

1 **High Spatiotemporal Resolution River Networks Mapping on Catchment Scale**
2 **Using Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery and DEM Data**

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14 **Key Points:**

- 15 • A novel method is proposed to map the monthly river networks on the catchment scale
16 using satellite imagery and DEM with 10 m resolution.
- 17 • This method provided detailed information on small- and medium-sized rivers with an
18 overall accuracy of 95.8%.
- 19 • Correlation between monthly basin water area and precipitation was highly positive.
20
21

22 **Abstract**

23 Characterizing and understanding the changes in the flow regimes of rivers have been
24 challenging. Existing global river network datasets are not updated and can only identify rivers
25 wider than 30 m. We propose a novel automated method to map river networks on a monthly
26 basin scale for the first time at 10-m resolution using Sentinel-1 Synthetic Aperture Radar,
27 Sentinel-2 multispectral images, and the AW3D30 Digital Surface Model. This method achieved
28 an overall accuracy of 95.8%. The total length of the Yellow River networks produced is 34,115
29 ± 5800 km, approximately 3.2 times that of the Global River Widths from Landsat (GRWL)
30 database, better covering small and medium rivers. The monthly river geometry revealed a
31 positive correlation between basin area and precipitation. This study is expected to provide a
32 cost-effective alternative to accurately mapping global river networks and advance our
33 understanding of the changes and drivers of river systems.

34 **Plain Language Summary**

35 Understanding the impacts of climate change and human activities on water resources across
36 different regions greatly depends on the knowledge of river networks with high spatial and
37 temporal resolution. Small tributaries are important components in river network evolution and
38 water transmission. To date, several studies have mapped interannual variations in rivers with
39 widths >30 m; however, the distribution and variations in small rivers remain unclear. By
40 integrating multispectral and radar satellite remote sensing images as well as topographic data,
41 we created continuous monthly river network maps at the basin scale, allowing us to capture the
42 details of dynamic changes in river networks with higher spatiotemporal resolution. As a result,
43 the method used in this study provides detailed information on small and medium rivers, with the
44 length of the connected rivers being thrice that of the existing datasets. We demonstrate the
45 possibility of mapping global river networks monthly at a resolution of 10 m, providing valuable
46 information for global surface water resource planning and management and improving our
47 understanding of spatial links between land and water interfaces.

48 **1 Introduction**

49 River networks interact with the atmosphere, vegetation, and geomorphology; play
50 important roles in global hydrological and biogeochemical cycles; and are natural hotspots for
51 environmental sustainability and economic growth (Raymond et al., 2013; Allen et al., 2018).
52 Spatial characteristics, such as river surface area and river channel morphology, are essential for
53 discharge estimation, flood forecasting, riverbed evolution, hydrogeomorphic processes, and
54 carbon emission assessment. From a long-term and global perspective, characterizing and
55 understanding the dynamic changes in the flow regimes of rivers have been challenging (Wu et
56 al., 2023). Therefore, there is a pressing need to understand what contributes to global river
57 extent changes through better observation and modeling.

58 However, existing river network datasets, mainly from Landsat imagery, can only
59 identify rivers with channel widths greater than 30 m (Pekel et al., 2016; Allen & Pavelsky,
60 2018), and ignore the temporal variations in rivers narrower than 30 m (Lu et al., 2020). Small
61 river ecosystems are equally active, with frequent land-atmosphere interactions and 50% of the
62 total carbon emissions (Raymond et al., 2013; Butman et al., 2016). Ignoring the importance of
63 small rivers underestimates the role of river networks in biogeochemical cycles (Lu et al., 2021).

64 Thus, large-scale, accurate, and up-to-date river network maps are beneficial for sustainable
65 development, government decision-making, and public awareness.

66 Currently available global and regional river network datasets are mainly derived from
67 digital elevation models (DEMs) or remote sensing images (Li et al., 2022). The key to
68 developing hydrological maps with DEM is to calculate the flow direction of each pixel (Strong
69 & Mudd, 2022; Tarolli & Mudd, 2020), such as the HydroSHEDS and MERIT Hydro datasets.
70 HydroSHEDS is a global hydrological dataset obtained from the SRTM elevation data with a
71 resolution of 90 m (Lehner & Grill, 2013). Yamazaki et al. (2019) generated the MERIT Hydro
72 dataset, which effectively solved the problem of limited coverage of HydroSHEDS at high
73 latitudes. However, vertical uncertainties in the DEM data may distort the topographic slope and
74 further affect the flow direction estimation. In addition, global DEM data sources are not updated
75 in a timely manner, making it difficult to reflect the dynamic changes in river networks (Rinne et
76 al. 2011; Schenk et al. 2014).

77 In recent years, Earth observation satellites have become an effective method for
78 obtaining long-term time series, accurate distributions, and dynamic changes in global river
79 networks (Gong et al., 2013; Yamazaki et al., 2015; Feng et al., 2019). Using Google Earth
80 Engine (GEE) cloud-based computing resources, the storage, computing, and analysis
81 capabilities of remote sensing big data have greatly improved (Gorelick et al., 2017). Pekel et al.
82 (2016) produced a Global Surface Water (GSW) dataset at 30 m resolution using GEE and
83 Landsat images, which presents the probability of surface water inundation for every pixel
84 recorded by Landsat over the past four decades. Allen & Pavelsky (2018) built the Global River
85 Widths from Landsat (GRWL) Database and estimated the total surface area of rivers and
86 streams ≥ 30 m wide at mean annual discharge, which is approximately 44% higher than
87 previous estimates based on extrapolations of small sample sizes (Raymond et al., 2013).
88 Compared with Landsat images, commercial optical remote sensing images usually have higher
89 spatial resolution and richer spectral information; however, they are also affected by clouds and
90 shadows when identifying water bodies.

91 Synthetic aperture radar (SAR) sensors operating in the microwave region of the
92 electromagnetic spectrum are not limited by meteorological conditions and can penetrate clouds
93 and vegetation cover. The fusion of SAR and optical images for water classification has been
94 proven to capture surface water at a higher spatial and temporal resolution without being affected
95 by clouds (Slinski et al., 2019a; Li et al., 2023). However, river networks extracted from remote-
96 sensing images are fragmented and exhibit poor connectivity. Recent studies have suggested that
97 a combination of satellite remote sensing imagery and DEM data can accurately extract
98 continuous river networks and monitor their dynamic changes (Jones, 2019).

99 To address these challenges, we developed a new automated method that integrates
100 Sentinel-1 SAR, Sentinel-2 multispectral images, and DEM data to generate monthly river
101 network maps of the Yellow River basin (YRB) at a resolution of 10 m. The constraint of the
102 topography on the river flow direction was used to solve the problem of poor connectivity.
103 Furthermore, we evaluate the accuracy of the method and compare it with existing datasets.
104 Finally, we investigated the correlation between river network areas and climatic factors.

105 **2 Materials and Methods**

106 2.1 Study Area

107 The Yellow River is the second largest river in China, originating in the Qinghai-Tibetan
108 Plateau and flowing eastward through the Loess Plateau and North China Plain to the Bohai Sea
109 (Wu et al., 2017; Syvitski et al., 2022). The main stream of the Yellow River has a total length of
110 more than 5,400 km and a drainage area of more than 750,000 km² (Wang et al., 2007). The
111 upper reaches of the Yellow River are dominated by mountains, whereas the middle and lower
112 reaches are dominated by plains and hills (Figure 1a–c), forming the youngest delta in China
113 (Wang et al., 2022). Nearly 90% of the sediment originates from the middle reaches, and 60% of
114 the river runoff originates from the upper reaches (Wang et al., 2017; Zhu et al., 2021; Chang et
115 al., 2022).

116 The Yellow River provides water to 15% of China's arable land and 12% of the
117 population, accounting for 2.2% of the national runoff (Yin et al., 2021). It is characterized by
118 water shortages, less water and more sediment, and different sources of water and sediment
119 (Wang et al., 2019). With the gradual implementation of soil and water conservation and
120 ecological restoration projects, the intensity of soil erosion in the Loess Plateau has decreased
121 significantly, and the sediment load in the main stream of the Yellow River has shown a
122 significant downward trend over the past 20 years (Syvitski et al., 2022). However, with the
123 increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, particularly rainstorms and
124 droughts, changes in hydrological processes in the YRB are aggravating, posing challenges to
125 water resource management, flood prevention, and water and sediment regulation in the basin
126 (Lv et al., 2018; Shao et al., 2021).

127 2.2 Datasets

128 Sentinel-2 multispectral remote sensing images were used as the main data source
129 (Drusch et al., 2012), and Sentinel-1 SAR images were used for detailed compensation. The
130 Sentinel-2 Level-2A products provide orthorectified atmospherically corrected surface
131 reflectance and can be freely obtained on the GEE platform. A total of 6,357 Sentinel-2 images
132 were selected between January 2019 and December 2019. Considering the shortage of Sentinel-2
133 images with cloud cover of less than 20% in cloudy areas and data-missing regions, Sentinel-1
134 Ground Range Detected (GRD) products were selected as supplements.

135 The Advanced Land Observing Satellite (ALOS) World 3D-30 m (AW3D30) Digital
136 Surface Model (DSM) was obtained by resampling the AW3D product with a spatial resolution
137 of 30 m and a vertical accuracy of 5 m (Tadono et al., 2014). Among the publicly available
138 global digital elevation model (DEM) datasets, AW3D30 has the highest accuracy in
139 mountainous areas (Liu et al., 2019; P. Li et al., 2021). Therefore, we used AW3D30 as auxiliary
140 data to represent the topographic relief and constrain the river flow direction in the YRB.

141 Other datasets included the GSW dataset, ERSI 2020 Land Cover data, and the fifth-
142 generation ECMWF reanalysis (ERA5) dataset. The GSW dataset is used to verify the accuracy
143 of the results. ERSI 2020 Land Cover data were used to generate scatter density maps of water
144 and non-water samples and determine the threshold for water body extraction. These data can be
145 accessed from the GEE's public data catalog. Temperature, precipitation, and evaporation were
146 derived from ERA5 to evaluate the impact of climate change on river surface area.

147 2.3 Methods

148 Figure 2 shows the workflow of the proposed method. The process of river network
 149 generation mainly includes the following two parts: (1) water body extraction by median
 150 composite generation and threshold segmentation algorithms based on filtered Sentinel-2
 151 multispectral and Sentinel-1 SAR images, and (2) river network extraction based on AW3D30
 152 DSM flow modeling, noise removal, and connectivity processing.

153 2.3.1 Water Body Extraction

154 For the Sentinel-2 multispectral images, in order to effectively reduce the impact of
 155 omission errors from clouds and cloud shadow detection, opaque clouds and cirrus clouds were
 156 removed using the QA60 band on GEE. The position of the cloud shadow was determined based
 157 on the solar geometric angle and elevation angle attributes of each image, and dark pixels
 158 generated by the cloud shadow were masked. These filtered images were clipped to the study
 159 area to derive a median composite with a cloud cover limit of less than 20%.

160 The median image composite method was computationally efficient and robust. Sentinel-
 161 2 images processed by cloud filtering every month were collected, and the median of each pixel
 162 value was calculated to generate a composite image every month. This method was also applied
 163 to Sentinel-1 images after filtering. Compared to a single Sentinel-1 image, the median
 164 composite image can suppress speckle noise (Figure S1).

165 We used Simple Non-Iterative Clustering (SNIC) superpixels segmentation algorithm
 166 combining decision trees to segment water bodies (Wang et al., 2023) (Figure S2 and S6). Using
 167 superpixels as subsequent processing units can greatly accelerate data processing efficiency and
 168 reduce the complexity of identifying water bodies.

169 We then combined the automatic water extraction index (AWEI) (Feyisa et al., 2014),
 170 modified normalized difference water index (MNDWI) (Xu, 2006), normalized difference
 171 vegetation index (NDVI) (Rouse et al., 1974), and enhanced vegetation index (EVI) (Huete et
 172 al., 2002) to distinguish between water bodies and non-water areas in Sentinel-2 images (Zou et
 173 al., 2018; Deng et al., 2019). The AWEI is divided into $AWEI_{nsh}$ and $AWEI_{sh}$ based on the
 174 difference in noise sources produced by different types of areas. $AWEI_{nsh}$ can effectively
 175 eliminate non-water pixels on dark building surfaces in urban background areas, that is for
 176 situations where shadows are not the main noise. $AWEI_{sh}$ works mainly for situations in which
 177 shadows are the main problem. These indices are defined as follows:

$$178 \quad AWEI_{nsh} = 4 \times (\rho_{Green} - \rho_{SWIR1}) - (0.25 \times \rho_{NIR} + 2.75 \times \rho_{SWIR2}) \quad (1)$$

$$179 \quad AWEI_{sh} = \rho_{Blue} + 2.5 \times \rho_{Green} - 1.5 \times (\rho_{NIR} + \rho_{SWIR1}) - 0.25 \times \rho_{SWIR2} \quad (2)$$

$$180 \quad MNDWI = \frac{\rho_{Green} - \rho_{SWIR1}}{\rho_{Green} + \rho_{SWIR1}} \quad (3)$$

$$181 \quad EVI = 2.5 \times \frac{(\rho_{NIR} - \rho_{Red})}{(1 + \rho_{NIR} + 6 \times \rho_{Red} - 7.5 \times \rho_{Blue})} \quad (4)$$

$$182 \quad NDVI = \frac{\rho_{NIR} - \rho_{Red}}{\rho_{NIR} + \rho_{Red}} \quad (5)$$

183 where ρ_{Blue} , ρ_{Green} , ρ_{Red} , ρ_{NIR} , ρ_{SWIR1} , and ρ_{SWIR2} are the surface reflectance values of the Sentinel-
 184 2 Blue (band 2), green (band 3), red (band 4), NIR (band 8), SWIR1 (band 11), and SWIR2
 185 (band 12) bands, respectively. These bands were resampled to 10 m.

186 We collected 19,998 samples, including 10,093 water samples and 9,905 non-water
 187 samples (see Text S1) and generated scatter density maps for water and non-water bodies (Figure
 188 S4). Of the non-water sample points, 99.81% had $MNDWI-EVI < 0$, whereas 92.39% of the water
 189 sample points had $MNDWI-EVI > 0$ (Figure S4e). Of the non-water sample points, 99.83% had
 190 $MNDWI-NDVI < 0$, whereas 91.43% of the water sample points had $MNDWI-NDVI > 0$ (Figure
 191 S4f). Furthermore, 95.31% of the water sample points show $AWEI_{nsh} > -0.6$ (Figure S4g),
 192 whereas 91.21% of the water sample points show $AWEI_{sh} > 0$ (Figure S4h). Therefore, we
 193 proposed a new threshold segmentation algorithm for Sentinel-2 water body detection, that is,
 194 only the pixels meeting the criteria ($(AWEI_{nsh} > -0.6$ or $AWEI_{sh} > 0)$ and $(MNDWI > EVI$ or
 195 $MNDWI > NDVI)$) were classified as open surface water pixels, and the remaining were
 196 classified as non-water pixels. Paddy fields with spectral and water color characteristics similar
 197 to those of rivers can easily cause confusion and reduce the accuracy of river network extraction.
 198 The NDVI time-series features of the water objects were analyzed to eliminate paddy fields from
 199 the results (Figure S5).

200 We marked pixels in the missing areas of the Sentinel-2 images as no data and replaced
 201 them with SAR water extraction results after completing the Sentinel-2 water extraction. For
 202 Sentinel-1 SAR images, we used a refined Lee filter to suppress speckle noise while preserving
 203 the image details (Lee et al., 1999; Amitrano et al., 2018). This filter uses a non-square edge
 204 direction window to maintain the edge information, and all elements of the covariance matrix are
 205 filtered using the same parameters to prevent crosstalk between the channels. By calculating
 206 Sentinel-1 Dual-Polarized Water Index (SDWI) (Jia et al., 2019), the difference between water
 207 and non-water bodies are amplified, making the histogram of water bodies resemble a bimodal
 208 distribution. Then, the water threshold in block processing was obtained using the maximum
 209 inter-class difference threshold segmentation (OTSU) algorithm to segment and binarize the
 210 Sentinel-1 median composite images (Otsu, 1979).

211 2.3.2 River Networks Extraction

212 The river centerline was extracted using the RivWidthCloud algorithm proposed by Yang
 213 et al. (2020), which can be directly invoked on the GEE platform. The algorithm was based on
 214 the results of the binary river networks, which were divided into three steps: (1) calculation of
 215 the distance between each river pixel and the nearest non-river pixel, (2) convolution of the
 216 distance map to obtain the gradient map, and (3) skeletonization and refinement iterations
 217 (Figure S7).

218 Owing to the interference of non-water features, such as mountain shadows, snow, and
 219 ice, there are errors in the water body extraction results. We used the AW3D30 DSM data to fill
 220 in the depressions, calculate the D8 flow direction (Greenlee, 1987), estimate confluence
 221 accumulations, construct river network models, and generate buffers. This method can
 222 effectively reduce the errors caused by mountain shadows and maximally preserve the integrity
 223 of water information.

224 The flow model constructed using the AW3D30 DSM considers the adjacency
 225 relationship between river pixels and can generate continuous river networks. Therefore, we

226 fused it with river network results extracted from remote sensing images, made directional
227 connections to the fractured river networks, and generated an accurate and continuous river
228 network with a spatial resolution of 10 m. Next, we compared the extracted results with those
229 extracted from existing river network datasets and existing algorithms and quantitatively
230 evaluated the accuracy of the results in terms of river length, river system density, and river
231 network surface area.

232 **3 Results**

233 Figure S10 shows the dynamic changes in monthly river networks in the YRB in 2019.
234 River density, that is, the ratio of river length to catchment area, increased from 0.038 km^{-1} in
235 January and February to 0.042 km^{-1} in March and April, owing to upstream melting. The rivers
236 developed rapidly in May and entered the wet season in July, which significantly improved the
237 connectivity of river networks. At this time, the total length of the river was 40280 km and the
238 density of the river system was 0.053 km^{-1} , both of which increased to the annual maximum.
239 After September, the density of the river system gradually decreased and the river entered a
240 normal period during the wet season.

241 To validate the reliability of our algorithm, we used 2,556 random “true water” sampling
242 points and 2,430 random “true non-water” points (Text S2 and Figure S8). The results indicated
243 that the overall accuracy was as high as 95.77%. The user accuracy, corresponding to the
244 commission error, reached 95.83%, whereas the producer accuracy, representing the omission
245 error, also reached a high level of 95.84% (Figure 4g and Table S1).

246 Furthermore, we compared our method (Figure 3c, 3g) with other algorithms for
247 detecting river networks using Sentinel-2 imagery, including MNDWI (Figure 3d, 3h), an
248 approach based on spectral indices and pixels (Zou et al., 2018) (Figure 3e, 3i), and the active-
249 passive surface water classification (APWC) method proposed by Slinski et al. (2019) (Figure 3f
250 and 3j). As there are many medium and large cities with dense populations in the main stream of
251 the YRB, some pixels in the area are always covered by shadows because high-rise buildings are
252 too high or the floor spacing is too small. The proposed algorithm effectively suppressed this
253 type of shadow noise. Note that our algorithm does not require manual editing or data annotation,
254 which makes it possible to realize the automatic mapping of large-scale river networks with high
255 spatial resolution on a high-performance computing platform.

256 **4 Discussion**

257 The results were superimposed on the GRWL and GSW datasets to qualitatively evaluate
258 the spatial distribution and details of the river networks (Figure 4). The results show that our
259 method can more effectively enhance the contrast between the fine river and the surrounding
260 background, and can extract more small rivers (Figure 4a-f). However, river networks were the
261 most accurate and complete when the river width was greater than 30 m, whereas broken river
262 lines may exist in areas less than 30 m wide. In addition, the influence of ice and snow cover on
263 river extraction errors cannot be completely eliminated in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

264 We further calculated the drainage density and open water fraction (OWF, i.e., the ratio
265 of the water surface area to the catchment area) and quantified the accuracy of our extraction
266 results using existing river network datasets. The drainage density of Yellow River networks
267 map we determined is approximately three times higher than that of the existing GRWL and
268 GSW datasets. The OWF index of the Yellow River network map was approximately 3.2 times

269 that of the GRWL dataset. The GSW dataset contained artificial wetlands that were not
270 considered part of the river networks in this study. Therefore, the OWF index of the GSW
271 dataset is higher than that of our results. The superior performance of our method can be
272 attributed to the following reasons: first, we used Sentinel-2 imagery with high spatial resolution
273 to extract more small streams than Landsat images. Second, the use of Sentinel-1 to compensate
274 for areas of Sentinel-2 images with clouds and missing data can improve temporal resolution and
275 capture monthly changes in the YRB (Figure S9).

276 The rules established by Yan et al. (2019) were used to define and code river networks
277 that could describe the topological relationships, hierarchical structures, and hydraulic
278 connections of rivers at the same or different levels. The river lengths in our dataset were
279 compared to those in the GRWL and Global River Network (GRN) datasets (Yan et al., 2019) in
280 Figure 4h. Overall, the total length of the connected rivers provided in our results was 28,587 km
281 longer than all rivers in the GRWL dataset, and 19,389 km longer than all rivers in the GRN
282 dataset. Particularly, the length of connected river in our dataset is even longer than the length of
283 level ≥ 4 rivers in the GRWL dataset and GRN dataset, indicating that our results have a better
284 coverage of medium and high-level rivers (Figure S11).

285 At the catchment scale, the scale dependence of runoff was attributed to spatial
286 differences in precipitation, lithology, channel width, and catchment morphology. Assuming that
287 the soil water content is negligible, the change in catchment area depends mainly on the
288 difference between precipitation and evaporation. Figure 4i indicates that the change in the water
289 surface area during the rainy season was significantly greater than that during the dry season.
290 The minimum area of the river networks appeared in January, with a total area of 8,306 km² and
291 the maximum area occurred in August, with a total area of 10,267 km². Precipitation and
292 evaporation in the YRB were positively correlated with monthly changes in river network area.
293 Considering that the average monthly precipitation is 10-20 times that of evaporation, the
294 catchment area is primarily controlled by precipitation changes. The area of the river networks
295 changed with seasonal fluctuations in precipitation, increasing after the spring and summer rainy
296 seasons and decreasing in autumn and winter.

297 **5 Conclusions**

298 Studies on the impacts of climate change and human activity on river basins are highly
299 dependent on the spatial and temporal distributions of river networks. However, the lack of
300 accurate river networks with high spatiotemporal resolution in many regions makes these
301 impacts poorly understood. In this study, we proposed a method for generating catchment-scale
302 continuous river network maps for every month by integrating Sentinel-1 SAR and Sentinel-2
303 multispectral images with AW3D30 DSM data. This method can reveal detailed information on
304 small and medium-sized rivers, with the length of the connected rivers being three times that of
305 the existing datasets. The proposed detection rule can be used to extract large river network areas
306 rapidly. The error caused by water spectral and morphological diversity as well as seasonal
307 changes is reduced to the greatest extent, which makes large-scale and long-term water
308 extraction more universal.

309 Compared to existing water extraction algorithms, the proposed method demonstrates its
310 capability and effectiveness in the shadow noise environment of urban high-rise buildings and
311 mountainous areas, indicating that it has certain advantages over other single water indices. In
312 addition, compared to existing river network products, this method improves the extraction area

313 of water and the extraction rate of small rivers. Therefore, it provides an alternative economic
 314 means for the long-term monitoring of river network changes, quantifying, and understanding the
 315 contribution of human activities and climate change to river channel evolution. In the future,
 316 further integration of the Surface Water and Ocean Topography mission will facilitate the rapid
 317 acquisition of river width, elevation, and discharge parameters on a global scale.

318 **Open Research**

319 The codes and river network maps of the Yellow River Basin are available in Zenodo (Li et al.,
 320 2023). Sentinel-1, Sentinel-2, AW3D30, and GSW datasets used in this study are available at
 321 GEE (<https://developers.google.com/earth-engine/datasets/>). ESRI 2020 Land Cover is freely
 322 available at <https://livingatlas.arcgis.com>. The ERA5 datasets are available from the Copernicus
 323 ECMWF Climate Data Store (Muñoz Sabater, 2019).

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498 **Figure 1.** Location of the study area. (a) Upper reaches, (b) middle reaches, and (c) lower
499 reaches in the Yellow River Basin were derived from Sentinel-2 RGB imagery. Note that, RGB
500 bands include band 4 (red), band 3 (green), and band 2 (blue).

501 **Figure 2.** Workflow of river networks extraction in the Yellow River Basin.

502 **Figure 3.** Comparisons of the results of this method with other methods. Typical city (a) and
503 mountain area (b) correspond to Figure 1a and 1b; (c) and (g) show the results of our method; (d)
504 and (h) present the results of MNDWI; (e) and (i) are the results of Zou et al. (2018); (f) and (j)
505 are the results of the APWC method proposed by Slinski et al. (2019).

506 **Figure 4.** Comparisons with different river datasets and our results. The base map shows Yellow
507 River networks results and the existing the Global River Widths from Landsat (GRWL) database.
508 (a), (c), and (e) Water surface results of the existing Global Surface Water (GSW) dataset. (b),
509 (d), and (f) Water surface results of our method. (g) Confusion matrix for the automated
510 accuracy assessment of our method. (h) Comparison of the river length (km) in the results of this
511 study, GRWL dataset and Global River Networks (GRN) dataset. (i) The relationship between
512 the surface area (yellow line), precipitation (blue column), temperature (red line), and
513 evaporation (green line) in the Yellow River Basin.

514

Figure 1.

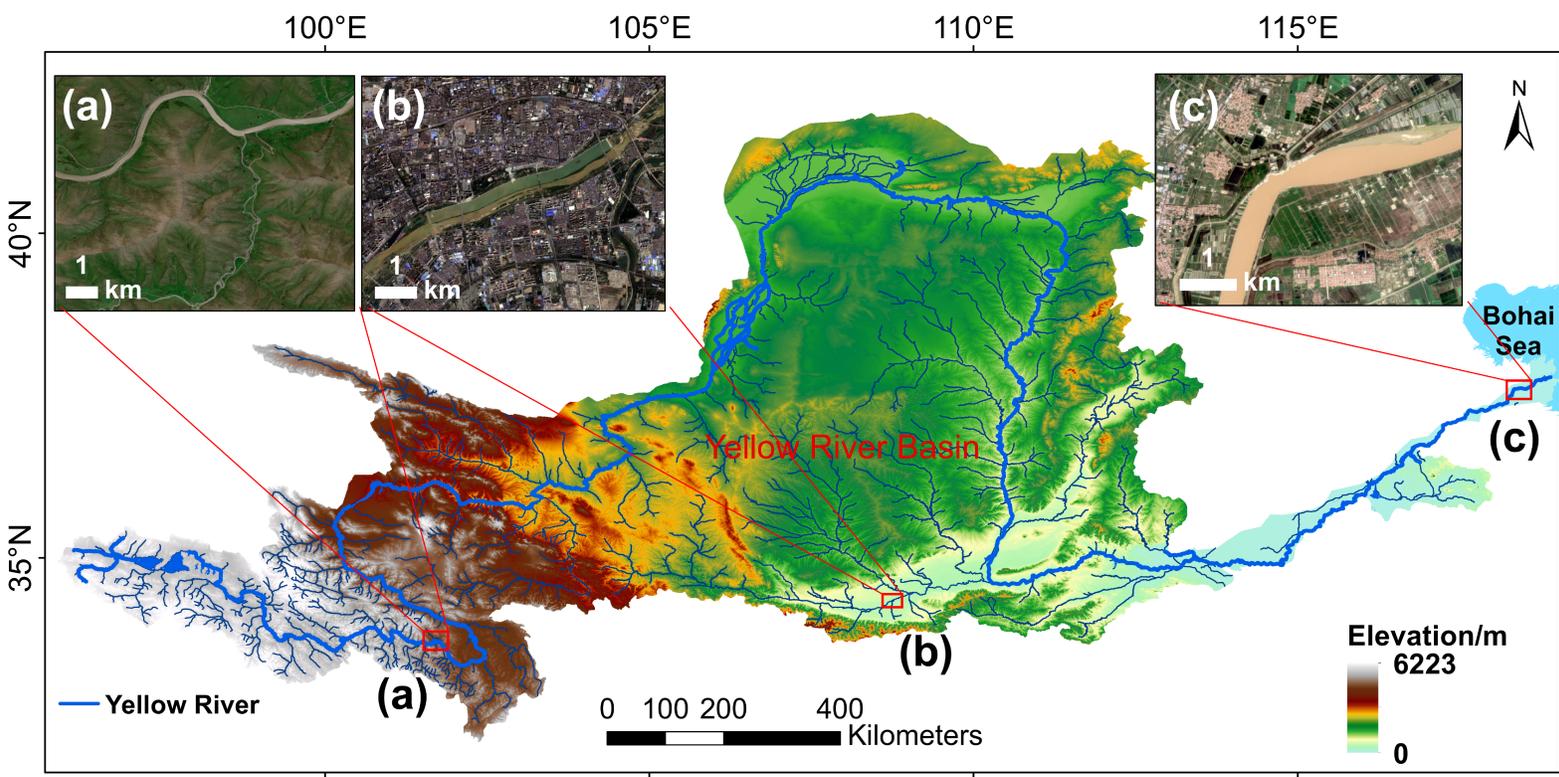


Figure 2.


 Google Earth Engine

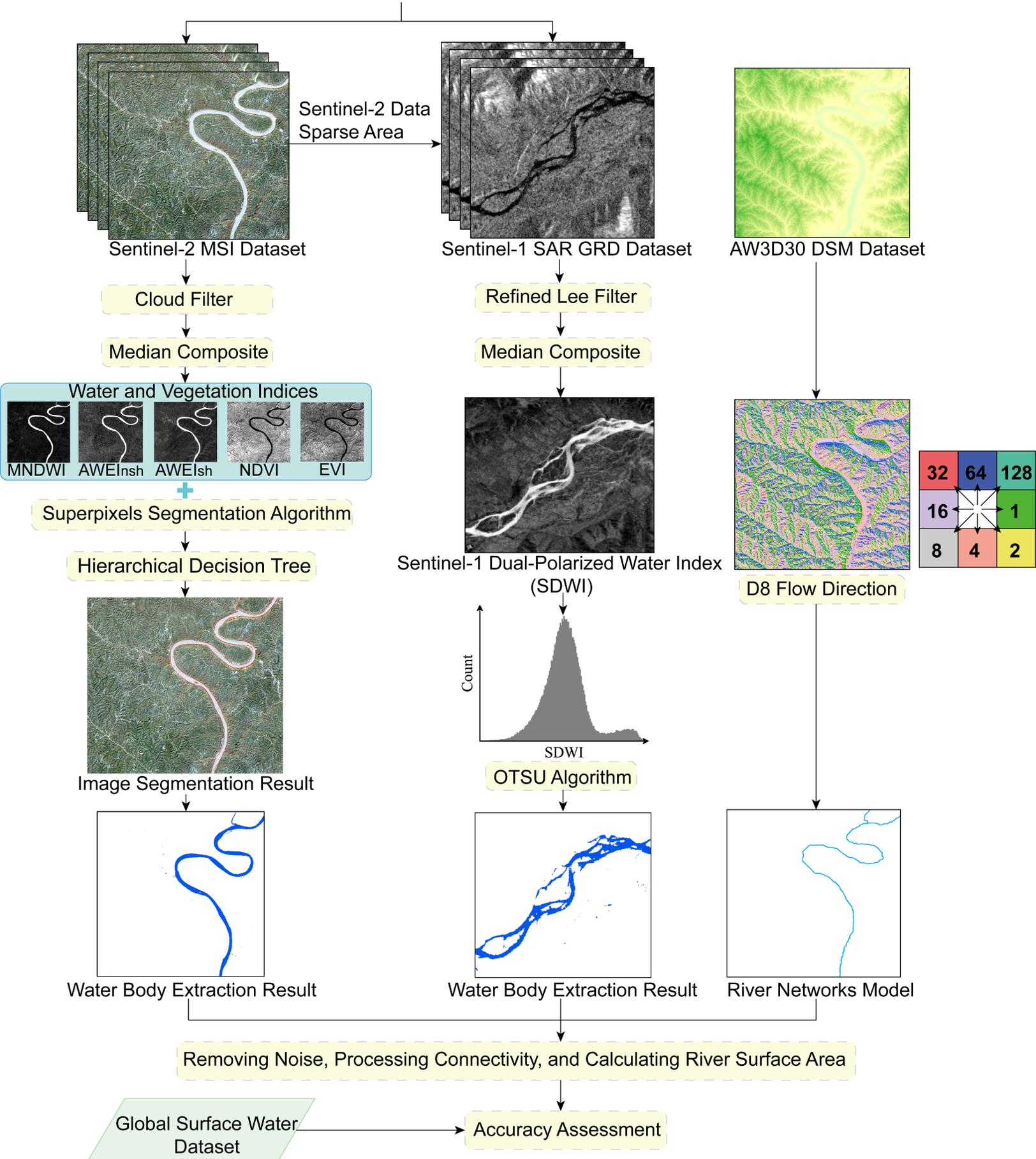


Figure 3.

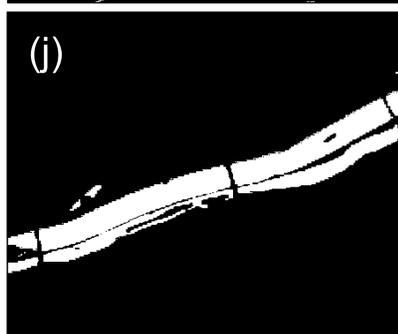
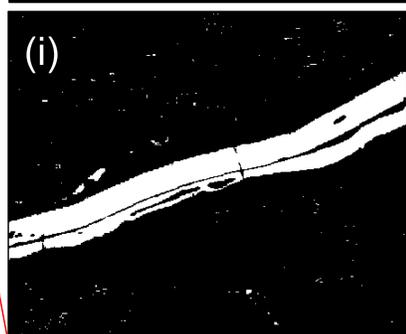
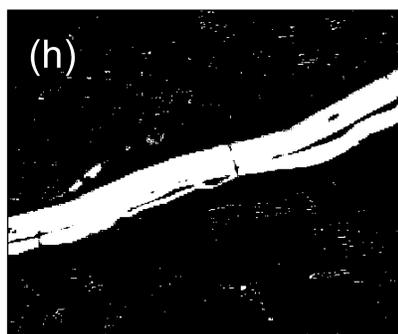
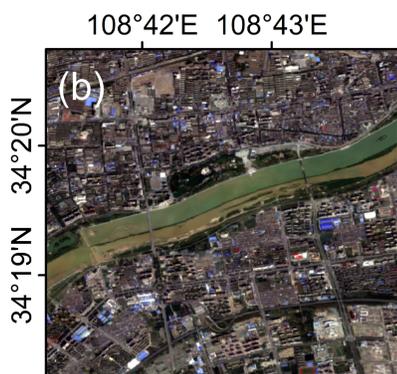
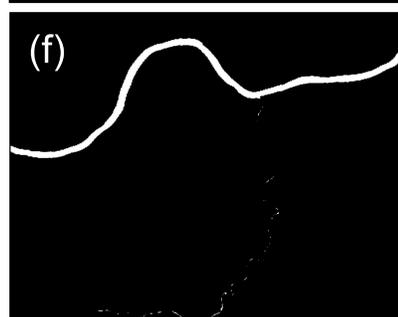
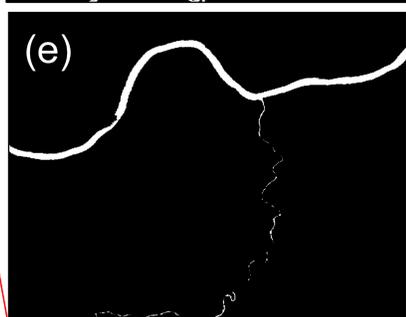
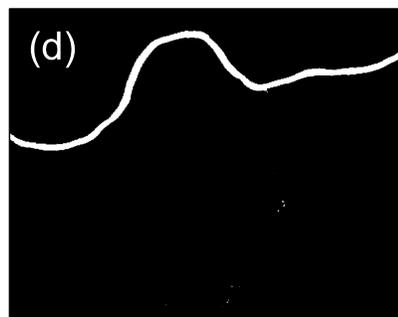
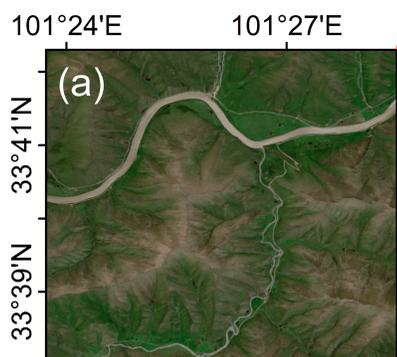


Figure 4.

