

EGU Meeting

Session Soil water Infiltration. Measurements, assessment and modeling (co-organized - SSS7.6/HS8.3.11)

Comparing dynamics recording of infiltration by X-Ray tomography to the results of a dual porosity model for structured soils

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Introduction

Soil: **major resource for agronomy**

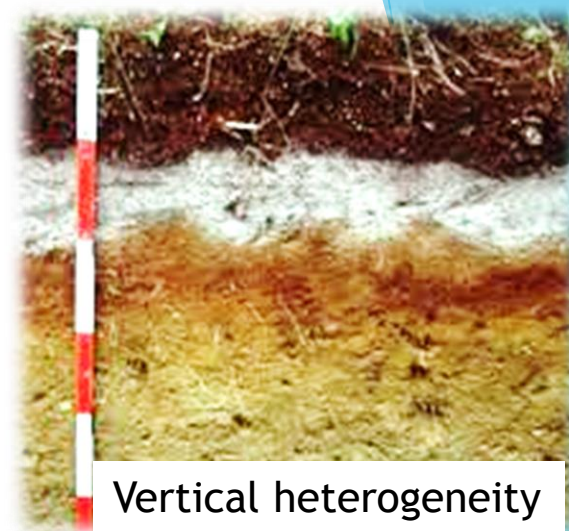
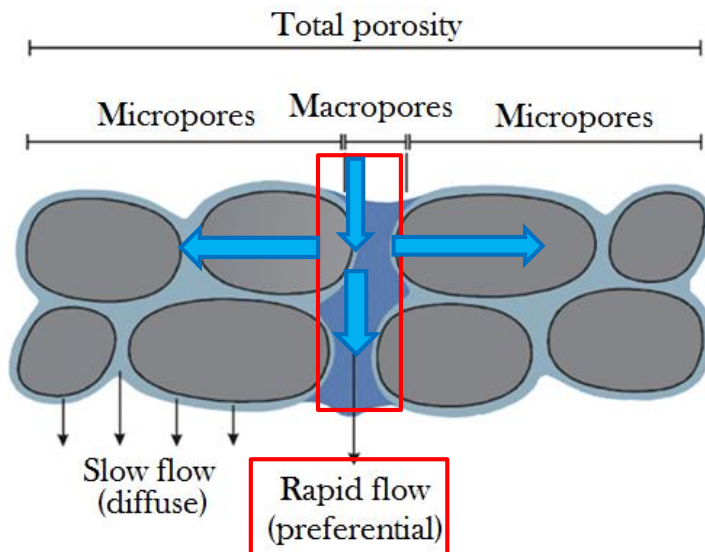
→ water quality ; **water balance** ; cultural support

BUT temporal and spatial variation

Climate change impact

→ Rain intensity and frequency in Mediterranean zone

→ Preferential flows can be more frequent (i.e. rapid flow in macropores and micropores “short circuit”)



→ Impact on time arrival to water table, and transport pollutants/colloids (ref. 5)

→ **Environmental risks**

Introduction

How to study preferential flow phenomenon ?

Experiments on undisturbed soil cores samples (ϕ 12 cm ; height = 15cm)

- Rain **simulation** in laboratory
- Rain **simulation** in X-Ray medical tomograph
- Water flow models:

→ Matrix flow (slow flow) : well described by *Darcy - Richards* equation

→ Preferential flow (rapid flow) : calculated with Kinematic Dispersive Waves (KDW)

→ Coupling Darcy - Richards and KDW → “natural water flow” (ref. 3)

→ Image analysis

→ Experimental data

→ Modelling of rain



I - Comparison and parametrization with images

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II - Comprehension of KDW parameters

(by sensitivity analysis and parameters estimation)

Materials and methods - Image

Samples	Rain
3 samples	30 mm each
2 different textures (clay-loam; loamy-sand)	2 intensity (20 & 6 mm/h)
2 different structure (tilled or not)	Gravimetric monitoring

X-Ray tomography	Model
1 rain at 20 mm/h for 30mm	Using <i>VirtualSoil</i> platform (http://www6.inra.fr/sol_virtuel)
Gravimetric monitoring	Richards - KDW coupled equation
Image acquisition regularly in 10 s with ~350µm of resolution	



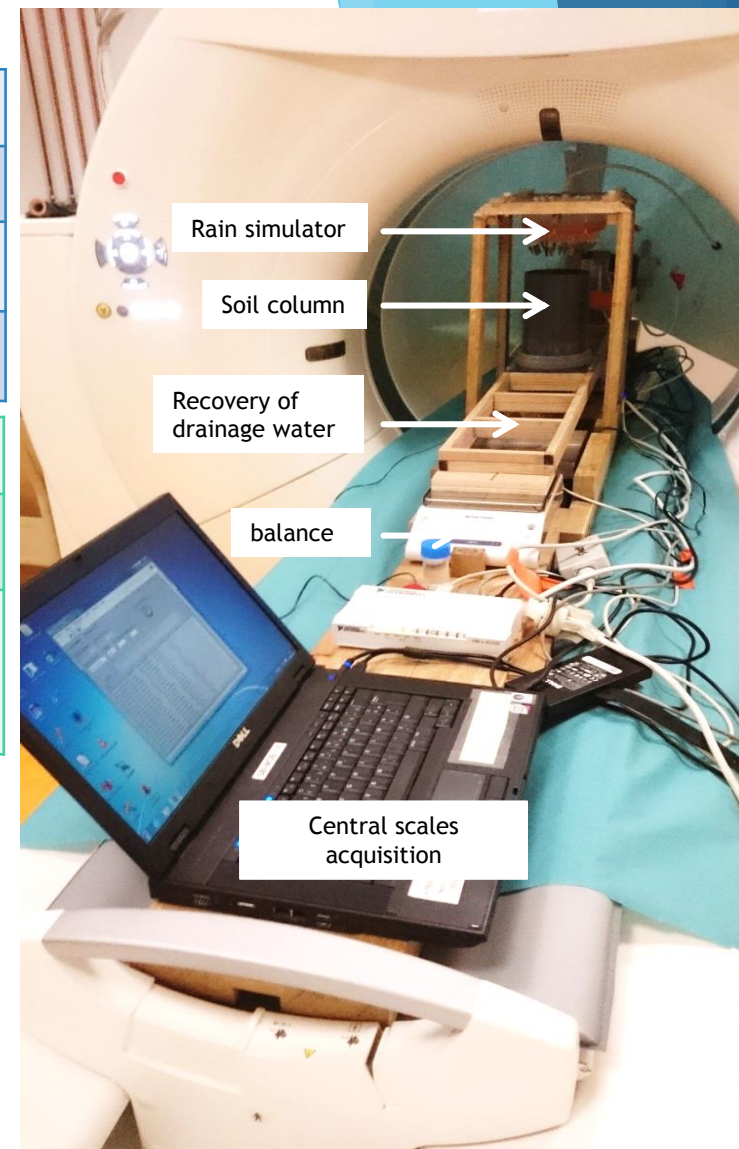
Image Analysis

- (1) Determination of **functional macroporosity** (ref. 1)
- (2) Determination of water flow dynamics in **largest** macropores (ref. 2)



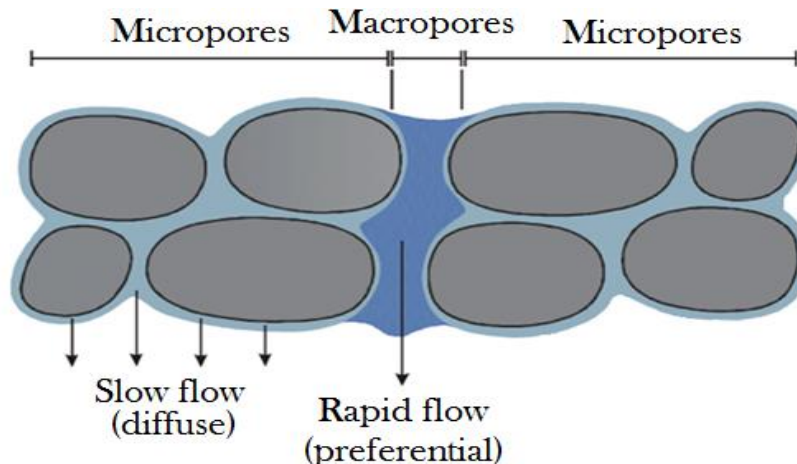
Modelling

Develop after



Materials and methods - Model

Dual porosity model



Matrix / microporosity (M_i)

$$q_{mi} = -K_{mi}(h) \frac{\partial(h-z)}{\partial z} \text{ (Darcy)}$$

+ continuity equation \rightarrow Richards

$$\frac{\partial \theta_{mi}(h)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(-K_{mi}(h) \frac{\partial(h-z)}{\partial z} \right) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta_{mi}(h)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(-K_{mi}(h) \frac{\partial(h-z)}{\partial z} \right) = S$$

Parameters : $K_{mi}(h)$
 $h(\theta_{mi})$

Macropores (M_a)

$$q_{ma} = b \theta_{ma}^a - v \frac{\partial \theta_{ma}}{\partial t}$$

+ continuity equation \rightarrow KDW

$$\frac{\partial q_{ma}}{\partial t} + c(\theta_{ma}) \frac{\partial q_{ma}}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial q_{ma}}{\partial t} + c(\theta_{ma}) \frac{\partial q_{ma}}{\partial z} = -S c(\theta_{ma})$$

Parameters : a, b, v

Coupling

$$S = f(M_a, M_i) = \frac{K_{mi}(h)}{d} \cdot \frac{h_{mi}}{d} \cdot \frac{\theta_{ma}}{\theta_{ma}^{max}}$$

(ref.3-4)

Materials and methods - Model

Sensitivity Analysis & Parameters estimation

Sensitivity analysis

- Mathematical method: FAST 99 (ref. 6)
- Goal: which parameters are the most important ?
- Interest of method: detect principal and interaction effects
- Limitation: time calculation

Parameters estimation

- Mathematical method: Levenberg-Marquardt (LM) & DREAM test (ref. 7-8)
- Goal: estimation some parameters which are not measurable or uncertain
- Interest of method: fitting experimental curves
- Limitation:
LM: may not detect global minimum.
DREAM: global but long time for calculation.

$$\text{KDW} : q_{ma} = b \theta_{ma}^a - v \frac{\partial \theta_{ma}}{\partial t}$$

$$\text{Sink source term} : S = \frac{K_{mi}(h)}{d} \cdot - \frac{h_{mi}}{d} \cdot \frac{\theta_{ma}}{\theta_{ma}^{max}}$$

➔ parameters for statistical analysis

➔ $a = \text{macropores flow distribution index} [-]$

➔ $b = \text{conductance term} [m \cdot s^{-1}]$

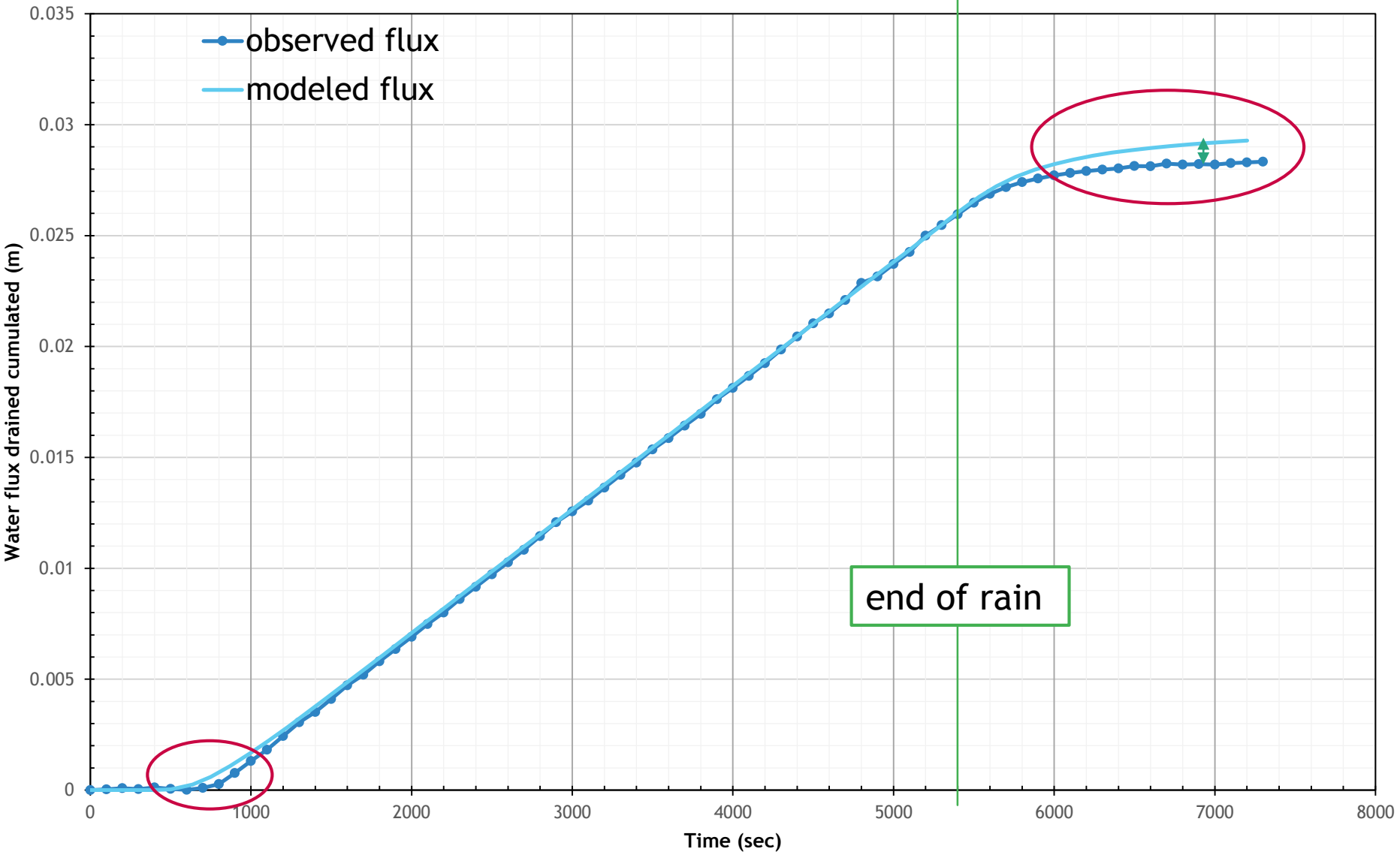
➔ $v = \text{dispersion coefficient} [m]$

➔ $d = \text{estimated effective diffusion distance} [m]$

➔ $\theta_{ma}^{max} = \text{water content in saturated macropores} [m^3 \cdot m^{-3}]$

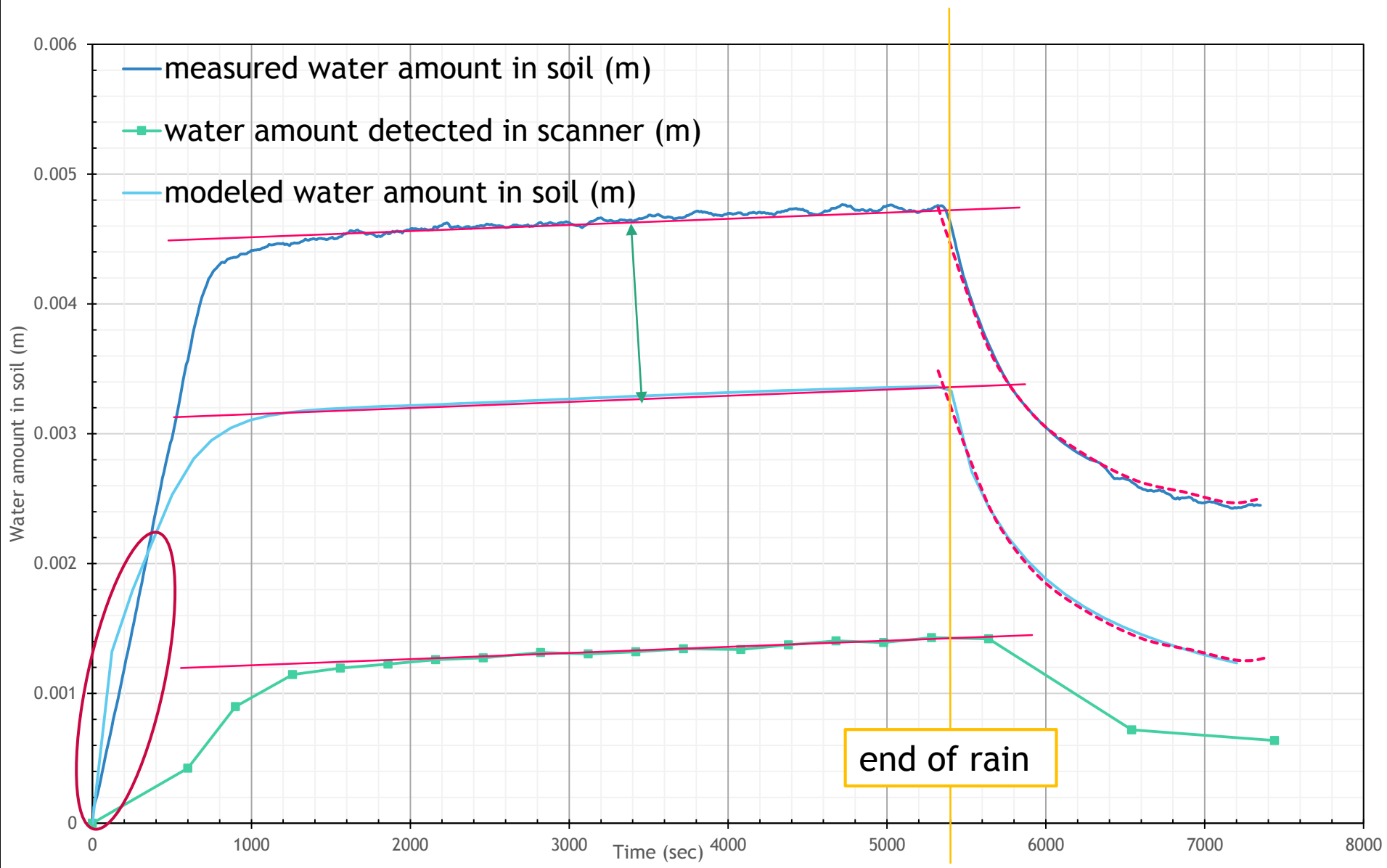
Results - Model VS experiment

Observed VS modeled drained flux - Soil clay loam no tilled



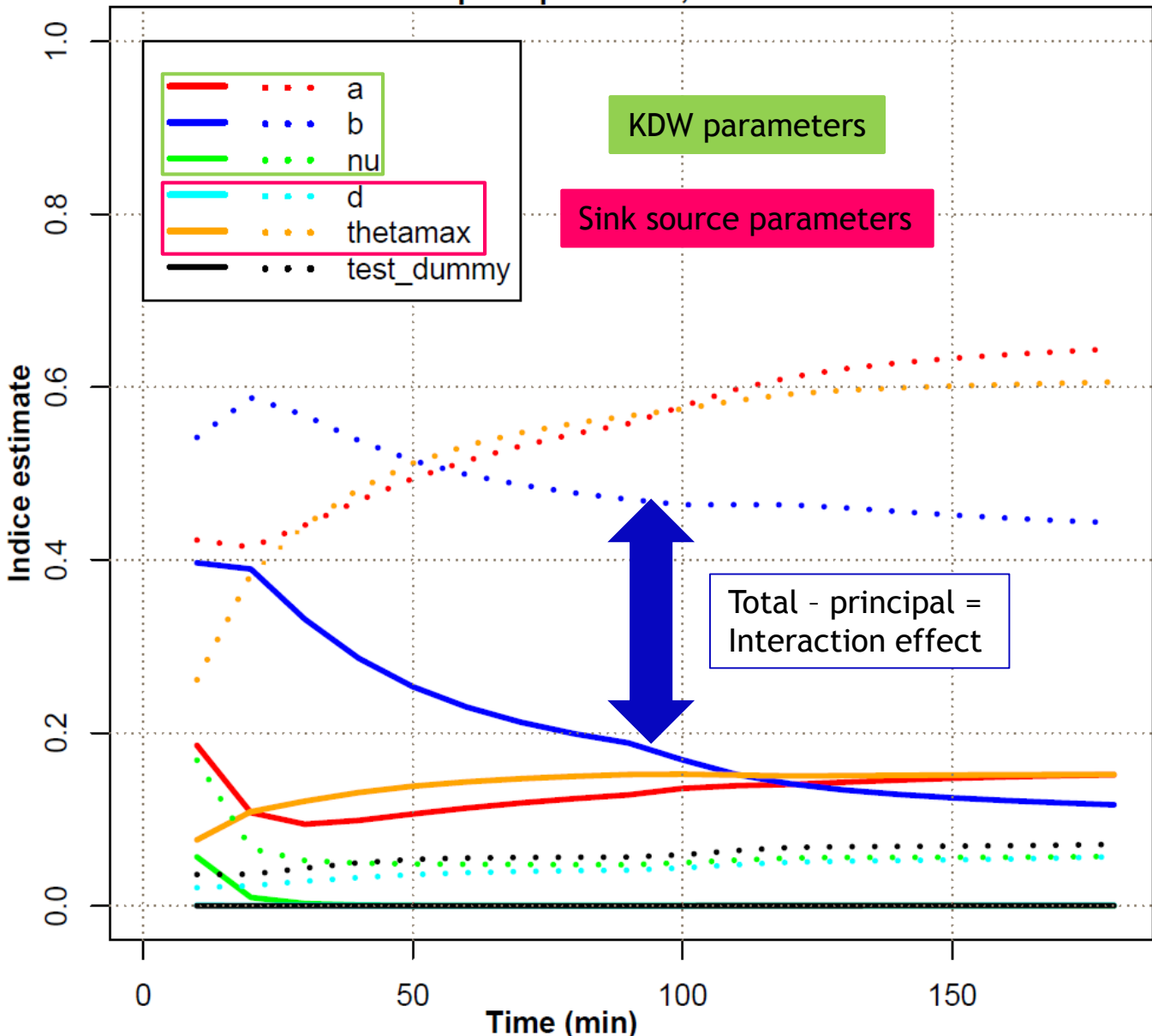
Results - Model VS Image

Observed VS modeled water amount in soil - Soil clay loam no tilled



Results - Sensitivity analysis of KDW & Sink source term

Indices contribution according time simulation at the bottom of soil core
solide line = principal effect ; dotted line = total effect



Conclusion

- *On rain experiments*

- Good approach to see water flow dynamic in general
- Improvement for a better detection of breakthrough time in “real time”

- *On X-ray tomography: image analysis*

- Good representation of water flow dynamic with an internal vision for larger object
- Improvement of image analysis with development of new structure and water flow index for integration in KDW model **(IN PROGRESS)**

- *On water flow modelling*

- Good modelling in general of water flux at the bottom and water stored in column
- Improvement of KDW model → new formulation ! **(IN PROGRESS)**

- *On sensitivity analysis (model)*

- Promising firsts results. KDW parameters show great interactions who need to be understand
- Need more time to continue analysis...

Perspectives

→ Find a better way to best integration of generic macrostructure parameters in water flow model

→ *Image Analysis: development of structure parameters (connection, shorter water path connected top - bottom...)*

→ *Model: sink source term improvement (re-formulation), add contribution of imaging*

In the future:

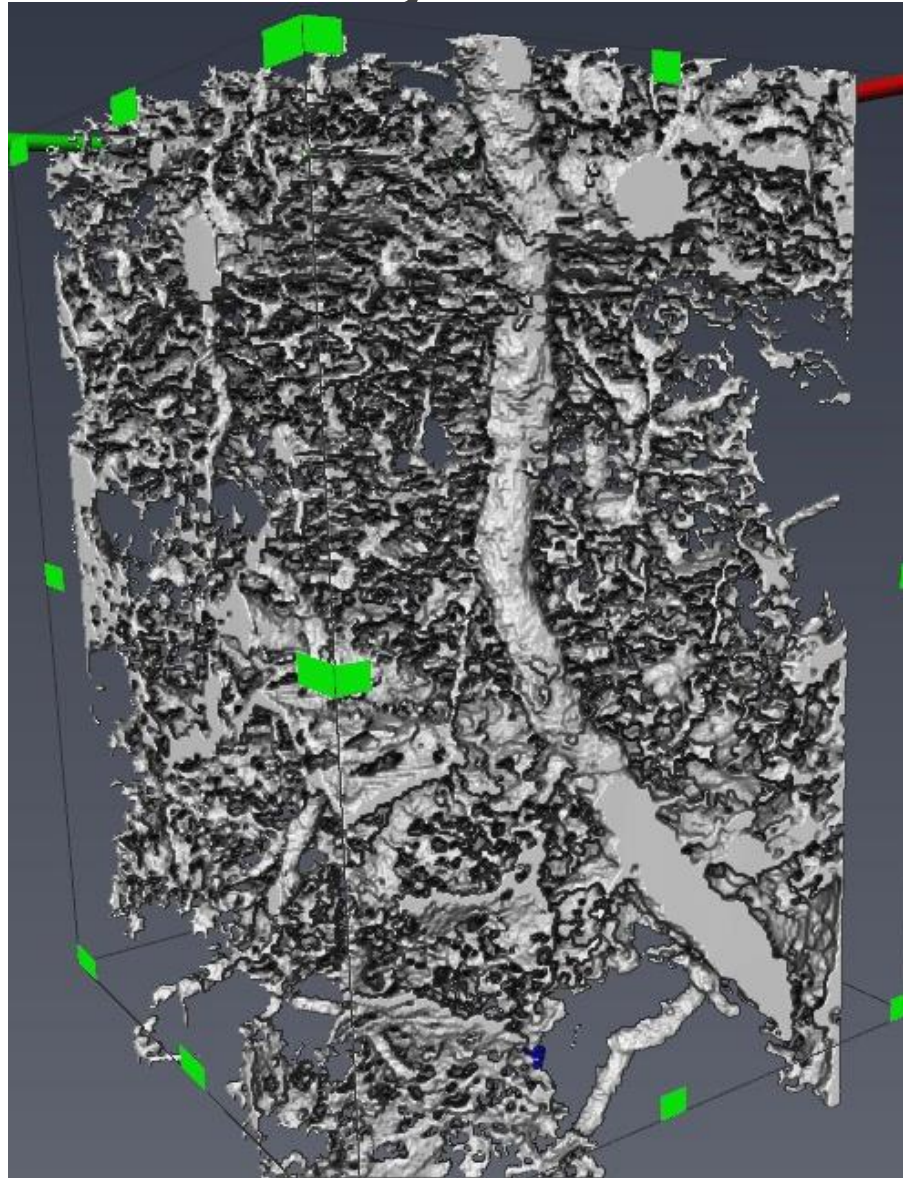
→ Visualization of micro - macropores exchange

→ *Using dye tracer (water non-reactive)*

→ *Increase of X-ray tomograph resolution by using smaller sample.*

Thanks for your attention !

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Bibliography

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