

# Soil hydrology

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# Outline

## 1. Introduction

- Water budget and soil hydrology

## 2. The multi-layer « CWRR » scheme

- Processes, parameters, options

## 3. Forcing conditions

- Vegetation/LC and soil texture

**More details on the Wiki**

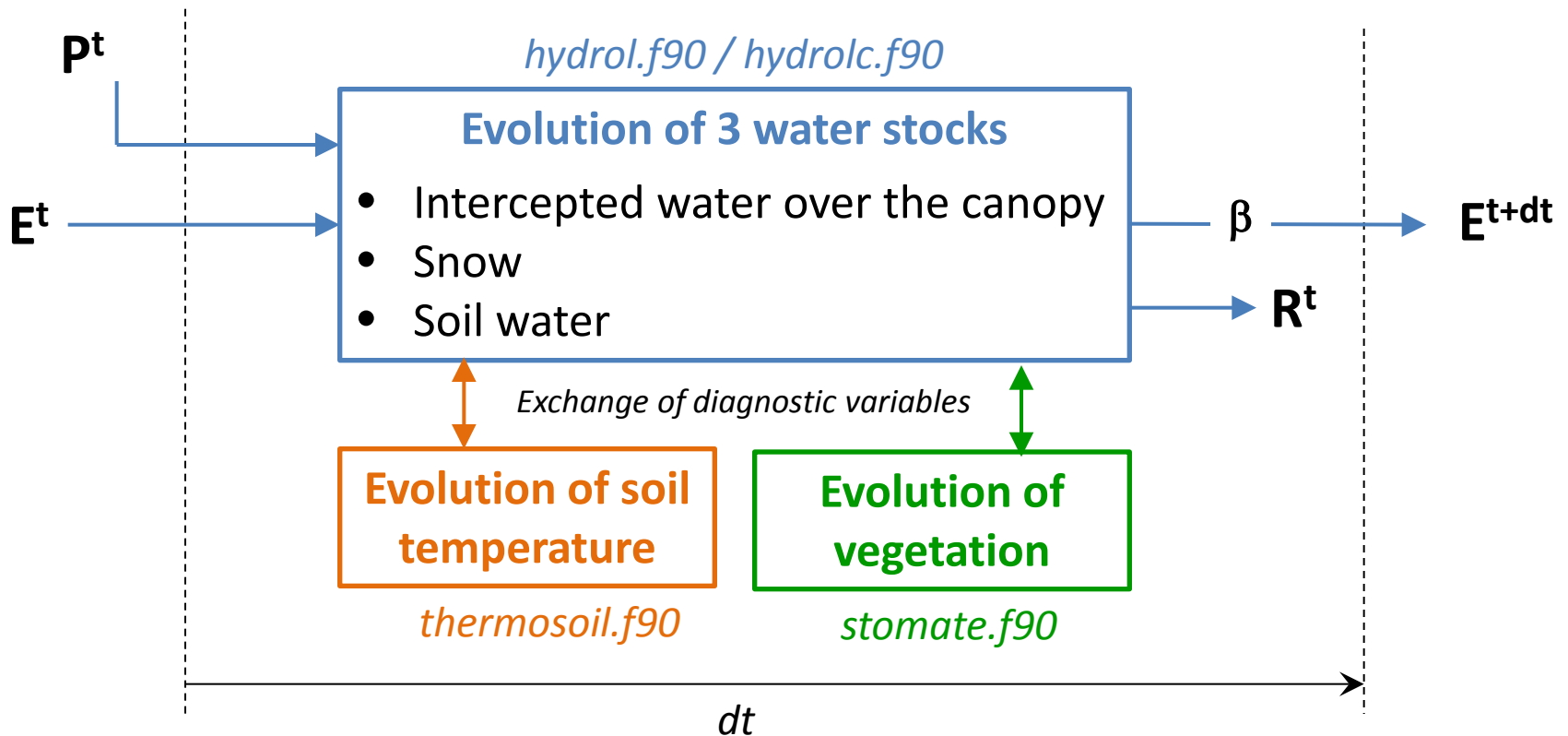
[http://forge.ipsl.jussieu.fr/orchidee/attachment/wiki/Documentation/eqs\\_hydrol.pdf](http://forge.ipsl.jussieu.fr/orchidee/attachment/wiki/Documentation/eqs_hydrol.pdf)

Reference papers: de Rosnay et al., 2000; de Rosnay et al., 2002; d'Orgeval et al., 2008;  
Campoy et al., 2013

PhD theses : de Rosnay, 1999; d'Orgeval, 2006; Campoy, 2013

# Water budget and soil hydrology

$$dS/dt = P - E - R$$

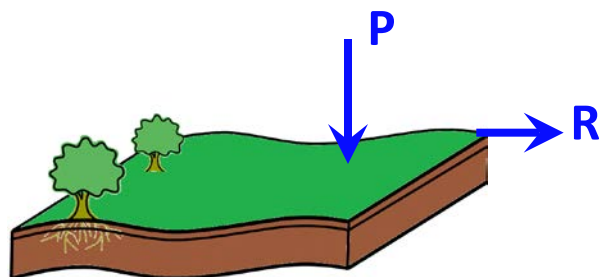


**We will focus on soil water and the related water fluxes (soil hydrology)**  
**No interception, no snow, no soil water freezing**

## Two versions of soil hydrology

### Two-layer = Choisnel = ORC2

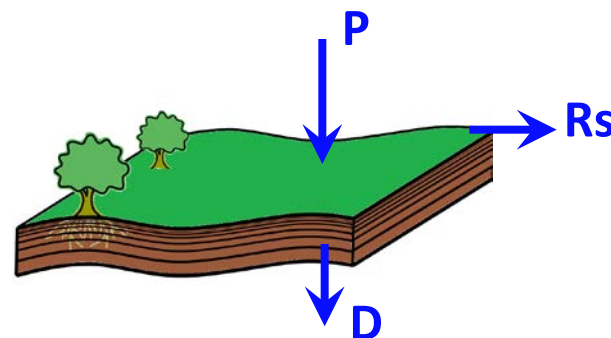
*Ducoudré et al., 1993; Ducharne et al., 1998;  
de Rosnay et al. 1998*



- **Conceptual description of soil moisture storage**
  - **4-m soil and 2-layers**
  - Top layer can vanish
  - Constant available water holding capacity (between FC and WP)
  - Runoff when saturation
  - No drainage from the soil
- We just diagnose a drainage as 95% of runoff for the routing scheme

### Multi-layer = CWRR = ORC11

*de Rosnay et al., 2002; d'Orgeval et al., 2008;  
Campoy et al., 2013*

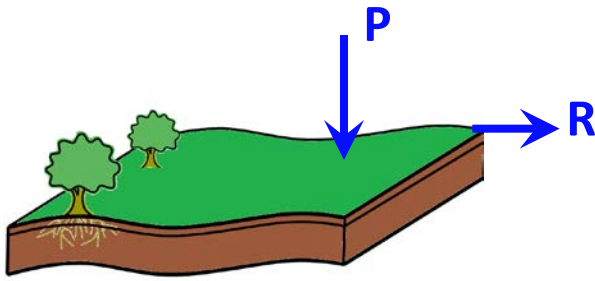


- **Physically-based description of soil water fluxes using Richards equation**
- **2-m soil and 11-layers**
- Formulation of Fokker-Planck
- Hydraulic properties based on van Genuchten-Mualem formulation
- Related parameter based on texture
- Surface runoff =  $P - E_{sol} - \text{Infiltration}$
- Free drainage at the bottom

# Two versions of soil hydrology

## Two-layer = Choisnel = ORC2

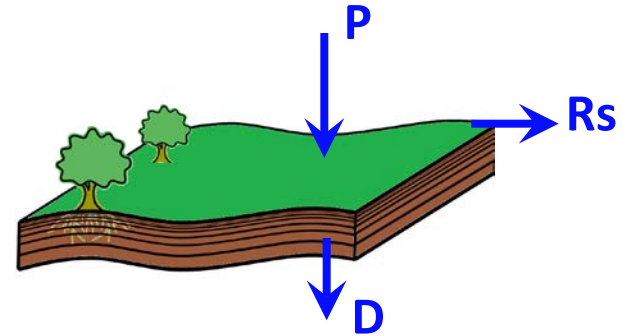
Ducoudré et al., 1993; Ducharne et al., 1998; de Rosnay et al. 1998



- Conceptual description of soil moisture storage
  - 2-m soil and 2-layers
  - Top layer can vanish
  - Constant available capacity (between 0 and 100%)
  - Runoff when saturation is reached
  - No drainage from bottom
- We just diagnose the amount of runoff for the routing scheme

## Multi-layer = CWRR = ORC11

de Rosnay et al., 2002; d'Orgeval et al., 2008; Campoy et al., 2013



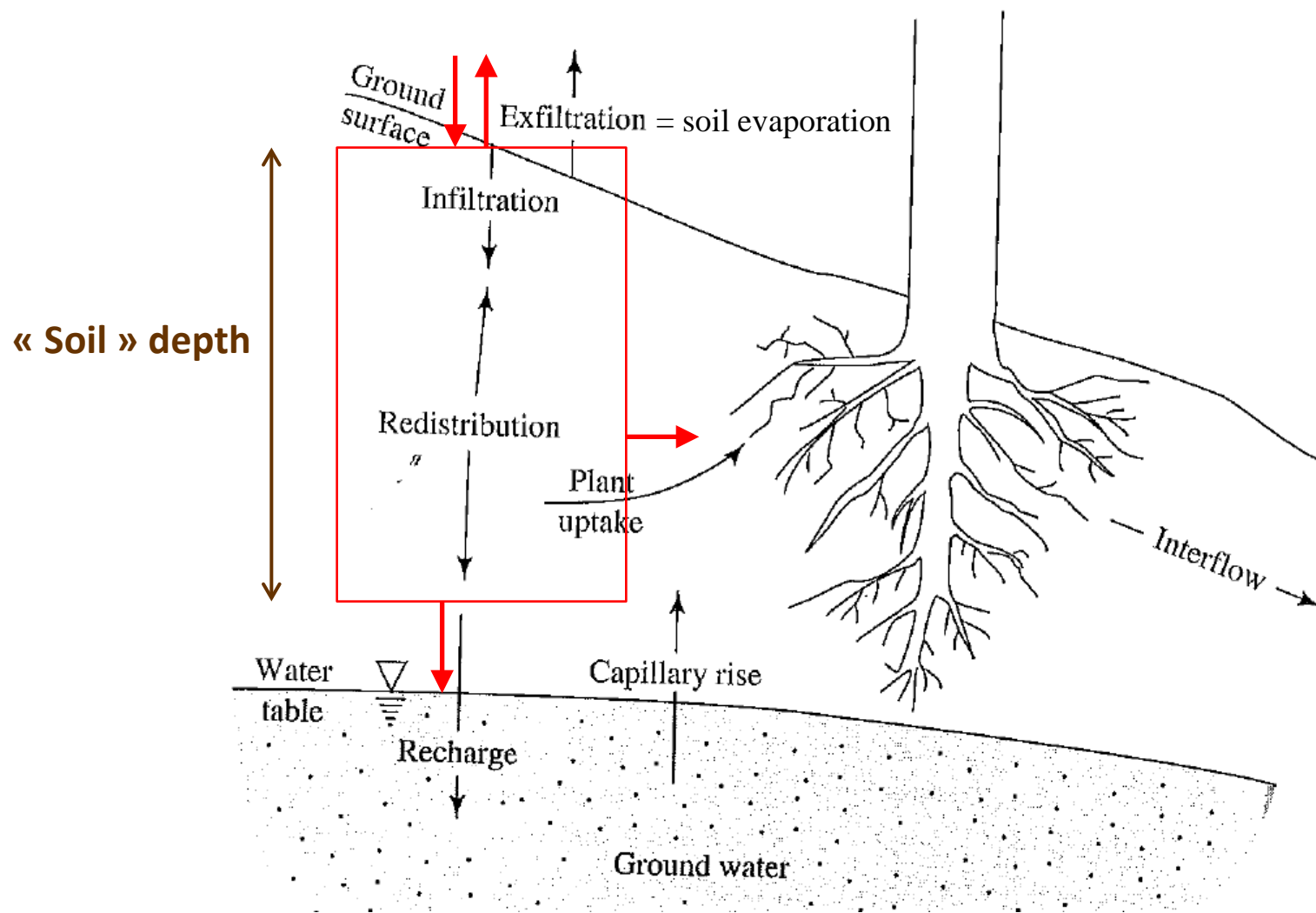
- Physically-based description of soil water fluxes using Richards equation
- 2-m soil and 11-layers
- Formulation of Fokker-Planck equation for water content based on van Genuchten formulation
- Formulation of infiltration based on texture (Soil – Infiltration)
- Drainage at the bottom

*In run.def*

**HYDROL\_CWRR = n / y**

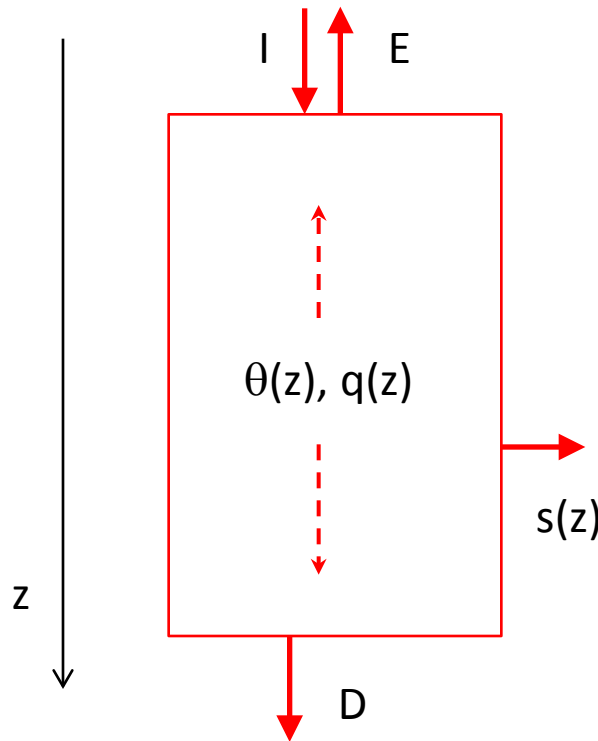
→ either hydrolc.f90 or hydrol.f90

# What is modeled ?



# How is modeled ?

1. We assume 1D vertical water flow below a flat surface



$\theta$  : volumetric water content in  $\text{m}^3.\text{m}^{-3}$

$q$  : flux density in  $\text{m}.\text{s}^{-1}$

$h$  : hydraulic head in  $\text{m}$

$K$  : hydraulic conductivity in  $\text{m}.\text{s}^{-1}$

$s$  : transpiration sink in  $\text{m}^3.\text{m}^{-3}.\text{s}^{-1}$

2. Continuity :

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial q}{\partial z} = -s$$

3. Motion = diffusion equation because of low velocities in porous medium

$$q(z) = -K(z) \frac{\partial h}{\partial z}$$

4. Hydraulic head  $h$  quantifies the gravity and pressure potentials

$$h = -z + \psi \quad \psi \text{ is the matric potential (in m, } <0)$$

5.  $K$  and  $\psi$  depend on  $\theta$  (unsaturated soils)

$$q(z) = -K(\theta) \left[ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} - 1 \right]$$

$$q(z) = -D(\theta) \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} + K(\theta)$$

+2 → Fokker-Planck eq.

$$D(\theta) = K(\theta) \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \theta}$$

$D$  is the diffusivity (in  $\text{m}^2.\text{s}^{-1}$ )

Richards equation

# The hydrodynamic parameters

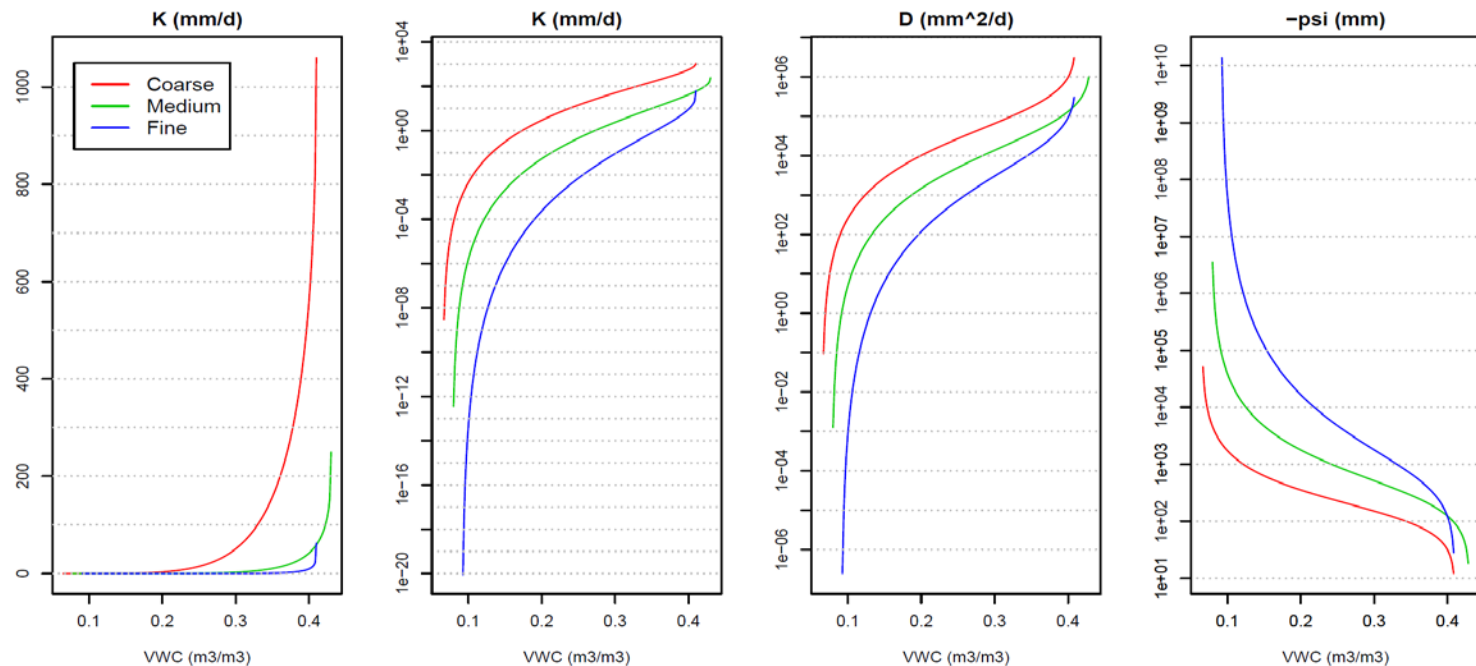
- K and D depend on saturated properties (measured on saturated soils) and on  $\theta$
- Their dependance on  $\theta$  is very non linear
- In ORCHIDEE, this is decribed by the so-called Van Genuchten-Mualem relationships:

$$K(\theta) = K_s \sqrt{\theta_f} \left( 1 - \left( 1 - \theta_f^{1/m} \right)^m \right)^2 \quad \theta_f = (\theta - \theta_r) / (\theta_s - \theta_r)$$

$$\psi(\theta) = -\frac{1}{\alpha} \left( \theta_f^{-1/m} - 1 \right)^{1/n} \quad m = 1 - 1/n$$

$$D(\theta) = \frac{(1-m)K(\theta)}{\alpha m} \frac{1}{\theta - \theta_r} \theta_f^{-1/m} \cdot \left( \theta_f^{-1/m} - 1 \right)^{-m}$$

Parameters:  
 $\theta_s$   $\theta_r$   $K_s$   $m$   
 $\alpha = -1/\psi_{ae}$





# Modifications of Ks with depth

## Ks decreases exponentially with depth

- This follows observational reports (starting from Beven & Kirkby, 1979)
- In ORCHIDEE, the exponential decay starts at 30 cm

$$K_s(z) = K_s^{\text{ref}} \cdot \min(\exp(-f(z - z_{\text{lim}})), 1)$$

Parameters:  
 $K_s^{\text{ref}}$   $f$   $z_{\text{lim}}$

## Ks also increases towards the surface because of bioturbation (roots)

$$K_j(z) = \max \left( 1, \left( \frac{K_s^{\text{max}}}{K_s^{\text{ref}}} \right)^{\frac{1-c_j z}{2}} \right)$$

$$K_s^*(z) = K_s(z) \prod_{j=2}^{13} K_j(z)^{0.5f^j} = K_s(z) F_{K_{\text{root}}}$$

Parameters:  
 $K_s^{\text{ref}}$   $K_s^{\text{max}}$   $c_j^z$   
 (+  $f^j = \text{veget\_max}$ )

## Impact on the other Van Genuchten parameters

- $K_s^{\text{ref}}$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $m$  depend on soil texture
- To keep the consistency between them when Ks varies with depth, the other two are also changed (cf. d'Orgeval, 2006).

Parameters:  
 $n_0$ ,  $nk_{\text{rel}}$ ,  $a_0$ ,  $ak_{\text{rel}}$

# Modifications of Ks with depth

## Ks decreases exponentially with depth

- This follows observational reports (starting from Beven & Kirkby 1979)
- In ORCHIDEE, the exponential decay starts at 30 cm

$$K_s(z) = K_s^{\text{ref}} \cdot \min(\exp(-f(z)), 1)$$

## Ks also increases toward

All this is done in `hydrol_var_init`  
 Details can be found in :

[http://forge.ipsl.jussieu.fr/orchidee/attachment/wiki/Documentation/egs\\_hydrol.pdf](http://forge.ipsl.jussieu.fr/orchidee/attachment/wiki/Documentation/egs_hydrol.pdf)

$$K_s(z) \prod_{j=2}^n K_j(z)^{f_v^j} = K_s(z) F_{K_{\text{root}}}$$

Parameters:

$K_s^{\text{ref}}$   $K_s^{\text{max}}$   $c_j^z$   
 (+  $f_v^j = \text{veget}$ )

## Impact on the other Van Genuchten parameters

- $K_{\text{sref}}$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $m$  depend on soil texture
- To keep the consistency between them when  $K_s$  varies with depth, the other two are also changed (cf. d'Orgeval, 2006).

Parameters:

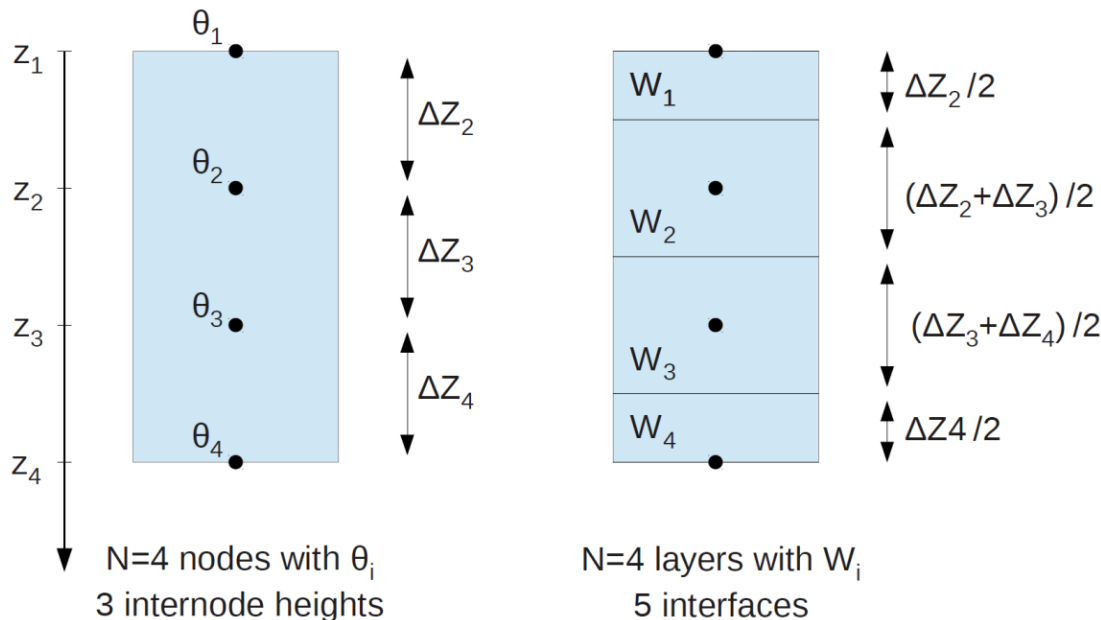
$n_0$ ,  $nk_{\text{rel}}$ ,  $a_0$ ,  $ak_{\text{rel}}$

# Finite difference integration (1)

- The differential equations of continuity and motion are solved using finite differences

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial q}{\partial z} = -s \quad q(z) = -D(\theta) \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} + K(\theta)$$

- The soil column is discretized using **N nodes**, where we calculate  $\theta_i$
- The middle between 2 consecutive nodes defines the interface between 2 soil **layers**, except for the top and bottom layers
- The **total water content  $W_i$  of a layer** is obtained vertical integration of  $\theta(z)$  in the layer, assuming a linear variation of  $\theta(z)$  between 2 consecutive nodes



$$W_i = [ \Delta Z_i (3 \theta_i + \theta_{i-1}) + \Delta Z_{i+1} (3 \theta_i + \theta_{i+1}) ] / 8$$

$$W_1 = [ \Delta Z_2 (3 \theta_1 + \theta_2) ] / 8$$

$$W_N = [ \Delta Z_N (3 \theta_N + \theta_{N-1}) ] / 8$$

$$h_i = [ \Delta Z_i + \Delta Z_{i+1} ] / 2$$

$$h_1 = \Delta Z_2 / 2$$

$$h_N = \Delta Z_N / 2$$

In hydrol,  $z_i$ ,  $\Delta Z_i$ ,  $h_i$  and  $W_i$  in mm

# Finite difference integration (2)

- The continuity and motion equations become:

$$\frac{W_i(t + dt) - W_i(t)}{dt} = Q_{i-1}(t + dt) - Q_i(t + dt) - S_i$$

S<sub>i</sub> = transpiration sink

$$\frac{Q_i}{A} = -\frac{D(\theta_{i-1}) + D(\theta_i)}{2} \frac{\theta_i - \theta_{i-1}}{\Delta Z_i} + \frac{K(\theta_{i-1}) + K(\theta_i)}{2}$$

A: grid-cell area

- They can be solved using a tridiagonal matrix which updates  $\theta_i$  (**prognostic variable**)
- To this end,  $K(\theta_i)$  and  $D(\theta_i)$  are linearized to get first order in  $\theta$   
 → piecewise functions over 50 interval in  $[\theta_r, \theta_s]$

$$K_k = a_k \theta_k + b_k$$

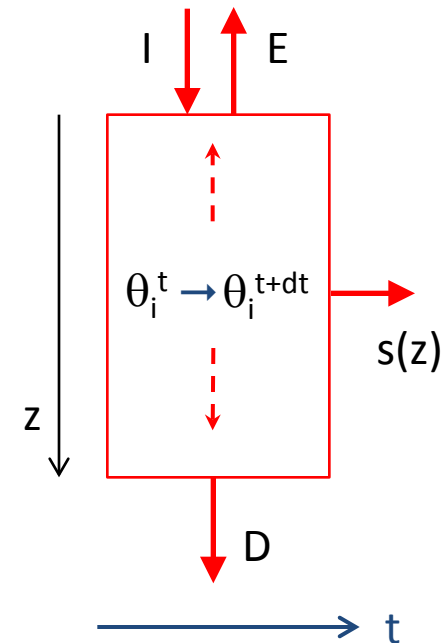
$$D_k = d_k$$

- Care is taken that  $\theta$  remains in  $[\theta_r, \theta_s]$  ← *hydrol\_smooth\_...*

- In this framework, the evolution of  $\theta_i$  is driven by**

- soil properties (K, D,  $\theta_r$ ,  $\theta_s$ , soil depth and  $Z_i$ )
- transpiration sink
- top and bottom boundary conditions:

$$Q_0 = I - E \text{ and } Q_N = D$$



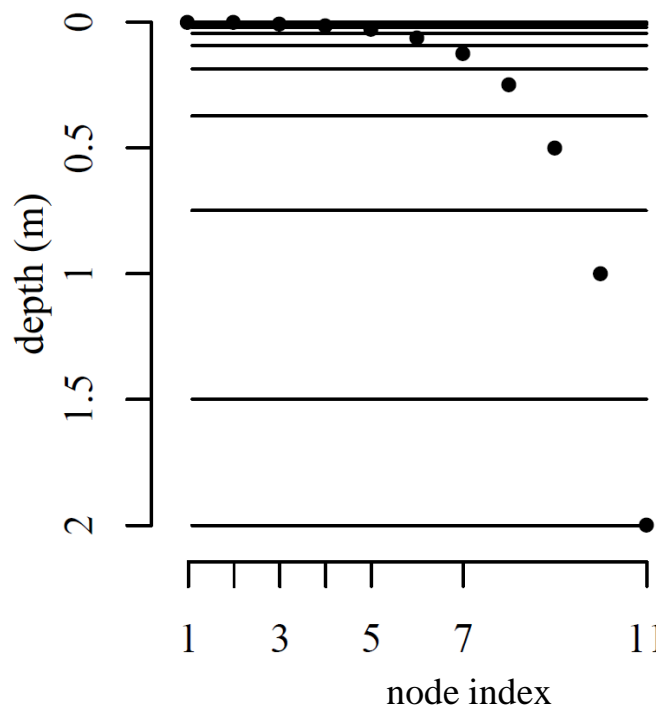
## Vertical discretization (1)

- The effective vertical discretization must permit an accurate calculation of  $\theta_i$  and the related water fluxes  $q_i$
- We need thin layers where  $\theta$  is likely to exhibit sharp vertical gradients (to better approximate the local derivative)
- Vertical discretization and boundary conditions must be decided together !

***By default, in hydrol, we use :***

- 11 nodes (layers) with geometric increase of internode distance
- consistent with free/gravitational drainage at the bottom
- consistent with exponential decrease of root density for transpiration

*(cf. de Rosnay et al., 2000)*



i	≈ h <sub>i</sub> (mm)
1	1
2	3
3	6
4	12
5	23,5
6	47
7	94
8	188
9	375
10	751
11	500

## Vertical discretization (2)

- The *effective* vertical discretization must permit an accurate calculation of  $\theta_i$  and the related water fluxes  $q_i$
- We need thin layers where  $\theta$  is likely to exhibit sharp vertical gradients (to better approximate the local derivative)
- Vertical discretization and boundary conditions must be decided together !
- **Alternative discretizations can be defined by externalized parameters (but use with caution)**

DEPTH_MAX_H	2.0 or 4.0 depending on hydrol_cwrr	m	Maximum depth of soil moisture	Maximum depth of soil for soil moisture (CWRR).
DEPTH_MAX_T	10.0	m	Maximum depth of the soil thermodynamics	Maximum depth of soil for temperature.
DEPTH_TOPTHICK	9.77517107e-04	m	Thickness of upper most Layer	Thickness of top hydrology layer for soil moisture (CWRR).
DEPTH_CSTTHICK	DEPTH_MAX_H	m	Depth at which constant layer thickness start	Depth at which constant layer thickness start (smaller than $z_{maxh}/2$ )
DEPTH_GEOM	DEPTH_MAX_H	m	Depth at which we resume geometrical increases for temperature	Depth at which the thickness increases again for temperature.

# Drainage

- **By default :**  $Q_N = K(\theta_N)$
- Based on the initial motion equation, this corresponds to :
  - gravity is the only contribution to energy potential/hydraulic head

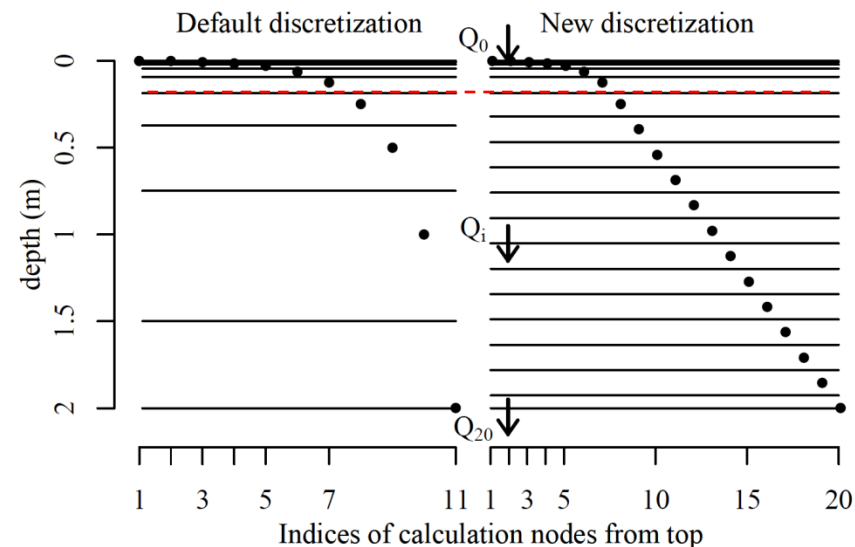
$$q(z) = -K(z) \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} \quad h = z + \psi$$

- $\theta$  does not show any vertical variations below the modeled soil

$$q(z) = -D(\theta) \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} + K(\theta)$$

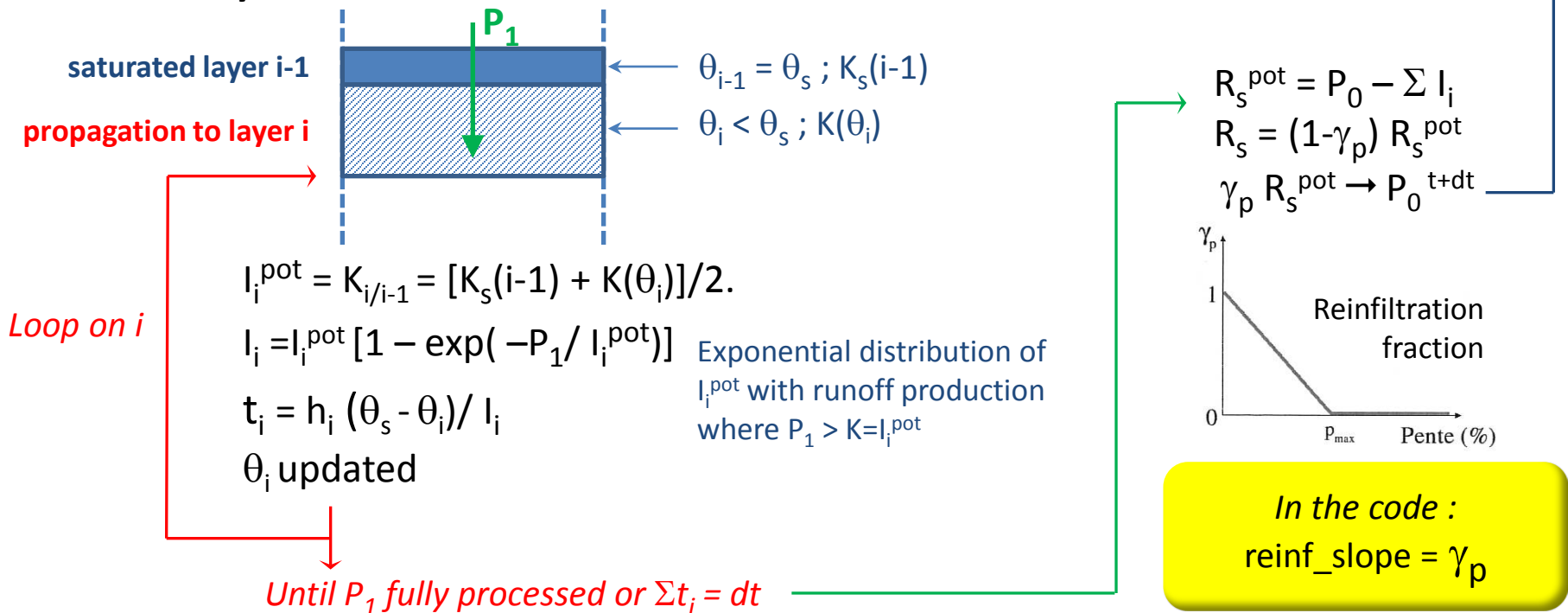
- The code is also numerically apt to use reduced drainage :  $Q_N = F.K(\theta_N)$  **F in [0,1]**
- With F=1, you get an impermeable bottom, like in the Choisnel scheme

- F is externalized by **free\_drain\_coef (1,1,1)**
- Reduced drainage enhances  $\theta$  gradients in the bottom soil,
- The default 11-layer discretization is not adapted anymore
- You can use the flexible discretization



# Infiltration (and surface runoff)

- At the soil surface, throughfall can either infiltrate or run off (surface runoff)
  - The routing scheme can also produce water to infiltrate (return flow, irrigation, etc.)
  - The modeling of infiltration relies on gravitational fluxes:  $q(z) = K(\theta)$  Soil absorption is neglected
1. Direct infiltration to the top soil layer (1-mm deep)
  2. If  $P_0$  is sufficient, infiltration to the lowest layers of  $P_1$  (what's left of  $P_0$  after filling the top layer): **wetting front propagation with time splitting procedure and sub-grid-variability**





# Soil evaporation

- Soil evaporation follows a supply/demand approach:

$$E_{soil} = \min(E_{pot}^*, Q_{up}) \quad E_{pot} = \rho \frac{q_{sat}(T_s) - q_{air}}{r_a} \quad E_{pot}^* = \rho \frac{q_{sat}(T_w) - q_{air}}{r_a}$$

- $E_{soil}$  is estimated from soil moisture at the previous time step, with dummy integrations of the water diffusion (with D, but assuming no throughfall and no Tr/Si)

- After redistribution at (t-dt), we solve dummy water diffusion assuming  $E_{soil} = E_{pot}^*$
- If this keeps  $\theta$  in  $[\theta_r, \theta_s]$ , we accept that soil moisture can sustain  $E_{soil} = E_{pot}^*$
- Else, we replace the previous step by dummy water diffusion assuming  $\theta_1 = \theta_r$
- The resulting  $\theta_i$  allow to reconstruct  $Q_i$ , thus  $Q_{up} = -Q_0 \leq E_{pot}^*$
- evap\_bare\_lim** =  $Q_{up}/E_{pot}$  or  $Q_{up}/2E_{pot}$ , depending if  $\sum_1^4 W_i >$  or  $<$   $\sum_1^4 W_w$   
*tmc\_litter*

- At the current timestep in diffuco:

$$\beta_4 = \text{evap\_bare\_lim} * \text{frac\_bare}$$

$$\beta = \sum \beta_2 + \sum \beta_3 + \beta_4$$

$$E_{soil} = \beta_4 E_{pot}$$

$$E = \beta E_{pot}$$

- At the current timestep in hydrol:

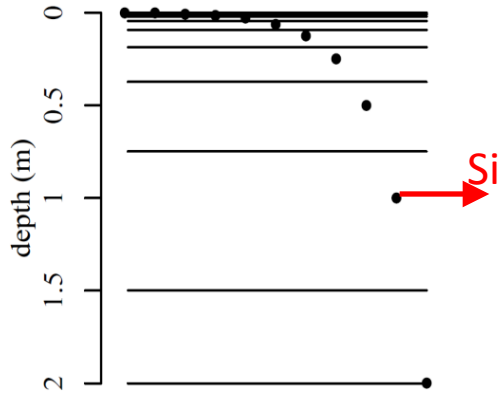
- If  $P_0 > E_{soil}$ , the infiltration phase works only on  $P_0 - E_{soil} > 0$
- If  $E_{soil} > P_0$ , hydrol does not perform infiltration and soil moisture decreases

$$\theta_1 = \theta_1 - E_{soil} / h_1$$

If this brings  $\theta$  under  $\theta_r$ , the moisture deficit is propagated downward (eventually to negative drainage)

Effective water diffusion

# The transpiration sink (1)



$$\frac{W_i(t + dt) - W_i(t)}{dt} = Q_{i-1}(t + dt) - Q_i(t + dt) - S_i$$

$$T_r = \rho \left( 1 - \frac{I}{I_{max}} \right) U_s \frac{q_{sat}(T_s) - q_{air}}{r_a + r_c + r_{st}}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} T_r &= \sum S_i \\ U_s &= \sum u s_i \end{aligned} \right\} S_i = T_r u s_i / U_s$$

**The dependance of  $T_r$  on  $\theta_i/W_i$  is conveyed by  $u_s(i)$**

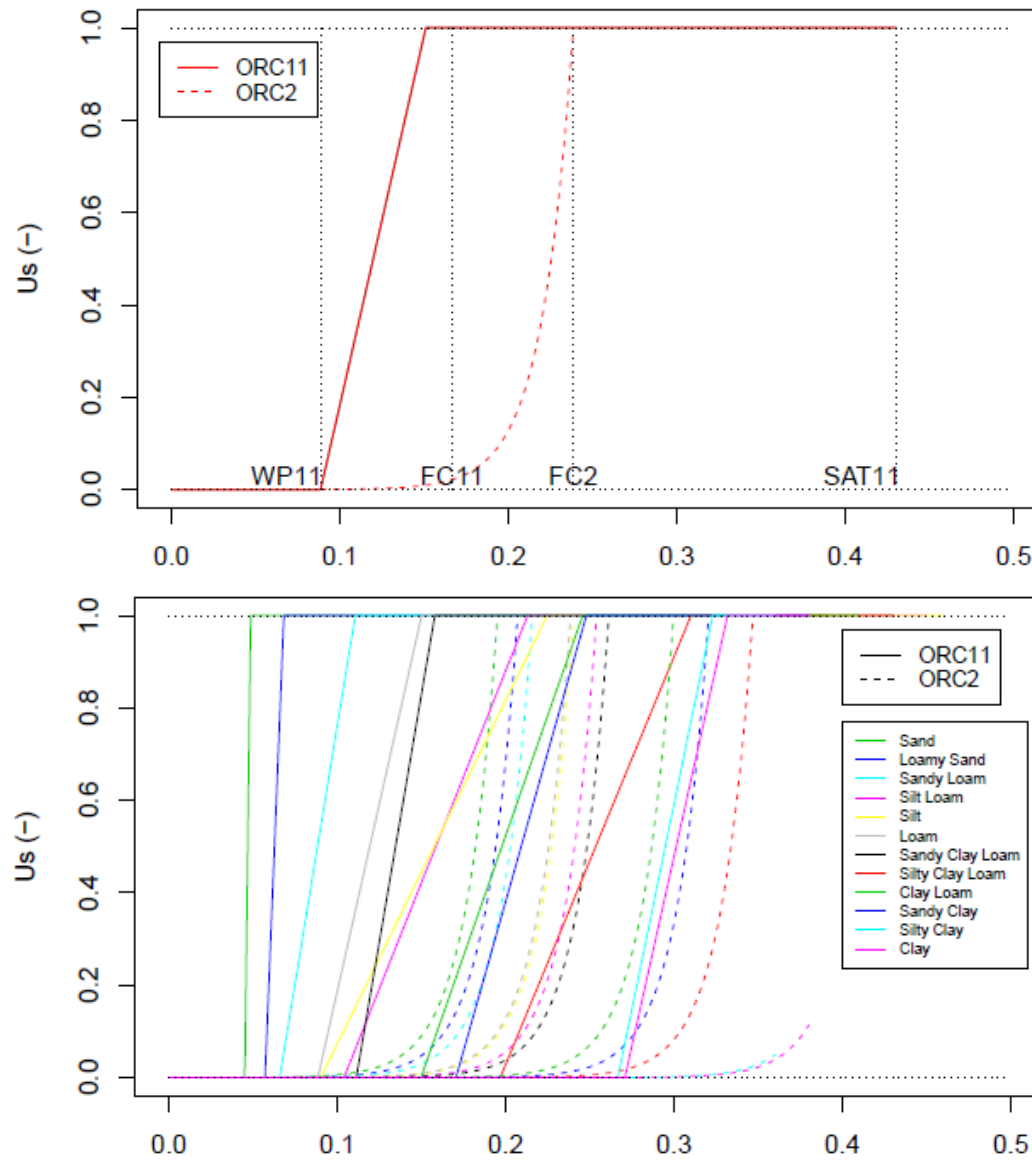
$$u_s(1) = 0$$

$$u_s(i) = \text{moderwilt}(i) n_{\text{root}}(i) \min(1, (W_i - W_w) / (W_{\%} - W_w))$$

- $W_w$  = wilting point
- $W_f$  = field capacity
- $AWC = W_f - W_w$
- $W_{\%}$  : moisture at which  $u_s$  becomes 1 (no stress)  
 $W_{\%} = W_w + p_{\%} AWC$
- $\text{moderwilt}(i) = 1$  but if  $W_i < W_w$
- $n_{\text{root}}$  : mean root density in layer  $i$   
 $n_{\text{root}} = \int_{h_i} R(z) dz / \int_{h_{\text{tot}}} R(z) dz$   
 $R(z) = \exp(-c_j z)$

In *constantes\_soil.f90*:  
 $p_{\%} = \text{pcent} = (/ 0.8, 0.8, 0.8 /)$

## The transpiration sink (2)



## New features

### New diagnostics:

- **TWBR = Total water budget residu** (in kg/m<sup>2</sup>/s) to check water conservation

$$\text{TWBR} = dS/dt - (P - E - R)$$

*S includes intercepted water and snow*

Typical values are 10<sup>-4</sup> mm/d

- **wtd = water table depth** (m), defined in each soiltile as the depth of deepest saturated node overlaid by an unsaturated node.

Sought from the soil bottom: if a part of the soil is saturated but underlaid with unsaturated nodes, it is not considered as a water table.

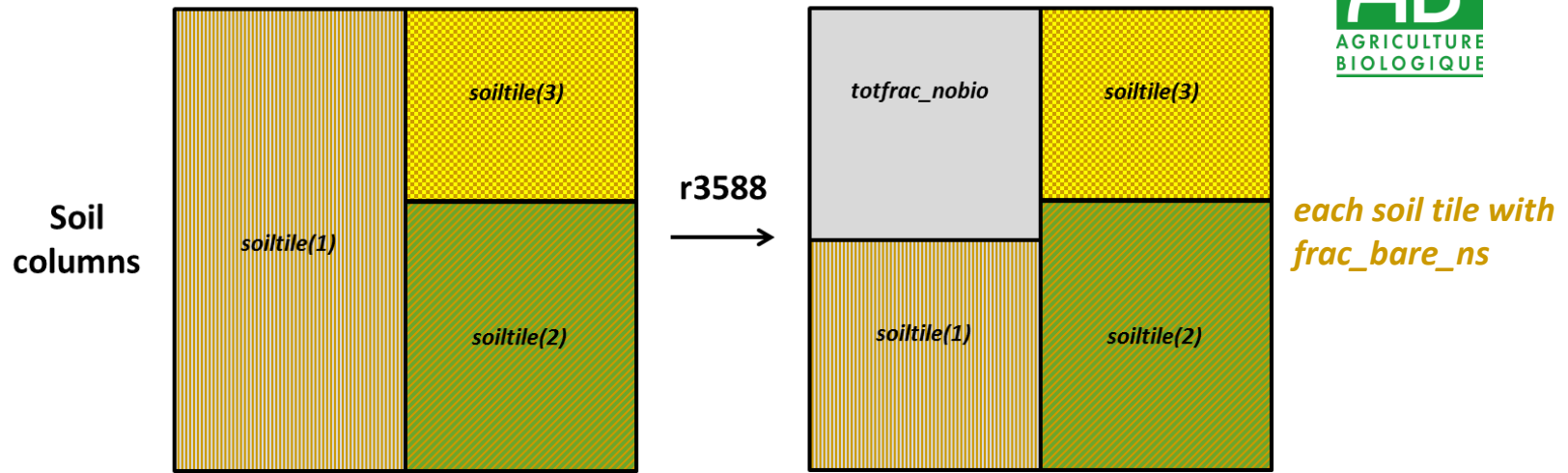
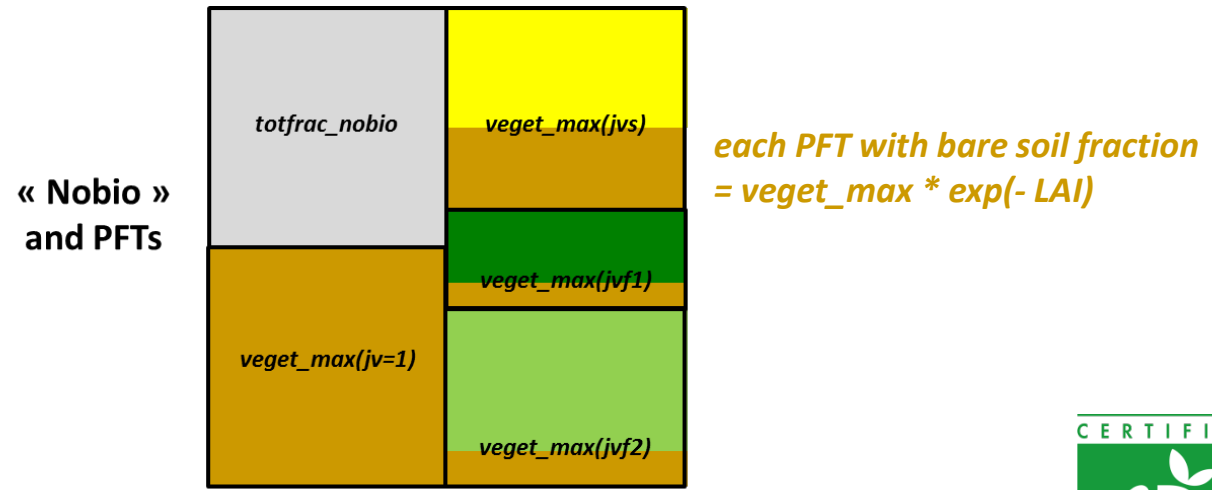
If the bottom node is not saturated, the water table depth is set to undef.

### To come soon:

- Possibility to reduce the bare soil evaporation with a **soil resistance**

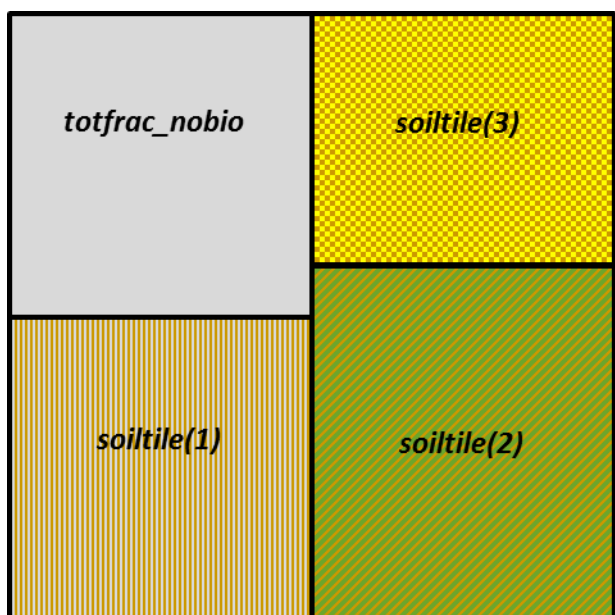
# Interactions with the vegetation/LC

1. **Horizontally**, PFTs define soil tiles with independent water budget  
(below ground tiling)



# Interactions with the vegetation/LC

- 1. Horizontally**, PFTs define soil tiles with independent water budget  
(below ground tiling)



each soil tile with  $\text{frac\_bare\_ns}$   
 $= \Sigma \text{veget\_max} * \exp(-LAI)$

**But one single energy budget !**

$$E = \beta_{tot} E_{pot}$$

$$E_{pot} = \frac{\rho}{r_a} (q_{sat}(T_s) - q_{air})$$

$$\beta_{tot} = \beta_1 + (1 - \beta_1)(\Sigma\beta_2 + \Sigma\beta_3 + \beta_4)$$

$$E_{subli} = \beta_1 E_{pot}$$

$$E_{transp} = \Sigma\beta_2 E_{pot}$$

$$E_{inter} = \Sigma\beta_3 E_{pot}$$

$$E_{soil} = \beta_4 E_{pot}$$

For each evapotive flux, the  $\beta$  conveys information on:

- the fraction of the grid-cell that evaporates
- the intensity of the flux ( $1/r$ )

# Interactions with the vegetation/LC

## 2. Vertically, ORCHIDEE defines a root density profile

In each PFT  $j$   $R_j(z) = \exp(-c_j z)$

In each soil layer  $i$   $n_{\text{root}}(i)$  is the mean root density  
with  $\sum_i n_{\text{root}}(i) = 1$



**It controls the water stress on transpiration in each soil layer  $i$**

$$u_s(1) = 0$$

$$u_s(i) = \text{moderwilt}(i) n_{\text{root}}(i) \min(1, (W_i - W_w)/(W_{\%} - W_w))$$

**In the code,  $c_j$  is called `humcste` and defined in `constantes_mtc.f90`**

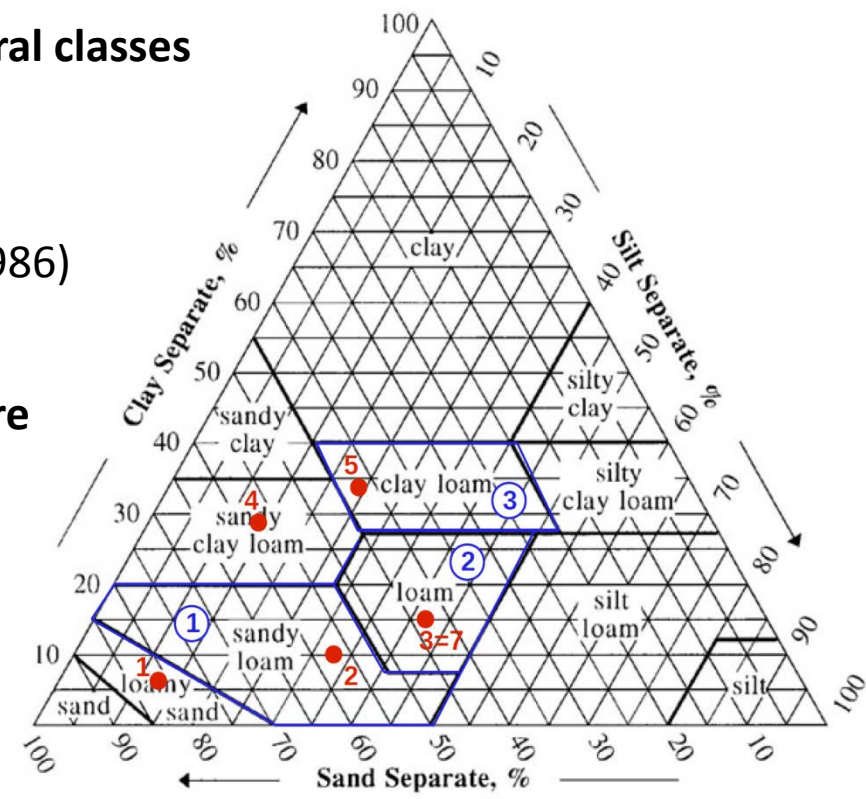
It can be « externalized », with default values depending on soil hydrology/depth

```
REAL(r_std), PARAMETER, DIMENSION(nvmc) :: humcste_cwrr = &
  & (/ 5.0, 0.8, 0.8, 1.0, 0.8, 0.8, 1.0, &
  & 1.0, 0.8, 4.0, 4.0, 4.0 /)
!! Values for dpu_max = 2.0
```

# The role of soil texture

- In hydrol, the main soil properties are:  $\theta_s$   $\theta_r$   $K_s^{ref}$   $m$   $\alpha=1/\psi_{ae}$   $\theta_w$   $\theta_f$
- clay\_fraction is a parameter for Stomate
- They are defined based on soil texture  
(in the real world, they can depend on other factors, as soil structure, OMC, etc.)
- **Soil texture is defined by the % of sand, silt, clay particles in a soil sample** (granulometric composition)
- **Soil texture can be summarized by soil textural classes**
- By default, ORCHIDEE reads texture from the 1/12° USDA map of Reynolds et al. (2000)
- Alternative soil map : 1°x1° map of Zobler (1986) **with 3 classes**
- **In each grid-cell, we use the dominant texture**

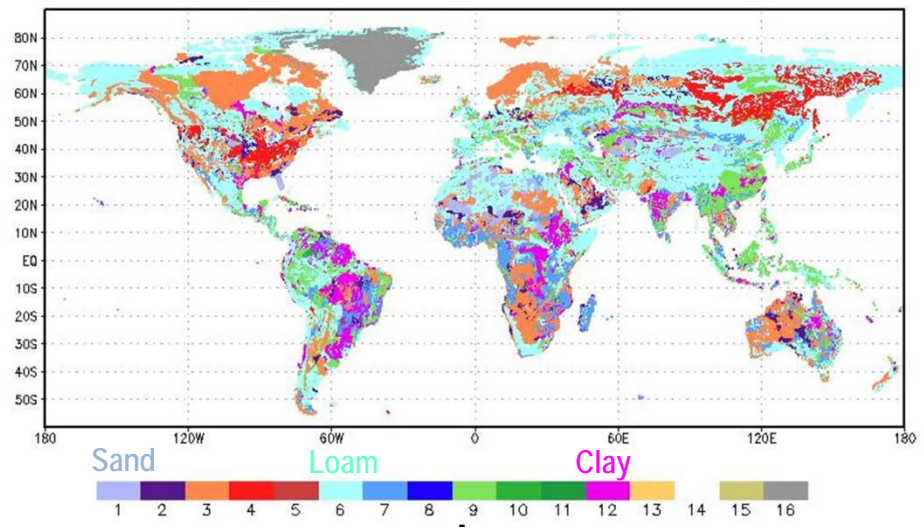
In red, the interpretation of the Zobler texture classes in ORCHIDEE.  
 In blue, the definition of the default three main textures in ORCHIDEE



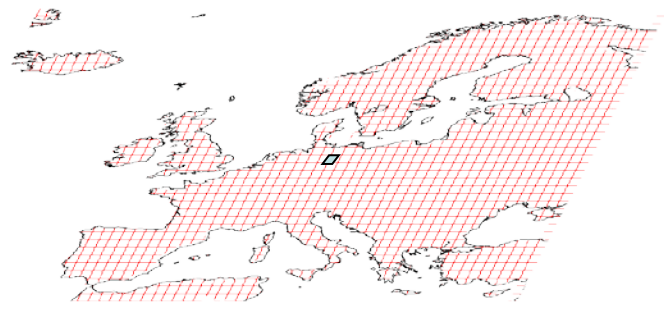


# The role of soil texture

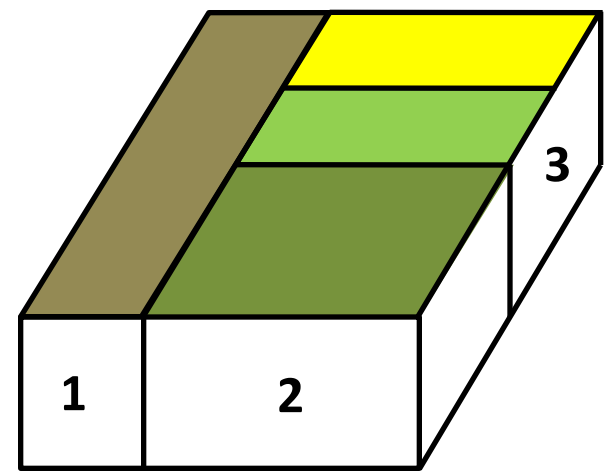
5' USDA texture map (Reynolds et al., 2000)



Dominant texture in each ORCHIDEE grid-cell:  
defining the hydraulic properties



Sub-grid scale heterogeneity:  
3 soil columns based on PFTs  
with independent water budget  
but same texture



- 1: Bare soil PFT
- 2: All Forest PFTs
- 3: All grassland and cropland PFTs

## The role of soil texture

- In hydrol, the main soil properties are:  $\theta_s$   $\theta_r$   $K_s^{ref}$   $m$   $\alpha=1/\psi_{ae}$   $\theta_w$   $\theta_f$

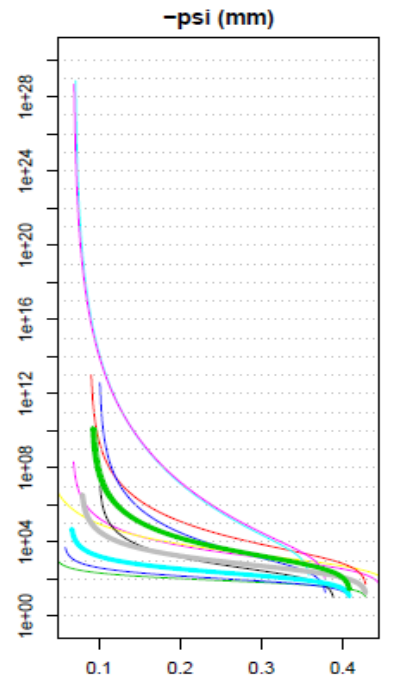
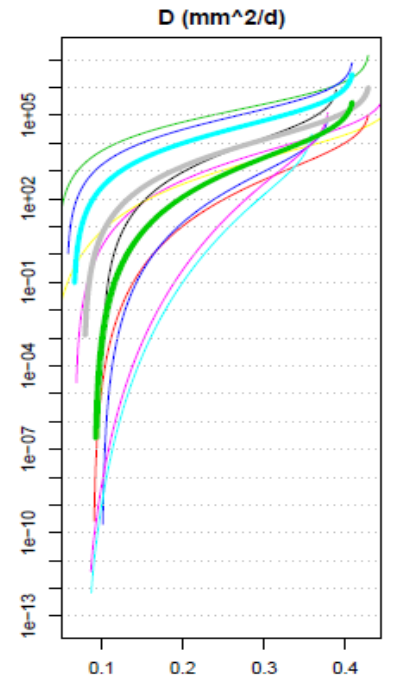
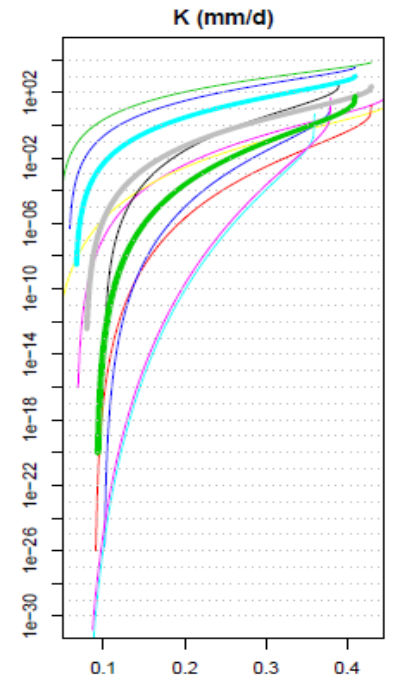
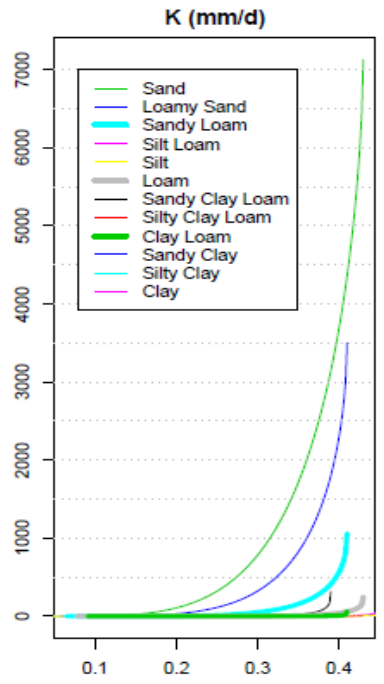
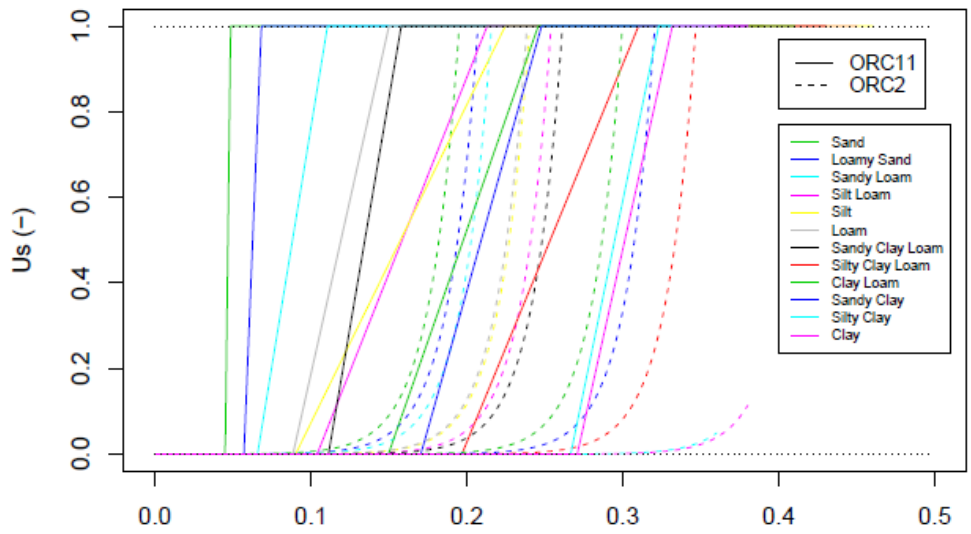
Their default values are defined in `constantes_soils`,  
with the suffix `_usda` or `_fao` (Zobler)

- They are defined based on soil texture  
(in the real world, they can depend on other factors, as soil structure, OMC, etc.)

### *Three ways of defining soil texture in run.def*

- Default run.def: `SOILTYPE_CLASSIF = usda ; SOILCLASS_FILE = soils_param_usda.nc`
- Default keywords: `SOILTYPE_CLASSIF = zobler; SOILCLASS_FILE = soils_param.nc`
- `IMPVEG=y, IMPSOIL=y, SOIL_FRACTION = (x,y,z, etc.)`
  - x,y,z are areal fraction allocated to the soil textural classes defined by your selected map
  - x,y,z are not % sand, silt, clay defining your soil's texture, despite the fact that this option is primarily intended for 0D simulations
  - to get the soil properties of one texture class, set `SOIL_FRACTION = (1,0,0, ...0...)`, and use the externalization to redefine the 1st value of the vectors defining soil properties

# The role of soil texture



**Thank you for your attention**  
**Questions ?**

