



1 **Can we use precipitation isotope outputs of Isotopic General Circulation Models to**  
2 **improve hydrological modeling in large mountainous catchments on the Tibetan Plateau?**

3

4 Yi Nan<sup>1</sup>, Zhihua He<sup>2</sup>, Fuqiang Tian<sup>1</sup>, Zhongwang Wei<sup>3</sup>, Lide Tian<sup>4</sup>

5 <sup>1</sup> Department of Hydraulic Engineering, State Key Laboratory of Hydroscience and Engineering,  
6 Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China

7 <sup>2</sup> Center for Hydrology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan, Canada

8 <sup>3</sup> Guangdong Province Key Laboratory for Climate Change and Natural Disaster Studies, School of  
9 Atmospheric Sciences, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China

10 <sup>4</sup> Institute of International Rivers and Eco-security, Yunnan University, Kunming, China

11 **Corresponding to:** Fuqiang Tian

12 Address: Room 330 New Hydraulic Building, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China

13 Email: [tianfq@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:tianfq@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn)

14

---



15 **Abstract**

16 Issues related to large uncertainty and parameter equifinality have posed big challenges  
17 for hydrological modeling in cold regions where runoff generation processes are particularly  
18 complex. Tracer-aided hydrological models coupling modules to simulate the transportation  
19 and fractionation of water stable isotope are increasingly used to constrain parameter  
20 uncertainty and refine the parameterizations of specific hydrological processes in cold regions.  
21 However, commonly unavailability of site sampling of spatially-distributed precipitation  
22 isotope hampers the practical applications of tracer-aided models in large scale catchments.  
23 This study, taken the precipitation isotope data (isoGSM) derived from the Isotopic General  
24 Circulation Models (iGCM) as an example, explored its utility in driving a tracer-aided  
25 hydrological model in the Yarlung Tsangpo River basin (YTR, around  $2 \times 10^5$  km<sup>2</sup>) on the  
26 Tibetan Plateau (TP). The isoGSM product was first corrected based on the biases between  
27 gridded precipitation isotope estimates and limited site sampling measurements. Model  
28 simulations driven by the corrected isoGSM data were then compared with those forced by  
29 spatially interpolated precipitation isotope from site sampling measurements. Our results  
30 indicated that: (1) spatial precipitation isotope derived from the isoGSM data helped to reduce  
31 modeling uncertainty and improve parameter identifiability in a large mountainous catchment  
32 on the TP, in comparison to a calibration method using discharge and snow cover area fraction  
33 without any information of water isotope; (2) model parameters estimated by the corrected  
34 isoGSM data presented higher transferability to nested sub-basins and produced higher model  
35 performance in the validation period than that estimated by the interpolated precipitation  
36 isotope data from site sampling measurements; (3) model calibration procedure forced by the  
37 corrected isoGSM data successfully rejected parameter sets that overestimated glacier melt  
38 contribution and gave more reliable contributions of runoff components, indicating the  
39 corrected isoGSM data served as a better choice to provide informative spatial precipitation  
40 isotope than the interpolated data from site sampling measurements at macro scale. This work  
41 suggested plausible utility of combining isoGSM data with measurements from a sparse  
42 sampling network in improving hydrological modeling in large mountainous catchments.

43 **Key word**

44 Tracer-aided hydrological modeling; Large basins on the Tibetan Plateau; Isotopic General  
45 Circulation Models (iGCM) product; Combining isoGSM isotope data with measurements at  
46 sparse sampling sites.

47



## 48 1. Introduction

49 Large uncertainty and strong equifinality of parameter calibration are the widely faced  
50 issues in hydrological modelling (Gupta et al., 2008), especially in cold regions where  
51 hydrological complexity is highly enhanced by the competitions of multiple water inputs and  
52 the strong spatio-temporal variabilities of runoff generation processes (Zongxing et al., 2019).  
53 Tracer-aided hydrological models integrating a water or environmental tracer (e.g., stable  
54 oxygen isotope,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) module into the runoff generation architecture have been proved as  
55 highly valuable in improving parameter calibration and diagnosing model uncertainty (Son and  
56 Sivapalan, 2007; Birkel et al., 2011; Capell et al., 2012; He et al., 2019). However, practical  
57 applications of tracer-aided hydrological modeling are mainly limited in only small to meso  
58 scales. The largest basin area where previous tracer-aided modelling works have been  
59 successfully implemented is around  $10^3 \text{ km}^2$  (e.g., Delavau et al., 2017; Campell et al., 2012;  
60 Stadnyk et al., 2013). Reasons fall in either the lumped conceptual model structures (Birkel and  
61 Soulsby, 2015), which are particularly not suitable for capturing the strong spatial variability of  
62 hydrological behaviors in large scale basins, or the low availability of tracer data in large basins  
63 due to difficulties in the long-term, continuous and high-frequency field sampling works (e.g.,  
64 Ala-aho et al., 2017; He et al., 2019).

65 The Tibetan Plateau (TP) is the source region of several large rivers (e.g., Brahmaputra,  
66 Ganges), which sustain the ecosystems and provide a great proportion of water source for  
67 downstream livelihoods and agricultural irrigation (Zhang et al., 2013; Schaner et al., 2012).  
68 Decision making of water resource management over TP and its downstream area relies heavily  
69 on river runoff in the large basins. Meanwhile, melting water from snow and ice contributes a  
70 large proportion to river runoff in the large basins on TP due to the cold climate and glacier  
71 coverage in head watersheds (Zongxing et al., 2019). Runoff in this region is thus highly  
72 vulnerable to climate warming. Robust quantification of the contribution of meltwater to river  
73 runoff is critical in understanding water resources dynamics on TP (Immerzeel et al., 2013).  
74 Although great efforts have been taken to quantify the contributions of runoff components (e.g.,  
75 Immerzeel et al., 2010; Lutz et al., 2014) and their future trends under climate changes on TP  
76 (e.g., Su et al., 2016; Masood et al., 2015), results reported in the wide range of studies show  
77 substantial differences (Xu et al., 2019; Tian et al., 2020), which indicate big challenges on  
78 quantifying contributions of runoff components and predicting their future trend in the large  
79 basins on TP. The difficulty of this task is mainly related to the large uncertainty of hydrological  
80 modelling and parameter calibration in the TP, because of the complex hydrological processes  
81 (He et al., 2018) and the commonly inaccurate estimation of precipitation (Xu et al., 2017; He  
82 et al. 2017). The strong inter-competitions of runoff processes induced by meltwater and



83 rainwater were inadequately constrained in hydrological models by the commonly used  
84 hydrological observation of streamflow (Duethmann et al., 2015), and even additional data of  
85 snow/ice coverage (He et al. 2019) which further enhanced the equifinality issue of parameter  
86 identification in large basins on TP. Reducing the modelling uncertainty originated from  
87 parameter calibration is essential for proper understanding of runoff regimes and robust  
88 prediction of future hydrological change.

89 Tracer-aided hydrological models that additionally involved water stable isotope data for  
90 parameter calibration have been proved as highly capable on constraining the inter-  
91 competitions of runoff processes induced by meltwater and rainwater in high mountains (He et  
92 al. 2019; Nan et al. 2021), which, however, have not been tested in large basins yet due to the  
93 unavailability of precipitation isotope data. Global gridded isotope product potentially serves  
94 as an alternative forcing of precipitation isotope data for tracer-aided hydrological models in  
95 large basins where high-frequency sampling work in a large region is not feasible. One of these  
96 options comes to outputs of the isotopic General or Regional Circulation Models (iGCM and  
97 iRCM, Noone and Sturm, 2010; Xi, 2014; Sturm et al., 2005, 2007), which has been proved to  
98 have high performance on simulating the seasonal and spatial variations of isotopic signature  
99 of precipitation on regional and global scales (Wang et al., 2017; Yao et al., 2013). However,  
100 very few works have been conducted to test the behavior of such products on forcing  
101 hydrological models. To the best of our knowledge, the only one work was conducted by  
102 Delavau et al. (2017), who examined the performance of an iRCM product REMOiso on forcing  
103 tracer-aided model in a regional catchment of around  $10^3$  km<sup>2</sup> in Canada. Their results indicated  
104 that hydrological simulations driven by the iRCM product reproduced the variations of isotopic  
105 signature ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) of river water comparably to the simulations driven by  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  measurements  
106 from sampling sites and improved the representations of internal hydrological processes in the  
107 model. Those attempts provide sound confidences for exploring the utility of global and  
108 regional gridded isotope data products in aiding hydrological modeling in large basins on TP.

109 Motivated by the mentioned backgrounds, we adopted a tracer-aided hydrological model  
110 developed by Nan et al. (2021) to simulate runoff processes and the contributions of runoff  
111 components to streamflow in a large basin extending around  $2 \times 10^5$  km<sup>2</sup> on the TP. The isotope  
112 module was driven by two kinds of precipitation isotope data including site measurements from  
113 water samples and outputs of iGCM. Scientific questions addressed in this study are two-fold:  
114 (1) what are the benefits of involving water isotope data for hydrological modeling in larger  
115 catchments? (2) how does the gridded precipitation isotope data of iGCM products perform on  
116 forcing tracer-aided hydrological model in large basins?



## 117 2. Materials and methodology

### 118 2.1 Study area

119 The Yarlung Tsangpo River (YTR) located in the southern TP on the north of Himalaya  
120 Mountain (Fig. 1) is one of the longest rivers (longer than 2000 km) originating from TP. The  
121 YTR basin is located in the range of 27-32°N and 82-97°E, with an elevation range of 2900-  
122 6900 m a. s. l. The mean annual precipitation in YTR basin is around 470 mm, which is  
123 dominated by South Asian Monsoon in the Indian Ocean hydrosphere-atmosphere system,  
124 resulting in obvious wet season from June to September (Dong et al., 2016). Contributing area  
125 to the Nuxia hydrological station extends approximately  $2 \times 10^5$  km<sup>2</sup>, around 2% of which is  
126 covered by glacier. Plenty of previous works have shown the great contribution of snow and  
127 glacier melting to the runoff in YTR (e.g., Chen et al., 2017; Tian et al., 2020).

128 The Karuxung River (KR) catchment is located in the upper region of YTR basin, on the  
129 northern slope of the Himalayan Mountains, which is used for model evaluation in sub-basin  
130 because of its high glacierized area proportion (around 20%). The KR originates from the Lejin  
131 Jangsan Peak of the Karola Mountain at 7206 m above sea level (a.s.l.), and flows into the  
132 Yamdrok Lake at 4550m a.s.l. (Zhang et al., 2006). The KR catchment covers an area of 286  
133 km<sup>2</sup>. Runoff in KR catchment is strongly influenced by the headwater glaciers which cover an  
134 area of around 58 km<sup>2</sup>.

135 [Figure 1]

### 136 2.2 Hydro-meteorological data and site water sampling for isotope analysis

137 Digital elevation model (DEM) data in the YTR catchment with a spatial resolution of 30-  
138 m was extracted from the Geospatial Data Cloud (<http://www.gscloud.cn>). The 3-hour  $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$   
139 China Meteorological Forcing Dataset (CMFD) which combined multiple datasets (e.g.,  
140 GLDAS and TRMM) with the national meteorological station data (Yang et al., 2010) provided  
141 meteorological inputs including precipitation, temperature and potential evapotranspiration.  
142 Glacier coverages were extracted from the Second Glacier Inventory Dataset of China (Liu,  
143 2012). The Tibetan Plateau Snow Cover Extent product (TPSCE, 5km×5km, Chen et al., 2018)  
144 were used to denote the fluctuations of daily snow cover area (SCA) in the basins. The 8-day  
145 Leaf Area Index (LAI) and the monthly normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) data  
146 were downloaded from MODIS products of MOD15A2H (500m×500m, Myneni et al., 2015)  
147 and MOD13A3 (1km×1km, Didan, 2015), respectively. Soil parameters were estimated based  
148 on the soil properties extracted from the 1km × 1km Harmonized World Soil Database (HWSD,  
149 <http://www.fao.org/geonetwork>).

150 Daily streamflow during 2000-2010 for hydrological calibration were observed at the  
151 Nuxia, Yangcun and Nugesha hydrological stations. Grab samples of precipitation and stream  
152 water were collected in 2005 at four stations along the main stream of YTR, i.e., Lazi (4889 m



153 a.s.l.), Nugesha (4715 m a.s.l.), Yangcun (4541 m a.s.l.) and Nuxia (3691 m a.s.l.), from the  
154 upstream to the downstream (Fig. 1). Precipitation water were sampled as immediately as  
155 possible after the precipitation events, and stream water samples were collected weekly every  
156 Monday from the river. Considering the west-east flowing direction of the river (Fig. 1b) and  
157 the effect of altitude, the measured isotopic composition of precipitation from site sampling  
158 was interpolated by longitude and altitude (similar with [Zhao et al. 2012](#), [Liu et al. 2014](#)) using  
159 Eq. 1 to provide spatial precipitation isotope for model input, in which the coefficients  $x$ ,  $y$  and  
160  $z$  were estimated by least squares fitting the average precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and corresponding  
161 altitude/longitude at the four measuring stations. Isotopic composition of glacier meltwater was  
162 assumed to be constant during the entire study period, and lower than the amount weighted  
163 average isotopic composition of precipitation.

$$164 \quad \overline{\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{precipitation}}}(\text{‰}) = x * ALT(m) + y * LON(^{\circ}E) + z \quad (1)$$

165 Daily temperature and precipitation in the KR catchment during 2006-2012 were collected  
166 at the Langkazi meteorological Station. Altitudinal distributions of temperature and  
167 precipitation across the catchment were estimated by the lapse rates reported in [Zhang et al.](#)  
168 [\(2015\)](#). Daily streamflow during 2006-2012 for hydrological calibration and evaluation were  
169 measured at the Wengguo hydrological station. Grab samples of precipitation and stream water  
170 at the Wengguo Station in 2006-2007 and 2010-2012 were collected for isotope analysis.  
171 Isotopic composition of precipitation over elevation bands was calculated from the sampling  
172 site of Wengguo Station using an altitudinal lapse of  $-0.34\text{‰}/100\text{m}$  reported in [Liu et al. \(2007\)](#).  
173 Isotopic composition of glacier meltwater in this catchment was assumed to be  $-18.9\text{‰}$ ,  
174 constantly throughout the entire study period, adopting from the value reported in [Gao et al.](#)  
175 [\(2009\)](#). Details of water samples in YTR and KR catchments are summarized in Table 1.

176 [Table 1]

### 177 2.3 Isotopic General Circulation Model isoGSM and bias correction

178 Precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of the Scripps global spectral model with water isotopes-incorporated  
179 (isoGSM) developed by [Yoshimura et al. \(2008\)](#) was extracted to drive the tracer-aided model.  
180 IsoGSM was developed from the Scripps Experimental Climate Prediction Center's GSM,  
181 which was based on the medium range forecast model for making operational analysis and  
182 predictions ([Kanamitsu et al., 2002](#)). According to a previous comparison of ten iGCMs in  
183 [Wang et al. \(2017\)](#), the isoGSM product showed the best performance on simulating global  
184 spatial pattern of precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ . The spatial and temporal resolutions of isoGSM dataset  
185 are  $1.875^{\circ} \times 1.875^{\circ}$  and 6 hours, respectively.

186 The precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  estimated by isoGSM was corrected by site sampling measurements  
187 in Eqs. 2-4 before used for hydrological model input. Biases between the amount weighted  
188 averages of isoGSM isotope and sampling measurement at the four sampling sites in YTR basin



189 were calculated in Eq. 2 first. Spatial distribution of bias between isoGSM isotope and sampling  
190 measurement was then assumed as linearly related to altitude in Eq. 3, in which the coefficients  
191 of  $a$  and  $b$  were estimated by least squares fitting the site biases calculated in Eq. 2 and  
192 corresponding site altitudes. Daily isoGSM isotope data in hydrological model units over the  
193 study catchment were finally corrected in Eq. 4 using the unit altitudes.

$$194 \quad bias_i = \overline{\delta^{18}O_{i,m}} - \overline{\delta^{18}O_{i,G}} \quad i = 1,2,3,4 \quad (2)$$

$$195 \quad bias_r = a * ALT + b \quad (3)$$

$$196 \quad \begin{cases} bias_{r_i} = \delta^{18}O_{i,j,G} + a * ALT_i + b \\ \delta^{18}O_{i,j,corr} = \delta^{18}O_{i,j,G} + bias_r \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

197 where,  $\overline{\delta^{18}O_{i,m}}$  is the amount weighted average of measured precipitation isotope over the  
198 sampling period in site  $i$  ( $i=1-4$ ), and  $\overline{\delta^{18}O_{i,G}}$  is the amount weighted average of isoGSM  
199 precipitation isotope over the study period in pixel that contains the sampling site  $i$ .  $ALT$  is  
200 altitude of the sampling site or hydrological model unit. Parameters  $a$  and  $b$  are the linear  
201 regression coefficients.  $\delta^{18}O_{i,j,corr}$  and  $\delta^{18}O_{i,j,G}$  are the corrected and original isoGSM  
202 precipitation isotope at hydrological model unit  $i$  ( $i=1-63$ ) on the  $j^{\text{th}}$  day, respectively.  
203 Performance of the correction method of isoGSM data was evaluated by sampling measurement  
204 of precipitation isotope at the Wengguo station in the KR sub-basin, which was not involved in  
205 the estimation of coefficients  $a$  and  $b$  in Eq. 3. Spatial precipitation isotope of the isoGSM data  
206 in the KR sub-basin for hydrological modeling was estimated using the same altitudinal lapse  
207 that was used to interpolate the sampling data in Section 2.2, because the KR catchment only  
208 encompasses one pixel of the isoGSM data.

#### 209 **2.4 Tracer-aided hydrological model**

210 A distributed tracer-aided hydrological model THREW-t (Tian et al., 2006; Nan et al., 2021)  
211 was adopted in this study for streamflow and isotope simulations. This model uses the  
212 Representative Elementary Watershed (REW) method for the spatial discretization of  
213 catchment, in which the study catchment is first divided into REWs based on the catchment  
214 DEM. Each REW is further divided into hydrological sub-zones using land covers and soil  
215 properties within the REW. In total, 63 and 41 REWs were extracted in YTR and KR,  
216 respectively. Areal averages of the gridded estimates of CMFD meteorological variables and  
217 precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  were used in each of the REWs to drive the hydrological model. For  
218 application in cold and high regions, a module representing the glacier melting and snowpack  
219 evolution was incorporated into the original model in Tian et al. (2006), which has been proved  
220 as successful in previous modelling works (e.g., He et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2019; Tian et al.,  
221 2020). The tracer module was developed by Nan et al. (2021) which performed quite well on  
222 reproducing the isotopic signature of stream water in the KR catchment. The isotope mixing



223 and fractionation processes were simulated based on the completely mixing assumption and the  
224 Rayleigh fractionation method (Hindshaw et al., 2011; Wolfe et al., 2007). More details of  
225 model description and set up are given in Tian et al. (2006) and Nan et al. (2021).

226 The physical basis and value ranges of the calibrated parameters in the THREW-t model  
227 are described in Table 2. In both modeling catchments of YTR and KR, the parameter values  
228 were optimized using three calibration variants: (1) a dual-objective calibration using observed  
229 discharge and MODIS snow covered area fraction (SCA), (2) a triple-objective calibration  
230 using observed discharge, MODIS SCA and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  measurements of stream water forced by  
231 linearly interpolated measurements of site sampling precipitation isotope, and (3) a triple-  
232 objective calibration using observed discharge, MODIS SCA and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  measurements of stream  
233 water but forced by the isoGSM precipitation isotope data. Metrics used to evaluate the  
234 simulations of discharge, SCA and isotope are list in Eqs. 5-7.

$$235 \quad NSE_{dis} = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{o,i} - Q_{s,i})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{o,i} - \overline{Q}_o)^2} \quad (5)$$

$$236 \quad RMSE_{SCA} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (SCA_{o,i} - SCA_{s,i})^2}{n}} \quad (6)$$

$$237 \quad MAE_{iso} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |\delta^{18}\text{O}_{o,i} - \delta^{18}\text{O}_{s,i}|}{n} \quad (7)$$

238 where,  $n$  is the total number of observations. Subscripts of  $o$  and  $s$  refer to observed and  
239 simulated variables, respectively.  $\overline{Q}_o$  is the average value of observed streamflow during the  
240 assessing period.

#### 241 [Table 2]

242 An automatic procedure based on the pySOT optimization algorithm developed by  
243 Eriksson et al. (2015) was implemented for all the three calibration variants to identify the  
244 behavioral parameters. The pySOT used surrogate model to guide the search for improved  
245 solutions, with the advantage of needing few function evaluations to find a good solution. An  
246 event-driven framework POAP were used for building and combining asynchronous  
247 optimization strategies. The optimization was stopped if a maximum number of allowed  
248 function evaluations was reached, which was set as 3000 in this study. For both modeling  
249 catchments, the pySOT algorithm was repeated 150 times for each calibration variant. Although  
250 the measurement unit of  $NSE_{dis}$  is different from  $RMSE_{SCA}$  and  $MAE_{iso}$ , their values are in the  
251 same order of magnitude when the model performances were acceptable (Ala-aho et al., 2017;  
252 Nan et al., 2021). Consequently, they were combined with equal weights to reflect the  
253 simultaneous performance on multiple objectives. For the dual- and triple-objective calibration  
254 variants,  $NSE_{dis} - RMSE_{SCA}$ ,  $NSE_{dis} - RMSE_{SCA} - MAE_{iso}$  were chosen as combined optimization  
255 objectives, respectively. Among the 150 final parameter sets produced by the pySOT runs, the  
256 behavioral parameter sets were selected by  $NSE_{dis}$  thresholds, i.e., only the parameter sets  
257 producing  $NSE_{dis}$  higher than an assumed threshold were regarded as behavioral parameter sets.





258 For the YTR catchment, the  $NSE_{dis}$  threshold was chosen as 0.85. For KR catchment, the  
259 threshold was chosen as 0.75 and 0.70 for dual- and triple-objective calibration variants,  
260 respectively.

261 Considering the data availability, the calibration and validation periods for KR catchment  
262 were set as 2006-2010 and 2011-2012, respectively. For YTR basin, discharge measured at the  
263 outlet station Nuxia, the MODIS SCA fraction over the basin area upper the Nuxia station, and  
264 the stream water  $\delta^{18}O$  measured at the Nuxia station were used for calibration. Calibration and  
265 validation periods of 2001-2005 and 2006-2010 were selected to test the model performance  
266 for simulations of discharge and SCA at the Nuxia station. In addition, discharge measured at  
267 the internal hydrological stations of Yangcun and Nugesha during 2001-2010 were used to  
268 validate the spatial consistency of the calibrated model parameters. Model performance on  
269 simulating stream water isotope at the Nuxia station in a validation period was not assessed as  
270 stream water isotope measurements were available only during 2005. However, stream water  
271  $\delta^{18}O$  measured during 2005 at the internal hydrological stations of Yangcun, Nugesha and Lazi  
272 were adopted to validate the model performance on simulating spatial stream water  $\delta^{18}O$  within  
273 YTR basin.

### 274 3. Results

#### 275 3.1 Comparison between isoGSM and measured precipitation $\delta^{18}O$

276 Figs. 2a and 3a show the comparison between isoGSM and measured precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  at  
277 four sampling sites in the YTR basin. The isoGSM data presented similar fluctuations of  
278 seasonal precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  to the sampling measurements (Fig. 3a). In particular, both isoGSM  
279 and sampling measurement showed high precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  in May, and reached relatively low  
280 values in the wet season during August and September. However, the original isoGSM data  
281 tended to overestimate the measured precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  in the sampling periods (Fig. 2a). From  
282 downstream to upstream, the amount weighted average precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  of samples collected  
283 at the four stations (Nuxia, Yangcun, Nugesha and Lazi) were -9.58‰, -14.01‰, -14.80‰ and  
284 -17.86‰, respectively, while the corresponding weighted average values of isoGSM pixels  
285 containing the sampling stations during the same period were -7.53‰, -8.38‰, -9.22‰ and  
286 -9.61‰, respectively. Bias between isoGSM data and sampling measurement tended to be larger  
287 at upstream stations with higher elevations, partly due to the coarse spatial resolution of GCM  
288 which cannot reproduce the effect of regional topography well. In contrast, the corrected  
289 isoGSM data (black lines in Fig. 3a) captured the relatively low values in the late wet season  
290 better than the original data (grey lines in Fig. 3a), and the scatter points fall closer to the 1:1  
291 line (Fig. 2b). The MAE of isoGSM precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  in the YTR reduced from 6.65‰ to 4.91‰  
292 after correction. Similarly, the original isoGSM data presented comparable seasonal



293 fluctuations of precipitation isotope to the sampling measurement at the Wengguo station in the  
294 KR catchment (Fig. 3b), but the amount weighted average of precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in the original  
295 isoGSM data (-10.95‰) is much higher than that in the sampling measurement (-15.97‰, Fig.  
296 2c and 3b). After bias correction, the overestimation was much reduced (Fig. 2d), indicated by  
297 a reduced MAE value from 6.24‰ to 4.47‰. Underestimation of precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  by the  
298 original isoGSM data in springs of 2011 and 2012, however, was not improved by the bias  
299 correction.

300 [Figure 2]

301 [Figure 3]

302 Based on the multiple linear regression, the coefficients  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  in Eq. 1 were estimated  
303 as -0.003, 0.574 and -52.6, respectively, to interpolate the measured isotope data to estimate  
304 spatial precipitation isotope over the YTR basin. Parameters  $a$  and  $b$  in Eq. 3 were estimated as  
305 -0.0046 and 14.96 based on the biases between isoGSM data and sampling measurements on  
306 the four sampling sites in YTR. Fig. 4 shows the comparison of the amount weighted averages  
307 of precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  on 63 REWs derived from the corrected isoGSM data and interpolated  
308 sampling measurement. It is shown that the distributions of precipitation isotope with altitude  
309 were rather similar in the two datasets (Fig. 4b). However, distributions across the longitudes  
310 show visible differences (Fig. 4a). In comparison to the corrected isoGSM data, the interpolated  
311 sampling measurement estimated much lower isotope signature in the west upstream region  
312 (longitude  $<86^\circ$ ), while presenting higher the isotope signature in the east middle and  
313 downstream regions (longitude falls between  $91^\circ$  and  $93^\circ$ ). As site sampling data of precipitation  
314 was insufficient to test which of the two datasets captured the west-east distribution of  
315 precipitation isotope better, model performance on simulating isotope signatures of stream  
316 water measured at hydrological stations from west to east forced by the two datasets provide a  
317 perspective to assess the precipitation isotope estimations.

318 [Figure 4]

### 319 3.2 Model performance for the simulations of discharge and stream water isotope

320 Fig. 5-6 and Table 3 show the model performance of different calibration variants in the  
321 YTR basin produced by the behavioral parameter sets. The three calibration variants produced  
322 similar simulations of discharge and SCA (Fig. 5), in spite of the slightly higher  $\text{NSE}_{\text{dis}}$  and  
323 lower  $\text{RMSE}_{\text{SCA}}$  estimated by the dual-objective calibration (Table 3). For the simulation of  
324 stream water  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , the dual-objective calibration produced the worst  $\text{MAE}_{\text{iso}}$  values in three out  
325 of the four testing stations with the largest uncertainty ranges (Fig. 6a), which can be expected  
326 as isotope data was not involved in this calibration. The two triple-objective calibration variants  
327 produced good simulation for the stream water isotope at the Nuxia station in the calibration  
328 year of 2005 (Fig. 6b and 6c). However, the triple-objective calibration variant forced by



329 isoGSM data estimated worse performance (i.e., higher  $MAE_{iso}$  values) for stream water  $\delta^{18}O$   
330 at the stations of Yangcun and Nugesha than the calibration forced by interpolated sampling  
331 measurement showing significant underestimations for peak isotope values in June at Yangcun  
332 station, and higher overestimations for isotope values after August at Nugesha. This was due to  
333 the poor performance of isoGSM on capturing the isotope signature of individual precipitation  
334 events during a specific period (see Fig. 3a), although being corrected already. For example,  
335 the amount weighted average of measured precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  in June at the Yangcun station was  
336  $-5.87\%$ , while the average of corrected isoGSM data showed a value of  $-10.09\%$ , leading to  
337 an underestimated peak value. Similarly, the amount weighted average of measured  
338 precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  at Nugesha during August was  $-16.34\%$ , while the corrected isoGSM data  
339 estimated an average of  $-11.47\%$ , leading to an overestimated stream  $\delta^{18}O$  in the late wet season.  
340 In spite of that, the performance of simulated stream water  $\delta^{18}O$  at Nuxia, Yangcun and Nugesha  
341 stations forced by corrected isoGSM data can still be considered as acceptable, given the  
342  $MAE_{iso}$  values were generally around 1 (Fig. 6c). For the most upstream station Lazi, however,  
343 the triple-objective variant forced by measured precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  produced significantly  
344 underestimated  $\delta^{18}O$  of stream water, likely due to the underestimated precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  in the  
345 upstream high altitudes produced by the interpolated measurement data (Fig. 4b). The good  
346 performance of simulated stream water  $\delta^{18}O$  at the Lazi station driven by the corrected isoGSM  
347 data demonstrated that the corrected isoGSM estimated a better precipitation isoscape in high  
348 altitudes of the study catchment than the linearly interpolated measurement data, partly  
349 benefiting from the information of spatial precipitation isotope implied in the gridded values.  
350 It is worth noting that the model simulations forced by corrected isoGSM estimated narrower  
351 uncertainty bands for stream water  $\delta^{18}O$  at Nuxia, Yangcun and Nugesha, and smaller value  
352 ranges of the  $MAE_{iso}$  metric at all the four stations, in comparison to the simulations driven by  
353 the interpolated precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$ . Compared to the simulations yielded by the dual-objective  
354 calibration, the triple-objective calibration variants simulated smaller uncertainty ranges for  
355 stream water  $\delta^{18}O$  and slightly narrowed value ranges of objective metrics for the simulations  
356 of discharge and SCA with the lower behavioral ratios of calibrated parameter sets in Table 3,  
357 indicating good potential of isotope data on reducing modeling uncertainty and improving  
358 parameter identifiability.

359 [Figure 5]

360 [Figure 6]

361 [Table 3]

362 The simulated hydrographs at two internal hydrological stations of Yangcun and Nugesha  
363 were compared in Fig. 7 to assess the spatial consistency of model parameters calibrated by the  
364 different variants. The isoGSM-forced triple-objective calibration produced the highest  
365 performance for discharge simulation at the two internal stations (Fig. 7e and 7f) indicated by



366 the highest averages (0.82 and 0.74 for Yangcun and Nugesha) and minimal values (0.72 and  
367 0.53 for Yangcun and Nugesha) of NSE, as well as the smallest values ranges of NSE. The dual-  
368 objective calibration produced lower performance for discharge simulation than the isoGSM-  
369 forced triple-objective calibration (with average NSE as 0.8 and 0.67 at Yangcun and Nugesha)  
370 with a much larger uncertainty of the baseflow simulation (Fig. 7a and Fig. 7b). The  
371 measurement-forced triple-objective calibration produced higher mean NSE (0.81 and 0.74 for  
372 Yangcun and Nugesha) but smaller minimal NSE (0.62 and 0.31 for Yangcun and Nugesha)  
373 than the dual-objective calibration with the largest values ranges of NSE at the two stations.  
374 Moreover, the isoGSM-forced triple-objective calibration performed best on capturing the peak  
375 flows in summer at both stations.

376 **[Figure 7]**

377 The model performances produced by the behavioral parameter sets of different calibration  
378 variants in the KR catchment were shown in Figs. 8-9 and Table 4. All the three calibration  
379 variants presented similar performances on simulating streamflow, while the two triple-  
380 objective calibrations resulted in narrower uncertainty ranges, especially for the baseflow (Fig.  
381 8c and e). The declining SCA in spring-summer was captured well in all the calibration variants  
382 (Figs. 8b, d and f). Triple-objective calibrations driven by the two isotope datasets performed  
383 comparably well on simulating the isotopic composition of stream water in the calibration  
384 period (Fig. 9b and 9c) indicated by the low average values of MAE<sub>iso</sub> (0.68 and 0.69) and the  
385 well captured seasonal fluctuations of stream water  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ . The peak isotopic values in around  
386 June of 2007 were not captured well by the isoGSM-driven model (Fig. 9c), resulting in a  
387 relatively larger minimal MAE<sub>iso</sub> (0.57) than the interpolated measurement-driven result (0.48).  
388 This was due to the underestimations of isoGSM on estimating the isotope signatures of  
389 individual extreme precipitation events in June (see Fig. 3b). Specifically, there was a  
390 precipitation event larger than 20mm/day in June of 2007, of which the corrected isoGSM  
391 produced significantly lower  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (-21.55‰) than the sampling measurement (-9.83‰) at the  
392 Wengguo station. Despite that, the isoGSM-forced triple-objective calibration estimated much  
393 better performance than the interpolated measurement-driven calibration for stream water  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
394 in the validation period (Figs. 9b and c). Similar to YTR, the triple-objective calibrations got  
395 much smaller behavioral parameter sets (19 and 18 for measurement- and isoGSM-forced  
396 calibration variants) than the dual-objective calibration (117) through 150 runs of the automatic  
397 calibration program, indicating strongly increased identifiability of model parameters and  
398 reduced uncertainty by the using of isotope data.

399 **[Figure 8]**

400 **[Figure 9]**

401 **[Table 4]**



### 402 3.3 Contributions of runoff components

403 Fig. 10 and Tables 5-6 compare the proportions of water sources in the annual water input  
404 for runoff generation simulated by the behavioral parameter sets identified by the three  
405 calibration variants. In the KR sub-basin (Fig. 10b and Table 6), rainfall provided the largest  
406 volume of water source for runoff generation simulated by the three calibration variants  
407 (44.2%-47.4%), followed by glacier meltwater (29.2%-33.8%). Snowmelt contributed the  
408 lowest proportion of 22.0%-23.4% in the total water input. The two triple-objective calibrations  
409 estimated very similar contributions of runoff component, and consistently estimated lower  
410 proportions of glacier melt than the dual-objective calibration, which can be attributed to the  
411 role of isotope data in regulating the contribution of strong-evaporated surface runoff  
412 component fed by glacier melt to streamflow (Nan et al., 2021) by rejecting parameter sets that  
413 estimated small proportions of rainfall but large proportions of glacier melt (as shown by the  
414 error bar in Fig. 10b). Meanwhile, uncertainties of the estimated contributions were  
415 significantly reduced (from 9.4% to 6.2% and 4.7%, Table 6) by integrating isotope data into  
416 the model. Regarding the contributions of water sources to seasonal water input, snowmelt and  
417 rainfall were the dominant water sources in spring and summer. Three water sources had similar  
418 contributions during autumn. Glacier melt produced a relatively steady contribution of around  
419 30%-35% throughout the year. Similar to the annual contributions, seasonal contributions of  
420 snowmelt and rainfall estimated by the two triple-objective calibrations were larger than those  
421 estimated by the dual-objective calibration, while the opposite holds true for the seasonal  
422 contributions of glacier melt. The largest differences of the contributions estimated by the  
423 different calibration variants go to the winter season (Table 6), which however had negligible  
424 effect on the annual runoff regime because of the extremely low contribution of water input in  
425 this season (<1%). Uncertainties of the runoff component contributions were reduced by  
426 involving isotope calibration most significantly during summer, because the isotope data  
427 brought more constraint on the rainfall-runoff processes, which played dominant role in summer.  
428 The uncertainties of annual contributions were close to those of summer contributions because  
429 of the large proportion of water input to annual runoff in summer (>60%). In contrast,  
430 uncertainties of winter contributions estimated by the triple-objective calibration variants  
431 tended to be larger than that estimated by the dual-objective calibration, due to the smaller  
432 amount of total water input in winter as a result of lower contribution of meltwater estimated  
433 by triple-objective variants.

434 In the YTR catchment, rainfall showed larger dominance on annual runoff than glacier and  
435 snow meltwater with the mean contributions of 61.4%-69.6% (Fig. 10a and Table 5). The dual-  
436 objective calibration and triple-objective calibration forced by measured isotope data estimated  
437 similar annual contributions of rainfall (~62%), snowmelt (~11%) and glacier melt (~27%).  
438 Nonetheless, the isoGSM-forced triple-objective calibration estimated significantly higher



439 mean proportion of rainfall (70%) but lower mean proportion of glacier melt (18%) by rejecting  
440 the parameter sets that estimated rainfall contributions less than 60% and glacier melt  
441 contributions more than 30%, which however were identified to be acceptable in the other two  
442 calibration variants (as shown by the error bar in Fig. 10a). Difference of the glacier melt  
443 contributions estimated by the two triple-objective calibration variants mainly resulted from the  
444 difference of precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  inputs from the two datasets. The interpolated measurement  
445 data tended to produce higher precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in the middle and downstream regions of YTR  
446 basin but lower values in the upstream region, compared to the corrected isoGSM data (Fig.  
447 4b). Meanwhile, the precipitation input in the downstream region was higher than that occurred  
448 in the upstream (Xu et al., 2017), thus resulting in higher average precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  over the  
449 entire YTR of the interpolated measurement data. Consequently, larger contribution of glacier  
450 melt with low isotope composition was estimated in the interpolated measurement-forced  
451 triple-objective calibration to counteract the effect of precipitation input with high isotopic  
452 composition for matching the measured stream water  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ . By involving isotope simulation,  
453 both triple-objective variants significantly reduced the uncertainties of the estimated  
454 contributions (from 11.9% to 8.6% and 8.9%, Table 5). Similar to the estimated annual  
455 contributions, the isoGSM-forced triple-objective calibration estimated higher mean proportion  
456 of rainfall, lower mean proportion of glacier melt and comparable mean proportion of snowmelt  
457 in the four seasons, compared to the dual-objective calibration and triple-objective calibration  
458 forced by measured isotope data. In general, rainfall was the dominant water input source in  
459 summer and autumn, and snowmelt dominated the runoff in winter. The contributions of rainfall  
460 and snowmelt to total water input were close in spring. Similar to KR catchment, uncertainty  
461 of runoff component contribution was reduced by the isotope-involved calibrations more  
462 significantly in seasons when rainfall played dominant roles.

463 [Figure 10]

464 [Table 5]

465 [Table 6]

## 466 4. Discussion

### 467 4.1 Uncertainties of the simulations of water isotope signatures

468 Integrating the simulations of water isotope signatures into the hydrological model  
469 structure could help to make use of hydrological information additionally implied in the water  
470 isotope data without introducing new model parameters for the runoff processes. However,  
471 uncertainty of the simulation of water isotope in the tracer-aided hydrological model can be  
472 caused by the following sources. First, the isotopic compositions of meltwater sources were  
473 determined based on simplified assumptions, which however were hard to verify in a large



474 basin due to the limited field sampling work. The isotopic compositions of glacier melt were  
475 assumed as constant throughout the modeling period due to the unavailability of glacier melting  
476 water samples. This could be reasonable because the changes of glacier elevation during the  
477 10-year modeling period were small, indicating that ice melt on the glacier surface in each of  
478 the summer seasons occurred very likely from the same elevation bands with similar isotopic  
479 compositions. The isotopic evolution of snow meltwater was simulated according to the mass  
480 balance of snowpack. The isotope fractionation effect caused by the melt processes was  
481 inadequately characterized in our model, which could lead to uncertainty in the simulation of  
482 snowmelt isotope (Pu et al., 2020).

483 Second, the uncertainty of the precipitation isotope input data served as another uncertainty  
484 source of the isotope simulation in the model. Although the isotope data itself had no influences  
485 on the hydrological processes, the calibration procedure to fit the simulated stream isotope  
486 signature with observation indeed affected the model simulations of runoff processes (Delavau  
487 et al., 2017). For the sampling measurement-based forcing data, the uncertainty came from the  
488 interpolation procedure. We used a linear interpolation method based on longitude and altitude  
489 to estimate the precipitation isoscape. This could be reasonable in our study catchment because  
490 these two factors characterize the major spatial pattern and altitude effect of precipitation  
491 isotope in similar large-scale regions on TP (Liu et al., 2014). However, low availability of site  
492 measurement data derived from the sparse water sampling network led to large uncertainty  
493 of the interpolated result. Measurements from more water sampling sites are required in the  
494 future for the improvement of the interpolation method. For the isoGSM data, uncertainty came  
495 from its coarse spatial resolution. Although the isoGSM data bears the potential to capture  
496 spatial patterns of precipitation isotope in large basins, the effect of regional topography on  
497 isotope was not reflected well in the current product due to its rather coarse pixel size  
498 (~200km×200km). Consequently, developing downscale methods that are applicable to  
499 mountainous catchments to extract regional isotope estimates from iGCM products (such as  
500 iRCM in Sturm et al., 2007) might be helpful for the tracer-aided hydrological modelling on  
501 the TP. Moreover, the bias-correction procedure based on measurements from a sparse water  
502 sampling network inevitably brought uncertainty to the corrected isoGSM data. The current  
503 sampling sites of precipitation are located along the river channel with elevations lower than  
504 the contributing mountains, thus failing to involve isoGSM estimates at high mountainous  
505 terrains into the correction procedure.

#### 506 **4.2 The value of spatial precipitation isotope data derived from iGCM for aiding** 507 **hydrological modeling in large basins**

508 Comparisons with the dual-objective calibration without isotope data indicated high value  
509 of spatial precipitation isotope data for reducing modeling uncertainty. Model simulations



510 forced by the two precipitation isotope datasets produced similar total streamflow simulation  
511 in the YTR basin, but resulted in certain difference in the simulated stream water isotopic  
512 composition and water source apportionments, which was consistent with the findings in  
513 [Delavau et al. \(2017\)](#). The choice of precipitation isotope input data was demonstrated to have  
514 large influence on the model performance. In this study, model simulations forced by the  
515 corrected isoGSM data performed better than that driven by the interpolated data of sampling  
516 measurement with respect to discharge and stream water isotope simulations at internal  
517 hydrological stations. Beyond that, the runoff component contributions estimated by the  
518 isoGSM-forced triple-objective calibration were likely more reliable than those estimated by  
519 the dual-objective and the measurement-forced triple-objective calibrations. Contribution of  
520 glacier melt to annual water input in the YTR basin was estimated as around 27% in the dual-  
521 objective and the measurement-forced triple-objective calibrations, which might not be  
522 reasonable, considering the small glacier covered area ratio (2%). Glacier melt contribution  
523 estimated by the isoGSM-forced triple-objective calibration was lower than 20%, similarly to  
524 estimates in some previous studies ([Immerzeel et al., 2010](#); [Bookhagen and Burbank, 2010](#);  
525 [Zhang et al., 2013](#)), and the finding that glacier melt contributed a bit more than snowmelt was  
526 consistent with the result of [Lutz et al. \(2014\)](#) during the similar period (1998-2007).

527 This indicated that the corrected isoGSM product served as a better choice to force the  
528 tracer-aided hydrological model than the interpolated data of sampling measurement. It is  
529 commonly difficult to estimate the precipitation isoscapes in large mountainous catchments  
530 according to limited available site sampling data. Relatively, the iGCM data has the advantage  
531 of presenting more spatial information of precipitation isotope via physically simulating the  
532 processes of vapor transfer, condensation and supersaturation in the atmosphere and their  
533 effects on precipitation isotope ([Xi, 2014](#)). Our results indicated that even precipitation isotope  
534 measurements at only four sampling sites provided sounds good ground data basis to correct  
535 the isoGSM isotope product in the study basin with a size of  $2 \times 10^5$  km<sup>2</sup>. The condition was  
536 different in the KR sub-catchment, where the triple-objective variants forced by two isotope  
537 datasets performed similarly with respect to discharge and isotope simulation and runoff  
538 component contribution estimation. This is due to the much smaller catchment area than the  
539 pixel size, thus the advantage of the spatial information provided by isoGSM was not taken  
540 adequately.

## 541 5. Conclusions

542 The utility of precipitation isotope input derived from the Isotopic General Circulation  
543 Models (iGCM) product isoGSM in forcing the distributed tracer-aided hydrological model  
544 THREW-t in a large basin of  $2 \times 10^5$  km<sup>2</sup> on the Tibetan Plateau (TP) was investigated in this  
545 work. Model performance driven by the isoGSM data was evaluated by comparing with





546 simulations driven by precipitation isotope measurements from a sparse sampling network. Our  
547 main findings are:

548 (1) Spatial precipitation isotope data derived from the Isotopic General Circulation Models  
549 helped to reduce modeling uncertainty and improve parameter identifiability, in comparison to  
550 a calibration method using discharge and snow cover area fraction without any information of  
551 water isotope. The developed tracer-aided hydrological model forced by the isoGSM data  
552 showed high values for robustly representing runoff processes in large mountainous catchments.

553 (2) Model parameters estimated by the isoGSM data corrected using site sampling  
554 measurements of precipitation isotope presented higher transferability to nested sub-basins and  
555 produced higher model performance in the validation period than that estimated by the  
556 interpolated isotope data from site sampling measurement. The smaller uncertainty ranges of  
557 model simulations in nested sub-basins forced by the corrected isoGSM data further indicated  
558 that the corrected isoGSM data served as a better choice to provide informative spatial  
559 precipitation isotope in large basins than the interpolated data from site sampling measurements.

560 (3) Using the corrected isoGSM data improved the quantification of contributions of runoff  
561 components to streamflow on both annual and seasonal scales. Model calibration procedure  
562 forced by the corrected isoGSM data successfully rejected parameter sets that estimated  
563 overestimation of glacier melt contribution, indicating that precipitation isotope measurements  
564 at only four sampling sites along the river channel provided a good ground data basis to correct  
565 the isoGSM product in the study catchment.

#### 566 **Code/Data availability**

567 The isotope data and the code of THREW-t model used in this study are available by contacting  
568 the authors.

#### 569 **Author contribution**

570 YN, ZH and FT conceived the idea; ZW provided the isoGSM data; LT provided the  
571 measurement isotope data; YN, ZH and FT conducted analysis; ZW and LT provided comments  
572 on the analysis; all the authors contributed to writing and revisions.

#### 573 **Competing interests**

574 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

#### 575 **Acknowledgements**

576 This study was supported by the National Science Foundation of China (92047301, 51825902,  
577 91647205). The authors thank all the organizations and scientists for the contribution of data



578 used in this work. All the data used in this study will be available on request from the  
579 corresponding author (tianfq@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn).

580 **Financial support**

581 This study was supported by the National Science Foundation of China (grant no. 92047301,  
582 51825902, 91647205).  
583



584 **References**

- 585 Ala-aho, P., Tetzlaff, D., McNamara, J. P., Laudon, H., & Soulsby, C. (2017). Using isotopes to  
586 constrain water flux and age estimates in snow-influenced catchments using the STARR  
587 (Spatially distributed Tracer-Aided Rainfall–Runoff) model. *Hydrology and Earth System*  
588 *Sciences*, 21(10), 5089-5110. doi:10.5194/hess-21-5089-2017
- 589 Birkel, C., & Soulsby, C. (2015). Advancing tracer-aided rainfall-runoff modelling: a review of  
590 progress, problems and unrealised potential. *Hydrological Processes*, 29(25), 5227-5240.  
591 doi:10.1002/hyp.10594
- 592 Birkel, C., Tetzlaff, D., Dunn, S. M., & Soulsby, C. (2011). Using time domain and geographic  
593 source tracers to conceptualize streamflow generation processes in lumped rainfall-runoff  
594 models. *Water Resources Research*, 47(2). doi:10.1029/2010wr009547
- 595 Bookhagen, B., & Burbank, D. W. (2010). Toward a complete Himalayan hydrological budget:  
596 Spatiotemporal distribution of snowmelt and rainfall and their impact on river discharge.  
597 *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 115(F3). doi:10.1029/2009jf001426
- 598 Capell, R., Tetzlaff, D., & Soulsby, C. (2012). Can time domain and source area tracers reduce  
599 uncertainty in rainfall-runoff models in larger heterogeneous catchments? *Water*  
600 *Resources Research*, 48(9). doi:10.1029/2011wr011543
- 601 Chen, X., Long, D., Liang, S., He, L., Zeng, C., Hao, X., & Hong, Y. (2018). Developing a  
602 composite daily snow cover extent record over the Tibetan Plateau from 1981 to 2016  
603 using multisource data. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 215, 284-299.  
604 doi:10.1016/j.rse.2018.06.021
- 605 Delavau, C. J., Stadnyk, T., & Holmes, T. (2017). Examining the impacts of precipitation  
606 isotope input ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) on distributed, tracer-aided hydrological modelling. *Hydrology and*  
607 *Earth System Sciences*, 21(5), 2595-2614. doi:10.5194/hess-21-2595-2017
- 608 Didan, K. (2015). MOD13A3 MODIS/Terra vegetation Indices Monthly L3 Global 1km SIN  
609 Grid V006 [Data set]. NASA EOSDIS Land Processes DAAC. Accessed 2020-01-01 from  
610 <https://doi.org/10.5067/MODIS/MOD13A3.006>
- 611 Dong, W., Lin, Y., Wright, J. S., Ming, Y., Xie, Y., Wang, B., . . . Xu, F. (2016). Summer rainfall  
612 over the southwestern Tibetan Plateau controlled by deep convection over the Indian  
613 subcontinent. *Nature Communications*, 7. doi:10.1038/ncomms10925



- 614 Duethmann, D., Bolch, T., Farinotti, D., Kriegel, D., Vorogushyn, S., Merz, B., . . . Güntner, A.  
615 (2015). Attribution of streamflow trends in snow and glacier melt-dominated catchments  
616 of the Tarim River, Central Asia. *Water Resources Research*, 51(6), 4727-4750.  
617 doi:10.1002/2014wr016716
- 618 Eriksson, D., Bindel, D., & Shoemaker, C. (2015). Surrogate optimization toolbox (pysot).
- 619 Gao, J., Tian, L. D., & Liu, Y. Q. (2009). Oxygen isotope variation in the water cycle of the  
620 Yamdrok-tso Lake Basin in southern betan Plateau. *Chinese Science Bulletin*, 54(15),  
621 2153-2159.
- 622 Gupta, H. V., Wagener, T., & Liu, Y. (2008). Reconciling theory with observations: elements of  
623 a diagnostic approach to model evaluation. *Hydrological Processes*, 22(18), 3802-3813.  
624 doi:10.1002/hyp.6989
- 625 He, Z., Unger-Shayesteh, K., Vorogushyn, S., Weise, S. M., Kalashnikova, O., Gafurov, A., . . .  
626 Merz, B. (2019). Constraining hydrological model parameters using water isotopic  
627 compositions in a glacierized basin, Central Asia. *Journal of Hydrology*, 571, 332-348.  
628 doi:10.1016/j.jhydrol.2019.01.048
- 629 He, Z., Vorogushyn, S., Unger-Shayesteh, K., Gafurov, A., Kalashnikova, O., Omorova, E., &  
630 Merz, B. (2018). The Value of Hydrograph Partitioning Curves for Calibrating  
631 Hydrological Models in Glacierized Basins. *Water Resources Research*, 54(3), 2336-2361.  
632 doi:10.1002/2017wr021966
- 633 He, Z. H., Tian, F. Q., Gupta, H. V., Hu, H. C., & Hu, H. P. (2015). Diagnostic calibration of a  
634 hydrological model in a mountain area by hydrograph partitioning. *Hydrology and Earth  
635 System Sciences*, 19(4), 1807-1826. doi:10.5194/hess-19-1807-2015
- 636 He, Z., Yang, L., Tian, F., Ni, G., Hou, A., & Lu, H. (2017). Intercomparisons of Rainfall  
637 Estimates from TRMM and GPM Multisatellite Products over the Upper Mekong River  
638 Basin. *Journal of Hydrometeorology*, 18(2), 413-430. doi:10.1175/jhm-d-16-0198.1
- 639 Hindshaw, R. S., Tipper, E. T., Reynolds, B. C., Lemarchand, E., Wiederhold, J. G., Magnusson,  
640 J., . . . Bourdon, B. (2011). Hydrological control of stream water chemistry in a glacial  
641 catchment (Damma Glacier, Switzerland). *Chemical Geology*, 285(1-4), 215-230.  
642 doi:10.1016/j.chemgeo.2011.04.012
- 643 Immerzeel, W. W., Pellicciotti, F., & Bierkens, M. F. P. (2013). Rising river flows throughout  
644 the twenty-first century in two Himalayan glacierized watersheds. *Nature Geoscience*, 6(9),



- 645 742-745. doi:10.1038/ngeo1896
- 646 Immerzeel, W. W., van Beek, L. P. H., & Bierkens, M. F. P. (2010). Climate Change Will Affect  
647 the Asian Water Towers. *Science*, 328(5984), 1382-1385. doi:10.1126/science.1183188
- 648 Kanamitsu, M., Kumar, A., Juang, H. M. H., Schemm, J. K., Wang, W. Q., Yang, F. L., . . . Ji,  
649 M. (2002). NCEP dynamical seasonal forecast system 2000. *Bulletin of the American*  
650 *Meteorological Society*, 83(7), 1019-+. doi:10.1175/1520-  
651 0477(2002)083<1019:Ndsfs>2.3.Co;2
- 652 Liu, J., Song, X., Yuan, G., Sun, X., & Yang, L. (2014). Stable isotopic compositions of  
653 precipitation in China. *Tellus Series B-Chemical and Physical Meteorology*, 66.  
654 doi:10.3402/tellusb.v66.22567
- 655 Liu S. (2012). The second glacier inventory dataset of China (version 1.0) (2006-2011) [Data  
656 set]. National Tibetan Plateau Data Center. Accessed 2020-01-01 from  
657 <https://doi.org/10.3972/glacier.001.2013.db>.
- 658 Liu, Z., Tian, L., Yao, T., Gong, T., Yin, C., & Yu, W. (2007). Temporal and spatial variations  
659 of delta O-18 in precipitation of the Yarlung Zangbo River Basin. *Journal of Geographical*  
660 *Sciences*, 17(3), 317-326. doi:10.1007/s11442-007-0317-1
- 661 Lutz, A. F., Immerzeel, W. W., Shrestha, A. B., & Bierkens, M. F. P. (2014). Consistent increase  
662 in High Asia's runoff due to increasing glacier melt and precipitation. *Nature Climate*  
663 *Change*, 4(7), 587-592. doi:10.1038/nclimate2237
- 664 Masood, M., Yeh, P. J. F., Hanasaki, N., & Takeuchi, K. (2015). Model study of the impacts of  
665 future climate change on the hydrology of Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna basin.  
666 *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 19(2), 747-770. doi:10.5194/hess-19-747-2015
- 667 Myneni, R., Knyazikhin, Y., Park, T. (2015). MOD15A2H MODIS/Terra Leaf Area  
668 Index/FPAR 8-Day L4 Global 500m SIN Grid V006 [Data set]. NASA EOSDIS Land  
669 Processes DAAC. Accessed 2020-01-01 from  
670 <https://doi.org/10.5067/MODIS/MOD15A2H.006>
- 671 Nan, Y., Tian, L., He, Z., Tian, F., & Shao, L. (2021). The value of water isotope data on  
672 improving process understanding in a glacierized catchment on the Tibetan Plateau.  
673 *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences Discussions*. doi:10.5194/hess-2021-134
- 674 Noone, D., & Sturm, C. (2010). Comprehensive Dynamical Models of Global and Regional



- 675 Water Isotope Distributions.
- 676 Pu, T., Wang, K., Kong, Y., Shi, X., Kang, S., Huang, Y., . . . Cuntz, M. (2020). Observing and  
677 Modeling the Isotopic Evolution of Snow Meltwater on the Southeastern Tibetan Plateau.  
678 Water Resources Research, 56(9). doi:10.1029/2019wr026423
- 679 Schaner, N., Voisin, N., Nijssen, B., & Lettenmaier, D. P. (2012). The contribution of glacier  
680 melt to streamflow. Environmental Research Letters, 7(3). doi:10.1088/1748-  
681 9326/7/3/034029
- 682 Son, K., & Sivapalan, M. (2007). Improving model structure and reducing parameter  
683 uncertainty in conceptual water balance models through the use of auxiliary data. Water  
684 Resources Research, 43(1). doi:10.1029/2006wr005032
- 685 Stadnyk, T. A., Delavau, C., Kouwen, N., & Edwards, T. W. D. (2013). Towards hydrological  
686 model calibration and validation: simulation of stable water isotopes using the  
687 isoWATFLOOD model. Hydrological Processes, 27(25), 3791-3810.  
688 doi:10.1002/hyp.9695
- 689 Sturm, C., Hoffmann, G., & Langmann, B. (2007). Simulation of the stable water isotopes in  
690 precipitation over South America: Comparing regional to global circulation models.  
691 Journal of Climate, 20(15), 3730-3750. doi:10.1175/jcli4194.1
- 692 Sturm, K., Hoffmann, G., Langmann, B., & Stichler, W. (2005). Simulation of delta O-18 in  
693 precipitation by the regional circulation model REMOiso. Hydrological Processes, 19(17),  
694 3425-3444. doi:10.1002/hyp.5979
- 695 Su, F., Zhang, L., Ou, T., Chen, D., Yao, T., Tong, K., & Qi, Y. (2016). Hydrological response  
696 to future climate changes for the major upstream river basins in the Tibetan Plateau. Global  
697 and Planetary Change, 136, 82-95. doi:10.1016/j.gloplacha.2015.10.012
- 698 Tian, F., Hu, H., Lei, Z., & Sivapalan, M. (2006). Extension of the Representative Elementary  
699 Watershed approach for cold regions via explicit treatment of energy related processes.  
700 Hydrology and Earth System Sciences, 10(5), 619-644. doi:10.5194/hess-10-619-2006
- 701 Tian, F., Xu, R., Nan, Y., Li, K., & He, Z. (2020). Quantification of runoff components in the  
702 Yarlung Tsangpo River using a distributed hydrological model.. Advances in Water  
703 Science, 31(3), 324-336.
- 704 Wang, X., Zhang, X., Zhang, W., Zhang, X., & Luo, Z. (2017). Comparison on Spatial



- 705 Distribution of Hydrogen and Oxygen Stable Isotope GCM Simulation in Global  
706 Precipitation. *Advance in Earth Sciences*, 32(9), 983-995.
- 707 Wolfe, B. B., Karst-Riddoch, T. L., Hall, R. I., Edwards, T. W. D., English, M. C., Palmi,  
708 R., . . . Vardy, S. R. (2007). Classification of hydrological regimes of northern floodplain  
709 basins (Peace -Athabasca Delta, Canada) from analysis of stable isotopes (delta O-18,  
710 delta H-2) and water chemistry. *Hydrological Processes*, 21(2), 151-168.  
711 doi:10.1002/hyp.6229
- 712 Xi, X. (2014). A Review of Water Isotopes in Atmospheric General Circulation Models: Recent  
713 Advances and Future Prospects. *International Journal of Atmospheric Sciences*, 2014, 1-  
714 16. doi:10.1155/2014/250920
- 715 Xu, R., Hu, H., Tian, F., Li, C., & Khan, M. Y. A. (2019). Projected climate change impacts on  
716 future streamflow of the Yarlung Tsangpo-Brahmaputra River. *Global and Planetary  
717 Change*, 175, 144-159. doi:10.1016/j.gloplacha.2019.01.012
- 718 Xu, R., Tian, F., Yang, L., Hu, H., Lu, H., & Hou, A. (2017). Ground validation of GPM IMERG  
719 and TRMM 3B42V7 rainfall products over southern Tibetan Plateau based on a high-  
720 density rain gauge network. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 122(2), 910-  
721 924. doi:10.1002/2016jd025418
- 722 Yang, K., He, J., Tang, W., Qin, J., & Cheng, C. C. K. (2010). On downward shortwave and  
723 longwave radiations over high altitude regions: Observation and modeling in the Tibetan  
724 Plateau. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology*, 150(1), 38-46.  
725 doi:10.1016/j.agrformet.2009.08.004
- 726 Yao, T., Masson-Delmotte, V., Gao, J., Yu, W., Yang, X., Risi, C., . . . Hou, S. (2013). A review  
727 of climatic controls on  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in precipitation over the Tibetan Plateau: Observations and  
728 simulations. *Reviews of Geophysics*, 51(4), 525-548. doi:10.1002/rog.20023
- 729 Yoshimura, K., Kanamitsu, M., Noone, D., & Oki, T. (2008). Historical isotope simulation  
730 using Reanalysis atmospheric data. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 113(D19).  
731 doi:10.1029/2008jd010074
- 732 Zhang, F., Liu, J., Gong, T., & Wang, H. (2006). Hydrological Regime of the Karuxung  
733 Watershed in North Himalayas. *Acta Geographica Sinica*, 61(11), 1141-1148.
- 734 Zhang, F., Zhang, H., Hagen, S. C., Ye, M., Wang, D., Gui, D., . . . Liu, J. (2015). Snow cover  
735 and runoff modelling in a high mountain catchment with scarce data: effects of



- 736 temperature and precipitation parameters. *Hydrological Processes*, 29(1), 52-65.  
737 doi:10.1002/hyp.10125
- 738 Zhang, L., Su, F., Yang, D., Hao, Z., & Tong, K. (2013). Discharge regime and simulation for  
739 the upstream of major rivers over Tibetan Plateau. *Journal of Geophysical Research:*  
740 *Atmospheres*, 118(15), 8500-8518. doi:10.1002/jgrd.50665
- 741 Zhao, L., Xiao, H., Zhou, M., Cheng, G., Wang, L., Yin, L., & Ren, J. (2012). Factors  
742 controlling spatial and seasonal distributions of precipitation d18O in China. *Hydrological*  
743 *Processes*, 26(1), 143-152. doi:10.1002/hyp.8118
- 744 Zongxing, L., Qi, F., Zongjie, L., Ruifeng, Y., Juan, G., & Yuemin, L. (2019). Climate  
745 background, fact and hydrological effect of multiphase water transformation in cold  
746 regions of the Western China: A review. *Earth-Science Reviews*, 190, 33-57.  
747 doi:10.1016/j.earscirev.2018.12.004
- 748





749 **List of figures**

750 **Figure 1.** Location and topography of (a) Tibetan Plateau, (b) Yarlung Tsangpo River basin and  
751 (c) Karuxung catchment.

752 **Figure 2.** The scatter diagrams between original/corrected isoGSM and measured isotope data  
753 in YTR basin (subfigures a and b) and KR catchment (subfigures c and d)

754 **Figure 3.** Temporal variations of precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  derived from measured and isoGSM data  
755 in YTR basin (subfigure a) and KR catchment (subfigure b)

756 **Figure 4.** Comparisons of the amount weighted averages of precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  on 63 REWs in  
757 the YTR basin by longitude (a) and elevation (b).

758 **Figure 5.** Uncertainty ranges of discharge and SCA simulations in YTR basin during calibration  
759 and validation periods produced by the behavioral parameter sets of the dual-objective  
760 (subfigure a and b), measurement-forced triple-objective (subfigure c and d), and isoGSM-  
761 forced triple-objective (subfigure e and f) calibration variants. The discharge data is hidden for  
762 the data security policy.

763 **Figure 6.** Uncertainty ranges of stream water  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  simulations at four stations in 2005 produced  
764 by the behavioral parameter sets of the dual-objective (a), measurement-forced triple-objective  
765 (b), and isoGSM-forced triple-objective (c) calibration variants.

766 **Figure 7.** Uncertainty ranges of discharge simulations at Yangcun and Nugesha stations  
767 produced by the behavioral parameter sets of the dual-objective (subfigure a and b),  
768 measurement-forced triple-objective (subfigure c and d), and isoGSM-forced triple-objective  
769 (subfigure e and f) calibration variants.

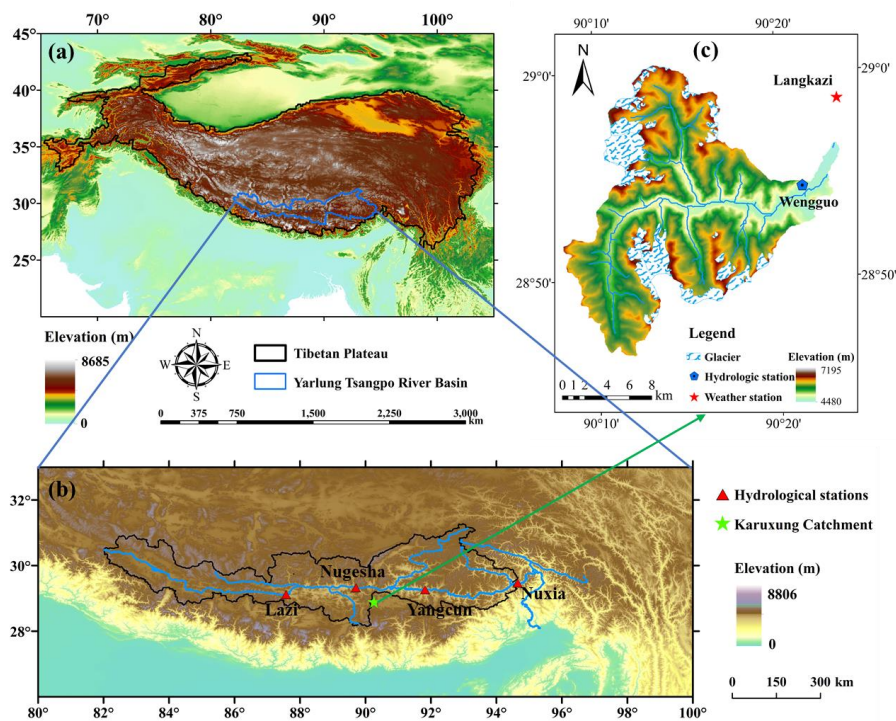
770 **Figure 8.** Uncertainty ranges of discharge and SCA simulations in KR catchment during  
771 calibration and validation periods produced by the behavioral parameter sets of the dual-  
772 objective (subfigure a and b), measurement-forced triple-objective (subfigure c and d), and  
773 isoGSM-forced triple-objective (subfigure e and f) calibration variants.

774 **Figure 9.** Uncertainty ranges of stream water  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  simulations in KR catchment during  
775 calibration and validation periods produced by the behavioral parameter sets of the dual-  
776 objective (a), measurement-forced triple-objective (b), and isoGSM-forced triple-objective (c)  
777 calibration variants.

778 **Figure 10.** Average proportion and corresponding uncertainty ranges of different water sources  
779 in the annual water input for runoff generation estimated by different calibration variants in (a)  
780 YTR and (b) KR catchments.

781

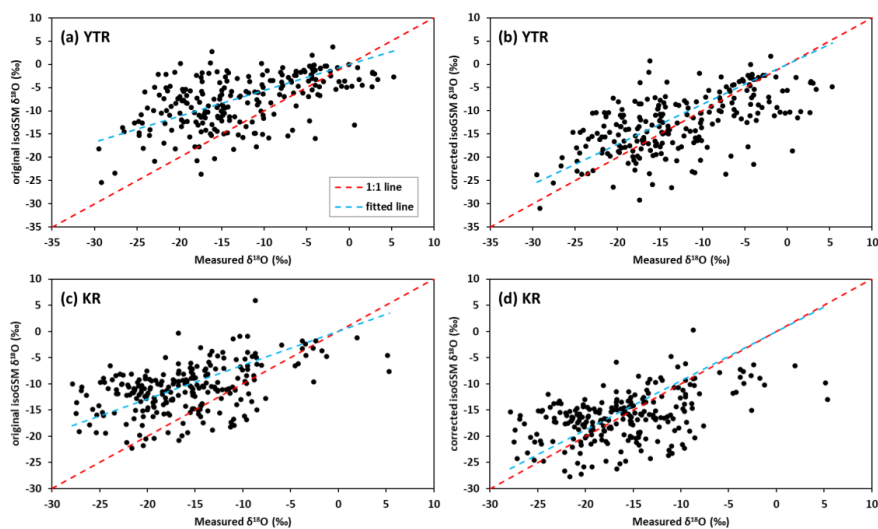
782



783

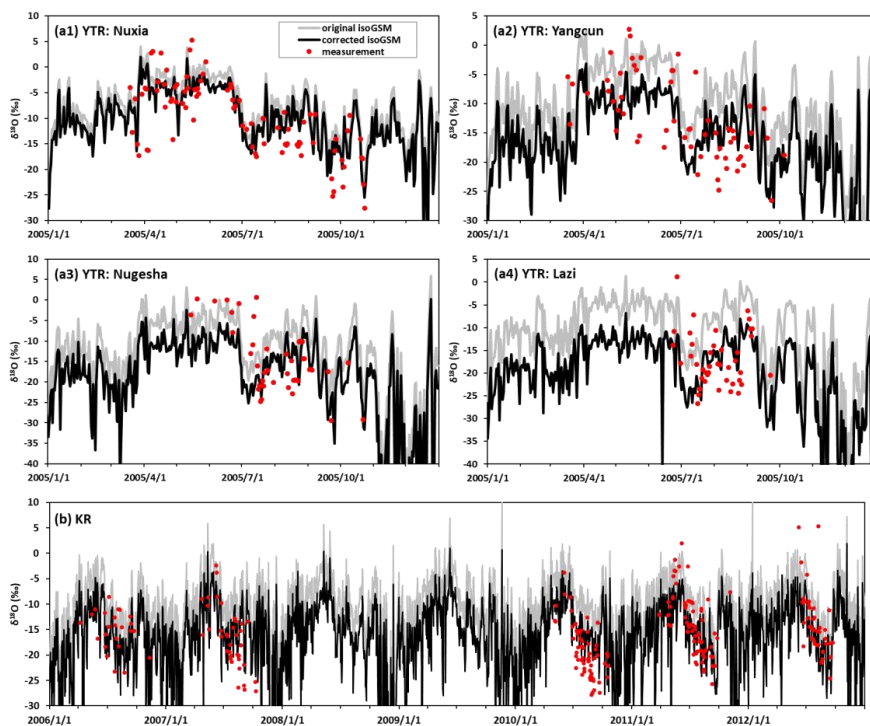
784 **Figure 1.** Location and topography of (a) Tibetan Plateau, (b) Yarlung Tsangpo River basin and  
785 (c) Karuxung catchment

786



787  
788  
789  
790

**Figure 2.** The scatter diagrams between original/corrected isoGSM and measured isotope data in YTR basin (subfigures a and b) and KR catchment (subfigures c and d).



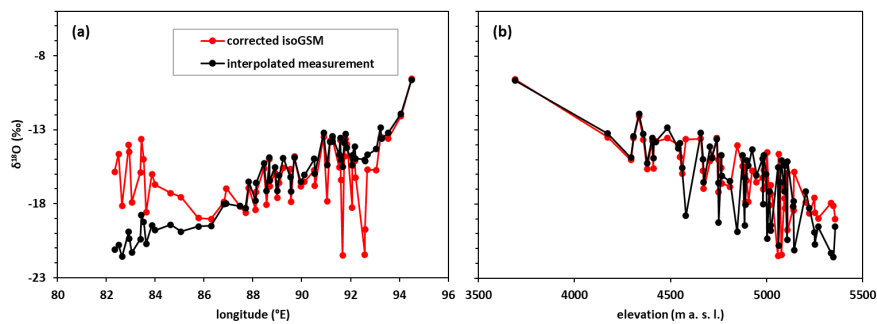
791

792

793

794

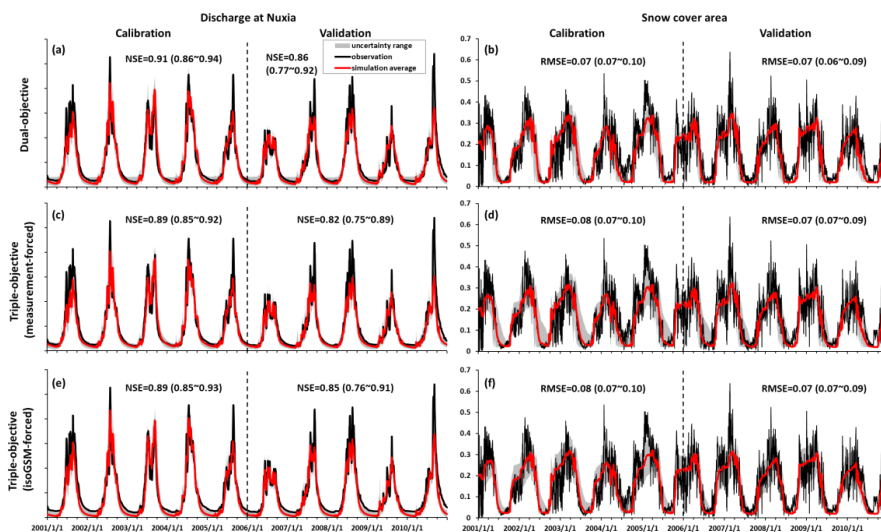
**Figure 3.** Temporal variations of precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  derived from measured and isoGSM data in YTR basin (subfigure a) and KR catchment (subfigure b).



795

796 **Figure 4.** Comparisons of the amount weighted averages of precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  on 63 REWs in  
797 the YTR basin by longitude (a) and elevation (b).

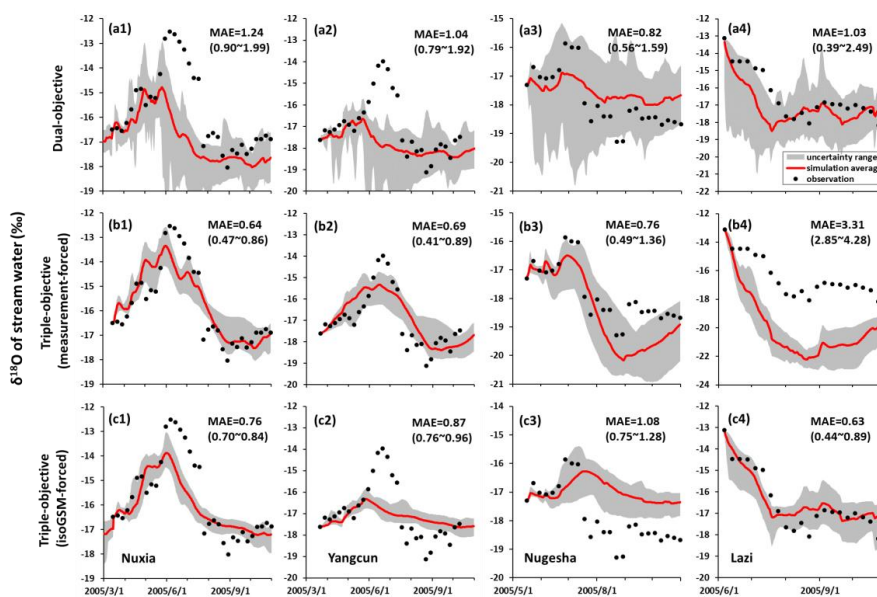
798



799

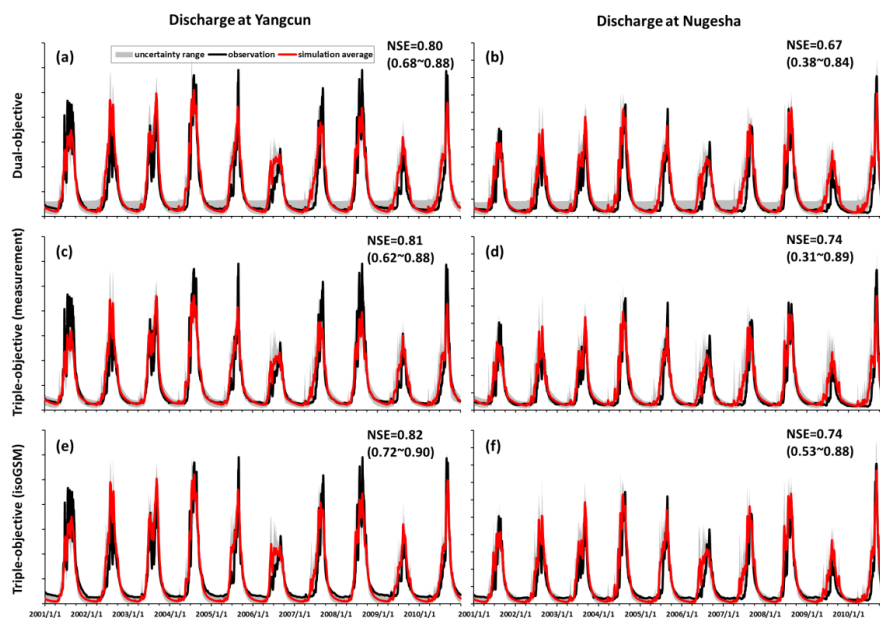
800 **Figure 5.** Uncertainty ranges of discharge and SCA simulations in YTR basin during calibration  
801 and validation periods produced by the behavioral parameter sets of the dual-objective  
802 (subfigure a and b), measurement-forced triple-objective (subfigure c and d), and isoGSM-  
803 forced triple-objective (subfigure e and f) calibration variants. The scale of discharge axis is  
804 hidden due to data security policy.

805



806  
807  
808  
809  
810

**Figure 6.** Uncertainty ranges of stream water  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  simulations at four stations in 2005 produced by the behavioral parameter sets of the dual-objective (a), measurement-forced triple-objective (b), and isoGSM-forced triple-objective (c) calibration variants.

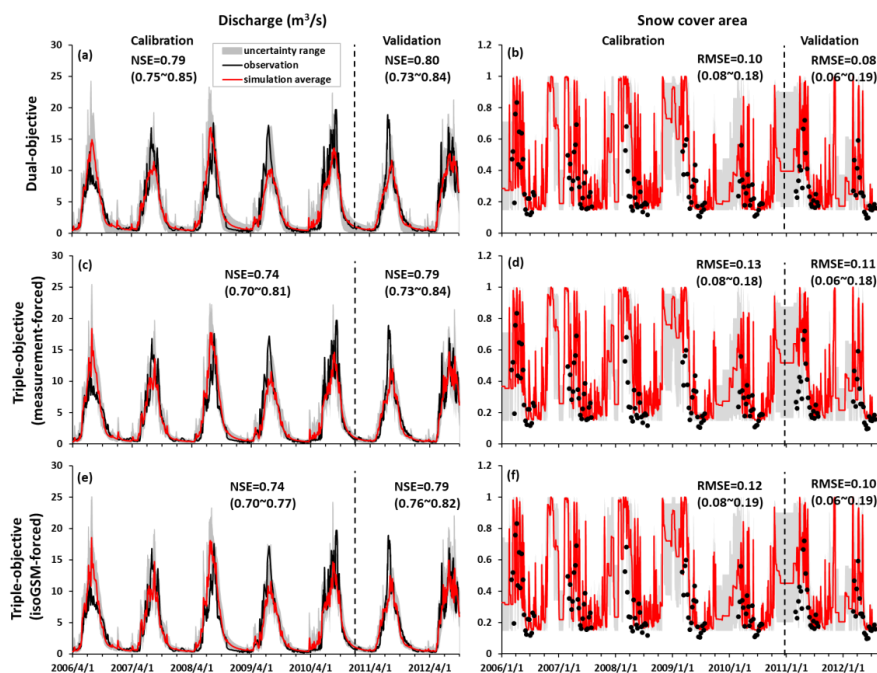


811

812 **Figure 7.** Uncertainty ranges of discharge simulations at Yangcun and Nugesha stations  
813 produced by the behavioral parameter sets of the dual-objective (subfigure a and b),  
814 measurement-forced triple-objective (subfigure c and d), and isoGSM-forced triple-objective  
815 (subfigure e and f) calibration variants.

816

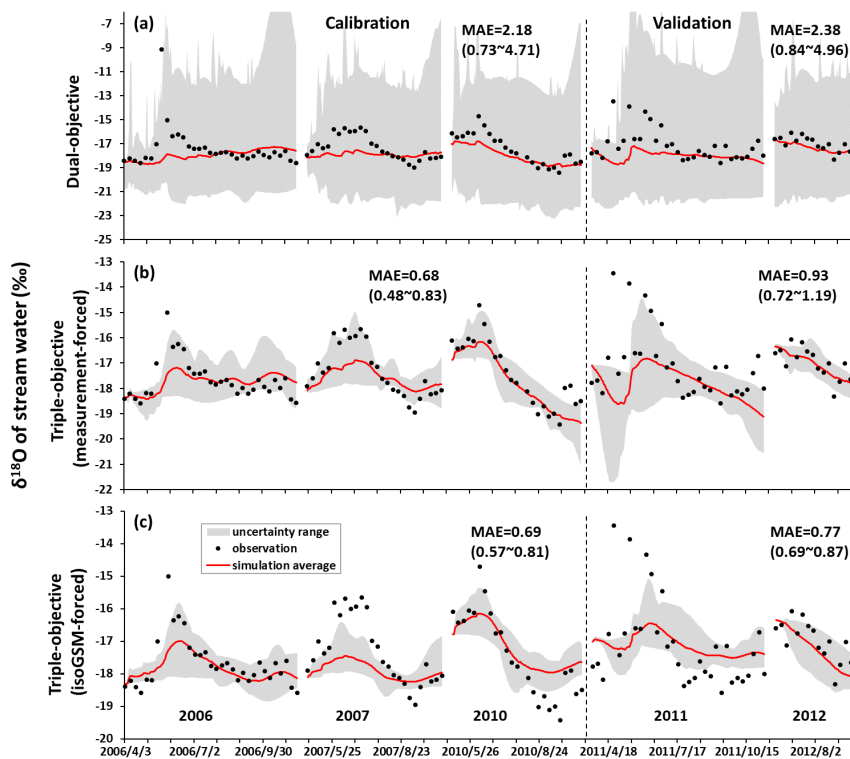




817

818 **Figure 8.** Uncertainty ranges of discharge and SCA simulations in KR catchment during  
819 calibration and validation periods produced by the behavioral parameter sets of the dual-  
820 objective (subfigure a and b), measurement-forced triple-objective (subfigure c and d), and  
821 isoGSM-forced triple-objective (subfigure e and f) calibration variants.

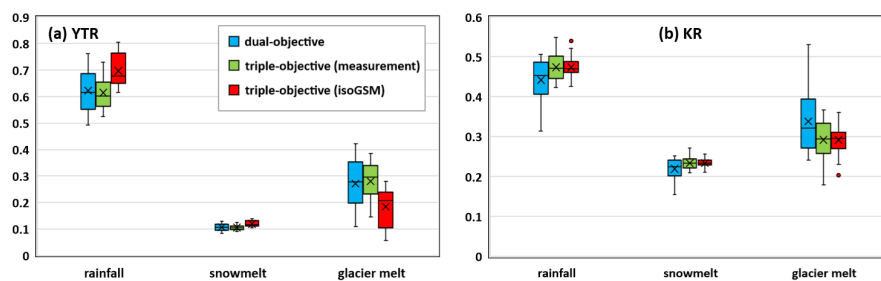
822



823

824 **Figure 9.** Uncertainty ranges of stream water  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  simulations in KR catchment during  
825 calibration and validation periods produced by the behavioral parameter sets of the dual-  
826 objective (a), measurement-forced triple-objective (b), and isoGSM-forced triple-objective (c)  
827 calibration variants.

828



829

830 **Figure 10.** Average proportion and corresponding uncertainty ranges of different water sources  
831 in the annual water input for runoff generation estimated by different calibration variants in (a)  
832 YTR and (b) KR catchments.

833



834 **List of tables**

835 **Table 1.** Characteristics of precipitation and stream water samples in YTR and KR  
836 catchments.

837 **Table 2.** Calibrated parameters of the THREW-t model.

838 **Table 3.** Comparisons of the model performance in YTR basin produced by different calibration  
839 variants.

840 **Table 4.** Comparisons of the model performance in KR catchment produced by different  
841 calibration variants.

842 **Table 5.** Average proportions of water sources in the annual and seasonal water inputs for  
843 runoff generation in YTR basin.

844 **Table 6.** Average proportions of water sources in the annual and seasonal water inputs for  
845 runoff generation in KR catchment.

846



847 **Table 1.** Characteristics of precipitation and stream water samples in YTR and KR catchments.

Catchment (Station)	Year	Period Dd/mm to dd/mm	Precipitation sample number	Stream sample number
YTR (Nuxia)		14/03 to 23/10	86	34
YTR (Yangcun)	2005	17/03 to 05/10	59	30
YTR (Nugesha)		14/05 to 22/10	45	25
YTR (Lazi)		06/06 to 22/09	42	22
		2006	04/06 to 11/11	24
	2007	23/04 to 09/10	39	25
KR (Wengguo)	2010	05/05 to 18/10	63	23
	2011	28/03 to 06/11	69	32
	2012	16/06 to 22/09	42	14

848



849 **Table 2.** Calibrated parameters of the THREW-t model

Symbol	Unit	Physical descriptions	Range
$nt$	-	Manning roughness coefficient for hillslope	0-0.2
$WM$	cm	Tension water storage capacity, used in Xinanjiang model (Zhao, 1992) to calculate saturation area	0-10
$B$	-	Shape coefficient used in Xinanjiang model to calculate saturation area	0-1
$KKA$	-	Coefficient to calculate subsurface runoff in $Rg=KKD \cdot S \cdot K^{S_s} \cdot (y_s/Z)^{KKA}$ , where $S$ is the topographic slope, $K^{S_s}$ is the saturated hydraulic conductivity, $y_s$ is the depth of saturated groundwater, $Z$ is the total soil depth	0-6
$KKD$	-	See description for $KKA$	0-0.5
$T_0$	°C	Temperature threshold above which snow and glacier melt	-5-5
$DDF_N$	mm/°C/day	Degree day factor for snow	0-10
$DDF_G$	mm/°C/day	Degree day factor for glacier	0-10
$C1$	-	Coefficient to calculate the runoff concentration process using Muskingum method: $O_2=C_1 \cdot I_1+C_2 \cdot I_2+C_3 \cdot O_1+C_4 \cdot Q_{lat}$ , where $I_1$ and $O_1$ is the inflow and outflow at prior step, $I_2$ and $O_2$ is the inflow and outflow at current step, $Q_{lat}$ is lateral flow of the river channel, $C_3=1-C_1-C_2$ , $C_4=C_1+C_2$	0-1
$C2$	-	See description for $C1$	0-1

850



851 **Table 3.** Comparisons of the model performance in YTR basin produced by different calibration  
 852 variants.

calibration variant	behavioral ratio <sup>a</sup>	period /station <sup>b</sup>	NSE <sub>dis</sub> <sup>c</sup>	RMSE <sub>SCA</sub>	MAE <sub>iso</sub>
Dual-objective	0.98	calibration	0.91 (0.86-0.93)	0.07 (0.07-0.10)	1.24 (0.90-1.99)
		validation	0.86 (0.77-0.92)	0.07 (0.06-0.09)	0.96 (0.75-1.97)
Triple-objective (measurement)	0.64	calibration	0.89 (0.85-0.92)	0.08 (0.07-0.10)	0.64 (0.47-0.86)
		validation	0.82 (0.75-0.89)	0.07 (0.07-0.09)	1.46 (1.17-1.93)
Triple-objective (isoGSM)	0.82	calibration	0.89 (0.85-0.93)	0.08 (0.07-0.10)	0.76 (0.70-0.84)
		validation	0.85 (0.76-0.91)	0.07 (0.07-0.09)	0.87 (0.76-1.04)

853 a: Behavioral ratio represents the ratio of behavioral parameter set number to the run time of pySOT  
 854 program.

855 b: “Period” for discharge and SCA simulation, and “station” for isotope simulation.

856 c: Bracketed values represent the minimal and maximal values produced by the behavioral parameter  
 857 sets.

858



859 **Table 4.** Comparisons of the model performance in KR catchment produced by different  
 860 calibration variants.

<b>calibration variant</b>	<b>behavioral ratio</b>	<b>period</b>	<b>NSE<sub>dis</sub></b>	<b>RMSE<sub>SCA</sub></b>	<b>MAE<sub>iso</sub></b>
Dual-objective	0.78	calibration	0.79 (0.75-0.85)	0.10 (0.08-0.18)	2.18 (0.73-4.71)
		validation	0.80 (0.73-0.84)	0.08 (0.06-0.19)	2.38 (0.84-4.96)
Triple-objective (measurement)	0.13	calibration	0.74 (0.70-0.81)	0.13 (0.08-0.18)	0.68 (0.48-0.83)
		validation	0.79 (0.73-0.84)	0.11 (0.06-0.18)	0.93 (0.72-1.19)
Triple-objective (isoGSM)	0.12	calibration	0.74 (0.70-0.77)	0.12 (0.08-0.19)	0.69 (0.57-0.81)
		validation	0.79 (0.76-0.82)	0.10 (0.06-0.19)	0.77 (0.69-0.87)

861





862 **Table 5.** Average proportions of water sources in the annual and seasonal water inputs for  
 863 runoff generation in YTR basin.

Season	Water source <sup>a</sup>	Dual-objective	Triple-objective (measurement)	Triple-objective (isoGSM)
Annual	Rainfall	62.2	61.4	69.6
	Snow melt	10.7	10.6	12.0
	Glacier melt	27.1	28.0	18.4
	Uncertainty	11.4	8.6	8.9
Spring	Rainfall	35.4	36.8	44.2
	Snow melt	42.9	39.7	43.8
	Glacier melt	21.7	23.5	12.0
	Uncertainty	13.4	12.8	11.8
Summer	Rainfall	69.8	68.2	74.5
	Snow melt	3.4	4.4	6.4
	Glacier melt	26.8	27.4	19.1
	Uncertainty	10.2	7.9	8.7
Autumn	Rainfall	63.1	61.9	76.1
	Snow melt	3.5	3.5	2.7
	Glacier melt	33.5	34.7	22.0
	Uncertainty	16.1	12.8	13.3
Winter	Rainfall	11.9	12.8	30.8
	Snow melt	70.1	65.8	61.7
	Glacier melt	18.0	21.4	7.5
	Uncertainty	19.7	20.6	30.8

864 a: The uncertainty of the contribution is defined as  $E = \sqrt{E_R^2 + E_N^2 + E_G^2}$ , where  $E_R$ ,  $E_N$  and  $E_G$   
 865 represent the standard deviations of the contributions of the water sources produced by the corresponding  
 866 behavioral parameter sets. Subscripts of  $R$ ,  $N$  and  $G$  represent rainfall, snow meltwater and glacier  
 867 meltwater, respectively.

868



869 **Table 6.** Average proportions of water sources in the annual and seasonal water inputs for  
 870 runoff generation in KR catchment.

Season	Water source	Dual-objective	Triple-objective (measurement)	Triple-objective (isoGSM)
Annual	Rainfall	44.2	47.4	47.4
	Snow melt	22.0	23.4	23.4
	Glacier melt	33.8	29.2	29.2
	Uncertainty	9.4	6.2	4.7
Spring	Rainfall	4.1	4.5	4.5
	Snow melt	56.3	61.6	60.9
	Glacier melt	39.5	33.9	34.6
	Uncertainty	13.7	14.2	12.0
Summer	Rainfall	53.5	56.6	56.9
	Snow melt	14.0	15.2	15.1
	Glacier melt	32.4	28.2	28.0
	Uncertainty	9.7	5.1	3.9
Autumn	Rainfall	30.9	35.0	34.3
	Snow melt	33.9	35.3	35.5
	Glacier melt	35.1	29.7	30.3
	Uncertainty	11.2	11.0	9.6
Winter	Rainfall	0	0	0
	Snow melt	55.3	63.3	58.9
	Glacier melt	44.7	36.7	41.1
	Uncertainty	22.3	31.5	29.2

871