

Urban Hydrology class: stochastic modelling approaches



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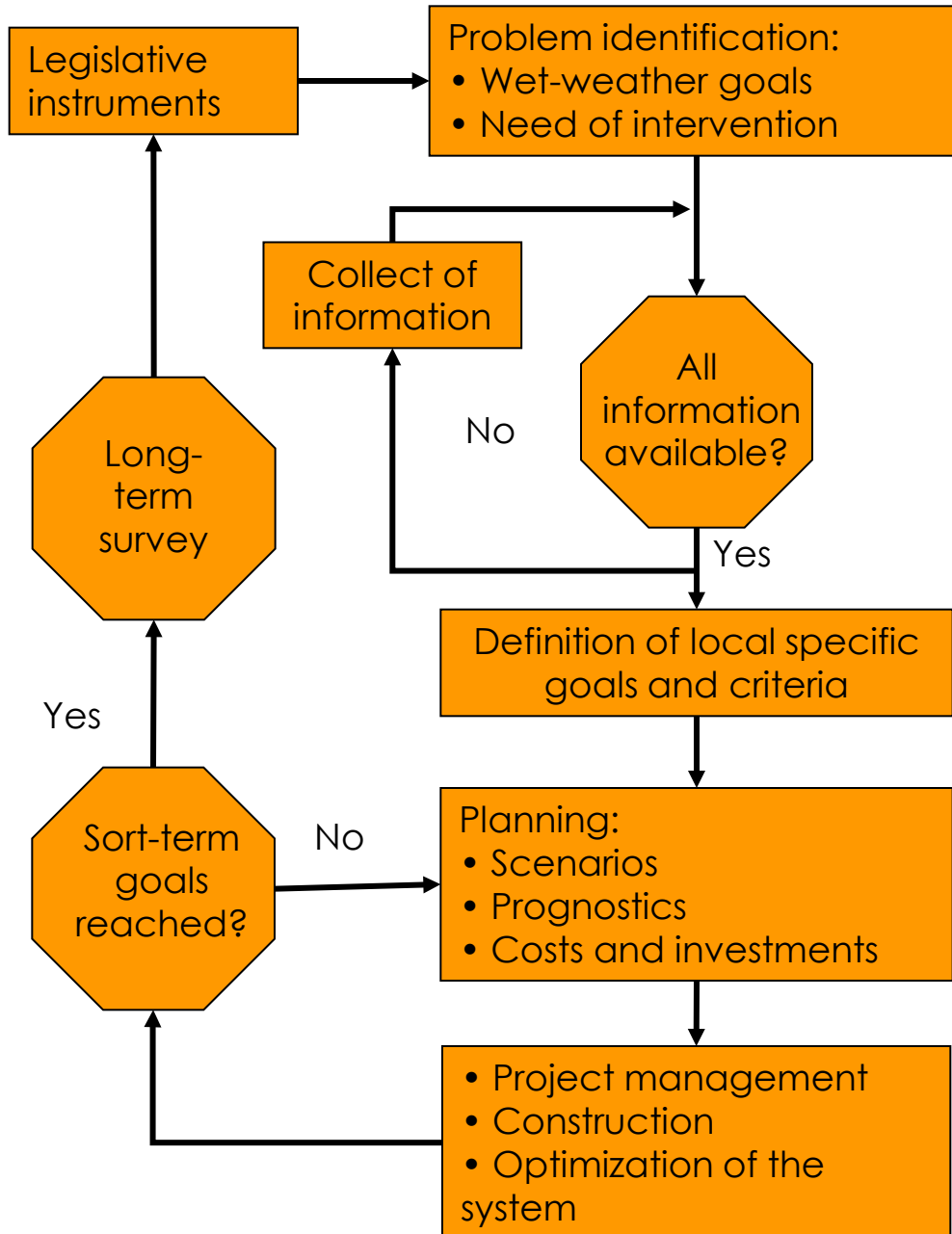


Date	Cours n°	Description	Exercices
20.02.2025	1	Introduction	Exercice 1
27.02.2025	2	Legislative aspects	Exercice 2
06.03.2025	3	Planning tools : PGEE	-
13.03.2025	4	Planning tools : PREE	Exercice 3
20.03.2025	5	Field trip (Lausanne wastewater system)	-
27.03.2025	6	Modeling tools	Exercice 4
03.04.2025	7	Deterministic modeling (Routing system 3)	Exercice 5
10.04.2025	8	Stochastic modeling (REBEKA)	Exercice 6
17.04.2025	9	Financial aspects	Exercice 7
24.04.2025		Easter	
01.05.2025	10	Technical solutions	-
08.05.2025	11	AG VSA Fribourg	-
15.05.2025	12	Field investigation (immission)	Exercice 8
22.05.2025	13	Knowledge control (mandatory)	
29.05.2025		Ascension Day	

Goals of the course



- To know how to model urban hydrological processes using a stochastic model
- Example of application: The REBEKA II Model



Immission strategy:
the goal is to limit
the impacts on the
environment.

An integrated
approach is
therefore needed !



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- Do we have a problem ?
- Why a probabilistic approach ?
- How to analyse the results ?
- Sensitivity analysis
- Technical solutions
- Model validation
- Exercise with REBEKA

Do we have a problem?



Projet		Date de l'examen / base		Matrice d'évaluation
Cours d'eau		Section / site		

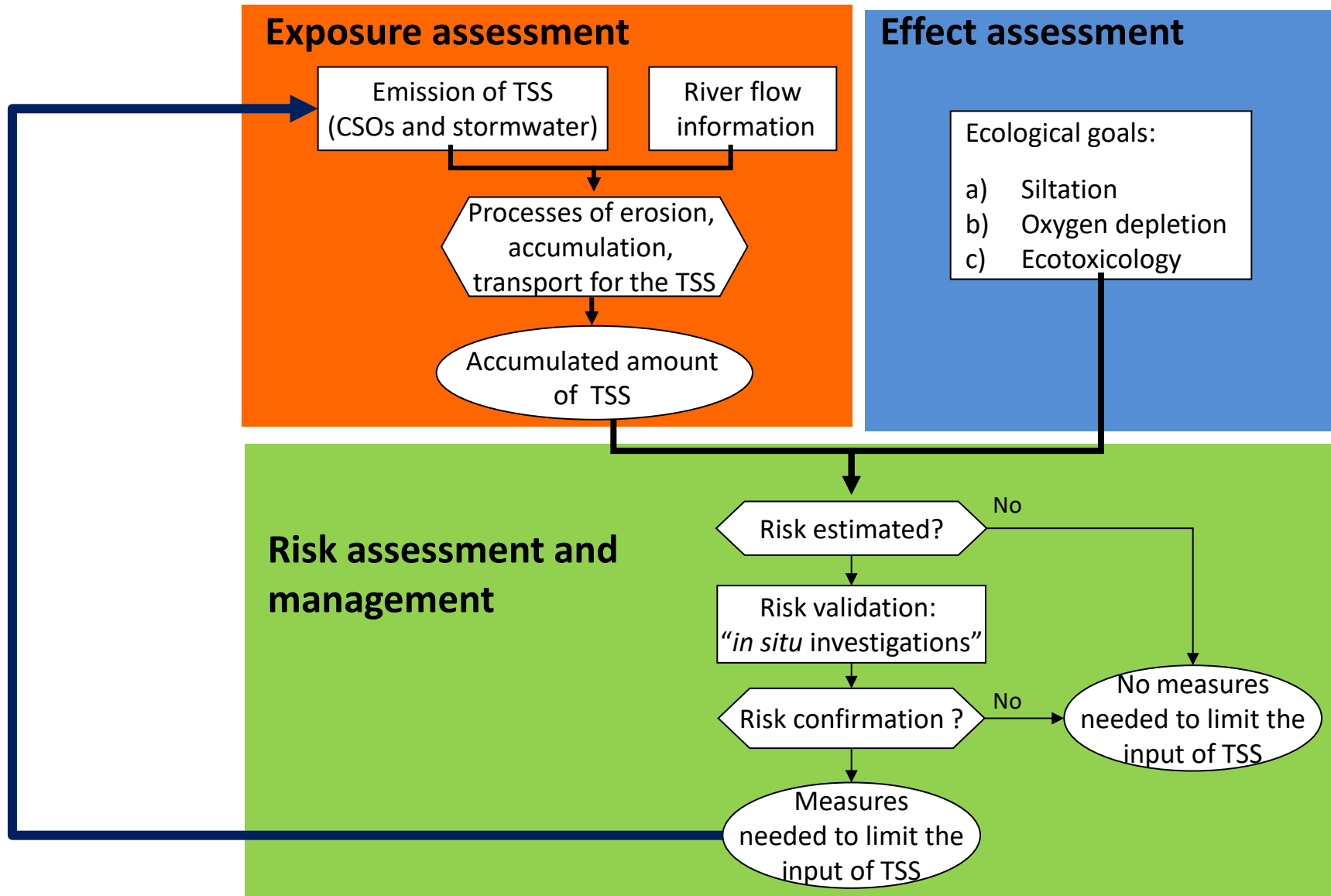
Hydrologie	Estimation (E)	Calcul (C)						
Surface BV (km ²)	Longueur de la section (km)	Largeur du cours d'eau (m)	Profondeur d'eau moy. (m)	Débit estimé (l/s)	Q347 (étiage) (l/s)	Altitude max.	Altitude min.	Pente moyenne (%)
Remarques								

Ecomorphologie	Classification moyenne	meilleure	pire	Variabilité en largeur (moy.)	Végétation riveraine	Déficit principal
Section considérée						
Section en amont						
Remarques						

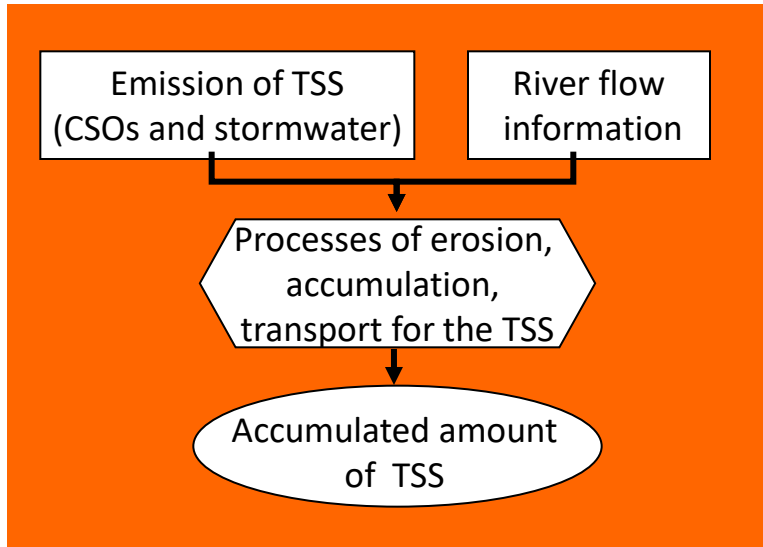
Indications pour les déversements des eaux usées (installations)						
Désignation		Volume déversé (m ³ /an)		Fréquence (nombre/an)		Durée (h/an)
Remarques						

Aspect général		Hygiène		Physique		Chimie				Matières en suspension				Biologie			
Matières grossières	Autres éléments	Baignade, jeux	Eau potable	Impacts hydraulique	Température	NH ₃	Oxygène	Substances nutritives	Autres substances, p.ex micropolluants	Colmatage	Turbidité	Sédiment toxique	Fond en anaérobiose	Diatomée	Couverture végétale	Invertébrés aquatiques	Poissons
Aspect général: trace de papiers, de déchets...																	

Do we have a problem?



Do we have a problem?



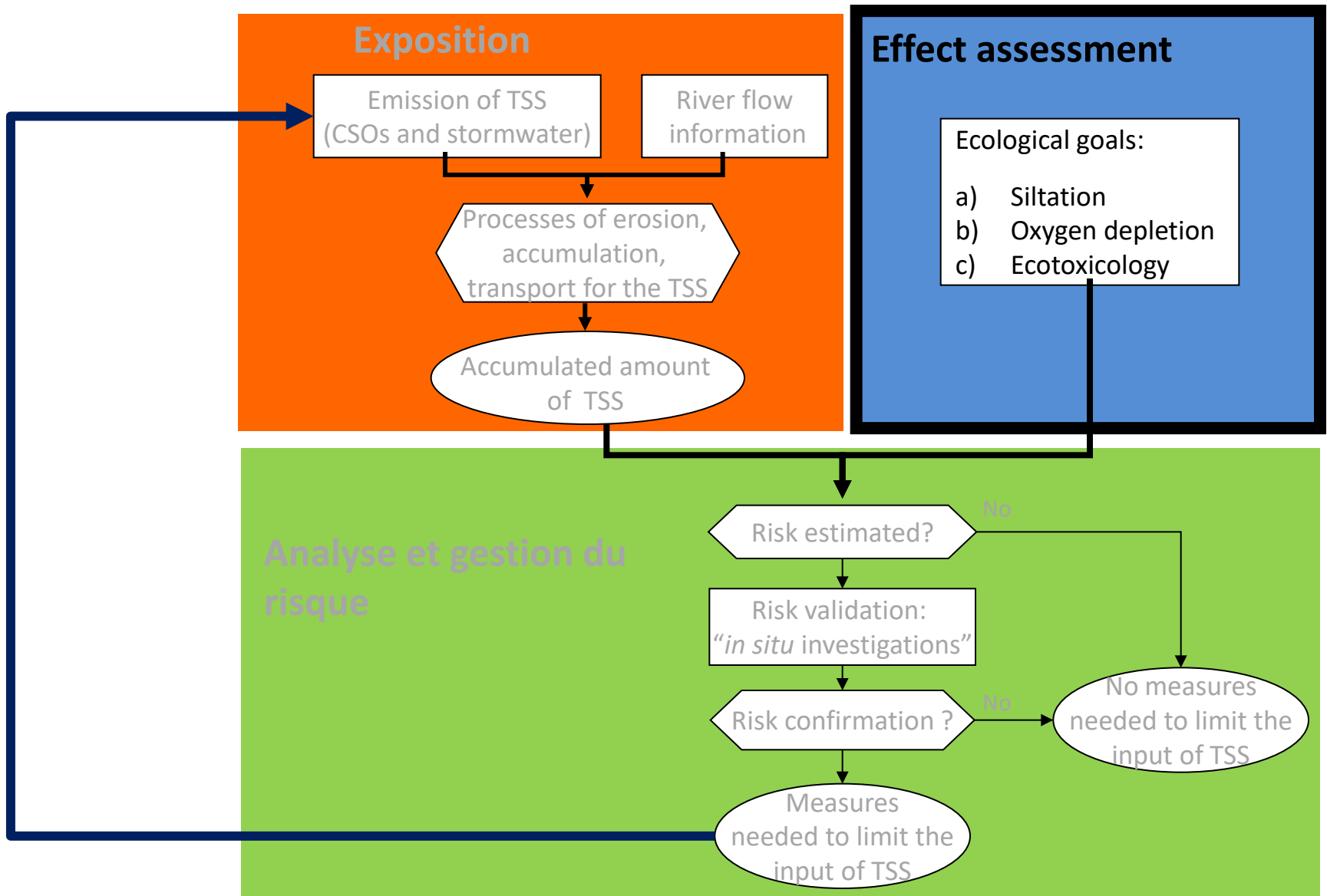
Modeling with REBEKA II software:

- Urban stormwater discharge
- Flow in the river
- Input of ammonium and TSS in receiving waters
- Deposition and erosion of sediments in the river
- pH and temperature fluctuation (ammonia toxicity)
- ...



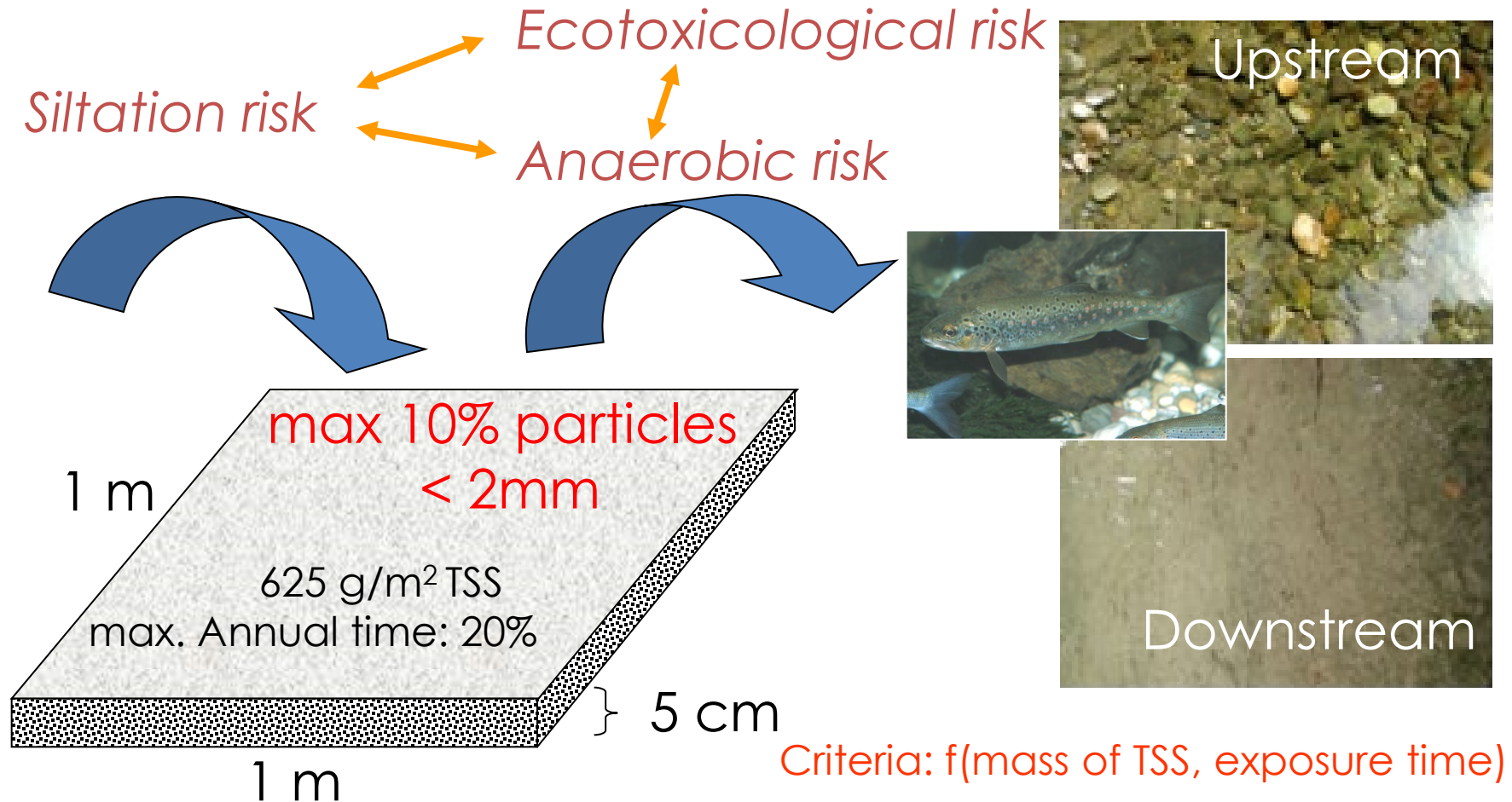
Legislation course

Do we have a problem?



Do we have a problem?

Effect assessment for sediment

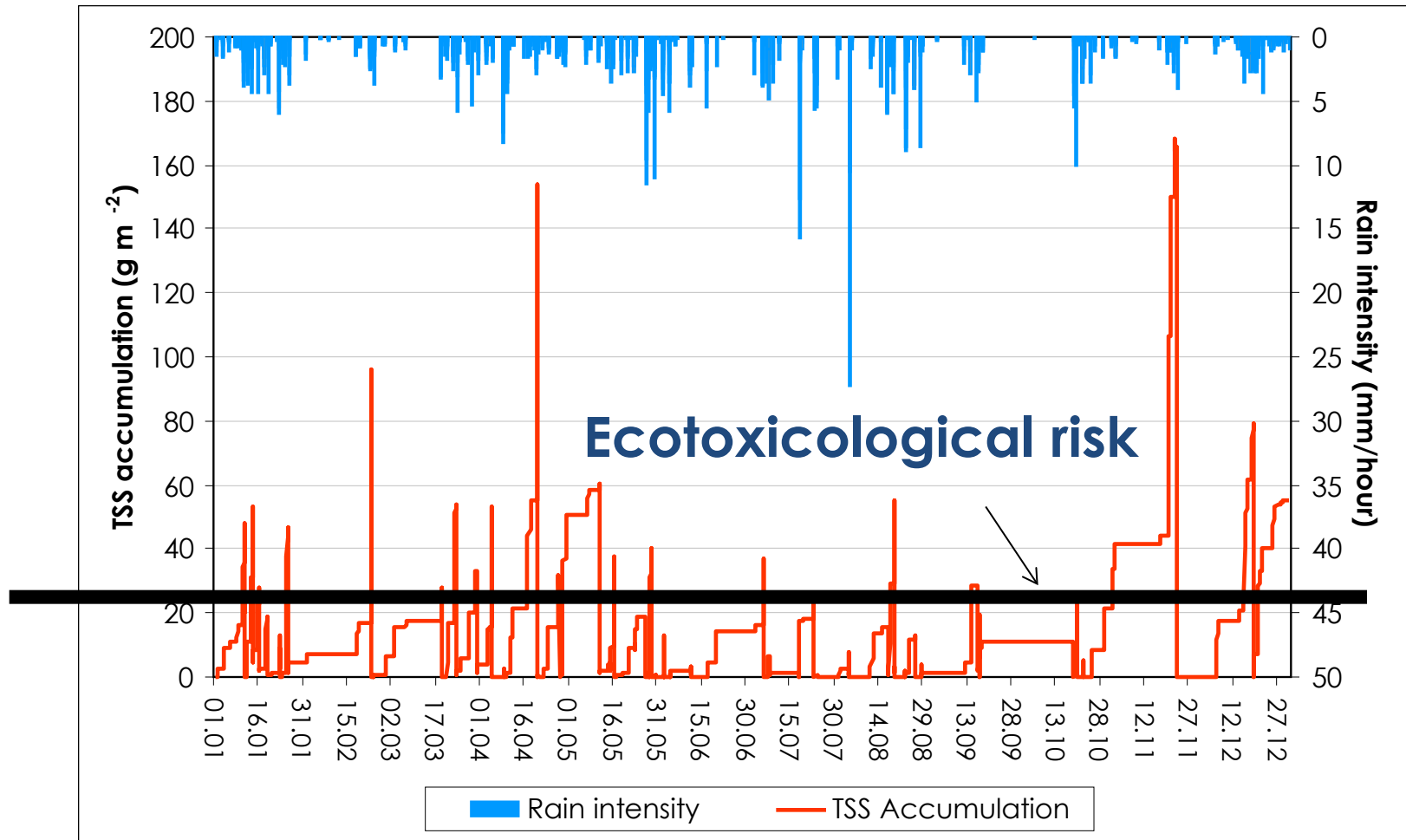


EIFAC: European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (1964)
Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, CCME (1995)

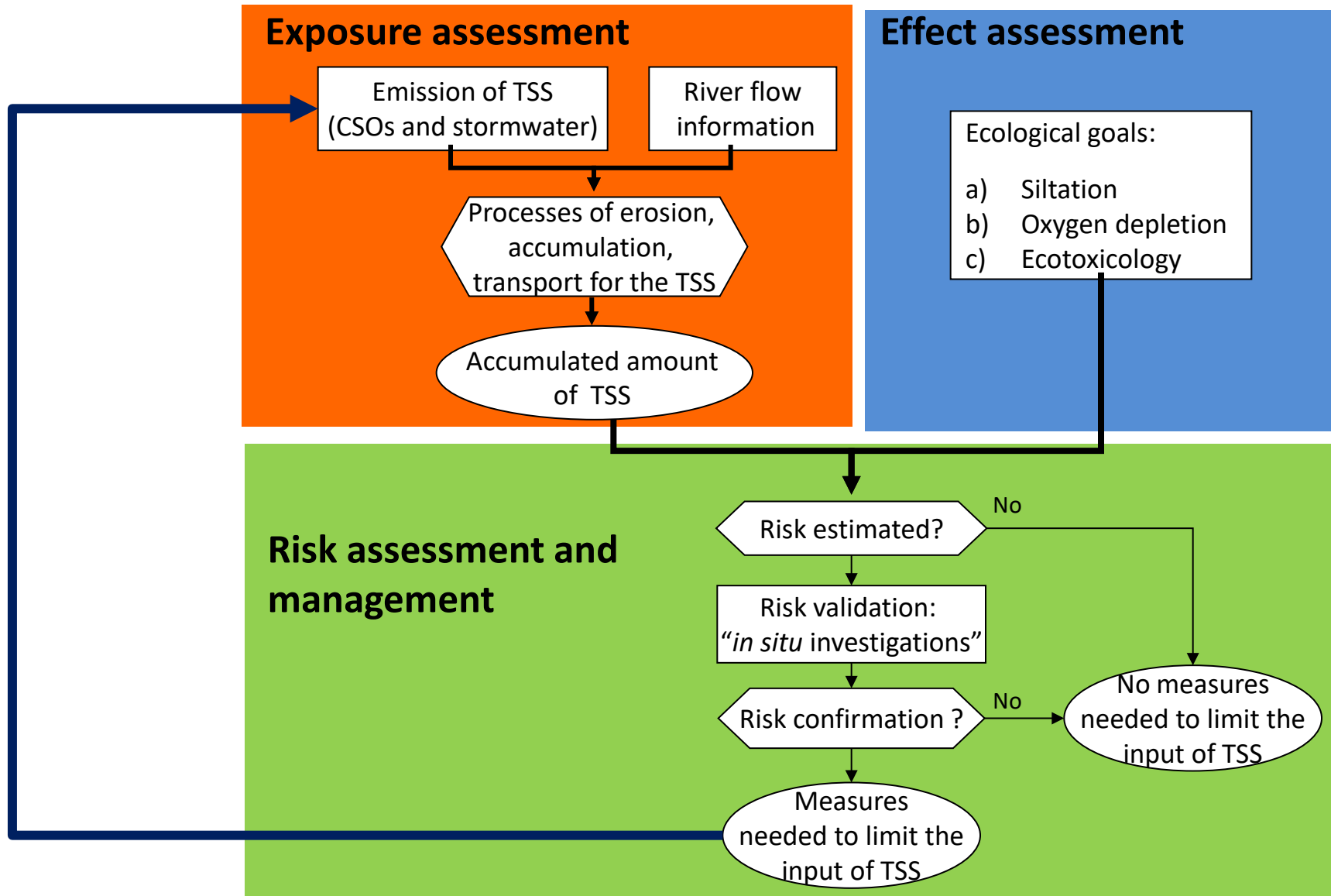
Do we have a problem?



Effect assessment for sediment



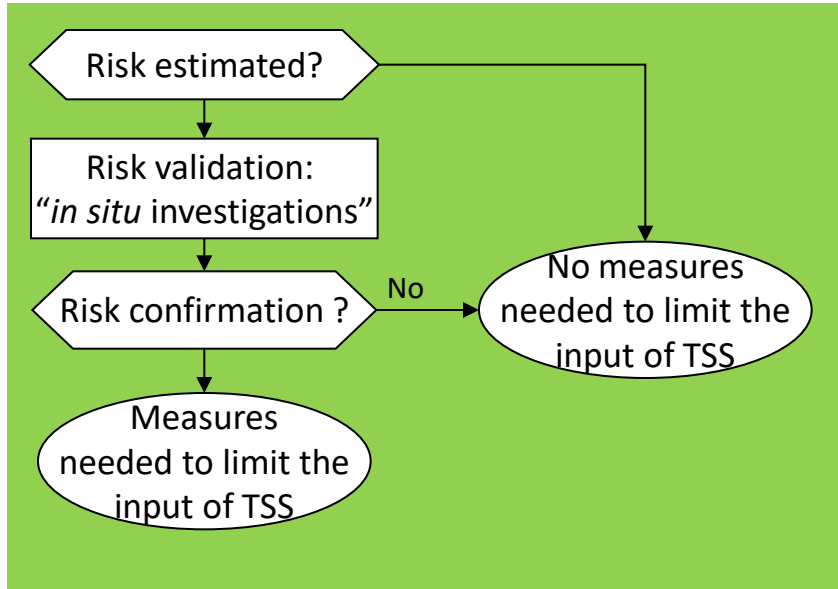
Do we have a problem?



Do we have a problem?



Risk assessment and management

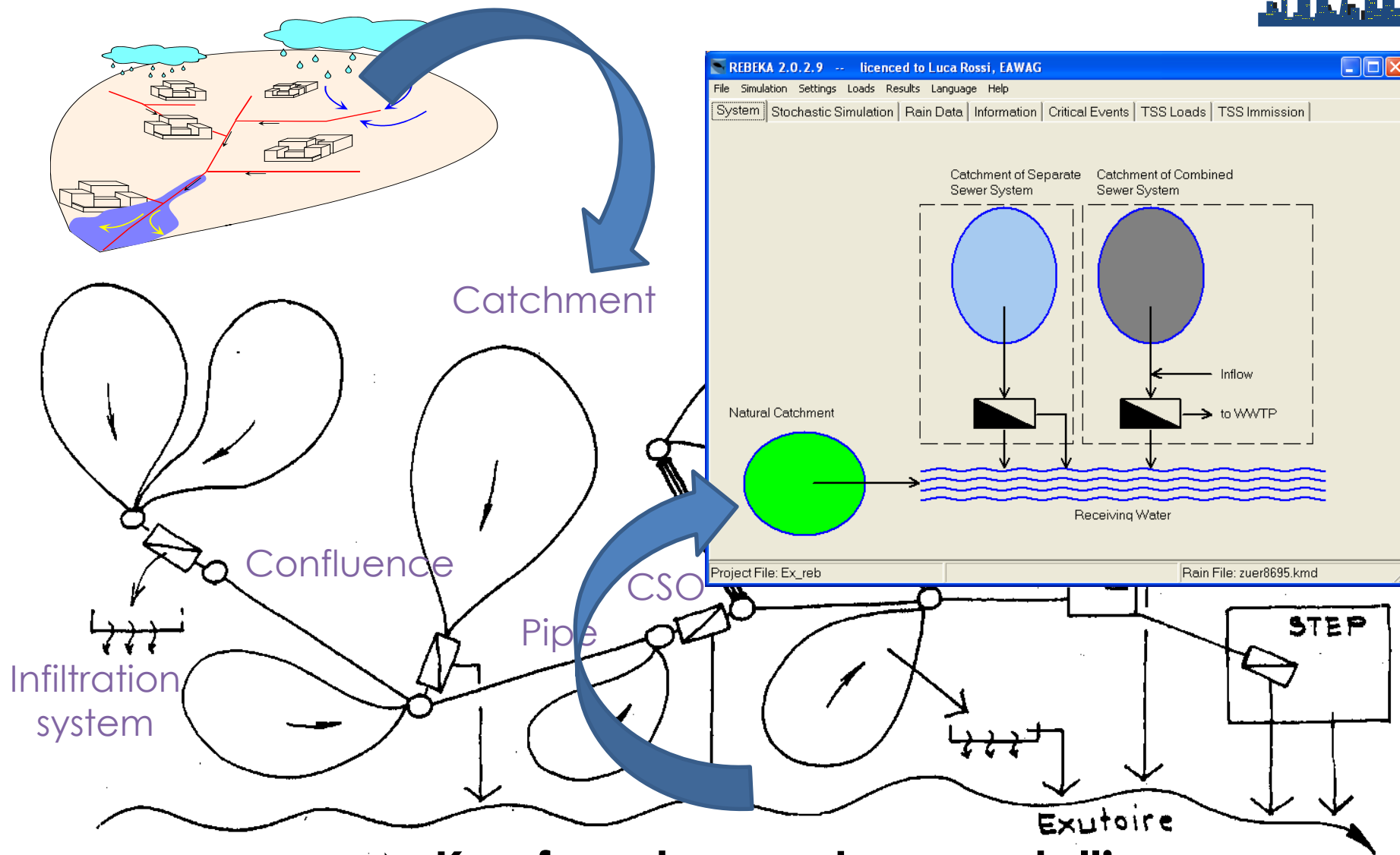


Sampling of sediments

- Chemical analysis
- Exotoxicological analysis

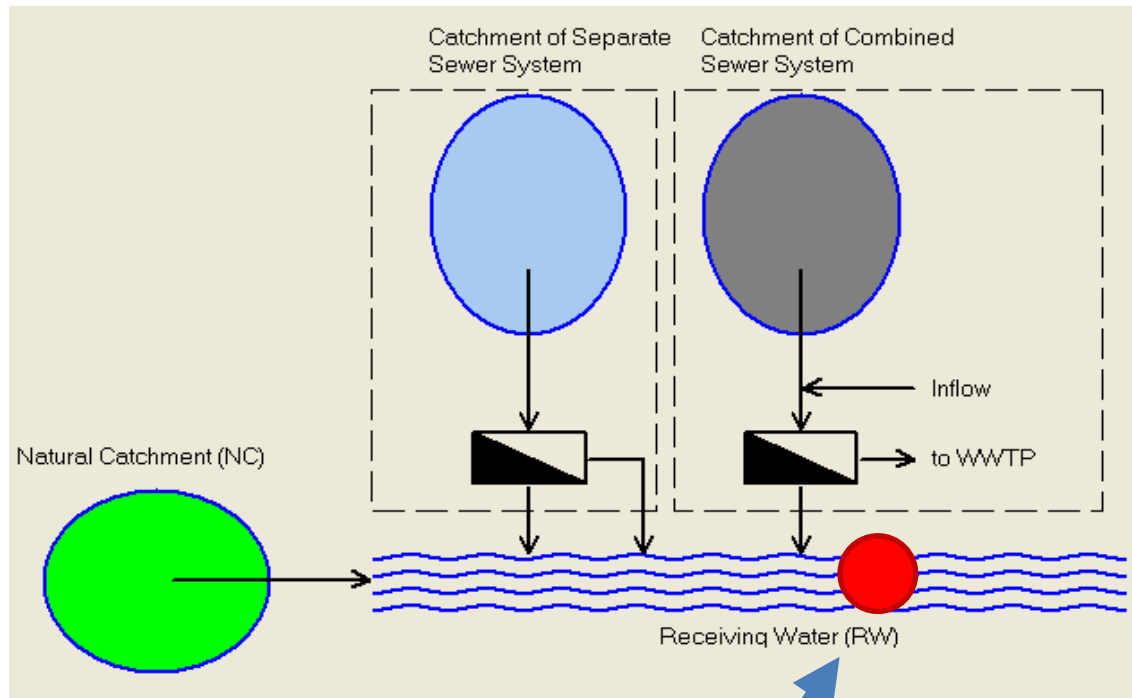
Biological survey

Conceptualization of the model



Key for urban system modelling = discretization of the system in single units

Conceptualization of the model



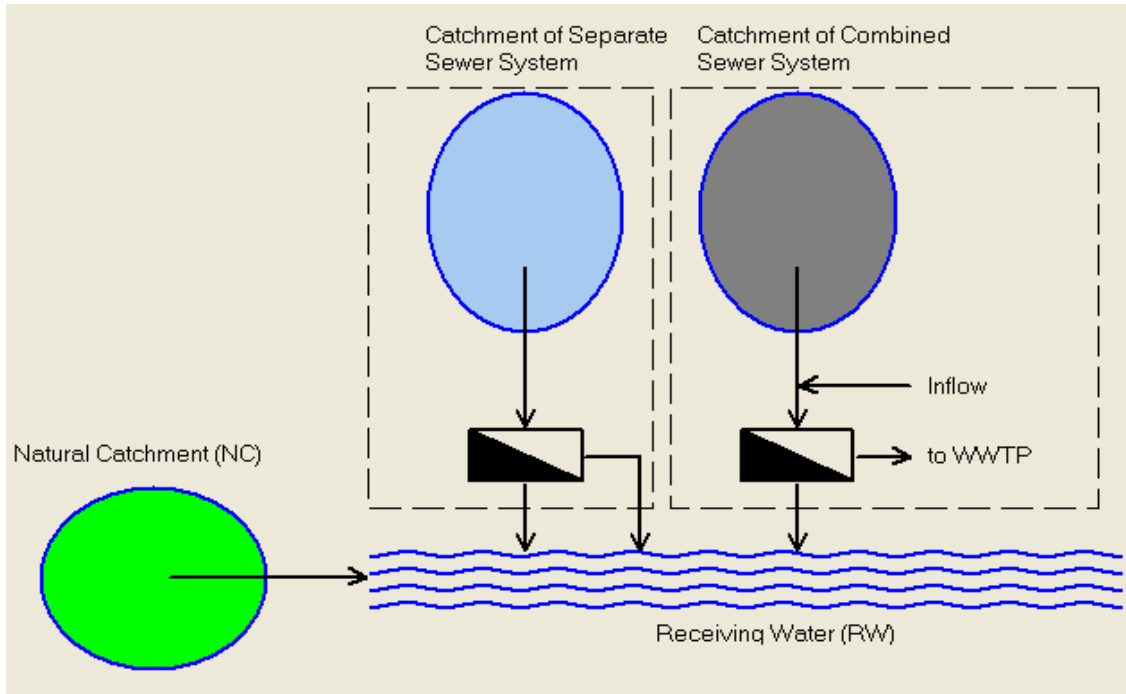
www.rebeka.ch

Goal: to estimate a **probability of impacts** in the receiving waters

Data needed for the model



Ca. 40 parameters, 15 « standard values »



Natural Catchment (NC)

Contributing Area [ha]
Initial Loss [mm]
Reservoir Time Constant [min]

Separate Sewer System (SSS)

Contributing Area [ha]
Initial Loss [mm]
Reservoir Time Constant [min]
Stormwater Tank Volume [m^3]
Outflow [l/s]
First Flush Coefficient b [-]
Efficiency Factor [-]
TSS Conc. in Rainw. [mg/l]

Combined Sewer System (CSS)

Contributing Area [ha]
Initial Loss [mm]
Reservoir Time Constant [min]
Inhabitants [PE]
Dry Weather Flow [l/(PE*d)]
Outflow to WWTP [l/s]
CSO Tank Volume [m^3]
NH₄-N in Rainwater [mg/l]
pH in Wastewater [-]
NH₄-N Load [g/(PE*d)]
Alkalinity in Wastew. [mmol/l]
TSS Conc. in Wastewater [mg/l]
First Flush Coefficient b [-]
Sediment Fraction [-]
CSO Efficiency Factor [-]

Receiving Water (RW)

Baseflow Q347 [m^3/s]
Channel Slope [-]
Channel Width [m]
Side Slope $x:1$ (H:V) [-]
Strickler Coefficient [$m^{(1/3)}/s$]
Average Grain Size [m]
90% Grain Size [m]
NH₄-N Concentration [mg/l]
pH Value [-]
Alkalinity [mmol/l]
Min. Temp. (February) [°C]
Max. Temp. (August) [°C]
TSS Settling Velocity [cm/s]
Erosion Coefficient [$g/m^2/s$]
Degradation Rate of org. Matter [1/d]
Critical Shear Stress [N/m^2]
gO₂/gTSS from combined system [-]
gO₂/gTSS from separate system [-]

Data needed for the model



Système séparatif (SS)

Système MES

Surface effective [ha] 6.9

Perte initiale [mm] 1

Constante de stockage [min] 10

Volume du bassin [m3] 0

☐ Bassin in-line

☒ Bassin off-line

☐ Système de stockage

☒ Système de traitement

Débit de sortie du bassin [l/s] 0

OK

Annuler

Aide

Système unitaire (SU)

Système NH3 MES

Surface effective [ha] 6.7

Perte initiale [mm] 1

Constante de stockage [min] 20

Habitants [EGW] 350

Débit de temps sec [l/(EGW*d)] 250

Volume du bassin [m3] 500

☐ Stockage in-line

☒ Stockage off-line

☐ Système de stockage

☒ Système de traitement

Débit vers STEP [l/s] 26

Affluent Q [l/s] 0

☒ Affluent continu

☐ Affluent seulement pendant la pluie

OK

Annuler

Aide

Bassin versant naturel (BVN)

Surface effective [ha] 12.52

Perte initial [mm] 5

Constante de stockage [min] 196

OK

Annuler

Milieu récepteur (MR)

Système Hydraulique NH3 MES

Débit de base [m3/s] 0.012

OK

Annuler

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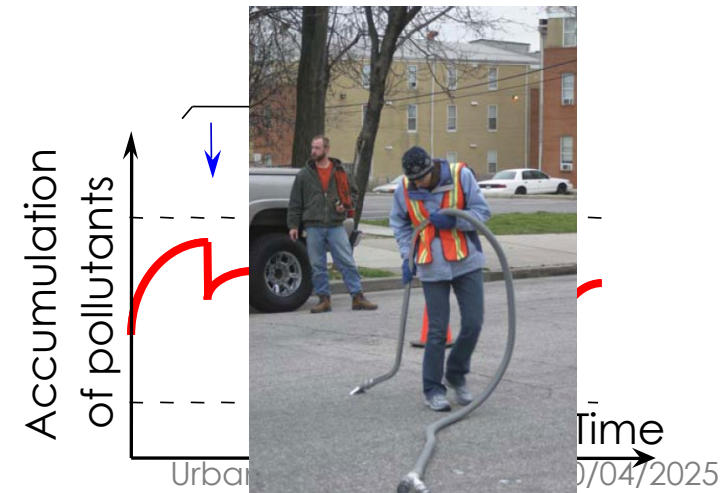
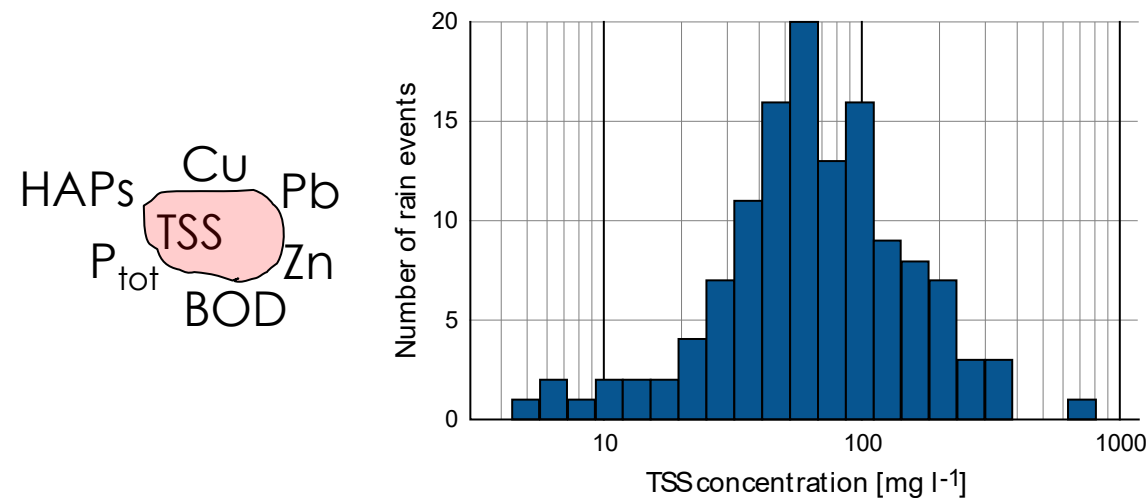
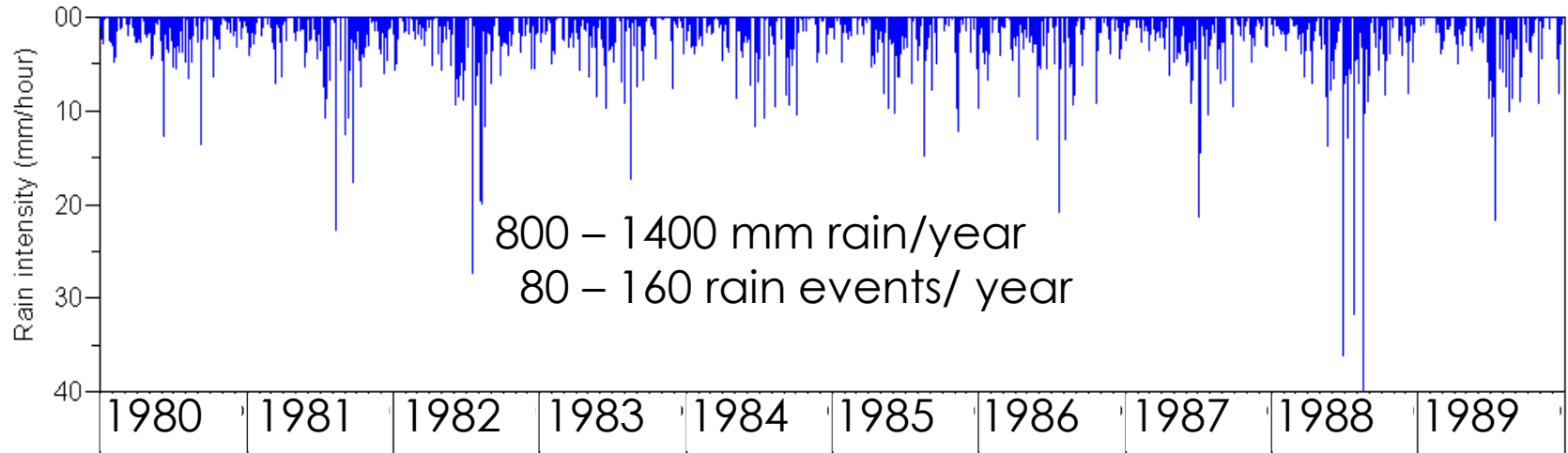


- Do we have a problem ?
- **Why a probabilistic approach ?**
- How to analyse the results ?
- Sensitivity analysis
- Technical solutions
- Model validation
- Exercise with REBEKA : Dr R. Fankhauser

Why a *probabilistic* risk assessment ?



- “Natural” variability in rain intensity and volume
- Uncertainties and variability in the data
- Uncertainties in describing processes



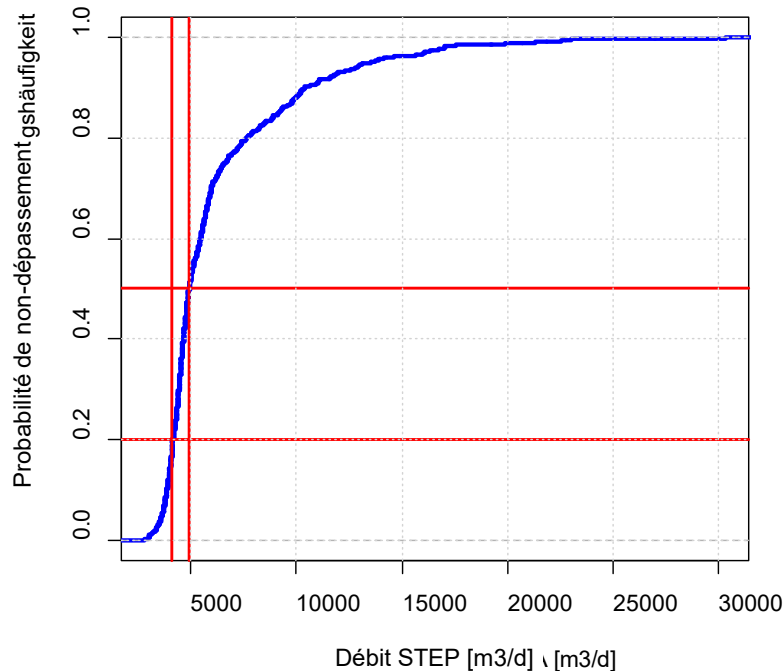
Probabilistic risk assessment



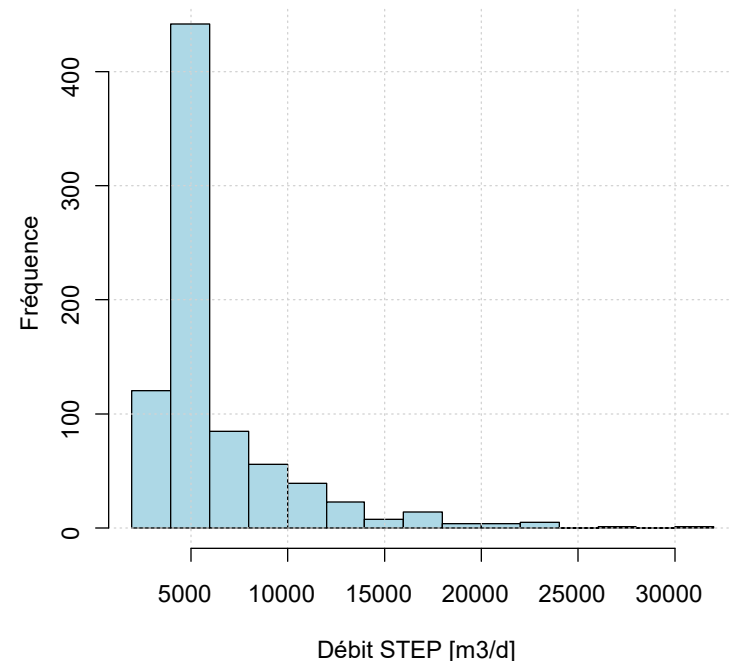
Representation of frequency or probability distributions

- WWTP example: representation of average daily flows

Probability of no-exceedance



Histogram



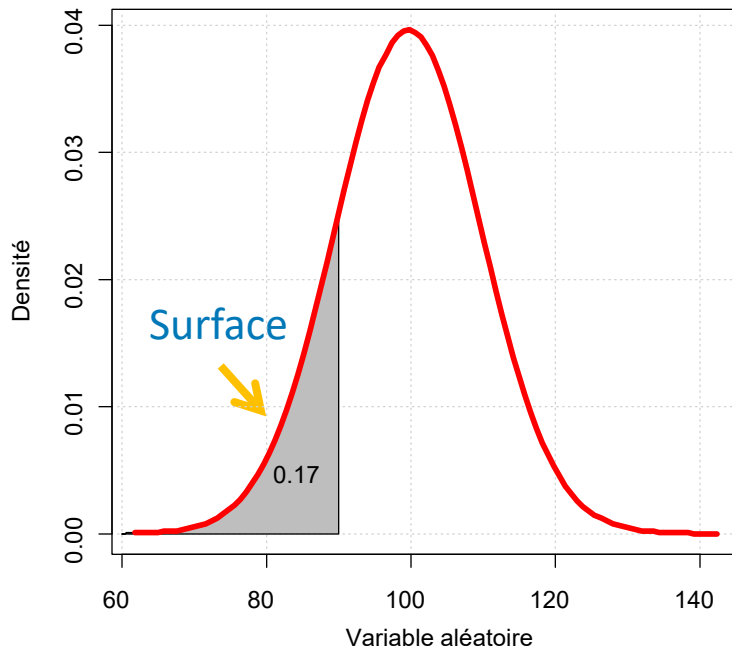
Probabilistic risk assessment



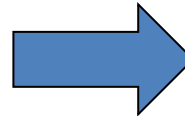
Probability distribution

- Integration on probability density
- Probability that a data is below a certain value → probability of no-exceedance – resp. probability

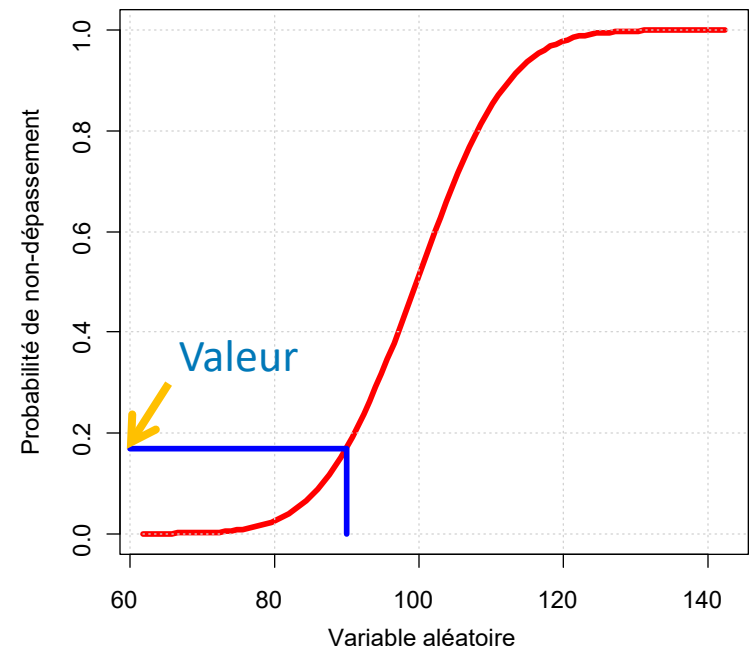
Exemple de loi normale
Densité de probabilité



probabilité de non dépassement



Exemple de loi normale
Distribution des probabilités



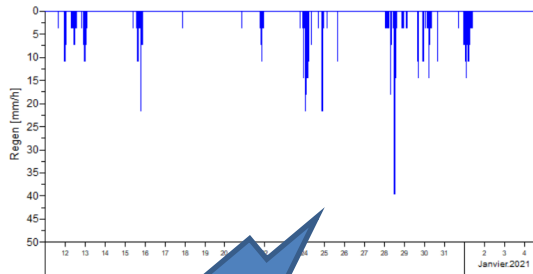
**Probabilité de respecter
un critère spécifique**

Probabilistic risk assessment



Example 1: Ideal "perfect" model

Stress factor (i.e. precipitations)



Système réel

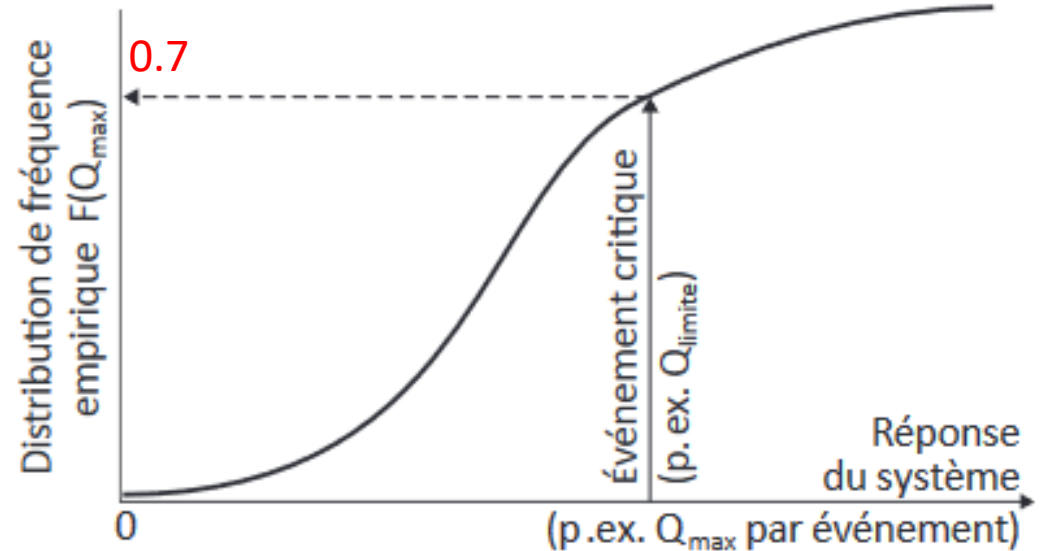


Fig. S7

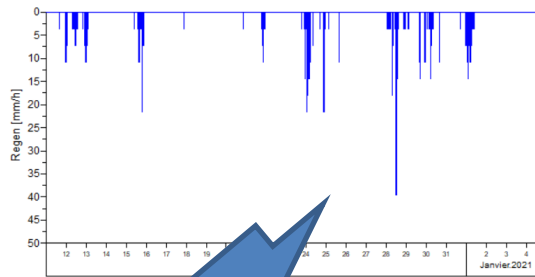
Frequency of critical events = $1 - 0.7 = 0.3$

Probabilistic risk assessment



Example 2: deterministic modelling

Stress factor (i.e. precipitations)



Modèle déterministe

• Variabilité

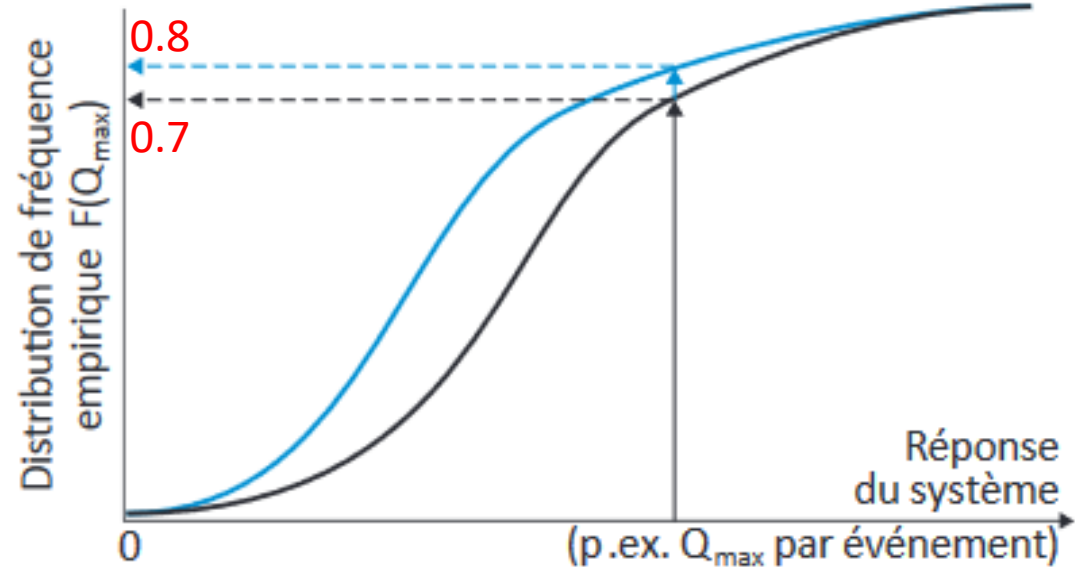


Fig. S7

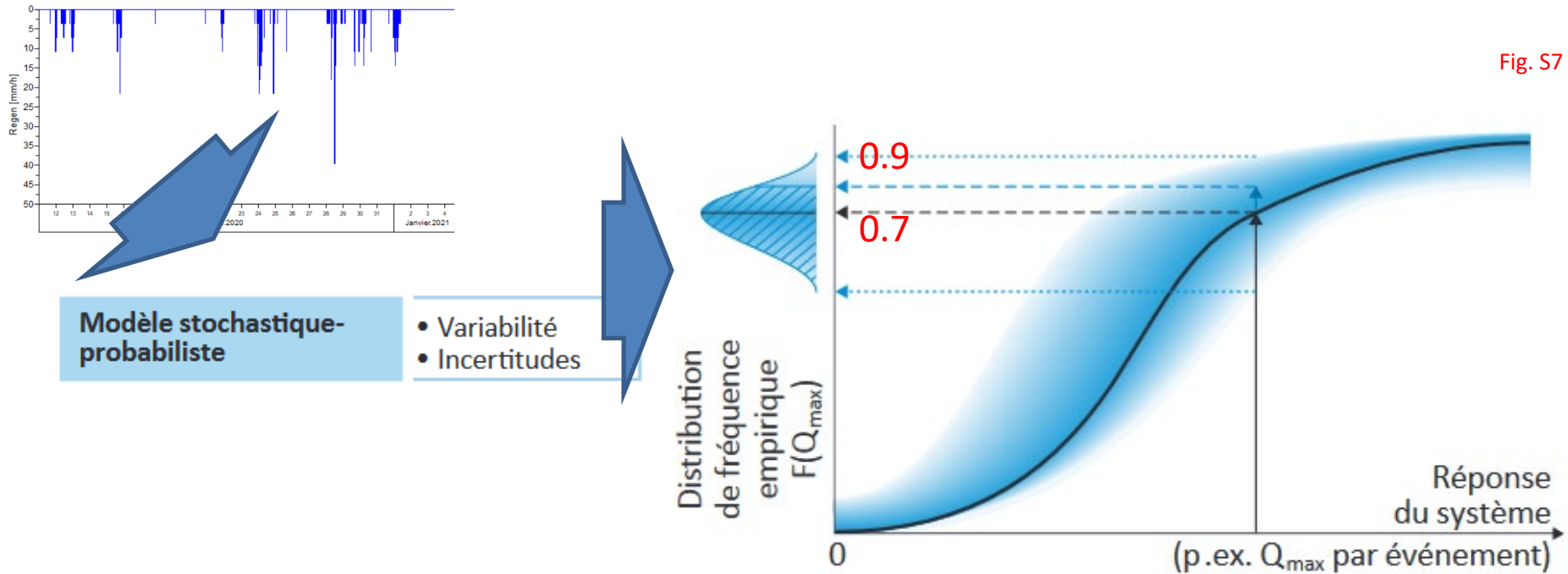
Fréquence des événements critiques = $1 - 0.8 = 0.2$

Probabilistic risk assessment



Example 3: Stochastic-probabilistic model (with variability and uncertainties)

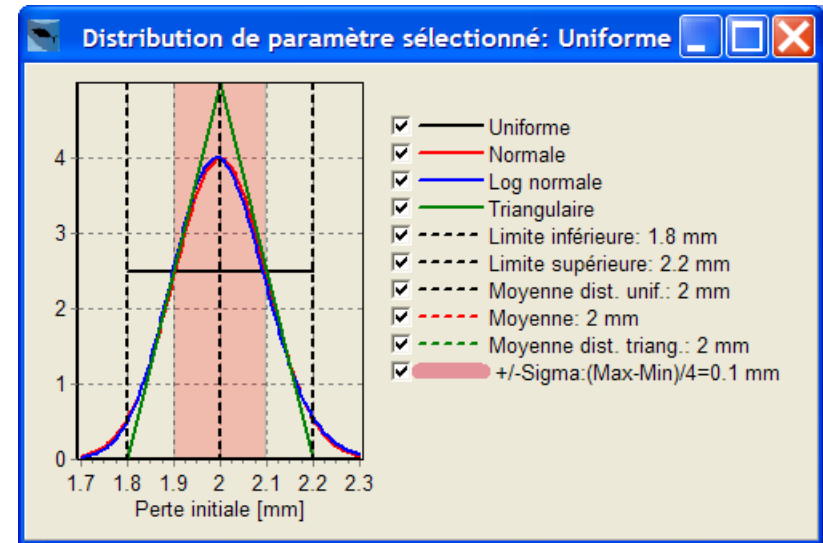
Stress factor (i.e. precipitations)



Definition of uncertainties in the parameters



- Average value = value considered in the deterministic simulation
- Uncertainty: defined by minimal, maximal, average value and distribution (uniform, normal, log-normal, triangle...)



Paramètres	Moyenne	Limite inférieure	Limite supérieure	relative	Distribution
Système unitaire (SU)					
Surface effective [ha]	20	18	22	☐	Normale
Perte initiale [mm]	2	1.8	2.2	☐	Uniforme
Constante de stockage [min]	20	15	25	☐	Constant
Habitants [EGW]	1.1E4	9900	12100	☐	Uniforme
Débit de temps sec [l/(EGW*d)]	250	225	275	☐	Uniforme
Débit vers STEP [l/s]	100	90	110	☐	Uniforme

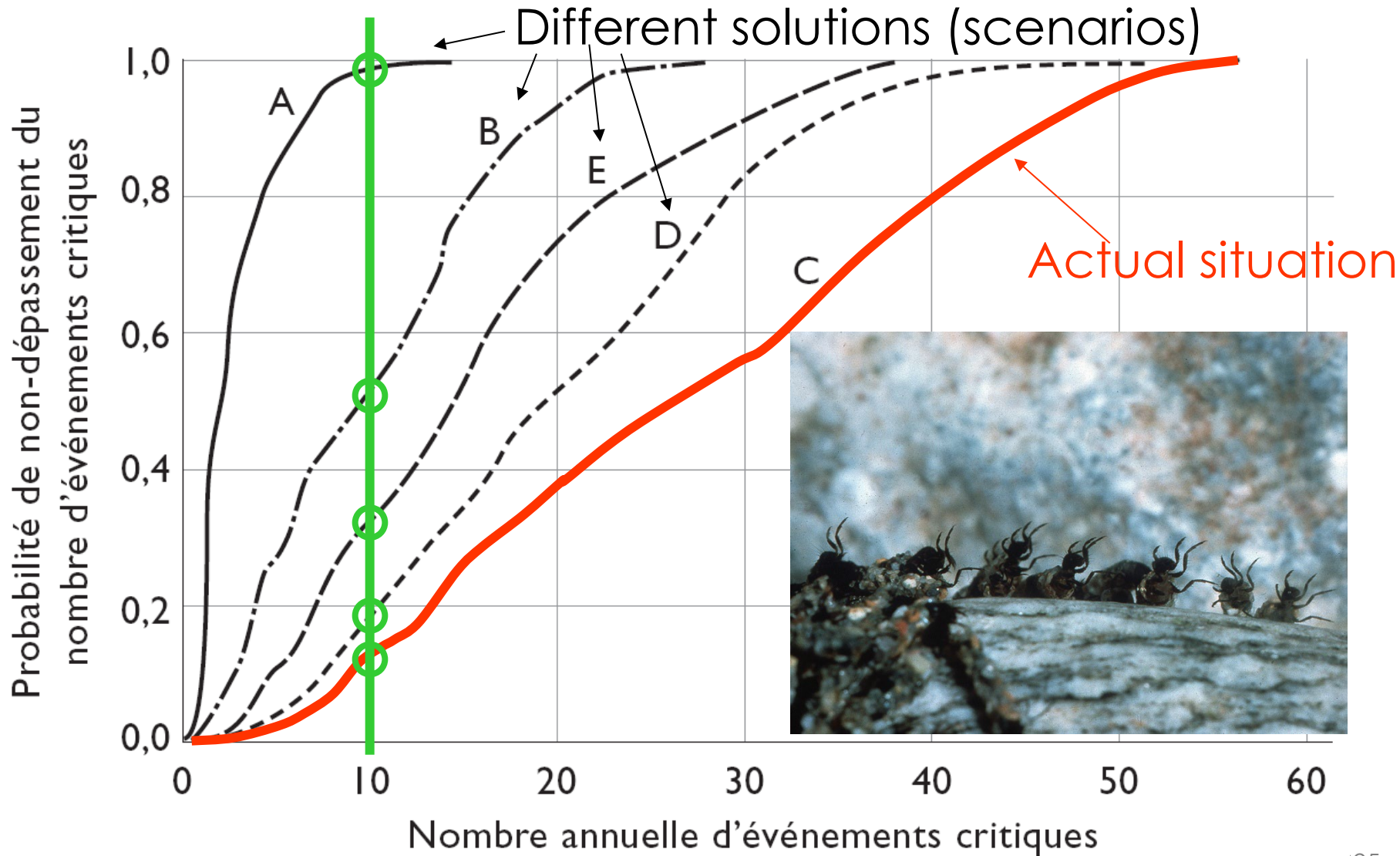
Definition of uncertainties in the parameters: stochastic approach



For each iteration:

- Random selection of values for the parameters (in function of the defined domain and the distribution)
- Deterministic simulation with these values
- Storage of the results
- Iteration $n+1$

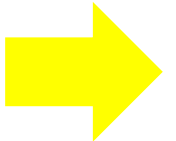
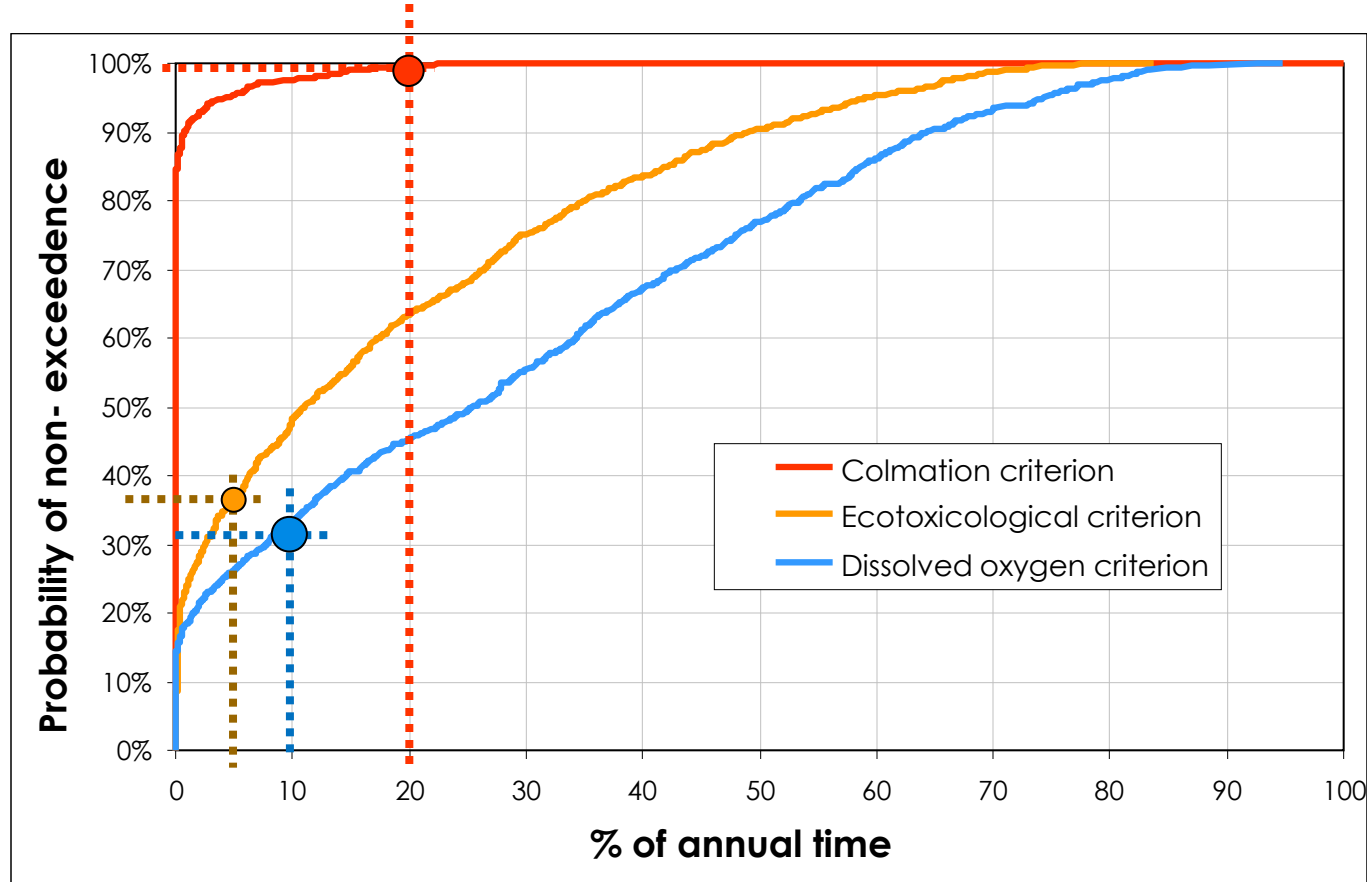
Stochastic approach: example of results for hydraulic stress and for different scenarios





Stochastic approach: example of results for TSS accumulation in sediments on the riverbed

500 iterations, each on a 10 years rain information



Who will define an acceptable probability ?

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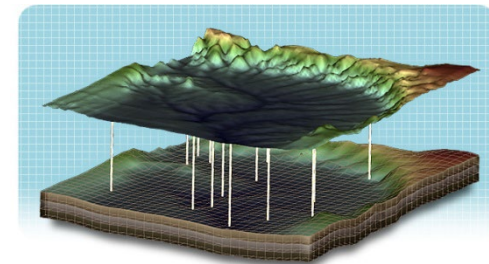


- Do we have a problem ?
- Why a probabilistic approach ?
- How to analyse the results ?
- **Sensitivity analysis**
- Technical solutions
- Model validation
- Exercise with REBEKA : Dr R. Fankhauser



Sensitivity analysis

- Model with « only » 40 parameters → the most important one must be identified !
- Local sensitivity analysis around the average value of the parameters
- 1 parameter will vary, all the others will stay constant
- From 3 to 11 calculation points within the variation domain are determined
- Number of iterations = Number of parameters * number of calculation points
- Analysis needed for **ALL** numerical models !



www.pesthomepage.org/

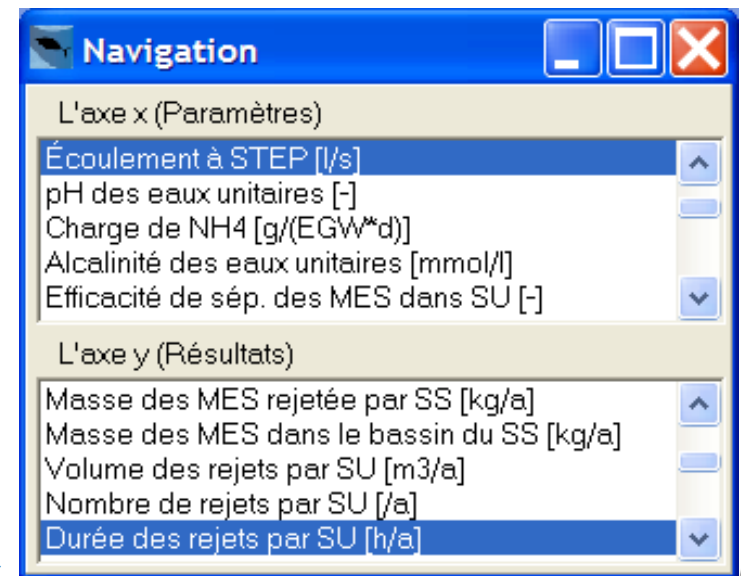
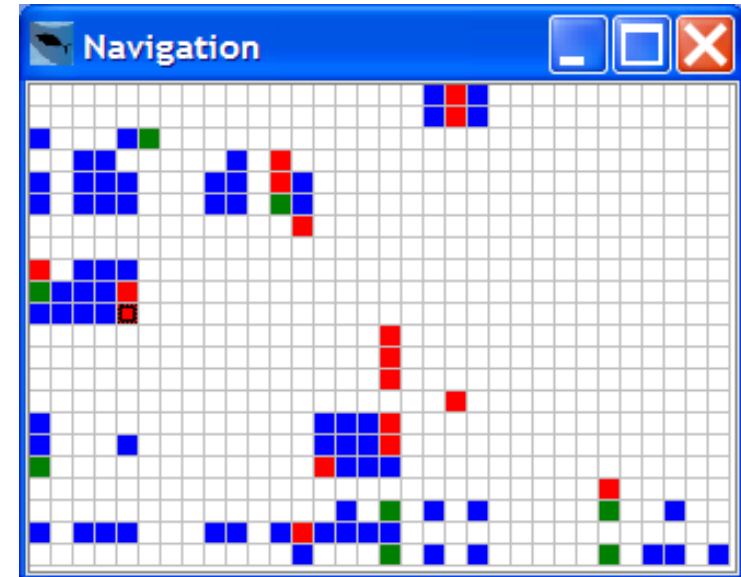
PEST
Model-Independent Parameter Estimation & Uncertainty Analysis

Urbair

Sensitivity analysis in REBEKA software



- Matrix of graphs XY
- In each graph:
 - Axis x: one parameter of the model (≈ 40 parameters)
 - Axis y: one result for one value (22 values)
→ 40 x 22 graphs !!
- Navigator:
 - Abstract of the graph's matrix
 - Navigation tools to simplify the identification of the most important parameters



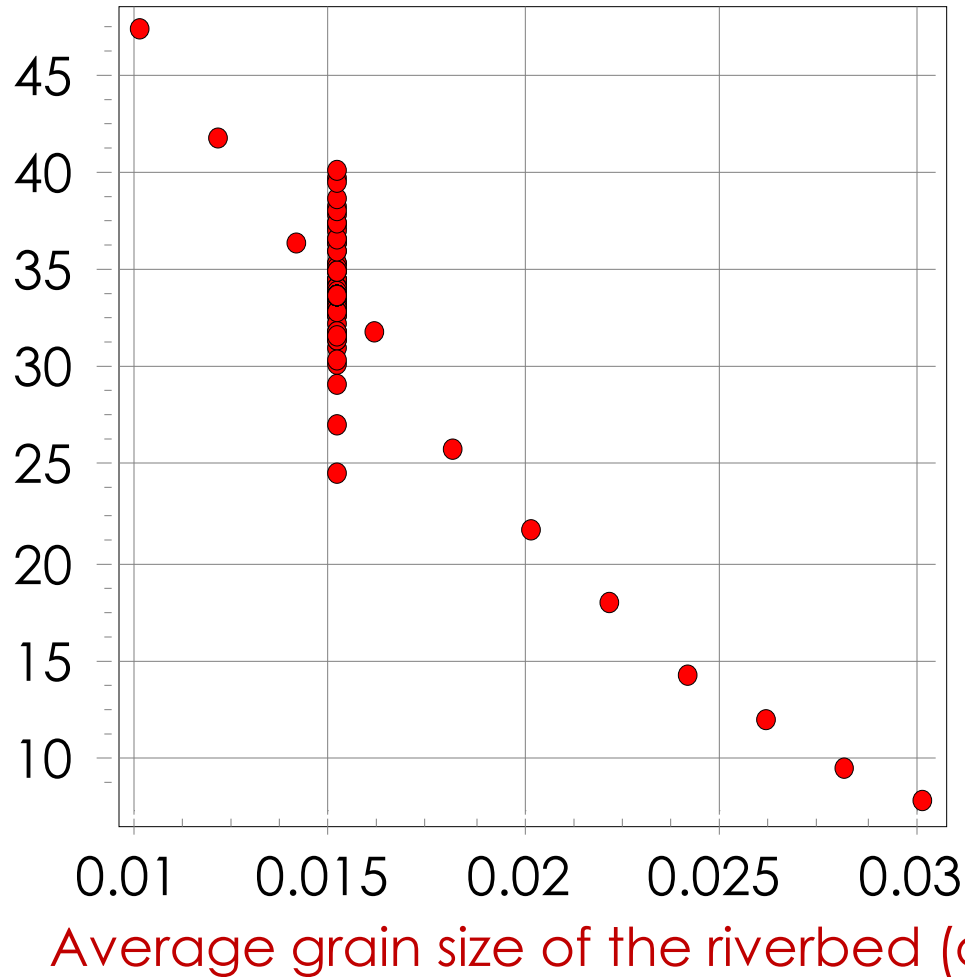
Right click on the mouse to
switch between the illustrations



Sensitivity analysis in REBEKA software

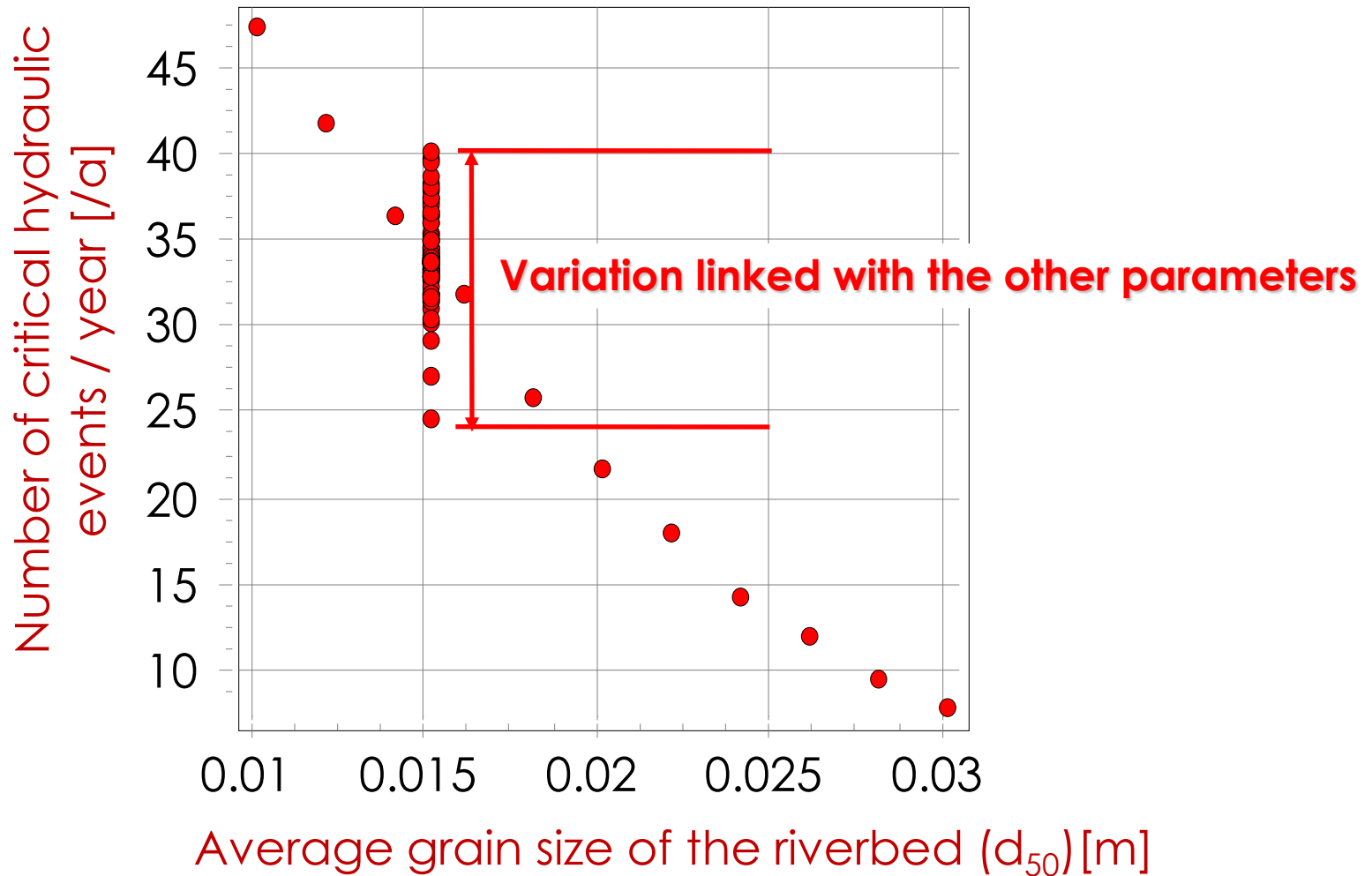


Number of critical hydraulic
events / year [1/a]



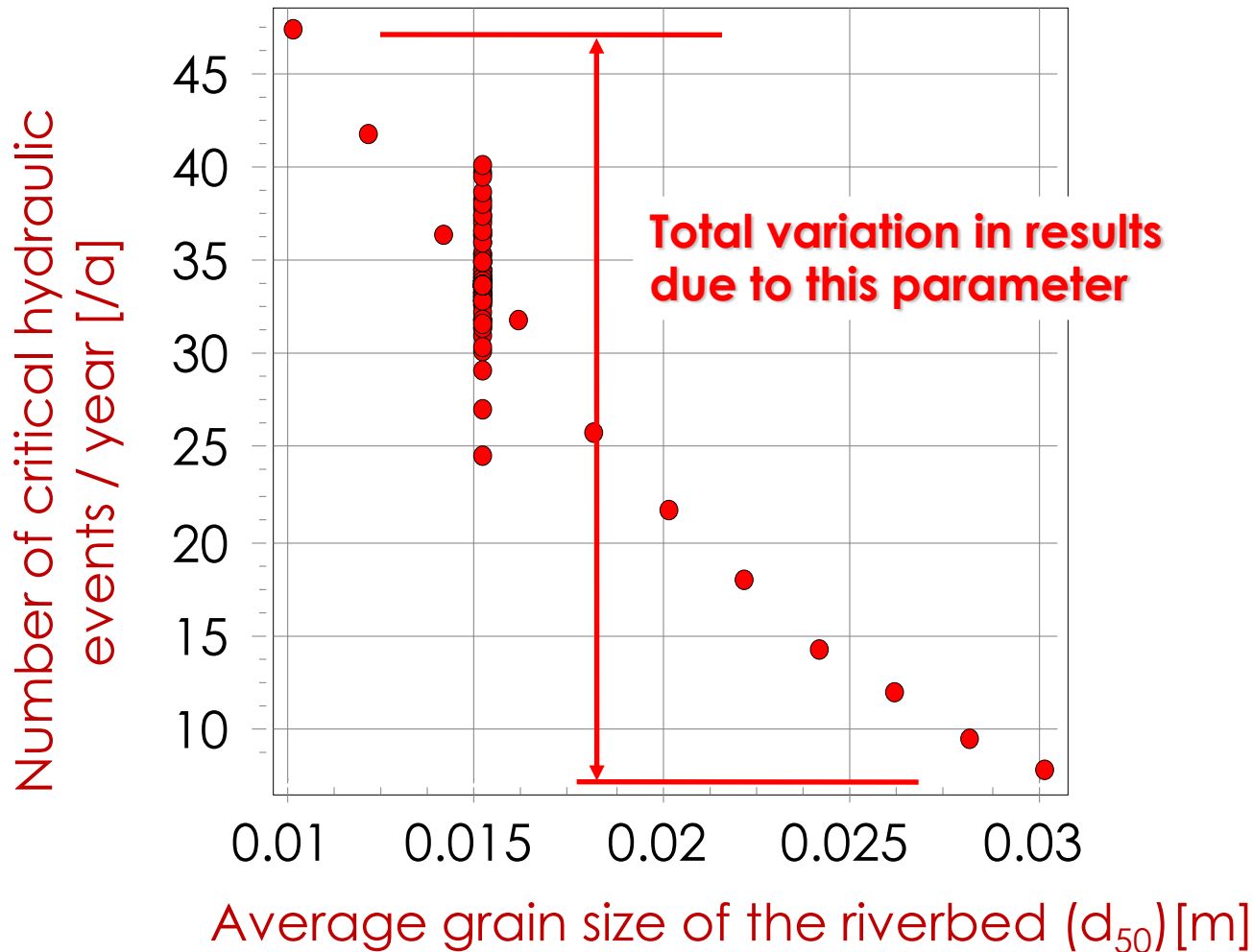


Sensitivity analysis in REBEKA software





Sensitivity analysis in REBEKA software

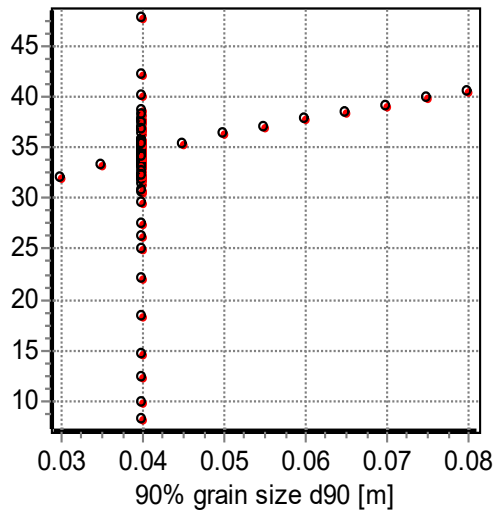


Sensitivity analysis in REBEKA software

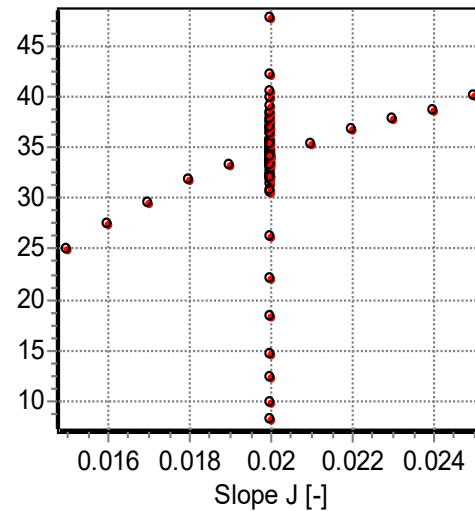


Frequency of critical hydraulic stress events [y^{-1}]

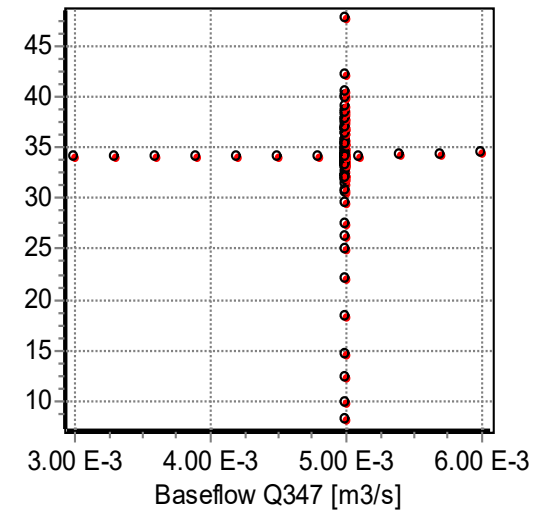
(b) number of erosion events vs. d_{90}



(c) number of erosion events vs. slope J



(d) number of erosion events vs. baseflow Q347



- Identification of the most sensitive parameters for a given situation
- Important help in the data acquisition process

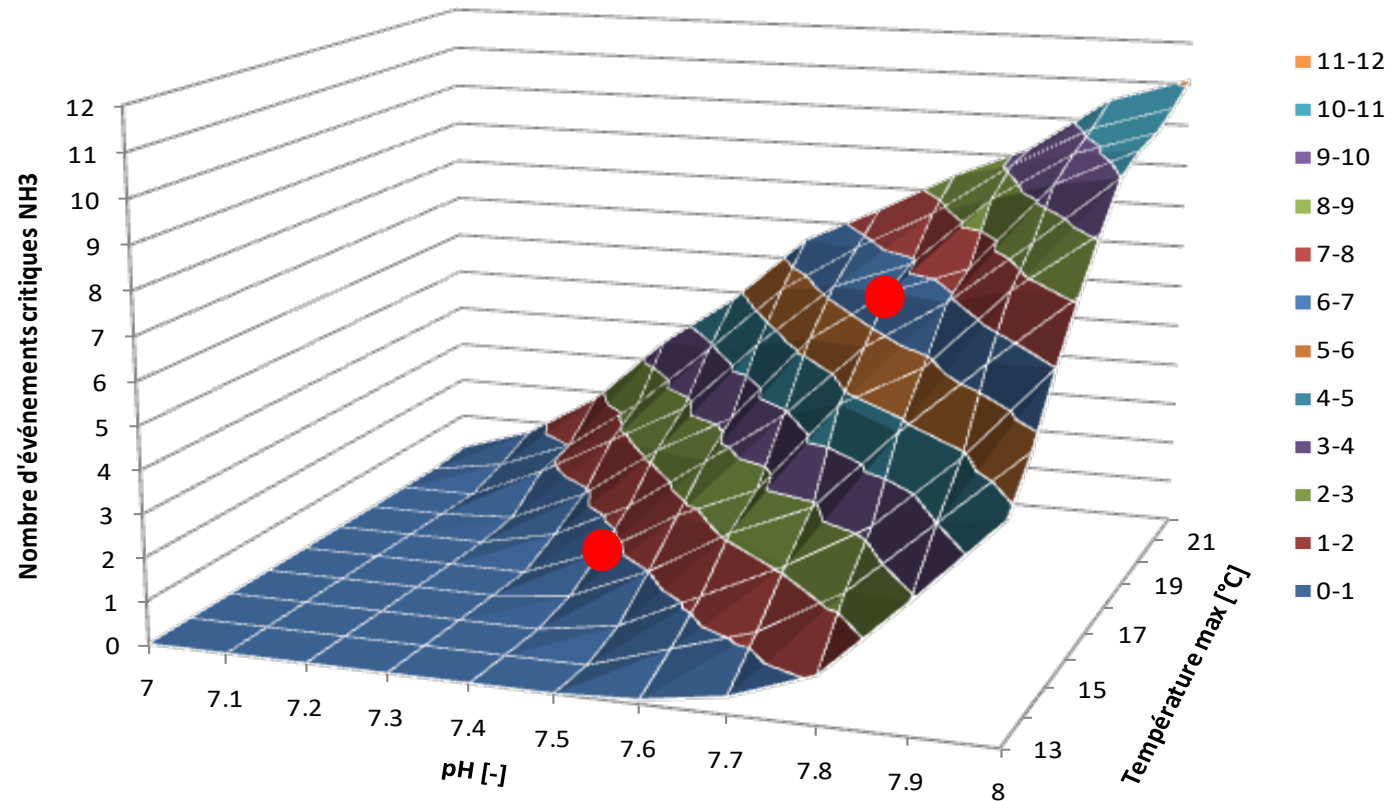
Sensitivity analysis in REBEKA software



[Margot, 2008]



Delta pH : 0.3
Delta t° : 2°C



Example ammonia toxicity:

→ very high influence of river temperature and pH !

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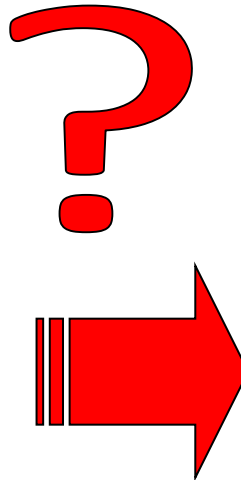


- Do we have a problem ?
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- **Technical solutions**
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Technical solutions (in REBEKA)



STORM



Transposition in a technical solution

For example:

Detention pond with settling of TSS

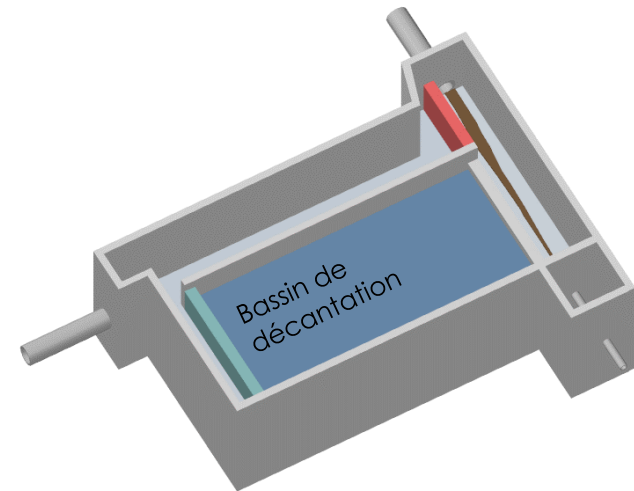
Size of the settling zone:

$L=20\text{ m}$ / $B = 6\text{ m}$ / $H = 2.5\text{ m}$

Results of the STORM conceptual approach

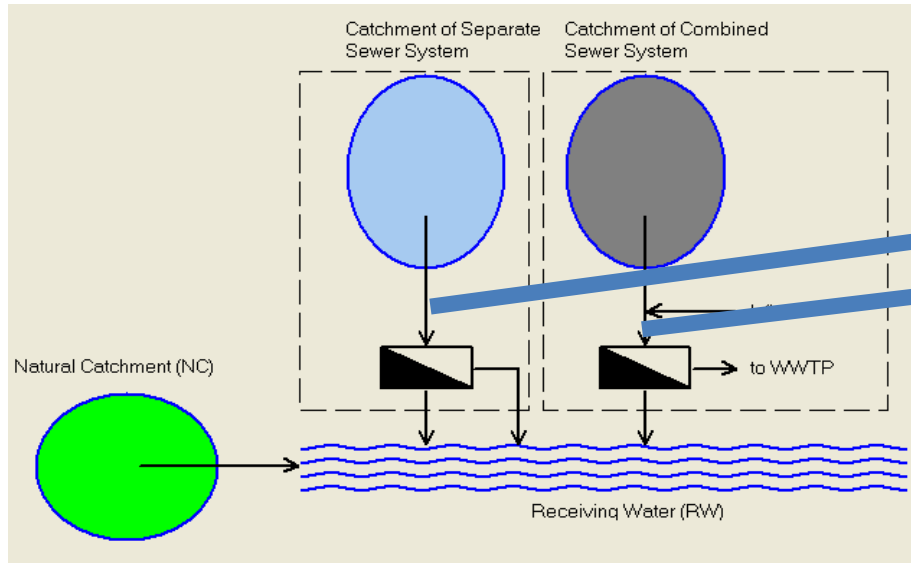
Example:

To reach the TSS immission objectives with a probability of 50%, ($p=0.5$), the emissions of TSS should be reduced by 65 % (equivalent to a TSS mass reduction of 1000 to 1500 kg y^{-1})



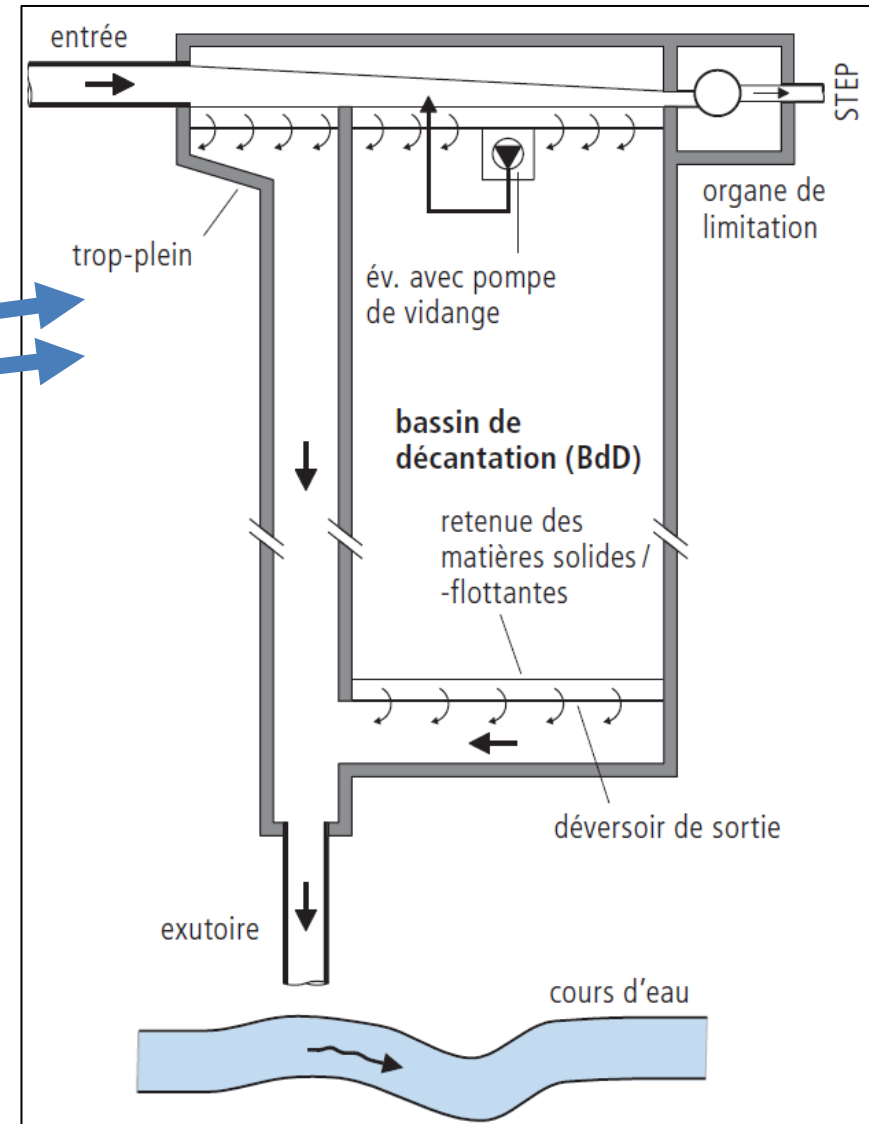
Source: Cécile Züst,
Bachelorarbeit GEP Vorderthal,
ZHAW Zürich, 2013

Technical solutions (in REBEKA)



Catalogue of solutions !

In the field of this exercice:
Detention pond



Technical solutions (in REBEKA)



$$EFF = 1.0 - \left[1.0 + \frac{V_s}{n \cdot (Q/A)} \right]^{-n}$$

EFF: Yield / efficiency

V_s : Settling velocity of particles ($\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$)

Q : Max. flowrate to the pond ($\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$)

A : Effective settling surface (m^2)

n : Turbulence and short-circuit factor (-)

Goals:

To evaluate the performance of detention basins in terms of TSS elimination

Processes:

Efficiency based on 1 equation:
Full mixing, dilution of contaminants.
Different types of detention basins

Results:

Average amount of pollutants (TSS and NH_4) retained in the detention basin



Study of sedimentation processes in detention ponds [Torres A, INSA Lyon, 2007]

Technical solutions (in REBEKA)



Yield of detention ponds: very sensitive to small hydraulic changes !

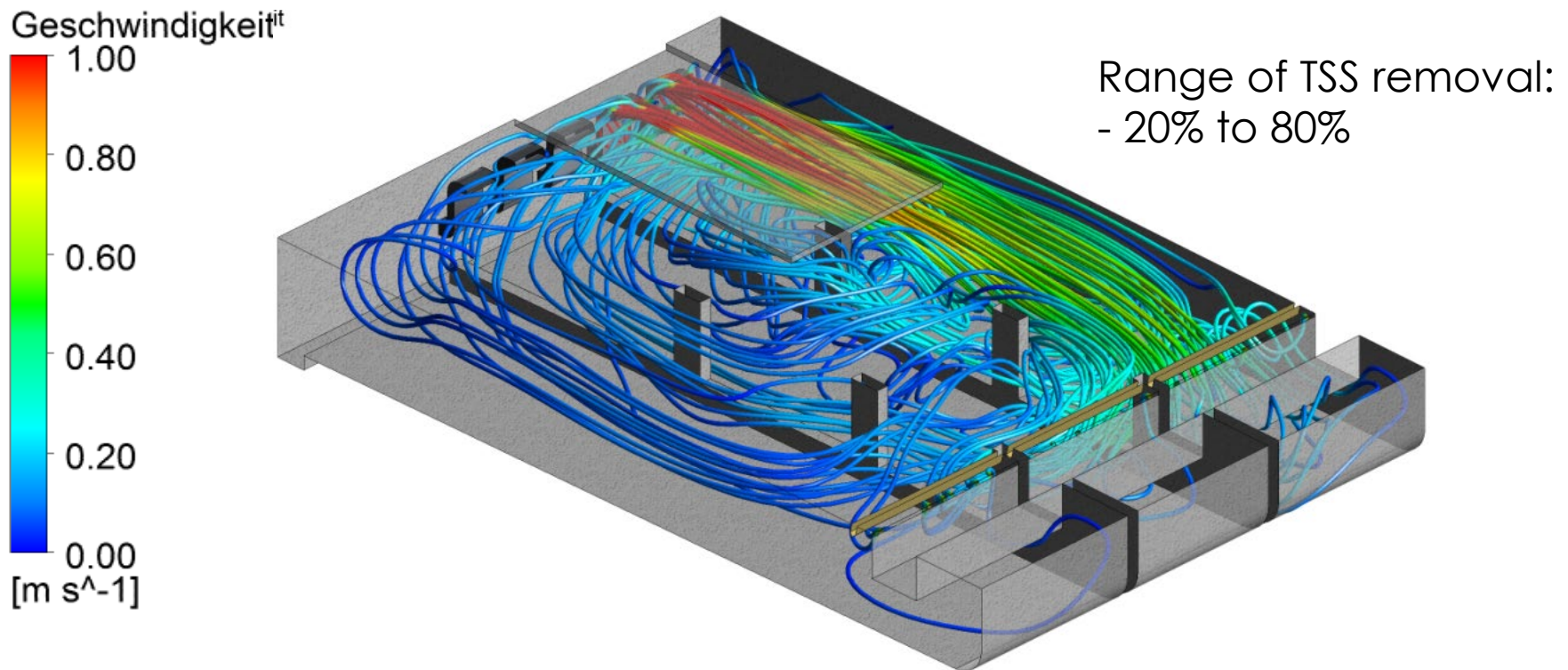


Illustration des cheminements de l'eau dans un bassin
Source: P. Staufer, Canton Soleure

Technical solutions (in REBEKA)



Sponge city solutions: increase initial loss values (up to 10-20 mm for example...)

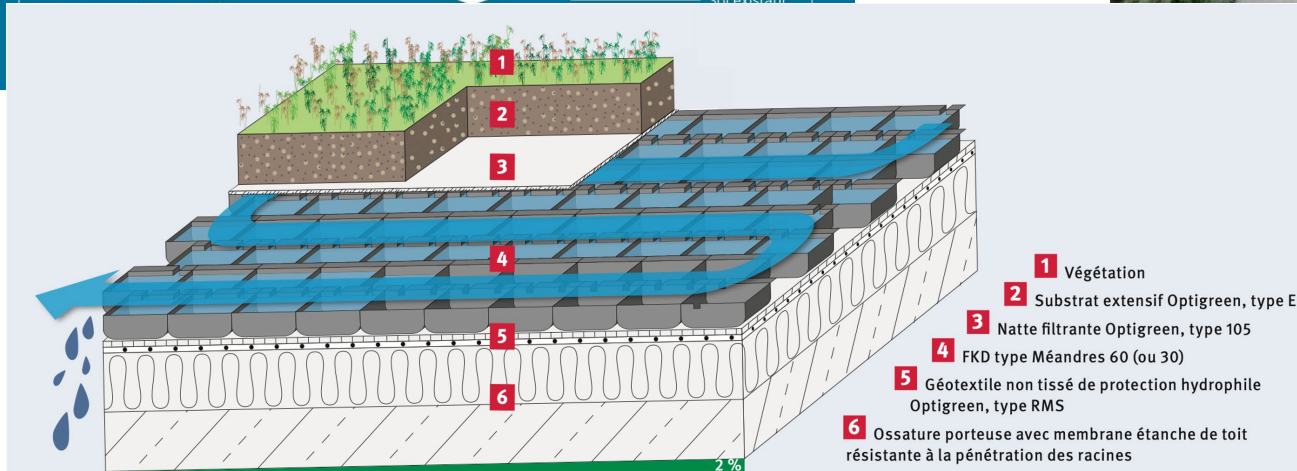
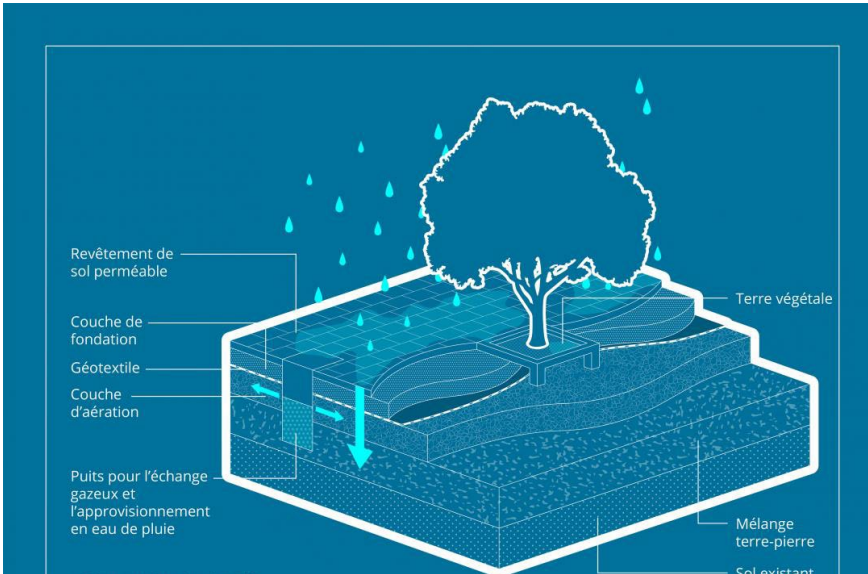


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- Do we have a problem ?
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Validation of a probabilistic-stochastic software ?

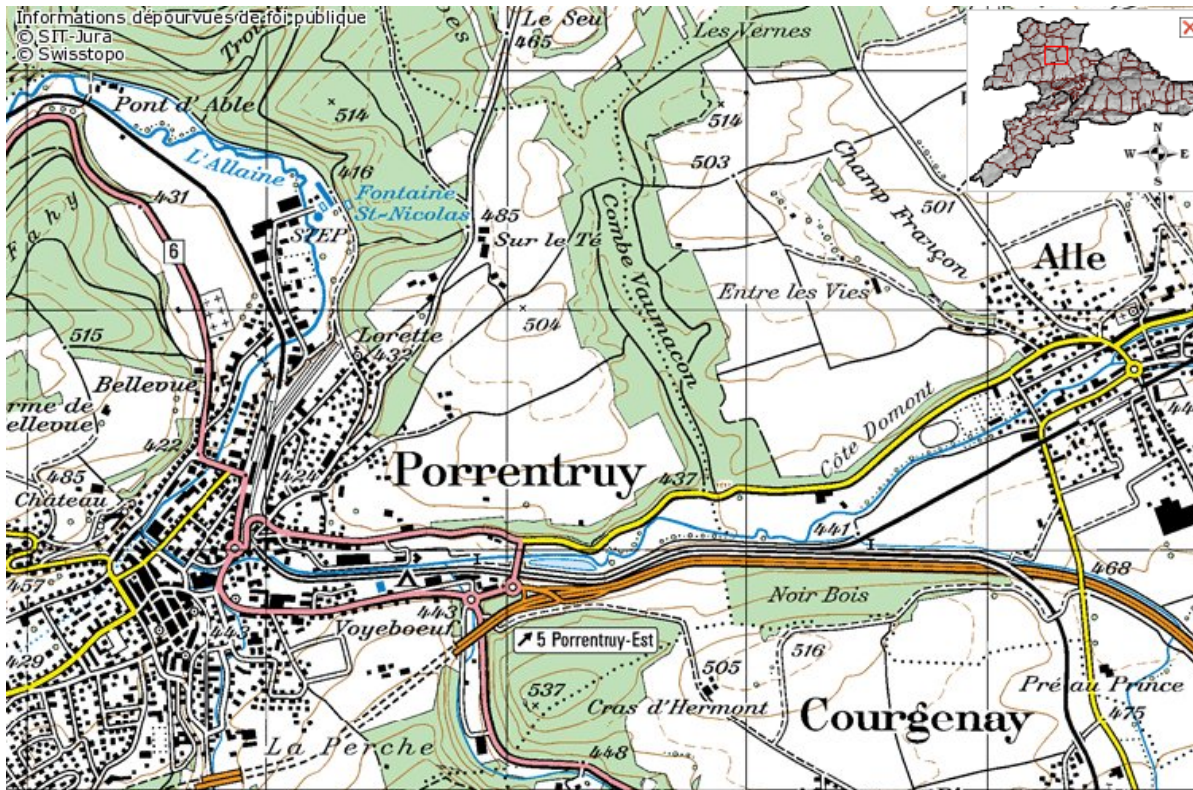


- Plausibility of results ?
- Comparison with discharged flowrate from other models already validated
- Field investigations !!!

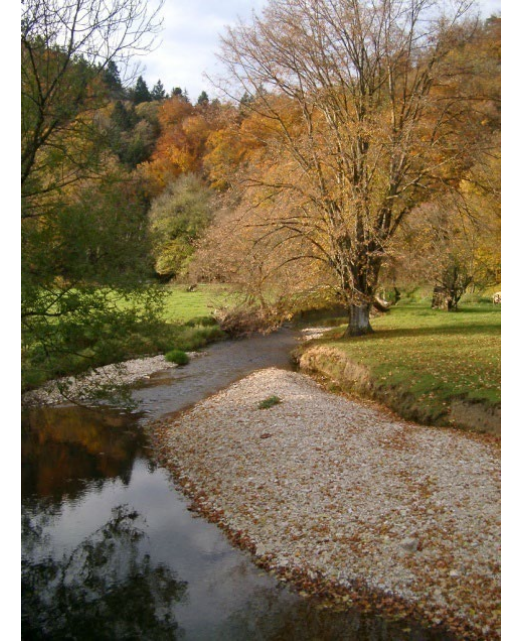
Validation of a probabilistic-stochastic software



- Allaine river in Jura



© Swisstopo

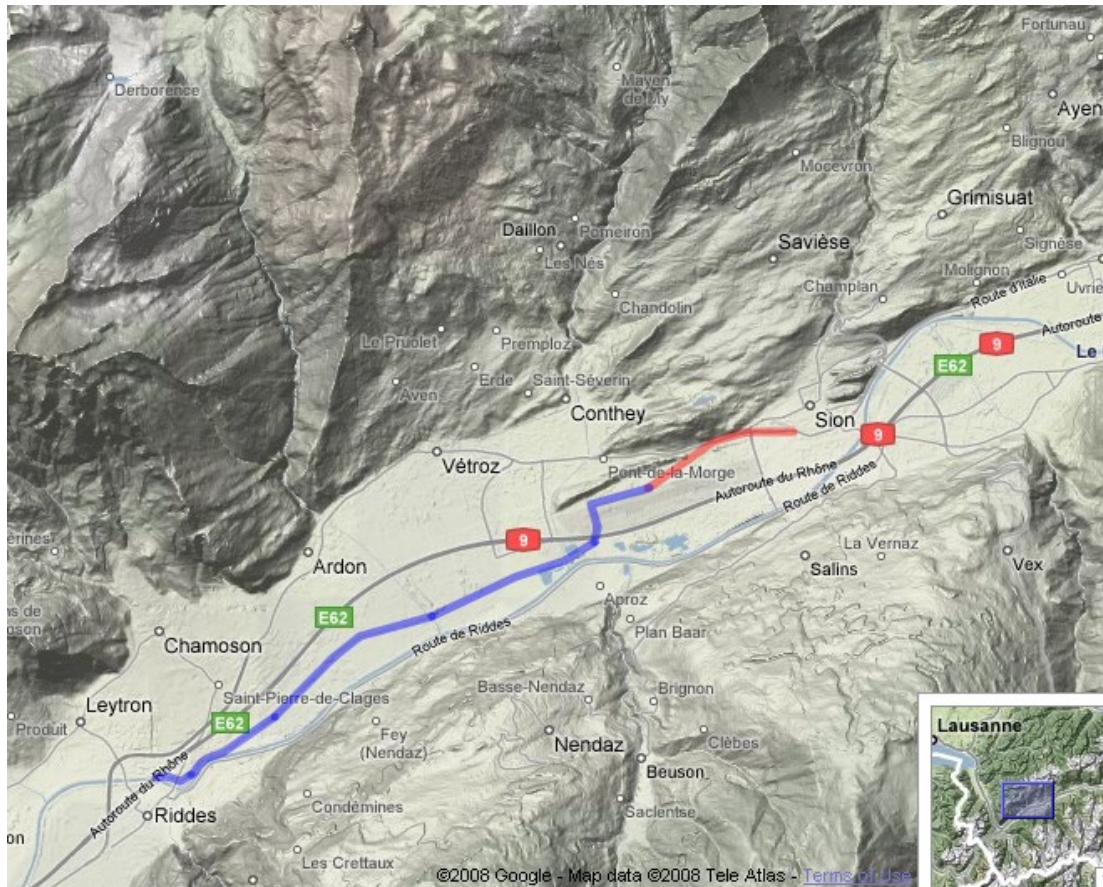


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Validation of a probabilistic-stochastic software



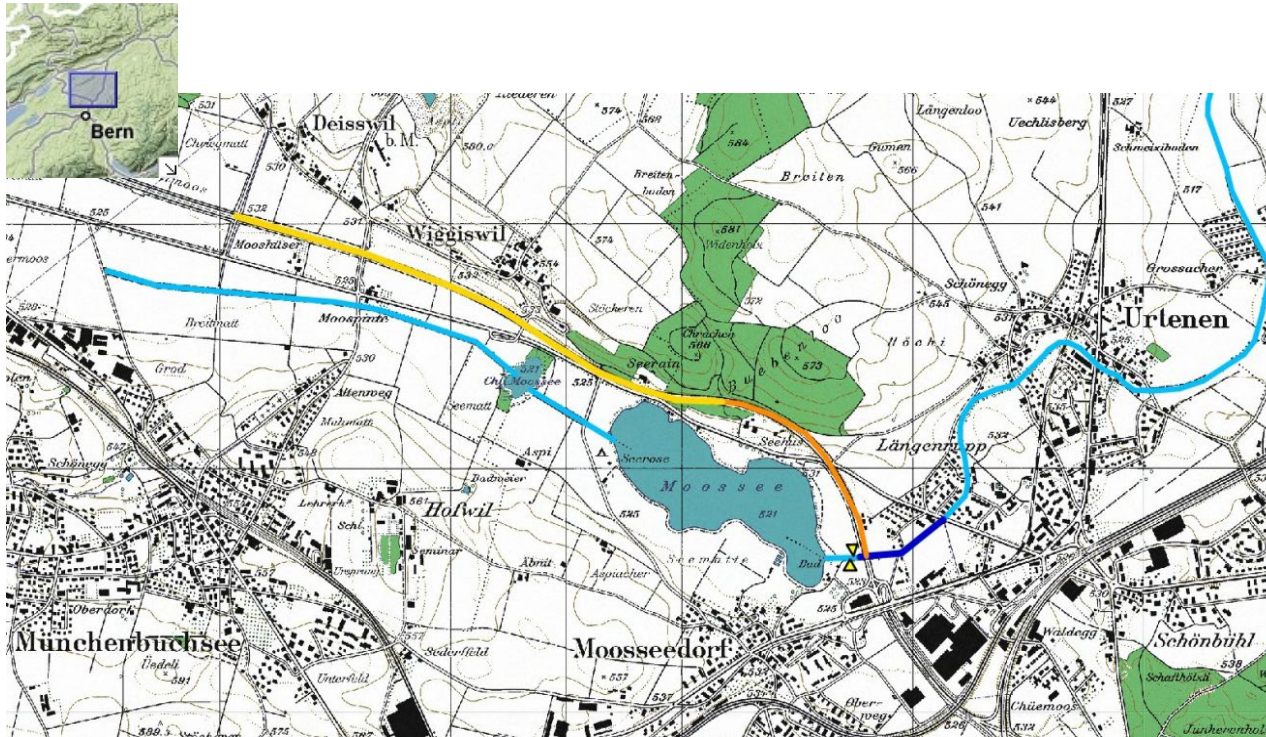
- Sion-Riddes channel in Valais



Validation of a probabilistic-stochastic software



- Urtenen river in Bern

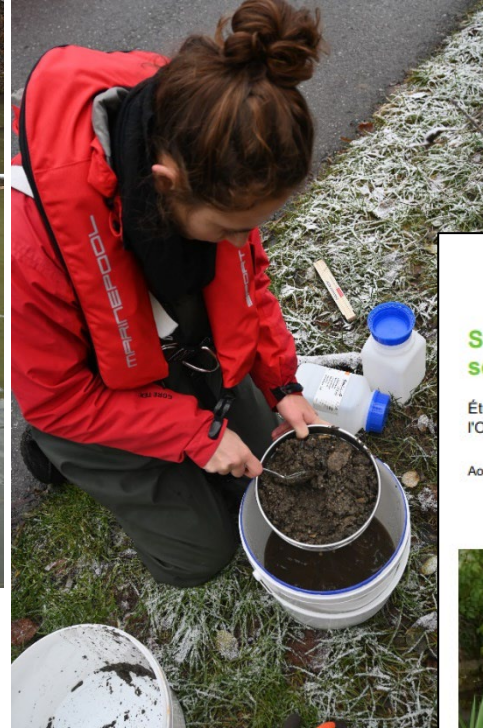


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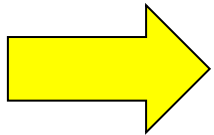


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Validation of a probabilistic-stochastic software : field investigations



+ Infos [Module G](#) !



**Nouveau document pour
l'analyse des sédiments !**

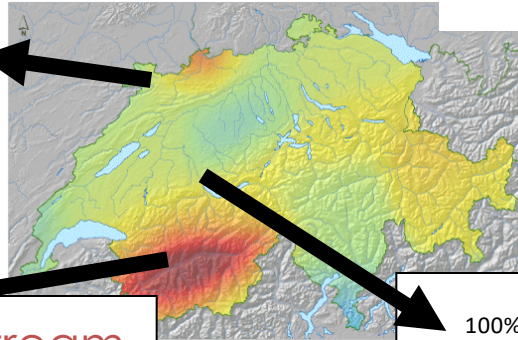
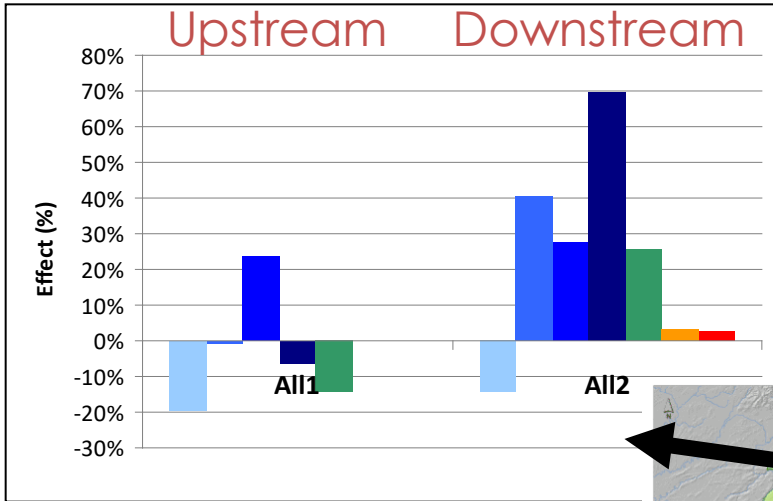
[Lien download Centre Ecotox](#)

www.centreecotox.ch/news-publications/actualites/rapport-d-expert-strategie-d-evaluation-de-la-qualite-des-sediments-en-suisse/

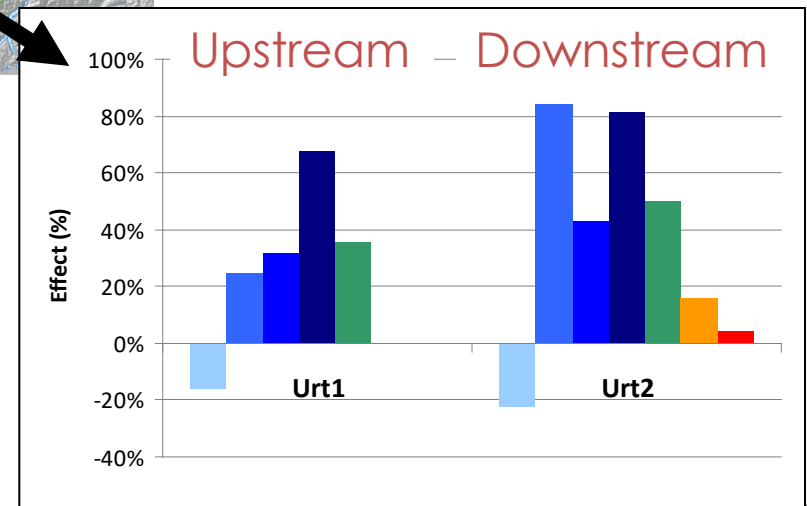
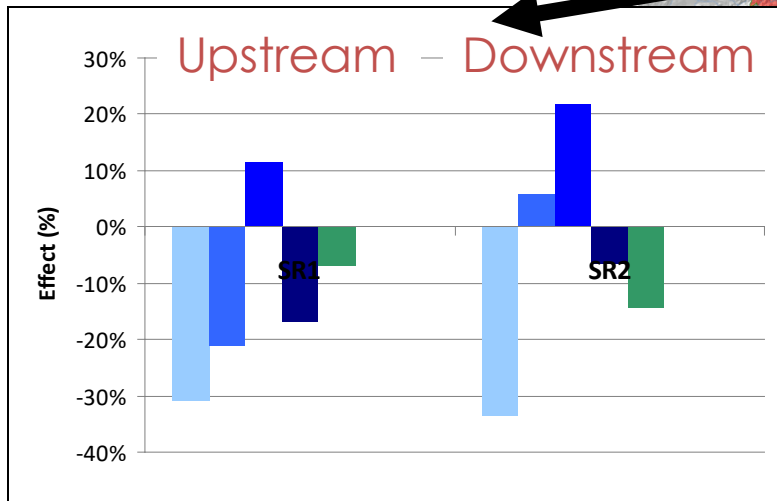
Validation of probabilistic-stochastic software



- Microtox - Pore water
- Microtox - Elutriate
- Microtox - Solvent extract
- Microtox - Solid phase test
- Rotifer - Pore water
- Daphnia - Pore water
- Daphnia - Solvent extract



[Margot J. 2008]



Some conclusions on the use of stochastic approaches



Simplified approach, realistic results, limit of complexity for engineers

Processes: numerous simplifications, be aware of limitations (for example: hydrological urban model OK, natural watershed: ?)

Uncertainties and variability : Better illustration of the reality ?

Nuances in the interpretation of results:

- Is it better to select a cheaper solution, but with less probability of success?
- Or is it better to select a more expensive solution, with a higher probability of success?
- Should we invest money in the data acquisition process, to reduce the uncertainties?
- Or is it better to invest money in technical realizations ?

Who will define the probability of success / problem ?