

# Measurement and Modelling of Evapotranspiration

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# Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Glossary</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>1 Measurement methods</b>   | <b>8</b>  |
| 1.1 Measurement of evaporation . . . . .   | 8         |
| 1.1.1 Evaporation pans . . . . .   | 8         |
| 1.1.2 Other evaporimeters . . . . .  | 9         |
| 1.1.3 Micro-lysimeter . . . . .  | 9         |
| 1.1.4 Soil heat pulse method . . . . .   | 9         |
| 1.1.5 Measurement chambers . . . . .   | 10        |
| 1.1.6 Micro Bowen ratio energy balance and eddy correlation<br>methods . . . . . | 10        |
| 1.2 Measurement of interception . . . . .  | 10        |
| 1.3 Measurement of transpiration . . . . .                                       | 10        |
| 1.3.1 Porometers: measurement of gas exchange . . . . .                          | 10        |
| 1.3.2 Sap flow measurements . . . . .  | 11        |
| 1.3.3 Measurement chambers . . . . .   | 11        |
| 1.3.4 Biomass - transpiration relationship . . . . .                             | 12        |
| 1.4 Measurement of evapotranspiration . . . . .                                  | 12        |
| 1.4.1 Lysimeter . . . . .  | 12        |
| 1.4.2 Measurement chambers . . . . .   | 13        |
| 1.4.3 Soil moisture measurements . . . . .                                       | 14        |
| 1.4.4 Meteorological measurements . . . . .                                      | 15        |
| 1.4.5 Eddy-correlation measurements . . . . .                                    | 15        |
| 1.4.6 Scintillometer measurements . . . . .                                      | 17        |
| 1.4.7 Bowen Ratio . . . . .  | 17        |
| 1.4.8 Isotopic compounds . . . . .   | 18        |
| <b>2 Remote sensing</b>  | <b>19</b> |
| <b>3 Calculation approaches</b>  | <b>19</b> |
| 3.1 Water budget methods . . . . .   | 20        |
| 3.2 Mass-transfer methods . . . . .  | 20        |
| 3.3 Energy balance methods . . . . .   | 21        |
| 3.4 Combinational methods: . . . . .   | 22        |
| 3.4.1 Penmen . . . . .   | 22        |
| 3.4.2 Priestley-Taylor . . . . .   | 22        |
| 3.4.3 Penmen-Monteith . . . . .  | 23        |
| 3.4.4 Schymanski and Or (2016) . . . . .   | 26        |
| 3.5 Radiation-based methods . . . . .  | 26        |
| 3.5.1 Turc's formula . . . . .   | 26        |
| 3.5.2 Turc-Ivanov . . . . .  | 26        |
| 3.5.3 Makkink . . . . .  | 27        |
| 3.5.4 Jensen-Haise . . . . .   | 27        |
| 3.5.5 Hargreaves . . . . .   | 27        |
| 3.5.6 Doorenbos and Pruitt . . . . .   | 27        |
| 3.5.7 McGuinness and Bordne . . . . .  | 27        |
| 3.5.8 Abtew . . . . .  | 28        |
| 3.5.9 Priestley-Taylor . . . . .   | 28        |

|          |   |           |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 3.6      | Temperature-based methods . . . . .                                     | 28        |
| 3.6.1    | Thornthwaite . . . . .  | 28        |
| 3.6.2    | Linacre . . . . .   | 28        |
| 3.6.3    | Blaney and Criddle . . . . .  | 29        |
| 3.6.4    | Kharrufa . . . . .  | 29        |
| 3.6.5    | Haude . . . . .   | 29        |
| 3.6.6    | Oudin . . . . .   | 29        |
| 3.6.7    | Others . . . . .  | 29        |
| 3.7      | Reference evapotranspiration . . . . .                                  | 30        |
| 3.8      | Others . . . . .  | 31        |
| 3.8.1    | Methods developed for remotely sensed data . . . . .                    | 31        |
| 3.8.2    | Rutter . . . . .  | 32        |
| 3.8.3    | Numerical models . . . . .  | 32        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Water limitation</b>   | <b>32</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Resistances</b>  | <b>32</b> |
| 5.1      | Surface resistances . . . . .   | 32        |
| 5.1.1    | Single surface resistance . . . . .                                     | 33        |
| 5.1.2    | Canopy resistance or bulk stomatal resistance . . . . .                 | 34        |
| 5.1.3    | Stomatal resistance . . . . .   | 34        |
| 5.1.4    | Architectural resistance . . . . .                                      | 37        |
| 5.1.5    | Surface resistance of (bare) soil . . . . .                             | 37        |
| 5.2      | Aerodynamic resistance . . . . .  | 39        |
| 5.2.1    | Single aerodynamic resistance $r_a$ . . . . .                           | 39        |
| 5.2.2    | Above the canopy $r_a^a$ . . . . .                                      | 40        |
| 5.2.3    | Between the canopy and mean surface flow height $r_a^c$ . . . . .       | 41        |
| 5.2.4    | Between the soil surface and mean surface flow height $r_a^s$ . . . . . | 41        |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Arid and semi-arid regions</b>                                       | <b>42</b> |

## Glossary

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| $\gamma$        | psychromatic constant                                |
| $\delta\theta$  | soil water deficit                                   |
| $\Delta$        | rate of change saturated vapor pressure              |
| $\Delta S$      | soil moisture storage change                         |
| $\epsilon_l$    | long wave emmissivity of the leaf surface            |
| $\theta$        | soil moisture  |
| $\theta_{fc}$   | soil moisture at field capacity                      |
| $\theta_{res}$  | residual soil moisture                               |
| $\theta_{wilt}$ | soil moisture at wilting point                       |
| $\lambda$       | latent heat of vaporization [ $cal\ g^{-1}$ ]        |
| $\rho$          | density of the air                                   |
| $\sigma_b$      | shielding factor                                     |
| $\pi_g$         | osmotic pressure of the guard cells of stomata       |
| $\phi_M$        | atmospheric diabatic correction factor               |
| $\phi_M$        | atmospheric diabatic correction factor for heat      |
| $\psi_g$        | water potential of the guard cells of stomata        |
| $\psi_h$        | stability correction function for sensible heat flux |
| $\psi_m$        | stability correction function for momentum flux      |
| $\psi_l$        | leaf water potential                                 |
| $\psi_{pd}$     | pre-dawn leaf water potential                        |
| $\psi_s$        | soil water potential                                 |
| $\omega$        | monthly factor (Turc's formula)                      |

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| $a_t$      | coefficient for thermal expansion in air                         |
| $A'$       | energy available for evaporation from the free water surface     |
| $A_{max}$  | maximum photosynthesis rate where CO <sub>2</sub> is not limited |
| $A_{net}$  | net photosynthesis rate  |
| ABA        | abscisic acid  |
| $Bo$       | Bowen ratio  |
| $c_H$      | sensible heat transfer coefficient                               |
| $C_d$      | parameter of the simplified Penman-Monteith equation FAO56-PM    |
| $C_n$      | parameter of the simplified Penman-Monteith equation FAO56-PM    |
| $C_p$      | specific heat of air   |
| $C_{pl}$   | plant coefficient of the Shuttleworth & Wallace model            |
| $C_s$      | soil coefficient of the Shuttleworth & Wallace model             |
| $C_w$      | water holding capacity   |
| $d$        | displacement height  |
| $d_l$      | duration of average monthly daylight                             |
| $D$        | water vapor pressure deficit                                     |
| $D_h$      | diffusivity of heat  |
| $Dr$       | drainage   |
| $e$        | water vapor pressure   |
| $e_s$      | water vapor pressure at saturation                               |
| $E$        | evaporation  |
| $ET$       | evapotranspiration   |
| $ET_0$     | reference evapotranspiration                                     |
| $ET_{act}$ | actual evapotranspiration  |
| $ET_{pot}$ | potential evapotranspiration                                     |
| EVI        | enhanced vegetation index  |
| $f_{BC}$   | proportionality factor of the Blaney & Criddle formula           |
| $f_c$      | fractal vegetative cover   |
| $f_H$      | proportionality factor of the Haude formula                      |
| $f_w$      | relative surface wetness   |
| $F$        | fetch length   |
| $F_c$      | field capacity   |
| FDR        | frequency domain reflectance                                     |
| $g$        | gravitational acceleration                                       |
| $g_s$      | stomatal conductance   |
| $G$        | ground heat flux   |
| $h_c$      | canopy height  |
| $h_v$      | surface vapor transfer coefficient                               |
| $H$        | sensible heat flux   |
| $I$        | interception   |
| $I_h$      | heat index in Thornthwaite's equation                            |
| $Ir$       | irrigation   |
| $k$        | von Karman's constant (= 0.41)                                   |
| $K$        | correction coefficient for evaporation pans or evaporimeter      |
| $K_c$      | crop coefficient   |
| $K_h$      | eddy diffusion coefficient at the top of the canopy              |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| $K_r$       | crop specific root coefficient   |
| $K_x$       | xylem hydraulic conductivity   |
| $K(z)$      | eddy diffusion coefficient at height $z$                               |
| $L$         | Monin-Obukhov length   |
| LAI         | leaf area index  |
| $M$         | molecular weight of air  |
| $M_v$       | molecular weight of water  |
| MOST        | Monin-Obukhov Similarity Theory  |
| $n$         | eddy diffusivity decay constant  |
| $N$         | number of days in a given month  |
| NDVI        | normalized difference vegetation index                                 |
| $p$         | percentage of daytime hours of total time                              |
| $P$         | precipitation  |
| $P_{wa}$    | vapor pressure in the atmosphere                                       |
| $P_{was}$   | saturation vapor pressure at air temperature                           |
| $Perc.$     | pecolation   |
| $q$         | specific humidity  |
| $q_r$       | relative humidity  |
| $Q$         | discharge  |
| $r$         | radius   |
| $r^*$       | critical resistance  |
| $r_a$       | aerodynamic resistance   |
| $r_a^a$     | aerodynamic resistance above the canopy                                |
| $r_a^c$     | aerodynamic resistance between the canopy and mean surface flow height |
| $r_a^s$     | aerodynamic resistance between the soil and mean surface flow height   |
| $r_{ah}$    | aerodynamic resistance to heat transfer                                |
| $r_b$       | mean boundary layer resistance   |
| $r_s$       | surface resistance   |
| $r_s^c$     | canopy resistance / bulk stomatal resistance                           |
| $r_s^{min}$ | minimum canopy resistance  |
| $r_s^s$     | surface resistance of bare soil  |
| $r_s^{st}$  | stomatal resistance  |
| $R$         | ideal gas constant   |
| $R^2$       | coefficient of determination   |
| $R_e$       | extraterrestrial radiation   |
| $R_g$       | incident solar radiation   |
| $R_n$       | net radiation  |
| $R_s$       | short wave radiation   |
| RMSE        | root mean square error   |
| $Ro$        | runoff   |
| RWS         | radio wave scintillometer  |
| $S$         | available soil water   |
| $SEE$       | soil evaporative efficiency  |
| $SF$        | stemflow   |
| $T$         | temperature  |
| $T_a$       | air temperature  |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| $T_d$     | dew point                                  |
| $T_l$     | leaf temperature                           |
| $T_m$     | mean (monthly) temperature                 |
| $T_{ref}$ | optimum $T$ for photosynthesis             |
| $T_s$     | surface temperature                        |
| TDR       | temperature domain reflectancy             |
| $TF$      | throughfall                                |
| TIR       | thermal infrared radiation                 |
| $Tr$      | transpiration                              |
| $u$       | windspeed                                  |
| $u_*$     | friction velocity                          |
| $u_h$     | wind speed at the top of the canopy        |
| $u(z)$    | windspeed at height $z$                    |
| $\nu$     | kinematic viscosity                        |
| $w$       | representative leaf width                  |
| $W$       | upward water transfer from the water table |
| $z$       | height                                     |
| $z_{0h}$  | roughness height for sensible heat flux    |
| $z_{0m}$  | roughness height for momentum              |
| $z_{0v}$  | roughness height for water vapor transfer  |

Table 1: Summary of the advantages and disadvantages of several evapotranspiration measurement methods from [Rana and Katerji \(2000\)](#).

| Measurement method             | Advantages   | Disadvantages   |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Soil water balance             | Soil moisture simple to be evaluated with gravimetric method<br>Not expensive if the gravimetric method is used  | Large spatial variability<br>Difficult to be applied when the drainage and capillary rising are important<br>Difficult to measure soil moisture in cracked soils  |
| Weighing lysimeter             | Direct method  | Fixed<br>Difficult maintenance<br>It could be not representative of the plot area<br>Expensive  |
| Energy balance/<br>Bowen ratio | Simple sensors to be installed<br>Suitable also for tall crops<br>It can be also used when the fetch is 20:1<br>Not very expensive if psychrometers are used | Difficult to have correct measurement of the wet temperature if psychrometers are used<br>The sensors need to be inverted to reduce bias<br>Difficult maintenance |
| Aerodynamic                    | Simple sensors to be installed<br>It does not need humidity measurements<br>Not very expensive   | It needs to be corrected for the stability<br>Not suitable for tall crops   |
| Eddy covariance                | Direct method with fast hygrometer   | Delicate sensors<br>Difficult software for data acquisition<br>Hygrometer very delicate expensive<br>Difficult scaling-up   |
| Sap flow                       | Suitable for small plots<br>It takes into account the variability among plants   | The gauges need to be replaced every 1–2 weeks<br>The soil evaporation is neglected   |
| Chambers method                | Suitable for small plots<br>It can be used also for detecting emissions of different gases   | It modifies the microclimate<br>Difficult scaling-up  |

Table 2: Space and time scale of different methods to measure or model evapotranspiration, taken from [Rana and Katerji \(2000\)](#).

|                 | Minute                       | Hour | Day  | Month   | Growth season | Year |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------|--|---|---------------|------|
| Catchment       |                              |      |  | -----Crop coefficient method-----   |               |      |
| Uniform area    | —Micrometeorological method— |      |  | -----Crop coefficient method-----<br>-----Soil water balance-----<br>-----Soil water balance with TDR-----<br>-----Penman–Monteith model----- |               |      |
| Group of plants |                              |      | -----Weighting lysimeter; chambers system-----<br>-----Sap flow----- |   |               |      |
| Plant           |                              |      | -----Sap flow-----   |   |               |      |

## 1 Measurement methods

Review over different measurement and calculation methods with regard to the Mediterranean region in [Rana and Katerji 2000](#), see Table 1. Another good review of different measurement methods in [Kool et al. \(2014\)](#).

Different measurement (and calculation) approaches cover different spatial and temporal scales (Table 2). Different methods are found to obtain systematic differences (e.g. [Dugas et al. 1991](#) for measurement methods, [Oudin et al. 2005](#) for calculation approaches).

### 1.1 Measurement of evaporation

#### 1.1.1 Evaporation pans

Open tanks, filled with water, different surfaces and depths (e.g. Class A pan:  $1.14 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $0.2 \text{ m}$  (Fig. 1), GGI 3000:  $0.3 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $0.685 \text{ m}$ ), measured pan evaporation



equals neither potential nor actual evaporation, has to be corrected with a coefficient  $K$  which depends on climate, season and the type of pan. Used for estimating evaporation of lakes, dams etc., irrigated fields (Dyck and Peschke, 1995).



Figure 1: Class A evaporation pan with anemometer. <http://www.sws.uiuc.edu/atmos/statecli/Instruments/panevap.jpg>

Pan evaporation is also used as reference evaporation that is transformed to crop evaporation using crop coefficients (see sec. 3.7, Rana and Katerji 2000).

#### 1.1.2 Other evaporimeters

Measurement of Evaporation from surfaces that are kept wet, e.g. filter paper (Piche-Atmometer) or ceramic disk (Czeratzki-Atmometer). Oasis effect has to be considered, so measurements also have to be corrected with a correction factor (Dyck and Peschke, 1995).

#### 1.1.3 Micro-lysimeter

References: Shawcroft and Gardner (1983); Walker (1983); Daamen et al. (1993)

Small cylinder, usually 10 - 30 cm in depth and height, pushed into the soil surface, excavated, sealed at the bottom, weighed manually (usually daily) or continuously.

Advantages: simple, cheap, generally considered the most accurate method for measurement of soil evaporation. Disadvantages: time-consuming and low time resolution when weighed manually, unable to measure during rain or irrigation, limited representation of field conditions due to small sample size (Kool et al., 2014).

#### 1.1.4 Soil heat pulse method

References: Heitman et al. (2008a,b)

Functioning: "The probe measures ambient temperature and temperature response curves to heat pulses, from which thermal properties can be derived. Evaporation can be estimated with heat pulse probes using an energy balance

for a soil layer between two measurement depths by computing incoming and outgoing soil heat flux and heat storage. The energy that cannot be accounted for by the change in soil heat flux or heat storage, is attributed to latent heat flux” (Kool et al., 2014).

Advantages: continuous measurement of evaporation profiles below the surface, good results in field experiments. Disadvantages: Inability to measure  $E$  at the soil surface, during the first stage of evaporation (Kool et al., 2014).

#### 1.1.5 Measurement chambers

See sec. 1.4.2. Applications in Musgrave and Moss (1961); Iritz et al. (1997); Raz-Yaseef et al. (2010, 2012); Domec et al. (2012)

#### 1.1.6 Micro Bowen ratio energy balance and eddy correlation methods

Application of the Bowen ratio method (see sec. 1.4.7, Ashktorab et al. (1989); Holland et al. (2013)) or eddy correlation method (sec. 1.4.5 Wilson et al. (2001); Denmead et al. (1996)) on bare fields or under the canopy. Advantages: continuous measurement of relatively large surface areas. Disadvantages: high demand on measurement technique (measurement of temperature and humidity gradient at scales of few  $cm$ ), methods still in developing stages, mostly applicable for tall canopies as measurement accuracy increases with height (Kool et al., 2014).

### 1.2 Measurement of interception

Measurement of precipitation ( $P$ ), throughfall ( $TF$ ) and stemflow ( $SF$ );  $P$  above the canopy or at a nearby clearing,  $TF$  and  $SF$  with randomly placed collectors, calculation of  $I$  with

$$I = P - TF - SF \quad (1)$$

### 1.3 Measurement of transpiration

Transpiration can be the dominant component of evapotranspiration (densely vegetated surfaces with a high extinction of incoming solar radiation, arid or semi-arid climates), can be an approximate estimate for evapotranspiration under such conditions (Dyck and Peschke, 1995). Whole-plant water use can be substantial: trees: 10 to  $> 1000 \text{ } l d^{-1}$  (Wullschleger et al., 1998).

#### 1.3.1 Porometers: measurement of gas exchange

Single leaves or twigs are inserted into a gas exchange chamber, measurement of gas concentrations ( $H_2O$ ,  $CO_2$ ) under controlled conditions of temperature, radiative intensity and air humidity.

Can also be used to determine stomatal conductance, e.g. in Lund and Soegaard (2003); Singer et al. (2010).

Disadvantage: microscale. (Dyck and Peschke, 1995).



Figure 2: Leaf porometer. [http://www.hoskin.ca/catalog/images/Decagon%20Devices\\_E-240-40419.jpg](http://www.hoskin.ca/catalog/images/Decagon%20Devices_E-240-40419.jpg)

### 1.3.2 Sap flow measurements

Thermometric measurement of sap flow in xylem tissue based on conduction and convection of heat, three common methods: heat pulse, heat balance and constant heater methods (Burgess et al., 2001; Kool et al., 2014). Summary and literature in Kool et al. (2014)

Compensation heat pulse method (CHPM): heater is inserted into the xylem between two temperature sensors, e.g. 1st sensor - 0.5 cm - heater - 1.0 cm - 2nd sensor (Fig. 3). Heat pulse is considered to have reached the midpoint between the two sensors when both temperature sensors record the same temperature. Disadvantage: for low sap flow rates, heat dissipates before it reaches the midpoint, inverse sapflow direction cannot be traced, high sensitivity to inaccuracies in the installation (Burgess et al., 2001).

Uncertainties in (semi-)arid regions because of the low transpiration rates (Rana and Katerji, 2000).

Other references: Kjølgaard et al. (1997); Grime and Sinclair (1999)

### 1.3.3 Measurement chambers

Measurement of transpiration in measurement chambers (see sec. 1.4.2) when plants are enclosed and separated from the soil surface. This disregards interaction between transpiration and evaporation and can cause errors in ET partitioning (Kool et al., 2014).



Figure 3: Sap flow measurement. <http://au.ictinternational.com/products/sfm1/sfm1-sap-flow-meter/>

#### 1.3.4 Biomass - transpiration relationship

Estimation of transpiration from the linear relationship between relative total yield and relative accumulated transpiration. Advantage: robustness of the relation under varying environmental conditions. Disadvantage: destruction of the plants, inability to use small time steps (Kool et al., 2014).

### 1.4 Measurement of evapotranspiration

#### 1.4.1 Lysimeter

Determination of the soil water balance of a weighed soil column, calculation of actual evapotranspiration:

$$ET = P - Perc. - \Delta S \quad [mm\ d^{-1}] \quad (2)$$

with  $P$ : precipitation,  $Perc.$ : percolation,  $\Delta S$ : storage change.

Sources of error (Dyck and Peschke, 1995; Rana and Katerji, 2000):

- Formation of a capillary fringe above the bottom of the lysimeter, thus the lysimeter has to have a certain depth to ensure that this is not in the soil layer that impacts evapotranspiration.
- hydraulic contact with the surrounding soil.
- representativity of the vegetation on the lysimeter, thus the lysimeter has to have a certain diameter.
- vegetation growing over the rim of the lysimeter.
- In (semi-)arid regions cracks in the soil can cause periodic over- or under-estimation of  $ET$ .
- heating, wind shield and reflection of the metallic rim.

Disadvantages:

- expensive, few measurements possible
- only point measurement
- several sources of error (see above)

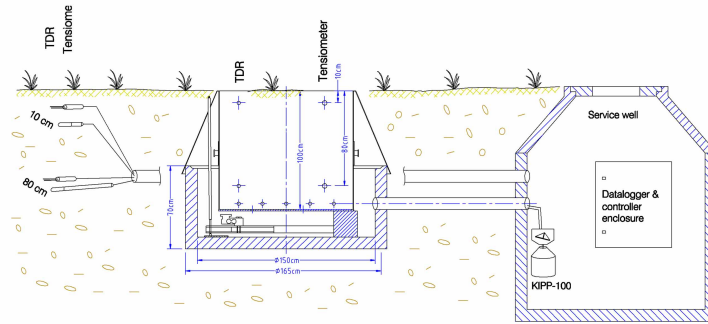


Figure 4: Sketch of a weighable lysimeter. <http://www.ldd.go.th/18wcss/techprogram/P14033.HTM>

#### 1.4.2 Measurement chambers

Measurement of air humidity with a psychrometer before and after lowering of a cuboid or hemispherical plastic chamber on the plants / soil (Fig. 5). Other method: measurement of gas concentration changes. Dynamic chambers regulate climatic conditions in the chamber to represent conditions in the surrounding (Kool et al., 2014). Sizes of chambers can vary from small chambers including single plants to chambers of up to  $100 \text{ m}^3$  (Denmead et al., 1993; Kool et al., 2014).

Accuracy of  $\approx 10 \%$  compared to lysimeter measurements (Reicosky et al., 1983). Comparison with Eddy-correlation and Bowen ratio measurements in arid Arizona in Dugas et al. (1991) gave a systematic overestimation by the chamber measurements compared to the other two methods, possible reasons: change of microclimate, edge effects, representativeness.

Main source of error: modification of the microclimate within the chamber which acts like a greenhouse: high transmissivity of shortwave radiation, low transmissivity of long wave radiation, altered energy balance, higher air temperature, different wind speed (Rana and Katerji, 2000). In irrigated field chamber measurement are subject to error due to advection of sensible heat from dry areas, measurements at the edge of a field not representative for the whole field (Dugas et al., 1991).

Only applicable on the microscale and at small timesteps, spatial and temporal extrapolation causes errors. very expensive equipment (55,000 USD, compared to 6,000 - 8,000 USD for Bowen ratio or EC systems, Dugas et al. 1991)

Other references: Musgrave and Moss (1961)



Figure 5: Measurement of soil evaporation and transpiration with a chamber system. Sources: [https://faculty.unlv.edu/brian/pioneer/program\\_lang\\_files/image004.jpg](https://faculty.unlv.edu/brian/pioneer/program_lang_files/image004.jpg) and [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Robert\\_Lascano/publication/43278521/figure/fig1/AS:276816980922372@1443009720035/fig-1-A-Wilted-cotton-plants-in-the-canopy-evapotranspiration-and-assimilation-CETA.png](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Robert_Lascano/publication/43278521/figure/fig1/AS:276816980922372@1443009720035/fig-1-A-Wilted-cotton-plants-in-the-canopy-evapotranspiration-and-assimilation-CETA.png)

#### 1.4.3 Soil moisture measurements

Estimation of evapotranspiration from soil moisture measurements when horizontal water fluxes can be excluded and after percolation ended (soil moisture  $\theta < \text{field capacity } F_c$ ). Given these conditions soil moisture is only depleted by evapotranspiration, can be calculated from storage change over the entire soil profile.

When percolation occurs in the subsoil, the depth of the horizontal "watershed" has to be determined (above that: soil moisture depletion via evapotranspiration, below it via percolation) with tensiometer measurements (Dyck and Peschke, 1995). (Zero-plane displacement, Fig. 6).

When lateral fluxes cannot be excluded and longer time periods are considered ET can be calculated as (Rana and Katerji, 2000):

$$P + Ir + W - Ro - Dr \pm \Delta S \quad (3)$$

with  $Ir$ : irrigation,  $W$ : upward water transfer from the water table,  $Ro$ : runoff,  $Dr$ : drainage,  $\Delta S$ : storage change. Can be applied to small plots to catchments of  $\approx 10 \text{ km}^2$ , periods ranging from 1 week to years. Simplifications and uncertainties in the measurements, esp. of the terms  $Ro$  and  $Dr$  make it unsuitable for precise ET measurement. Accuracy of soil moisture measurements depends on spatial and temporal resolution of soil moisture measurements, representativity of samples (Rana and Katerji, 2000).

Soil moisture measurements in arid climates are especially prone to measurement errors: cracks in soil can prevent contact between soil and probes, high clay content difficult for measurements with TDR/FDR probes or neutron scattering (Rana and Katerji 2000 and studies cited herein).

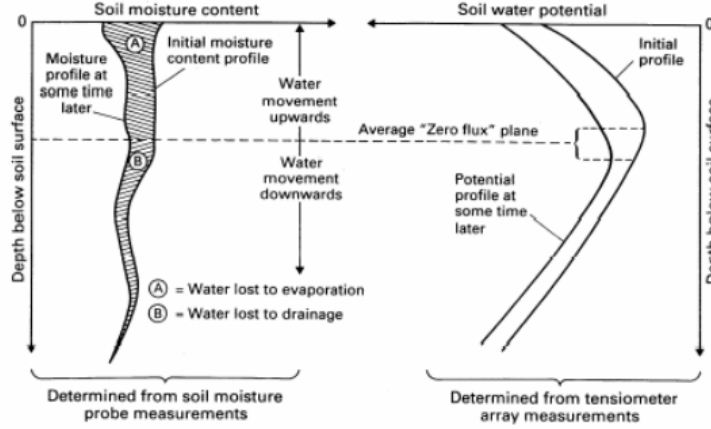


Figure 6: Estimation evapo(transpi)ration from soil moisture depletion / Zero plane displacement method, from [Shuttleworth \(2007\)](#).

#### 1.4.4 Meterological measurements

Calculation of evaporation from meteorologic measurements:

Water vapor budget method ([Hipps and Zehr, 1995](#); [Sill et al., 1984](#)): Calculation of ET of a controll volume from measurement of the water vapor profile up- and downwind of the parcel:

$$ET = \frac{\lambda}{F} \int_0^z u\rho(z) [q_d(z) - q_u(z)] dz \quad (4)$$

with  $\lambda$ : latent heat of vaporization,  $F$ : length of the fetch,  $u$ : mean wind speed over the profile,  $\rho(z)$ : air density at height  $z$ ,  $q_d(z)$  and  $q_u(z)$ : down- and upwind specific humidity at height  $z$ .

[Prueger et al. \(1996\)](#) obtained results with this method that were generally 10 % lower than ET measured with Eddy correlation systems.

Method seems not to be used a lot, the papers that are gicen as references are cited just 7 and 12 resp. times ([Google scholar](#)).

#### 1.4.5 Eddy-correlation measurements

Measurements of surface energy fluxes: evaporation, sensible heat, momentum fluxes, CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes; on towers or aircrafts (([Desjardins et al., 1997](#); [Samuelson and Tjernstrom, 1999](#); [Stephens et al., 2000](#); [Mahrt et al., 2001](#); [Song and Wesely, 2003](#); [Prueger et al., 2005](#), all cited in [Anderson et al. \(2007a\)](#)).

Towers: temporal continuous but, spatially discrete measurement, airplanes: other way round ([Anderson et al., 2007a](#)).



The vertical flux of water vapor is calculated as the product of variations of specific humidity  $q$  and vertical windspeed  $u_z$  around their mean values (Dyck and Peschke, 1995):

$$ET = \rho \cdot \bar{q}' \cdot \bar{u}_z' \quad [kg\,m^{-2}s^{-2}] \quad (5)$$

with  $\rho$ : density of the air [ $kg\,m^3$ ],  $\bar{u}_z'$ : temporal mean of the differences between the vertical component of windspeed and it's mean,  $\bar{q}'$ : temporal mean of the differences between specific humidity and it's mean.

Necessary measurements:  $u_z$  and  $q$  at high frequency (10 - 20 Hz) with sonic anemometers and fast response hygrometers (Dyck and Peschke, 1995; Rana and Katerji, 2000).

Sources of errors (see also Fig 7):

- Systematic underestimation (Shuttleworth, 2007; Anderson et al., 2007a)
- deviations from theoretical assumptions (Foken and Wichura, 1996):
  - temporal (statistic) stationarity of the measured processes ( $X$ : wind speed, temperature etc):  $\partial X / \partial t = 0$
  - stationarity along the horizontal axis (homogeneity):  $\partial X / \partial x = 0$
  - validity of the mass conservation equation:  $\partial w / \partial t = 0$  and  $\bar{w} = 0$  with  $w$ : vertical wind speed
  - negligible density flux
  - momentum flux and temperature flux do not change with height more than 10 - 20 % of total flux
  - Furthermore: fulfillment of the Reynolds postulate and statistical assumptions
- statistical signal processing errors (time averaging, aliasing)
- distortion of the flow caused by the sensors itself (Fig. 7)
- meteorological problems (Fig. 7)
- heterogeneity of fluxes in time (below time step heterogeneity) and space (heterogeneity within the footprint) (Bohn and Vivoni, 2015)
- complex topography (Bohn and Vivoni, 2015).

The method is often used as a reference for other measurement methods, model performance. For this procedure, uncertainties inherent in the method should be considered.

Regional / global measurement networks, e.g. Ameriflux, EuroSiberiaFlux, Asiaflux, Fluxnet (Baldocchi et al., 2001).

Literature: Aubinet et al. (2012)

Good performance in semi-arid regions, density correction is especially important under these conditions (Rana and Katerji, 2000).



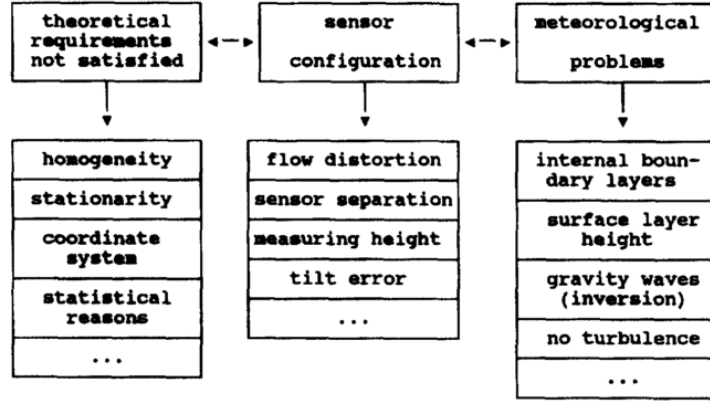


Figure 7: Possible sources of error in eddy correlation measurement of evapotranspiration. From [Foken and Wichura \(1996\)](#).

#### 1.4.6 Scintillometer measurements

Scintillation method can provide area averaged surface fluxes of sensible heat ( $H$ ) and water vapor fluxes ( $ET$ ) at large scales (Distances up to 10 km). Radio wavelength scintillometers (RWS) are most sensible to water vapor fluxes. Scintillometers operating in visible light wavelength measure sensible heat fluxes.

Functionality: "The transmitter part of the scintillometer emits a beam of electromagnetic radiation with a certain wavelength along the surface at height  $z_s$  and path length  $L$  to the receiver part of the system. At the receiver side the intensity fluctuations of the electromagnetic signal (called scintillations) are measured ( $\sigma_{ln I}^2$ ), which are caused by atmospheric turbulence in the path of propagation." ([Meijninger et al. \(2002\)](#), fig. 8).  $\sigma_{ln I}^2$  is used to calculate the structure parameters of temperature ( $C_T^2$ ) and humidity ( $C_Q^2$ ) which is used to calculate fluxes of heat and water vapor with Monin-Obukhov Similarity Theory (MOST). Therefore, measurements at two wavelengths are necessary.

In theory the landscape in the footprint has to be homogenous, in practice it was shown to work for heterogenous landscapes as well. For heterogenous areas, the path of the scintillometer has to be higher than the blending height which depends on the length of landscape's patches in wind direction. ([Meijninger et al., 2002](#)).

Other references: [Andreas \(1989\)](#); [Ward et al. \(2015a,b\)](#); [Guyot et al. \(2009, 2012\)](#) (The latter two in Sudano-Sahelian climate with strong seasonality of rainfall, pronounced dry season, African monsoon)

#### 1.4.7 Bowen Ratio

[Bowen \(1926\)](#)

Bowen Ratio  $Bo$  is the ratio of heat flux  $H$  to evaporative flux  $ET$ :

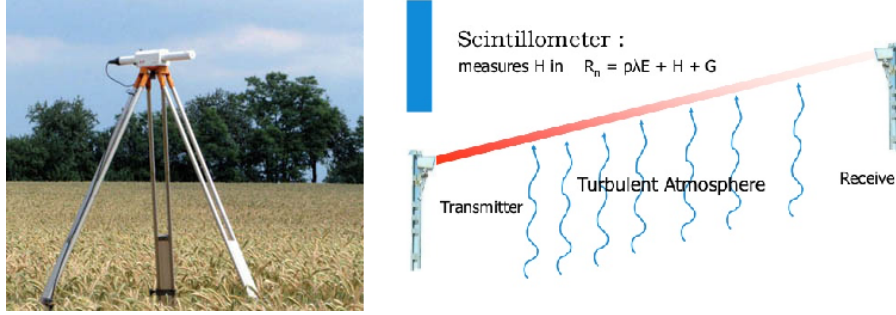


Figure 8: Scintillometer measurement of surface fluxes.

$$Bo = \frac{H}{\lambda ET} \quad (6)$$

with  $\lambda$ : latent heat of vaporization and  $ET$  the mass  $[g]$  of water evaporated (Lewis, 1995). Thus, evaporation  $ET$  can be calculated as:

$$ET = \frac{R_n - G}{\lambda(1 + Bo)} \quad (7)$$

with  $R_n$ : net radiation, can be measured with a net radiometer and  $G$ : ground heat flux, measureable with soil heat flux plates.

The Bowen ratio can be determined with a Bowen ratio observing system: Measurement of temperature and vapor pressure at two heights, calculation as:

$$Bo = \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta e} \quad (8)$$

with  $\Delta T$ : temperature difference and  $\Delta e$ : difference in vapor pressure.

Method successfully applied in semi-arid regions (Rana and Katerji 2000 and studies cited herein). In these regions, especially the measurement of  $\Delta e$  has to be very accurate (as is usually very small compared to  $\Delta T$ ), this can pose technical problems (high requirements on hygrometer accuracy) esp. in the dry season air humidity is very low (Rana and Katerji, 2000).

#### 1.4.8 Isotopic compounds

e.g. Yepez et al. (2003); Moreira et al. (1997), review papers: Griffis (2013); Soderberg et al. (2012); Horita et al. (2008); Dawson et al. (2002)

Water evaporated from soil surfaces is depleted in heavy isotopes, different isotopic composition than soil water. Transpiration on the other hand doesn't change isotopic composition once an isotopic steady state (ISS) is reached, thus the two fractions have significantly different compositions. Before ISS is reached, there is a fractioning in the leaf, thus on the short term water vapor composition can deviate from the steady state, thus, analysis of different sources of transpiration possible (Yepez et al., 2003).

Advantage: Evapotranspiration can be separated into evaporation and transpiration (Kool et al., 2014) or even into different transpiration portions from different parts of the canopy. Good correlation with Eddy Correlation measurements (Yepez et al., 2003). Applicable at large scales, esp. suitable in dry areas where evaporation is significant ( $> 10\%$ , Kool et al. 2014)

## 2 Remote sensing

Advantages: Spatial integration over heterogenous surfaces, routine-generation of data series (Kalma et al., 2008).

Data that can be obtained via remote sensing:

- Eddy correlation data from airplanes.
- Thermal infrared radiation (TIR) e.g. satellite sensors such as Landsat, MODIS, AVHRR, ASTER; derivation of surface temperature
- Components of the radiation budget; derivation of net radiation  $R_n$
- Vegetation indices such as normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) and enhanced vegetation index (EVI); derivation of leaf area index (LAI)

Review of studies that estimate evapotranspiration with remotely sensed data in Kalma et al. (2008), see sec. 3.8.1. Main findings: Mean RMSE of 30 published validation studies is about  $50 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$ , relative errors of 15 - 30 %. More complex physical approaches not necessarily more accurate than empirical approaches.

References e.g. Githui et al. (2012); Jhorar et al. (2011); Anderson et al. (2007b); Allam et al. (2016); Tang et al. (2010)

## 3 Calculation approaches

Overview: [http://www.climate-service-center.de/033633/index\\_0033633.html.de](http://www.climate-service-center.de/033633/index_0033633.html.de) (in German).

Several methods implemented in R package Evapotranspiration (Guo et al., 2016).

Comparison of different methods e.g. in Oudin et al. (2005); Seiller and Anctil (2016). Evaluation with the performance of rainfall-runoff models applied with differently calculated  $ET$ .

Some conclusions: Different formulas produce very different timeseries of  $ET$ , esp. in the summer months (Seiller and Anctil, 2016). Model performance is however strikingly similar for most of the formulas applied, low sensitivity of the models to the chosen  $ET$  representation (Oudin et al., 2005). Simpler temperature- or radiation-based methods yield similar or even better results than the more complicated combinational formulas of the Penman-type (Fig.

9). Possible reasons: higher resolution of available measurements, adaptation of the models via calibration, elimination of systematic biases (Oudin et al., 2005; Seiller and Anctil, 2016).

Andréassian et al. (2004) found surprisingly low differences between model efficiency when different levels of accuracy of evapotranspiration data are used as input to two hydrological models are used. This shows the adaptative capacity of rainfall-runoff models to adapt to biased *ET* data.

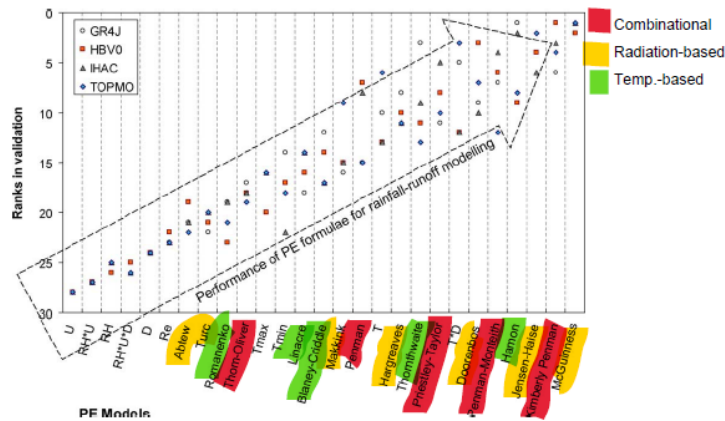


Figure 9: Performance of four rainfall-runoff models run with evaporation derived from 27 formulas. From [Oudin et al. \(2005\)](#).

Different approaches according to [Xu and Singh \(2001\)](#): water budget, mass transfer, combinational, radiation-based and temperature-based:

### 3.1 Water budget methods

ET calculated as:

$$ET = P - Q \quad (9)$$

with  $Q$ : discharge. Only applicable for longer timesteps ( $\approx 1$  a) where storage changes  $\Delta S$  can be neglected, not differentiated into different components. Major sources of error: deriving catchment precipitation, watershed boundaries (esp. when Groundwater is important), reliable discharge measurements. Method is commonly used to derive long-term mean evapotranspiration for river basins (Conradt et al., 2013). In the study by Conradt et al. (2013) the method doesn't correlate well with other two methods (Modelled in SWIM with Turc-Ivanov approach, calculated with SEBAL algorithm).

Application e.g. in [Conradt et al. \(2013\)](#); [Allam et al. \(2016\)](#).

### 3.2 Mass-transfer methods

One of the oldest methods. Advantages: simplicity and reasonable accuracy (Singh and Xu, 1997). Evapo(transpi)ration is calculated as a function of wind

speed  $u$ , temperature  $T$  and water vapor deficit ( $e_s - e$ ) or relative humidity  $q_r$ . Based on Daltons equation (Dalton, 1802) for free water surfaces:

$$ET = \frac{1}{r_a}(e_s - e) \quad (10)$$

with  $r_a$ : aerodynamic resistance, ( $e_s - e$ ): water vapor deficit.

E.g. equations proposed by Penman (1948); Romanenko (1961), these and other equations given in Singh and Xu (1997).

This approach is used in the analytical model Cupid-DPEVAP (Thompson et al., 1993) for the calculation of evaporation:

$$E = h_v \left( \frac{M_v}{RT_{abs}} \right) (e_0 - e_z) \quad (11)$$

with  $h_v$ : surface vapor transfer coefficient,  $M_v$ : molecular weight of water,  $R$ : ideal gas constant,  $T_{abs}$ : absolute temperature [K],  $e_0$  and  $e_z$ : vapor pressure at the surface and at height  $z$ .

Also used in the numerical model SWEAT (Daamen and Simmonds, 1994) for separate modelling of evaporation, transpiration and evapotranspiration (description in Kool et al. 2014).

### 3.3 Energy balance methods

Residual approach: latent heat flux ( $\lambda ET$ ) is calculated as the residual of the energy balance equation:

$$\lambda ET = R_n - G - H \quad (12)$$

with  $R_n$ : net radiation,  $G$ : ground heat flux,  $H$ : sensible heat flux.  $R_n$  is usually derived from remotely sensed or measured data of the components of the radiation budget  $R_n = R_{s,in} - R_{s,out} + R_{l,in} - R_{l,out}$ , with the subscript  $s$  and  $l$  denoting short- and long-wave radiation and  $in$  and  $out$  incoming and outgoing radiation (Kalma et al., 2008).  $G$  depends on the soil's thermal conductivity and temperature gradient, cannot be measured remotely only with soil heat flux plates, is either assumed to be a constant ratio of  $R_n$  (5 - 20 %) or estimated as a function of parameters such as solar zenith angle, vegetation cover, LAI, NDVI, soil moisture (Kalma et al., 2008). Rough estimate of the combined effect of error in  $R_n$  and  $G$ :  $\pm 10$ -20 % (Kalma et al., 2008).

$H$  has to be calculated e.g. using equation 13 (Kalma et al., 2008):

$$H = \rho C_p \frac{T_{aero} - T_a}{r_{ah}} \quad (13)$$

with  $\rho$ : air density,  $C_p$ : specific heat of air,  $T_{aero}$ : aerodynamic surface temperature,  $T_a$ : air temperature,  $r_{ah}$ : aerodynamic resistance to sensible heat transfer.  $r_{ah}$  is sometimes assumed to be  $r_a$  (see sec. 5.2.1) or can be calculated as a function of local wind speed, surface roughness length, atmospheric stability conditions:

$$r_{ah} = \frac{1}{k^2 u(z)} \left( \ln \frac{z-d}{z_{0h}} - \Psi_h \frac{z-d}{L} \right) \left( \ln \frac{z-d}{z_{0m}} - \Psi_m \frac{z-d}{L} \right) \quad (14)$$

where  $k$ : von Karman's constant,  $u(z)$ : windspeed at reference height  $z$ ,  $d$ : displacement height,  $z_{0h}$  and  $z_{0m}$ : roughness lengths for sensible heat and momentum flux, functions of canopy height  $h_c$ ,  $\Psi_h$  and  $\Psi_m$ : stability correction functions for sensible heat and momentum flux,  $L$ : Monin-Obukhov length.

Constrains of this approach include the uncertainty of  $T_{aero}$ , fluctuations in  $r_{ah}$ , thus calibration (e.g. Bastiaanssen et al. (1998)) or adaptation of formulas 13 and 14 (several versions given in Kalma et al. (2008)) are necessary. Furthermore, lateral fluxes (advection) are usually neglected but can contribute up to 90(!) % of the energy available for evapotranspiration in highly heterogeneous irrigated arid landscapes (Prueger et al., 1996).

Energy and water balance are implemented e.g. in the numerical model EN-WATBAL (Lascano et al., 1987) that computes water and energy balances at the soil and the canopy, separate treatment of evaporation and transpiration (Kool et al., 2014).

Two source energy balance model TSEB also computes  $ET$ ,  $E$  and  $Tr$  with two separate equations for the canopy and the soil from surface temperature data that can be obtained via remote sensing (Kool et al., 2014).

### 3.4 Combinational methods:

#### 3.4.1 Penmen

Semi-empirical approach to calculate potential evapotranspiration, derived from the energy balance and aerodynamic methods, relies on standard measurements, developed for humid, vegetated surfaces, original paper for open water, bare soil and grass (Penman, 1948). Does not consider plant physiology, which is included by Monteith (Penman-Monteith eq.). "Considered as the most physically satisfying by many hydrologists (Jensen et al., 1990; Shuttleworth, 1993; Beven, 2001)." (Oudin et al., 2005)

$$ET = \frac{\Delta A' + \gamma [6.43(1 + 0.536 u) D] / \lambda}{\Delta + \gamma} \quad [mm d^{-1}] \quad (15)$$

with  $\Delta$ : rate of change saturated vapor pressure,  $A'$ : energy available for evaporation from the free water surface  $[mm d^{-1}]$ ,  $\gamma$ : psychrometric constant,  $u$ : wind speed,  $D$ : vapor pressure deficit at 2 m  $[kPa]$ ,  $\lambda$ : latent heat of vaporization of water (stated in Shuttleworth (2007))

#### 3.4.2 Priestley-Taylor

Derived from the Penman equation by Priestley and Taylor (1972), advection term replaced by a fraction of the radiative term, less measurements necessary, also applicable for conditions when soil moisture limits evapotranspiration (Shuttleworth and Wallace, 1985). Xu and Singh (2000): only for wet surfaces.

$$\lambda ET = 1.26 \frac{\Delta A'}{\Delta + \gamma} \quad (16)$$

Disadvantage: too simple ([Shuttleworth, 2007](#)).

### 3.4.3 Penmen-Monteith

Widely used, physically based combination equation. Introduction of plant parameter stomatal conductance into Penman's equation based on the energy balance. First approach that combines energy balance and plant physiology. ET is restricted by aerodynamic resistance and canopy resistance.

$$\lambda ET = \frac{\Delta A' + (\rho \cdot c_p \cdot D)/r_s}{\Delta + \gamma(1 + r_s/r_a)} \quad [Wm^{-2}] \quad (17)$$

abbreviations as in Penman eq.,  $\rho$ : density of the air,  $c_p$ : specific heat of air at constant pressure,  $r_s$ : stomatal resistance,  $r_a$ : aerodynamic resistance.

Sensitivity analyses of the formula conducted by [Beven \(1979\)](#), [Rana and Katerji \(1998\)](#) (in semi-arid southern Italy), [McCuen \(1974\)](#), [Saxton \(1975\)](#); main findings: High sensitivity to resistances ([Beven, 1979](#)); In (semi-) arid climates sensitivity depends on plant height and water status ([Rana and Katerji, 1998](#)): For short, well watered grass the formula is mainly sensitive to climatic variables: available energy and -under certain conditions - vapor pressure deficit and aerodynamic resistance. For tall, water stressed plants almost all error in ET can be attributed to erroneous representation of canopy resistance, a further sensitive parameter is vapor pressure deficit.

Main disadvantages:

- High data demand,
- High dependence of model performance on the accuracy of the estimation of the resistances, esp. canopy resistance ([Beven, 1979](#)). Several empirical or semi-empirical formulas are used to calculate  $r_s$  and  $r_a$  (see sec. 5)
- Simplifications: linearization of the saturation vapour pressure curve, neglecting the dependency of net irradiation on surface temperature ([Schymanski and Or, 2016](#))
- The equation is developed for the leaf scale and for data at short time steps, upscaling to the canopy scale and use of daily or monthly data require various empirical corrections ([Schymanski and Or, 2016](#)).
- Original equation only valid for amphistomatous leaves (stomata on both sides of the leaf), adaptation for hypostomatous leaves (stomata only on the lower side of the leaf) by [Monteith and Unsworth \(2013\)](#), corrected by [Schymanski and Or \(2016\)](#).

Several studies reviewed in [Oudin et al. \(2005\)](#) indicate that the method is not necessarily the best choice for hydrological modelling: Simpler formulas produce similar or even better modelling behaviour, higher resolution of available measurements when simpler temperature- or radiation based methods are

applied.

Criticized e.g. by Morton (1994) (cited in Oudin et al. (2005)): "It seems likely that the use of the Penman - Monteith equation to estimate evaporation from hydrologically significant areas has no real future, being merely an attempt to force reality to conform to preconceived concepts derived from small wet areas."

Experiments conducted by Schymanski and Or (2016) in controlled environment (all parts of the energy balance measured, artificial leaves with known stomatal conductance) are not accurately reproduced by the Penman-Monteith equation, better reproduction with a numerical model as well as an analytical equation (eq. 20) proposed by the same authors and the numerical model by Ball et al. (1988).

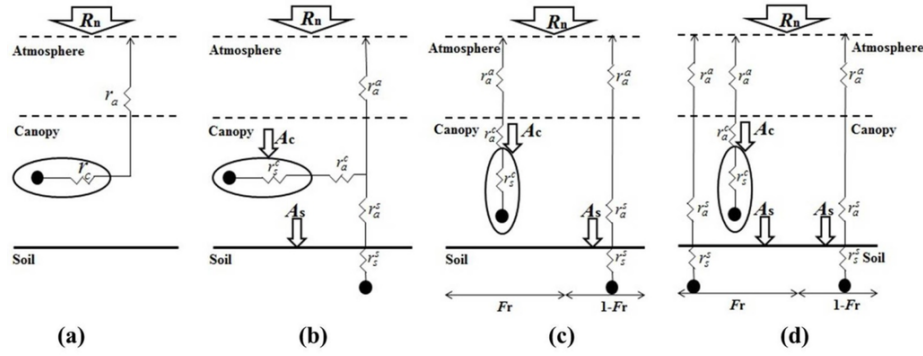


Figure 10: Different concepts of sources and resistances, from Lu et al. (2014).

Different concepts of sources and resistances:

**Big leaf approach:** Original equation assumes a single source area (Big-Leaf approach, fig. 10a). Assumption of a closed canopy, not suitable for patchy vegetation, no differentiation between evaporation, transpiration and interception. Further assumption: Sources of heat and water vapor are located at the same level in the canopy, not the case in tall and / or sparse canopies (Finnigan et al. (2003), Foken and Wichura (1996), cited in Ershadi et al. (2015)).

**Multi-layer and multi-source approaches:** Two-, three- or multi-source models (as opposed to the big leaf approach), e.g. Shuttleworth and Wallace (1985); Choudhury and Monteith (1988); Shuttleworth and Gurney (1990); Mu et al. (2011); Lu et al. (2014) include evaporation from soil at sites with sparse vegetation. Differences between the multiple layer approach (fig. 10b, coupled, resistances in series), the multiple patch approach (fig. 10c, uncoupled, parallel resistances) and hybrid dual source approaches (fig. 10d) (Lu et al., 2014).

**Shuttleworth-Wallace-Model:** Shuttleworth-Wallace-Model sparse-crop model (SW, Shuttleworth and Wallace, 1985, fig. 10b) assumes uniform distribution of



vegetation. Total evapotranspiration is a weighted mean of ET from the plants and the soil:

$$ET = C_{pl}ET_P + C_sET_S \quad (18)$$

with  $C_{pl}$  and  $C_s$ : Parameters describing the plant's or soil's aerodynamic resistance. Evaporation from bare soil and evaporation from a closed canopy are asymptotic limits of eq. 18. Good description of the model and formulas for  $ET_S$  and  $ET_P$  e.g. in [Ershadi et al. \(2015\)](#).

Advantages: allows for ET partitioning, regards different sources of fluxes, allows weighing them, considered accurate ([Kool et al., 2014](#)). Found to reproduce ET measurement on a semi-arid study site significantly better than the big-leaf approach by [Stannard \(1993\)](#).

Disadvantages:

- Assumption of a horizontally homogeneous atmosphere, thus no advective effects, mesoscale circulation patterns.
- Neglectance of interception
- Hard to parameterize

Strong deviations between observed and simulated values found in arid regions by [Gao et al. \(2016\)](#), and [Zhu et al. 2007](#) (cited in [Gao et al. 2016](#)), possible explanation: substantial advective effects in the atmosphere.

**Brenner and Incoll 1997** Three-source model, considers transpiration from the plant  $ET_p$ , evaporation from the soil under the plant  $ET_s$  and evaporation from bare soil  $ET_{bs}$ :

$$ET = f_c(C_{pl}ET_P + C_sET_S) + (1 - f_c)(C_{bs}ET_{bs}) \quad (19)$$

with  $f_c$  being the fractional vegetative cover.

Resistances can be considered as parallel resistances or resistances in series.

**Mu et al., 2011:** Total evapotranspiration is differentiated into evaporation, transpiration and interception, all are separately calculated with Penman-Monteith equations with resistances that are specified for each source. The three sources are weighted based on fractional vegetation cover  $f_c$  and relative surface wetness  $f_w$ . Original reference: [Mu et al. \(2011\)](#), good description: [Ershadi et al. \(2015\)](#).

Advantages: Parameterization of resistances doesn't require wind speed and soil moisture ([Ershadi et al., 2015](#)).

**Other variations of the Penman-Monteith equation:** 4 different equations to calculate only evaporation from soil as a function of  $r_s^s$  (soil surface resistance, see section 5.1.5), scaling parameters  $\alpha$  (ratio of actual water vapor pressure to saturated water vapor pressure) and  $\beta$  (ratio of actual evaporation to potential evaporation), or  $ET_{max}$  (threshold evaporation) given in [Merlin et al. \(2016\)](#).

#### 3.4.4 Schymanski and Or (2016)

Equation proposed by [Schymanski and Or \(2016\)](#), based on a generalization of Penman's approach and consideration of the dependence of the longwave component of the energy balance equation on leaf temperature (unlike Penman's and Penman-Monteith equations):

$$ET = \frac{c_H(\Delta_{T_a}(T_l - T_a) + P_{was} - P_{wa})}{\gamma} \quad (20)$$

With  $c_H$ : sensible heat transfer coefficient,  $\Delta_{T_a}$ : slope of the saturation vapor pressure curve at air temperature  $T_a$ ,  $T_l$ : leaf temperature,  $P_{was}$ : Saturation vapour pressure at air temperature,  $P_{wa}$ : Vapour pressure in the atmosphere. Leaf temperature  $T_l$  is either measured (e.g. with infrared sensors) or calculated as:

$$T_l = (R_s + c_H T_a + c_E(\Delta_{T_a} T_a + P_{wa} - P_{was}) + \frac{1}{c_H + \Delta_{T_a} + 4a_{sh}\epsilon_l\sigma T_a^3}) \quad (21)$$

with  $a_{sh}$ : fraction of projected area exchanging sensible heat with the air,  $\epsilon_l$ : long wave emissivity of the leaf surface,  $T_w$ : radiative temperature of objects surrounding the leaf.

### 3.5 Radiation-based methods

Most radiation based methods take the following form ([Xu and Singh, 2000](#)):

$$\lambda ET = C_r(wR_s) \quad \text{or} \quad \lambda ET = C_r(wR_n) \quad (22)$$

with  $C_r$ : coefficient,  $f(u, q_r)$ ,  $w$ : weighting factor,  $f(Temp., altitude)$ .

[Xu and Singh \(2000\)](#) compared five radiation-based formulas with measured evaporation pan data in Switzerland, Abtews equation performed best when coefficients proposed by the original references were used. After calibration of the coefficients, Makkink and Priestley-Taylor formulas performed best. Abtew formula is recommended when no further data (other than radiation) is available.

#### 3.5.1 Turc's formula

Empirical equation for the calculation of potential evapotranspiration in 10 d periods, developed for France and northern Africa ([Turc, 1961](#)), Correction factors can be used for other regions. Formula: see below.

#### 3.5.2 Turc-Ivanov

For colder regions; use of Turc's formula for days with average temperature  $T > 5^\circ C$ , Ivanov's formula (some source in Russian, cited e.g. in [Conradt et al., 2013](#)) for days with a lower average temperature:

$$ET_{pot} = \begin{cases} 0.0031 \cdot \Omega \cdot (R_n + 209.4) \cdot (\frac{T}{T+15}) & \text{for } T \geq 5^\circ C \\ 0.000036 \cdot (T + 25)^2 \cdot (100 - q_r) & \text{for } T < 5^\circ C \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

with  $T$  daily average temperature,  $R_n$  net radiation,  $rh$  relative humidity,  $\Omega$  dimensionless factor, varies for each month. Implemented e.g. in the SWIM model (Conradt et al., 2013).

### 3.5.3 Makkink

Based on measurements on grassland in the Netherlands, can be used for sub-daily time steps.

$$ET_{pot} = 0.61 \frac{\Delta}{\Delta + \gamma} \frac{R_n}{58.5} - 0.12 \quad (24)$$

Disadvantage: influence of the wind is not considered.

### 3.5.4 Jensen-Haise

Combination of measured evapotranspiration data from irrigated areas in the western USA with radiation data. Derivation of a formula based on 1000 samples for irrigated areas in arid or semi-arid regions (Jensen and Haise, 1965):

$$\lambda ET = C_t(T - T_x)R_s \quad (25)$$

with  $C_t$ : temperature constant (=0.025),  $T_x$ :  $-3^\circ C$ .

### 3.5.5 Hargreaves

Several equations, derived from lysimeter measurements of cool season Alta fescue grass in Davies, California, e.g. (cited in Xu and Singh (2000)):

$$\lambda ET = 0.0135(T + 17.8)R_s \quad (26)$$

Can be applied with remote sensing data (El-shirbeny et al., 2016).

### 3.5.6 Doorenbos and Pruitt

Adaptation of Makkink method, recommended over Penman method when data for wind and humidity are not available (Xu and Singh, 2000):

$$ET = a \left( \frac{\Delta}{\Delta + \gamma} R_s \right) + b \quad (27)$$

with  $a$ : adjustment factor,  $f(u, rh)$  and  $b = -0.3 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$ . (So  $u$  and  $rh$  do have to be known??)

### 3.5.7 McGuinness and Bordne

Calculation of monthly potential ET, based on lysimeter measurements in Florida:

$$ET = [(0.0082T_F - 0.19)(R_s/1500)]2.54 \quad (28)$$

with  $T_F$ : temperature in Fahrenheit.

### 3.5.8 Abtew

$$ET = K_A \frac{R_s}{\lambda} \quad (29)$$

with  $K_A$ : dimensionless coefficient

### 3.5.9 Priestley-Taylor

See sec. 3.4.2.

## 3.6 Temperature-based methods

[Xu and Singh \(2001\)](#): Most temperature-based equations take the form

$$ET = cT^a \quad (30)$$

or

$$ET = c_1 DL T (c_2 - c_3 h) \quad (31)$$

where  $h$  is a humidity term,  $c$ ,  $a$ ,  $c_1$ ,  $c_2$  and  $c_3$  are constants and  $DL$  is day length.

### 3.6.1 Thornthwaite

Original reference: [Thornthwaite \(1948\)](#). Developed from the correlation between mean monthly temperature and evapotranspiration determined from the water balance of valleys with sufficient available water for potential evaporation.

$$ET = 16 \left( \frac{d_l N}{360} \right) \left( \frac{10T_m}{I_h} \right)^{K_T} \quad (32)$$

with heat index  $I_h$  summed up over a 12 month period:  $I_h = \sum_{n=1}^{12} \left( \frac{T_m}{5} \right)^{1.514}$ ,  $T_m$ : mean monthly temperature and  $K_T = 0.49239 + 1.792I10^2 - 0.771I^210^{-4}$ ,  $d_l$ : duration of average monthly daylight,  $N$ : number of days in a given month.

Widely used because it needs only temperature as input. Widely misused for irrigated arid and semi-arid areas ([Xu and Singh, 2001](#)).

### 3.6.2 Linacre

Simplification of Penman's equation, for well-watered areas with an albedo of aprox. 0.25:

$$ET = \frac{500T_h / (100 - Lt) + 15(T_a - T_d)}{80 - T_a} \quad (33)$$

where  $T_h = T_a + 0.006h$ ,  $T_a$ : air temperature,  $h$ : elevation,  $Lt$ : latitude,  $T_d$ : dew point.

### 3.6.3 Blaney and Criddle

Reference: [Blaney and Criddle \(1950\)](#). Developed in the southwestern USA, based on lysimeter measurements, widely used.

$$ET = f_{BC} p(0.46T + 8.13) \quad (34)$$

with  $f_{BC}$ : a monthly coefficient, based on vegetation, location and season, varies from 0.5 (orange tree) to 1.2 (dense natural vegetation);  $p$ : percentage of daytime hours to total time of the calculation timestep (day or month).

### 3.6.4 Kharrufa

Developed for arid regions. Reference: [Kharrufa \(1985\)](#).

$$ET = 0.34p T^{1.3} \quad (35)$$

### 3.6.5 Haude

Widely used in Germany, based on numerous measurements in northern Germany, simple, daily values with high uncertainty, should be summed up to monthly values ([Dyck and Peschke, 1995](#)).

$$ET_{pot} = f_H(e_s - e)_{14:00} \quad (36)$$

with  $f_H$ : proportionality factor, given in a table for each month,  $(e_s - e)_{14:00}$ : saturation deficit at 2 pm, calculated as a function of temperature and relative humidity with the Magnus formula:  $e_s = 611.2 \exp \frac{17.62T}{243.12+T}$  and  $e = q_r e_s$ .

### 3.6.6 Oudin

Based on model efficiency of 4 rainfall-runoff models of 308 catchments in different climates with potential evapotranspiration calculated with 27 formulas, proposal of a formula adapted to rainfall-runoff-models, simple (requires only mean air temperature from long term averages), efficient ([Oudin et al., 2005](#)):

$$ET_{pot} = \begin{cases} \frac{R_e}{\lambda \rho} \frac{T_a + 5}{100} & \text{for } T_a + 5 > 0^\circ C \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (37)$$

with  $R_e$ : extraterrestrial radiation, function of latitude and Julian day.

### 3.6.7 Others

Other temperature based equations given in [Xu and Singh \(2001\)](#): Hargreaves ([Hargreaves, 1975](#); [Hargreaves and Samani, 1982, 1985](#)), Hamon ([Hamon, 1960](#)), Romanenko ([Romanenko, 1961](#)).

### 3.7 Reference evapotranspiration

Parallel, two-step approach: 1) Determination of reference evapotranspiration  $ET_0$  for a reference crop (short grass, alfalfa) without water limitation with (simplified) Penman-Monteith equation, calculation of crop potential evapotranspiration by multiplication with a crop coefficient  $K_c$  [Allen et al. \(1998\)](#). 2) Calculation of actual evapotranspiration by multiplication with relative evapotranspiration based on soil moisture ([Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977](#); [Allen et al., 1998](#)).

Advantages:

- Widely used, especially in agricultural and irrigation hydrology
- much data on crop coefficients available

Disadvantages:

- Not easily applicable to heterogenous surfaces
- Crop coefficients for natural environments unknown
- High uncertainty of the relation between soil moisture and relative evapotranspiration ([Gasca-Tucker et al. \(2007\)](#) and other sources cited by these authors)
- discrepancy between literature values for  $K_c$  and locally derived values that depend on seasonality (growth stages), site and climate ([Rana and Katerji, 2000](#))

Based on a review of case studies that use the method in non-irrigated semi-arid areas, [Mata-González et al. \(2005\)](#) conclude that ET is typically overestimated when plants encounter suboptimal conditions of soil water, because it doesn't consider stomatal regulation and plant adaptation to draught. Thus the method is not recommended in these environments.

Penman-Monteith equation is simplified to the reduced form known as FAO56-PM equation ([Allen et al., 2006](#)):

$$ET_0 = \frac{0.408\Delta(R_n - G) + \gamma \frac{C_n}{T_m + 273} u_2 (e_s - e)}{\Delta + \gamma(1 + C_d u_2)} \quad (38)$$

with  $T_m$ : mean daily or hourly temperature,  $C_n$  and  $C_d$ : coefficients that vary with the calculation time step, reference crop (grass or alfalfa) and time of day, values given in [Allen et al. \(2006\)](#),  $u_2$ : wind speed at 2 m height.

Attempt to convert crop coefficients to surface resistances by [Shuttleworth \(2006\)](#).

The dual- $K_c$  approach divides  $K_c$  into a plant component  $K_{cb}$  and a soil component  $K_e$ , this approach is the most common method for ET partitioning ([Kool et al., 2014](#)).

### 3.8 Others

#### 3.8.1 Methods developed for remotely sensed data

**Methods using the difference between surface and air temperature:**  
Estimation of daily evapotranspiration as:

$$\lambda ET_d = R_{n,d} - B(T_s - T_a)^n \quad (39)$$

with  $R_{n,d}$ : daily net radiation,  $T_s$ : remotely sensed surface temperature,  $T_a$ : air temperature in 50 m height, both temperatures at the time of satellite overpass.  $B$  and  $n$ : parameters, closely related to fractional cover  $f_c$ .  $B$  ranges from 0.015 (bare soil) to 0.065 (fully vegetated surface),  $n$  from 1.0 (bare soil) to 0.65 (full cover, [Carlson et al. \(1995\)](#), cited in [Kalma et al. \(2008\)](#)). Requires local calibration ([Kalma et al., 2008](#)).

**Methods using the temporal rate of change in surface temperature in atmospheric boundary layer models:** e.g. [Wetzel et al. \(1984\)](#); [Anderson \(1997\)](#); [Anderson et al. \(2007b,a\)](#); [Norman et al. \(2000\)](#) Advantage over the difference between the difference between surface and air temperature: Offset between the measurements of  $T_s$  and  $T_a$  are cancelled out, reduced need for absolute accuracy of temperature measurements ([Kalma et al., 2008](#)).

**SEBAL:** Surface Energy Balance Algorithm for Land ([Bastiaanssen et al. \(1998\)](#)), described e.g. in [Kalma et al. \(2008\)](#); [Conradt et al. \(2013\)](#)), derived from surface energy balance (eq. 12). Developed for the local scale, relatively flat landscapes. Uses remotely sensed surface temperature, surface reflectivity and NDVI. Calibration using the wettest ( $ET \gg H$ ) and the driest pixel ( $H \gg ET$ )

Advantage: requires few ground level observations.

Other references: [Zheng et al. \(2016\)](#)

**METRIC** Mapping EvapoTranspiration with high Resolution and Internalized Calibration ([Tettebrand et al., 2005](#); [Allen et al., 2007a,b](#)). Derived from SEBAL for irrigated crops.

**Others:** Other methods described in [Kalma et al. \(2008\)](#):

S-SEBI: Simplified Surface Energy Balance Index ([Roerink et al., 2000](#)): Derivation of the evaporative fraction  $\Lambda_i = \lambda ET / (R_n - G)$  from remotely sensed surface and reflectivity data.

Link of evaporative cooling and the negative correlation between remotely sensed surface temperature and NDVI used by [Hope et al. \(1986\)](#); [Nemani and Running \(1989\)](#).

Several studies that correlate evapotranspiration with vegetation indices are reviewed in [Glenn et al. \(2007\)](#),  $R^2$  values of about 0.81, this relationship is proposed for upscaling ET measurements to larger scales ([Kalma et al., 2008](#)).

### 3.8.2 Rutter

Interception model (Rutter et al., 1971)

### 3.8.3 Numerical models

e.g. in Ball et al. (1988), Schymanski and Or (2016).

## 4 Water limitation

Implemented with scaling parameters (e.g. Wetzel and Chang (1987)), relation between actual and potential evapotranspiration, complementary relationship (Bouchet, 1963), resistances (Jarvis, 1976).

Relation between actual ( $AET$ ) and potential evapotranspiration ( $PET$ ) can be calculated as a function of plant and soil characteristics and available soil water, e.g. with the following equation proposed by Baier and Robertson (1966):

$$AET_i = \sum_{j=1}^n K_{r,j,i} \frac{S_{j,i-1}}{C_{w,j}} C_{s,j} PET_i e^{-w PET_i - \overline{PET}} \quad (40)$$

with  $K_r$ : crop specific root coefficient,  $S$ : available soil water, can be obtained e.g. from soil water simulation models (De Jong and Bootsma, 1996; Leenhardt et al., 1995),  $C_w$ : water holding capacity,  $C_s$ : soil coefficient,  $w$ : empirical adjustment factor,  $\overline{PET}$ : long-time average  $PET$ . Subscripts  $i$  and  $j$  refer to time and depth zone respectively.

The ratio  $ET_{act}/ET_{pot}$  can be determined from crop water stress index (CWSI), which in turn can be derived from remotely sensed canopy temperature and air temperature (Kalma et al., 2008).

## 5 Resistances

Very important for model parameterization, high sensitivity of evapotranspiration models to resistances, considerable source of uncertainty (Beven, 1979; McCabe et al., 2005; Ershadi et al., 2015). Direct measurement are difficult to impossible, different calculation approaches.

### 5.1 Surface resistances

Crucial parameter in the Penman-Monteith model, difficult to measure or estimate, very dependent on soil, climate and crop characteristics (Rana et al., 1997). Values for surface resistance are often obtained via inverse modelling with the Penman-Monteith equation and measured evapotranspiration (e.g. Rana and Katerji (1998); Brisson et al. (1998)) following Baldocchi et al. (1991) and Tolk et al. (1996).



### 5.1.1 Single surface resistance

**Jarvis surface resistance parameterization method:** described e.g. in [Ershadi et al. \(2015\)](#):

$$r_s = \frac{r_s^{min}}{LAI \cdot F_1 \cdot F_2 \cdot F_3 \cdot F_4} \quad (41)$$

with  $r_s^{min}$ : minimum canopy resistance,  $F_1 - F_4$ : weighting functions representing the effects of solar radiation, humidity, soil moisture and air temperature on plant stress, equations given by [Chen and Dudhia \(2001\)](#):

$$F_1 = \frac{r_s^{min}/r_s^{max} + f}{1 + f} \quad (42)$$

$$F_2 = \frac{1}{1 + h_s(e_s - e)} \quad (43)$$

$$F_3 = 1 - 0.0016(T_{ref} - T_a)^2 \quad (44)$$

$$F_4 = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{root}} \frac{(\theta_i - \theta_{wilt})d_i}{(\theta_{fc} - \theta_{wilt})d_t} \quad (45)$$

with  $r_s^{max}$ : maximum canopy resistance,  $f = 0.55 \frac{R_g}{R_{gl}} (\frac{2}{LAI})$ ,  $R_g$ : incident solar radiation,  $R_{gl}$ : minimum solar radiation needed for transpiration,  $h_s$ : parameter associated with water vapor deficit,  $(e_s - e)$ : water vapor deficit,  $T_{ref}$ : optimal temperature for photosynthesis,  $T_a$ : air temperature,  $\theta_i$ : soil moisture in soil layer  $i$ ,  $\theta_{fc}$ : soil moisture at field capacity,  $\theta_{wilt}$ : soil moisture at wilting point,  $d_i$ : thickness of soil layer  $i$ ,  $d_t$ : total thickness of soil,  $N_{root}$ : number of soil layers. [Ershadi et al. \(2015\)](#) recommend to use values for  $r_s^{min}$ ,  $r_s^{max}$ ,  $R_{gl}$ ,  $h_s$ ,  $T_{ref}$  given in lookup tables in [Kumar et al. \(2011\)](#).  $\theta_{fc}$  and  $\theta_{wilt}$  can be approximated using the 99th and the 1st percentile of the "after rain" soil moisture records constrained by the maximum or minimum values in the lookup table in [Kumar et al. \(2011\)](#) respectively ([Ershadi et al., 2015](#)).

Has to be calibrated for each crop, several times during the growth season ([Rana and Katerji, 2000](#)).

**Model suggested by [Rana et al. 1997](#):**  $r_s$  is considered the sum of resistance due to plant architecture and stomatal regulation. It is expressed based on a relation between  $r_s$  and critical resistance  $r^*$  ([Katerji et al., 1983](#)):

$$r_s/r_a = f(r^*/r_a) \quad (46)$$

where  $r^*$  is calculated from meteorological parameters:

$$r^* = \frac{\lambda M}{R_{sp} T_a} \frac{\Delta + \gamma}{R_n - G} (T_a - T_d) \quad (47)$$

with  $M$ : molar weight of air,  $R_{sp}$ : specific gas constant for dry air,  $\Delta$ : slope of saturation vapor pressure curve,  $T_a$ : air temperature,  $T_d$ : actual dew point temperature. The function  $f$  in eq. 46 varies with plant water status (measured predawn water potential), it is a linear function determined during calibration.

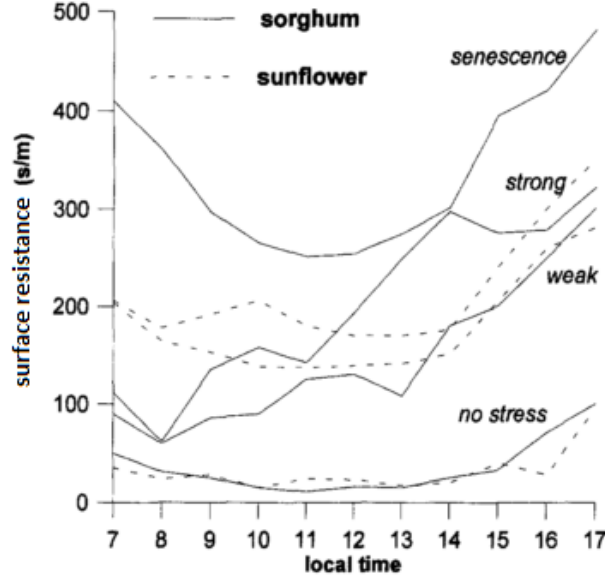


Figure 11: Hourly values of surface resistance  $r_s$  for two plant types and different water stress states obtained as the only unknown in the Penman-Monteith equation from measured ET by [Rana et al. \(1997\)](#)

### 5.1.2 Canopy resistance or bulk stomatal resistance

Parameter describing plant physiological resistance to evapotranspiration at the canopy level, mainly upscaled from leaf level stomatal resistance, e.g. in [Shuttleworth and Wallace \(1985\)](#) model:  $r_s^c$  is a function of  $LAI$  and mean stomatal resistance  $r_s^{st}$ :

$$r_s^c = \frac{r_s^{st}}{2LAI} \quad (48)$$

with  $r_s^{st}$ : mean stomatal resistance, expressed per unit surface area of vegetation, values for  $r_s^{st}$  are either estimated from literature recommendation (e.g.  $400 \text{ s m}^{-1}$  by [Shuttleworth and Wallace 1985](#)), measured (high number of measurements needed in a short time ([Rana and Katerji, 2000](#))) or calibrated from measured ET values.

Can also be determined with the Jarvis method (Described in [Noilhan and Planton 1989](#)) ([Ershadi et al., 2015](#)) or derived from remote sensing data (surface temperature and NDVI): [Hope et al. \(1986\)](#); [Nemani and Running \(1989\)](#), described in [Kalma et al. \(2008\)](#).

### 5.1.3 Stomatal resistance

parameter describing stomatal aperture at the leaf level; influences transpiration-driven water flux; stomatal aperture is sensitive to environmental influences such as soil moisture, light, air humidity, temperature,  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration.

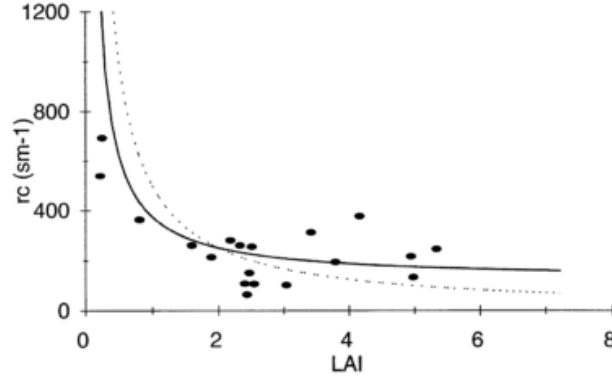


Figure 12: Dependence of canopy resistance  $r_s^c$  on LAI.  $r_s^c$  is calculated with two variations of eq. 48 using fixed values for mean stomatal resistance (dotted and full lines) and obtained experimentally from inverse modelling using measured evapotranspiration and simulated soil evaporation (Brisson et al., 1998).

Many models of stomatal conductance at the leaf level reviewed in Damour et al. (2010):

**Empirical, multiplicative models of environmental influences** Stomatal conductance  $g_s$  represented as the product of several environmental factors, e.g. in Jarvis (1976):

$$g_s = f_1(R_s) \cdot f_2(T) \cdot f_3(e_s - e) \cdot f_4(\psi_l) \quad (49)$$

with  $\psi_l$ : leaf water potential.

Major drawbacks / criticism: interaction between different factors are not considered; many parameters (e.g. Jarvis (1976): 10 parameters); empirical, new parameterization needed for changing conditions. Original Jarvis model doesn't include soil water stress, several of the models are only intended for conditions with no water limitations (Damour et al., 2010).

Limiting factor approach:  $g_s$  as a function of  $g_{s,max}$  and the minimum among several response functions, e.g. Noe and Giersch (2004):

$$g_s = g_{s,max} \cdot \min[f(R_s), f(e_s - e)] \quad (50)$$

Approaches with less parameters, less data demand: rough estimates of  $g_s$  from air humidity (Lohammar et al., 1980; Monteith, 1995) with only 1 or 2 parameters. Very simple but proven useful in non-extreme cases esp. no water stress (Damour et al., 2010).

Adaptations of Jarvis' model to include soil water stress (expressed as soil water deficit  $\delta\theta$ , pre-dawn water potential  $\psi_{pd}$  or sum of stress  $S(\psi)$ ) by Stewart (1988); Misson et al. (2004); White et al. (1999)

**Hydromechanical models** describe the stomatal response to turgor pressure of guard cells, which is a function of water potential and osmotic pressure (e.g. Dewar (1995)). Detailed description of cell processes, plant physiology, drawback: Only theoretical use, high number of parameters ( $> 10$  for some formulas), complex mathematical description, parameters difficult to estimate, observations not well simulated (Damour et al., 2010).

Adaptation to include soil water pressure: Dewar (2002) included a term based on abscisic acid concentration (see below); Gao et al. (2002) formulate a model where  $g_s$  is a function of water potential and osmotic pressure of the guard cells of the stomata ( $\psi_g$  and  $\pi_g$ ).

**Models relating  $g_s$  to photosynthesis rates** One of the most commonly used models of  $g_s$  is Ball et al. (1987) that relates  $g_s$  to net photosynthesis rate  $A_{net}$ , relative humidity  $q_r$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration (mole fraction  $\text{CO}_2$  at the leaf surface  $c_s$ ):

$$g_s = C_{sl} A_{net} \frac{q_r}{c_s} \quad (51)$$

with  $C_{sl}$ : slope constant (empirical parameter).

Adaptations by Leuning (1990, 1995); Collatz et al. (1992); Soegaard et al. (1999). Advantage: relatively easy to use and parameterize (2-3 parameters). Disadvantage: No consideration of soil water status (Damour et al., 2010).

Adaptation of Ball's and Leuning's models to soil water stress: Introduction of parameters modifying the slope of the  $g_s$   $A_{net}$  relationship (e.g. Tenhunen et al. (1990); Baldocchi (1997); Misson et al. (2004), these and more cited in Damour et al. (2010)).

Other models relate  $g_s$  to photosynthetic capacity (maximum rate of carbon fixation of a plant) (e.g. Farquhar et al. (1980); Farquhar and Wong (1984)) or to residual photosynthetic capacity ( $A_{net} - A_{max}$ ,  $A_{max}$  is the maximum rate where  $\text{CO}_2$  is not limiting), e.g. Jarvis and Davies (1998). Disadvantages: mismatches with observed values, complex to use: variables that are difficult to obtain are needed (Damour et al., 2010).

**Models based on the control of abscisic acid (ABA) on  $g_s$**  Abscisic acid (ABA) is a chemical signal transmitted to the leaf to indicate declining root and soil water potential. Some plant species (isohydric species) react to ABA by closing stomata, thus stopping transpiration and maintaining leaf water potential ( $\psi_l$ ).

Modelling approaches: Tardieu and Davies (1993) represent  $g_s$  as a function of ABA concentration in the xylem and  $\psi_l$ . Gutschick and Simonneau (2002) included a function of ABA in the model of Ball et al. (1987).

Damour et al. (2010) advocate to also use  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  besides ABA.

**Models based on hydraulic control on  $g_s$**  Transpiration is represented as a flux (water transfer in the xylem) that is proportional to the difference in water potential of the leaf  $\psi_l$  and the soil  $\psi_s$ :

$$T = K_x(\psi_l - \psi_s) \quad (52)$$

with  $K_x$ : xylem hydraulic conductivity.

Applied by [Oren et al. \(1999\)](#); [Tyree and Sperry \(1988\)](#); [Sperry et al. \(1998\)](#); [Jones and Sutherland \(1991\)](#), different discretization of the plant (esp.  $K_x$ ). Advantages: easy to understand, use and parameterize, disadvantages: focus on hydraulic mechanisms only, don't consider other controls.

other references: [Zhao et al. \(2016\)](#)

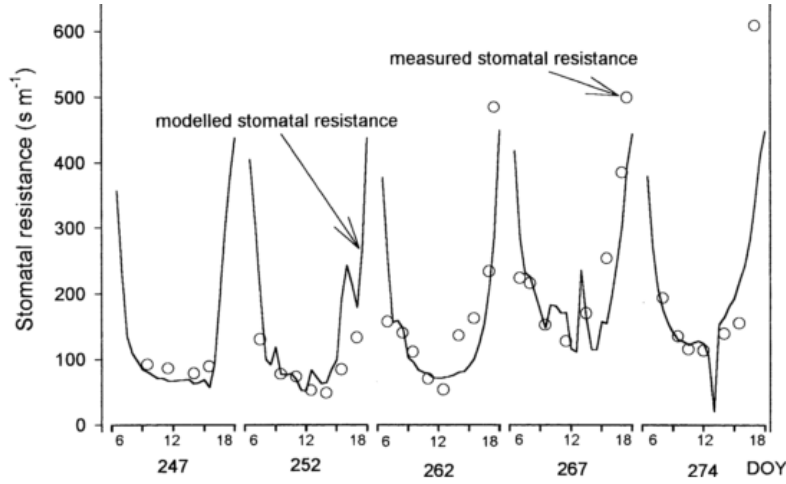


Figure 13: Stomatal resistance of tall, sparse millet modelled with the Ball and Berry model and measured with a leaf porometer for five consecutive days. The coefficient of determination is  $R^2 = 0.78$ . From [Lund and Soegaard \(2003\)](#).

#### 5.1.4 Architectural resistance

Resistance of the xylem to water flow. Often neglected because it is assumed to be much smaller than stomatal resistance. Measured e.g. in [Yang and Tyree \(1994\)](#). Conductance of stem segments is proportional to stem diameter  $(2r)^{1.68}$ . Architectural resistance of the trunk is  $\approx 5 - 25 \%$  of total resistance (trunk, crown and leaves); resistance of the trunk + crown is  $\approx 35 - 50 \%$  of total resistance for *Acer saccharum* and  $\approx 45 - 65 \%$  for *Acer rubrum* (two species of maple, [Yang and Tyree \(1994\)](#)).

#### 5.1.5 Surface resistance of (bare) soil

Used in [Shuttleworth and Wallace \(1985\)](#) model, suggested values:  $0 \text{ s m}^{-1}$  for fully saturated soils or free water surfaces to  $2000 \text{ s m}^{-1}$  for fairly dry soils.

In H-TESSEL model calculated as a function of soil moisture  $\theta$  and soil properties (Albergel et al., 2012) cited in Merlin et al. (2016):

$$r_s^s = \frac{\theta_{fc} - \theta_{res}}{\theta - \theta_{res}} \cdot r_{s,min}^s \quad \text{for } \theta > \theta_{res} \quad (53)$$

with  $r_{s,min}^s$ : minimum soil surface resistance, set to  $50 \text{ s m}^{-1}$ ,  $\theta_{fc}$ : soil moisture at field capacity,  $\theta_{res}$ : residual soil moisture.

In CLM model (empirical formula derived from Sellers et al. (1992), cited in Merlin et al. (2016)):

$$r_s^s = \exp\left(A - B \frac{\theta}{\theta_{fc}}\right) \quad (54)$$

with  $A$  and  $B$ : empirically derived parameters, given in Sellers et al. (1992) as 8.206 and 4.255.

In the Merlin et al. (2016) model: semi-empirical variation of Sellers' formula:

$$r_s^s = r_{s,ref}^s \exp\left(-\frac{\theta}{\theta_{efolding}}\right) \quad (55)$$

where the two parameters  $r_{s,ref}^s$  and  $\theta_{efolding}$  are estimated from a time series of soil evaporative efficiency SEE (ratio of actual soil evaporation to potential evaporation) and soil moisture  $\theta$ .

Empirical formula proposed by Dolman (1993):

$$r_s^s = a\theta^b \quad (56)$$

with  $a$  and  $b$ : empirical constants, recommended values:  $a = 3.5 \text{ s m}^{-1}$  and  $b = -2.3$ ,  $\theta$ : surface layer soil moisture.

Several methods for calculation  $r_s^s$  as a function of soil moisture reviewed in Mahfouf and Noilhan (1991), linear models of the form  $r_s^s = m\theta + c$  with parameters  $m$  and  $c$  depending on potential evaporation in Daamen and Simmonds (1996).

Calculated from inverse modelling using the formula proposed by Shuttleworth and Wallace (1985) solved for  $r_s^s$ . Soil evaporation  $ET_s$  can be obtained from measurements or calculated as the difference between measured evapotranspiration and transpiration (e.g. Lund and Soegaard 2003):

$$r_s^s = \left[ \left( \frac{\Delta(R_n - G) + (\rho c_p D / r_a^s)}{\lambda ET_s} - \Delta \right) / \gamma - 1 \right] r_a^s \quad (57)$$

Alternatively, potential soil evaporation can be calculated assuming that  $r_s^s$  is 0, and then compared to (measured or modelled) actual evaporation (Daamen and Simmonds, 1996):

$$r_s^s = \frac{\Delta + \gamma}{\gamma} \left( \frac{E_{pot}}{E_{act}} - 1 \right) r_a \quad (58)$$

both of these approaches are very sensitive to measured (or otherwise modelled) evaporation and  $r_a$ .

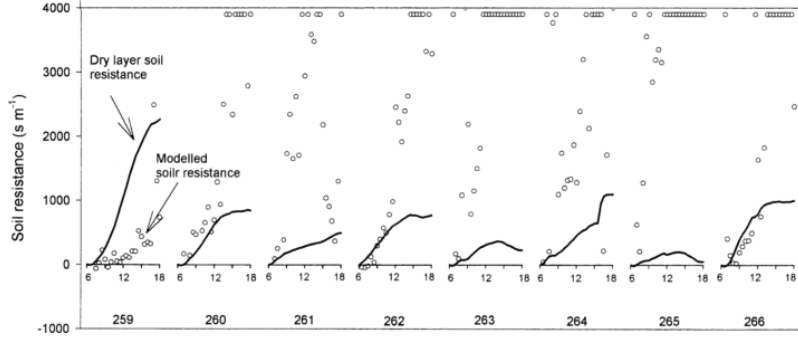


Figure 14: Development of soil surface resistance (calculated from inverse modelling with the Shuttleworth-Wallace formula and measured ET and transpiration) over the course of drying period of five consecutive days. Values of  $\approx 0 \text{ s m}^{-1}$  in the morning indicate rewetting of the topmost soil layer during the night (Lund and Soegaard, 2003).

## 5.2 Aerodynamic resistance

Determined by the wind speed profile (assumed to be logarithmic or following a power law) and surface characteristics.

### 5.2.1 Single aerodynamic resistance $r_a$

As in big leaf approach of the Penman-monteith model, e.g. calculated with the following equation given by Thom (1975):

$$r_a = \frac{1}{k^2 u} \left[ \ln\left(\frac{z-d}{z_{0m}}\right) \ln\left(\frac{z-d}{z_{0v}}\right) \right] \quad (59)$$

where  $k = 0.41$ : von Karman's constant,  $u$ : wind speed,  $z$ : measurement height,  $d$ : displacement height,  $z_{0m}$  and  $z_{0v}$ : roughness heights form momentum and water vapor transfer.

Roughness parameters  $d$ ,  $z_{0m}$  and  $z_{0v}$  can either be calculated as functions of canopy height  $h_c$ :  $d = 0.66h_c$ ,  $z_{0m} = 0.1h_c$  and  $z_{0v} = 0.01h_c$  as recommended by Brutsaert (2005) or can be estimated via a physically-based method such as the one by Su et al. (2001) (Ershadi et al., 2015).

Rana and Katerji (1998) use a formula given by Tolk et al. (1995), who in turn cite Thom (1975), also given by Verma (1989), that is actually a formula for aerodynamic resistance to heat transfer  $r_{ah}$ :

$$r_{ah} = \rho c_p \frac{T_s - T_a}{H} \quad (60)$$

where surface and air temperature  $T_s$  and  $T_a$  and sensible heat flux  $H$  are measured directly, the latter with eddy correlation and Bowen ratio measurement systems. Disadvantages: measurements of  $H$  necessary, the assumption that  $r_{ah} = r_a$  is not explicitly mentioned in Tolk et al. (1995), implications of

this assumption are not discussed.

Similar formula to the one proposed by [Thom \(1975\)](#) that accounts for the dependance of  $r_a$  on atmospheric buoyancy (and also assumes that  $r_a = r_{ah}$ ) given by [Choudhury and Monteith \(1988\)](#):

$$r_a = \frac{(\ln[(z_u - d)/z_{0v}])^2}{k^2 u} (1 + \delta)^\epsilon \quad (61)$$

with

$$\delta = 5g(z_u - d)(T_s - T_a)/(T_a u^2) \quad (62)$$

and  $\epsilon = -2$  if  $\delta < 0$ , otherwise  $\epsilon = -0.75$ , where  $g$  is gravitational acceleration.

### 5.2.2 Above the canopy $r_a^a$

In the original Shuttleworth-Wallace model:

$r_a^a$  differs with LAI between values for full vegetation cover ( $LAI > 4$ ,  $r_a^a(\alpha)$ ) and values for bare soil ( $LAI = 0$ ,  $r_a^a(0)$ ):

$$r_a^a = \frac{1}{4} LAI \cdot r_a^a(\alpha) + \frac{1}{4} (4 - LAI) \cdot r_a^a(0) \quad (63)$$

$r_a^a(\alpha)$  and  $r_a^a(0)$  are calculated as:

$$r_a^a(\alpha) = \frac{\ln(\frac{z_m - d}{z_{om}} + \phi_M) \ln(\frac{z_h - d}{z_{oh}} + \phi_H)}{k^2 u(z_m)} \quad (64)$$

$$r_a^a(0) = \frac{(\ln(\frac{z_m}{z_{om}} + \phi_M) \ln(\frac{z_h}{z_{oh}} + \phi_H))}{k^2 u(z_m)} - r_a^s(0) \quad (65)$$

with  $z_h$ : height of humidity measurement,  $\phi_M$ : atmospheric diabatic correction factor ([Lu et al. \(2014\)](#) refer to [Brutsaert \(1982\)](#)),  $\phi_H$ : atmospheric diabatic correction factor for heat.

Formula suggested by [Shuttleworth and Gurney \(1990\)](#):

$$r_a^a = \frac{1}{k u} \ln\left(\frac{z - d}{h_c - d}\right) + \frac{h_c}{n K_h} \left\{ \exp \left[ n \left( 1 - \frac{z_{0m} + d}{h_c} \right) \right] - 1 \right\} \quad (66)$$

Abbreviations as above,  $K_h$ : eddy diffusion coefficient at the top of canopy, calculated as  $K_h = k u_* (h_c - d)$  with friction velocity  $u_* = k u / \ln[(z - d)/z_{0m}]$ ,  $n$ : eddy diffusivity decay constant, values given by [Zhou et al. \(2006\)](#), recommended by [Ershadi et al. \(2015\)](#); [Brutsaert \(1982\)](#); [Gao et al. \(2016\)](#):

$$n = \begin{cases} 2.5 & \text{for } h_c \leq 1 \\ 2.306 + 0.19h_c & \text{for } 1 < h_c < 10 \\ 4.25 & \text{for } h_c \geq 10 \end{cases} \quad (67)$$

with  $h_c$ : vegetation height.



### 5.2.3 Between the canopy and mean surface flow height $r_a^c$

In [Shuttleworth and Wallace \(1985\)](#) model:  $r_a^c$  also a function of  $LAI$ :

$$r_a^c = \frac{r_b \sigma_b}{2LAI} \quad (68)$$

with  $\sigma_b$ : shielding factor, equal to 0.5;  $r_b$ : mean boundary layer resistance, also expressed per unit surface area of vegetation, in the order of 25 - 50  $s m^{-1}$ , much smaller than stomatal resistance, less important ([Shuttleworth and Wallace, 1985](#); [Brisson et al., 1998](#)).  $r_b$  can also be calculated according to [Shuttleworth and Gurney \(1990\)](#) (cited in [Gao et al. 2016](#)):

$$r_b = \frac{100}{n} \frac{\sqrt{w/u_h}}{1 - \exp(-n/2)} \quad (69)$$

with  $w$ : representative leaf width,  $u_h$ : wind speed at the top of the canopy.

In high, sparse crops such as millet, [Lund and Soegaard \(2003\)](#) distinguish between  $r_a^c$  forced by momentum and free  $r_a^c$ : In the former case they use the equation proposed by [Jones \(2013\)](#):

$$r_a^c = 151 \sqrt{\frac{w}{u}} \quad (70)$$

with  $w$ : leaf width and  $u$ : wind speed at reference height.

In the latter case, they use the equation proposed by [Brenner and Jarvis \(1995\)](#):

$$r_a^c = 0.93 \sqrt[4]{\frac{wv}{D_h^3 g a_t (T_l - T_a)}} \quad (71)$$

with  $v$ : kinematic viscosity,  $D_h$ : diffusivity of heat,  $g$ : gravitational acceleration,  $a_t$ : coefficient of thermal expansion in air,  $T_l$  and  $T_a$ : leaf and air temperature.

### 5.2.4 Between the soil surface and mean surface flow height $r_a^s$

In the original Shuttleworth-Wallace model:

$r_a^s$  differs with  $LAI$  between values for full vegetation cover ( $LAI > 4$ ) ( $r_a^s(\alpha)$ ) and values for bare soil ( $LAI = 0$ ) ( $r_a^s(0)$ ):

$$r_a^s = \frac{1}{4} LAI \cdot r_a^s(\alpha) + \frac{1}{4} (4 - LAI) \cdot r_a^s(0) \quad (72)$$

$r_a^s(\alpha)$  is calculated as:

$$r_a^s(\alpha) = \int_0^{d+z_{om}} \frac{dz}{K(z)} = \frac{\ln \frac{z-d}{z_{om}} + \phi_M}{k^2 u(z)} \frac{h_c}{n(h-d)} \{ \exp n - \exp[n(1 - \frac{d+z_m}{h_c})] \} \quad (73)$$

with  $d$ : zero plane displacement height, calculated as  $d = 0.63h_c$  with  $h_c$  being crop height ([Monteith, 1965](#)),  $z_{om}$ : crop roughness length, calculated as  $z_0 = 0.13h_c$ ,  $K(z)$ : eddy diffusion coefficient at height  $z$ ,  $\phi_M$ : atmospheric diabatic correction factor,  $k$ : von Karman's constant ( $= 0.41$ ),  $u(z)$ : wind speed at height  $z$ ,  $n$ : extinction coefficient of the eddy diffusion, derived from linear

interpolation between 2.5 for  $h_c = 1m$  and 4.25 for  $h_c > 10m$ ,  $z_m$ : height of wind measurement.

$r_a^s(0)$  is calculated as:

$$r_a^s(0) = \frac{(\ln \frac{h_c}{z_{om}} + \phi_M)(\ln \frac{h_c}{z_{oh}} + \phi_H)}{k^2 u(h_c)} \quad (74)$$

with  $z_{oh}$ : roughness length of bare soil governing heat transfer and  $\phi_H$ : atmospheric diabatic correction factor for heat.

Formula suggested by [Shuttleworth and Gurney \(1990\)](#):

$$r_a^s = \frac{h_c \exp(n)}{n K_h} \left\{ \exp\left(-\frac{n z'_{0m}}{h_c}\right) - \exp\left[-n\left(\frac{z_{0m+d}}{h_c}\right)\right] \right\} \quad (75)$$

with  $z'_{0m}$ : roughness length of bare soil surface, assumed to be 0.01 m by [van Bavel and Hillel \(1976\)](#).

## 6 Arid and semi-arid regions

Evaporation is an important part of the water balance, (semi-) arid regions characterized by water scarcity, need for irrigation, problems caused by salinization ([Rana and Katerji, 2000](#)). A negative correlation between ET rates and water table depth is generally observed ([Cooper et al., 2006](#)). Mediterranean landscapes usually very patchy, not homogeneous.

High range of evapotranspiration values and weather variables, dependant on water regime, differences between dry and wet seasons, winter and summer, day and night ([Rana and Katerji, 2000](#)).

"ET measurement methods are based on concepts that can be critical under semi-arid and arid environments for several reasons: representativeness (the weighing lysimeter, for example); (ii) instrumentation (air humidity sensors for example); (iii) microclimate (advection regime); and (iv) hypothesis of applicability (the simplified aerodynamic method for example)." ([Rana and Katerji, 2000](#)).

Transpiration important part of total Evapotranspiration, big leaf approach not appropriate;

[Oudin et al. \(2005\)](#): In arid catchments, unlike in others, model performance is improved by using temporally resolved data instead of daily mean data.

Reference evapotranspiration method not recommended ( [Mata-González et al. 2005](#), see sec. 3.7).

Formulas for the calculation of stomatal resistance / conductance should include water stress ([Damour et al., 2010](#)).

Strong heterogeneity in water availability (esp. caused by irrigation) lead to discontinuity in water vapor concentrations at surface level. This violates the

requirement of all measurement and modelling methods that the profiles of air temperature, water vapor concentration and windspeed are constant along the horizontal axis. This can lead to advective effects (observed by e.g. [Prueger et al. 1996](#)) that cause considerable errors ([Rana and Katerji, 2000](#)).

Several empirical formulas unsuitable in non-irrigated (semi-)arid areas: Makkink formula (developed for grasslands in the Netherlands), Jensen-Haise (for irrigated areas only), Thornthwaite (developed in valley with sufficient water supply, widely misused in semi-arid areas), Linacre (also for well water surfaces), Haude (for Germany).

Probably suitable: McGuinness and Bordne (Developed in Florida) Hargreaves (Davies, California), Blaney & Criddle, Kharrufa, Oudin.

Case studies in (semi-) arid regions: [Dugas et al. \(1991\)](#); [Stannard \(1993\)](#); [Prueger et al. \(1996\)](#); [Steduto et al. \(1997\)](#); [Brisson et al. \(1998\)](#); [Mastrorilli et al. \(1998\)](#); [Rana and Katerji \(1998\)](#); [Dahm et al. \(2002\)](#); [Yepez et al. \(2003\)](#); [Cooper et al. \(2006\)](#); [Tang et al. \(2010\)](#); [Githui et al. \(2012\)](#); [Shadmani et al. \(2012\)](#); [Bohn and Vivoni \(2015\)](#); [Ershadi et al. \(2015\)](#); [Allam et al. \(2016\)](#); [Campos et al. \(2016\)](#); [El-shirbeny et al. \(2016\)](#); [Gao et al. \(2016\)](#); [Li et al. \(2016\)](#); [Wu \(2016\)](#).

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