

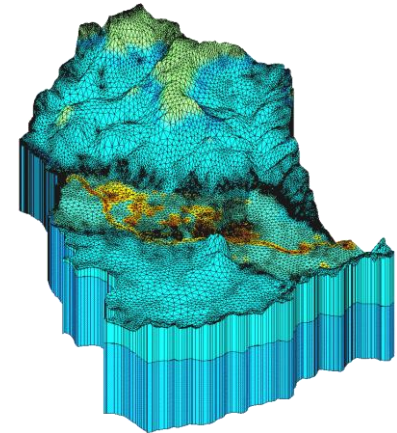
Wolfgang Gossel, Peter Wycisk:

**Importance and effects of  
model couplings in hydrogeology**



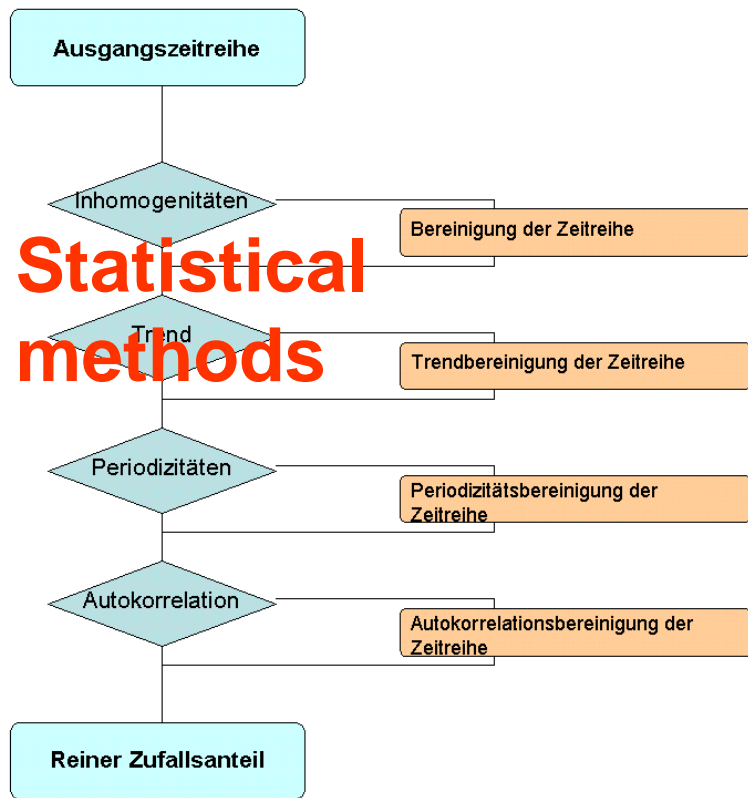
# Two examples for solution of hydrogeological problems

- How were the groundwater flow and transport conditions influenced by open pit lignite mining in the region Untere Mulde/Fuhne?
- What was the impact of climate change during the last 140 000 years on the groundwater balances in the Nubian Aquifer System?

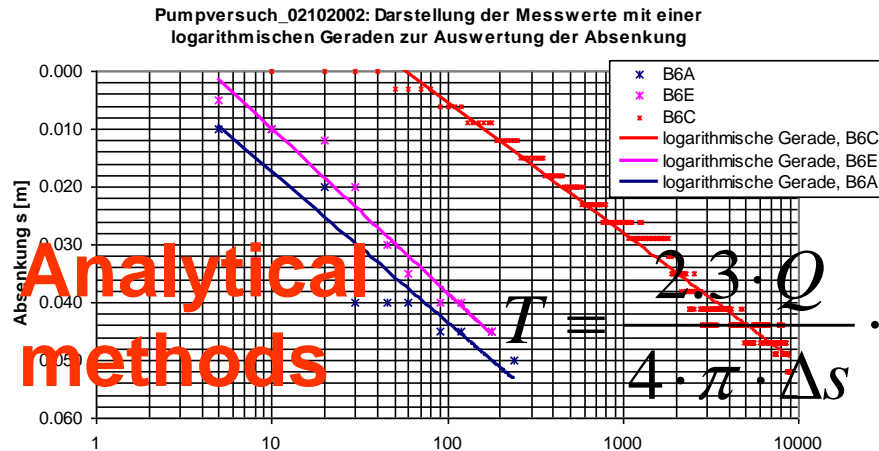


# Problem and model

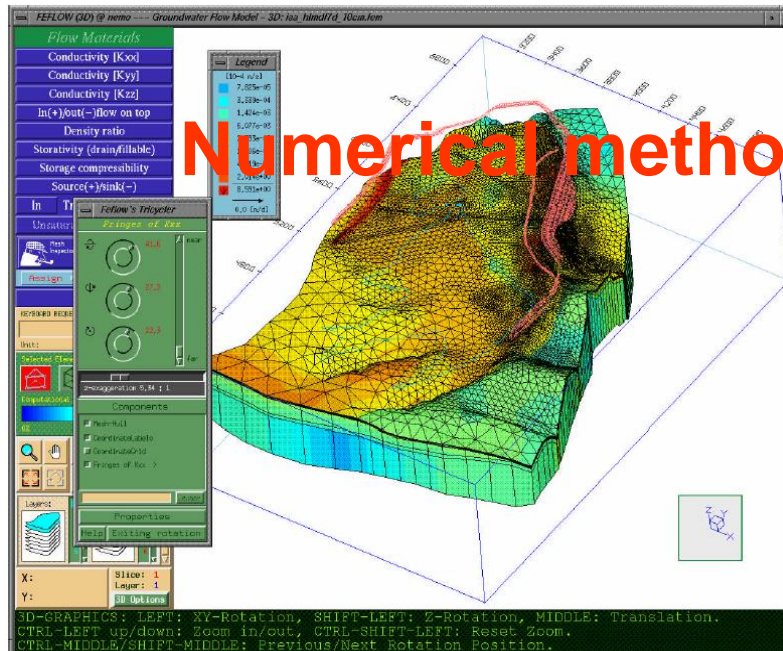
## Problem solution with diverse methods:



**Statistical methods**



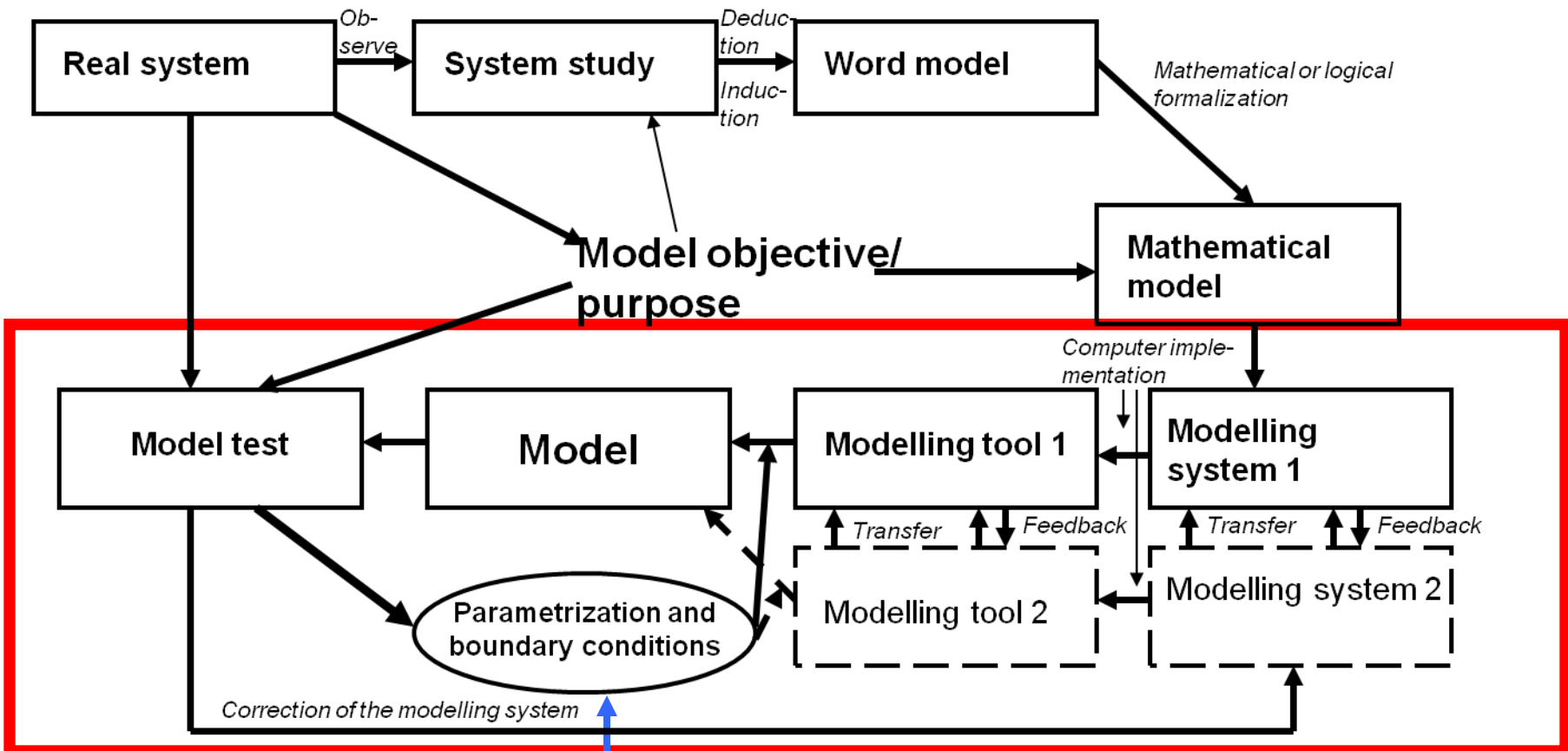
**Analytical methods**



**Numerical methods**



# Modelling systems, -tools and models



Changed after Bossel (1992)

„data“



# Modelling systems, -tools and models

Modelling systems

Modelling tools

Computer-  
implementation

Geology (hardrocks,  
unconsolidated rocks):  
static, constructive

GSI3D

Groundwater recharge:  
dynamic, GIS-based

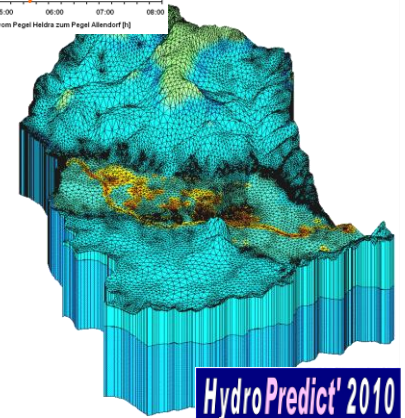
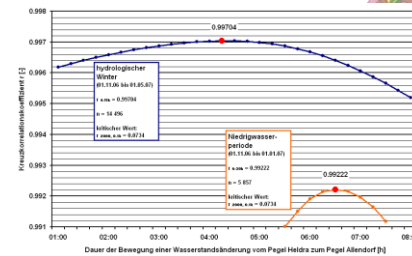
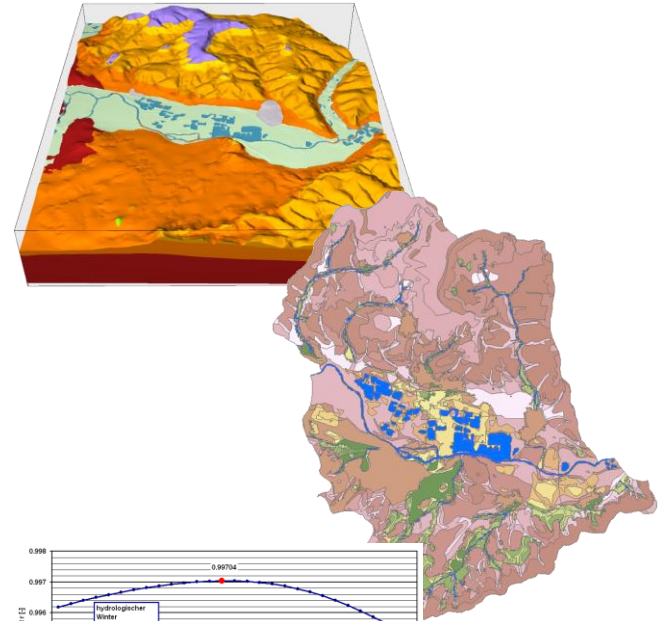
GIS, Excel

Surface water:  
statistic, time series

Excel, own  
programming

Groundwater: transient,  
numeric

Feflow



HydroPredict' 2010

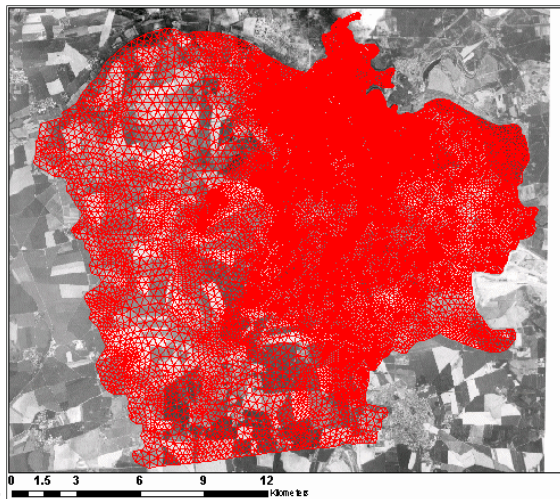
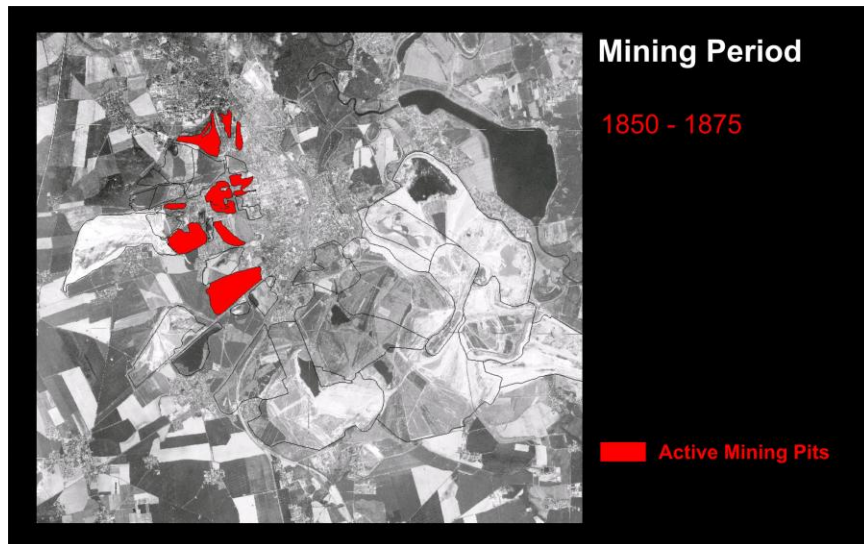


# Suitability of modelling tools

Objective



modelling tool



- Dynamic, variability in time domain, long time frames

- 3D spatially variable resolution according to data availability and objectives

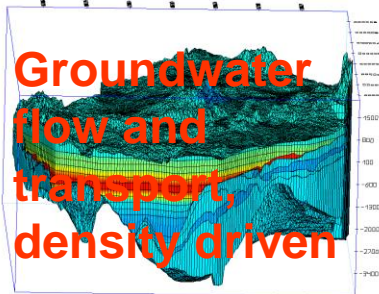
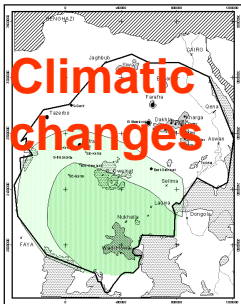


# Complexity of models and necessity of couplings

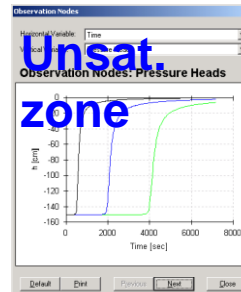
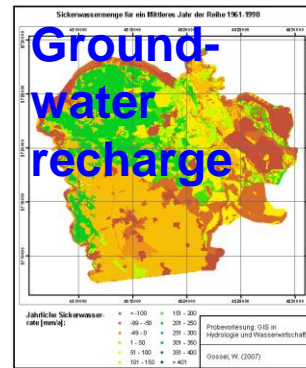
Dependent on:

- Number of compartments
- Number of used modelling systems
- Nonlinearity of the functions in modelling systems and the connections of the modelling systems
- Number of parameters
- Heterogeneity of parameters and boundary conditions in time and space

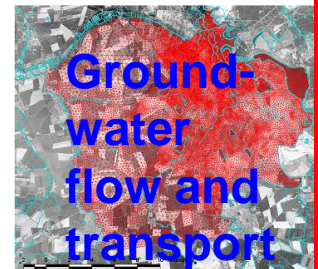
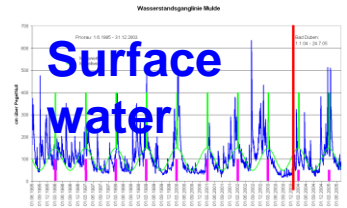
## Nubian Aquifer System



## Untere Mulde/Fuhne



Geology



## Pros and Cons of complex models

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### Pros:

- Substitution of weakly defined parameters (or b.c.) by better systematical approach
- Range of objectives increases

### Cons:

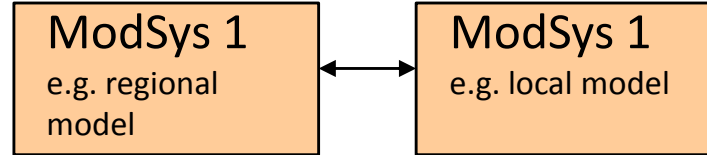
- High affinity to instabilities of the coupled modelling systems
- Sensitivity difficult to measure
- Scale dependency of parameters in different modelling systems
- Technical implementation of interfaces -> solvable



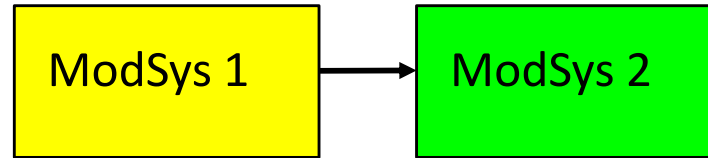


# Kinds of coupling

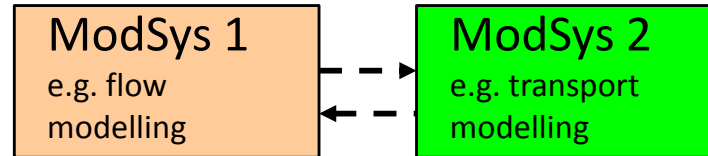
Horizontal coupling



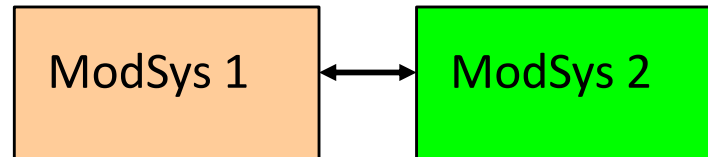
Serial coupling  
(non iterative)



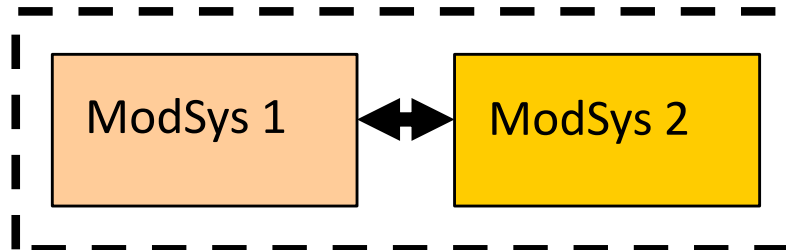
Periodically  
synchronized  
coupling



Parallel coupling  
(iterative)

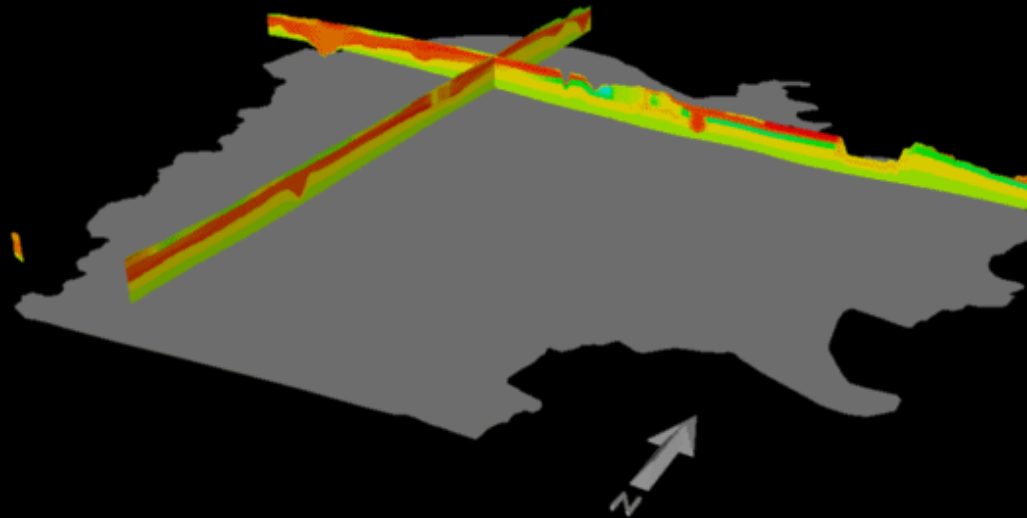


Integrated coupling

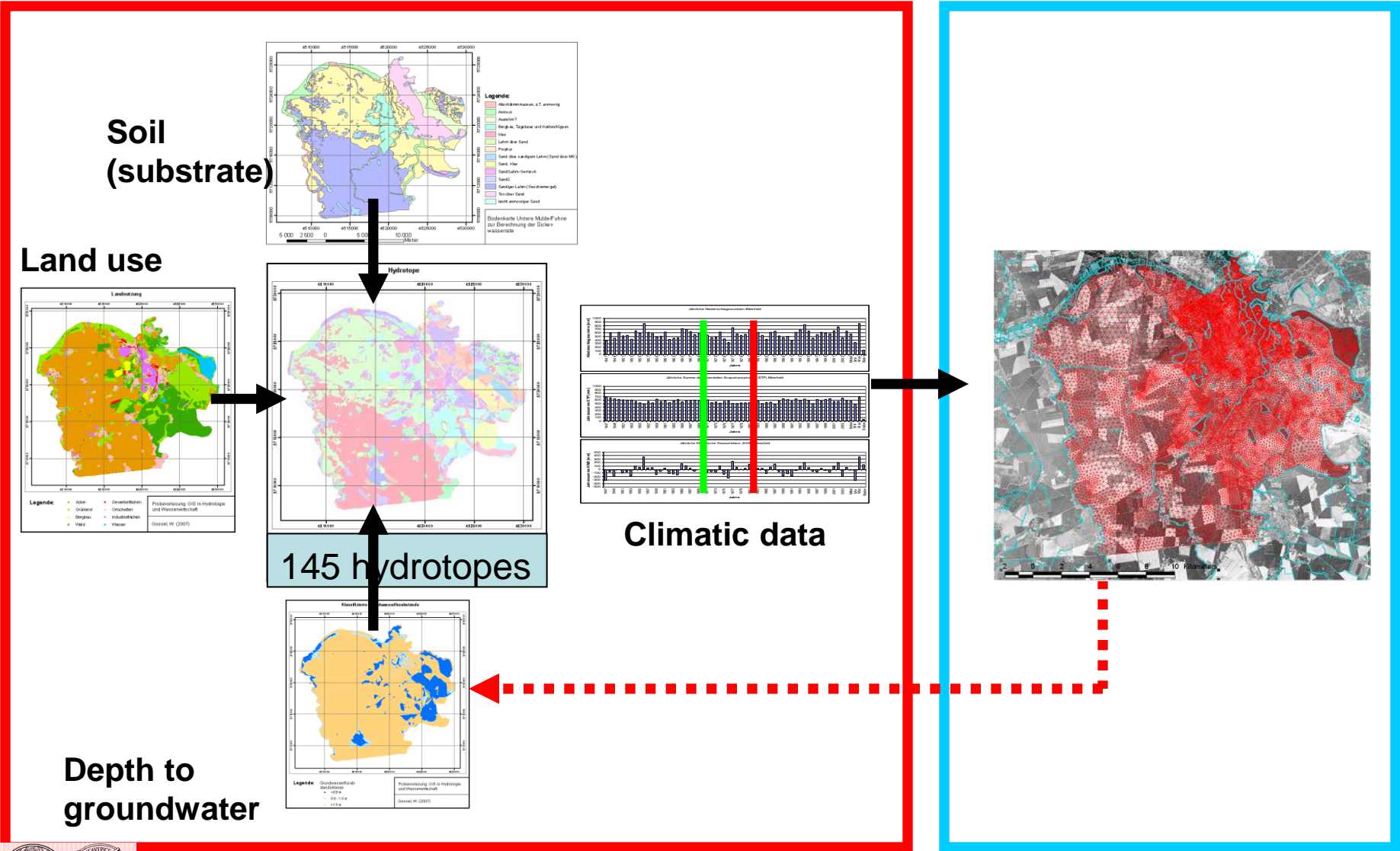


# Coupling konstruktive geolog. mod. with hydrogeol. mod.

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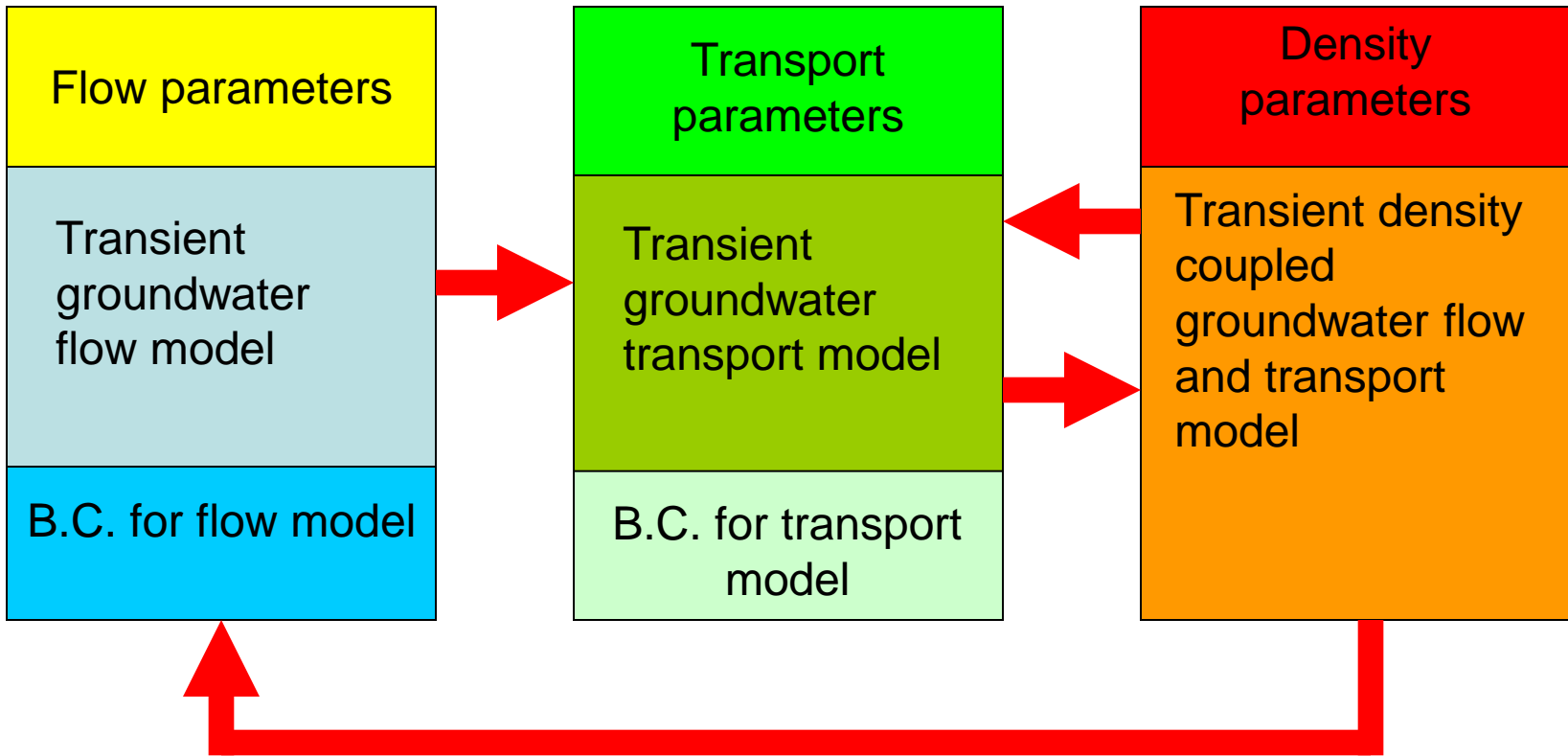


# Sequential and serial coupling, periodically synchronized



# Iterative, integrated coupling

## Nubian Aquifer System: Completely density driven groundwater modelling



## Interfaces of modelling systems

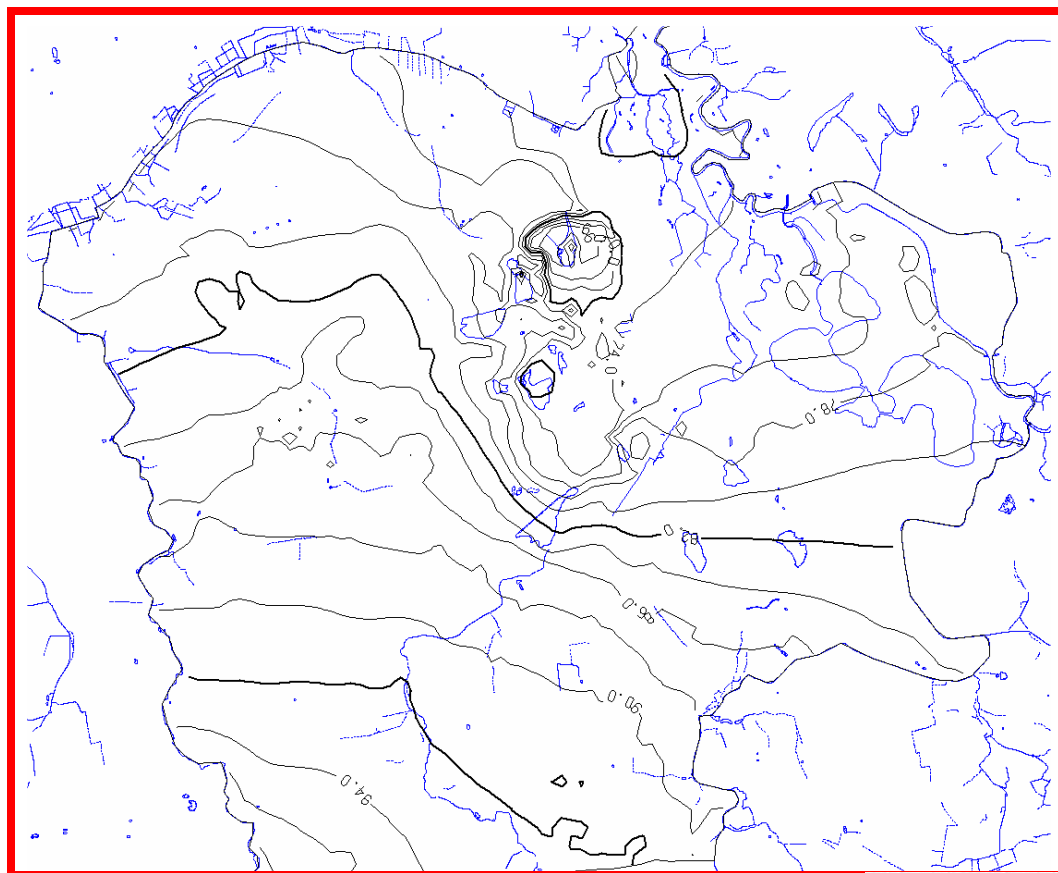
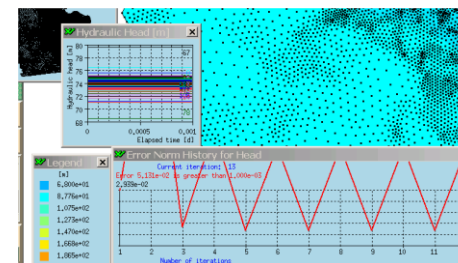
### Technical problem: Coupling of modelling systems for surface water (SW) and groundwater (GW)

- Systematical approach: Total discharge of SW doesn't influence GW level but SW level
- Level and discharge of SW are dominated by catchment abroad of investigation area
- Realisation of the Transfer-/Leakage-coefficient in groundwater modelling system
- Level-discharge-dependency is implemented in SW modelling system

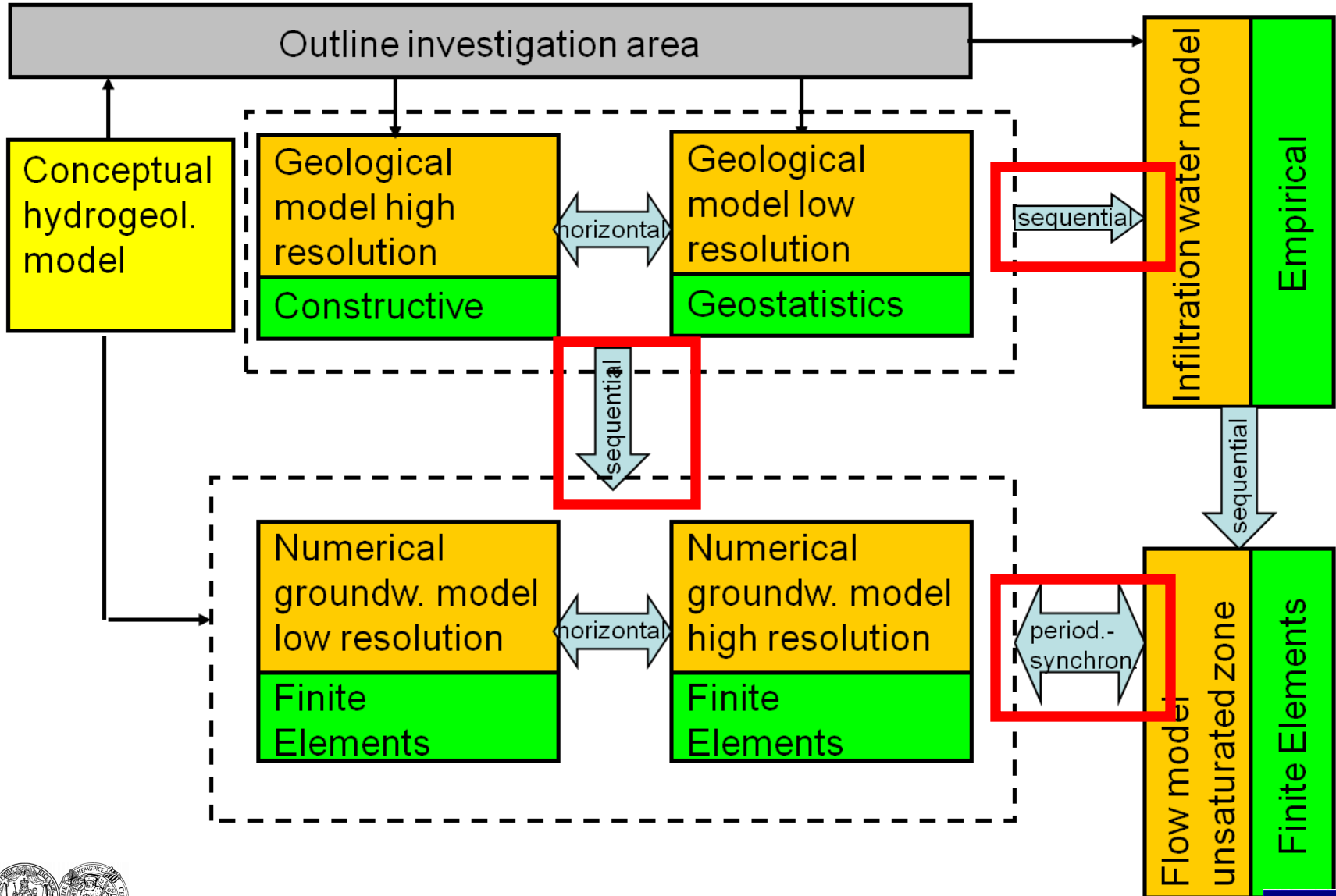


# Stability

- Convergence problems for numerical solutions
- Over-/Undershooting at interpolations or in dynamical models between time steps
- Oscillations in feedback between modelling systems
- Sometimes step back to „effective“ parameters necessary



# Complex example



# Calibration of coupled models

Impact of kind of coupling on calibration of models:

Kind of coupling	Work load	Stability	Transparency
Sequential	middle	high	high
Periodically synchronized	high	high	high
Iterative	low	low	low
Integrated	middle	low	low

Dilemma of the geological model:

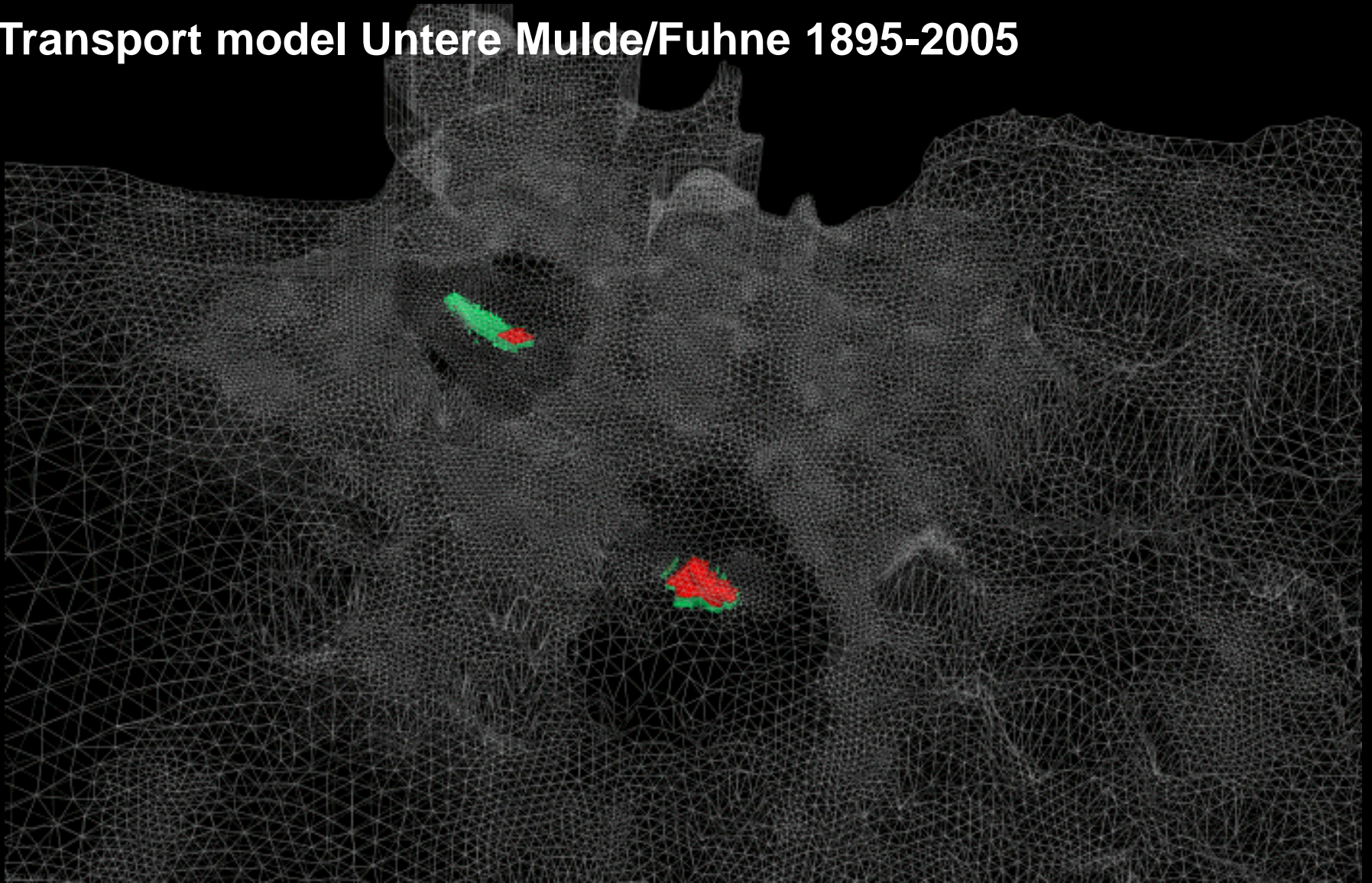
- Can not be calibrated on itself but only proven (geometrical criteria).
- Importance: „Database“ for unsaturated and saturated zone modelling
- Solution: Indices for the derived model and calibration of ranges of values





# Results of coupled models

## Transport model Untere Mulde/Fuhne 1895-2005



# The future ....

## Trends of development of model couplings

- Horizontal coupling needless or integrated
- Vertical couplings applicable via integrated solutions, unstable
- Defined programming interfaces of the tools are good solution, up to now not user friendly
- Data base will dominate the applicability of model couplings



USGS Ground-Water Software  
MODFLOW-2005 Version 1.4.00



- OpenSource
- Open standards
- Documented interfaces



- Additional tools, e.g.  
Modpath, MT3D, RT3D, HUF,  
UZF, Pre- and Postprocessors



- Closed Source
- Open and proprietary stand.
- Documented interfaces



- Integration of transport, density,  
heat, unsat. zone, discrete  
features, development of self-  
made modules



# Summary

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- **Application of complex models increases**
- **Complex models depend often on couplings of modelling systems**
- **Different kinds of coupling have consequences for behaviour, calibration, results and prognoses of models**
- **Systematical application after detailed analyses necessary**
- **Trend in hydrogeology towards opening of central parts of modelling tools via defined interfaces and standards**



# Thanks

- Thanks for your attention
- Thanks to the department for the support

- Projects for the examples:

**SAFIRA I and II:** Prof. Dr. Peter Wycisk, Tobias Hubert, (Dr.) Tilmann Steinmetz, Andreas Wollmann, Karsten Sommerwerk, Steffi Schnabel, Gerd Fleck, Oliver Neef, Raik Richter und Holger Fabritius

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**Nubian Aquifer System:** Dr. Ahmed Sefelnasr,

