



Groundwater Resources Program  
Prepared in collaboration with AMEC

**MODFLOW–USG Version 1: An Unstructured Grid  
Version of MODFLOW for Simulating Groundwater  
Flow and Tightly Coupled Processes Using a Control  
Volume Finite-Difference Formulation**

Chapter 45 of  
Section A, Groundwater  
Book 6, Modeling Techniques

Techniques and Methods 6–A45

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

# MODFLOW USG

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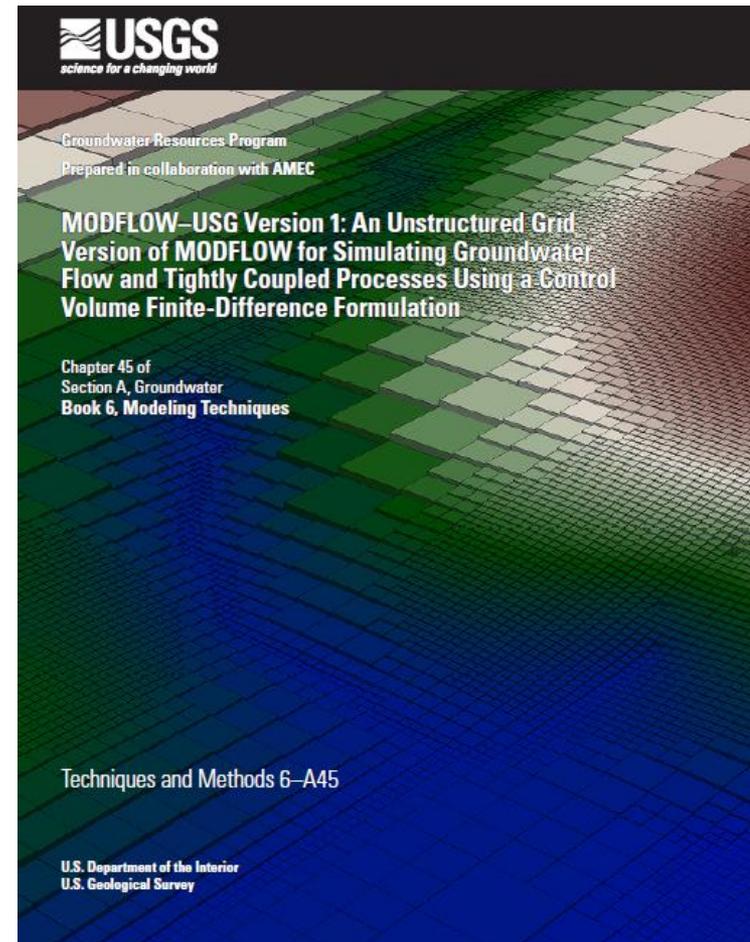
Allan Wylie IDWR

24 September 2013



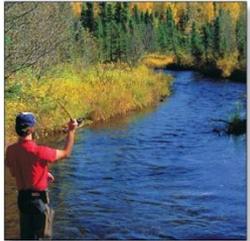
# MODFLOW USG

- Outline
  - Brief discussion of MFUSG
    - If you are a real modeling geek this will be unduly brief
  - Features of potential use in ESPAM



# MODFLOW USG

- USGS MODFLOW groundwater model
  - Extensive USGS review
  - Free
- Works with our existing input files
  - Minor change to BCF file
  - Need minor change to WEL file
- Sparse Matrix Solver
  - Several methods to solve matrix
  - Rather than relax convergence criteria use different method to solve matrix
- Works with PEST



# MF2K

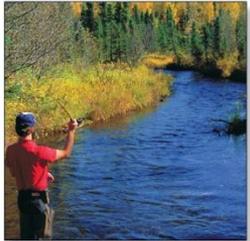
- Optimised measurement objective function = 6060.
- Optimised regularisation weight factor = 1.000
- Optimised regularisation objective function = 2305.
  
- Correlation coefficient = 0.9991

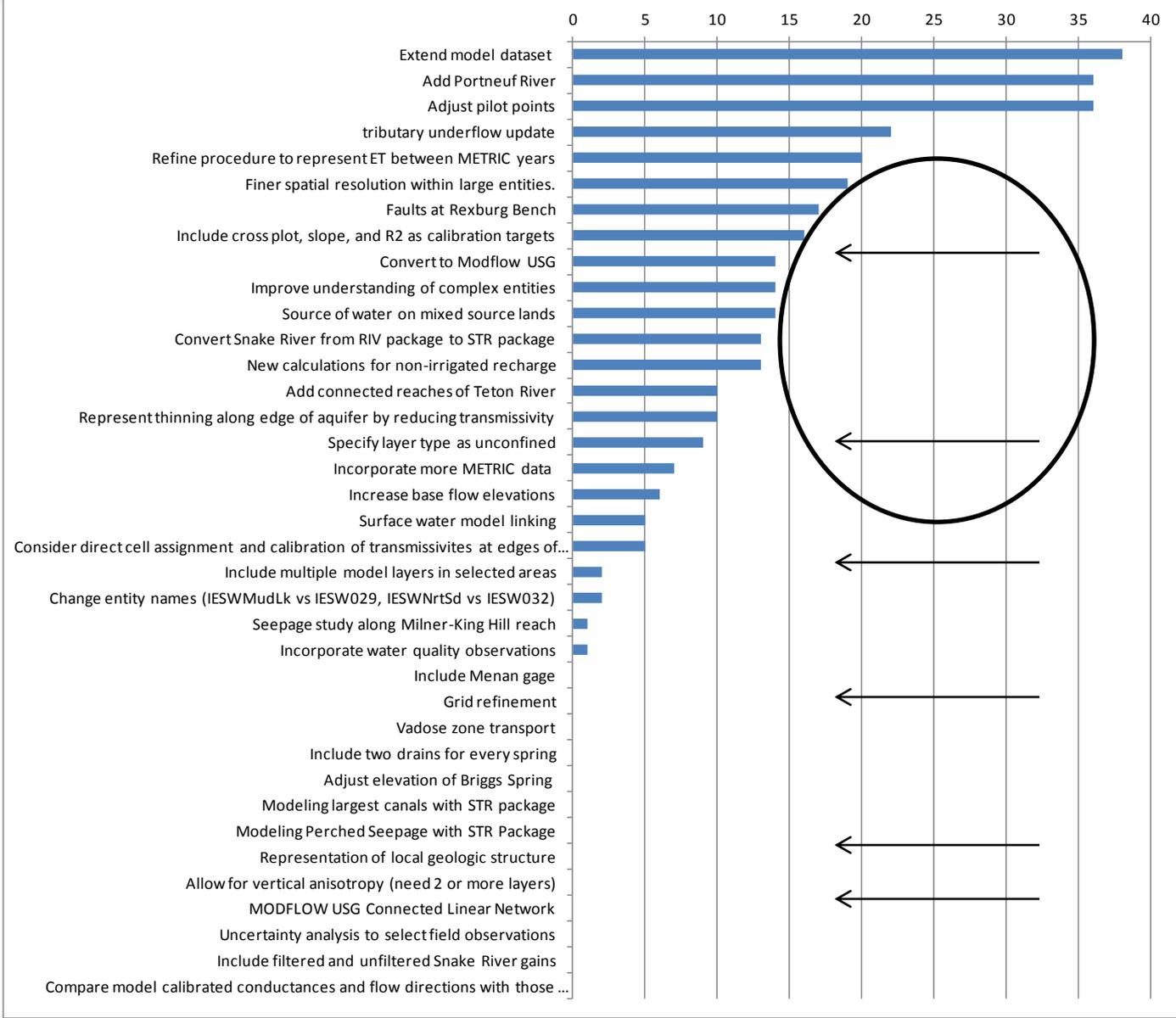
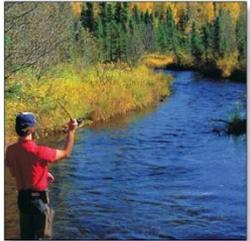
# MFUSG

- Optimised measurement objective function = 6060.9
- Optimised regularisation weight factor = 1.000
- Optimised regularisation objective function = 2305.3
  
- Correlation coefficient = 0.99907

# Calibration with MFUSG

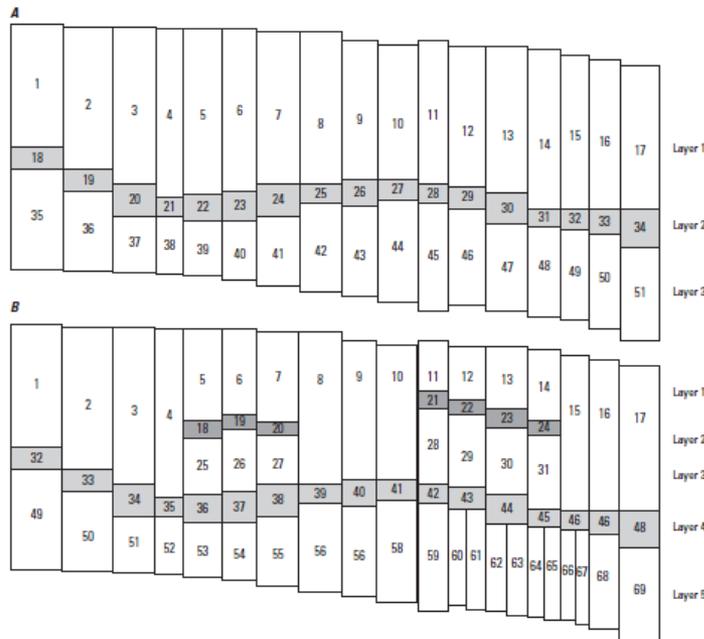
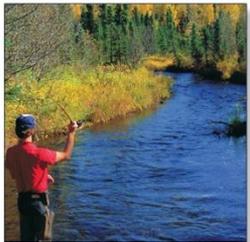
- No problems when in fixed transmissivity mode
  - Runs in about  $\frac{1}{4}$  the time
  - Gets similar answer
- More stable than MF2K in variable transmissivity mode
  - Does fail to converge from time to time





# MFUSG layering schemes

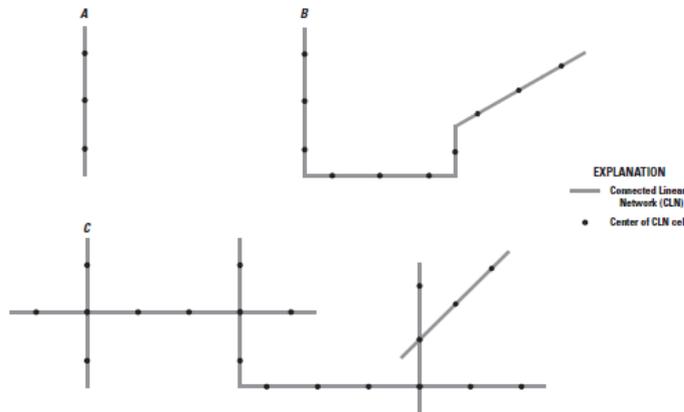
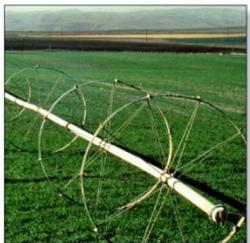
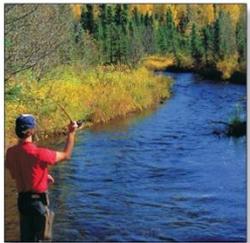
Figure shamelessly taken from USGS document



- Same grid configuration for all layers
- Different grid configuration for different layers
- Subdiscretization within a layer

# Connected Linear Network (CLN)

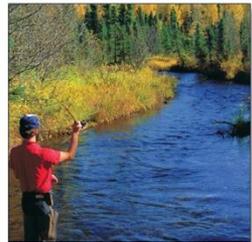
Figure shamelessly taken from USGS document



- Any hydrogeologic or hydrologic water conveying feature having a smaller cross-sectional area than the cell
  - i.e. canal or river
- Allows incorporation of one dimensional features to a structured or unstructured grid

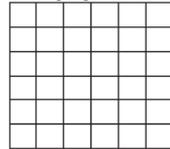
# MFUSG grid options

Figure shamelessly taken from USGS document

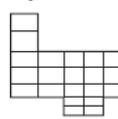


**STRUCTURED GRIDS**

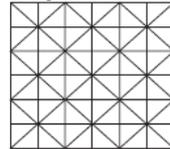
**A.** Rectangular grid



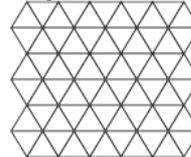
**B.** Rectangular grid, irregular domain



**C.** Triangular grid, isosceles triangles



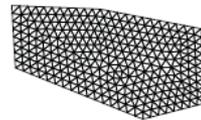
**D.** Triangular grid, equilateral triangles



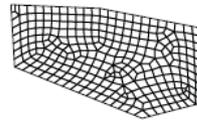
**D.** Hexagonal grid



**F.** Warped triangular grid

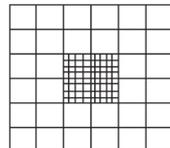


**G.** Warped quadrilateral grid

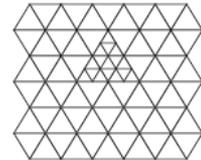


**UNSTRUCTURED GRIDS**

**H.** Rectangular, nested grid



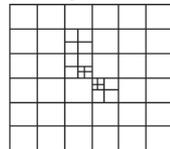
**I.** Triangular, nested grid



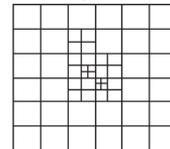
**J.** Radial grid



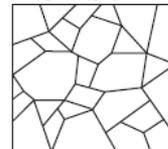
**K.** Rectangular, quadtree grid, no smoothing



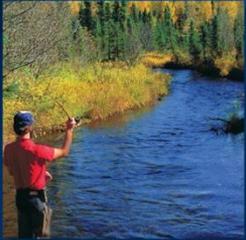
**L.** Rectangular, quadtree grid, with smoothing



**M.** Irregular polygon grid

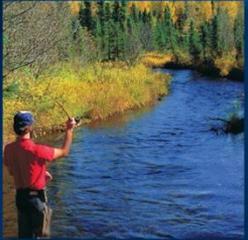


- Structured grid
  - Number of connections to a cell is constant
- Unstructured grid
  - Number of connections may be variable for each cell



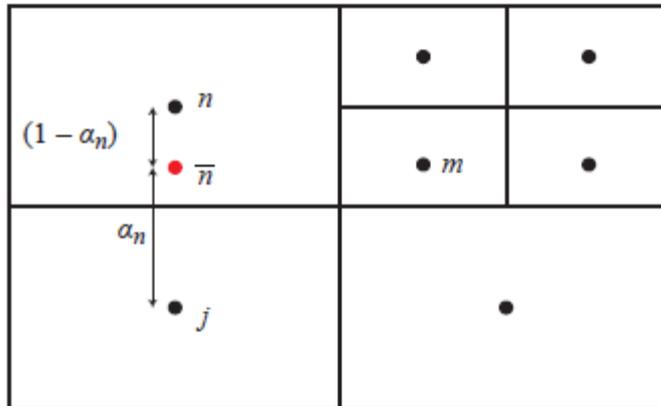
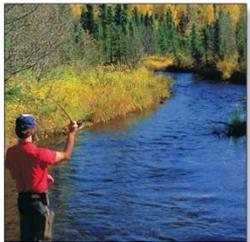
# Recommendation

- Convert to MFUSG for ESPAM2.2
- Experiment with variable transmissivity
- Explore other options
  - CLN
  - USG
  - Layering



End

# MFUSG Ghost Note Correction



- Control Volume Finite Difference (CVFD) formulation is good approximation when line connecting the center of two adjacent cells is perpendicular to and coincides with midpoint of each cell
- CVFD not good otherwise, as in the case of a nested grid where length of face is divided amongst various nested child grids
- Use of ghost node can overcome this flux error
  - Interpolate between  $n$  and  $j$  to get head at  $\bar{n}$