

Interactive comment on “Does NDVI explain spatial and temporal variability in sap velocity in temperate forest ecosystems?” by Anne J. Hoek van Dijke et al.

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Received and published: 14 December 2018

The manuscript presents results for one particular vegetation type: a forest-stand in a moderate climate yet the authors try to draw broad conclusions about their results. The applied fine temporal (daily) and spatial (hundred meters at most) scale is also very important to keep in mind, although they emphasize these correctly but not consistently. For example, they mention previous NDVI-ET studies in the introduction but they do not mention whether the particular study fits the scope of this MS. When they mention e.g., the 2000 study of Szilagyi, they do not point out that the NDVI-ET relationship was established for an entire watershed and on a warm-season (i.e., several months long)

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temporal resolution, which is quite different from their forest-stand and daily case. The authors should be very careful not to generalize their findings to situations they never investigated. How does a forest (with permanent vegetation) translate to crops with varying vegetation (from sowing to full cover to bringing the crops in)? Either they could expand their research to other vegetation types or constrain their conclusions to what they investigated without undue and unsubstantiated generalizations.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2018-596>, 2018.

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