# Pressure Driven Water Movement from the Bedrock to the Vegetation Canopy – Noah-MP Research Overview at Univ of Arizona

Guo-Yue Niu

University of Arizona

Collaborators: Yuanhao Fang, Xue-Yan Zhang, Dongnan Jian

Noah-MP Workshop at NCAR RAL, 5/23/2023



# New Developments in Noah-MP at UA

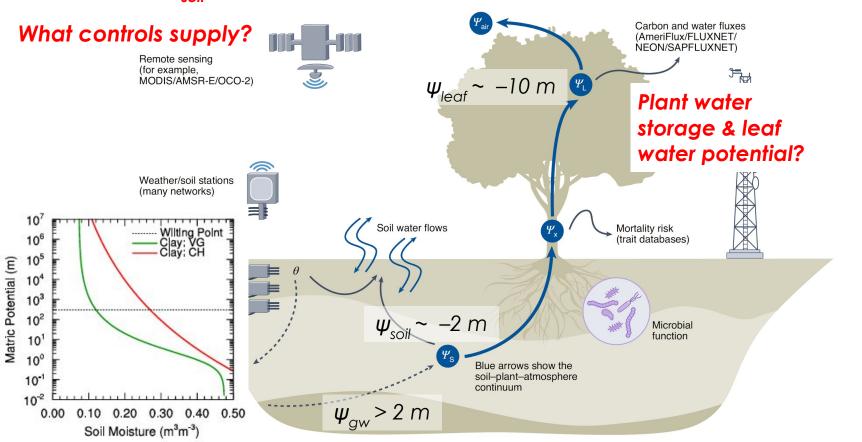
- 1. Canopy Heat Storage (Niu and Yang, 2004)
- 2. Rain-Snow Partitioning Scheme Based on T<sub>wet</sub> (Wang et al., 2019)
- 3. Dynamic Root Model and Plant Hydraulics (Niu et al., 2020)
- 4. A Dual-Permeability Model Based on the Mixed-Form Richards Eq. (Niu et al., 2023)

How to represent Soil/Plant Hydraulics in models?

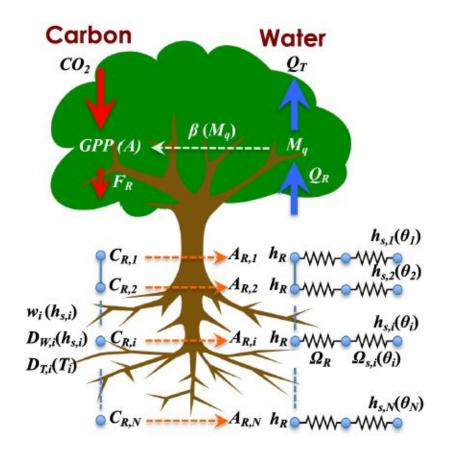


# Pressure-Driven Water Movement in the Soil-Plant System

What controls E<sub>soil</sub> and Transpiration? Demand & Supply



## Dynamic Root in Noah-MP (Niue et al., 2020)



- Root hydrotropism roots grow towards water
- 2. Predicting plant water storage
- 3. Pressure driven root water uptake:

 $h_s - h_R$ 

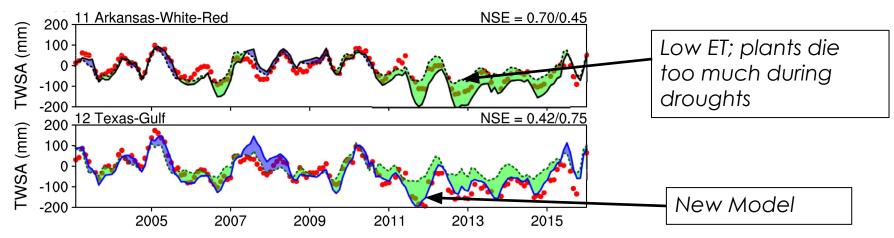
4. New btran factor

 $\beta = 1.0 - min(P_b, P_{b, wilt})/P_{b, wilt}$ 

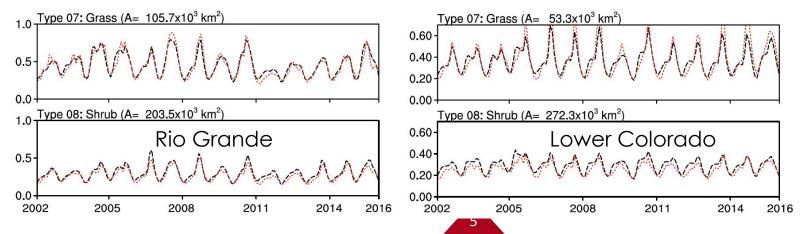
5. Plant water retention (Rodrich & Canny, 2005):

$$P_b \sim \kappa \frac{M_{q, \max} - M_q}{M_{dry} + M_{q, \max}},$$

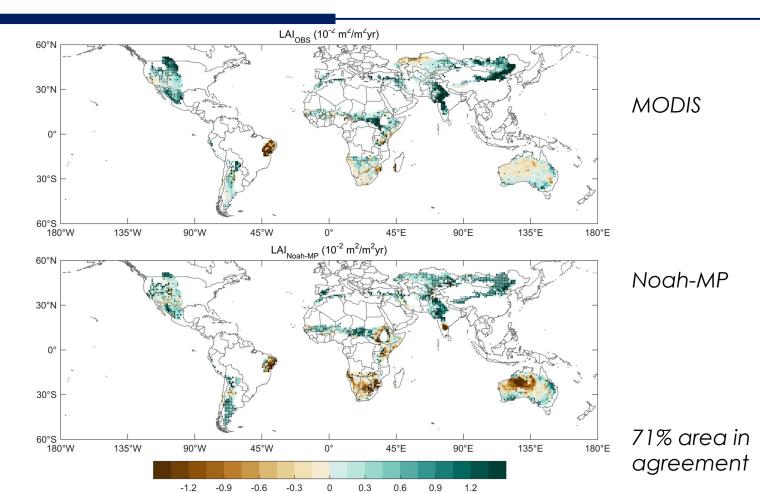
# Model Improvements



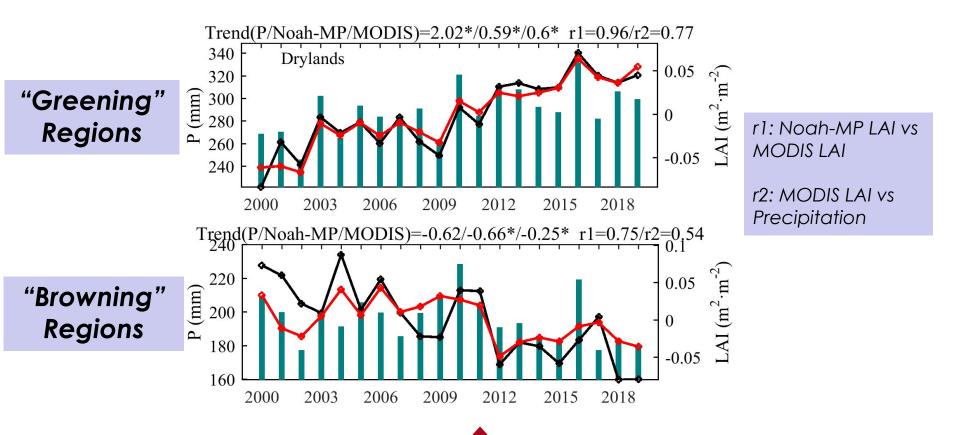
Noah-MP Modeled vs. MODIS LAI (Arid Rivers)



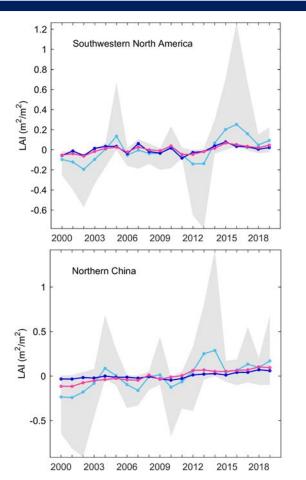
### LAI Trend in Global Water-Limited Regions

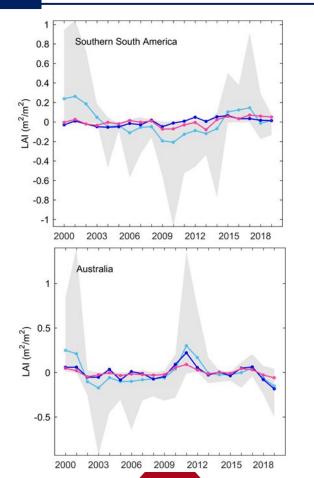


### LAI Interannual Variability and Trend in Global Water-Limited Regions



# Compared to 13 Main-Stream DGVMs in TRENDY





- 1. Other DGVMs overestimate interannual variability
- 2. Possibly due to strong water stress during droughts
- 3. Not only plant hydraulics but also soil hydraulics

### **Representing Infiltration in LSMs**

Mass-based RE:

$$\frac{\partial \theta_{liq}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[ K \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} + 1 \right) \right]$$

- 1. Not properly deal with saturated situations
- 2. Not represent surface ponding and infiltration of ponded water
- 3. Use Clapp & Hornberger (CH) soil hydraulics
- 4. Not represent preferential flow

Head-based RE: 
$$C(h)\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[ K(h) \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} + 1 \right) \right]$$

Mixed-form RE:

$$\frac{\partial \theta_{liq}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[ K \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} + 1 \right) \right]$$



#### Can not conserve mass

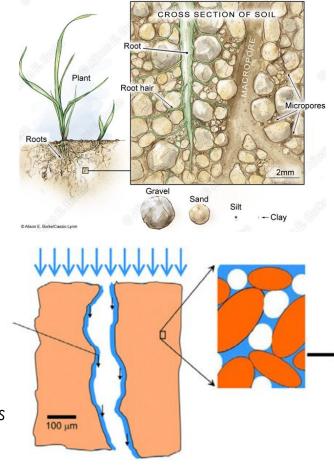
Solve h and conserve mass

# Representing Preferential Flow with Surface Ponding in Noah-MP

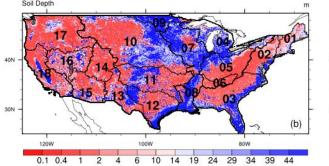
- Most soils contains macropores
- Increase infiltration & recharge
- Reduce E<sub>soil</sub>: Enhance T

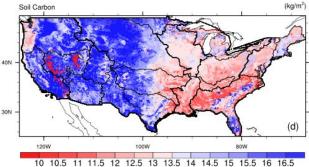
$$\frac{\partial \theta_f}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[ K_f(h_f) \left( \frac{\partial h_f}{\partial z} + 1 \right) \right] - \frac{\Gamma_w}{F_f}$$
$$\frac{\partial \theta_m}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[ K_m(h_m) \left( \frac{\partial h_m}{\partial z} + 1 \right) \right] + \frac{\Gamma_w}{1 - F_f}$$

- Surface ponding through shift between head and flux BCs
- Infiltration-excess occurs beyond H<sub>top.max</sub>
- Provides 2 soil hydraulics schemes (VG and CH)
- $\square$  Soil structural macropores  $F_f$  linked to SOM
- $\square$  Surface and subsurface exchanges between the 2 domains



## Model Experiments (120-year runs)

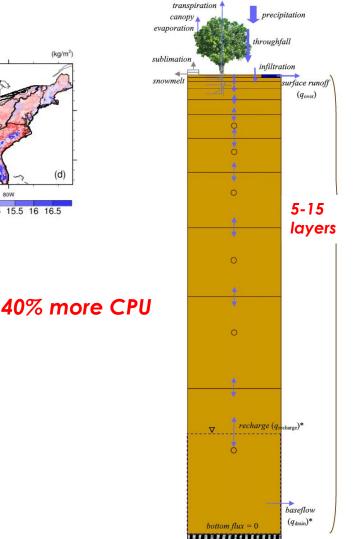




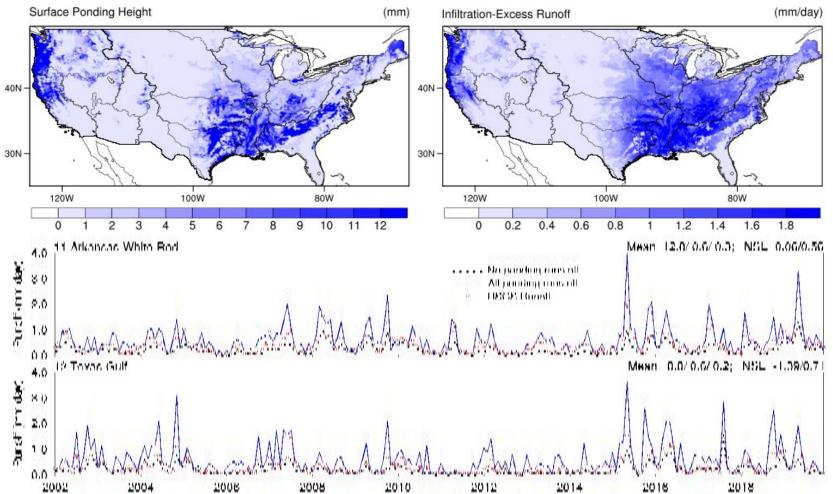
Experiment ID	Models	H <sub>top,max</sub> (mm)	Soil Hydraulics	% Increase in CPU / Wall-Clock Time
MF-VG-NP	Mixed-From RE	0	VG	41.94% / 12.63h
MF-VG-MP	Mixed-From RE	200	VG	31.36% / 12.17h
MF-CH	Mixed-From RE	50	СН	39.31% / 12.66h
MF-VG	Mixed-Form RE	50	VG	37.02% / <b>12.24h</b>
DPM-VG	DPM	50	VG	42.00% / 13.21h

The 4-L Noah-MP takes 2302757.92s (user) and 13.07 h for a 40-year run

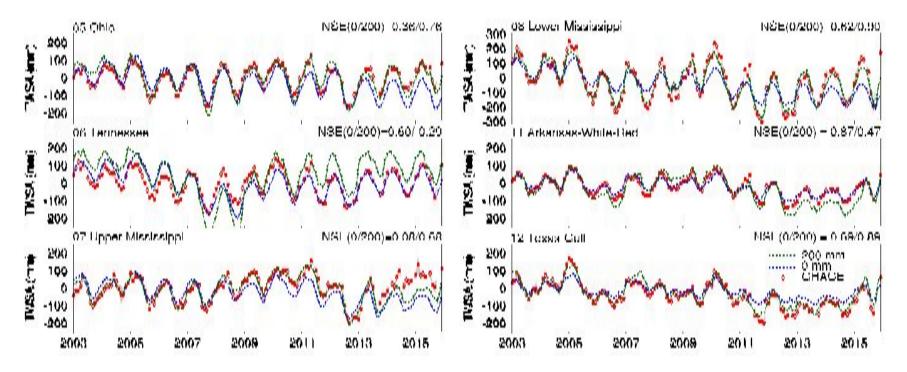
- How importance of surface ponding?
- The effects of CH and VG on SM and E<sub>soil</sub>?
- The effects of the preferential flow?



## Infiltration/Runoff of Ponded Water

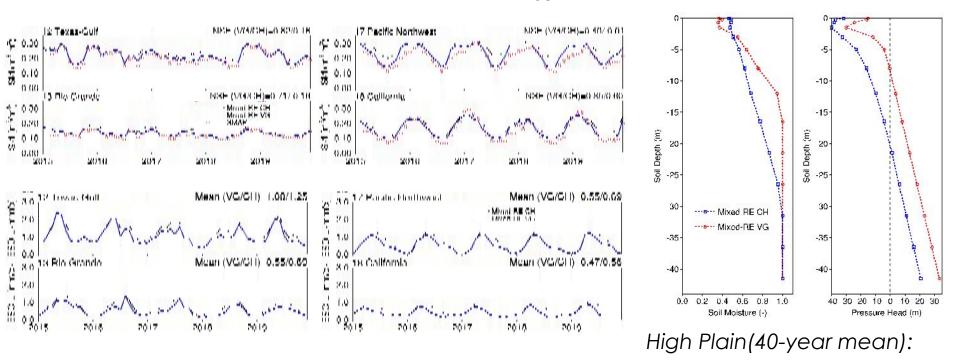


## Ponded Water to TWS

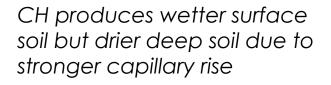


Contributes significantly to seasonal variations in TWS

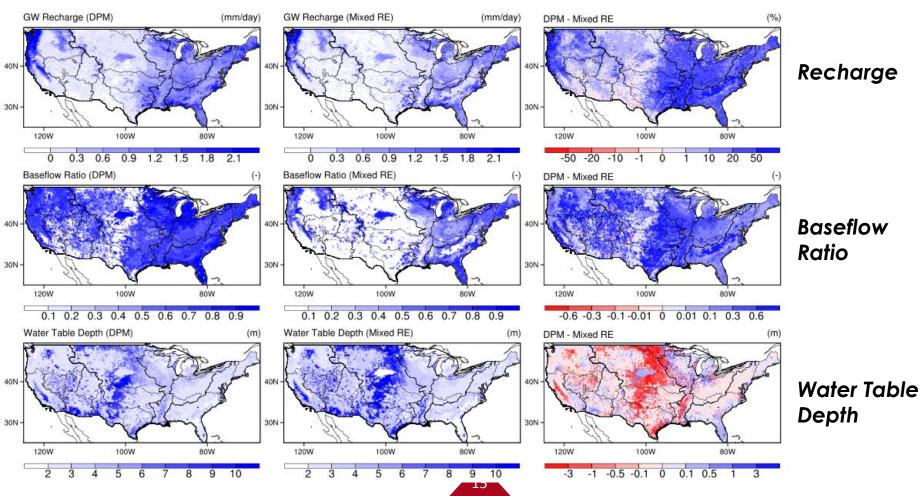
# Soil Hydraulics on Soil Moisture and E<sub>soil</sub>



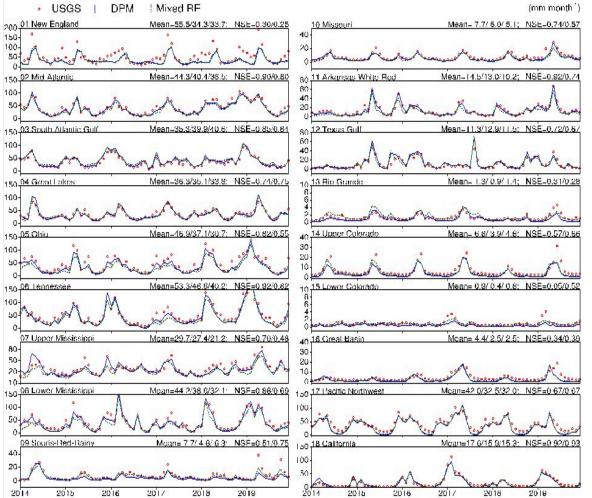
CH produces wetter surface soil and more E<sub>soil</sub>



## The Effects of Preferential Flow



## The Effects of Preferential Flow



### 11 basins improved

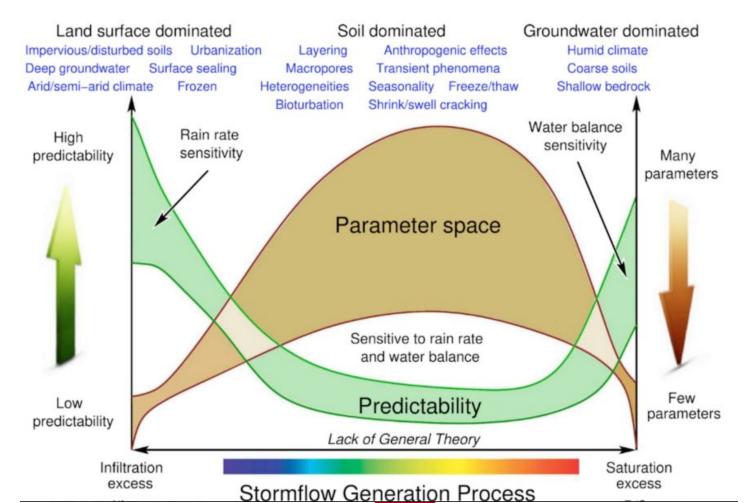
#### 6 basins degraded

Basins with significant ponding are all improved

#### Uncertainties in forcing and E<sub>soil</sub> and T parameters

More apparent in daily runoff

#### NWM (WRF/Hydro): Soil-Dominated Processes is Critical in Modeling Peak Flow



# Summary

 $|\Psi_{\rm s}|$ 

1. We have developed a model of pressure-driven water movement from bedrock to the canopy

3. Surface ponding is important; we strongly suggest the use of VG hydraulics scheme

2. The modeled plants are more resilient to drought conditions: LAI Seasonality; IAV: trend  $\Psi_{\text{leaf}} \sim -10 \text{ m}$ er flows Mortality risk (trait databases) -2 m  $\Psi_{\rm soil}$ Microbial function Waterretention 4. Introduces 2 key curve Blue arrows show the parameters:  $H_{top,max}$  and  $F_{f}$ soil-plant-atmosphere continuum θ > 2 m  $\Psi_{aw}$