cfpub.epa.gov/dmr/</a>

Monitored water quality N data:
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
and Marine Science Institute UT
<a href="http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/clean-rivers/data/samplequery.html">http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/clean-rivers/data/samplequery.html</a>



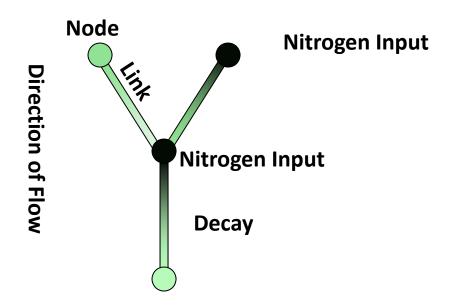
## Schematic processor



The schematic network represents the hydrologic features as a network of links and nodes. SchemaNodes show hydrologic features, such as catchments or stream junctions. SchemaLinks describe the connections between nodes.

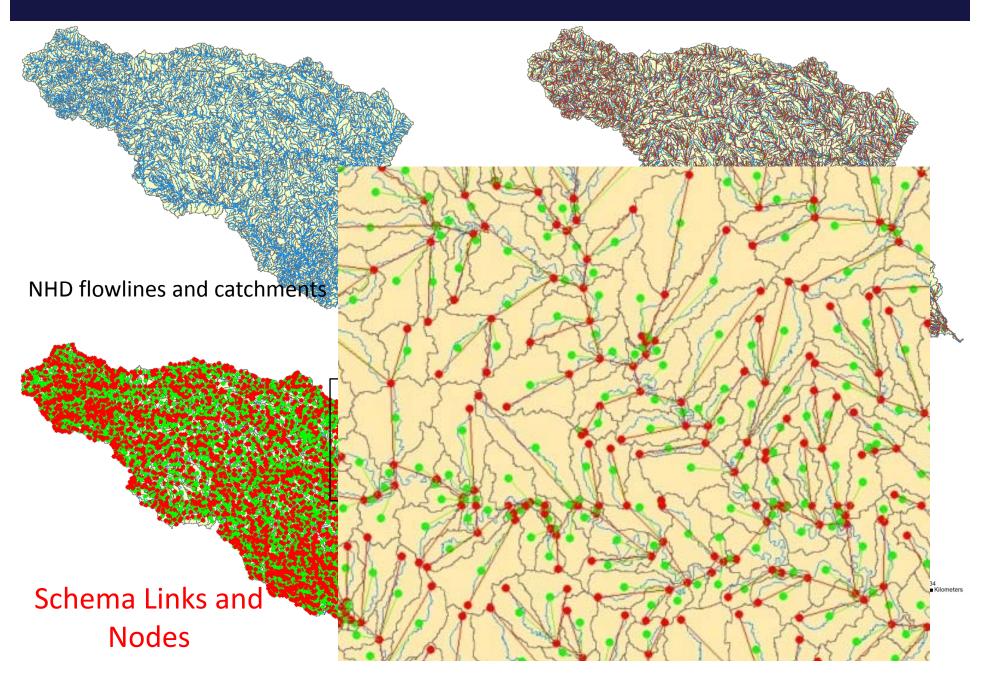
## **Schematic processor**

What if we could move things through the network based on the NHDPlus river network ...



...simulating processes along the way

## **Schematic network**



## First order decay rate

$$C_x = C_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$

 $C_x$ = nitrogen load (kg/yr),  $C_0$ = initial load (kg/yr),  $\lambda$ = decay rate (s<sup>-1</sup>)

t= residence time (s)

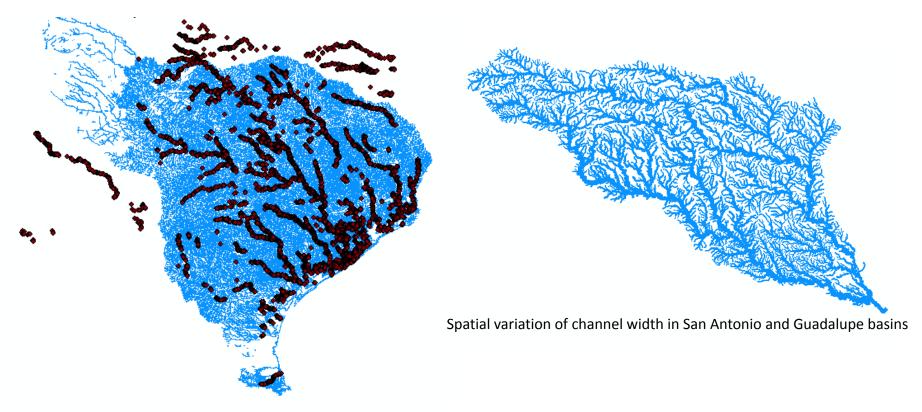
#### How to calculate the residence time?

$$t = \frac{l}{v}$$

1: river length; v: velocity

We can use NHDPlus MAV but it wont consider residence time changes from wet year to dry year!

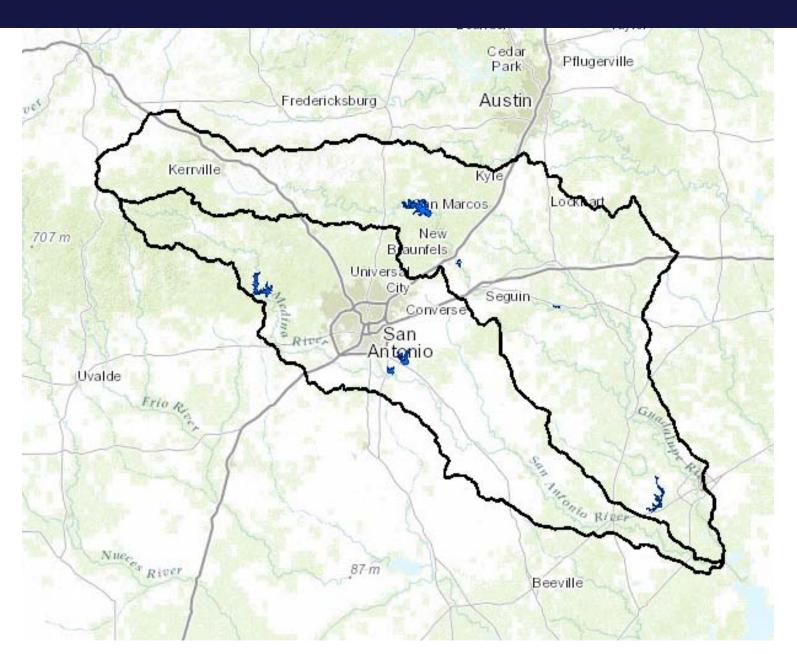
## Measured channel with



To model nitrogen transport we need hydraulic parameters: width, velocity, travel time. Estimate width of river reaches for San Antonio and Guadalupe basins based on measured values by **Brian Kiel**.

Leopold law
Width = a \* (Drainage Area)<sup>b</sup>
Total drainage area is available from NHDPlus v.2

## Reservoirs and lakes in San Antonio and Guadalupe



#### Load reduction on lakes and reservoirs

$$N_{rem} = R \times N_{in}$$

N<sub>in</sub> is an estimate of N input to lake and reservoir surface waters

R is an estimate of the fraction of N retained within lakes and reservoirs

$$R = 1 - \exp\frac{-V_{\rm f}}{H_{\rm l}}$$

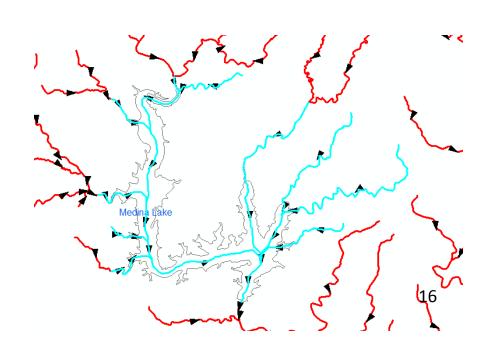
 $V_f$ = is the apparent settling velocity for N (m year<sup>-1</sup>) by lake or reservoir sediments; H<sub>I</sub> is the hydraulic load (m year-1) for a given lake, reservoir

$$H_1 = \frac{1000 \times Q}{A}$$

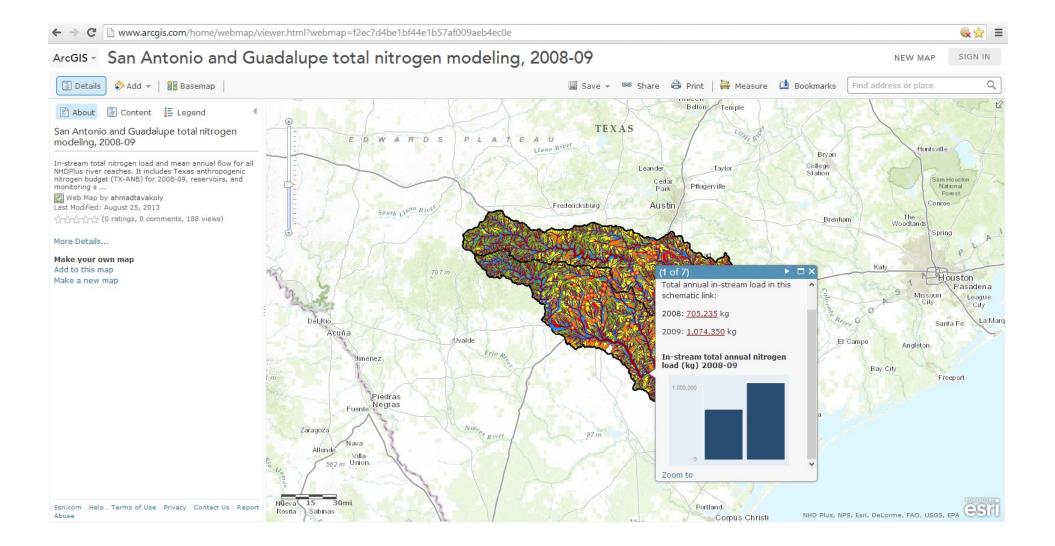
Q is water input to lakes and reservoirs (km<sup>3</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>) and A (km<sup>2</sup>) is surface area of individual lakes.

Average V<sub>f</sub>: 8.91 (m/yr)

Ref.: Alexander et al. (2002) Harrison et al., (2009)



### Results



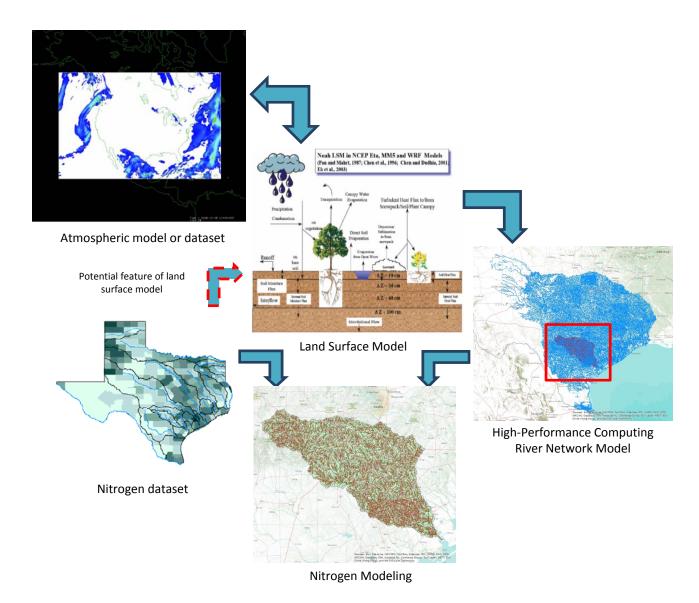
## Thank you for your attention!!

**Question??** 

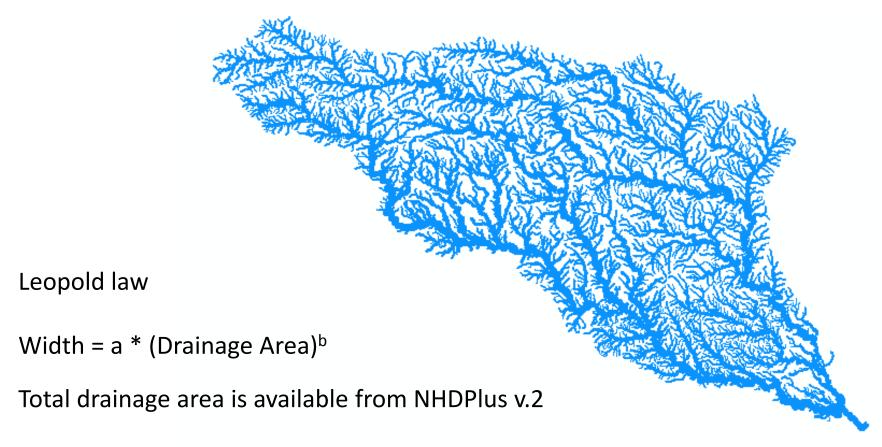
#### **Ahmad A. Tavakoly**

Ph.D. Candidate
The University of Texas at Austin
Environmental and Water Resources Engineering
URL: <a href="https://sites.google.com/a/utexas.edu/atavakoly/">https://sites.google.com/a/utexas.edu/atavakoly/</a>

## Integrated river modeling



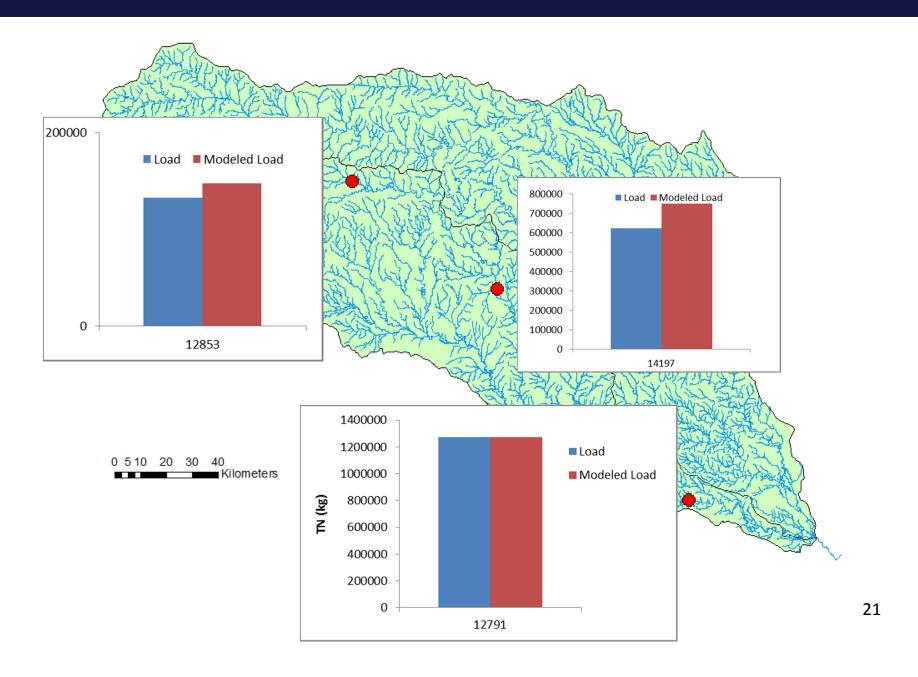
## Calculate channel width using Leopold law



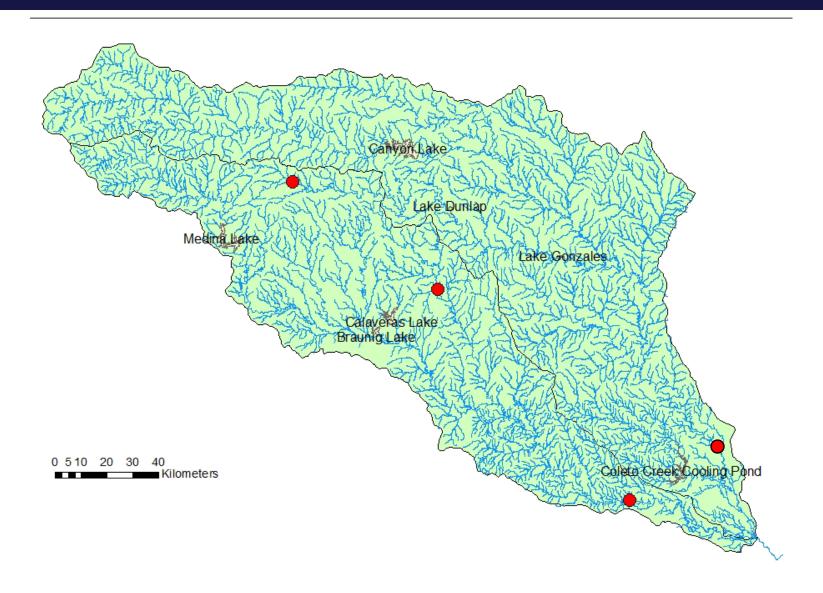
Width =  $14.2 * (Drainage Area)^{0.1}$ 

Once we have channel width we can calculate velocity using manning equation

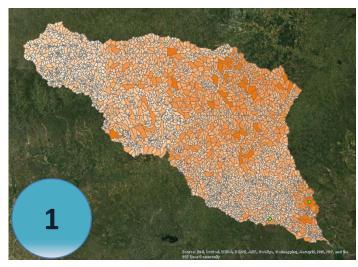
## **Calibration results**



## **Stations**



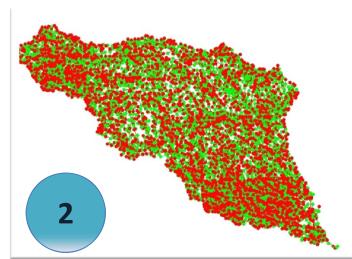
## **GIS** modeling framework



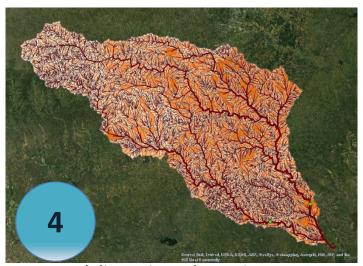
Created GIS database in catchment scale



**RAPID** mean annual velocity



Built schematic network based on the NHDPlus dataset



TN modeling using Schematic Processor 23