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Data assimilation of image data into a spatialized water and pesticide fluxes model

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Physically-based models represent detailed surface/subsurface transfer, but the required spatial information does not allow their operational use. In situ data on pesticides in a catchment are usually rare and not continuous in time and space. Satellite images, on the other hand, well describe data in space, but only water related, and at limited time frequency. This study aims to exploit these 3 types of information (model, in situ data, images) with data assimilation methods adapted to image data, in order to improve pesticide and hydrological parameters and better understand physical processes. This poster discusses the proposed methodology as well as the available study site data and modeling components.

The Morcille study site

The Morcille (Beaujolais Region, France) is a small watersheds with high risk of pesticide contamination:
- steep slopes (> 25%), 70% of vineyard
- permeable sandy soils
- continental climate with Mediterranean influence
- River quality and flow monitored between 2006 and 2011.

CATHY Hydrological model

Coupled surface/subsurface flow and transport [1-7]
- Richards eq. for variably saturated porous media:
  \[ \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \theta d}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \left[ K_s \left( \nabla \psi + \psi_{w} \right) \right] + q_{sw} \]
- 1D diffusive wave equation at surface:
  \[ \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = D \frac{\partial^2 Q}{\partial x^2} + c_s q_h(\theta, \psi) \]
- Advection – dispersion equation
  \[ \frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (D \nabla C) - \nabla \nabla (\nabla \psi) + R \]
- Linear adsorption and first order decay
  \[ K_d = \frac{C}{c_p} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} = - \lambda C \]

First results with reactive solute transport

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<th>K_d (m/s)</th>
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</table>

Twin experiments

Simulation of virtual temporal series of surface water images with CATHY

Assimilation of images

- Usually, remote sensing data and sequences are under-used, though their content in information is very high (shapes evolution, correlations, ...)
- HR Images would also help to identify the landscape elements (grass strips, hedges, ...)
- In classical approaches: uncorrelated noise, because the proper description and numerical manipulation of non-diagonal error covariance matrices is complex
- How to provide observation error covariance matrices adapted to spatially correlated errors? [2]
- Focusing on the observations operator description, and distances definition in the DA scheme

References: