

## 1 A Tribute to Michael R. Raupach for Contributions to Aeolian Fluid Dynamics

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45 Yaping Shao<sup>1</sup>, William Nickling<sup>2</sup>, Gilles Bergametti<sup>3</sup>, Adrian Chappell<sup>4</sup>, Paul Findlater<sup>5</sup>, Jack  
6 Gillies<sup>6</sup>, Masahide Ishizuka<sup>7</sup>, Martina Klose<sup>1</sup>, Jasper Kok<sup>8</sup>, John Leys<sup>9</sup>, Hua Lu<sup>10</sup>, Beatrice  
7 Marticorena<sup>3</sup>, Grant McTainsh<sup>11</sup>, Cheryl McKenna-Neuman<sup>12</sup>, Gregory S. Okin<sup>13</sup>, Craig  
8 Strong<sup>14</sup>, Nicholas Webb<sup>15</sup>9  
10  
1112 <sup>1</sup>Institute for Geophysics and Meteorology, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany;  
13 yshao@uni-koeln.de; mklose@uni-koeln.de14 <sup>2</sup>Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada; nickling@uoguelph.ca15 <sup>3</sup>Laboratoire Interuniversitaire des Systèmes Atmosphériques, Universités Paris Diderot and  
16 Paris Est, France; Gilles.Bergametti@lisa.u-pec.fr; Beatrice.Marticorena@lisa.u-pec.fr17 <sup>4</sup>CSIRO, Division of Soil and Landscape Science, Canberra, Australia;

18 Adrian.Chappell@csiro.au

19 <sup>5</sup>WA Department of Agriculture and Food, Geraldton, Australia;

20 paul.findlater@agric.wa.gov.au

21 <sup>6</sup>Desert Research Institute, USA; Jack.Gillies@dri.edu22 <sup>7</sup>Faculty of Engineering, Kagawa University, Japan; ishizuka@eng.kagawa-u.ac.jp23 <sup>8</sup>Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles,  
24 USA; jfkok@ucla.edu25 <sup>9</sup>NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Gunnedah, Australia;

26 John.Leys@environment.nsw.gov.au

27 <sup>10</sup>British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK; hlu@bas.ac.uk28 <sup>11</sup>Griffith School of Environment, Griffith University, Australia; g.mctainsh@griffith.edu.au29 <sup>12</sup>Department of Geography, Trent University, Ontario, Canada; cmckneuman@trentu.ca30 <sup>13</sup>Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles, USA; okin@ucla.edu31 <sup>14</sup>Australian National University, Canberra, Australia; craig.strong@anu.edu.au32 <sup>15</sup>USDA-ARS Jornada Experimental Range, Las Cruces, USA; nwebb@nmsu.edu

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Aeolian Research

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1 **Abstract:** Since the pioneering work of Bagnold in the 1940s, aeolian research has grown to  
2 become an integral part of earth-system science. Many individuals have contributed to this  
3 development, and Dr. Michael R. Raupach (1950 - 2015) has played a pivotal role. Raupach  
4 worked intensively on wind erosion problems for about a decade (1985 - 1995), during which  
5 time he applied his deep knowledge of turbulence to aeolian research problems and made  
6 profound contributions with far-reaching impact. The beauty of Raupach's work lies in his clear  
7 conceptual thinking and his ability to reduce complex problems to their bare essentials. The  
8 results of his work are fundamentally important and have many practical applications. In this  
9 review we reflect on Raupach's contribution to a number of important aspects of aeolian  
10 research, summarize developments since his inspirational work and place Raupach's efforts in  
11 the context of aeolian science. We also demonstrate how Raupach's work provided a foundation  
12 for new developments in aeolian research. In this tribute, we concentrate on five areas of  
13 research: (1) drag partition theory; (2) saltation roughness length; (3) saltation bombardment;  
14 (4) threshold friction velocity and (5) the carbon cycle.

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## 1 **1. Introduction**

2  
3 Aeolian research is multi-disciplinary, but its core lies arguably in the fluid dynamic  
4 interactions between soil particles, the atmosphere, and the soil surface. Since the early work  
5 of Bagnold (1941), it has advanced to become an integral part of earth-system studies. Aeolian  
6 processes are highly relevant topics in the earth sciences because of the need to: (1) better  
7 quantify the dust cycle for climate projections; (2) assess the anthropogenic impact on natural  
8 and human environments; (3) prevent soil loss from wind erosion in land-conservation practice;  
9 and 4) understand aeolian processes and landform development on other planets in particular,  
10 Mars and Venus, as well as moons such as Titan. Many individuals have contributed to this  
11 development, and Dr. Michael R. Raupach (1950 – 2015) was one of the most outstanding  
12 (Steffen, 2015).

13  
14 For colleagues in aeolian research, and in climate research at large, Michael R. Raupach is Mike,  
15 but he used to abbreviate his name MR<sup>2</sup>, a format that we shall adopt in this paper. This  
16 abbreviation was related to his university training in Applied Mathematics. MR<sup>2</sup> received his  
17 BSc degree, with honors in mathematical physics, from the University of Adelaide in 1971, and  
18 a PhD in micrometeorology (under the supervision of Prof. Peter Schwerdtfeger) from the  
19 Flinders University of South Australia in 1976. After a postdoctoral position at the University  
20 of Edinburgh, he joined the Centre for Environmental Mechanics (CEM, also referred to as the  
21 Pye Lab) of the CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) in  
22 Canberra in 1979, where he worked for much of his 35-year career. From 2000 to 2008, he was  
23 inaugural co-chair of the Global Carbon Project, an international program bridging the research  
24 effort between the natural and human dimensions of the carbon cycle. In February 2014, he  
25 took up the role of Director at the Climate Change Institute of the Australian National  
26 University and remained an Honorary Fellow with the CSIRO. Based on his research foci, his  
27 career can be divided into two stages. In the first he worked on atmospheric boundary-layer  
28 turbulence and atmosphere-land-surface exchanges, including aeolian processes, and in the  
29 second on climate change, in particular the carbon cycle.

30  
31 Raupach's scientific drive originated from his passion for protecting the environment, and his  
32 interest in aeolian processes following from his concerns with land conservation. The period of  
33 1977 – 1988 saw three successive El Niño events, including the intense phase of 1982 – 1983,  
34 which brought record drought to eastern Australia, turning the farmlands in the wheat-sheep  
35 belt into a hot spot of wind erosion. On 8 February 1983, a “cool change” (a dry cold front)  
36 preceded by hot (43.2°C) gusty northerly winds blew large quantities of red-brown dust over  
37 Melbourne. This event inspired MR<sup>2</sup> to write one of his first essays on wind erosion (Raupach  
38 et al., 1994), which was pioneering in its attention to three fundamental goals of dust research:  
39 identification of dust sources; estimating dust loads; and quantifying the nutrient loss of topsoil  
40 by wind erosion. Their estimate of the dust loading ( $2 \pm 1$  Mt) in the 1983 Melbourne dust storm  
41 was one of the earliest attempts to quantify event-based dust loading. This value was based  
42 upon a few back-of-the-envelope calculations; reducing a complex problem to its fundamental  
43 components, for which MR<sup>2</sup> became famous. Raupach's estimate of topsoil nutrient loss was  
44 highly innovative, and 20 years later, wind-erosion related soil nutrient and soil carbon transport  
45 has become one of the most fundamental aspects of studies on the dust cycle.

46

1 In 1985, John Leys, then with the New South Wales Soil Conservation Service, had just started  
 2 his PhD at Griffith University in Brisbane under the supervision of Professor Grant McTainsh,  
 3 and was developing a portable wind tunnel for wind-erosion field experiments. At the time,  
 4 MR<sup>2</sup> was among a group of world-class micro-meteorologists gathered in the Pye Lab,  
 5 conducting wind-tunnel experiments on flow over complex terrains. MR<sup>2</sup> and Leys went on to  
 6 modify the design of Marsh and Carter (1983) and develop Australia's aeolian-research wind  
 7 tunnel (Leys and Raupach, 1990). The excellent fluid dynamic features of this tunnel made it  
 8 a valuable research tool not only for land-conservation studies (McTainsh and Leys, 1993), but  
 9 also for the studies of basic wind-erosion processes (Shao and Raupach, 1992; Shao et al., 1993).  
 10 In 1991, a group of Australian wind-erosion researchers gathered at the Murdoch University in  
 11 Perth and staged the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian workshop on wind erosion (Figure 1). In this workshop,  
 12 William Nickling gave a keynote presentation "Shear Stress: What Drives Wind Erosion  
 13 Processes". Following the meeting, with a cool sea breeze and bright stars in the sky in the port  
 14 of Fremantle, MR<sup>2</sup> treated everyone with beer. In 1993, the group met again in the Mallee  
 15 country town of Mildura and formed the Wind Erosion Research Community of Australia  
 16 (WERCA, a name that MR<sup>2</sup> and Grant McTainsh conceived over drinks at the meeting). Dale  
 17 Gillette gave a philosophical talk on the paradigms of wind erosion. It is unfortunate that MR<sup>2</sup>  
 18 will not be with us for the ninth International Conference on Aeolian Research (ICAR IX) to  
 19 be held in Mildura in 2016. However, the influences of his work will be evident at the  
 20 conference and will provide a legacy for a considerable time.

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 22  
 23 [Insert Figure 1 here]

24  
 25 **Figure 1:** Michael R. Raupach (back, 6<sup>th</sup> left) among the participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Workshop on Wind  
 26 Erosion, 1991, Murdoch University, Perth. Several contributors to this paper were among the participants: Grant  
 27 McTainsh (front, 1<sup>st</sup> left), Paul Findlater (front, 2<sup>nd</sup> left), Yaping Shao (back, 1<sup>st</sup> left), William Nickling (back, 5<sup>th</sup>  
 28 left), John Leys (back, 7<sup>th</sup> left). The workshop convener was William Scott (front, 3<sup>rd</sup> left).

29  
 30 MR<sup>2</sup> worked for about a decade (1985 – 1995) intensively on wind erosion problems, but he  
 31 did so brilliantly by relating aeolian problems to his deep knowledge of turbulence, and made  
 32 profound contributions to the field with far-reaching influences and a lasting legacy. The beauty  
 33 of Raupach's work is crystal clear conceptual thinking, reducing problems to their essentials  
 34 and expressing that essence with elegance yet simplicity. The results of his work are robust and  
 35 practically applicable. In this review we reflect on Raupach's contribution to a number of  
 36 important aeolian research themes, summarize the developments since his inspirational work  
 37 and place Raupach's effort in the context of aeolian science. We also demonstrate how  
 38 Raupach's work provided many foundations or platforms for the development of his work and  
 39 the investigation of new research. For brevity, we will concentrate on Raupach's work in five  
 40 areas: (1) drag partition theory; (2) saltation roughness length; (3) saltation bombardment; (4)  
 41 threshold friction velocity; and (5) carbon cycle.

## 42 43 **2: Drag Partition Theory and Applications to Wind Erosion Studies**

### 44 45 **2.1 The Raupach Drag Partition Theory**

46

1 In the atmospheric surface layer, the profile of the mean wind is approximately logarithmic in  
 2 form and the shear stress,  $\tau$ , also referred to as drag, is vertically approximately constant. Thus,  
 3 the flow in the surface layer is characterized by the aerodynamic roughness length,  $z_0$ , and the  
 4 shear stress that is often expressed in terms of friction velocity,  $u_* = \sqrt{\tau / \rho}$ , with  $\rho$  being air  
 5 density.

6  
 7 At the second International Conference on Aeolian Research (ICAR II) in Denmark (1990),  
 8 MR<sup>2</sup>, Gillette and Leys discussed the difficulties of sand flux modelling in the shrub lands of  
 9 Texas and Australia as opposed to the sandy beaches of Denmark. They soon realized that in  
 10 many wind-erosion applications, the knowledge of  $\tau$  alone is insufficient, as in shrub lands the  
 11 shear stress on the intervening erodible surface, which drives the sand movement, is subject to  
 12 the influences of the shrubs. MR<sup>2</sup> generalized this discussion to the fluid dynamic problem of  
 13 drag partition over rough surfaces, i.e., the partition of the total drag into a pressure drag on  
 14 roughness elements and a friction drag on the surface. Raupach (1992) laid the foundation of  
 15 the drag partition theory and Raupach et al. (1993) demonstrated how this theory can be applied  
 16 to estimating sediment transport threshold over various rough aeolian surfaces. Raupach's work  
 17 led the way to numerous studies that followed, ranging from wind-tunnel and field experiments,  
 18 numerical modelling, remote sensing and theory. We know today that it is desirable in general  
 19 to treat  $\tau$  in wind erosion applications as a stochastic variable and to statistically quantify its  
 20 spatial and temporal variations. As discussed later in this review, the spatial variability of shear  
 21 stress is a critical part of heterogeneous aeolian processes, while its temporal variability is  
 22 important for intermittent saltation and dust emission.

23  
 24 Shear stress variation in nature can be very complicated, and simplifications are necessary for  
 25 theoretical analysis (Lettau, 1969; Arya, 1975). Following Schlichting (1936), Raupach (1992)  
 26 suggested that a rough surface can be considered to be composed of roughness elements (in the  
 27 spirit of Raupach's analysis, it seems appropriate to invent the word "roughons") superposed  
 28 on a smooth substrate surface. The total drag is thus expressed as:

$$30 \quad \tau = \tau_r + \tau_s \quad (1)$$

31  
 32 where  $\tau_r$  is the drag on the roughons, or pressure drag, and  $\tau_s$  the drag on the substrate surface,  
 33 or surface drag. The task of drag partition is to determine the ratios  $\tau_r / \tau$  and  $\tau_s / \tau$ , and to  
 34 estimate how these ratios depend on the roughness characteristics. An immediate question that  
 35 arises is how the surface roughness can be quantified. MR<sup>2</sup> aimed to find an analytical solution  
 36 for the simplest case possible and thus assumed that the surface consists of randomly distributed  
 37 cylinders uniform in size, each having a frontal area of  $a_f$ . It follows that if the number density  
 38 of the roughons is  $n$  (number per unit area), then the frontal area index of the roughons is

$$40 \quad \lambda = n \cdot a_f \quad (2)$$

41  
 42 which is the only input parameter for the Raupach (1992) scheme. This conceptual  
 43 simplification was influenced by the work MR<sup>2</sup> was very familiar with, in particular the wind-  
 44 tunnel experiments of Marshall (1971) and Wooding et al. (1973), all from the Pye Lab.

1 Raupach (1992) introduced the concept of effective shelter area,  $A$ , and volume,  $V$ , associated  
 2 with an individual roughness element (Figure 2), and made two hypotheses:

3  
 4 *Hypothesis I:* for an isolated roughness element of breadth  $b$  and height  $h$  in a deep turbulent  
 5 boundary layer with friction velocity  $u_*$  and mean velocity  $U_h$  at height  $h$  the effective shelter  
 6 area  $A$  and volume  $V$  scale as:

$$7 \quad A \sim bhU_h / u_* \quad (3a)$$

$$8 \quad V \sim bh^2U_h / u_* \quad (3b)$$

10  
 11 *Hypothesis II:* when roughness elements are distributed uniformly or randomly across a surface,  
 12 the combined effective shelter area or volume can be calculated by randomly superposing  
 13 individual shelter areas or volumes.

14  
 15 With these hypotheses, Raupach (1992) found that

$$16 \quad \frac{\tau_s}{\tau} = \frac{1}{1 + \beta\lambda} \quad (4a)$$

$$17 \quad \frac{\tau_r}{\tau} = \frac{\beta}{1 + \beta\lambda} \quad (4b)$$

18  
 19 with  $\beta = C_r / C_s$ , where  $C_s$  is the frictional drag coefficient and  $C_r$  the pressure drag coefficient.  
 20 Eq. (4) is a simple yet robust model supported by the wind-tunnel measurements of Marshall  
 21 (1971) as well as the numerical simulations of Li and Shao (2003).

22  
 23

24 [Insert Figure 2 here]

25

26 **Figure 2:** Raupach's conceptual model for drag partitioning. A rough surface is considered to consist of roughness  
 27 elements and a substrate surface. A roughness element produces an effective sheltering area and volume. The  
 28 integrative effect of the roughness elements can be estimated by random superposition [Redrawn from Raupach  
 29 (1992)].

30

31 The results of Raupach (1992) have two immediate applications, first to estimate threshold  
 32 friction velocity for wind erosion,  $u_{*t}$ , and second to estimate aerodynamic roughness length,  
 33  $z_0$ . Suppose for a surface  $\sigma$  is the ratio of roughness basal area to frontal area, then the exposed  
 34 fraction of the surface subject to wind erosion is  $(1 - \sigma\lambda)$ , and the shear stress on the exposed  
 35 surface is:

36

$$37 \quad \frac{\tau'_s}{\tau} = \frac{1}{(1 - \sigma\lambda)} \frac{1}{(1 + \beta\lambda)} \quad (5)$$

38

39 Here,  $\tau'_s$  is the spatially averaged stress on the exposed surface. If we assume the largest stress  
 40 acting on the surface is  $\tau''_s$  and  $\tau''_s(\lambda)$  equals  $\tau'_s(\lambda_0)$  with  $\lambda_0 = m\lambda$  and  $m < 1$ , then we have:

41

$$42 \quad R_t^2 \equiv \frac{\tau''_s}{\tau} = \frac{1}{(1 - m\sigma\lambda)} \frac{1}{(1 + m\beta\lambda)} \quad (6)$$

43

1  $R_t$  is the ratio of  $u_{*ts} / u_{*tr}$ , with  $u_{*ts}$  being the threshold friction velocity for the surface free of  
 2 roughtons and  $u_{*tr}$  for the rough surface. It follows that:

3

$$4 \quad u_{*tr} = u_{*ts} \sqrt{(1 - m\sigma\lambda)(1 + m\beta\lambda)} \quad (7)$$

5

6 Equation (7) provides a simple way for the correction of  $u_{*t}$  for rough surfaces, and its validity  
 7 is confirmed through comparison with the existing data of Gillette and Stockton (1989), Musick  
 8 and Gillette (1990), Lyles and Allison (1976), Iversen et al. (1991), Crawley and Nickling  
 9 (2003), Li and Shao (2003), and Sutton and McKenna-Neuman (2008).

10

11 Raupach (1992) and Raupach et al. (1993) provided for the first time a strong theoretical  
 12 underpinning for explaining the impacts of roughness elements on aeolian thresholds and fluxes  
 13 and a deep insight into the aeolian fluid dynamics. The method used in Raupach (1992) is  
 14 unique in that by introducing the sheltering area and volume,  $MR^2$  took a ‘‘quantum fluid’’  
 15 approach, in that he discretely quantified the effect of an individual roughness element and then  
 16 estimated the total effect of all roughness elements through random superposition. For this  
 17 reason, it is appropriate to call roughness elements roughtons.

18

## 19 **2.2 Wind-tunnel and Field Experiments on Drag Partition**

20

21 To test the theory of Raupach (1992) and Raupach et al. (1993), William Nickling and Jack  
 22 Gillies thought it critical to: (1) bridge theory to field measurements at the full scale; (2)  
 23 examine how  $R_t$  behaves if roughness elements are real plants; and (3) investigate the impact  
 24 of roughness elements on saltation transport, in addition to mean  $u_{*t}$ . They carried out field and  
 25 wind-tunnel studies to evaluate  $C_r$  as a function of the Reynolds number,  $Re$ , for different plants  
 26 (Gillies et al., 2000; 2002). At the USDA Jornada Experimental Range (Gillies et al., 2006;  
 27 2007), they placed staggered arrays of large cylindrical roughness elements on a bare open  
 28 surface and instruments between them to measure the total drag, surface drag, pressure drag  
 29 and sand fluxes. It was found that  $C_r$  for plants is both plant-form and  $Re$  dependent. This implies  
 30 that drag partition for surfaces with plants is not necessarily fixed, but changes as the plants  
 31 reconfigure themselves in response to wind. The more flexible the plant, the greater the  
 32 proportion of shear stress acting on the substrate surface, and  $C_r$  declines with  $Re$ . This finding  
 33 implies that steppe landscapes (Shinoda et al., 2011), which are typically composed of grass-  
 34 type species, are likely more erodible than the shrub-dominated landscapes of the southwestern  
 35 US deserts (Gillette and Pitchford, 2004; Gillette et al., 2006; King et al., 2005). It was also  
 36 found that while sand flux scales with  $\lambda$ , it is also dependent on the height of the roughtons. For  
 37 the same  $\lambda$ , elements with  $h \geq 0.3$  m are more effective in reducing sand flux than shorter  
 38 elements, e.g.,  $h \leq 0.1$  m (Gillies et al., 2006; Gillies and Lancaster, 2013; Gillies et al., 2015).  
 39 These experiments show that the Raupach et al. (1993) model performs well in general, but  
 40 additional considerations should be given to roughness configuration to fully account for the  
 41 observed saltation flux variations over rough surfaces. While Eq. (7) has three parameters,  $m$ ,  
 42  $\sigma$  and  $\beta$ , it appears sufficient to choose appropriate  $\beta$  values (between 100 and 400) to fully  
 43 describe the observed  $R_t$  for a wide range of surfaces, but to keep  $m$  and  $\sigma$  constant [e.g. 0.5 and  
 44 1, respectively, as set Raupach et al. (1993)], as Figure 3 shows.

45

46 [Insert Figure 3 here]

47 **Figure 3:** A compilation of  $R_t$  versus  $\lambda$  data from wind-tunnel and field experiments (symbols). RGL93\_1,  
 48 RGL93\_2 and RGL93\_3 are the estimates using the Raupach et al. (1993) scheme with  $m = 0.5$ ,  $\sigma = 1$ , and  $\beta =$   
 49 100, 200 and 400, respectively.

1  
 2 The simplicity of Eq. (7) is a strength for its application, in that it requires only a few measurable  
 3 parameters (Wolfe and Nickling, 1996; Lancaster and Baas, 1998; King et al., 2006). This  
 4 approach is widely used today in wind erosion models. In some studies e.g., Marticorena and  
 5 Bergametti (1995), the drag partition scheme of Arya (1975) based on roughness length is used.  
 6 However, because roughness length is closely related to roughness configuration (e.g., frontal  
 7 area index,  $\lambda$ ), the schemes of Arya (1975) and Raupach (1992) and Raupach et al. (1993) are  
 8 in essence equivalent (see also, Raupach, 1994).

### 10 2.3 Extension of Drag Partition Theory

11  
 12 Real aeolian surfaces are much more complex than is assumed in Raupach (1992) and Raupach  
 13 et al. (1993). For practical applications, the Raupach (1992) theory requires several extensions:  
 14 (1) the validity of Eq. (4) is limited to about  $\lambda \leq 0.1$ , but natural surfaces often have much larger  
 15 roughness densities; (2) for surfaces with larger  $\lambda$ , it is not clear how shelter areas and volumes  
 16 can be evaluated and how they superpose due to the interactions among the turbulent wakes  
 17 associated with the roughness elements; (3) there are large uncertainties in the parameters  $\beta$  and  
 18  $m$ , as both are dependent on the roughness-element properties (e.g., porosity and elasticity) and  
 19 configuration (arrangement and aspect ratio).

20  
 21 It is possible to derive the results of Raupach (1992) with simpler assumptions. For instance, it  
 22 is sufficient to assume linear superposition of shelter areas and volumes instead of random  
 23 superposition as applied in Raupach (1992) (Shao and Yang, 2008). More generally, we can  
 24 write

$$26 \quad \tau_s = \rho f_s C_s U_h^2 \quad (8a)$$

$$27 \quad \tau_r = \rho f_r C_r \lambda U_h^2 \quad (8b)$$

28  
 29 where  $f_r$  and  $f_s$  are modification functions of the respective drag coefficients arising from the  
 30 interacting flows shed by roughness elements. Equation (8) leads to Eq. (4), subject only to  $f_s = f_r$ , which  
 31 is  $\exp(-c\lambda U_h / u_*)$  in Raupach (1992).

32  
 33 Equation (1) is appropriate for small roughness density, but as  $\lambda$  increases, the total drag on the  
 34 rough surface,  $\tau$ , is better written as:

$$36 \quad \tau = \tau_r + \tau_s + \tau_c \quad (9)$$

37  
 38 where  $\tau_c$  is the friction drag on the surfaces of roughness elements. As  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ , we expect  
 39  $\tau_r / \tau \rightarrow 0$  but Eq. (4) states that  $\tau_r / \tau \rightarrow 1$  due to the neglect of  $\tau_c$ . In general, the total drag can  
 40 be partitioned into three components following Eq. (9) and the individual terms expressed as:

$$42 \quad \tau_r = \rho f_r C_r \lambda U_h^2 (1 - \eta) \quad (10a)$$

$$43 \quad \tau_s = \rho f_s C_s U_h^2 (1 - \eta) \quad (10b)$$

$$44 \quad \tau_c = \rho C_c U_h^2 \eta \quad (10c)$$

45  
 46 where  $\eta$  is fraction of cover and  $f_r$  and  $f_s$  are functions of  $\lambda$  and  $\eta$  represent the modifications to  
 47  $C_r$  and  $C_s$  arising from the interactions of the turbulent wakes of roughness elements. With this



1 formulation, the drag partition problem is now reduced to determine  $f_r$  and  $f_s$ . It is also found  
 2 in Shao and Yang (2008) that

$$3 \frac{u_*^2}{U_h^2} = f_r \lambda (1 - \eta) C_r + [f_s (1 - \eta) + \eta] C_s \quad (11)$$

5 that shows that  $u_*^2/U_h^2$  is a weighted average of the pressure and surface drag coefficients. In  
 6 neutral atmospheric boundary layers, we have  $U_h = \frac{u_*}{\kappa} \ln\left(\frac{h-d}{z_0}\right)$  and Eq. (11) can be written  
 7 as:  
 8

$$9 \kappa^2 \ln^{-2}\left(\frac{h-d}{z_0}\right) = f_r \lambda (1 - \eta) C_r + [f_s (1 - \eta) + \eta] C_s \quad (12)$$

11 Equation (12) shows that the roughness length,  $z_0$ , can be determined in terms of drag  
 12 coefficients for a given zero-displacement height,  $d$ . Thus, in a drag partition theory, we actually  
 13 make two inter-related statements. The first is about the behavior of drag partition functions;  
 14 and the second about the behavior of  $u_*/U_h$  or equivalently a statement on the drag coefficients  
 15 or on the roughness length,  $z_0$ . The above formulation of Shao and Yang (2008) as an extension  
 16 of Raupach (1992) reduces the drag partition problem to the determination of the drag  
 17 coefficients modification functions. The Shao and Yang scheme requires both frontal area index  
 18 and fraction of cover as input parameters.  
 19

20 Another extension of Raupach (1992) was made by Okin (2008). The Okin scheme builds on  
 21 the basic insight that  $\tau_s$  in the lee of a roughness increases with distance downwind. While  
 22 Raupach (1992) expressed the wake effect by means of shelter area and volume, the Okin  
 23 scheme takes a probabilistic approach that envisions the surface to be made up of points that  
 24 are some distance downwind of a roughness. The shear stress experienced at each point is an  
 25 increasing function of this distance, scaled by the height of the roughness, multiplied by  $\tau$ . With  
 26 this approach, the frontal area index is no longer the best variable for characterizing vegetation  
 27 cover, but is replaced by the separation distance between the roughnesses. In Okin (2008), the  
 28 shear stress on the soil surface is variable across the landscape, as originally envisioned in  
 29 Raupach (1992). This approach allows some areas of the surface to experience transport while  
 30 the more protected areas do not. This approach differs from that of Raupach et al. (1993) in  
 31 which the threshold shear stress is seen to be a property of the bulk surface. As a result, the  
 32 Okin scheme is able to predict transport even at relatively high vegetation cover, in accordance  
 33 with field observations. Several studies published since have supported this approach (Webb et  
 34 al., 2014; Walter et al., 2012a; 2012b; Li et al., 2013).  
 35

## 36 2.4 Saltation Heterogeneity

38 At ICAR-V (Lubbock, USA, 2002), MR<sup>2</sup> incisively exposed the challenges of large scale  
 39 aeolian modelling. Raupach and Lu (2004) subsequently published a review of land surface  
 40 processes on aeolian transport modelling during the previous two decades and identified four  
 41 challenges: (1) the fidelity of process representation; (2) upscaling point-scale process models  
 42 in the presence of unresolved heterogeneity in space and time; (3) availability of spatial data  
 43 for specifying model inputs and boundary conditions; and (4) large-scale parameter estimation.  
 44

1 To date, these challenges remain largely unresolved but the explicit and clear articulations in  
 2 Raupach and Lu (2004) provide essential guidance for what needs to be done.

3  
 4 Raupach and Lu (2004) suggested that improvements should be made in point-scale  
 5 parameterisations including “...the effects of crusts and surface cohesion leading to supply-  
 6 limited saltation and dust uplift, deposition to sparse vegetation...”. There have been some  
 7 developments in this area in particular with investigations of soil moisture (e.g., Wiggs et al.,  
 8 2004), the use of laser scanning technology to describe small-scale roughness dynamics (e.g.,  
 9 Nield et al., 2013), angular reflectance measurement and bi-directional reflectance modelling  
 10 to characterize changes in soil condition in space and time (Chappell et al., 2005; 2006; 2007)  
 11 and retrieval of roughness changes in space and time using satellite remote sensing (Wu et al.,  
 12 2009).

13  
 14 Raupach and Lu (2004) characterised point-scale transport models as,  $f = f(v)$ , where  $f$  is a flux  
 15 and  $v$  is a vector of control variables. Part of the challenge with aeolian transport models is that  
 16 they require flux and driving variables averaged in space and time. Raupach and Lu (2004) first  
 17 defined

$$18 \quad \bar{f}(\bar{v}) = \int f(v)p(v)dv \quad (13)$$

19  
 20  
 21 where  $p(v)$  is the probability density function (PDF) of  $v$ . If  $f(v)$  is linear, then  $\bar{f}(\bar{v})$  has the  
 22 same form as  $f(v)$ . Raupach and Lu (2004) considered the cases when  $f(v)$  is highly nonlinear  
 23 (e.g., involving threshold responses), which originates from the interaction between the  
 24 nonlinearity in  $f(v)$  and statistical variability in  $v$  that causes the upscaling problem to be  
 25 mathematically nontrivial and dependent on sub-grid-scale variability through the PDF  $p(v)$ .  
 26 Raupach and Lu (2004) used an example of heterogeneous vegetation to show profoundly that  
 27 “...major errors arise from upscaling procedures, which neglect the interaction between model  
 28 nonlinearity and statistical variability in driving variables”. They also demonstrated that even a  
 29 first approximation to the sub-grid-scale variability can lead to substantial improvement in flux  
 30 estimates.

31  
 32 The effect of surface heterogeneity, i.e., the deliberately neglected “level of details” in Raupach  
 33 et al. (1993) has been subject to intensive studies in more recent years, as it has been identified  
 34 as a significant source of uncertainty in its application. Yang and Shao (2005) demonstrated  
 35 that in case of very small roughness density, the shear stress variability due to the presence of  
 36 roughness actually enhances rather than suppresses wind erosion. Raupach and Lu (2004)  
 37 recognised that while no sediment transport is predicted at large  $\lambda$ , this may happen in reality  
 38 depending on roughness configuration (Okin, 2008), and that accounting for the PDF of  $\lambda$  can  
 39 improve the model estimates, although this can be practically difficult (Walter et al., 2012;  
 40 Dupont et al., 2013; 2014).

41  
 42 Brown et al. (2008) conducted wind-tunnel experiments to determine the PDF of  $\tau_s$  and  $R_t$  for  
 43 a range of  $\lambda$ , roughness configurations, and free-stream wind velocities,  $U_h$ . The authors  
 44 demonstrated that the Raupach et al. (1993) scheme captures the general behaviour of  $R_t$ , but to  
 45 accurately reproduce  $R_t$ , both  $\beta$  and  $m$  must be tuned for each case. Furthermore, the Raupach  
 46 et al. (1993) scheme does not accurately reproduce  $R_t$  unless  $\beta$  is made variable to suit the  
 47 roughness configurations (Walter et al., 2012a). This variability is illustrated as the scatter seen  
 48 in Figure 3.

49

1 Webb et al. (2014) explored the effect of roughness configuration on sediment flux,  $Q$ , by  
 2 comparing  $Q$  predicted using the Raupach et al. (1993) scheme using the  $\tau_s$  PDFs derived by  
 3 Brown et al. (2008). Webb et al. (2014) found that roughness configuration can have a  
 4 significant effect on aeolian sediment transport. Surface heterogeneity moderates how much  
 5  $u^*$  is in excess of  $u^*_{t}$  (Figure 4) and therefore both where erosion occurs within a landscape and  
 6 the magnitude of the total flux from an eroding area. Sediment flux may vary by an order of  
 7 magnitude for surfaces with the same  $\lambda$  but different roughness configurations (Figure 5). For  
 8 very small  $\lambda$ ,  $Q$  is found to increase with  $\lambda$ , as predicted by Yang and Shao (2005).  $R_t$  is found  
 9 to be sensitive to roughness configuration, and this sensitivity needs to be accounted for in  
 10 practical applications. The challenges identified by Webb et al. (2014) for implementing the  
 11 Raupach et al. (1993) scheme for heterogeneous surfaces draw attention to alternative  
 12 approaches to conceptualising the drag partition that explicitly represent the effect of  
 13 heterogeneous roughness distributions on wind erosion.

14  
 15 [Insert Figure 4 here]

16  
 17 **Figure 4:** Histograms illustrating the effect of the ‘random’ and ‘street’ roughness configurations on wind shear  
 18 velocity ( $u^*$ ) calculated from measured surface shear stress ( $\tau_s$ ) distributions at a roughness density  $\lambda = 0.1$  and four  
 19 free stream wind velocities ( $U_f$ ). Inset graphs show the proportion of  $\tau_s$  greater than a threshold shear velocity  $u^*_{t}$   
 20  $= 0.25 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  for the random (Ra) and street (Str) configurations. These proportions are indicative of the relative  
 21 sediment fluxes produced for the two roughness configurations.

22  
 23 [Insert Figure 5 here]

24  
 25 **Figure 5:** Graphs showing roughness configuration effects on horizontal sediment mass flux,  $Q$ , expressed as the  
 26 ratio of  $Q$  for the ‘clumped’, ‘random’ and ‘street’ configurations relative to  $Q$  for the ‘staggered’ configurations  
 27 at a range of  $\lambda$  and free-stream wind velocities,  $U_f$ .

### 28 29 **3: Random Momentum Sinks: from Vegetation to Saltation**

#### 30 31 **3.1 Owen Effect**

32  
 33 During saltation, sand grains interact with the airflow and transfer momentum to the surface.  
 34 The particle momentum flux leads to an increase in roughness length of the aeolian surface  
 35 similar to the roughness increase induced by waves on the ocean surface (Charnock, 1955) or  
 36 by the waving canopy of a vegetated surface. This is known as the Owen effect in the aeolian  
 37 community.

38  
 39 Although the Owen effect was known (Bagnold, 1941), its explanation lacked a solid theoretical  
 40 underpinning until the work of Raupach (1991). Having worked years on flow over complex  
 41 terrains, MR<sup>2</sup> was naturally very familiar with the studies on vegetation as a momentum sink  
 42 and immediately recognized that saltating particles behave like stochastic mobile momentum  
 43 sinks in the saltation layer. For the flow in the saltation layer, saltation reduces the vertical  
 44 gradient of the flow velocity, and for the flow outside the saltation layer, it increases the  
 45 capacity of the surface in absorbing momentum thereby increasing  $z_0$ .

46  
 47 By using earlier available observations, Owen (1964) found that the saltation roughness length,  
 48  $z_{0s}$ , can be expressed as:

49  
 50 
$$z_{0s} = A \frac{u_*^2}{2g} \quad (14)$$

1  
2 with  $A$  being approximately 0.02, which is identical to the Charnock (1955) roughness length  
3 scheme for ‘wavy’ surfaces. Equation (14) is empirical and has two limitations: (a)  $z_{0s}$  does not  
4 naturally recover  $z_0$  in the case of no saltation; and (b) the observations of Rasmussen et al.  
5 (1985) and Gillette et al. (1998) have shown that  $z_{0s}$  in the natural environment is much larger  
6 than the equation predicts. Raupach (1991) developed an analytical expression for  $z_{0s}$  by  
7 analyzing four inter-related quantities, namely, the mean wind speed, particle-borne momentum  
8 flux, air-borne momentum flux and saltation roughness length. Again, to simplify the analysis  
9 MR<sup>2</sup> made several assumptions in Raupach (1991):

- 10
- 11 • The total momentum flux is constant in the saltation layer and is composed of a particle-  
12 borne momentum flux,  $\tau_p$ , and an air-borne momentum flux,  $\tau_a$ , i.e.,  $\tau = \tau_a(z) + \tau_p(z)$
  - 13 •  $\tau_p$  decreases while  $\tau_a$  increases monotonically with height, and it is required that  
14  $\tau_p(z) \rightarrow 0$  for  $z \rightarrow \infty$   
 $\tau_a(z) \rightarrow \rho u_*^2$  for  $z \rightarrow \infty$
  - 15 • The characteristic height of  $\tau_p$  profile,  $H_s$ , is on the order of the particle-jump height,  
16 such that  
17 
$$H_s = b_r \frac{u_*^2}{2g}$$
  
18 with  $b_r$  being a coefficient
  - 19 • Owen's self-limiting hypothesis for equilibrium saltation applies, i.e.,  $\tau_a(0) \rightarrow \rho u_{*t}^2$

20  
21 One functional form for  $\tau_a(z)$ , which satisfies these constraints is:

22

$$23 \left( \frac{\tau_a}{\rho u_*^2} \right)^{1/2} = 1 - (1-r) \exp\left( -\frac{z}{H_s} \right) \quad (15)$$

24  
25 with:

26

$$27 r = \begin{cases} u_{*t}/u_* & u_* \geq u_{*t} & \text{saltation case} \\ 1 & u_* < u_{*t} & \text{no saltation case} \end{cases}$$

28  
29 The wind profile in the saltation layer should obey:

30 
$$\frac{\tau_a}{\rho} = K_m \frac{dU_h}{dz} \quad (16)$$

31 with the eddy diffusivity,  $K_m$ , defined as:

32 
$$K_m = \kappa z \sqrt{\frac{\tau_a}{\rho}}$$

33 Further manipulation gives the wind profile within and above the saltation layer. From the wind  
34 profile above the saltation layer, MR<sup>2</sup> obtained the Raupach (1991) scheme for saltation  
35 roughness length:

36  
37 
$$z_{0s} = \left( A \frac{u_*^2}{2g} \right)^{(1-r)} z_0^r \quad (17)$$

1  
2 Raupach (1991) suggested that a likely value for  $A$ , based on theoretical considerations, is  
3 0.22.

4  
5 Equation (17) shows that  $z_{0s}$  is a weighted geometric mean of  $z_0$ , the roughness length of the  
6 underlying surface and  $Au_*^2/2g$ . The latter is proportional to the characteristic height of the  
7 saltation layer,  $H_s$ . In Eq. (17),  $z_{0s}$  has two limiting values: when 1) there is no saltation,  $r = 1$   
8 and  $z_{0s} = z_0$ , and when 2) there is strong saltation,  $r \rightarrow 0$  and  $z_{0s} = A H_s$ .

9  
10 At the time when Raupach (1991) was published, little observational data were available to test  
11 the scheme. The experiments by Gillette et al. (1997; 1998) at Owens Lake, California provided  
12 one of the first tests of the Raupach (1991) scheme. A comparison of the observed and modelled  
13  $z_{0s}$  is given in Figure 6, which shows that the measurements of  $z_{0s}$  can be well-described by Eq.  
14 (17) using  $A = 0.38$ , a value remarkably close to the predicted value of 0.22. This example is  
15 illustrative of many of Raupach's contributions that are built and sustained by a solid theoretical  
16 basis but easy to use for the interpretation of observations or the parameterization.

17  
18 [Insert Figure 6 here]

19  
20 **Figure 6:** Modelled saltation roughness length  $z_{0s}$  using Eq. (17) versus field measurements of Gillette et al. (1998).

21  
22 Equation (15) is the key assumption of the Raupach (1991) model. This assumption is not  
23 concerned with how particles move in the saltation layer and has neglected the possible  
24 dependence of  $\tau_p$  on the size of saltation particles. The fact that  $A$  is a function of saltation  
25 particle size is the likely reason Raupach's first approximation of 0.22 was less than the  $A$  value  
26 of 0.38 observed by Gillette et al. (1998).

27  
28 In fact, an infinite number of profiles of  $\tau_a$  satisfy the requirements proposed by MR<sup>2</sup>, but we  
29 do not really know how  $\tau_a$  changes with height in the saltation layer, in that there are very few  
30 available direct measurements of  $\tau_a$ . The measurements of Li and McKenna Neumann (2012)  
31 show that shear stress profile in the saltation layer is strongly convex decreasing as the surface  
32 of the mobile bed is approached. Another unsolved issue is that Raupach (1991) did not account  
33 for the effect of turbulence on saltation trajectories. We can, for example, speculate that  
34 increased turbulence should increase the randomness of particle trajectories, and thereby  
35 intensify the Owen effect and increase the saltation roughness length. Raupach (1991) may have  
36 assumed that the randomness of saltation only causes a secondary effect in particle momentum  
37 transfer but this assumption needs testing.

38  
39 It is not difficult to see that the issues dealt with in Raupach (1991, 1992) and Raupach et al.  
40 (1993) are related. In essence, due to the pressure drag on surface roughness elements,  
41 roughness length becomes a function of roughness configuration (in the simplest case, frontal  
42 area index,  $\lambda$ ). In the case of vegetation, roughness elements are plants, and in the case of  
43 saltation, roughness elements are randomly moving particles.

### 44 45 **3.2 Roughness length, issue of scale, and the albedo analogy**

46  
47 As an extension of Raupach (1992), Raupach (1994) proposed a scheme for computing  
48 roughness length for climate models. With the simplification of Raupach (1992), Eq. (12)  
49 becomes:

50

$$\kappa^2 \ln^{-2} \left( \frac{z-d}{z_0} \right) = (1 + \beta\lambda) C_s \exp \left( -c \frac{\lambda U_h}{u_*} \right) \quad (18)$$

Equation (18) is the starting point of the Raupach (1994) scheme, which gained great popularity in the remote sensing community (Schmidt and Dickinson, 2000; Nakai et al., 2008; Tian et al., 2011). Raupach's work inspired Adrian Chappell to make the analogy between aerodynamic sheltering and shadow to retrieve aerodynamic properties over areas to provide a measure that scales linearly from the ground to remote sensing platforms (airborne or satellite) thereby tackling the four challenges of Raupach and Lu (2004) described in Section 2.4.

As discussed in Section 2, the momentum extracted by roughness is controlled primarily by  $\lambda$ , i.e., a projection of roughness density in the direction of wind. When the projection is represented as a zenith angle  $\alpha$ ,  $\tan(\alpha)$  can be seen as a multiplication factor which when restricted to  $45^\circ$  has a value of 1 and results in the projection of the entire frontal area of the roughness element  $\lambda_p = \lambda \tan(\alpha)$ . To simplify the problem, Raupach (1992) introduced the ideas of sheltering area and sheltering volume that vary with  $u^*/U_h$  as shown in Fig. 2 and Equation (3).

However, it is unlikely that the two dimensional measure  $\lambda$  can adequately characterize the three dimensional nature of aerodynamic roughness (Figure 7). If geometry projected to the surface is made a function of  $\lambda_p$  with  $\alpha = \tan^{-1}(u^*/U_h)$  it should represent the shear stress ( $u^*/U_h$ ) and the aerodynamic roughness length ( $z_0/h$ ). Consequently, Raupach's effective shelter area is changed from a wedge. The new plan-form projection of shadow therefore assumes that  $u^*/U_h$  and  $z_0/h$  of wind from a particular direction is dependent on the zenith and azimuth illumination angles. This single scattering albedo was estimated to avoid any dependency on illumination and viewing conditions and to approximate the data available from remote sensing.

[Insert Figure 7 here]

**Figure 7:** Roughness protect a portion of the substrate surface (a) that may include all or part of other roughness elements in a heterogeneous surface and following  $MR^2$  may be considered dependent on  $u^*/U_h$ . A change in wind direction (b) redefines the sheltering effect demonstrating the anisotropic nature of the sheltering.

Chappell et al. (2010) then showed that the single scattering albedo is related to the  $z_0/h$  from wind velocity profiles of a range of surface roughness conditions in a wind tunnel (Dong et al., 2002). The albedo of the wind tunnel surface roughness was obtained retrospectively by reconstructing a digital elevation model (DEM) of the surface and then ray-casting.

Recent work, with several of the contributors to this paper, has further developed this approach using Marshall's (1971) seminal data. It is now evident that there is a relationship between albedo and many of the essential aerodynamic properties for wind erosion and dust emission modelling (e.g.,  $u^*/U_h$ ). Thus, it appears that this reduced complexity approach inspired by  $MR^2$ , enables consistent, repeatable and scalable areal estimates of aerodynamic properties. For example, the global MODIS MCD43A3 albedo product can be used to provide estimates of aerodynamic properties every 500 m and every 8 days between 2000 and present. Figure 8 shows  $u^*/U_h$  and lateral cover ( $L$ ) for Australia on January 1, 2013.

[Insert Figure 8 here]

1 **Figure 8:** Examples of aerodynamic properties (a)  $u^*/U_h$  and (b) lateral cover estimated from the MODIS  
 2 MCD43A3 albedo product (500 m resolution) for Australia 1 Jan 2013.

3 There appears to be considerable potential for this approach to provide consistent and repeatable  
 4 estimates of aerodynamic properties and aeolian transport potential. This potential stems from  
 5 the analogy that albedo and shadow mimic the sheltering effect of roughness and albedo can be  
 6 retrieved from ground-based (proximal) or remote sensing for large areas, making it a valuable  
 7 proxy to aerodynamic roughness length. This analogy is probably well justified if roughness  
 8 elements are sufficiently small compared to boundary-layer depth to exert significant influence  
 9 on the flow structure, as assumed in Raupach (1992). However, because momentum transfer  
 10 (governed by the Navier-Stokes equation) and radiation transfer (governed by the radiation  
 11 transfer equation) have fundamentally different dynamic behavior (in particular non-linear  
 12 interactions), it remains to be demonstrated whether such an analogy exists on a wider spectrum  
 13 of scales. Nevertheless, it is a prime example of Raupach's inspiration to strive for a practical  
 14 compromise between parsimony and fidelity in the representation of wind erosion and dust  
 15 emission modelling of Raupach and Lu (2004) described above in Section 2.4.

16

#### 17 **4: Dust Emission and Saltation Bombardment**

18

19 It is already evident in Gillette (1981) that the mechanisms for the entrainment of sand and dust  
 20 particles differ, because the relative importance of the forces acting on them changes with  
 21 particle size. The lift-off of sand particles is determined primarily by the balance between the  
 22 aerodynamic and gravity forces. For smaller particles, the dominance of the gravity force  
 23 diminishes and the inter-particle cohesion becomes important. It is now known that the gravity  
 24 force is proportional to  $d^3$ , the aerodynamic force is proportional to  $d^2$ , and although large  
 25 uncertainties exist in the estimates of cohesive forces, the total cohesive force is proportional  
 26 to  $d$ . For particles with  $d < 20 \mu\text{m}$ , the cohesive force begins to dominate and hence particles  
 27 cannot be easily lifted from the surface by aerodynamic forces. Dust particles under natural  
 28 conditions exist as dust coatings attached to sand grains in sandy soils or as aggregates in clay  
 29 soils. During weak wind-erosion events, sand particles coated with dust and clay aggregates  
 30 behave as individuals and the adhering particles may not be released, while during strong wind-  
 31 erosion events, dust coatings and soil aggregates may disintegrate, resulting in stronger dust  
 32 emission. Three dust-emission mechanisms are recognized (Figure 9):

33

- 34 • *Aerodynamic Lift:* Dust particles can be lifted from the surface directly by aerodynamic  
 35 forces. As the importance of gravity and aerodynamic forces diminishes for smaller  
 36 particles and the inter-particle cohesion becomes more important, dust emission arising  
 37 from direct aerodynamic lift is probably small in general;
- 38 • *Saltation Bombardment:* Dust emission is generated by saltation. As saltating particles  
 39 (sand grains or aggregates) strike the surface, they cause localized impacts that are  
 40 strong enough to overcome the binding forces acting upon soil dust particles, leading to  
 41 dust emission. This mechanism is also known as sand blasting or aeolian abrasion  
 42 (Alfaro et al., 1997; Bullard and White, 2005).
- 43 • *Disaggregation:* If saltating grains have dust coatings or if soil aggregates are  
 44 transported in saltation, the energy exerted on the aggregates during impact can lead to  
 45 their disaggregation and the release of dust particles. This process is called aggregate  
 46 disintegration or auto/self-abrasion (e.g., Gillette, 1974; Chappell et al., 2008).

47

48 We can formally express the dust-emission rate arising from these three mechanisms as:

49

$$F = F_a + F_b + F_c \quad (19)$$

where  $F_a$  denotes aerodynamic lift,  $F_b$  saltation bombardment, and  $F_c$  aggregate disintegration.

[Insert Figure 9 here]

Figure 9: Mechanisms for dust emission. (I) Dust emission by (a) aerodynamic lift, (b) saltation bombardment and (c) aggregate disintegration. Traditionally, these processes are considered to be driven by mean wind shear, but large eddies can also cause intermittent sand drift and dust emission. (II) Illustration of particle lifting caused by the momentum intermittently transported to the surface by turbulent eddies. Saltation may be involved but does not need to be. (I) modified from Shao (2008) and (II) modified from Klose and Shao (2013).

In 1991, Yaping Shao began a postdoctoral position at the Pye Lab under the supervision of MR<sup>2</sup> to conduct wind-erosion related research. For conducting the experiments, the portable wind tunnel of John Leys was set up in front of the Pye Lab. MR<sup>2</sup> originally planned to test some of the theories that were then developing (e.g., Anderson and Haff, 1991) on saltation feedback (Shao and Raupach, 1992). One day, the then Australian Federal Minister for Environment (Hon. Mr. Ross Free) came to visit the Pye Lab. Raupach et al. were to demonstrate the problem of wind erosion. Soil was placed on the tunnel floor and the wind tunnel was started but no serious dust emission occurred and the Minister was not impressed. The idea of saltation bombardment came to MR<sup>2</sup> who then placed sand in front of the dust and produced for the Minister a mini dust storm using the wind tunnel. This story was the origin of the ideas tested in Shao et al. (1993). In that experiment they prepared two beds of material in the wind tunnel: an upstream sand bed which produced a supply of saltating grains, followed immediately by a dust bed that was subject to saltation bombardment. They used combinations of four sand-particle sizes (150, 250, 300 and 600  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and three dust-particle sizes (3, 11 and 19  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Shao et al. (1993) reported that there was little dust emission even at the maximum flow speed that the tunnel generated ( $\sim 20 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) if no saltation particles were introduced, while strong dust emission occurred if sand particles were propelled over the dust surface. Soon thereafter, a similar wind-tunnel experiment was carried out by Alfaro et al. (1997) at the Laboratoire Interuniversitaire des Systèmes Atmosphériques (LISA). Their wind-tunnel experiments not only demonstrated the importance of saltation bombardment on dust emission, but also the emission of more small particles in the case of stronger saltation. What was learned from these experiments is that dust emission is in general proportional to streamwise saltation flux, i.e.,  $F \propto Q$ .

It was soon recognized that the  $F \propto Q$  relationship must be soil type dependent. Based on this understanding and using the data of Gillette (1979), Marticorena and Bergametti (1995) proposed the semi-empirical relationship:

$$F = 100 \exp(0.308 \cdot \eta + 13.82) Q \quad (20)$$

where  $\eta$  is percentage of clay content in the parent soil, and  $F$  and  $Q$  must be, respectively, in  $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $\mu\text{g m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Many attempts have been made to develop physically-based dust emission schemes (e.g., Shao et al. 1993, 1996) while it is well-recognized that such efforts are complicated by the fact that the ratio  $F/Q$  must also depend on saltation particle size (how much kinetic energy is available) and on soil surface conditions (soft or hard surface, and the strength of cohesive binding forces e.g., Lu and Shao, 1999; Chappell et al., 2008; Kok et al., 2014a).

Attempts soon followed to develop schemes capable of predicting size-resolved dust emission, also called spectral dust emission schemes (e.g., Alfaro and Gomez, 2001; Shao et al. 2011).



1 The major challenge here is understanding the binding characteristics of dust particles and how  
 2 they vary in space and time and change with particle size. There is so far insufficient  
 3 understanding of dust-particle binding strength, but we know from Zimon (1982) that this  
 4 strength has a stochastic component.

5  
 6 One possible way of overcoming this difficulty is to make use of the observed parent-soil  
 7 particle size distribution (PSD). It is known from laboratory analysis that minimally dispersed  
 8 and fully dispersed PSDs  $p_m(d)$  and  $p_f(d)$  are profoundly different. It is plausible to assume that  
 9 dust aerosol PSD,  $p_s(d)$ , is confined by two limits:

$$11 \quad p_s(d) = \gamma p_m(d) + (1-\gamma)p_f(d) \quad (21)$$

12  
 13 where  $\gamma$  is the weight for  $p_m(d)$  and  $(1-\gamma)$  for  $p_f(d)$ . Shao (2004) suggested that the emission of  
 14 dust particles of size  $d_i$  arising from the saltation of  $d_s$  is given by:

$$16 \quad \hat{F}_{d_i}(d_s) = c_y [(1-\gamma) + \gamma\sigma_d] (\eta_{fi}\sigma_m + \eta_{ci}) \frac{Qg}{u_*^2} \quad (22)$$

17  
 18 The integration over a range of sand-sized particles gives  $F_{d_i}$ , and the sum of  $F_{d_i}$  over all dust  
 19 particle size bins gives the total dust emission,  $F$ . The process of saltation bombardment is  
 20 embedded in the parameter  $\sigma_m = m_\Omega / m_s$ , the ratio between the mass ejected by bombardment,  
 21  $m_\Omega$ , and the mass of the impacting particle,  $m_s$ , and in the parameter  $\sigma_d = p_m(d_i) / p_f(d_i)$ .

22  
 23 Due to the lack of observational data, spectral dust emission schemes were not sufficiently  
 24 tested earlier. More recently, size-resolved dust fluxes have been estimated from field  
 25 measurements of dust concentration (Sow et al., 2009). Ishizuka et al. (2014) conducted in  
 26 Australia a sophisticated field experiment, in which dust emission for several particle sizes was  
 27 determined. Shao et al. (2011) were able to use these data to calibrate the Shao (2004) scheme.

28  
 29 Over time a considerable amount of air-borne dust PSD data have been collected around the  
 30 world. While differences in these PSDs exist, when they are plotted in one graph the differences  
 31 do not seem to be overwhelming (Figure 10). This leads to the suggestion, that airborne dust  
 32 PSD may be universal. There are rational arguments for the approach adopted by Shao (2004),  
 33 i.e., Eq. (21). However, in hindsight the laboratory measurements of minimally dispersed and  
 34 fully dispersed PSD do not provide appropriate constraints to  $p_s(d)$ , because the present-day  
 35 available  $p_m(d)$  is already close to the  $p_s(d)$  at maximum saltation intensity, while  $p_f(d)$  is simply  
 36 not achievable through mechanical abrasion.

37  
 38 Although physics based dust emission schemes that require the properties of soil as input for  
 39 determining size-resolved dust emission is justifiable, this increases the practical difficulty of  
 40 implementation in large-scale models, such as global climate models (GCMs). Consequently,  
 41 some climate models use ad hoc or empirical assumptions to describe the size distribution of  
 42 emitted dust aerosols (e.g., Zender et al., 2003; Mahowald et al., 2006a; Yue et al., 2010).

43 Previous research showed that stressed dry soil aggregates fail as brittle materials (Lee and  
 44 Ingles, 1968; Braunack et al., 1979; Perfect and Kay, 1995; Zobeck et al., 1999). Consequently,  
 45 Kok (2011b) considered that most dust emission results originated from the fragmentation of  
 46 aggregates due to saltation bombardment or self-abrasion. Since aggregate fragmentation is a  
 47 form of brittle fragmentation, the size distribution produced by this process should be scale-  
 48 invariant for a limited range (Astrom, 2006). The lower limit of this range is set by the size of

1 the aggregate constituent particles, whereas the upper limit is set by the size of the aggregate.  
 2 Kok (2011b) proposed that the size distribution of dust aerosols can be described by

$$\frac{dV_d}{d \ln d} = \frac{d}{c_v} \left[ 1 + \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{\ln(d/\bar{d}_s)}{\sqrt{2} \ln \sigma_s} \right) \right] \exp \left[ - \left( \frac{d}{\gamma} \right)^3 \right] \quad (23)$$

3 where  $V_d$  is the normalized volume of dust aerosols with geometric diameter  $d$ ,  $c_v$  is a  
 4 normalization constant,  $\sigma_s$  and  $\bar{d}_s$  are the geometric standard deviation and median diameter  
 5 by volume of the log-normal distribution of a typical arid soil size distribution in the 20  $\mu\text{m}$  size  
 6 range, and the parameter  $\gamma$  denotes the propagation distance of side branches of cracks created  
 7 in the dust aggregate by a fragmenting impact. Based on measurements of arid soil size  
 8 distributions (Dalmeida and Schutz, 1983; Goldstein et al., 2005), Kok (2011b) obtained  $\sigma_s =$   
 9  $3.0$  and  $\bar{d}_s = 3.4 \mu\text{m}$ . Furthermore, least-square fitting to dust PSD measurements yielded  $\gamma =$   
 10  $12 \pm 1 \mu\text{m}$ , such that  $c_v = 12.64 \mu\text{m}$ .

11 Equation (23) is in good agreement with measurements (Figure 10) of the dust PSD at emission.  
 12 Note that the newest measurements of Rosenberg et al. (2014) suggest a larger fraction of very  
 13 fine particles than previous measurements, indicating that more measurements of the dust size  
 14 distribution are needed. Notably, apart from the Rosenberg et al. (2014) study, the scatter from  
 15 the different measurements is quite limited, implying that differences in the wind speed and soil  
 16 size distribution produce only limited variability in the emitted dust size distribution (Reid et  
 17 al., 2008; Kok, 2011a).

18 Kok et al. (2014b) developed a new dust emission scheme (referred hereafter as K14), the  
 19 underpinnings of which remains saltation bombardment, now combined with the hypothesis  
 20 that most dust emission is produced by aggregate fragmentation. K14 shows better agreement  
 21 against a compilation of dust flux measurements than the previous schemes of Gillette and Passi  
 22 (1988) and Marticorena and Bergametti (1995), both of which are widely used in climate  
 23 models (Huneeus et al., 2011). Furthermore, the implementation of K14 into the Community  
 24 Earth System Model produces an improved simulation of the dust cycle (Kok et al., 2014a).  
 25 This improved agreement is at least partially due to accounting for two processes that were not  
 26 included in previous parameterizations. First, K14 accounts for the increasing scaling of dust  
 27 flux with wind speed that occurs as a soil becomes less erodible and only the most energetic  
 28 saltators become capable of producing dust. Second, K14 accounts for the decrease in dust  
 29 production per saltator impact that occurs as the soil becomes less erodible. This important  
 30 effect was previously realized by Shao et al. (1993), and included in the physically-explicit dust  
 31 emission schemes of Shao et al. (1996), Shao (2001), and Shao (2004), but it is not included  
 32 in dust emission schemes used in climate models.

33 [Insert Figure 10 here]

**Figure 10:** Compilation of measurements of the volume size distribution of dust aerosols at emission (colored data), compared with the theoretical prediction from brittle fragmentation theory (dashed line). Measurements by Gillette and colleagues (Gillette et al., 1972; Gillette, 1974; Gillette et al., 1974) were taken in Nebraska and Texas and used optical microscopy, whereas measurements by Fratini et al. (2007), Sow et al. (2009), and Shao et al. (2011) used optical particle counters and were respectively taken in China, Niger, and Australia. All these measurements were made on the ground during wind erosion events. In contrast, the measurements of Rosenberg et al. (2014) were made from an airplane flying over the northwestern Sahara, and used high-frequency optical particle counters to obtain the size-resolved dust flux from eddy covariance. All measurements were normalized following the procedure described in Kok (2011b) and Mahowald et al. (2014).

34  
 35 The insight that saltator impact speed determines the energy available for dust entrainment is  
 36 to date an underlying assumption of all dust emission schemes based on saltation bombardment,

1 irrespective of whether the emission process is then described in terms of energy balance (Shao  
 2 et al., 1993, 1996; Alfaro and Gomes, 2001), soil dust particle abundance (Marticorena and  
 3 Bergametti, 1995), volume removal (Shao, 2001, 2004), or fragmentation (Kok, 2011; Kok et  
 4 al., 2014a, b). The fragmentation process introduced by Kok (2011) gives a specification on the  
 5 binding energy that scales with particle size, which is consistent with the understanding that  
 6 inter-particle cohesive force scales with particle size. As we have rather poor understanding of  
 7 the particle binding strength, the fragmentation assumption offers a reasonable approximation.  
 8 Given the fact that most observed dust aerosol particle size distributions can be reasonably well  
 9 represented (Figure 10), indicates the approximation is useful.

10  
 11 Despite the significant progress made in dust emission modelling during the recent decades, the  
 12 existing dust schemes contain weaknesses that are still a focus of current research efforts. As  
 13 Raupach and Lu (2004) already stated in 2004, these weaknesses “include difficulties in  
 14 application at large spatial and temporal scales, because of input data availability, parameter  
 15 measurability, and large-scale variability in microphysical parameters and soil properties”.

16  
 17 In most dust emission schemes,  $u^*$  and  $u_{*t}$  are decisive for the calculation of saltation and dust  
 18 emission flux. Both  $u^*$  and  $u_{*t}$  are spatio-temporally integrated quantities and do not describe  
 19 sub-grid scale and sub-measurement scale variability. No emission is predicted if  $u^* < u_{*t}$ .  
 20 However, measurements show that aeolian activities can occur intermittently even if  $u^* < u_{*t}$   
 21 holds on average (Stout and Zobeck, 1997; Wiggs et al., 2004). Recent studies have focused on  
 22 intermittent saltation and achieved progress in its numerical modelling. For example, Dupont  
 23 et al. (2013, 2014) reproduced the development of aeolian streamers due to turbulent eddies by  
 24 implementing a saltation model in a large-eddy simulation framework.

25  
 26 Aerodynamic dust entrainment has received little attention until recently. This has two reasons:  
 27 (1) theoretical considerations on inter-particle cohesion suggest that cohesive forces are too  
 28 strong for particles in the dust-size range to be directly entrained; and (2) dust entrainment  
 29 without saltation as observed in wind tunnels is much smaller than with saltation. However,  
 30 considering the stochastic behaviour of inter-particle cohesion due to the multiple influencing  
 31 factors, such as particle shape, particle surface roughness, or composition, leads to a wide range  
 32 of scatter even for particles of similar size (Zimon, 1982; Shao, 2008).

33  
 34 A few studies show that dust emission can occur in the absence of saltation, but with much  
 35 smaller magnitude (e.g., Shao et al., 1993; Loosmore and Hunt, 2000). However, these studies  
 36 had been set up to study dust entrainment at different mean wind speeds and were not designed  
 37 to investigate the influence of atmospheric turbulence. Turbulence can have coherent structures  
 38 induced by buoyancy under unstable atmospheric conditions or by roughness elements as  
 39 described for vegetation canopies by Raupach et al. (1996). This leads to surface momentum  
 40 fluxes much larger than the mean wind speed suggests. Convective turbulence is most  
 41 pronounced in the absence of strong mean winds, i.e., below the saltation threshold. Figure 11  
 42 (Klose and Shao, 2013) shows an example of dust emission generated by convective turbulence  
 43 modelled with large-eddy simulation. At locations A (micro-convergence lines), B (micro-  
 44 bursts) and C (vortices), significant dust emission may occur. Due to the stochastic nature of  
 45 cohesive and turbulent aerodynamic lifting forces, aerodynamic dust entrainment is possible  
 46 (Klose and Shao, 2012, 2013). In extreme cases (e.g., dust devils), turbulent dust emission can  
 47 reach the magnitude typical for dust emission induced by saltation bombardment, but in most  
 48 cases it is typically one to two orders of magnitude smaller. As turbulent dust emission occurs  
 49 frequently, it may contribute significantly to the global dust cycle (Klose et al., 2014; Li et al.,  
 50 2014).

51

1 [Insert Figure 11 here]

2  
3 **Figure 11:** Turbulent wind speed (vectors, in  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) and instantaneous turbulent momentum flux (black contour  
4 lines at  $1 \text{ N m}^{-2}$ ) at 10 m height together with turbulent dust emission (shaded, in  $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). Updated from Klose  
5 and Shao (2013) by the inclusion of the dust emission scheme of Klose et al. (2014).  
6

## 7 8 **5: Threshold friction velocity**

### 9 10 **5.1 Threshold as control parameter**

11  
12 Shields (1936) studied the threshold friction velocity,  $u_{*t}$ , for a spherical particle placed on a  
13 bare flat surface, by considering the balance between the gravity force and hydrodynamic drag.  
14 He introduced the dimensionless threshold shear stress  
15

$$16 \quad A = \frac{\tau_{*t}}{(\rho_p - \rho_f)gd} \quad (24)$$

17  
18 and suggested that  $A$  is a function of only the particle Reynolds number,  $Re_{*t}$  ( $= u_{*t} d/\nu$ , where  
19  $\nu$  is kinematic viscosity). In Eq. (24),  $\rho_p$  and  $\rho_f$  are respectively the particle and fluid density.  
20 Bagnold (1941) derived a similar expression for wind-erosion threshold friction velocity and  
21 found that for large  $Re_{*t}$ ,  $A$  is nearly constant and  $u_{*t} \propto \sqrt{d}$ . Wind-tunnel experiments of  
22 windblown sand simulating the atmospheric conditions on Mars and Venus with different  
23 kinematic viscosities and/or air densities suggested that Bagnold's expression works well for  
24 particles with  $d > 100 \mu\text{m}$ , but largely under-estimates  $u_{*t}$  for  $d < 100 \mu\text{m}$  (Greeley and Iversen,  
25 1985). Iversen and White (1982) pointed out that the rapid increase of  $u_{*t}$  with decreasing  
26 particle size is caused by inter-particle cohesion. This led to a revised expression of the  
27 dimensionless threshold shear stress  $A$  that depends on the inter-particle force,  $I_p$ , in addition to  
28  $Re_{*t}$ . The Iversen-White scheme is however rather complex. Shao and Lu (2000) advanced this  
29 approach by explicitly considering  $I_p$  as inversely proportional to  $d$ . This led to a much simpler  
30 expression of  $u_{*t}$  with the dimensionless shear stress  $A$  remaining as a function of  $Re_{*t}$  only.  
31 This new expression has been widely used for estimate of threshold velocity in air and as a  
32 reference for other planetary conditions (Burr et al., 2015).  
33

34  $\text{MR}^2$  and Hua Lu collaborated on several research topics, one of which was soil erosion by wind  
35 and water. They explored the question why experimentally derived values of  $A$  are consistently  
36 higher than the theoretical estimates, and identified several real-world factors that may have  
37 major effects on  $A$ . These include soil cohesion that can be influenced by temperature and  
38 humidity, soil moisture, surface crusting and sheltering effect by roughness elements (McKenna  
39 Neuman, 2004). They also considered to what extent temperature-dependent changes in air  
40 density and viscosity could play a role in explaining the discrepancies between the observed  
41 and theoretical threshold velocities. Such discussion and other topics that related to more  
42 general wind erosion modelling led to the review of Raupach and Lu (2004) on the  
43 representation of land-surface processes in aeolian transport.  
44

45 Along this line,  $\text{MR}^2$  and Lu worked in greater detail to solve the observed puzzle of the Shields'  
46  $A$  versus  $Re_{*t}$  diagram. When the data obtained from various experiments in air and in water are  
47 plotted on the typical Shields' diagram, they do not collapse to a single curve (Figure 12). What  
48 is then the reason for the departure between the data taken in air and water? Lu et al. (2005)  
49 proposed a more general expression of  $A$ , by incorporating the characteristics of near surface

1 turbulence characterised by the flow Reynolds number  $Re_\tau = u_*\delta/\nu$ , where  $\delta$  is the depth of the  
 2 boundary-layer (Marusic and Kunkel, 2003). They showed that near surface flow velocity  
 3 increases with  $Re_\tau$ , and the typical values of  $Re_\tau$  for air are several orders of magnitude larger  
 4 than those for water. The large  $Re_\tau$  in air is associated with intense near-bed turbulence that is  
 5 dominated by gust-like eddy motions with length scales determined by the characteristic length  
 6 scale of the roughness (Raupach et al., 1991, 1996). These gusts cause the streamwise velocity  
 7 to show significant departure from a normal velocity distribution (Morrison et al., 2004), with  
 8 a strong positive skewness near the bed. Conversely, in water, the mean flow above the layer  
 9 where the particle entrainment occurs is mostly laminar. This results in a close to normal  
 10 velocity distribution and smaller length scale of the roughness, therefore smaller values of  $Re_{*t}$   
 11 and  $A$ . They also demonstrated that the upturn of  $A$  for small  $Re_{*t}$  can also be affected by the  
 12 background flow conditions apart from inter-particle cohesion. As such, they showed that their  
 13 generalised expression achieves a consistent agreement with data for particle uplift in both air  
 14 and water flows. Based on their analysis, they suggested that caution is needed in applying  
 15 previous analytical and semi-empirical models. Perhaps more importantly, they pointed out that  
 16 incorporating statistical descriptions of the mean flow condition may lead to noticeable  
 17 improvement of wind erosion models. Indeed, these insights of MR<sup>2</sup> and Lu provided the basis  
 18 for current research based on statistical description, as shown in Klose and Shao (2012, 2013),  
 19 and some of the aspects considered in Kok et al. (2014b).

20  
 21  
 22 [Insert Figure 12 here]

23  
 24 Figure 12: Dimensionless threshold shear stress  $A$  as a function of particle Reynolds number  $Re_{*t}$  based on data  
 25 obtained in water flow (filled) and in air stream (unfilled). These two groups of observations depart both at the  
 26 large  $Re_{*t}$  regime, where aerodynamics dominates and for small  $Re_{*t}$  values, where particle cohesion becomes  
 27 important in determine  $A$ . From Lu et al. (2005).

## 28 29 30 **6: The Carbon Link**

31 Soil stores up to 80% of the organic carbon in the terrestrial biosphere and contains more than  
 32 three times the soil organic carbon (SOC) in the atmosphere (Lal, 2003). The C pools are  
 33 interconnected and thus a disturbance of the terrestrial C pool (e.g. by soil erosion) can  
 34 introduce significant changes in the atmospheric C pool. The amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)  
 35 captured and converted to SOC annually via terrestrial net primary productivity (NPP) or  
 36 released as CO<sub>2</sub> by soil microbial respiration (R) is about an order of magnitude greater than  
 37 the annual increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Houghton et al., 1992). Soil therefore represents a  
 38 substantial component in the global carbon cycle and small changes in the SOC stock may result  
 39 in large changes of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Giorgi, 2006).

40  
 41 Wind-erosion generated dust emission/deposition and the associated SOC exchange between  
 42 the atmosphere and soil constitutes an important part of the dust-cycle and carbon-cycle  
 43 interactions, along with the dust-iron effect on the atmosphere and ocean CO<sub>2</sub> exchange (Shao  
 44 et al., 2013). For more than two decades (early 1990s to 2015), MR<sup>2</sup> worked extensively on the  
 45 global carbon budget and made a fundamental contribution to that research (Field and Raupach,  
 46 2012). MR<sup>2</sup> realized early the importance of wind-erosion driven soil nutrient and organic  
 47 carbon transport, and pointed out that wind erosion removes preferentially the fine, nutrient-  
 48 and SOC-rich top soil, reduces the soil water holding capacity and thereby causes land  
 49 degradation (Raupach et al. 1994). Raupach et al. (1994) provided an assessment of soil nutrient  
 50 loss, in terms of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K), caused by the 1983  
 51 Melbourne dust storm. While time did not permit MR<sup>2</sup> to work directly on the SOC problem in

1 relation to wind erosion, his initial work was continued by the Australian aeolian research  
 2 community and in particular Butler, Chappell, Strong and Webb who established the foundation  
 3 for relating continental estimates of wind erosion (CEMSYS; Shao, 2000) to SOC.

4  
 5 For example, Chappell et al. (2014) described how SOC dust emission is omitted from  
 6 Australian national C accounting and is an underestimated source of CO<sub>2</sub>. They developed a  
 7 first approximation to SOC enrichment for the dust emission model CEMSYS and quantified  
 8 SOC dust emission for Australia (5.8 Tg CO<sub>2</sub>-e/y) and Australian agricultural soils (0.4 Tg CO<sub>2</sub>-  
 9 e/y). These amounts under-estimate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately 10% for the combined C  
 10 pools in Australia (based on 2000 estimates), with approximately 5% derived from Australian  
 11 rangelands and 3% of Australian agricultural soils using the Kyoto accounting method.  
 12 Northern hemisphere countries with greater dust emission than Australia are also likely to have  
 13 much larger SOC dust emission. Therefore, omission of SOC dust emission likely represents a  
 14 considerable underestimate from those nation's C accounts. Chappell et al. (2014) suggested  
 15 that the omission of SOC dust emission from C cycling and C accounting is a significant global  
 16 source of uncertainty.

## 17 18 **7: Summary**

19  
 20 In this tribute, we reviewed Raupach's work on aeolian fluid dynamics and the impact of his  
 21 work on the progress of aeolian research. This is only a small part of Raupach's extensive  
 22 studies on environmental mechanics and climate change (e.g., Field and Raupach, 2012;  
 23 Raupach et al., 2014). Specifically for aeolian research, MR<sup>2</sup> helped to consolidate the  
 24 foundation of aeolian fluid dynamics and aeolian modelling, and to propel aeolian research to  
 25 become a core theme in earth system studies.

26  
 27 Raupach's pioneering work is linked directly to a number of conceptual and modelling  
 28 advancements made in recent years, while at the same time opening numerous avenues that  
 29 allowed the aeolian research community to make numerous advances toward our understanding  
 30 of aeolian processes. Avenues of inquiry opened by MR<sup>2</sup> include:

- 31  
 32 (1) *Aeolian Processes over Heterogeneous Surfaces*: Ever since the 1940s, we have focused  
 33 on studying aeolian processes of relatively simple surfaces, often under the assumption  
 34 of surface homogeneity and uniform saltation. Thanks to Raupach (1991, 1992) and  
 35 Raupach et al. (1993), and numerous field and numerical experiments, the essence of  
 36 the momentum exchange between the atmosphere and aeolian surface is now  
 37 understood. As we followed Raupach (1992) and Raupach et al. (1993), we realized that  
 38 the spatial and temporal variations of momentum fluxes profoundly affect aeolian  
 39 transport, which is in more general terms the typical case of heterogeneous aeolian  
 40 transport. While research on this topic is rapidly progressing, as demonstrated by Webb  
 41 et al. (2014) and Dupont et al. (2014), much more needs to be done to establish a  
 42 theoretical framework and to develop predictive tools.
- 43 (2) *Stochastic and Statistical Dust Modeling*: Existing wind-erosion models are mostly of  
 44 deterministic nature. However, aeolian processes involve stochastic variables, such as  
 45 inter-particle cohesion or turbulent surface shear stress, as indicated in Raupach and Lu  
 46 (2004). New developments in dust-emission models of a statistical nature have been  
 47 made recently by Klose et al. (2014) and may herald a new generation of wind-erosion  
 48 models in the coming years.
- 49 (3) *Integration of Aeolian Models with Ecological Models*: The carbon cycle is of central  
 50 importance to climate studies. MR<sup>2</sup> devoted more than 20 years of his academic life to  
 51 research on the global carbon budget. We now know that understanding of the carbon

1 cycle cannot be completed without knowledge of the dust cycle. This is because dust  
 2 plays a pivotal role in the atmosphere and ocean CO<sub>2</sub> exchange and aeolian processes  
 3 are vital for SOC transport and fixation. Thus, aeolian research plays a central role in  
 4 global Earth system studies. For this to be adequately represented in Earth system  
 5 models, the dust cycle needs to be better represented (e.g., Kok et al., 2014), but also  
 6 the coupling of aeolian and ecological processes is important. For steppe landscapes the  
 7 coupling of wind-erosion models with ecological models is developing (e.g., Shinoda  
 8 et al., 2011). We expect that this effort will accelerate in the future.

9 (4) *New Measurements*: MR<sup>2</sup> was famous for his theoretical work, but he was also an  
 10 accomplished experimental researcher and organizer. He conducted and organized  
 11 numerous wind-tunnel (e.g., Raupach and Legg, 1983) and field experiments (e.g.,  
 12 Leuning et al., 2004). The very first talk MR<sup>2</sup> gave on wind erosion was at the 1<sup>st</sup>  
 13 Australian Workshop on Wind Erosion entitled “How to Measure Wind Erosion?”. It  
 14 was an introductory talk on the basic techniques for saltation measurements. We have  
 15 moved on since that time, and much more cohesive and sophisticated measurements can  
 16 be made today. Size-resolved sand transport and dust emission measurements were  
 17 made early on in Australia (Nickling et al., 1999), in Niger (Sow et al., 2009) and again  
 18 in Australia in the Japan – Australian Dust Experiment (Ishizuka et al., 2014). New  
 19 instruments such as PI- SWERL<sup>®</sup> (Etyemezian et al., 2014) and micro wind tunnel  
 20 (Strong et al., 2015) have been developed for field measurements with emphasis on  
 21 characterizing spatial variability of dust emissions.

22 (5) *Large-eddy Aeolian Simulation (LEAS)*: The basic concept of aeolian transport process  
 23 as a feedback system involving the atmosphere, land surface, and soil particles emerged  
 24 in the early 1990s (Anderson and Haff, 1991). Earlier versions of LEAS models were  
 25 developed by Shao and Li (1999) and Doorschot and Lehning (2002) among others. In  
 26 more recent years, highly sophisticated LEAS models have been developed, for  
 27 example, by Klose and Shao (2013) and Dupont et al. (2014). With these models, some  
 28 of the hypotheses of MR<sup>2</sup> can now be fully tested, and more importantly LEAS models  
 29 serve as powerful tools for generating in depth understanding for improved aeolian  
 30 process parameterizations (Li et al., 2014; Klose et al., 2014).

31  
 32 For many of us, MR<sup>2</sup> was not only a role model scholar, but also a great colleague and a friend.  
 33 A long-time colleague of MR<sup>2</sup> describes that his “excellence in scientific research is not the  
 34 only skill that enabled Mike to build such a brilliant career. He always had a warm and  
 35 thoughtful way of collaborating with his colleagues. He showed respect and humility in  
 36 interacting not only with them, but also with the policy world and the public. Mike’s  
 37 communications skills were legendary. He could distil the most complex ideas into crisp,  
 38 understandable stories. His words were carefully chosen, and his spoken sentences often carried  
 39 the grace and power of expertly crafted written prose. His touchstone, however, was always the  
 40 science, and in that he was unfailingly rigorous and insightful” (Steffen, 2015).

41  
 42 MR<sup>2</sup> was a modest person, always keen to learn from others and at the same time, he was a  
 43 natural teacher for younger researchers worldwide. He made a large effort to nurture younger  
 44 Australian aeolian researchers. Harry Butler, Paul Findlater, John Leys, Hua Lu and Yaping  
 45 Shao all benefited immensely from his deep knowledge and enthusiasm for science. Long after  
 46 MR<sup>2</sup> had moved on from aeolian studies, and he was swimming in the much larger research  
 47 pool of global carbon budgeting, he continued to demonstrate his generosity and nurturing  
 48 attitude towards students, as for example, when he advised Craig Strong on the fluid dynamics  
 49 of a micro wind tunnel. In 2014, Strong took up a lectureship at ANU and months later MR<sup>2</sup>  
 50 also arrived to take on the role of Director at the Climate Change Institute. Discussion re-

1 commenced between them, but sadly MR<sup>2</sup> passed away before the publication of their work  
2 (Strong et al., 2015).

3 Our community mourns the loss of MR<sup>2</sup> as a big thinker and influential leader and as this review  
4 demonstrates, his work provided many foundations for the current advances and new directions  
5 of aeolian research. As we follow in many of his footsteps and explore uncharted territories,  
6 Mike will be missed.

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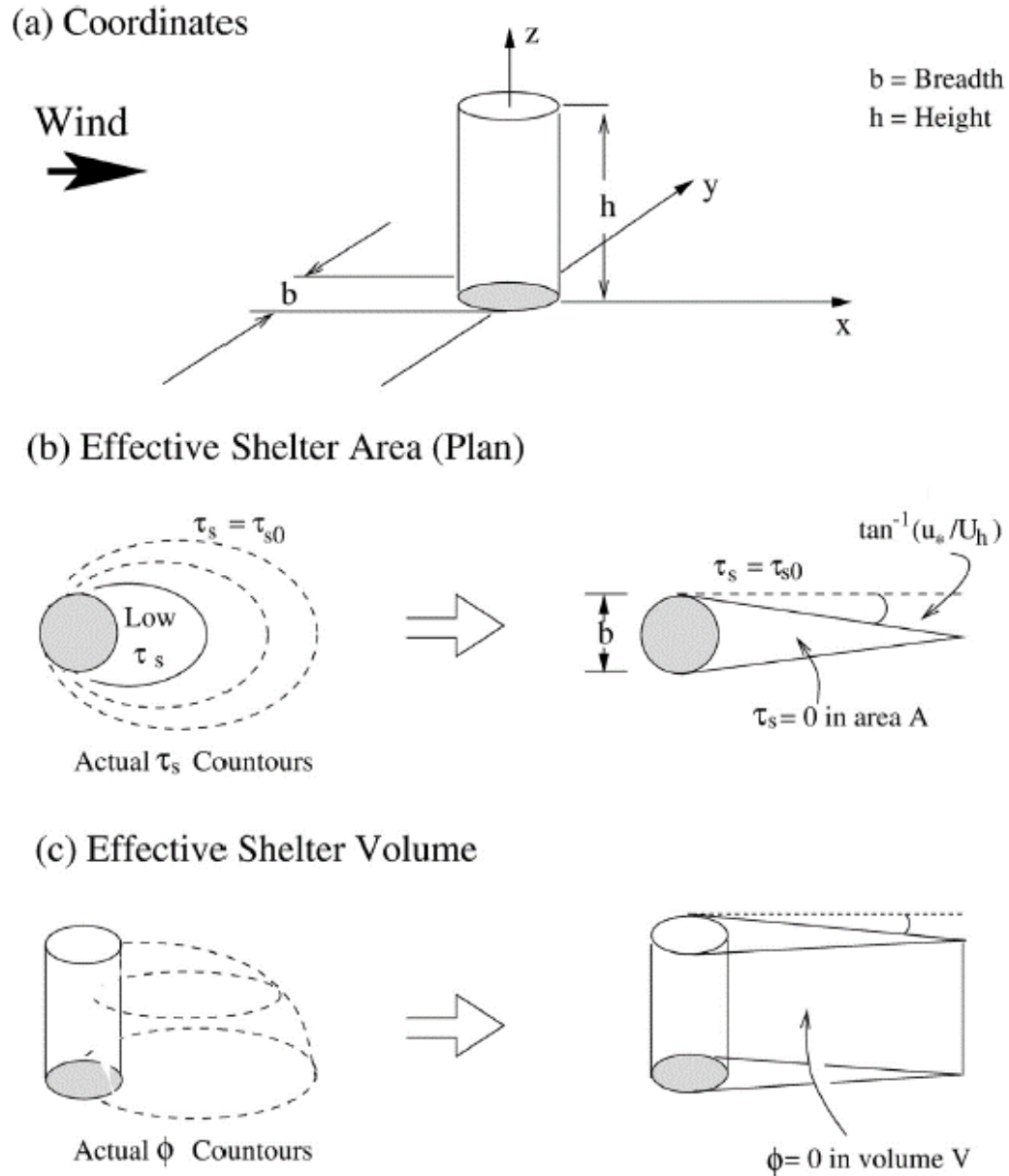
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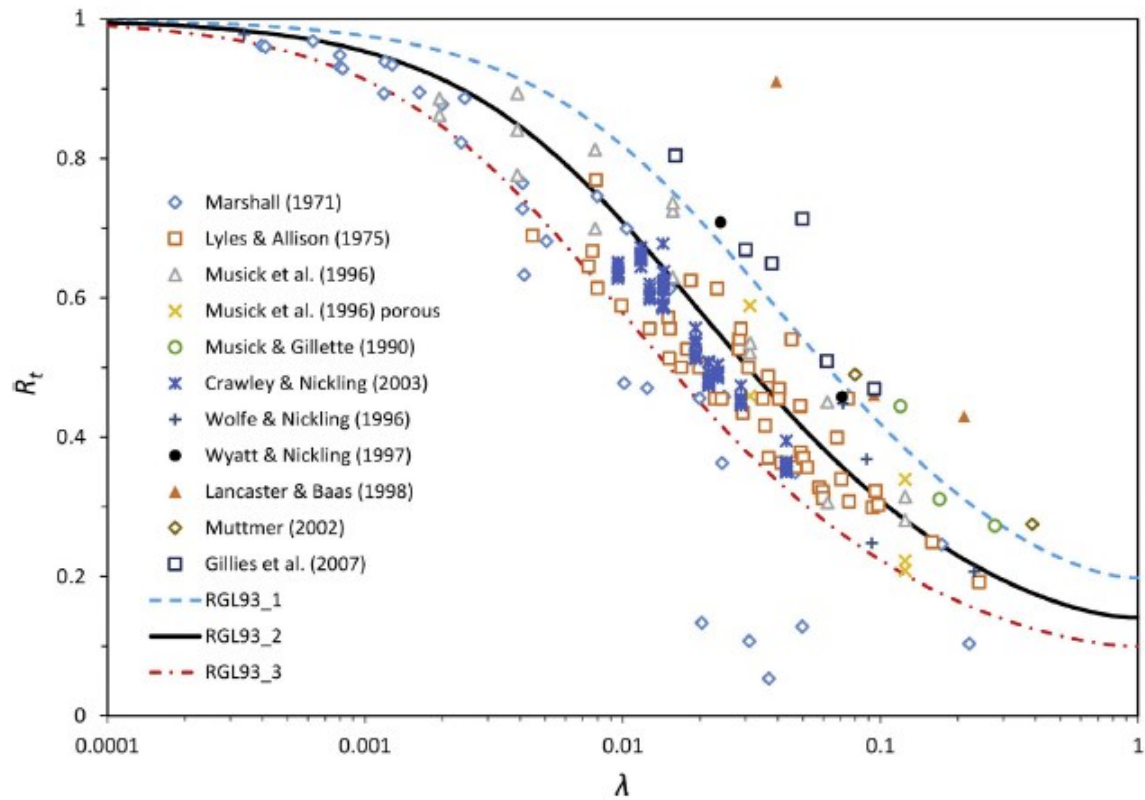
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**Fig. 1.** Michael R. Raupach (back, 6th left) among the participants of the 1st Australian Workshop on Wind Erosion, 1991, Murdoch University, Perth. Several contributors to this paper were among the participants: Grant McTainsh (front, 1st left), Paul Findlater (front, 2nd left), Yaping Shao (back, 1<sup>st</sup> left), William Nickling (back, 5th left), John Leys (back, 7th left). The workshop convener was William Scott (front, 3rd left).



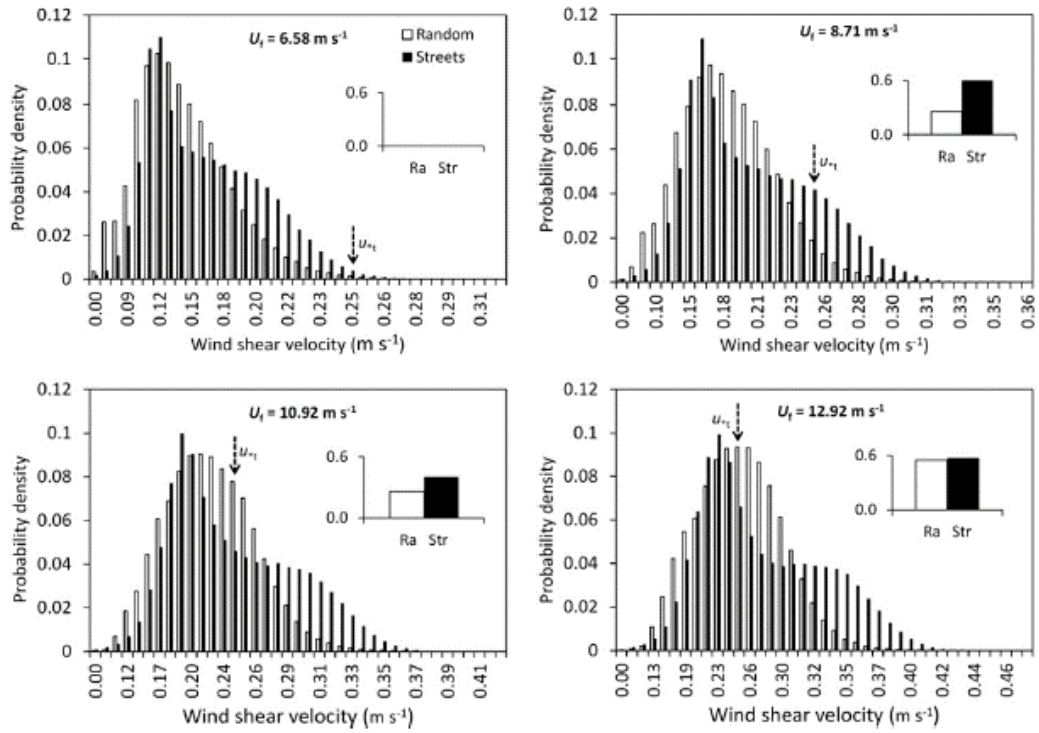
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**Fig. 2.** Raupach's conceptual model for drag partitioning. A rough surface is considered to consist of roughness elements and a substrate surface. A roughness element produces an effective sheltering area and volume. The integrative effect of the roughness elements can be estimated by random superposition [Redrawn from Raupach (1992)].



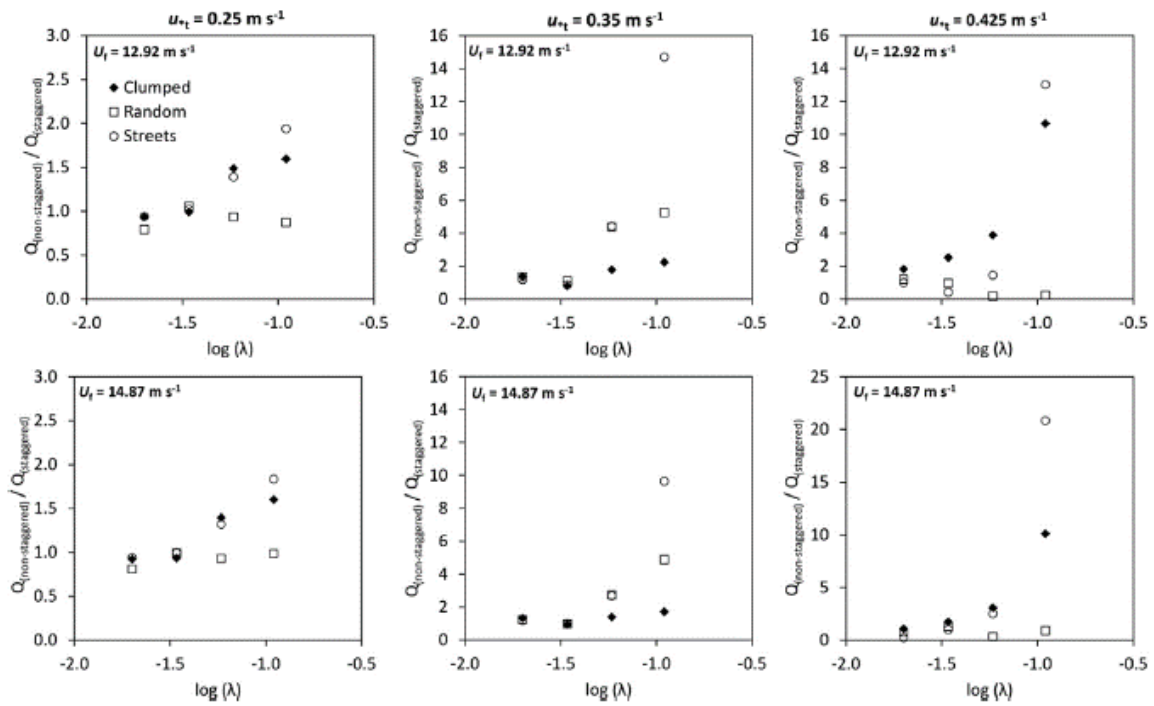
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**Fig. 3.** A compilation of  $R_t$  versus  $k$  data from wind-tunnel and field experiments (symbols). RGL93\_1, RGL93\_2 and RGL93\_3 are the estimates using the Raupach et al. (1993) scheme with  $m = 0.5$ ,  $r = 1$ , and  $b = 100, 200$  and  $400$ , respectively.



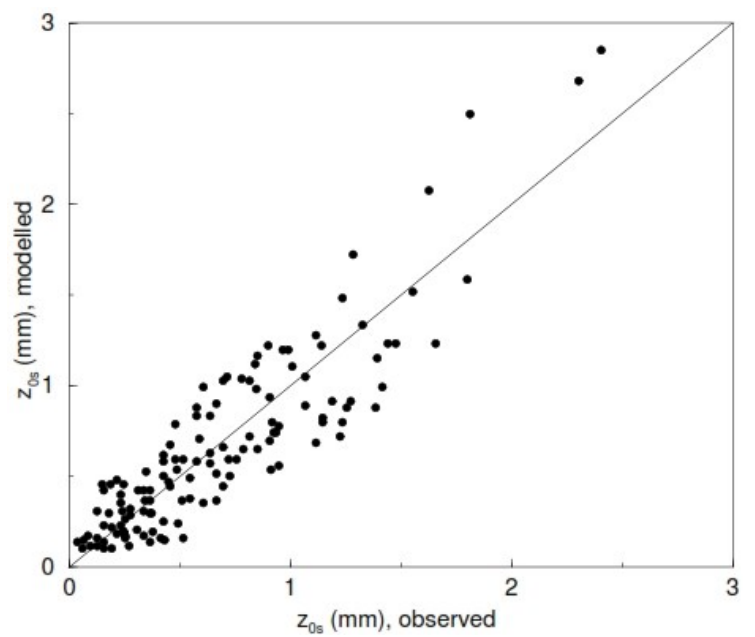
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**Fig. 4.** Histograms illustrating the effect of the ‘random’ and ‘street’ roughness configurations on wind shear velocity ( $u^*$ ) calculated from measured surface shear stress ( $\tau_s$ ) distributions at a roughness density  $\lambda = 0.10$  and four free stream wind velocities ( $U_f$ ). Inset graphs show the proportion of  $\tau_s$  greater than a threshold shear velocity  $u^*_{*t} = 0.25 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  for the random (Ra) and street (Str) configurations.



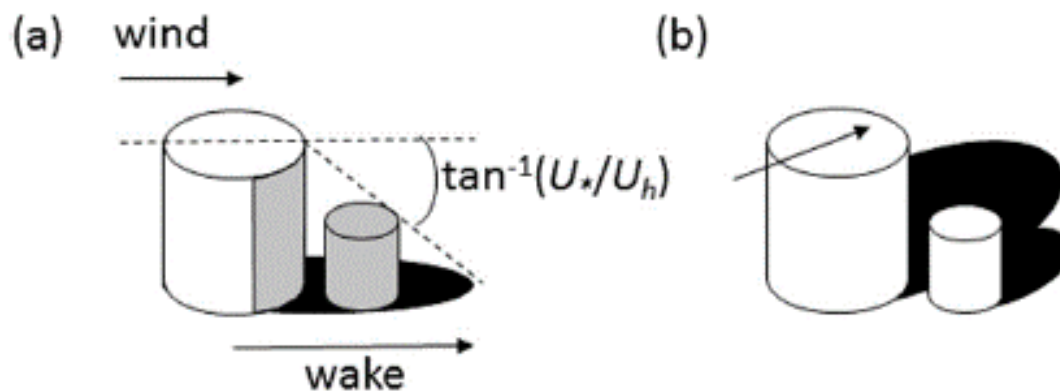
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**Fig. 5.** Graphs showing roughness configuration effects on horizontal sediment mass flux ( $Q$ ), expressed as the ratio of  $Q$  for the ‘clumped’, ‘random’ and ‘street’ configurations relative to  $Q$  for the ‘staggered’ configurations at a range of  $\lambda$  and  $U_f$ .



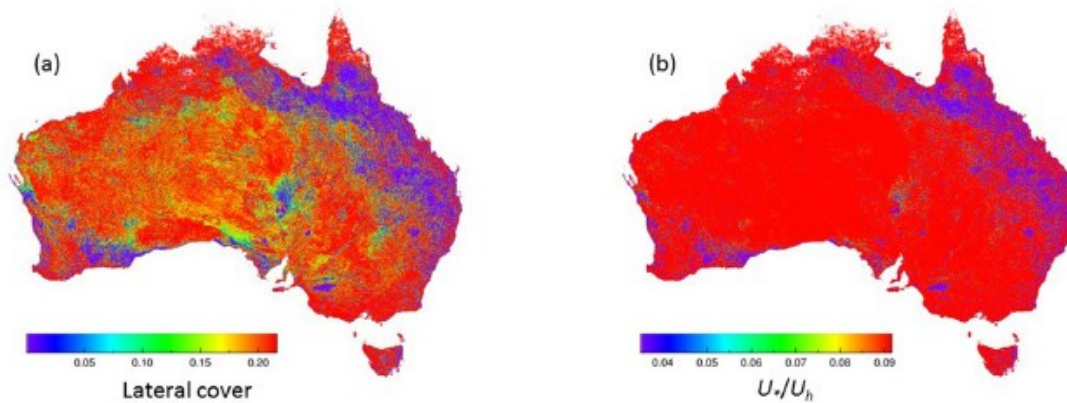
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**Fig. 6.** Modelled saltation roughness length  $z_{0s}$  using Equation (20) versus field measurements of Gillette et al. (1998).



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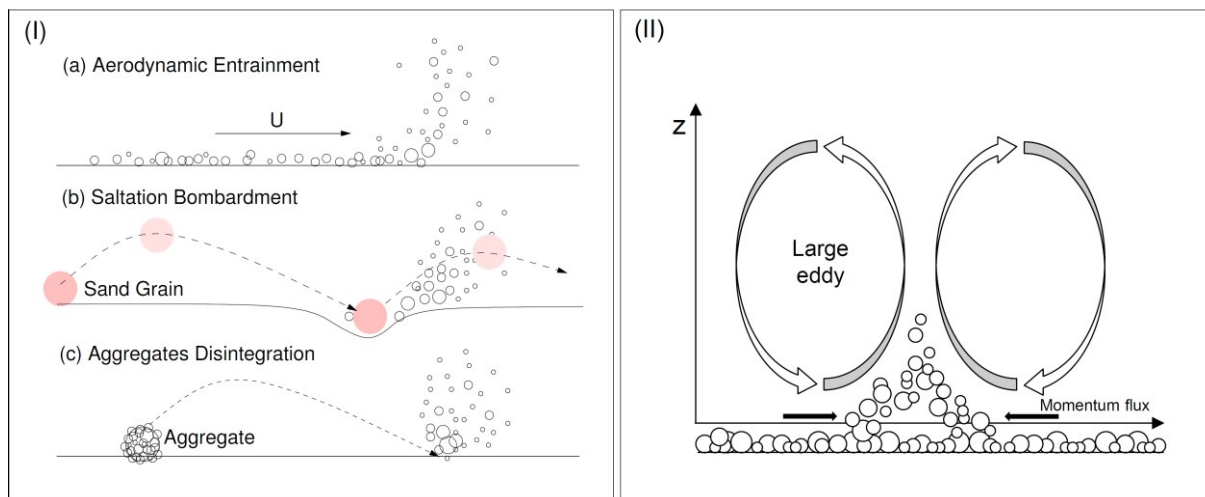
**Fig. 7.** (a) Roughness elements protect a portion of the substrate surface that may include all or part of other roughness elements in a heterogeneous surface. (b) A change in wind direction redefines the sheltering effect.



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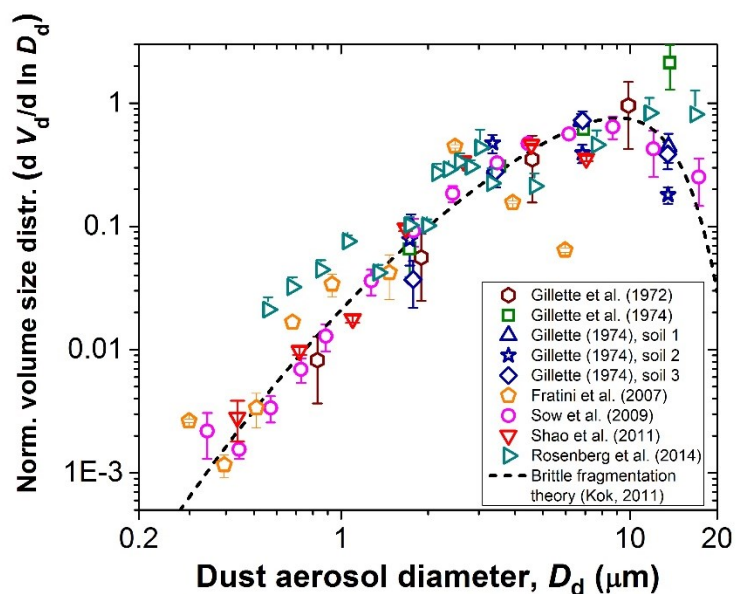
**Fig. 8.** Examples of aerodynamic properties (a)  $u/U_h$  and (b) lateral cover estimated from the MODIS MCD43A3 albedo product (500 m resolution) for Australia 1 Jan, 2013.





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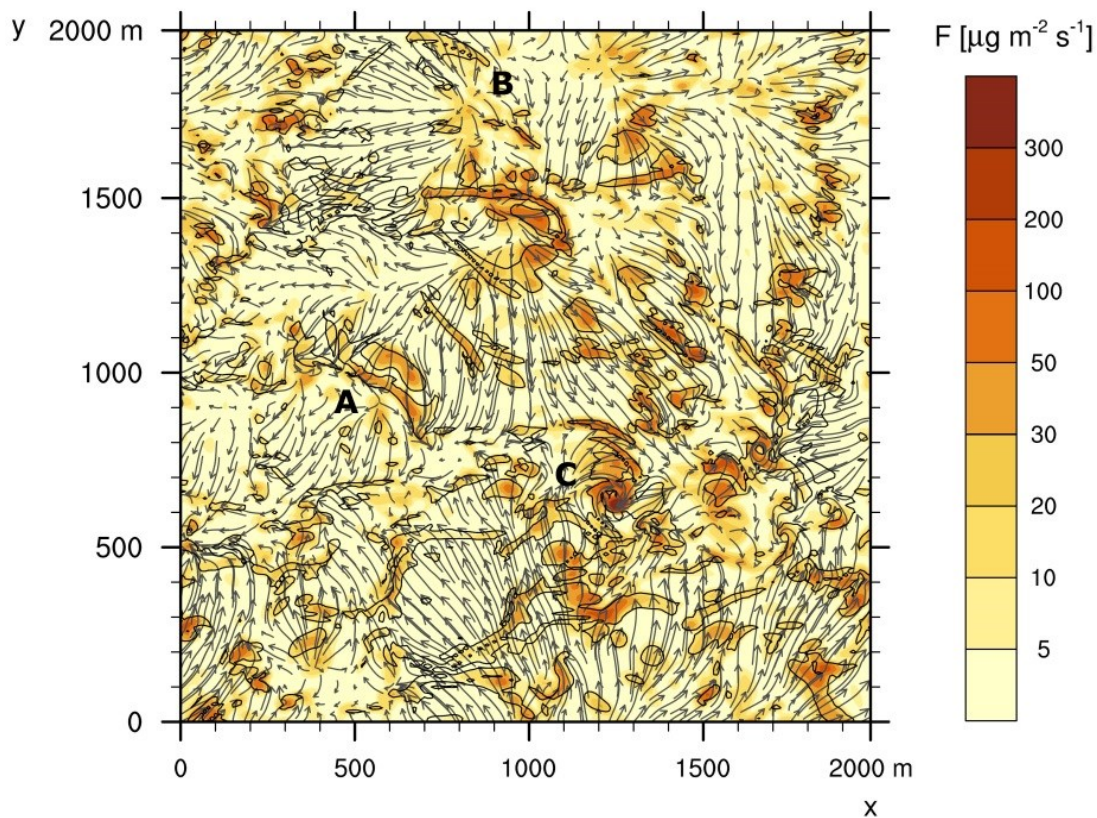
**Fig 9.** Mechanisms for dust emission. (I) Dust emission by (a) aerodynamic lift, (b) saltation bombardment and (c) aggregate disintegration. Traditionally, these processes are considered to be driven by mean wind shear, but large eddies can also cause intermittent sand drift and dust emission. (II) Illustration of particle lifting caused by the momentum intermittently transported to the surface by turbulent eddies. Saltation may be but does not need to be involved. (I) modified from Shao (2008) and (II) modified from Klose and Shao (2013).



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**Fig. 10.** Compilation of measurements of the volume size distribution of dust aerosols at emission (colored data), compared with the theoretical prediction from brittle fragmentation theory (dashed line). Measurements by Gillette and colleagues (Gillette et al., 1972; Gillette, 1974; Gillette et al., 1974) were taken in Nebraska and Texas and used optical microscopy, whereas measurements by Fratini et al. (2007), Sow et al. (2009), and Shao et al. (2011) used optical particle counters and were respectively taken in China, Niger, and Australia. All these measurements were made on the ground during wind erosion events. In contrast, the measurements of Rosenberg et al. (2014) were made from an airplane flying over the northwestern Sahara, and used high-frequency optical particle counters to obtain the size-resolved dust flux from eddy covariance. All measurements were normalized following the procedure described in Kok (2011b) and Mahowald et al. (2014).

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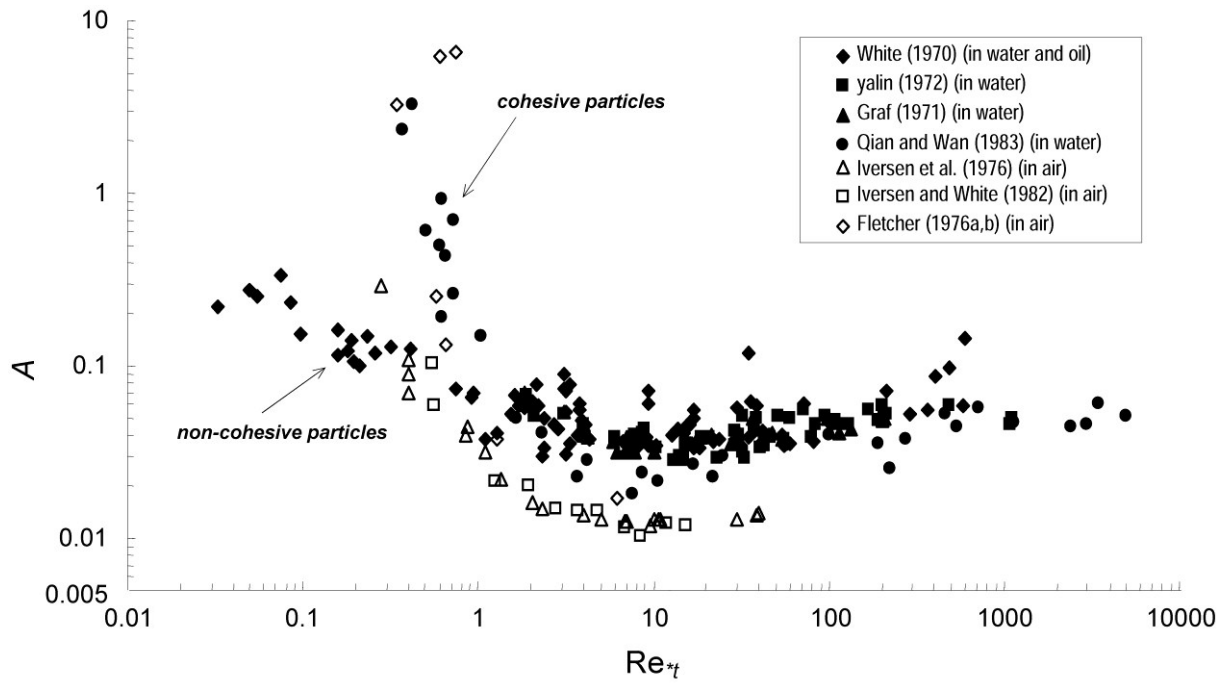


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4 **Fig. 11.** Turbulent wind speed (vectors, in  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) and instantaneous turbulent momentum flux  
 5 (black contour lines at  $1 \text{ N m}^{-2}$ ) at 10 m height together with turbulent dust emission (shaded,  
 6 in  $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). Updated from Klose and Shao (2013) by inclusion of the dust emission scheme  
 7 of Klose et al. (2014).

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**Fig. 12.** Dimensionless threshold shear stress  $A$  as a function of particle Reynolds number  $Re_{*t}$  based on data obtained in water flow (filled) and in air stream (unfilled). These two groups of observations depart both at the large  $Re_{*t}$  regime, where aerodynamics dominates and for small  $Re_{*t}$  values, where particle cohesion becomes important in determine  $A$ . From Lu et al. (2005).