

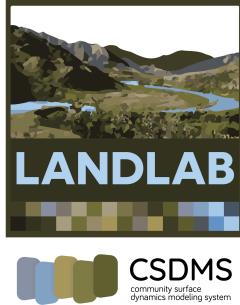


# Introduction to Landlab

*Getting to know the Grid  
and Working with Components*

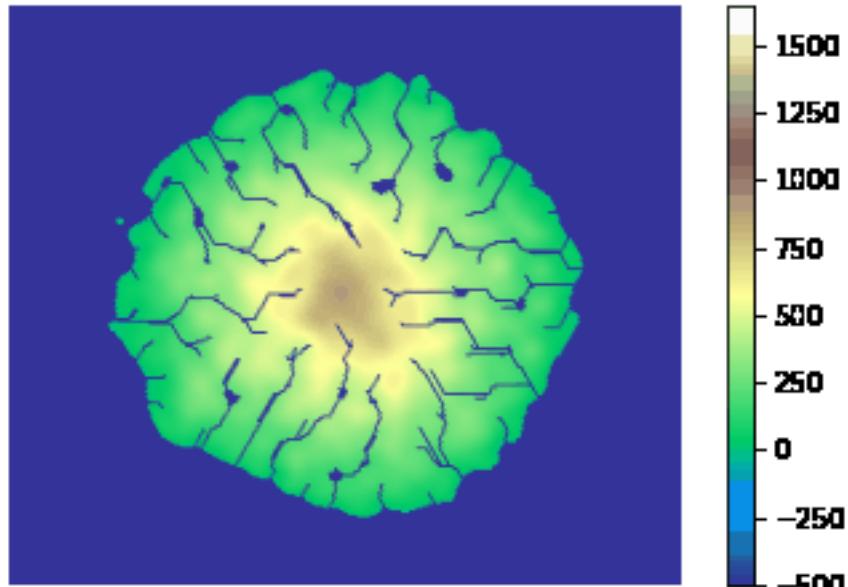
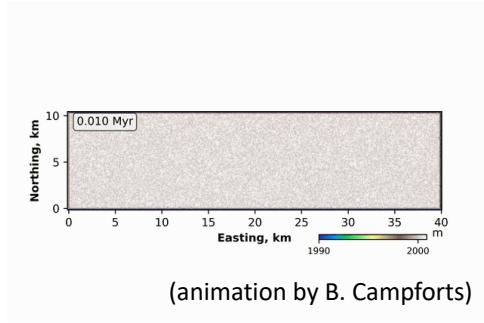
Eric Hutton & Tian Gan  
HRT Meeting, May 2023





# Landlab Toolkit

a Python package for building  
integrated, modular numerical models  
of diverse surface processes



Create 2D **grids** as data objects

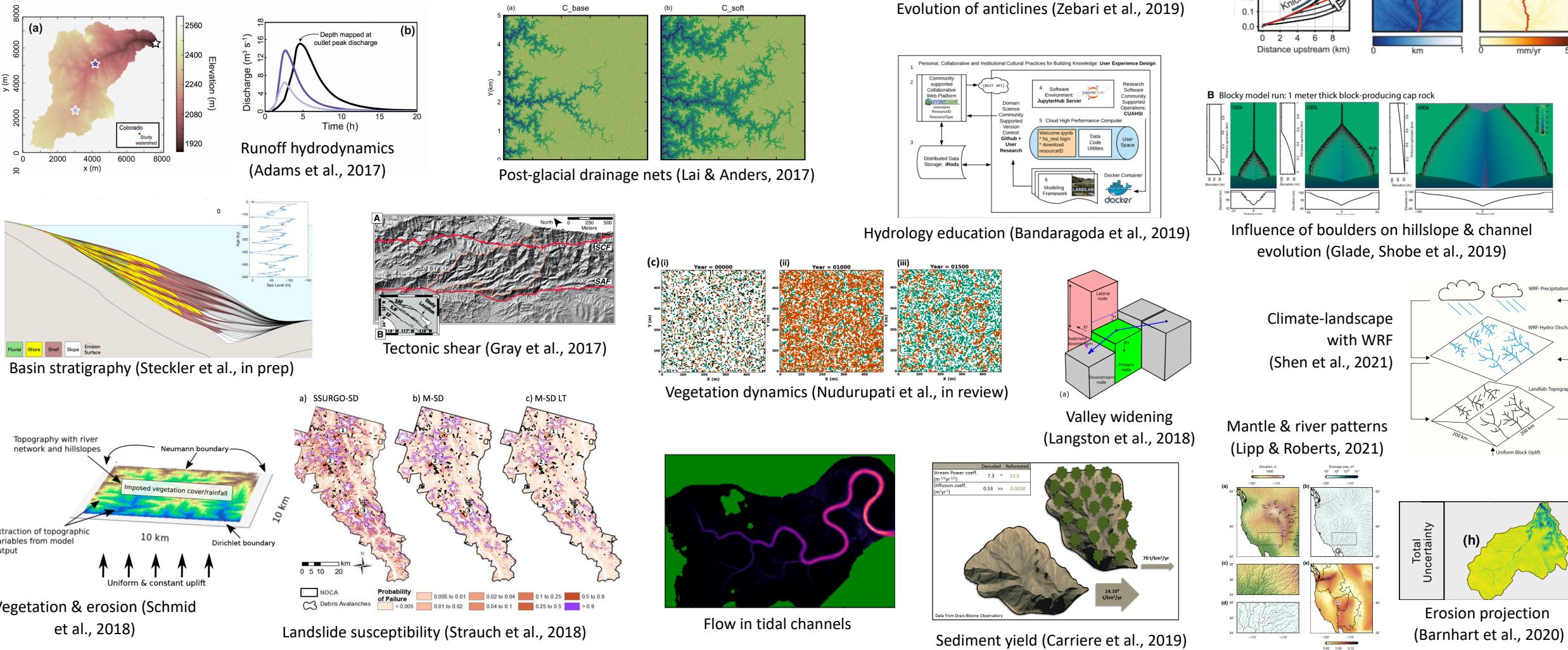
Populate a grid with **fields** of data

Create integrated models from reusable  
**components**

Geared toward, but not limited to, surface  
processes

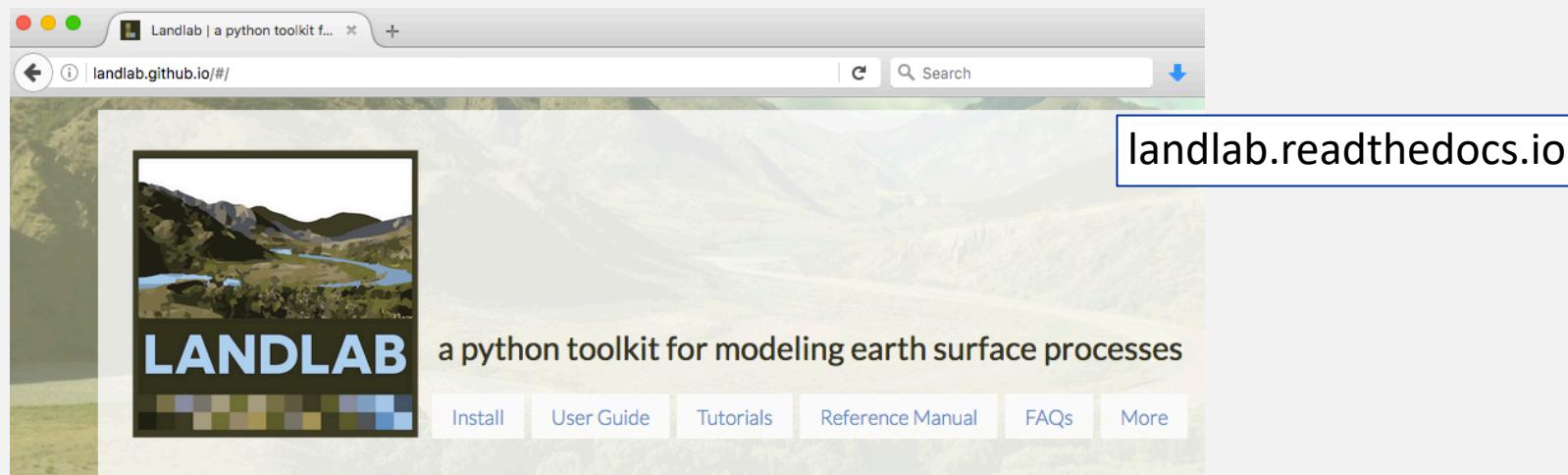
One element in CSDMS' **OpenEarthscape**  
modeling system

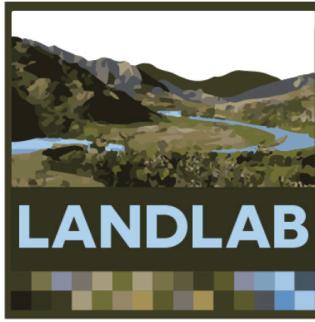
# Examples of recent studies using Landlab



# Resources for learning about Landlab

- Overview papers:
  - Hobley et al. (2017) “all about”: <https://doi.org/10.5194/esurf-5-21-2017>
  - Barnhart et al. (2020) Landlab 2.0: <https://doi.org/10.5194/esurf-8-379-2020>
  - Tucker et al. (2022) CSDMS: <https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-15-1413-2022>
  - Digital repository on GitHub: <https://github.com/landlab>
- Website, documentation, and tutorials: <https://landlab.readthedocs.io>





# Tutorials

[https://landlab.readthedocs.io/en/latest/user\\_guide/tutorials.html](https://landlab.readthedocs.io/en/latest/user_guide/tutorials.html)

The Landlab Tutorials provide examples of Landlab core concepts and component introductions. Tutorials exist as interactive Jupyter notebooks that contain alternating cells of computer code and text that explain the code. In addition to Landlab Tutorials that exemplify Landlab, notebooks intended to teach and learn surface dynamics are the [Landlab Teaching Tutorials](#).

## Launch notebooks online

Landlab Notebooks can be accessed online with the following link: [Binder](#). Here the notebooks are provided within a binder online environment that includes Landlab.

The welcome page on Binder provides onward links to most of our tutorials. If you're a newbie you might want to skip directly to a recommended syllabus for learning Landlab [here](#).

## Launch notebooks locally

How you installed Landlab determines the steps to launch notebooks that use a copy of Landlab on your computer.

### User installations

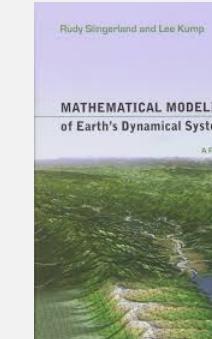
If you installed using a prepackaged binary, the most common method, the notebooks can be run in a conda environment. [These instructions](#) describe how to create a conda environment for the notebooks.

Once the conda environment has been created, it must be activated and then the notebooks can be launched:

```
$ conda activate landlab_notebooks  
$ jupyter notebook notebooks/welcome.ipynb
```

## Landlab prerequisites:

- Python programming, including use of classes and objects
- Numpy arrays
- Relevant numerical methods



Slingerland & Kump (2011)  
Mathematical Modeling of  
Earth's Dynamical Systems



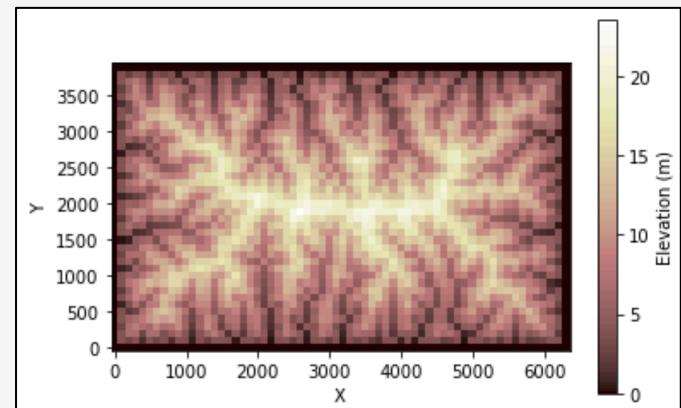
Press et al. (2007)  
Numerical Recipes: The Art  
of Scientific Computing

```

1 # imports
2 import numpy as np
3 from landlab import RasterModelGrid, imshow_grid
4 from landlab.components import FlowAccumulator, StreamPowerEroder, LinearDiffuser
5
6 # make a grid
7 grid = RasterModelGrid((40, 64), xy_spacing=100.0)
8
9 # make a field and initialize it
10 topo = grid.add_zeros('topographic_elevation', at='node')
11 topo[grid.core_nodes] += np.random.rand(len(grid.core_nodes))
12
13 # instantiate components
14 fa = FlowAccumulator(grid, flow_director='D8')
15 sp = StreamPowerEroder(grid, K_sp=0.0001)
16 ld = LinearDiffuser(grid, linear_diffusivity=0.01)
17
18 # run model
19 for i in range(1000):
20     topo[grid.core_nodes] += 0.1 # uplift
21     ld.run_one_step(250.0)      # soil creep / hillslope processes
22     fa.run_one_step()          # route flow
23     sp.run_one_step(250.0)      # water erosion
24
25 # plot
26 imshow_grid(grid, topo, colorbar_label='Elevation (m)')

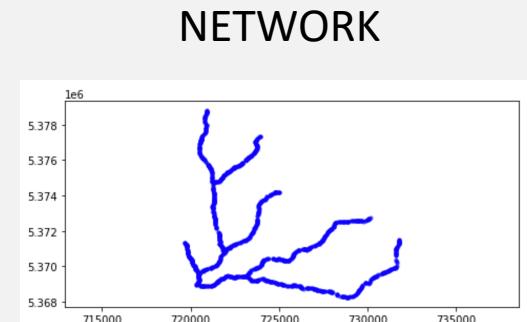
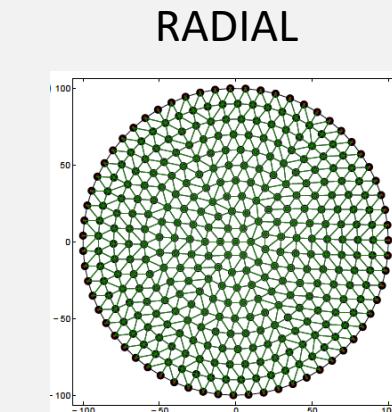
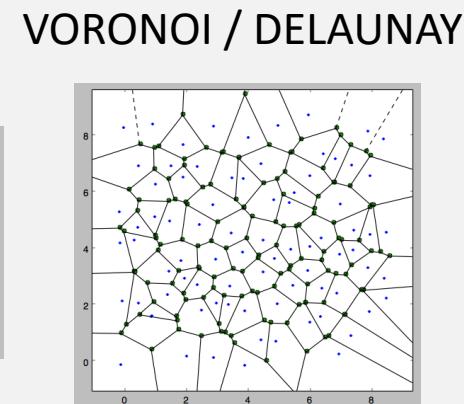
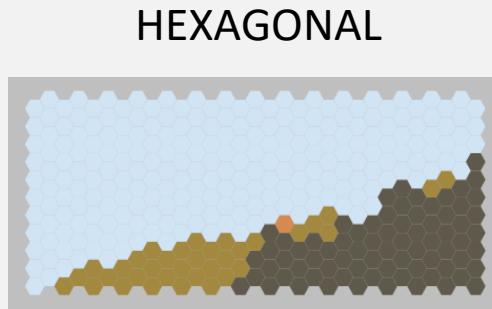
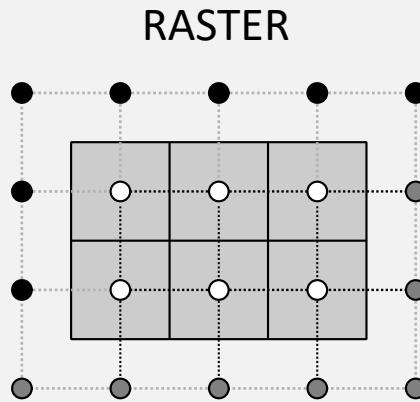
```

A landscape evolution model in 15 lines

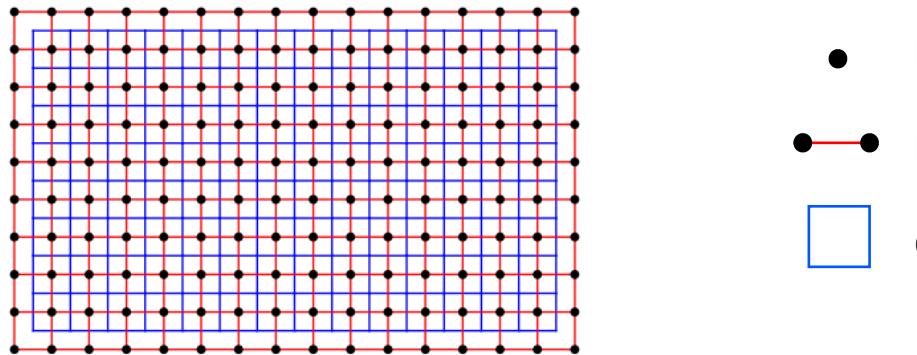


# Grids

- Create a grid in one line of code
- Choose among different grid types
- Each grid is composed of graph primitives such as **nodes** and **links**
- Grid objects include all data to describe grid topology and geometry



```
grid = RasterModelGrid(shape=(10, 16))
```

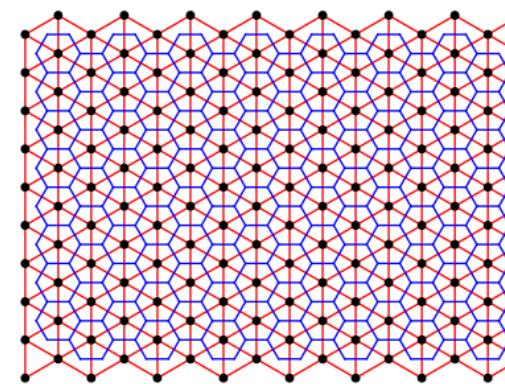
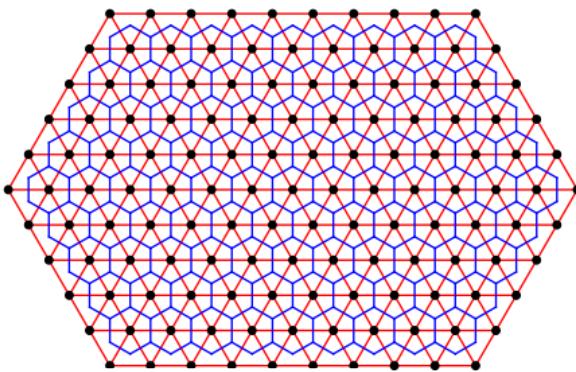


● NODE

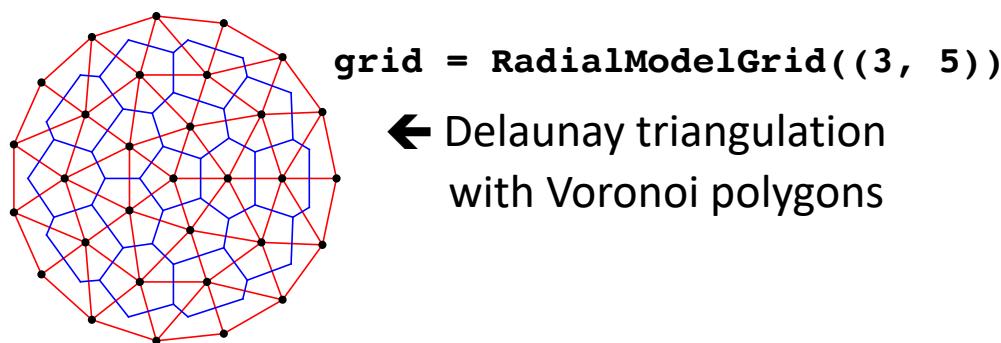
●—● LINK

□ CELL

```
grid = HexModelGrid(shape=(11, 10))
```



```
grid = HexModelGrid(  
    shape=(16, 10),  
    node_layout='rect',  
    orientation='vertical',  
)
```



grid = RadialModelGrid((3, 5))  
← Delaunay triangulation  
with Voronoi polygons

# Fields

- A **field** is a flat array of data associated with a particular type of grid element
- Example:

```
elev = grid.add_zeros('topographic_elevation', at='node')
```

MAKE A NEW FIELD  
FILLED WITH ZEROS

GIVE IT A NAME

ONE VALUE PER GRID NODE

```
elev is grid.at_node['topographic_elevation']
```

True

ACCESS IT BY NAME VIA THE GRID

See User Guide section on Adding Data to a Landlab Grid Element using Fields:

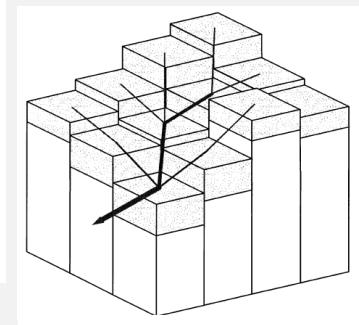
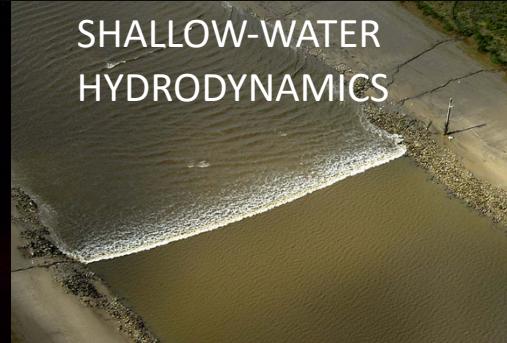
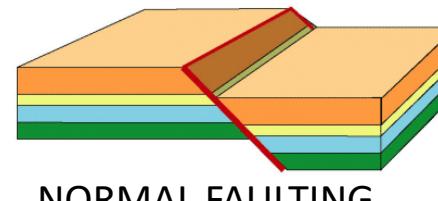
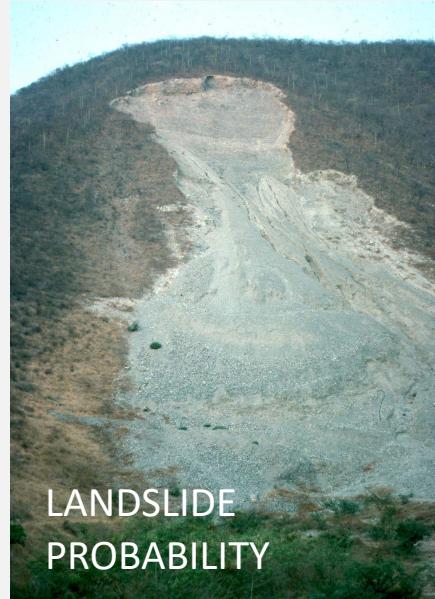
[https://landlab.readthedocs.io/en/latest/user\\_guide/grid.html#adding-data-to-a-landlab-grid-element-using-fields](https://landlab.readthedocs.io/en/latest/user_guide/grid.html#adding-data-to-a-landlab-grid-element-using-fields)

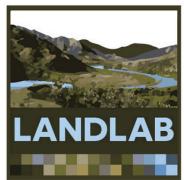
And the Working with Fields tutorial

# Landlab components

A **component** is a Python class with a semi-standard interface that implements:

- a model for a particular process, or
- a calculation for one kind of analysis





## Components

This section contains documentation and API reference information for the following categories of components:

### Hillslope geomorphology

- [LinearDiffuser](#): Model soil creep using “linear diffusion” transport law (no depth dependence)
- [PerronNLDiffuse](#): Model soil creep using implicit solution to nonlinear diffusion law
- [DepthDependentDiffuser](#): depth dependent diffusion after Johnstone and Hilley (2014)
- [TransportLengthHillslopeDiffuser](#): Hillslope diffusion component in the style of Carré et al. (2016), and Davy and Lague (2009)
- [TaylorNonLinearDiffuser](#): Model non-linear soil creep after Ganti et al. (2013)
- [DepthDependentTaylorDiffuser](#): Model depth dependent non-linear soil creep after Ganti et al. (2012) and Johnstone and Hilley (2014)

### Fluvial geomorphology

- [FastscapeEroder](#): Compute fluvial erosion using stream power theory (“fastscape” algorithm)
- [StreamPower](#): Compute fluvial erosion using stream power theory (also uses “fastscape” algorithm but provides slightly different formulation and options)
- [SedDepEroder](#): Compute fluvial erosion using “tools and cover” theory
- [StreamPowerSmoothThresholdEroder](#): Compute fluvial erosion using stream power theory with a numerically smoothed threshold
- [AttachmentLtdErosion](#): Solve stream power equations, but without stability checks
- [ErosionDeposition](#): Fluvial erosion in the style of Davy and Lague (2009)
- Stream Power with Alluvium Conservation and Entrainment
  - Space: Stream Power with Alluvium Conservation and Entrainment
  - SpaceLargeScaleEroder: SPACE large-scale eroder
- [NetworkSedimentTransporter](#): Lagrangian sediment transport in a river network

### Flow routing

- [The Landlab FlowDirectors](#): Components for Flow Direction
  - [FlowDirectorSteepest](#)
  - [FlowDirectorD8](#)
  - [FlowDirectorMFD](#)
  - [FlowDirectorDinf](#)
- [FlowAccumulator](#): Component to do FlowAccumulation with the FlowDirectors
- [LossyFlowAccumulator](#): Component to accumulate flow with the FlowDirectors, while water is lost or gained downstream
- Functions to support flow accumulation
  - Route-to-one methods
  - Route-to-multiple methods
- [DepressionFinderAndRouter](#): Handle depressions in terrain by calculating extent and drainage of “lakes”
- [LakeMapperBarnes](#): Component to temporarily fill depressions and reroute flow across them
- [PriorityFloodFlowRouter](#): Accumulate flow and calculate drainage area using RICHDEM
- [SinkFiller](#): Permanently fill pits in a topography

### Shallow water hydrodynamics

- [OverlandFlow](#): Model shallow water flow over topography using the numerical approximation of de Almeida
- [OverlandFlowBates](#): Model shallow water flow over topography using the numerical approximation of Bates
- [KinematicWaveRengers](#)
- [KinwaveImplicitOverlandFlow](#)
- [KinwaveOverlandFlowModel](#)
- [LinearDiffusionOverlandFlowRouter](#)
- [TidalFlowCalculator](#): Calculate cycle-averaged tidal flow velocity using method of Mariotti (2018)

### Land surface hydrology

- [Radiation](#): Calculate solar radiation on topography given latitude, date, and time
- [PotentialEvapotranspiration](#): Compute potential evapotranspiration
- [SoilMoisture](#): Compute the decay of soil moisture saturation at storm-interstorm time period
- [SoilInfiltrationGreenAmpt](#): Model infiltration of surface water according to the Green-Ampt equation

### Groundwater hydrology

- [GroundwaterDupuitPercolator](#): model flow in a shallow unconfined aquifer using the Dupuit-Forchheimer approximation

### Landslides

- [BedrockLandslider](#): Location and magnitude of episodic bedrock landsliding
- [Landslides](#): Compute probability of failure for shallow landslides
- [DimensionlessDischarge](#): Testing thresholds of debris flows in stream segments following Tang et al.

### Vegetation

- [Vegetation](#): Model plant dynamics using multiple representative plant species
- [VegCA](#): Simulate plant competition with cellular automaton model for grass, shrubs, and trees

### Biota

- Species Evolution
  - [SpeciesEvolver](#): Component to evolve life in a landscape
  - [ZoneController](#): Control zones and populates them with taxa
  - [ZoneTaxon](#): A zone-based taxon

### Precipitation

- [PrecipitationDistribution](#): Generate random sequence of precipitation events
- [SpatialPrecipitationDistribution](#): Generate random sequence of spatially-resolved precipitation events

### Weathering

- [ExponentialWeatherer](#): exponential soil production function in the style of Ahnert (1976)
- [ExponentialWeathererIntegrated](#): exponential soil production function in the style of Ahnert (1976) integrated in dt

### Subaqueous / Submarine Processes

- [CarbonateProducer](#): Grow carbonate strata using growth function of Bosscher and Schlager (1992)
- [SimpleSubmarineDiffuser](#): Calculate underwater sediment transport using water-depth-dependent diffusion

### Tectonics

- [ListricKinematicExtender](#): Simulate Extensional Tectonic Motion on a Listric Fault Plane

### Terrain Analysis

- [SteepnessFinder](#): Calculate steepness and concavity indices from gridded topography
- [ChiFinder](#): Perform chi-index analysis for gridded topography
- [DrainageDensity](#): Calculate drainage density from topography
- [Profiler](#): Create and plot profiles
- [ChannelProfiler](#): Create and plot channel profiles
- [TrickleDownProfiler](#): Create and plot trickle down profiles
- [HackCalculator](#): Calculate Hack's law coefficients
- [HeightAboveDrainageCalculator](#): Calculate height above nearest drainage

### Tectonics

- [Flexure](#): Calculate elastic lithosphere flexure under given loads (assumes uniform flexural rigidity)
- Functions used to calculate lithospheric deflection
- [landlab.components.flexure.ext](#) package
  - Submodules
  - [landlab.components.flexure.ext.flexure1d](#) module
  - Module contents
- [gFlex](#): Compute elastic lithosphere flexure with variable rigidity
- [NormalFault](#): Vertical uplift of grid nodes based on a user-specified uplift time series

### Fire

- [FireGenerator](#): Generate random sequence of fire events

### Fracture Generation

- [FractureGridGenerator](#): Generate random fracture patterns on a regular raster grid

### Lithology

Two objects based on the EventLayers object exist to make it easier to deal with spatially variable lithology and associated properties. The Lithology components contain information about spatially variable lithology and connect with the Landlab model grid so that when rock is eroded or advected upward by rock uplift the values of rock properties at the topographic surface are updated.

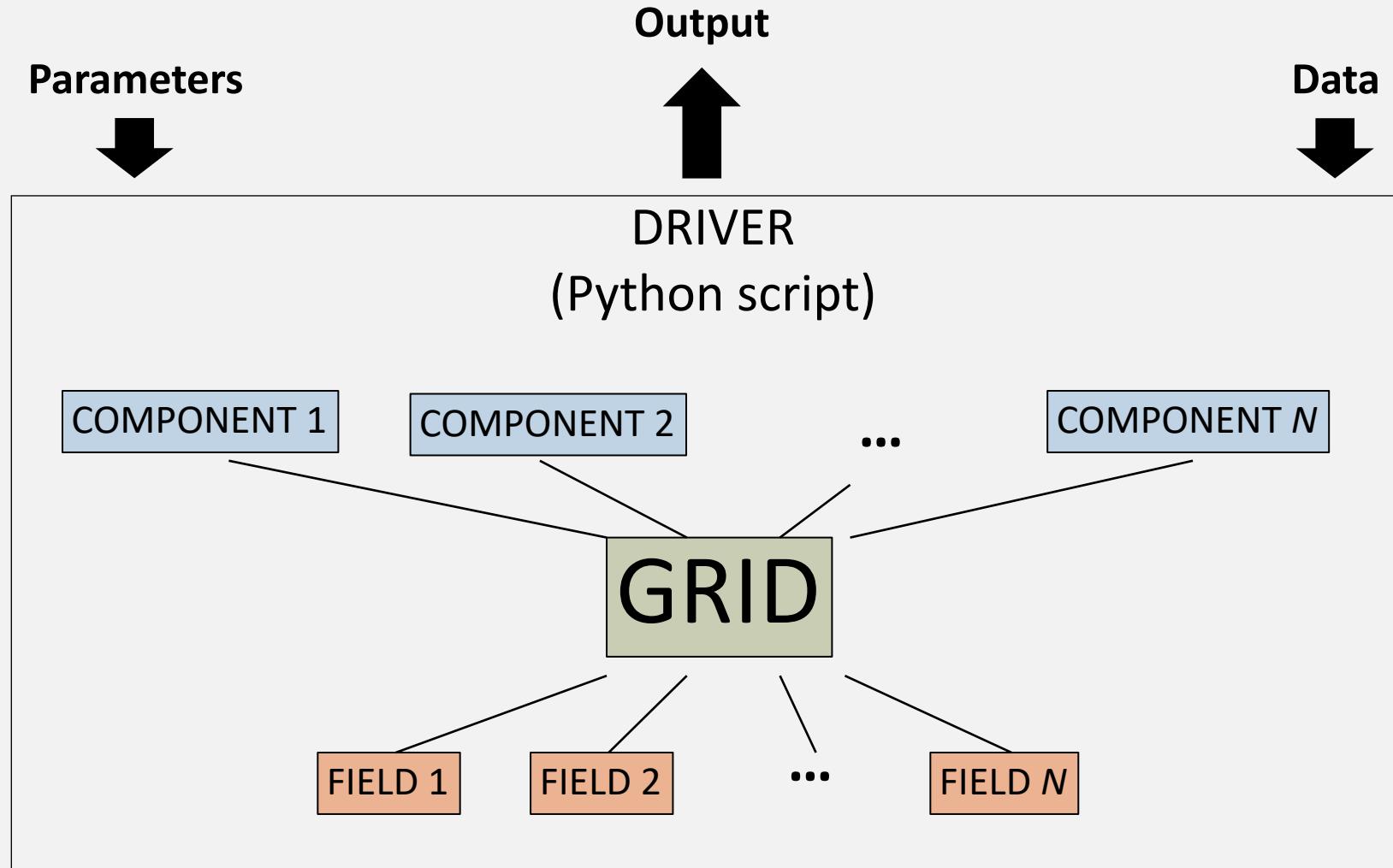
First is the Lithology component which is a generic object for variable lithology.

- [Lithology](#): Create a 3D representation of variable lithology

Second is LithoLayers which makes it easy to make layered rock.

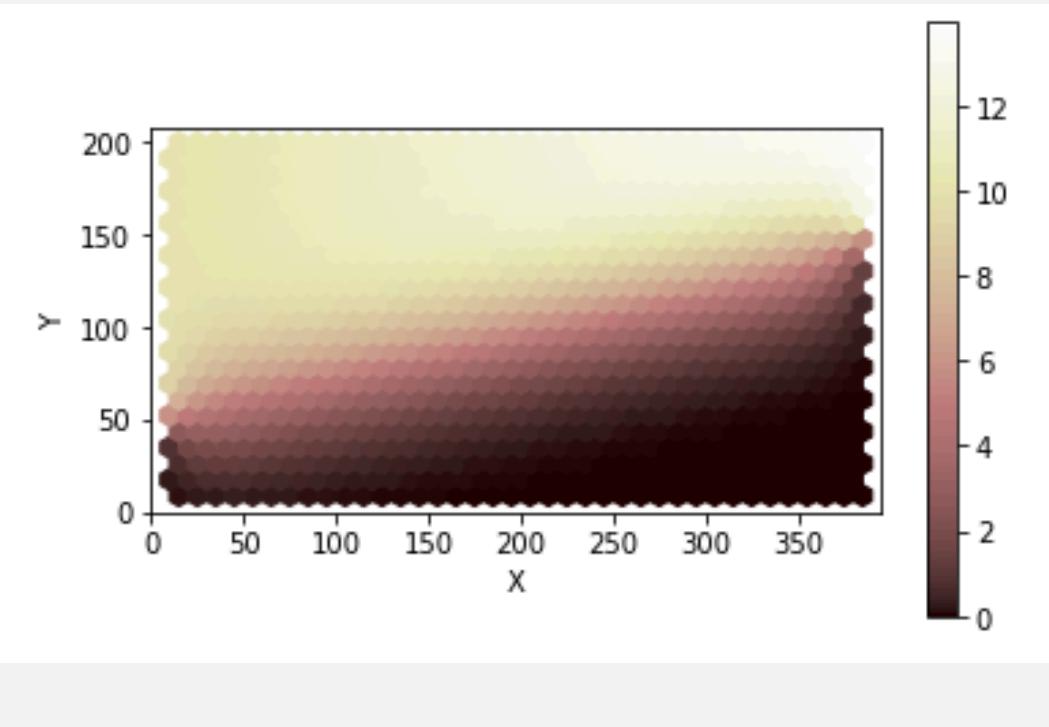
- [LithoLayers](#): Create a layered lithology

# Building a model with Landlab components



# Numerical functions

- Landlab's graph-based data structures support different types of numerical method
- Some numerical functions are built in; others yet to be created...

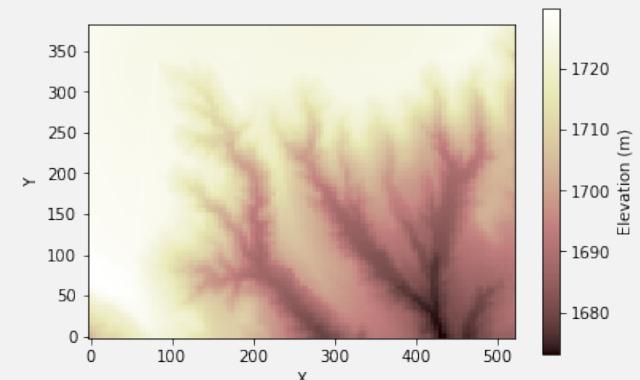


```
for i in range(100):
    g = mg.calc_grad_at_link(z)
    qs[mg.active_links] = -D * g[mg.active_links]
    dqsdx = mg.calc_flux_div_at_node(qs)
    dzdt = uplift_rate - dqsdx
    z[mg.core_nodes] += dzdt[mg.core_nodes] * dt
```

See tutorials on: [landlab\\_fault\\_scarp](#), [gradient\\_and\\_divergence](#), [matrix\\_creation](#)

# Data I/O and related

- Input and output
  - Parameter input from formatted text file
  - Read and/or write gridded data:
    - ESRI ASCII                            EX: `(mygrid, topo) = read_esri_ascii('my_dem.txt')`
    - netCDF
    - .obj (for Blender)
- DEM analysis and pre-processing
  - Configure “watershed” boundary conditions
  - Other terrain analysis functions



**RESOURCES:** Reference manual section on **Input/Output**

Tutorials on **reading\_dem\_into\_landlab** & various **terrain analysis tools**

# Contributing and getting involved!

- Landlab was made by and for the scientific community
- Lots of ways to contribute:
  - Raising or answering issues
  - Reviewing pull requests
  - New components and capabilities

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository `landlab/landlab` with the URL `https://github.com/landlab/landlab/issues`. The repository is public, has 28 pulls, 225 forks, and 243 stars. The Issues tab is selected, showing 253 open issues. A search bar at the top right contains the query `is:issue is:open`. Below the search bar, there are filters for Author, Label, Projects, Milestones, Assignee, and Sort. The issues listed are categorized by status (Open/Closed) and priority (enhancement, bug). Each issue includes a link, the number of comments, and the date it was opened.

Issue Type	Title	Comments	Opened By	Date
enhancement	Pull request template	10	SiccarPoint	10 days ago
enhancement	erosionDeposition model with stationary object	5	martin-phys	20 days ago
enhancement	New Github citing system	1	SiccarPoint	24 days ago
enhancement	Add HexModelGrid functionality to read_netcdf and write_netcdf	2	hjgray10	on Aug 12
enhancement	Litholayer: slows down during model run	12	valpedro	on Aug 12
bug	imshow_grid interactive interface: query_grid_on_button_press	11	SiccarPoint	on Jul 2
enhancement	benchmarking landlab models	11	scdobbs	on Jun 22



# Questions?

[huttone@colorado.edu](mailto:huttone@colorado.edu)

[csdms@colorado.edu](mailto:csdms@colorado.edu)

<https://landlab.readthedocs.io>



[\*\*https://github.com/csdms/hrt\\_workshop\*\*](https://github.com/csdms/hrt_workshop)