

# Hazard Assessment Comparison of Tazhiping Landslide Before and After Treatment using the Finite Volume Method

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**Abstract:** Through investigation and analysis of geological conditions and mechanical parameters of the Taziping landslide, the finite volume method was adopted, and, the rheological model was adopted to simulate the landslide and avalanche entire mass movement process. The present paper adopted the numerical approach of RAMMS and the GIS platform to simulate the mass movement process before and after treatment. This paper also provided the conditions and characteristic parameters of soil deposits (flow height, velocity, and stresses) during the landslide mass movement process and mapped the 3D division of hazard zones before and after landslide treatment. Results indicated that the scope of hazard zones contracted after engineering treatment of the landslide. The extent of high-hazard zones was reduced by about 2/3 of the area before treatment, and characteristic parameters of the mass movement process after treatment decreased to 1/3 of those before treatment. Despite engineering treatment, the Taziping landslide still poses significant hazard to nearby settlements. Therefore, we propose that houses located in high-hazard zones be relocated or reinforced for protection.

**Keywords:** finite volume method; rheological model; motion feature parameters; hazard assessment

## 1. Introduction

The hazards of a landslide include scope of influence (i.e., source area, possible path area, and backward and lateral expansion area) and secondary disasters (i.e., reservoir surge, blast, and landslide-induced barrier lake). A typical landslide hazard assessment aims to propose a systematic hazard assessment method with regard to a given position or a potential landslide. Current research on typical landslide hazard assessment remains immature, and there are multiple methods for interpreting landslide hazards. To be specific, the scope of influence prediction of a landslide refers to deformation and instability characteristics such as sliding distance, movement speed, and bulking thickness range. The movement behavior of a landslide mass is related to its occurrence, sliding mechanisms, mass characteristics, sliding path, and many other factors. Current landslide movement prediction methods include empirical prediction and numerical simulation.

**Empirical prediction method:** The empirical prediction method involves

44 analyzing landslide flow through the collection of landslide parameters in the field. It  
45 further consists of the geomorphologic method (Costa, 1984; Jackson et al., 1987;  
46 Scott et al., 1993), the geometric change method (Finlay et al., 1999; Michael-Leiba et  
47 al., 2003), and the volume change method (Fannin et al., 2001). Empirical models are  
48 commonly simple and easy to apply, and the required data are easy to obtain as well.  
49 **Numerical simulation method:** Numerical simulation methods are further divided  
50 into the continuous deformation analysis method (Hungr, 1995; Evans et al., 2009;  
51 Wang, et al., 2016), the discontinuous deformation analysis method (Shi, 1988), and  
52 the simplified analytical simulation method (Christen et al., 2010a; Sassa, 2010;  
53 Bartelt et al., 2012; Du et al., 2015). The numerical simulation method expresses  
54 continuous physical variables using the original spatial and temporal coordinates with  
55 geometric values of discrete points. Numerical simulations follow certain rules to  
56 establish an algebraic equation set in order to obtain approximate solutions for  
57 physical variables.

58 Empirical prediction models only provide a simple prediction of the sliding path.  
59 Due to the differences in geological environments, empirical prediction models  
60 commonly have low generality. The continuous deformation method has the  
61 advantage of an extremely strong replication capability, but it is not recommended  
62 when analyzing flow-type landslides, lahars, or debris flows because of complicated  
63 rheological behaviors (Iverson et al., 1997, 2001; Hungr et al., 2001; Glade 2005;  
64 Portilla et al., 2010; Chen et al., 2014). The fluid mechanics-based discontinuous  
65 deformation method has several shortcomings such as, great computational burden,  
66 difficult parameter selection, and difficult 3D implementation. The simplified  
67 analytical simulation method fully takes into account the flow state properties of  
68 landslides before introducing a rheological model and can easily realize 3D  
69 implementation on the GIS platform. On that account, this paper adopted the  
70 continuous fluid mechanics-based finite volume method (simplified analytical  
71 simulation method). We introduce a rheological model on the basis of using mass as  
72 well as momentum and energy conservation to describe the movement of landslides.  
73 We also employed GIS analysis to simulate the entire movement process of Taziping  
74 landslide and map the 2D division of hazard zones.

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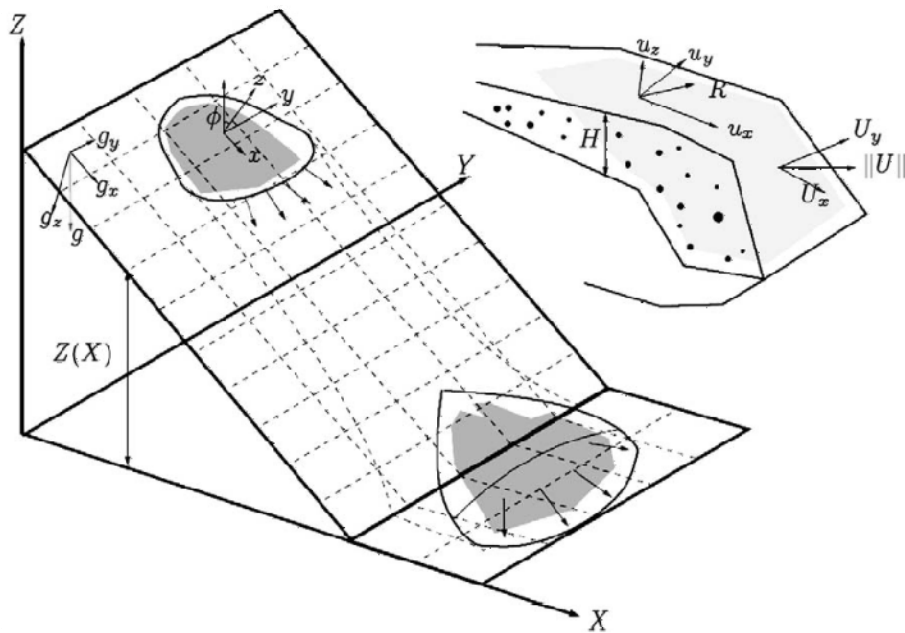
## 76 **2. Methods**

### 77 **2.1 Kinetic analysis method**

78 Adopting the continuous fluid mechanics-based finite volume method, this paper  
79 took into account erosion action on the lower surface of the sliding mass and the  
80 change in frictional resistance within the landslide-debris flow in order to establish a  
81 computational model. The basic idea is to divide the calculation area into a series of  
82 non-repetitive control volumes, ensuring that there is a control volume around each  
83 grid point. Each control volume is then integrated by the unresolved differential  
84 equation in order to obtain a set of discrete equations. The unknown variable is the  
85 numerical value of the dependent variable at each grid point. To solve the integral of a  
86 control volume, we make a hypothesis about the change rule of values among grid

87 points, that is, about their piecewise distribution profile. The finite volume method  
 88 can satisfactorily overcome the finite element method's weakness of slow calculation,  
 89 and solve the problem of complex region processing. Thus, we adopted the finite  
 90 volume method to establish the kinematic model for the landslide flow process.

91 The core of the finite volume method is domain discretization. The finite volume  
 92 method uses discrete points as a substitute for continuous space. The physical  
 93 meaning of the discrete equation is the conservation of the dependent variable in a  
 94 finite control volume. Establishment of the conservation equation is based on the  
 95 continuous movement model, that is, the continuity hypothesis about landslide  
 96 substances. We divided the landslide mass into a series of units and made the  
 97 hypothesis that each unit has consistent kinematic parameters (speed at a depth,  
 98 density, etc.) and physical parameters (Fig.1). We also established an Eulerian  
 99 coordinate system-based conservation equation with regard to each control volume.



100

101 Fig.1 Schematic diagram of finite volume discretization (Christen et al., 2010a).

102

## 2.2 Control equation

103

The computational domain is defined as directions  $x$  and  $y$ , and the  
 104 topographic elevation is given the coordinate  $z(x, y)$ .  $H(x, y, t)$  is assumed as the  
 105 change relationship of landslide thickness with time;  $U_x(x, y, t)$  and  $U_y(x, y, t)$   
 106 respectively represent the mean movement speeds along directions  $x$  and  $y$  at  
 107 moment  $t$ ;  $n_x = U_x / \sqrt{U_x^2 + U_y^2}$  and  $n_y = U_y / \sqrt{U_x^2 + U_y^2}$  represent the cosinoidal and  
 108 sinusoidal flow vectors of the landslide on the plane  $x - y$ . The mean flow speed of

109 substances is defined as  $U = \sqrt{U_x^2 + U_y^2}$ .

110 Thus, the mass balance equation becomes:

$$111 \quad \partial_t H + \partial_x (HU_x) + \partial_y (HU_y) = \dot{Q} \quad (1)$$

112 wherein,  $\dot{Q}(x, y, t)$  represents the change rate (entrainment rate) of landslide  
113 volume with time.

114 Assuming that  $l(x, y, t)$  represents the movement distance of the landslide with  
115 time, we can obtain:

$$116 \quad \dot{Q} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } h_i = 0 \\ \frac{\rho_i}{\rho_a} h_i \frac{U}{l} & \text{if } k_i l \geq h_i \\ \frac{\rho_i}{\rho_a} k_i U & \text{if } k_i l < h_i \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

117 wherein,  $h_i$  represents the thickness of the  $i$ th layer of the landslide in the  
118 movement process;  $\rho_i$  represents the density of the  $i$ th layer of the landslide in the  
119 movement process;  $\rho_a$  represents the density of the landslide; the dimensionless  
120 parameter  $k_i$  represents the entrainment rate.

121 The momentum balance equation is:

$$122 \quad \partial_t (HU_x) + \partial_x (HU_x^2 + \frac{g_z k_{a/p} H^2}{2}) + \partial_y (HU_x U_y) = S_{gy} - S_f(R)[n_x] \quad (3)$$

$$123 \quad \partial_t (HU_y) + \partial_y (HU_y^2 + \frac{g_z k_{a/p} H^2}{2}) + \partial_x (HU_x U_y) = S_{gx} - S_f(R)[n_y] \quad (4)$$

124 wherein,  $S_{gx} = g_x H$  and  $S_{gy} = g_y H$  represent the dynamic components of the  
125 acceleration of gravity in directions  $x$  and  $y$ ;  $g = (g_x \ g_y \ g_z)$  represents the  
126 vector of the acceleration of gravity;  $k_{a/p}$  represents the pressure coefficient of soil;  
127  $\rho_a$  represents the density of the landslide; the dimensionless parameter  $k_i$   
128 represents the entrainment rate;  $S_f(R)$  represents the frictional resistance.

129 The kinetic energy balance equation is:

$$130 \quad \partial_t (HR) + \partial_x (HRU_x) + \partial_y (HRU_y) = \dot{P} - \dot{D} \quad (5)$$

131 wherein,  $R(x, y, t)$  represents the random mean kinetic energy of the landslide;  
 132  $\dot{P}(x, y, t)$  and  $\dot{D}(x, y, t)$  represent the random increased kinetic energy and decreased  
 133 kinetic energy of the landslide.

### 134 2.3 Constitutive relationship

135 The improved Voellmy rheological model is applied in the computational  
 136 simulation of the landslide. See the computational formula below:

$$137 \quad S_f = \frac{u_i}{\|U\|} (h\mu g_z + R_i U^2 + R_\zeta U^2) \quad (6)$$

$$138 \quad R_i = \mu h \frac{U^T K U}{U^2}, R_\zeta = \frac{g}{\zeta} \quad (7)$$

139 wherein,  $u_i/\|U\|$  represents the unit vector in the movement direction of the  
 140 landslide;  $\mu$  represents the Coulomb friction coefficient, and is related to  $R(x, y, t)$ ,  
 141 the random mean kinetic energy of the landslide;  $R_i$  represents the gravity-related  
 142 frictional force coefficient;  $K$  represents the substrate surface curvature;  $\zeta$   
 143 represents the viscous friction coefficient of the ‘‘turbulent flow’’.

### 144 2.4 HLLE-Heun numerical solution

145 Synthesizing control equations (1), (3), (4) and (5), we can obtain the simplified  
 146 form of the nonlinear hyperbola equation:

$$147 \quad \partial_t V + \nabla \cdot F(V) = G(V) \quad (8)$$

$$148 \quad V = \begin{pmatrix} H \\ HU_x \\ HU_y \\ HR \end{pmatrix} \quad G(V) := \begin{pmatrix} \dot{Q} \\ S_{gx} - S_{fx} \\ S_{gy} - S_{fy} \\ \dot{P} - \dot{D} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$149 \quad F(V) = \begin{pmatrix} HU_x & HU_y \\ HU_x^2 + g_z k_{al/p} \frac{H^2}{2} & HU_x U_y \\ HU_x U_y & HU_y^2 + g_z k_{al/p} \frac{H^2}{2} \\ HRU_x & HRU_y \end{pmatrix}$$

150 wherein,  $V(x, y, t)$  represents a vector equation consisting of four unknown  
 151 vector variables;  $F(V)$  represents the flux function;  $G(V)$  represents the source  
 152 term. Based on the HLLE equation of the finite volume method and the quadrilateral  
 153 grid, the node layout can adopt the grid center pattern, and the normal flux along one  
 154 side of the control volume can be represented by the flux at the center of the side. The

155 finite volume discretization adopting the control volume as unit is depicted in Fig.1;  
 156 the Gauss theorem can be followed for the integration of equation (8), wherein  $C_i$   
 157 represents the unit volume; after converting the volume integral flux function  $F(V)$   
 158 into the curved surface integral, we can obtain:

$$159 \quad \int_{C_i} \partial_t V dx + \iint_{\partial C_i} F(V) \cdot n_i d\sigma = \int_{C_i} G(V) dx \quad (9)$$

160 wherein,  $n_i$  represents the outward normal direction vertical to unit  $C_i$  at the  
 161 boundary; through adopting the HLL format for the discretization of surface integral,  
 162 the following simplified form can be obtained:

$$163 \quad V_i^{(*)} = V_i^{(n)} + \frac{\Delta t}{A_{C_i}} \Delta F_i^{(HLL)}(V^{(n)}) \quad (10)$$

$$164 \quad V_i^{(**)} = V_i^{(*)} + \frac{\Delta t}{A_{C_i}} \Delta F_i^{(HLL)}(V^{(*)}) \quad (11)$$

$$165 \quad V_i^{(n+1)} = \frac{1}{2} (V_i^{(n)} + V_i^{(**)}) \quad (12)$$

166 wherein,  $V_i^{(n)}$  represents the mean value of unit variables at moment  $t^{(n)}$ ;  $V^{(n)}$   
 167 represents the mean value of the entire grid at moment  $t^{(n)}$ ;  $\Delta t := t^{(n-1)} - t^{(n)}$  represents  
 168 the calculated time step;  $A_{C_i}$  represents the area of unit  $C_i$ ;  $\Delta F_i^{(HLL)}$  represents the  
 169 approximate value of the curved surface integral, as shown below:

$$170 \quad \Delta F_i^{(HLL)}(V^{(n)}) := - \sum_{j=1}^4 F_{ij}^{(HLL)}(V^{(n)}) n_{ij} \Delta X \quad (13)$$

171 wherein,  $n_{ij}$  represents the outward normal direction of the  $i$  th unit at  
 172 boundary  $j$ ; the flux calculation term  $F_{ij}^{(HLL)}(V^{(n)})$  represents the approximate  
 173 solution mode of the Riemann problem of the  $i$  th unit at boundary  $j$ ; see the  
 174 computational formula below:

$$175 \quad F_{ij}^{(HLL)}(V^{(n)}) = \begin{cases} F(V_L^{(n)}) & 0 \leq S_L \\ \frac{S_R F(V_L^{(n)}) - S_L F(V_R^{(n)}) + S_R S_L F(V_R^{(n)} - V_L^{(n)})}{S_R - S_L} & S_L \leq 0 \leq S_R \\ F(V_R^{(n)}) & S_R \leq 0 \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

176 wherein,  $V_L^{(n)}$  and  $V_R^{(n)}$  respectively represent the approximate values of  $V^{(n)}$

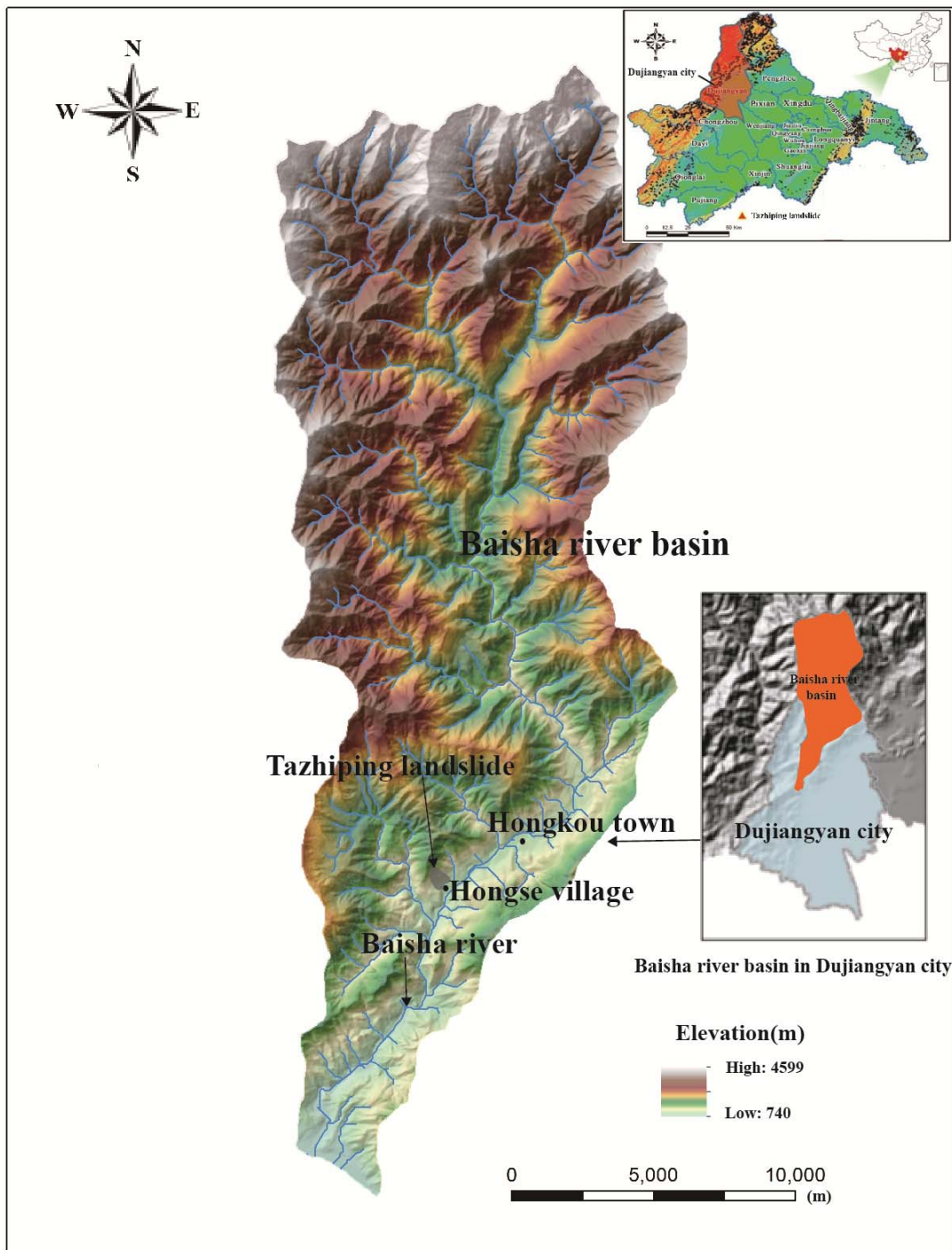
177 on both sides of boundary  $j$  of the  $i$ th unit;  $S_L$  and  $S_R$  respectively represent the  
178 wave speeds on the left and right sides. Refer to the computational method described  
179 by Toro (1992). In addition, the gradient magnitude in the original second-order  
180 difference equation can be limited through multiplication with the flux limiter, and the  
181 second-order format of the TVD property can be constructed to avoid the occurrence  
182 of numerical oscillation. Refer to the specific method described by LeVeque (2002).

183 In this paper a numerical solver within RAMMS is used, which was specifically  
184 designed to provide landslide (avalanche) engineers with a tool that can analyze  
185 problems with two-dimensional depth-averaged mass and momentum equations on  
186 three-dimensional terrain using both first and second-order finite volume methods  
187 (Christen et al., 2010b).

### 188 **3. Study area and data**

#### 189 **3.1 Taziping landslide**

190 The Taziping landslide is located southeast of the Hongse Village, Hongkou  
191 Town, Dujiangyan City of Sichuan Province. The site is located at (E103°37'46",  
192 N31°6'29"), 68 km west Chengdu City and 20 km from the Dujiangyan Urban  
193 District (Fig. 2). Its geomorphic unit is a middle-mountain tectonic erosional area on  
194 the north bank of the Baisha River Valley. The Taziping Landslide is a large-scale  
195 colluvial layer landslide triggered by the Wenchuan Earthquake (Fig. 3). It has a  
196 gradient of 25°-40° with an average gradient of 32°. The landslide has an apparent  
197 round-backed armchair contour with a steep rear edge, which has a gradient of  
198 35°-50° and an elevation of about 1,370 m. The front edge is located on the south side  
199 of the mountain road, and has an elevation of about 1,007 m. The landslide has an  
200 elevation difference of about 363 m, and a main sliding direction of 124°NE. The  
201 landslide mass forms an irregular semi-elliptical shape, and has a length of about 530  
202 m, an average width of 145 m and an area of approximately  $7.68 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^2$ . The  
203 landslide mass is composed of gravelly soil and is covered on by silty clay mingled  
204 with gravel. In terms of spatial distribution, the landslide is thick in the middle and  
205 thin on the lateral edges, has a thickness of 20-25 m and a volume of approximately  
206  $1.16 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ . During the earthquake, the landslide mass slid to cover the northern  
207 mountain slope of the Hongse Village Miaoba settlement. The landslide has an  
208 apparent front edge boundary, and there is also a swelling deformation (Fig. 4).



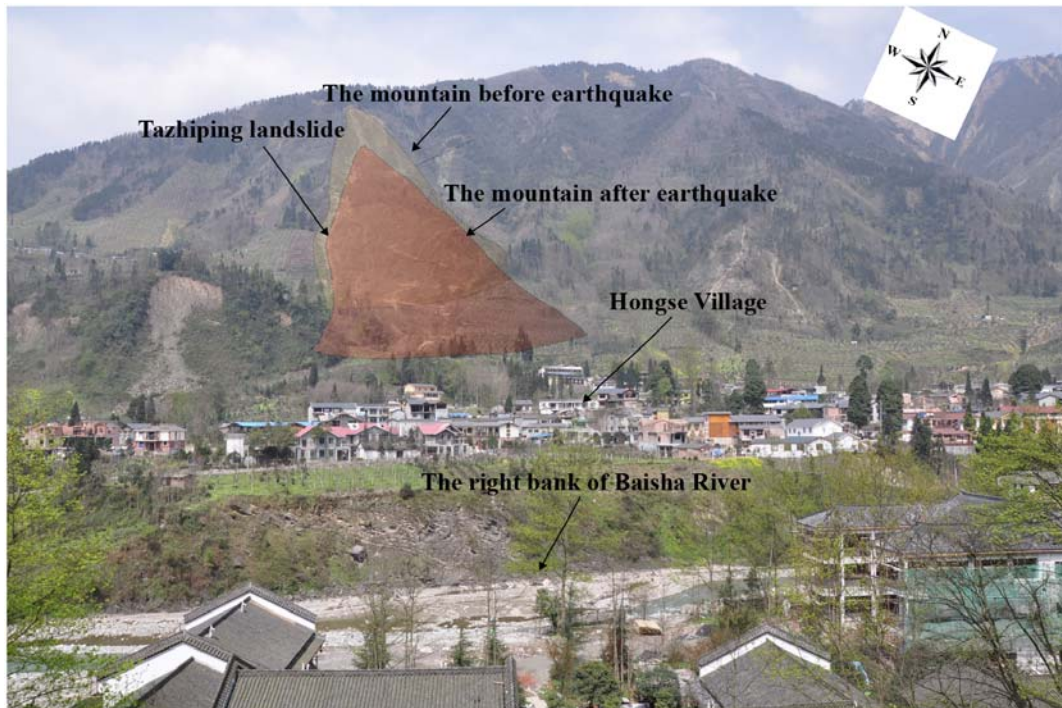
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Fig.2 Location of Tazhiping landslide, Baisha river basin, Dujiangyan city (the landslide was triggered by Wenchuan Ms 8.0 earthquake on May 12, 2008)

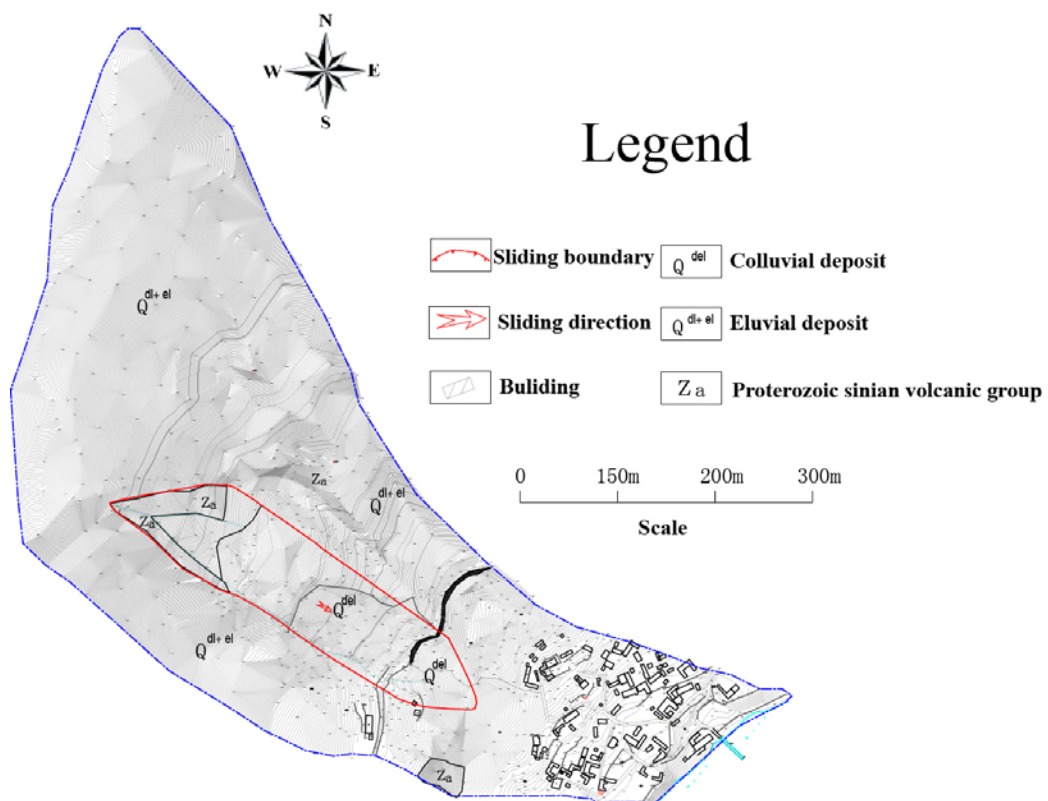




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Fig.3 Tazhiping Landslide



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Fig.4 Plane sketch of the Tazhiping landslide

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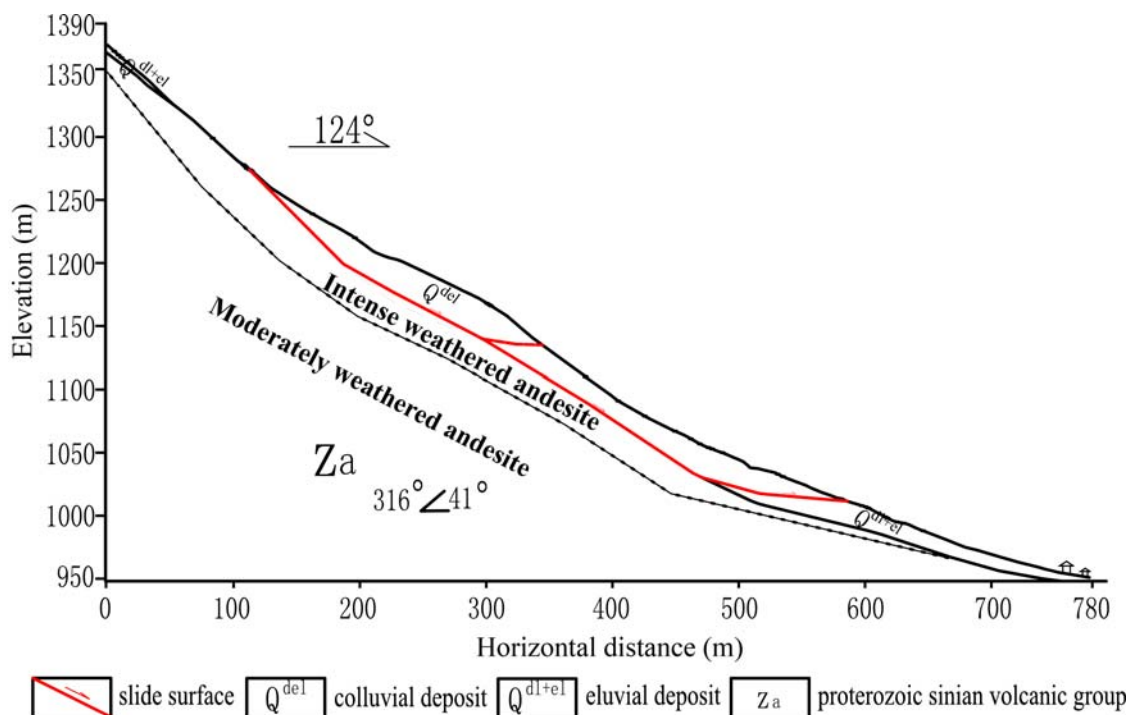
After the Wenchuan Earthquake, the massive colluvial deposits covered the mountain slope. The colluvium is 0.5-5.0 m thick at the top of the slide and is composed of rubble and gravel. The mass consists of a small amount of fine gravel,

218

219 which is composed of gray or grayish-green andesite with a clast of 20-150 cm. Field  
 220 surveys indicate that the rubble in the surface layer has a maximum diameter  
 221 exceeding 2 m, and that fine gravel is loosely intercalated with the rubble. A small  
 222 amount of yellowish-brown and gray-brown silty clay mixed with 5-40% of  
 223 non-uniformly distributed rubble composed the first 5-10 m of the slide. From 10-25  
 224 m deep, there is a wide distribution of gravelly soil. The soil is grayish-green or  
 225 variegated in color, is slightly compact and non-uniform, and has a rock fragment  
 226 content of about 50%. The parent rock of the rock fragments is andesite, filled with  
 227 silty clay or silt (Fig.5). Table 1 shows the parameters of the surface gravelly soil of  
 228 the landslide mass based on the field sampling.

229 Tab.1 Parameters of surface soil of Taziping Landslide

Internal friction angle (°)		Cohesion (kPa)	Relative compactness	Natural void ratio	Dry density (kN·m <sup>-3</sup> )	Specific gravity (g·cm <sup>-3</sup> )
Peak	Residual					
27.5	23	20.5	53%	0.789	15.357	2.492



230

231 Fig.5 Geological profile of the Taziping Landslide

232 The landslide is an unconsolidated mass containing relatively large amounts of  
 233 crushed stones and silty clay (Fig.6). Its loose structure and strong permeability  
 234 facilitate infiltration of surface water. The Wenchuan earthquake aggravated the  
 235 deformation of the landslide making deposits more unconsolidated, further reducing  
 236 the stability of the landslide mass. During persistent rainfall, surface water infiltrates  
 237 the landslide slope resulting in increased water pressure within the landslide mass and

238 reduced shear strength on the sliding surface. Thus, rainfall constitutes the primary  
 239 inducing factor of the upper Taziping landslide. After infiltrating the loose layer, water  
 240 saturates the slope increasing the dead weight of the sliding mass and reducing the  
 241 shear strength of soil in the sliding zone. Infiltration into the landslide mass also  
 242 increases the infiltration pressure of perched water, drives deformation, and poses a  
 243 great threat to villages located at the front of the landslide. Slide-resistant piles and  
 244 backfill were place at the toe of the slope in order to reduce the hazards of future  
 245 slides. The slide-resistant piles have enhanced the overall stability of the slope,  
 246 however, under heavy rainfall the upper unconsolidated landslide deposits may cut  
 247 out from the top of the slide-resistant piles.



248  
 249 (a) Material on the landslide surface (b) Material in the shear zone

250 Fig.6 Photographs showing colluvial deposit cover on the mountain slope

251 Therefore we simulate possible movement states of the Taziping landslide before  
 252 and after treatment with slide-resistant piles, comparatively analyzed the kinetic  
 253 parameters in the movement process, and mapped the 2D division of hazard zones.

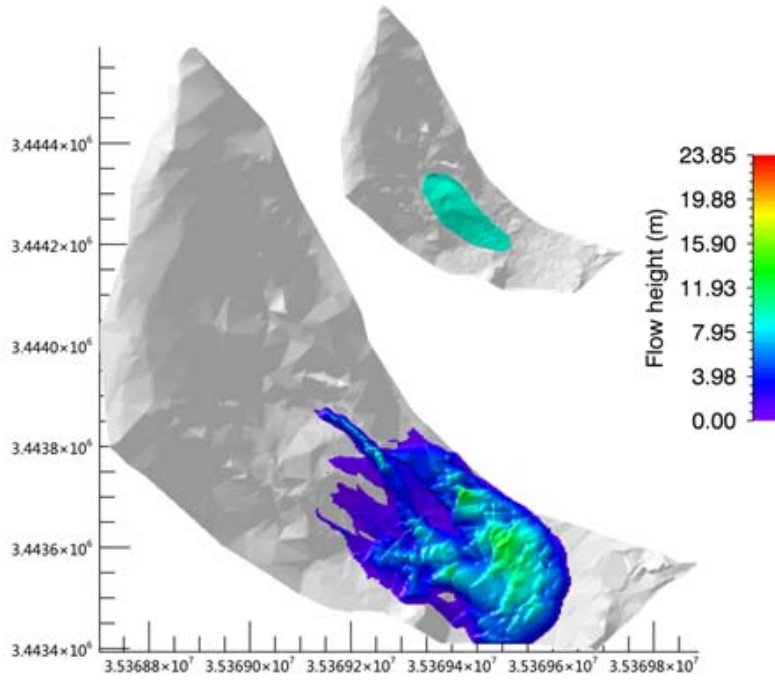
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### 255 3.2 Hazard prediction before treatment

256 It was assumed that the landslide was damaged before engineering treatment.  
 257 According to field investigation, the sliding mass had an estimated starting volume of  
 258 about  $600,000\text{m}^3$  and a mean thickness of 8m. Based on the survey report and field  
 259 investigation (Hydrologic Engineering and Geological Survey Institute of Hebei  
 260 Province, 2010), we adopted the survey parameters of Tab.2 for the simulated  
 261 calculation. These parameters were obtained from laboratory or small-scale  
 262 experiments and back-analyses of relatively well-documented landslide cases. The  
 263 unit weigh  $\gamma = 20.8\text{kN} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$  is from small-scale conventional  
 264 triaxial test experiments in laboratory. In addition, we selected the coulomb friction  
 265 coefficient  $\mu = 0.45$  and viscous friction coefficient  $\zeta = 500\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$  in accordance  
 266 with back-analyses of well-documented landslide cases (Cepeda et al., 2010; Du et al.,  
 267 2015). The erosional entrainment rate selected was the minimum value  $k_i = 0.0001$   
 268 in the RAMMS program.

Tab.2 Model calculation parameters

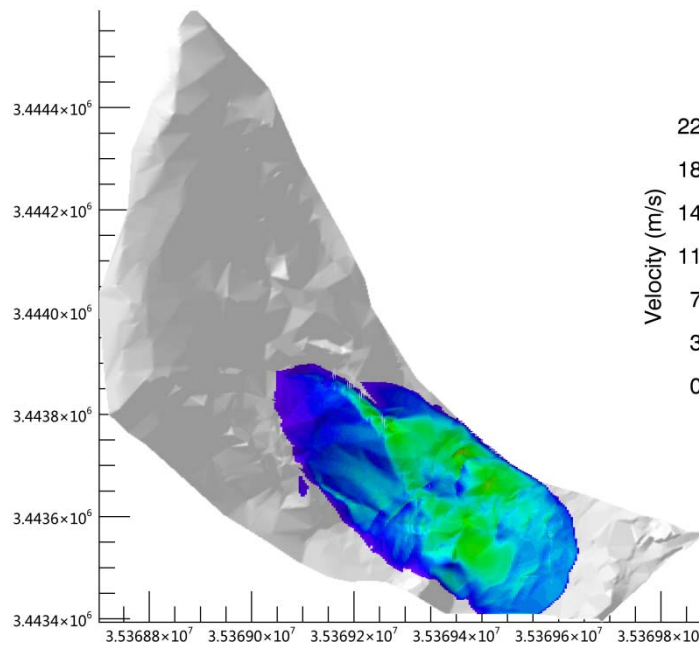
Unit weight $\gamma(kN \cdot m^{-3})$	Coulomb friction coefficient $\mu$	Viscous friction coefficient $\zeta(m \cdot s^{-2})$	Erosional entrainment rate $k_i$
20.8	0.45	500	0.0001



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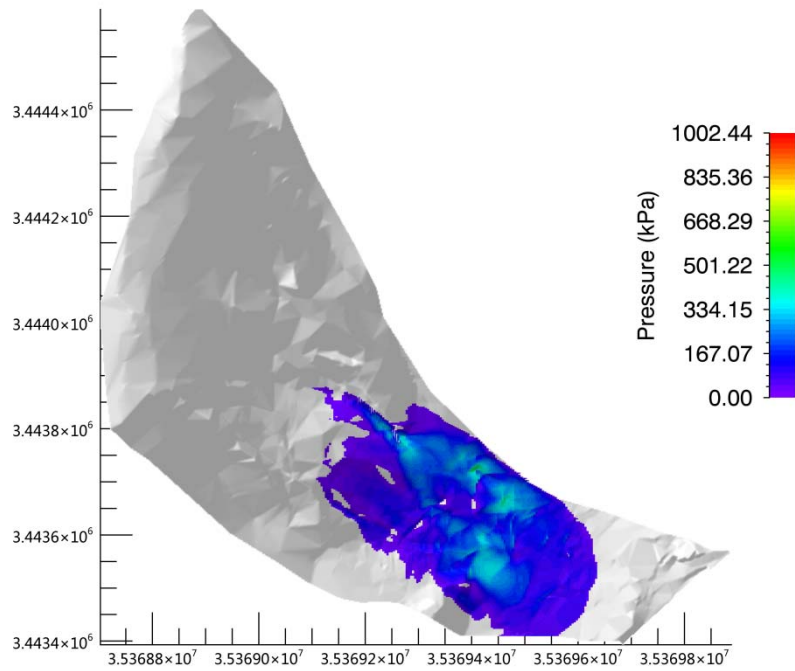
(a) Flow height



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(b) Velocity



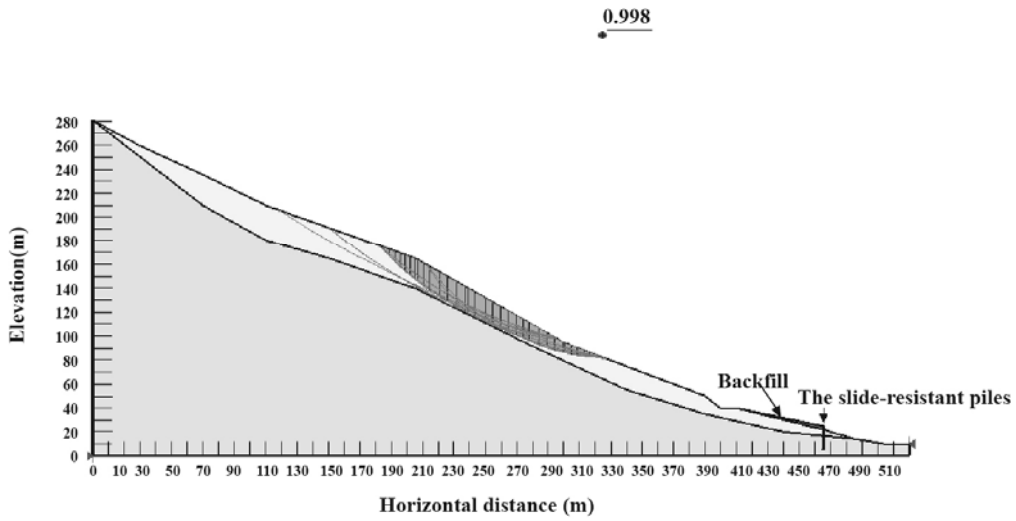
(c) Pressure

Fig. 7 Movement characteristic parameters of the Taziping landslide (before treatment)

See the kinematic characteristic parameters of the landslide deposits in Fig.7. The colored bar shows the maximum values of the kinematic process for a given time step. As shown by the calculation results, deposits accumulated during the landslide movement process had a maximum flow height of 23.85m, located around the surface gully of the middle and upper slope. The middle and lower section of the landslide deposit had a flow height of about 5-10m; the middle and lower movement speed velocity of the landslide ranged from 3m/s and 7m/s; the landslide had a mean pressure of about 500kPa, and the pressure of the middle and lower deposits was about 200kPa. Thus, three-story and lower houses within the deposition range might be buried (The building is 3m high on each floor), and it was further suggested that the design strength of the gable walls of houses on the middle and upper parts of the deposit be increased above 300kPa.

### 3.3 Hazard prediction after treatment

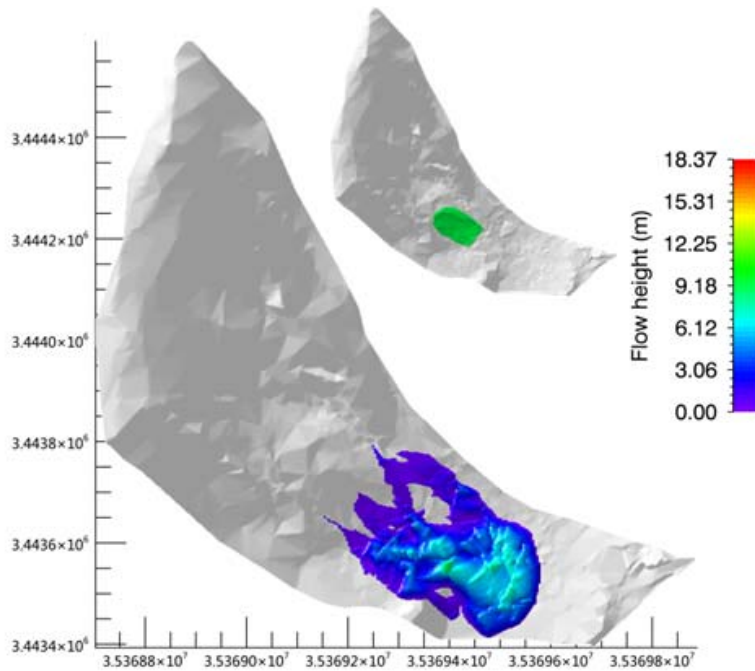
After fully accounting for the slide-resistant piles and mounds, we introduced the Morgenstern-Price method (Morgenstern et al., 1965) to calculate the stability coefficient of Taziping landslide after treatment. The method was determined with an iterative approach by changing the position of the sliding surface until failure of the dumpsite (Fig.8). The physico-mechanical parameters under a saturated state (Hydrologic Engineering and Geological Survey Institute of Hebei Province, 2010) were adopted to search for the sliding plane of the landslide.



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300 Fig.8 Search for the sliding plane of the Taziping landslide (before treatment)

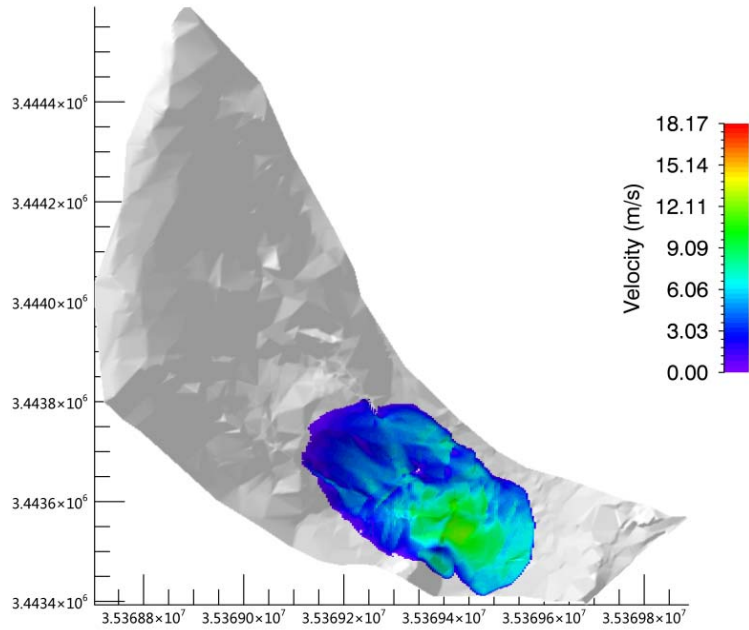
301 Based on numerical analysis, the Taziping landslide stability coefficient is 0.998.  
 302 Under rainfall conditions, the middle area of the Taziping landslide was unstable.  
 303 Loose deposits in the middle part of the landslide might convert into a high-water  
 304 landslide and cut out from the top of the slide-resistant piles. In the damaged area, the  
 305 slope had a rear edge wall elevation of about 1,170m. Its front edge was located on  
 306 the south side of the mountain road, with an elevation of 1,070-1,072m and a length  
 307 of 182m. Thus, the scale of the rainfall-damaged is estimated to be about 250,000m<sup>3</sup>,  
 308 with a mean thickness of about 6m. The parameters in Tab.2 were again adopted for  
 309 the simulated calculation.



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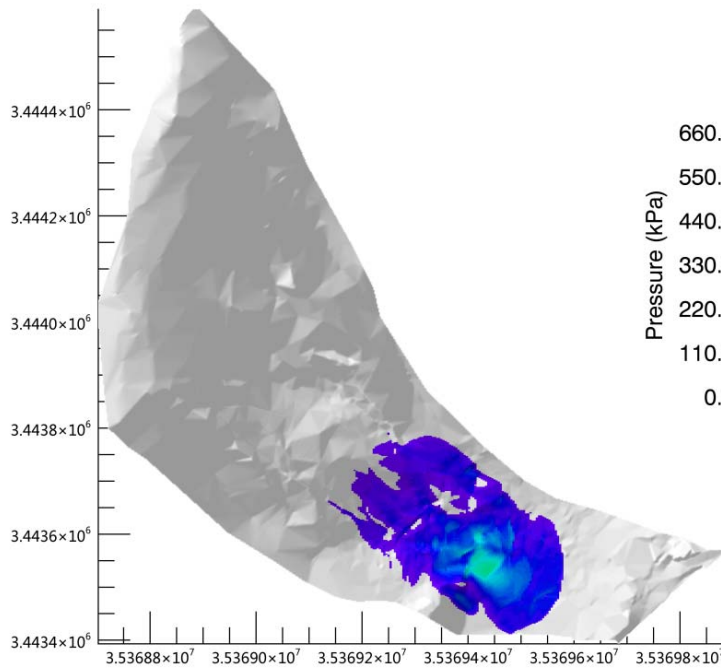
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(a) Flow height



312  
313

(b) Velocity



314  
315

(c) Pressure

316 Fig. 9 Movement characteristic parameters of the Taziping landslide (after treatment)

317 Provided in Fig.9 are the kinematic characteristics of the landslide deposit. The  
 318 colored bar shows the maximum values of the kinematic process for a given time step.  
 319 Deposits accumulated during the landslide movement process had a maximum flow height of 18.37m, located around the surface gully of the middle and upper slope. The  
 320 middle and lower portions of the landslide deposit had a flow height of approximately  
 321 3-5m. The middle and lower movement velocity of the landslide deposits ranged  
 322 3-5m.

323 between 3m/s and 5m/s. The landslide had a mean pressure of about 330kPa, and the  
 324 pressure of the middle and lower deposits was about 100kPa. Thus, it could be held  
 325 that two-story and lower houses within the deposition range might be buried. It was  
 326 further suggested that the design strength of the gable walls of houses on the middle  
 327 and upper parts of the deposits be increased above 150kPa.

328 After treatment, the accumulation flow height and pressure of the deposits were  
 329 reduced by about 1/2, and the kinematic speed is reduced by about 1/3. However, the  
 330 Miaoba residential area of Red Village was still partially at hazard.

331

#### 332 4 Results

333 Landslides reflect landscape instability that evolves over meteorological and  
 334 geological timescales, and they also pose threats to people, property, and the  
 335 environment. The severity of these threats depends largely on landslide speed and  
 336 travel distance. There may be examples where entire houses on a landslide mass are  
 337 moved but not destroyed because of stable base plates. In any case, velocity plays a  
 338 more important role regarding kinetic energy acting on an obstacle. However, the  
 339 Miaoba residential area of Red Village is located at the frontal part of Tazhiping  
 340 landslide. During landslide movement, the spatial scale indexes of a landslide mass  
 341 include area, volume, and thickness. The maximum thickness of the landslide is one  
 342 of the direct factors influencing the building's deformation failure status. A large  
 343 landslide displacement may lead to burial, collapse, or deformation failure of the  
 344 building, and thus influence its safety and stability. Thus, landslide thickness  
 345 constitutes an important index for assessing the hazards of a landslide disaster, and for  
 346 influencing the consequences faced by disaster-affected bodies (Fell et al., 2008;  
 347 DZ/T, 0286-2015). Provided in Tab.3 is a landslide thickness-based division of the  
 348 predicted hazard zones of Taziping landslide, in which the thickness of the landslide  
 349 mass correlates with the ability of a building to withstand a landslide disaster (Hung  
 350 et al., 1984; Petrazzuoli et al., 2004; Glade 2006; GB, 50010–2010; Hu et al., 2012;  
 351 Zeng et al., 2015). After treatment with slide-resistant piles, the hazard of a future  
 352 slide was reduced by about 1/3 overall and by 2/3 in high-hazard zones.

353 **Tab.3 Division table of the predicted hazards of Taziping landslide (unit: m<sup>2</sup>)**

Hazard zone level	Assessment index	Building damage probability	Area before treatment	Area after treatment	Increased/decreased area	Building damage characteristics
Low-hazard zone (I)	$h \leq 0.5\text{m}$	20%	44 , 600	38 , 748	-5,852	One-story houses may be damaged; houses on the



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<b>Relatively low-hazard zone (II)</b>	$0.5\text{ m} <$	50~20%	24 , 900	26 , 400	+1,500	landslide mass are partially damaged. One-story houses have a very high probability of being damaged; one-story houses on the landslide mass are completely damaged. One-story to three-story houses have a very high probability of being damaged; houses less than three stories on the landslide mass are completely damaged. One-story houses may be buried, and two-story to six-story houses have a very high probability of being damaged; houses on the landslide mass are completely
	$h \leq 1\text{m}$					
<b>Moderate-hazard zone (III)</b>	$1\text{m} < h \leq 3\text{m}$	80~50%	21 , 980	15 , 856	-6,124	landslide mass are completely damaged. One-story houses may be buried, and two-story to six-story houses have a very high probability of being damaged; houses on the landslide mass are completely
<b>Relatively high-hazard zone (IV)</b>	$3\text{m} < h \leq 5\text{m}$	100~80%	30 , 820	19 , 636	-11,184	landslide mass are completely

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**High-hazard**

**zone**             $h \geq 5\text{m}$             100%            47 , 240    13 , 052            -34,188

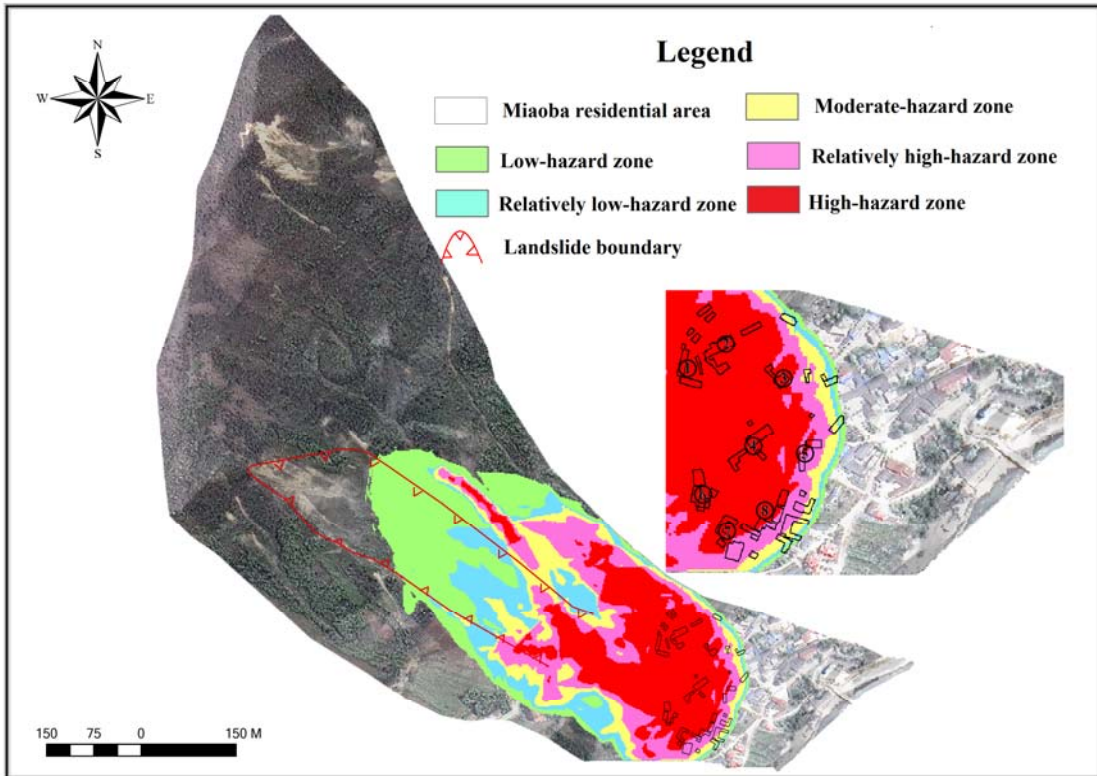
(V)

Total area:            —            —            169 , 540    113 , 700            -54,340            —

---

damaged.  
Two-story and  
lower houses may  
be buried, and  
three-story and  
higher houses have  
a very high  
probability of being  
damaged; houses on  
the landslide mass  
are completely  
damaged.

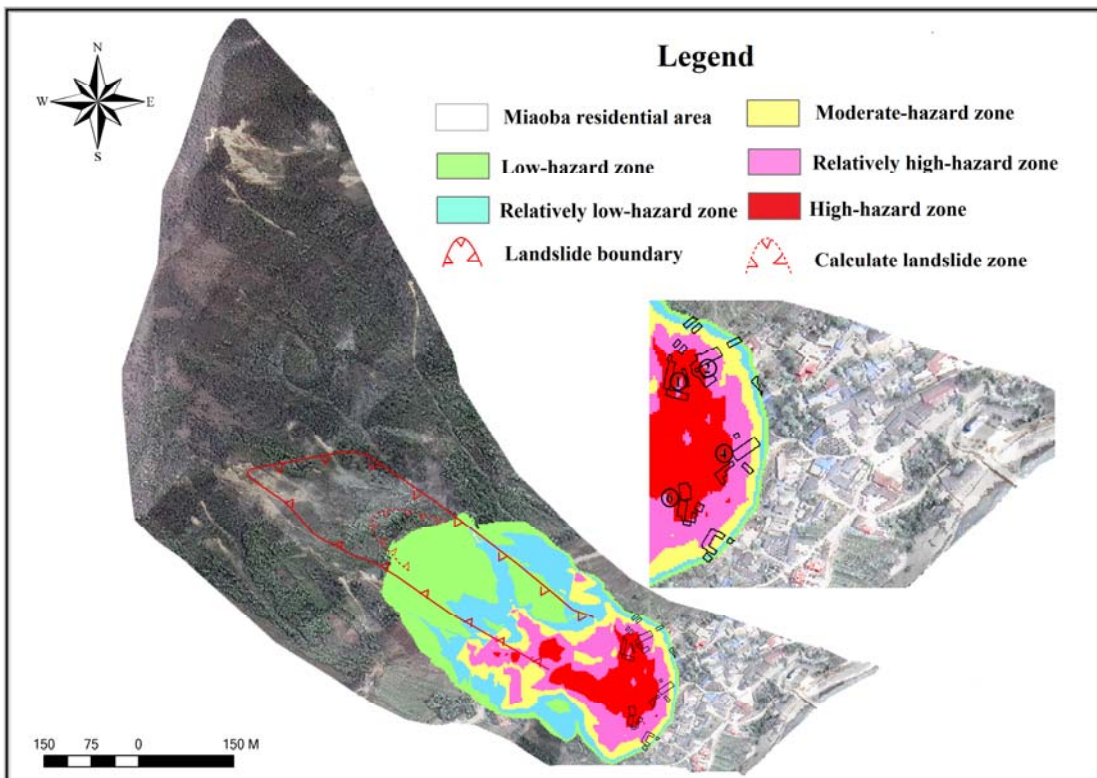
354            The hazard zones of Taziping landslide was given by 2D divisions before and  
355 after engineering treatment (Fig. 10). The size of the hazard zones changed after  
356 engineering treatment, particularly in the high-hazard zones. Before treatment with  
357 slide-resistant piles, the landslide posed a great hazard to eight houses on the left side  
358 of the upper Miaoba residential area, with a high-hazard zone associated with  
359 landslide mass height over 5m and a red zone. After treatment, the number of effected  
360 houses was reduced to four. We defined outside the colored area as no-hazard.



361

362

(a) Before treatment



363

364

(b) After treatment

Fig. 10 2D division comparison of the hazards of the Taziping landslide

365

366

## 367 5 Conclusions and Discussion

368 The hazard assessment of landslides using numerical models is becoming more  
369 and more popular as new models are developed and become available for both  
370 scientific research and practical applications. There is some confusion about the mass  
371 movement process that is discussed by the rheological model presented in this  
372 contribution.

373 Landslides move downslope in many different ways (Varnes, 1978). In addition,  
374 landslides can evolve into rapidly travelling flows, which exhibit characteristics of  
375 debris flows on unchannelized or only weakly channelized hillslopes. The  
376 geomorphic heterogeneity of rapid shallow landslides, such as hillslope debris flows,  
377 is larger than observed in channelized debris flows; however many of these flows can  
378 be successfully modelled using the Voellmy-fluid friction (Christen et al., 2012).  
379 Results presented in this paper support the conclusion that Voellmy-fluid rheological  
380 model can be used to simulate flow-type landslides.

381 The selection of model parameters remains one of the fundamental challenges  
382 for numerical calculations of natural hazards. At present, there are numerous  
383 empirical parameters obtained from 30-years of monitoring data. Such as in RAMMS,  
384 we can automatically generate the friction coefficient of an avalanche for our  
385 calculation domain based on topographic data analysis, forest information and global  
386 parameters (WSL, 2013). The friction parameters for debris flows can found in some  
387 literature (Fannin et al., 2001; Iovine et al., 2003; Hürlimann et al., 2008; Scheidl et  
388 al., 2010; Huang et al., 2015). However, there is little research regarding friction  
389 parameters of flow-type landslide. Therefore, we tested different coulomb friction

390 coefficient  $\mu$  values ranging between  $0.1 \leq \mu \leq 0.6$  and viscous friction coefficient  $\zeta$   
391 values ranging between  $100 \leq \mu \leq 1000 m \cdot s^{-2}$ . Finally, we selected the coulomb  
392 friction coefficient  $\mu = 0.45$  and viscous friction coefficient  $\zeta = 500 m \cdot s^{-2}$  in  
393 accordance with back-analyses of well-documented landslides (Cepeda et al., 2010;  
394 Du et al., 2015). Simulation results are consistent with field observations of  
395 topography and sliding path.

396 Based on the finite volume method and the RAMMS program, simulation results  
397 of Taziping landslide were consistent with the sliding path predicted by the field  
398 investigation. This correlation indicates that numerical simulation is an effective  
399 method for studying the movement processes of flow-type landslides. The  
400 accumulation flow height and pressure of landslide deposits were reduced by about  
401 1/2, and the kinematic speed was reduced by about 1/3 after treatment. However, the  
402 Miaoba residential area of Red Village is still partially at hazard. Considering that  
403 two-story and lower houses within the deposition range might be buried, it was further  
404 suggested that the design strength of the gable walls of houses on the middle and  
405 upper parts of the deposit be increased above 150kPa.

406 By utilizing a GIS platform in combination with landslide hazard assessment  
407 indexes, we mapped the 2D division of the Taziping landslide hazard zones before

408 and after engineering treatment. The results indicated that overall hazard zones  
409 contracted after engineering treatment and, the area of high-hazard zones was reduced  
410 by about 2/3. After engineering treatment, the number of at hazard houses on the left  
411 side of the upper Miaoba residential area, was reduced from eight to four. It was thus  
412 clear that some zones are still at high hazard despite engineering treatment. Therefore,  
413 it was proposed that houses located in high-hazard zones be relocated or reinforced  
414 for protection.

415

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417

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