



the  
**abdus salam**  
international centre for theoretical physics

SMR.1313 - 5

*Summer Colloquium on the Physics of Weather and Climate*

**Workshop on  
Land-Atmosphere Interactions in Climate Models**  
*(28 May - 8 June 2001)*

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**Land-surface Modeling of Intermediate Complexity  
for NWP and Climate: the ECMWF Experience**

**Lecture 2**

**REVISED**

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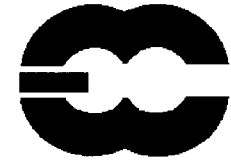
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These are preliminary lecture notes, intended only for distribution to participants



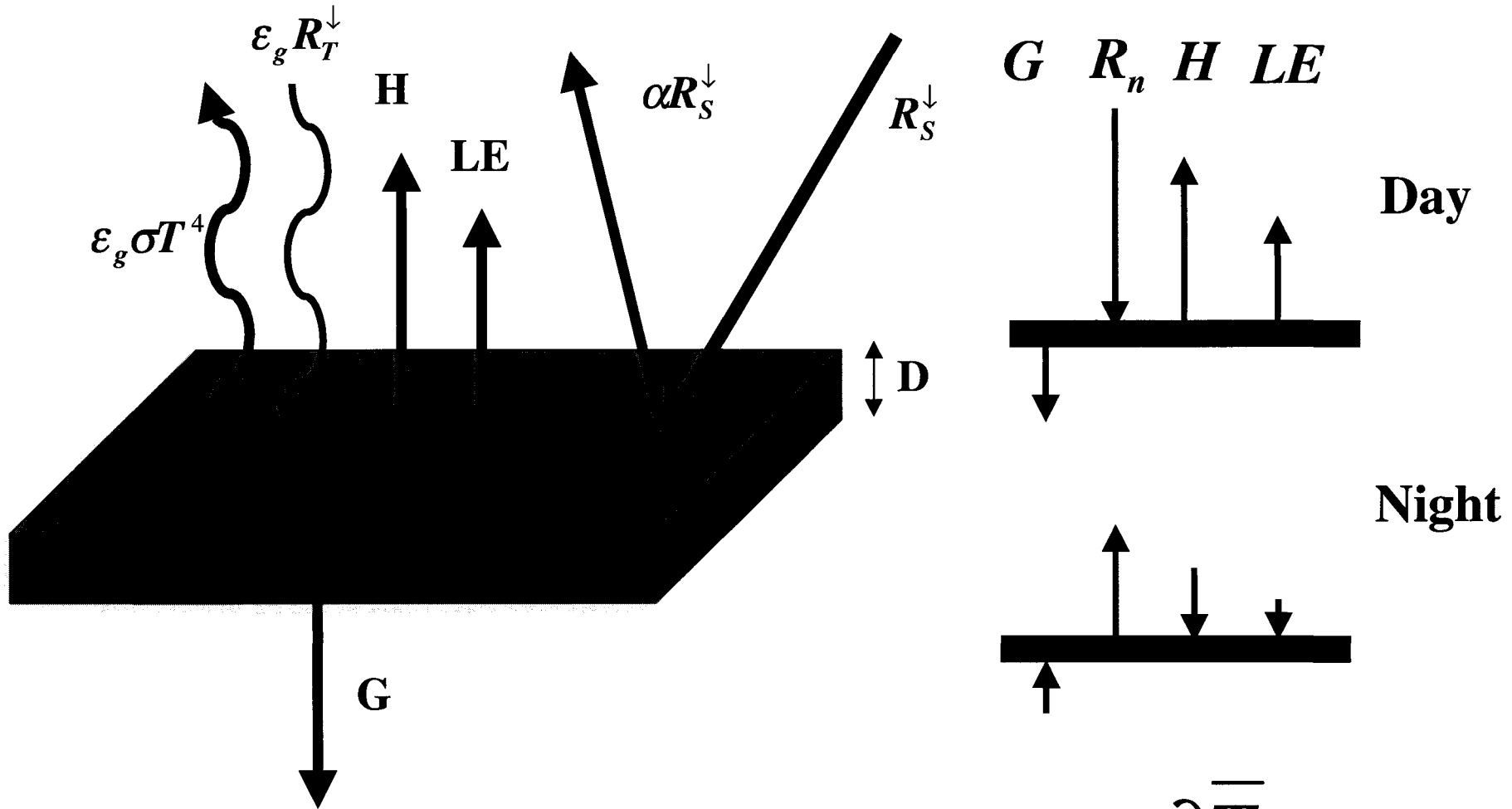
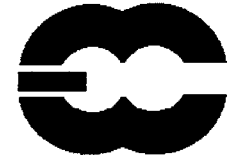
# Layout

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- **Introduction**
- **General remarks**
- **Model development and validation**
- **The surface energy budget**
- **Soil heat transfer**
- **Soil water transfer**
- **Surface fluxes**
- **Initial conditions**
- **Snow**
- **Conclusions and a look ahead**

# Thermal budget of a ground layer at the surface



$$R_n + H + L \cdot E + G = (\rho C)_g D \frac{\partial \bar{T}_s}{\partial t}$$

# Energy budget: Summer examples

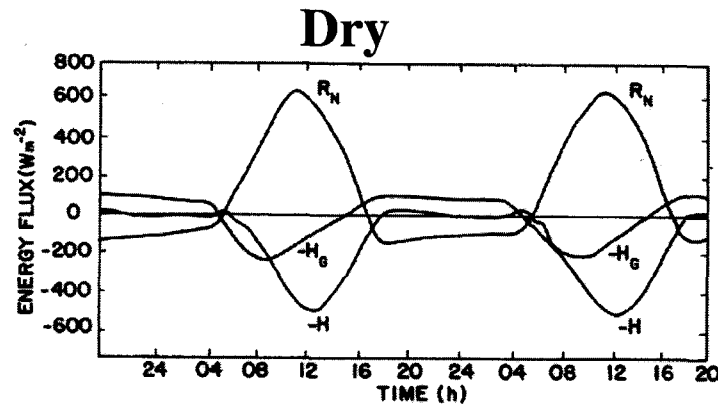
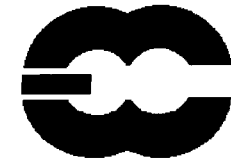


Fig. 2.3 Observed diurnal energy balance over a dry lake bed at El Mirage, California, on June 10 and 11, 1950. [After Vehrencamp (1953).]

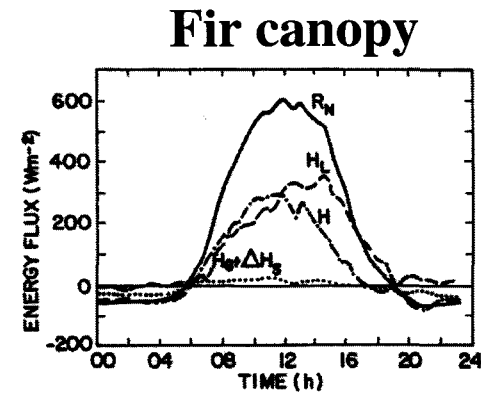


Fig. 2.5 Observed energy budget of a Douglas fir canopy at Haney, British Columbia, on July 23, 1970. [From Oke (1987); after McNaughton and Black (1973).]

## Barley field

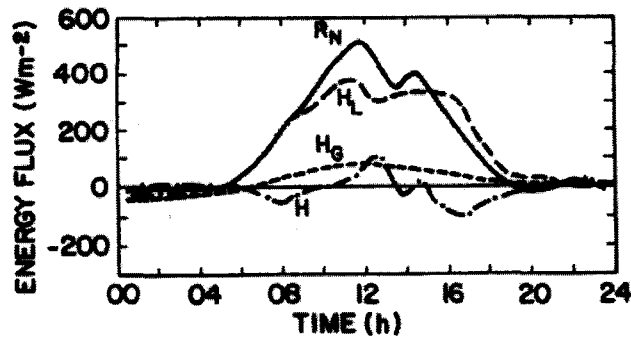
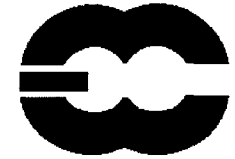


Fig. 2.4 Observed diurnal energy budget of a barley field at Rothamsted, England, on July 23, 1963. [From Oke (1987); after Long *et al.* (1964).]

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_N &= R_n \\
 -H_G &= G \\
 -H &= H \\
 -H_L &= LE
 \end{aligned}$$

Arya, 1988

# The surface radiation



$$R_n = (1 - \alpha)R_S^\downarrow + \varepsilon_g R_T^\downarrow - \varepsilon_g \sigma T_{sk}^4$$

$\alpha$  Surface albedo

$\varepsilon_g$  Surface emissivity

$T_{sk}$  Skin temperature

$$\bar{T}_s \neq T_{sk}$$

- In some cases (snow, sea ice, dense canopies) the impinging solar radiations penetrates the “ground” layer and is absorbed at a variable depth. In those cases, an extinction coefficient is needed.

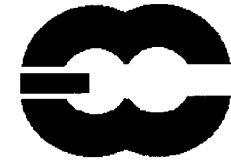
**Table 3.1**  
Radiative Properties of Natural Surfaces<sup>a</sup>

Surface type	Other specifications	Albedo (a)	Emissivity (ε)
Water	Small zenith angle	0.03–0.10	0.92–0.97
	Large zenith angle	0.10–0.50	0.92–0.97
Snow	Old	0.40–0.70	0.82–0.89
	Fresh	0.45–0.95	0.90–0.99
Ice	Sea	0.30–0.40	0.92–0.97
	Glacier	0.20–0.40	
Bare sand	Dry	0.35–0.45	0.84–0.90
	Wet	0.20–0.30	0.91–0.95
Bare soil	Dry clay	0.20–0.35	0.95
	Moist clay	0.10–0.20	0.97
	Wet fallow field	0.05–0.07	
Paved	Concrete	0.17–0.27	0.71–0.88
	Black gravel road	0.05–0.10	0.88–0.95
Grass	Long (1 m)	0.16–0.26	0.90–0.95
	Short (0.02 m)		
Agricultural	Wheat, rice, etc.	0.10–0.25	0.90–0.99
	Orchards	0.15–0.20	0.90–0.95
Forests	Deciduous	0.10–0.20	0.97–0.98
	Coniferous	0.05–0.15	0.97–0.99

<sup>a</sup> Compiled from Sellers (1965), Kondratyev (1969), and Oke (1978).

**Arya, 1988**

# The other terms



**Sensible heat flux**

$$H = \rho C_h u_L (C_p T_L + gz - C_p T_{sk})$$

$$C_h = f(Ri_B, z_{oh}, z_{om})$$

$z_{oh}, z_{om}$  specify the surface

**Evaporation**

$$E = \rho C_h u_L [a_L q_L - a_s q_{sat}(T_{sk}, p_s)]$$

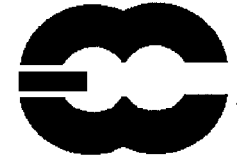
$a_{L,s} = f(q_L, T_s, \text{state and nature of the soil, soil cover})$

**Ground heat flux**

$$(\rho C)_g \frac{\partial T_s}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial G}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \lambda_T \frac{\partial T}{\partial z}$$

$(\rho C)_g, \lambda_T = f(\text{soil type, other soil characteristics})$

# Recap: The surface energy equation



$$(1 - \alpha)R_S^\downarrow + \varepsilon_g R_T^\downarrow - \varepsilon_g \sigma T_{sk}^4 + \rho C_h u_L (C_p T_L + gz - C_p T_{sk}) + \rho C_h u_L [a_L q_L - a_s q_{sat}(T_{sk}, p_s)] + G(T_s, T_{sk}) = (\rho C)_g D \frac{\partial T_s}{\partial t}$$

- Equation for  $T_s, T_{sk}$

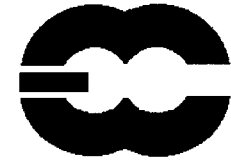
- For:

- a thin soil layer at the top  $(\rho C)_g D \frac{\partial T_s}{\partial t} \approx 0$
- $G(T_s, T_{sk})$  is known, or parameterized or  $G \ll R_n$

we have a non-linear equation defining the skin temperature



# TESSEL



- **Skin layer at the interface between soil (snow) and atmosphere; no thermal inertia, instantaneous energy balance**
- **At the interface soil/atmosphere, each grid-box is divided into fractions (tiles), each fraction with a different functional behaviour. The different tiles see the same atmospheric column above and the same soil column below.**

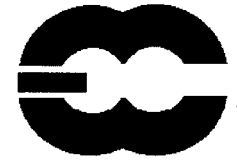
$$G_i = \Lambda_{sk,i} (T_s - T_{sk,i})$$

$i$  index for tile

$$i = 1, \dots, N$$

- **If there are  $N$  tiles, there will be  $N$  fluxes,  $N$  skin temperatures per grid-box**
- **There are currently up to 6 tiles over land ( $N=6$ )**

# TESSEL skin temperature equation



$$\begin{aligned} & (1 - \alpha_i) R_S^\downarrow + \varepsilon_g R_T^\downarrow - \varepsilon_g \sigma T_{sk,i}^4 + \\ & \rho C_{h,i} u_L (C_p T_L + gz - C_p T_{sk,i}) + \\ & \rho C_{h,i} u_L [a_{L,i} q_L - a_{s,i} q_{sat}(T_{sk,i}, p_s)] + \\ & \Lambda_{sk,i} (T_s - T_{sk,i}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Grid-box quantities

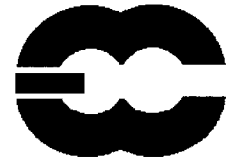
$$H = \sum_i C_i H_i$$

$$E = \sum_i C_i E_i$$

$$T_{sk} = \sum_i C_i T_{sk,i}$$

$C_i$  Tile fraction

# Tiles



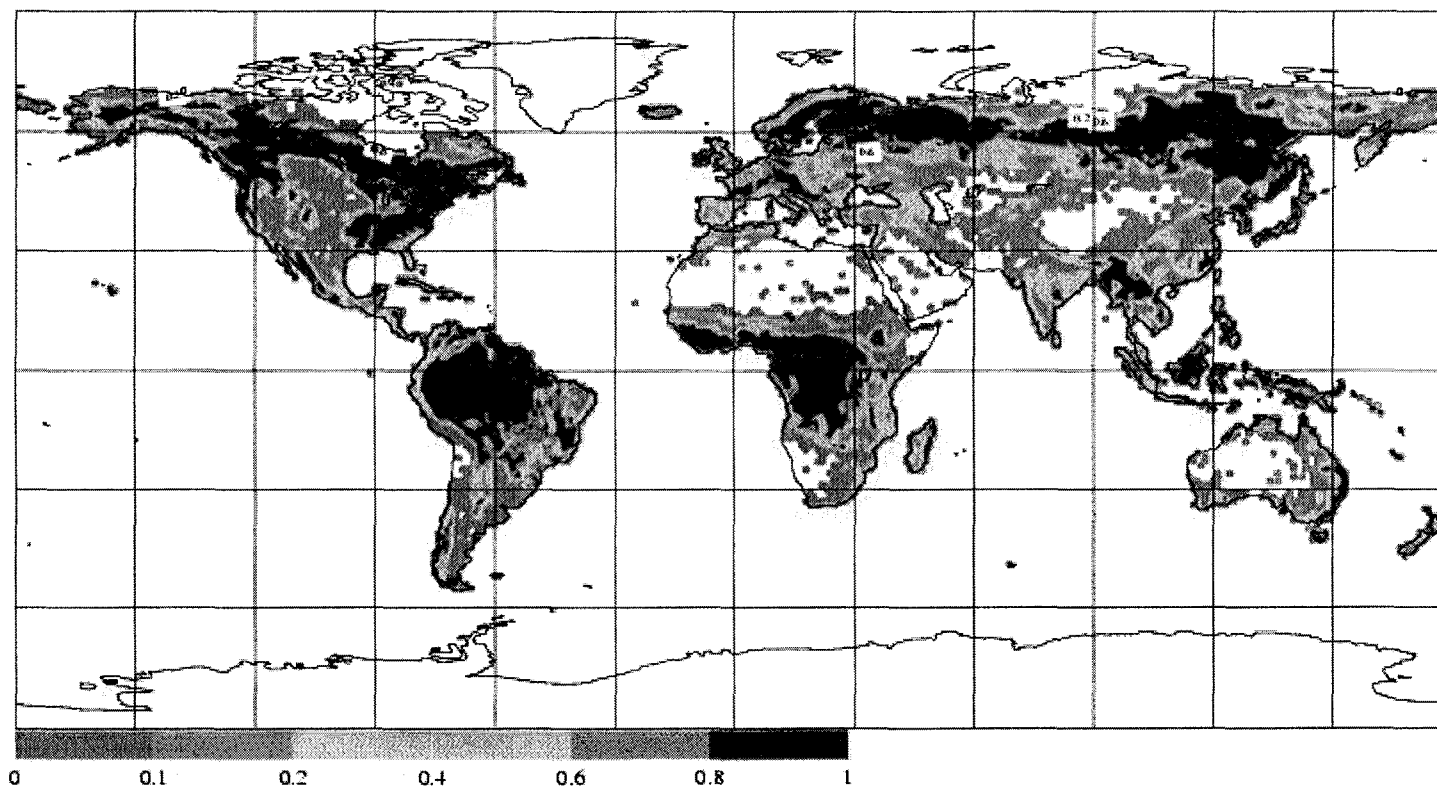
<b>Land</b>	<b>Sea and ice</b>
<b>High vegetation</b>	<b>Open sea / unfrozen lakes</b>
<b>Low vegetation</b>	<b>Sea ice / frozen lakes</b>
<b>High vegetation with snow beneath</b>	
<b>Snow on low vegetation</b>	
<b>Bare ground</b>	
<b>Interception layer</b>	

# TESSEL geographic characteristics



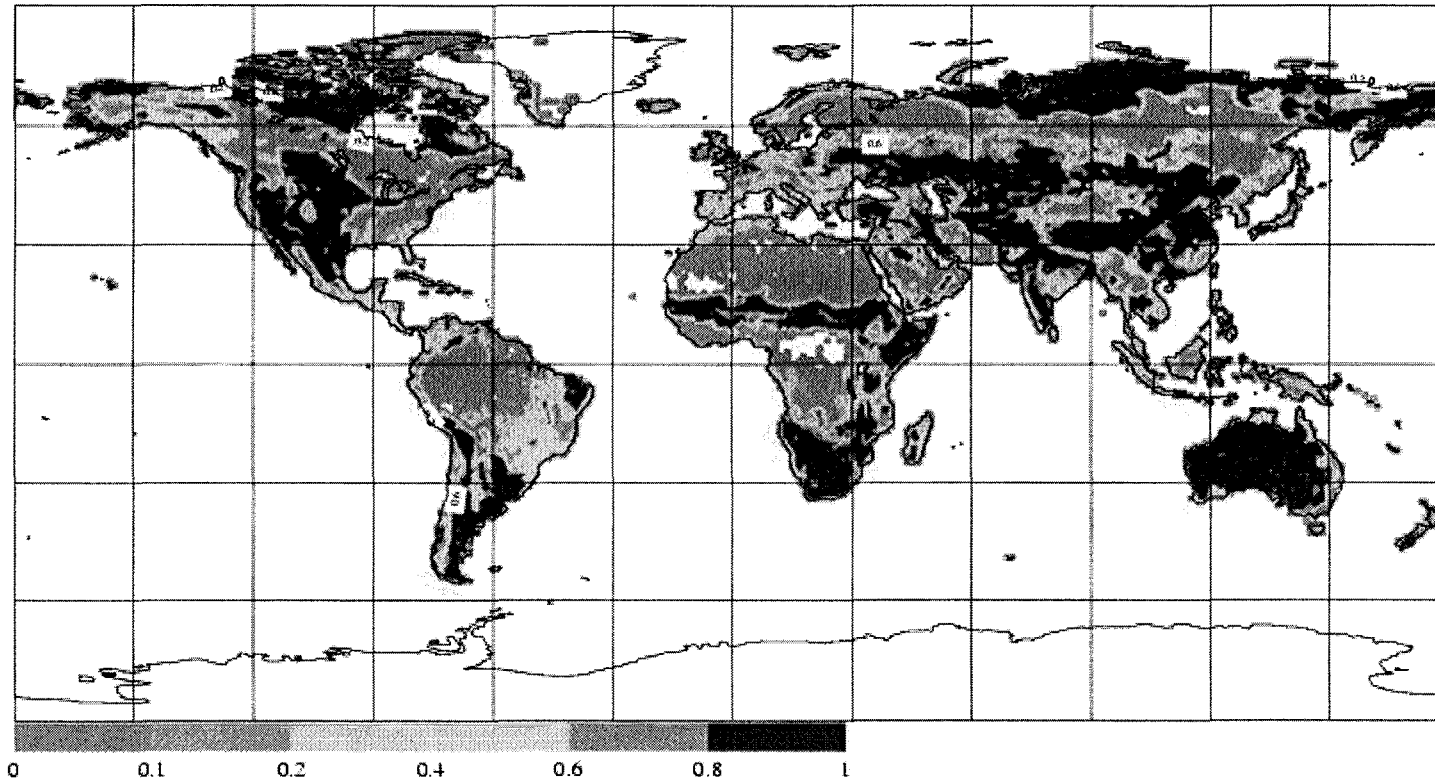
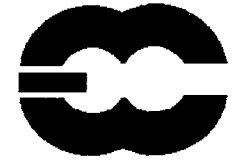
<b>Fields</b>	<b>ERA15</b>	<b>TESSEL</b>
<b>Vegetation</b>	<b>Fraction</b>	<b>Fraction of low Fraction of high</b>
<b>Vegetation type</b>	<b>Global constant (grass)</b>	<b>Dominant low type Dominant high type</b>
<b>Albedo</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
<b>LAI</b>	<b>Global constants</b>	<b>Dependent on vegetation type</b>
<b><math>r_{smin}</math></b>		
<b>Root depth</b>	<b>1 m</b>	<b>Dependent on vegetation type</b>
<b>Root profile</b>	<b>Global constant</b>	<b>vegetation type</b>

# High vegetation fraction at T511



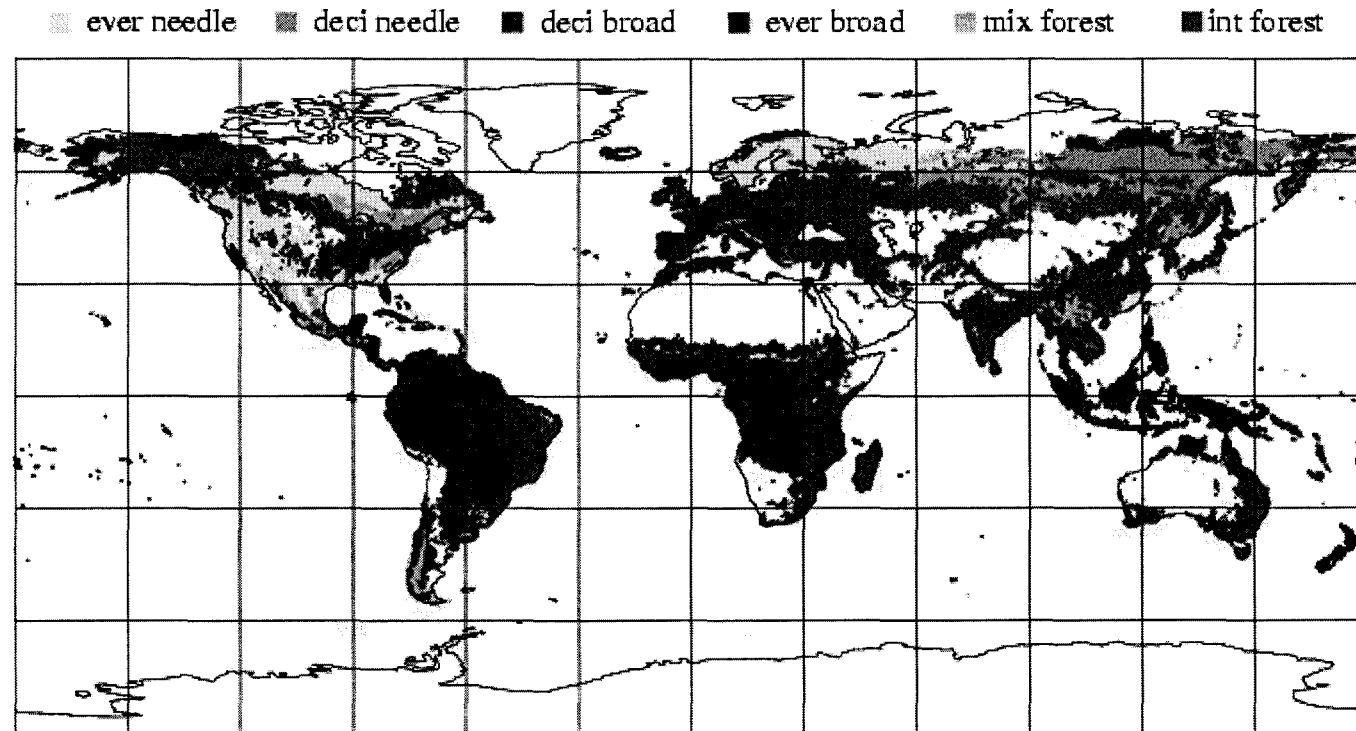
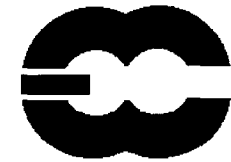
**Aggregated from GLCC 1km**

# Low vegetation fraction at T511



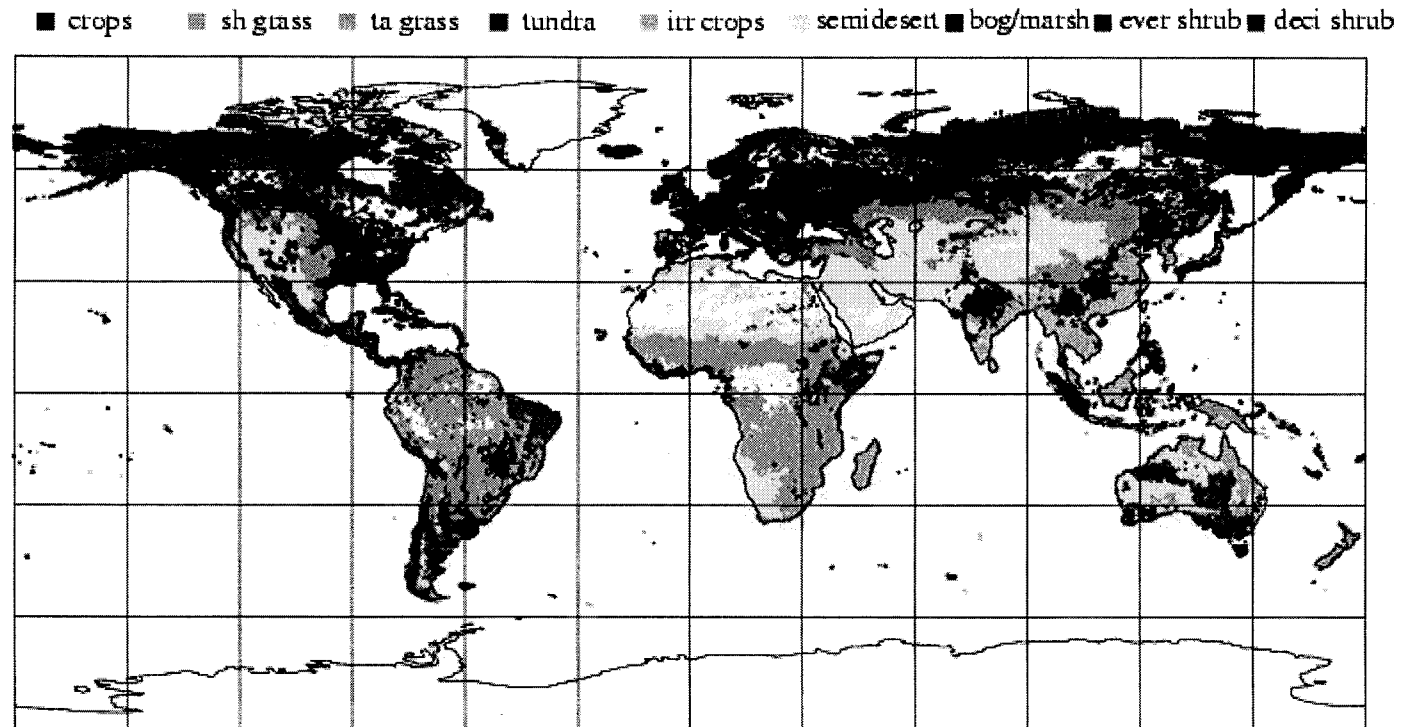
**Aggregated from GLCC 1km**

# High vegetation type at T511



**Aggregated from GLCC 1km**

# Low vegetation type at T511

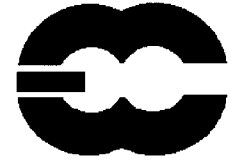


**Aggregated from GLCC 1km**



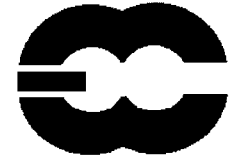
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# Ground heat flux



In the absence of phase changes, heat conduction in the soil obeys a Fourier law

$$(\rho C)_g \frac{\partial T_s}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial G}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \lambda_T \frac{\partial T}{\partial z}$$

$(\rho C)_g$       Soil volumetric heat capacity

$\lambda_T$               Thermal conductivity

$k = \frac{\lambda_T}{(\rho C)_g}$       Thermal diffusivity

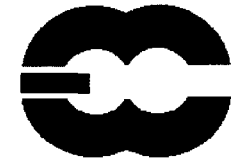
For an homogeneous soil,

$$\frac{\partial T_s}{\partial t} = k \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2}$$

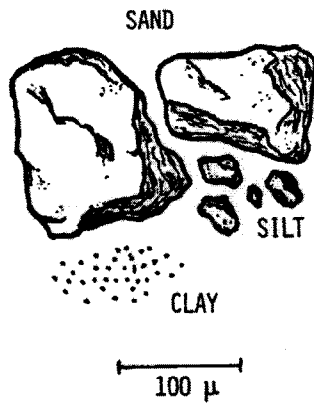
**Boundary conditions:**

- Top              Net surface heat flux
- Bottom        No heat flux OR prescribed climate

# Soil science miscellany (1)



- The soil is a 3-phase system, consisting of
  - minerals and organic matter      soil matrix
  - water      condensate (liquid/solid) phase
  - moist air trapped      gaseous phase
- Texture - the size distribution of soil particles



Hillel 1982

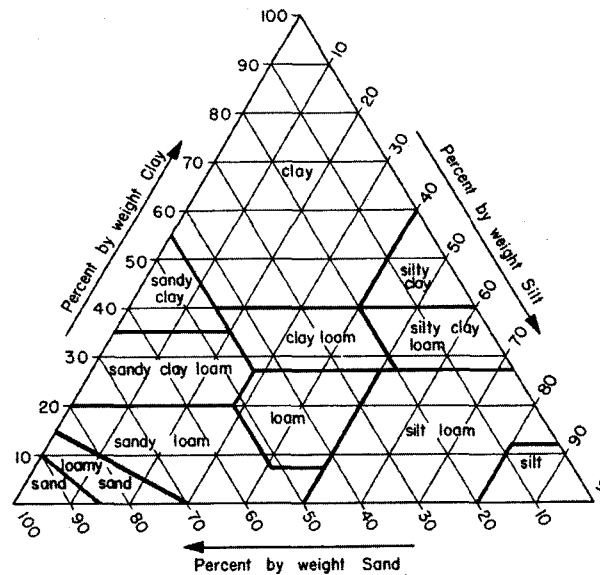
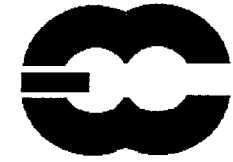


Fig. 3.5. Textural triangle, showing the percentages of clay (below 0.002 mm), silt (0.002–0.05 mm), and sand (0.05–2.0 mm) in the basic soil textural classes.

# Soil science miscellany (2)



- **Structure** - The spatial organization of the soil particles
- **Porosity** - (volume of maximum air trapped)/(total volume)

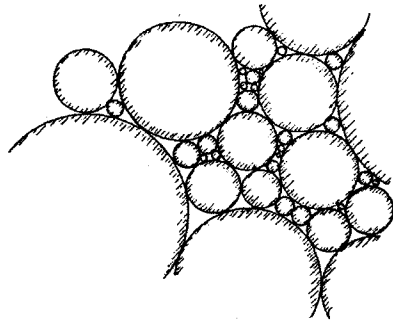
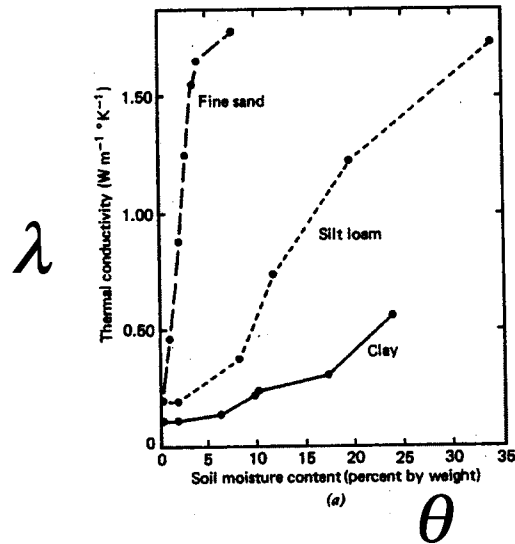
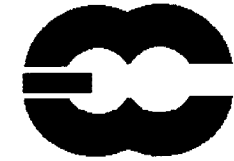


Fig. 4.1. Packing of polydisperse particles (hypothetical).

Hillel 1982

- **Composition**
- **Water content**

# Soil properties



Rosenberg et al 1983

**Table 4.1**  
Molecular Thermal Properties of Natural Materials\*

Material	Condition	Mass density $\rho$ ( $kg m^{-3} \times 10^3$ )	Specific heat $c$ ( $J kg^{-1} K^{-1} \times 10^3$ )	Heat capacity $C$ ( $J m^{-3} K^{-1} \times 10^6$ )	Thermal conductivity $k$ ( $W m^{-1} K^{-1}$ )	Thermal diffusivity $\alpha_h$ ( $m^2 sec^{-1} \times 10^{-6}$ )
Air	20°C, Still	0.0012	1.00	0.0012	0.026	21.5
Water	20°C, Still	1.00	4.19	4.19	0.58	0.14
Ice	0°C, Pure	0.92	2.10	1.93	2.24	1.16
Snow	Fresh	0.10	2.09	0.21	0.08	0.38
Sandy soil	Dry	1.60	0.80	1.28	0.30	0.24
(40% pore space)	Saturated	2.00	1.48	2.98	2.20	0.74
Clay soil	Dry	1.60	0.89	1.42	0.25	0.18
(40% pore space)	Saturated	2.00	1.55	3.10	1.58	0.51
Peat soil	Dry	0.30	1.92	0.58	0.06	0.10
(80% pore space)	Saturated	1.10	3.65	4.02	0.50	0.12

\* After Oke (1987).

Arya 1988

ICTP, May 2001

# Diurnal cycle of soil temperature

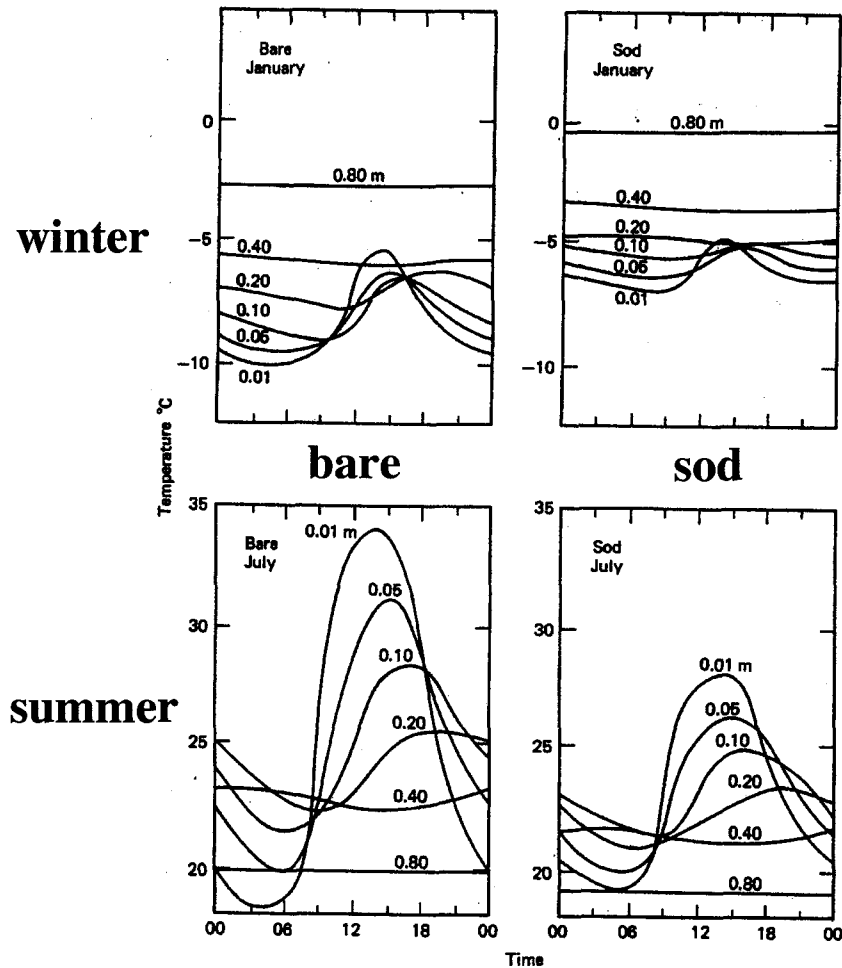
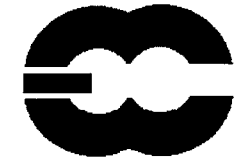


Fig. 2.2 Average hourly soil temperature under bare and sod-covered soil at St. Paul, Minnesota in January (top) and July (bottom). Soil depth is shown in m (after Baker, 1965).

Rosenberg et al 1983

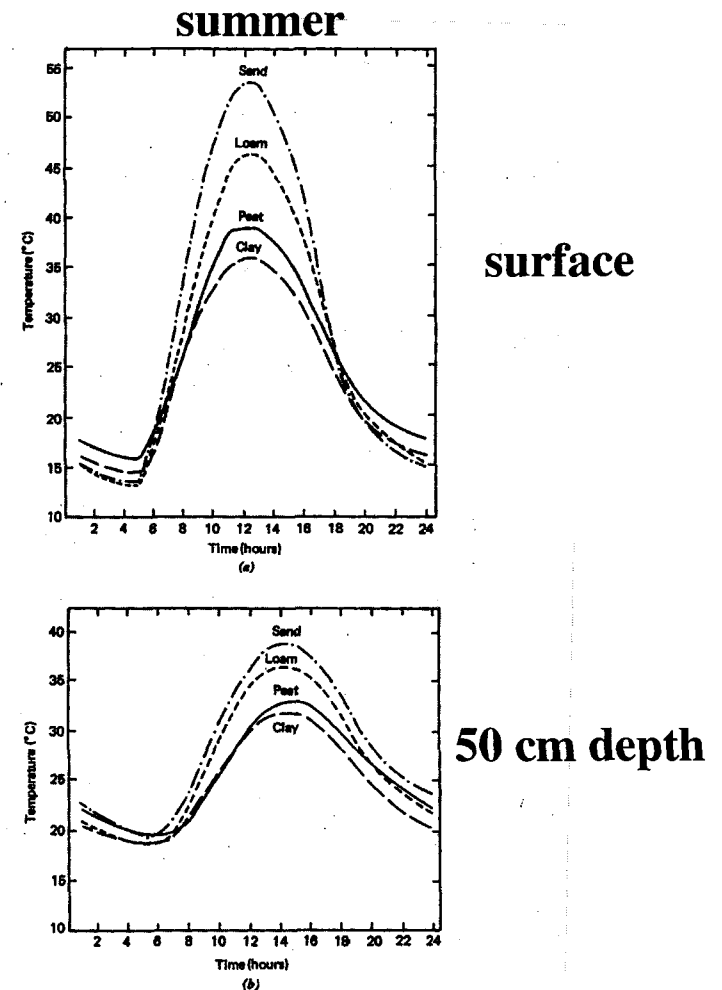
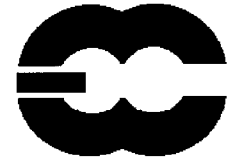


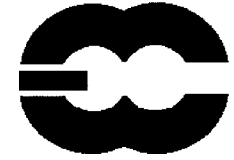
Fig. 2.6 Daily course of temperature (a) at the surface and (b) at a depth of 50 mm on clear summer days at Sapporo, Japan (after Yakuwa, 1946).

# TESSEL



- 
- **Solution of heat transfer equation with the soil discretized in 4 layers, depths 7, 21, 72, and 189 cm.**
  - **No-flux bottom boundary condition**
  - **Heat conductivity dependent on soil water**
  - **Thermal effects of soil water phase change**

# TESSEL soil energy equations



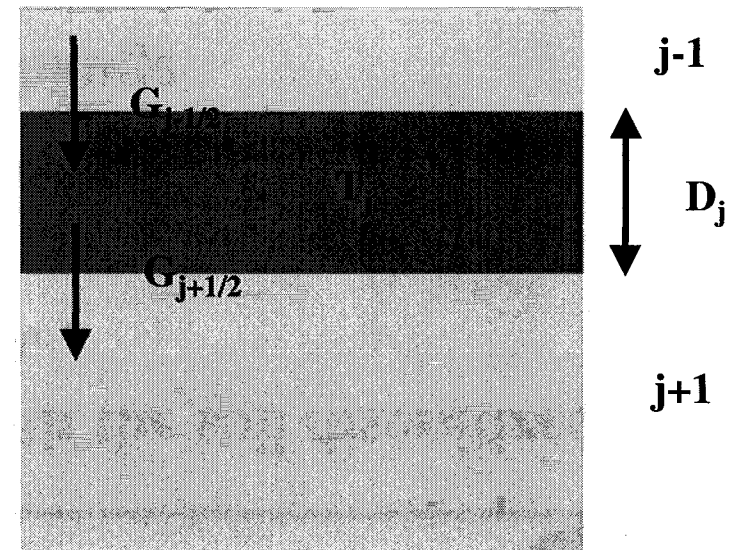
$$\frac{(\rho C)_j}{\Delta t} (T_j^{n+1} - T_j^n) = - \frac{(G_{j+1/2}^{n+1} - G_{j-1/2}^{n+1})}{D_j} \quad j = 1, \dots, 4$$

$$G_{j+1/2}^{n+1} = -\lambda_{T,j+1/2} \frac{T_{j+1}^{n+1} - T_j^{n+1}}{0.5(D_j + D_{j+1})}$$

## Boundary conditions

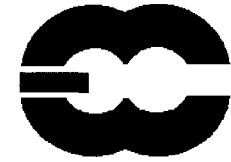
$$G_{1/2} = \sum_i \Lambda_{sk,i} (T_{sk,i} - T_1)$$

$$G_{41/2} = 0$$

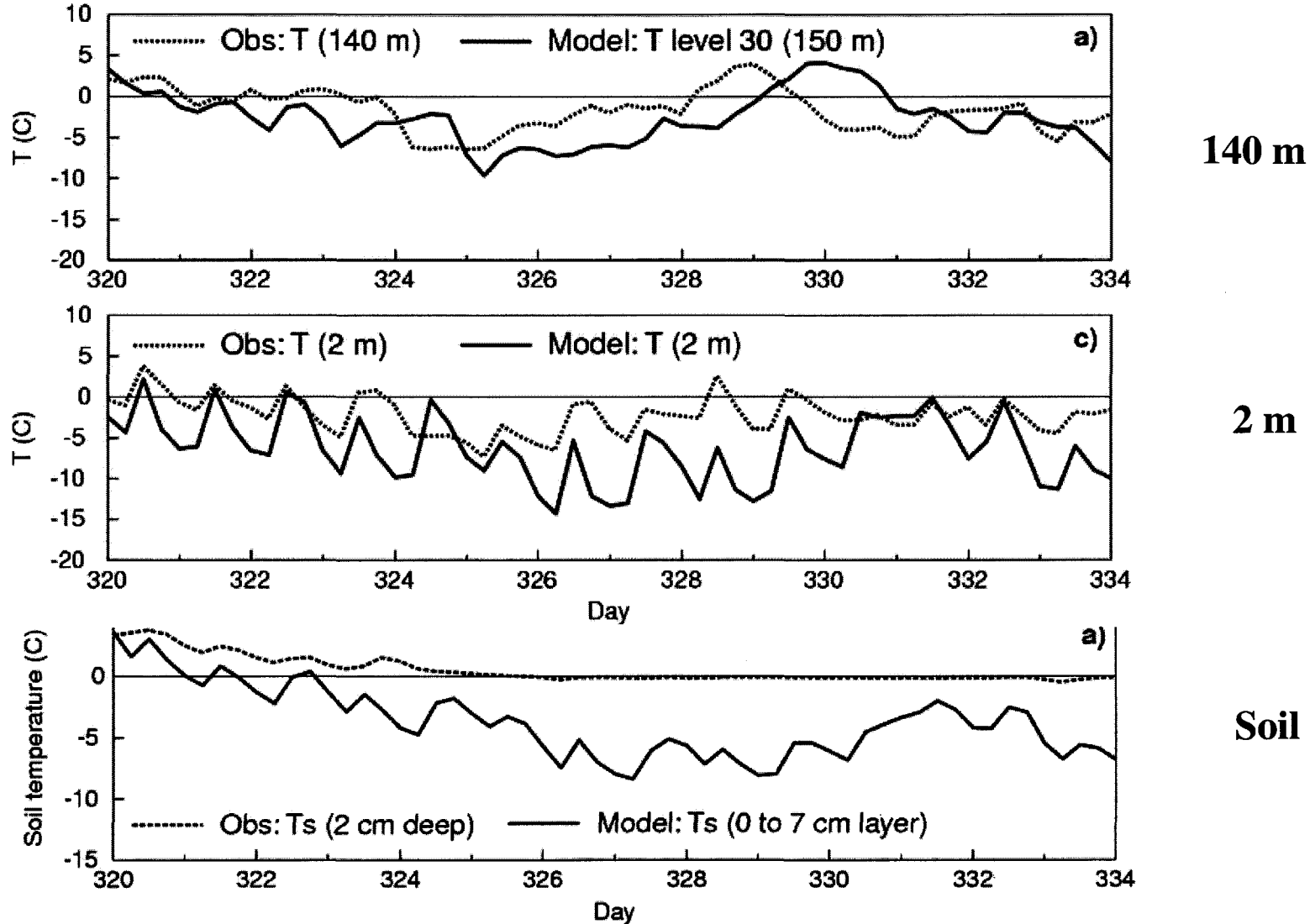




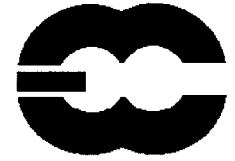
# Case study: winter (1)



## Model vs observations, Cabauw, The Netherlands, 2<sup>nd</sup> half of November 1994



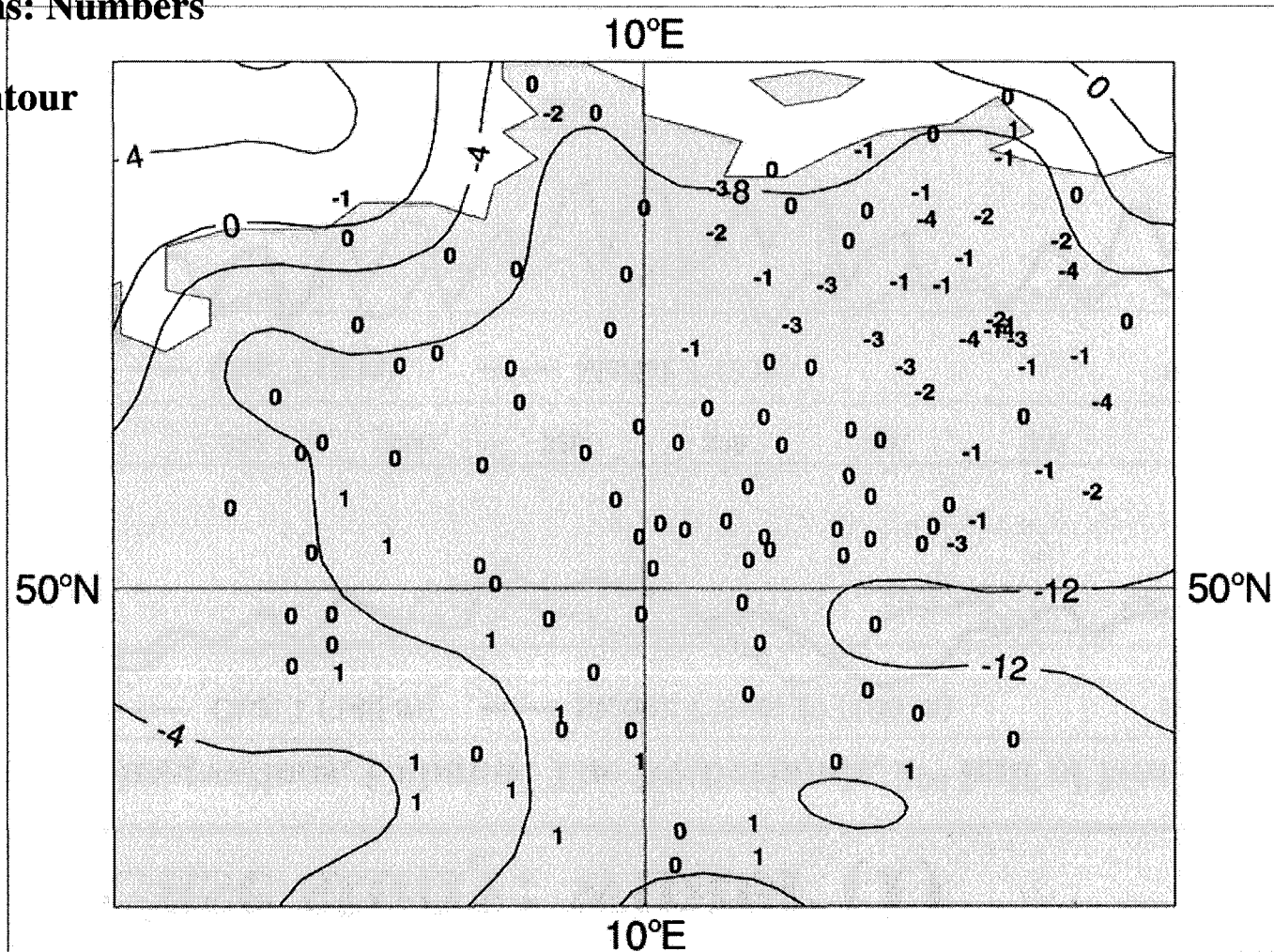
# Case study: winter (2)



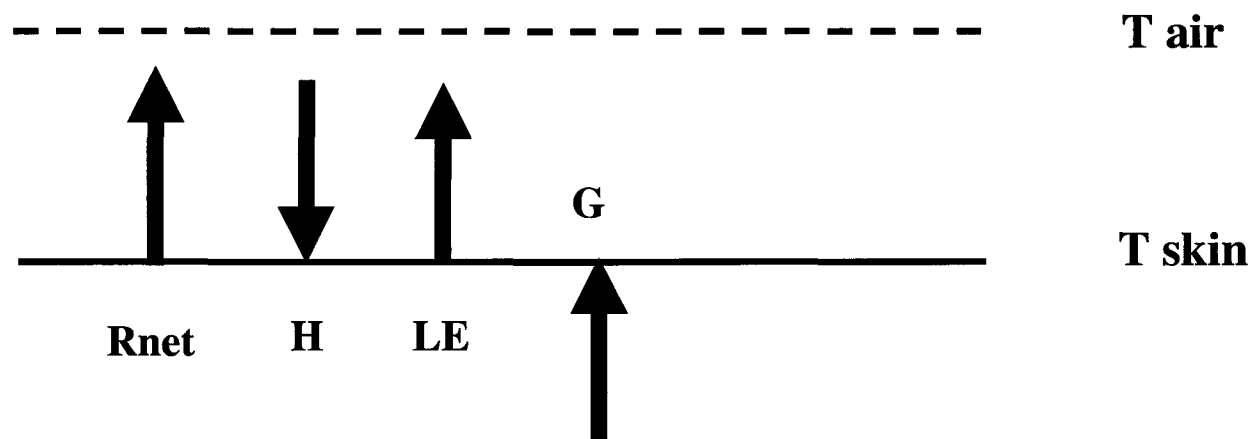
Soil Temperature, North Germany, Feb 1996: Model (28-100 cm) vs OBS 50 cm

Observations: Numbers

Model: Contour



# Case study: winter (3)



$$H = \rho C_p |U_{air}| C_{Hn} f(Ri) (T_{air} - T_{sk})$$

## • Model bias:

- Net radiation ( $R_{net}$ ) too large
- Sensible heat ( $H$ ) too small
  - But ( $T_{air} - T_{sk}$ ) too large (too large diurnal cycle)
  - Therefore  $f(Ri)$  problem
- Soil does not freeze (soil temperature drops too quickly seasonally)

Stability functions

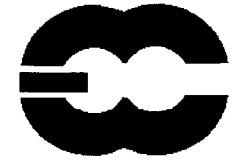
Soil water freezing

Viterbo, Beljaars, Mahfouf, and Teixeira, 1999: Q.J. Roy. Met. Soc., 125,2401-2426.

ICTP, May 2001

# Winter: Soil water freezing

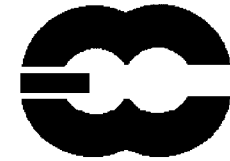
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Soil heat transfer equation

$$(\rho C)_s \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \lambda_T \frac{\partial T}{\partial z}$$

# Winter: Soil water freezing



Soil heat transfer equation

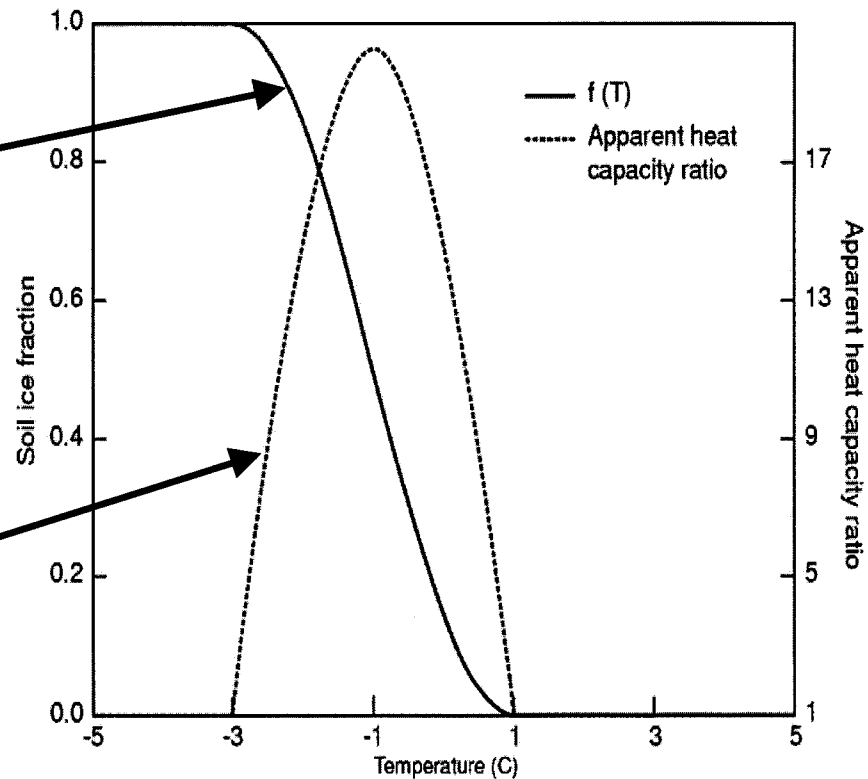
$$(\rho C)_s \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \lambda_T \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} + L_f \rho_w \frac{\partial \theta_I}{\partial t}$$

$\theta_I$  Soil frozen water

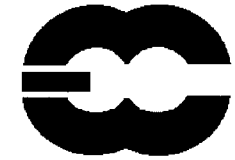
$$\theta_I = \theta_I(T) = f(T)\theta$$

$$\left[ (\rho C)_s - L_f \rho_w \theta \frac{\partial f}{\partial T} \right] \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \lambda_T \frac{\partial T}{\partial z}$$

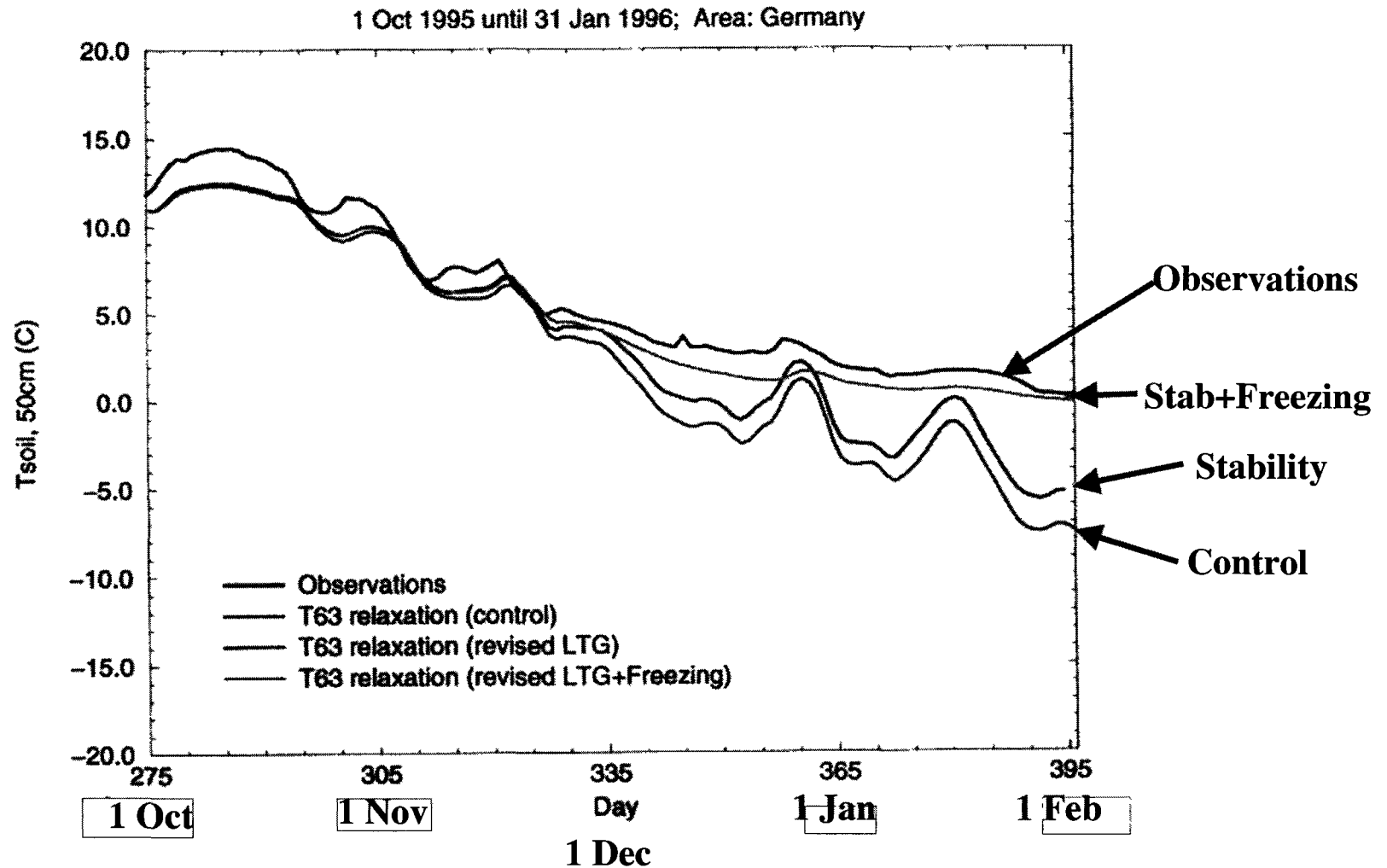
Apparent heat capacity



# Case study: winter (4)



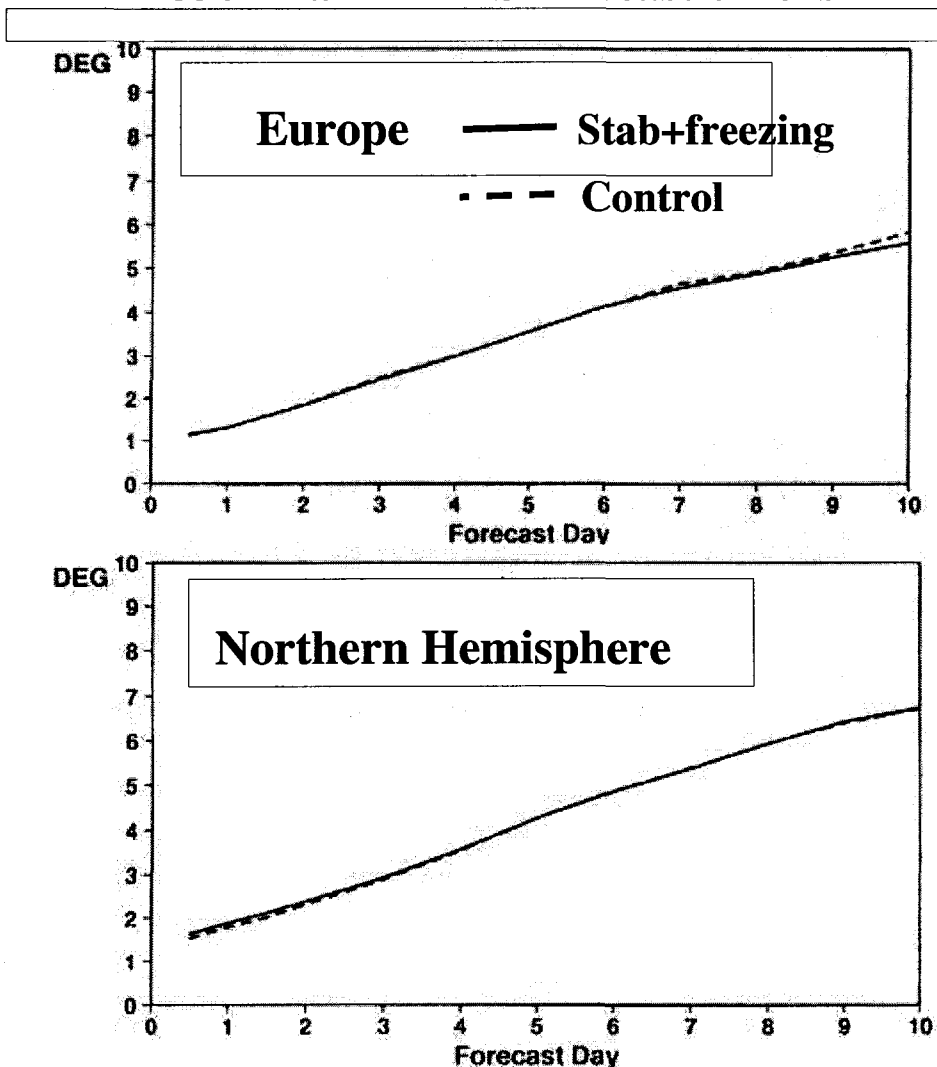
## Germany soil temperature: Observations vs Long model relaxation integrations



# Case study: winter (5)



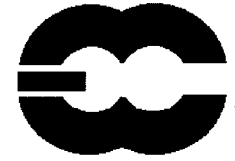
850 hPa T RMS forecast errors



- Soil water freezing acts as a thermal regulator in winter, creating a large thermal inertia around 0 C.
- Simulations with soil water freezing have a near-surface air temperature 5 to 8 K larger than control.
- In winter, stable, situations the atmosphere is decoupled from the surface: large variations in surface temperature affect only the lowest hundred metres and do NOT have a significant impact on the atmosphere.

# Layout

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- **Introduction**
- **General remarks**
- **Model development and validation**
- **The surface energy budget**
- **Soil heat transfer**
- **Soil water transfer**
- **Surface fluxes**
- **Initial conditions**
- **Snow**
- **Conclusions and a look ahead**



# Schematics

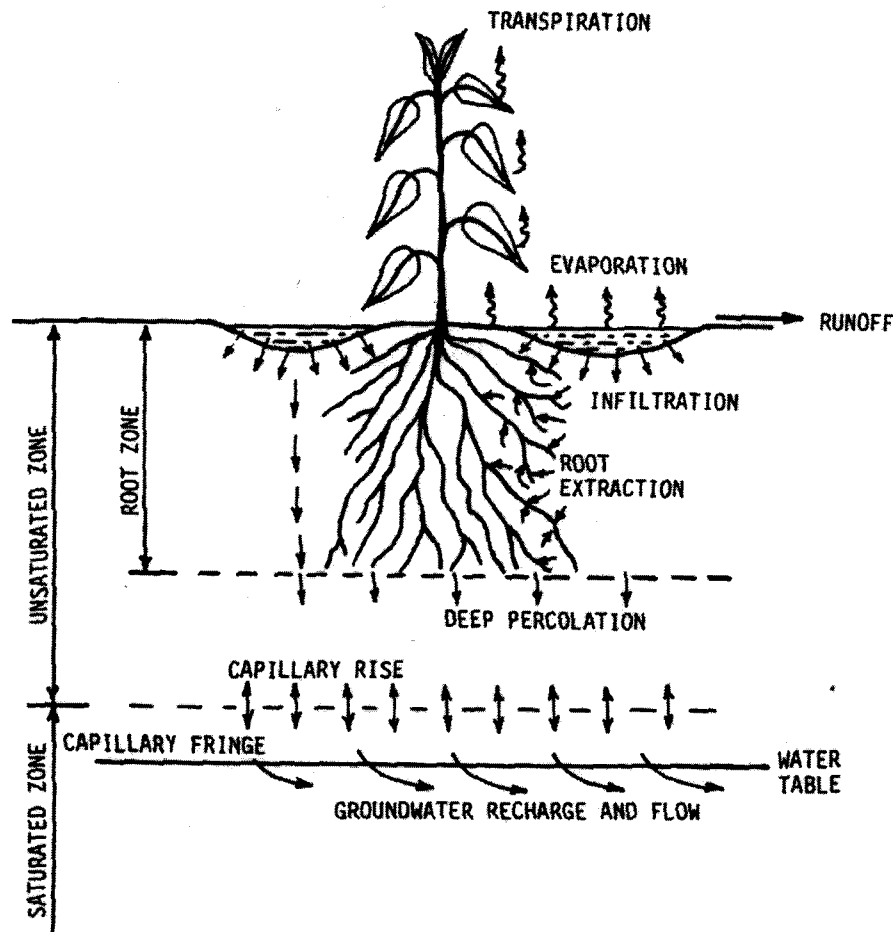
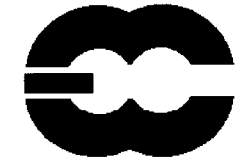


Fig. 17.1. The water balance of a root zone (schematic).

$$\rho_w \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial F}{\partial z} + \rho_w S_\theta$$

$\theta$  soil water [ ] =  $m^3 m^{-3}$

$F$  Soil water flux [ ] =  $kg m^{-2} s^{-1}$

$S_\theta$  Soil water source/sink, ie root extraction

**Boundary conditions:**

**Top** See later

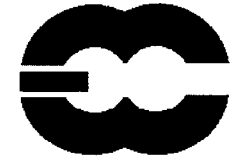
**Bottom** Free drainage or bed rock

**Root extraction**

The amount of water transported from the root system up to the stomata (due to the difference in the osmotic pressure) and then available for transpiration

Hillel 1982

# Soil water flux



$$F = -\rho_w \left( \lambda \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} - \gamma \right)$$

$\lambda$  hydraulic diffusivity       $[\lambda] = m^2 s^{-1}$       Darcy's law  
 $\gamma$  hydraulic conductivity       $[\gamma] = m s^{-1}$

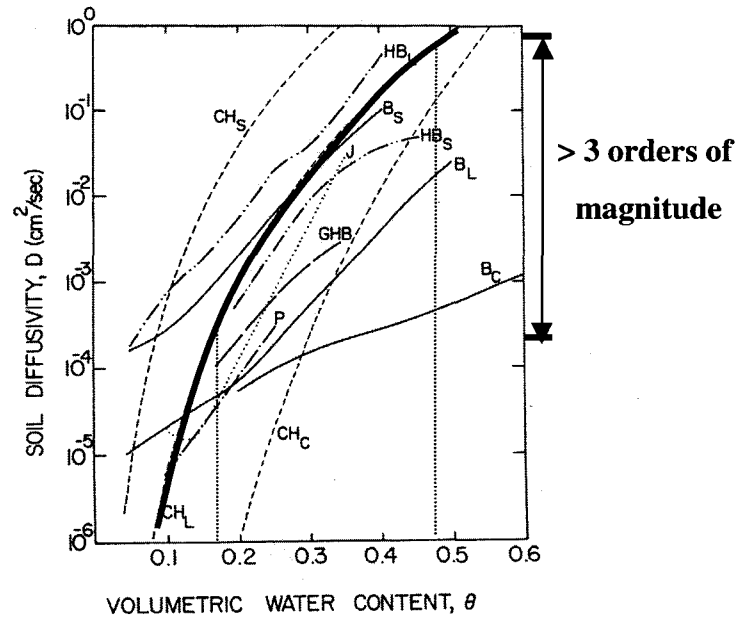


Fig. 2. Examples of the dependence of soil hydraulic diffusivity on volumetric soil water content for loam (HB<sub>l</sub>, Hanks and Bowers, 1962); (J, Jackson, 1973); (GHB, Gardner *et al.*, 1970); silt loam (HB<sub>s</sub>, Hanks and Bowers, 1962); clay (P, Passioura and Cowan, 1968); results approximated from Gardner (1960) for sand (B<sub>s</sub>), loam (B<sub>l</sub>), and clay (B<sub>c</sub>); relationship from Clapp and Hornberger (1978) for sand (CH<sub>s</sub>), loam (CH<sub>l</sub>), and clay (CH<sub>c</sub>).

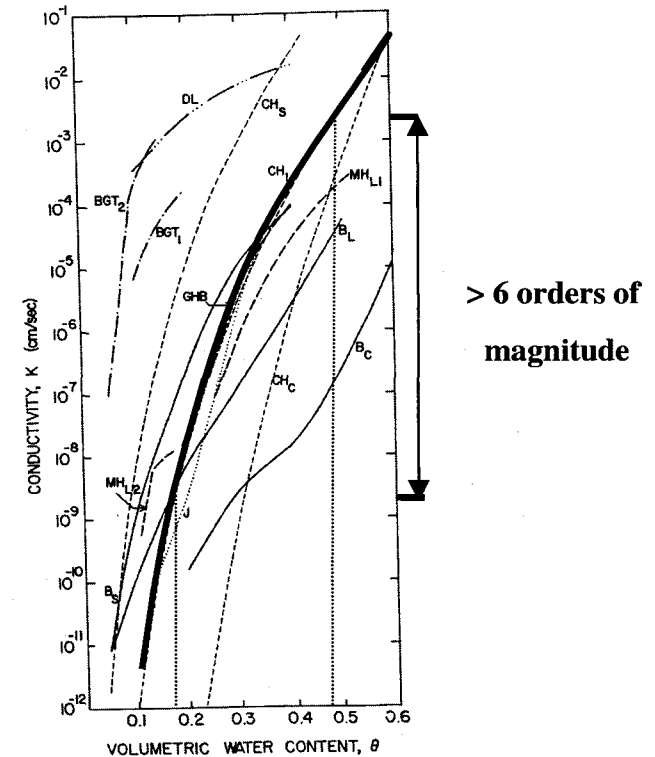
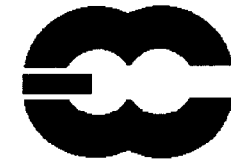


Fig. 3. Examples of the dependence of hydraulic conductivity on volumetric soil water content for sand (DL, Day and Luthin, 1956); (Black *et al.*, 1970, 0–50 cm-BGT<sub>1</sub>, 50–150 cm-BGT<sub>2</sub>); loam (J, Jackson, 1973); (MH<sub>l1</sub> and MH<sub>l2</sub>, Marshall and Holmes, 1979); (GHB, Gardner *et al.*, 1970); results approximated from Gardner (1960) for sand (B<sub>s</sub>), loam (B<sub>l</sub>), and clay (B<sub>c</sub>); relationship from Clapp and Hornberger (1978) for sand (CH<sub>s</sub>), loam (CH<sub>l</sub>), and clay (CH<sub>c</sub>).

Mahrt and Pan 1984

# More soil science miscellany



Hillel 1982

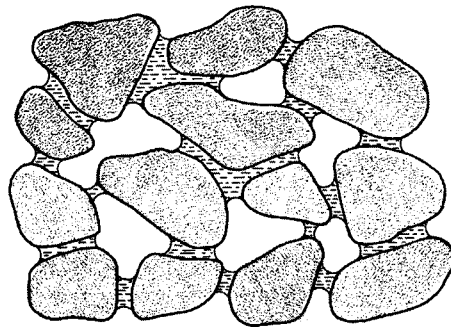


Fig. 7.1. Water in an unsaturated coarse-textured soil.

TABLE I Jacquemin and Noilhan 1990

Critical water contents of soils derived from the classification of Clapp and Hornberger (1978): saturated moisture  $w_{sat}$ , field capacity  $w_n$ , wilting point  $w_{wilt}$ . The field capacity is associated with a hydric conductivity of 0.1 mm/day. The wilting point corresponds to a moisture potential of -15 bar

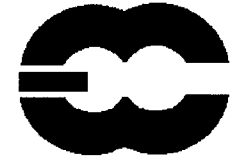
Soil type	$w_{sat}$ ( $m^3/m^3$ )	$w_{fc}$ ( $m^3/m^3$ )	$w_{wilt}$ ( $m^3/m^3$ )
Sand	0.395	0.135	0.068
Loamy sand	0.410	0.150	0.075
Sandy loam	0.435	0.195	0.114
Silt loam	0.485	0.255	0.179
Loam	0.451	0.240	0.155
Sandy clay loam	0.420	0.255	0.175
Silty clay loam	0.477	0.322	0.218
Clay loam	0.476	0.325	0.250
Sandy clay	0.426	0.310	0.219
Silty clay	0.482	0.370	0.283
Clay	0.482	0.367	0.286

- **3 numbers defining soil water properties**

- **Saturation (soil porosity)** Maximum amount of water that the soil can hold when all pores are filled  **$0.472 m^3 m^{-3}$**
- **Field capacity** “Maximum amount of water an entire column of soil can hold against gravity”  **$0.323 m^3 m^{-3}$**
- **Permanent wilting point** Limiting value below which the plant system cannot extract any water  **$0.171 m^3 m^{-3}$**

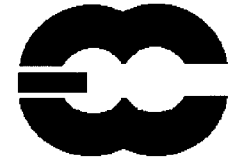
# TESSEL: soil water budget

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- **Solution of Richards equation on the same grid as for energy**
- **Clapp and Hornberger (1978) diffusivity and conductivity dependent on soil liquid water**
- **Free drainage bottom boundary condition**
- **Surface runoff, but no subgrid-scale variability; It is based on infiltration limit at the top**
- **One soil type for the whole globe: “loam”**

# TESSEL soil water equations (1)



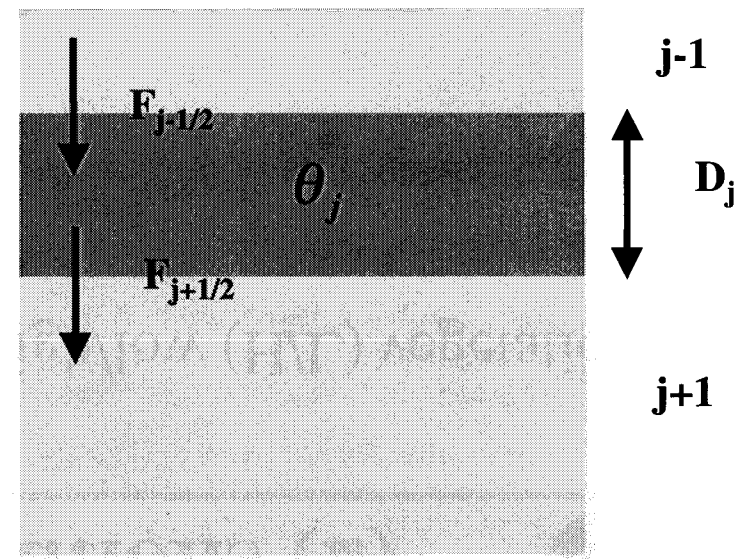
$$\rho_w \frac{(\theta_j^{n+1} - \theta_j^n)}{\Delta t} = - \frac{(F_{j+1/2}^{n+1} - F_{j-1/2}^{n+1})}{D_j} + \rho_w S_{\theta,j} \quad j=1, \dots, 4$$

$$F_{j+1/2}^{n+1} = -\rho_w \left( \lambda_{j+1/2} \frac{\theta_{j+1}^{n+1} - \theta_j^{n+1}}{0.5(D_j + D_{j+1})} - \gamma_{j+1/2} \right)$$

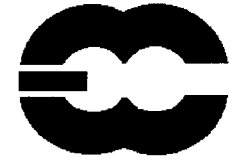
Boundary conditions

$$F_{1/2} = T - Y_s + E_{1/2}$$

$$F_{41/2} = \rho_w \gamma_{41/2}$$



# TESSEL soil water equations (2)



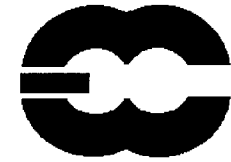
Root extraction at layer  $j$ , separate for high/low (H/L) vegetation

$$[\rho_w S_{\theta,j}]_{H/L} = C_{H/L} \frac{R_{j,H/L} \theta_{j,liq} D_j}{\sum_j R_{j,H/L} \theta_{j,liq} D_j} \quad j = 1, \dots, 4$$

Hydraulic coefficients

$$\gamma = \gamma_{sat} \left( \frac{\theta}{\theta_{sat}} \right)^{2b+3}$$
$$\lambda = \frac{b \gamma_{sat} (-\psi_{sat})}{\theta_{sat}} \left( \frac{\theta}{\theta_{sat}} \right)^{b+2}$$

# FIFE: Time evolution of soil moisture



Viterbo and Beljaars 1995

