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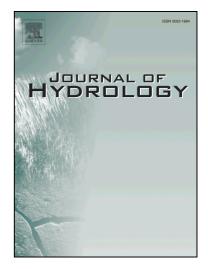
### Research papers

Unsupervised Ensemble Kalman Filtering with an Uncertain Constraint for Land Hydrological Data Assimilation

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# ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

## Unsupervised Ensemble Kalman Filtering with an Uncertain Constraint for Land Hydrological Data Assimilation

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#### Abstract

The standard ensemble data assimilation schemes often violate the dynamical balances of hydro-1 logical models, in particular, the fundamental water balance equation, which relates water storage 2 and water flux changes. The present study aims at extending the recently introduced Weak Con-3 strained Ensemble Kalman Filter (WCEnKF) to a more general framework, namely unsupervised WCEnKF (UWCEnKF), in which the covariance of the water balance model is no longer known, 5 thus requiring its estimation along with the model state variables. This extension is introduced 6 because WCEnKF was found to be strongly sensitive to the (manual) choice of this covariance. The 7 proposed UWCEnKF, on the other hand, provides a more general unsupervised framework that 8 does not impose any (manual, thus heuristic) value of this covariance, but suggests an estimation 9 of it, from the observations, along with the state. The new approach is tested based on numerical 10 experiments of assimilating Terrestrial Water Storage (TWS) from Gravity Recovery and Climate 11 Experiment (GRACE) and remotely sensed soil moisture data into a hydrological model. The 12 experiments are conducted over different river basins, comparing WCEnKF, UWCEnKF, and the 13 standard EnKF. In this setup, the UWCEnKF constrains the system state variables with TWS 14 changes, precipitation, evaporation, and discharge data to balance the summation of water storage 15 simulations. In-situ groundwater and soil moisture measurements are used to validate the results of 16 the UWCEnKF and to evaluate its performances against the EnKF. Our numerical results clearly 17 suggest that the proposed framework provides more accurate estimates of groundwater storage 18 changes and soil moisture than WCEnKF and EnKF over the different studied basins. 19

*Keywords:* Constrained data assimilation, Ensemble Kalman Filter (EnKF), Unsupervised Weak Constrained Ensemble Kalman Filter (UWCEnKF), Water budget closure, Hydrological modeling.

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