

# Differences of Rainfall-Interception (RI) Characteristics btw Urban and Forest Canopies

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- Background -urban water balance-
- Experimental description
- Characteristics of urban RI, focusing on the difference from forest RI
- Cause for RI differences btw urban and forest canopy

# Background

$$\text{Rain} = \text{Runoff} + \text{Infiltration} + \text{Rainfall Interception}$$

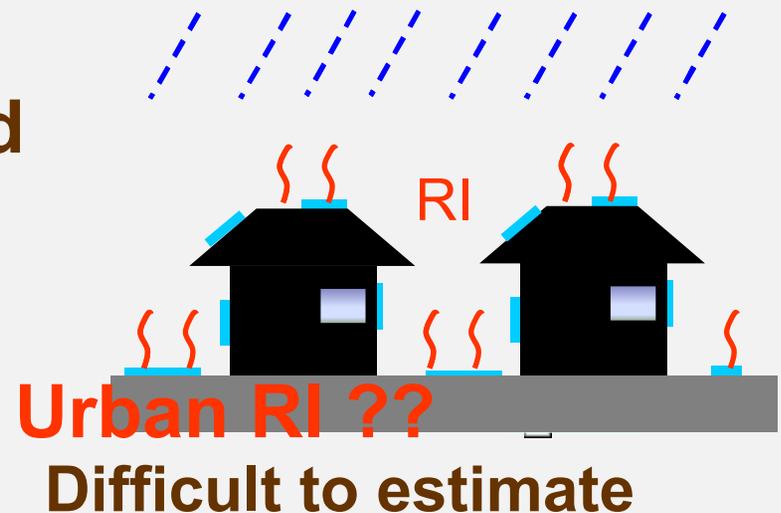
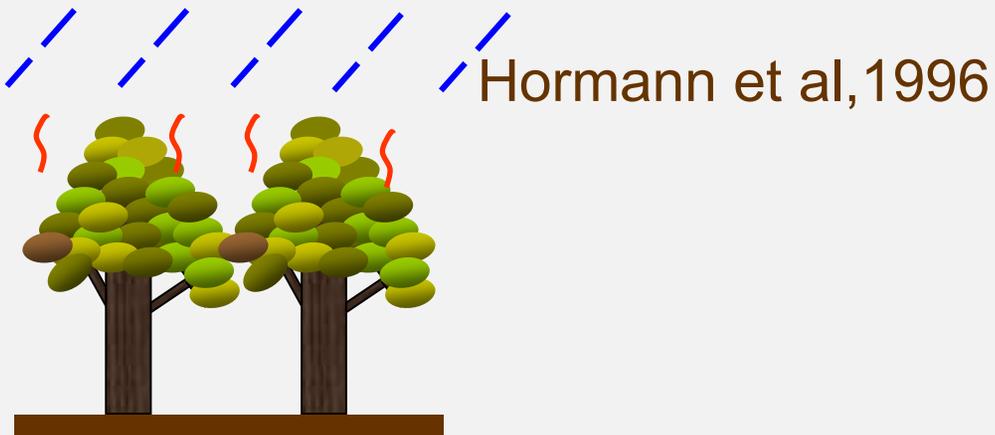
Sewage water  
Ground water ?

?

?

**RI: evaporation from the wetted surface during & after rainfall**

**Forest RI:  
10-50% of gross rainfall**



# Methodology

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## Comprehensive Outdoor Scale Model (COSMO)

1.5 m concrete cubes

**Flow & thermal inertia similarity with real cities**

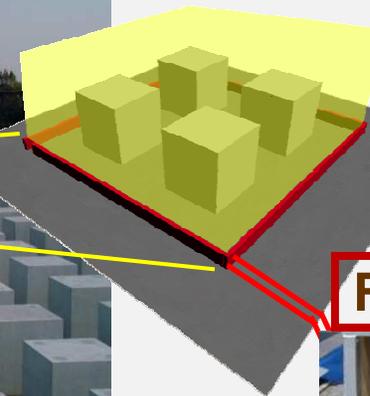
**Rain gauge**



TR-525M, Texas Electronics, Inc.

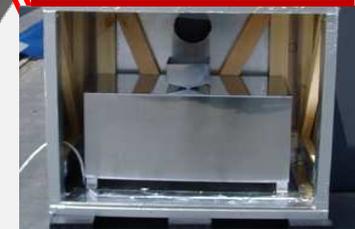


RI catchment



**Impervious area**  
( 6m×6m )

**Flow meter**



UIZ-TB1000, UIZIN, Ltd.

✓ **Simplified water balance equation**

$$\underline{RI} = \text{Rain} - \text{Runoff}$$

↳ **RI during rainfall + Water storage capacity (St)**

St :

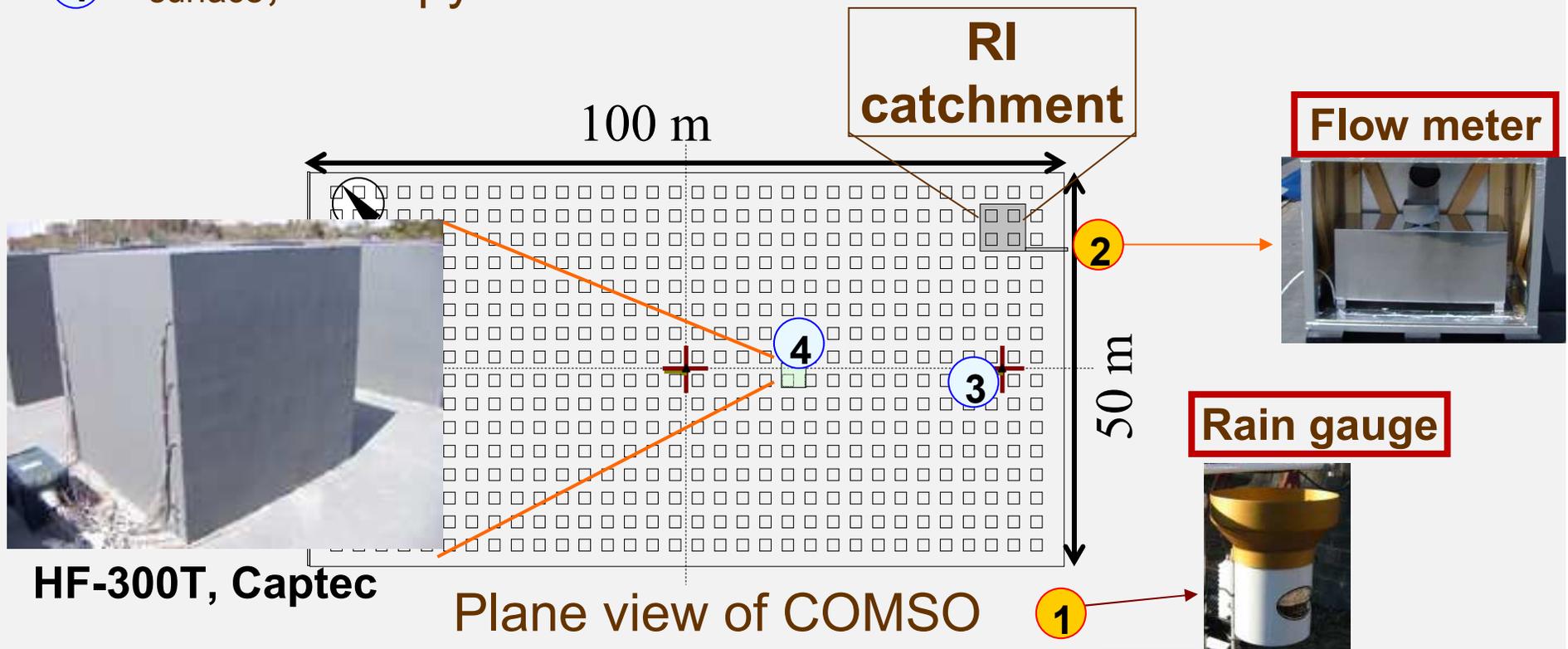
**0.25mm**

✓ **Quite small time lag btw rain & runoff**

# Measurement items

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- 1 Rainfall
- 2 Runoff
- 3 Wind velocity,  $T_{\text{air}}$ , Relative Humidity (RH) at 3 m above the pavement
- 4  $T_{\text{surface}}$ , Canopy heat flux



# Results

Period : 2006/9/1-2007/1/31

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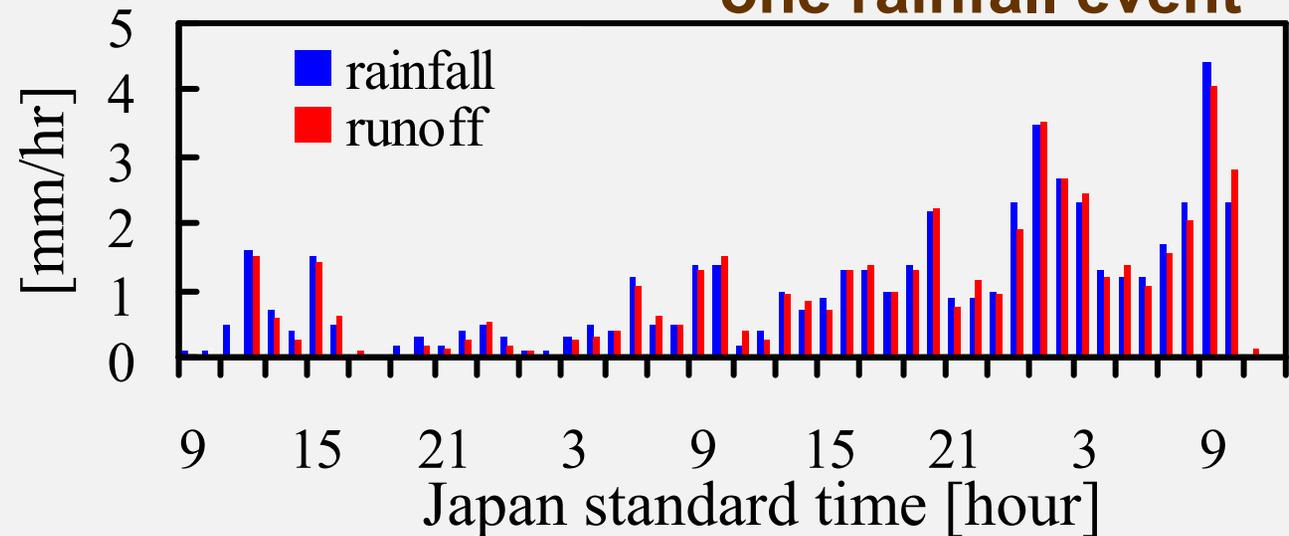
Number of Rainfall event : 32

Gross rainfall : 0.2 - 134.5 mm

Hourly rainfall: 0.1 - 10.5 mm/h

one rainfall event

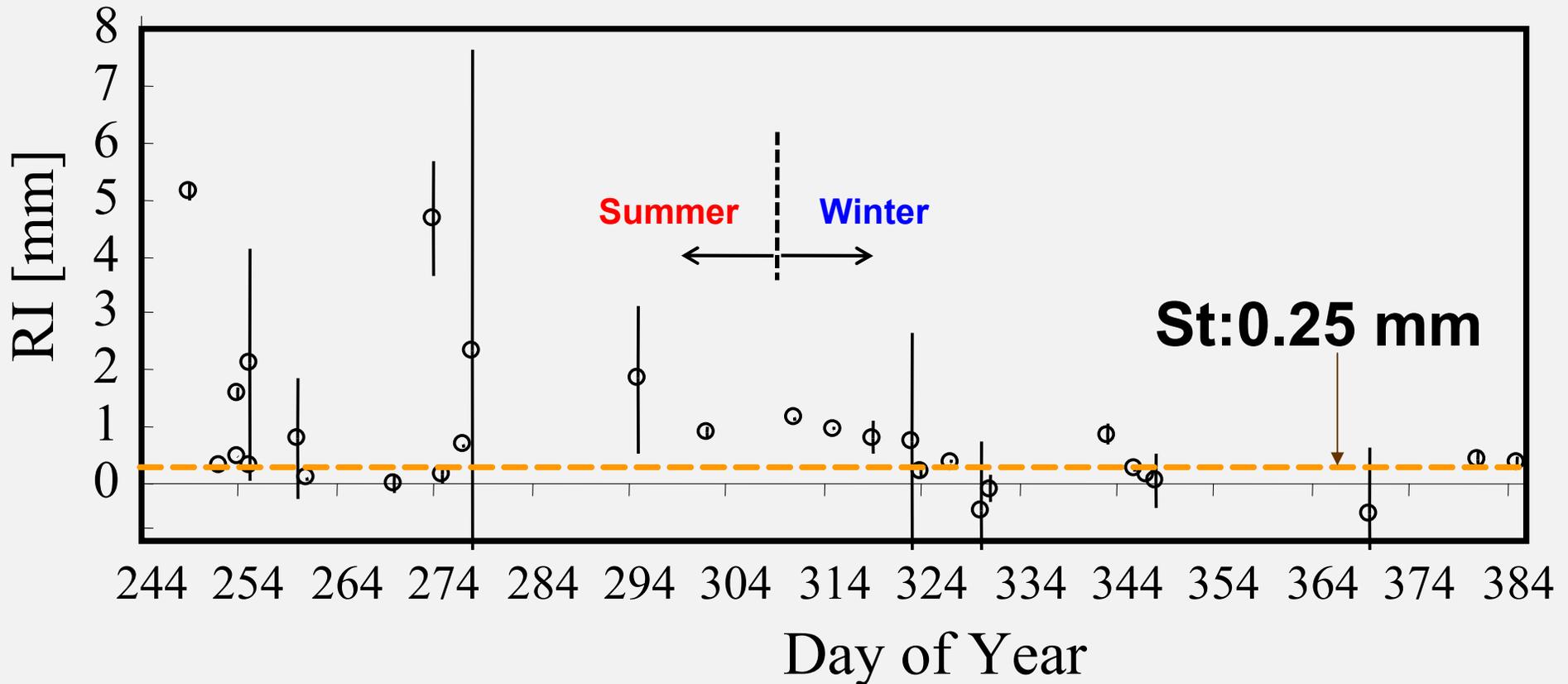
Rain: 52.1 mm  
Runoff: 50.0 mm  
RI: 2.1 mm



- ✓ Seasonal trend of RI
- ✓ Temporal change of RI
- ✓ Heat balance of RI

# Results ~seasonal trend

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RI / gross rainfall: 6% << ( Forest: 10-

50% ) e.g., Hörmann et al. (1996)

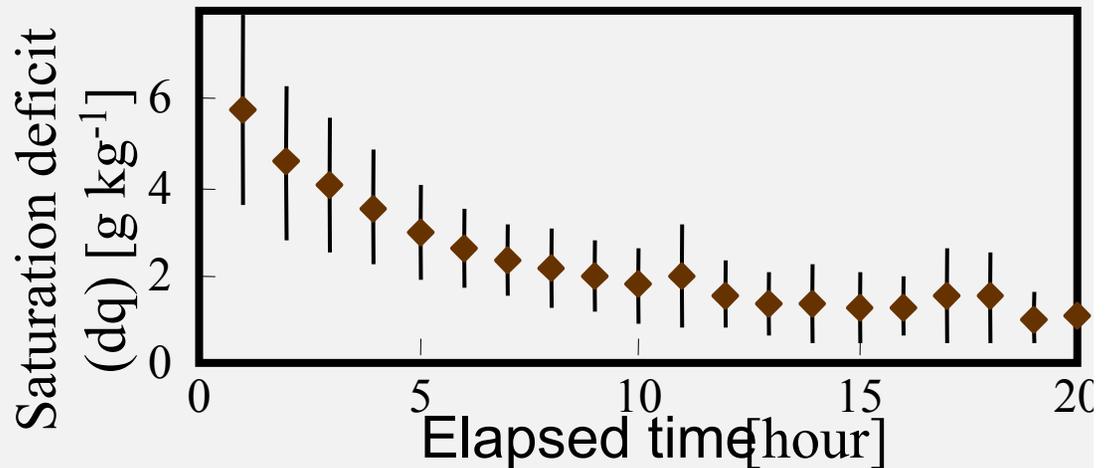
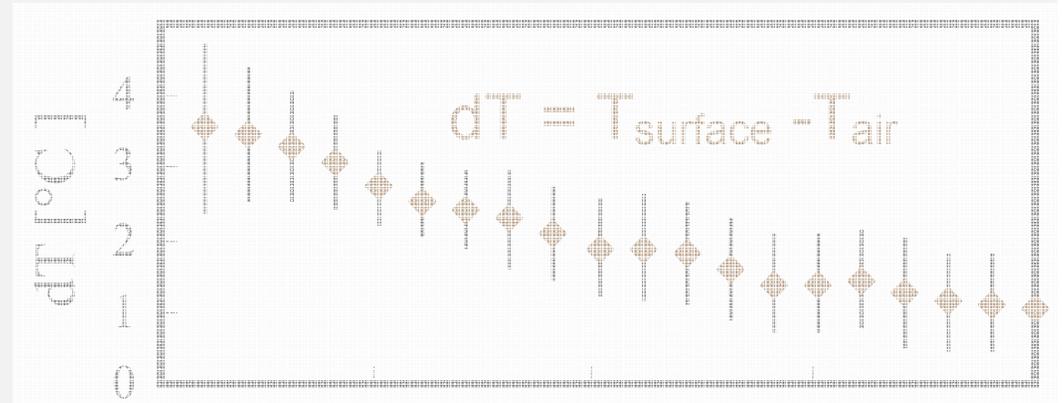
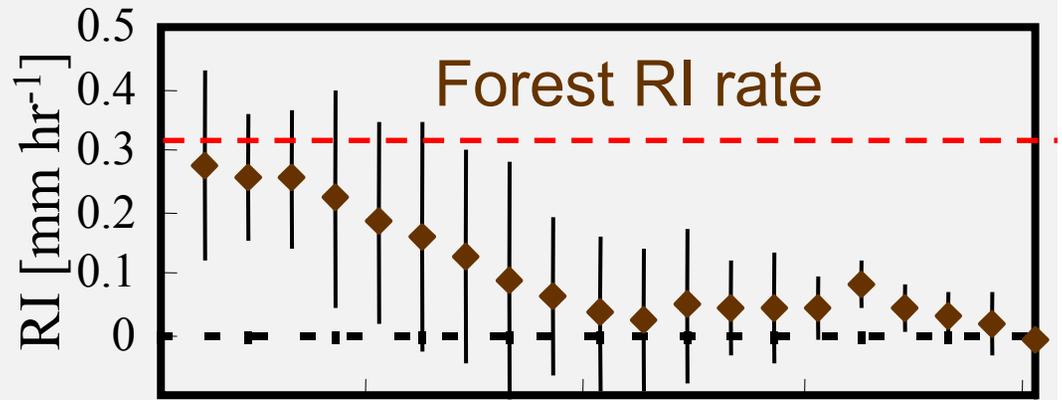
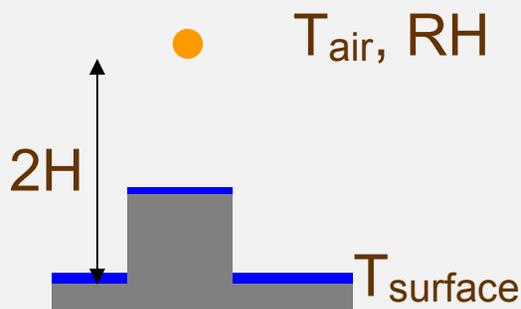
# Results ~Temporal trend~

Decrease with time

cf. constant RI rate for Forest canopy (0.3 mm/h)  
e.g., Gash et al 2008

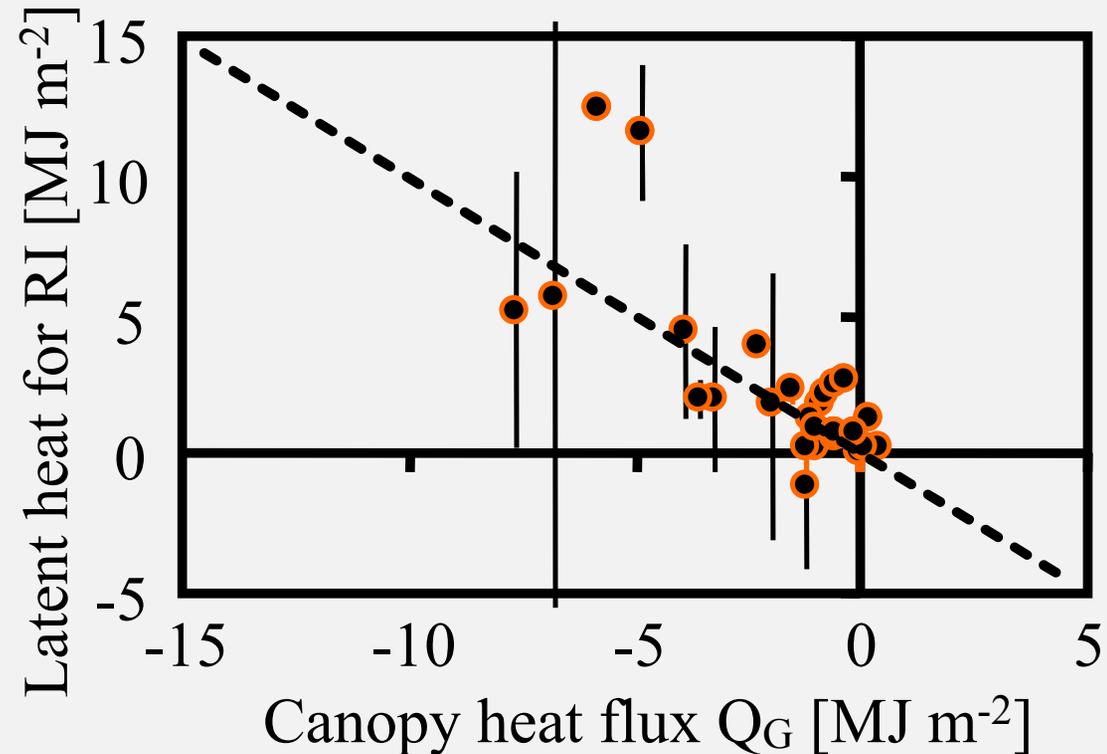
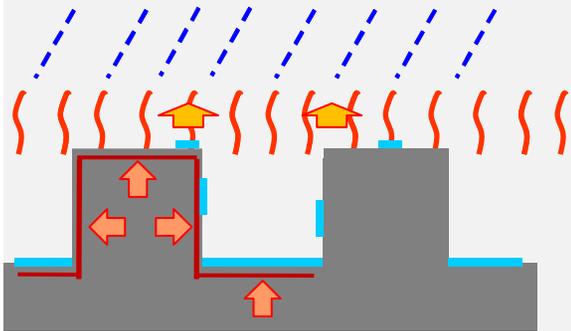
$T_{\text{surface}}$ : averaged surface temp.

$dT > 0$  (large heat capacity)



# Results ~Heat balance of RI~

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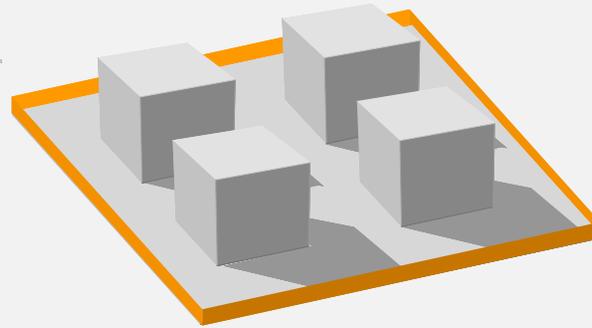


**Latent heat for RI was almost balanced by  $Q_G$**

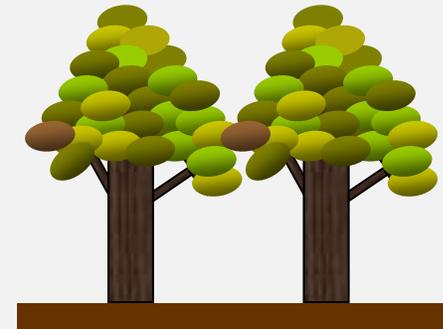
c.f., net radiation ( $Q^*$ ) & sensible heat ( $Q_H$ ) for forest RI

e.g., Stewart, 1977

# RI characteristics in U.C and F.C



Urban canopy (U.C.)



Forest canopy (F.C.)

RI / gross rain

6%

10 ~ 50%

Temporal RI rate

Decrease with time

Almost constant

Heat supply for RI

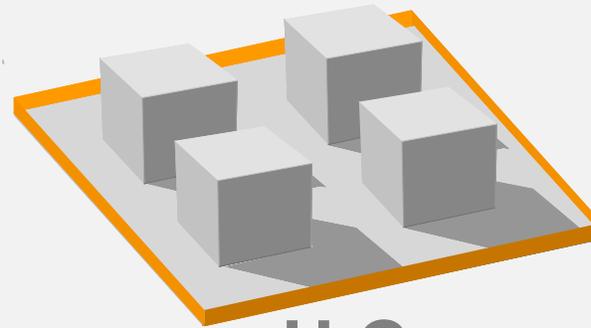
$Q_G$

$Q^*$  &  $Q_H$

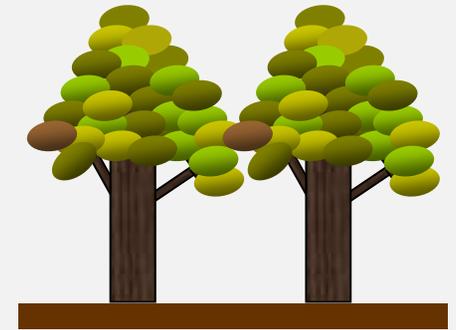
# Cause for RI difference btw U.C & F.C

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↓  
**Canopy  
Structure**  
↓



U.C.



F.C.

**Surface Area Index (SAI)**

**Scalar roughness parameter  $kB^{-1}$**

**Canopy heat capacity**

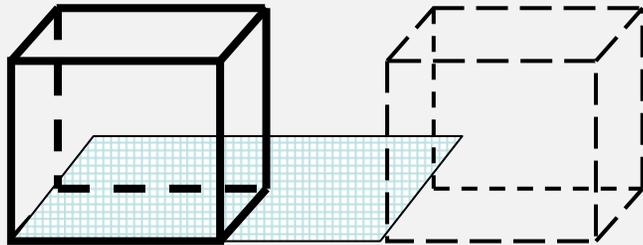
# Surface Area Index (SAI)

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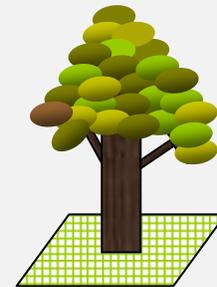
RI magnitude

$$\text{SAI} = \frac{\text{Total S.A.}}{\text{Horizontally projected ground S.A.}}$$

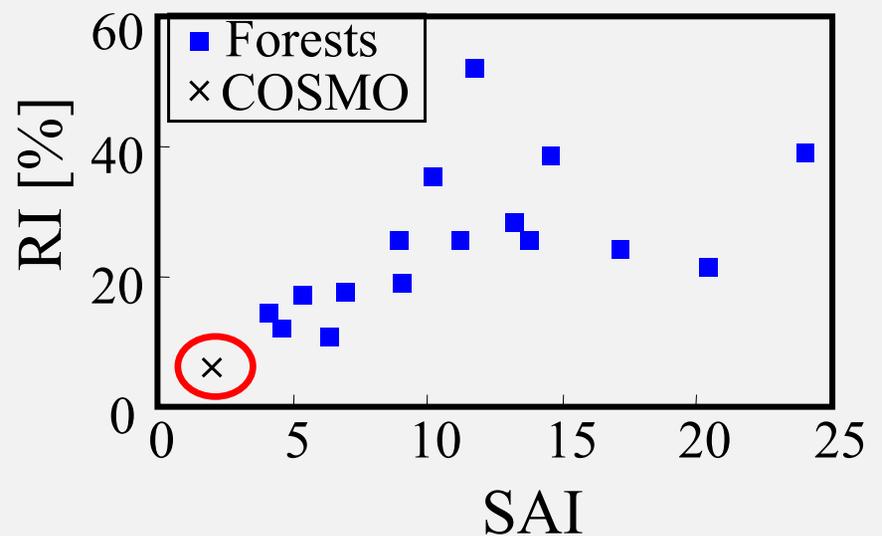
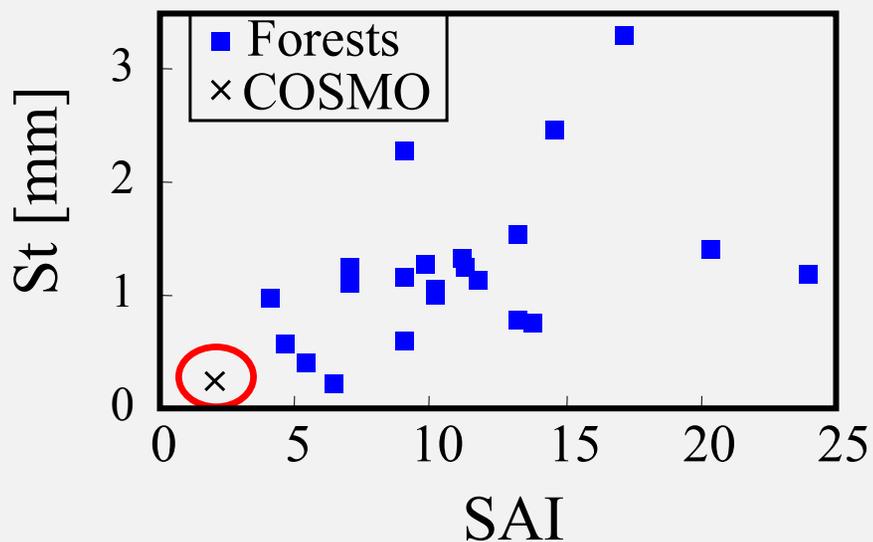
Measure of wettable Area



**SAI=2**



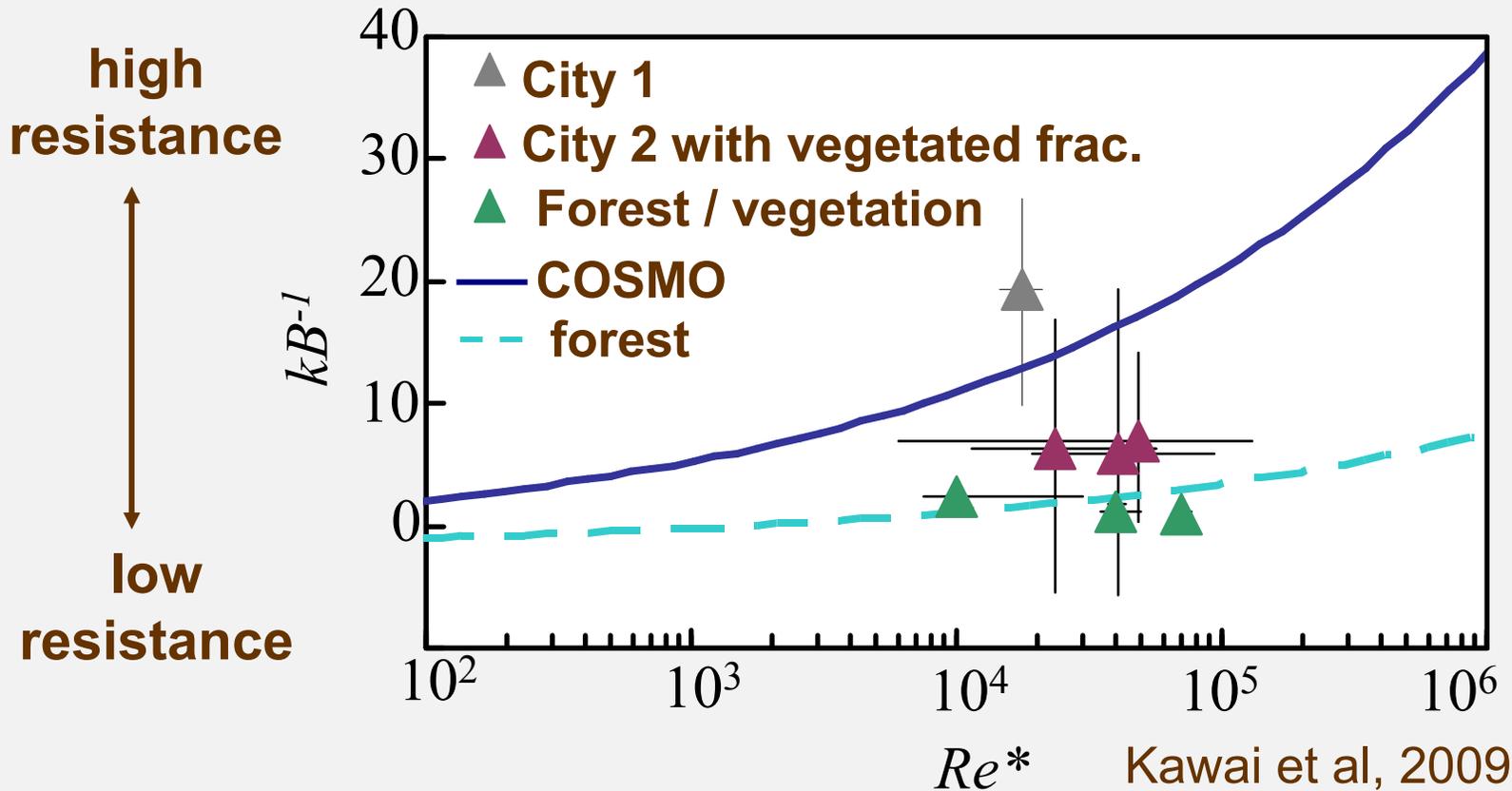
**SAI~5-25 ( 2 x LAI )**



$kB^{-1} = \ln(Z_0/Z_T)$

$Z_0$  : roughness momentum  
 $Z_T$  : roughness heat

Measure of heat transfer resistance



**U.C.: high resistance for heat transfer**

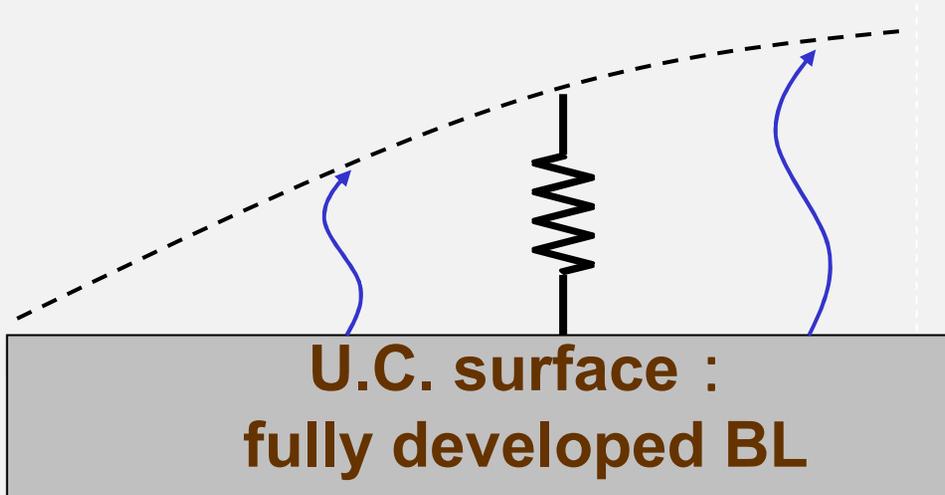
Small RI in COSMO is a reasonable result

# U.C.: high resistance for scalar transfer

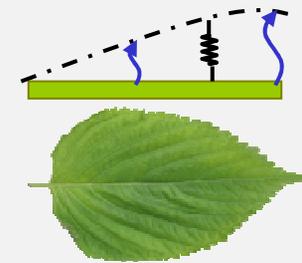
Difference of  $kB^{-1}$  btw U.C. and F.C.



Difference in size of individual roughness element



High resistance of scalar transfer



Leaf surface :  
BL hard to develop

Low resistance

F.C.: aggregation of small leaves



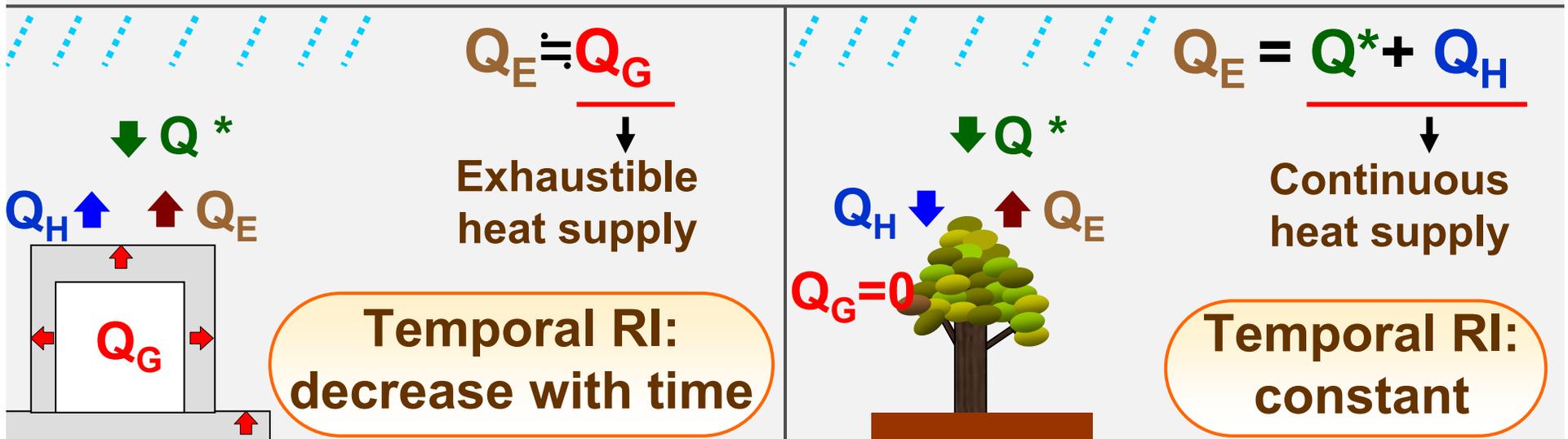
$kB^{-1}$  in F.C. expected to be small

# Canopy heat capacity

heat supply for RI & temporal RI rate

Urban Canopy	Forest canopy
Large heat capacity	Small heat capacity
can sustain RI	cannot sustain RI
$T_{air} < T_{surface}$	$T_{air} > T_{surface}$
$Q_H$ : Upward	$Q_H$ : Downward

$Q^*$ : net radiation    $Q_G$ : canopy heat    $Q_H$ : sensible heat    $Q_E$ : latent heat



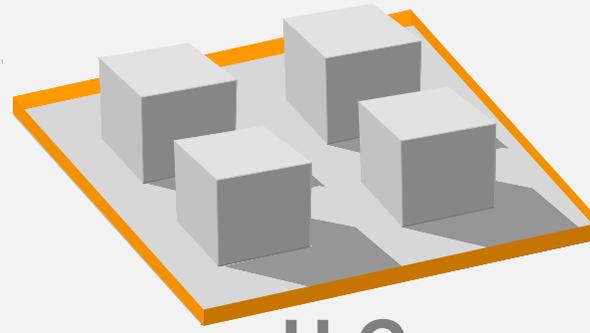
# Cause for RI difference btw U.C & F.C

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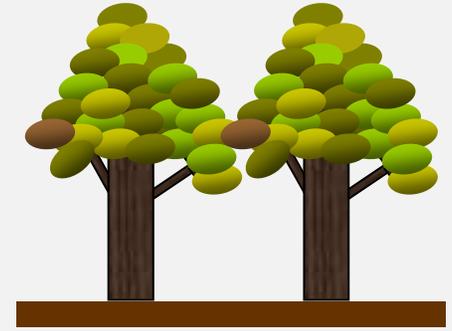
↓

## Canopy Structure

↓



U.C.



F.C.

**Surface Area Index (SAI)**

difference of **RI magnitude**

**Scalar roughness parameter  $kB^{-1}$**

difference of **RI magnitude**

**Canopy heat capacity**

difference of **heat supply for RI & temporal RI rate**

# Thank you for your attention

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Nakayoshi et al,  
Experimental study on rainfall interception over an  
outdoor urban-scale model  
*Water Resource Res.*, 2009  
doi:10.1029/2008WR007069

**RI in COSMO**

**6 %**

**Bulk RI** on entire  
canopy

**RI in Ragab et al. 2003**

**30 %**

**Local RI** on roof  
surface

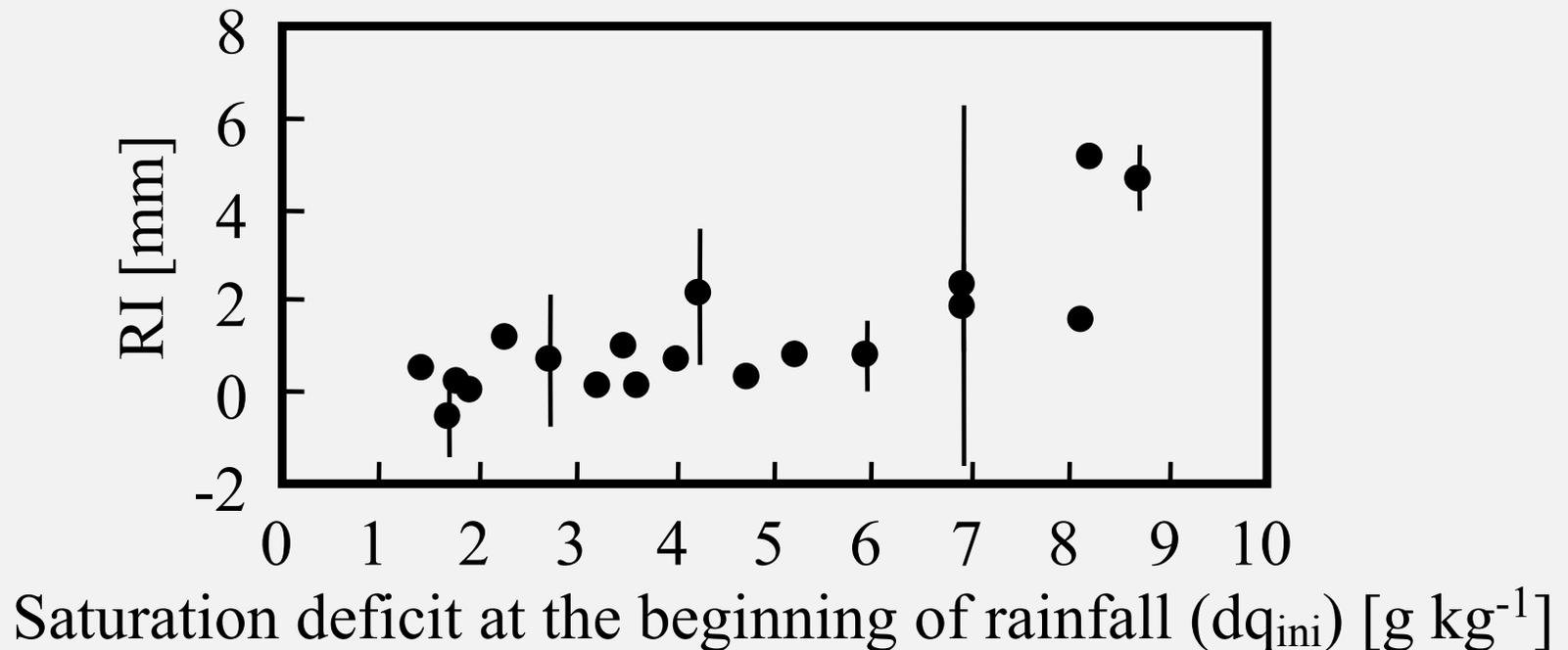
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**Local RI on roof can be larger than bulk RI**

- 1. Local scalar transfer rate on roofs is larger than on other surfaces (e.g., Narita, 2007)**
- 2. Roofs are better located to receive solar radiation than other surfaces: more available radiative energy**
- 3. Splash loss of raindrops can increase with time & rainfall intensity in Ragab et al, because catchment in Ragab was not enclosed by water proof fencing.**

# Results ~Governing parameter~

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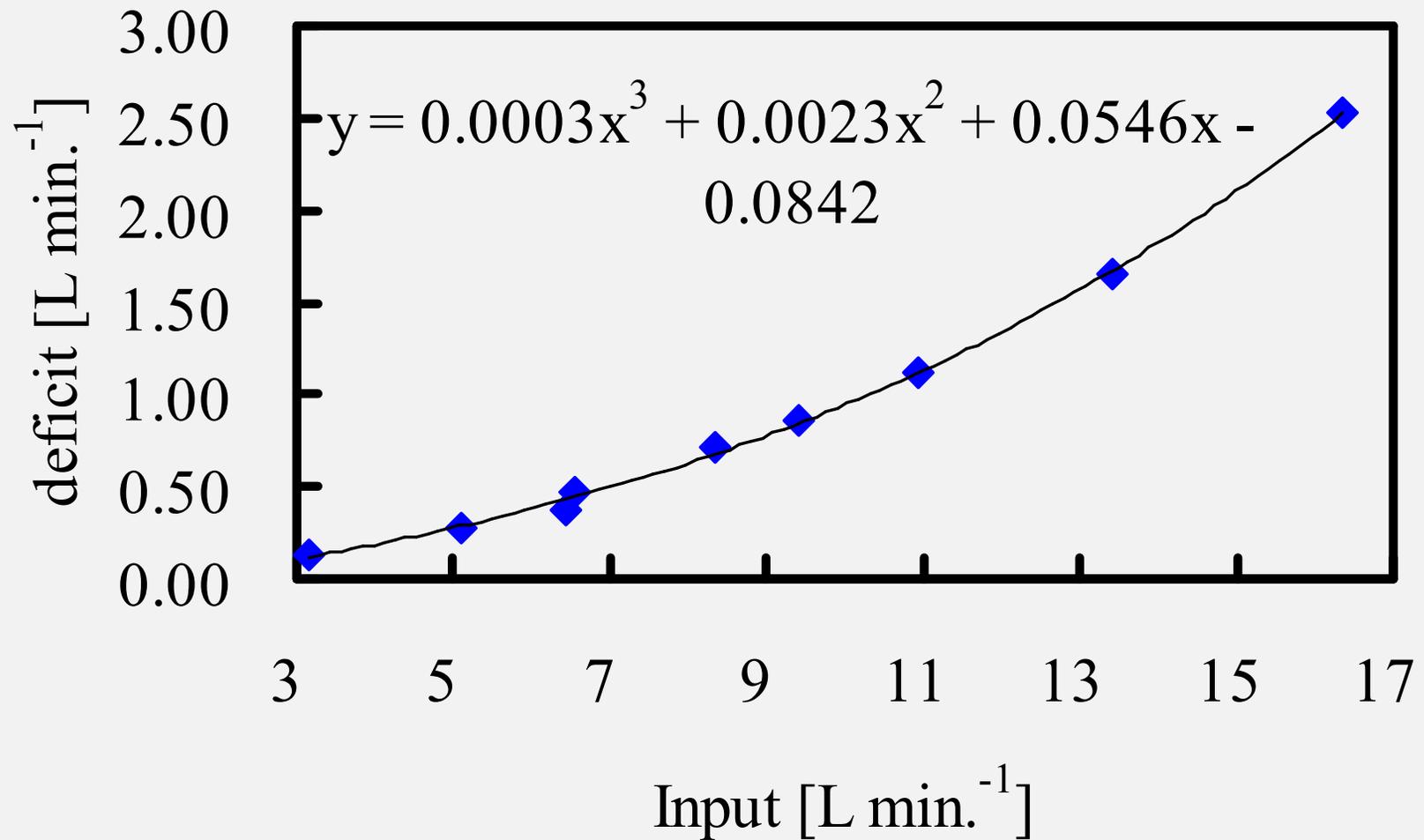


**RI was well-correlated with  $dq_{ini}$**

c.f. rainfall intensity & duration  
for forest RI

# Flow meter ~input vs deficit~

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# Infiltration check

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# pictures

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