

# A modified formulation for groundwater runoff in TERRA<sub>ML</sub>

Linda Schlemmer, Lukas Strelbel, Michael Keller, Daniel Lüthi, Christoph Schär

2017-03-08

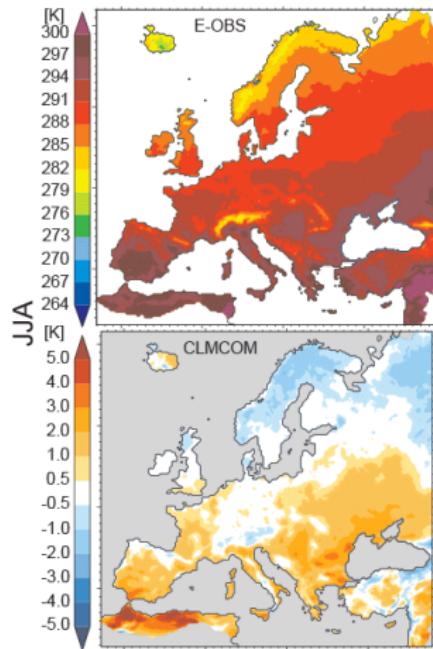
**ETH**zürich

**IAC** Institute for  
Atmospheric and  
Climate Science

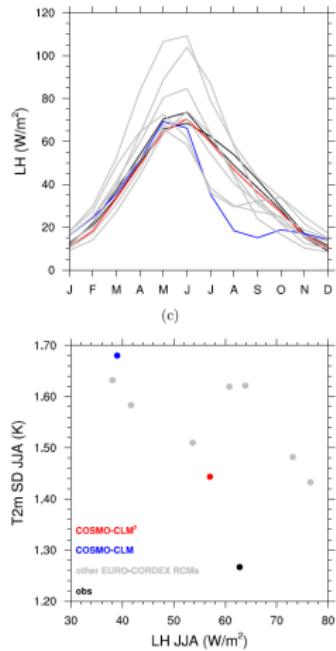


# Motivation

- Large biases in summer temperatures linked to drying of the soil

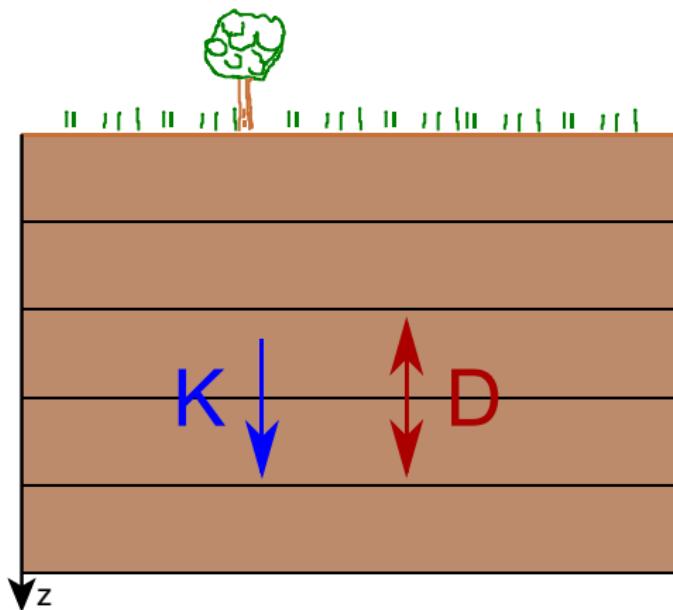


JJA  $T_{2m}$  bias EURO-CORDEX  
(Kotlarski, et al. 2014)



EURO-CORDEX annual cycle of latent heat flux (Davin et al. 2016)

# Richards Equation



Flux divergence gives local drying/moistening:

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\rho_w} \frac{\partial F}{\partial z}$$

soil water flux  $F$ :

$$F = -\rho_w \cdot \left[ -D(\theta) \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} + K(\theta) \right]$$

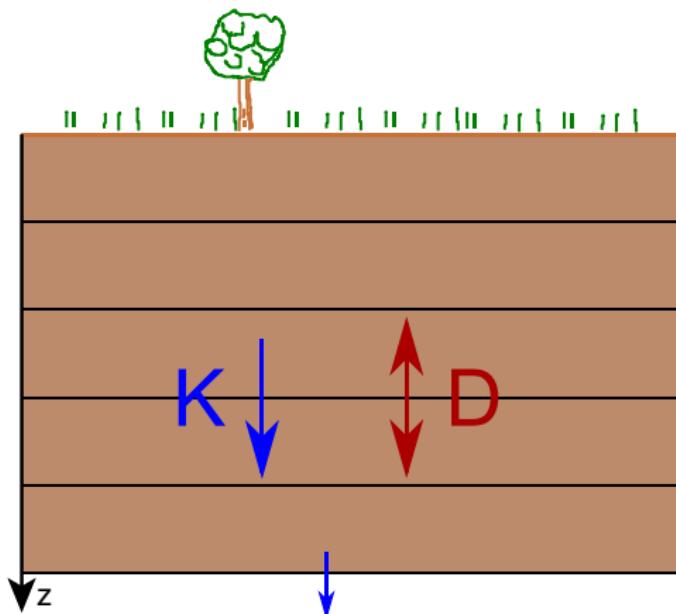
$\theta$  : volumetric water content

$[m m^{-1}]$

$D$ : hydraulic diffusivity

$K$ : hydraulic conductivity

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drainage as lower boundary condition

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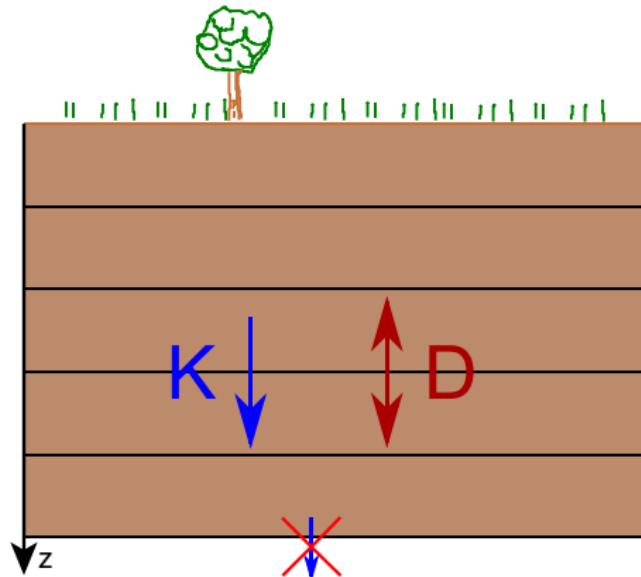
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# Drainage as lower boundary condition

- water leaves the soil  $\Rightarrow$  no groundwater can build up
- drying of the soil during summertime

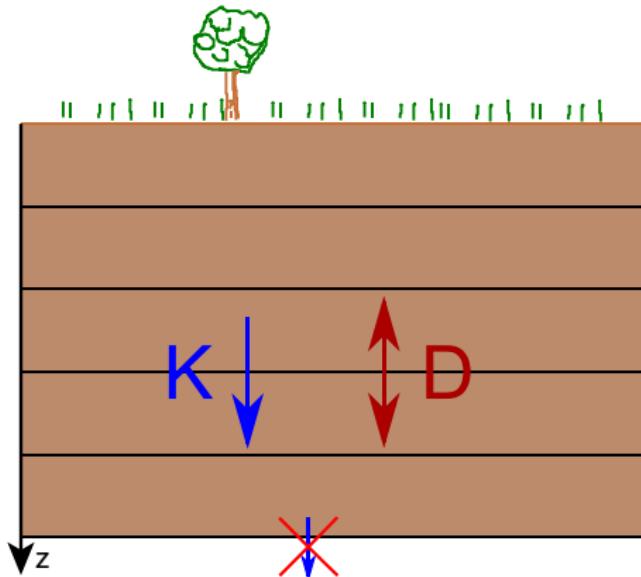
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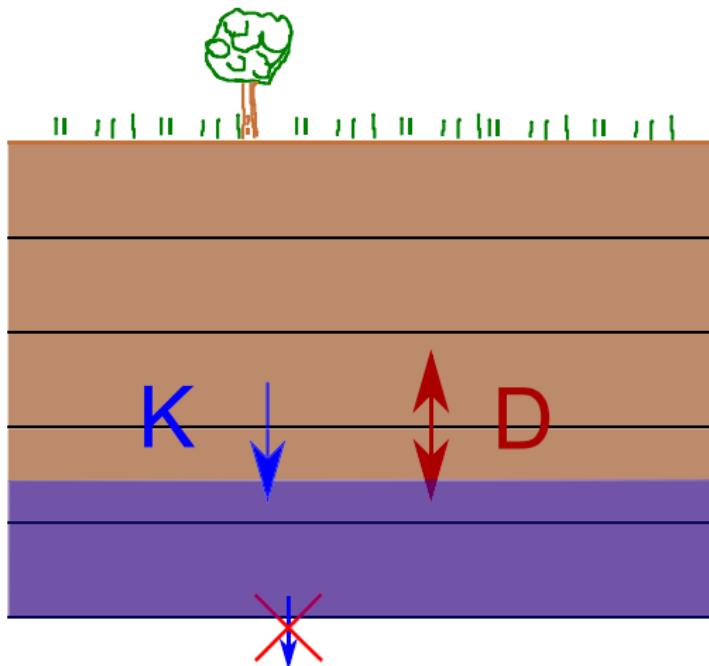
$$K(\theta) = K_0 \exp \left[ K_1 \frac{\eta - \bar{\theta}}{\eta - \alpha} \right]; \quad K_1 < 0$$

$\eta$ : porosity,  $\alpha$ : air dryness point

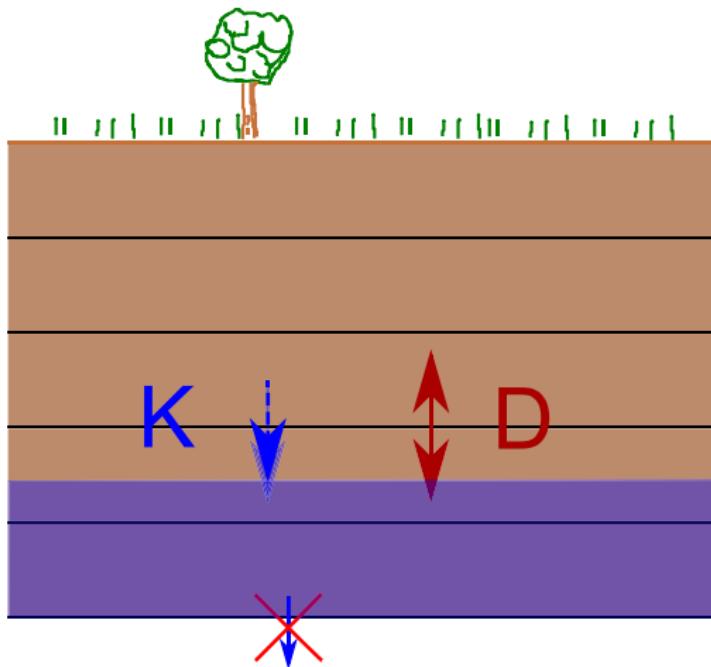
$K \rightarrow K_0$  for  $\theta \rightarrow \eta$

flux increases for wet soil

# Limit fluxes

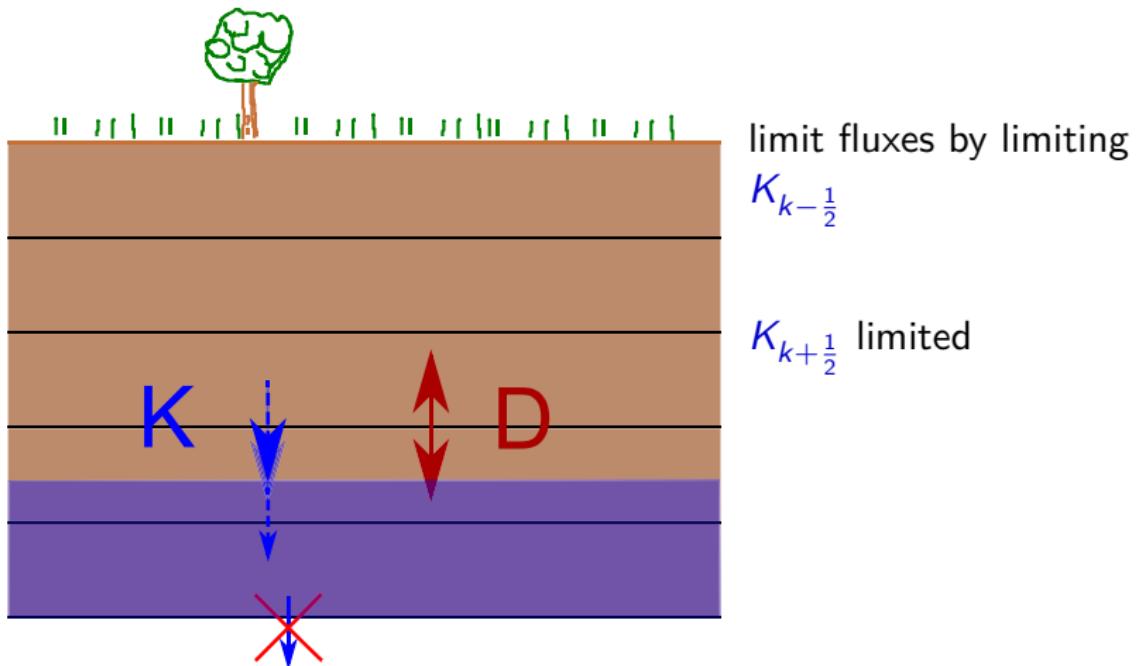


# Limit fluxes

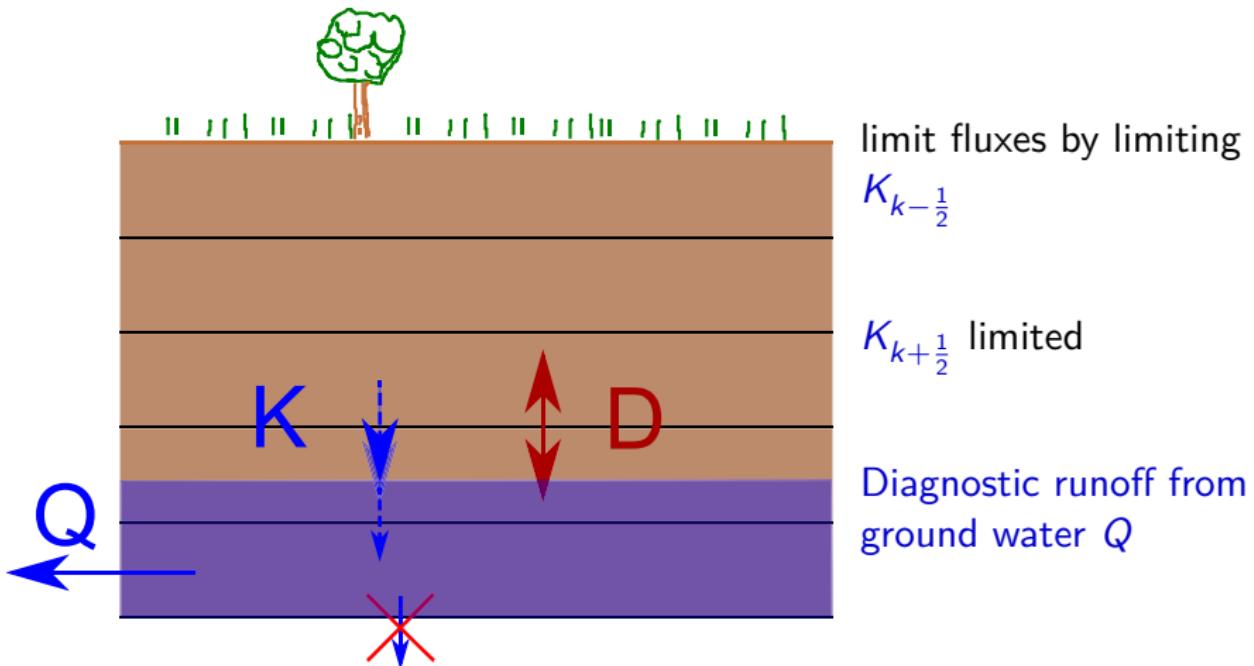


limit fluxes by limiting  
 $K_{k-\frac{1}{2}}$

# Limit fluxes



# Limit fluxes



# Runoff from ground water: Q

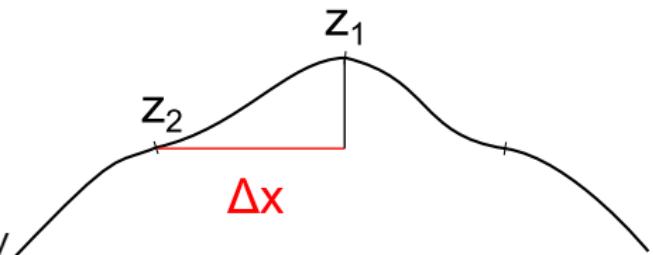
$$Q = \gamma \cdot K_0(z) \cdot S_{oro} \cdot h_{wt}$$

$\gamma$ : constant (tuning coefficient)

$K_0(z)$ : saturated hydraulic conductivity

$S_{oro}$ : gradient of (sub-grid) orography

$h_{wt}$  : depth of groundwater layer



$$S_{oro} = \frac{\max(z_1 - z_2, 0)}{\Delta x}$$

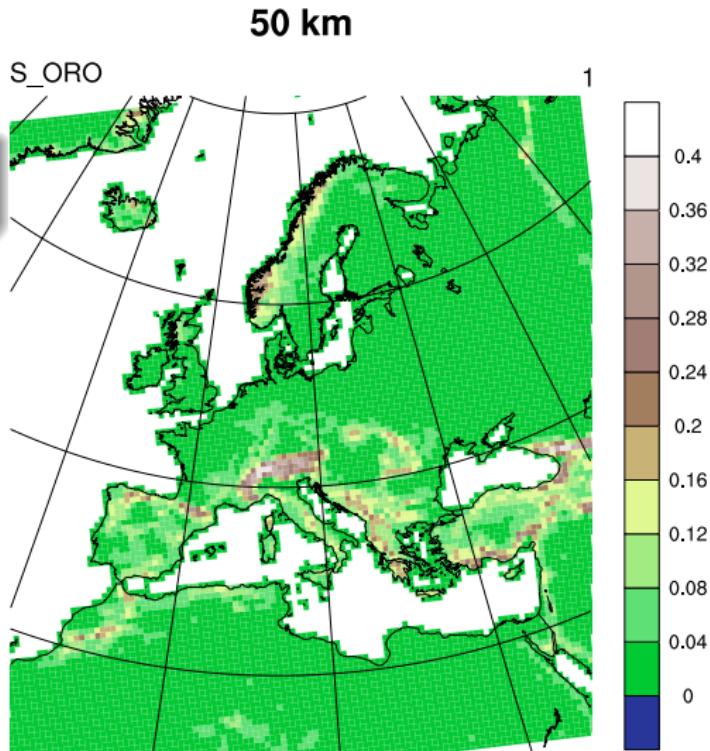
# Slope parameter $S_{oro}$

$$Q = \gamma \cdot K_0 \cdot S_{oro} \cdot h_{wt}$$

Computed from GLOBE dataset

Computed on  $0.01^\circ \times 0.01^\circ$  grid,  
then averaged over coarse grid  
box

minimum value of 0.001 ( $\approx 1\%$ )  
to enable runoff in flat areas



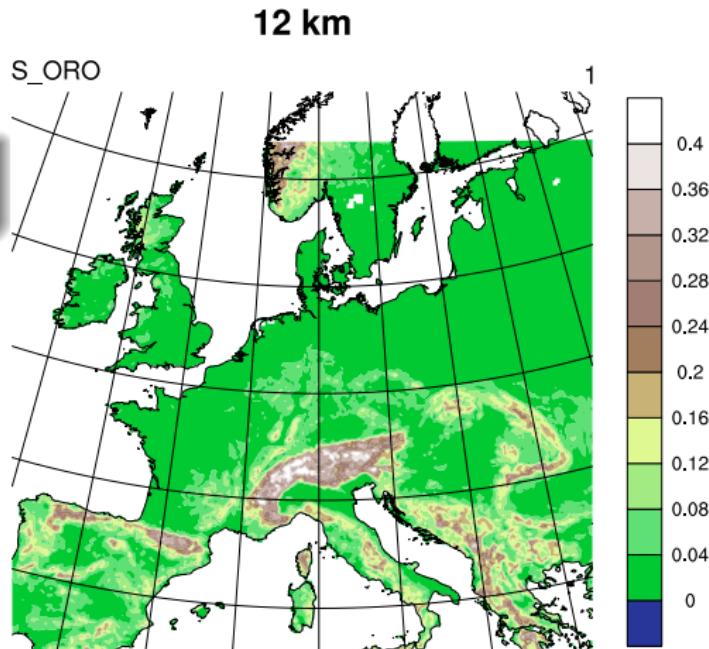
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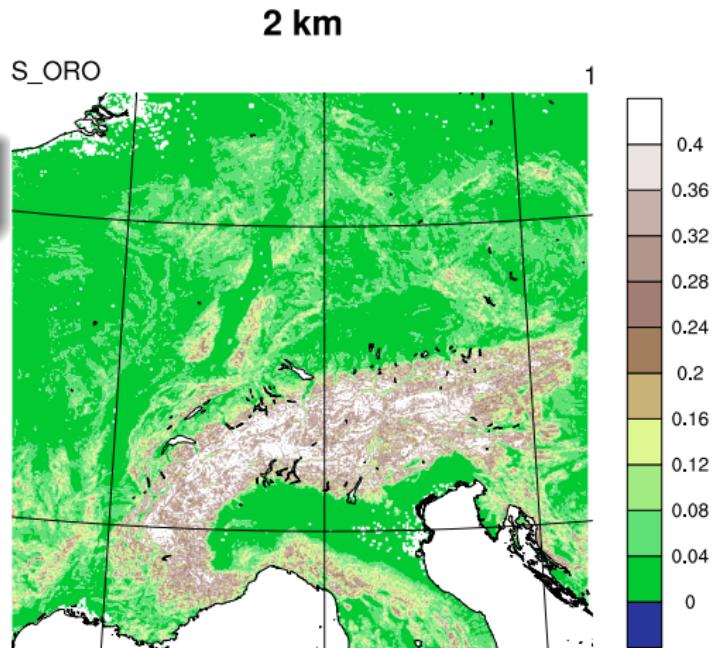
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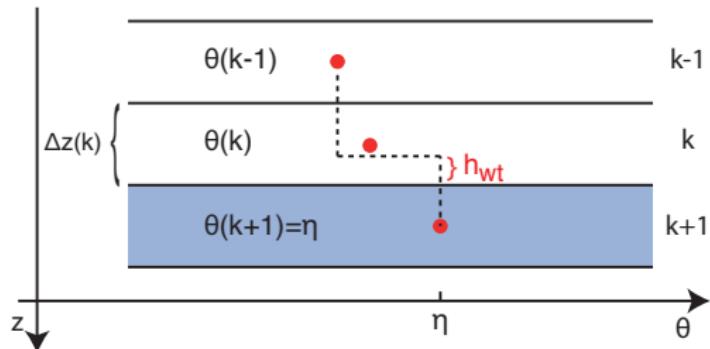
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# Continuous function for water table depth

Water table depth  $h_{wt}$

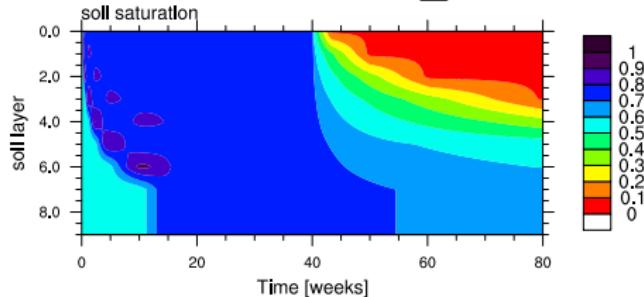
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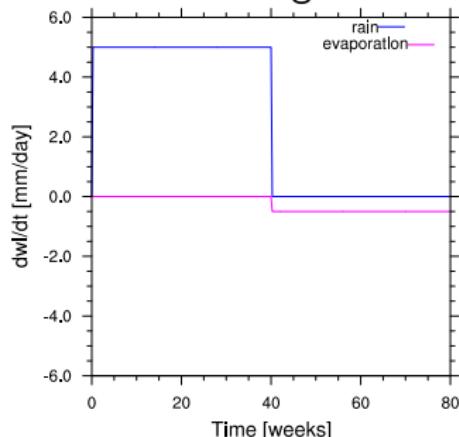
$$h_{wt} = \Delta z(k) \frac{\theta(k) - \theta(k-1)}{\eta - \theta(k-1)}$$

# Tests, stand-alone single-column model

Default TERRA\_ML

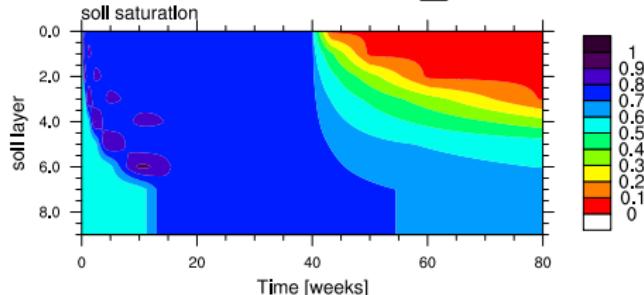


budget

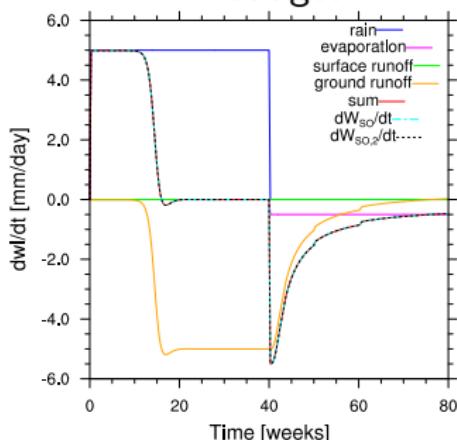


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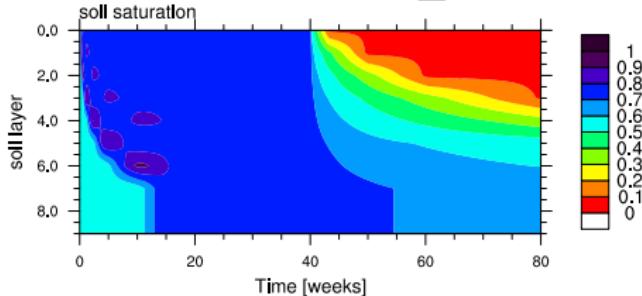


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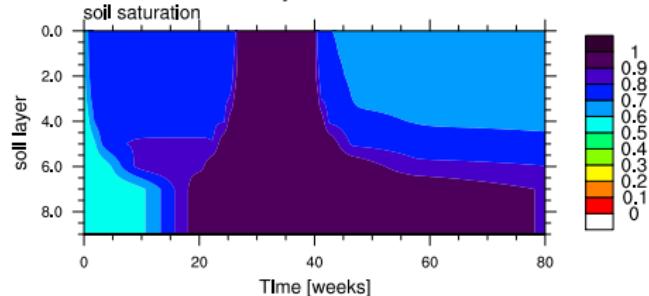


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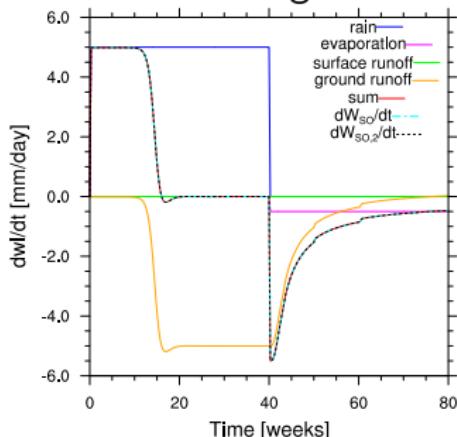
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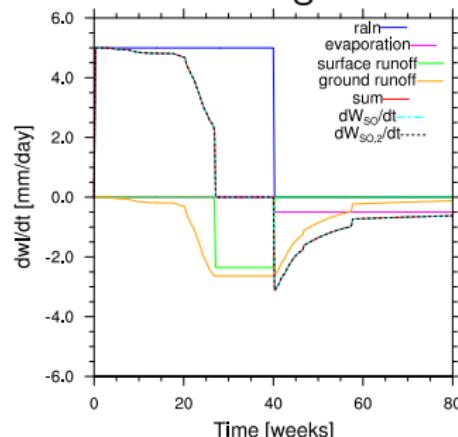
new implementation



budget



budget



# Implementation into COSMO CLM

- COSMO5.0\_CLM6
- CORDEX-EU  $0.44^\circ$  dt=300 s, ERAInterim driven
- Tegen Aerosol Climatology
- 1979-1985 (1981-1985 for evaluation)
- 10 soil layers, down to 11.5 m, 9 active layers (larger dynamical range)

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$$K_0(kso) = K_{0,default} \cdot \exp(-2.0 \cdot (z(kso) - rootdp))$$

rootdp: root depth

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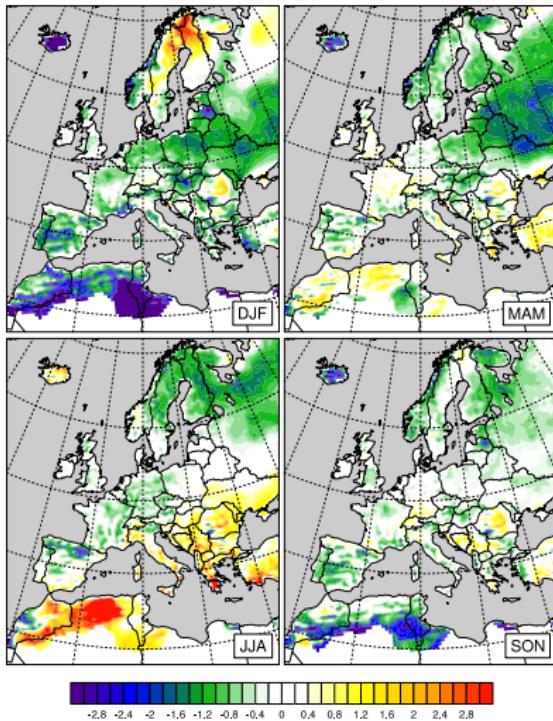
- New bare soil evaporation (itype\_evsl=4) (Jan-Peter Schulz)

# 7-year simulation @50 km, sim-EOBS

DEFAULT (calibrated)

MODIFIED (not calibrated)

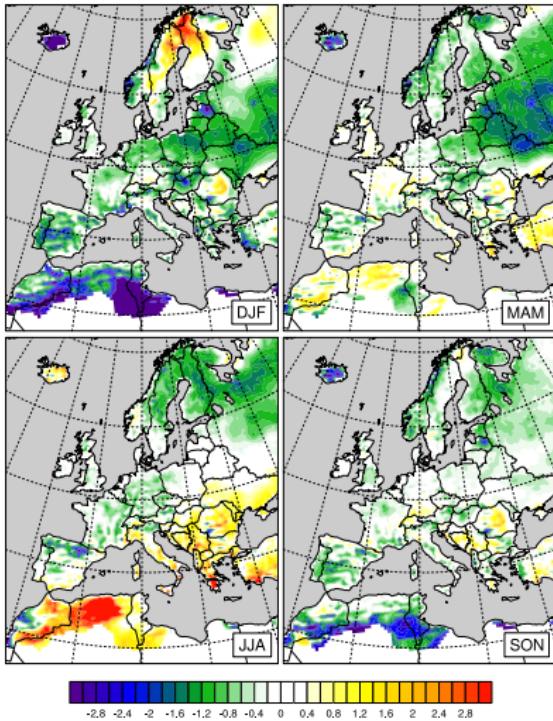
Seasonal T\_2M bias ctl\_call (degC), 1981->1985



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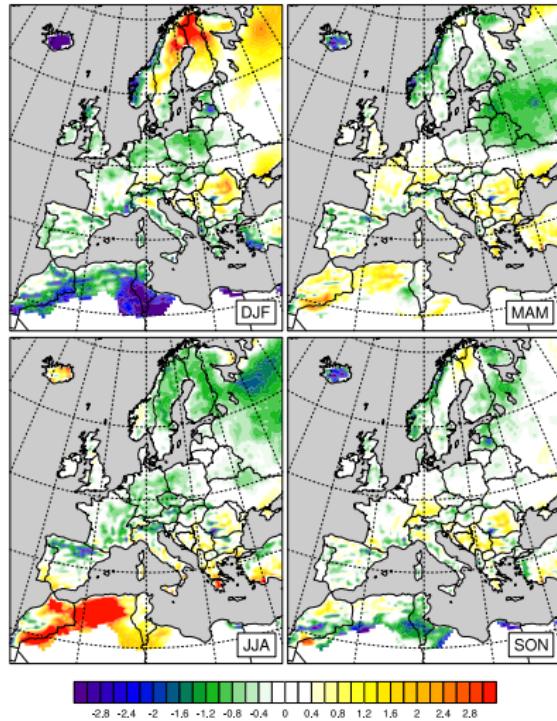
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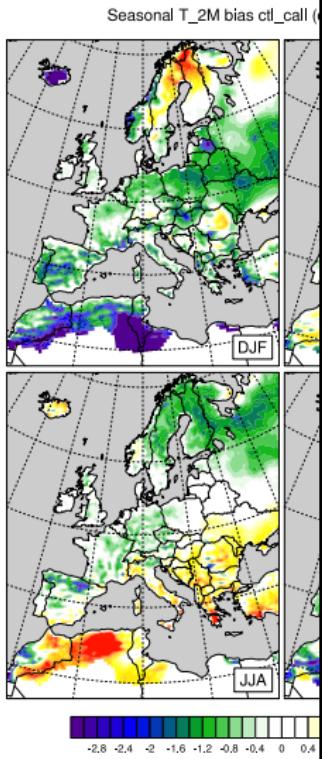
## MODIFIED (not calibrated)

Seasonal T\_2M bias mod\_soilmod\_gamma\_long (degC), 1981->1985

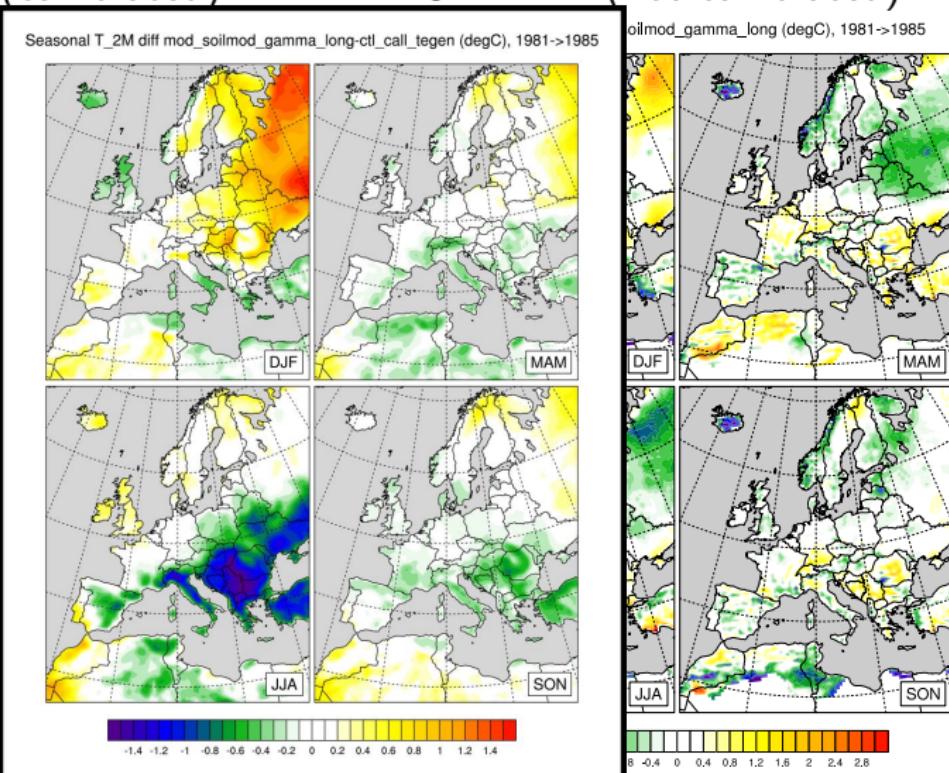


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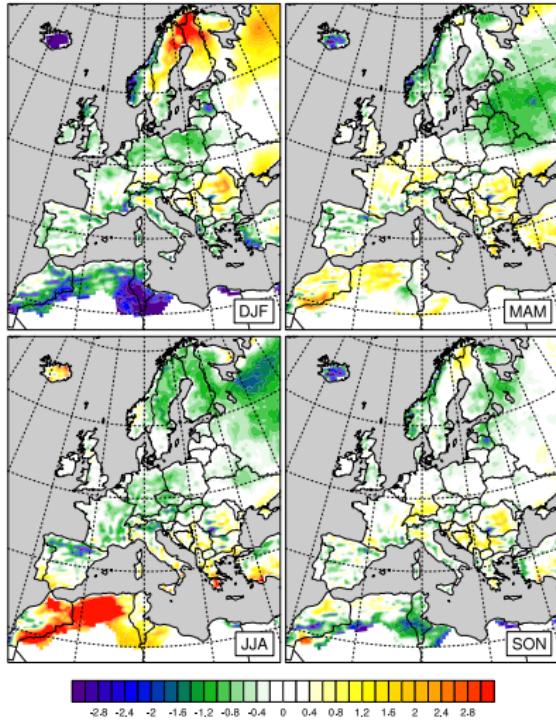
## MODIFIED (not calibrated)



# 7-year simulation → 29-year simulation @50 km

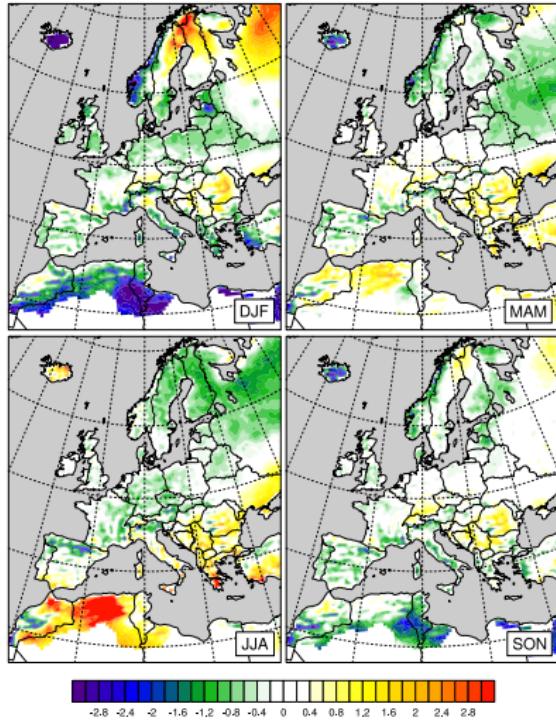
## MODIFIED (not calibrated)

Seasonal T\_2M bias mod\_soilmod\_gamma\_long (degC), 1981->1985

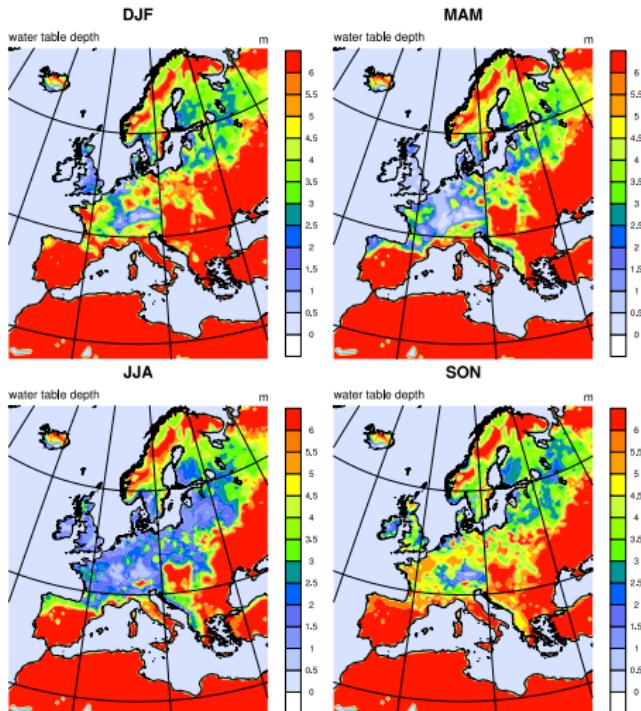


## MODIFIED (not calibrated)

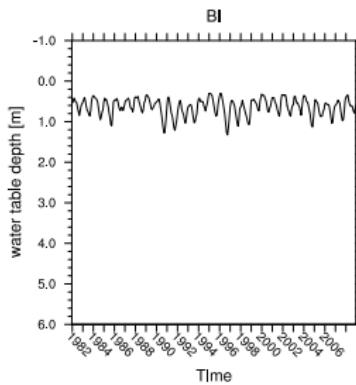
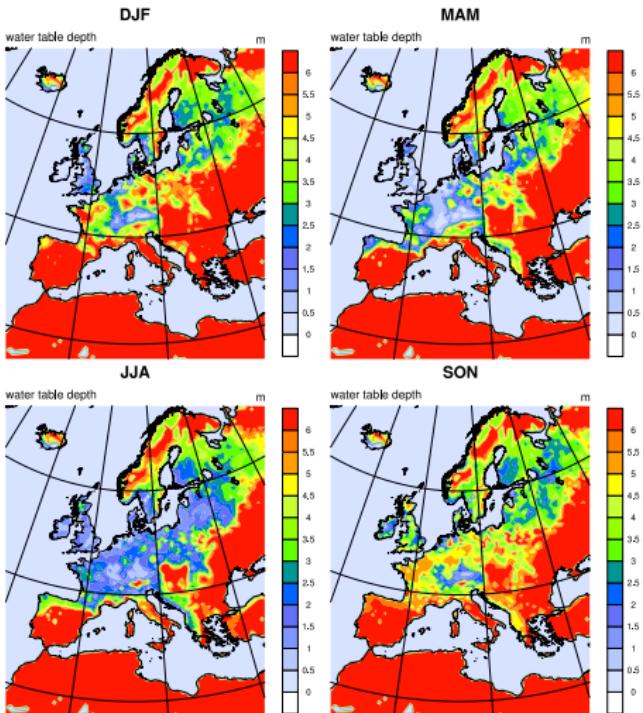
Seasonal T\_2M bias mod\_soilmod\_gamma\_long (degC), 1981->2007



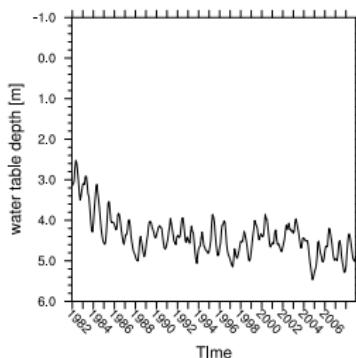
# Water-table depth



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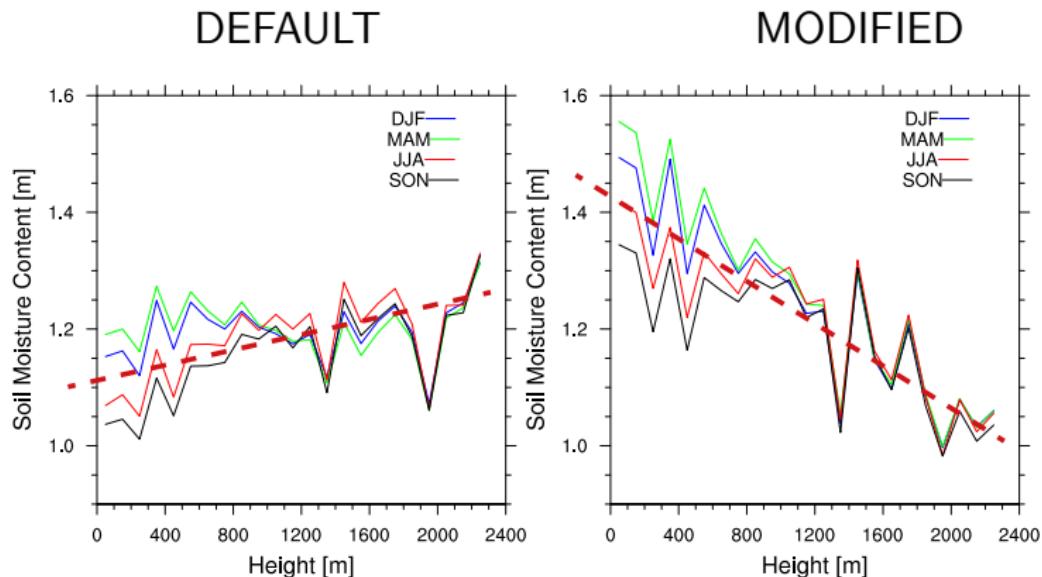
British Isles



Eastern  
Europe

# Elevation-dependence of soil water content

Soil water content binned by elevation of terrain; Alpine (AL) region



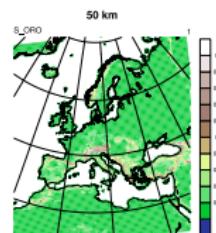
Soil-water content increases with height in the default version, whereas it decreases in the modified formulation

# Resolution, Scale-Dependence

Slope parameter  $S_{oro}$  that determines ground water runoff

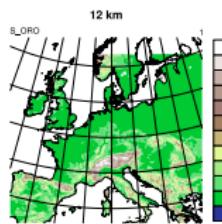
29-year simulation

@50 km



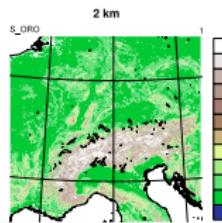
1-year simulation

@12 km



3-month simulation

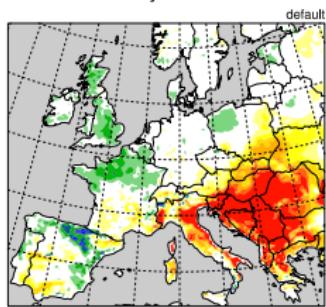
@2 km



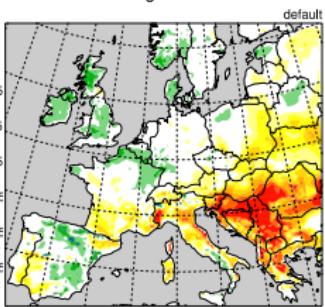
## 12 km simulation, Oct 2006-Oct 2007, ERAI-driven

 $T_{2m}$  bias (EOBS)

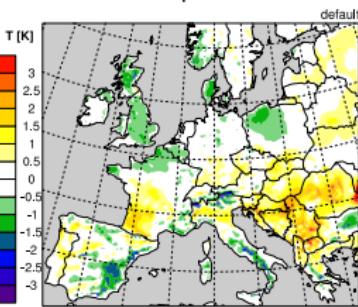
July 2007



Aug 2007

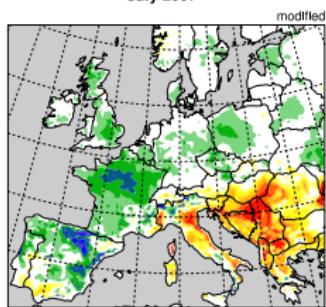


Sep 2007

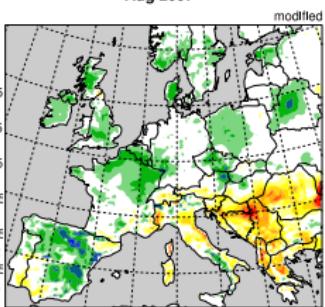


OLD

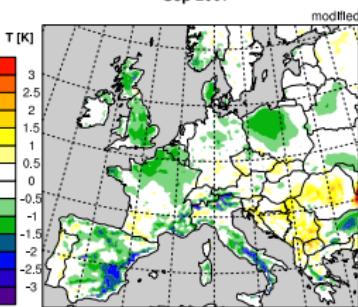
modified



modified



modified



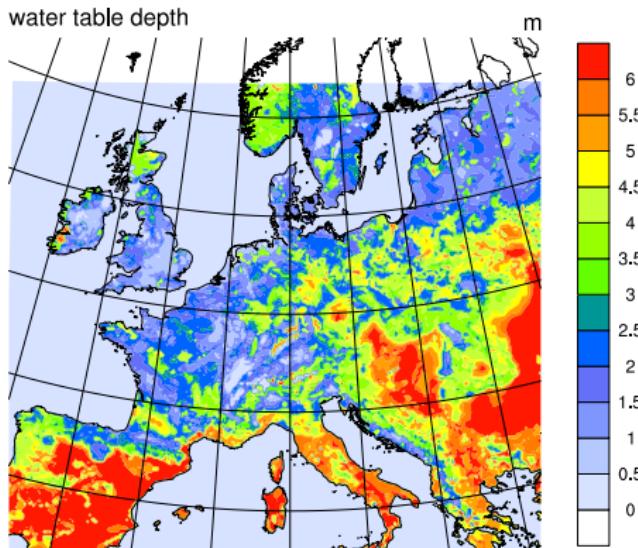
NEW

# Water-table depth

12 km simulation

June

water table depth

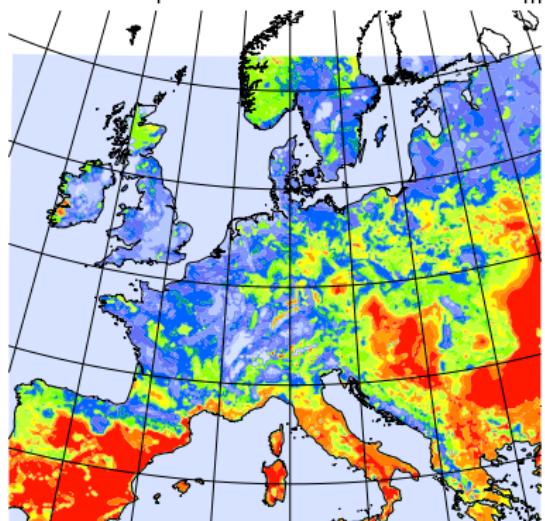


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12 km simulation

June

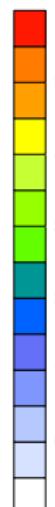
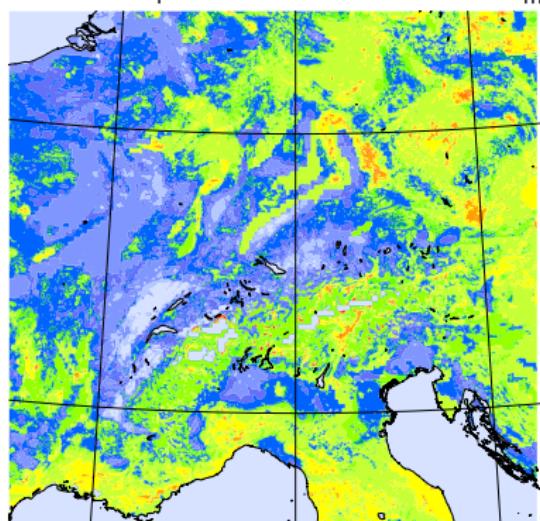
water table depth



2 km simulation

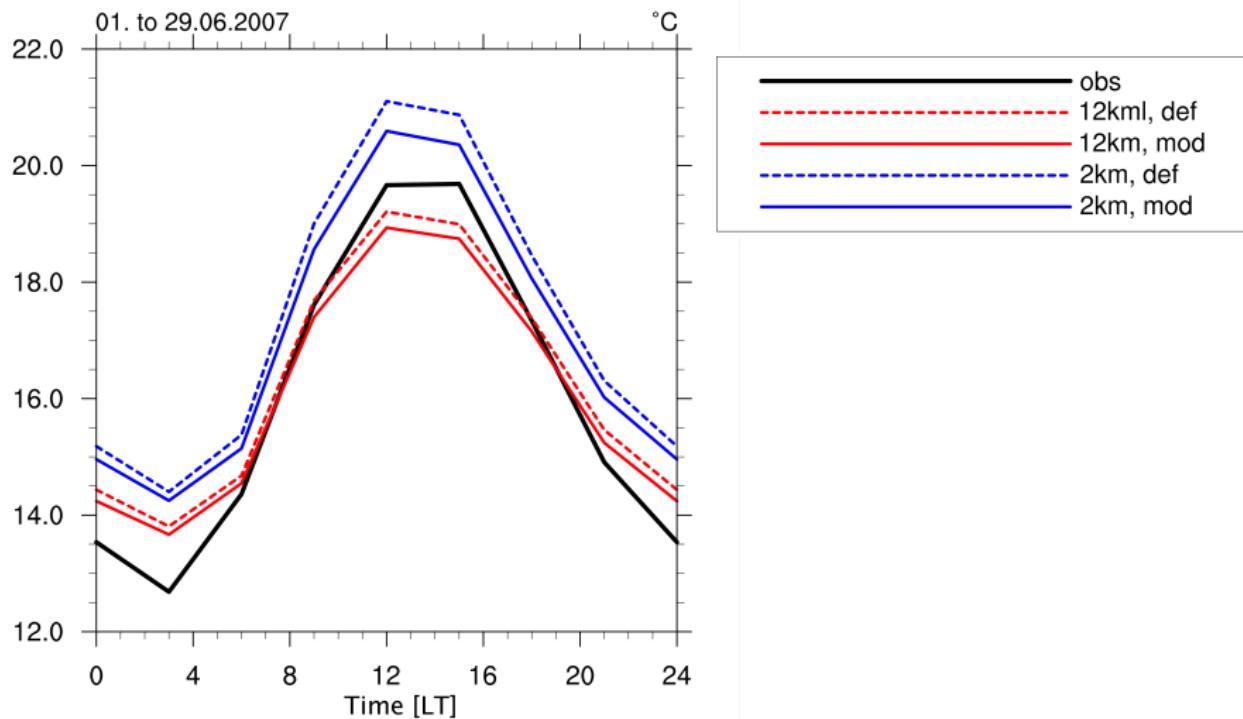
June

water table depth



# Comparison to 24 stations over Switzerland

Temperature 2m, COSMO 5.03



# Conclusions

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- Both idealized and climate simulations show improvements

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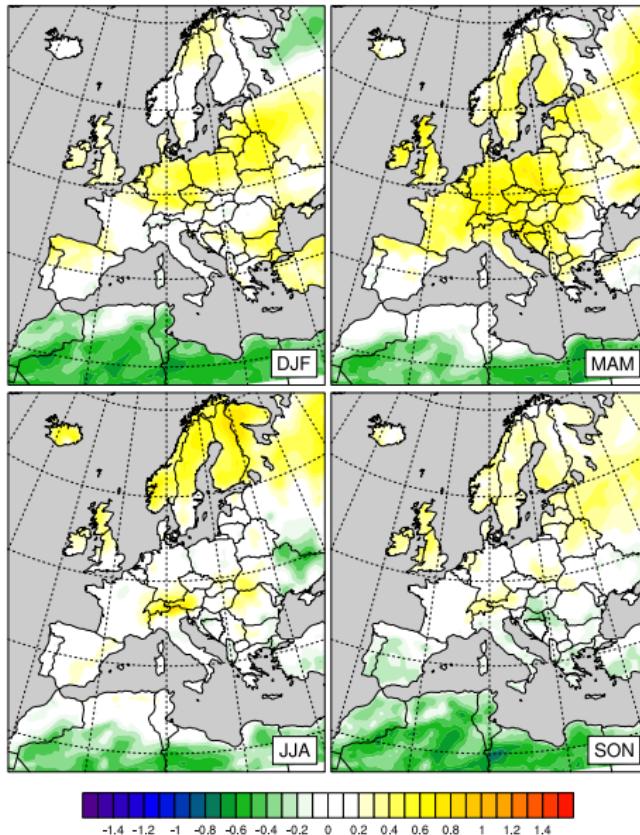
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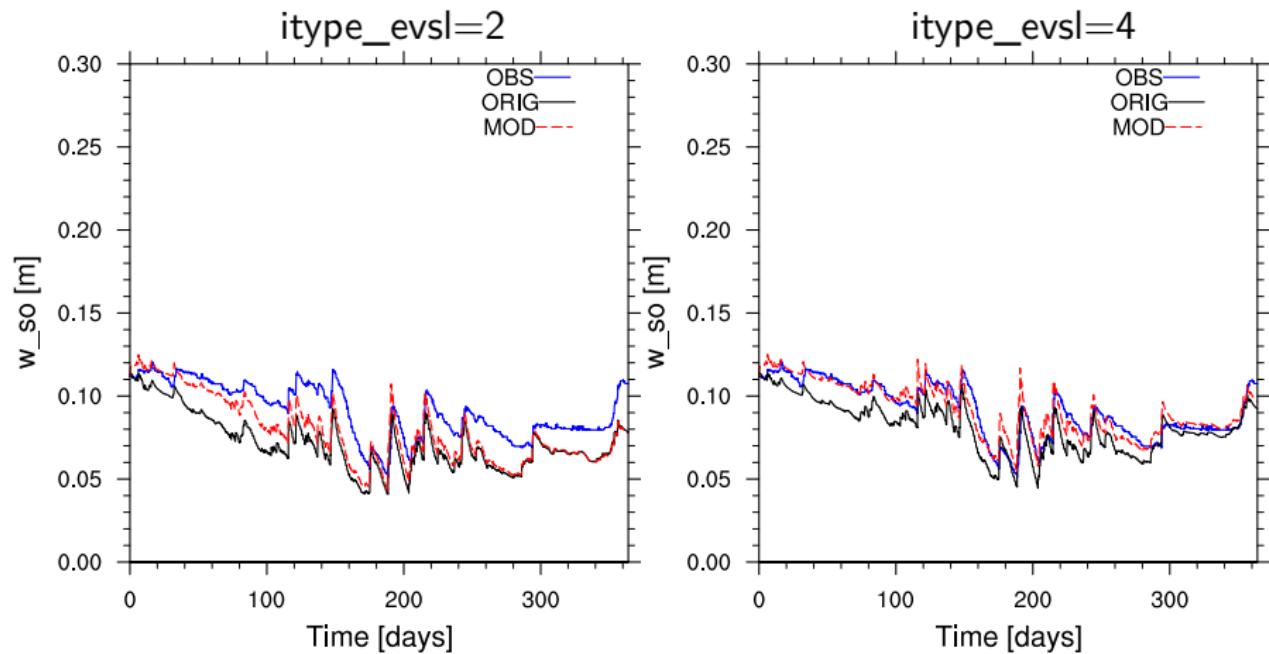
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- Simulations  $\Delta x=50 \text{ km} \Rightarrow \Delta x=12 \text{ km} \Rightarrow \Delta x=2 \text{ km}$  show little impact of the scale of  $S_{oro}$

# EVSL\_4

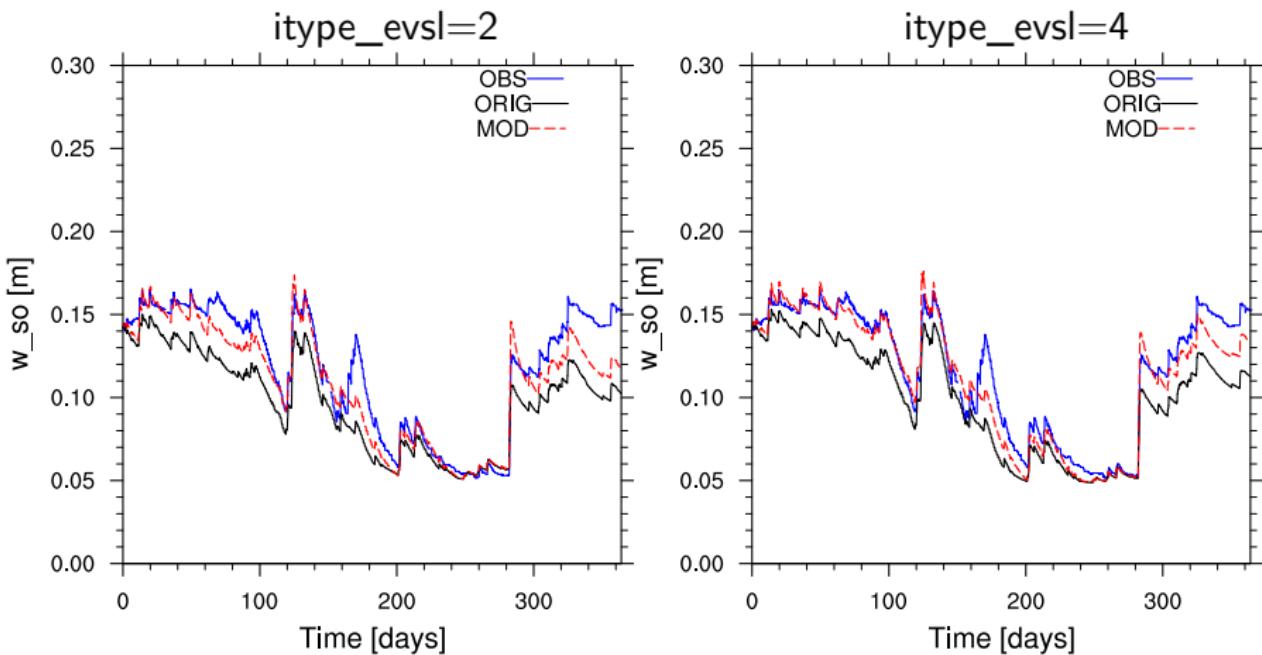
Seasonal T\_2M diff ctl\_old\_evsl4-ctl (degC), 1981->1985



# Validation, Lindenberg (Berlin), 2014

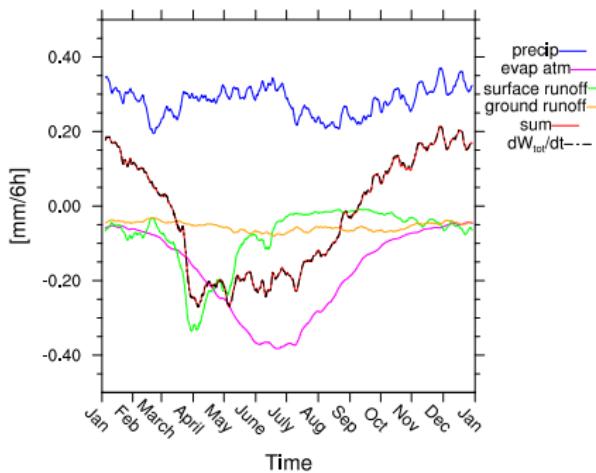


# Validation, Fauga Mauzac (Toulouse, Southern France), 2010

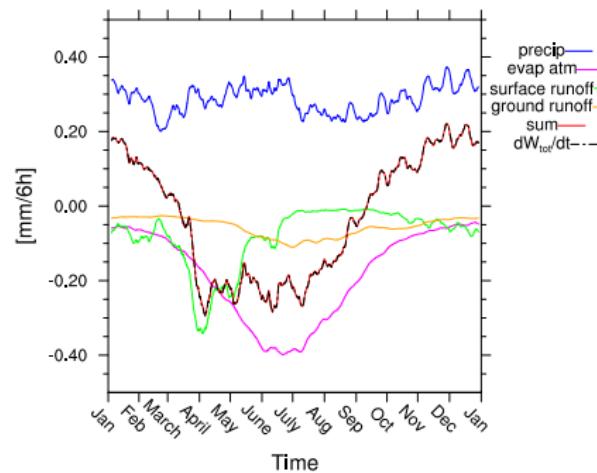


# 7-year simulation @50 km, budget

## DEFAULT



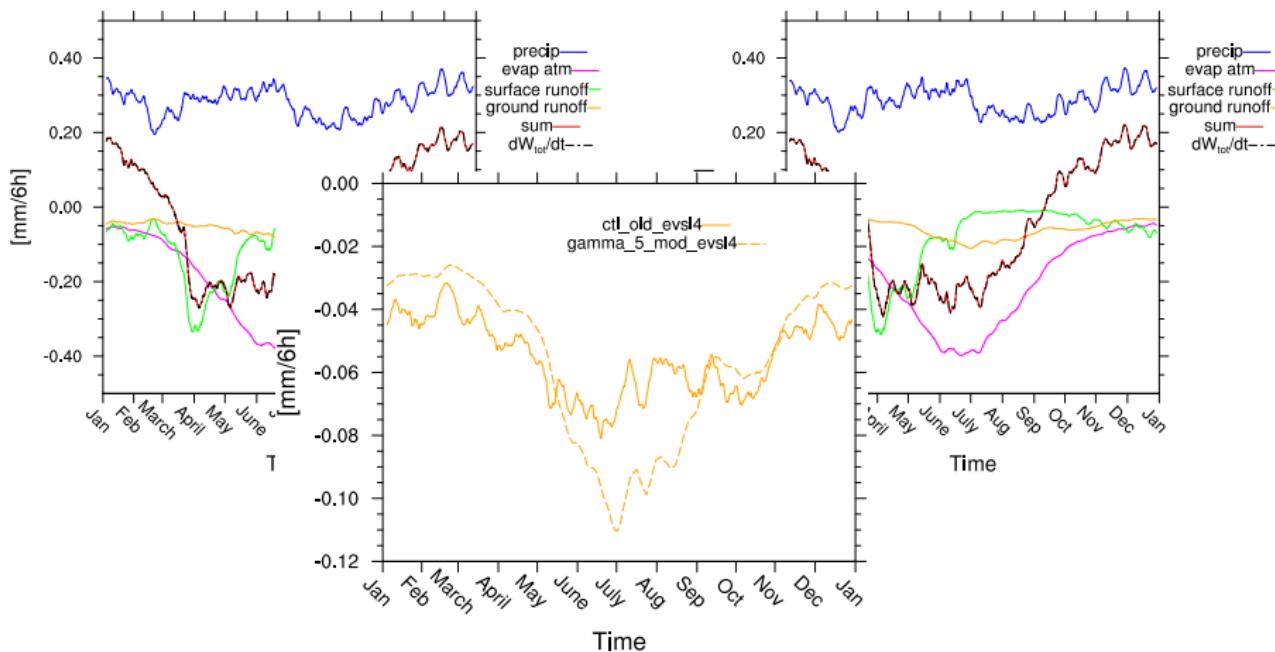
## MODIFIED



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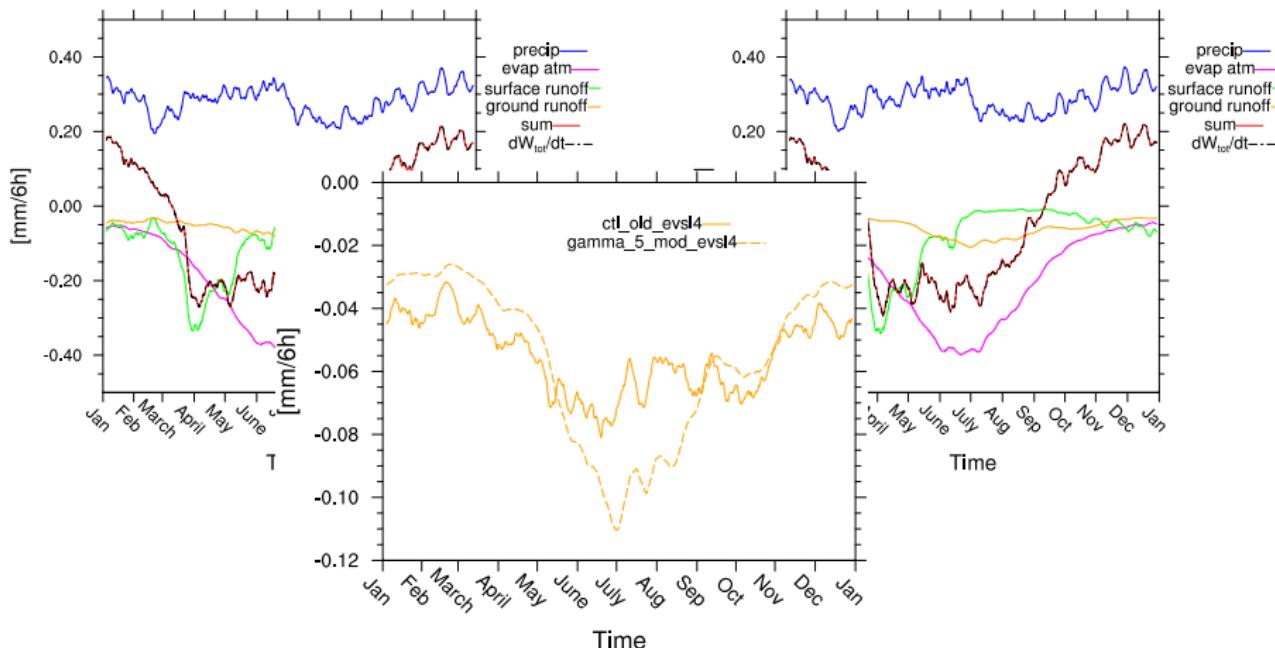
MODIFIED



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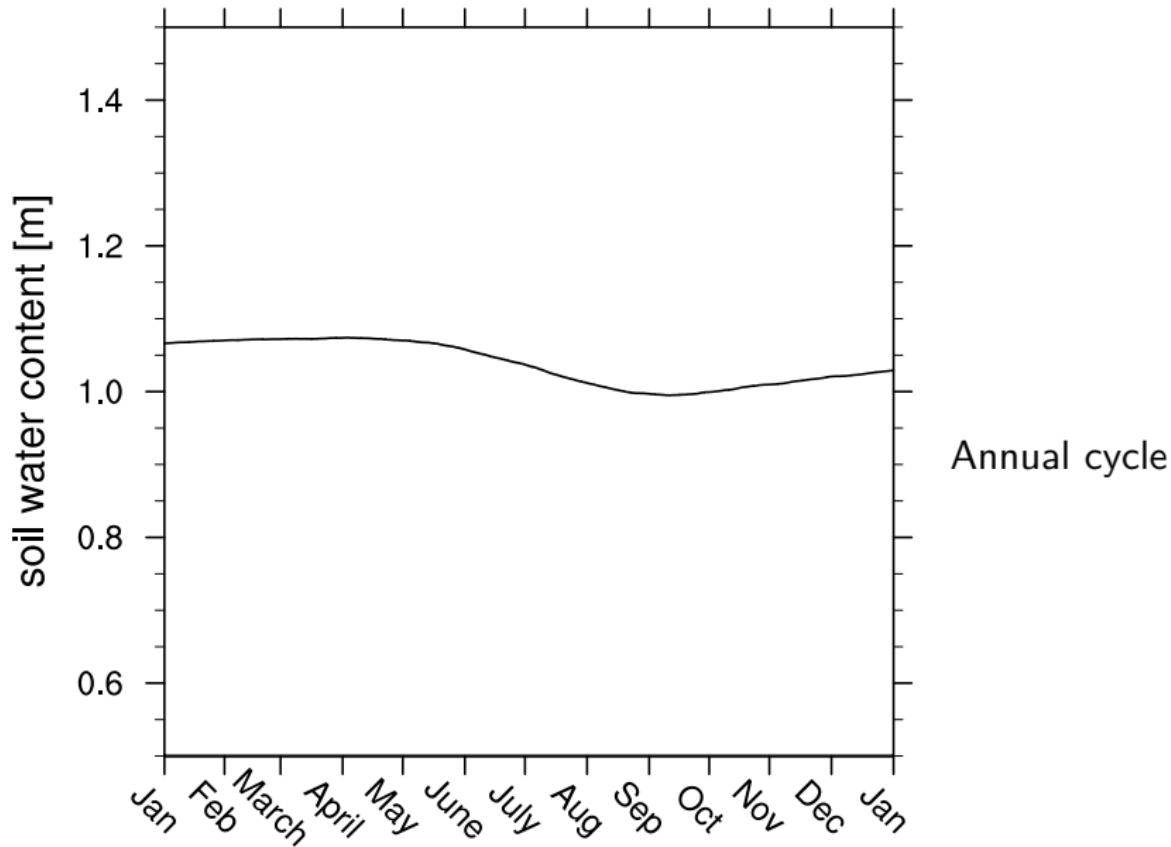
DEFAULT

MODIFIED



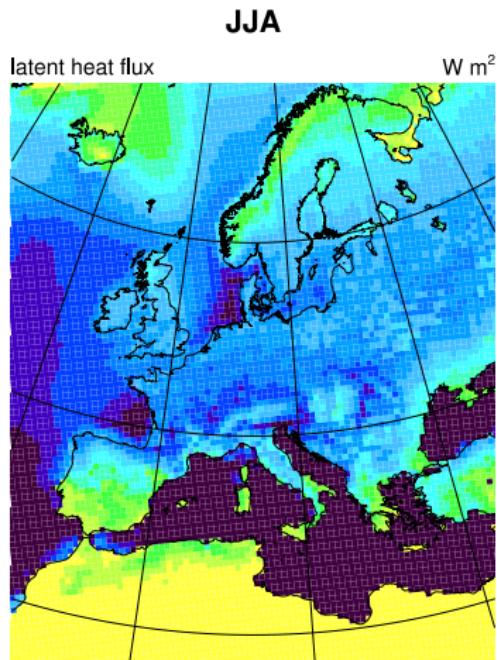
soil-water budget closes well for both model versions  
 annual cycle of ground runoff

# Water content

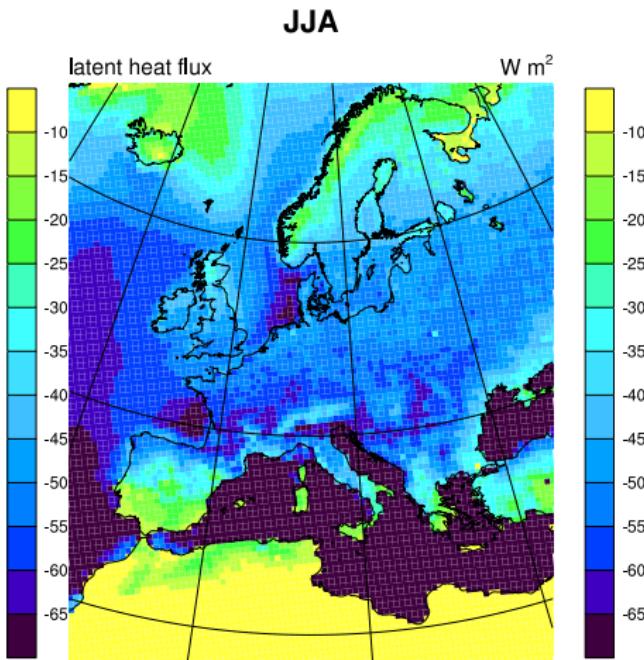


# Latent heat flux JJA

DEFAULT



MODIFIED

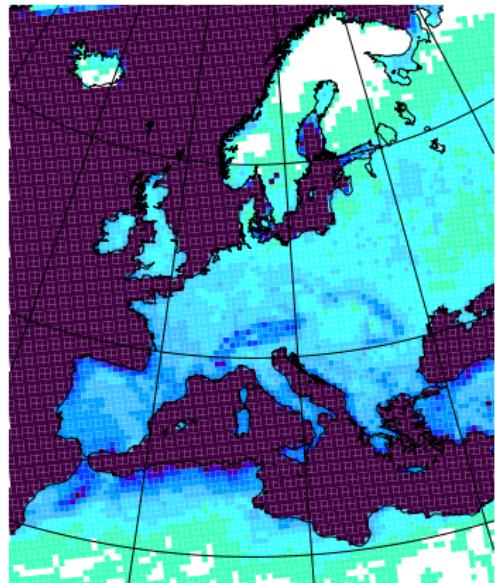


# Latent heat flux DJF

DEFAULT

DJF

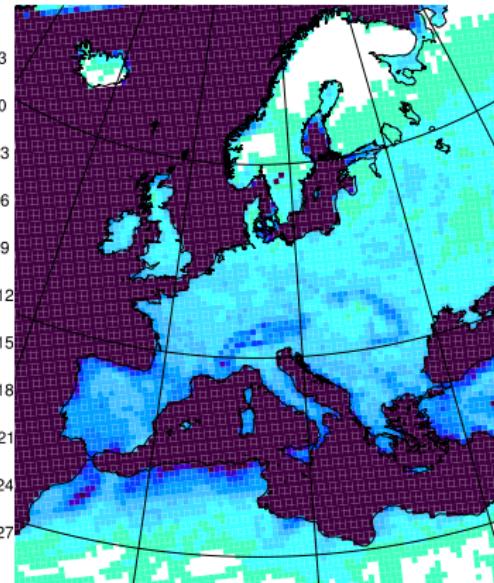
latent heat flux



MODIFIED

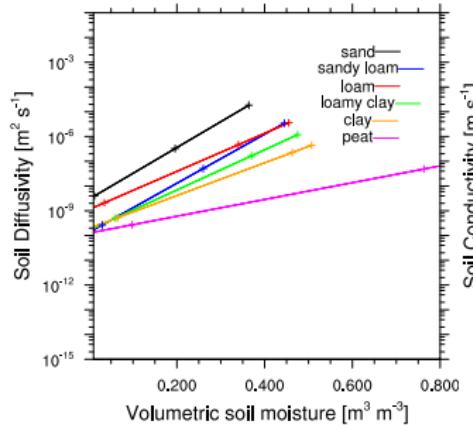
DJF

latent heat flux



# Parameters K and D

Hydraulic Diffusivity Parameter



Hydraulic Conductivity Parameter

