

# Integrated modeling of the urban wastewater system: Back to the future

Peter A. Vanrolleghem  
modelEAU – Université Laval  
Québec City, CAN



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## Back to the future

- 1985 - 2015



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1955

## Stream Pollution

### EFFECT OF SEWAGE-BORNE PHOSPHORUS ON ALGAE \*

By JOHN J. CURRY AND S. L. WILSON

*Respectively, Chief Engineer, Connecticut State Water Commission, Hartford, Conn., and Biologist, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, Conn.*

When Lake Zoar was first formed by Stevenson Dam on the Housatonic River in Connecticut there was no algae problem. However, as the years passed algae in the lake increased and by 1947 they were so plentiful that a serious nuisance was created for the property owners around the lake. At the time it was thought the most offensive part of the problem was the aquatic weeds and some efforts were made to determine the most suitable method of control. In 1949, the Housatonic Valley Clean Waters League, Inc., requested the Connecti-

Benoit and in July, 1954, a research study was authorized.

#### Physical Aspects

Lake Zoar was formed behind a run-of-the-river hydroelectric plant built by the Connecticut Light and Power Company in 1919 and the drainage area of the Housatonic River at this point is about 1545 sq. mi. This company also operates a pump storage facility at Lake Candlewood. Although Lake Candlewood is not on the Housatonic River proper, the water in the lake is Housatonic River water removed to it for storage (Diagram 1).

#### Phosphorus Removal

The removal of soluble phosphates from sewage treatment plant effluents through the use of alum and lime is to be studied in a pilot plant constructed with a special legislative appropriation. It is hoped that algae can be controlled by reducing the phosphorus in the water.

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1975

## • Bruce Beck (Cambridge, UK)



*Water Research Vol. 10, pp. 575 to 595. Pergamon Press 1976. Printed in Great Britain.*

### DYNAMIC MODELLING AND CONTROL APPLICATIONS IN WATER QUALITY MAINTENANCE

M. B. BECK\*

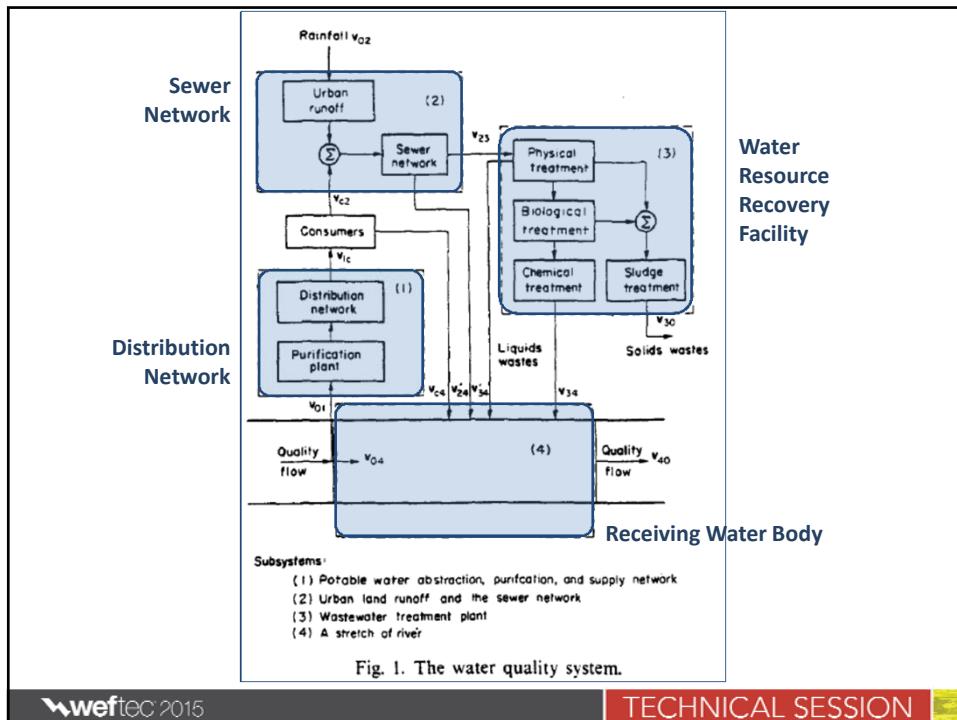
Control Division, University Engineering Department, Cambridge, U.K.

(Received 4 October 1975)

**Abstract**—The purpose of this paper is to develop and illustrate a unified, systematic approach to problems of water quality management. In order to achieve this a water quality system is defined as the following group of component features: the abstraction, purification, and supply of potable water from a river; consumer effluent, rainfall-runoff from an urban land surface, and the sewer network; the wastewater treatment plant; the river itself. A systems analysis approach to the study of the dynamic and control aspects of the system is discussed, with particular reference to the practical limitations of instrumentation and technology. In an attempt to blend the theory with the practice recent studies on the dynamic modelling and control of parts of the water quality system are reviewed. Special attention is paid to the practical application of techniques of system identification and parameter estimation. Finally, piecing together several individual results, it is possible to give a good indication of the manner in which control studies should be directed in the near future.

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**1985**

• Willi Gujer (eawag, Switzerland)

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ANHANG: Gujer et al. (1982), *gwa*, 62(7), 298-311.

173 - 905

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**Von der Kanalisation ins Grundwasser – Charakterisierung eines Regenereignisses im Glattal**

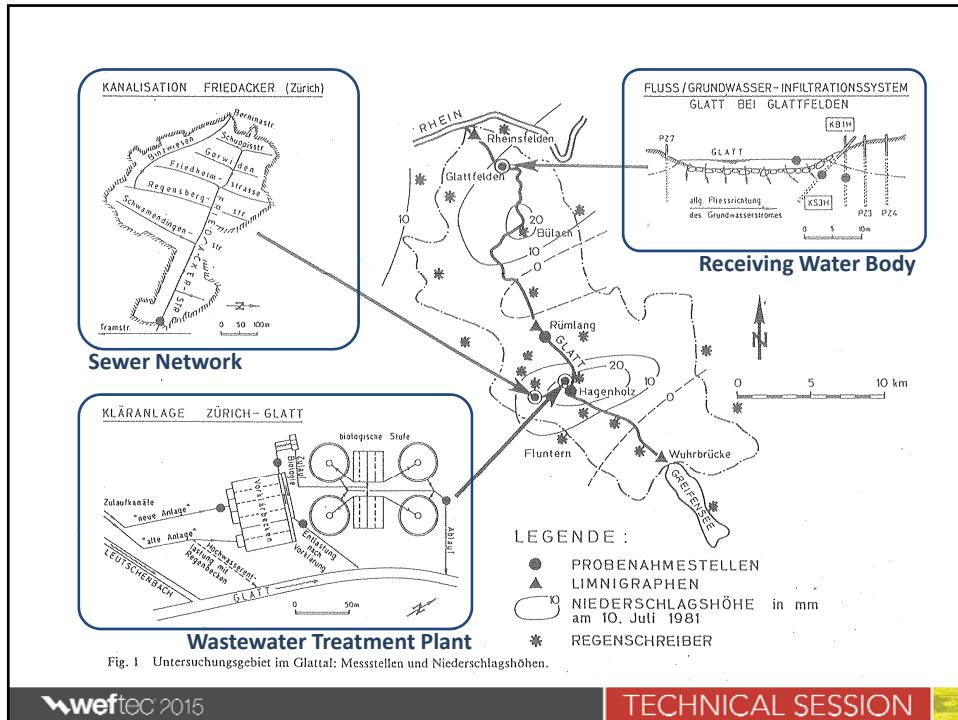
EAWAG, 8600 Dübendorf, in Zusammenarbeit mit der Abt. Stadtentwässerung des Tiefbauamtes der Stadt Zürich

Bericht:  
W. Gujer, V. Krejci, R. Schwarzenbach, J. Zobrist

Für alle diese Phänomene, die typisch sind für Regenereignisse, interessieren sich mit unterschiedlicher Gewichtung verschiedene am Gewässerschutz beteiligte Fachleute. Nur selten gelingt es aber, einen umfassenden Überblick über die Zusammenhänge und Auswirkungen dieser Phänomene zu erhalten. Verschiedene Forschungsprojekte der EAWAG befassen sich mit Teilspekten des generellen Problemkreises «Gewässerschutz bei Regenereignissen». Gemeinsam decken diese Projekte den ganzen Bereich, von der Quelle der Schmutzstoffe bis zur Senke respektive zum Abfluss aus einem ganzen Einzugsgebiet eines Fließgewässers. Es war daher naheliegend, dass die verschiedenen Arbeitsgruppen in einer gemeinsamen Aktion versuchten, ein Regenereignis im Detail so zu untersuchen, dass für ausgewählte Schmutzstoffe Ursprung, Verhalten und Auswirkungen auf die Wasserzusammensetzung in einem

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# 1995

- Peter Vanrolleghem (BIOMATH, Belgium)

WEF Specialty Conference on Urban Wet Weather Pollution:  
Controlling sewer overflows and stormwater runoff. Quebec City, Canada, June 16-19 1996.

## EVALUATION OF DESIGN AND OPERATION OF THE SEWAGE TRANSPORT AND TREATMENT SYSTEM BY AN EQO/EQS BASED ANALYSIS OF THE RECEIVING WATER IMMISSION CHARACTERISTICS

Peter A. Vanrolleghem  
Department of Applied Mathematics, Biometrics and Process Control (BIOMATH)  
University of Gent, Coupure Links 653, B-9000 Gent, Belgium

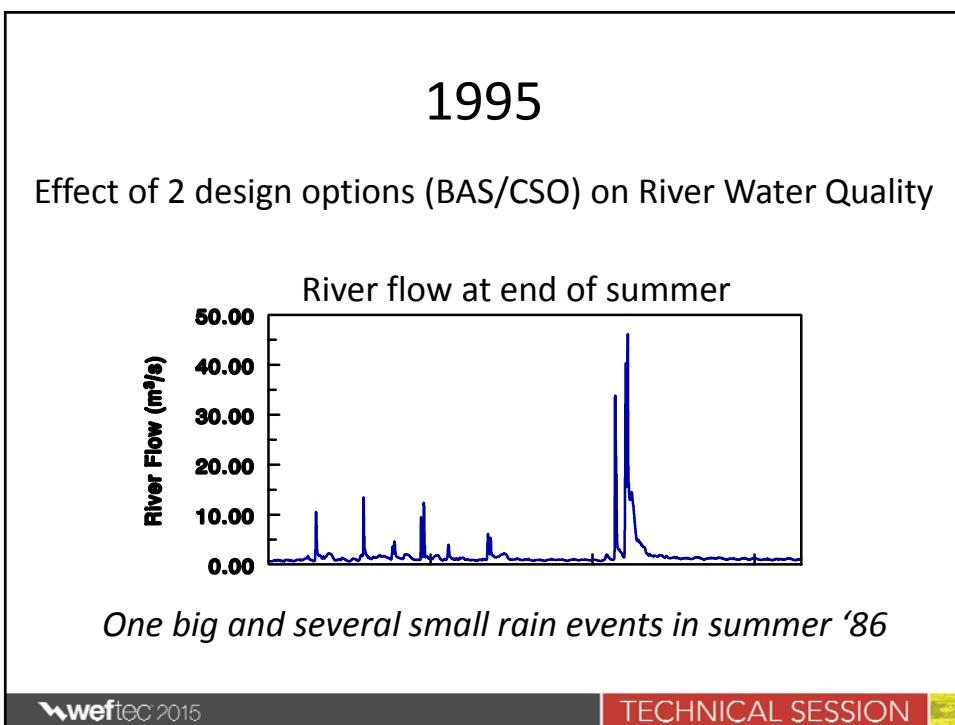
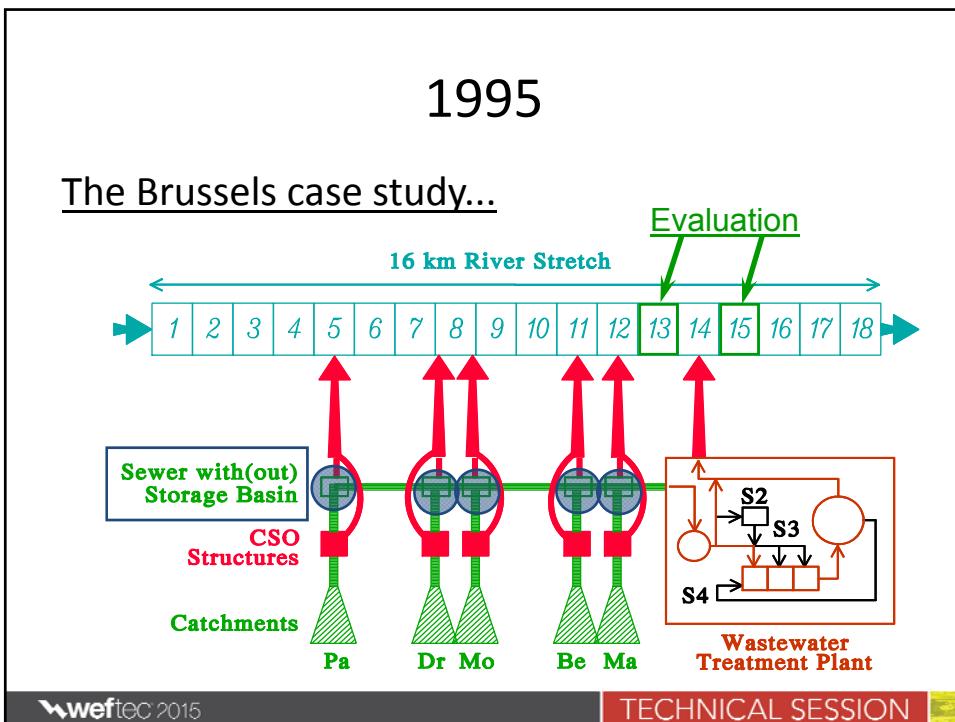
Chantal Fronteau and Willy Bauwens  
Laboratory of Hydrology, University of Brussels, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brusse's, Belgium

### INTRODUCTION

It is evident to all those involved in urban water management that three important units need to be considered to assess the performance of an urban drainage system: the sewer, the treatment plant and the receiving

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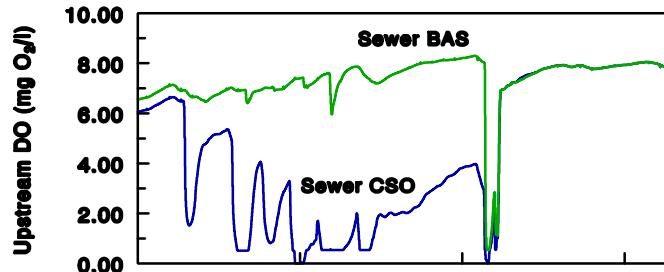
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1995

### River Water Quality (oxygen)

Downstream of CSO, upstream of WRRF

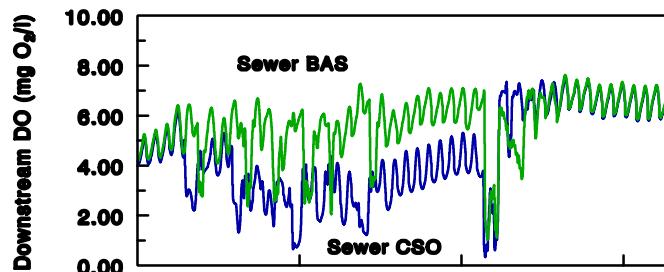


*Clear beneficial effect of retention basins (BAS) in sewer !*

1995

### River Water Quality (oxygen)

Downstream of CSO, downstream of WRRF



*Beneficial effect of basins is reduced due to lower efficiency of WRRF by increased loading from basins*

2005

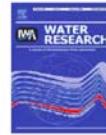


- Eveline Volcke (Ghent Univ., Belgium)

WATER RESEARCH 40 (2006) 2817–2828



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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/watres](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/watres)



## Continuity-based model interfacing for plant-wide simulation: A general approach

Eveline I.P. Volcke<sup>a,\*</sup>, Mark C.M. van Loosdrecht<sup>b</sup>, Peter A. Vanrolleghem<sup>a,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Biomath, Department of Applied Mathematics, Biometrics and Process Control, Ghent University, Coupure Links 653, B-9000 Gent, Belgium

<sup>b</sup>Department of Biochemical Engineering, Delft University of Technology, Julianalaan 67, NL-2628 BC Delft, The Netherlands

<sup>c</sup>ModelEAU, Département de génie civil, Pavillon Pouliot, Université Laval, Québec, Canada G1K 7P4

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Article history:

In plant-wide simulation studies of wastewater treatment facilities, often existing models

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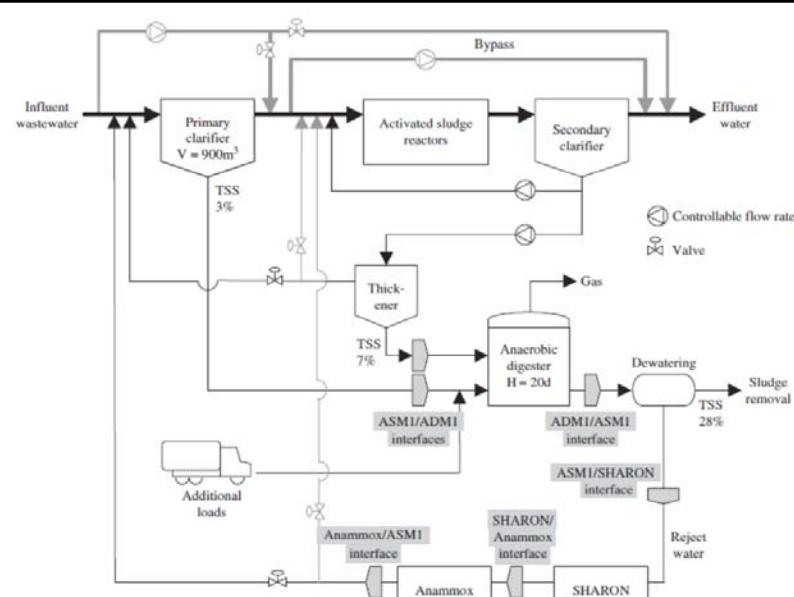
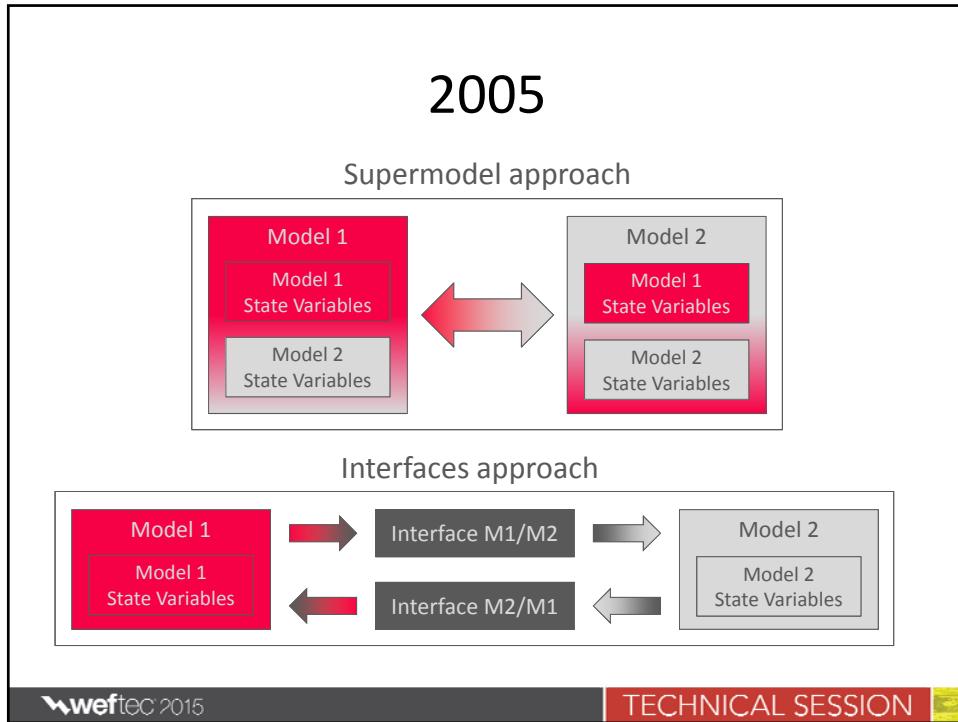


Fig. 2 – Extended benchmark plant with anaerobic sludge digestion and reject water recirculation, adapted from Jeppsson et al. (2006). The location for inclusion of the SHARON and Anammox process is indicated, as well as the model interfaces.

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2005

- Peter Vanrolleghem  
(modelEAU, Canada)

Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)  
**SCIENCE @ DIRECT<sup>®</sup>**  
 Environmental Modelling & Software 20 (2005) 427–442  
[www.elsevier.com/locate/envsoft](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envsoft)

Environmental Modelling & Software

Modelling and real-time control of the integrated urban wastewater system

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*BIOMATH, Department for Applied Mathematics, Biometrics and Process Control, Ghent University,  
Coupure Links 653, B-9000 Gent, Belgium*

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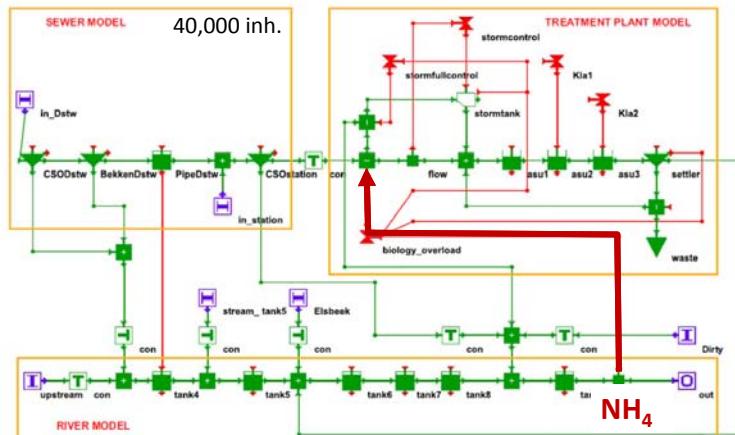
**Abstract**

In the European Union, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) enforces a good ecological and chemical status of all surface waters. In-stream (immission) concentrations and populations need to comply with certain standards. In order to deal with this new

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2005

### Water quality based real-time control ( $\text{NH}_4$ )

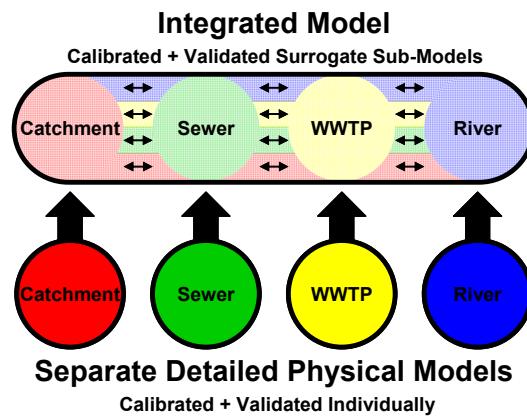


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2005

### Integration using surrogate sub-models



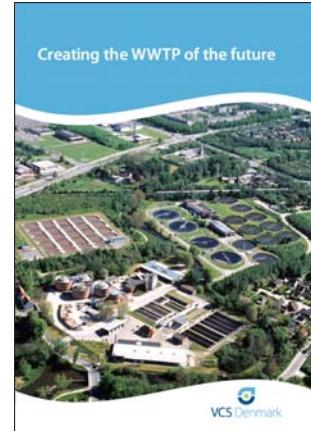
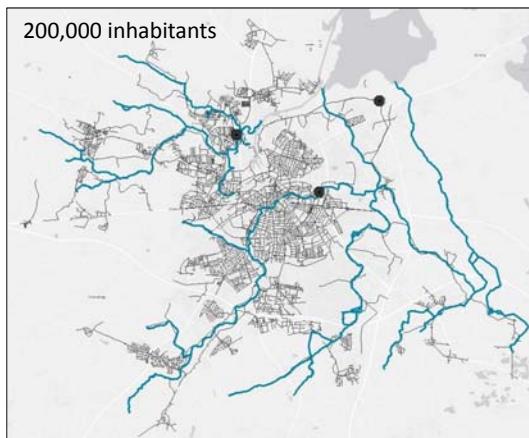
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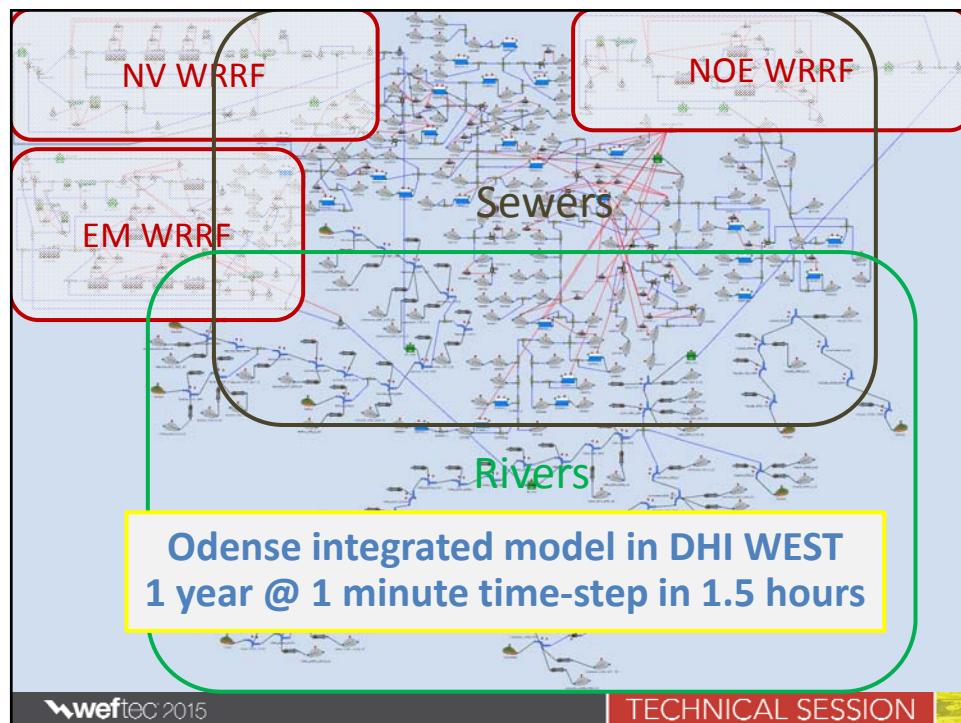


- Lorenzo Benedetti (VCS-Odense, DK)



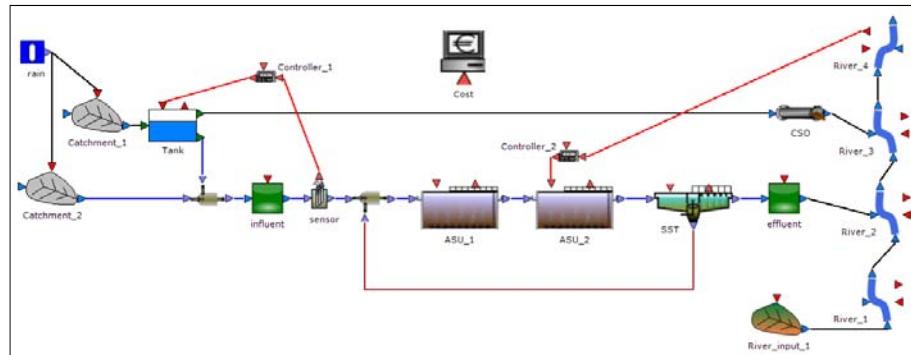
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# 2015

What Odense's 3-headed beast boils down to:



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# 2015

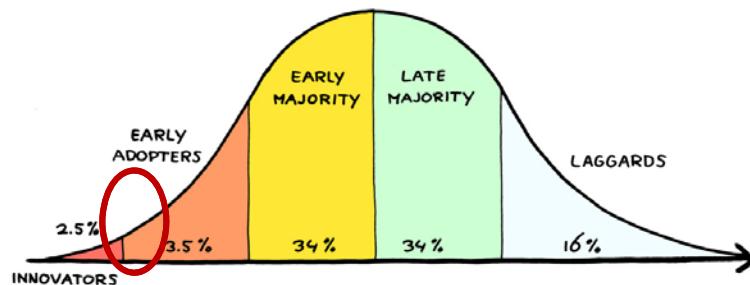
- Develop an alternative wet weather plan which:
  - satisfies the Danish regulator,
  - delivers long term environmental benefit; and
  - supports the most efficient use of VCS investment
- Demonstrate leadership & innovation in wet weather planning
  - New integrated modeling technology
  - Wet weather water quality design criteria (UPM)

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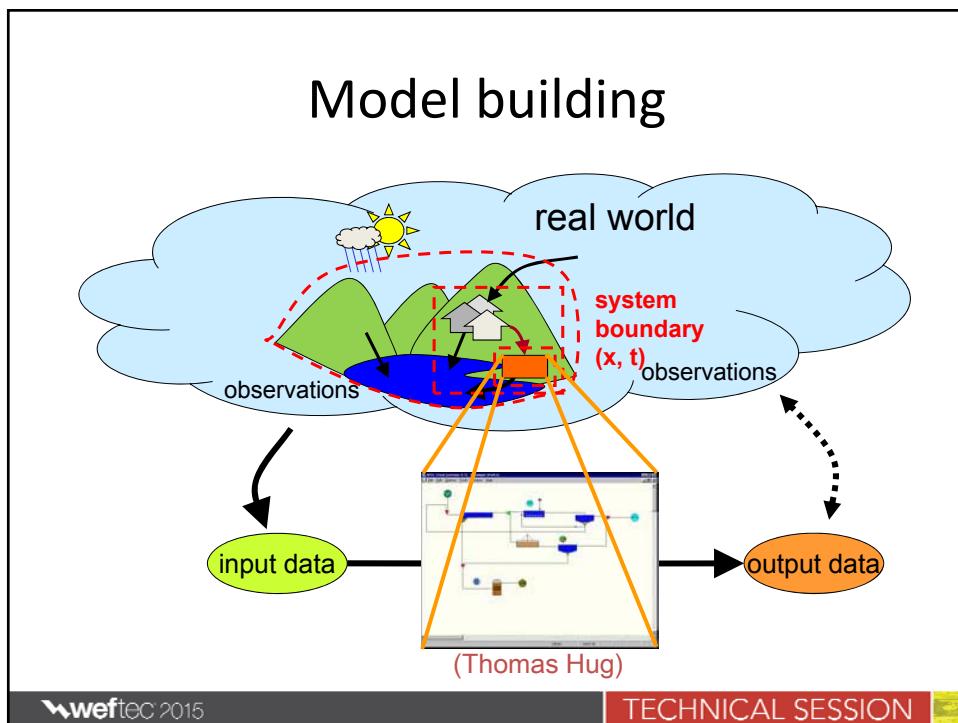
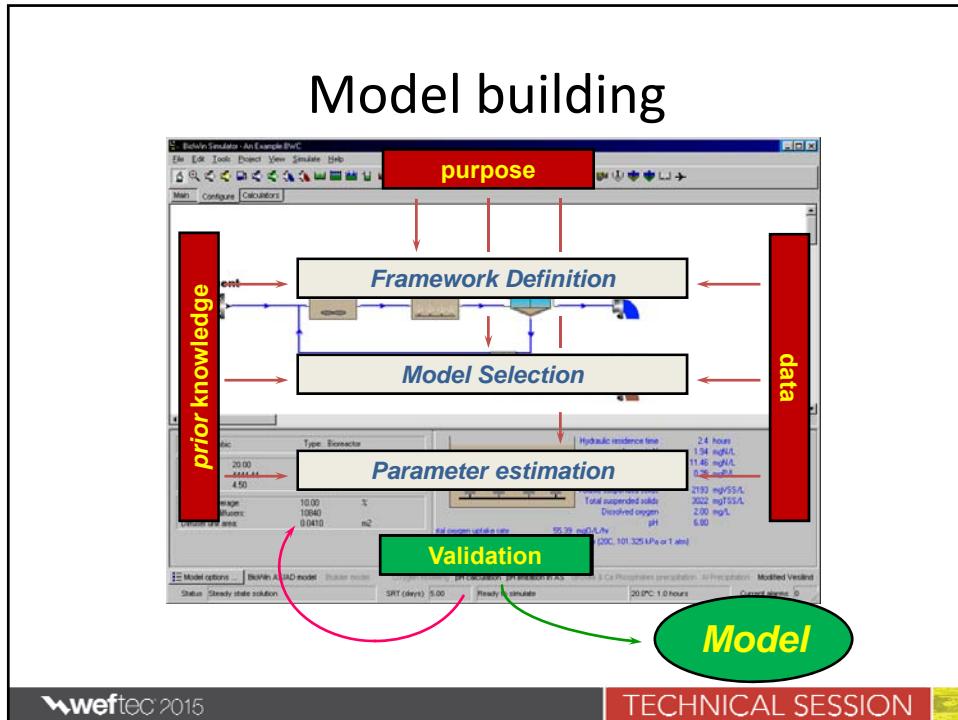
- Integrated modeling: Case studies → Applications  
Slow uptake in practice, but there is significant progress



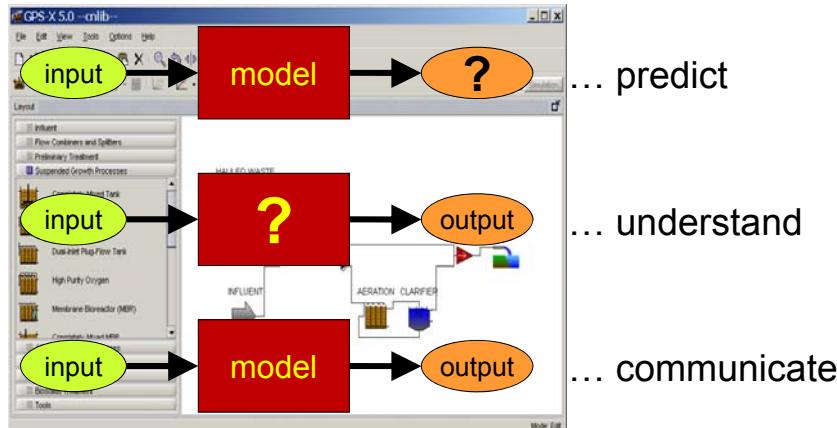
## Modeling - Definitions

- System  
*Part of reality that is separated from its environment on the basis of a purpose defined by the researcher*
- Model  
*An approximate description of a part of reality considering only those aspects that are of interest*
- Simulation  
= *Virtual Experimentation: Manipulation of a model to gain insight in the “behaviour” of the real system*





## Objectives of model use



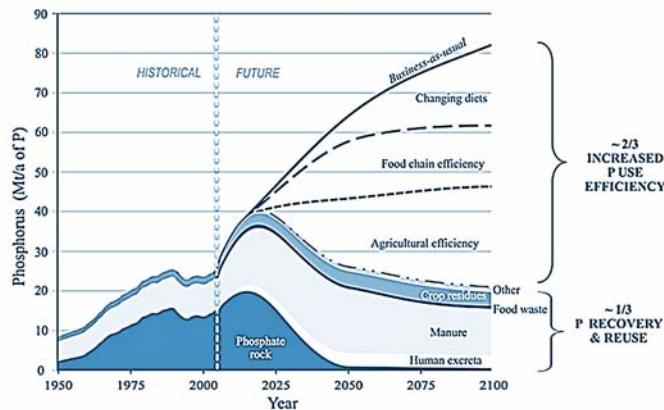
## Back to the future

- 2015 - 2045



# 2045

- Resource depletion (e.g. phosphate)



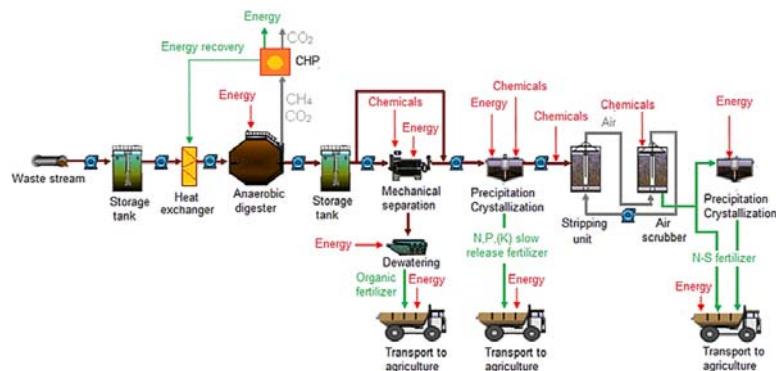
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# 2015



- Céline Vaneeckhaute (modelEAU)  
Modeling of resource recovery processes



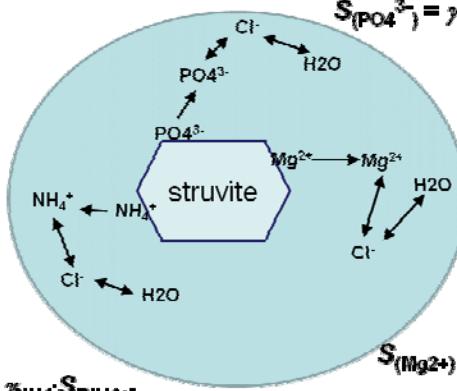
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2015



• Céline Vaneeckhaute (2015)  
Integration of physico-chemical models



$$S_{(PO_4^{3-})} = \gamma_{PO_4} \cdot S_{[PO_4^{3-}]}$$

$$S_{(Mg^{2+})} = \gamma_{Mg} \cdot S_{[Mg^{2+}]}$$

$$S_{(NH_4^+)} = \gamma_{NH_4} \cdot S_{[NH_4^+]}$$

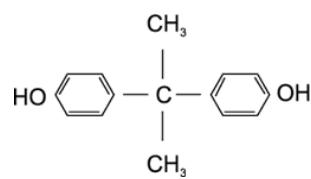
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2025



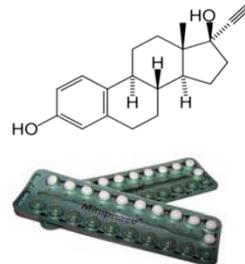
\*Joanne Parrott

• Micropollutant modeling



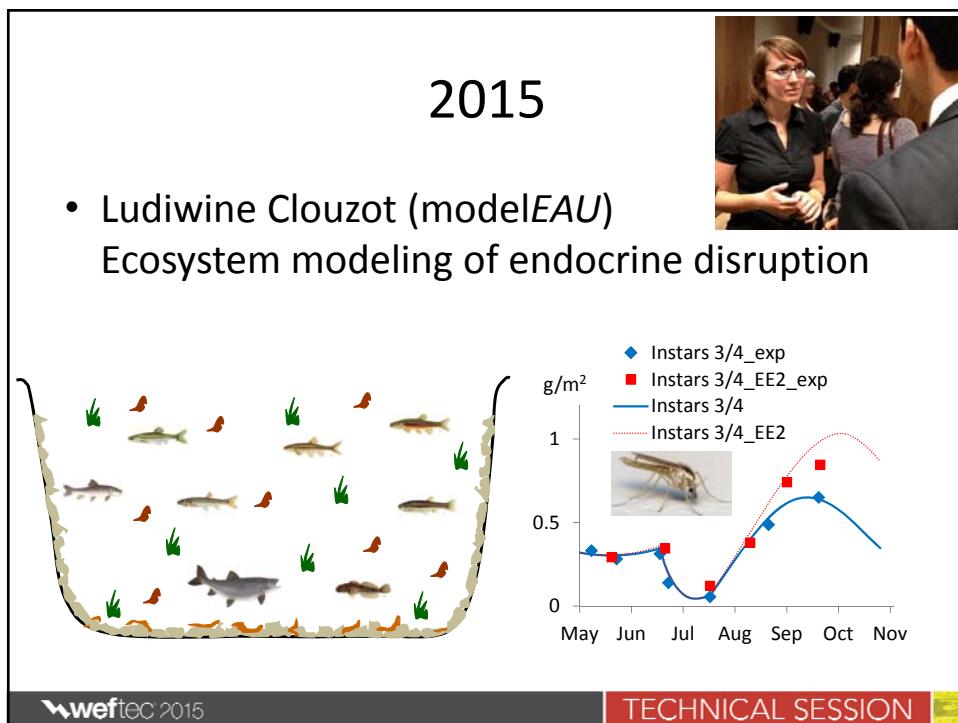
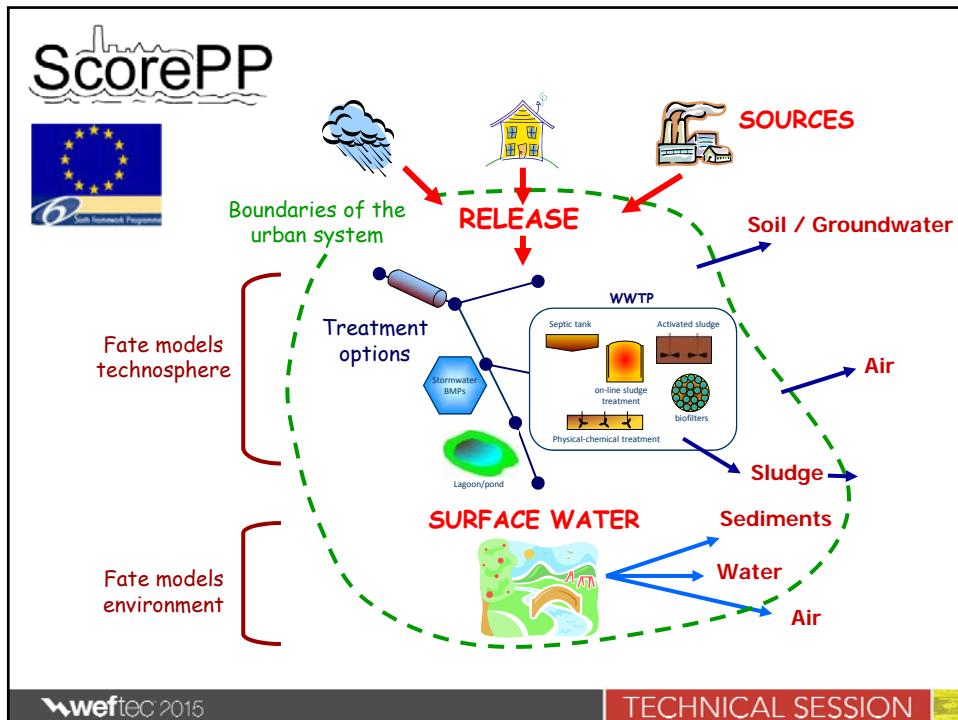


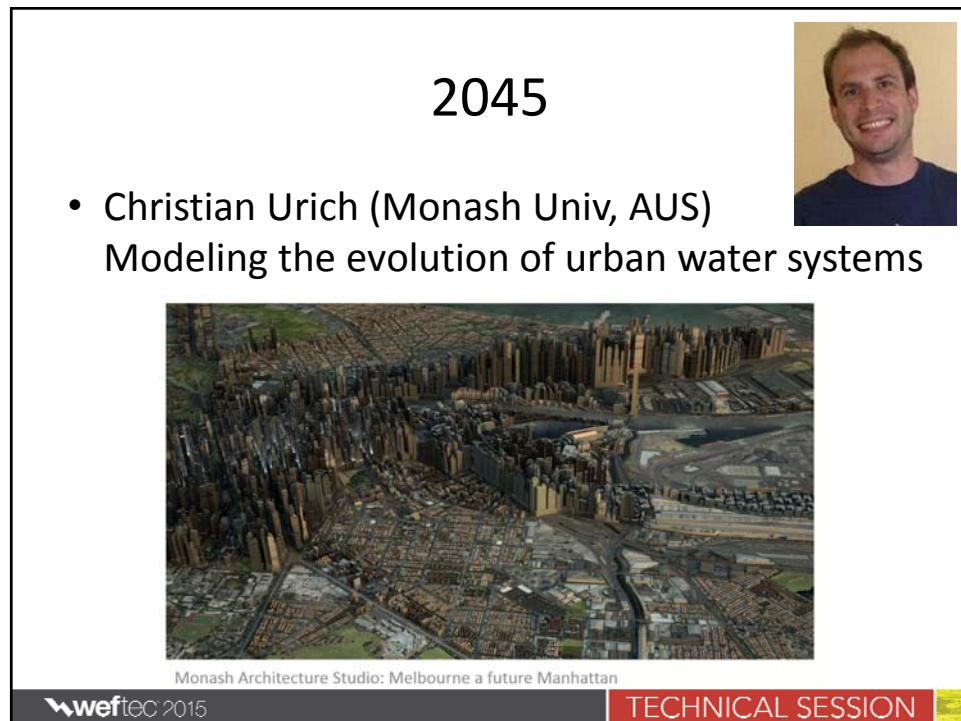
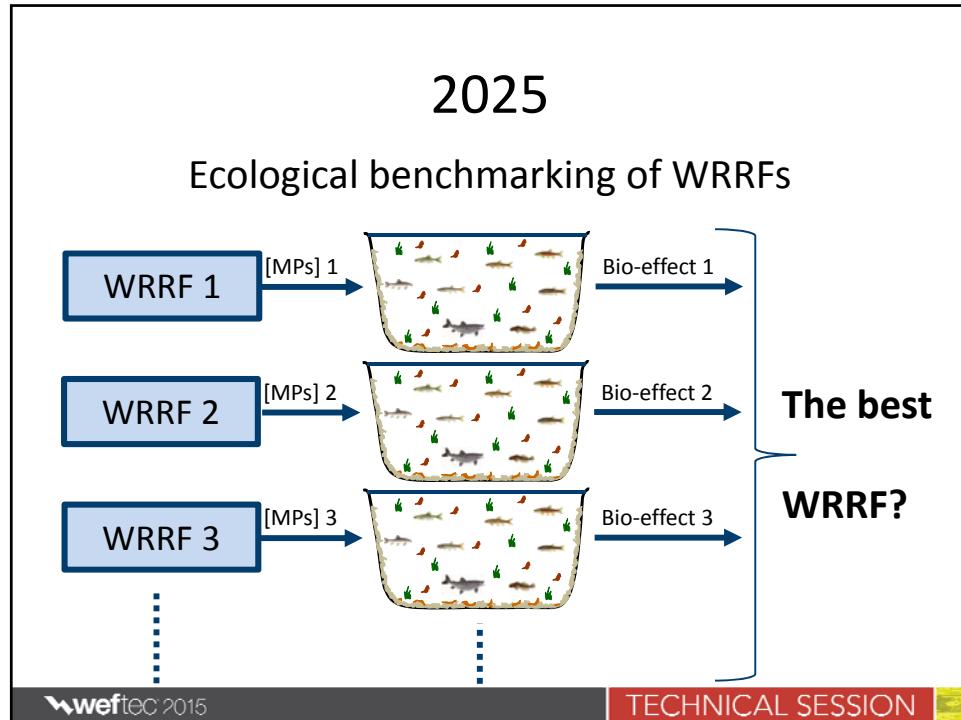






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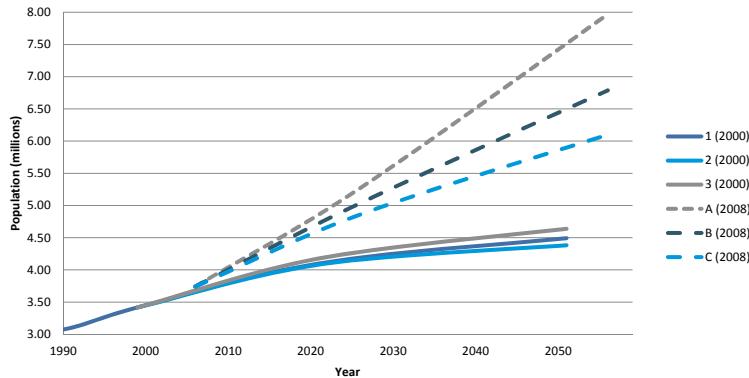




# 2045

- Decision-making under deep uncertainty

**Population Projections Melbourne**



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# 2045

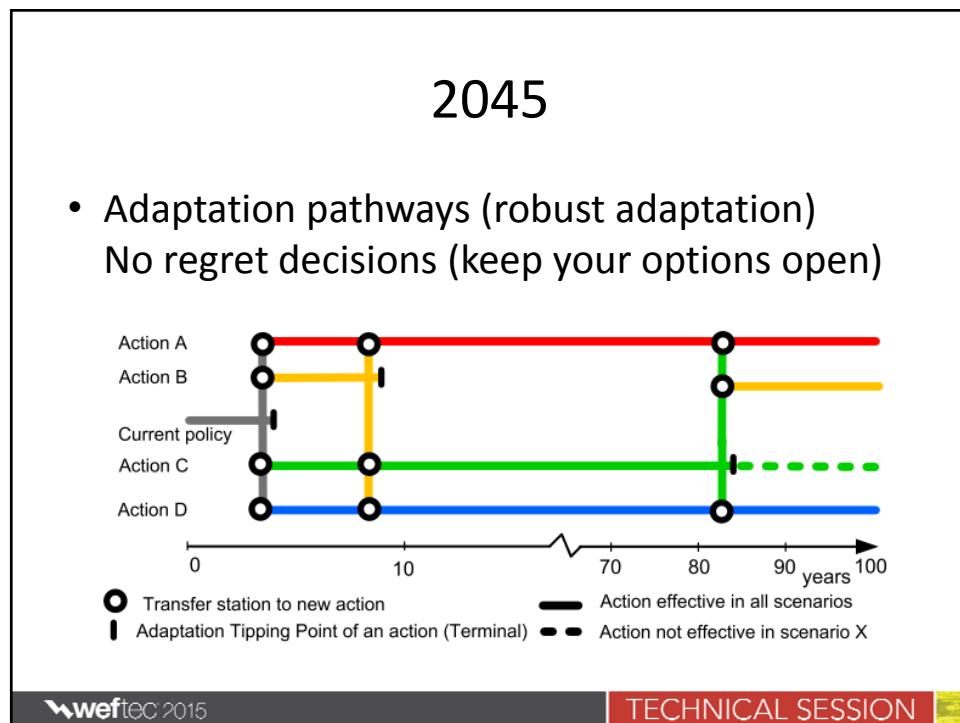
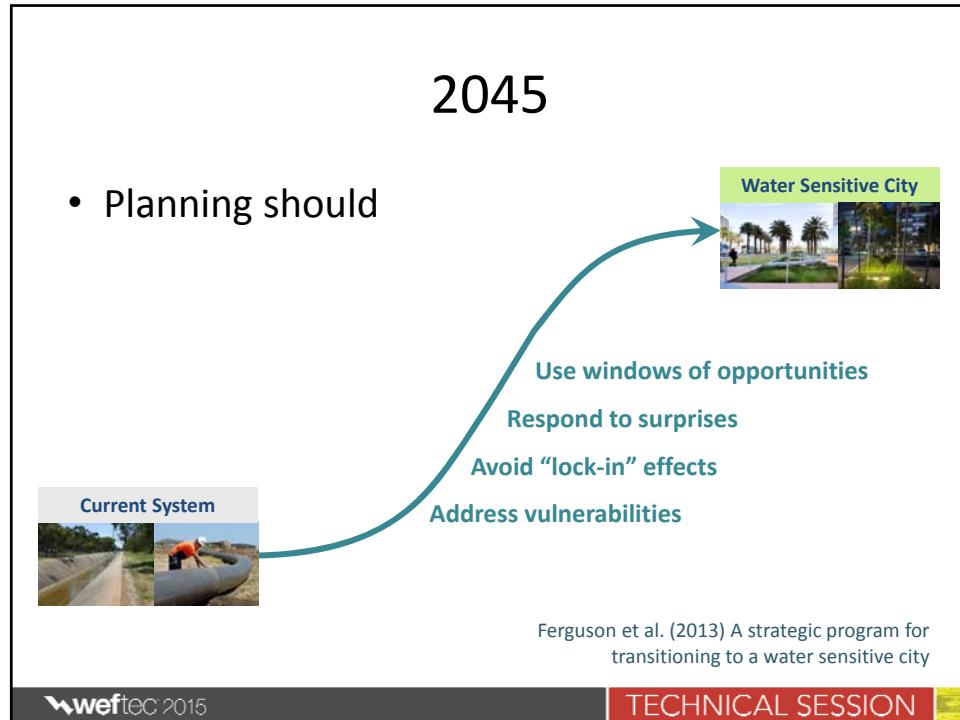
- Backcasting from future vision



Ferguson et al. (2012) Melbourne transition scenarios

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# 2045

- Data collection is quite different
  - Explorative
  - **Collaborative**



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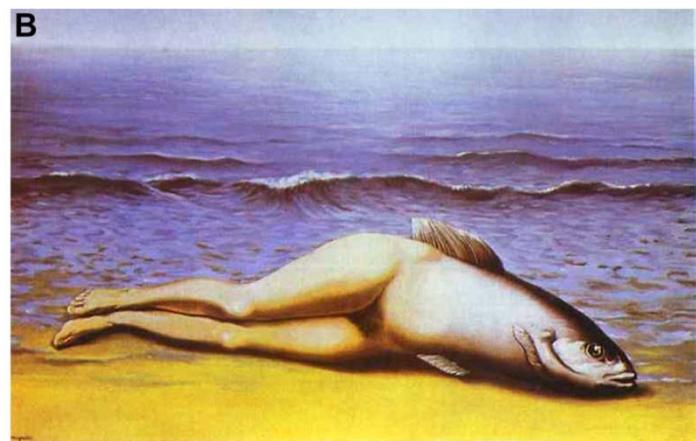
## The big jump forward



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## Integronsters – ugly constructions

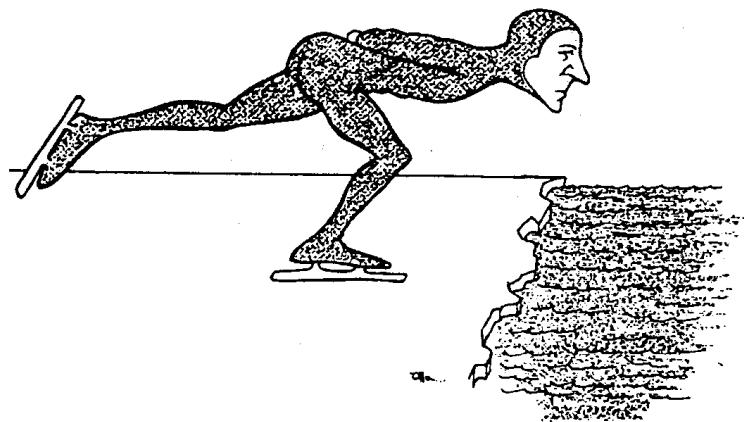


adapted from Voinov and Shugart (2013)

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## Don't extrapolate too far



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