# General comments for the Editor

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The authors would like to thank the editors of the journal Earth Surface Dynamics for considering publishing our manuscript and for the Referees for their constructive criticism on the manuscript and their valuable suggestions on how to improve the manuscripts overall quality. The responses for each referees comments are presented in separate documents and all comments and suggestions was incorporated into the manuscript where possible. Looking at both the Referees comments the authors felt that we should add a joint response that would alleviate some common concerns from the referees.

The main objective of this manuscript was to introduce the new coupled soilscape-landform 10 evolution model. However we strongly felt that there should be some applications of the model 11 12 albeit simple, to show how the model performed well in reality and to highlight some of the geomorphic signatures emerging from the modelling results itself. We recognise that it is not a 13 14 reasonable application that necessarily be directly applicable in the field setting. However we are inspired by the early work on hillslope geomorphology by authors such as Kirkby [1971] 15 16 and Carson and Kirkby [1972] which was very useful in understanding hillslope evolution processes. So as first step we used a 1Dimentional hillslope to run our simulations because, 17 understanding dynamics of 1D hillslope evolution is easier and we can better illustrate possible 18 19 implications for different processes.

20 In this manuscript emphasis was given to the presenting the model formulation and only limited 21 comparison was done with field data mainly because we were unable to find any experimental work done by any other researcher which has used a similar setup as our simulations. However 22 a subsequent paper will deal with implications of model results in terms of one-dimensional 23 24 and three-dimensional alluvial fans. In this future manuscript, we compare and contrast the 25 model results with experimental work done by authors such as Seal et al. [1997] ,Toro-Escobar et al. [2000] and general observations done regarding naturally occurring alluvial fans and their 26 27 formation dynamics.

We admit that the model is limited in its scientific scope. The model is based on physical 28 29 fragmentation of parent soil particles and it does not model chemical transformations. The 30 modelling approach used here is complimentary to the chemical weathering modelling work done by Michael J Kirkby [Kirkby, 1977; 1985; 2018]. However we will be incorporating a 31 physically based chemical weathering model described by Willgoose [2018] into SSSAPAM 32 33

34 At the current time we decided not to consider SOC and its influence in the soil formation and 35 evolution processes. All available evidence suggests that in order to effectively model SOC, it will require an extremely complicated coupled model with soil grading, soil moisture, SOC as well as vegetation. Although formulating such a model is very desirable (and would be an important endeavour by itself) for the entire scientific community, it is well beyond the scope 39 of this current research work.

- 40 The deposition model of SSSPAM is designed in such a way that the difference between the
- 41 transport capacity and the sediment load of the flow is always deposited regardless of the
- 42 settling velocities. This is done to prevent the flow from being over the transport capacity.
- Depending on the material grading distribution and the concentration in the profile of the flow,
- 44 the theoretical amount of the material that can be deposited can be different. In this model
- 45 formulation we assume that the sediment grading is uniform and the sediment concentration is
- 46 also uniform within the flow. The reality may not be as simple as that. There is literature that
- 47 argues that the sediment concentration profile has an exponential distribution (i.e.most of the
- 48 sediment are concentrated near the bottom of the flow) such as Agrawal et al. [2012] and that
- 49 the grading distribution profile in the flow is also a function of the settling velocity of different
- 50 particles (i.e. Larger particles are concentrated near the bottom of the flow). So in practice the
- amount of material deposited at each pixel according to the critical immersion depth might be
- 52 higher. Although the approach used in SSSPAM may not perfectly mimic the natural behaviour
- inglier. Authorigh the approach used in 5551 Am may not perfectly minine the natural behaviour
- of sediment deposition we believe that this is the most effective way to numerically represent
- this process in the model at this time.
- 55 References.
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- flux structure in a river profile, measured with a LISST-SL Instrument, *Sequoia Scientific, Inc.*
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- 67 Kirkby, M. (1985), A basis for soil profile modelling in a geomorphic context, *Journal of Soil* 68 *Science*, *36*(1), 97-121.
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- 70 Kirkby, M. (2018), A conceptual model for physical and chemical soil profile evolution, 71 *Geoderma*.
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- 74 downstream fining of gravel: I. Narrow-channel runs, Journal of hydraulic engineering,
- 75 *123*(10), 874-884.
- 76 77 Toro-Escobar
- 77 Toro-Escobar, C. M., C. Paola, G. Parker, P. R. Wilcock, and J. B. Southard (2000),
- Experiments on downstream fining of gravel. II: Wide and sandy runs, *Journal of Hydraulic*
- 79 Engineering, 126(3), 198-208.
- 80 Willgoose, G. (2018), *Principles of Soilscape and Landscape Evolution*, Cambridge University
- 81 Press.
- 82 83

## Reply for the comments from P.A. Finke (Referee #1) in italic font

- Journal: ESurf Title: A coupled soilscape-landform evolution model: Model formulation and initial results Author(s): W. D. Dimuth P. Welivitiya et al. MS No.: esurf-2018-16
- 88 General Comments

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- The authors describe a quantitative model suitable to estimate evolution of some soil physical properties over the landscape. The model description and the presented mathematical formulations look OK. The manuscript is well-written. My major comments relate to the over-selling of the model as a pedogenesis model (see comment 1), to the linkage to the real world (2, 3) and to the clarity of model assumptions (4).
- 94 General Reply
- First of all the authors would like to thank the referees for expending their valuable time
  and energy to review our manuscript. We also greatly appreciate the constructive
  criticism and the comments of the referees. Referee #1 has raised 4 main issues regarding
  the current version of the manuscript. The authors will consider all the comments and
  suggestions made by the referees and accommodate them in the manuscript wherever it is
  possible. Authors response for each specific comment is presented under each referee
  comment.
- 102 1. One major comment, even an objection that I have is that the paper states at many locations that it concerns a soil genesis model. This illustrates a narrow vision on soil 103 104 genesis, and comes entirely from a geomorphological perspective. In fact, only soil physical processes are considered, and not even all of these (e.g. heat flow and clay 105 migration are no part of the model, the effect of SOC on erodibility is unaccounted for). 106 It ignores that soil genesis involves many other processes, of mineralogical, chemical 107 and biological kinds. See Bockheim and Gennadiyev (2000) for a list of soil formation 108 processes and Minasny et al. (2015; Fig.5) for a check if these processes are covered by 109 the soil models of to date. I therefore advise the authors to be clear in the ambi-tion 110 level of this model, which is the mechanistic simulation of 3D-redistribution of soil 111 particles of various size over the landscape. Mention perhaps "soil texture evolution 112 model", but not soil evolution model s.l. 113
  - The authors do agree with the Referee #1s comment that only limited soil formation processes has been considered in SSSPAM. The model is based on physical fragmentation of parent soil particles and it does not model chemical transformations. The modelling approach used here is complimentary to the chemical weathering modelling work done by Michael J Kirkby [Kirkby, 1977; 1985; 2018]. However we will be incorporating a physically based chemical weathering model described by Willgoose [2018] into SSSAPAM in the future. Also at the current time we decided not to consider SOC and its influence in the soil formation and evolution processes. All available evidence suggests that in order to effectively model SOC, it will require an extremely complicated coupled model with soil grading, soil moisture, SOC as well as vegetation. Although formulating such a model is very desirable for the entire scientific community, it is well beyond the scope of this current research work. Considering the Referee #1s comment and the limited number of soil formation processes simulated in the model we have decided to use "Soil grading evolution" model instead of

#### "pedogenesis" model

2. The evolution of the soilscape is only to a limited degree connected to physical boundary conditions such as rain, evaporation, heat/temperature. As I understand it, water plays a role to redistribute topsoil material, but does not influence the subsoil (linkages to weathering of minerals, clay migration). The weathering mechanism entirely concerns physical weathering, and the process is driven by 2 parameters n and alpha, which are empirical (section 2.4). True drivers of physical weathering are related to temperature fluctuations, and specifically the occurrence of frost. For these reasons the model is not fully mechanistic, i.e. does not represent the actual processes, but rather "functional", it describes what happens and uses empirical factors to achieve this. This means that the model cannot be used for studies on effects of global change on soilscapes, where differences in P, PE and T should drive the processes. I would invite the authors to discuss this item in the paper.

The authors believe that the Referee #1 may have misunderstood the complexity of the weathering mechanism and how the weathering rate of each soil layer at each pixel (node) is calculated due to the concise manner which it is presented. The 2 parameters mentioned by the Referee #1 only controls the weathering geometry (how many daughter particles and their relative sizes) the weathering rate of each soil layer is controlled by the depth dependent weathering function. The rationale behind these depth dependent weathering functions and how they relate to the "drivers of the physical weathering (specially temperature fluctuations through the soil profile)" are extensively described in Welivitiya et al.[2016]. The authors decided not to repeat the material in previously mentioned paper here due to manuscript length concerns. Also SSSPAM is capable of using depth dependent weathering functions for each simulation node (pixel) depending on the geographical distribution of various physical weathering drivers such as temperature. Also a slight modification to the weathering module in SSSPAM will be able to simulate temporal variations of these weathering drivers as well. So SSSPAM can actually be used to study the effects of global change on soilscapes in the future. For the initial simulations the authors decided to keep the simulation setup as simple as possible to better observe and study how the core parts of the models perform and to see whether the results reflect general trends observed on hillslopes in nature. In later stages more and more capabilities of SSSPAM will be activated and a wide range of multidimensional soilscape simulations will be possible. As the Referee #1 suggests a small paragraph is added to the section to state this fact.

- 3. To allow model testing beyond plausibility testing ("face validity"), which is attempted in the paper, additionally, confrontation to field data would be needed. This is clearly beyond the scope of this paper and, unfortunately, of most soilscape modelling studies. Some sensitivity experiments are done in this paper, which is commendable. I would expect a strong sensitivity of projected landscapes to the initial landscape as well, but this was not studied. This again touches the ambition level of this model: is it meant for synthetic studies or for real world cases?
- The authors appreciate the Referee #1s understanding and grasp of the practical difficulties of comparing results produced through a model like SSSPAM with field data.

  The authors do agree that the simulations presented in this manuscript concerns a

hypothetical situation and not much attention was made to compare results with real world scenarios. However the main objective of this manuscript was to introduce the new coupled soilscpae-landform evolution model and demonstrate its ability to co evolve soilscape and landform together resulting in real world trends. So to keep the focus of this manuscript to the model development and model mechanics and to keep the manuscript at a reasonable size, the authors decided not to include a result comparison section to the current manuscript. In fact we have already done some comparison studies of the model simulations (particularly the deposition region of the landforms) with experimental flume scale studies and fluvial fan development and the results will be published in 1 or 2 separate manuscripts in the near future. In these simulations we have identified that the model (even with a reasonable synthetic setup) was able to generate similar trends identified in nature in terms of particle size distribution and landform morphology (particularly for alluvial fans). So we believe that although highly simplified in terms of the number of pedogenetic processes, the model still can be used to explore real world cases.

- 4. In general, some assumptions are not so clear. For instance: how does mass redistribution relate to the elevation of the soil-atmosphere interface, in other words, how are mass and volume connected. OK, via the bulk density (for erosion in eq.4; for deposition in eq. 7), but is bulk density then assumed a constant and not affected by bioturbation, strain by weathering? Is this valid over 60.000 years? Are there other assumptions that should be known?
- The authors agree that some assumptions made during the model development phase may have been omitted from the manuscript. Revised the manuscript and assumptions are clearly presented

198 A few specifics:

- 1.83: "scorpan" not introduced; this is in fact clorpt+soil point data+position (see
   McBratney et al. 2003), thus not so different.
  - The authors agree that scorpan is in fact a further development of clorpt as the Refree #1 has pointed out. The sentence regarding scorpan was revised and the association of scorpan to clorpt is introduced.
  - 1.573: erosion and d50 correlate: is this a model artefact? For instance, if the organic matter content would be simulated as well, would it not become part of the correlative complex?

Yes, all soil components are part of the correlative complex however extensive work has demonstrated that d50 is strongly related to erosion.. However this relationship may be true for natural hillslopes as well due to the process of armoring. i.e High erosion means ability to erode relatively large particles which leads to higher d50. If we incorporate the effects of SOC we would imagine that it will definitely come in to the correlation complex

- 1.689: soil formation and its evolution?=repetition.

215	There seems to be a repetition in processes describing soil formation and evolution. The
216	sentence was reworded
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218	- References:
219 220 221	Bockheim, J.G., Gennadiyev, A.N., 2000. The role of soil-forming processes in the definition of taxa in Soil Taxonomy and the World Soil Reference Base. Geoderma 95, 53–72.
<ul><li>222</li><li>223</li><li>224</li></ul>	Budiman Minasny, Peter Finke, Uta Stockmann, Tom Vanwalleghem, and Alex McBratney. 2015. Resolving the integral connection between pedogenesis and landscape evolution. Earth-Science Reviews 150: 102-12
225 226	Kirkby, M. (1977), Soil development models as a component of slope models, Earth surface processes, 2(2-3), 203 -230.
227 228	Kirkby, M. (1985), A basis for soil profile modelling in a geomorphic context, Journal of Soil Science, 36(1), 97-121.
229 230	Kirkby, M. (2018), A conceptual model for physical and chemical soil profile evolution, Geoderma.
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#### Reply for the comments from A.J.A.M. Temme (Referee #2) in italic font

The manuscript by Welivitiya and co-authors presents a simulation performed with their novel soil-landscape evolution model. The model and the rationale behind it are pre-sented in detail. The model simulation is on a simplified 2D landscape (i.e. a row of cells) representing a plateau over a hillslope and a valley. Two scenarios are simulated, with different depth-dependent weathering functions. Findings are discussed in details, and appear to indicate that the model functions well, and that basic expectations about the joint development of soils and landscapes (co-evolution) are met. The paper is interesting to me as a soil-landscape modeler, and I greatly enjoyed the detailed model layout and accompanying figures.

# General Reply

 First of all the authors would like to thank the referees for expending their valuable time and energy to review our manuscript. We also greatly appreciate the constructive criticism and the comments of the referees very much. The authors will consider all the comments and suggestions made by the referees and accommodate them in the manuscript wherever it is possible.

I have detailed suggestions in the attached annotations, that amount to minor revisions in and of themselves. Below, I add three general concerns.

1. Although the paper is very interesting to me, I am not sure that it is to the general audience of ESurfD. The meat of the paper is the model presentation, to my mind. That makes me wonder whether an outlet such as Geoscientific Model Development of Computers and Geosciences is not a better choice.

The authors do agree that the main objective of this manuscript and the bulk of its content has to do with model formulation and implementation. If the manuscript was just model formulation, we would agree with the Referee #2 s suggestion on submitting this manuscript elsewhere which caters to more mathematically oriented audience. Although a manuscript concerning only model formulation may be interesting, we strongly felt that we needed to include some initial model results (albite simple) to illustrate how the model performed at the simple scale. Also we wanted to highlight some of the geomorphic signatures emerging from the modelling results itself. We believe that publication here is important for not just the modelling community but also for the general geomorphology and soils community who through this work can observe some important physical insights but also raises some important questions. The other important issue is that lack of field data to calibrate/evaluate such models. We hope that we may inspire fieldwork (or reveal existing data) to advance such models as that described here. With this in mind, We strongly believe that Earth Surface Dynamics is the better choice for publishing this manuscript.

2. The simulation that illustrates the model's performance, is interesting buthypothet- ical. The paper does a great job of explaining what the results are, but does not give much attention

to what that means for how we should think about landscape evolution. This may be possible only in a limited way, given the hypothetical setup, but I do think some comparisons with existing thinking and findings from others are possible. I do one suggestion in the annotations. In another outlet, a lack of connection with exist- ing thinking would be no problem at all, but I think that in ESurfD the readership is particularly interested in that aspect (and perhaps less in model workings).

3.

The authors do agree that the simulations presented in this manuscript concerns a hypothetical situation and not much attention was made to compare results with real world scenarios. As the Referee #2 has understood the main objective of this manuscript was to introduce the new coupled soilscpae-landform evolution model and demonstrate its ability to co evolve soilscape and landform together resulting in real world trends. So to keep the focus of this manuscript to the model development and model mechanics and to keep the manuscript at a reasonable size, the authors decided not to include a result comparison section to the current manuscript. In fact we have already done some comparison study on the model simulations (particularly the deposition region of the landforms) with experimental flume scale studies and fluvial fan development and the results will be published in 1 or 2 separate manuscripts in the near future. We also highlight the issue of a lack of field data in the previous comment.

4. Although the model description is detailed and accurate, it would benefit from pointing out differences with existing models or a few more tradeoffs between accuracy and efficiency, especially where some of the innovative aspects are covered. How do these differ from existing models such as Lorica? I give a few suggestions for improvement.

I am glad to see this work in manuscript form, and I am happy to have it in the public domain so it can be used by colleagues. I wish the authors good luck in considering the changes suggested.

- Please also note the supplement to this comment:
- https://www.earth-surf-dynam-discuss.net/esurf-2018-16/esurf-2018-16-RC2 supplement.pdf

# Specific comments from the supplemental document

Referee #2 comment Page 9: I continue to struggle with these issues myself. Propagating resupply seems perfectly reasonable, and is necessary if layer thickness/mass is constant but don't you in this way always provide the top armouring layer with easily erodible soil? I imagine the result is a less effective armour. Does this reflect the real process?

The authors appreciate the Reviewers comments, understanding and grasp of the practical difficulties of material propagation in a model like SSSPAM. However according to the method used here the resupplied material to the armour layer is not always easily erodible.

Size selectivity only applies to the material movement form the armour layer to the flowing water layer above (i.e. depending on the surface water discharge rate, smaller particles are easily removed from the surface armour layer while larger particles remain). The material resupply to the surface armour occurs from the layer below and the resupplied material have the same grading as the subsurface layer grading (no size selectivity) so both small particles and large particles are resupplied to the armour layer. Most of the time the net effect of this material resupply and the size selective erosion will be enrichment of larger particles and armour strengthening. Depending on the depth dependent weathering function the relative coarseness of the subsurface layers can be less compared to armour layer. But once the armour layer is reconfigured with the added material from below and removal of small particles through erosion, again the net effect is armour strengthening. This layer restructuring is explained later in the paper.

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Referee #2 comment Page 10: If I see it correctly this all means that if you need to deposit 20kg of material and all you have in transport is clays, then you'll deposit some/all of the clays right? Regardless of the settling velocity.

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352 Yes the referee #2 is correct in recognising this factor. If all there in the transport is clay the 353 amount of material which need to be deposited will be deposited from the available clay. Size 354 selectivity comes in to play when there are a range of particles in the transport (which is 355 almost always the case). Then the larger particles with higher settling velocities will deposit

356 first.

Referee #2 comment Page 13: Ok, this makes me doubt what I said three pages ago. -at the 357 cost of my understanding. Tell me is  $\sum$ deposition in a cell equal to  $L_{in}$  -T<sub>c</sub>, which I thought 358 359 before or is it dictated by the settling velocity? The later seems to allow for  $\Sigma$  deposition to be

360  $< L_{in}$  -  $T_c$  .

- The Referee #2s earlier assumption is correct. The  $\sum$ deposition at a pixel is always equals to 361 362 Lin -Tc. The settling velocities and the critical immersion depths for that matter dictates the distribution of the deposited particles. The Referee 2 is also correct that at the first glance it 363 364 seems like  $\sum$  deposition can be  $\leq$  Lin -Tc. This is why we have the adjustment vector K365 (equation 5) which ensures
- $\sum$  deposition = Lin -Tc (always). The authors previously had a worked example on how this 366 367 correction vector is calculated. However the authors thought that this may confuse readers 368 with less mathematical/modelling experience and decided not to include it in the final version 369 of the manuscript. The example is again added to the main body of the manuscript. Following 370 is this omitted section with the example.

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#### Calculation of deposition mass vector

Following simplified example shows the need to have this adjustment vector and the method we used to calculate it.

**Table 2** Example calculation of adjustment vector K.

Size Class	Elements of $\underline{\psi}_{in}$ ( $\psi_z$ )	Entries of <b>[</b> ( <b>]</b> <sub>z,z</sub> )	$I_{z,z}  \psi_z$	Adjusted $I_{z,z} \psi_z$	Deficit / Surplus	Diagonal elements of <u>K</u>	Entries of <u>Ф</u>
1	5.00	1.0	5.00	7.29	-2.29	-2.29	5.00
2	10.00	0.7	7.00	10.21	-0.21	-0.21	10.00
3	20.00	0.4	8.00	11.67	8.33	2.00	13.67
4	40.00	0.1	4.00	5.83	34.17	0.50	6.33
Total	75.00		24.00	35.00			35.00

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Consider the example values given in Table 2. The total mass of the incoming sediments is 75 kg and the sediments are distributed in four size classes. Here the size class one is the largest and has the highest potential for deposition (with  $I_{1,1} = I$ ) while the size class four has the lowest potential for deposition (with  $I_{4,4}$  =0.1). If the transport capacity  $T_o$  is 40 kg, 35 kg of incoming sediments should deposit at the pixel as the total deposition D. Using the  $\sum J_{x,x} \psi_x$ value (which is 24) and rescaling these values with D (total deposition mass), we can calculate the masses of sediments which need to be deposited from each grading class. In some cases (when the total deposition D is higher than the  $\sum J_{z,z} \psi_z$  value) the mass of material which needs to be deposited can be larger than the available sediments in that particular size class. In this example there is 5 kg of sediments in the 1st size class and 10 kg of sediments in the second size class respectively. However, our adjusted calculation dictate that there should be 7.29 kg deposition from the 1st size class and 10.21 kg from the 2nd size class which is not possible. So these values needs to be adjusted to reflect maximum possible deposition from size classes one and two which are 5 kg and 10 kg respectively. This adjustment introduces a deficit of 2.5 kg to the total deposition and it needs to be deposited from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> smaller grading classes. According to the deposition matrix values  $I_{z,z}$  the deposition probability ratio between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grading class is 4:1 (0.4:0.1). The deficit mass 2.5kg is deposited from the 3rd and 4th size class with 4:1 ratio which accounts to an additional deposition mass of 2 kg from 3rd size class and 0.5 kg from the 4th size class. In this way the entries of the adjustment vector  $\mathbb{K}$ are calculated. Depending on the number of size classes and the distribution of the sediments, this adjustment vector K needs to be calculated iteratively.

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Referee #2 comment Page 16: The section 2.3.2 feels excessively detailed and long for a paper (Better in a model manual perhaps?) consider shortening drastically.

403	modified and some paragraphs were removed.
404 405	Referee 2 comment Page 17: Also it conveniently avoid possible negative effects of d8. Please comment here, or where you present the d8 choice.
406 407 408	At the time this manuscript was prepared, the authors had already ran the simulation for 3dimentional synthetic landforms as well. However the authors did not find any significant issues with using d8 for flow calculation.
409 410 411 412	Referee #2 comment Page 21: I'm trying to imagine implications. Does it follow from this that nick points cutting back into higher regions slow down less than otherwise expected since they meet fine soft soils as they proceeds further into the plateau? Please comment and harvest for your readers.
413 414 415 416 417 418 419	The Referee #2s understanding is correct. When the erosion region cuts back in to the plateau area, weathering process has already broken-down the coarse material in to finer constituents where it can be readily eroded away by the erosion region cutting in to the plateau region. If we did not have weathering the rate at which the erosion region cutting back to the plateau region would be slower as it requires the removal of coarser soil particles. A small discussion mentioning this implication was added to the manuscript as per Referee #2s comment
420 421 422	Referee #2 comment Page 24: I have the opinion/impression that the discussion section is quite detailed in describing your results. Perhaps a bit much so, and that there is not enough in the way of comparing dynamics with results reported by others, empirically or otherwise.
423 424	As Referee #2s Comments the Discussion section is modified and some paragraphs were removed
425 426	Referee #2 comment Page 26: It would be good to shorten conclusions to about $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ of their size.
427 428	As Referee #2s Comments the conclusions section is modified and some paragraphs were removed
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The authors agree with Referee #2s comment regarding the section 2.3.2. The section is

435	A coupled soilscape-	landform evolution model: Model formulation		
436	and initial results.			
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441	W. D. Dimuth P. Welivitiya <sup>1,2</sup>	G, Garry R Willgoose <sup>1</sup> , Greg R Hancock <sup>2</sup>		
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#### Abstract

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This paper describes the coupling of the State Space Soil Production and Assessment Model (SSSPAM) soilscape evolution model with a landform evolution model to integrate soil profile dynamics and landform evolution. SSSPAM is a computationally efficient soil evolution model which was formulated by generalising the mARM3D modelling framework to further explore the soil profile self-organization in space and time, and its dynamic evolution. The landform evolution was integrated into SSSPAM by incorporating the processes of deposition and elevation changes resulting from erosion and deposition. The complexities of the physically based process equations were simplified by introducing state-space matrix methodology that allows efficient simulation of mechanistically linked landscape and pedogenesis processes for catena spatial scales. The modelling approach and the physics underpinning the modelled processes are described in detail. SSSPAM explicitly describes the particle size grading of the entire soil profile at different soil depths, tracks the sediment grading of the flow, and calculates the elevation difference caused by erosion and deposition at every point in the soilscape at each time step. The landform evolution model allows the landform to change in response to (1) erosion and deposition, and (2) spatial organisation of the co-evolving soils. This allows comprehensive analysis of soil landform interactions and soil self-organization. SSSPAM simulates fluvial erosion, armouring, physical weathering, and sediment deposition. The modular nature of the SSSPAM framework allows integration of other pedogenesis processes in follow-on research projects to be easily incorporated. This paper presents the initial results of soil profile evolution on a dynamic landform. These simulations were carried out on a simple linear hillslope to understand the relationships between soil characteristics and the geomorphic attributes (e.g. slope, area). Process interactions which lead to such relationships were also identified. The influence of the depth dependent weathering function on soilscape and landform evolution was also explored. These simulations show that the balance between erosion rate and sediment load in the flow accounts for the variability in spatial soil characteristics while the depth dependent weathering function has a major influence on soil formation and landform evolution. The results demonstrate the ability of SSSPAM to explore hillslope and catchment scale soil and landscape evolution in a coupled framework,

# 1. Introduction

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Soil is one of the most important substances found on planet Earth. As the uppermost layer of the earth surface, soil supports all the terrestrial organisms ranging from microbes to plants to humans and provides the substrate for terrestrial life [*Lin*, 2011]. Soil provides a transport and a storage medium for water and gases (e.g. carbon dioxide which influences the global climate) [*Strahler and Strahler*, 2006]. The nature of the soil heavily influences both geomorphological and hydrological processes [*Bryan*, 2000]. In addition to the importance of soil from an environmental standpoint, it provides a basis for human civilization and played an important role in its advancement through the means of agricultural development [*Jenny*, 1941]. Understanding the formation and the global distribution of soil (and its functional properties) is imperative in the quest for sustainable use of this resource.

Characterization of soil properties at a global scale by sampling and analysis is time consuming and prohibitively expensive due to the dynamic nature of the soil system and its complexity [Hillel, 1982]. However over the years researchers have found strong links between different soil properties and between soil properties and the geomorphology of the landform on which they reside [Gessler et al. 2000, 1995]. Working on this hypothesis relationship several statistical methods have been developed to determine and map various soil properties depending on other soil properties and geomorphology such as pedotransfer functions, geostatistical approaches, and state-factor (e.g. CLORPT) approaches [Behrens and Scholten, 2006]. Pedotransfer functions (PTFs) use easily measurable soil attributes such as particle size distribution, amount of organic matter, and clay content to predict hard to measure soil properties such as soil water content. Although very useful, PTFs need a large database of spatially distributed soil property data and require site specific calibration [Benites et al., 2007]. Geostatistical methods uses a finite number of field samples to interpolate the soil property distribution over a large area. Developing soil property maps using geostatistical methods are is possible for smaller spatial scales, however soil sampling and mapping soil attributes can be prohibitively expensive and time consuming for larger spatial domains [Scull et al., 2003]. State-factor methods, such as CLORPT and SCORPAN use digitized existing soil maps and easily measurable soil attributes data to generate spatially distributed soil property data using mathematical concepts such as fuzzy set theory, artificial neural network or decision tree

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methods [*McBratney et al.*, 2003]. However these techniques also suffer from scalability issues and the typical need for site specific calibration.

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While spatial mapping of soil properties is important, understanding the evolution of these soil properties and processes responsible for observed spatial variability of soil properties is also important. In order to quantify these processes and predict the soil characteristics evolution through time, dynamic process based models are required [Hoosbeek and Bryant, 1992]. These mechanistic process models predict soil properties using both geomorphological attributes and various physical processes such as weathering, erosion, and bioturbation [Minasny and McBratney, 1999]. ARMOUR developed by Sharmeen and Willgoose [2006] is one of the earliest process based pedogenesis models. ARMOUR simulated surface armouring based on erosion and size selective entrainment of sediments driven by rainfall events and overland flow, and physical weathering of the soil particles which break\_down the surface armour layer. However, very high computational resource requirements and long run times prevented ARMOUR from performing simulations beyond short hillslopes. Subsequently Cohen et al. [2009] developed mARM by implementing a state-space matrix methodology to simplify the process based equations and calibrated its process parameters using the results from ARMOUR. Its high computational efficiency allowed mARM to explore the-soil evolution characteristics on spatially distributed landforms. Through their simulations Cohen et al. [2009] found a strong relationship between the geomorphic quantities contributing area, slope, and soil surface grading  $d_{50}$ . Both ARMOUR and mARM used two soil layers to simulate the a surface armour layer and a semi-infinite subsurface soil layer which supply supplies sediments to the upper armour layer. For this reason both of these models were incapable of exploring the evolution of the subsurface soil profiles. To overcome this limitation Cohen et al. [2010] developed mARM3D by incorporating multiple soil layers into mARM modelling framework. To generalise the work of Cohen et al. [2010], [Welivitiya et al., 2016][W D P Welivitiya et al., 2016b][W D P Welivitiya et al., 2016b]W D D P Welivitiya et al. [2016a] developed a new pedogenesissoil grading evolution model called SSSPAM, which was based on the approach of mARM3D and showed that the area-slope-d<sub>50</sub> relationship in Cohen et al. [2009] was robust against changes in process and climate parameters and that the relationship is also true for all the subsurface soil layers, not just the surface. Although these models predict the properties of the soil profile at an individual pixel, they do not model the spatial interconnectivity between different parts of the soil catena resulting from transport-limited erosion and deposition. Lateral material movement and particle redistribution through

deposition is very important in determining the soil characteristics such as soil depth and soil texture [*Chittleborough*, 1992; *Minasny and McBratney*, 2006]. In order to correctly predict the spatially distributed soil attributes and determine the changes in soil attributes with time, coupling soil profile evolution with landform evolution is important.

The first attempt on to integrateing soilscape evolution with landform evolution was done by Minasny and McBratney [1999; 2001]. They used a single layer to model the influence of soil and weathering processes on landform evolution. In addition to Minasny and McBratney [1999; 2001] there are a number of conceptual frameworks found in literature for developing coupled soil profile-landform evolution models [Sommer et al., 2008; Yoo and Mudd, 2008]. MILESD [Vanwalleghem et al. [2013] is a model which can simulate soil profile evolution coupled with landform evolution. MILESD is built upon the conceptual framework of landscape-scale models for soil redistribution by Minasny and McBratney [1999; 2001] and pedon-scale soil formation model developed by Salvador-Blanes et al. [2007]. In MILESD the soil profile is divided into four layers containing the bottommost bedrock layer and 3 soil layers above it representing the A, B, and C soil horizons. MILESD was used to model soil development over 60,000 years for a field site in Werrikimbe National Park, Australia [Vanwalleghem et al., 2013]. They matched trends observed in the field such as the spatial variation of soil thickness, soil texture and organic carbon content. A limitation of MILESD is that it only uses three layers to represent the soil profile. Recently the soil evolution module used in MILESD has been modified to incorporate additional layers and has been combined with the landform evolution model LAPSUS to develop a new coupled soilscape-landform evolution model, LORICA [Temme and Vanwalleghem, 2015]. They found similar results for soil-landform interaction and evolution similar to MILESD simulation results.

Since only three layers were used in MILESD<sub>2</sub> the representation of the particle size distribution down the soil profile was limited. Although LORICA incorporated additional soil layers into the MILESD modelling framework, detailed exploration of soil profile evolution or interactions between landform evolution and soil profile evolution has not yet been done with this model. Importantly, particle size distribution of the soil can be used as a proxy for various soil attributes such as the soil moisture content [*Arya and Paris*, 1981; *Schaap et al.*, 2001]. The main objective of this paper is to present a new soilscape evolution model capable of predicting the particle size distribution of the entire soil profile by integrating a previously developed pedogenesissoil grading evolution model in to a landscape evolution model.

In previous papers we have presented a pedogenesis model (on a fixed elevation landform) called State Space Soil Production Assessment Model (SSSPAM) [Welivitiya et al., 2016] and explored relationships between the geomorphic parameters slope, contributing area and the soil grading distribution. Similar to previous pedogenesis models such as mARM3D [Cohen et al., 2009; 2010], SSSPAM did not consider the interconnectivity between evolving soil pedons through fluvial processes, no landform evolution was modelled and no changes in the contributing area and slope occurred. HereIn this paper we present the methodology for incorporating sediment transport, deposition and elevation changes of the landform in to SSSPAM modelling framework to create a coupled soilscape-landform evolution model. Detailed information regarding the development and testing of SSSPAM pedogenesis soil grading evolution model is provided in previous papers by the authors ([Cohen et al., 2010; W DDP Welivitiya et al., 2016a][Sagy Cohen et al., 2010; WDP Welivitiya et al., 2016b][Cohen et al., 2010; W D P Welivitiya et al., 2016b][Cohen et al., 2010; W D P Welivitiya et al., 2016b] [Cohen et al., 2010; Welivitiya et al., 2016]). The main focus of this paper is to incorporate landform evolution into the SSSPAM framework. In addition to the model development we also present the initial results of coupled soilscape-landform evolution exemplified on a linear hillslope.

# 2. Model development.

 The introduction of a landform into the SSSPAM framework is done using a digital elevation model. The structure of the landform evolution model follows that for transport-limited erosion [Willgoose et al., 1991] but modified so as to facilitate its coupling with the soilscape pedogenesissoil grading evolution model SSSPAM described in [WDDP Welivitiya et al., 2016]. Here a regular square grid digital elevation model was used and converted it-into a two dimensional array which can be easily processed and analysed in the Python/Cython programzing language. Using the "steepest-slope" eriteria criterion [Tarboton, 1997] the flow direction and the slope value of the each pixel was determined. Then using the created flow direction matrix, the contributing area of each pixel was determined using the "D8" method [O'Callaghan and Mark, 1984] with a recursive algorithm.

The soil profile evolution of each pixel is determined using the interactions between the soil profile and the flowing water at the surface. Figure 1 shows these layers and their potential interactions. This is similar to the schematic for the standalone <a href="mailto:pedogenesissoil">pedogenesissoil</a> grading <a href="mailto:evolution">evolution</a> model but is different in that the erosion/deposition at the surface is a result

of the imbalance between upslope and downslope sediment transport. The water layer acts as the medium in which soil particle entrainment or deposition occurs depending on the transport capacity of the water at that pixel. The water provides the lateral coupling across the landform, by the sediment transport process. The soil profile is modelled as several layers to reflect on the fact that the soil grading changes with soil depth depending on the weathering characteristics of soil. Erosion of soil and/or sediment deposition occurs at the surface soil layer (surface armour layer).

SSSPAM uses the state-space matrix approach to evolve the soil grading through the soil profile. The state-space matrix methodology used for soilscape evolution is presented in detail elsewhere [Cohen et al., 2009; 2010; Welivitiya et al., 2016] and will not be discussed in detail here. Using this method a range of processes (e.g. erosion, weathering, deposition) can be represented and applied so that the total change of soil layers and their properties can be determined [Cohen et al., 2009; 2010]. Once the erosion and deposition mass is determined, the elevation changes are calculated and the digital elevation model was is modified accordingly. Once the algorithm completes modifying the digital elevation model matrix, the calculation of flow direction and eontribution contributing area is done and the process is repeated until a given number of iterations (evolution time) is reached.

# 2.1 Characterizing erosion and deposition.

As described in *Welivitiya et al.* [2016], the SSSPAM pedogenesissoil grading evolution model used an detachment-limited erosion model to calculate the amount of erosion. In order to simulate deposition and to differentiate between erosion and deposition, a transport-limited model is incorporated into the pedogenesissoil grading evolution model SSSPAM. Before calculating the erosion or deposition at a pixel (i.e. grid cell/node) we determine the transport capacity of the flow at that particular pixel. The transport capacity determines if the pixel is being subjected to erosion or deposition. The calculation of the transport capacity at each pixel is done according to the empirical equation presented by *Zhang et al.* [2011] which was determined by their-flume scale sediment detachment experiments. The transport capacity at a pixel (node)  $T_c$  (kg/s) is given by,

$$T_c = \left(K_1 Q^{\delta_1} S^{\delta_2} d_{50a}^{\delta_3}\right) \omega \tag{1}$$

where Q is the discharge per unit width (m<sup>3</sup>/s/m) at the pixel, S is the slope gradient (m/m) and  $d_{50a}$  is the median diameter of the sediment load in the flow (m),  $K_1$ ,  $\delta_1$ ,  $\delta_2$ ,  $\delta_3$  are constants determined empirically and  $\omega$  is the flow width (m) at the pixel. Q is

$$Q = \frac{rA_c}{\omega} \tag{2}$$

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where r is runoff excess generation ( $m^3/s/m^2$ ) and  $A_c$  is contributing area ( $m^2$ ) of that pixel. Using their flume particle detachment experiments Zhang et al. [2011] determined that  $K_1$  =2382.32,  $\delta_1$  =1.269,  $\delta_2$  =1.637, and  $\delta_3$  =-0.345 gave the best fit to their experimental results (with an  $\mathbb{R}^2$  value of 0.98). If  $\psi_{in}$  is the mass vector of the incoming sediment to the pixel, then  $L_{in} = \sum (\psi_{in_1}, \psi_{in_2} \dots \dots \dots \psi_{in_n})$  (where  $\psi_{in_2}, \psi_{in_2} \dots \dots \psi_{in_n}$  are the elements of incoming sediment mass vector  $\psi_{ln}$ ) is the total mass of incoming sediments to that pixel transported by water. Here  $\psi_{in}$  represents the cumulative outflow sediment mass vectors of upstream pixels  $(\Sigma \psi_{out})$  which drain into the pixel in question and is determined using the flow direction matrix mentioned earlier. Using this method, SSSPAM can model the total mass of the eroded sediment as well as the grading of the eroded material (note that elements of incoming sediment mass vector,  $\psi_{in_i}$  represents the sediment grading of the particle size class j).\_-Depending on the total incoming sediment load at the pixel,  $L_{in}$ , the transport capacity  $T_c$  of the flow and the potential total erosion mass  $E_p$ , the amount of actual erosion  $E_a$  (kg/s) or deposition D (kg/s) can be determined according to Table 1. Here  $\psi_{th}$  represents the cumulative outflow sediment mass vectors of upstream pixels  $(\Sigma \psi_{tut})$ which drain into the pixel in question and is determined using the flow direction matrix mentioned earlier. The scenario (A) and (B) (in Table 1) leads to erosion and armouring while scenario (C) leads to deposition.

#### 2.2 Erosion, armouring and soil profile restructuring

The calculation of potential erosion  $E_p$  and armouring of the soil surface is done as in Welivitiya et al. [2016] and Cohen et al. [2009]. The actual erosion  $E_a$  is then determined by adjusting the potential erosion  $E_p$  according to scenarios A or B (Table 1). When calculating the actual erosion  $E_a$  we determine only the total mass of the erodible material (although it should be remembered that total erosion is a function of the transport capacity and that which is in turn a function of the grading  $d_{50}$ ). The actual erosion mass vector  $\underline{G}_e$  is determined using

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the total soil surface mass grading vector  $\underline{G}$  and erosion transition matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ . The method utilized to generate this erosion transition matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is identical to that described in detail in Welivitiya et al. [2016] and Cohen et al. [2009] and will not be discussed in detail here. Briefly, the methodology is a size selective entrainment of soil particles from the surface due to erosion leaving the surface armour layer enriched with coarser material. It is similar to the approach of Parker and Klingeman [1982] which Willgoose and Sharmeen [2006] showed was the best fit to their field data for their ARMOUR surface armouring model. The eroded material is added to the sediment load flowing into the pixel and can be given as the outflow sediment mass vector  $\psi_{out}$ .

$$685 \quad \underline{\psi}_{out} = \underline{\psi}_{in} + \underline{G}_{e} \tag{3}$$

The actual depth of erosion  $\Delta h_E$  (m) is calculated using the equation,

$$\delta h_E = \frac{E_a}{R_x R_y \rho_s} \tag{4}$$

where  $R_x$  and  $R_y$  are the grid cell dimensions (m) in the two cardinal direction (pixel resolution), and  $\rho_s$  is the bulk density of the soil material (kg/m<sup>3</sup>). Here we assume that the bulk density  $\rho_{sx}$  remains constant regardless of the soil grading and over the simulation time of the simulation.

As described by the above equations, mass is removed from the surface armour layer into the water flowing above. In SSSPAM, mass conservation of the surface armour layer is achieved by adding a portion of soil from the 1<sup>st</sup> subsurface layer to the surface armour layer equal to the mass entrained into the water flow. It is important to note that the material resupplied to the surface armour have the same soil grading as the subsurface layer. So both small particles and large particles are resupplied to the armour layer. Most of the time the net effect of this material resupply and the size selective erosion will be enrichment of larger particles and armour strengthening. Depending on the depth dependent weathering function the relative coarseness of the subsurface layers can be less compared to armour layer. But once the armour layer is reconfigured with the added material from below and removal of small particles through erosion, again the net effect is armour strengthening. More detailed description of this process can be found in *Cohen et al.* [2009] and *Welivitiya et al.* [2016]

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-This material resupply propagates down the soil profile (one soil layer supplying\* material to the layer above and receiving material from the layer below) all the way to the bedrock layer which is semi-infinite in thickness. Since the soil grading of different layers are different to each other, this flux of material through the soil profile changes the soil grading of all the subsurface layers. Conceptually the position of the modelled soil column moves downward since all vertical distances for the soil layers are relative to the soil surface. In the case of deposition the model space would move upwards (discussed in detail later). This movement of the "soil model-space" during erosion is illustrated in Figure 2.

Note that erosion is limited by the imbalance between sediment transport capacity and the amount of the sediment load in the flow as well as the threshold diameter of the particle which can be entrained (Shield shear threshold, see *Cohen et al.* [2009] for details) by the water flow. These factors limit the potential erosion rate at a pixel. During the test simulations presented later in this paper, the depth of erosion  $\Delta h_E$  was always less than the surface armour layer thickness  $D_{sur}$  (Figure 2(a)) and the rearrangement of the soil grading of all the layers were straightforward. However in the case of deposition, the deposition height  $\Delta h_E$  can exceed the surface armour layer thickness (and even the thickness of several soil layers, illustrated in Figure 2(b2), (e2), if the timestep is large) and the restructuring of the soil layer grading can be complicated. One solution to this problem is to use a smaller timestep. But we preferred to use a conceptualization that does not impact as much on the numerical efficiency. Details on

### 2.3 Sediment deposition

If the total mass of incoming sediment  $L_{in}$  is higher than the transport capacity of the sediment transport capacity  $T_c$  at the pixel (Table 1, Scenario C) deposition of sediments occurs at the pixel. The mass of deposited material is the difference between  $L_{in}$  and  $T_c$ . Although calculating the total mass of sediment which needs to deposit at a pixel (D) is straightforward, determining the distribution of the deposited sediments in the form of deposition mass vector  $\underline{\Phi}$  is somewhat complicated. The deposition mass vector  $\underline{\Phi}$  depends on the size distribution of the incoming sediments which in turn depend on the erosion characteristics of the upstream pixels. The calculation of the deposition mass vector  $\underline{\Phi}$  is done using the deposition transition matrix  $\mathbf{J}$ . Here  $\underline{\Phi}$  is defined as,

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$$\underline{\Phi} = \frac{\underline{\psi}_{in} \mathbf{J}}{\sum J_{z,z} \psi_z} D + \underline{K}$$
 (5)

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where  $J_{z,z}$  are the diagonal entries of **J** (here and after the subscript z denotes the  $z^{th}$  grading class), and  $\psi_z$  are the elements of  $\underline{\psi}_{in}$ .  $\underline{K}$  is an adjustment vector which modifies the values in deposition mass vector  $\underline{\Phi}$  such that  $\Phi_z \leq \psi_z$ , where  $\Phi_z$  being the elements of the vector  $\underline{\Phi}$ . The adjustment vector K ensures that deposited material from each size class is not greater than the total amount of sediment load available in the incoming sediment flow and is iteratively determined within the deposition module of SSSAPM. -The fFollowing simplified example shows the need to have this adjustment vector and the method we used to calculate it.

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Consider the example values given in Table 2. The total mass of the incoming sediments

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is 75 kg and the sediments are distributed in four size classes. Here the size class one is the largest and has the highest potential for deposition (with  $J_{1,1}=1$ ) while the size class four has the lowest potential for deposition (with  $J_{4,4}$  =0.1). If the transport capacity  $T_c$  is 40 kg, 35 kg of incoming sediments should deposit at the pixel as the total deposition D. Using the  $\sum J_{z,z} \psi_z$ value (which is 24) and rescaling these values with D (total deposition mass), we can calculate the masses of sediments which need to be deposited from each grading class. In some cases (when the total deposition D is higher than the  $\sum J_{z,z} \psi_z$  value) the mass of material which needs to be deposited can be larger than the available sediments in that particular size class. In this example there is 5 kg of sediments in the 1st size class and 10 kg of sediments in the second size class respectively. However, our adjusted calculation dictate that there should be 7.29 kg deposition from the 1st size class and 10.21 kg from the 2nd size class which is not possible. So these values needs to be adjusted to reflect maximum possible deposition from size classes one and two which are 5 kg and 10 kg respectively. This adjustment introduces a deficit of 2.5 kg to the total deposition and it needs to be deposited from the 3rd and 4th smaller grading classes. According to the deposition matrix values  $J_{z,z}$  the deposition probability ratio between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grading class is 4:1 (0.4:0.1). The deficit mass 2.5kg is deposited from the 3rd and 4th size class with 4:1 ratio which accounts to an additional deposition mass of 2 kg from 3rd size class and 0.5 kg from the 4th size class. In this way the entries of the adjustment vector K are calculated. Depending on the number of size classes and the distribution of the sediments, this adjustment vector <u>K</u> needs to be calculated iteratively.

Formatted: Superscript Formatted: Superscript The deposition of material from the incoming sediment flow reduces the total mass of the sediment load in the flow and changes its distribution due to this size selective deposition (particles with higher settling velocity deposit faster). The outflow sediment mass vector  $\underline{\psi}_{out}$  is then calculated by,

$$769 \psi_{out} = \psi_{in} - \underline{\Phi} (6)$$

770 Also the deposition height  $\Delta h_D$  is calculated using,

$$771 \qquad \Delta h_D = \frac{D}{R_x R_y \rho_s} \tag{7}$$

However in the case of deposition. The deposition height  $\Delta h_D$  can exceed the surface armour layer thickness (and even the thickness of several soil layers, illustrated in Figure 2(b2), (c2), if the timestep is large) and the restructuring of the soil layer grading can be complicated. One solution to this problem is to use a smaller timestep. But we preferred to use a conceptualization that does not impact as much on the numerical efficiency. Details on restructuring the soil column under deposition are given in the following section.

The following section describes the methodology for deriving the deposition transition-

#### 2.3.1 Derivation of deposition transition matrix

The deposition transition matrix is derived by considering the particle trajectories at the pixel level. Assuming all the sediments flowing into the pixel are homogeneously distributed throughout the water column, we define the critical immersion depth  $h_{ct_{(z)}}$  for all the particle size classes as illustrated with Figure 3. The critical immersion depth is the vertical distance travelled by the particle at the average settling velocity of the particle size class  $V_z$  where it will travel the horizontal distance of the pixel width X under the flow with the fluid flow velocity  $V_f$  and settle at the far edge (i.e. exit) of the pixel.

$$790 h_{ct_{(z)}} = \frac{X}{V_f} V_z (8)$$

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Depending on the position of the sediment particle entering into the pixel with respect to critical immersion depth, whether or not that particle will deposit in that pixel can be determined. Particles entering to the pixel below the critical immersion depth will settle within the current pixel, while particles entering above the critical immersion depth will stay in suspension and exit the current pixel. The critical immersion depth is greater for larger (or more densedenser) particles and less for smaller (or less dense) particles. For sediment particles in larger size classes, the critical immersion depth can be larger than the flow depth  $H_f$  (m) (thickness of the water column). That means all the particles in that particle size class will settle in the pixel. Using the critical immersion depth and the flow depth we can define the diagonal elements  $J_{z,z}$  of the deposition transition matrix  $\bf J$  in following manner.

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$$J_{z,z} = \begin{cases} \frac{h_{ct(z)}}{H_f} & for \ H_f \ge h_{ct(z)} \\ 1 & for \ H_f < h_{ct(z)} \end{cases}$$
 (9)

 Note the deposition transition matrix J is a diagonal matrix which contains only diagonal elements (all off diagonal elements being 0). The evaluation of elements in the potential deposition matrix J requires the calculation of the critical immersion depth  $h_{ct_{(z)}}$  and the flow depth  $H_f$ .

The following discussion briefly describes the methodology used to calculate the above variables. The average settling velocity of all the particle sizes classes can be calculated for typical sediment sizes using Stoke's Law [*Lerman*, 1979].

$$v_z = \frac{(\rho_s - \rho_f)g}{18\mu} d_z^2$$
 (10)

where  $\rho_s$  and  $\rho_f$  are bulk density of the soil particles and the density of water (kg/m³) (fluid), g is gravitational acceleration (m/s²),  $d_z$  is the median particle diameter of the size class z (m) and  $\mu$  is the dynamic viscosity of water (kg/s/m²). The average flow velocity and the flow depth can be calculated using the Manning formula [Meyer-Peter and Müller, 1948; Rickenmann, 1994]. Although the Manning formula is normally used to calculate the average flow velocity in channels, we assume that the same formula can be used to calculate the flow velocity at the pixel level assuming water flowing over a pixel as a small channel segment. Manning formula states,

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$$V_f = \frac{1}{n} R^{2/3} S^{1/2}$$
 (11)

- where n is the Manning's roughness coefficient, R is the hydraulic radius (m) and S is the slope 820
- (m/m). The Manning's roughness coefficient n can be approximated using the median diameter 821
- 822  $d_{50}$  (mm) of the surface armour layer [Coon, 1998] using following equation.

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$$n = 0.034(d_{50})^{1/6}$$
 (12)

- The hydraulic radius is the ratio between the cross-sectional area of the flow and the 824
- wetted perimeter. When we consider the flowing water column at a pixel, the cross-sectional 825
- area of the flow is the multiplication of flow width (pixel width)  $\omega$  and the flow depth  $H_f$  with 826
- 827 the wetted parameter being the flow width  $\omega$ . The hydraulic radius at the pixel is then the flow
- depth  $H_f$ . Substituting flow depth for hydraulic radius equation (11) becomes, 828

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$$V_f = \frac{1}{n} H_f^{2/3} S^{1/2}$$
 (13)

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- The flow velocity at the pixel can be also expressed in terms of upslope contributing
- area  $A_c$ , runoff excess generation r, flow width  $\omega$  and flow depth  $H_f$ . 832

$$V_f = \frac{A_c r}{H_f \omega} \tag{14}$$

- Solving the equations (13) and (14) the flow depth  $H_f$  and the flow velocity  $V_f$  can be 834
- calculated in terms of  $A_c$ , r,  $\omega$ , S and n using 835

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$$H_f = \left(\frac{A_c r n}{\omega S^{1/2}}\right)^{3/5}$$
 (15)

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$$V_f = \left(\frac{A_c q}{l_c}\right)^{2/5} \left(\frac{S^{3/2}}{n^3}\right)^{1/5}$$
 (16)

# 2.3.2 Restructuring of the soil layers after deposition

Deposition of sediment on the soil surface moves the soil surface upwards (soil modelspace moves upwards). As mentioned earlier the deposition height  $\Delta h_D$  can exceed the surface armour layer thickness and/or a number of subsurface soil layer thicknesses. Figure 2(b2)

illustrates a typical scenario where the deposition height has exceeded the thickness of the surface armour layer  $D_{sur}$ .

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872 873 Figure 2(b2) and (c2) shows the movement of the model-space for three soil layers. In the restructured soil column (Figure 2(c2)) the new 3<sup>rd</sup> layer consists of a portion of the original layer one (surface armour layer) and the 1<sup>st</sup> original subsurface layer. Because of the upward movement of the model-space, a portion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> original soil layer and the entire 3<sup>rd</sup> soil layer has been incorporated into the new bedrock layer. However, the grading of the new bedrock layer remains unchanged although the material from the original soil layers two and three is added to the bedrock layer. At the first glance it may seem that this process would drastically alter the soilscape evolution dynamics by introducing a sharp contrast in soil grading at the soil-bedrock interface. In SSSPAM a large number of soil layers (50 to 100) are used to ensure smooth soil grading transition from soil to bedrock.

Figure 4 shows three different cases that can occur during the deposition process. In-<u>Case 1 (Figure 4(b)) the deposition height</u>  $\Delta h_D$  is less than the surface armour thickness  $D_{sur}$ . In Case 2 (Figure 4(c)) the deposition height  $\Delta h_D$  is greater than the surface armour layer thickness D<sub>sur</sub> and the original surface armour layer is situated inside a single new subsurface layer. Also the new soil subsurface layer which contains the original surface armour layer can reside in any depth within new soil profile depending on the deposition height (e.g. it can be 1st, 2nd, 5th or any subsurface layer). For simplicity of explanation Figure 4(c) shows this layer being in the 1st new subsurface layer. Case 3 (Figure 4(d)) is similar to the situation in Case 2 where the deposition height  $\Delta h_D$  is greater than the surface armour layer thickness  $D_{sur}$ . However in this case the original surface armour layer belongs to two new subsurface layers instead of one. As was with Case 2, the new soil subsurface layers, which contain portions of the original surface armour layer, can reside at any depth within the new soil profile. Calculation of soil grading of surface and all the subsurface soil layers are calculated with different approaches according to previously mentioned deposition scenarios. A detailed description of these soil grading approaches can be found in Welivitiya [2017]. Let the soil grading mass vector of the original soil surface be  $\underline{G}_{sur}$  and  $\underline{G}_{sub(1)}$ ,  $\underline{G}_{sub(2)}$ ,  $\underline{\underline{G_{Sub(n)}}}$  be the soil grading mass vectors of the original subsurface layers. In the same manner let  $\underline{G}_{sur}^{"}$  be the soil grading mass vector of the new surface armour layer and  $\underline{G}_{sub(1)}^{"}$  $\underline{G_{sub(2)}^{"}}, \ldots, \underline{G_{sub(n)}^{"}}$  be the soil grading mass vectors of the new subsurface layers, and  $D_{sur}$ and D<sub>sub</sub> are the thickness of surface armour layer and the thickness of each subsurface layer

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respectively. Depending on the position of the original surface armour layer in the new soil column, different approaches need to be taken in order to calculate the new soil gradings as described in following cases.

#### 877 Case 1:

In Case 1 (Figure 4(b)) the deposition height  $\Delta h_D$  is less than the surface armour thickness  $D_{sur}$ . Considering the uniform soil column cross sectional area, the new soil layer mass grading vectors of different soil layers (for Case 1) are calculated as,

$$\underline{\underline{G}}_{sur}^{"} = \underline{\Phi} + \left(\frac{\underline{D}_{sur} - \Delta h_{p}}{\underline{D}_{sur}}\right)\underline{\underline{G}}_{sur} \tag{17}$$

$$3 \quad \underline{G_{Sub(1)}^{"}} = \left(\frac{\Delta h_D}{D_{Sub}}\right) \underline{G_{Sub}} + \left(\frac{D_{Sub} - \Delta h_D}{D_{Sub}}\right) \underline{G_{Sub(1)}} \tag{18}$$

$$\underline{G}_{sub(t)}^{\perp} = \left(\frac{\Delta h_D}{D_{sub}}\right) \underline{G}_{sub(t-1)} + \left(\frac{D_{sub} - \Delta h_D}{D_{sub}}\right) \underline{G}_{sub(t)} \tag{19}$$

where i is the number of new subsurface soil layers such that  $i \in \{2, 3, ...., n\}$  and n is the number of subsurface layers.

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In Case 2 (Figure 4(c)) the deposition height  $\Delta h_D$  is greater than the surface armour layer thickness  $D_{SHF}$  and the original surface armour layer is situated inside a single new subsurface layer. Also the new soil subsurface layer which contains the original surface armour layer can reside in any depth within new soil profile depending on the deposition height (e.g. it can be 1st, 2nd, 5th or any subsurface layer). For simplicity of explanation Figure 4(c) shows this layer being in the 1st new subsurface layer. In the model the original surface armour layer is contained in the  $k^{\text{th}}$  new subsurface layer. In this instance the new surface armour layer and all the new subsurface layers above  $k^{\text{th}}$  layer will have the same particle size distribution as the deposition mass vector  $\underline{\Phi}$ . They are (using the same notation as before),

$$\underline{G_{sur}^{"}} = \left(\frac{D_{sur}}{\Delta h_{zt}}\right)\underline{\Phi} \tag{20}$$

$$\underline{G}_{\overline{sub(1)}}^{"} = \left(\frac{D_{\overline{sub}}}{\underline{\Delta h_D}}\right)\underline{\Phi} \tag{21}$$

902 where  $i \in \{1, 2, ...., k-1\}$ .

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Case 2 satisfies the condition  $kD_{sub} \ge \Delta h_D > D_{sur}$ , when the original surface armour layer belongs to a single subsurface layer. The  $k^{th}$  new subsurface layer contains the contribution from three different sources, (1) deposited material, (2) material from the original surface armour layer, and (3) material from the original  $1^{st}$ -subsurface layer. Using the soil grading mass vectors of these sources the soil grading mass vector of the  $k^{th}$ -subsurface layer is,

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$$\underline{G}_{sub(k)}^{-} = \left(\frac{\Delta h_D - D_{sur} - (k-1)D_{sub}}{\Delta h_D}\right) \underline{\Phi} + \underline{G}_{sur} + \left(\frac{kD_{sub} - \Delta h_D}{D_{sub}}\right) \underline{G}_{sub(1)}$$
(22)

911 The soil grading mass vectors of all the other new subsurface layers is,

912 
$$\underline{G}_{Sub(t)}^{-} = \left(\frac{\Delta h_D - (k-1)D_{Sub}}{D_{Sub}}\right)\underline{G}_{Sub(t-k)} + \left(\frac{kD_{Sub} - \Delta h_D}{D_{Sub}}\right)\underline{G}_{Sub(t-k+1)}$$
(23)

where  $i \in \{k+1, k+2, ...., n\}$ .

915 Case 3:

Case 2. In this case the deposition height  $\Delta h_D$  is greater than the surface armour layer thickness  $D_{SUF}$  and the original surface armour layer belongs to two new subsurface layers. As was with Case 2, the new soil subsurface layers, which contain portions of the original surface armour layer, can reside at any depth within the new soil profile. Figure 4(d) shows the situation where the surface layer now resides in both  $1^{\text{st}}$  and  $2^{\text{nd}}$  new subsurface layers. The model assumes that the original surface armour layer is contained in both  $k^{\text{th}}$  and  $k+I^{\text{th}}$  new subsurface layers. Similar to Case 2 the new surface armour layer and all the new subsurface layers above  $k^{\text{th}}$  layer will have the same particle size distribution as the deposition mass vector  $\underline{\Phi}$  and they are calculated using the same equations (20) and (21).

Case 3 (Figure 4(d)) satisfies the condition  $(D_{sur} + kD_{sub}) \ge \Delta h_B > kD_{sub}$ . The new  $k^{th}$  subsurface layer contains the contribution from the deposited material and the material from the original surface armour layer while k+I layer containing contributions from the original surface armour layer and the first original subsurface layer. The soil grading mass vectors for new  $k^{th}$  layer and  $k+I^{th}$  layer are,

$$\underline{G_{sub}^{"}} = \left(\frac{\Delta h_D - D_{sub} - (k-1)D_{sub}}{\Delta h_D}\right)\underline{\Phi} + \left(\frac{D_{sub} + kD_{sub} - \Delta h_D}{D_{sub}}\right)\underline{G_{sub}} \tag{24}$$

932 
$$\underline{G}_{sub(k+1)}^{-} = \left(\frac{\Delta h_D - kD_{sub}}{D_{sub}}\right)\underline{G}_{sur} + \left(\frac{(k+1)D_{sub} - \Delta h_D}{D_{sub}}\right)\underline{G}_{sub(1)}$$
(25)

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933 The soil grading mass vectors of all the other new subsurface layers is calculated by,
934  $\underline{G}_{Sub}^{-} = \left(\frac{\Delta h_D - kD_{Sub}}{D_{Sub}}\right) \underline{G}_{Sub(l-k-1)} + \left(\frac{(k+1)D_{Sub} - \Delta h_D}{D_{Sub}}\right) \underline{G}_{Sub(l-k)} \tag{26}$ 935 where  $i \in \{k+2,k+3,....,n\}$ 

# 2.4 Soil profile weathering

The methodology used for simulating the-weathering within the soil profile is detailed by *Welivitiya et al.* [2016]. It used uses a physical fragmentation mechanism where a parent particle disintegrates into n number of daughter particles where with a single daughter particle retaining  $\alpha$ -fraction  $\alpha$  of the parent particle by volume and the remaining  $\alpha$ -fraction  $\alpha$  of the parent particle volume. By changing  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha$  we can simulate a wide range of particle disintegration geometries which can be attributed to different weathering mechanisms. In this paper we used  $\alpha$  = 2 and  $\alpha$  = 0.5 to simulate symmetric fragmentation mechanism where a single parent particle breaks down in to 2 equal daughter particles. But the model can simulate any values of  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha$  which can simulate a wide range of weathering mechanisms ranging from symmetric fragmentation to granular disintegration. We decided to use the symmetric fragmentation mechanism based on the results of *Wells et al.* [2006]. Using the above mentioned parameters, parent - daughter particle diameters and soil grading distribution values, the weathering transition matrix is constructed according to the methodology described by *Cohen et al.* [2009] and will not be discussed further.

The weathering rate of each soil layer is simulated using a depth dependent weathering function. It defines the weathering rate as a function of the soil depth relative to the soil surface depending on the mode of weathering of that particular material. SSSPAM is capable of can useing different depth depending weathering functions to simulate the soil profile weathering rate. For the initial simulations presented in this paper we used the exponential [Humphreys and Wilkinson, 2007] and humped exponential [Ahnert, 1977; Minasny and McBratney, 2006] depth dependent weathering functions. Detailed explanation and the rationale of these weathering functions is presented in Welivitiya et al. [2016] and extended by Willgoose [2018].

It is important to note that SSSPAM can assign different weathering mechanisms (using different values of n and  $\alpha$ -) and different depth dependent weathering functions for each pixel (node) depending on the material and the dominant weathering drivers (such as temperature) in the pixels geographical location. Also if need be, the depth dependent weathering function at each pixel may be changed during the simulation to reflect any perceived temporal change

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in weathering drivers by slightly modifying the weathering module. This will allow SSSPAM to conduct simulation studies on global change incorporating both physical and chemical weathering processes on soilscapes in the future.

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#### 3 SSSPAM simulation setup

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The objective of the simulations below was to explore the capabilities and implications of the SSSPAM coupled soilscape-landform evolution model. Although the model is capable of simulating soilscape and landform evolution for a three-dimensional catchment scale landform, a synthetic two-dimensional linear hillslope (length and depth) landform was used here. Because it is two-dimensional, the landform always discharges in a single direction. In this way the complexities of multidirectional discharge were avoided so we can focus on the soilscape-landform coupling.

Figure 5 shows the synthetic landform used. The simulated landform starts from an almost flat 1 km long plateau (almost flat area at the top of the hillslope) with a very small gradient of 0.001% (Figure 5). A hillslope with a gradient of 2.1% starts at the edge of the plateau and continues 1.5 km horizontally while dropping 31.5 m vertically and terminates at a valley. The valley (another almost flat area at the bottom of the hillslope) itself has the same gradient as the upslope plateau (0.001%) and continues for another 1 km. The valley (the bottom section of the landform) is designed to facilitate sediment deposition so the effect of sediment deposition on soilscape development can be analysed. The simulated hillslope has a constant width of 10 m (one pixel wide) and is divided into 350, 10 m long longitudinal segments with the total number of pixels along slopebeing 350. At each pixel the soil profile is defined by a maximum of 102 soil layers. The soil surface armour layer is the topmost soil layer and it has a thickness of 50 mm. The 100 layers below the surface layer are subsurface soil layers with a thickness of 100 mm each. The bottommost layer (102<sup>nd</sup> layer) is a permanent non-weathering layer and it is the limit of the hillslope modelling depth. In this way SSSPAM is capable of modelling a soil profile with a maximum thickness of 10.05 m. By changing the number of soil layers used in the simulation SSSPAM is able to simulate a soil profile with any thickness. However as the number of model layers increases, the time required for the each simulation also increases. During our initial testing, we found that the soil depth rarely increased beyond 10 m and decided to set 10.05 m as the maximum soil depth for this initial scenario.

Two soil grading data sets (Table 23) were used for the initial surface soil grading and the bedrock. The first soil grading was from Ranger Uranium Mine (Northern Territory, Australia) spoil site. This soil grading was first used by Willgoose and Riley [1998] for their landform simulations. It was also subsequently used by Sharmeen and Willgoose [2007] for their work with ARMOUR simulations and Cohen et al. [2009] for mARM simulation work. The soil grading consisted of stony metamorphic rocks produced by mechanical weathering with a body fracture mechanism [Wells et al., 2008]. It had a median diameter of 3.5 mm and a maximum diameter of 19 mm (Table 2Table 3 - Ranger1a). The second grading was created to represent the bedrock using the size classes of the previous soil grading. It contained 100% of its mass in the largest particle size class that is 19 mm (Table 2Table 3 - Ranger1b). These soil gradings are the same soil gradings used in the SSSPAM parametric study of Welivitiya et al. [2016]. At the start of the simulation the surface armour layer was set to the soil grading (Table 2Table 3 - Ranger1a) and all the subsurface layers were set to bedrock grading (Table 2Table 3 - Ranger1b). The discharge (runoff excess generation) rate of water is derived from averaging the 30 year rainfall data collected by Willgoose and Riley [1998]. Using the simulation setup described above simulations was carried out using the yearly averaged discharge rate. For this simulation we set the timestep to 10 years and the model was run for 10000 timesteps (simulating 100000 years of evolution).

# 4 Simulation results with exponential weathering function

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Figure 6 shows six outputs at different times during hillslope and soil profile evolution.

The upper section in each of the panels in Figure 6 is the cross-section median diameter  $(d_{50})$  of the soil profile and the landform, with the line denoting the original landform surface. The middle panel is the median diameter  $d_{50}$  of the soil surface armour layer. The bottom panel is the soil profile relative to the surface highlighting the soil profile  $d_{50}$ —(i.e elevation differences at different nodes are removed and the  $d_{50}$  for all the nodes are displayed at the dame level). The soil depth is the depth below the surface at which  $d_{50}$  reaches the maximum possible particle size (i.e. the bedrock grading). Figure 6(a) shows the initial condition for the soilscape: a deep bedrock overlain by a very thin fine-grained soil armour layer. The evolution of the coupled soilscape and landform at different simulation times are presented in subsequent Figures 6(b) - 6(f).

If we initially consider the landform evolution alone, the erosion-dominated regions and the deposition-dominated regions can be clearly identified. Initially erosion is highest on

top of the hillslope where the plateau transitions to the hillslope (plateau-hillslope boundary) and erosion gradually reduces down the hillslope. Also, there is a sharp increase of surface  $d_{50}$  at the plateau-hillslope boundary and then a gradual decrease down the hillslope. The transport eapacity of the flow and deposition has the highest erosion (i.e. the rate of change in the sediment transport capacity) occurring at the top of the hillslope. The summit plateau has a very low slope gradient and although the contributing area increases across the plateau, the potential erosion and the transport capacity of the flow remains negligible resulting in minimum erosion. At the plateau-hillslope boundary, the slope gradient suddenly increases. This increase in slope gradient and high contributing area increases the potential erosion of the flow and causes a rapid increase in transport capacity downslope. This erosion gradually reduces further down the hillslope despite increasing contributing area. Although the transport capacity increases towards the bottom of the hillslope, water flowing over the downslope nodes is laden with sediments already eroded from upslope nodes. This reduces the amount of erosion at the downslope nodes.

Turning to the evolution of the soil profile, the upslope plateau retains the initial surface soil layer without any armouring due to the very low erosion and it develops a relatively thick soil profile as a result of bedrock weathering. The high erosion rate at the plateau-hillslope boundary removes all the fine particles from the initial soil layer as well as fine particles produced by weathering process, creating a very <u>course coarse</u> surface armour layer. This high erosion rate also leads to a relatively shallow soil profile. The erosion rate reduces down the slope due to saturation of the flow with sediments from upstream. Low erosion leads to a weak armouring and the fine particles produced from surface weathering remain on the surface. These processes lead to the fining of the surface soil layer and thickening of the soil profile down the hillslope.

With time the location of the high erosion region shifts upstream onto the plateau cutting into it. The  $d_{50}$  of the armour layer downslope also decreases. Both of these changes occur due to lowering of the slope gradient of the hillslope over time.

Deposition of material occurs <u>on</u> either side of the hillslope-valley boundary. The valley at the foot of the hillslope has a very low initial slope gradient. At the hillslope-valley boundary (toe slope) the slope gradient reduces suddenly. This sudden slope gradient reduction reduces the transport capacity of the water flow and initiates deposition. Initially deposition occurs only at the hillslope-valley boundary node and increases its elevation. This deposition and slope

reduction propagates upslope until equilibrium is reached with erosion. Deposition propagates across the valley and produces the deposits in the Figure 6.

There is a change in the surface  $d_{50}$  between the erosion and deposition regions starting at around 2000 m. The surface  $d_{50}$  of the erosion region reduces down the slope, reaches a minimum at 2000 m and then increases as it transitions transits into the deposition region. This can be clearly seen in Figures 6(c) and 6(d). As noted previously the "actual erosion rate" reduces down the slope due to saturation of the flow with sediments. At the end of the erosion region no more erosion can take place because the flow is completely saturated with sediment. Because of the lack of erosion, fine particles are not removed from the surface and weathering produces more and more fine particles reducing the surface  $d_{50}$  and increasing the soil depth.

Near the erosion-deposition boundary, only a small amount of sediment is deposited. Since the larger particles have the highest probability of deposition, a small amount of coarse material deposits there. Downslope into the deposition region the slope further decreases, the difference between the transport capacity and the sediment load increases and the rate of deposition steadily increases. Since larger particles have a higher probability of depositing first, coarse material preferentially deposits. Mixing of these coarse particles with pre-existing weathered fine particles produces the observed coarsening of the surface  $d_{50}$ . Once the surface  $d_{50}$  of the deposition region reaches a peak it starts to decrease again (from 2500 m to 3000 m). Beyond 3000 m the deposited material is smaller because the larger particles have already been deposited upstream. The deposition of each consecutive downstream node consists with finer particles leading to the observed decrease of surface and profile  $d_{50}$ . As expected the soil thickness is higher in the deposition regions than the other regions.

With time the deposition region moves upslope. The gradient of  $d_{50}$  observed in earlier times of the deposition region (until 30,000 years) decreases and the soil changes into a very fine-grained homogeneous material resulting from surface weathering. Due to the high weathering rate at the surface and the upper soil layers, the deposited sediment decomposes into a very fine material. With time, the  $d_{50}$  of the sediments in the water flow also decreases due to low erosion potential and weathering of the surface armour layer of upslope nodes. For these reasons the  $d_{50}$  of the deposition region decreases and becomes homogeneous leading to burial of the coarse material that was deposited earlier-.

The simulation produced a landform morphology which resemble the five unit model proposed by *Ruhe and Walker* [1968]. At the conclusion of the simulation the plateau area

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transition region from the plateau-hillslope boundary resembles the convex shoulder, transition region from the plateau-hillslope boundary to the deposition region resembles the backslope with a uniform slope, and the deposition region resembles the concave base divided in to upper footslope and lower toeslope. Generally the soil grading distribution is fine at the summit, coarsens from the summit to the shoulder and backslope followed by fining from backslope to the base [Birkeland, 1984][Birkeland, 1984; Brunner et al., 2004]. Furthermore, the soil depth is typically high in summit area, low in shoulder and blacslope, high in upper footslope and lower toeslope [Brunner et al., 2004]. The soil grading and the soil depth variations of our simulations produces similar trends.

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# 4.1 Evolution characteristics of different sites

In order to better understand the dynamics of soilscape evolution we also plotted the elevation, slope, rate of erosion (and/or deposition), surface  $d_{50}$ , soil depth and profile  $d_{50}$  for four sites (Figure 6(a)). The first two sites (sites 1 and 2) are either side of the plateau-hillslope boundary in the erosion region. The other two sites (sites 3 and 4) are either side of the hillslope-valley boundary in the deposition region.

# Site 1 and 2:

 For site 1 (Figure 7- solid line plots) the erosion and surface  $d_{50}$  are strongly correlated over time. The soil depth and profile  $d_{50}$  plots are also highly correlated. The abrupt change in profile  $d_{50}$  occurs at the same time as abrupt changes in soil depth. Site 1 initially has small erosion because the slope is very low-so-weathering dominates. This small amount of erosion means the elevation and slope are initially constant. Due to the dominance of weathering, both surface and profile grading becomes enriched with fine particles and the  $d_{50}$  decreases. Weathering of the profile layers creates a relatively deep soil profile. With time the erosion front, initially at the plateau-hillslope transition, cuts back into the plateau. The increased erosion rate removes the fine material created by weathering leading to a coarse-grained armour. This observation may have some important implications for the landform evolution modelling community. Most landform evolution models which does not explicitly model soil profile evolution or weathering considers a single unchanging soil layer on top of the landform. When evolving a landform similar to the setup used in this manuscript, such landform evolution models may underestimate upward propagation rate of the erosion front as they will be trying

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to erode relatively coarser particles. With weathering producing smaller particles the erosion front wold propagate faster in a natural hillslope.

When the erosion front crosses site 1, the gradient increases as does the erosion rate (at around 20,000 years). During this phase of increasing erosion the surface  $d_{50}$  also increased. However, the surface  $d_{50}$  stabilizes around 14 mm before the erosion rate reaches its maximum value. This is because once total armouring occurs, the erosion is reduced to a very low value. Although the erosion is low, the slope of the site 1 continues to increase until it reaches a maximum and the Shield's shear stress threshold diameter also increases. This allows erosion to keep increasing while the surface  $d_{50}$  remain essentially constant. When the erosion rate overtakes the rate of production of weathering, the soil depth decreases. Increasing erosion reduces the soil thickness while coarsening the surface of upper soil layers. This results in the increase of the profile  $d_{50}$  at later times. At 20,000 years, the reduction of slope reduces the rate of erosion so that, weathering again dominates the site. Weathering produces more fine particles reducing the surface  $d_{50}$  from about 48,000 years. The dominance of weathering over erosion also increases the soil depth while decreasing the profile  $d_{50}$ .

Both soil depth and profile  $d_{50}$  plots resemble a stair-stepped graph. The reason for this appearance is that SSSPAM calculates soil depths as the number soil profile layers. The model doesn't interpolate the depth of soil within a single layer. Since the profile  $d_{50}$  is a function the soil thickness, this plot also displays this pattern.

For site 2 (Figure 7-dashed line plots) the evolution is simpler than site 1. The initial transport capacity and discharge energy at site 2 is very high while the sediment inflow from upstream is low because of low erosion from the plateau. The resulting higher erosion rate produces a very coarse surface layer and exposes the bedrock in the subsurface. This effect causes both the surface  $d_{50}$  and profile  $d_{50}$  to rapidly increase to the maximum possible diameter (bedrock grading).

Although the surface  $d_{50}$  has reached the maximum possible diameter the erosion continues to increase as the Shield's threshold diameter for entrainment of the water flow has increased beyond the maximum particle size (19 mm) and the bedrock grading itself is being eroded. However, at around 2,700 years the Shield's threshold diameter decreases below 19 mm and the fully armoured surface causes the erosion rate to decrease rapidly and becomes unstable in time with rapid fluctuations. Once an armour layer develops on the surface, the

profile layers are protected from erosion and weathering becomes more dominant, so the profile  $d_{50}$  decreases while soil depth increase.

# Site 3 and 4:

For site 3 (Figures 8-solid line plots) the elevation increases due to deposition. The initial increase of surface  $d_{50}$  occurs due to size selective deposition. As noted in the model description, larger particles deposit at a higher rate. This deposition of larger particles on the surface causes the surface  $d_{50}$  to initially increase.

The subsequent decrease of the surface  $d_{50}$  occurs due to a combination of two processes. Firstly, with time the upstream boundary of the deposition region moves upslope and since the largest particles tend to deposit at the beginning of the deposition region, the sediment flow at site 3 gets enriched with more and more fine particles. Due to the deposition of these relatively finer particles the surface  $d_{50}$  tends to decrease. Secondly, weathering of the surface and the subsurface layers reduces the surface  $d_{50}$ . Compared to sites 1 and 2 the soil depth increase of site 3 is much higher. In sites 1 and 2 the soil profile growth only occurred due to the excess of weathering over erosion. At site 3 the soil layer grows due to material deposition as well as weathering of the bedrock. The profile  $d_{50}$  increases in the initial stage.

For site 4 (Figures 8-dashed line plots) while the initial evolution is different, in the latter stages (beyond year 15,000) the evolution characteristics of the soil properties are similar to that of site 3. Since the valley initially has a low slope, the initial erosion is negligible and the elevation, slope and erosion remain close to 0. With the growth of the deposition region, a "deposition front" moves across the valley. Before the deposition front reaches site 4, the elevation, slope and erosion/deposition remain unchanged. Because the initial erosion rate at the-site 4 is low, there is no armouring so that weathering dominates and the surface  $d_{50}$  decreases. When the deposition front reaches site 4, the elevation increases due to sediment deposition as so does the slope. Due to the size selective deposition of coarse sediment the surface  $d_{50}$  increases. Afterwards the evolution of the soil properties is similar to site 3 as the same processes are acting at sites 3 and 4.

#### 5 Simulation results with humped exponential weathering function

To test the sensitivity of the conclusions in the previous section to changes in the depth dependent weathering functions, in this section we explore the effect of weathering using the humped exponential weathering function. The key difference is that the humped function has a low weathering rate at the surface with the peak weathering rate occurring mid-profile.

Superficially, both the humped and exponential weathering functions produce similar trends, however there are some differences in the particle size distribution, soil depth and the evolution of the landform (Figure 9). At identical times the surface  $d_{50}$  is coarser and the soil depth is less for the humped simulations. There is also a subtle difference in the initial landform evolution. For the exponential weathering function the highest erosion rate occurs near the plateau-hillslope boundary (year 2000 near 1,000 m, Figure 6). For the humped function this maximum soil surface deviation occurs further down the hillslope (year 2000 near 1500 m, Figure 9). For subsequent times, this difference in the location of the maximum erosion leads to subtly different landforms.

These differences in landform evolution are explained by the near surface weathering rates. For the exponential weathering function the weathering rate is highest at the surface and declines exponentially with depth. For the humped exponential weathering function the highest weathering rate is at a finite depth below the surface and exponentially decrease below and above this depth. Because of the lower surface weathering rate for humped, the surface  $d_{50}$  remains coarser during the entire simulation. The relative coarseness of the surface means that the water flow needs to be more energetic to entrain material from the surface due to the Shields's stress entrainment threshold. For the exponential weathering function simulations, shear stress of the water flow is high enough to entrain most of the surface soil particles near the plateau-hillslope boundary owing to the finer armour layer as a result of surface weathering. However for the humped exponential weathering simulations the surface armour is coarser because of the lower surface weathering rate and the shear stress of the water flow is not high enough to detach material from the armour layer. Because of this, the highest erosion occurs downslope where the contributing area is higher and hence the shear stress of the water flow is higher.

## 6 Model and simulation limitations

Currently the coupled soilscpe-landform evolution model SSSPAM presented here is limited in its scientific scope. The model is based on physical fragmentation of parent soil particles and it does not model chemical transformations. Also at the current time SSSPAM

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does not account for Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) and its influence in the soil formation and evolution processes. The modelling approach used here is complimentary to the chemical weathering modelling work done by Michael J-Kirkby [Kirkby, 1977; 1985; 2018]. However we will be incorporating a physically based chemical weathering model described by Willgoose [2018] into SSSAPAM in the future, All available evidence suggests that in order to effectively model SOC, it will require an extremely complicated coupled model withwhich requires, soil grading, soil moisture. SOC as well as vegetation and decomposition rates. Although formulating such a model is very desirable (and would be an important endeavour by itself) for the entire scientific community, it is well beyond the scope of this current research work.

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The deposition model of SSSPAM is designed in such a way that the difference between the transport capacity and the sediment load of the flow is always deposited regardless of the settling velocities. This is done to prevent the flow from being over the transport capacity. Depending on the material grading distribution and the concentration in the profile of the flow, the theoretical amount of the material that can be deposited can be different. In this model formulation we assume that the sediment grading is uniform and the sediment concentration is also uniform within the flow. The reality may not be as simple as that. There are some literature such as Agrawal et al. [2012], which argue that the sediment concentration profile has an exponential distribution (i.e. material deposited at each given a function of the settling velocity of different particles (i.e. Larger particles are concentrated near the bottom of the flow). So in practice the amount of material deposited at each pixel according to the critical immersion depth might be higher. Although the approach used in SSSPAM may not perfectly mimic the natural behaviour of sediment deposition, we believe that this is an effective way to numerically represent this process in the model at this time.

The main objective of this manuscript was to introduce the new coupled soilscaped landform evolution model. Here Also some applications of the model simulations albeit it simple was presented to show how the model performed in reality and to highlight some of the geomorphic signatures emerging from the modelling results itself. The simulation setup may not be a reasonable application that necessarily be directly applicable in the field setting reflects the total environment. However we are inspired by the early work on hillslope geomorphology by authors such as Kirkby [1971] and Carson and Kirkby [1972] which was very useful in understanding hillslope evolution processes. So as a first step we used a one-d+Dimenstional

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hillslope to run our simulations because, understanding dynamics of 1D hillslope evolution is simplereasier and we can better illustrate possible implications for different processes. Further, only limited comparison was done with field data was possible mainly because of a dearthwe were unable to find any of any experimental work done by any other researchers, which has usinged a similar setup as our simulations. However a subsequent paper will deal with implications of model results in terms of iDimentional one-dimensional and three-dimensional alluvial. 3Dimentional fluvial fans. In this future manuscript, we compare and contrast the model results with experimental work done by authors like Seal et al. [1997], Toro-Escobar et al. [2000], and general observation done regarding naturally occurring alluvial fans and their formation dynamics.

## **6-7** Conclusions

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This study presentsed athe methodology for incorporating landform evolution into the SSSPAM pedogenesissoil grading evolution model. This was achieved by incorporating elevation changes produced by erosion and deposition. Previous published work with SSSPAM assumed that the landform, slope gradients and contributing areas remained constant during the simulation. This did not preclude the landform evolving, only that the soil reached equilibrium faster (i.e. had a shorter response time) than the landform evolved (i.e. a "fast" soil, Willgoose, 2018). In the new version of SSSPAM discussed here, the elevations, contributing area, slope gradient and slope directions at each node dynamically evolve. This new model explicitly models co-evolution of the soil and the landform, where the response time for soil and landform are similar.

By defining "the critical immersion depth", a novel and simple methodology for size selective deposition was introduced to formulate the deposition transition matrix. This deposition transition matrix characterises the size selectivity of sediment deposition depending on the settling velocity of the sediment particle, with faster settling velocity particles settling first.

The results demonstrated SSSPAM's ability to simulate erosion, deposition and weathering processes as well as which govern soil formation and its evolution coupled with an evolving landform. The simulation results qualitatively agree with general trends in soil catena observed in the field. The model predicts the development of a thin and coarse-grained soil profile on the upper eroding hillslope and thick and fine-grained soil profile at the bottom valley. Considering the dominant process acting upon the soilscape, the hillslope can be divided

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into weathering-dominated, erosion-dominated and deposition-dominated sections. The plateau (summit) was mainly weathering-dominated due to its very low slope gradient and low erosion rate. The upper part of the hillslope was erosion-dominated owing to its high slope gradient and high contributing area. The lower part of the hillslope and the valley was deposition-dominated. The position and the size of these sections changes with time due to the evolution of the landform and the soil profile. During the simulation, the weathering-dominated region shrinks due to the erosional region dominating it. The erosion-dominated region expands upslope into the previously weathering-dominated region and the downstream boundary retreats upslope away from the deposition-dominated region, but shows a net expansion in area. The deposition-dominated region expands upslope into the previously erosion-dominated region with a net expansion.

The simulation results also show how the interaction of different processes can have unexpected outcomes in terms of soilscape evolution. The best example is the fining of the surface grading despite an increasing transport capacity and potential erosion rate. This occurs due to saturation of the flow with sediment eroded from upstream nodes. Further, the comparison of results produced by the exponential and humped exponential weathering functions showed how the distribution of weathering rate down the soil profile changes the overall properties of the soilscape. For instance, the humped exponential simulation produced a thinner soil profile and coarser soil surface armour compared with simulation results of exponential weathering function because of the reduced weathering rate at the soil surface. This led to a longer-lived surface armour for the humped function.

The synthetic landform simulations demonstrated SSSPAM's ability to qualitatively simulate erosion, deposition and weathering processes and to generate familiar soilscapes observed in the field. Comparison of results obtained from two different depth different functions demonstrate how the soilscape dynamic evolution is influenced by the weathering mechanisms. This in turn links to the geology of the soil parent material and their preferred weathering mechanism which leads to the heterogeneity of soilscape properties in a region. A future paper will discuss how this work can be extended to include the impact of chemical weathering into soilscape evolution.

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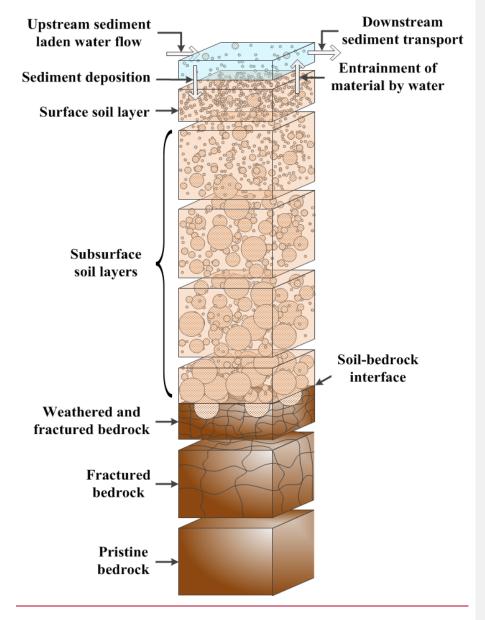
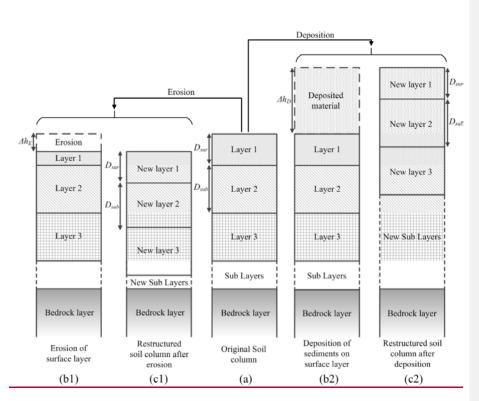


Figure 1 Schematic diagram of the SSSPAM model.



**Figure 2** Erosion, Deposition and the restructuring of the soil profile (a) original soil profile, (b1, c1) for erosion, (b2, c2) for deposition.



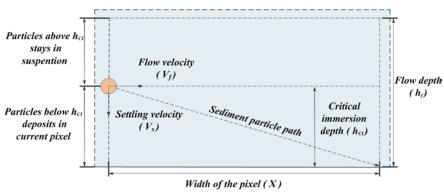


Figure 3 Determination of critical immersion depth of a sediment particle

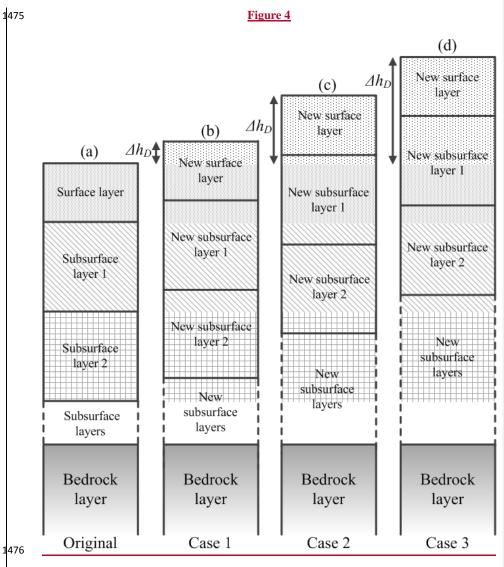


Figure 4 Different deposition scenarios

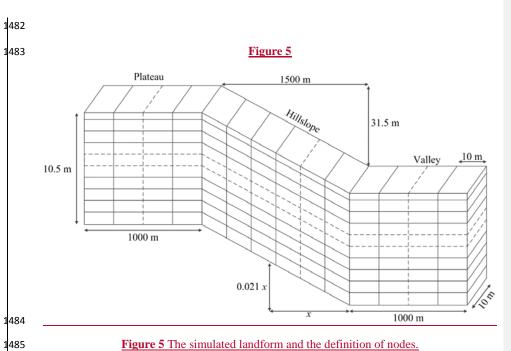


Figure 5 The simulated landform and the definition of nodes.

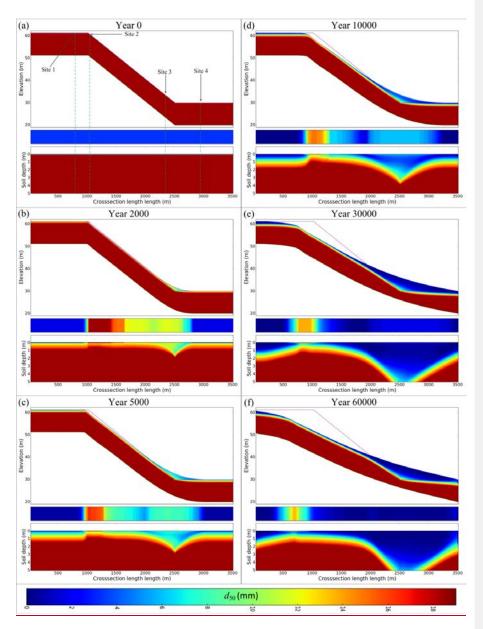


Figure 6 Evolution of the soilscape with the exponential depth dependent weathering function.

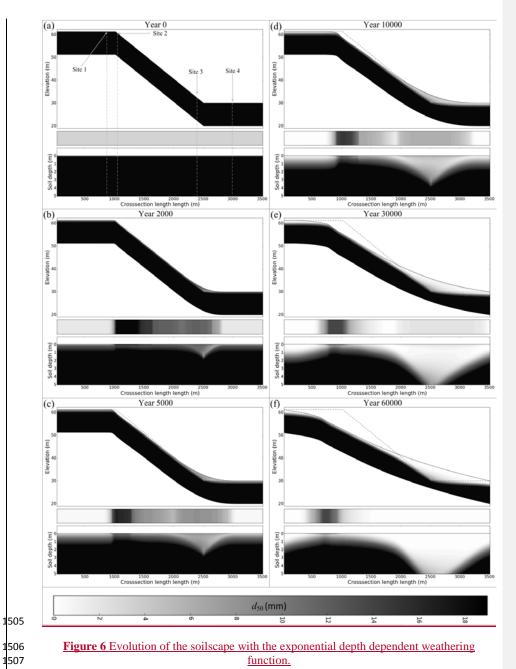
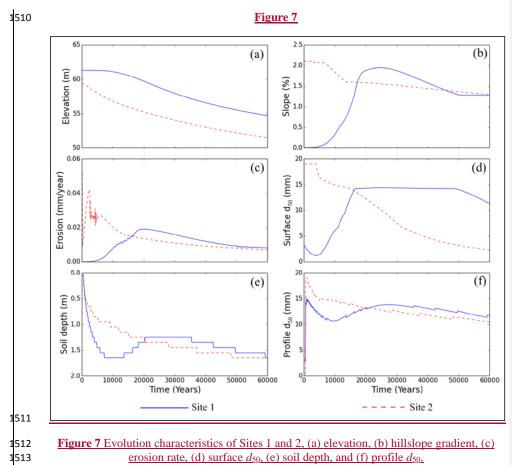
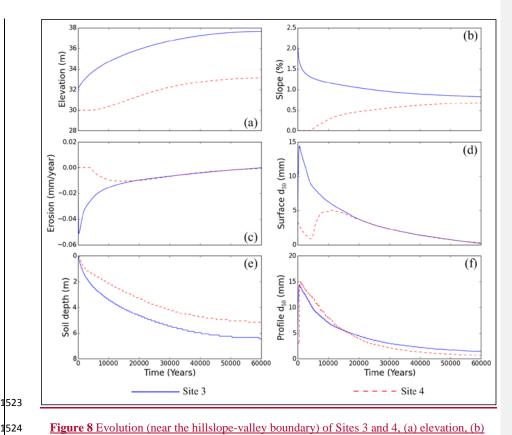


Figure 6 Evolution of the soilscape with the exponential depth dependent weathering function.



**Figure 7** Evolution characteristics of Sites 1 and 2, (a) elevation, (b) hillslope gradient, (c) erosion rate, (d) surface  $d_{50}$ , (e) soil depth, and (f) profile  $d_{50}$ .



**Figure 8** Evolution (near the hillslope-valley boundary) of Sites 3 and 4, (a) elevation, (b) hillslope gradient, (c) erosion rate, (d) surface  $d_{50}$ , (e) soil depth, and (f) profile  $d_{50}$ .

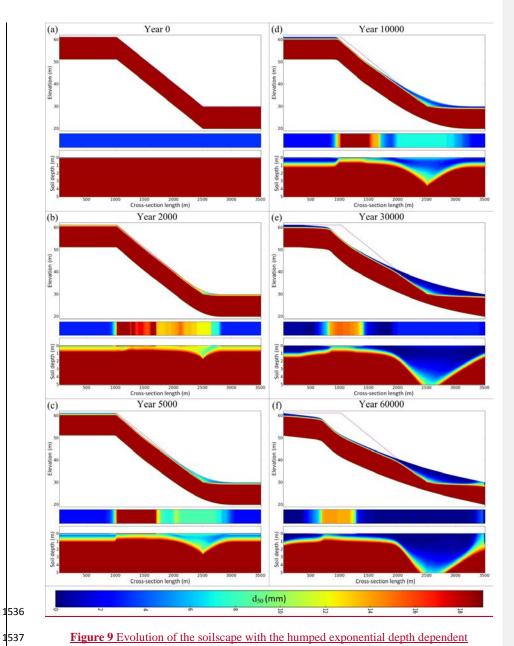
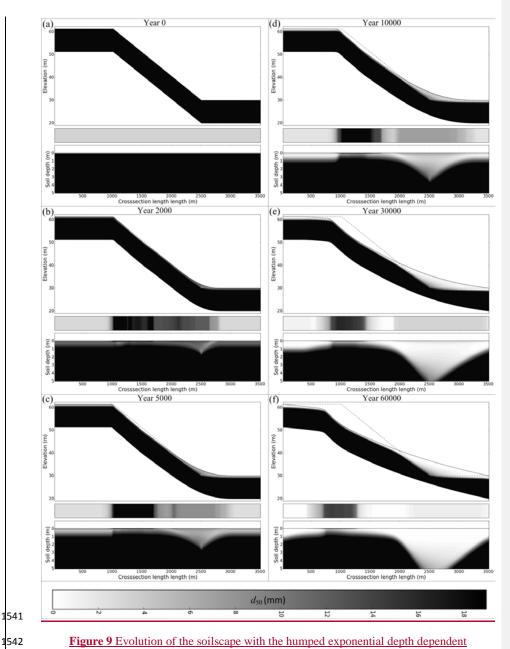


Figure 9 Evolution of the soilscape with the humped exponential depth dependent weathering function.

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 $\underline{\textbf{Figure 9}} \ \textbf{Evolution of the soilscape with the humped exponential depth dependent}$ weathering function.

Table 1 Determination of erosion and deposition

Scenario	Condition	$\frac{\text{Actual erosion}}{E_a(kg \ s^{-1})}$	$\frac{\text{Deposition}}{D\left(kg\ s^{-1}\right)}$
<u>A</u>	$L_{in} + E_p < T_c$	$T_c - L_{in}$	0
<u>B</u>	$L_{in} + E_p \ge T_c$	$E_p$	<u>0</u>
<u>C</u>	$L_{in} \stackrel{\cdot}{\geq} T_c$	<u>o</u>	$L_{in}-T_c$

<u>**Table 2** Example calculation of adjustment vector *K*.</u>

<u>Size</u> <u>Class</u>	$\frac{Elements}{\underline{of}\psi_{in}}$ $\underline{(\psi_z)}$	$\frac{Entries}{of J}$ $(J_{z,z})$	$J_{z,z}\psi_z$	$\frac{Adjusted}{J_{z,z}\psi_z}$	<u>Deficit /</u> <u>Surplus</u>	Diagonal elements of K	Entries of Φ
<u>1</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>7.29</u>	<u>-2.29</u>	<u>-2.29</u>	<u>5.00</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>10.00</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>7.00</u>	<u>10.21</u>	<u>-0.21</u>	<u>-0.21</u>	<u>10.00</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>20.00</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>8.00</u>	<u>11.67</u>	<u>8.33</u>	<u>2.00</u>	<u>13.67</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>40.00</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>4.00</u>	<u>5.83</u>	<u>34.17</u>	<u>0.50</u>	<u>6.33</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>75.00</u>		<u>24.00</u>	<u>35.00</u>			<u>35.00</u>

Gra	ding R (mm)	_	Ranger1a	Ranger1b		
0	Ξ	0.063	1.40 %	0.0%		
0.063	Ξ	<u>0.111</u>	<u>2.25 %</u>	0.0%		
0.111	Ξ	<u>0.125</u>	<u>0.75 %</u>	0.0%		
0.125	Ξ	0.187	<u>1.15 %</u>	0.0%		
0.187	Ξ	0.25	<u>1.15 %</u>	0.0%		
0.25	Ξ	<u>0.5</u>	<u>10.20 %</u>	0.0%		
<u>0.5</u>	Ξ	<u>1</u>	<u>9.60 %</u>	0.0%		
<u>1</u>	Ξ	<u>2</u>	<u>12.50 %</u>	0.0%		
<u>2</u>	Ξ	<u>4</u>	<u>16.40 %</u>	0.0%		
<u>4</u>	Ξ	<u>9.5</u>	<u>20.00 %</u>	0.0%		
9.5	_	<u>19</u>	<u>24.60 %</u>	100.0%		

Table 3 Soil grading distribution data used for SSSPAM simulation.