

# WISDOM: Watering Intelligently at Scale with Distributed Optimization and Modeling

Daniel A. Winkler

University of California, Merced  
dwinkler2@andes.ucmerced.edu

Alberto E. Cerpa

University of California, Merced  
acerpa@andes.ucmerced.edu



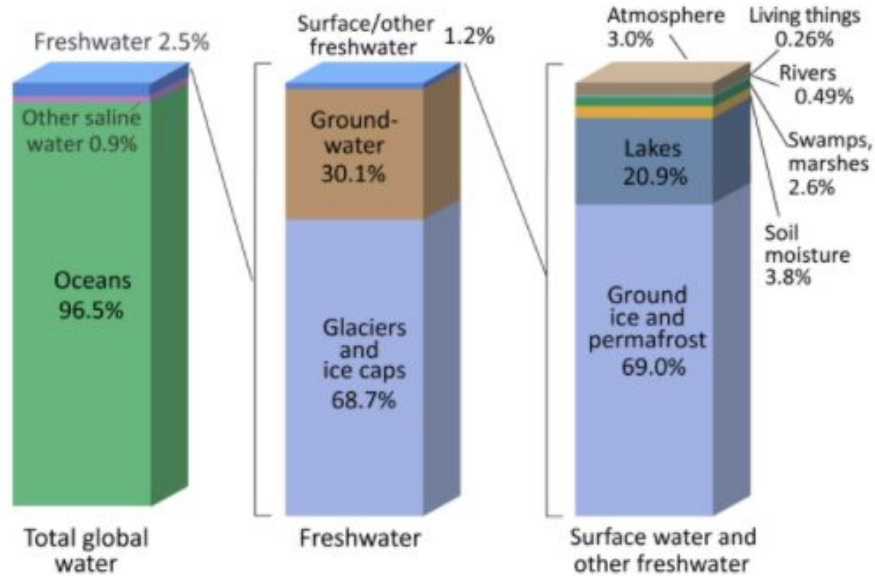
Figure 6.3: Prototype WISDOM device

# Outline

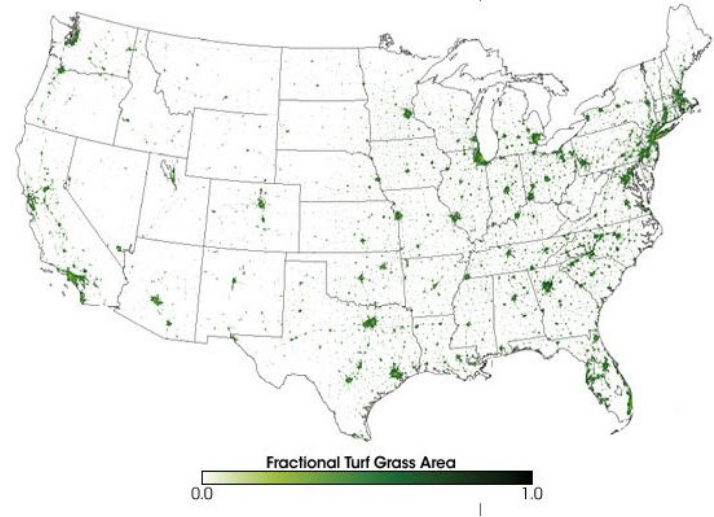
- Background and Motivation
  - Centralized Control
  - Distributed Control
- WISDOM System
  - Modeling
  - Hardware
- Experiments and Results
  - WISDOM vs. ET
  - WISDOM vs. PICS
- Conclusions

# Fresh Water is Not Abundant

## Where is Earth's Water?



Credit: U.S. Geological Survey, Water Science School. <https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-science-school>  
Data source: Igor Shiklomanov's chapter "World fresh water resources" in Peter H. Gleick (editor), 1993, Water in Crisis: A Guide to the World's Fresh Water Resources. (Numbers are rounded).



In continental U.S. alone:

- 128,000 square kilometers
  - Estimated 3x more than corn
- 9 billion gallons/day to irrigate
  - Landscaping 30% - 70% of residential water use

# Systems aren't great

It's easy to find irrigation systems that are not doing their jobs properly ...

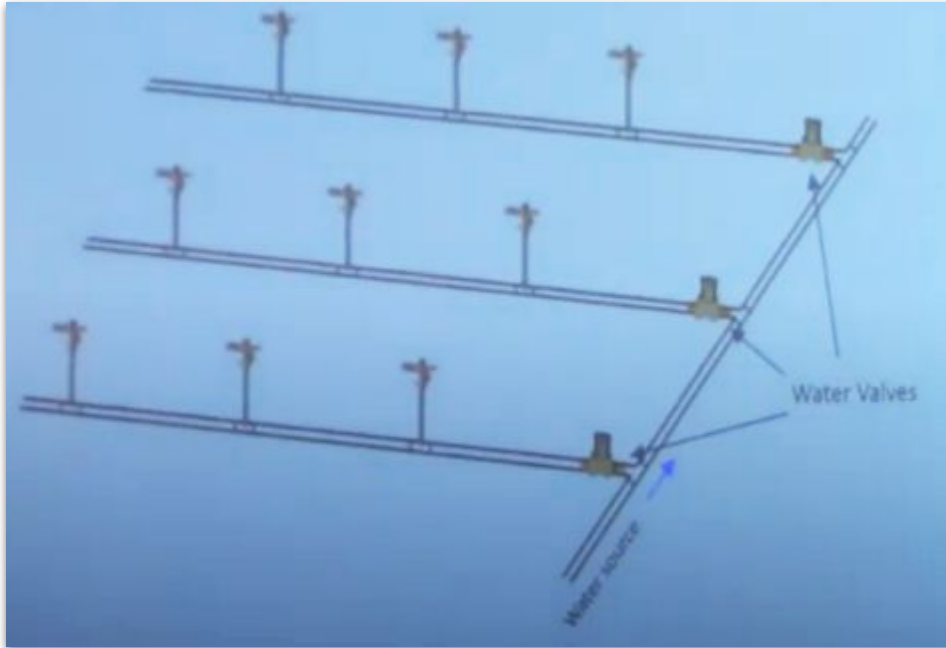
Primary offenses:

- Under-watering
  - Bad quality
- Over-watering
  - Bad efficiency
  - Erode soil
  - Leeches fertilizer chemicals



# Irrigation System Architecture

Depending on the size of the system, the valves may be placed on each run, like this:



No hierarchical control

# Irrigation System Architecture

Water needs are not necessarily constant everywhere

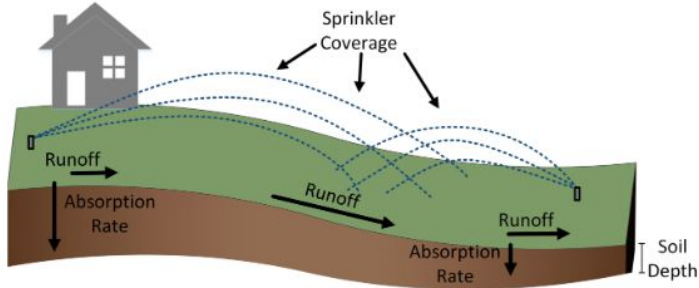
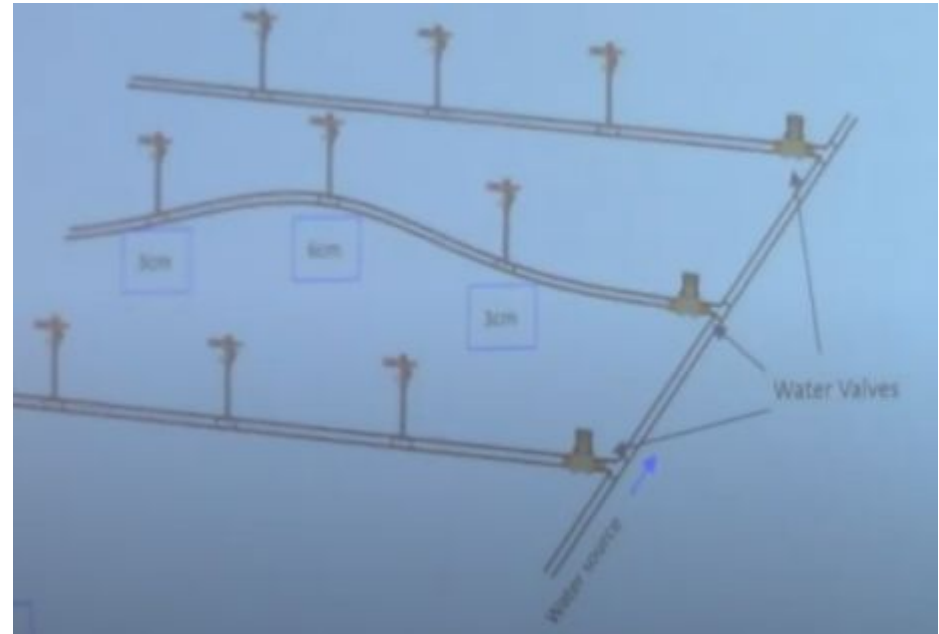


Figure 5.10: Sources of water movement *during* irrigation (Short-term)

Different plants, soil type, soil depth, slop, shadowing, ... .etc



# Distributed Actuation and Centralized Control

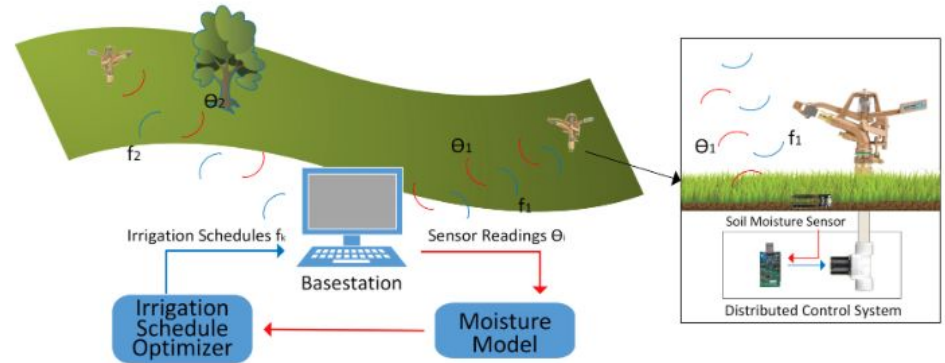
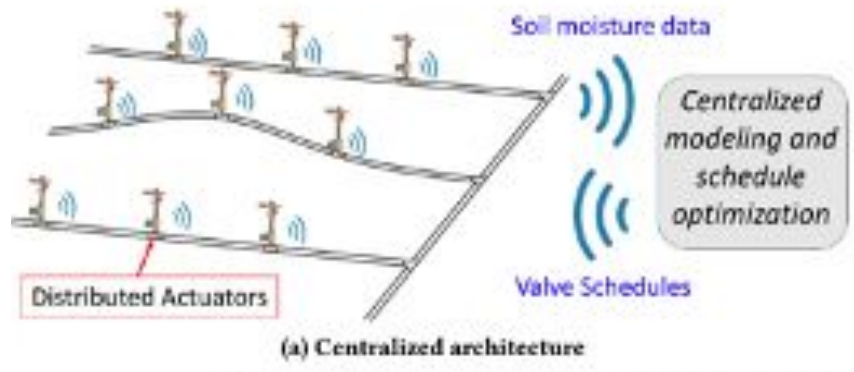
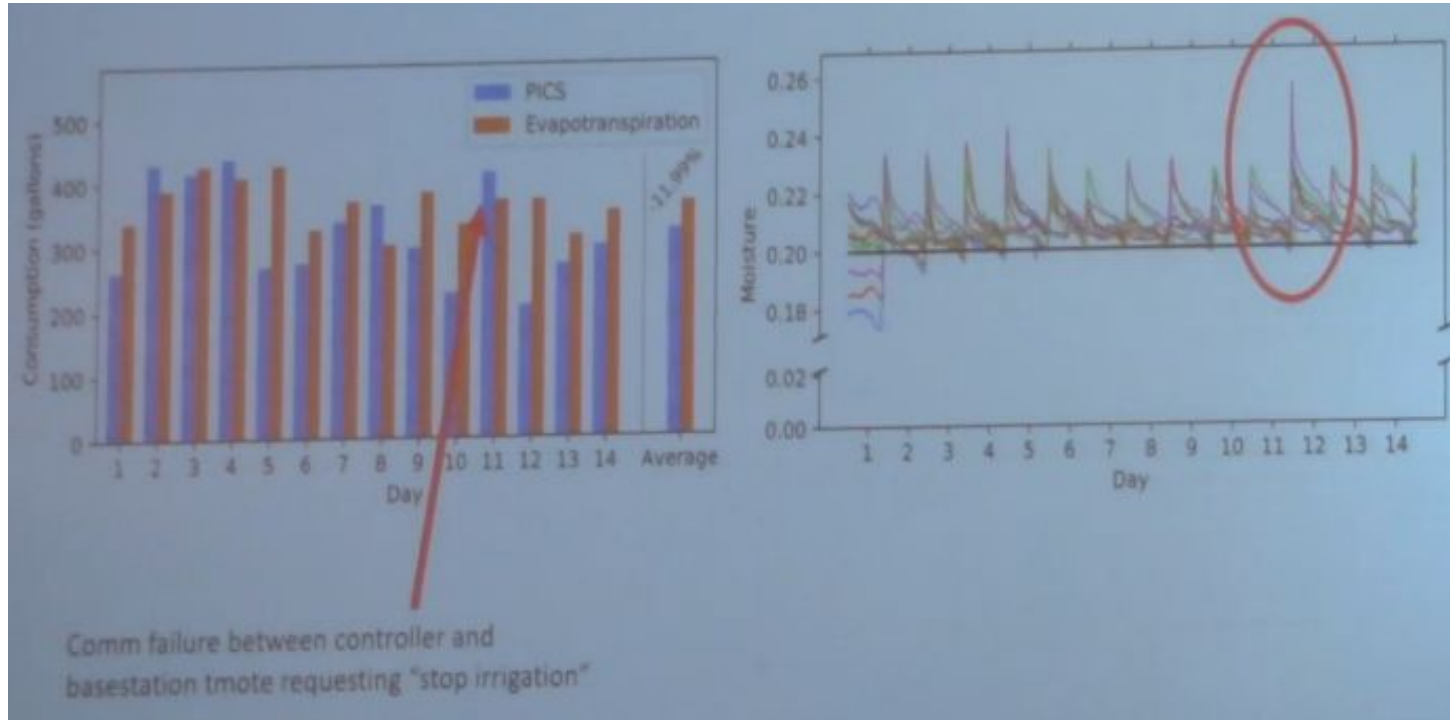


Figure 4.1: DICTUM System Architecture

Each sprinkler head has a node with a solenoid for on/off control and a moisture sensor

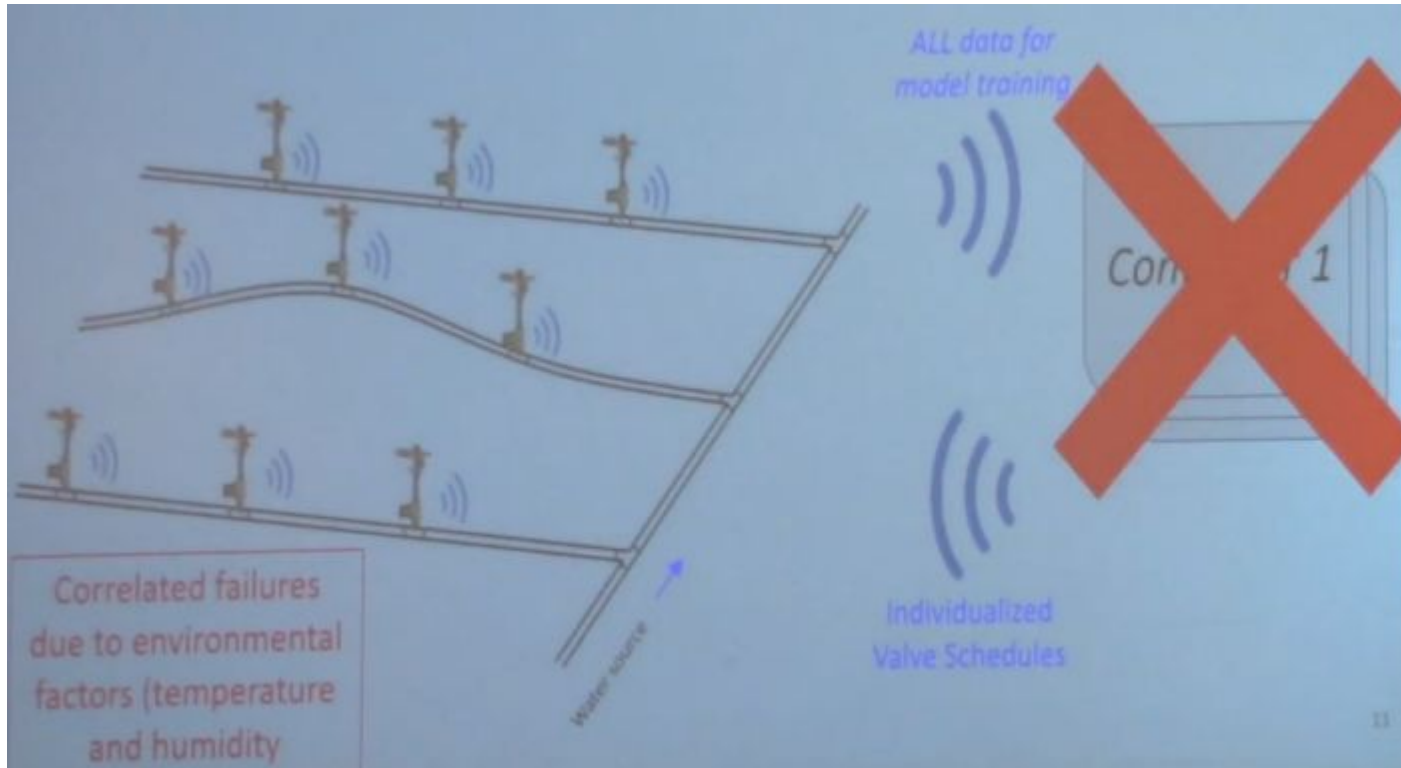


# Centralized Control - Single Point of Failure

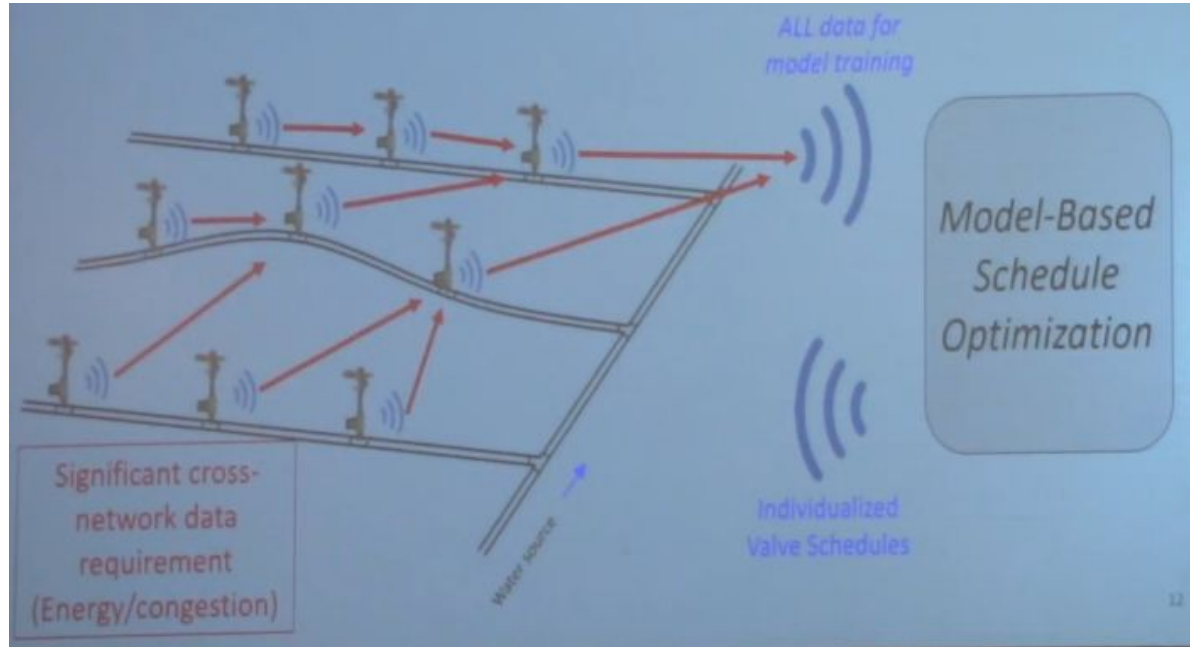




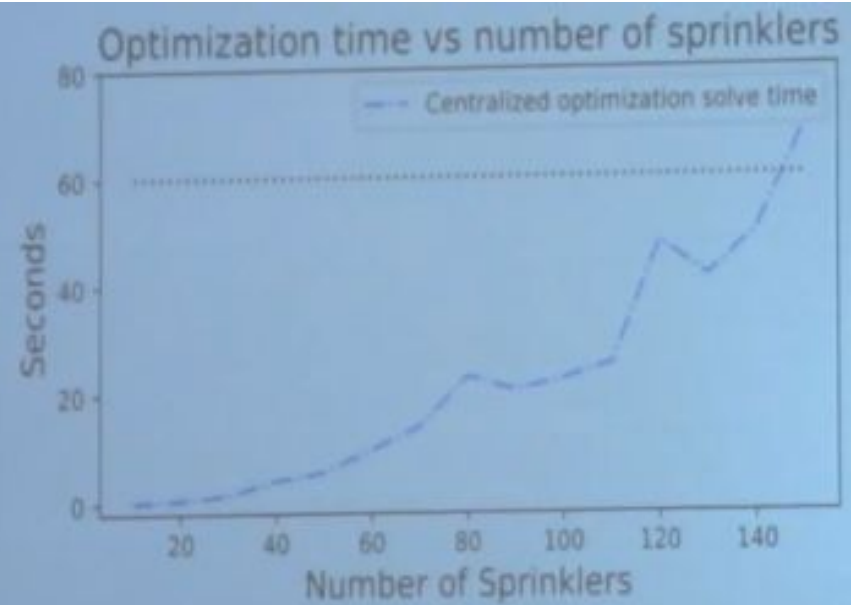
# Centralized Control - Controller Redundancy



# Centralized Control - Communication



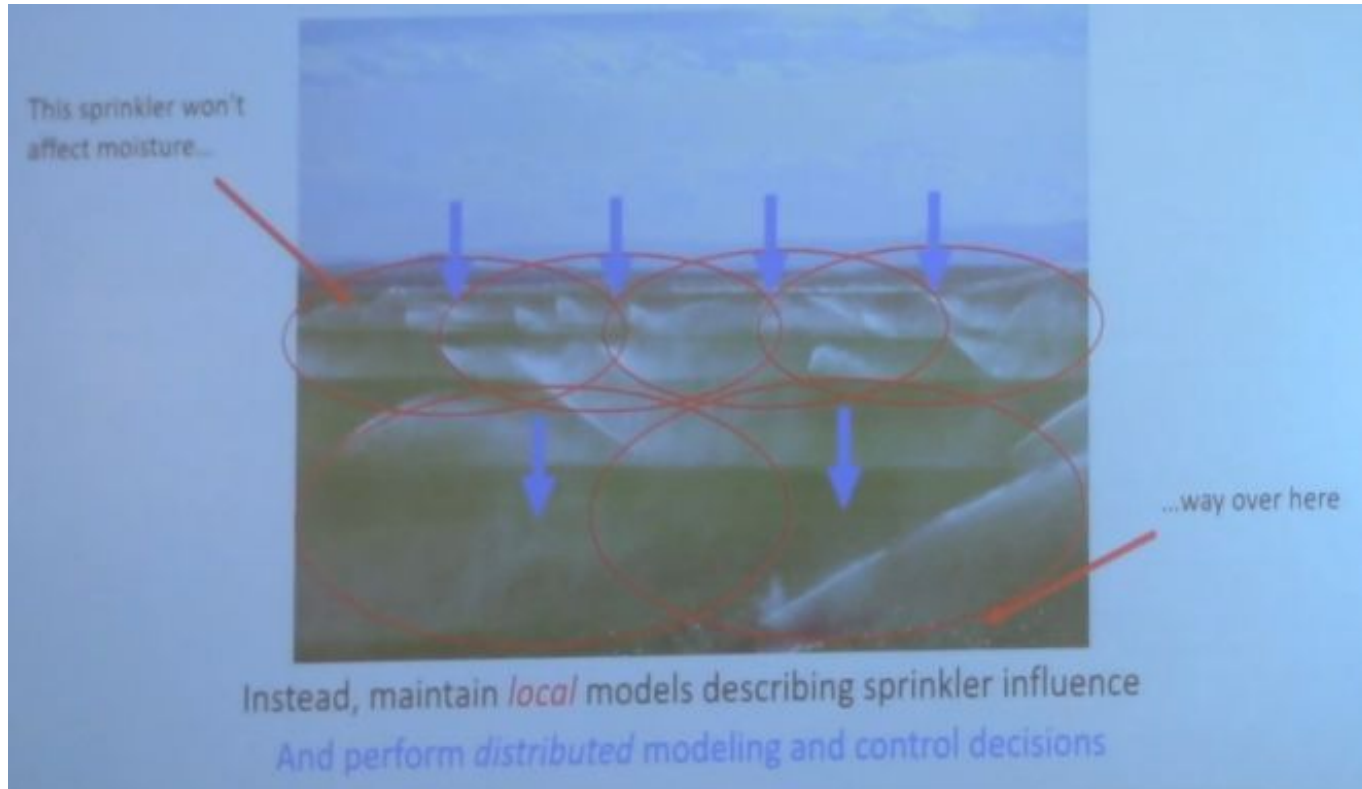
# Centralized Control - Performance



# WISDOM - Distributed Control



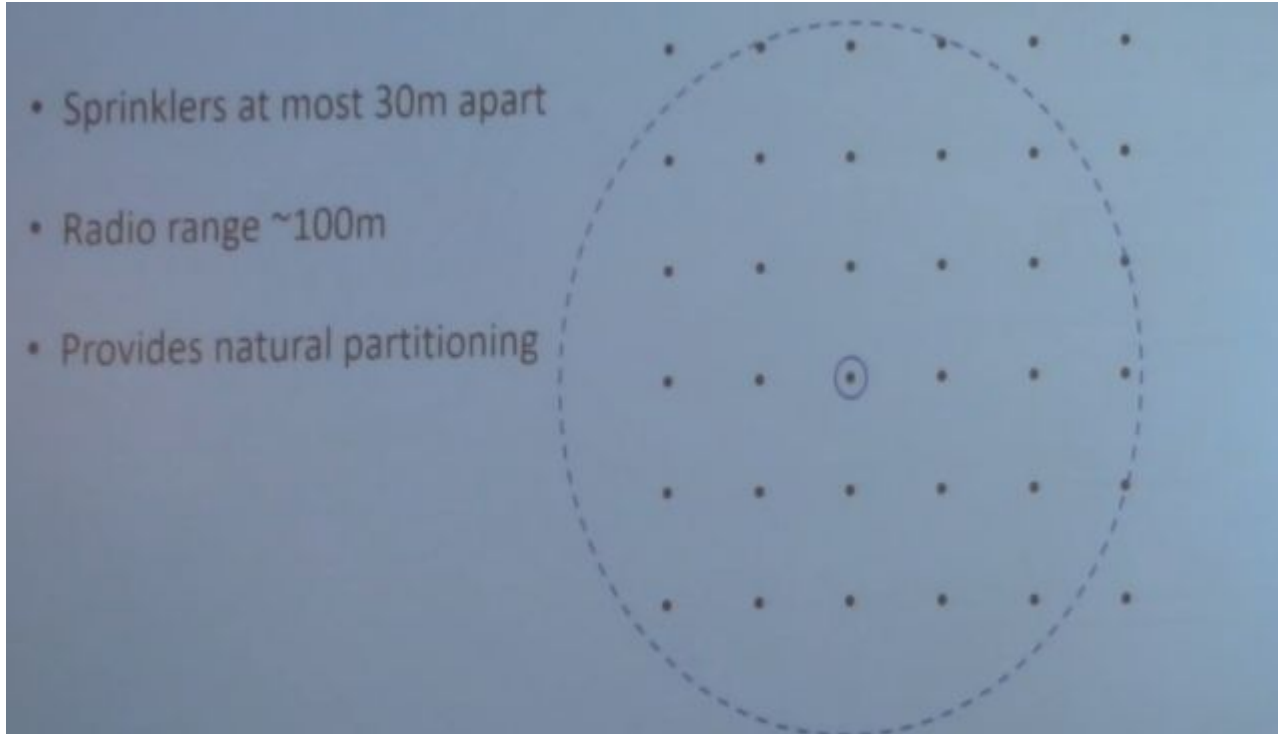
# WISDOM - Distributed Control



# Benefits of Distributed Control

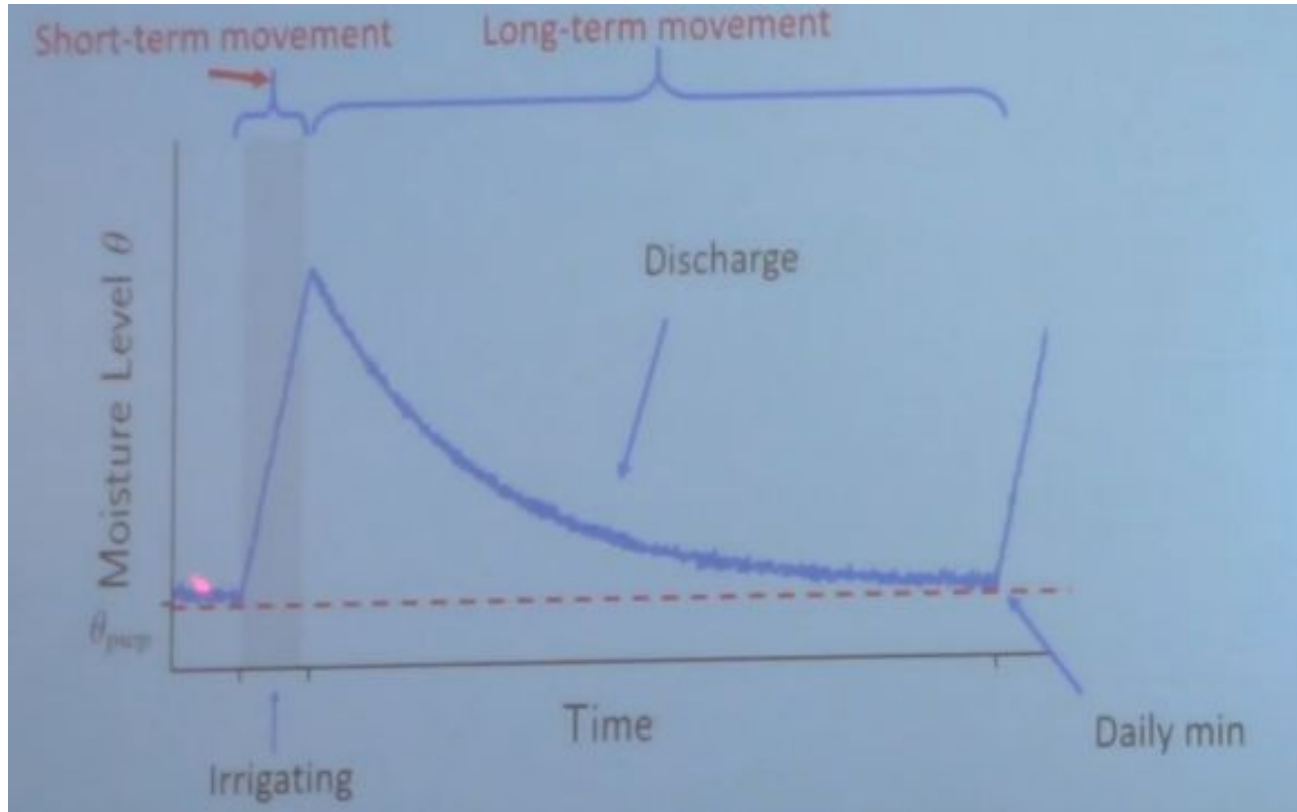
	Centralized Control	Distributed Control
• Remove system's single point of failure at basestation		✓
• Remove <i>ALL</i> cross-network traffic (reduce energy, network contention)		✓
• Remove wasteful computational overhead of global modeling		✓

# Automatic neighborhood creation/maintenance

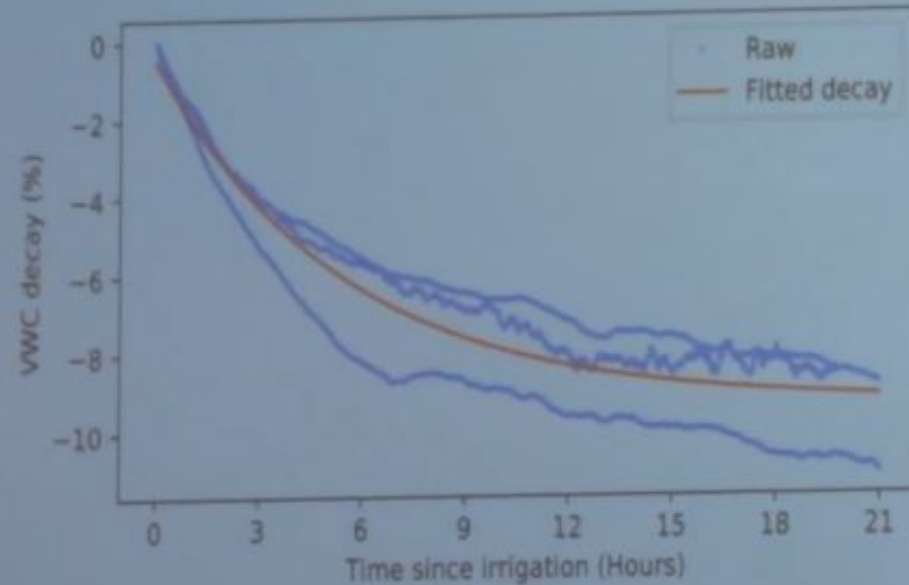




# 24-hour Soil Moisture Cycle

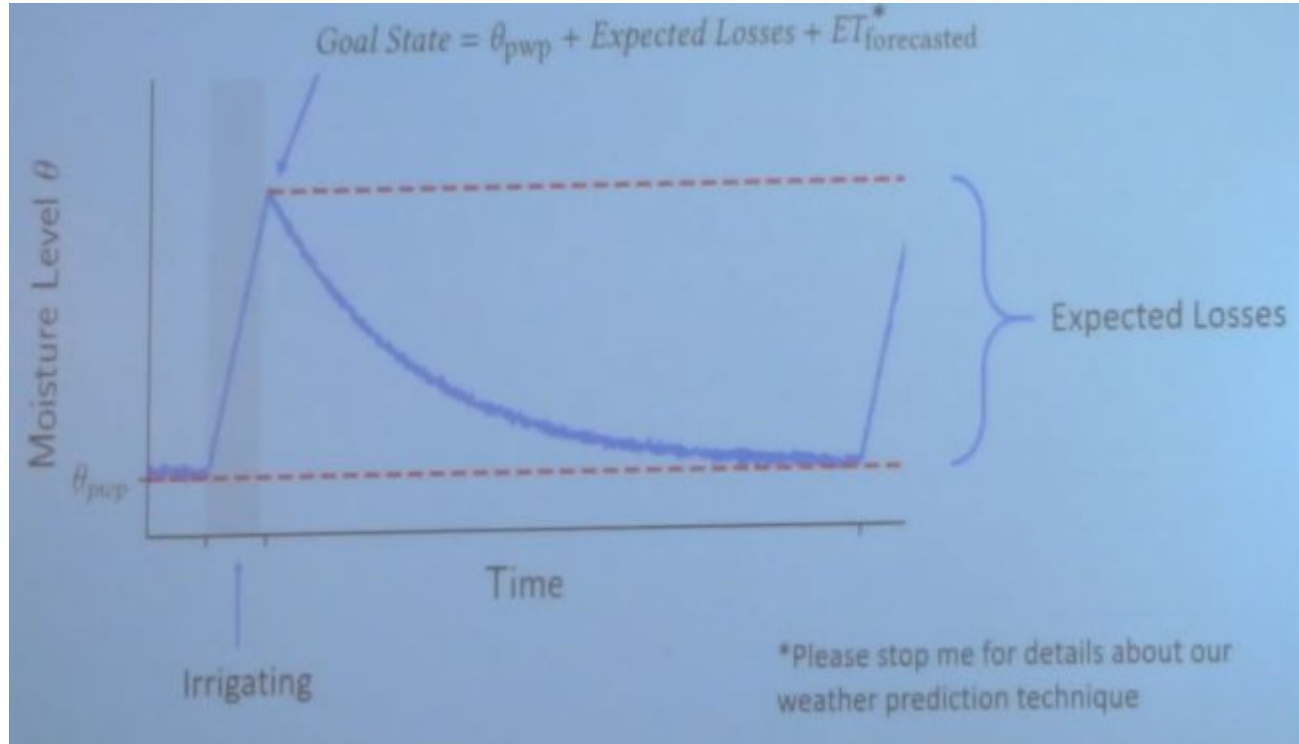


# Modeling long-term moisture movement

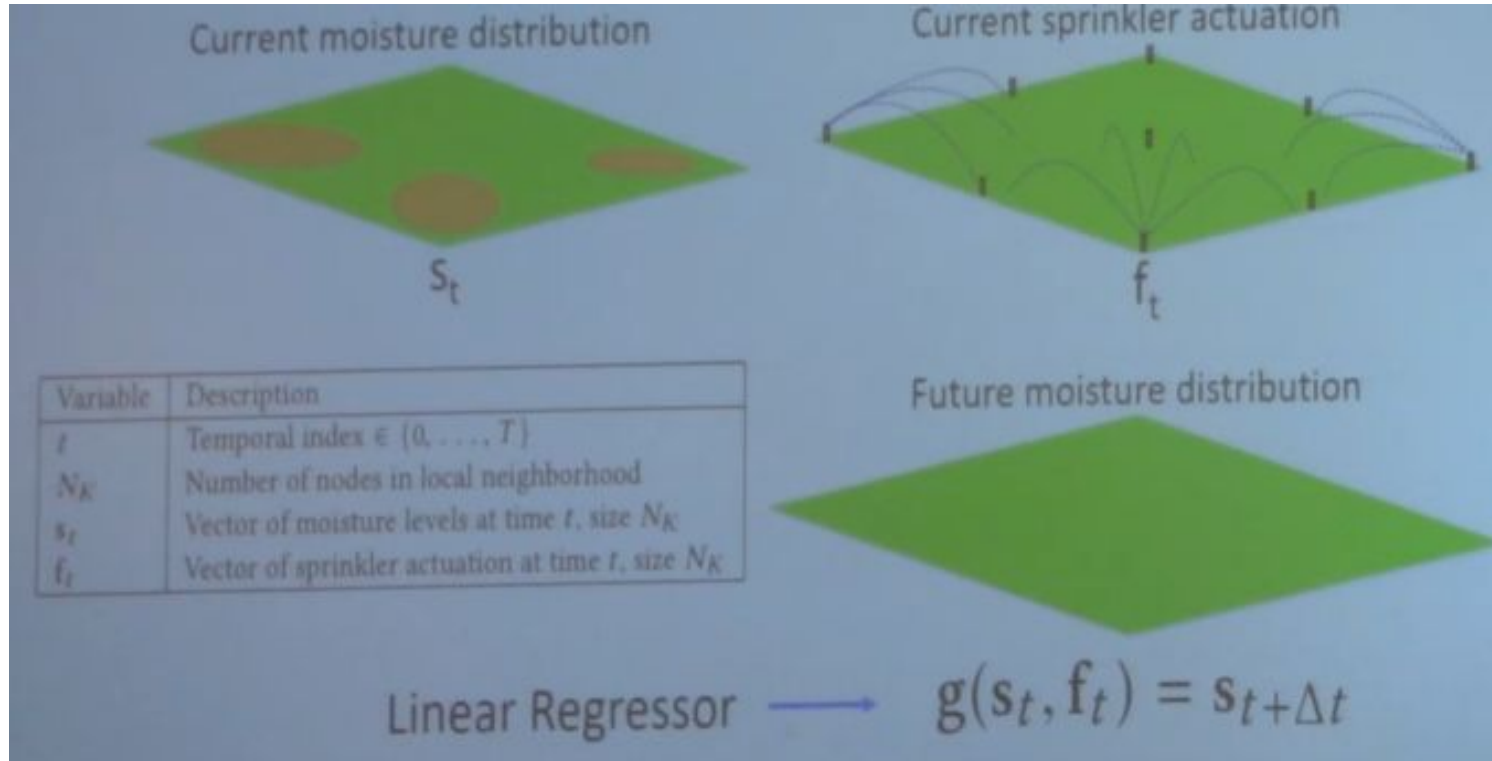


In our system, we re-train long-term model daily using all previous data from this node

# Modeling long-term moisture movement



# Modeling short-term water movement



# Finding Optimal Schedules

Variable	Description
$t$	Temporal index $\in \{0, \dots, T\}$
$k$	Sprinkler location index $\in \{1, \dots, N_K\}$
$\mathbf{s}_t$	Vector of moisture levels at time $t$ , size $N_K$
$\mathbf{f}_t$	Vector of binary sprinkler actuation at time $t$ , size $N_K$
$f_{k,t}$	Sprinkler $k$ actuation at time $t$ , $\in \{0, 1\}$
$s_{k,t}$	Volumetric water content (VWC) of location $k$ at time $t$
$c_k$	Flow rate of sprinkler $k$ (Constant, known beforehand)
$\theta_k$	Measured VWC of sensor $k$ (Constant, known beforehand)

**Table 2: Optimization Variables**

$$\min_{\{f_{k,t}, s_{k,t}\}_{k=1, t=0}^{N_K, T}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_K} \sum_{t=0}^T c_k f_{k,t} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad (3a)$$

Minimize system water consumption

$$0 \leq f_{k,t} \leq 1 \quad k = 1, \dots, N_K \quad t = 0, \dots, T \quad (3b)$$

Physical solenoid constraint

$$s_{k,t} \geq \theta_{\text{pwp}} \quad k = 1, \dots, N_K \quad t = 0, \dots, T-1 \quad (3c)$$

Quality of service

$$s_{k,T} \geq \theta_{\text{goal},k} \quad k = 1, \dots, N_K \quad (3d)$$

Goal state

$$s_{k,t=0} = \theta_k \quad k = 1, \dots, N_K \quad (3e)$$

Initial moisture measurements

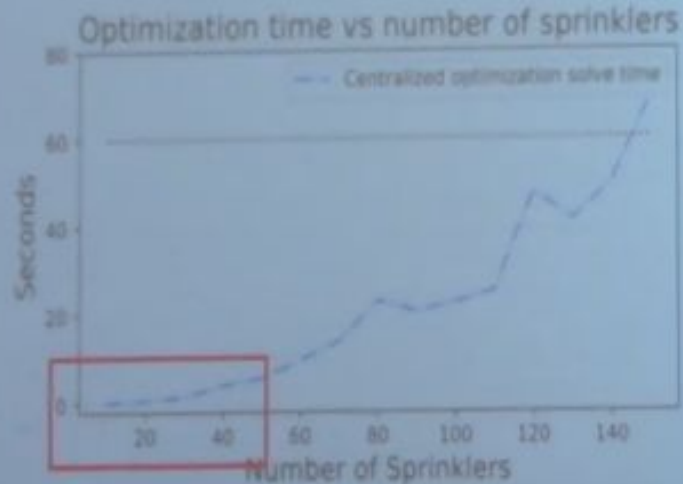
$$\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{s}_{t-1}, \mathbf{f}_{t-1}) \quad t = 1, \dots, T \quad (3f)$$

Short-term water movement

# Distributed Processing Pipeline

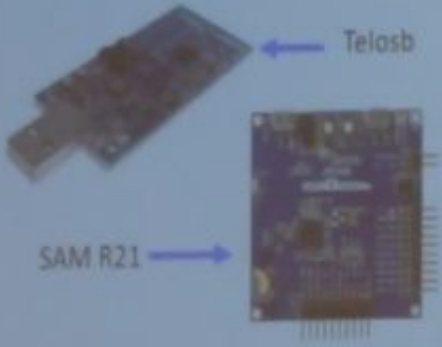
- *Localized models* now used within each neighborhood
- Optimization now occurs within a neighborhood

Neighborhoods will be relatively small,  
and opt is solved in parallel across the  
space, keeping solve time low



# Current hardware platforms are insufficient

Low-power mote




Telosb

SAM R21

- Very low power (<1mA)
- Radio communication
- 32K-48K Ram
- No floating point unit
- 25-48Mhz CPU frequency
- Libraries must be ported

---

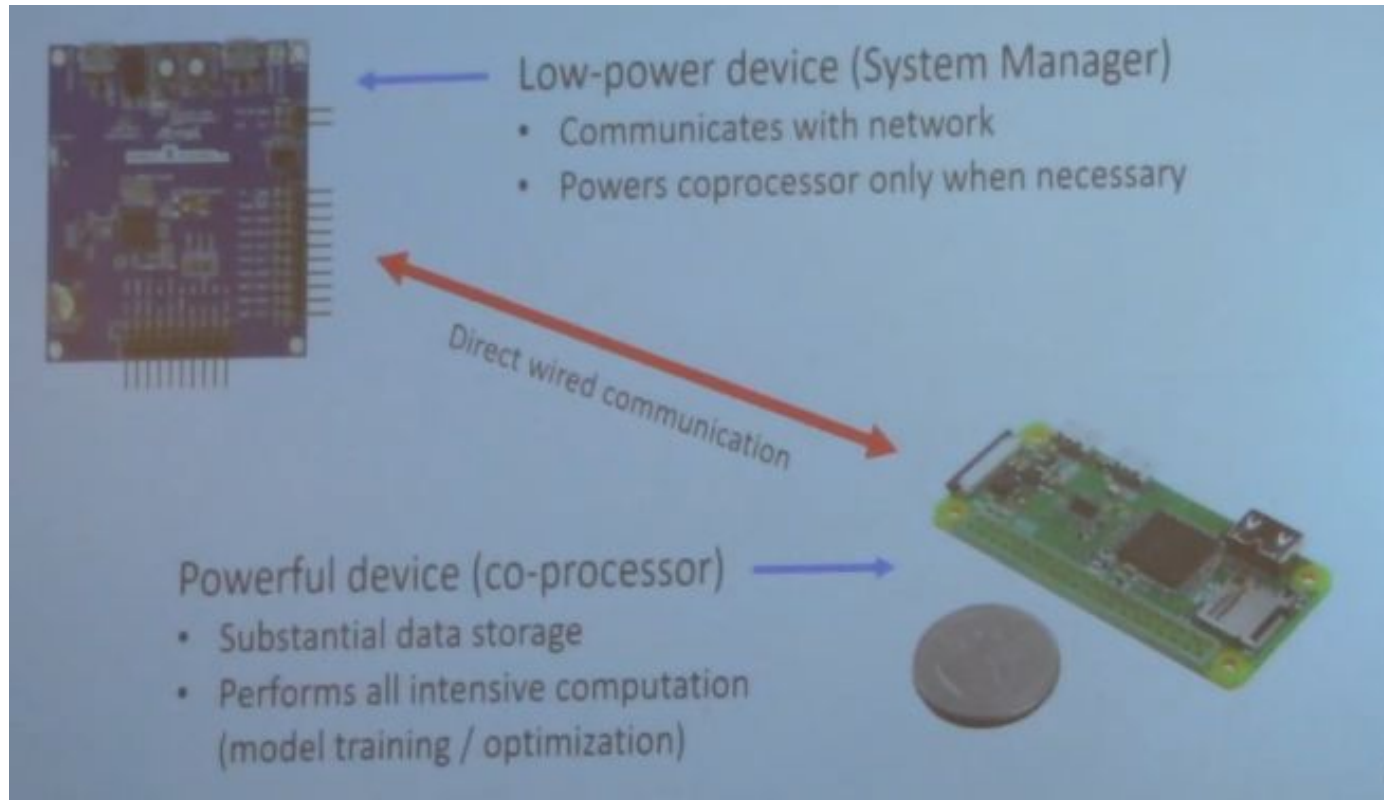
Raspberry Pi Zero



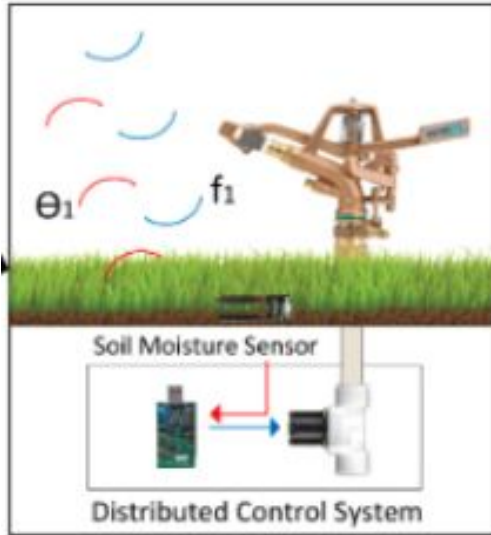
- High power (>100mA) with no sleep capability
- No Low-Power Comm
- 512MB Ram(<1mA)
- 1Ghz Processor
- Runs linux
- \$5 !!!!



# WISDOM co-processor hardware architecture



# System Lifetime: Energy Harvesting



Micro-hydro water turbine enables perpetual system lifetime

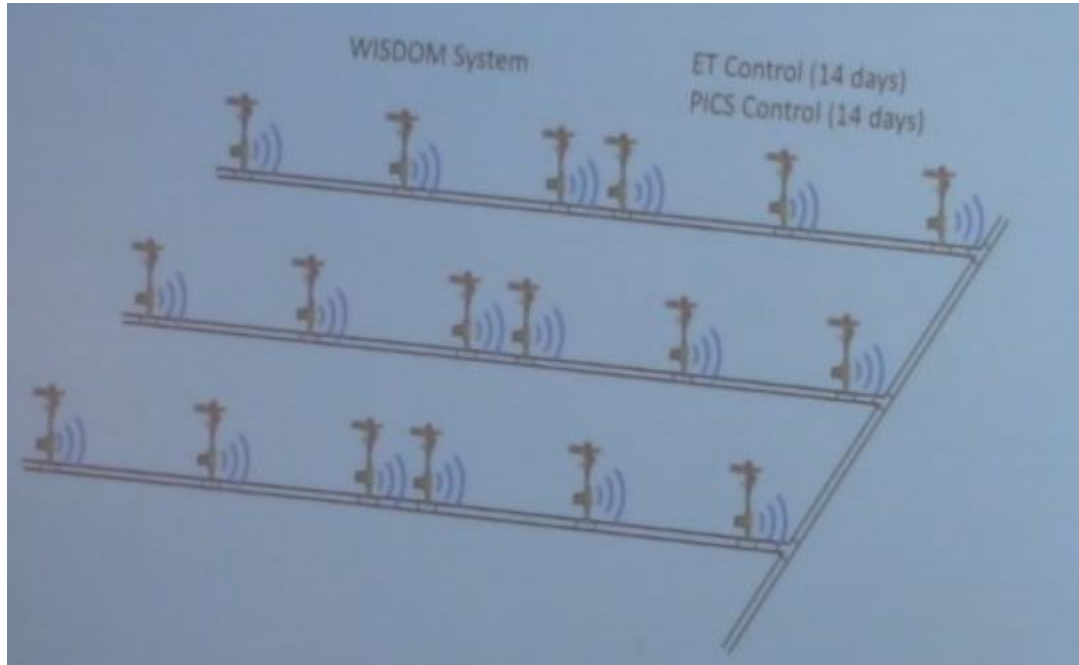
# WISDOM Contributions

- Distributed control
  - Local modeling and optimization on end devices
  - Data communication only required between neighbors
  - New co-processor architecture to facilitate distributed computation
  -
- Energy harvesting enables perpetual system operation

# Case Study

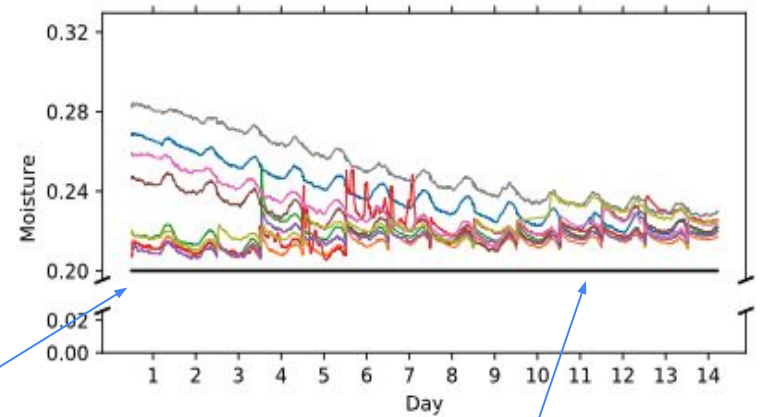
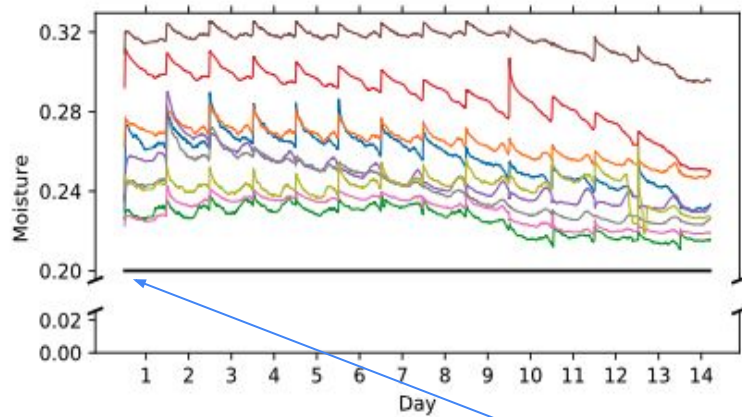


# Case Study



ET: centralized + industrial state-of-the-art  
PICS: centralized + data-driven  
WISDOM: distributed + data-driven

# Results - Case study vs ET

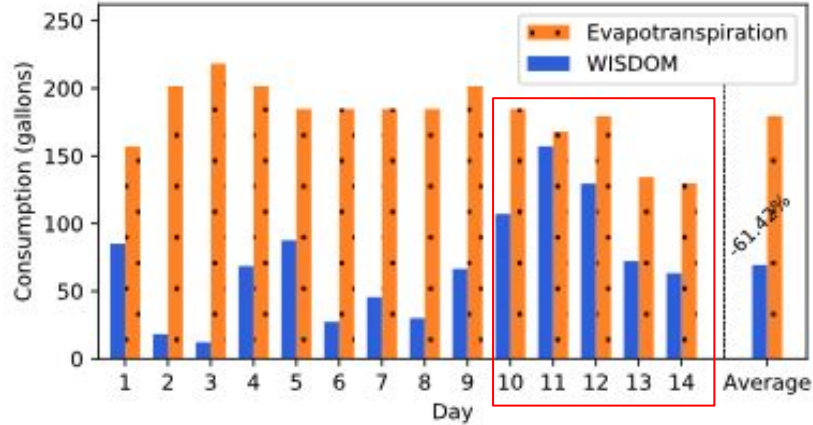


**Figure 5: Collected VWC data across deployment for all Evapotranspiration (left) and WISDOM (right) nodes**

Initial moisture conditions

System approaches steady state

# Results - Case study vs ET

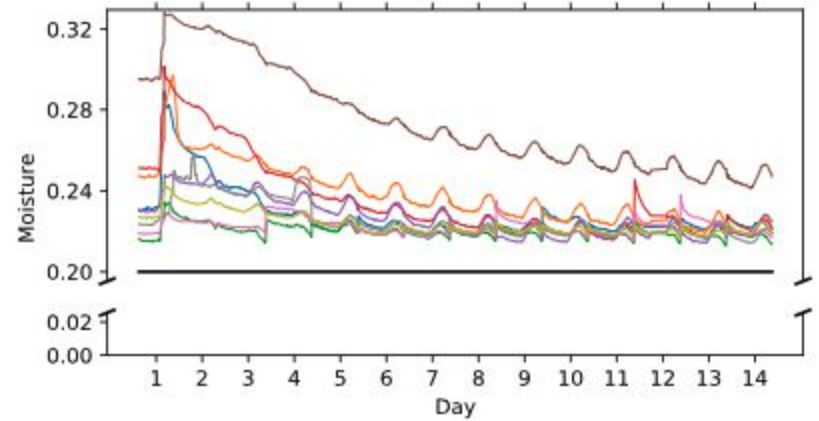
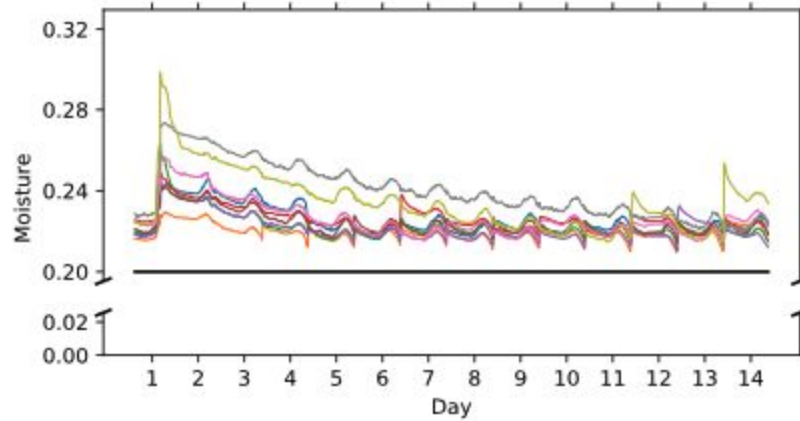


**Figure 7: Water consumption of ET vs WISDOM**

32.9%

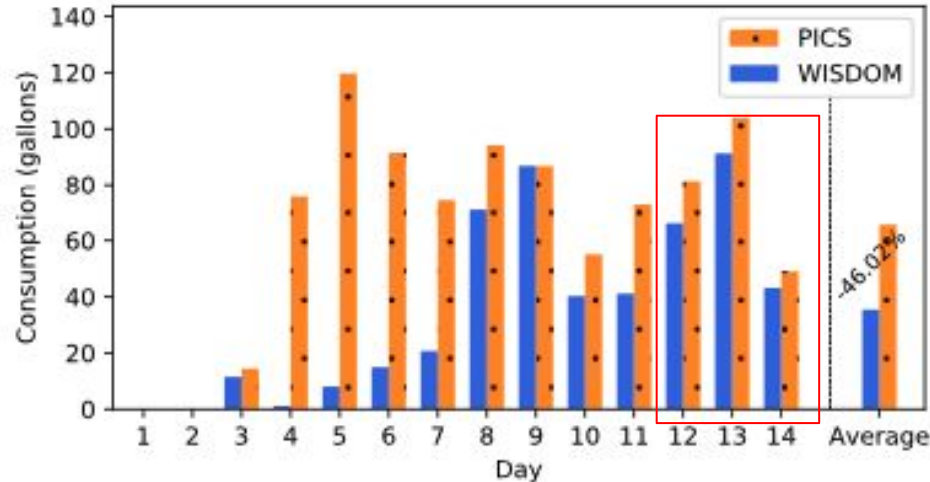


# Results - Case study vs PICS



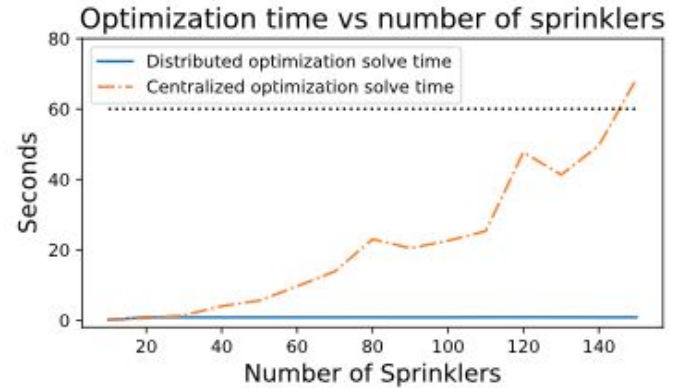
**Figure 6: Collected VWC data across deployment for all PICS (left) and WISDOM (right) nodes**

# Results - Case study vs PICS



**Figure 8: Water consumption of PICS vs WISDOM**

Within 4% of each other

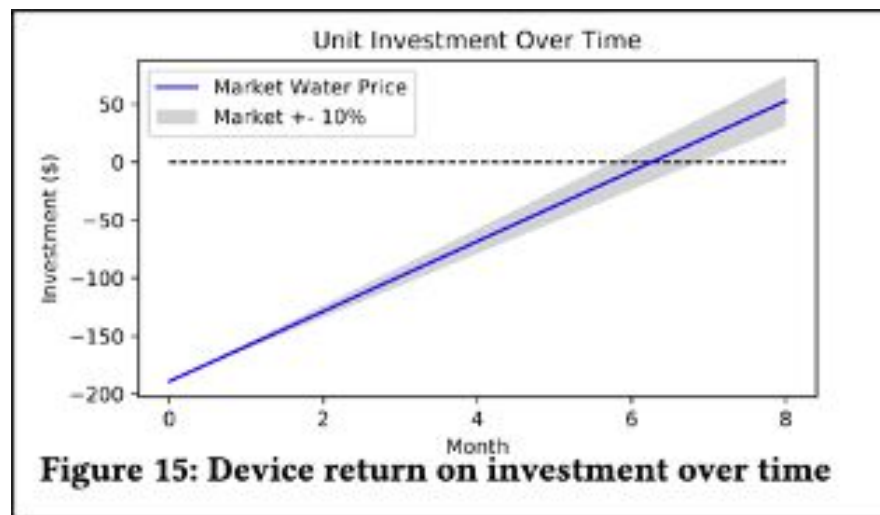


**Figure 14: Time required to optimize schedules using centralized (PICS) and distributed (WISDOM) systems**

# Economic Analysis

Component	WISDOM	PICS [40]
Mote (includes M & A costs for WISDOM)	\$25.00	\$37.57
Raspberry pi zero	\$5.00	-
Battery and charge circuit	\$21.00	\$4.00
Harvesting turbine	\$12.00	-
Sealed enclosure	\$13.00	\$10.00
Moisture sensor	\$99.00	\$110.00
Latching solenoid	\$14.00	\$15.00
Manufacture and Assembly (only for PICS)	-	\$10.00
	\$189.00	\$186.57

**Table 3: Sprinkler Node Manufacture Cost Comparison**



# Conclusions

- All QoS and efficiency benefits of PICS
- Distributed system removed limitations of previous work
  - Single point of failure
  - Communication problem
  - Performance
  - True scalability
- Energy harvesting allows perpetual system lifetime
- Flexible new hardware platform enables in-network computation

# Backup

