

Predicting Flow and Quality Variability in Growing Urban Drainage

for managing impacts on urban ecosystems

Gavan McGrath, PhD, B.E. Env.
Research Scientist
Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions
gavan.mcgrath@dbca.wa.gov.au
@GavanMcG



Stormwater/Drainage Impacts On Urban Ecosystems





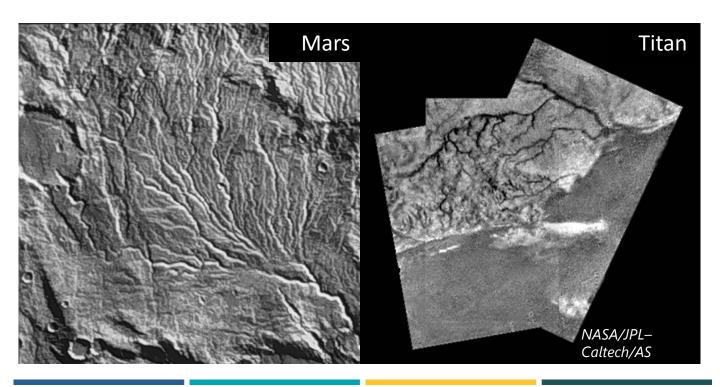
Overview

How do stormwater networks grow?

 Can we use the network structure to predict flow variability and quality (without a complex model)?



Universal River Patterns



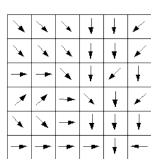




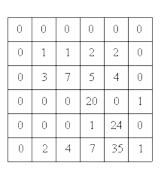
Characterizing River (Stormwater) Networks

78	72	69	71	58	49
74	67	56	49	46	50
69	53	44	37	38	48
64	58	55	22	31	24
68	61	47	21	16	19
74	53	34	12	11	12

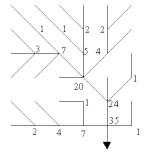
Elevation



Flow direction



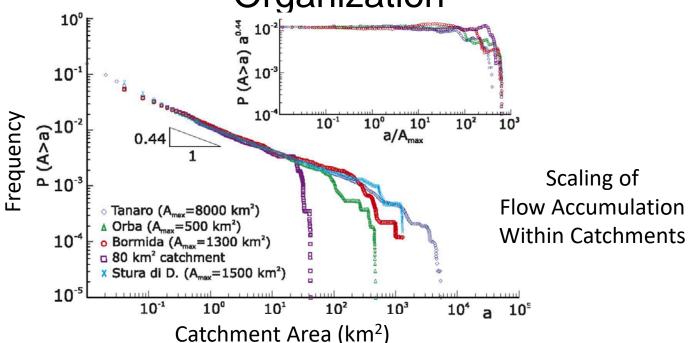
Flow Accumulation



Stream Network

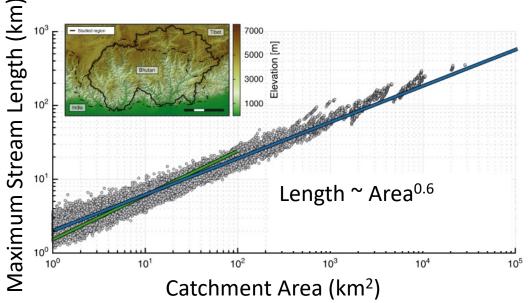


Universal Signatures of Network Organization





Universal Signatures of Network Organization



Scaling of
Length of Stream
vs
Catchment Area

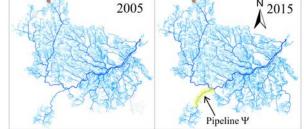


Amann, Jordan



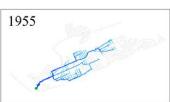
Growth and Scaling of Stormwater

Oahu, Hawaii

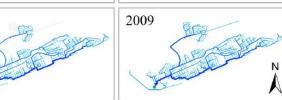




1975

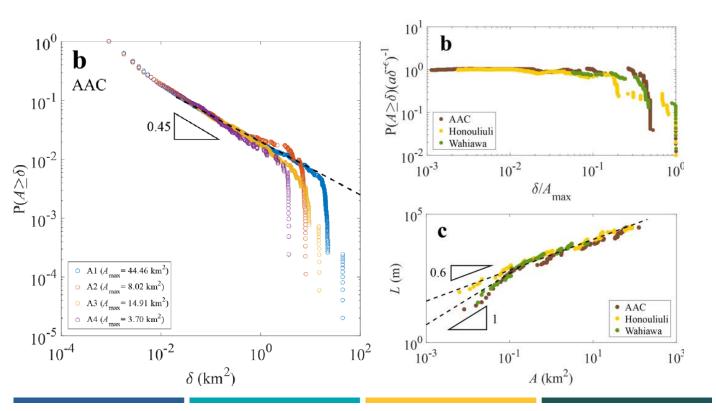








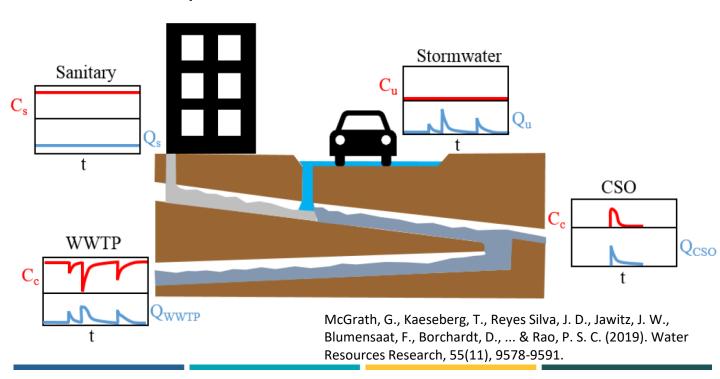
Stormwater Networks Scale Like Rivers!





Getting Function from Structure

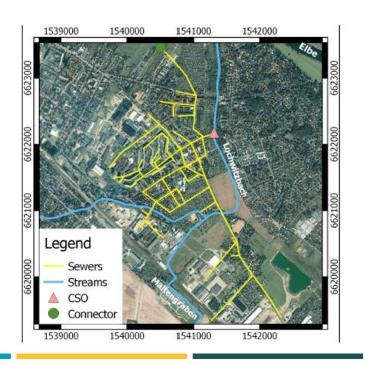
Example for Combined Sewer Overflows





Linking Network Structure to Function

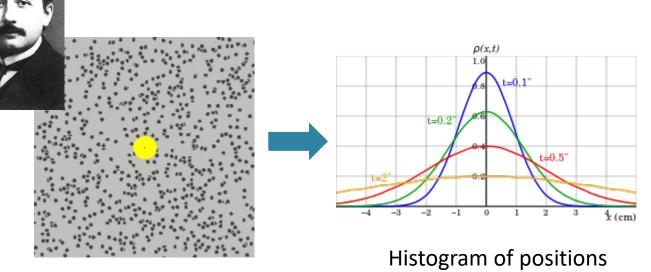
- Urban Observatory Dresden
- 665 mm/year
- 7,600 population
- River outfall



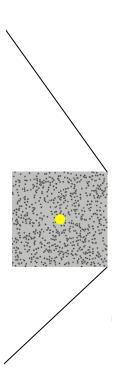




From Einstein to Hydrologic Variability

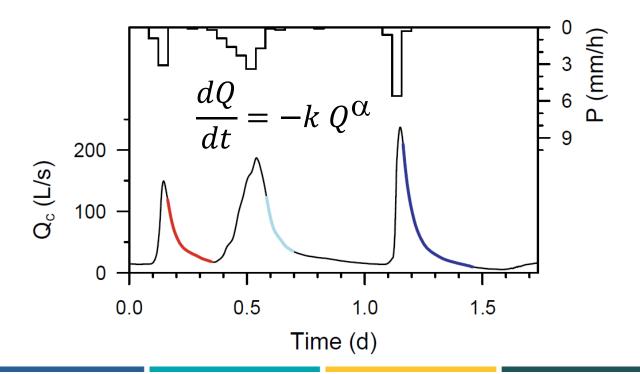


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brownian_motion



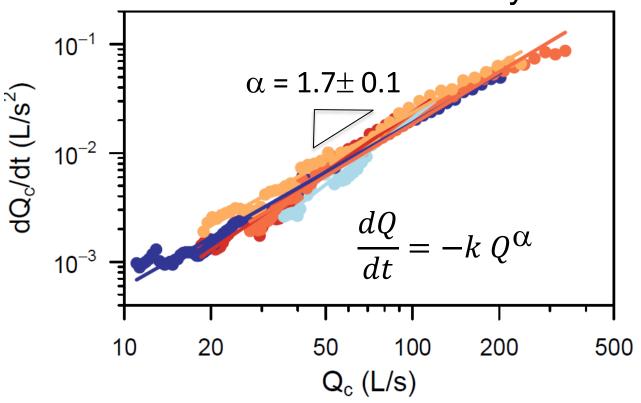


Flow Recession at Lochwitzbach



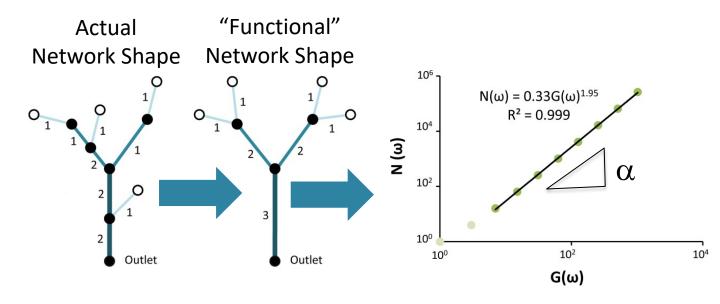


Flow Recession Analysis



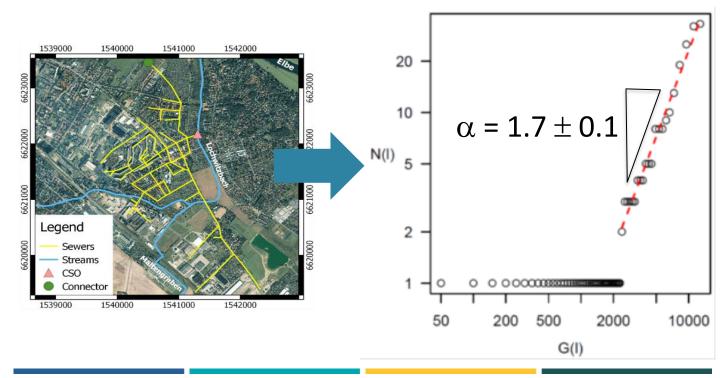


From a Network To Flow Dynamics



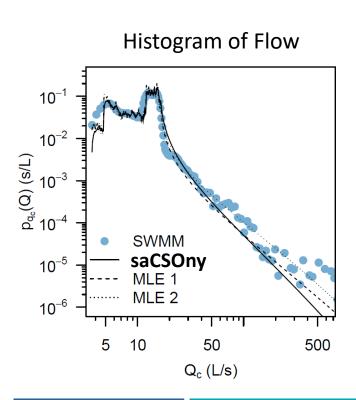


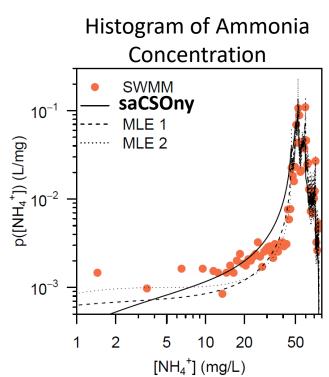
From a Network To Flow Dynamics





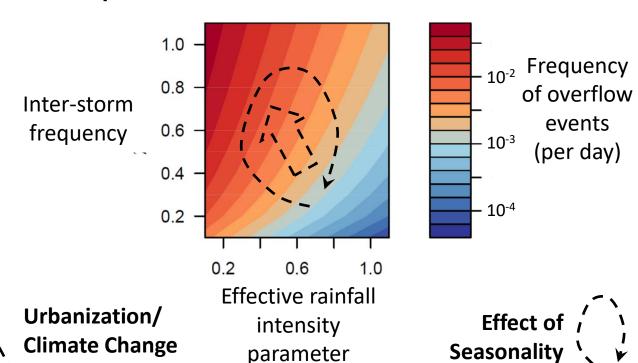
Observed vs Modelled Variability







Rapid Scenario Assessment



Summary

- Stormwater networks have a characteristic structure – like rivers
 - Cross-cultural
 - More similar to rivers as they grow
 - Are engineers really in control?

- Stormwater network structure predicts function
 - Without calibration
 - Function grows with network
 - Variability predictable







Acknowledgements

- TU Dresden
 - P. Krebs
 - T. Kasebeburg
 - F. Blumesaat
 - J. D. Reyas-Silva
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research
 - D. Borchardt

- Collaborators on Hydrological Synthesis
 - K. Paik
 - J. Jawitz
 - P.S.C. Rao
 - S. Yang



Einstein-like approach

Hydrology
$$\left\{\begin{array}{l} \frac{dQ}{dt} = -k\ Q^{\alpha} + \xi(t) \\ \end{array}\right\}$$
 Random (weather) forcing

Equations for Histograms

Flow, Water Quality, Overflows, UWWTP Loads, etc.

$$p_{q_{\rm c}}(Q_{\rm c}) = K \left\{ (Q_{\rm c} - Q_{\rm s})^{-\alpha} \exp \left[-\frac{\gamma}{k} \frac{(Q_{\rm c} - Q_{\rm s})^{2-\alpha}}{(2-\alpha)} + \frac{\lambda}{k} \frac{(Q_{\rm c} - Q_{\rm s})^{1-\alpha}}{(1-\alpha)} \right] + \frac{k}{\lambda} \delta(Q_{\rm c} - Q_{\rm s}) \right\}$$



Rainfall Variability + Sanitary Baseflow

