



# Review of applications for SIMDEUM, a stochastic drinking water demand model with a small temporal and spatial scale

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**Abstract.** Many researchers have developed drinking water demand models with various temporal and spatial scales. A limited number of models is available at a temporal scale of 1 s and a spatial scale of a single home. The reasons for building these models were described in the papers in which the models were introduced, along with a discussion on their potential applications. However, the predicted applications are seldom re-examined. SIMDEUM, a stochastic end-use model for drinking water demand, has often been applied in research and practice since it was developed. We are therefore re-examining its applications in this paper. SIMDEUM's original purpose was to calculate maximum demands in order to design self-cleaning networks. Yet, the model has been useful in many more applications. This paper gives an overview of the many fields of application for SIMDEUM and shows where this type of demand model is indispensable and where it has limited practical value. This overview also leads to an understanding of the requirements for demand models in various applications.

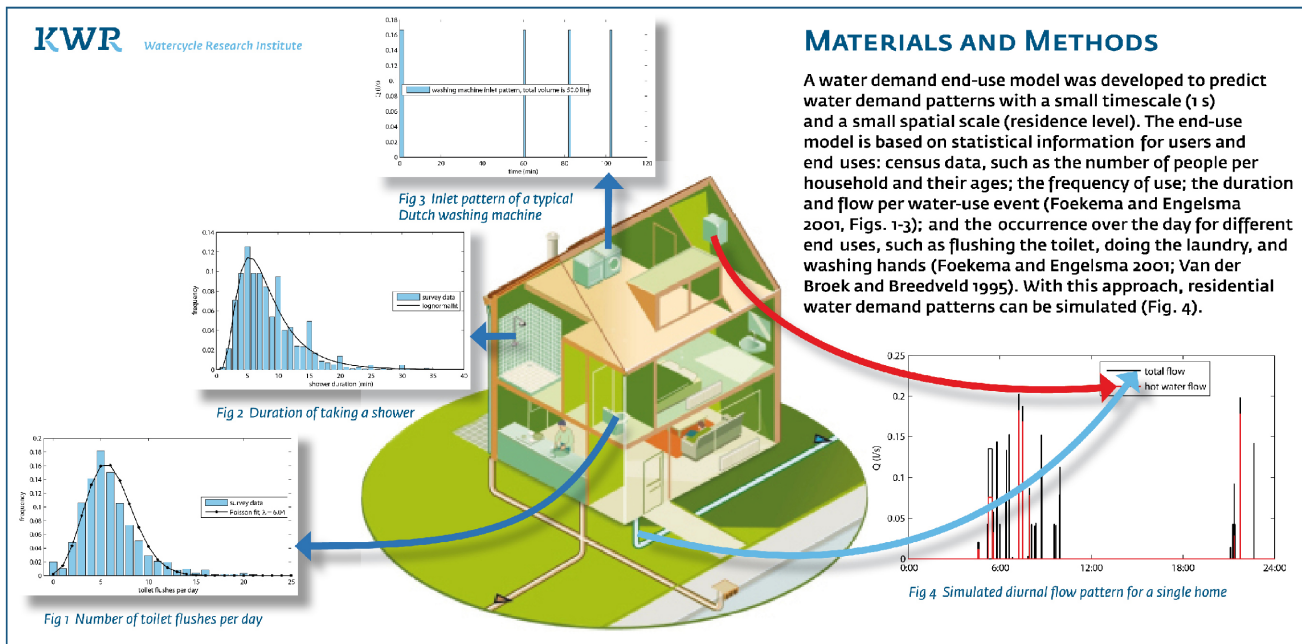
## 1 Introduction

Many researchers have developed drinking water demand models with various temporal and spatial scales. Several models are available at a temporal scale of 1 s and a spatial scale of a single home (Creaco et al., 2017). The models were introduced in papers, along with a discussion on their potential applications. For the small temporal and spatial scale models, the main application was assumed to be in water quality modelling (Blokker et al., 2008b) related to discolouration, chlorine decay and contaminant propagation. However, the predicted applications are rarely re-examined. The applications are reported in papers, but an overview of which applications are of interest and which are not has not yet been described.

An example of a drinking water demand model is SIMDEUM (Blokker et al., 2011b, 2010c). SIMDEUM differs from traditional demand models in various aspects:

firstly, SIMDEUM is based on parameters with a physical meaning instead of statistical parameters determined from measurements. Secondly, SIMDEUM is a stochastic model, while traditional models are deterministic (for an overview, see Donkor et al., 2012). Third, SIMDEUM has a small spatial scale (the customer tap). Fourth, SIMDEUM has a small temporal scale (1 s). There are some other non-traditional demand models that are stochastic and have a small spatial and temporal scale (see e.g. Creaco et al., 2017). However, these models usually only go as far as the household connection, and they rely on extensive demand measurements.

In contrast, SIMDEUM has often been applied in research and practice since it was developed, and many papers have been published about it. SIMDEUM's original purpose was to calculate maximum demands in order to design self-cleaning networks. However, SIMDEUM has been used for many more applications, some of which have led to insight into the appropriate temporal and spatial scales for the



**Figure 1.** A basic explanation of how SIMDEUM DW works.

different applications. This paper gives an overview of the many fields of applications for SIMDEUM and shows where this type of demand model is indispensable and where it is of limited practical value for the use of the full details of SIMDEUM. In these applications, it is always possible to use SIMDEUM at a higher aggregation level.

This paper is structured as follows. Section 2 explains how SIMDEUM works and discusses the validation of the SIMDEUM results with measurements. Each of SIMDEUM's unique modelling aspects provides a different modelling opportunity and leads to a different field of application. Section 3 gives an overview of the various SIMDEUM applications. Section 4 reviews the various aspects and the areas in which they are particularly valid or useful. Some applications are relevant for multiple aspects, which means that previous studies may be mentioned multiple times in Sects. 3 and 4.

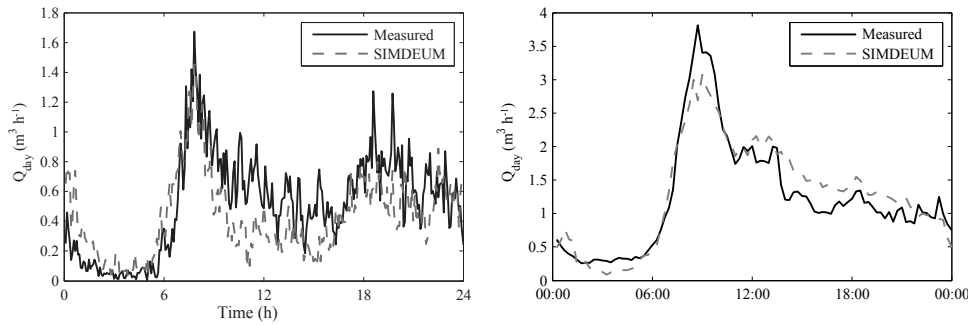
## 2 Introduction of SIMDEUM

### 2.1 Basic description of SIMDEUM

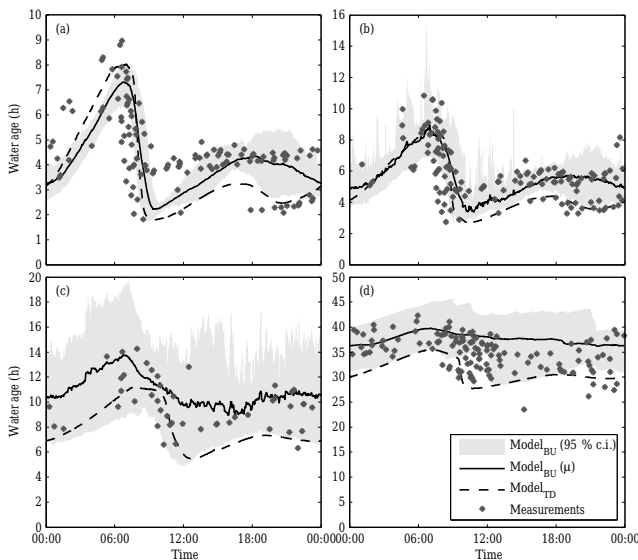
SIMDEUM (Blokker et al., 2010c; Blokker, 2010) is a stochastic model based on input parameters with a physical meaning that is related to water-using appliances (typical flows and volumes) in the home, the household composition (number of people, ages) and consumer water-using behaviour (number of toilet flushes, duration of showers, preference over the day for water-using activities). SIMDEUM is not based on flow measurements, but on surveys of

household occupancy, household appliances and people's behaviour with respect to water (Foekema and Engelsma, 2001; Van der Broek and Breedveld, 1995). SIMDEUM generates demand patterns for cold and hot water use at the tap. Figure 1 shows some examples of the inputs and outputs of SIMDEUM. Its spatial scale is the tap, and it can be aggregated to the scale of a single household and an apartment building or street, e.g. by applying a bottom-up approach of demand allocation in a hydraulic model where each node has its own unique set of stochastic demand patterns. Its temporal scale is 1 s and can also be aggregated. SIMDEUM thus has some unique aspects in which it differs from traditional demand models. These include its physical basis, its stochastic nature, its small spatial scale (the customer tap) and its small temporal scale (1 s). SIMDEUM leads to realistic demands and realistic variations in those demands, over the day as well as between days and between demand nodes (see Sect. 2.2), at various aggregation levels from 1 s to 1 h and from a single household to a small town.

SIMDEUM was first developed for drinking water demands (SIMDEUM DW; Blokker et al., 2010c). It was then also made applicable for non-residential water demand in offices, hotels and nursing homes by introducing "functional rooms" (Blokker et al., 2011b). Other types of non-residential demand can easily be generated with SIMDEUM; the required information for these non-residential buildings is per functional room of occupants, including the water-using appliances and an estimate of the water-using behaviour. A next development step was SIMDEUM HW for hot water demand and the related energy demand (Pieterse-



**Figure 2.** A comparison between the average measured demand pattern and the pattern generated by SIMDEUM DW. **(a)** The 5 min demands of the sum of 45 homes (Blokker et al., 2010c), and **(b)** the 15 min demands of a nursing home (Blokker et al., 2011b).



**Figure 3.** The measured and modelled water age at four locations. Model<sub>TD</sub> is the model with top-down demand allocation, and Model<sub>BU</sub> is the model with bottom-up demand allocation of SIMDEUM patterns. The 95 % confidence interval is due to variation, not to uncertainty (Blokker et al., 2010a).

Quirijns et al., 2015). SIMDEUM HW takes into account heat losses in the pipes and hot water devices and can show the benefits of a shower heat recovery system. A last development was SIMDEUM WW for waste water discharge patterns (Pieterse-Quirijns et al., 2012). SIMDEUM WW includes the thermal energy of the waste water and the nutrient load, which are also determined by the end use.

## 2.2 SIMDEUM validations

SIMDEUM has been validated on several of its unique aspects in various studies over the years. The maximum demand in various time steps (per second, per minute, per hour, per day), the number of pulses per day and the number of clock hours per day when there is water use was compared to

the measurements for a single household and an aggregation of 30–45 homes for the Netherlands (Blokker et al., 2010c) and Ohio, USA (Blokker et al., 2008a; Sect. 5 in Blokker, 2010; Buchberger et al., 2003). For the aggregated levels, the diurnal patterns and the variability over the day (by using the cumulative frequency distribution of flows and flow changes between one time step and the next) were also compared to the measurements. A validation was also done for apartment buildings (hot and cold water) of up to 200 units (Pieterse-Quirijns and Beverloo, 2013) and for several streets where a limited set of demand measurements was available off the shelf (Blokker, 2006). Specific validation measurements were also done for the total and hot water use in offices, hotels and nursing homes (Pieterse-Quirijns et al., 2013b). In these specific validation measurements, some of the assumptions in the input variables, such as number of toilets per office employee, were also validated. All of these validations showed the power of the physically based model in generating realistic demand patterns with a realistic variability over the day and between days, as well as a realistic prediction of the maximum flows (see Fig. 2). The minimum flows were predicted less well with the original SIMDEUM version. In the SIMDEUM drinking water (SIMDEUM DW) version of 2015 (Blokker and Agudelo-Vera, 2015), the night flow was improved as was the midday evening demands for rural and urban residents. This was done by adding new specific data on the time of use for showers, washing machines and dishwashers and a different use of the time budget data. Hot water demand in residences (SIMDEUM HW) and waste water discharge (SIMDEUM WW) patterns have not yet been validated with specific measurements.

The stochastic aspect (i.e. the variability in the demands) was also validated. The effect of the stochastic demands in a hydraulic model on the residence time towards all model nodes and the variability in residence time over the day and between days was validated in two networks with NaCl tracer tests (Blokker et al., 2011a, 2010a). It compared the use of SIMDEUM in a so-called bottom-up approach of demand allocation to the traditional top-down demand allocation that uses a pumping station multiplier pattern in combi-



**Figure 4.** The fraction of time that the flow reverses in a model with (a) bottom-up allocated SIMDEUM demands (Blokker, 2010) and (b) top-down demand allocations. The 50 % value means that 50 % of the time the flow is in one direction and 50 % in the other.

nation with annual water metre readings. More specifically, with SIMDEUM the variation in the demand between days was taken into account by analysing multiple (stochastic) model runs. The results showed that the SIMDEUM model approach gives a much better insight into the actual residence time, especially in the periphery of the DWDS (drinking water distribution system), and also in the variability of the residence time (Fig. 3).

### 3 Discussion of SIMDEUM applications

#### 3.1 Water quantity modelling

SIMDEUM is used to generate realistic drinking water demand patterns, and these are able to provide insight into the various aspects related to water quantity, such as hydraulic network modelling, leakage modelling and transient modelling.

Hydraulic network models are used to study the effects on network pressures and flows through the DWDS. The results heavily depend on the demand patterns that are used. The bottom-up approach to (SIMDEUM) demand allocation and the comparison to the traditional top-down demand allocation (Blokker et al., 2011a, 2010a) allowed for the study of how more realistic demands lead to different maximum flow velocities, flow direction reversals (Fig. 4) and residence time in the network (Sect. 8 in Blokker, 2010). In a transition between a fully stochastic bottom-up demand allocation and a fully deterministic top-down demand allocation (see Sect. 2.2), it was found that the use of specific (deterministic) demand patterns for a total of 20 different types of users, such as hotels, schools and restaurants, was a good approach. SIMDEUM was used to generate these specific patterns (Pieterse-Quirijns, 2014), and a model study showed that using this demand pattern library in a hydraulic model leads to a better understanding of water quality in the network (Pieterse-Quirijns and van de Roer, 2013). The study showed many differences between the standard model

and the model with the multiplier patterns from the library, such as different residence times, the hour of maximum flow, flow direction reversals, routes of water flow and contaminant propagation. The effect of changing demands on the robustness of a DWDS was also studied; Agudelo-Vera et al. (2016) showed that although there can be a significant effect on head, maximum flow velocities and residence times, the studied networks are able to cope.

Another important aspect of water quantity is leakage. Leakage is not usually one of the end uses that is modelled in SIMDEUM. By comparing the measured and SIMDEUM-generated night flows, it may be possible to assess leakage in a DWDS (van Thienen et al., 2012). Depending on the accuracy of the SIMDEUM-generated night flow (which was improved in the 2015 version; see also Sect. 2.2) and the relative amount of leakage compared to total demand, this approach helps to identify the actual leakage, while most traditional water balancing approaches (based on comparing measurements over time) will only give insight into the change in leakage over time. The night flow in SIMDEUM is modelled by setting a certain expected total night flow percentage as an input parameter. This input parameter, however, is still only known with a high level of uncertainty and should be studied further.

The effects of transients in the DWDS from changes in water demand on a small temporal scale (1 s) and a small spatial scale (household level) were studied (Pothof and Blokker, 2012). The study showed that the effect on the discolouration risk was limited. The effect of transients on other water quality aspects should be studied further. This requires a large computational capacity when each demand node has 86 400 multipliers in a diurnal pattern.

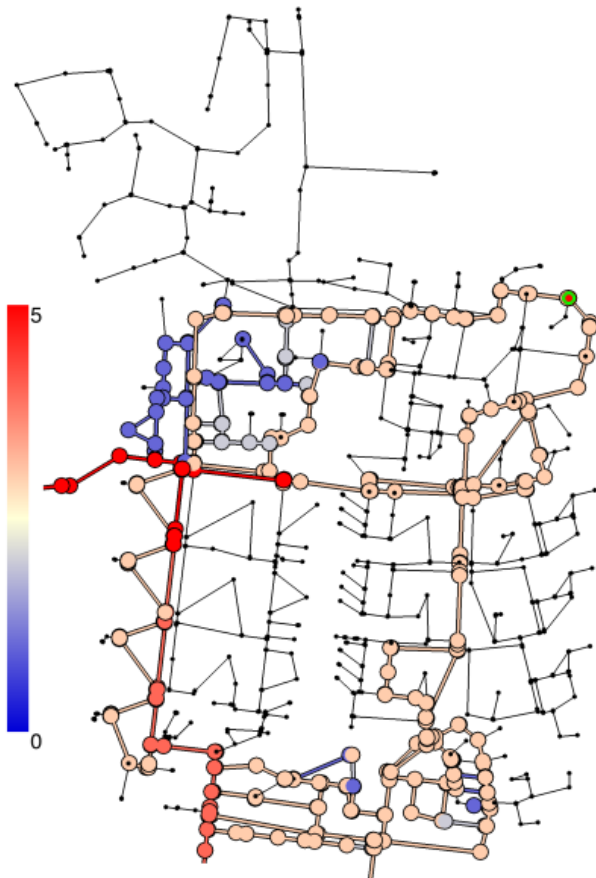
#### 3.2 Water quality modelling

On top of the hydraulic network modelling, some water quality modelling was done. This involved residence time in the DWDS, chlorine decay, the interpretation of water quality sensor data, the temperature of the drinking water and bacterial growth, which are all potentially influenced by the dynamics of the hydraulics in the DWDS.

It was expected that one of the main applications for SIMDEUM would be in modelling water quality in the DWDS (Blokker et al., 2008b). Added value was shown in residence time modelling (Blokker et al., 2010a, 2011a), especially in the periphery of the DWDS (Fig. 3; see also Sect. 2.2), and also in the saddle points where the flow directions change constantly. This also suggested a large effect by bottom-up demand allocation in modelling chlorine residue. There was some effect, again in the periphery of the network, but a much larger effect was notable from the uncertainty in the temperature in relation to chlorine decay (Blokker et al., 2013).

Backtracing contaminants that are detected on a (theoretical) sensor is also influenced by the demands in a model





**Figure 5.** A stacked origin map for a single-sample node (upper right, green circle) for five different sets of stochastic demand patterns in the reticulation part of a medium-sized city network, illustrating the effect of the stochastic nature of water demand on the flow patterns in the network and its impact on calculations. Red nodes occur in each of the five backtraces for the respective demand pattern sets. The other colours indicate a lower (but non-zero) number of occurrences (van Thienen et al., 2013).

(van Thienen et al., 2013), specifically at locations that can receive water through multiple paths and where many flow inversions occur (Fig. 5). With SIMDEUM, the uncertainty in backtracing a contaminant becomes evident for some locations; for other locations, the variability in the demand is less influential. This correlates to e.g. the changes in flow directions (Fig. 4). With the help of SIMDEUM, these potential sensor locations may be determined with more certainty.

The drinking water temperature is largely influenced by the temperature of the soil surrounding the DWDS. For most locations, the residence time in the DWDS is long enough for the drinking water temperature to be equal to the soil temperature (Blokker and Pieterse-Quirijns, 2013). For locations where the residence time is relatively short, the temper-

ature at the tap has not yet reached the soil temperature. For these locations, the stochastic variation in residence time (in a street, over the day, between days) means that the temperature of the tap samples may vary a lot, and the temperature model developed by KWR would be difficult to validate in this case (Blokker et al., 2014a). In contrast, the temperature in the drinking water installation (DWI) is heavily influenced by the demand pattern, and not mainly by the ambient temperature (Moerman et al., 2014). In this study, SIMDEUM enabled the setting of specific demand patterns for toilet cisterns, washing machines and hot and cold water for showering on the respective faucets in an EPANET model of the drinking water installation. The model study showed that in the winter when the home is heated, the difference between the temperature of the drinking water at the entrance of the home (the water metre) and at the kitchen tap may be as much as 2–4 °C during the withdrawal of water.

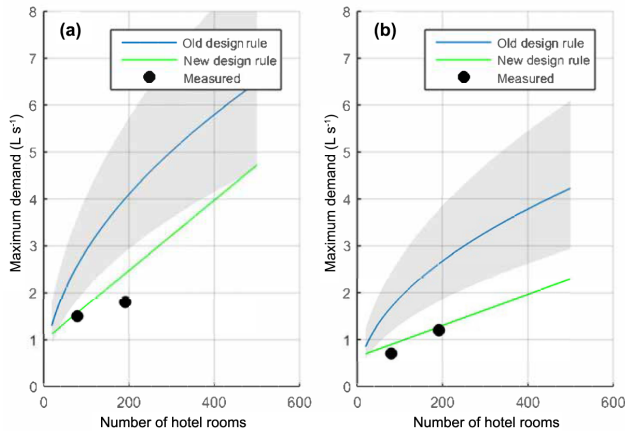
A very preliminary attempt to model bacterial growth in the DWDS showed that validating such a model with tap samples may be very difficult as the variation between locations within a street, the variation over time in a day and the variation between days could be quite significant (Blokker et al., 2014b). For *Aeromonas*, this variation was indeed found in tap samples (van der Wielen, 2015).

### 3.3 Design of drinking water distribution systems and drinking water installations

SIMDEUM was originally developed for an accurate prediction of the maximum drinking water demand and hot water demand. These parameters can then be used in the design of drinking water distribution systems (DWDSs) and (domestic and non-domestic) drinking water installations (DWIs). This application requires a small temporal scale; the maximum flow per minute can be 80 % of the maximum flow per second for a demand of 100 homes.

SIMDEUM has been used for the design of self-cleaning networks (Vreeburg et al., 2009), which are designed in such a way that any particulate material that accumulates over the day is regularly resuspended due to high flow velocities during (mostly) the morning peak in demand. The resuspended material then leaves the system through the customer taps by ensuring a unidirectional flow in the network. Note that this design is only applied to isolated areas of approximately 150–200 (residential) connections. SIMDEUM provides insight into the maximum daily demands that, together with a certain maximum diameter, ensure regular resuspension. SIMDEUM also provides insight into the maximum yearly demands that, together with a certain minimum diameter, ensure enough pressure at the taps (Blokker et al., 2010b; Buchberger et al., 2008). Several Dutch water companies now use SIMDEUM as the basis for designing their self-cleaning networks.

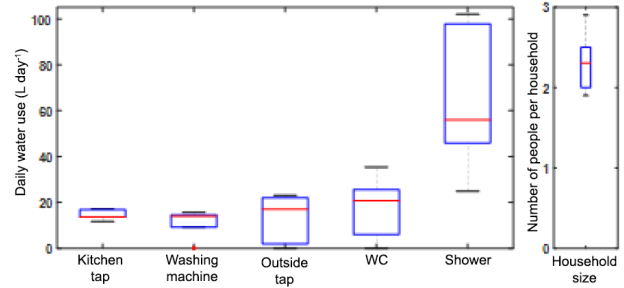
SIMDEUM has been used for the design of the DWIs in apartment buildings and non-domestic buildings (Pieterse-



**Figure 6.** The maximum design flow for hotels depending on the number of rooms for (a) cold water and (b) hot water. The old design rule was officially the upper limit of the coloured area, but in practice the line in the middle or even the lower limit of the coloured area was used depending on the design expertise. The new design rule is based on SIMDEUM (ISSO-kontaktgroep, 2015). The measurements fit the new design rule well (graph based on data from Pieterse-Quirijns et al., 2013a).

Quirijns et al., 2013b; Agudelo-Vera et al., 2013a; Pieterse-Quirijns and Beverloo, 2013) for which insight into the maximum daily drinking water demand and the maximum daily hot water demand, together with a requirement for the minimum and maximum flow velocities, leads to a certain pipe diameter; the maximum demand for hot water in 10 min, 1 h or 1 day is used to determine the most appropriate hot water device. The design rules following from SIMDEUM were validated (see Sect. 2.2, Fig. 6) and are now in the official Dutch guidelines for the design of DWIs in apartment buildings and non-domestic buildings (ISSO-kontaktgroep, 2015). A research project was also conducted for the design of hot water devices in residential DWIs (Pieterse-Quirijns et al., 2015). This study showed that hot water devices can be designed much smaller, thus reducing the waste of energy, when realistic water demands are taken into account. The current Dutch building regulation is based on floor space only; SIMDEUM can complement this as it can also take into account the presence and behaviour of the residents.

With SIMDEUM WW, it is also possible to determine the discharge of (non-) domestic waste water. In studying sustainability concepts for water saving by using light grey water and rainwater for flushing toilets and doing the laundry, SIMDEUM was used to balance the supply and demand at both the level of a single home and an apartment building (Agudelo-Vera et al., 2013b, 2014b; Pieterse-Quirijns et al., 2012). The study showed that the adaptation of water-saving appliances is the most sustainable option compared to rainwater harvesting. It also showed that the design of systems for the reuse of grey water or rainwater is highly sensitive to the demand pattern. The use of realistic patterns simulated

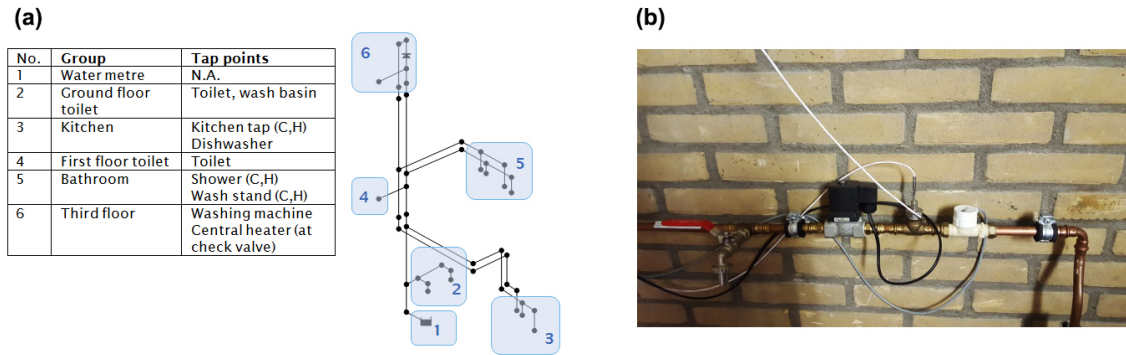


**Figure 7.** The range of simulated daily water consumption for a selection of end uses and household sizes for 12 future demand scenarios used in a stress test (Agudelo-Vera et al., 2016).

with SIMDEUM can lead to a smaller tank size or to a better estimation of the harvesting potential. It also showed that in the Netherlands, the size of the necessary storage tank can be much smaller when light grey water is used than when only rainwater is used as an alternative water source. SIMDEUM was used to simulate the water cycle at the block level and the neighbourhood level (Sects. 6 and 7 in Agudelo-Vera, 2012), showing that the building type related to different neighbourhoods has an influence on the urban water cycle, the efficiency of decentralised reuse and rainwater systems.

### 3.4 Prediction of future water demand

Due to the physical basis of SIMDEUM, it can be used to generate future water demand patterns. For example, SIMDEUM can model future demographic changes and changes in household occupancy, changes in the behaviour of people (due to legislation or awareness), increases in the number of luxurious (water inefficient) devices or increases in the number of water-saving appliances (Agudelo-Vera et al., 2014a; Blokker et al., 2012). Because SIMDEUM is based on the understanding of end uses, it is able to model trend breaks in water use, unlike the models that are based on measurements of current and historical water use. SIMDEUM can thus simulate specific scenarios that are relevant for climate change studies, for instance, the water demand on a warm summer day with the increased use at the outside tap. SIMDEUM acts as a predictive model in the design phase of new buildings as well as in the phase during which water use changes. These forecasted demands may then be used to design future DWDSs and DWIs or to check the robustness of existing DWDSs under changing demands (Fig. 7). A study showed that future demands are uncertain, but a range of demand scenarios can be taken into account and the uncertainty of the future can thus be incorporated into transitions in the (design of the) DWDS (Blokker et al., 2015).



**Figure 8.** (a) The EPANET hydraulic model of a DWI (Moerman et al., 2014). (b) A detailed view of one tap in the DWI experimental set-up. From left to right: the sampling tap, solenoid valve, temperature sensor, flow sensor and PVC drainage pipe (below in the picture, behind the bend). The solenoid valves in the DWI were electronically operated through the use of SIMDEUM demand patterns; this one is the washing machine (Vreeburg et al., 2012).

### 3.5 Research in the DWDS

SIMDEUM has also proven to be of use in research. It is impossible to measure flows at all times at all locations in the DWDS, but with the use of SIMDEUM, a hydraulic model can provide this information. This type of modelling has provided insight into the self-cleaning effect and shown that the self-cleaning velocity that has to be reached at 50 % of the days is  $0.20$  to  $0.25 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  in the tertiary network (Blokker et al., 2010b, 2011c; Schaap and Blokker, 2011). With SIMDEUM, a better prediction of the residence time will be available, and the study of the relation between the residence time and the water quality may also improve (Mounce et al., 2016; Blokker et al., 2016).

### 3.6 Application of SIMDEUM outside the developers' research group

So far, SIMDEUM has mainly been used by the developers, as can be noted by the references in the previous sections. Others outside the developers' research group have applied SIMDEUM, but this has not always been published.

The Dutch installation sector does not use SIMDEUM directly, but the design rules that were derived from SIMDEUM are in the official Dutch guidelines for the design of DWIs for apartment buildings and non-domestic buildings (ISSO-kontaktgroep, 2015). Several Dutch drinking water companies also use the design rules that were derived from SIMDEUM to develop self-cleaning networks.

MSc and PhD students in the Netherlands, the UK and Germany have used SIMDEUM with limited help from the developers, and some have published their results (Agudelo-Vera, 2012, before she joined KWR; Agudelo-Vera et al., 2013b; Blok, 2016; Fischer, 2008). In Italy, a student developed her own version of a SIMDEUM model (Spina et al., 2014). Other students have used the SIMDEUM results in the hydraulic networks of drinking water installations (Moerman, 2013, when he did his internship with KWR; Mali-

novskis, 2013; Zlatanovic, 2017). Most students have struggled to collect country-specific or case study SIMDEUM input data and have used generic Dutch data for some of the parameters that they could not find. For the Milford, Ohio case, we were able to determine approximately 80 % of US or Milford data from a multitude of publications (Sect. 5. in Blokker, 2010). SIMDEUM input data are taken from information on (1) household occupancy, (2) household presence (3) and household appliances and people's behaviour with respect to water. With respect to the first type of information, the Dutch bureau of statistics publishes this on their website (CBS); many countries have this kind of data (or census data) available. With respect to the second type of information, a three-yearly survey on domestic water use has been available since 1992 in the Netherlands (van Thiel, 2014); elsewhere this type of data is often collected on a more irregular and ad hoc basis by alternating researchers. With respect to the third type of information, a five-yearly survey on time use is performed in the Netherlands; many countries have similar surveys that are publicly available (Centre for Time Use Research, University of Oxford). We believe that various input parameters can be used from the Dutch situation (as e.g. the same washing machines are sold in the whole of Europe) and that country-specific SIMDEUM input data are available, but they are not always easy to find or very recent. In order to validate a country-specific SIMDEUM result, some flow measurements must be taken, typically in a small DMA (district metered area). These are not always available to students, but water companies can help with that.

SIMDEUM is available in Matlab<sup>®</sup> (MathWorks, Natick, MA, USA) through command line control and as a stand-alone version with a graphical user interface (Pieterse-Quirijns, 2014). Students are invited to contact the authors for access to SIMDEUM. We welcome contact from anyone who wants to improve on the model.

**Table 1.** The importance of SIMDEUM aspects for various types of applications: ++/+ indicates that this aspect is either of great importance for the application or that SIMDEUM can be used for this aspect of the application, ++ indicates that the aspect is essential and + indicates that the aspect is important, but not to its full extent. A “0” means that this aspect has a lesser influence.

Application		Aspects of SIMDEUM				
		Physically based parameters	Stochastic model	Small spatial scale	Small temporal scale	Realistic demand patterns
Water quantity modelling	Hydraulic network model: maximum flow velocities	0	++	0	++	+
	Hydraulic network model: flow direction reversals	0	++	++	0	+
	Demand pattern library	++	0	+	0	0
	Leakage	0	0	0	0	++
	Transients	0	0	++	++	0
Water quality modelling	Residence time	0	++	++	+	0
	Chlorine decay	0	0	++	0	0
	Temperature	0	++	++	0	0
	Bacterial growth	0	0	0	0	0
	Sensor backtracing	0	++	++	0	++
Design of DWDS	Particulate material	0	+	+	++	0
	Self-cleaning network	0	++	++	++	0
Design of DWI	Cold water	++	++	+	++	++
	Hot water	++	++	+	0	++
Prediction of future demands	Fit-for-purpose source	++	++	++	+	++
	Design	++	0	0	0	0
	Water-saving effect	++	+	0	0	0
Research in the DWDS	Robustness check of DWDS	+	++	0	0	0
	Water quality in relation to hydraulics	0	+	++	++	0
	Lab set-up DWI	++	0	++	+	0
	Lab set-up DWDS	0	+	+	+	0

## 4 Discussion of SIMDEUM aspects

### 4.1 The physically based input

The fact that SIMDEUM is based on knowledge of water-using behaviour and water appliances instead of water flow measurements means that it can be used to describe in detail and even predict the total and hot water demands, and can thus be used in the design phase. SIMDEUM provides insight into the influence of changes in the technical specifications or the water-using behaviour on the total and maximum demand, and thus provides information on where to focus water-saving campaigns.

Furthermore, SIMDEUM generates customised drinking water demand patterns that can be revised or updated regularly without the need to perform extended demand measurements. The regular survey of Dutch residential drinking water use suffices.

### 4.2 The stochastic aspect

The stochastic aspect of SIMDEUM provides the user with multiple possible demands. This is essential in designing the DWDSs and DWIs to determine the maximum demands that

occur only once per year and has much added value in modelling water quality in the DWDS to determine the true residence times and flow direction reversals (including the variation between days) and how these may influence the interpretation of sensors. The important conclusion of these studies is that the variability in the demand adds extra understanding which is not reached with deterministic demand models.

### 4.3 The small spatial and temporal scale

There is a correlation between the variability in demand (stochastic aspect), the temporal scale and the spatial scale. Both the cross-correlation between the demand patterns and the lag-1 autocorrelation increase with an increase in the spatial scale (Sect. 2 in Blokker, 2010). This aspect is very related to the choice for the bottom-up approach of demand allocation (each connection has its own unique demand pattern) or the top-down approach of demand allocation (similar types of connections have the same demand multiplier pattern) in modelling the DWDS. The cross-correlation between the demand patterns increases with an increase in the temporal scale; the lag-1 autocorrelation is more or less stable for a temporal scale of 15 min or more, but it is a lot higher for a



**Table 2.** A summary of the requirements for the demand models for various types of applications.

Applications	Temporal scale	Spatial scale	Need for resemblance to real-time data	Does variability need to be included (i.e. stochastic demand patterns)?	Is a model based on historical data acceptable?	
Water quantity modelling	Hydraulic network model: maximum flow velocities	1–5 min	End pipes: single home Loops: 10	Depends on whether a general or specific view is required.	Yes, over time (day, season) and type (home, school).	Only if available at a suitable timescale and with variation over time.
	Hydraulic network model: flow direction reversals					
	Demand pattern library	15–60 min	> 500 homes	Can be limited.	No	Yes
	Leakage	15–60 min	> 500 homes	Must be high during night flow.	Yes, in order to discern natural variation from leaks.	Only if leak-free historical data are available.
	Transients	1 s	1–200 homes	Can be limited, as long as variation is there.	No	Only if available at a suitable timescale.
Water quality modelling	Residence time Chlorine decay Temperature Bacterial growth Sensor backtracing Particulate material	5 min	1–20 homes	Depends on whether a general or specific view is required.	Yes, over time (day, season) and type (home, school).	Only if available at a suitable timescale and with variation over time.
Design of DWDS	Self-cleaning network	1–10 s	1–200 homes	Must be high during peak hours.	Yes, 50th percentile or 99th percentile of maximum flows.	No, during the design phase no historical data are available. Also, the design is for future demand.
Design of DWI	Cold water Hot water Fit-for-purpose source		The tap; discern cold and hot water			
Prediction of future demands	Design Water-saving effect Robustness check of DWDS	15–60 min	The tap; to see trend breaks	Unknown by definition.	Recommended to aim for a bandwidth around prediction.	Possibly, but not when trend breaks need to be considered.
Research in the DWDS	Water quality in relation to hydraulics Lab set-up DWI Lab set-up DWDS	1–10 s	Tap and water metre	Can be limited, as long as variation is there.	Yes, for sensitivity studies.	Possibly

temporal scale of less than 5 min (Sect. 2 in Blokker, 2010). It does not seem to make sense to model with a small temporal scale in a DWDS when the spatial scale is large.

SIMDEUM can provide insight into when a bottom-up approach of demand allocation in a hydraulic network is required and when a top-down approach is good enough. It was shown that, depending on the number of household connections that a pipe feeds, the bottom-up approach can lead to differences in the (maximum) residence time, in the number of flow direction reversals, in the amount of stagnant water and laminar flows and in the maximum flow velocities (Sect. 8 in Blokker, 2010). This type of model is required in the extremities (dead-end pipes) of the DWDS when water quality (residence time, sensor interpretation, etc.) is modelled.

The spatial scale of SIMDEUM is actually the tap level, which is even smaller than what is used in modelling the DWDS. This means that hydraulics and water quality in the DWI can also be simulated in a hydraulic network model. The design of DWI pipes and hot water devices can be improved.

SIMDEUM can provide insight into the best temporal scale for different applications (Sect. 2 in Blokker, 2010). To determine the maximum demand for the network design, a 1 s time step is required; this, however, depends on the requirements for the design (Buchberger et al., 2008). It was shown that for modelling residence time in the DWDS, the standard time step of 1 h is too coarse, and a time step of 15 min or less is required to accurately predict the residence time at locations in the DWDS with several homes connected to it. For the locations where only a few homes are connected, a 5 min time step seems a better choice. The fact that a model with a 1 s time step was available allowed for the study of the effect of transients on discolouration issues.

#### 4.4 The realistic results

All of the above aspects are only valid when SIMDEUM leads to realistic results. The validation of the demand patterns, the maximum demand values and the resulting residence times shows that the SIMDEUM results are realistic. The advantage is that this allows for the use of the SIMDEUM patterns in laboratory set-ups, such as the DWI lab set-up at TU Delft (Vreeburg et al., 2012) or the Vitens scale model of a DWDS (KWR, 2015).

Realistic results also enable the use of the model results instead of expensive measurements to estimate maximum flows when studying the effect of hydraulics over time on the discolouration risk, to estimate contact times when studying microbial growth or to have a theoretical reference for night use when detecting leakage.

#### 4.5 Summary

Table 1 summarises the importance of these aspects for various applications. In modelling residence time in the DWDS, the small spatial scale is where the SIMDEUM bottom-up demand allocation will make a difference (++) . The temporal scale required is 5 min, which is smaller than with conventional demand models, but the very small time step of 1 s is not needed (+). Of course, all applications need realistic demand patterns, but the table shows where SIMDEUM has added value compared to other demand models; for example, this is the case in leakage modelling as conventional models often do not provide leak-free reference demand patterns. At the same time, Table 1 provides an overview of the requirements on demand models in various applications, which are made even more explicit in Table 2.

SIMDEUM is a very versatile model. Not all aspects of SIMDEUM are relevant in all applications (Table 1). SIMDEUM did allow us to determine the required aspects for the various applications, such as the best spatial scale for leakage assessment. For each application, it is now possible to determine what the requirements are for a demand model (Table 2). If it is important that the model has a physical basis rather than a measurement basis, e.g. for future demand estimation, an end-use model is advised. SIMDEUM is such a model, but with a temporal scale of 1 day; e.g. REUM is available (Jacobs, 2004). If a stochastic demand model is required, e.g. to determine the variation in the residence time or to find the maximum demand for design purposes, the PRP model and its derivative models (for an overview, see Creaco et al., 2017) are available next to SIMDEUM. If a spatial scale of the tap is required, SIMDEUM is the only model that the authors are aware of. If a spatial scale at the household level is required, SIMDEUM, the PRP or the PRP derivatives may be used. If a spatial scale at the street or DMA level is required, an aggregation of SIMDEUM patterns can be used, or a direct model at this level can be used (PRP or DMA measurements). Creaco et al. (2017) showed that for the Milford case, the PRP and its derivatives performed slightly better than SIMDEUM. If a temporal scale of 1 s is required, SIMDEUM and the PRP derivatives perform equally well (Creaco et al., 2017). If a temporal scale of 1–5 min is required, an aggregation of SIMDEUM patterns can be used, or a direct model at this level can be used (PRP or measured demands). If a temporal scale of 15 min or more is required, measurement-based demands are probably good enough. If realistic demand patterns are required, including the realistic variability for the sensor interpretation, the selected model must be fit for the study site. SIMDEUM has not been widely used outside of the Netherlands. It is expected that many of the Dutch input parameters may be reused, but a validation of the best parameter values and the results of SIMDEUM elsewhere is recommended (Sect. 5 in Blokker, 2010).

## 5 Conclusions

SIMDEUM, with its stochastic approach to demand simulation and the physical basis of its input parameters at a small temporal and spatial scale, has contributed added value to understanding and simulating current and future water demand. A decade after its first introduction, the use of SIMDEUM has allowed for a better simulation of the processes in the DWDS, improvement in the design of DWIs and support for decision-making by playing a role in the development of new design guidelines. This paper provides an overview of which aspects are required for the various applications. Some applications rely on the physical basis of SIMDEUM, and others rely on the stochastic nature and small temporal and spatial scale that SIMDEUM provides. This overview leads to an understanding of the requirements for demand models in various applications (Table 1).

SIMDEUM is a versatile model that has been used in various fields of application, and it is expected that more is still to come. The fields of application are not restricted to the water cycle and extend to the water–energy nexus and the circular economy concept.

**Data availability.** No data sets were used in this article.

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