



XVIII  
World Water Congress  
International Water Resources Association (IWRA)  
Beijing, China | September 11-15, 2023

# Digital twin River & Smart water - Changjiang practices



Changjiang Water Resources Commission  
Special Session  
Development & Application of  
Digital Twin River Technology

Yan Huang | 12 Sept, 2023

# Digital twin technology provide opportunity to better management

- A **Digital Twin** is a computer model that virtually **reflects and simulates** a real object, its environment and interaction, providing a picture as **accurate** as possible of how that object **behaves** in real time.
- **Digital Twin River:** A highly accurate digital model of the river basin to **monitor** and **predict** the interaction between natural phenomena and human activities.



# River is heavily interfered by human activities

## River

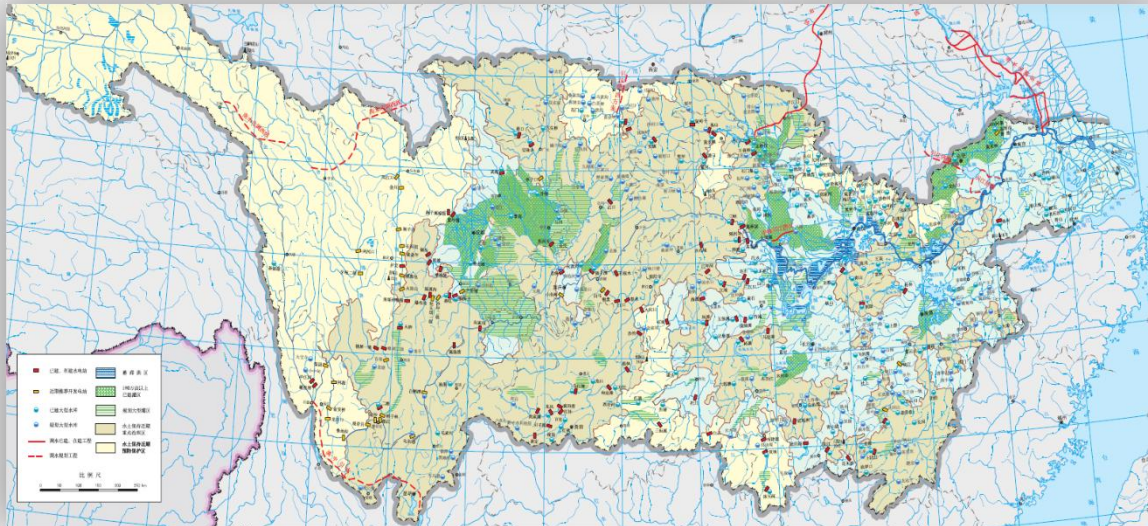
Nature river  
→  
Water projects  
dominated

## Water projects

Designed individually  
→  
Jointly regulated

## Regulation scheme

Single objectives  
→  
multi-objectives



- ❑ Reservoirs: **98,002**, Total volume > **932.3** billion m<sup>3</sup>
- ❑ Gates/Sluices: >1m<sup>3</sup>/s **268,476**
- ❑ Rubber dam **2685**
- ❑ Length of Dikes: **413,679** km
- ❑ Pumping stations: **424,451**
- ❑ Others: retention basins etc.....

# Decision making requires multi-objective consideration



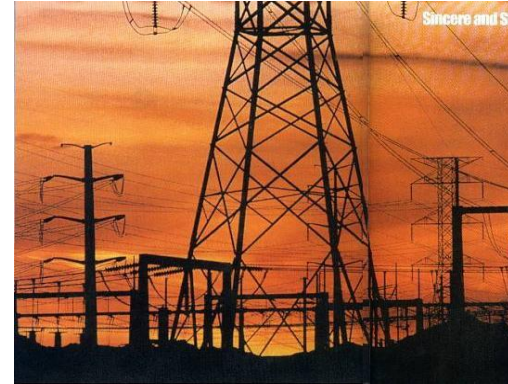
# Reservoir become the most valuable engineering measure for IWRM



Flood management



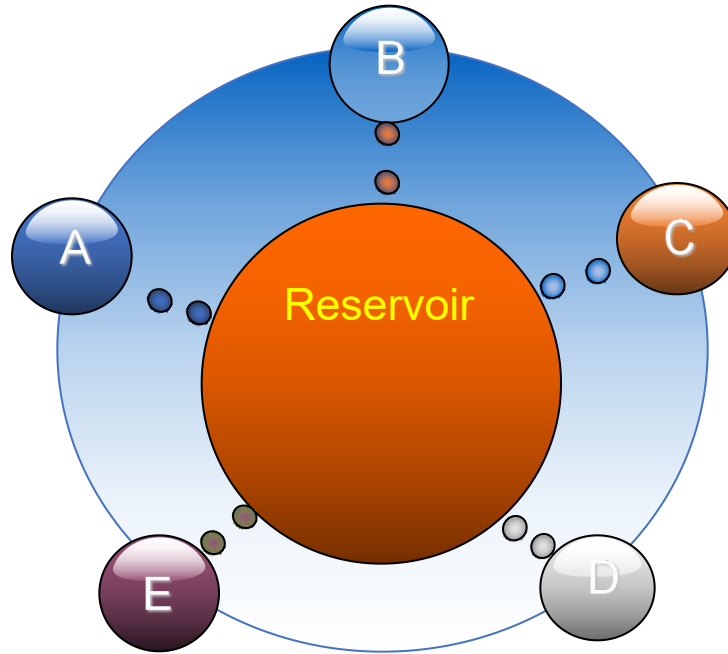
Irrigation & water supply



Generate hydropower

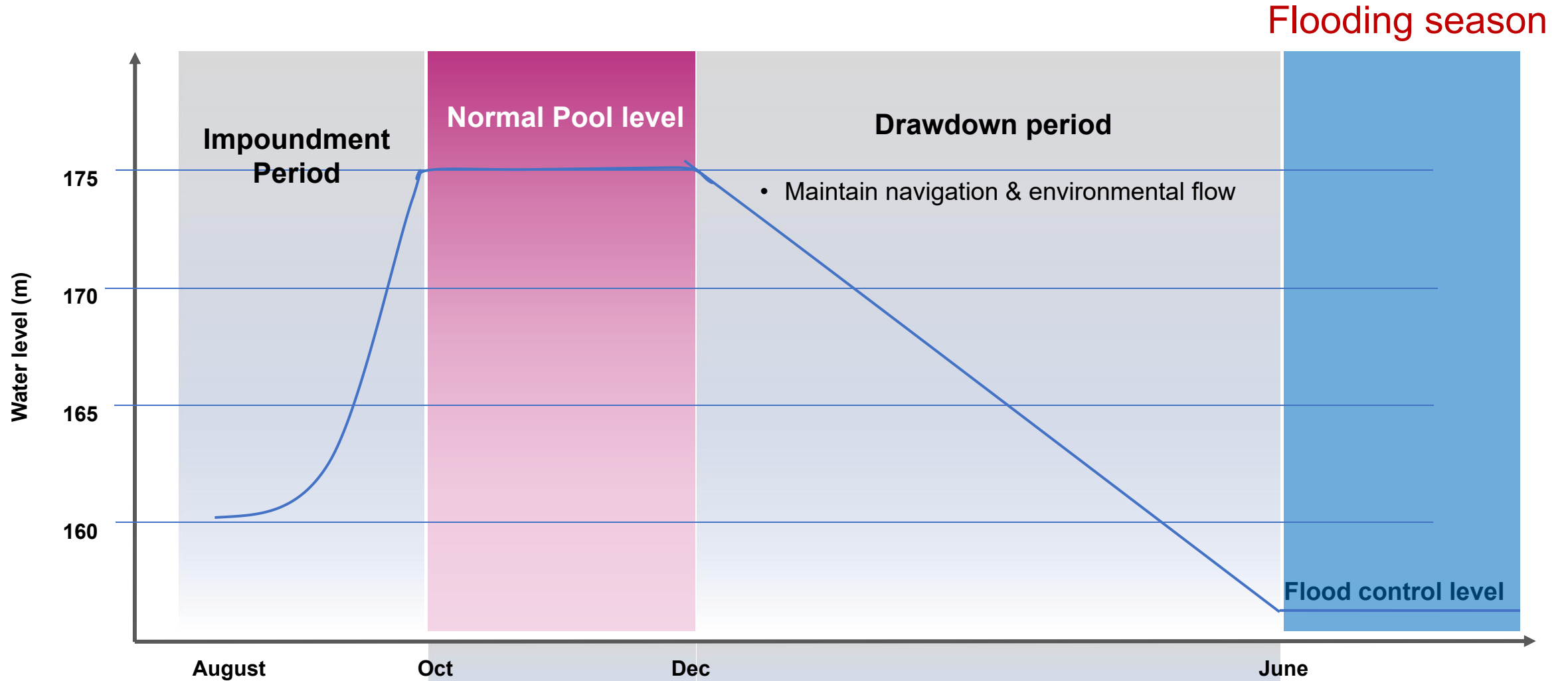


Protect ecosystem & environment

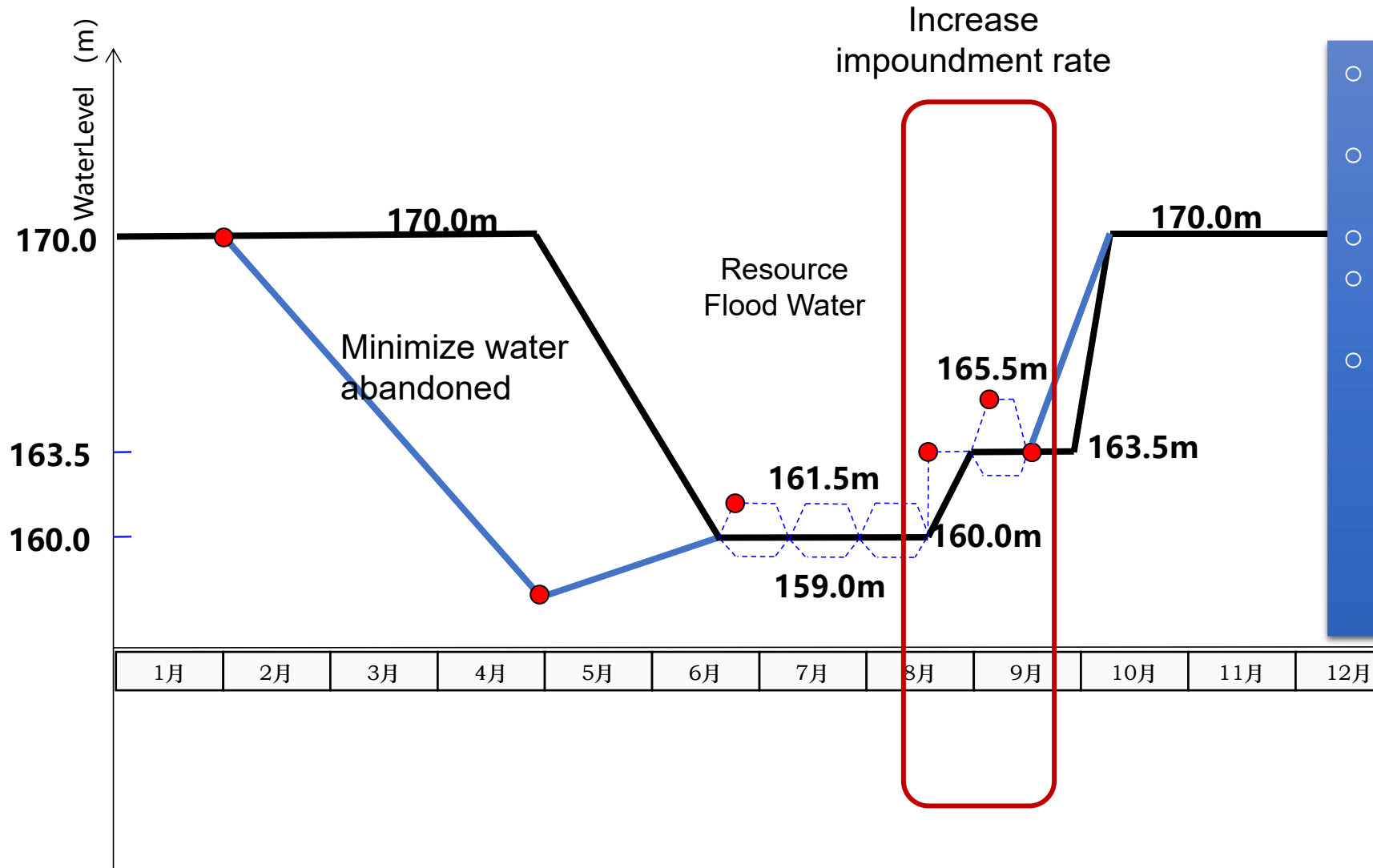


Improve navigation

# How to achieve multiple-objectives - Reservoir regulation

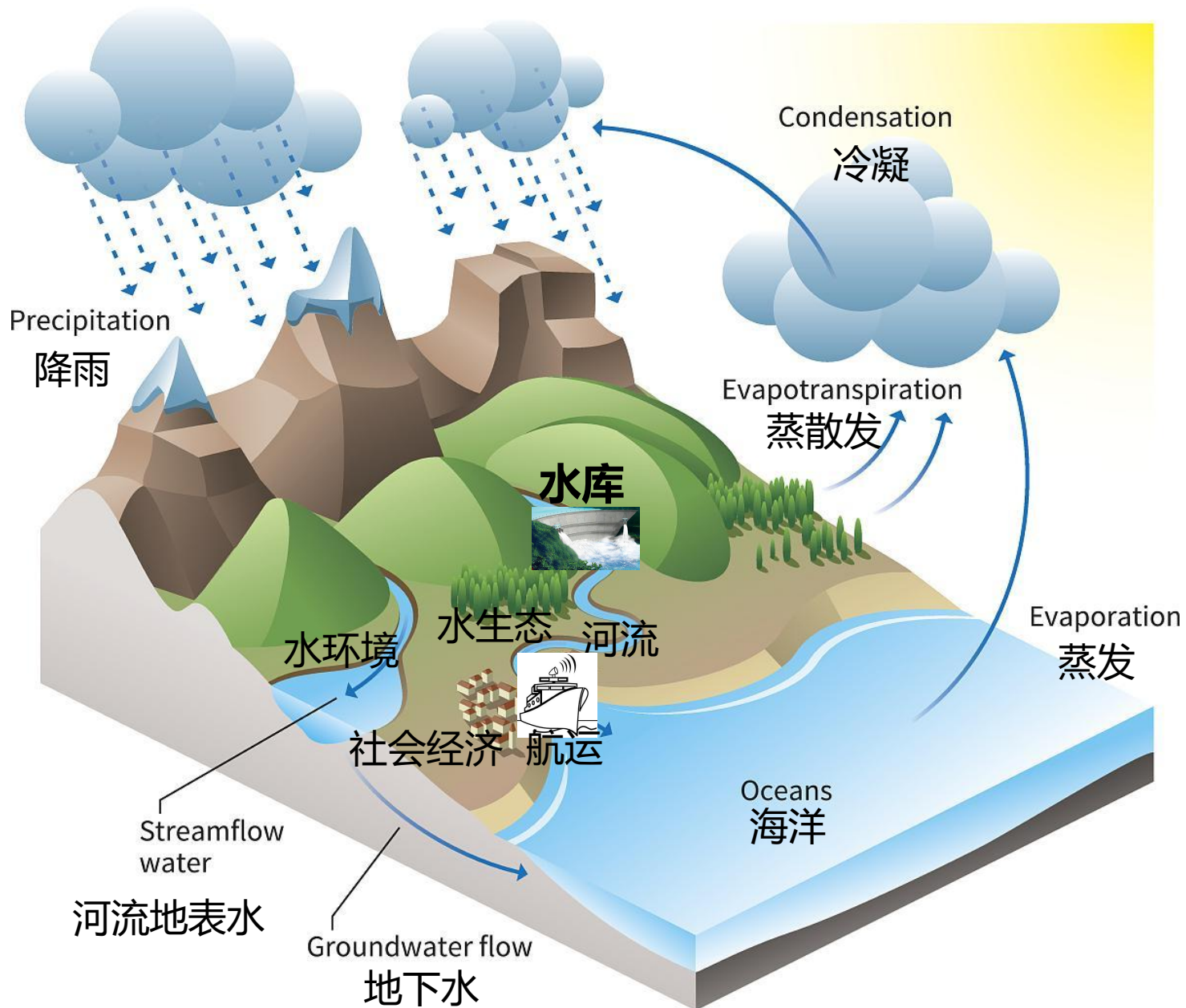


# Real time regulation of reservoirs requires complex modelling system



- Forecast: short-mid-long term
- Objectives: Flood + Water supply +
- Assessment: Risk & Effects
- Scope: upstream and downstream
- Models:
  - QPF
  - Hydrology & hydraulics
  - Reservoir operation
  - Water allocation
  - Risk assessment
  - .....

# Digital Twin River = Mirroring + Interaction physics & process



## □ Basis - data

- ⑩ Hydrology, meteorology, environment, ecology, GIS, socio-economy...
- ⑩ To build a data-bord

## Drive - models

- Physically-based mathematic models (hydrology, hydraulics, water quality, ecology, risk assessment, **engineering regulation etc.**) + Data-driven approaches
- to build interconnection between all elements of nature and management.

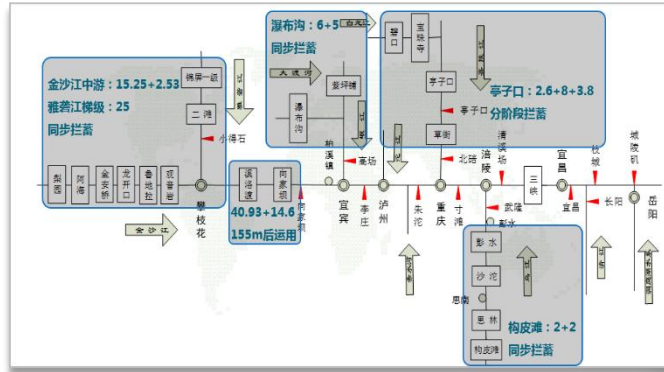
## Path – integrated ICT

- Cloud computing, big-data, IOT, AI, internet, BIM, GIS, VR/AR/MR...



# DSS needs more “intelligence”

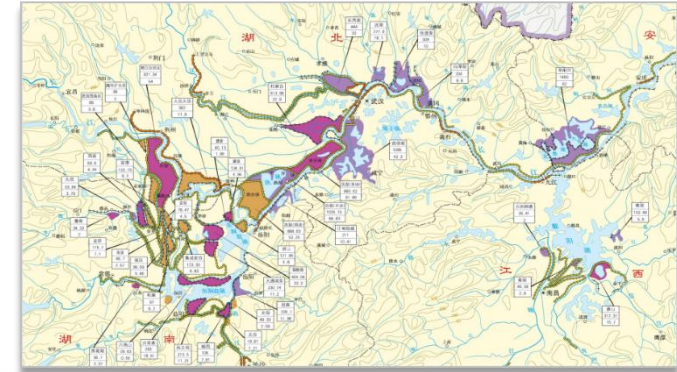
**Digital Twin River** with joint regulation of water projects is an **inevitable choice** for river basin management.



## 1 Large scale water projects

- Integrate Forecast + Regulate
- Intelligent regulation

**Demands**  
Maximize benefits  
of water projects



## 2

Efficient response to major floods  
Efficient use of water resources  
Water ecological restoration and  
environmental protection

- Dynamic risk assessment
- Visualization of multi-scenario analysis

# Needs to improve management capacity through joint operation of water infrastructures



❑ Large river, many engineering works

- **L = 6300 km**, **A = 180 million km<sup>2</sup>** ( **18.8 %**China)
- **300+** large reservoir, **46** retention basins, **45.3 billion m<sup>3</sup>** water diversion

## Flood management

- ❑ To improve flood forecasting **accuracy** and regulation **intelligence**



## Water utilization and saving

- ❑ Water saving and water use efficiency
- ❑ **Regulation** management ability needs to be improved



## Environmental - ecology

- ❑ How to **protection** or prevent pollution
- ❑ Ecology decline needs to be prevented



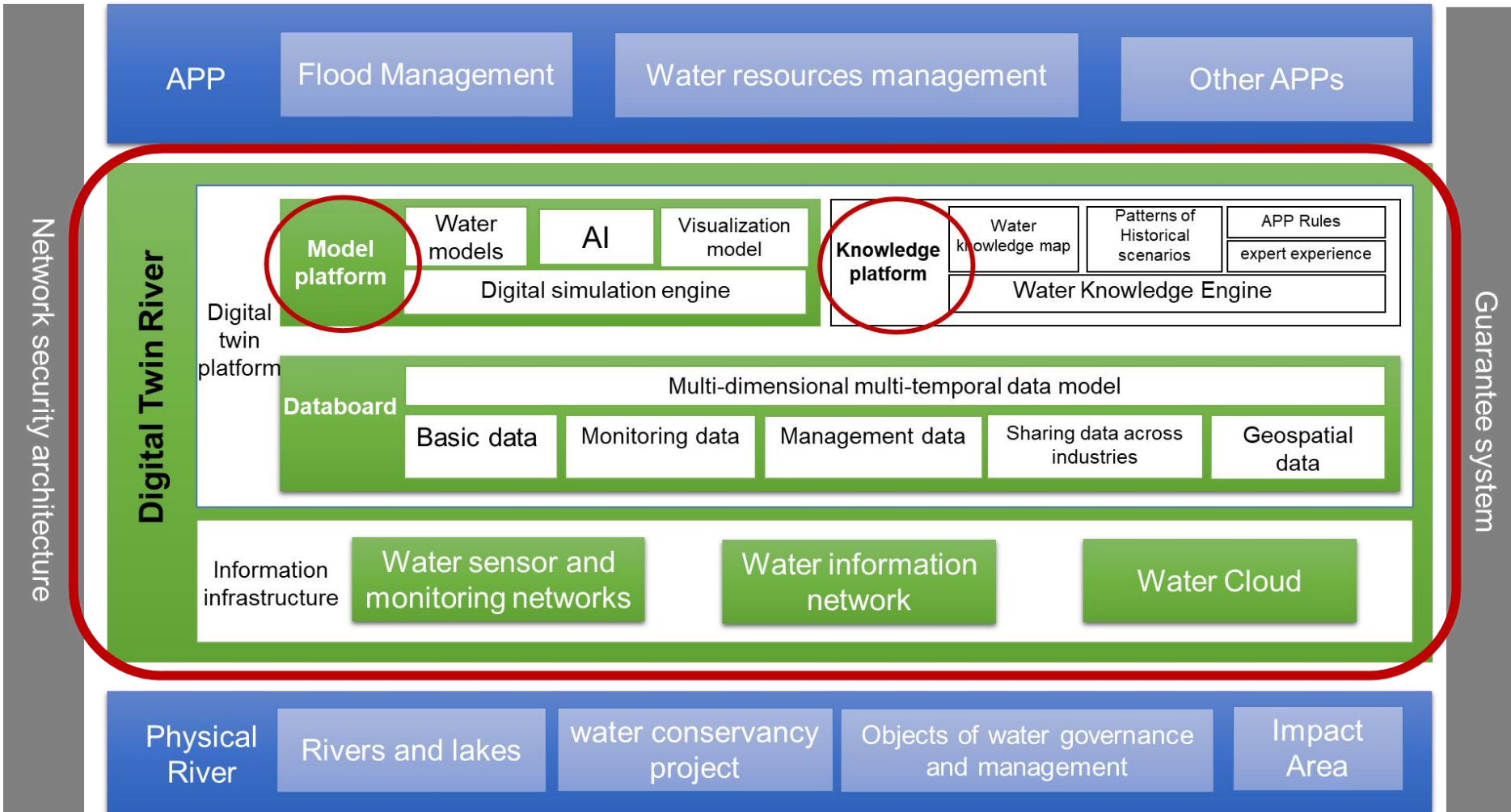
白鲢鱼	草鱼
青鱼	鳊鱼

## Management capacity

- ❑ Flood management is relatively advanced
- ❑ Others are not so good



# Digital Twin river is the **core** of Smart River / water



## Digital Twin River

- Infrastructure
- Data-board
- Model platform
- Knowledge platform
- Interface + Engine

**Smart River = Digit  
River + APPs**

# General requirements for development of DTR

## Data



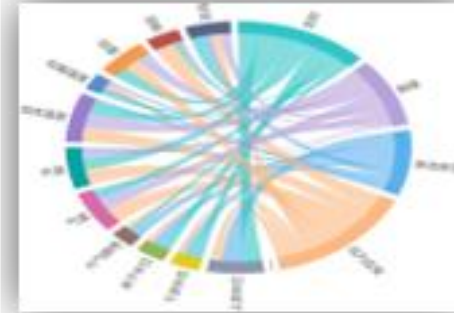
- Sufficient coverage: scope + elements + process + technology
- High accuracy
- High frequency
- Data has **value**

## Computing Power



- Fast transmission
- More storage
- High computing performance

## Models



- Full coverage of field: hydrology, hydraulic, water quality, space, engineering etc.
- High accuracy
- Strong in intelligence

## Applications



- Upgrade flood management
- Enhance capacity for water resources management
- Improve spatial and basin monitoring apps

Digital Twin River

Smart River

# Technical specifications and requirements issued by water ministry

## 水利部文件

水信息(2022)146号

### 水利部关于印发数字孪生流域共建共享管理办法(试行)的通知

部机关各司局,部直属各单位,各省、自治区、直辖市水利(水务)厅(局),各计划单列市水利(水务)局,新疆生产建设兵团水利局,中国长江三峡集团有限公司、中国南水北调集团有限公司、有关水利工程管理单位;

《数字孪生流域共建共享管理办法(试行)》已经部务会审议通过,现印发给你们,请结合实际认真贯彻落实。

- 1 -

## 水利部文件

水信息(2022)147号

### 水利部关于印发《数字孪生流域建设技术大纲(试行)》的通知

部机关各司局,部直属各单位,各省、自治区、直辖市水利(水务)厅(局),各计划单列市水利(水务)局,新疆生产建设兵团水利局,中国长江三峡集团有限公司、中国南水北调集团有限公司、有关水利工程管理单位;

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- 1 -

In March 2022, the Ministry of Water Resources issued the technical standards and specifications for the construction of digital twin river and water engineering projects:

- ❑ "Digital Twin River Construction Technical Outline (Trial)"
- ❑ "Technical Guidelines for construction of Digital Twin Water Conservancy Engineering Construction (Trial)"
- ❑ Basic Technical Requirements for "Four Advances" of Water Conservancy applications (Trial)"
- ❑ Administrative Measures for the Co-construction and Sharing of Digital Twin River (Trial)"

## 水利部文件

水信息(2022)148号

### 水利部关于印发《数字孪生水利工程建设技术导则(试行)》的通知

部机关各司局,部直属各单位,各省、自治区、直辖市水利(水务)厅(局),各计划单列市水利(水务)局,新疆生产建设兵团水利局,中国长江三峡集团有限公司、中国南水北调集团有限公司、有关水利工程管理单位;

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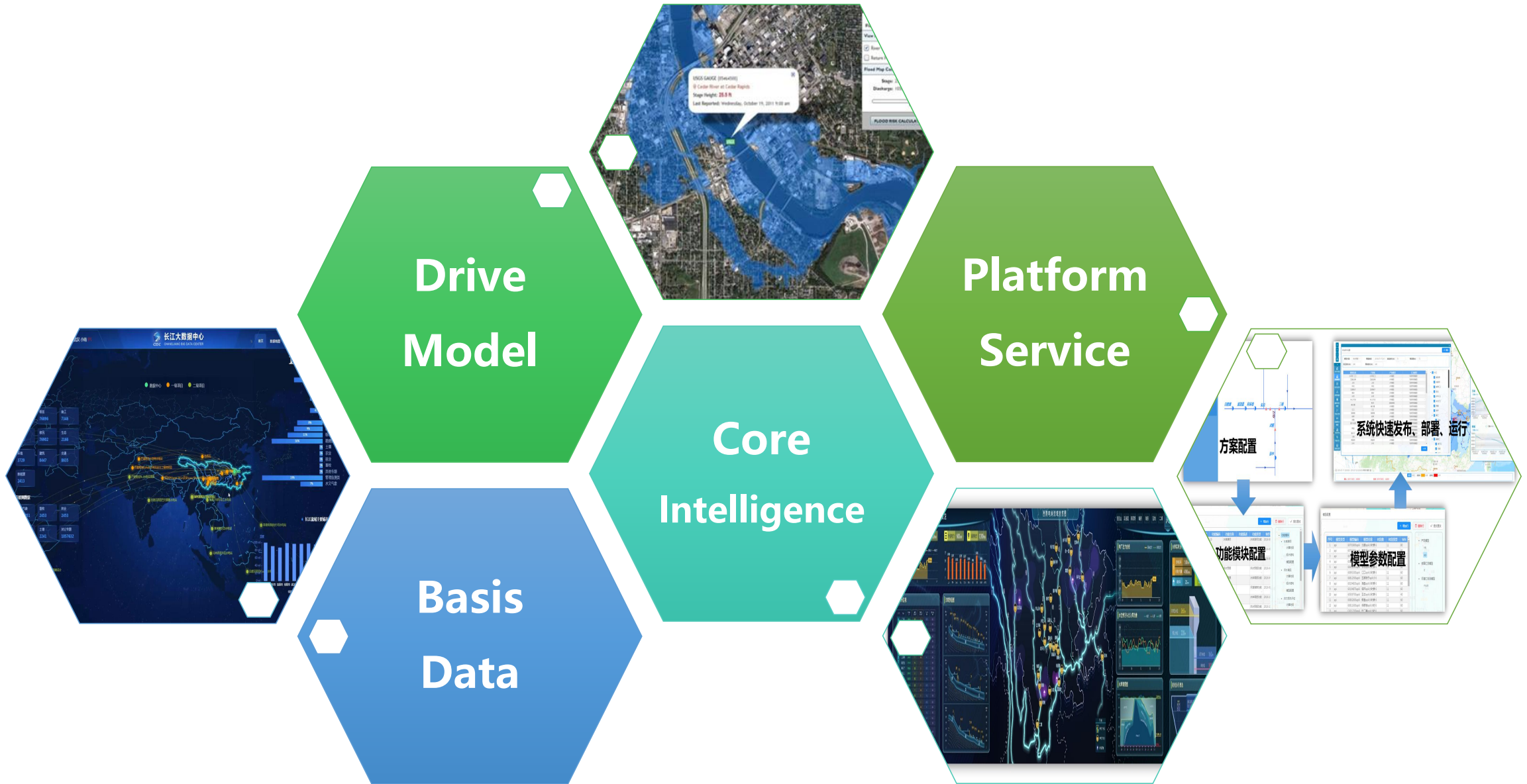
### 水利部关于印发《水利业务“四预”基本技术要求(试行)》的通知

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- 1 -

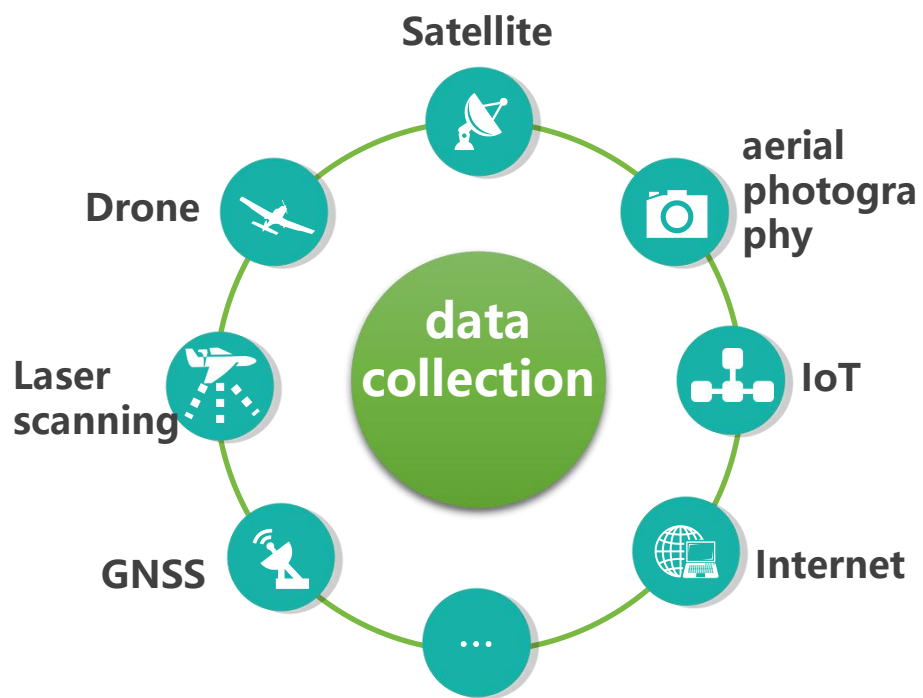
# Key elements of developing Digital Twin River



# Data Acquisition

# Data collection & acquisition

Full coverage of data measuring



地形地貌、地质、水文、气象、土壤、水土保持、土地覆盖、**人群**.....

Integrated information collection processing  
→ integrated application



LBS



Water flow, environment, ecology, water disaster sensor



Large aircraft Air



Fixed Wing / Rotary Wing UAV  
low altitude remote sensing



Airborne/vehicle laser scanning



Measuring robot

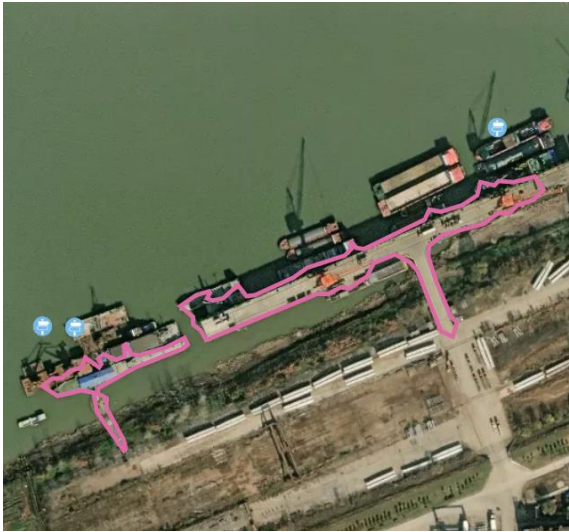


Communication Satellite/Monitoring Satellite  
Satellite



# Improve interpretation ability of remote sensing data

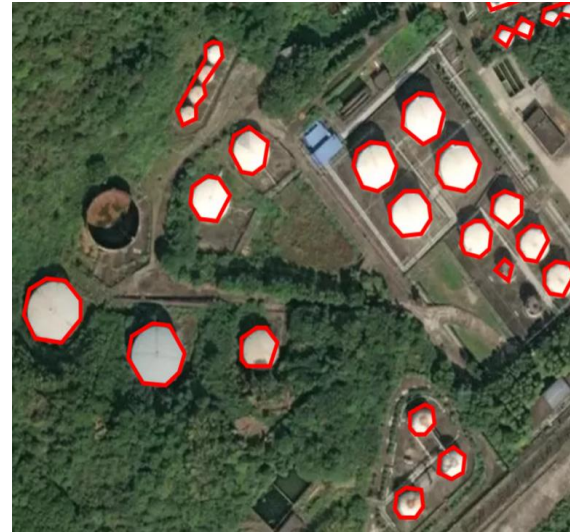
- ❑ To protect river bank and river course identification of prohibited ground constructions or object is needed.
- ❑ Using remote sensing data, **intelligent identification models** for **6 major categories of river-related construction projects**, such as docks, dams, net farming, water bodies, storage tanks (chemical plants), buildings, etc., has been developed using about 25,000 samples. The accuracy is **>85%**.
- ❑ More models are needed with better accuracy.



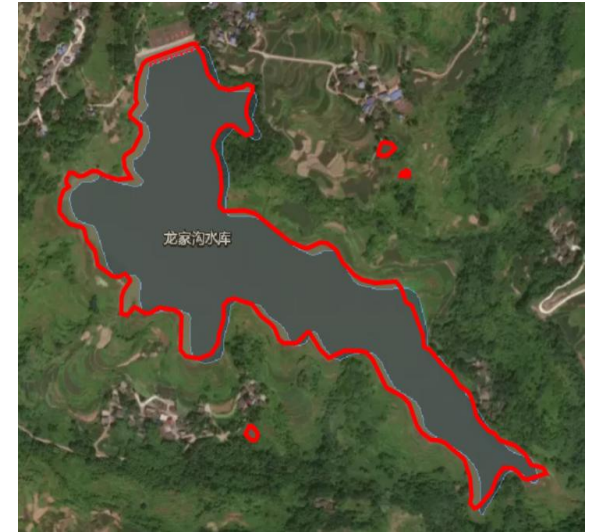
Identification of wharf



Identification of cage culture



Storage tank



Water body

# Application of new technology - Infrared Monitoring Technology

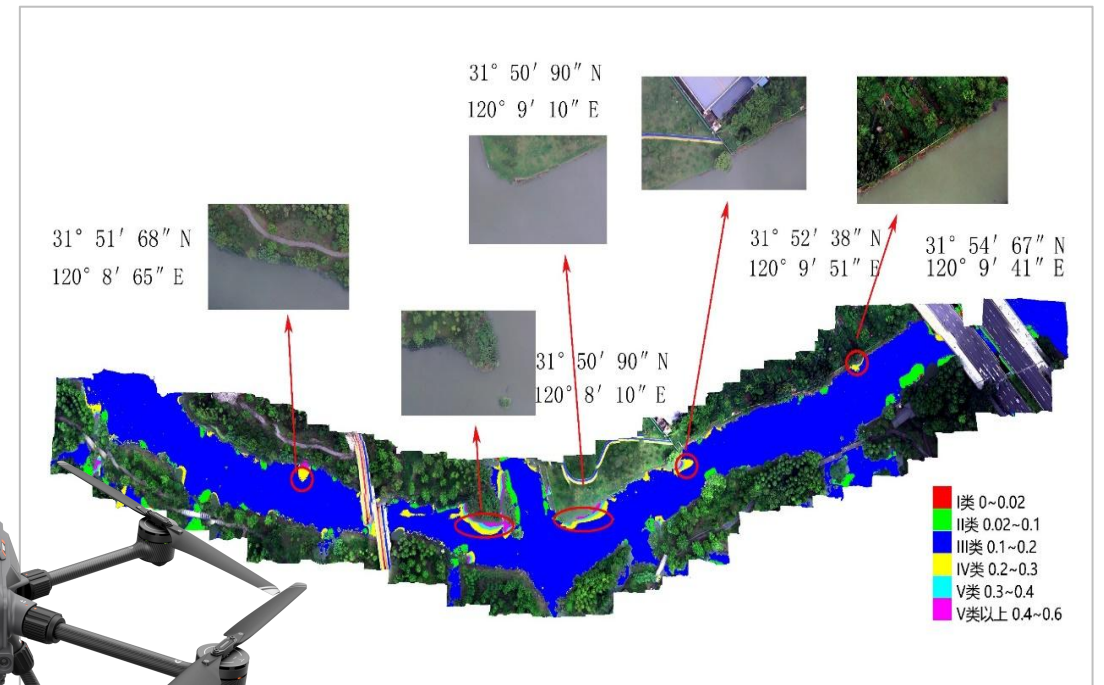
## Infrared Thermal Imaging Shooting

- Distinguish thermal infrared image features of sewage
- Thermal imaging at night is still sensitive and effective



## Hyperspectral remote sensing

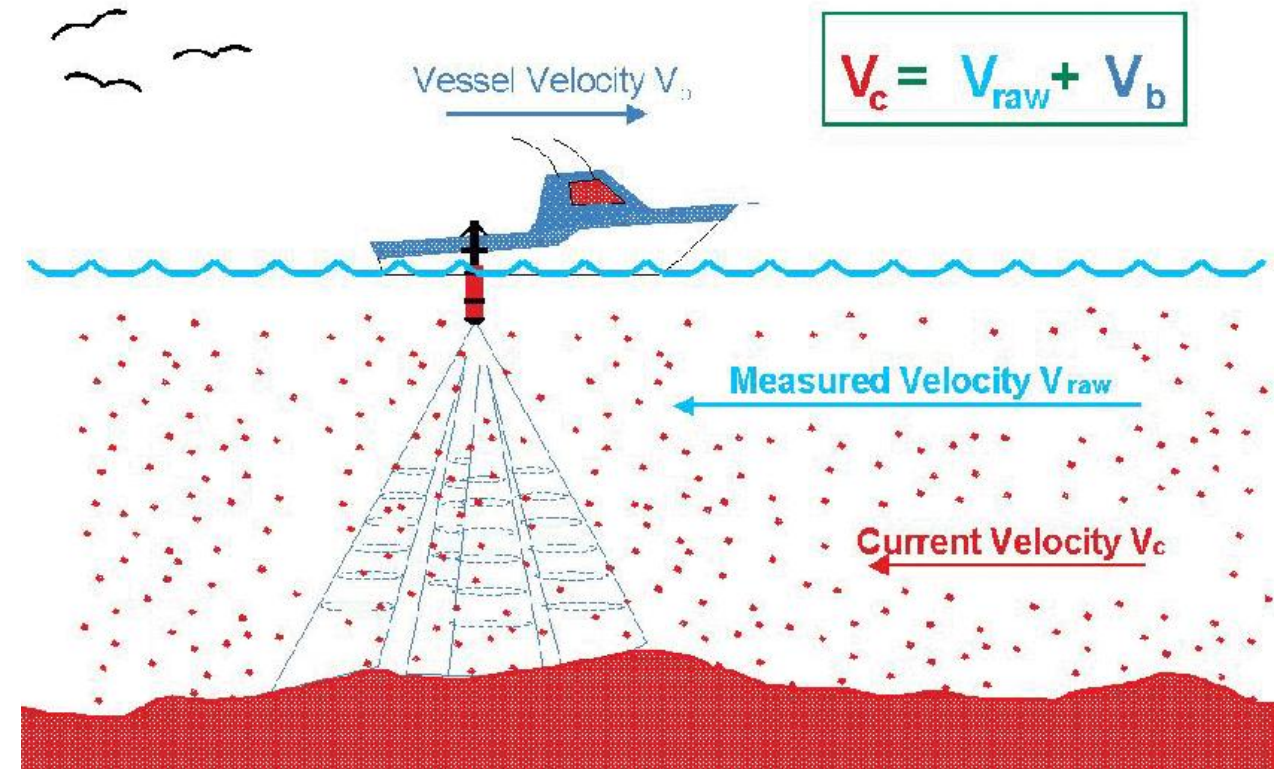
- Analysis and inversion of various water quality parameters of surface water in a large area **to find out suspected water pollution points.**
- After the polluted area is locked, the refined investigation of the sewage outlet can be carried out by using the human-computer interaction method.
- **Need more AI to identify pollution sources.**



# New tools - unmanned boat

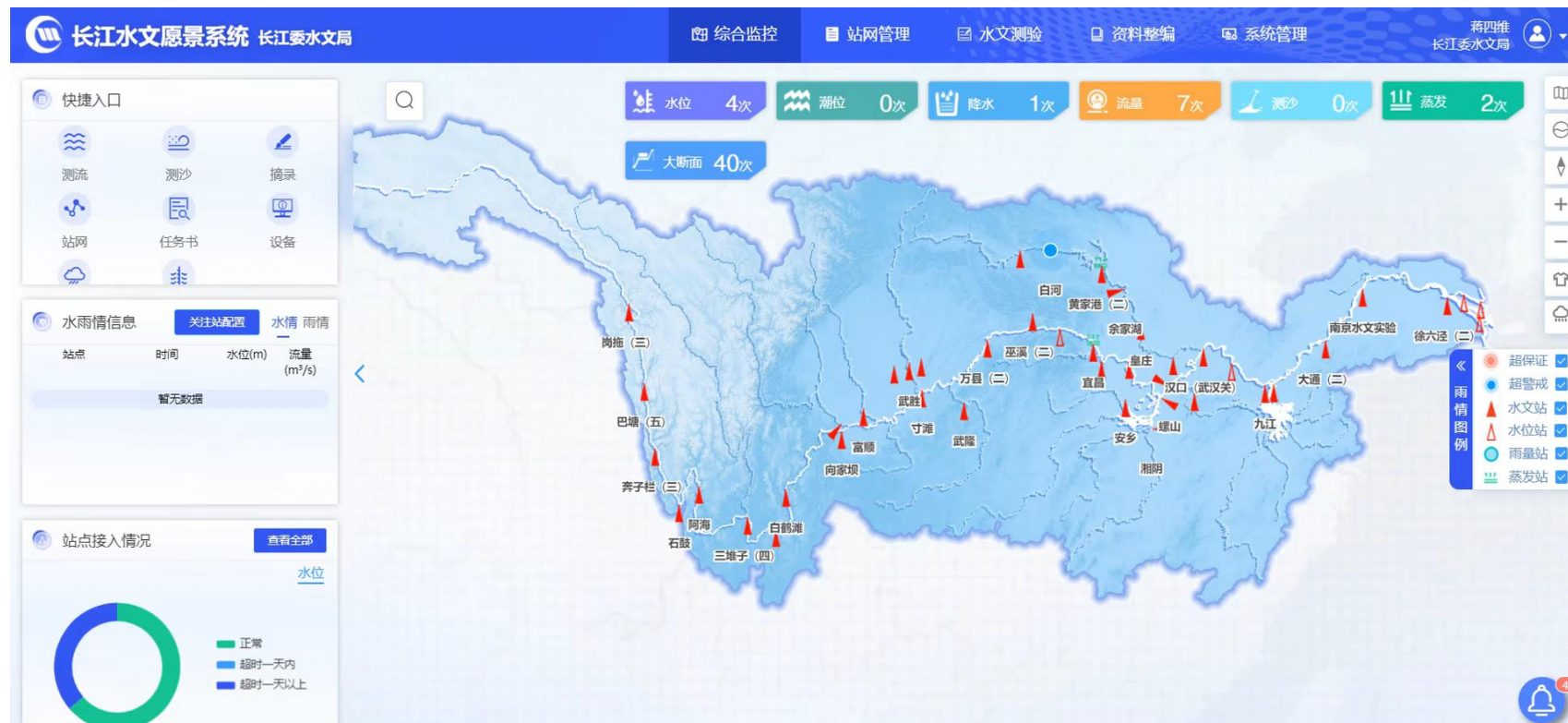
Mainly used as a **carrier** to carry monitoring equipment

- ❑ Equipped with GNSS, depth sounder, etc. for underwater terrain monitoring
- ❑ Device equipped with ADCP for flow test
- ❑ Equipped with **sampling** equipment for water sample collection
- ❑ Equipped with a **sand meter** for sediment testing
- ❑ Carry out patrol management and related event detection



# Data fusion

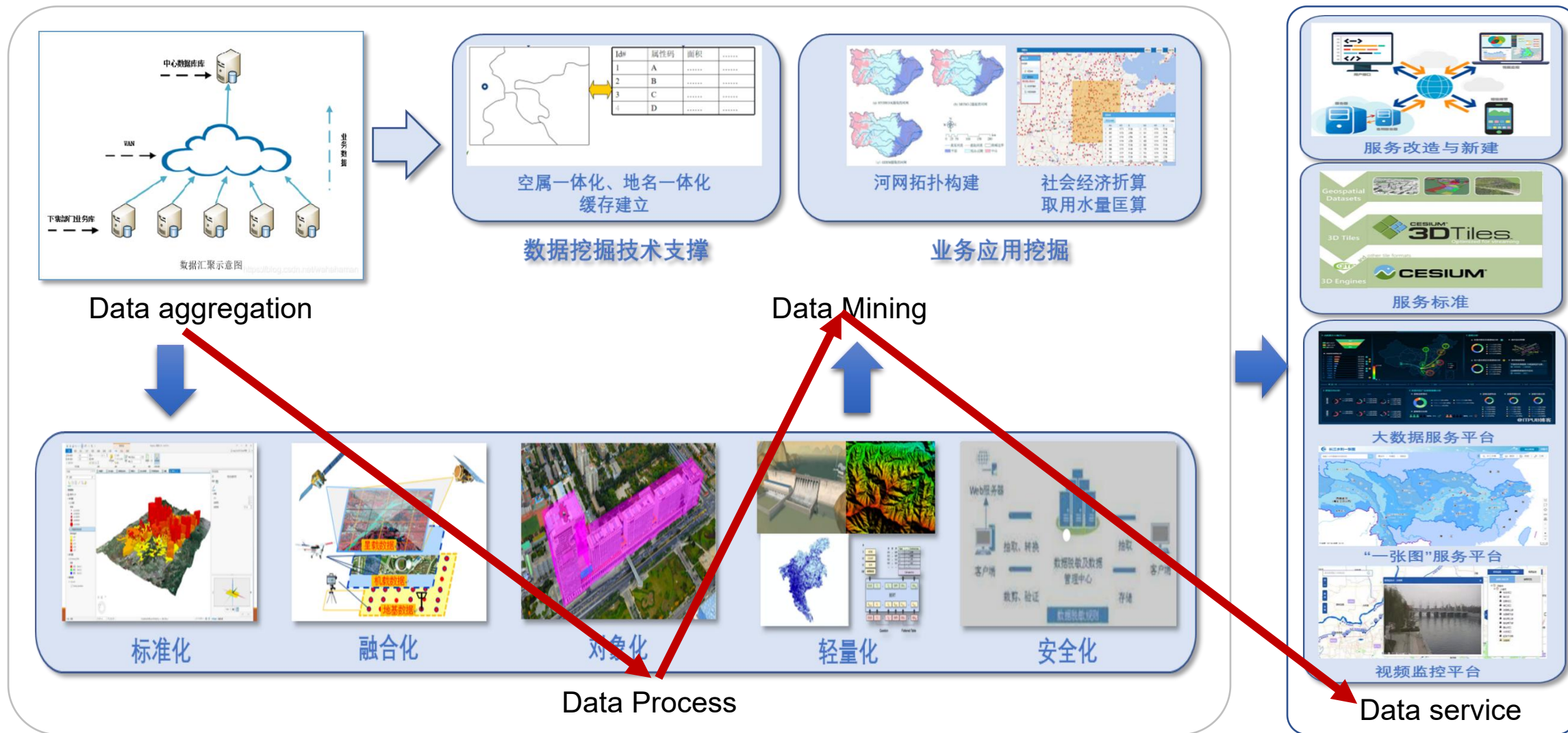
- ❑ **Multi-source fusion data base.** Through intelligent data collection and **aggregation** technology, realize full-element, full-scale, fully automatic monitoring and perception.
- ❑ **Vision:** fully empower the high-quality development of hydrology and water conservancy and the construction of digital twin rivers.



# Data board

# Data board

- Through the data engine to aggregate → process → mining to realize data value and provide data services.



# Ways to build data for digital twin rivers

Info Categories	Data Elements	Research is needed	Expected results
<b>Flow</b> related	Rainfall, evaporation, water level, flow, sediment, project scheduling, water temperature, etc.	Mining historical information through <b>machine learning</b> to find patterns and <b>create data</b>	A useful supplement
<b>Basin</b> related	The scope, area and form of encroachment on the shoreline, damming, filling the reservoir to create land, soil erosion, etc.	Summarizing patterns and <b>mining data</b> values through the interpretation of remote sensing information	Automatic data acquisition
<b>Work</b> -related	Seepage flow, seepage pressure, displacement, openness, infiltration line variation, etc.	Identify the characteristics of objects, <b>collect data</b> through the application of <b>IoT technology</b>	Full process data monitoring
<b>Management</b> -related	Justification, licensing, planning, progress, supervision, enforcement, daily office, etc.	<b>Collect data</b> through full process inspection of management activities	Full process data collection
<b>Cross-industry</b> related	Meteorology, transportation, social economy, natural resources, ecological protection, etc.	<b>Share data</b> by building a cross-industry data sharing mechanism	Realize data sharing

# Data board - Changjiang River Data Center



## Water-related business data

Flood	Drought
Water Safety	water conservancy project
water resources development	urban and rural water supply
water-saving	.....

## Basin and provincial data

River basin authorities	provincial institution
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## Sharing data across industries

ministry of natural resources	ministry of emergency management
ministry of ecology and environment	state statistical bureau
China meteorological bureau	.....

## Business acquisition data

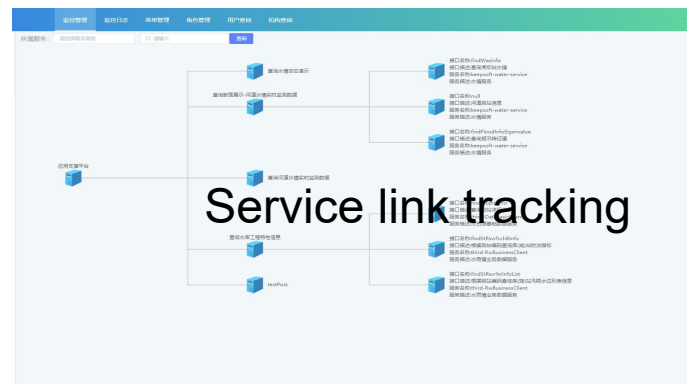
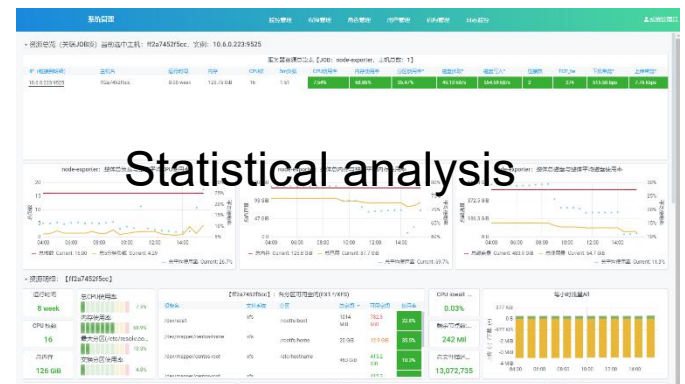
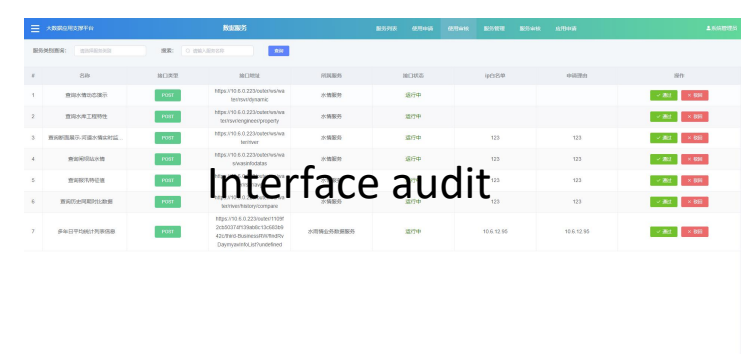
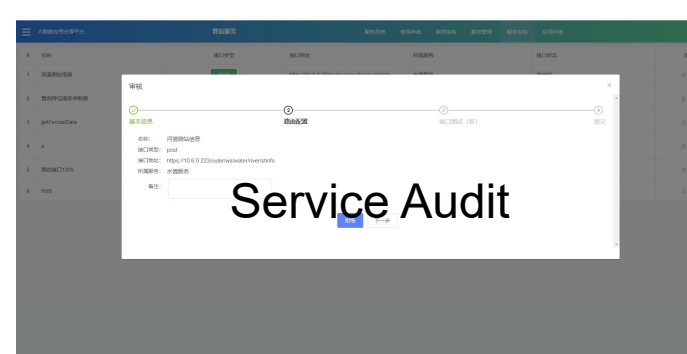
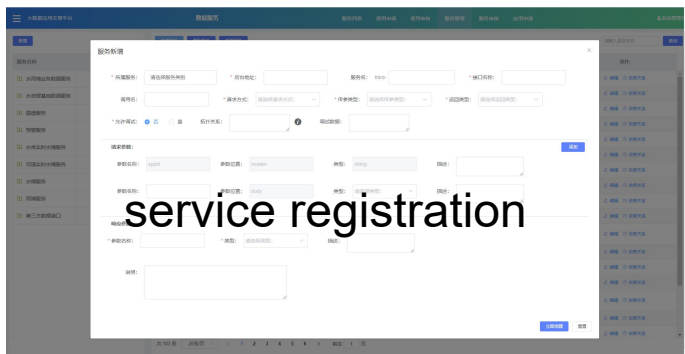
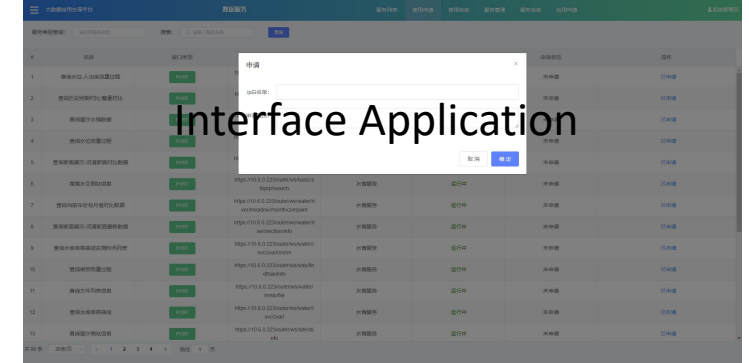
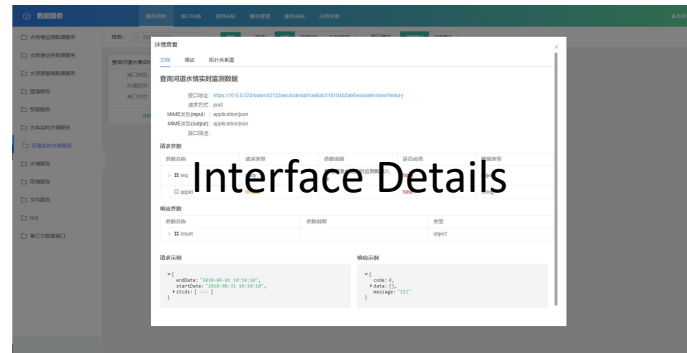
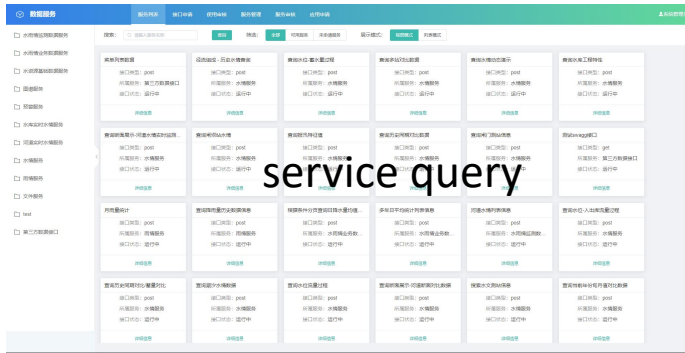
State Grid Corporation of China	CMCC
Big Data Companies	.....

## Internet public opinion data

Bidding website	Search Site
social network site	.....



# Changjiang River Data Center provides data service



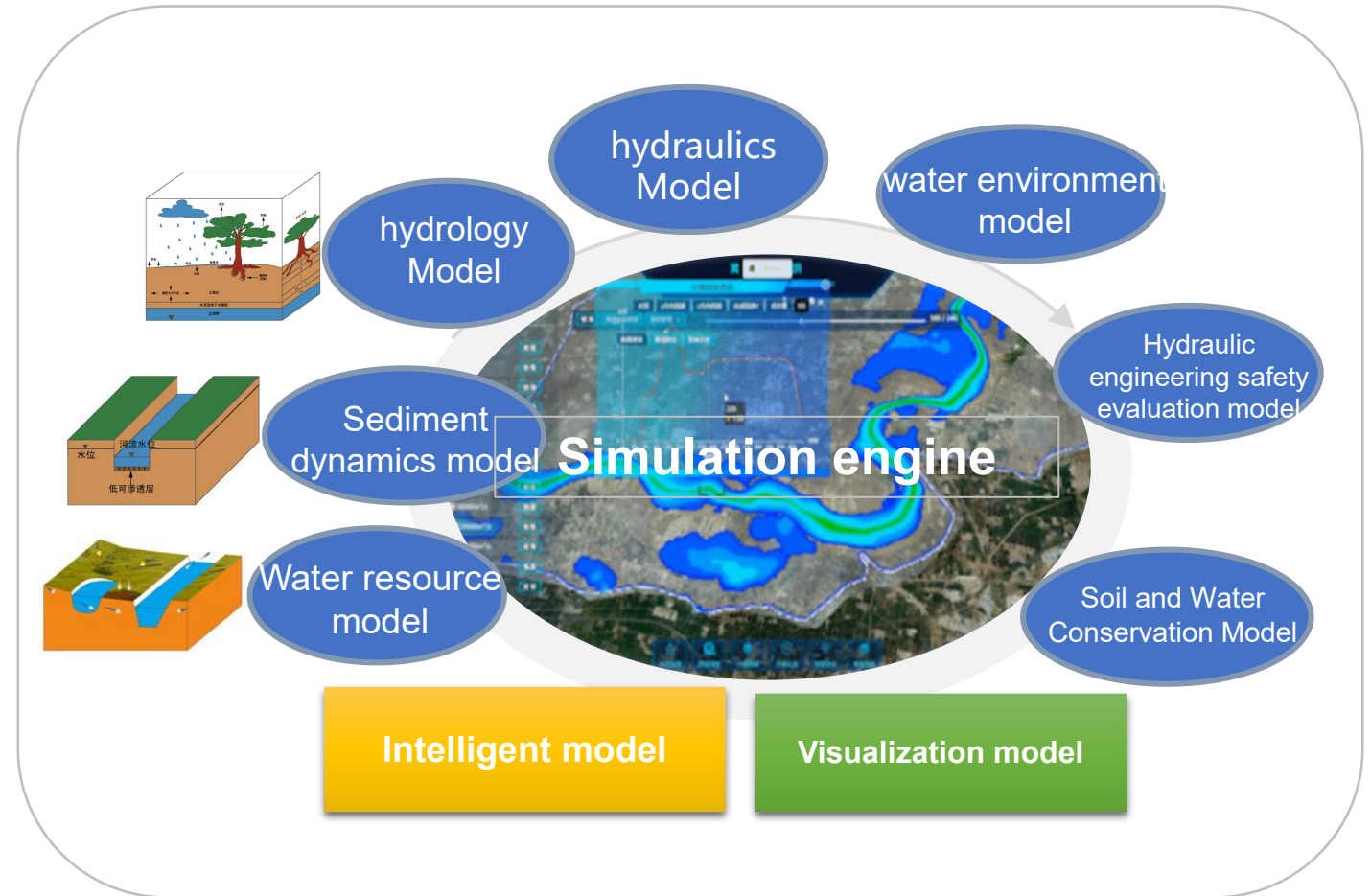
- ❑ Provide and manage data services
- ❑ Registration and application management of models

# Model & Model Platform

# Model is the driven force for digital twin river

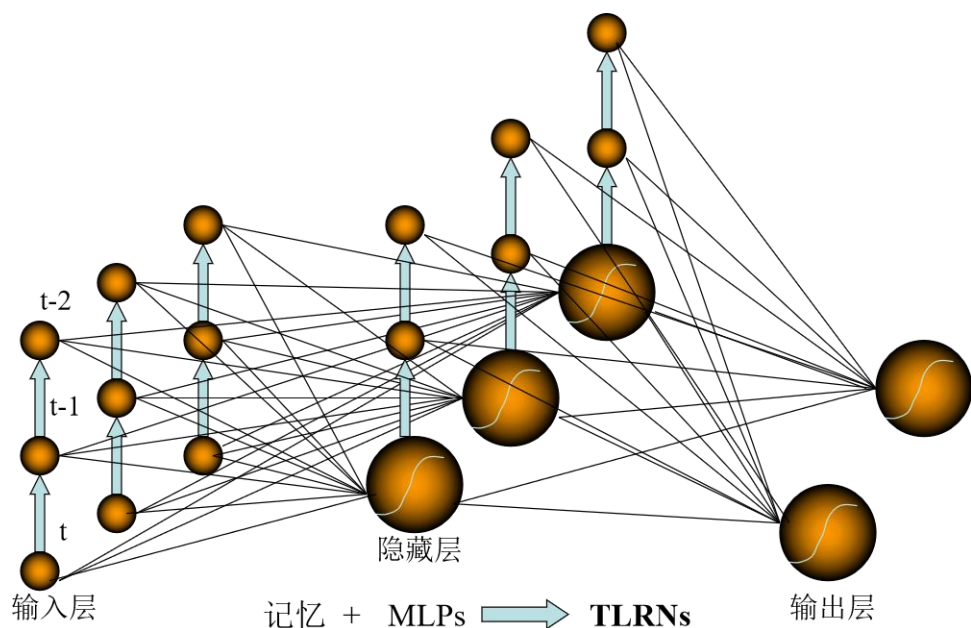
## Functionality

- **Provides “algorithms”** for water simulation and provide model registration, verification, Invocation, display, user evaluation and other functions.
- **Provide simulation engine:** connects the data and service interfaces of various models.

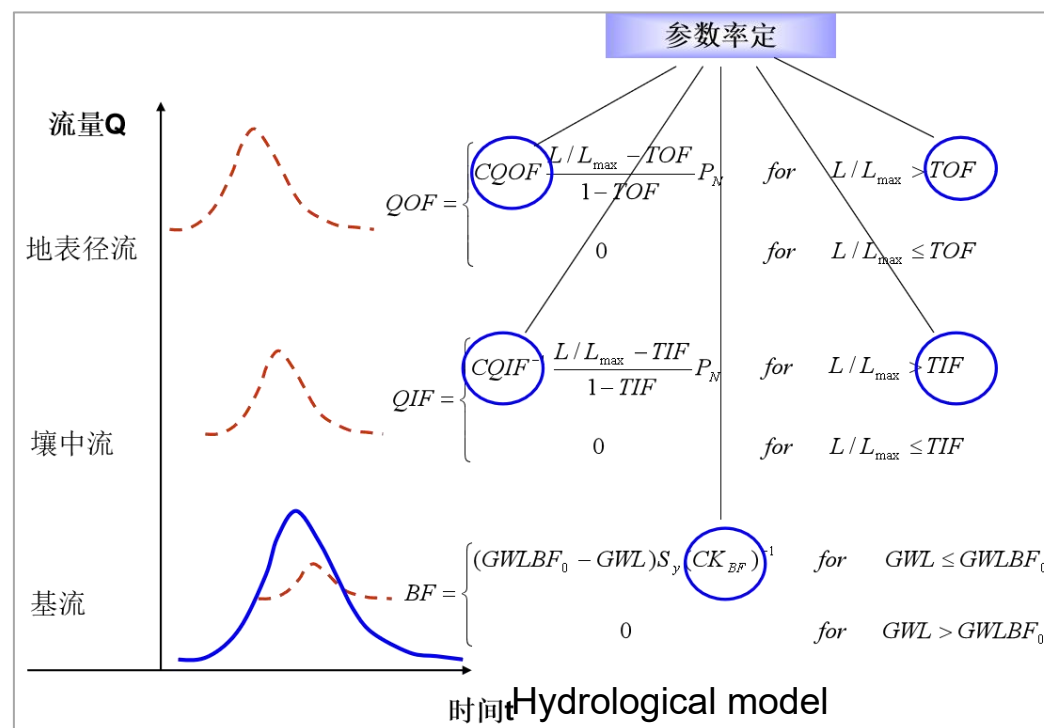


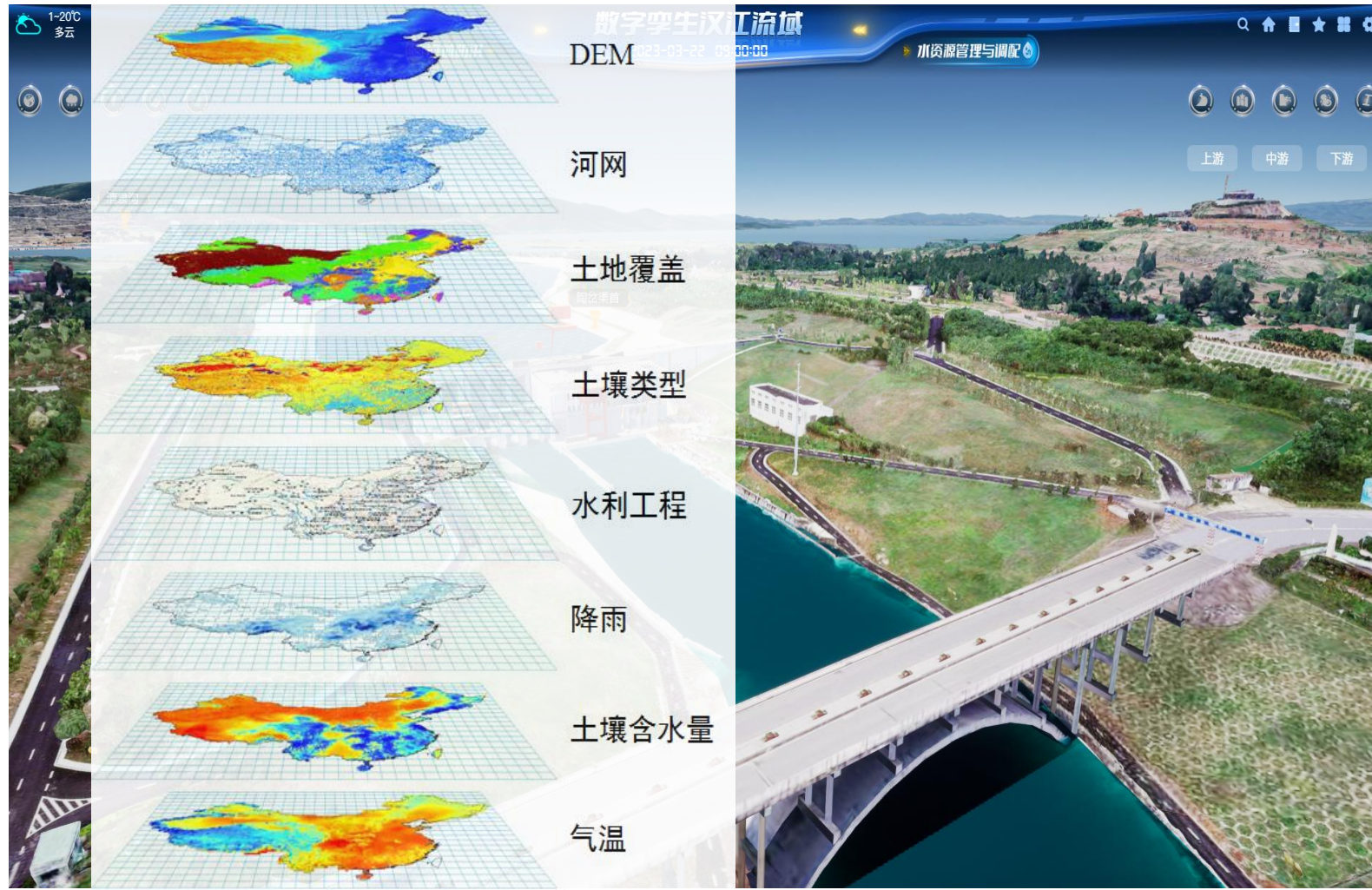
# Current Focus: improve model performance

- ❑ **Augmented Intelligence:** The complexity of models and their integration can grow with data completeness and maturity, especially when coupling physical-based and data-driven models.
- ❑ Data-driven models can be used to assist in optimizing physical model results – updating procedure.



Neural Network

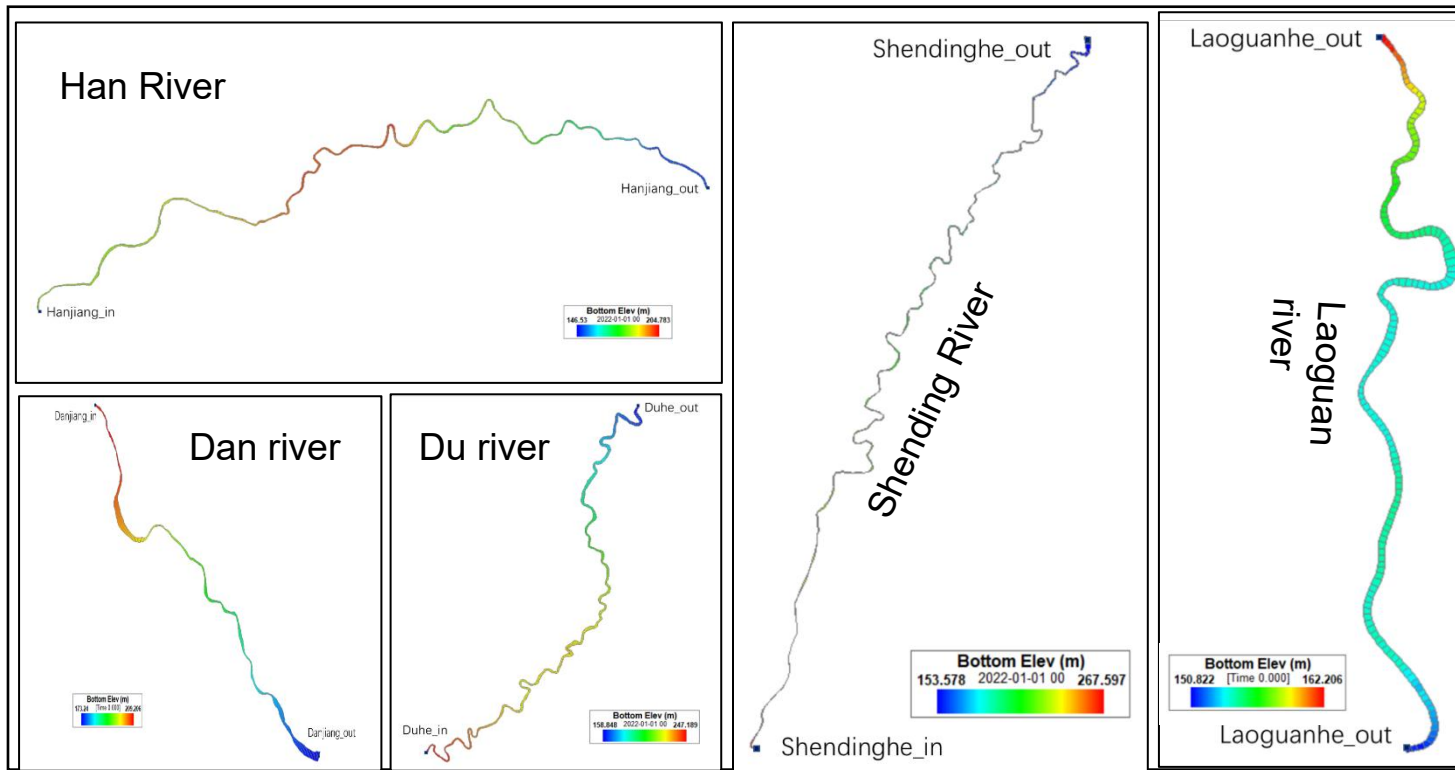




- ❑ Deducing hydrological infiltration related parameters from soil type, or hydrodynamic model roughness on the floodplain
- ❑ Determine the filling status of depressions and the runoff threshold from DEM, soil moisture content, etc.

# Current focus: improve water quality model performance

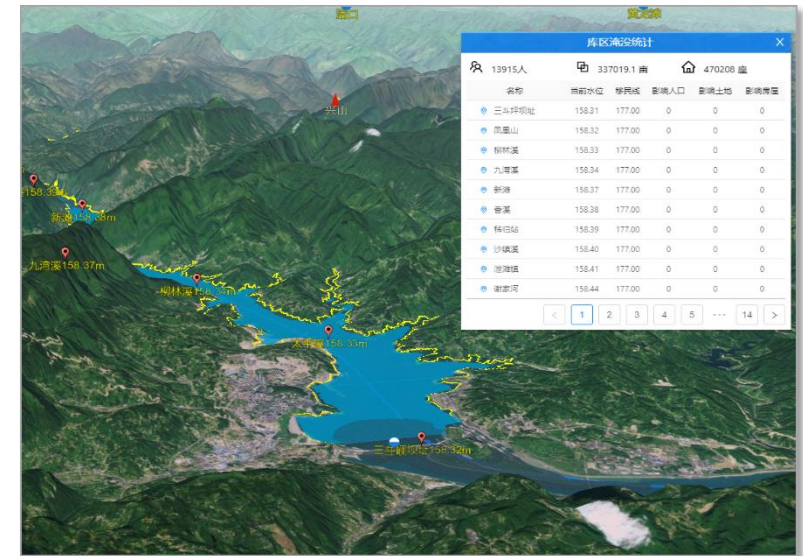
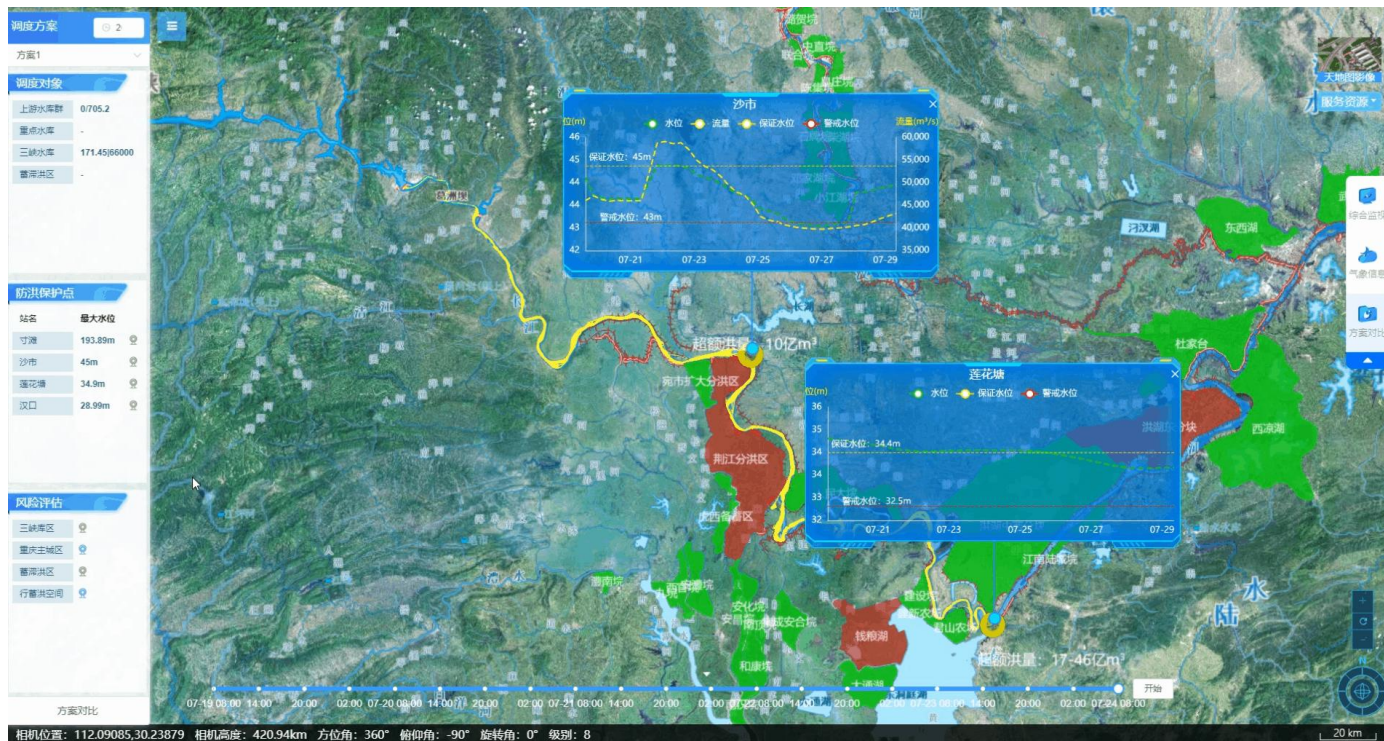
- ❑ **Purpose:** to **predict** and **deduce** the spatial and temporal distribution of water quality in rivers for assessment of water quality safety situation and emergency pollution response.
- ❑ **Parameter:** total nitrogen, total phosphorus, permanganate index, ammonia nitrogen and antimony etc.



1D WQ model established – calibrated / validated

# Dynamic flood risk assessment model

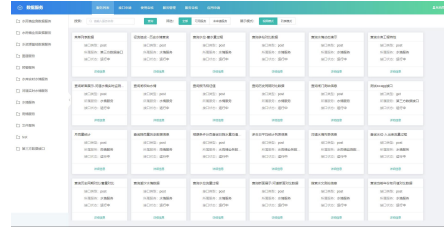
- ❑ Based on the results of hydrological prediction and simulation results, dynamically predict the change process of the water profile in the Three Gorges Reservoir area
- ❑ Assess the submergence risk of key areas and its impact on society and economy, calculate the benefits of corresponding regulation scheme, and propose real-time regulation suggestions for decision makers.



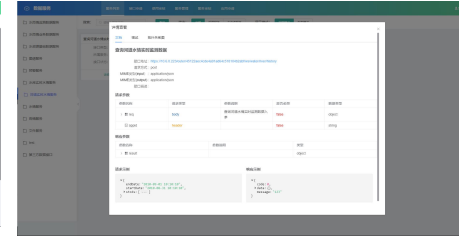
# Services provided by the model platform

## Model standardization construction:

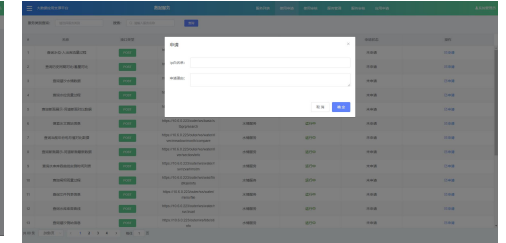
- ❑ Formulate model construction packaging specifications.
- ❑ Unify model call standards.
- ❑ Provide standardized applications for model call calculations.



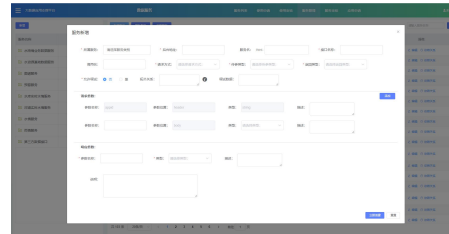
Service inquiry



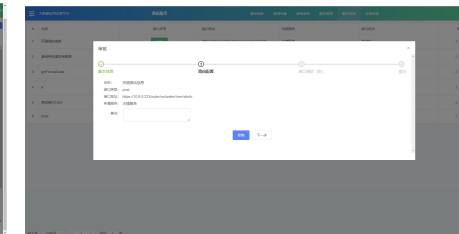
Interface details



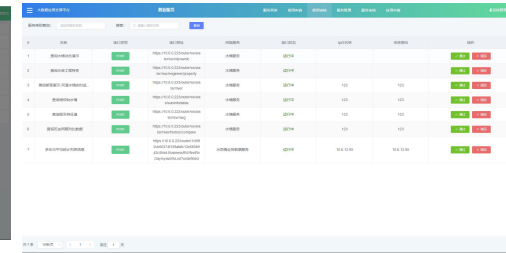
Interface application



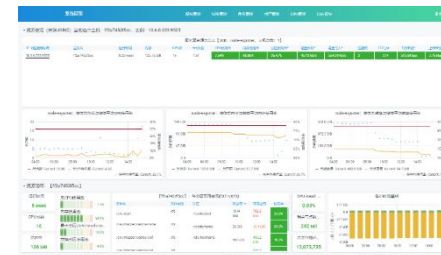
Service registration



Service audit



Interface audit



Statistic analysis



Service Link Tracking





building blocks

In order to respond to the needs of **fast changing requirements**, a DTR should have efficient and fast building technology to develop systems, applications and scenario, like **building blocks**.

模型服务资源

模型名称: 洪水来源分析模型

调用测试

通过站点的流量和水位来分析洪水来源和组成

模型ID: FD\_FLOODSOURCE

输入

stationids	测站编码数组, String[]	begTime	期初时间(yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss), String	stepNum	调度期时段个数, int
stepMinutes	时段步长分钟数, int	stationInfo	所有站点数据集 (含当前水库)	staCode	站点编码
staName	站点名称	ZArr	水位过程,double	QArr	流量过程,double (水库则为入库)
reservoirInfos	水库数据集	normalLevel	正常蓄水位	deadLevel	死水位
storageCapacity	库容	floodHighLevel	防洪高水位	floodLevel	汛限水位
zv	水位库容曲线	topo	节点拓扑结构		

输出

floodSource	洪水来源, json描述	floodCompose	洪水组成, json描述
-------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

数字孪生场景编辑器

属性

基础属性

名称: 属性值

属性名称: 属性值

属性名称: 属性值

属性名称: 属性值

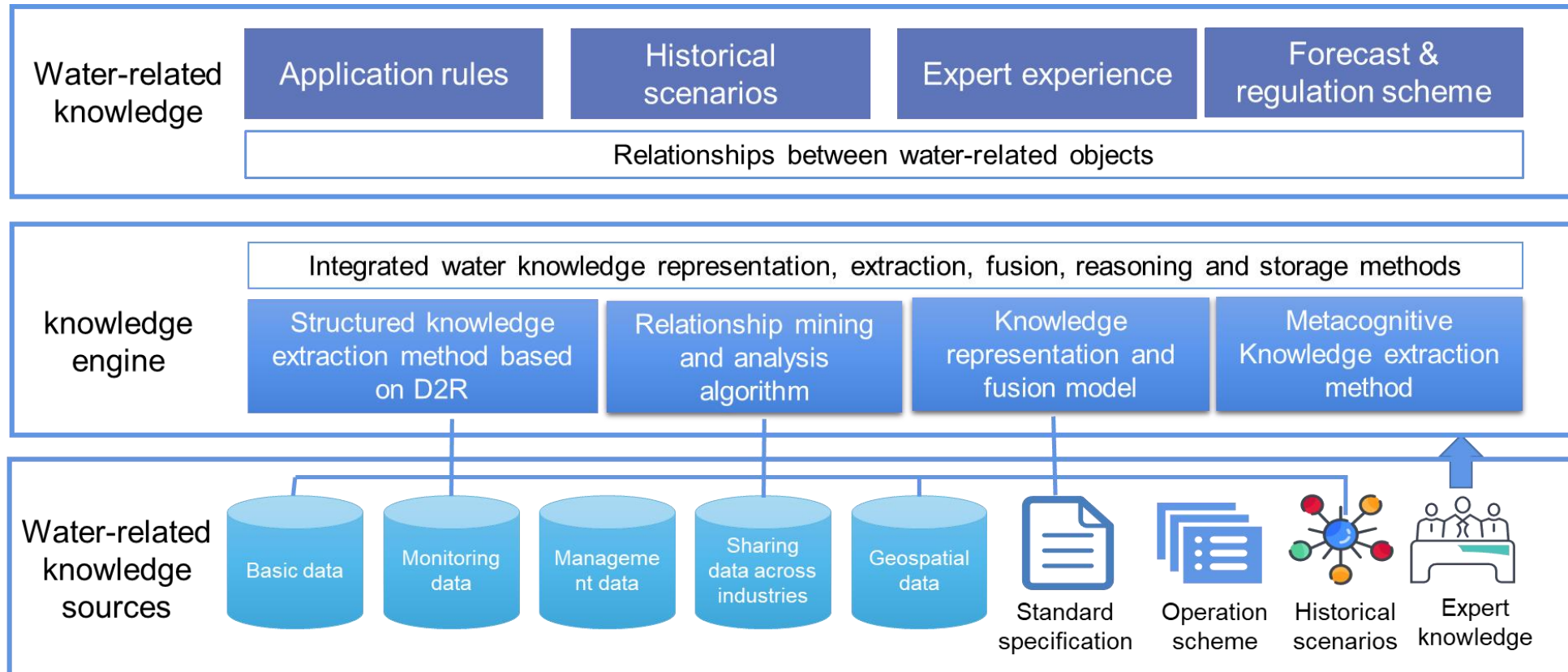
属性名称: 属性值

属性名称: 属性值

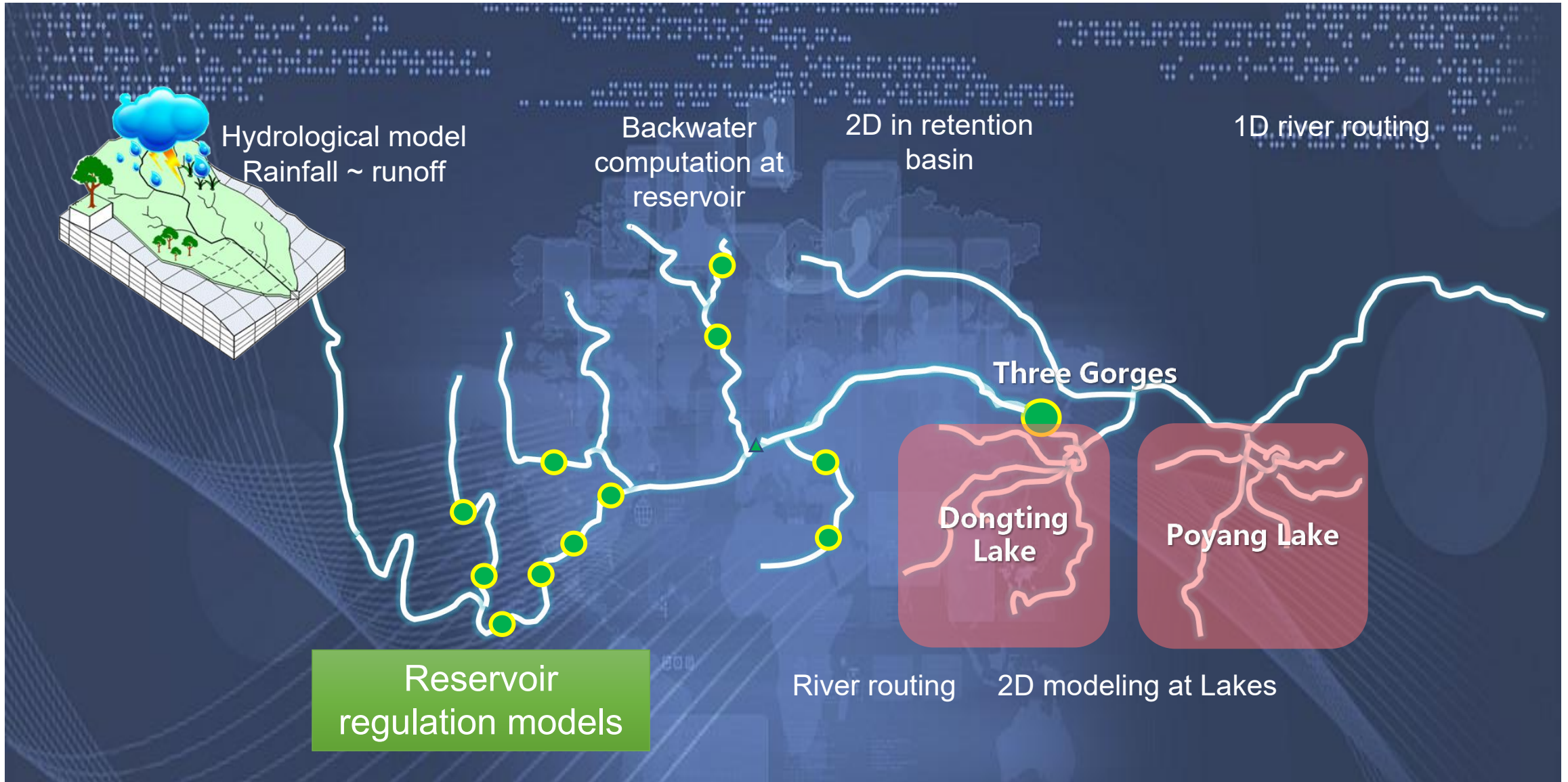
# Knowledge & knowledge Platform

# Architecture of Knowledge platform – Knowledge + engine

- ❑ **Water knowledge:** laws, experiences and rules of water management that are digitized and logicalized using technologies such as **knowledge graphs**, machine learning etc., which allows the system to “think” – like playing rules for **alpha go**.
- ❑ Water knowledge is organized and reasoned by the **knowledge engine** to form information supporting research and decision-making.



# The core of AI is physical rules



# Develop reservoir regulation base using knowledge graph - AI

Experience

Knowledge

People

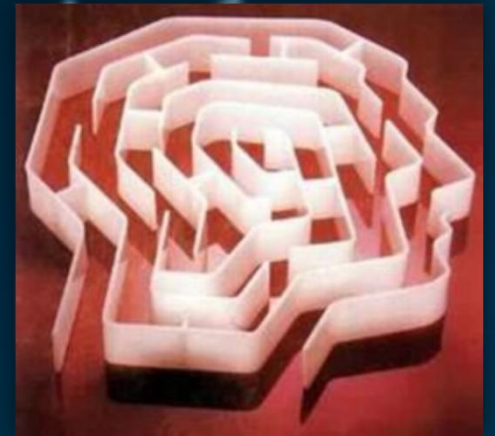
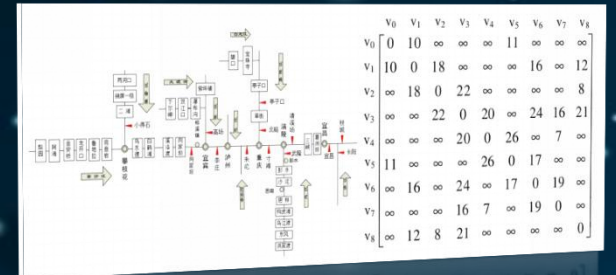
```
#c = deal_single_pic_to_remove_zero_line(pic_str)
c = deal_single_pic(pic_str)
new_c = []
count = 1
flag = True
if len(c) > 30:
    return []
else:
    for i in c:
        while len(i) != 27:
            if count % 2 == 0:
                i = i + '0'
            else:
                i = '0' + i
            count += 1
            new_c.append(i)
        while len(new_c) != 30:
            if count % 2 == 0:
                new_c.insert(0, '0000000000000000000000000000')
            else:
                new_c.append('0000000000000000000000000000')
            count += 1
    return new_c
```

Regulation Rule

Digitize  
Logiclise



Researches

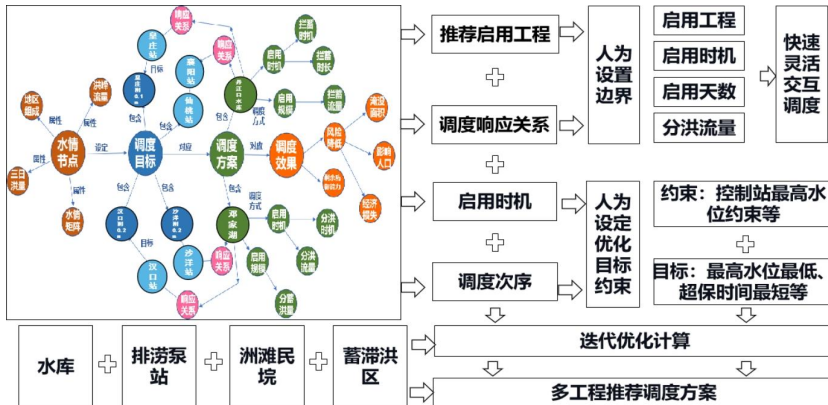


Regulation rule base



# Knowledge-base development result – regulation rule-base

- Based on knowledge graph technology, a water engineering regulation rule base with Danjiangkou Reservoir as the core is constructed
- Constructed a regulation impact relationship map for the Danjiangkou Reservoir and flood storage embankment
- Taking into combined consideration of short-term and middle term flood predication, it can support the regulation scheme at short-term (3-5 days) and regulation strategy at longer term (7-10 days)



# Develop Smart river with core of DTR/DTP

- ❑ Hydro-meteorological forecasting & early warning
- ❑ Intelligence - digitized regulation rules
- ❑ Real time multi-scenario analysis & dynamic risk assessment





- Rule-based using knowledge graph technology, based relationship between retention basins ~ protected areas
- Assess and reallocate risk / flood water based on risk propagation characteristics following the risk-chain and coupling with machine learning technology.



# Intelligent regulation

Automatic regulation  
according to rules

Computer alone



Interactive regulation

Man + computer



Optimization according to  
goals

Computer receives goals and  
applies optimization  
procedure



# Pilot studies of digital Changjiang River

## Digital Twin rivers - 2

- Hanjiang River Basin
- Lishui River Basin



长江委统 (共)建长江试点项目  
 水利部试点 长江委试点



非长江委统 (共)建

- 1 数字孪生峡江水利枢纽工程
- 2 数字孪生乐安河
- 3 数字孪生汉兴隆水利枢纽
- 4 数字孪生浏阳河
- 5 数字孪生欧阳海灌区水利工程
- 6 数字孪生江津湖水库工程
- 7 数字孪生都江堰 (渠首枢纽)
- 8 数字孪生岷江 (成都锦江段)
- 9 数字孪生球江 (遂宁段)
- 10 数字孪生青衣江 (雅安段)
- 11 数字孪生夹岩水利枢纽及黔西北供水工程
- 12 数字孪生贵州清水江
- 13 至施洞水文站河段)
- 14 江补汉工程)
- 15 澧水流域



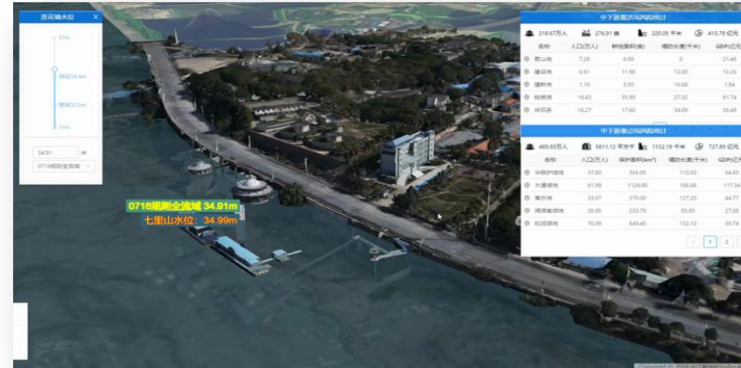
## Digital Twin Engineering Projects - 4

- Danjiangkou reservoir
- Jiangya, Zaoshi reservoir
- Three Gorges Project

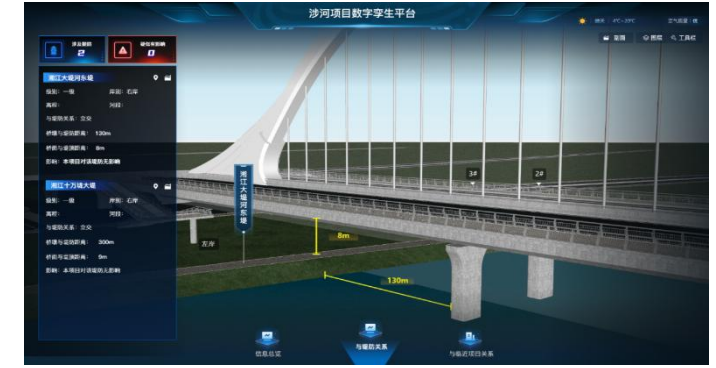




Flood management



Dam safety



Management of reservoir storage



Water quality management



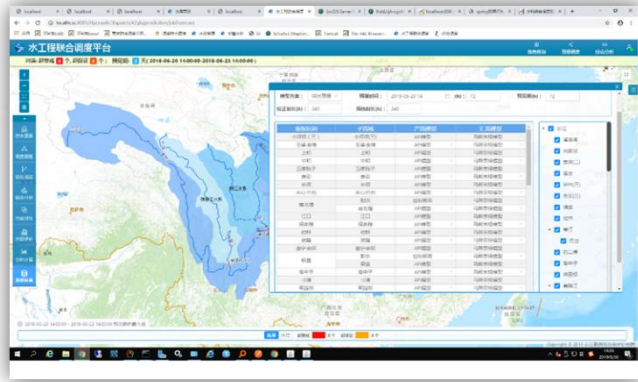
Ecology restoration



Monitoring of construction projects

# Link the interfaces between old and new systems

The new system invokes the existing system



The existing system



The new system



Digital Twin Changjiang

Evolution into future system

A stylized globe composed of white dots and connecting lines, set against a dark blue background with a horizontal line.

谢谢

THANK YOU