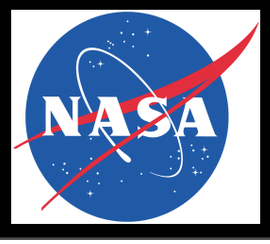
# A New Method for Representing Subgrid Heterogeneity in Land Models

Ian Baker[1], Piers Sellers[2], Scott Denning[1], David Randall[1], Isaac Medina[1], Parker Kraus[1]

1: Colorado State University, Atmospheric Science Department
2: NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center

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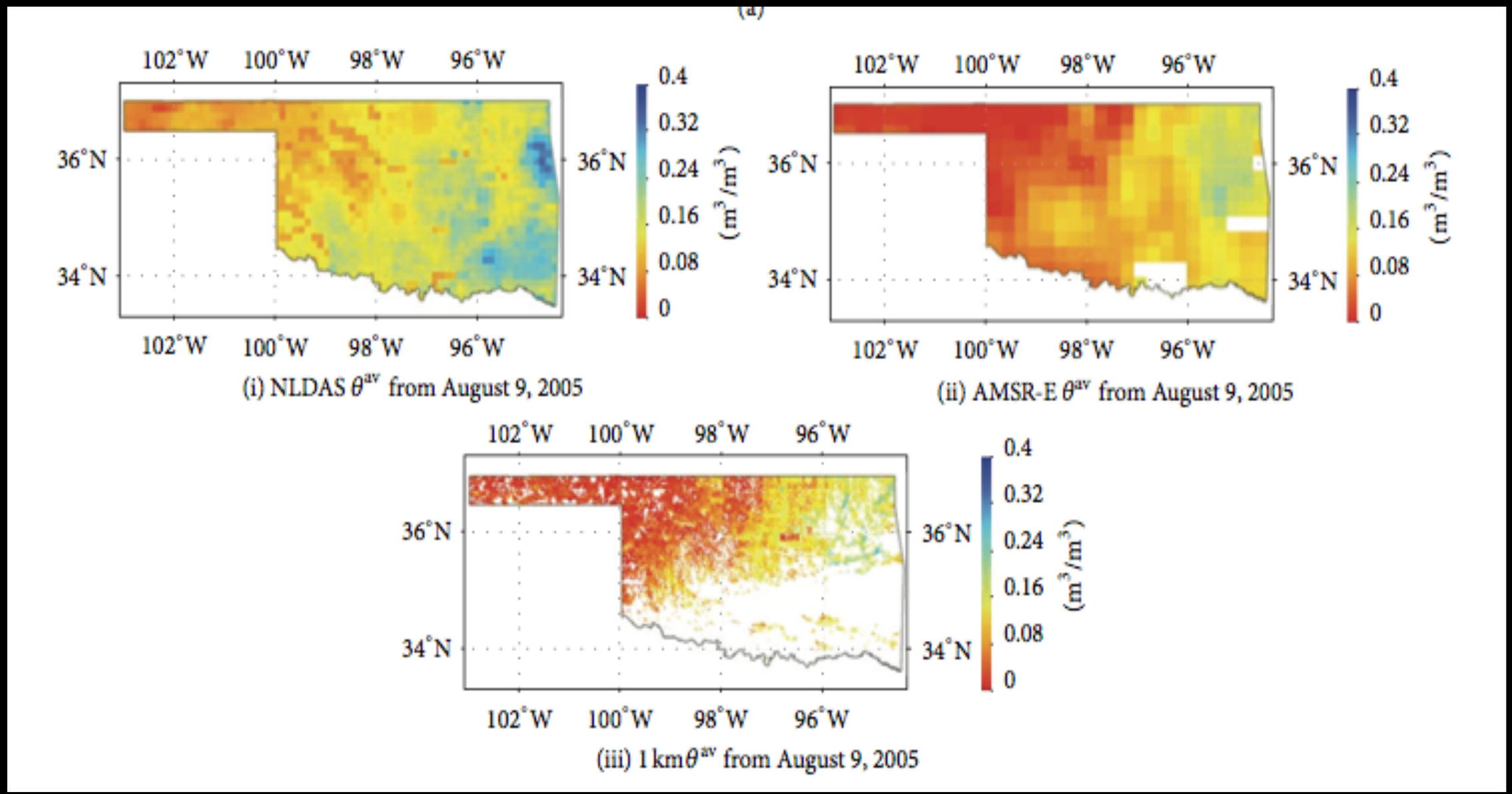
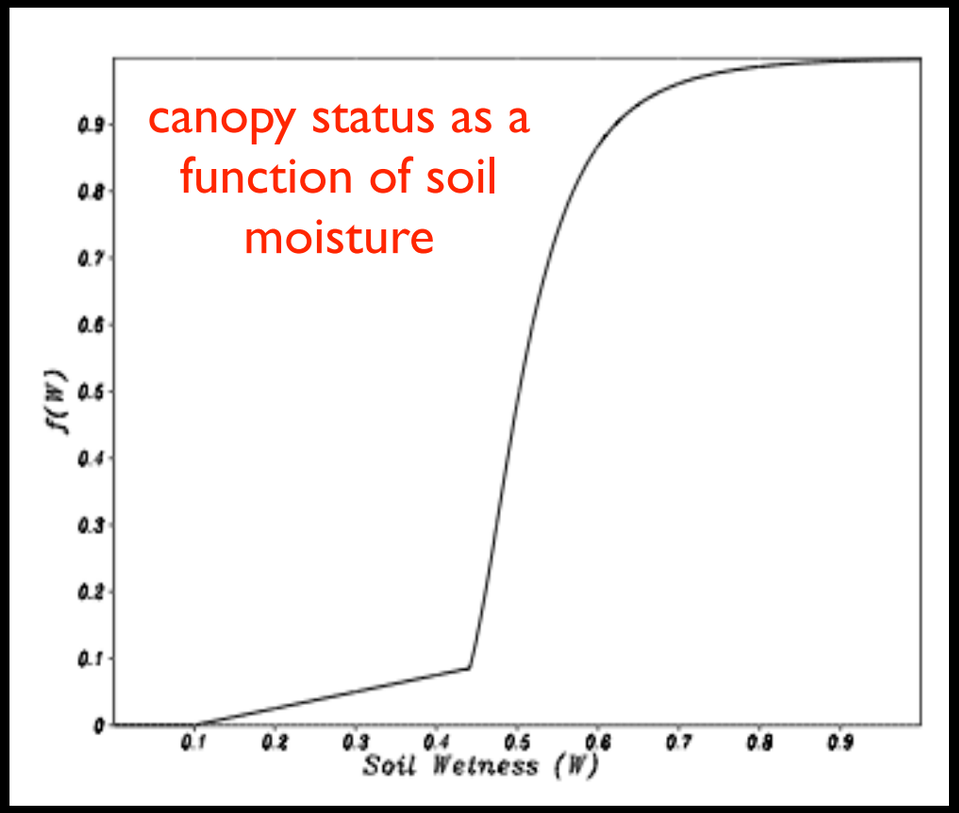
# Soil Moisture Heterogeneity

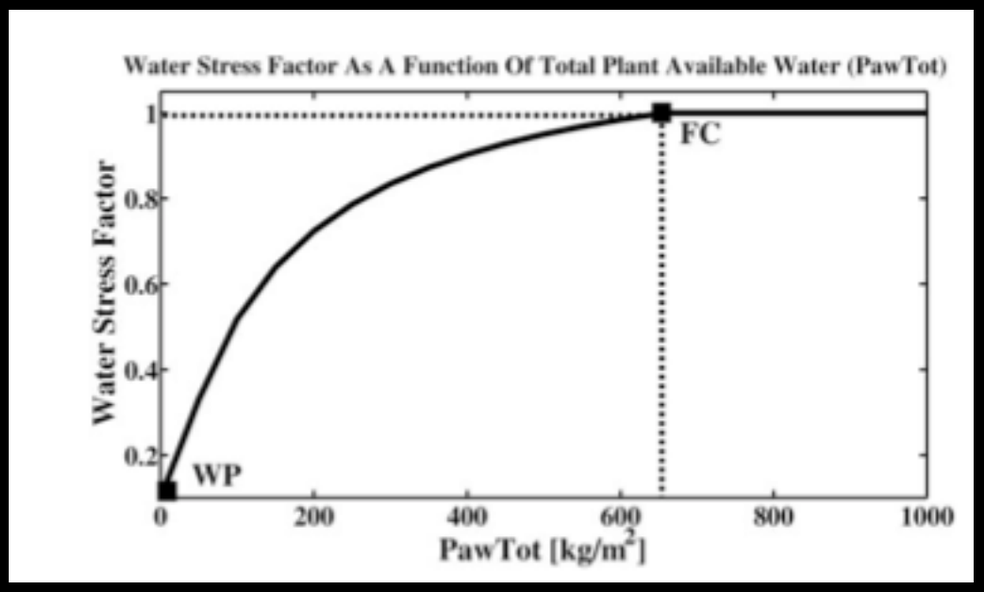



Fang et al., 2013

# Plant Response to Soil Moisture

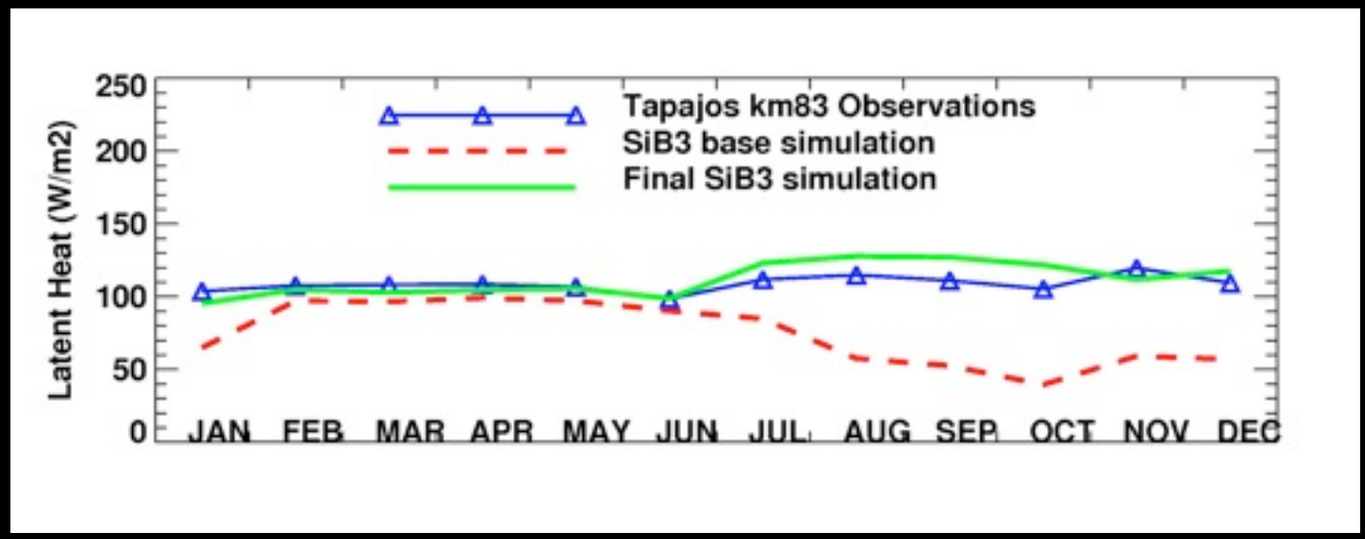


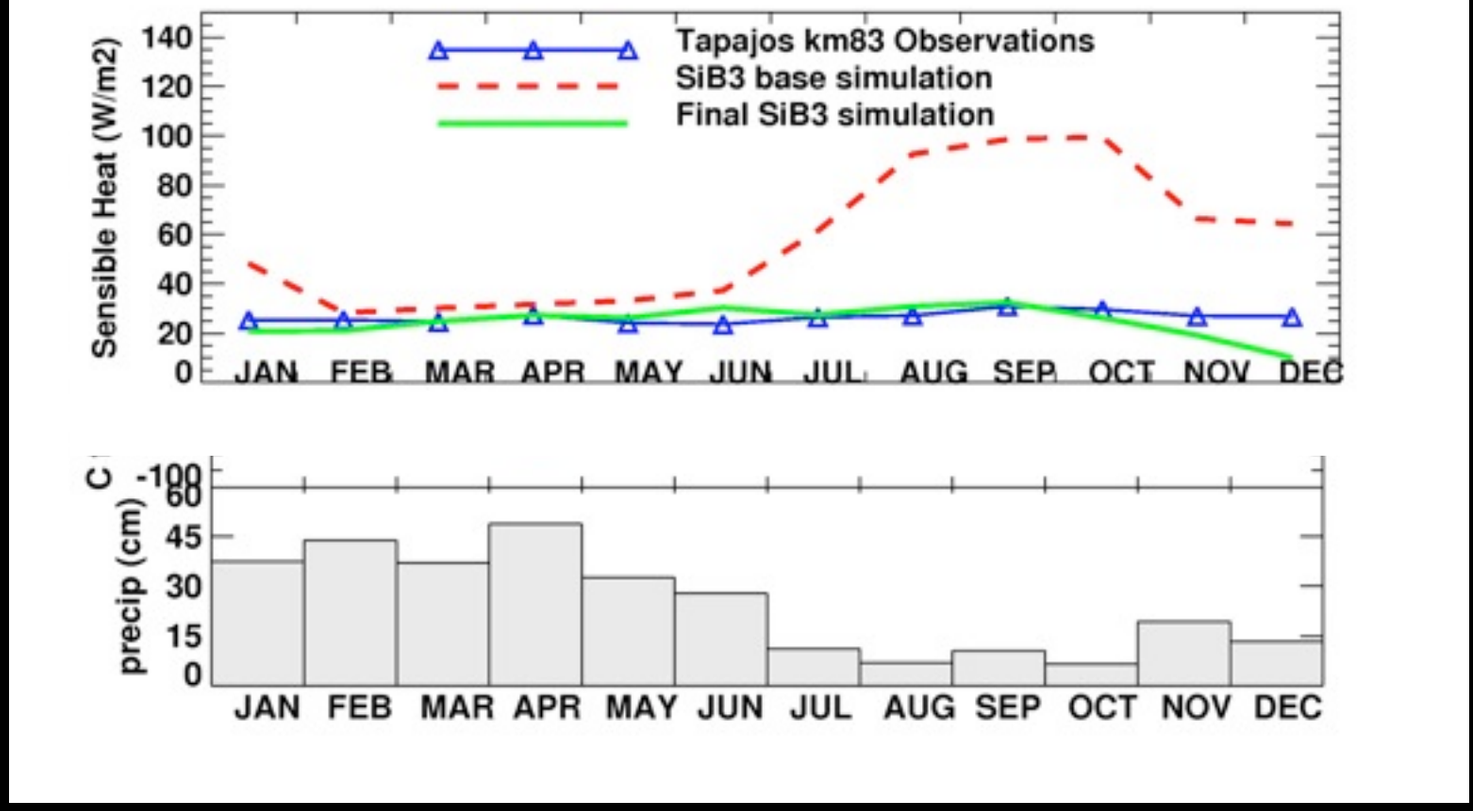

Data from FIFE (Colello et al., 1998)




Parameterized evaporation control:
Baker et al. (2008), Medina et al. (2014)

Baker et al. (2008)

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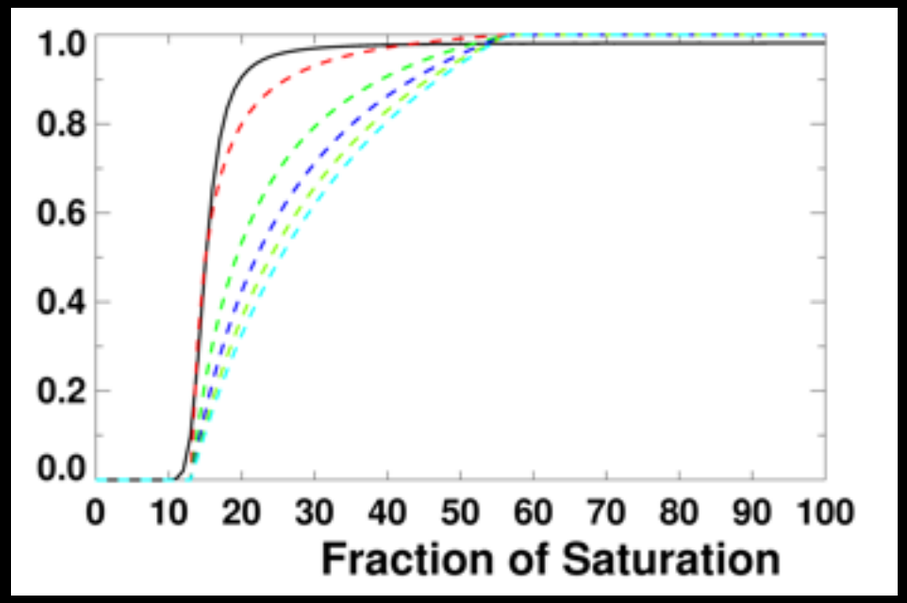
# The problem with doing it this way

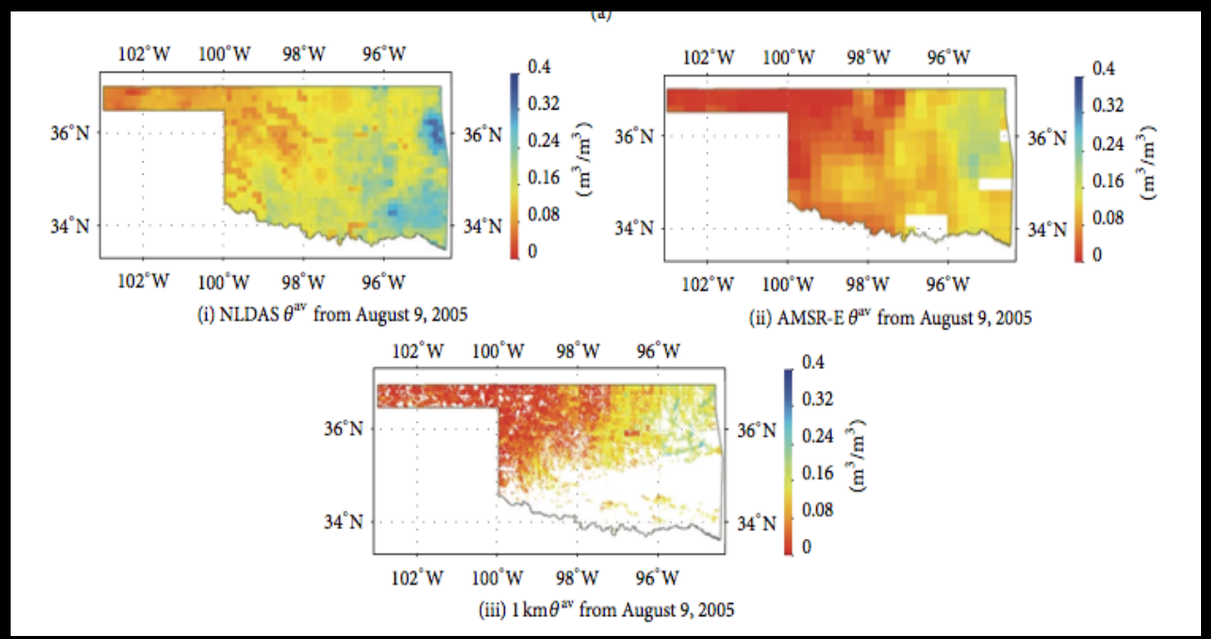
f(w)




$$E = E_p f(W)$$

$$< E > \neq E_p f(< W >)$$

$$\overline{f(x)} \neq f(\bar{x})$$

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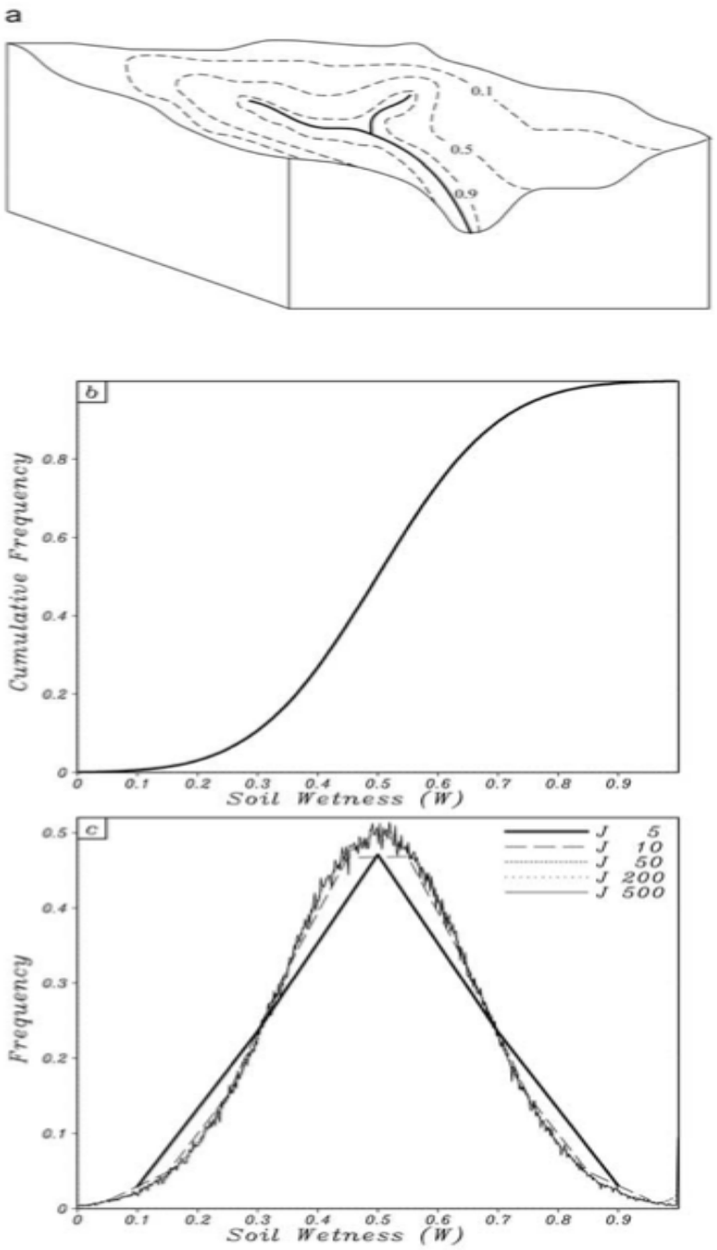
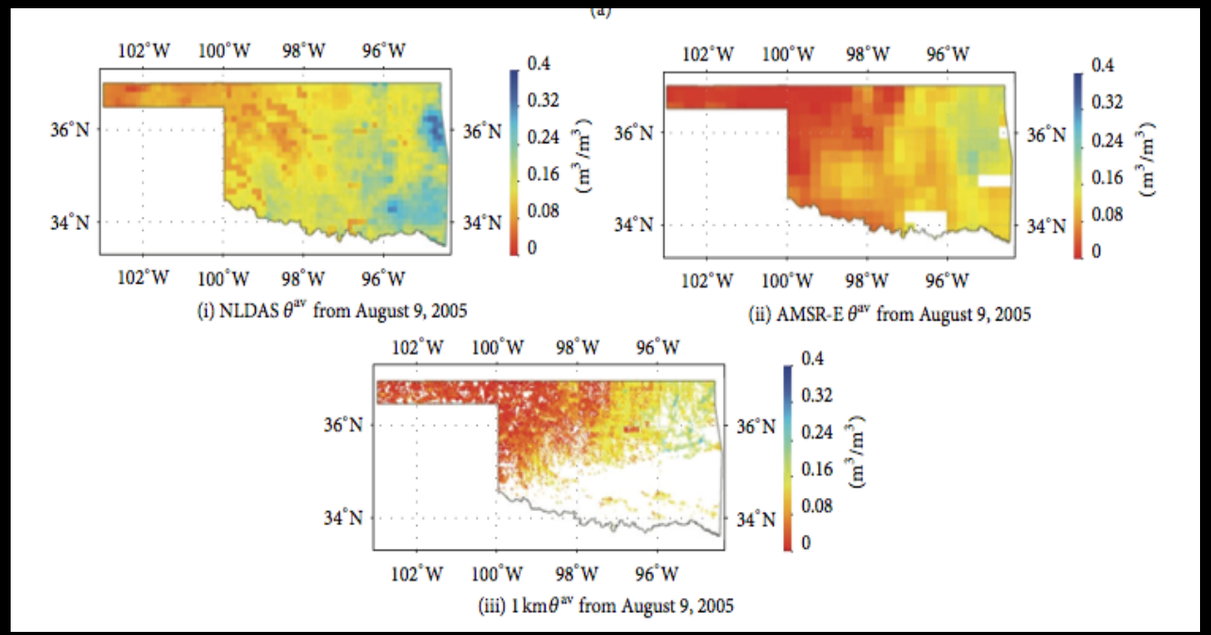
# A New Approach: Wetness Bins



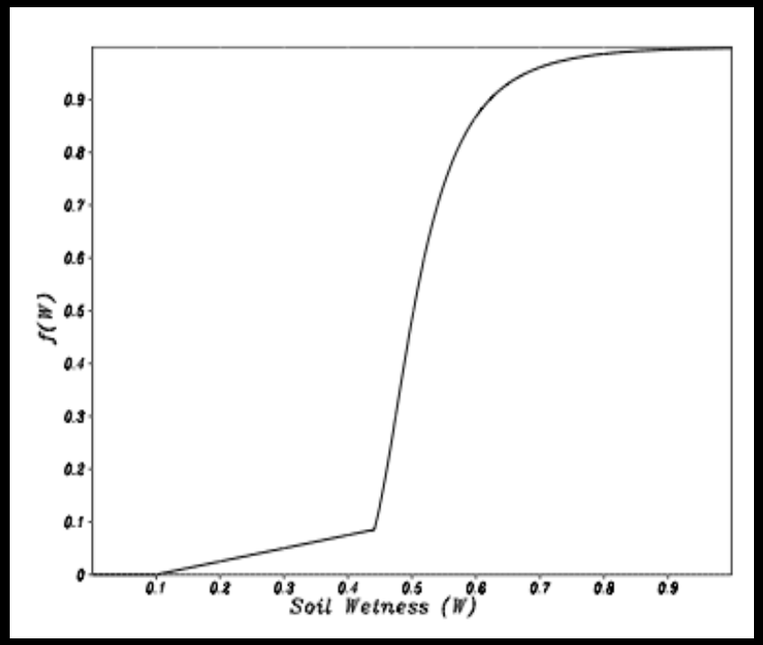

Several ways to consider wetness: from Sellers et al. (2007)




- We can define a finite number of 'bins' within the model to represent spatial variability in wetness

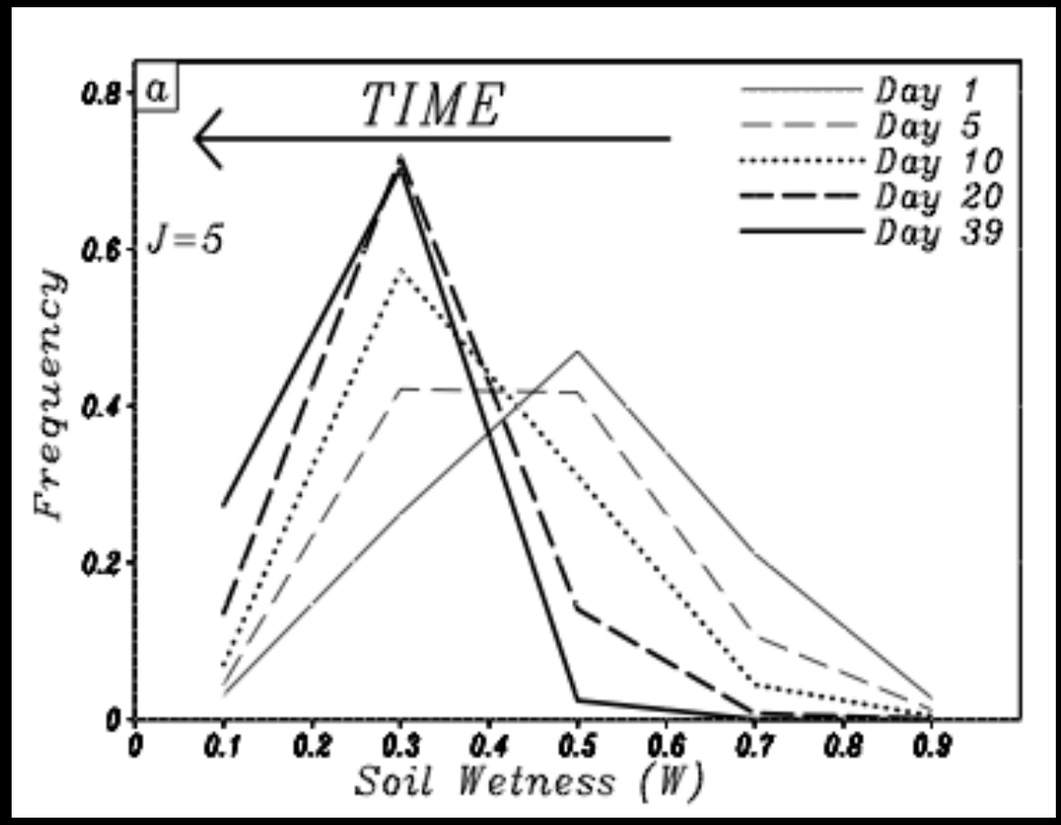
# Toy Model

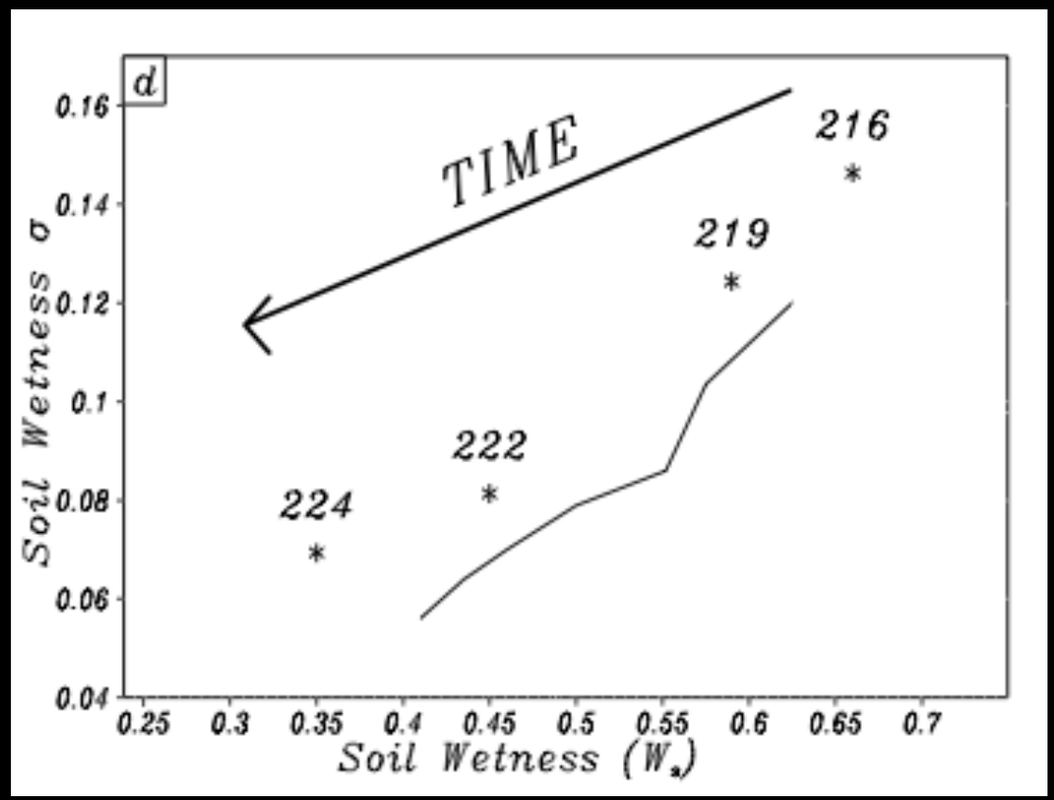
(Sellers et al., 2007)




$$< E >= E_p \int_A f(W) da$$

$$\int_A f(W) da \sim \sum_{j=1}^{nbins} f(W_j) a_j$$

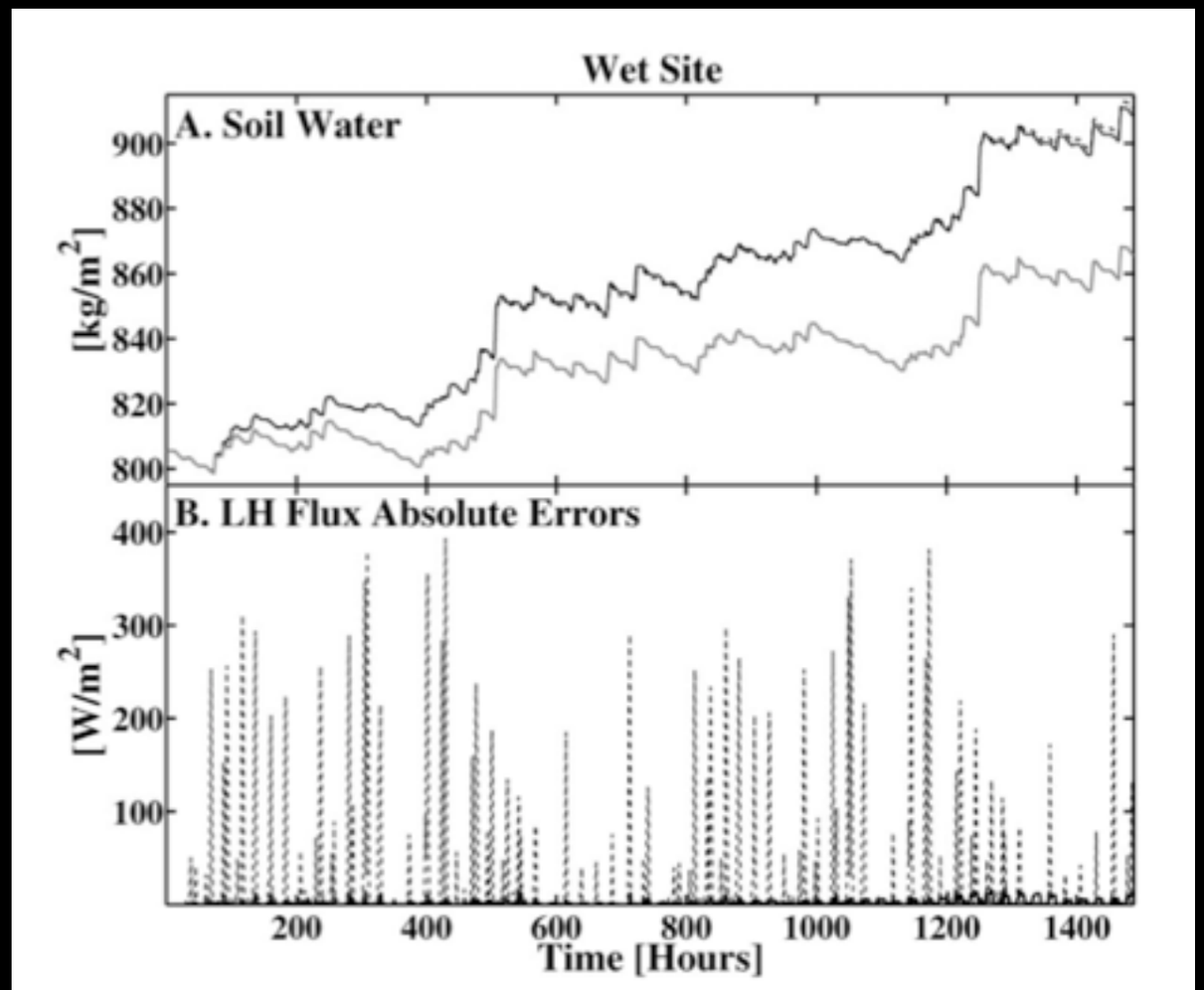


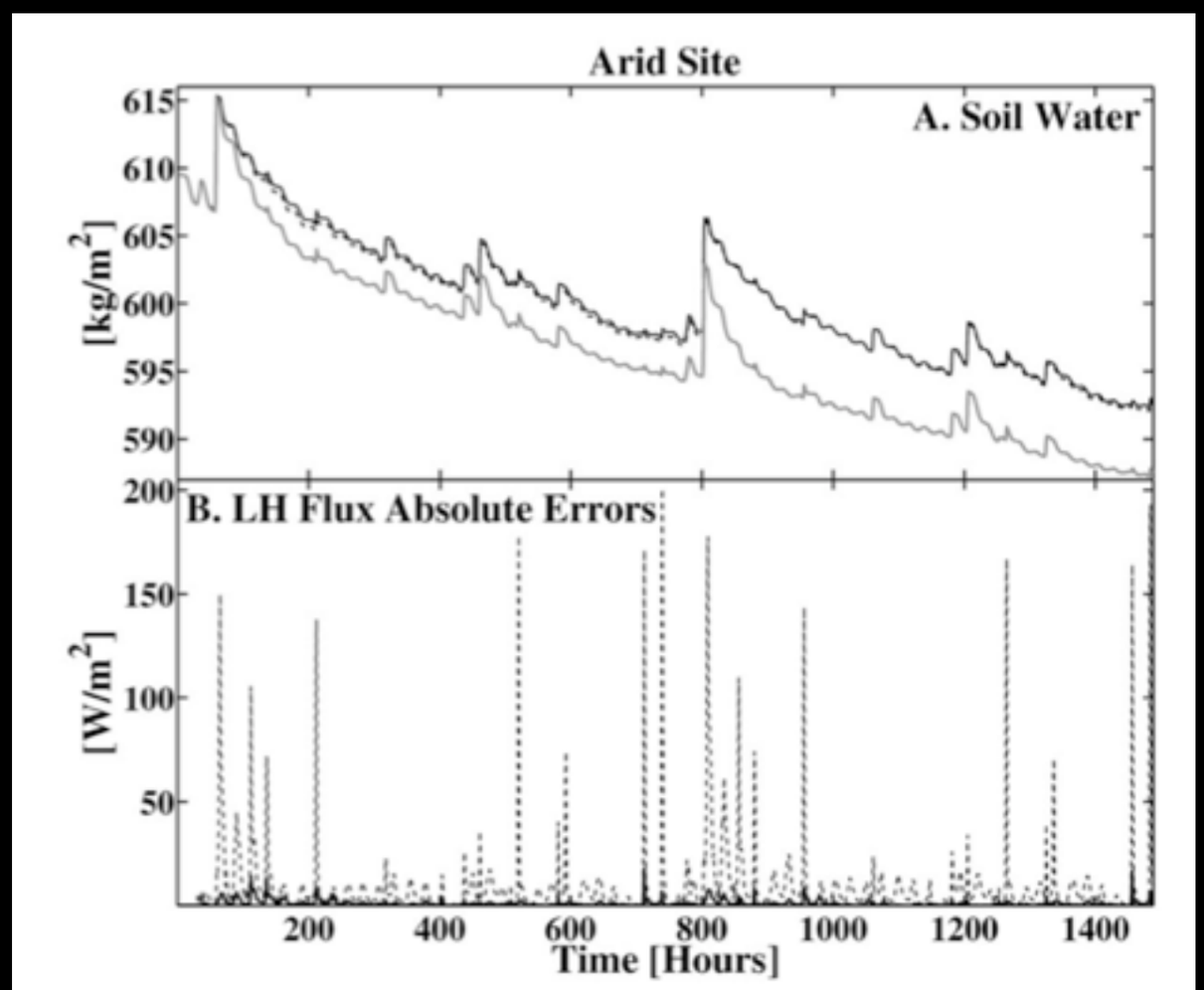



# From the Toy to the Full Model

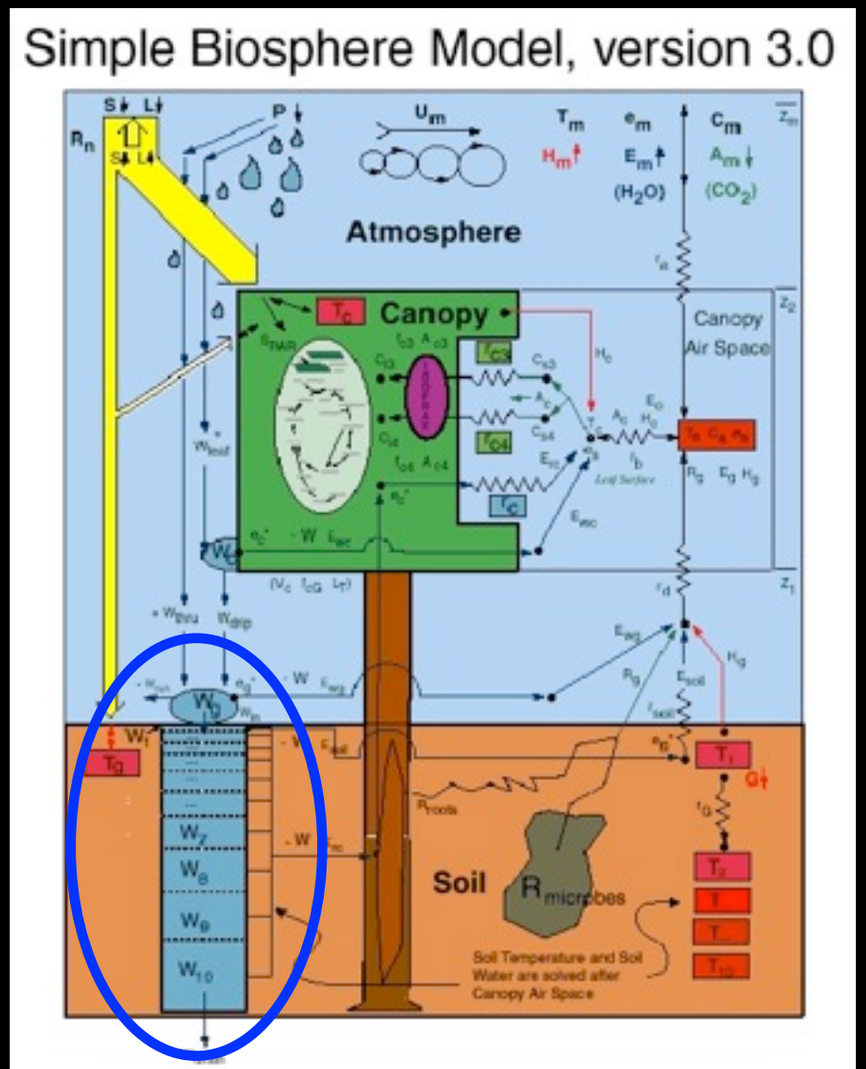
- Medina et al., JAMES, 2014

black = $\overline{f(x)}$ gray = $f(\bar{x})$ dashed = bins

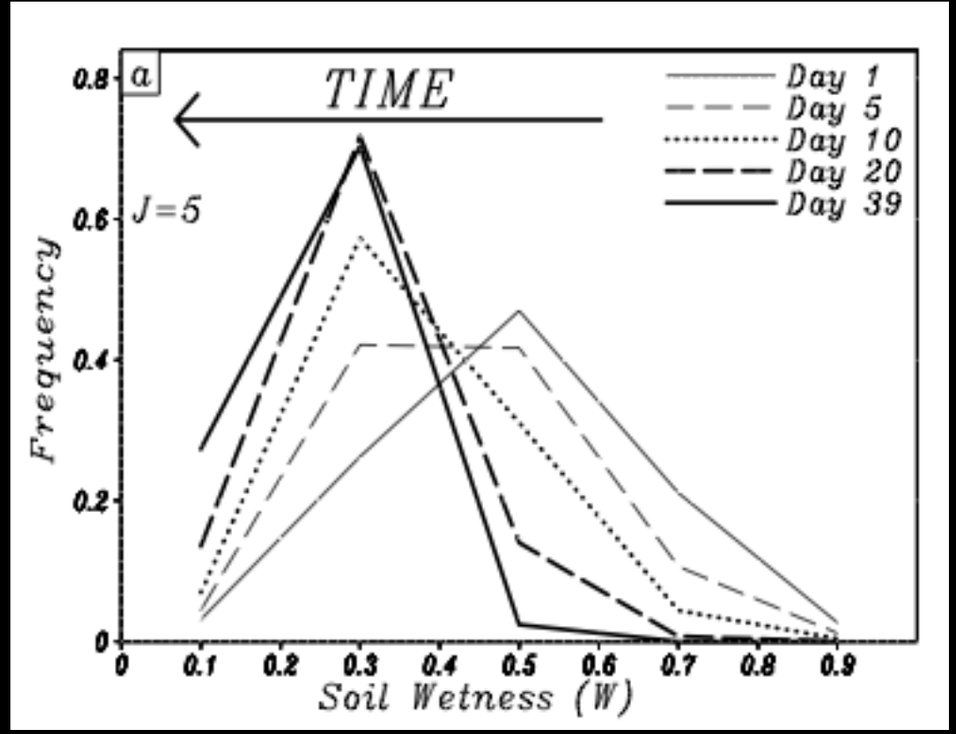


# From the Toy to the Full Model




- PROBLEM: How can we reconcile a single'wetness' bin with a vertically-variable soil column?

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# Solution: Modify Model Sequence

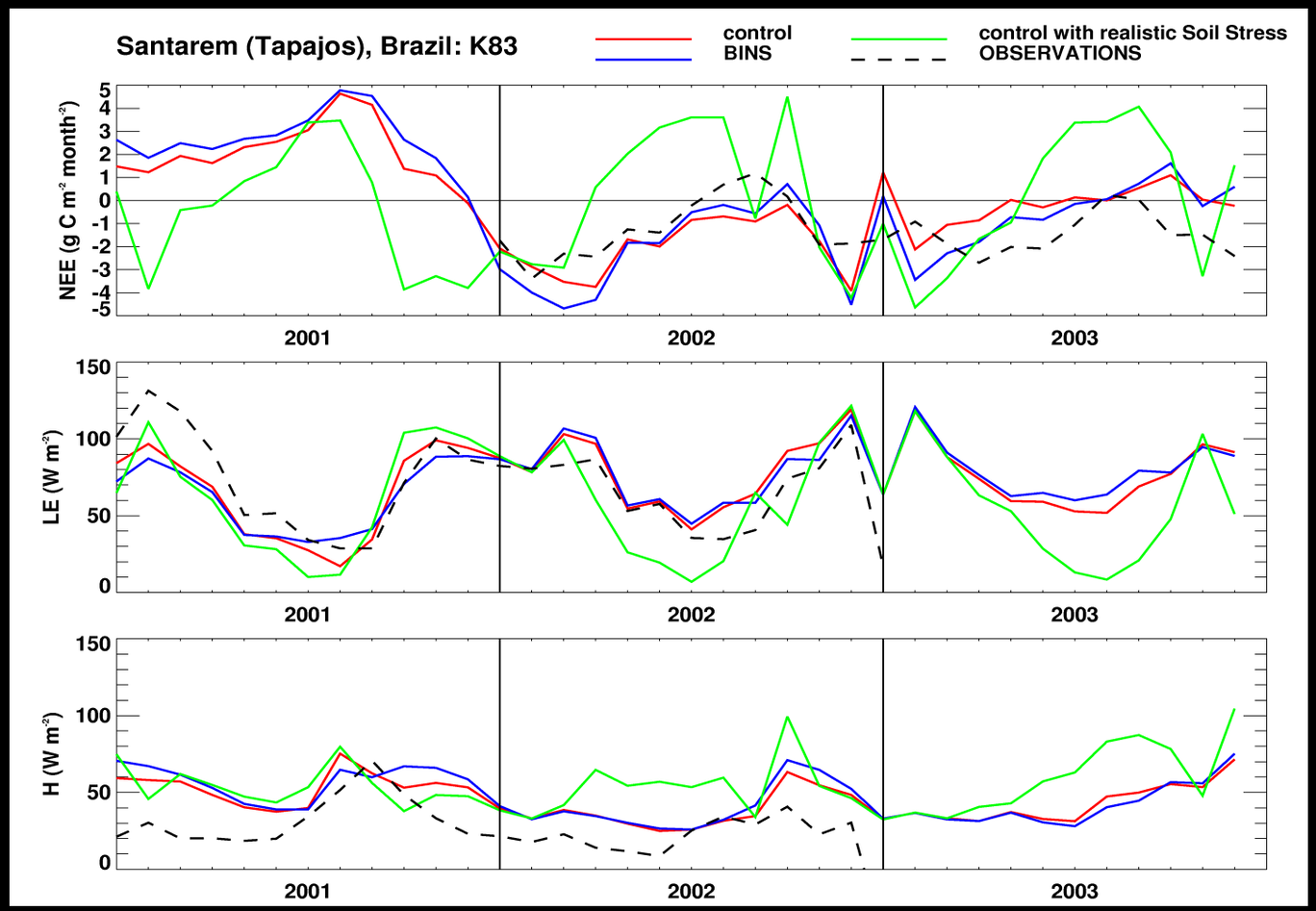
1. Precipitation onto canopy (throughfall, drainage)
2. Surface interception/runoff/infiltration
3. Update bins/z-column
4. Determine stress f(W)

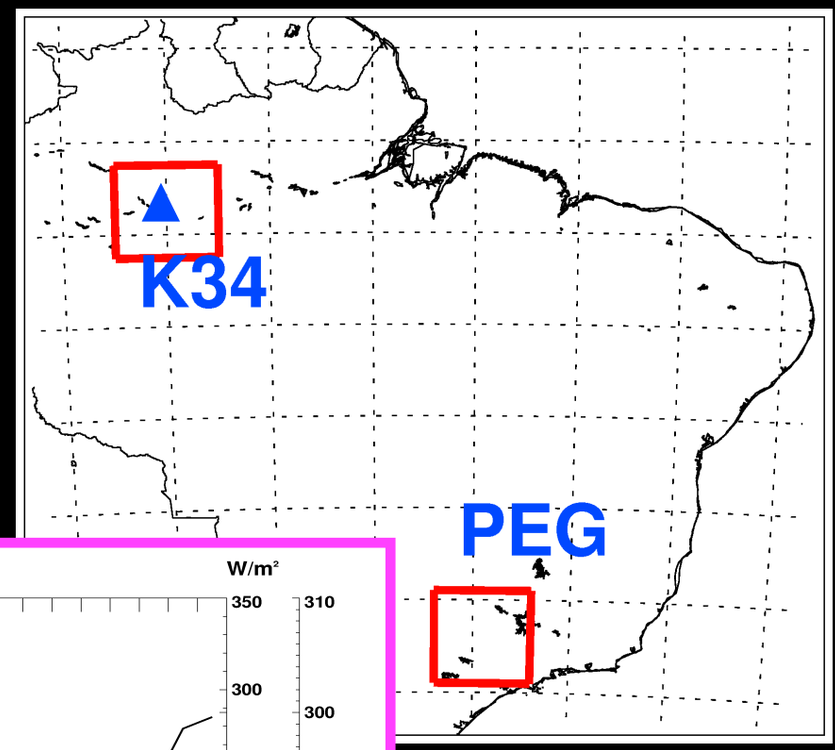
$$\int_A f(W)da \sim \sum_{j=1}^{nbins} f(W_j)a_j$$

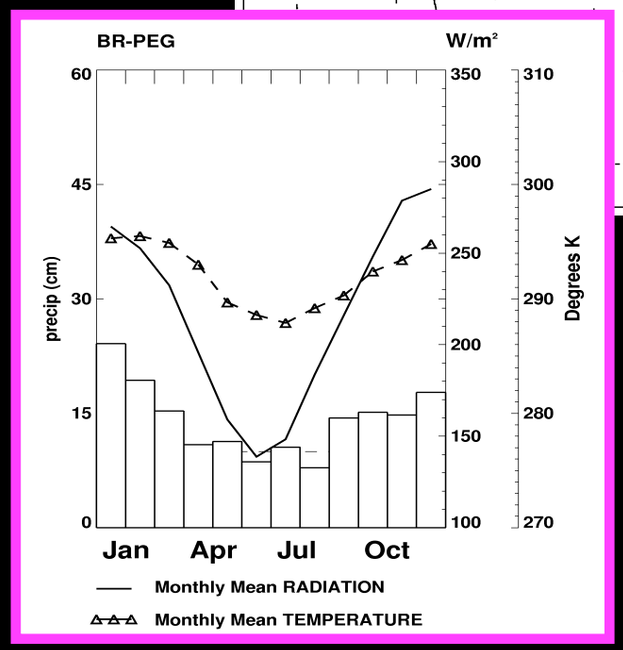
5. Calculate Energy/Moisture exchange
6. Remove water from soil (transpiration)
7. Update bins/z-column

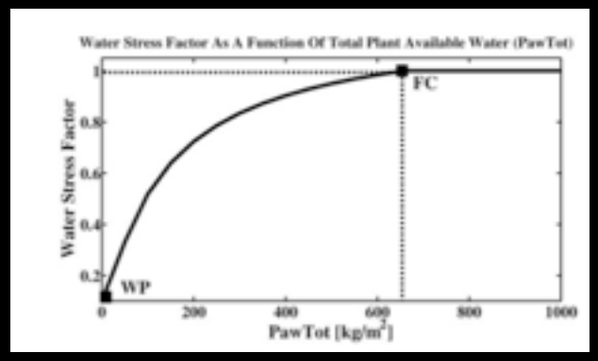
$$\sum_{j=1}^{nbins} W_j a_j = \sum_{i=1}^{nsoil} W_i, z_i$$

# Results: A Site That Works (PEG)



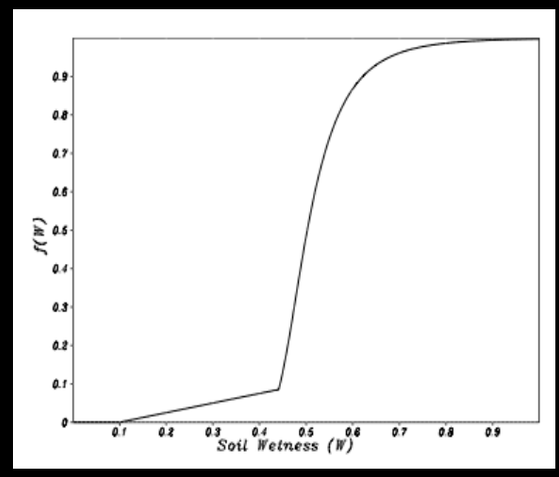




f(w) for the control run (red)

f(w) for 'control w/ realistic' (green) and bin (blue) runs

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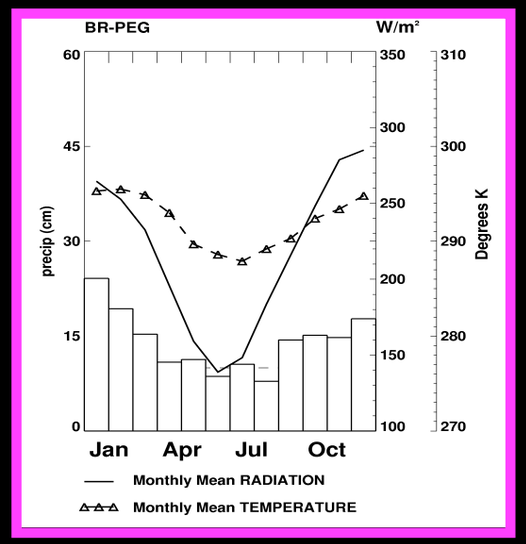
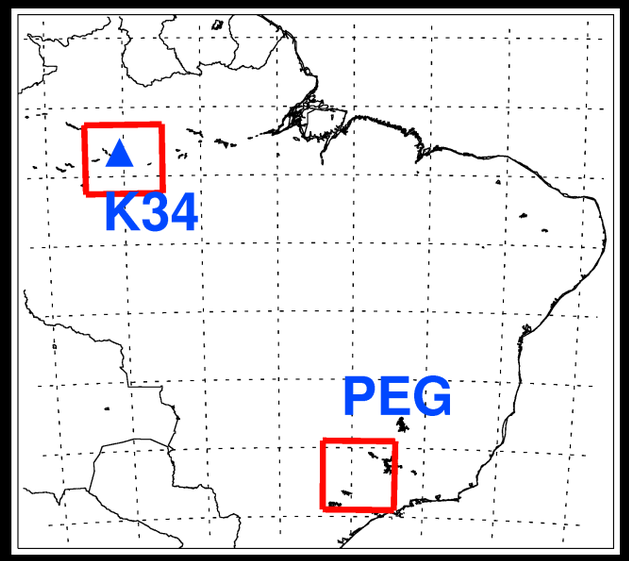
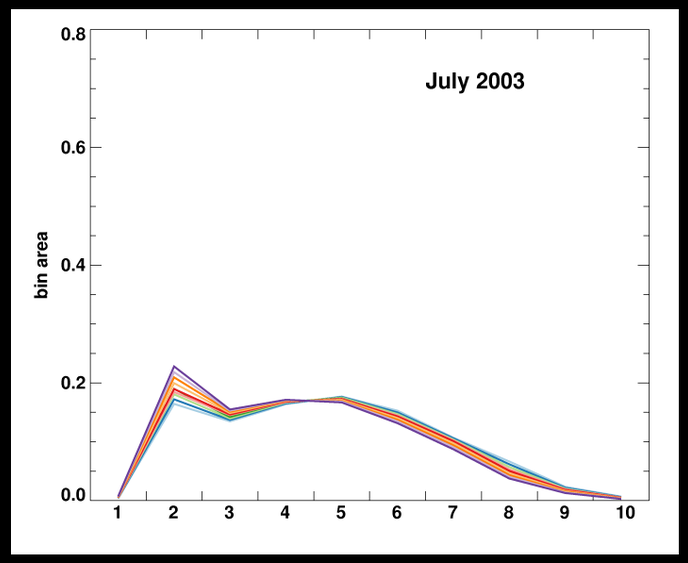
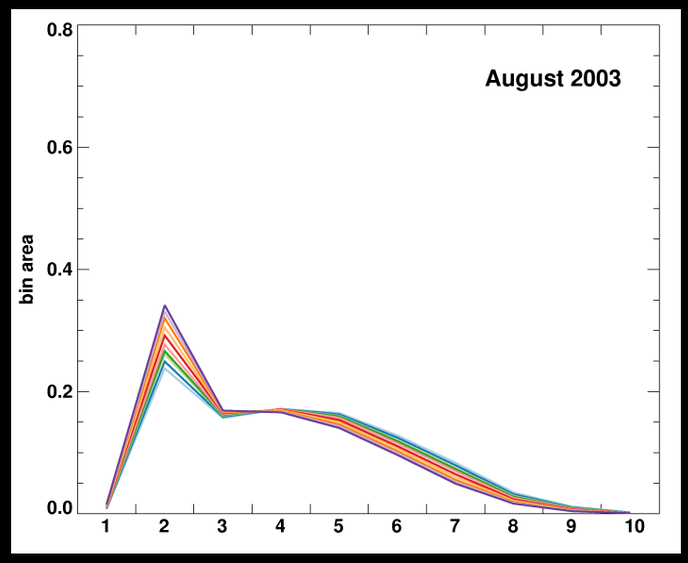
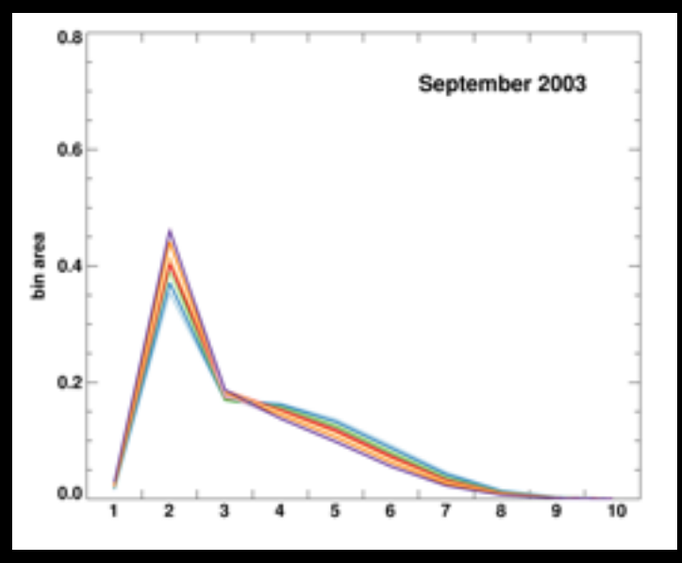


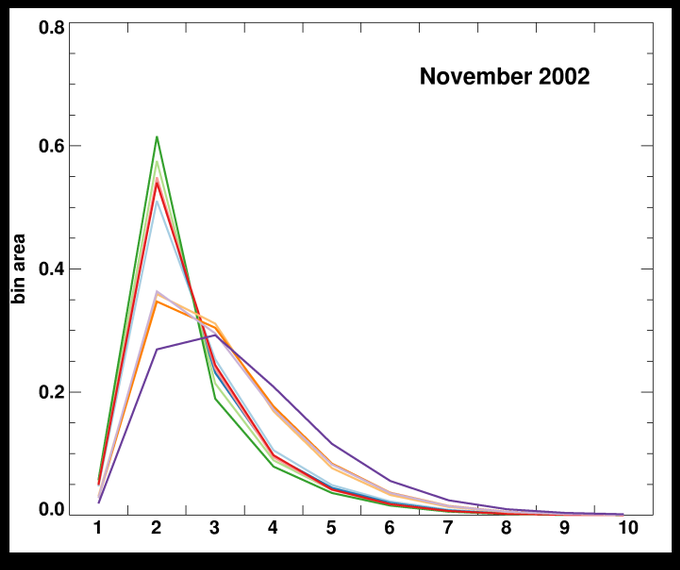

Drying

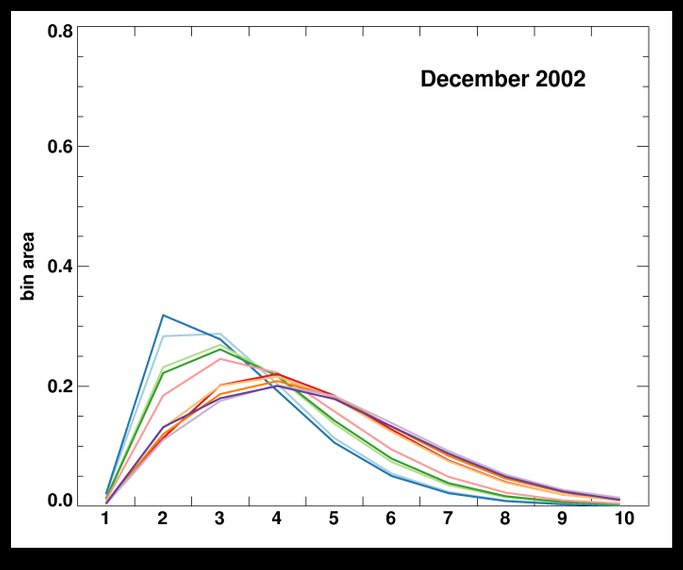


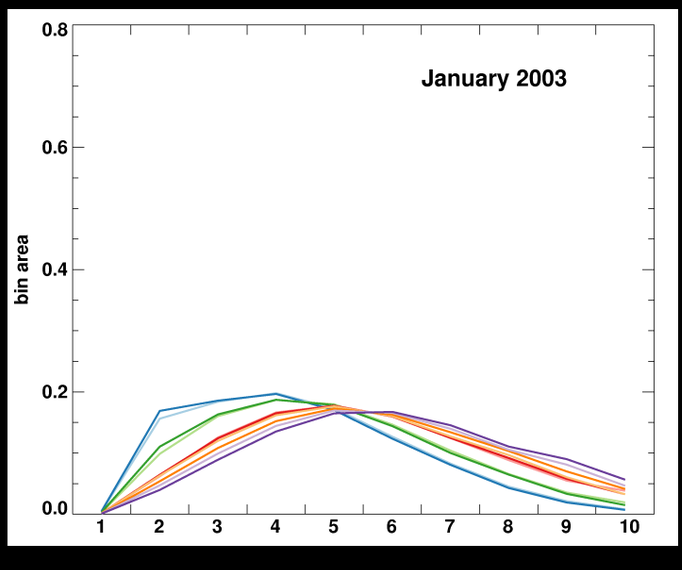




Moistening

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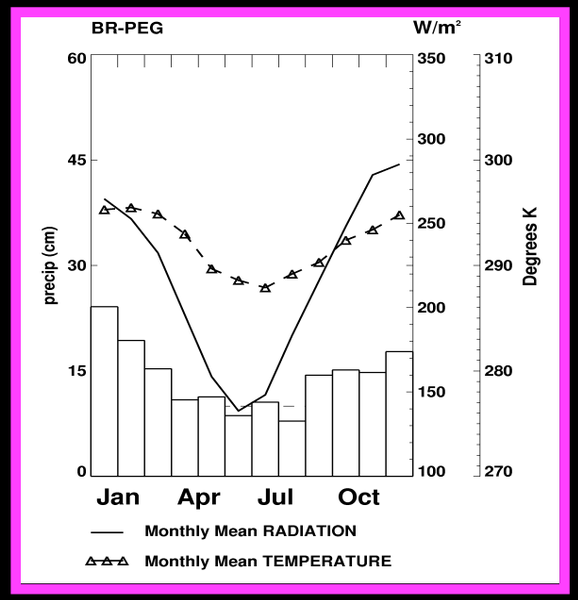
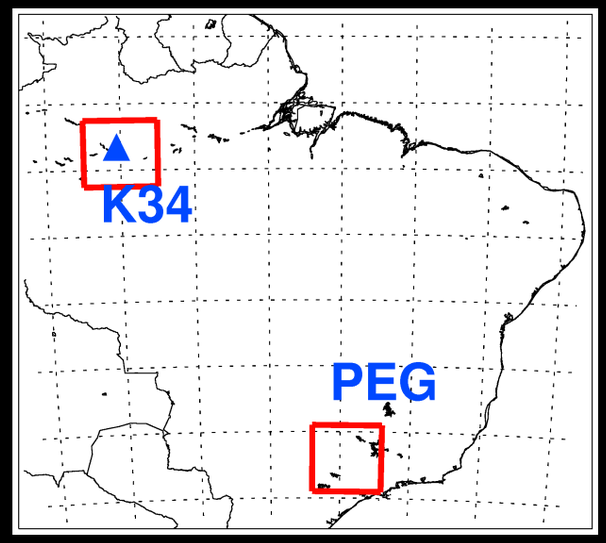
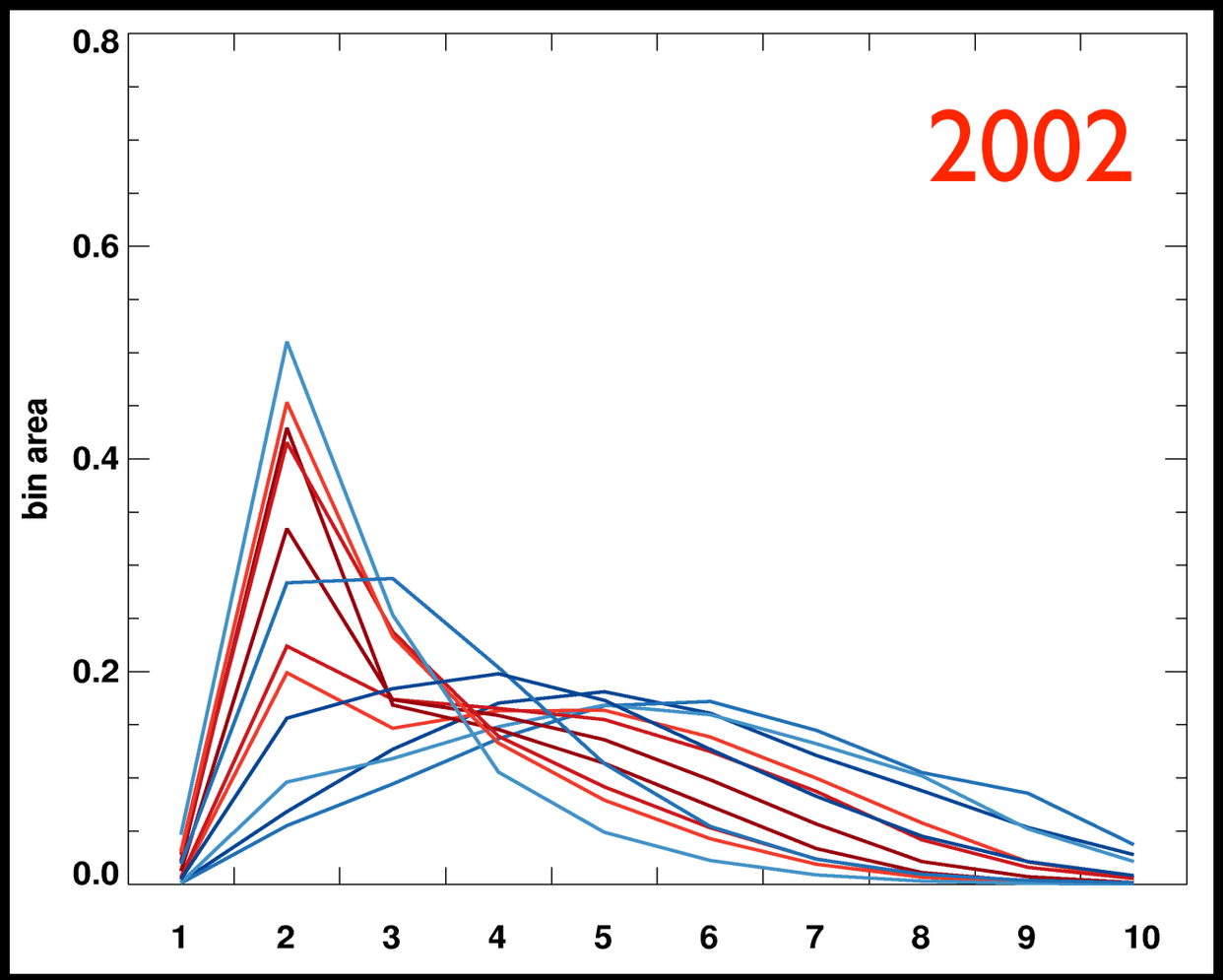
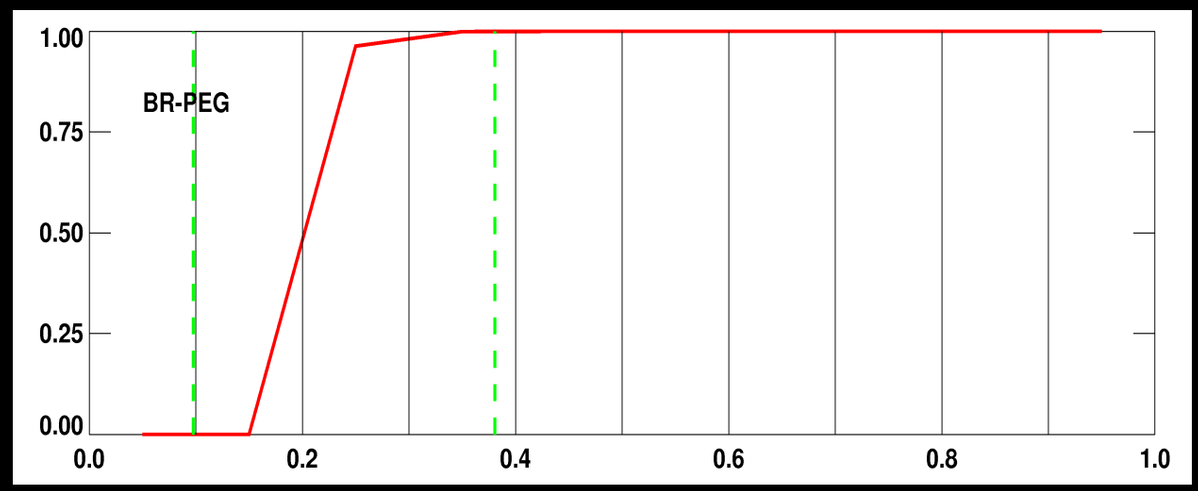
# Results: A Site That Works




evaporation control f(w)

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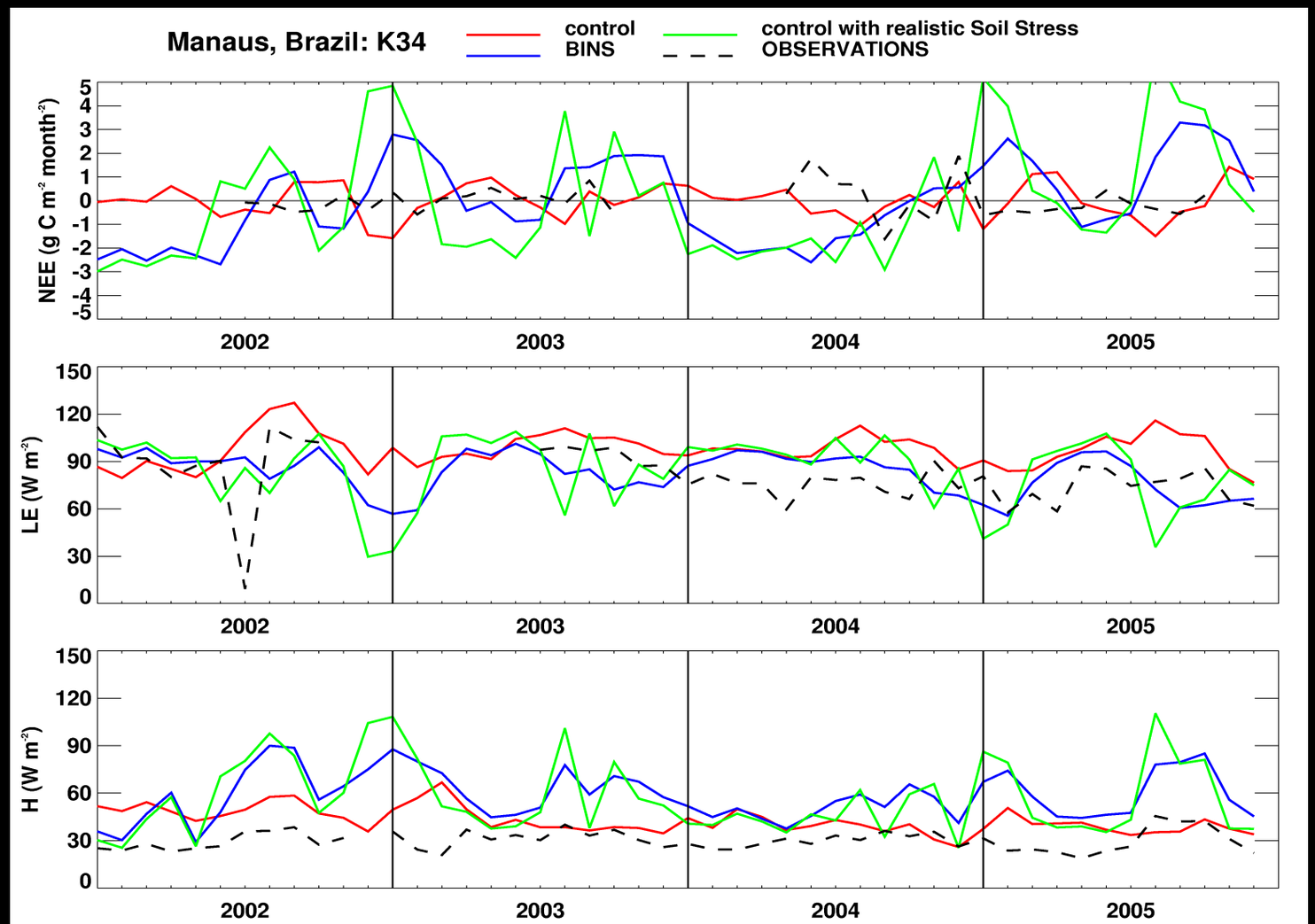
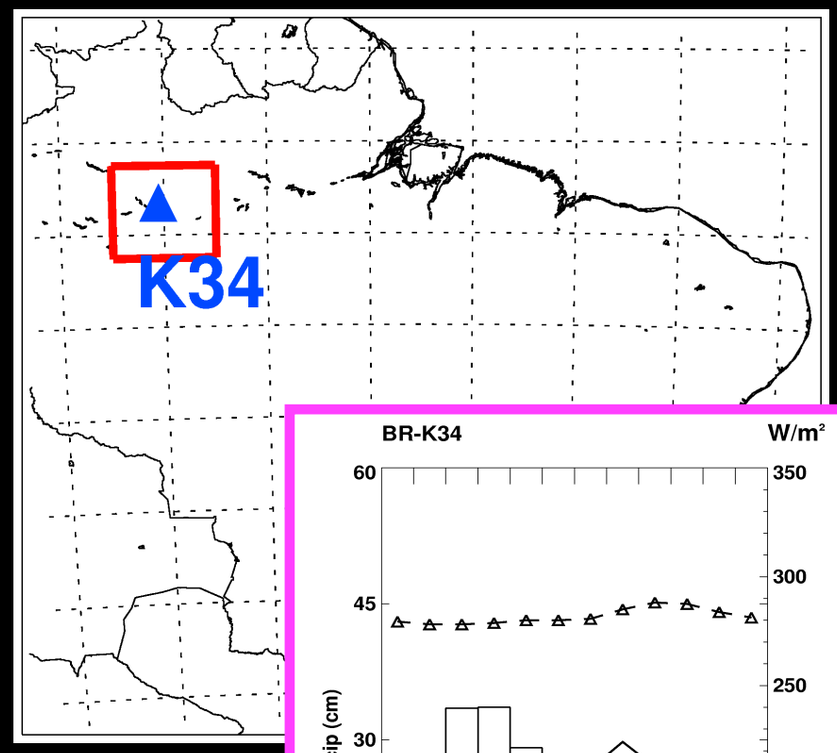
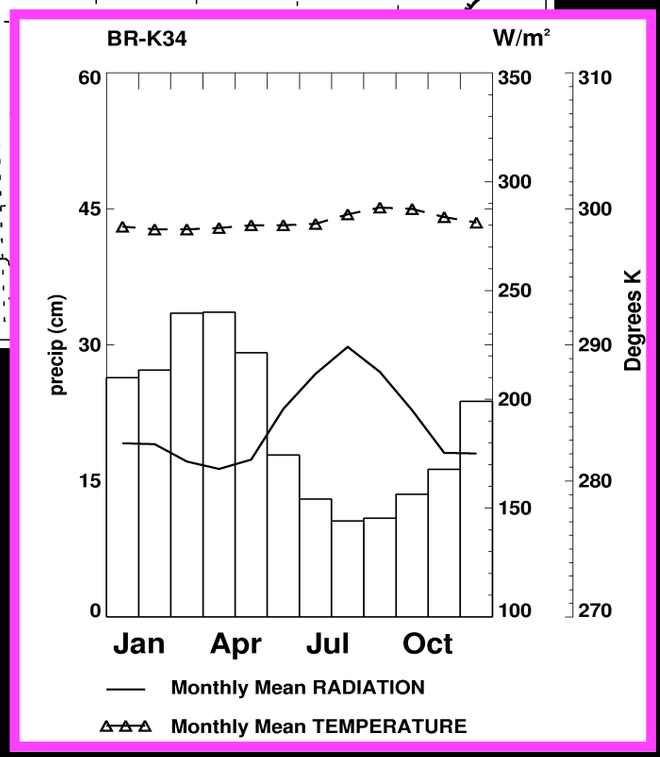
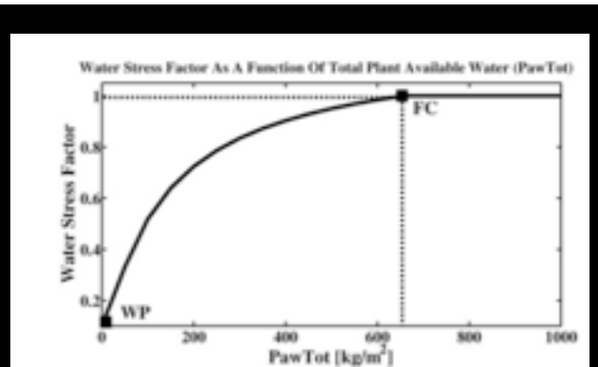
# Results: A Site That Doesn't Work



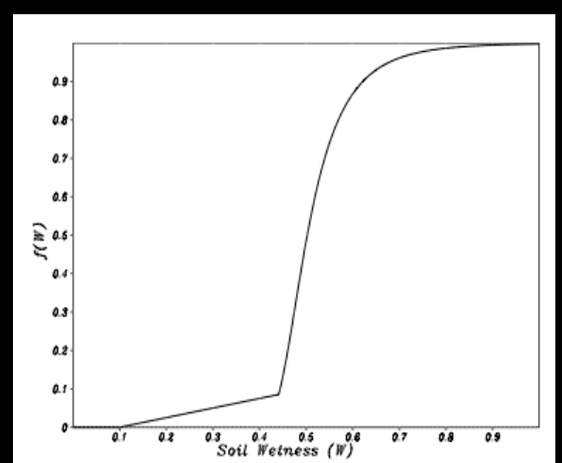




f(w) for the control run (red)

f(w) for 'control w/ realistic' (green) and bin (blue) runs

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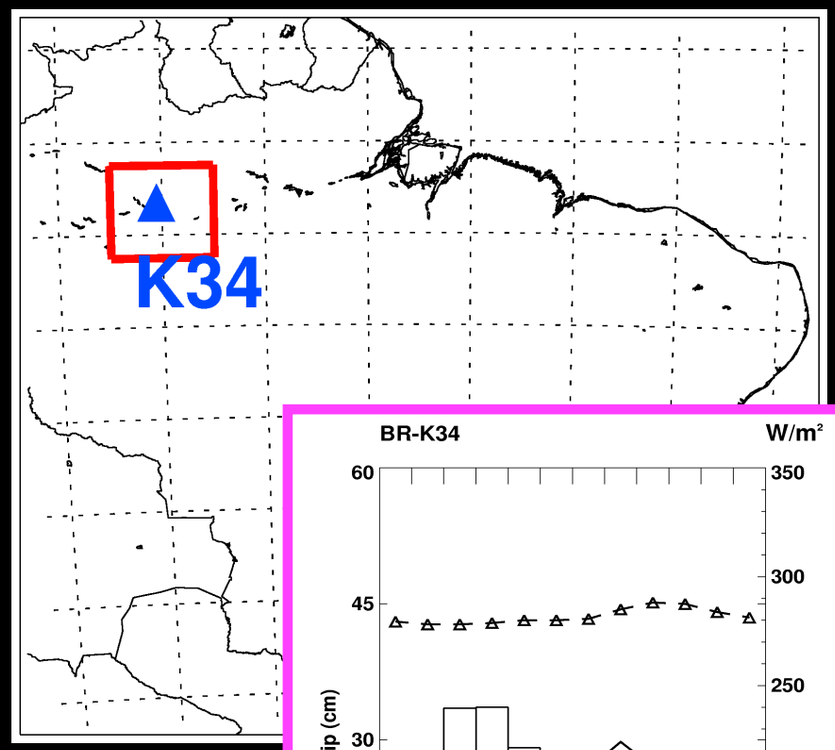
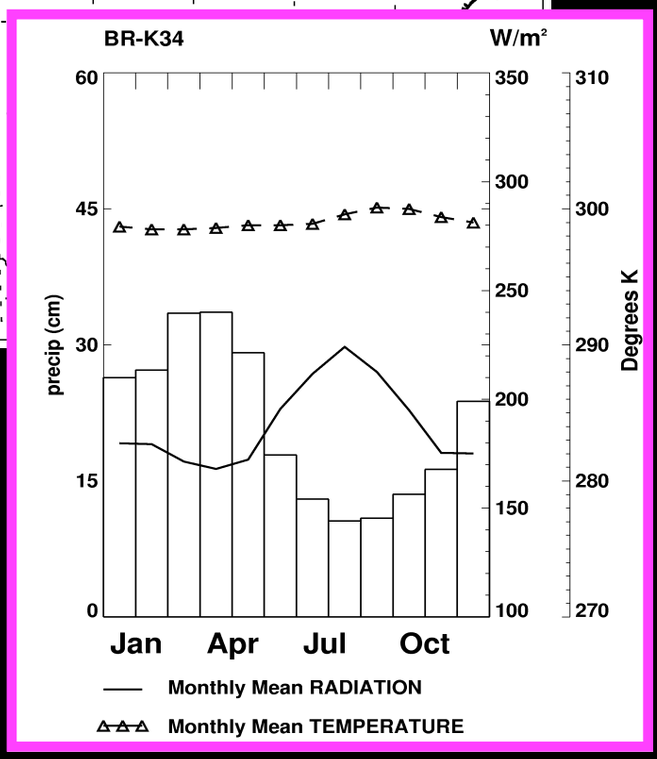
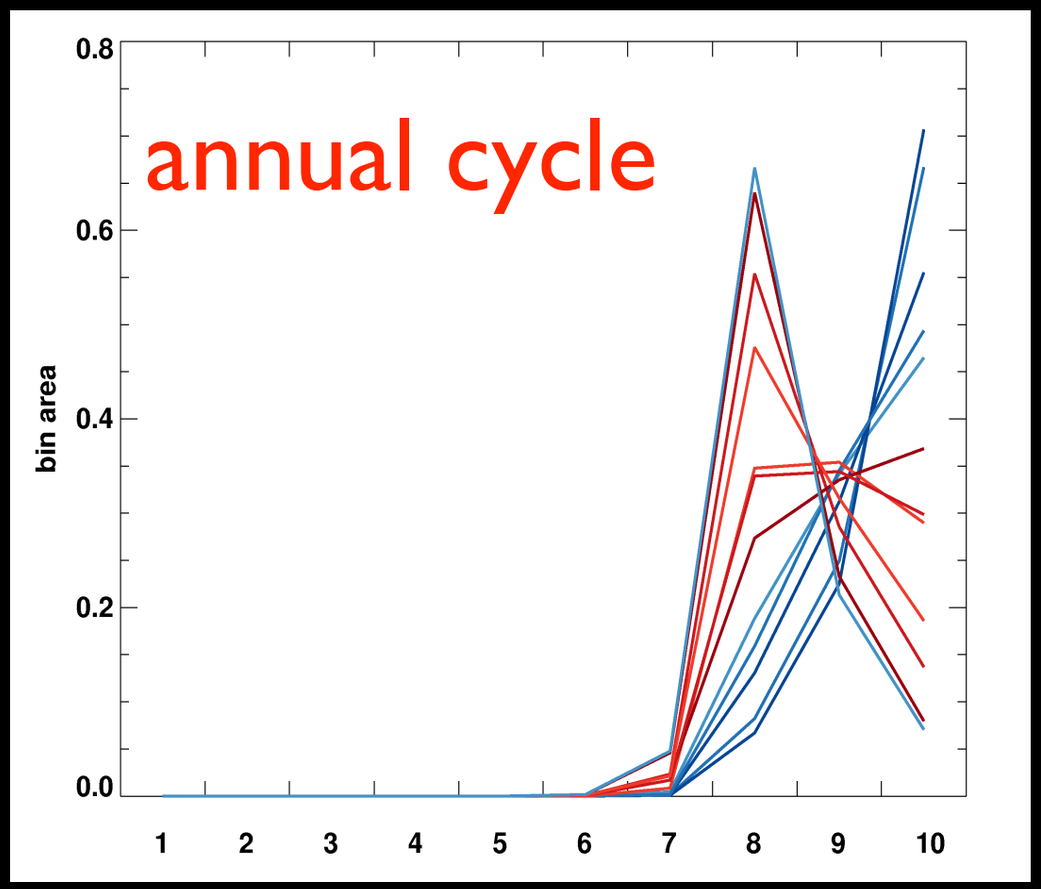
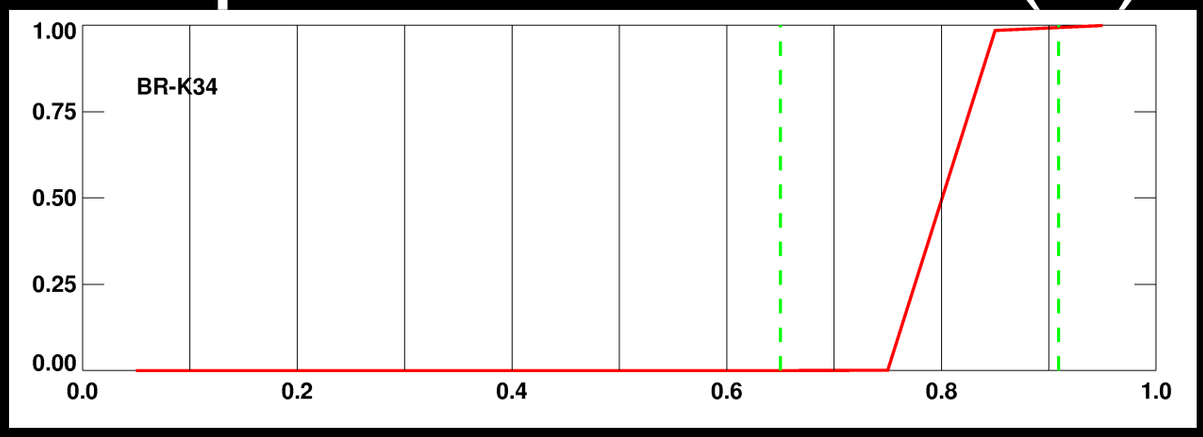
# Results: A Site That Doesn't Work




## evaporation control f(w)




## fraction of saturation/bin

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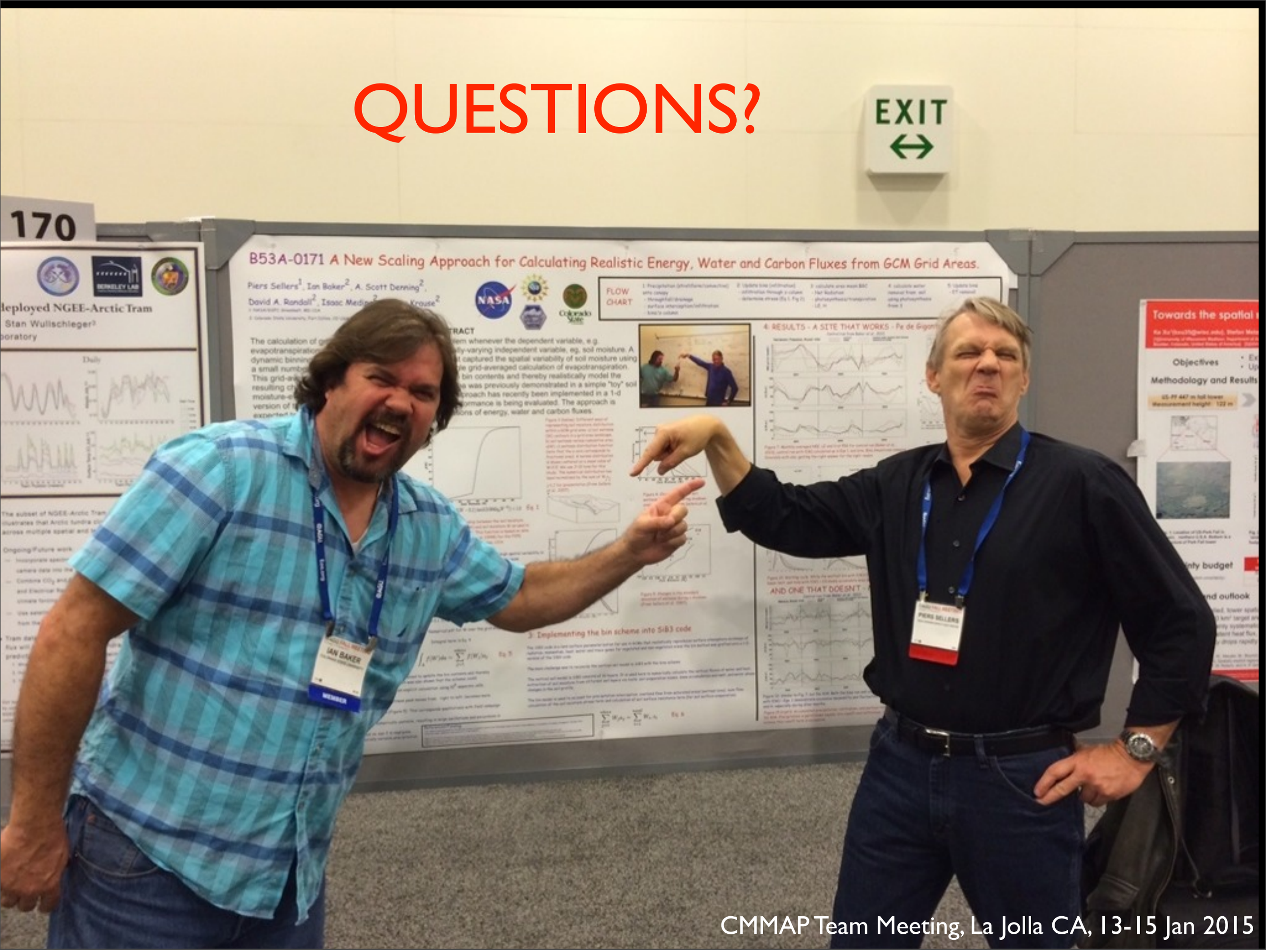
# Conclusions

- The bins work quite well in semi-arid to arid regions
- Some problems in wet tropical forests
- Code is robust to bin number, bin spacing
- Energy and water balance to machine precision (bin- and z-columns)

# Implementation

- Should we see bins as an alternative to CRMs?
- Are bins a complement to MASL?
- Or would bins coupled to MAML provide a link to hydrology?

# QUESTIONS?

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