



# General considerations on the importance of storage

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#### What we measure (and don't) when we measure C balance



- Nocturnal accumulation due to respiratory source and collapse of turbulence
- Daytime drawdown due to photosynthetic sink and reinitiation of turbulence



# Storage is negligible over 24 hours $\rightarrow S_{c_{day}} \approx -S_{c_{night}}$



## Whroo as a case study

- Very flat for a flux site
- Has a consistent southeasterly aspect, sloping up to a ridge approximately 3-4km







Elevation (m)

## Nocturnal turbulent flux underestimation

- Occurs primarily under stable conditions
- Manifests as low-u<sub>\*</sub> dependency of F<sub>c</sub>
- Since insolation is driver of turbulent activity, occurs primarily nocturnally
- Since insolation is also a driver of photosynthesis, nocturnal NEE is respiratory flux only
- Hence risk of bias at diurnal and longer time scales
- Underestimation due to advection and storage below EC measurement height
- If we measure S<sub>c</sub> and estimate ER at low u\*, we can estimate Ac (and relative contributions of S<sub>c</sub> and A<sub>c</sub> to flux underestimation)



### Inferred mass balance components





### Signal: noise and parameter uncertainty



# Relative contributions of advection and storage



• Nocturnal u<sub>\*</sub> correction

(filtering + gap-filling) is dumb: assuming it works as advertised (!), it corrects for all sources of turbulent flux underestimation

- S<sub>c\_night</sub> ≈ -S<sub>c\_day</sub>, but S<sub>c\_day</sub> missed, therefore efflux bias inserted
- If S<sub>c</sub> > A<sub>c</sub>, nocturnal u<sub>\*</sub> correction inevitably increases bias relative to no correction
- Profile system required to estimate contributions without it, you're doomed!

### Implications



#### Annual NEE Biases





### Noise issues





### Ecological interpretation issues I



### Ecological interpretation issues II



### Intersite comparison

