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**College of Soil Physics**

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**Water balance: deep drainage , including water flow in unsaturated soil 1**

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# A SOFTWARE TO CALCULATE SOIL HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY FROM INTERNAL DRAINAGE EXPERIMENTS

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- **EXPERIMENTAL SET – UP**

- Leveled bare soil plot (square 3 x 3; 5 x 5; 10 x 10m, circular with double rings, ...)
- Neutron access tubes to measure soil water contents  $\theta$  at desired depths and times (or Time Domain Reflectometers TDR, or tensiometers with soil water retention curves to convert  $h$  into  $\theta$ ).
- Tensiometers to measure matric soil water potential at desired depths and times.
- Large quantity of water to flood the area until steady – state infiltration.
- Plastic sheet to cover the area.

- INFILTRATION

Flood the area until steady – state infiltration, measuring  $i$  until a constant value is reached:

$$i = \frac{h_2 - h_1}{t_2 - t_1}$$

at steady – state:

- measure  $\theta_{\text{sat}} = \theta_0$  at each selected depth
- $i = K_0 = K_{\text{sat}}$  = saturated hydraulic conductivity

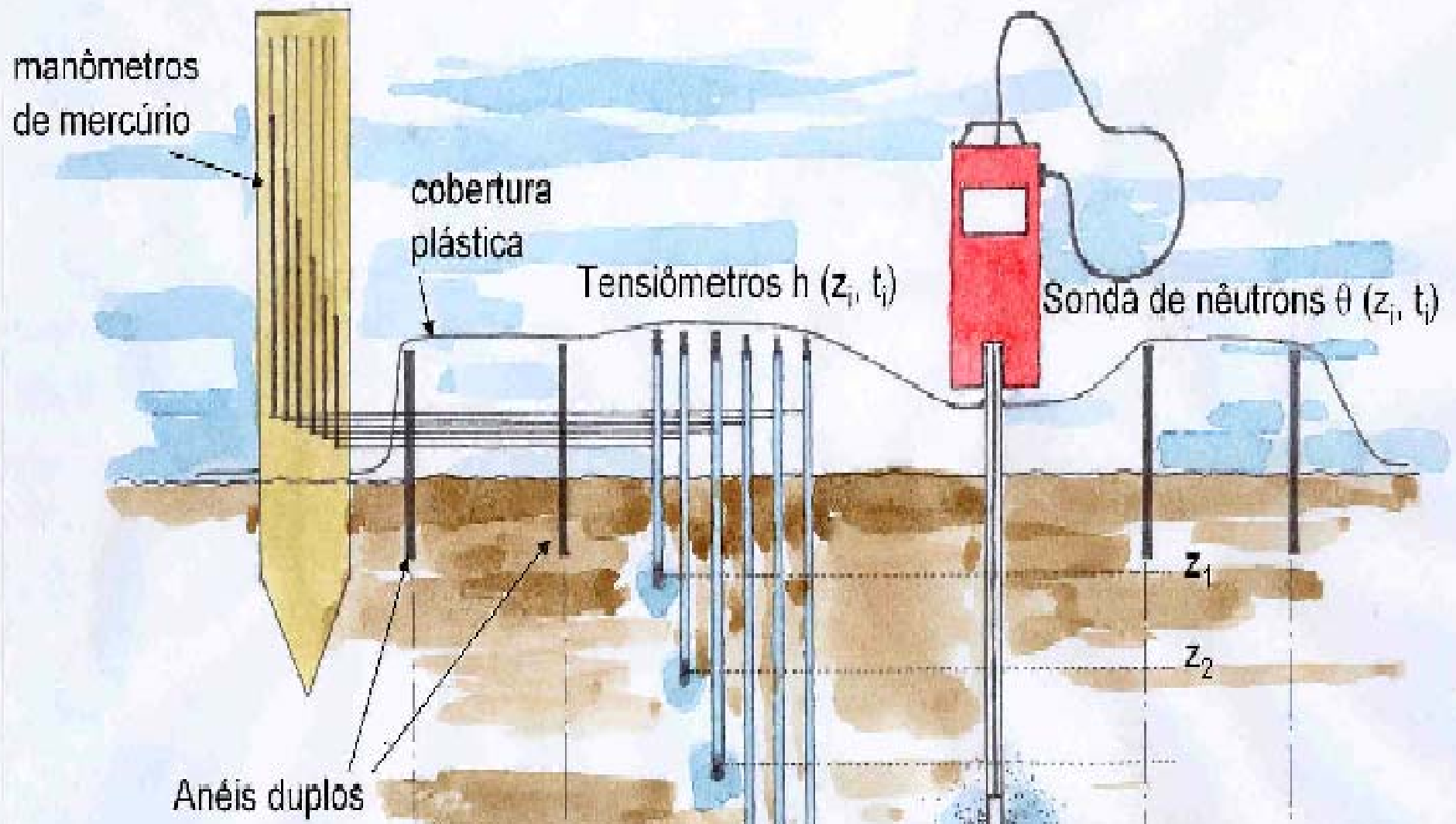
Models:  $K = K_0 \exp \beta (\theta - \theta_0)$  or  $K = \alpha e^{\beta\theta}$

- REDISTRIBUTION (Internal Drainage)

Cover area with plastic sheet ( $t = 0$ ) and start measuring  $\theta$  and  $h$  at select times  $t$  at selected depth  $z$ .

Organize EXCELL tables with  $\theta(z, t)$  and  $h(z, t)$  data, which are the inputs for the software.

# CÁLCULO DA CONDUTIVIDADE HIDRÁULICA DO SOLO PARA EXPERIMENTOS DE DRENAGEM INTERNA



REICHARDT, K; TIMM, L.C.; BACCHI, O.O.S.; OLIVEIRA, J.C.M.; DOURADO-NETO, D. A parameterized equation to estimate soil hydraulic conductivity in the field. *Aus. J. Soil Res.*, 42: 283-287, 2004.

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HILLEL, D.; KRENTOS, V.D. & STYLIANOU, Y. Procedure and test of an internal drainage method for measuring soil hydraulic conductivity in situ. *Soil Sci.*, 114: 395-400, 1972.

BACCHI, O.O.S. Análise comparativa de métodos de determinação da condutividade hidráulica de solos não saturados. Piracicaba, SP, 1988. Tese (Doutorado em Agronomia) - Escola superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz", Universidade de São Paulo.

- USE OF THE SOFTWARE

The software is obtained at no cost with Prof.Dr. Durval

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