

Interactive comment on “Unsaturated zone model complexity for the assimilation of evapotranspiration rates in groundwater modeling” by Simone Gelsinari et al.

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The special issue editors exceptionally decided to intervene in the discussion of the manuscript hess-2020-252. The tone of the review is unnecessarily condescending and personal to a degree which is not productive and causes unnecessary friction and frustration. While the reviewer has carefully studied the manuscript and provides some important and noteworthy points, the message is unfortunately undermined by the style and tone of the review. The reviewer writes for example: "Even more worrying are statements such as the one in line 240, which suggests the authors may not have understood the theoretical foundation of the DA algorithm they are using." We

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thus need to remind the reviewer that the goal of peer- review is to advance science. A constructive scientific debate lives from the discussion concerning approaches, assumptions and methods. There is no room for and no reason to belittle the authors.

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