

12. Steady-state horizontal groundwater flow

Groundwater flow is a very important issue of environmental engineering. There are several numerical models, which are well developed and widely used.

Nevertheless, sometimes an easy-to-use approximate method is required. Under natural conditions, groundwater movement is quite often an almost steady-state flow. For that reason, we included steady-state horizontal groundwater flow (1D) into this code. It is not recommended to apply this tool to problems where natural conditions are modified artificially yielding transient groundwater flow. The method applies to confined and unconfined aquifers. Groundwater recharge is considered as a steady-state inflow. The bottom of the aquifer is assumed to be horizontal and the boundaries should be complete. A river e.g. is assumed to be at least as deep as the aquifer. One of the boundaries of the flow region may be described by a flux boundary condition. The equation to describe this kind of flow is given by (Busch, Luckner, Tiemer 1993)

$$\varphi(x) = \varphi_0 + x \frac{\varphi_R - \varphi_0}{R} + \frac{q_N}{2K_s} (Rx - x^2) \quad (35)$$

x	horizontal distance from the left hand boundary, m
R	distance between left-hand and right-hand boundary, m
q_N	groundwater recharge, m/day (For convenience, data input requires mm/year)
K_s	Saturated hydraulic conductivity of the aquifer, m/day
φ	Girinskij potential, indices 0 and R for left-hand and right-hand boundary, resp.

The Girinskij potential is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi &= \frac{H^2}{2} && \text{unconfined aquifer} \\ \varphi &= HM - \frac{M^2}{2} && \text{confined aquifer} \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

H	hydraulic head, m ($H=0$ at the bottom of the aquifer)
M	thickness of the confined aquifer

The specific groundwater flow Q , to be expressed as m^3 of water per day and per meter flow width (or length of the boundary) can be calculated by

$$Q(x) = - \left[\frac{K_s}{R} (\varphi_R - \varphi_0) + q_N \left(\frac{R}{2} - x \right) \right] \quad (37)$$

Please note that positive Q means flow toward the right-hand boundary R . Negative Q means that water will flow towards the boundary at $x=0$.

Without groundwater recharge ($q_N = 0$), Q is not dependent on x . In an unconfined aquifer, groundwater recharge may lead to a water divide. Its position is given by

$$x_{ws} = \frac{K_s}{2Rq_N} (H_R^2 - H_0^2) + \frac{R}{2} \quad (38)$$

Values of $x_{ws} < 0$ or $x_{ws} > R$ indicate that there is no water divide between given boundaries.

13 Groundwater flow to/from a single well

Circular shaped steady-state groundwater is addressed here to provide a tool for designing a single well. Steady-state flow conditions require a range of the well that is defined by

$$R_{max} = \sqrt{\frac{V}{q_N \pi}} \quad (39)$$

V water withdrawal from the well, m^3/day

Eq. (39) holds for a pumped well. In the distance R_{max} the elevation of the groundwater table is unaffected by the well. The elevation of the groundwater table at the location of the well ($x=0$) in unconfined aquifer ($H_0 = (2\phi_0)^{1/2}$) is given by

$$\phi_0 = \phi_R - \frac{\ln(R_{max}/r_0)}{2\pi K_s} \left\{ \pi q_N \left[r_0^2 - \left(\frac{R_{max}^2 - r_0^2}{2 \ln(R_{max}/r_0)} \right) \right] + V \right\} \quad (40)$$

ϕ_R denotes ϕ at the distance $R=R_{max}$ and r_0 is the radius of the well pipe, (m)

14 First approximation to reactive solute transport in soil

To obtain a first approximation to one-dimensional vertical solute transport through unsaturated soil, diffusion and dispersion may be neglected and water flow may be assumed to be steady-state. Since only piston flow would govern solute transport in this case, the problem is greatly simplified. Reactions of the solute such as decay and adsorption are considered by a first-order reaction equation and by the retardation coefficient R , respectively. By combination of the processes mentioned, we obtain (Jury et al., 1991, Bohne, 2005)

$$t_{bc} = \frac{RL\theta}{q} \quad (41)$$

$$c_{rel} = \exp\left(-LR \frac{\theta \ln(2)}{q t_{1/2}}\right)$$

c_{rel}	relative concentration c/c_0 (c_0 is concentration at depth 0) at depth L and time t after solute application
t_{bc}	breakthrough time (days) of a solute born on soil surface
R	coefficient of retardation
L	soil depth or length of soil column, cm
q	steady-state flux through soil, cm/day
$t_{1/2}$	half-life period of the solute, days

For the volumetric water content θ , an appropriate assumption must be chosen. Quite often this will be the water content at field capacity. Assuming unit gradient conditions, q equals the hydraulic conductivity at that θ .

15 Breakthrough curve with step input

For non steady-state solute propagation in steady-state water flow, the convection - dispersion equation (CDE) can be solved analytically. These solutions are widely used to estimate the parameters D and R from breakthrough curve experiments. The solution proposed by Lapidus and Amundson (1952) accounts for step input of the solute.

In this computer code, following Jury et al.(1991) the effective dispersion/diffusion coefficient is estimated from the input dispersivity λ , pore water velocity v , water content and the diffusion coefficient in bulk water D_0 according to

$$D_{eff} = v\lambda + D_0 \frac{\theta_{mobile}^{3.333}}{\theta_s^2} \quad (42)$$

Relative concentration as a function of time is then given by

$$c_{rel}(t) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{RL-vt}{2\sqrt{D_{eff}Rt}}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \exp\left(\frac{vL}{D_{eff}}\right) \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{RL+vt}{2\sqrt{D_{eff}Rt}}\right) \quad (43)$$

R coefficient of retardation
L length of soil column, cm
v pore water velocity (cm/day), $v = q/\theta$
t time, days

To estimate the parameters *R* and D_{eff} , the code CXTFIT (Toride et al., 1995) can be used.

16 Breakthrough curve with pulse input

This menu point resembles the previous one except that pulse input is considered. Jury & Sposito (Jury et al. 1991) came up with the equation

$$c(t) = \frac{LRm}{v\theta_{mobile} \sqrt{4\pi D_{eff} t^3}} \exp\left(-\frac{(LR-vt)^2}{4D_{eff} t}\right) \quad (44)$$

m mass of solute applied, grams/cm² soil surface
c effluent concentration grams/cm³

17. 2D transient solute propagation in steady-state 1D-groundwater flow

To estimate solute propagation in groundwater, one-dimensional horizontal and steady-state groundwater flow is considered. At the location $x=0$; $y=0$ an injection well is assumed where at time $t=0$ a solute is inserted in such a way that the aquifer from top to bottom is totally and instantaneously contaminated. Let's put the x -axis parallel to the direction of groundwater flow. Now the solute will propagate in a non - steady-state way and in both of the directions x , y by piston flow, diffusion and dispersion. Moreover, there may be chemical or bio-chemical reactions in the aquifer changing concentrations of the solute. Csanady (Kinzelbach, 1986) addressed this problem and came up with the solution

$$c(t,x,y) = \frac{m}{4\pi\theta_{drain} Mvt \sqrt{\lambda_L \lambda_T}} \exp\left[\frac{-(x-vt/R)^2}{4\lambda_L vt/R} - \frac{y^2}{4\lambda_T vt/R}\right] \exp(-\beta t) \quad (45)$$

c concentration, kg/m³
m mass of solute added, kg
 θ_{drain} drainable pore space
M thickness of the water-filled region of the aquifer, m

v	pore water velocity, m/day
t	time, days
λ_L	dispersivity in flow direction, m
λ_T	dispersivity perpendicular to flow direction, assumed to be $0.1 \lambda_L$.
x, y	space coordinates, m
R	coefficient of retardation
β	decay coefficient, (1/days)

18. Steady-state drainage

To set up a field drainage system, the design parameters drain spacing and drain depth must be chosen. There are several methods available to calculate suitable drain spacings D (Bodenwasserregulierung, 1985, van der Ploeg et al., 1999, Skaggs, 1999, Smedema et al. 2004). These methods account for different flow conditions. We would like to denote the elevation of drains above an impervious layer by D_0 . Different flow conditions may then be considered as shown in the table:

Aquifer	Position of drain pipe	Hydraulic conductivity	Geometry	case no.
Homogeneous	Drain on bottom		$D_0=0$	1.0
Homogeneous	Drain on bottom		$D_0<0.25 D$	1.1
Homogeneous	Drain on bottom		$D_0>0.25D$	1.2
Two-layered	Drain at boundary	$K_{top}/K_{bottom}>0.1$	$D_0<0.25 D$	2.1
Two-layered	Drain at boundary	$K_{top}/K_{bottom}<0.1$	$D_0<0.25 D$	2.2
Two-layered	Drain at boundary		$D_0>0.25D$	2.3
Two-layered	Drain in top layer	$K_{top}/K_{bottom}>0.1$		3.1
Two-layered	Drain in top layer	$K_{top}/K_{bottom}<0.1$		3.2
Two-layered	Drain in bottom layer			4
Homogeneous		Confining layer above water-filled aquifer		5

Homogeneous aquifer, drain on bottom (case 1.0)

$$D = \frac{h_s}{\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{q_E}{K_s} - \frac{q_E \ln(\gamma)}{\pi K_s}}} \quad (50)$$

- D drain spacing, m
 h_s height of water table over drain at midpoint between drains
 q_E groundwater recharge, m/d
 K_s saturated soil hydraulic conductivity, m/d
 γ =0.1 for drain pipes, 0.2 for open ditches

Homogeneous aquifer, $D_0<0.25D$ (case 1.1)

$$b = 1; D_1 = h_s/2 + D_0; C = 2/\pi \ln(b D_0/u_e) \quad (51)$$

$$D = 2 D_1 \left(\sqrt{C^2 + \frac{h_s}{D_1} \left(\frac{2 K_s}{q_E} - 1 \right)} - C \right) \quad (52)$$

Homogeneous aquifer, $D_0 > 0.25D$ (case 1.2): Iterative solution

$$D = \frac{\pi K_s h_s}{q_E \ln(D/u_e)} \quad (53)$$

u_e effective wetted perimeter, $u_e = \gamma u_a$; with $u_a = \pi (d_a + 2r_{\text{filter}})$ for pipe drainage

d_a pipe diameter

In case of open ditches holds $u_a = 3$ (bed width)

Two-layered aquifer, drain base at boundary between layers (Iterative solutions, cases 2)

$D_0 < 0.25 D$ and $K_{\text{top}}/K_{\text{bott}} > 0.1$ (case 2.1)

$$D = 2 \sqrt{\frac{h_s}{q_E} (K_{\text{top}} h_s + 2 K_{\text{bott}} d_1)} \quad (54)$$

$$d_1 = \frac{D_0}{1 + \frac{4 D_0}{D}} (C + 0.32) \quad (55)$$

$K_{\text{top}}, K_{\text{bott}}$ Hydraulic conductivity of top and bottom layer, respectively, m/d
For C see Eq. 51

$D_0 < 0.25 D_0$ and $K_{\text{top}}/K_{\text{bott}} < 0.1$ (case 2.2)

$$D = 2 \sqrt{2 d_1 h_s \frac{K_{\text{bott}}}{K_{\text{top}}} \left(\frac{K_{\text{top}}}{q_E} - 1 \right)} \quad (56)$$

Case 2.3 is calculated by Eq. 53, taking $K_s = K_{\text{bott}}$

Two-layered aquifer, drain in top layer (cases 3)

$K_{\text{top}}/K_{\text{bott}} > 0.1$ (Case 3.1)

$$D = 2 d_3 \left[\sqrt{C^2 + \frac{h_s}{d_3} \left(\frac{2 K_{\text{top}}}{q_E} - 1 \right)} - C \right] \quad (57)$$

with

$$d_3 = \frac{h_s}{2} + D_0 + d_2 \frac{K_{\text{bott}}}{K_{\text{top}}} \quad (58)$$

d_2 thickness of bottom layer

In Eq. (57), C is calculated following Eq. (53) using empirical values of b varying between 1 and 5.

$K_{\text{top}}/K_{\text{bott}} < 0.1$ (Case 3.2)

$$D = 2 d_4 \left(\sqrt{C^2 + \frac{h_s}{d_4} \left(\frac{2 K_{\text{top}}}{q_E} + \frac{q_E}{K_{\text{top}}} - 3 \right)} - C \right) \quad (59)$$

with

$$d_4 = D_0 + d_2 \frac{K_{bott}}{K_{top}} \quad (60)$$

Again C is calculated following Eq. (53) using empirical values of b varying between 1 and 5.

Two-layered aquifer, drain base in bottom layer (case 4)

$$D = 2 d_6 \left(\sqrt{C^2 + \frac{2 K_{bott}}{K_{top} d_6} (h_s (\frac{K_{top}}{q_E} - 2) + d_5) - C} \right) \quad (61)$$

d_5 distance drain base to upper boundary between layers

$d_6 = D_0 + d_5$

C See Eq. (51) with $b=1$

Homogeneous confining layer above water-filled aquifer (Case 5)

$D_0 < 0.33 D$ (Case 5.1)

$$D = \frac{4 D_0}{\pi} \ln \frac{4}{\tanh \left(\frac{\pi (d_7 - 1) K_s h_s}{Q_L} \right)} \quad (62)$$

with

$$d_7 = \frac{d_8 + D_0 q_E / K_s}{h_s} \quad (63)$$

d_8 distance drain base to ground surface

$$Q_L = \frac{\pi K_s d_7 h_s}{8 D_0} \ln \left[\frac{8 D_0}{\pi \sqrt{2 \gamma d_a (h_s + \gamma d_a)}} \right] \quad (64)$$

$D_0 > 0.33 D$ (Case 5.2, iterative solution)

$$D = \frac{\pi D_0}{\ln(2) + (d_7 - 1) \ln \frac{2 D}{\pi d_9}} \quad (65)$$

$$d_9 = \sqrt{2 \gamma d_a (d_8 + \gamma d_a)} \quad (66)$$

For d_a see Eq. (53)

19. Non steady-state drainage

To calculate drain discharge and time-dependent groundwater level, this program utilizes a method proposed by Storchenegger (Storchenegger and Bohne, 2005, Widmoser 2010). The soil water storage W above drain base is given by

$$W = c_f h_s \theta_s + \int_0^{d_{dr} - c_f h_s} \theta(d_{dr} - c_f h_s) dh \quad (67)$$

where h_s is the elevation of the groundwater table at midpoint above drain base and d_{dr} denotes the depth of drainbase below ground surface. The coefficient $c_f = \pi/4$ accounts for a parabolic shape of the phreatic surface. As soil water retention function $\theta(h)$ the van Genuchten function is used (van Genuchten, 1980, see Eq. 1) The method accounts for water stored in the unsaturated zone assuming that hydrostatic equilibrium is maintained all the time. (See chapter „Internal drainage“).

The fundamental storage equation $dW/dt = \text{recharge} - \text{discharge}$, where t denotes time, yields

$$\frac{dW}{dt} = q_i - q_E = \frac{dW}{dh_s} \frac{dh_s}{dt}$$

where q_i is the infiltration rate (assumed to be time-independent) and $q_E(h_s)$ is the drain discharge as a function of h_s calculated by the Hooghoudt equation. Using Eq. (67), the derivative of W with respect to h_s is given by

$$\frac{dW}{dh_s} = c_f \theta_s + \theta(d_{dr} - c_f h_s)(-c_f) \quad (68)$$

This yields finally

$$\frac{dh_s}{dt} = \frac{q_i - q_E(h_s)}{c_f [\theta_s - \theta(d_{dr} - c_f h_s)]} \quad (69)$$

In this code, Eq. (69) is solved numerically. The Hooghoudt equation reads

$$q_E(h_s) = \frac{8 K_s d_e h_s}{D^2} + \frac{4 K_s h_s^2}{D^2} \quad (70)$$

K_s lateral saturated soil hydraulic conductivity
 d_e equivalent depth of the impermeable layer below drain
 D drain spacing
 r radius of drain pipe

The equivalent depth d_e is given by

$$d = \frac{D}{8(R_h + R_r)}; R_h = \frac{(D - 1.4 D_0)^2}{8 D_0 D}; R_r = \frac{1}{\pi} \ln(0.7 \frac{D_0}{r}) \quad (71)$$

Eq. (70) yields the drain discharge of each time step.

For a wide range of soils and $q_i=0$, the method described above was successfully compared with results of the simulation model Hydrus 2d (Storchenegger et al. 2005).

In the code described here, the infiltration rate is considered to be time-independent. Rise of the water table over ground surface or drop down under drain depth is not considered.

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