

# Modelling Aspects of Land-Atmosphere Interaction: Thermal Instability in Peatland Soils and Land Parameter Estimation Through Data Assimilation

Submitted by

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# Abstract

The land (or ‘terrestrial’) biosphere strongly influences the exchange of carbon, energy and water between the land surface and the atmosphere. The size of the land carbon store and the magnitude of the interannual variability of the carbon exchange make models of the land surface a vital component in climate models. This thesis addresses two aspects of land surface modelling: soil respiration and phenology modelling, using different techniques with the goal of improving model representation of land-atmosphere interactions.

The release of heat associated with soil respiration is neglected in the vast majority of large-scale models but may be critically important under certain circumstances. In this thesis, the effect of this heat release is considered in two ways. Firstly, a deliberately simple model for soil temperature and soil carbon, including biological heating, is constructed to investigate the effect of thermal energy generated by microbial respiration on soil temperature and soil carbon stocks, specifically in organic soils. Secondly, the mechanism for biological self-heating is implemented in the Joint UK Land Environment Simulator (JULES), in order to investigate the impacts of the extra feedback in a complex model.

With the intention of improving estimates of the parameters governing modelled land surface processes, a data assimilation system based on the JULES land surface model is presented. The ADJULES data assimilation system uses information from

the derivative of JULES (or adjoint) to search for a locally optimum parameter set by calibrating against observations. In this thesis, ADJULES is used with satellite-derived vegetation indices to improve the modelling of phenology in JULES.

# Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Thesis overview</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>1 Interactions between the climate and terrestrial biosphere</b>	<b>23</b>
1.1 Drivers and feedbacks . . . . .	27
1.1.1 Climate-driven processes . . . . .	27
1.1.2 Atmospheric composition effects . . . . .	31
1.1.3 Land use and land management . . . . .	34
1.1.4 Tipping points and runaway feedbacks . . . . .	36
<b>2 Modelling land-atmosphere interactions</b>	<b>41</b>
2.1 Representing the influence of the land surface on climate . . . . .	43
2.1.1 Energy . . . . .	44
2.1.2 Water and carbon . . . . .	49
2.2 The evolution of land surface models . . . . .	53
2.2.1 First generation models . . . . .	53
2.2.2 Second generation models . . . . .	54
2.2.3 Third generation models . . . . .	56
2.2.4 Dynamic global vegetation models . . . . .	60

2.3	Coupling the climate and carbon cycle . . . . .	62
<b>3</b>	<b>A semi-analytical model of the compost-bomb instability</b>	<b>66</b>
3.1	Model equations . . . . .	66
3.2	Linear stability analysis . . . . .	70
3.2.1	Slow climate change limit . . . . .	71
3.2.2	Fast climate change, or compost bomb limit . . . . .	74
3.3	Soil moisture and the heat transfer coefficient . . . . .	84
3.4	Numerical modelling and the dangerous rate of climate change . . . . .	92
3.4.1	Numerical results . . . . .	92
3.4.2	Quantifying the dangerous rate of climate change . . . . .	97
3.4.3	Excitability in ramped systems . . . . .	108
3.4.4	Discussion and conclusions . . . . .	111
<b>4</b>	<b>Compost-bomb instability in a complex land surface scheme</b>	<b>113</b>
4.1	Model changes . . . . .	114
4.1.1	Implementation of a peaked soil respiration function . . . . .	114
4.1.2	Inclusion of biological self-heating . . . . .	116
4.2	Experiments and results . . . . .	117
4.2.1	Experimental design . . . . .	117
4.2.2	Results . . . . .	119
4.3	Bi-stability in JULES results . . . . .	133
4.4	Discussion and conclusions . . . . .	135
4.4.1	Limitations and scope of study . . . . .	136
4.4.2	Experiments . . . . .	136
4.4.3	Impacts and agreement with Khvorostyanov et al. (2008a) . . . . .	138

4.4.4	Future work . . . . .	139
<b>5</b>	<b>Data assimilation and inverse modelling</b>	<b>140</b>
5.1	Theory and techniques . . . . .	140
5.1.1	Sequential data assimilation . . . . .	142
5.1.2	Variational data assimilation and parameter estimation . . .	142
5.1.3	Automatic differentiation . . . . .	145
5.2	Applications . . . . .	151
5.2.1	The development of carbon cycle data assimilation . . . . .	151
5.2.2	ADJULES . . . . .	159
<b>6</b>	<b>Improving the modelling of phenology in JULES</b>	<b>162</b>
6.1	Modelling and observing phenology . . . . .	162
6.1.1	Modelling phenology . . . . .	162
6.1.2	Satellite vegetation indices . . . . .	165
6.1.3	Comparing observations and models . . . . .	166
6.2	Site selection . . . . .	166
6.2.1	Morgan Monroe . . . . .	167
6.3	Modification of the ADJULES system to calibrate phenological pa- rameters . . . . .	169
6.3.1	Smoothing discontinuous functions . . . . .	169
6.3.2	Modifying the adjoint . . . . .	171
6.4	Methodology . . . . .	173
6.4.1	Data . . . . .	173
6.4.2	Experimental setup . . . . .	174
6.5	Results . . . . .	175
6.5.1	Optimised model . . . . .	175

6.6	Assessing the predictive skill of the JULES phenology scheme . . .	181
6.7	Discussion and conclusions . . . . .	184
6.7.1	ADJULES . . . . .	184
6.7.2	JULES phenology . . . . .	187
6.7.3	Future plans . . . . .	188
<b>7</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>190</b>
7.1	Overview . . . . .	190
7.2	Future work . . . . .	192
	<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>194</b>
	<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>194</b>