

# How can we quantify and reduce the uncertainty of a watershed-scale pesticide transfer model? Application to the PESHMELBA model.

Emilie Rouzies (INRAE, France)

PhD supervised by Arthur Vidard (LJK/Inria, France) and Claire Lauvernet  
(Inrae, France)



# Introduction

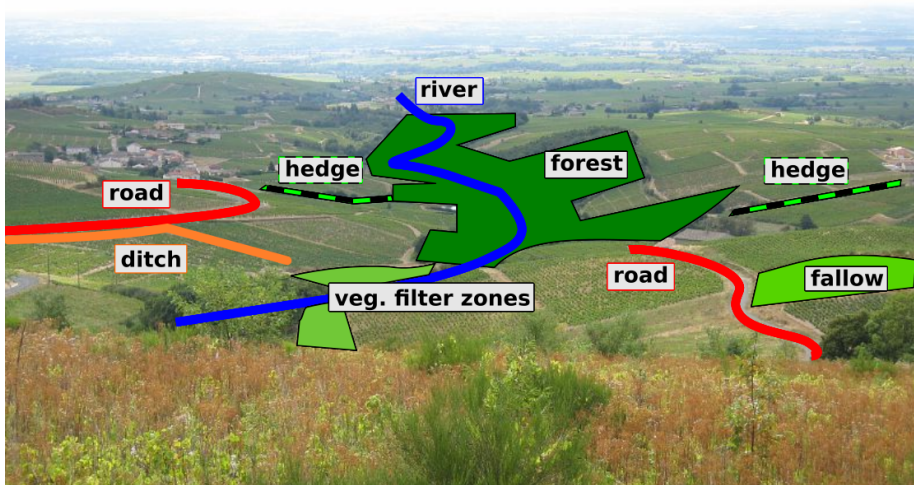
## Context



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# Introduction

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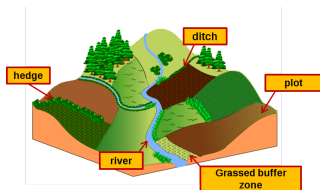


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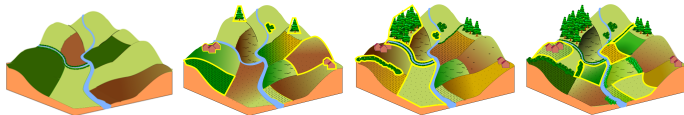
## The PESHMELBA model

Development of the **PESHMELBA** model (Rouzies et al. 2019) to simulate pesticide transfers and fate on small agricultural catchments

- ✓ Simulations of heterogenous landscapes composed of plots, vegetative filter zones, hedges, ditches and rivers



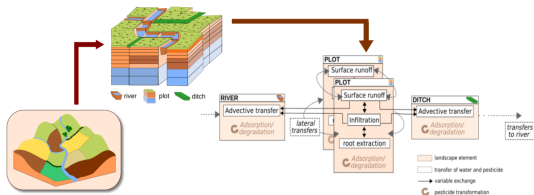
- ✓ Modular structure to explore landscape management scenarios



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## The PESHMELBA model

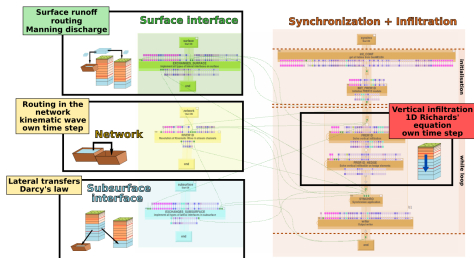
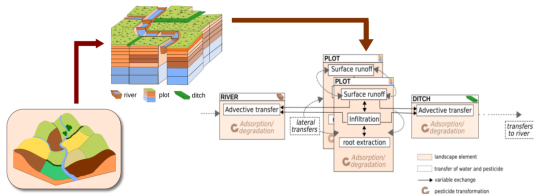
- ✓ Process-oriented, fully spatialized model
- ✓ Water transfers on surface and subsurface + pesticide advection, adsorption and degradation



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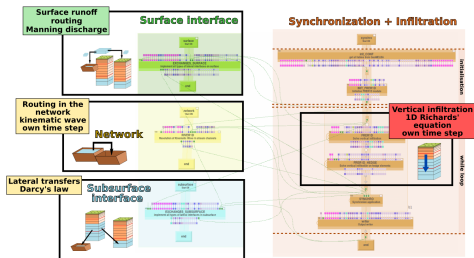
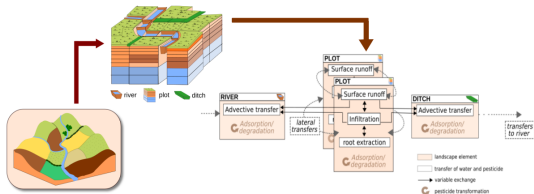
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- ✓ One module  $\equiv$  one process or ensemble of processes on a landscape element
- ✓ Coupling of modules within the OpenPALM coupler (Buis et al. 2006) turning the structure flexible



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⇒ **Complex structure may lead to additional difficulties to diagnose model behavior!**

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## PhD Objectives



*We have a dream that one day PESHMELBA will be used as a decision-making tool to set up management scenarios and to identify an optimal landscape configuration for pesticide transfer mitigation.*



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### PhD objectives

1. **Quantify**: performing a **sensitivity analysis** of the model
2. **Reduce**: performing **data assimilation** to integrate different sources of data: soil moisture images, ERT measurements and in-situ data of pesticide concentration

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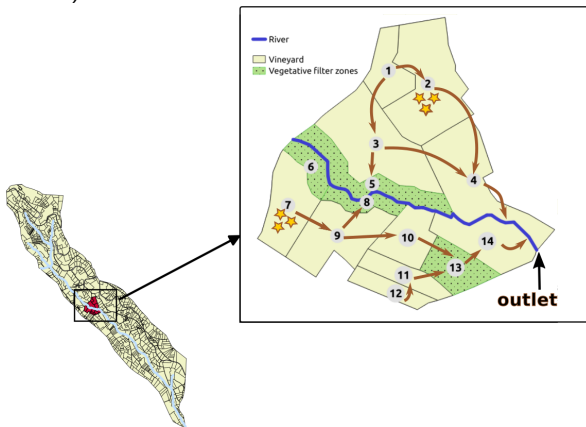
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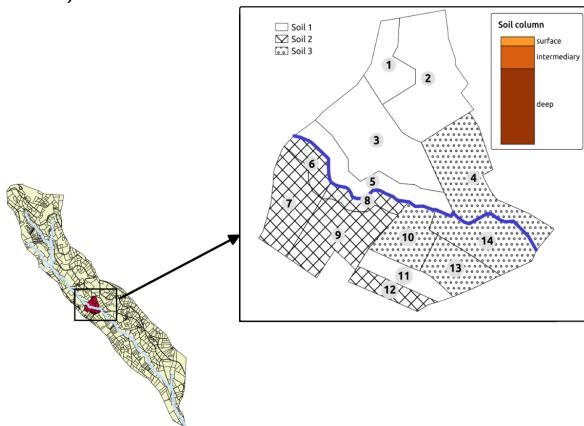
# Case study

**First attempt of GSA and DA in the PESHMELBA model:** let's keep it simple...but realistic! (types of landscape elements, number of parameters, climate conditions...)



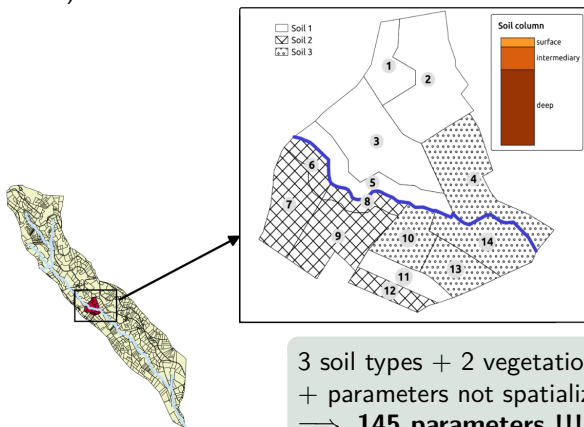
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**First attempt of GSA and DA in the PESHMELBA model:** let's keep it simple...but realistic! (types of landscape elements, number of parameters, climate conditions...)



3 soil types + 2 vegetation types + ...  
+ parameters not spatialized  
⇒ **145 parameters !!!**

⚠ parameters are assumed independent

# Uncertainty quantification

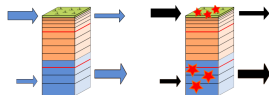
## Objectives

- ✓ Get insight into the (recent) model functioning

# Uncertainty quantification

## Objectives

- ✓ Get insight into the (recent) model functioning **GSA on integrated variables**



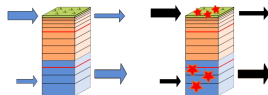
**Integrated variables:** cumulated water volume and pesticide mass transferred from each HU by subsurface lateral transfers and by surface runoff.



# Uncertainty quantification

## Objectives

- ✓ Get insight into the (recent) model functioning **GSA on integrated variables**
- ✓ Identify the parameters that may be estimated by data assimilation (most influential)

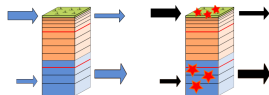


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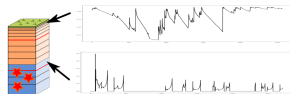
# Uncertainty quantification

## Objectives

- ✓ Get insight into the (recent) model functioning **GSA on integrated variables**
- ✓ Identify the parameters that may be estimated by data assimilation (most influential) **GSA on time series** ⇒ see next talk (Katarina)



**Integrated variables:** cumulated water volume and pesticide mass transferred from each HU by subsurface lateral transfers and by surface runoff.



**Target variables for DA:** surface moisture, mean moisture in first 100 cm, water table pest. conc., water flow and pest. conc. at the outlet

# Uncertainty quantification

## GSA methods

**Notations**  $Y = f(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k)$

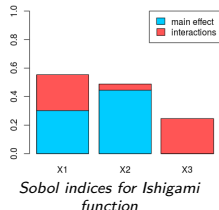
### ■ Variance-based Sobol method (Sobol 1993)

Decomposition of the output variance in conditional variances.

$S_i = \frac{V_i}{V(Y)}$  main effect of  $i^{th}$  parameter

$S_{ij} = \frac{V_{ij}}{V(Y)}$  interaction effect due to the  $i^{th}$  and the  $j^{th}$  factors

$S_{T_i} = S_i + \sum S_{ij} + \dots + \sum S_{1,\dots,k}$  overall output sensitivity



# Uncertainty quantification

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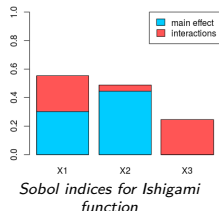
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Classical Sobol sampling > 75,000 model runs, impossible!

⇒ Sobol indices obtained with Polynomial Chaos Expansion surrogate model (Wiener 1938) using UQLab (Marelli and Sudret 2014).

# Uncertainty quantification

## GSA methods

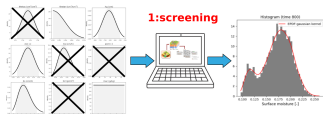
### ■ HSIC dependence measure (Da Veiga 2015)

Dependence measures: aim at quantifying, from a probabilistic point of view, the dependence between  $X_i$  and  $Y$  with the property that the measure equals zero if and only if  $X_i$  and  $Y$  are independent.

⇒ Chosen dependence measure: **Hilbert-Schmidt independence criterion (HSIC)** (Gretton et al. 2005): calculate the cross-correlation between any non-linear transformations of some input factor  $X_i$  and the output  $Y$ .

$$HSIC(X_i, Y)_{\mathcal{F}_i, \mathcal{G}} = \|C[\mathcal{G}\mathcal{F}_i]\|_{HS}^2$$

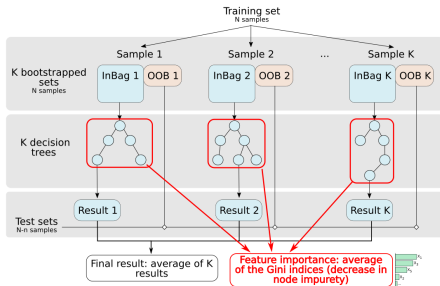
Also used as a **screening** method based on an independence test (De Lozzo and Marrel 2014)



# Uncertainty quantification

## GSA methods

### ■ Feature importance from Random Forest (Breiman 2001)

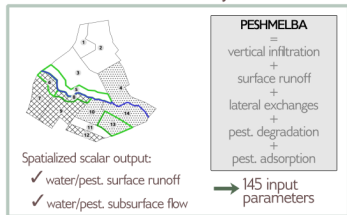


**Feature importance measures:** an input parameter  $X_i$  is considered important if when breaking the link between  $X_i$  and the output  $Y$  by permutation, the RF prediction error increases.

# Uncertainty quantification

## Workflow for scalar variables

### Case study



### 1 Screening (4,000-pts LHS)

Independence test based on HSIC measure

$$p\text{-val}_B = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \mathbb{1}_{\widehat{HSIC}^{(b)}(X_i, Y) > \widehat{HSIC}(X_i, Y)}$$

### 2 Ranking (1,000-pts LHS)



b. Aggregated indices: one GSA for the whole catchment

- ✓ Aggregated Sobol' indices (Gamboa 2014)

$$S_u = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^d \text{Var}[Y_j] S_{u,j}}{\sum_{j=1}^d \text{Var}[Y_j]}$$

- ✓ Aggregated HSIC indices
- ✓ Aggregated RF indices



a. Site indices: one GSA per HU

- ✓ Sobol' indices from PCE

$$S_{i_1, \dots, i_g} = \frac{V_{i_1, \dots, i_g}}{\text{Var}[Y]}$$

- ✓ HSIC dependence measures

$$\widehat{HSIC}(X_i, Y)_{\mathcal{F}_i, \mathcal{G}} = \|C[\mathcal{GF}_i]\|_{HS}^2$$

- ✓ RF feature importance measures



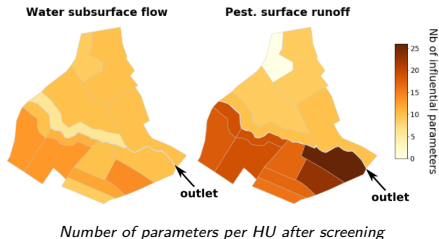
# Uncertainty quantification

## Results - screening (scalar variables)

### Screening: independence test based on HSIC measure (power of the test $\alpha=1\%$ )

After screening:

- Water lateral transfer: 42 parameters
- Pesticide surface runoff: 45 parameters



- ✓ High number of influential parameters remaining after screening: method not discriminant enough? Many physical processes at stake?
- ✓ Spatial heterogeneities consistent with heterogeneities in physical processes activation

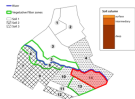


# Uncertainty quantification

## Results - ranking (scalar variables)



Ranking for cumulated pesticide mass transferred in surface runoff

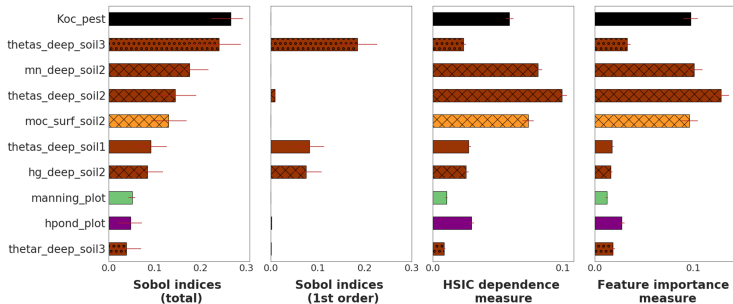


# Uncertainty quantification

## Results - ranking (scalar variables)



### Ranking for cumulated pesticide mass transferred in surface runoff



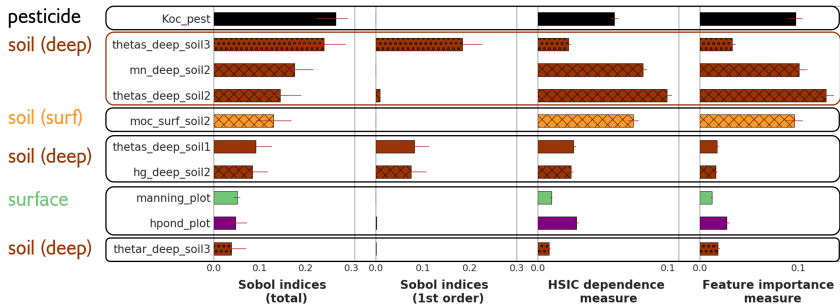
- ✓ Rankings from Sobol' **total** indices, HSIC and RF measures are mainly consistent
- ✓ Quantitative differences due to the contrasts in *Sensitivity* definition
- ✓ Uncertainty + on Sobol' indices: PCE estimation quality ?

# Uncertainty quantification

## Results - ranking (scalar variables)



### Ranking for cumulated pesticide mass transferred in surface runoff



- ✓ Influential parameters relate to various physical processes of transfers **and** transformation: adsorption, overland flow, vertical infiltration...
- ✓ This ranking reflects the interactions of physical processes in PESHMELBA

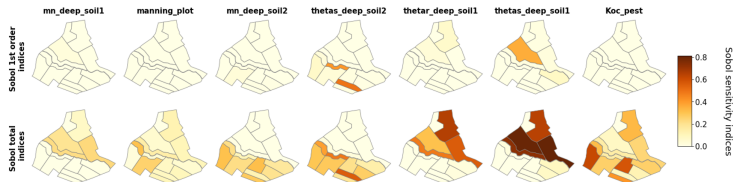
# Uncertainty quantification

## Results - landscape analysis (scalar variables)



Ranking for cumulated pesticide mass transferred in surface runoff

### Site sensitivity indices



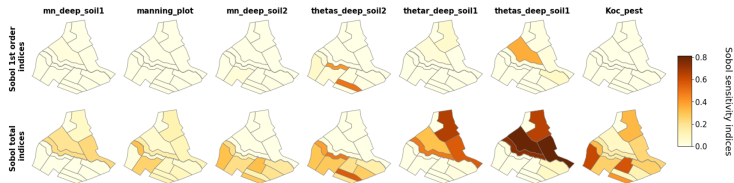
# Uncertainty quantification

## Results - landscape analysis (scalar variables)



Ranking for cumulated pesticide mass transferred in surface runoff

### Site sensitivity indices



✓ Detailed insights into the model sensitivity but computationally costly

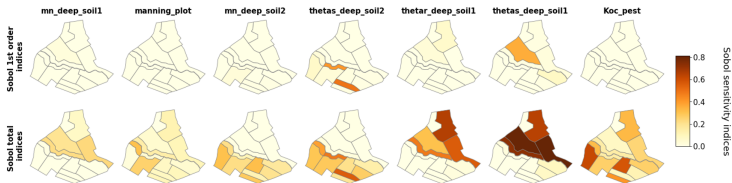
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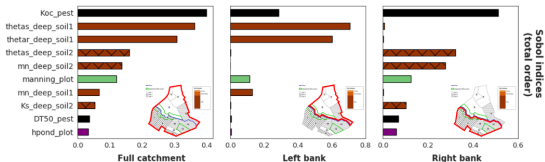
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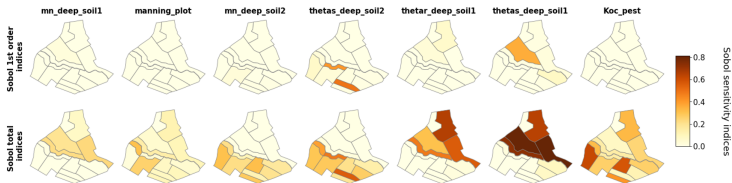
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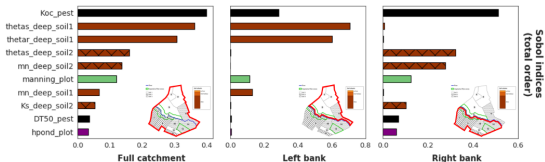
Ranking for cumulated pesticide mass transferred in surface runoff

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### Aggregated sensitivity indices



- ✓ Summary of overall sensitivity
- ✓ Hillslope scale used as an intermediary scale to maintain physical interpretation of aggregated indices

# Uncertainty quantification

## Conclusion

- Rankings mainly consistent for hydro. variables
- Differences for more complex pest. variables due to differences in “*sensitivity*” definitions
- Sobol aggregated indices at intermediary scale provide valuable information about the physics + overall summary on sensitivity
- We choose Sobol indices as they capture interactions but HSIC and RF should not be discarded for “simple” variables (many advantages).
- How could we transpose the methodology to real catchments ? ⇒ New challenges: spatialized, dependent input parameters ? choice of a relevant intermediary scale to guarantee physical interpretability of results ?