Impacts of Land-use Change on Snow, Soil Frost, and Soil Erosion in the Great Lakes Region

AGRY 598G Remote Sensing Seminar

Dazhi Mao Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering Purdue University

Problem Statement

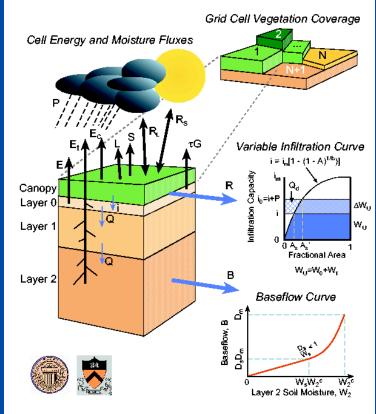
- Soil erosion is a long-term problem in natural resources management.
- Frozen soil plays a major part in spring melt runoff and erosion.
- Land-use and land cover have a major impact on the accumulation, distribution and melting of snow and development of soil frost.





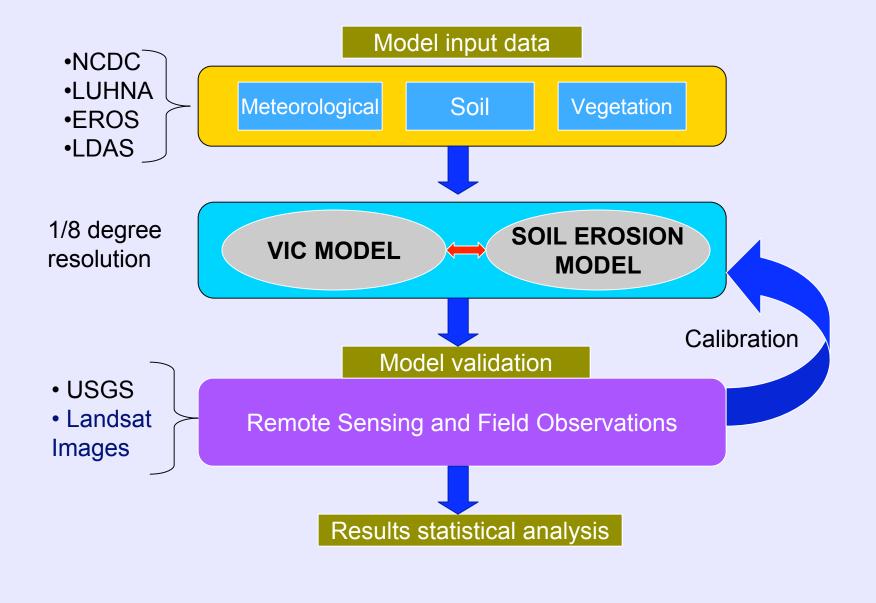
Research Objectives

- To develop soil erosion model driven by or coupled with the VIC model;
- To simulate historic landuse using the VIC model with frozen soil and snow algorithms;
- To analyze the effects of frozen soil, snow cover, and land-use on erosion; and
- To evaluate how climate change affect soil erosion



Variable Infiltration Capacity (VIC) Macroscale Hydrologic Model

Method and Approach



Role of Remote Sensing in the Study

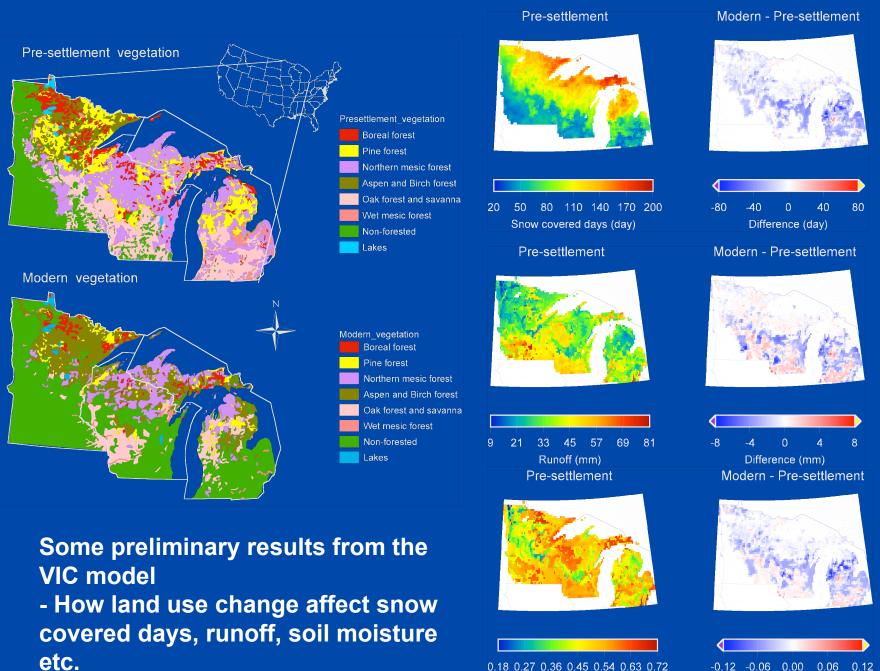
Landsat TM and MODIS

> 16 days repeated coverage

finer resolution than model needed

Landsat data for model validation

Land-use change
 Snow covered areas and number of days
 Soil moisture



Moisture fraction (fraction)

-0.12 -0.06 0.00 0.06 0.12 Difference (fraction)

Study still ongoing

Comments and suggestions are welcome

Thank You