Analysis of the instability conditions and failure mode of a special type of translational landslide using long-term monitoring data: A case study of the Wobaoshi landslide (in Bazhong, China)

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9 Abstract: A translational landslide comprising nearly horizontal sandstone and mudstone interbed 10 occurred in the Ba river basin of the Qinba-Longnan mountain area. Previous studies have 11 succeeded to some extent in investigating on the formation mechanism and failure mode of this 12 type of rainfall-induced landslide; however, it is very difficult to demonstrate and validate the 13 previously-established geomechanial model owing to lack of landslide monitoring data. In this study, we considered a translational landslide exhibiting an unusual morphology, ie., the Wobaoshi 14 landslide, that occurred in Bazhong, China. First, the engineering geological conditions of this 15 16 landslide were determined through field investigation, and the deformation and failure mode of the 17 plate-shaped main body were analyzed. Second, long-term monitoring was performed to obtain multiparameter monitoring data (width of the crown crack, rainfall, and pore-water pressure). 18 Finally, an equation was developed to obtain the critical water height of the multistage bodies, i.e., 19 h_{cr} , based on the geomechanical model analysis of the multistage main bodies, and the reliability 20 of this equation was verified using long-term monitoring data. Subsequently, the deformation and 21 22 failure modes of the plate-shaped bodies were analyzed and investigated based on numerical 23 simulations and calculations. Thus, the multiparameter monitoring data proved that the stability of the main body is majorly controlled by the rainfall and pore-water pressure, further, the pore-water pressure in the crown crack was positive with respect to the initiation of sliding of the plate-shaped bodies. Simultaneously, an optimized monitoring methodology was proposed for this type of landslide. Therefore, these research findings are theoretically and practically significant to study the translational landslides occurring in this area.

29 Keywords: Translational landslide; Long- term monitoring; Instability conditions; Failure
30 mode; Plate-shaped main body; Pore-water pressure.

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32 **0. Introduction**

33 A special type of landslide can be observed in the red beds of the Qinba-Longnan mountainous area. This landslide mainly occurres in the rock mass of the nearly horizontal 34 35 sandstone and mudstone interbed located in the Ba river basin, and hasexhibits the following characteristics: The cover layer is extremely thin (generally not more than 5 m); the sliding 36 surface is nearly horizontal; and the inclination angle of the rock bed is generally only $3^{\circ} \sim 8^{\circ}$. The 37 38 main body of this landslide is typically a thick sandstone layer with good integrity, whereas its 39 bottom is a weak layer comprising mudstone. During monsoon, particularly during rainstorms, the 40 main body is pushed horizontally along the sliding surface. Some scholars have termed this phenomenon a flat-push landslide, which is a typical rainfall-induced landslide (Zhang et al., 1994; 41 42 Guzzetti et al., 2004; Xu et al., 2010).

The research on the formation mechanism and deformation mode of a translational landslide is mainly classified into two categories. The first category includes the translational landslides that are primarily caused by the hydrostatic pressure or confined water pressure because of rainstorms

46	(Kong and Chen, 1989; Matjaž et al., 2004; Yin et al., 2005). The main body of the thick
47	sandstone can slide along the surface owing to the hybrid action of the hydrostatic pressure in
48	crown cracks and the uplift force of the sliding surface (Wang and Zhang, 1985; Zhang et al.,
49	1994; Xu et al., 2006; Fan, 2007). Simultaneously, the sliding soil, which is expanded by
50	rainwater, causes a slip between the nearly horizontal layers (Yin et al., 2005). The second
51	category includes landslides in which the the upper layer containing hard rock (such as granite and
52	sandstone) has a crushing effect on the lower weak rock layer, causing the lateral expansion of the
53	rock mass, resulting in a landslide (Cruden and Varnes, 1996; Emelyanova, 1986).
54	With respect to the theoretical study on rainfall-induced translational landslide, scholars and
55	researchers worldwide have used physical simulation experiments, gemechanical model analysis,
56	and satellite remote-sensing methods to investigate the genetic mechanism, initiation criteria, and
57	sensitivity analysis of the safety factors. Fan et al. (2008) reproduced the deformation and failure
58	process of the landslides via a physical simulation, and further verified the formation mechanism
59	as well as the initiation criterion formula of the flat-push landslide previously studied by Zhang et
60	al. (1994). Sergio et al. (2006) investigated the influence of the pore-water pressure on the stability
61	of the rainfall-induced landslides, as well as the soil failure mode based on pore-water pressure via
62	simulation experiments. Floris and Bozzano (2008) and Teixeira et al. (2015) obtained rainfall
63	data based on the historical periodic rainfall conditions, and used physical experiments to establish
64	an optimization model for rainfall-induced landslide initiation criteria for landslides in the
65	southern Apennines and shallow landslides in northern Portugal; they also evaluated the landslide
66	susceptibility and safety factors to evaluate the possibility of landslide reactivation induced by
67	rainstorms. Barlow et al. (2003), and Martin and Franklin (2005) used the US land satellite called

enhanced thematic mapper (ETM+) and the digital elevation model (DEM) data to detect the residues of translational bedrock landslides in an alpine terrain. Bellanova et al. (2018) used resistivity imaging to investigate the Montaguto translational landslide that occurred in the southern part of the Apennines; they also established a refined geometric model to observe the lithologic boundaries, structural features, and lateral and longitudinal discontinuities associated with the sliding surfaces.

Scholars have conducted further research on the formation characteristics and genetic mechanism of translational landslides by analyzing the previous studies that have collated and analyzed the current research status of translational landslides. Based on the results of the previous conducted studies, this study mainly focuses on the following two aspects.

(1) The occurrence of plate-shaped translational landslides is often unexpected and covert.
The plate-shaped translational landslides are primarily induced by rainfall; such events often occur
in the red-bed zone of the Qinba–Longnan mountainous area. Because of the dense population and
infrastructure observed in this area, the plate-shaped landslides, characterized by large volumes of
mass, and covert and abrupt occurrence, often cause massive property loss and casualties. During
the previous field investigation, such destructive events are often classified as small-scale bedrcok
collapses, instead of focusing on the hidden dangers associated with landslides.

85 (2) The field investigation and monitoring data for this type of landslide are often unavailable.
86 In previously conducted studies, specific geomechanical and physical models have been
87 established based on the historical rainfall records, and physical experiments have been conducted
88 in the laboratory to verify the failure model (Xu et al. 2006; Fan et al., 2008). However, long-term
89 on-site monitoring data and related analysis except the remote observation based on synthetic

aperture radar (SAR) or satellite for such landslides, have not been presented in previous studies.
Therefore, several key field monitoring parameters, including the width of the crown crack,
real-time rainfall, pore-water pressure, and groundwater level, should be evaluated to investigate
and validate the deformation as well as failure mode of the translational landslides, and utilized to
establish a geomechanical model.

95 Based on the formation mechanism of the translational landslide that has been established 96 previously, we selected a typical and specific translational landslide (the Wobaoshi landslide) 97 occurring in the Ba river basin of the Qinba–Longnan mountainous area, and conducted field 98 investigation, long-term monitoring (February 2015 to July 2018), geomechanical model analysis, 99 and numerical simulation to investigate the instability conditions and variation failure modes of 100 this translational landslide under the influence of periodic rainfalls.

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102 1. Engineering Geology Characteristics of the Wobaoshi 103 Landslide

104 1.1. Landslide Location

105 The Wobaoshi landslide is located in the Ba river basin in the Qinba-Longnan mountainous 106 area. Its specific location is in Baiyanwan village, Sanhui town, Enyang district in Bazhong, China. 107 Fig. 1 presents the geographical location and elevation information. The Wobaoshi landslide 108 occurred on the left bank of the Shilong river. The front edge of this landslide is in the curved 109 section of the river, whereas its left boundary gully was observed on the concave bank on the 110 river's left bank. The landslide area is classified as a red-bed layer in the low mountainous area, 111 the vegetation of its main body is dense, and its geomorphic unit is cuesta structural slope. The 112 geologic structure of the body lies toward the south side of the Nanyangchang anticline, and the 113 landslide involved sandstone and mudstone belonging to the Penglaizhen Formation of the upper

114 Jurassic series (Chen et al., 2015).



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Fig. 1 Geographic location and elevation map of the Wobaoshi landslide.

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118 This landslide occurred in the eastern subtropical monsoon climate region, where rainfall is abundant and mostly concentrated between May and October, accounting for 75% - 85% of the 119 total annual rainfall. The monthly average rainfall is greater than 100 mm, the largest amount of 120 121 rainfall occurs in July, which has a monthly average rainfall of more than 200 mm. Further, 122 rainstorms can be frequently observed during July, and the rainfall in this region gradually 123 decreases after August (Chen et al., 2015). The types of groundwater are mainly fissure water in weathered bedrock and pore-water in the cracks, and the dynamic change of groundwater is 124 125 considerably affected by climatic change.

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5 **1.2. Landslide Characteristics and Formation Conditions**

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1.2.1 Geometric Characteristics

The main body has a flat long rectangular shape on the plane according to the satellite remote sensing data and landslide survey. Its longitudinal (sliding) direction is nearly 32 m, lateral length is 160 m, the average thickness of the sliding body is approximately 30 m, and its volume is approximately 1.536×10^5 m³ (Chen et al., 2015). This main body belongs to small- to medium-sized landslides according to the typical scale (Ministry of Land and Resources of the PRC; 2006). The sliding direction of the landslide is 249°, and the inclination degree of the rockbed is $6^\circ \sim 8^\circ$. The strike in this landslide is almost parallel to the overall trend of the bank

- slope, which is a gently inclined bedding rock landslide. Fig. 2 presents the schematic map of the
 Wobaoshi landslide and photographs of five observation points. Fig. 3 presents the I-I['] cross
- 138 section graph of the landslide.



Fig. 2 The schematic map of the Wobaoshi landslide and photographs of the observation points: (a) exposed
bedrock at the front edge; (b) the houses had cracked at the front edge (c) the roadbed is uplifted at the front edge;
(d) crack II and bent trees; and (e) crack I.



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Fig. 3 The I-I cross section graph of the landslide

147 As shown in Fig. 2, the landslide is in a flat shape integrally, and its lengthwise is 148 considerably smaller than the crosswise on the plane, and even smaller than the thickness of the

149 main body. Therefore, this body can be easily mistaken for a bedrock collapse during investigation 150 of geological hazard. According to Fig. 3, the main bodies are almost perpendicular to the 151 potential sliding surface, and a group of long and straight structural planes located parallel to the 152 slope cut the slope into two narrow plates (bodies I and II); furthermore, the structural surface of 153 the main body contain cracks, both sides of the crack are closed, and the bottom of the crack is 154 filled with clay, gravel and collapse debris (Chen et al., 2015).

155 1.2.2 Conditions of the main bodies

156 The main body of the Wobaoshi landslide resulted in the formation of two main cracks from 157 the outside to the inside, which cut and disintegrated the main body into plate-shaped blocks from 158 front to back, as shown in the photographs of the observation points c and d in Fig. 2. The 159 plate-shaped bodies I and II are aslo presented in Fig. 2. The landslide is a two-stage translational 160 landslide in which the longitudinal length of body I is 12 m, the identifiable lateral width and 161 thickness of which are approximately 70 and 30 m, respectively, and the longitudinal length of 162 body II is 16 m, the identifiable lateral width and thickness of which are approximately 65 and 28 163 m, respectively. Body I forms crack I with the crown of the landslide, whereas body II forms crack 164 II with body I. When large-intensity rainfall occurs during monsoon, pore-water can be observed 165 in the cracks, indicating that cracks I and II exhibit preferable water-storage conditions.

As denoted by the photograph of the observation point d in Fig. 2 shows, bent trees grow on the crown of the landslide bodies I and II. The trees on the landslide are skewed with the sliding of the soil mass, after the sliding stops, the upper part of the trunk becomes more upright with each passing year. The existence of bent trees represents the tendency of the slope body to become unstable or that the existing landslide accumulation body may slide again, this is also historical evidence of the slow sliding movement of landslides (Zhang et al., 2015).

As denoted by the photo of the observation point a in Fig. 2, the shallow surface of the Wobaoshi landslide is a 2–3 m thick layer comprising collapsed and plowed soil. The main body contains extremely thick sandstone with good integrity, whereas the bottom sliding surface is a weak interlayer comprising of silty mudstone. Thus, the Wobaoshi landslide is a typical and special translational landslide, it can be considered to be a plate-shaped landslide based on the characteristics of its plate-shaped body (Fan et al., 2008; Xu and Zeng, 2009; Xu et al., 2010). 178 The engineering geologic conditions of the Wobaoshi landslide can be observed based on its characteristics, i.e., the rapid immersion of groundwater softens the joint surface of soil and rock 179 180 formation, especially under a rainstorm. Then, the group of open cracks located parallel to the slope in the main body is concentrated and quickly filled with water; subsequently, the 181 182 groundwater level rises and the pore-water pressure increases drastically, such that bodies I and II will slide along the contact surface of the bottom sand-mud-rock weak layer. This condition 183 184 changes the stress mode and equilibrium state of the rock and soil mass, easily inducing a 185 landslide. As can be observed at the observation point b and c in Fig. 2, the Wobaoshi landslide pose a major threat to residential houses and highways, the houses cracked, and the highways 186 were uplifted on its front edge, therefore, this landslide considerably threatens the safety of 187 188 people's property and transportation.

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2. Landslide Monitoring Scheme and Monitoring Data Analysis

191 **2.1. Long-term Monitoring Scheme**

According to the detailed investigation of the Wobaoshi landslide, two cracks are observed to extend through the sliding surface at the crown of the landslide. As the hydrostatic pressure in the cracks strongly influences the stability of the plate-shaped landslide (Fan et al., 2008; Guo et al., 2013), via real-time monitoring of cracks, rainfall and pore-water pressure measurements were conducted from February 2015 to July 2018 to determine the state of landslide during different periods such as rainy and non-rainy seasons, together with the interaction between multistage main bodies and the sliding surface. Fig. 4 shows the layout graph of the monitoring equipment.



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Fig. 4 Layout planar graph of the monitoring equipment

202 As shown in Fig. 4, two non-contact crack automatic monitors, LF I and II, are installed on both sides of cracks I and II, respectively, to record the real-time variation of the width with 203 204 respect to the two cracks (Liu et al., 2015). An automatic rain gauge is installed in a flat space and 205 no tree occlusion is observed at the crown of the landslide to record real-time and cumulative 206 rainfall values. Two pore-water pressure gauges are installed at the bottom of cracks I and II to 207 measure the pore-water pressure. The pore-water level, h_c , can be calculated using $h_c = H - h_i + h_m$, 208 where hi is the installation depth of the pore-water pressure gauge, H is the depth of the crack, and 209 h_m is the measured the pore-water pressure gauge.

210 In this example, the initial width of crack I is 5.640 m, whereas the initial width of crack II is 4.492 m (the first measurement was conducted in January 2015); the installation depth $h_{il} = 24.72$ 211 m, and the depth of crack I is $H_I = 38$ m, with $h_{cI} = 13.28$ m + h_{mI} . Additionally, the installation 212 depth $h_{i2} = 24.85$ m, the depth of crack I is $H_2 = 35$ m, and $h_{c2} = 10.15$ m + h_{m2} . The monitoring 213 frequency of the crack width is thrice a day, the monitoring frequency of the pore-water pressure 214 215 is twice a day, and the accumulative value for one month is considered to be the amount of rainfall. 216 The multiparameter monitoring data are transmitted to the monitoring server through the GPRS 217 network.



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 (a)
 (b)
 (c)

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 Fig. 5 Installation of the monitoring instrument: (a) crack I gauge; (b) rain gauge and pore-water pressure gauge; (c)

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 crack II gauge.

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224 2.2. Monitoring Data Analysis

In this study, we selected the typical data of the width of cracks I and II, the pore-water pressure and the amount of rainfall based on the monitoring work conducted with respect to the Wobaoshi landslide for three-and-a-half years (February 2015 to July 2018); the details of these monitoring data are in presented in Tables 1 and 2. The corresponding time curves in Fig. 6 denote the monitoring data with respect to the amount of rainfall and the width of cracks I and II. Figs. 7(a) and 7(b) present the comparison curves of the monitoring data based on the width of cracks I and II with respect to their pore-water pressures, respectively.







Fig. 7 The monitoring data curves: (a) width of crack I and its pore-water pressure; (b) width of crack II and its
 pore-water pressure.

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Based on the comprehensive comparison and analysis of the data curves in Figs. 6 and 7, the Wobaoshi landslide is still considered to be in the creep deformation state, and the plate-shaped body exhibits a regular trend with respect to the changes in amount of rainfall and pore-water pressure. Cracks I and II show a preferable water-storage capacity during monsoon, and the crack width variation is affected by the increasing pore-water pressure. The specific analysis can be given as follows.

(1) A clear correspondence can be observed between the absolute extension value of the crack width and season variation (i.e. change in amount of rainfall); the magnitude of amount of rainfall can be used to determine the variation of the width of the two cracks. As shown in Fig. 6, the widths of cracks I and II increase with an increase in the amount of rainfall during monsoon (May to September), whereas their crack widths gradually decrease with decreasing the amount of rainfall during the non-rainy seasons (October to April in the next year). As indicated in Fig. 8, the

maximum width of crack I is 6.615 m, and its absolute extension value is approximately 1 m during July ~ August in 2017 (during which the monthly rainfall is greater than 250 mm). The maximum width of crack II is $5.40 \sim 5.45$ m, and its absolute extension value is also approximately 1 m during July ~ August in 2015 and 2017. During the non-rainy seasons, when the amount of rainfall decreases, the crack width decreases and the minimum value can be observed in January of each monitored year.



Fig. 8 The curves of the absolute extension value of crack I and II

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(2) The width of cracks I and II tend to increase year by year, indicating that the two-stage body of the Wobaoshi landslide is still moving owing to the influence of rainfall. In Fig. 6, the data obtained during the monitoring period indicate that the minimum widths of crack I and II gradually increase and that, their maximum value is considerably affected by the amount of rainfall during a particular month.

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(3) Fig. 7 shows that the stretching of cracks I and II, or of both the curves follows the same

trend as the pore-water pressure, i.e., the magnitude of pore-water pressure determines the width variation of the cracks. Fig. 7(a) shows that crack I exhibits good water-storage during monsoon, after the main body slides, a certain pore-water level can be maintained because of rainfall. Additionally, the increase in amount of rainfall increases the water level in the cracks, and the increase in pore-water pressure positively affects the initiation of the main bodies. The curves in Fig. 7 denote that the increase in pore-water pressure has a significant causal relation with the stretching of the cracks.

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3. Model Calculation and Numerical Simulation

276 A geomechanical model of plate-shaped bodies was established to obtain a generic model with respect to the evolution process in case of the Wobaoshi landslide; further, its stability was 277 278 estimated, and it was used along with the monitoring data for performing comparative analysis. 279 According to previous studies (Fan, 2007; Fan et al., 2008; Xu et al., 2010), the water pressure on 280 both sides of each plate-shaped body attains a balanced state, except for the outermost body, when 281 many penetrating cracks are located parallel to the slope in the rock mass and filled with water. 282 However, once the outer body slides, the surrounding water pressure immediately following the 283 plate-shaped body becomes unbalanced and new sliding damage is induced owing to the sudden decrease in the pore water level in the crown crack (Fan, 2007; Xu et al., 2010). 284

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286 **3.1. Model Establishment and Stability Calculation**

According to the characteristics of the Wobaoshi landslide presented in Section 1.2, the cover layer is neglected when establishing the geomechanical model, and a static geomechanical model of the plate-shaped rock body is established on using the limit equilibrium method. The basic characteristic of the limit equilibrium method is that the Mohr-Coulomb failure criterion of the soil under static equilibrium conditions is considered, i.e., the problem can be solved by analyzing the destruction of the soil's balance (Vardoulakis, 1983). Further, the soli elastic-plastic ideal
model, which obeys the Mohr-Coulomb failure criterion and the associated flow rules, is selected
(Darve and Vardoulakis, 2004; Labuz and Zang, 2015).

In this study, we selected a typical section of plate-shaped bodies and established the geomechanical model, as shown in Fig. 9, with respect to the failure mode of the two-stage body of the Wobaoshi landslide. In this section, the outer layer body II is subjected to stability analysis; subsequently, the inner body I is analyzed.



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Fig. 9 Geomechanical model of the two-stage plate-shaped bodies

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In Fig. 9, α denotes the angle of the sliding surface, h_1 and h_2 are the heights of the 302 303 pore-water levels in cracks I and II, respectively, L_1 and L_2 are the widths of bodies I and II, respectively, L_{c2} is the distance between bodies I and II; H_1 and H_2 are the heights of bodies I and 304 305 II, respectively, and W_1 and W_2 are the self-weights of body I and II per unit width, respectively. According to the relation between the stability coefficient of the main body, K, and the height of 306 307 the pore-water level, h, shown in Fig. 7 (Zhang et al., 1994; Xu et al., 2010), the stability 308 coefficient, K_2 of the outer layer body II can be obtained as follows when considering the internal 309 cohesive force of the sliding surface.

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$$K_{2} = \frac{\left(\mathbb{W}_{2} \cos \alpha - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{W} h_{2} L_{2} - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{W} h_{2}^{2} \sin \alpha\right) \tan \theta + c L_{2}}{\frac{1}{2} \gamma_{W} h_{2}^{2} \cos \alpha + \mathbb{W}_{2} \sin \alpha}.$$
 (1)

Here, *c* is the internal cohesion of the sliding surface; γ_r is the unit weight of the saturated volume of sandstone; γ_w is the unit weight of water; and $W = H \cdot L \cdot \gamma_r$. K_2 is set to 1, i.e., body II is set in a critical sliding state (GB/T 32864-2016, 2017). Eq. (2) is derived from Eq. (1) and can be used to calculate the maximum pore water level of body II h_{cr2} .

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$$h_{cr2} \approx \frac{1}{2\cos\alpha} \left[L_2^2 \tan^2\theta + \frac{8}{\gamma_w} \left(W_2 \cos\alpha \tan\theta - W_2 \sin\alpha + cL_2 \right) \cos\alpha \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{L_2}{2\cos\alpha} \tan\theta$$
(2)

According to the experimental data obtained based on the triaxial test of the Wobaoshi landslide's rock core (Chen et al., 2015), the internal friction angle of the sliding surface is θ = 11.2°, the unit weigth of the saturated volume of the sandstone is γ_r = 19.2 kN/m³, the unit weight of clear water is γ_w = 9.8 kN/m³, and the internal cohesion of the sliding surface is c = 10.2 kPa. According to the sectional graph of the Wobaoshi landslide (Fig. 2), H = 35 m, L = 16 m, and α = 6°. Therefore, according to Eq. (2), h_{cr2} = 13.896 m.

Based on the stability analysis of body II, using Eq. (1) and (2), and Fig. 7, the stability coefficient K_1 of the inner layer body I can be obtained using Eq. (3). In addition, $h_2^2 = h_2 - L_{c2}$ sina and $L_{c2} = 3.8$ m; therefore, $h_2^2 = 13.499$ m.

325
$$K_{1} = \frac{\left[W_{1} \cos \alpha - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{W} \left(h_{1} + h_{2}^{'} \right) L_{1} - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{W} \left(h_{1}^{2} - h_{2}^{'2} \right) \sin \alpha \right] \tan \theta + cL_{1}}{\frac{1}{2} \gamma_{W} \left(h_{1}^{2} - h_{2}^{'2} \right) \cos \alpha + W_{1} \sin \alpha}$$
(3)

Similarly, K_I is set to 1; in body I, $H_I = 38$ m, $L_I = 12$ m, $\alpha = 6^\circ$, $h_2 = 13.499$ m, therefore, the

maximum pore-water level h_{crl} of body I can be calculated using the Eq. (3) and $h_{crl} = 17.249$ m.



332 The pore-water monitoring data presented in Section 2.2, acquired via long-term monitoring, were used to verify the equation applied to calculate the maximum height of the multistage bodies, 333 h_{cr} . According to the monitoring data obtained with respect to the pore-water pressure and 334 installation depth of the sensors, the actual calculated maximum height values h_{c1} and h_{c2} of the 335 pore-water level are presented in Table 3. Combined with the change in the absolute extension 336 value in Fig. 8, the typical data with respect to the measured pore-water level are selected, 337 338 corresponding to a sudden increase in absolute slippage (see Table 3 for details), as shown in Fig. 339 10.



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344 The dotted boxes in Fig. 10 denote the pore-water level when the bodies are sliding or tilting,

i.e., the maximum pore-water level, h_{cr} , which causes the main body to be unstable. The measured h_{cr} in Fig. 10 can be compared with the relation between the pore-water level, h, and the stability coefficient of the body, K, obtained using Eqs. (1) and (3), respectively, which are also depicted in

Fig. 11.

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In Fig. 11, the curves of the h-k relation represent Eqs. (1) and (3). The values of $h_{cr}^{'}$ (measured) in Fig. 12 denote that majority of the monitoring pore-water levels are not higher than the theoretically calculated levels. The Wobaoshi landslide monitoring example shows that in majority of cases, the pore water pressure causes the main body to become unstable when $h_{cr}^{'}$ (measured) $\leq h_{cr}$ (theoretical).

358 **3.2.** Numerical Simulation of the Plate-shaped Main Bodies

Numerical simulations and calculations were performed with respect to the main bodies using the MIDAS GTS NX geotechnical finite element software. First, the 1:1 main body model presented in Fig. 9 was introduced into the aforementioned software, and the mechanical parameters of the main body model, i.e., elastic modulus, Poisson's ratio, gravity internal cohesion and friction angle, were defined as shown in Table 4. The left and right boundaries were located at a distance of approximately 30 m from bodies I and II respectively, and the lower boundary is observed to be located at sea level. A plane strain quadrilateral-triangle mixing element is considered, and the entire model is divided into 13775 elements and 14026 nodes. Here, we constrain the vertical and horizontal displacement of its bottom boundary, and the left and right boundary conditions are established to constrain the horizontal displacement. The model uses steady-state seepage calculation, and the water levels at the left and right boundaries were 342 and 275 m, respectively. The boundary conditions were set as follows.

- 371 (1) In case of the displacement boundary, the left and right boundaries constrained the 372 displacement in the X-direction; i.e., TX = 0. In case of the bottom boundary, the displacements in 373 the X and Y directions were constrained; i.e., TX = TY = 0.
- (2) In case of the seepage conditions, the water levels at the left and right boundaries were set
 to 342 and 275 m, respectively.
- The typical pore-water-level data of the four cycles obtained from 2015 to 2018 with respect to crack I and II (presented in Table 3 and Fig. 10) were introduced into the finite element model, and selected for a typical cycle change period presented in Table 5, followed by numerical calculations to obtain the typical deformation and displacement states of the plate-shaped bodies during the rainy and non-rainy seasons, as shown in Fig. 12.







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- 387

(c) The bodies slide to the maximum state
 (d) Bodies tilt backward when the water level decreases
 Fig. 12 Example of finite element simulation and numerical calculation

388 The initial displacement state in Fig. 12(a) is set to zero for performing the following analysis. 389 Fig 12(b) shows that, the multistage bodies deform horizontally along the sliding surface under the 390 combined effect of pore water pressure and seepage. In Fig. 12(c), the multistage bodies have slid 391 to the maximum distance, where the maximum distance of slider II is 0.945 m, which is approximately similar the value obtained in the monitoring data. In Fig. 12(d), bodies I and II 392 393 exhibit the same tendency of tilting backward owing to the decrease in pore water level during the 394 non-rainy season. Therefore, the calculation results obtained via the numerical simulations can corroborate the main body mechanics model and landslide monitoring data. 395

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397 **4. Discussion**

398 The deformation or sliding movement of the nearly horizontal bedrock slope is almost 399 impossible according to the traditional theory of granular equilibrium limit, and the likelihood of 400 occurrence of a landslide is minimal. However, the special structure of translational landslide 401 develops mainly in the Qinba-Longnan mountainous area when investigating geological hazards. 402 Therefore, the characteristics of the plate-shaped landslide and the deformation and failure modes 403 should be combined during the investigation and risk assessment of geological hazards to detect 404 the hidden dangers associated with the geological conditions of the landslide. Based on the results 405 obtained in previous studies and the monitoring results, the discussion presented in this study can

406 be divided into the following three parts.

407 4.1. Deformation and Failure Mode Analysis of the Wobaoshi Landslide

408 The monitoring results of the Wobaoshi landslide can be used to validate the 409 rainfall-triggered failure mode of the translational landslide (Zhang et al., 1994). Based on the 410 landslide monitoring data, particularly the change trend with respect to the opening and closing of 411 the cracks presented in Section 2.2, and the numerical simulations of the plate-shaped bodies 412 presented in Section 3.2, the deformation and failure modes were obtained with respect to the landslide, as shown in Fig. 13. Fig. 13 shows the deformation of the plate-shaped bodies of the 413 414 Wobaoshi landslide during the monitoring period (non-rainy, season-rainy and season-non-rainy 415 season). As shown in Fig. 13(b), the large amount of rainfall during monsoon causes the 416 infiltration of cracks with water; when the pore-water level reaches the maximum height at which the landslide begins, the increased pore-water pressure positively affects the initiation of the 417 plate-shaped body (Fan et al., 2007). The plate-shaped landslide can be triggered when the pore 418 419 water pressure increases to the threshold value. In the monitoring case, the pore-water pressure 420 can push the plate-shaped body by approximately 1 m, resulting in the uplift of residential houses and highways on its leading edge. Therefore, one or more penetrating cracks are likely to be 421 422 parallel to the slope in the body. With the approach of the rainy season, the plate-shaped body II 423 begins to slide firstly and the water-pressure balance in cracks is destabilized. This condition 424 causes the gliding of the plate-shaped body I, forming a multistage translational landslide via 425 characteristic step-by-step backward movements.



429 As shown in Fig. 13(c), the body is tilted to the crown of landslide because of the lower

430 pore-water level and its own weight when there is less rainfall during the non-rainy season, causing the body to fall backward (inside the slope) until the top of the body is in contact with the 431 432 slope surface, the crack width begins shrinking, and a narrow A-shaped crack is formed. The 433 monitoring data of the Wobaoshi landslide and numerical simulation of the plate-shaped body can 434 be used to verify the deformation and failure mode of the plate-shaped landslide after its occurrence (Xu et al., 2010). With each passing year, the cracks at the bottom of the slab-shaped 435 436 body increase in size, and the degree of inclination of the body also continues to increase. The 437 degree of arching of the front edge also increases, causing the stability of the landslide to decrease 438 continuously, posing a high risk for the houses and roads located toward the front edge of the 439 landslide.

440 **4.2. Determination of the Maximum Pore-water Level** *h*_{cr}

The theoretical analysis and stability calculation of the geomechanical model of the body is 441 442 described in Section 4.1, along with those of the initiation criterion for multistage main bodies in 443 case of translational landslides, i.e., determination of the maximum water height in the crack, h_{cr} , 444 (Zhang et al., 1994) and calculation of the body's stability coefficient, K, (Xu et al., 2010), which can be determined by theoretically calculating the strata inclination, shape, weight, and physical 445 446 properties (unit weight of the saturated volume, γ_r , internal cohesion of the sliding surface, c, and 447 internal friction angle of the sliding surface, θ) based on the limit equilibrium theory (Lin et al., 448 2010). Therefore, the stability coefficient of the landslide is observed to exponentially decrease 449 with an increase in the water-filling height of the crown crack (Fan, 2008; Xu et al., 2010).

450 The internal friction angle, $\theta = 11.2^{\circ}$, is considerably low for clay, and seems unrealistic. 451 However, the angle θ is obtained via triaxial compression tests of the core, obtained from the sand-mudstone contact surface in the sliding surface, and the internal friction angle $\theta = 11.2^{\circ}$ 452 453 (Chen et al., 2015). This may be because the clay layer is severely weathered, resulting in a 454 considerably small internal friction angle. Generally, the dilatancy effect obtained via the 455 associated flow law is considerably larger than the actual observation, especially in the case of laternal confinement (Tschuchnigg et al., 2015a). However, in case of slope stability analysis, 456 laternal infinite is mostly not considered, and the dilatancy effect is not significant (Griffiths & 457

458 Lane, 1999). Therefore, it is reasonable to set the dilatancy angle equal to the internal friction459 angle.

460 In this case, with respect to the equation for calculating the maximum pore-water level, h_{cr} , deduced in Section 3.1, we can observe that the measured maximum pore-water level, h_{rr} , is close 461 462 to the theoretical maximum pore-water level, h_{cr} , by comparing with the measured data obtained 463 in case of the Wobaoshi landslide in Section 2.2, validating the calculation equation of h_{cr} , and the 464 instability conditions of the main bodies. Additionally, the measured data in Table 3 are slightly 465 smaller than the theoretical calculation value, i.e., $h_{cr} \leq h_{cr}$. Thus, when compared with the equation to calculate the maximum water height proposed by Zhang et al. (1994) and the physical 466 467 simulation experiment conducted by Fan et al. (2008), the monitoring case of the Wobaoshi landslide shows that the h_{cr} with respect to the measured data is mostly lower than the theoretical 468 469 calculated value, h_{cr} , which can destabilize the main body. This instability may be attributed to the 470 fact that the actual cohesion value c' of the sand-shale contact surface is smaller than the cohesive 471 force value c of the sliding surface in Eq. (2) during the creep state of the landslide for a long duration or that the frictional angle of the sliding surface, θ , changes slightly. According to the 472 calculation of the stability coefficient, K, in Eq. (2), when $c' \le c$, $h_{cr} \le h_{cr}$, the body slides when h_{cr} 473 474 (measured) is not larger than h_{cr} (theoretical).

475 **4.3. Optimization Methods of Landslide Monitoring**

476 In this study, we propose a long-term monitoring method containing more parameters based 477 on the characteristics of the plate-shaped translational landslides by focusing on them in 478 accordance with the existing field-monitoring-result experience as well as deformation and failure 479 mode exploration.

First, long- term monitoring should be conducted to obtain sufficient monitoring data, mainly including obtaining the groundwater level, pore-water pressure, amount of rainfall, and displacement data on the front edge of the landslide during monsoon, as well as focusing on the

change of the overall inclination of the body during the non-rainy season. This is because the 483 484 inclination angle α relative to the sliding surface also changes after the body slides. Thus, an 485 inclination measuring device, which comprises a three-axis accelerometer and electronic compass 486 should be installed in the main body to verify the theoretical exploration of the deformation mode 487 of the plate-shaped body during the non-rainy season in Fig. 13(c). Furthermore, a sensitivity analysis of the various parameters affecting the stability coefficient K of the main body (including 488 the pore-water level, internal cohesive force in saturated water, internal friction angle of the 489 490 sliding surface, and inclination angle of the body), should be conducted based on the monitoring 491 data. Therefore, a detailed analysis and exploration of the deformation and failure mode of the 492 plate-shaped landslide would be beneficial and improve the success rate of landslide warning.

493

494 **5.** Conclusions

By considering Wobaoshi landslide as an example, we use research methods, including field exploration, long-term monitoring engineering, geomechanical model analysis, and numerical simulation, to analyze the instability conditions and failure characteristics of a special type of translational landslide. The obtained research results are beneficial with respect to the stability analysis and evaluation of this type of landslide. Targeted monitoring methods are proposed to enrich theoretical research on translational landslides. The following conclusions can be obtained.

501 (1) The characteristics, formation conditions, and occurrence mechanism of the 502 rainfall-triggered plate-shaped landslides are summarized in this study. Such landslides can be 503 generally observed in a consequent slope where the inclination angle of the sliding surface is 504 observed to be less than 10°, and a group of long and straight structural planes observed parallel to the slope cuts the slope into several narrow plates. The plate-shaped body generally contains extremely thick sandstone, which is nearly horizontal and exhibits good integrity. The bottom sliding zone is a weak mudstone interlayer that is affected by the periodic rainfalls. In addition, single or multistage plate-shaped bodies slide horizontally along the bottom mudstone sliding zone.

510 (2) The relation between the stability coefficient of the multistage body K and the pore water 511 level h was obtained based on the mechanical model of the plate-shaped bodies, and the maximum 512 pore water level h_{cr} , which causes the instability of the multistage bodies, was calculated. The 513 instability conditions of the plate-shaped bodies were also determined.

514 (3) The theoretical conclusions of the plate-shaped landslide research were verified based on the long-term monitoring data. The multiparameter monitoring data denote that the stability of the 515 516 main body is considerably affected by the rainfall intensity and pore water pressure. The pore water pressure in the crack is positive at the beginning of the plate-shaped body, demonstrating the 517 518 rainfall-triggered failure mode of the translational landslide. In this study, we compare and analyze 519 the measured maximum pore water level h_{cr} as well as the theoretical calculated value h_{cr} and discuss the influence of the variation of the internal cohesive force and internal friction angle on 520 521 the stability coefficient of the main body.

(4) Based on landslide numerical simulation, we analyze and explore the deformation and failure modes of the plate-shaped landslide, i.e., the main bodies are considered to slide horizontally along the contact surface of the bottom sand-mud-rock weak layer based on the pore water pressure in the crack and the seepage effect during monsoon. During the non-rainy season, the pore water pressure decreases and disappears; the main body will be inclined to the crown of the landslide owing to its dead weight. Thus, in this study, we propose an optimized monitoring methodology to closely monitor the pore water pressure, rainfall, and landslide frontal displacement during monsoon; the proposed method focuses on the overall inclination angle variation of the body during the non-rainy season.

531

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619 **Figure Captions**

Fig. 1 Geographic location and elevation map of the Wobaoshi landslide. 620 621 Fig. 2 Schematic map of the Wobaoshi landslide and photographs of the observation points: (a) exposed bedrock at the front edge; (b) the houses were cracked at the front 622 edge (c) the roadbed is uplifted at the front edge; (d) crack II and bent trees; and (e) 623 crack I. 624 Fig. 3 I- I' cross-section graph of the landslide. 625 Fig. 4 Layout planar graph of the monitoring equipment. 626 627 Fig. 5 installation of the monitoring instruments: (a) crack I gauge; (b) rain gauge and pore-water pressure gauge; and (c) crack II gauge. 628 Fig. 6 The monitoring data curves (amount of rainfall and width of cracks I and II). 629 Fig. 7. The monitoring data curves: (a) width of crack I and its pore-water pressure; (b) 630 width of crack II and its pore-water pressure. 631 Fig. 8 The curves of the absolute extension value of crack I and II. 632 Fig. 9 Geomechanical model of the two-stage plate-shaped bodies. 633 Fig. 10 Determination of the maximum measured pore-water level h_{cr} . 634 Fig. 11 Comparison figure of h_{cr} (measured) and h_{cr} (theoretical). 635

- Fig. 12 Example of finite element simulation and numerical calculation.
- Fig. 13 Schematic of the deformation and failure mode of the Wobaoshi landslide.

639 Table

640

 Table 1
 Typical monitoring data in case of the Wobaoshi landslide

	Measu	rement	Cra	ack I wi	dth (m)	Cracl	k II width	ı (m)	Crack I I	Pore-wate	er C	rack II	Pore-wa	ter
	dura	ation			()			. ,	pressu	re (kPa)		pressu	re (kPa)	1
	201	5/2/1		5.64	0		4.492			0			0	
	2015	/4/24		5.94	5		4.774		18	.561		27	.303	
	201	5/5/7		5.88	6		4.798		18	.649		33	.212	
	2015	5/13		6.20	3		4.810		33	.134		33	.036	
	2015	/5/15		6.21	5		4.899		34	.476		35	.456	
	2015	/8/15		6.35	0		5.451		41	.474		31	.625	
	2015	/9/14		6.33	0		5.380		34	.594		30	.772	
	2015	/11/15		5.87	1		4.952		11	.280		17	.395	
	2016	6/2/15		5.79	0		4.599			0			0	
	2016	6/4/13		5.82	4		4.706		10	.378		26	.156	
	2016	6/5/14		6.17	3		4.850		33	.810		36	.035	
	2016	6/7/17		6.16	1		5.281		36	.162		31	.664	
	2016	/8/18		6.31	0		5.220		38	.024		33	.683	
	2016	6/9/15		6.32	5		5.251		39	.298		29	.723	
	2016	/12/20		5.96	0		4.763		5.	106			0	
	2017	/2/16		5.86	5		4.770			0			0	
	2017	/4/13		5.98	4		5.152		24	.108		29	.155	
	2017	/5/17		6.11	8		5.332		43	.463		31	.703	
	2017	/7/17		6.43	3		5.239		42	.787		30	.478	
	2017	/8/15		6.49	0		5.255		43	.639		29	.273	
	2017	/11/14		6.09	1		5.004		5.	488		8.	428	
	2017	/12/20		5.92	2		4.723			0			0	
	2018	8/1/11		5.88	1		4.751			0			0	
	2018	3/4/10		6.19	4		5.110		33	.957		35	.819	
	2018	3/5/17		6.28	3		5.246		33	.830		33	.438	
	2018	3/6/16		6.45	2		5.315		36	.995		28	.391	
	2018	3/7/10		6.42	1		5.310		38	.171		29	.841	
641 642			Tab	le 2	Amount	of rainfal	l value of	the Wo	baoshi lan	dslide (mi	n/montł	ı)		
	Month													
Vor	,	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
10	"													
	2015		13.5	30.5	71.8	121.9	165.0	240.1	163.0	166.1	85.0	39.6	14.1	1110.6
	2016	6.9	12.5	26.5	56.8	98.4	126.1	193.2	155.1	150.0	90.3	29.1	13.5	958.4
	2017	5.7	16.8	36.8	90.5	115.6	185.1	271.3	190.0	176.2	109	52.1	20.8	1269.9
	2018	11.5	10.9	31.5	99.9	121.0	205.1	191.6	\	\	\	\	\	671.5

6	4	4	
~	_	_	

 Table 3
 The measured pore-water level data of the main bodies

Management time	Crack I	Measured	Crack II	Measured
wieasureu time	slippage (m)	pore-water level (m)	slippage (m)	pore-water level (m)
2015/4/15	0.072	14.566	0.183	12.736
2015/4/24	0.305	15.174	0.282	12.936
2015/5/7	0.246	15.183	0.306	13.539
2015/5/13	0.561	16.661	0.318	13.521
2015/5/15	0.573	16.798	0.407	13.768
2015/6/20	0.711	17.032	0.888	13.502
2015/7/17	0.519	17.474	0.798	13.471
2015/10/16	0.481	16.470	0.538	13.340
2015/11/15	0.229	14.431	0.458	11.925
2016/1/15	0.108	\	0.169	\
2016/4/13	0.184	13.490	0.214	12.819
2016/4/23	0.421	14.339	0.269	12.804
2016/4/29	0.475	16.214	0.432	13.835
2016/5/11	0.469	16.494	0.449	13.920
2016/5/14	0.531	16.505	0.358	13.827
2016/6/15	0.508	16.731	0.618	13.574
2016/9/15	0.683	17.312	0.758	13.183
2016/10/12	0.637	14.930	0.618	12.360
2017/2/16	0.223	\	0.278	\
2017/4/13	0.344	15.741	0.658	13.125
2017/4/29	0.489	16.712	0.686	13.141
2017/5/2	0.518	16.799	0.648	13.024
2017/5/13	0.501	16.877	0.734	13.161
2017/5/17	0.476	17.715	0.838	13.385
2017/8/15	0.848	17.733	0.758	13.137
2017/9/16	0.869	16.324	0.333	12.235
2018/3/14	0.281	\	0.618	11.013
2018/4/10	0.552	16.745	0.754	13.805
2018/5/17	0.643	16.732	0.333	13.562

Table 4Mechanical parameters of the main body model

	Elastic	Deiscon	Unit mainth	Internal	Internal	Permeability
Lithology	modulus	POISSON		cohesion	friction	coefficient
	(N/m^2)	ratio	(N)	(N/m^2)	Angle	(cm/s)
Arkose	600000	0.25	19200	30000	36 [°]	1.20E-07
Silty Mudstone	360000	0.28	19000	20000	30 [°]	6.00E-07
Clay	300000	0.3	18000	10200	11.2 [°]	1.20E-06

Loading steps	Crack I	Crack II
0	314.50 m	311.00 m
1	316.00 m	313.00 m
2	317.50 m	315.00 m
3	316.00 m	313.00 m
4	314.50 m	311.00 m

 Table 5
 Loading steps of the water level in Crack I and II in FEM model