

Hydroinformatik - SoSe 2026

UW-BHW-414-07: Hydrologische Modellierung

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Dresden, 22.05.2026

Zeitplan: Hydroinformatik I+II

Sommersemester 2026: Stand: 06.04.2026

Nr.	KW	Datum	ID	Thema
01+02	16	17.04.2026	UW-BHW-414-01/02	Einführung in die Vorlesung, Umweltinformatik
03	16	17.04.2026	UW-BHW-414-03	Werkzeuge, Hello World (in C++)
05	17	24.04.2026	UW-BHW-414-04	Selbststudium: Software-Installationen
07	19	08.05.2026	UW-BHW-414-05	Objekt-Orientierte Programmierung: C++, Klassen
09	20	15.05.2026	UW-BHW-414-06	Programmiersprache Python
11	21	22.05.2026	UW-BHW-414-07/08	Modellierung, Digitalisierung, Wasser 4.0
00	22	29.05.2026		Vorlesungsfreie Woche
13	23	05.06.2026	UW-BHW-414-G	KI, Maschinelles Lernen, Neuronale Netzwerke
15	24	12.06.2026	UW-BHW-414-H	Kontinuumsmechanik, Hydromechanik
17	25	19.06.2026	UW-BHW-414-I	Differentialgleichungen, Näherungsverfahren
19	26	26.06.2026	UW-BHW-414-J	Finite-Differenzen, explizite Verfahren
21	27	03.07.2026	UW-BHW-414-K	Finite-Differenzen, implizite Verfahren
23	28	10.07.2026	UW-BHW-414-L	Gerinnehydraulik, Grundwasserhydraulik
25	29	17.07.2026	UW-BHW-414-M	Grundwasserhydraulik
27	30	24.07.2026	UW-BHW-414-N	Zusammenfassung, Klausurvorbereitung

1 UW-BHW-414-07: Hydrologische Modellierung

- Semesterplan

2 Hydrologische Modellierung

- Modellbegriff
- Hydrosysteme
- Workflows

0 Rückblick letzte Veranstaltung: Python

1 Modell-Begriff

2 Hydro-Systeme

3 Hydro-System Modelle

4 Prozessbasierte Hydro-System Modelle

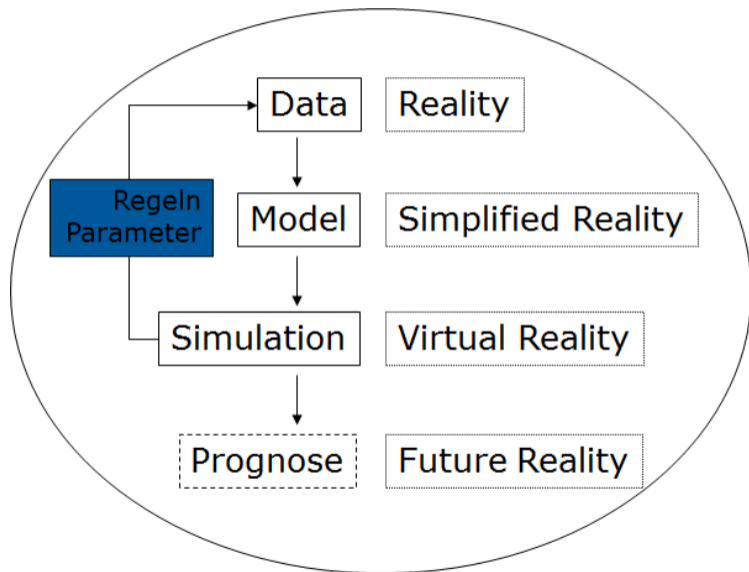
5 Ersatz-Modelle ("Surrogate")

6 (professional) Work Flows ...

7 Ausblick auf die nächste Veranstaltung: KI

Modell-Begriff (Theorie)

Modell-Begriff: Systemanalyse



↔ Kalibrierung →
Validierung →
Verifizierung (A & B) ↔

ON THE TERM AND CONCEPTS OF NUMERICAL MODEL VALIDATION IN GEOSCIENTIFIC APPLICATIONS

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Key words: Coupled Problems, Model Development, Numerical Methods, Model Confirmation, Inverse Problems

Abstract. Modeling and numerical simulation of the coupled physical and chemical processes observed in the subsurface are the only options for long-term analyses of complex geological systems. This contribution discusses some more general aspects of the (dynamic) process modeling for geoscientific applications including reflections about the slightly different understanding of the terms *model* and *model validation* in different scientific communities, and about the term and methods of *model calibration* in the geoscientific context. Starting from the analysis of observations of a certain part of the perceived reality, the process of model development comprises the establishment of the physical model characterizing relevant processes in a problem-oriented manner, and subsequently the mathematical and numerical models. Considering the steps of idealization and approximation in the course of model development, Oroskes et al. [1] state that process and numerical models can neither be verified nor validated in general. Rather the adequacy of models with specific assumptions and parameterizations made during model set-up can be confirmed. If the adequacy of process models with observations can be confirmed using lab as well as field tests and process monitoring, the adequacy of numerical models can be confirmed using numerical benchmarking and code comparison. Model parameters are intrinsic elements of process and numerical models, in particular constitutive parameters. As they are often not directly measurable, they have to be established by solving inverse problems based on an optimal numerical adaptation of observation results. In addition, numerical uncertainty analyses should be an obligatory part of numerical studies for critical real world applications.

1 INTRODUCTION

Modeling and numerical simulation of the coupled physical and chemical processes observed in the subsurface are the only options for long-term analyses of complex geological systems. The numerical simulation of geotechnological processes (dynamic modeling) requires the existence of models that describe the considered problems as adequately as possible. Within this context, it has to be considered that models represent approximations and idealizations of the considered part of the perceived reality, and will map the real world by approximation. During the process of model development, certain relevant aspects will be covered sufficiently accurate, whereas other details, which can be considered as irrelevant for the specific problem definition, can be neglected. In this approximate sense, models are qualified to enable predictions of the behavior of real-world processes, which are not (yet) open for efficient empirical measuring procedures due to exceptional long time scales to be considered (e.g., within the context of geological waste deposition) or due to the general difficult access to local *in situ* measurements in the subsurface. However, absolute exact predictions can never be expected based on process modeling. The model quality, i.e., the degree of confinement of models with the part of the perceived reality they describe, and thus the reliability of model predictions, depends on many factors. Within this context, the quality as well as the spatial and time density of measured data characterizing the observation area plays a crucial role. These data are necessary for parameterization (i.e., calibration; parameter identification; inverse modeling) and confirmation of the developed models.

2 MODELS WITHIN A GEOSCIENTIFIC CONTEXT – AN ATTEMPT OF DISAMBIGUATION

Discussing about models in a geoscientific context, different scientific communities (e.g., geologists; geophysicists; experts in continuum mechanics; engineers) sometimes use this term based on slightly different associations. Thus, in the following we attempt to provide clear definitions of the term *model*:

- **Spatial and/or structural models** usually will be summarized using the term (*static*) *reservoir model*, and comprise all empirically ascertainable information regarding geometry, geological structure, basic material characteristics (e.g., porosity, intrinsic permeability, thermal and mechanical parameters), and reservoir conditions (e.g., pressure, temperature) of the considered area.
- **Process models** represent mathematical models based on physically founded assumptions about coupled physical, geochemical, geoelectrical, and (micro-)biological processes observed in real-world applications. Basically, process models include balance laws and constitutive relations. More detailed reflections regarding process modeling will be discussed in Sec. 3 of this contribution.

Link

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Görke, U.-J., Nagel, T., Kolditz, O., (2015): On the term and concepts of numerical model validation in geoscientific applications In: Schrefler, B., Oñate, E., Papadarakakis, M., (eds.) Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Computational Methods for Coupled Problems in Science and Engineering – COUPLED PROBLEMS 2015, CIMNE, 18 - 20 May 2015, San Servolo, Venice, Italy

... models are qualified to enable predictions of the **behavior of real-world processes**, which are not (yet) open for efficient empirical measuring procedures due to exceptional long time scales to be considered (e.g., within the context of geological waste deposition) or due to the general **difficult access to local in-situ measurements** in the subsurface. However, absolute exact predictions can never be expected based on process modeling. The **model quality**, i.e., the degree of conformance of models with the part of the perceived reality they describe, and thus the reliability of model predictions, depends on many factors. Within this context, the quality as well as the spatial and time density of measured data characterizing the observation area plays a crucial role. These data are necessary for **parameterization** (i.e., calibration; parameter identification; inverse modeling) and confirmation of the developed models.”

Modell-Begriff

Definition: wichtige Punkte

- ▶ Approximation und Idealisierung (Näherung der Realität)
- ▶ Systembeschreibung (so realistisch wie möglich, wichtigste Prozesse)
- ▶ Vorhersagen (in Raum und Zeit)
- ▶ Fehlen von Daten für die Modell-Parameterisierung (zu teuer, nicht zugänglich)
- ▶ Modell-Qualität: Bewerten, wie gut ist ein Modell (quantitativ)

Geo-Systeme \Rightarrow Hydro-Systeme

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- ▶ **Process models** represent mathematical models based on physically founded assumptions about coupled physical, geochemical, geoelectrical, and (micro-)biological processes observed in real-world applications. Basically, process models include balance laws and constitutive relations. More detailed reflections regarding process modeling will be discussed in Sec. 3 of this contribution.

- ▶ **Numerical models:** The field equations based on balance laws including relevant constitutive relations can be solved analytically just in exceptional cases. Corresponding specific problems frequently will be defined in terms of benchmarks for model and software confirmation. Usually, the solution of field equations describing a real-world problem requires the use of numerical methods. For that, the local formulation of balance laws in terms of differential equations has to be transformed into a global integral formulation. In general, the resulting system of equations is a nonlinear one and contains time derivatives of the primary variables to be calculated. As numerical methods do not provide spatially and temporally continuous solutions, but rather solutions in discrete points of the given solution space, the system of field equations including constitutive relations has to be discretized in space and time within the context of incremental-iterative approximation procedures. In addition, nonlinear systems have to be linearized. The resulting so-called initial-boundary value problem can be solved numerically in discrete locations at discrete points of time. As spatial discretization approaches, the methods of finite differences (FDM), finite volumes (FVM), and finite elements (FEM) are widely expected means of choice.

- ▶ Prozess-Modelle: Abbildung der wichtigsten Prozesse (Physik, Chemie, Biologie)
- ▶ Modell-Gebiet: geometrisches Strukturmodell (numerische Diskretisierung, Rechengitter)
- ▶ Analytische und numerische Modelle: Näherungsmethoden, Numerische Methoden (z.B. finite Differenzenverfahren, finite Elemente-Methode)

Modell-Begriff

Process Modeling: Modellbildung

The process modeling of physical, geochemical, and (micro-)biological processes in the subsurface is based on mathematical theories enabling the description of spatially and temporally evolving processes of the perceived reality in terms of differential equations or systems of differential equations. Developing the relevant mathematical apparatus, we make use of physically, chemically, and biologically founded assumptions.

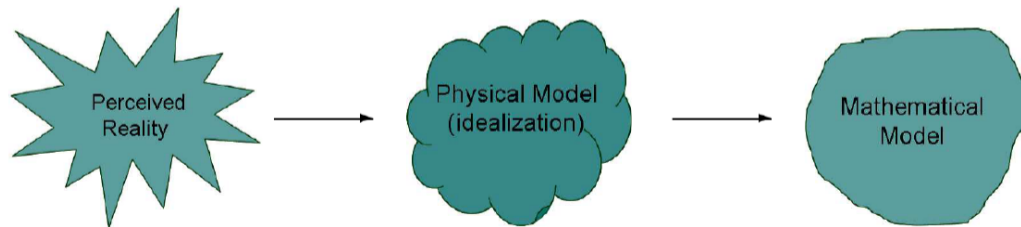


Fig.: Model generation

The procedure of the development of process models illustrated in Sec. 3 shows that models are always idealizations and approximations of a considered part of the perceived reality reflecting specific assumptions and parameterizations made for the model set-up. In order to assure the usability of a process model and the corresponding numerical model, it has to be shown that it adequately reflects real-world processes. In the literature, this process is called **model validation** or even **model verification** – but are these terms justified in their absolute, literal meaning?

- ▶ **Model validation** “. . . does not necessarily denote an establishment of truth. . . Rather, it denotes the establishment of legitimacy. . . ” and “. . . a model that does not contain known or detectable flaws and is internally consistent can be said to be valid.”
- ▶ **Model verification** “. . . means an assertion or establishment of truth.” and ”To say that a model is verified is to say that its truth has been demonstrated, which implies its reliability as a basis for decision-making.”

Source: Oreskes, N., Shrader-Frechette, K. and Belitz, K. Verification, Validation, and Confirmation of Numerical Models in the Earth Sciences. Science (1994) 263:641–646.

Modell-Begriff

Model calibration

Model parameters, in particular constitutive parameters, are constituent, intrinsic elements of process and numerical models. Parameterized models are used for simulations in order to analyze and/or predict the evolution of various processes in real-world applications, thus, solving a direct problem (cf. Fig. 4).



Fig.: Direct modeling: simulation of real-world problems using parameterized process and numerical models

As model parameters are often not directly measurable, their identification is based on the analysis of their effects onto measurable field variables. This process of model calibration (i.e., model parameterization) requires the solution of an inverse problem based on an optimal numerical adaptation of observation results (cf. Fig. 5).



Fig.: Inverse modeling: optimal numerical adaptation of observations from lab and field experiments, and from field exploration

A model function will be defined, which characterizes an arbitrary field variable y depending on a vector of variables \mathbf{x} as well as on a set (vector) of model parameters \mathbf{c} . \hat{y}_i are measured data for comparison and evaluation of the model quality.

$$y = y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}) \quad (1)$$

Norms:

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n [\hat{y}_i^2 - y^2(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c})] = \mathbf{r}(\mathbf{c}) \rightarrow \min \quad (2)$$

Residuals:

$$\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{c}) = \{r_i(\mathbf{c})\} \quad \text{with} \quad r_i(\mathbf{c}) = \hat{y}_i - y(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{c}) \quad (3)$$

Objective function

$$\Phi(\mathbf{c}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{r}^T(\mathbf{c}) \mathbf{r}(\mathbf{c}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{r}_i^2(\mathbf{c}) \rightarrow \min \quad (4)$$

Optimality criterion

$$\nabla \Phi(\mathbf{c}^*) = 0 \quad (5)$$

Normal equation

$$\mathbf{J}^T \mathbf{J} \mathbf{c}^* = \mathbf{J}^T \mathbf{r} \quad (6)$$

Jacobian matrix

$$\mathbf{J} \quad (7)$$

Following aspects are important to reliable process simulations:

- ▶ Definition of the **processes and subprocesses** that are relevant for the specific problem to be solved in order to establish a system of field equations, which is complex enough to cover the relevant system behavior but simple enough to ensure an efficient and stable solution process.
- ▶ Formulation of problem-dependent specific expressions of the **balance laws and the constitutive relations** according to the latest state of research.
- ▶ Model confirmation using standardized **benchmarks and code comparison**.
- ▶ Extensive provision of **data** from lab and field tests for an improved process understanding and for the model calibration.
- ▶ If measured data are not available for all local points of the spatially discretized observation area (this is the usual case for geoscientific real-world applications), a stochastically based parameter space has to be determined based on a statistically sufficient number of different numerical realizations.
- ▶ An **uncertainty analysis** is advised based on this parameter space, and results of the process simulation will be provided with certain likelihood.

Modell-Begriff

Verifikation: Benchmarking

OpenGeoSys Benchmark Sammlung

Jupyter Notebooks

- ▶ ADE
- ▶ Brunnenformel (Theis)

The screenshot shows the OpenGeoSys website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Releases', 'Docs', 'Publications', and 'Discourse', along with a search bar. Below the navigation, there is a sidebar menu with categories like 'User Guide', 'Developer Guide', 'Benchmarks', 'Tools & Workflows', and 'Process-dependent configuration'. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'Featured Processes' and 'All Processes'. Each process is represented by a small thumbnail image and a label. The 'Featured Processes' section includes: Heat Transport BHE, Reactive Transport, and TH2M. The 'All Processes' section includes: Heat Transport BHE, Heatconduction, Hydro Mechanics, Hydro-Component, Hydro-Thermal, Liquid Flow, Phase-Field, Python Boundary Conditions, Reactive Transport, Richards Flow, Richards Mechanics, Small Deformations, Steady State Diffusion, Stokes Flow, TH2M, and Thermal-Two-Phase Flow.

Hydrosysteme

Hydrosysteme

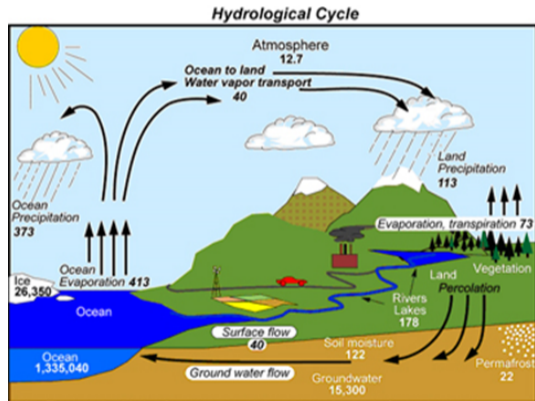
Totes Meer (Dead Sea) - Arid



Elbe - Humid



Wasserkreislauf



Units: Thousand cubic km for storage, and thousand cubic km/yr for exchanges

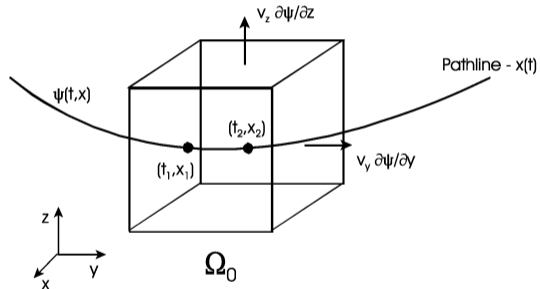
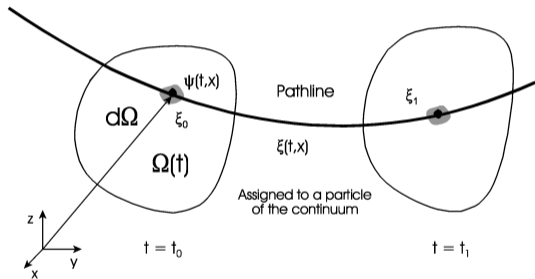
Hydro-System Modelle

- ▶ Prozessbasierte Modelle
- ▶ Datenbasierte Modelle (Vorlesung Jakob Zscheischler)

Prozessbasierte Modelle

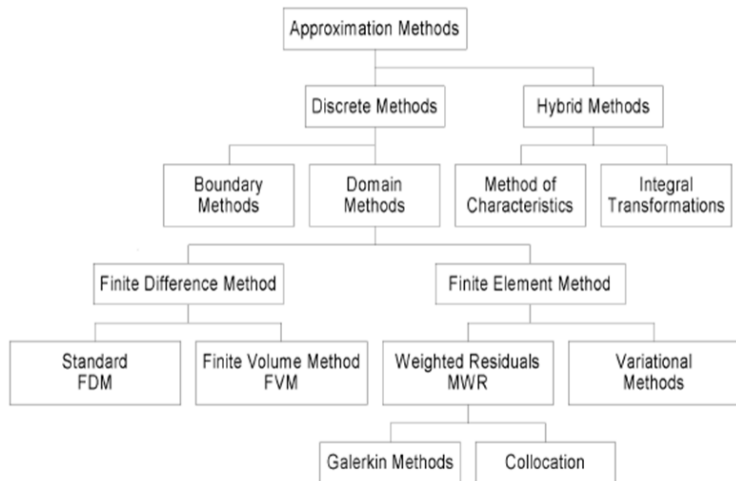
Prozessbasierte Modelle

Grundprinzipien (Vorlesungen im zweiten Teil des Semesters)



Prozessbasierte Modelle

Näherungsmethoden (Vorlesungen im zweiten Teil des Semesters)



Prozessbasierte Modelle

Beispiele (Vorlesungen im zweiten Teil des Semesters)

Finite Differenzen Modell (MODFLOW)

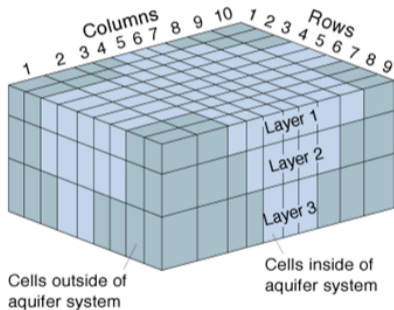
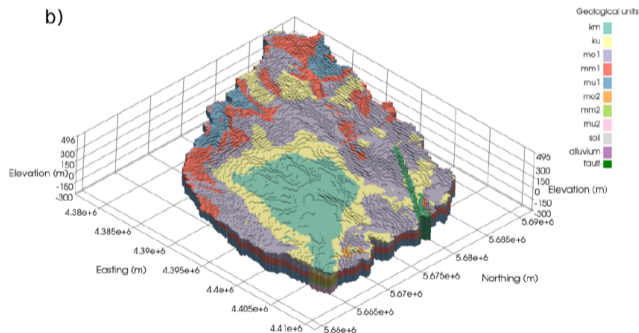


Figure 2. Example of model grid for simulating three-dimensional ground-water flow.

Finite Elemente Modell (OpenGeoSys)



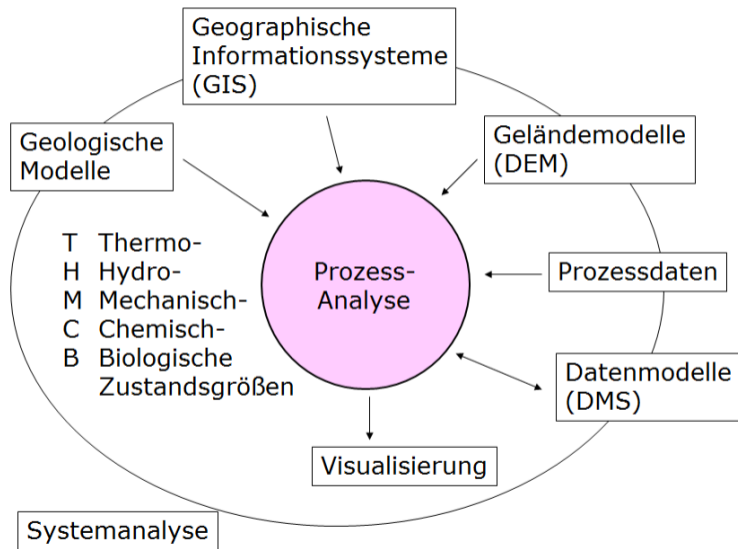
Modell für das Thüringer Becken

Datenbasierte Modelle

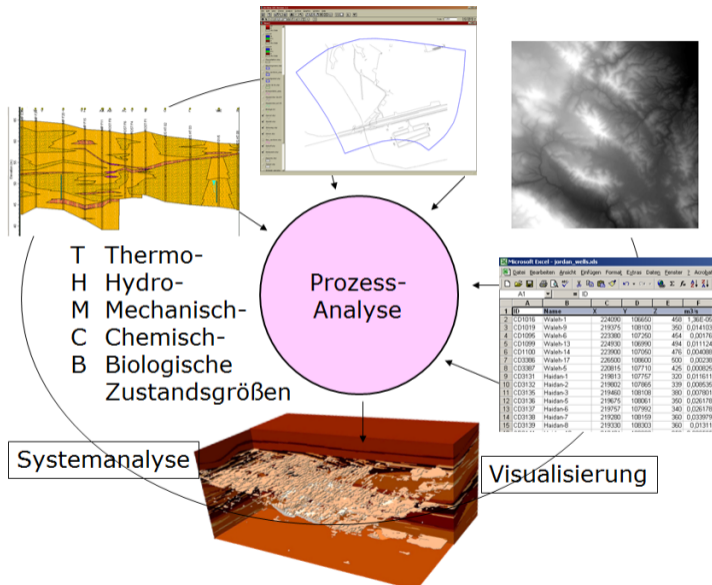
Nächste Vorlesung

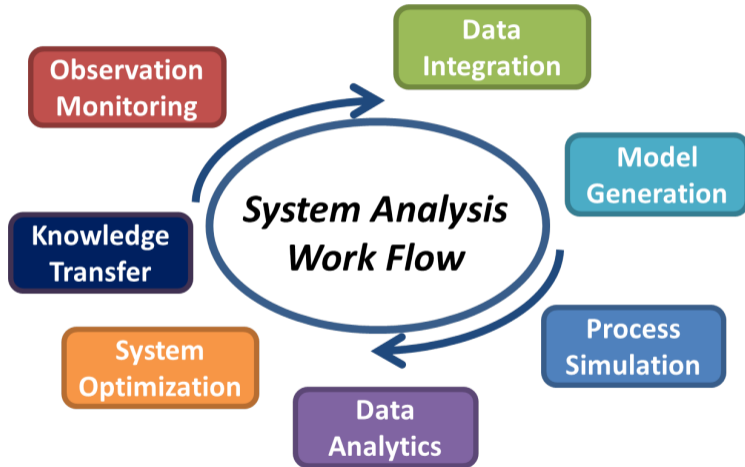
- ▶ Stochastische Modelle
- ▶ Netzwerke (Neuronale, Bayes'sche Netzwerke, ...)
- ▶ Machine Learning (KI)
- ▶ ...

Workflows ...



Workflows





Object Orientation

OpenGeoSys
workflows

Workflows: Hydrosystems

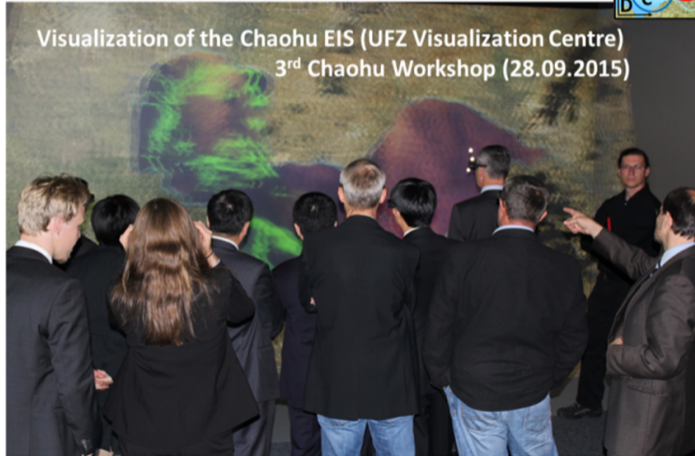


Quelle: Kalbacher et al.
(2012)

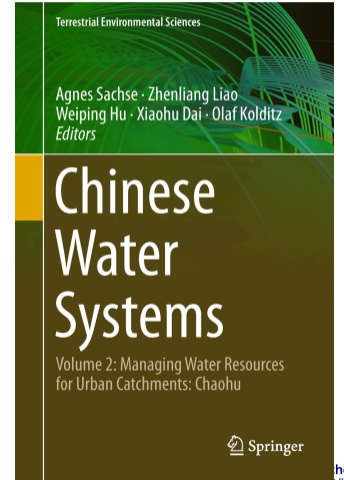
Visualisierung: Lars Bilke
und Karsten Rink

>> Videolink

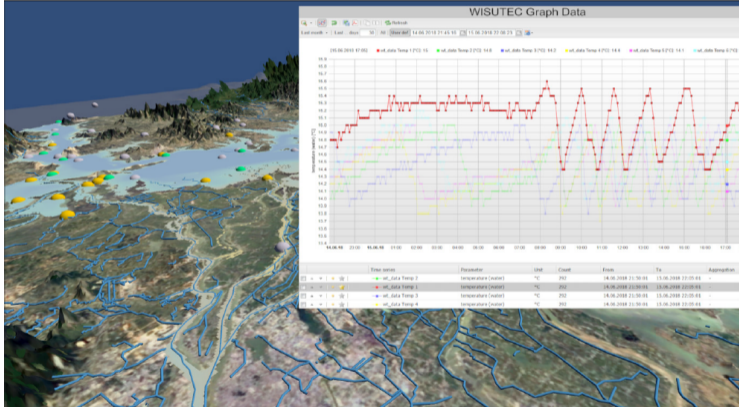
D. Environmental Information System



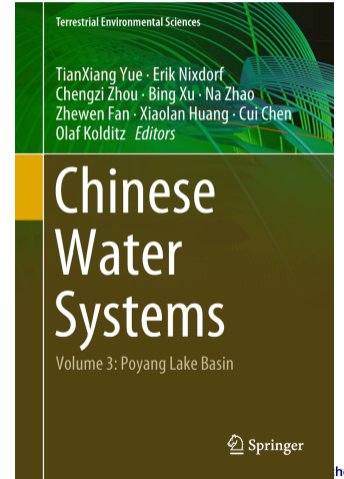
Visualisierung: Karsten Rink



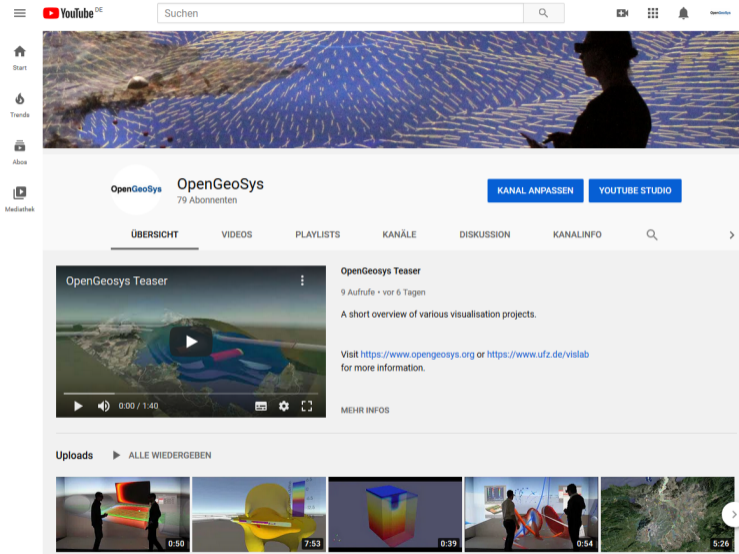
>> Videolink



Visualisierung: Karsten Rink



YouTube DE Suchen



OpenGeoSys
79 Abonnenten

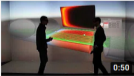
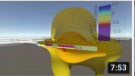

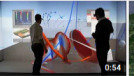

KANAL ANPASSEN YOUTUBE STUDIO

ÜBERSICHT VIDEOS PLAYLISTS KANÄLE DISKUSSION KANALINFO

OpenGeosys Teaser
9 Aufrufe · vor 6 Tagen
A short overview of various visualisation projects.
Visit <https://www.opengeosys.org> or <https://www.ufz.de/vislab> for more information.

MEHR INFOS

Uploads ▶ ALLE WIEDERGEBEN

https://www.youtube.com/user/OpenGeoSys

