

M30: Designing soil models

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Model design is primarily a social activity, since it involves summarising relevant science into mutually acceptable algorithms. If soil and ecosystem models are to incorporate the best science, this design process must be opened up to scientists who do not enjoy coding. Conversely, scientists who work mainly on measurement must appreciate the role of parsimonious models. Models can summarise and communicate knowledge, and ideally are used to apply this knowledge in socially-relevant contexts. Participants will develop their own dynamic model in a simple spreadsheet, thereby exploring methods for improving communication among model-focused and empirically focused scientists. Both are welcome.

