

Probabilistic soil moisture dynamics of water- and energy-limited ecosystems

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Abstract

This paper presents an extension of the stochastic ecohydrological model for soil moisture dynamics at a point of [Rodríguez-Iturbe et al. \(1999\)](#) and [Laio et al. \(2001\)](#). In the original model, evapotranspiration is a function of soil moisture and vegetation parameters, so that the model is suitable for water-limited environments. Our extension introduces a dependence on maximum evapotranspiration of available solar radiation, and thus our extended model is suitable for both water- and energy-limited environments. Furthermore, an analysis of the daily relationship between available energy for photosynthesis and transpiration through the stomatal conductance is carried out. This study regards the Penman-Monteith equation to model transpiration, the Leuning's stomatal conductance approach, the C₃ photosynthesis model of Farquhar et al., and the FLUXNET database. Results are upscaled from half-hourly to daily scale, introducing an expression of transpiration in terms of the available radiation. The sensitivity of the model is analyzed using four dimensionless groups, and the long-term water balance is evaluated for distinct values of available energy.

Keywords:

Transpiration, photosynthesis, PAR, stomatal conductance, radiation

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1. Introduction

The soil water content (s) is a key player in the climate-soil-vegetation system (Entekhabi and Brubaker, 1995; Porporato and Rodríguez-iturbe, 2002; Rodríguez-Iturbe and Porporato, 2004). This system involves many variables and processes with high spatial and temporal variability, feedbacks and non-linear relations. Furthermore, soil moisture depends critically on the physiological characteristics of vegetation, pedology and climate (Entekhabi and Rodríguez-Iturbe, 1994; Rodríguez-Iturbe et al., 1999; Rodriguez-Iturbe et al., 2001). Climate and weather patterns determine the amount of water and energy available, crucially impacting the evapotranspiration process (Leuning, 1995; De Pury and Farquhar, 1997; Stoy et al., 2009; Manzoni et al., 2011). Soil texture, its mineralogical composition, and the particle size distribution determine the storage capacity of the soil. Vegetation controls the energy and water fluxes, linking the soil and the atmosphere (Feddes et al., 2001; Rodriguez-Iturbe et al., 2001).

Climate, soil, and vegetation are related through physical, chemical and biological processes, which lead to the mass and energy transport between land and atmosphere (Eagleson, 1978). Actual evapotranspiration couples water and energy balances. There are two evapotranspiration (ET) regimes related to soil moisture, s : an energy-limited regime and a water-limited regime. Between these two regimes, there are seasonal environments, in which the availability of water and energy fluctuates.

Among the approaches to modeling soil moisture are biophysical process-based, physical-based and statistical models (Wang et al., 2019). These models mostly feed on in-situ (e.g. Korres et al., 2015; Noh et al., 2015; Pirone et al., 2015; Gevaert et al., 2018) and remote sensing (e.g. Wagner et al., 1999; Kim and Barros, 2002; Fang and Lakshmi, 2014; Zehe et al., 2018) data or involve numerical simulations (e.g. Mtundu and Koch, 1987; Brubaker, 1995; Brubaker and Entekhabi, 1996; Albertson and Montaldo, 2003; Ridolfi et al., 2003; Rigon et al., 2006; Margulis and Entekhabi, 2001; Sela et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2017; de Assunção et al., 2018). In-situ data are not easy to extrapolate to spatial scales that allow hydrological applications, remote sensing methods measure continuous spatiotemporal information but only comprise the most superficial centimeters of the soil (Niemann, 2004), and numerical simulations do not permit to generalize the results (Ogren, 1993). Daly and Porporato (2005), Seneviratne et al. (2010), Asbjornsen et al. (2011), Legates et al. (2011) and Wang et al. (2019) present some complete reviews of the

38 state of the art of soil moisture modeling.

39 [Eagleson \(1978\)](#), [Cordova and Bras \(1981\)](#), [Hosking and Clarke \(1990\)](#),
40 and [Milly \(1993\)](#) initiate a biophysical based approach that comprises simpli-
41 fied but realistic conceptual models that analytically describe the phenomena
42 taking place in the climate-soil-vegetation system. This approach involves
43 stochastic components that take into account the randomness of precipitation
44 and the inherent variability of soil and vegetation properties. Some models
45 have been developed following this approach (e.g. [Rodríguez-Iturbe et al.,](#)
46 [1999](#); [D’Odorico et al., 2000](#); [Laio et al., 2001](#); [Milly, 2001](#); [Laio et al., 2002](#);
47 [Porporato et al., 2003](#); [D’Odorico and Porporato, 2004](#); [Daly and Porporato,](#)
48 [2006](#); [De Michele et al., 2008](#); [Laio et al., 2009](#)), modeling precipitation as
49 a stochastic process and deriving analytical expressions of soil moisture dy-
50 namics from the soil, climate and vegetation parameters. These models have
51 been developed for arid and semi-arid environments, characterized by scarce
52 rainfall, low soil moisture, recurrent water stress, and deep water table ([Laio](#)
53 [et al., 2009](#)). Since the available energy is not directly considered, they are
54 not suitable to be applied in energy-limited environments.

55 Photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) is the energy source of biophys-
56 ical processes, such as photosynthesis, stomatal conductance, transpiration,
57 evaporation, leaf temperature, plant growth, seedling generation, biochemi-
58 cal cycling, and atmospheric chemistry ([Thorpe et al., 1978](#); [Baldocchi and](#)
59 [Meyers, 1991](#); [Baldocchi and Collineau, 1994](#); [Ballaré, 1994](#); [Hansen, 1999](#);
60 [Yu et al., 2004](#); [Daly et al., 2004](#); [Ge et al., 2011](#)), which are directly or
61 indirectly related to s . On the other hand, the stomata movement regulates
62 simultaneously the water and CO₂ fluxes during transpiration and photosyn-
63 thesis ([Collatz et al., 1991](#); [Yu et al., 2004](#); [Medlyn et al., 2017](#); [Shan et al.,](#)
64 [2019](#)), being necessary to model photosynthesis and transpiration coupled
65 with the stomatal conductance (g_s).

66 In this study, we propose an extension of the model by [Rodríguez-Iturbe](#)
67 [et al. \(1999\)](#) and [Laio et al. \(2001\)](#) towards the representation of the stochas-
68 tic behavior of soil moisture in both water- and energy-limited environments.
69 The moisture loss model proposed by [Laio et al. \(2001\)](#) is modified in such
70 a way that actual ET becomes a function of soil moisture and available ra-
71 diation. Then, we analyze the relations of transpiration (T) and available
72 radiation, and transpiration and soil moisture when radiation is the limiting
73 variable. Stomatal conductance is modeled using the Leuning’s approach
74 ([Leuning, 1990, 1995](#)), and transpiration using the Penman-Monteith equa-
75 tion. Net assimilation of CO₂ (A_n) is determined with the Farquhar model

Table 1: Parameters for the stomatal and transpiration models.

Parameter	Value	Description
a_1	18	Eq. 3
c_a [$\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$]	350	Atmospheric CO ₂ concentration
c_p [$\text{J kg}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$]	1013	Specific heat of air
D_x [Pa]	300	Eq. 3
e	0.622	Ratio molecular weight of water vapour/dry air
g_a [mm s^{-1}]	20	Atmospheric conductance
g_b [mm s^{-1}]	20	Leaf boundary layer conductance
LAI [m m^{-1}]	1.4	Leaf area index
λ_w [J kg^{-1}]	$2.26 \cdot 10^6$	Latent heat of water vaporization
ρ_a [kg m^{-3}]	1.2	Air density
ρ_w [kg m^{-3}]	997	Water density

76 and information from the FLUXNET database. The dependence of g_s and
77 T on available PAR is integrated at the daily level, relating T and PAR
78 through a simple expression. Finally, we analyze the sensitivity of the prob-
79 ability density distribution (pdf) to the available energy and the long-term
80 water balance.

81 2. Data

82 Half hourly resolution data of air temperature (T_a), atmospheric pres-
83 sure (P_a), vapor pressure deficit (Δ_e), photosynthetic photon flux density
84 (PPFD), net ecosystem CO₂ exchange (NEE), CO₂ air concentration, and
85 soil moisture in 28 sites around the world are taken from the FLUXNET
86 dataset (Baldocchi et al., 2001; Olson et al., 2004). NEE data contain pos-
87 itive values during the day (assimilation), and negative values during the
88 night (respiratory loss) (Drake and Read, 1981), therefore the positive values
89 of these series are used as A_n . Table 1 shows the parameters for applying
90 Penman-Monteith and Leuning equations, and Table 2 those for applying the
91 Farquhar model. These values are the same published by Daly et al. (2004).

92 3. Transpiration dynamics

93 The major components in the earth’s hydrological cycle are transpira-
94 tion and evaporation. Their analysis and understanding are fundamental

Table 2: Parameters for the C₃ photosynthesis model.

Parameter	Value	Description
H_{Kc} [J mol ⁻¹]	59430	Activation energy for K_c
H_{Ko} [J mol ⁻¹]	36000	Activation energy for K_o
H_{vV} [J mol ⁻¹]	116300	Activation energy for $V_{c,max}$
H_{dV} [J mol ⁻¹]	202900	Deactivation energy for $V_{c,max}$
H_{vJ} [J mol ⁻¹]	79500	Activation energy for J_{max}
H_{dJ} [J mol ⁻¹]	201000	Deactivation energy for J_{max}
J_{max0} [$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$]	$2 \times V_{c,max0}$	Eq. A.5 (Kattge and Knorr, 2007)
K_{c0} [$\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$]	302	Michaelis constant for CO ₂ at T ₀
K_{o0} [$\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$]	256	Michaelis constant for O ₂ at T ₀
o_i [mol mol ⁻¹]	0.209	Oxygen concentration
R_g [J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹]	8.31	Universal gas constant
S_v [J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹]	650	Entropy term
T ₀ [K]	293.2	Reference temperature
$V_{c,max0}$ [$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$]	50	Eq. A.3
γ_0 [$\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$]	34.6	CO ₂ compensation point at T ₀
γ_1 K ⁻¹]	0.0451	Eq. 4
γ_2 K ⁻²]	0.000347	Eq. 4

95 in applications associated with biogeochemical cycles, nutrient losses, salt
 96 accumulations of soil, production efficiency, etc. (Schulze et al., 1995). Tran-
 97 spiration couples water and carbon cycles (Miner et al., 2017; Shan et al.,
 98 2019), while evapotranspiration couples water and land-surface energy bal-
 99 ances (Fisher et al., 2009; Seneviratne et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2016). These
 100 links are driven by vegetation, climate, and soil, existing a close dependence
 101 between atmosphere and vegetation. The sensible and latent heat fluxes from
 102 vegetation cause changes in the atmosphere state and, at the same time, veg-
 103 etation responds to changes in air temperature and humidity (Monteith and
 104 Unsworth, 2013). Vegetation closes its stomata in the absence of light or wa-
 105 ter in the soil so that both radiation and soil moisture are variables directly
 106 related to transpiration (Monteith, 1995).

107 Although transpiration (T) responds to a wide variety of complex envi-
 108 ronmental and physiological factors (Cowan and Farquhar, 1977; Tuzet et al.,
 109 2003), here it is assumed that T can be limited by three factors: soil water,
 110 energy, and vegetation capacity (physiology) (see Fig. 1). The maximum
 111 rate at which vegetation can transpire when it has no external limitations
 112 depends on the maximum stomatal conductance, which is directly propor-
 113 tional to pore width (Larcher, 1995). This rate is T_{maxmax} and is represented
 114 by the red line in Fig. 1. The left panel of Fig. 1 shows the relationship
 115 of transpiration rate and available radiation (R) when there are no water
 116 limitations (green line). This relationship is direct until a value of R where
 117 transpiration ceases increasing. This dependence is analyzed in detail in sec-
 118 tion 3.3. The right panel in Fig. 1 indicates the relationship of transpiration
 119 and soil moisture. The dark blue line shows the transpiration rate when
 120 it is limited by soil moisture and vegetation physiology, but not by energy.
 121 Transpiration is maximum for values of s greater than the incipient stomata
 122 closure (s^*) (T is equal to T_{maxmax}). For values lower than s^* , T begins to
 123 decrease because vegetation closes its stomata to avoid internal losses of wa-
 124 ter. Transpiration continues to reduce until the wilting point (s_w) where it
 125 becomes zero. When considering both water and energy limitations, energy
 126 limits transpiration for values above s^* (see the plateau of the right graph in
 127 Fig. 1), while soil moisture limits for values below s^* (Petersen et al., 1992).

128 High values of available energy (R) result in higher maximum transpira-
 129 tion rates (T_{max}). For example, as shown by the light blue lines in Fig. 1,
 130 a high available energy value (R_1) derives in a higher transpiration rate for
 131 $s > s^*$ (T_{max1}) than a low available energy value (R_2) that results in a lower
 132 value of transpiration (T_{max2}). In this case, both T_{max1} and T_{max2} are lower

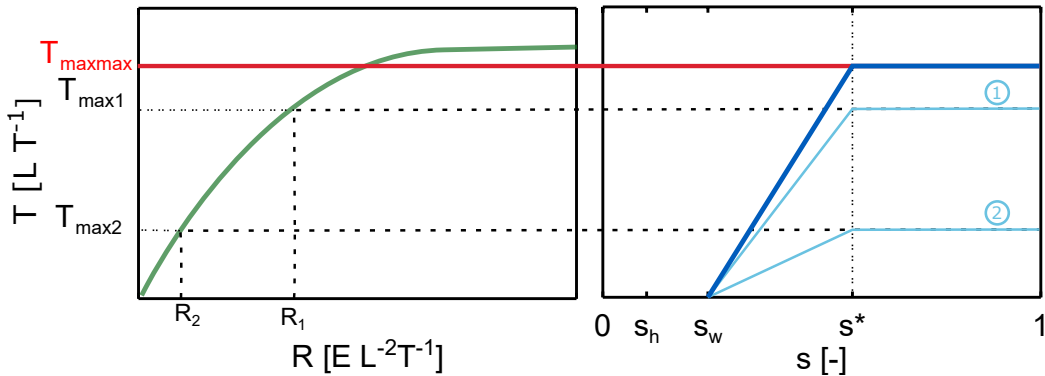


Figure 1: Limitations of transpiration. Left (right) graph illustrates the dependence of transpiration on available energy (water). T_{maxmax} indicates the maximum transpiration rate when there are no external limitations.

133 than T_{maxmax} , therefore, the plateaus of both light blue lines are determined
 134 by the available radiation. Energy also influences the response of the plant
 135 to water stress (Petersen et al., 1991, 1992). The rate of water loss is pro-
 136 portional to the water vapor concentration gradient within the vegetation
 137 and the bulk atmosphere (Pallardy, 2008), and high radiation values result
 138 in high vapor-pressure deficit in the air. When there is much energy in the
 139 atmosphere, the vegetation must react more drastically to the water stress
 140 ($s < s^*$), because it can lose water at a high rate (see the steeper light blue
 141 line 1 from s^* to s_w in the right panel of Fig. 1). Vegetation begins to rapidly
 142 close their stomata as soil moisture decreases, reducing its transpiration from
 143 T_{max1} when $s > s^*$ to zero when $s < s_w$. On the other hand, when energy
 144 demand is low (R_2), vegetation can also suffer water stress, but its reaction
 145 may be slighter (Kaufmann, 1976), as shown in the light blue line 2 with
 146 T_{max} equal to T_{max2} .

147 3.1. Water-limited ecosystems

148 The water-limited regime occurs when ET is very sensitive to s . This
 149 regime is associated with arid and semi-arid ecosystems (Budyko, 1974; Ea-
 150 gleson, 1982; Seneviratne et al., 2010). Water restricts ET by its scarcity,
 151 intermittency, and unpredictability (Porporato and Rodríguez-iturbe, 2002),
 152 and photosynthesis is controlled by soil moisture (Porporato and Rodríguez-
 153 iturbe, 2002; Daly et al., 2004).

154 When soil moisture decreases, vegetation reduces its stomata aperture
 155 avoiding changes in its internal water status (Cowan and Farquhar, 1977;

156 Lhomme, 2001). Stomata close as a response to a signal from the roots
 157 when the soil is dry before leaf wilting (Schulze, 1986). This phenomenon
 158 is known as vegetation water stress and occurs because vegetation needs an
 159 adequate level of humidity in their tissues to growth and survival (Davies
 160 et al., 1990; Lhomme, 2001). The description and effects of water stress are
 161 widely explained by Schulze (1986); Davies et al. (1990); Flexas and Medrano
 162 (2002); Chaves et al. (2003); Xu et al. (2010); Tardieu et al. (2018), among
 163 others. Laio et al. (2001) proposed a transpiration model as a function of soil
 164 moisture for arid and semi-arid regions. In this model, there are no energy
 165 limitations, and it is expressed as:

$$T(s) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 < s \leq s_w \\ T_{max} \frac{s-s_w}{s^*-s_w}, & s_w < s \leq s^* \\ T_{max}, & s^* < s \leq 1. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

166 The term T_{max} represents the maximum evapotranspiration for the veg-
 167 etation in the presence of unlimited water and energy. When $s < s^*$, T is
 168 assumed to decrease linearly because of the limitations of soil moisture until
 169 it reaches the wilting point, s_w . Below s_w transpiration ceases. The right
 170 panel of Fig.1 represents the behavior of transpiration as modeled by Eq. 1.

171 3.2. Energy-limited and seasonal ecosystems

172 The energy-limited regime occurs when soil moisture is most of the time
 173 greater than a critical value, with ET weakly dependent on s (Budyko, 1974;
 174 Seneviratne et al., 2010). This regime is associated with wet ecosystems.
 175 Light limits by its high spatiotemporal variability, that is related to structural
 176 and environmental heterogeneity (gapping and clumping of foliage, gaps in
 177 the canopy, leaf orientation, type and distribution of clouds, topography,
 178 seasonal trends in plant phenology, and seasonality movements of the sun)
 179 (Baldocchi and Collineau, 1994).

180 Radiation in the spectral band of photosynthetically active radiation
 181 (PAR) directly drives the fundamental plant physiological processes involving
 182 in transpiration, i.e., photosynthesis, stomatal conductance, and leaf tem-
 183 perature. Besides, it indirectly influences secondary processes such as plant
 184 growth, seedling generation, structure, and gas emission (Monteith, 1965;
 185 Baldocchi and Meyers, 1991; De Pury and Farquhar, 1997).

186 Transpiration and photosynthesis are processes taking place simultane-
 187 ously since vegetation loses water through transpiration when take up CO_2
 188 to photosynthesis (Daly et al., 2004; Yu et al., 2004). Photosynthetic rate is

189 a function of irradiance, CO₂ concentration, temperature, nutrient and, wa-
190 ter supply (Luoma, 1997). However, under well-watered conditions, PAR is
191 one of the major environmental factors controlling photosynthesis, stomatal
192 conductance, and consequently, transpiration, in a great number of species
193 (Kaufmann, 1976; Schulze et al., 1995; Mielke et al., 1999; Gao et al., 2002).
194 Stomatal conductance and transpiration increase with PAR (Gao et al., 2002;
195 Pieruschka et al., 2010), as shown in the left graph of Fig. 1. This can be
196 explained by the proportionality between the potassium cation concentration
197 in guard cells and PAR. An increase in the potassium cation concentration
198 causes a decreasing in the osmotic potential of guard cells, resulting in ad-
199 ditional water leaves epidermal cells and enter guard cells. This provokes
200 great turgor pressure inside guards and reduces turgor on subsidiary cells so
201 that the vegetation opens its stomata, rising thus its conductance and tran-
202 spiration (Cooke et al., 1976; Gao et al., 2002; Yu et al., 2004). In seasonal
203 ecosystems, the availability of water and energy fluctuates, and vegetation
204 can present unique adaptations and effects on the hydrological cycle that
205 differ from water and energy limited ecosystems (Asbjornsen et al., 2011).

206 The expression of transpiration of Laio et al. (2001) manages to describe
207 the daily ET dynamics in energy-limited and seasonal ecosystems provided
208 that E_{max} is defined taking into account the available energy, and stationarity
209 is maintained both in the parameters that describe rainfall and radiation.
210 Fig. 2 represents transpiration as a function of soil moisture and available
211 energy ($T(s, R)$) for a particular set of parameter values. The Penman-
212 Monteith equation is used to relate radiation and T_{max} , varying radiation
213 from 0 to 18 MJ m⁻² (for a fixed stomatal conductance). This figure shows
214 that when the available radiation is high, the rate at which transpiration
215 decreases with s is much steeper than when radiation is low, representing the
216 response of vegetation to atmospheric demand. We notice that for $R_n = 0$
217 there is still minimal evapotranspiration due to the non-zero value of the
218 adiabatic term.

219 3.3. Transpiration and available energy

220 Available energy affects transpiration, stomatal aperture and photosyn-
221 thesis through light receptors driving CO₂ fixation and lower intercellular
222 CO₂ concentration (Yu et al., 2004), and determining the diabatic compo-
223 nent of transpiration (Monteith and Unsworth, 2013). Hence, to properly
224 study the effects of radiation on transpiration (T), the relations among car-
225 bon assimilation (A_n), stomatal conductance (g_s) and transpiration must be

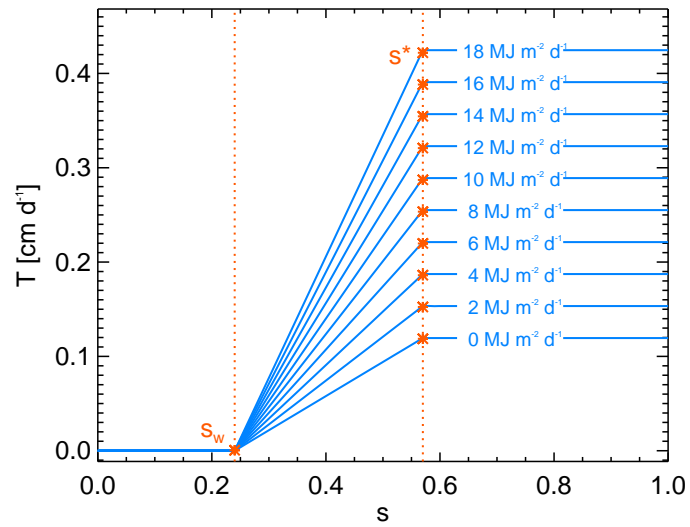


Figure 2: Transpiration as a function of soil moisture and available radiation according to the Penman-Monteith equation and [Laio et al. \(2001\)](#) model. Each horizontal line represents an available radiation value. The parameters used in this figure are $Z_r = 90$ cm, $\lambda = 0.1$ d $^{-1}$, $\alpha = 1.5$ cm, $\Delta = 0$ cm, $E_w = 0.05$ cm d $^{-1}$, $E_{max} = 0.43$ cm d $^{-1}$, $s_h = 0.1$, $s_w = 0.24$, $s^* = 0.57$, $T_{min} = 17.1$ °C, $T_{max} = 28.1$ °C, $r_a = 20.76$ s m $^{-1}$, $r_c = 69.4$ s m $^{-1}$ and $G = 0$ MJ m $^{-2}$.

226 taken into account. For this, the Penman-Monteith equation, the Leuning’s
 227 stomatal conductance model, the Farquhar model, and a simplified energy
 228 balance model are solved numerically and simultaneously. This solution is
 229 at a half-hourly scale since the information from the FLUXNET database
 230 has this resolution, but as this analysis is carried out to use the Laio et al.
 231 (2001) model, these results are integrated on the daily scale. Bartlett et al.
 232 (2014), Daly et al. (2004) and Leuning et al. (1995) present methodologies
 233 to solve simultaneously stomatal conductance, CO₂ assimilation, and energy
 234 balance.

235 Penman-Monteith equation (Monteith, 1965; Monteith and Unsworth,
 236 2013) is adopted because it is widely used in hydrology, and relates tran-
 237 spiration and stomatal conductance. It is expressed as:

$$T = \frac{(\rho_a c_p D g_{ba} + \Delta_e R) g_s LAI}{\rho_w \lambda_v [\Delta_e g_s LAI + \gamma_p (g_{ba} + g_s LAI)]}, \quad (2)$$

238 where λ_v is the latent heat of vaporization (2.26 MJ kg⁻¹), ρ_w and ρ_a
 239 are the water (998.2 kg m⁻³) and air (1.2 kg m⁻³) densities, respectively,
 240 c_p is the specific heat of air (1.013·10⁻³ MJ kg⁻¹ K⁻¹), Δ_e is the slope of
 241 saturation of vapor pressure, γ_p is the psychrometric constant, D is the satu-
 242 ration vapor pressure deficit, LAI is the leaf area index, and g_{ba} is the series
 243 of leaf boundary conductance (g_b) and atmospheric boundary layer conduc-
 244 tance (g_a). Both g_a and g_b are assumed to be constant. The first term in
 245 Eq. 2 is the adiabatic component which accounts for the atmospheric satu-
 246 ration deficit, and the second term is the diabatic component of latent heat
 247 loss, related to radiation supply. According to the Penman-Monteith equa-
 248 tion, T increases linearly with R and with the atmospheric saturation deficit.
 249 As g_{ba} is strongly related to wind speed, when it increases, T also increases,
 250 and when variables in the numerator remain constant, Δ_e increases with
 251 temperature.

252 3.3.1. Stomatal conductance

253 Stomatal conductance (g_s) can be calculated using physiological and bio-
 254 chemical models (e.g. Jarvis, 1976; Farquhar et al., 1980; Ball et al., 1987;
 255 Farquhar, 1989; Collatz et al., 1991; Leuning, 1995; Gao et al., 2002; Dewar,
 256 2002; Tuzet et al., 2003; Yu et al., 2004). The models most widely used are
 257 those based on Jarvis (1976) (e.g. Baldocchi and Meyers, 1991; Peters-Lidard
 258 et al., 1997; Daly et al., 2004; Yu et al., 2004) and Ball et al. (1987) (e.g.
 259 Leuning, 1990, 1995; Leuning et al., 1995; Daly et al., 2004) approaches.

260 Net assimilation and transpiration are processes coupled with the stom-
 261 atal aperture. Therefore, a stomatal conductance model that relates transpi-
 262 ration to net assimilation is necessary to analyze the dynamics of transpira-
 263 tion. For this purpose, we use the semi-empirical formulation given by Ball
 264 et al. (1987) and improved by Leuning (1990, 1995), expressed as:

$$g_s = 1.6a_1 \frac{A_n}{(c_s - \Gamma^*) \left(1 + \frac{D}{D_x}\right)}. \quad (3)$$

265 This equation gives g_s in terms of carbon assimilation (A_n), water vapor
 266 saturation deficit (D), CO₂ compensation point (Γ^*), carbon concentration
 267 at the leaf surface (c_s), a fitted parameter representing the sensitivity of
 268 stomata to changes in D (D_x), and an empirical constant with a typical value
 269 around 15 (a_1). The CO₂ compensation point is the CO₂ concentration at
 270 which the CO₂ uptake rate in the photosynthesis equals the CO₂ loss rate of
 271 respiration (Birmingham and Colman, 1979). Γ^* is significantly affected by
 272 leaf temperature, and according to Brooks and Farquhar (1985), they can be
 273 related by:

$$\Gamma^* = \gamma_0 + [1 + \gamma_0 (T_l - T_0) + \gamma_2 (T_l - T_0)^2], \quad (4)$$

274 where γ_0 , γ_1 and γ_2 are empirical constants, T_0 is the reference tempera-
 275 ture, and T_l is the leaf temperature.

276 3.3.2. Energy balance

277 Since when solving Eqs. 2 and 3 there are three unknowns (T , g_s and T_l),
 278 it is mandatory to couple another equation that allows solving the system,
 279 in this case the energy balance equation:

$$T_l = T_a + \frac{R - \rho_w \lambda_w T}{c_p \rho_a g_a}. \quad (5)$$

280 3.3.3. Net carbon assimilation

281 The Farquhar model (Farquhar, 1973; Cowan and Farquhar, 1977; Far-
 282 quhar et al., 1980) is applied to calculate A_n in sites where there are no
 283 measurements of it. This is the most frequently used model to quantify the
 284 responses of C₃ plants to external perturbations under well-watered condi-
 285 tions. The biochemical demand for CO₂ is determined as a function of the
 286 photosynthetic photon flux density (Q), CO₂ concentration in the mesophyll
 287 cytosol (c_i) and leaf temperature (T_l), and expressed as:

$$A_n = f(Q, c_i, T_l) = \min[A_c, A_q], \quad (6)$$

288 where A_c and A_q are the photosynthesis rates limited by the Ribulose
 289 bisphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase (Rubisco) activity, and by the Ribulose
 290 bisphosphate (RuP₂) regeneration through electron transport, respectively
 291 (see [Appendix A](#) for more details).

292 3.3.4. Upscaling from half-hourly to daily timescale

293 The results obtained with the models of transpiration, stomatal conduc-
 294 tance, and net assimilation have the temporal resolution of FLUXNET data,
 295 i.e, half-hour. To evaluate the daily dynamics of transpiration, we integrate
 296 both the calculated results and the information from the FLUXNET database
 297 at this time scale. The daily values of s , T and g_s correspond to the average
 298 during the day, while PAR and A_n are the cumulative sub-daily values.

299 4. Soil moisture dynamics

300 [Rodríguez-Iturbe et al. \(1999\)](#) proposed a daily stochastic zero-dimensional
 301 model for soil moisture dynamics at a point in terms of climate-soil-vegetation
 302 interactions, under seasonally fixed conditions. The stochastic behavior of
 303 rainfall propagates through interception, evapotranspiration, runoff, leakage
 304 and soil moisture. Rainfall is modeled as a marked Poisson process that gen-
 305 erates infiltration into the soil as a function on the existing soil water content
 306 until it reaches saturation. Soil water losses are due to evapotranspiration
 307 and leakage, which also depend on the soil moisture state. Soil moisture dy-
 308 namics is the result of the water mass balance over the plant’s rooting depth,
 309 expressed by the stochastic differential equation:

$$nZ_r \frac{ds(t)}{dt} = \varphi[s(t), t] - \chi[s(t), R(t)], \quad (7)$$

310 where n is the soil porosity, Z_r is the rooting depth, s is the soil water
 311 content, R is the available radiation, $\varphi[s(t), t]$ is the infiltration rate, and
 312 $\chi[s(t), R(t)]$ is the soil moisture loss rate.

313 Infiltration is a stochastic component, expressed as:

$$\varphi[s(t), t] = P(t) - I(t) - Q[s(t), t], \quad (8)$$

314 where $P(t)$ is the rainfall rate, $I(t)$ is the rainfall rate intercepted by the
 315 canopy, and $Q[s(t), t]$ is the rate of surface runoff generation.

316 Soil water losses are evaporation, transpiration and, leakage, thus the
 317 total water loss rate (χ) is given by:

$$\chi [s(t), R(t)] = ET [s(t), R(t)] + L [s(t)], \quad (9)$$

318 where $ET [s(t), R(t)]$ and $L [s(t)]$ are the evapotranspiration and leakage
 319 rates, respectively.

320 ET is modeled as the sum of evaporation (E) and transpiration (T). E
 321 is a fixed rate equal to E_w when $s_w \leq s \leq 1$, which decreases from s_w until
 322 it reaches the hygroscopic point (s_h), where it becomes zero. Transpiration
 323 is modeled as Eq. 1, being ET given by:

$$ET (s) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 < s \leq s_h \\ E_w \frac{s-s_h}{s_w-s_h}, & s_h < s \leq s_w \\ E_w + (E_{max} - E_w) \frac{s-s_w}{s^*-s_w}, & s_w < s \leq s^* \\ E_{max}, & s^* < s \leq 1. \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

324 E_{max} is equal to $T_{max} + E_w$. [AppendixB](#) describes the modeling of the
 325 other variables in Eqs. 8 and 9.

326 Following [Rodríguez-Iturbe et al. \(1999\)](#) and [Laio et al. \(2001\)](#), the prob-
 327 ability density function (pdf) of soil moisture under steady-state conditions
 328 may be derived from the Chapman-Kolmogorov forward equation. The gener-
 329 al form of the solution is:

$$p(s) = \frac{C}{\rho(s, R_n)} e^{-\gamma s + \lambda' \int \frac{du}{\rho(u)}}, \text{ for } s \geq s_h, \quad (11)$$

330 where λ' is the mean time between rainy days, and C is a constant that
 331 can be obtained by imposing the normalized condition $\int_{s_h}^1 \rho(s) ds = 1$. This
 332 constant is easily obtained numerically, although its analytical expressions
 333 are given in [Laio et al. \(2001\)](#) and [Rodríguez-Iturbe and Porporato \(2004\)](#).
 334 Details of the derivation of $p(s)$ can be found in [Rodríguez-Iturbe and Por-](#)
 335 [porato \(2004\)](#); [Laio et al. \(2001\)](#); and [Rodríguez-Iturbe et al. \(1999\)](#). The
 336 general solution is:

$$p(s) = \begin{cases} \frac{C}{\eta_w} \left(\frac{s-s_h}{s_w-s_h} \right)^{T_1-1} e^{-\gamma s} & s_h < s \leq s_w \\ \frac{C}{\eta_w} \left[1 + \left(\frac{\eta}{\eta_w} - 1 \right) \frac{s-s_w}{s^*-s_w} \right]^{T_2-1} e^{-\gamma s} & s_w < s \leq s_{fc} \\ \frac{C}{\eta} e^{-\gamma s + \frac{\lambda'}{\eta}(s-s^*)} \left(\frac{\eta}{\eta_w} \right)^{T_2} & s_{cr} < s \leq s_{fc} \\ \frac{C}{\eta} e^{-(\beta+\gamma)s + \beta s_{fc}} \left(\frac{\eta e^{\beta s}}{(\eta-m)e^{\beta s_{fc}} + m e^{\beta s}} \right)^{T_3+1} & \\ \cdot \left(\frac{\eta}{\eta_w} \right)^{T_2-1} e^{T_4} & s_{fc} < s \leq 1, \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

337 where

$$T_1 = \lambda' \frac{s_w - s_h}{\eta_w}, \quad T_2 = \lambda' \frac{s^* - s_w}{\eta - \eta_w}, \quad T_3 = \frac{\lambda'}{\beta(\eta - m)}, \quad T_4 = \lambda' \frac{s_{fc} - s^*}{\eta}$$

338

$$\eta_w = \frac{E_w}{nZ_r}, \quad \eta = \frac{E_{max}}{nZ_r}, \quad m = \frac{K_s}{nZ_r \left[e^{\beta(1-s_{fc})} - 1 \right]}.$$

339 As mentioned before, the transpiration model of [Laio et al. \(2001\)](#) man-
340 ages to describe the daily T dynamics in energy-limited ecosystems. Conse-
341 quently, Eq. 10 manages to represent the evapotranspiration dynamics, and
342 Eq. 12 the dynamics of soil moisture. This is proper as long as T_{max} (or
343 E_{max}) is defined as a function of the available energy, and the stationarity of
344 the parameters describing rainfall and radiation is preserved. It is noted that
345 considerations in the model of [Rodríguez-Iturbe et al. \(1999\)](#) must continue
346 to be taken into account, e.g., deep water table, soil homogeneity, distribu-
347 tion of infiltration volume into the rooting depth, etc. Interactions between
348 vegetation and water table are not considered. This is a realistic assumption
349 for water-controlled arid and semi-arid ecosystems, but may be a question-
350 able one for energy-limited ecosystems. In the latter case, there may exist
351 a close interaction between transpiration and the water table level ([Tamea
352 et al., 2009](#)), but this may or not may impact heavily the pdf of soil moisture
353 in systems that are both water- and energy-limited.

354 5. Daily dynamics

355 Fig. 3 shows the relationship between available energy and CO_2 assim-
356 ilation, and available energy and the stomatal conductance in two sites,

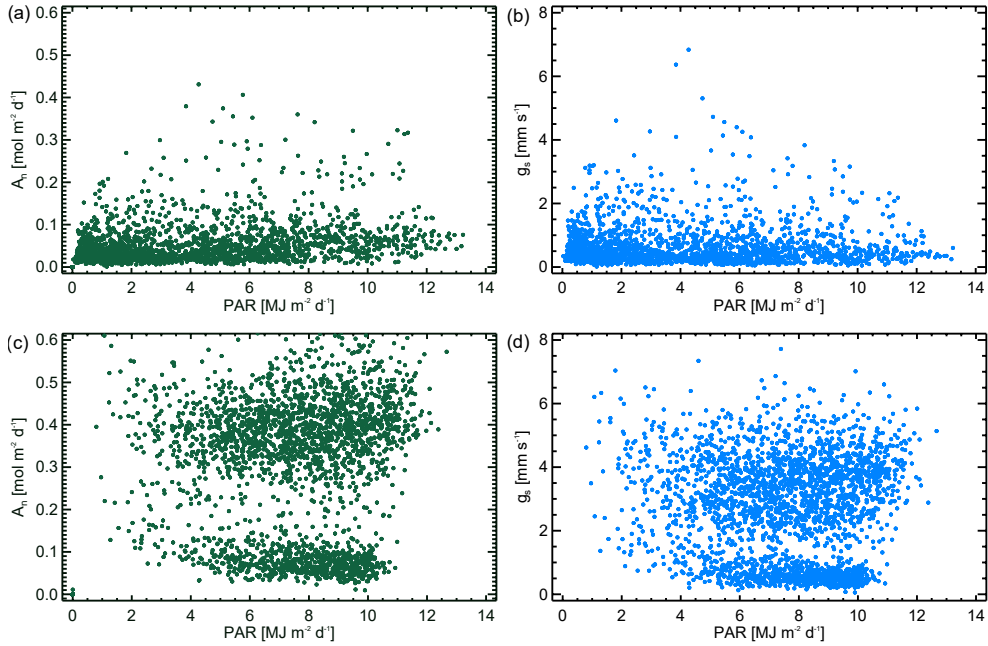


Figure 3: Relationship between daily PAR and CO_2 assimilation (left panel) and daily PAR and stomatal conductance (right panel) at (a,b) an extratropical site in Germany and (c,d) a tropical site in French Guiana.

357 one located in the extratropics (Germany) and other in the tropics (French
 358 Guiana). In the extratropics (Fig. 3(a,b)), the relationships of PAR and A_n ,
 359 and PAR and g_s are positive for low values of PAR ($\approx 4 \text{ MJ m}^{-2}$) and neg-
 360 ative for high values. The photo-inhibition phenomenon, that occurs under
 361 strong light since it can destroy the plant tissues, can explain the above. This
 362 phenomenon involves the direct diversion of the superfluous radiation energy
 363 from the photosystems via fluorescence, and above as heat (Larcher, 1995).
 364 Nonetheless, at sites in tropics (see Fig. 3(c-d)), the relationships of PAR
 365 with g_s and A_n seem more random, which can be explained by the adapta-
 366 tion and the strategies developed by the plants at sites where they usually
 367 receive high radiation. We recalled that the PAR values analyzed correspond
 368 to those reaching the ground surface, and not those absorbed by the plant.

369 Fig. 4 shows the relationship between PAR and transpiration at the same
 370 sites in Fig. 3. In both types of ecosystems the relationship is direct since
 371 when PAR increases, both adiabatic and diabatic terms of Penman-Monteith
 372 increase. Radiation affects temperature, and this, in turn, modifies the vapor

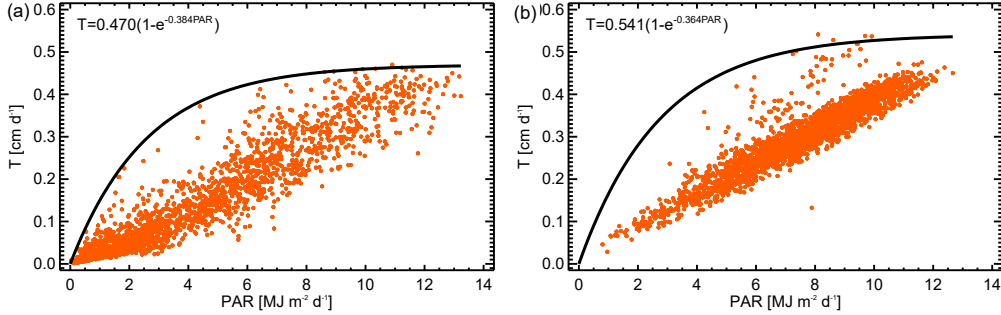


Figure 4: Relation of daily PAR and T in (a) an extratropical site and (b) a tropical site. The black line represents the proposed model to relate both variables.

373 saturation deficit. Furthermore, if there is available energy, the stomata open
 374 up as they can fix more CO_2 , leading to the plant loses water. However, as
 375 shown in Fig. 3, the relation of PAR and g_s is not always direct, but g_s
 376 stabilizes (light-saturated plateau) at a point (Lambers et al., 2008), and
 377 may even decrease. The effect of light-saturation is also observed on T , but
 378 not that of the photo-inhibition, at least for the values of PAR measured at
 379 the sites studied.

380 Since transpiration is modeled using measured data, many factors may
 381 be limiting A_n , and consequently g_s and T , so a link between PAR and T
 382 must involve the envelope of simulated points relating these variables (see
 383 Fig. 4). For most sites, the envelope fits well to the expression:

$$T_{max}(PAR) = T^* (1 - e^{-aPAR}). \quad (13)$$

384 This expression is a function of the maximum possible value of transpi-
 385 ration (light-saturation) (T^*) and a fitting parameter that determines the
 386 shape of the curve (a). This relationship avoids considering the indirect ef-
 387 fects of radiation in transpiration (g_s, T_a, D , etc.). Fig. 4 shows the PAR - T
 388 curves (black lines) and their expressions in the sites in Germany and French
 389 Guiana. From Eq. 13 and considering the transpiration rate given by the
 390 vegetation physiology (T_{maxmax}), T_{max} can be defined as:

$$T_{max}(R) = \begin{cases} T^* (1 - e^{-aR}), & T_{max}(R) < T_{maxmax} \\ T_{maxmax}, & T_{max}(R) \geq T_{maxmax}. \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

391 We noticed that available energy is considered as a constant since its
 392 stochasticity at the daily scale does not play a fundamental role in soil mois-

393 ture dynamics under the assumptions of the Rodríguez-Iturbe et al. (1999)
 394 model, as shown by Muñoz (2019).

395 6. Analysis of sensitivity

396 Fig. 5 shows the response of soil water dynamics to PAR when other
 397 parameters of the Rodríguez-Iturbe et al. (1999) and Laio et al. (2001) model
 398 vary following the dimensionless groups:

$$\pi_1 = \frac{E_{max}}{\alpha\lambda}, \quad \pi_2 = \frac{nZ_r}{\alpha}, \quad \pi_3 = \frac{k_s}{\alpha\lambda}, \quad \pi_4 = \frac{k_s}{E_{max}}. \quad (15)$$

399 These dimensionless groups are used because they simplify the interpre-
 400 tation and visualization of the results (Bridgman, 1922; Barenblatt, 1996;
 401 Gorokhovski and Hosseinipour, 1997; Butterfield, 1999; Barenblatt and Isaakovich,
 402 2003). The sensitivity of the model output to each parameter is evaluated
 403 by moving the input parameter within an appropriate range and keeping the
 404 other parameters fixed. π_1 and π_2 groups have been adopted in previous
 405 works to analyze the soil moisture response to rainfall forcing, soil and veg-
 406 etation changes (e.g. Li, 2014; Feng et al., 2012; Daly and Porporato, 2006;
 407 Porpotato et al., 2004; Rodríguez-Iturbe and Porporato, 2004; Guswa et al.,
 408 2002; Milly, 2001; Rodríguez-Iturbe et al., 1999; Milly, 1993). π_1 is the *dry-*
 409 *ness index* of Budyko (1974) and represents the ratio between the maximum
 410 evapotranspiration rate and the long-term mean rainfall rate. π_2 is called the
 411 *storage index* and is the ratio between the amount of water that can be stored
 412 in the soil (until the rooting depth) and the long-term mean rainfall depth
 413 (Feng et al., 2012). π_3 and π_4 are proposed by Guswa et al. (2002). π_3 is the
 414 *runoff index* and relates the saturated hydraulic conductivity coefficient and
 415 the long-term mean rainfall rate and, π_4 is the *infiltration index*, relating the
 416 saturated hydraulic conductivity and the maximum evapotranspiration rate.

417 For this analysis, we consider a loamy sand soil and a grass cover with
 418 the parameters in the caption of Fig. 5, where are the results of the four
 419 dimensionless groups are shown. In this, each color corresponds to a value
 420 of π , solid lines represent a low value of PAR (3 MJ m^{-2}), and dotted lines
 421 a high value (15 MJ m^{-2}). Fig. 5(a) shows the pdf of s ($f(s)$) for π_1 values
 422 between 0.1 and 1.4. As the value of π_1 increases, $f(s)$ moves to the left.
 423 Higher π_1 results in lower soil moisture values in the long-term, since the
 424 losses due to evapotranspiration are greater than soil water gains due to

425 rainfall. High values of available energy result in lower modes and greater
 426 dispersion than low PAR values. Fig. 5(b) shows $f(s)$ for π_2 varying between
 427 4 and 20, since natural ecosystems tend to have root zones deep enough to
 428 result in values of π_2 larger than 1.0 (Milly, 2001). The higher the value of π_2 ,
 429 the lower the soil moisture. For large values of nZ_r , characteristic of plants
 430 with deeper roots such as trees, the amount of rainfall reaching the soil is
 431 distributed into a larger volume (according to the model), resulting in smaller
 432 increases in s . For lower values of nZ_r , rainfall is uniformly distributed in a
 433 smaller volume, increasing soil moisture rapidly. Very high and very low π_2
 434 values occur when soil storage capacity is much larger or smaller than the
 435 rainfall amount, respectively. High PAR changes the dynamics of s , notably
 436 for high values of π related to large soil water storage or very small rainfall.
 437 Fig. 5(c) shows the results for π_3 values varying between 50 and 400. As the
 438 *runoff index* increases, the water moves rapidly out of the soil, decreasing
 439 s . As for π_2 , the differences in available energy give very different dynamics
 440 of soil moisture for π_3 , especially for high values of it, occurring when the
 441 amount of water flowing out the soil is much greater than the rainfall rate.
 442 Fig. 5(d) shows $f(s)$ for π_4 values between 100 and 1000. For low values
 443 of π_4 , s remains high because water losses are minor. For high values of π_4
 444 (greater than 550), the mode of the pdfs stabilizes near the field capacity
 445 point, changing only its frequency, and consequently, the dispersion. When
 446 k_s is much larger than E_{max} , soil loses water by leakage at a very high rate,
 447 being the evapotranspiration and its variability less relevant. High values of
 448 PAR result in curves more pulled to the left than low values of PAR.

449 If the available energy is high (dotted lines), the curves of $p(s)$ for all π
 450 groups move more rapidly to the left than when it is low (solid lines), since
 451 vegetation transpires at higher rates, maintaining soil moisture lower. The
 452 sensitivity of s is more noticeable for π values related to lower soil moisture
 453 because the demand of energy in the atmosphere changes the rate at which
 454 vegetation decreases its transpiration when it is under water stress. The
 455 dimensionless groups that consider E_{max} (π_1 and π_4) show less sensitivity
 456 to PAR and the modes always a minor frequency for high available energy.
 457 The other dimensionless groups (π_2 and π_3) show a more noticeable variation
 458 with PAR, completely changing the dynamics of s for some π values (e.g.,
 459 $\pi_2=16$ and $\pi_3=225$). Furthermore, the mode has a high (low) frequency for
 460 low values of PAR when it is greater (lower) than s^* , decreasing (increasing)
 461 the dispersion.

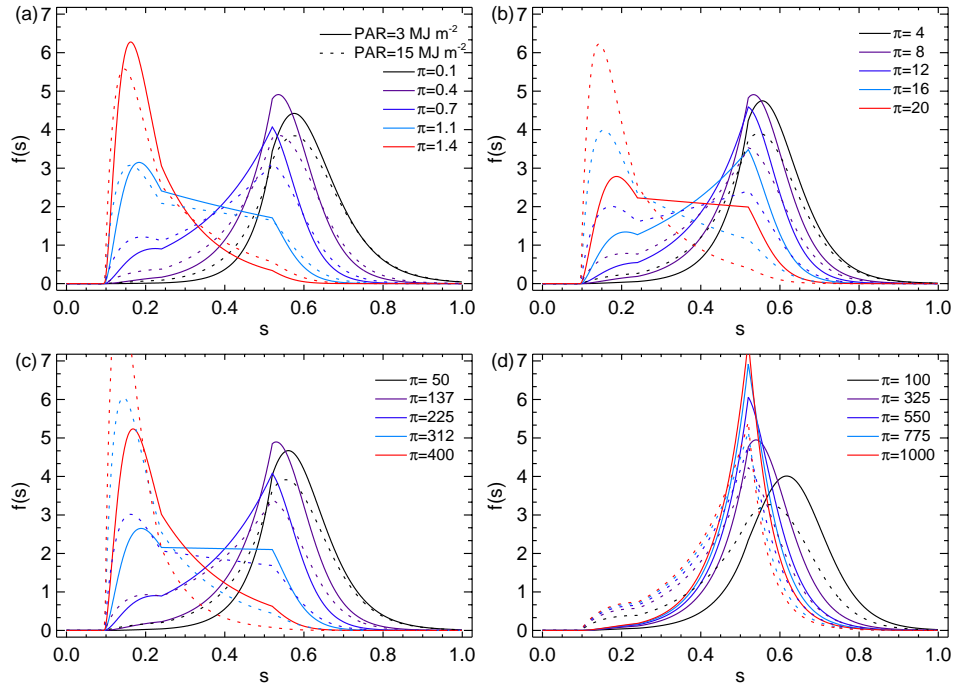


Figure 5: Dimensionless sensitivity analysis of soil water dynamics conditioned by available energy. Parameters in this figure are $\alpha=2 \text{ cm}$, $\lambda=0.5 \text{ d}^{-1}$, $\Delta=0 \text{ cm}$, $Z_r=30 \text{ cm}$, $T_{max}=0.47 \text{ cm d}^{-1}$, $a=0.384 \text{ m}^2 \text{ MJ}^{-1}$, $b=4.48$, $\beta=12.7$, $n=0.42$, $k_s=100 \text{ cm d}^{-1}$, $s_h=0.08$, $s_w=0.10$, $s^*=0.24$, and $s_{fc}=0.52$.

462 7. Water balance

463 Fig. 6 shows the behavior of the components of the water balance nor-
464 malized by the average rainfall rate for a loamy sand soil. The expression of
465 each component can be consulted in [Laio et al. \(2001\)](#) and [Rodríguez-Iturbe
466 and Porporato \(2004\)](#). Figs. 6 (a,b) show the influence of rainfall events fre-
467 quency (λ) for PAR equal to 3 and 15 MJ m², respectively. In both cases,
468 the fraction of intercepted water (I) is constant and equal, since it changes
469 in proportion to the rainfall rate. The percentage of runoff (Q) increases
470 with λ in a similar proportion for both cases. The fraction of water trans-
471 pired under stressed conditions (E_s) decreases rapidly until $\lambda \approx 0.3$ d⁻¹
472 for PAR=3 MJ m⁻² and until $\lambda \approx 0.5$ d⁻¹ for PAR=15 MJ m⁻², being in
473 the first case much lower. The same behavior is observed in the fraction
474 of water transpired under non-stressed conditions (E_s). When PAR is low,
475 the percentage of leakage is higher than when PAR is high, and the per-
476 centage of evapotranspired water is significantly lower. This suggests that
477 more water reaching the soil is lost by evapotranspiration in water-limited
478 regions than in energy-limited regions (for these parameter values), becom-
479 ing Q and L more important in energy-limited ecosystems. These results are
480 in agreement with field observations and results found in previous studies
481 (e.g. [Sala et al., 1992](#); [Entekhabi and Rodríguez-Iturbe, 1994](#); [Golubev et al.,
482 2001](#); [Rodríguez-Iturbe and Porporato, 2004](#); [Robock and Li, 2006](#); [Roderick
483 et al., 2009](#)).

484 Figs. 6(c,d) show the behavior of the water balance when λ and α are
485 varied while maintaining constant the total amount of precipitation during a
486 season Θ ($\Theta = \alpha \cdot \lambda \cdot nd$, being nd the number of days of the growing season)
487 for PAR equal to 3 and 15 MJ m², respectively. For this figure $\Theta = 60$ cm
488 and $nd = 200$ d. Interception increases almost linearly with λ while runoff
489 decreases rapidly. According to [Laio et al. \(2001\)](#), this decreasing depends
490 strongly on the ratio between soil depth and mean depth of rainfall events.
491 The opposite behavior of interception and runoff determines a maximum of
492 evapotranspiration at certain values of λ . As when only λ is varied, the main
493 difference in the behavior of the water balance components for high and low
494 PAR is observed in the percentage of evapotranspiration, being remarkably
495 lower in the first case.

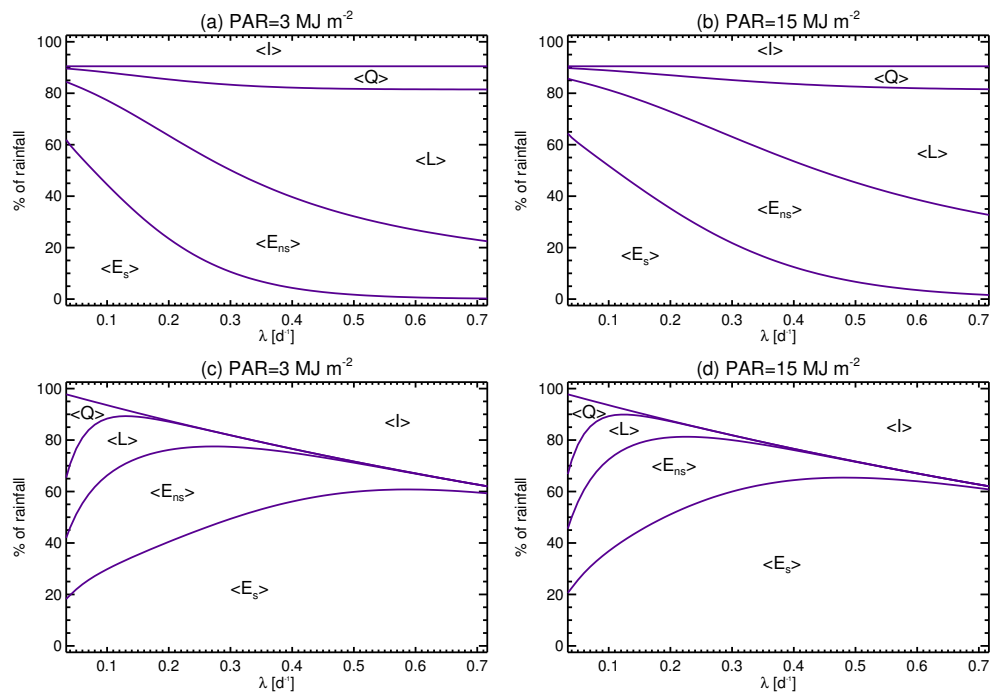


Figure 6: Examples of the behavior of the components of the water balance normalized by the total rainfall $\langle P \rangle$ for loamy sand soil, grass vegetation, and (a,c) PAR=3 MJ m⁻² and (b,d) PAR=15 MJ m⁻². The parameters are shown in caption of Fig. 5.

496 **8. Conclusions**

497 In this paper, we have presented an analysis of transpiration as a function
 498 of available soil water and energy, extending the model of [Rodríguez-Iturbe](#)
 499 [et al. \(1999\)](#) and [Laio et al. \(2001\)](#), originally introduced to represent the
 500 pdf of soil moisture dynamics at a point in water-limited ecosystems, to
 501 the general case of ecosystems ranging from arid (water-limited) to humid
 502 (energy-limited). This model manages to describe the stochastic behavior
 503 of soil water content in environments limited by both energy and water,
 504 since evapotranspiration is expressed as a function of soil moisture and net
 505 radiation. This extension is valid as long as the E_{max} parameter is calculated
 506 taking into account the available energy, the parameters of both rainfall and
 507 radiation are stationarity, and considerations of the water-limited model are
 508 preserved, such as a deep water table, stationarity, homogeneous soil, and
 509 vegetation, etc.

510 We also analyzed the daily relationship of transpiration and photosyn-
 511 thetic active radiation by coupling the water and CO₂ fluxes through the
 512 leaf. As transpiration is directly related to the stomatal conductance, the
 513 relation between PAR and T is positive until a certain point where tran-
 514 spiration ceases to increase. We proposed an expression to parameterize the
 515 link between these two variables. This expression allows calculating the daily
 516 maximum transpiration rate from the value of daily available energy.

517 Several examples are presented exhibiting the influence of radiation on s ,
 518 noticing that the available energy can notoriously change the soil moisture
 519 dynamics, and that evapotranspiration plays a more important role in water-
 520 limited than in energy-limited ecosystems. We note that these results are only
 521 valid on a daily scale since soil-climate-vegetation system dynamics change
 522 in more detailed temporal scales.

523 **AppendixA. Assimilation model for C₃ plants**

524 The photosynthesis rates limited by the Ribulose biphosphate carboxylase-
 525 oxygenase (Rubisco) activity (A_c), and by the Ribulose biphosphate (RuP₂)
 526 regeneration through electron transport (A_q) are given by:

$$A_c = V_{c,max} (T_l) \frac{c_i - \Gamma^*}{c_i + K_c (1 + o_i/K_o)}, \quad (\text{A.1})$$

$$A_q = \frac{J}{4} \frac{c_i - \Gamma^*}{c_i - 2\Gamma^*}, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

527 where Γ^* is the CO₂ compensation point (see Eq. 4), o_i is the intercellular
528 oxygen concentration, $V_{c,max}$ is the maximum catalytic activity of Rubisco
529 in the presence of saturating levels of RuP₂ and CO₂ (Eq. A.3), and K_c and
530 K_o are Michaelis coefficients for CO₂ and O₂, respectively, given by Eq. A.4.

$$V_{c,max}(T_l) = V_{c,max0} \frac{\exp\left[\frac{H_v V}{R_g T_0} \left(1 - \frac{T_0}{T_l}\right)\right]}{1 + \exp\left[\frac{S_v T_l - H_d V}{R_g T_l}\right]}, \quad (\text{A.3})$$

$$K_x(T_l) = K_{x0} \exp\left[\frac{H_{Kx}}{R_g T_0} \left(1 - \frac{T_0}{T_l}\right)\right]. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

531 J is the electron transport for a given absorbed photon irradiance, and is
532 equal to $\min[J_{max}(T_l), Q]$, being J_{max} equal to:

$$J_{max}(T_l) = J_{max0} \frac{\exp\left[\frac{H_v J}{R_g T_0} \left(1 - \frac{T_0}{T_l}\right)\right]}{1 + \exp\left[\frac{S_v T_l - H_d J}{R_g T_l}\right]}. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

533 The parameters not mentioned here are described in Table 2.

534 **AppendixB. Soil moisture model**

535 The variables involved in Eq. 7, except the evapotranspiration (see Eq. 10
536 in section 4), are modeled as Rodríguez-Iturbe et al. (1999) and Laio et al.
537 (2001).

538 *AppendixB.1. Rainfall and interception*

539 Daily precipitation is modeled through a marked Poisson process with
540 arrival rate λ (Eagleson, 1972). The pdf of time intervals between rainy days
541 τ is exponential with mean λ^{-1} :

$$f_T(\tau) = \lambda e^{-\lambda\tau}, \text{ for } \tau \geq 0. \quad (\text{B.1})$$

542 The marks correspond to the rainfall depth of rainy days, h , modeled as
543 an independent exponentially distributed random variable with mean α

$$f_H(h) = \frac{1}{\alpha} e^{-\frac{1}{\alpha}h}, \text{ for } h \geq 0. \quad (\text{B.2})$$

544 The values of α and λ are assumed to be time-invariant quantities dur-
 545 ing the modeling period (growing season or climate season), i.e. rainfall is
 546 considered as a stationary stochastic process.

547 Rainfall rate is linked to the probability distributions expressed by Eqs. B.1
 548 and B.2 as the marked Poisson process (Rodríguez-Iturbe and Porporato,
 549 2004):

$$P(t) = \sum_1 h_i \delta(t - t_i), \quad (\text{B.3})$$

550 where $\delta(\cdot)$ is the Dirac delta function, h_i is the sequence of random rainfall
 551 depths distributed as eqn. B.2 and $[\tau_i = t_i - t_{i-1}, i = 1, 2, 3\dots]$ is the interar-
 552 rival time sequence of a stationary Poisson process of frequency λ .

553 Following Rodríguez-Iturbe et al. (1999), interception is modeled through
 554 a threshold, Δ , such that only rainfall above Δ reaches the soil. The censored
 555 rainfall process is thus Poissonian with rate λ' :

$$\lambda' = \lambda \int_{\Delta}^{\infty} f_H(h) dh = \lambda e^{-\frac{\Delta}{\alpha}}. \quad (\text{B.4})$$

556 The depths h' of the censored rainfall process have the same exponential
 557 distribution as the original marks h (Rodríguez-Iturbe et al., 1999). Then,
 558 the new Poisson process is:

$$P(t) - I(t) = \sum_1 h'_i \delta(t - t'_i), \quad (\text{B.5})$$

559 where $[\tau'_i = t'_i - t'_{i-1}, i = 1, 2, 3\dots]$ is the interarrival time sequence of a
 560 stationary Poisson process with frequency λ' .

561 *Appendix B.2. Infiltration and runoff*

562 Surface runoff is generated via saturation excess (Dunne mechanism) that
 563 occurs when the infiltrated water saturates the soil profile. When rainfall
 564 depth is less than or equal to the available soil water storage, all the water
 565 from rainfall infiltrates. Infiltration is thus a function of the amount of rainfall
 566 and soil moisture, being a stochastic and state-dependent component. Its
 567 magnitude and temporal occurrence are controlled by soil moisture dynamics
 568 (Rodríguez-Iturbe and Porporato, 2004). The probability distribution of the
 569 infiltration may then be written as (Rodríguez-Iturbe et al., 1999):

$$f_Y(y, s) = \gamma e^{-\gamma y} + \delta(y - 1 - s) \int_{1-s}^{\infty} \gamma e^{-\gamma u} du, \text{ for } 0 \leq y \leq 1 - s, \quad (\text{B.6})$$

570 where $\gamma = \frac{nZ_r}{\alpha}$ and y is the dimensionless infiltration normalized by nZ_r .
 571 Infiltration from rainfall can be written as:

$$\varphi[s(t), t] = nZ_r \sum_1 y_i \delta(t - t'_i), \quad (\text{B.7})$$

572 where $[y_i, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots]$ is the sequence of random infiltration events whose
 573 distribution is represented by Eq. B.6.

574 *Appendix B.3. Leakage*

575 Losses by leakage or deep infiltration, L , occur when soil water content
 576 is higher than field capacity, s_{fc} . The maximum percolation rate equals the
 577 saturated hydraulic conductivity, K_s , and decreases rapidly when the soil
 578 begins to dry, as expressed by (Laio et al., 2001):

$$L(s) = K(s) = \frac{K_s}{e^{\beta(1-s_{fc})} - 1} \left[e^{\beta(s-s_{fc})} - 1 \right], \text{ for } s_{fc} < s \leq 1. \quad (\text{B.8})$$

579 *Appendix B.4. Soil-drying process*

580 During no-rain periods, soil moisture decays are deterministically mod-
 581 eled from initial values that depend on the the previous history of the entire
 582 soil-drying-wetting process. The soil moisture losses normalized by nZ_r are:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(s, R_n) &= \frac{\chi(s, R_n)}{nZ_r} = \frac{E(s, R_n) + L(s)}{nZ_r} \\ &= \begin{cases} 0, & 0 < s \leq s_h \\ \eta_w \frac{s-s_h}{s_w-s_h}, & s_h < s \leq s_w \\ \eta_w + (\eta - \eta_w) \frac{s-s_w}{s^*-s_w}, & s_w < s \leq s^* \\ \eta, & s^* < s \leq s_{fc} \\ \eta + m \left[e^{\beta(s-s_{fc})} - 1 \right], & s_{fc} < s \leq 1. \end{cases} \quad (\text{B.9}) \end{aligned}$$

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