In this manuscript, the authors execute a very well-designed, straightforward experiment to isolate the individual effects of antecedent wetness and precipitation intensity on both, response and travel times. They further provide a very clear, systematic, complete description of their results and the associated implications. I really like the intriguing simplicity of the research question: in a hindsight it is such an obvious question. Yet, nobody or very few(?) have explicitly addressed it before. It was a pleasure to read the manuscript and I would be glad to see it published soon.

I have only a few very minor comments and suggestions:

(1) P.1, l.1: the opening sentence of the abstract may put the reader on the wrong footing. I would argue that there are quite a lot of studies that – implicitly or explicitly – analyse hydrological response and transport together: starting from early combined descriptions in models (e.g. Niemi, 1977; Christophersen and Wright, 1981; Bergström et al., 1985) to the surge of studies using coupled hydrological-tracer models over the past decade (e.g. Birkel et al., 2010,2016; Fenicia et al., 2010; McMillan et al., 2012; Hrachowitz et al., 2013, 2021; Harman, 2015, 2019; Benettin et al., 2015, 2017 and many others).
It only becomes clear after reading the paper, what the authors meant to express in this first line. I think it would be helpful for the reader if this statement was rephrased so as to more accurately reflect what has rarely been analysed together and compared with each other: response and transit times.

(2) P.1, l.2-3: again a bit ambiguous and not entirely clear. I recommend to rephrase to also allow readers who are not yet in detail familiar with the issue to understand the meaning and difference between "[…] how strongly, streamflow reacts to precipitation inputs […]" and "[…] how quickly precipitation reaches the stream."

(3) P.1 l.16: would be good to perhaps use a different word than "crucial" here as it has already been used four lines above.

(4) P.1, l.22: see also comment (2). The statement "[…] how quickly precipitation itself reaches the stream […]" leaves quite room for ambiguity and could benefit from a more precise formulation.

(5) P.2, l.33-35: I think the paper by Weiler et al. (2003) as one of the earlier studies that made an *explicit* difference between response and travel time distributions needs to be cited here, too.

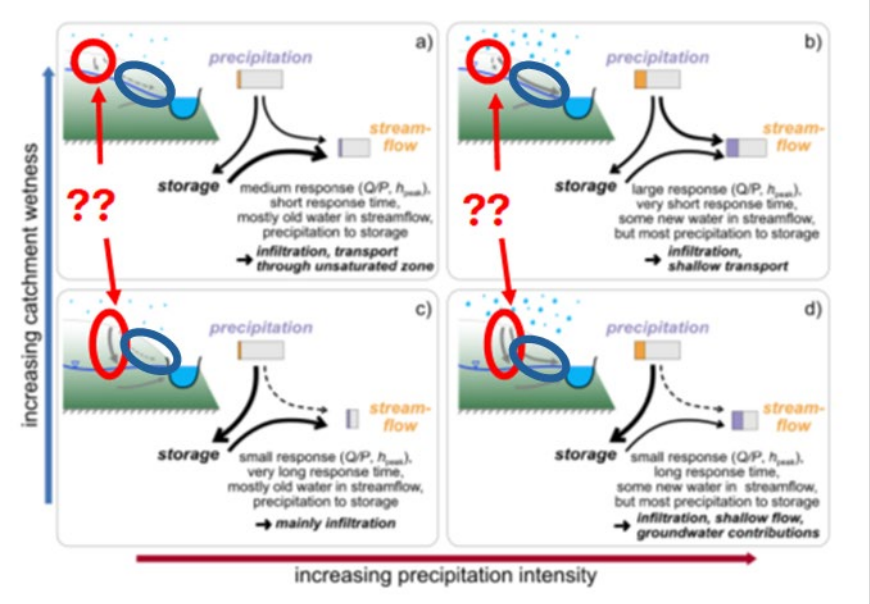
(6) P.2 l.35-37: Related to comment (1) above, I only partly agree and believe that at least some references to coupled hydrological-tracer models should be mentioned here.

(7) P.5, Fig.1: it is of course not the intention of the manuscript to compare the actual hydrological/tracer response dynamics of the two catchments. However, using the same y-axes scales would still help the reader to easier understand differences between the catchments. Although, for readability of figures, this may not be possible everywhere, here panels (a) and (c) but also panels (b) and (d) could easily have matching y-axes scales.

(8) P.6, l.146 and Fig.3: not clear where the difference in considered lag times comes from. How was this decided and why? In addition, it would be good to use the same y-axes scales for panels (a) and (c).

(9) P.9, Fig.4: without any loss of relevant information, the y-axes scales in each row, i.e. panels (a)-(d); (e)-(h); etc. can be matched. It would make the figure less noisy while also giving the reader a (little) bit more information.

(10) P.14, Fig.6 (see below): not clear why infiltration (red circle symbols) is lower at higher wetness? Is this meant to be a consequence of reduced infiltration capacity? If yes, then should the shallow subsurface infiltration/drainage (blue circles) not also be reduced as water also initially needs to infiltrate to reach these shallow drainage flow paths?! In addition, should infiltration then not also be reduced with increasing precipitation intensity?



Best regards,

Markus Hrachowitz

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