

## Integrating Information on 'Biosphere Breathing' from Chloroplast to the Globe



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How do we sum fluxes from the scale of leaves to plant canopies, to landscapes and the globe it the quest of this set of lectures

## Outline

- Overview on Principles of Leaf-Canopy Scaling and Integration Concepts
- Show Tests of Such Models over Multiple Time Scales
- Use the CANVEG Model to Ask Ecophysiological and Micrometeorological Questions Relating to Trace Gas Fluxes



## A Challenge for Leaf to Landscape Upscaling, and Beyond:

Transform Weather Conditions from a Weather Station to that of the **Leaves** in a Canopy with Their Assortment of Angles and Layers Relative to the Sun and Sky



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## Challenge for Landscape to Global Upscaling

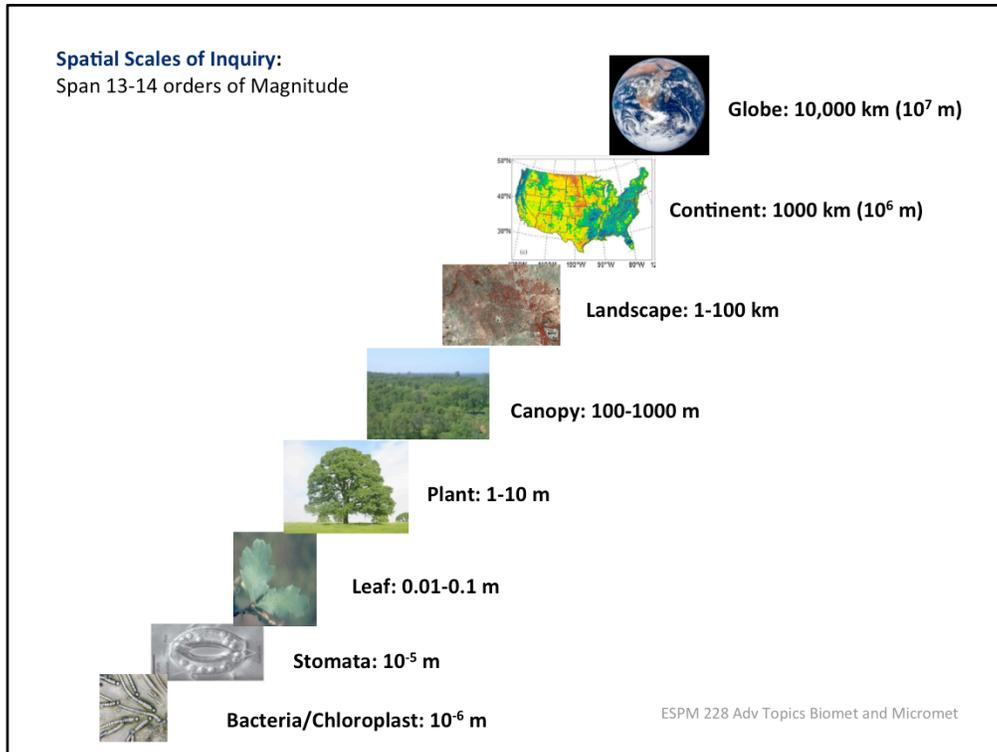
Converting Virtual 'Cubism' into Virtual 'Reality'



Realistic Spatialization of Flux Data  
Requires the Merging Numerous Data Layers with  
varying Time Stamps (hourly, daily, weekly), Spatial  
Resolution (1 km to 0.5 degree) and Data Sources  
(Satellites, Flux Networks, Climate Stations)

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Can we apply principles learned in this class to chase problems at the landscape, region, continent and global scales?



We have a great challenge because the problem we are dealing with can span 13 to 14 orders of magnitude

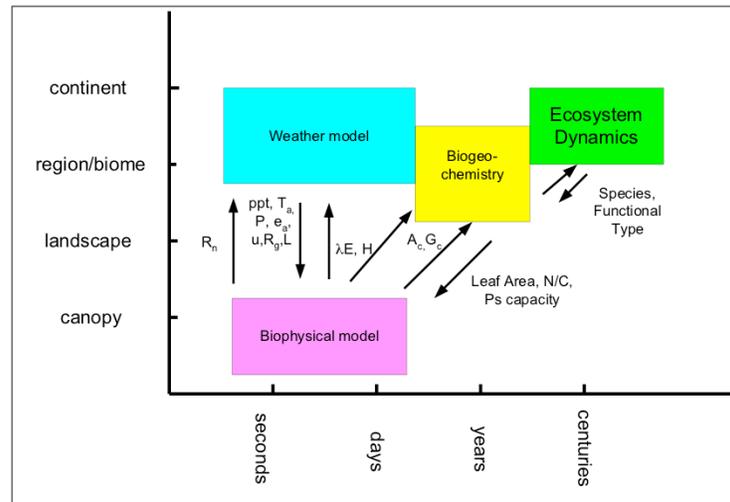
The Breathing of an Ecosystem is Defined by  
the Sum of an Array of Coupled, Non-Linear, Biophysical  
Processes that Operate across a Hierarchy/Spectrum of  
Time and Space Scales



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We are also interested in integrating fluxes with regards to time, starting with short term, hourly averages, integrating them to days, seasons and years.

## Processes and Linkages: Roles of Time and Space Scales



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Why are these scales of interest and necessary to span? They relate to the problems we want to solve the the incorporation of additional suites of processes as we move up in scale. A key lesson is that these are complex systems and they experience scale emergent properties as we transcend scales. Biophysical models work well on short time scales given meteorological conditions and state of the vegetation, like leaf area index, albedo, roughness length. But as we go out to longer time scales we need to consider biogeochemical and ecophysiological factors that will govern phenology, photosynthetic capacity, stomatal conductance. And as we move out to climate conditions, we need information on how the dynamics of the landscape is changing.

## Biophysical Modeling, Circa 1969



Cornelius T. deWit

'Seven-stage simulation models by means of which ecosystems may be explained on basis of the molecular sciences are impossible large and detailed and it is naïve to pursue their construction'

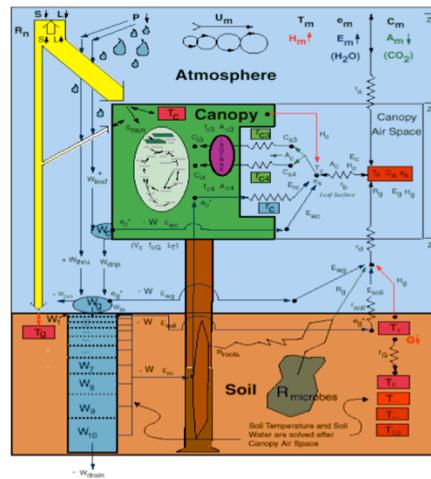
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What about the skeptics who worry about garbage in and garbage out? Can we even consider these problems across scales. When deWit wrote his famous quote we did not have gridded information from satellites and weather reanalysis, so he was right. Yet over time we have been able to cross this impediment with good success, as with the advent of global ecology and development of the SIB model by Sellers and colleagues.

## SIB, Simple Biosphere Model



Sellers et al, 1990s

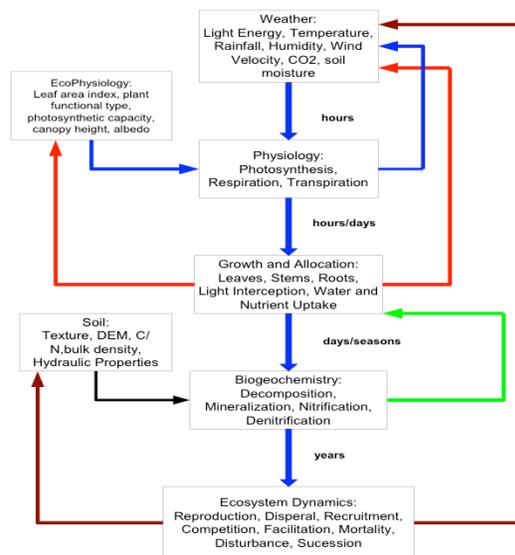


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Application of bio meteorological principles to global scale fluxes of water, energy and carbon, with the SIB model, forced by satellite remote sensing inputs helped push us pass deWit's barrier.



## Biometeorology/Ecosystem Ecology, v2, the Processes



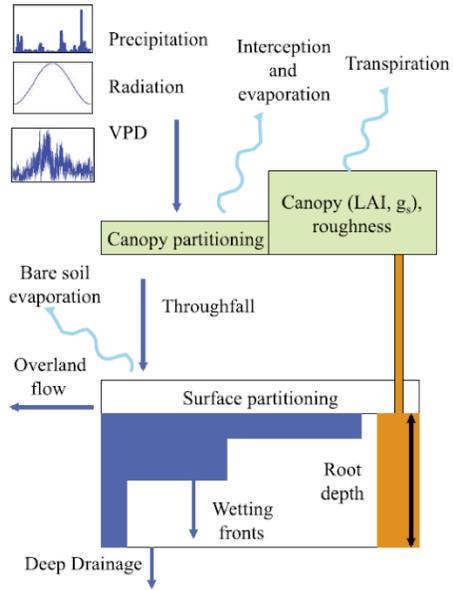
- Numerous and Coupled
- Biophysical Processes,
- Fast and Slow
- Numerous Feedbacks,
- Positive and Negative

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Many coupled processes; They operate across a number of time scales; involve a number of 'spheres'. Key points are feedbacks, scale emergent properties, coupling of biometeorology with ecology and biogeochemistry. This is why this course is so broad and why I challenge you, and me, to read and think broadly.

Future direction is to combine models like ED2, the ecosystem dynamics model with mesoscale models like WRF, RAMS and OLAM.

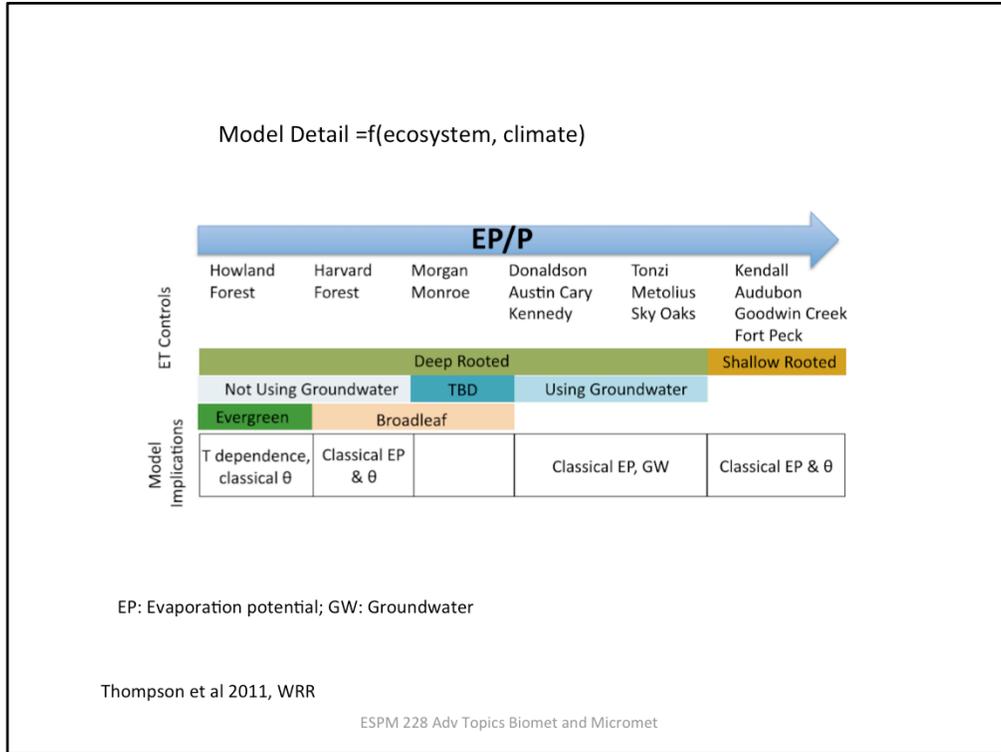
### EcoHydrology Has Other Demands



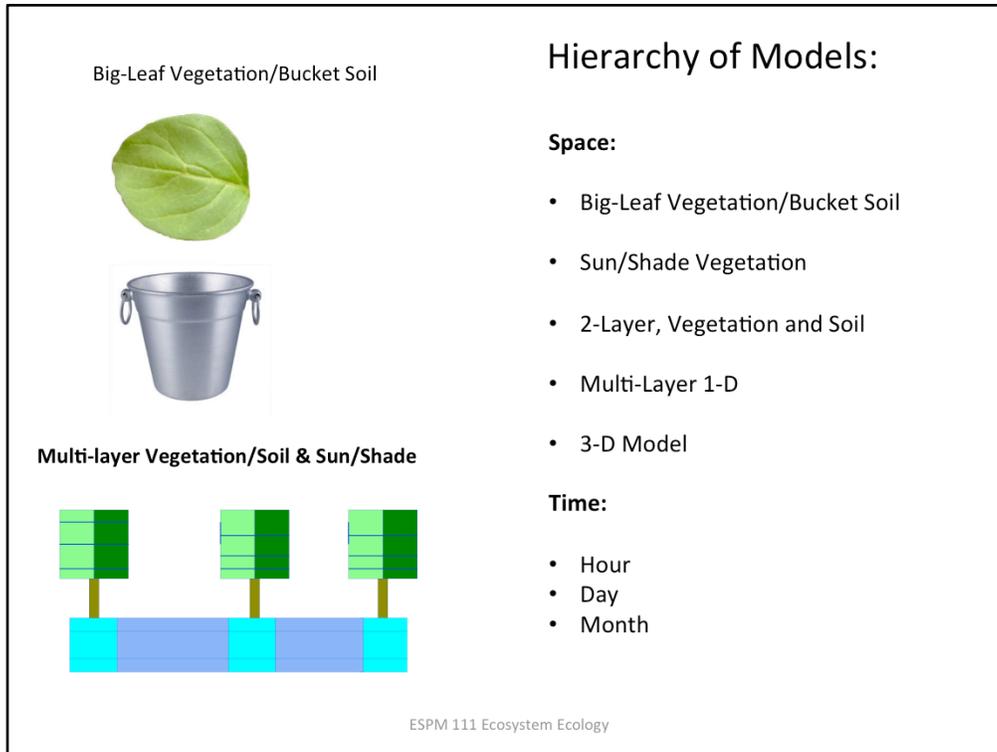
Thompson et al 2011, WRR

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We cant forget below ground, too, in terms of feedbacks between plants, water, roots..



Philosophically different levels of model detail may be needed to predict fluxes with success in different ecosystems and climate spaces.



How do we integrate fluxes from leaves to canopies. What are our options. Here is a hierarchy of models used by the community, trending from simple to greater detail. Some models are too simple and others are too complex to be of practical use.

**All models are wrong; some models are useful**

Attributed to George Box, statistician



Since all models are wrong the scientist cannot obtain a "correct" one by excessive elaboration. On the contrary following William of Occam he should seek an economical description of natural phenomena. Just as the ability to devise simple but evocative models is the signature of the great scientist so overelaboration and overparameterization is often the mark of mediocrity. Below we describe the pros and cons of the hierarchy of models and depending on your application which one is most applicable.

George E. P. Box (1976) [\*Science and Statistics\*](#) *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, Vol. 71, No. 356. (Dec., 1976), pp. 791-799

*How much model complexity is needed?*

‘Single layer models of evaporation from plant communities are incorrect, but useful, whereas multi-layer models are correct but useless’. ([Raupach and Finnigan, 1988](#)).





**To Develop a Scientifically Defensible Virtual World  
'You Must get your boots dirty', and Not Treat the Earth System  
Science as a Video Game**

**Collecting Real Data Gives you Insights on What is Important &  
Data/Ecological Rules to Parameterize and Validate Models**

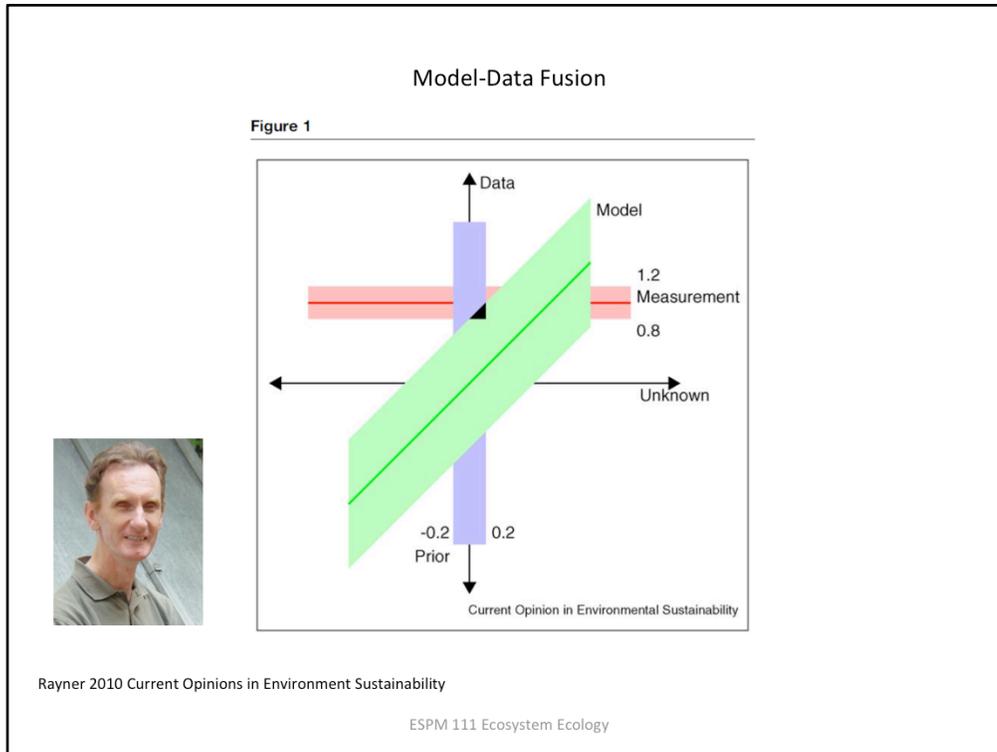


Collecting real data

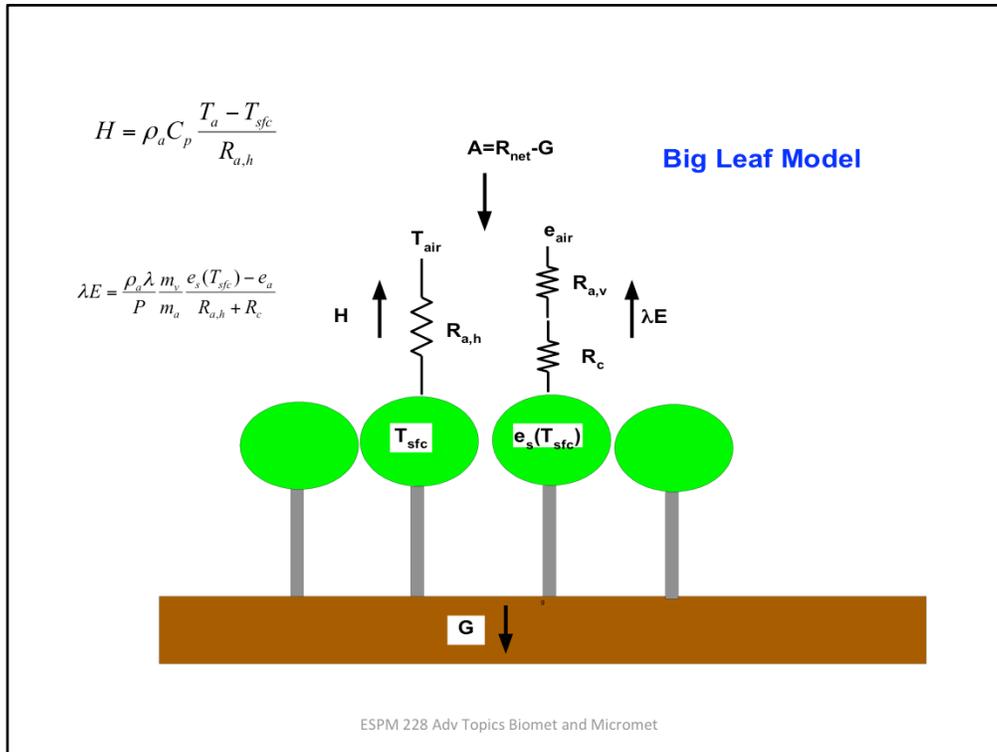
## Sources of Model Complexity and Uncertainty

- Representation of System Complexity
  - Geometrical
  - Processes and Feedbacks
  - Non-Linearities
- Model Parameters,  $f(x,z,t)$
- Driving, or Input, Variables and their Transformation
- Spatial and Temporal Resolution
- Accuracy/Representativeness of Test-Bed Flux Data

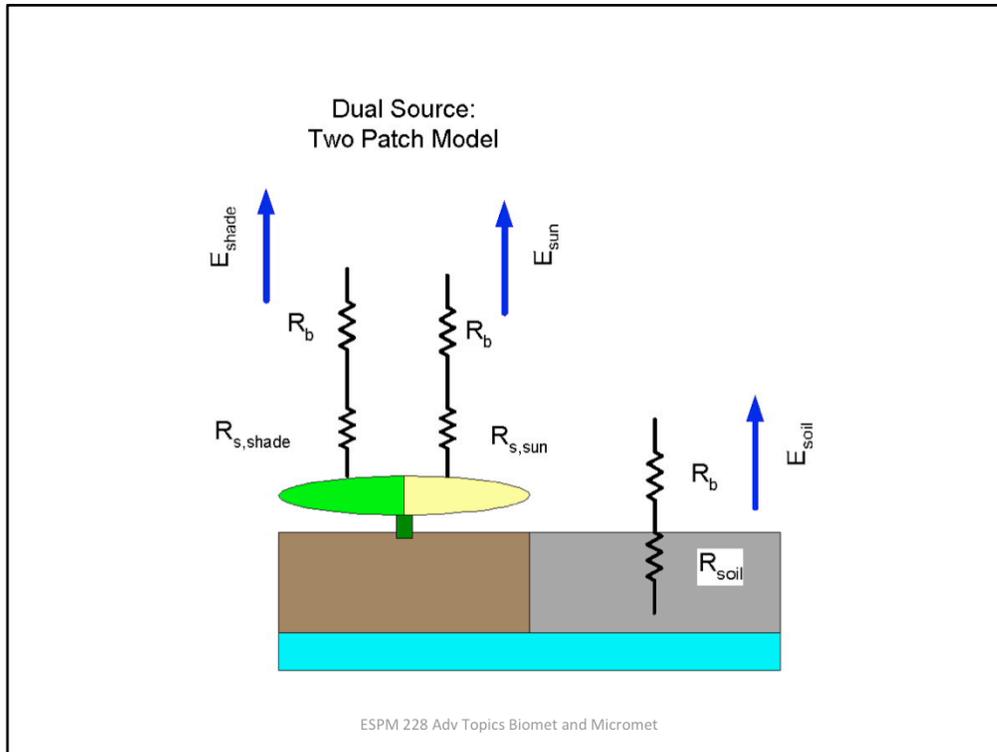
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Model data fusion has made some advances in the past decade and is quite popular among certain groups. It has good utility for gap filling by integrating in time and space. Though often the model parameters may be overly tuned and not have biophysical meaning, so there should be care in using such models to project far into the future. For this reason much of this class focuses on mechanistic models that have links to biophysical processes and can be parameterized by field measurements at the leaf scale.

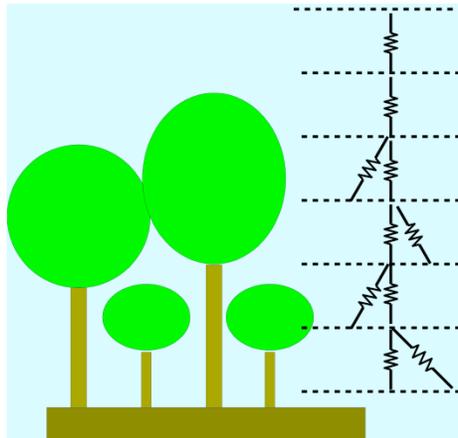


Simple big leaf model. One used by many climate, weather models, though its use is fading in terms of more complex and Better algorithms



One should use at least a dual source, dual patch model that treats fluxes for plants and soil and sun and shade fractions. We will discuss why in later slides.

## Multi-Layer Models



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Multi-layer models allow us to compute fluxes at multiple layers in a canopy to deal with strong gradients in light and turbulent mixing. These are among the more rigorous methods

## Quantifying Sources and Sinks

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial z} = S(C, z) = - a(z) \frac{(C(z) - C_i)}{r_b(z) + r_s(z)}$$

- Biology:
  - Leaf area density:  $a(z)$ ;
  - Internal Concentration:  $C_i$ ;
  - Stomatal Resistance,  $r_s$
- Physics:
  - Boundary Layer Resistance,  $r_b$ ;
  - Atmospheric Concentration,  $C(z)$

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This equation is at the heart of multilayer models and outlines the coupled biophysical processes that must be considered. Over my career this is the equation that has guided much of my work, experiments and thinking. We need to know canopy structure and lai to assess  $a$ , wind and turbulence to assess  $r_b$  and  $C(z)$ , physiology and soil moisture to assess  $r_s$  and biochemistry to assess  $C_i$ .

## Mathematical Representation: Model Algorithms

### 1. Empirical, Regression Based

1. Multiplicative
2. Additive

### 2. Mechanistic/Diagnostic

### 3. Prognostic

$$f(t, x, y) = af(t) \cdot bf(x) \cdot cf(y)$$

$$f(t, x, y) = af(t) + bf(x) + cf(y)$$

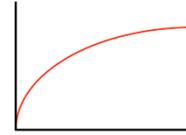
$$Rn = H + \lambda E + G$$

$$\frac{dc}{dt} = f(c, t)$$

## Examples: Non-Linear Biophysical Processes

Photosynthesis

$$A \sim \frac{aI}{b+cI}; \frac{dC}{e+fC}$$
$$aA^3 + bA^2 + cA + d = 0$$



Transpiration

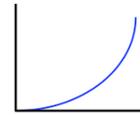
$$e_s(T) \sim \exp(T)$$
$$aLE^2 + bLE + c = 0$$

Respiration

$$R_d \sim \exp(T)$$

Leaf Temperature

$$L \uparrow \sim T_s^4$$

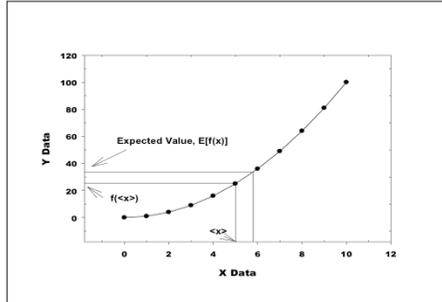


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Computing the Expected Value of a function

$$E[f(L)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(x(L))f(x(L))dx$$

## Why Non-linearity is Important?



Jensen's Inequality

$$f(\langle x \rangle) \neq \langle f(x) \rangle$$

Taylor's Series Expansion

$$E[f(x)] = f(\bar{x}) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f(\bar{x})}{\partial x^2} \sigma(\bar{x})^2$$

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Another Reason Why the Mean of the Function is Not  
Equal to the Function of the Mean

$$E[x \cdot y] = \bar{x} \cdot \bar{y} + \overline{x' y'}$$

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With this simple case you see the addition of a higher order term

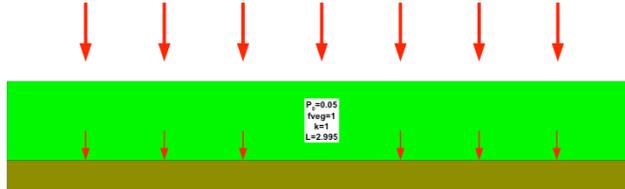
### Inverting LAI from Radiation Transfer Measurements

$$P_0 = \exp(-kL)$$

$$\overline{\ln(P_0)} \neq \ln(\overline{P_0})$$

$$L = -\frac{\overline{\ln(P_0)}}{k} = -\frac{\ln(\overline{P_0})}{k}$$

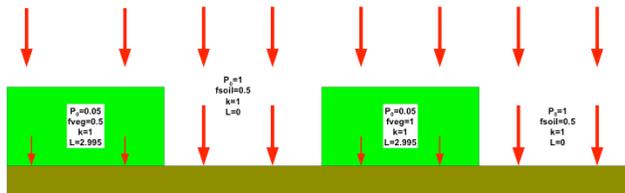
L = 2.996  
 [P<sub>0</sub>]=0.05  
 [ln(P<sub>0</sub>)]=-2.996



Ln[P<sub>0</sub>]=-2.996  
 L\*=2.996

$$L = -\frac{\overline{\ln(P_0)}}{k} \neq -\frac{\ln(\overline{P_0})}{k}$$

L = 1.497  
 [P<sub>0</sub>]=0.525  
 [ln(P<sub>0</sub>)]=-1.497



Ln[P<sub>0</sub>]=-0.644  
 L\*=0.644

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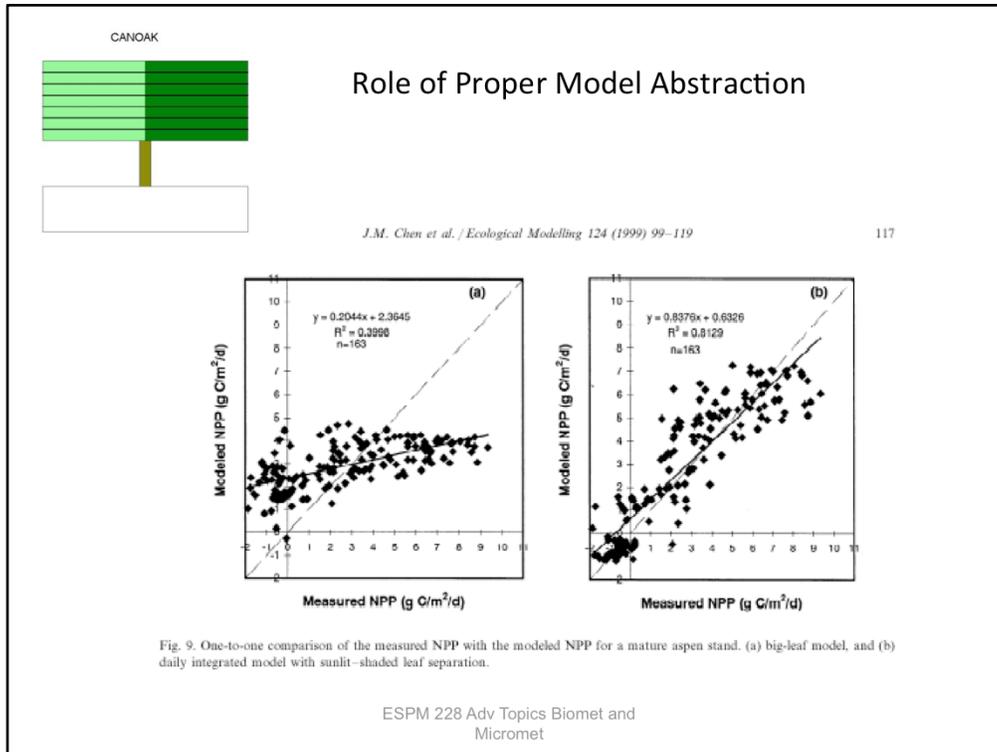
## Weight Source/Sink by Fraction of Sunlit and Shaded Leaves and Their Environment

$$S(C, z) = f(I_{sun}, T_{sun}, q_{sun}, C_{sun}) \cdot p_{sun}(z) + f(I_{shade}, T_{shade}, q_{shade}, C_{shade}) \cdot p_{shade}$$

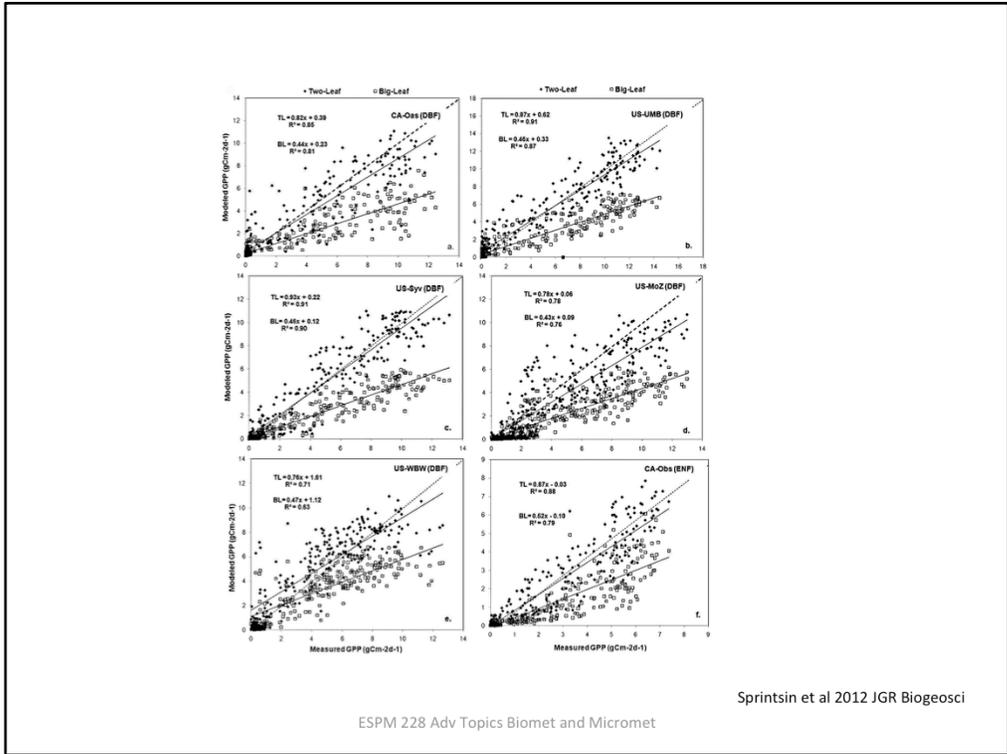


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Many of the equations are very non linear so we need to apply these models by considering the sun ( $p_{sun}$ ) and shade ( $p_{shade}$ ) fractions, which we will discuss below.



This paper by Chen clearly shows how wrong one may be using a big leaf model vs one that considers sun shade fractions. Clearly the sun shade model has better performance.



This paper is a more thorough analysis using flux data from numerous canopies

## Dual Source Model: Discrete Form

Whole Canopy Surface Conductance,  
Wt function of sun and shade leaf areas

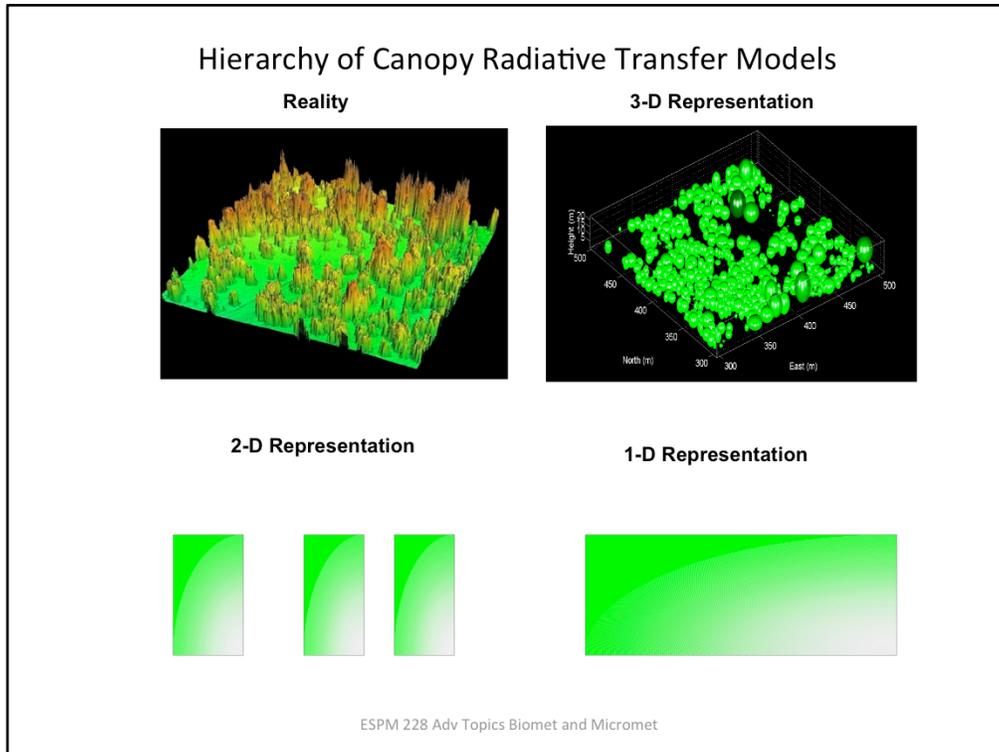
$$G_{sfc} = L_{sun} G_{sun} + L_{sh} G_{sh}$$

$$L_{sun} = (1 - \exp(-kL)) / k \quad \text{Sunlit leaf area}$$

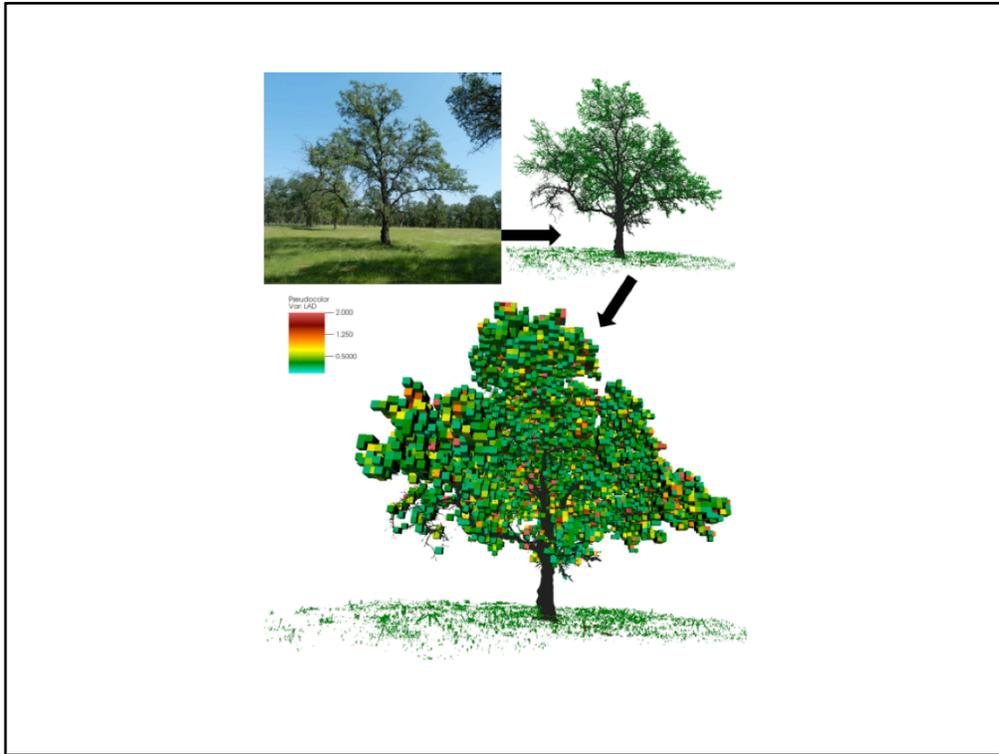
$$L_{sh} = L - L_{sun} \quad \text{Shaded leaf area}$$

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How do we apply a sun shade model. Here is a simple case for stomatal conductance and models to compute the leaf area of the sun and shade leaves from light transfer theory.  $L$  is leaf area index and  $k$  is the extinction coefficient.

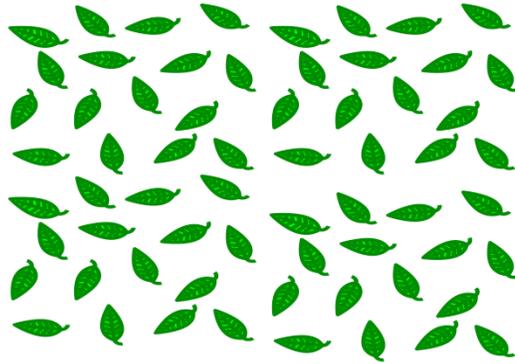


A vegetated landscape can be quite complex. What are our options for trying to model this system. We use statistical representations rather than relying on the Cartesian location of each and every leaf; though the later is becoming possible with new ground base lidar measurements of canopy structure and the application of Monte Carlo 3d ray tracing models for computing radiative transfer.



With terrestrial LIDAR we can now visualize trees in great detail and look at ray transfer through voxels.

Probability of Light Penetration,  $P_0$ , through a population of leaves,  
Randomly distributed in Space with a Known Distribution of Leaf  
Inclination angles



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We use statistical theory to simulate light transfer through vegetation. It makes the endeavor tractable

Random Spatial Distribution:

Poisson Probability Distribution

$$P_0 = \exp\left(-\frac{L G}{\sin \beta}\right)$$

Probability of Beam Penetration,  $P_0$

L: Leaf area Index

G: direction cosine of leaf normal vs solar zenith angle

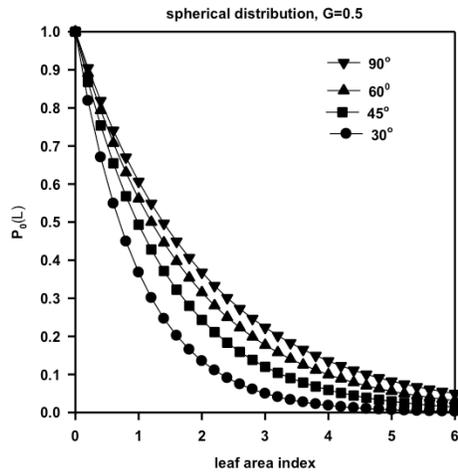
$\theta$ : solar zenith angle

$\beta$ : solar elevation angle

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We start with a form of Beer's law which is used to compute the probability of beam penetration or the probability of zero lights,  $P_0$ . It is a function of the angle of the source and the angle of the leaves

### Sun Angles and the probability of beam penetration, $P_0$



Beer's Law

$$P_0 = \exp(-kL)$$

$$P_0 = \exp\left(-\frac{LG}{\cos\theta_{sun}}\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{LG}{\sin\beta_{sun}}\right)$$

L: Leaf area Index  
 G: direction cosine, leaf normal vs solar  
 zenith angle  
 $\theta$ : solar zenith angle  
 $\beta$ : solar elevation angle

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Here is a family of curves for different sun angles and cumulative leaf area index, L. Typical over 90% of incoming radiation is attenuated by the time L reaches 5.

## Probability of Sunlit (Beam) and Shaded Leaves

$$P_b = -\frac{\sin \beta}{G} \frac{dP_0}{dL} = \exp\left(-\frac{L G}{\sin \beta}\right)$$

$$P_{sh} = 1 - P_b$$

L: Leaf Area Index

$P_0$ : probability of beam penetration, or zero contacts

$P_b$ : probability of beam

$P_{sh}$ : probability of shade

G: cosine of the angle between the leaf normal and beam

$\beta$ : solar elevation angle

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Probability of Beam is a function of the derivative of  $P_0$  with respect to L, adjusted for the sun and leaf angles. It tells us what fraction of leaves are sunlit. Its complement is the fraction of leaves are shaded. Ironically for randomly populations of leaves  $P_b$  and  $P_0$  are identical.

## Sunlit Leaf Area

$$L_{sun} = \int_0^L P_b(l) dl$$

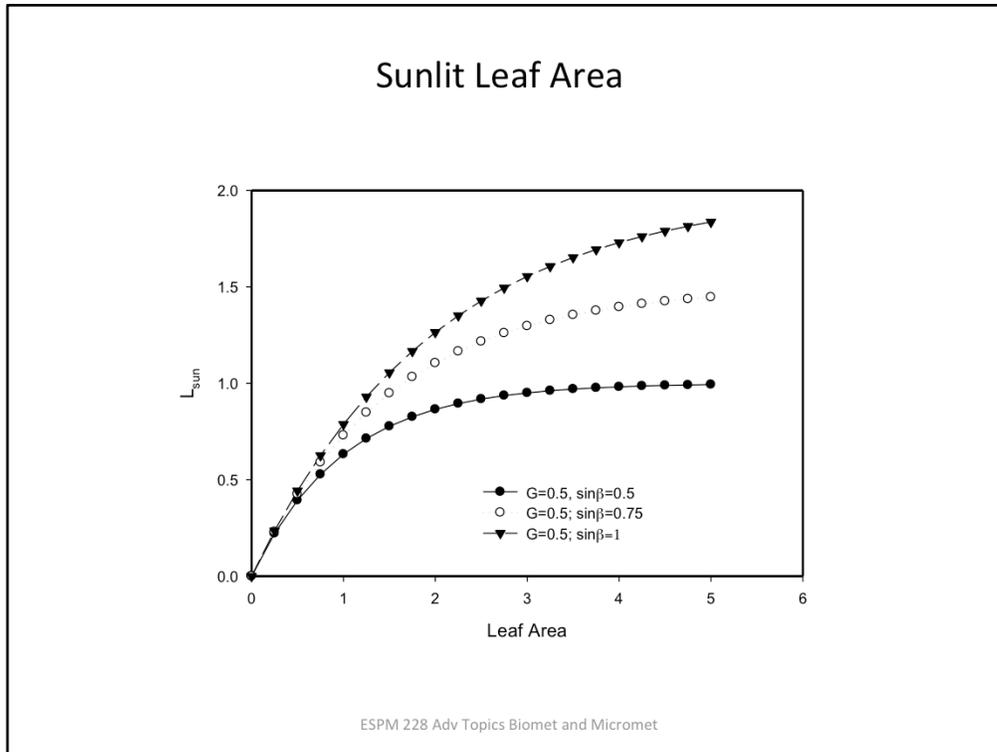
Sunlit leaf area index is the integration of the probability of beam with respect to leaf area index

$$L_{sun} = \frac{\sin \beta}{G} \left(1 - \exp\left(-\frac{GL}{\sin \beta}\right)\right)$$

Analytical solution

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Sunlit leaf area is related to the integral of P beam



Depending on the sun angle the amount of area that can be sunlit is greater than one and reaches an asymptote near 2.

## Many Forests have Clumped Foliage



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## Clumped Vegetation: Markov Distribution

$$P_0 = \exp\left(-\frac{\Omega L G}{\sin \beta}\right)$$

$$P_b = -\frac{\sin \beta}{G} \frac{dP_0}{dL} = \Omega \exp\left(-\frac{\Omega L G}{\sin \beta}\right)$$

$\Omega$ : clumping factor

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If leaves are clumped, we apply the clumping factor,  $\omega$ . And by solving analytically for  $P_b$ , we learn in this case that  $P_b$  does not equal  $P_0$ . This is important lesson in applying these ideas to models. It is important to understand the derivation and source of equations we use and not plug and chug

## Sunlit Leaf Area, Clumped Leaves

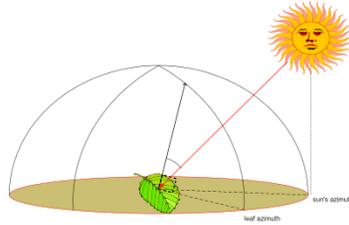
$$L_{sun} = \int_L^0 \Omega \exp\left(-\frac{\Omega GL}{\sin \beta}\right) dL$$

$$\int a \exp(-bx) dx = -\frac{a}{b} \exp(-bx)$$

$$L_{sun} = \frac{\sin \beta}{G} \left(1 - \exp\left(-\frac{\Omega GL}{\sin \beta}\right)\right)$$

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## G Function, the relation between leaf normals and the sun



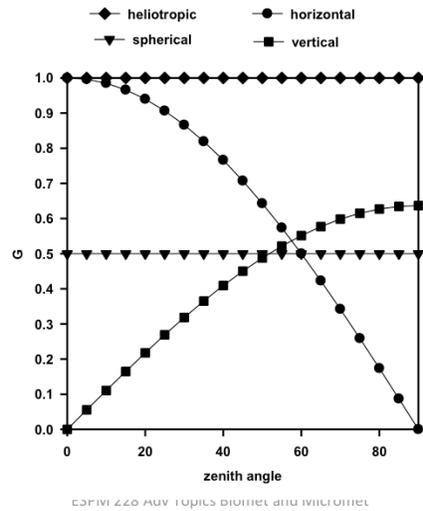
$$G(\theta, \varphi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^{\pi/2} g(\theta_{leaf}, \varphi_{leaf}) |\cos(nn_{leaf})| \sin \theta_{leaf} d\theta_{leaf}$$

$$\cos(nn_{leaf}) = \cos \theta \cdot \cos \theta_{leaf} + \sin \theta \cdot \sin \theta_{leaf} \cos(\varphi - \varphi_{leaf})$$

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What is the G function. It is essentially the cosine of the angle between the beam and the leaf normal. We weight it for all the angles of the leaf distribution and integrate it across the hemisphere. We can use spherical geometry to assess  $\cos(nn_{leaf})$

## G functions for different leaf inclination angle distributions



For many practical applications  $G$  is about 0.5, especially if the leaves possess a spherical distribution.

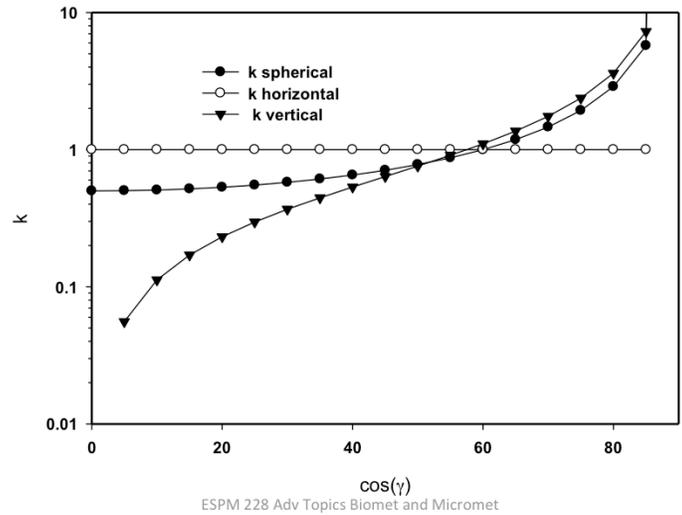
The extinction coefficient,  $k$ , equals the fraction of hemi-surface leaf area ( $A$ ) that is **projected onto the horizontal** ( $A_h$ ), from a particular zenith angle.

$$k = \frac{A_h}{A}$$

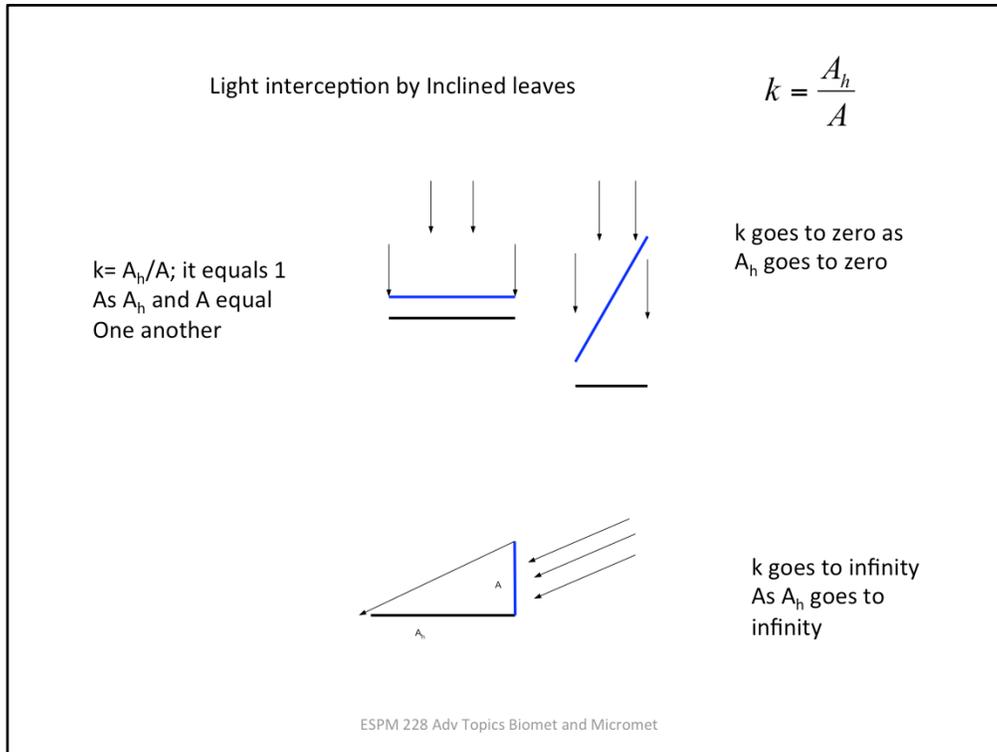
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We can better understand  $G$  by thinking about extinction coefficients, which is related to the area of leaves,  $A$ , projected on the horizontal,  $A_h$

### Extinction coefficients, $k$ , with different solar zenith angles



Extinction coefficients are another way to look at light transfer through vegetation. Here is how  $k$  varies with solar zenith angle



These are some of the key limits for  $k$  depending on angle of leaves and sun

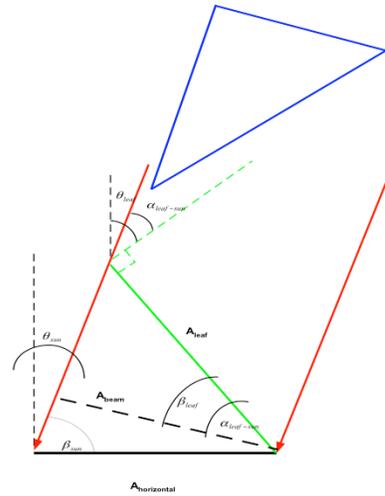


Project the area of a leaf normal to the sun's beam ( $A_b$ ) onto the horizontal ( $A_h$ ).

$$\frac{A_b}{A_h} = \sin \beta = \cos \theta$$

Project the area of a leaf onto the area normal to the solar beam

$$\frac{A_{beam}}{A_{leaf}} = \cos \alpha$$



$$\beta_{leaf} = \theta_{sun}$$

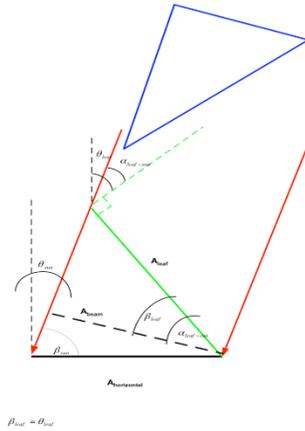
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$$A_{beam} = A_{leaf} \cos \alpha$$

$$A_{leaf} = \frac{A_{beam}}{\cos \alpha}$$

$$\frac{A_{beam}}{A_{horiz}} = \sin \beta_{sun} = \frac{A_{leaf} \cos \alpha}{A_{horiz}} = \cos \theta_{sun}$$

$$\frac{A_{leaf}}{A_{horiz}} = \frac{\sin \beta_{sun}}{\cos \alpha} = \frac{\cos \theta_{sun}}{\cos \alpha}$$



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*Voilà'*



$$K = \frac{G}{\sin \beta_{sun}} = \frac{G}{\cos \theta_{sun}}$$

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Functions for k and G

$$\frac{A_{horiz}}{A_{leaf}} = \frac{\cos \alpha}{\sin \beta_{sun}} = K = \frac{G}{\sin \beta_{sun}} = \frac{G}{\cos \theta_{sun}}$$

Leaf Angle Distribution	G, direction cosine	K, extinction coefficient
Horizontal	cos(θ)	1
Vertical	2/π sin(θ)	2 tan(θ/π)
Conical	cos(θ) cos(θ <sub>i</sub> )	cos(θ)
Spherical or random	0.5	1/(2 cos(θ))
Heliotropic	1	1/ cos(θ)
Ellipsoidal	*	**

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Simple algorithms for different leaf angle classes

Sunlit leaves are illuminated by direct and diffuse light

$$I_{sun} = \frac{I_{beam} \cdot G}{\sin \beta} + I_{shade}$$

Direct Light is Directional  
Diffuse Light is Isotropic and Hemispherical

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## Radiative Transfer Scheme

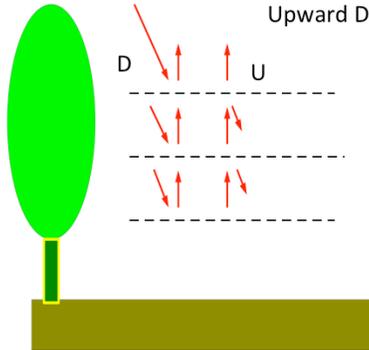
Downward Diffuse  $D_i = R_l \cdot U_i + T_n D_{i+1}$

Upward Diffuse  $U_{i+1} = R_u \cdot D_{i+1} + T_n U_i$

$$T_n = \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta f \cdot G \cdot \Omega}{\sin \beta}\right) + (1 - \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta f \cdot G \cdot \Omega}{\sin \beta}\right))\tau$$

$$R_l = (1 - \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta f \cdot G \cdot \Omega}{\sin \beta}\right))\rho_l$$

$$R_u = (1 - \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta f \cdot G \cdot \Omega}{\sin \beta}\right))\rho_u$$



After Norman, 1979

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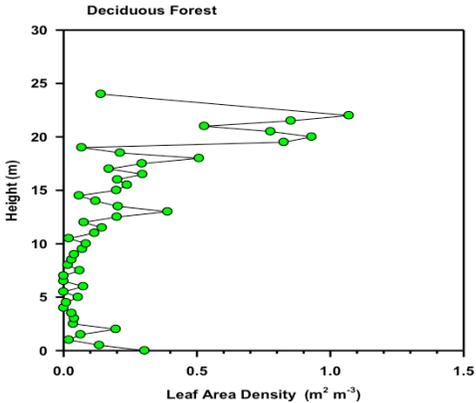
Simple scheme for light transfer for 1D canopy, implemented by Norman. This is the scheme I use in CanVeg

## Sources of Spatial Heterogeneity

- Vertical Variations in:
  - Leaf area index
  - Leaf inclination angles
  - Leaf Clumping
  - Leaf N + photosynthetic capacity
  - Stomatal conductance
  - Light, Temperature, Wind, Humidity, CO<sub>2</sub>

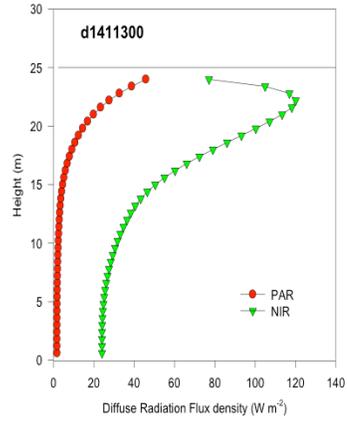
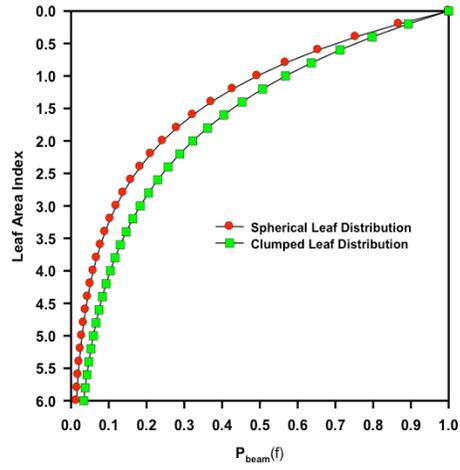


# Vertical Profiles in Leaf Area



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## Vertical Variation in Sunlight



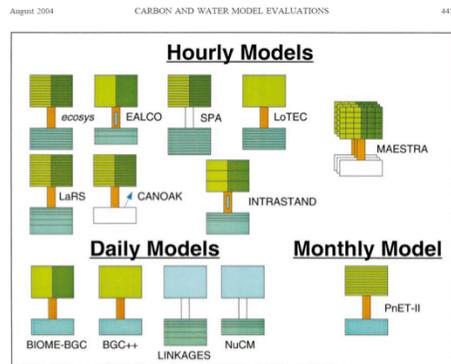
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## Summary

- Introduced Hierarchy of Leaf to Canopy Integration Models
- Described Why we Need to Evaluate the Expected Value of the Function
  - We need to Evaluate Biophysical Functions on Sun and Shade Fractions of Leaves
- Introduced Statistical Theories of Radiative Transfer through Vegetation

## Geometrical Abstraction of the Canopy

- One-Dimensional
  - Big-Leaf
  - Dual Source, Sun-Shade
  - 2-Layer
    - Vegetation and soil
  - Multi-Layered
- Two-Dimensional
  - Dual source
    - sunlit and shaded
    - Vegetated vs Bare Soil
- Three-Dimensional
  - Individual Plants and Trees



After Hanson et al Ecol Appl 2004

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How do we integrate fluxes from leaves to canopies. What are our options. Here is a hierarchy of models used by the community, trending from simple to greater detail. Some models are too simple and others are too complex to be of practical use.

## Model Pitfalls

- Garbage In = Garbage Out
- Watch out for Non-Linearities
  - Apply at Proper Time-Step and Space-Scale
- Validate, Validate, Validate
- Don't Parameterize Model Algorithms with the Same data used to Validate
- Equifinality, a combination of parameters yield the same answer
  - An appeal to Multiple Constraints
- Avoid Auto-Correlation,  $y = f(y)$
- Avoid Extrapolating Empirical Regression models beyond the range of the dataset
  - Data Assimilation Best for Gap Filling in Time/Space and Diagnosis
- Use Mechanistic and Prognostic Models to predict the Future and to Upscale information
- Closure: Equal number of Equations and Unknowns is needed

