



December 5, 2013

PhD Assistantship in Environmental Systems at the University of California, Merced

One PhD assistantship is available for Fall 2014 in the Environmental Systems Graduate Group at University of California, Merced for work in a National Science Foundation funded project investigating the role of low-intensity fires on soil aggregation and effect of organic matter in aggregate stability during low-intensity fires.

The Environmental Systems Graduate Program trains students to tackle the most challenging problems facing our planet – water, soil, climate, energy and resources. Through understanding the Earth as an integrated system of atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere that intersects human society, ES students are uniquely poised to address critical research needs of the environment and its sustainability. Graduates are prepared for careers in academia, research, government, and industry that integrate expertise from across engineering, natural sciences and social sciences.

Environmental Systems faculty are affiliated with the schools of Engineering, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts. Interested applicants are encouraged to send a brief statement of interest and their curriculum vitae to Professors Teamrat A. Ghezzehei (TAGhezzehei@ucmerced.edu) or Asmeret Asefaw Berhe (AABerhe@ucmerced.edu). More information on work in the Ghezzehei and Berhe labs at UC Merced can be found at our websites <http://soilphysics.ucmerced.edu> or <http://faculty.ucmerced.edu/aaberhe>.

The application deadline for fall semester enrollment is **January 15th, 2013**. For early consideration for admission and financial support to the PhD program, apply by December 15. Please visit the Graduate Division application page (<http://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/prospective-students/how-apply>) to submit application materials.

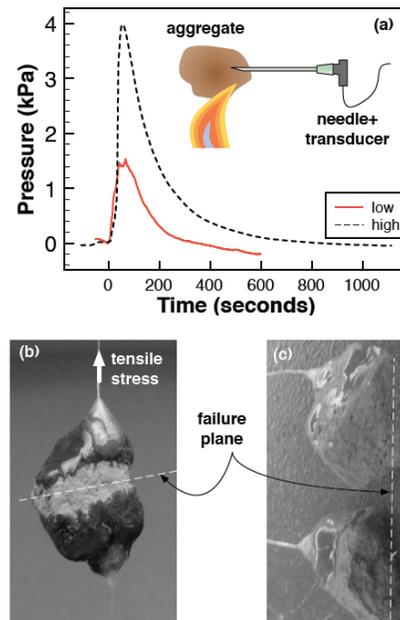


Figure 1. Pressure inside silt-loam soil aggregates measured using prototype sensor developed for this proposal (inset) at low and high water content; (b) soil aggregate partially coated by epoxy for tensile strength measurement, (c) aggregate after failure.