

Groundwater Mounding Analysis for Onsite Wastewater Discharge: From Simple to Innovative

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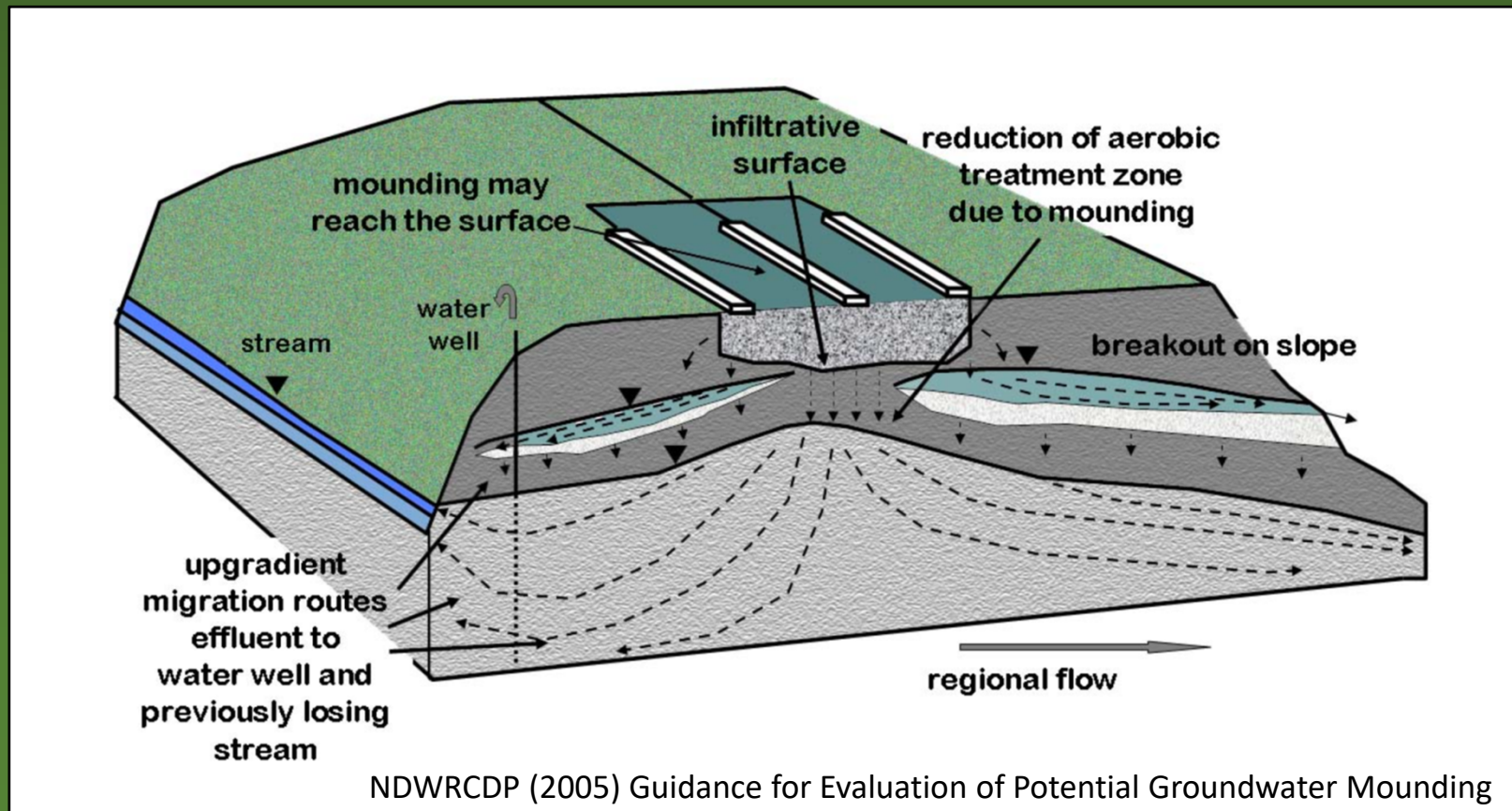
Today's Talk

1. **Why care about groundwater mounding?**
2. **Vermont: Wastewater System & Potable Water Rules**
3. **From Simple:**
 - a Darcy-based method for non-hydrogeologists
4. **... to Complex:**
 - numerical models
 - Khan et al. (1976)
 - Hantush (1967)
5. **... to Innovative:**
 - Zlotnik et al. (2017) and MOUNDSOLV software

What causes groundwater mounding?

Perched Mounding – where aquitard in unsaturated zone with low hydraulic conductivity cannot transmit water vertically faster than infiltration rate

Unconfined Aquifer Mounding – where hydraulic conductivity and thickness of unconfined aquifer cannot transmit water horizontally faster than infiltration rate

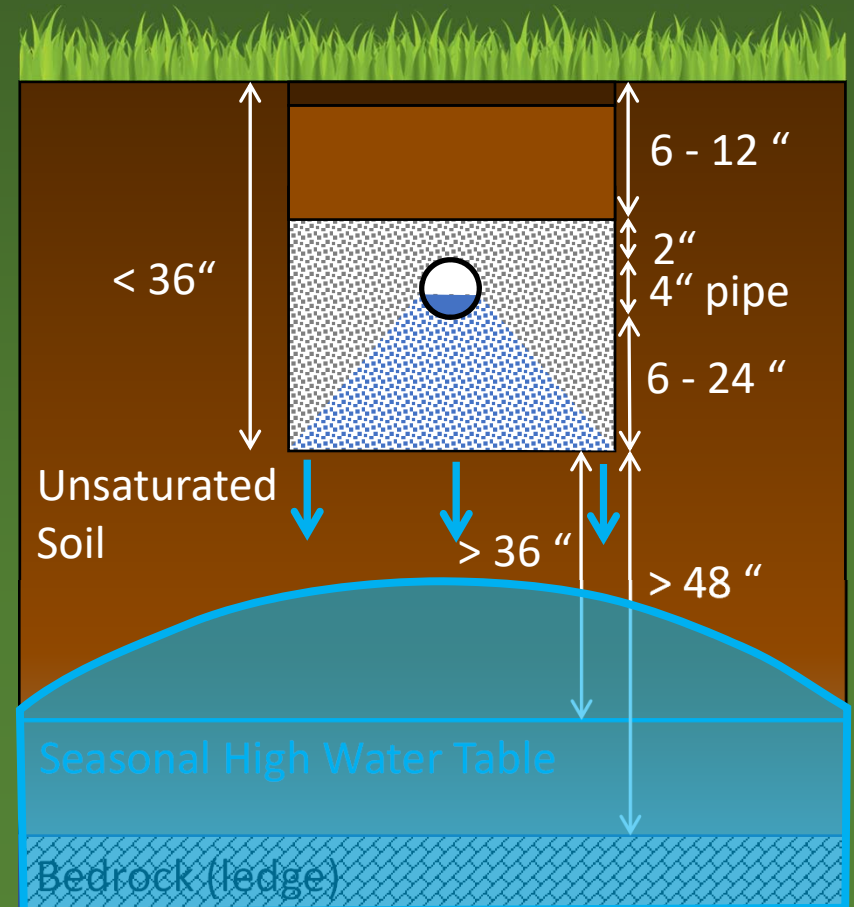


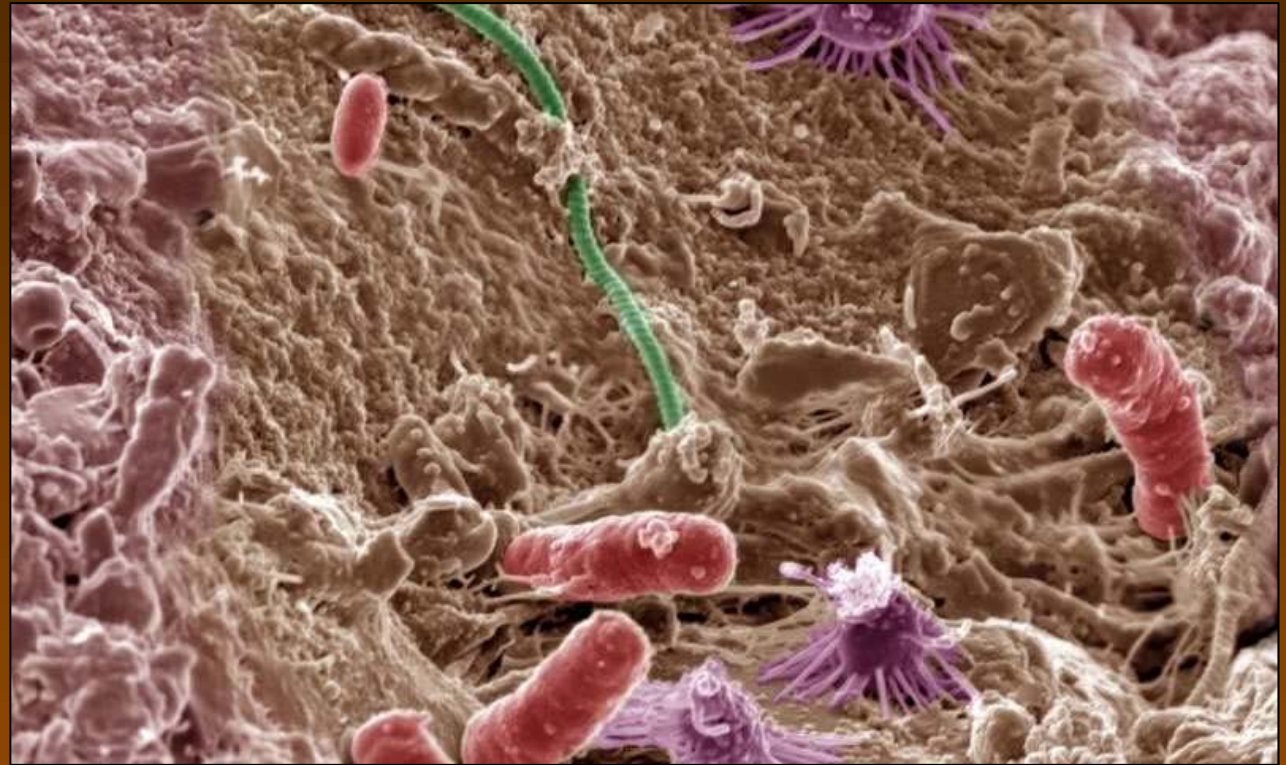
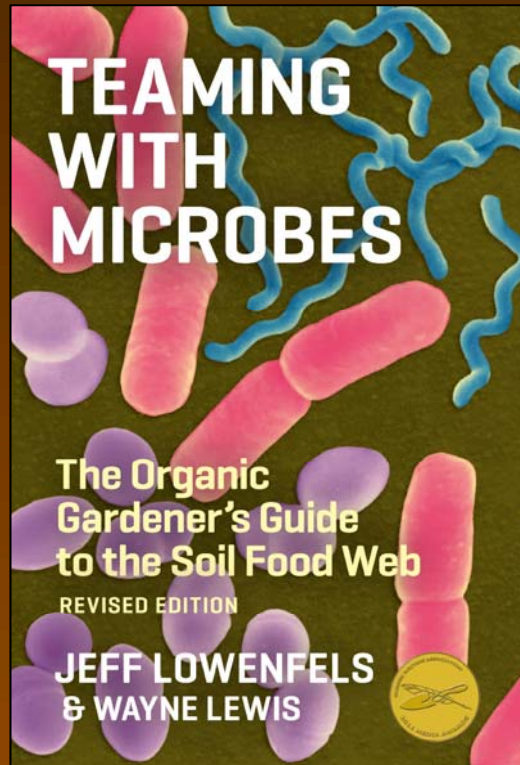
NDWRCDP (2005) Guidance for Evaluation of Potential Groundwater Mounding

Why care about groundwater mounding?

1. Potential effluent surfacing (failed wastewater system)
2. Reduction in thickness of aerobic treatment zone (compromised WW system)
3. Change in hydraulic gradient towards receptors (failed water supply or compromised surface water)

Vermont In-Ground Trench





Designers, engineers
...and microbe farmers?

Vermont Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules

A groundwater mounding analysis must be completed for:

- All bottomless sand filters
- Leachfields in-mound more than 1000 gpd
- Leachfield in-mound when Seasonal High Water Table less than 24" bgs
- Leachfields in-ground or at-grade more than 2000 gpd
- When groundwater mounding created by two leachfields will overlap

Minimum depth of natural soil to induced water-table shall be 6" beneath the mound*, or at least 6" beneath the limit of the fill**

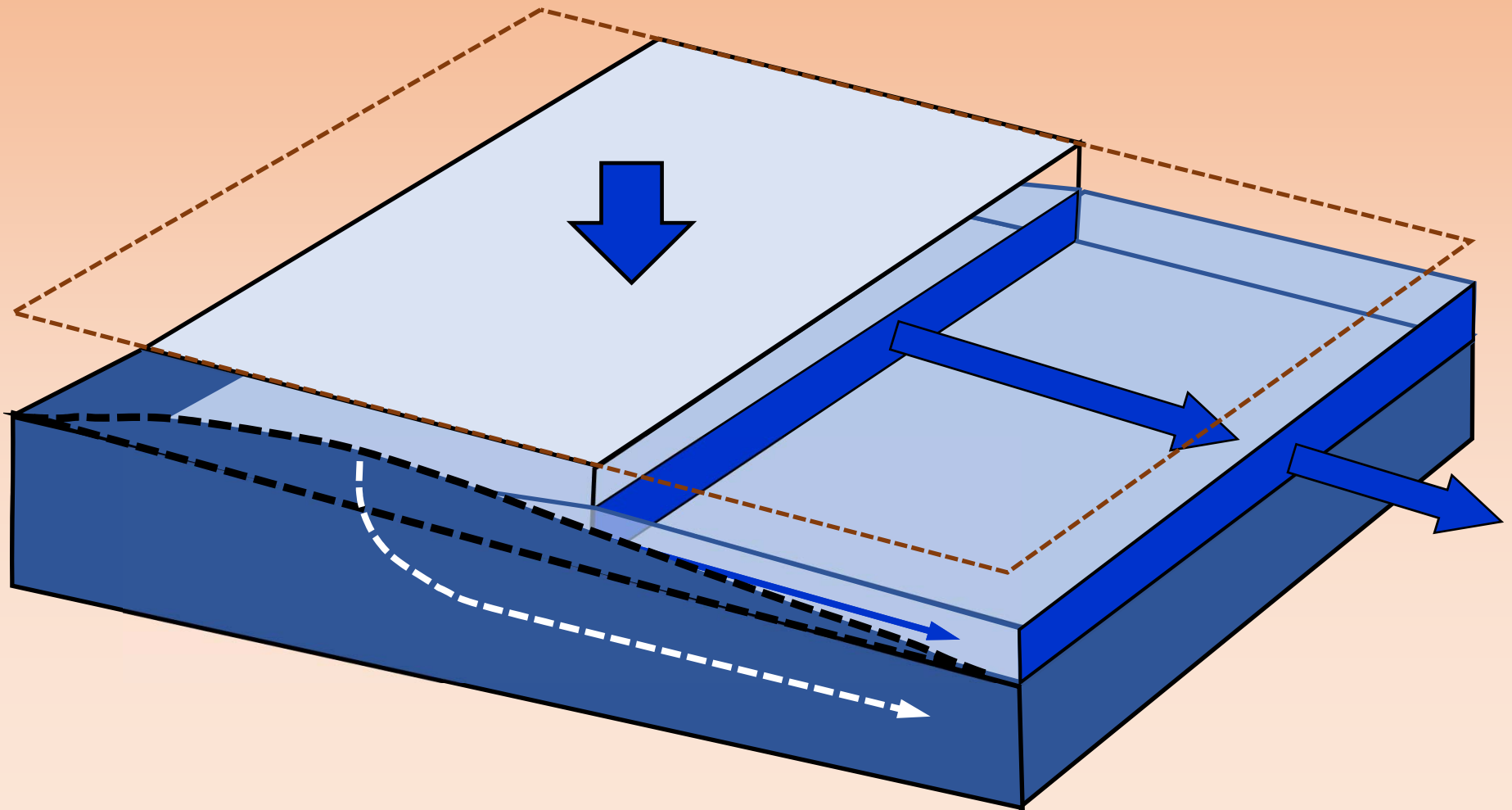
All Licensed Designers can use the simplified method (Darcy-based) described in the Rules (given design and size restriction of license class)

Only 'hydrogeologists' can use other methods e.g. Khan et al. (1976), Hantush (1967), Zlotnik et al. (2017) etc.

*can be demonstrated using the Simplified Method

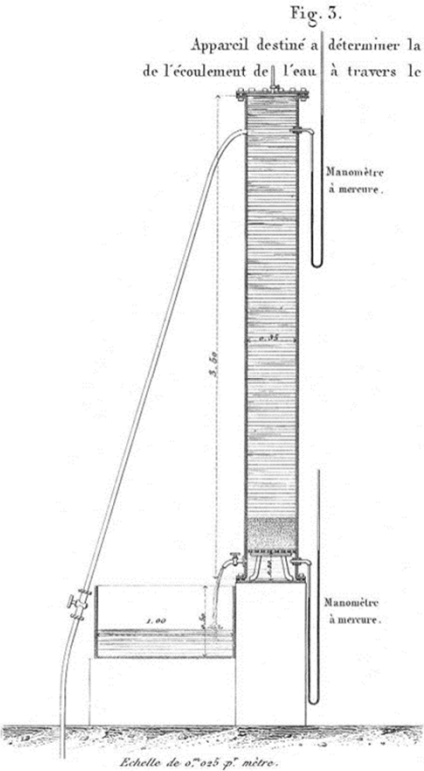
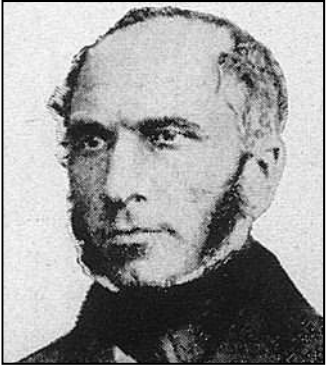
** cannot be demonstrated using the Simplified Method

From Simple: Darcy-based method for non-hydrogeologists

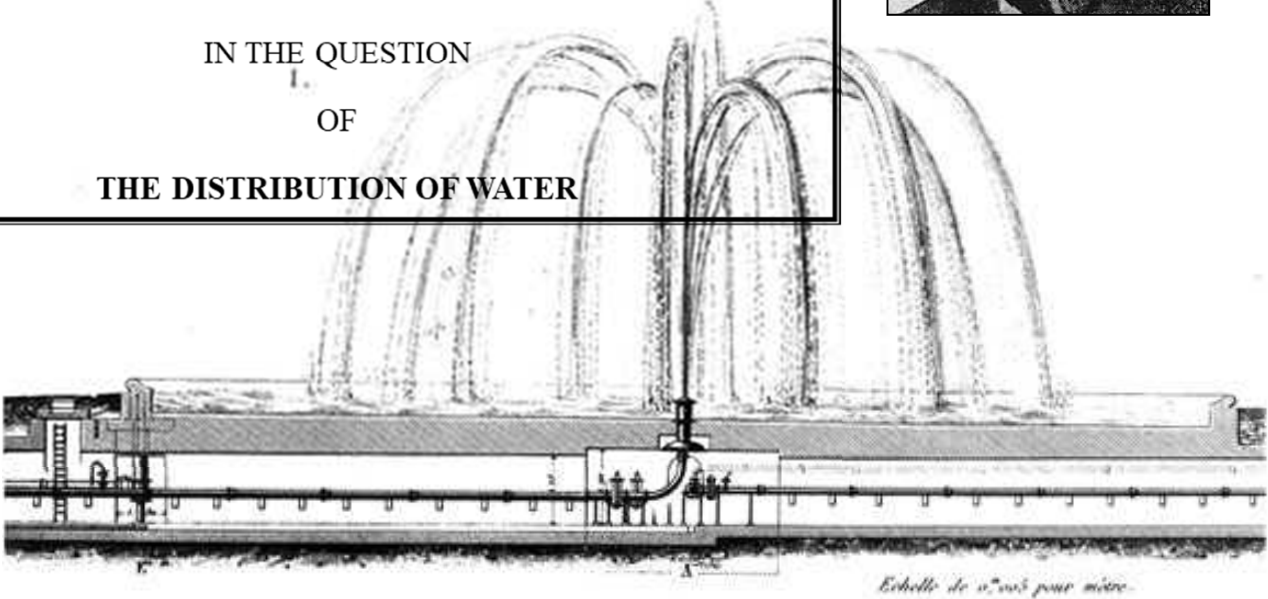


Monsieur Henry Philibert Gaspard Darcy

THE
PUBLIC FOUNTAINS
OF THE CITY OF DIJON
EXPERIENCE AND APPLICATION
PRINCIPLES TO FOLLOW AND FORMULAS TO BE USED
IN THE QUESTION
OF
THE DISTRIBUTION OF WATER



1857

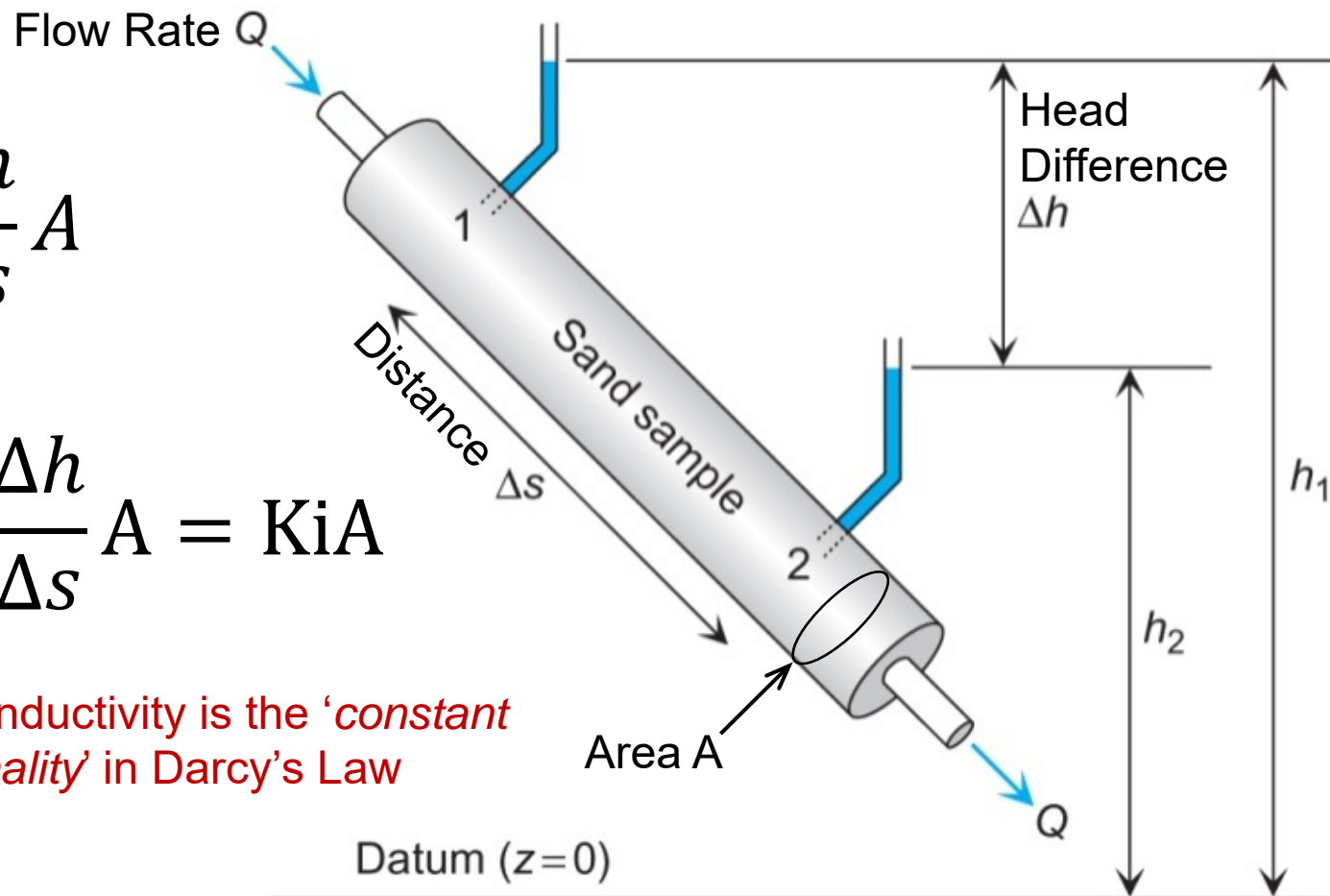


Darcy's Law and Hydraulic Conductivity

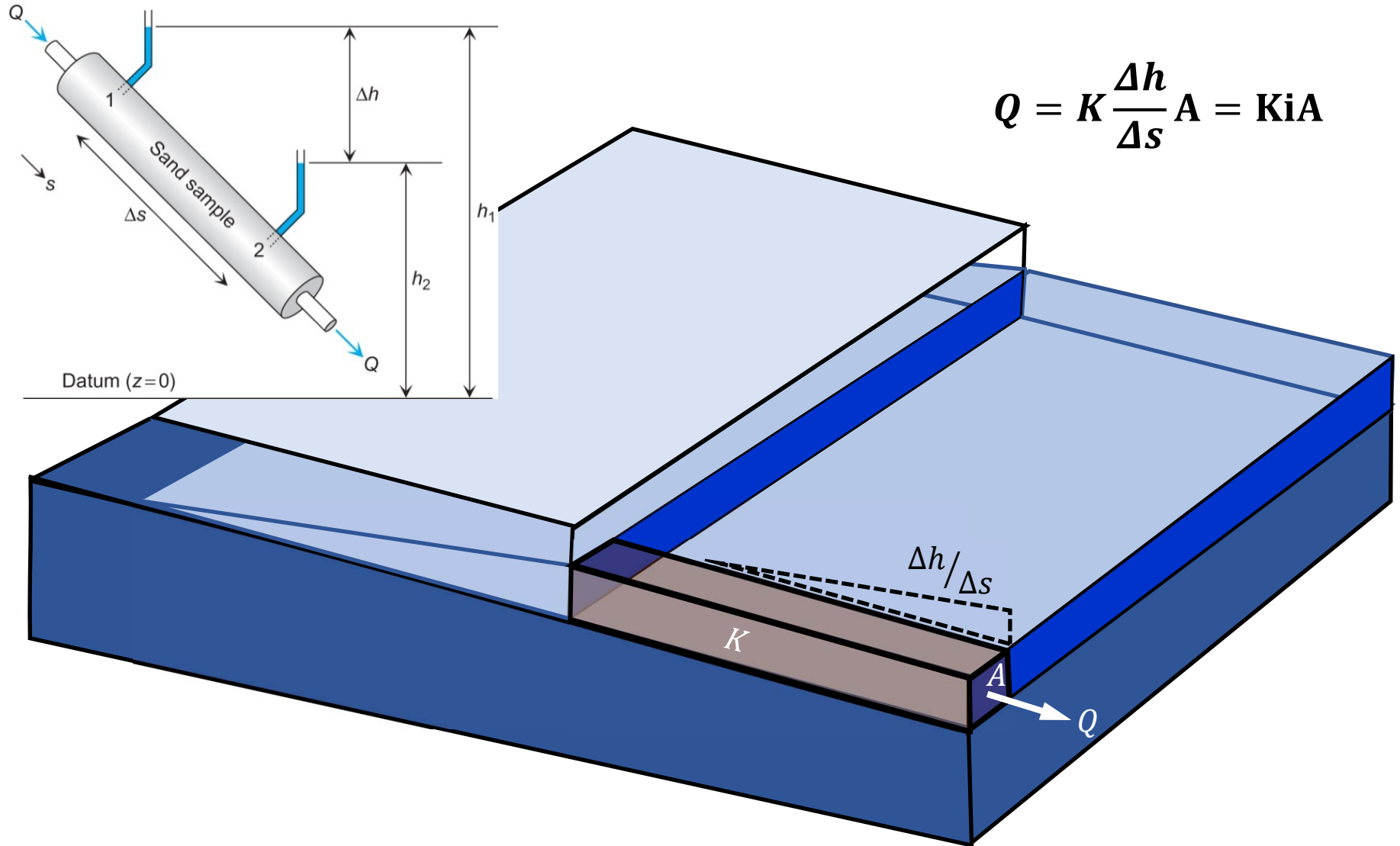
$$Q \propto \frac{\Delta h}{\Delta s} A$$

$$Q = K \frac{\Delta h}{\Delta s} A = KiA$$

Hydraulic conductivity is the 'constant of proportionality' in Darcy's Law



Darcy Applied to Groundwater Mounding Analysis



Darcy's Law $Q = K \cdot i \cdot A$

$Q = K \cdot i \cdot h \cdot L$

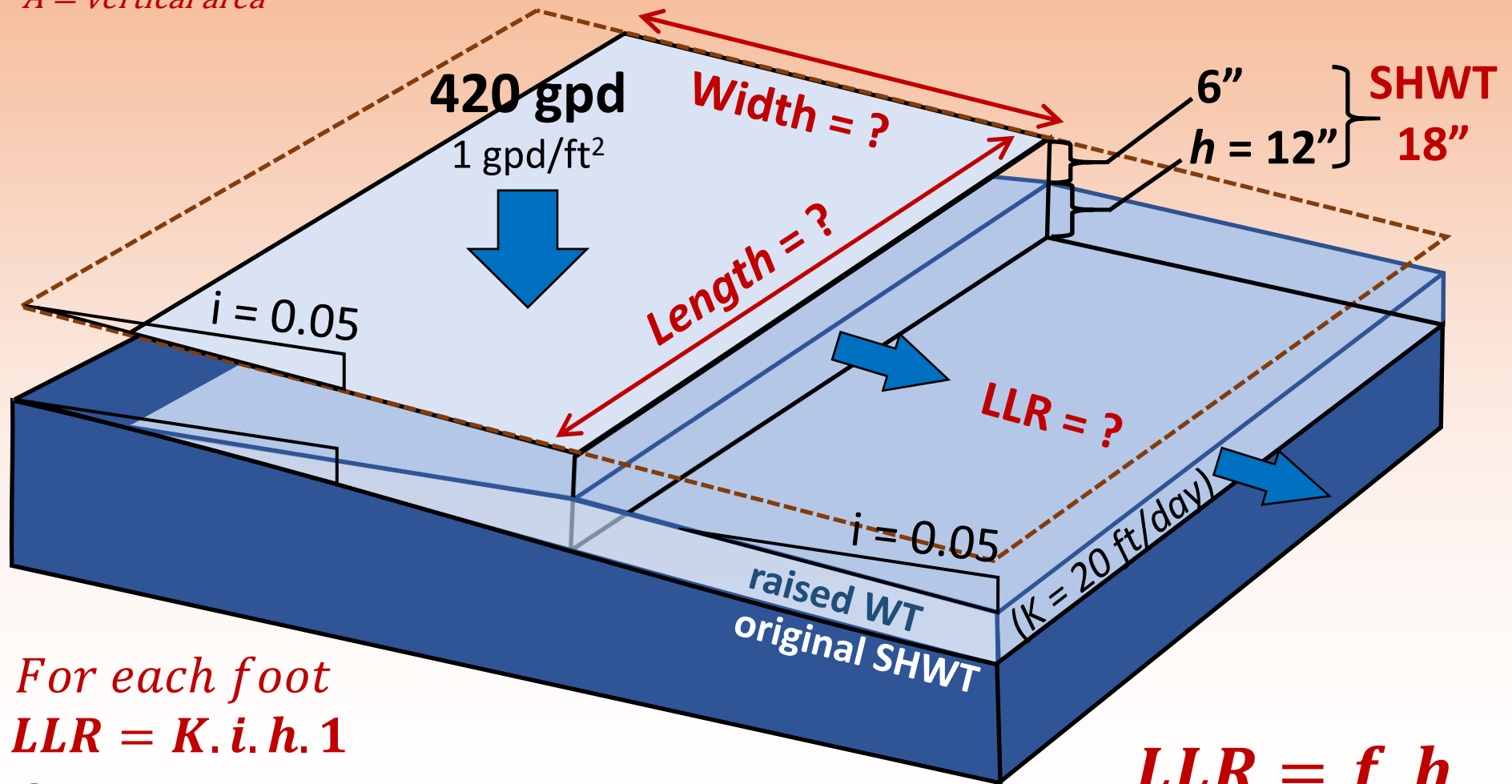
$Q =$ flow rate,

$K =$ hydraulic conductivity

$i =$ hydraulic gradient

$A =$ vertical area

Vermont Simplified Method for Non-Hydrogeologists



For each foot

$LLR = K \cdot i \cdot h \cdot 1$

$f = K \cdot i \cdot$ conversion

$LLR = f \cdot h$

SOIL TEXTURE	K (ft/day)	LINEAR LOADING RATE FACTORS (f)						
		Natural Ground Slope						
		1%	3%	5%	7%	9%	12.5%	17.5%
		0 to 2%	2.1 to 4%	4.1 to 6%	6.1 to 8%	8.1 to 10%	10.1 to 15%	15.1 to 20%
Coarse Sand, Sand, Loamy Coarse Sand, Loamy Sand	100	7.5	22.4	37.4	52.4	52.4	52.4	52.4
Coarse Sandy Loam, Sandy Loam, Fine Sand, Very Fine Sand, Loamy Fine Sand, Loamy Very Fine Sand	50	3.7	11.2	18.7	26.2	33.7	33.7	33.7
Fine Sandy Loam, Very Fine Sandy Loam	20	1.5	4.5	7.5	10.5	13.5	18.7	26.2
Loam	15	1.1	3.4	5.6	7.9	10.1	14.0	19.6
Silt Loam	10	0.7	2.2	3.7	5.2	6.7	9.4	13.1
Sandy Clay Loam, Silty Clay Loam, Clay Loam	5	0.4	1.1	1.9	2.6	3.4	4.7	6.5
Sandy Clay, Silty Clay, Clay	3	0.2	0.7	1.1	1.6	2.0	2.8	3.9

Example: Using the Simplified Method, calculate the length of a leachfield in a mound for: Design Flow of **420 gpd** (3 bedroom); ground slope **5%**; restrictive layer at **36"**; **loam** soil; with seasonal high water table at **18"**. Assume maximum mound Application Rate = **1 gpd/ft²**

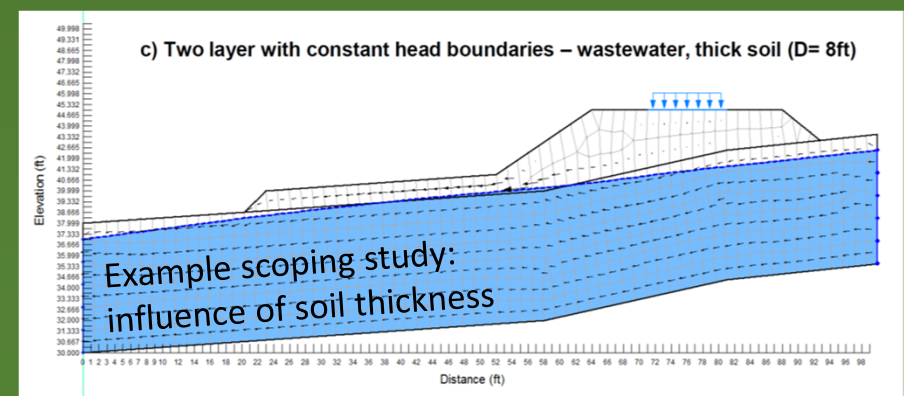
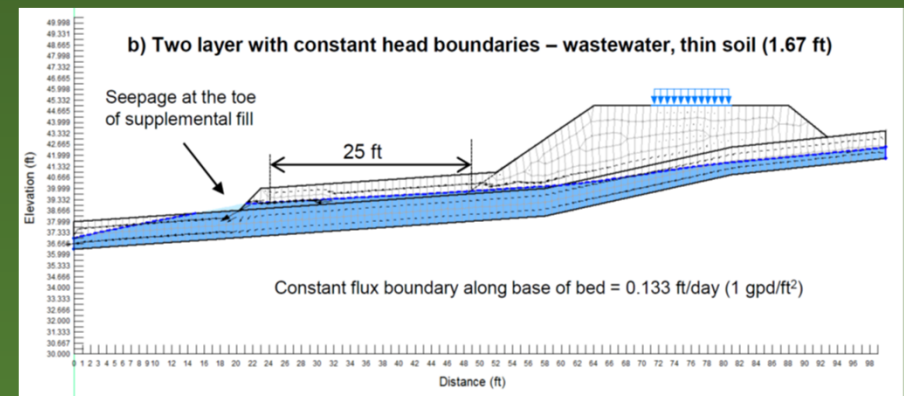
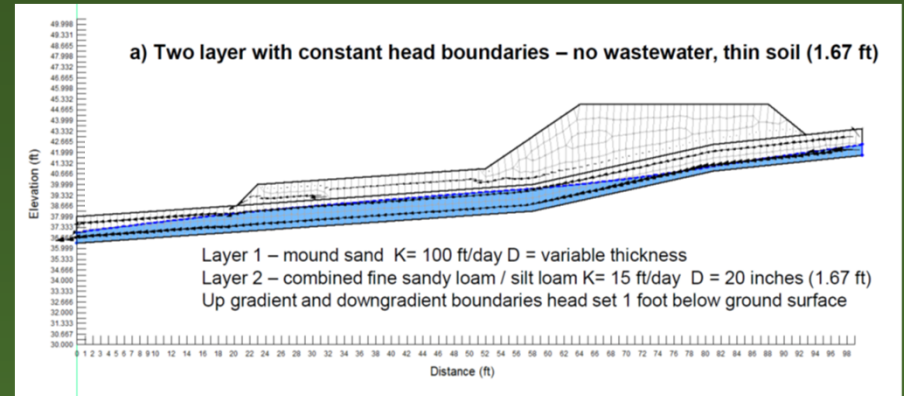
1. Calculate thickness of available soil for water table rise **$h = 18 - 6 = 12'' = 1.0 \text{ ft}$**
2. Determine LLR factor (f) from table **$f = 5.6$**
3. Calculate **Linear Loading Rate** (from Darcy's Law) **$LLR = h \times f = 1.0 \times 5.6 = 5.6 \text{ gpd/ft}$**
4. Calculate system length = Design Flow / LLR **$\text{Length} = 420 / 5.6 = 75 \text{ ft long}$**
5. Calculate system width = Minimum Area / Length **$\text{Width} = 420 / 75 = 5.6 \text{ ft wide bed}$**
6. For **septic effluent** vertical separation = 36" **2.5 ft sand beneath leachfield**

...to Complex: Numerical Modeling

Numerical models divide the modeled region into small discrete elements interconnected at nodes.

Simultaneous differential equations are solved for each element by iteration until a potential and mass balance is achieved.

- The geometry is very flexible
- Requires specialist software and skills
- Relatively time consuming
- Potentially expensive
- The model calibration is only as good as the quality of the input data
- Ideally, results should be corroborated against independent data set



and... Analytical Modeling

e.g. Khan, Kirkham, & Handy (1976) Perched Mounding

$$\text{recharge } (R) \times \text{leachfield width } (w) = \text{vertical hydraulic conductivity } (K_2) \times \text{mound width } (L)$$

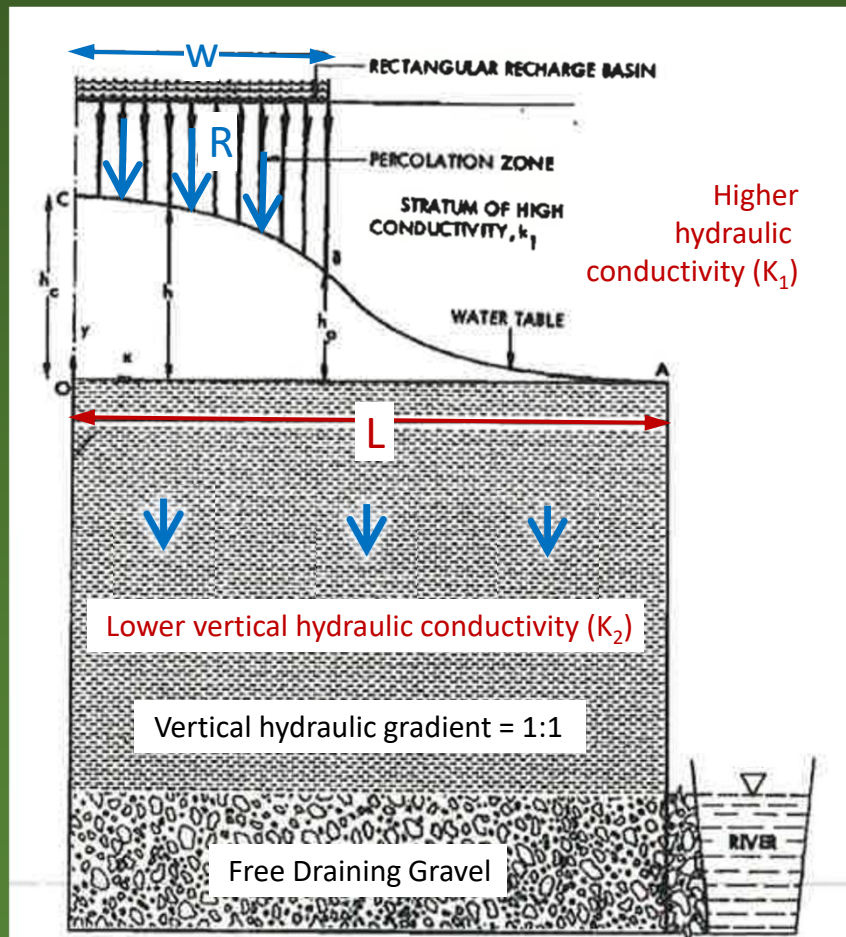


Fig. 1. Semisection of a two-dimensional groundwater mound formed by infiltration from a rectangular recharge basin.

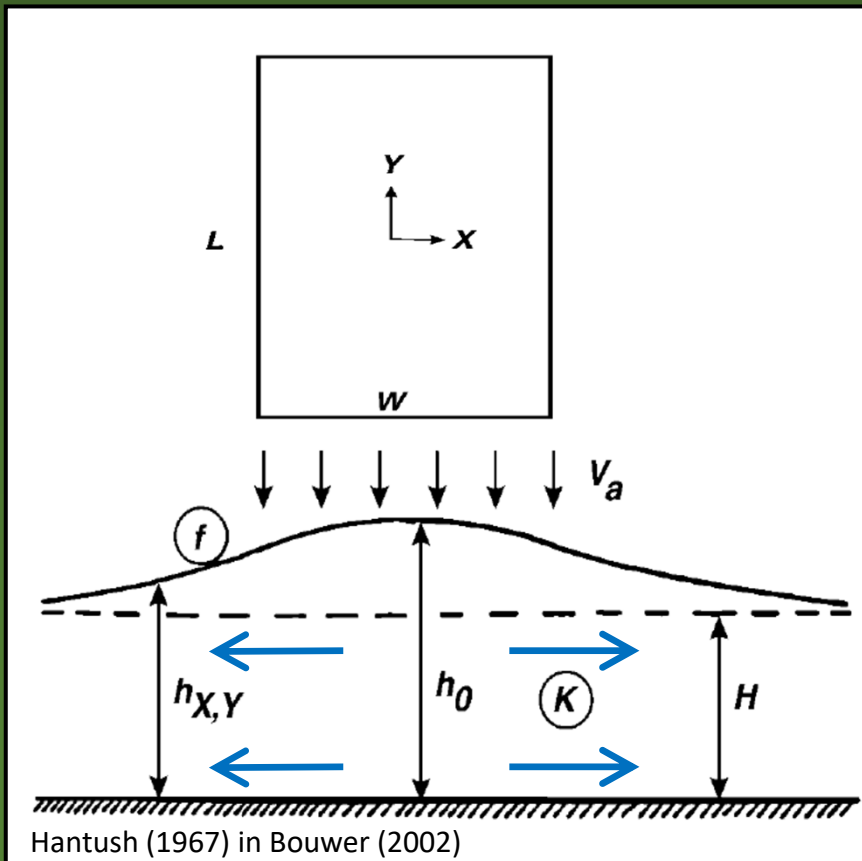
Hydrogeological conceptual model is rarely applicable in Vermont
Requires underlying drainage layer, and downward 1:1 hydraulic gradient

K1 (ft/day)	100.00				
K2 (ft/day)	0.10				
Q (ft ³ /day)	135.29				
q (ft/day)	0.1127				
W (ft)	12.00				
L (ft)	13.53				
Ratio q/K2 =	1.1275				
Ratio L/W =	1.1275				
		$Rw = k_2L,$		$(0 \leq x \leq w)$	
	x (ft)	H (ft)	H (inches)	Total Design Flow	3036.00 gpd
X (ft)	0.00	0.14	1.73	Total Design Flow	405.88 ft ³ /day
X (ft)	1.00	0.14	1.72	Single Trench Design Flow	135.29 ft ³ /day
X (ft)	2.00	0.14	1.70	System Length	150.00 ft
X (ft)	3.00	0.14	1.68	Single Trench Width	4 ft
X (ft)	4.00	0.14	1.64	Total System Width (2W)	24 ft
X (ft)	5.00	0.13	1.59	Total System Area	3600 ft ²
X (ft)	6.00	0.13	1.52	Single Loading Rate	0.2255 ft ³ /ft ² /day
X (ft)	7.00	0.12	1.44	Total System Loading Rate	0.1127 ft ³ /ft ² /day
X (ft)	8.00	0.11	1.34		
X (ft)	9.00	0.10	1.22		
X (ft)	10.00	0.09	1.07		
X (ft)	11.00	0.07	0.87		
X (ft)	12.00	0.05	0.58		
X (ft)	13.00	#NUM!	#NUM!		
X (ft)	14.00	#NUM!	#NUM!		
X (ft)	15.00	#NUM!	#NUM!		
NOTE: The applicability of this method depends on the assumption of a unit vertical hydraulic gradient in the underlying layer					

e.g. Hantush (1967)

Unconfined Aquifer Mounding with a Horizontal Base

$$h_{x,y,t} - H = \frac{V_a t}{4f} \left\{ F[W/2 + x, n, (L/2 + y), n] + F[W/2 + x, n, (L/2 - y), n] + F[W/2 - x, n, (L/2 + y), n] + F[W/2 - x, n, (L/2 - y), n] \right\}$$



$h_{x,y,t}$

height of water-table above restrictive layer

H

original height of water-table (SHWT) above restrictive layer

V_a

recharge rate

t

time since start of recharge

f

fillable porosity (specific yield)

L

length of leachfield

W

width of leachfield

$$n = (4 \cdot t \cdot T / f)^{-1/2}$$

T

transmissivity = $K \cdot H$

K

horizontal hydraulic conductivity

Scary mathematical function that describes curved water-table surface



$$F(\alpha, \beta) = \int_0^1 \operatorname{erf}(\alpha \tau^{-1/2}) \cdot \operatorname{erf}(\beta \tau^{-1/2}) d\tau$$

Hantush (1967) Implementations

Free Spreadsheets

Max. Mound Online Calculators

NDWRCDP (2005)

http://www.ndwrcdp.org/documents/wu-ht-02-45/wuht0245_electronic.pdf

National Decentralized Water Resources Capacity Development Project

Guidance for Evaluation of Potential Groundwater Mounding Associated with Cluster and High-Density Wastewater Soil Absorption Systems

Colorado School of Mines
Golden, Colorado
January 2005

Water Table Mounding calculated based on Hantush (1967) WRE

Small Basin Center of Effluent Drain Field (ft)

Water Table Rise in Side Slope

Water-Table Rise Beneath Center of Rectangular Recharge Area

Example: Growth and decay of groundwater mound beneath a rectangular recharge area (A = 100 ft², B = 100 ft) assuming K = 0.1 ft/day, α = 0.1, h₀ = 10 ft and w = 0.01 ft/day. Decay of mound begins after 100 days.

Groundwater Mounding Calculator for Rectangular Recharge Area

Groundwater Mounding Calculator 9 - Groundwater Mounding Calculator

GROUNDWATER MOUND UNDER A RECTANGULAR RECHARGE AREA

<http://www.aqtesolv.com/forum/rmound.asp>

http://www.groundwatersoftware.com/calculator_9_hantush_mounding.htm

Commercial Software Example

USGS (2010)

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5102/>

Prepared in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Simulation of Groundwater Mounding Beneath Hypothetical Stormwater Infiltration Basins

Scientific Investigations Report 2010-5102

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

Use consistent units (e.g. feet & days or inches & hours)

Conversion Table

Input Values

Recharge (infiltration) rate (feet/day)

Specific yield, Sy (dimensionless, between 0 and 1)

Horizontal hydraulic conductivity, Kh (feet/day)

1/2 length of basin in direction, in feet

1/2 width of basin in direction, in feet

duration of infiltration period (days)

initial thickness of saturated zone (feet)

h₀(max)

h₀(min)

Distance from center of basin mounding, in x direction, in feet

Re-Calculate Now

Groundwater Mounding, in feet

Groundwater Mounding

AQTESOLV

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What's In The Tour

Quick Links

AQTESOLV Advantage

Groundwater Mound Beneath Rectangular Recharge Area

Maximum Height = 1 m

http://www.aqtesolv.com/mounding_analysis.htm

...to Innovative: New Method for Estimating Groundwater Mounding in a Sloping Aquifers

Theory

Vitaly Zlotnik et al. (2017)

Implementation

Glenn Duffield (2019)

Groundwater


Estimating Groundwater Mounding in Sloping Aquifers for Managed Aquifer Recharge

by Vitaly A. Zlotnik¹, Anvar Kacimov², and Ali Al-Maktoum³

Abstract

Design of managed aquifer recharge (MAR) for augmentation of groundwater resources often lacks detailed data, and simple diagnostic tools for evaluation of the water table in a broad range of parameters are needed. In many large-scale MAR projects, the effect of a regional aquifer base dip cannot be ignored due to the scale of recharge sources (e.g., wadis, streams, reservoirs). However, Hantush's (1967) solution for a horizontal aquifer base is commonly used. To address sloping aquifers, a new closed-form analytical solution for water table mound accounts for the geometry and orientation of recharge sources at the land surface with respect to the aquifer base dip. The solution, based on the Dupuit-Forchheimer approximation, Green's function method, and coordinate transformations is convenient for computing. This solution reveals important MAR traits in variance with Hantush's solution: mounding is limited in time and space; elevation of the mound is strongly affected by the dip angle; and the peak of the mound moves over time. These findings have important practical implications for assessment of various MAR scenarios, including waterlogging potential and determining proper rates of recharge. Computations are illustrated for several characteristic MAR settings.

MOUNDSOLV Wizard by HydroSOLVE, Inc. ? X



MOUNDSOLV Wizard v0.92
Groundwater Mounding Analysis
For A Sloping Water-Table Aquifer

Developed by Glenn M. Duffield
HydroSOLVE, Inc.
www.aqtesolv.com

[Quick Start Tutorial](#)

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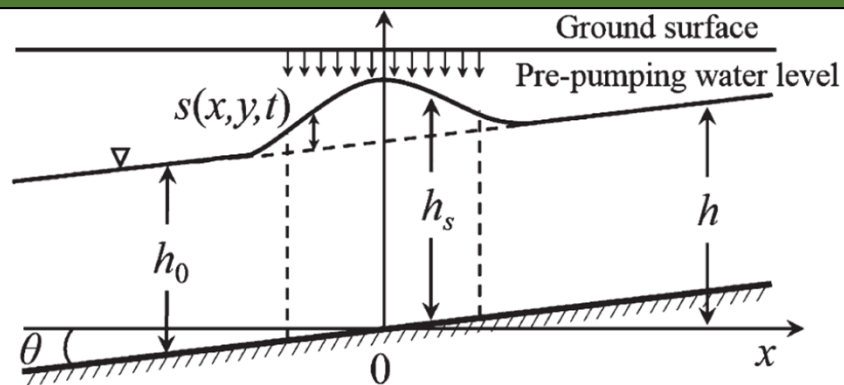
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Estimating Groundwater Mounding in Sloping Aquifers

Vitaly Zlotnik, Anvar Kacimov, and Ali Al-Maktoumi (2017)

Steady-state solution

$$s_{\infty}(x^*, y^*) = \frac{Q}{8\pi lwT\alpha^2} \int_{\alpha(y^*-l)}^{\alpha(y^*+l)} \times e^{\alpha v \sin \phi} \left[\int_{\alpha(x^*-l)}^{\alpha(x^*+l)} e^{-\alpha u \cos \phi} \cdot K_0 \left(\sqrt{u^2 + v^2} \right) du \right] dv, \\ \alpha = \frac{\tan \theta}{2h_0} \quad (15)$$



Output Parameter:

$s_{\infty x^*, y^*}$ *height of induced water-table above original water-table*

Input Parameters:

Q *design flow into leachfield*

T *transmissivity = $K \cdot h_0$*

H_0 *original height of water-table (SHWT) above restrictive layer*

K *horizontal hydraulic conductivity*

θ *maximum slope angle*

l *$\frac{1}{2}$ -length of leachfield*

w *$\frac{1}{2}$ -width of leachfield*

ϕ *angle with respect to x axis*

No time or specific yield required for steady-state

MOUNDSOLV Wizard--Step 1 (Units)

Units of Measurement for Mounding Analysis

Length:

Time:

Recharge Rate:

< Back

MOUNDSOLV Wizard--Step 2 (Aquifer)

Aquifer Profile

K, S_y

h_0

Dip Direction

Aquifer Data

K: ft/day

S_y :

h_0 : ft

σ : ft

i : ft/ft

γ : degrees

> Next

MOUNDSOLV Wizard by HydroSOLVE, Inc.

MOUNDSOLV Wizard v0.92
Groundwater Mounding Analysis
For A Sloping Water-Table Aquifer

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MOUNDSOLV Wizard--Step 3 (Recharge)

Recharge Area Orientation

$+y^*$

$+x^*$

Q: ft³/day

Angle From Dip Direction to X^* Axis

ϕ : degrees

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MOUNDSOLV Wizard--Step 4 (Monitoring Points)

13 ft grid

Q

t

Location of Monitoring Points

ft Y_1 : ft

ft Y_2 : ft

Simulation Parameters

Model:

Prediction Time, day

Recharge duration, to: day

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**MOUNDSOLV WIZARD
GROUNDWATER MOUNDING ANALYSIS
FOR A SLOPING WATER-TABLE AQUIFER
ZLOTNIK ET AL. (2017) SOLUTION**

Site Description

Aquifer Data

Horizontal hydraulic conductivity, K	15 ft/d
Specific yield, S_y	0.2
Initial saturated thickness, h_0	1.5 ft
Maximum allowable water-table rise, σ	1 ft
Dip, i	0.05 ft/ft
Slope rotation from x axis, γ	0.°

Recharge Area Data

X coordinate at center, X	0. ft
Y coordinate at center, Y	0. ft
Dimension along x^* axis, L	5.6 ft
Dimension along y^* axis, W	26 ft
Rotation from slope direction, ϕ	0.°
Recharge rate, Q	56 ft ³ /d
Infiltration rate, q	0.3846153846 ft/d

Monitoring Points at Steady State



x (ft)	y (ft)	s (ft)	h (ft)
0.	0.	0.9891	2.489
1	1	0.9654	2.515
-12.	0.	0.7805	1.681

Profile Data at Steady State

Axes of recharge area (x^ , y^*) are aligned
with axes of mapping coordinate system (x , y)*

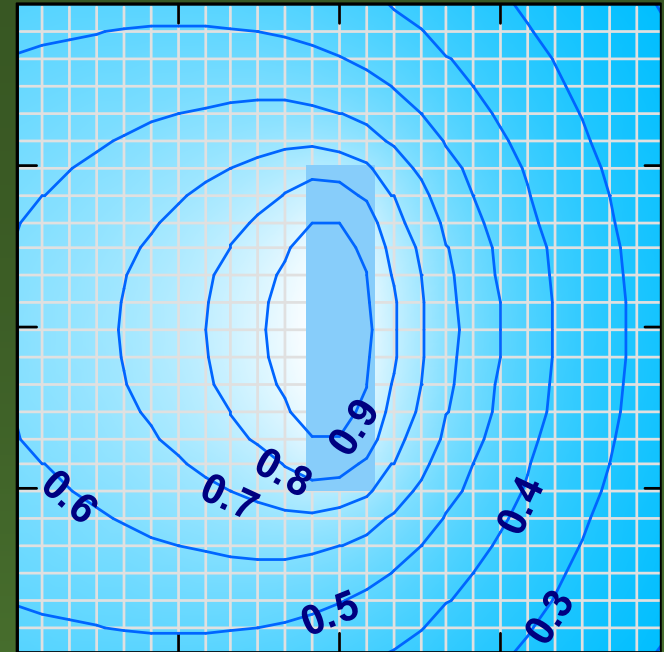
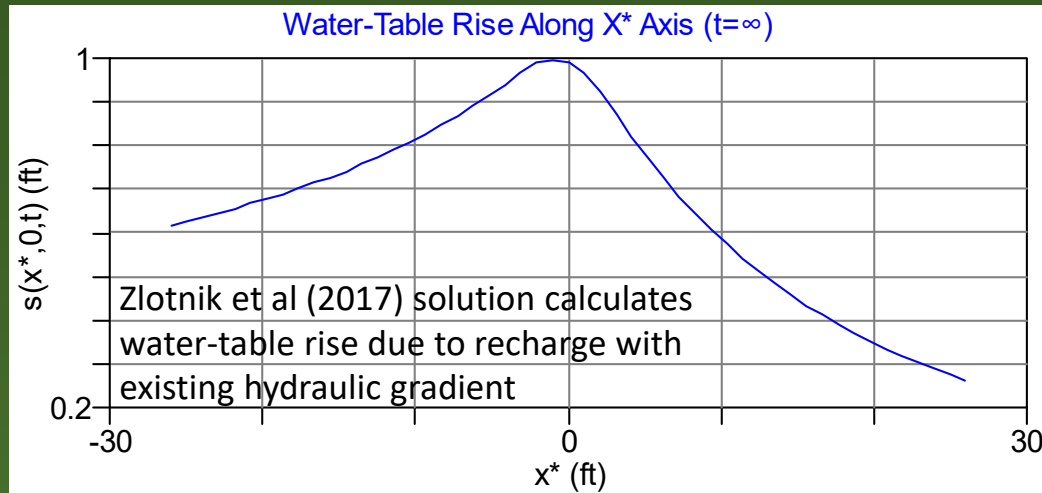
Profile Along X^* Axis

x^* (ft)	s (ft)	h (ft)	z (ft)
-26.	0.6188	0.8188	-1.3
-24.96	0.6276	0.8796	-1.248
-23.92	0.6367	0.9407	-1.196
-22.88	0.6463	1.002	-1.144
-21.84	0.6563	1.064	-1.092
-20.8	0.6668	1.127	-1.04
-19.76	0.6778	1.19	-0.988
-18.72	0.6894	1.253	-0.936

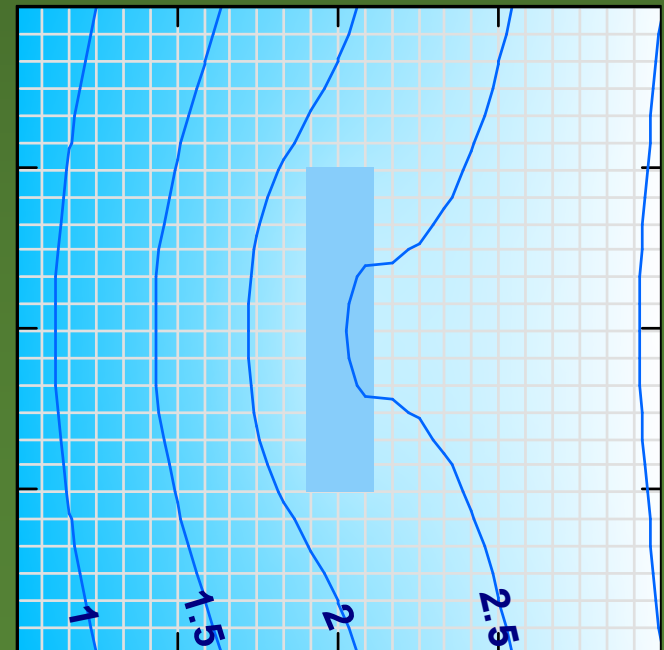
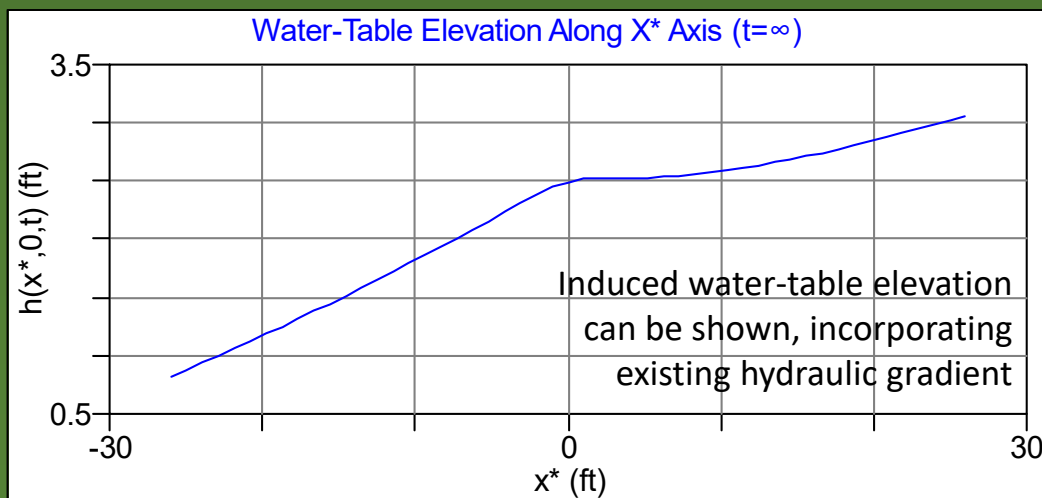
Profile Along Y^* Axis

y^* (ft)	s (ft)	h (ft)	z (ft)
-26.	0.4321	1.932	0.
-24.96	0.4477	1.948	0.
-23.92	0.4642	1.964	0.
-22.88	0.4818	1.982	0.
-21.84	0.5006	2.001	0.
-20.8	0.5209	2.021	0.
-19.76	0.5427	2.043	0.
-18.72	0.5663	2.066	0.
-17.68	0.5922	2.092	0.
-16.64	0.6209	2.121	0.
-15.6	0.6529	2.153	0.
-14.56	0.6893	2.189	0.
-13.52	0.7315	2.231	0.
-12.48	0.779	2.279	0.
-11.44	0.8201	2.32	0.
-10.4	0.8543	2.354	0.
-9.36	0.883	2.383	0.

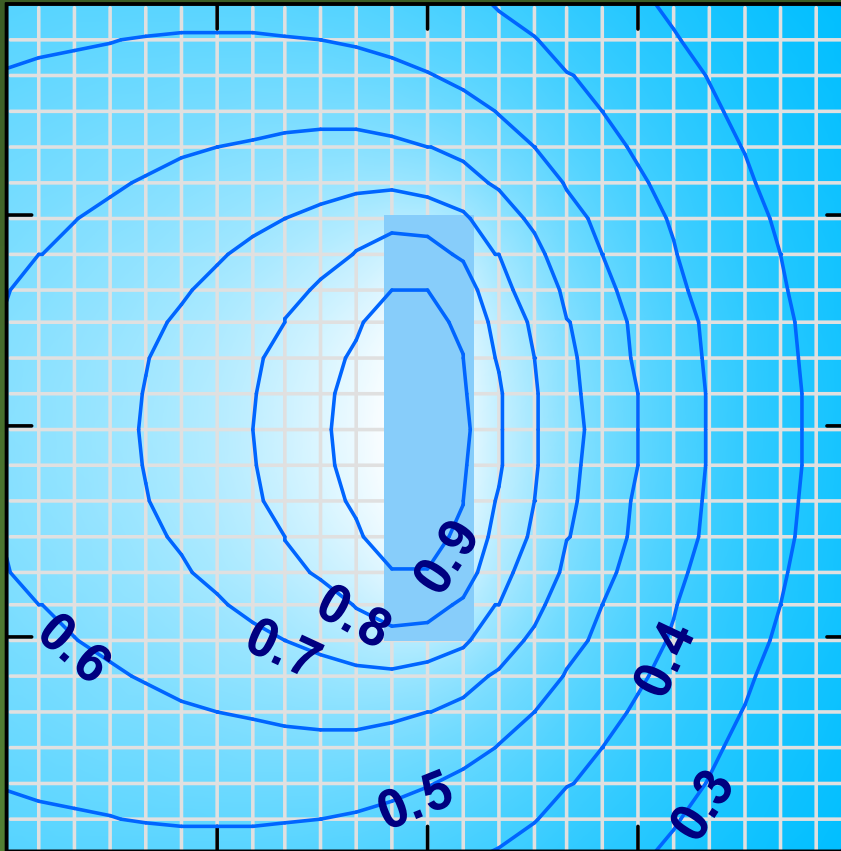
Induced rise above original water-table



Induced water-table elevation relative to base of aquifer beneath mound



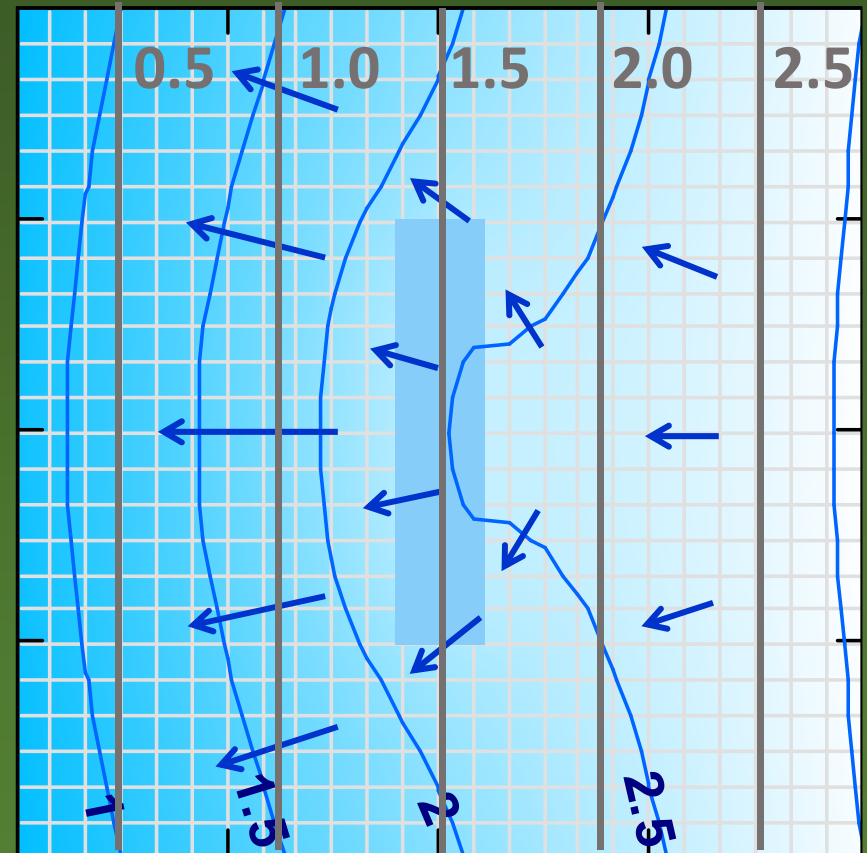
Induced rise above original water-table



5% initial gradient



Induced water-table elevation relative to base of aquifer beneath mound

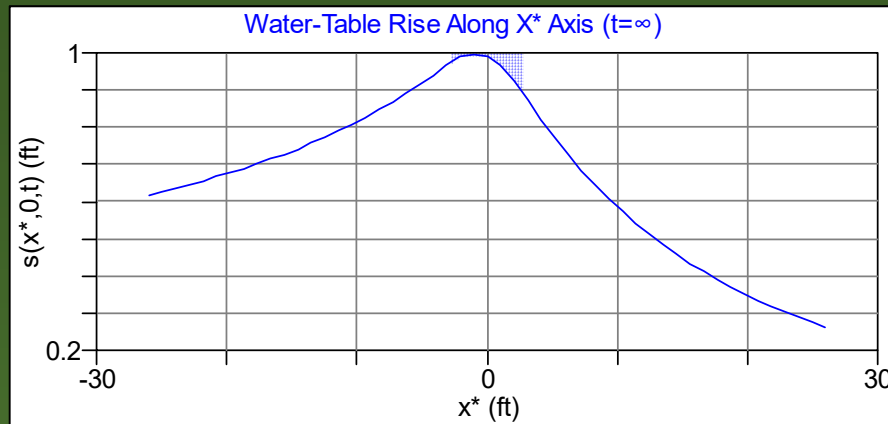


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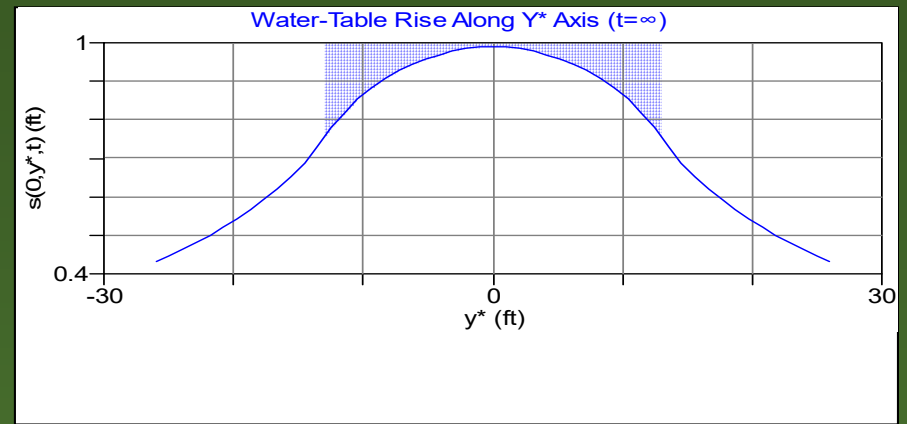
Initial water-table elevations before recharge (ft above base of aquifer beneath mound)

Parallel to Slope

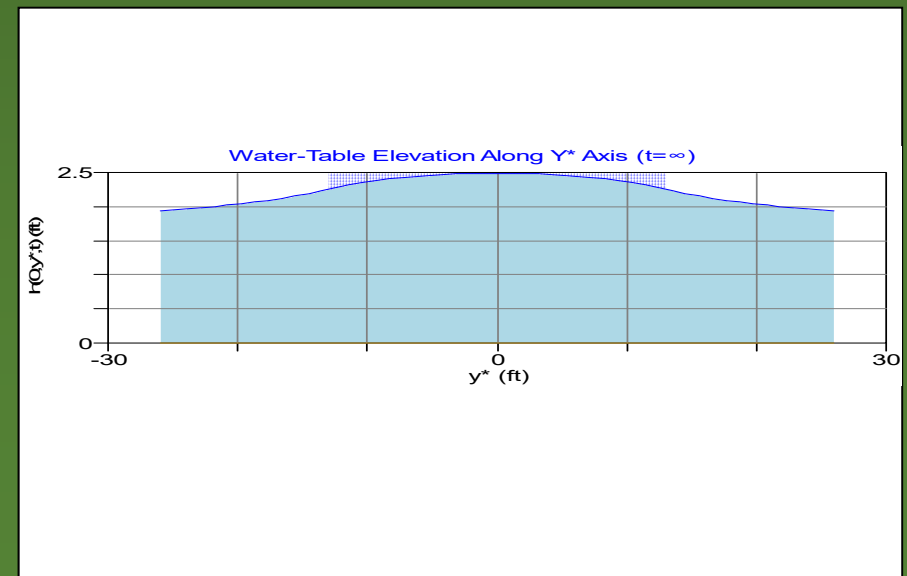
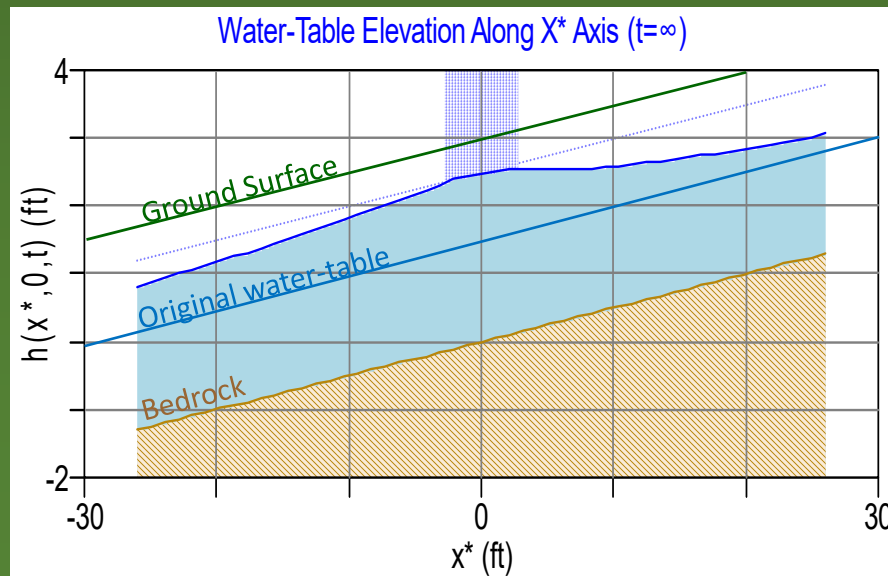
Induced rise above original water-table



Perpendicular to Slope



Induced water-table elevation relative to base of aquifer under mound



Comparison of Groundwater Mounding Methods

	Darcy Method	Hantush (1967)	Zlotnik et al. (2017)	Zlotnik et al. (2017)
Design Flow (gpd)	420	420	420	420
Design Flow (ft ³ /day)	56.1	56.1	56.1	56.1
Recharge, r (ft/day)	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.39
Specific Yield, Sy (-)	N/A	0.0001	N/A	N/A
Hydraulic Conductivity, K (ft/day)	15	15	15	15
Hydraulic Gradient, i (ft/ft)	5%	No Slope	5%	5%
Width of Leachfield, x (ft)	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
Length of Leachfield, y (ft)	75	75	75	26
Duration, t (days)	Steady State	3650	Steady State	Steady State
Initial saturated thickness $h_{i(0)}$ (ft)	N/A	1.5	1.5	1.5
Seasonal High Water Table (ft bgs)	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Maximum Water-Table Rise (ft)	1.00	1.97	0.63	1.00
"Freeboard" (ft bgs)	0.50	-0.47	0.87	0.50

Discussion

1. When should mounding calculations be performed?
2. Who should conduct the mounding calculations?
3. Which methods are acceptable for input parameters?

In Vermont:

1. Water-table < 24" below ground surface, or all bottomless sand filters, in-mound > 1000 gpd, in-ground > 2000 gpd
2. 'Hydrogeologists' if not using 'simplified method'
3. K values often based on soil texture, structure, grade
Hydraulic gradient often based on ground slope
Permeable soil (aquifer) thickness often based on deepest test pit and/or nearby drinking well logs

Conclusions

1. Prescriptive sand-mound design suitable when seasonal high water table is over 2 feet below ground surface
2. Simplified Darcy-based method of estimating groundwater mounding suitable for use by non-hydrogeologists
3. For large design flows or near-surface induced water-table appropriate methods should be used by hydrogeologists for: perched aquifers; or unconfined horizontal aquifers; or unconfined sloping aquifer
4. New tool based on Zlotnik et al. (2017) is in development to estimate groundwater mounding in sloping (and horizontal) unconfined aquifers
5. Remember: 1) parameter uncertainty and 2) error in estimation of groundwater mound over 50% original aquifer thickness