How to reduce uncertainties in a coupled and spatialized water quality model using data assimilation?

Emilie Rouzies, Claire Lauvernet, Arthur Vidard

To cite this version:

Emilie Rouzies, Claire Lauvernet, Arthur Vidard. How to reduce uncertainties in a coupled and spatialized water quality model using data assimilation?. vEGU21 - European Geosciences Union, Apr 2021, Vienne, Austria. pp.1. hal-03462057

HAL Id: hal-03462057
https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-03462057
Submitted on 1 Dec 2021

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L’archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire HAL, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d’enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.
Uncertainty quantification and reduction is necessary before considering operational use of any pesticide transfer model. In this study, we developed a framework for joint variable-parameter assimilation of satellite surface moisture images in the PESHMELBA model. A fairly simple virtual hillslope inspired from a realistic catchment is set up and data assimilation is performed on twin experiments.

1. The PESHMELBA model (Rouzies et al., 2019)

The PESHMELBA model simulates pesticide transfers and fate on small agricultural catchments.
- Explicitly considers the effect of discontinuities (hedges, ditches, rivers, filter zones) and the spatial organisation of the landscape
- Characterized by a modular structure that makes it possible to test different scenarios of agricultural/landscape management practices
- Process-oriented, fully spatialized model.
- One module = one process or ensemble of processes on a landscape element + coupling within the OpenPALM coupler (Buis et al., 2006)

2. Data assimilation set-up (twin experiments)

- Available data: surface moisture images from Sentinel-2
  - Frequency: 5 days
  - Obs. error: ~5% (Baghdadi and Zribi, 2016)
- Let’s start simple: virtual simplified hillslope derived from La Morcille real catchment (France)
- Even simple: 3 heterogeneous soil types + 3 landscape element types => 145 parameters!
- Twin experiments: virtual moisture images generated from a reference PESHMELBA simulation. First test: one obs. available at each 24h!
- DA method chosen to fit PESHMELBA specificities: Deterministic Ensemble Kalman Filter (DEnKF) (Evensen, 1994). Ensemble size = 100 members
- DA used both to correct moisture in vertical profile and to estimate some input parameters: saturated water content ($θ_{sat}$) on surface
- Initial ensemble: perturbation of 145 input parameters. Bounds and distributions are set from field measurements, literature review or expert knowledge.

3. Results

DEnKF quickly decreases both ensemble spread and bias on surface moisture after 3 assimilation cycles (left panel on Figure above). Thereafter, impact of analysis remains quite limited. Joint estimation also significantly improves estimation for surface $θ_{sat}$ (horizon 11, 12 and 13, see right panels on Figure above). However, correction is only significant in first soil horizon (~1 cm) and does not propagate towards deeper soil horizons (Left Figure). Assimilation of surface moisture images remains of no effect on subsurface.

**How to use data assimilation to quantify and reduce uncertainty in this spatialized, highly coupled model?**

4. Conclusion and next steps

- DEnKF potential to perform joint estimation in the PESHMELBA model is demonstrated using synthetic images. Uncertainty on both surface moisture variables and surface $θ_{sat}$ parameters is reduced.
- But this setup does not allow for correcting other components of the model (subsurface moisture, pesticide concentration,...).

**Next challenge: how to better estimate water and pesticide variables in subsurface?**

References