

Experimental study of ~~s~~Sediment traps permeable for frequent floods with guiding channel and hybrid check dams improve controlled sediment retention

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Abstract. Sediment traps ~~created by~~with partially open ~~torrential barriers~~check dams are crucial elements for flood protection in alpine regions. The trapping of sediment is necessary when intense sediment transport occurs during floods that may endanger urban areas at downstream river reaches. In turn, the unwanted permanent trapping of sediment during small, non-hazardous floods can result in the ecological and morphological ~~depletion~~degradation of downstream reaches. This study experimentally analyses a ~~new~~-novel concept for permeable sediment traps. For ensuring the sediment transfer up to small floods, a guiding channel implemented in the deposition area of ~~the a~~ sediment trap was ~~systematically~~ studied-systematically. The bankfull discharge of the guiding channel corresponds to a dominant morphological discharge. At the downstream end of the guiding channel, a permeable barrier (~~check dam~~) triggers sediment retention and deposition. The permeable barrier consists of a bar screen for mechanical deposition control, superposed to a flow constriction for the hydraulic control. The ~~fail-safe clogging of the barrier~~ obstructs hazardous sediment transport for discharges that are higher than the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel and the sediment deposition upstream can be ensured without the risk of unwanted sediment flushing (massive self-cleaning) for discharges that are higher than the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel.

1 Introduction

The sediment supply of mountain rivers is a substantial source for the dynamics of river ecosystems. Artificial barriers, such as dams, can affect the natural flow regime variability with direct impacts on the eco-morphological state of rivers (Allan and Castillo, 2007; Sponseller et al., 2013). Maintaining the natural conditions of rivers is a multidisciplinary concern and artificial interventions require the consideration of ecological and morphological site evaluations (Bain et al., 1999).

The morphological processes in mountain rivers depend and interact with the transport of sediment (Buffington and Montgomery, 1999; Hassan et al., 2005; Recking et al., 2016). The sediment supplied by the headwaters is also essential for

the ecologic diversity of downstream river reaches (Milhous, 1998; Gomi et al., 2002; Denic and Geist, 2015; Gomi et al., 2002; Milhous, 1998). Therefore, sediment transport-related criteria can also be designated as “eco-morphological” river characteristics (Moyle and Mount, 2007). These characteristics can often be attributed to a certain discharge which alters and rearranges the channel bed morphology, which may be assessed by morphologically effective (dominant) discharge (Wolman and Leopold, 1957a, 1957b; Wolman and Miller, 1960).

For estimating the transport capacity of the headwaters, many (semi-) empirical formulae were developed (Meyer-Peter and Müller, 1948; Recking, 2013; Smart and Jaeggi, 1983; Wilcock, 2008; Recking, 2013). However, the sediment transport in such streams is often driven by the sediment supply from bed-external sources, as long as armour breaking does not occur. In such co- or non-alluvial channels, the fluvial sediment transport can be assessed in terms of the finer “traveling bed load” (Yu et al., 2009; Piton and Recking, 2017; Yu et al., 2009). The characteristic grain size of the traveling bed load can be estimated by the grain size of sediment bars along the channel banks upstream. These bars are silent witnesses of earlier flood events and contain information about sediment transport during past floods (Kaitna and Hübl, 2013). The application of the grain size of the traveling bed load to bed load transport formulae can be used for establishing sediment rating curves, as a computation basis for the dominant discharge. *The D_{84} , i.e., the grain size of which 84 % of the mixture are finer, of the channel bed provides a good estimate for the roughness (e.g., Zimmermann, 2010; Rickenmann and Recking, 2011), while the mean grain diameter of overbank channel deposits represents an accurate estimate to assess the sediment volume flux (Piton, 2015).*

The sediment transport in headwaters can be disturbed by hydraulic structures for water use as, for instance, hydropower, drinking water, or flood protection (Williams and Wolman, 1984; Kondolf, 1997; Lane et al., 2014; Williams and Wolman, 1984). This may cause sediment deficits in downstream reaches resulting in bed incision as well as the erosion of channel banks and floodplains (Pasternack and Wyrick, 2017).

Check dams represent particular man-made interventions in a rivers sediment budget. The historical purpose of check dams was soil conservation through the creation of artificial fix points in the longitudinal profile of a channel (Piton et al., 2017). The artificially forced retention of sediment retention, especially the retention of bed load, may be required for exceptional floods that endanger potentially endanger downstream riparian urban areas. Open check dams, a particular subcategory of check dams, aim at partial sediment transfer under normal flow conditions and they are the centrepiece of. This purpose can be achieved by the construction of sediment traps. Sediment traps conceptually trigger sediment retention when the open check dam becomes obstructed during floods for storing potentially hazardous sediment in an upstream retention area upstream of endangered areas (e.g., Wang, 1903; Hampel, 1968; Hübl et al., 2005; Kronfellner-Krauss, 1972; Hübl et al., 2005; Mizuyama, 2008; Piton and Recking, 2016 a; Wang, 1903). However,

Drawbacks in the typical concept of sediment traps are the excessive, unnecessary retention of sediment or unwanted sediment flushing. Sediment that is retained but not hazardous to downstream dwellers lacks in downstream reaches of mountain rivers and causes their history shows that such artificial interventions contribute to the eco-morphological depletion/degredation of mountain rivers (Comiti, 2012). Schwindt et al. (2017a) examined a new concept for open check dams with a hybrid control to prevent unwanted sediment flushing and to improve sediment permeability during normal flow conditions. This previous

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study used a laboratory flume that is extended in this study to a retention area and the hybrid control barrier is applied on an improved concept of sediment traps.

Bearing in mind the above mentioned aspects of assessing sediment transport and the necessity of sediment transport continuity in mountain rivers, this study revises the design of sediment traps with open (or permeable) check dams. New design elements are conceived to fit the real needs of land protection with limited impacts on the river ecology in terms of the continuity of sediment transport. Moreover, To achieve this objective, this experimental and praxis-oriented research introduces systematically investigates a guiding channel across the retention reservoir area of a sediment trap as a new novel design element and a combination of two barriers types for improving the functionality of open check dams is proposed. This enhanced concept for sediment traps aims at reducing the maintenance costs as well as the morphological degradation of downstream reaches by improving the sediment transport continuity through check dams, unless hazardous floods occur. A simultaneous objective is an increased safety of sediment traps against functional failure in the shape of unwanted sediment flushing. The experiments address fluvial bed load transport rather than debris flow.

2 Sediment traps and bed load retention controls

2.1 Design approach for permeable sediment traps

The objective of the here considered type of sediment traps is the retention of bed load only that potentially causes channel obstructions in populated downstream reaches. Under normal flow conditions, ~~The river discharge should pass~~ the sediment trap undisturbed, where the principal elements of a sediment trap constitute a deposition area and a check dam with opening(s). The latter triggers bed load retention when either the discharge exceeds a case-variable threshold value or the transported material exceeds a hazardous diameter, corresponding to the principles of hydraulically or mechanically controlled sediment retention (Piton and Recking, 2016a).

~~In detail, deposition area and the barrier opening(s) without interaction, unless intense bed load transport occurs. The triggering of bed load retention can be a result of hydraulic control since a certain flood discharge is exceeded or mechanical control due to entangled coarse sediment or wood.~~

~~Figure 1 shows the typical elements. The typical concept of a sediment traps is shown in Figure 1, with the following elements:~~

(1) a barrier with an opening (open check dam) having an open or close crest and (2) downstream abutments with a counter sill for scour protection; (3) a retention basin, i.e., deposition area; (4) lateral dykes for limiting the deposition area; (5) a maintenance access; and (6) an inlet sill with scour protection.

~~This study uses barriers similar to check dams, and therefore, check dams are subsequently referred to as barriers in the laboratory flume.~~

~~In the context of river continuity, inlet structures (Fig. 1) in the form of sills are, besides the barrier itself, an additional obstacle regarding the longitudinal river connectivity. Such sills can cause downstream scour or dead storage volume (Zollinger, 1983).~~

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Therefore, inlet structures are avoided when possible in practice (Piton and Recking, 2016a), and consequently, they are not considered in the present study.

~~The river discharge should pass the deposition area and the barrier opening(s) without interaction, unless intense bed load transport occurs. The triggering of bed load retention can be a result of hydraulic control since a certain flood discharge is exceeded or mechanical control due to entangled coarse sediment or wood.~~

Previous studies have shown that the retention of bed load is hydraulically initiated as soon as the barrier-check dam causes a hydraulic jump upstream underlying generally supercritical flow conditions (Schwindt et al., 2017a, 2017b). Supercritical flow occurs at high discharge in steep channels conditions are typical in mountain rivers but not omnipresent unless the streambed is mobile (Grant, 1997) and it is limited to specific morphologic units in nature (Comiti et al., 2007; e.g., Heyman et al., 2016). This study is limited/restricted to supercritical flow conditions over a fixed bed, where the Froude number in the non-constricted (barrier-free) channel is generally larger than unity (similar to floods with high depth to grain size ratios). In this case, a single opening in the barrier acts like a vertical or lateral flow constriction that causes backwater in the deposition area during floods. Therefore, the free surface flow capacity of the barrier opening(s) without backwater should be in practice smaller than that of the sediment-laden flood discharge that potentially endangers urbanized downstream regions.

The mechanically caused sediment retention occurs when the size of the transported sediment is too large to pass the openings. In practice, the mechanical sediment retention is typically achieved by screen or net structures (Piton and Recking, 2016a). Small clearance heights or narrow clearance widths of the opening(s) in the barrier may interrupt the river connectivity with negative effects on the downstream eco-morphological river state (Kondolf, 1997; Brandt, 2000; Castillo et al., 2014).

The combination of both mechanical and hydraulic control mechanisms can be obtained by installing a bar screen in front of an opening of a barrier (open check dam). This combination has been shown to be advantageous to avoid the unwanted flushing of formerly deposited sediment in the deposition area (Schwindt et al., 2017a). In addition to the previous experiments, the hybrid control barrier consisting implementation of a bar screen for the mechanical control and a flow constriction for the hydraulic control (B in Fig. 1) is experimentally and systematically analysed here with a widened deposition area. The design of the bar screen refers to criteria from the literature (Watanabe et al., 1980; Uchiogi et al., 1996; Piton and Recking, 2016a; Uchiogi et al., 1996; Watanabe et al., 1980).

Check dams and barriers in mountain rivers with single or multiple openings and various open geometries can be found in the terrain. However, the variety of openings can be reduced to the two triggering mechanisms of sediment retention, i.e., check dams that cause sediment deposition either through hydraulic or mechanical control. Hübl et al. (2003, 2005) provide a comprehensive review on existing designs of check dams, which can also be found in Piton and Recking (2016a) or Schwindt (2017).

~~In the context of river continuity, inlet structures (Fig. 1) in the form of sills are, besides the barrier itself, an additional obstacle regarding the longitudinal river connectivity. Such sills can cause downstream scour or dead storage volume (Zollinger, 1983).~~

~~Therefore, inlet structures are avoided when possible in practice (Piton and Recking, 2016a), and consequently, they are not considered in the present study.~~

As an important novel feature, a guiding channel (A in Fig. 1) across the deposition area is subsequently introduced. The guiding channel has the purpose of ensuring sediment transfer up to its bankfull discharge. Similarly, Hübl et al. (2012) tested a sorting channel without regular cross-section in a physical model. Empiric implementations of guiding channel-like structures were observed by the authors, e.g., at “La Croisette” (Bex, Canton of Vaud, Switzerland), but the conceptual introduction and systematic study of a guiding channel is novel. ~~This study applies one systematic experiments that refer to a theoretical bankfull discharge of the guiding channel that corresponds~~ corresponding to the dominant, morphologically effective discharge. The use and performance of the guiding channel is ~~experimentally~~ considered in combination with barriers for the hydraulic and mechanical deposition controls (B in Fig. 1 and Schwindt et al., 2017a).

The new concept of a permeable sediment trap (Fig. 1) is tested with a standardized hydrograph, corresponding to typical hydrological characteristics of mountain rivers. Special attention is drawn in supplementary experimental runs on the possibility of flushing of sediments.

23.2 Sediment deposition processes and control and patterns

Independent of the deposition control mechanism, the barrier can cause backwater, where sediment deposition occurs due to the deceleration of the flow with a consequent reduction in the energy slope (Leys, 1976; Zollinger, 1984; Armanini et al., 1991; Armanini and Larcher, 2001; Leys, 1976; Mizuyama, 2008; Zollinger, 1984). However, the patterns of sediment deposits in the deposition area differ for both obstruction mechanisms, as shown in ~~Figure~~ Figure 2 (Lange and Bezzola, 2006; Piton and Recking, 2016a). In the case of hydraulic control, the bed load settles in the backwater, immediately downstream of the hydraulic jump, and forms a delta-like deposit. For coarse bed load, the deposit evolves in the upstream direction; for fine bed load, the deposit evolves in the downstream direction (Armanini and Larcher, 2001; Jordan et al., 2003; Campisano et al., 2014; Jordan et al., 2003). The mechanical clogging of the barrier causes a hydraulic jump immediately upstream of the barrier. Thus, the formation of the sediment deposit is initiated directly upstream of the barrier and displaces the hydraulic jump in the upstream direction. This results in the successive formation of an elongated sediment deposit that evolves in the upstream direction until it reaches the level of the barrier crest (flood control). Then, a second deposit layer forms on top of the former. This layer-wise deposition continues in a succession of quasi-equilibrium states until the deposition area is completely filled up to the barrier crest (Campisano et al., 2014; Piton and Recking, 2016a).

~~Low clearance heights or narrow clearance widths of the opening(s) in the barrier may interrupt the river connectivity with negative effects on the downstream eco-morphological river state (Brandt, 2000; Castillo et al., 2014; Kondolf, 1997). The functioning of barriers for both hydraulic and mechanical retention controls is experimentally examined in the present study. Therefore, the experimental set up (as used by the authors in Schwindt et al., 2017a; 2017b) included a widened deposition area, according to typical sediment traps in a mountain river like environment.~~

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4.3. Methodology

4.3.1 Experimental set-up

The design of the experimental set-up (Figure 3) was inspired by 132 characteristic datasets from mountain rivers for respecting typical relationships between flow depth, channel width, grain size and discharge (Schwindt, 2017). Thus, even though any particular prototype underlay the model, a geometric scale in the range of 1:10 to 1:40 can be supposed.

The experimental set-up consisted of a sediment supply system, with a container (element 1 in Fig. 3) for the sediment storage and supply rate control by a cylindrical bottom screw, as well as a system of conveyor belts (element 2 in Fig. 3). The sediment supply mixture consisted in fine and medium gravel, characterized by $D_{16} = 6.7$ mm, $D_m = 10.4$ mm, $D_{84} = 13.7$ mm and $D_{max} = 14.8$ mm, in line with the field data. The water was supplied by the laboratory pump system and mixed with the sediment in a 2.5-m-long adaptation reach (element 3 in Fig. 3), which was situated upstream of a 3.0-m-long observation reach (element 4 in Fig. 3). The minimum and maximum pump discharges were 5.5 l/s and 12.5 l/s, respectively. The barriers (element 5 in Fig. 3) in terms of a bar screen and mobile PVC elements were introduced in the lower third of the observation reach, approximately 0.9 m upstream of the model outlet. A filter basket (element 6 in Fig. 3) at the model outlet served for the separation of outflowing sediments and water. The water returned to the laboratory pump circuit.

The pump discharge was registered second-wise by an electromagnetic flow meter (type ABB FXE4000) with a precision of 0.1 %. The wet outflowing sediments (bed load outflow $Q_{b,o}$) were weighed minute-wise in an intermediate sieve in the filter basket, outside of the flow, by a scale with a precision of ± 2 g (type Kern 440 51N). The total weight of the sediment deposits was measured by an industrial scale (type Dynafor MWXL-5, precision of ± 0.01 kg) attached to the filter basket, after the flushing of the sediment deposits, for every test.

The volumes and patterns of the sediment deposits were recorded using a motion-sensing camera (Microsoft Kinect V2) at the end of every test. This application has been shown promising, but the results were still affected by uncertainties (Lachat et al., 2015). For this reason, complementary and redundant reference measurements were made using a laser (type Leica DISTO D410, precision of ± 1 mm). Thus, a redundant bathymetric record was produced by centimetre-wise measurements along 16 cross-sections with an interspace of 0.10 m (according to the gridlines indicated in Figure 4), which corresponds to approximately 650 point measurements. The accuracy of both measurement techniques was evaluated using the total weight and the apparent packed density ρ_s' of the sediment (gravel with $\rho_s' = 1550$ kg/m³, supplier information). The evolution of the deposit pattern during the hydrograph experiments was observed by a camera (GoPro Hero Silver, 2016) taking top-view time-lapse pictures, every 10 s.

4.3.2 Premises and descriptions of the deposition area with guiding channel

The observation reach included the deposition area with guiding channel and downstream deposition control barrier, according to the sediment trap concept shown in Fig. 1. The geometry of the deposition area referred to the desirable optimum between sediment retention and flushing: the trapping efficiency of reservoirs (Brown, 1943), as well as the sediment flushing potential,

which increases with increasing length and decreasing width of the deposition area (Zollinger, 1983, 1984; Piton and Recking, 2016a; Zollinger, 1983, 1984). The unwanted flushing of sediment traps represents a high risk at urban downstream reaches and should be avoided (Morris et al., 2008; Sodnik et al., 2015). For ensuring a high trapping efficiency, but at the same time limiting the risk of unwanted sediment flushing, a rectangular deposition area with a width to length ratio of 3:4 was used for the experiments (Zollinger, 1983). The opening angle of the deposition area was set to 30°, which is oriented at the opening angle of natural alluvial deposition cones formed by continuous sediment supply (Parker et al., 1998). The here applied barriers resulted from previous experimental analysis (Schwindt et al., 2017a) with a longitudinal channel slope of $S_o = 5.5\%$ which can be typically found in co- or non-alluvial mountain rivers (Rosgen, 1994; Yu et al., 2009; Piton and Recking, 2017; Rosgen, 1994; Yu et al., 2009).

According to the above-mentioned criteria, the deposition area (Fig. 4 a) had a length of 1.60 m, a width of 1.20 m, a longitudinal slope S_o of 5.5 % and an opening angle of 30°. For the description of sediment deposits, a model coordinate system was defined with the origin at the location of the barrier. Thus, the positive x-axis points in the upstream direction and $x = 0$ corresponds to the insertion point of the barrier; the positive y-axis points toward the right bank and $y = 0$ corresponds to the flume centre; the positive z-axis points upward and $z = 0$ corresponds to the flume bottom at the barrier.

The bottom of the deposition area consisted of gravel from the supply mixture. For ensuring the same initial conditions for every experimental run, cement grout was poured over the shaped, loose foundation gravel (cf. Fig. 4 b and c).

The design criteria for torrential barriers regarding the discharge capacity and the effects on bed load transport have been derived in previous studies from flume observations with constraint, monotone channel morphology (Armanini and Larcher, 2001; Piton and Recking, 2016a, 2016b; Schwindt et al., 2017a). The guiding channel (A in Fig. 4) enables not only the sediment transfer during low flows, but it also ensures the desired hydraulic functioning of the barrier, as it represents a morphological fixation of the monotone channel in deposition area up to the bankfull discharge. In the experiments, the hydraulic design and bankfull discharge of the guiding channel corresponded to “small” discharges, equivalent to the dominant, morphologically effective discharge referring to pristine downstream reaches in practice. A flood hydrograph with higher discharges than the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel was simulated. Due to the model limitations, the guiding channel had a bankfull discharge of $Q_{bf} = 5.5$ l/s. In practice, the bankfull discharge should be slightly larger than the effective discharge related to bankfull discharge in order to enhance the eco-morphological flow continuum through the sediment trap.

The guiding channel had a trapezoidal cross-section, as shown in Figure 5, with a bank inclination of $m = 2.25$ (dimensionless) and a bottom channel width of $w = 0.11$ m (Schwindt et al., 2017a; 2017b). Grains larger than the D_{84} of the sediment supply mixture constituted the roughness. Therefore, the channel had a roughness resulted from the geometric scale considerations (e.g., ratio between channel width, flow depth and grain size) and corresponded according to a Mannings' n of $n \approx 0.02$. The roughness was computed in earlier studies using a shooting method (Schwindt et al., 2017a, 2017c). Grains larger than the D_{84} of the sediment supply mixture constituted the roughness. According to the Gauckler-Manning-Strickler formula, the bankfull discharge of 5.5 l/s corresponds to a normal flow depth of 0.032 m. Also the bed shape of the guiding channel was fixed by pouring cement grout into the voids of the loose grains.

4.3.3 Tested deposition control modes of the barrier

The ~~torrential~~ barrier was introduced at the downstream end of the deposition area (element 5 in Fig. 3 and Schwindt et al., 2017b). The barrier incorporated a flow constriction for the hydraulic control and a bar screen for the mechanical control of bed load retention. Three cases of deposition control types were considered:

- 5 • Case 1 – hydraulic deposition control only, where two situations are considered:
 - *Hy-no*- a non-overflow, infinitely high barrier with constant opening dimensions (Figure 6 a);
 - *Hy-o*- an overflow barrier with limited height and constant opening height (Fig. 6 b);
- Case 2 – *Mec* mechanical deposition control by a bar screen with constant spacing (Fig. 6 c); and
- Case 3 – *HyMec* combined deposition control, i.e., a bar screen upstream of an overflow hydraulic control barrier
10 with variable opening height (Fig. 6 d).

For the hydraulic control only, two types of flow situations were considered (Table 1): case *Hy-no*, with infinite barrier height, where barrier overflow was not possible and case *Hy-o*, with overflow barrier, where the barrier height was limited to 0.11 m. In case *Hy-no*, the constriction height a was 0.152 m and the constriction width b was 0.076 m. The opening height of 0.152 m corresponded to the technically maximum possible constriction height due to the model limitations; the corresponding width
15 of 0.076 m was required to hydraulically trigger sediment retention when the bankfull discharge of 5.5 l/s was exceeded, according to previous studies (Schwindt et al., 2017a). Smaller widths were not considerable to ensure flow and sediment continuity in practice.

The unwanted flushing of sediment has been observed in previous studies when barriers were overflow (e.g., Schwindt et al., 2017a; Zeller, 1973), as considered by the cases *Hy-o*, *Mec* and *HyMec* with limited the barrier height. However, the creation
20 of a sediment deposit that can be flushed requires the initial impounding without barrier overflow. Thus, the barrier height was determined in a manner that the opening was pressurized for discharges higher than 5.5 l/s and so that the barrier could not be overflow for discharges up to 7.0 l/s corresponding to the first incremental increase of the hydrograph. Barrier overflow can be avoided when the cross-section-averaged energy head is not higher than the barrier (Piton and Recking, 2016a). In the experimental set-up, the head corresponding to a discharge of 7.0 l/s was approximately 0.11 m, which was decisive for
25 limiting also the barrier height to 0.11 m.

The width of the opening in the overflow hydraulic control barrier (cases *Hy-o* and *HyMec*) was 0.15 m, which was slightly larger than the bottom width of the guiding channel. This choice has been made to minimize the effects of the barrier on the flow when the guiding channel was not overtopped. An opening height of 0.040 m is required to hydraulically trigger sediment retention for a discharge of 5.5 l/s (Schwindt et al., 2017a; Schwindt et al., 2017b).

For the combined control barrier, also larger opening heights were analysed to study its effect on the deposition control by combined barriers. Thus, the opening heights tested in the case *HyMec* were 0.040 m, 0.043 m and 0.047 m, where the constriction width was kept constant with 0.15 m.

Pure mechanical deposition control (case *Mec*) was tested by a bar screen with a height of 0.11 m and a bar width, as well as an interspace between the bars corresponding to the D_{84} of the sediment supply mixture. The clearance between the guiding channel bottom and the lower end of the bars was $1.75 \cdot D_{84}$ to ensure the sediment transfer during small discharges and at the same time fail-safe clogging when sediment retention was wanted (Schwindt et al., 2017a). Fail-safe clogging refers to the barrier blockage that is not prone to unwanted sediment flushing.

The bar screen had an inclination of 2:1 to favour the passage of driftwood material over the barrier (Bezzola, Sigg, and Lange, 2004; Lange and Bezzola, 2006; Piton and Recking, 2016b-b). ~~However, but driftwood-wood~~ was not ~~tested~~ introduced in the tests.

The combination of hydraulic and mechanical controls has shown to be promising in view of reducing risks due to individual uncertainties related to the unwanted sediment flushing and sediment size, respectively (Schwindt et al., 2016-b, 2017a). This combined control type was considered in the experiments (case *HyMec*) by the superposition of the bar screen to the hydraulic barrier with variable constriction height a and constant width b , according to the test case *Hy-o*.

4.3.4 Experimental procedures

Each barrier set-up was tested two times (α and β tests) with the same generic hydrograph that was established based on the following criteria:

- The duration of the falling limb t_- (in s) is 1.7 times as long as the rising limb t_+ (in s), which is typical for floods of mountain rivers (D'Agostino and Lenzi, 1996; Rickenmann et al., 1998; Armanini and Larcher, 2001; D'Agostino and Lenzi, 1996; Kaitna et al., 2011; Piton and Recking, 2016a; Rickenmann et al., 1998);
- The initial discharge of 5.5 l/s corresponds to the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel and the peak discharge of 12.5 l/s is imposed by the model limitations;
- The ratio between the sediment supply rate (bed load inflow $Q_{b,i}$) and the pump discharge Q is 0.5 % (weight-specific), as determined in previous studies on the experimental set-up (Schwindt et al., 2017b);
- The total supply volume V_S (in m³) is higher than the plain storage volume (0.127 m³) of the deposition area (reservoir) considering a barrier height of 0.11 m.

The plain storage volume in the deposition area corresponded to the horizontal filling of the deposition area with a deposition slope $S_{dep} = 0$. The above-listed criteria led to a hydrograph with a rising limb duration of $t_+ = 1\,129$ s (≈ 19 min) and a falling

limb duration of $t_r = 1\,920\text{ s}$ ($\approx 32\text{ min}$). The water and solid discharge supply were adapted in steps of four minutes. The resulting total volume of the sediment supply of the generic flood hydrograph was $V_\Sigma = 0.137\text{ m}^3$. The hydrograph with sediment supply is shown in [Figure 7](#) with the subsequently introduced dimensionless parameters.

At first sight, the ratio between peak and initial discharge of approximately 2.3 may seem low. However, the initial discharge represents the threshold value for triggering sediment deposition, i.e., a flood discharge that is potentially dangerous for downstream infrastructures. The peak discharge represents thus a flood that is in terms of magnitude by a factor of 2.3 higher than the target discharge for triggering sediment retention.

Moreover, the possibility of sediment flushing was examined by trial of discharge variations, i.e., several sudden increases and decreases in the discharge were tested with the goal of attempting the remobilization of the deposit. In addition, the maximum amount of sediment that could be supplied to the model with respect to technical limits was supplied at a constant rate. The flushing attempts were only meaningful for the cases with hydraulic barriers, as the flushing of clogged mechanical barriers is not possible (Schwindt et al., 2017a). The duration of the flushing was based on the observation of the morphological activity in terms of sediment displacements in the deposition area and the outflowing bed load.

4.3.5 Parameters and dimensional considerations

This study focuses on the deposition pattern and volume due to the standardized hydrograph, considering the occasional subsequent sediment flushing, and the corresponding transfer of bed load. These phenomena may be described by the following set A of parameters:

$$A = f(a, b, D_{84}, g, h, Q, Q_{b,i}, Q_{b,o}, S_o, t, t_+, t_-, V_{dep}, V_\Sigma, w, \nu, \rho_f, \rho_s, \rho_s'), \quad (1)$$

where a and b are the height and width of the hydraulic flow constrictions, respectively; D_{84} is the representative grain size; g denotes the gravitational acceleration (9.81 m/s^2); h is the flow depth; Q is the pump discharge; $Q_{b,i}$ and $Q_{b,o}$ denote the mass sediment supply and outflow rates, respectively; S_o is the longitudinal slope of the guiding channel (5.5 %); t is the experiment duration; t_+ and t_- are the duration of the rising and falling limb of the hydrograph, respectively; V_{dep} is the volume of sediment deposits; w is the channel bottom width; ν is the kinematic viscosity of water ($10^{-6}\text{ m}^2/\text{s}$); ρ_f and ρ_s are the water density ($1\,000\text{ kg/m}^3$) and the sediment grain density ($2\,680\text{ kg/m}^3$), respectively; and ρ_s' ($1\,550\text{ kg/m}^3$) is the density of sediment deposits, according to the supplier's data.

With respect to the analysis of bed load transport-related phenomena, the dimensional analysis is based on the independent variables of D_{84} , g and ρ_f (Einstein, 1950; Yalin, 1977). The discharge Q is considered relative to the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel ($Q_{bf} = 5.5\text{ l/s}$). In addition, the time t is considered relative to the duration of the rising limb of the hydrograph; and the volume of sediment deposits V_{dep} is considered relative to the cumulative volume of the hydrograph sediment supply ($V_\Sigma = 0.137\text{ m}^3$). This leads to the following set of relevant dimensionless parameters:

- $a_r = a / D_{84}$, grain related opening height of vertical flow constrictions;

- $b_s = b / D_{84}$, grain related opening width of lateral flow constrictions;
- $Q_r = Q / Q_{bf}$, relative discharge;
- $s = \rho_s / \rho_f$, density ratio;
- $t_r = t / t_s$, relative duration;
- 5 • $V_s = V_{dep} / V_{\Sigma} \cdot 100$, percentaged relative deposit volume;
- X_s , Y_s and Z_s correspond to x/D_{84} , y/D_{84} and z/D_{84} , respectively;
- $\Phi_i = Q_{b,i} / [w \cdot \rho_f \cdot ((s-1) g D_{84}^3)^{1/2}]$, intensity of bed load supply;
- $\Phi_o = Q_{b,o} / [w \cdot \rho_f \cdot ((s-1) g D_{84}^3)^{1/2}]$, intensity of outflowing bed load.

Flow depth related parameters are not considered since the precise measurement of the flow depth was not possible by non-intrusive techniques in the shallow flow over the rapidly changing morphology of the sediment deposits during the hydrograph.

4.3.6 Summary of test runs

Table 1 lists the characteristic test parameters. The hydrograph was applied two times (α and β tests) for every barrier configuration, except for the overflowed hydraulic barrier (case *Hy-o*) as unwanted sediment flushing occurred in the first hydrograph test.

5.4. Results and Analysis

5.4.1 Evolution of bed load transfer through the barrier

The outflowing sediment rates in terms of the bed load transport intensity Φ_o are shown in ~~Figure~~Figure 8 for the cases *Hy*, *Mec* and *Hy-Mec*, as a function of the relative hydrograph duration t_r and for the two repetitive runs α and β . In addition, the shape of the deposits at the peak of the hydrograph are shown in the top-view pictures. These pictures show the representative α -tests, as no major differences between the pattern of the two repetitive tests (α and β) were observed.

In case *Hy-no* (Fig. 8 a), the outflowing bed load intensity Φ_o dropped in both tests (α and β) after a duration of approximately $t_r = 0.5$. This drop in Φ_o corresponds to the hydraulic clogging of the barrier. In parallel, the backwater of the infinitely high barrier increased with increasing discharge ($t_r < 1$) and resulted in a regressive evolution of the sediment deposit in the upstream direction. The corresponding longitudinal evolution of the deposit is reflected in the top-view picture of the deposition area (Fig. 8 a) at the flood peak. Due to the influence of the deposit, the hydraulic jump could not migrate back in the downstream direction during the falling limb of the hydrograph ($t_r > 1$, Fig. 8 a). In consequence, the sediment flux through the barrier ceased with the flood peak ($\Phi_o = 0$) and the deposit laterally spread toward the banks of the deposition area at the end of the hydrograph.

In case *Hy-o*, the relative constriction height a_r was significantly smaller than previously (2.89 against 11.1 in case *Hy-no*). Therefore, nearby all of the supplied sediment was retained in the first half of the rising limb ($t_r < 0.5$, Fig. 8 a). Accordingly, the outflowing bed load intensity Φ_o decreased rapidly to zero, but Φ_o restarted to increase with the second increase of the discharge. The raise in the discharge (cf. Fig. 7) at $t_r = 0.37$ corresponds to an increase from $Q = 7$ l/s to $Q = 8.5$ l/s, i.e., the desired threshold value for initiating the barrier overflow. As it can be observed in the top-view picture (lower top-view picture on Fig. 8 a), the sediment flushing started already before the flood peak ($t_r < 1$). After the flood peak ($t_r \geq 1$), the flushing of nearby all the previously deposited sediment occurred. The observed maximum of $\Phi_o = 0.32$ during the flushing corresponds to approximately 1.4 times the maximum supply rate of $\Phi_i = 0.23$ at the flood peak. A repetitive run of this configuration was discarded due to the unwanted sediment flushing observed before the flood peak. In practice, every barrier can be overflowed when the discharge is high enough. However, the comparison of the cases *Hy-no* and *Hy-o* shows that barriers for only hydraulic control need to be sufficiently high to avoid such unwanted sediment flushing. Even though reducing the dimensions of the opening in the barrier could increase the safety against self-flushing, smaller constriction heights or widths were not tested to avoid sediment retention before the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel (5.5 l/s) was reached.

In case *Mec* (Fig. 8 b), the temporal evolution of the outflowing bed load intensity Φ_o was similar to the supply intensity Φ_i (cf. Fig. 7) until the flood peak occurred ($t_r = 1$). Hence, only marginal sediment deposits close to the barrier can be observed in the top-view picture of the deposition area at the flood peak. At a relative flood duration of approximately $t_r < 1.25$, the bar screen was mechanically clogged, and consequently, the outflowing bed load intensity Φ_o decreased in both tests (α and β) to zero by stages. An elongated deposit in the deposition area was observed at the end of the hydrograph according to descriptions from Campisano et al., 2014 and Piton and Recking, 2016a.

In case *HyMec* (Fig. 8 c), the outflowing bed load intensity Φ_o decreased rapidly to zero for the smaller opening heights a_1 and a_2 . With the largest opening height a_3 , Φ_o was similar to the supply intensity Φ_i at the beginning. Only with the second increment of the discharge and sediment supply at $t_r = 0.37$, the barrier clogged. After the barrier clogging, an elongated deposit developed layer-wise until it reached the barrier height at $t_r \approx 0.6$ for the three considered constriction heights. In consequence, the supplied sediment was transported over the barrier, which is reflected in the evolution of the outflowing bed load intensity Φ_o that corresponds to the supply intensity Φ_i (cf. Fig. 7). However, Φ_o is slightly smaller than Φ_i , as the deposit enlarged after $t_r = 0.6$. This enlarged deposit shape can be observed in the corresponding top-view picture of the deposition area (Fig. 8 c). The repetitive tests (α and β) resulted in similar outflow rates for the three opening heights.

A major difference in Φ_o can be observed in the test *HyMec.a2* β , where a constant discharge of 5.5 l/s with sediment supply was applied prior to the hydrograph, for a duration corresponding to t_r , i.e., $t_r \approx 1$. This combination of low discharge and sediment supply led to the decelerated clogging of the combined barrier. The consequence was an early evolution of the backwater in upstream direction, beyond the upper limit of the observation reach resulting in an almost total retention of the sediment supply.

5.4.2 Volume of sediment deposits in the deposition area

The volumes of the sediment deposits were measured by three redundant tools, namely the laser, the motion-sensing camera-sensing device (Kinect) and the total weight of the deposited sediment measured with the industrial scale. This redundant evaluation was necessary because the scale gives only information about the sediment weight and the bathymetric data from the motion-sensing camera-sensing device and laser can contain individual measurement errors (Lachat et al., 2015). The motion-sensing camera-sensing device provides a high-resolution bathymetric image of the deposit, but the image required a correction due to distortion and the surface texture. The laser measurements are precise but the point density is low, which leads to averaging errors in the surface interpolation. For the determination of the deposit volume with both approaches, the bathymetric surface data of the empty deposition area were subtracted from the surface data of the sediment deposits. An example application of the bathymetric recording of the deposit with the motion-sensing camera-sensing device after the test *HyMec.a1* is shown in Figure 9 the supplementary material. The bathymetric deposit volume V_{dep} (Bathymetric) according to both the camera and the laser was then determined using CAD software.

After every hydrograph test, the deposited sediments were flushed (without any barrier) in the filter basket which was weighed with the industrial scale. This weight was divided by the deposit density ρ_s of 1 550 kg/m³ to obtain the according deposit volume V_{dep} (Scale). The comparison of V_{dep} (Scale) and V_{dep} (Bathymetric) was used to evaluate the percentaged error ϵ_v of the bathymetric tools, resulting in an average errors of (except for the case *Hy-no*, where sediment flushing was examined after the hydrograph).

$$\epsilon_v = \frac{|V_{dep}(Bathymetric) - V_{dep}(Scale)|}{V_{dep}(Scale)} \cdot 100, \quad (2)$$

The error ϵ_v is shown in Figure 10 for the cases *Mec* and *HyMec*, where the bar screen was applied. The graphs show that both bathymetric techniques tend to underestimate the deposit, but this effect is significantly less pronounced for the camera data (in average, $\epsilon_v = 2.7\%$ for the motion-sensing device and an average error of 14.8%) than for the laser data (in average, $\epsilon_v = 14.8\%$). The supplement material illustrates the detailed evaluation of the error rates.

The complex application of the centimetre-wise laser measurements was restricted to 16 profiles (approximately 650 points), and therefore, it is less precise than the camera data (mm-wise, $1.92 \cdot 10^6$ points). Hence, the motion-sensing camera-sensing device is subsequently used for the analysis of the deposit pattern.

The relative deposit volumes V_r , i.e., the ratio of the deposit volumes V_{dep} and the supply volumes V_s , are shown in Figure 11 Figure 9 based on the scale measurements as a function of the test cases. As expected from the results regarding the sediment outflow rates (cf. Fig. 8), the total deposit volume is very small in the case *Hy-o*, while it is high in the test *HyMec.a2β*. The case *Hy-no* was not evaluated because sediment flushing with additional sediment supply was tested after the hydrograph. However, the graphs of the bed load intensity Φ_o (Fig. 8 a) indicate that V_r is close to 100 % in the case *Hy-no*. The relative deposit volume V_r varied in the cases *Mec* and *HyMec* between approximately 40 and 55 %, invariant of the presence of the bar screen. In these cases (*Mec* and *HyMec*), V_r refers to the backwater-driven storage space upstream of the clogged barrier without the occupation of the entire width of the deposition area. This indicates that the barrier height is essential for the

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amounts of retained sediment, independent from the control type (mechanical and/or hydraulic). However, the moment of the barrier clogging, as a function of t_c , is important for the attenuation of sediment peak flows, as the comparison between Fig. 8 b) and Fig. 8 c) shows.

5.4.3 Deposition patterns

5 The final shapes of the sediment deposits were recorded at the end of every hydrograph test. According to the evolution of the sediment outflow (cf. Fig. 8), the deposition patterns of the repetitive α and β -tests were almost similar. Therefore, the deposition patterns obtained by the motion-sensing-camera-sensing device are compared in Figure 12 Figure 10 with top-view pictures, only for the α -tests. Moreover, only one representative plot (test *HyMec.a3 a*) of the relative deposit height Z_r is shown for the three constriction heights applied in the case *HyMec*, as the constriction height variation had no measurable effect on
10 the sediment deposit.

Similar to the sediment outflow rates (cf. Fig. 8) and relative deposit volumes (cf. Fig. 49), it can be observed that the deposit was wide and deep in the case *Hy-no*. The deposition patterns of the cases *Mec* (mechanical barrier only) and *HyMec* (combined barrier) differed only marginally.

According to the relative retention-deposit volumes V_r (cf. Fig. 49), the volume and deposition pattern differences between
15 the tests *HyMec.a1 a* and *HyMec.a3 b* are small. Both tests corresponded to the minimum and maximum tested constriction heights a_1 and a_3 , respectively. In addition, the deposit height was slightly lower in the tests *HyMec.a1 b*, *HyMec.a2 a* and *HyMec.a3 a*. These observations indicate that there is no evident effect of the (relative) constriction height on the deposition pattern within the tested range of $a_r(\min) = 2.89$ and $a_r(\max) = 3.44$. Moreover, this observation is in agreement with the sediment outflow rates (cf. Fig. 8 c), where the time variation curves of Φ_o are very close to each other.

20 The deposition pattern after the *Hy-o*-test was not recorded, as there were only small sediment remainders on the overbanks, as shown in Figure 13 Figure 11.

5.4.4 Sediment flushing

Figure 124 shows the evolution of the outflowing bed load intensity Φ_o for the flushing in the case *Hy-no* (non-overflowed flow constriction) after the hydrograph tests α and β , as a function of the multiple duration t_r of the hydrograph rising limb. Although,
25 similar tests were run for the case *HyMec.a2* (combined barrier), these results are not shown here because it was impossible to remobilize sediments from the deposit (Φ_o is a horizontal zero-line).

The technically maximum possible sediment volume (model limit: 727 kg) was supplied at the beginning, followed by a phase of clear water flow for both flushing attempts (α and β). The flushing of test *Hy-no a* showed some sheet-wise grain mobilizations from the deposit between $t_r = 2.5$ and $t_r = 3.5$ when the discharge was decreased (Fig. 124, *Hy-no a*). Only minor
30 morphological activity was observed after the discharge decrease. Also a sudden, arbitrary increase in the discharge with subsequent decrease toward the end of the experiment did not remobilize the grains. The flushing of test *Hy-no a* was stopped after a duration of more than 12 times the rising limb of the hydrograph, as no further morphological activity was observed.

The flushing of the test *Hy-no* β continued for 26 times the duration of the rising limb of the hydrograph, with several trials of discharge variations. Similar to the α -test, the maximum possible sediment volume was supplied at the beginning. After every step of discharge decrease, the sheet-wise flushing of sediment from the tip of the deposit was observed. The maximum of these flushings reached an outflow intensity Φ_o corresponding to the supply peak of the hydrograph (Fig. 142, *Hy-no* β and Fig. 7). These flushings were mainly observed when the discharge conditions in the flow constriction changed from pressurized

5 toward the end of the β -test, from $t_i \approx 22$ to $t_i \approx 23$, an attempt was made to induce the flushing of the guiding channel. This was achieved by the experiential, successive removal of the upper layer of the deposit along the axis of guiding channel. The experientially created depression had a depth of approximately $2 \cdot D_{s4}$ and a width of approximately 0.1 m, corresponding to

10 the bottom width of the guiding channel. This experiential depression was created stepwise, beginning at the tip of the deposit (downstream end), then continuing the excavation in the upstream direction. However, only marginal morphological activity was observed, unless the tail of the deposit (upstream end), i.e., the hydraulic jump, was directly connected with the opening through the depression. Small meanderings were observed at the beginning of the flushing through the depression

15 (Figure 153 a-c). In the following, the depression incised from the upstream toward the downstream direction (Fig. 135 d-e), until the guiding channel was completely cleared (Fig. 153 f). The relative discharge during the flushing of the guiding channel was $Q_r = 1.2$, i.e., $Q = 1.2 \cdot Q_{of}$. A comparison of the maximum sediment outflow intensity Φ_o with the Smart and Jaeggi (1983) formula applied to the geometry of the guiding channel showed good agreement as already observed in previous studies (Schwindt et al., 2017c).

6.5. Discussion

20 6.5.1 Sediment deposition

The elongated deposits at the end of the hydrograph tests were typical for the overflow barrier (cf. Fig. 120 b and c), where the deposition control functioned as desired without unwanted flushing (*Mec* and *HyMec*). The high, non-overflow barrier (*Hy-no*) caused a wider and longer spread of the deposit (cf. Fig. 120 -a), which is in agreement with the observations from Zollinger (1983). The storage volume upstream of overflow barriers may increase when the deposition slope S_{dep} is

25 additionally considered. S_{dep} can be estimated as a function of the channel slope S_o and it is typically in the range of $1/2 \cdot S_o$ for small floods and $2/3 \cdot S_o$ for large floods with high sediment concentration (D'Agostino, 2013; Osti and Egashira, 2013; Piton and Recking, 2016a-a). The deposition slopes observed in the present study can be obtained by the relative deposit height Z_r at the longitudinal section at the axis of the guiding channel ($Y_r = 0$). Linear regression curves have been established in

30 Figure 14 to estimate Z_r as a function of X_r in the empirically determined aggradation zone upstream of the barriers. Thus, the slope of the regression curves corresponds to the deposition slope S_{dep} in the considered aggradation zones. This evaluation results in $S_{dep}(Hy-no) = 6.5 \%$, $S_{dep}(Mec) = 12 \%$ and $S_{dep}(HyMec) = 9.5 \%$. Compared with the bottom slope S_o of

the guiding channel, these values correspond to $S_{dep}(Hy-no) = [1-2] \cdot S_o$, which is significantly higher than the values corresponding to the above mentioned literature.

The deposition slope can also be approached using the equilibrium slope, assuming that the sediment supply and erosion are balanced on a reach scale. Zollinger (1983) proposed to apply the Smart and Jaeggi (1983) formula with respect to zero-transport conditions ($\Phi = 0$). This approach was not possible for the experiments, as the clear water depth was highly variable and not measurable due to the shallow flow over the changing sediment deposits. As an alternative, a relationship for the equilibrium slope was applied, as proposed by (Johnson, 2016):

$$S_{Johnson(Johnson,2016)} = \frac{C \cdot w}{Q} \cdot D_{84}^{3/2} \cdot (s - 1) \cdot \left[\left(\frac{\Phi_o}{3.97} \right)^{2/3} + \tau_{*cr} \right]^{3/2}, \quad (3)$$

Eq. 3 was evaluated by using the peak discharge of the hydrograph and the bed load transport intensity over the barrier (*HyMec*). The width w was substituted by the barrier spill width of 0.234 m and a value of 0.05 was considered for the dimensionless bed shear stress τ_{*cr} . This results in equilibrium slopes between 12 and 15 % for the *HyMec*-tests. Applying Eq. 3 at the instant when the sediment transport across the barrier ceased, results in very small values of $S_{dep} < 1$ %. Thus, Eq. 3 is not appropriate for estimating the deposition slope. In practice, it is safer to assume small values of the deposition slope for

estimating the maximum storage upstream of the barrier. Such a safe estimate can be made by the relationship $S_{dep} = 1/2 \cdot S_o$.

The deposit shape, independent of the barrier height and type, is in practice often confined by the terrain morphology. Thus, the deposition area of such confined sediment traps corresponds to the riverbed and its overbanks. Such elongated, natural deposition areas are more exposed to sediment flushing because of the higher concentration of the stream power over the width of the deposition area (Leys, 1976; Zollinger, 1983).

6.5.2 Sediment flushing

The flushing of the non-overflowed barrier (*Hy-no*) was not possible without artificial intervention. However, the overflowed hydraulic barrier (*Hy-o*) is prone to unwanted flushing, as it was observed during the hydrograph. The safety against unwanted flushing through such overflowed permeable barriers may also be increased by reducing the dimensions of the opening, but smaller constriction dimensions are not favourable regarding the eco-morphological river continuity. Thus, the application of permeable barriers with very limited height for solely the hydraulic control of bed load retention is not recommendable for the practice.

The height of the overflowed permeable barrier in the case *Hy-o* corresponded to the theoretic cross-section averaged energy head (clear water flow) in the guiding channel with respect to the target discharge for the initiation of overspill of the barrier. Naturally, these observations show that the maximum possible backwater depth caused by such barriers is a decisive factor for the reduction of the energy slope upstream of the barrier. For this purpose, former studies considered only the dimensions of the opening in the barrier (Schwindt et al., 2017c) but not the barrier height. The present study differentiates only between

infinite and limited barrier heights, but indicates that future works need to consider systematically the influence of the barrier height on sediment flushing through hydraulic control openings.

The sediment flushing through the mechanically clogged bar screen was impossible, as shown by the attempts after the *HyMec.a₂* hydrograph-tests. The flushing attempts through the non-overflow hydraulic barrier (*Hy-no*) have shown that the tip of the deposit repetitively collapses, when the flow conditions in the opening of the barrier pass from pressurized to free surface flow. Such observations were already made in earlier studies (Zeller, 1973).

According to previous studies, the flushing processes of sediment traps is a succession of the discharge-driven reshaping of a network of sub-channels in the deposition area. The continuous reshaping lead to a gradual incision of the deposit along the longitudinal axis of the initial riverbed (Zollinger, 1983; Armanini and Larcher, 2001; Busnelli et al., 2001; Piton and Recking, 2016a; Zollinger, 1983). This observation was not made in the present study, as apparent grain imbrication caused the armouring of the surface layer of the deposit. The larger relative grain size in this study compared with earlier studies may also be an explanation for the here observed immobility of the deposit. Only a trial of artificial breaking of the armouring layer along the longitudinal axis of the guiding channel enabled sediment flushing (cf. Fig. 153). The subsequent morphological activity caused further incision of the initiated channel, with only little meandering. Once the guiding channel was cleared, no further lateral or vertical erosion was possible. Thus, the guiding channel directs not only sediment-laden flows through the sediment trap up to small flood discharges for which no sediment retention is required, but it also enables the controlled, desired flushing of previously retained sediments through a hydraulic control barrier. The triggering of such desired sediment flushing requires the prior removal of mechanical logjams. The remaining deposits have to be excavated and may be replenished downstream at suitable locations for improving sediment transport dynamics (Battisacco et al., 2016).

Eventually, sediment flushing is desirable in controlled quantities to reduce the sediment volume that requires its mechanical removal after a flood event. Uncontrolled sediment flushing in large quantities can cause important damages in downstream reaches (Schwindt et al., 2017a). Therefore, sediment transfer through sediment traps is worthwhile as long as floods do not represent a hazard to downstream reaches but sediment flushing is undesirable at higher floods. The concept in this study fulfils both requirements.

6.5.3 Eco-morphological aspects

The guiding channel enables the undisturbed conveyance of sediment-laden (flood) discharges until its bankfull discharge is reached. Therefore, the opening in the hydraulic barrier should not affect the flow before the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel is reached. Previously established formulae for estimating the discharge capacity of the opening in the hydraulic barrier can be used to determine the extent of backwater due to the barrier (Armanini and Larcher, 2001; Armanini et al., 2006; Armanini and Larcher, 2001; D'Agostino, 2013; Piton and Recking, 2016a; Schwindt et al., 2017b). These formulae consider upstream flow conditions, i.e., the flow conditions in the guiding channel, and can be used to design the opening in a way that it does not cause backwater until the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel is reached. Thus, the opening width should at least correspond to the bottom width of the guiding channel.

The guiding channel should be designed based on the dominant, morphologically effective discharge in view of the dynamic evolution of downstream reaches. The roughness of the laboratory flume was relatively smooth with a skin friction-type, discharge-dependent roughness corresponding to a Manning's n of 0.02. The reproduced situations in the experimental set-up refer to flood situations with high relative submergence and low roughness. The skin friction is higher at lower discharges that are appropriate for fish migration. Moreover, Therefore, the hydraulic design of, the guiding channel should also consider normal, fish migration-specific discharges to provide appropriate hydraulic conditions for fish migration, in terms of the required flow depth and maximum velocity (Baigún et al., 2012; Tamagni, 2013; DWA, 2014; Gisen et al., 2017; Tamagni, 2013). This can be achieved through a nature-oriented trapezoidal cross-section geometry, with a rough channel bottom constituted by large distributed boulders and a sufficient channel width.

The presence of woody material is important For the natural eco-morphological diversity of downstream reaches, also driftwood is important (Senter and Pasternack, 2011; Gilvear et al., 2013; Senter and Pasternack, 2014). However, the retention of large driftwood material is sometimes necessary when trunks or rootstocks cannot pass downstream bottlenecks at urbanized river reaches (Lassette and Kondolf, 2012; Mazzorana et al., 2012). Therefore, the trapping of wood is desirable when large and infrequent floods occur (Comiti et al., 2016). Appropriate measures for driftwood retention were proposed and discussed by Lange and Bezzola, 2006. Comiti et al., 2012, and Lange and Bezzola, 2006; Schmocker and Weitbrecht, 2013.

6.5.4 Application and limits

Piton and Recking (2016a) present a 13-step approach for the design of sediment traps and check dams: Steps 1-3 describe the identification of relevant torrential hazards, the structure location and retention objectives. Steps 4-11 represent an iterative design of the shape, size and bottom slope of the deposition area combined with an open check dam. Steps 12 and 13 address the design of spillways and scour protection measures. In this framework, this study relates to the iterative design of the deposition area and the open check dam, where the implementation of a guiding channel is additionally recommended (i.e., after step 5 in Piton and Recking, 2016a). The verification of the retention objectives in terms of mechanical clogging and the hydraulic functionality in terms of the discharge capacity and local head losses (steps 8 and 9 in Piton and Recking, 2016a) in the present study is similar to steps 8 and 9 the one presented in Piton and Recking (2016a). However, the functionality in terms of mechanical clogging and hydraulically induced sediment retention is triggered in this study by two different measures in the shape of a bar screen and an open check dam. Therefore, both elements require differentiated verification of their functionality.

This study relies on the assessment of bed load in threatened downstream reaches using the concept of travelling bed load (Piton and Recking, 2017) to identify the relevant grain size. Moreover, the dominant discharge is above mentioned to evaluate sediment transport. In a natural flow regime, ~~The~~ dominant discharge can be very high in strongly armoured mountain rivers or channels confined by bedrock outcrops (Hassan et al., 2014). In such rivers, it may be preferable to forgo the permeability of sediment traps, as the transport of sediment is related to exceptional floods. In these cases, the installation of barriers

combining mechanical and hydraulic controls, as discussed here, is also advantageous to ensure the fail-safe sediment retention. Then the design of the barrier should refer to the sediment characteristics of the catchment area and the flood discharge which potentially endangers urban downstream reaches.

In the context of this study, the dominant discharge refers to the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel, which is also a function of the admissible maximum bed load transport capacity at downstream bottlenecks (e.g., bridges). In practice, the dominant discharge, the admissible transport capacity and the natural bankfull discharge are three different players (Crowder and Knapp, 2005; Lenzi et al., 2006). However, for the promotion of morphodynamics, the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel corresponds to the dominant discharge, even though this is not the natural bankfull discharge. Thus, to fit the real needs of land protection with limited impacts on the river ecology in terms of the continuity of sediment transport, permeable sediment traps make sense if they are combined with stream restoration to increase the downstream admissible bed load transport capacity.

The flood duration of the hydrograph approximately corresponds to flood peaks of several hours in nature. Longer flood durations have shown more pronounced sediment retention (higher relative retention volumes) in preliminary experiments.

The small ratio of 2.3 between the peak discharge and the initial discharge of the flood hydrograph seems low. It can be argued that an annual flood is not yet considerable for triggering sediment retention. Therefore, the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel should be higher than an annual flood. Thus, regarding the experimental study, an annual flood should be smaller than the initial discharge of the flood hydrograph. The 132 dataset used for this study (Schwindt, 2017) show an average a ratio between a 100-year and an annual flood discharge of approximately 2.8. In this context, the applied ratio of 2.3 between initial and peak discharge in the experiments can be considered plausible.

7.6. Conclusions

The concept of typical sediment traps, consisting of a widened deposition area with downstream deposition control barrier (open check dam), is enhanced by a guiding channel and tested with different partially open barrier types.

The guiding channel ensures ~~that sediments are transported~~ sediment transport through the deposition area, without any deposition, up to its bankfull discharge. Moreover, the guiding channel serves for the flow control in the deposition area, which is important to ensure the ~~desired functioning~~ triggering of sediment retention when floods become hazardous of the permeable barrier. Sediment retention is triggered by

~~The an open barrier at the downstream end of the guiding channel needs to be designed for sediment retention once the discharge becomes hazardous. At this point, t~~he bankfull discharge of the guiding channel is exceeded. The sediment retention due to the barrier is differentiated here between hydraulic and mechanical controls, as well as the combination of both.

~~This~~ experimental study of the guiding channel combined with the barrier for hydraulic and/or mechanical controls, based on a generic hydrograph with occasional, subsequent flushing shows that:

- The guiding channel fulfils its purpose of promoting the river continuity until its bankfull discharge is exceeded;

- Overflown barriers with only hydraulic control ~~only~~ are susceptible to unwanted sediment flushing (self-cleaning) during floods;
- Unwanted sediment flushing (self-cleaning) is prevented ~~The fail-safe obstruction of open barriers can be achieved~~ by combining the hydraulic and mechanical controls ~~to compensate individual risks related to unwanted sediment flushing and the grain size of triggering sediment retention~~;
- Partial, desired sediment flushing through hydraulic control barriers after a flood can be artificially enabled.

Thus, maintenance works and morphological impacts in downstream reaches because of excessive sediment retention are reduced to a minimum unless important floods occur. The maintenance of sediment traps after important floods still remains indispensable but the frequency and the extent of dredging reduce when a guiding channel conveys the sediment up to small, non-hazardous and frequent floods. The role of wood regarding the obstruction of open check dams remains a research opportunity for future work.

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Nomenclature

A	Flow cross section (m ²)
a_r	Relative constriction height (–)
b	Constriction width (m)
b_r	Relative constriction width (–)
C	Chézy flow resistance coefficient (m ^{1/2} s ⁻¹)
D_{xy}	Grain diameter of which xy % of the mixture are finer (m)
g	Gravity acceleration (m s ⁻²)
m	Channel bank slope (–)
$p1/p2$	Coefficients of linear regression curve (–)

Q	Water discharge ($\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$)
Q_c	Discharge relative to bankfull channel capacity (-)
$Q_{b,i}$	Bed load supply rate (kg s^{-1})
$Q_{b,o}$	Bed load outflow rate (kg s^{-1})
S_{dep}	Deposition slope (-)
S_b	Bottom slope (-)
s	Ratio of grain and water density (-)
t_r	Duration of rising hydrograph limb (s)
t_f	Duration of falling hydrograph limb (s)
t_r'	Duration, relative to the rising hydrograph limb (-)
V_d	Percentaged deposit volume, relative to hydrograph supply (%)
V_{dep}	Volume of sediment deposits (m^3)
V_S	Sediment supply volume during hydrograph (m^3)
w	Channel bottom width (m)
x	Channel axis, pointing in the upstream direction (m)
X_c	Dimensionless channel axis (-)
y	Lateral axis, pointing toward the right bank (m)
Y_c	Dimensionless lateral axis (-)
z	Vertical axis, pointing against gravity acceleration vector (m)
Z_c	Dimensionless vertical axis (-)
ϵ_v	Percentaged error of the volume measurements (%)
Φ_i	Bed load supply intensity (-)
Φ_o	Outflowing bed load transport intensity (-)
ν	Kinematic viscosity ($\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$)
ρ_f	Water density (kg m^{-3})
ρ_s	Grain density (kg m^{-3})
ρ'_s	Deposit density (kg m^{-3})
$\tau_{s,cr}$	Shields-parameter (-)

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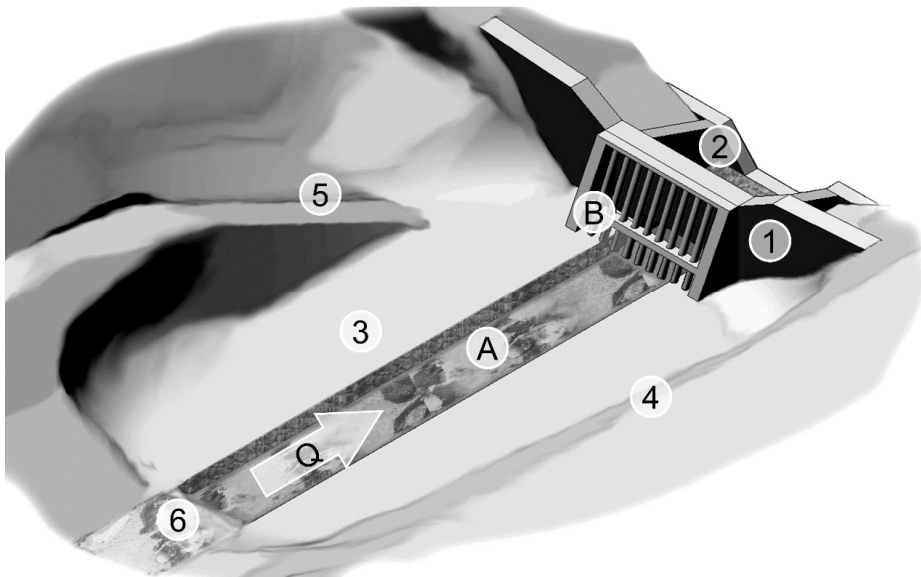


Figure 1: Concept of a permeable sediment trap consisting of (1) an open barrier (open sediment check dam) with overflow crest for flood release, followed by (2) downstream abutments with counter dam (sill); (3) a reservoir or deposition area, limited by (4) lateral dykes; (5) a maintenance access; and (6) an inlet structure with scour protection (adapted from Piton and Recking, 2016a; Zollinger, 1983). For permeable sediment traps, the novel element of (A) a guiding channel is introduced with (B) a barrier consisting of a bar screen for mechanical control and a barrier with an opening for the hydraulic control of bed load retention (Schwindt et al., 2017a).

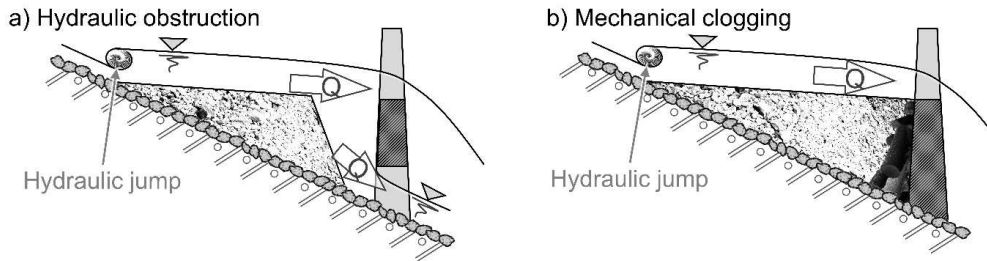


Figure 2: Control mechanisms of sediment retention by permeable torrential barriers: a) hydraulic deposition, where the opening creates backwater due to the exceedance of its discharge capacity, and b) mechanical deposition caused by large objects (adapted from Lange and Bezzola, 2006; Piton and Recking, 2016a).

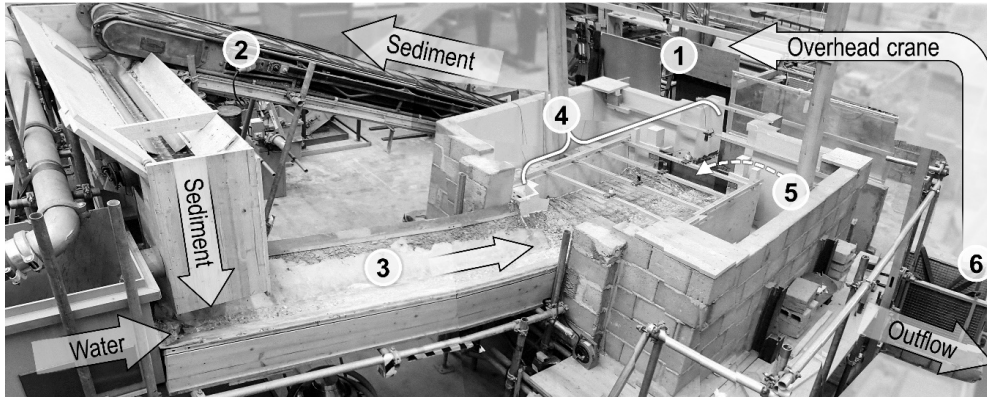


Figure 3: The experimental set-up with sediment supply system that consisted of a sediment container (1) and conveyor belts (2); with indication of the water supply by the laboratory pump system, and the adaptation reach (3) that lead the sediment-water mixture to the observation reach (4). The barriers were placed at the downstream end of the observation reach (5). The outflowing sediment and water were separated by a filter basket (6) at the downstream model end.

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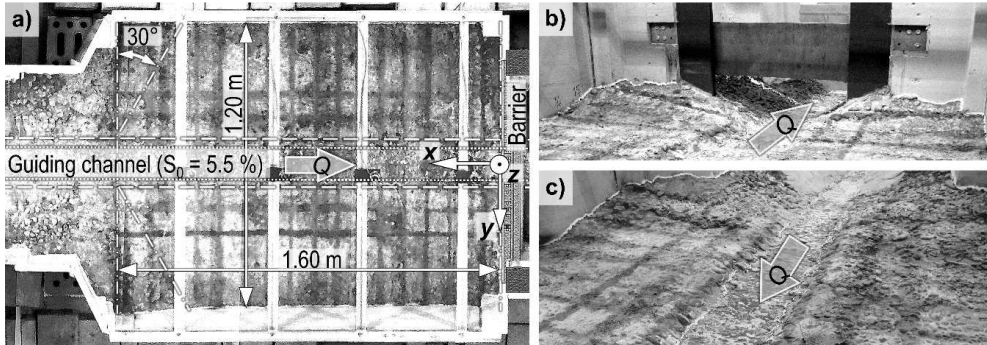


Figure 4: Details of the observation reach consisting of the deposition area (reservoir) with guiding channel. The marked grid lines on the bottom were used for qualitative purposes and had an interspace of approximately 0.1 m: a) top-view with indication of the reservoir length (1.60 m), width (1.20 m), opening angle (30°) and longitudinal slope (5.5 %), as well as the model coordinate system (x, y, z axis), used for the evaluation of sediment deposits; b) location of barriers, view in the downstream direction; and c) deposition area (reservoir), view in the upstream direction.

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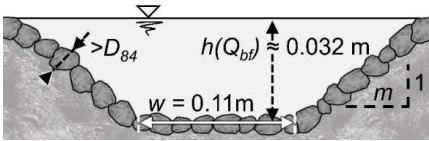


Figure 5: The cross-section of the trapezoidal guiding channel, lined with fixed grains larger than the D84 of the sediment supply mixture and designed for bank overtopping for discharges higher than 5.5 l/s.

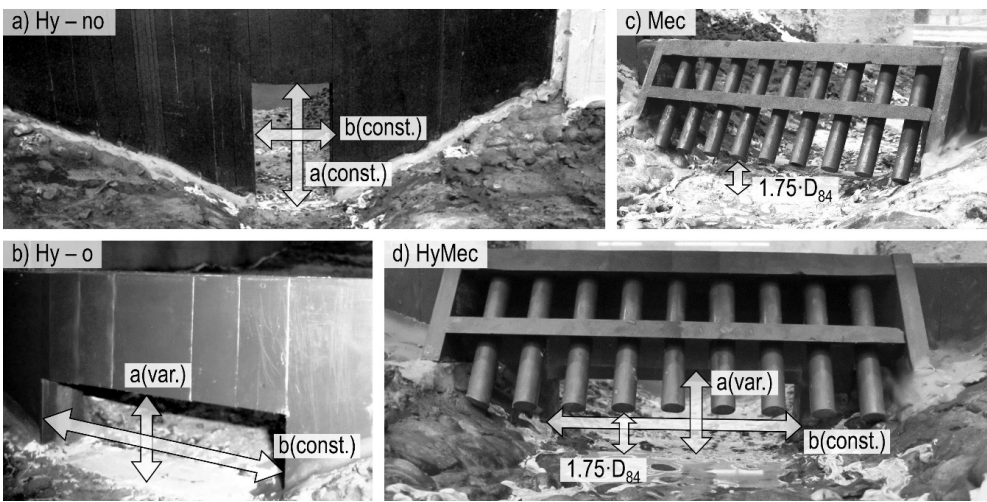


Figure 6: Tested barrier types: Hydraulic deposition control only with constriction height a and width b ; a) case *Hy-no* without the possibility of structure overflow and b) case *Hy-o*, with limited barrier height (0.11 m); mechanical deposition control by c) a bar screen (case *Mec*) with a height of 0.11 m; and d) the combination of hydraulic and mechanical deposition control (case *HyMec*), with the bar screen superposed to the flow constriction with variable constriction height a and constant width b .

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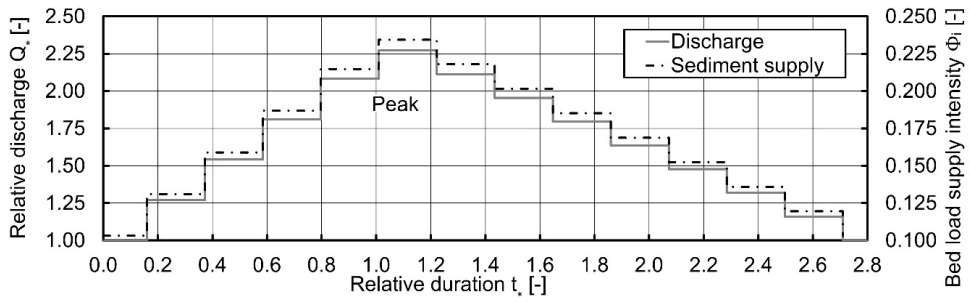
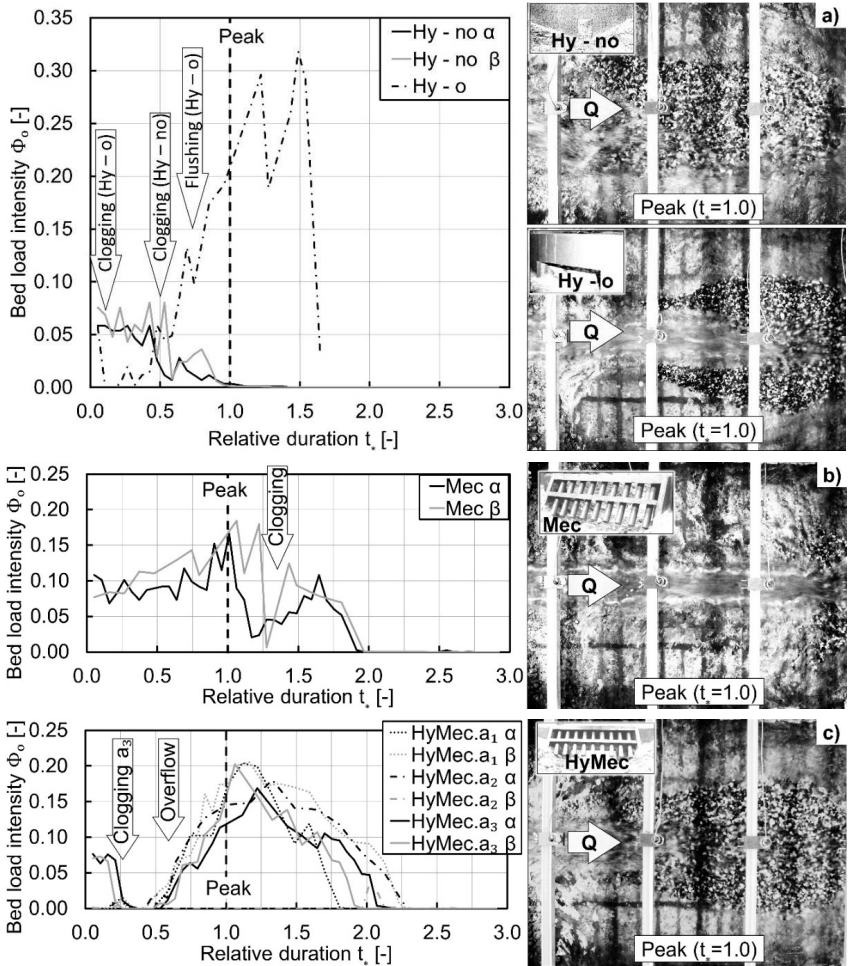


Figure 7: The generic hydrograph used for the experiments, based on the dimensionless expressions of relative discharge $Q_r = Q / Q_{bf}$, bed load supply intensity Φ_r and the relative time $t_r = t / t_r$.



5 **Figure 8:** The outflowing bed load transport intensity Φ_o as a function of the relative time t_r , and for the two repetitive tests α and β . a) for hydraulic control without barrier overflow (Hy-no) and with barrier overflow (Hy-o); b) for mechanical control by the bar screen (Mec); and c) for combined deposition controls (HyMec), i.e., the combination of hydraulic barrier with varying opening heights $a_{1,2,3}$ and upstream superposed bar screen. The top-view pictures at the right show the sediment deposits at the flood peak of the α -tests.

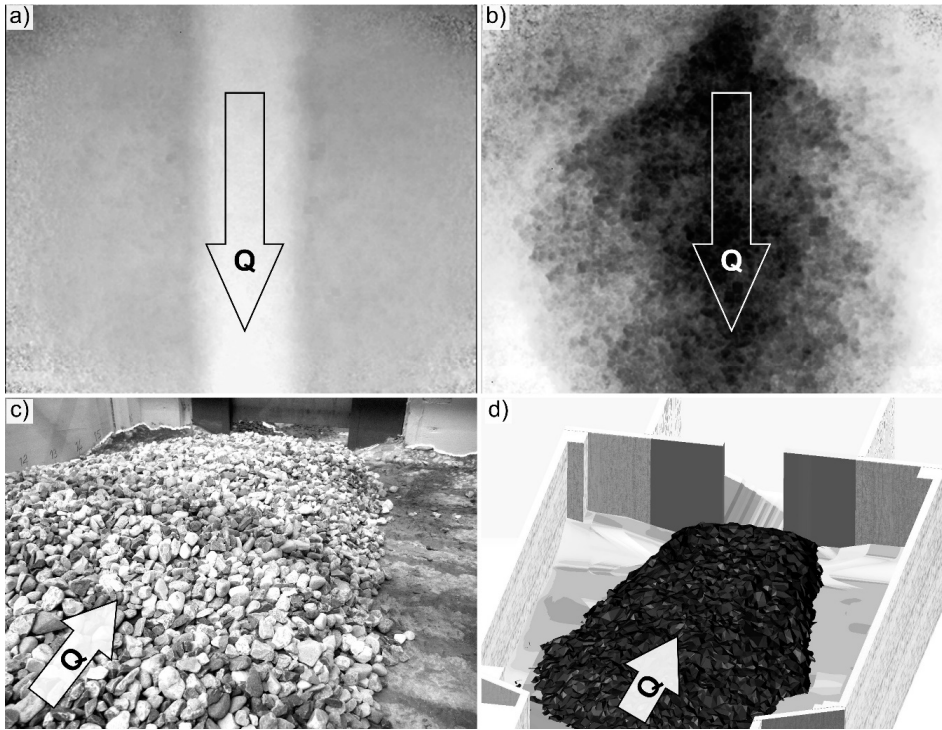


Figure 9: Example of the recording of the deposition area bathymetry with the motion sensing camera: (a) a gray-scale picture of the empty deposition area (top-view) and (b) a gray-scale picture of the deposition area with sediment (top-view). A picture from a standard camera of the deposit at the end of the *HyMec.a1* test is shown in (c), with its numerical representation derived from the motion sensing camera (d).

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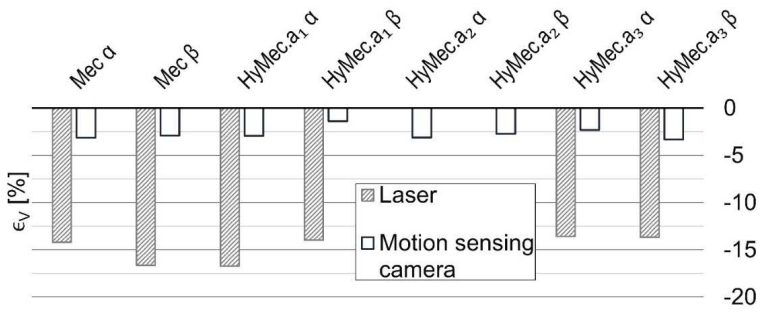


Figure 10: Percentage error ϵ_v of the sediment volume derived from weight measurements (assuming $\rho_s = 1550 \text{ kg/m}^3$) and the deposit volume measurements based on the bathymetric scans using the laser and the motion sensing camera; the bathymetric records were made after the repetitive α and β tests with the bar screen only (*Mec*) and the combination of the bar screen with the open hydraulic barrier *HyMec*, with varying opening heights $a_{1,2,3}$.

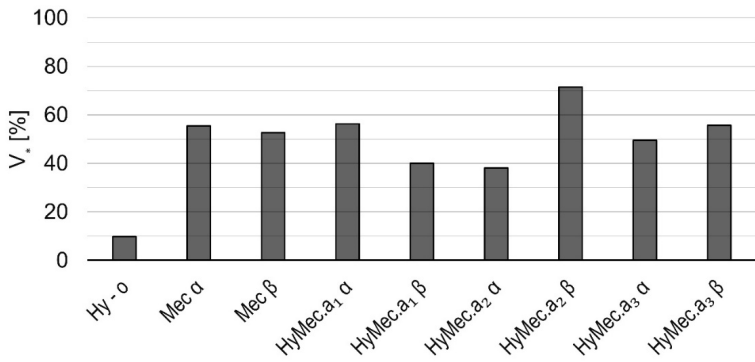


Figure 11: The ratio V_1 (in %) of the deposit volume V_{dep} and the supply volume V_2 after the repetitive hydrograph tests α and β for the cases of the non-overflow flow constriction (*Hy-no*), overflow bar screen (*Mec*) and the combination of overflow bar screen superposed to the flow constriction (*HyMec*), with varying opening heights $a_{1,2,3}$.

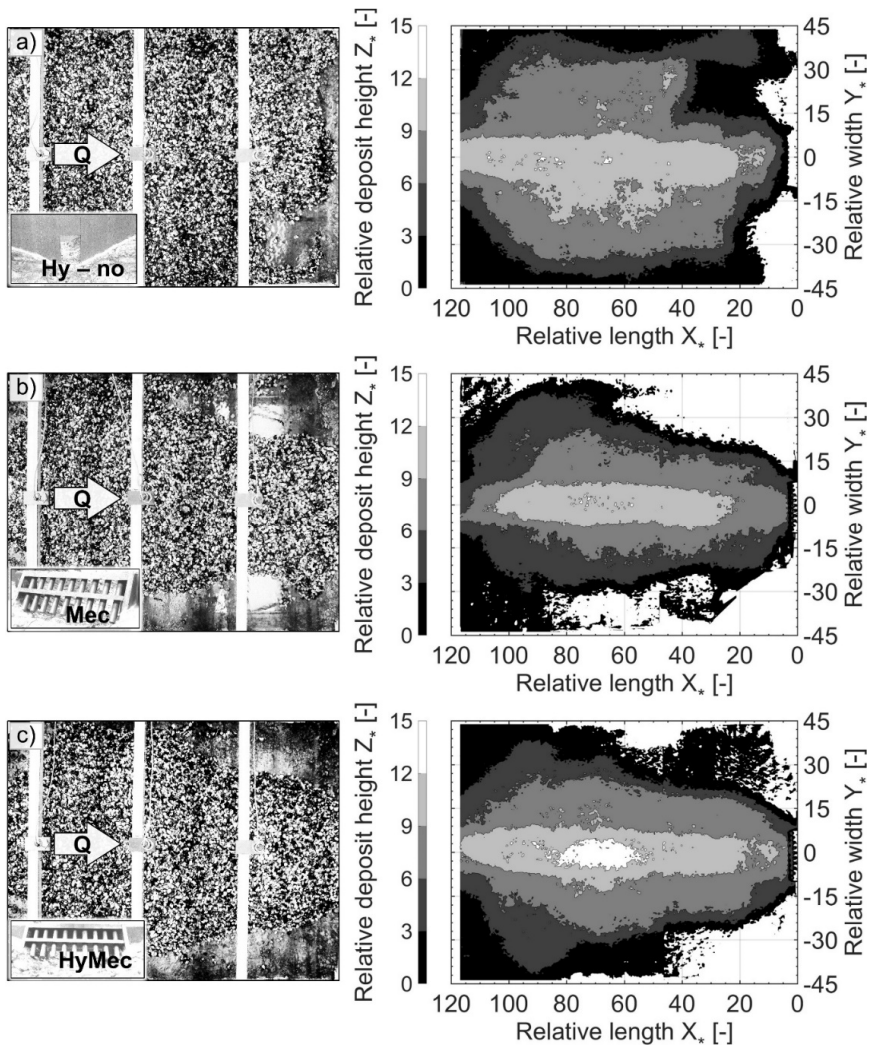


Figure 1042: Deposition patterns at the end of the hydrograph tests; left column: top-view pictures; right column: bathymetric records, a) in case *Hy-no* (α -test), with non-overflow hydraulic barrier; b) in case *Mec* (α -test), with bar screen for mechanical control only; and c) case *HyMec* (test α_{3a}), with combined hydraulic barrier and upstream superposed bar screen.

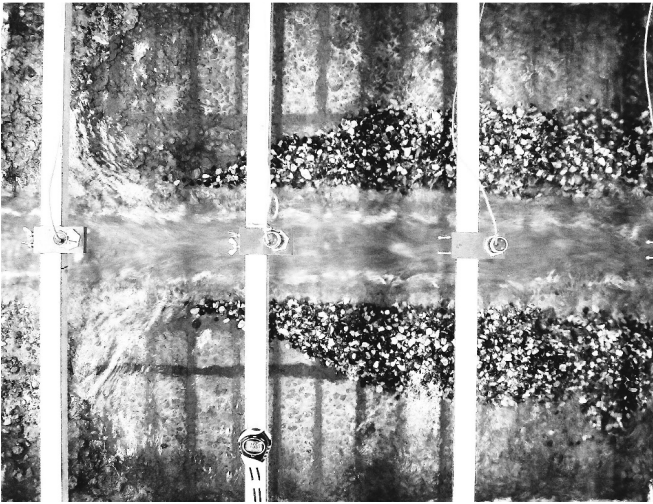


Figure 1143: Remaining sediment deposits at the end of the hydrograph test of case *Hy-o*.

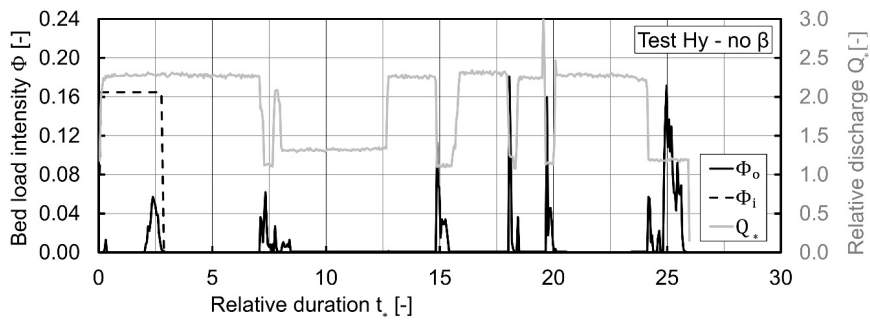
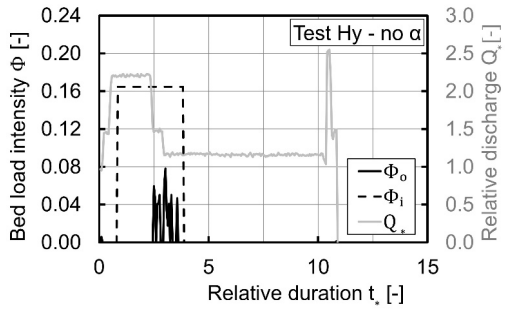


Figure 1214: Evolution of the outflowing bed load intensity Φ , for the sediment flushing attempts after the α and β hydrograph tests with non-overflowed hydraulic barrier (Hy-no), with indication of the relative discharge Q_i and bed load supply intensity Φ_i , as a function of t_i .

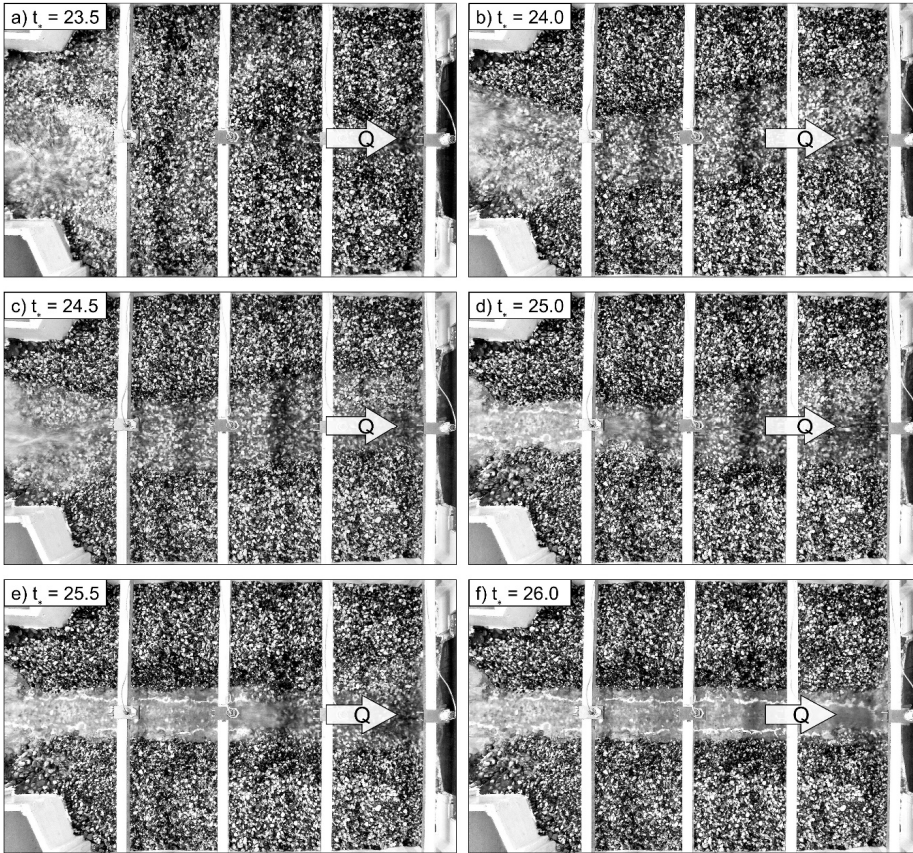


Figure 1345: Controlled flushing of the guiding channel after the hydrograph test *Hy-no β*, in time lapses of $0.5t_s$, starting from $t_s = 23.5$, after creating gradually an artificial depression above the guiding channel, until $t_s = 26.0$, where the guiding channel was completely cleared.

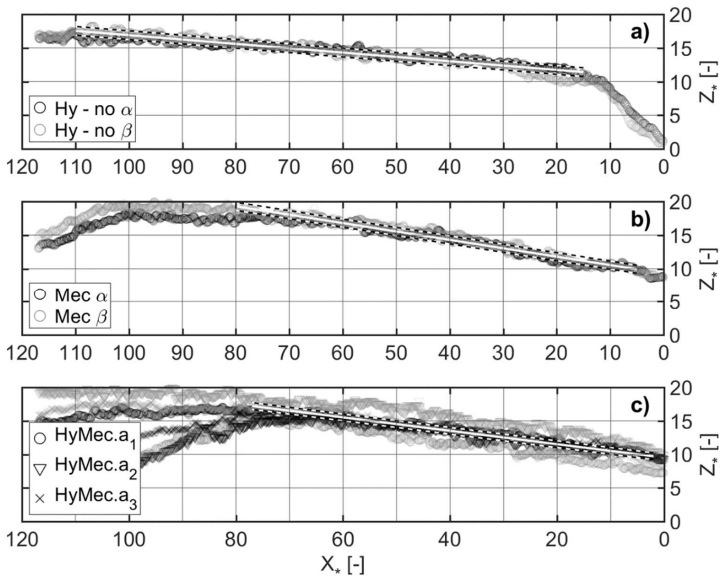


Figure 1446: Relative deposit height Z_s at the longitudinal axis of the guiding channel ($Y_s = 0$) after the repetitive α and β hydrograph tests; upstream of a) the non-overflow hydraulic barrier (Hy-no); b) the mechanical barrier only (Mec); and c) the combined barrier (HyMec) with varying opening heights $a_{1,2,3}$. The linear regression curves of the aggradation zones are shown (close white lines), with indication of the corresponding 68 % confidence intervals (dashed lines).

Table 1: Denomination and characterization of test runs with hydrograph and flushing episodes.

CASE	TYPE	REL. BARRIER HEIGHT [-] $0.11/D_{84}$	RELATIVE HEIGHT [-] a/D_{84}	CONSTRICTION WIDTH [-] b/D_{84}	BAR SCREEN PLACED	HYDRO-GRAPH TESTS [N°]	FLUSH-ING
Hy-no	Hydraulic	<i>Inf.</i>	11.1	5.6	No	2	Yes
Hy-o	Hydraulic	8.0	$a_1 = 2.89$	11.0	No	1	No
Mec	Mechanical	8.0	--	--	Yes	2	No
HyMec.a₁	Combined	8.0	$a_1 = 2.89$	11.0	Yes	2	No
HyMec.a₂	Combined	8.0	$a_2 = 3.14$	11.0	Yes	2	Yes
HyMec.a₃	Combined	8.0	$a_3 = 3.44$	11.0	Yes	2	No

Interactive comment on “Experimental study of sediment traps permeable for frequent floods” by Sebastian Schwindt et al.

Author’s response

F. Comiti (Referee)

francesco.comiti@unibz.it

Received and published: 14 December 2017

Dear Authors,

I think your experiments were very well conducted, the results are clearly explained, and your ms is nicely written. However, I believe some clarifications are necessary before publication. Please find below my comments.

Best wishes Francesco Comiti

Dear Francesco Comiti,

Thank you for your thorough and constructive review of our Manuscript. We adapted the text in response to your comments. We answer the particular remarks in detail below.

Best wishes,

the Authors.

Introduction

This section is too much focused on bedload transport issues, whereas little is presented about why check dams are used and how their implementation evolved over the past decades/centuries (see paper by Piton et al. ESPL). As the topic is very technical on check dam designing, I think the introduction should summarize the historical evolution of such structures

We improved the introduction by completing the reasoning for the construction of check dams, also applying on Piton et al. (2017).

Design approach for permeable sediment traps

The statement about the dominance of supercritical flows in mountain rivers is not true, as many lab and field investigations - also related to high flows - found out that critical flow conditions (Fr around 1) represent a sort of upper limit in mobile beds, for example see Grant (1997, WRR), Comiti et al. (2007, J. Hydrol, 2009, WRR), Yochum et al. (2012 J. Hydrol), Zimmermann (2012 WRR). Therefore I think you should modify your phrase, making explicit that only in the case of a smooth, stable bed (bedrock, artificial revetment) supercritical flow can onset in steep channels and thus a stable hydraulic jump can form in the retention basin downstream.

We adapted the text.

Also, the assumption that bankfull discharge corresponds to effective discharge for sediment transport does not hold for steep channels (see Lenzi et al., 2006 J. Hydrol.)

We completely agree with that and we clarify this differentiation now in the revised discussion Section 5.4 (Application and limits).

I would merge section 3 with section 2, as they are quite short

This is true. We merged sections 2 and 3 but we kept subsections because both titles are two different aspects that are crucial for the understanding of the paper. We want the reader to easily relocate both the design of check dams and the related sediment retention pattern through the section titles.

Methodology

This section is quite well written and complete. However, I'd suggest some minor changes/comments:
- the use of the term "torrential barrier": I would avoid the adjective torrential, it is not needed and in English it refers more to debris flow processes.

We removed the adjective "torrential" in front of "barrier" in the manuscript.

Actually, you should clarify also earlier in the ms that debris flows are not considered in your work.

We added this hint at the end of the introduction.

- driftwood: In English refers to wood drifting in lakes or ocean, not in rivers. I'd suggest use simply "large wood" or "wood material" –

Implemented.

Why did you choose a value of roughness n equal to 0.02 ? Please comment on its appropriateness relative to prototypes

The roughness originates from the bed grain size and it results from respecting the geometry scales that we observed in nature (e.g., ratio between channel width and grain size). We assessed the interpolated Manning's n in earlier studies using a shooting algorithm applied to the resolution of 1D Saint-Venant equations along the channel. We added this in the text.

Results

Also this section reads well and presents useful information. However, I find the number of figures a bit too high and I suggest to consider removing 2-3 figures to make the paper more concise and shorter.

The application of the motion-sensing device (Kinect V2) is interesting to know but not crucial for our manuscript. Therefore, we provide the former Figure 9 (Kinect application) and the error evaluation (Figure 10) as supplemental material now.

Discussion

Can you offer an explanation for the lack of incision and reshaping of the deposit, differently from previous studies? More in detail, is it possibly due to the relative size of sediments (with respect to flow discharges?)

Indeed, we used a larger grain mixture than what was used in previous studies and we added this hint in the text. However, given the small geometric scale (large size) of our model, the grain sizes are coherent with the set of field observations that we used.

Didn't previous studies obtain grain imbrication too?

This would be interesting to know but we cannot appropriately judge imbrication based on the reports from former studies.

Could there be a the role of test durations?

Sure, there is a role of duration. We tested longer durations in preliminary tests and we observed more pronounced sediment deposition and higher deposit volumes in these tests. Therefore, our experiments are on the safe site regarding sediment retention. We added this in the discussion.

Please comment on how this lack of reworking compares to real cases. You argue that the guiding channel should be rough to favor fish passage, this is correct, but isn't this in contradiction with the Manning $n=0.02$ you tested? Also, the rougher the channel the less the flushing is effective.

The situation that we modeled corresponds to floods when, we assume, there is no fish migration. In the flood situation, the relative grain submergence is low, and therefore the flow smoothens. We added this aspect to the discussion of eco-morphological aspects in Section 5.3.

As to driftwood passage (but please call it large wood), this can be favored for frequent, low floods and for moderate log lengths, and thus relatively large bottom openings are good also to this respect. Wood should be trapped during large, infrequent events only, as for "excessive" bedload (Comiti et al., 2016, Geomorph)

We added this and the literature resource in the Manuscript.

The term torrential hazards again suggests debris flow-like processes in English, whereas here you mean intense bedload. I suggest to drop the term torrential

As earlier proposed, we dropped the term torrential with respect to our study but in the reference to Piton and Recking (2016a), we kept the term, as it applies to their study.

Conclusions

Although your experiments do provide very interesting insights on the deposition processes during a flood, I am left with a doubt: are we sure that the guiding channels are actually beneficial for bedload permeability in the long run? You state that after the deposition the receding flows were not able to rework the sediment deposit as the channel "attracted" the flow, leaving the deposit untouched, and then one has to intervene mechanically (with very high costs !) For ordinary floods, in a check dam without a guiding channel but with large openings the flushing could be similarly effective, I suspect.

The key point is that the sediment transfer is improved through the guiding channel up to small, non-hazardous floods. Mechanical interventions after an important flood event are inevitable. We adapted the conclusions to highlight this important aspect.

I have seen "very open" check dams which do not trap much bedload during ordinary floods, and very likely they are able to partially self-clean after a flood event through "wandering flows" over the deposit (if openings are located at different heights), apparently better than with a guiding channel (based on your experiments). The question is about how much sediment can be let pass during a flood, and this is very site specific depending on the conveyance of the downstream channel. Can you please try to "convince" more the reader on the real advantages of guiding channels?

The self-cleaning may be interesting but it can also be very dangerous. We added a paragraph in the discussion Section 5.2 (sediment flushing) to underline that (also according to a remark from Reviewer 3). With our sediment trap concept, we want to promote sediment continuity but only if the risk of uncontrolled self-cleaning can be avoided. We added the key word of self cleaning and we adapted the conclusions to stress the importance of avoiding unwanted sediment flushing.

Also, I think a big issue that you should highlight again in the conclusions is the very critical role of wood on clogging the openings, and how this should be contrasted (as discussed in the literature you already cite) or accounted for.

We added this for future work at the end of the conclusions.

RE: NHESS 2017 376 Schwindt et al.: *Experimental study of sediments traps permeable for frequent floods*

Authors response

Overview

The authors introduce a new concept for the design of open check dam (the introduction of a guiding channel) and study through experiments its interaction with different sediments retaining techniques.

The work presented by the authors is very interesting but needs some corrections and additions before its publications.

Dear Reviewer,

Thank you for the time you took for reviewing our Manuscript. We appreciate your comments and we applied them to our manuscript according to the detailed responses.

Kind regards,

the Authors

The following are the detailed comments and specifications.

Introduction

Last sentence too long and confuse: please rewrite it.

We improved the introduction, also accounting for the comments from Francesco Comiti (RC 1) and Reviewer 3.

Design approach for permeable sediments trap

The orientation of figure 1 shows a channel with an adverse slope. Could be it possible a figure with the channel inclined along the flow direction?

Our main study objectives address the deposition area and the barrier (check dam) which are only visible from an upstream point of view. We created Figure 1 based on a CAD drawing where the channel has a geometric slope in the flow direction. If we had changed the view angle, it was not possible to show the target elements of our study. Thus, the CAD model that constitutes Figure 1 is correct regarding the landscape and structure geometry. We hope that you agree that we kept Figure 1 as it is, because changes in the view angle would reduce the comprehension of the elements in our study.

Moreover, authors should introduce an insert or a new figure that explains the possible cases of open barriers: simple openings, bar screen or a combination of them. In present figure only the bar screen is visible.

A number of standard literature discusses and describes the barrier types and their openings. Any reproduction of these figures or only similar representations in a journal article require copyright authorizations. Even though we agree that an overview on existing barriers can be interesting for the reader but it is not crucial for understanding our study. We added a paragraph that cites sources of check dam design charts; this literature includes the phd thesis of the main author, which is publicly

available (we added the public access url in the list of references: Schwindt, 2017).

Experimental set up

The Microsoft Kinect V2 seems and adapter rather than a motion-sensing camera

The manual mentions the device as “consumer-grade RGB-D sensor”, i.e., neither camera nor adapter. We changed the term “camera” to “device” to avoid confusion.

Parameters and dimensional considerations

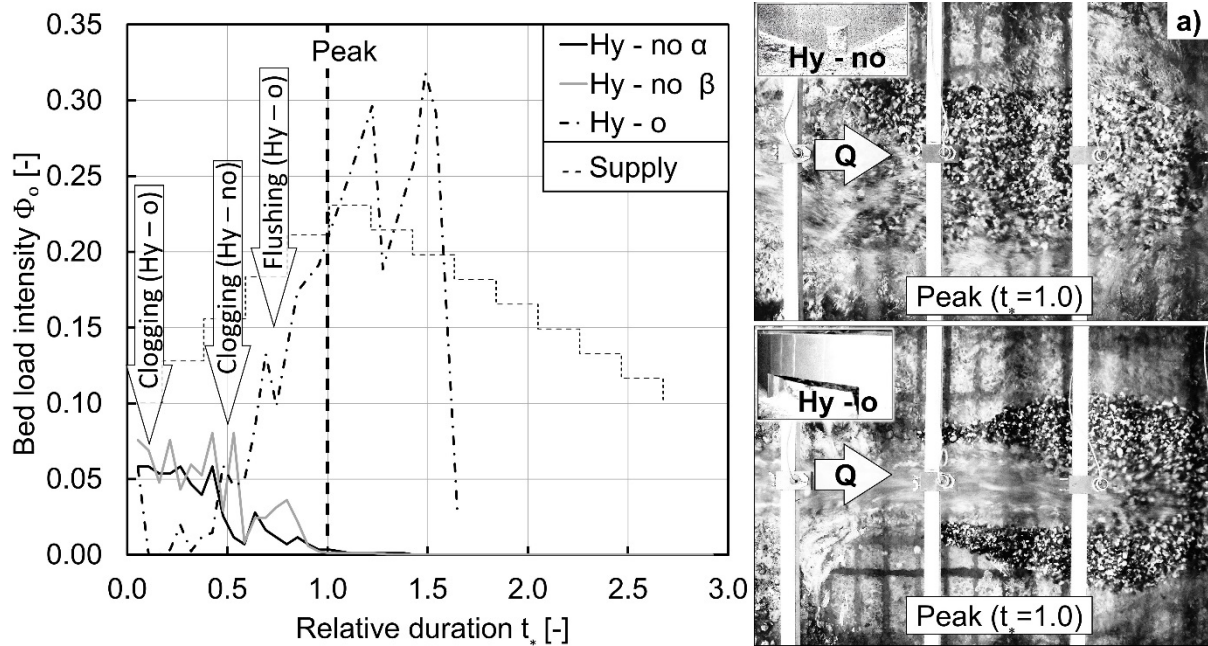
About dimensional analysis the writer has some concern about the resulting dimensionless quantities. The dimensionless quantities should have at least one of the chosen fundamental variables. Authors should justify the presence of dimensionless quantities without them.

We choose this set of fundamental variables that suits our analysis of sediment transport-related phenomena, as we consider bed load transport as the principal process in our study. We use ratios of other base variables, e.g., for hydrodynamic parameters, where our set of fundamental variables is not accurate (Yalin, 1977). These parameters are, e.g., the discharge where we use the bankfull discharge of the guiding channel for normalization, or the duration of the hydrograph. Prior to our analysis, we also considered a normalization of discharge or time based on the fundamental variables but such representations are not meaningful for the interpretation of the results. If we were applying the fundamental variables to the time, then $t^ = t/\sqrt{gD_{84}}$, i.e., a variable that has no meaning for the analysis. Nevertheless, all geometry-related dimensionless parameters result from the fundamental variable of the D_{84} , where the set of fundamental parameters corresponds to the one used by Einstein (1950) to derive Φ_i . Further discussions on the set of fundamental variables and dimensional analysis are included in the main authors phd thesis (Schwindt, 2017) and in the former articles that originate from previous adjustments of the same experimental setup (Schwindt et al. 2017a, 2017b, 2017c). However, we cannot find an accurate place for these explanations in the dimensional analysis-section without dispersing the reader from the main objective of our in the journal of Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences.*

Evolution bed load transfer through the barrier

About Figure 8, could be it possible to add the inflowing sediment rate Φ_i ?

We considered adding the sediment supply rate but the graphs became very messy and hard to read – here an example of Fig. 8a, where the graph density is still much lower than in Fig. 8c:



In particular, the range, where the bed load outflow and inflow rates are present, is very hard to interpret. This is why we opted to present the sediment supply rate apart from Fig. 8, with the hydrograph in Fig. 7.

Applications and limits

The sentence at lines 17-21 of page 16 should be rewritten clearly. For instance, “(steps 8 and 9 in Piton and Recking, 2016a)” should be inserted after “is similar to.....”.

We adapted the text as proposed (with the new numbering, the paragraph is in Section 5.4).

Bed load intensity in Figure 7 is time variant while in Figure 14 is constant.

Figure 7 shows the hydrograph test while Figure 14 shows the flushing test. We added information on the constant sediment supply at the beginning of the flushing experiments in Section 3.4 (Experimental procedures).

Finally, I would suggest the authors to give just some more detail on sediment flushing and its consequence on the downstream area.

We added a comment on the consequences of sediment flushing for downstream reaches at the end of the discussion section 5.2 (Sediment flushing).

Interactive comment on “Experimental study of sediment traps permeable for frequent floods” by Sebastian Schwindt et al.

Author’s response

Anonymous Referee #3

Received and published: 15 December 2017

Dear Editor,

Dear Authors,

I carefully reviewed the manuscript titled “Experimental study of sediment traps permeable for frequent floods” submitted as a discussion paper to the NHESS journal by Sebastian Schwindt and co-authors. I read also the other comments which have been posted. In my review I’ll try, as far as possible, to avoid redundant suggestions.

Dear Reviewer,

Thank you for the ample review and the constructive suggestions for improving our Manuscript. We answer your General and Specific comments individually. We hope that our reviewed Manuscript satisfies your concerns.

Kind regards,

the Authors

General comments:

The study fits into the specific scopes of the journal since it’s a potentially valuable contribution to the design, and anticipated critical evaluation of mitigation measures to reduce the impact of hazardous natural events on human-made structures and infrastructure, thereby trying to maintain or reestablish minimal levels of hydro- morphological end ecological functioning in mountain streams. In my view the manuscript needs to be enhanced in certain aspects to reach its full potential and to be finally considered for publication in NHESS. First and crucially, the authors should better clarify the new contents with respect to the previous publication by Schwindt et al. titled “Analysis of mechanical-hydraulic bedload deposition control measures” published in Geomorphology in 2017. It’s very important to minimize the overlaps and to focus almost exclusively on the analyzed new concepts for permeable sediment traps. In my opinion it would be advisable to summarize these previous findings in a short section titled “Current state of the experimental research” to pave the way for the presentation of the completely new research and the associated results.

We adapted the introduction to make clear that the previous study introduced the hybrid control barrier in a flume only and we emphasize more the framework of the new experiments in this study.

As stated in the abstract the new elements consist in a guiding channel featuring a permeable barrier on the downstream end. This concept is presented as completely new. I’m aware of at least two partial efforts to address a similar problem setting. One is an already implemented mitigation measure in the River Rienz in South Tyrol (compare Guis et al. 2016) and the other is an experimental study of the deposition basin in the Gatria stream as well in South Tyrol (compare https://www.baunat.boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H03000/H87000/H87100/IAN_Reports/REP0144.pdf).

With respect to the former a sort of guiding channel has been implemented upstream of the filter (although not featuring a regular cross section). With respect to the latter the experimental variant 5 embodies as well the idea of facilitating the throughput for frequent but less intense flood events). Perhaps it could be advisable to acknowledge the existence of such partial efforts and to point out that in this study explicitly focusses on a full conceptualization.

We added comments on similar features in the text and we added the report from Hübl et al.. Alas, we could neither retrieve Guis et al. (2016) nor any sediment trap/check dam/guiding channel related study at the Rienz River.

Second, it would be recommendable to extend in the introduction the description of the importance for design to quantify the nexus between an enhanced sediment flux control, reduced risks for the built environment and hydro-morphological amelioration of downstream river reaches.

We adapted the introduction, also according to the comments from Francesco Comiti (RC 1) and the Specific comments.

Additionally, I suggest to unveil the underlying design problem explicitly. Which real world problem are you attempting to solve? Sparsely throughout the text you report field data, so it would be interesting to know if a real world case (or more than one) motivated your study. This is not of minor importance, since an optimal functioning of a certain sediment dosing or filtering system can be ultimately judged based on the sediment supply needs of the specific river and the natural hazard risk of the specific built environment. Has a specific design objective been defined in terms of risk reduction, eco-morphological enhancement, cost minimization?

We made major adaptations in the introduction in general and the introduction of our concept. Furthermore, we enhanced the discussion section regarding the application (Section 5.4) for better highlighting the context, purpose and utility of our tested concept.

Specific comments:

Title: As a result of the revision process the authors should judge if the title merits to be slightly adapted.

We adapted the title to "Sediment traps with guiding channel and hybrid check dams improve controlled sediment retention".

Introduction:

1) Is the effective or dominant discharge also a useful concept in heavily modified (e.g. by check dams) alpine mountain torrents. If not, it would be interesting to know how the sediment demand for downstream reaches should be assessed. In my view this is a crucial design element.

We introduce here aspects on sediment transport and its assessment in general. We enhanced the discussion on the application of our tested concept (Section 5.4).

2) The references are sometimes presented in chronologically ascending order and sometimes not, please adhere to the journal guidelines in this respect.

We generally adapted the citations to the increasing-order style.

3) You mention that "The application of the grain size of the traveling bed load to bed load transport formulae can be used for establishing sediment rating curves, as a computation basis for the dominant discharge." Which grain size exactly? Please specify.

The recent scientific literature refers to the D_{84} for the assessment of roughness while the mean grain size of overbank sediment deposits provides accurate estimates for the sediment flux. We adapted the introduction accordingly.

4) You use the terms eco-morphological depletion. I prefer degradation. Consider revising your wording.

We replaced depletion by degradation.

Design approach for permeable sediment traps

If possible, the design approach should be presented in a much more coherent way. For example, stating, first, the objective(s) of the design and the applicable design principles and, consequently, the physical effects to be achieved and, lastly, the detailed structural design.

We rearranged this section according to the comment and we deleted repetitive information.

Section 4 – Methodology

Experimental setup: You start by “The design of the experimental set-up (Figure 3) was inspired by 132 characteristic datasets from mountain rivers (Schwindt, 2017). Thus, even though any particular prototype underlay the model, a geometric scale in the range of 1:10 to 1:40 can be supposed.” I think it would be advantageous to specify what exactly inspired the design of the experimental set-up. Moreover, also the second sentence needs further clarification.

We were interested in typical geometric relationships (grain size, channel width, flow depth) and discharges. We added this hint in the text.

Subsection 4.2 Deposition area with guiding channel: I’m not particularly convinced of the effectiveness of this subsection title.

We changed the subsections’ title to “Premises and descriptions of the deposition area with guiding channel”.

Further minor issues:

Section 5 – Results and Analysis. Also in this case I urge the authors to slightly change the section title. Check carefully the reference style to consistently use brackets where needed. Moreover, equations should not contain references (e.g., Johnson, 2016).

We corrected the title of subsection 4.1 (former 5.1): “Evolution of bed load transfer through the barrier”. In addition, we changed the subscript in Equation (3) from citation style to a normal subscript that still is unique and makes the origin of this equation clear. Moreover, we updated the references.

We made further changes according to the comments from Francesco Comiti (RC 1) and Reviewer 2.