

# Einführung in die Systemtheorie (gekoppelter Mensch-Umweltsysteme)



Jürgen P. Kropp  
Potsdam Institut für Klimafolgenforschung

## Überblick

1. Der Begriff des Systems
2. Probleme
3. Beispiele systemtheoretischer Ansätze
4. Begriff des Modells
5. Beispiele für die Anwendung systemtheoretischer Ansätze



# Der Begriff des “Systems”

(u.a. Karl Ludwig von Bertalanffy 1901-1972)



Als **System** (griechisch σύστημα, *sýstema*) wird eine Gesamtheit von Elementen verstanden, die auf- und miteinander wechselwirken, so dass man sie als eine aufgaben, sinn- oder zweckbezogene Einheit auffassen kann und das sich in diesem Sinn von der Umwelt abgrenzt.

Ein System erhält und organisiert sich durch Strukturen; Struktur ist ein Muster der Systemelemente und ihrer Beziehungsgeflechte

Einige Eigenschaften

- Komplexität
- Lernend
- Dynamik
- Autonom
- Adaptiv
- Wechselwirkung
- .....

**Eine einheitliche Systemtheorie existiert nicht:**

Regelungstechnik/Kybernetik (McCulloch, Wiener, Rosenblatt)  
Soziologie (Luhmann)  
Physik (Shannon, Zeeman, Mandelbrot)  
Umweltsystemanalyse





## Aufbau und Funktionsweise hängt vom Standpunkt des Betrachters ab!

*At each level of organisation novelties occur in both **properties** and **logic** (Jacob 1974)!*

***System thinking** is distinct from **analytical thinking**, [but both is] essential for understanding complexity (Boardman 1995)!*



# Warum das alles?



Interdisziplinäres Erkenntnismodell, d.h. der **Modellbegriff** spielt eine zentrale Rolle!

Die Analyse von Strukturen, Mechanismen und Funktionen soll Vorhersagen über das System ermöglichen

**Modell:** Gegenstand wissenschaftlicher Methodik die eine zu untersuchende Realität durch Erklärungsgrößen abbildet

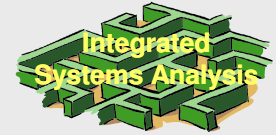
**Mathematisches Modell** (Prognose, Erklärung, Entscheidung)  
**Prosa Modell** (semantisch, Struktur)





# Beispiele systemtheoretische Ansätze I

## “soziale Systeme” (Luhmann)



Typen sozialer Systeme: Interaktionssysteme, Organisationssysteme und Gesellschaftssysteme.

Gesellschaft: System höherer Ordnung, ein System „anderen Typs“, umfasst die anderen Systeme

Unterschied zu anderen Systemverständnissen: Handlungsstruktur also nicht definiert über Beziehungen sondern durch Kommunikations- und Handlungssystem, daher ist es eher ein operatives Modell (eher zeitliche statt räumliche Prägung)

Literatur:

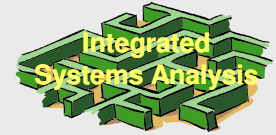
Niklas Luhmann, Dirk Baecker, Einführung in die Systemtheorie, 2004

Niklas Luhmann, *Soziale Systeme. Grundriß einer allgemeinen Theorie*, 2001



# Beispiele systemtheoretische Ansätze II

## “biologische Systemlehre” (Bertalanffy)



Abgrenzung zu Physik: Kritik deduktiver Verfahren (isolierte Betrachtung von Einzelphänomene), nicht adäquat für die Biologie

Prägte den Begriff der “organisierten Komplexität” und des “Fließgleichgewichtes”

Zentral ist der Begriff des offenen Systems, das durch Aufnahme von Energie zu einem höheren Organisationsgrad entwickeln. Die interne Variabilität ermöglicht es einem solchen System sich über Austauschprozesse in einem dynamischen Umfeld zu stabilisieren (Selbstorganisation)

Vergl.: 2. Hauptsatz (Wärmetod): abgeschlossenes System im Gleichgewicht ein höchstmögliches Maß an Entropie.

Literatur:

Bertalanffy: *The Theory of Open Systems in Physics and Biology*; Science 111,23-9 (1950)



# Beispiele systemtheoretische Ansätze III

## “Komplexe Systemtheorie”

(Zeemann, Feigenbaum, Bak, Haken,.....)



Physikalische Beschreibung komplexer Phänomene: Chaos, Emergenz, self-organised criticality, strange attractors

**Chaos:** sensible Anhängigkeit von den Anfangsbedingungen

**Emergenz:** das ganze ist mehr als die Summe der Einzelteile

**so-criticality:** Selbststabilisierung von Systemen

**(strange) attractors:** unter Dynamik des Systems nicht mehr zu verlassende Teilstruktur des Phasenraums

Literatur:

Richter/Rost: *Komplexe Systeme*, Teubner, 2003

Haken: *Synergetics: Introduction and Advanced Topics*, Springer 2004



# Woraus besteht ein mathematisches Modell?



## Wachstum der Weltbevölkerung

$$dN/dt = a N^{1+1/k}$$

Zustandsvariable:  $N$ ,  $t$   
Modellparameter:  $a$ ,  $k$

beschreiben den Zustandsraum  
müssen aus Daten bestimmt,  
oder geschätzt werden

$$N(t) = N(t_0) (t^* - t_0 / t^* - t)^k$$

Lösung



# Beispiele

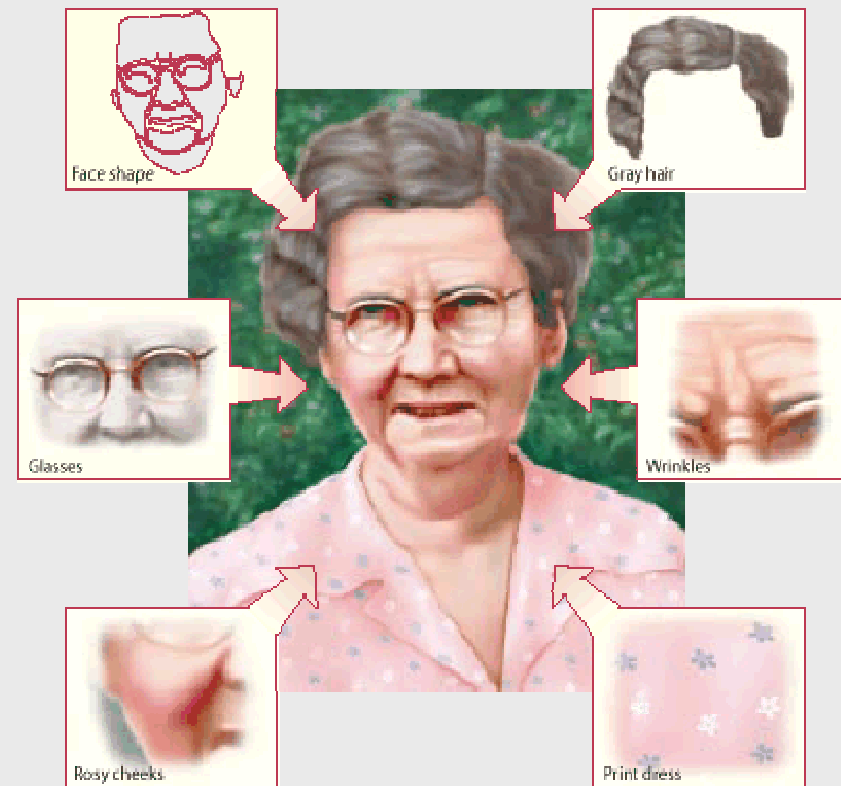
# Das Musterkonzept



## Coding

-1010111000101100110101000110111000...

Extremely simple pattern screening leads to grandmother's identification





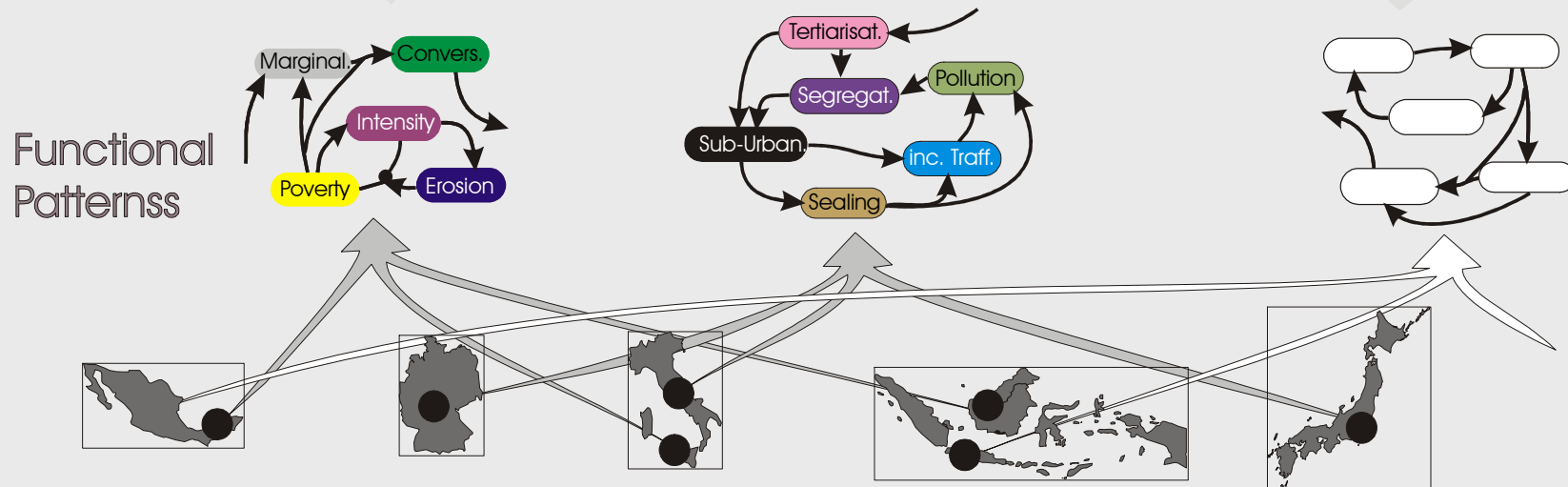
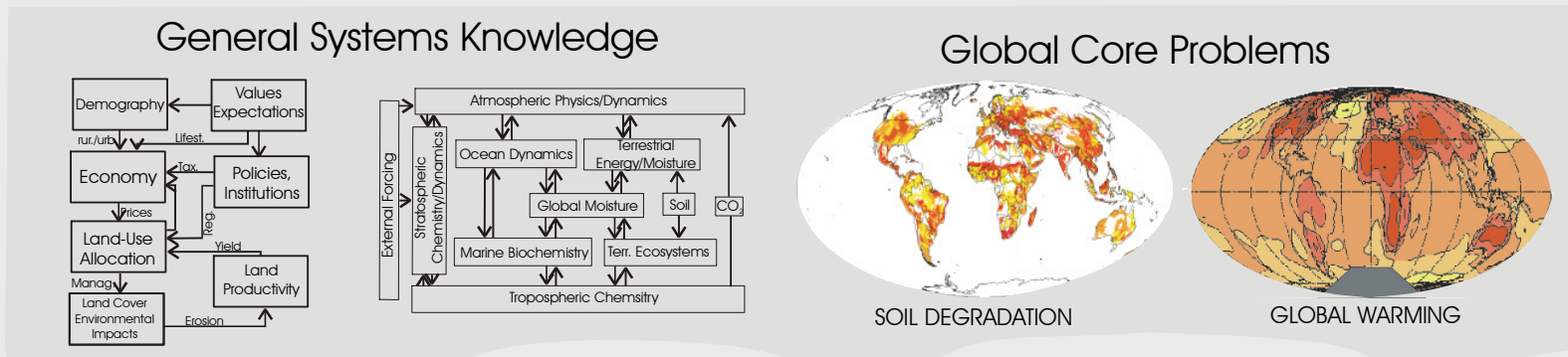
# An Expert System of Global Change Syndrome Concept



# Syndrome Concept: Indicator & Story Based (symbol systems hypothesis; Newell 1976)



## An Intermediate Complexity Analysis of Global Change

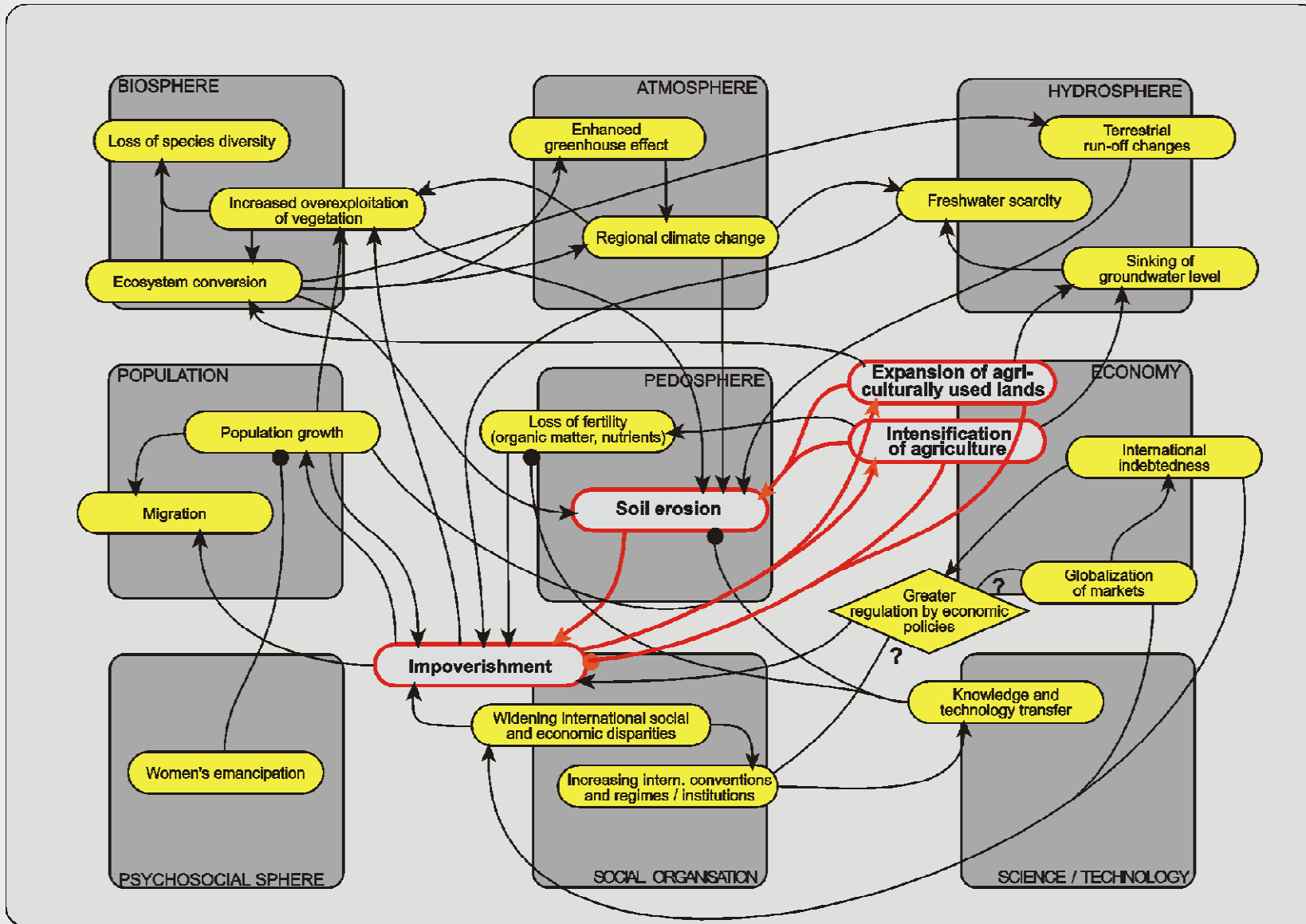
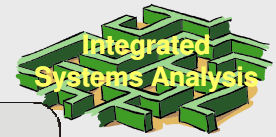


Detailed Local and Regional Case Studies

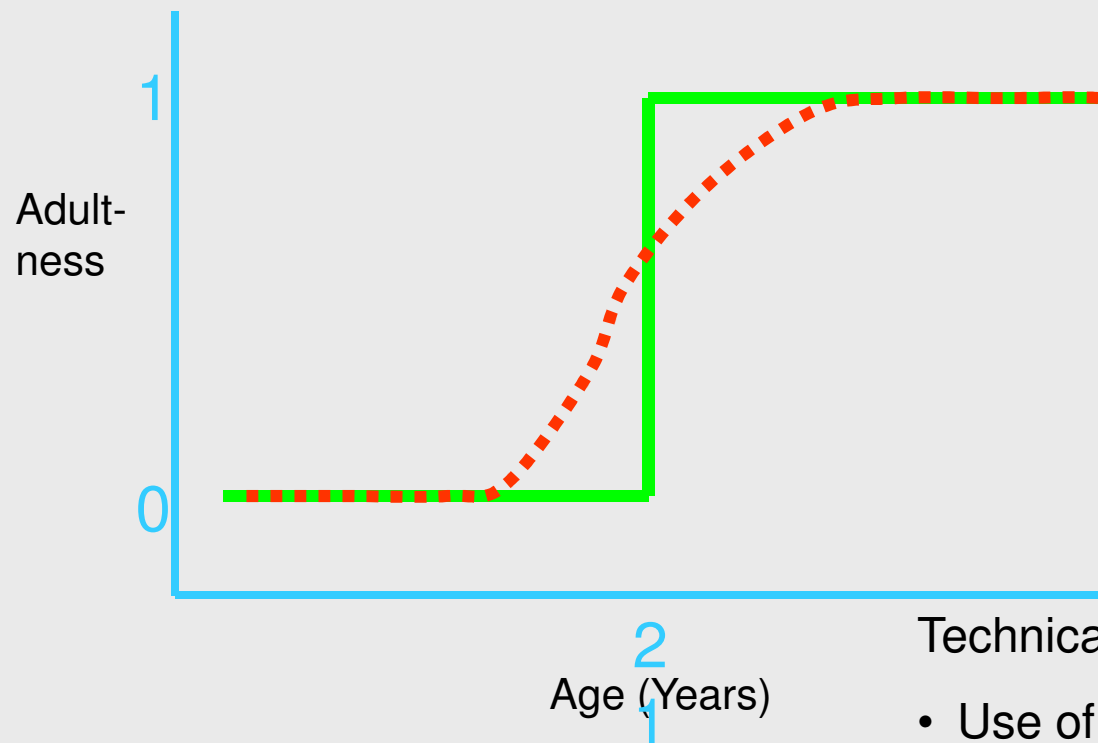




# Network of Interrelations: Sahel Syndrome



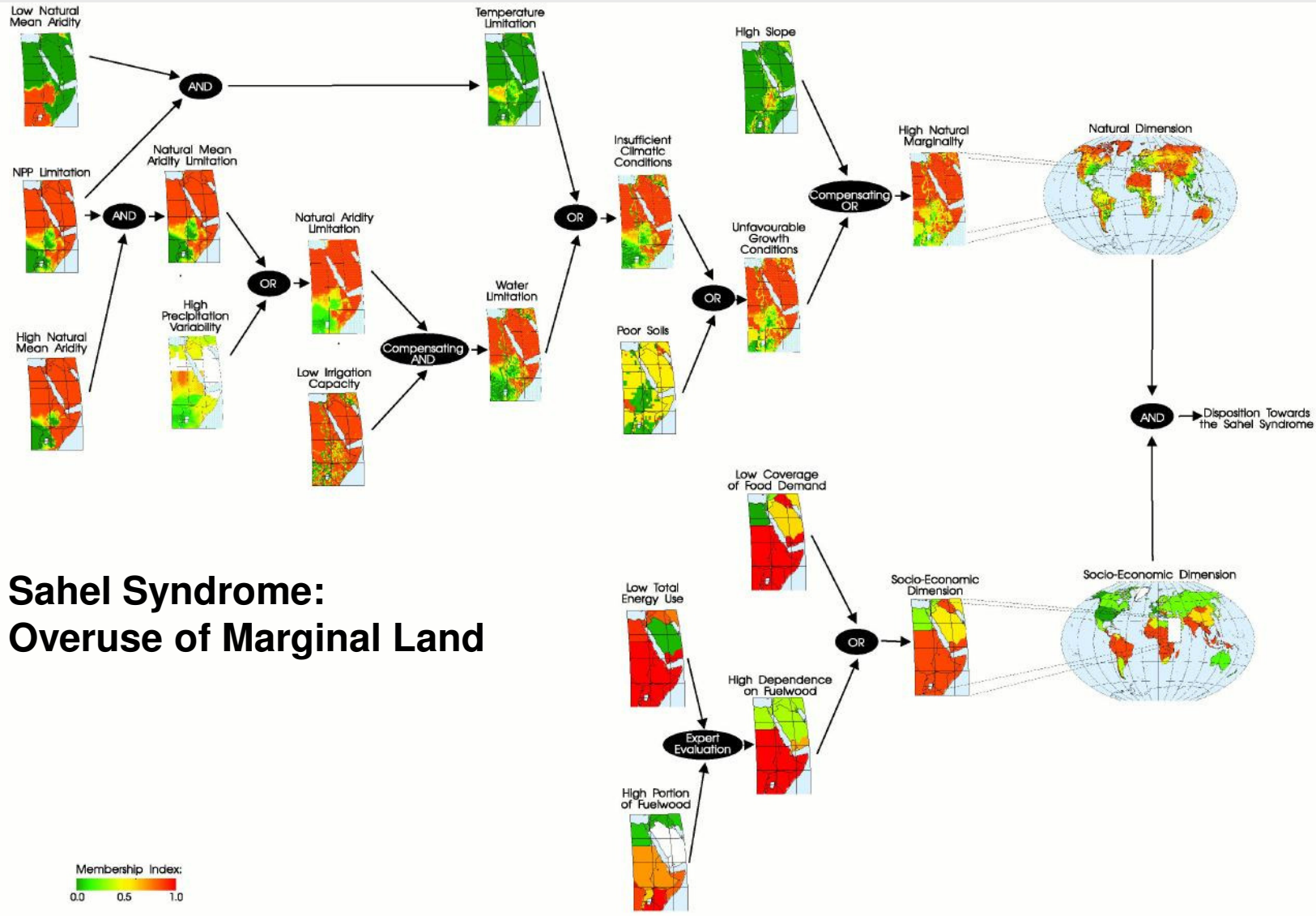
# The Fuzzy Logic Concept



## Technical Issues:

- Use of Linguistic Variables
- Incorporation of Risk and Uncertainty
- Copes with Missing Data
- Degree of Membership (DM) *is not* Probability

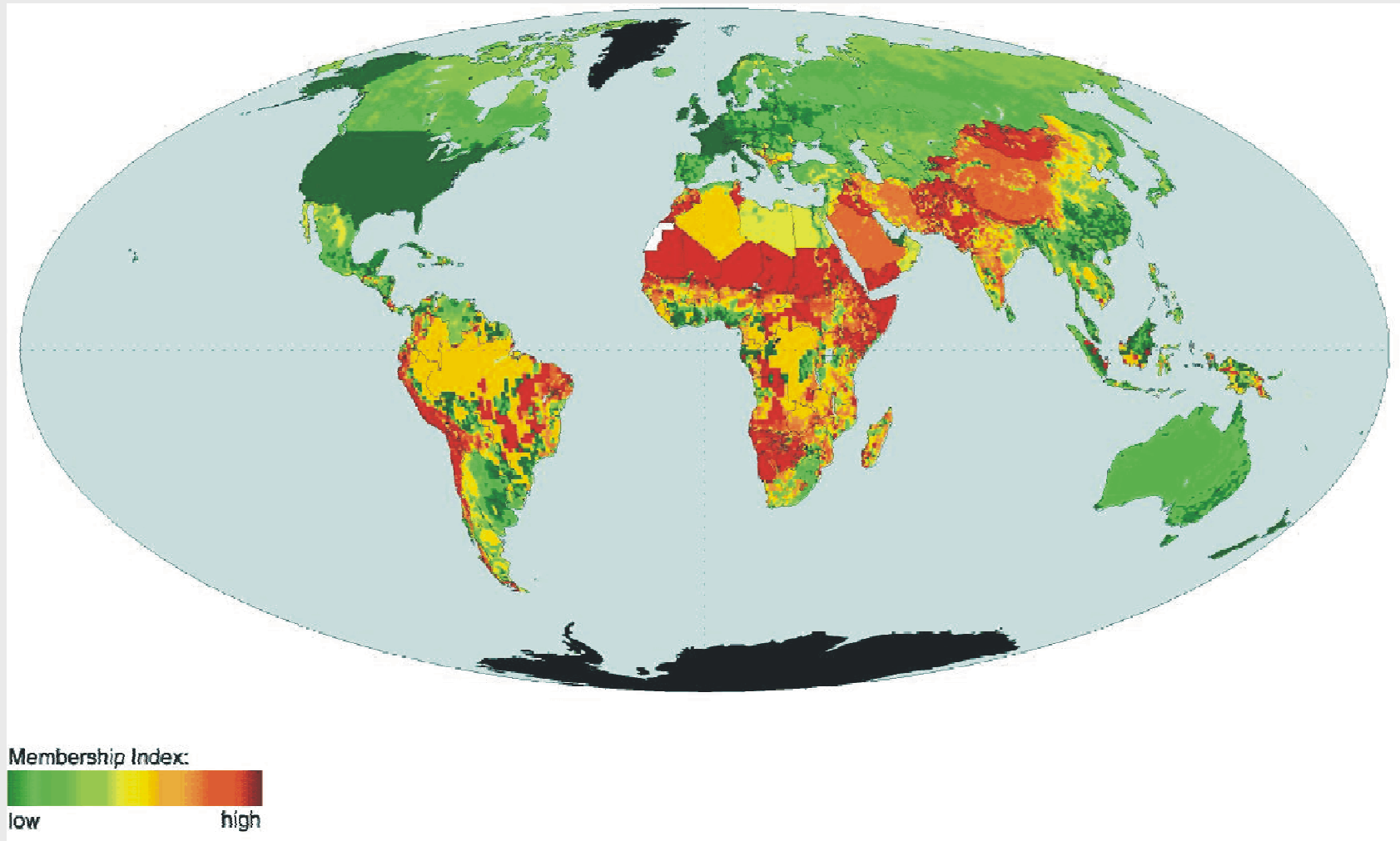
# Diagnosis of Hazardous Patterns: Sahel Disposition



**Sahel Syndrome:  
Overuse of Marginal Land**

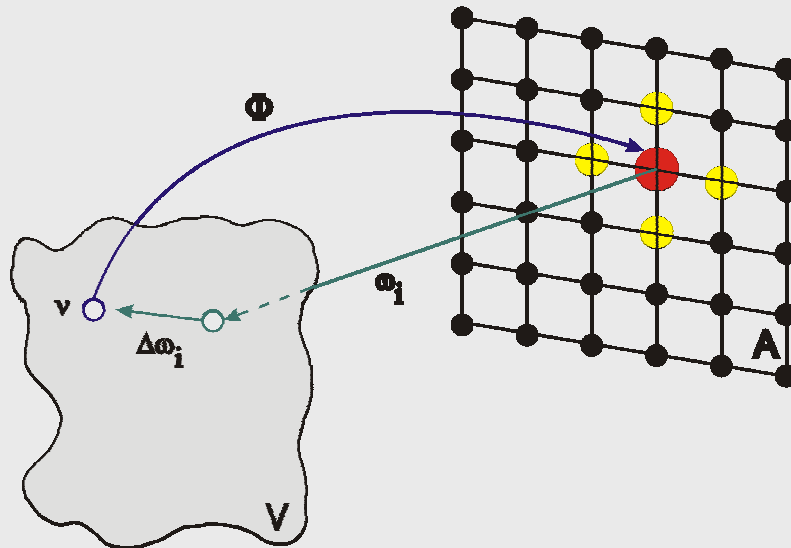


## Overall Sahel Disposition



# Selbstorganisierende Netzwerke

# Self-Organizing Neural Networks



## Challenge:

- Eliminate redundant information
- Avoid topological distortions
- Estimate embedding dimension
- Find a suitable classification

## Provides a ,nonlinear‘ classification

Algorithm:

1. Initialisation of reference vektors  $\omega_i$ .
2. Choose input (stochastically)  $v$ .
3. Network response: localisation of the winner neuron

$$\|v - \omega_i\| \leq \min_{v' \in A} \|v - \omega_{v'}\|$$

4. Adaptation of synaptic strength of the winner  $\omega_i$  and its next neighbours

$$w_{ij}(t+1) = w_{ij}(t) + \varepsilon(t) h_{ij'}(t) [v_j - w_{ij}(t)].$$

$h_{ij'}$  represents a Gaussian neighbourhood function

$$h_{ij'}(t) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|i - i'\|}{2 \cdot \sigma(t)^2}\right),$$

with  $\varepsilon, \sigma$  as:

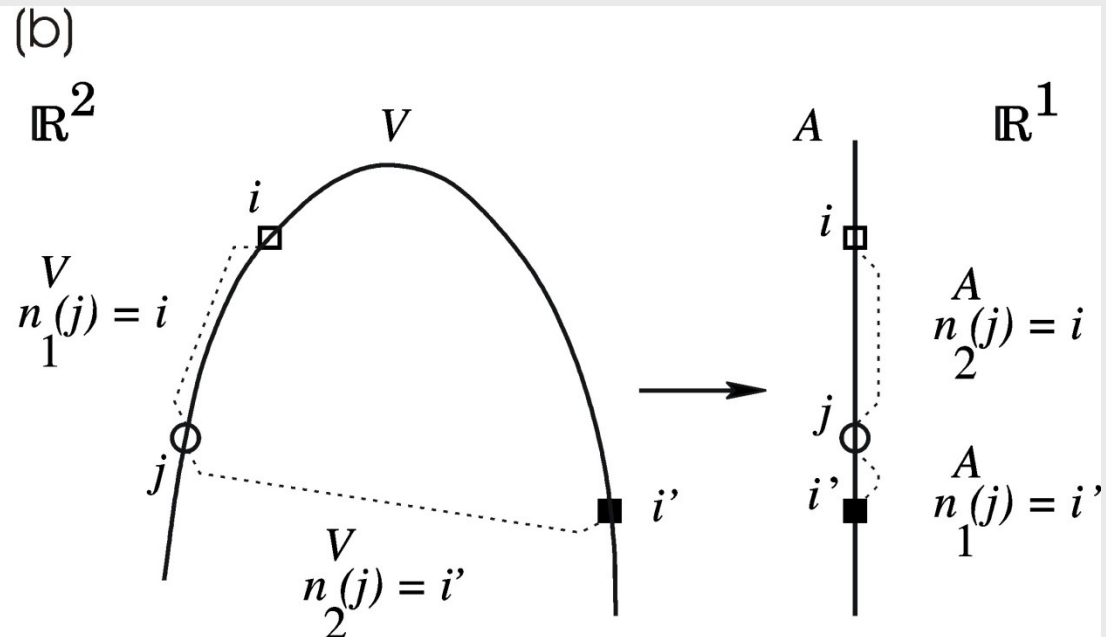
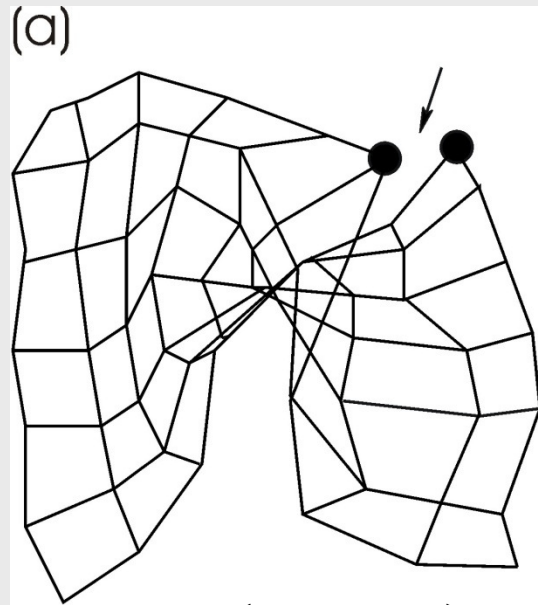
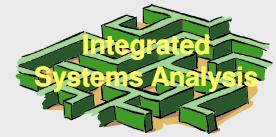
$$\varepsilon(t) = \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\varepsilon_0}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma(t) = \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\sigma_0}\right)$$

5. Back to Step 2. or termination if the SOM converges.

after Kohonen 2001



# Topographisches Produkt



$$Q_1(j, k) = \frac{D^V\left(w_j, w_{n_k^A(j)}\right)}{D^V\left(w_j, w_{n_k^V(j)}\right)}$$

$$Q_2(j, k) = \frac{D^A\left(j, n_k^A(j)\right)}{D^A\left(j, n_k^V(j)\right)}$$

$n_k^V(j)$  und  $n_k^A(j)$  nächste Nachbarn der Ordnung  $k$  des Punktes  $j$

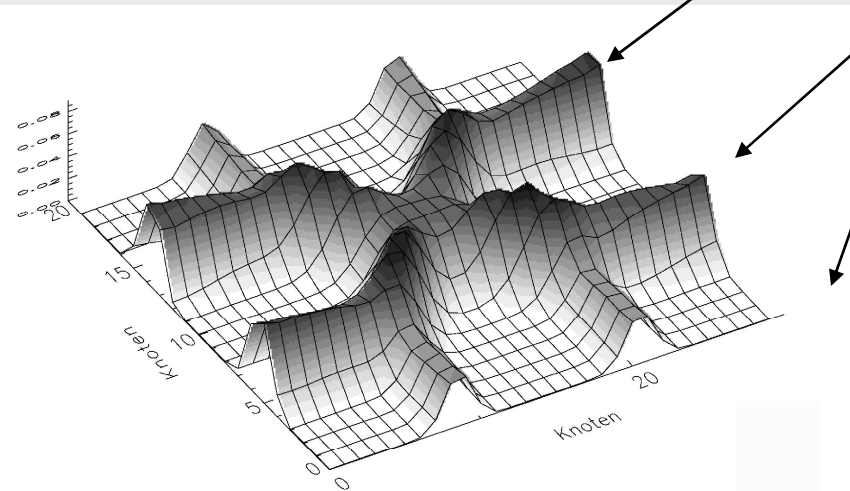
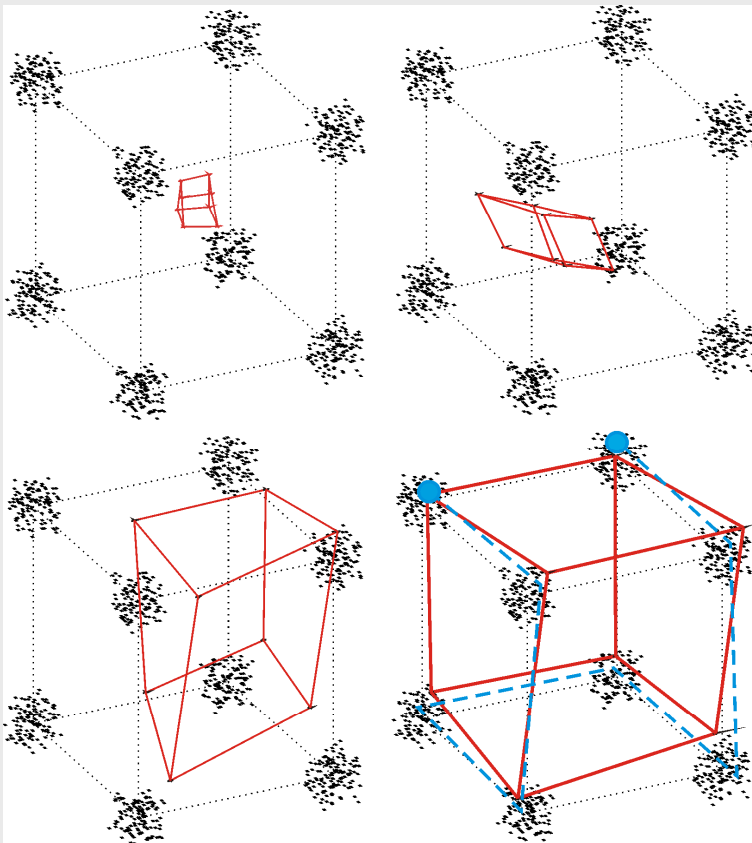
Für  $Q_1(j, 1) > 1$ , weil  $D^V(j, i') > D^V(j, i)$ .  
 Für  $Q_2(j, 1) < 1$ , nur falls  $Q_1 = Q_2 = 1$  sind  
 abgebildete Punkte deckungsgleich!



# Optimale Klassifizierung unter topologischen Gesichtspunkten



Klassenteilung

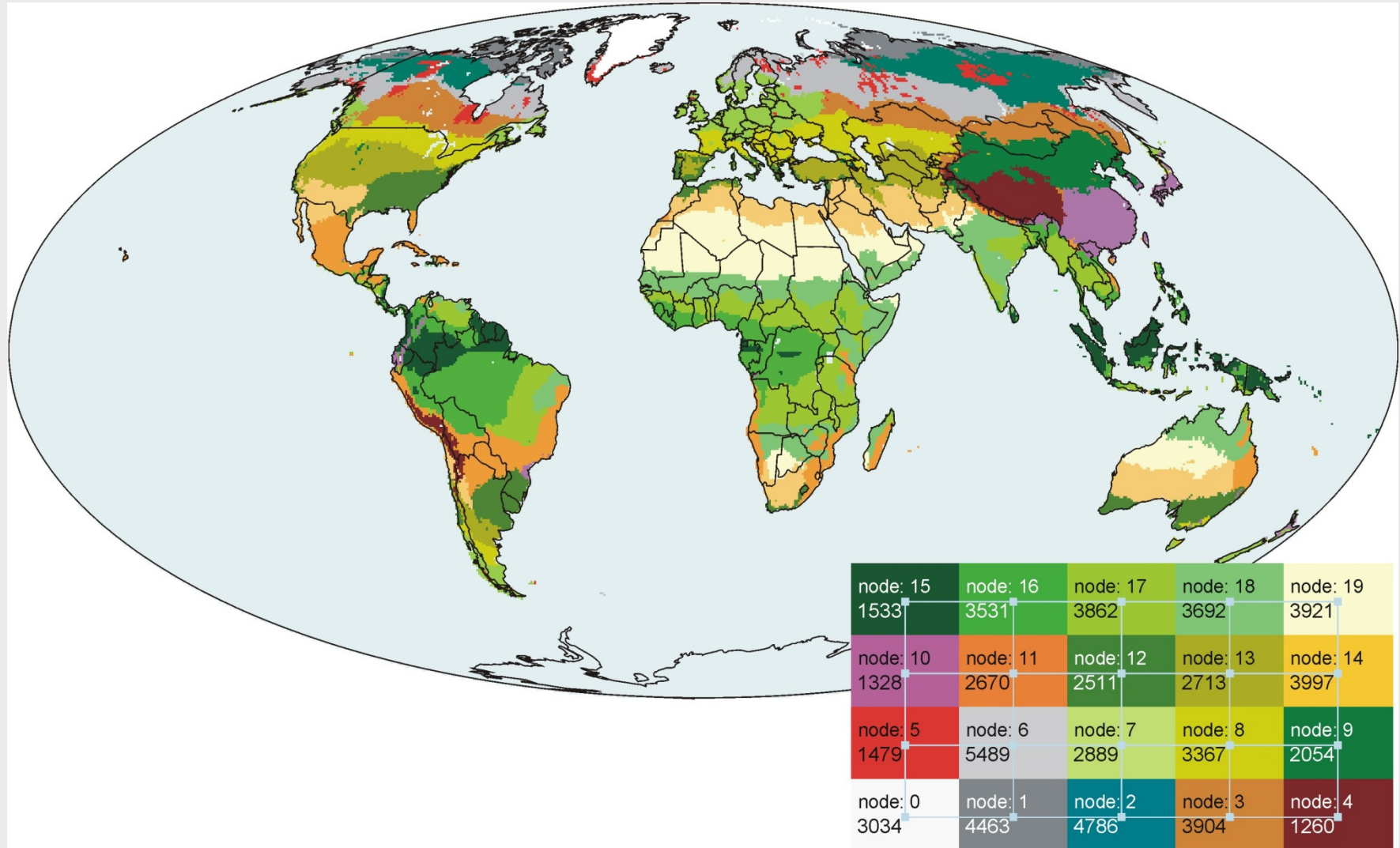


dim	geometry	Topographical product	# iterations
1	8	-0.076945 ± 0.009546	15 120 ± 29
2	4x2	-0.038619 ± 0.009297	9 280 ± 13
✓ 3	2x2x2	0.001960 ± 0.000298	17 890 ± 34
4	2x2x2x2	0.128865 ± 0.069812	13 264 ± 298

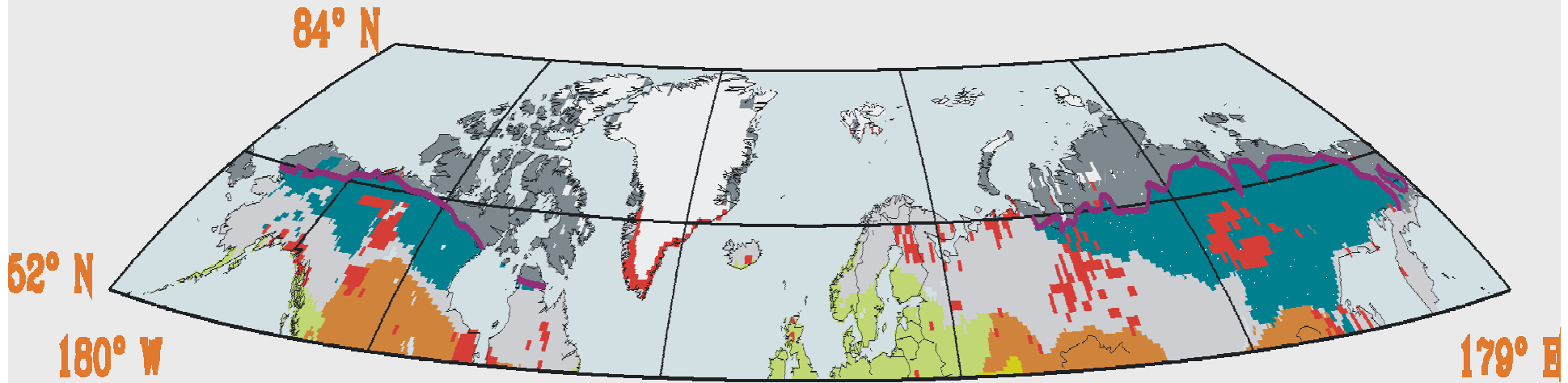
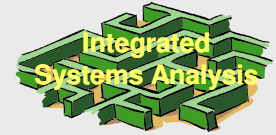




# Globale „Klima-“ oder „Vegetationsklassifizierung“ ?



# Ecosystem View, Data Driven! Changes of Ecosystem Complexes (IS92a scenario: 2xCO<sub>2</sub>)



Tundra/Taiga Border (magenta line)  
July isotherm: 10°C (Walter & Breckle 1991)  
Annual precipitation < 250-300 mm (O'Hare 1996)

SOM: 9.7 +/- 1.6 °C (July temperature)  
233 +/- 56 mm (precipitation)

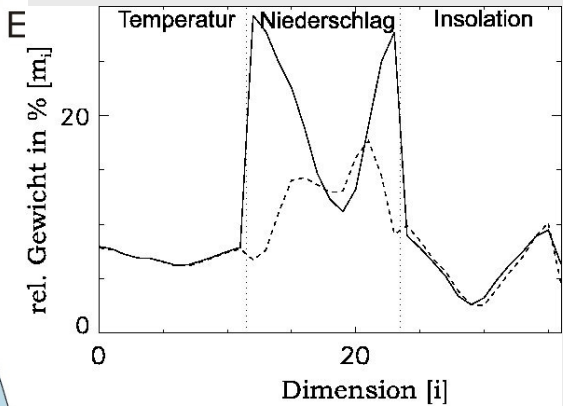
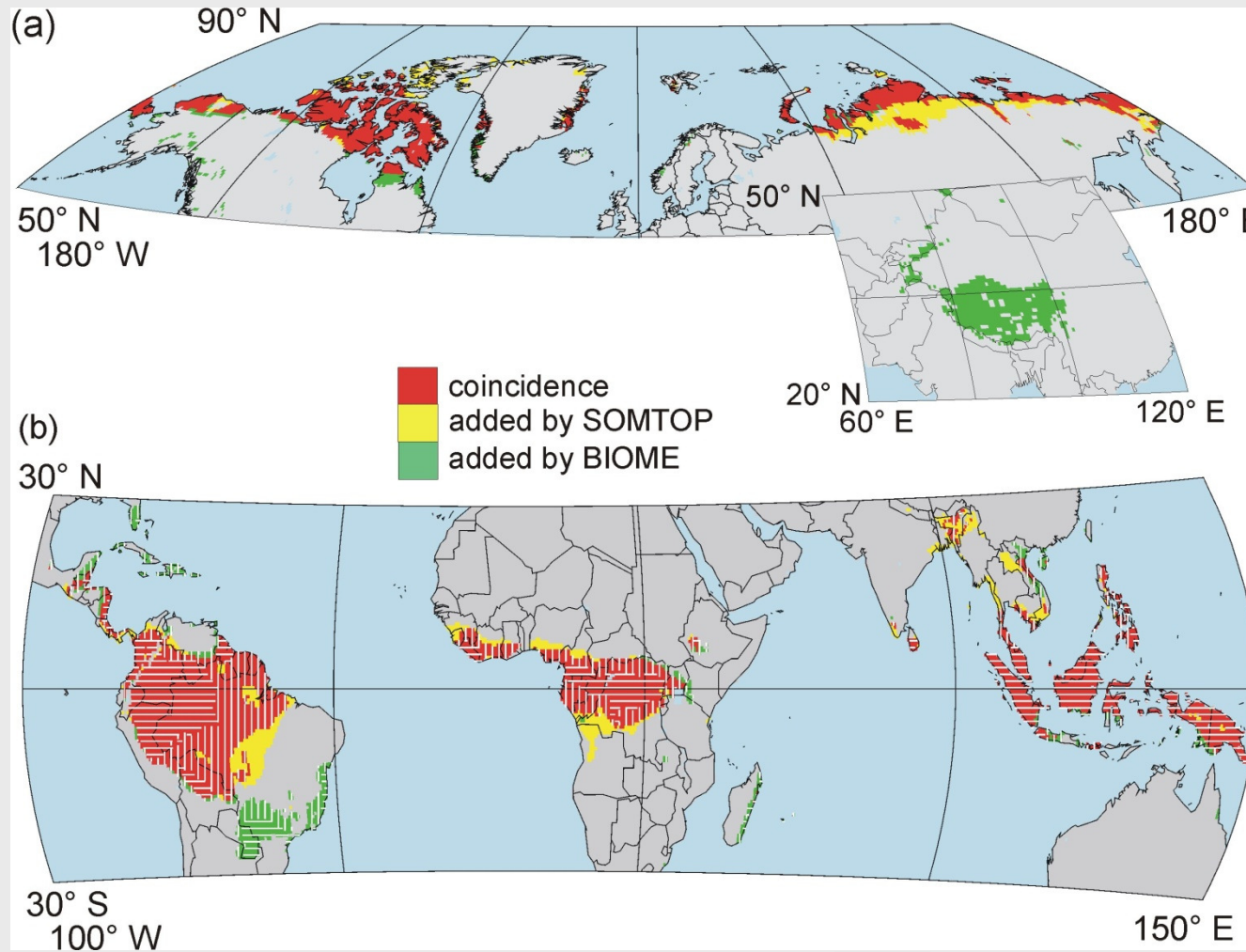
Changes in the circumpolar regions:

Upright hatched: northward shift of southern tundra border

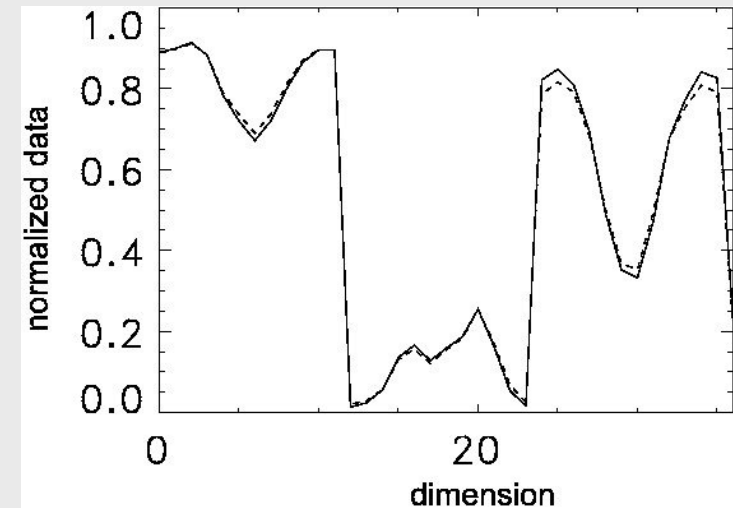
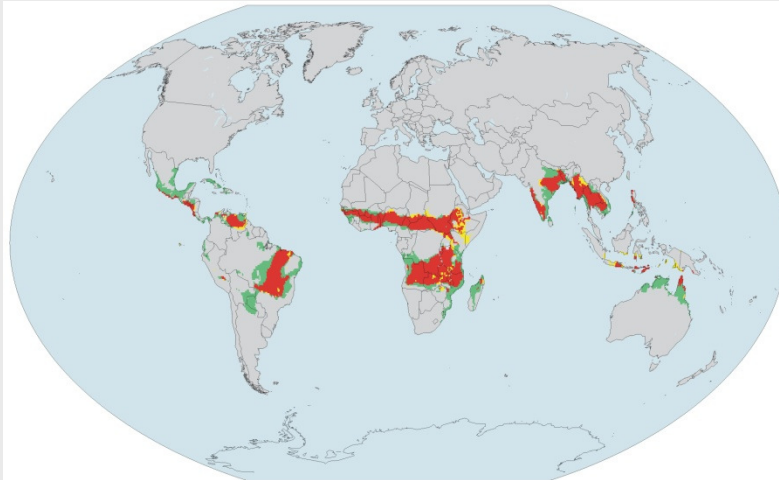
Upper right to lower left corner hatching: northward shift of southern taiga border



# Vergleich Biome Modell/SOMTOP



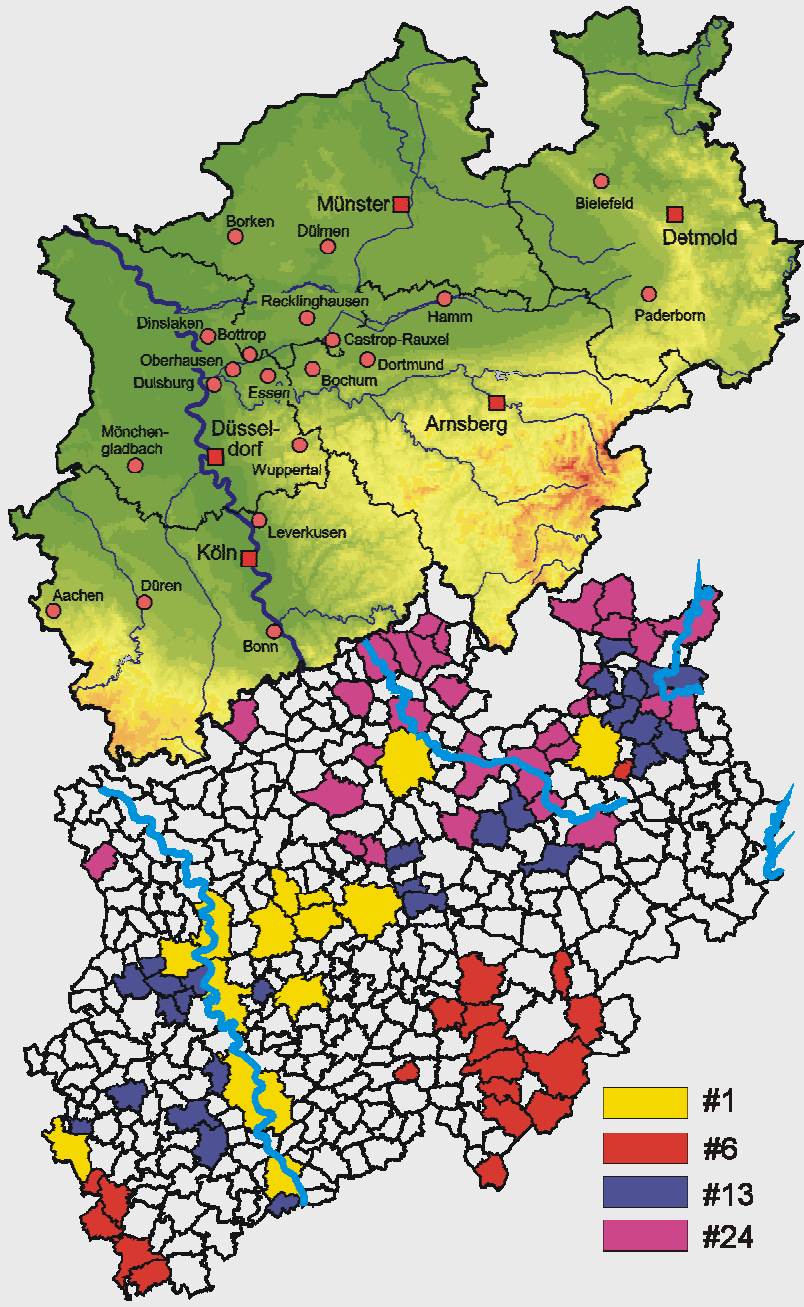
# Leistung der SOM



Fast identisch, aber Minimierung  
der Varianz ( $> 25\%$ )



# Regional Distribution of Vulnerability Classes



#1: Industrial Centres  
(mainly Rhine-Ruhr basin)

#2: Recreation Regions

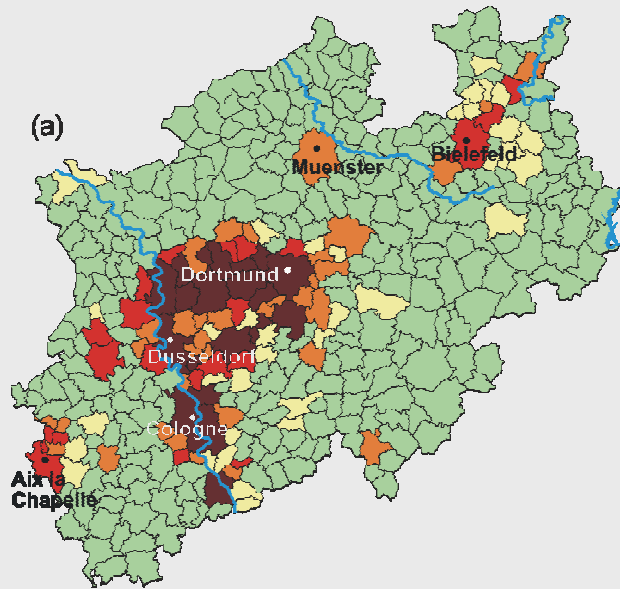
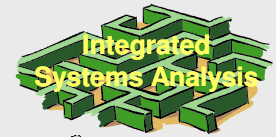
#13: Suburbs and Low  
Diversified Cities

#24: Rural Communities

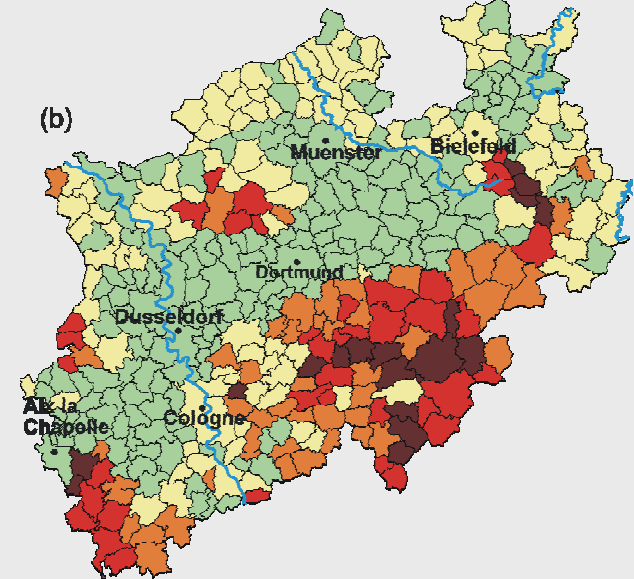




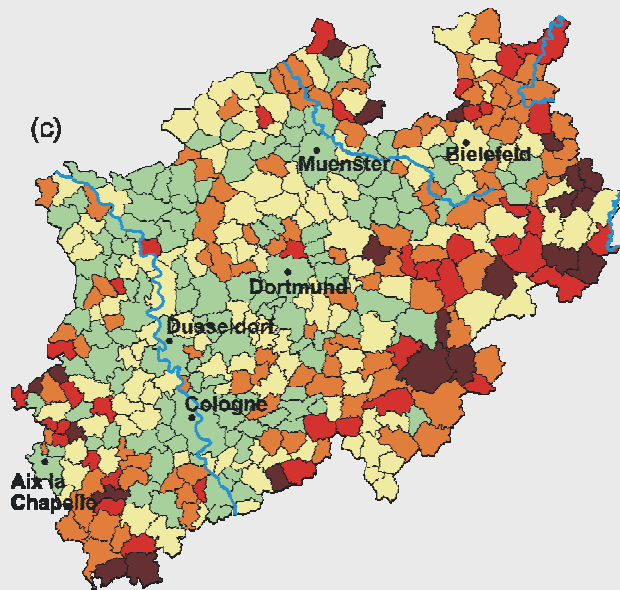
# Sektorale Suszeptibilität



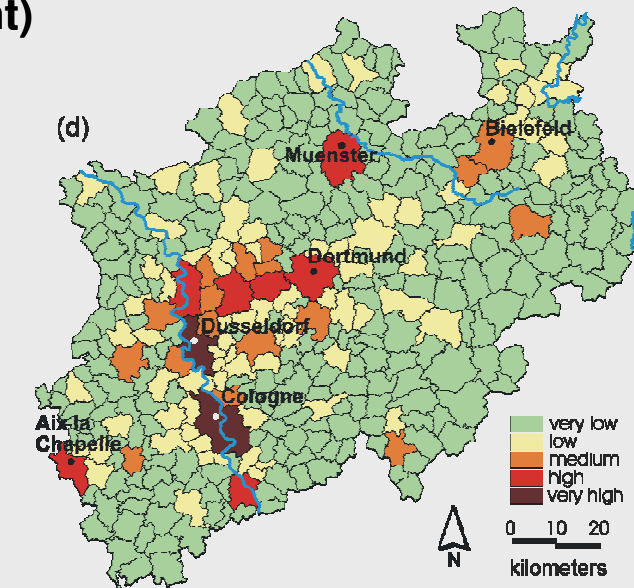
**a) Heatwaves  
(population density,  
elderly people)**



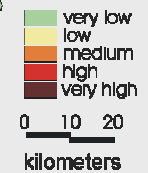
**b) Forest sector  
(tree type composition)**



**c) Local labour market  
(seasonal unemployment)**



**d) Production loss by  
traffic collapse  
through extreme  
events (commuting  
employees)**



Source: Kropp et al. 2006, Climatic Change

Stimulus: Storm

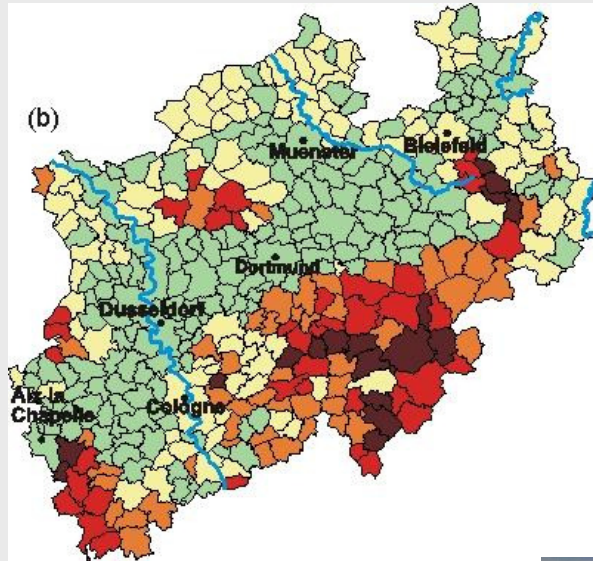
Exposed unit:

Forest sectors

Indicators:

Tree types, slope, rel. storm intensity/frequency

# Sectoral Vulnerability North-Rhine Westphalia/Germany (1999)

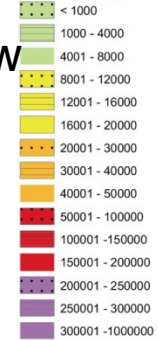


Vulnerability Assessments allow to identify risk prone areas in a comparative way!

Forest authority

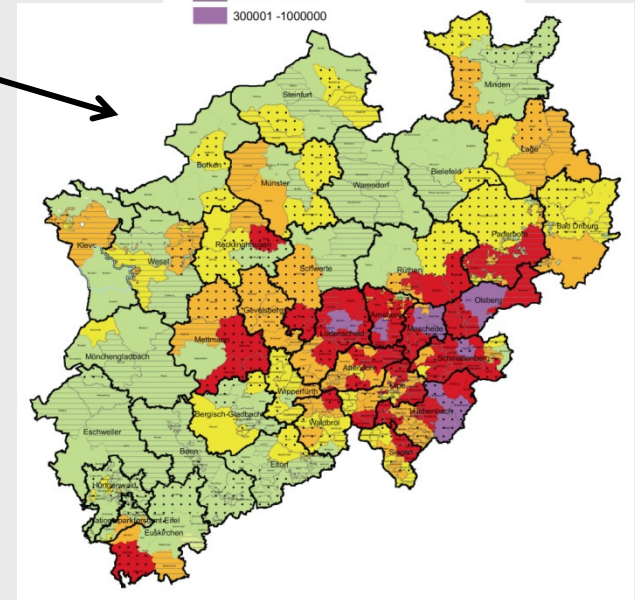
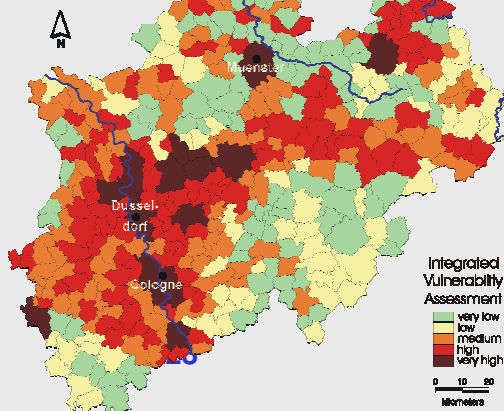
Forest office

Storm damage m<sup>3</sup>



Actual Damage  
2007 after  
Cyclone Kyrill

North-Rhine  
Westphalia



# Qualitative Differential Equations



## Motivations

- Uncertainty
- Generalizing from particular cases
- Translating knowledge from different disciplines to a common language

## Premises

- The object under investigation can be structured by variables.
- Variables have ordinal scale and change continuously (they can be characterised by their direction of change).
- Some rules about the inter-relationship of the directions of change can be posed.

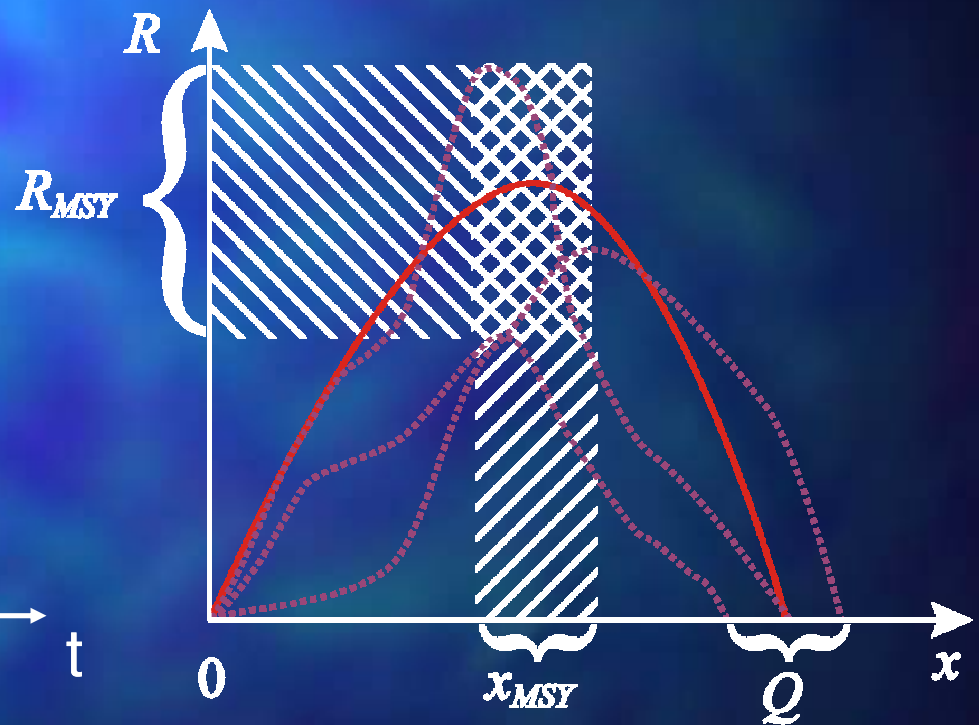
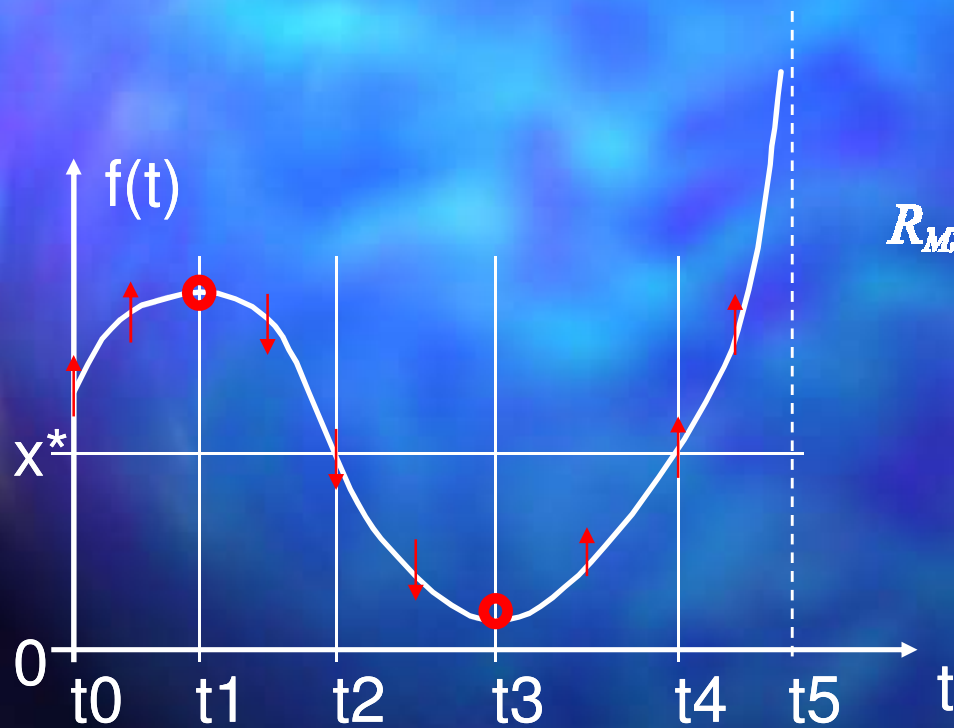
after Kuipers 1994



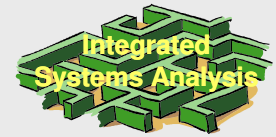


# Example for abstraction of functions

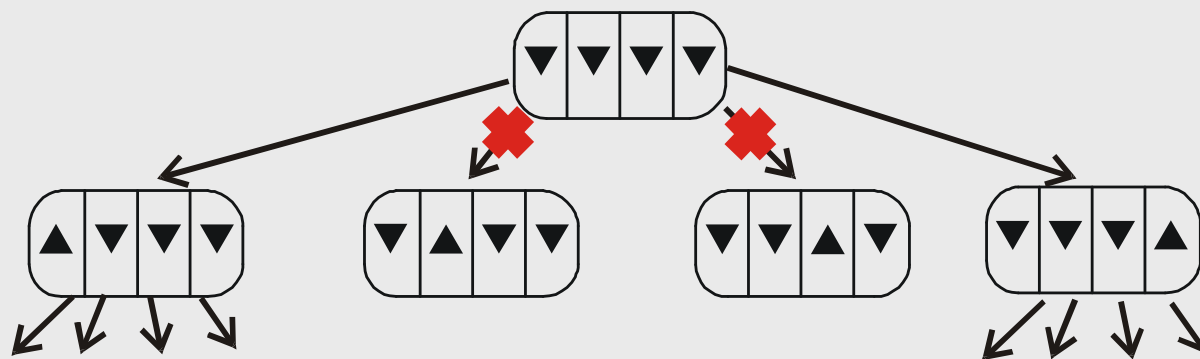
The standard recruitment  
case: Schaefer type



# The Concept of Qualitative Differential Equations (QDEs)



- By the help of QDE you can identify branchings in future developments: there is no single future. According to our restricted knowledge about the mechanisms multiple futures are possible.
- Like in intuitive scenario building we identify what is impossible or at least very improbable instead of trying to identify an unambiguous future development.

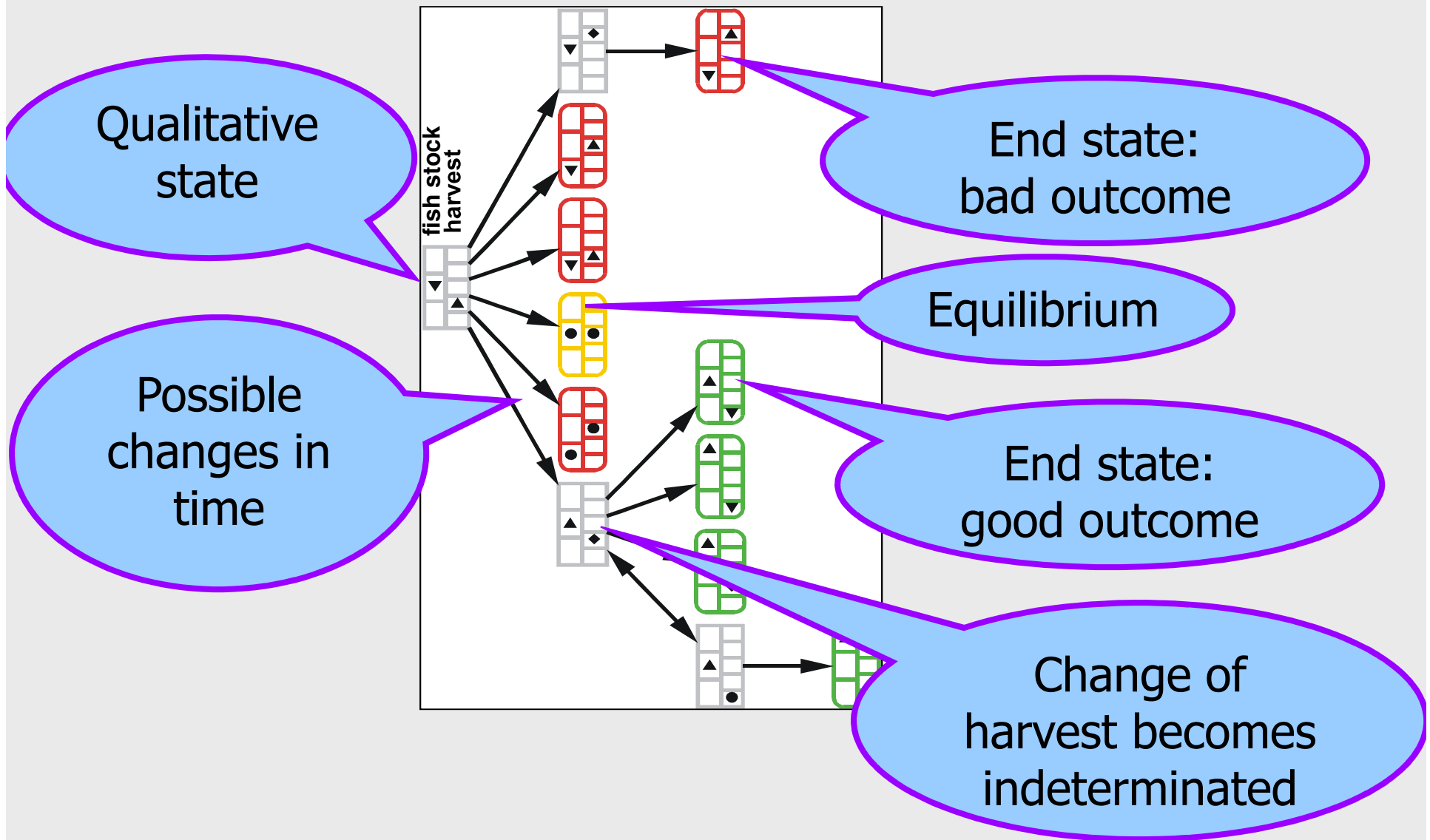


cf. e.g. Eisenack/scheffran/Kropp (2006)  
J. Econ Dyn. Control



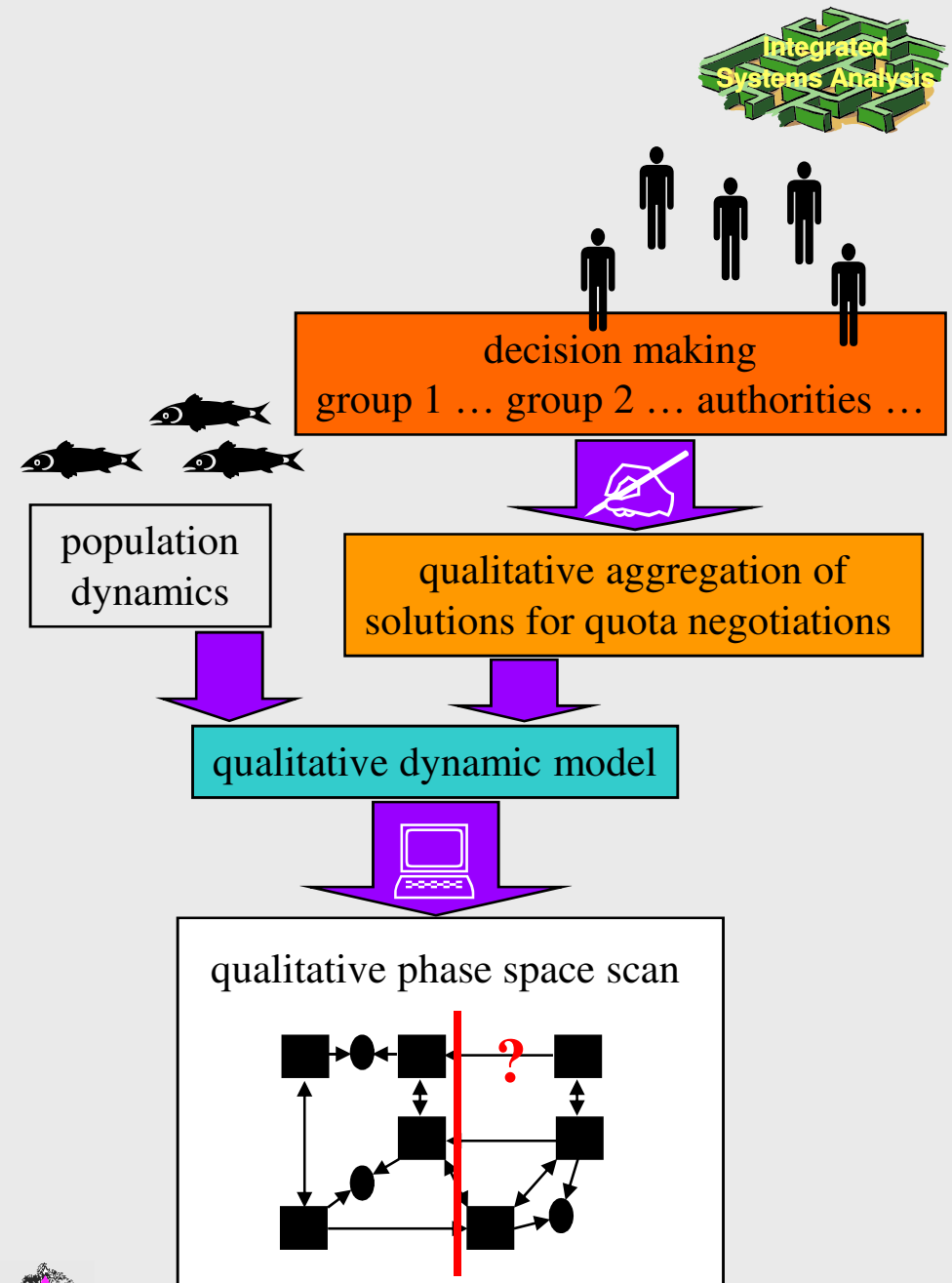


# Qualitative Differential Equations: Output of qualitative models



# Modelling Strategy

- Analytical model of population dynamics
- Analytical game theoretic model of decision making with heterogeneous agents
- Qualitative abstraction
- Simulation by Qualitative Differential Equations (QDEs)
- Identification of viable pathways
- Characterisation of pre-conditions for sustainable management
- Suggestions for effective managements



## „Integrated“ Dynamic Fisheries Model

- Stock dynamics, and recruitment relation  $R(x)$
- Aggregated harvest rate  $h$  which is an outcome of negotiation process
- Capital relation  $C$ , depending on investments and depreciation rate  $\delta$
- Investment function  $I$
- Equality between marginal costs and marginal revenue

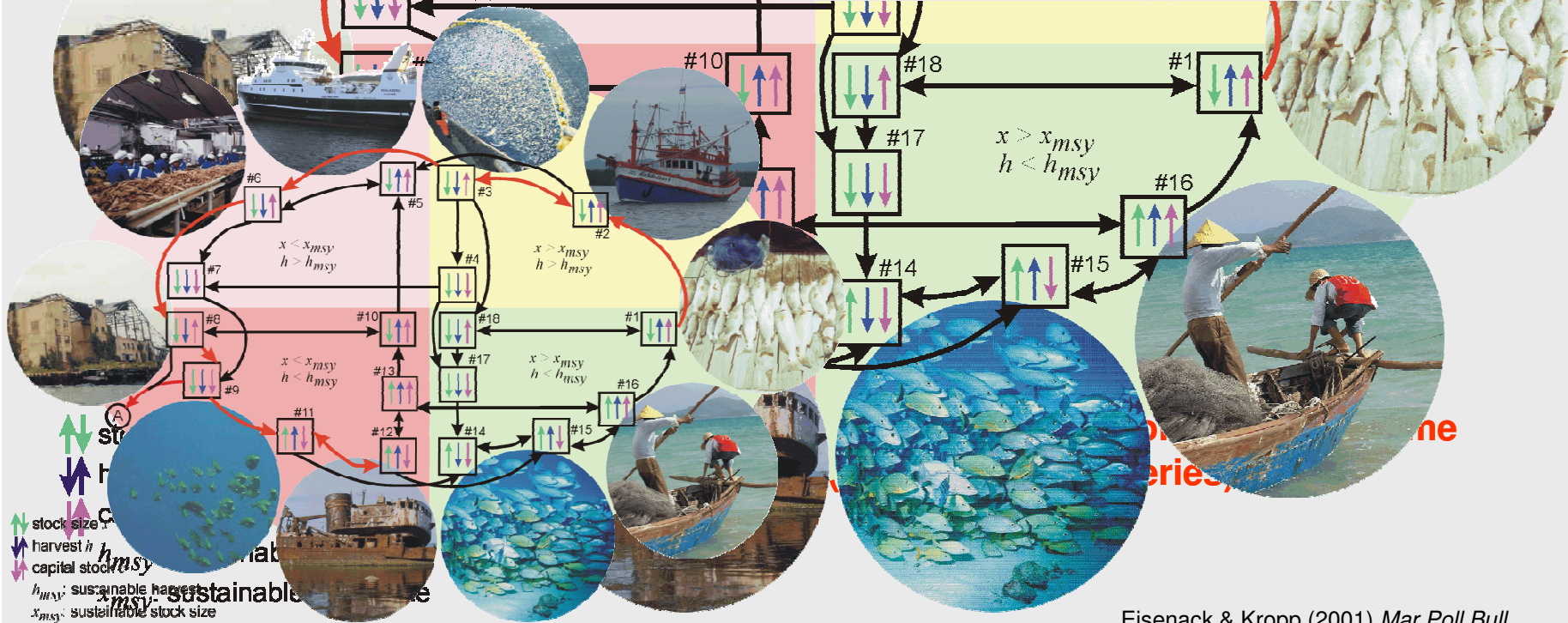
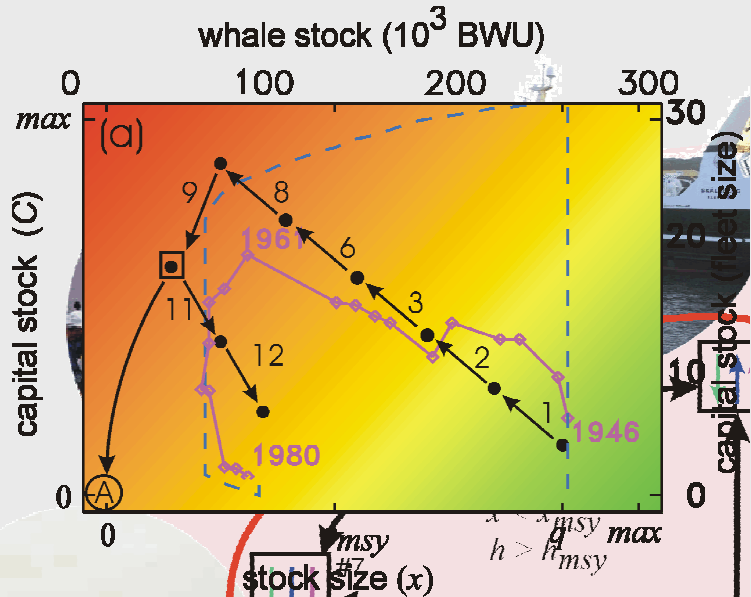
$$\dot{x} = R(x) - Nh$$

$$\dot{C} = I - \delta C$$

$$\dot{I} = \frac{1}{C_{II}(I)} \left( (\eta + \delta) c_I(I) + v_C \right)$$

$$v_h = \left( 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{N} \right) p(Nh)$$

$$h = TAC(x, q_0, q_1, q_2, \dots)$$



Eisenack & Kropp (2001) *Mar.Poll.Bull.*  
 Eisenack/Welsch/Kropp (2006) *J.Econ.Dyn.Control*





# Scenarios: Narratives and Numbers

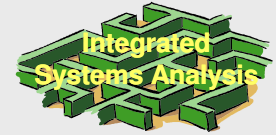
From. „Great Transition“, Raskin et al. 2002, Global Scenario Group, SEI

Scenario	Population	Economy	Environment	Equity	Technology	Conflict
<b>Conventional Worlds</b>						
<i>Market Forces</i>	↗	↗	↘	↘	→	→
<i>Policy Reform</i>	↗	↗	→	→	↗	↘
<b>Barbarization</b>						
<i>Breakdown</i>	↪	↪	↘	↪	↘	↗
<i>Fortress World</i>	↪	↪	↪	↘	→	↗
<b>Great Transitions</b>						
<i>Eco-Communalism</i>	↪	↪	↗	↪	↪	↪
<i>New Sustainability Paradigm</i>	↪	↪	↪	↗	↗	↘

Source: Gallopín et al. (1997)

- **several** possible futures
- characterized by **trend-combinations**
- of generalized variables
- and changes of trend-combinations





# Scenarios: Narratives and Numbers

From. „Great Transition“, Raskin et al. 2002, Global Scenario Group, SEI

## *Fortress World: A Narrative*

By 2002, the market euphoria of the last decade of the twentieth-century seems like a naïve and giddy dream. A global economic recession chastens the irrational exuberance of dot-com investors, and the 9/11 terrorist attack awakens a sleepwalking global elite

deteriorate. Multiple stresses—pollution, climate change, ecosystem degradation—interact and amplify the crisis. Disputes over scarce water resources feed conflict in regions with shared river basins. Environmental degradation, food insecurity and emergent diseases foster a vast health crisis.

institutional frameworks. The affluent live in protected enclaves in rich nations and in strongholds in poor nations—bubbles of privilege amidst oceans of misery. In the police state outside the fortress, the majority is mired in poverty and denied basic freedoms.

- triggering single events
- mechanisms, to make the scenario plausible
- descriptions



Fragen, Kommentare, Diskussionsbeiträge.....

# Impressions from Great Theodul Glacier – Matterhorn/Monte Rosa area, Swiss Alps; Sept., 2006; 3,200 – 4,300 m asl.



**Thank you for your attention! Action is needed more than ever....**