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Modelling grape growth in relation to whole-plant carbon and water fluxes

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Running title: Modelling grape berry growth in a virtual plant

Highlight: This study developed and used an advanced whole-plant grapevine model to unravel factors affecting water and carbon fluxes during fleshy fruit growth.

Type of article: research article

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Abstract

The growth of fleshy fruits is still poorly understood resulting from the complex integration of water and solute fluxes, cell structural properties, and the regulation of whole plant source-sink relationships. To unravel the contribution of these processes on berry growth, a biophysical grape (*Vitis vinifera* L.) berry growth module was developed and integrated with a whole-plant functional-structural model, and was calibrated on two varieties, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese. The model well captured the variations in growth and sugar accumulation caused by environmental conditions, changes in leaf-to-fruit ratio, plant water status, and varietal differences with obvious future application in predicting yield and maturity under a variety of production contexts and regional climates. Our analyses illustrated that grapevines strive to maintain proper ripening by partially compensating for a reduced source-sink ratio, and that under drought an enhanced berry sucrose uptake capacity can reverse berry shrinkage. Sensitivity analysis highlighted the importance of phloem hydraulic conductance, sugar uptake, and surface transpiration on growth, while suggesting cell wall extensibility and turgor threshold for cell expansion had minor effects. This study demonstrates that this integrated model is a useful tool in understanding the integration and relative importance of different processes in driving fleshy fruit growth.

Keywords: xylem water potential, phloem sucrose concentration, grapevine, fruit expansive growth, osmotic pressure, turgor pressure, transport, water status, sink-driven carbon allocation, functional-structural plant model (FSPM), phloem hydraulic conductance

Introduction

The growth of fleshy fruits largely depends on the balance of water influx and efflux (Lang, 1990; Lang and Thorpe, 1989). The flux of water into a fruit results from a tight coordination between vascular (xylem and phloem) transport and fruit cell expansion. The former is regulated by vascular conductivity and the water potential gradient between plant and fruit, and the latter by cell wall properties and the turgor of fruit cells (Lockhart, 1965; Matthews and Shackel, 2005). In fleshy fruits such as grape, which accumulate high concentrations of soluble sugars, carbon fluxes may also influence water flux by altering water potential gradients between the plant and fruit through changes in fruit osmotic potential (Coombe, 1992; Wada *et al.*, 2008; Wada *et al.*, 2009; Keller and Shrestha, 2014; Zhang and Keller, 2017). Therefore, it is essential to investigate the regulation and coordination of water and carbon fluxes during expansive growth as they determine fruit yield and their ratio largely determines fruit composition, e.g. sugar concentration (Guichard *et al.*, 2001; Nardozza *et al.*, 2017; Kawasaki and Higashide, 2018).

The growth of a grape berry typically displays a double sigmoidal growth curve in which two phases of rapid growth, stages I and III, are separated by a lag phase, stage II (Coombe, 1992). The onset of ripening is referred to as *véraison* and has been associated with the transition from stage II to stage III. At *véraison*, the resumption of rapid berry growth is accompanied by turgor loss, softening, sugar accumulation, organic acid degradation, cell wall loosening, xylem hydraulic changes, and colour accumulation in red cultivars (Coombe, 1992; Nunan *et al.*, 1998; Huang and Huang, 2001; Tyerman *et al.*, 2004; Castellarin *et al.*, 2016). At the same time the main water transport pathway changes from xylem to phloem (Lang and Thorpe, 1989; Greenspan *et al.*, 1996; Keller *et al.*, 2015), and sugar transport shifts from the symplastic to apoplastic pathway (Zhang *et al.*, 2006). Similar changes are observed in other fleshy fruits (Morandi *et al.*, 2010; Clearwater *et al.*, 2012; Gould *et al.*, 2013; Brüggewirth *et al.*, 2016).

The complex changes in berry physiology that occur at *véraison* make it difficult to differentiate the importance of each process in controlling the resumption of growth. The rapid growth of post-*véraison* berries occurs under an extremely low and relatively stable turgor of about 0.01–0.05 MPa (Thomas *et al.*, 2006; Thomas *et al.*, 2008; Matthews *et al.*, 2009; Castellarin *et al.*, 2016), and there is no correlation between growth rate and turgor of fruit cells (Matthews *et al.*, 1987). Therefore, it was postulated that post-*véraison* growth might be controlled by cell wall extensibility and/or a changing turgor threshold for cell expansion (Matthews *et al.*, 1987; Huang and Huang, 2001; Matthews *et al.*, 2009; Castellarin *et al.*, 2016). Cell wall composition and cell wall-modifying

enzymes are indeed altered around véraison (Nunan *et al.*, 1998; Castellarin *et al.*, 2016), particularly with up-regulations of several genes encoding expansions, which promote cell wall loosening and cell wall disassembly (Schlosser *et al.*, 2008; Wong *et al.*, 2016). However, an alternative hypothesis considers the rapid sugar accumulation after véraison as the main driver of berry water influx, by increasing fruit osmotic potential and the water potential gradient between the plant and fruit, thus driving water influx (Coombe, 1960). The transcription of genes encoding sugar transporters is enhanced at véraison (Hayes *et al.*, 2007), as well as some key sugar metabolism enzymes (Zhang *et al.*, 2006; Deluc *et al.*, 2007). Keller *et al.* (2015) reported that a sink-driven rise in sugar influx can counterbalance and even reverse berry contraction induced by water stress, highlighting the importance of sugar influx on regulating water flux.

Another aspect that could affect berry water influx is the vascular hydraulic conductance. Xylem hydraulic conductance of the pedicel shows a temporal increase around véraison and then gradually decreases until maturity in cvs. Chardonnay and Grenache (Tyerman *et al.*, 2004). In Shiraz xylem hydraulic conductance continuously decreased by more than 10-fold from young to mature berries (Choat *et al.*, 2009; Scharwies and Tyerman, 2017). Despite those changes in xylem hydraulic conductance, berry water is mainly transported via phloem after véraison (Lang and Thorpe, 1989; Greenspan *et al.*, 1996; Ollat *et al.*, 2002; Keller *et al.*, 2015). The contribution of xylem hydraulic conductance to post-véraison berry growth, particularly as it varies between cultivars, remains open to question.

Water gained by berries through the vascular system can be lost by fruit transpiration, thereby modifying the driving force for water influx. The extent to which fruit transpiration determines water influx appears to vary with fruit developmental stage and environmental conditions. Grape berry transpiration decreases as the fruit develops, coinciding with a decrease in skin water conductance to water vapour of a grape berry, a key parameter of fruit transpiration (Zhang and Keller, 2015).

Furthermore, fruit growth is strongly impacted by the water and carbohydrate status of the parent plant, which are very difficult to assess experimentally (Lechaudel *et al.*, 2005; Hannsens *et al.*, 2015; Lescourret *et al.*, 2011; De Swaef *et al.*, 2014). A promising approach for analysing this integrated plant-fruit system is the use of process-based models such as functional-structural plant model, which virtually represent a fruit tree and allow the study of fruit growth behaviour *in silico* (Baldazzi *et al.*, 2013). The objectives of the present study were: to develop an integrative functional-structural plant model that can simultaneously simulate berry growth and whole-plant

carbon and water status, and to use this model to unravel the key processes or parameters regulating berry growth, namely hydraulic conductance, sugar uptake, cell wall extensibility, berry surface transpiration and plant water and carbon status. For simplicity, the current study focuses on post-véraison berry growth with a static plant architecture. Plant architecture here refers to the three-dimensional organisation of the aboveground body such as the size and position of the shoots on a cordon and leaves on a shoot.

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Materials and Methods

Model overview

The current functional-structural grapevine model (GrapevineXL, Fig. 1) contains five main modules: 1) canopy architecture; 2) leaf gas exchange; 3) water transport; 4) carbon allocation; 5) berry growth. Detailed descriptions of the calculation and coupling of leaf gas exchange and water transport were provided in Zhu *et al.* (2018).

A sink-driven carbon allocation module was added to calculate the phloem sucrose concentration, which is an input variable for the berry growth module. The carbon allocation module calculates the phloem sucrose concentration based on the assumption that carbon loading is equal to carbon unloading at the whole-plant scale on an hourly basis (Baldazzi *et al.*, 2013). Xylem water potential and phloem sucrose concentration were assumed to be uniform throughout the plant, and were subsequently utilized by the berry growth module to simulate water and carbon uptake.

The berry growth module calculates water balance based on water uptake from xylem and phloem and water loss by fruit transpiration hourly. Meanwhile, berry dry mass accumulation was simulated through the balance between sucrose import from phloem and carbon depletion by respiration. Algorithms for the berry growth module and carbon allocation module are presented in Fig. 2 and in the following paragraphs.

Berry growth module

The berry growth module was an adaptation of a fruit growth model originally developed for peach (Fishman and Génard, 1998; Dai *et al.*, 2008) and simulated the growth of an individual grape berry from the post-véraison developmental stage when cell division had ceased. In this module, berry growth was driven by two environmental variables (temperature and relative humidity), and two plant variables (xylem water potential and phloem sucrose concentration). The plant variables were calculated hourly by the whole-plant model. The berry growth module assumed that: (i) a grape berry can be considered as one compartment (a cell community with a constant number of growing cells) separated by a composite membrane from the parent vine and the outside environments; (ii) the Lockhart equation originally applied to a single cell can describe the effect of hydrostatic pressure on the irreversible cell wall expansion in this average compartment (Lockhart, 1965; Fishman and Génard, 1998). A berry cluster was considered as a collection of berries, assuming all berries are identical. Thus total carbon or water uptake by a berry cluster equal the carbon or water uptake by a single berry multiplied by the number of berries.

Most of the post-véraison water gain is due to water import from the phloem (Lang and Thorpe, 1989). The water flow from phloem (or xylem) into the fruit was based on differences in hydrostatic and osmotic pressures between phloem (or xylem) and the berry, and phloem (or xylem) hydraulic conductance (Fig. 2). Osmotic pressure was calculated from the solute concentration. Fruit hydrostatic pressure (turgor) was calculated by solving Lockhart's equation describing volume growth of the fruit and assumed that the volume change was equal to the volume of water uptake from xylem and phloem minus berry transpiration. Water loss through berry transpiration was assumed to be proportional to the fruit surface area. The transport of sugars from the phloem to fruit mesocarp was described by: (i) mass flow, which is proportional to the solution flow at a given membrane reflection coefficient; (ii) active transport mechanism described by a modified Michaelis-Menten equation (Conde *et al.*, 2007). Passive diffusion, with the gradient of the sugar concentrations between phloem sap and berry flesh as a driving force, is negligible and was not considered (Fishman and Génard, 1998). Fruit photosynthesis was not considered because there is no fruit net carbon assimilation after fruit set (Lebon *et al.*, 2005).

Variables for the berry growth module are described in Fig. 2 and summarized in Supplementary Table S1, and parameter values are given in Table 1. Some modifications were made on the algorithms compared with the original model (Fishman and Génard, 1998), to take into account grape specific properties:

1) Berry surface conductance to water vapour deficit decreases with the increase in fresh weight (FW). This was in agreement with our measurements (Supplementary Fig. S2), and those reported by (Zhang and Keller, 2017).

$$\rho = \rho_{\min} + \rho_0 \exp(-k_p \times FM) \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

where ρ was surface conductance to water vapour (cm h^{-1}) and ρ_{\min} was the minimum surface conductance. ρ_0 and k_p were the fitted intermediate parameters.

2) The conductance of phloem composite membrane for water transport was assumed to decrease with increasing FW. This assumption was based on the observation that the pedicel hydraulic conductance declined over ripening (Tyerman *et al.*, 2004; Knipfer *et al.*, 2015). We assumed that xylem hydraulic conductance was null after véraison, reflecting insignificant xylem inflow to the berry after véraison (Lang and Thorpe, 1989; Keller *et al.*, 2006) and that the current one compartment berry model cannot simulate xylem backflow because the water potential of the berry was more negative than the xylem potential.

$$L_p = L_{p,\min} + \frac{(L_{p,\max} - L_{p,\min})}{1 + \exp(k_{L_p} \times (FM - FM_{L_p}^*))} \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

where L_p was the phloem hydraulic conductance ($\text{g cm}^{-2} \text{MPa}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$). $L_{p,\min}$ and $L_{p,\max}$ were the minimal and maximal phloem hydraulic conductance, respectively. $FM_{L_p}^*$ was the berry FW at the inflection point. k_{L_p} was a scaling factor which was proportional to the slope at the inflection point of L_p .

3) The rate of active sugar uptake per unit of dry mass was assumed to decrease with increasing berry sugar concentration. This assumption was based on the observation that the rate of sugar accumulation and invertase activity per gram of berry decreases at the later stage of berry ripening (Davies and Robinson, 1996), and berries that showed marked ripening state differences within a cluster at véraison-stage ultimately reached similar ripeness states toward maturity (Gouthu *et al.*, 2014). Furthermore, it has been shown that changes in the cellular concentrations of important signalling molecules such as sugars would affect the ripening process by influencing the expression of large networks of genes in yeast, *Arabidopsis* and other species (Rolland *et al.*, 2006; Matsoukas *et al.*, 2013).

$$U_a = sV_{\max,\text{berry}} C_p^{\text{sucrose}} / [(K_{M,\text{berry}} + C_p^{\text{sucrose}}) \times (1 + \exp((C_f - C_f^*) \times k_{C_f}))] \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

where U_a was the active or facilitated sucrose transport per berry (gSucrose h^{-1}), s was the dry mass of the pulp (g), and $V_{\max,\text{berry}}$ was the maximal rate of sucrose uptake per unit of pulp dry mass ($\text{gSucrose (gDW)}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$). $K_{M,\text{berry}}$ was the Michaelis constant. C_p^{sucrose} was the phloem sucrose concentration ($\text{gSucrose (gSolution)}^{-1}$). In the carbon allocation module, phloem sucrose concentration was expressed as gram of carbon per gram of solution C_p^{carbon} as we use carbon as the unit for calculating the carbon balance. C_f was the hexose concentration in the berry pulp ($\text{gHexose (gSolution)}^{-1}$). C_f^* and k_{C_f} described the inhibiting effects of fruit hexose concentration on sucrose uptake. The effect of seed number and micro-cracks on $V_{\max,\text{berry}}$ were not considered as we use the dynamics of mean berry weight and surface conductance to water vapour to calibrate the berry module.

4) A constant proportion of the increase in dry matter was allocated to soluble sugar. This is a simplified approach to represent the dynamics of soluble sugar, capturing the observed pattern that the fraction of soluble sugar in total dry mass increased over time from véraison to maturity (Dai *et al.*, 2009).

$$\frac{dss}{dt} = k_{ss} \times \frac{ds}{dt} \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

where ss was the soluble sugar in berry pulp (g), and k_{ss} was the fraction of increase in dry matter allocated to soluble sugar (mainly fructose and glucose) at each time step.

Carbon allocation module

The carbon allocation module was adapted based on the model concepts and equations presented in Baldazzi *et al.*, (2013). Briefly, carbohydrates stored in leaves and stem are loaded into phloem at each time step (Fig. 2). Carbohydrates are then translocated to all sinks through the phloem network. Finally, carbohydrates are unloaded at the sink sites based on their carbon unloading capacities. Stem was just a simplified notation here for all internodes (current season shoot), cordons (2-year old shoot) and trunk (perennial woody part), although these objects were treated individually in the model. Phloem sucrose concentration was calculated based on the assumption that carbon loading from leaves and stem was equal to carbon unloading by stem, roots and berries at each step (Fig. 2 and Supplementary Method S1). Three types of respiration were considered (Table 1), namely phloem loading and unloading respiration (q_{mobile} for each process), maintenance respiration (q_m) and growth respiration (q_g). Growth respiration represents the carbon losses associated with the synthesis of new biomass. Growth respiration was calculated for the carbon unloaded to the root and berry but excluded for stem. We assume that the carbon unloaded to stem was mainly for temporary storage and can be reloaded into phloem in short time, which was noted as leakage-retrieval mechanism by Van Bel (1996, Supplementary Method S1).

Plant materials for model calibration and validation

Two sets of experiments were performed to calibrate and validate the model. The first set of experiments was done in greenhouse with fruiting-cuttings of cv. Cabernet Sauvignon (Fig. 1 and Supplementary Fig. S1) with two leaf-to-fruit ratios (Dai *et al.*, 2009; Bobeica *et al.*, 2015). Briefly, vines with one shoot and one cluster were pruned to either 12 or 3 main leaves per cluster (hereafter called 12LC and 3LC respectively) aimed at 1 week before véraison. Grape berries were harvested five times at 7-day intervals from véraison to maturity. Dry weight (DW), FW, hexose concentration (determined enzymatically Dai *et al.*, 2009), transpiration rate, and total osmolarity were measured. Berry transpiration rates were determined by weighing five detached berries with known diameter at hourly intervals during daytime over 4–5 hours under constant temperature ($\sim 20^\circ\text{C}$) and vapour pressure deficit (~ 1 kPa). Total osmolarity was measured with a micro-osmometer (Roebing 13/13DR-Autocal, Berlin, Germany, Lechaudel *et al.*, 2007). Additional dataset

used for calibrating the response of photosynthesis and transpiration to soil water potential were described in Peccoux *et al.* (2017) and the calibration results were shown in Zhu *et al.* (2018). Parameters linked with canopy architecture, the sizes and weights of internodes and leaves at different ranks were measured in a fruiting-cutting experiment in 2015 (Supplementary Method S2).

The second series of experiments was conducted using 4-year-old potted cv. Sangiovese vines with a 1-m long fruiting cane with eight or nine dormant buds. Detailed whole-canopy photosynthesis and transpiration, and berry developmental profile were measured (Bobeica *et al.*, 2015). Vines were grafted on M3 rootstock and grown in 40-L pots. Shoots were thinned to retain only one main shoot per node and one basal cluster. Two treatments with four replicates for each were applied: 1 week before véraison 12LC or 3LC. Berries were sampled 14 times at 1-week intervals from 1 week before treatment to 8 weeks after treatment onset, and thereafter at 4-day intervals to better capture changes close to maturity. At harvest, all remaining berries of each vine were sampled, counted, and weighed. FW, DW, hexose concentration, berry transpiration, and total osmolarity were determined as described above.

Water was supplied automatically to avoid any water stress for all experiments. Moreover, hourly climate data, including temperature, relative humidity, radiation, and wind speed were recorded in data-loggers throughout the experiments (Supplementary Fig. S3).

Model inputs and initial conditions

The model uses hourly total radiation, air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, CO₂, soil water content (or soil water potential) as the environmental input, and for plant status the dry mass of individual leaves, internodes, and roots as well as their structural and non-structural carbon fraction in total carbon mass (Supplementary Table S2). For canopy architecture, it needs the size of blade, petiole and internode, the declination angle between petiole and stem, and between blade and petiole at different ranks. To initialize the berry growth module, the model requires the number of berries per cluster, mean berry FW, DW and hexose concentration at the beginning of simulation. Detailed model initiation methods for both fruiting-cutting Cabernet Sauvignon and one-cane-pruned Sangiovese are provided in Supplementary Method S2.

Calibration of the berry growth module

The berry growth module was calibrated using the dataset of Dai *et al.*, (2009) and Bobeica *et al.*, (2015). The contributions of acids and other ions to total osmotic pressure at different soluble sugar concentrations were estimated using an exponential decay curve (E13 in Fig. 2, Supplementary Fig.

S2 and Method S3). The Cabernet Sauvignon berry surface area was estimated using the recorded diameter of the berry by considering it as a sphere, and Sangiovese area estimated using diameter and length from proximal to distal position of the berry and assuming it to be ellipsoid. The relationships between berry surface area and FW (E14 in Fig. 2) were estimated by the nonlinear least square method in the 'stats' library in R (R Development Core Team, 2017). Berry surface conductance to water vapour was calculated based on berry transpiration and surface area and described as a function of berry FW through an exponential decay function (E16 in Fig. 2, Supplementary Fig. S2). k_{ss} in Eq. 4 was estimated as the mean ratio between the increase of soluble sugar and the increase of dry mass between two successive sampling dates throughout the whole sampling period.

Calibration of the carbon allocation module

Plant photosynthesis and transpiration for Sangiovese were first calibrated by the dataset of Bobeica *et al.* (2015, Supplementary Method S3). Parameters related to carbon export from leaf to phloem were estimated based on the diurnal dynamics of grapevine leaf non-structural carbon concentration published in Quereix *et al.* (2001) and Zufferey (2000). The ratio between $K_{m,berry}$ and $K_{m,root}$ ($K_{m,root} = 2.5 \times K_{m,berry}$ in unit of $gC\ gH_2O^{-1}$) was determined based on K_m values for grain and root in wheat (Barillot *et al.*, 2016). The value of $K_{m,berry}$ was obtained from Milner *et al.* (1995) who measured the rate of sucrose transport of tomato tonoplast membrane at different sucrose concentrations. The remaining parameters were first taken from literature (Table 1) and then explored by try and error with fine refining and optimizing afterwards (Supplementary Method S3).

Parameters linked with berry sugar and water uptake were calibrated separately for Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese (Table 1), while most parameters linked with carbon allocation and water flux were kept the same for both systems. Final parameter calibration was done in sequence of carbon unloading by berry ($V_{max,berry}$, k_{cf} , and C_f^*) and water uptake by berry ($L_{p,max}$, FM_{Lp}^* and k_{Lp}) through whole-plant model optimization. Parameters were calibrated at whole-plant level by maximizing the sum of log-likelihood of the simulated model outputs given the observed berry DW and FW using the random walk Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method (Supplementary Fig. S4). Calibration was done based on the observed data of 12 leaves per cluster for both Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese using the dataset of Bobeica *et al.*, (2015). The data of 3 leaves per cluster were reserved for validation. Validation was done by inputting the initial berry DW, FW and hexose concentration at the start of simulation and then comparing the model output with the observed data. Berry sugar concentration was an emerging property of the model.

Sensitivity analysis

To unravel the effects of different processes on berry fresh and dry weight, a sensitivity analysis was done on all parameters within the berry growth module (Table 1). The default value of a parameter as noted in Table 1 was changed at 10 % intervals from -50 % to + 50 % excluding the default value, while all other parameters were kept at the default values. The fresh or dry weight at the end of each simulation were used as the test variables. Simulations were run based on model settings for 12LC Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese.

The sensitivity of the model to a given parameter was quantified by the normalized sensitivity coefficient, defined as ratio between the percentage of changes in berry fresh or dry weight ($\Delta W/\bar{W}$) to the percentage of changes in parameter values ($\Delta P/\bar{P}$, Eq. 5).

$$\text{Sensitivity coefficient} = \frac{\Delta W/\bar{W}}{\Delta P/\bar{P}} \quad (\text{Eq. 5})$$

\bar{W} is the final berry fresh or dry weight under default parameter settings, while ΔW is changes in final berry fresh or dry weight under the new parameter values in comparison to \bar{W} . A mean normalized sensitivity coefficients for the fresh and dry weights were further calculated over the whole range of percentage changes for each parameter.

Scenario simulations

Scenario 1: The effect of berry surface conductance on berry water balance were tested. Surface conductance to water vapour was set to zero, which was originally a function of berry FW.

Scenario 2: The effects of plant water status, $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ and their interactions on berry FW and hexose accumulation were tested. Simulations were done for a 12-day period, mimicking the water stress-rewatering experiment described in Keller *et al.* (2015, Fig. 2 therein). A drying and rewatering scenario was used with a period of water-stress for the first 8 days ($\psi_{\text{soil}} = -0.6$ MPa) and then switched to a well-watered condition for the remaining 4 days ($\psi_{\text{soil}} = -0.05$ MPa). Three different $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ settings were tested to mimic the sharp increase of sugar unloading at véraison: 1) constant $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ with the default value shown in Table 1 ($\bar{V}_{\max, \text{berry}}$); 2) $0.1\bar{V}_{\max, \text{berry}}$ for the first 4 days, and then switch to $\bar{V}_{\max, \text{berry}}$ for the remaining 8 days; 3) constant $0.1\bar{V}_{\max, \text{berry}}$.

Hourly climatic condition of a sunny day (2010-8-7) close to the véraison date in Bordeaux with daily temperature range from 13 to 30°C and total radiation up to 4000 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ was used for the scenario simulation (Supplementary Fig. S5). The CO_2 concentrations were maintained constant at 400 ppm and ψ_{soil} for scenario 1 was maintained at -0.05 MPa. Simulations were done for 7 days.

For making it easier to analyse the results, climatic conditions were assumed to be the same for each day.

All scenario simulations were done using the model settings for fruiting-cutting Cabernet Sauvignon as the response of photosynthesis and transpiration of Cabernet Sauvignon to soil water potential has been calibrated in our previous study (Zhu *et al.*, 2018).

Results

Model calibration and validation

The functional-structural modelling approach enabled us to successfully simulate the hourly whole-plant photosynthesis and transpiration of the isolated potted Sangiovese vines under different leaf-to-fruit ratios based on environmental conditions (Supplementary Figs. S6 and S7). The model captured the increases in mean canopy photosynthesis and transpiration per unit of leaf area under 3 leaves per cluster (3LC) compared with 12 leaves per cluster (12LC, Supplementary Fig. S6), and illustrated that vines with 3LC allocated a greater proportion of carbon into berries than 12LC (73.1% vs 67.6% in Cabernet Sauvignon, 65.5% vs 52.2% in Sangiovese, Supplementary Figs. S8 and S9).

The model reproduced the dynamics of berry DW and FW under 12LC for both Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese after calibration (Fig. 3), regardless of the contrasting starting conditions in berry weight and hexose concentration. It also predicted the negative effects of low leaf-to-fruit ratio (3LC) on DW, FW and hexose concentration. The prediction for fruit hexose concentration was less robust than the prediction for DW and FW as we used a constant k_{ss} for estimating the dynamics of fruit hexose concentration without including specific enzymatic processes. Nevertheless, the predicted hexose concentration agreed well with the observed data for Cabernet Sauvignon (Fig. 3E), although it was lower than observed ones for Sangiovese (Fig. 3F).

Three major internal variables: xylem water potential, phloem sucrose concentration and fruit turgor pressure

The modelled mean midday xylem water potentials (considered to be in equilibrium with phloem water potentials) of the Cabernet Sauvignon were -0.73 MPa for 12LC and -0.36 MPa for 3LC (Fig. 4A). Similarly, 12LC showed a lower mean midday xylem water potential than 3LC (-0.50 vs -0.26 MPa) in Sangiovese (Fig. 4B). Moreover phloem osmotic and turgor pressures fluctuated diurnally with maximal and minimal values between 12:00 to 16:00 respectively (Supplementary Fig. S10).

The modelled daily-mean phloem sucrose concentration was 69.3 mM (mmol L^{-1}) for 12LC and 46.2 mM for 3LC in Cabernet Sauvignon (Fig. 4C), while the average daily-maximum C_p^{sucrose} was 165.0 mM for 12LC and 80.1 mM for 3LC (Supplementary Fig. S11A). The daily-mean C_p^{sucrose} was 222 mM for 12LC and 64.9 mM for 3LC in Sangiovese (Fig. 4D), while the average daily-maximum C_p^{sucrose} was 258 mM for 12LC and 72.1 mM for 3LC (Supplementary Fig. S11B). The simulated daily-mean C_p^{sucrose} for 12LC Sangiovese was within the range, 125 mM to 1462 mM, reported by Jensen *et al.* (2013) in a meta-analysis on C_p^{sucrose} with 41 plant species, although it was larger than the value reported for grapevine (50 mM, Zhang *et al.*, 2006; Zhang and Keller, 2017). Furthermore, the model illustrated that C_p^{sucrose} was largely affected by the environmental conditions, e.g. radiation and soil water potential (Supplementary Fig. S12) and was positively related to source: sink ratio. Increasing the source activity by raising leaf number per cluster or radiation, or decreasing the sink strength by reducing $V_{\text{max, berry}}$ can cause an associated rise in C_p^{sucrose} (Fig. 4 and Supplementary Fig. S12).

The simulated night-time fruit turgor pressure decreased from véraison to maturity for both Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese under both crop loads, ranging from 0.12 to 0.05 MPa (Fig. 4E and F). This was consistent with measurements done by Matthews *et al.* (2009) in cvs Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon and by Castellarin *et al.* (2016) in cv. Zinfandel, with a berry cell turgor ~ 0.18 MPa at véraison and ~ 0.04 MPa at maturity.

Berry water balance

Berry FW fluctuated diurnally with a predominantly negative water balance during the day, and a positive water balance at night (Fig. 5A and D). The negative water balance was largely caused by high berry transpiration during the daytime, which exceeded the water influx (Fig. 5B and C) under the experimental condition for Cabernet Sauvignon. The lower water influx during the daytime compared with night-time (Fig. 5B) was due to a lower phloem water potential during the daytime (Fig. 4A). With respect to the negative water balance during the daytime, fruit turgor pressure was null during most of the day, but remained positive during the night-time (Fig. 5F).

The sensitivity of berry growth to different processes

Berry dry weight was most sensitive to parameters that control active sugar uptake (Fig. 6A and B), followed by parameters that control phloem hydraulic conductance, k_{ss} , sugar uptake via mass flow and berry surface transpiration. Relative sensitivities to different processes were similar between the two varieties. Among all the parameters, C_f^* and FM_{Lp}^* stood out, which were the inflection

points for the logistic equations that calculate active sugar uptake (Eq. 3) and phloem hydraulic conductance (Eq. 2) respectively. The negative effect of k_{ss} on dry weight was due to the negative feedback of fruit sugar concentration on active sugar uptake that we include in Eq. 3.

Concerning berry fresh weight, the model was most sensitive to parameters that control phloem hydraulic conductance (Fig. 6C and D), followed by parameters that control berry surface transpiration, active sugar uptake and k_{ss} . FM^*_{LP} has the highest impact on berry fresh weight across all the tested parameters. Neither dry nor fresh weight was sensitive to cell wall extensibility and turgor threshold for cell expansion.

The effect of berry surface transpiration on berry growth

Preventing berry surface transpiration stimulated the increase of berry FW (Fig. 7A) largely due to a more positive water balance during the daytime (Fig. 7D). A rapid increase in berry FW resulted in a lower fruit osmotic pressure (Fig. 7E) and a higher fruit turgor pressure (Fig. 7F), which together gradually reduced the water influx (Fig. 7B). Furthermore, a steady increase in berry osmotic pressure under default conditions (solid line in Fig. 7E) resulted in a gradual increase in water influx (Fig. 7B).

The increase in berry surface area had little effect on berry transpiration as this was largely compensated by a reduction in berry surface conductance (Supplementary Fig. S2). As a result the simulated berry transpiration remained stable over time (Fig. 7C).

The effect of water deficit and berry sugar uptake capacity ($V_{max,berry}$) on berry growth

Berry FW gradually decreased under water deficit ($\psi_{soil} = -0.6$ MPa) for the first 4 days in all three $V_{max,berry}$ scenarios (Fig. 8A). However, the scenario with constant default $V_{max,berry}$ (red lines) stopped the decreases in FW from day 4 onwards (Fig. 8A) and started to result in positive water balance (Fig. 8D). This was mainly caused by a faster increase in fruit DW, hexose concentration (Supplementary Figs. S12) and osmotic pressure (Fig. 8E) under a larger $V_{max,berry}$. Increasing $V_{max,berry}$ at day 5 (Fig. 8A blue lines) also slowed down the decline in berry FW and started to gain FW 4 days after the change.

Changing from the water-stressed condition ($\psi_{soil} = -0.6$ MPa) to well-watered condition ($\psi_{soil} = -0.05$ MPa) instantly improved the plant water status and increased the rate of photosynthesis and $C_p^{sucrose}$ (Supplementary Fig. S12). This rapidly increased the water flux into the berry and induced more positive water balance and larger fruit turgor pressure (Fig. 8).

Discussion

Berry growth and its main drivers

This study developed a novel whole-plant grapevine model that simulates the effects of variations in environmental conditions (e.g. soil water potential, radiation, temperature and vapour pressure), plant water status (e.g. xylem water potential, leaf and fruit transpiration) and carbon status (e.g. source-sink ratio and phloem sucrose concentration) on post-véraison berry growth. The sensitivity analysis highlighted the importance of phloem hydraulic conductance, sugar uptake and surface transpiration on berry growth (Fig. 6). A lower berry surface conductance to water vapour would reduce water losses by transpiration, although it was accompanied by a reduction in water influx into berries (Fig. 7). The reduction in water influx was mainly due to a decrease in plant-to-berry water potential gradient (Fig. 7). However, the weight gained by reduced transpiration was much larger than the loss due to decreased water influx (Fig. 7, 365 vs 155 mg over 7 days). This explains the increase in berry FW found in antitranspirant treatments (Rebucci *et al.*, 1997; Zhang and Keller, 2017).

A higher phloem hydraulic conductance would increase the water and sugar influx to the berry. Similarly, previous modelling work showed that phloem hydraulic conductance plays a major role of regulating tomato growth, and a tight positive correlation between pedicel phloem cross-sectional area and tomato fruit weight has been reported in various cultivars (Bussi eres, 2002). Interestingly, the dry mass of a grape bunch was positively correlated with the basal diameter of the bunch peduncle (Castelan-Estrada *et al.*, 2002), which may also suggest a relationship between berry growth and the abundance of phloem (consequently the phloem hydraulic conductance). Direct measurements of phloem hydraulic conductance in grape berry and pedicle may clarify these hypotheses and merit further exploration.

The model confirmed the hypothesis proposed by Coombe (1960) and Keller *et al.* (2015) that a rapid sugar accumulation after v eraison is the main driver of berry water influx. Simulations showed that a high $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ can help reverse the berry shrinkage under water deficit (Fig. 8), consistent with the observations of Keller *et al.* (2015). While the model confirmed the positive effects of $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ on berry growth (Fig. 6), a paradox seems exist: the $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ of Cabernet Sauvignon was approximately three times of that of Sangiovese (Table 1), while the fruit size of Cabernet Sauvignon is about half of Sangiovese (Fig. 3). Meanwhile, we noticed that the phloem sucrose concentration in Cabernet Sauvignon is only 32% of that of Sangiovese (Fig. 4), because of

the low radiation conditions in greenhouse for Cabernet Sauvignon (Fig. S3). These results led us to speculate a potential biological compensation between $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ and C_p^{sucrose} in grape berry. To explore this speculation, we tested whether similar final FW and DW could be reproduced for 12LC Cabernet Sauvignon with the $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ and daily-mean C_p^{sucrose} of 12LC Sangiovese by running the berry growth module alone (carbon uptake did not affect C_p^{sucrose}), and vice-versa. Simulation results confirmed this speculation. Thus the value of $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ may not directly reflect the varietal differences as grape berry may be able to adjust $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ under different plant carbon status to ensure the reproductive growth either through increases in enzymatic activity or the transcription of genes encoding sugar transporters. Further experimentation is needed.

However, one may question why the model can successfully reproduce the observed berry growth for 3LC treatment without implementing such compensation in $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$. A further simulation was done by applying the larger $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ of Cabernet Sauvignon to 3LC Sangiovese in the whole-plant model. The result showed that although there were two-fold increases in $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ the final dry weight only increased by 7.5%. Under strong source limitation, increases in $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ would further deplete the limited carbon pool and reduce the C_p^{sucrose} , resulting in small gains in carbon uptake. Previous studies showed that the percentage of carbon allocated to ripening berries increased under carbon limitation conditions resulting in either no changes or decreases in final berry dry weight (Candolfi-Vasconcelos *et al.*, 1994; Di Lorenzo *et al.*, 2001; Rossouw *et al.*, 2017). A proportion of the carbon allocated to berries was remobilised from reserves in perennial and vegetative seasonal organs (Kliewer and Antcliff, 1970; Mansfield and Howell, 1981), especially the root system (Rossouw *et al.*, 2017).

The final berry fresh weight of Sangiovese was approximately twice that of Cabernet Sauvignon (Fig. 3). Despite the potential difference in cell number, this may be caused by varietal differences in phloem hydraulic conductance and surface transpiration. Interestingly, Sangiovese has a higher $L_{p, \max}$, FM^*_{Lp} and a lower ρ_{\min} than Cabernet Sauvignon (Table 1) which favour a bigger berry as illustrated with our sensitivity analysis and scenario simulation.

Minor effects of cell wall extensibility and turgor threshold for cell expansion on post-véraison berry growth

The model indicated that cell wall extensibility and turgor threshold for cell expansion had minor effects on post-véraison berry growth (Fig. 6), although fully restricting cell wall extension would result in a rapid increase in berry turgor pressure and reduction in water intake (Supplementary

Fig. S13). This was in contrast to the sensitivity analysis done on the kiwifruit model (Hall *et al.*, 2013) where cell wall extensibility had a strong effect on cell expansion. The difference in the sensitivity of berry growth to cell wall extensibility probably arises from the differences in fruit sugar concentration and phloem hydraulic conductance. Grape berries have a much higher soluble sugar concentration (up to 25%) than kiwifruit (up to 8% at harvest, Hall *et al.*, 2013). A higher fruit sugar concentration means osmotic potential would dominate fruit water potential. A larger osmotic potential can induce a bigger water influx and can result in fruit growth even at low cell wall extensibility. Furthermore, the fitted maximum phloem hydraulic conductance for Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese were two and ten times respectively that of the constant phloem hydraulic conductance used in the kiwifruit model.

Potential limitations of the model

While certain areas of knowledge are missing to accurately represent the plant-fruit system (e.g. phloem hydraulic conductance and phloem sucrose concentration in grapevine), this model gives insight into the integration and interactions of numerous processes during grape berry development.

Firstly, carbon unloading processes from phloem to berry. Matthews *et al.* (2009) and Castellarin *et al.* (2016) found that a high fruit turgor pressure caused by restricting berry growth before véraison delayed the onset of véraison and sugar unloading. Similarly, applying gas pressure on the root of a fruiting vine before véraison increased berry FW, while delaying the onset of véraison and decreasing the sugar content per berry (Zhang and Keller, 2017). These findings indicated the potential existence of a turgor-dependent sugar unloading mechanism (Patrick, 1994), which is not captured by the current model. However, it is generally accepted that turgor-dependent unloading is more related to symplastic unloading where flow rate is a function of turgor pressure (Liesche and Patrick, 2017). In apoplastic sugar unloading mediated by energy-coupled carriers, as shown in the grape berry (Wang *et al.*, 2003; Zhang *et al.*, 2006), no clear linkage has been found between turgor pressure and the rate of sugar unloading (Pomper and Breen, 1996). The putative turgor-dependent sugar unloading behaviour observed in grape (Matthews *et al.*, 2009; Keller *et al.*, 2015; Castellarin *et al.*, 2016) might be related to the shift from symplastic to apoplastic unloading around véraison (Zhang *et al.*, 2006). However, it is still possible that some intermediate steps before apoplastic sugar unloading into the fruit would be affected by turgor pressure.

Secondly xylem backflow. Zhang and Keller (2017) hypothesized that both berry transpiration and xylem backflow would serve as water discharge pathways to facilitate phloem unloading and sugar accumulation during grape ripening. Xylem backflow means there is excessive phloem water influx, which could be reflected by the current model when the simulated ratio between sugar and water uptake from phloem were greater than phloem sucrose concentration. The simulations indicated that xylem backflow or lateral water flow from phloem to xylem (Hall and Minchin, 2013) would occur when the phloem sucrose concentration was low, especially for Cabernet Sauvignon. However, we cannot directly simulate xylem backflow because: 1) we treated the berry as a single fruit compartment with one composite membrane separating the berry and the parent plant, and assumed that the fruit was directly connected to the plant stem and 2) the fruit water potential was always low. To solve that problem an apoplast compartment could be required. A recent published kiwifruit model has demonstrated its ability in simulating xylem backflow by including an apoplast component, although they only show moderate xylem backflow at midday (Hall et al., 2017).

Conclusion

A new whole-plant grapevine model was developed for assessing the contribution of different physiological processes on berry growth and the observed variations in growth caused either by exogenous or endogenous resource availability. The model showed that phloem hydraulic conductance, active sugar uptake and berry transpiration have major influence on post-véraison berry growth and suggested that berries may be able to increase the maximum rate of sucrose uptake per unit of biomass under stress conditions. The ability of the model in testing the importance of different processes and environmental conditions on berry growth could assist breeders to define the ideal variety for certain environments. Furthermore, the model can easily be transferred into different grapevine training systems and help identify the potential yield under novel training systems and best management options: irrigation (amount and schedule), crop load and plant architecture management.

Supplementary data

Table S1. List of variables in the berry growth module.

Table S2. List of variable values for initializing the model.

Method S1. Carbon allocation module.

Method S2. Model set up and initialization.

Method S3. Calibration procedure for the berry growth module, whole-plant photosynthesis and carbon allocation module.

Fig. S1. Illustration of the experimental condition.

Fig. S2. Correlation between berry surface conductance to water vapour and FW and the contribution of other compounds to total osmotic pressure.

Fig. S3. Climate condition during the experiment period.

Fig. S4. Evolution of V_{\max_berry} and log-likelihood during one of the parameter optimizations.

Fig. S5. Diurnal climatic conditions used for the scenario simulations.

Fig. S6. Verification and validation of the diurnal dynamics of photosynthesis, transpiration and water use efficiency.

Fig. S7. Observed versus simulated hourly photosynthesis, transpiration and water use efficiency.

Fig. S8. Diurnal carbon loading by leaf and stem.

Fig. S9. Daily mean fraction of carbon unloading by berries, stem and roots.

Fig. S10. Diurnal changes of phloem osmotic pressure, turgor pressure and water potential.

Fig. S11. Maximum and minimum daily phloem sucrose concentration.

Fig. S12. The dynamics of berry DW, fruit hexose concentration, mean canopy photosynthesis rate, transpiration rate, xylem water potential and phloem sucrose concentration with varying sugar uptake capacity under water stress and rewatering scenario.

Fig. S13. The effects of no cell wall extensibility on berry growth.

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Table 1 list of parameters in the berry growth module and carbon allocation module

Parameter	Definitions	Values		Unit	Sources ¹
		Cabernet sauvignon	Sangio vese		
Berry growth module					
<i>Berry surface area</i>					
γ	Empirical coefficient	4.152	4.463	cm ² g ⁻¹	Experiment
η	Empirical coefficient	0.707	0.604	dimensionless	Experiment
<i>Berry surface transpiration</i>					
ρ_{\min}	Minimum berry surface conductance to water vapour	55.4	25.8	cm h ⁻¹	Experiment
ρ_0	Scaling factor	503	682	dimensionless	Experiment
k_p	Exponential decay rate	-4.97	-1.67	cm g ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Experiment
H_f	Relative humidity of air space in fruit		0.996	dimensionless	Fishman and Genard, 1998
<i>Phloem hydraulic conductance</i>					
$L_{p,\min}$	Minimal phloem hydraulic conductance		3.5e-2	g cm ⁻² MPa ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Exploration
$L_{p,\max}$	Maximal phloem hydraulic conductance	0.15	0.7	g cm ⁻² MPa ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Calibration
$FM_{L_p}^*$	Fresh mass at the inflection point	0.95	1.33	g	Calibration
k_{L_p}	Proportional to the slope at inflection point of L_p	9	7.4	g ⁻¹	Calibration
<i>Composite membrane area</i>					
α_x	Coefficient for converting fruit surface area to membrane area		3.5e-3	dimensionless	Calibration
<i>Berry volume growth</i>					
ϕ	Cell wall extensibility coefficient in Lockhart's equation		0.1	MPa ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Fishman and Genard, 1998
Y	Turgor pressure threshold for growth		0.05	MPa	Matthews <i>et al.</i> , 2009;

					Castellarin <i>et al.</i> , 2016
<i>Sugar uptake – mass flow</i>					
σ_p	Reflection coefficient for sugar for entering the composite membrane	0.9		dimensionless	Fishman and Genard, 1998
<i>Sugar uptake – active uptake</i>					
$V_{\max, \text{berry}}$	Maximal rate of active sugar uptake per unit of dry mass	8e-3	2.8e-3	gSucrose (gDW) ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Calibration Fishman and Genard, 1998
$K_{M, \text{berry}}$	Michaelis constant for active transport	0.08		gSucrose gH ₂ O ⁻¹	Milner <i>et al.</i> , 1995
C_f^*	Sugar concentration at the inflection point	0.13	0.15	gHexose gH ₂ O ⁻¹	Calibration
k_{C_f}	Proportional to slope at the inflection point of U_a	35		gH ₂ O ghexose ⁻¹	Calibration
<i>Sugar partition</i>					
k_{ss}	Fraction of increase in dry matter allocated into soluble sugar at each time step	0.9	1.0	dimensionless	Experiment
q_m^{berry}	Maintenance respiration coefficient for berry	5.9e-5		gC gC ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Dai <i>et al.</i> , 2010
q_g^{berry}	Growth respiration coefficient for berry	0.02		gC gC ⁻¹	Dai <i>et al.</i> , 2010
<i>Constants</i>					
V_w	Molal volume of water	18		cm ³ mol ⁻¹	
D_w	Water density	1		g cm ⁻³	
R	Gas constant	8.3		cm ³ MPa mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹	
Carbon allocation module					
<i>Carbon loading by leaf</i>					
$V_{\max, \text{leaf}}$	Maximal rate of carbon loading per square meter of leaf per	1.0		gC m ⁻² h ⁻¹	Baldazzi <i>et al.</i> , 2013

	hour			Exploration
$K_{M, leaf}$	Michaelis constant for carbon loading by leaf	0.05	gNSC gFM ⁻¹	Quereix <i>et al.</i> , 2001; Zufferey, 2000
<i>Carbon loading by internode, cordon, trunk</i>				
$V_{max, stem}$	Maximal rate of carbon loading per gram of stem per hour	1.0e-4	gC gFM ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Exploration Grechi <i>et al.</i> , 2007
$K_{M, stem}$	Michaelis constant for carbon loading by stem	0.05	gNSC gFM ⁻¹	Baldazzi <i>et al.</i> , 2013
<i>Carbon unloading by internode, cordon, trunk</i>				
$k_{leakage}$	Rate of carbon unloading per gram of stem per hour	3.5e-3	gC gFM ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Exploration Baldazzi <i>et al.</i> , 2013; Rossouw <i>et al.</i> , 2017
<i>Carbon unloading by root</i>				
$V_{max, root}$	Maximal rate of carbon unloading per gram of roots per hour	5e-4	gC gFM ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Exploration Barillot <i>et al.</i> , 2016; Rossouw <i>et al.</i> , 2017
$K_{M, root}$	Michaelis constant for carbon unloading by roots	0.084	gNSC gH ₂ O ⁻¹	Barillot <i>et al.</i> , 2016
<i>Maintenance coefficient</i>				
q_m^{int}	Maintenance respiration coefficient	4e-5	gC gC ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Cieslak <i>et al.</i> , 2011
q_m^{trunk}	Maintenance respiration coefficient	2e-5	gC gC ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Vivin <i>et al.</i> , 2002
q_m^{root}	Maintenance respiration coefficient	2e-4	gC gC ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Cieslak <i>et al.</i> , 2011
q_d^{root}	Roots turnover coefficient	2e-5	gC gC ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	Buwalda, 1993
Q10	Temperature ratio of	2.03	dimensionless	Thornley and

	maintenance respiration			Cannell, 2000
<i>Growth coefficient</i>				
q_g^{root}	Growth respiration coefficient	0.2	gC gC ⁻¹	Vivin <i>et al.</i> , 2003
<i>Carbon loading and unloading cost</i>				
q_p	Cost for either carbon loading to phloem or unloading from phloem	0.03	gC gC ⁻¹	Thornley and Cannell, 2000

¹ Parameters were estimated in four complementary methods: 1) directly estimated from experimental data described above (experiment); 2) directly taken from literature; 3) taken from literature first but then adapted for grapevine based on the trends published in literature or in our data collection (exploration); 4) taken from literature first but then calibrated for our data through numerical optimization (calibration). The datasets of Dai *et al.*, (2009) and Bobeica *et al.*, (2015) were used for calibration.

Figures and captions:

Fig. 1 Illustration of the architecture of a fruiting-cutting Cabernet Sauvignon plant (A) and of a one-cane-pruned Sangiovese plant (B) in the model of GrapevineXL. The colour gradient across leaves represents the proportion of absorbed photosynthetically active radiation, which changes from black to light green as the proportion of absorbed photosynthetically active radiation increases. Photos for the experimental plant and condition are shown in Supplementary Fig. S1. The leaf area per plant for fruiting-cutting Cabernet Sauvignon was 0.104 m² for 12 leaves per cluster and 0.025 m² for 3 leaves per cluster. The leaf area per plant for one-cane-pruned Sangiovese was 1.02 m² for 12 leaves per shoot, and 0.31 m² for 3 leaves per shoot.

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Fig. 2 Schematic representation of the coupling of carbon allocation module and berry growth module in the model of GrapevineXL. The sink-driven carbon allocation module calculates the phloem sucrose concentration based on the balance between carbon loading from leaf (E1) and stem (internode, cordon and trunk, E4) and carbon unloading by berries (E24), roots (E7) and stem (E5). Subsequently, phloem sucrose concentration and xylem water potential, calculated by the water flux module (Zhu *et al.*, 2018), were utilized by the berry growth model. The berry growth module calculates water uptake from phloem (or xylem) based on differences in hydrostatic and osmotic pressures between berry and phloem (or xylem, E21 and E22), and based on phloem (or xylem) membrane water conductance (E17). Osmotic pressure was calculated from solute concentration (E11-13). The phloem hydraulic conductance was assumed to decrease with increasing of berry fresh weight (E17). Fruit hydrostatic pressure was calculated by solving Lockhart's equation describing volume growth of the fruit and assuming that the volume change was equal to the total volume of water uptake from xylem and phloem (E19 and 20). Water loss through berry transpiration was assumed to be proportional to the fruit surface area (E14) and surface conductance to water vapour (E16), and to be driven by the difference in relative humidity between the air-filled space within the fruit and the ambient atmosphere (E15). The sugar uptake was calculated based on active transport mechanism (E23) and mass flow (E21 and E24). A constant fraction of sugar taken up each time was converted into soluble sugar (E28), which enables the calculation of fruit sugar concentration (E9). Variables linked with carbon allocation processes were marked with blue, and variables linked with water transport were marked with orange. Variables linked with both processes were marked with green.

Fig. 3 Model verification (12 leaves per cluster, solid lines) and validation (3 leaves per cluster, dashed lines) of berry dry weight (A and B) and fresh weight (C and D). Left panels were fruiting-cutting Cabernet Sauvignon, and right panels were one-cane-pruned Sangiovese. Circles and triangles were observed values, and lines were simulated values. The model was calibrated based on the dynamics of berry dry weight and fresh weight under 12L per cluster for using the dataset of Bobeica *et al.*, (2015) for both Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese. The dataset of 3L per cluster was reserved for validation. The dynamics of berry hexose concentration was the emerging property of the model. RRMSE is the normalized roots mean square error and represents the standard deviation of the differences between predicted values and observed values divided by the overall mean of the observed values.

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Fig. 4 Mean midday xylem water potential (A and B), mean daily phloem sucrose concentration (C and D), mean night-time turgor pressure (E and F). Left panels were fruiting-cutting Cabernet Sauvignon, and right panels were one-cane-pruned Sangiovese. The dataset of Bobeica *et al.*, (2015) for both Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese were used for the simulation. Solid lines represent the vines with 12 leaves per cluster, and dashed lines are vines with 3 leaves per cluster. The high phloem sucrose concentration at the start of the simulation could be because: 1) the input nonstructural carbon concentration for leaf and stem was higher than the actual condition, thus the model requires some time to stabilize based on the current environmental condition; 2) berry has a lower sugar uptake capacity at the start of the simulation due to a lower dry matter.

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Fig. 5 Simulations of diurnal dynamics of berry fresh weight (A), water influx (B), surface transpiration (C), water balance (D), osmotic pressure (E) and turgor pressure (F) within a 4-day period (77 to 80 days after flowering) for Cabernet Sauvignon under a fruiting-cutting system. Solid lines were 12L per cluster, and dashed lines were 3L per cluster. Shaded areas indicated the night-time, 8 pm to 5 am.

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Fig. 6 Mean normalized sensitivity coefficients (bars) calculated for the final berry dry weight (A and B) and fresh weight (C and D) to variations in parameters within the berry growth module. The default value of a parameter as noted in Table 1 was changed at 10 % intervals from -50 % to + 50 % excluding the default value, while all other parameters were kept at the default values during the sensitivity analysis. Left panels were Cabernet Sauvignon, and right panels were Sangiovese. Different colour represent different physiological processes.

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Fig. 7 The dynamics of berry fresh weight (A), water influx (B), surface transpiration (C), water balance (D), osmotic pressure (E) and turgor pressure (F) with surface transpiration (solid lines) and without surface transpiration (dashed lines). Simulation was run for 7 days based on the model set up for fruiting-cutting Cabernet Sauvignon system. Climatic conditions are shown in Supplementary Fig. S5. Shaded areas indicated the night-time, 8 pm to 5 am.

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Fig. 8 The dynamics of berry fresh weight (A), water influx (B), berry surface transpiration (C), water balance (D), osmotic pressure (E) and turgor pressure (F) under varying sugar uptake capacity ($V_{\max, \text{berry}}$) with water stress for the first 8 days (70 to 77 days after flowering) and well-watered for the remaining 4 days (78 to 81 days after flowering). Red lines were simulated with constant default $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ (Table 1). Blue lines were simulated with $0.1V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ for the first 4 days, and then switch to $V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ for the remaining 8 days. Green lines were simulated with $0.1V_{\max, \text{berry}}$ throughout the whole period. Simulation was run based on the model set up for the fruiting-cutting Cabernet Sauvignon system. Climatic conditions are shown in Supplementary Fig. S5. Shaded areas indicated the night-time, 8 pm to 5 am. The simulated dynamics of berry dry weight, hexose concentration, photosynthesis rate, transpiration rate, xylem water potential and phloem sucrose concentration are shown in Fig. S12.

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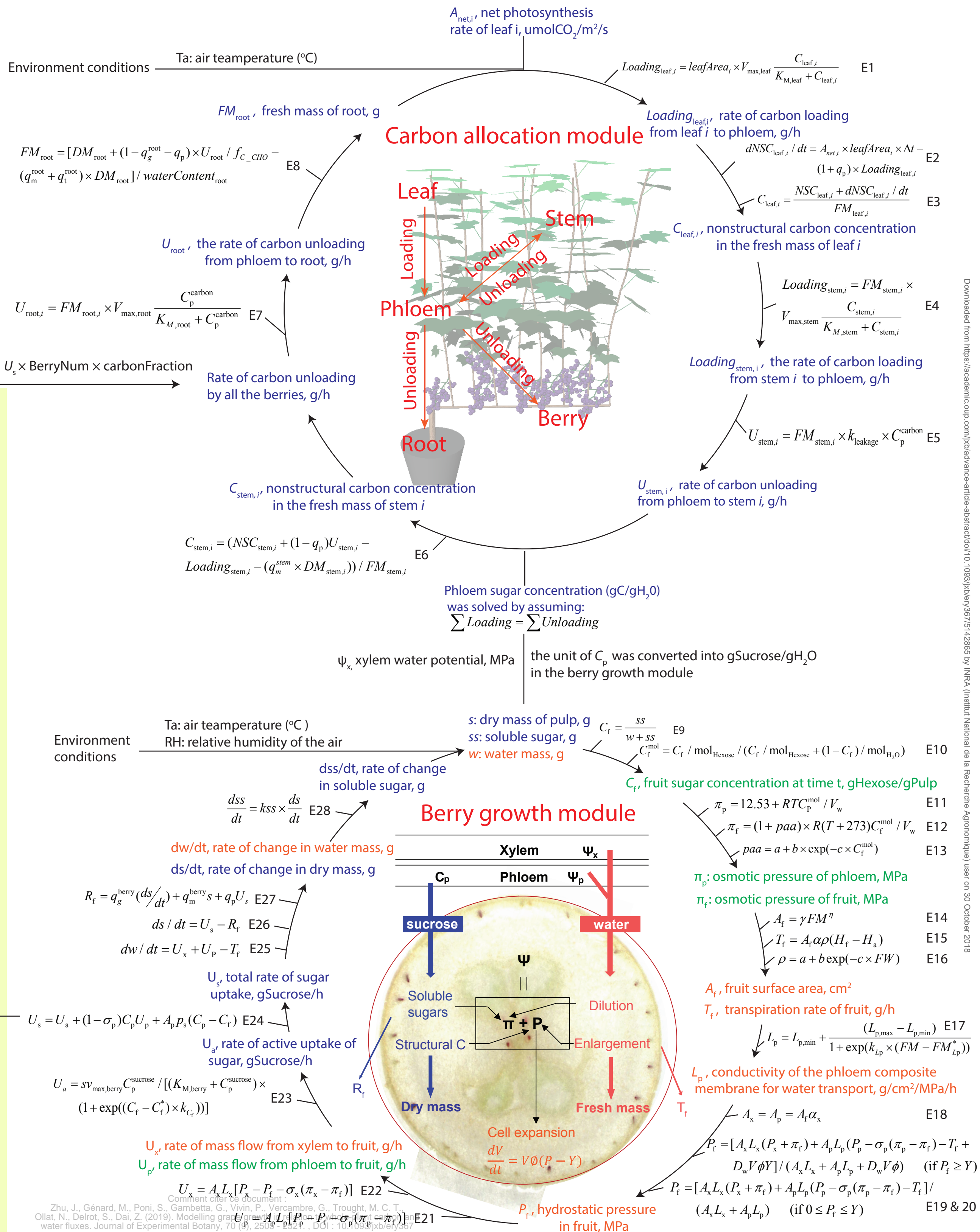
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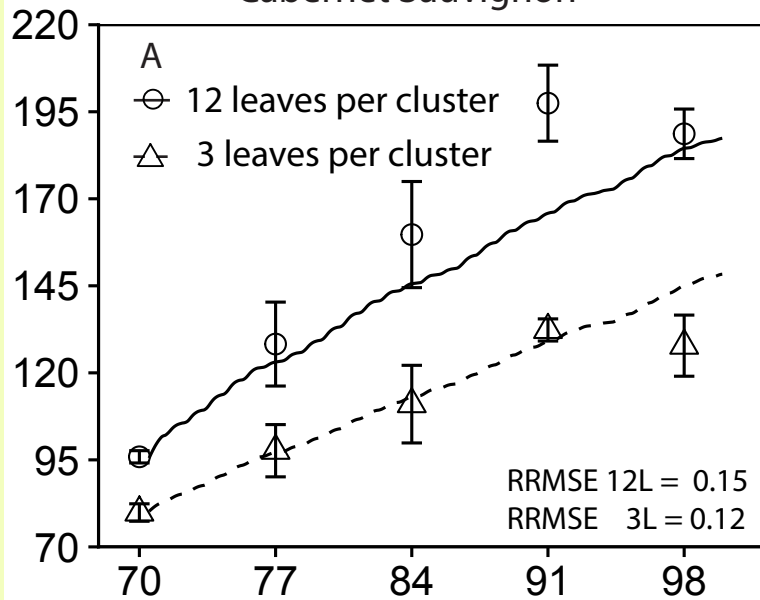
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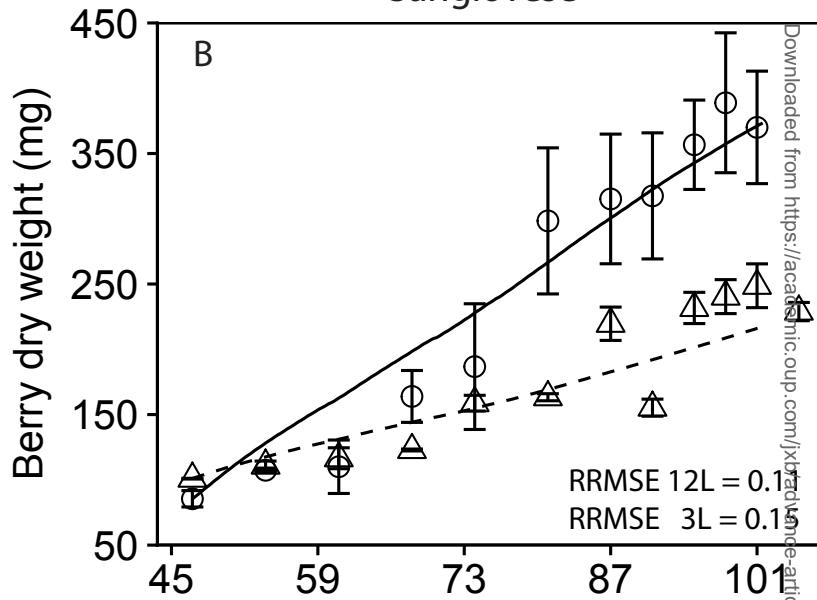
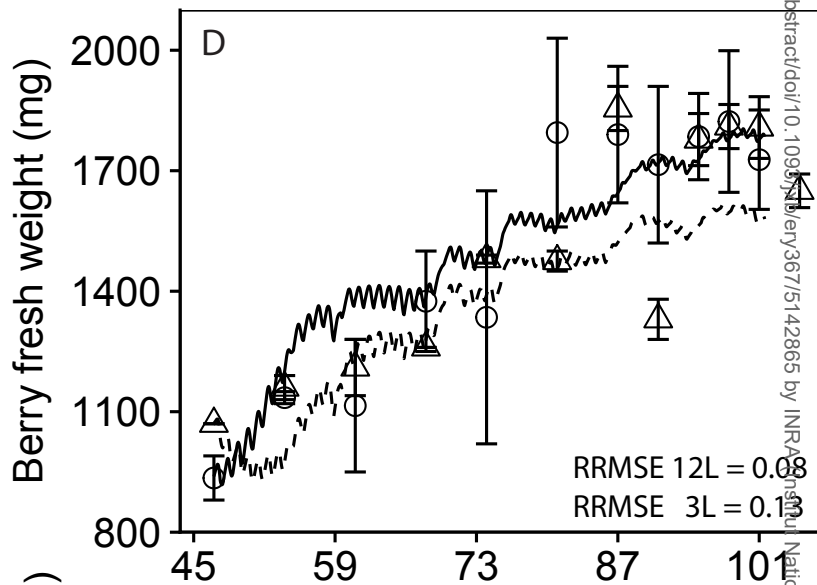
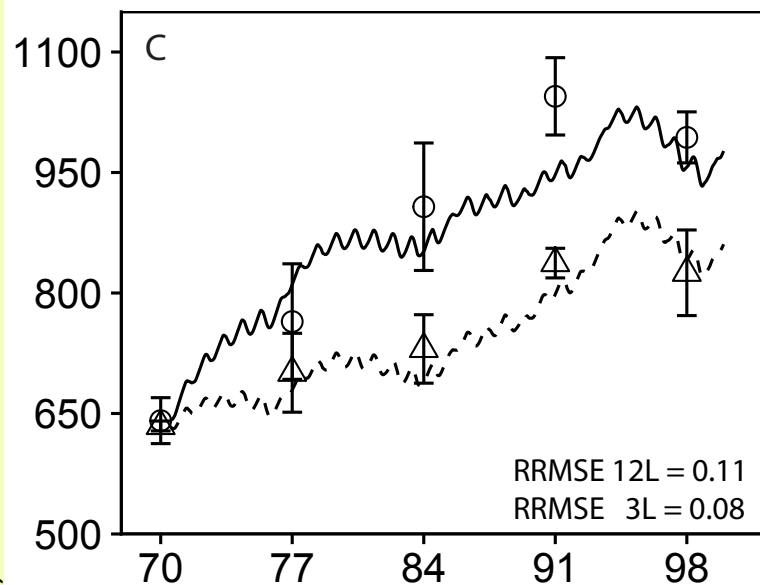
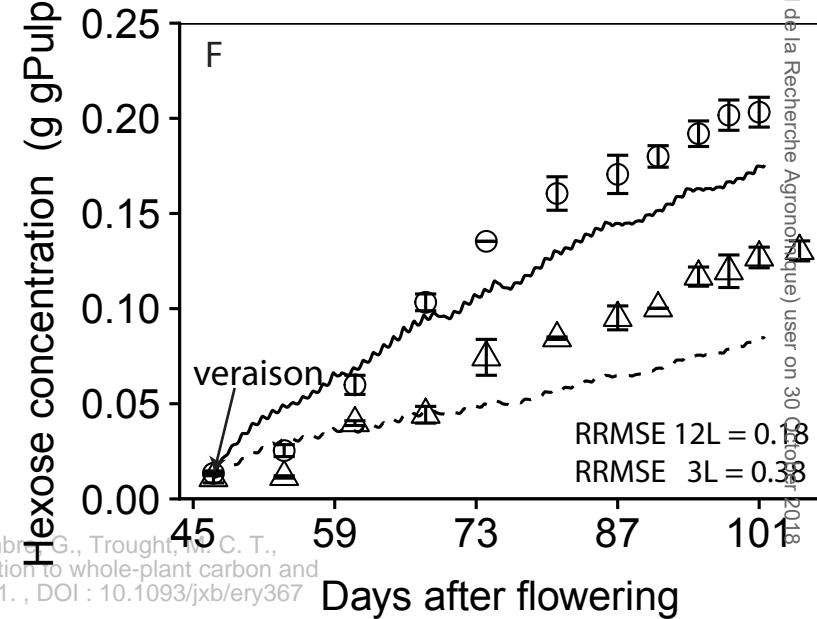
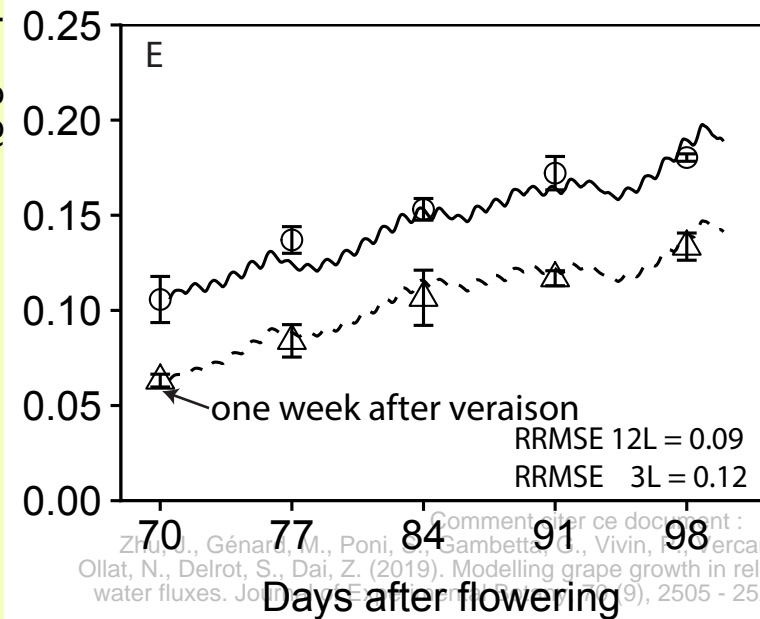




Cabernet Sauvignon



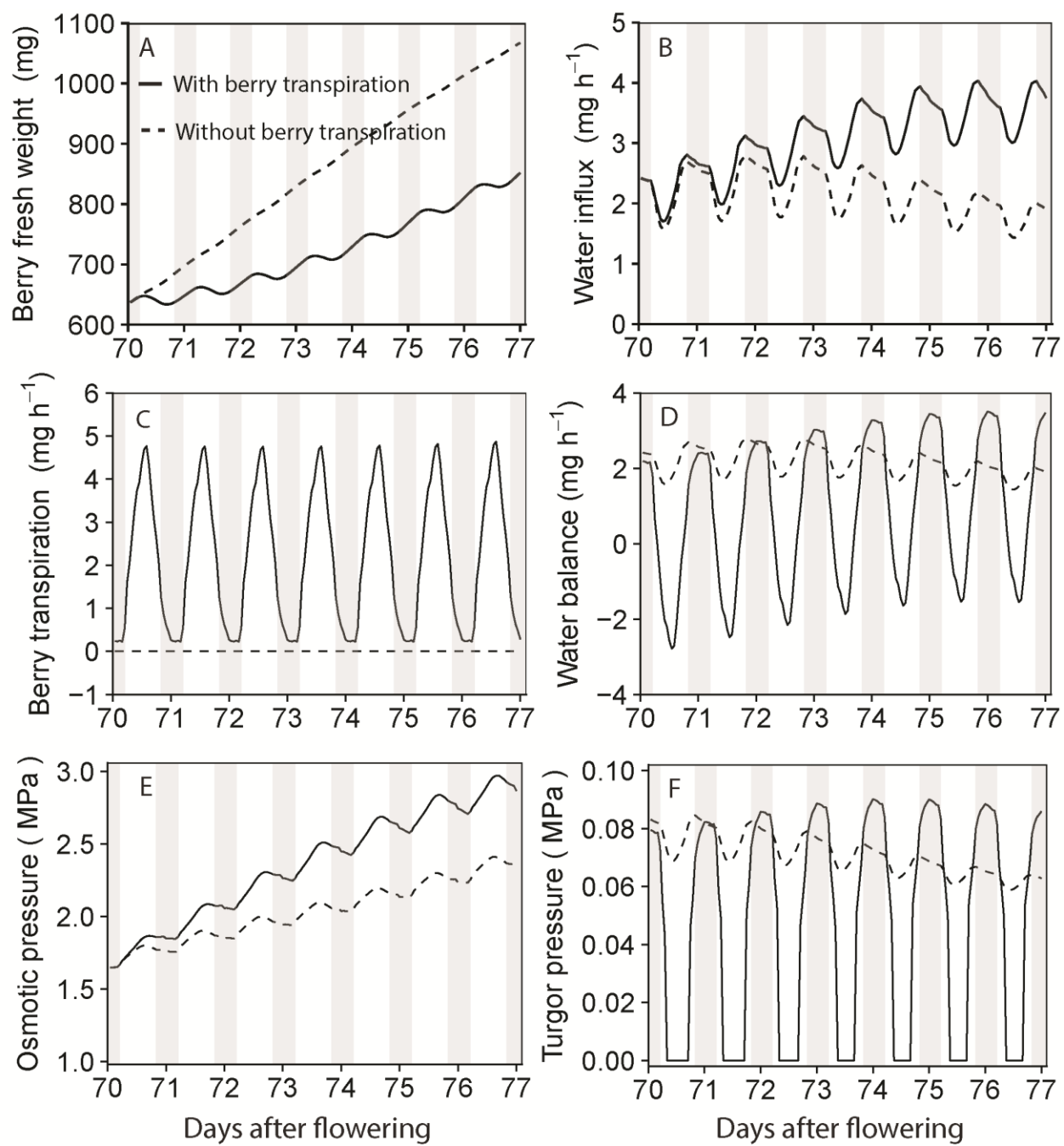
Sangiovese

Berry fresh weight (mg)^tHexose concentration (g gPulp⁻¹)

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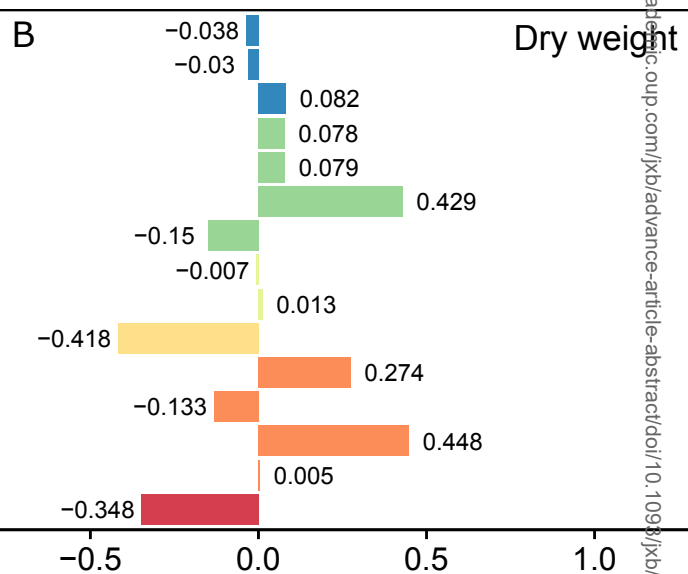
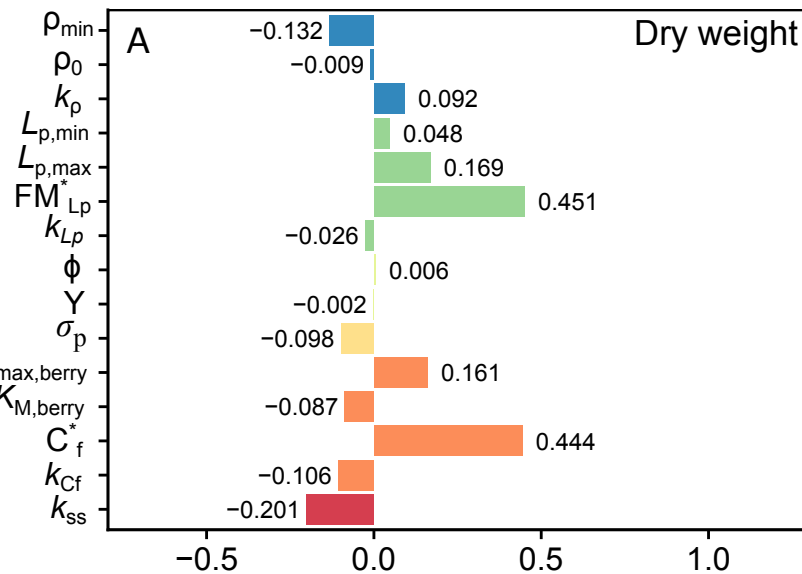
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Cabernet Sauvignon

Sangiovese

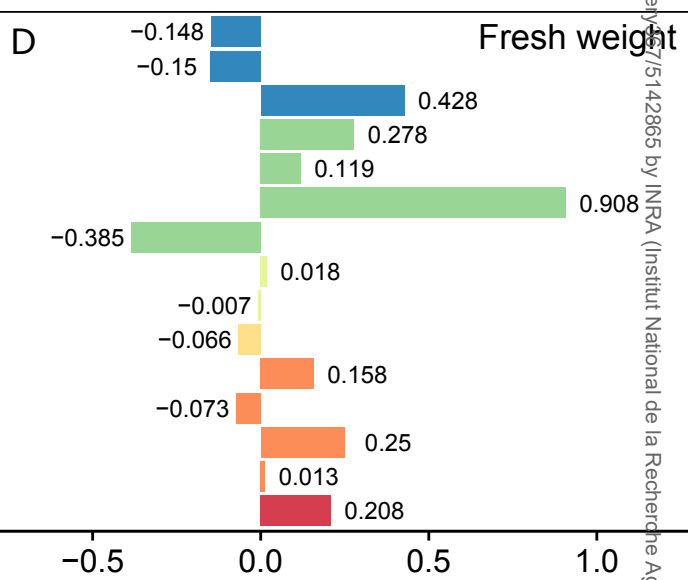
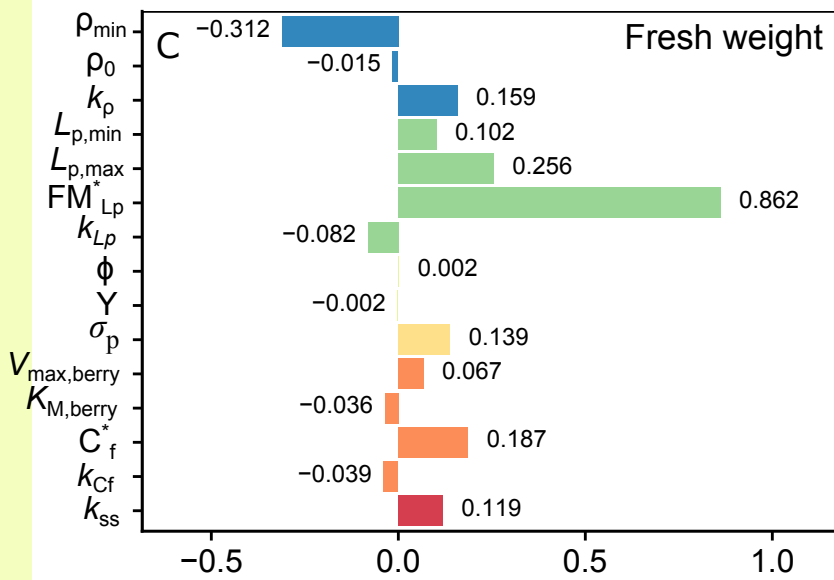
Dry weight

Dry weight



Fresh weight

Fresh weight



Mean normalized sensitivity coefficients



