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University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences - Vienna Department of Forest and Soil Sciences

# Simulated effects of tree species diversity and species pattern on biomass production at stand level

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Managing Forests in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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#### diversity and ecosystem productivity relationships (PDRs) state of knowledge



diversity and ecosystem productivity relationships (PDRs) state of knowledge



- overall PDR means are positive, but no universal rules
- known factors that may have an influence:
  - species richness
  - species identity effect (traits)
  - complementarity effect
  - site quality

- ..



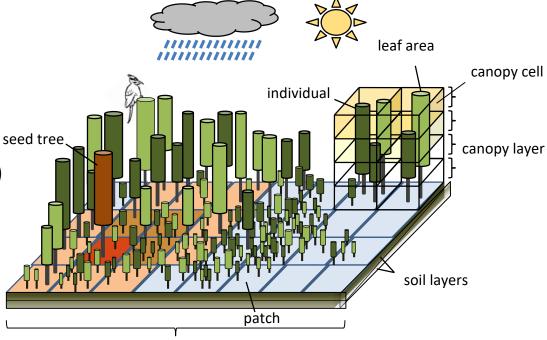


- Q1: How is productivity related to tree species diversity when simulated with a forest ecosystem model?
- Q2: Can simulated biomass production be explained by species identity effect and complementarity effect?
- Q3: What is the effect of mixture in patches versus random mixture?

# the experimental setup **PICUS v1.6**

#### main features

- hybrid forest gap model (3PG)
- individual tree growth
- on patches (10x10m)
- 3D canopy structure
- trees compete for light
- tree population dynamics
- watercycle module with detailed water balance and physiological water relations of vegetation
- individual trees & species compete for water in the root horizon
- requires daily weather data (rad., temp., precip., vpd)
- management module (>>not active)
- disturbance modules for storm and bark beetles (>> not active)



Mortality

stand

egenera

# the experimental setup



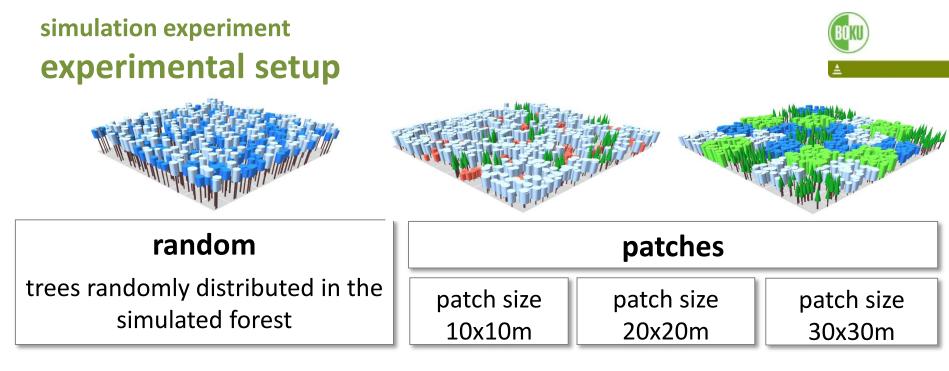
## site: Rosalia (Austria)



#### • site

- altitude:
- soil type:
- soil depth:
- pH:
- WHC:
- Ø annual temp.:
- annual precip.:
- 450 m a.s.l. Cambisol 100cm 4.17 155mm 8.8°C
- 774mm





#### initialisation

- 8 species in all combinations (PA, AA, LD, PS, FS, AP, QP, BP)
- minimum share per species 10%
- juvenile stand (80 130cm tree height)

#### settings

- 100 years simulation period
- no management
- no regeneration
- no disturbances

#### simulation experiment analysis approach (1)



• relative yield (RY) & overyielding (OY) (Pretzsch & Schütze, 2009)

**RY** =  $\frac{\text{actual absolute yield mixed stand}}{\text{expected absolute yield of pure stand shares}}$ 

 $RY > 1 \rightarrow OY$  $RY < 1 \rightarrow UY$  $RY = 1 \rightarrow no PDR$ 

#### transgressive OY

actual absolute yield (AY) mixed stand > AY of pure stand of each species

• tree species diversity via Shannon Index

Shannon Index =  $-\sum S_{Spi} * \ln S_{Spi}$ 

S<sub>Spi</sub> = species share of species i

#### simulation experiment analysis approach (2)



### species identity & complementarity effect (Loreau & Hector, 2001)

- mean & CV of the species traits
  - light response
  - potential max. height at the age of 100 [m]
  - leaf area allometric exponent

#### statistical analysis

- Pearson correlations
- uni & multivariate OLS regressions

 $RY = a + b * x_1 + c * x_2 + d * x_3 + ...$ 

 $x_1 \dots x_i$  = mean & CV of the species traits

multicollinearity (VIF)

results effects of diversity on absolute yield



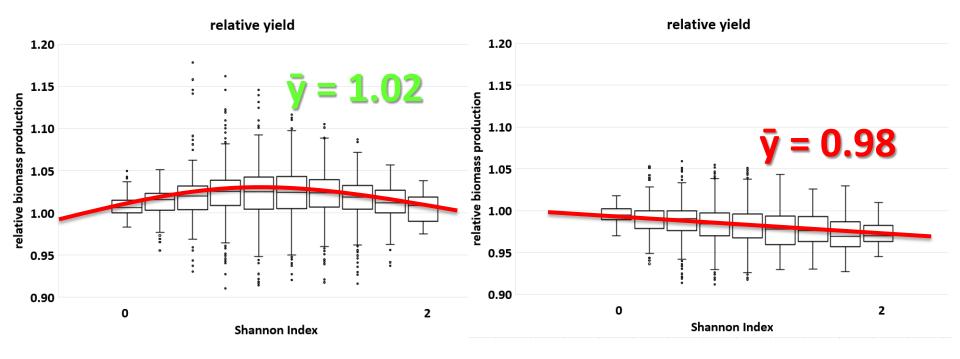
random mixture patches absolute yield absolute yield 650 000 650 000 = 431 t **430 t** 600 000 600 000 biomass production kg/ha 200 000 420 000 000 000 000 biomass production kg/ha 550 000 500 000 8 450 000 400 000 350 000 350 000 -300 000 300 000 0 2 0.2 2 Shannon Index Shannon Index



#### results effects of diversity on relative yield

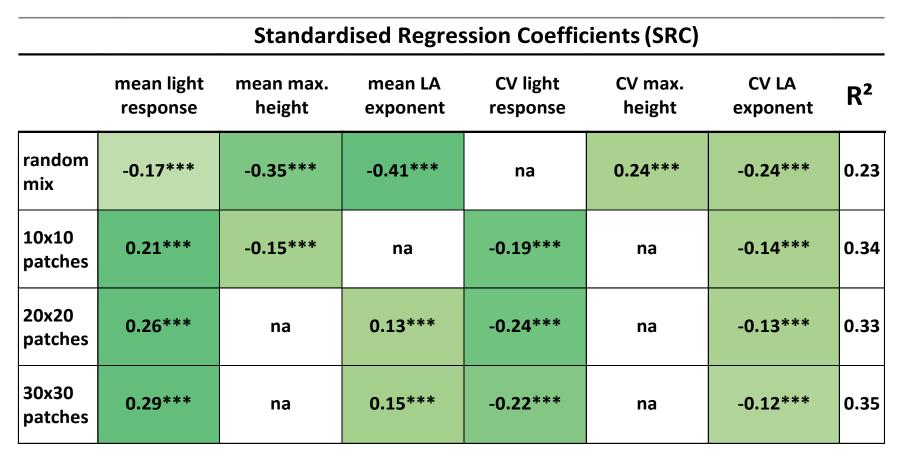
#### random mixture

patches



% of stands	random mix	patches
overyielding	80%	18%
transgressive OY	6%	0.6%

#### results species identity and complementarity explain variation in RY



R<sup>2</sup> = coefficient of determination

\* level of significance  $\alpha$  = 0.05

\*\* α = 0.01

\*\*\* α = 0.001

influence

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#### conclusions



- diversity has positive influence in random mixture, effect is lost in patch mixtures (also Morin et al., 2011; Vila et al., 2007)
- 80% of simulated random mixed stands show OY and 6% show transgressive OY (similar in Morin et al., 2011)
  - reveals the importance of this topic
- diversity optimum for OY in random mixture (see Paquette & Messier, 2011)
  - 3 to 4 species may be enough diversity?
- species identity and complementarity effect explain 23-35% of variation in RY, 21% in meta analysis by Zhang et al.(2012)



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