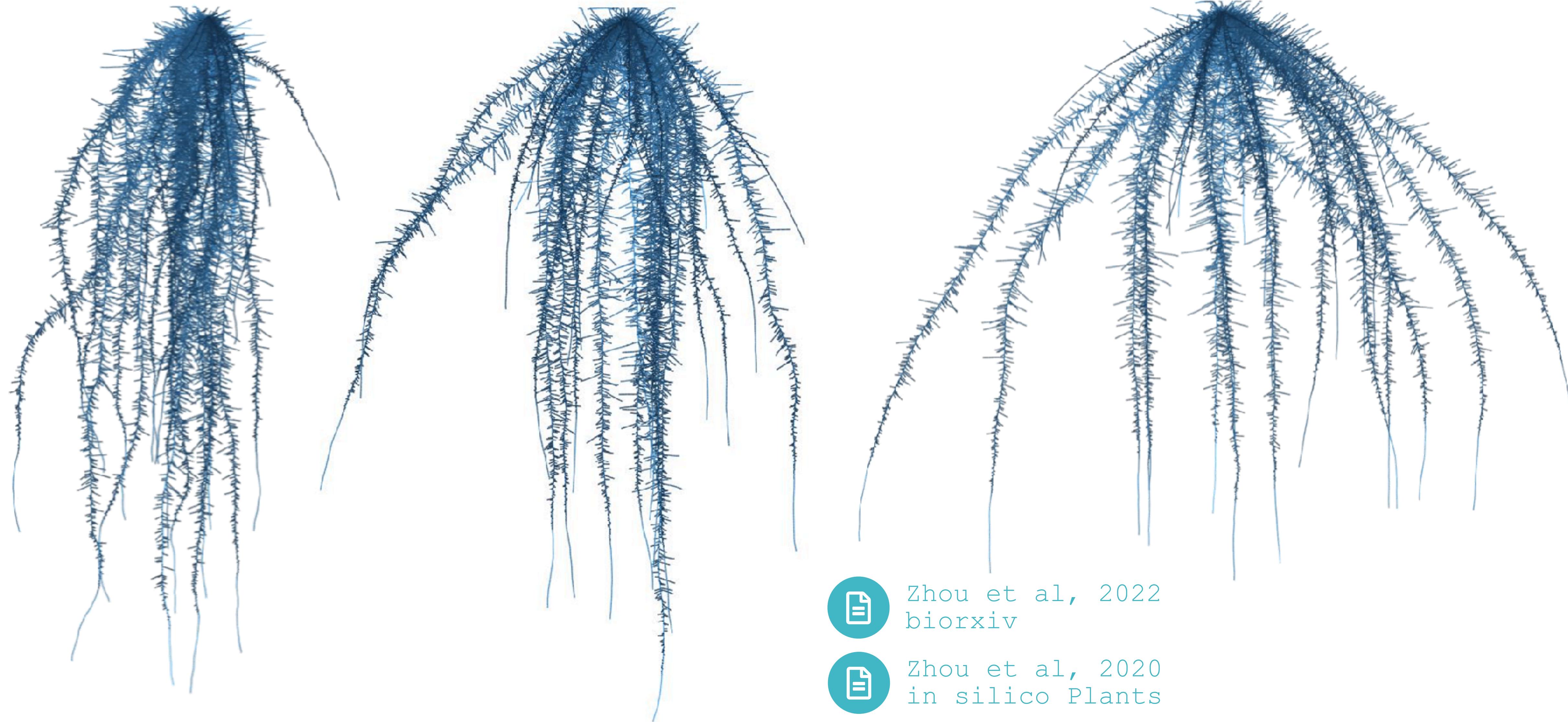


# MODELLING WATER RELATIONS IN PLANTS

Guillaume Lobet, Valentin Couvreur, Xavier Draye, Adrien Heymans, Mathieu Javaux, Daniel Leitner, Félicien Meunier, Andrea Schnepf, Jan Vanderborght

# MODELLING ROOT ARCHITECTURE WITH CPLANTBOX



Open Source



[bit.ly/crootbox](https://bit.ly/crootbox)



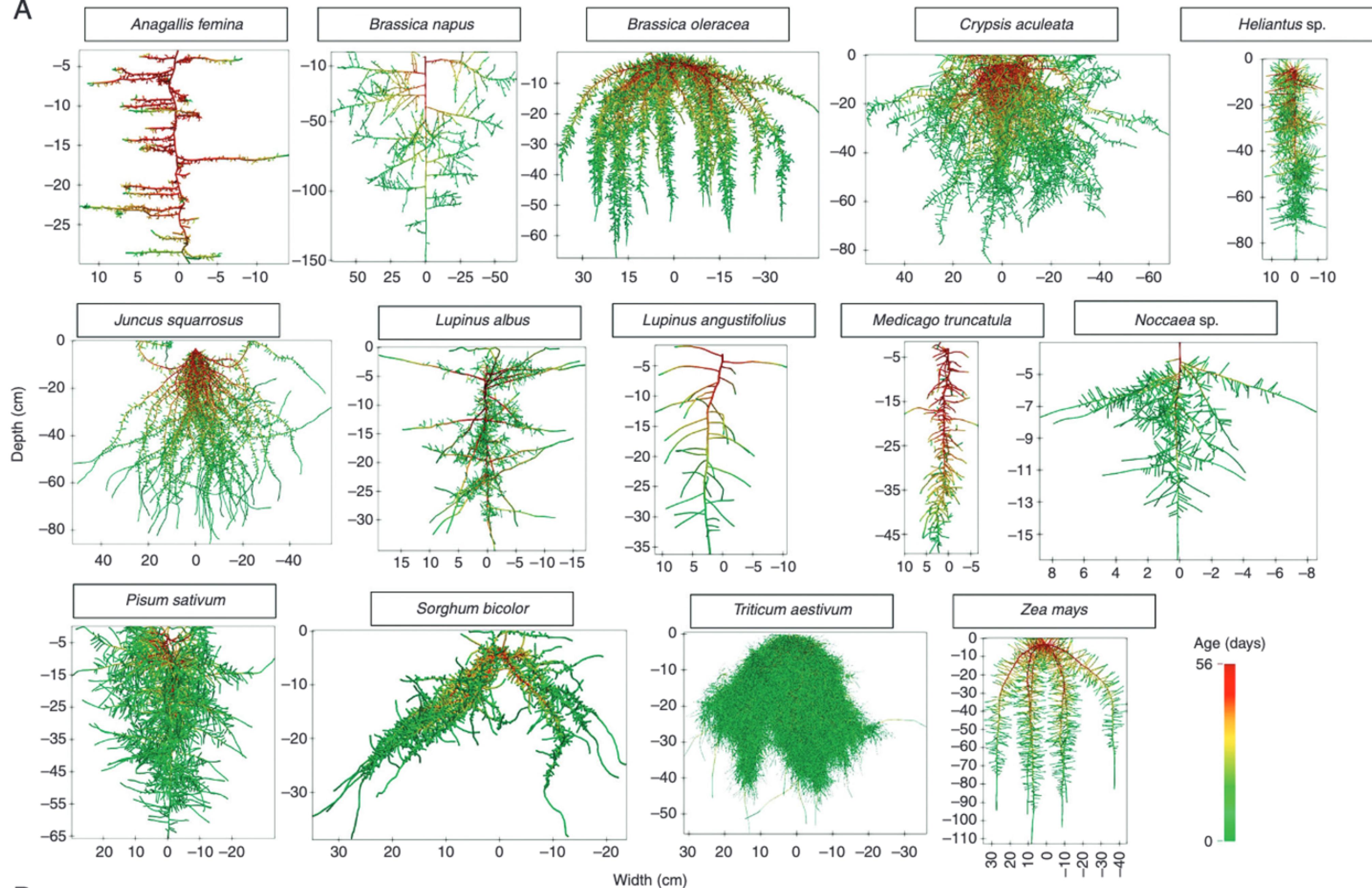
Zhou et al, 2022  
biorxiv

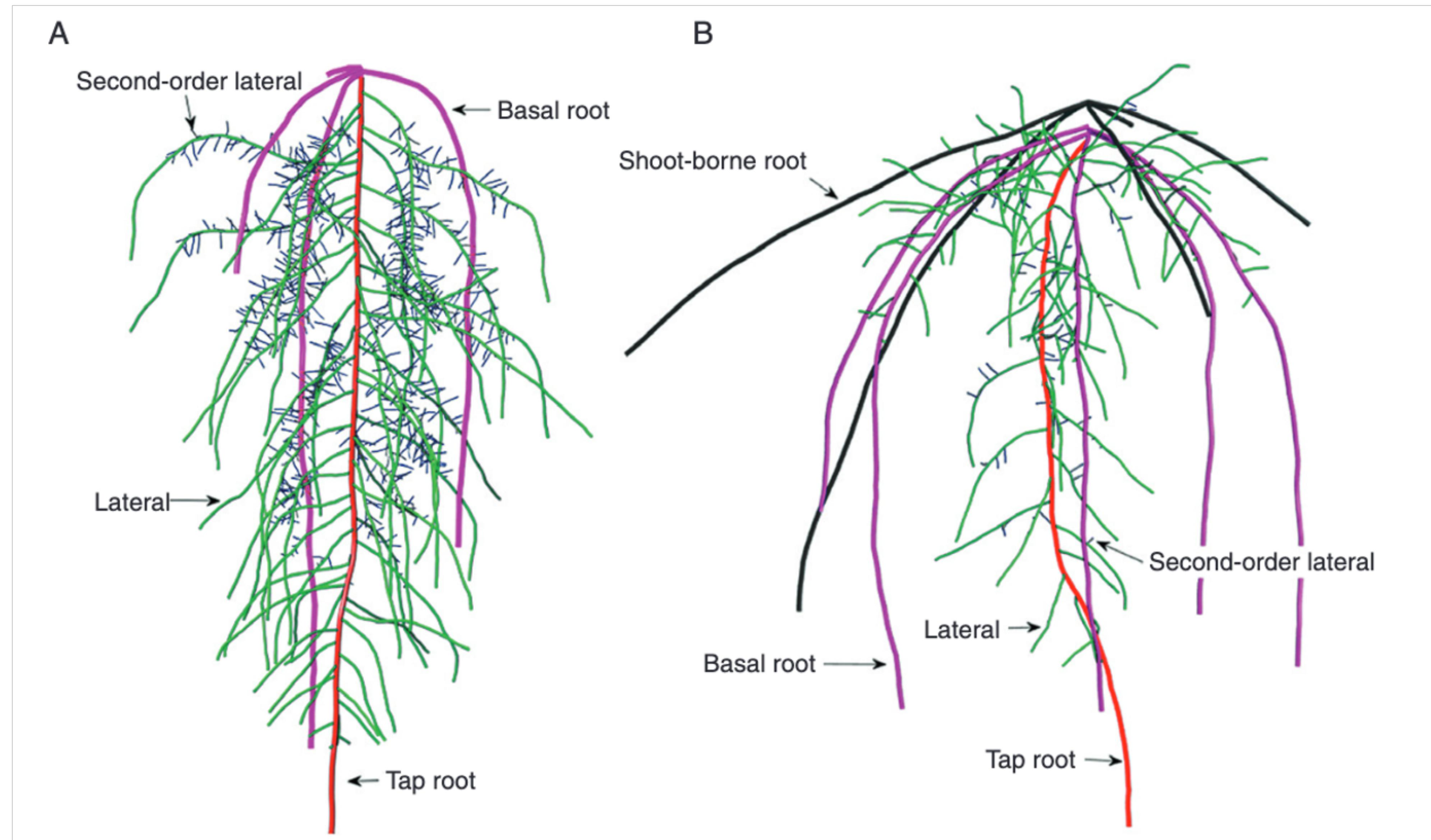


Zhou et al, 2020  
in silico Plants



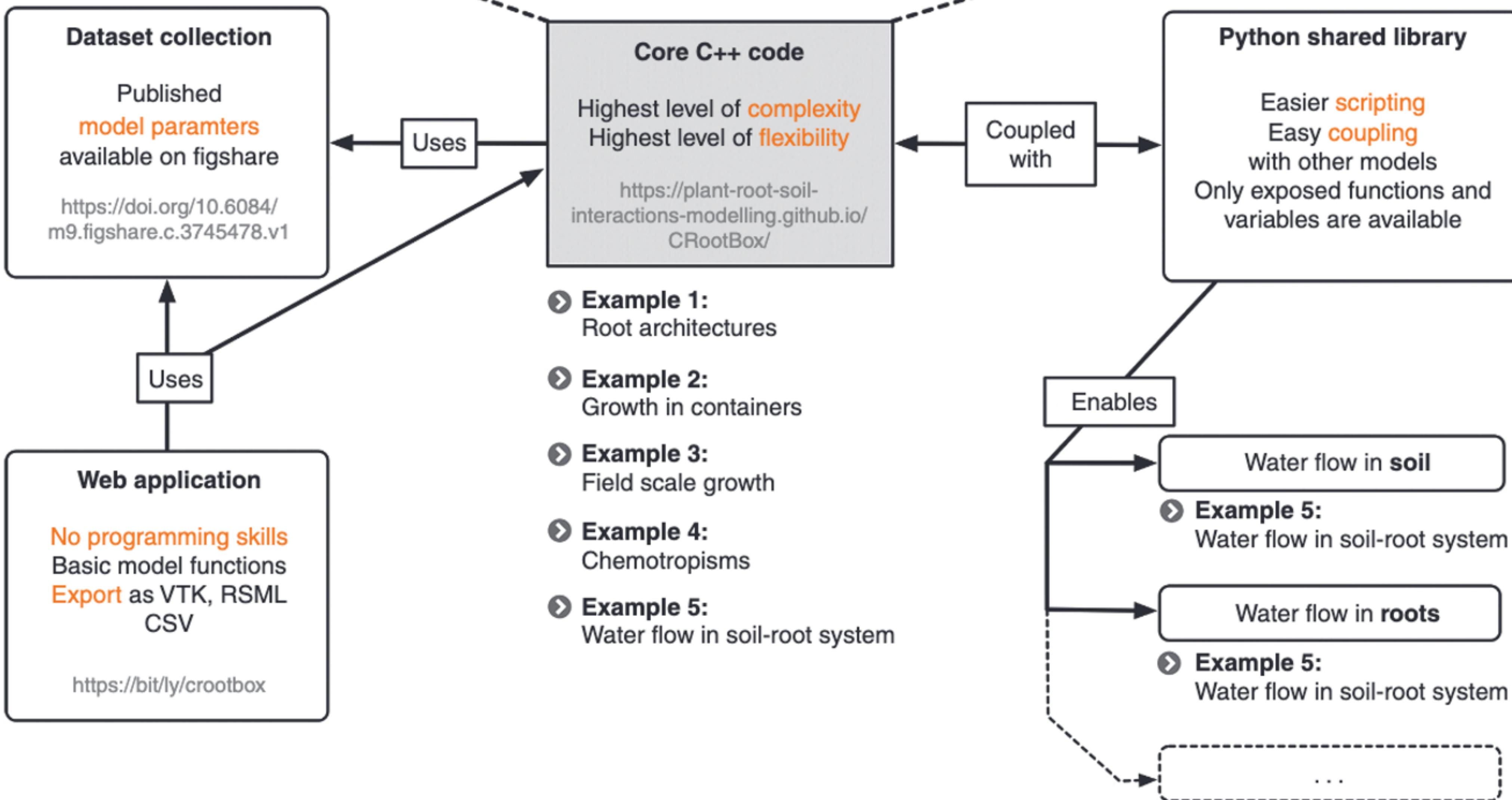
Schnepf et al, 2018  
Annals of Botany

**A****R**



B

CRootBox and add-ons



# CRootBox

This app displays the capabilities of the CRootBox model.  
Choose a dataset, unleash CRootBox, then try changing  
the parameters.

Daniel Leitner, Guillaume Lobet, Magdalena Landl, Mirjam Zorner,  
Shehan Morandage, Trung Hieu Mai, Cheng Sheng, Jan  
Vanderborght, Andrea Schnepf

Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH

## 1. Load parameter set

1. Select root system dataset

Brassica napus a

The algorithmic beauty of plant roots – an L-System model for dynamic root growth simulation  
Leitner D, Klepsch S, Knieß A, Schnepf A  
Mathematical and Computer Modelling of Dynamical Systems, 16, 575-587, 2010  
[View paper](#)

Black and white root system

 Unleash CRootBox

[bit.ly/RootBox/](http://bit.ly/RootBox/)

## 2. Update parameters

2. Select root type

taproot

Select parameter to change

Length of basal zone [cm]

Parameter mean:

0 4 8

Parameter deviation [%]:

0 5 50

Length of basal zone [cm]  
Length of the unbranched basal zone of the root

3. Select plant parameter to change

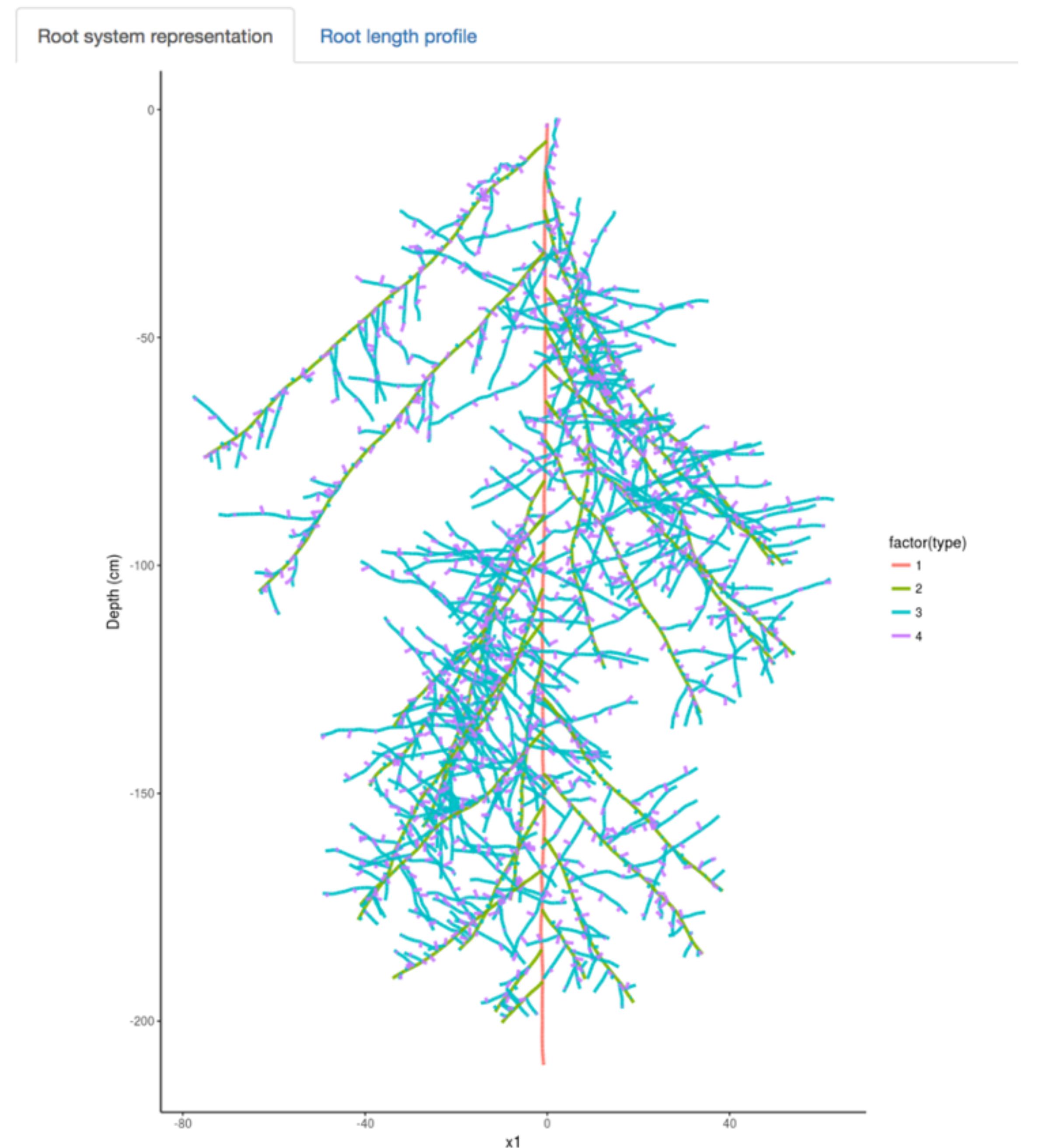
Planting depth [cm]

Parameter value:

0 3 6

Planting depth [cm]  
The depth, in cm, at which the seed is placed in the soil

 Update root system 



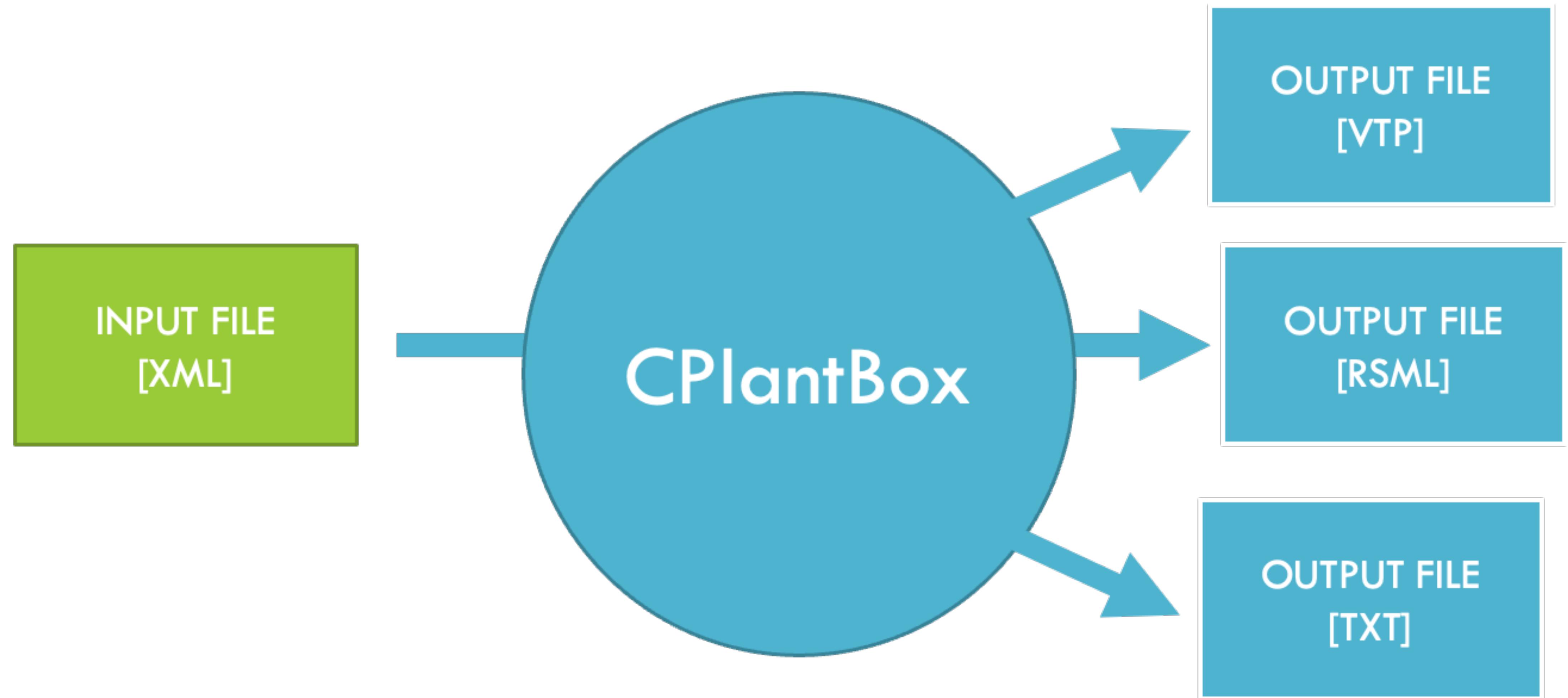


TABLE 3. Complete list of parameters used by *CRootBox* for each root type

Description	Parameter name	Units
Root radius	$a$	cm
Initial elongation rate	$r$	cm d <sup>-1</sup>
Insertion angle	$\theta$	rad
Length of basal zone	$l_a$	cm
Length of apical zone	$l_b$	cm
Length between lateral branches	$l_n$	cm
Maximal root length	$l_{max}$	cm
Tropism type	$type$	{0,1,2,3} <sup>1</sup>
Number of trials (tropism strength)	$N$	1
Standard deviation of random angular change	$\sigma$	cm <sup>-1</sup>
Root successor types	<i>successor</i>	[type, probability; ...]
Name of the root type	<i>name</i>	String
Root colour	<i>colour</i>	RGB
Resolution along root axis	$dx$	cm
Root life time	$rlt$	day
Type of root elongation	$gf$	{1,2} <sup>2</sup>
Scale elongation	$se$	Function <sup>3</sup>
Scale branching probability	$sbp$	Function <sup>3</sup>
Scale branching angle	$sa$	Function <sup>3</sup>

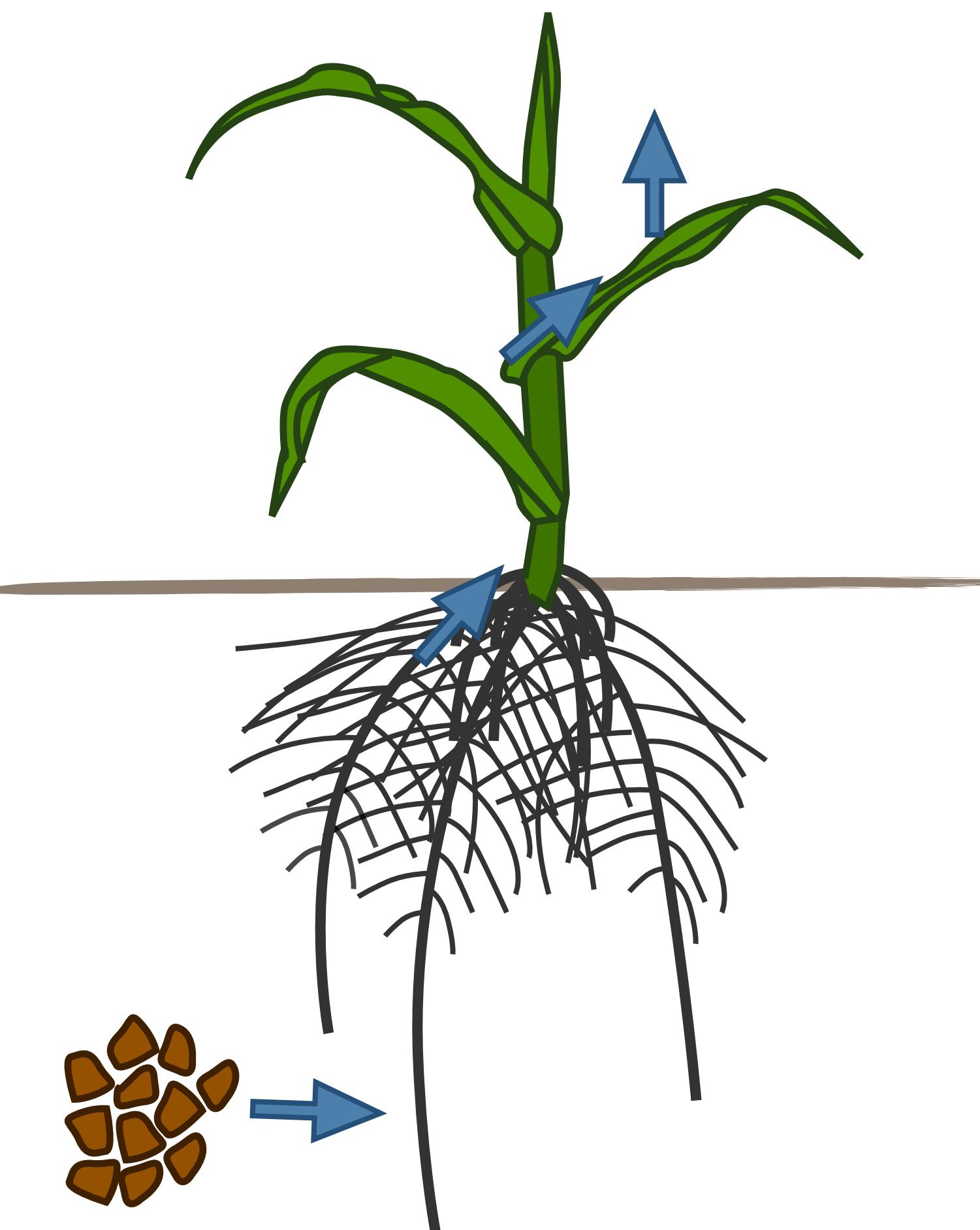
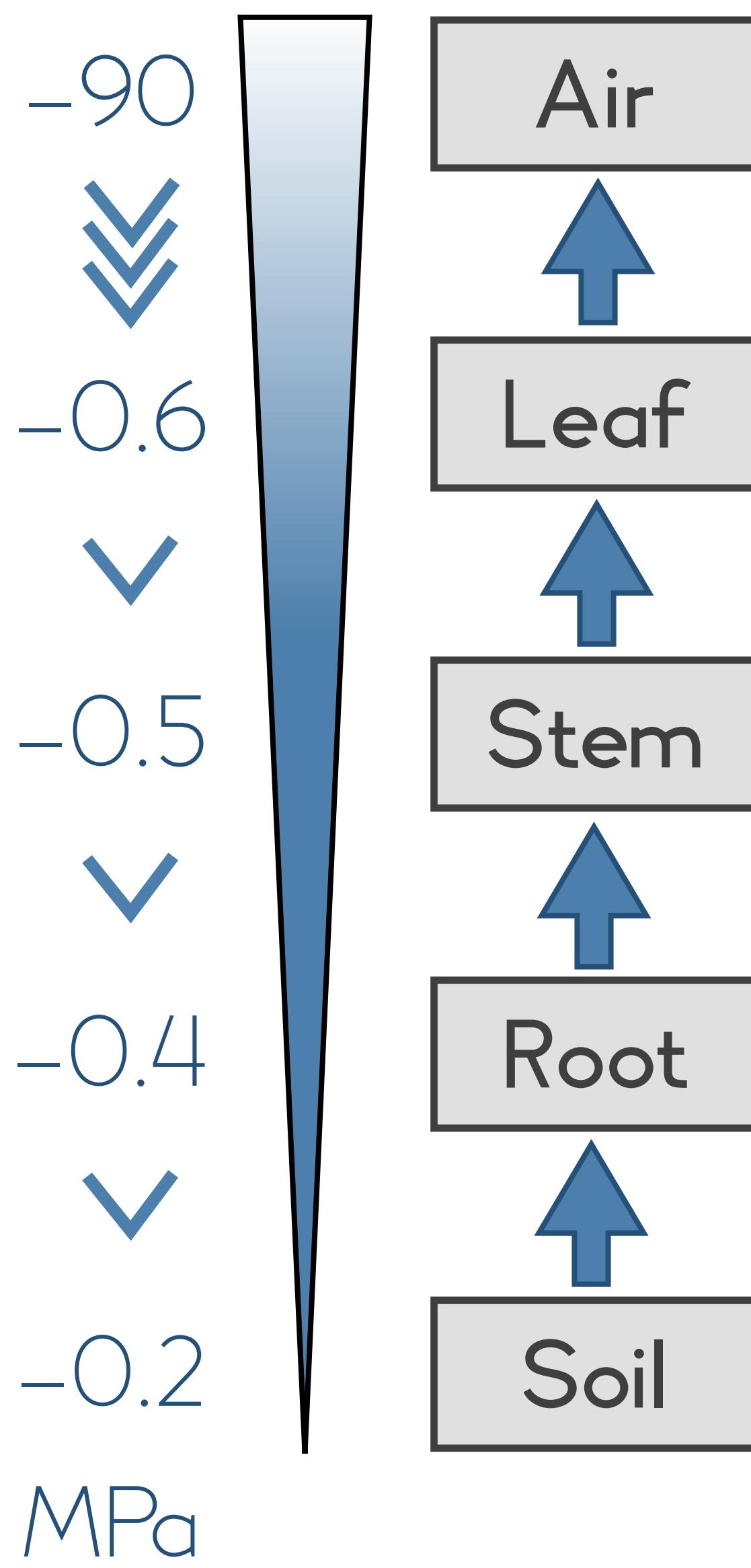
TABLE 2. List of plant parameters needed for the root architecture development of dicotyledonous and monocotyledonous plants

Description	Parameter name	Unit	Plant type
Planting depth	<i>depth</i>	cm	Dicot and monocot
First emergence of basal roots	$first_B$	day	Dicot and monocot
Time period between basal roots	$delay_B$	day	Dicot and monocot
Maximal number of basal roots	$max_B$	1	Dicot and monocot
First occurrence of shoot-borne roots	$first_S$	day	Monocot
Time period between shoot-borne roots	$delay_S$	day	Monocot
Number of shoot-borne roots per root crown	$n_S$	1	Monocot
Distance between root crowns along the shoot	$dz_S$	cm	Monocot

<https://github.com/guillaumelobet/plantcomp>

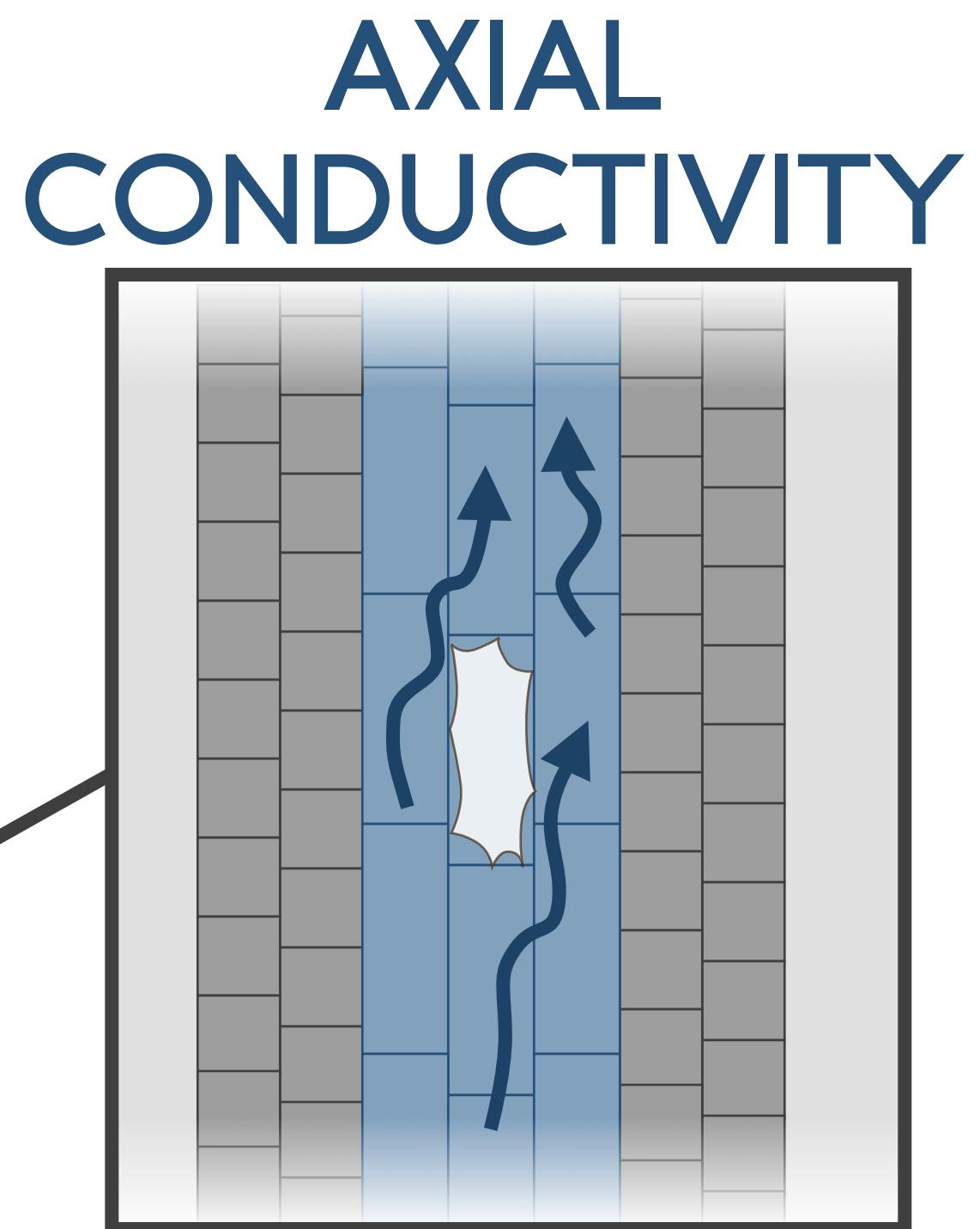
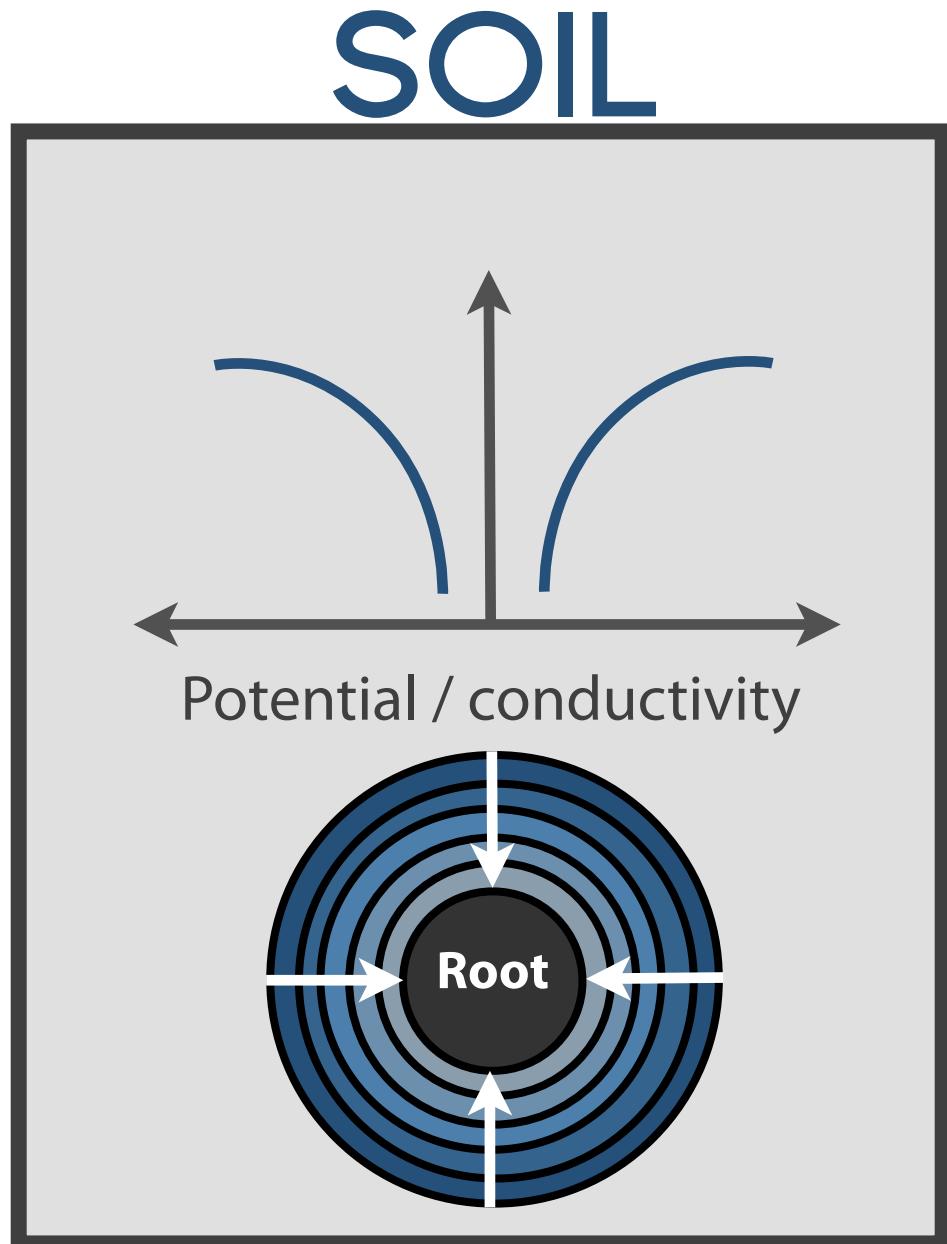
<https://plantmodelling.shinyapps.io/shinyRootBox/>

- Try to web interface to play with the parameters
- Run the jupyter notebook in colab
- Try modifying the parameters directly in the input files

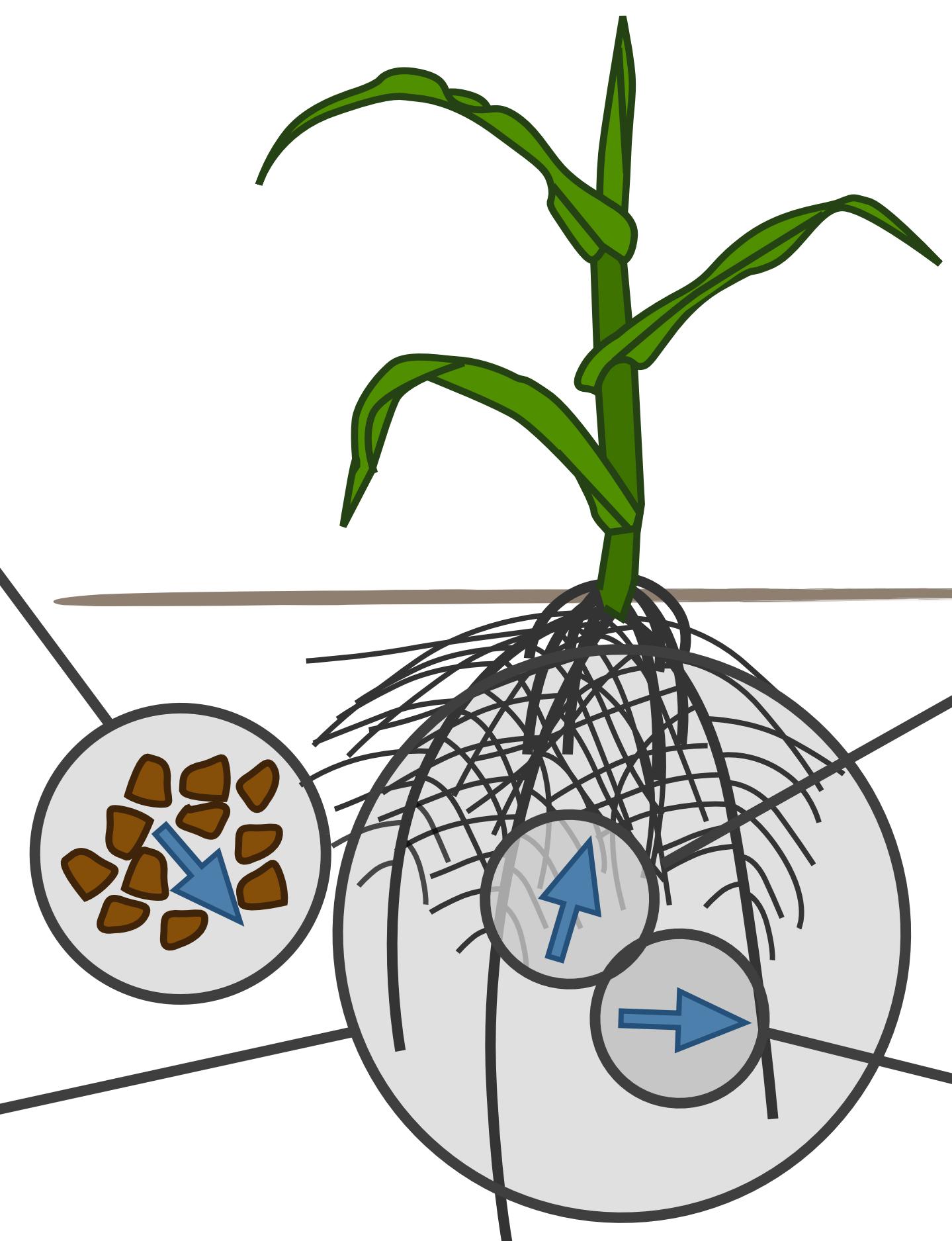
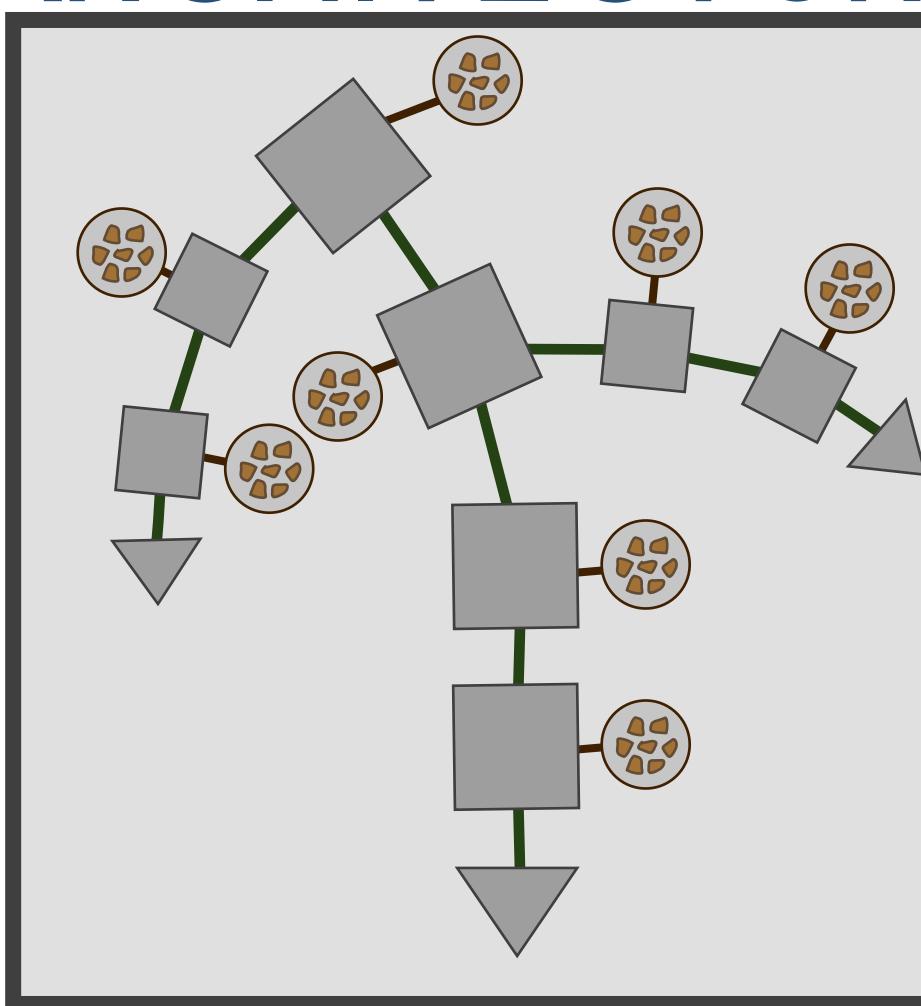


WATER FLOW IN  
THE SOIL-PLANT-  
ATMOSPHERE IS  
A PASSIVE  
PROCESS

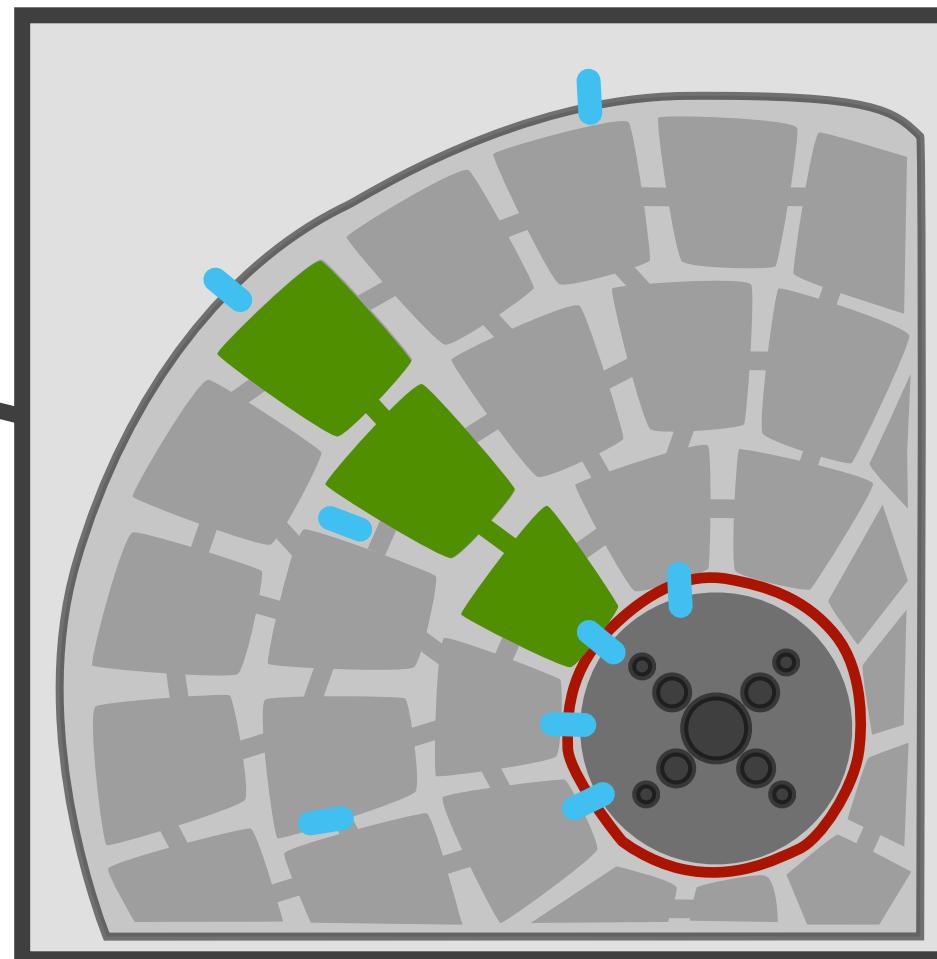
# CONDUCTIVITIES CAN BE REGULATED



**ARCHITECTURE**



**RADIAL CONDUCTIVITY**



# MODELLING ROOT ARCHITECTURE WITH CPLANTBOX



Zhou et al, 2020 *in silico Plants*



Schnepf et al, 2018 *Annals of Botany*



Open Source

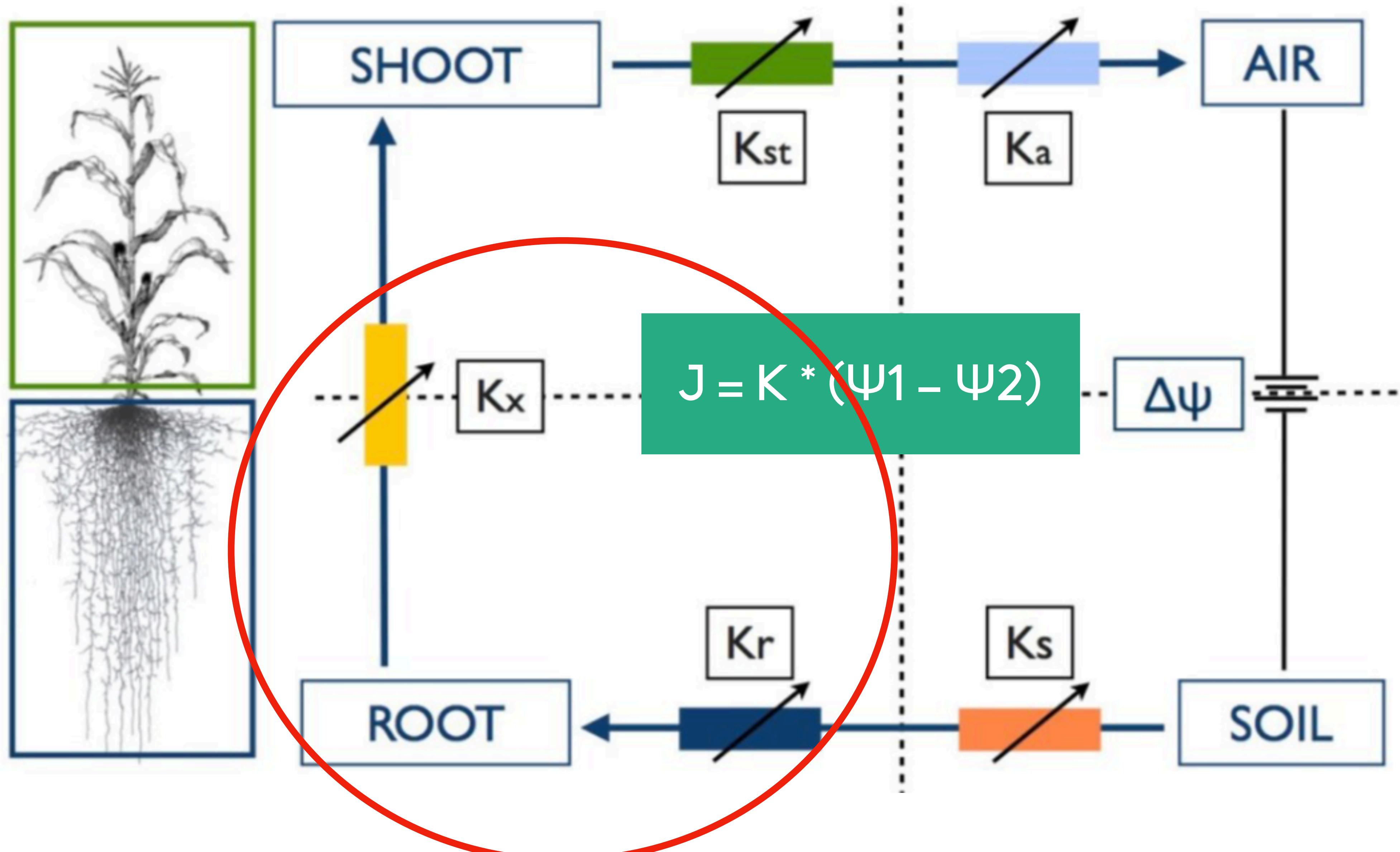


[bit.ly/crootbox](https://bit.ly/crootbox)

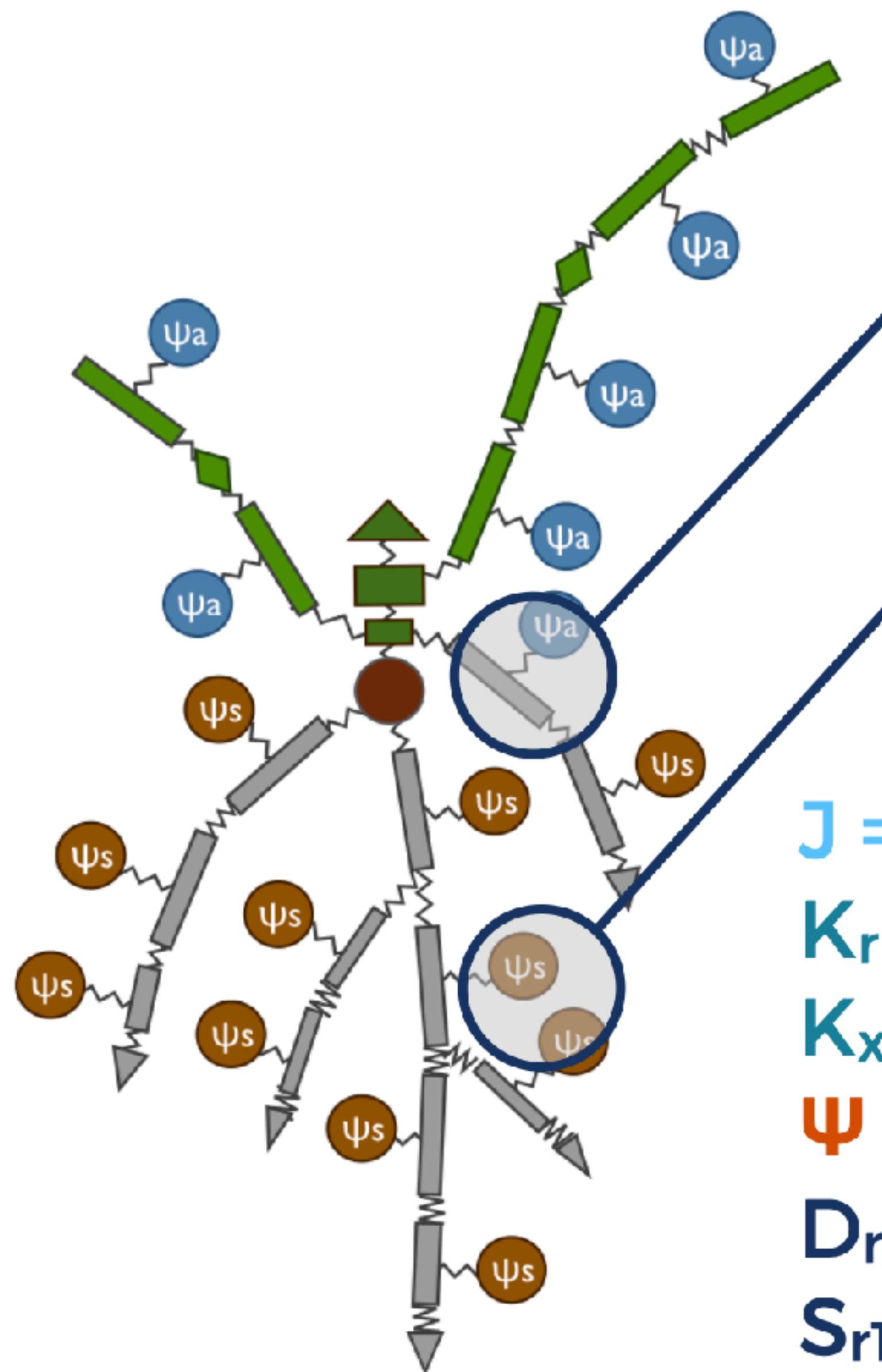


JÜLICH  
Forschungszentrum

# ELECTRICAL ANALOGY FOR WATER FLOWS IN THE PLANT



# ELECTRICAL ANALOGY FOR WATER FLOW



**Axial flux**

$$J = K_x \cdot \frac{(\Psi_{r1} - \Psi_{r2})}{D_{r2-r1}}$$

**Radial flux**

$$J = K_r \cdot (\Psi_{r1} - \Psi_{soil}) \cdot S_{r1}$$

$J$  = water flux [ $m^3 s^{-1}$ ]

$K_r$  = radial conductivity [ $m^4 s^{-1} MPa^{-1}$ ]

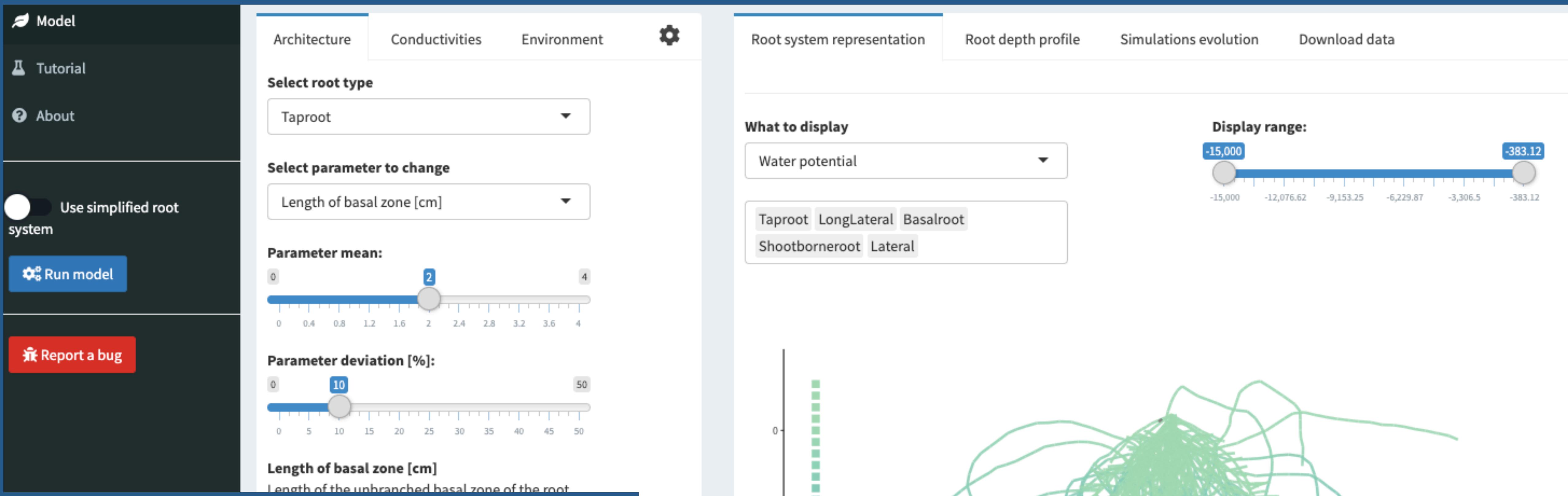
$K_x$  = radial conductivity [ $m \cdot s^{-1} MPa^{-1}$ ]

$\Psi$  = water potential [MPa]

$D_{r2-r1}$  = distance between nodes [m]

$S_{r1}$  = surface [ $m^2$ ]

**ROOT SYSTEM  
CONDUCTIVITY**  
[ $K_{rs}$ ]



- MARSHAL -



Open Source



marshal-root.github.io



Meunier et al, 2020  
In silico Plants



HOW TO MAXIMISE THE WATER UPTAKE  
CAPACITY OF THE PLANT, WITH ONLY  
2 MODIFICATIONS ?

WHICH ARCHITECTURAL PARAMETER HAS THE  
MOST IMPACT ON THE KRS ?

WHICH PARAMETER HAS THE MOST IMPACT ON  
THE UPTAKE DEPTH ?