

Université Ibn Zohr  
Faculté des Sciences  
Département de Géologie  
Laboratoire de Géologie Appliquée et Géo-Environnement

Organise un séminaire scientifique intitulé:

Modeling groundwater flow to pumping wells:  
Innovative techniques to understand the aquifer behavior.



Présenté par Dr. Andy Louwyck

Le 09 janvier à partir de 15:00



# MY RESUME

FLANDERS  
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



## **Education:**

- 2023: Doctor of Science: Geology (Ghent University)
- 2020: Micro Degree: AI & Data Science (KdG University Antwerp)
- 2015: Associate Degree: IT & Programming (CVO Brussels)
- 2001: Master of Science: Geology (Ghent University)
- 1999: Bachelor of Science: Geology (Catholic University of Leuven)



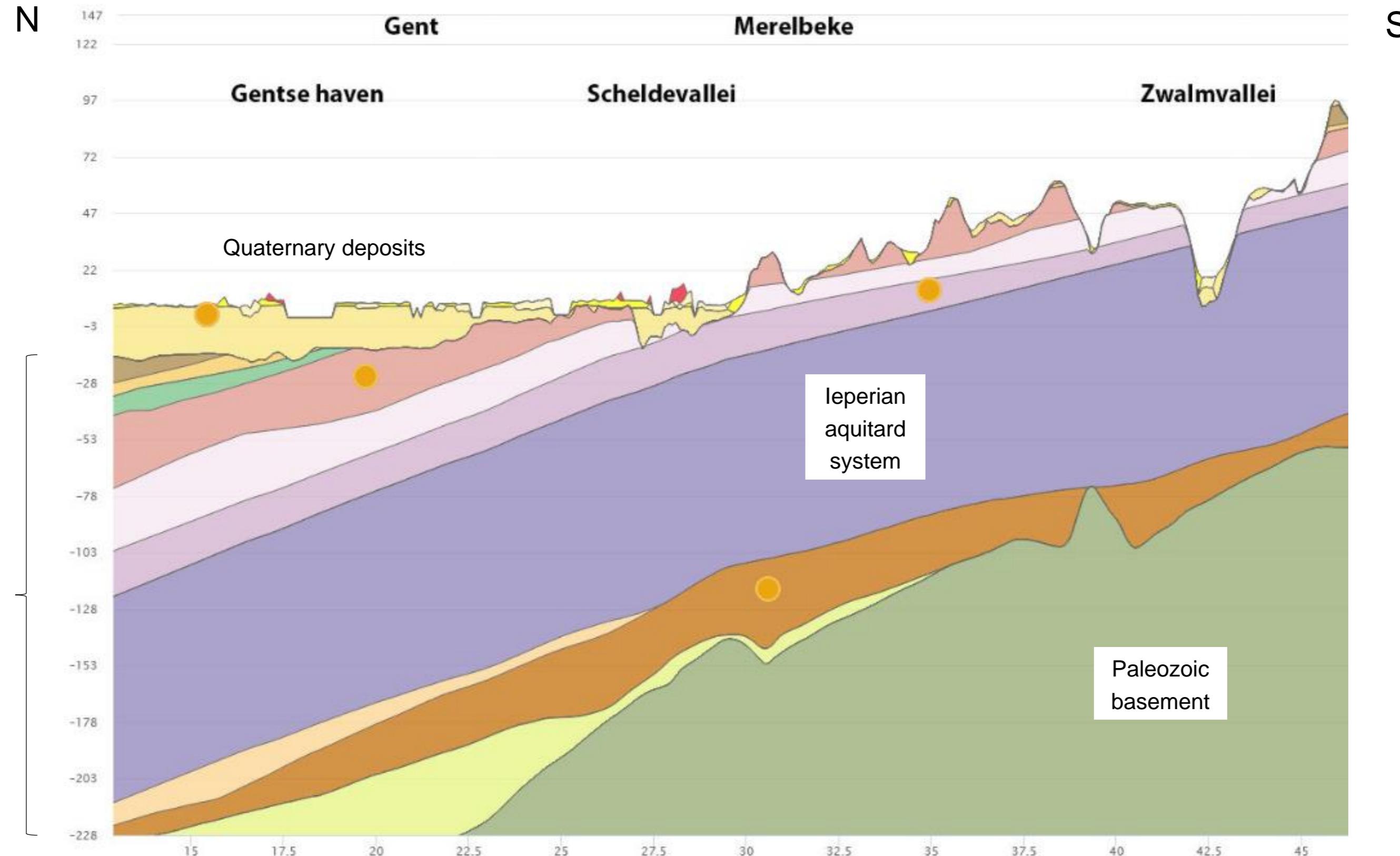
## **Professional Experience:**

- 2023 - ... Voluntary Post-Doctoral Researcher in Hydrogeology (Ghent University)
- 2023 - ... AI Expert-Coordinator (Flanders Environment Agency)
- 2020 - ... Lecturer in AI (Vives University)
- 2020 - 2022 Research Associate in AI (Vives University)
- 2008 - 2020 Groundwater Modeler (Flanders Environment Agency)
- 2007 - 2008 Project Engineer Water Management (IMDC)
- 2006 Science Teacher (HH Ninove Secondary School)
- 2002 - 2005 PhD Fellow in Hydrogeology (Ghent University)

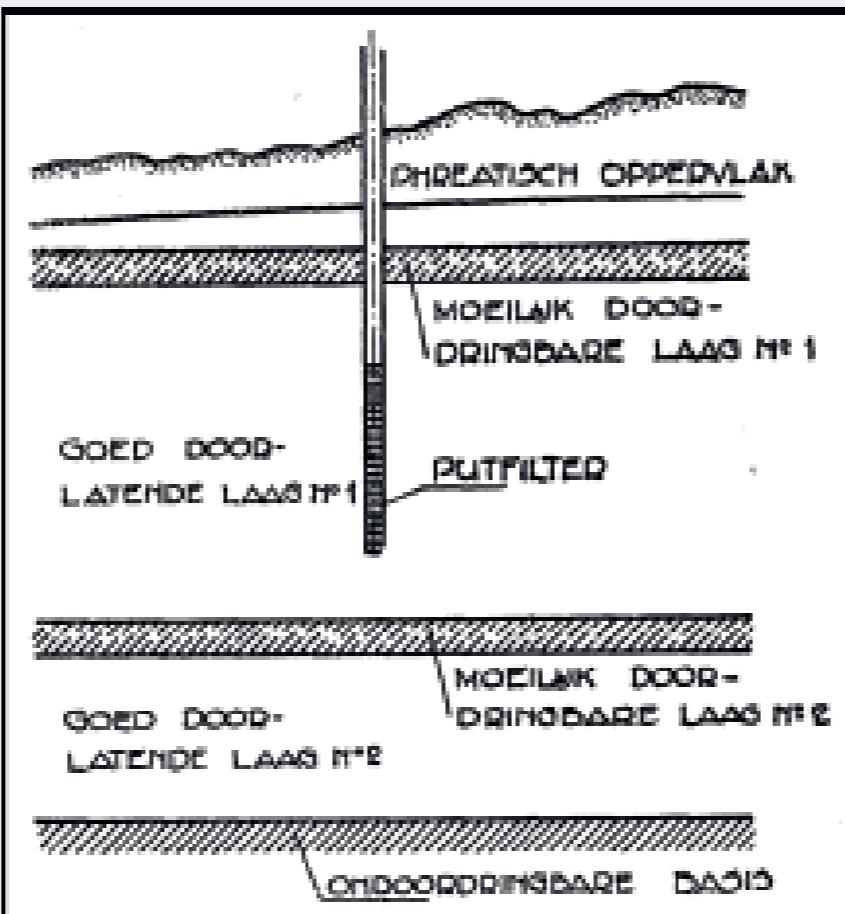
# WHERE DO I LIVE?

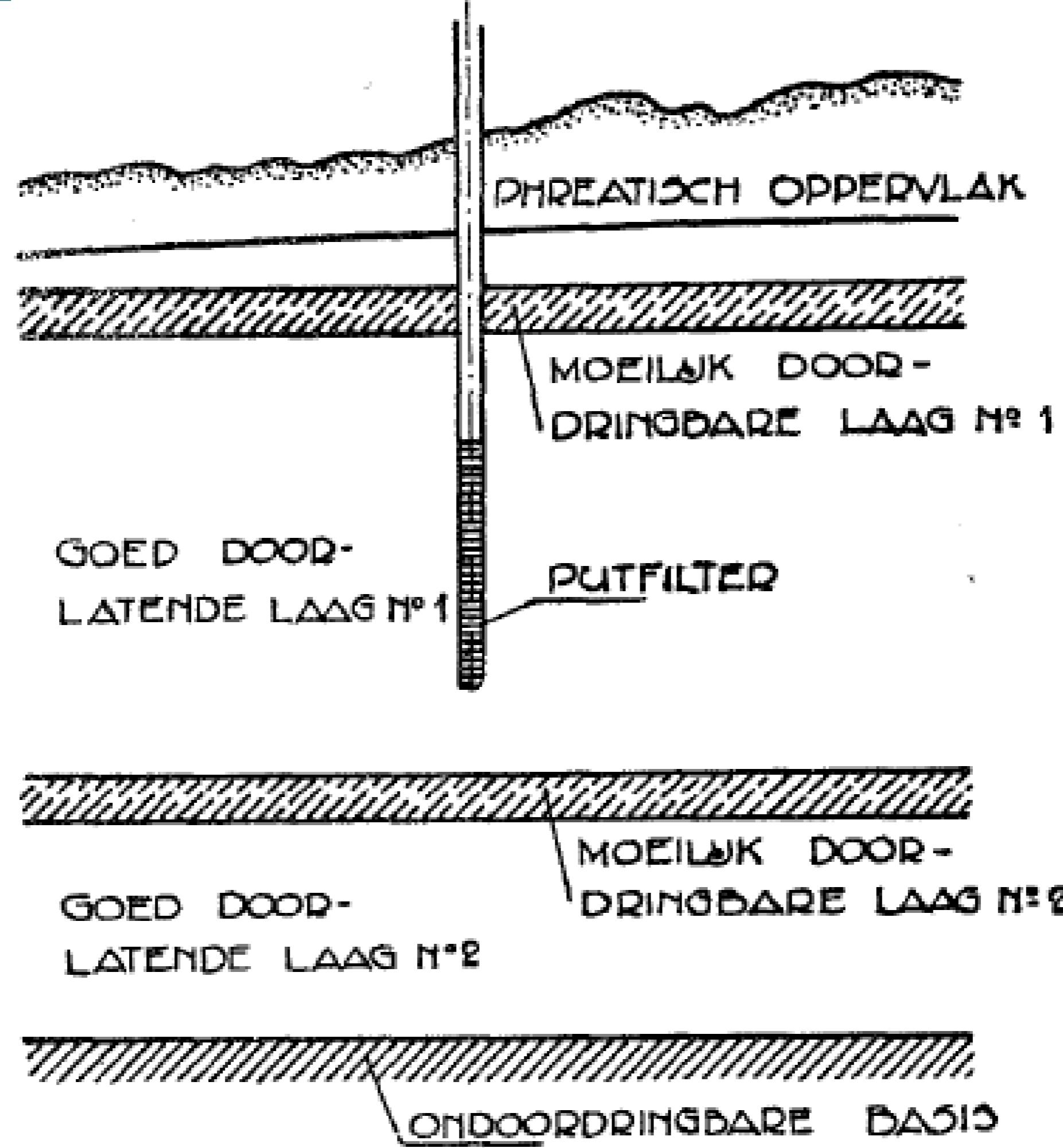


# HYDROGEOLOGICAL STRATIGRAPHY



# Axisymmetric Flow in Multilayer Aquifer Systems: Solutions and Theoretical Considerations





OVER GRONDWATERSTROOMINGEN  
BIJ WATERONTTREKKING DOOR  
MIDDEL VAN PUTTEN.

#### PROEFSCHRIFT

TER VERKRIJVING VAN DEN GRAAD VAN  
DOCTOR IN DE TECHNISCHE WETENSCHAP  
AAN DE TECHNISCHE HOOGESCHOOL TE  
DELFTE, OP GEZAG VAN DEN RECTOR MAG-  
NIFICUS IR. F. WESTENDORP, HOOGLEERAAR  
IN DE AFDEELING DER WERKTUIGBOUWKUNDE  
EN SCHEEPSBOUWKUNDE, VOOR  
EENE COMMISSIE UIT DEN SENAAT TE  
VERDEDIGEN OP WOENSDAG 2 APRIL 1930,  
DES NAMIDDAGS TE 3 UUR,

DOOR

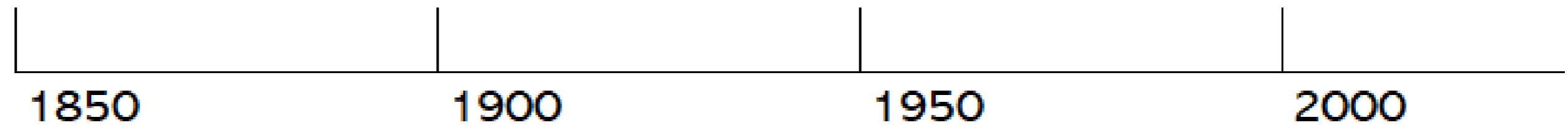
GERRIT JAN DE GLEE,  
CIVIEL-INGENIEUR,  
GEBOREN TE ASSEN.

# SOLUTION METHODS

**analytical models**

**numerical models**

**artificial intelligence**



# RELEVANCE

≡ Google Scholar "analytical model" groundwater 

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Articles About 1.950 results (0,31 sec)

Any time [Comprehensive two-dimensional analytical modeling of groundwater levels in bi-directional sloping heterogeneous aquifers under variable recharge conditions](#)  
Since 2024 [PC Hsieh, MC Wu - Journal of Hydrology, 2024 - Elsevier](#)  
Since 2023 ... of groundwater ... **analytical model** effectively captures varying recharge dynamics, both  
Since 2020 spatially and temporally, contributing to a better understanding and management of **groundwater** ...  
Custom range...  Save  Cite Related articles All 2 versions

≡ Google Scholar "artificial intelligence" groundwater 

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Articles About 8.730 results (0,13 sec)

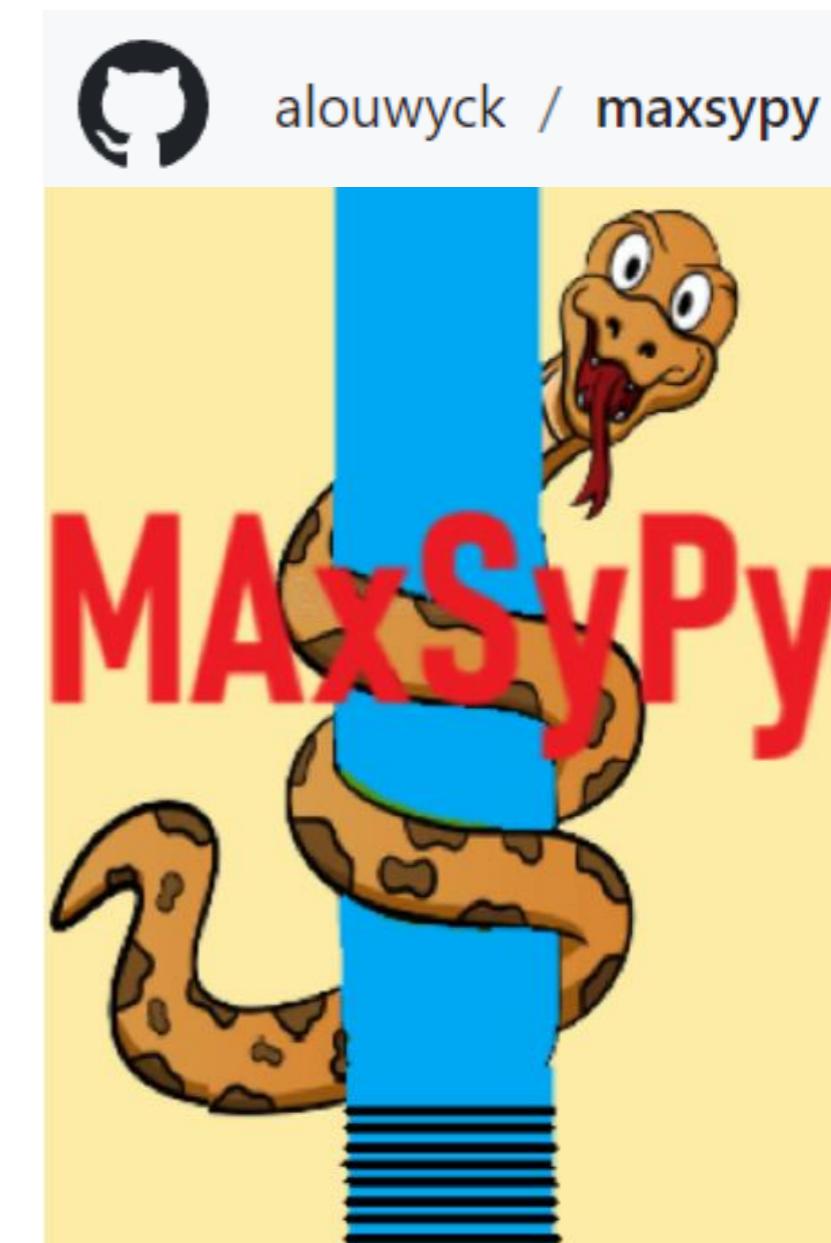
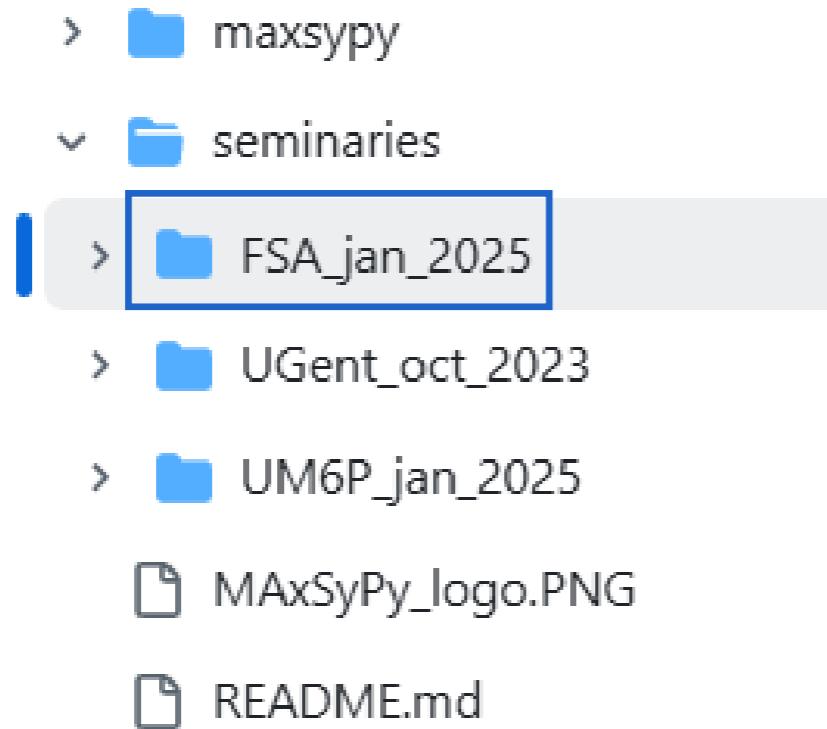
Any time [\[HTML\] Artificial Intelligence Advancements for Accurate Groundwater Level Modelling: An Updated Synthesis and Review](#)  
Since 2024 [S Pourmorad, M Kabolizade, LA Dimuccio - Applied Sciences, 2024 - mdpi.com](#)  
Since 2023 ... , have proven to be important tools for accurate **groundwater** level (GWL) modelling. Through  
Since 2020 an ... complex and nonlinear relationships in **groundwater** data, providing more accurate and ...  
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# OVERVIEW

0. Axisymmetric flow
1. The very first axisymmetric models
2. Well-known 1D axisymmetric models
3. The radius of influence myth
4. The superposition principle
5. More advanced axisymmetric models
6. Axisymmetric flow in multilayer aquifer systems
7. Aquifer tests
8. A practical case study

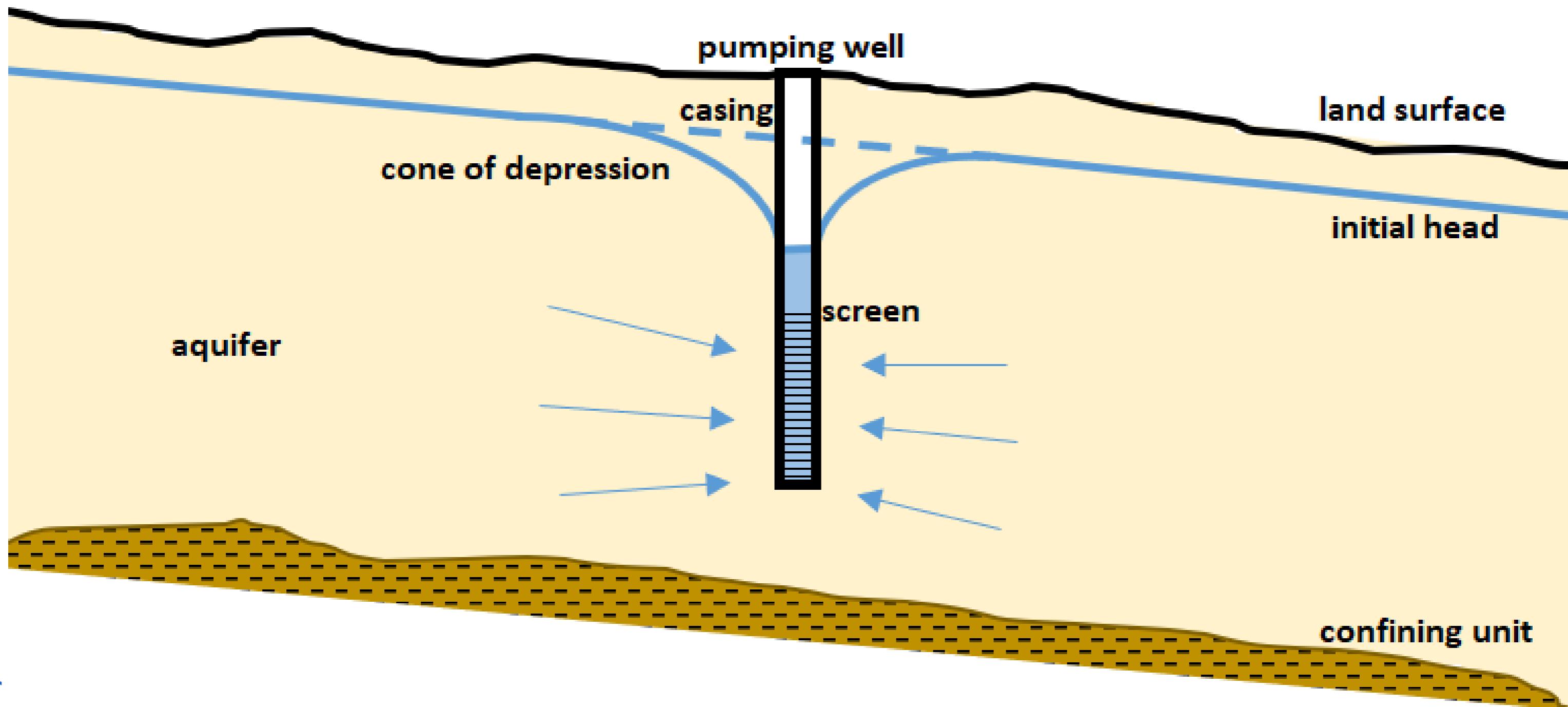
# JUPYTER NOTEBOOK WITH CODE EXAMPLES

<https://github.com/alouwyck/maxsypy>

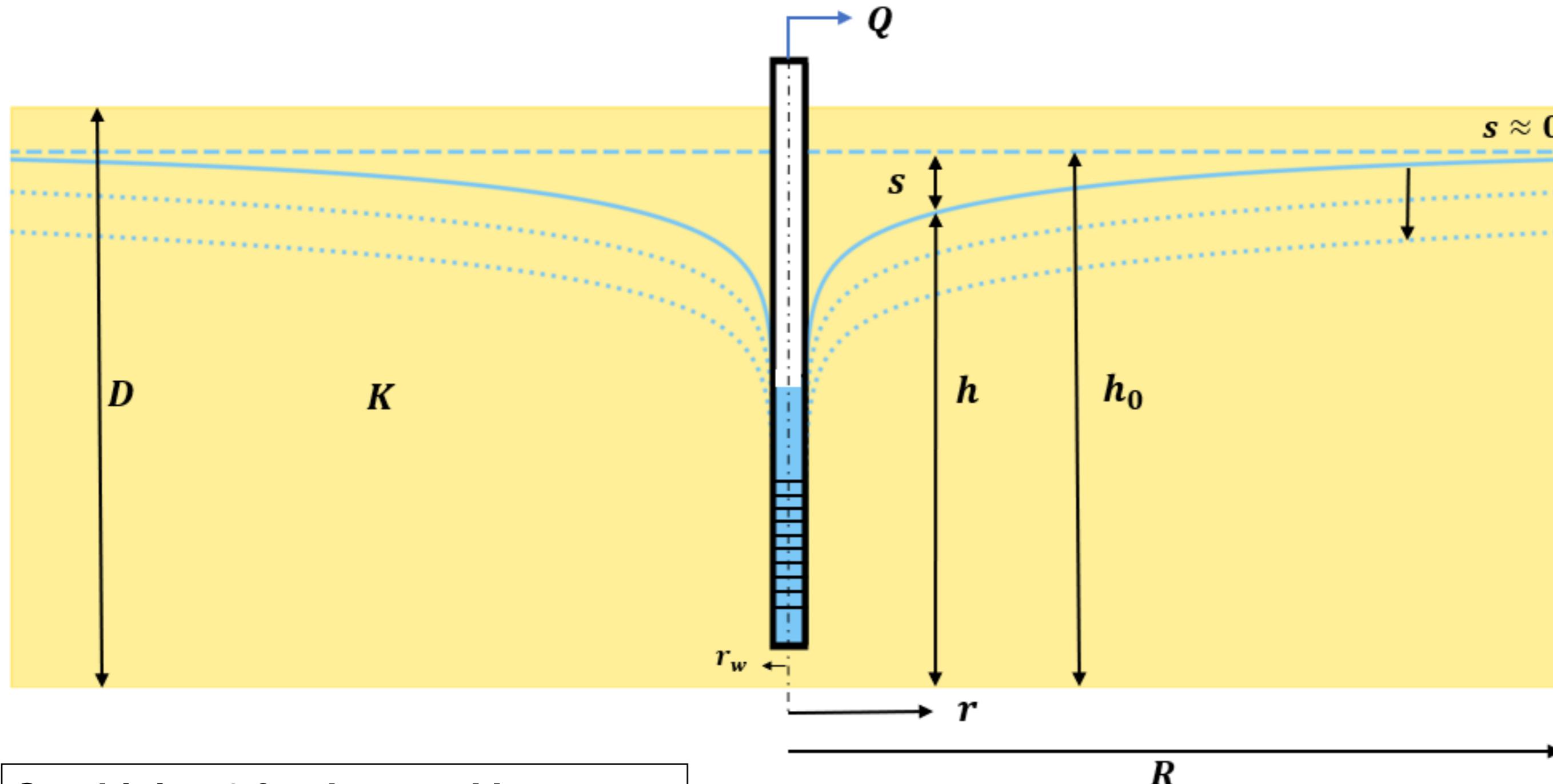


# AXISYMMETRIC FLOW

# FLOW TO A PUMPING WELL

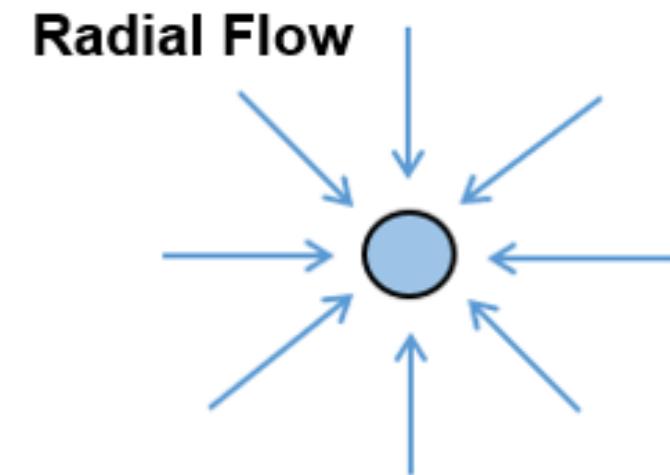


# AXISYMMETRIC MODEL



**Combining 2 fundamental laws:**

- Darcy's Law
- Continuity Equation

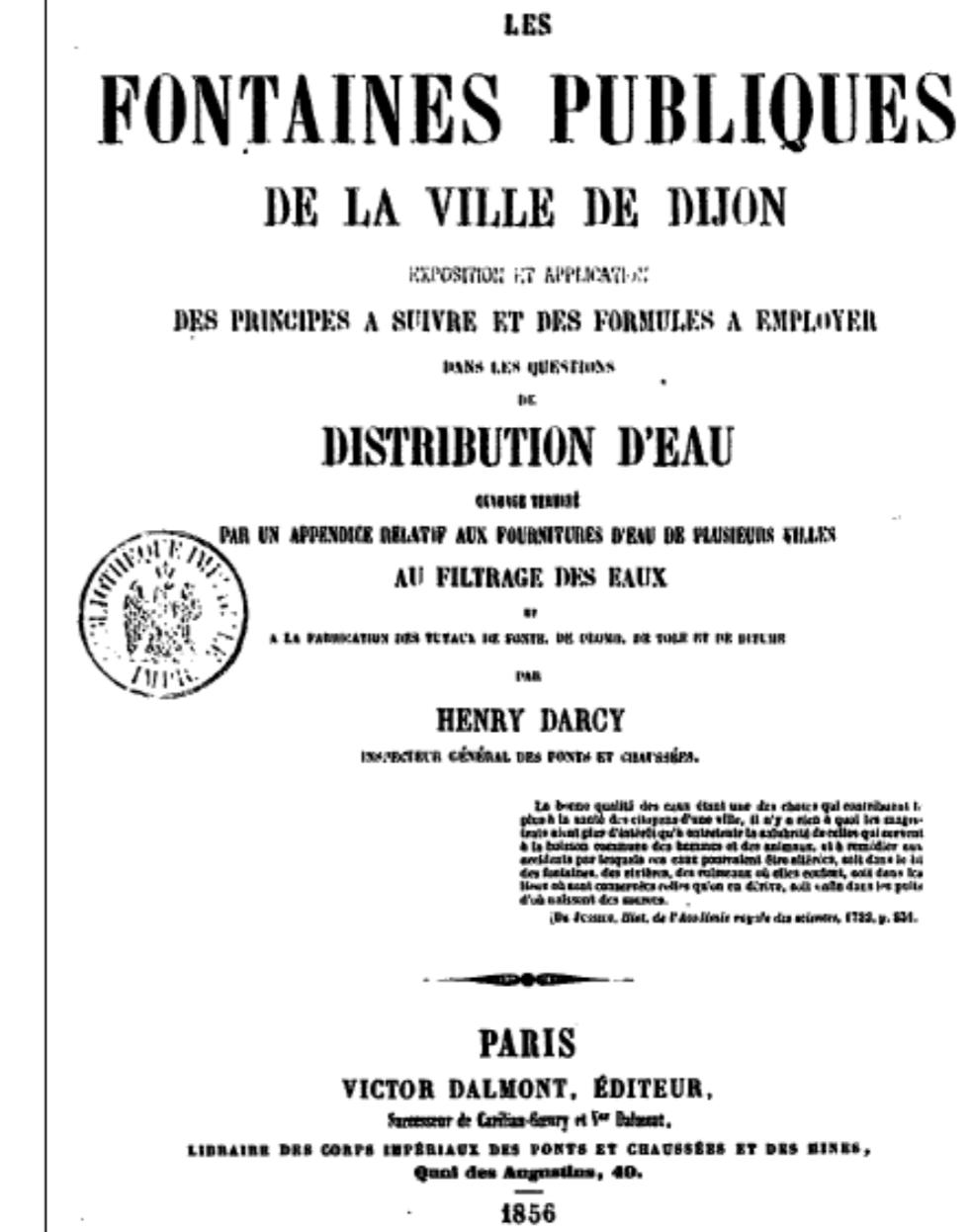
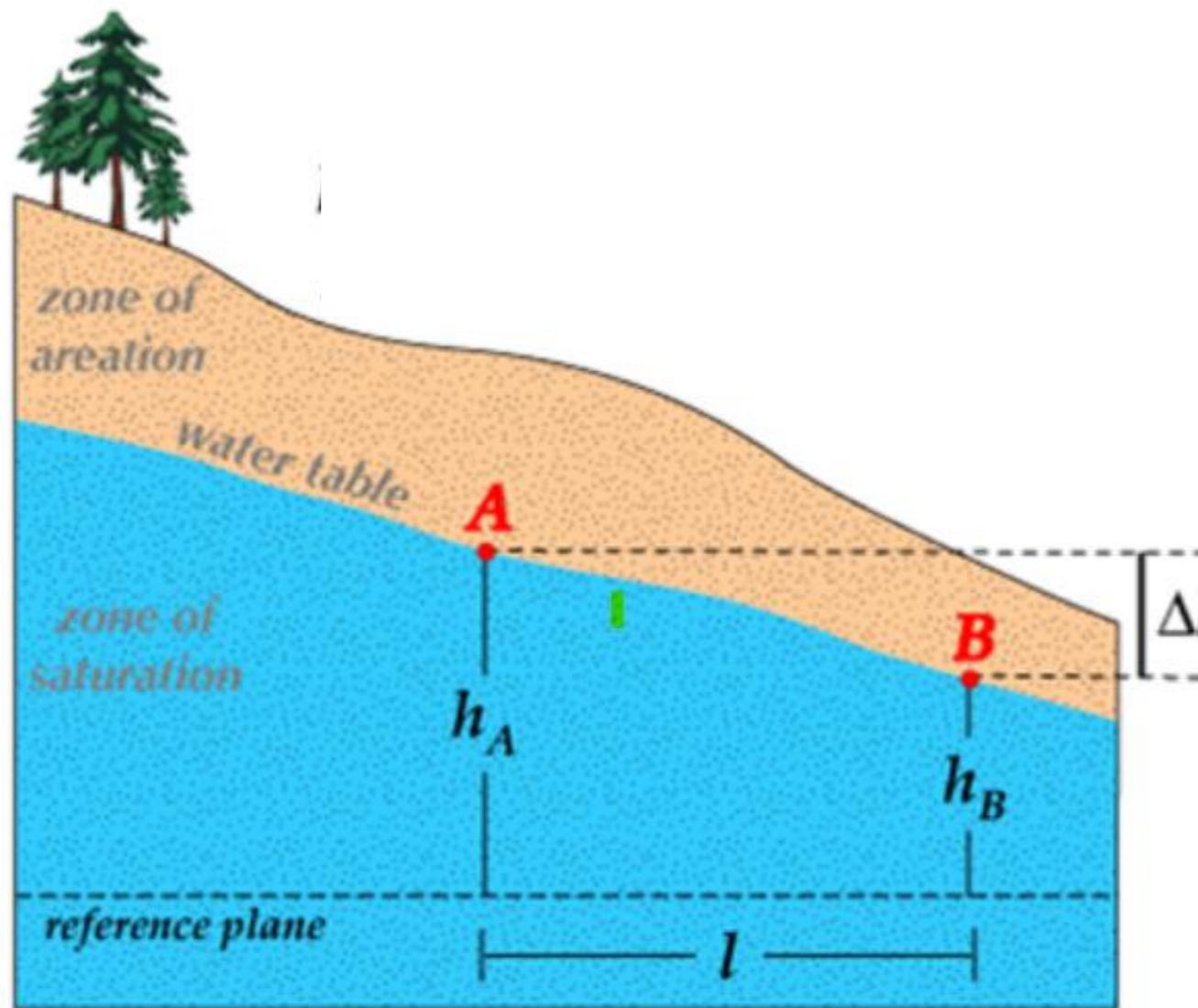


pumping rate	$Q$
aquifer thickness	$D$
aquifer conductivity	$K$
aquifer transmissivity	$T = KD$
hydraulic head	$h$
initial head	$h_0$
drawdown	$s$
radial distance	$r$
well radius	$r_w$
radius of influence	$R$

# DARCY'S LAW

Laminar flow in porous media (Darcy, 1856)

$$q = K \frac{dh}{dx} \cong K \frac{\Delta h}{\Delta x} = K \frac{h_B - h_A}{l}$$



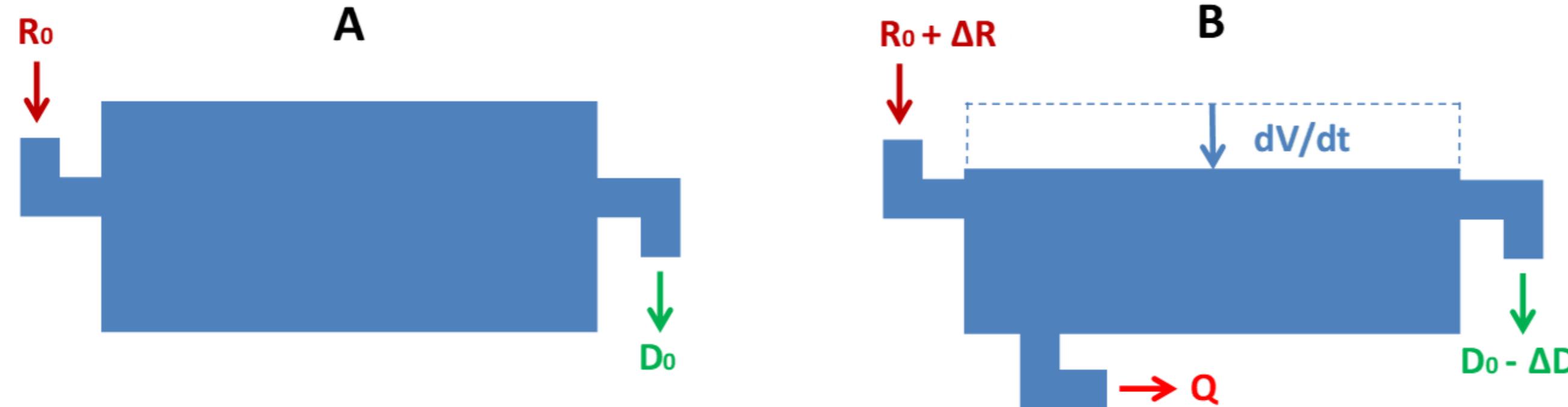
Henry Darcy

# CONTINUITY EQUATION

= water budget equation:

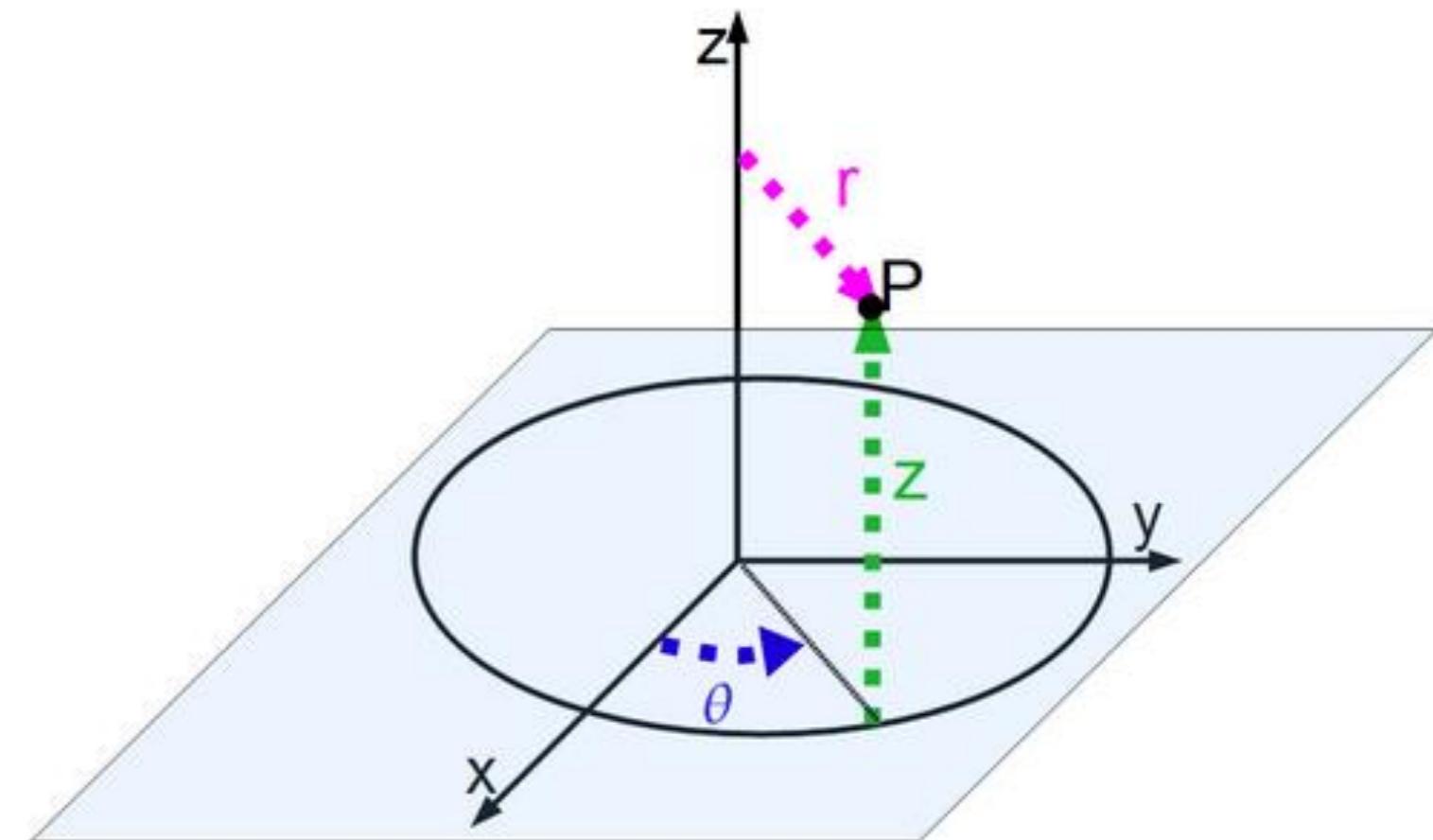
- Steady flow before pumping:  $R_0 = D_0$
- Transient flow during pumping:  $Q = \Delta R - \Delta D - \frac{dV}{dt}$

= capture equation (Theis, 1940; Bredehoeft el al., 1982; Bredehoeft, 2002)



# CYLINDRICAL COORDINATES

- **Cartesian coordinates:**  $(x, y, z)$
- **Cylindrical coordinates:**  $(r, \theta, z)$ 
  - Polar coordinates:  $(r, \theta)$
- **Axial symmetry:**  $(r, z)$ 
  - No  $\theta$  dimension!
  - 1D flow: only  $r$



$$\begin{cases} x = r \cos \theta \\ y = r \sin \theta \end{cases}$$

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

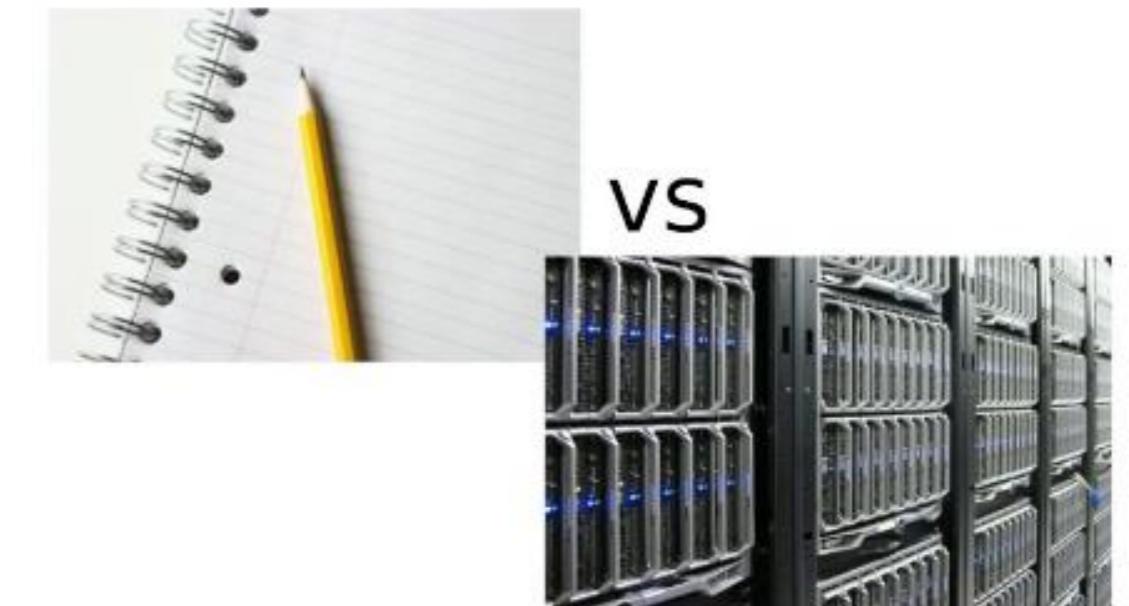
# PARAMETERS AND UNITS

parameter	symbol	dimension
hydraulic head	$h$	L
initial head	$h_0$	L
drawdown	$s$	L
well drawdown	$s_w$	L
head change in well	$H$	L
initial head change in well	$H_0$	L
radial distance	$r$	L
time	$t$	T

parameter	symbol	dimension
pumping rate	$Q$	$L^3/T$
aquifer thickness	$D$	L
aquifer conductivity	$K$	$L/T$
aquifer transmissivity	$T = KD$	$L^2/T$
aquifer storativity	$S$	-
resistance	$c$	T
infiltration flux	$N$	$L/T$
radius of influence	$R$	L
well-screen radius	$r_w$	L
well-casing radius	$r_c$	L
well-skin radius	$R_s$	L

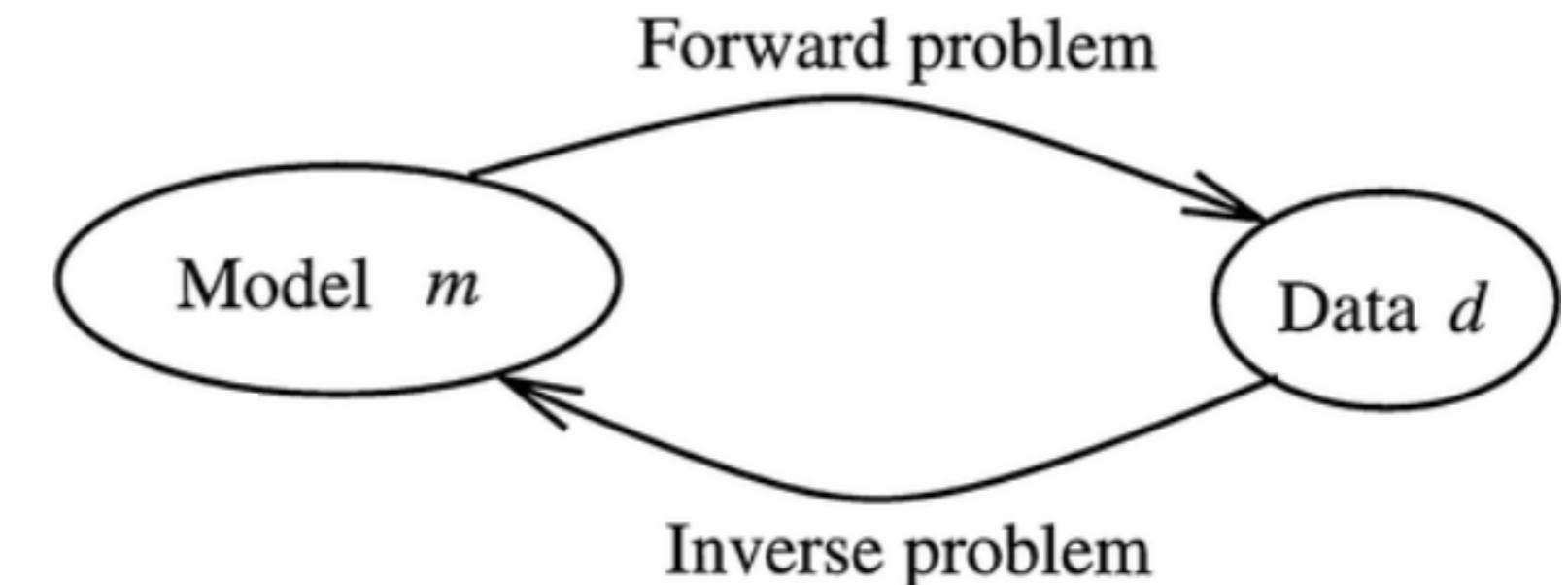
# ANALYTICAL VS NUMERICAL MODELS

- Analytical solutions
  - exact
  - closed-form equations
  - methods from calculus
  - e.g. integral transforms
- Numerical solutions
  - approximate
  - discretization of the model domain
  - iterative methods
  - e.g. finite differences, finite elements, ...



# FORWARD AND INVERSE PROBLEMS

- **forward problem**
  - simulate head  $h$  or drawdown  $s$
  - e.g. assessing the environmental impact of extractions
- **inverse problem type I**
  - derive transmissivity  $T$
  - e.g. pumping test interpretation
- **inverse problem type II**
  - derive pumping rate  $Q$
  - e.g. construction dewatering



# THE VERY FIRST AXISYMMETRIC MODELS

# THE THIEM-DUPUIT FORMULAS

- Steady confined flow (Thiem, 1870, 1906)

$$s(r) = \frac{Q}{2\pi K D} \ln \left( \frac{R}{r} \right)$$

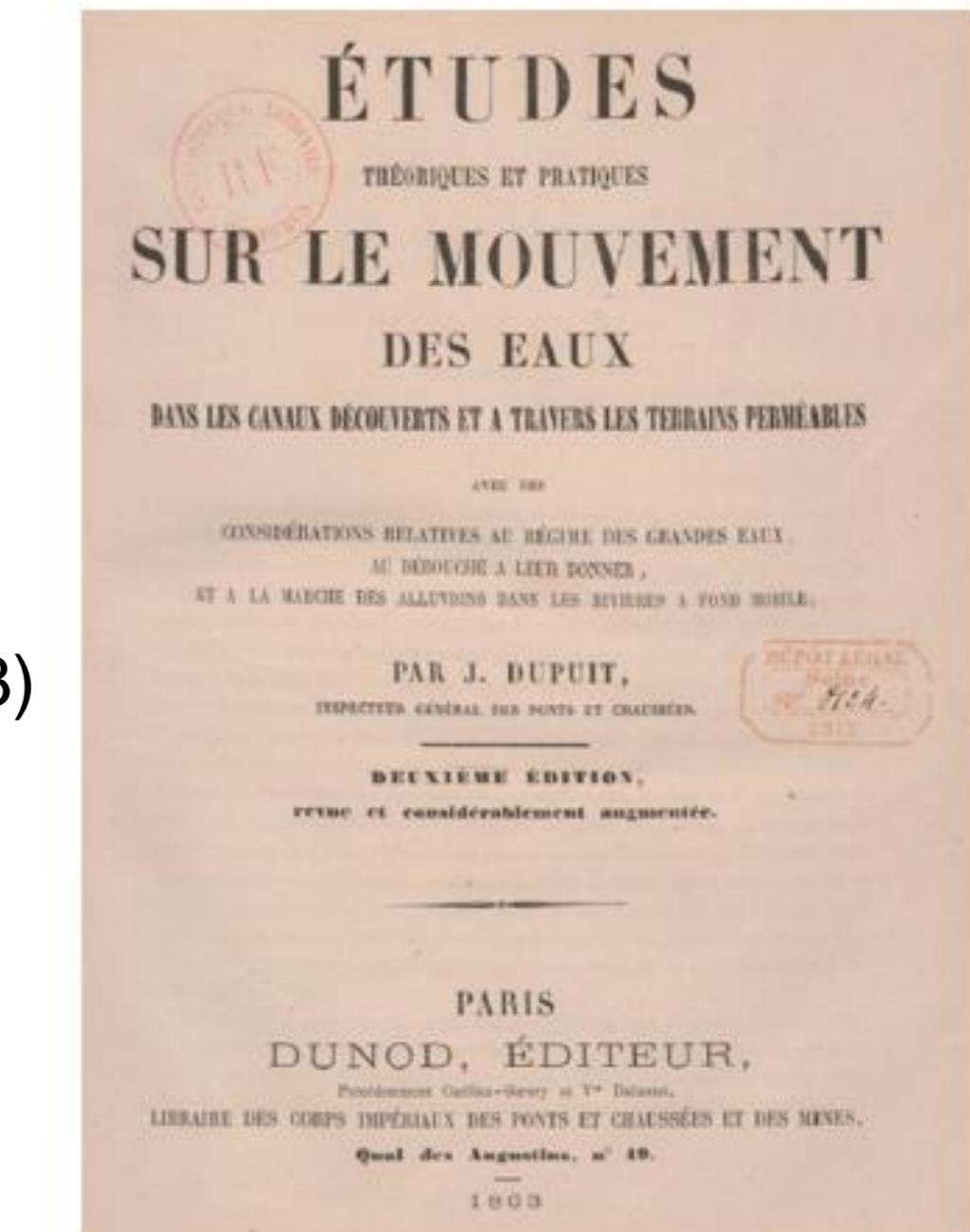
Initial head  $h_0$  is not required

- Steady unconfined flow (Dupuit, 1857, 1863)

$$s(r) = h_0 - \sqrt{h_0^2 - \frac{Q}{\pi K} \ln \left( \frac{R}{r} \right)}$$

$h$

Initial head  $h_0$  is required!



Jules Dupuit



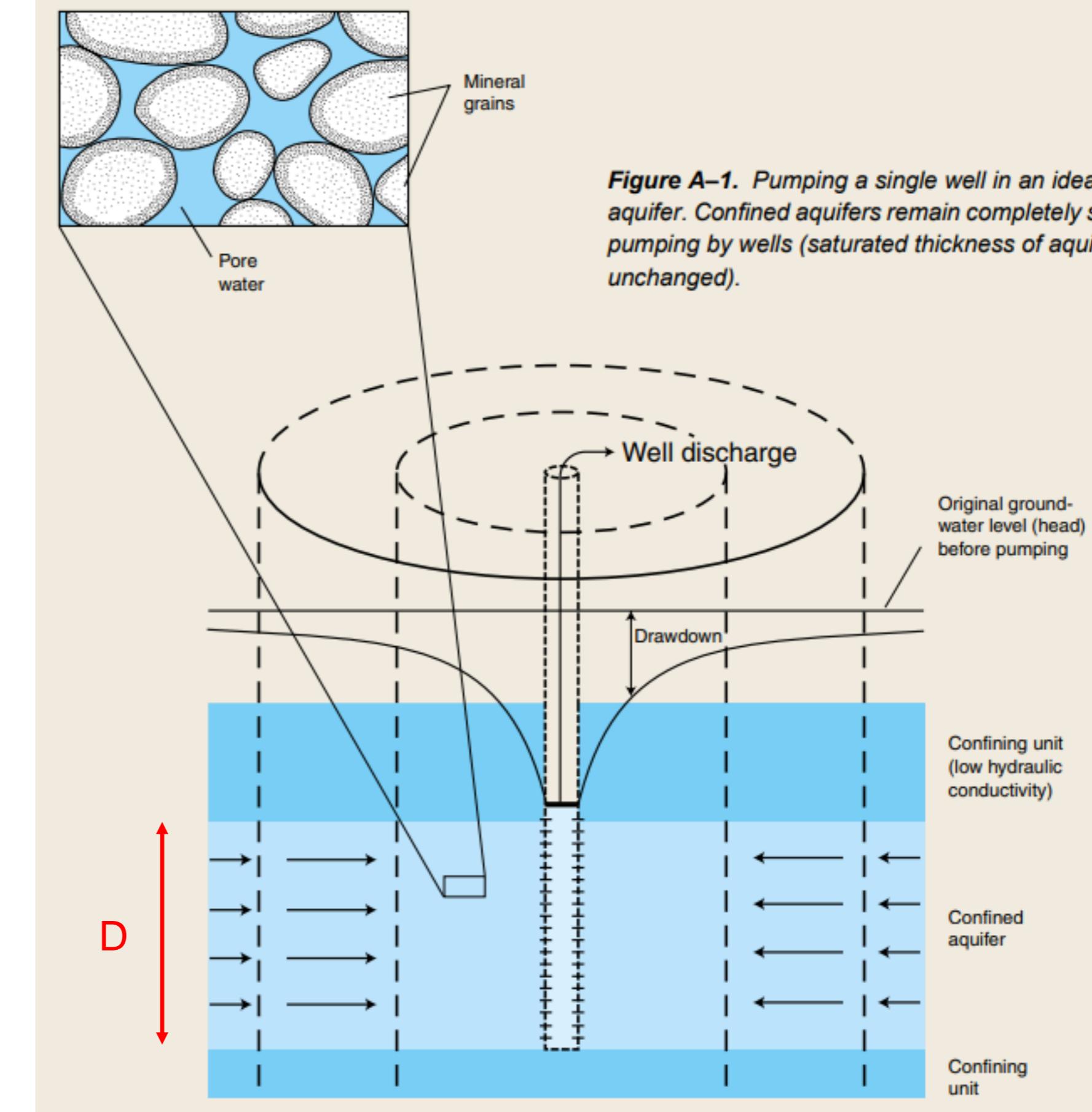
Adolf Thiem



Günther Thiem

# CONFINED FLOW

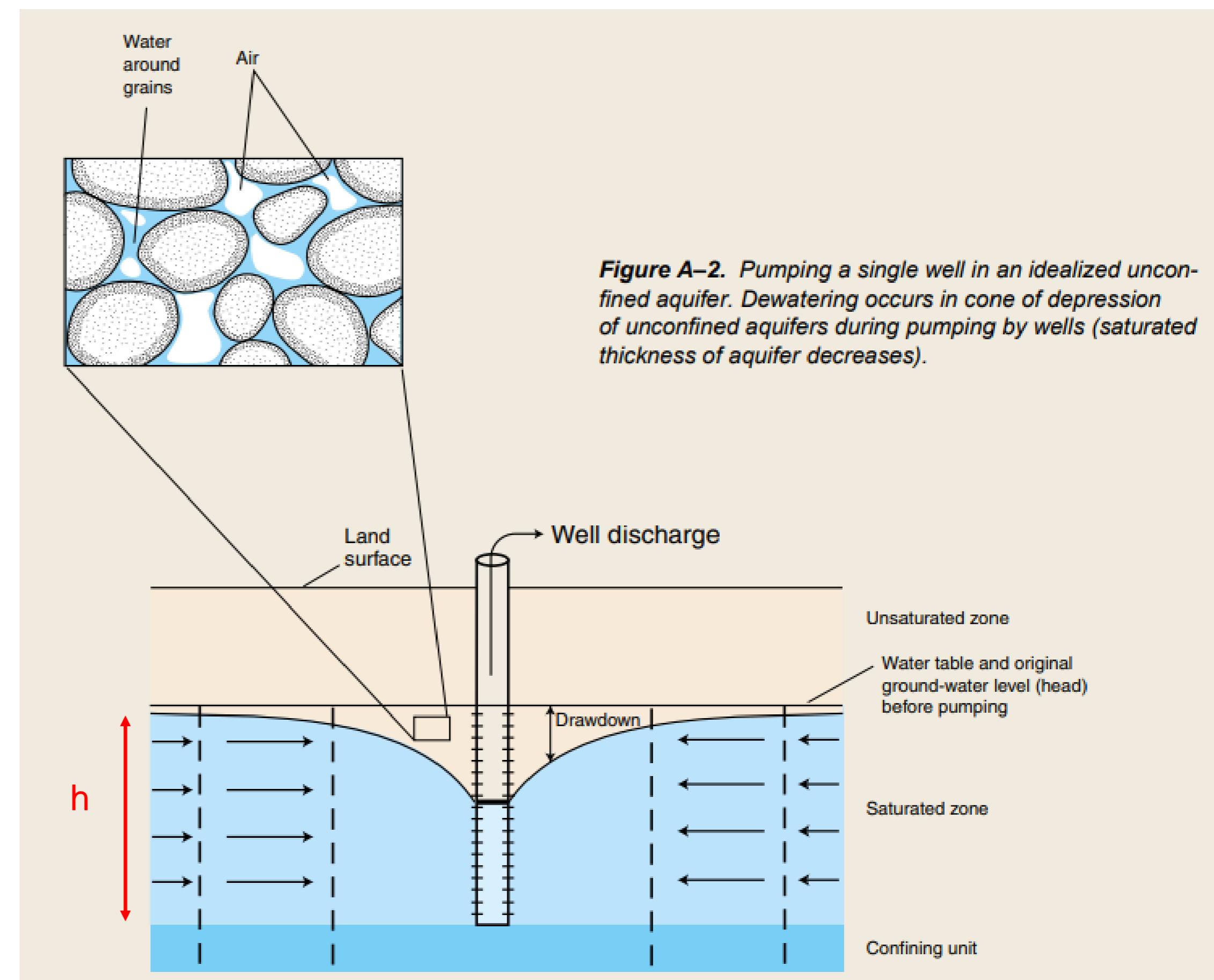
- Constant saturated thickness  $D$
- If aquifer is homogeneous:
  - $K$  is constant
  - $T$  is constant
  - $T = KD$
- Linear problem



**Figure A-1.** Pumping a single well in an idealized confined aquifer. Confined aquifers remain completely saturated during pumping by wells (saturated thickness of aquifer remains unchanged).

# UNCONFINED FLOW

- Saturated thickness = head  $h$
- If aquifer is homogeneous:
  - $K$  is constant
  - $T$  is head-dependent
  - $T = Kh$
- **Nonlinear** problem



# THIEM EQUATION: ASSUMPTIONS

- Flow:
  - Axisymmetric
  - Steady-state
  - Strictly horizontal
- Well:
  - Fully penetrating
  - Constant pumping rate
- Aquifer:
  - Homogeneous
  - **Constant saturated thickness**
  - Laterally bounded

# THIEM EQUATION: PROBLEM STATEMENT

Darcy's law:

$$Q = 2\pi r \mathbf{K} \mathbf{D} \frac{dh}{dr} \quad (1)$$

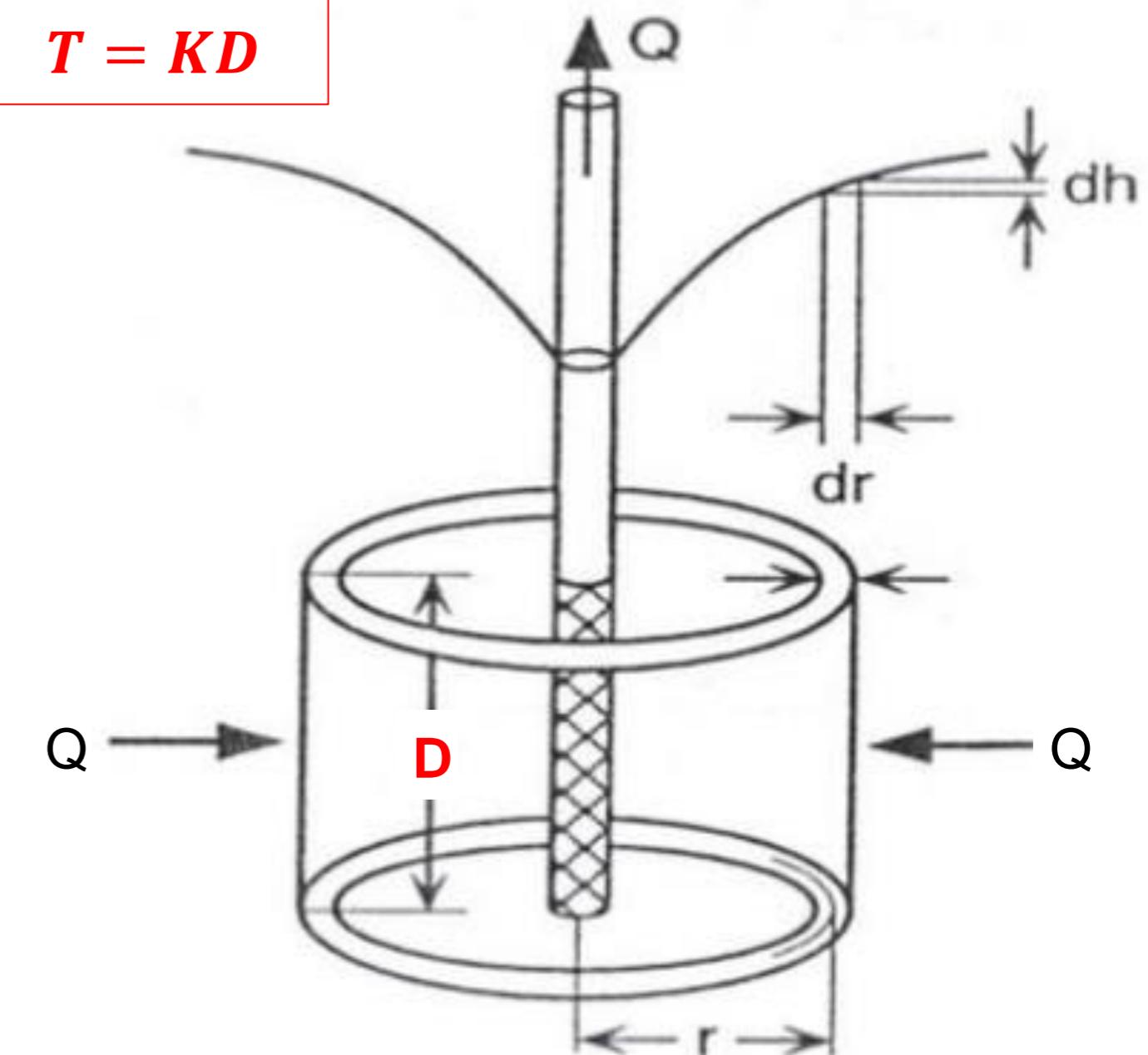
$$\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{K} \mathbf{D}$$

Continuity of steady 1D axisymmetric flow:

$$\frac{dQ}{dr} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{d^2h}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{dh}{dr} = 0$$

Boundary condition: constant head  $h_0$  at distance  $R$ :

$$h(R) = h_0 \quad (2)$$



Source: Kresic, 1997

# THIEM EQUATION: DERIVATION

Rearranging (1):

$$dh = \frac{Q}{2\pi K D} \frac{dr}{r} \quad (3)$$

Integrating both sides of (3):

$$h(r) = \frac{Q}{2\pi K D} \ln r + C \quad (4)$$

Introducing (2) in (4):

$$h(R) = h_0 = \frac{Q}{2\pi K D} \ln R + C \quad (5)$$

Deriving integration constant  $C$  from (5):

$$C = h_0 - \frac{Q}{2\pi K D} \ln R \quad (6)$$

Introducing (6) in general solution (4):

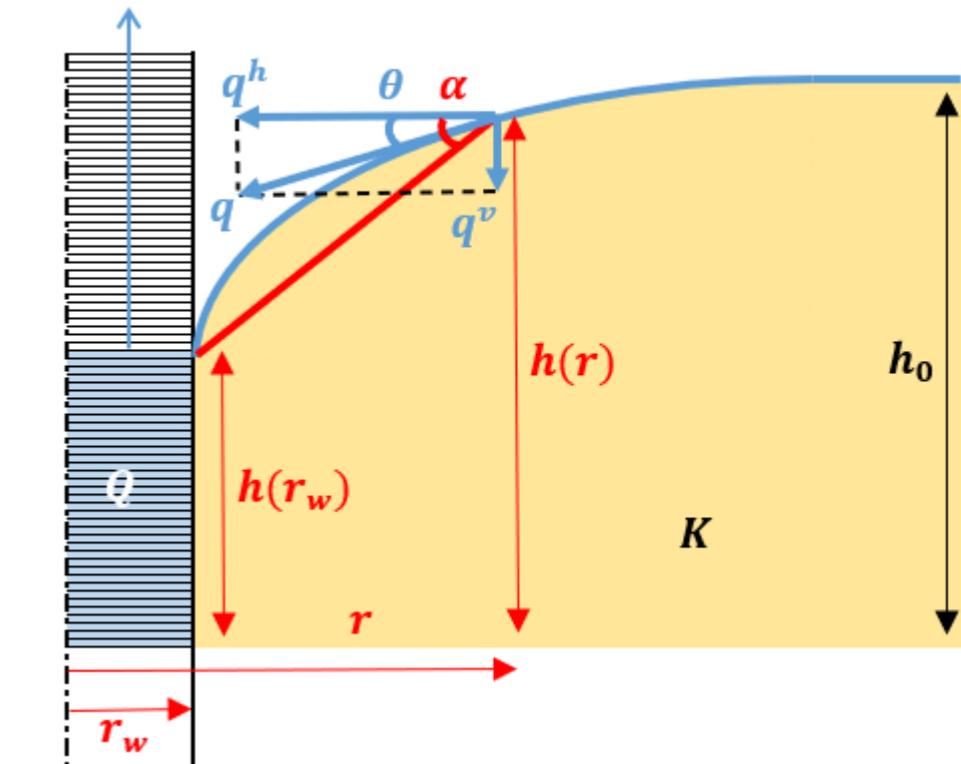
$$h(r) = h_0 - \frac{Q}{2\pi K D} \ln \frac{R}{r} \quad (7)$$

Applying definition of drawdown  $s$  to (7):

$$s(r) = h_0 - h(r) = \frac{Q}{2\pi K D} \ln \frac{R}{r} \quad (8)$$

# DUPUIT EQUATION: ASSUMPTIONS

- Flow:
  - Axisymmetric
  - Steady-state
  - Strictly horizontal:  $\theta < 30^\circ$   
= the Dupuit-Forchheimer approximation!



- Aquifer:
  - Homogeneous
  - **Head-dependent saturated thickness**
  - Laterally bounded

- Well:
  - Fully penetrating
  - Constant pumping rate
  - No seepage face

# DUPUIT EQUATION: PROBLEM STATEMENT

Darcy's law:

$$Q = 2\pi r \mathbf{K} h \frac{dh}{dr} \quad (1)$$

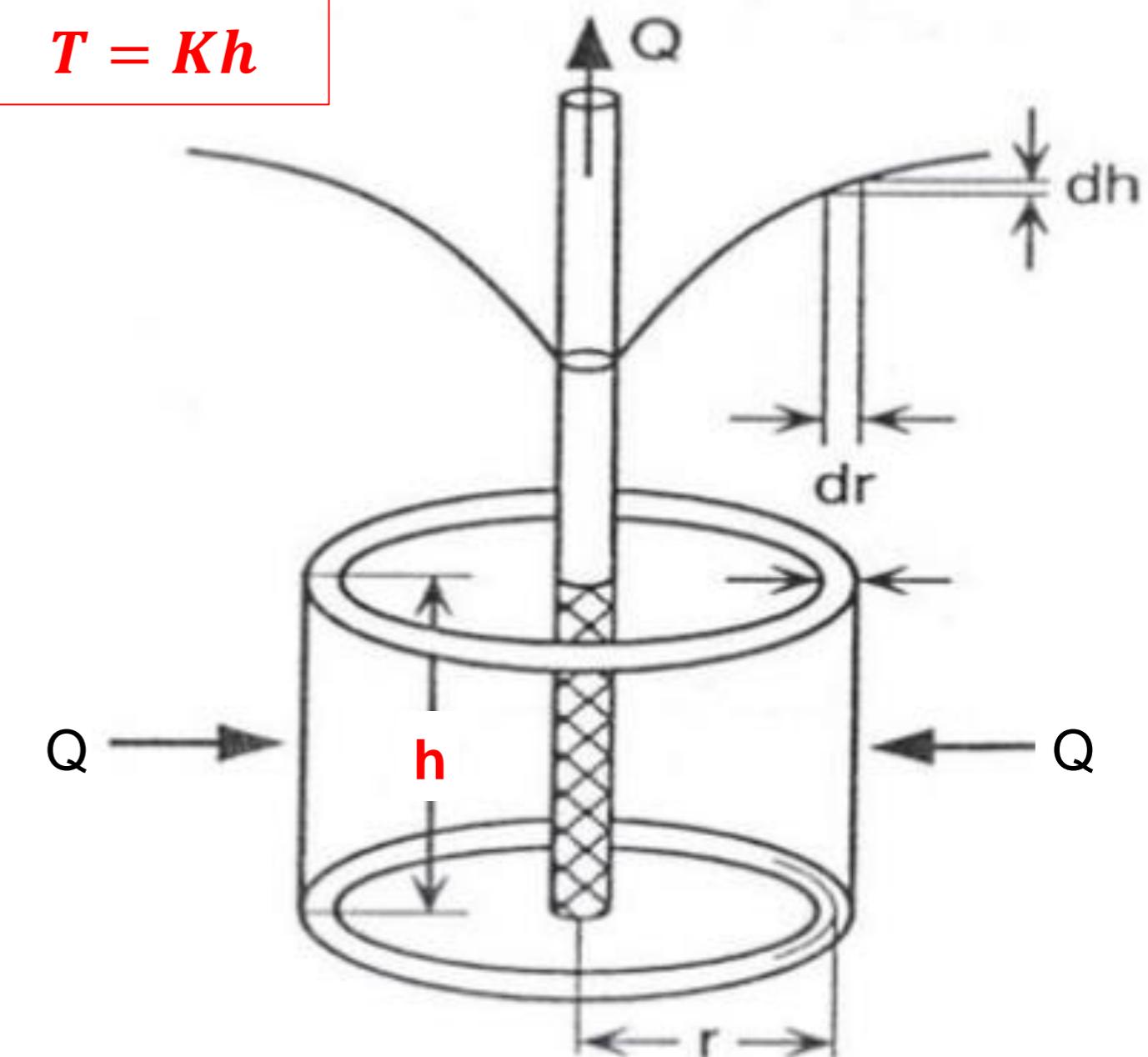
$$\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{K} h$$

Continuity of steady 1D axisymmetric flow:

$$\frac{dQ}{dr} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{d}{dr} \left( rh \frac{dh}{dr} \right) = 0$$

Boundary condition: constant head  $h_0$  at distance  $R$ :

$$h(R) = h_0 \quad (2)$$



Source: Kresic, 1997

# DUPUIT EQUATION: DERIVATION

Rearranging (1):

$$h dh = \frac{Q}{2\pi K} \frac{dr}{r} \quad (3)$$

Integrating both sides of (3):

$$h^2(r) = \frac{Q}{\pi K} \ln r + C \quad (4)$$

Introducing (2) in (4):

$$h^2(R) = h_0^2 = \frac{Q}{\pi K} \ln R + C \quad (5)$$

Deriving integration constant  $C$  from (5):

$$C = h_0^2 - \frac{Q}{\pi K} \ln R \quad (6)$$

Introducing (6) in general solution (4):

$$h(r) = \sqrt{h_0^2 - \frac{Q}{\pi K} \ln \frac{R}{r}} \quad (7)$$

Applying definition of drawdown  $s$  to (7):

$$s(r) = h_0 - \sqrt{h_0^2 - \frac{Q}{\pi K} \ln \frac{R}{r}} \quad (8)$$

# DUPUIT VS THIEM

Rearranging (8):

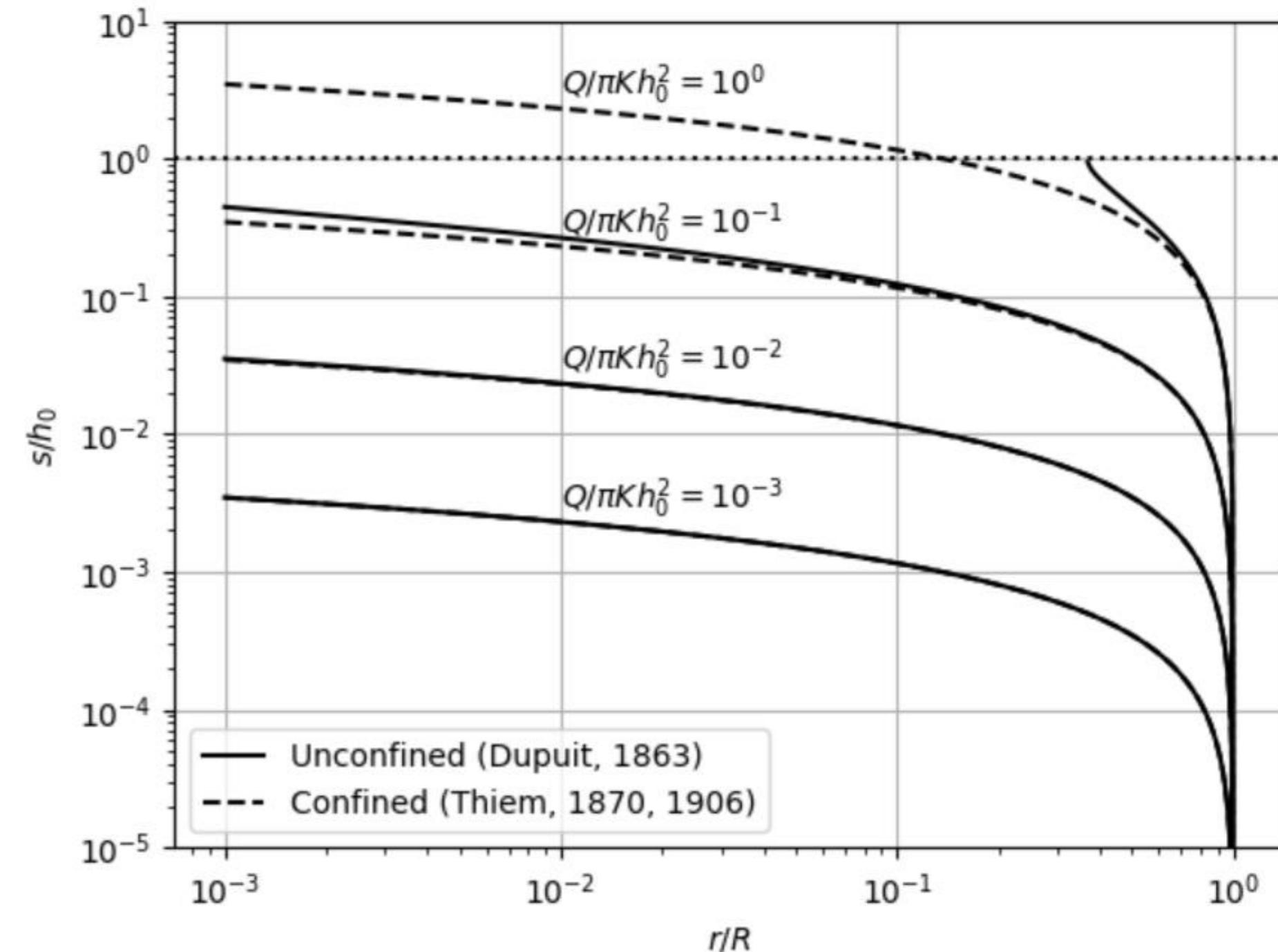
$$s(r) = h_0 \left( 1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{Q}{\pi K h_0^2} \ln \frac{R}{r}} \right) \quad (9)$$

Series expansion:

$$\sqrt{1-x} \approx 1 - \frac{x}{2} \quad (x \rightarrow 0) \quad (10)$$

Applying (10) to (9):

$$s(r) \approx \frac{Q}{2\pi K h_0} \ln \frac{R}{r} \quad (s < 0.1 h_0)$$

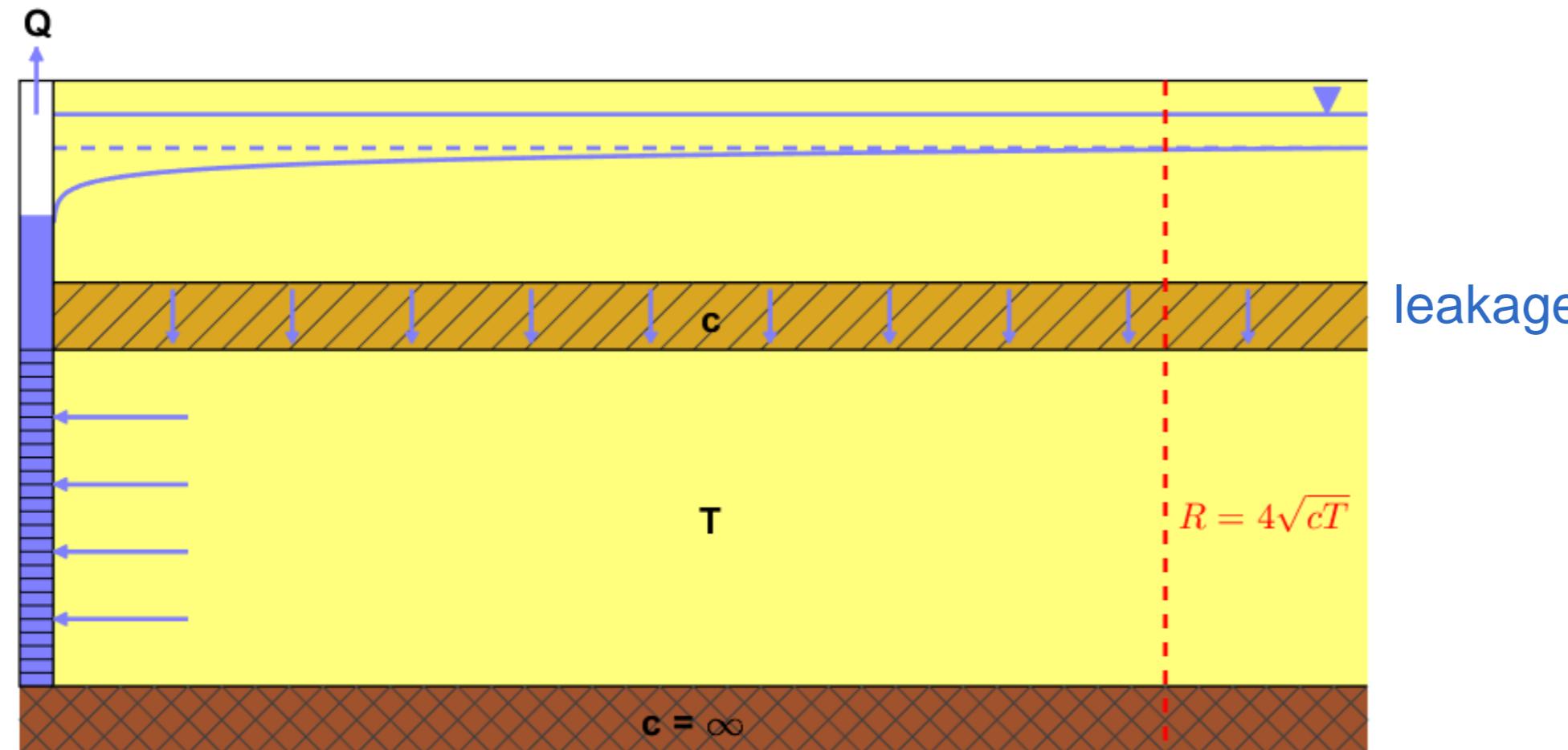


# WELL-KNOWN 1D AXISYMMETRIC MODELS

# OVERVIEW

- **de Glee (1930)**: steady well-flow in a leaky aquifer
- **Theis (1935)**: transient well-flow in a confined aquifer
- **Hantush-Jacob (1955)**: transient well-flow in a leaky aquifer
- **Ernst (1971)**: steady well-flow in a phreatic aquifer subject to uniform infiltration and drainage

# THE DE GLEE FORMULA



OVER GRONDWATERSTROOMINGEN  
BIJ WATERONTTREKKING DOOR  
MIDDEL VAN PUTTEN.

## PROEFSCHRIFT

TER VERKRIJGING VAN DEN GRAAD VAN  
DOCTOR IN DE TECHNISCHE WETENSCHAP  
AAN DE TECHNISCHE HOOGESCHOOL TE  
DELFTH, OP GEZAG VAN DEN RECTOR MAG-  
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VERDEDIGEN OP WOENSDAG 2 APRIL 1930,  
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DOOR

GERRIT JAN DE GLEE,  
CIVIEL-INGENIEUR,  
GEBOREN TE ASSEN.



Johan Kooper



Charles E. Jacob

GEDRUKT BIJ DE TECHNISCHE BOEKHANDEL EN DRUKKERIJ  
J. WALTMAN JR. DELFT. — 1930.

Steady leaky flow (Kooper, 1914; de Glee, 1930; Jacob, 1946)

$$s(r) = \frac{Q}{2\pi K D} K_0 \left( r \sqrt{\frac{1}{c K D}} \right) \approx \frac{Q}{2\pi K D} \ln \left( \frac{2e^{-\gamma} \sqrt{K D c}}{r} \right)$$

# DE GLEE EQUATION: ASSUMPTIONS

- Flow:
  - Axisymmetric
  - Steady-state
  - Strictly horizontal
- Well:
  - Fully penetrating
  - Constant pumping rate
  - Infinitesimal radius
- Aquifer:
  - Homogeneous
  - Constant saturated thickness
  - Laterally unbounded
  - Leaky top

# DE GLEE VS THIEM

Series expansion of Bessel function  $K_0$ :

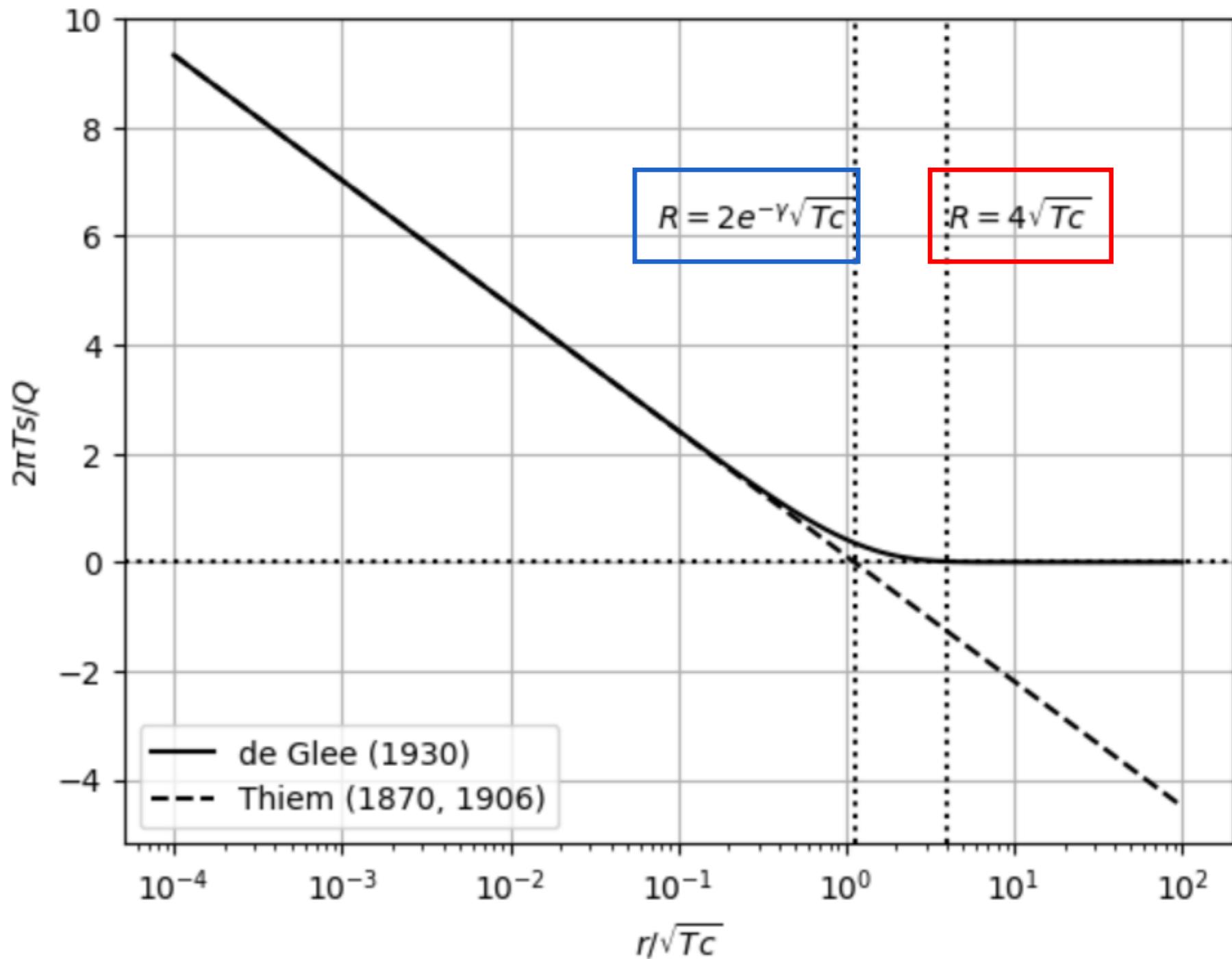
$$K_0(x) \approx -\gamma - \ln \frac{x}{2} \quad (x \rightarrow 0)$$

Applying to the de Glee solution:

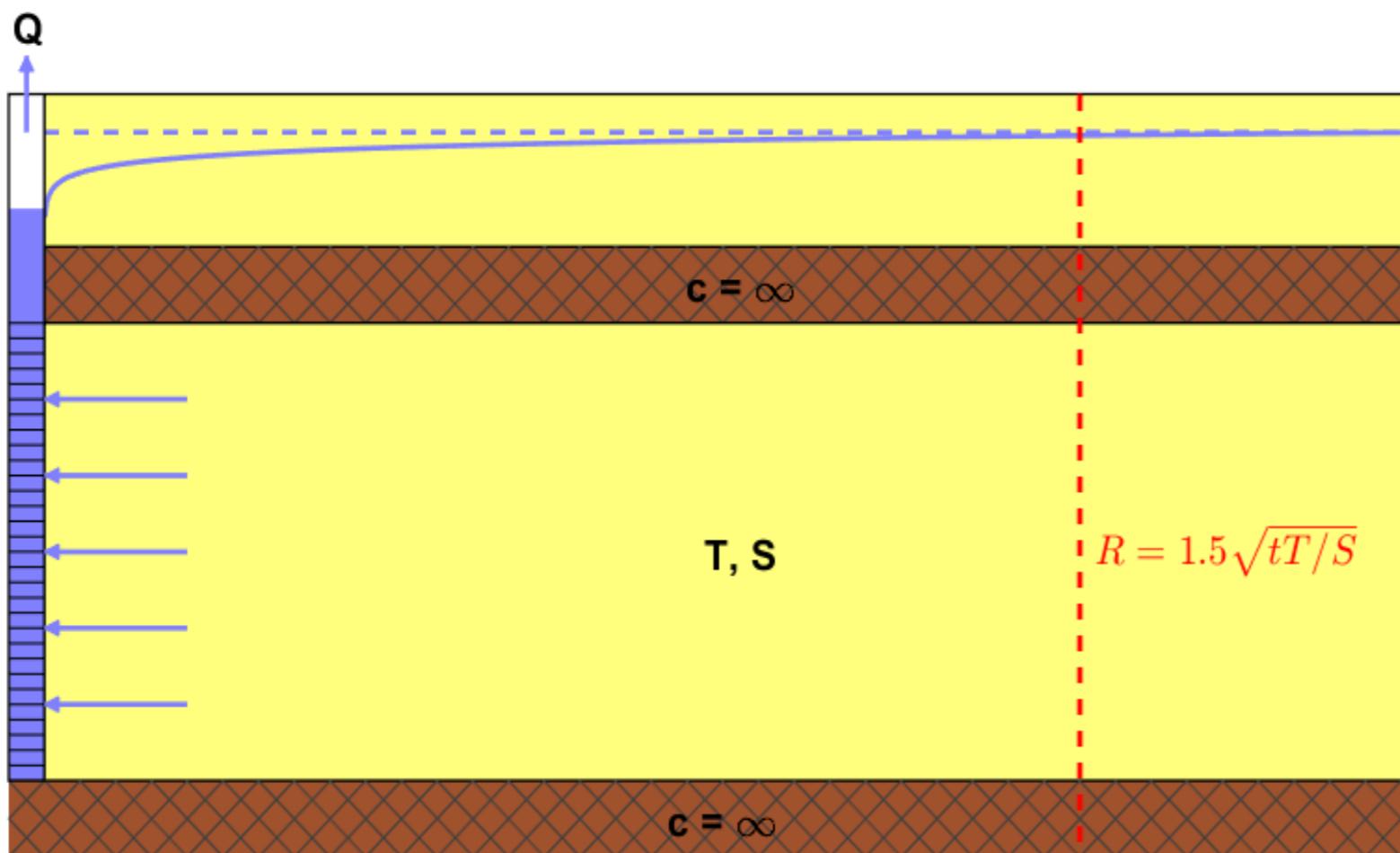
$$s(r) \approx \frac{Q}{2\pi T} \ln \left( \frac{2e^{-\gamma}\lambda}{r} \right) \quad (r < 0.1\lambda)$$

Comparing to the Thiem equation:

$$R = 2e^{-\gamma}\lambda$$



# THE THEIS EQUATION



Charles V. Theis



Hilton H. Cooper, Jr.

Transient confined flow (Theis, 1935; Cooper & Jacob, 1946)

$$s(r, t) = \frac{Q}{4\pi K D} W\left(\frac{r^2 S}{4t K D}\right) \approx \frac{Q}{2\pi K D} \ln\left(\frac{1}{r} \sqrt{\frac{4t K D}{e^\gamma S}}\right)$$

# THEIS EQUATION: ASSUMPTIONS

- Flow:
  - Axisymmetric
  - Transient-state
  - Strictly horizontal
- Well:
  - Fully penetrating
  - Constant pumping rate
  - Infinitesimal radius
- Aquifer:
  - Homogeneous
  - Constant saturated thickness
  - Laterally unbounded

# THE COOPER-JACOB APPROXIMATION

Series expansion of Theis' Well function W:

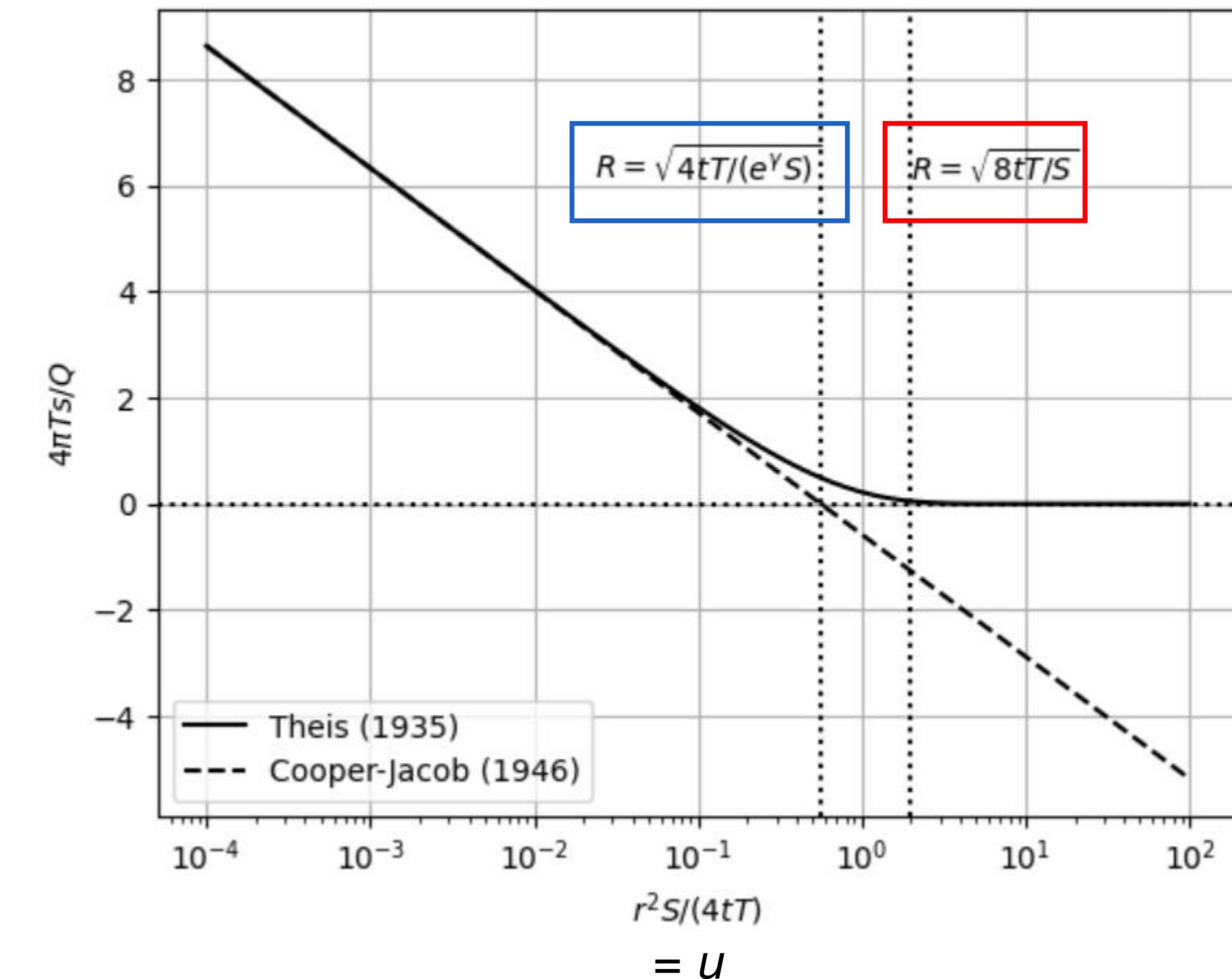
$$W(u) = -\gamma - \ln(u) - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-u)^n}{n \cdot n!}$$

Truncating and applying to the Theis solution:

$$s(r) \approx \frac{Q}{2\pi T} \ln \left( \frac{1}{r} \sqrt{\frac{4tT}{e^\gamma S}} \right) \quad (u < 0.1)$$

Comparing to the Thiem equation:

$$R = \sqrt{\frac{4tT}{e^\gamma S}}$$



# THE HANTUSH-JACOB MODEL

*Transactions, American Geophysical Union*

Volume 36, Number 1

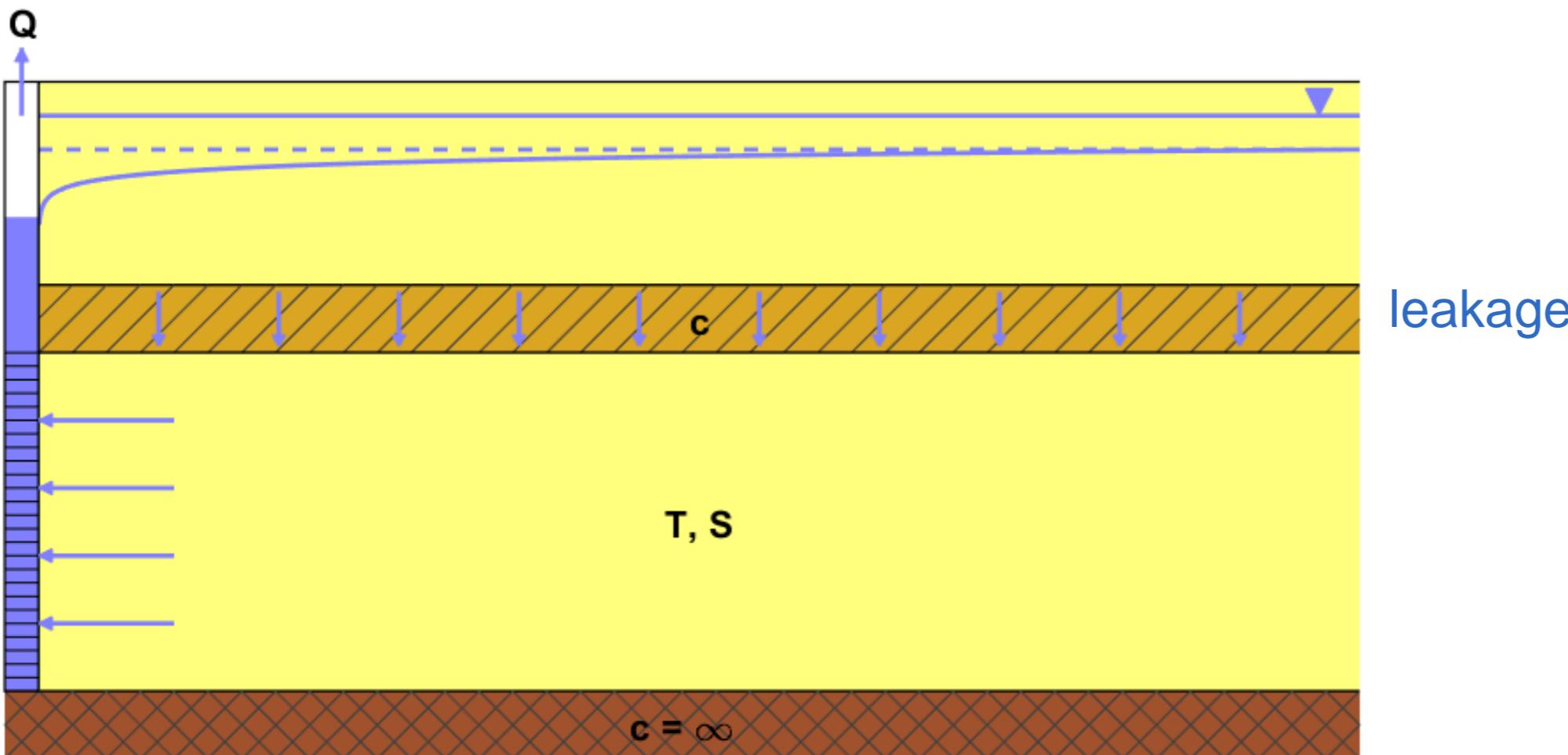
February 1955



Mahdi S. Hantush



Charles E. Jacob



## NON-STADY RADIAL FLOW IN AN INFINITE LEAKY AQUIFER

M. S. Hantush and C. E. Jacob

**Abstract**--The non-steady drawdown distribution near a well discharging from an infinite leaky aquifer is presented. Variation of drawdown with time and distance caused by a well of constant discharge in confined sand of uniform thickness and uniform permeability is obtained. The discharge is supplied by the reduction of storage through expansion of the water and the concomitant compression of the sand, and also by leakage through the confining bed. The leakage is assumed to be at a rate proportional to the drawdown at any point. Storage of water in the confining bed is neglected. Two forms of the solution are developed. One is suitable for computation for large values of time and the other suitable for small values of time. This solution is compared with earlier solutions for slightly different boundary conditions.

**Introduction**--The differential equation for radial flow in an elastic artesian aquifer with linear leakage has been given by JACOB [1946]. He also obtained the non-steady drawdown distribution produced by a well of constant discharge situated in the center of a circular region whose outer boundary is maintained at constant head. The head distribution in his problem is initially uniform.

In this paper the solution is obtained for the problem in which the outer boundary is removed to infinity.

**Statement of the problem**--The problem is to determine the variation with time of the drawdown induced by a well steadily discharging from an infinite leaky aquifer in which the initial head is uniform. Leakage into the aquifer is assumed vertical and proportional to the drawdown. Stated mathematically the boundary-value problem is

$$\frac{\partial^2 s}{\partial r^2} + \left(\frac{1}{r}\right) \frac{\partial s}{\partial r} - \frac{s}{KD} = \frac{(K/T)}{B^2} \frac{\partial s}{\partial t} \quad \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

$$s(r, 0) = 0 \quad r \geq 0 \quad \dots \dots \dots (2a)$$

$$s(\infty, 0) = 0 \quad t \geq 0 \quad \dots \dots \dots (2b)$$

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} r \frac{\partial s}{\partial r} = -\frac{Q}{2\pi T} \quad t > 0 \quad \dots \dots \dots (2c)$$

where

$s(r, t)$  is the drawdown at any time and any distance from the well.

$r$  is the distance to any point measured from the axis of the well.

$S$  is the storage coefficient of the artesian aquifer (a non-dimensional constant) defined as "the product of the thickness of the artesian bed and the relative volume of water released from storage by a unit decline of head" [JACOB, 1946].

$K$  and  $K'$  are the hydraulic conductivities (or 'permeabilities') of the artesian sand and confining bed, respectively. They have the dimension  $L/t$ .

$b$  and  $b'$  are the thicknesses of the artesian sand and confining bed, respectively.

$T = Kb$  is the transmissibility (of dimension  $L^2/t$ ) of the artesian sand. The ratio  $K'/b'$  may be termed 'specific leakage' or 'leakance' [HANTUSH, 1949, p. 8]. It has the dimension  $t/L$ .

The transmissibility divided by the leakance (of dimension  $L^3$ ) is symbolized by  $B^2$ .

$Q$  is the discharge of the well.

**Solution of the problem**--After separating the variables, it can be shown that

$$J_0(\alpha r/B) \exp[-(\alpha^2 + 1) Tt/BD^2] \quad \text{and} \quad K_0(r/B)$$

are particular solutions of (1), where  $J_0$  and  $K_0$  are respectively the Bessel function of the first kind of zero order and the modified Bessel function of the second kind of zero order, and where  $\alpha$  is any real constant.

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## Transient leaky flow (Hantush & Jacob, 1955)

$$s(r, t) = \frac{Q}{4\pi K D} W \left( \frac{r^2 S}{4t K D}, r \sqrt{\frac{1}{c K D}} \right)$$

# HANTUSH-JACOB: ASSUMPTIONS

- Flow:
  - Axisymmetric
  - Transient-state
  - Strictly horizontal
- Well:
  - Fully penetrating
  - Constant pumping rate
  - Infinitesimal radius
- Aquifer:
  - Homogeneous
  - Constant saturated thickness
  - Laterally unbounded
  - Leaky top

# HANTUSH-JACOB VS THEIS VS DE GLEE

Confined:  $c \rightarrow \infty$  and  $v \rightarrow 0$

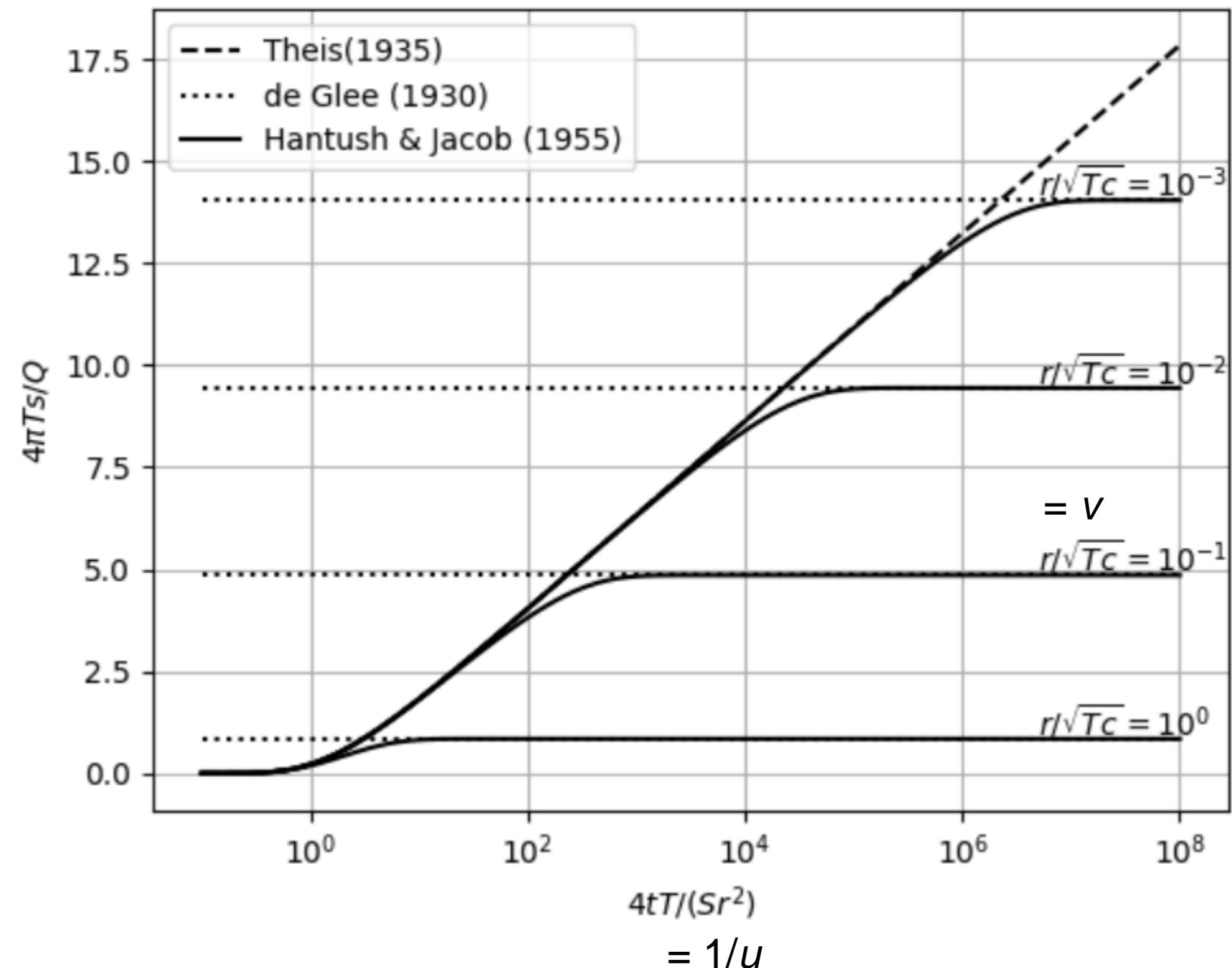
$$\lim_{v \rightarrow 0} W(u, v) = W(u)$$

Hantush-Jacob  $\rightarrow$  Theis

Steady-state:  $t \rightarrow \infty$  and  $u \rightarrow 0$

$$\lim_{u \rightarrow 0} W(u, v) = 2K_0(v)$$

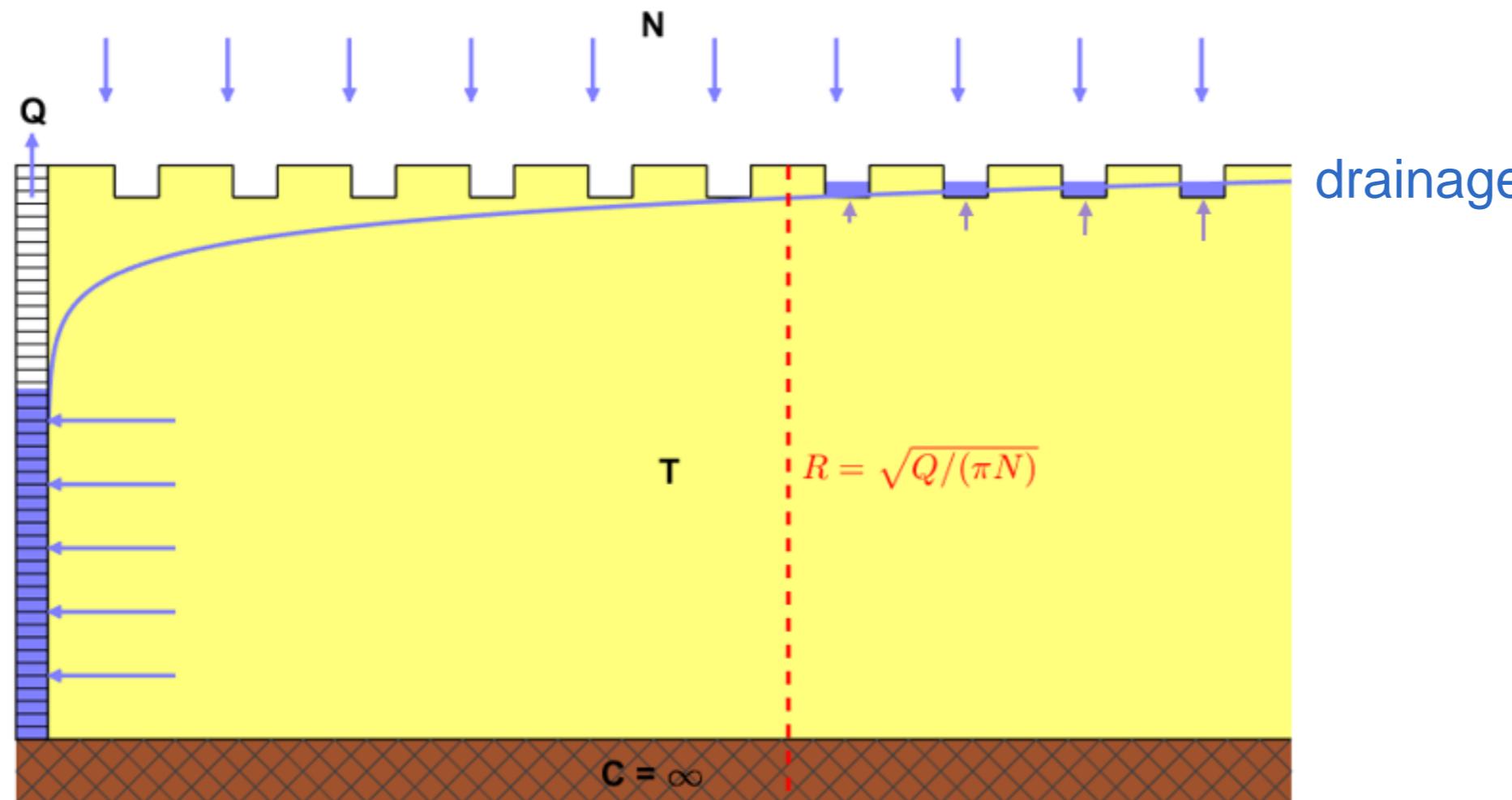
Hantush-Jacob  $\rightarrow$  de Glee



# THE ERNST MODEL

Journal of Hydrology 14 (1971) 158–180; © North-Holland Publishing Co., Amsterdam

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## ANALYSIS OF GROUNDWATER FLOW TO DEEP WELLS IN AREAS WITH A NON-LINEAR FUNCTION FOR THE SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE

L. F. ERNST

Institute for Land and Water Management Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands

**Abstract:** The quantitative analysis of groundwater flow to deep wells in areas where the excess precipitation is discharged for a major part by surface drains, requires information about the system of this surface drainage. The non-linear relation between the discharge and the phreatic level (areal mean) can be explained mainly by the fact that the length of the drains containing water and giving discharge is varying in the same sense as the discharge and the phreatic level. Changes in evaporation by the plants are of less importance in this connection. As there is some evidence that the amplitude of the seasonal fluctuations of the phreatic surface will not be influenced very much when there is a constant pumping of water from deep wells, the change in that surface effected by pumping can be put equal to the drawdown during a steady state flow to the deep well. When the relation between hydraulic head and discharge by drains is linearized, i.e. represented in a graph as a broken straight line with for each part a specific value for the effective drainage resistance  $Y_e$ , the basic differential equation is reduced to a Bessel equation of zero order. The steady state solution either contains a combination of modified Bessel functions (for finite values of  $Y_e$ ) or a logarithm (when the effective drainage resistance  $Y_e = \infty$ ). The determination of the integration constants for several zones around the well is in principle not difficult. In the paper an explicit solution is only given for a rather simple case.

### Introduction

Where in humid areas the ground surface has only relatively small differences in elevation and the transmissivity of the underground is not very small, the excess precipitation is mainly carried off by groundwater flow to a system of rather closely spaced surface drains of different size and level (Fig. 1). The depth of the groundwater table and the discharge by the drains are variable owing to seasonal fluctuations of the evaporation and irregular variations of the precipitation.

Deep well pumping of groundwater from thick phreatic aquifers or from semi-confined aquifers will cause a decline of the phreatic surface, especially in the case of phreatic aquifers. Primarily this involves a smaller discharge of water by the surface drains. In those cases that formerly during summer (period with main evaporation) the depth of the phreatic surface was rather

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Steady flow with recharge and nonlinear drainage (Ernst, 1971)

$$s(r) = \frac{Q}{2\pi K D} \ln \left( \frac{R}{r} \right) - \frac{N}{4 K D} (R^2 - r^2) \quad \text{if } c \rightarrow 0$$

# ERNST: ASSUMPTIONS

- Flow:
  - Axisymmetric
  - Steady-state
  - Strictly horizontal
- Well:
  - Fully penetrating
  - Constant pumping rate
  - Infinitesimal radius
- Aquifer:
  - Homogeneous
  - Constant saturated thickness
  - Laterally unbounded
  - Uniform areal infiltration + drainage

# ERNST VS THIEM VS DE GLEE

Relatively low drainage resistance c:

$$Q > 100\pi NTc$$

$$R = \sqrt{Q/(\pi N)}$$

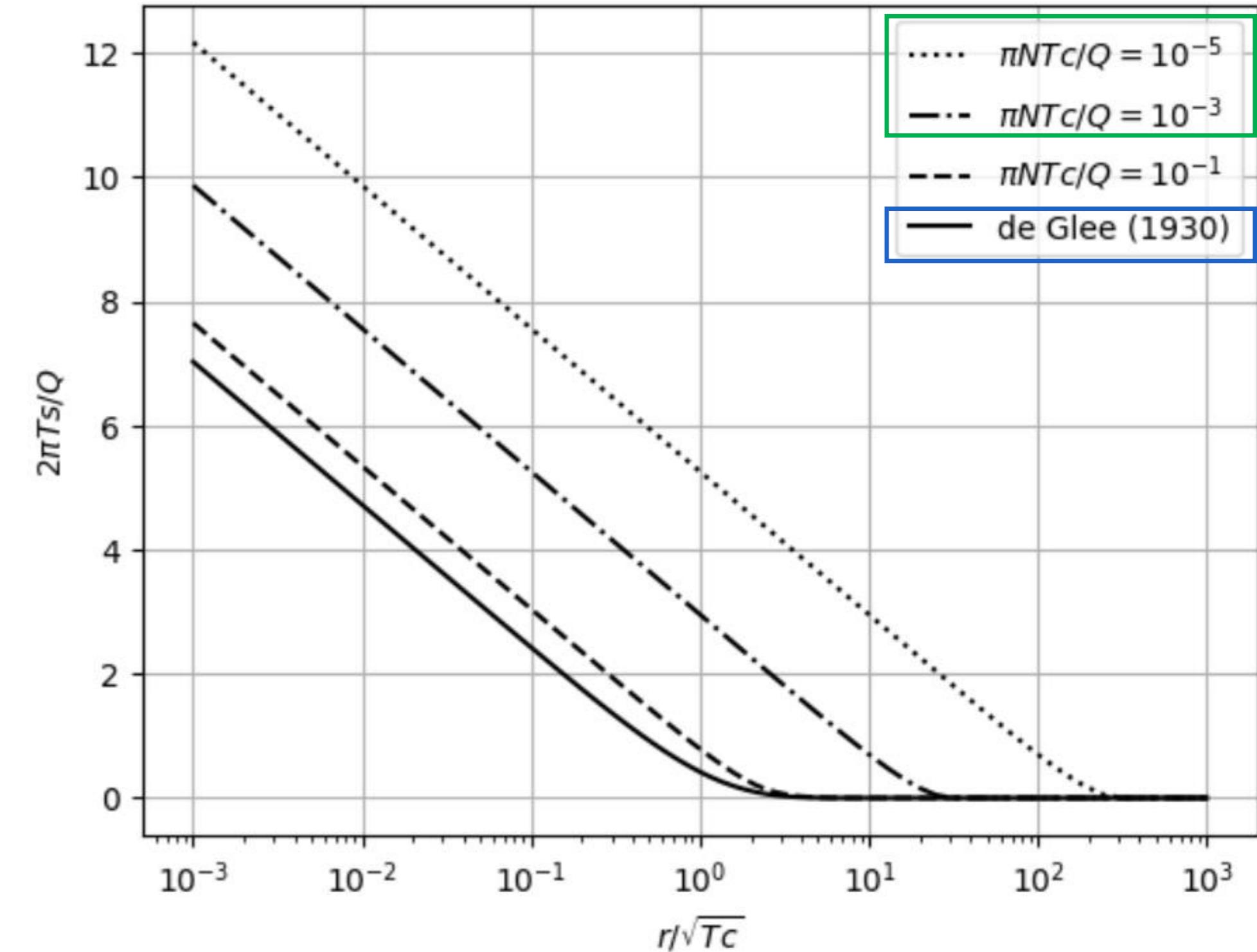
Radius of influence!

Ernst → Thiem + Infiltration pond

Relatively high drainage resistance c:

$$Q < \pi NTc$$

Ernst → de Glee



# THE RADIUS OF INFLUENCE MYTH

# THE RADIUS OF INFLUENCE

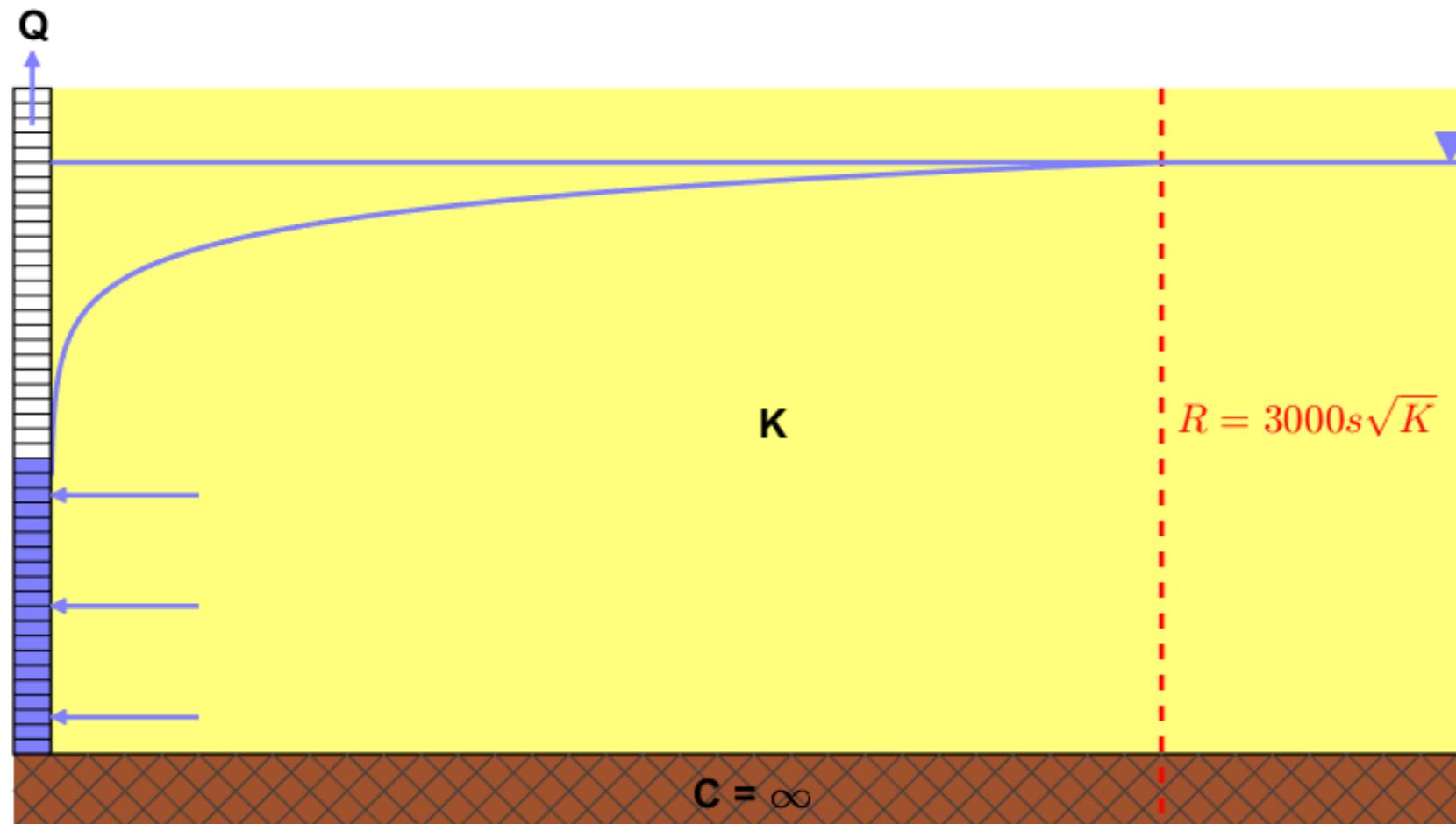
= *the radial distance from the pumping well where there is no lowering of the head or beyond which drawdown is negligible*

- Thiem-Dupuit equations: outer boundary
- How to determine?
  - empirical formulas
  - models defining more realistic boundary conditions

Author	Reference	Formula Influence	Radius of Influence
Lembke	(1886, 1887)	$R = h_o \times \sqrt{\frac{K}{2N}}$	
Weber	[Kyrieleis-Sichardt, 1930]	$R = 3 \times \sqrt{\frac{h_o \times K \times t}{n_e}}$	
Kusakin	Chertusov, 1949	$R = 575 \times s_w \times \sqrt{K \times h_o}$	
Kusakin	Aravin and Numerov, 1953	$R = 1,9 \times \sqrt{\frac{h_o \times K \times t}{n_e}}$	
Sichardt	[Kirieleis-Sichardt, 1930]	$R = 3000 \times s_w \times \sqrt{K}$	

<https://hatariwater.tumblr.com/post/138690184404/overview-of-the-radius-of-influence>

# EMPIRICAL SICHARDT FORMULA



weite begnügen kann. Einen gewissen Anhalt für solche Schätzungen gibt eine von Sichardt empirisch gefundene Formel, die bisher noch nicht veröffentlicht worden ist und hier mitgeteilt sei. Sie gilt für den Beharrungszustand und lautet

$$R = 3000 s \sqrt{k}, \quad (26)$$

worin  $s$  = Absenkung in  $m$ .

## Grundwasserabsenkung bei Fundierungsarbeiten

von  
Dr.-Ing. Wilhelm Kyrieleis

In zweiter Auflage neubearbeitet  
von  
Dr.-Ing. Willy Sichardt

Mit 152 Abbildungen im Text  
und 3 Tafeln



Berlin  
Verlag von Julius Springer  
1930

# FORWARD AND INVERSE PROBLEMS

- **forward problem**

- simulate head  $h$  or drawdown  $s$
- e.g. assessing the environmental impact of extractions

$$s = \frac{Q}{2\pi KD} \ln \left( \frac{R}{r} \right)$$

- **inverse problem type I**

- derive transmissivity  $KD$
- e.g. pumping test interpretation

$$KD = \frac{Q}{2\pi} \frac{\ln r_2 - \ln r_1}{s_1 - s_2}$$

- **inverse problem type II**

- derive pumping rate  $Q$
- e.g. construction dewatering

$$Q = 2\pi KD \frac{s_w}{\ln R - \ln r_w}$$

# DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

- Well performance and efficiency
- Hydraulic characteristics of aquifers
- The groundwater **basin** as part of the hydrological system
- Groundwater **sustainability** which also considers water quality, ecological and socio-economic aspects.

# THE RADIUS OF INFLUENCE MYTH

Applying the Sichardt formula:

- is inconsistent with fundamental hydrogeological principles
- may underestimate the extent of the cone of depression
- is not recommended to assess the impact of extractions



*Article*

## The Radius of Influence Myth

by Andy Louwyck <sup>1,\*</sup> Alexander Vandenbohede <sup>2</sup> Dirk Libbrecht <sup>3</sup> ,  
 Marc Van Camp <sup>1</sup> and Kristine Walraevens <sup>1</sup>

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Water 2022, 14(2), 149; <https://doi.org/10.3390/w14020149>

# ALTERNATIVES

1D axisymmetric models consistent with fundamental principles:

- **de Glee (1930)**: steady well-flow in a leaky aquifer
- **Theis (1935)**: transient well-flow in a confined aquifer
- **Hantush-Jacob (1955)**: transient well-flow in a leaky aquifer
- **Ernst (1971)**: steady well-flow in a phreatic aquifer subject to uniform infiltration and drainage

# OVERVIEW



Article

## The Radius of Influence Myth

**Table 1.** Summary of the analytical models discussed in the paper applied to simulate axisymmetric flow towards a fully penetrating well with infinitesimal radius and constant pumping rate in a homogeneous aquifer with impervious base. From the solutions of these models, equations and rules of thumb are derived to estimate the radius of influence  $R$ , with  $KD$  the transmissivity,  $c$  the resistance,  $S$  the storage coefficient,  $N$  the infiltration flux,  $Q$  the pumping rate, and  $t$  the time. See text for explanation and definitions.

Model	Flow Regime	Outer Boundary	Upper Boundary	Initial Flow	Super-Position	Radius of Influence R
Dupuit [76]	Steady	Finite	Water table	None	No <sup>4</sup>	Outer boundary (=input parameter)
Thiem [70]	Steady	Finite	Impervious <sup>1</sup>	Steady	Yes	Outer boundary (=input parameter)
de Glee [71,86]	Steady	Infinite	Leaky <sup>2</sup>	Steady	Yes	$R = 4\sqrt{cKD}$
Theis [72]	Transient	Infinite	Impervious <sup>1</sup>	Steady	Yes	$R = 1.5\sqrt{\frac{tKD}{S}}$
Hantush-Jacob [73]	Transient	Infinite	Leaky <sup>2</sup>	Steady	Yes	$R = 1.5\sqrt{\frac{tKD}{S}} \text{ if } t < 0.01Sc$ $R = 4\sqrt{cKD} \text{ if } t > 10Sc$
Ernst [74]	Steady	Infinite	Drainage + Recharge	None <sup>3</sup>	No <sup>4</sup>	$R = \sqrt{\frac{Q}{\pi N}} \text{ if } \frac{Q}{\pi NKDc} > 100$ $R = 4\sqrt{cKD} \text{ if } \frac{Q}{\pi NKDc} < 1$
Transient Ernst (Appendix A)	Transient	Infinite	Drainage + Recharge	None <sup>3</sup>	No <sup>4</sup>	See Figure 5

<sup>1</sup> Or water table if drawdown is less than 10% of initial saturated thickness. <sup>2</sup> Leakage through incompressible aquitard or linear surface water interaction (cfr. MODFLOW river). <sup>3</sup> Initial heads equal to  $Nc$  are relative to the steady drainage levels, which are set to zero for convenience. <sup>4</sup> Unless the solution may be approximated by its corresponding linear equation.

# THE SUPERPOSITION PRINCIPLE

# THE SUPERPOSITION PRINCIPLE

- Property of **linear models** (e.g., Thiem, Theis, de Glee, Hantush-Jacob)

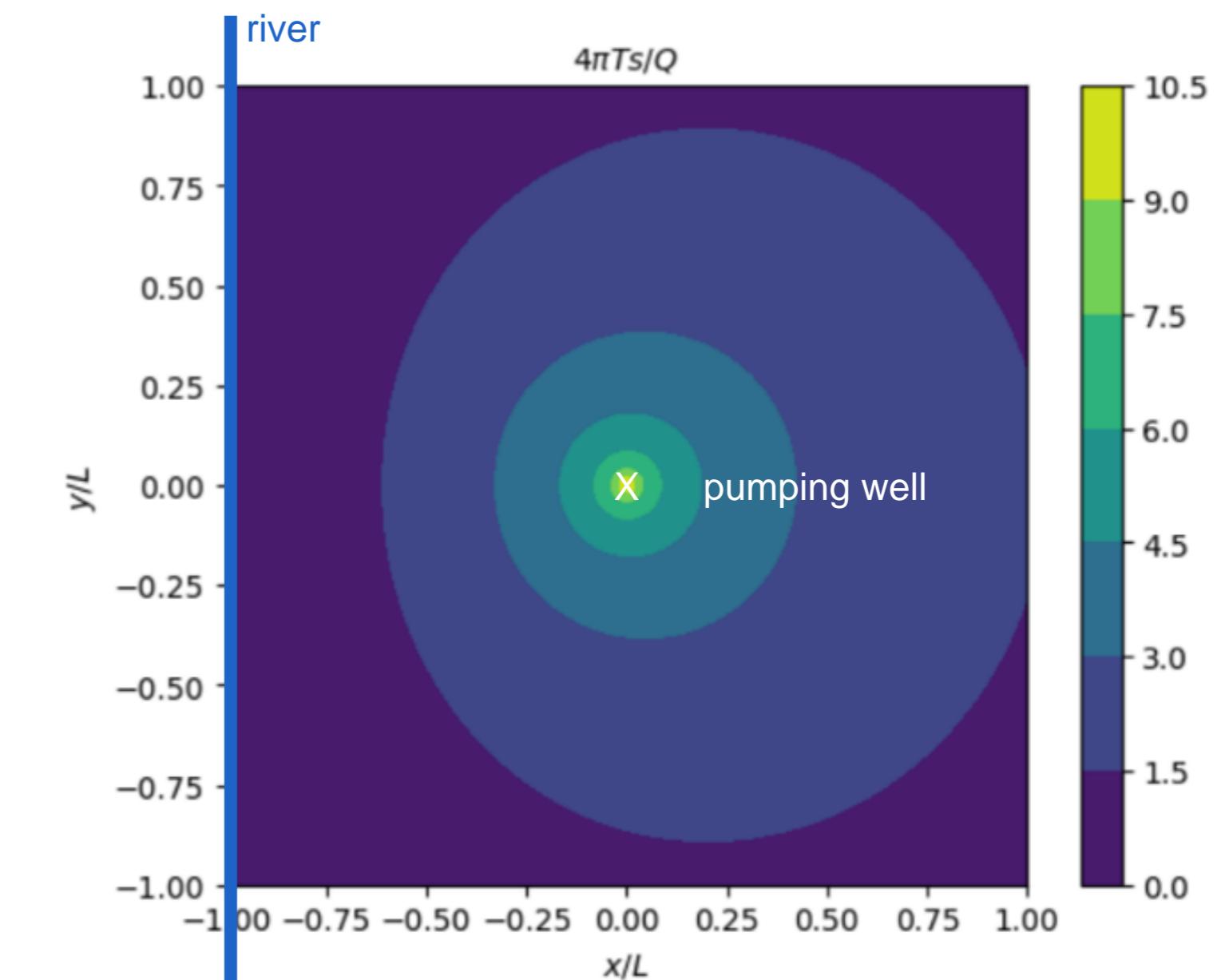
$$s = \sum_i Q_i \sigma_i \quad \text{with } \sigma_i \text{ drawdown according to unit discharge}$$

- Linear model:
  - linear differential equation
  - linear boundary conditions
  - **homogeneous** differential equation (mostly)
    1. model before pumping:  $\nabla^2 h_0 = -N$
    2. model during pumping:  $\nabla^2 h = -N$
    3. drawdown model:  $\nabla^2 s = \nabla^2 h_0 - \nabla^2 h = 0$

# SUPERPOSITION IN SPACE: EXAMPLE

pumping well near straight  
constant-level river (Theis, 1941):

- well at position (0,0)
- straight river:  $x = -L$   
= constant-head boundary
- **method of images:**  
add injection well at position  $(-2L, 0)$



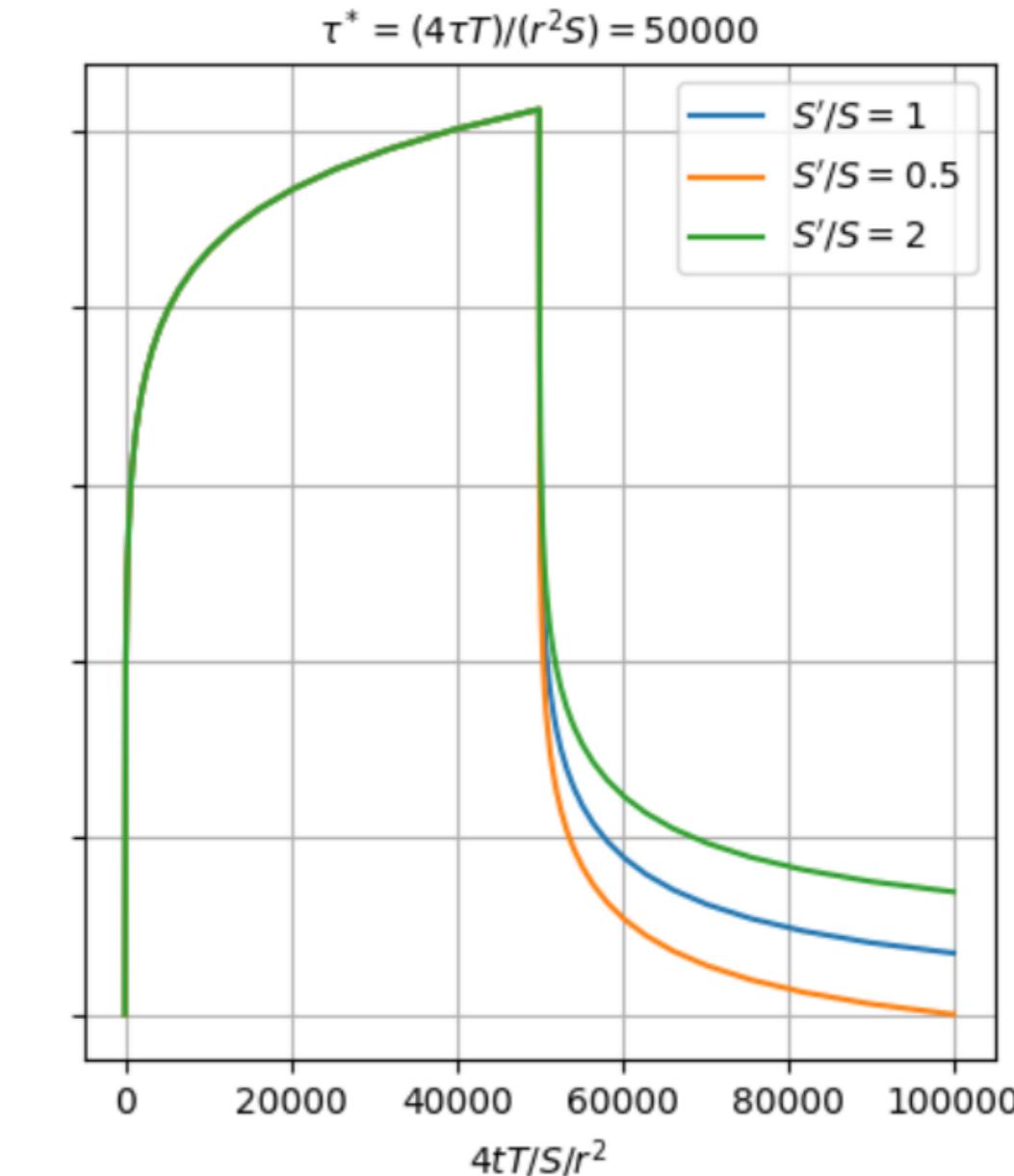
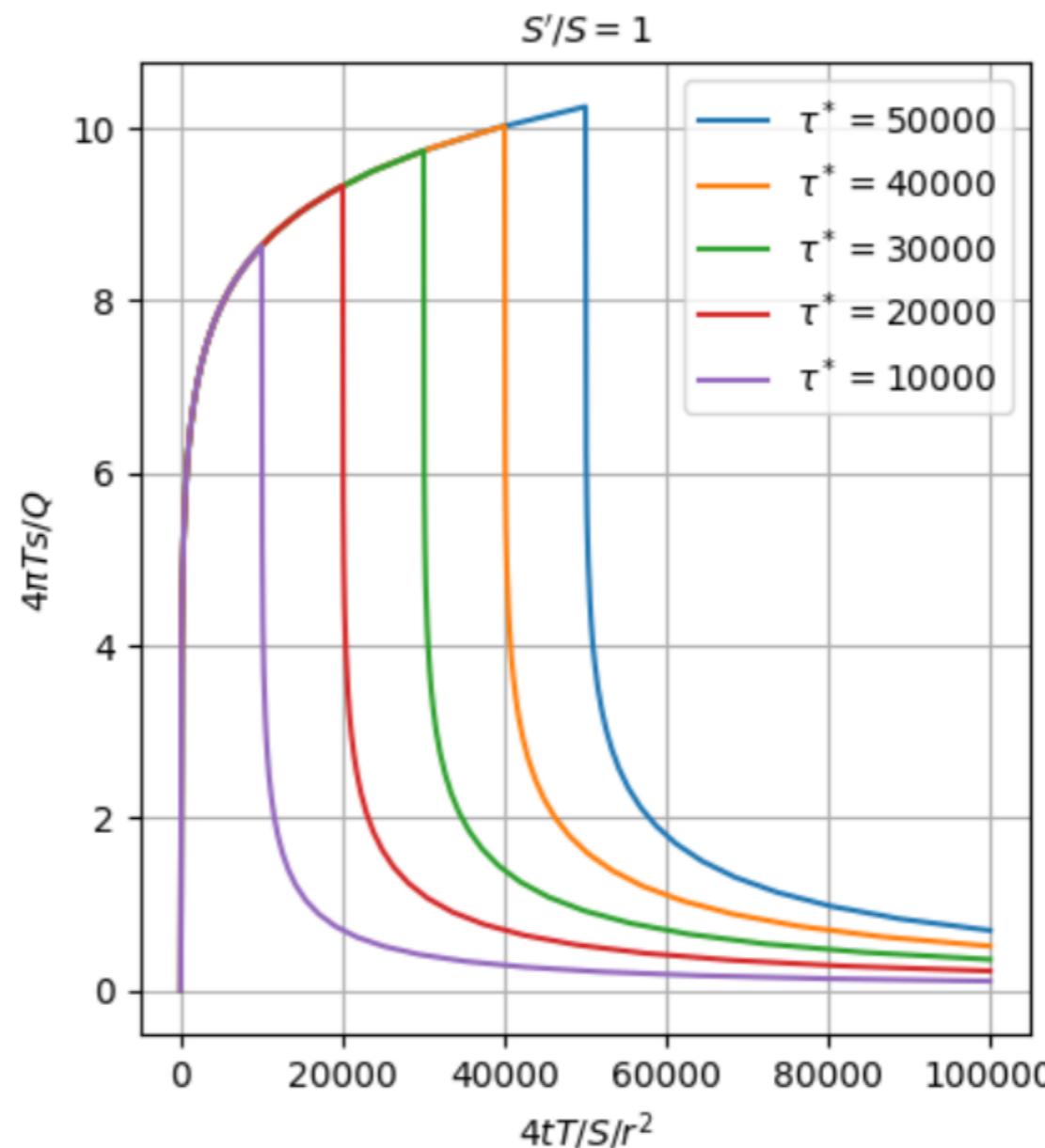
$$s(x, y, t) = \frac{Q}{4\pi T} \left[ W\left(\frac{[x^2 + y^2]S}{4tT}\right) - W\left(\frac{[(x + 2L)^2 + y^2]S}{4tT}\right) \right]$$

pumping well + imaginary injection well

# SUPERPOSITION IN TIME: EXAMPLE

residual drawdown  $s'$   
during recovery (Theis, 1935):

- pump shuts down at time  $\tau$   
= start of injection  $-Q$
- storativity  $S'$  during recovery



$$s'(r, t) = \frac{Q}{4\pi T} \left[ W\left(\frac{r^2 S}{4tT}\right) - W\left(\frac{r^2 S'}{4\Delta t T}\right) \right]$$

pumping + injection

with  $\Delta t = t - \tau$

# MORE ADVANCED AXISYMMETRIC MODELS

# EVOLUTION OF AXISYMMETRIC MODELS

- 1 layer
- incompressible aquitards
- well:
  - fully penetrating (mostly)
  - infinitesimal radius (mostly)

1856	Darcy
1857 & 1863	Dupuit
1870	A. Thiem
1906	G. Thiem
1914	Kooper
1930	de Glee
1935	Theis
1946	Jacob
1955	Hantush & Jacob

# EVOLUTION OF AXISYMMETRIC MODELS

- 1, 2 or 3 layers
- compressible aquitards
- anisotropy
- well:
  - partially penetrating
  - multi-aquifer
  - finite diameter (wellbore storage)
  - instantaneous head change (slug test)
  - finite-thickness skin
- water table conditions:
  - delayed yield
  - infiltration and drainage
  - confined-unconfined flow

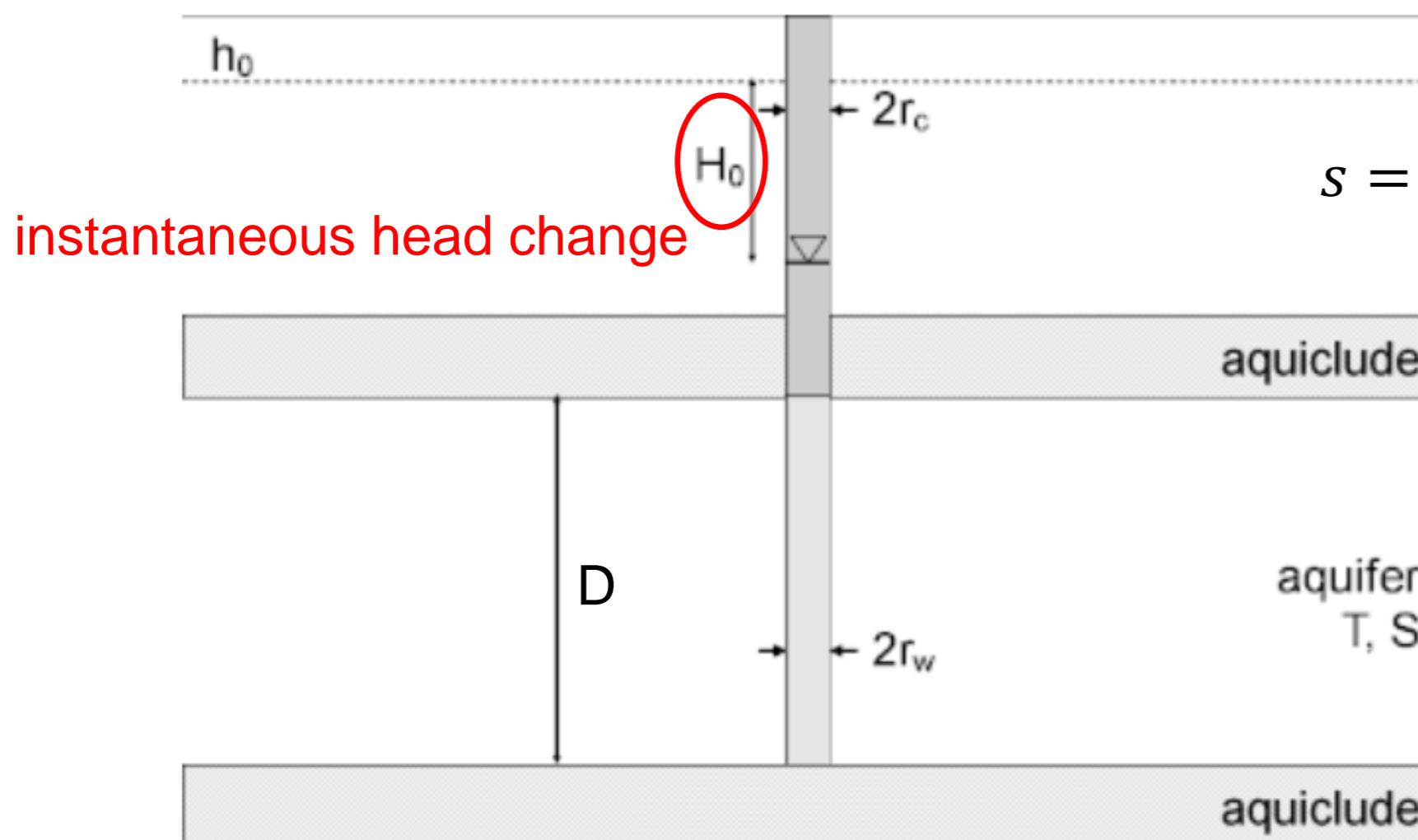
1951	Huisman & Kemperman
1954 & 1963	Boulton
1964 & 1967	Hantush
1966	Papadopoulos
1967	Papadopoulos & Cooper
1967	Cooper et al.
1969	Neuman & Witherspoon
1971	Ernst
1972	Moench & Prickett
1972	Bruggeman
1972 & 1974	Neuman
1983	Javandel & Witherspoon
1984	Moench
1984	Wikramaratna
1988	Butler
1994	Hyder et al.
1995 & 1996	Moench
2012	Mishra et al.
2022	Louwyck et al.

# TWO EXAMPLES

Extensions/modifications of the Theis (1935) model:

- **Cooper et al. (1967):**  
Instantaneous head change inside the well  
(= slug test)
- **Butler (1988):**  
Pumping well with finite-thickness skin

# COOPER ET AL. MODEL



Slug test in confined aquifer (Cooper et al., 1967)

$$\bar{s}(r, p) = \frac{H_0 r_w S K_0(r\omega)}{T\omega[r_w \omega K_0(r_w\omega) + 2\alpha K_1(r_w\omega)]}$$

$$\text{with } \alpha = \frac{r_w^2}{r_c^2} S$$

Response of a Finite-Diameter Well to an Instantaneous Charge of Water<sup>1</sup>

HILTON H. COOPER, JR., JOHN D. BREDEHOEFT, AND  
ISTAVROS S. PAPADOPULOS

Water Resources Division, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

**Abstract.** A solution is presented for the change in water level in a well of finite diameter after a known volume of water is suddenly injected or withdrawn. A set of type curves computed from this solution permits a determination of the transmissibility of the aquifer. (Key words: Aquifer tests; groundwater; hydraulics; permeability.)

#### INTRODUCTION

Ferris and Knowles [1954] introduced a method for determining the transmissibility of an aquifer from observations of the water level in a well after a known volume of water is suddenly injected into the well. (See also Ferris et al. [1962].) They reasoned that for practical purposes the well may be approximated by an instantaneous line source in the infinite region, for which the residual head differences due to the injection are described by

$$h/H_0 = (r_e^2/4Tt)e^{-r^2S/4Tr} \quad (1)$$

where

$h$  = change in head at distance  $r$  and time  $t$  due to the injection;  
 $r$  = distance from the line source or center of well;  
 $t$  = time since instantaneous injection;  
 $V$  = volume of water injected;  
 $T$  = transmissibility of aquifer;  
 $S$  = coefficient of storage of aquifer.

They reasoned further that the head  $H$  in the injected well would be described closely by (1) when  $r$  is set equal to the effective radius  $r_e$  [Jacob, 1947, p. 1049] of the screen or open hole. Then, since  $r_e$  is small, the exponential approaches unity quickly, so that the equation approaches  $H = V/4\pi Tt$ , which can be written

$$T = V(1/t)/4\pi H \quad (2)$$

To the extent that the equation is valid for a

<sup>1</sup>Publication authorized by the Director, U. S. Geological Survey.

well of finite diameter, a determination of the transmissibility can be obtained from the slope of a plot of head  $H$  versus the reciprocal of time ( $1/t$ ).

Since the volume of water injected into the well is  $\pi r_e^2 H_0$ , where  $r_e$  is the radius of the easing in the interval over which the water level fluctuates and  $H_0$  is the initial head increase in the well, equation 1 can be written

$$h/H_0 = (r_e^2/4Tt)e^{-r^2S/4Tr} \quad (3)$$

and equation 2 can be written

$$H/H_0 = r_e^2/4Tt \quad (4)$$

Recently Bredehoeft et al. [1966] demonstrated by means of an electrical analog model of a well-aquifer system that equation 3 gives a satisfactory approximation of the head in an injected well only after the time  $t$  is large enough for the ratio  $H/H_0$  to be very small (see Figure 1). The observed discrepancy appears to arise from the assumption that the injected well can be approximated by a line source.

We present here an exact solution for the head in and around a well of finite diameter after the well is instantaneously charged with a known volume of water.

#### ANALYSIS

Consider a nonflowing well cased to the top of a homogeneous isotropic artesian aquifer of uniform thickness, and screened (or open) throughout the thickness of the aquifer (Figure 2). Suppose that the well is instantaneously charged with a volume  $V$  of water. (We will consider

# COOPER ET AL.: ASSUMPTIONS

- Flow:
  - Axisymmetric
  - Transient-state
  - Strictly horizontal
- Well:
  - Fully penetrating
  - Instantaneous initial head change
  - Finite radius → wellbore storage!
- Aquifer:
  - Homogeneous
  - Constant saturated thickness
  - Laterally unbounded

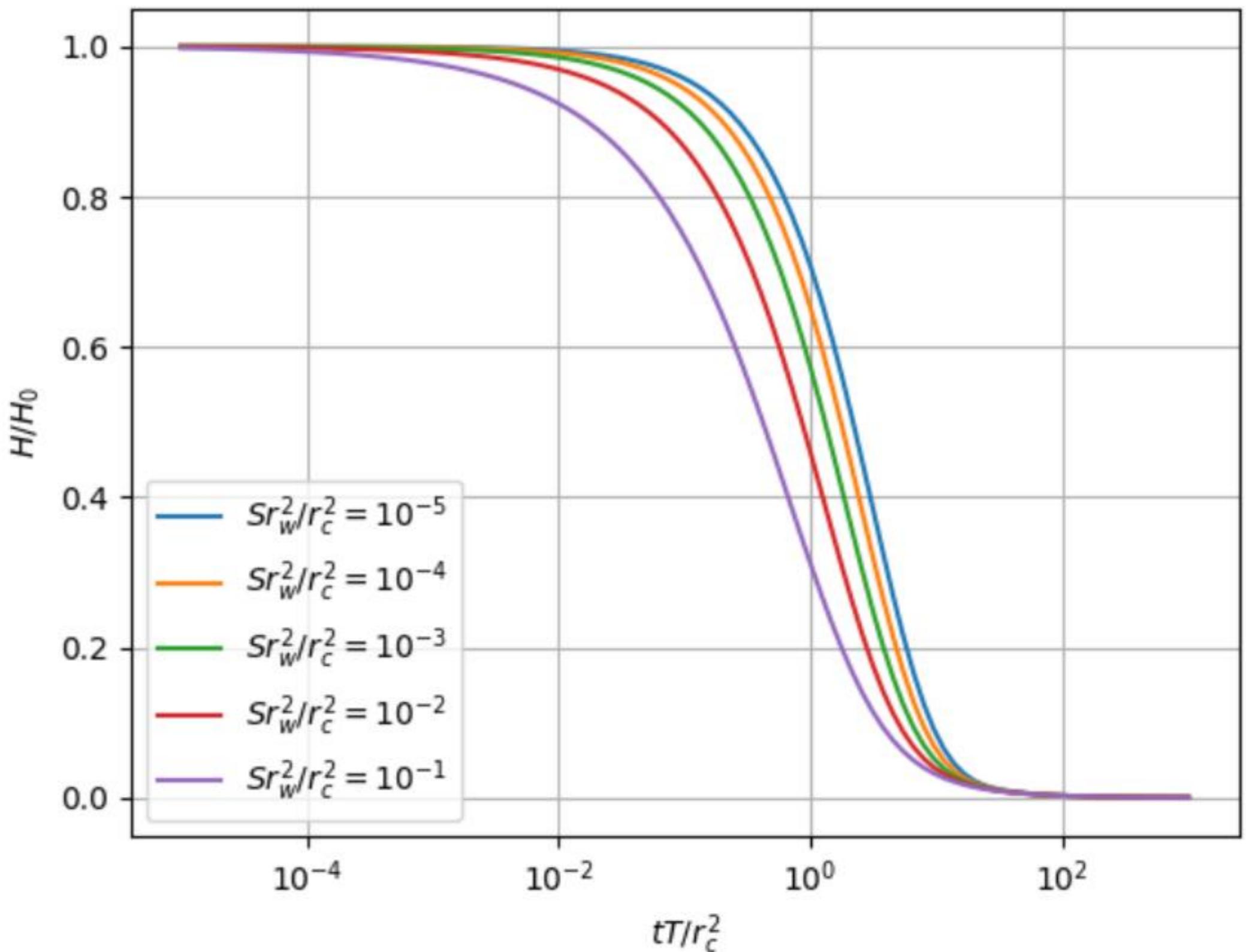
# COOPER ET AL.: NUMERICAL INVERSION

Applying the Stehfest algorithm

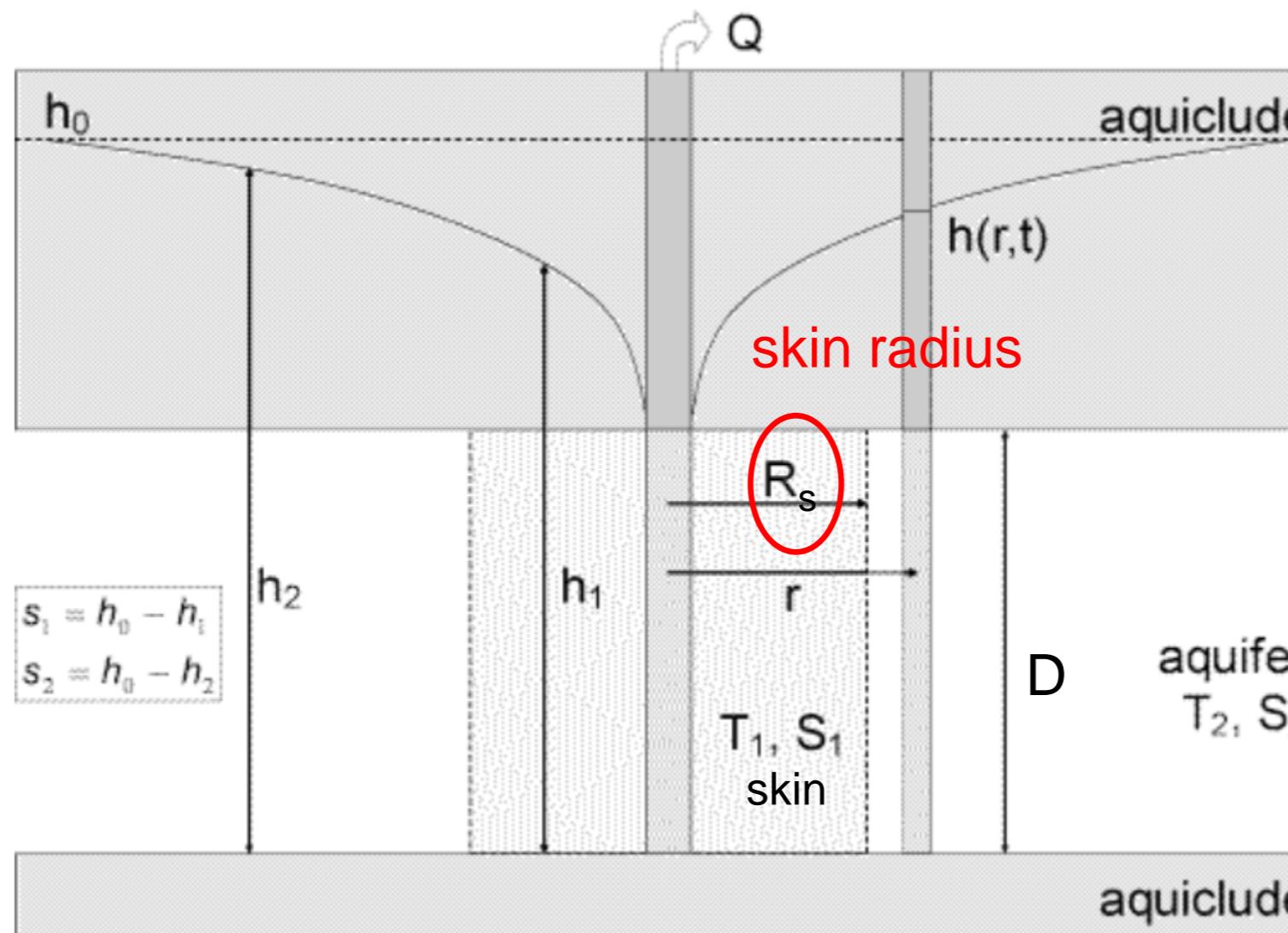
to the Laplace solution  $\bar{s}(r, p)$

with  $r = r_w$

as  $H(t) = s(r_w, t)$



# BUTLER MODEL



[2]  
PUMPING TESTS IN NONUNIFORM AQUIFERS — THE RADIALLY SYMMETRIC CASE

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(Received May 22, 1987; revised and accepted December 12, 1987)

## ABSTRACT

Butler, J.J., Jr., 1988. Pumping tests in nonuniform aquifers—The radially symmetric case. *J. Hydrol.*, 101: 15–30.

Traditionally, pumping-test-analysis methodology has been limited to applications involving aquifers whose properties are assumed uniform in space. This work attempts to assess the applicability of analytical methodology to a broader class of units with spatially varying properties. An examination of flow behavior in a simple configuration consisting of pumping from the center of a circular disk embedded in a matrix of differing properties is the basis for this investigation. A solution describing flow in this configuration is obtained through Laplace-transform techniques using analytical and numerical inversion schemes. Approaches for the calculation of flow properties in conditions that can be roughly represented by this simple configuration are proposed. Possible applications include a wide variety of geologic structures, as well as the case of a well skin resulting from drilling or development. Of more importance than the specifics of these techniques for analysis of water-level responses is the insight into flow behavior during a pumping test that is provided by the large-time form of the derived solution. The solution reveals that drawdown during a pumping test can be considered to consist of two components that are dependent and independent of near-well properties, respectively. Such an interpretation of pumping-test drawdown allows some general conclusions to be drawn concerning the relationship between parameters calculated using analytical approaches based on curve-matching and those calculated using approaches based on the slope of a semilog straight line plot. The infinite-series truncation that underlies the semilog analytical approaches is shown to remove further contributions of near-well material to total drawdown. In addition, the semilog distance-drawdown approach is shown to yield an expression that is equivalent to the Thiem equation. These results allow some general recommendations to be made concerning observation-well placement for pumping tests in nonuniform aquifers. The relative diffusivity of material on either side of a discontinuity is shown to be the major factor in controlling flow behavior during the period in which the front of the cone of depression is moving across the discontinuity. Though resulting from an analysis of flow in an idealized configuration, the insights of this work into flow behavior during a pumping test are applicable to a wide class of nonuniform units.

## INTRODUCTION

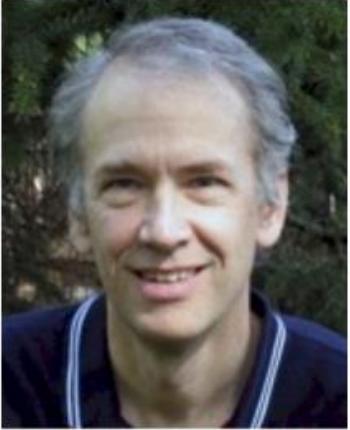
The pumping test has traditionally been the standard method used to evaluate the transmissive and storage properties of subsurface material for

0022-1694/88/\$03.50 © 1988 Elsevier Science Publishers B.V.

Pumping well with finite-thickness skin in confined aquifer (Butler, 1988)

$$s(r, t) \approx \begin{cases} \frac{Q}{2\pi T_2} \ln \frac{R}{R_s} + \frac{Q}{2\pi T_1} \ln \frac{R_s}{r} & (r \leq R_s) \\ \frac{Q}{2\pi T_2} \ln \frac{R}{r} & (r \geq R_s) \end{cases}$$

with  $R = \sqrt{\frac{4tT_2}{e^\gamma S_2}}$  and  $t \rightarrow \infty$



James J. Butler, Jr.

# BUTLER (1988) MODEL: ASSUMPTIONS

- Flow:
  - Axisymmetric
  - Transient-state
  - Strictly horizontal
- Well:
  - Fully penetrating
  - Constant pumping rate
  - Infinitesimal radius
  - **Finite-thickness skin**
- Aquifer:
  - Homogeneous
  - Constant saturated thickness
  - Laterally unbounded

# BUTLER: LARGE-TIME SOLUTION

Combining Cooper-Jacob and Thiem:

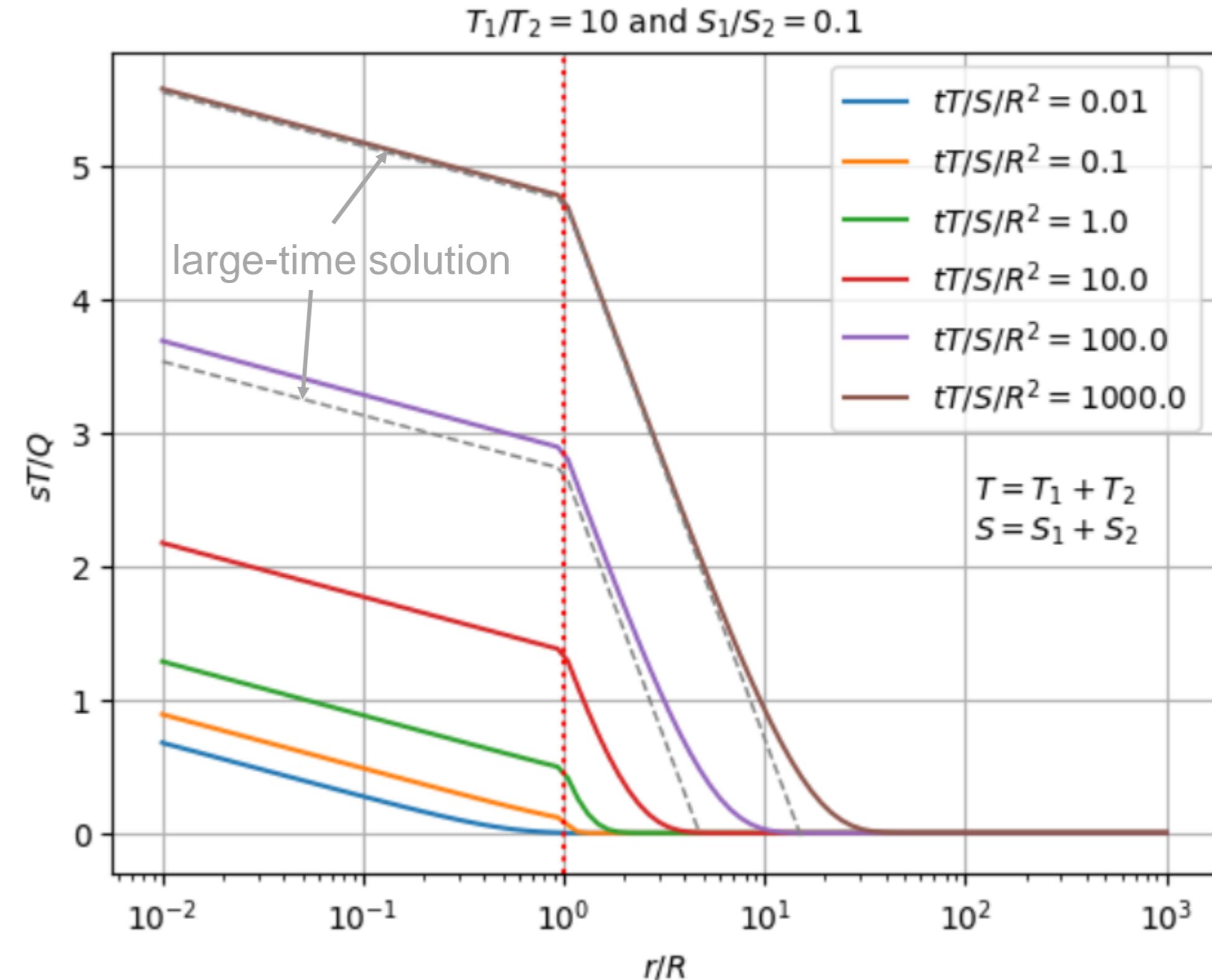
$$s_1(r, t) \approx \frac{Q}{2\pi T_2} \ln \frac{R}{R_s} + \frac{Q}{2\pi T_1} \ln \frac{R_s}{r}$$

Cooper-Jacob      Thiem

$$s_2(r, t) \approx \frac{Q}{2\pi T_2} \ln \frac{R}{r}$$

with  $R = \sqrt{\frac{4tT_2}{e^\gamma S_2}}$

radius of influence



# SKIN FACTOR

Definition of dimensionless skin factor  $F$ :

$$F = \frac{T_2}{T_1} \ln \frac{R_s}{r_w}$$

Drawdown  $s_w$  in pumping well:

$$s_w(t) = s(R_s, t) + \frac{Q}{2\pi T_2} F$$

corresponds to Butler's large-time solution:

$$s_w(t) = s_1(r_w, t)$$

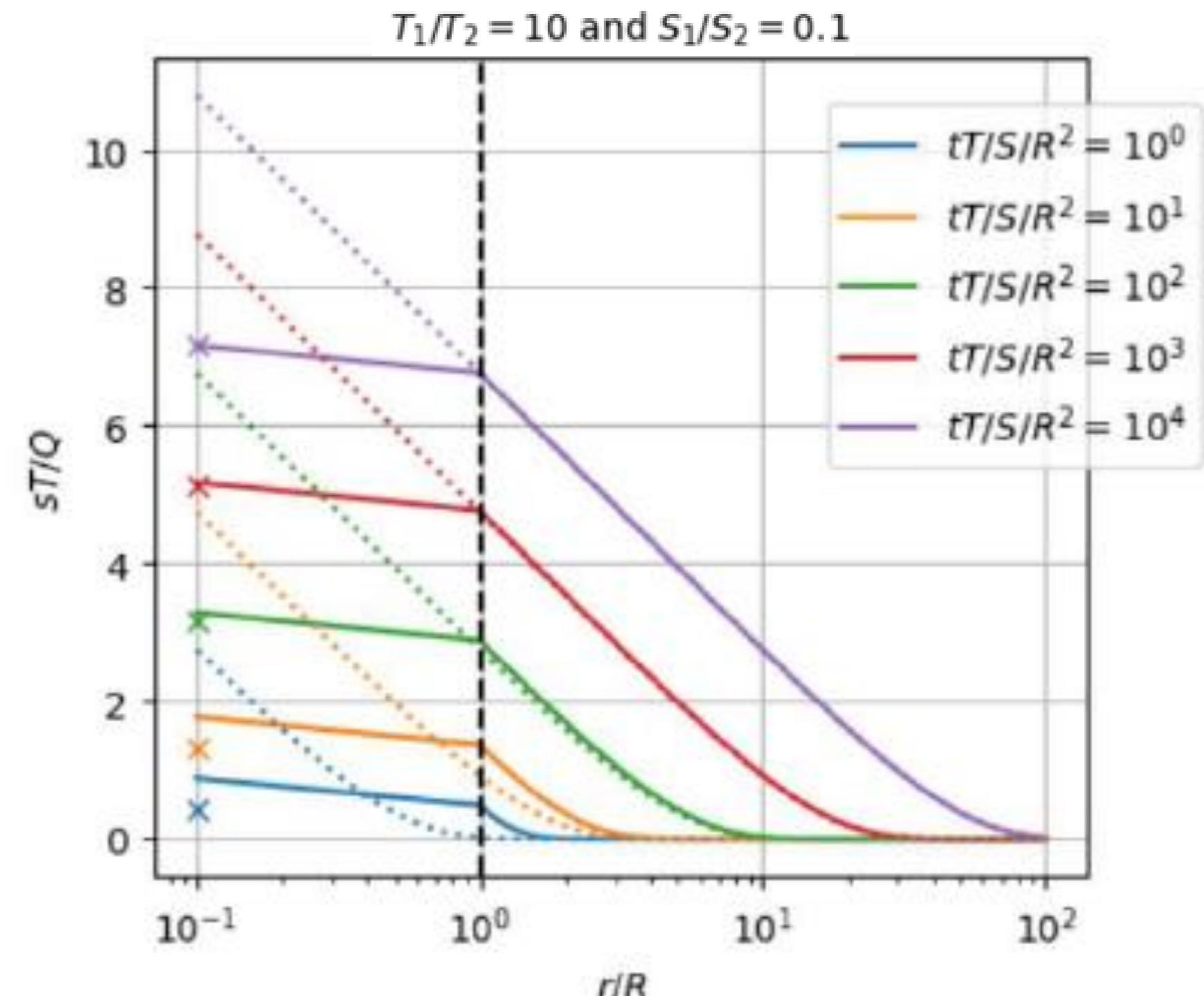
$$s(R_s, t) = \frac{Q}{2\pi T_2} \ln \frac{R}{R_s}$$

Cooper-Jacob

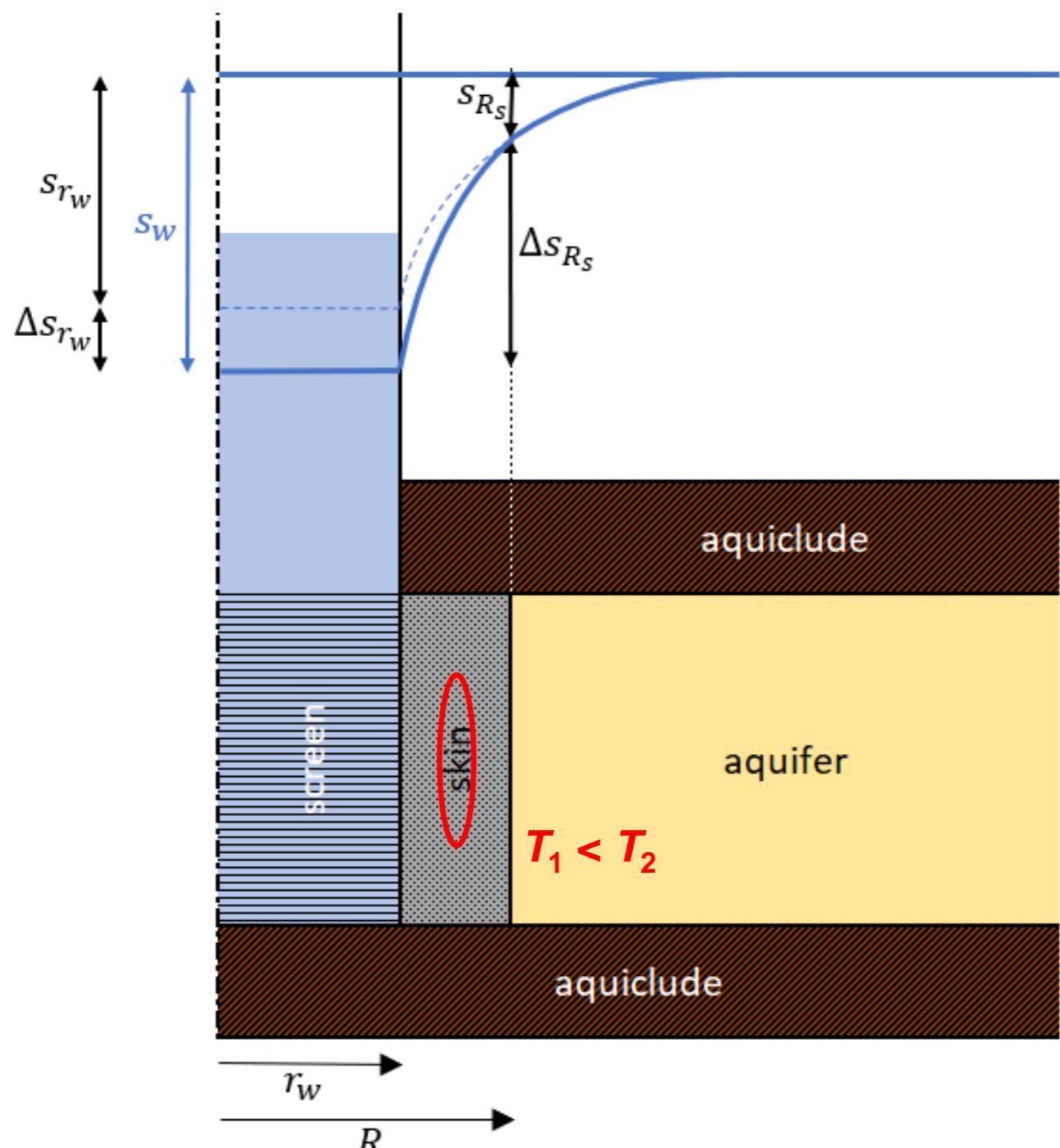
$$\frac{Q}{2\pi T_2} F = \frac{Q}{2\pi T_1} \ln \frac{R_s}{r_w}$$

Thiem

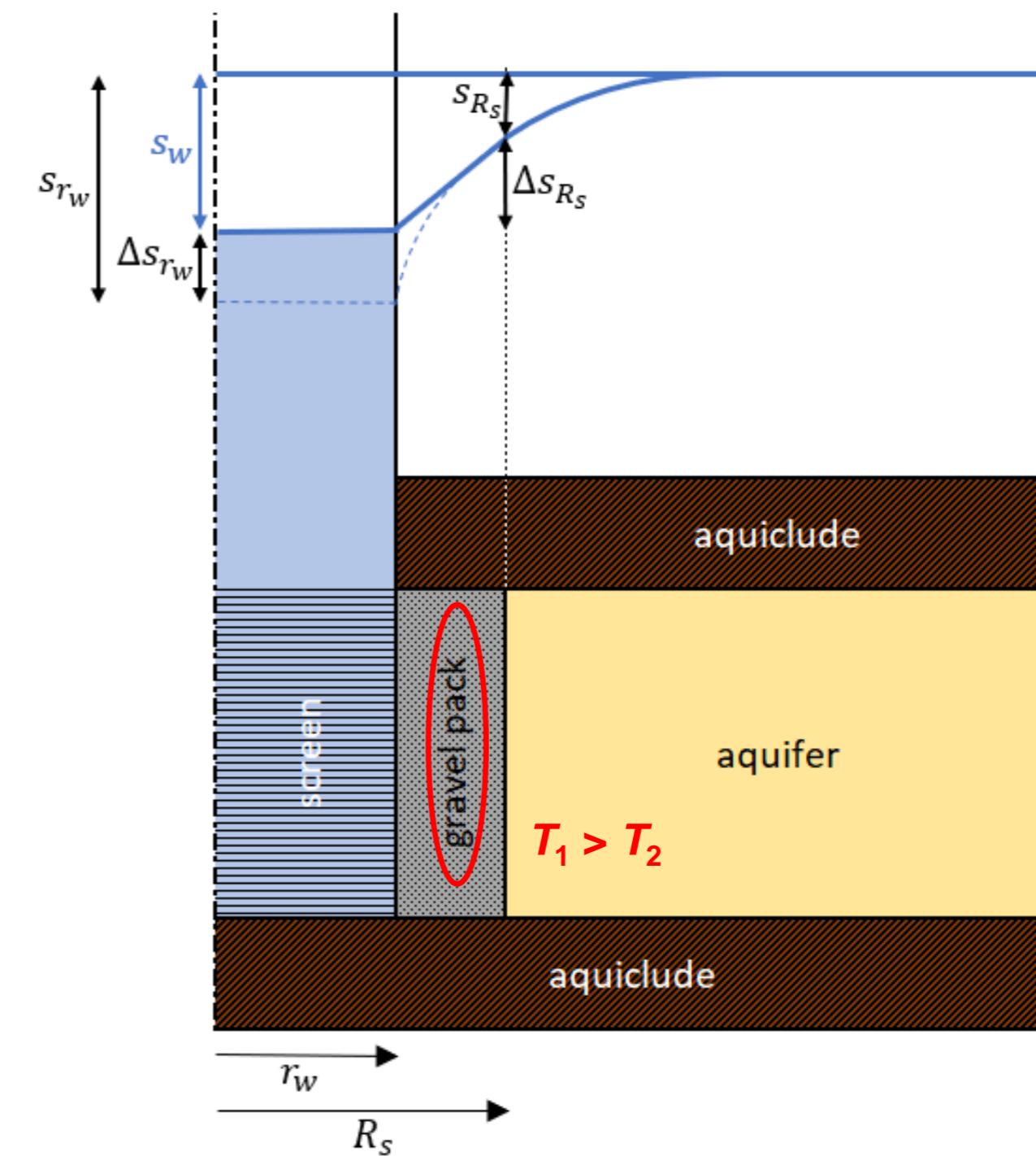
- solid lines: Butler (1988)
- dotted lines: Theis (1935)
- crosses: Theis + skin factor



# SKIN EFFECT



*positive skin effect*



*negative skin effect*

# AXISYMMETRIC FLOW

# IN MULTILAYER

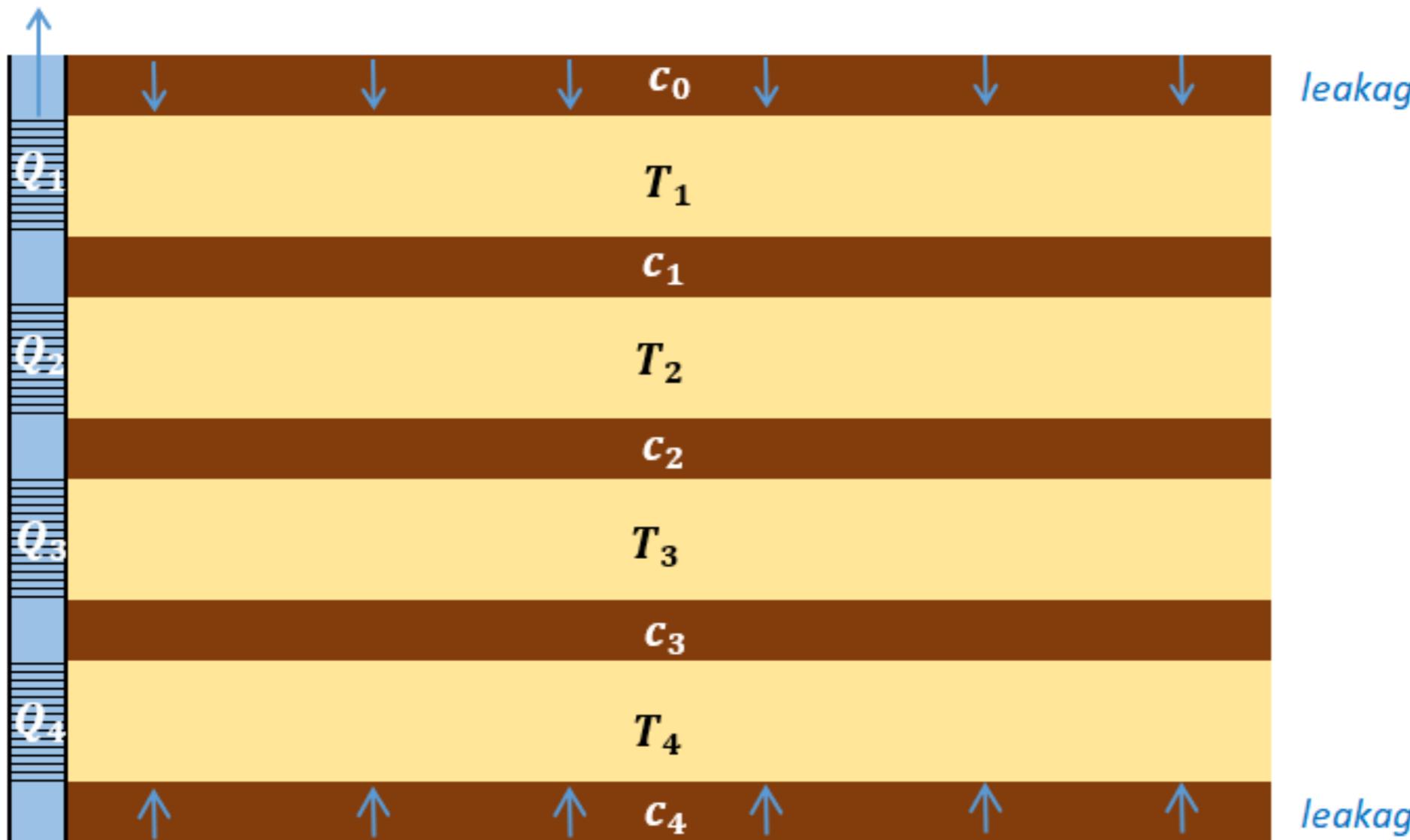
# AQUIFER SYSTEMS

# EVOLUTION OF AXISYMMETRIC MODELS

- N layers
- compressible aquitards
- anisotropy
- well:
  - partially penetrating
  - multi-aquifer
  - finite diameter (wellbore storage)
  - instantaneous head change (slug test)
  - finite-thickness skin
- water table conditions:
  - delayed yield
  - infiltration and drainage
  - confined-unconfined flow

1984 & 1985	Hemker
1985 & 1986	Hunt
1986 & 1987	Maas
1987	Hemker & Maas
1987	Yu
1993	Cheng & Morohunfola
1999	Hemker
2001	Bakker
2002 & 2004	Bakker & Hemker
2003	Bakker & Strack
2004	Meesters et al.
2006	Bakker & Hemker
2007	Hunt & Scott
2009	Veling & Maas
2023	Louwyck

# HEMKER: STEADY MULTI-AQUIFER FLOW



Journal of Hydrology

Volume 72, Issues 3–4, 15 June 1984, Pages 355-374



Research paper

Steady groundwater flow in leaky multiple-aquifer systems

C.J. Hemker<sup>1,2</sup>

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-1694\(84\)90089-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-1694(84)90089-1)

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**Steady** flow to a well in a leaky multi-aquifer system (Hemker, 1984)

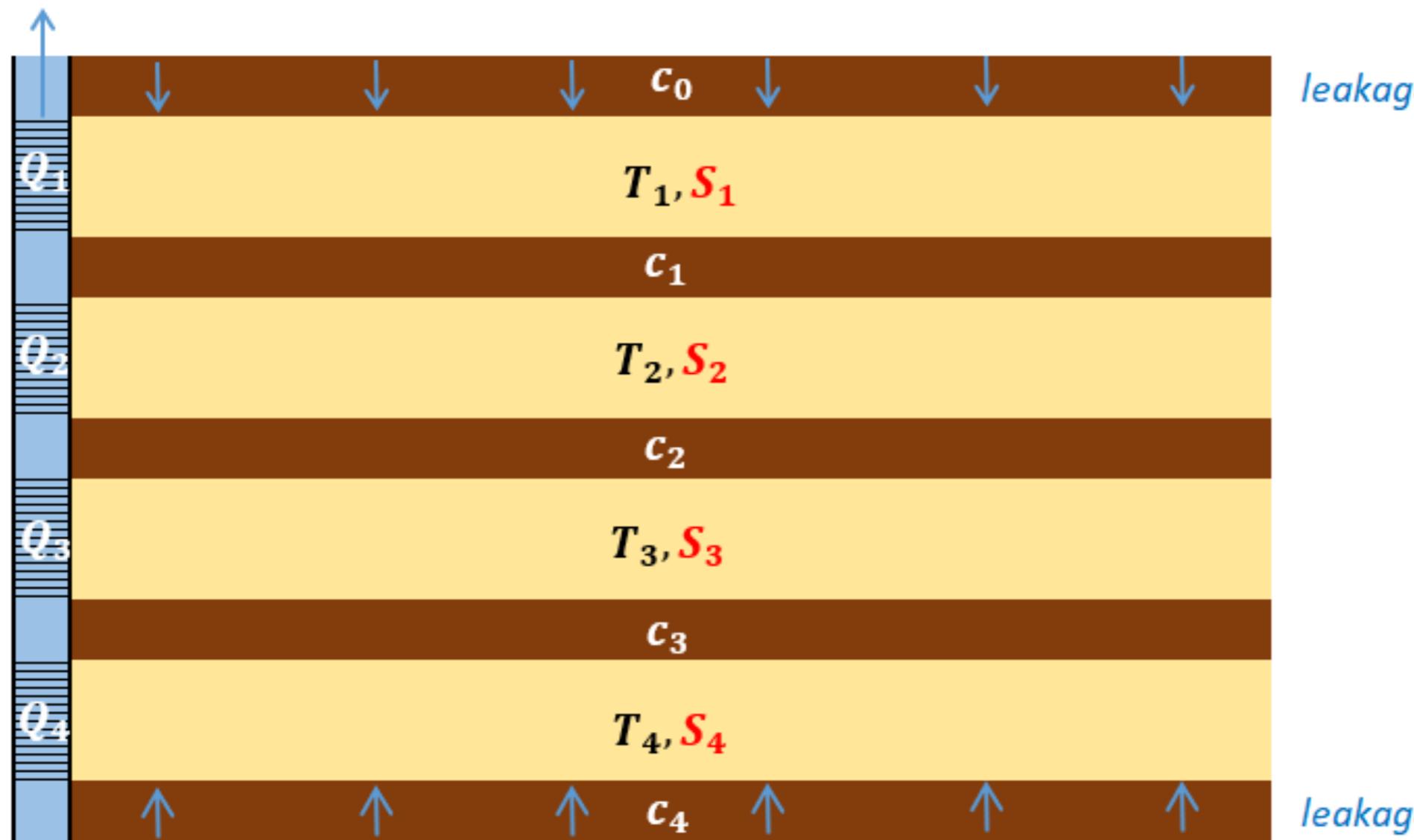
$$s = V^{-1} KVQ$$

= matrix equation obtained from eigendecomposition

# HEMKER (1984) MODEL: ASSUMPTIONS

- Flow:
  - Axisymmetric
  - **Steady-state**
  - Aquifers: strictly horizontal
  - Aquitards: strictly vertical
- Well:
  - Fully penetrating screens
  - Screens are not connected
  - Constant pumping rates
  - Infinitesimal radius
- Aquifer system:
  - Homogeneous aquifers and aquitards
  - Aquifers have constant saturated thickness
  - Incompressible aquitards → zero-thickness resistance layers
  - Laterally unbounded
  - Leaky top and bottom (**both top and bottom impervious is not possible!**)

# HEMKER: TRANSIENT MULTI-AQUIFER FLOW



Journal of Hydrology

Volume 81, Issues 1–2, 30 October 1985, Pages 111-126



Research paper

Transient well flow in leaky multiple-aquifer systems

C.J. Hemker<sup>1,b</sup>

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-1694\(85\)90170-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-1694(85)90170-2)

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**Transient** flow to a well in a leaky multi-aquifer system (Hemker, 1985)

$$\bar{\mathbf{s}} = V^{-1} \mathbf{K} V \mathbf{Q}$$

= Laplace solution which is numerically inverted

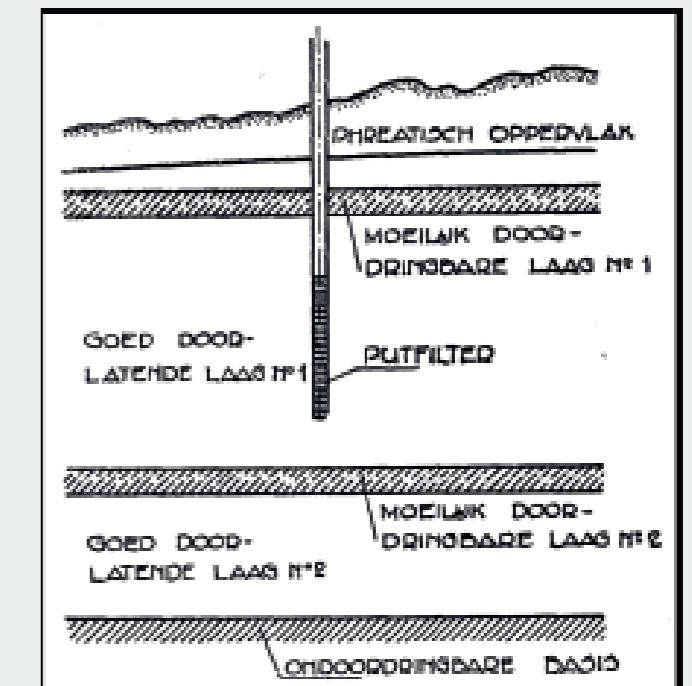
# HEMKER (1985) MODEL: ASSUMPTIONS

- Flow:
  - Axisymmetric
  - **Transient-state**
  - Aquifers: strictly horizontal
  - Aquitards: strictly vertical
- Well:
  - Fully penetrating screens
  - Screens are not connected
  - Constant pumping rates
  - Infinitesimal radius
- Aquifer system:
  - Homogeneous aquifers and aquitards
  - Aquifers have constant saturated thickness
  - Incompressible aquitards → zero-thickness resistance layers
  - Laterally unbounded
  - Leaky top and bottom (**both top and bottom impervious is possible!**)



- **Semi-analytical method:**
  - Generalized semi-analytical solution for multilayer flow
  - Extension to multilayer-multizone flow
- **Finite-difference approach:**
  - Matlab tool MAxSym for multilayer flow
  - MODFLOW procedure for axisymmetric flow
  - Extension to multi-node wells
- **Comparing both solution methods**

Axisymmetric Flow in  
Multilayer Aquifer Systems:  
Solutions and Theoretical Considerations



# GENERALIZED SEMI-ANALYTICAL SOLUTION

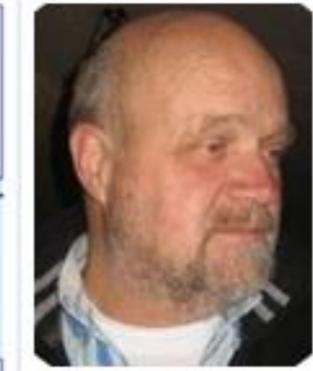
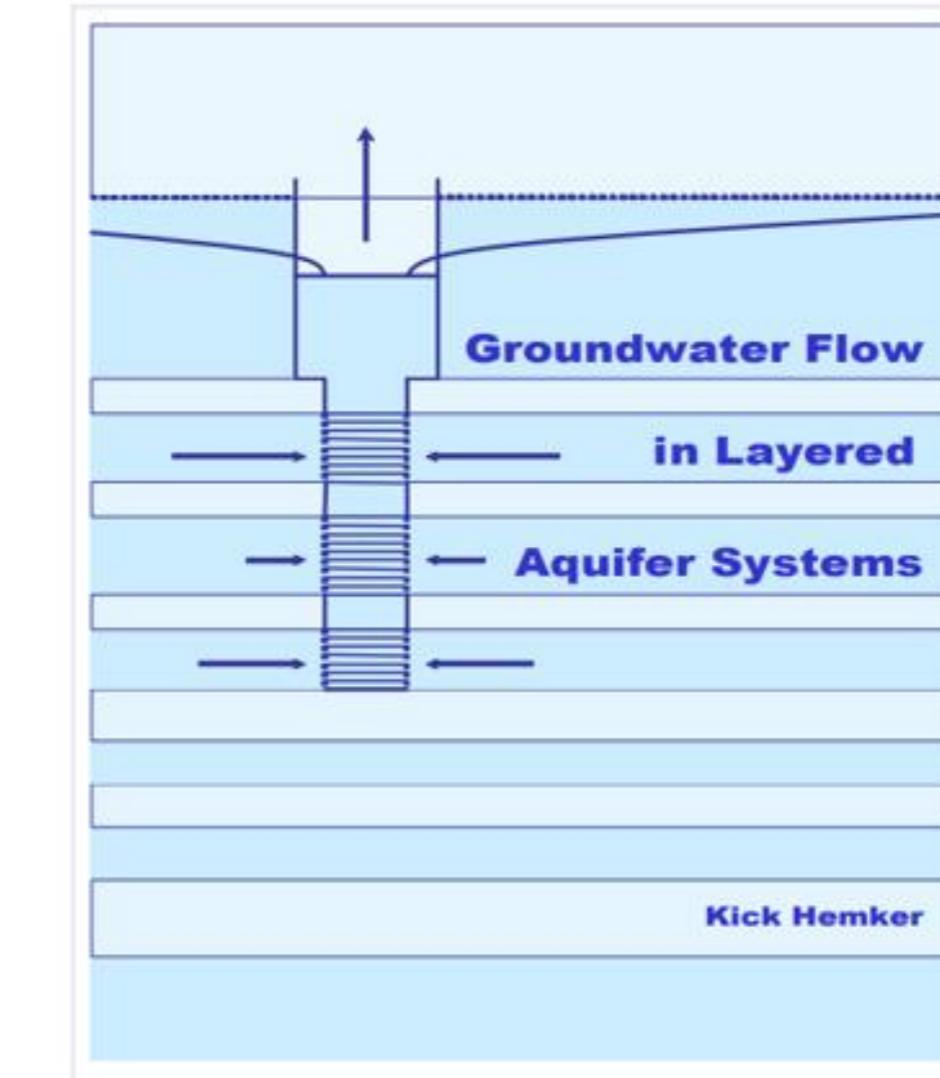
- Python code:
  - axisymmetric or parallel flow
  - steady or transient state
  - specified discharge or head
  - laterally bounded or unbounded
  - confined or leaky + recharge
  - superposition in space and time



```
model = Transient(T=[100, 200, 50],      # transmissivities (m²/d)
                  S=[0.1, 0.05, 0.01],    # storativities (-)
                  Q=[-100, -250, 0],     # pumping rates (m³/d)
                  c=[500, 1000],          # resistances (d)
                  c_top=100)             # top resistance (d)

t = np.logspace(-5, 5, 100) # simulation times (d)
r = 0.1 # well-radius (m)
s = model.h(r, t) # drawdown s (m)
```

- based on earlier work
  - Hemker (1984, 1985, 1999, 2000)
  - Bakker & Strack (2003)
  - MLU app (Hemker & Post)
  - Python packages TimML and TTIm (Bakker)

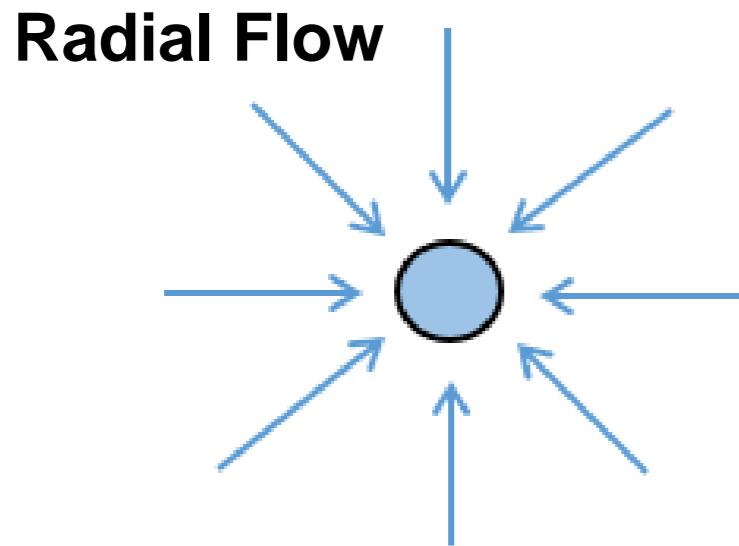


Kick Hemker

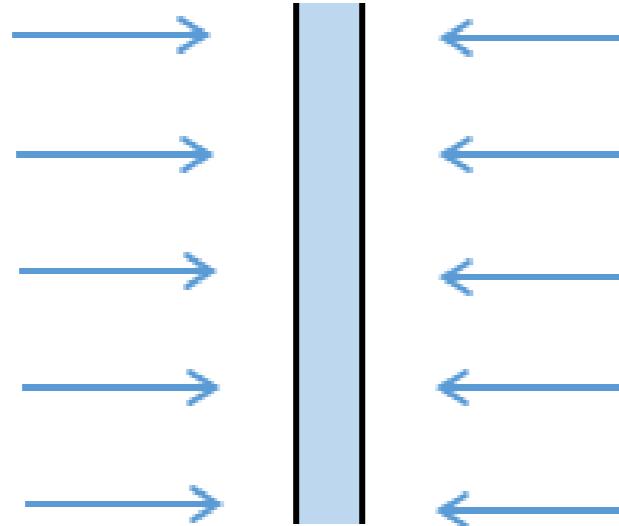


Mark Bakker

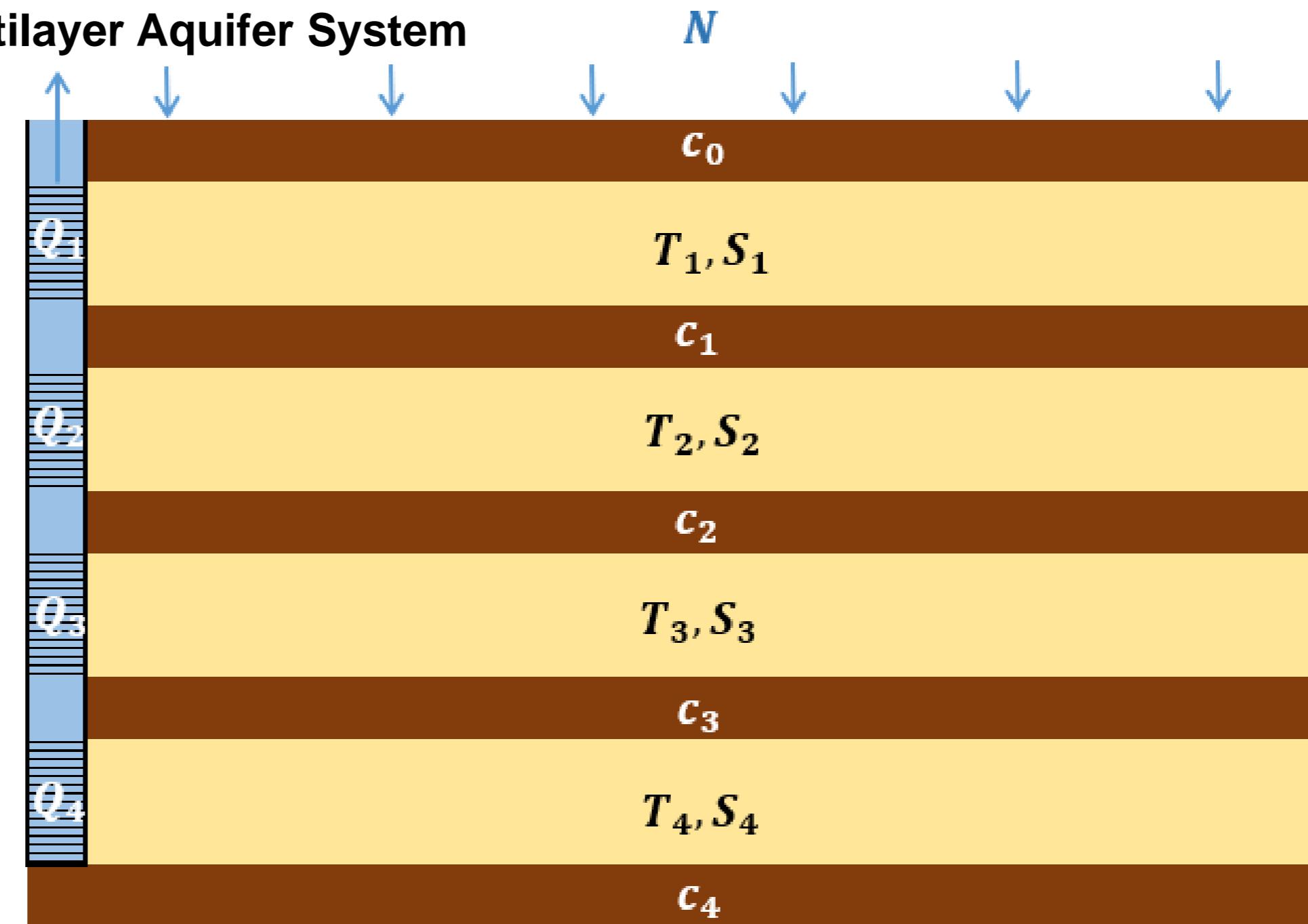
# 2D MULTILAYER FLOW



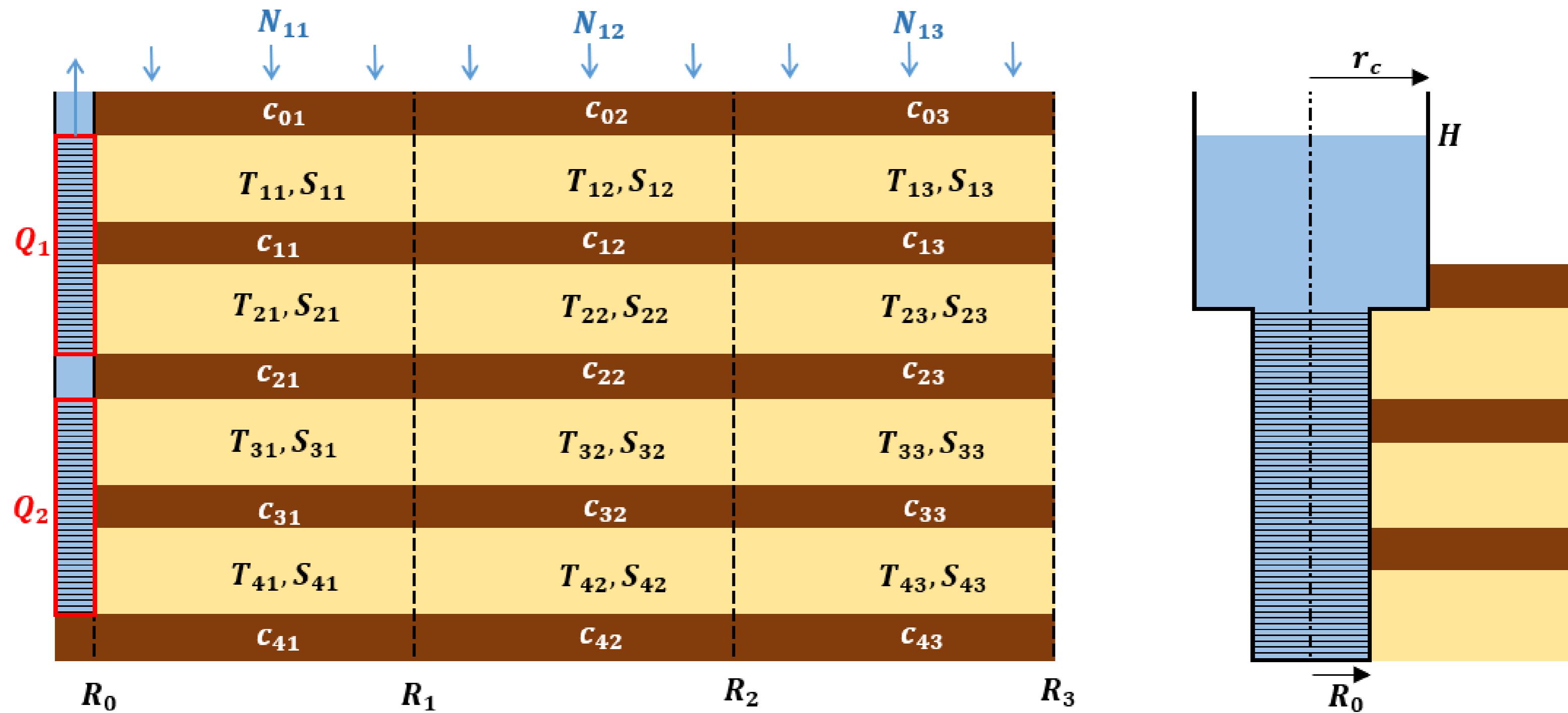
**Parallel Flow**



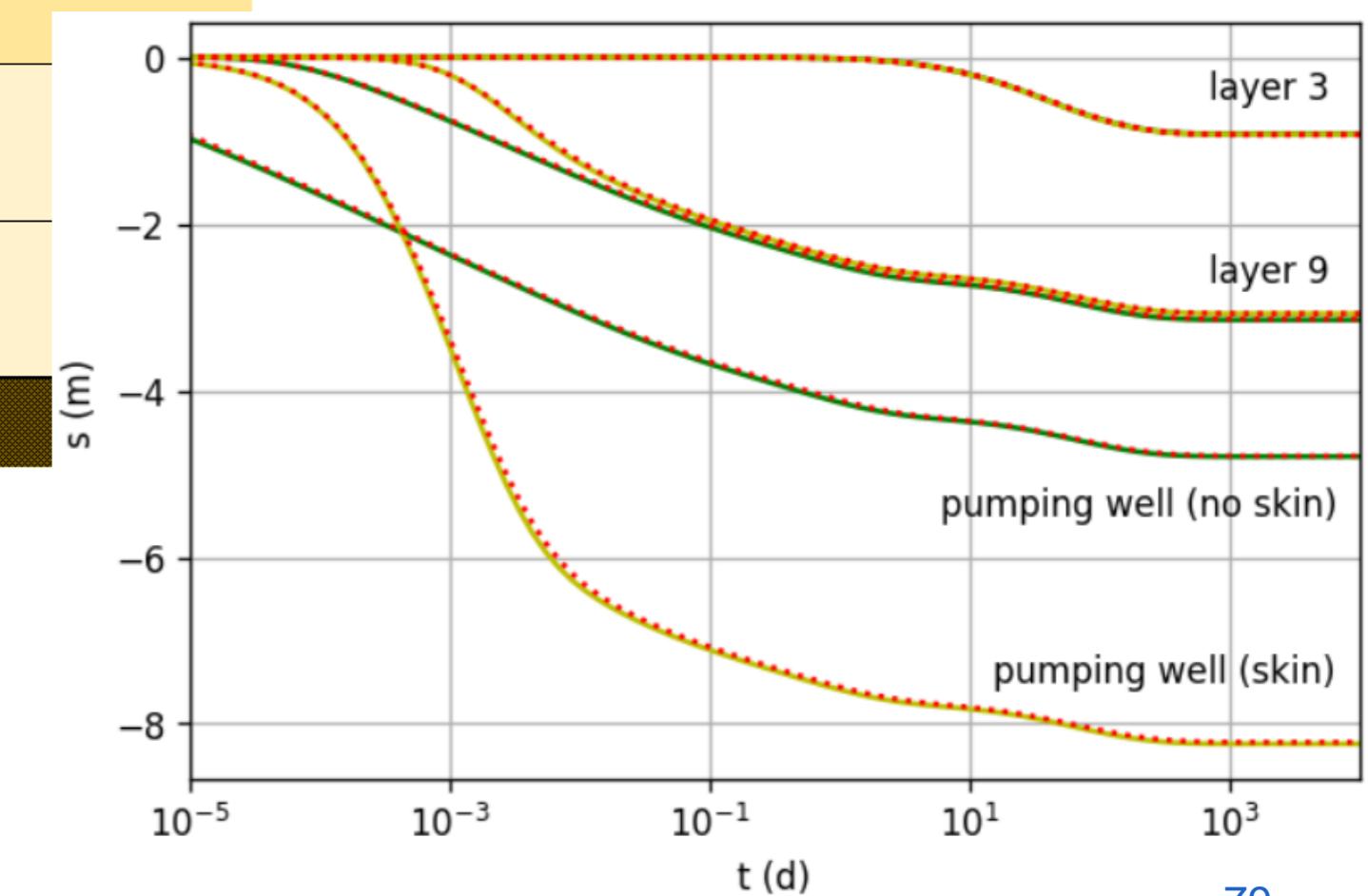
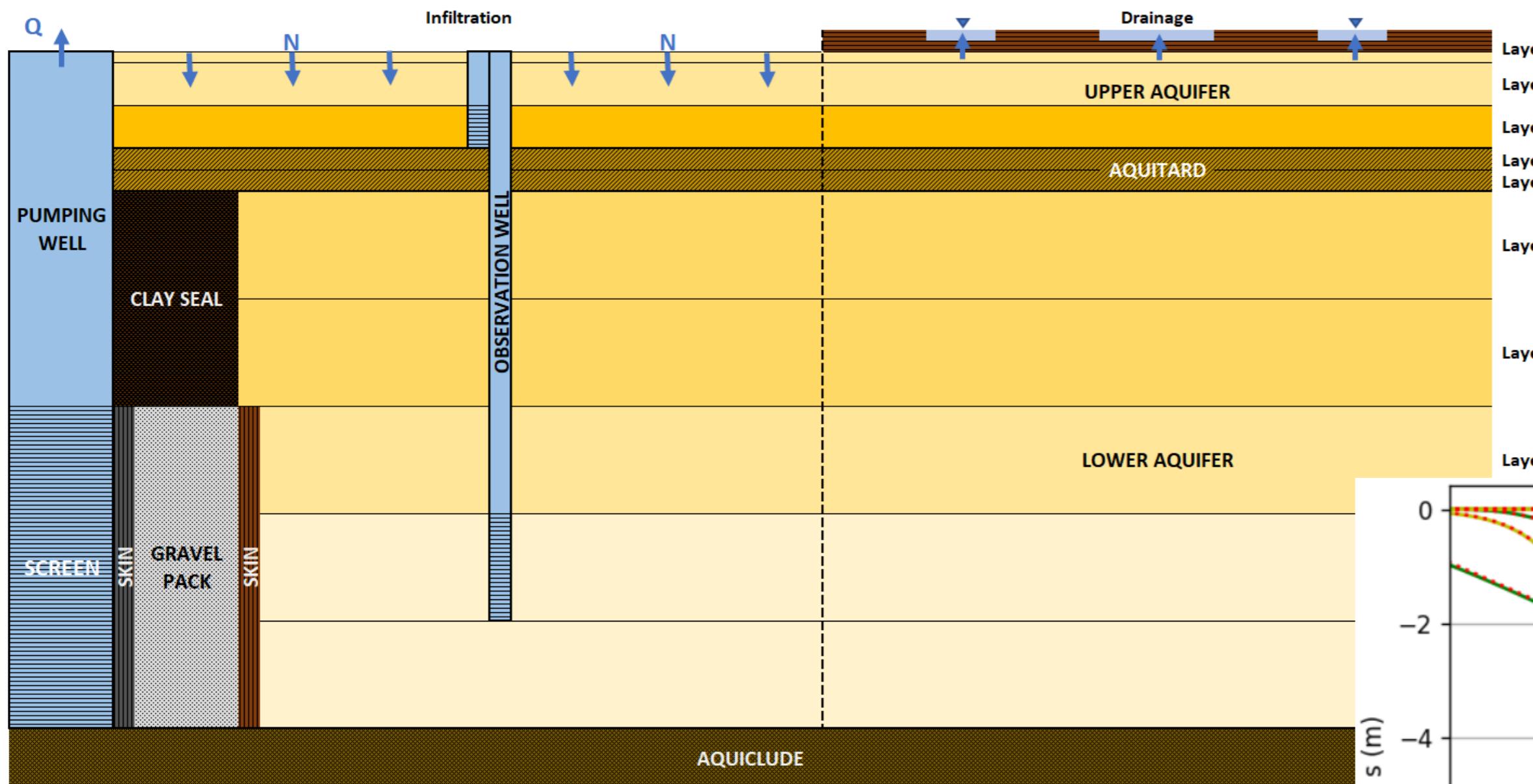
**Multilayer Aquifer System**



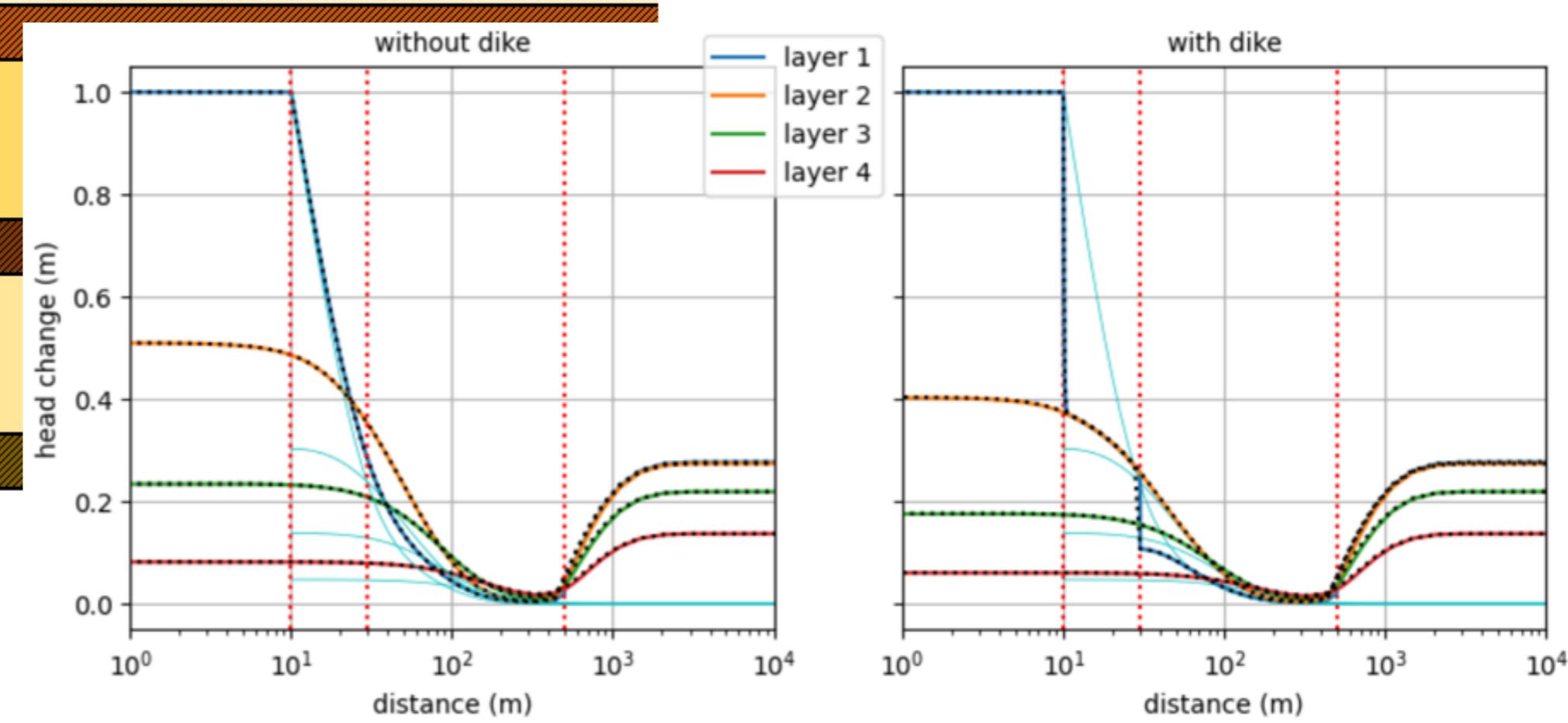
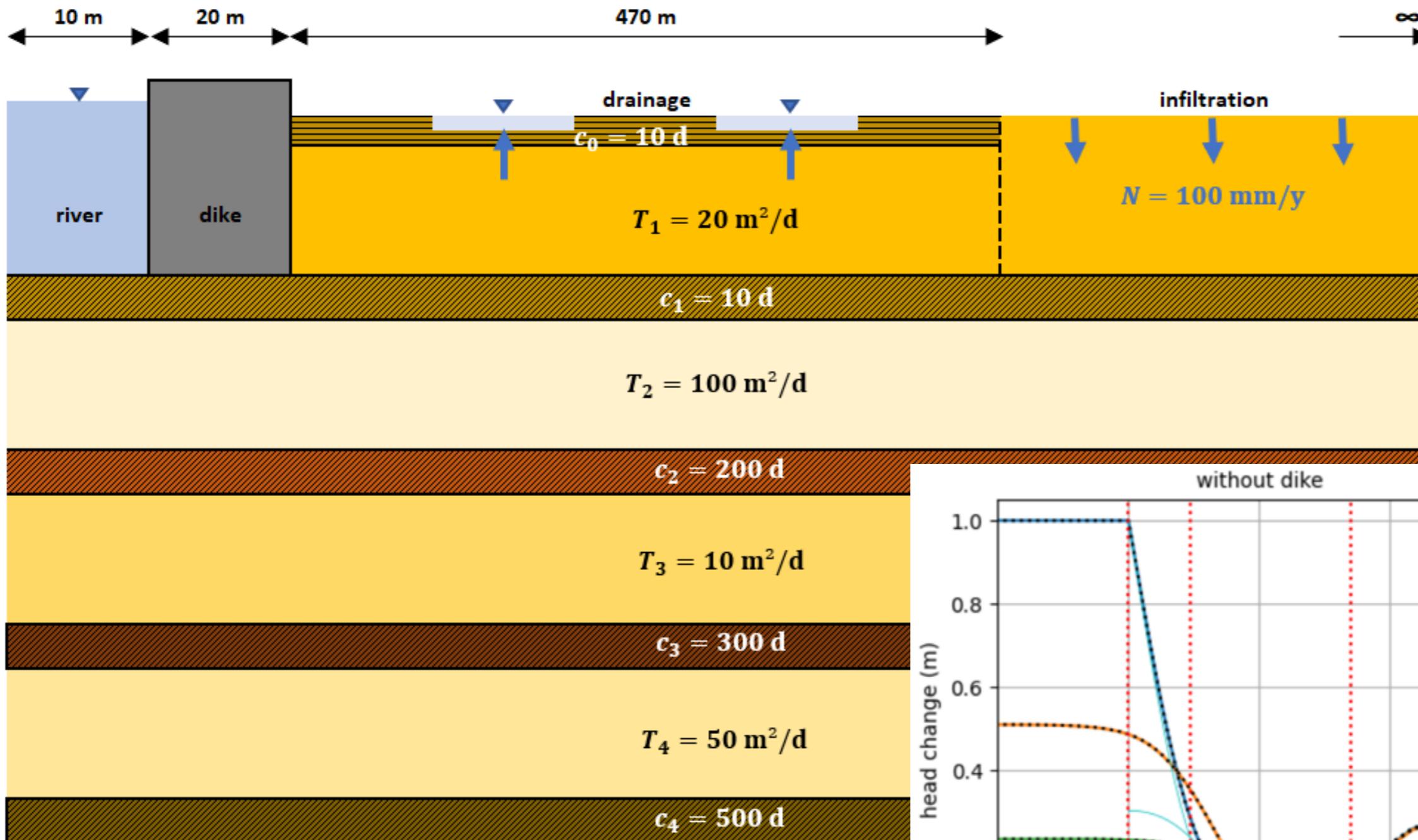
# EXTENSION: MULTILAYER-MULTIZONE FLOW



# EXAMPLE: MULTILAYER WELL



# EXAMPLE: EMBANKED RIVER



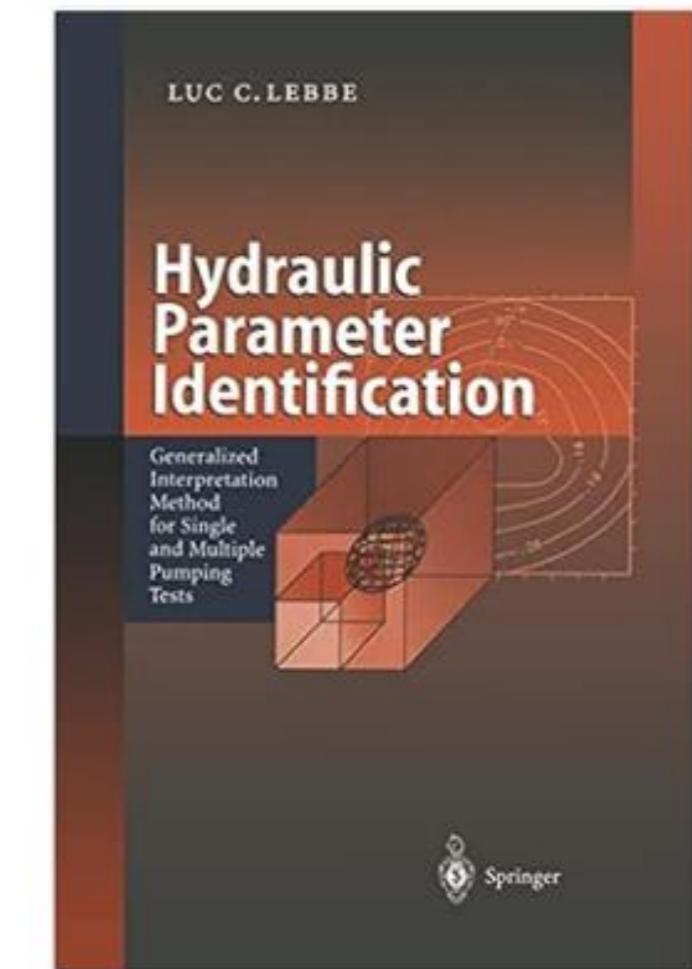


## – software implementations

- AS2D Matlab wrapper
- OGMA-RF (Louwyck et al., 2007, 2010; Vandenbohede et al., 2008, 2009)
- MAxSym (Louwyck, 2011, 2015; Louwyck et al., 2012)
- MODFLOW procedure (Louwyck et al., 2012, 2014)
- Python version

## – based on earlier work

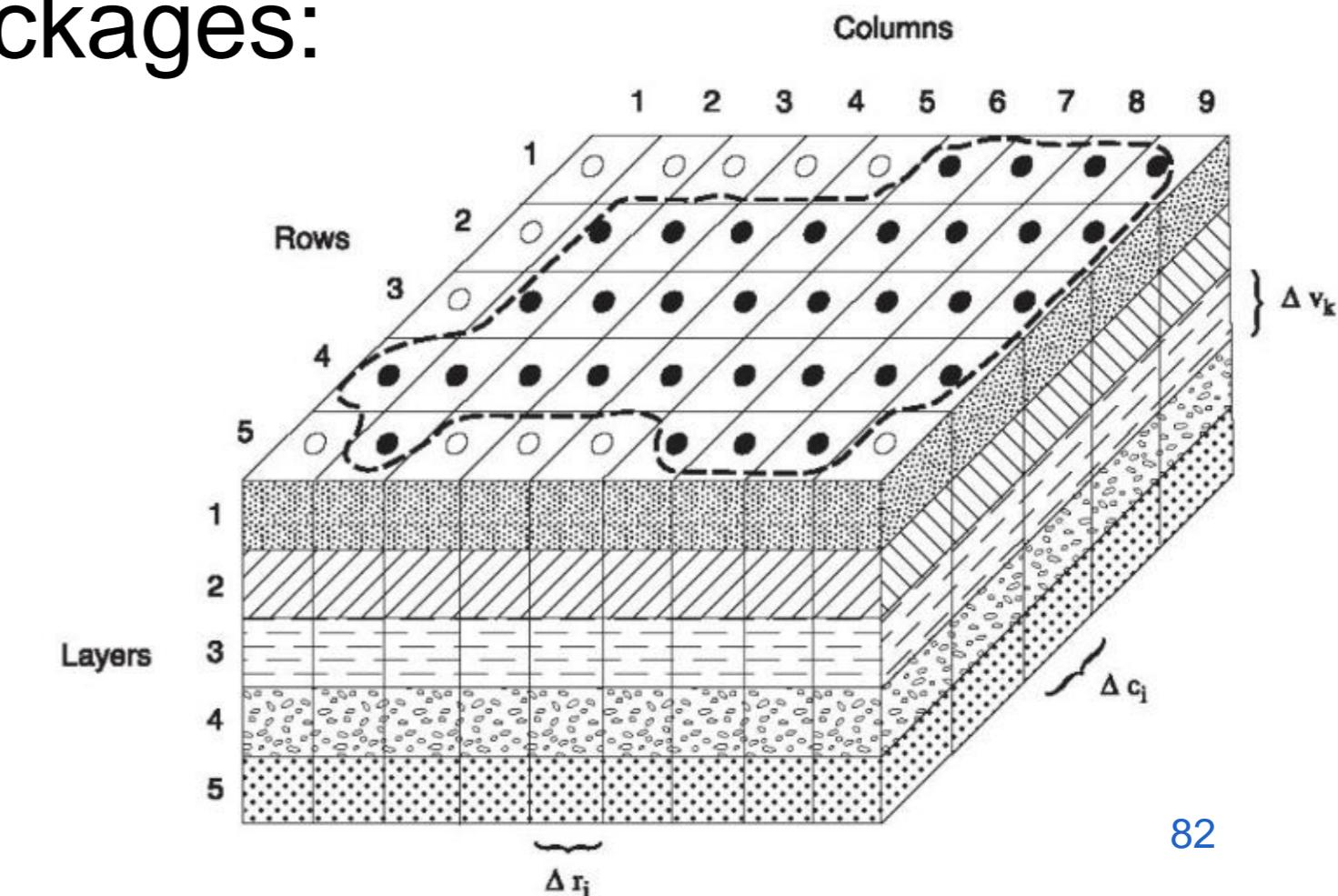
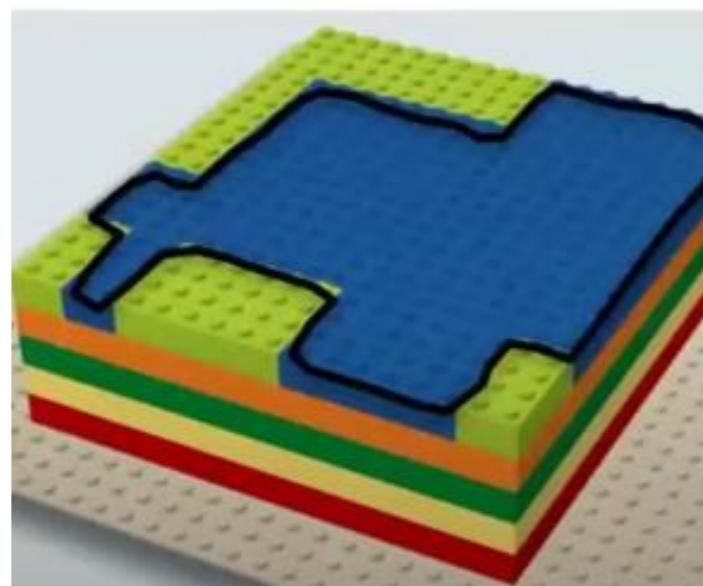
- AS2D (Lebbe, 1983, 1988, 1999)
- MODFLOW (1984, 1988, 1996, 2000, 2005)
- MODFLOW procedure (Langevin, 2008)



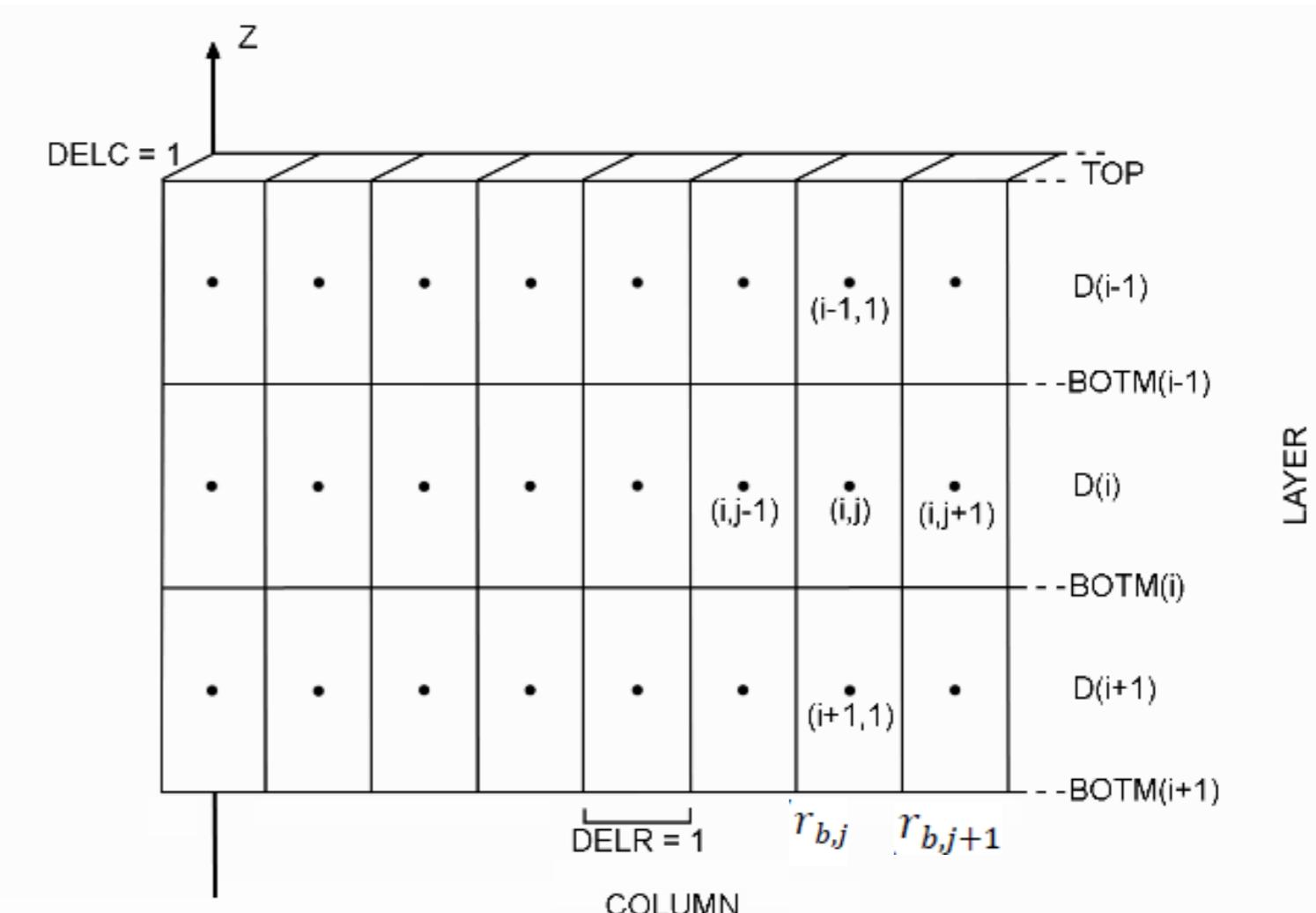
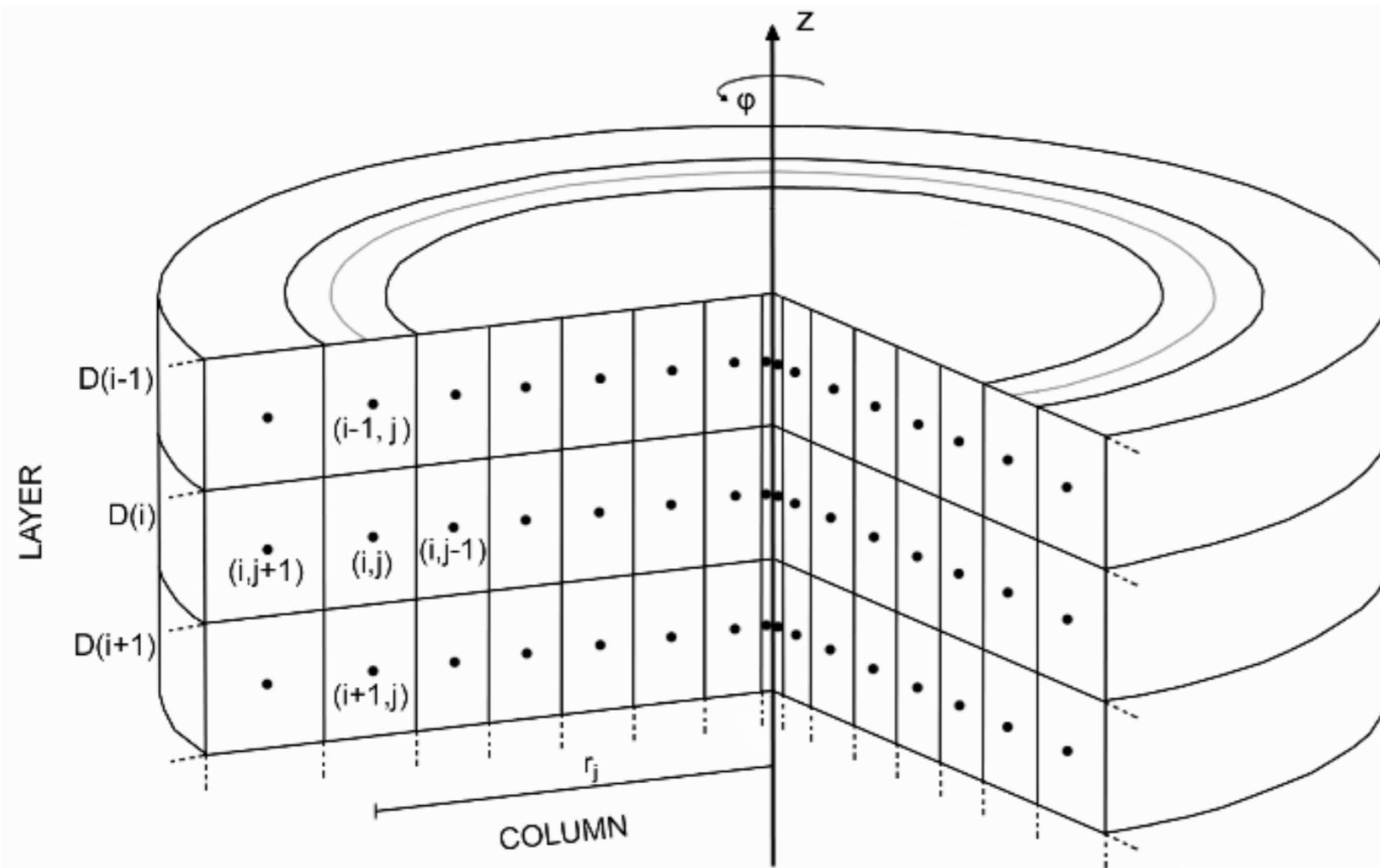
Luc Lebbe

# WHAT IS MODFLOW?

- State-of-the-art numerical model to simulate 3D groundwater flow
- Developed and released for free by the US Geological Survey
- Groundwater reservoir is discretized into layers, rows and columns
  - Darcy's law and water budget equation is formulated for each cell
  - The resulting finite-difference equations are solved iteratively
- Boundary conditions are added via packages:
  - Specified heads
  - Wells
  - Recharge
  - Rivers
  - Drains
  - ...



# MODFLOW PROCEDURE



Hydrogeology Journal (2014) 22: 1217–1226  
DOI 10.1007/s10040-014-1150-0



**MODFLOW procedure to simulate axisymmetric flow in radially heterogeneous and layered aquifer systems**

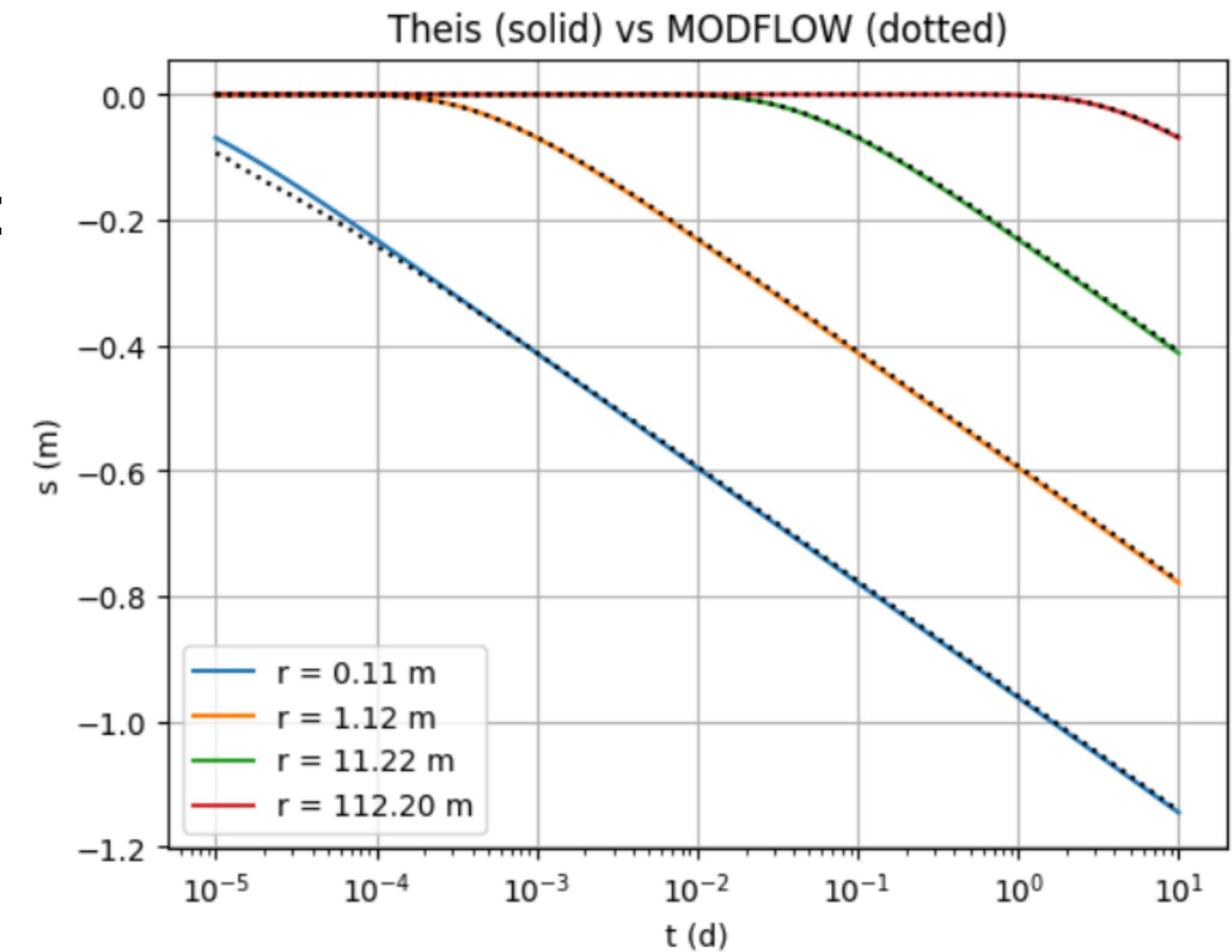
# PARAMETER CONVERSIONS

Aquifer parameters are modified to take into account the axisymmetric grid geometry:

$$HK_{ij} = \frac{2\pi K_{ij}^h}{\ln(r_{b,j+1}/r_{b,j})}$$

$$VKA_{ij} = \pi(r_{b,j+1}^2 - r_{b,j}^2)K_{ij}^v$$

$$SS_{ij} = \pi(r_{b,j+1}^2 - r_{b,j}^2)S_{ij}^s$$



# CONCLUSIONS

## **Semi-Analytical (SA) vs Finite-Difference (FD):**

- both very accurate and fast
- FD easier to implement in case of
  - heterogeneities
  - nonlinearities
- SA offers insight!

# AQUIFER TESTS

# AQUIFER TESTING

- Used to characterize aquifer systems
  - E.g., pumping test, step-drawdown test, slug test, recovery test, ...
- Test conducted in the field:
  - Stimulate the aquifer by stressing a well
  - Measure drawdown in observation wells
- Interpretation of the test:
  - Fit the observed data
  - Derive hydraulic parameters
  - Inverse problem type I



# TRADITIONAL MANUAL CURVE FITTING

- Analytical solution produces type curves
- Test data are visually fit to these curves
- See Kruseman & de Ridder (2000)  
E.g., the Theis curve-fitting method

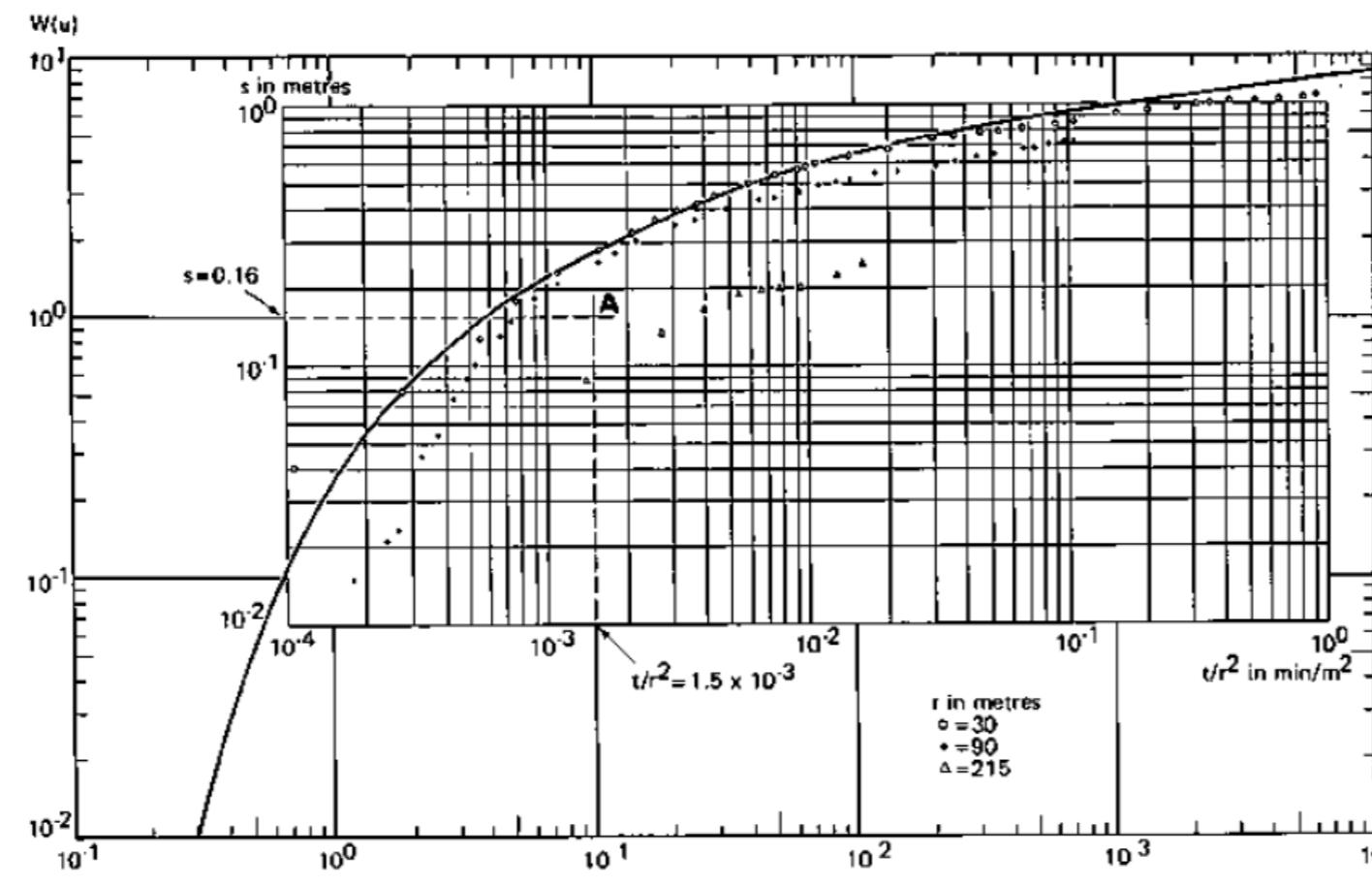
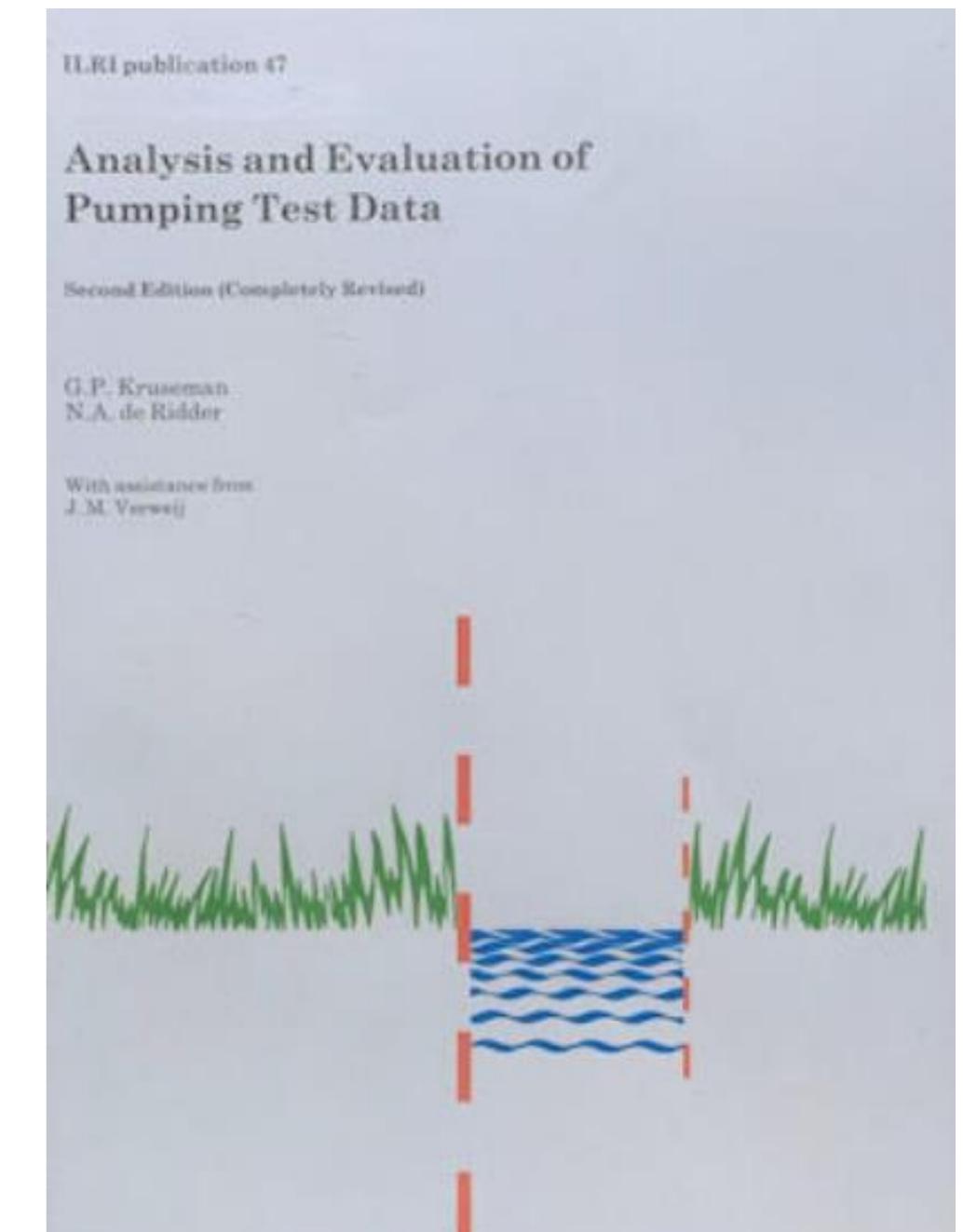
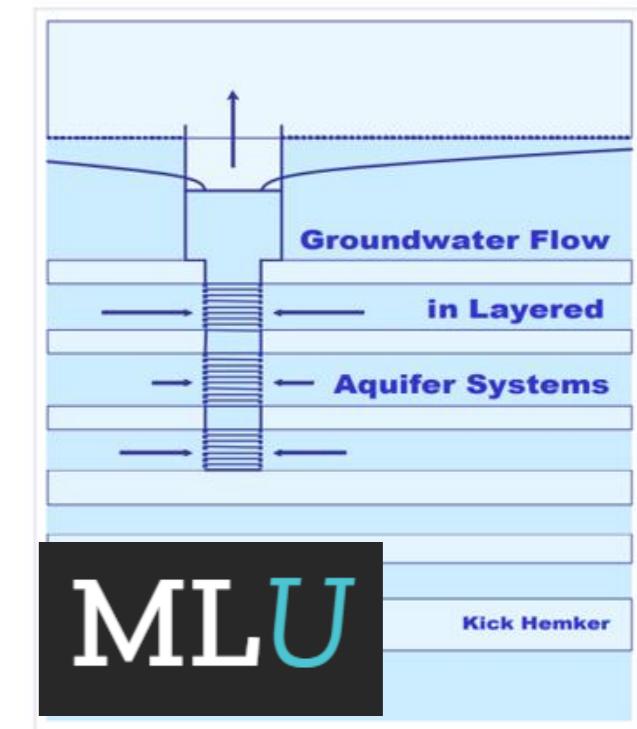
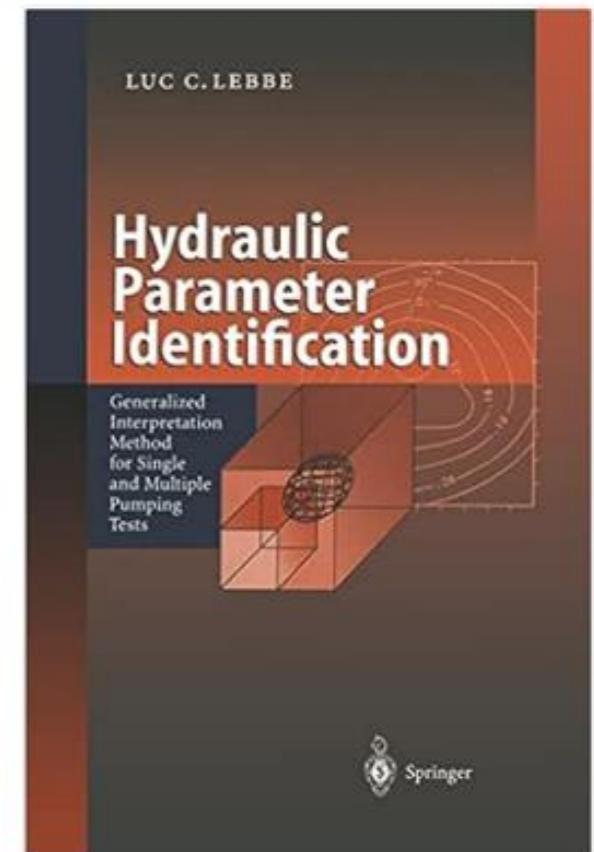
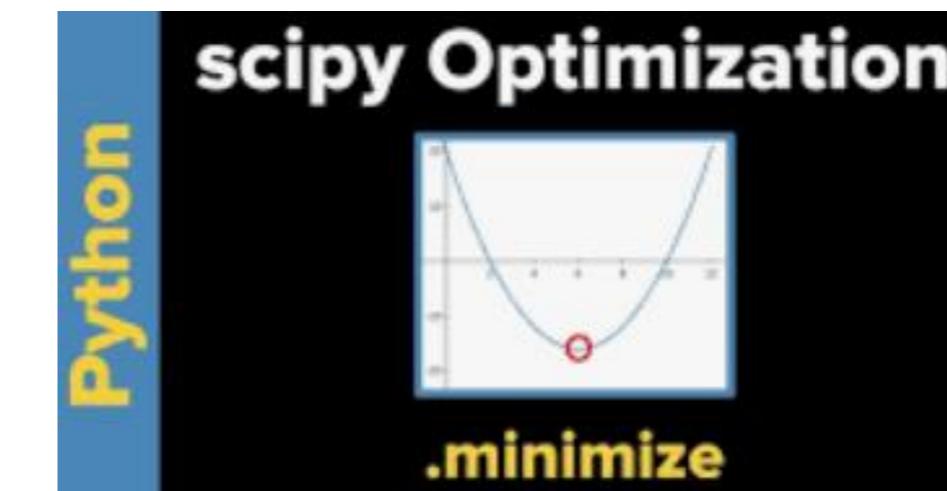
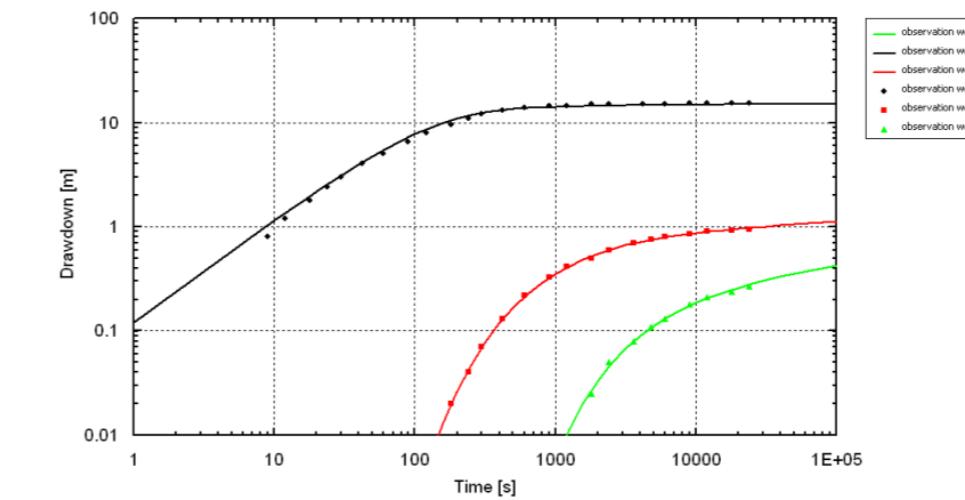


Figure 3.6 Analysis of data from pumping test 'Oude Korendijk' with the Theis method, Procedure 3.3



# NONLINEAR REGRESSION

- Test data are fit through nonlinear regression
  - E.g., Gauss-Newton, Levenberg-Marquardt
- Pros:
  - Automated curve-fitting
  - Reproducible results
- Software:
  - HYPARIDEN (Lebbe, 1999)
  - MLU: <https://mlu.app/>
  - Python: SciPy



# USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

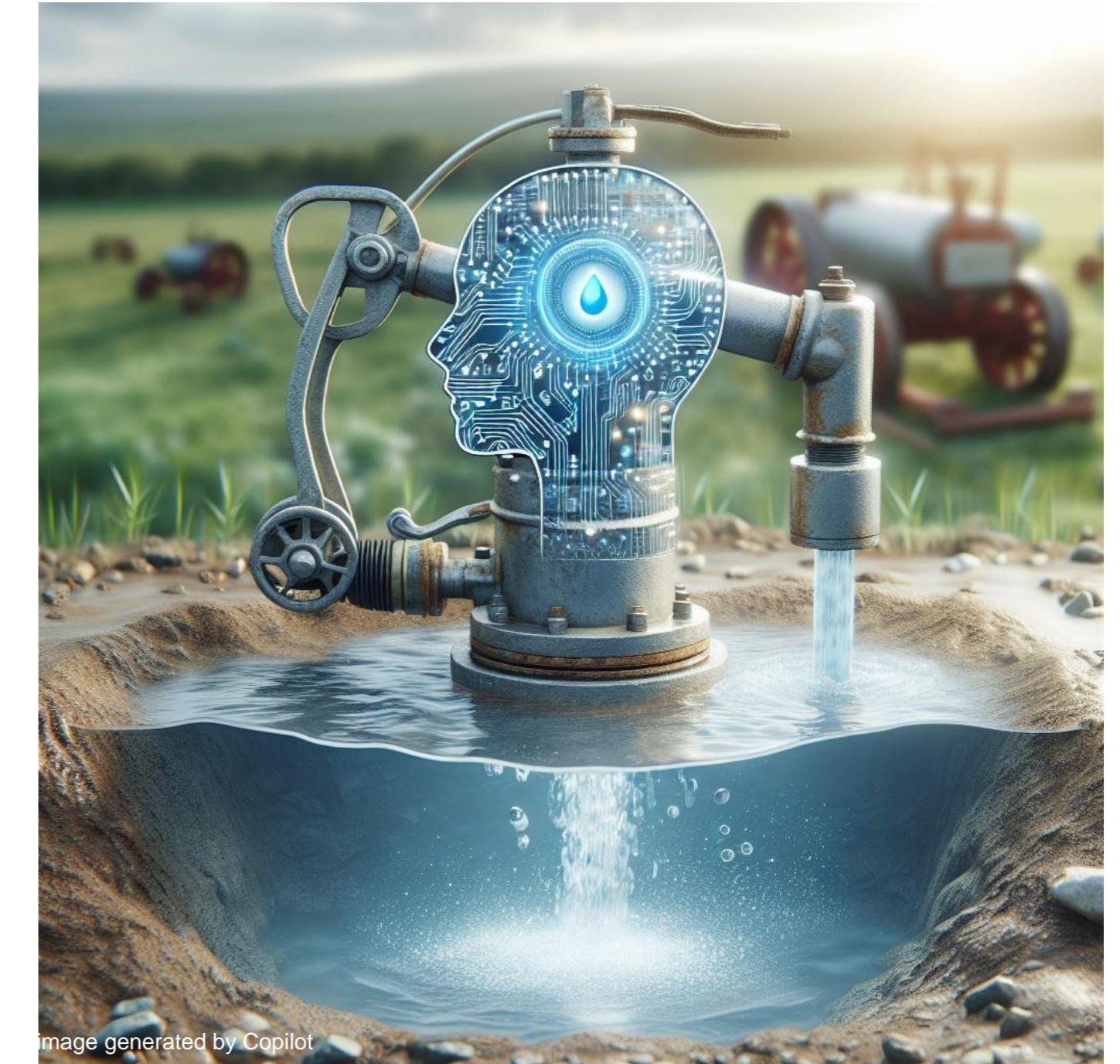
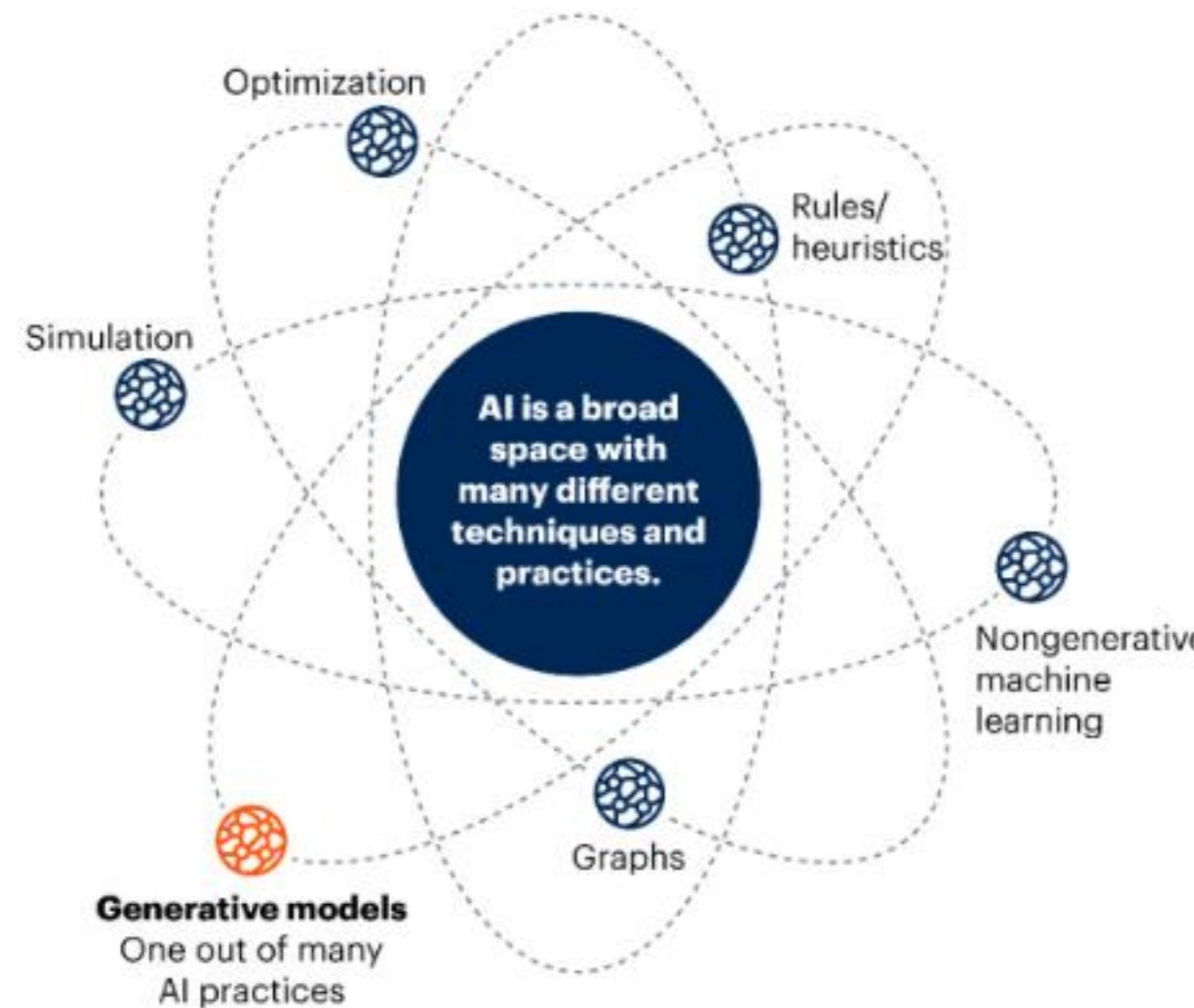
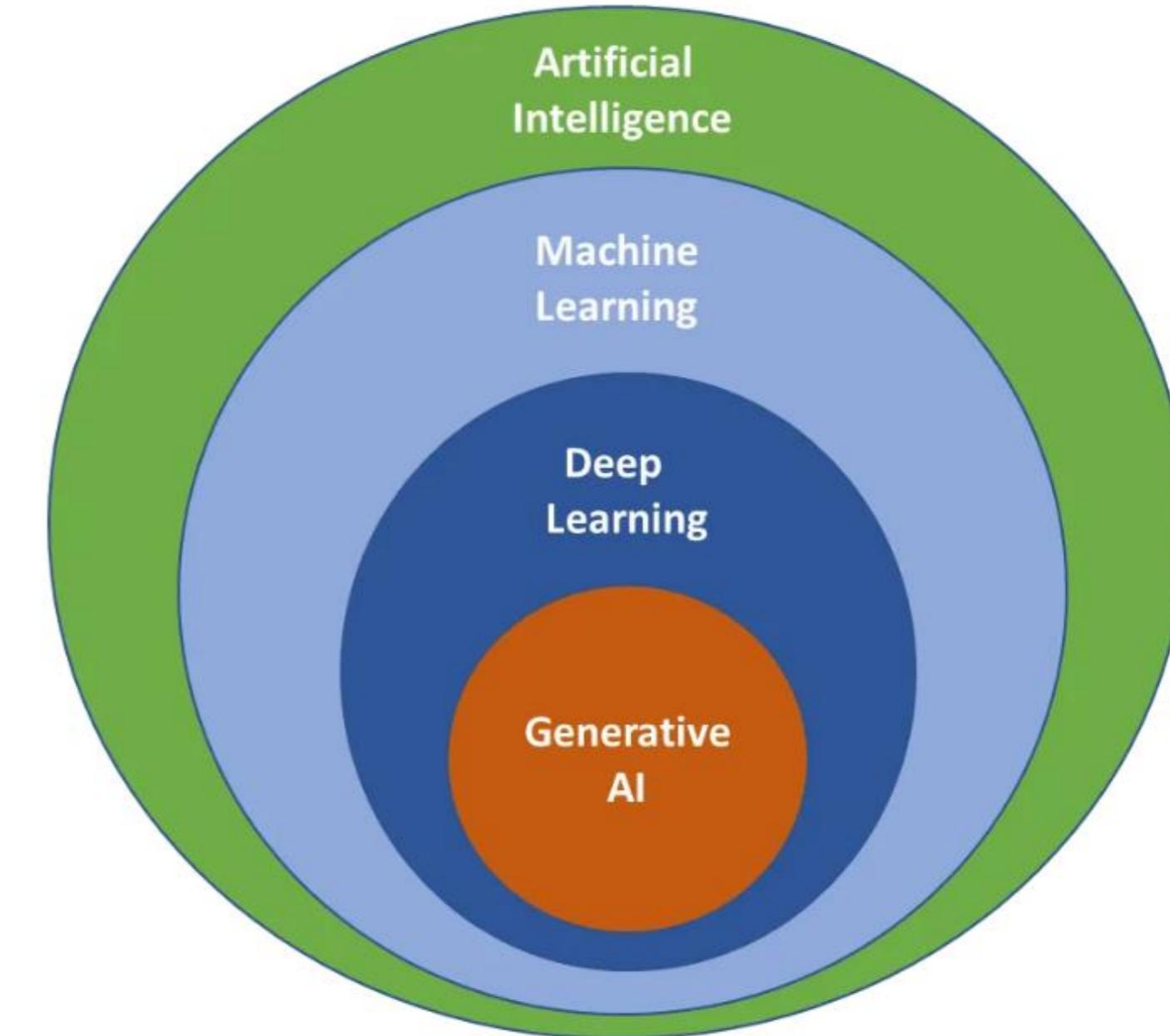


Image generated by Copilot

# WHAT IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

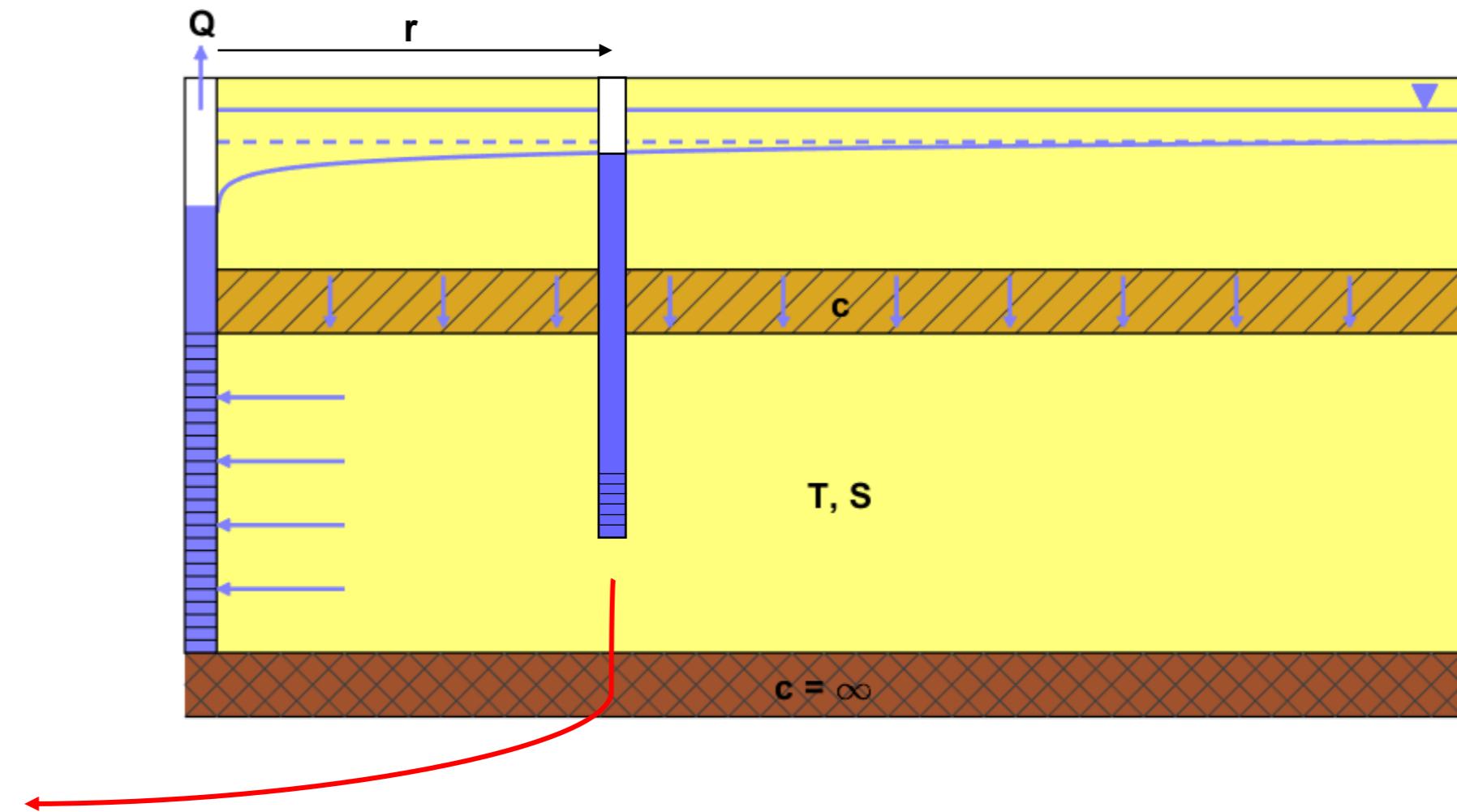
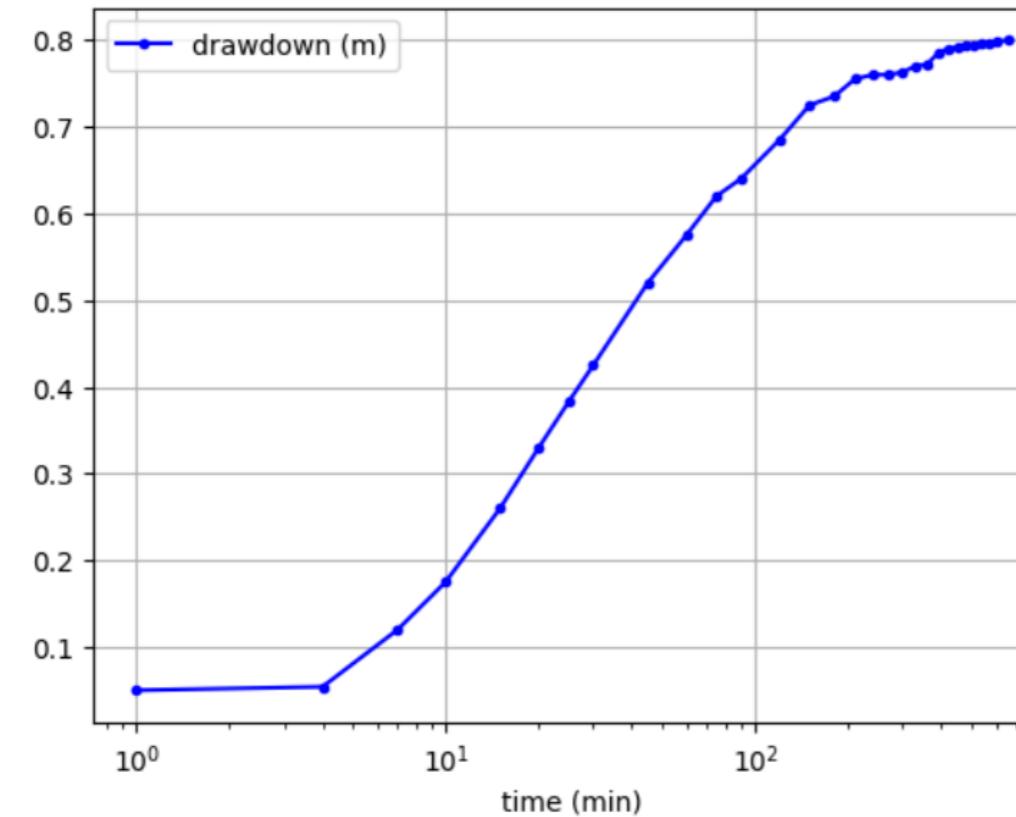
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):**  
The set of all tasks in which a computer can make decisions.
- **Machine Learning (ML):**  
The set of all tasks in which a computer can make decisions based on data.
- **Deep Learning (DL):**  
The field of machine learning that uses certain objects called neural networks.
- **Generative AI (GenAI):**  
The field of deep learning that focuses on creating new content, such as text, images, or music, using neural networks to learn patterns from existing data.



# EXAMPLE: PUMPING TEST IN LEAKY AQUIFER

Pumping test (Jiang Hui et al., 2009):

- Leaky aquifer consisting of gravel
- Fully penetrating pumping well:  $Q = 69.1 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$
- Observation well:  $r = 197 \text{ m}$
- 30 drawdown observations



# INTERPRETATION

- **Forward model:**

Hantush-Jacob (MAxSyPy)

- **Curve fitting method:**

- **Metaheuristic:**

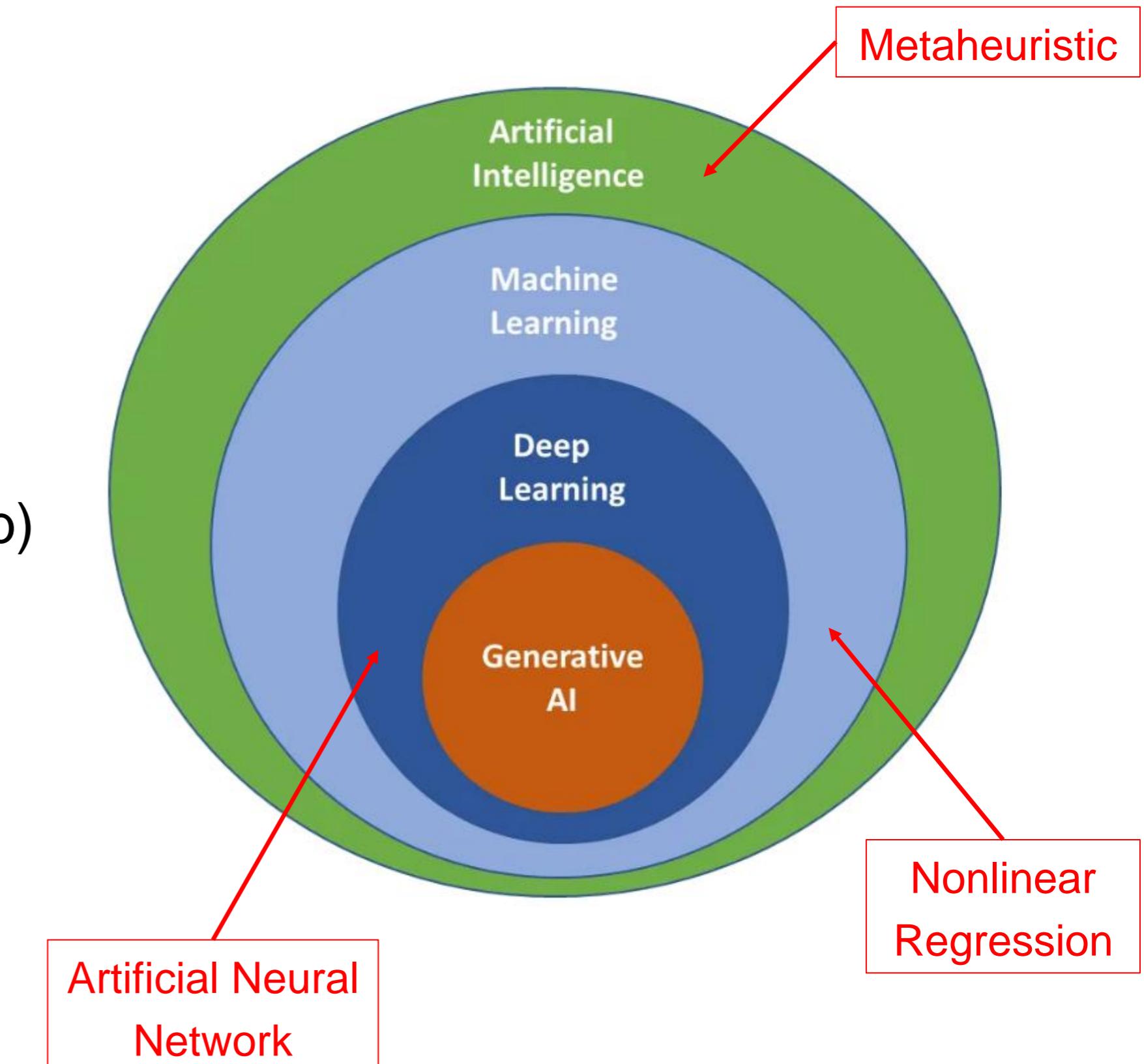
Particle Swarm Optimization (Matlab)

- **Nonlinear Regression:**

Levenberg-Marquardt (SciPy)

- **Deep Learning:**

Artificial Neural Network (Keras)



# METAHEURISTIC

## Artificial intelligence curve matching method for pumping tests in leaky systems

Yunyun Zhao\* Yong Zhang,  
Hebei University of Engineering, Handan 056038, Hebei, China  
\* Corresponding author.  
E-mail address: zhang\_yong001@163.com



### Abstract

For the unsteady-state flow pumping test, the standard curve fitting method is generally used to calculate the hydrogeological parameters. Because of differences from person to person, there will be visual errors in artificial curve fitting, especially when the well function is a family of curves, and there are countless standard curves in theory. It is impossible to draw all the standard curves in the standard curve template for curve fitting; thus, the manual curve fitting error will be very large. Therefore, the curve fitting method has been greatly limited in practical application. In this paper, the random weight particle swarm optimization algorithm (RandWPSO) is applied to the curve matching calculation for the unsteady-state flow pumping test in a leaky system, and intelligent optimization curve fitting of the curve family well function is performed. The calculation results show that the curve fitting parameters selected by artificial intelligence can be as accurate as  $r/B=0.3579764$ , and the curve fitting accuracy is much higher than that of manual selection,  $r/B=0.35$ . Artificial intelligence curve fitting avoids observation error due to manual curve fitting, solves the problem that it is difficult to apply the standard curve fitting method of the curve family in practice, and makes the curve fitting method more practical.

**Keywords:** leaky aquifers; curve fitting; artificial intelligence optimization; pumping test; RandWPSO

Table 2 Comparative analysis of the calculation results of different curve fitting methods

Calculation parameters	Calculation results of different curve fitting methods			
	Composite Simpson's rule; set $m=1500$ and $h=1/3000$	Composite Simpson's rule; set $m=5000$ and $h=1/10000$	Directly call built-in MATLAB numerical integral	Manual curve fitting
$W\left(u, \frac{r}{B}\right)$ calculation method	0.3579764	0.3578755	3.578325	0.35
$r/B$	403.9988961794492	404.080110307088	404.1146770792042	414.7
$T(\text{m}^2/\text{d})$	$1.39784369448563 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.39764226866348 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.39755658961577 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.469 \times 10^{-4}$
$S$	0.001334001987695	0.001333518091093	0.00133311883692	0.0013
$K_1/M_1$	0.011562541890477	0.01156480806024	0.011565926829623	\
$f_v$	4.5	15.3	30.5	\
Computation time (min)				

# LEVENBERG-MARQUARDT

## Artificial intelligence curve matching method for pumping tests in leaky systems

Yunyun Zhao\* Yong Zhang,  
Hebei University of Engineering, Handan 056038, Hebei, China  
\*Corresponding author.  
E-mail address: zhang\_yong001@163.com

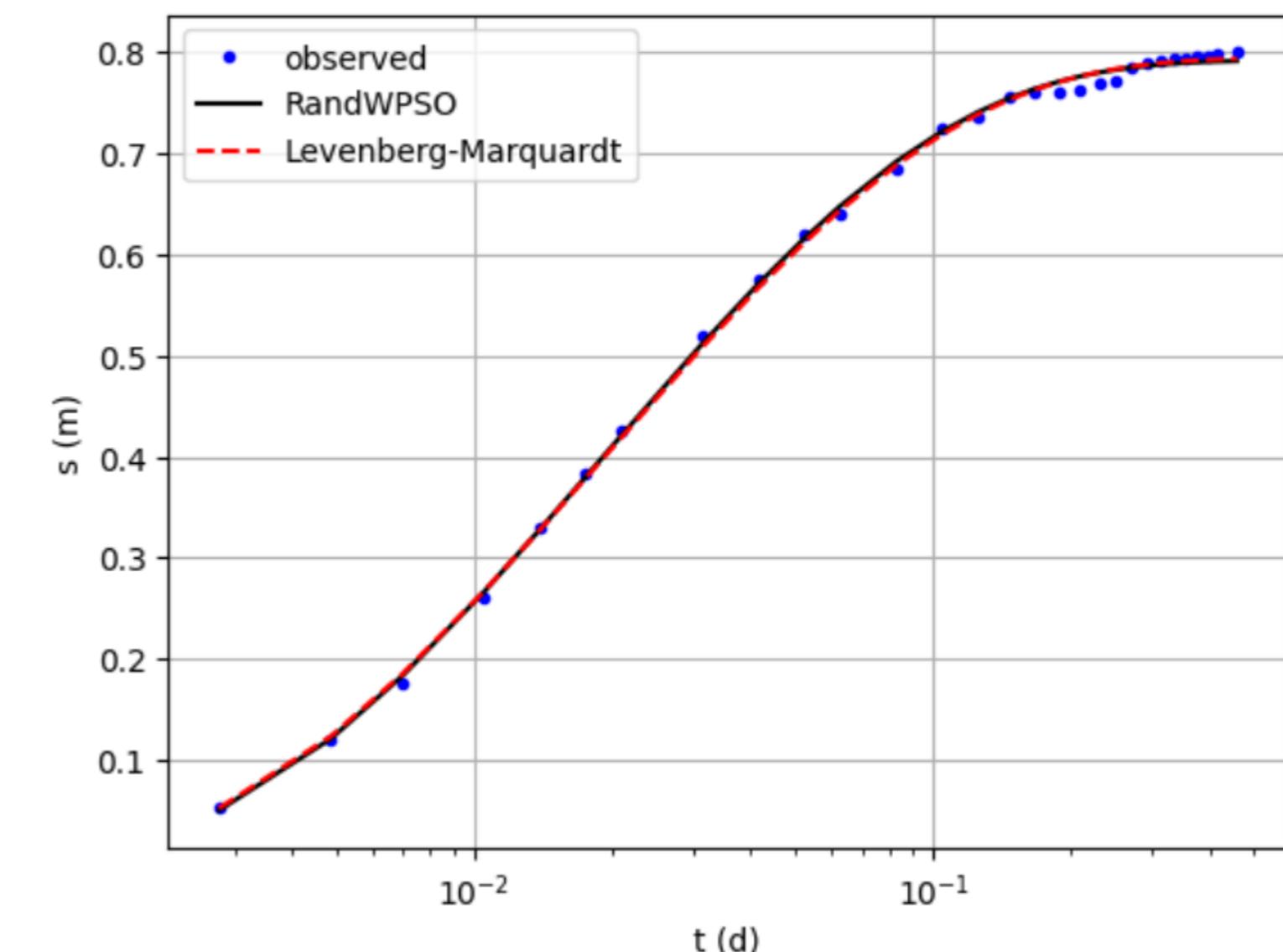


### Abstract

For the unsteady-state flow pumping test, the standard curve fitting method is generally used to calculate the hydrogeological parameters. Because of differences from person to person, there will be visual errors in artificial curve fitting, especially when the well function is a family of curves, and there are countless standard curves in theory. It is impossible to draw all the standard curves in the standard curve template for curve fitting; thus, the manual curve fitting error will be very large. Therefore, the curve fitting method has been greatly limited in practical application. In this paper, the random weight particle swarm optimization algorithm (RandWPSO) is applied to the curve matching calculation for the unsteady-state flow pumping test in a leaky system, and intelligent optimization curve fitting of the curve family well function is performed. The calculation results show that the curve fitting parameters selected by artificial intelligence can be as accurate as  $r/B=0.3579764$ , and the curve fitting accuracy is much higher than that of manual selection,  $r/B=0.35$ . Artificial intelligence curve fitting avoids observation error due to manual curve fitting, solves the problem that it is difficult to apply the standard curve fitting method of the curve family in practice, and makes the curve fitting method more practical.

**Keywords:** leaky aquifers; curve fitting; artificial intelligence optimization; pumping test; RandWPSO

REJECTED



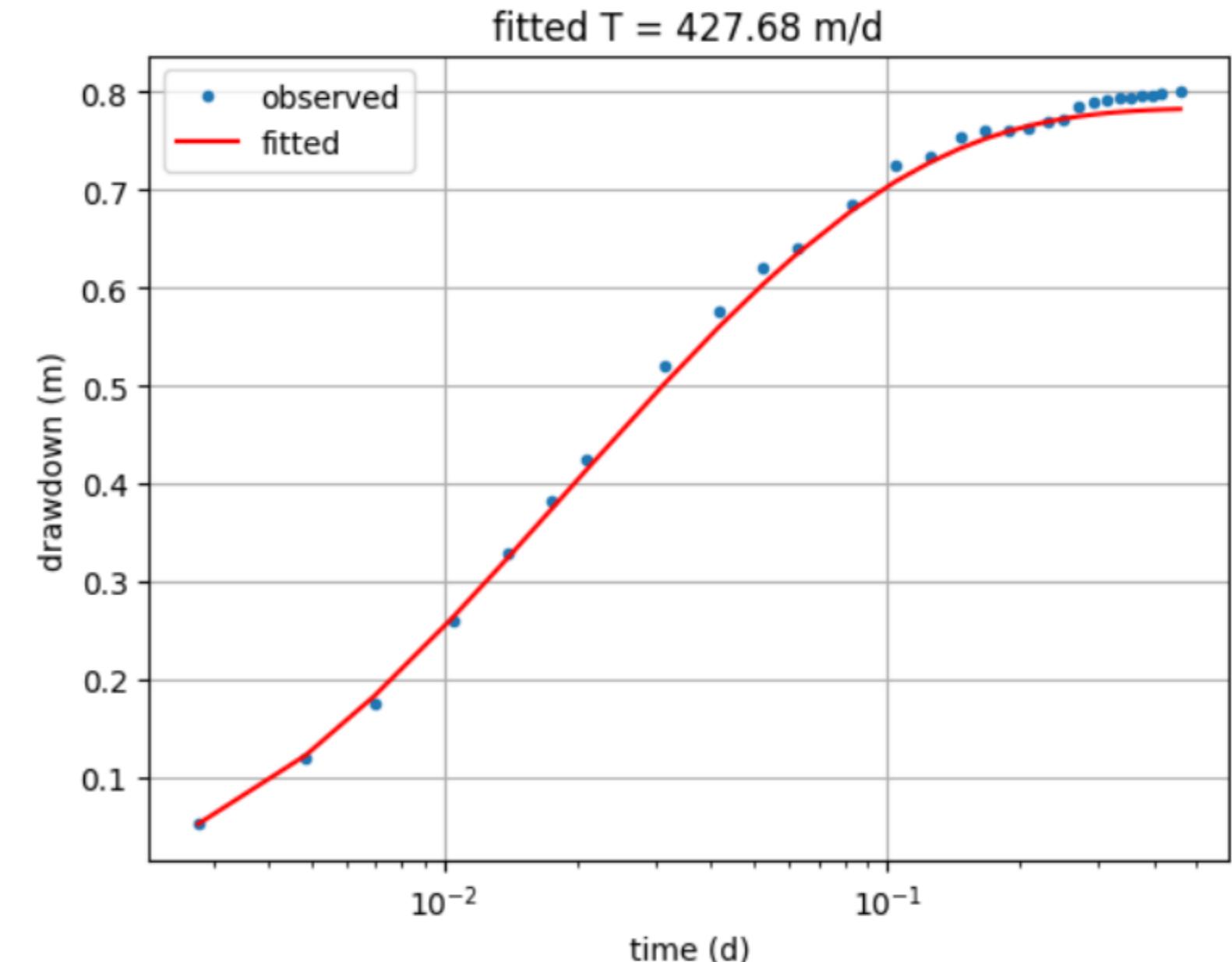
```
start = time()
result = least_squares(fun=residuals, x0=x0, method='lm',
                      ftol=1e-12, xtol=1e-12, gtol=1e-12)
print(f"elapsed time: {time() - start} sec")
elapsed time: 0.034934043884277344 sec
```

$r/B = 0.33966118442493454$   
 $T = 418.38884431293474$   
 $S = 0.0001391052948927095$   
 $c = 804.0082714958618$   
 $K/M = 0.0012437682987259504$

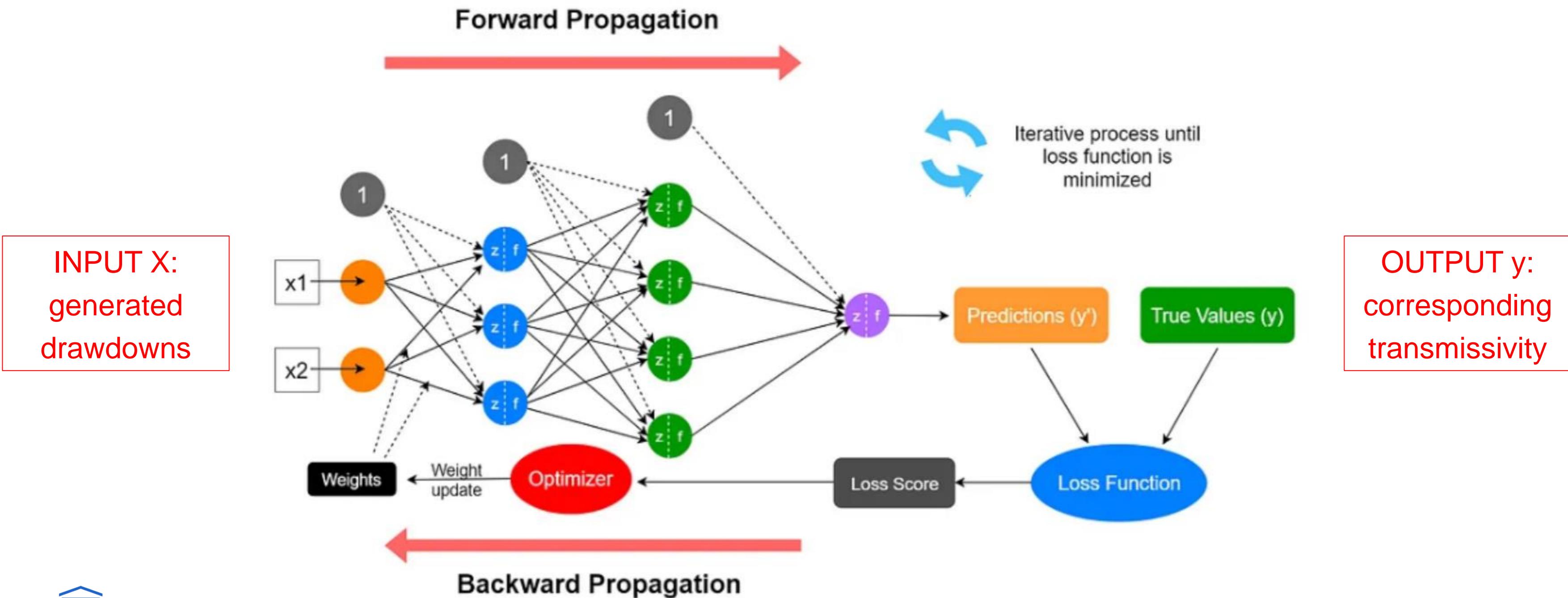
# ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK

## Supervised Deep Learning:

- train the neural net using data generated with the Hantush-Jacob solution
- predict the aquifer transmissivity  $T$  from the observed drawdowns using the trained neural net

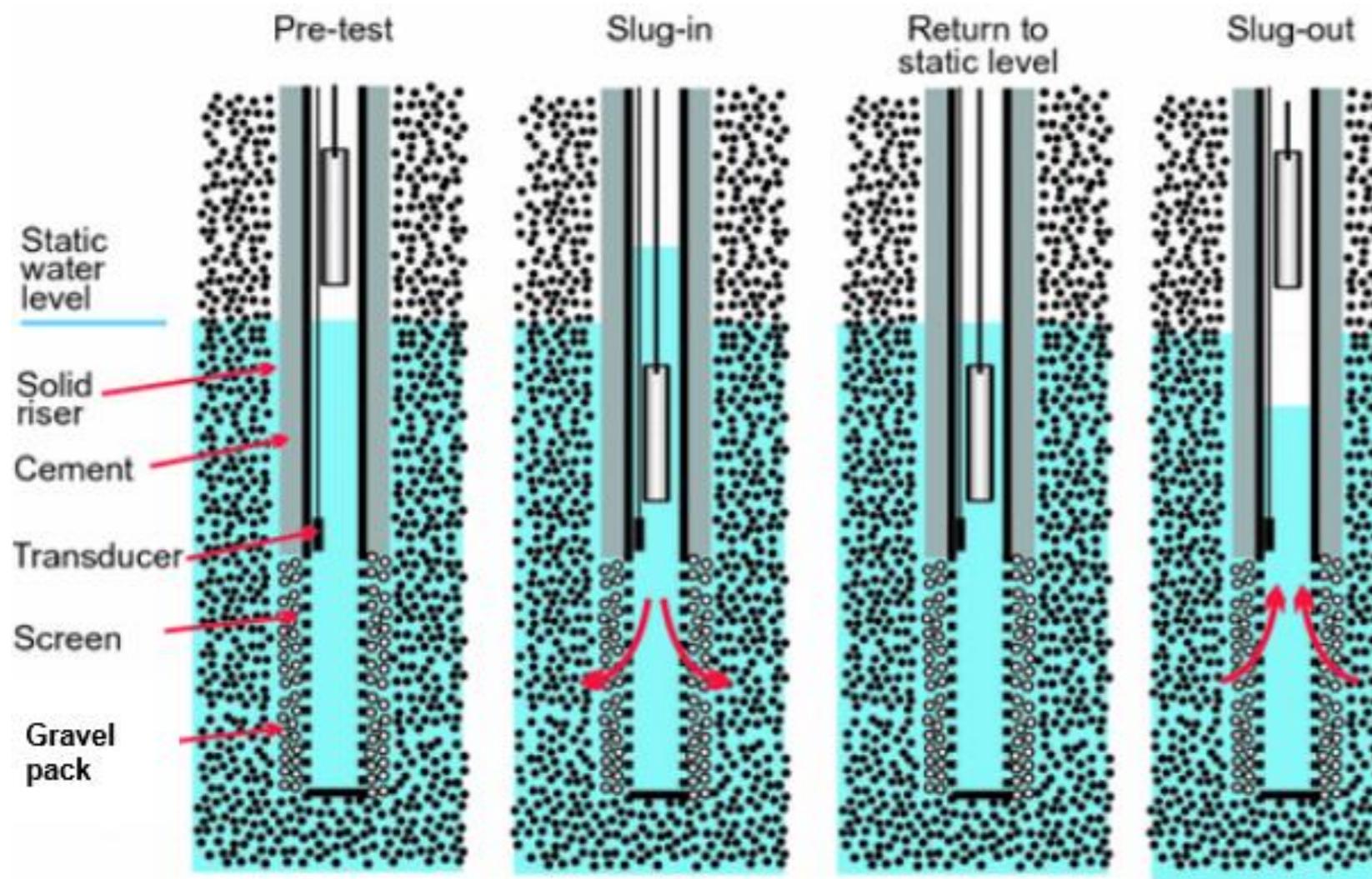


# HOW IS THE NEURAL NET TRAINED?



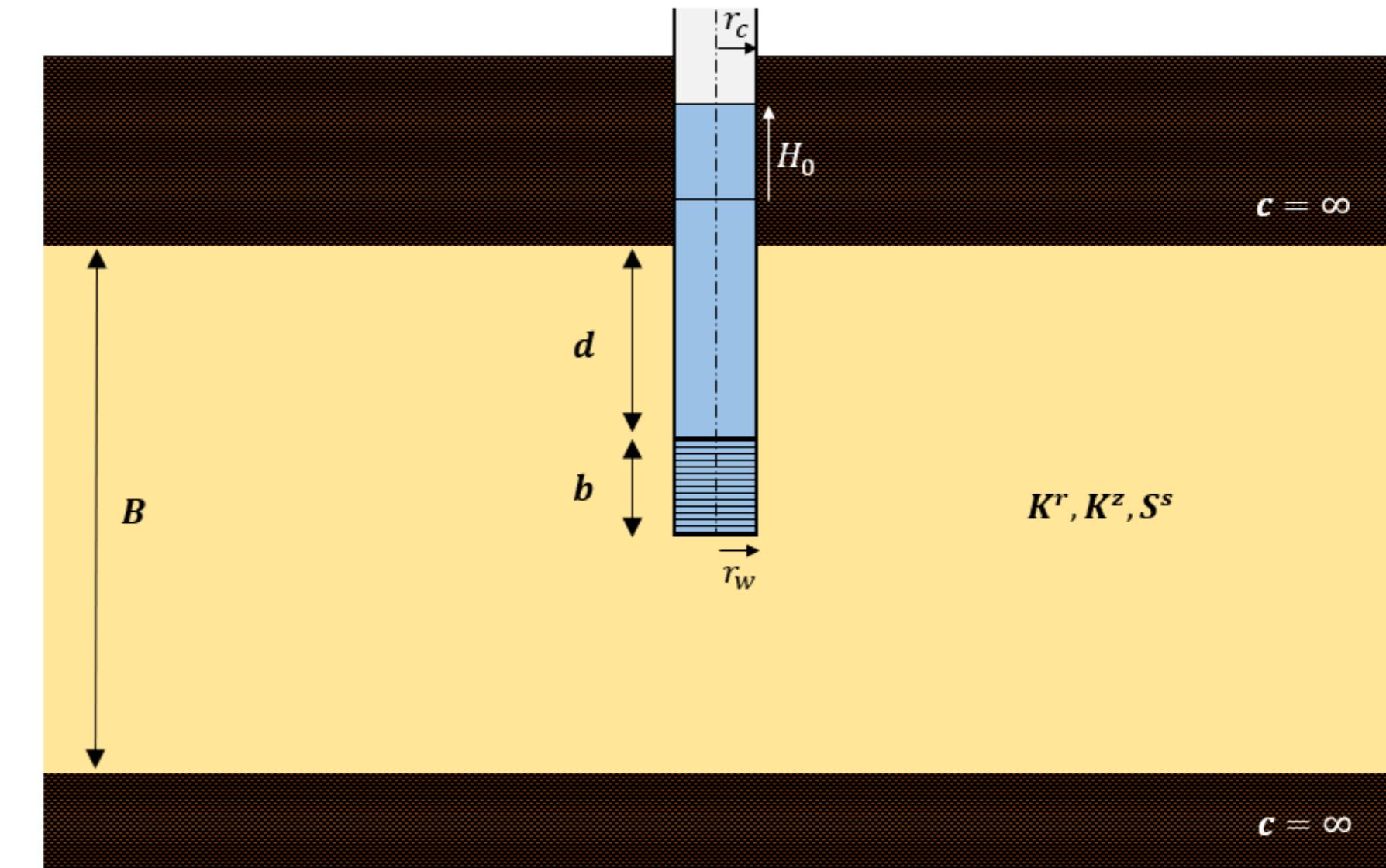
# EXAMPLE: SLUG TEST IN PARTIALLY PENETRATING WELL

- Add/remove water (slug) to a well
- Monitor head change in well



# KGS MODEL

- Simulation of a slug test in a partially penetrating well
- Semi-analytical solution applying integral transforms
- Developed at Kansas Geological Survey (KGS)
- Originally written in Fortran
- Python implementation available with MAxSyPy



```
from maxsypy.kgs import KGS
```

## Water Resources Research<sup>®</sup>

Subsurface Hydrology

### Slug tests in partially penetrating wells

Zafar Hyder, James J. Butler Jr., Carl D. McElwee, Wenzhi Liu

First published: November 1994 | <https://doi.org/10.1029/94WR01670> | Citations: 139

# KGS MODEL: ASSUMPTIONS

- Flow:
  - Axisymmetric
  - Transient-state
  - Horizontal + **vertical**
- Well:
  - **Partially penetrating**
  - Instantaneous initial head change
  - Finite radius → wellbore storage!
  - Finite-thickness skin
- Aquifer:
  - Homogeneous
  - Constant saturated thickness
  - Laterally unbounded
  - Confined or leaky (= static water table)

# SLUG TESTS IN DAMME

- Slug test campaign conducted on wells of the groundwater monitoring network
- Multi-level well **3-0523** with 3 screens in different geological formations
- Number of slug test performed:
  - Screen 1: 6 tests
  - Screen 2: 6 tests
  - Screen 3: 4 tests

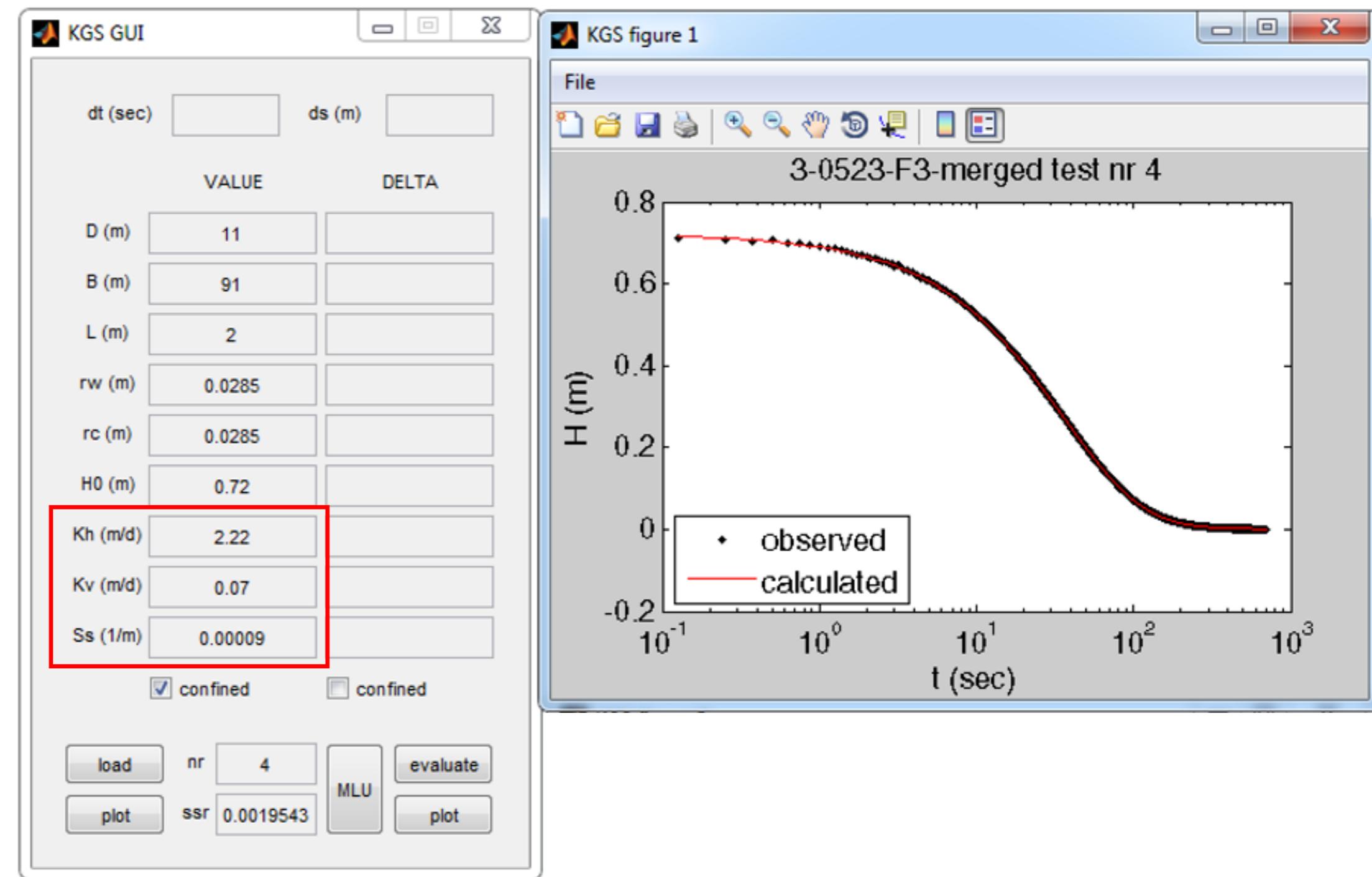


Depth (m)	Lithology	Well
0,0	fine sand	1
13,5		
15,5		
20,0		
20,0	very fine sand	2
40,0		
42,0		
58,0		
58,0	fine to medium sand	3
80,0		
80,0	clay	
87,0		
87,0	clayey sand	3
91,0		
93,0		
98,0		
98,0	heavy clay	
200?		



# INTERPRETATION OF TEST 4 IN SCREEN 3

Manual curve-fitting  
using KGS model:



# INTERPRETATION OF TEST 4 IN SCREEN 3

KGS model +  
heuristic Nelder-Mead method  
to minimize MSE:

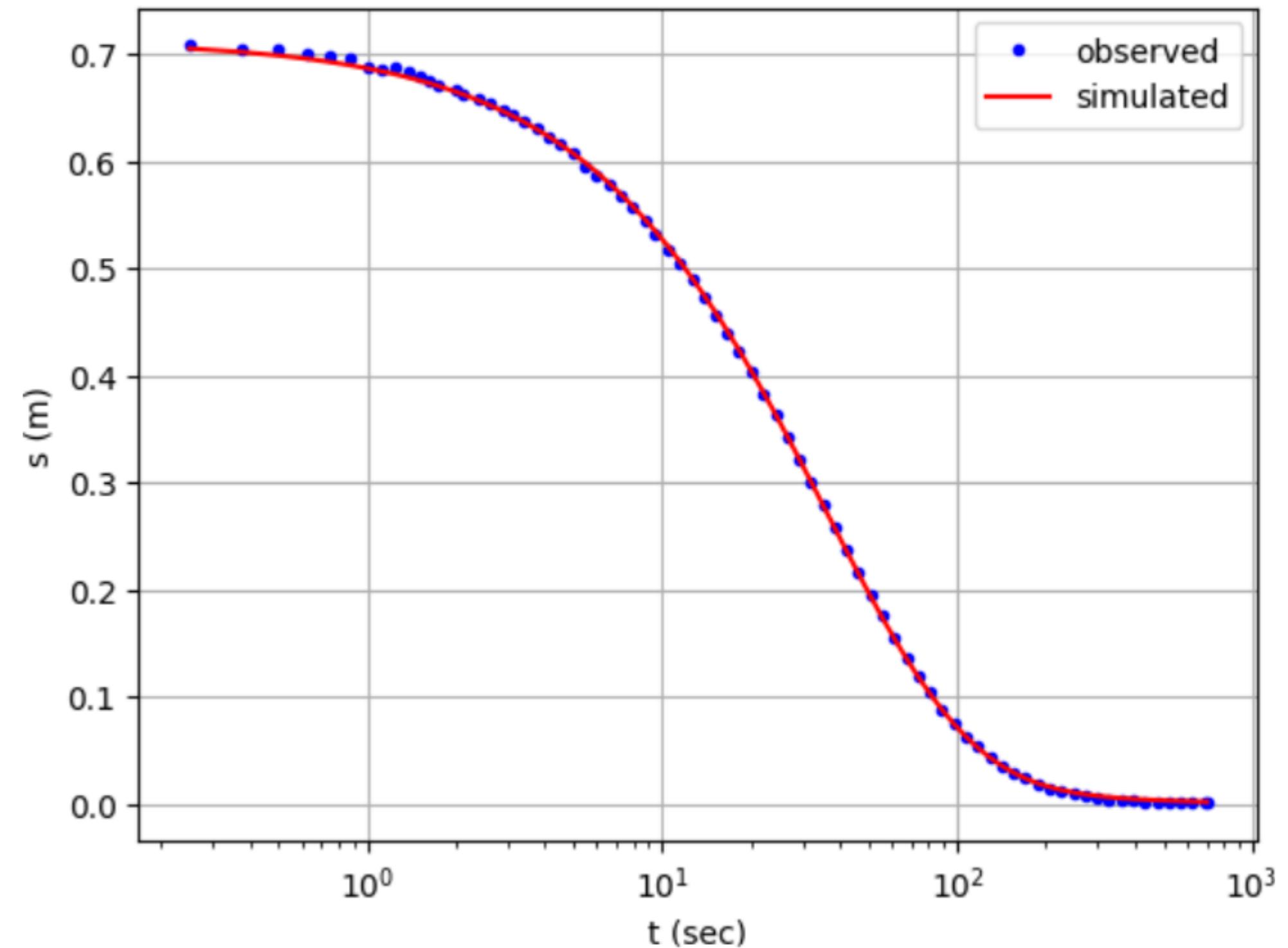
```
from scipy.optimize import fmin

x0 = np.array([0, 0, -5]) # starting values for logP
x = fmin(func=MSE, x0=x0)
print(f'\t MSE = {MSE(x)}')

Kr, Kz, Ss = tuple(10**x)
print('\nOptimal values:')
print(f'\t Kr = {Kr} m/d')
print(f'\t Kz = {Kz} m/d')
print(f'\t Ss = {Ss} m^-1')

Optimization terminated successfully.
    Current function value: 0.000005
    Iterations: 232
    Function evaluations: 412
    MSE = 4.58556435401376e-06

Optimal values:
    Kr = 3.2437663500170486 m/d
    Kz = 0.0001843799706562987 m/d
    Ss = 1.718446610208439e-06 m^-1
```



# A PRACTICAL CASE

---

# STUDY

# OPTIMIZING A DRAINAGE SYSTEM

## Excavation site “Duinenabdij”

(Koksijde, Belgium)

- Valuable dune area in the Belgian coastal plane
- Multilayer aquifer system
- Shallow semi-pervious layer caused flooding during the winter

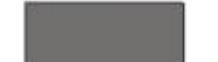


### LEGEND

military area



urbanised area



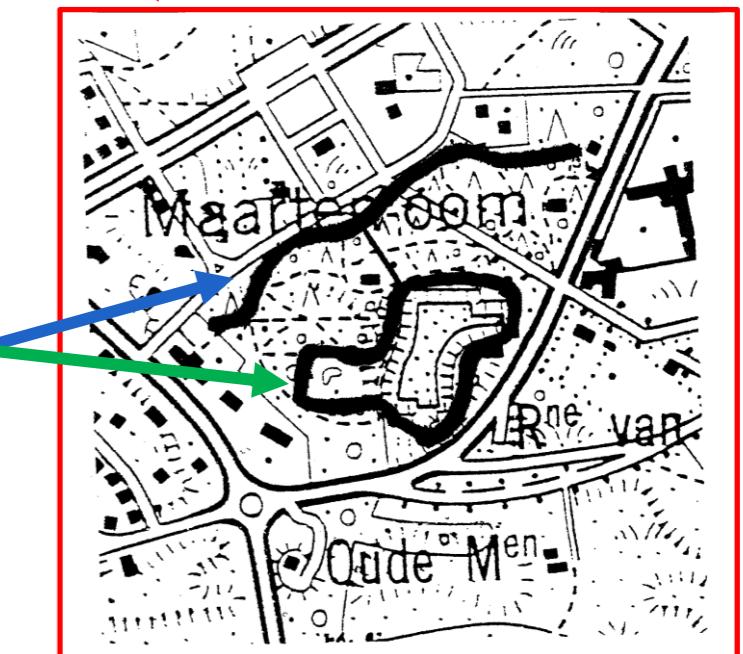
preserved dune area



0

300m

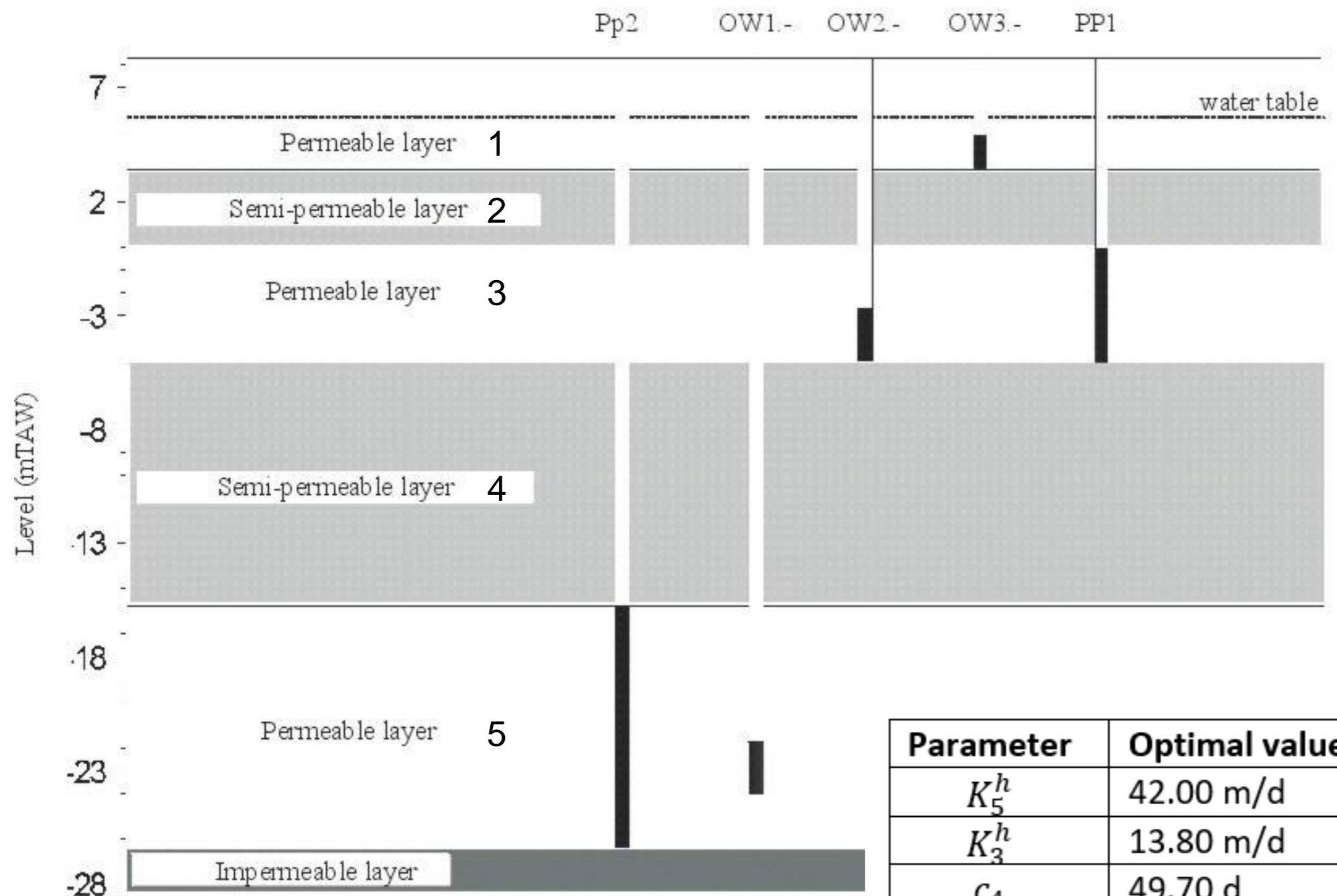
- Combined system of pumping and injection wells
  - Pumping to drain excess groundwater
  - Re-injecting the extracted groundwater
  - Re-injecting to protect the dunes in the north



# KOKSIJDE



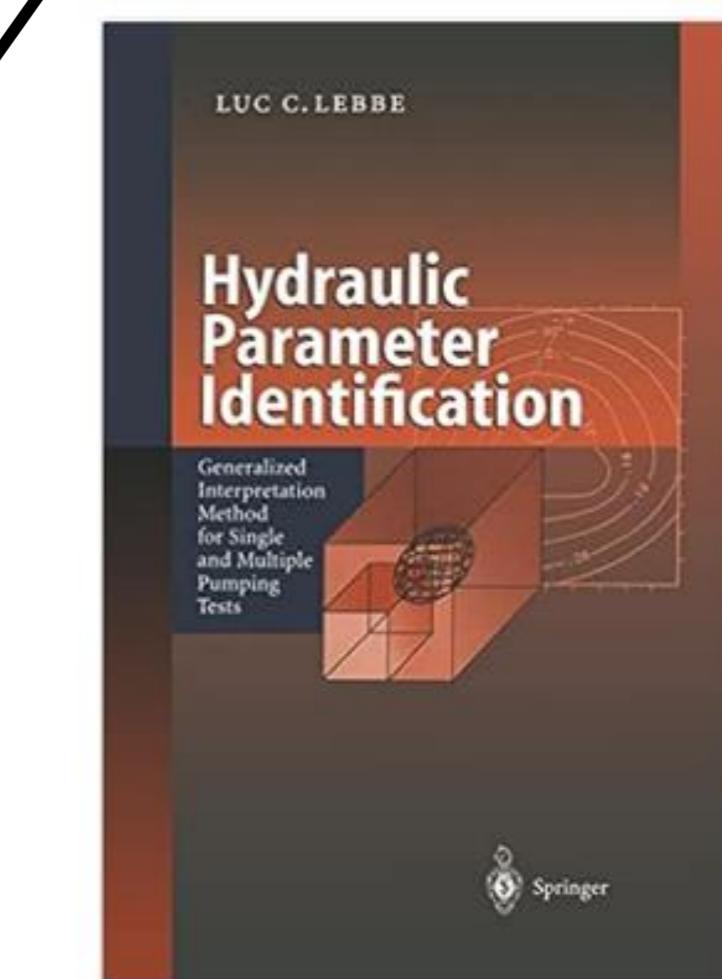
# THE MULTILAYER AQUIFER SYSTEM



Parameter	Optimal value
$K_5^h$	42.00 m/d
$K_3^h$	13.80 m/d
$c_4$	49.70 d
$S_5^s$	$7.12 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^{-1}$
$S_2^s = S_3^s$	$7.80 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^{-1}$
$S_4^s$	$2.09 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^{-1}$
$c_2$	735.00 d

## Double pumping test:

- Pumping test on layer 3
- Pumping test on layer 5
- Observations in all layers
- Simultaneous interpretation



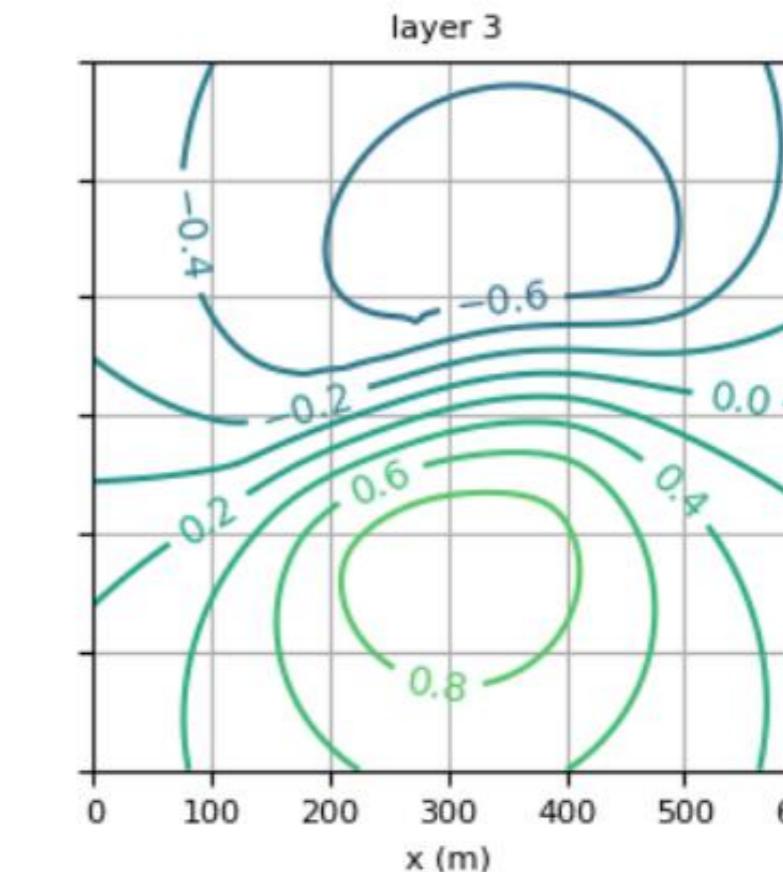
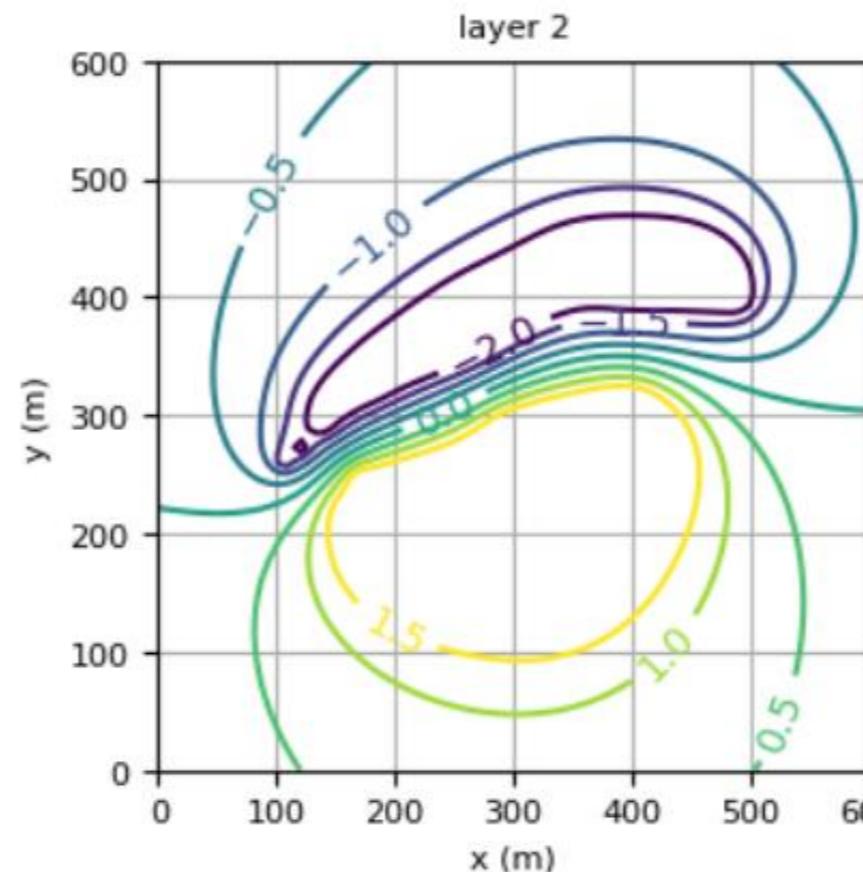
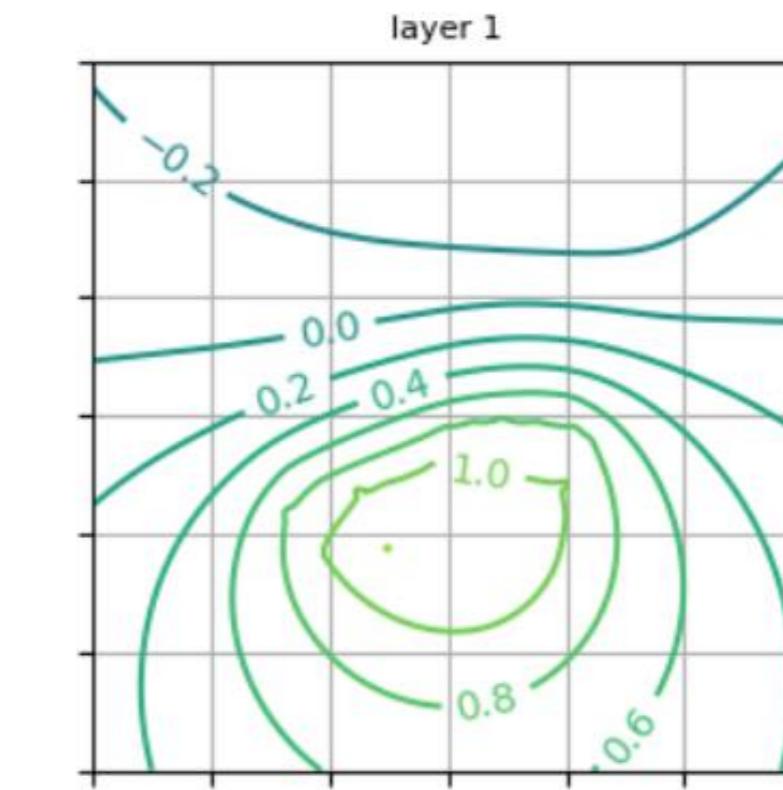
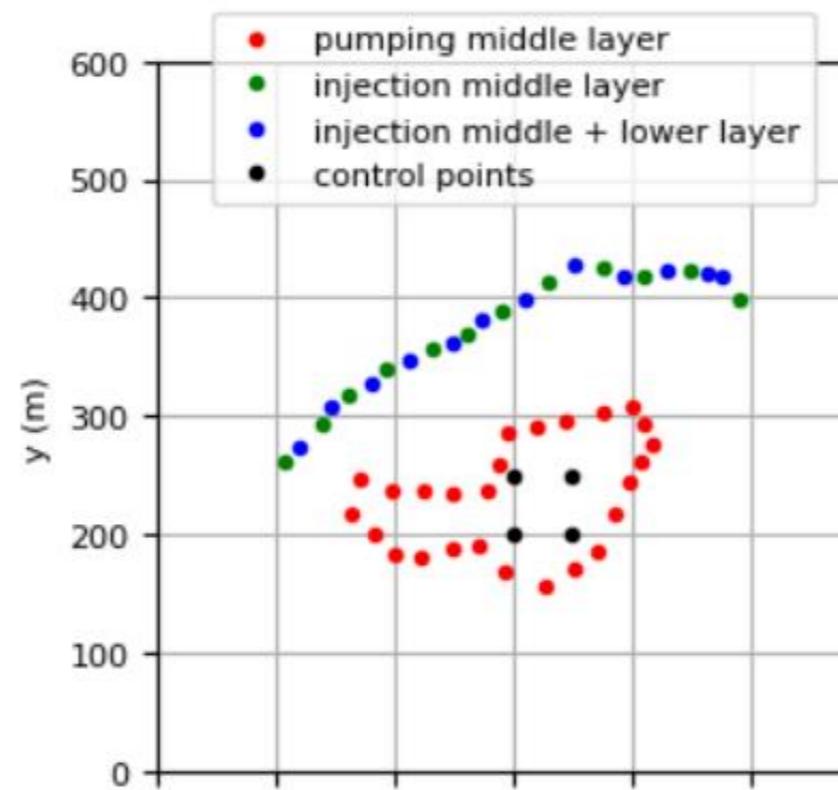
# SIMULATING THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM



- Analytical solution:
  - steady-state
  - axisymmetric flow
  - confined system
  - 3 homogeneous layers
  - 2 separating resistances
- Superposition in space

$$s_i(x, y, t) = \sum_{p=1}^{n_w} \frac{Q_p}{Q_{ref}} s_i(r_p, t)$$

$$\text{with } r_p = \sqrt{(x_p - x)^2 + (y_p - y)^2}$$



# OPTIMIZING THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM



= Minimizing the total pumping rate:

- Linear programming
- Python package PuLP

```
!pip install pulp  
from pulp import *
```

- Constraints:
  - 4 control points
  - drawdown min 1m

$$s \geq 1$$

```
# instantiating LpProblem object (linear programming problem)  
prob = LpProblem("Scenario_1", LpMinimize) # it's a minimization problem  
  
# defining the variables  
Q_pump1 = LpVariable("Q_pump", lowBound=0) # pumping rate middle layer (Q > 0)  
Q_inj1 = LpVariable("Q_inj", upBound=0) # injection rate middle layer (Q < 0)  
  
# defining the objective function  
prob += Q_pump1, "minimize total pumping rate"  
  
# adding constraint Q_out == Q_in  
prob += npw * (Q_grav + Q_pump1) + niw * Q_inj1 + niw / 2 * Q_deep == 0  
  
# add constraint at the 4 control points  
for i in range(len(xc)):  
    # drawdown in top layer must be at least 1 m: P1*s1 + P2*s2 + P3*s3 + P4*s4 >= 1  
    prob += Q_grav * s1[i] + Q_pump1 * s2[i] + Q_inj1 * s3[i] + Q_deep * s4[i] >= 1.0  
  
# solving the problem  
print(prob.solve())  
print(LpStatus[prob.status]) # checking the status of the solution  
print(Q_pump1.value(), Q_inj1.value(), Q_deep) # checking the optimized variables
```

# CONCLUSIONS

- The **combined system of pumping and injection wells** is effective in creating local drawdown and protecting the surrounding dunes
- A **hydrogeological study including field tests** was necessary to reliably characterize the hydraulic properties of the aquifer system
- The **analytical multilayer solution** can be applied to efficiently solve a real-world problem without having to build a computationally expensive model
- **Linear programming** is an effective way of minimizing pumping rates subject to given drawdown constraints
- It is straightforward to implement both the analytical solution and the linear programming using **Python's packages for scientific computing**.

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