



Modeling Phytoremediation by Mangroves

Otto Richter¹, Hoang Anh Nguyen^{1,2} and
Van Phuoc Nguyen²

¹Institute of Geocology, University of Technology Braunschweig, Germany,

²Institute for Environment & Resources, HCM-City, Vietnam

¹o.richter@tu-bs.de



Technische
Universität
Braunschweig



Joint BMBF-VNU Project “EWATEC-COAST”

Subproject 5 “The role of mangrove ecosystems for pollutant reduction”



Institut für Geoökologie
Abteilung für Umweltsystemanalyse

Introduction

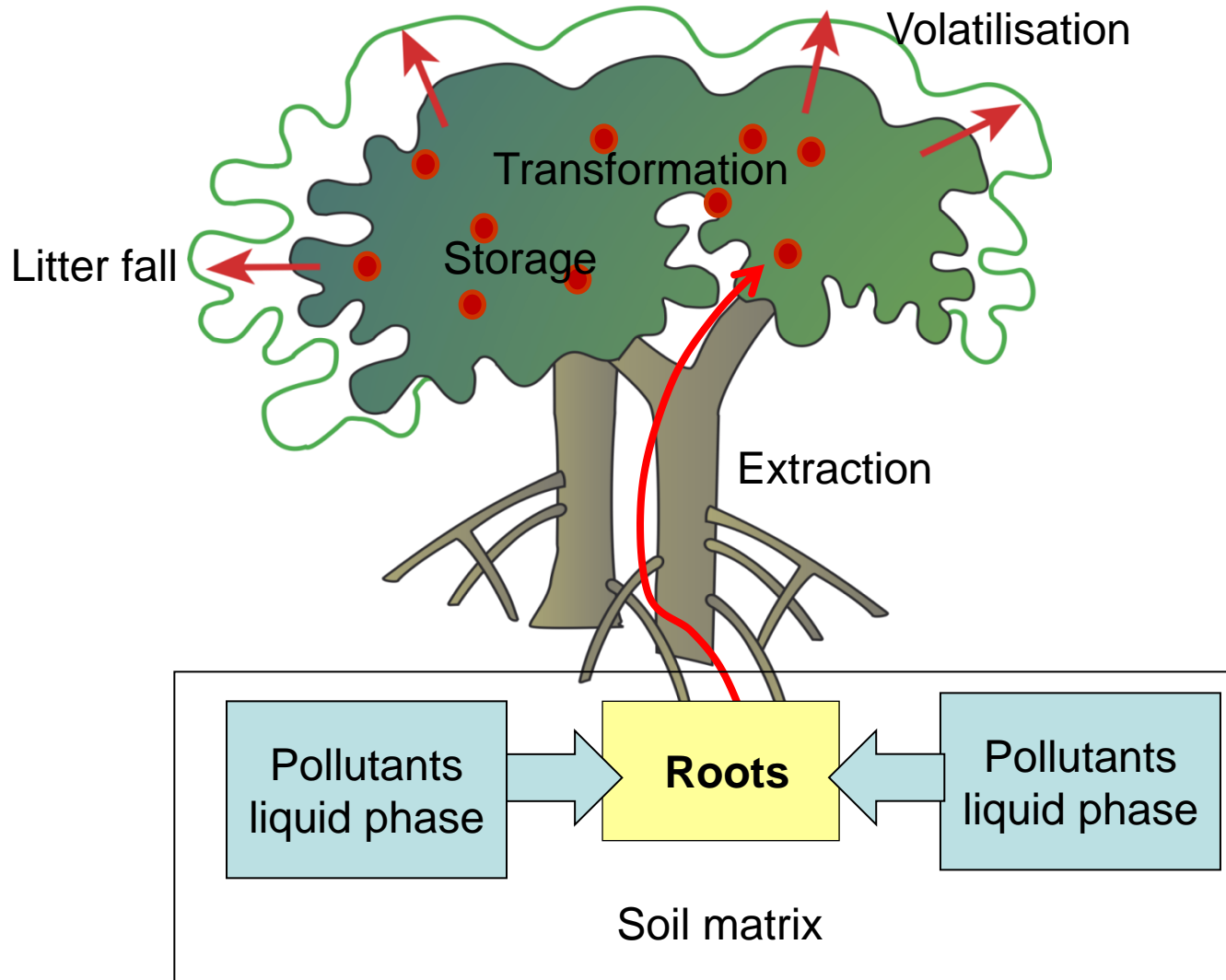
- Mangrove forests provide means for immobilization and removal of pollutants in tidal zones of river estuaries.
- Objective of the model is the quantification of this remediation potential.
- The numerical study is part of a large experimental effort for estimating model parameters.

This is a typical multiphysics problem comprising

- Porous media flow of water and pollutants in soil
- Ascendent flow of water and pollutants based on cohesion tension theory
- Stomatal controlled evaporation in the canopy as driving force

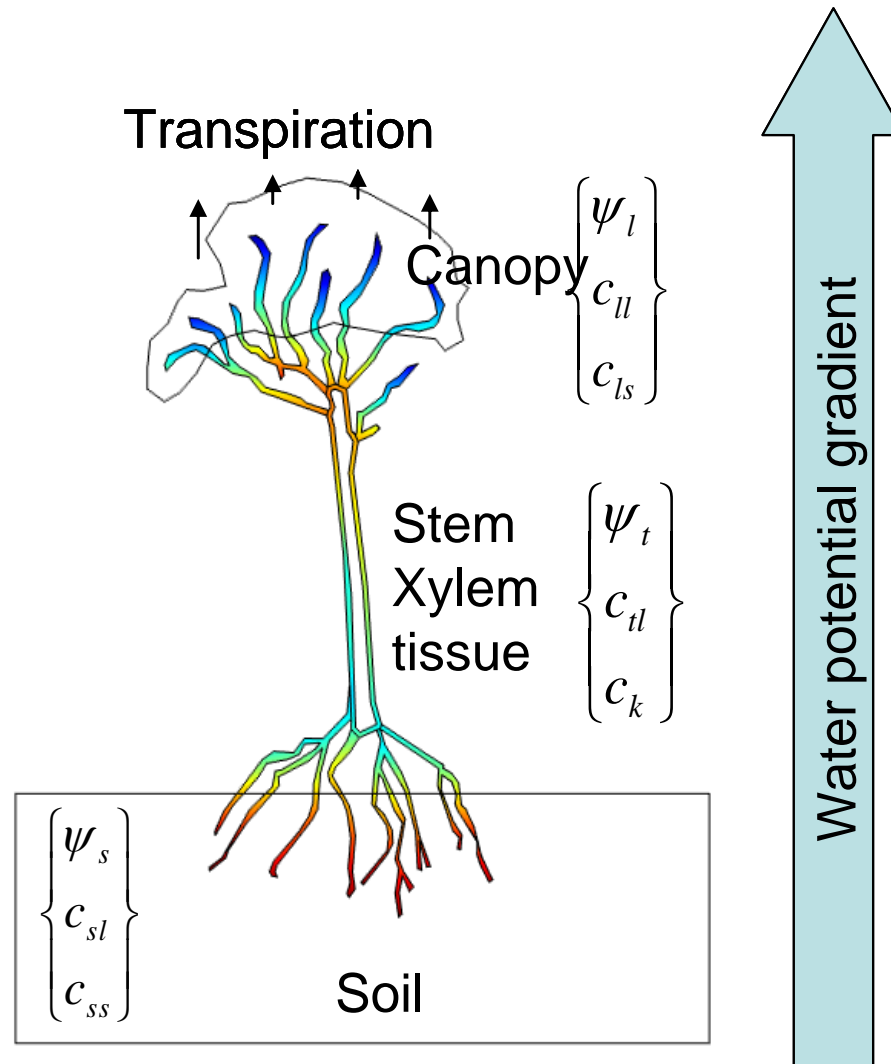


Conceptual model



Cohesion tension concept

ψ_i : water potential in compartment „i“
 C_{il} : concentration liquid phase
 C_{is} : concentration solid phase



General form of equations

$$C_i(\psi_i) \frac{\partial \psi_i}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot K_i(\psi_i) \nabla (\psi_i - z)$$

↑ capacity ↑ Hydraulic conductivity ↑ Gravitation potential

Water potential

$$\frac{\partial(\theta c_{li})}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (\bar{D} \nabla c_{li} - \vec{q}_i c_{li}) - k_{des} (K_i c_{li} - c_{si})$$

↑ Water content ↑ Dispersion tensor ↑ Convection ↑ Sorption and desorption

Concentration in liquid phase

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} c_{si} = k_{des} (K_i c_{li} - c_{si})$$

Sorption and desorption

Concentration in solid phase

$$\nabla = (\partial_x, \partial_y, \partial_z)$$

Canopy

Canopy is conceived as continuum characterized by its leaf area density function

$$C_l(\psi_l) \frac{\partial \psi_l}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot K_l(\psi_l) \nabla (\psi_l - z) - E(v, T, PAR, VPD, \psi_l, \psi_{air})$$

Transpiration losses as function of wind speed v , temperature T , photosynthetic active radiation PAR , vapor pressure deficit VPD , leaf water potential ψ_l and air water potential ψ_{air}

Transpiration submodel

leaf area density saturation specific humidity at temperature T_l

$$E = \frac{\rho_{air}}{\rho_w} \alpha(\bar{x}) b(z) u(z) (q_s(T_l(z)) - q_a(z))$$

transpiration rate

wind speed

$$b(z) = \frac{ch}{1 + ch \frac{\rho_{air}}{g_s} u(z)}$$

bulk transfer coefficient for latent heat

$$g_s = g_{max} f_1(PAR) f_2(T) f_3(VPD) f_4(\psi_l)$$

stomatal conductance

$$f_1(PAR) = \frac{PAR}{PAR + \frac{g_{max}}{a_s}}$$

$$f_2(T) = \left(\frac{T - T_n}{T_0 - T_n} \right) \left(\frac{T_x - T}{T_x - T_0} \right)^{\frac{(T_x - T_0)}{(T_0 - T_x)}}$$

$$f_3(VPD) = \frac{1}{1 + \beta VPD}$$

$$f_4(\psi_l) = \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{\psi_l}{\psi_c} \right)^2}$$

Boundary conditions

Flow between adjacent compartments (internal boundary conditions)

$$F_{ij} = K_{ij} (\psi_i - \psi_j) \quad \text{water flow}$$

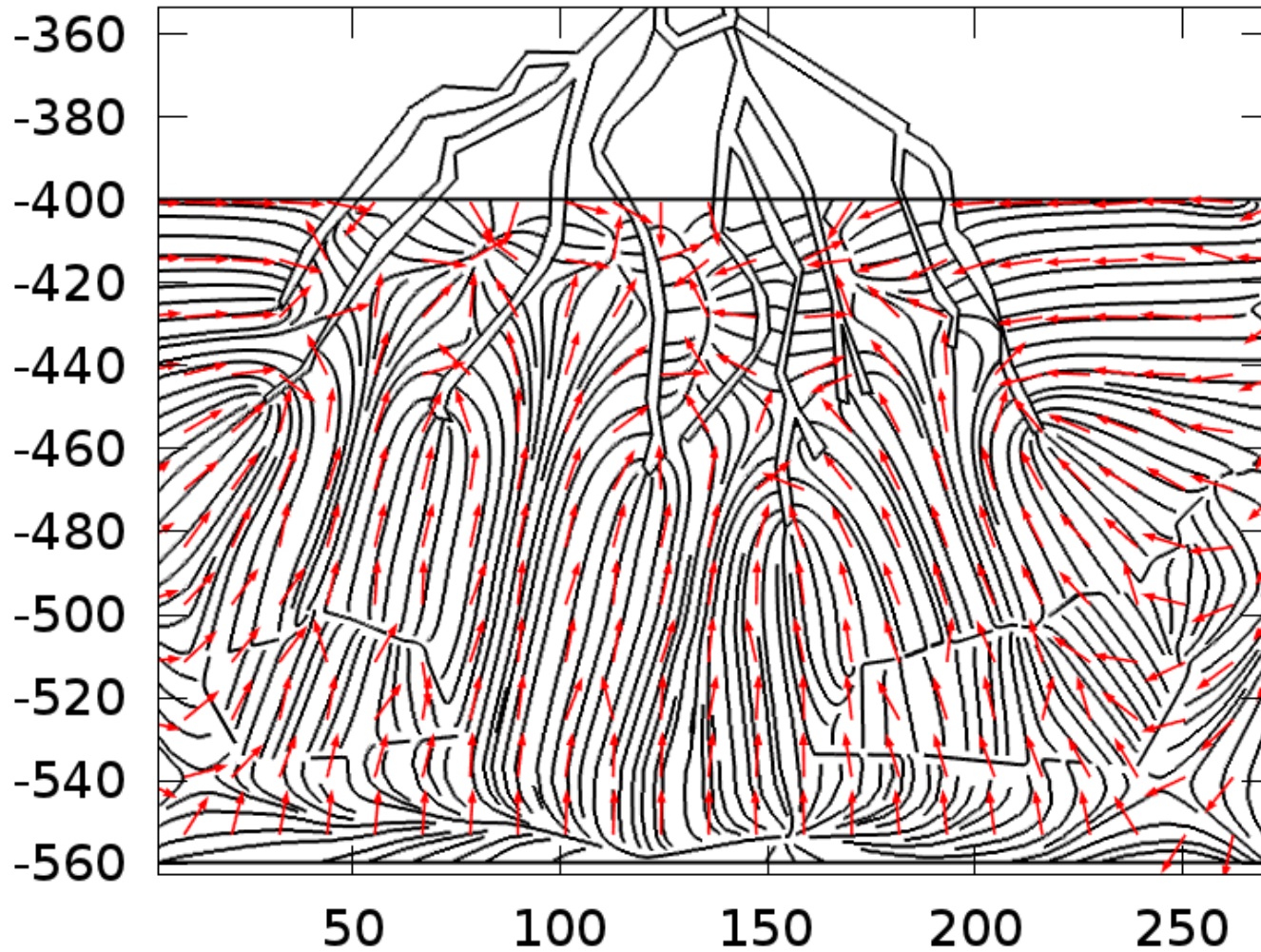
$$J_{ij} = \kappa_{ij} (c_i - c_j) \quad \text{matter flow}$$

Exchange with the environment (external boundary conditions)

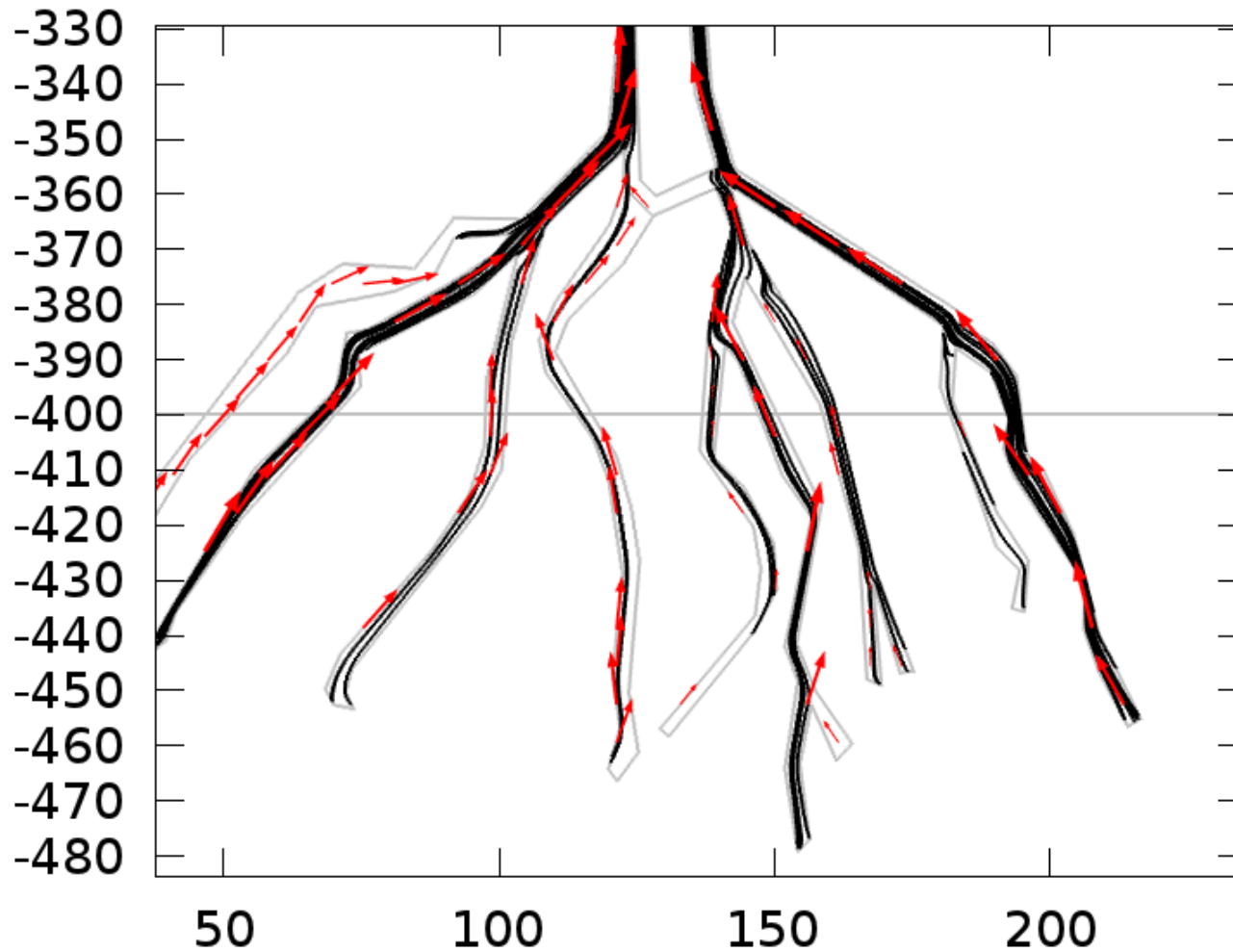
$$K_s (\psi_s) \nabla (\psi_s - z) \Big|_{\text{soil surface}} = v(t) \quad \text{Infiltration of water}$$

$$D \nabla c_{sl} - \vec{q} c_{sl} \Big|_{\text{soil surface}} = v(t) c_0 \quad \text{Infiltration of substance}$$

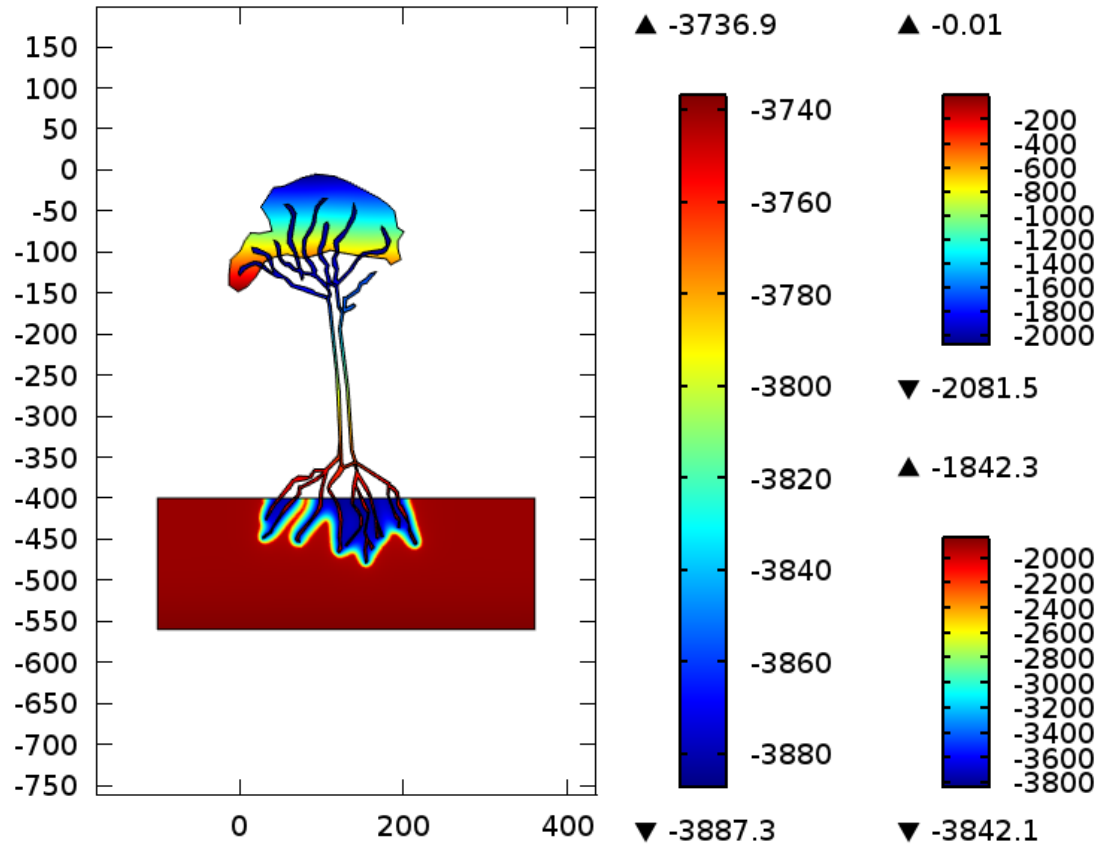
Streamlines in the root zone



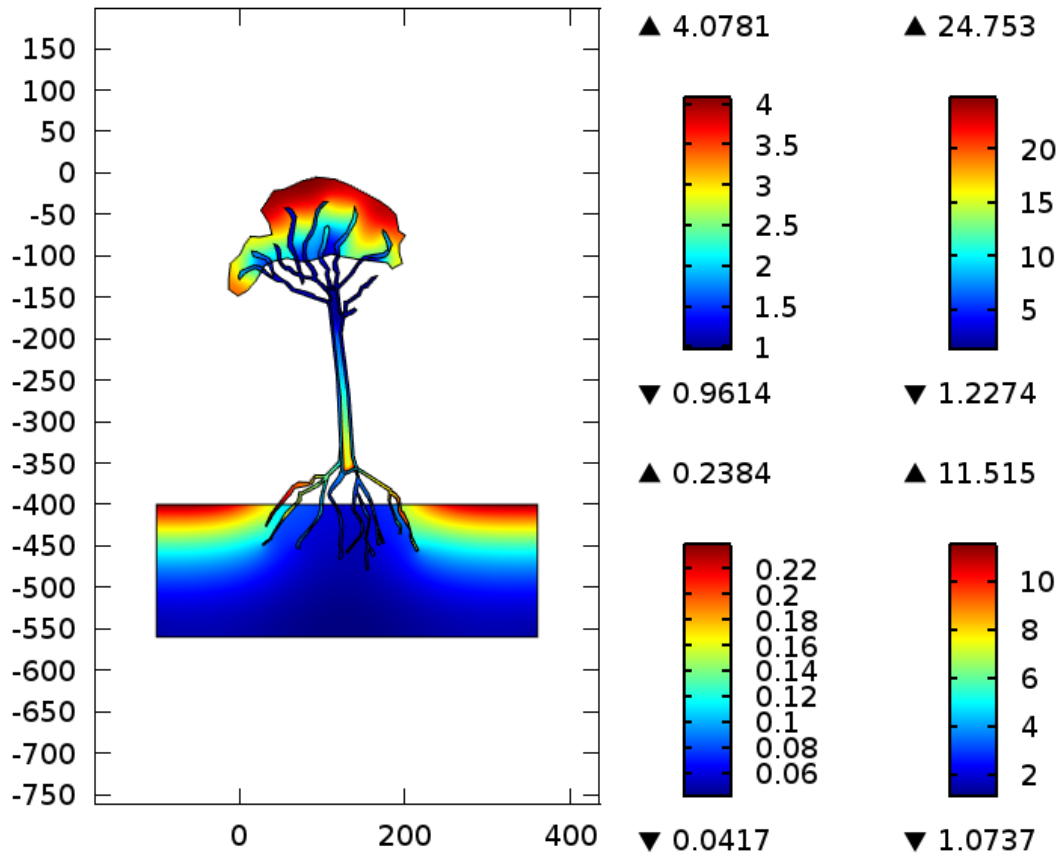
Streamlines in xylem



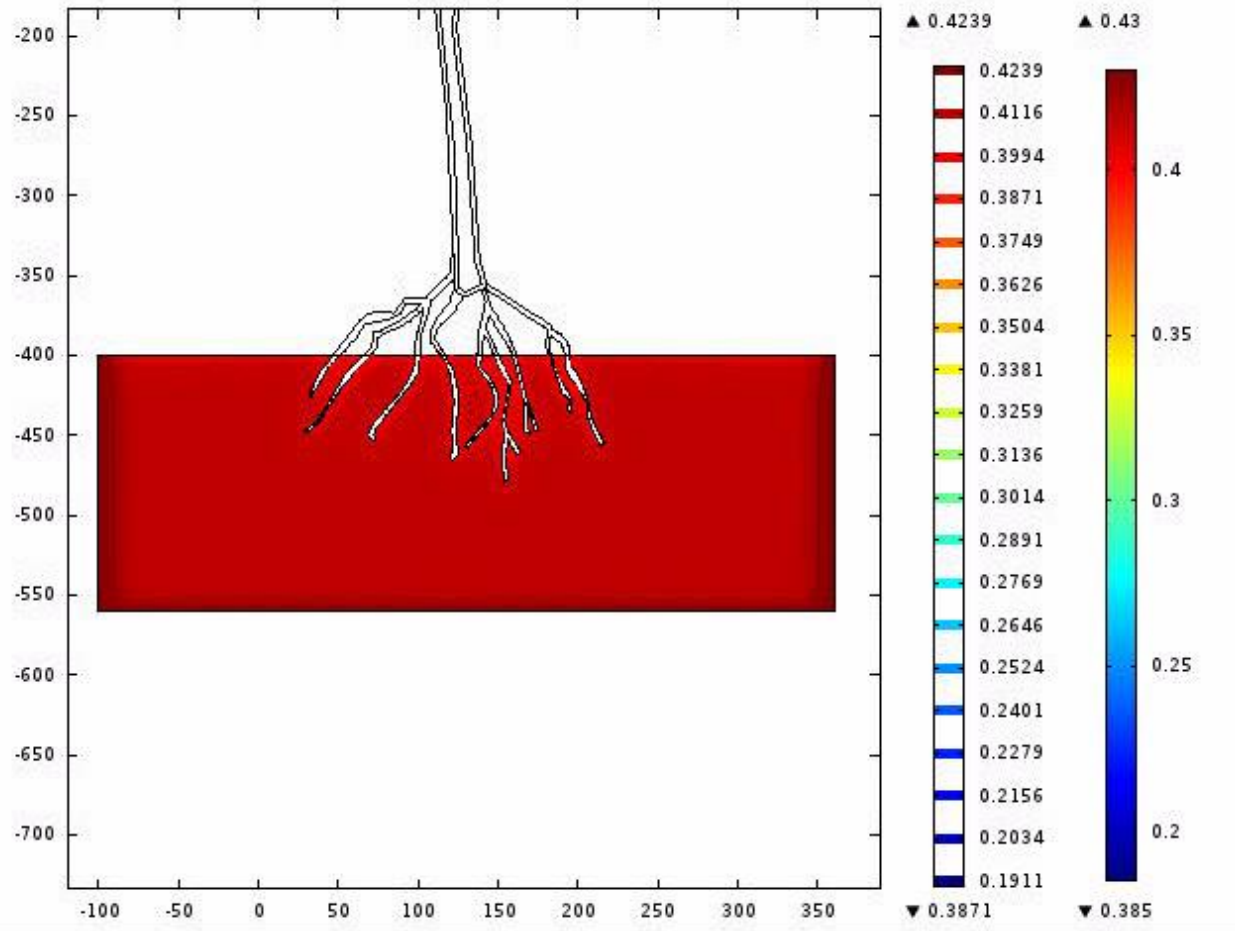
Water potential



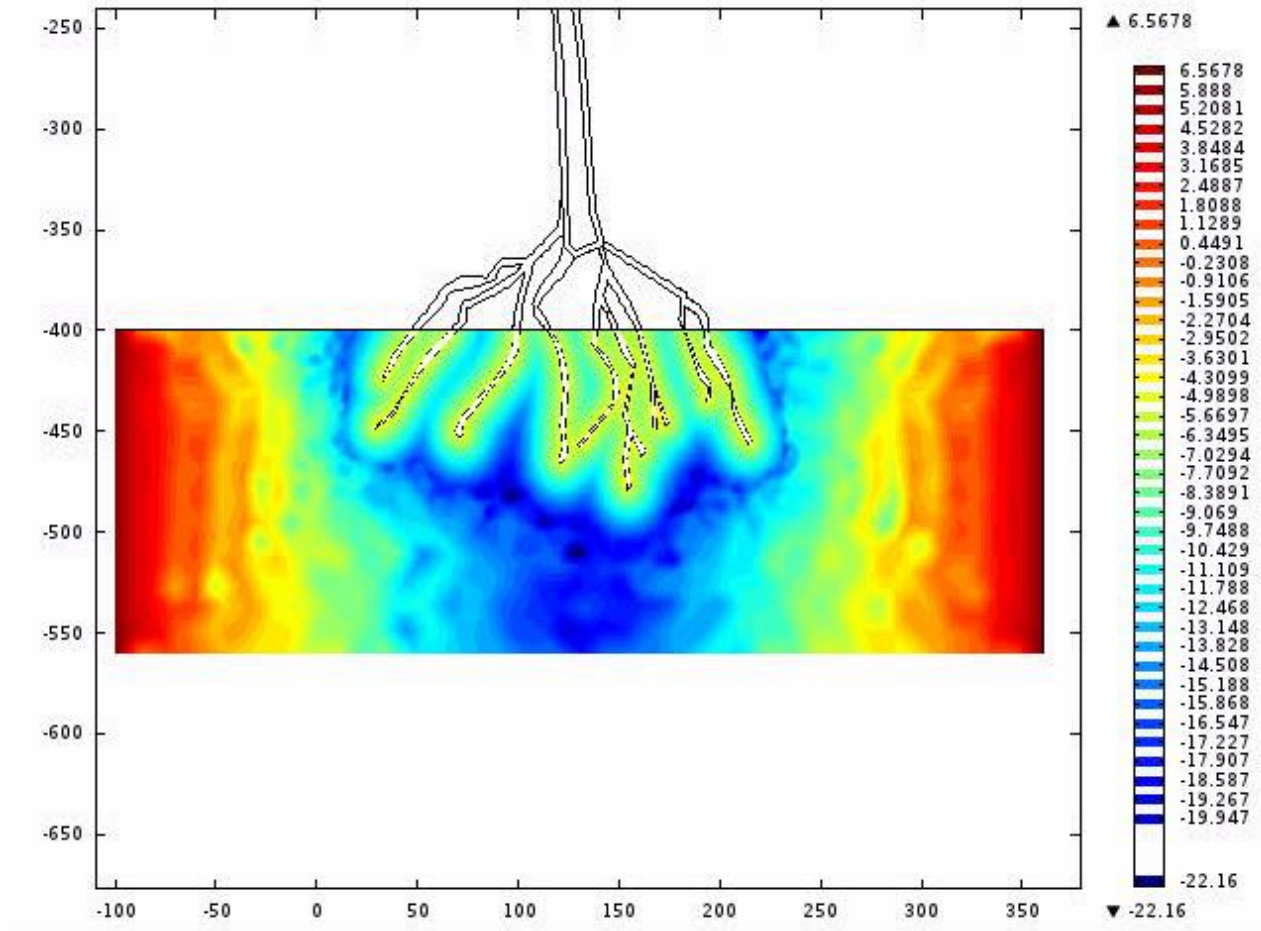
Concentration of pollutant



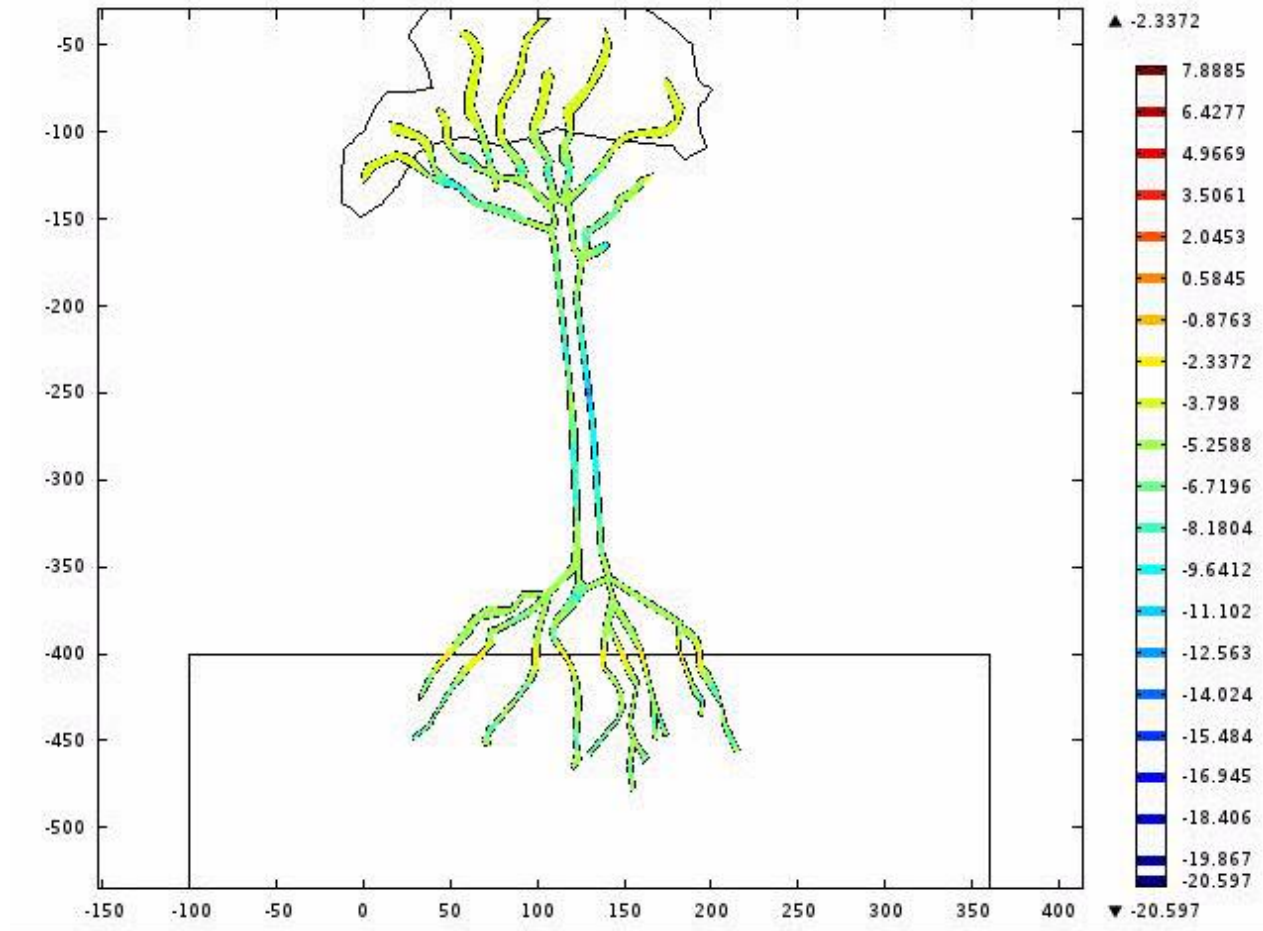
Water content in soil



Pollutant in soil

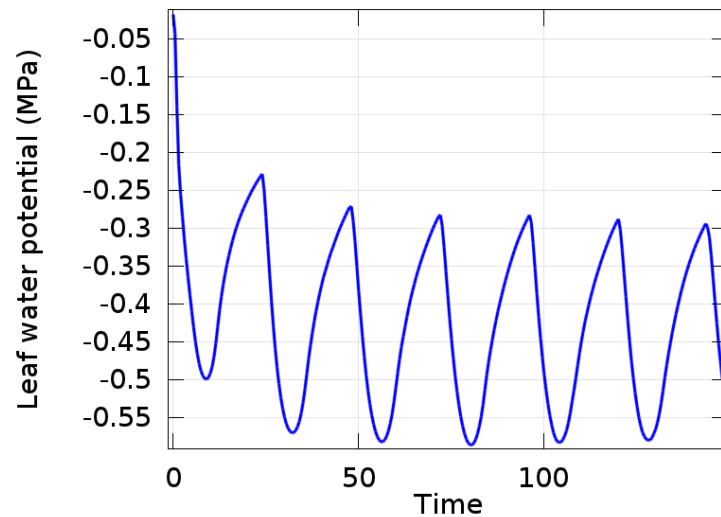


Pollutant in xylem

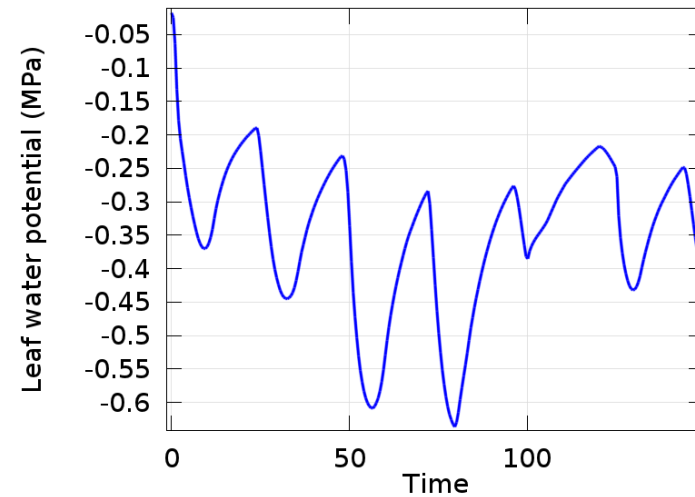


Variation of leaf water potential

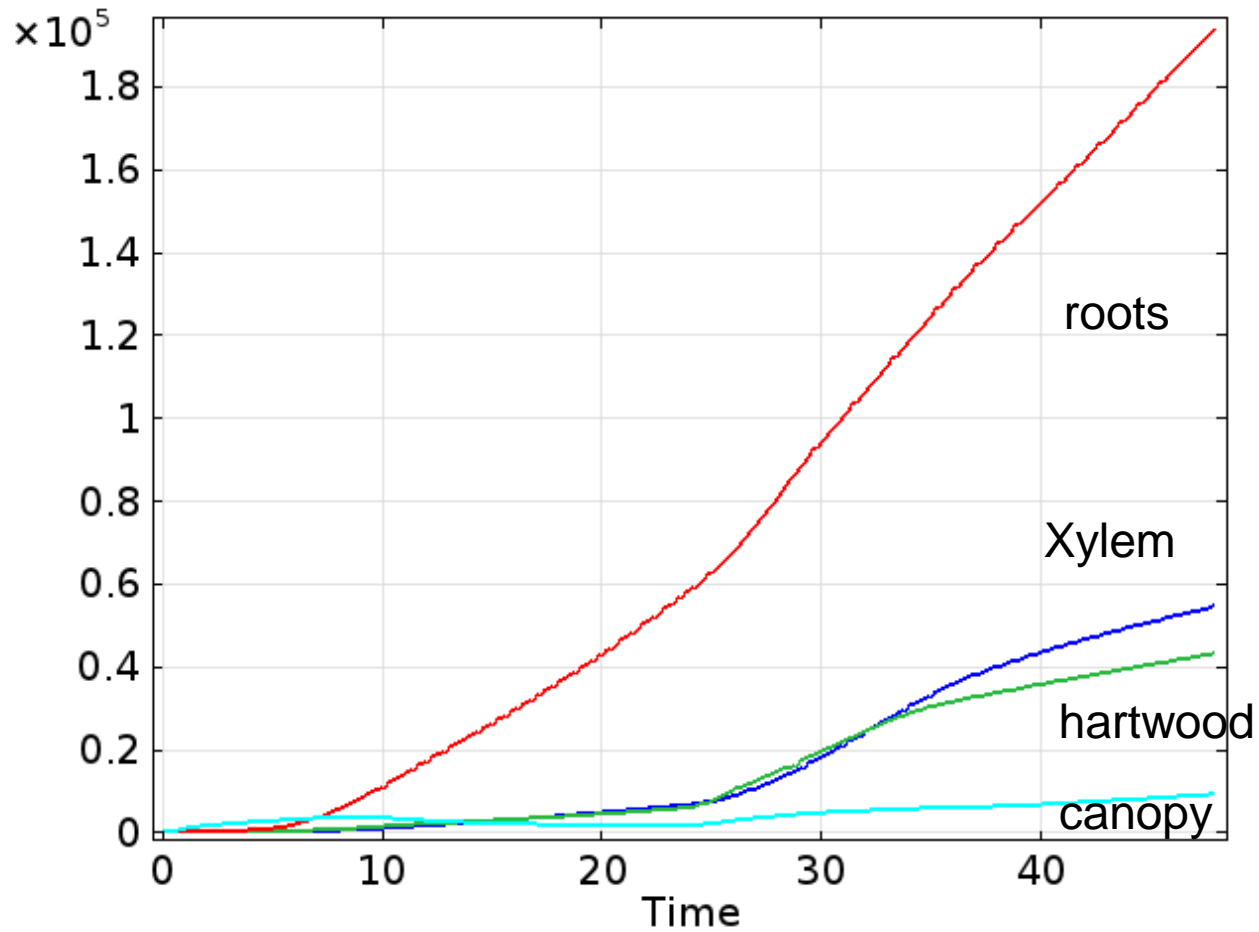
Uniform wind velocity



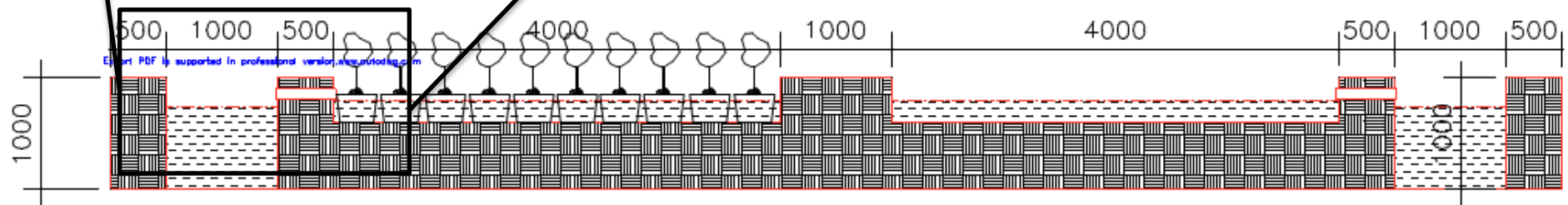
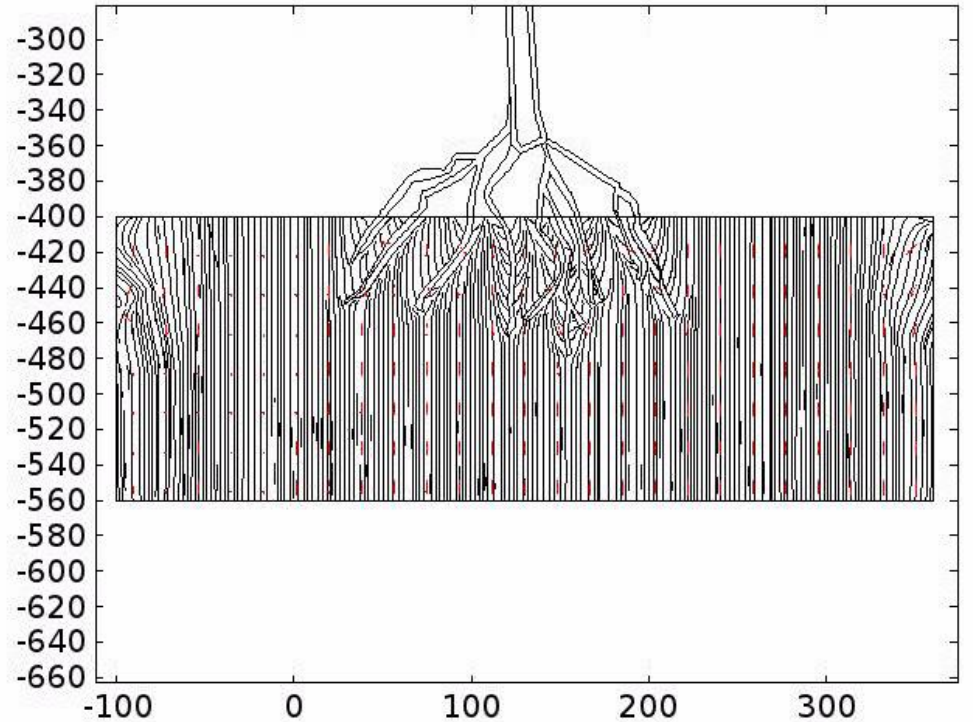
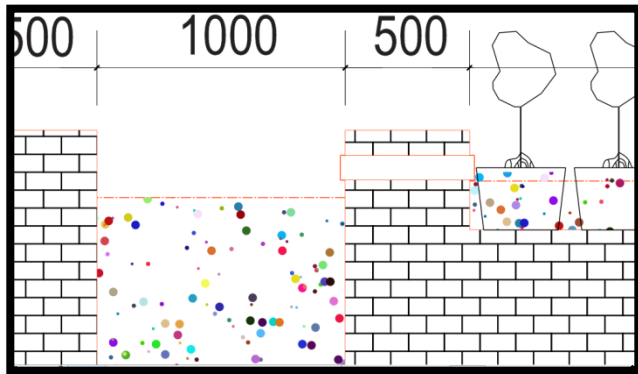
Varying wind velocity



Surface Integrals of concentrations



Experimental Design



A photograph of a mangrove forest. The foreground is dominated by a dense, intricate network of light-colored, woody roots (likely prop roots) extending from the ground. Several tree trunks of varying thicknesses are visible, some with smooth bark and others with more textured bark. The background is filled with lush green foliage, including leaves and branches, creating a dense canopy. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. A white text overlay with a black outline is centered in the middle of the image.

Thank you for your attention!

Conceptual Model

