
1 **Levee breach-induced compound flood modeling in Qianbujing Creek, Shanghai**
2 **during Typhoon “Fitow”**

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15
16 **Abstract:** Levee breach-induced flooding occurs occasionally but always causes considerable
17 losses. A serious flood event occurred due to the collapse of a 15-m-long levee section in
18 Qianbujing Creek, Shanghai, China, during typhoon “Fitow” in Oct 2013. Heavy rainfall
19 associated with the typhoon intensified the flood severity (extent and depth). This study
20 investigates the flood evolution to understand the dynamic nature of flooding and the compound
21 effect using a well-established 2D hydro-inundation model (Floodmap) to reconstruct this
22 typical event. [This model coupled urban hydrological processes with flood inundation for high-](#)

23 resolution flood modeling, which has been applied in a number of different environments, and
24 Floodmap is now the mainstream numerical simulation model used for flood scenarios. Our
25 simulation results provide a comprehensive view of the spatial patterns of the flood evolution.
26 The worst-hit areas are predicted to be low-lying settlements and farmland. Temporal
27 evaluations suggest that the most critical time for flooding prevention is in the early 1~3 hours
28 after dike failure. In low-elevation areas, temporary drainage measures and flood defenses are
29 equally important. The validation of the model demonstrates the reliability of the approach.

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31 **Key words:** levee breach; compound flooding; inundation modeling; Shanghai

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45 **1. Introduction**

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47 Flooding is a common and devastating natural hazard, causing considerable personal injury,
48 loss of life, and property damage worldwide (Jonkman et al., 2005; Jongman et al., 2012).
49 Engineering measures such as dikes and barriers are typically constructed in low-lying deltas
50 and floodplains to prevent flooding. However, weak or aging dikes without regular maintenance
51 may fail during extreme flood events. Levee breaches may result in extensive flooding and
52 damages throughout the hinterland (Ying et al., 2003). For example, Hurricane Katrina-induced
53 flooding significantly damaged the dike system of New Orleans and overwhelmed the city,
54 making it the costliest disaster in U.S. history (Kates et al., 2006). A more recent flood
55 catastrophe with more than 50 deaths and hundreds of missing people resulted from a dam
56 breach due to a Himalayan glacier outburst flood in northern India (Devjyot Ghoshal et.al,
57 2021).

58

59 In addition, riverine or storm-induced flooding is typically associated with heavy precipitation.
60 The compound effect of pluvial, fluvial, or coastal flooding is much greater than the effect of
61 individual flood events (Wahl et al., 2015). For instance, typhoon “Fitow” in 2013 brought
62 torrential rain and caused high storm surges, resulting in record-breaking riverine water levels
63 in the upstream region of the Huangpu River, Shanghai, China. As a result, the floodwall along
64 the upstream Qianbujing Creek could not withstand the high water level, leading to a breach in
65 a 15-m long section at 14:30 on 8 Oct 2013. Although the broken section was repaired after
66 about 8 hours, the levee breach combined with heavy precipitation resulted in extensive flood

67 inundation in the rural areas.

68

69 Over the last few decades, dike failure-induced flooding and the compound effect have received
70 increasing attention from decision-makers, researchers, and even the general public. Recent
71 studies have provided considerable progress on dike reliability analysis and compound flood
72 modeling (Curran et al., 2018; Naulin et al., 2018). Several approaches for levee breach-induced
73 flood modeling were developed. [Some previous studies have investigated the breaching
74 mechanism and the hydrological process of dike failure flooding](#), Vorogushyn (2010) proposed
75 an Inundation Hazard Assessment Model (IHAM), which coupled a 1D hydrodynamic model
76 of river channel routing, a probabilistic dike breach model, and a 2D raster-based inundation
77 model. Cannata et al. (2011) used a GIS-based approach to simplify a 2D dam break simulation.
78 [Recent advances have been made in the application of methodologies for predicting the dike failure-
79 induced flooding](#), Yin et al. (2020) predicted dike failures and flood inundations in Shanghai,
80 China, under various emission scenarios using an interdisciplinary process-based approach.

81

82 Similarly, numerous studies analyzed the compound effects of various flood hazards at different
83 scales (Ganguli et al., 2020). [Most previous studies focus on calculating the joint flood risk
84 probability. For instance, Lian et al \(2013\) evaluated the joint probability of rainfall and tidal
85 level both exceeding their threshold values through the copula and then analyzed the combined
86 effect of them on flood risk in a complex river network in a coastal city in China. At a global
87 scale, Couasnon \(2020\) and Eilander \(2020\) explored the compound flood potential resulting
88 from storm surges and riverine floods.](#)

89

90 The above studies contributed significantly to the modeling and evaluation of dike failure-
91 induced flooding, as well as compound flood risk. However, few studies investigated the
92 compound influences of pluvial and levee breach-induced flooding or focused on the dynamic
93 process and mechanism of these cases, which can guide the development of appropriate
94 emergency response plans. Moreover, real-life cases of historical flooding events have not been
95 adequately investigated but can demonstrate the feasibility and robustness of the model. To
96 address the research gaps, this case study seeks to examine the changing nature of levee breach-
97 induced compound flooding. A simple 2D hydro-inundation model Floodmap is used to
98 simulate the process of the compound flood event that occurred in Qianbujing Creek to improve
99 our understanding of the evolution of flood inundation. The results of the approach are validated
100 by field measurements, including the inundation depth and the flood extent over time. The
101 findings can provide support for decision-makers to develop flood adaptation measures.

102

103 **2. Materials and methods**

104

105 **2.1 Study area**

106

107 The study area is located at the junction of the Huangpu River and Qianbujing Creek in the
108 upstream Huangpu River Basin, Shanghai, China. The rural area covers about 1.5 km² with the
109 majority being agricultural land and the minority being human settlements. It is characterized
110 by a mild and low-lying topography (with an average altitude of about 3 m above Wusong

111 Datum). Due to its location, the study area has faced high flood risk from the river system;
112 however, the heights of the flood defense measures are relatively low (i.e., a 50-year return
113 period flood protection standard) compared to the high floodwall (1000-year period flood
114 protection standard) along the middle and downstream urban regions of the Huangpu River
115 (Yin et al., 2020). Furthermore, because of the northern subtropical monsoon climate in this
116 region, pluvial flood events caused by extreme rainfall, typically associated with typhoons, are
117 frequently recorded during the flood season (June to September) (Yin & Zhang, 2015).
118 Therefore, the risk of compound flooding from both riverine and pluvial sources is significantly
119 higher than that in other locations. Figure 1 shows the location of the study area and the levee
120 breach during typhoon “Fitow”.

121

122 **2.2 Data sources and processing**

123

124 **2.2.1 Topographic data**

125

126 We used a 6-m resolution digital surface model (DSM) of the study area constructed from
127 images of the China Resource 3 satellite (ZY-3) and other high-resolution satellites. Since
128 buildings and trees represent barriers to water flow and reduce the area available for water
129 storage in the hydrodynamic model, we removed the non-topographic features (e.g., trees and
130 buildings) according to the Google historical dataset of remote sensing images to generate a
131 bare-earth digital elevation model (DEM) based on the Wusong Datum of Shanghai. (Fewtrell
132 et al., 2010; Neal et al., 2011; Yu & Lane, 2006b). We further resampled the cell size of the

133 bare-earth DEM from 6 m to 2 m using ArcGIS software to improve the spatial resolution of
134 the flood inundation model. The simulation domain of the study area consisted of 0.3 million
135 cells with an area of nearly 1.26 km².

136

137 **2.2.2 Precipitation and water level**

138

139 Time series of the precipitation and water level records during Typhoon “Fitow” were used as
140 boundary conditions to simulate the hydrodynamic process of the levee breach-induced
141 flooding and the rainfall-runoff. The data are typically derived from the stage measurements at
142 gauge stations or radar-based rainfall data. However, due to the small scale of the study area,
143 the gauging records are considered to be more reliable. Thus, we collected the historical records
144 of the precipitation and water level data at the nearest gauging station from 0:00 on 8 Oct to
145 12:00 on 9 Oct 2013 for about 12 hours before and after the levee failure.

146

147 The station-based precipitation records (at one-hour intervals) were obtained from the
148 Information Center of the Shanghai Meteorological Administration. The water level data (at 5
149 min intervals) at the closest gauging station along the Huangpu River (i.e. Songpu Bridge
150 gauging station at the upstream of the Huangpu River, about 4 km away from Qianbujing Creek)
151 were provided by the Shanghai Municipal Water Administration. The time series of the rainfall
152 and water level data interpolated from the gauging stations is shown in Figure 2. Heavy rainfall
153 occurred four hours before the levee breach, with the maximum hourly rainfall exceeding 20
154 mm/h, resulting in the high water level of the river. Due to the high rainfall and rising storm

155 tide, the water level increased rapidly to nearly 4.8-m and caused the collapse of a 15-m long
156 floodwall section at about 14:30 on 8 Oct.

157

158 **2.2.3 Validation data**

159

160 Aerial images or field surveys of flood extent were not available for the study event. There was
161 also a lack of water depth data from electronic gauges and flood incidents reported by the public.
162 Therefore, we validated the model through the field investigation of high watermarks in the
163 study area. We visited the study area three times in 2020 and investigated the residential areas
164 (house by house), roadways, and farmland mostly affected by the flood event. Validation data
165 were collected using questionnaires, and the coordinates of the locations were recorded by GPS.
166 However, since this flood event occurred more than 7 years ago, there are inherent uncertainties
167 in the investigation due to the changing environment and people's fading memory for the details
168 of the event. Similarly, people tend to exaggerate their injuries and losses during hazards; thus,
169 questionnaires can be highly biased. Finally, we pinpointed 32 incidents in total where locations
170 are confidently identified. Among the 32 observed inundation data, 14 were buildings, 10 were
171 roadways, and 8 were farmland locations (Figure 3).

172

173 **2.3 Levee breach modeling**

174

175 In general, levee breach mechanisms mainly include structural instability failures and structural
176 strength failures. The former pattern includes horizontal instability and rotational instability,

177 whereas the latter refers to the destruction of structures (Wang, 2016). Due to the configuration
178 of the floodwalls and the soil structure in Shanghai, structural instability failures always occur
179 during low water levels when critical inundation is less likely. In this case, structural strength
180 failure was considered the major reason for the levee breach in the study area, namely, the levee
181 collapse under an excessive hydraulic load on the wall due to an extremely high water level or
182 the uneven settlement of the floodwalls.

183

184 We identified the location of the levee breach from the historical news reports and through field
185 investigation. The 15-m long levee breach was located at the junction of Qianbujing creek and
186 the main channel of the Huangpu River. The levee height and location were obtained from the
187 Shanghai Municipal Institute of Surveying and Mapping. The height of the remaining intact
188 floodwalls without the breach section (about 5 m above Wusong Datum) was then overlaid onto
189 the original bare-earth DEM using the raster calculator in ArcGIS 10.6 software.

190

191 **2.4 Compound flood modeling**

192

193 The compound flood modeling was performed using a 2D hydro-inundation model (FloodMap)
194 (Yu & Coulthard, 2015; Yu & Lane, 2006a; 2006b), which couples hydrological processes (e.g.,
195 infiltration, evapotranspiration, and drainage) module with 2D surface flood inundation
196 modeling. The Floodmap model provides an effective approach for compound flood simulation,
197 allowing for more than one hydrological boundary condition, including pluvial, fluvial, coastal,
198 and groundwater sources. In this study, the compound effect of pluvial and fluvial flooding was

199 investigated. The fluvial flood modeling and pluvial flood modeling are described in Sections
200 2.4.1 and 2.4.2, respectively.

201

202 **2.4.1 Fluvial flood modeling**

203

204 For simulating the levee breach-induced flooding, a simplified flood inundation module based
205 on a raster environment was used to solve the inertial form of the 2D shallow water equations.

206 The module considered the mass and momentum exchange between the river flow and
207 floodplain inundation, it has been used to simulate the dynamic nature of flood routing and to
208 extract potential flood maps (Yang et al., 2020; Yin et al., 2015). The 2D inundation model is
209 similar to the inertial algorithm of Bates et al. (2010). The difference is the time-step calculation
210 approach. The optimal time step is calculated using the subsequent iteration instead of using
211 the time step of the next iteration calculated by the current iteration. The main structure of the
212 model is presented below.

213

214 The Saint-Venant momentum equation without the convective acceleration has the following
215 form:

$$216 \quad \frac{\partial q}{\partial t} + \frac{gh\partial(h+z)}{\partial x} + \frac{gn^2q^2}{R^{4/3}h} = 0 \quad (1)$$

217 where g is the acceleration of gravity, q is the flow per unit width, R is the hydraulic radius,
218 h is the water depth, z is the bed elevation, and n is Manning's roughness coefficient. For
219 wide and shallow flows, R can be approximated with h . The equation discretized with respect
220 to time is:

221
$$\frac{q_{t+\Delta t}-q_t}{\Delta t} + \frac{gh_t\partial(h+z)}{\partial x} + \frac{gn^2q_t^2}{h_t^{7/3}} = 0 \quad (2)$$

222 The q_t in the friction term can be replaced by $q_{t+\Delta t}$ to obtain the explicit expression in the
 223 next time step:

224
$$q_{t+\Delta t} = \frac{q_t - gh_t\Delta t \left(\frac{\partial(h_t+z)}{\partial x}\right)}{(1 + gh_t\Delta t n^2 q_t / h_t^{10/3})} \quad (3)$$

225 The flows in the x - and y -directions are decoupled and have the same form. The discharge is
 226 evaluated at the cell edges, and the depth is determined at the cell center. For model constancy
 227 and minimizing numerical diffusion, we use the forward Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy condition
 228 (FCFL), which was used by Yu & Lane (2011) for the diffusion-based version of FloodMap, to
 229 calculate the time step in the inertial model:

230
$$\Delta t \leq \min \left(\frac{wd_i d_j n}{d_i^{1.67}(S_i)^{1/2} + d_j^{1.67}(S_j)^{1/2}} \right) \quad (4)$$

231 where w represents the cell size, i and j are the indices for the flow direction in the x - and
 232 y -directions, d_i and d_j are the effective water depths; S_i and S_j are the water surface
 233 slopes. The effective water depth is defined as the difference between the high water surface
 234 elevation and the high bed elevation of two cells that exchange water. The minimum time step
 235 that satisfies the FCFL condition for all wet cells is used as the global time step for this iteration.
 236 This approach does not require the back-calculation of the Courant number because the time
 237 step is calculated based on the CFL condition that satisfies every wet grid cell for the current
 238 iteration. The universal time step calculated with the FCFL may need to be scaled further by a
 239 coefficient with a value between 0 and 1 because the FCFL condition is not strictly the right
 240 stability criteria for an inertial system. A scaling factor in the range of 0.5–0.8 was found to
 241 yield a stable solution in previous studies; here, a scaling factor of 0.7 was used for all
 242 simulations. The calibration and validation of the model for the study area were conducted by

243 Yin et al. (2016).

244

245 **2.4.2 Pluvial flood modeling**

246

247 In terms of the pluvial flooding module, we ran the surface water flood routing using the same
248 structure as the fluvial flooding module. The infiltration over saturation was calculated by the
249 widely used Green-Ampt equation, and the evapotranspiration was represented using a simple
250 seasonal sine curve of daily potential evapotranspiration (Calder et al., 1983). This module also
251 considered the amount of runoff loss to the urban storm sewer systems by scaling the drainage
252 capacity (mm/h) for each time step.

253

254 The infiltration over saturation was determined by the widely used Green–Ampt equation,
255 which approximates the rate of infiltration as a function of the capillary potential, porosity,
256 hydraulic conductivity, and time using the following form:

$$257 \quad f(t) = K_s \left(\frac{\varphi_f + h_o}{z_f} + 1 \right) \quad (5)$$

258 where K_s expresses the hydraulic conductivity of the saturated soil, φ_f is the capillary
259 potential across the wetting front, h_o is the water ponding on the soil surface, and z_f is the
260 cumulative depth of infiltration.

261

262 The evapotranspiration was determined using a simple seasonal sine curve of daily potential
263 evapotranspiration (Calder et al., 1983) as follows:

$$264 \quad E_p = \overline{E_p} \left[1 + \sin \left(\frac{360i}{365} - 90 \right) \right] \quad (6)$$

265 where E_p is the mean daily potential evapotranspiration, and i is the day of the year. The
266 mass lost to evapotranspiration is typically limited due to the short duration of urban pluvial
267 flooding.

268

269 We used the topography boundary conditions, flow boundary conditions, and precipitation
270 boundary conditions as inputs to model a 36-h compound flood process, including the 12 h
271 before and after the levee breach, and we assumed evapotranspiration of 3 mm/day, a value that
272 which generates a good inundation prediction in the urbanized area (Yin et al., 2016; Yu and
273 Coulthard, 2015). The soil hydraulic conductivity (K_s) is an important but highly complex
274 parameter used to calculate infiltration. Empirically-based correlation methods or in situ
275 hydraulic laboratory measurements can be used to determine the value of K_s . Given the
276 practical constraints, this study refers to previous flood simulations in Shanghai (Yin et al.,
277 2016; Yin et al., 2015; Yu & Coulthard, 2015; Yu et al., 2016) and used the value of 0.001 m/h
278 for the hydraulic conductivity. A relatively high roughness value ($n = 0.06$) was used in the
279 simulation, according to the type of cultivated land and crops in the study area. Since the
280 Qianbujing creek is located in a rural area, we did not consider the urban storm drainage
281 capacity in this simulation.

282

283 **3. Results**

284 **3.1 Time series of flood inundation**

285

286 Figure 4 shows the changes in the predicted flood inundation every 4 h during the event, and

287 Figure 5 depicts the time series of average water depth and flood extent. These results show the
288 spatial and temporal evolution of the levee breach-induced compound flooding during typhoon
289 “Fitow”. Prior to the levee breach, it is apparent from Figures 4 and 5 that heavy rainfall in the
290 study area led to localized shallow waterlogging, mainly in the low-lying farmland and forests.
291 The inundation area reached its first peak in the early hours on 8 Oct, but the water retention
292 time was very short due to the shallow water depth (< 15 cm). At around 11:00 am on 8 Oct,
293 another short-term rainstorm with rainfall over 20 mm/h occurred. Shortly after the
294 precipitation peak, the water level of Qianbujing Creek showed an increasing trend. The
295 compound effects of tide rising and heavy rain made the water level soon reached nearly 4.8 m
296 (Figure 2). Due to the high water pressure, the bearing capacity of the floodwall was exceeded,
297 resulting in a 15-m breached section (at 14:30). Subsequently, overland flow through breached
298 floodwalls and extensive flood inundation occurred quickly along the riverbank, first in the
299 low-lying farmland near the river and then on roads and residential areas. About 10 homes were
300 completely inundated during the water level rising period (until 16:00) with the maximum
301 inundation depth higher than 2 m. After 16:00, as the rainfall stopped and the water level
302 dropped, the inundation area gradually stopped spreading.

303

304 A cross-comparison of the derived flood hazard maps over time further indicated that although
305 the rainstorm caused extensive surface water flooding in the majority of the study area, the
306 inundation depth was generally shallow (< 15 cm). This effect can be attributed to the
307 evapotranspiration and infiltration in a few hours. However, unlike the short-term waterlogging
308 caused by the rainstorm, the compound effects of the rainfall and levee breach-induced flood

309 inundation continued over 12 h, with an average water depth of nearly 60 cm.

310

311 **3.2 Maximum flood inundation**

312

313 The maximum flood extent and inundation during the event are shown in Figure 6. We use 2
314 cm as the threshold for surface water flooding and treat water depths shallower than 2 cm as
315 sheet flow, which did not accumulate in topographic lows (Yu et al., 2016). Figure 6 shows that
316 over half (56%) of the study area was inundated from the compound flooding, and most of the
317 flooded areas were low-lying farmland with maximum flood depths of higher than 2 m. Aside
318 from the waterfront areas, many low-lying farmland areas were affected by the rainstorm, with
319 maximum water depths over 50 cm. In contrast, the water depth on the roads and the buildings
320 were shallow; most of it was less than 0.5 m and disappeared quickly. In nearly half of the
321 flooded locations, the water depths were between 2 cm and 15 cm (44.1%), and a smaller
322 proportion of the area (21.12%) had water depths between 15 cm to 50 cm. About 33.26% of
323 the inundated areas had water depths of 50 cm to 2 m. In combination with the time series of
324 water level and rainfall (Figure 2), It can be inferred that the maximum flood inundation
325 occurred at about the fourth hour after the levee breaching (at ~16:00) in the waterfront area,
326 while it occurred at about 11:30 a.m. in other areas.

327

328 **3.3 Model validation**

329

330 The field measurements were used to validate the performance of the compound flooding model.

331 Figure 6 shows the location of the measurement points. The points were divided into building,
332 road, and farmland types. Since there are few residential areas in the study area, reliable
333 inundation information could not be obtained in most flooding areas; therefore, most of the
334 points represent buildings with extensive inundation. Since there were uncertainties and errors
335 in the survey results, including the respondents' memory bias, exaggeration of inundation, and
336 false positives, we set the observed error to 5 cm for building points, 10 cm for road points, and
337 15 cm for farmland points. The simulation error was set as 5 cm. Figure 7 shows the scatter plot
338 of the simulated and observed water depth and the 95% confidence interval. A correlation was
339 observed between the simulated water depth and observed water depth, and most points fell
340 within the confidence band. The observed water depth was slightly higher than the simulated
341 water depth, which may be attributed to the exaggeration of the water depth by the respondents.

342

343 **3.4 Sensitivity analysis**

344

345 The model sensitivity to Manning's roughness coefficient over time was analyzed. Several
346 Manning's n values (0.01–0.1 at a 0.01 increment) were used for the roughness
347 parameterization. The difference between the average water depth (Figure 8a) and the total
348 inundation area (Figure 8b) predicted by the simulations with different n values was calculated
349 on a cell-by-cell basis. The results indicate similar trends of the average water depth and
350 inundation area for different roughness values and differences in the values. As the roughness
351 increased, the average water depth decreased, and the difference was more pronounced at higher
352 roughness values. For example, the maximum average depth decreased from 0.61 m to 0.55 m

353 with an increase in the n value of 0.01 to 0.1. Interestingly, there were differences in the
354 sensitivity to the roughness before and after the levee breach for the flood inundation extent.
355 The inundation area increased obviously as the roughness increased during the rainstorm, however,
356 it is decreased slightly with an increase in the n value during the levee breach when the river flooding
357 was the main force. The main reason which causes the sensitivity differences is the unlike formation
358 mechanism of inundation extent between rainstorm and fluvial flooding. These results demonstrate
359 the sensitivity of the model to the roughness.

360

361 **4. Conclusion and discussion**

362 Simulation of real-life historical severe flooding events can reveal the dynamic flooding process
363 and mechanism. In this study, a serious compound levee breach-induced flooding during the
364 typhoon “Fitow” has been adequately investigated used by a simple 2D hydro-inundation model
365 (Floodmap). The surface runoff caused by the rainstorm and river overflow was considered
366 well in the model.

367

368 The following conclusions can be drawn from the simulation results. First, one key advantage
369 of this modeling approach is the analysis of a single historic flood event. The flooding results
370 showed the time series of the flooding extent and inundation depth, indicating that the low-
371 lying area especially for farmland areas near the river had a very high flood risk. The compound
372 flooding caused extensive damage to low-lying areas not only due to the elevation but the lack
373 of a drainage network, resulting in an average water depth of over 0.5 m more than 12 h. Second,
374 within 1-3 h after the dike failure, the floodwaters spread rapidly, and the inundation area and

375 average water depth reached the peak value; chiefly because of the rising riverine tides at the same
376 time, however, during the falling tide period, although the dike has not been repaired, the flooding
377 diffusion tend to be slow, the flood risk decreased as the water level dropped as well. Thus, it
378 can be indicated that the levee breach-induced flooding spread was heavily dependent on the
379 change of riverine tides, the key period for levee breach-induced flooding control (such as
380 repairing the levee, evacuation) was from levee breach to the end of the rising tide. Third, the
381 water does not drain rapidly only by infiltration or evaporation, and the waterlogging lasted for
382 more than 12 h, resulting in loss of farmland with high vulnerability. Therefore, for levee
383 breach-induced flood response in the rural area, in addition to repairing the levee in time, it is
384 necessary to remove the flood water using drainage measures at the same time, such as setting
385 water pumps near the farmland or other low-lying area, when necessary, the government should
386 guide nearby residents to evacuate to a safe place as well.

387

388 Beyond the flood emergency response measures, effective long-term engineering measures may
389 be more suitable for fundamentally decreasing the unpredictable levee-breach flooding risk,
390 local specifications for flood-control engineering should be updated with the increasing flood
391 risk in the context of climate change (Yang et al., 2015).

392

393 Model validation was a challenging aspect of this research. The topographic data resolution,
394 land use, and land cover affect the simulation results. The validation data consisted of field
395 observations, and the uncertainty associated with incorrect recollections of the residents led to
396 errors. It was assumed that the error ranged from 5 cm to 15 cm for different land uses. Most

397 of the verification results matched the field observations and fell within the confidence band,
398 demonstrating the model's reliability. Nevertheless, some of the simulated water depths were
399 slightly smaller than the field observations, which was attributed to the exaggeration of the
400 depth by the respondents.

401

402 Another important component of this study is the comparison of the predictions (flooding extent
403 and average water depth) using different Manning's n values (from 0.01 to 0.1 at a 0.01 interval).

404 The results demonstrated the model's sensitivity to roughness. Overall, the model exhibited
405 good reliability for single and compound flood modeling. Future research on this topic should
406 be improved for the following aspects to improve the robustness of the model. (1) Higher-
407 resolution topography and hydrological boundary conditions should be used to represent typical
408 flood conditions. (2) The drainage capacity could be modeled to provide a more reliable result.
409 (3) Urban compound flood risks should be evaluated to help decision-makers develop effective
410 emergency response plans and flood adaptation strategies.

411

412 **Data Availability Statement.** The raw and processed data from the co-authors' research
413 findings cannot be shared at this time, as these data are also part of the ongoing research. The
414 satellite remote sensing image came from the Google Earth open-source datasets
415 (<https://earth.google.com/>);

416

417 **Author contributions.** YY and JY initiated and led this research. YY designed the flood event
418 process, analyzed the performance of this model, and wrote the paper. JY provided history
419 records of water level. WZ and JY gave the suggestion for this paper. YL dealt with the rainfall
420 data. YZ, AX, YW and WS helped in collecting validation data.

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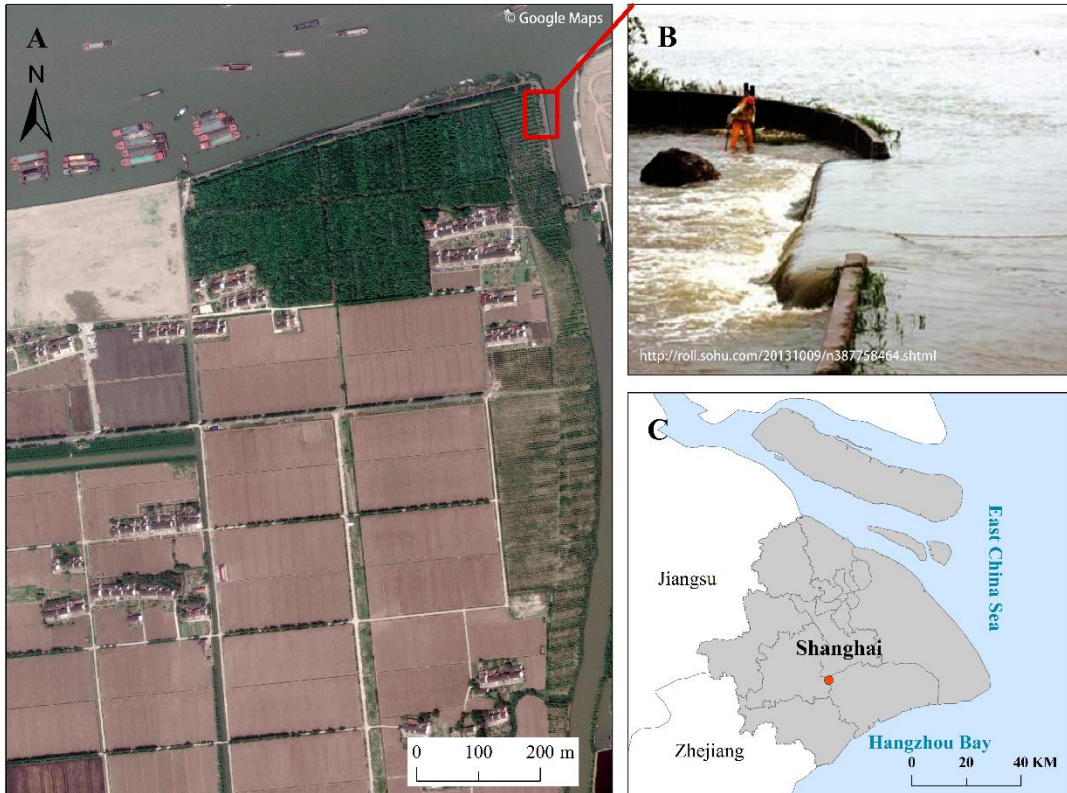
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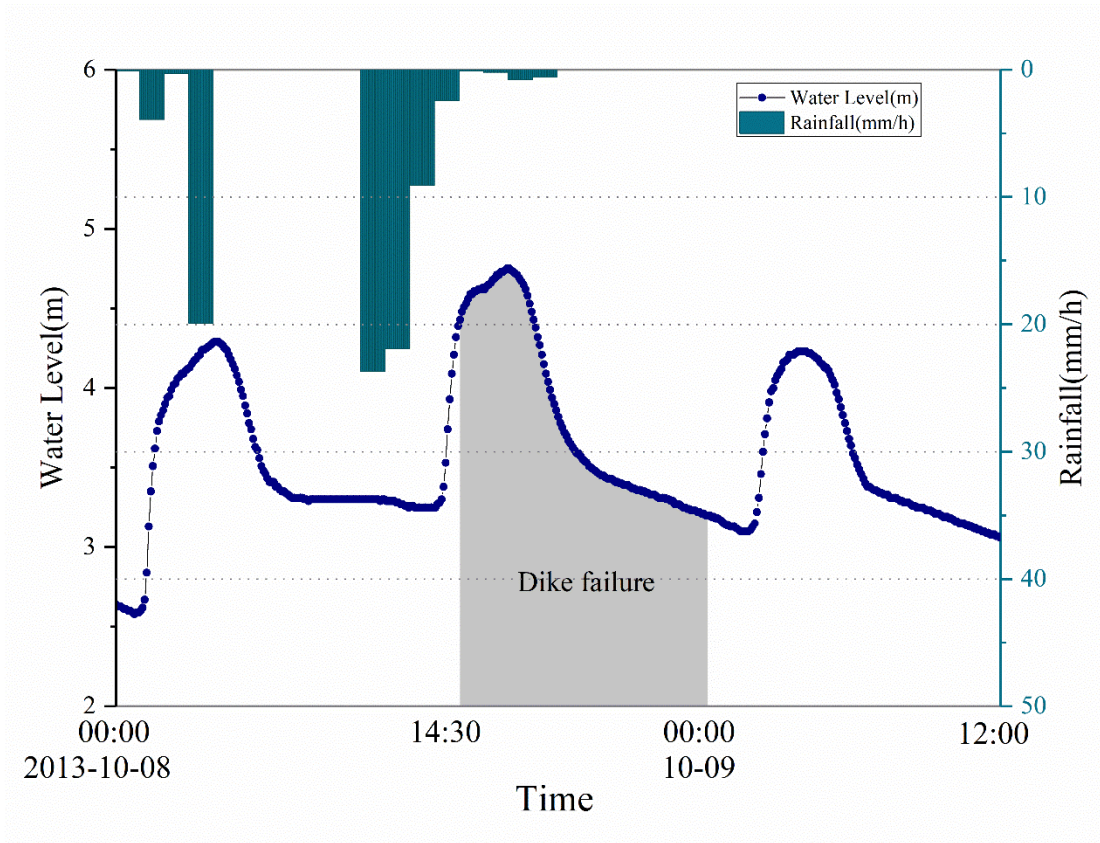
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Fig. 1 Location of the study area and levee breach during typhoon “Fitow”



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516 Fig.2 Time series of the water level and rainfall data at Qianbujing Creek during Typhoon

517 "Fitow"

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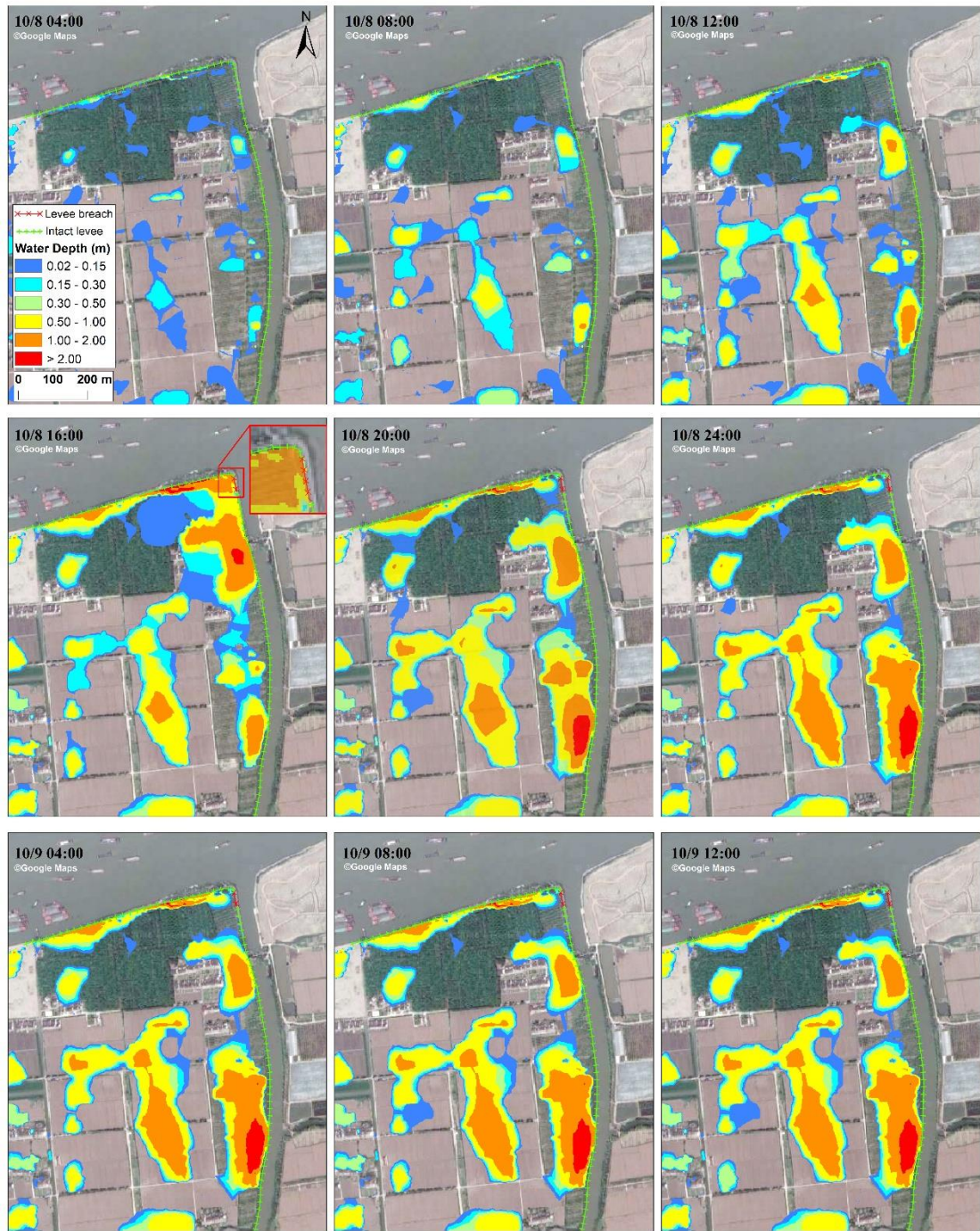
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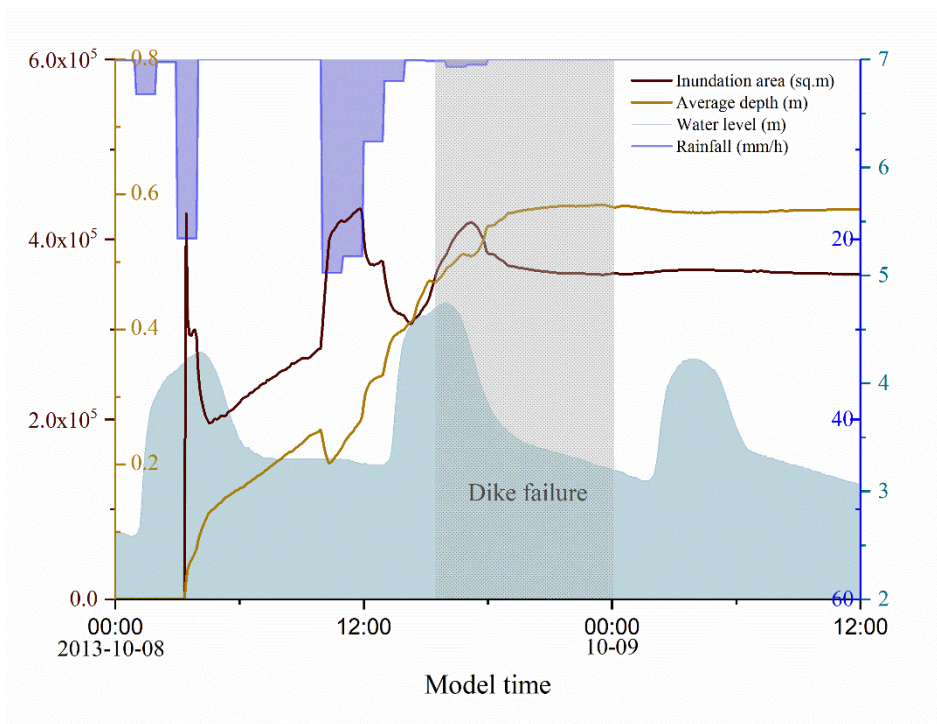
Fig. 3 Field investigation of flood inundation after the event



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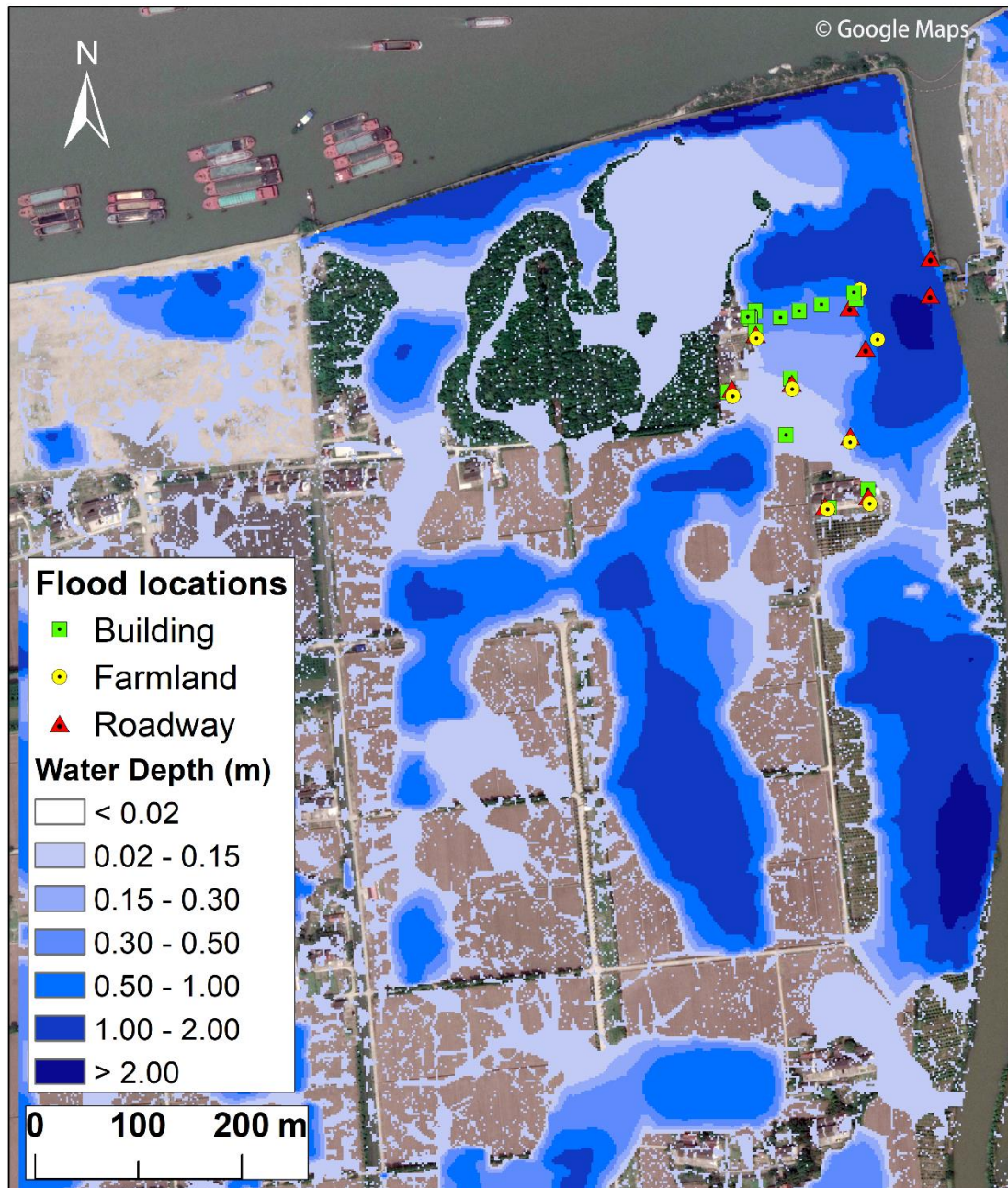
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Fig. 4 Time series of flood inundation during the typhoon event



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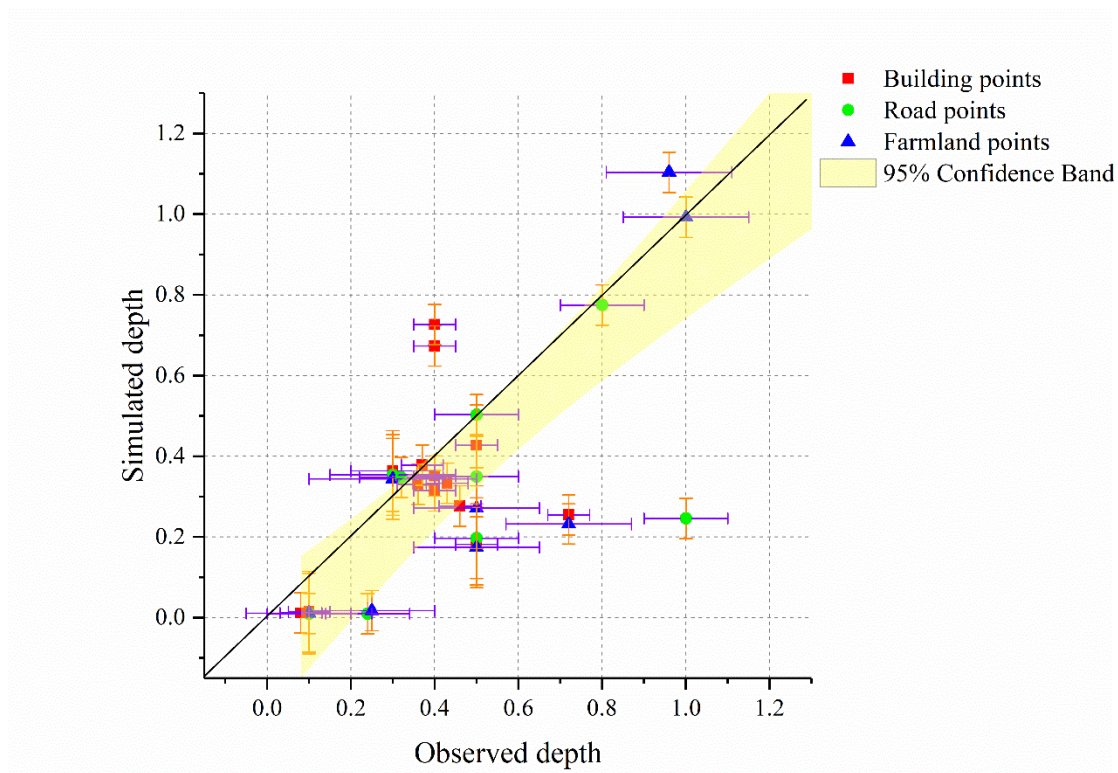
525 Fig. 5 Time series of the inundation area and water depth during the flood event



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Fig. 6 Maximum flood extent and depth predicted by the model



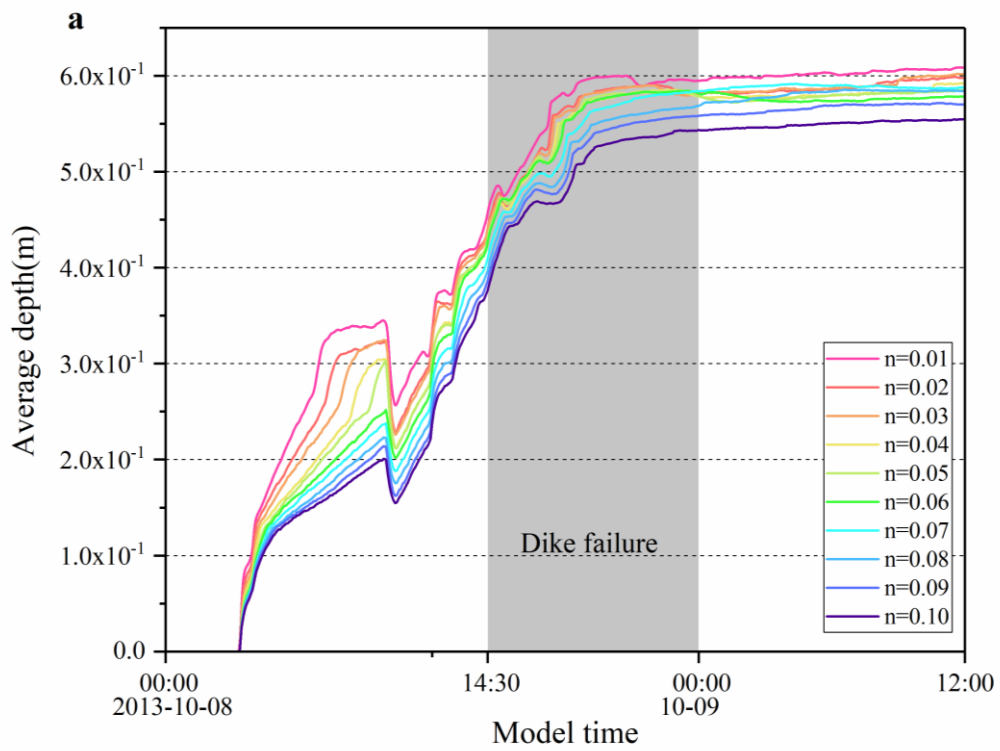
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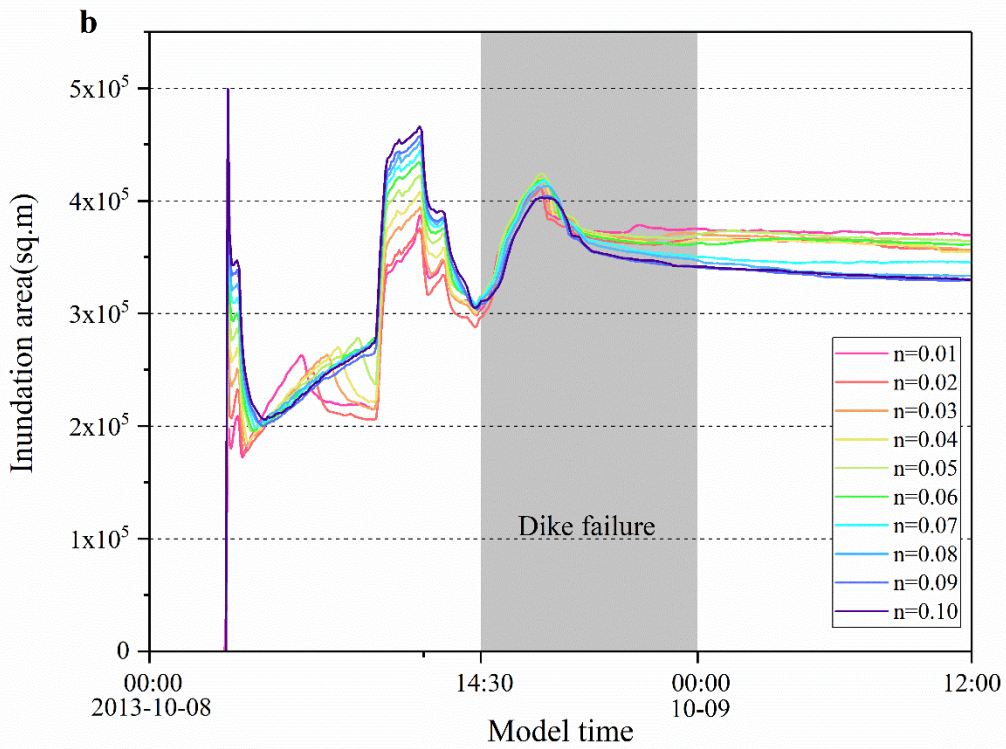
Fig. 7 A comparison of the simulated and observed depths

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Fig. 8 Sensitivity analysis of the model to Manning's roughness coefficient