

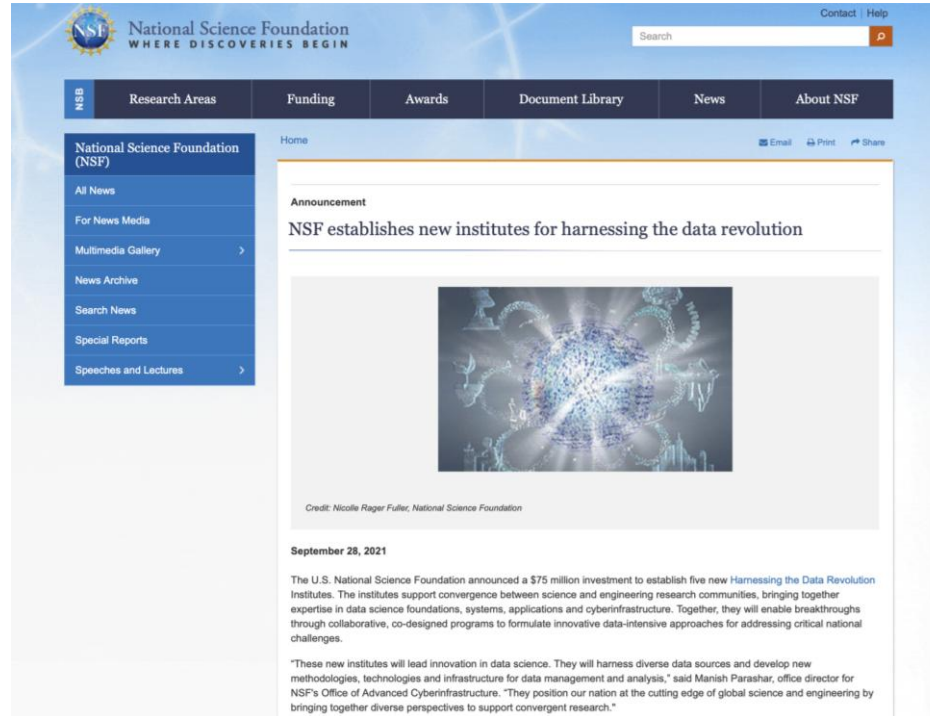


Geospatial AI and Data Science for Sustainability

Shaowen Wang
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Harnessing the Data Revolution

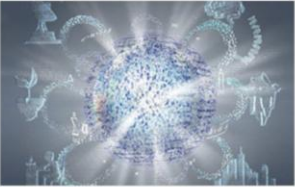


The screenshot shows the NSF website with a blue header and a dark navigation bar. The main content area features a news announcement titled "NSF establishes new institutes for harnessing the data revolution". The announcement includes a date of September 28, 2021, and a paragraph describing a \$75 million investment to establish five new Harboring the Data Revolution Institutes. A quote from Manish Parashar, office director for NSF's Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure, is also included.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Announcement

NSF establishes new institutes for harnessing the data revolution



Credit: Nicole Rager Fuller, National Science Foundation

September 28, 2021

The U.S. National Science Foundation announced a \$75 million investment to establish five new *Harboring the Data Revolution* Institutes. The institutes support convergence between science and engineering research communities, bringing together expertise in data science foundations, systems, applications and cyberinfrastructure. Together, they will enable breakthroughs through collaborative, co-designed programs to formulate innovative data-intensive approaches for addressing critical national challenges.

"These new institutes will lead innovation in data science. They will harness diverse data sources and develop new methodologies, technologies and infrastructure for data management and analysis," said Manish Parashar, office director for NSF's Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure. "They position our nation at the cutting edge of global science and engineering by bringing together diverse perspectives to support convergent research."

https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/announcements/092821.jsp

LEVERAGING AI FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Summer school 2024

August 5–9, 2024

UCAR Campus in Boulder, Colorado



I-GUIDE Summer School 2024

Unlock New Opportunities in Geospatial Data Science!

[Learn More](#)

I-GUIDE

Vision: Enable digital discovery and innovation through harnessing the geospatial data revolution

Mission: Advance convergence and geospatial sciences for holistic sustainability solutions

<http://i-guide.io>

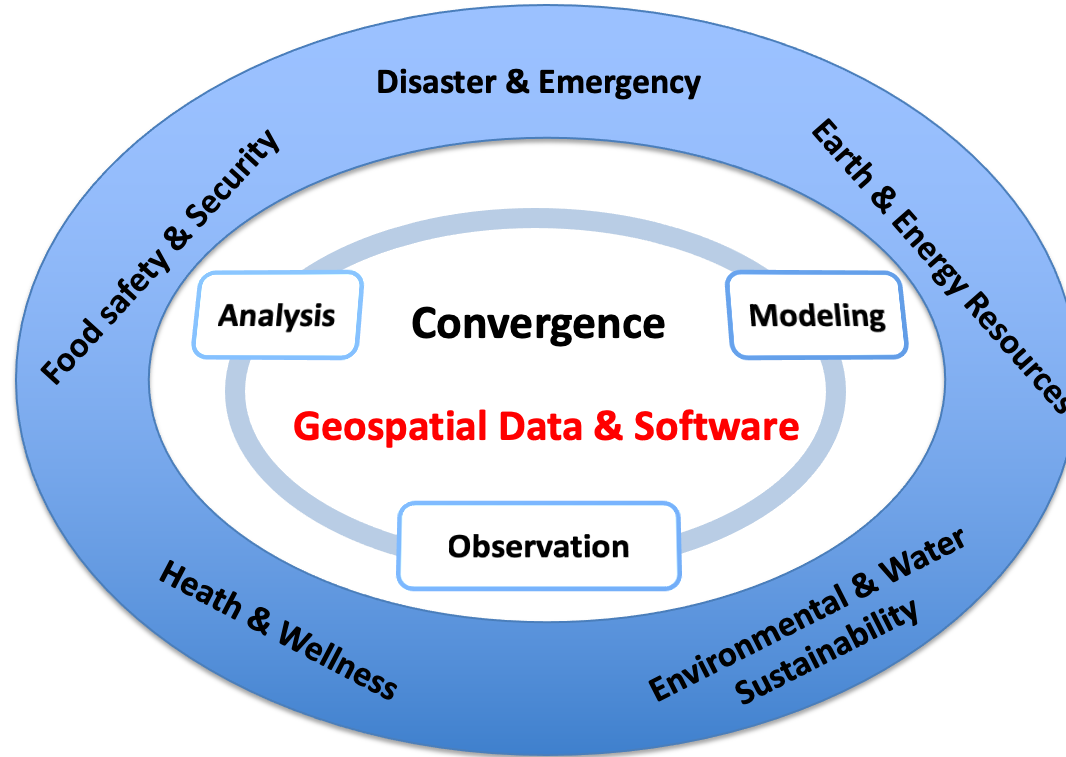
I-GUIDE Collaborating Institutions



Partners



Motivation



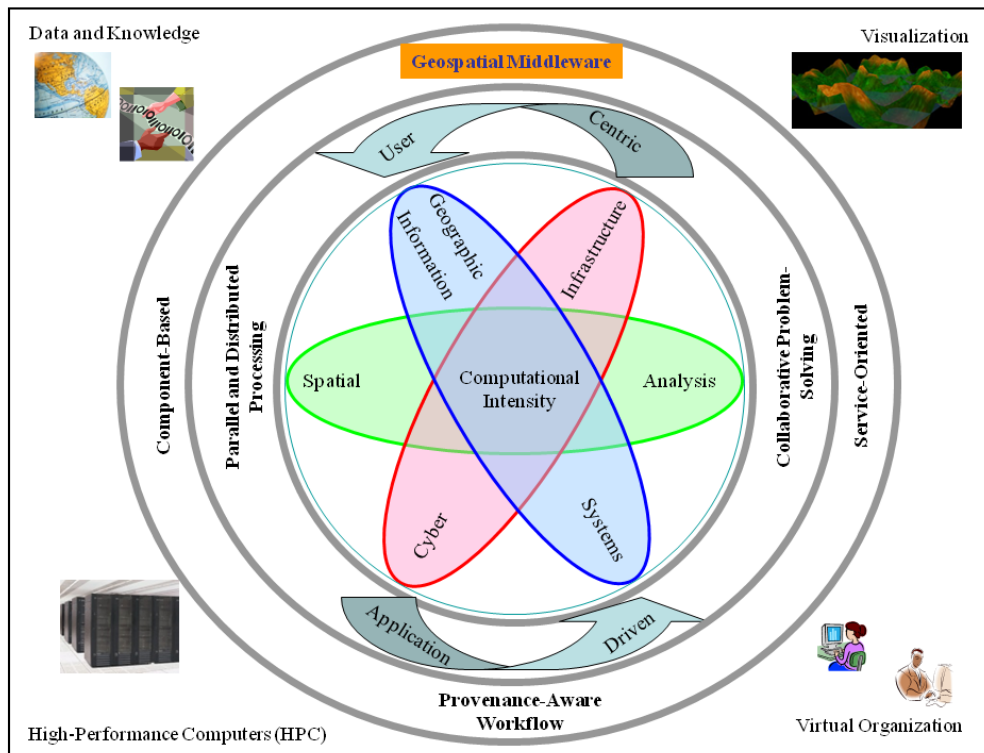
Convergence

“integrating knowledge, methods, and expertise from different disciplines and forming novel frameworks to catalyze scientific discovery and innovation”



https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/nano/reports/MCR_2020-1020_PrinciplesOfConvergenceInNatureSociety_JNR_27p.pdf

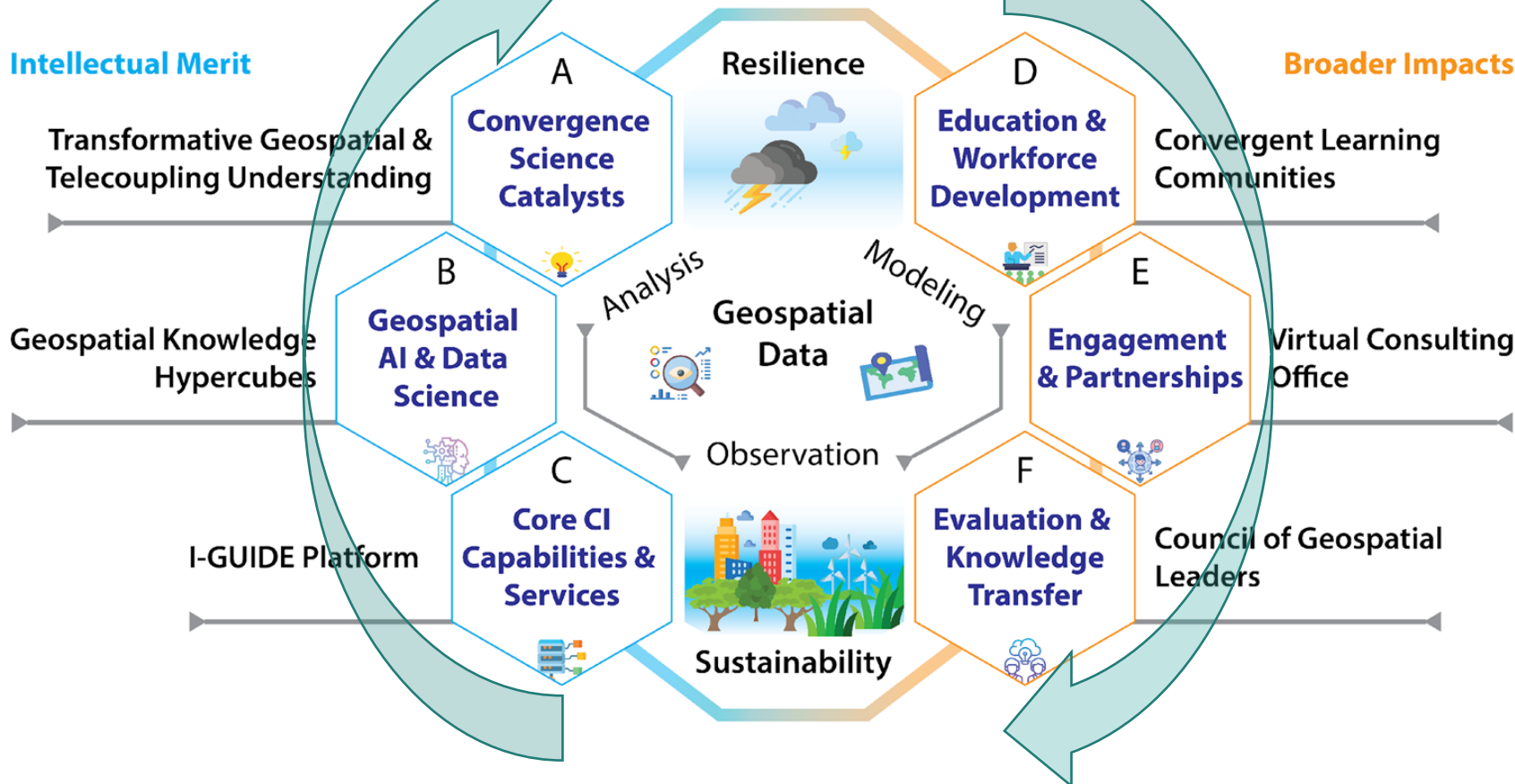
CyberGIS



Wang, S. (2010) "A CyberGIS Framework for the Synthesis of Cyberinfrastructure, GIS, and Spatial Analysis." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 100(3): 535-557

Convergence

Intellectual Merit

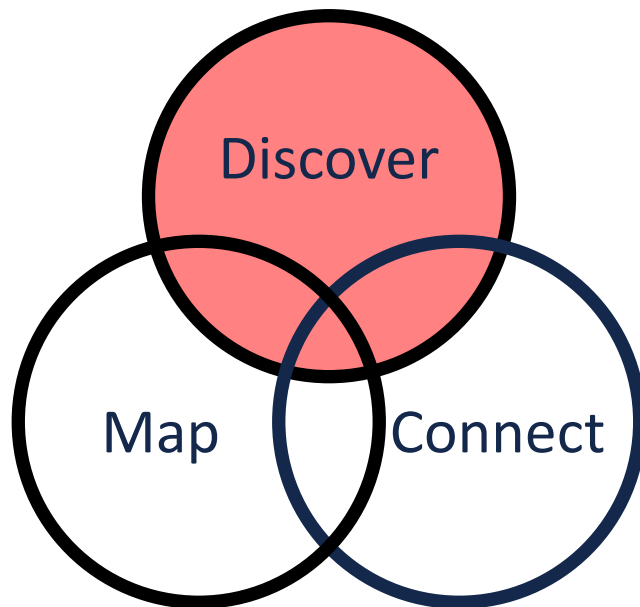


Map, Connect, Discover



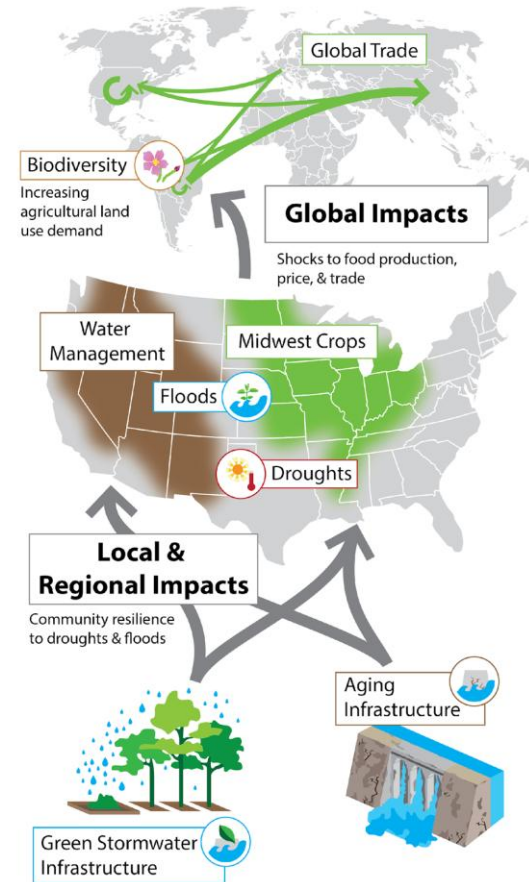
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/12/sustainable-development-goals-kick-off-with-start-of-new-year/#>

Catalyzing Convergence Science

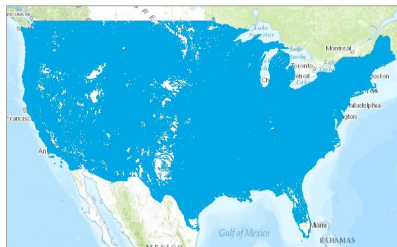


Convergence Science Catalysts

- ❖ Hydroclimatic extremes and associated vulnerability
- ❖ Socioeconomic impacts of potential climate induced disasters
- ❖ Global-local-global analysis of sustainability from the perspectives of biodiversity, fertilizer, and land use
- ❖ Telecoupling, food commodity (soybean/corn), production and trade, disasters, and land use/cover change in distant regions



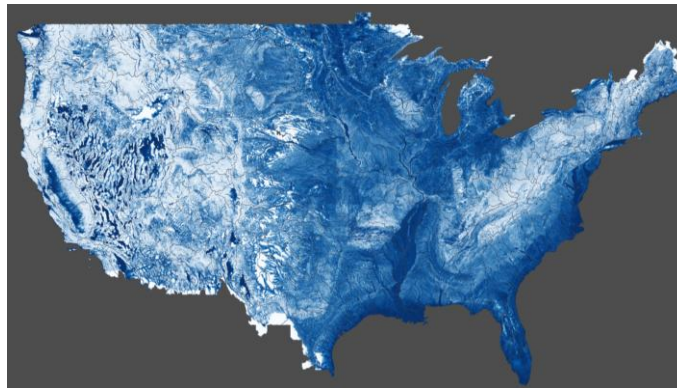
Map Flood Inundation at Continental Scale



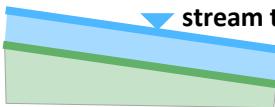
Catchments and Flowlines



Digital Elevation Model



Height Above Nearest
Drainage (HAND)
(relative elevation of land
surface cell above cell in
stream to which it flows)



Liu, Y. Y., Maidment, D. R., Tarboton, D. G., Zheng, X., and Wang, S. (2018) "A CyberGIS Integration and Computation Framework for High-Resolution Continental-Scale Flood Inundation Mapping". *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*, DOI:10.1111/1752-1688.12660

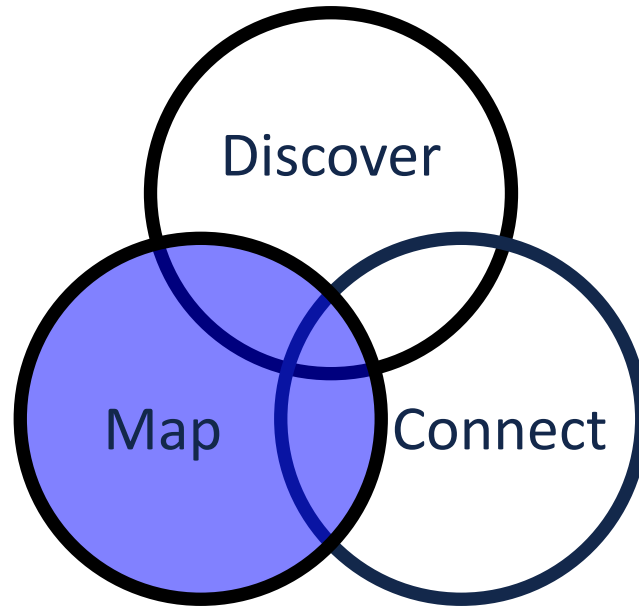




“Combination of detailed **GIS** representation of stream network and **supercomputing** to determine the flow is transformative – **CyberGIS** has delivered a major success for the nation!” – Dr. David Maidment @ 2015 CyberGIS All Hands Meeting

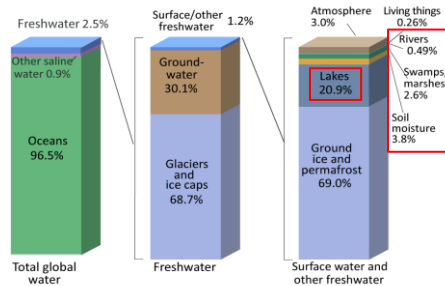


Geospatial Science at Scale



Streamline Delineation

Where is Earth's Water?



rivers



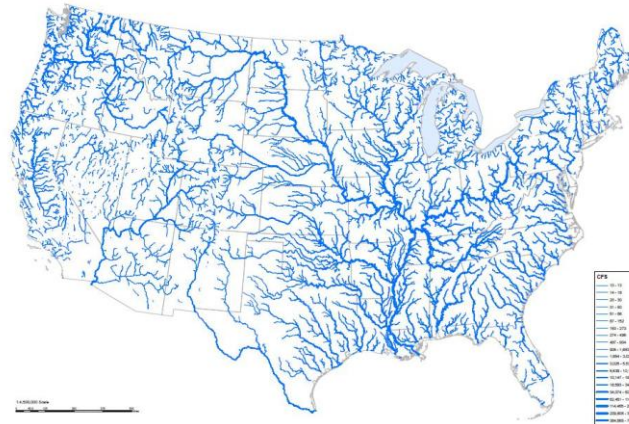
swamps



lakes



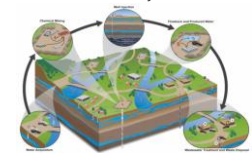
creeks



National Hydrography Dataset



Manage riverine and coastal navigation and safety



Assess water availability and water rights



Agriculture suitability



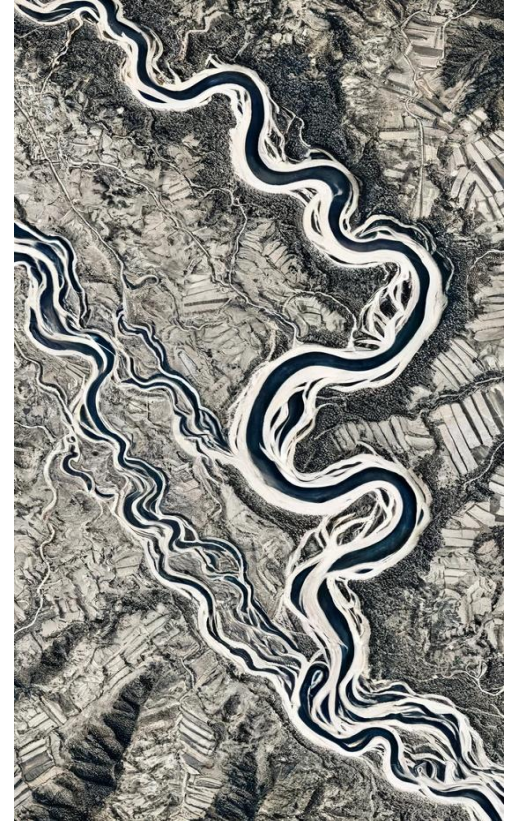
Model and map flood risk

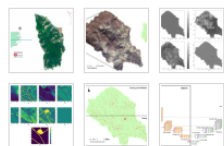
Reference:

Moore, R.B., McKay, L.D., Rea, A.H., Bondelid, T.R., Price, C.V., Dewald, T.G., and Johnston, C.M., 2019, User's guide for the national hydrography dataset plus (NHDPlus) high resolution: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2019–1096, 66 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20191096>.

Challenges of Streamline Delineation

- Spatial heterogeneity
- Complex connectivity
- Uncertain flow paths
- Seasonal variability
- Computational intensity





Transfer Learning with Convolutional Neural Networks for Hydrological Streamline Delineation

Nattapon Jaroenchai ^{a, b}, Shaowen Wang ^{a, b} , Lawrence V. Stanislawski ^c, Ethan Shavers ^c, Zhe Jiang ^d, Vasil Sagan ^e, E. Lynn Usery ^c

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsoft.2024.106165>

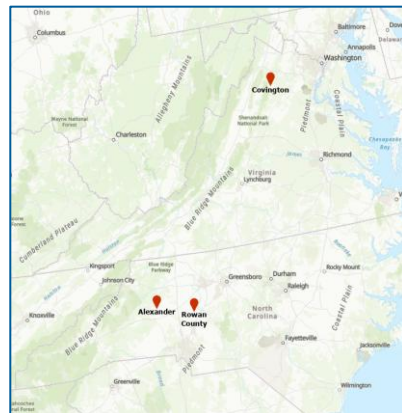
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Highlights

- Transfer learning approach for hydrographic streamline delineation is proposed.
- U-Net models with ImageNet pre-trained backbones outperform the model trained from scratch.
- Transfer learning improves transferability of streamline delineation across geographic locations.

Abstract

Hydrological streamline delineation is critical for effective environmental management, influencing agriculture sustainability, river dynamics, and watershed planning. This study develops a novel approach to combining transfer learning with convolutional neural networks that capitalize on ImageNet pre-trained models to improve the accuracy and transferability of streamline delineation. We evaluate the performance of eleven ImageNet pre-trained models and a baseline model using datasets from Rowan County, NC, and Covington River, VA in the USA. Our results demonstrate that when models are adapted to a new area, the fine-tuned ImageNet pre-trained model exhibits superior predictive accuracy, markedly higher than the models trained from scratch or those only fine-tuned on the same area. Moreover, the ImageNet model achieves better smoothness and connectivity between classified streamline channels. These findings underline the effectiveness of transfer learning in enhancing the delineation of hydrological streamlines across varied geographies, offering a scalable solution for accurate and efficient environmental modelling.

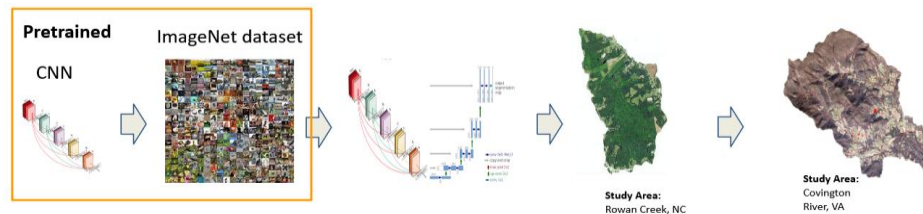


Study Area:
Rowan Creek, NC

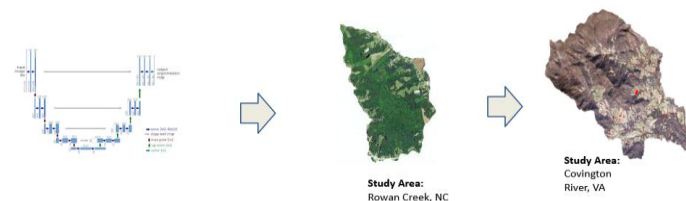


Study Area:
Covington River, VA

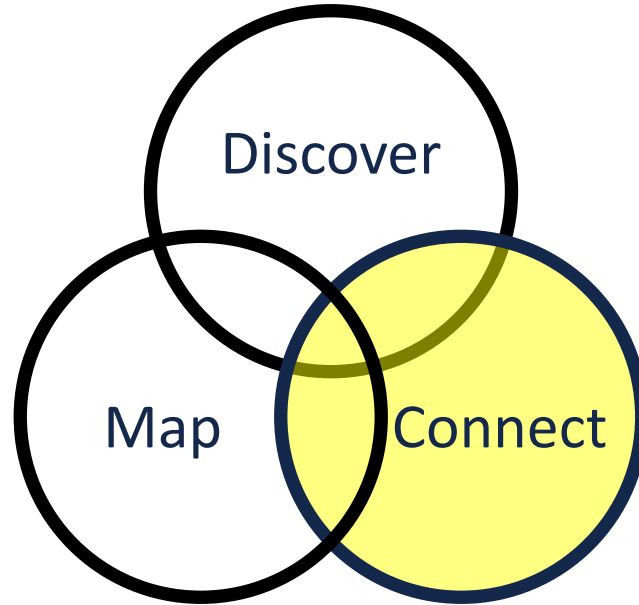
Other U-net models (ImageNet)



Attention U-net model



I-GUIDE Platform



Connect

- Data
- Communities
- Domain knowledge
- Educational resources
- Partners

I-GUIDE Platform

- Atmospheric science
- Computer science
- Data science
- Ecology
- Economics
- Environmental science and engineering
- Geographic information science
- Human-environment and geographical sciences
- Hydrology and water sciences
- Industrial engineering
- Information science
- Political science
- Sociology
- Statistics
- Etc.


Convergence Knowledge Sharing and Discovery

The screenshot displays the I-GUIDE Platform interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for Home, Datasets, Notebooks, Publications, and Educational Resources. Below this is a search bar labeled "I-GUIDE Platform" with a dropdown menu showing "All Elements" and a search input field. The main content area is divided into two sections. On the left, a "Highlights" section features a grid of four knowledge elements: a publication titled "Mapping dynamic human sentiments of heat exposure with location-based social media data", a notebook titled "National-level Analysis using Twitter Data", a notebook titled "Who is facing the risk of potential dam failures?", and a dataset titled "Twitter data". On the right, a "Notebooks" section displays a notebook titled "Modifiable Areal Unit Problem (MAUP)" contributed by Fangzheng Lyu. This notebook includes a description of the MAUP, tags for "MAUP", "Scale", and "Spatial unit", and a list of related datasets: "Twitter data", "Heat Dictionary", and "Census tract level Chicago Boundary Shapefile". A "Notebook Viewer" section on the right shows a preview of the notebook content, including a disclaimer and the title "Modifiable areal unit problem (MAUP)".

- Search and discovery across all knowledge elements
- Make connections and discover relationships between knowledge elements to enable convergence research and education
- Actionable knowledge elements
 - Launch Jupyter notebooks for data processing & analysis
 - Learn with linked educational materials

<https://platform.i-guide.io>

Community Engagement

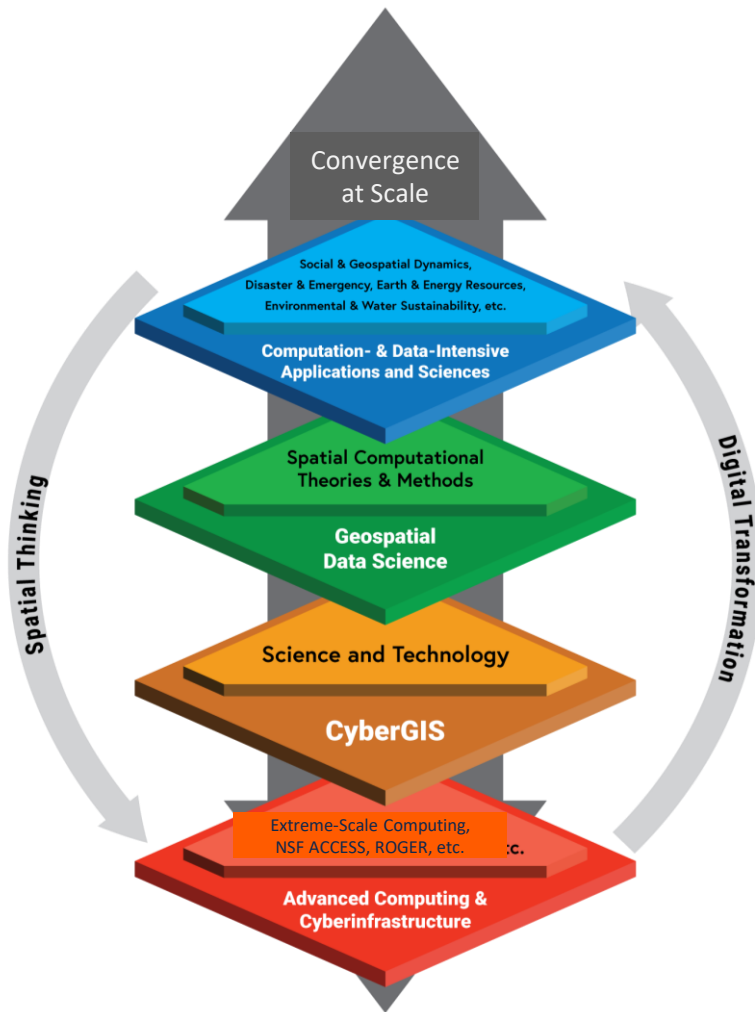


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Convergence Science and Geospatial
AI for Environmental Sustainability
October 14-16, 2024
Jackson, Wyoming
MAP | CONNECT | DISCOVER

AI for Sustainability





Many sciences make light(er) work in a big problem, big data world

February 28, 2023 | Share

by Sue Nichols, Deanna Hince, Shaowen Wang, Diana Sinton

It's raining cats and dogs when a hydrologist, a climatologist, a statistician, an economist, and a geospatial scientist walk into a bar. The bar is just down the road from a big old dam and they'd each glanced toward it when they'd pulled into the parking lot.

After a few weeks of steady rain, the whole dam area has been on everyone's mind. The hydrologist is thinking about the last time this dam overtopped. The climatologist and the statistician are debating how extreme this amount of precipitation would be considered and what may come in the future. The economist is remembering how disruptive flooding in this area is to the local businesses that export their goods to distant places, and the geospatial scientist is estimating the extensive numbers of vulnerable neighborhoods downriver.

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The Power of Place: Place-based Inquiry through Story

<https://www.directionsmag.com/article/12127>

Thanks !

- **Comments / Questions?**
- **Contact: shaowen@illinois.edu**

