On shapes and breaks: sandbank stages on the MARID podium

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Summary
MARID is a highly regarded conference where scientists and practitioners discuss the latest progress in marine and riverine bedform research. My talk aimed to discuss transient evolution of offshore sandbanks and developing new connections in the field. We showed that a single bank can break into multiple parts using a novel process-based model. Whether breaking occurs, depends on initial sandbank orientation and length.

MARID VI, 1-3 April 2019
Experts in marine and riverine bedforms meet every three years at MARID to collaborate on state-of-the-art research with an interdisciplinary focus. The sixth edition was organised by Marum, University of Bremen in Bremen (Germany) from 1 to 3 April 2019. The conference featured six scientific sessions on different bedforms, such as sandwaves, sandbanks and river dunes, and a field trip to Jade Bay and a boat trip on the Weser river. I contributed by a long talk titled "On shapes and breaks: transient evolution of tidal sandbanks" about our findings from modelling sandbanks. We showed that single sandbanks may break into multiple separate banks, depending on initial bank orientation and length. By modelling a wide range of conditions, we were able to quantify bank-breaking conditions. Furthermore, we discussed how sandbank evolution modifies the environmental conditions for sandwave evolution.

Attending MARID has been a fantastic experience. It allowed me to share the findings of our research to a targeted audience. There is a real community that works on marine and riverine bedforms. All attendees were an expert in either my field or a field that is closely related. That meant that all discussions were detailed and feedback on our work was very constructive. Our contribution was also well appreciated, as it was awarded best abstract.

Furthermore, MARID provided many opportunities to expand my network during breaks, conference dinner and by attending the field trip. The nice thing of a smaller conference is that you get to know (almost) everyone. You see all presentations and posters and the community is friendly. I am confident that these connections will be useful to develop new collaborations.

I am very grateful to BSG and Wiley-Blackwell for their support in the form of a postgraduate conference attendance grant. MARID has been an instructive and enjoyable experience with promising results, as shown by the feedback on our work and my expanded network.

Figure 1: (left) Title slide of my presentation; (right) Conference venue during a scientific session.

Social media summary
Bank-breaking news presented at MARID VI: offshore tidal sandbanks can break into multiple separate banks when bank orientation differs from preferred conditions and the bank is sufficiently long.

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