

# *Land Surface Processes and Land Modelling in Earth System Modeling*

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# ***NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction (NCWCP), College Park, Maryland, USA***



R. Shrestha, IITM 2016



# NOAA

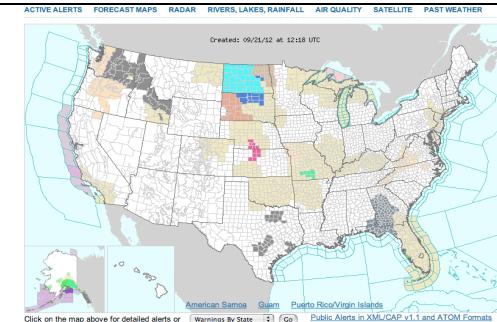
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)



## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)



### National Weather Service National Centers for Environmental Prediction



The Office of the Director at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction gives overarching management to the nine centers, which include the:

**Aviation Weather Center** provides aviation warnings and forecasts of hazardous flight conditions at all levels within domestic and international air space.

**Climate Prediction Center** monitors and forecasts short-term climate fluctuations and provides information on the effects climate patterns can have on the nation.

**Environmental Modeling Center** develops and improves numerical weather, climate, hydrological and ocean prediction through a broad program in partnership with the research community.

**Hydrometeorological Prediction Center** provides nationwide analysis and forecast guidance products out through seven days.

**NCEP Central Operations** sustains and executes the operational suite of numerical analyses and forecast models and prepares NCEP products for dissemination.

**National Hurricane Center** provides forecasts of the movement and strength of tropical weather systems and issues watches and warnings for the U.S. and surrounding areas.

**Ocean Prediction Center** issues weather warnings and forecasts out to five days for the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans north of 30 degrees North.

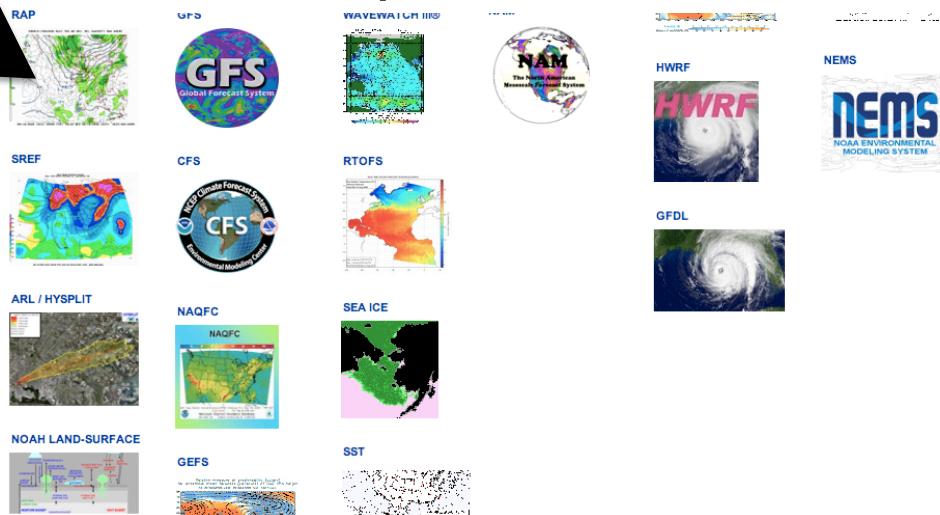
**Space Weather Prediction Center** provides space weather alerts and warnings for disturbances that can affect people and equipment working in space and on earth.

**Storm Prediction Center** provides short-term weather forecasts such as tight derechos along with severe thunderstorms forecasts.

[www.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.ncep.noaa.gov)



### Environmental Modeling Center *Development, upgrade, transition, maintain models*



R. Shrestha, IITM 2016

[www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov)

# Outline

- Role of Land Surface Models (LSMs)
- Review of Land Surface Processes
- Land requirements: physics & parameters, atmospheric forcing, land data sets, initial land states, and land data assimilation
- Land Applications for Weather & Climate
- Testing and Validation
- Land Models in a fully-coupled Earth System
- Land-Atmosphere Interactions
- Partners
- Summary

- Why land modeling is needed?

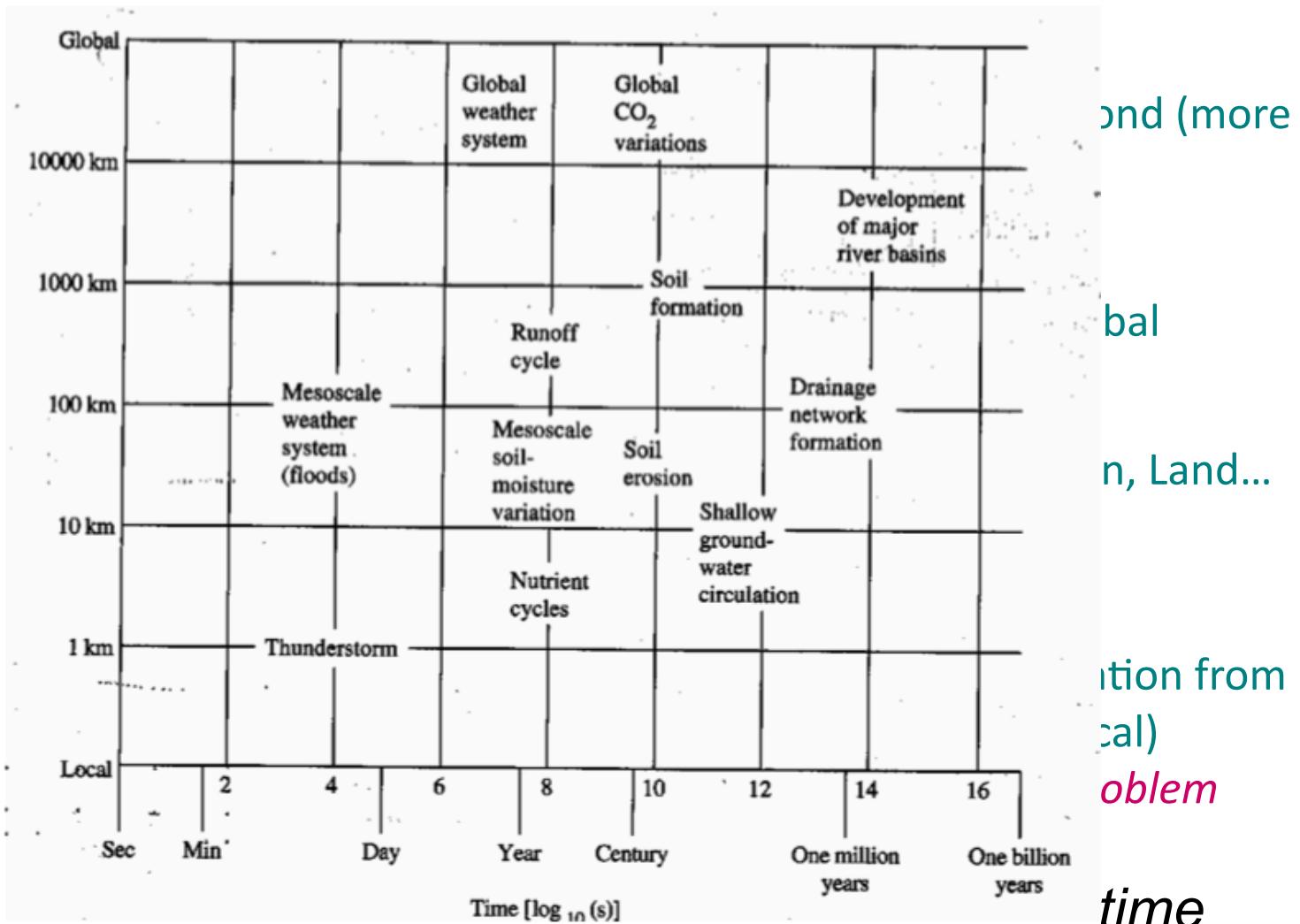
# ESM for weather and climate

## Weather

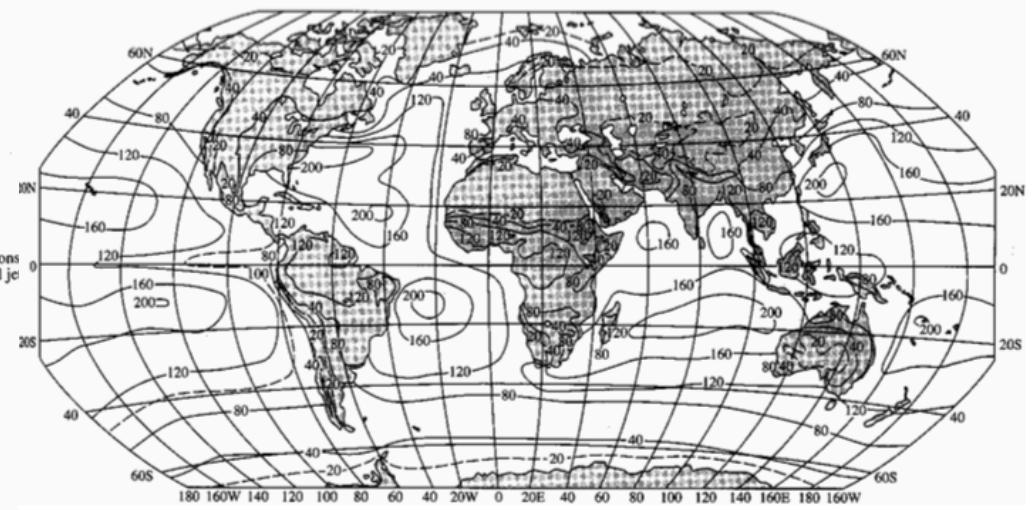
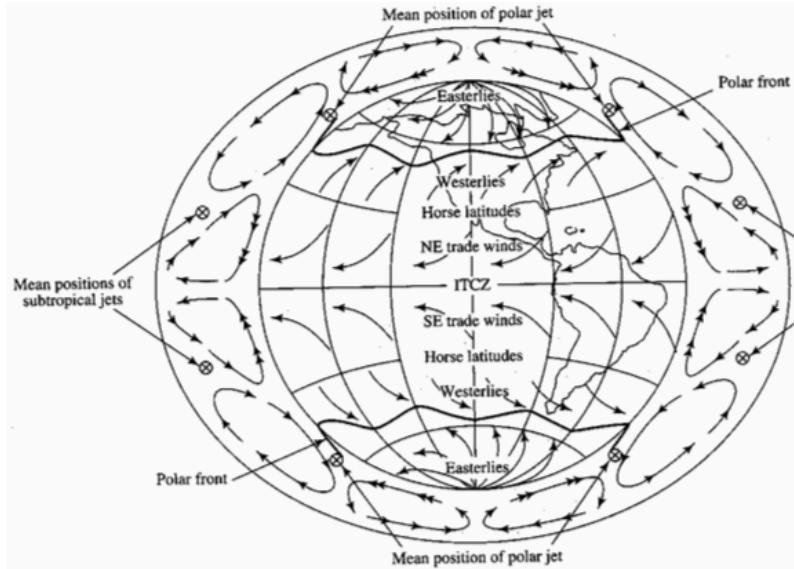
- Time scale
  - Hourly to weekly
- Spatial scale
  - Local
- Main Components
  - Atmosphere, Land
- Predictions
  - Deterministic, moving over time

*Climatic*

## Climate



# Global circulations and evaporation



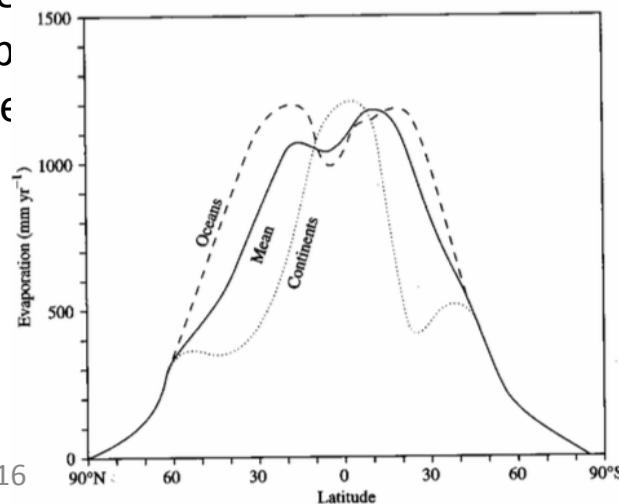
0-30 poleward movement in upper atm  
rising air in equator, descend at 30

30-60 poleward movement in lower atm  
descending air along 30, rising at 60

60-90 poleward movement in upper atm  
ascending air at 60 descending at 90

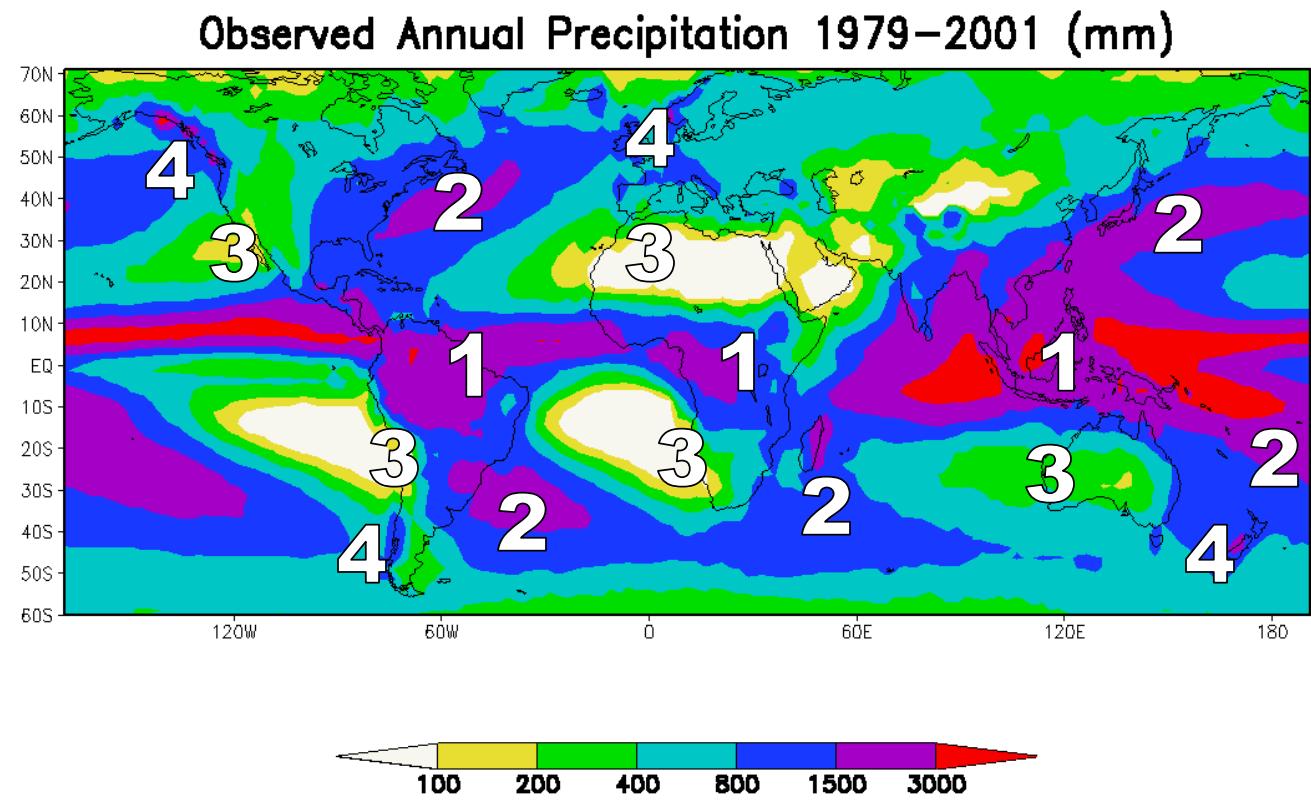
Surface pressure, winds and rainfall are  
strongly related

Global pattern of E is controlled by radiation  
balance at the surface (energy-limited),  
surface winds over ocean and ocean currents  
(transp  
contine



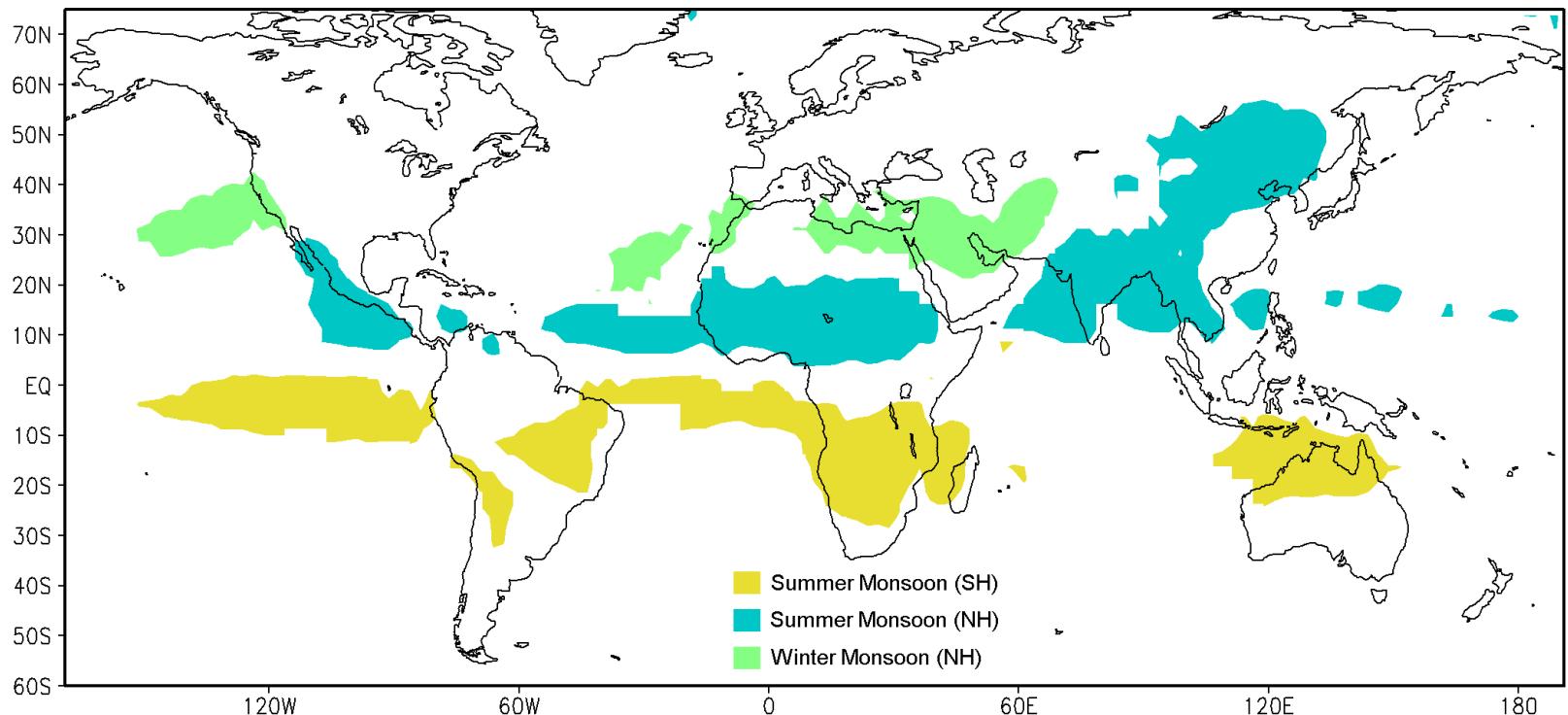
# Global pattern of precipitation

1. Tropical convection clusters at 60W (Amazon), 30E (Africa), and 120E (Indonesia).
2. Mid-latitude storm tracks form on the eastern margins of continents.
3. Deserts form in the subtropics on the western sides of continents.
4. Mid-latitude rain forests form where oceanic westerlies hit the coast.



Land determines the location of precipitation

# Monsoons



- Over land, monsoons characterized by rainy/dry seasons
  - Summer wet / winter dry monsoons exist primarily in the subtropical regions, but can extend into mid-latitudes.
  - Winter monsoons (a.k.a. Mediterranean climates) exist in the Northern Hemisphere (California, North Africa, Middle East)

# Impact of High Terrain

- Himalayas affect the entire depth of the troposphere
  - Temperatures at 500mb (about halfway up through the atmosphere) are considerably warmer because of the presence of the mountain range.
  - This “elevated heat source” is the main engine driving the Asian monsoon.
  - Impacts are even seen in the opposite hemisphere.

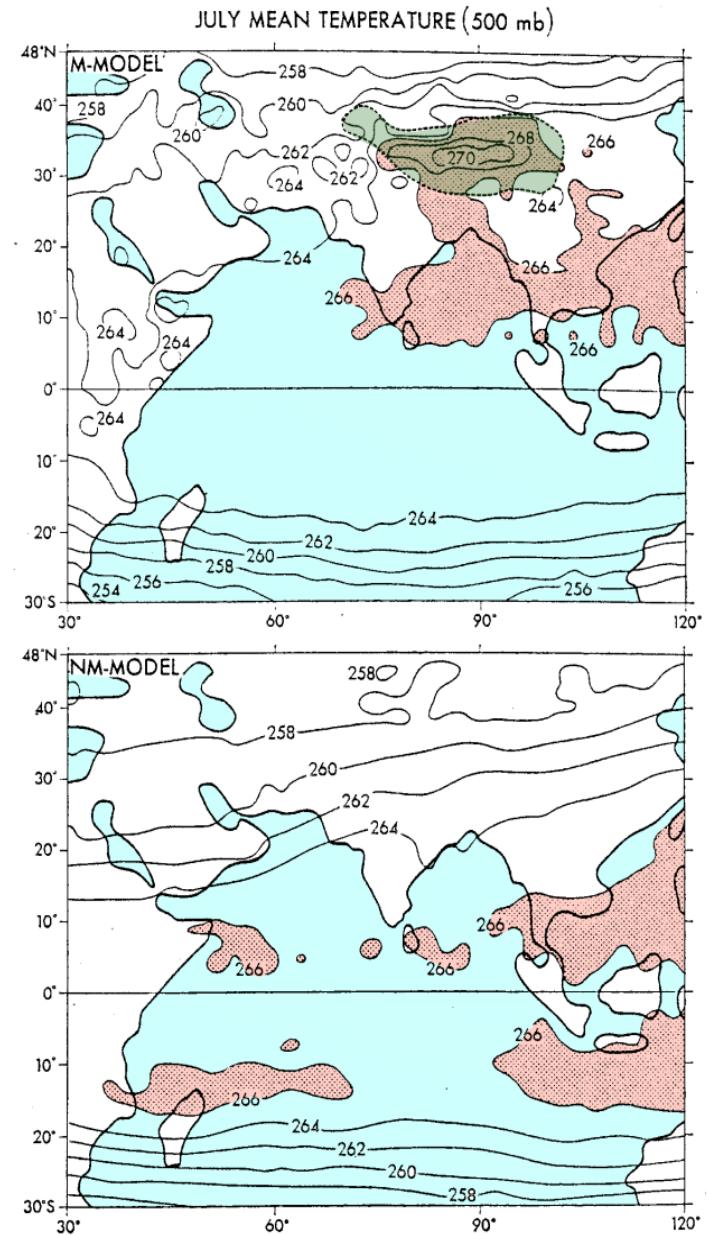
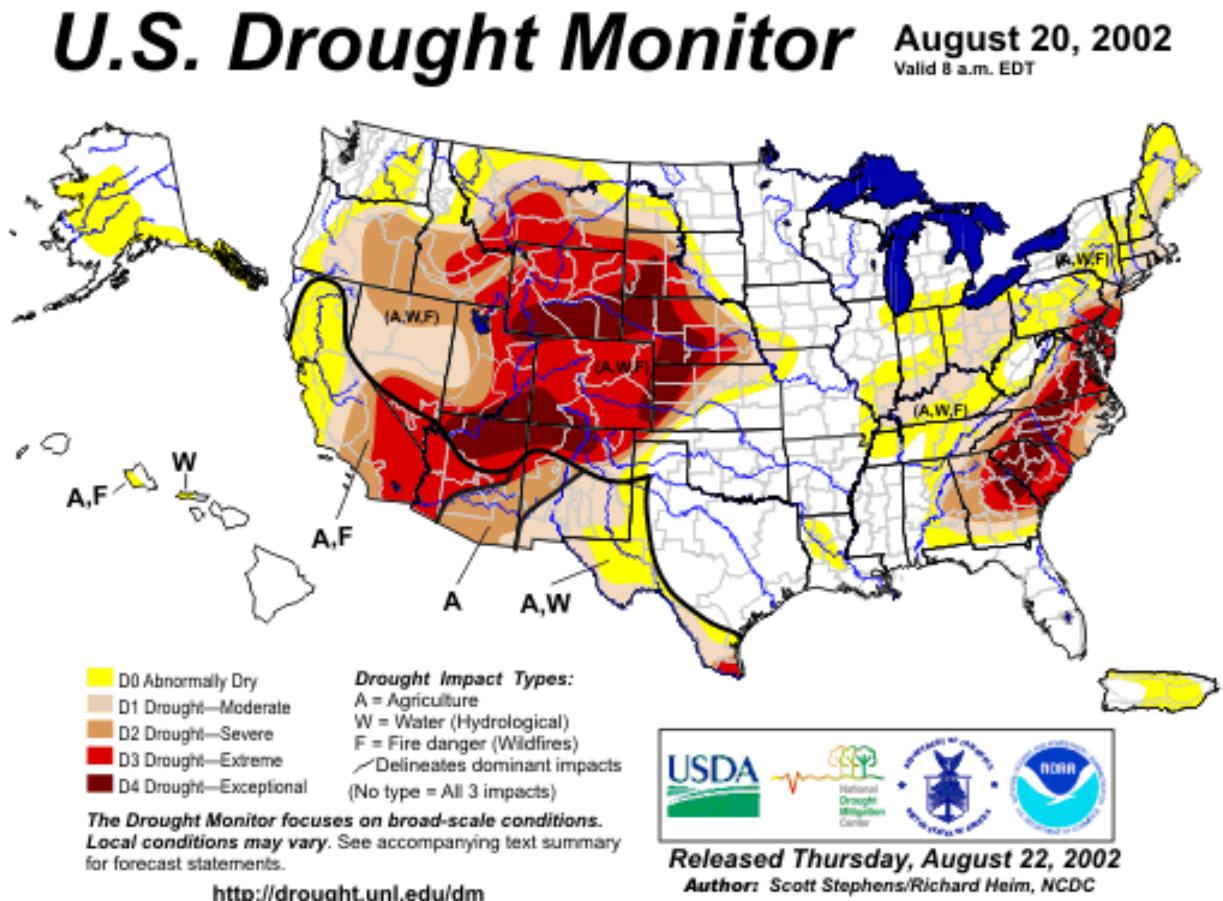


FIG. 4.4. Horizontal distribution of July mean 500 mb temperatures (K) of the M-model (top) and the NM-model (bottom).

10  
Hahn & Manabe (1975)

# Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- Lack of precipitation leads to dry soil (drought).
- Does dry soil lead to lack of precipitation?
- Feedback between land and atmosphere.



# Tropical land and teleconnections

- Heating of the atmosphere over the tropical convective areas can induce “wavetrains” that arc into the mid-latitudes. These wavetrains may provide a teleconnective link between changes to the land surface in the tropics, and climate in the mid-latitudes

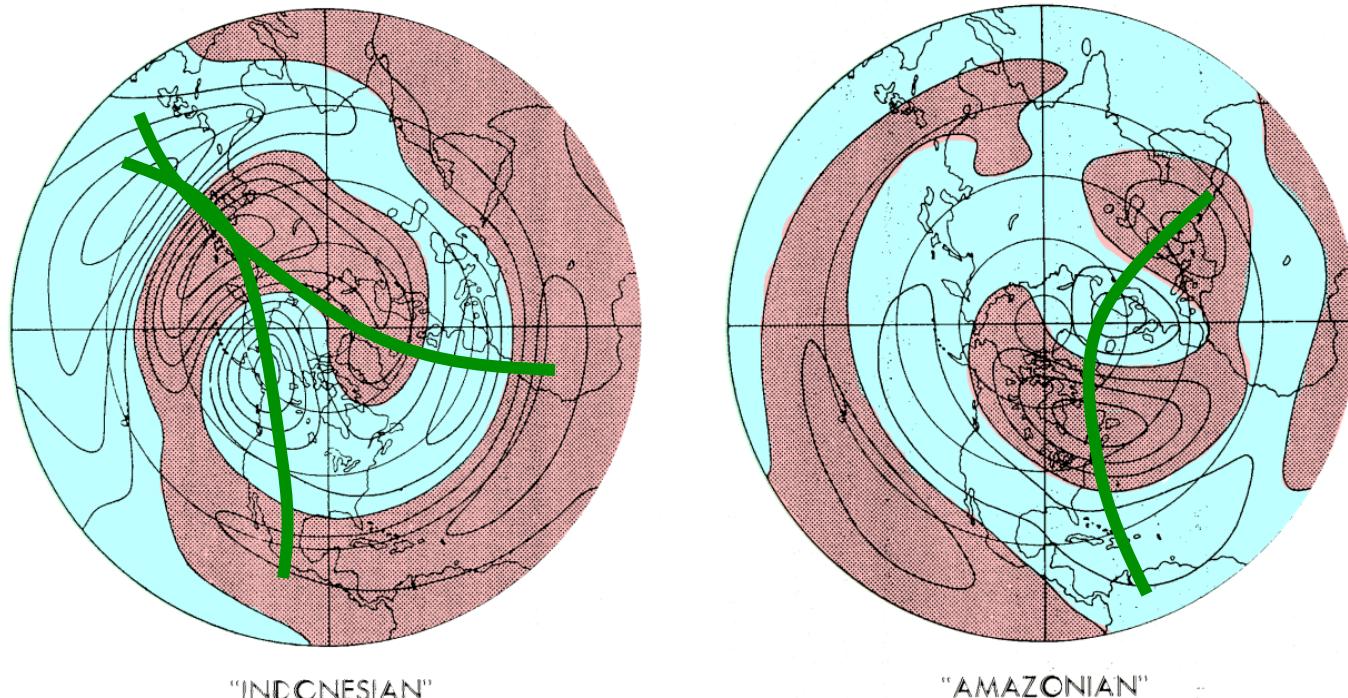


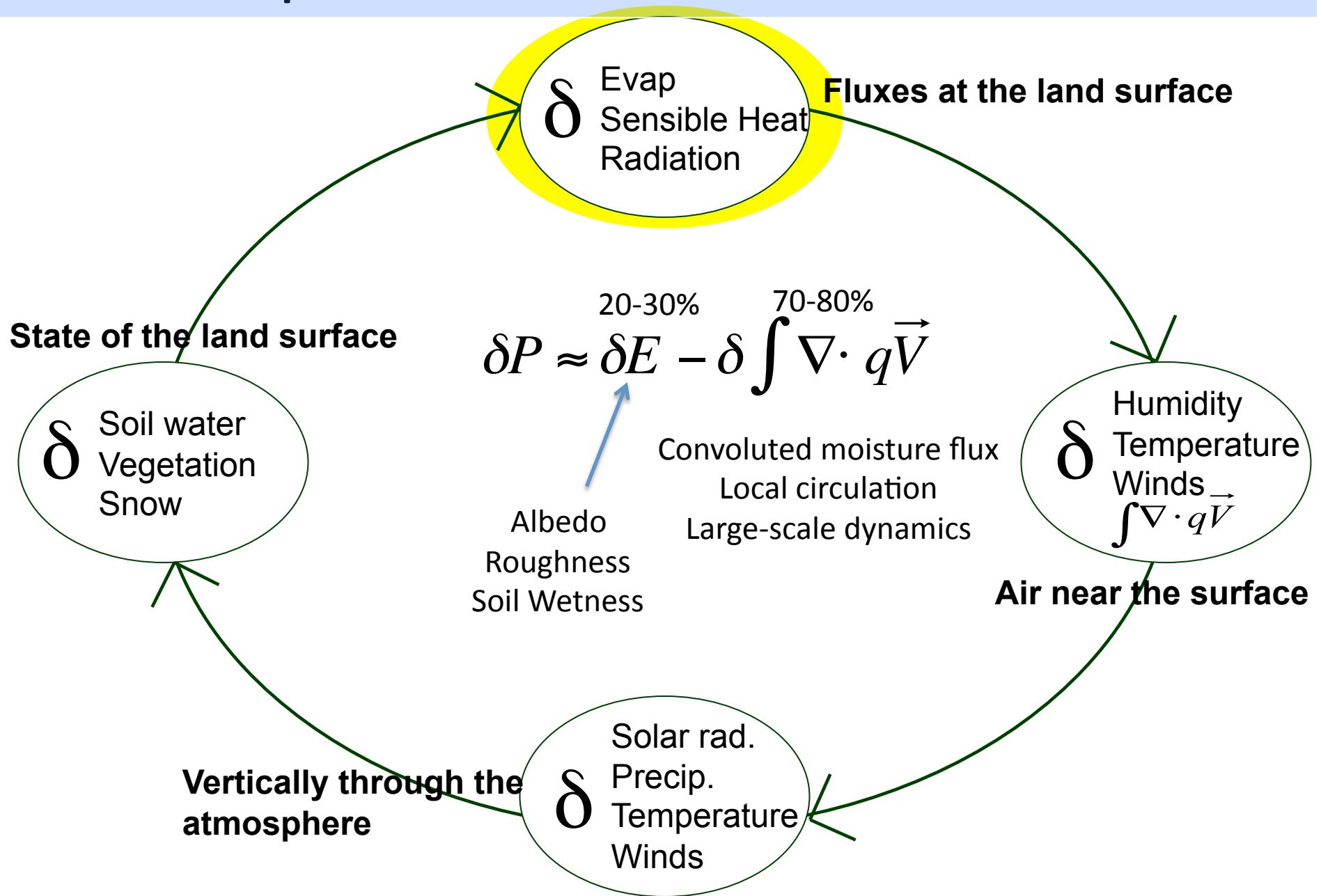
FIG. 5. The tropically forced 300 mb geopotential (of Fig. 8) is split up into parts forced by the ‘Indonesian’ sector (shown in the left hand panel) and the Amazonian sector (for definition, see the text); the fields are shown in the Northern Hemisphere using a contour interval of 10 gpm which is half of that used in contouring the geopotential in Fig. 8.

Nigam (1988)

# Ocean versus Land

1. Ocean has a much higher heat capacity than land.
- F
- H 2. Water “flows” while the land surface is fixed. Ocean can transport much heat laterally, land cannot.
- M
- D 3. Ocean, obviously, is wet (evaporation is not limited by lack of moisture). Land can be wet, dry, or somewhere in between (moisture limitations can impede evaporation).
- E
- C 4. The upper layer of the ocean is well mixed, so the surface characteristics are sufficient to define its interaction with the atmosphere, but soil has vertical structure and overlying vegetation. Heat conduction and moisture transport below the surface become important.
- O
- R
- A
- These facts have a bearing on the physical interactions between the surface and the atmosphere and on the manner in which drag coefficients are specified.
- P

# Simple Land-Climate Interaction



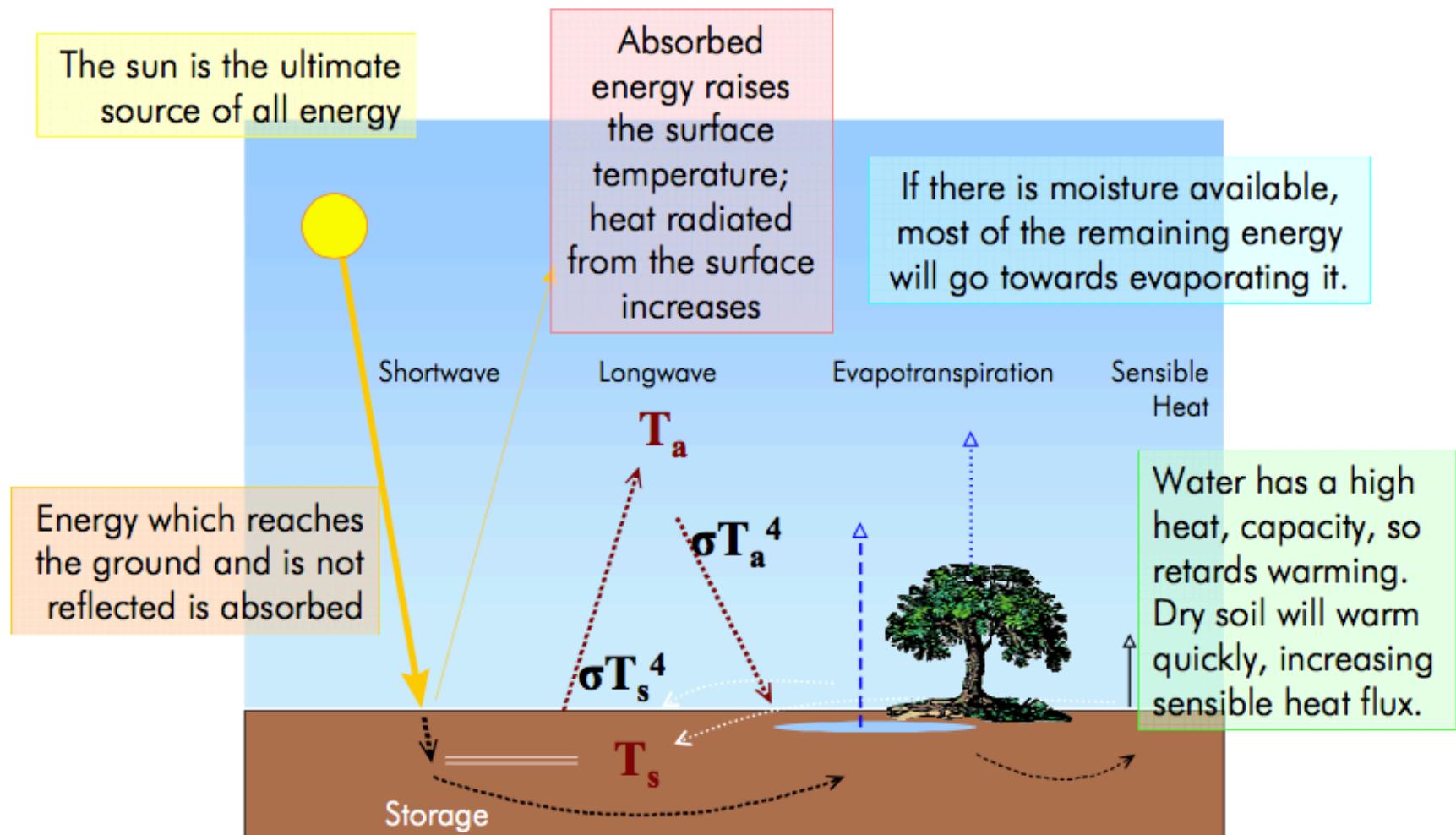
# The fluxes

*Basic notions of the land's effects on global circulation and climate (mean, diurnal cycle, seasonal cycle)*

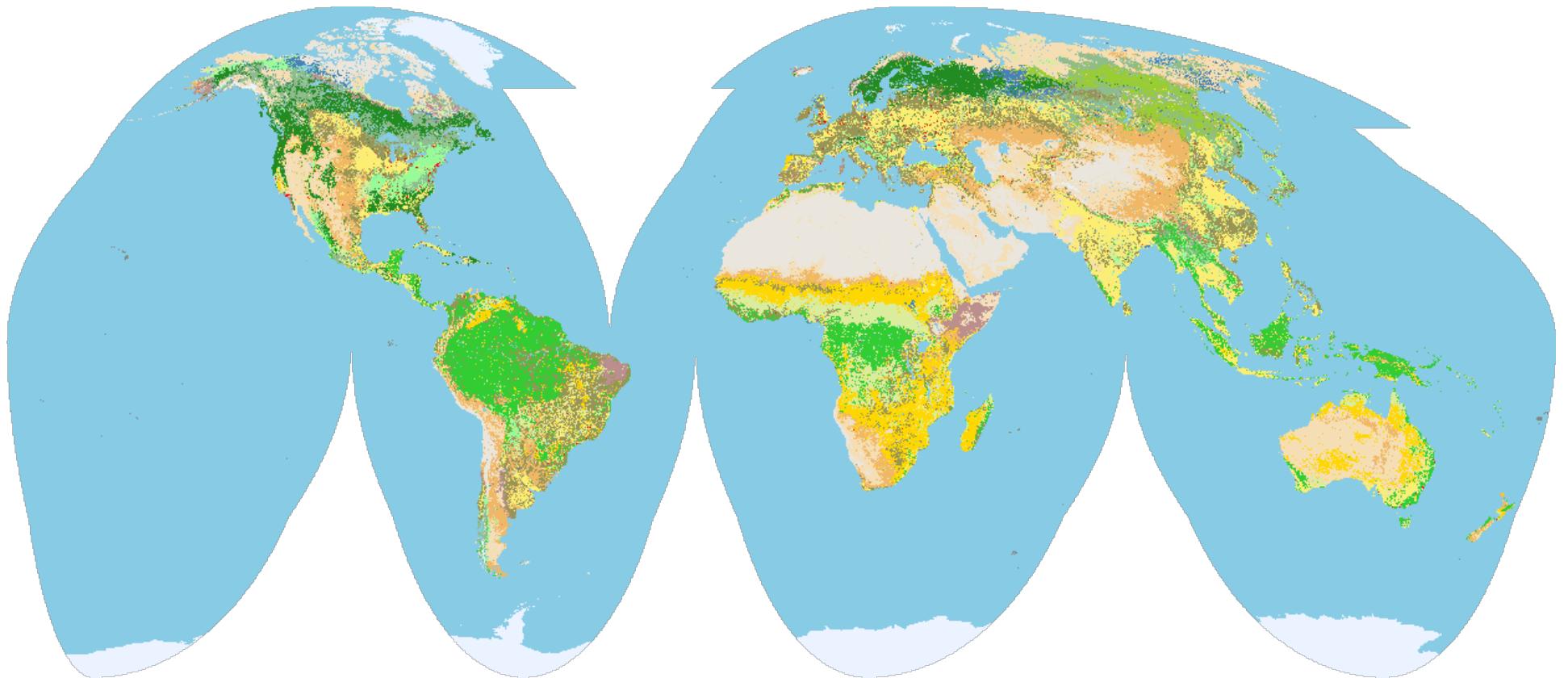
- Momentum
  - Orographic drag, surface roughness, turbulence
- Radiation
  - Solar radiation absorbed, reflected (albedo); longwave radiation
- Heat
  - Sensible heat (conduction), Latent heat (evaporation), Heat storage
- Moisture
  - Precipitation, evaporation, transpiration
- Aerosols
- Trace Gases

*These fluxes are the means of communication between land and atmosphere*

# Energy Balance Over Land



# Vegetation distribution



- Much of the variety at the land surface is in the vegetation. The distributions of major types are determined by: climate, soils, and human activity.

# So, how simple is this land?

**Understanding the role of land in the global circulation and the impact of land-climate interaction in the weather and climate is certainly not simple.**

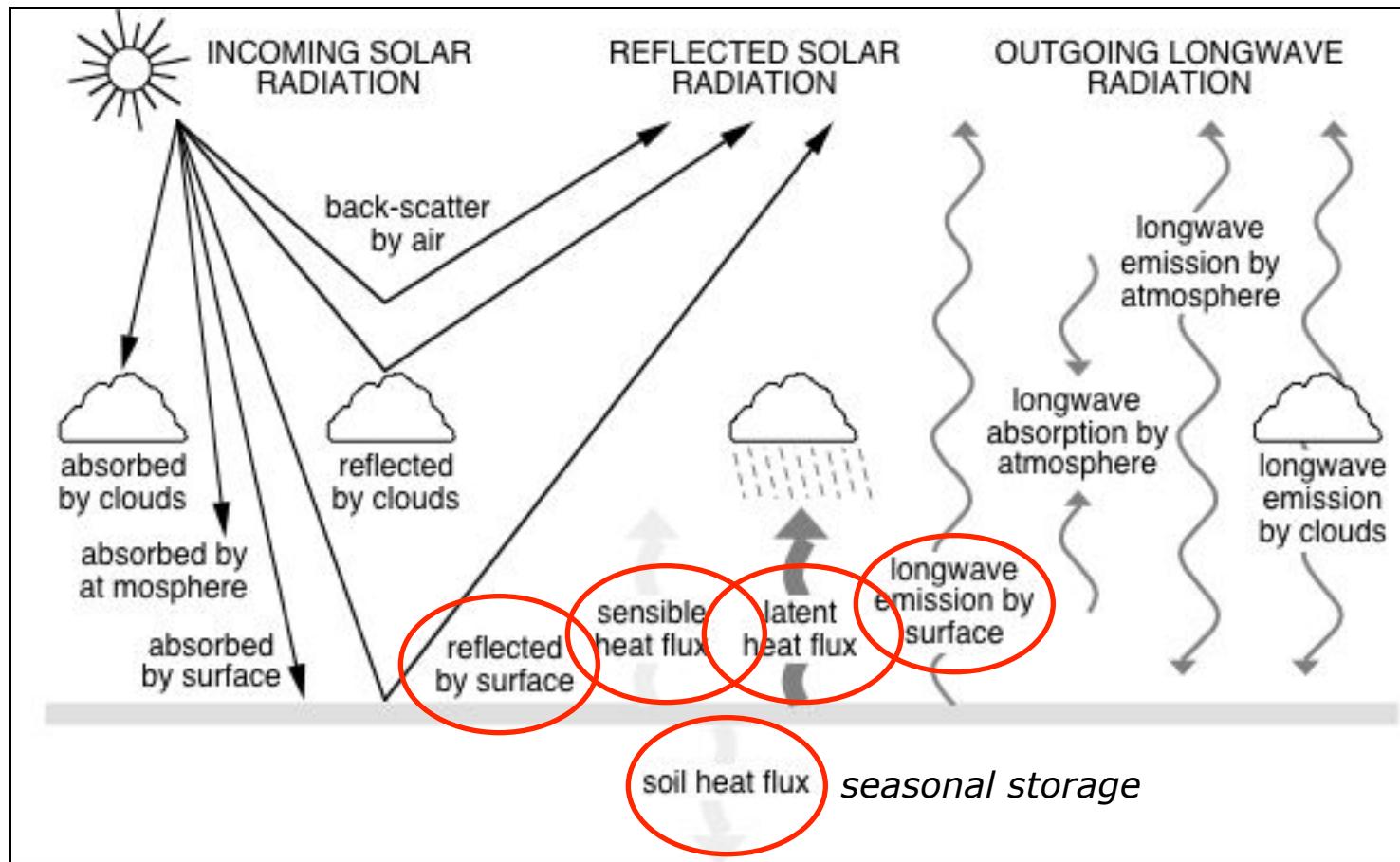
- We cannot do controlled sensitivity studies with the “real world”
- To understand it better, we construct and use land surface models
  - To account how terrestrial water and energy fluxes are being partitioned
- The LSMs are imperfect
  - Assumptions, Simplifications, Parameterizations, Errors
- And, the climate system is non-linear
  - Utterly sensitive to initial conditions
  - Instabilities exist that make prediction difficult
- However, coupling of land surface models are helpful
  - To provide proper boundary conditions for global models

## ***Role of Land Models***

- Traditionally, from a *coupled (atmosphere-ocean-land-ice) Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) and climate modeling perspective*, a land-surface model provides quantities as boundary conditions:
  - Surface **sensible heat flux**,
  - Surface **latent heat flux** (evapotranspiration)
  - Upward **longwave radiation**  
(or skin temperature and surface emissivity),
  - Upward (**reflected**) **shortwave radiation**  
(or surface albedo, including snow effects),
  - Surface **momentum exchange**.

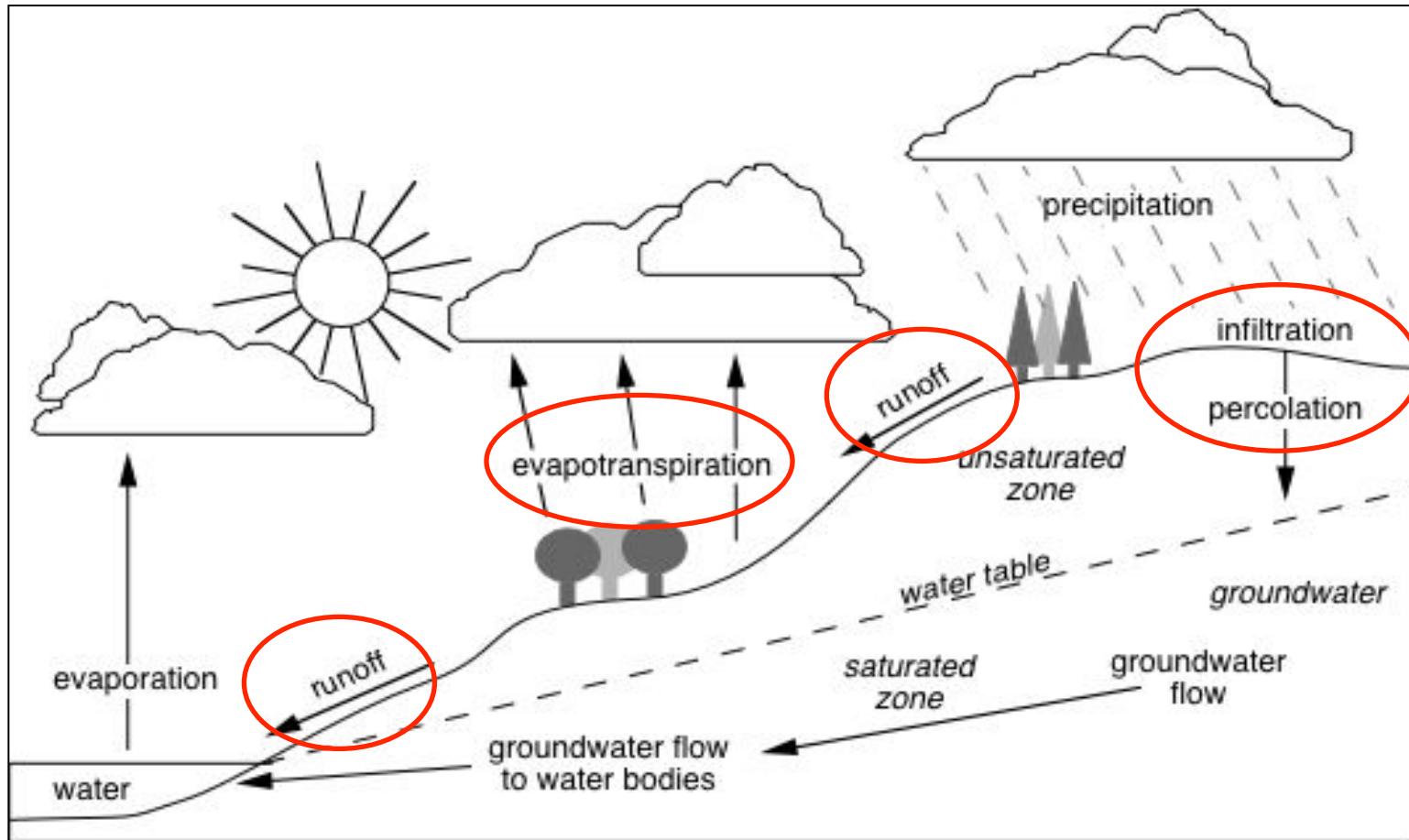
# Atmospheric & Surface Energy Budget

- Close the surface energy budget, and provide surface boundary conditions to NWP and climate models.

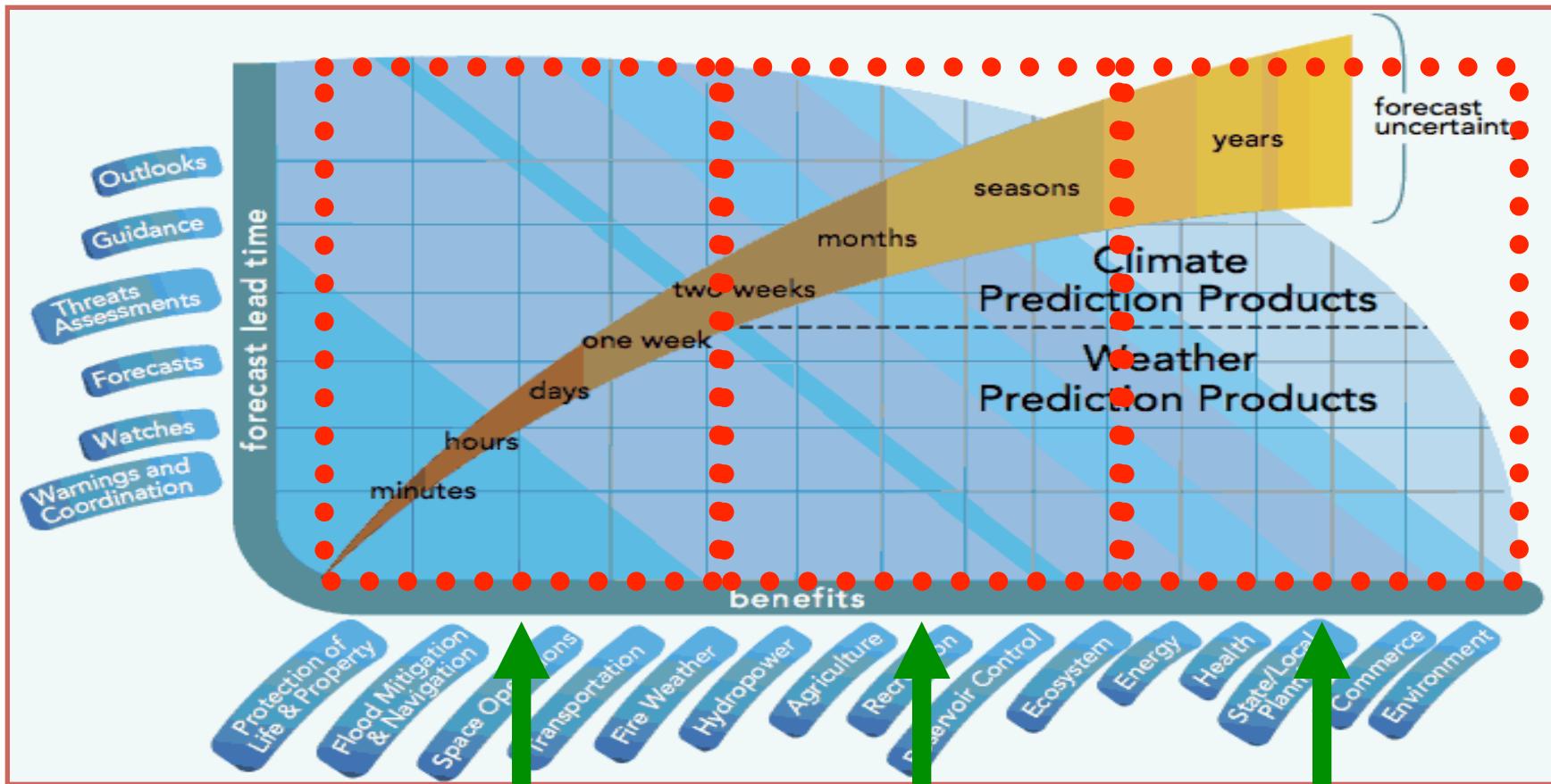


# **Water Budget (Hydrological Cycle)**

- Close the surface water budget, and provide surface boundary conditions to models.



# Weather & Climate: a "Seamless Suite"



- **Products and models are integrated & consistent throughout time & space, as well as across forecast application & domain.**

**Land modeling example:**

Static vegetation,  
e.g. climatology  
or realtime  
observations

Dynamic  
vegetation,  
e.g. plant  
growth

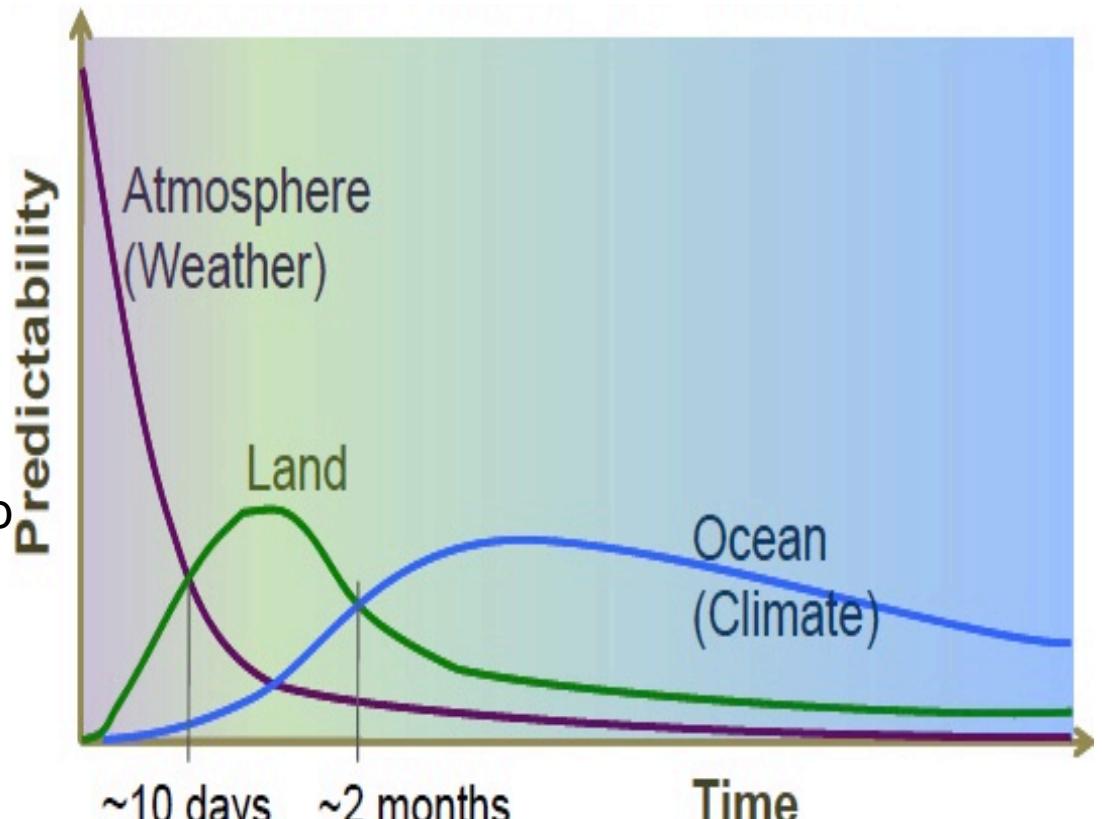
Dynamic  
ecosystems,  
e.g. changing  
land cover

R. Shrestha, IITM 2010

# **Predictability and Prediction**

- Land states (namely soil moisture\*) can provide predictability in the window between deterministic (weather) and climate (O-A) time scales.

- To have an effect, it must have:
  1. Memory of initial land states.
  2. Sensitivity of fluxes to land states, atmosphere to fluxes.
  3. Sufficient variability



\*Snow, too!

*Paul Dirmeyer, George Mason Univ.*

## ***Land Modeling History (NCEP/NWP perspective)***

- 1960s (6-Layer PE model): land surface ignored, aside from terrain height and surface friction effects.
- 1970s (LFM): land surface ignored.
- Late 1980s (NGM): first land surface model (LSM) introduced:
  - Single layer soil slab (Deardorff “force-restore” soil model).
  - No explicit vegetation treatment.
  - Temporally fixed surface wetness factor.
  - Diurnal cycle treated (and diurnal ABL) with diurnal surface radiation.
  - Surface albedo, surface skin temperature, surface energy balance.
  - Snow cover (but not depth).
- Early 1990s (Global MRF): OSU LSM:
  - Multi-layer soil column (2-layers).
  - Explicit annual cycle of vegetation effects.
  - Snow pack physics (snowdepth, SWE).
- Mid 1990s (Meso Eta model): Noah LSM replaces force-restore.
- Mid 2000s (Global Model: GFS): Noah LSM replaces OSU LSM.
- Mid 2000s (Meso Model: WRF): Unified Noah LSM with NCAR.
- 2010s: Noah-MP with NCAR & Noah model development group.

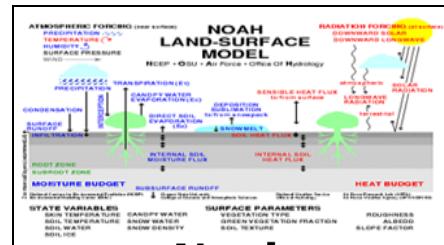
# ***Land Models for Weather and Climate***

## **Weather versus Climate (change) considerations:**

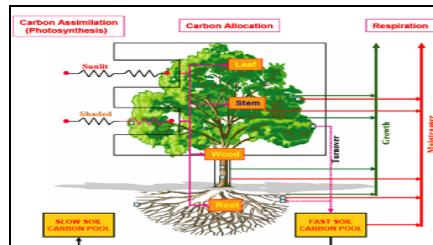
- Vegetation (Static vs dynamic : growth), vs dynamic ecosystems (plant succession), and biogeochemical cycles with CO<sub>2</sub>-based photo-synthesis, different crops, C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, CAM vegetation.
- Longer time-scales spin-up for deeper soils and groundwater, regions with “slow” hydrological cycle (arid, cold), carbon stores.
- Land-use change (observed/assimilated vs modelled), e.g. harvest, fires, urban areas.
- Human influences, e.g. irrigation/reservoirs, urban.
- Careful bookkeeping of energy, water, other budgets, e.g. heat content transported by rivers for climate.
- Seamless connection between weather and climate.

# ***Land Models for Weather and Climate***

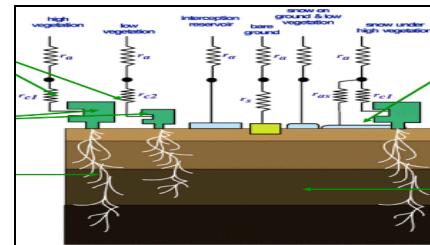
# **Weather**



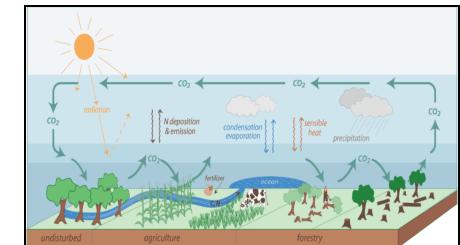
NCEP-NCAR Noah



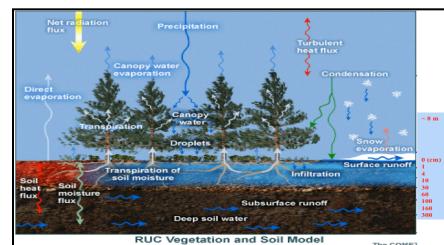
Noah-MP



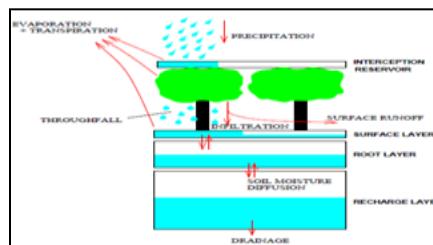
**ECMWF TESSEL**



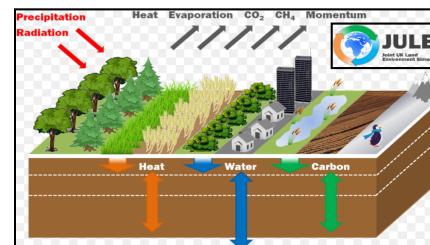
**GFDL LM3**



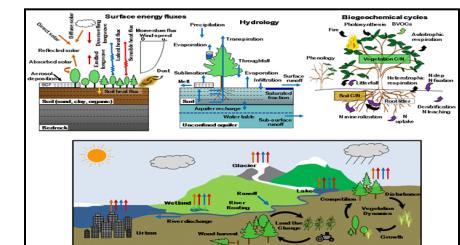
**NOAA/ESRL RUC**



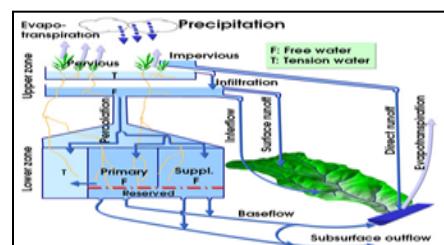
**NASA Catchment**



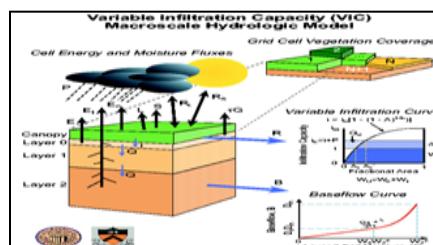
**UKMO JULES**



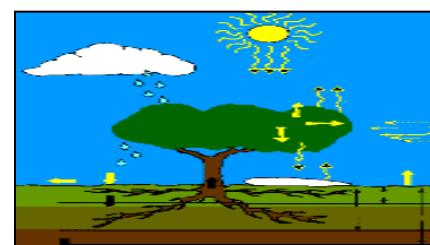
**NCAR CLM**



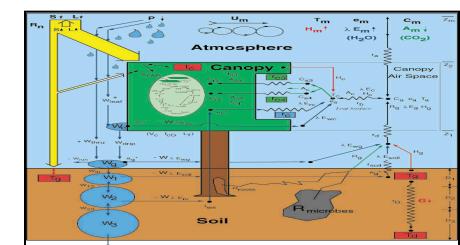
NWS SAC



**UW/Princeton VIC**



BATS



*SiB*

- A sampling –use dictates processes simulated and complexity.

- Land surface processes

# **Land Model Requirements**

- To provide proper boundary conditions, land model must have:
  - Appropriate **physics** to represent land-surface processes (for relevant time/spatial scales) and associated LSM model parameters.
  - Required **atmospheric forcing** to drive LSM.
  - Corresponding **land data sets**, e.g. land use/land cover (vegetation type), soil type, surface albedo, snow cover, surface roughness, etc.
  - Proper **initial land states**, analogous to initial atmospheric conditions, though land states may carry more “memory” (e.g. especially in deep soil moisture), similar to ocean SSTs.

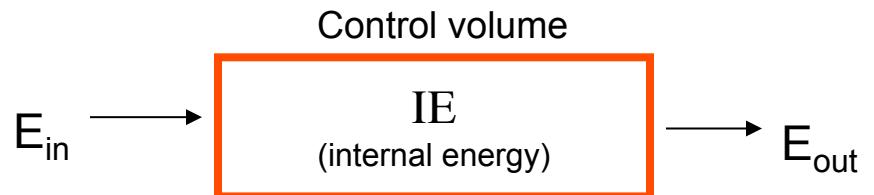
## **Two critical roles for a land surface model:**

- Partition incoming radiative energy into latent heat, sensible heat, heat storage, and outgoing radiative energy
- Partition precipitation into evaporation, runoff, and water storage.

# Energy Balance at the Land Surface

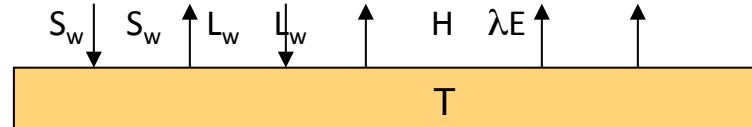
Basic energy balance equation:

$$E_{in}\Delta t = \Delta IE + E_{out}\Delta t$$



for a Single Land Surface Slab, Without Snow

Terms on  
LHS come from  
the climate model.  
Strongly dependent  
on cloudiness, water  
vapor, etc.



Terms on  
RHS come are  
determined by  
the land surface  
model.

$$S_w \downarrow + L_w \downarrow = S_w \uparrow + L_w \uparrow + H + \lambda E + C_p \Delta T + \text{miscellaneous}$$

where

S<sub>w</sub>↓ = Incoming shortwave radiation

L<sub>w</sub>↓ = Downward longwave radiation

S<sub>w</sub>↑ = Reflected shortwave radiation

L<sub>w</sub>↑ = Upward longwave radiation

H = Sensible heat flux

λ = latent heat of vaporization

E = Evaporation rate

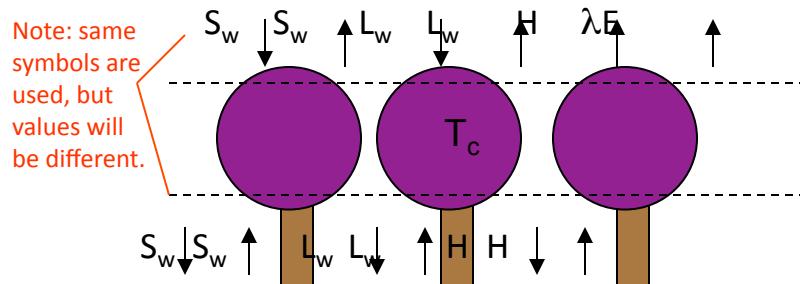
C<sub>p</sub> = Heat capacity of surface slab

ΔT = Change in slab's temperature, over the time step

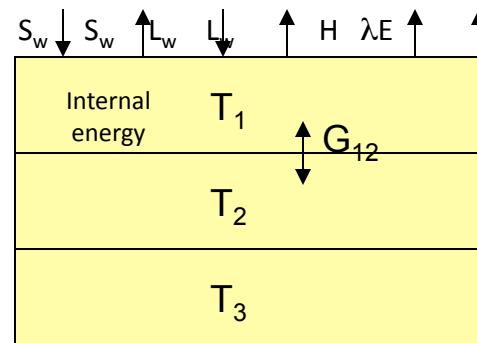
miscellaneous = energy associated with soil water freezing, plant chemical energy, heat content of precipitation, etc.

# Energy balances considering additional layers

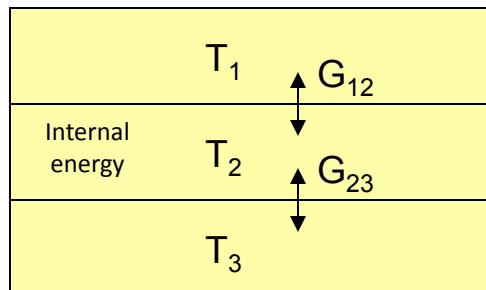
## Energy balance of a vegetation canopy



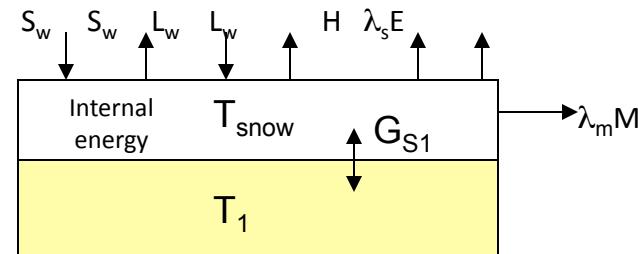
## Energy balance in a surface layer



## Energy balance in a subsurface layer



## Energy balance in snowpack



$\lambda_m$  = latent heat of melting

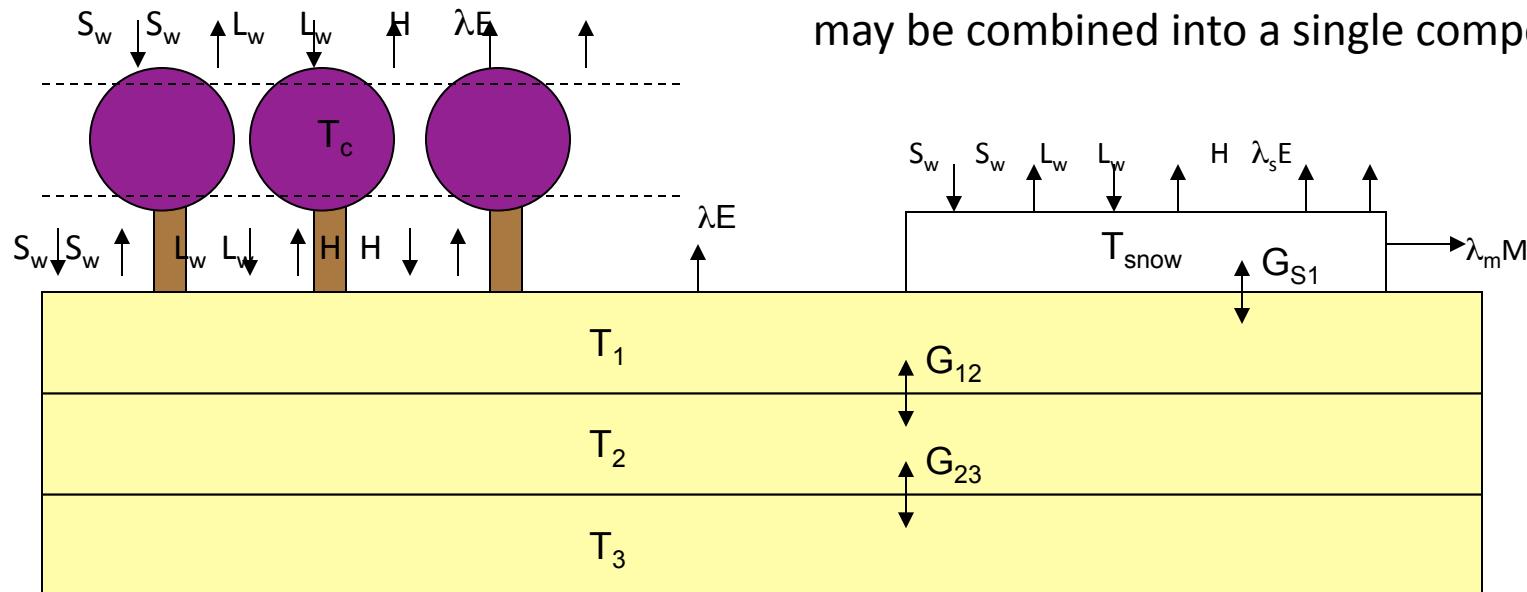
$\lambda_s$  = latent heat of sublimation

M = snowmelt rate

$G_{S1}$  = heat flux between bottom of pack and soil layer 1

# Combinations

In practice, several energy balance calculations may be combined into a single component



Fluxes are usually kept consistent between the “control volumes”. If the energy balance calculation for the snowpack includes a flux  $G_{S1}$  from the bottom of the pack to the ground, then the energy balance for the top soil layer must include an input flux of  $G_{S1}$ .

In this example, a total of five energy balances are included: canopy, snowpack, and three soil layers. Note that LSMs may include additional soil layers or may divide the snowpack itself into more layers, each with its own energy balance.

# Radiation

$$S_w^{\downarrow} = \sum_{b=1}^{\# \text{ bands}} S_{w,\text{direct},\text{band}:b}^{\downarrow} + \sum_{b=1}^{\# \text{ bands}} S_{w,\text{diffuse},\text{band}:b}^{\downarrow}$$

$$S_w^{\uparrow} = \sum_{b=1}^{\# \text{ bands}} S_{w,\text{direct},\text{band}:b}^{\downarrow} * \alpha_{\text{direct},\text{band}:b}$$

$$+ \sum_{b=1}^{\# \text{ bands}} S_{w,\text{diffuse},\text{band}:b}^{\downarrow} * \alpha_{\text{diffuse},\text{band}:b}$$

reflectance for  
spectral band

Simplest description: without differentiating between diffuse and direct components:

$$S_w^{\uparrow} = S_w^{\downarrow} a$$

albedo

Typical albedo values :

sand	.18-.28
grassland	.16-.20
green crops	.15-.25
forests	.14-.20
dense forest	.05-.10
fresh snow	.75-.95
old snow	.40-.60
urban	.14-.18

Stefan-Boltzmann law:  $L_w^{\uparrow} = \epsilon \sigma T^4$

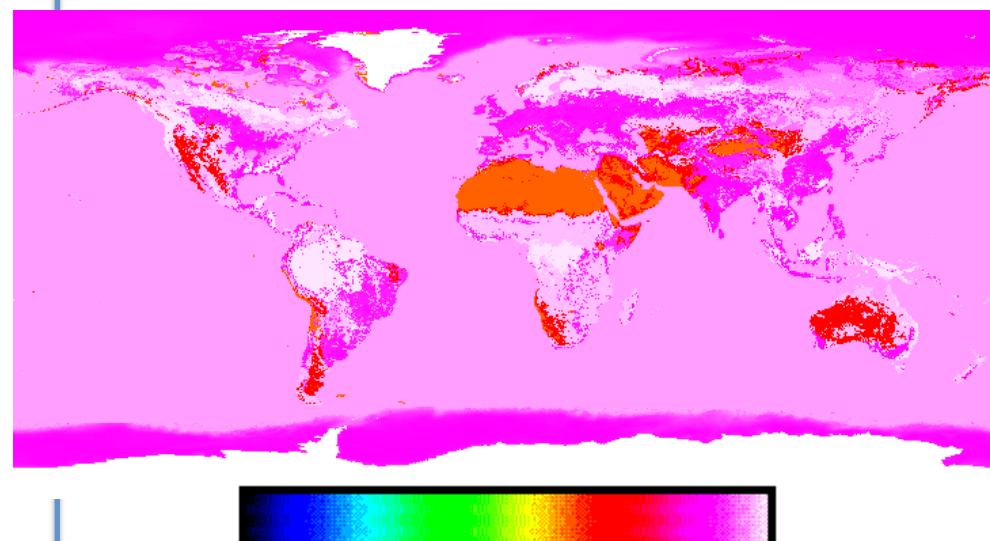
where  $\epsilon$  = surface emissivity

$\sigma$  = Stefan-Boltzmann constant

$$= 5.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W/(m}^2\text{K}^4\text{)}$$

T = surface temperature (K)

Emissivities of natural surfaces tend to be slightly less than 1, and they vary with water content. For simplicity, many models assume  $\epsilon = 1$  exactly.



# Heat Fluxes

## Sensible heat flux (H)

Spatial transfer of the “jiggly-ness” of molecules, as represented by temperature

Equation commonly used in climate models:

$$H = \rho c_p C_H |V| (T_s - T_r),$$

where

$\rho$  = mean air density

$c_p$  = specific heat of air, constant pressure

$C_H$  = exchange coefficient for heat

$|V|$  = wind speed at reference level

$T_s$  = surface temperature

$T_r$  = air temperature at reference level  
(e.g., lowest GCM grid box)

For convenience, we can write this in terms of the aerodynamic resistance,  $r_a$ :

$$H = \frac{\rho c_p (T_s - T_r)}{r_a}$$

where  $r_a = 1 / (C_H |V|)$

## Latent Heat Flux (LE):

The energy used to transform liquid (or solid) water into water vapor

Latent heat flux from a liquid surface:  $\lambda_v E$   
where

$E$  = evaporation rate

(flux of water molecules away from surface)

$\lambda_v$  = latent heat of vaporization

$$= (2.501 - .002361T) \times 10^6 \text{ J/kg (approx)}$$

Latent heat flux from an ice surface:  $\lambda_s E$   
where

$\lambda_s$  = latent heat of sublimation

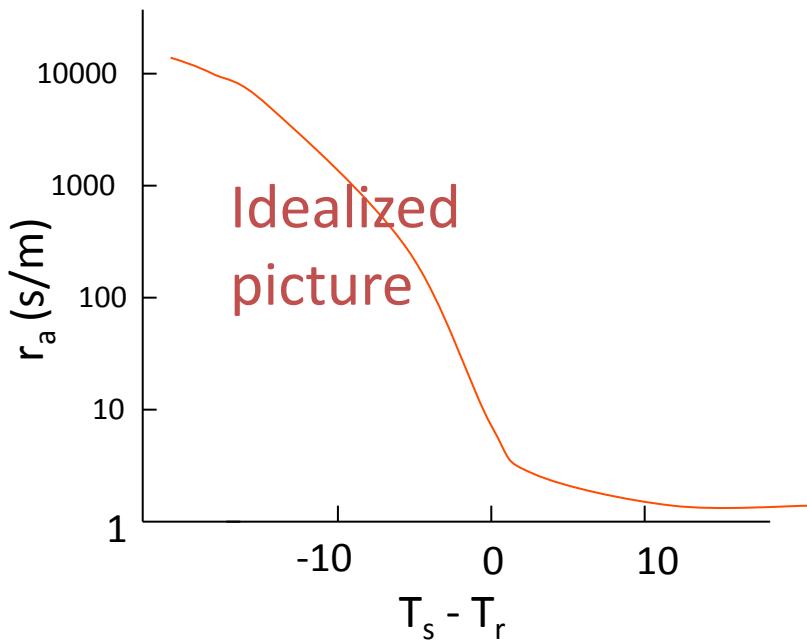
$$= \lambda_v + \lambda_m$$

$\lambda_m$  = latent heat of melting

$$= 3.34 \times 10^5 \text{ J/kg (approx)}$$

For simplicity,  $\lambda_v$  and  $\lambda_s$  shall be assumed constant.  
Thus the latent heat flux estimation shall be discussed in terms of the evaporation calculation.

$r_a$ : the aerodynamic resistance represents the difficulty with which heat (jiggliness of molecules) can be transferred through the near surface air. This difference is strongly dependent on wind speed, roughness length, and buoyancy, which itself varies with temperature difference:



$e_s(T)$  = saturation vapor pressure: the vapor pressure at which the condensation vapor onto a surface is equal to the upward flux of vapor from the surface.

$$e_s(T) \text{ varies as } \exp\left(-0.622 \frac{\lambda}{R_d T}\right)$$

$$e_s(T) = \exp(21.18123 - 5418/T)/0.622$$

Mass of vapor per mass of air  
Specific humidity,  $q$ :

$$q_r = 0.622 e_r / p$$

( $p$  = surface pressure,  $e_r$  = vapor pressure)

#### Four evaporation components

**Transpiration:** The flux of moisture drawn out of the soil and then released into the atmosphere by plants.

**Bare soil evaporation:** Evaporation of soil moisture without help from plants.

**Interception loss:** Evaporation of rainwater that sits on leaves and ground litter without ever entering the soil

**Snow evaporation:** sublimation from the surface of the snowpack

## Evaporation from a fully wetted surface ( $=E_p$ )

Here's the famous Penman equation:

Contains terms that are relatively easy to measure

“equilibrium evaporation for a saturated air mass passing over a wet surface”

$$E_{\text{penman}} = \frac{(R_{\text{net}} - G)\Delta + (\rho c_p/r_a) (e_s(T_r) - e_r)}{\Delta + \gamma}$$

contribution due to subsaturated air

$$\Delta = d(e_s)/dT$$

$$\gamma = c_p p / (0.622 \lambda)$$

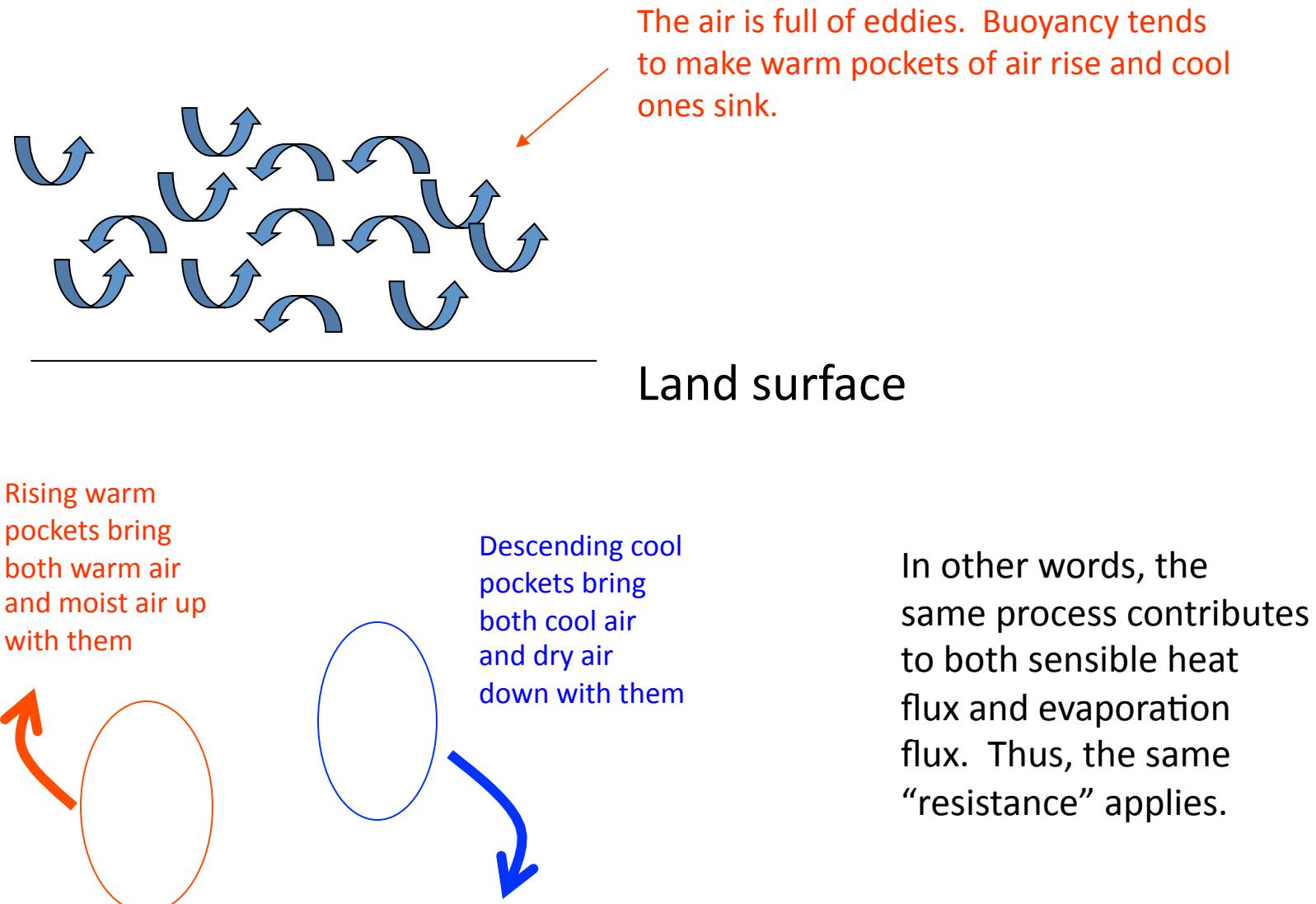
$G$  = heat flux into ground

$R_{\text{net}}$  = net radiation

The Penman equation can be shown to be equivalent to the following equation, which lies at the heart of the potential evaporation calculation used in many climate models:

$$E_p = \frac{0.622 \rho}{p} \frac{e_s(T_s) - e_r}{r_a}$$

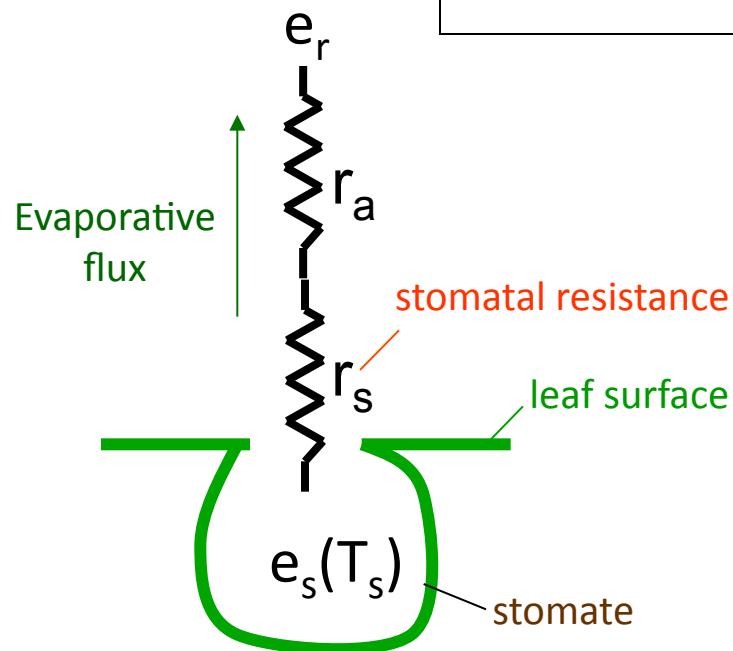
## A simple rationale:



## Simplest model for transpiration:

Equation that  
lies at the heart  
of standard land  
surface models!

$$E = \frac{0.622\rho}{p} \frac{e_s(T_s) - e_r}{r_a + r_s}$$



- Assumes saturated conditions within plant stomata
- Assumes the plant/soil system determines  $r_s$ , the stomatal resistance.
- Employs “Ohm’s Law” analogy, placing stomatal and aerodynamic resistances in series.

Note: above equation is equivalent to the famous Penman-Monteith evaporation equation

$$E_{\text{penman-monteith}} = \frac{(R_{\text{net}} - G) \Delta + (\rho c_p / r_a) (e_s(T_r) - e_r)}{\Delta + \gamma (1 + r_s / r_a)}$$

# Stomatal resistance is not easy to quantify.

$r_s$  varies with:

- plant type and age
- photosynthetically active radiation (PAR)
- soil moisture ( $w$ )
- ambient temperature ( $T_a$ )
- vapor pressure deficit (VPD)
- ambient carbon dioxide concentrations

Effective  $r_s$  for a full canopy  
leaf distribution, etc.  $r_c$

<u>Minimum Stomatal Resistance [sec m-1]</u> (from BATS and CLSM, via LDAS)	<u>Optimal temperature range (K)</u> From SiB, as used in Mosaic	<u>Wilting point matric potential (m)</u> From SiB, as used in Mosaic
1. Evergreen Needleleaf Forest	175	268-313
2. Evergreen Broadleaf Forest	150	273-318
3. Deciduous Needleleaf Forest	175	
4. Deciduous Broadleaf Forest	175	273-318
5. Mixed Cover	175	-250.
6. Woodland	173.	-500
7. Wooded Grassland	169.	
8. Closed Shrubland	175	283-323
9. Open Shrubland	178.	-400
10. Grassland	165	283-328
11. Cropland	117	-230.
12. Bare Ground	175	
13. Urban and Built-Up	154.	

## Modeling stomata

“Jarvis-type” models

Many newer models

Key point: Because plant environmental stress,  $r_s$  increases times of environmental stress

## Typical approaches to modeling latent heat flux (summary)

Transpiration

$$\lambda_v E = \frac{0.622\lambda_v\rho}{p} \frac{e_s(T_s) - e_r}{r_a + r_s}$$

Evaporation from bare soil

$$\lambda_v E = \frac{0.622\lambda_v\rho}{p} \frac{e_s(T_s) - e_r}{r_a + r_{\text{surface}}}$$

Resistance to evaporation imposed by soil

Interception loss

$$\lambda_v E = \frac{0.622\lambda_v\rho}{p} \frac{e_s(T_s) - e_r}{r_a}$$

Note: more complicated forms are possible, e.g., inclusion (in series) of a subcanopy aerodynamic resistance.

Snow evaporation

$$\lambda_s E = \frac{0.622\lambda_s\rho}{p} \frac{e_s(T_s) - e_r}{r_a}$$

## HEAT FLUX INTO THE SOIL

One layer soil model: Let  $G$  be the residual energy flux at the land surface, i.e.,

$$G = S_w \downarrow + L_w \downarrow - S_w \uparrow - L_w \uparrow - H \uparrow - \lambda E$$

Then the temperature of the soil,  $T_s$ , must change by  $\Delta T_s$  so that

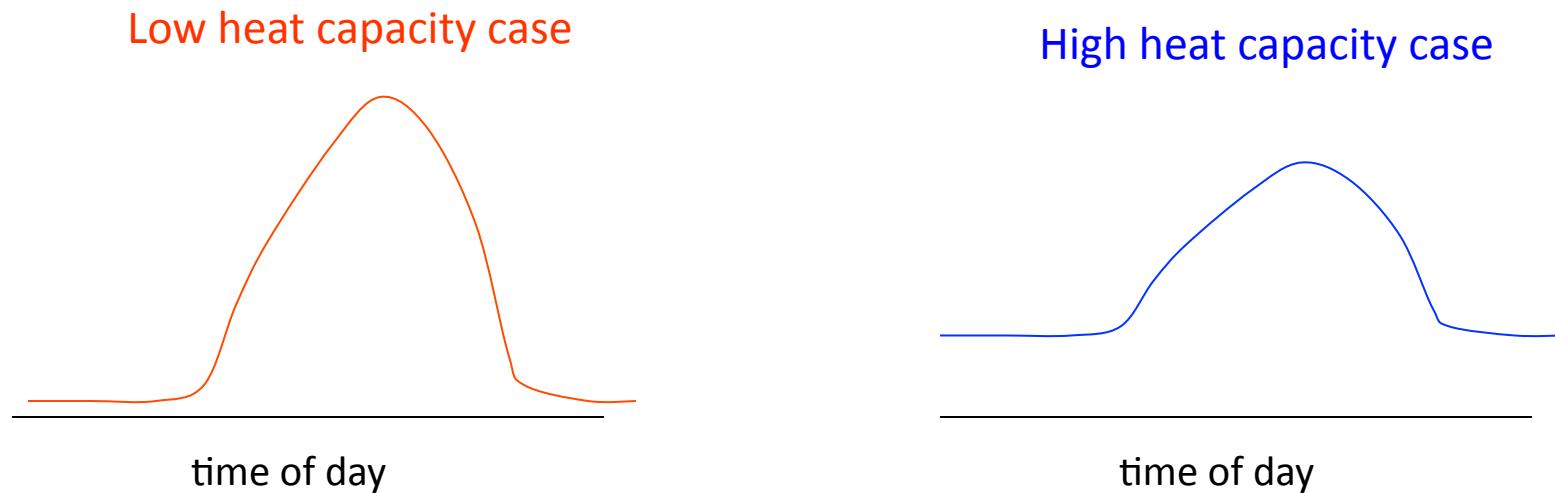
$$G = C_p \Delta T_s / \delta t$$

where

$C_p$  is the heat capacity

$\delta t$  is the time step length (s)

The choice of the heat capacity can have a major impact on the surface energy balance.

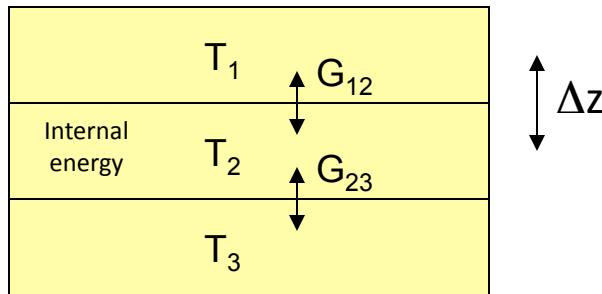


- Heat capacity might, for example, be chosen so that it represents the depth to which the diurnal temperature wave is felt in the soil.
- Note that heat capacity increases with water content. Incorporating this effect correctly can complicate energy balance calculations.

# Heat Flux Between Soil Layers

One simple approach:

$$G_{12} = \Lambda (T_1 - T_2) / \Delta z$$

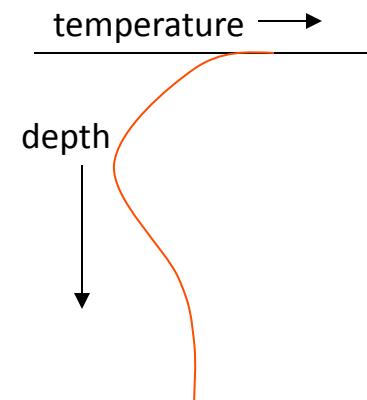


where

$\Lambda$  = thermal conductivity

$\Delta z$  = distance between  
centers of soil layers.

- Using multiple layers rather than a single layer allows the temperature of the surface layer (which controls fluxes) to be more accurate.
- Like heat capacity, thermal conductivity increases with water content. Accounting for this is comparatively easy.

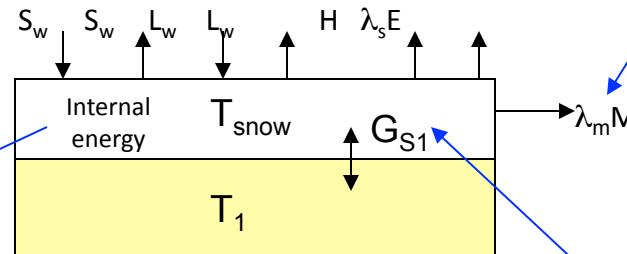


# Snow modeling

Albedo is high when the snow is fresh, but it decreases as the snow ages.

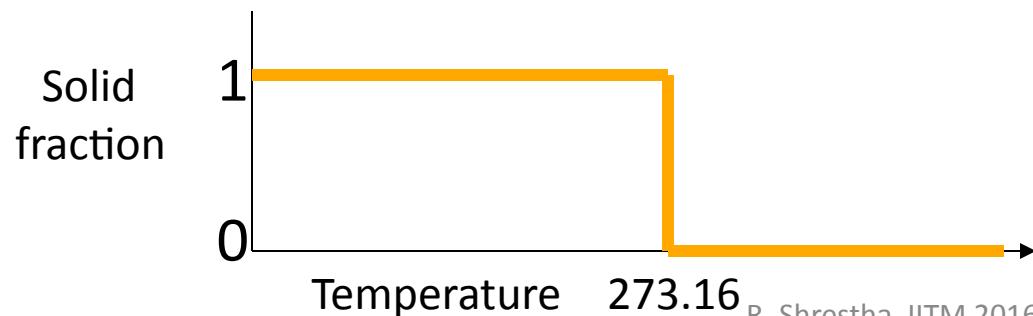
Internal energy a function of snow amount, snow temperature, and liquid water retention

Energy balance in snowpack



Snowmelt occurs only when snow temperature reaches  $273.16^{\circ}\text{K}$ .

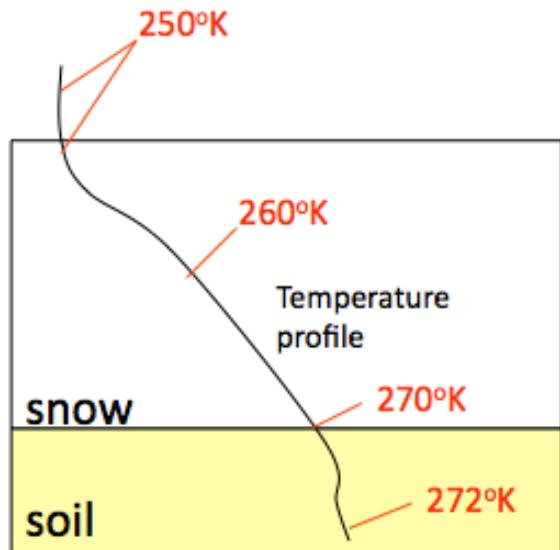
Thermal conductivity within snow pack varies with snow age. It increases with snow density (compaction over time) and with liquid water retention.



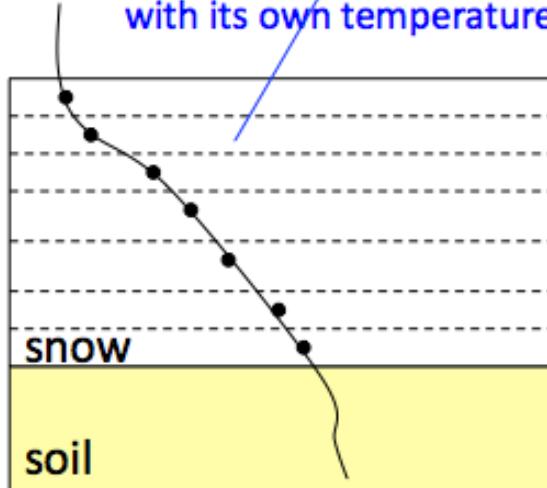
# Snow profile Temperature

Critical property of snow: Low thermal conductivity

→ strong insulation



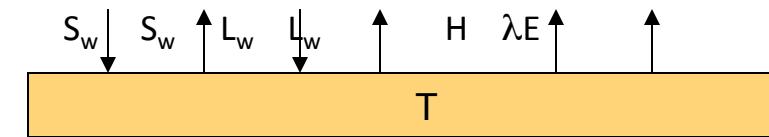
To capture such properties, the snow can be modeled as a series of layers, each with its own temperature.



One way:

1. Solve the energy balance for a layer, and determine the updated temperature.
2. If the new temperature is less than or equal to 273.16°K, then we're done.
3. If the new temperature is greater than 273.16°K, then recompute the energy balance assuming the new temperature is exactly 273.16°K.

# SOLVING THE ENERGY BALANCE EQUATION



$$S_w \downarrow + L_w \downarrow = S_w \uparrow + L_w \uparrow + H \uparrow + \lambda E \uparrow + C_p \Delta T / \delta t$$

The key to solving the energy balance equation is to notice that all fluxes on the right hand side of the equation (except  $S_w$ ) are functions of the temperature,  $T_s$ .

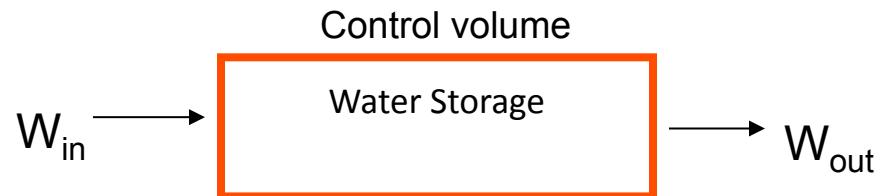
Simplest calculation: Assume heat capacity of surface is zero.

$$S_w \downarrow + L_w \downarrow = S_w \uparrow + f(T_s) \rightarrow \text{Solve for } T_s$$

# Water Balance at the Land Surface

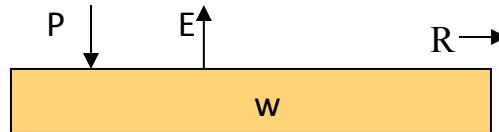
Basic water balance equation:

$$W_{in}\Delta t = \Delta storage + W_{out}\Delta t$$



Water Balance for a Single Land Surface Slab, Without Snow  
(e.g., standard bucket model)

Terms on  
LHS come from  
the climate model.  
Strongly dependent  
on cloudiness, water  
vapor, etc.



Terms on  
RHS come are  
determined by  
the land surface  
model.

$$P = E + R + C_w\Delta w/\Delta t + \text{miscellaneous}$$

where

P = Precipitation

E = Evaporation

R = Runoff (effectively consisting of surface runoff *and* baseflow)

$C_w$  = Water holding capacity of surface slab

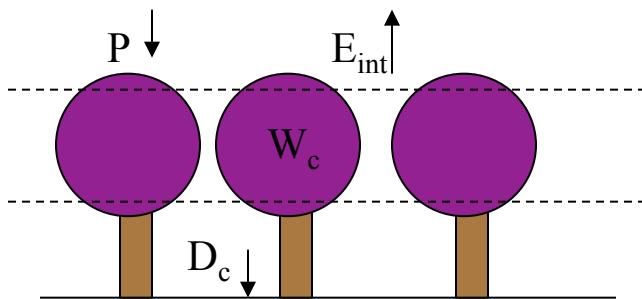
$\Delta w$  = Change in the degree of saturation of the surface slab

$\Delta t$  = time step length

miscellaneous = conversion to plant sugars, human consumption, etc.

# Simplified water balance

Water balance associated with canopy  
interception reservoir



A combination of water balances :

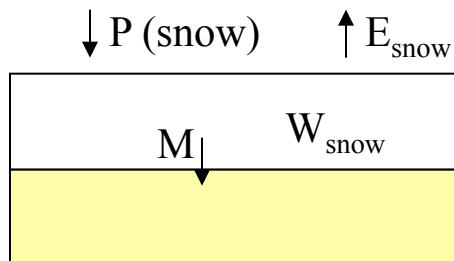
$$P = E_{\text{int}} + D_c + \frac{\Delta W_c}{\Delta t}$$

E<sub>int</sub> = interception loss

D<sub>c</sub> = drainage through canopy  
("throughfall")

ΔW<sub>c</sub> = change in canopy  
interception storage

Water balance in a snowpack



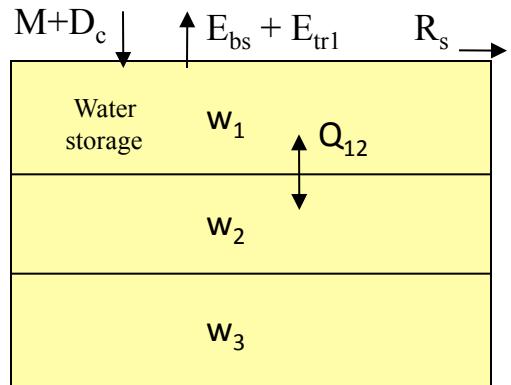
$$P = E_{\text{snow}} + M + \frac{\Delta W_{\text{snow}}}{\Delta t}$$

E<sub>snow</sub> = sublimation rate

M = snowmelt

ΔW<sub>snow</sub> = change in snow  
amount ("infinite"  
capacity possible)

### Water balance in a surface layer



$$M + D_c = E_{bs} + E_{tr1} + R_s + Q_{12} + C_{W1}\Delta W_1/\Delta t$$

$E_{bs}$  = evaporation from bare soil

$E_{tr1}$  = evapotranspiration from layer 1

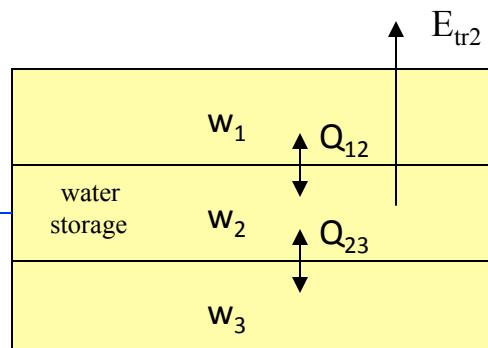
$Q_{12}$  = water transport from layer 1 to layer 2

$C_{W1}$  = water holding capacity of layer 1

$\Delta W_1$  = change in degree of saturation of layer 1

### Water balance in a subsurface layer (e.g., 2nd layer down)

Note: some models  
may include an  
additional, lateral  
subsurface runoff  
term



$$Q_{12} = Q_{23} + E_{tr2} + C_{W2}\Delta W_2/\Delta t$$

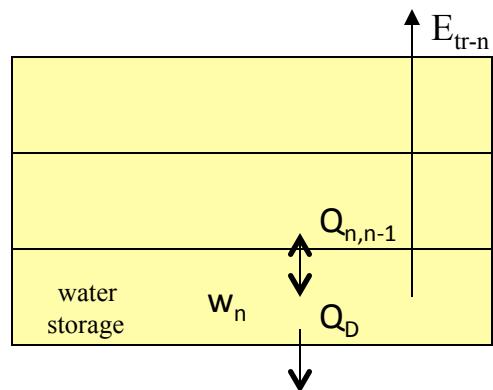
$E_{tr2}$  = evapotranspiration from layer 2

$Q_{23}$  = water transport from layer 2 to layer 3

$C_{W2}$  = water holding capacity of layer 2

$\Delta W_2$  = change in degree of saturation of layer 2

Water balance in the lowest layer

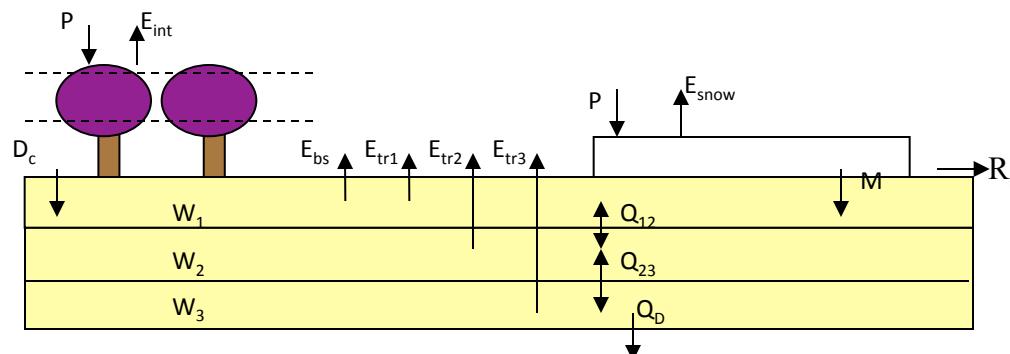


$$Q_{n,n-1} = Q_D + E_{tr-n} + C_{Wn} \Delta W_n / \Delta t$$

$E_{tr-n}$  = evapotranspiration from layer n, if allowed

$Q_D$  = Drainage out of the soil column (baseflow)

A model may compute all of these water balances, taking care to ensure consistency between connecting fluxes (in analogy with the energy balance calculation).

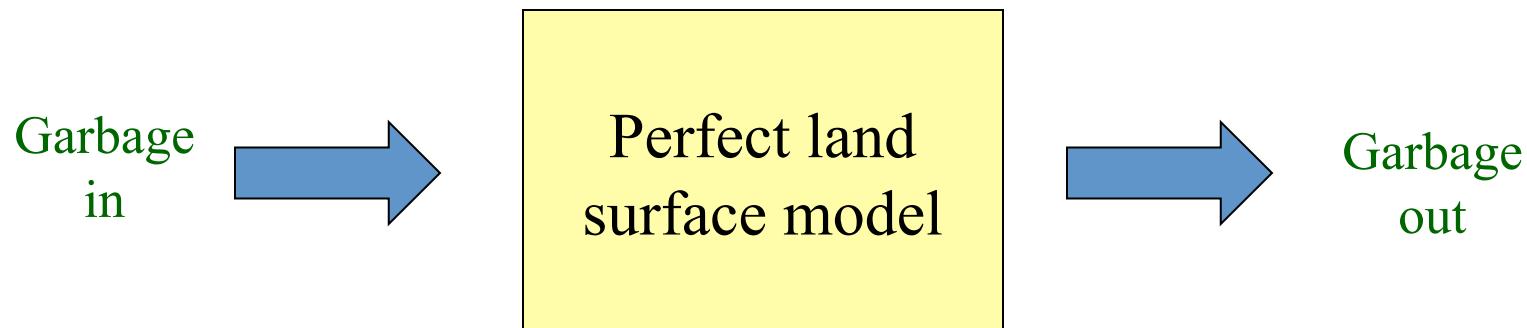


# Precipitation, P

Getting the land surface hydrology right in a climate model is difficult largely because of the precipitation term. At least three aspects of precipitation must be handled accurately:

- a. Spatially-averaged precipitation amounts (along with annual means and seasonal totals)
- b. Subgrid distribution.
- c. Temporal variability and temporal correlations.

Otherwise, even with a perfect land surface model,



# Evaporation

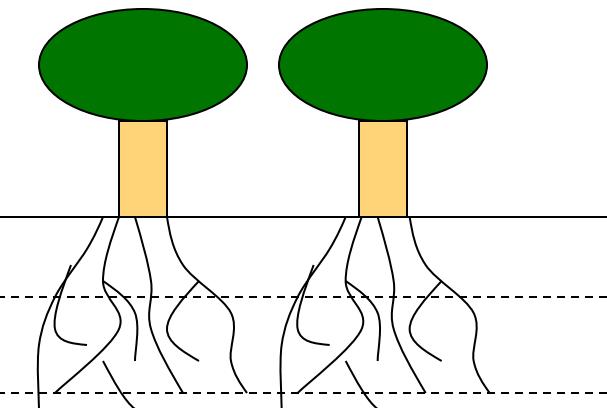
Evaporation is important in water balance as it was in energy balance. Note, though, locations of moisture sinks for bare soil evaporation and transpiration:

Bare soil evaporation water is usually taken from the top soil layer.

Transpiration water is usually taken from the soil layers that comprise the root zone. Different amounts may be taken from different layers depending on:

- layer thickness
- assumed root density profile

e.g., transpiration water  
taken from these layers...  
but not this layer



# Runoff

a. Overland flow:

- (i) flow generated over permanently saturated zones near a river channel system: “Dunne” runoff
- (ii) flow generated because precipitation rate exceeds the infiltration capacity of the soil (a function of soil permeability, soil water content, etc.): “Hortonian” runoff

b. Interflow (rapid lateral subsurface flow through macropores and seepage zones in the soil)

c. Baseflow (return flow to stream system from groundwater)

Runoff (streamflow) is affected by such things as:

- Spatial and temporal distributions of precipitation
- Evaporation sinks
- Infiltration characteristics of the soil
- Watershed topography
- Presence of lakes and reservoirs

# Energy balance versus water balance

## Energy balance:

Implicit solution usually necessary  
Results in updated temperature prognostics

## Water balance:

Implicit solution usually not necessary  
Results in updated water storage prognostics

## How are the energy and water budgets connected?

1. Evaporation appears in both.
2. Albedo varies with soil moisture content.
3. Thermal conductivity varies with soil moisture content.
4. Thermal emissivity varies with soil moisture content.

Question: Can we address how the energy and water budgets *together* control evaporation rates?

# Budyko's analysis of energy and water controls over evaporation

Let  $P$  = annual precipitation (mm/day)

$R/\lambda$  = annual net radiation (scaled to units of mm/day)

$E$  = annual evaporation (mm/day)

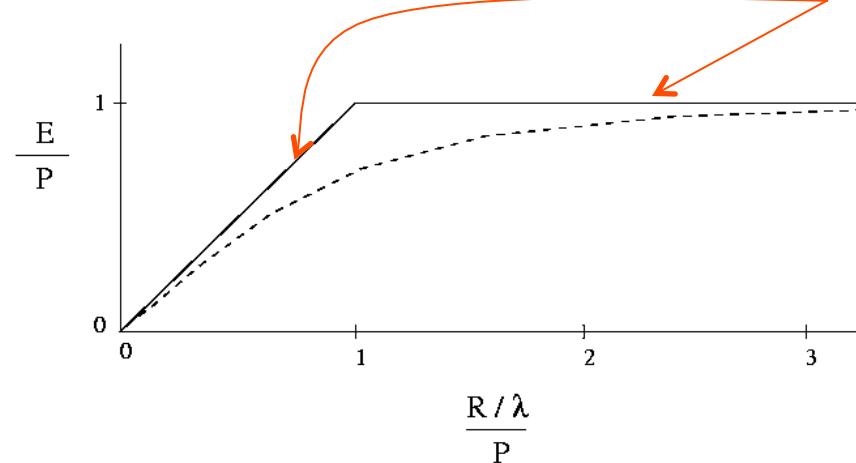
Budyko (1974) first assumed that:

1.  $E$  can be no greater than  $P$  and  $R/\lambda$   
(in the absence of year-to-year storage changes).

2. For  $\frac{R}{\lambda} \gg P$ ,  $E \rightarrow P$

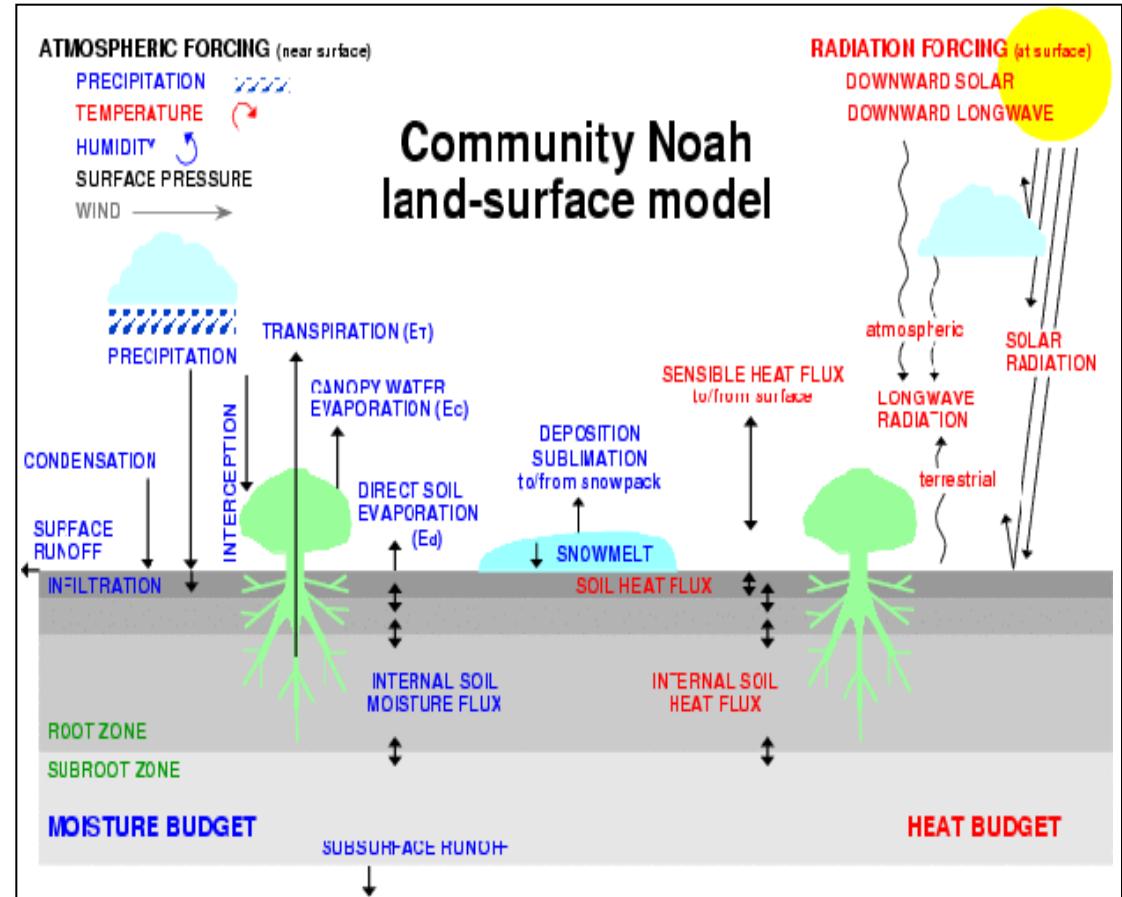
3. For  $\frac{R}{\lambda} \ll P$ ,  $E \rightarrow \frac{R}{\lambda}$

These asymptotes  
act as barriers to  
evaporation.



# **Unified NCEP-NCAR Noah Land Model**

- Four soil layers (shallow near-surface).
- Numerically efficient surface energy budget.
- Jarvis-Stewart “big-leaf” canopy conductance with associated veg parameters.
- Canopy interception.
- Direct soil evaporation.
- Soil hydraulics and soil parameters.
- Vegetation-reduced soil thermal conductivity.
- Patchy/fractional snow cover effect on sfc fluxes.
- Snowpack density and snow water equivalent.
- Freeze/thaw soil physics.



- **Noah for NWP & seasonal prediction.**
- Coupled with NCEP short-range NAM, medium-range GFS, seasonal CFS, HWRF, uncoupled NLDAS and GLDAS, etc.

# **Land Physics: Basic Prognostic Equations**

## **Soil Moisture ( $\Theta$ ):**

$$\frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial K_\Theta}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( D_\Theta \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial z} \right) + F_\Theta$$

- “Richard’s Equation”;  $D_\Theta$  (soil water diffusivity) and  $K_\Theta$  (hydraulic conductivity), are nonlinear functions of soil moisture and soil type (*Cosby et al 1984*);  $F_\Theta$  is a source/sink term for precipitation/evapotranspiration.

## **Soil Temperature ( $T$ ):**

$$C_T \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( K_T \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right)$$

- $C_T$  (thermal heat capacity) and  $K_T$  (soil thermal conductivity; *Johansen 1975*), non-linear functions of soil/type; soil ice = fct(soil type/temp./moisture).

## **Canopy water ( $C_w$ ):**

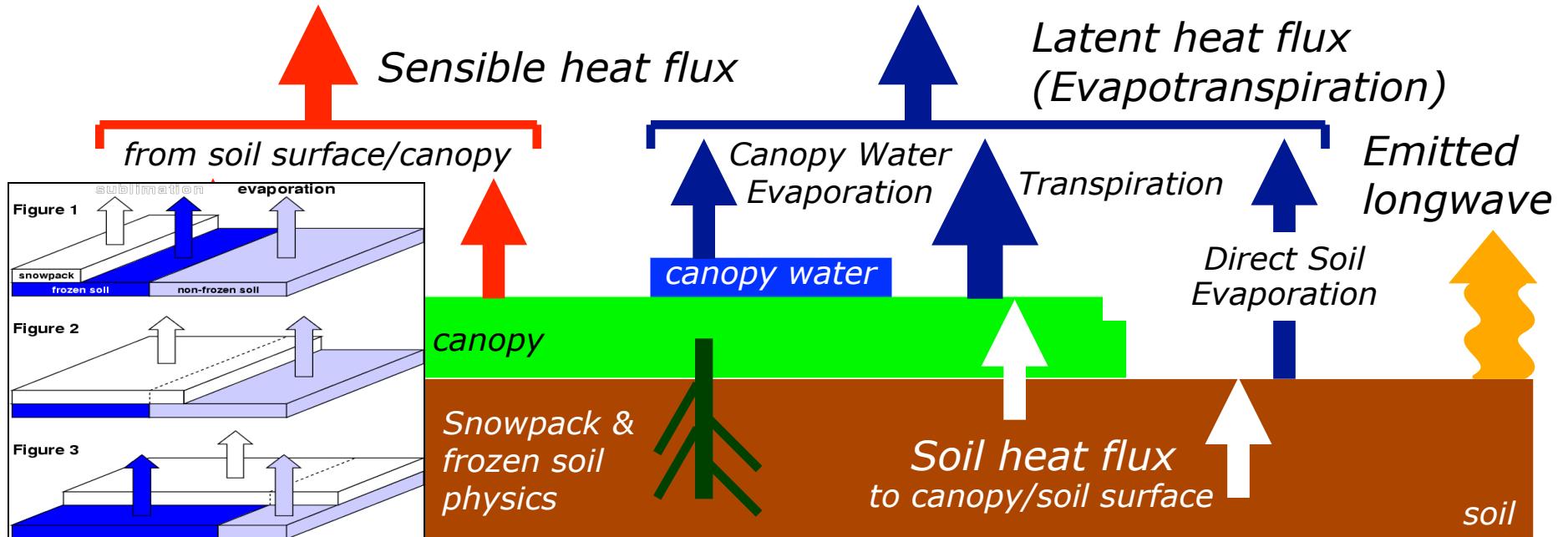
$$\frac{\partial C_w}{\partial t} = P - E_c$$

- $P$  (precipitation) increases  $C_w$ , while  $E_c$  (canopy water evaporation) decreases  $C_w$ .

# Land Physics: Flux Boundary Conditions

$$H = \rho c_p C_h U (T_{sfc} - T_{air})$$

$$LE = LE_c + LE_t + LE_d$$



- Surface fluxes balanced by net radiation ( $R_n$ ), = sum of incoming and outgoing solar and terrestrial radiation, with vegetation important for energy partition between  $H$ ,  $LE$ ,  $G$ ,

$$G = \left( \frac{K_T}{\Delta z} \right) (T_{sfc} - T_{soil})$$

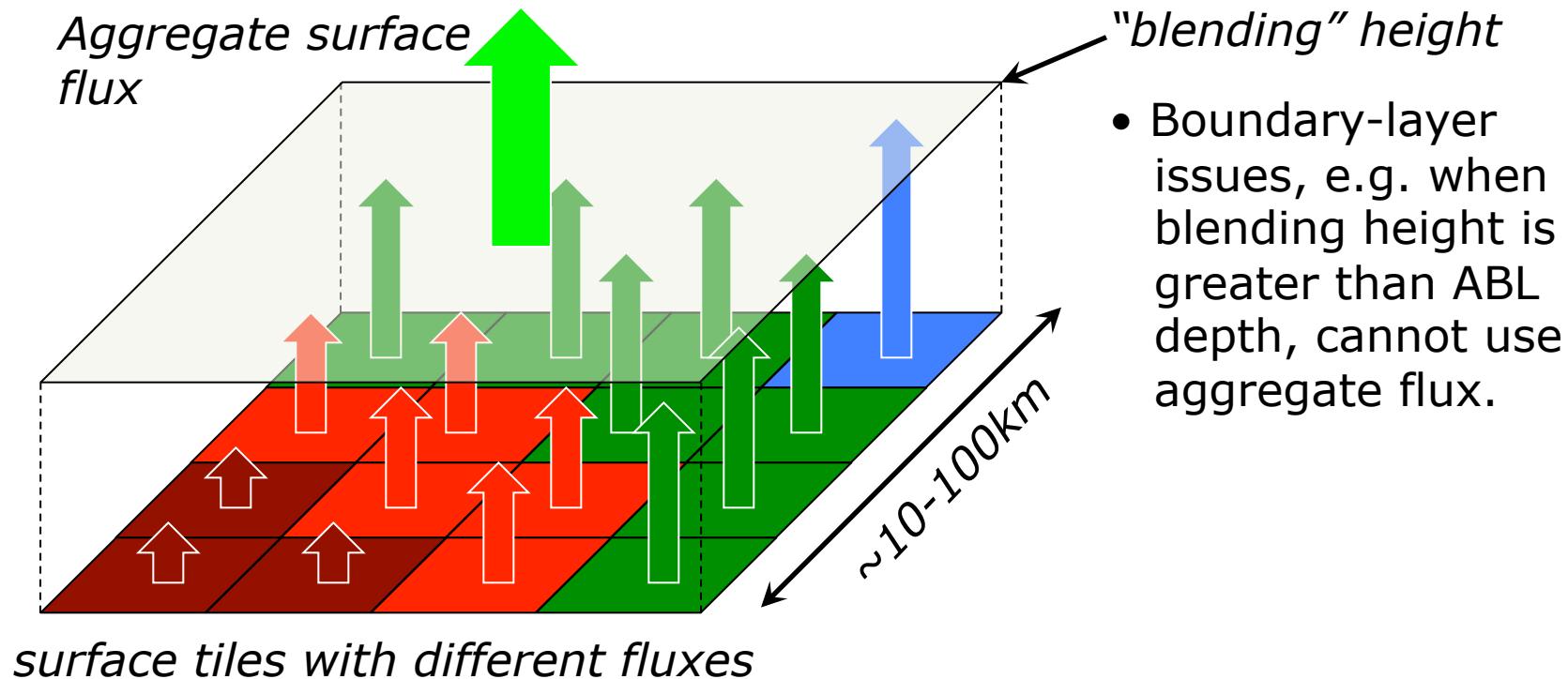
$$R_n = H + LE + G$$

i.e. surface roughness & near-surface turbulence ( $H$ ), plant & soil processes ( $LE$ ), and heat transport thru soil/canopy ( $G$ ), affecting evolving boundary-layer, clouds/convection, and precipitation. <sup>57</sup>

- Land surface modeling

# **Land Physics: Tiled Land Grid**

- A land model grid may comprise sub-atmospheric-grid-scale “tiles”, e.g. forest, shrubland, grass, crop, water, etc,  $O(1\text{-}4\text{km})$ .
- Coarser-resolution atmospheric forcing to land.
- Aggregate flux to “parent” atmospheric model.

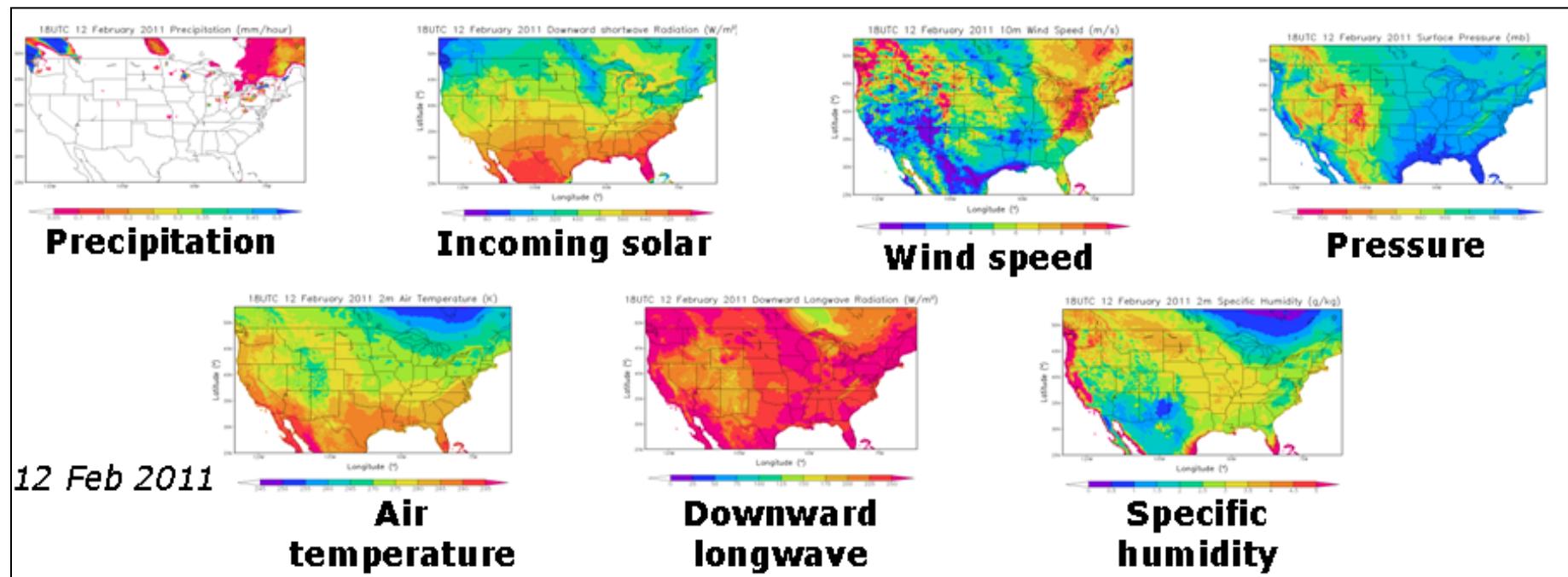


# **Land Physics: Model Parameters**

- Surface **momentum roughness** dependent on **vegetation/land-use type** and vegetation fraction.
- **Stomatal control** dependent on **vegetation type**, direct effect on transpiration.
- Depth of snow (snow water equivalent) for deep snow and assumption of **maximum snow albedo**  
**is a function of vegetation type.**
- **Heat transfer through vegetation** and into the soil  
**is a function of green vegetation fraction** (coverage) and **leaf area index** (density).
- **Soil thermal and hydraulic processes** highly **dependent on soil type** (vary by orders of magnitude).

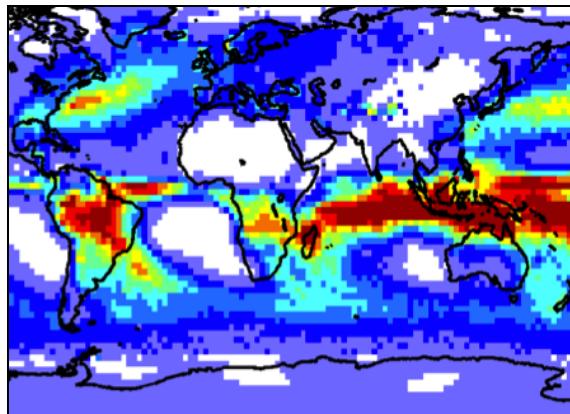
# **Atmospheric Forcing to Land Model**

- Atmospheric forcing from parent atmospheric model (e.g. GFS), or analysis/reanalysis (e.g. CFSR) or Regional Climate Data Assimilation System (real time extension of the North American Regional Reanalysis, NARR), or from observations.
- **Precipitation** is quite important for land models with observed precipitation input to the land model in the assimilation cycle, e.g. CPC gauge-based observed precip., temporally disaggregated with radar data (stage IV), satellite data (CMORPH), bias-corrected with “PRISM”.

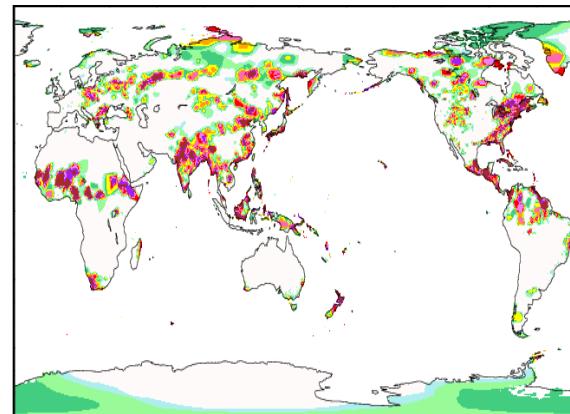


# **Atmospheric Forcing: Precipitation**

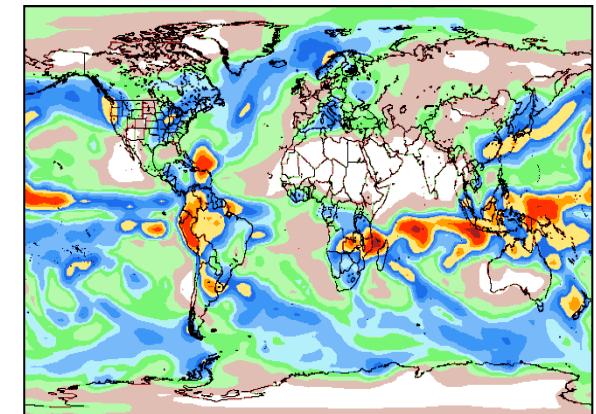
- Global Land Data Assimilation System (GLDAS) used in NCEP Climate Forecast System (CFS) relies on “blended” precipitation product, function of:
- **Satellite-estimated precipitation** (CMAP), heaviest weight in tropics where gauges sparse.
- Surface gauge network, heaviest in mid-latitudes.
- High-latitudes: Model-estimated precipitation based on Global Data Assimil. System (GDAS).



**CMAP**



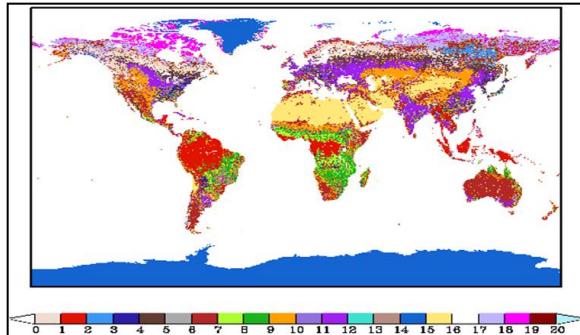
**Surface gauge**



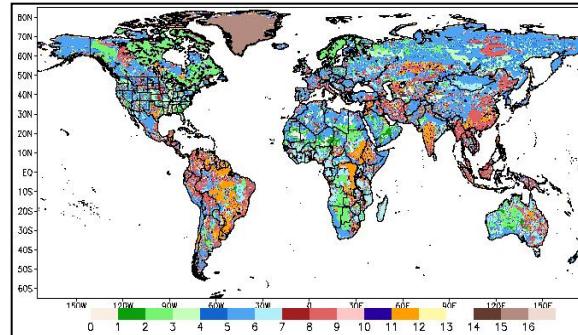
**GDAS (model)**

*Jesse Meng NCEP/EMC, Pingping Xie, NCEP/CPC*

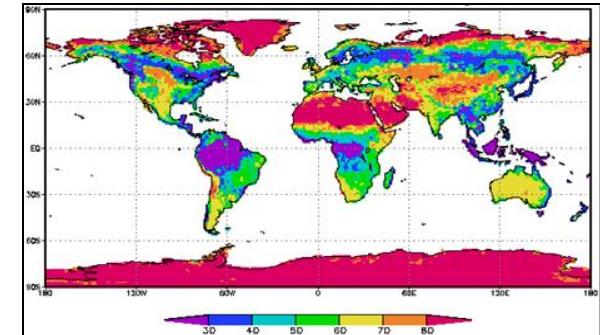
# *Land Data Sets*



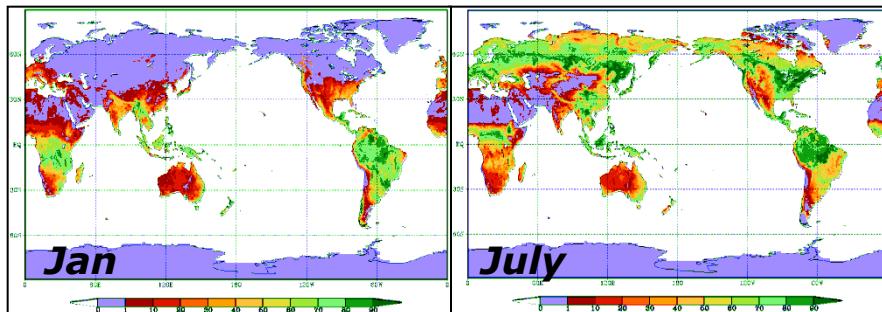
**Vegetation Type**  
(1-km, IGBP-MODIS)



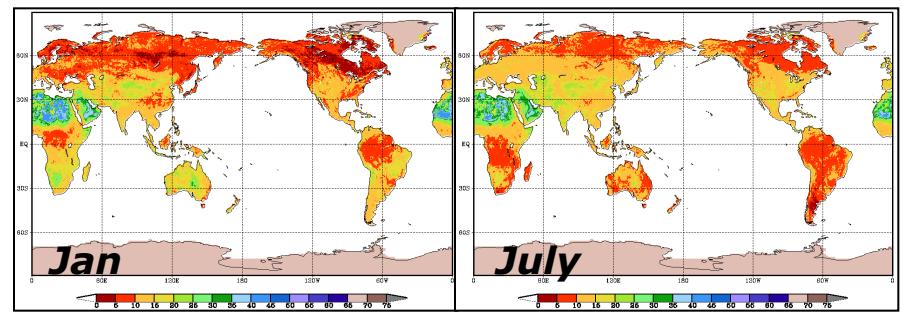
**Soil Type**  
(1-km, STATSGO-FAO)



**Max.-Snow Albedo**  
(1-km, UAz-MODIS)



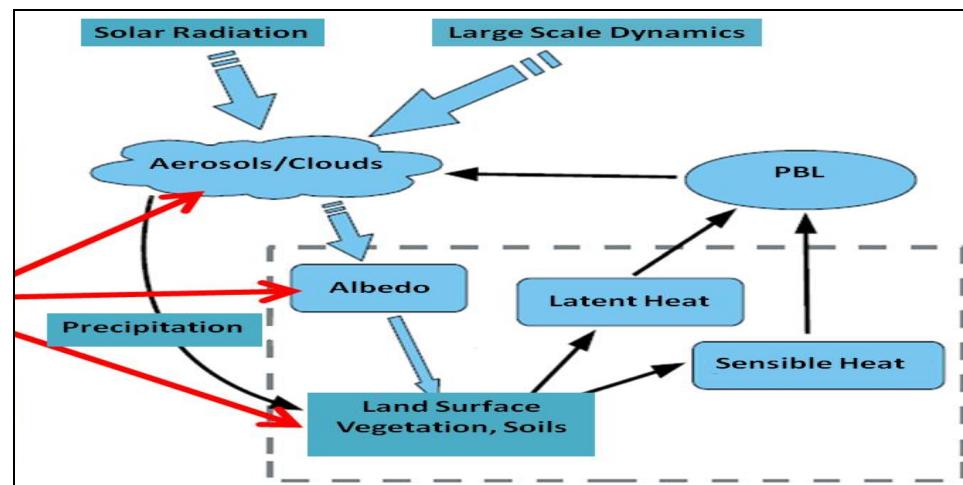
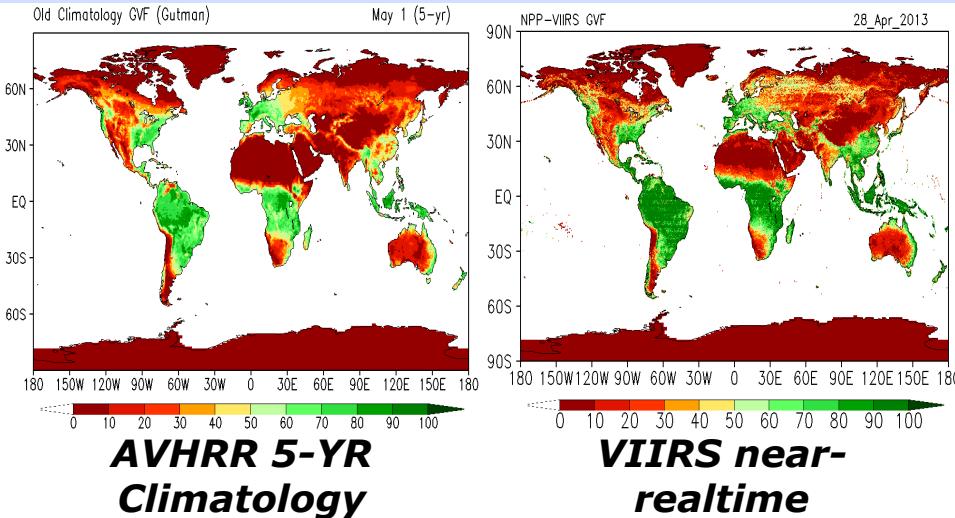
**Green Vegetation Fraction**  
(monthly, 1/8-deg, NESDIS/AVHRR)



**Snow-Free Albedo**  
(monthly, 1-km, Boston Univ.-MODIS)

- Fixed annual/monthly/weekly climatologies, or near real-time observations; some quantities may be assimilated into Noah, e.g. soil moisture, snow, greenness as initial land states.

# Land Data Sets: Green Vegetation Fraction (GVF) and Wildfire Effects

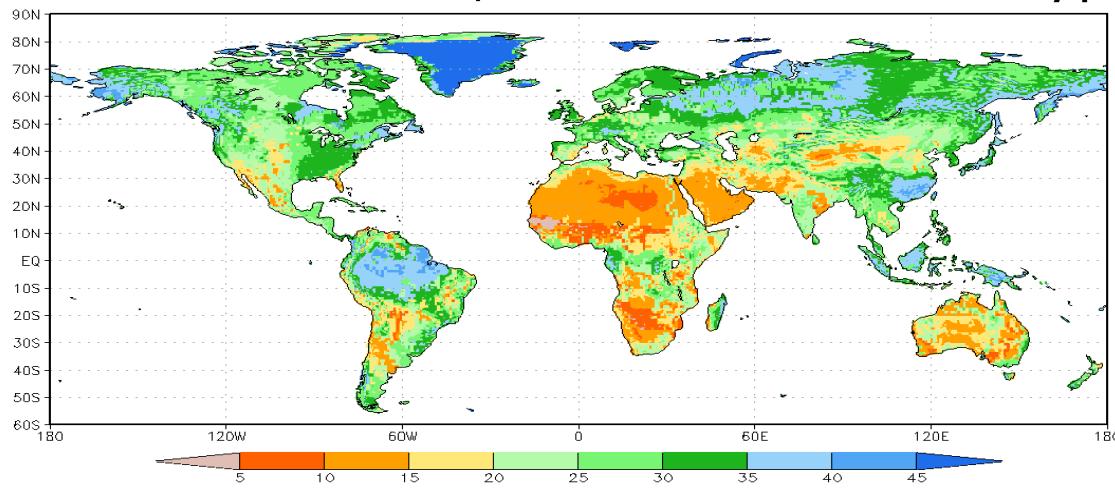


Weizhong Zheng and Yihua Wu, NCEP/EMC, Marco Vargas et al, NESDIS/STAR

- Use of near realtime GVF leads to better partition between surface heating & evaporation --> impacts surface energy budget, ABL evolution, clouds/convection.
- **Wildfires** affect weather and climate systems: (1) atmospheric circulations, (2) aerosols/clouds, (3) land surface states (GVF, albedo & surface temperature, etc.) → impact on sfc energy budget, etc. Consistency with “burned” & other products, e.g GVF.

# **Initial Land States**

- **Land state initial conditions** are necessary for NWP & climate models, and must be consistent with land model used in a given weather or climate model, i.e. from same **cycling** land model.
- Land states spun up in a given NWP or climate model **cannot** be used directly to **initialize** another model without **rescaling** because of differing land model soil moisture climatology.
- In seasonal (and longer) climate simulations, land states are cycled, and some land data set quantities may be simulated (and therefore assimilated), e.g. green vegetation fraction & leaf area index, and even land-use type (evolving ecosystems).

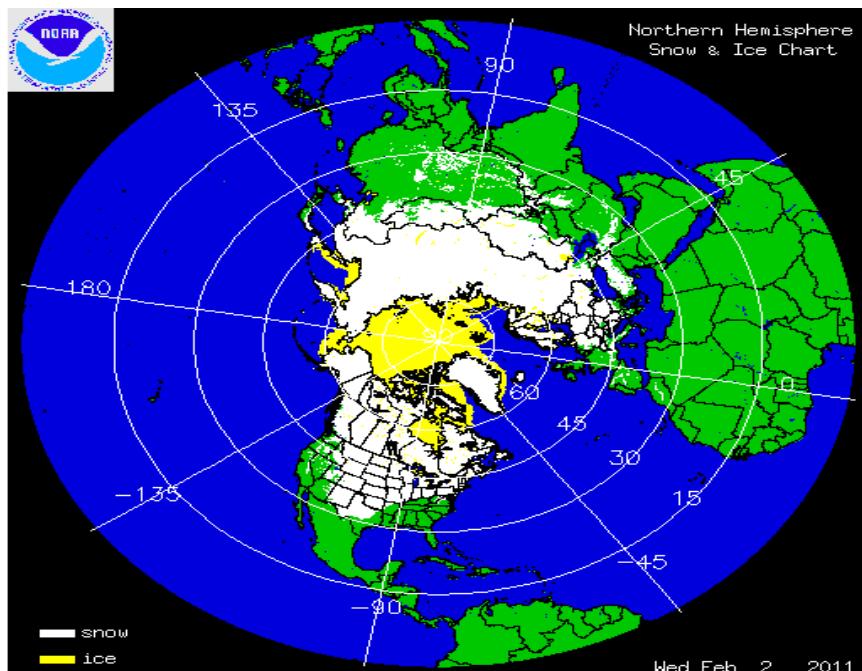


**May Soil Moisture Climatology** from 30-year NCEP Climate Forecast System Reanalysis (CFSR), spun up from Noah land model coupled with CFS.

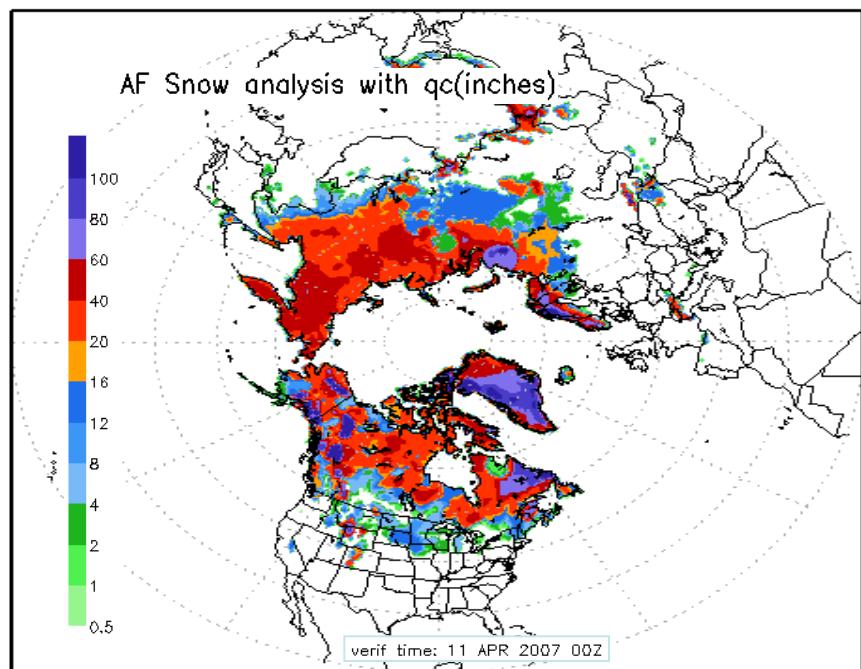
Jesse Meng NCEP/EMC

# ***Initial Land States (cont.)***

- In addition to *soil moisture*: the land model provides *surface skin temperature*, *soil temperature*, *soil ice*, *canopy water*, and *snow depth & snow water equivalent*.

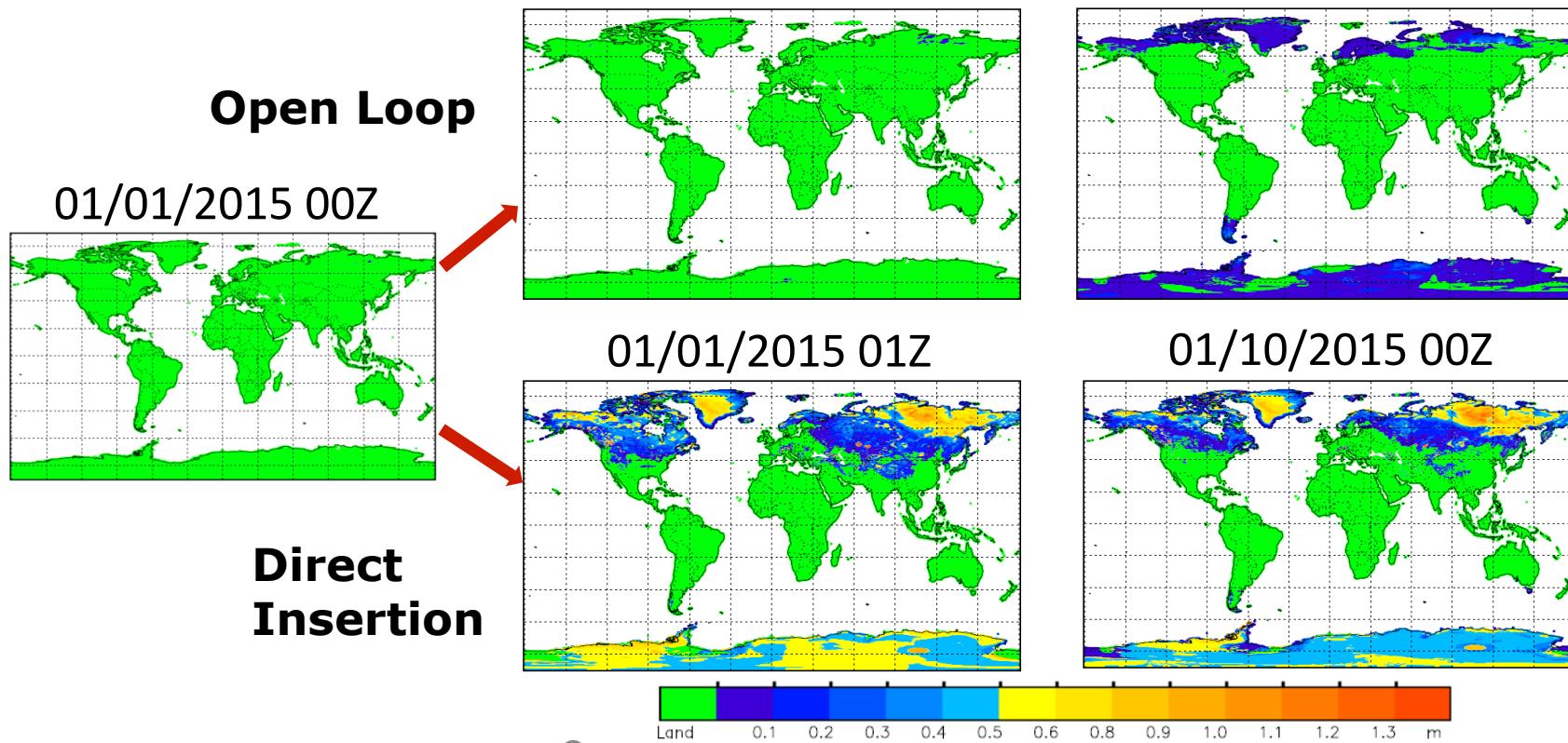


**National Ice  
Center snow cover**



**Air Force Weather Agency  
snow cover & depth**

# *Land data assimilation: Snow Depth*



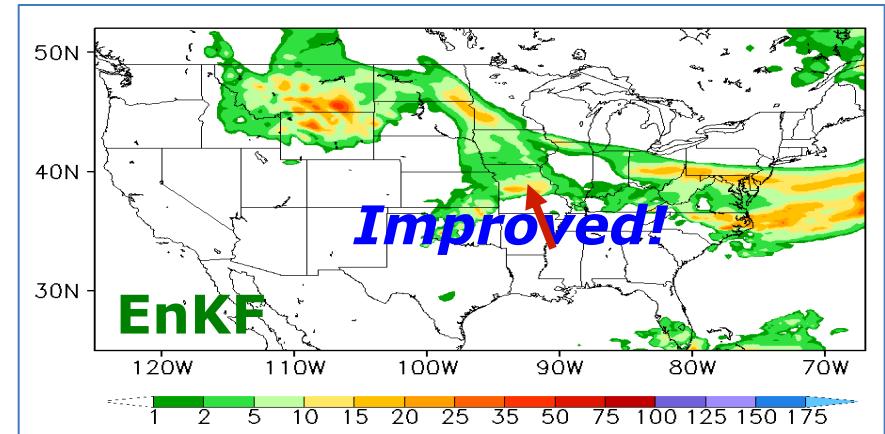
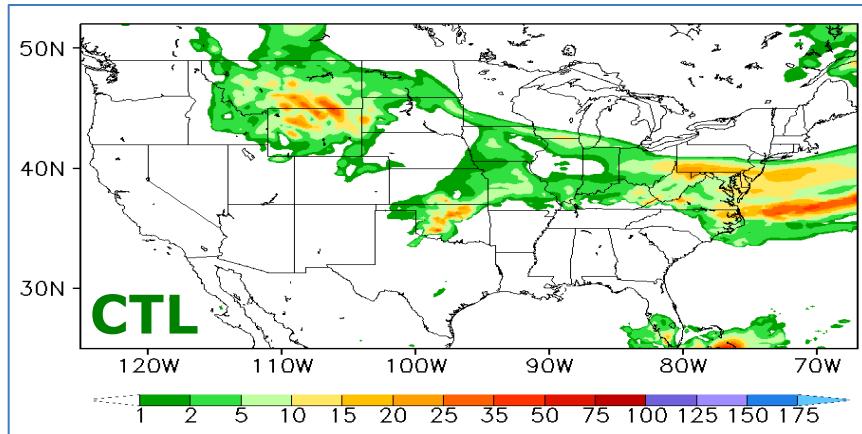
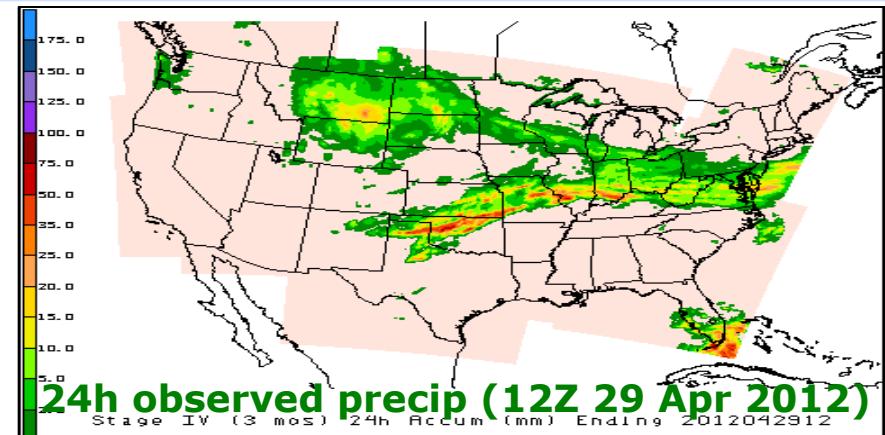
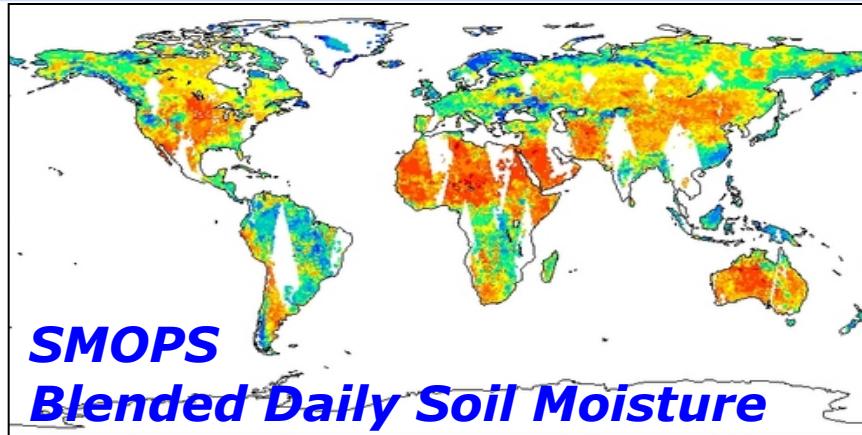
**EnKF**

**NCEP/EMC land group testing use of NASA LIS EnKF to assimilate AFWA snow depth.**

Successful EnKF applications require accurate error estimates both from satellite observations and from the land model.

Jiarui Dong, NCEP/EMC

# **Land data assimilation: Soil Moisture**

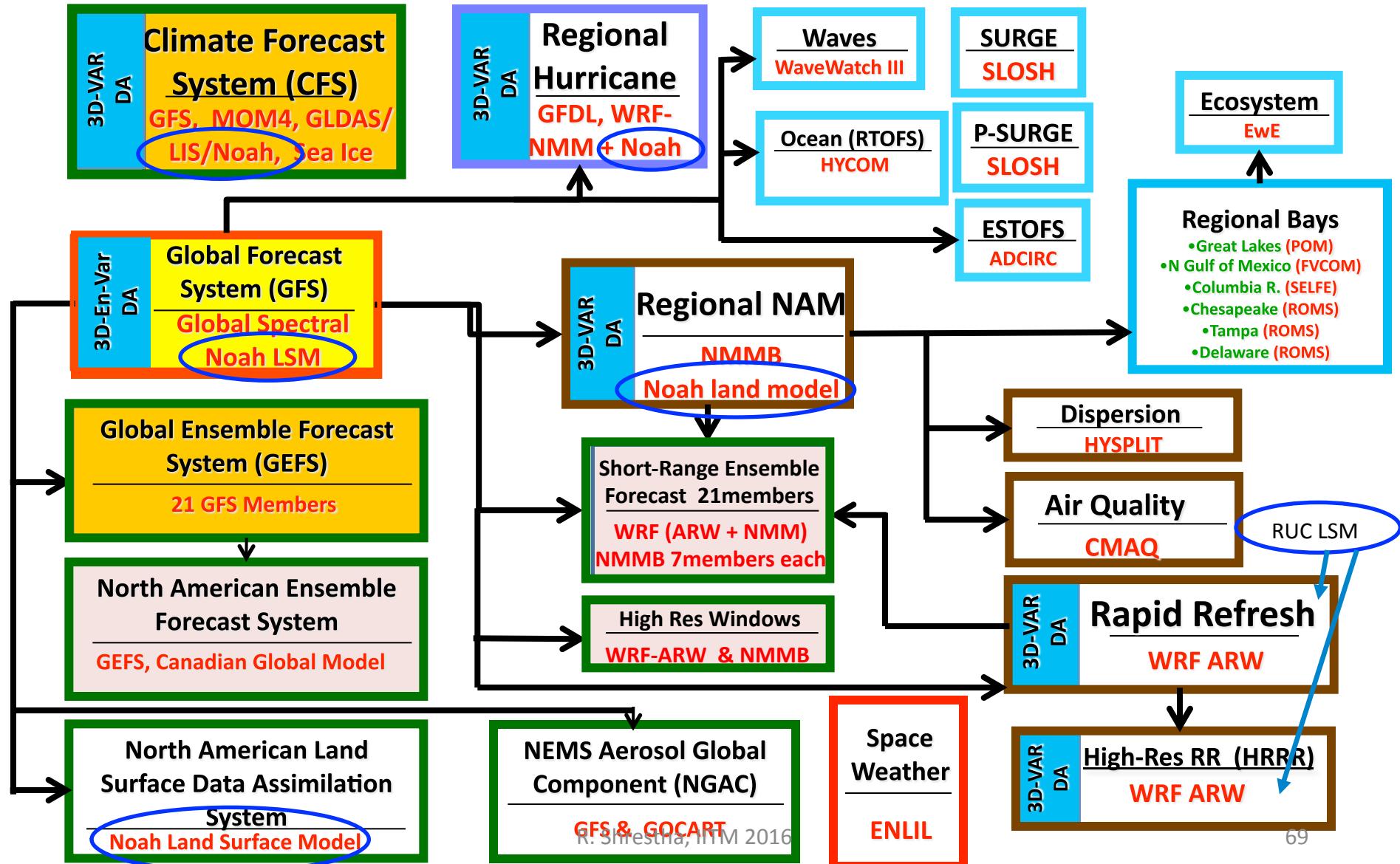


**Forecast hour 60-84, precipitation forecast 24h accum (mm) ending at 12Z 29 Apr 2012**

- Noah land model multiple-year grid-wise means & std devs used to scale surface layer soil moisture retrievals before assimilation.
- Testing assimilation of SMOPS in GFS; positive impact on precip.

Weizhong Zheng, NCEP/EMC and Xiwu Zhan, NESDIS/STAR

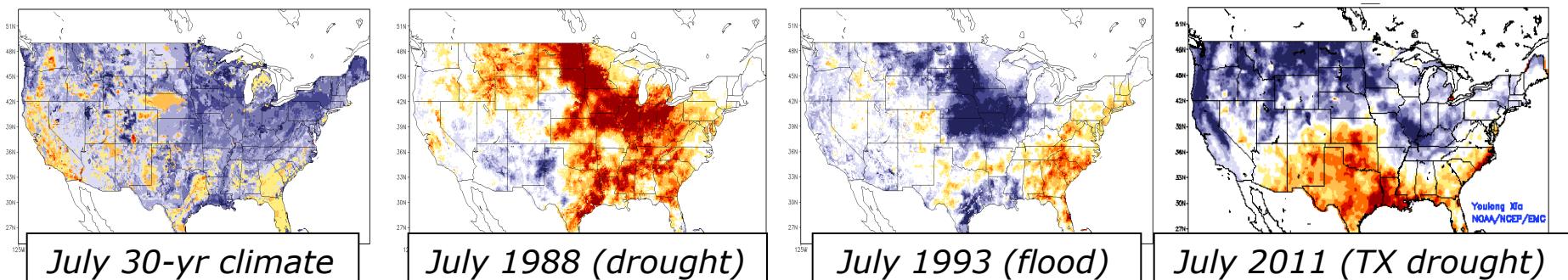
# Land Applications for Weather & Climate: NOAA's Operational Numerical Guidance Suite



## **North American Land Data Assimilation System (NLDAS)**

- August 2014: North American LDAS (NLDAS) operational.
- NLDAS: 4 land models run uncoupled, driven by CPC observed precipitation & NCEP NARR/R-CDAS atmospheric forcing.
- Output: 1/8-deg. **land** & **soil states**, **surface fluxes**, **runoff** & **streamflow**; anomalies from 30-yr climatology for drought.
- Future: higher res. (~3-4km), extend to full North American/global domains, improved land data sets/data assimil. (soil moisture, snow), physics upgrades including hydrology, initial land states for weather/climate models; global drought info.

[www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/nldas](http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/nldas)

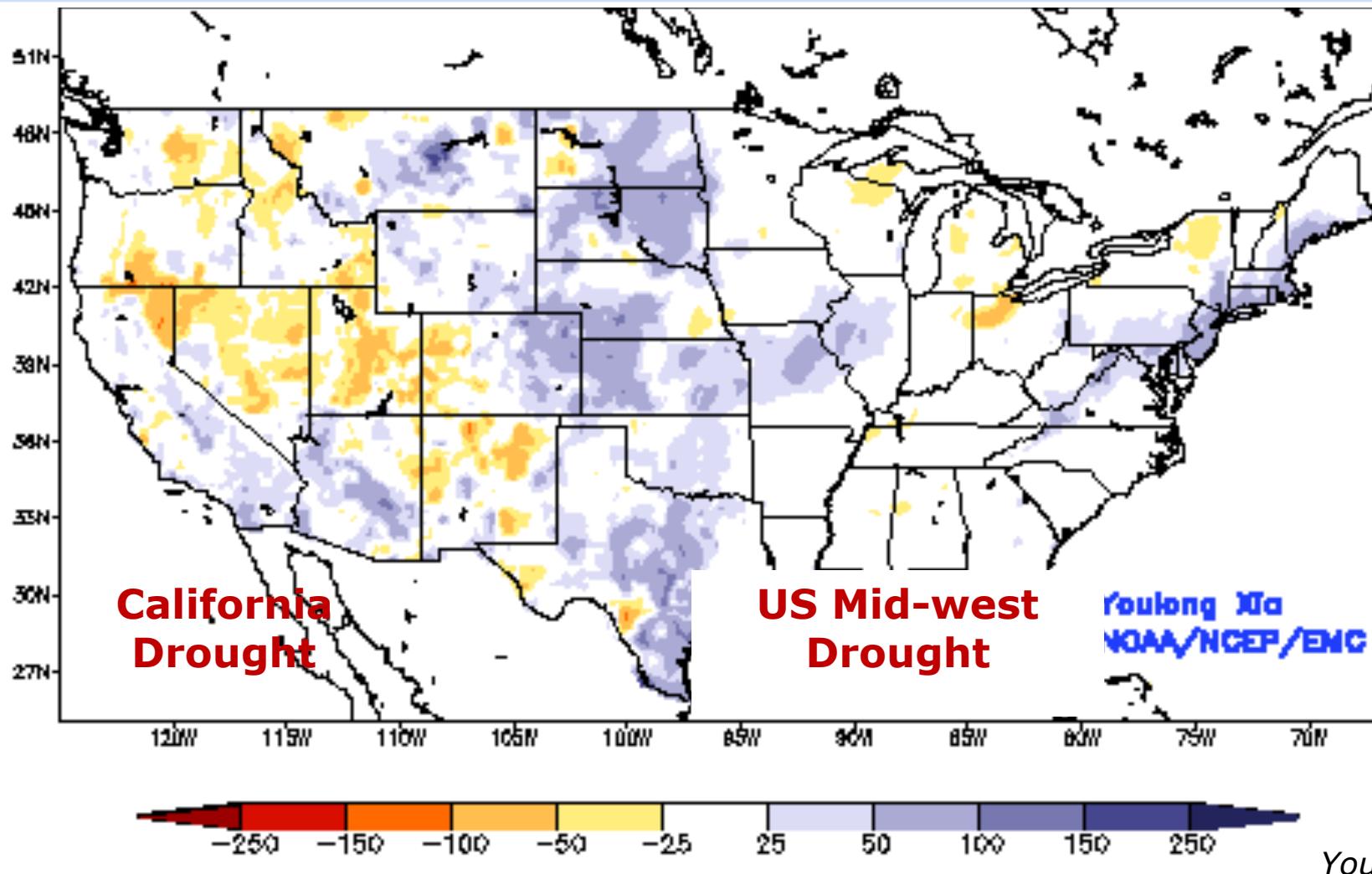


*NLDAS four-model ensemble soil moisture monthly anomalies*

Youlong Xia, NCEP/EMC

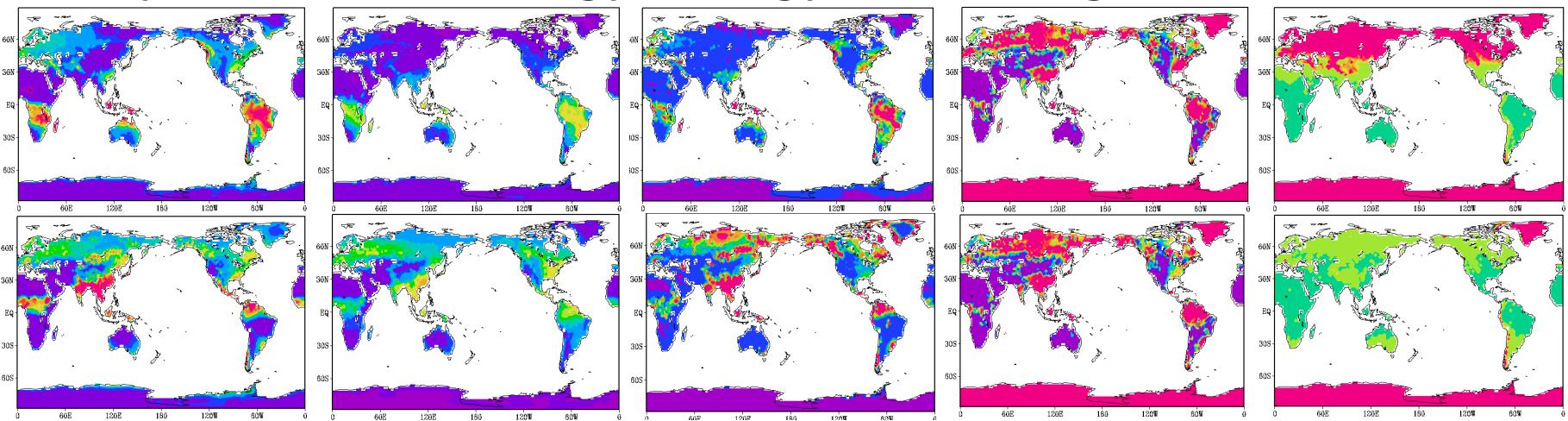
# **NLDAS Soil Moisture Monitoring**

Ensemble mean total column soil moisture anomaly  
March 2012 – December 2013



## **Global Land Data Assimilation System (GLDAS)**

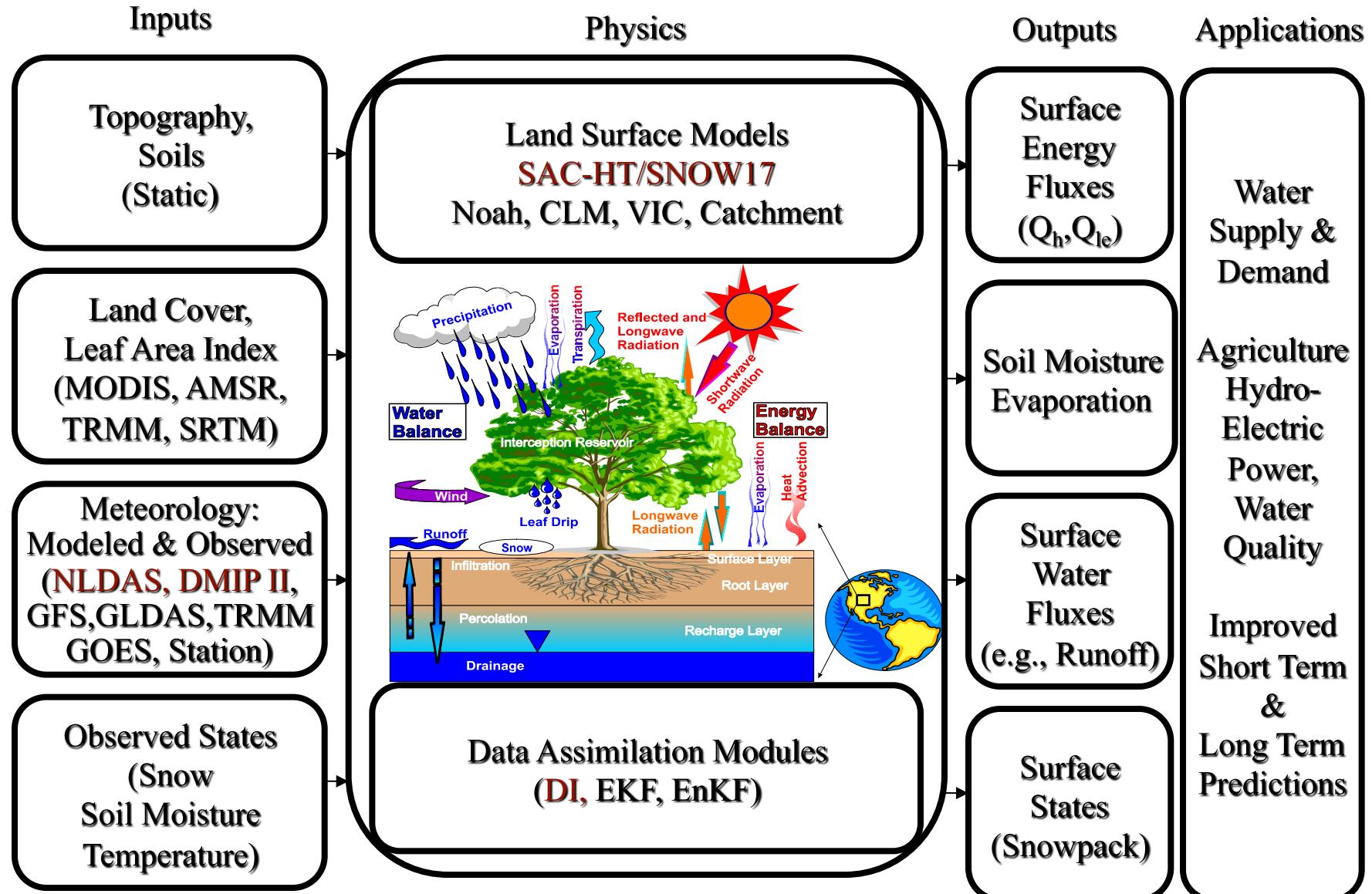
- Uses **Noah land model** running under NASA Land Information System forced with **Climate Forecast System** (CFS) atmos. data assimil. cycle output, & “**blended**” **precipitation** (gauge, satellite & model), “semi-coupled” –daily updated land states.
- **Snow** cycled or assimilated (IMS snow cover, AFWA depth).
- GLDAS land “re-runs”, with updated forcing, physics, etc.
- 30-year land climatology: energy/water budgets:



*Precipitation      Evaporation      Runoff      Soil Moisture      Snow*  
*Jan (top), July (bottom) Climatology from 30-year NCEP CFS Reanalysis*  
*(Precip, Evap, Runoff [mm/day]; Soil Moisture, Snow [mm])*

*Rongqian Yang, Jesse Meng NCEP/EMC*

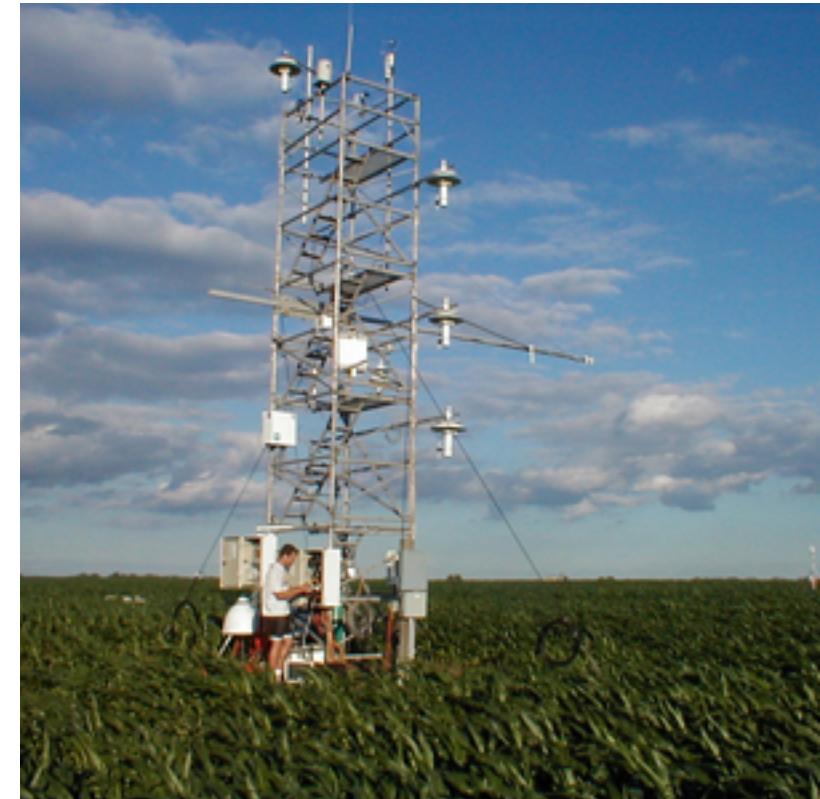
# NASA Land Information System (LIS)



- Land model Testing and Validation

# **Land Model Testing and Validation**

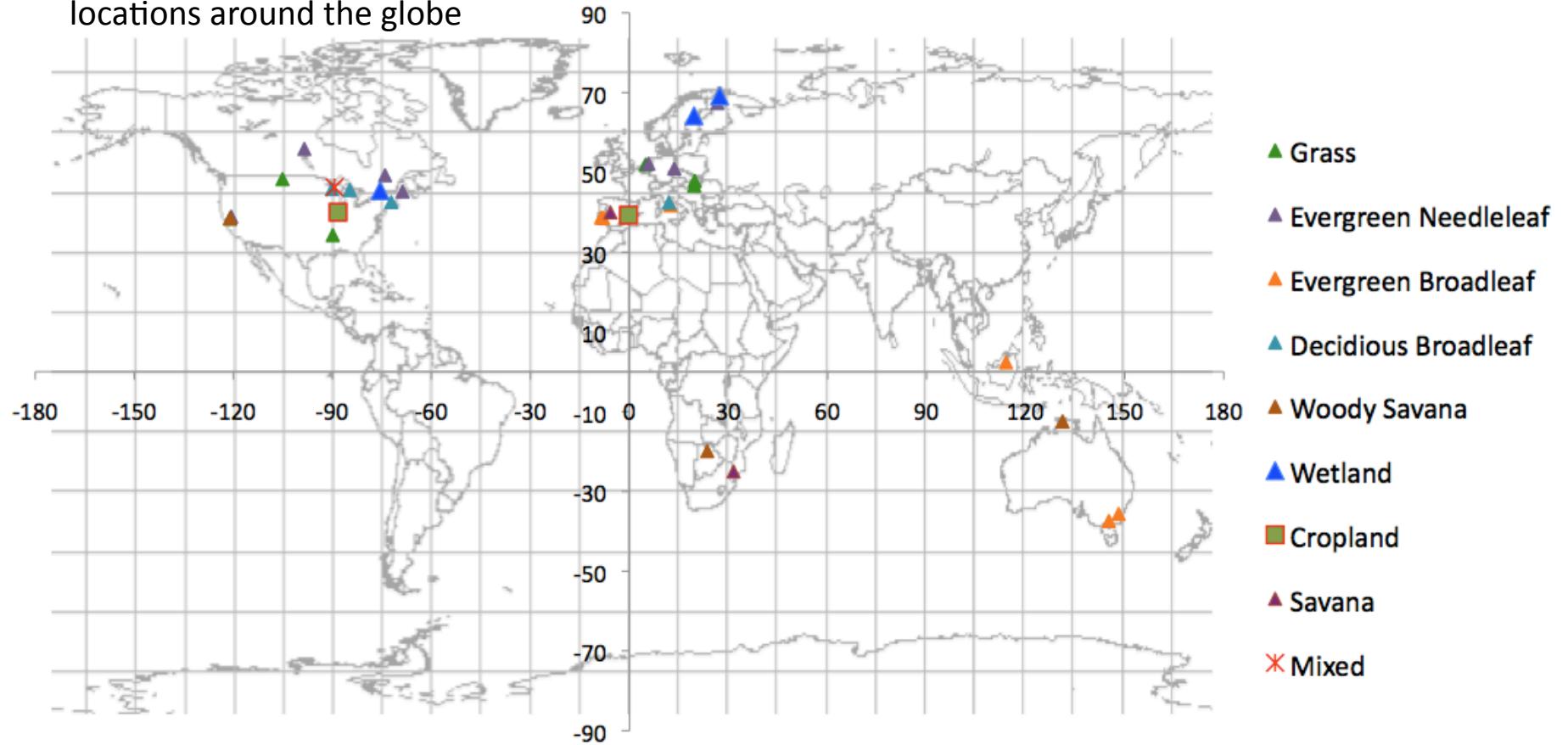
- **Validation** uses near-**surface** observations, e.g. routine weather observations of air temperature, dew point and relative humidity, 10-meter wind, along with upper-air validation, precipitation scores, etc.
- To more fully validate land models, **surface fluxes** and soil states (soil moisture, etc) are also used.
- Monthly diurnal composites to **assess systematic model biases** (averaging out transient atmospheric conditions), and suggest land physics upgrades.



# Compare monthly diurnal composites of model output versus observations from flux sites to assess systematic model biases.

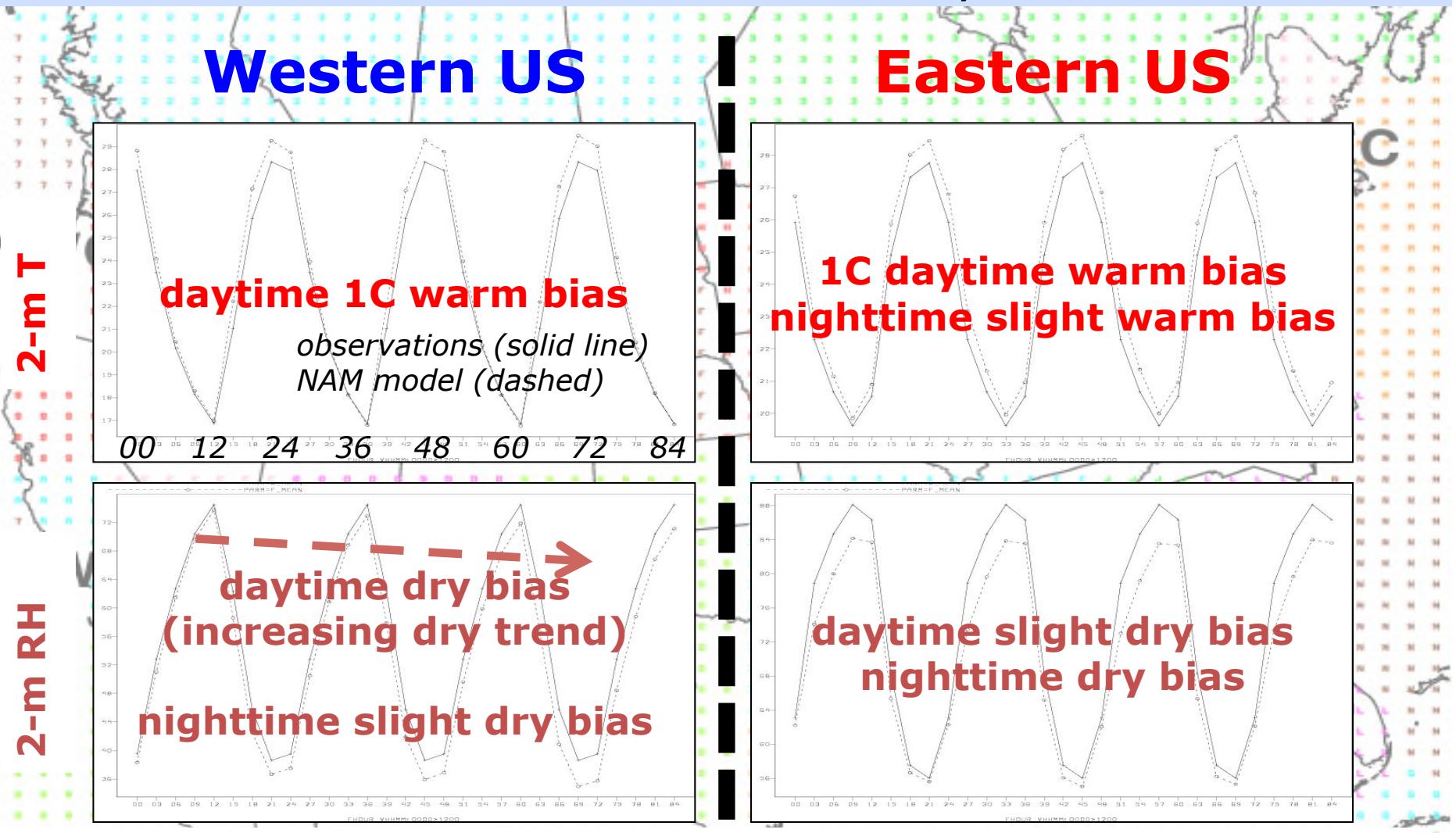
## PALS – The Protocol for the Analysis of Land Surface Models

- to evaluate and benchmark the performance of different land models at various locations around the globe



# *Testing & Validation: NWP model*

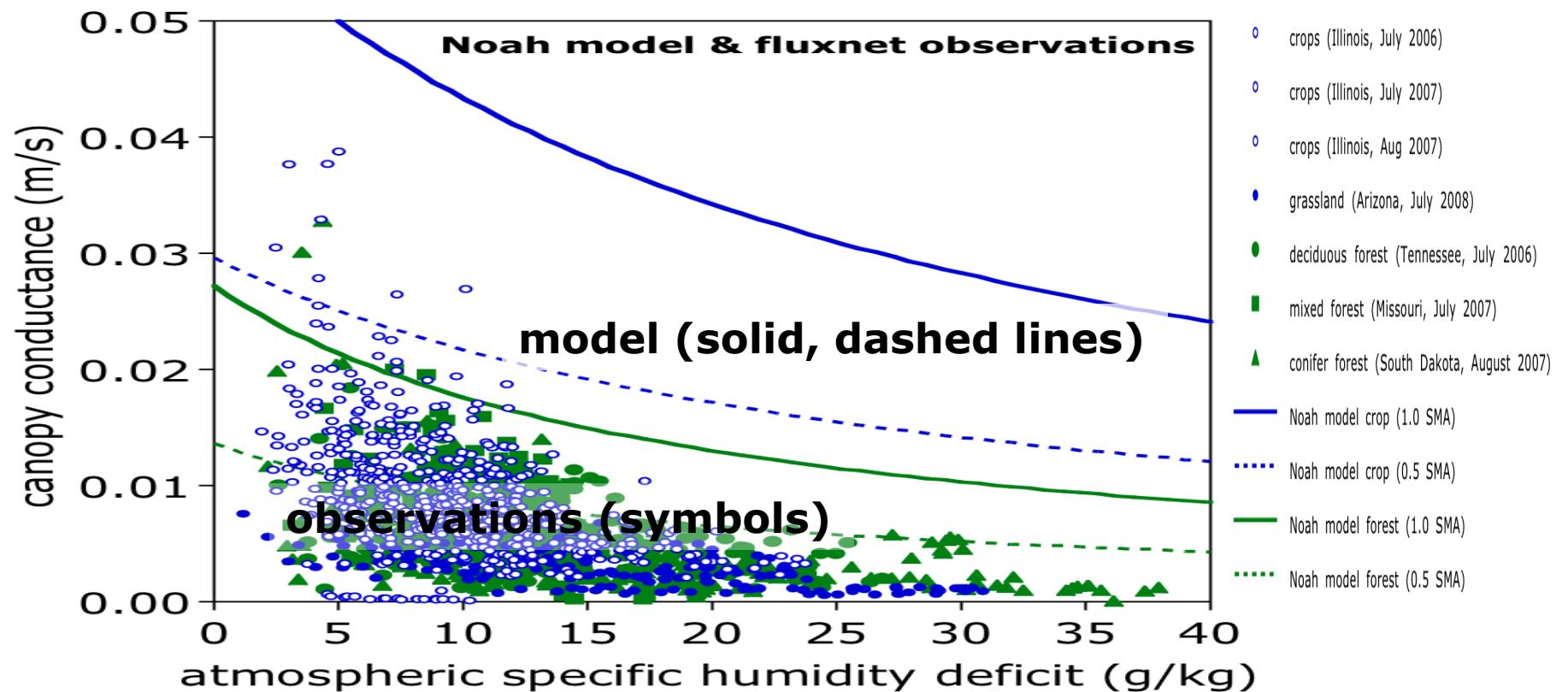
## *NCEP North American Mesoscale model, 0-84hr forecast*



- Assess systematic biases using diurnal monthly means.

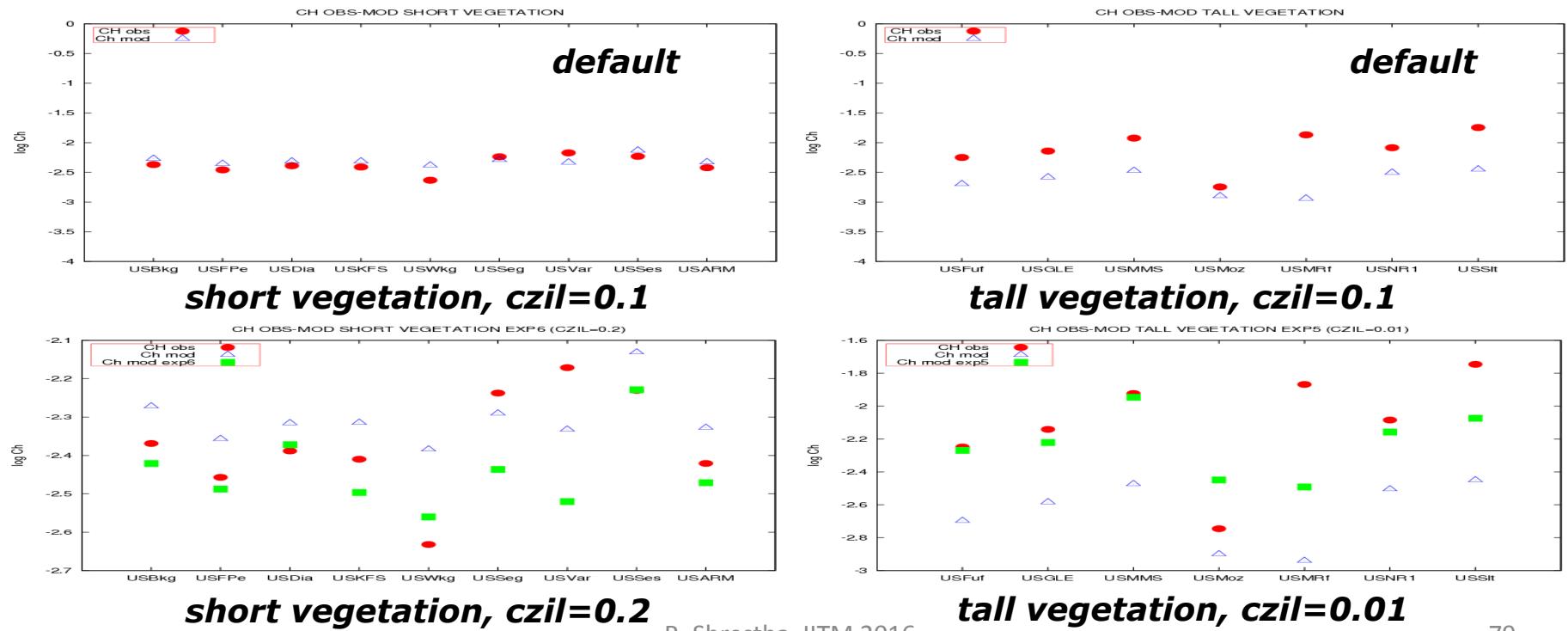
# **Testing & Validation: Model components**

- Use surface fluxes (e.g. latent and sensible) to evaluate land-surface physics formulations and parameters, e.g. invert transpiration formulation to infer canopy conductance (below).



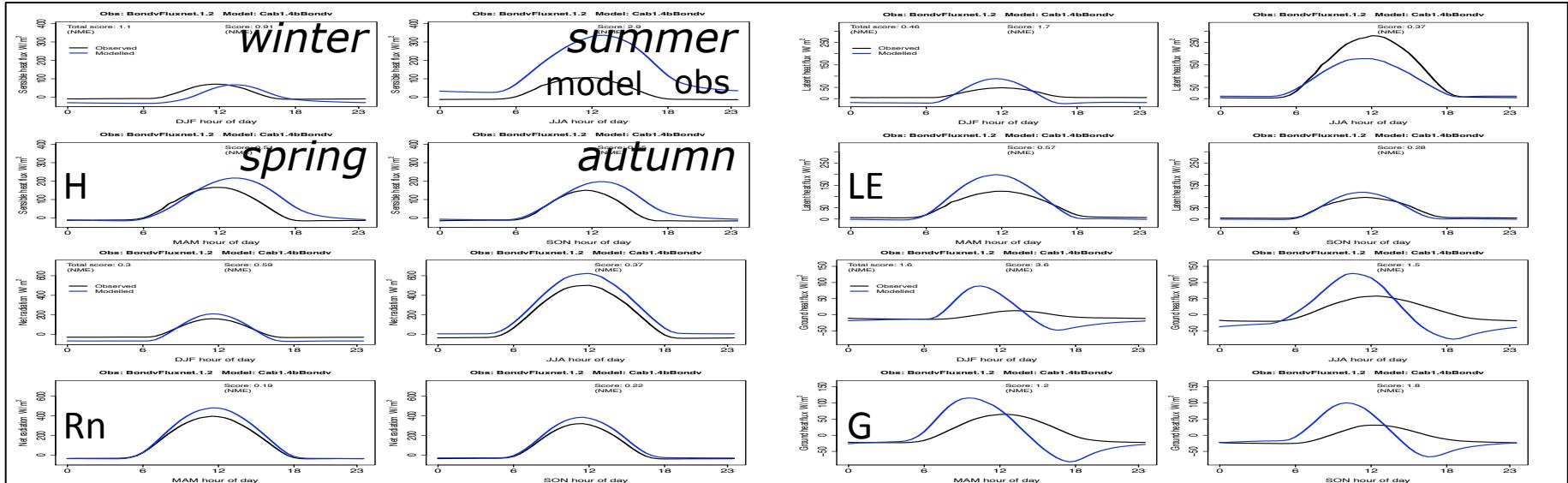
## Testing and Validation: Surface-layer Simulator

- GOAL: Improve surface turbulence exchange coefficients.
- Surface-layer simulation (“SLS”) code simulates surface-layer and schemes from meso-NAM and medium-range GFS.
- Use observations to drive SLS ( $U, T, q$  and  $T_{fc}$ ) and compare with inferred  $Ch$ ,  $Cd$  from independent “fluxnet” obs ( $H, LE, \tau$ ).
- Bias in surface exchange coefficient for heat dependent on vegetation height. Action: adjust thermal roughness parameter.



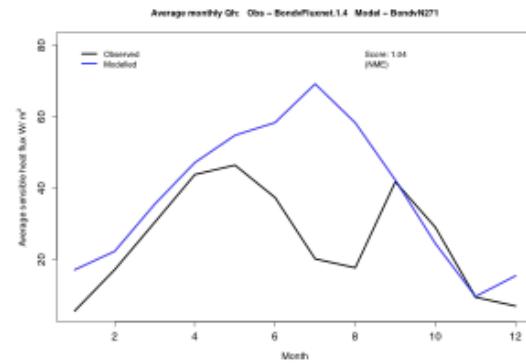
## Testing & Validation: Land Model Benchmarking

- Benchmarking: Decide how good model needs to be, then run model and ask: *Does model reach the level required?*
- **Protocol for the Analysis of Land Surface models (PALS):** [www.pals.unsw.edu.au](http://www.pals.unsw.edu.au). **GEWEX/GLASS project.**
- Compare models with empirical/statistical approaches, previous model versions, other land models. Different plots/tables of model validation and benchmarking metrics.
- Identify systematic biases for model development/validation.

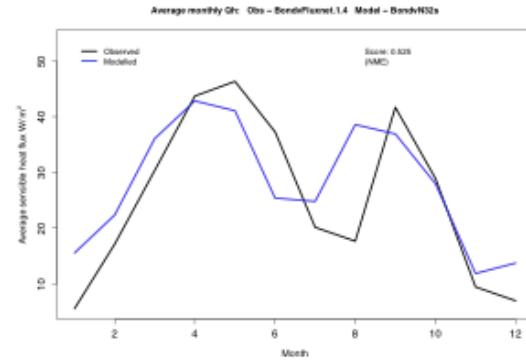
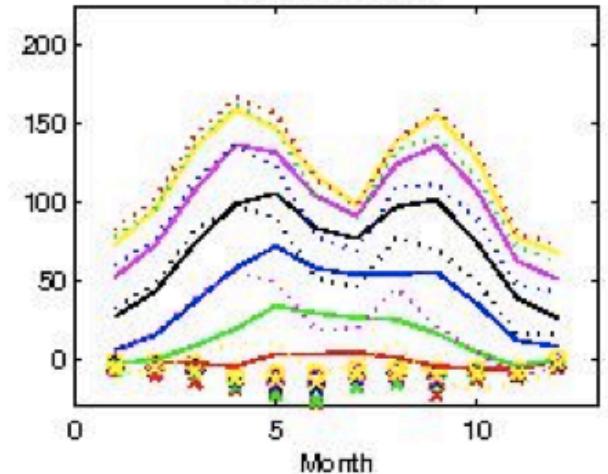
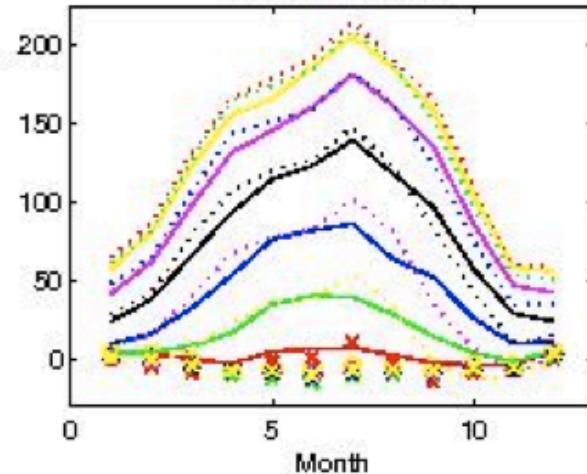


PALS example: CABLE (BOM/Aust.) land model, Bondville, IL, USA (cropland), 1997-2006, avg diurnal cycles.

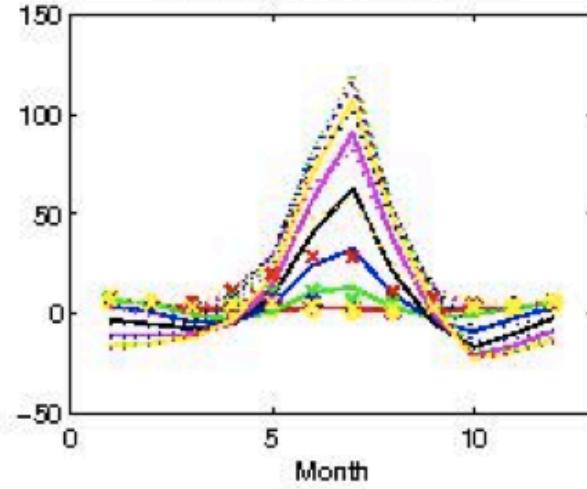
# Diurnal partition of Qh annual cycle



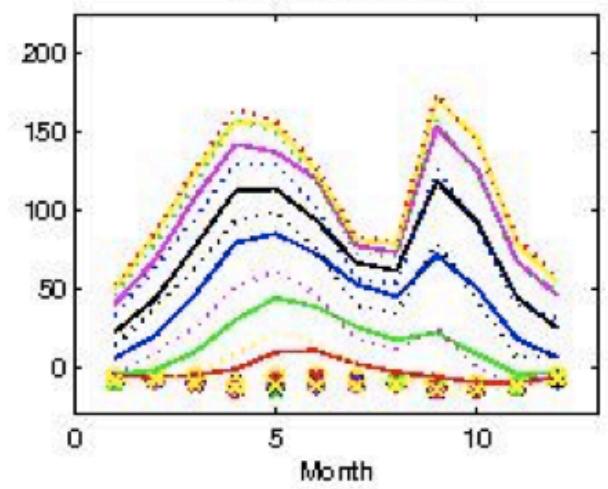
Qh Mean Monthly Diurnal Var at Bondi  
Qh N27 at Bondi



Qh Diff (N27-N32) at Bondi



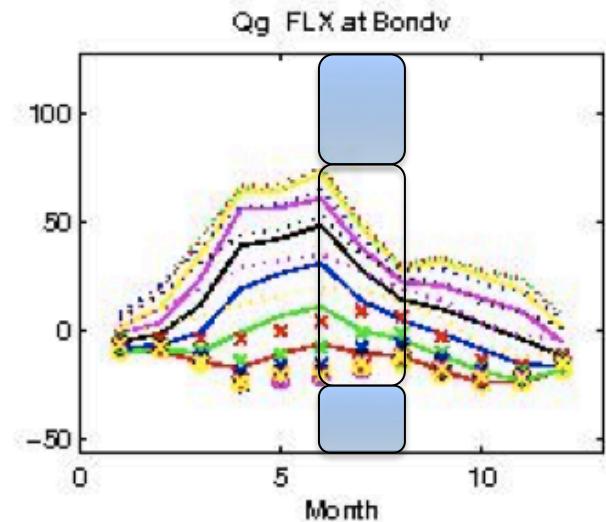
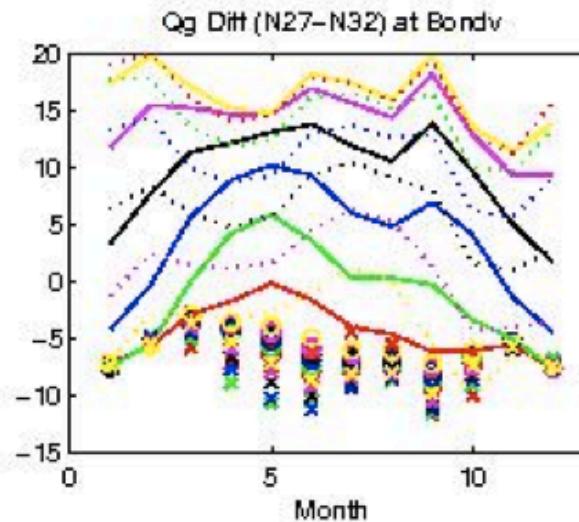
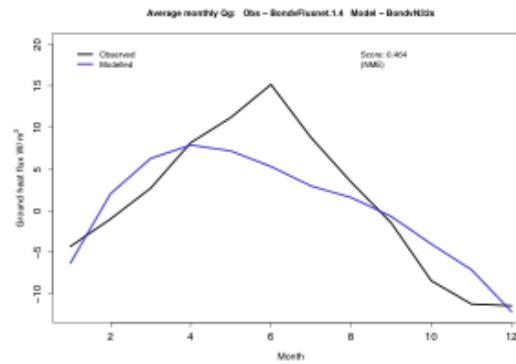
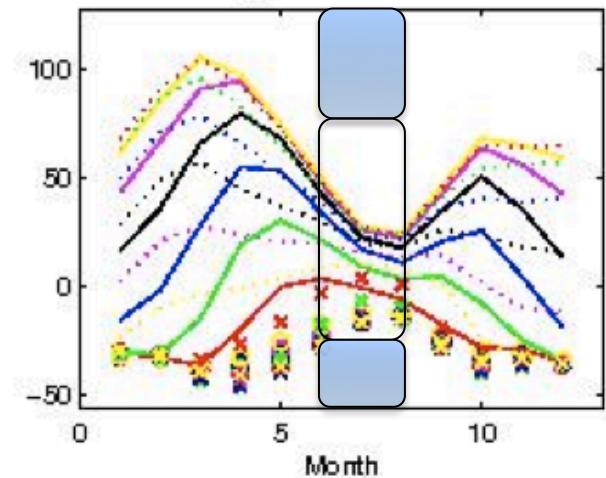
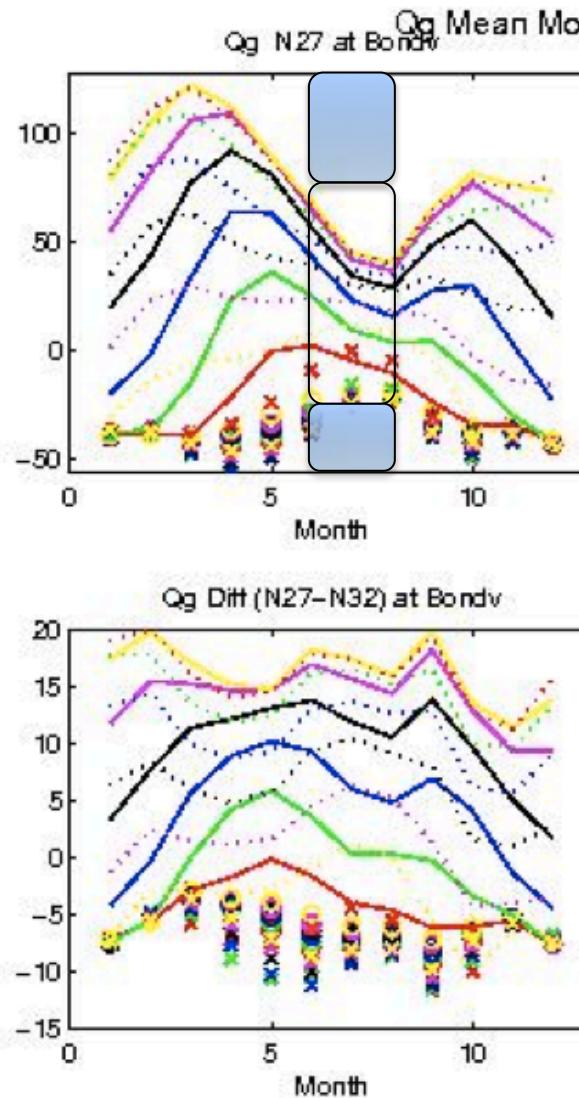
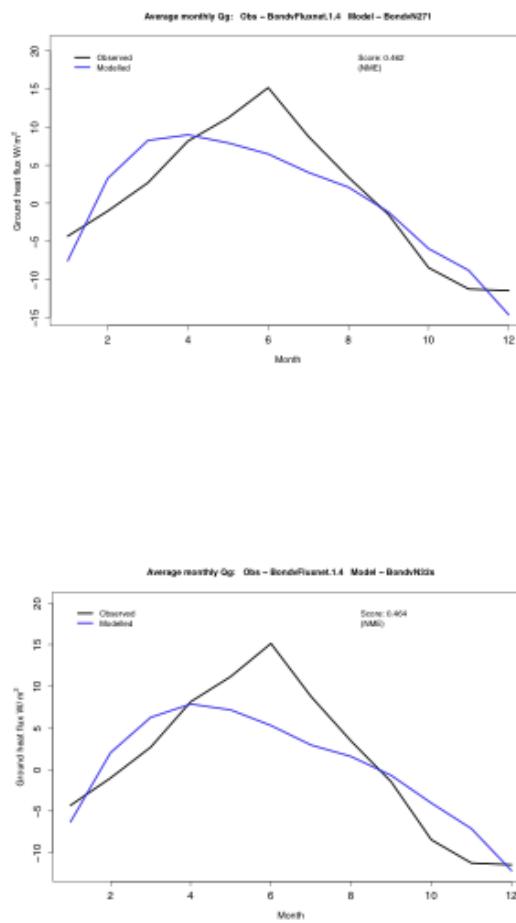
Qh FLX at Bondi



Noah 3.3 has produced double peak, but the recession of first peak still has issues, particularly for the 'before noon' segment of the daytime fluxes.

R. Shrestha, IITM 2016

# Diurnal partition of Qg annual cycle



Both Noah2.7 and Noah3.3 have serious issues except for summer season  
 R. Shrestha, IITM 2016

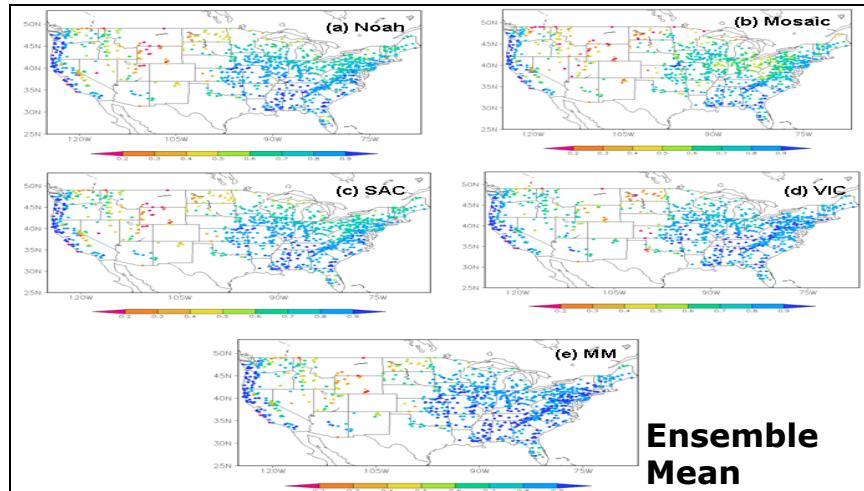
## **Testing & Validation: "uncoupled" NLDAS**

**Comprehensive evaluation against *in situ* observations and/or remotely sensed data sets.**

**Energy flux** validation from tower: net radiation, sensible, latent & ground heat fluxes.

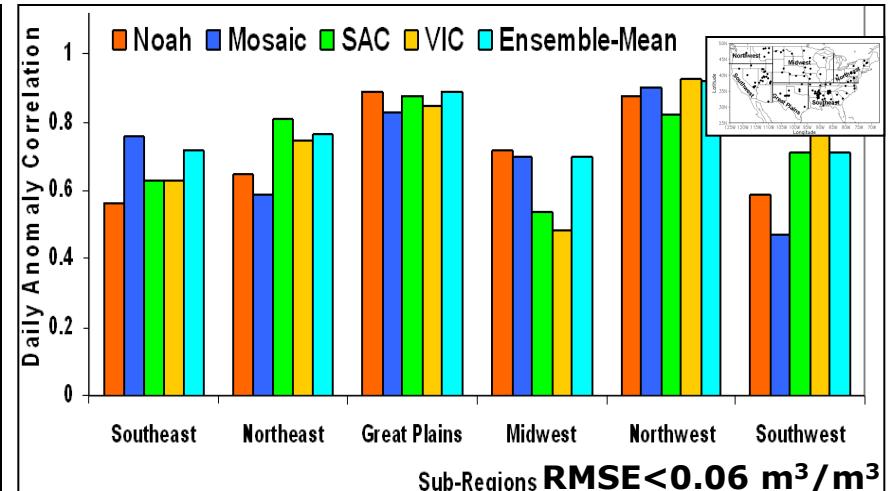
**Water budget:** evaporation, total runoff/streamflow.

**State variables:** soil moist., soil/skin temp., snow depth/cover.



Xia et al., JGR-atmosphere (2012)

**Monthly streamflow anomaly correlation  
(1979-2007 USGS measured streamflow)**



Xia et al., J. Hydrol. (2014)

**Daily top 1m soil moisture anomaly corr. (2002-2009 US SCAN Network)**

## **Testing & Validation: Column Model Testing**

### ***Diurnal land-atmosphere coupling experiment (DICE)***

**Objective:** Assess impact of land-atmosphere feedbacks.

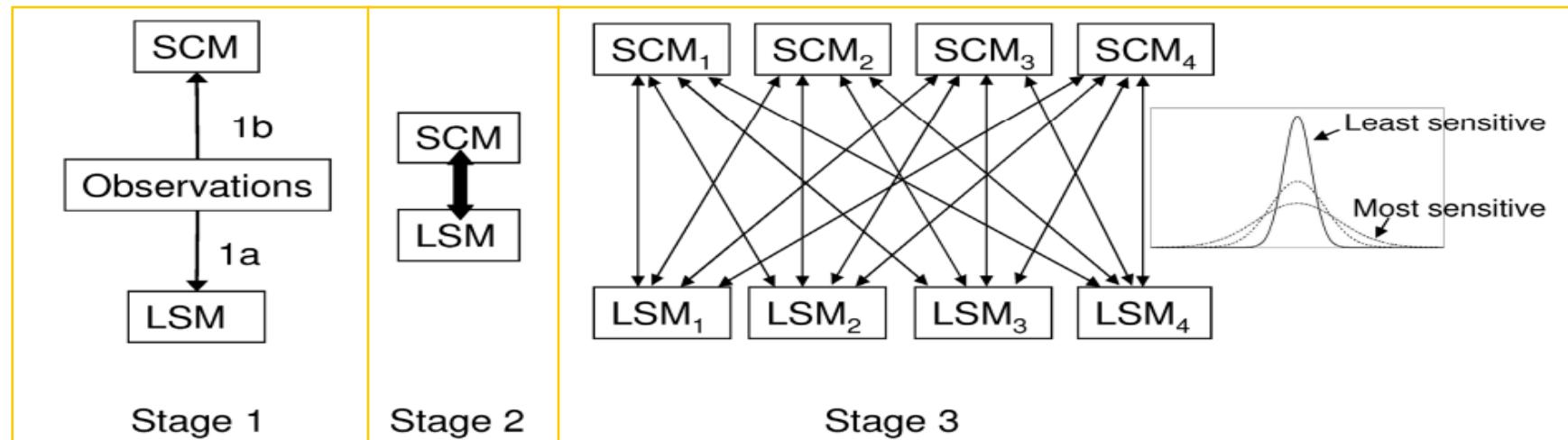
Stage 1: stand alone land, and single column model (SCM) alone.

Stage 2: Coupled land-SCM.

Stage 3: Sensitivity of LSMs & SCMs to variations in forcing.

**Data Set:** CASES-99 field experiment in Kansas, using 3 days: 23-26 Oct 1999, 19UTC-19UTC.

**Joint GEWEX GLASS-GASS project** –outgrowth of GABLS2 (boundary-layer project) where *land-atmosphere coupling was identified as a important mechanism*. ~10 models participating.



## ***Testing & Validation: Land and related issues***

*Low-level biases in winds, temperature, and humidity are influenced in part by the land surface via biases in surface fluxes exchanged with the atmospheric model (& effect on precipitation).*

Improving the proper partition of surface energy budget between sensible, latent, soil heat flux and outgoing longwave radiation, and effect on water budget, requires:

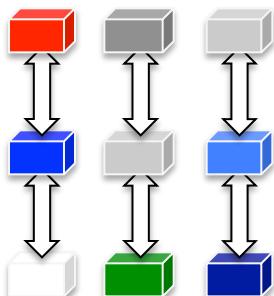
- Improved vegetation physics/parameters to calculate ET.
- Better soil physics/properties to address surface heterogeneity.
- Improved snow physics (melt/freeze, densification).
- Surface-layer physics, especially nighttime/stable conditions, and interaction with the surface & atmospheric boundary layer.
- Remote sensing of many different initial land states, e.g. near-realtime vegetation; corresponding data assimilation of these land states, e.g. snow, soil moisture, GVF.
- Improved forcing for the land model, especially precipitation and downward radiation; requires enhanced downscaling techniques.

# **Testing & Validation: Simple-to-More Complex Hierarchy of Model Parameterization Development**

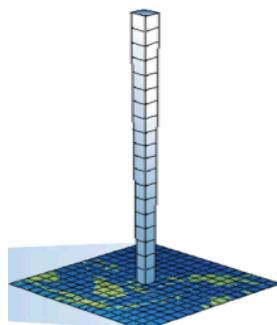
## **Simulators**

- |                     |  |   |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Radiation           |  | ▪ Simulators: test submodel parameterizations at process level, e.g. radiation-only, land-only, etc.  |
| Clouds & convection |  | ▪ Testbed data sets to develop, drive & validate submodels: <u>observations</u> , <u>models</u> , <u>idealized</u> , with "benchmarks" before adopting changes. |
| Microphysics        |  | ▪ Submodel interactions, with benchmarks.   |
| Boundary-Layer      |  | ▪ Full columns, with benchmarks.  |
| Surface-layer       |  | ▪ Limited-area/3-D (convection) with benchmarks.  |
| Land                |  | ▪ Regional & global NWP & seasonal climate, with benchmarks.  |
| Sea-ice             |  | ▪ <b>More efficient</b> model development, community engagement, R2O/O2R & computer usage.  |
| Ocean, Waves        |  |   |

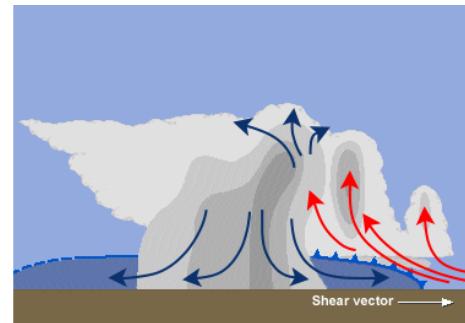
## **Interaction tests**



## **Column tests**

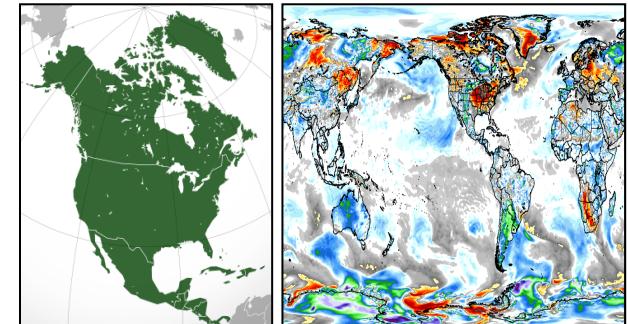


## **Limited-area**



R. Shrestha, IITM 2016

## **Regional & Global**



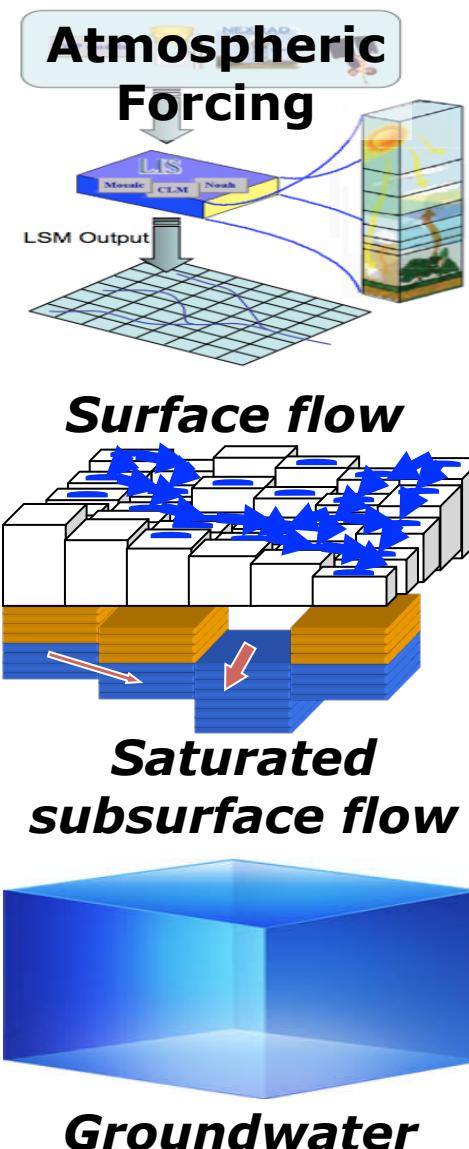
# ***Land Models in Earth Systems***

In a more fully-coupled ***Earth System***, this role involves **Weather & Climate** connections to:

- **Hydrology**: soil moisture & ground water/water tables, irrigation and groundwater extraction, water quality, streamflow and river discharge to oceans, drought/flood, lakes, and reservoirs/human mgmt.
- **Biogeochemical cycles**: application to ecosystems, both terrestrial & marine, dynamic vegetation and biomass, carbon budgets, etc.
- **Air Quality**: interaction with boundary-layer, biogenic emissions, VOC, dust/aerosols, etc.

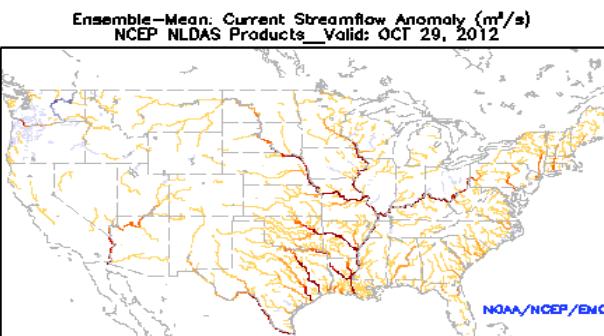
**More constraints**, i.e. must close energy and water budgets, and those related to air quality and BGC cycles. *Get the right answers for the right reasons!*

# Hydrology: River-routing, Groundwater

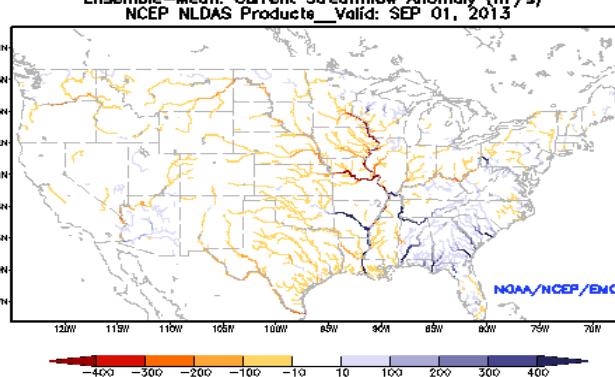


## Ensemble mean daily streamflow anomaly

Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee,  
20 August – 17 September 2011



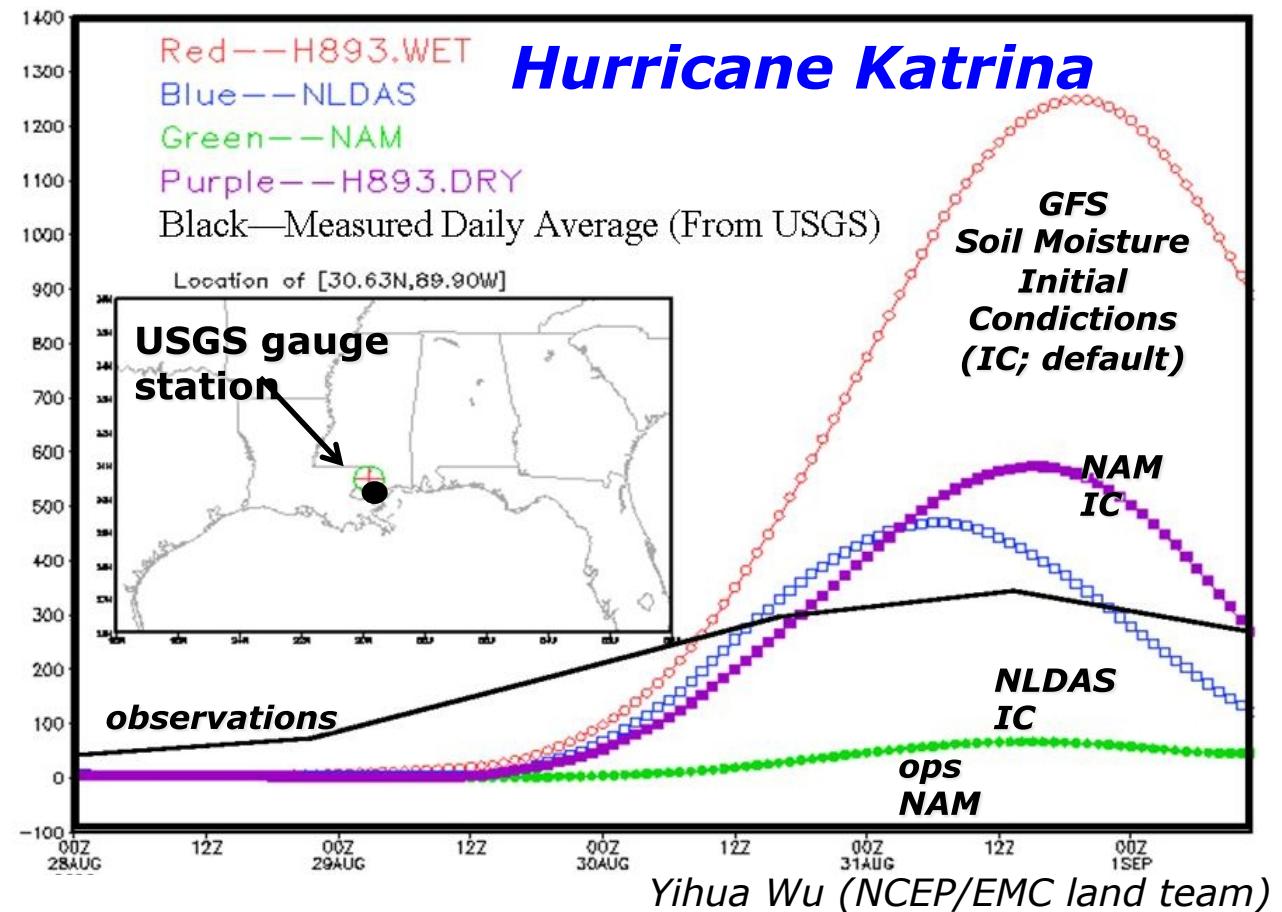
Superstorm Sandy,  
29 October – 04 November 2012



Colorado Front Range  
Flooding, September  
2013

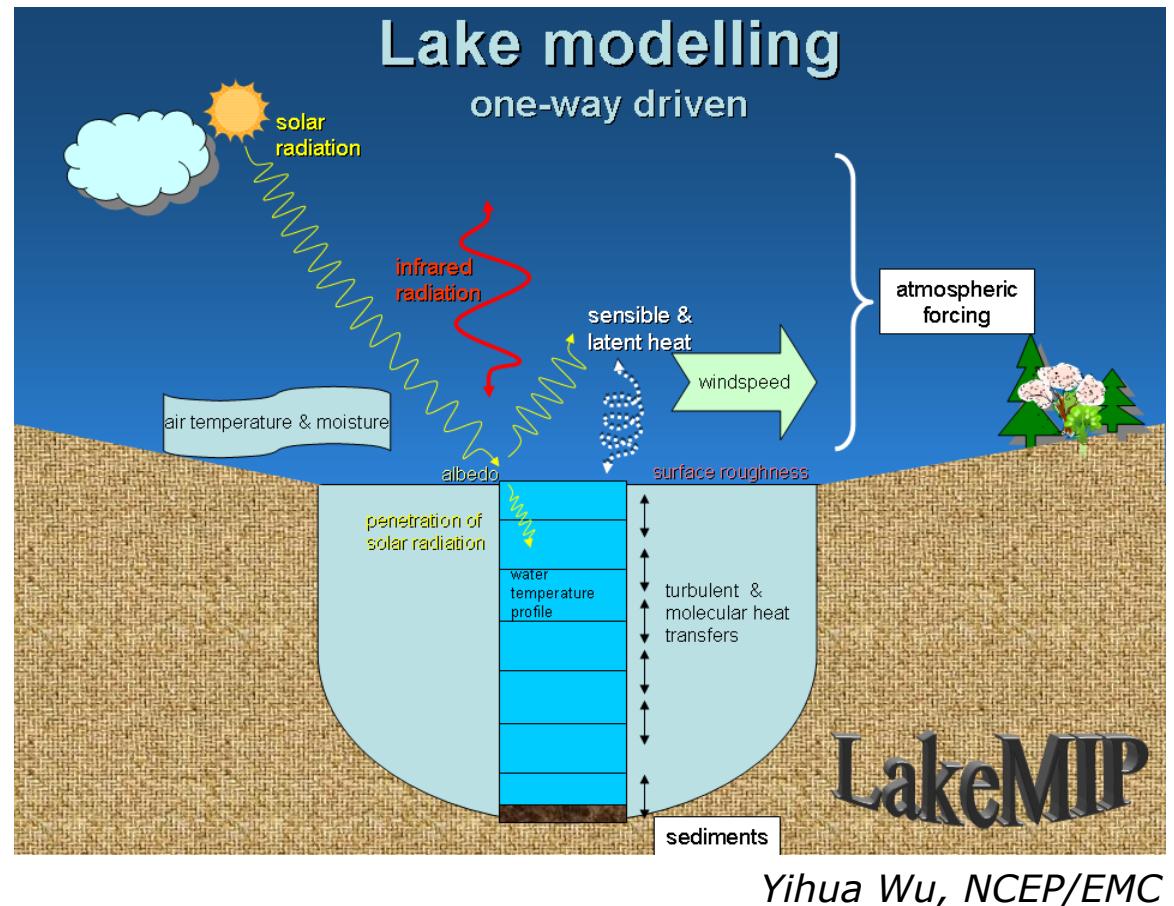
## Hurricanes and Inland Flooding

- Physical-based Noah model included in (mesoscale) Hurricane Weather Research & Forecasting model, with little degradation in track & intensity & precip.
- Inland flood forecasting** (right) using Noah runoff & streamflow model.
- Extend to global/climate models: **river discharge to oceans**.

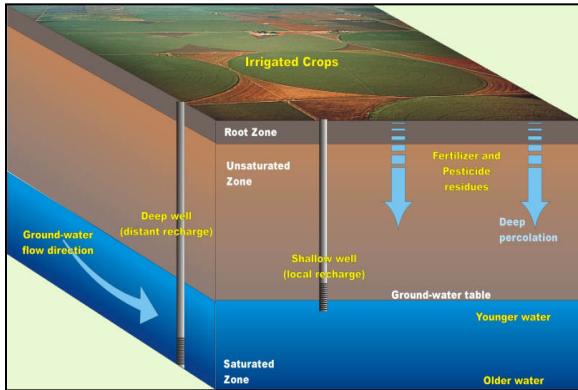


# Lakes

- **Thousands** of lakes on scale of 1-4km not resolved by SST analysis -> greatly influence surface fluxes; explicit vs subgrid.
- Freshwater lake “**FLake**” model (*Dmitrii Mironov, DWD*).
  - Two-layer.
  - Atmospheric forcing inputs.
  - Temperature & energy budget.
  - Mixed-layer and thermocline.
  - Snow-ice module
  - Specified depth/turbidity.
  - Used in COSMO, HIRLAM, NAM (regional), and global ECMWF, CMC, UKMO.



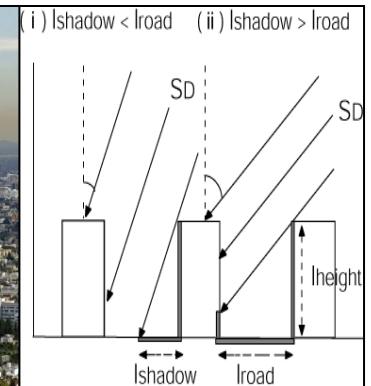
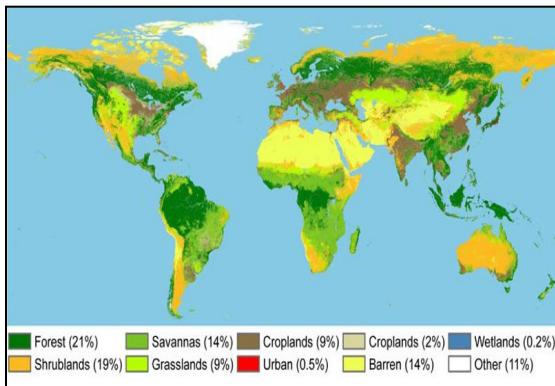
# *Human Influences/Management*



**Groundwater Extraction**

**Irrigation**

**Reservoirs**



**Land-cover change/deforestation**

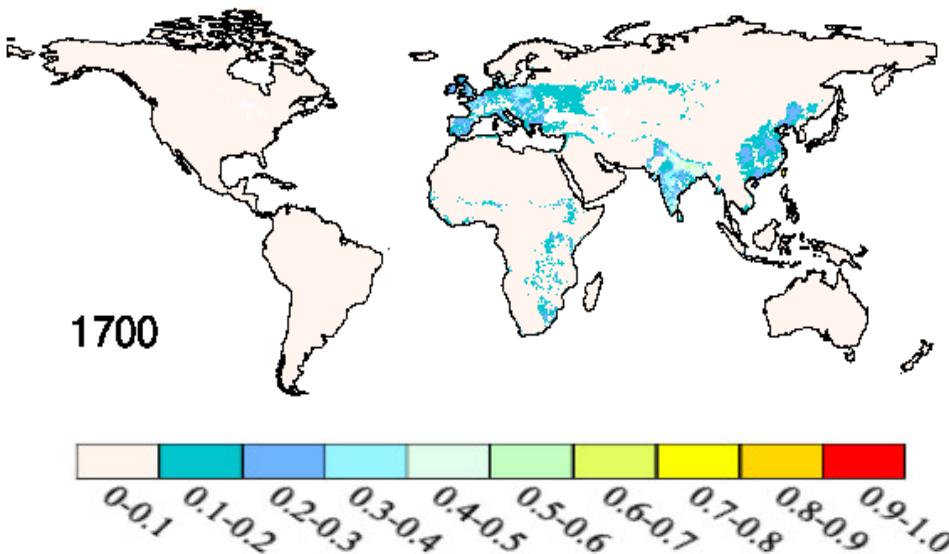
**Urban areas/model**

- Proper initial conditions (e.g. via remote sensing), and improved land model physics parameterizations.

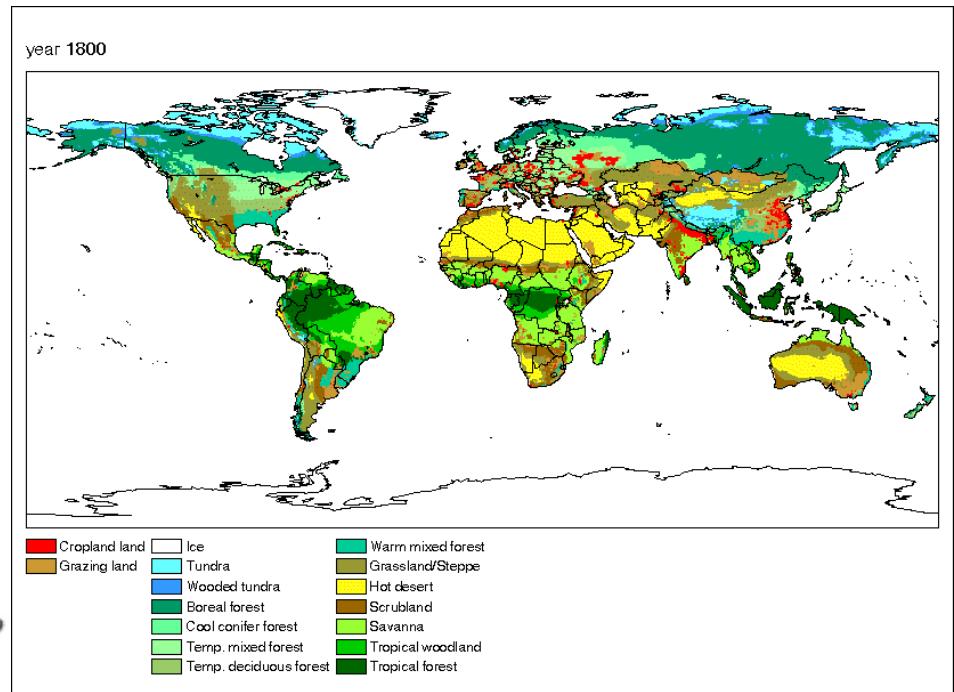
- Challenges of changing land use

# Historical Changes

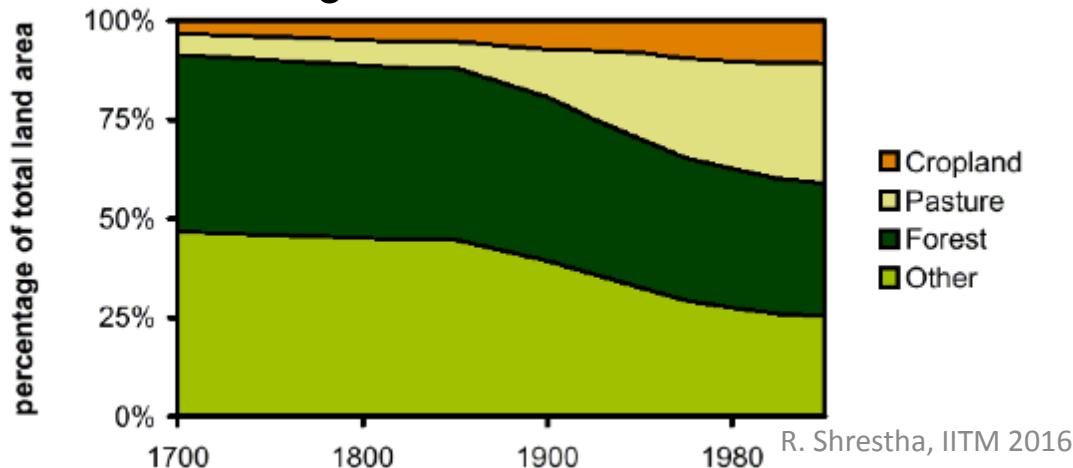
## The Spread of Agriculture



## 300 Years of Land Use Change



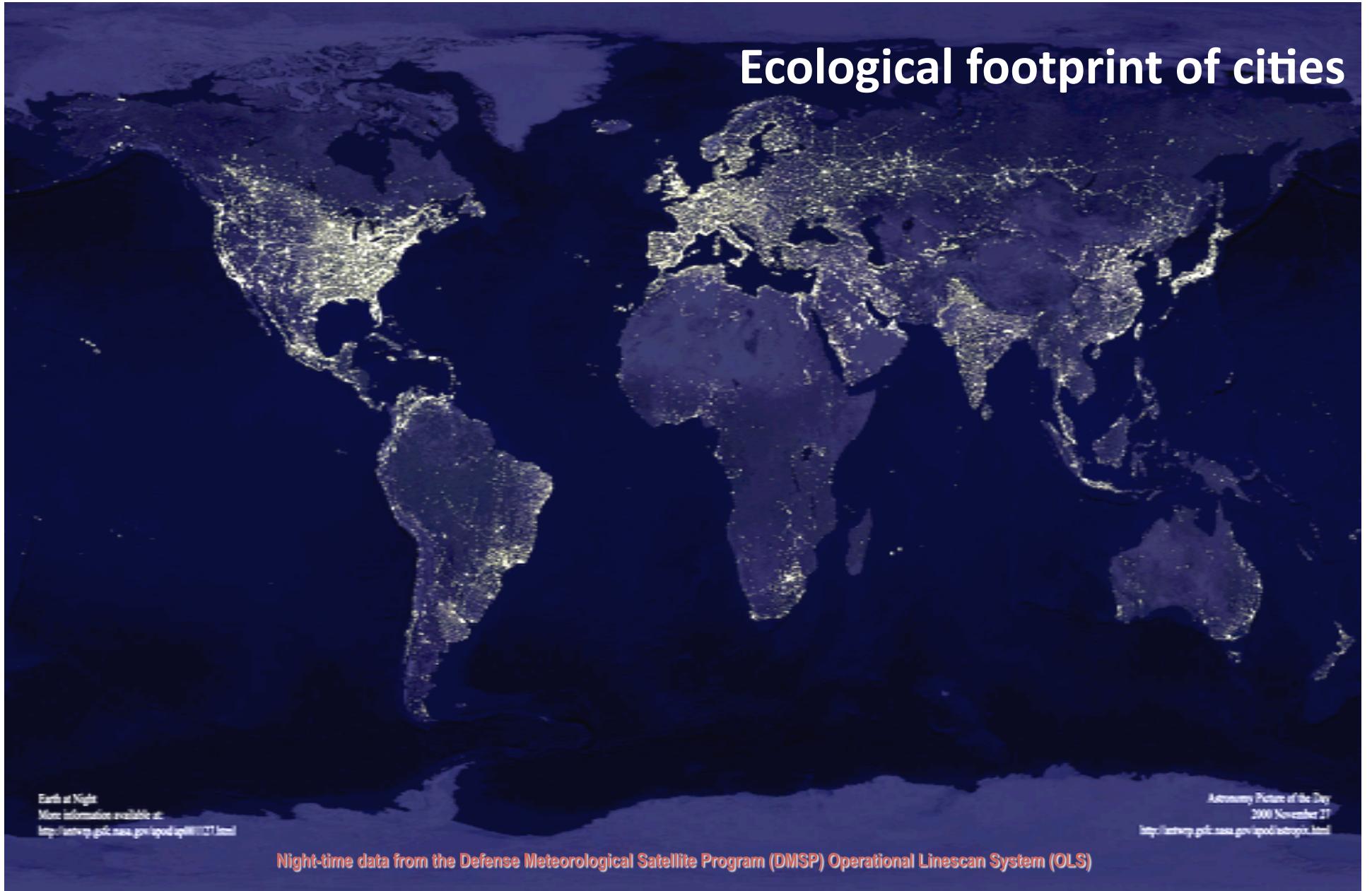
## Change in Land use



**Center for  
Sustainability and  
the Global Environment**  
Institute for Environmental Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

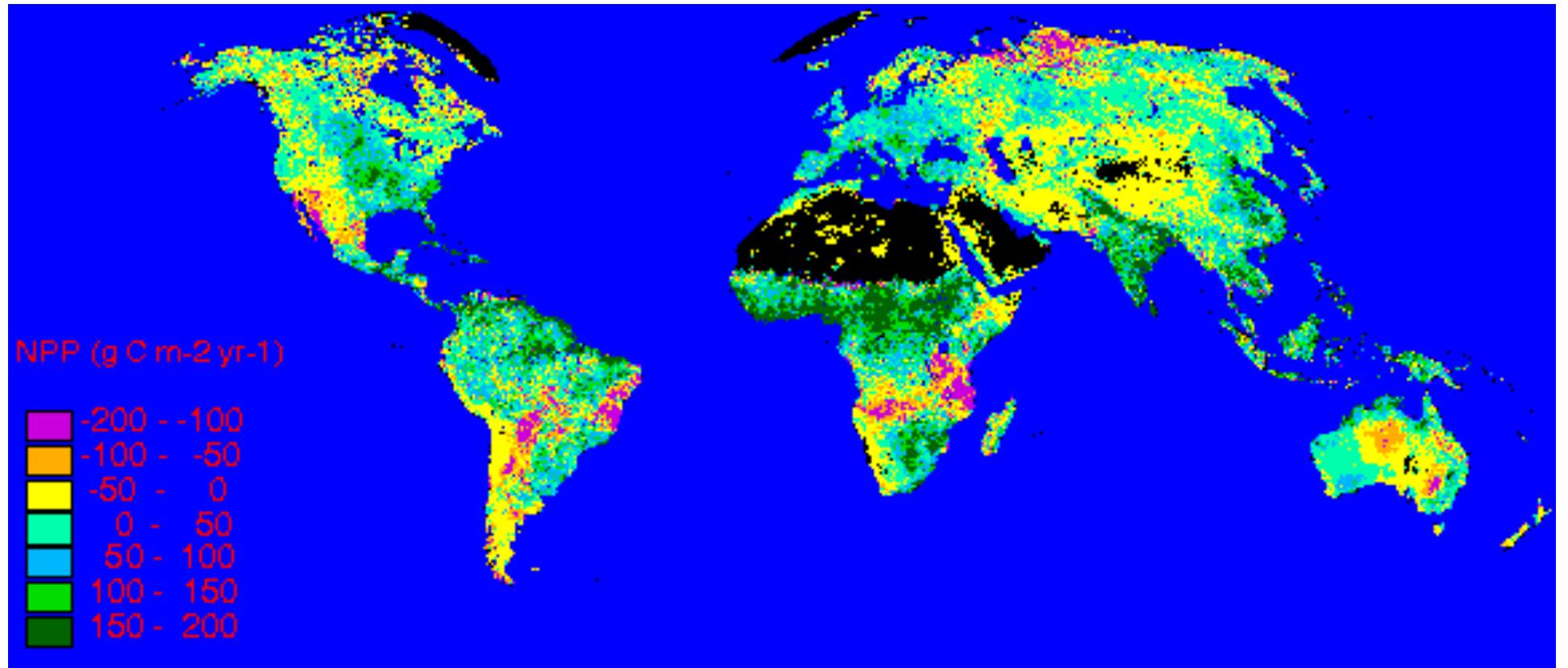
Goldewijk K and Battjes J.J., 1997<sup>73</sup>

# Ecological footprint of cities



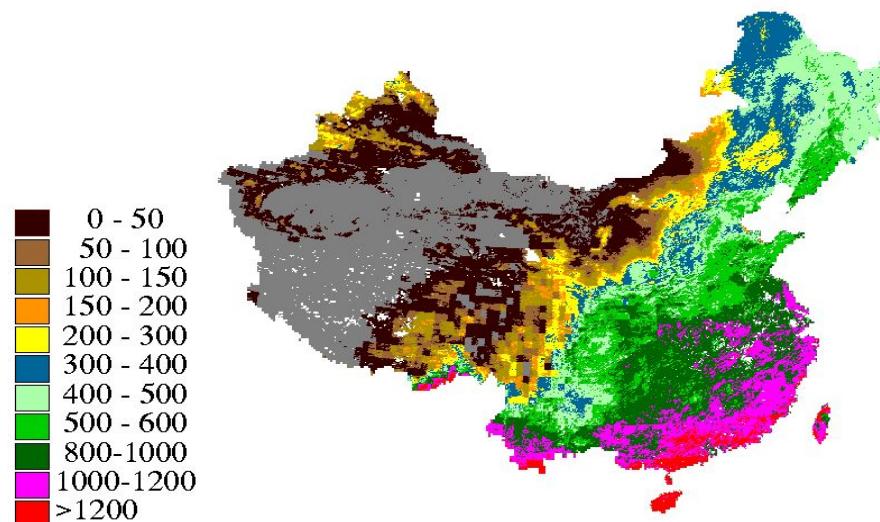
Point: Area of urban-industrial infrastructure remains small relative to other land-use/cover changes, but its “footprint” has significant land implications.  
*Elvidge et al., 1997* R. Shrestha, IITM 2016 94

# Estimate of changes in annual NPP 1982-2000

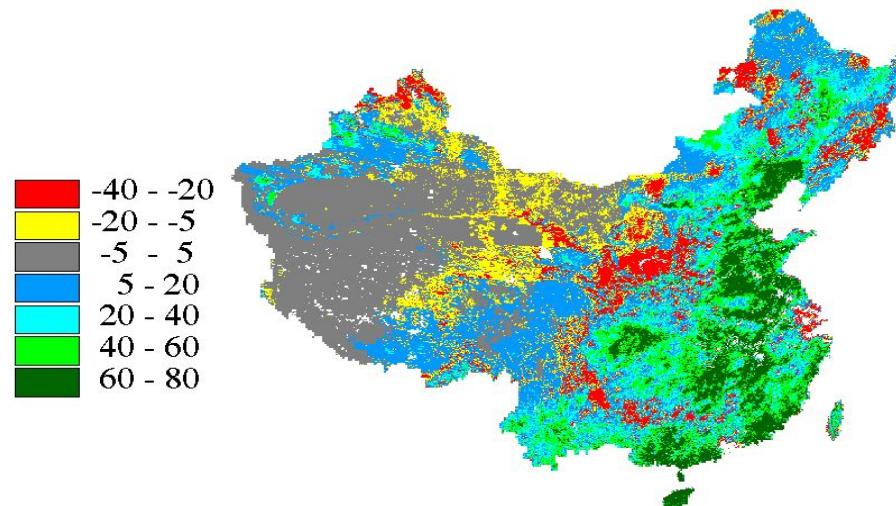


Global monitoring can be performed by satellite, if great care is taken to calibrate and validate retrievals.

# Changes in agriculture reflected as NPP changes evident from satellite

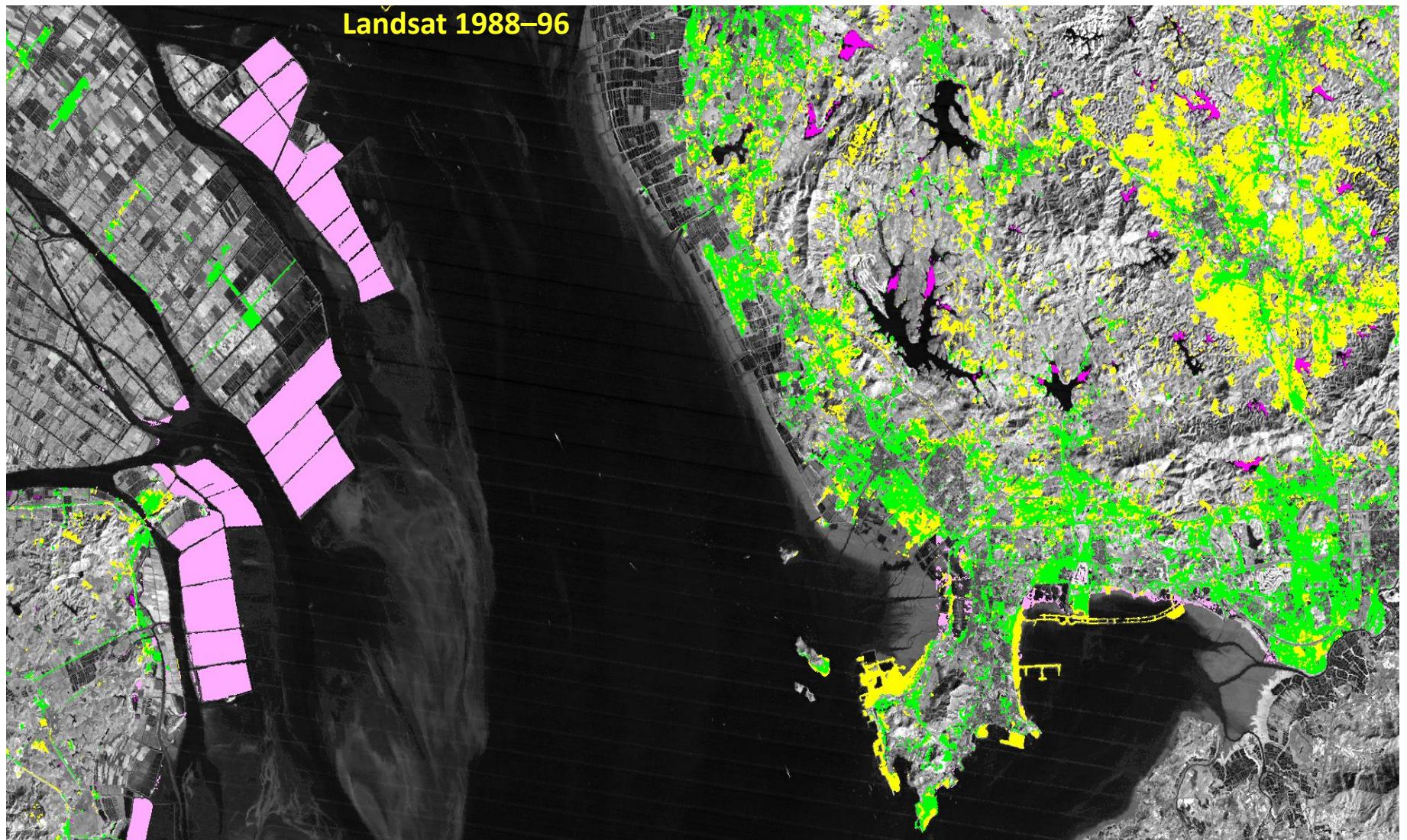


Annual net primary productivity in 1981-2000 (g C m<sup>-2</sup>)



Changes in net primary productivity between 1981 and 2000 (g C m<sup>-2</sup>)

# Urban expansion into “prime” agricultural land



█ Agriculture to urban

█ Natural vegetation/water to urban

█ Agriculture/natural vegetation to water

█ Water to agriculture

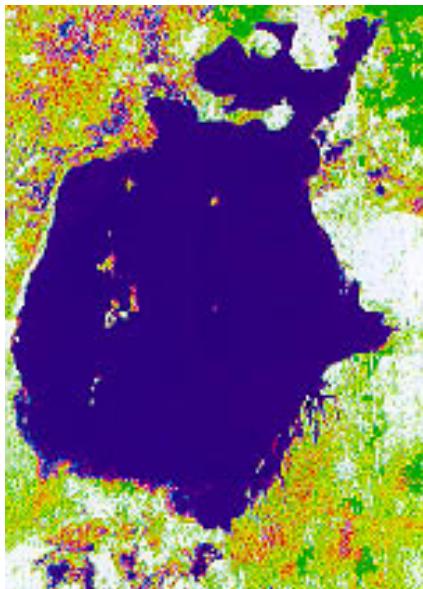
R. Shrestha, II  
2016

97  
(K. Seto, Boston U.)

# Aral Sea Background Info Cont.

## Climate Changes:

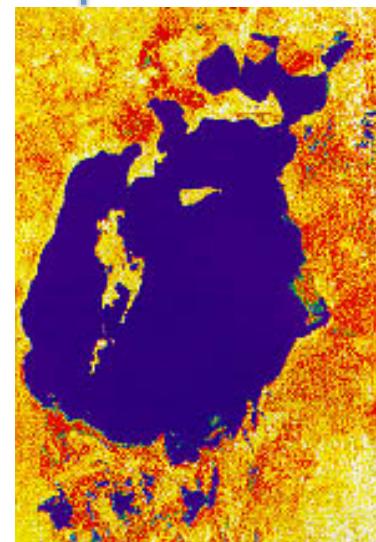
- Longer, colder winters
- Shorter, drier summers
- Growing season shortened to 170 days
- Precipitation decreased 10x along shore regions
- Salt rain



1977

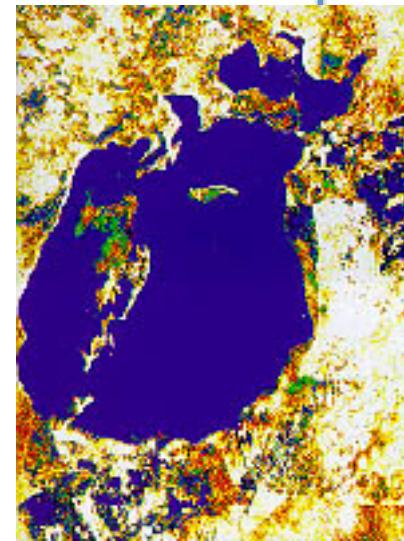
## Effects of Salt:

- Kills crops, trees, and wildlife
- Destroys pasture lands
- Cotton and crop yields have declined dramatically
- Fishing industry devastated (twenty of twenty-four native species extinct)
- Roughly  $\frac{1}{2}$  of area's bird and mammal species gone



1984

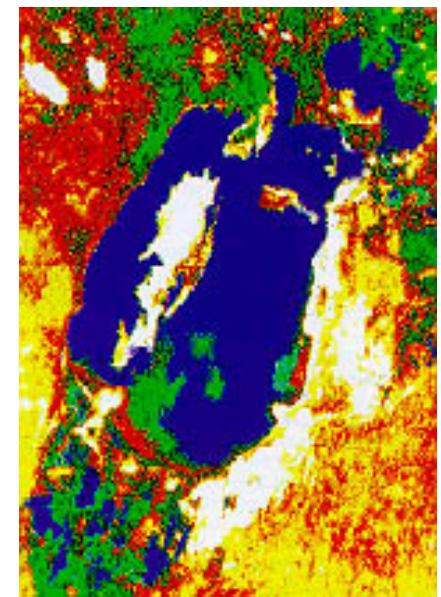
R. Shrestha, IITM 2016



1989

## Complicating Factors:

- To raise yields, farmers increase use of herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers
- Many of the chemicals have accumulated in the ground water
- Low flows have concentrated salts, pesticides, toxic chemicals.
- Surface water unfit to drink

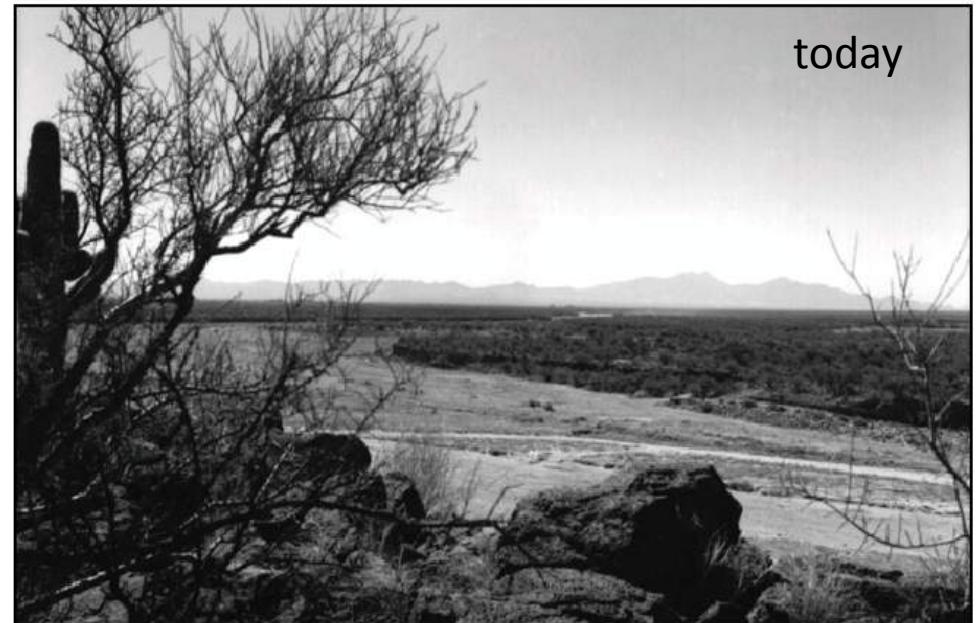
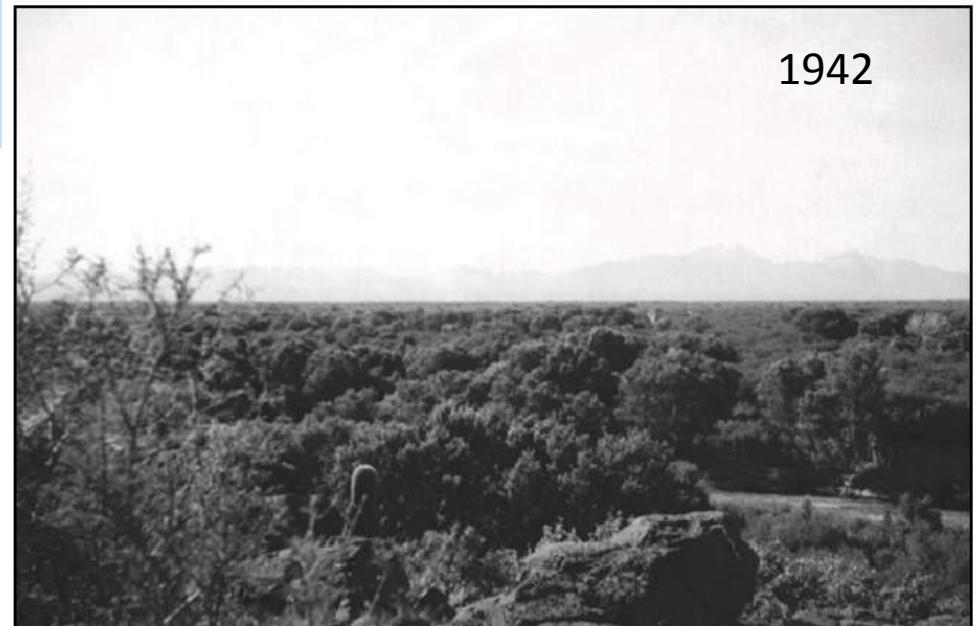


1995

98

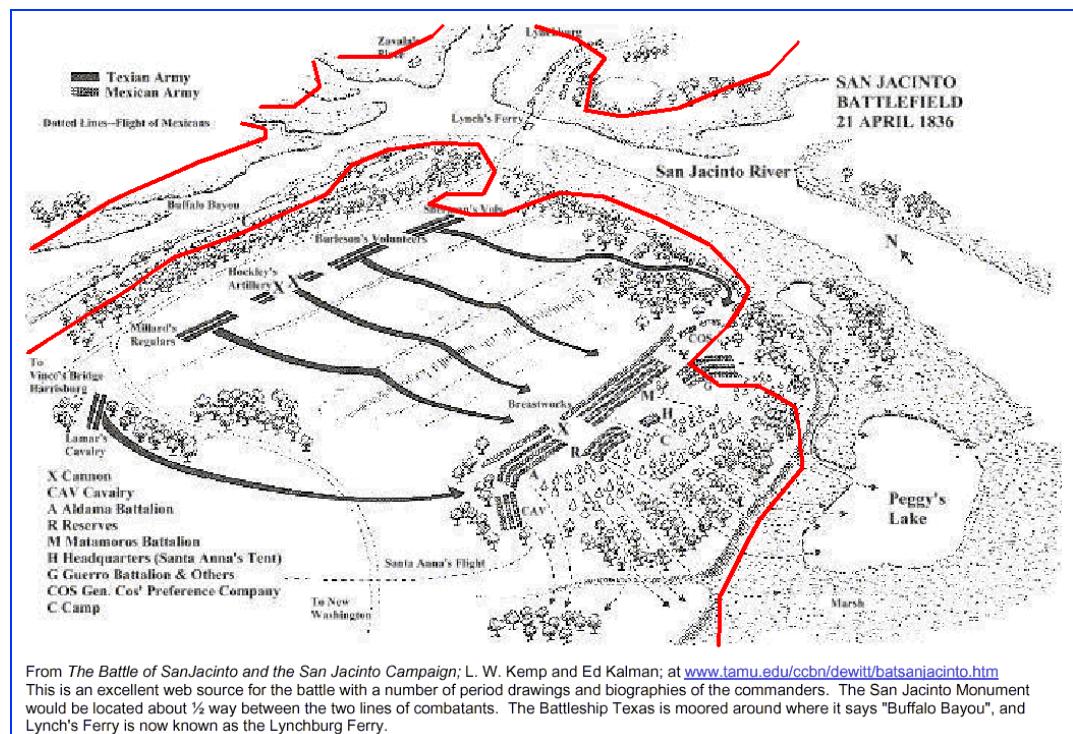
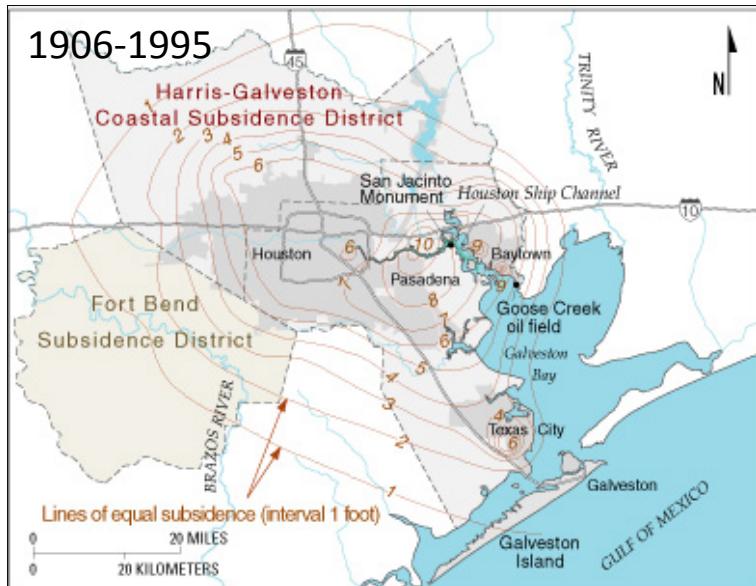
# Groundwater Pumping

Not only surface water diversion leads to desertification. Pumping of groundwater to supply the city of Tucson, Arizona has lowered the water table over 60m in some locations, causing creeks to run dry, and riparian vegetation to die out, greatly reducing local evapotranspiration.



# Subsidence

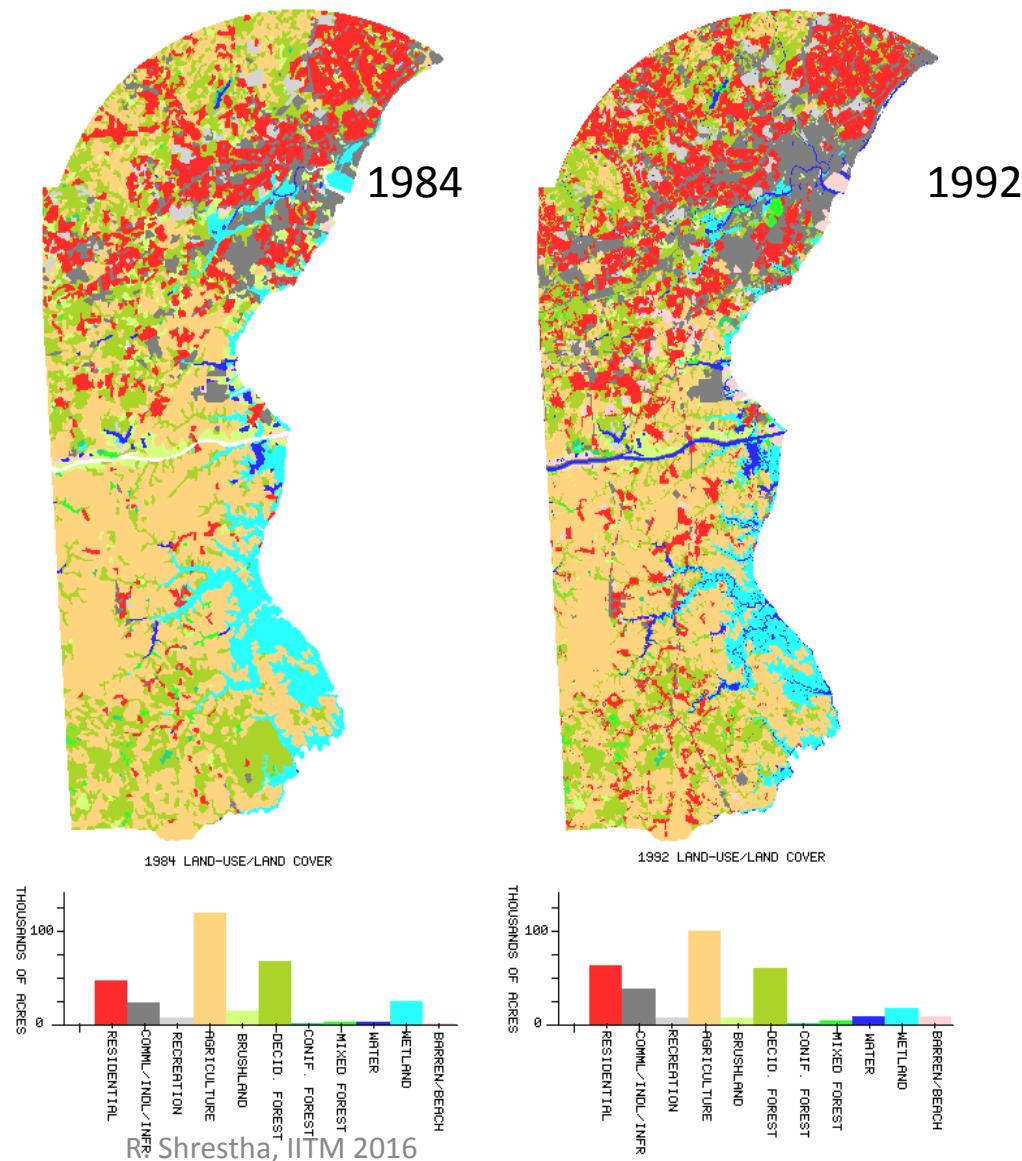
Venice is not the only city sinking into the sea. Houston is subsiding due to groundwater, gas and oil pumping.

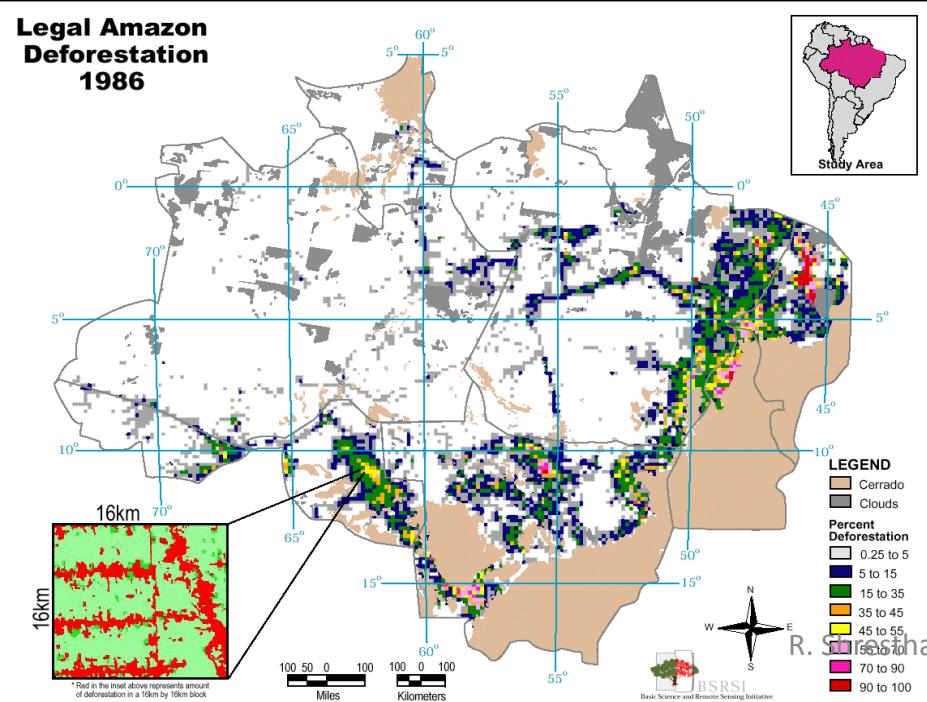
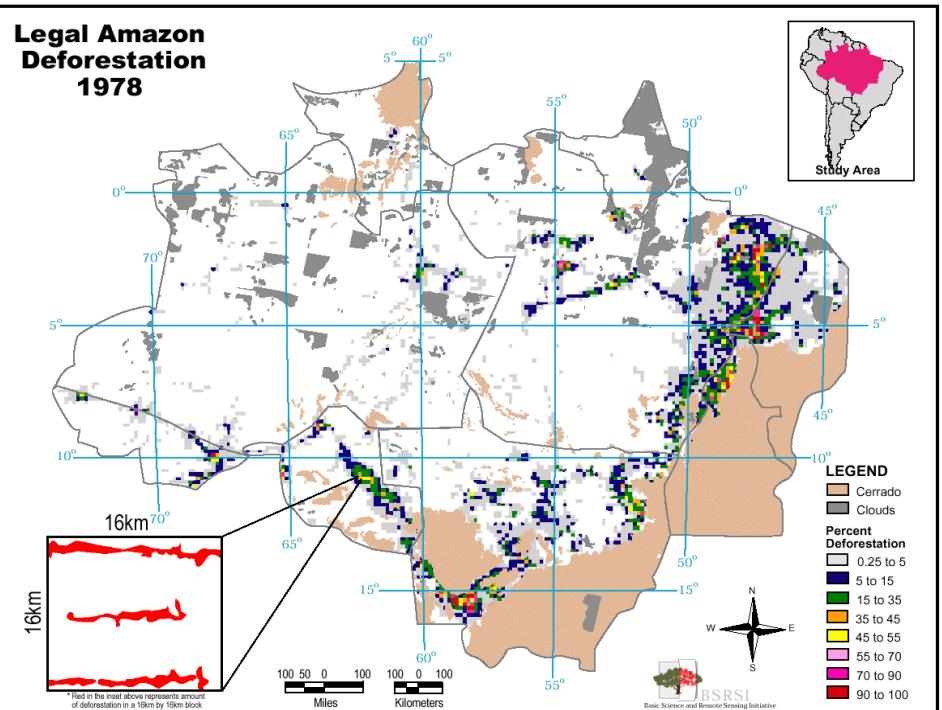
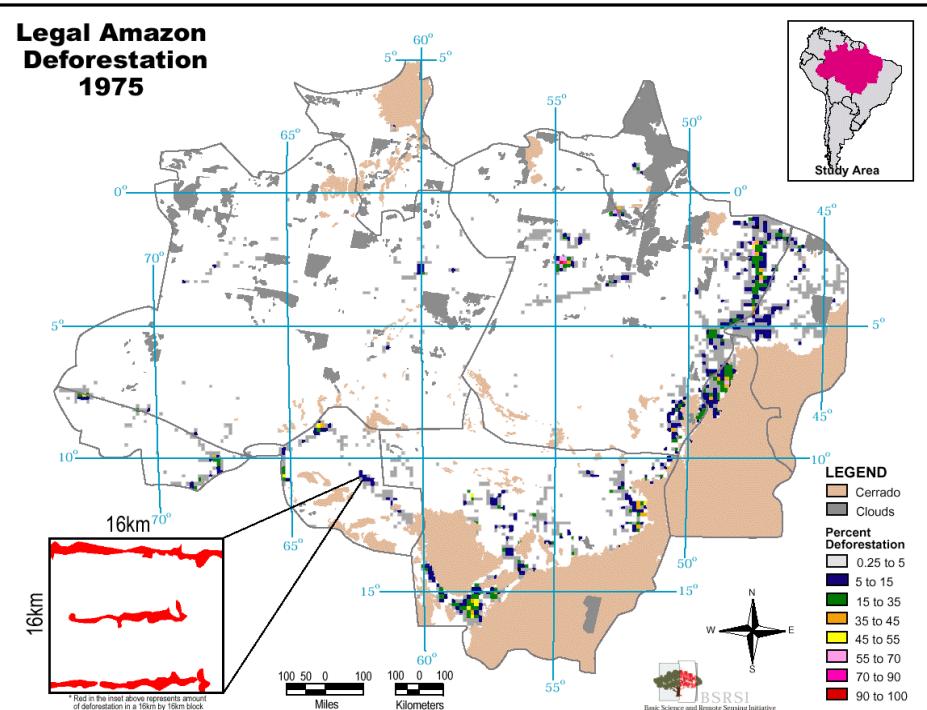


From *The Battle of San Jacinto and the San Jacinto Campaign*; L. W. Kemp and Ed Kalman; at [www.tamu.edu/cbcb/dewitt/batsanjacinto.htm](http://www.tamu.edu/cbcb/dewitt/batsanjacinto.htm). This is an excellent web source for the battle with a number of period drawings and biographies of the commanders. The San Jacinto Monument would be located about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way between the two lines of combatants. The Battleship Texas is moored around where it says "Buffalo Bayou", and Lynch's Ferry is now known as the Lynchburg Ferry.

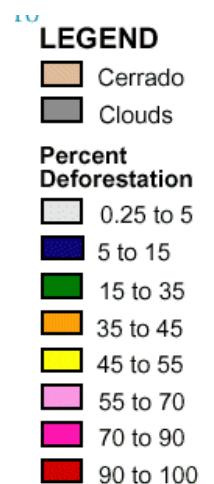
# Land use change in northern Delaware

Notice not only the spread of urbanization, but also the loss of wetlands, and the shift of agriculture to consume forest areas as cities spread into farmland.

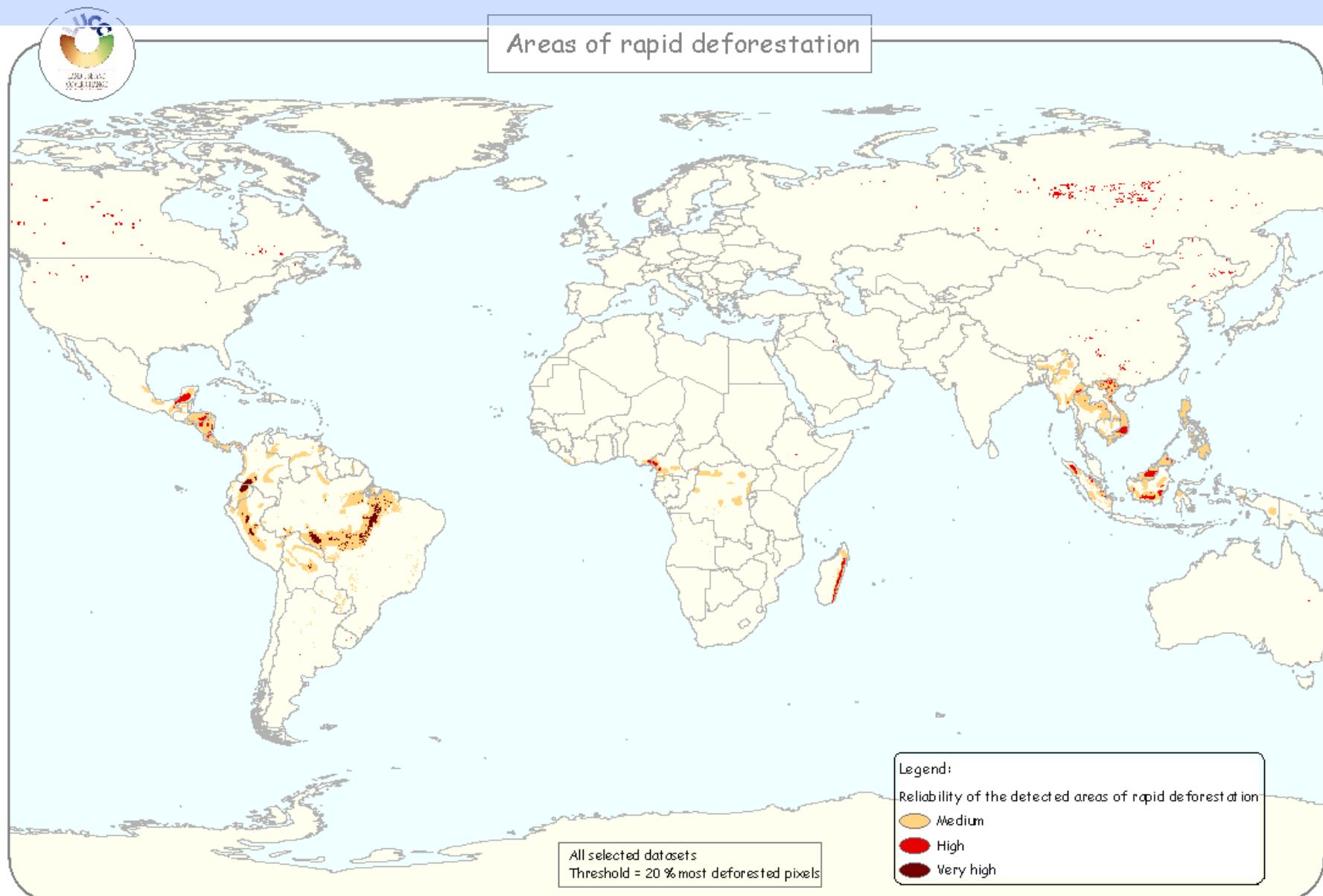




R. Suresh, IITM 2016

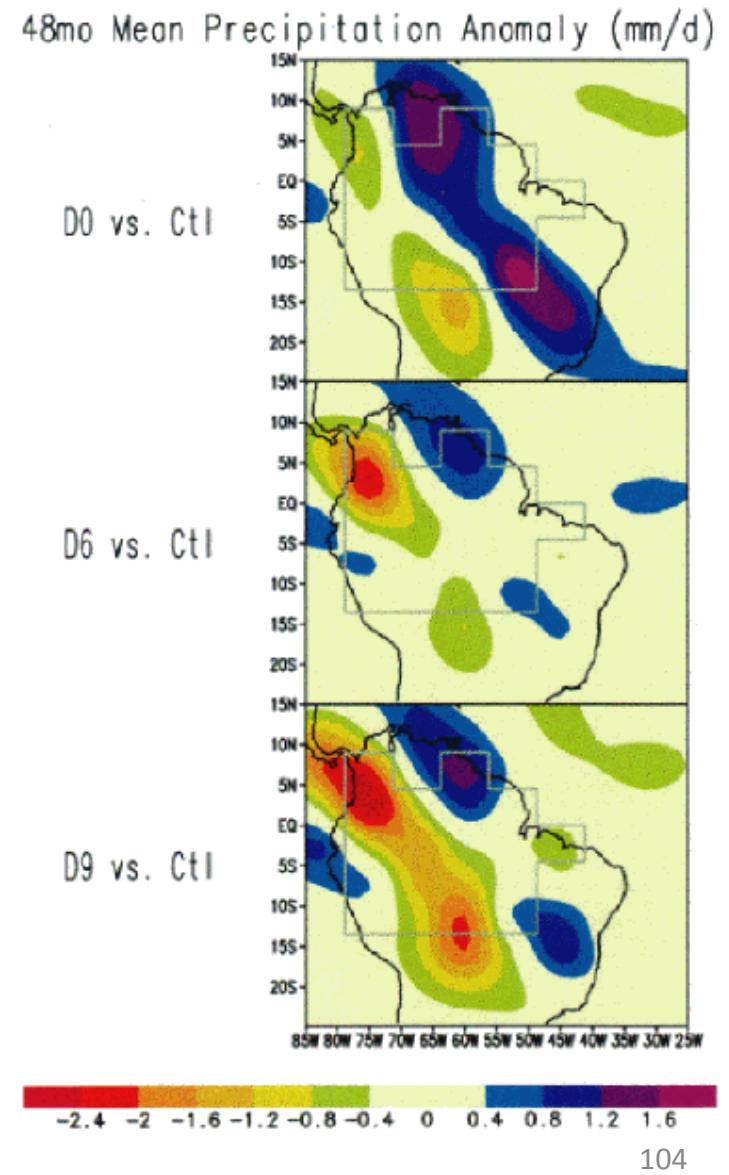


# Deforestation



# Albedo & Deforestation

- Deforestation with an albedo = rainforest (D0); 6% lighter (D6); and 9% lighter (D9).
- Dark grassland → net increase in rainfall.
- Light grassland → net decrease.
- Pattern of rainfall change is consistent.

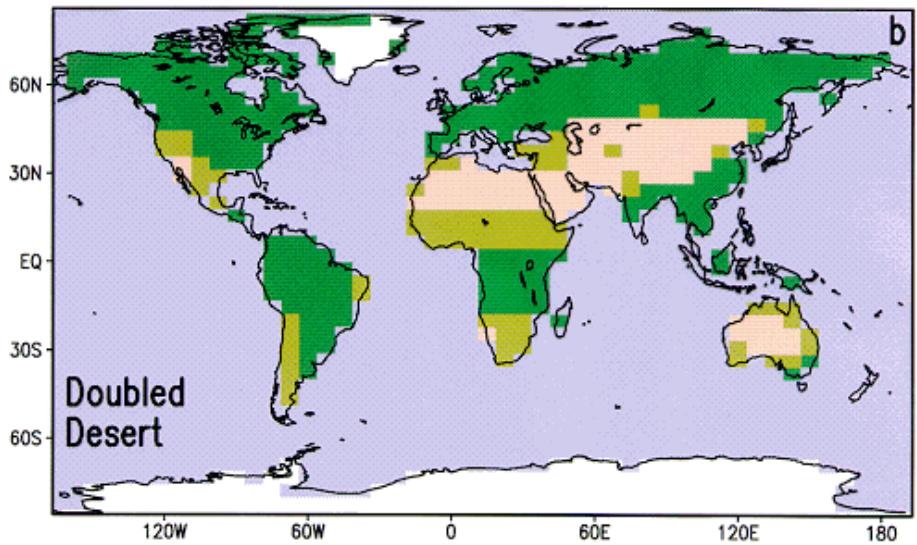
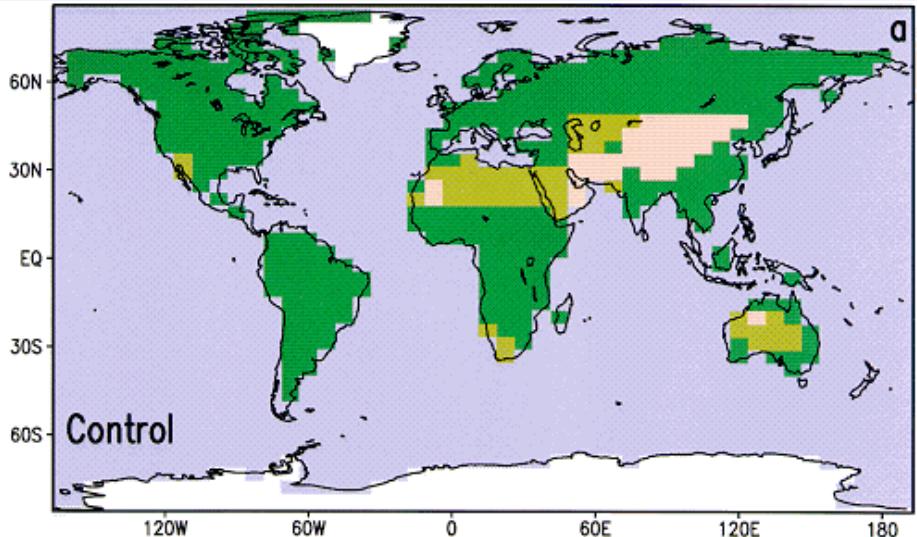


Dirmeyer & Shukla (1994 *JGR*)

R. Shrestha, IITM 2016

# Monsoon region sensitivity

- Sensitivity experiments of desertification show that monsoon regions are most sensitive to impacts of land use/cover change...



Bare Soil

Shrubs + Bare Soil

Other Vegetation

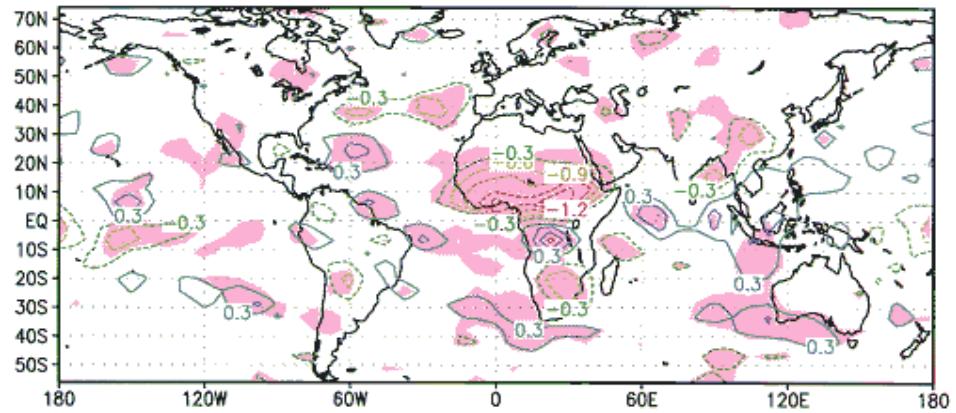
Dirmeyer & Shukla (1996 *QJRMS*)

R. Shrestha, IITM 2018

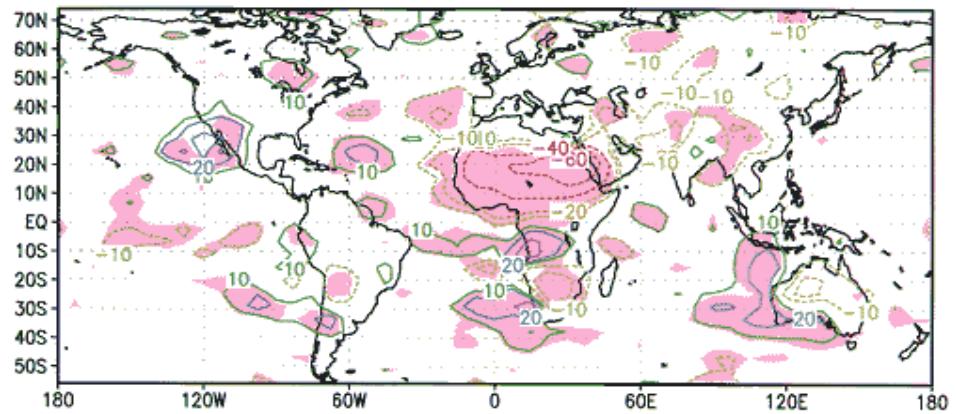
# Rainfall Impacts

- The largest impacts are in the monsoon regions of Africa (Sahel and South Africa).
- Second are the land-sea monsoons of South Asia, Australia and North America.
- Tropical rainfall intensifies to offset the loss in the subtropics.

Anomalies in Precip. (mm/d)



Anomalies in Precip. (%)

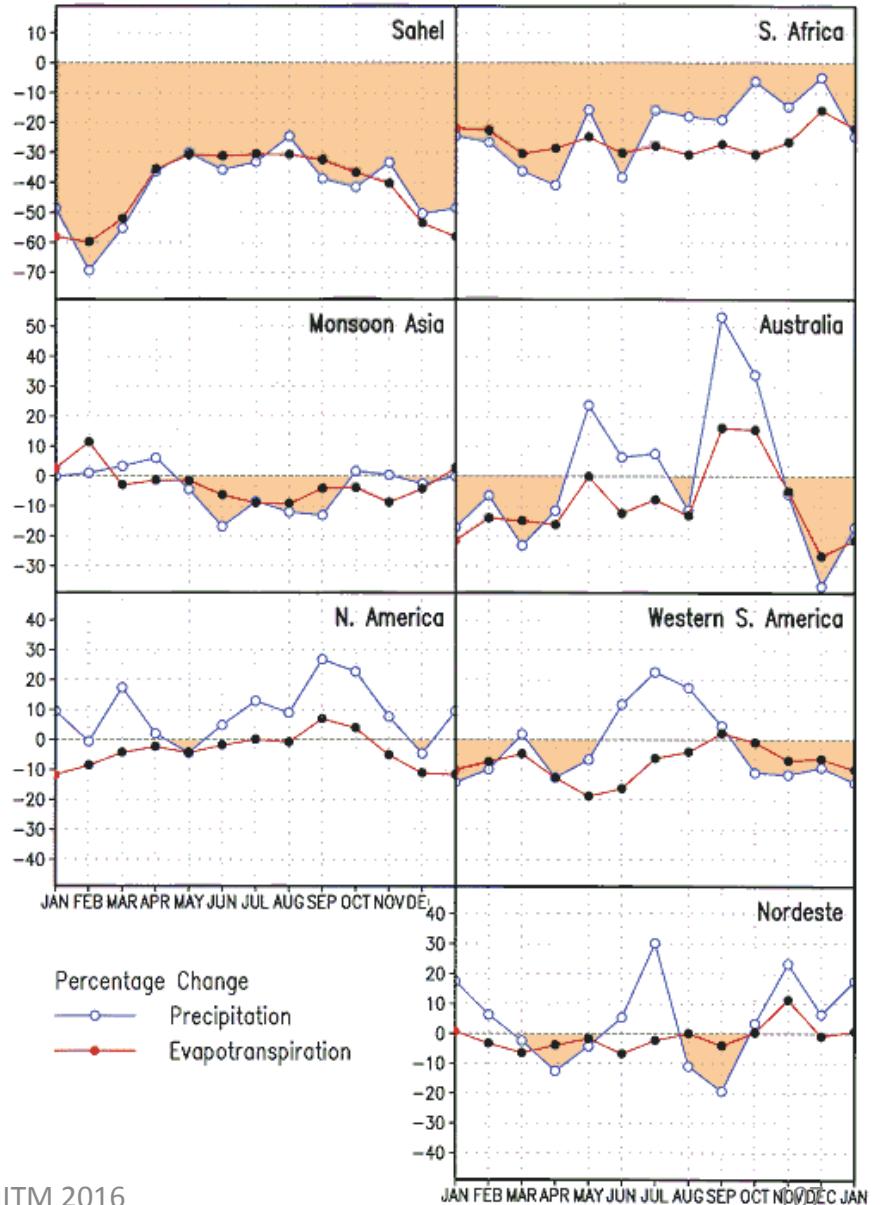


Dirmeyer & Shukla (1996 QJRMS)

R. Shrestha, IITM 2018 95% Significance Level

# Rainfall Impacts 2

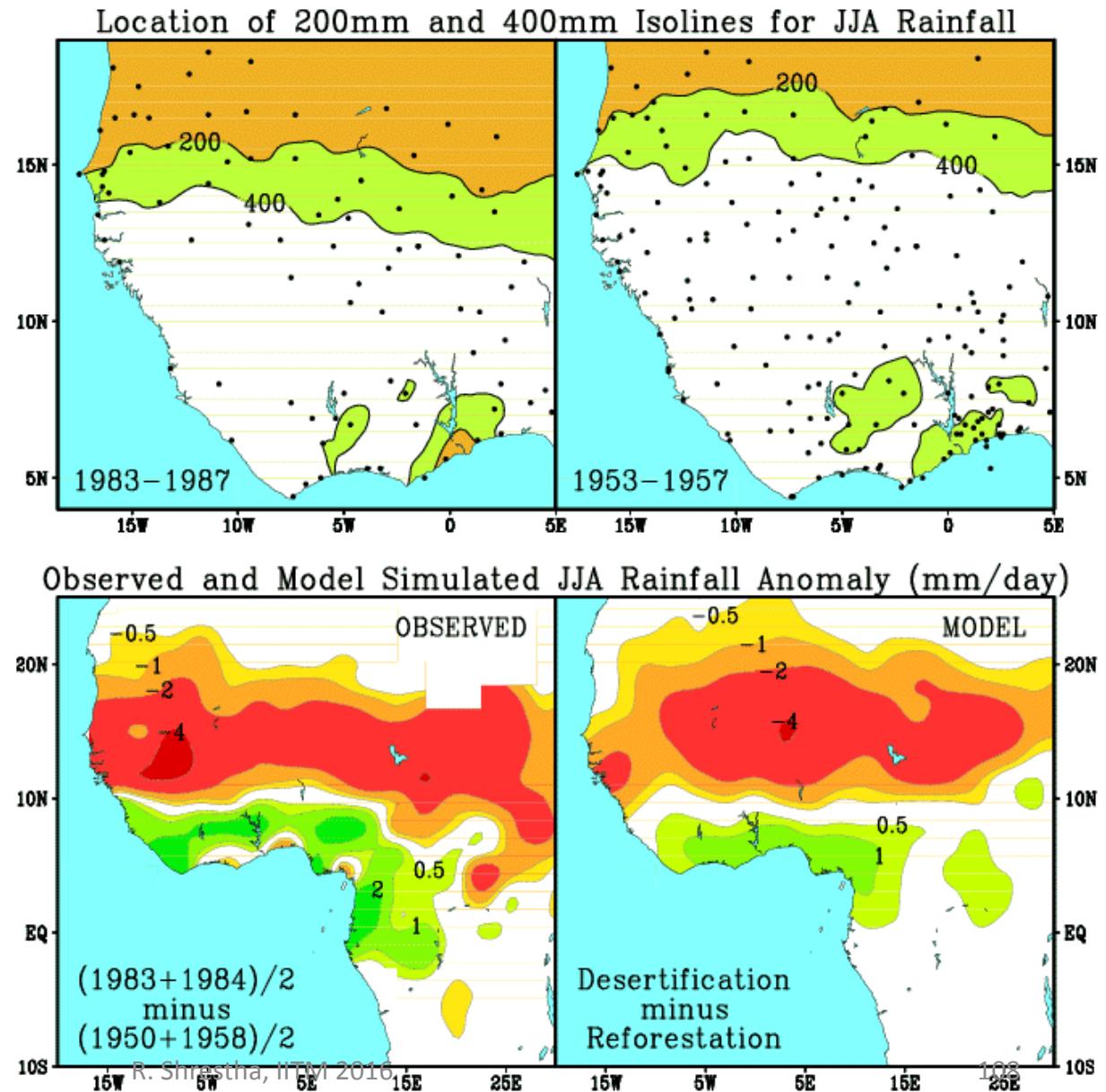
- Impacts over Africa are year-round.
- Asia, Australia, S. America have rainfall decreases during summer only.
- North America shows an increase in rainfall.



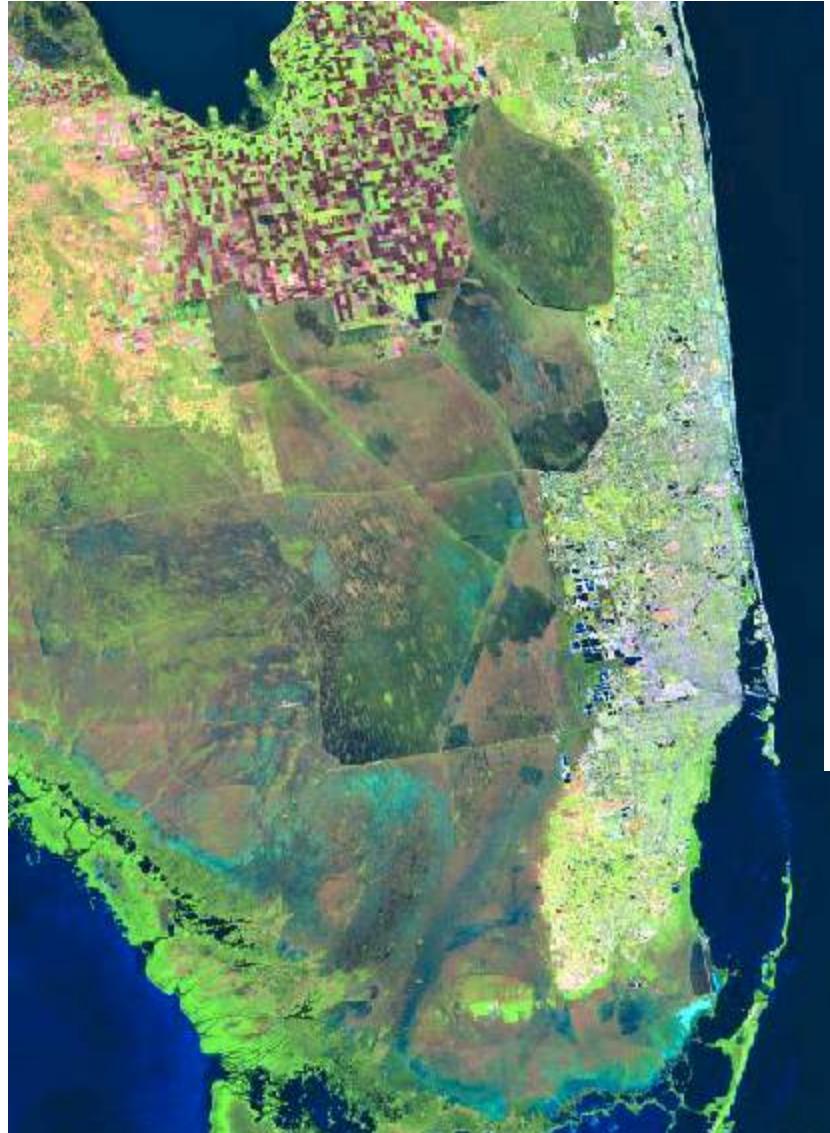
# Sahel Desertification

- Observed patterns of precipitation change were modeled in a GCM by changing regional vegetation to reflect desertification (Xue and Shukla, 1993 *J. Climate*).

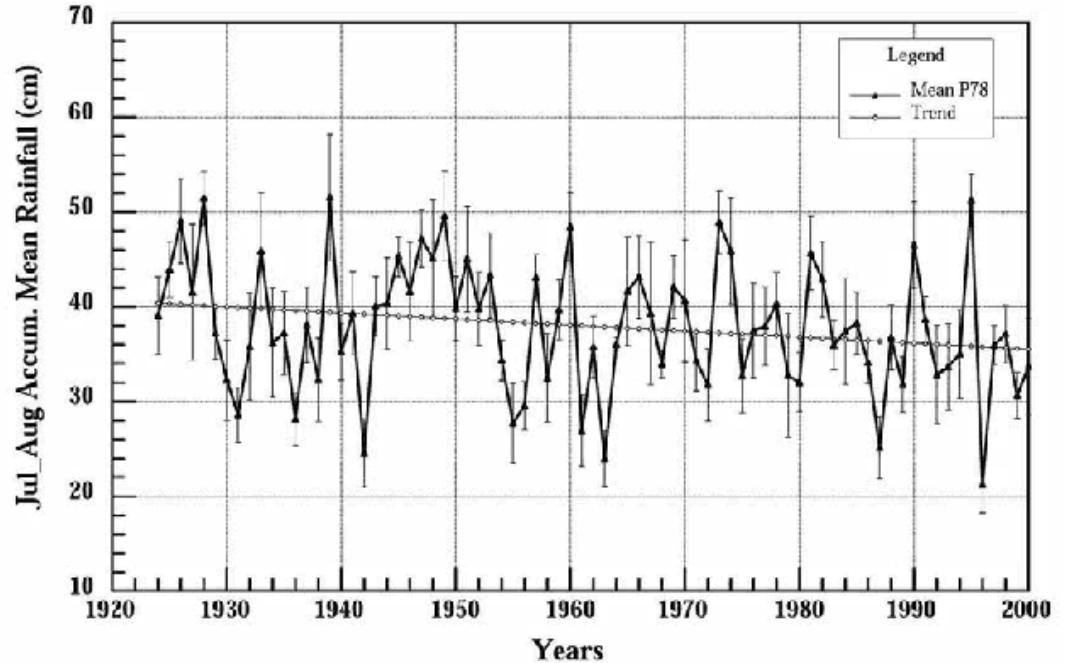
- Did overgrazing cause climate change? Did climate variability cause desertification? Feedbacks???



# Land Cover Change and Subtropical Climate



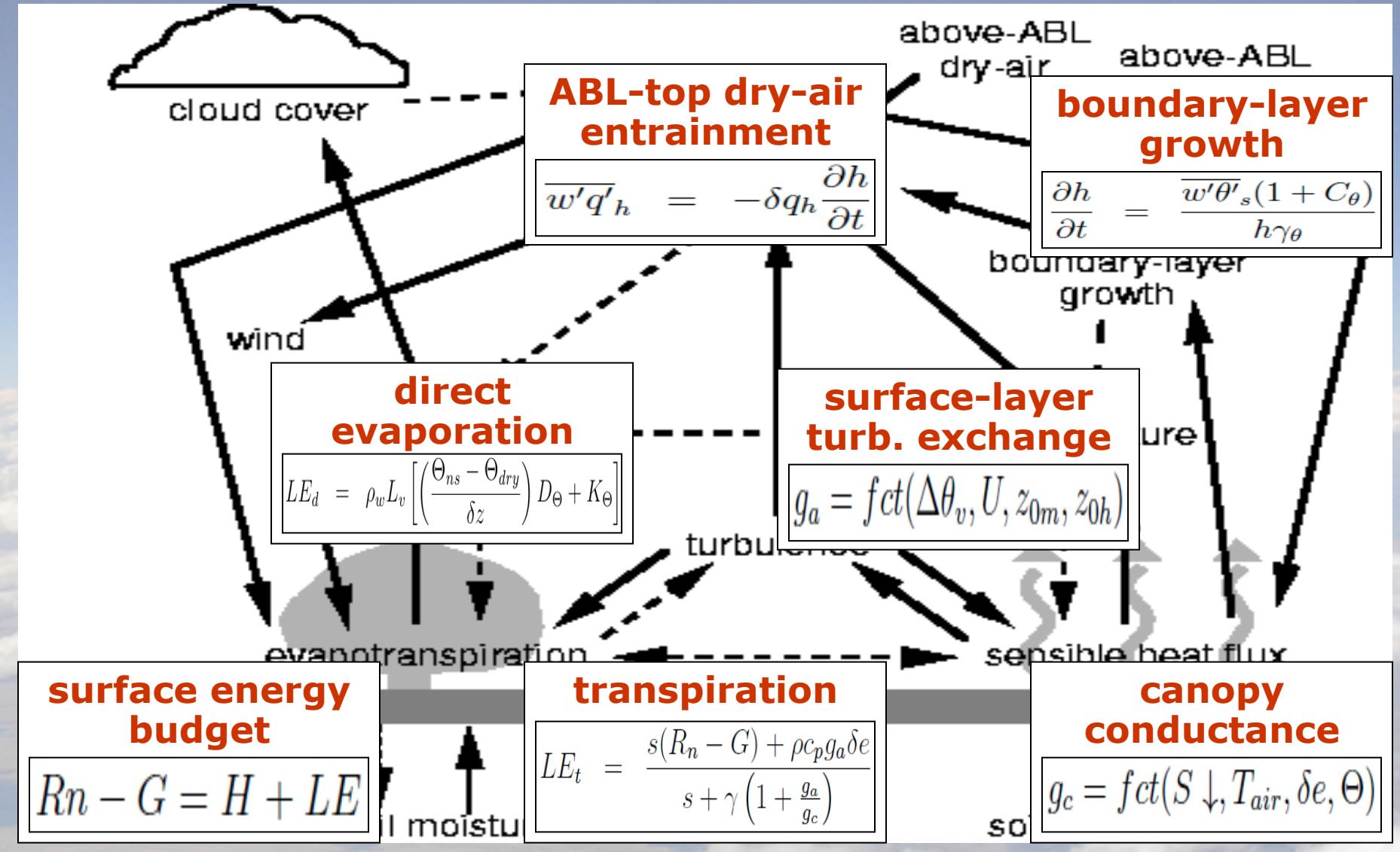
**South Florida Mean Regional Rainfall (Part I)**



- Are observed rainfall trends (~10% in 80 years) due to large-scale land use change? (Pielke et al 1999; Marshall et al. 2004)

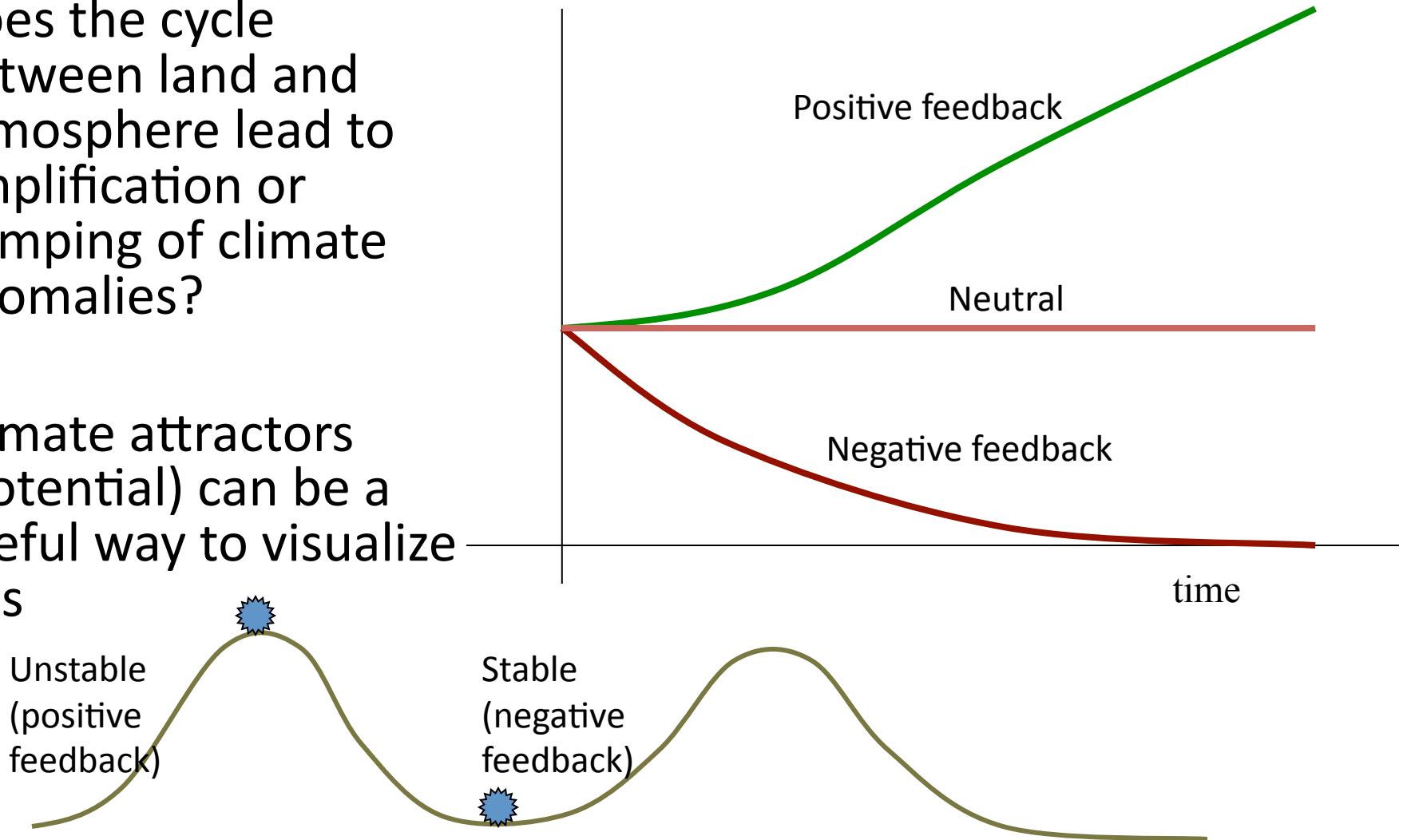
- Land Climate Interaction

# Land-Atmosphere Interactions

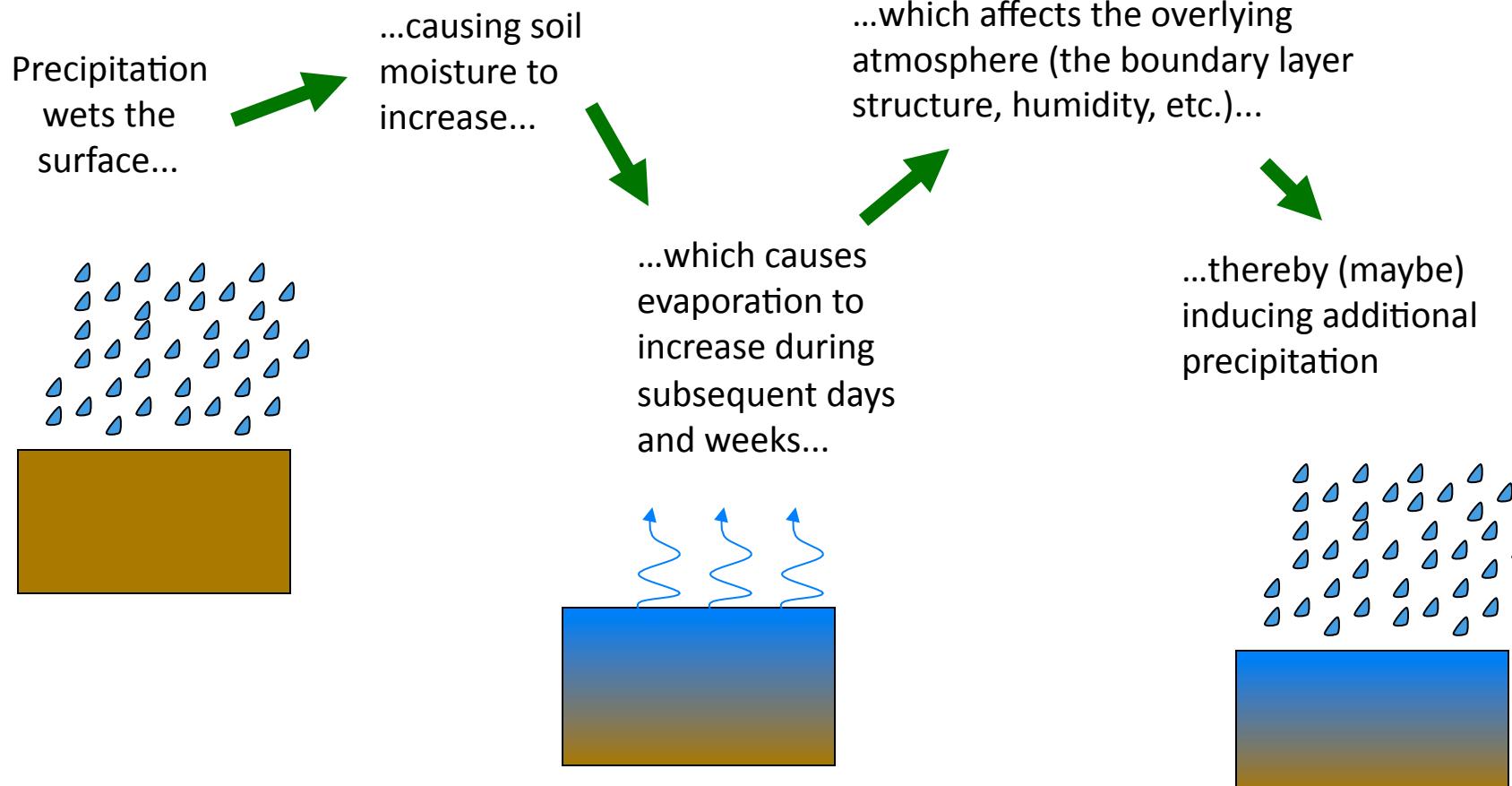


# Feedback of land

- Does the cycle between land and atmosphere lead to amplification or damping of climate anomalies?
- Climate attractors (potential) can be a useful way to visualize this

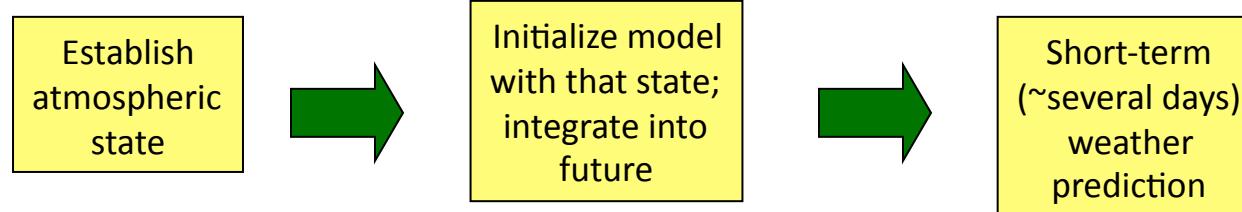


## What is land-atmosphere feedback on precipitation?

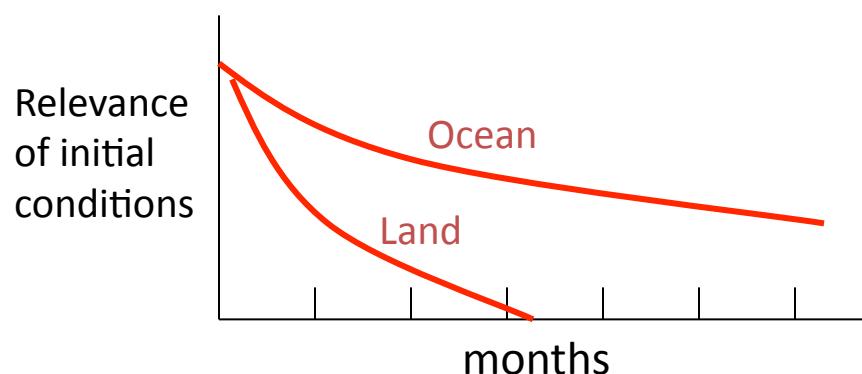
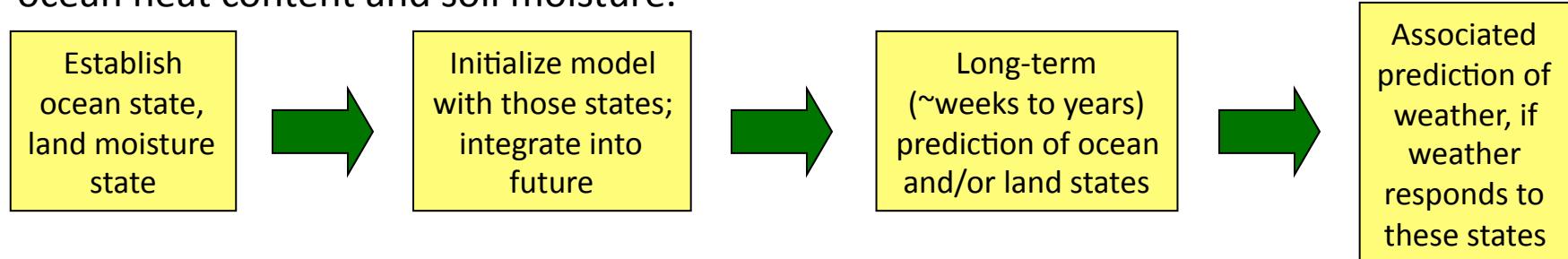


Perhaps such feedback contributes to predictability.

Short-term weather predictions are limited by chaos in the atmosphere.



Longer term predictions rely on slower moving components of the Earth's system, such as ocean heat content and soil moisture.



For soil moisture to contribute to precipitation predictability, two things must happen:

1. A soil moisture anomaly must be “remembered” into the forecast period.
2. The atmosphere must respond in a predictable way to the remembered soil moisture anomalies

# Soil Moisture Memory

Observational soil moisture measurements give some indication of soil moisture memory.

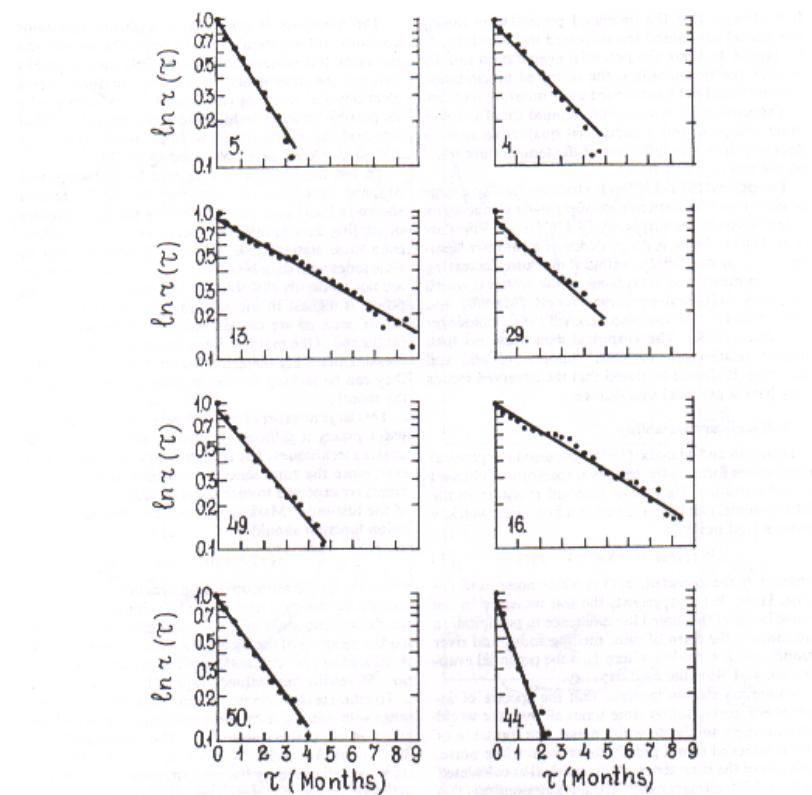


FIG. 6. Examples of empirical estimates of autocorrelation functions of time series of soil moisture in 1-m deep soil layer.  $\tau$  is the lag in months. The lines correspond to the approximation used. Figures in the lower left corner are the same as the station numbers. Stations 4 and 5 are in the forest zone; station 29 is in the forest-steppe zone; stations 13 and 16 are in the steppe zone; station 49, semiarid zone; stations 44 and 50 are in the desert.

Vinnikov and Yeserkepova, 1991

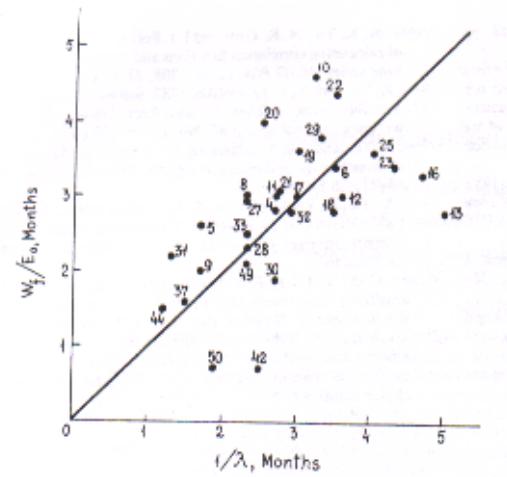
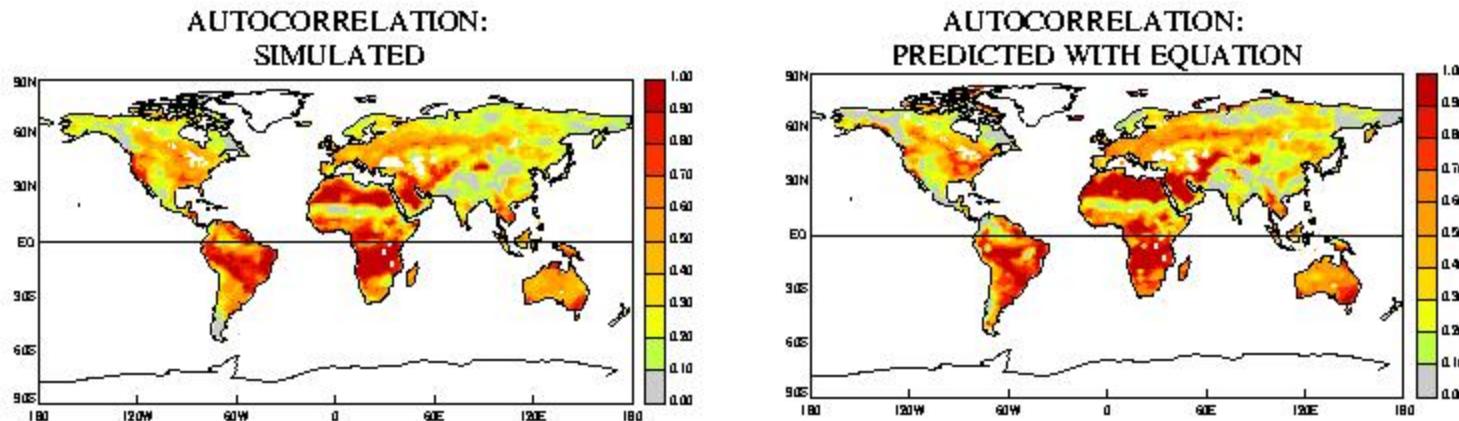


FIG. 7. Comparison of empirical and theoretical estimates of the decay time scale of soil wetness (in months).

Vinnikov and Yeserkepova, 1991

Soil moisture timescales of several months are possible. “The most important part of upper layer (up to 1 m) soil moisture variability in the middle latitudes of the northern hemisphere has ... a temporal correlation scale equal to about 3 months.” (Vinnikov et al., JGR, 101, 7163-7174, 1996.)



### Memory equation:

$$\rho = \frac{\text{cov}(w_n, w_{n+1})}{\sigma_{w_n} \sigma_{w_{n+1}}} = \frac{\sigma_{w_n}}{\sigma_{w_{n+1}}} \left[ \frac{2 - \left( \frac{c \bar{R}_n}{C_s} \right) - \left( \frac{a \bar{P}_n}{C_s} \right)}{2 + \left( \frac{c \bar{R}_n}{C_s} \right) + \left( \frac{a \bar{P}_n}{C_s} \right)} + \frac{\text{cov}(w_n, F_n)}{\sigma_{w_n}^2} \right]$$

The autocorrelation equation effectively relates soil moisture memory to four separate controls:

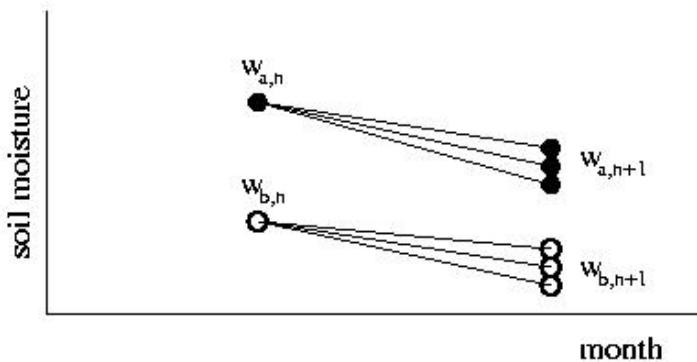
1. seasonality in the statistics of the atmospheric forcings,
2. the variation of evaporation with soil moisture,
3. the variation of runoff with soil moisture,
4. correlation between the atmospheric forcings and antecedent soil moisture.

## Seasonality term: $\sigma_{wn}/\sigma_{wn+1}$

**Case 1:** A month of low  $\sigma_p^2$  follows several months of high  $\sigma_p^2$

**month n-1:**  
high  $\sigma_p^2$  leads  
to large range of  
possible w values  
at beginning of  
month n.

**month n:**  
low  $\sigma_p^2$  leads to  
only a restricted  
range of  $\Delta w$   
over month

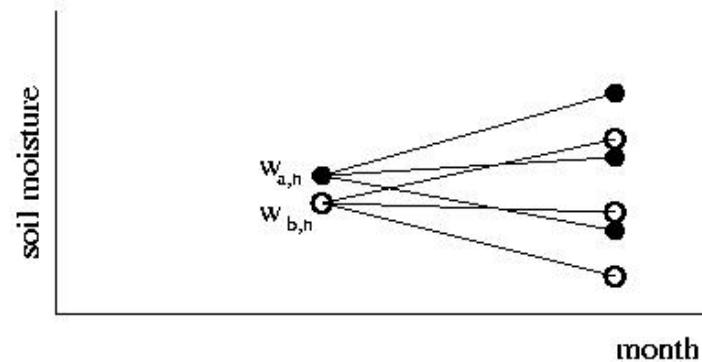


→ HIGH SOIL MOISTURE MEMORY

**Case 2:** A month of high  $\sigma_p^2$  follows several months of low  $\sigma_p^2$

**month n-1:**  
low  $\sigma_p^2$  leads  
to small range of  
possible w values  
at beginning of  
month n.

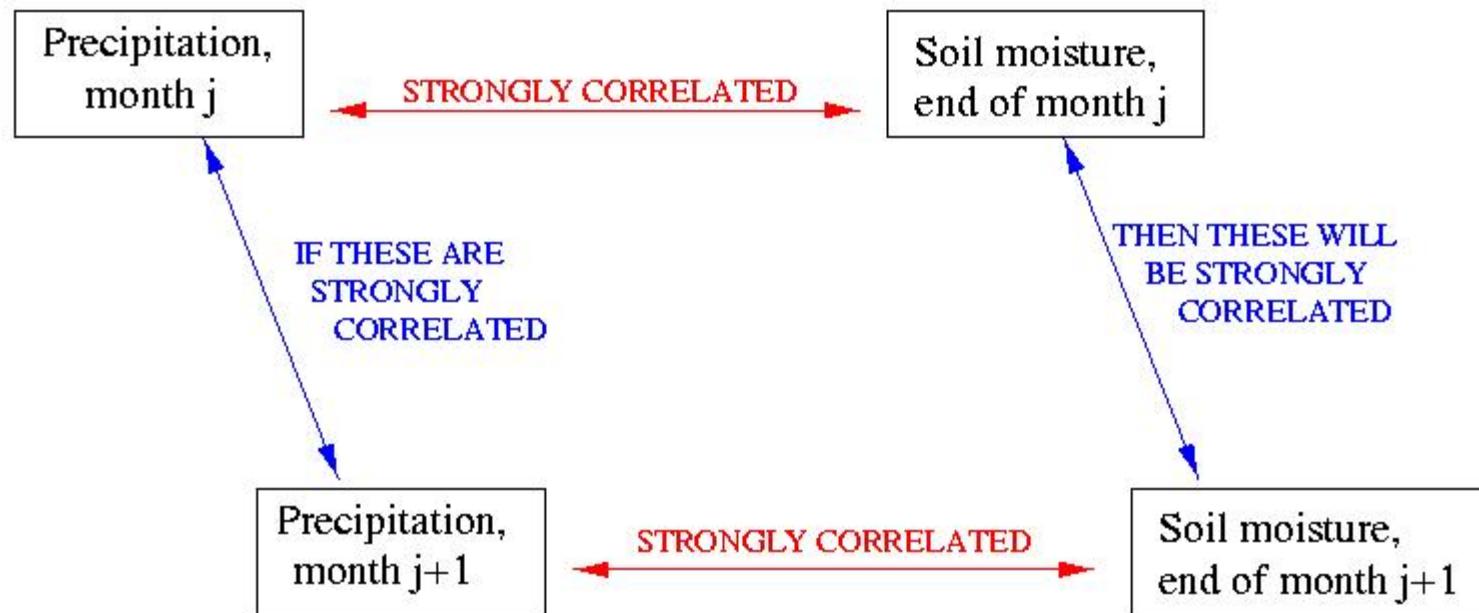
**month n:**  
high  $\sigma_p^2$  leads to  
a wide range  
of possible  $\Delta w$



→ LOW SOIL MOISTURE MEMORY

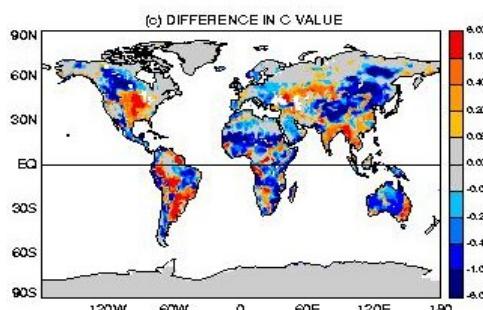
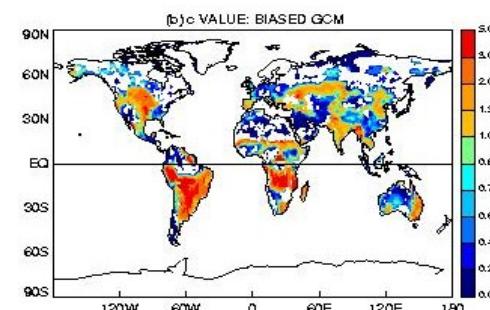
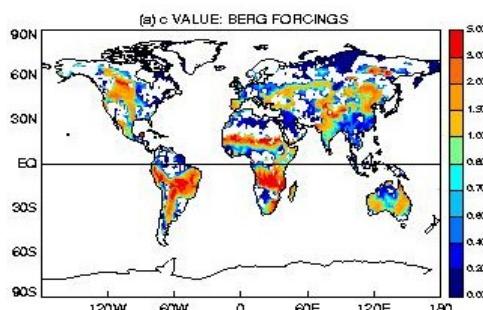
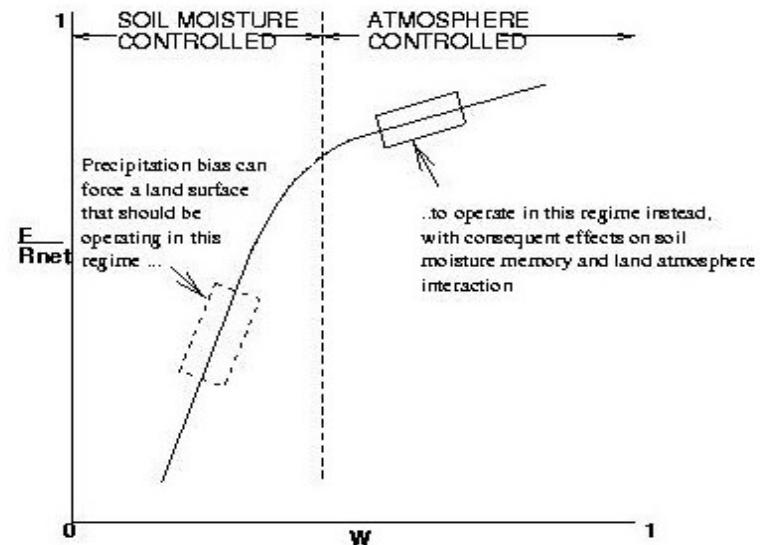
# Persistence in forcing

(the covariance term)



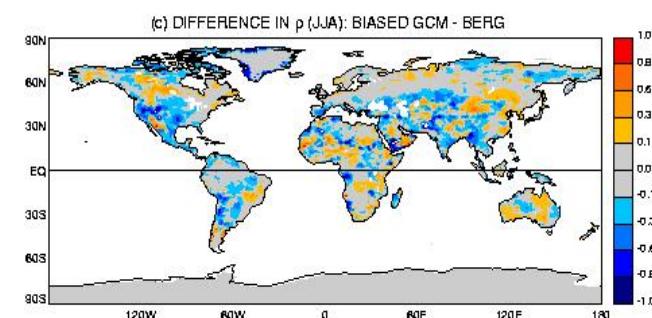
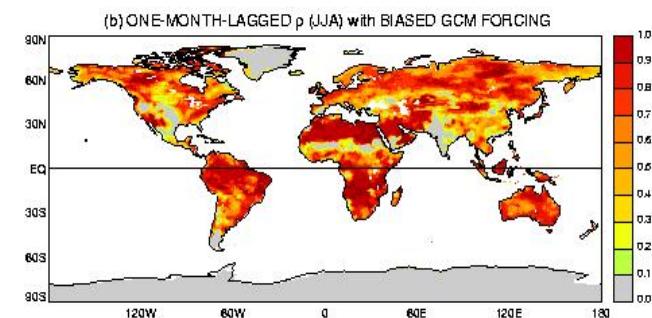
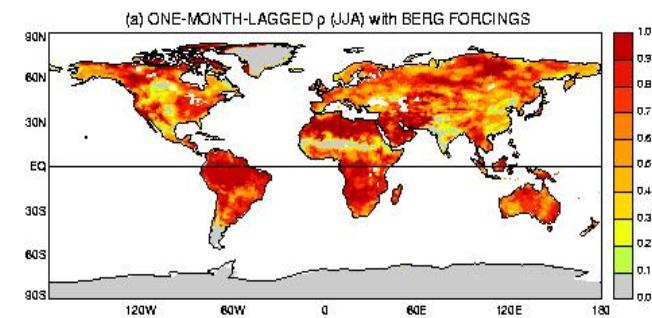
Note: persistence in forcing may result from land-atmosphere feedback.

## Effect of Climate Bias on Evaporative Regime



Different sensitivities of evaporation to soil moisture result from different climatologies of forcing.

Errors in memory due to  
GCM biases in forcing



# Atmosphere's Response to Soil Moisture Anomalies

Three ways of looking for evidence of atmospheric response:

1. Examine observational data.

→ Very difficult.

2. Simple analytical models.

→ Advantage: feedbacks can be quantified and easily understood.  
Disadvantage: ignores some nonlinearities and complexities of system.

3. GCM studies.

→ Useful for several reasons: (a) full set of diagnostic out-puts, (b) inclusion of nonlinearities, and (c) ability to do sensitivity studies.

Examples:

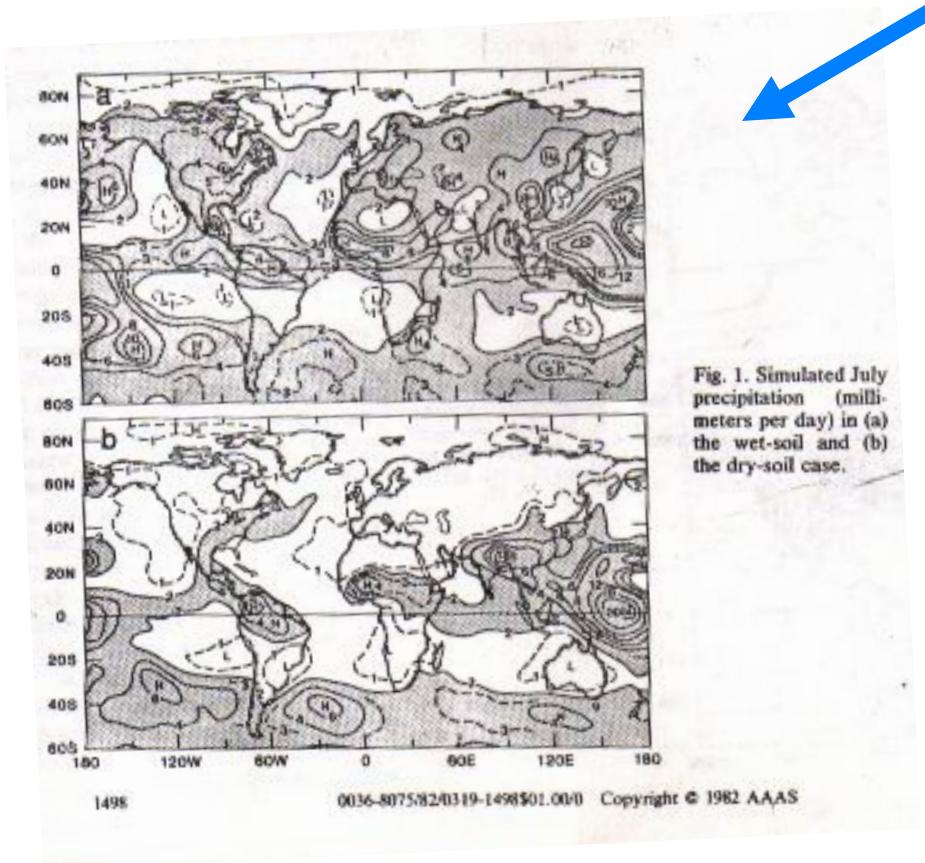
Rodriguez-Iturbe et al., WRR, 27, 1899-1906, 1991.

Brubaker and Entekhabi, WRR, 32, 1343-1357, 1996.

Liu and Avissar, J. Clim, 12, 2154-2168, 1999.

R. Shrestha, IITM 2016

GCM evidence goes way back...



Shukla and Mintz (1982) provide one of the first AGCM studies demonstrating the impact of land moisture anomalies on precipitation:

Questions that can be addressed with an GCM: How large is the impact of a land anomaly on the atmosphere? What are the relative roles of ocean variability, land variability, and chaotic atmospheric dynamics in determining precipitation over continents?

Studies examining the impact of “perfectly forecasted” soil moisture on the simulation of non-extreme interannual variations. Some examples:

Delworth and Manabe, J. Climate, 1, 523-547, 1988.

Dirmeyer, J. Climate, 13, 2900-2922, 2000.

Douville et al., J. Climate, 14, 2381-2403, 2001.

Simulated precipitation variability can be described in terms of a simple linear system:

$$\sigma_{ALO}^2 = \sigma_{AO}^2 [ X_o + (1 - X_o) ]$$

Total precipitation variance  
Precipitation variance in the absence of land feedback  
 $\frac{\sigma_{ALO}^2}{\sigma_{AO}^2}$

<u>Exp.</u>	<u># of simulations</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Total years</u>	<u>Description</u>
A	4	200 yr	800	Prescribed, climatological land; climatological ocean
AL	4	200 yr	800	Interactive land, climatological ocean
AO	16	45 yr	720	Prescribed, climatological land, interannually varying ocean
ALO	16	45 yr	720	Interactive land, interannually varying ocean

Evaporation efficiency (ratio of evaporation to potential evaporation) prescribed at every time step to seasonally-varying climatological means

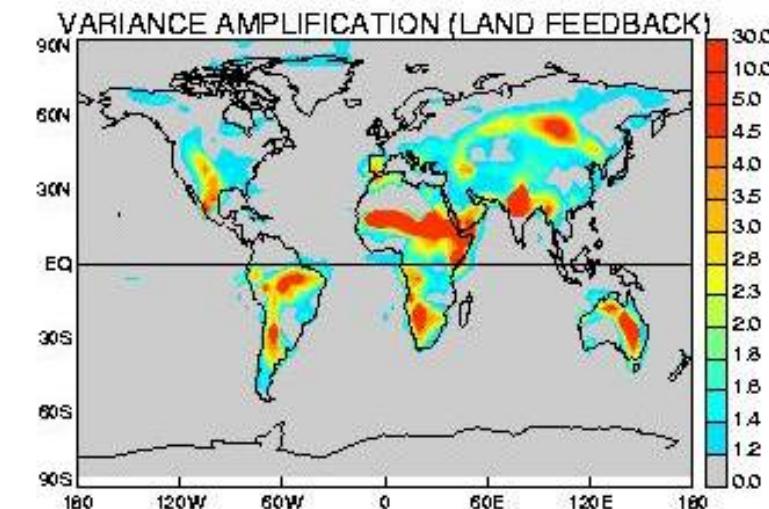
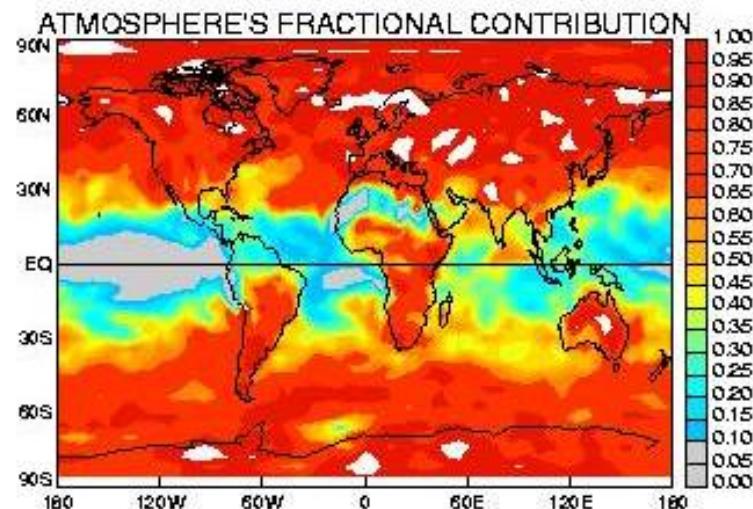
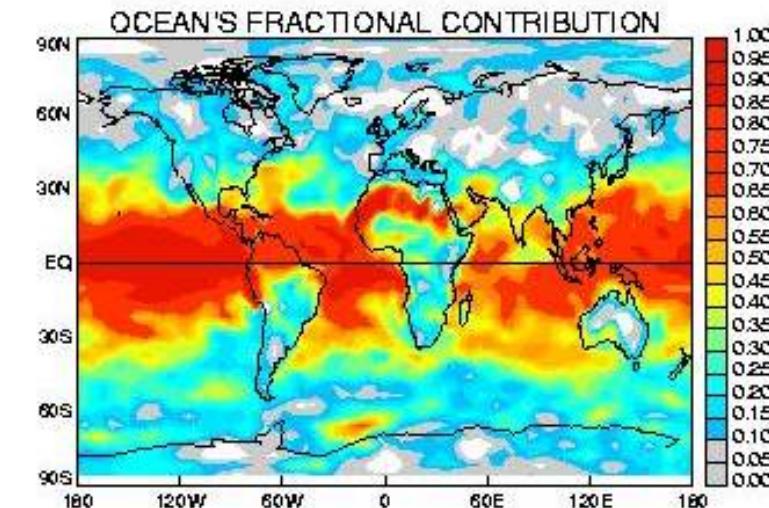
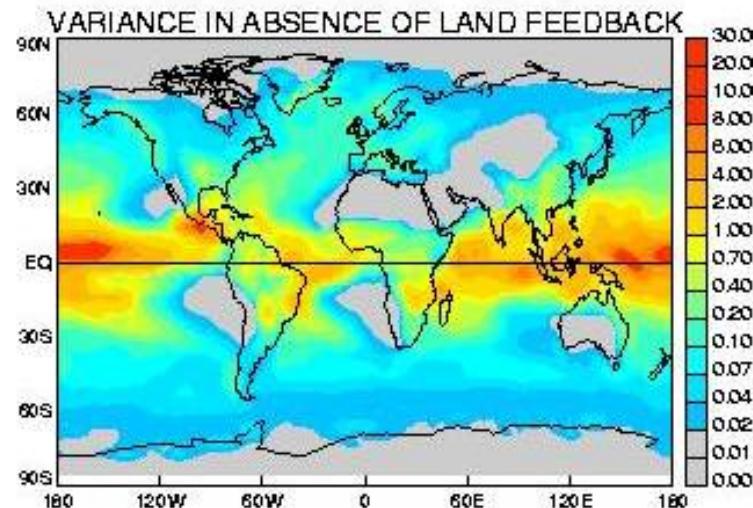
SSTs set to seasonally-varying climatological means (from obs)

SSTs set to interannually-varying values (from obs)

LSM in model allowed to run freely

Bontha, IITM 2016

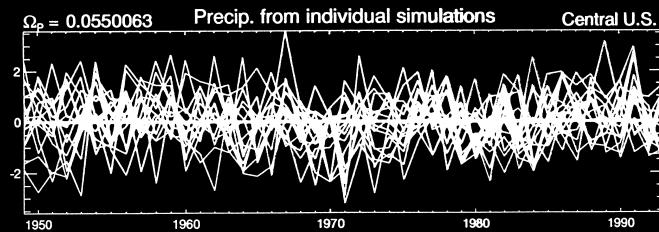
# Contributions to Precipitation Variability



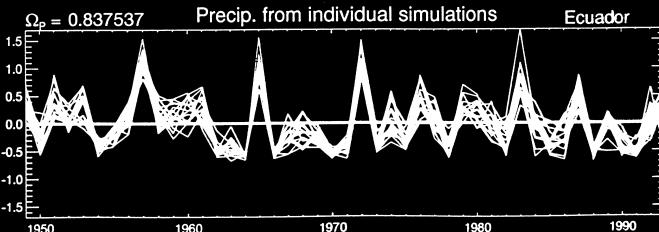
In an additional ensemble, every member of the ensemble is subject to the same time series of evaporation efficiency. Does the precipitation respond coherently to this signal?

A variable  $\Omega$  is defined that describes the coherence between the different precipitation time series.

$\Omega_P$  near 0: P timeseries different in different simulations:

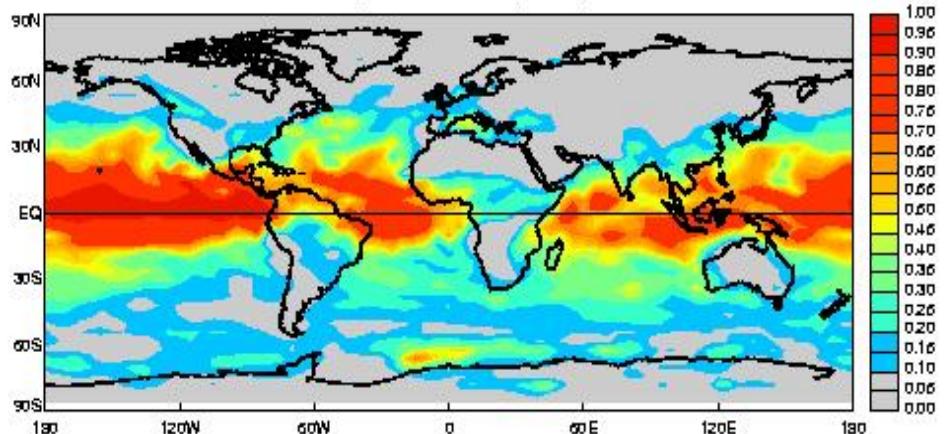


$\Omega_P$  near 1: P timeseries similar in different simulations:

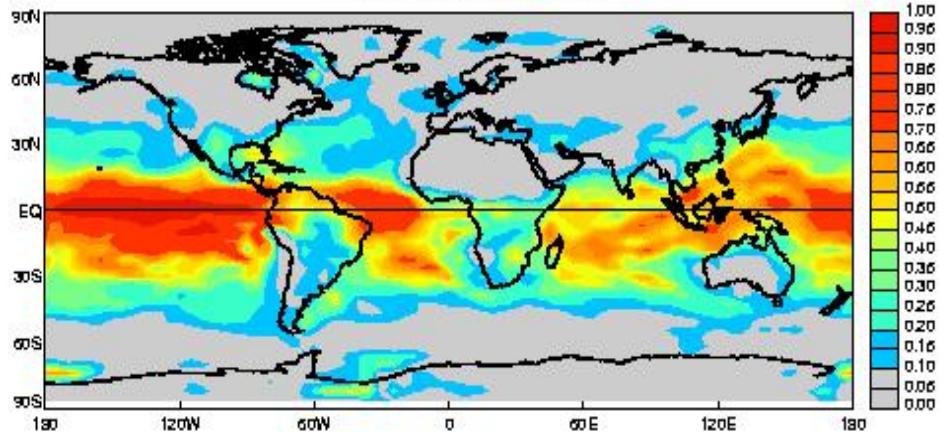


Results for SST control over precipitation coherence:

$\Omega_P$  for ALO (JJA)

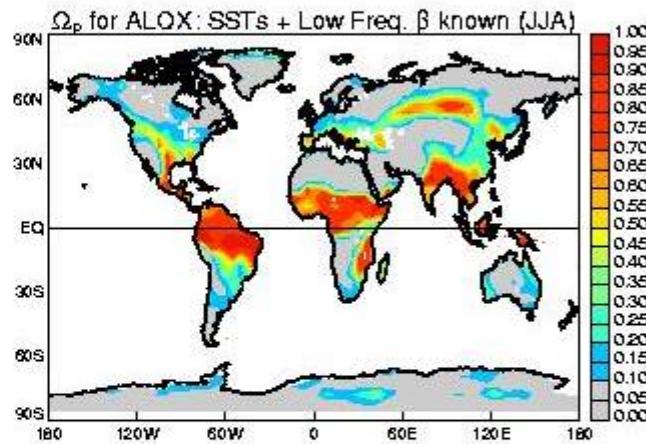


$\Omega_P$  for ALO (DJF)

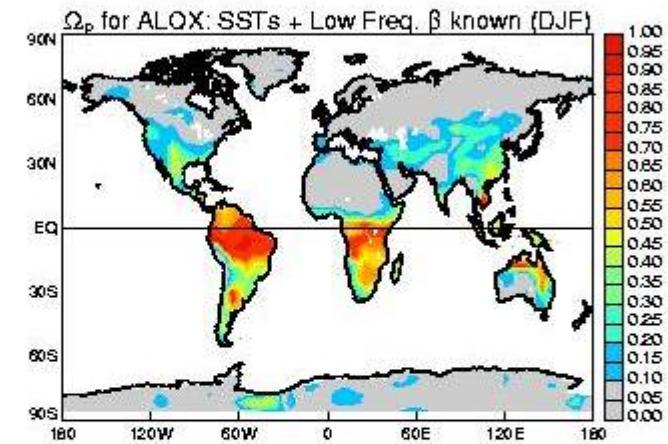


Results for SST and  
soil moisture control  
over precipitation  
coherence

Summer

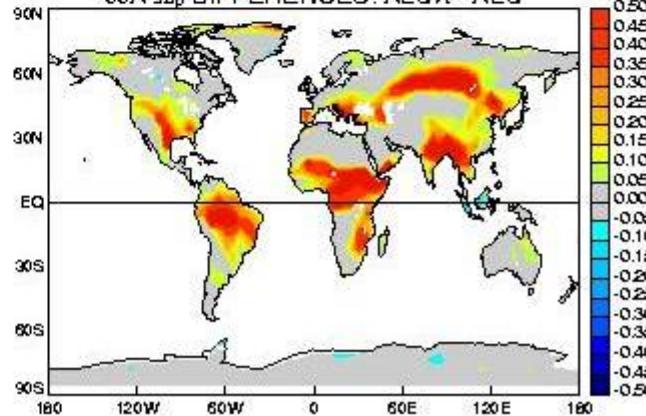


Winter

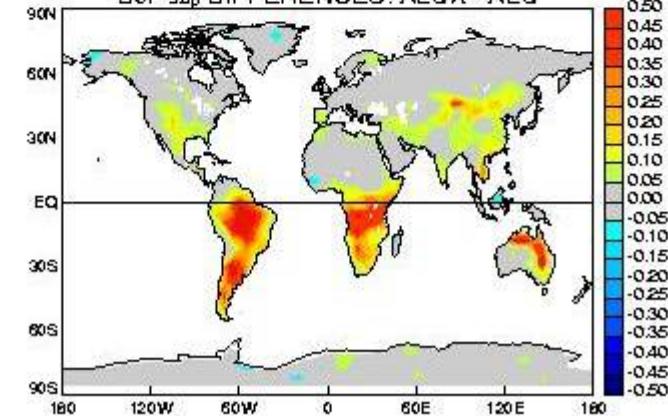


Differences: an  
indication of the  
impacts of soil  
moisture control  
alone

JJA  $\Omega_p$  DIFFERENCES: ALOX - ALO



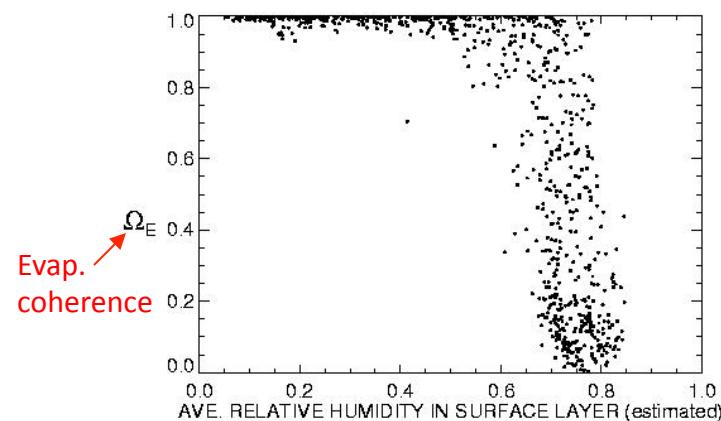
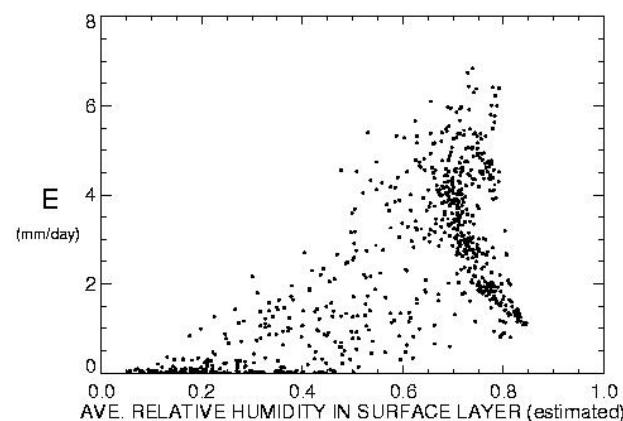
DJF  $\Omega_p$  DIFFERENCES: ALOX - ALO



Why does land moisture have an effect where it does? For a large effect, two things are needed:

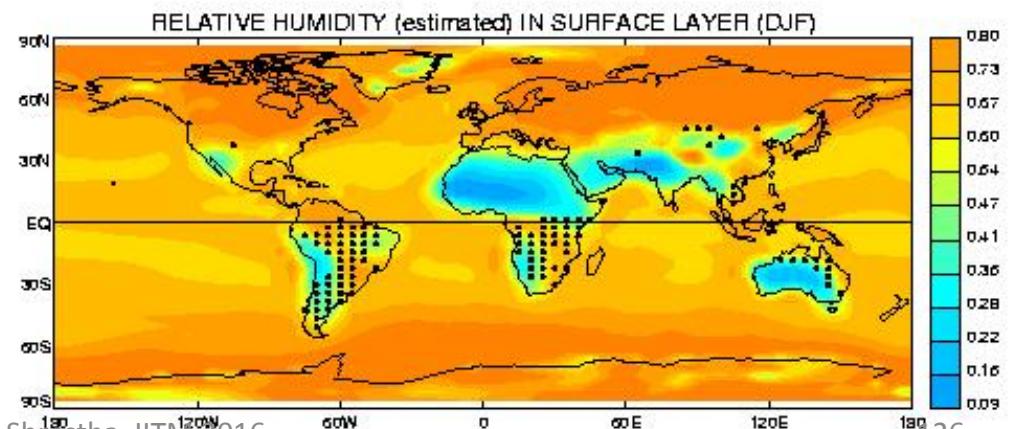
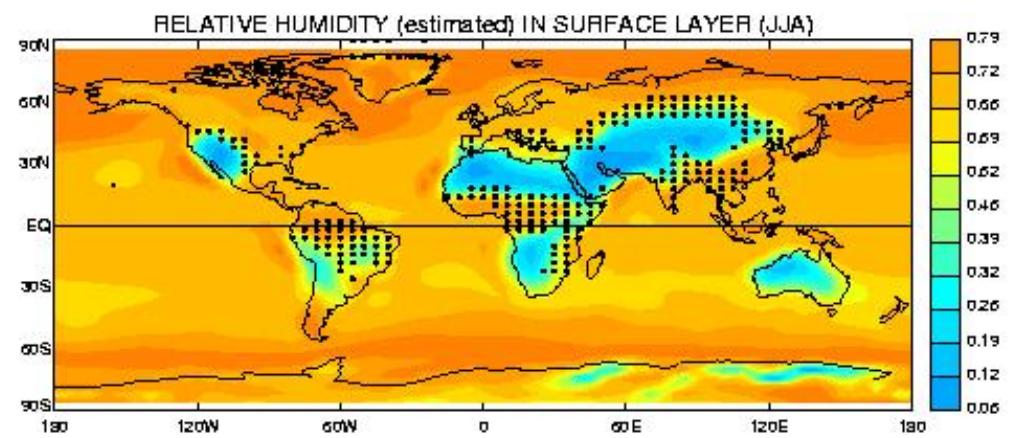
- a large enough evaporation signal
- a coherent evaporation signal – for a given soil moisture anomaly, the resulting evaporation anomaly must be predictable.

Both conditions can be related to relative humidity:

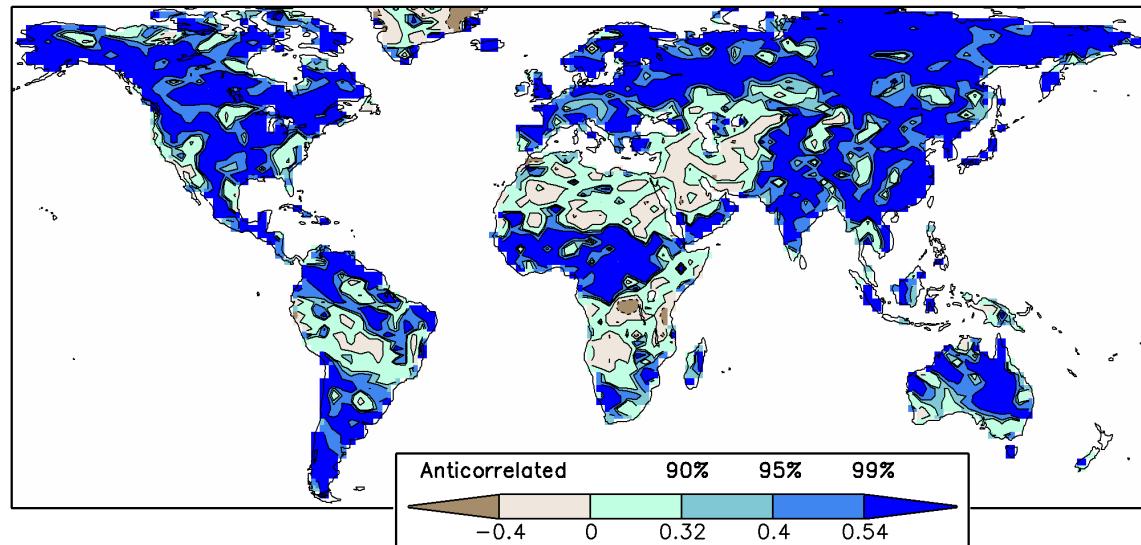


The dots show where the land's signal is strong.

From the map, we see a strong signal in the transition zones between wet and dry climates.



results from the COLA GCM:

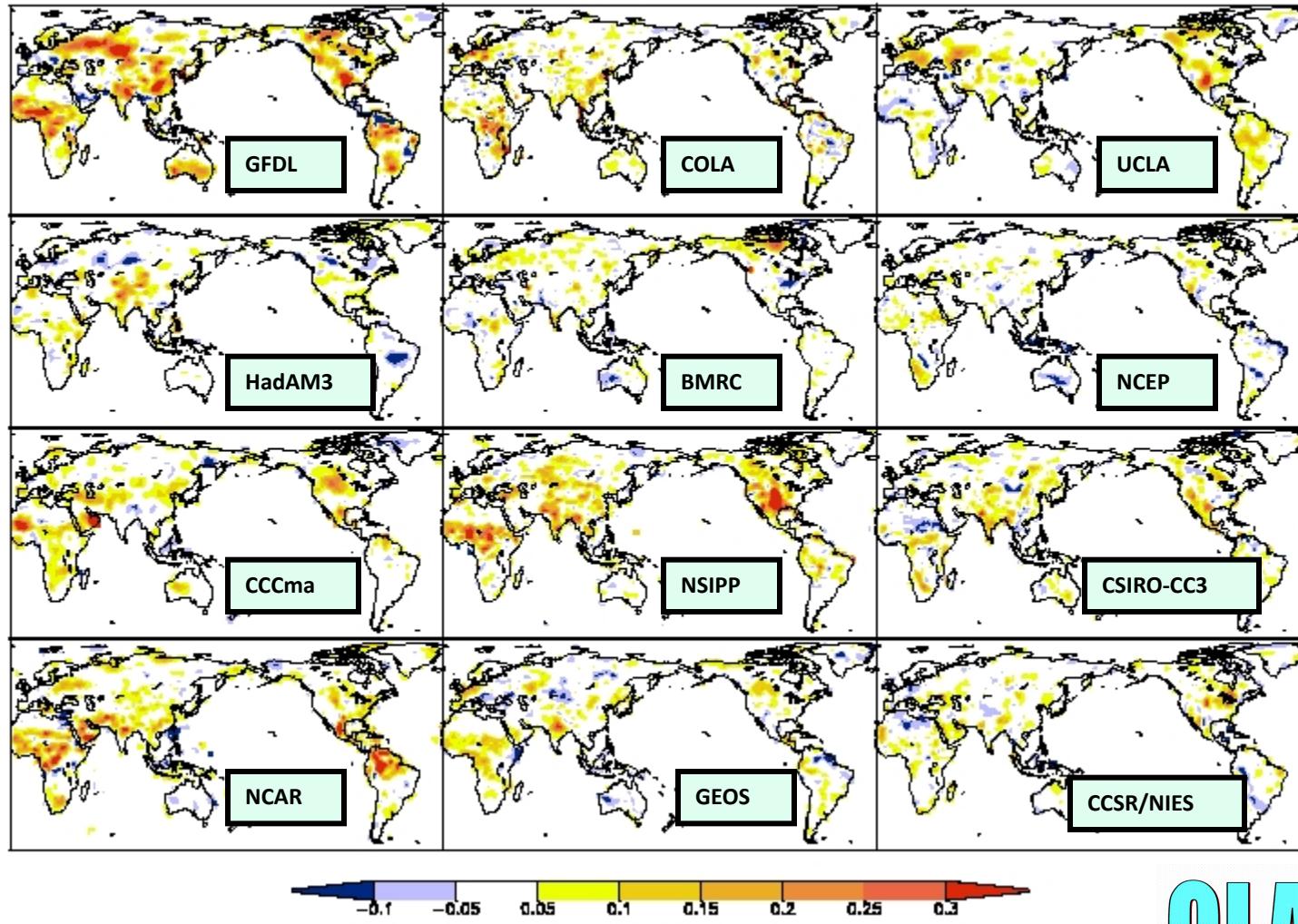


*Blue shading indicates regions where a continually prescribed soil wetness has a direct impact, through evaporation, on precipitation simulated during boreal summer in a climate model. Percentages indicate the likelihood that simulated impacts are not the product of chance.*

Some critical questions:

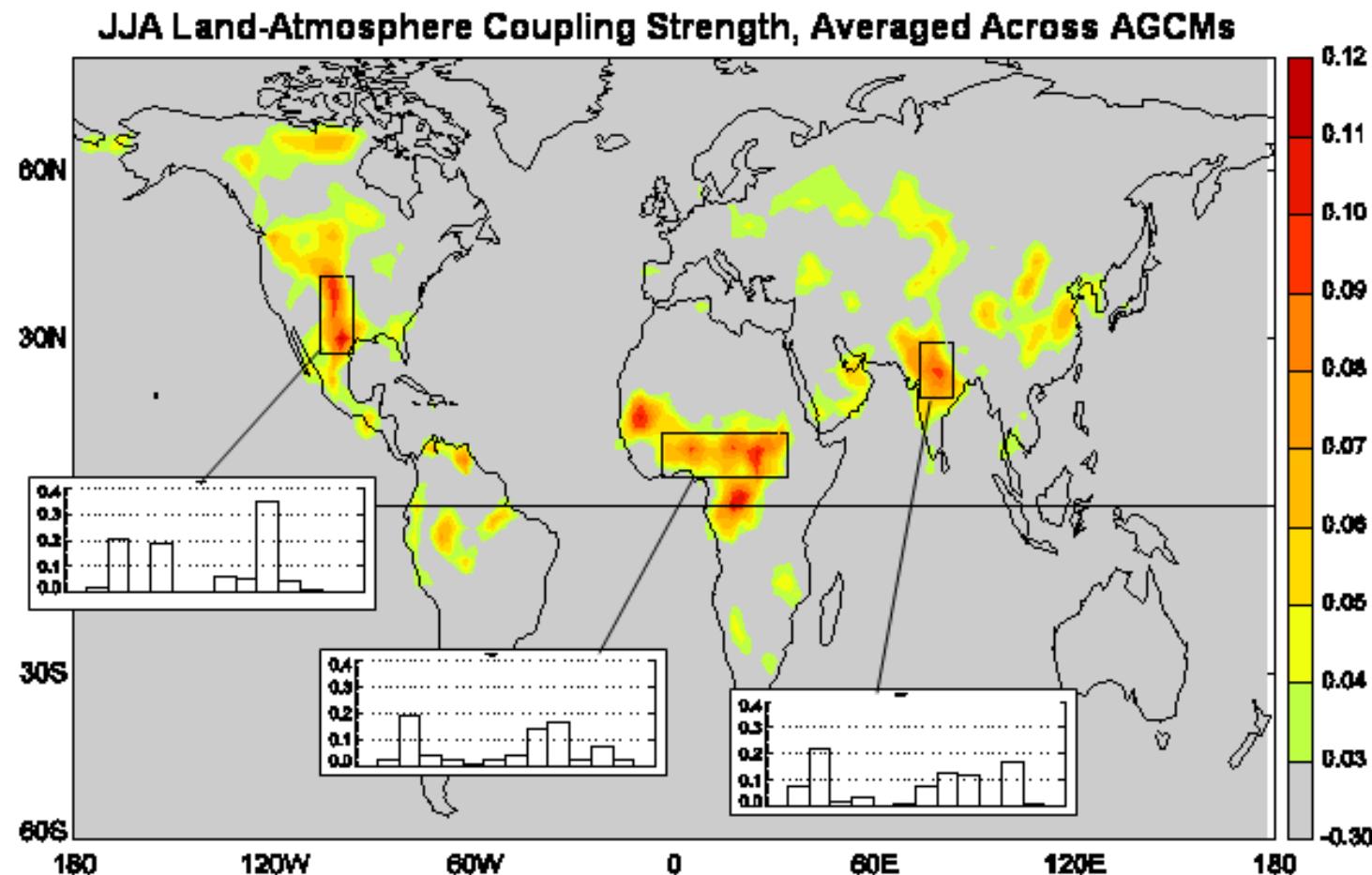
1. How does the atmosphere's response to soil moisture anomalies vary with GCM?
2. Can we define an objective way of comparing this response?

$\Omega_p (S - W)$ : Impact of sub-surface soil moisture on precipitation

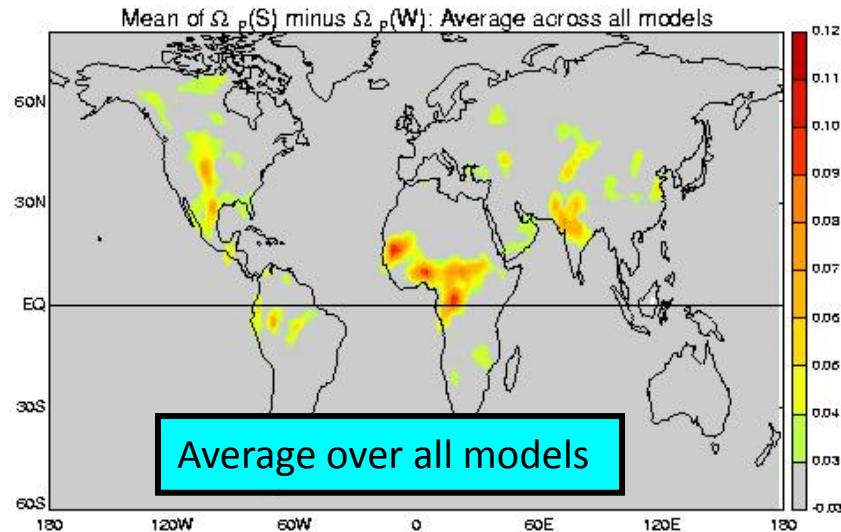


GLACE

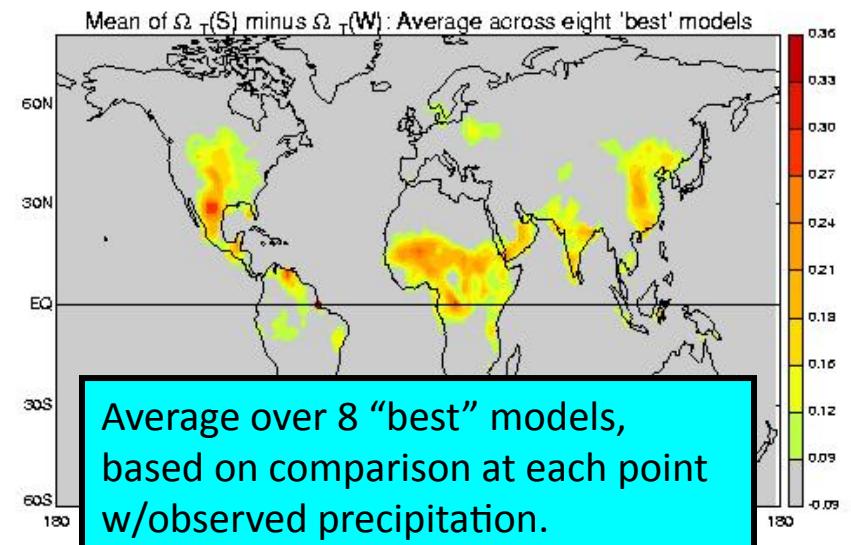
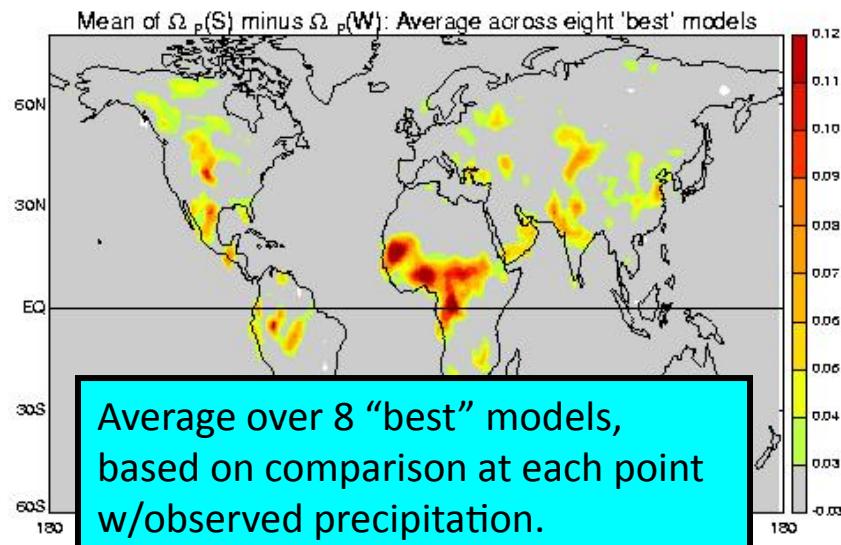
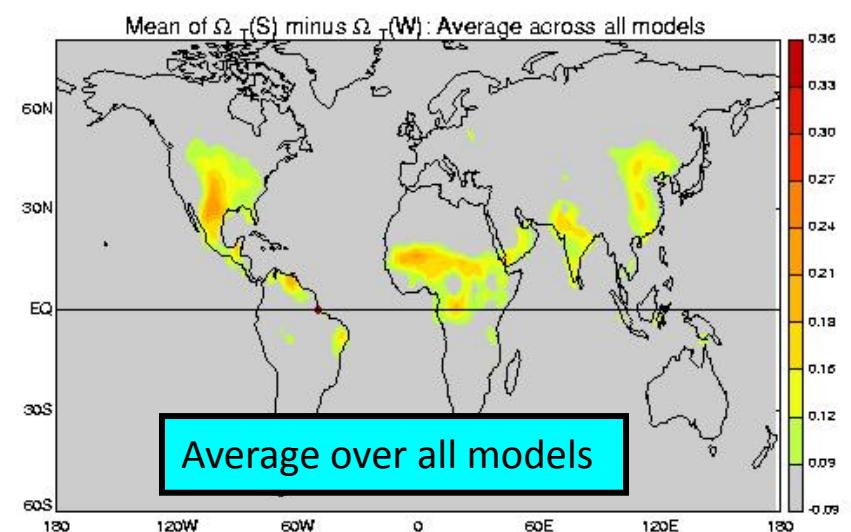
The GLACE project showed that while the 12 participating models differ in their land-atmosphere coupling strengths, certain features of the coupling patterns are common to many of the models. These features are brought out by averaging over all of the model results:



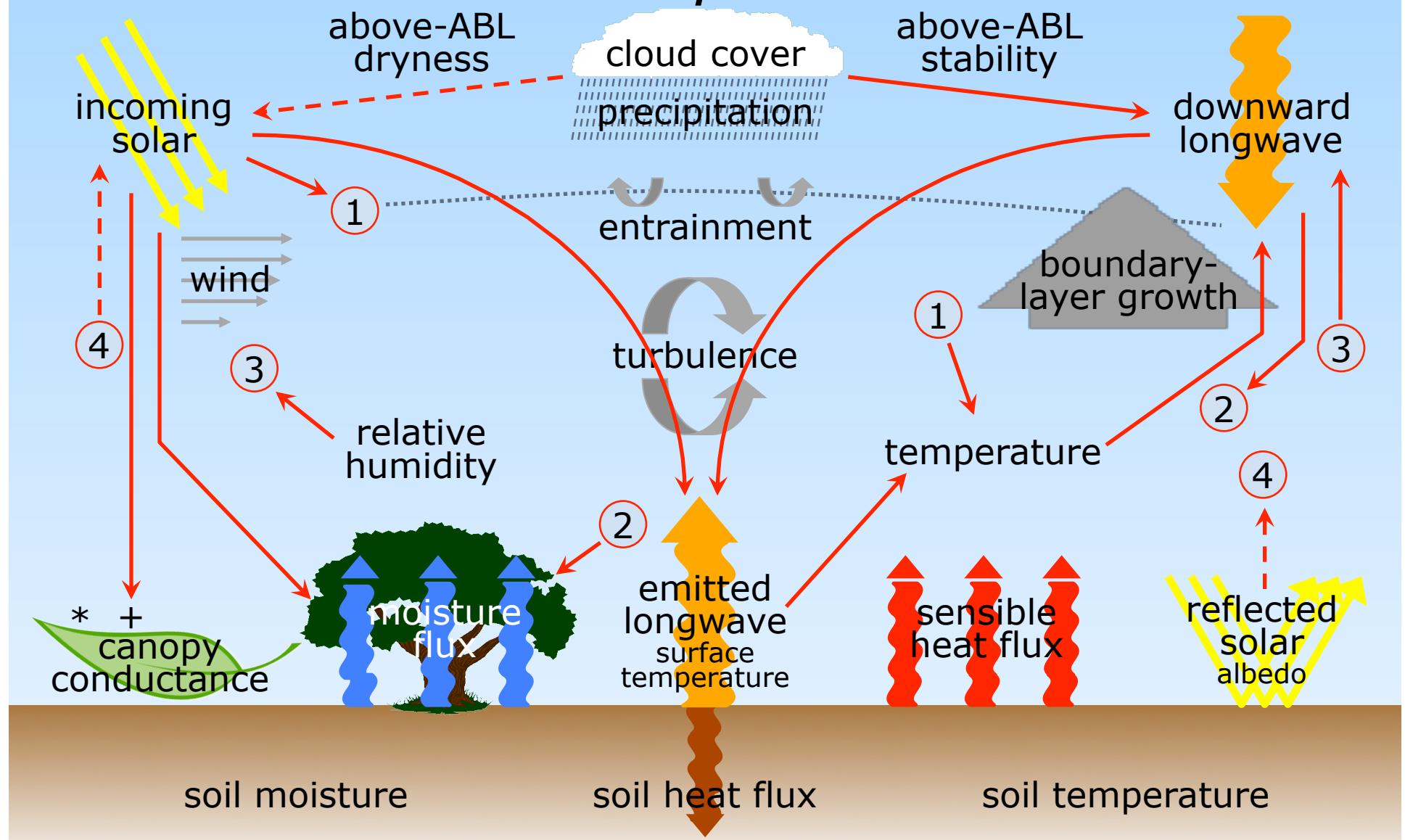
## Precipitation hotspots



## Air temperature hotspots



# Local Land-Atmosphere Interactions



→ radiation

+positive feedback for C3 & C4 plants, negative feedback for CAM plants

R. Shrestha, IITM 2016

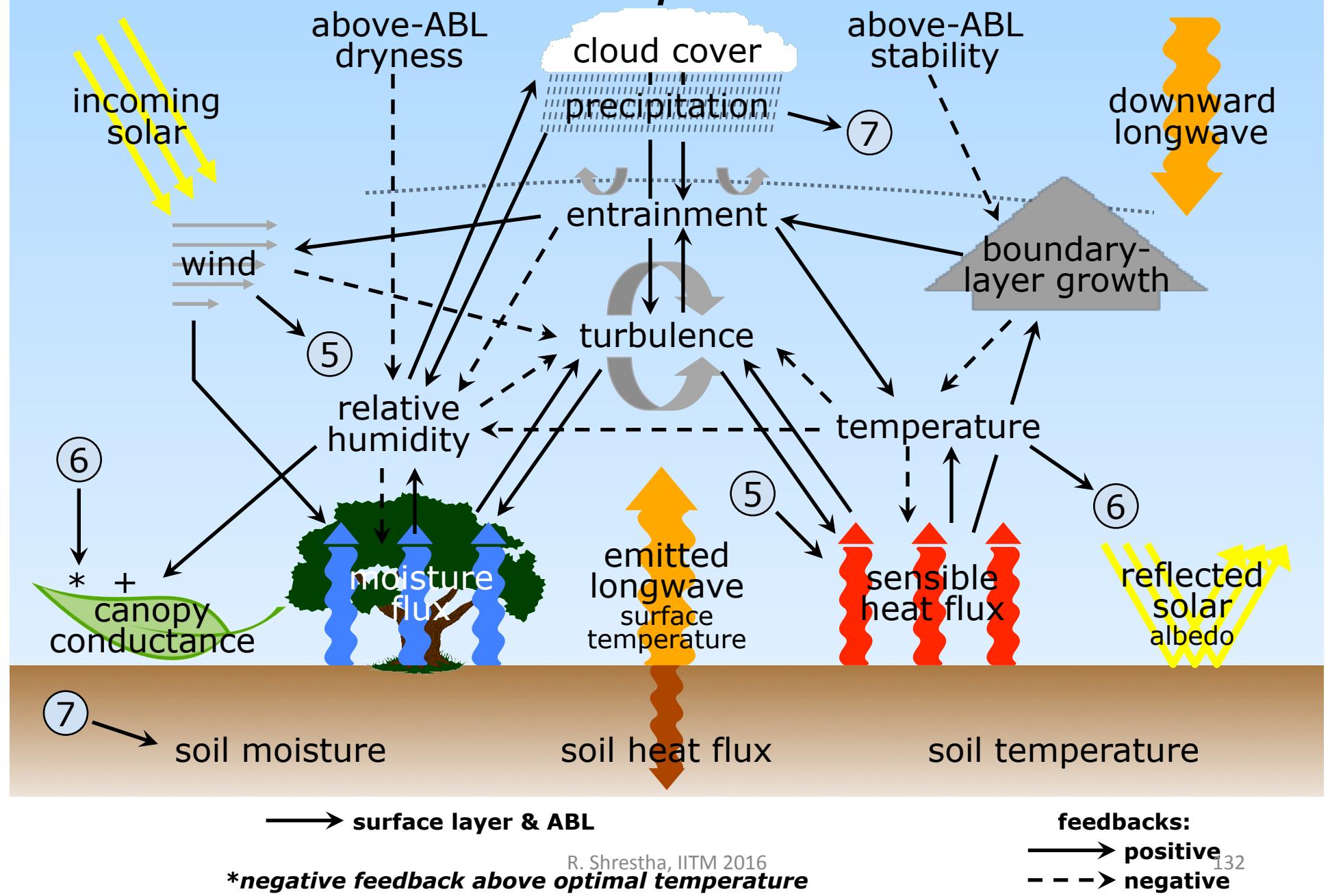
feedbacks:

→ positive

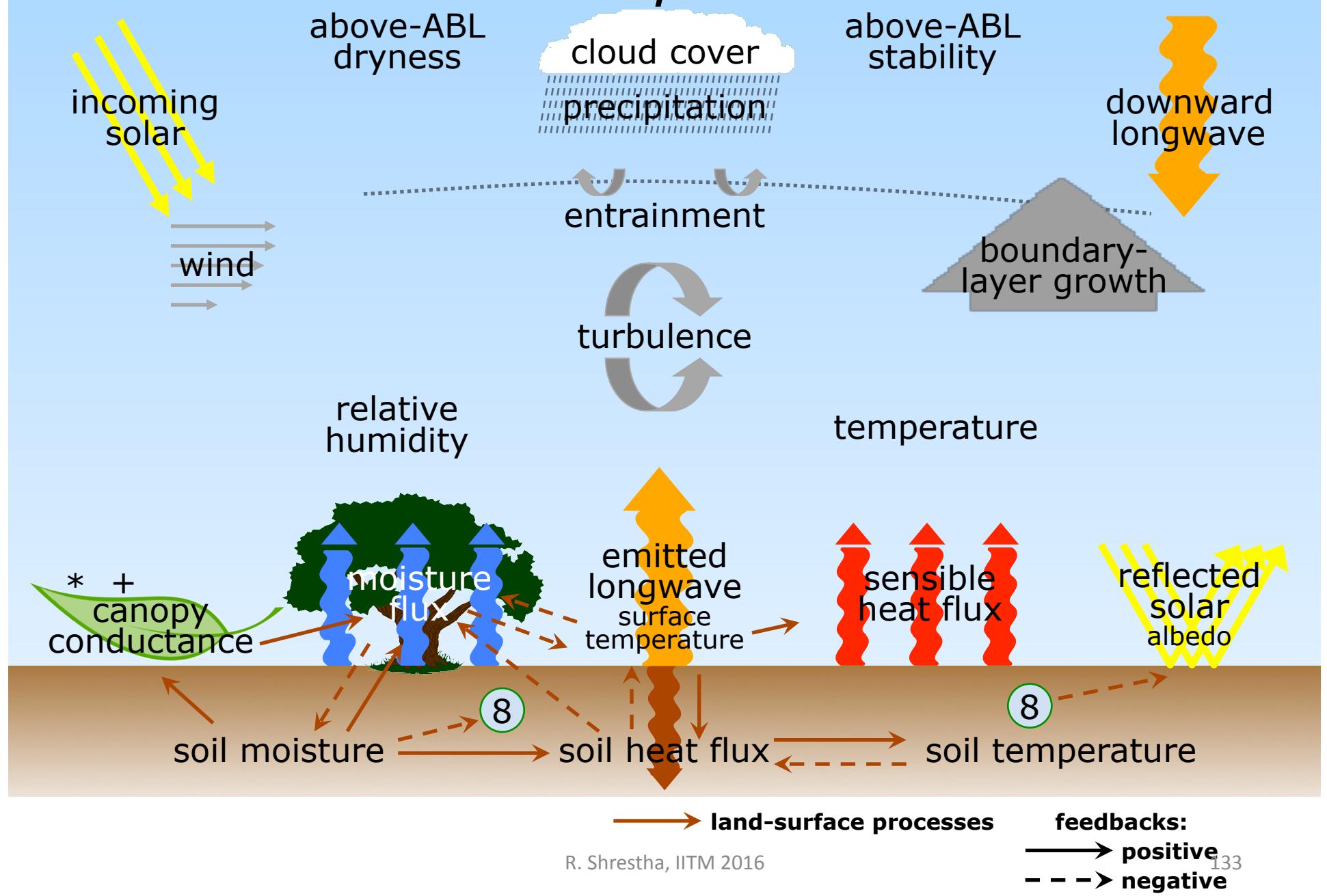
- - -> negative

131

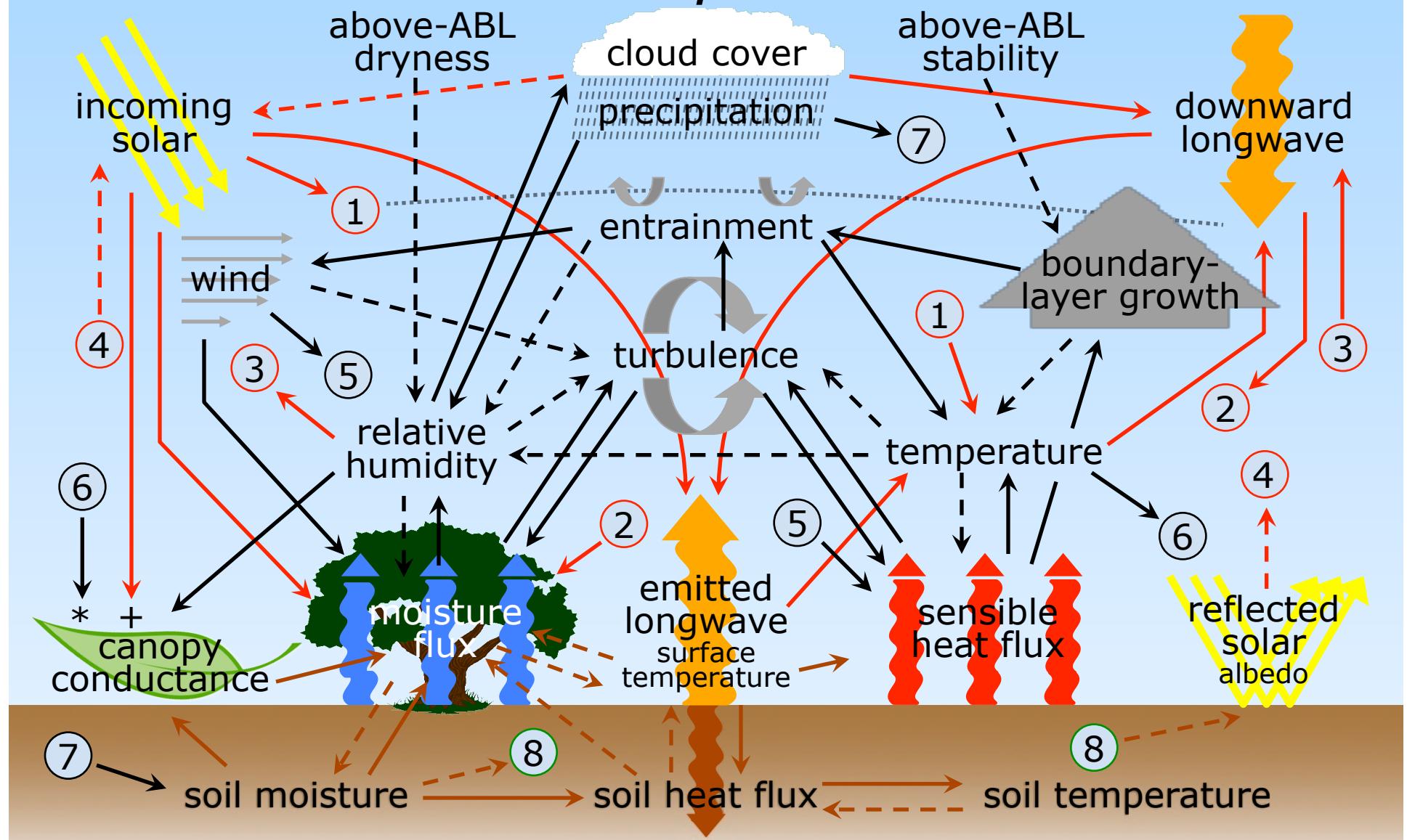
# Local Land-Atmosphere Interactions



# Local Land-Atmosphere Interactions



# Local Land-Atmosphere Interactions

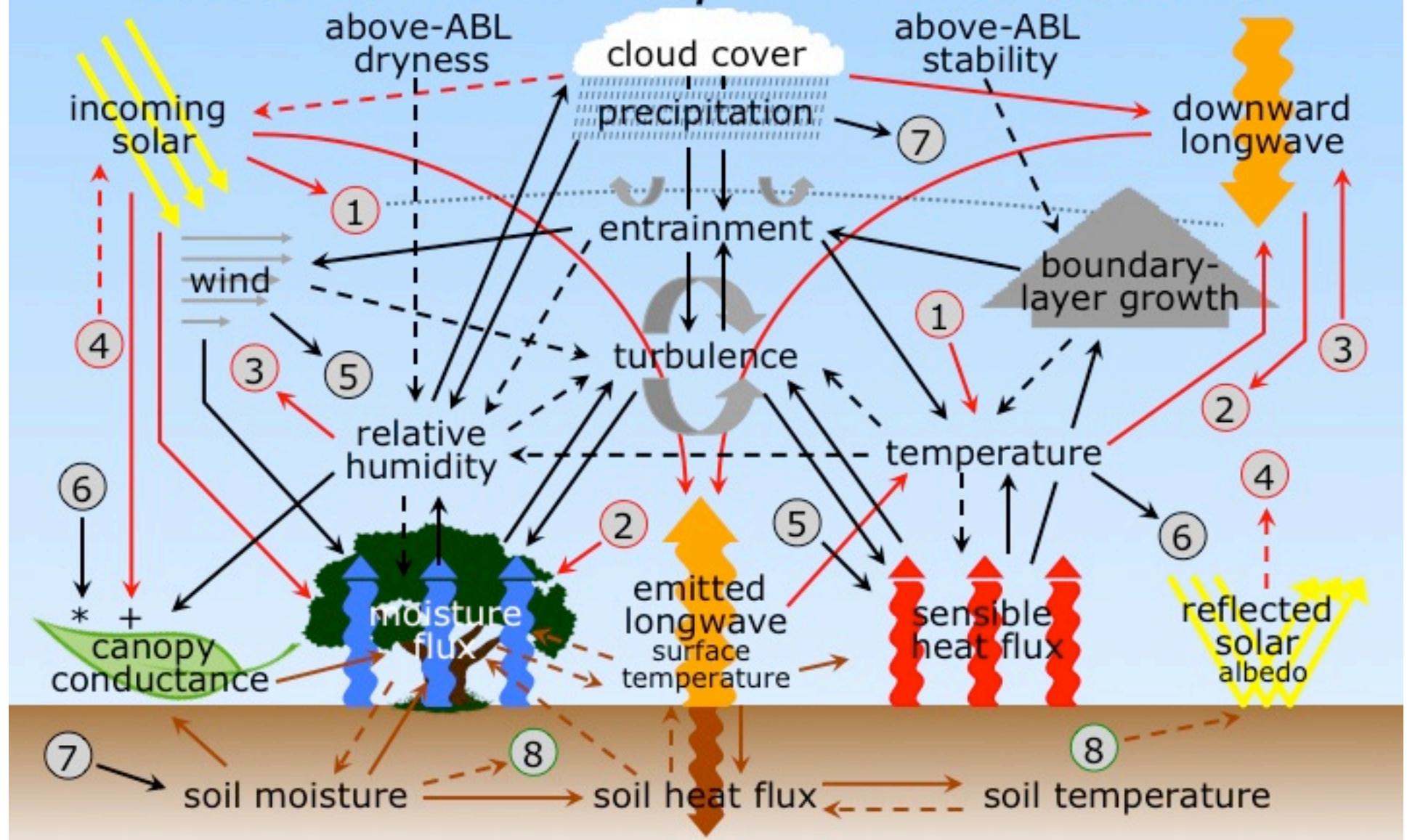


→ radiation   → surface layer & ABL   → land-surface processes  
 +positive feedback for C<sub>3</sub> & C<sub>4</sub> plants, negative feedback for CAM plants  
 \*negative feedback above optimal temperature

R. Shrestha, IITM 2016

feedbacks:  
 → positive      → negative<sup>134</sup>

# Local Land-Atmosphere Interactions



→ radiation → surface layer & ABL → land-surface processes

+positive feedback for C3 & C4 plants, negative feedback for CAM plants

\*negative feedback above optimal temperature

R. Shrestha, IITM 2016

feedbacks:

→ positive

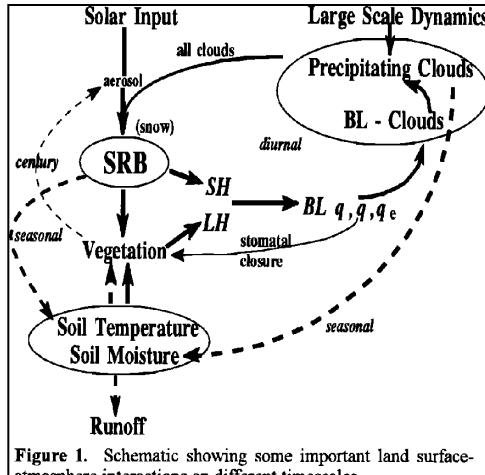
- - -> negative

135

# Land-Atmosphere Interactions

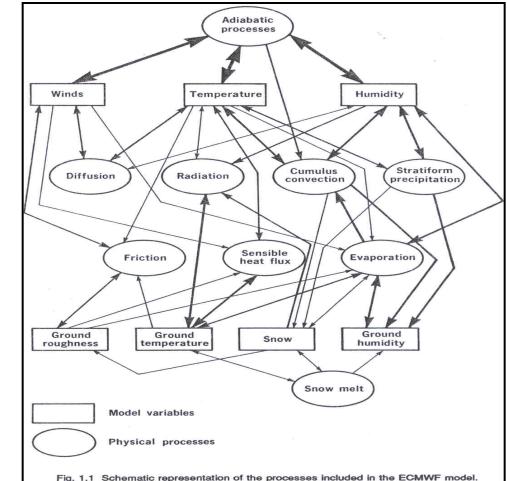
Betts et al  
(1996)

Considered  
diurnal,  
seasonal,  
century time  
scales



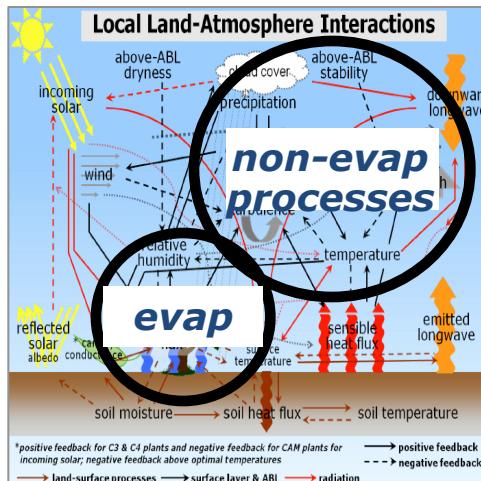
Beljaars  
(2005)

"We discussed including this in a recent document, but dropped it because it was too confusing."



Adapted from  
Ek & Holtslag  
(2004)

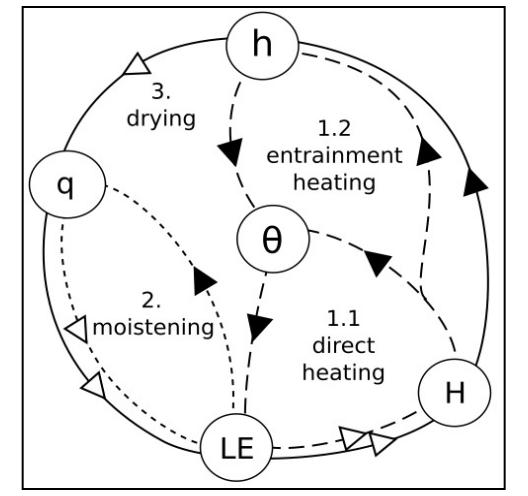
Characterized land  
and atmospheric  
processes and  
feedbacks for  
typical daytime with  
focus on soil  
moisture vs other  
processes.



v. Heerwaarden  
et al (2009)

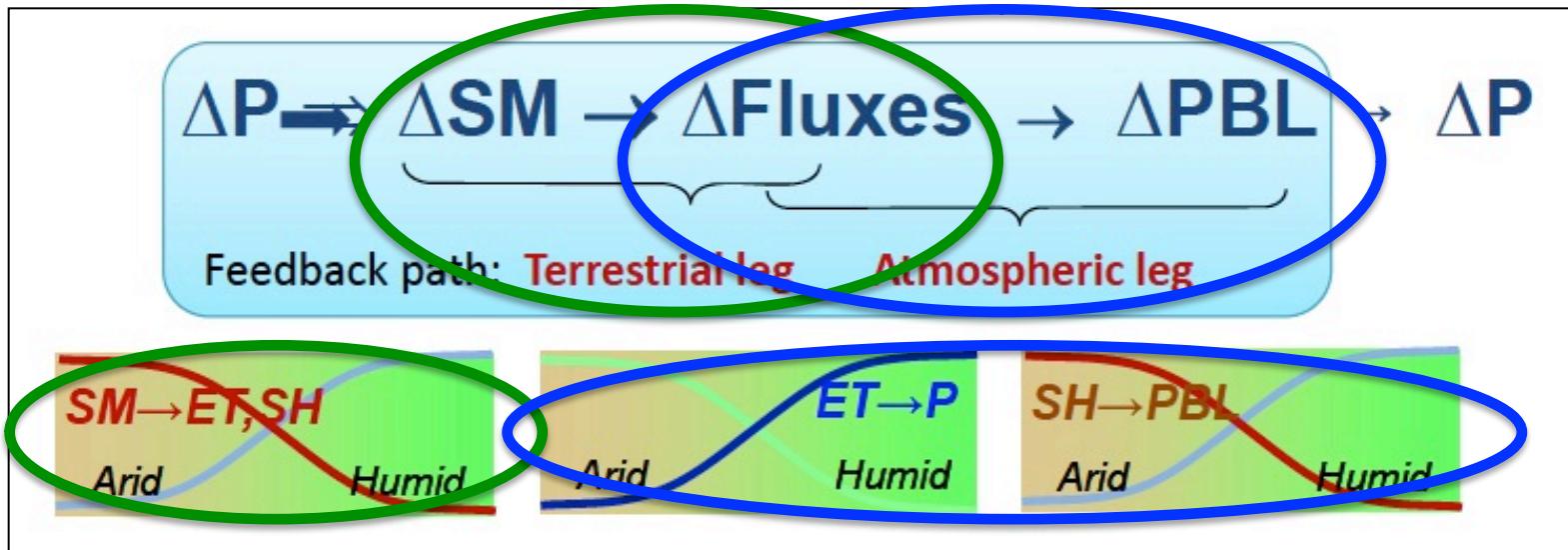
**"Ek & Holtslag is  
too complicated"**

Negative feedback  
mechanisms and  
the relationships  
among variables  
that regulate  
evaporation.



# Land-Atmosphere Interactions

## Land-Atmosphere Feedbacks stand on 2 legs



- **Terrestrial** – When/where does soil moisture (vegetation, soil, snow, etc.) control the partitioning of net radiation into sensible and latent heat flux (and soil heat flux)?
- **Atmosphere** – When/where do surface fluxes significantly affect boundary-layer growth, clouds and precipitation?

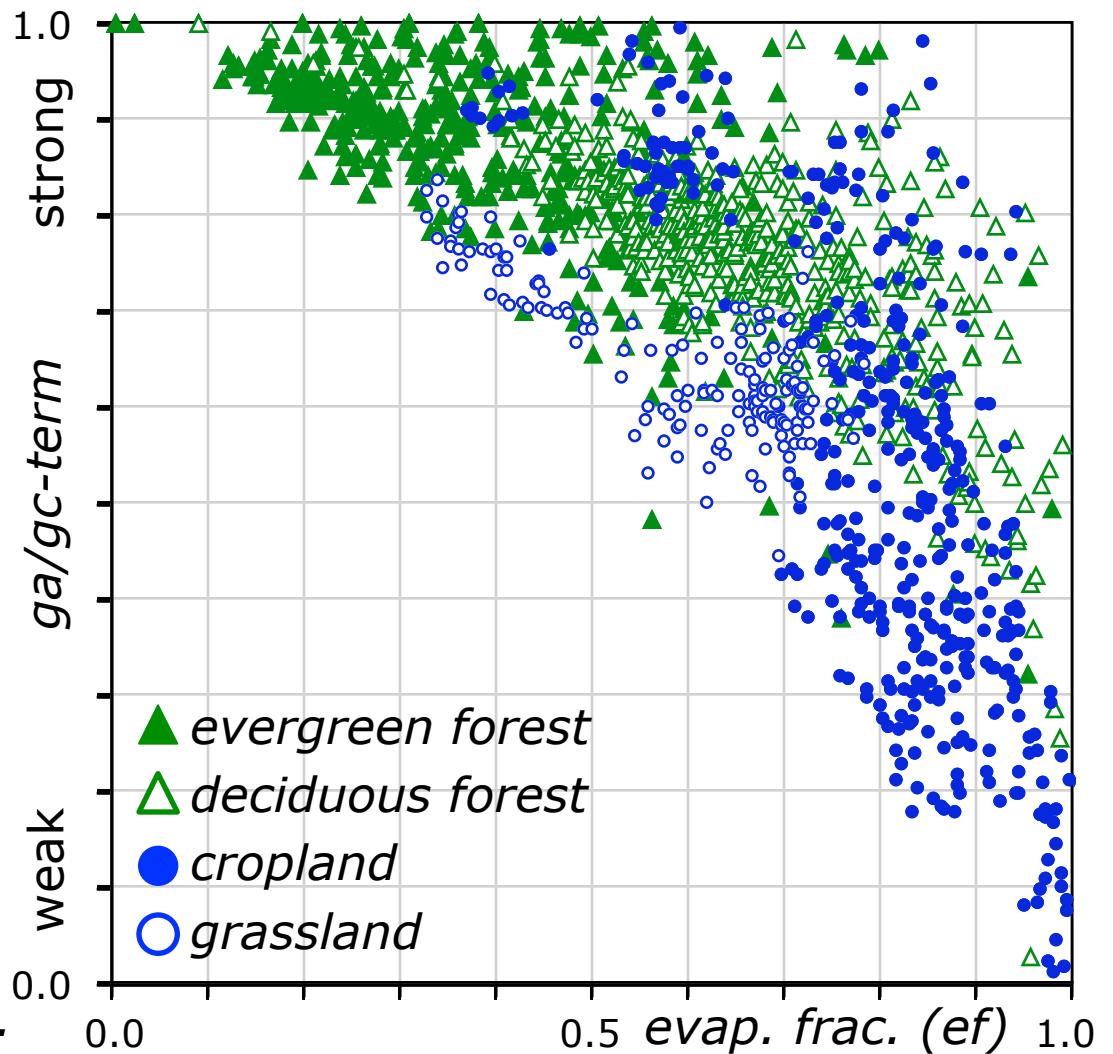
Paul Dirmeyer, George Mason Univ., Joe Santanello, NASA/GSFC

# Near-Surface Interactions:

Soil moisture – evapotranspiration relationships

Evaporative fraction (ef) vs. *ga/gc-term* ("coupling strength") from surface flux site observations (Fluxnet):

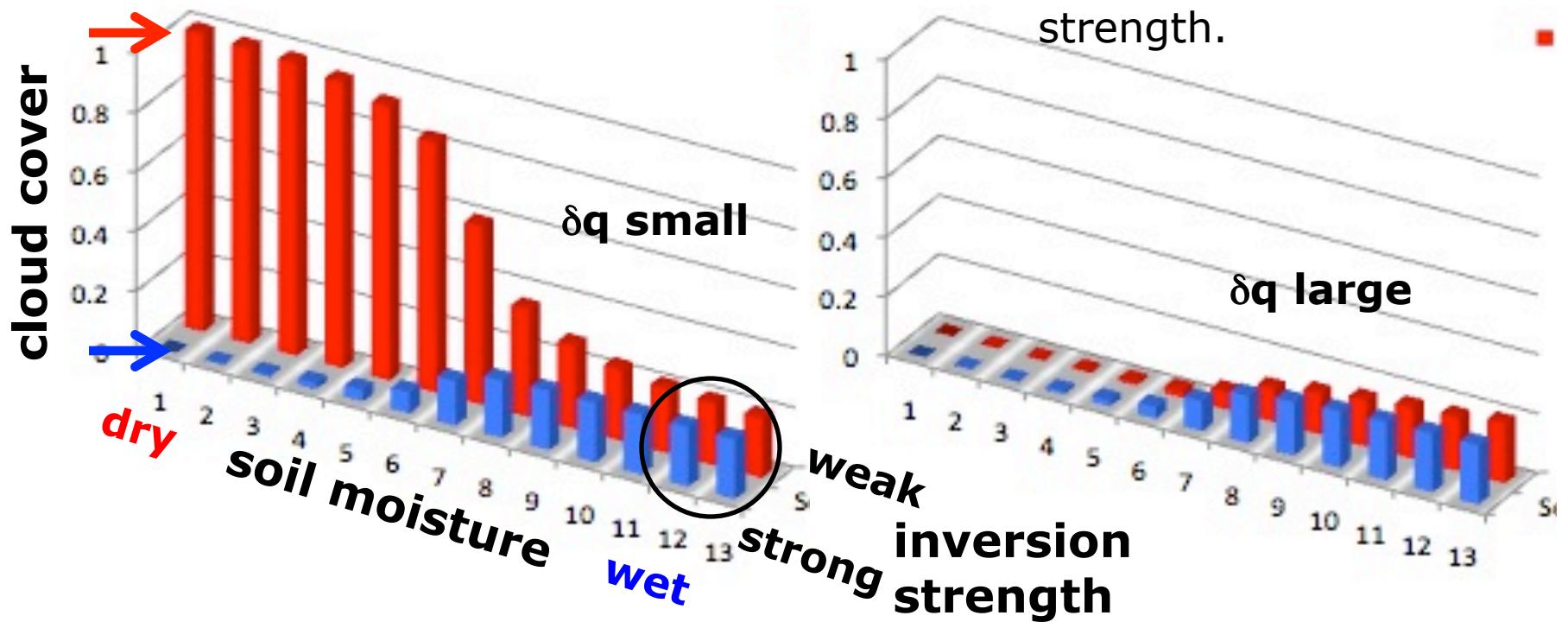
- higher ef:
  - stronger land-atmosphere coupling for forests.
  - weaker land-atmosphere coupling for cropland and grassland.
- lower ef: strong coupling regardless of vegetation type: due to stronger surface heating and turbulence (larger ga, smaller gc).
- *need to include G-related terms & direct evaporation.*



# **Land-Atmosphere Interactions:**

Soil moisture/ET role in ABL & cloud development

- dry soil/strong inversion -> shallow ABL, no clouds.
- dry soil/weak inversion -> deeper ABL, more clouds.
- moist soil -> shallow ABL, cloud cover similar.
- dry aloft ( $\delta q$  large) -> fewer clouds regardless of inversion strength.



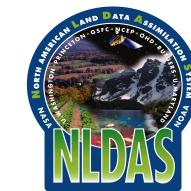
- Sensitivity tests with many single column model runs.

# **Summary**

- Land models provide surface **boundary conditions** for weather and climate models, and then **proper representation of interactions** with atmosphere.
- For weather and climate modeling, land models must have **valid** (scale-aware) **physics** and associated parameters, representative **land data sets** (in some cases **near-realtime**), proper **atmospheric forcing**, and **initial and cycled land states**. Longer time scales require more processes (physics).
- Land model **validation** using (near-) **surface observations**, e.g. air temperature, relative humidity, wind, soil moisture, surface fluxes, etc... suggests model **physics improvements**.
- The role of land models is expanding for weather and climate in increasingly more fully-coupled Earth-System Models (atmosphere-ocean-land-sea ice-waves-aerosols) with **connections** between **Weather & Climate** and **Hydrology**, **Ecosystems & Biogeochemical** cycles (e.g. **carbon**), and **Air Quality** communities & models on local as well as large scales.

# **NCEP/EMC Land Team Partners**

NCEP/EMC Land Team: *Michael Ek, Jiarui Dong, Weizhong Zheng, Helin Wei, Jesse Meng, Youlong Xia, Rongqian Yang, Yihua Wu, Caterina Tassone, Roshan Shrestha,* working with:



Land Data Assimilation (LDA), LDA Systems (e.g. "NLDAS"):

- NASA/GSFC: Christa Peters-Lidard, David Mocko et al.
- NCEP/Climate Prediction Center: Kingtse Mo et al.
- Princeton University: Eric Wood, Justin Sheffield et al.
- Univ. Washington: Dennis Lettenmaier (now UCLA) et al.
- Michigan State Univ./formerly Princeton: Lifeng Luo .

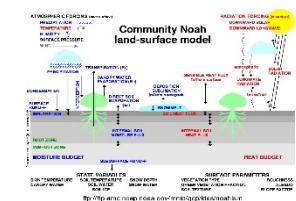
Remotely-sensed Land Data Sets:

- NESDIS/STAR land group: Ivan Csiszar, Xiwu Zhan (soil moisture), Bob Yu (Tskin), Marco Vargas (vegetation) et al.



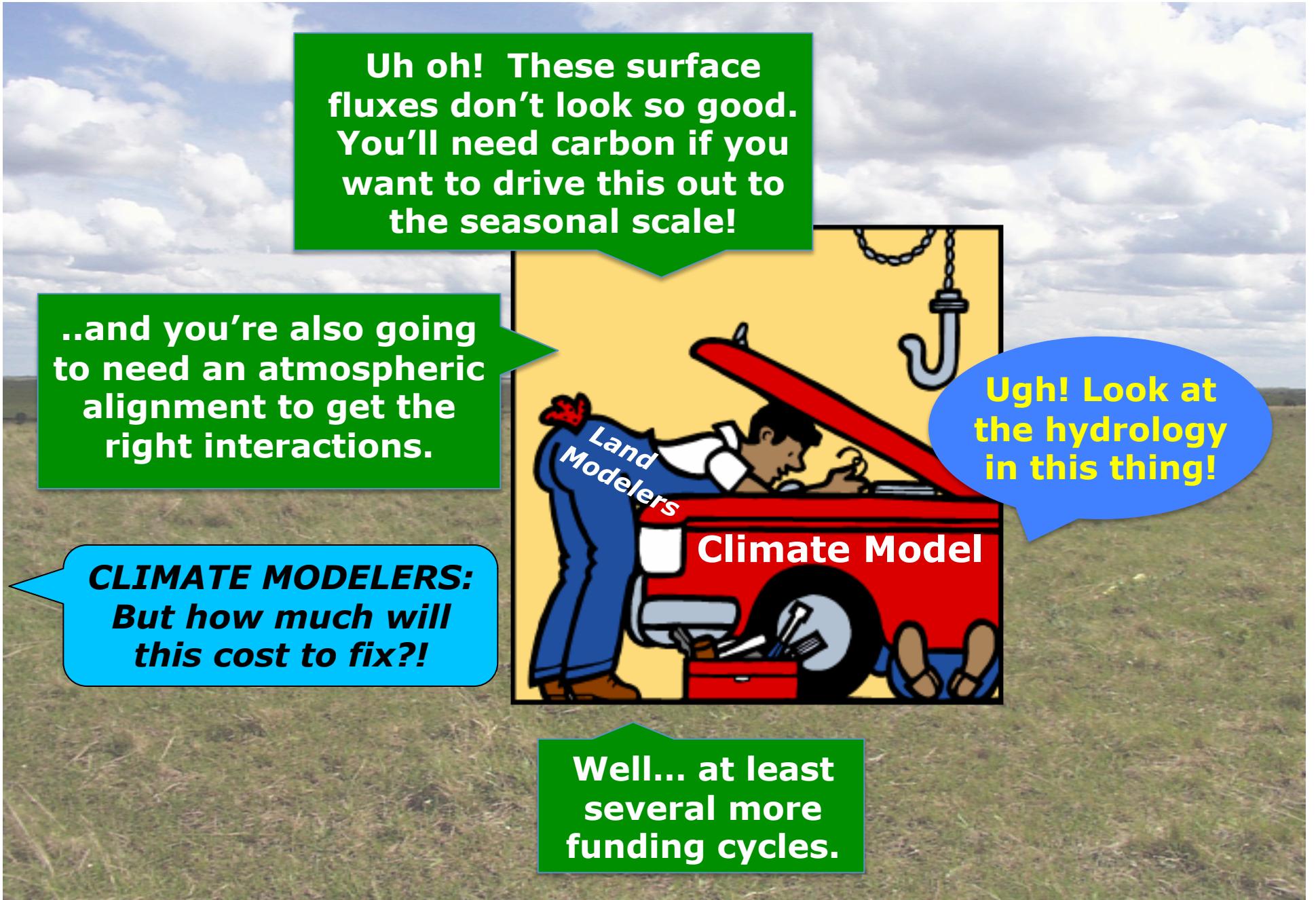
Land Model (Physics) Development:

- NCAR/RAL: Fei Chen, Mike Barlage, Mukul Tewari, et al.
- NWS National Water Center: Brian Cosgrove et al.
- Univ. Ariz.: Xubin Zeng et al.
- UT-Austin: Zong-Liang Yang et al.
- WRF land working group and NOAA/ESRL land model development: Tanya Smirnova/NOAA/ESRL.



GEWEX/GLASS, GASS projects: Land model benchmarking, land-atmosphere interaction experiments with many international partners.





The background of the image is a clear blue sky above a layer of white, fluffy clouds. Below the clouds, a patchwork of green and brown land is visible, suggesting a rural or agricultural area. The overall scene is peaceful and suggests a high altitude perspective.

***Thank you!***