



NGEE-Tropics

# Nutrient Dynamics in a Terrestrial Biosphere Model FATES-ELM

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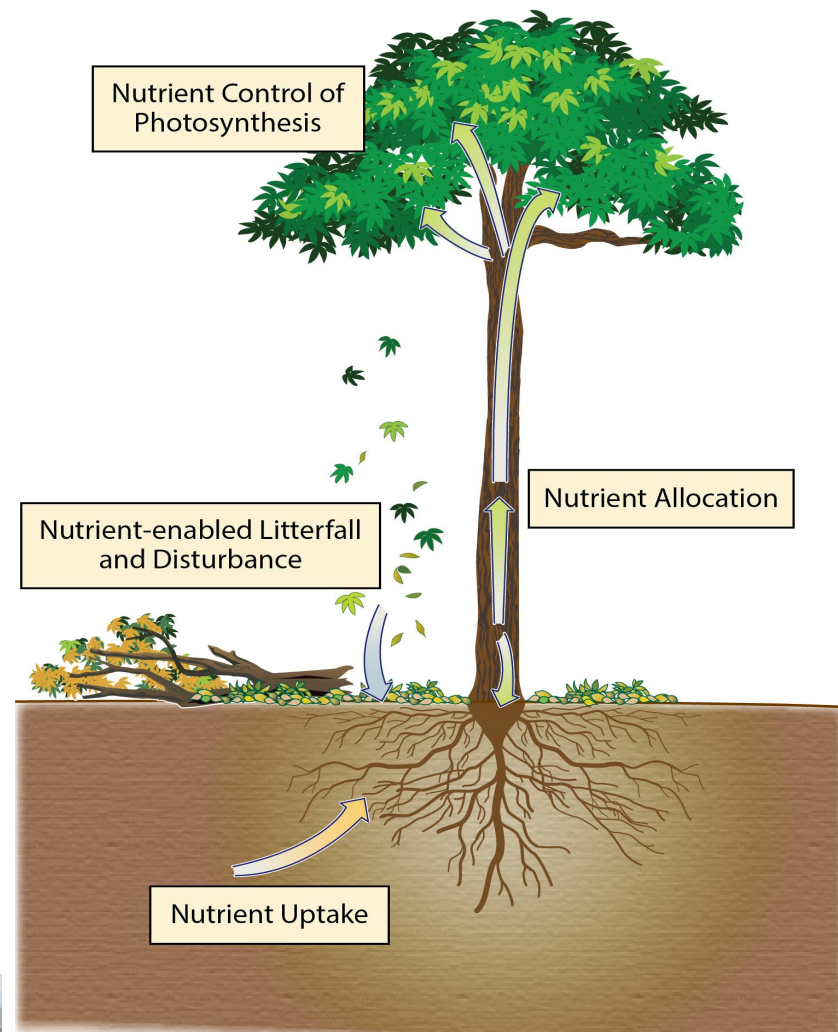


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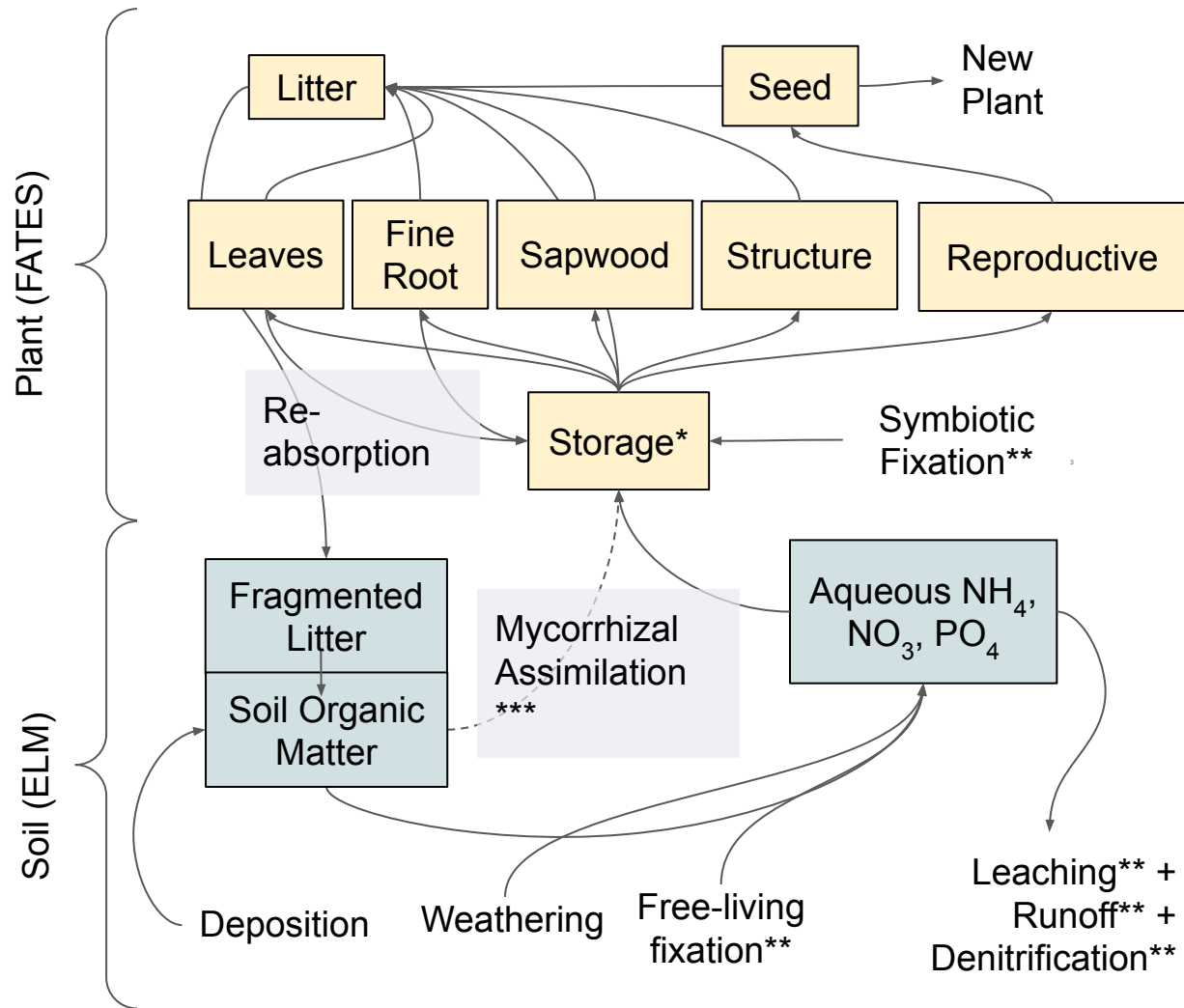
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# Model Description

- 1) Nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) are required to build plant tissues
- 2) Plant  $\text{NH}_4$ ,  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{PO}_4$  can be acquired through fine-root uptake
- 3) N can be generated through free-living fixation and obligate symbiotic fixation
- 4) Plant organ N concentrations affect respiration rates
- 5) N and P are passed back to the soil decomposition model through litterfall



# Model Description



# Model Description: Uptake Regulation

$$\hat{M}_{u,NH_4}(j) = \nu_{max,NH_4}(pft) \cdot C_{(fr,j)}$$

Potential uptake soil layer j

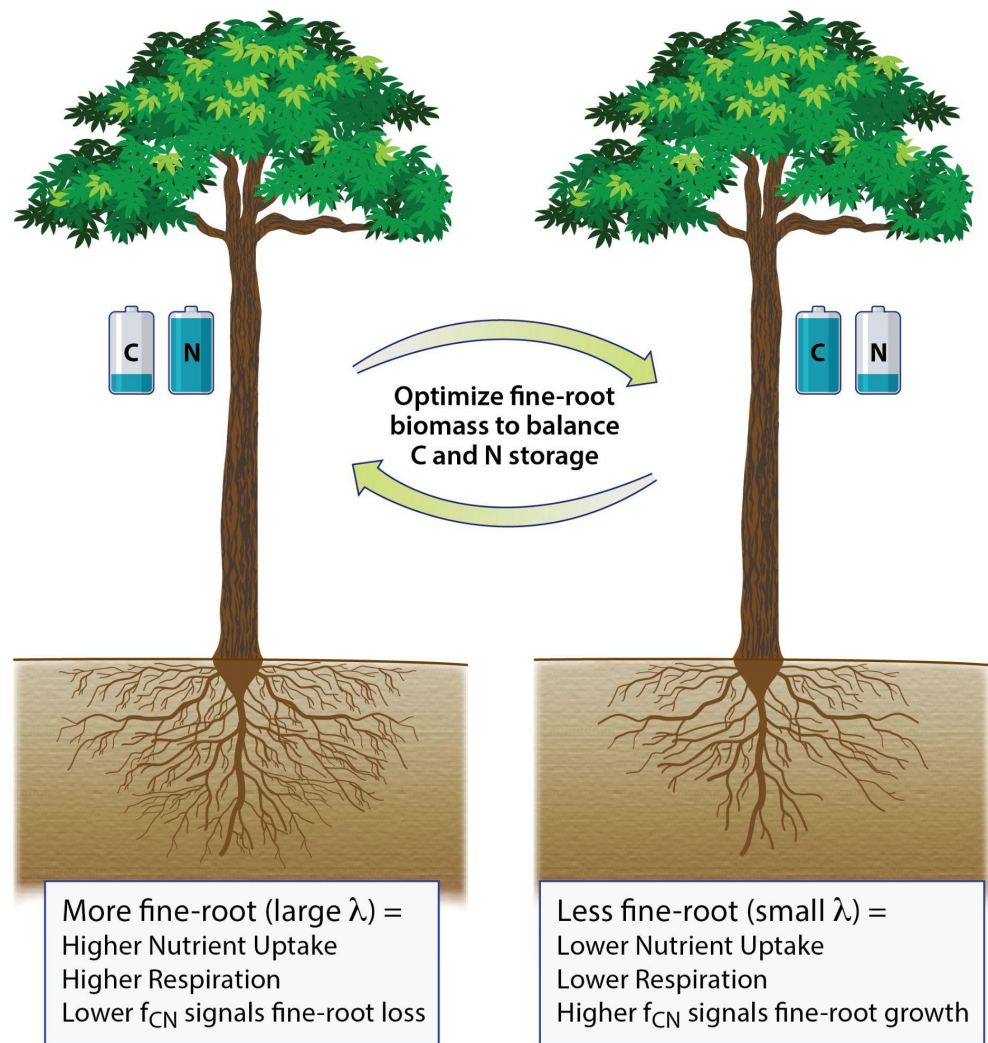
PFT parameter constant

Total fine-root biomass in soil layer j

$$\dot{C}_{(fr)} = \lambda \cdot \dot{C}_{(lf)}$$

Total fine-root biomass

Total leaf biomass (from allometry) [kg/m<sup>2</sup>]





# Model Description: Uptake Regulation

Analogy:  
Getting a ball to the  
center of a hinged  
track.

$$f_{CN} = \log \left( \frac{C_{store}/C_{store,max}}{N_{store}/N_{store,max}} \right)$$

Position of the ball

More Root

Too much C

Too much N

Less Root



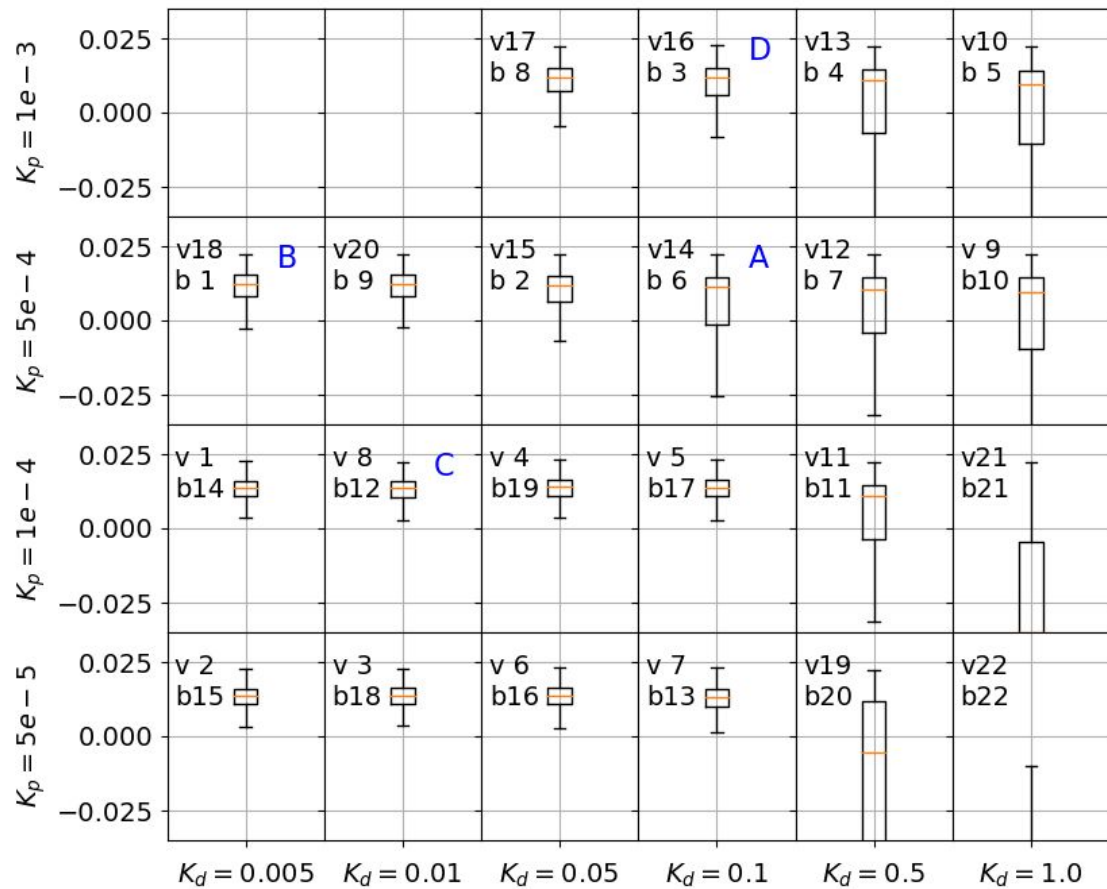
Proportional Integral  
Derivative (PID)  
Controller:

$$\lambda_t = \lambda_{t-1} + K_{p(pft)} f_{cn} + K_{i(pft)} \int f_{cn} dt + K_{d(pft)} \frac{df_{cn}}{dt}$$

# Calibration: PID

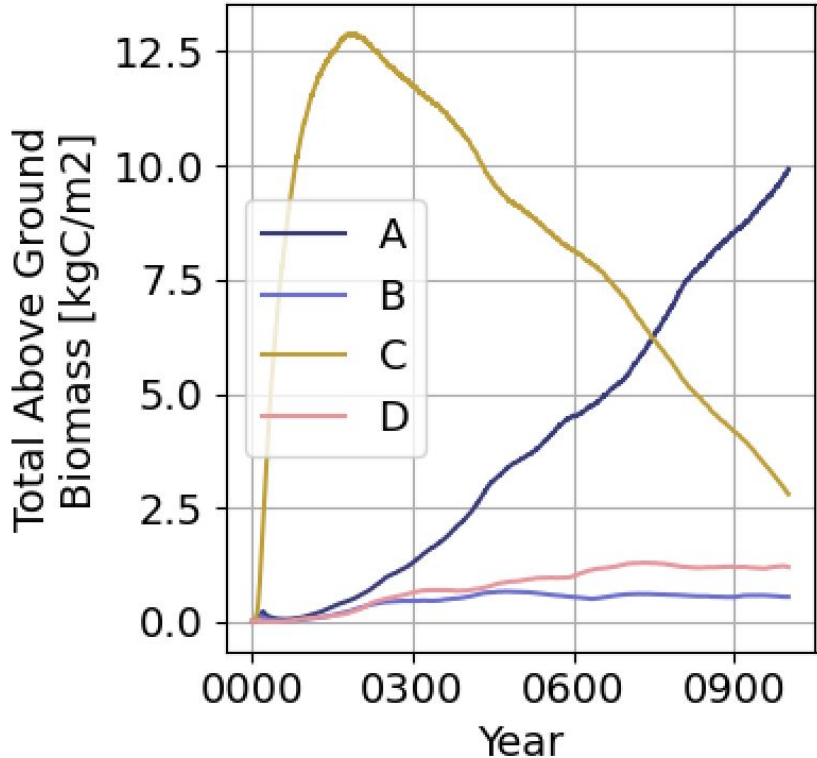
$K_p$  &  $K_d$

$f_{CN}$

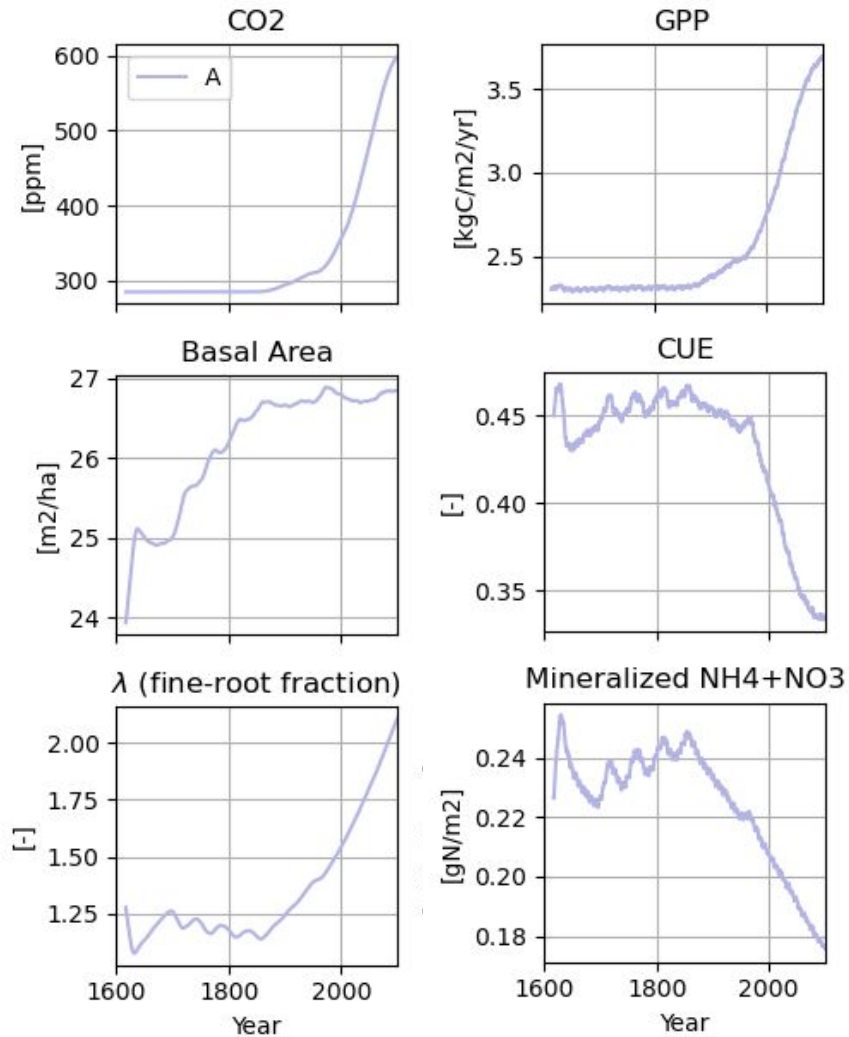


# Calibration: PID

$K_p$  &  $K_d$

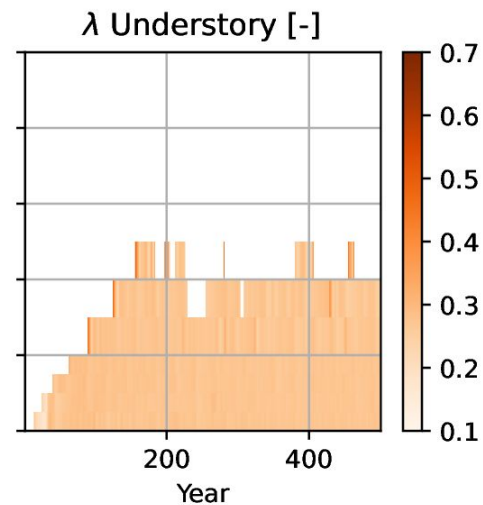
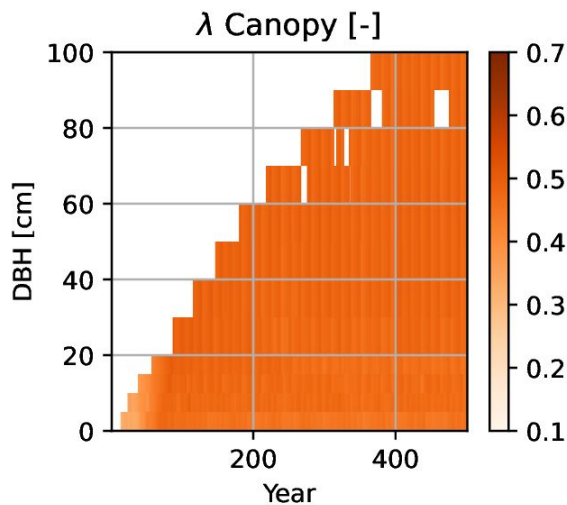
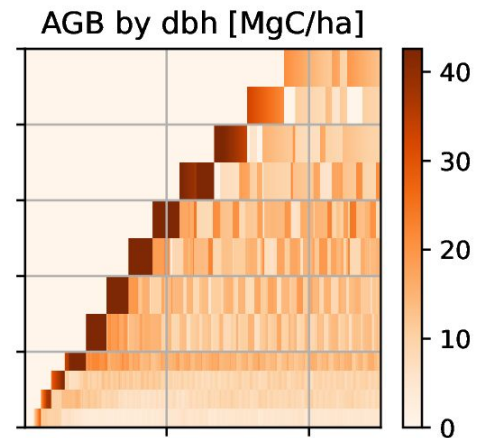
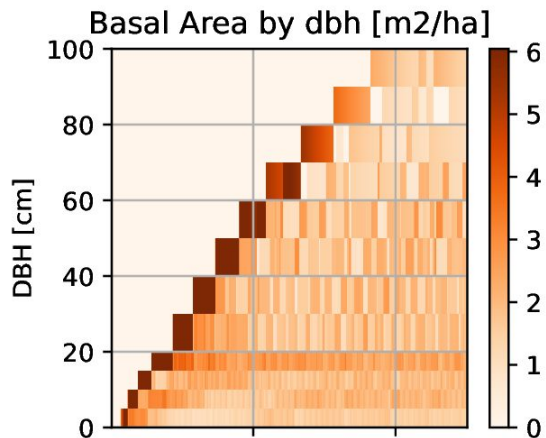


Nitrogen limits growth + competition for nitrogen reduces carbon use efficiency

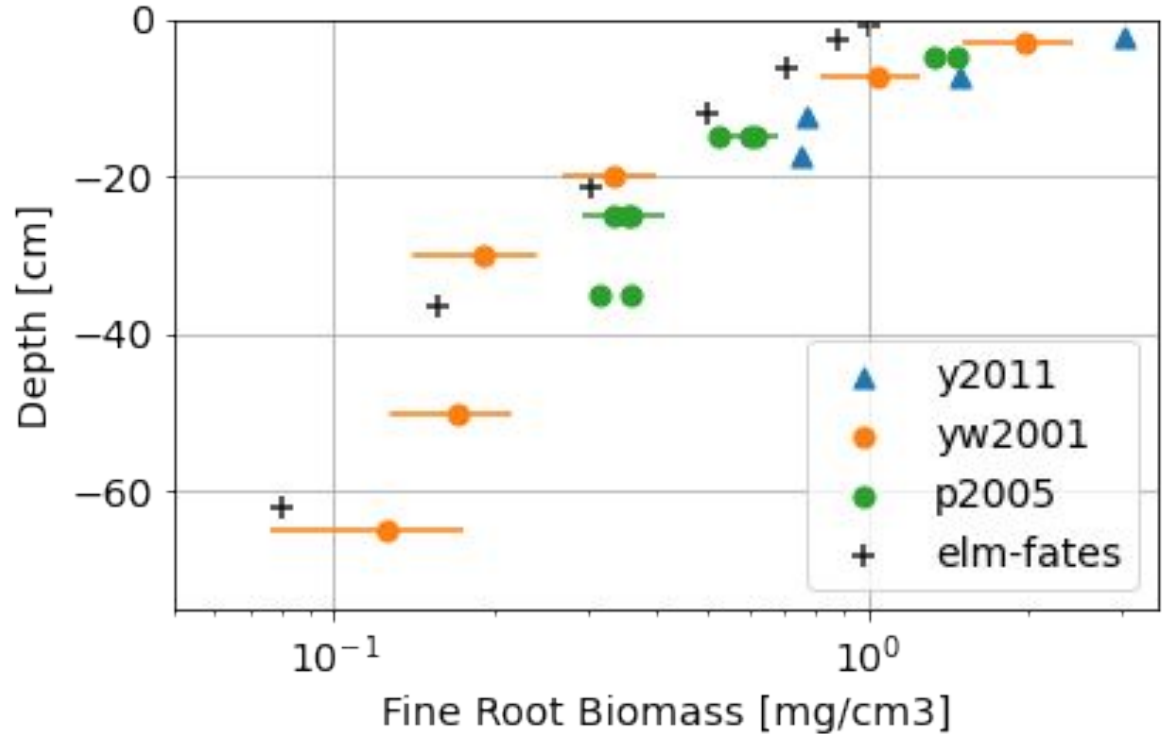




Trait plasticity  
(in roots)  
creates new  
survival niche  
for understory  
plants



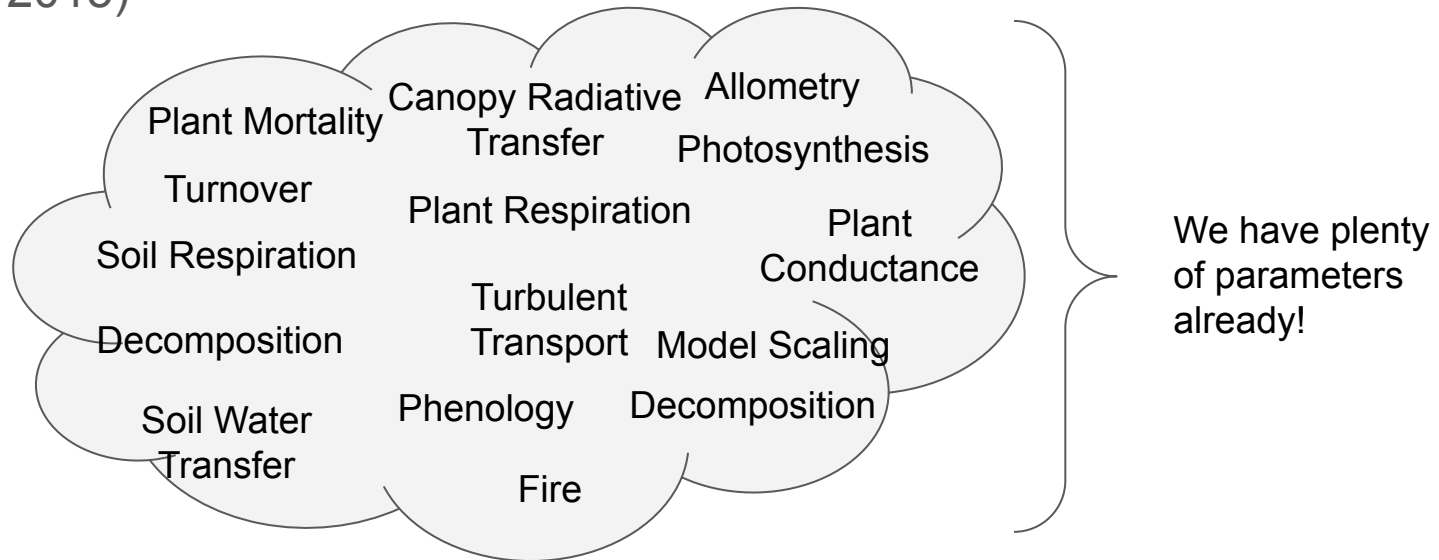
Fine-root biomass comparisons are useful but with caveats



Mean fine-root biomass profiles at the Barro Colorado National Monument from Yavit et al. 2011, Yavitt and Wright 2001, and Powers et al. 2005. Data available via Iversen et al. 20xx (FRED3).

# A Simplicity Imperative

*"As more processes continue to be identified and included in LSMs, the almost universal tendency is for LSMs to become more and more complex. A worrying side-effect is the progressive introduction of more model **parameters** with (commonly) substantially uncertain values... Complexity needs to be balanced."*  
(Prentice 2015)



# Key (new) Model Parameters

<b>Parameter(s)</b>	<b>Model Sensitivity</b>	<b>Availability</b>
$\nu_{max}$ (NH <sub>4</sub> ,NO <sub>3</sub> ,PO <sub>4</sub> )	High	Calibrated
Leaf Reabsorption Fraction	High	Readily Observable
P Organ Stoichiometry	High	Mostly Observable
PID K <sub>p</sub> , K <sub>i</sub> , K <sub>d</sub>	Medium	Calibrated
N & P Storage Capacity and Variability	Medium & Low	Difficult & Scaling Rules
Symbiotic Fixation cost and efficiency	High	Literature

# Current and Potential Work

Explicit representation of mycorrhizae

Differentiated passive and active root uptake

Variable affinity and regulated transport systems (facultative active uptake)

Facultative symbiotic nitrogen fixation

Covariance of N and P in uptake and regulation

Current: Couple with FATES nutrients with CTSM

# Thank You

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