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3 **Runoff sources and land cover change in the Amazon: An end member mixing analysis**  
4 **from small watersheds**

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30 flow; soil solution

31

**32 Abstract**

33           The flowpaths by which water moves from watersheds to streams has important  
34 consequences for the runoff dynamics and biogeochemistry of surface waters in the Amazon  
35 Basin. The clearing of Amazon forest to cattle pasture has the potential to change runoff sources  
36 to streams by shifting runoff to more surficial flow pathways. We applied end member mixing  
37 analysis (EMMA) to ten small watersheds throughout the Amazon in which solute composition  
38 of streamwater and groundwater, overland flow, soil solution, throughfall and rainwater were  
39 measured, largely as part of the Large-Scale Biosphere-Atmosphere Experiment in Amazonia.  
40 We found a range in the extent to which streamwater samples fell within the mixing space  
41 determined by potential flowpath end members, suggesting that some water sources to streams  
42 were not sampled. The contribution of overland flow as a source of stream flow was greater in  
43 pasture watersheds than in forest watersheds of comparable size. Increases in overland flow  
44 contribution to pasture streams ranged in some cases from 0% in forest to 27 to 28% in pasture  
45 and were broadly consistent with results from hydrometric sampling of Amazon forest and  
46 pasture watersheds that indicate 17- to 18-fold increase in the overland flow contribution to  
47 stream flow in pastures. In forest, overland flow was an important contribution to stream flow  
48 (45 to 57%) in ephemeral streams where flows were dominated by stormflow. Overland flow  
49 contribution to stream flow decreased in importance with increasing watershed area, from 21 to  
50 57% in forest and 60 to 89% in pasture watersheds <10 ha to 0% in forest and 27 to 28% in  
51 pastures in watersheds >100 ha. Soil solution contributions to stream flow were similar across  
52 watershed area and groundwater inputs generally increased in proportion to decreases in  
53 overland flow. Application of EMMA across multiple watersheds indicated patterns across

54 gradients of stream size and land cover that were consistent with patterns determined by detailed  
55 hydrometric sampling.

## 56 **Introduction**

57 The Amazon region encompasses the world's largest river basin and the largest area of  
58 extant tropical forest. Since the 1970s, more tropical forest has been cleared in the Amazon  
59 Basin than in any other tropical forest region and non-forest land now comprises nearly 20% of  
60 the Brazilian Amazon (Fearnside 2005; Simon and Garagorry 2005; INPE 2010). Cattle pasture,  
61 which historically has been the main driver for Amazon forest clearing, continues to be the most  
62 extensive use of cleared land in the Amazon (Buschbacher 1986; INPE 2010).

63 Conversion of Amazon forest to pasture has altered watershed hydrological processes by  
64 shifting the sources of water to stream flow to more rapid surface-dominated flowpaths because  
65 of soil compaction and decreased soil hydraulic conductivity associated with cattle grazing  
66 (Biggs et al. 2006; Moraes et al. 2006; Zimmermann et al. 2006; Germer et al. 2009; Germer et  
67 al. 2010). This alteration not only affects the transport of water to streams but has broader  
68 implications for watershed biogeochemistry because it alters the potential for transport of  
69 sediments and dissolved materials (Williams and Melack 1997; Neill et al. 2001; Davidson et al.  
70 2004; Biggs et al. 2006; Germer et al. 2009). It also influences biogeochemical transformations  
71 as shifts in flowpaths modify water contact with reactive surfaces, redox conditions and chemical  
72 environments (Hill 1990; Creed et al. 1996; Boyer et al. 1997; Hill et al. 2000, McClain et al.  
73 2003; Chaves et al. 2009). To date, the effects of land use on the distribution of water sources to  
74 streams have been quantified in several small catchments, but these have not been examined in

75 multiple basins across different watershed sizes or across the diversity of topographic settings  
76 and soils that make up the Amazon basin as a whole.

77 End member mixing analysis (EMMA) can identify the water sources within catchments  
78 that contribute to stream flow (Christophersen et al. 1990; Christophersen and Hooper 1992).  
79 This approach assumes that the chemistry of streamwater is the product of a mixture of discrete  
80 “sources” within catchments, in which solutes behave conservatively as they travel to streams.  
81 EMMA has been used to quantify groundwater, soil solution and overland flow sources to small  
82 streams in both temperate (Genereux et al. 1993; Mulholland 1993; Burns et al. 2001; Hooper  
83 2001) and tropical (Elsenbeer et al. 1995; Chaves et al. 2008) settings. EMMA offers a way of  
84 using comparable datasets on the chemistry of water sources and streamwater to compare water  
85 sources to streams across multiple catchments. We compiled data on the chemistry of  
86 streamwater and the chemistry of specific hydrologic flowpaths from studies of ten small  
87 Amazon catchments. These catchments represented a range of forest, pasture and mixed forest  
88 and pasture land use. We used EMMA to quantify the contribution of different hydrologic  
89 flowpaths to stream flows. Our objectives were to: (1) identify trends in water sources to stream  
90 flow across forest watersheds that could be determined from solute concentrations in  
91 streamwater and potential flowpath sources and compared with direct hydrometric  
92 measurements, (2) compare water sources in forest and pasture watersheds to identify the effects  
93 of land conversion on flowpath structure, and (3) examine how sources changed across a range  
94 of watershed scales.

## 95 **Methods**

96 Study sites

97           We derived data from published studies and unpublished results from sites examined  
98   under LBA that ranged from zero-order intermittent streams to third-order perennial streams  
99   (Fig. 1). Catchments ranged from 0.7 to 10,000 ha and included six forest watersheds, three  
100   pasture watersheds and one watershed that contained mixed forest and pasture. Soil types across  
101   sites were predominantly Ultisols with only one site (Vitória) on Oxisols (Table 1).

102           Nova Vida contained two pairs of second-order perennial forest and pasture streams  
103   (Neill et al. 2006). The catchments consisted of broad areas of rolling hills bisected by distinct  
104   floodplains 20 to 50 m wide. The pastures in both catchments were created directly from forest  
105   cleared in 1989. Bedrock was predominantly Pre-Cambrian granite and soils were predominantly  
106   Kandiudults and Paleudults.

107           Rancho Grande contained adjacent forest and pasture catchments that drained to 0-order  
108   streams (Chaves et al. 2008; Germer et al. 2009). The forest stream was ephemeral and flowed  
109   mostly during storms. The pasture stream was intermittent and flowed nearly continuously  
110   during the wet season. The pasture was cleared in 1985 and planted to pasture in 1986. The  
111   bedrock was predominantly granite and gneiss, which has eroded into a low relief landscape of  
112   flat valley floors with gently rolling slopes bound by steep ridges as high as 150 m. Streams  
113   originated in areas of low relief on the plateaus approximately 50 to 100 m upstream of larger  
114   perennial streams. Soils were Kandiudults.

115           Fazenda Vitória in Paragominas contained a large perennial second-order stream that  
116   drained a mixture of forest and pasture (Markewitz et al. 2001; Markewitz et al. 2004). Forest  
117   was originally cleared for pasture in 1969. The catchment topography consisted of broad plateaus

118 bisected by the stream channel. The bedrock was predominantly granitic and soils were primarily  
119 Haplustoxes on plateaus and Plinthustults on side slopes.

120 Juruena was an undisturbed forest catchment on Ultisols drained by a small, perennial  
121 first-order stream (Johnson et al. 2006). Topography was gently undulating typical of the  
122 Brazilian shield on granitic bedrock and the stream was located in a narrow (0.5 m) riparian zone  
123 that originated at the base of the hillslope. Soils were Ultisols.

124 La Cuenca was an undisturbed forest catchment that contained a first-order stream. The  
125 catchment had a narrow valley floor, pronounced headwater gullies and steep slopes (Elsenbeer  
126 et al. 1992). Soils were Ultisols.

127 Nossa Senhora was a pasture catchment that was deforested in the late 1970s and early  
128 1980s (Biggs et al. 2006). There was no natural channel and compacted cattle paths routed  
129 overland flow to the base of the hillslope. The catchment contained gentle slopes of 1 to 3% with  
130 a steeper slope to a 25-m wide near-stream zone. The catchment was on gneissic bedrock and  
131 Paleudults.

#### 132 Data sources

133 We assembled cation and anion concentration data from streamwater and from catchment  
134 sources of water that were potential sources of stream flows at each site. These included rain,  
135 groundwater, soil solution, throughfall and overland flow. The location of groundwater sampling  
136 varied among plateau, the riparian zone and springs. All potential sources were sampled during  
137 the same time period at each site except for the two exceptions noted below. Streamwater  
138 samples reflected the representative flows at each site and were predominantly baseflow in

139 perennial streams (Nova Vida, Vitória, La Cuenca, Juruena) and stormflows in ephemeral  
140 streams (Rancho Grande, Nossa Senhora).

141 At Nova Vida potential forest and pasture sources sampled were rain, groundwater and  
142 soil solution at 30 and 100 cm collected with tension lysimeters. Throughfall was sampled in  
143 forest and overland flow was sampled in pasture. No overland flow was captured by collectors in  
144 the forest. All Nova Vida water chemistry data spanned seven water years (1994-2001) during  
145 which periodic samplings were conducted both during the rainy and dry seasons (Neill et al.  
146 2001). Streamwater samples were collected by grab sampling predominantly during baseflows  
147 across rainy and dry seasons.

148 At Rancho Grande sources sampled in both forest and pasture were rain, groundwater,  
149 soil solution from tension lysimeters at depths of 20 and 100 cm and overland flow. Throughfall  
150 was also sampled in the forest. All Rancho Grande water chemistry data spanned one rainy  
151 season from August 2004 to April 2005 (Chaves et al. 2008; Germer et al. 2009). Streamwater  
152 samples were collected during events by Isco<sup>®</sup> automatic water samplers over periods of three to  
153 about 24 hours when water was flowing.

154 At Fazenda Vitória we sampled rain, groundwater from upland, near-stream and  
155 hyporheic zones, soil solution collected with tension lysimeters at a depth of 20 cm and overland  
156 flow. Groundwater, soil solution and overland flow were collected in both forest and pasture  
157 portions of the watershed. All Vitória water chemistry data spanned seven water years (1994-  
158 2001). Streamwater samples were collected by grab sampling across a range of streamwater  
159 levels during the rainy season (Markewitz et al. 2004). These samples represented predominantly  
160 rainy season baseflow but included some samples at moderate stormflows.



161 At Juruena, we sampled were rain, groundwater (including spring water), throughfall and  
162 overland flow. Because no soil solution data were available, soil solution collected in a forested  
163 watershed on similar soils at Fazenda Nova Vida was tested as potential end member. All water  
164 chemistry data for Juruena were collected during two years (Nov. 2003 to Nov. 2005).  
165 Streamwater sampling was by grab sampling of baseflow at an average interval of 10 d, and  
166 stormflow samples for three rain events during that period (Johnson et al. 2006).

167 At La Cuenca we sampled rain, groundwater, soil solution at a depth of 30 cm with  
168 tension lysimeters, throughfall and overland flow. Streamwater chemistry was based on sampling  
169 stormflow during five rain events between March and September 1988 (Elsenbeer et al. 1996).

170 At Nossa Senhora, catchment sources were groundwater and overland flow. Nossa  
171 Senhora water chemistry was from stormflows during six rain events between September and  
172 November 2002 (Biggs et al. 2006). Stormflow was collected from water draining to the base of  
173 the hillslope. Because our initial EMMA results suggested an unsampled end member and  
174 because no *in situ* soil solution chemistry data were available for Nossa Senhora, we added data  
175 on soil solution from the Rancho Grande pasture watershed on a similar Ultisol as a potential end  
176 member (Biggs et al. 2006).

#### 177 Data analysis

178 We used a multivariate end member mixing analysis technique based on principal  
179 component analysis (PCA) (Christophersen and Hooper 1992, Hooper 2003) to identify potential  
180 sources of stream flow (i.e., the end members), and calculate their relative contribution. The  
181 purpose of the PCA is to find a “lower-dimensional” space,  $U$ , which allows for the use of an  
182 over-determined set of equations in which more solute tracers than necessary are used to solve

183 for the end-members proportions, while incorporating most of the variance associated with the  
 184 tracers. The dimensionality of  $U$  space, and hence the maximum number of end members  
 185 that can be resolved, is determined by the number of vectors ( $m$ ) retained from the PCA. In  
 186 this study, we retained two vectors from the PCAs for each site, which allowed solving for a  
 187 maximum of three end members, and to conveniently display and analyze the mixing space as a  
 188 two-dimensional “mixing diagram.” The decision to solve for either two or three end members  
 189 for a particular set of observations was based on the spread of the data between potential end  
 190 members on the mixing diagrams and information about the nature of the flow data (i.e., base v.  
 191 stormflow).

192 For the actual analyses standardized (mean centered and scaled to standard  
 193 deviation) stream chemistry observations ( $n$ ) and median end-member concentrations for  
 194 each of the solutes available at each site ( $p$ ) were projected onto the  $m$ -dimensional  $U$  space  
 195 by the orthogonal projection

$$196 \quad \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{X} \mathbf{V}^T \quad (1)$$

197 where  $\mathbf{U}$  is the  $n \times m$  projected data matrix,  $\mathbf{X}$  is the  $n \times p$  standardized data matrix, and  $\mathbf{V}$  is  
 198 the is the  $m \times p$  matrix of the retained eigenvectors. The projected end members that best  
 199 bounded the stream data in  $U$  space were chosen as end members for the mixing models in  
 200 each watershed.

201 The proportion of the chosen end member in each streamwater observation was  
 202 obtained by solving the following system of linear equations:

203  $1 = x + y + z$  (2)

204  $SW_{U1} = x EM_{1 U1} + y EM_{2 U1} + z EM_{3 U1}$  (3)

205  $SW_{U2} = x EM_{1 U2} + y EM_{2 U2} + z EM_{3 U2}$  (4)

206 where  $x, y,$  and  $z$  are the unknown proportions of each end member;  $SW_{U1}$  and  $SW_{U2}$  are the  
 207 coordinates in  $U$  space,  $U 1$  and  $U 2$ , for a streamwater observation. Likewise,  $EM_{n U1}$  and  
 208  $EM_{n U2}$  are the coefficients in  $U$  space for the  $n$ th end member. Equations 2 to 4 depict the  
 209 case for a three end member mixing scenario. Because of various sources of error, such as  
 210 non-conservative solute behavior, time-dependent end member variability, and/or  
 211 analytical uncertainty, some stream observations lie outside the mixing domain defined by  
 212 the end members chosen as sources of stream flow. The solutions to the above equations in  
 213 those cases result in end member fractions for which negative values are found. To  
 214 circumvent that problem, the outlier observations were perpendicularly projected to the  
 215 line joining the two non-zero end members and solved geometrically in  $U$  space as binary  
 216 mixtures of these two end members (Liu et al. 2004).

217 To examine pattern of sources across watersheds of different sizes, we plotted the  
 218 EMMA-derived flowpath contributions against watershed area. Flowpath contributions  
 219 were determined two ways: (1) as percent of total water yield from the watershed, and (2)  
 220 as total water yield. Comparisons of total yield allowed us to compare contributions in  
 221 pastures where the total water moving different flowpaths (e.g., overland flow) was much  
 222 greater than from forest. The contributions were determined only during the period of

223 streamwater sampling. For the smallest watersheds with ephemeral streams, this  
224 amounted to the time surface flow was present.

225 All data analyses were carried out in R version 2.7.0 (R Development Core Team  
226 2008).

## 227 **Results**

### 228 Solute and end member selection

229 In most cases the solutes  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  provided the clearest two-  
230 dimensional projections of the mixing space (Table 2). In two cases (Nova Vida and Rancho  
231 Grande pastures) addition of a fourth solute did not explain additional variation. In several  
232 other cases, inclusion of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  (Vitória), Si (La Cuenca) or  $\text{Cl}^-$  (Nossa Senhora) improved  
233 mixing space projections (Table 2). Groundwater was an end member in every catchment  
234 and soil solution was an end member in nine of ten catchments (Table 2). Overland flow  
235 was a third end member in the four Rondônia pasture catchments and either overland flow  
236 or throughfall were end members in the smallest forest catchments (Table 2).

### 237 Individual watershed end-member mixing

238 For the larger of the two forest watersheds at Nova Vida, most of the stream observations  
239 were distributed between soil solution and groundwater end members (Fig. 2). The EMMA  
240 identified groundwater as the major contributor to stream flow (94%), with the rest attributed to  
241 soil solution (Table 3). For the smaller forest watershed at Nova Vida, stream observations also  
242 fell between the soil solution and groundwater end members, although with considerably more

243 scatter. Groundwater was the largest contributor to stream flow (62%), while soil solution  
244 provided the remaining flow (38%) (Table 3).

245 In both pasture watersheds at Nova Vida, the stream observations were by overland flow,  
246 shallow soil solution and riparian groundwater (Fig. 2). The EMMA solutions for these two  
247 pasture catchments were nearly identical. Estimated contributions to flow from overland flow  
248 were 27 to 28%, from groundwater 26 to 30%, and from soil solution 43 to 46 % (Table 3).

249 In the forest watershed at Rancho Grande, stream observations for the first (“early”) and  
250 second (“late”) half of the rainy seasons were best bound by throughfall, groundwater, and  
251 shallow soil solution (Fig. 2). In the pasture, observations were distributed mostly between  
252 overland flow and groundwater, with less variability in streamwater tending towards soil solution  
253 (Fig. 2). Estimated contributions to flow for the entire rainy season in the Rancho Grande forest  
254 were 57% from throughfall, 24% from groundwater and 19% from shallow soil solution (Table  
255 3). In the pasture watershed at Rancho Grande, overland flow dominated stream flow at 60%,  
256 groundwater contribution was 35%, and soil solution was 5% (Table 3).

257 In the mixed land use watershed at Vitória, the set of end-members that bounded the  
258 largest number of stream observations in the mixing diagram were upland groundwater, near-  
259 stream groundwater and pasture overland flow (Fig 2). The EMMA found flow contributions at  
260 40% from upland groundwater, 23% from near stream groundwater, and 37% from pasture  
261 overland flow (Table 3).

262 The mixing diagram for the forest watershed at Juruena showed most of the baseflow  
263 stream observations distributed between the groundwater and the soil solution end members (Fig.  
264 2). Stormflow observations appear chemically distinct and plotted closer to the overland flow

265 end member on the mixing diagram (Fig. 2). To solve the EMMA we used groundwater, soil  
266 solution, and overland flow end members. Baseflow observations were solved as binary mixtures  
267 of the soil and groundwater end members given the distribution of the observation between these  
268 two components and the physical impossibility of overland flow to act as a source outside of  
269 precipitation events in this small (1.9 ha) watershed. Stormflow was solved as mixture of all  
270 three end members. Groundwater was as the main contributor to flow at approximately 60%  
271 during baseflow and stormflow, while soil solution provided the remaining 40% of baseflow  
272 (Table 3). The estimated contribution of overland flow to total stormflow was 21%.

273 In the forest watershed at La Cuenca, overland flow, soil solution, and groundwater were  
274 the end members that bounded the greatest number of stream observations in the mixing diagram  
275 (Fig. 2). The calculated contributions to flow were 45% from overland flow, 27% from soil  
276 solution and 28% from groundwater (Table 3).

277 In the pasture watershed at Nossa Senhora, most streamwater observations fell outside  
278 any potential mixing domain that could be created with any of the end members incorporated in  
279 the analysis, including those from the very similar pasture watershed at Rancho Grande (Fig. 2).  
280 Although, most stream observations plotted close to the overland flow end member, the  
281 observations tended towards the chemical signature of the Rancho Grande groundwater rather  
282 than that of groundwater. We solved the EMMA using overland flow, the Rancho Grande  
283 groundwater and soil solution end members. The contributions to flow calculated in this manner  
284 were 89% from overland flow, 11% from groundwater and < 1% from soil solution.

285 Patterns as a function of watershed size

286           The contribution of overland flow as a source of stream flow was always greater in  
287 pasture watersheds than in forest watersheds of comparable size (Fig. 3). This was true both  
288 when contributions were considered as a fraction of total flow or as the instantaneous water yield  
289 over the time that flow was logged at each site (Fig. 4). The contribution from soil solution  
290 remained relatively constant across watershed size. For groundwater, no clear pattern emerged  
291 with land use, while its role as a proportion of total flow increased significantly with watershed  
292 size (Fig. 3).

### 293 **Discussion**

294           Application of EMMA to watershed studies is most commonly performed in small well-  
295 instrumented and well-sampled watersheds where a qualitative understanding of source  
296 contributions to stream flow is developed from a detailed understanding of basin characteristics  
297 and hydrometric sampling (Elsenbeer and Lack 1996; Hooper 2001; Chaves et al. 2008). In these  
298 cases, EMMA can be used to test specific hypotheses about sources to stream flow and to  
299 determine if all potential sources have been identified in the case that stream flow samples fall  
300 outside the mixing space (Hooper et al. 2001). We found a wide range in the extent to which  
301 streamwater samples fell within the mixing space determined by the sources for which solute  
302 concentrations were available. For example, streamwater samples in forests at Nova Vida,  
303 Rancho Grande and Juruena and the mixed watershed at Vitória were well constrained by the  
304 sources sampled, but the forest at La Cuenca and the pastures at Nova Vida, Rancho Grande and  
305 Nossa Senhora were not. This suggests potentially (1) the existence of sources of streamwater in  
306 these watersheds that were not sampled, or (2) sampling of sources that was insufficient to  
307 capture the true range of variability in space and time that actually contributes to stream flow. In

308 the case of the Nova Vida pastures, for example, greater variation in the chemistry of overland  
309 flow or soil solution might capture some of the points outside the mixing space. While sampling  
310 of end members occurred concurrently with sampling of stream flow in these watersheds, none  
311 were sampled year-round at a frequency sufficient to capture the annual range of solute  
312 concentrations. In these cases where the mixing diagrams did not capture the full range of  
313 streamwater solute concentrations, EMMA indicated which additional sources might contribute  
314 and which sources may not have been adequately sampled.

315         We found that the proportional contribution to stream flow of water with chemical  
316 characteristics of overland flow was higher in pasture than in forest and that absolute flows from  
317 pasture were higher. This was consistent with measurements of soil hydraulic properties from  
318 Amazon forest and pasture that indicate that conversion to cattle pasture leads to reduction of  
319 surface soil infiltrability and hydraulic conductivity to the extent necessary to generate overland  
320 or near-surface horizontal flows (Zimmermann et al. 2006) and with direct hydrometric  
321 measurements of greatly enhanced flow from Amazon pasture watersheds (Biggs et al. 2006;  
322 Moraes et al. 2006; Germer et al. 2009, 2010). Moraes et al. (2006) and Germer et al. (2009)  
323 found 17- to 18-fold increases in overland flow in small (~1 ha) pasture compared with forest  
324 watersheds in Vitória and Rancho Grande.

325         The wide range of EMMA-derived overland flow contributions to stream flow (0 to 45%)  
326 in the forested watersheds was unexpected. We attribute this in part to the range in catchment  
327 size of our sites and in part to potentially a wide range in permeability change with depth. The  
328 highest contributions of overland flow occurred at Nossa Senhora, Rancho Grande and La  
329 Cuenca. At La Cuenca, the decrease in permeability with depth was among most pronounced



330 reported (Elsenbeer 2001). Given high rainfall totals and intensities, these captured a very small  
331 overall percentage of watershed runoff. For example, the forest stream at Rancho Grande  
332 captured 3 to 4% of total runoff (Chaves et al. 2009). So while the contribution of overland flow  
333 to stream flow in these streams was high and dominated by surficial flows, the total flow in these  
334 streams was small. The perennial streams in the larger watersheds at Nova Vida (watershed areas  
335 of 250 to 1,740 ha) captured larger flows from groundwater and any storm-derived flows from  
336 surficial flowpaths were small in comparison to flows derived from groundwater and soil  
337 solution.

338         At Nossa Senhora, the groundwater table was several meters below the ground surface at  
339 the sampling point and direct observations of runoff processes during the storms suggested that  
340 all of the water sampled in the pasture watershed was generated by overland flow. Any  
341 contribution of groundwater determined from EMMA likely reflects the temporal variations in  
342 the chemical composition of overland flow, rather than actual contribution of groundwater to  
343 stream flow. The EMMA suggested that the contribution of soil water to stormflow from the  
344 hillslope was minimal and dominated by overland flow. Given these observations, appropriate  
345 endmembers for the Nossa Senhora site might include different types of overland flow that  
346 interacted with chemically distinct surface materials, such as cattle feces, vegetation, and surface  
347 litter.

348         The small spring-fed stream at Juruena was somewhat different in that <5% of annual  
349 stream flow was stormflow (Johnson et al. 2006). Using a purely hydrometrics approach resulted  
350 in an estimated runoff coefficient of 3% for 27 storms (Johnson et al. 2007). Using electrical  
351 conductivity as a tracer for hydrograph separation and the TRANSEP model (Johnson et al.

352 2007) found that stormflow averaged 4% across 14 rain events. The hydrochemical data required  
353 for the application of EMMA was only available for 3 storms for the Juruena catchment. While  
354 stormflow comprised <5 % of total annual stream flow at Juruena, Johnson et al. (2007) found  
355 stormflow consisted of 79% pre-event water and 21% event water. This TRANSEP-based  
356 estimate was consistent with the EMMA results for Juruena, which estimated the contribution of  
357 overland flow to total stormflow also at 21%. The Juruena stream was the exception to the  
358 finding that the groundwater contribution to stream flow increased with watershed size.

359         Several constraints limit the utility of EMMA for multiple watershed comparisons. First,  
360 the use of EMMA requires sampling of multiple flowpaths and sampling both flowpaths and  
361 streamwater at a frequency sufficient to capture the majority of seasonal variation in solute  
362 chemistry. Second, EMMA requires analysis of multiple solutes, so it is not possible to apply  
363 EMMA to studies generally conducted with other objectives that report results for only a single  
364 element or a limited set of elements. Third, EMMA assumes that solutes are conservative as they  
365 travel both from watersheds to streams and downstream in stream channels (Christophersen and  
366 Hooper 1992). While it is widely known that soils and stream channels play major roles in  
367 transforming concentrations of biologically active solutes (Qualls 2000; Peterson et al. 2001),  
368 fewer experiments have been conducted on elements such as calcium and potassium that along  
369 with chloride are typically components of EMMA. Despite these limitations, our application of  
370 EMMA across multiple watersheds indicated that EMMA revealed patterns across gradients of  
371 stream size and land cover that were consistent with patterns determined by detailed hydrometric  
372 sampling.

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485 **Table 1**

486 Location and characteristics of catchments used in this study. Rainfall and baseflow were in the year that stream flow samples  
 487 were collected. Ephemeral streams had flow during rain events. The intermittent stream had flow during the rainy season but  
 488 not most of the dry season.

No.	Location	Land	Area	Baseflow			
		cover	ha	Rainfall mm	L s <sup>-1</sup>	Flow type, soil	Source
1	Nova Vida, Rondônia	Forest	1 740	1 939	15	Perennial, Ultisol	Neill et al. 2001
2	Nova Vida, Rondônia	Forest	250	1 939	10	Perennial, Ultisol	Neill et al. 2001
3	Nova Vida, Rondônia	Pasture	130	1 939	15	Perennial, Ultisol	Neill et al. 2001
4	Nova Vida, Rondônia	Pasture	720	1 939	18	Perennial, Ultisol	Neill et al. 2001
5	Rancho Grande, Rondônia	Forest	1.4	2 300	0	Ephemeral, Ultisol	Germer et al. 2009
6	Rancho Grande, Rondônia	Pasture	0.7	2 300	<1	Intermittent, Ultisol	Germer et al. 2009
7	Vitória, Pará	Mixed	13,968	1 803	800	Perennial, Oxisol	Markewitz et al. 2004
8	Juruena, Mato Grosso	Forest	1.9	2 379	0.7	Perennial, Ultisol	Johnson et al. 2006
9	La Cuenca, Perú	Forest	0.7	3 300	0	Ephemeral, Ultisol	Elsenbeer et al. 1996
10	Nossa Senhora, Rondônia	Pasture	3.9	1 918	0	Ephemeral, Ultisol	Biggs et al. 2006

489

**Table 2**

490

Chemical tracers and end members selected for EMMA analysis at each site.

491

No.	Location	Land cover	Tracers used in EMMA	End members selected
1	Nova Vida, RO	Forest	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Ca <sup>+</sup>	Riparian groundwater , soil solution
2	Nova Vida, RO	Forest	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Ca <sup>+</sup>	Riparian groundwater , soil solution
3	Nova Vida, RO	Pasture	K <sup>+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Ca <sup>+</sup>	Overland flow, riparian groundwater, soil solution
4	Nova Vida, RO	Pasture	K <sup>+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Ca <sup>+</sup>	Overland flow, riparian groundwater, soil solution
5	Rancho Grande, RO	Forest	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Ca <sup>+</sup>	Throughfall, groundwater, soil solution
6	Rancho Grande, RO	Pasture	K <sup>+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Ca <sup>+</sup>	Overland flow, groundwater, soil solution
7	Vitória, PA	Mixed	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Ca <sup>+</sup>	Upland groundwater, near-stream groundwater, pasture overland flow
8	Juruena, MT	Forest	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Ca <sup>+</sup>	Spring groundwater, overland flow, soil solution
9	La Cuenca, Peru	Forest	K <sup>+</sup> , Si, Ca <sup>+</sup>	Overland flow, groundwater, soil solution
10	Nossa Senhora, RO	Pasture	Cl <sup>-</sup> , Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup>	Overland flow, groundwater, soil solution

492 **Table 3**

493 Proportions of end members derived from the EMMA solution at each site. For Juruena, separate  
 494 analyses were performed for stormflow (<sup>a</sup>) and baseflow (<sup>b</sup>).

No.	Location	Land cover	Overland Flow/ Troughfall (%)	Groundwater (%)	Soil solution (%)
1	Nova Vida, RO	Forest	0	94	6
2	Nova Vida, RO	Forest	0	62	38
3	Nova Vida, RO	Pasture	28	26	46
4	Nova Vida, RO	Pasture	27	30	43
5	Rancho Grande, RO	Forest	57	24	19
6	Rancho Grande, RO	Pasture	60	35	5
7	Vitória, PA	Mixed	37	63	0
8	Juruena, MT	Forest	21 <sup>a</sup> (0) <sup>b</sup>	57 <sup>a</sup> (60) <sup>b</sup>	22 <sup>a</sup> (40) <sup>b</sup>
9	La Cuenca, Peru	Forest	45	28	27
10	Nossa Senhora, RO	Pasture	89	11	< 1

495

496

497 **Figure Legends**

498

499 **Figure 1**

500 Location of small watershed studies in the Brazilian Amazon Basin used in this study. The extent  
501 of the Amazon River drainage basin is highlighted. Numbers correspond to sites in Table 1.

502

503 **Figure 2**

504 Two-dimensional mixing diagrams created by EMMA for each watershed. Points represent  
505 streamwater concentrations and are coded by discharge (scale bar units are  $L s^{-1}$ ) Abbreviations  
506 are GW (groundwater), OF (overland flow), R (rain), TF (throughfall). Soil 20 and Soil 100  
507 indicate soil solution collected in lysimeters at 20 and 100 cm depth. For Nossa Senhora, rgGW  
508 indicates groundwater collected at Rancho Grande. For Fazenda Vitoria, overland flow was from  
509 forest (F) and pasture (P), and groundwater was from upland (up), a near-stream zone (ns) and  
510 the stream hyporheic zone (hyp).

511

512 **Figure 3**

513 Proportions of throughfall or overland flow, soil solution and groundwater end members as a  
514 percentage of total stream flow plotted against watershed area for all sites. Land cover is forest  
515 (F), pasture (P) or mixed (M).

516

517

518

519 **Figure 4**

520 Instantaneous water yield ( $\text{mm h}^{-1}$ ) of throughfall or overland flow, soil solution and  
521 groundwater end members plotted against watershed area for all sites. Land cover is forest (F),  
522 pasture (P) or mixed (M).