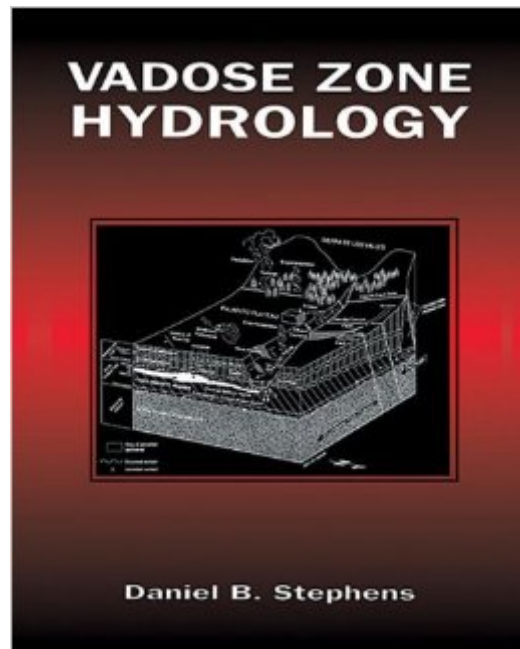


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Vadose Zone Hydrology



Synopsis

Vadose Zone Hydrology describes the elements of the physical processes most often encountered by hydrogeologists and ground-water engineers in their vadose zone projects. It illustrates the application of soil physics to practical problems relevant to the characterization and monitoring of the vadose zone. It includes an introduction to physical processes, including basic flow theory, and provides examples of important field-scale processes that must be recognizable by hydrogeologists. Considerable attention is given to the concepts of recharge, including how it is most accurately evaluated in the vadose zone. Field and laboratory methods for characterizing hydraulic properties in the vadose zone are also covered, and case studies illustrating these methods are provided. New and emerging technologies for monitoring the vadose zone, particularly for the purpose of detecting contaminants, are highlighted. In the last section of the book, additional case studies are presented, demonstrating applications related to seepage detection, landfill monitoring, and soil gas investigations. This book is written from the perspective of hydrogeologists and is designed to be directly applicable and to maintain continuity and consistency between chapters. It will be an invaluable primer for environmental or geotechnical consultants, regulators, or students who have no prior formal academic training in unsaturated flow concepts. Because the text contains some of the latest advances in this field, it will be an excellent reference for geologists and engineers currently working on problems of vadose zone hydrology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have used Dan Stephens' book as a textbook in a graduate-level Geology class on the vadose zone. It was ideal. A lot of unsaturated zone books have been published in the last several years, but none of the others was suitable for my purposes. Dan is an engaging speaker and teacher with lots of real-world experience, both as a teacher/researcher at New Mexico Tech and as an environmental consultant specializing in vadose zone problems. His experience comes across in this book, as does his personable way of presenting the information. Yes, there are equations. But this is not a soil physics textbook as much as it is a geosciences perspective on the vadose zone. This perspective is based on his extensive experience in arid and semi-arid settings, but some of his comments shed light on vadose zone processes in more humid climates. I should add that his treatment of this dry subject is not "dry", and relatively easy to read given the textbook breadth of material covered. Each paragraph could be expanded into a separate dissertation. Stephens has condensed a wealth of material, both practical and theoretical. I recommend it.

The basic concepts and theory of vadose zone hydrology is presented. The text is well written and organized. I've found the information on vadose zone monitoring, characterizing, and deep soil-water movement very useful. The author also presents case studies which demonstrate the practical application of the subject matter.

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