

# Modeling the land surface processes: a summary of different applications with UTOPIA

Claudio Cassardo

Department of Physics



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

Department of Environmental  
Science and Engineering



[claudio.cassardo@unito.it](mailto:claudio.cassardo@unito.it)

# Outline - 개요

- The UTOPIA (model)
  - Structure and input/output data
  - General outline: main processes studied
- Applications
  - Energy and hydrological budget of Alpine area in future climate
  - Korean monsoon
  - The case of the 2003 summer
  - Sensitivity analysis on vegetation parameters
  - Snow: Siberia, Piemonte, Antarctica



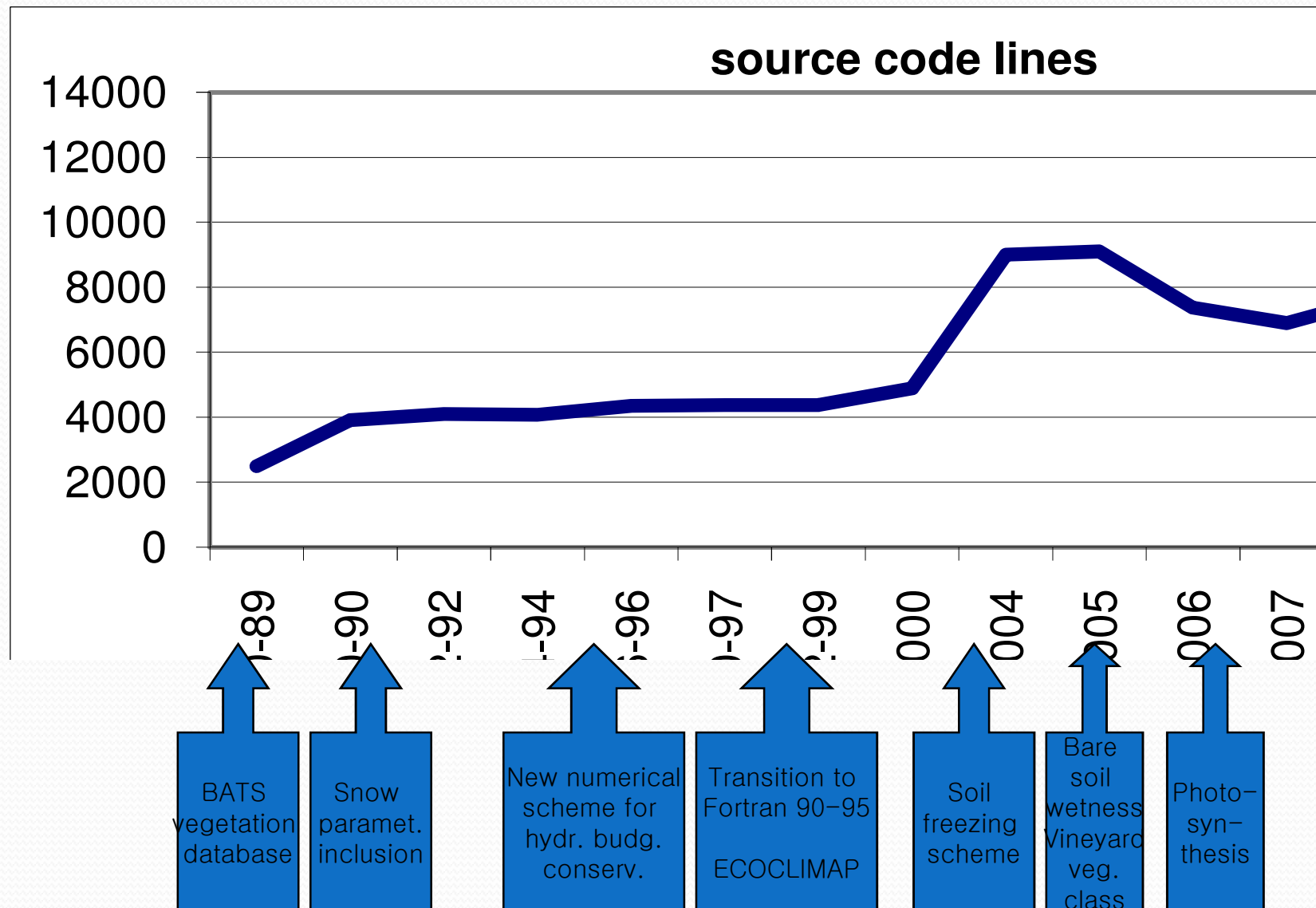
# The UTOPIA

# The origin of the name

- The model celebrates 23 years in 2014
- Created in 1991 by myself, A. Longhetto and J.J. Ji
- For 18 years it has been called LSPM (Land Surface Process Model)
- In 2009 it has been renamed UTOPIA, acronym of:

**University of TO**rino land surface **P**rocess model for  
**I**nteraction in the **A**tmosphere

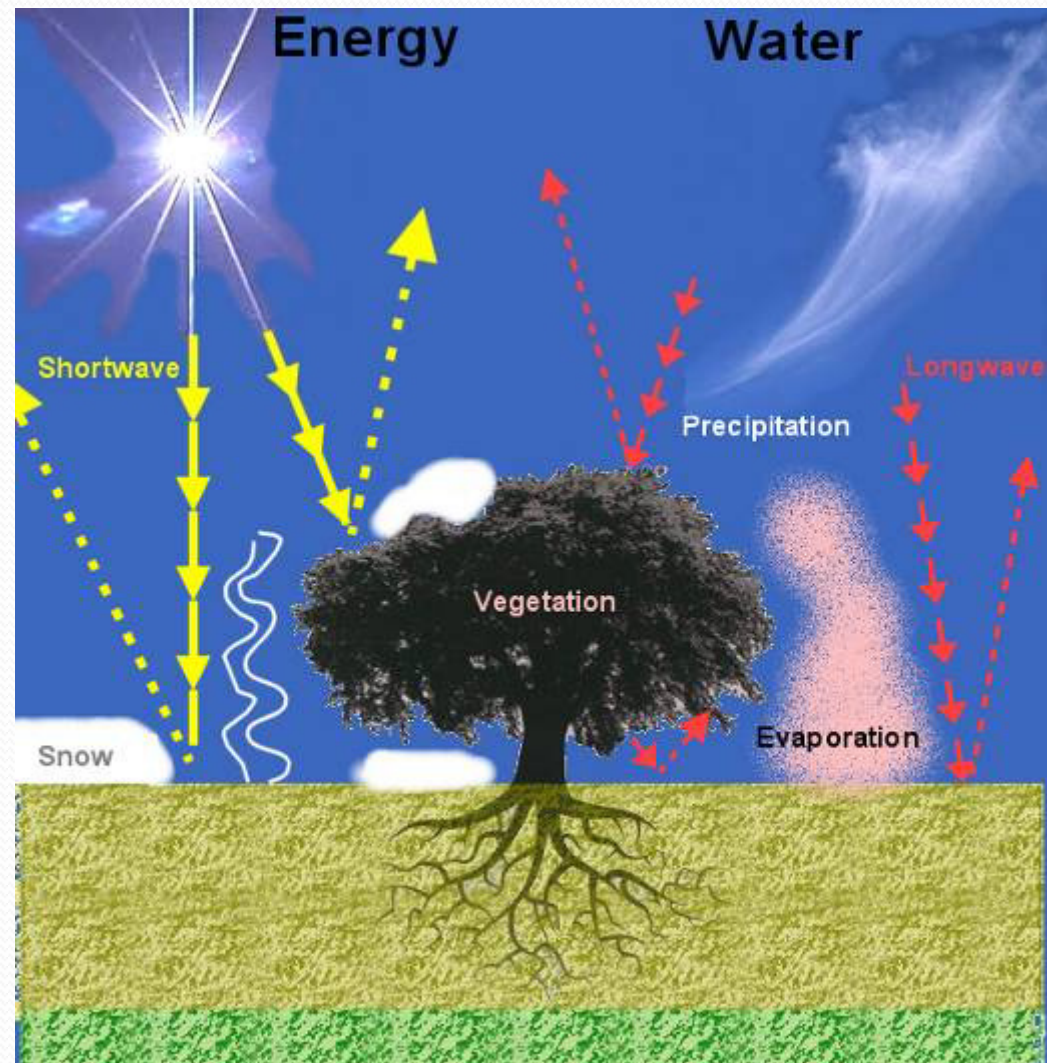
# The evolution of LSPM-UTOPIA



# The UTOPIA

(University of Torino land surface Process model for Interaction in the Atmosphere)

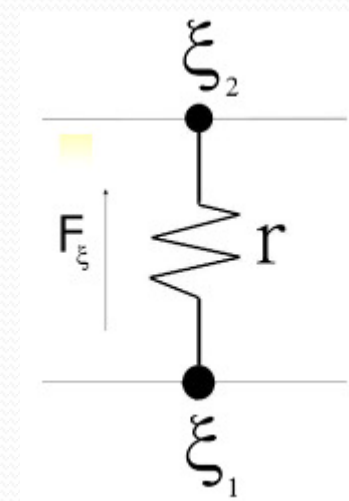
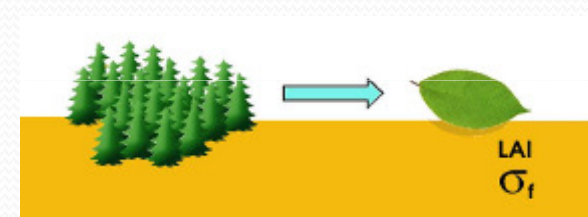
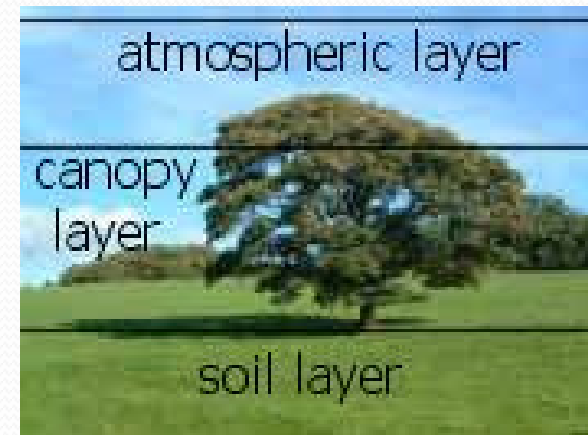
UTOPIA is a **bigleaf** 1D model which calculates the exchanges of mass, momentum and water vapor between the atmosphere and the surface (bio-geo-hydrosphere)





# The UTOPIA structure

- 3 zones: atmosphere, vegetation, soil
- Vegetation → uniform layer (big-leaf approximation)
- Variables → weighted averages between atmospheric, canopy and snow components
- Canopy → vegetation cover, height, leaf area index (LAI), albedo, minimum stomatal resistance, leaf dimension, emissivity and root depth
- Soil → thermal conductivity, hydraulic conductivity, soil porosity, permanent wilting point, dry volumetric heat capacity, soil surface albedo and emissivity
- Soil variables → multi-layer schemes (N layers)
- Turbulent fluxes → electric analogue scheme
- Photosynthesis evaluation



# Input/output data

## Boundary conditions

- Air temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$  or K)
- Atmospheric pressure (hPa)
- Relative (%) or specific (g(Kg)) humidity
- (Total and low) cloudiness
  - or solar radiation ( $\text{Wm}^{-2}$ )
- Wind speed (m/s)
- Precipitation (mm/ $\Delta t$ )



## Initial conditions

- Coordinates (Lat, Lon, Quote)
- Height of observations
- Azimuth and slope of site
- Sky turbidity (needed for radiation)
- Time step of observations
- Initial date and time
- Soil temperature
- Soil moisture
- Initial snow height

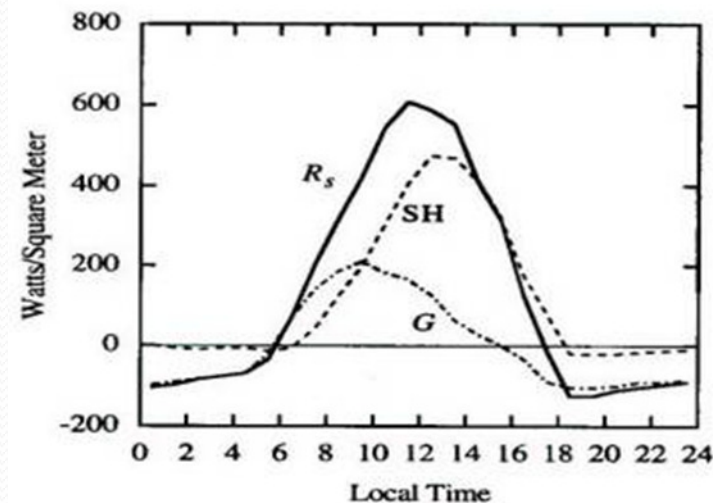
## Output

- Vegetation + multi-layer soil temperature
- Vegetation and multi-layer soil moisture
- Energy Balance (Radiative, Turbulent and Conductive heat fluxes)
- Hydrologic Balance (Rain – Snow – Water evaporation drainage runoff)
- Other soil-vegetation parameters



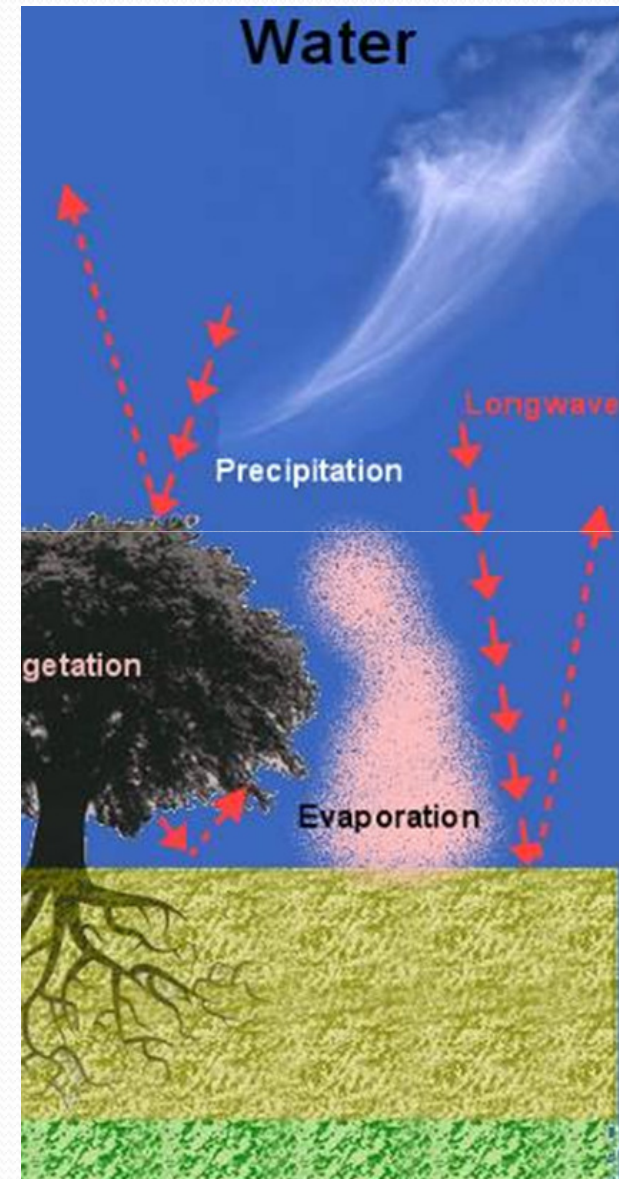
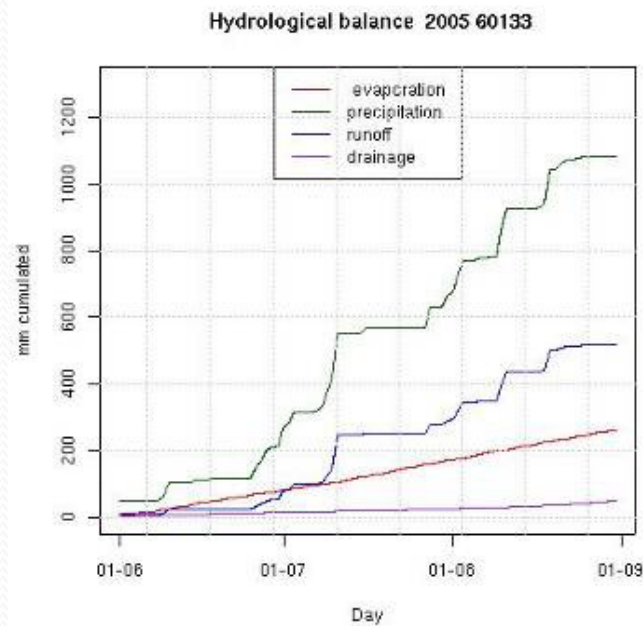
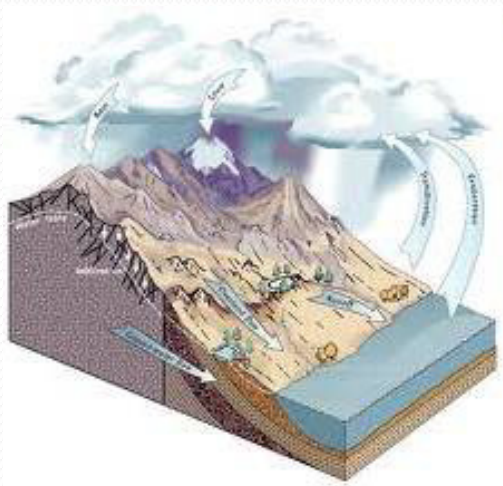
# The physical processes

- Radiative fluxes
- Momentum flux
- Sensible heat flux
- Latent heat flux
- Partitioning of latent heat flux into canopy evaporation, soil evaporation and transpiration
- Heat transfer in a multi-layer soil or lake



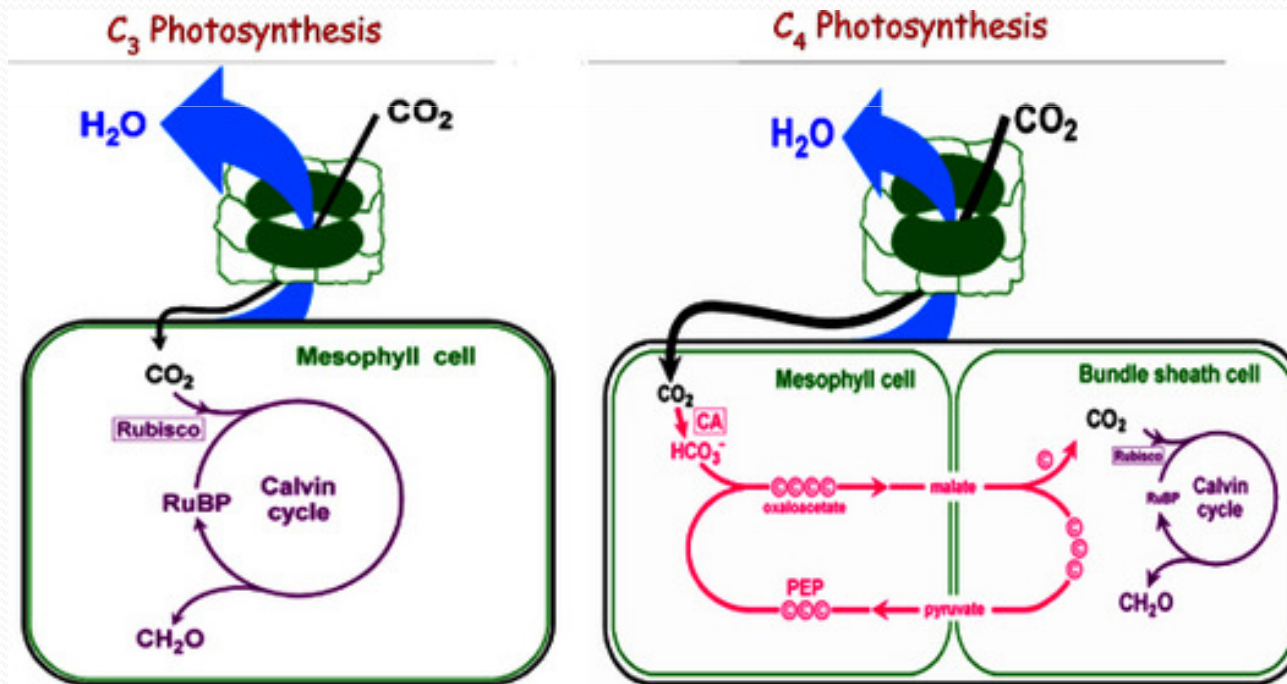
# Hydrological processes

- Snow accumulation and melt
- Rainfall, interception, infiltration and runoff
- Soil hydrology, including water transfer in a multi-layer soil



# Photosynthesis

- Evaluation of NPP and GPP
- Quantification of photosynthesis ( $C_3$  and  $C_4$ )
- Detailed evaluation of canopy resistance

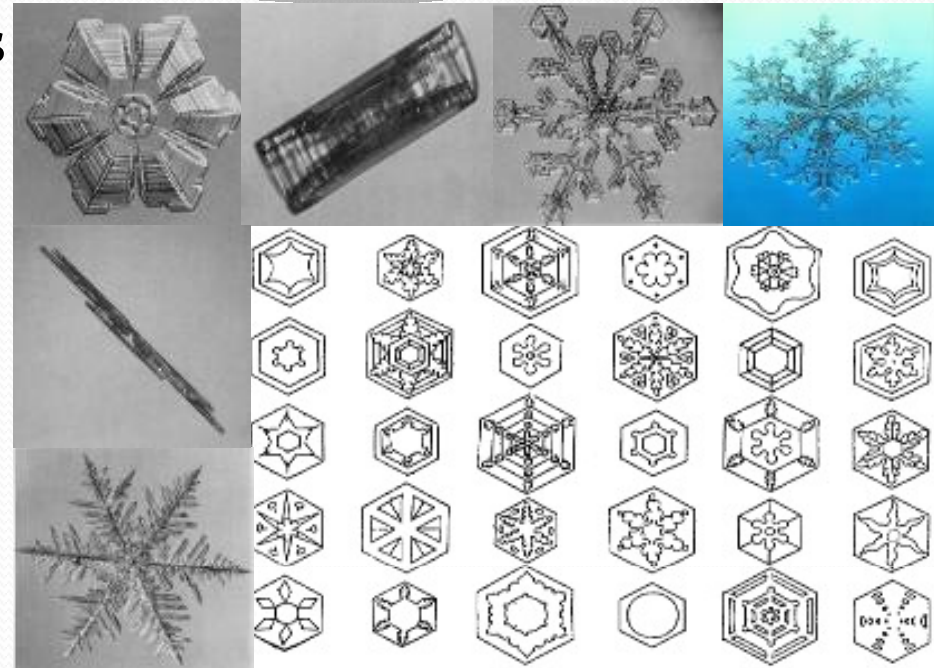


Source: [Chuanli et al., 2012](#)



# The snow

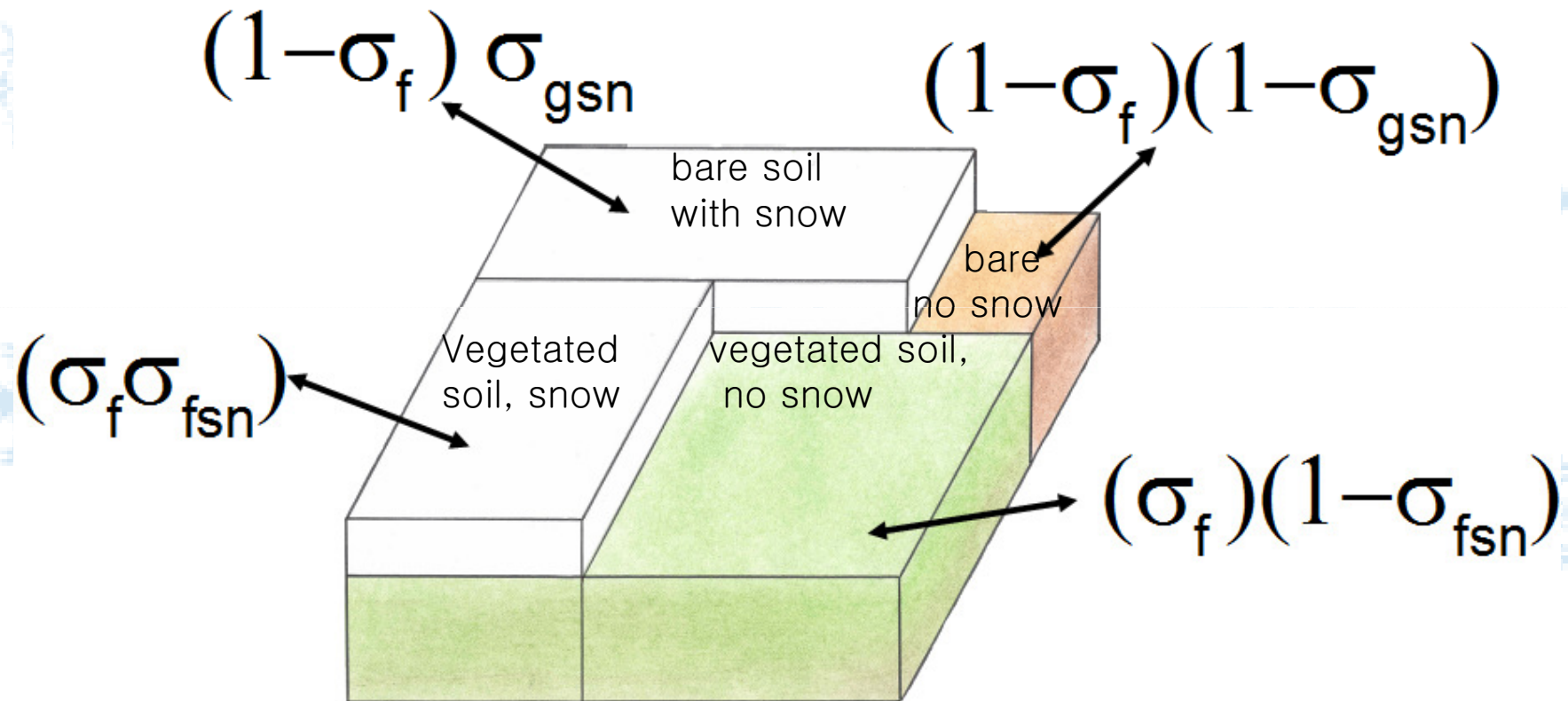
- Snow → single homogeneous layer lying upon land surface
- Frost = snow
- Metamorphism for calculating density
- Albedo
- Snowpack considered as a single homogeneous layer lying upon land surface
- Snow mass, thermal and hydrological balances are considered, to evaluate water equivalent and liquid water content
- Each component of energy and hydrologic budgets has been modified taking into account the new partition of soil coverage fractions (snow covered/free bare & vegetated soil)



# Snow cover

Partition among soil, vegetation and snow fractions

$$\sigma_{sn} = \sigma_f \sigma_{fsn} + (1 - \sigma_f) \sigma_{gsn}$$



$$\sigma_{sn} = \sigma_f \sigma_{fsn} + (1 - \sigma_f) \sigma_{gsn}$$



# UTOPIA Applications

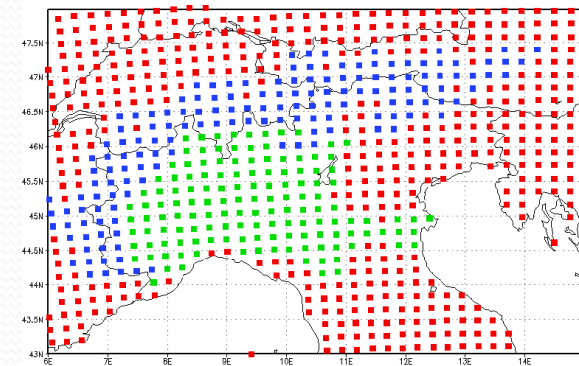
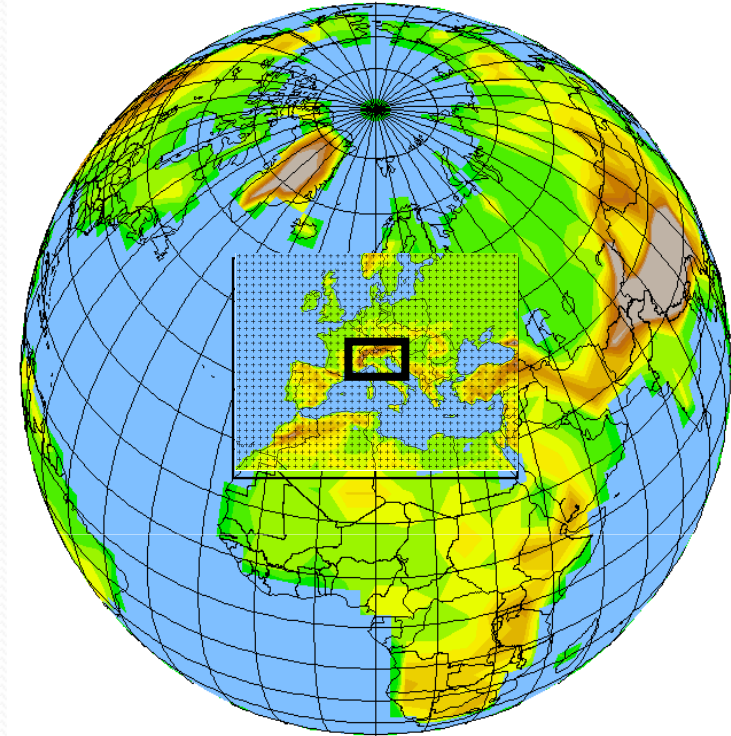




# Energy and hydrological budget of Alpine area in future climate

# The experimental setup

- Evaluation of surface layer parameters (energy and hydrological budget, soil temperature and humidity)
- Method: run of UTOPIA driven by a regional climate model (RegCM3) in turn driven by a global model (HadAMH)
- Selected simulations: present (1961-90) and future (2071-2100, A2 and B2 scenarios) climate



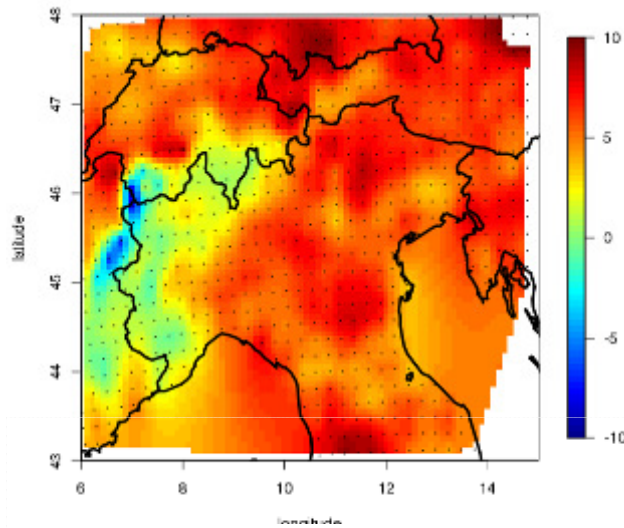
©MOS: COLAVIES

2009-07-24-09:52

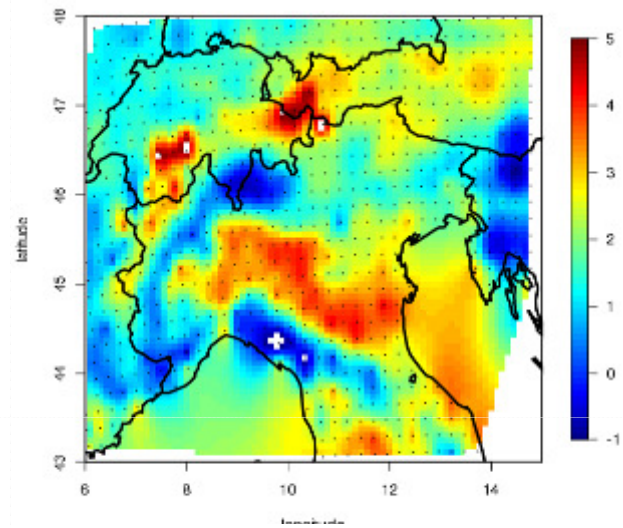
# Hydrological components

20<sup>th</sup> decade, Future (A2) minus present climate

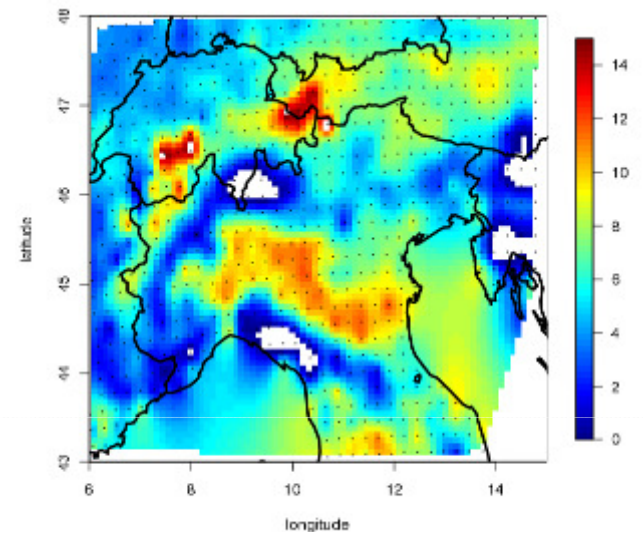
### Net Radiation



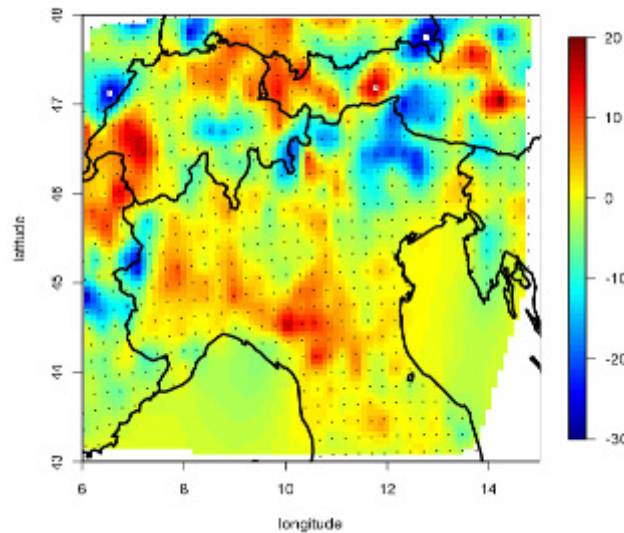
### Evaporation



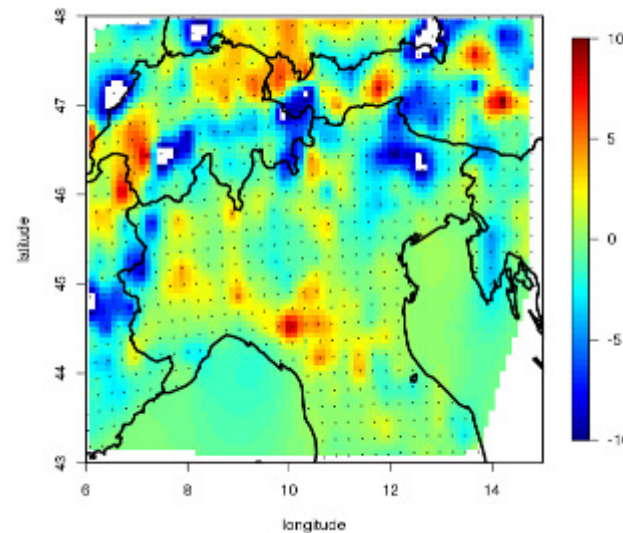
### Latent Heat



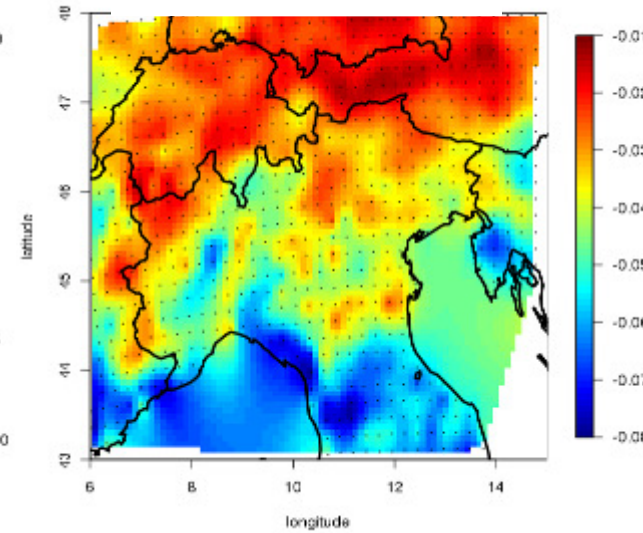
### Precipitation



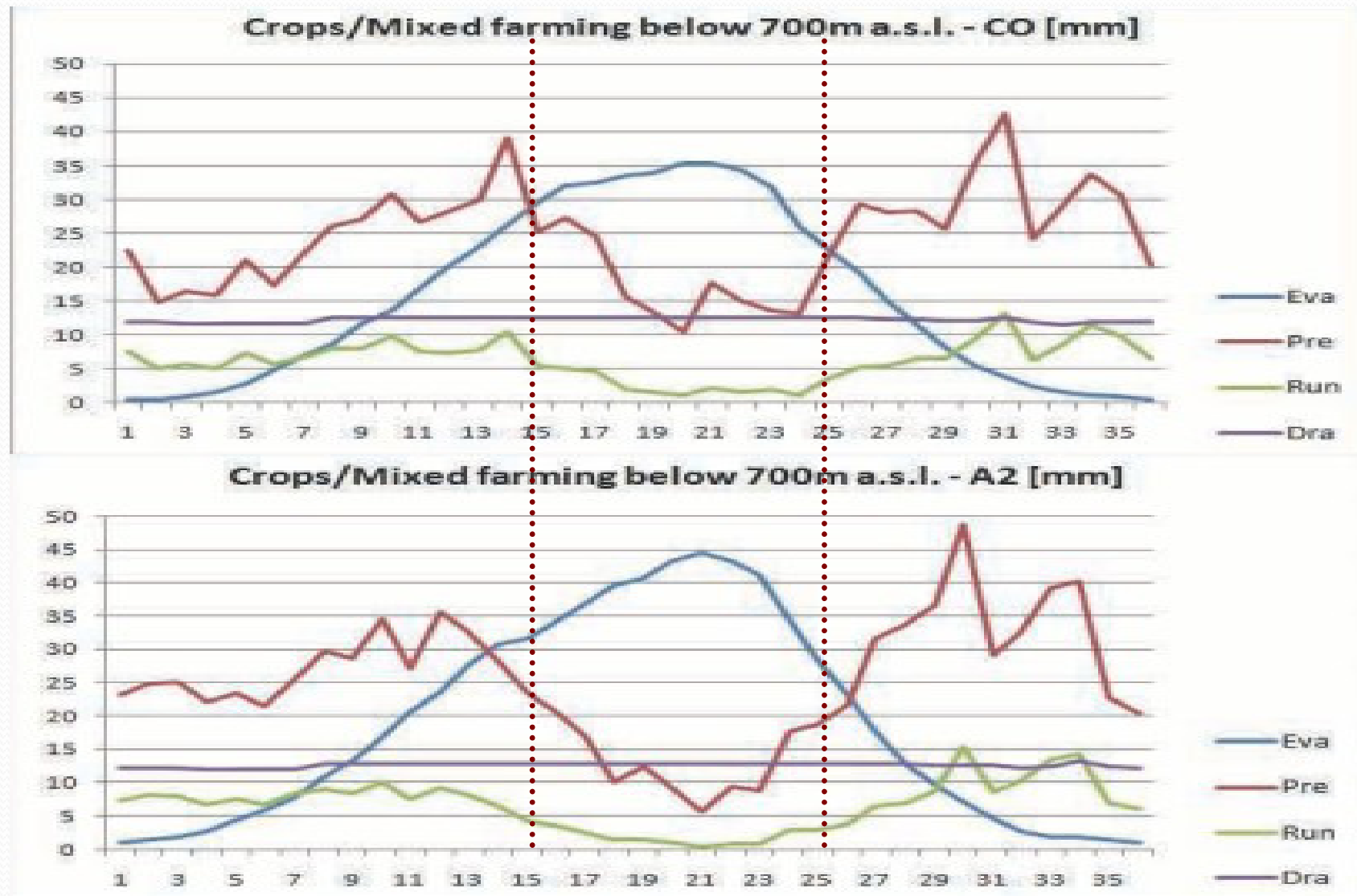
### Runoff



### Soil Moisture



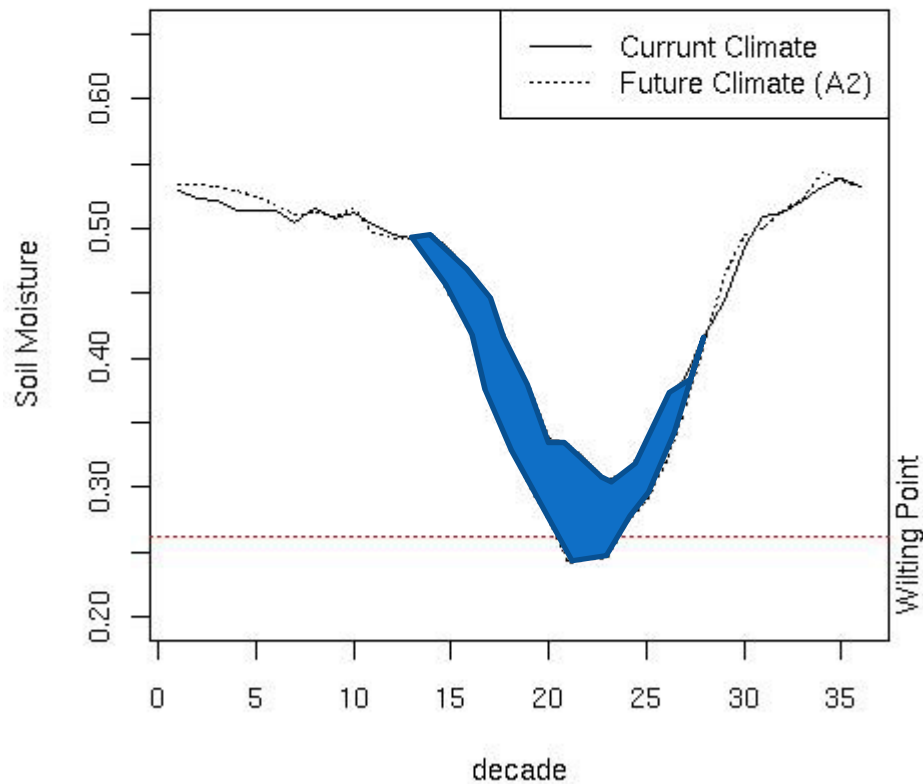
# Hydrological budget: cultivated soils (Po valley)



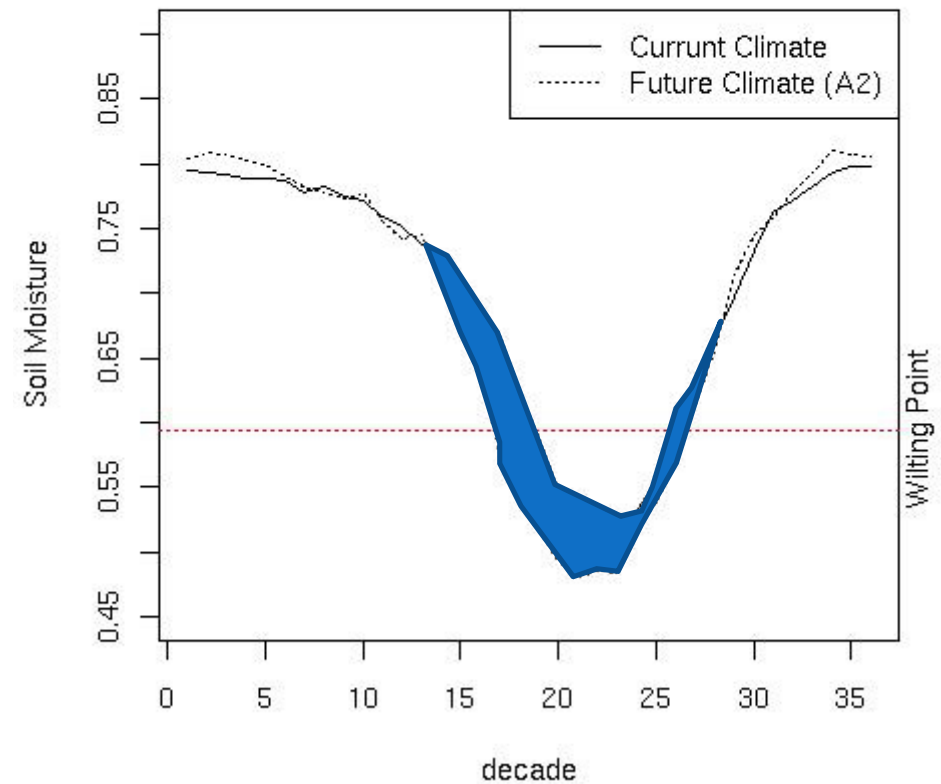


# Effects on soil moisture (Po valley)

Soil Moisture, mantova

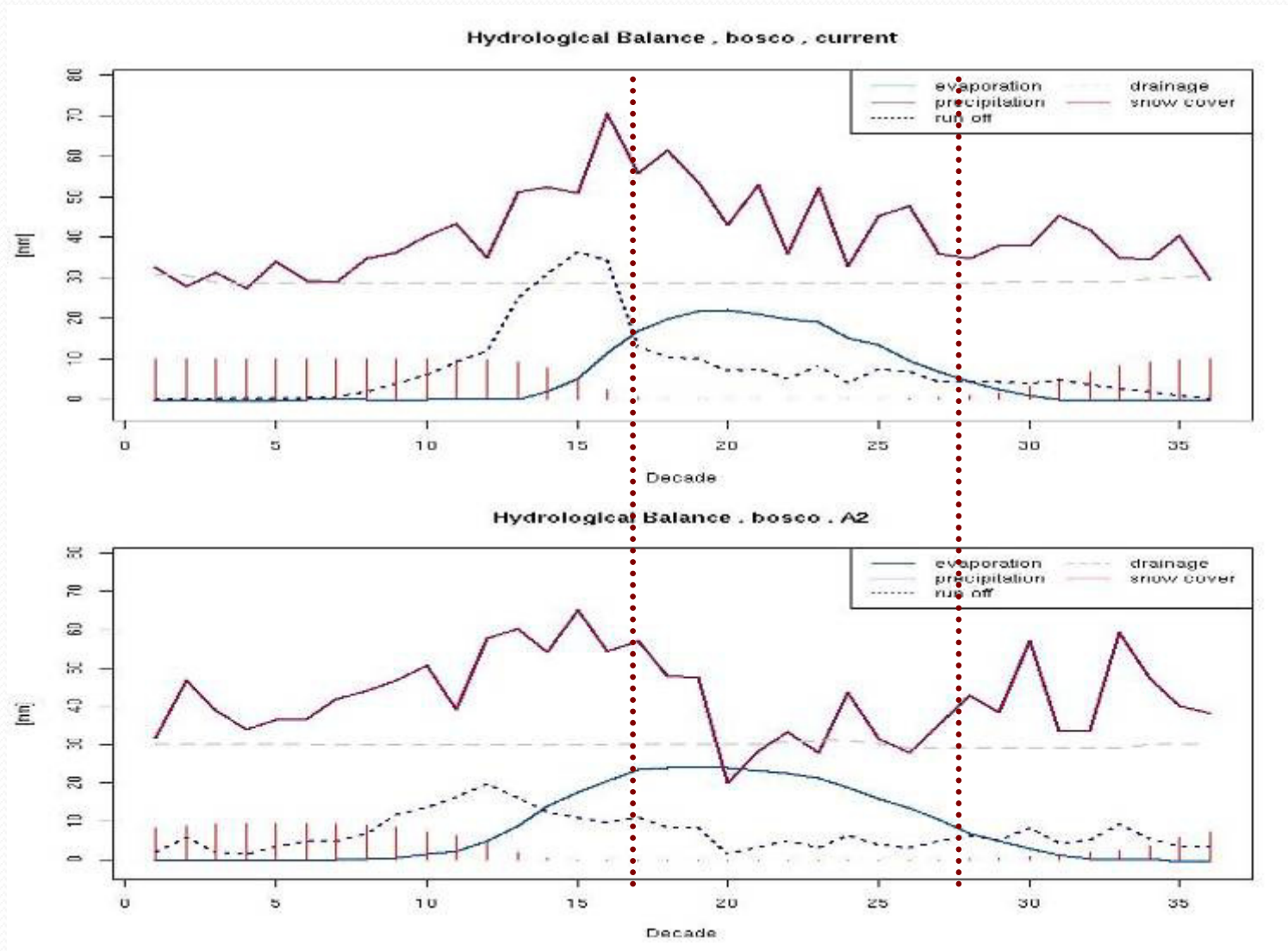


Soil Moisture, cremona



- In summer, soil moisture decreases below wilting point, or remains below wilting point for a longer time

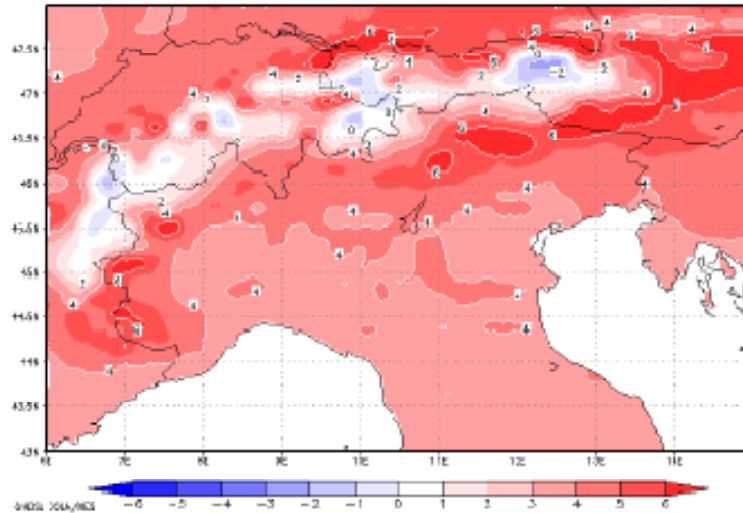
# Hydrological balance: Faido



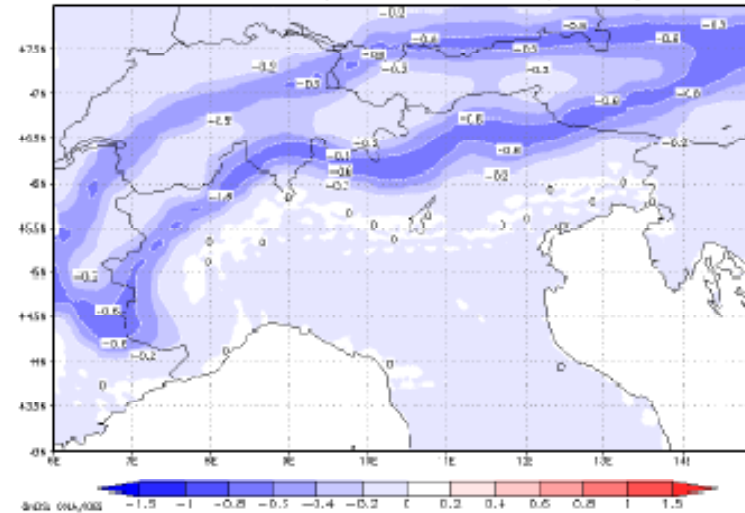


# Temperatures - snow melting

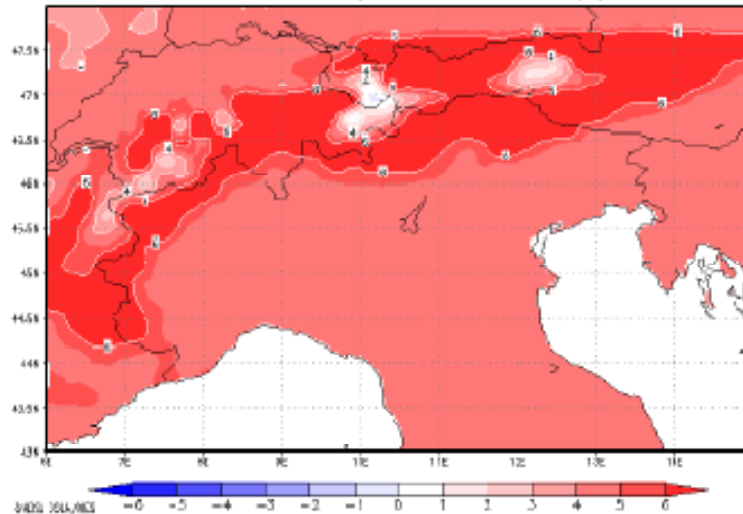
Temperature anomaly = A2 - control (C), APR



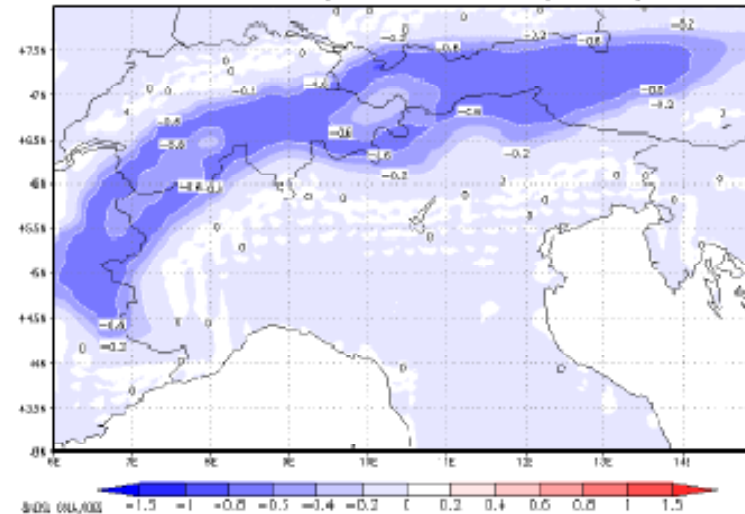
Snow cover anomaly = A2 - control (fraction), APR



Temperature anomaly = A2 - control (C), MAY

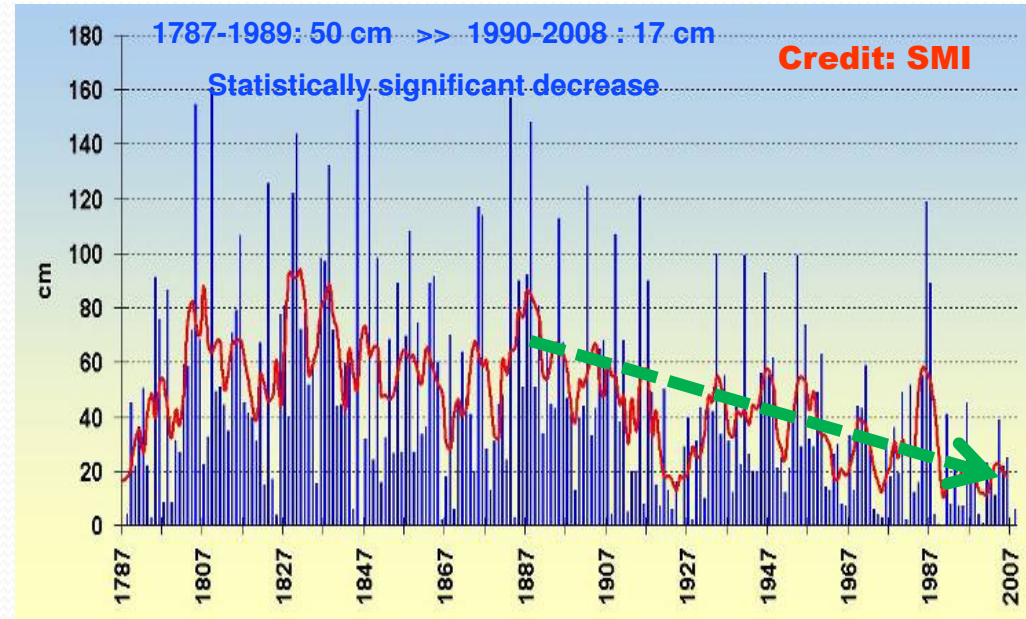
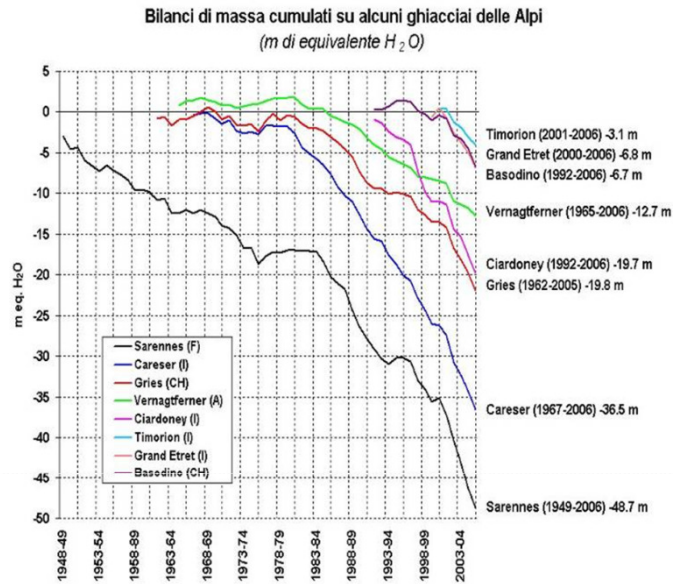


Snow cover anomaly = A2 - control (fraction), MAY



# Future climate confirms a tendency already occurring

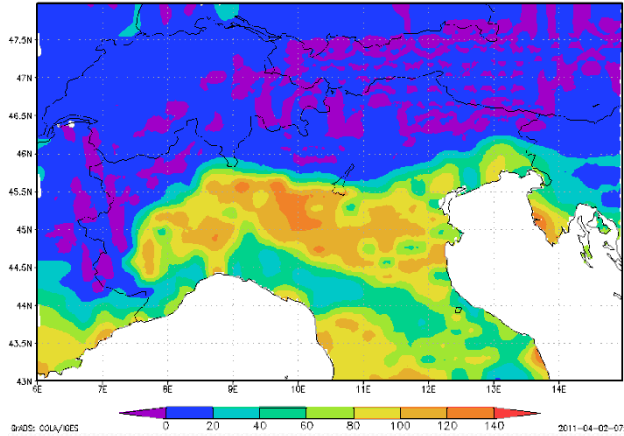
## The snow series of Torino



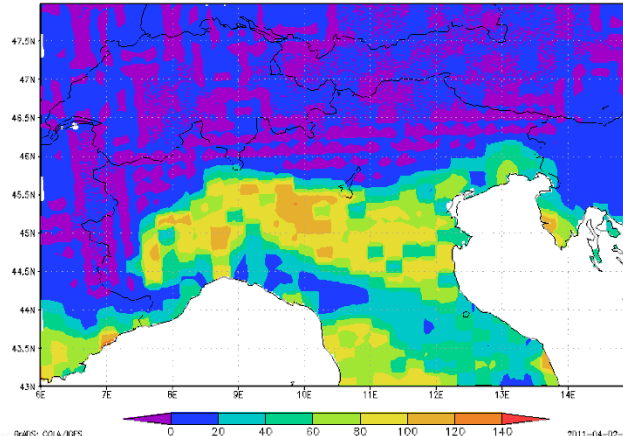
Several locations in the Alps will see just occasional snowfalls by 2050, and ice will disappear from all but few glaciers

# The number of dry days

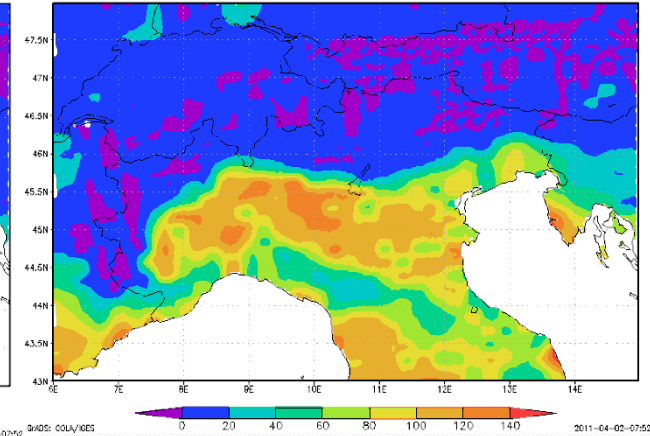
Number of dry days per year, B2



Number of dry days per year, PC

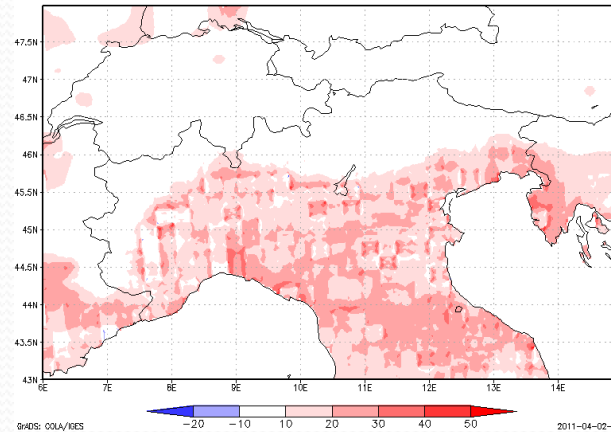


Number of dry days per year, A2

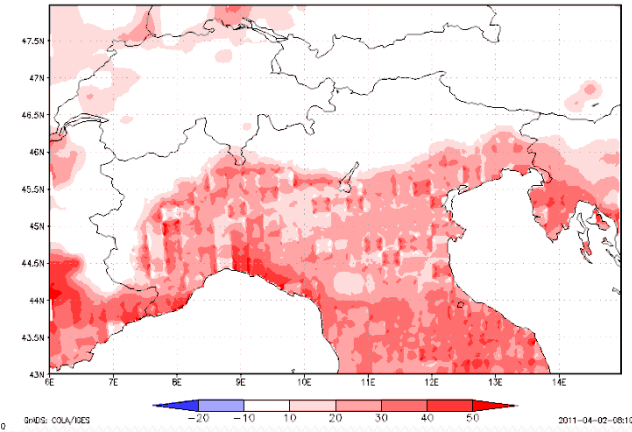


Increase in the plains

Difference in the number of dry days per year, B2-PC



Difference in the number of dry days per year, A2-PC



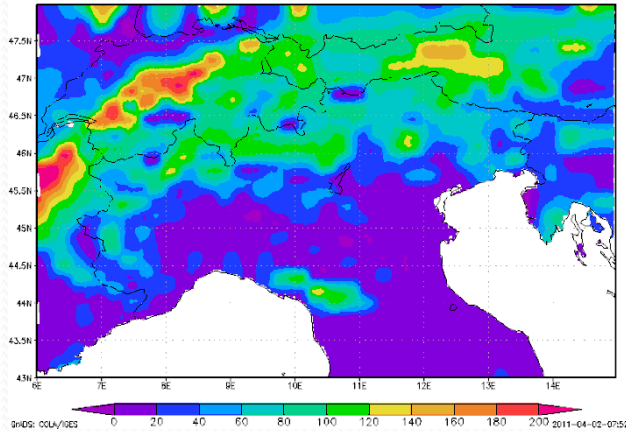
Dry days: when  $Q_I < 0$

$$Q_I = \frac{q_1 - q_{WI}}{q_{FC} - q_{WI}}$$

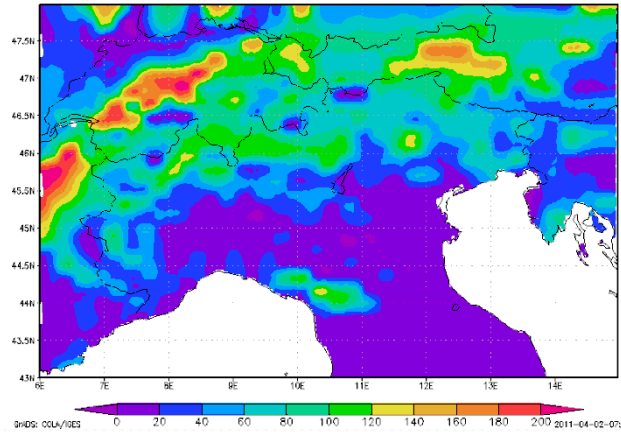


# The number of wet days

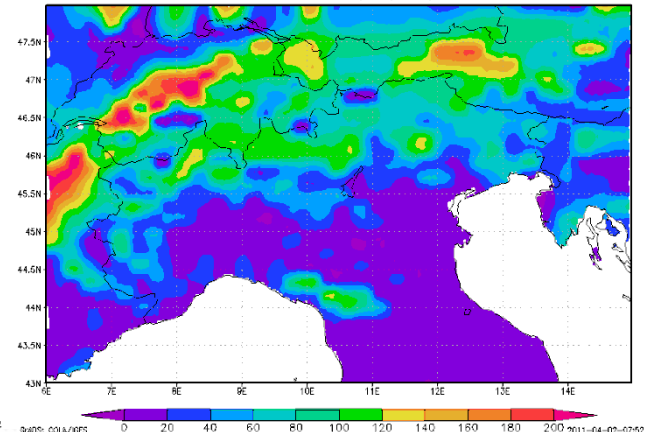
Number of flood days per year, PC



Number of flood days per year, B2

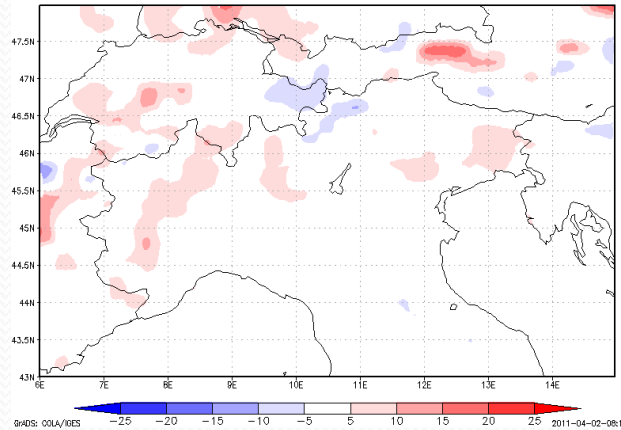


Number of flood days per year, A2

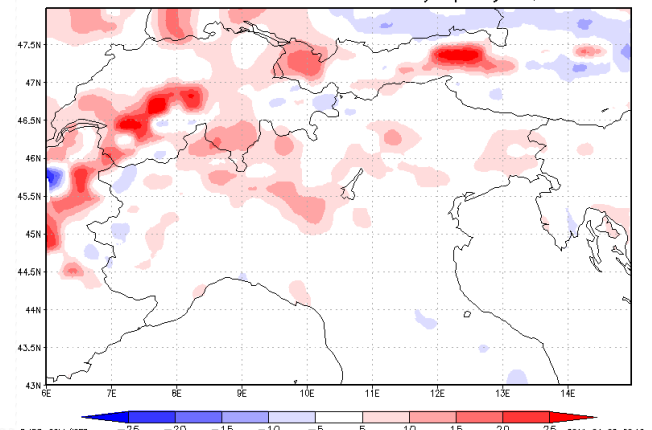


Increase near Alps  
Decrease elsewhere

Difference in the number of flood days per year, B2-PC



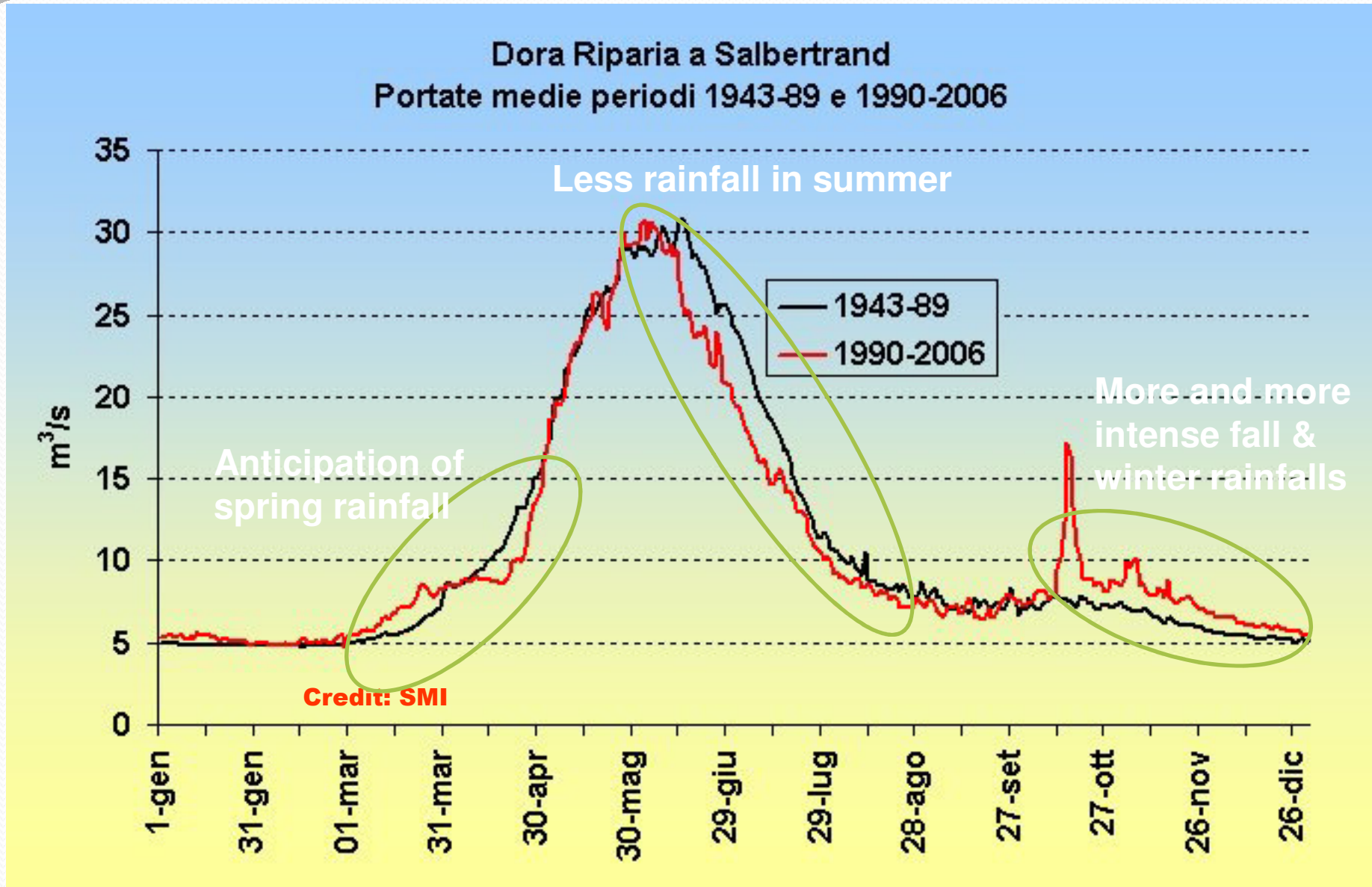
Difference of the number of flood days per year, A2-PC



Wet days: when  $Q_I > 0.8$

$$Q_I = \frac{q_I - q_{WI}}{q_{FC} - q_{WI}}$$

# Dora Riparia river

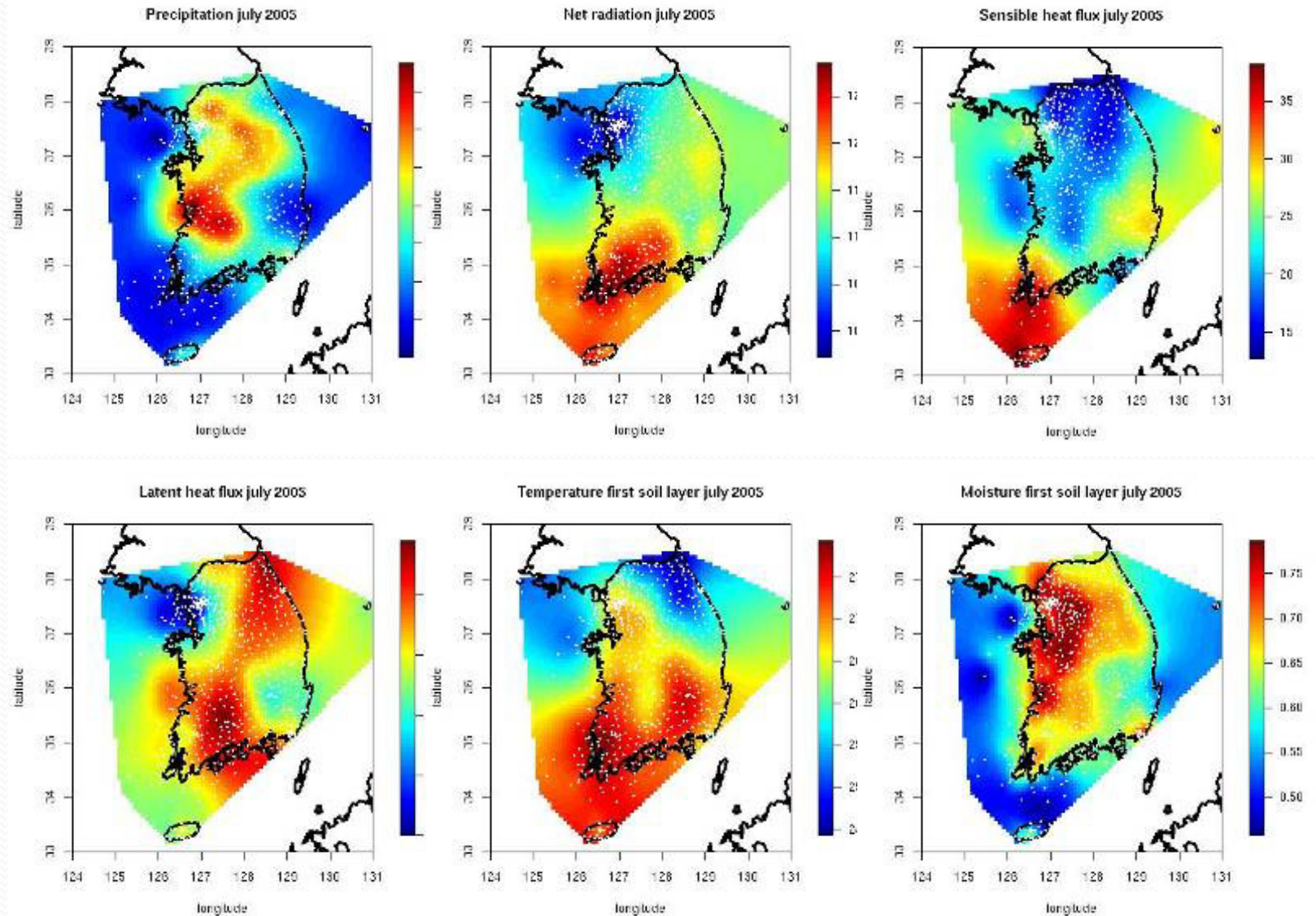




# The Korean monsoon



# UTOPIA result - 2005 Korean Monsoon

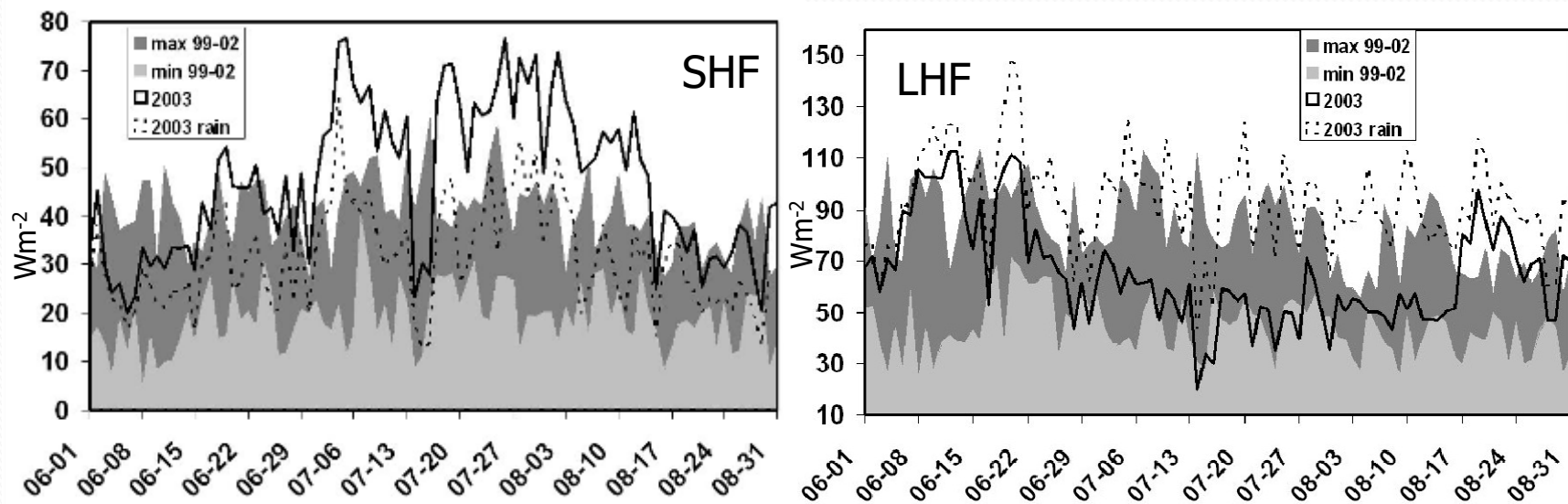




# The case of 2003 summer

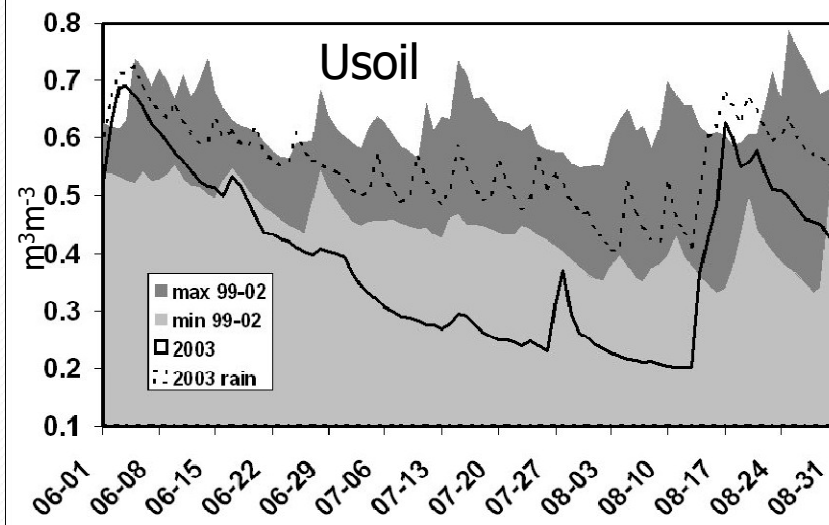
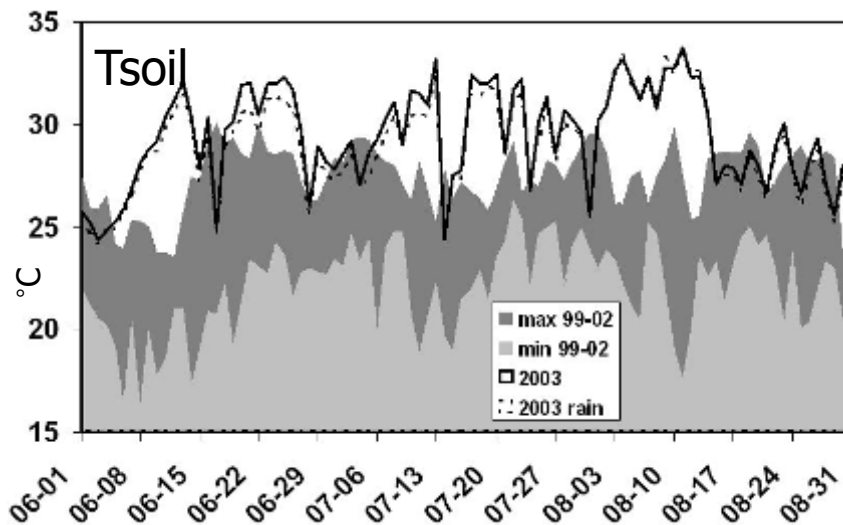
# The heat fluxes

- SHF is very large since July, when LHF becomes minimum
- In the wet simulation, LHF increases and SHF becomes «normal»
  - Soil dryness has favored the evapotranspiration decrease



# Soil variables

- The soil was warmer and drier than normal
- In 44 days (on 92: 48%) the first 5 cm of soil were drier than wilting point
  - (normally:  $3 \pm 7$  days)
- Soil moisture in the *wet run* becomes normal, but not temperature

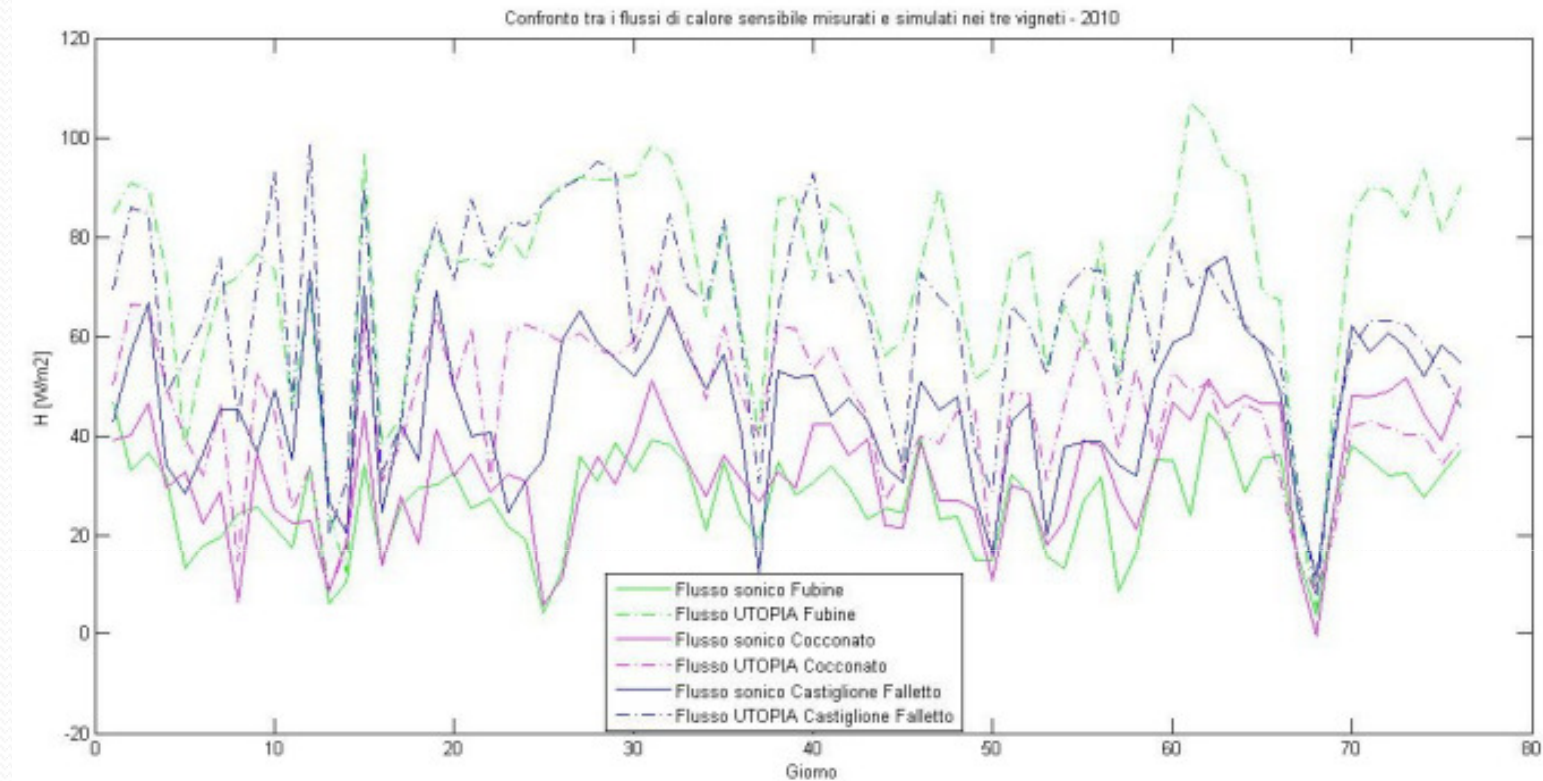




# The experiment in the vineyards and the UTOPIA sensitivity analysis



# Sensible heat flux

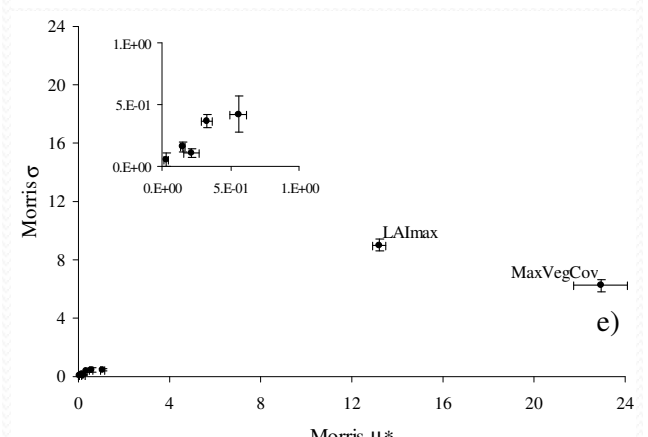
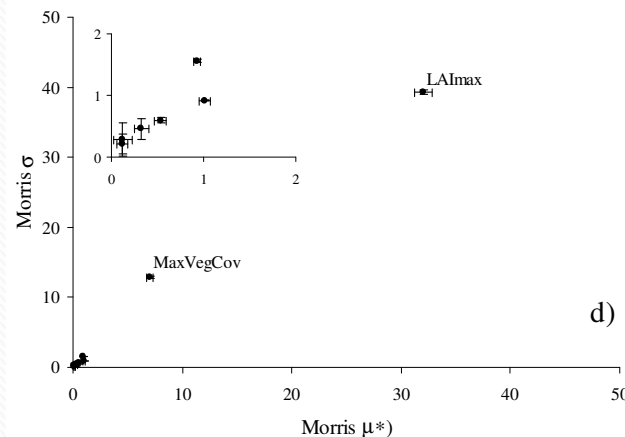
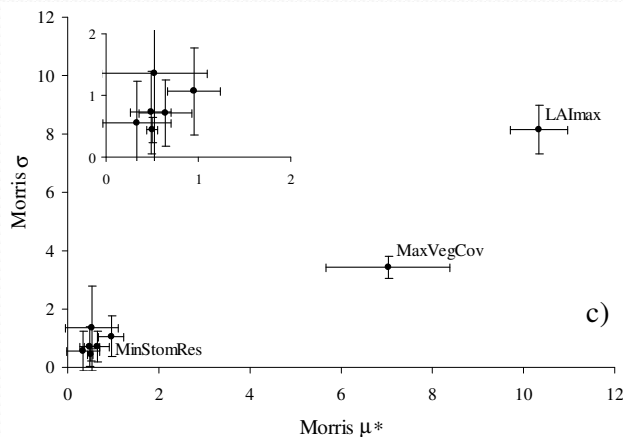
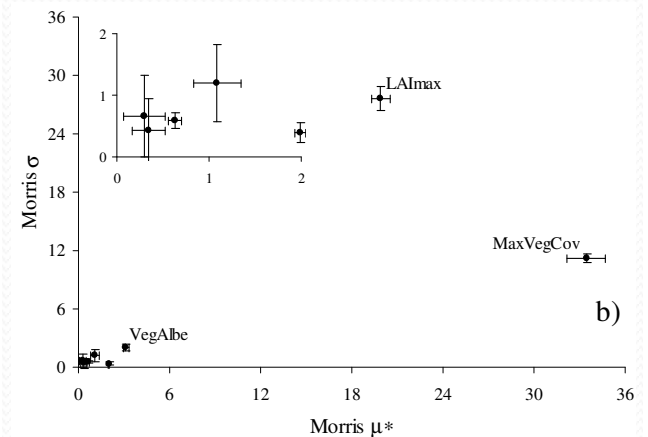
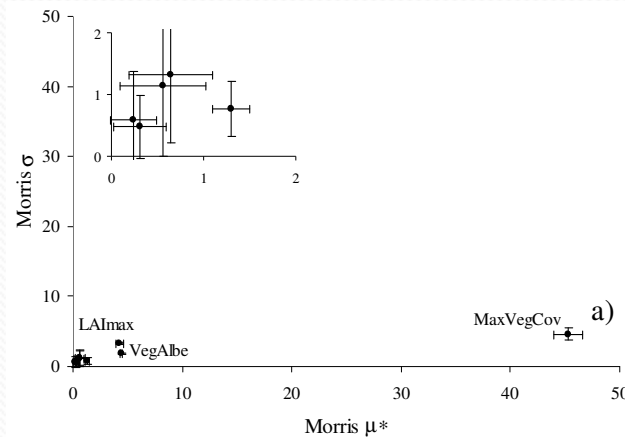




# Sensitivity analysis on parameters for describing vegetation processes

Morris method (Morris, 1991) adapted by Campolongo et al. (2007)  
 8 vegetation parameters, 11 soil types → 990 run

- a) Net Radiation ( $W m^{-2}$ )
- b) Sensible Heat Flux ( $W m^{-2}$ )
- c) Latent Heat Flux ( $W m^{-2}$ )
- d) Soil-Veg Heat Flux ( $W m^{-2}$ )
- e) Transpiration ( $W m^{-2}$ )



Francone et al., Sensitivity analysis based investigation of the behaviour of the UTOPIA land surface process model. A case study for vineyards in northern Italy. Boundary layer meteorology, 2013.

The image features a solid blue background with a wavy, layered top edge in shades of cyan and light blue. The text "Snow: Siberia" is centered in a light cyan, sans-serif font.

# Snow: Siberia

# Siberian stations



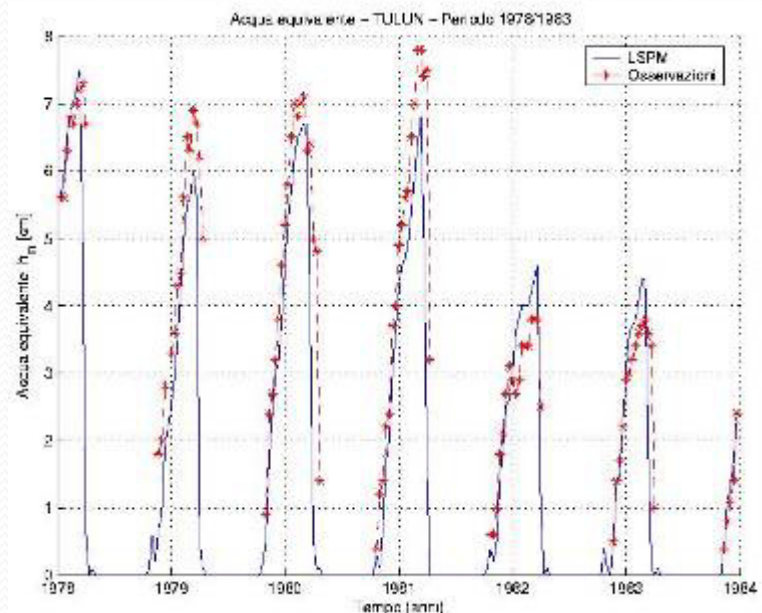
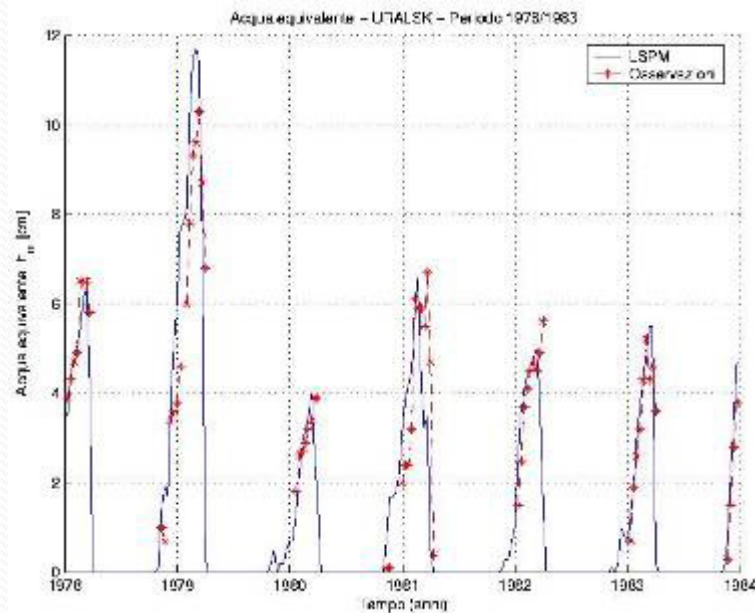
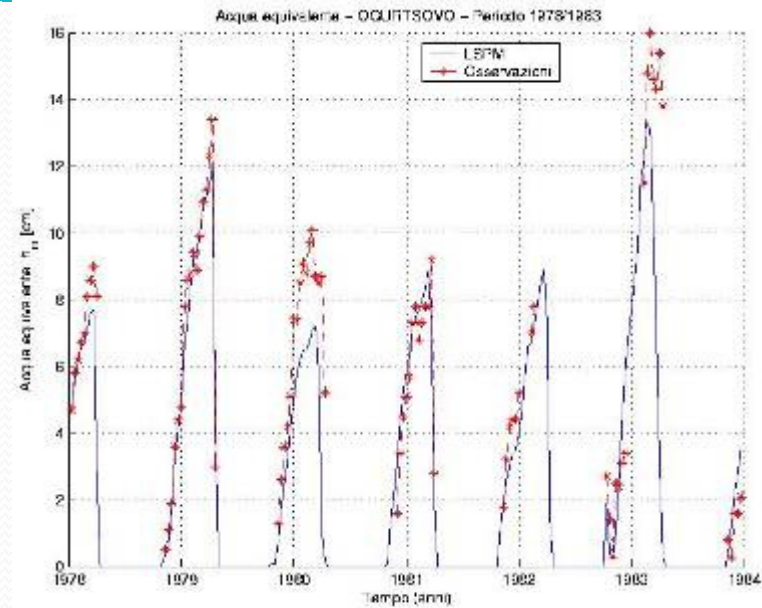
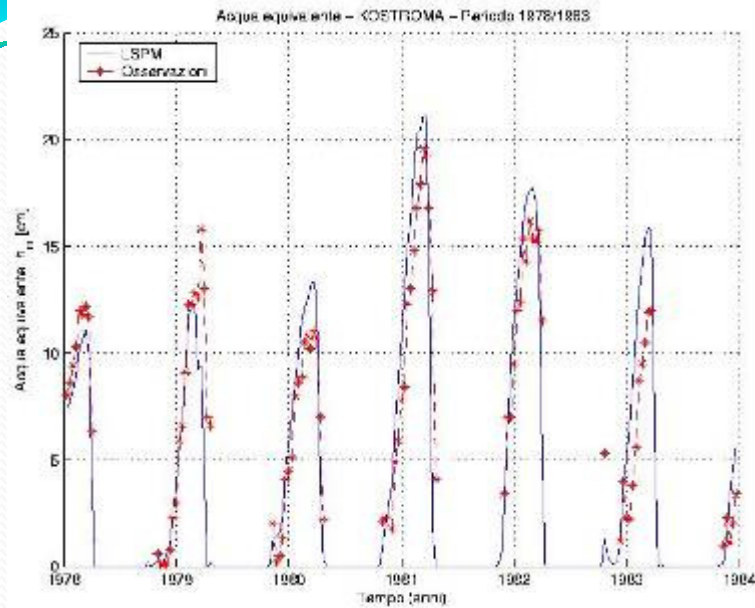
## PRO's

- 1) Good quality measurements
- 2) Long duration
- 3) Distributed over the territory
- 4) During winter, always snow
- 5) Data well known in literature

## CON's

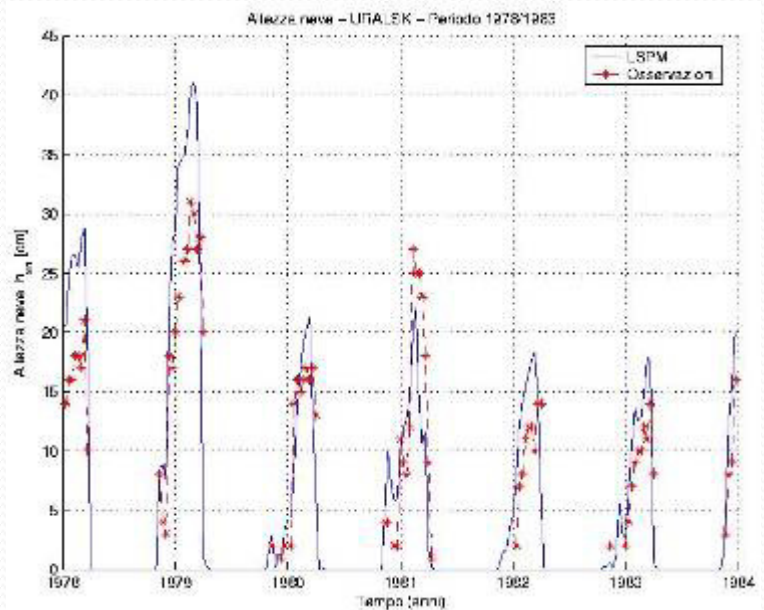
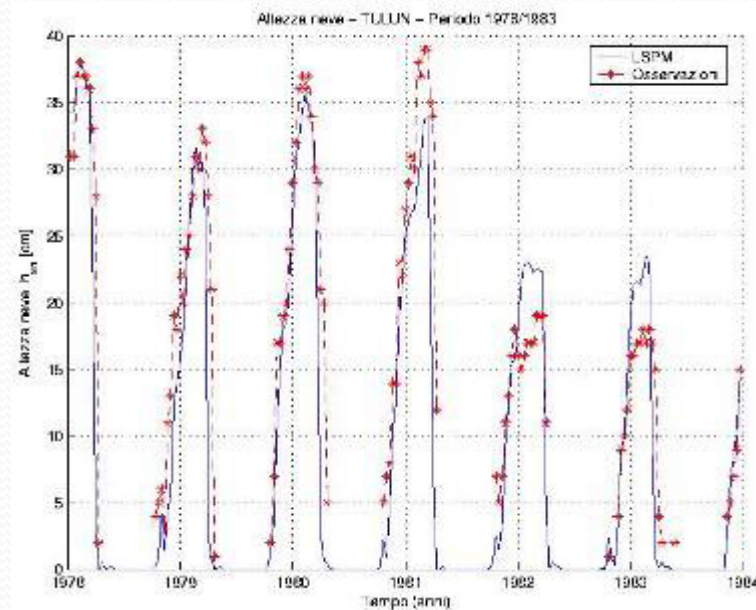
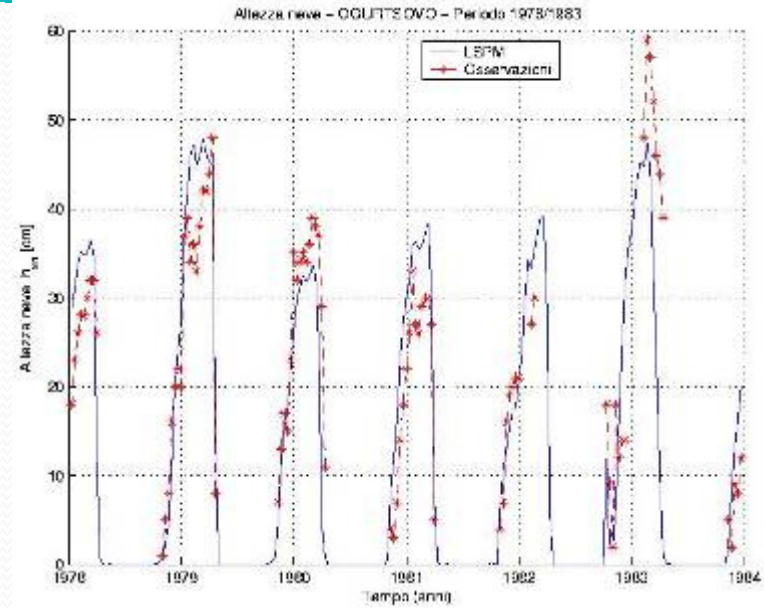
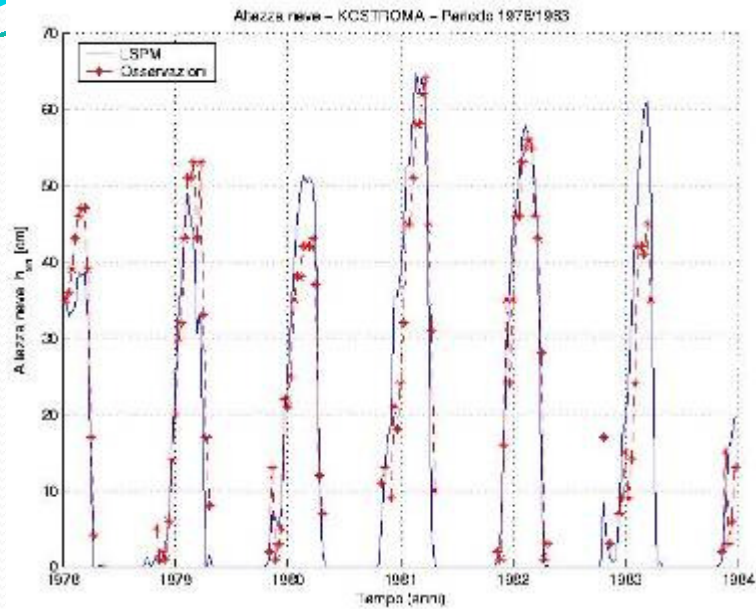
- 1) Monotonic behaviour
- 2) Missing daily detail
- 3) Unknown summer surface
- 4) Old data

# The equivalent water

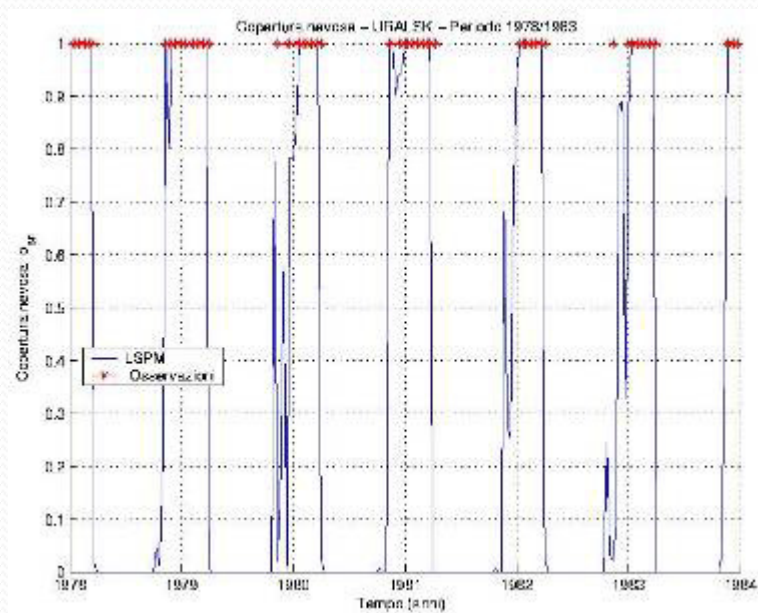
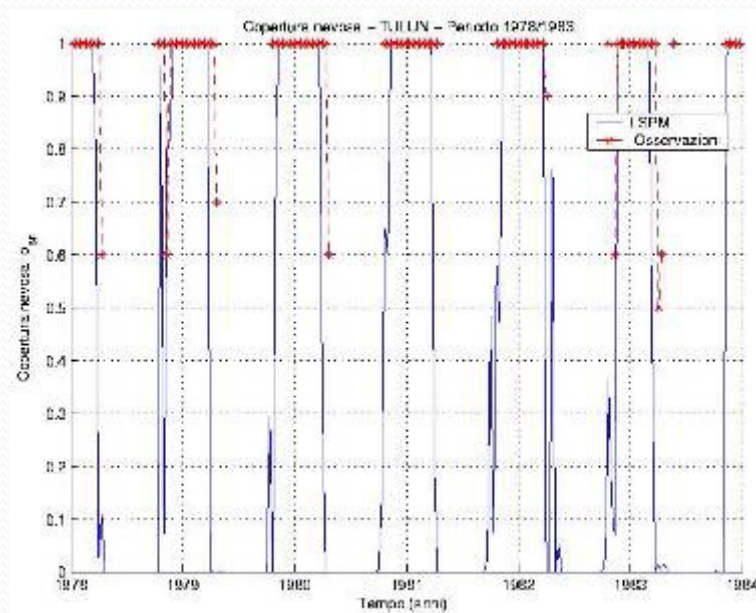
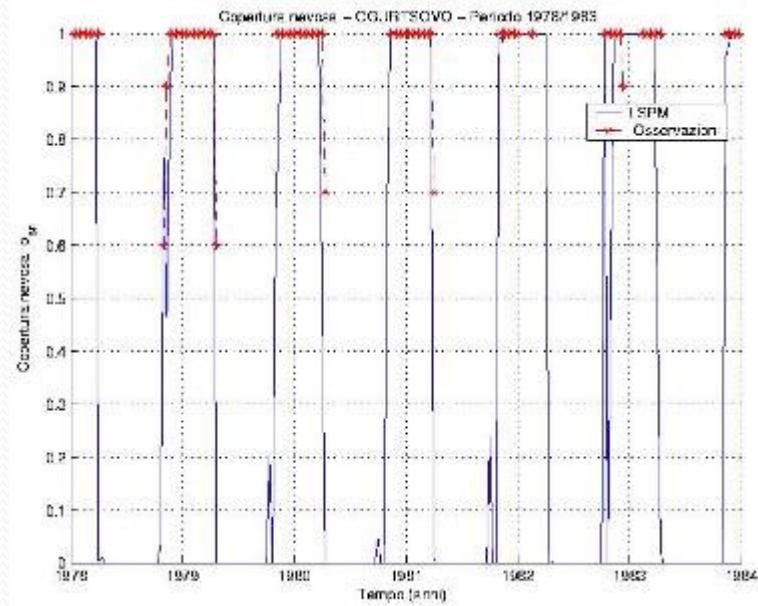
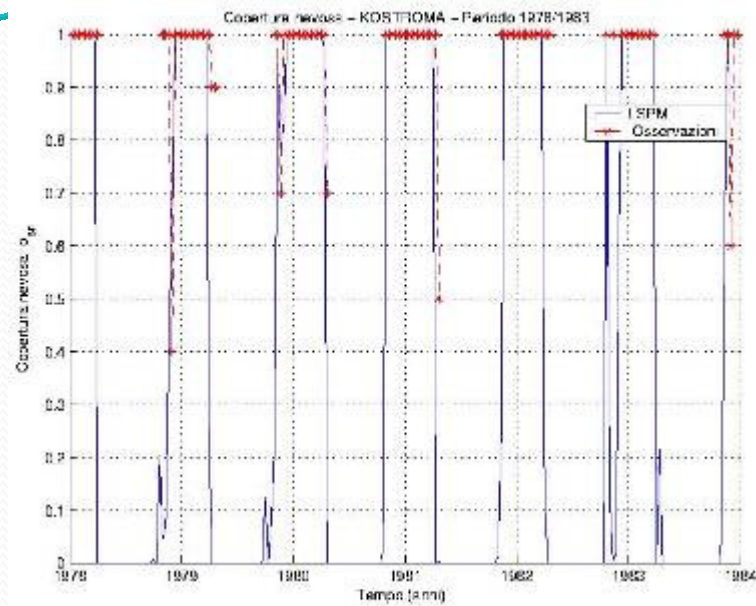




# Snow height



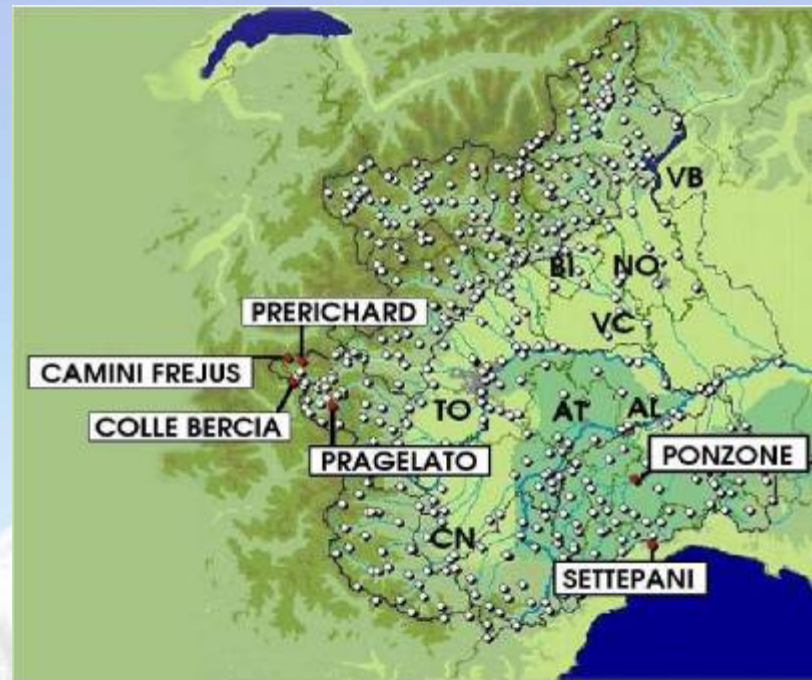
# Snow cover



# Snow: Piemonte, the Alps



# The Alpine stations in Piemonte



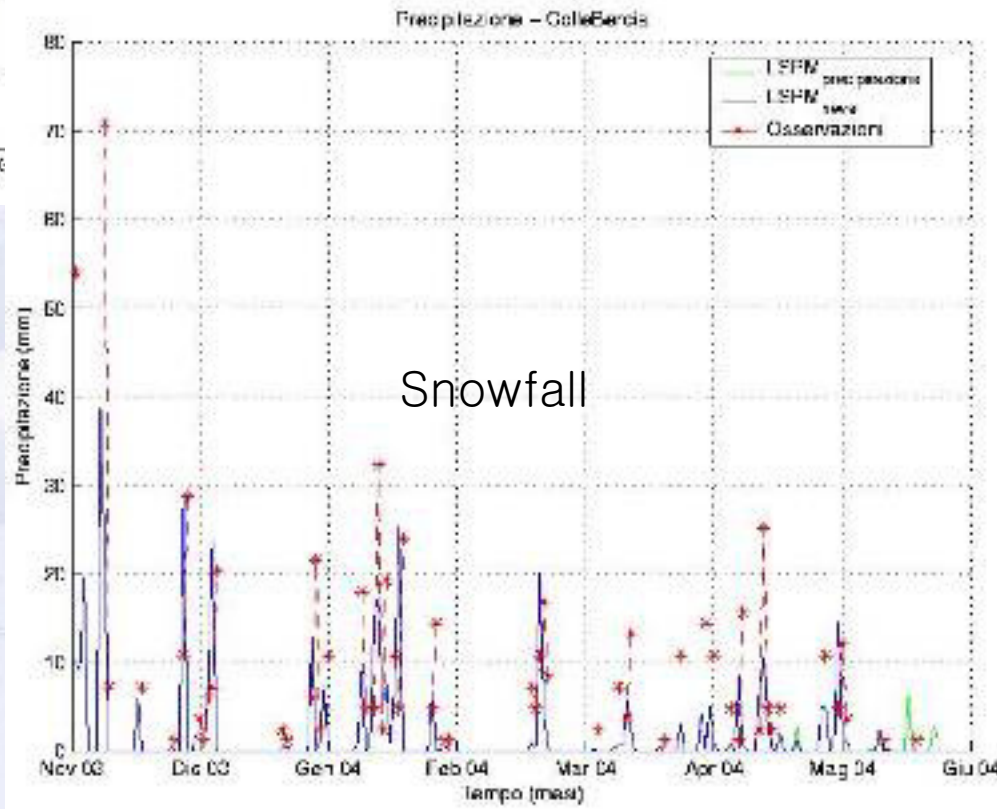
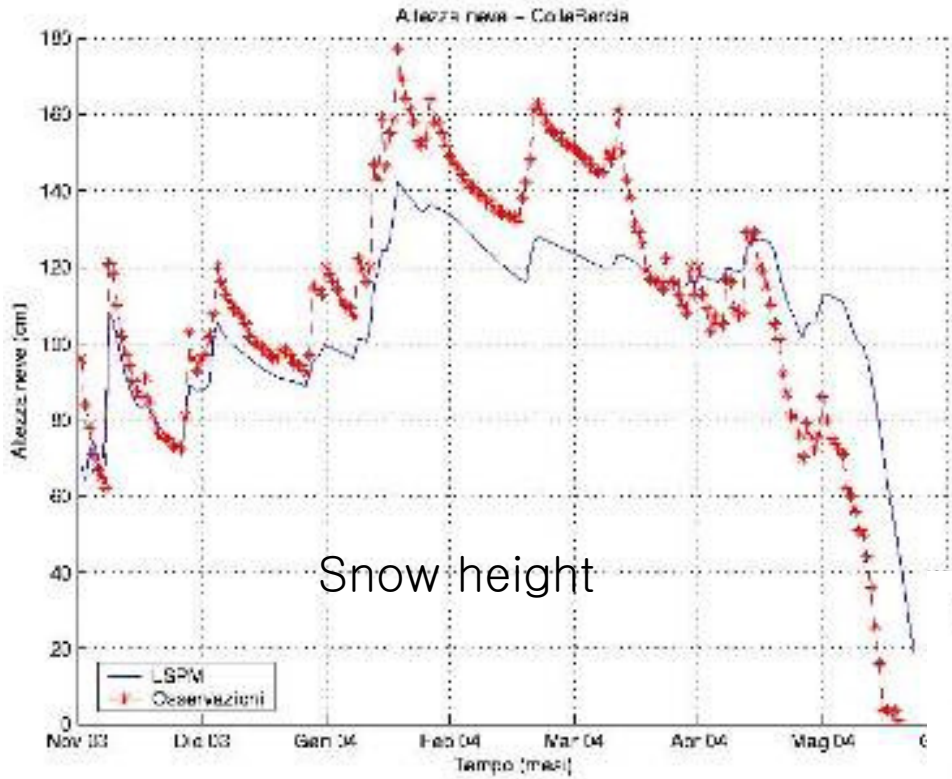
## Characteristics:

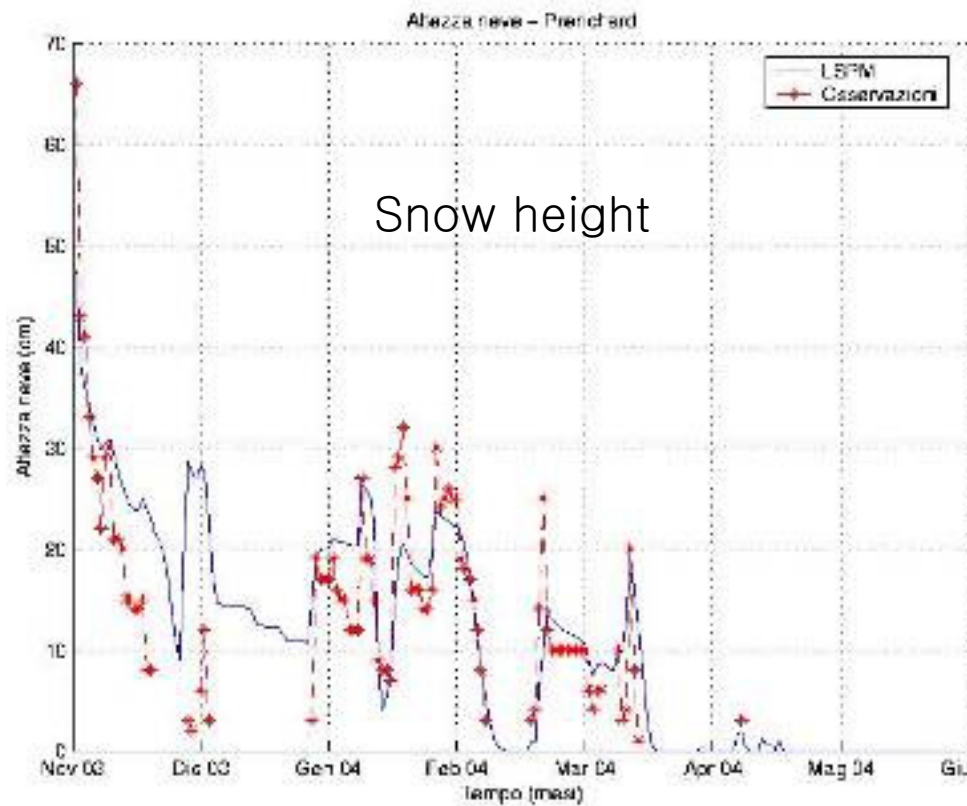
1. More dynamic evolution (T not always  $<0^{\circ}\text{C}$  even in winter)
2. Presence of rain and snow in winter together
3. More complicated soil morphology



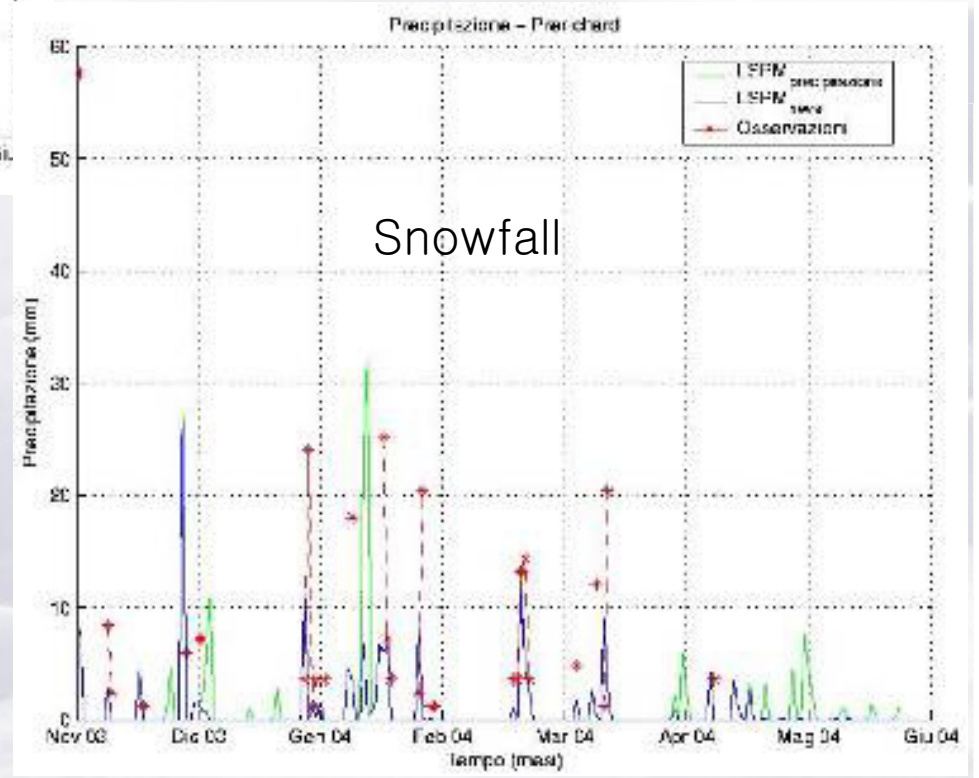
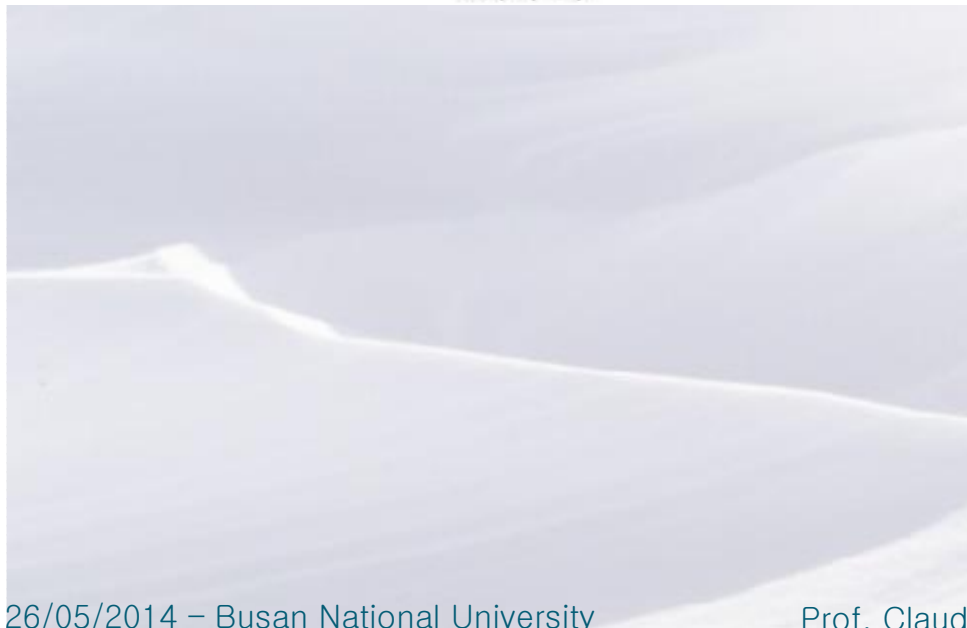


# Colle Bercia





# Prerichard

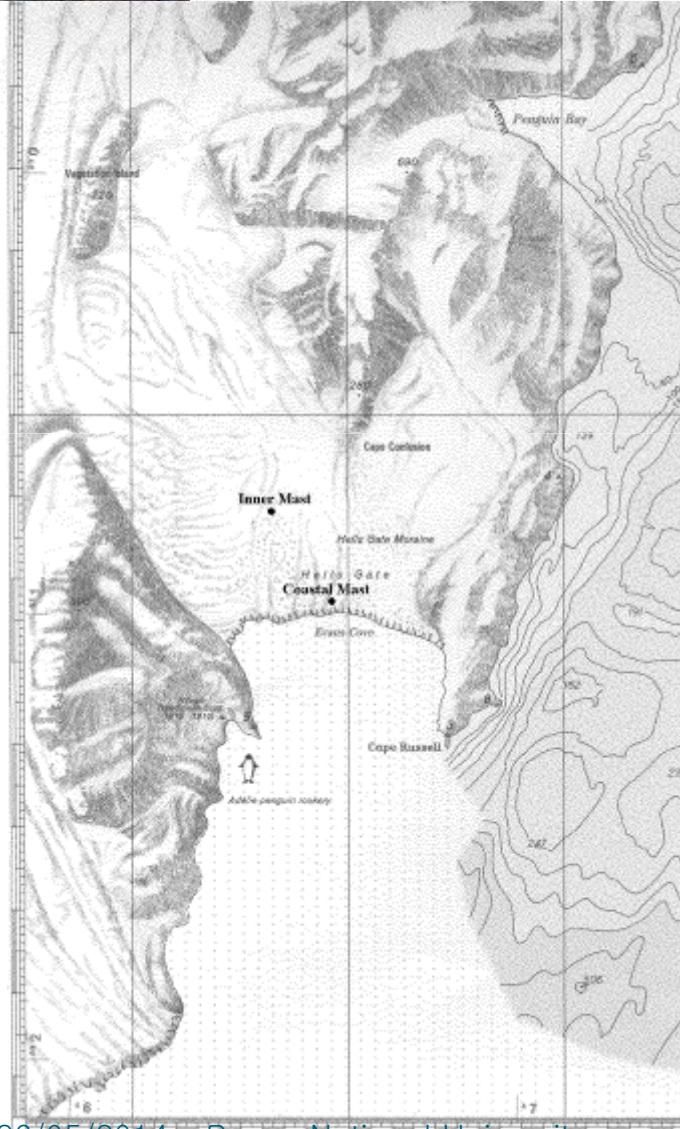


# Antarctic ice shelf





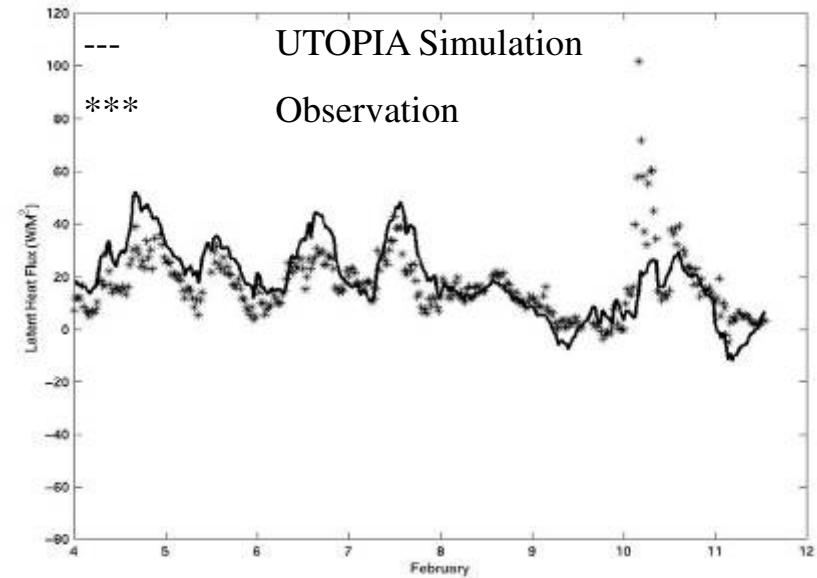
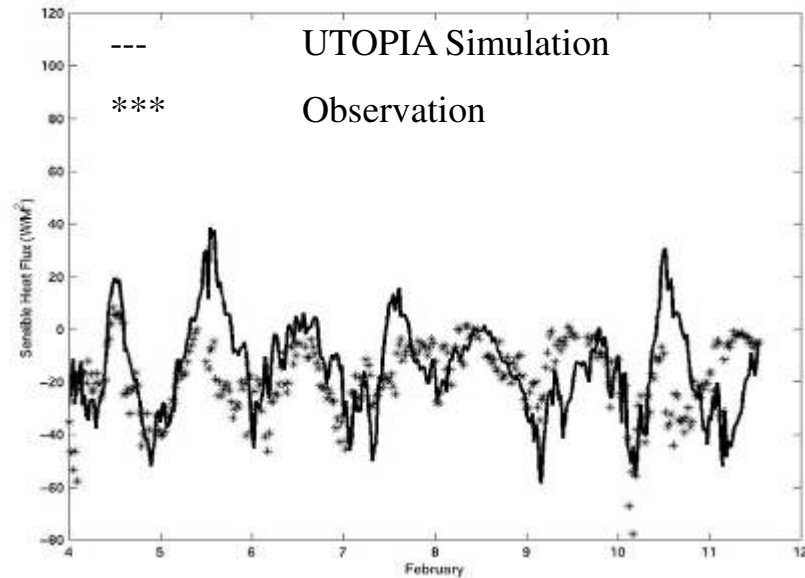
## APPLICATION OF A LAND SURFACE MODEL (LSPM) ON ICE SHELF OF ANTARCTICA



- The site: Hells Gate ice shelf.
- The XIII Southern-Summer Antarctic Expedition at Terra Nova Bay (1996-97) was performed in this site, during the warm period (1997-1998)
- The data were collected at two locations, 2.6 km apart from each other, of the Hells Gate ice shelf
- The experiment in Antarctica started on 28<sup>th</sup> January and ended on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1998. It lasted 22 days
- The model simulation covered only the period from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1998 for the reason of continuous data availability



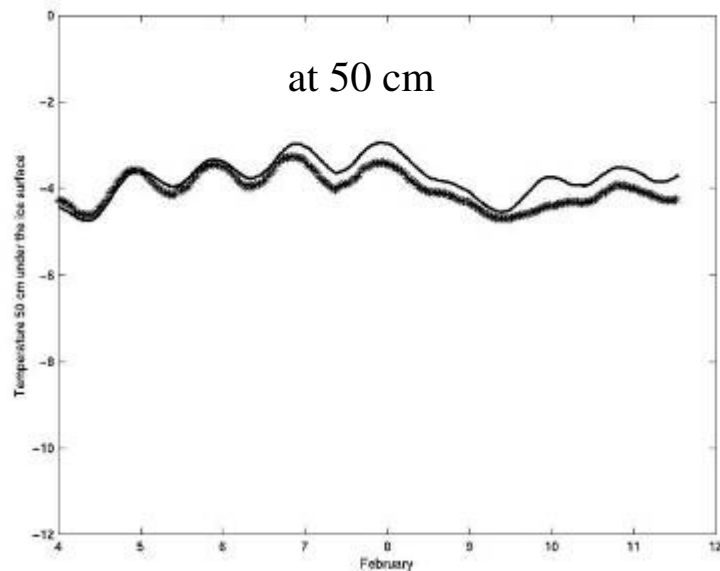
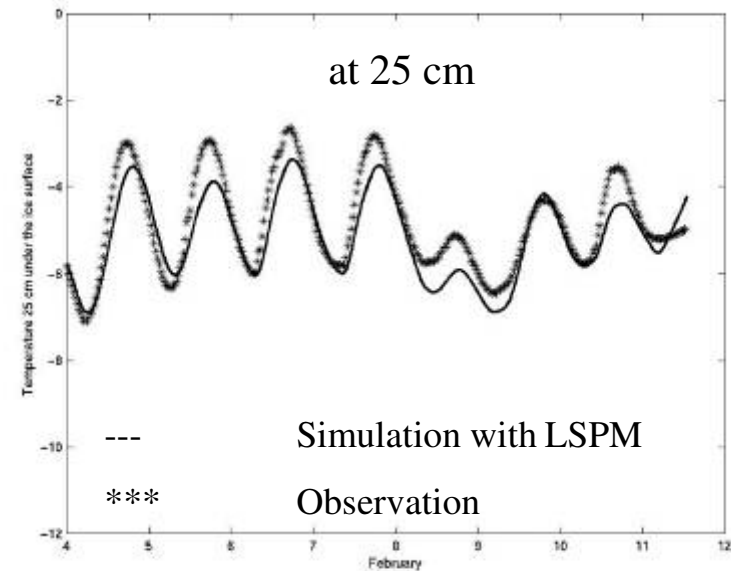
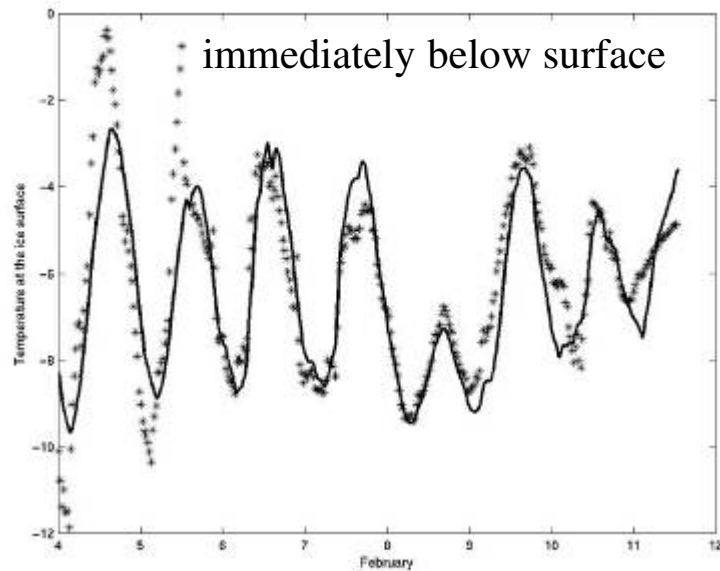
# The turbulent heat fluxes



- During most of the time, SHF was negative (air  $T >$  ice  $T$ ) → surface layer stable
- |SHF| is maximum during nighttime → ice  $T$  is minimum; SHF  $\approx 0$  during daytime because ice  $T$  is maximum
- Some overestimations during daytime 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February (errors in soil albedo?)

- Good simulation when wind is weak
- Some small disagreements during strong katabatic wind episodes (10<sup>th</sup> February)
- There could be some **unclear physical processes** under these extreme katabatic wind conditions: for instance, the surface resistance for the evaporation (or sublimation), supposed to be constant in present simulation, might be related to the weather conditions.

# The ice temperatures



- The errors of the ice temperature simulations were within 1.0 °C, excepting for the surface temperatures in the first two days of the simulations, in which the large daily excursions were underestimated by UTOPIA
- The simulated ice temperature and the observed one were in good phase.
- These results demonstrate that the energy transfer in the ice was well simulate by UTOPIA

# Some suggested references for UTOPIA

- C. Francone, C. Cassardo, R. Richiardone, R. Confalonieri "Sensitivity analysis based investigation of the behaviour of the UTOPIA land surface process model. A case study for vineyards in northern Italy", *Boundary Layer Meteorol.*
- M. Galli, S. Oh, C. Cassardo, S. K. Park (2010) "The Occurrence of Cold Spells in the Alps Related to Climate Change", *Water*, 2, doi:10.3390/w2030363, pp. 363-380.
- C. Cassardo, S. K. Park, B. Malla Thakuri, D. Priolo, Y. Zhang (2009) "Soil Surface Energy and Water Budgets during a Monsoon Season in Korea", *Journal of Hydrometeorology*, in press.
- C. Cassardo, L. Mercalli and D. Cat Berro (2007) "Characteristics of the Summer 2003 Heat Wave in Piedmont, Italy, and its Effects on Water Resources" *Journal Of The Korean Meteorological Society*, 43, 3, pp. 195-221
- C. Cassardo, N. Loglisci, G. Paesano, D. Rabuffetti and M.W. Qian (2006) "The hydrological balance of the october 2006 flood in Piedmont, Italy: quantitative analysis and simulation" *Physical Geography*, 27, 2, pp. 1-24
- C. Cassardo, S. Ferrarese, A. Longhetto, M.G. Morselli and G. Brusasca (2006) "A reanalysis of the atmospheric boundary layer field experiment (SPCFLUX93) at San Pietro Capofiume (Italy)" *Il Nuovo Cimento C - Editrice Compositori - Bologna*, 29C(5), pp. 565-597
- C. Cassardo, N. Loglisci and M. Romani (2005) "Preliminary results of an attempt to provide soil moisture datasets in order to verify numerical weather prediction models" *Il Nuovo Cimento C - Editrice Compositori - Bologna*, DOI 10.1393/ncc/i2005-10180-7, 28C, pp. 159-171
- C. Cassardo, N. Loglisci, D. Gandini, M. W. Qian, G. Y. Niu, P. Ramieri, R. Pelosini and A. Longhetto (2002) "The flood of November 1994 in Piedmont, Italy: a quantitative analysis and simulation" *Hydrol. Process.*, 16, pp. 1275-1299
- C. Cassardo, G. P. Balsamo, C. Cacciamani, D. Cesari, T. Paccagnella and R. Pelosini (2002) "Impact of soil surface moisture initialization on rainfall in a limited area model: a case study of the 1995 South Ticino flash flood" *Hydrol. Process.*, 16, pp. 1301-1317
- M. W. Qian, N. Loglisci, C. Cassardo, A. Longhetto and C. Giraud (2001) "Energy and water balance at soil-interface in a Sahelian region" *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*, 18 (5), pp. 897-909
- C. Cassardo, E. Carena and A. Longhetto (1998) "Validation and sensitivity tests on improved parametrizations of a land surface process model (LSPM) in the Po Valley" *Il Nuovo Cimento*, Editrice Compositori - Bologna, 21C (2), pp. 189-213
- P. M. Ruti, C. Cassardo, C. Cacciamani, T. Paccagnella, A. Longhetto and A. Bargagli (1997) " Intercomparison between BATS and LSPM surface schemes, using point micrometeorological data set" *Beiträge zur Physik der Atmosphäre (Contributions to Atmospheric Physics, Germany)*, 70 (3), pp. 201-220, ISSN 0005-8173/98/03
- J.C. Feng, X.M. Liu, C. Cassardo and A. Longhetto (1997) " A model of plant transpiration and stomatal regulation under the condition of waterstress" *Journal of Desert Research*, Science Press, Lanzhou, China, 17 (3), pp. 59-66, ISSN 1000-694-X
- C. Cassardo, J. J. Ji and A. Longhetto (1995) " A study of the performances of a land surface process model (LSPM)" *Boundary Layer Meteorology*, Dordrecht (Olanda), 72, pp. 87-121

**PDFs available on: <http://personalpages.to.infn.it/~cassardo/curri/pubbl.html>**

# Conclusions

- Land surface processes are crucial in improving both short term forecasts and climatic projections
- UTOPIA has been created with the aim to improve weather forecasts relative to extreme events (floods, heat waves, snow)
  - It has been verified in several climatic zones in the world, and its performances have been compared with those of other models (BATS, NOAH, H-Tessel)
- In the time, it has been applied also for determining soil and vegetation parameters in cultivated areas
- Recently, it has been decided to use UTOPIA also in climatic studies, for determining future energy and hydrological budget components
  - Presently we have used UTOPIA in offline simulations, driven by simulations with regional climate models
  - To perform more detailed simulations, we are currently transforming this model in a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation model

One reason for which we have named the model UTOPIA is that ...

... to pretend that a numerical model is able to represent realistically all land surface processes is an utopia ...

Similarly as we pretend that cows will adapt to a world in which sea level will be 100 m higher in such way ...



However we are doing our best to make the model good





질문 받습니다.