

# **Groundwaterflow and Transport**

# Characteristic Values of Water and Soil

## Water

*homogenous, small variability for groundwater*

Density 1000 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

Viscosity 1,31 10<sup>-6</sup> m<sup>2</sup>/s

Compressibility 4,789 10<sup>-10</sup> m<sup>2</sup>/N

## Soil

*very heterogenous, high variability*

Permeability (depends on form, type, number and saturation of pores and physical characteristics of grains)

e.g middle sand 10<sup>-3</sup>-10<sup>-4</sup> m/s, clay < 10<sup>-9</sup> m/s

Saturation of water 0-100% of porevolume

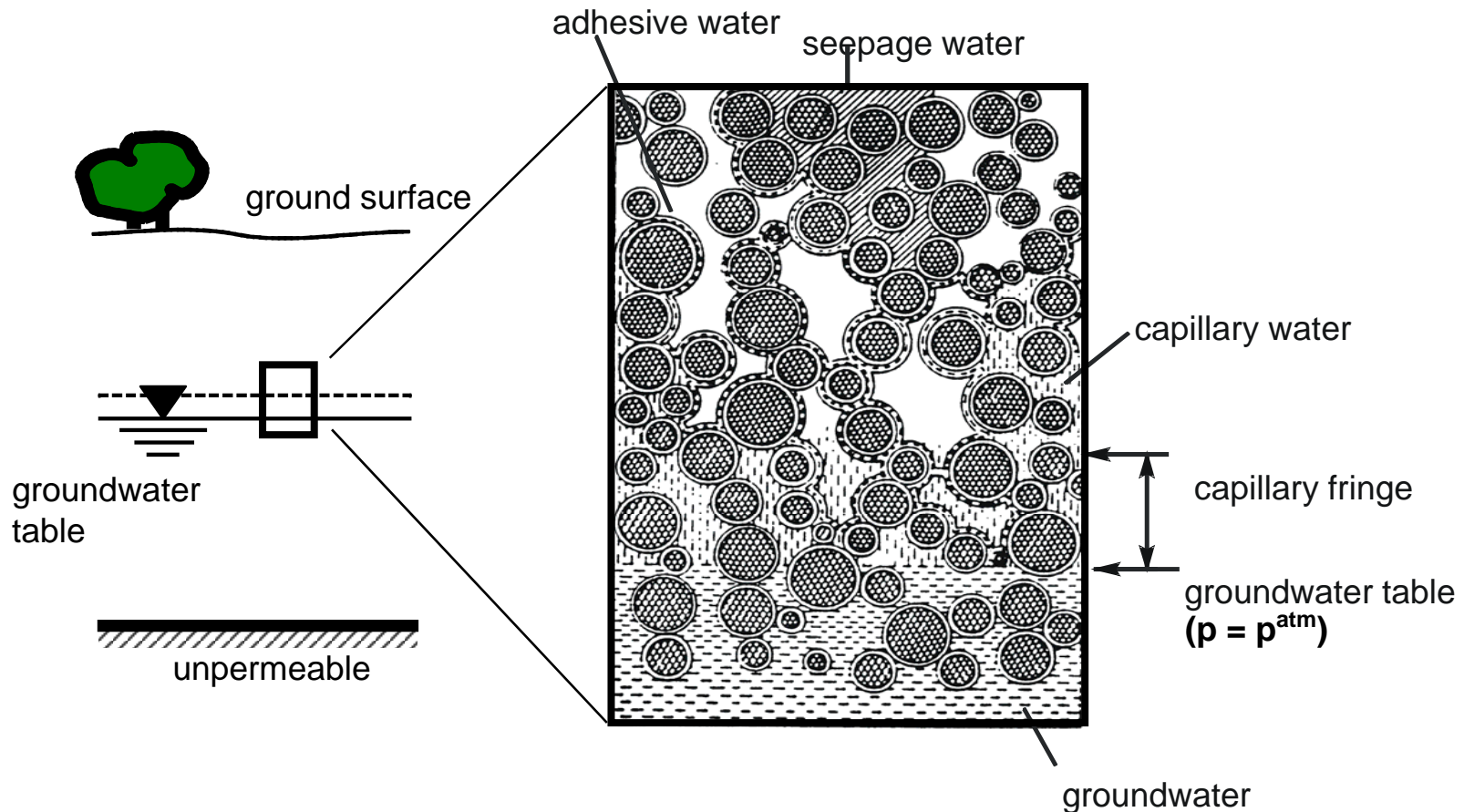
Porosities (total, flow and storage effectiv),

e.g. utilisable porosity clay < 5%, middle sand 12-25 %

compressibility of granular structure,

e.g. sandstone approx. 2 10<sup>-8</sup> m<sup>2</sup>/N

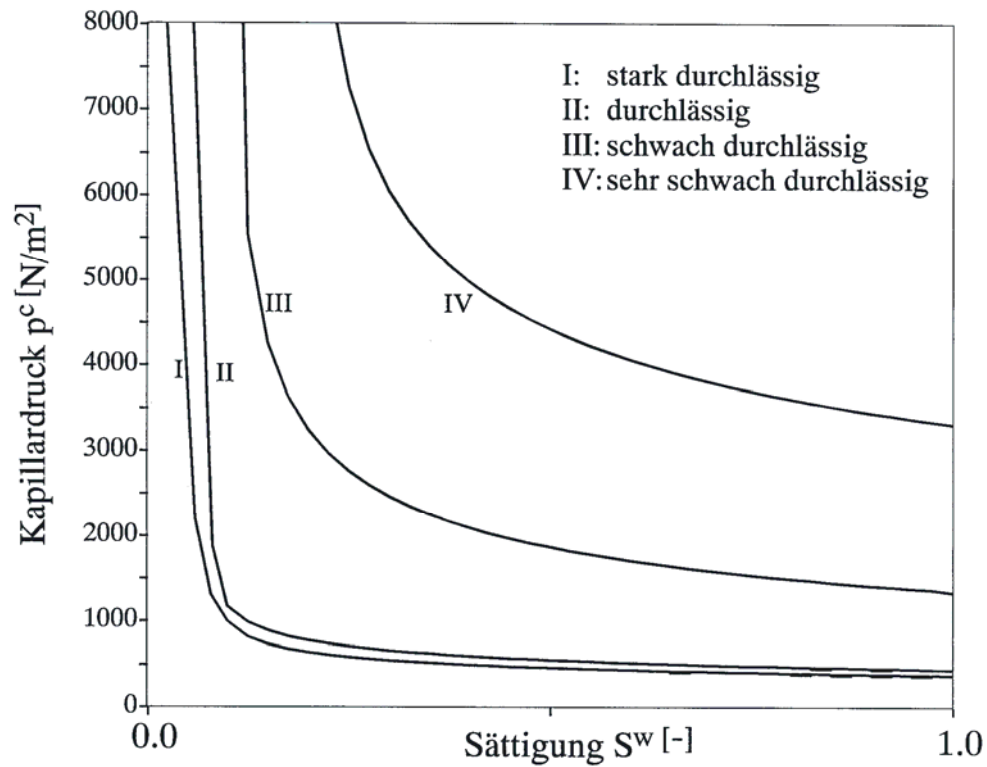
# Saturation



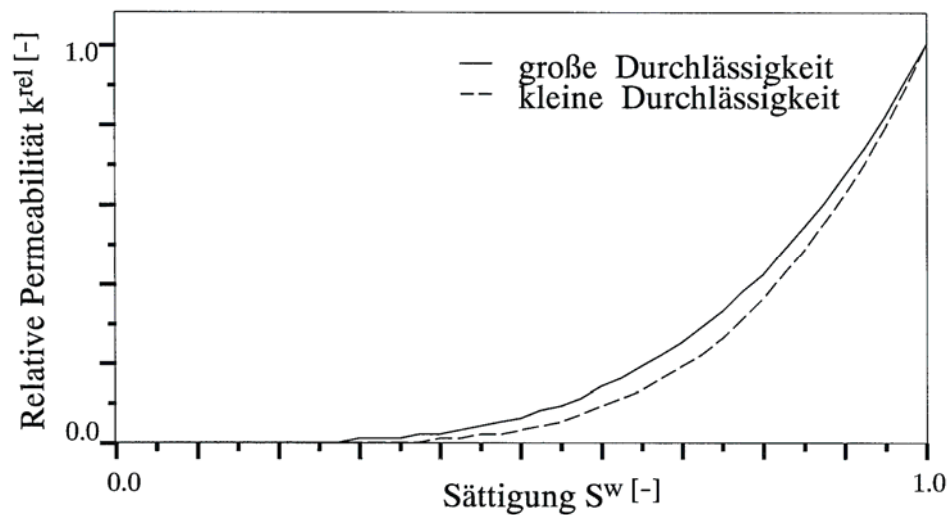
$$S^w = \frac{\text{water volume}}{\text{pore volume}} \quad [\%]$$

Saturation is a macroscopic parameter. In microscale a pore is filled by water or air.

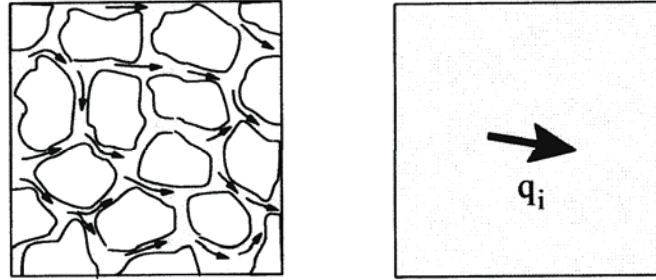
## capillary pressure-saturation



## relative permeability



# Darcy's Law – Flow in porous aquifer



Homogenization of porous media leads to the definition of a (fictitious) water velocity, called Darcy velocity.

For one dimensional flow (e.g. in a sand column) is the Darcy velocity equal to water volume per time unit ( $Q$ ), divided by cross section of the filter ( $A$ ).

$$q = \frac{Q}{A} = -k_f \cdot \frac{\partial h}{\partial x}$$

$$\left[ \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \right] = \left[ \frac{\text{m}^3/\text{s}}{\text{m}^2} \right] = \left[ \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \right] \cdot \left[ \frac{\text{m}}{\text{m}} \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} = \text{gradient of potential head}$$

$$k_f = \text{permeability}$$

The Darcy velocity is not equal to the particle velocity.

# Generalized Darcy's Law

$$q_i = -K_{ij} k_{rel} \frac{\rho \cdot g}{\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \underbrace{\left( \frac{p}{\rho \cdot g} + z \right)}_h$$

$h$  potential head [m]

$q_i$  Darcy velocity [m/s]

$K_{ij}$  permeability tensor [m<sup>2</sup>] =  $\begin{bmatrix} k_h & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_a & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & k_v \end{bmatrix}$  if anisotropic in direction of the coordinates

$\rho \cdot g$  density • gravitation [N/m<sup>3</sup>]

$z$  coordinate (direction of gravitation) [m]

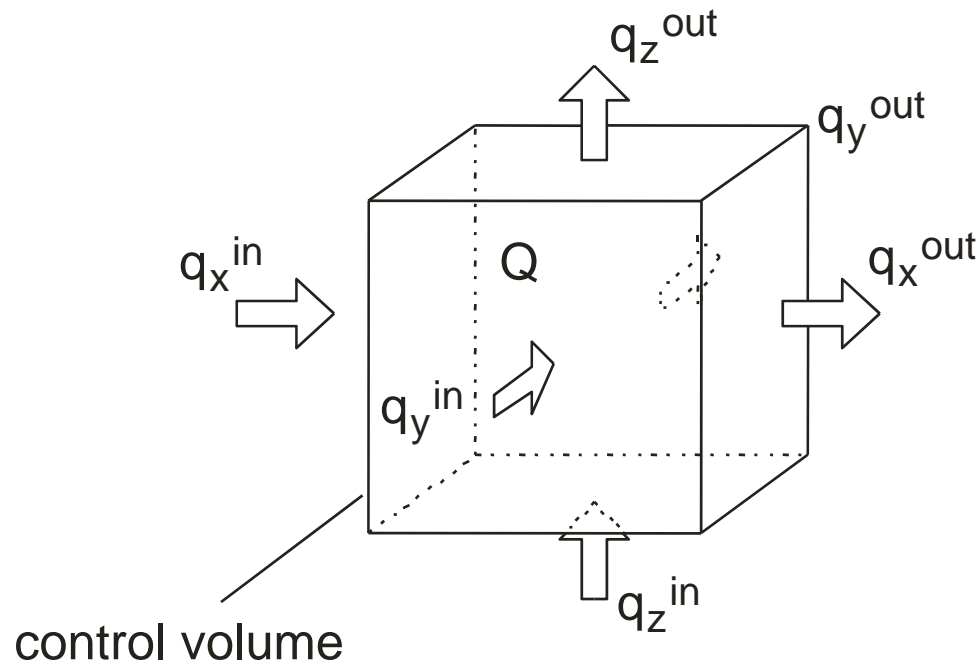
$k_{rel}$  relative permeability [-]

$p$  pore water pressure [N/m<sup>2</sup>]

# Mass Balance

Steady state flow

Flow into control volume must be equal to flow out of control volume  
(with exception to sinks and sources inside control volume)



$$\nabla \vec{q} = Q \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial q_i}{\partial x_i} = Q$$

[without sources: Laplace Equation  $\nabla^2 h = 0$ ]

# Mass Balance

## Transient Flow

For transient processes the water volume of the control volume can vary.  
Water can be stored.

Water flow over the boundary of the control volume  
+ local mass change in time  
= sources (+ sinks)

$$\rho \frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (\rho \cdot q_i) = Q \cdot \rho$$

$S$	storage volume
$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t}$	storage rate
$Q$	sources if $Q > 0$ sinks if $Q < 0$
$q_i$	mass flow
$\rho$	density



# Mass Balance

Storage volume contents of:

- compressibility of soil ( $\alpha$ )
- compressibility of water ( $\beta$ )
- change of saturation (for unconfined aquifer)

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} = \underbrace{(\alpha(1-n) + \beta \cdot n)}_{S^{op}} \rho \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} \quad \text{confined aquifer}$$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} = \left[ S^w (\alpha(1-n) + \beta \cdot n) + n \cdot \frac{\partial S^w}{\partial p} \right] \cdot \rho \cdot \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} \quad \text{unconfined aquifer}$$

$n$       porosity

$S^w$       saturation

$S^{op}$       specific storage coefficient

in unconfined aquifer is

$$n \cdot \frac{\partial S^w}{\partial p} \gg S^w \cdot S^{op}$$

$\Rightarrow$  storage is dominated by change of saturation

# Flow Equation

$$\underbrace{\rho \left( S^{op} - S^w + n \cdot \frac{\partial S^w}{\partial p} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial p}{\partial t}}_{\frac{\partial S}{\partial t}} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[ \underbrace{\rho \cdot k_{ij} \cdot \frac{\rho \cdot g}{\mu} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \cdot \left( \underbrace{\frac{p}{\rho \cdot g} + z}_h \right)}_{\rho \cdot q_i \text{ (Darcy)}} \right] = \underbrace{Q}_{0} \rho$$

saturated, transient flow

$$\rho \cdot S^{op} \cdot \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[ \rho \cdot k_{ij} \frac{\rho \cdot g}{\mu} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \cdot \left( \frac{p}{\rho \cdot g} + z \right) \right] = Q \rho$$

saturated steady-state flow

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[ \rho \cdot k_{ij} \frac{\rho \cdot g}{\mu} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \cdot \left( \frac{p}{\rho \cdot g} + z \right) \right] = Q \rho$$

sourcefree, saturated steady-state flow in homogenous media ( $k_f = \text{const.}$ )

$$\rho \cdot k_{ij} \frac{\rho \cdot g}{\mu} \left[ -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \cdot \left( \frac{p}{\rho \cdot g} + z \right) \right] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \cdot h = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \nabla^2 h = 0$$

Laplacegleichung

# Boundary and Initial Condition

Complete description of flow needs boundary conditions and for transient flow additionally initial conditions.

boundary conditions

1. kind (Dirichlet): given potential head

$$h = \bar{h}$$

2. kind (Neumann): given boundary flux

$$q_i n_i = \bar{q}$$

3. kind (Cauchy): relationship between flux and potential head (Leakage)

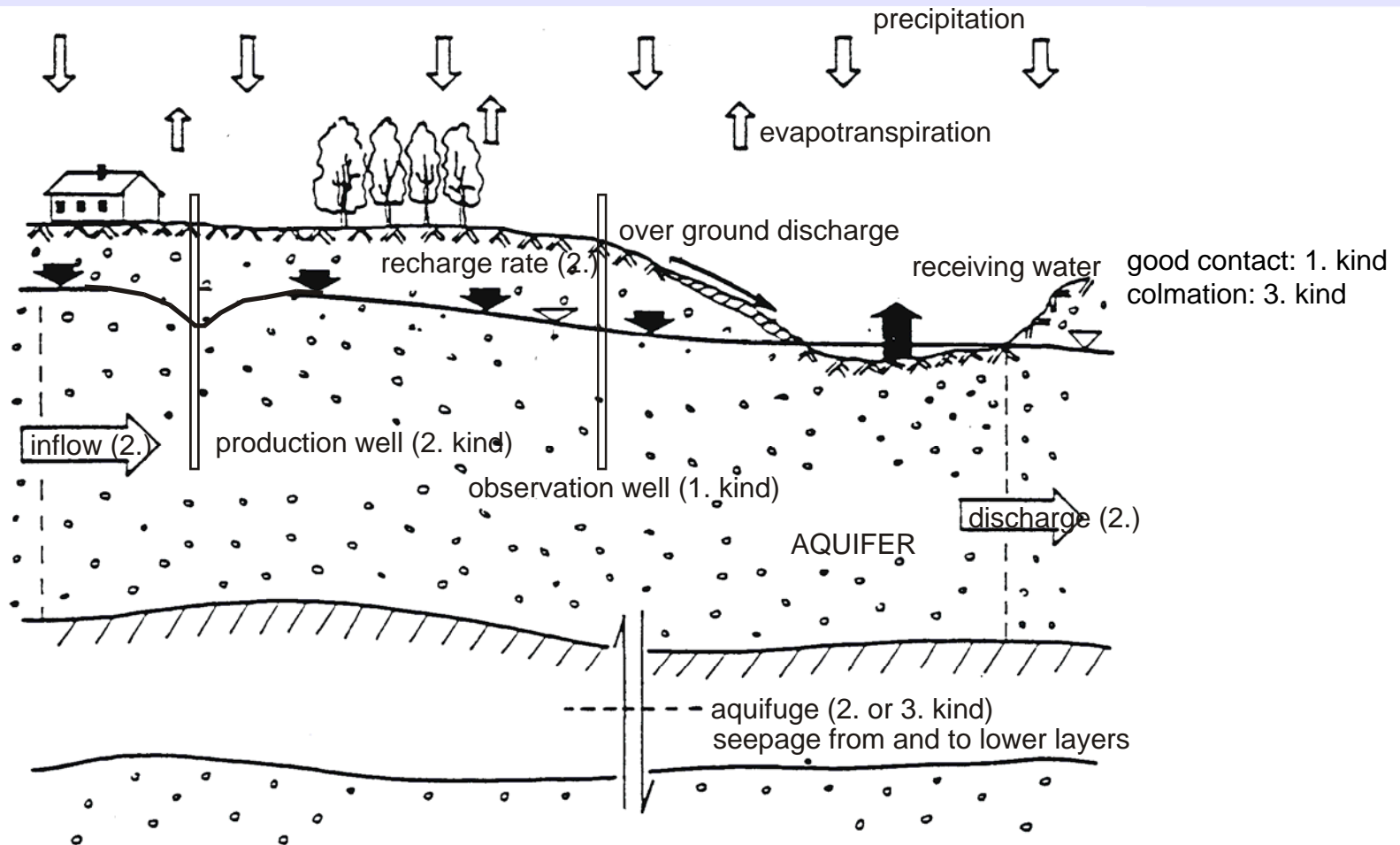
$$q_i n_i = f(\Delta h)$$

initial conditions

potential head for time  $t=0$

$$h(t=0) = h_0$$

# boundary conditions



also: water shed, sheet pile wall, streamline:  $q=0$

standing water body....

# recharge rate

NRW: precipitation approx. 800 mm/a, recharge rate averages approx. 200 mm/a

influenced by:

- climate, in particular precipitation
- relief
- land use
- vegetation
- soil type of surface layer
- distance between groundwater table and surface

calculation of recharge rate (e.g. NRW)

**JOHANNES MEßER (1996)** "Auswirkungen der Urbanisierung auf die Grundwasser-Neubildung im Ruhrgebiet unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Castroper Hochfläche und des Stadtgebietes Herne" - Dissertation, Math.-Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät der Technischen Universität Clausthal

**SCHROEDER UND WYRWICH (1990)** "Eine in Nordrheinwestfalen angewendete Methode zur flächendifferenzierten Ermittlung der Grundwasserneubildung" - Deutsche Gewässerkundliche Mitteilungen, 34, Koblenz 1990

# Nonlinearities

Thickness of aquifer depends on groundwater table, which is the unknown variable.

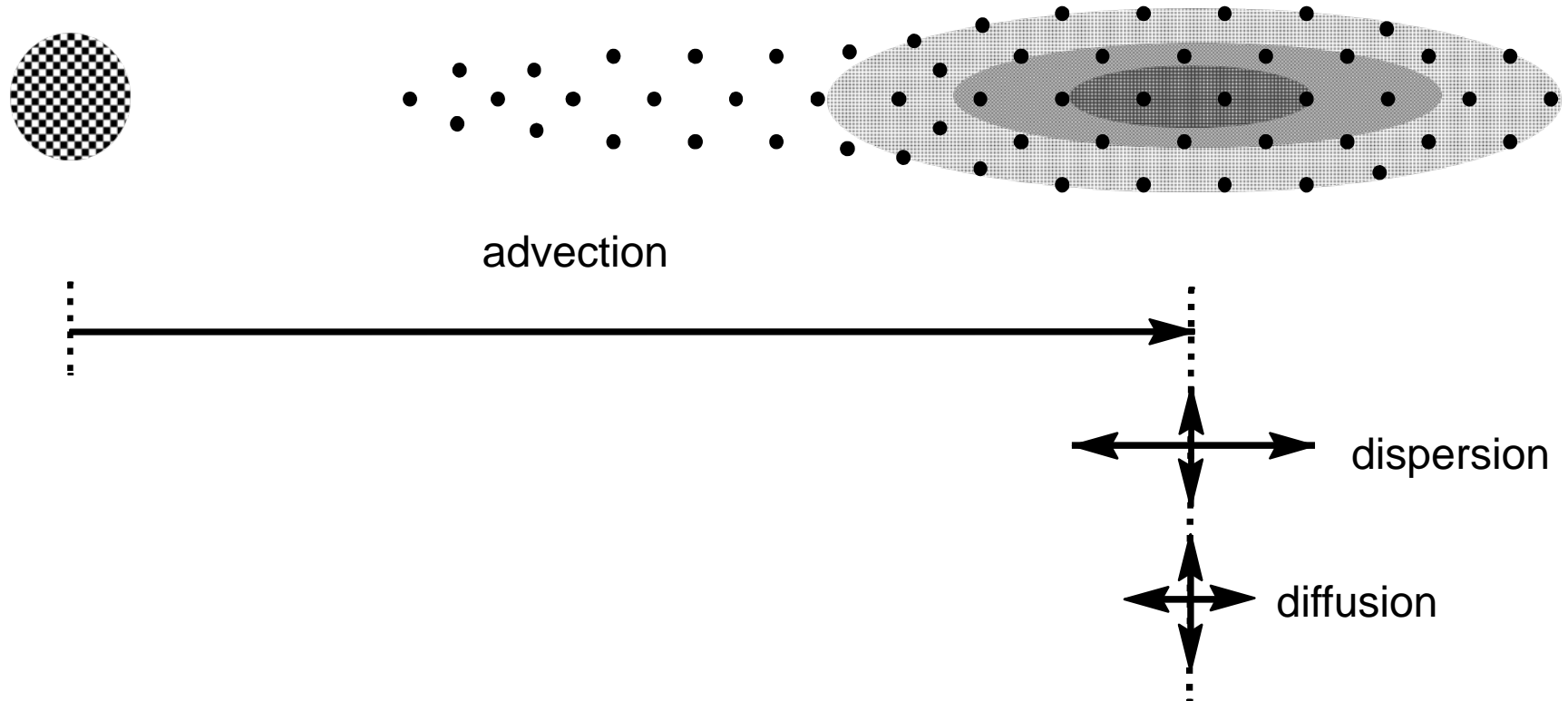
Saturation relations (saturation, pressure, relative permeability) are nonlinear

————→ Iteration scheme is needed

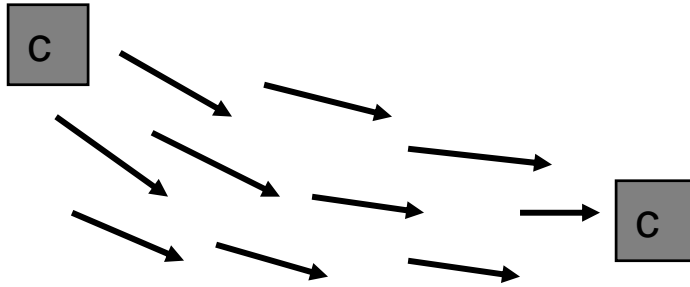
Depending on the grade of nonlinearity a linearization is needed (e.g. Newton Iteration).

In most cases only a simple iteration is used (calculation with assumption of starting values, new calculation with improved starting values until accuracy is satisfying or maximum iteration number is reached)

# Transport Mechanism in Groundwater



# Advection

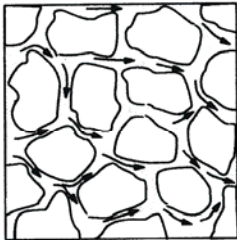


transport with groundwater flow

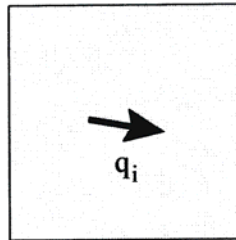
depends on the average particle velocity of groundwater (distance velocity)

advective flux = particle velocity \* concentration

$$\dot{j}_i^a = u_i c$$



particle velocity



darcy velocity

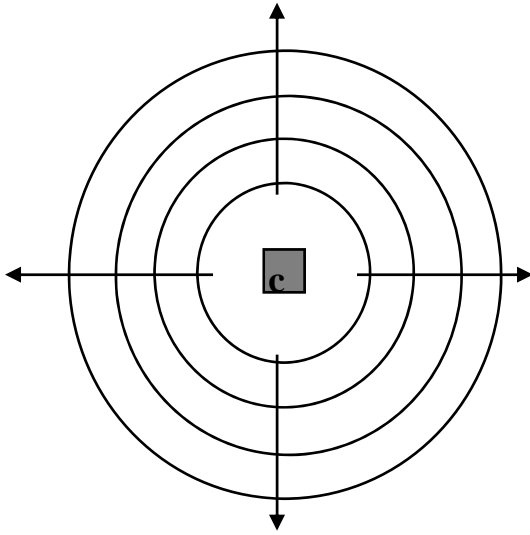
average particle velocity (distance velocity) = Darcy velocity / effective porosity

$$u_i = \frac{q_i}{n_{\text{eff}}}$$



# Diffusion

flux from higher to lower concentration



depends on:

- soil characteristics
- gradient of concentration

depends not on:

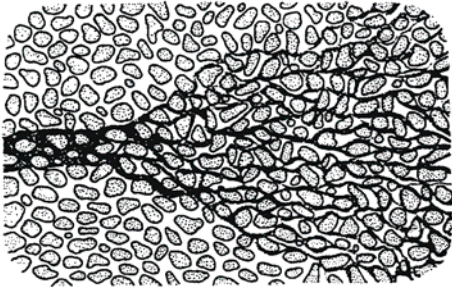
- groundwater flow !
- direction

flux = diffusion coefficient \* (- gradient of concentration)

$$j_i^m = -D \frac{\partial c}{\partial x_i}$$

# Hydromechanical Dispersion

Spreading of the transported substance due to the way around the grains and heterogeneity of permeability in all scales



depends on:

- soil characteristics
- flow velocity
- model scale
- gradient of concentration

flux = dispersion tensor \* (- gradient of concentration)

$$\mathbf{j}_i^d = -D_{ij} \frac{\partial c}{\partial x_j}$$

$$D_{xx} = \alpha_L \frac{u_x^2}{|u|} + \alpha_{TH} \frac{u_y^2}{|u|} + \alpha_{TV} \frac{u_z^2}{|u|}$$

$$D_{xy} = D_{yx} = (\alpha_L - \alpha_{TH}) \frac{u_x u_y}{|u|}$$

$$D_{yy} = \alpha_{TH} \frac{u_x^2}{|u|} + \alpha_L \frac{u_y^2}{|u|} + \alpha_{TV} \frac{u_z^2}{|u|}$$

$$D_{xz} = D_{zx} = (\alpha_L - \alpha_{TV}) \frac{u_x u_z}{|u|}$$

$$D_{zz} = \alpha_{TV} \frac{u_x^2}{|u|} + \alpha_{TV} \frac{u_y^2}{|u|} + \alpha_L \frac{u_z^2}{|u|}$$

$$D_{yz} = D_{zy} = (\alpha_L - \alpha_{TV}) \frac{u_y u_z}{|u|}$$

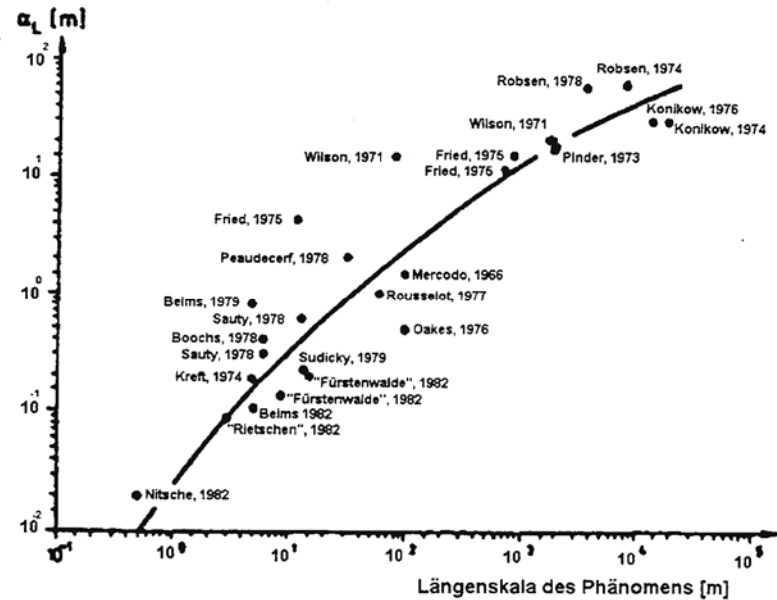
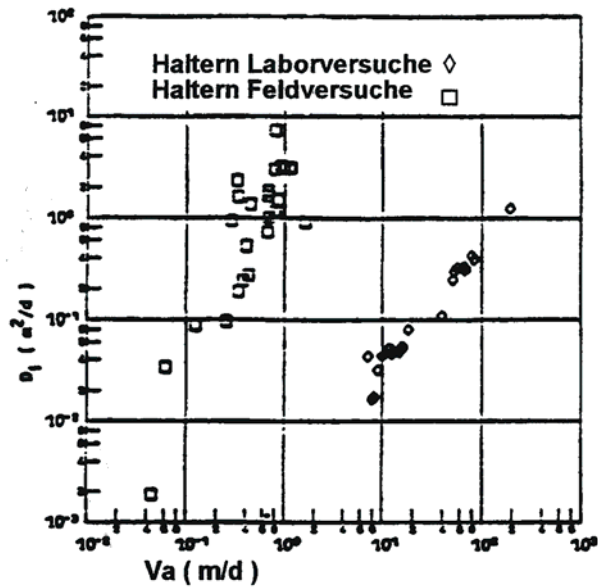
mit:  $\alpha_L$  longitudinal dispersion coefficient [m]

$\alpha_{TV}$  transversaler vertical dispersion coeff. [m]

$\alpha_{TH}$  transversal horizontal dispersion coeff. [m]

$u_i$  distance velocity [m/s]

# Scale Dependency of Dispersion

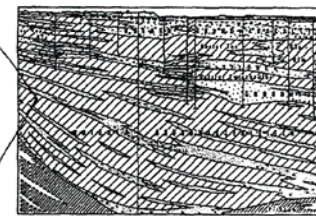
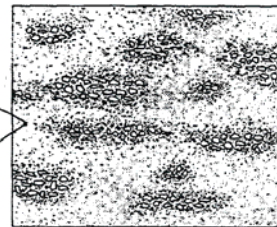
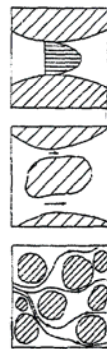


reasons for scale dependency

grain skeleton  
microdispersion

makroscale  
makro dispersion

mega scale  
makro dispersion

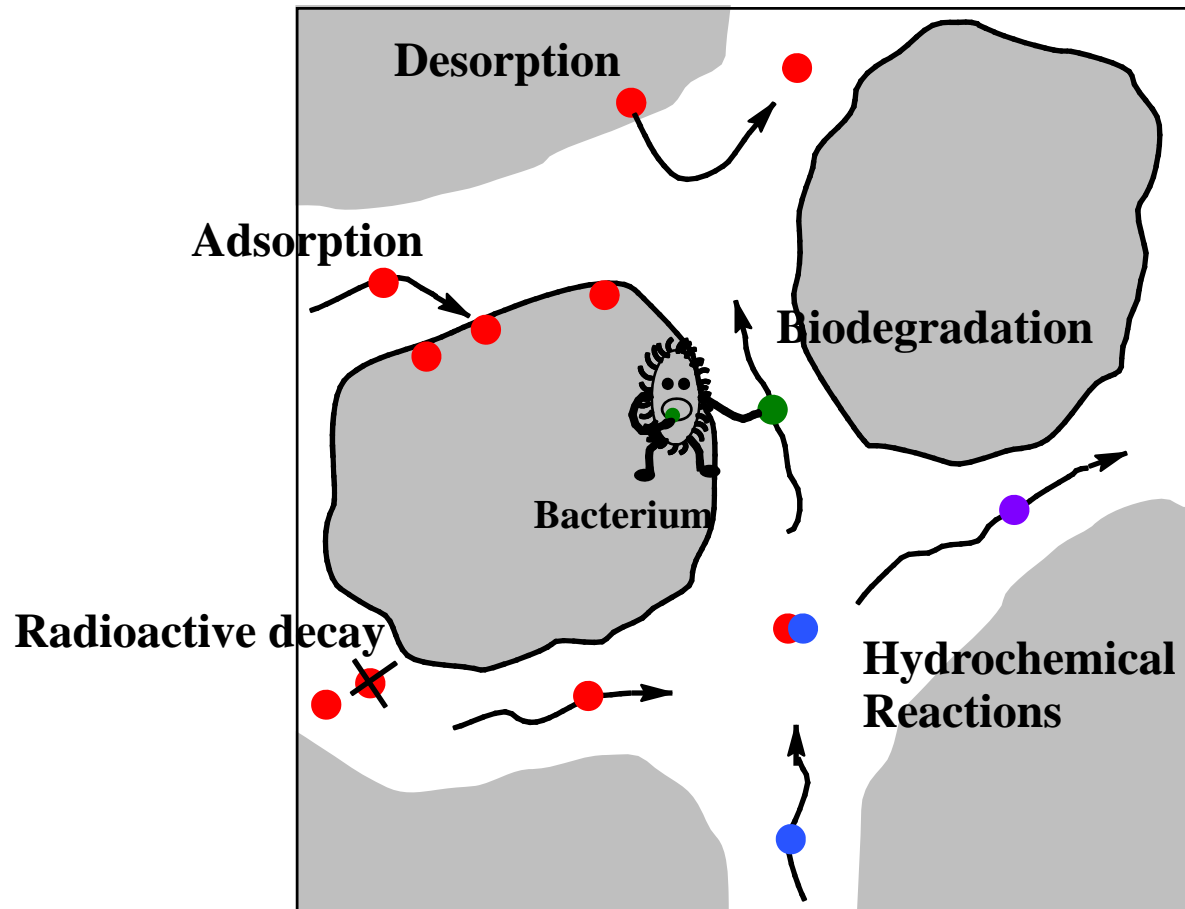


$10^{-3} \text{ m}$

$10^0 \text{ m}$

$10^3 \text{ m}$

# Nonconservative Transport Mechanism



# Transport Equation

(partial differential equation of second order)

- General transport equation (advektion-diffusion-equation)

$$\frac{\partial(cn)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(nq_i c) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left( n(D_{ij} + d_m \delta_{ij}) \frac{\partial c}{\partial x_j} \right) = 0$$

parabolic hyperbolic type

- pure diffusive transport equation

$$\frac{\partial(cn)}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left( nD_{ij} \frac{\partial c}{\partial x_j} \right) = 0$$

parabolic type

continuous change of concentration (as for heat conduction)

- pure advective transport equation

$$\frac{\partial(cn)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}(nq_i c) = 0$$

hyperbolic type

saltus of concentration at spreading front (as wave propagation)

→ This part causes stability problems in numerical approximation

# Transport PDE

boundary and initial conditions

- B.C. 1. kind (Dirichlet)  
given concentration

$$c = \bar{c}$$

- B.C. 2. kind (Neumann)  
dispersive mass flux over the boundary

$$-D_{ij} n_i \frac{\partial c}{\partial x_j} = \bar{j}_\perp$$

For no flow boundaries = 0.  
Otherwise difficult to specify.

- B.C. 3. kind (Cauchy)  
total flux over the boundary

$$\left( v_a c - D_{ij} \frac{\partial c}{\partial x_j} \right) n_i = \bar{j}_\perp$$

- initial condition  
concentration for time  $t=0$

$$c(t_0) = \bar{c}_0$$