
1 **Modeling of a compound flood induced by the levee breach at Qianbujing Creek,**
2 **Shanghai during Typhoon Fitow**

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14 *Competing interests.* The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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, the co-occurrence or subsequent occurrence of multiple flood drivers such as
60 coastal high tide, storm surge, extreme precipitation, and high river flow resulting in large
61 runoff may cause compound flooding. The compound effect is much greater than the effect of
62 individual flood events (Wahl et al., 2015; Ghanbari et al. 2021). For instance, typhoon Fitow
63 in 2013 brought torrential rain and caused high storm surges, resulting in record-breaking
64 riverine water levels in the upstream region of the Huangpu River, Shanghai, China. As a result,
65 the floodwall along the upstream Qianbujing Creek could not withstand the high water level,
66 leading to a breach in a 15-m long section at 14:30 on 8 Oct 2013. Although the broken section

67 was repaired after about 8 hours, the levee breach combined with heavy precipitation resulted
68 in extensive flood inundation in the rural areas.

69

70 Over the last few decades, numerous studies analyzed the compound effects of various flood
71 hazards at different scales (Ganguli et al., 2020). Most previous studies focus on calculating the
72 joint flood risk probability. For instance, Lian et al (2013) evaluated the joint probability of
73 rainfall and tidal level both exceeding their threshold values through the copula and then
74 analyzed the combined effect of them on flood risk in a complex river network in a coastal city
75 in China. At a global scale, Couasnon (2020) and Eilander (2020) explored the compound flood
76 potential resulting from storm surges and riverine floods. Meanwhile, dike failure-induced
77 flooding and the compound effect have received increasing attention from decision-makers,
78 researchers, and even the general public. Recent studies have provided considerable progress
79 on dike reliability analysis and compound flood modeling (Curran et al., 2018; Naulin et al.,
80 2018). Several approaches for levee breach-induced flood modeling were developed. Some
81 previous studies have investigated the breaching mechanism and the hydrological process of
82 dike failure flooding, Vorogushyn (2010) proposed an Inundation Hazard Assessment Model
83 (IHAM), which coupled a 1D hydrodynamic model of river channel routing, a probabilistic
84 dike breach model, and a 2D raster-based inundation model. Cannata et al. (2011) used a GIS-
85 based approach to simplify a 2D dam break simulation. Recent advances have been made in the
86 application of methodologies for predicting the dike failure-induced flooding, Yin et al. (2020)
87 predicted dike failures and flood inundations in Shanghai, China, under various emission
88 scenarios using an interdisciplinary process-based approach.

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, most previous studies have paid
92 attention to the occurrence probability and final impact of compound flooding. Few studies
93 investigated the complete compound dynamic hydrological process and mechanism of these
94 extreme cases. Moreover, few historical compound flooding events have been adequately
95 investigated in previous articles, these real-life cases play an important role to demonstrate the
96 feasibility and robustness of study results. To address the research gaps, this case study seeks
97 to examine the changing nature of levee breach-induced compound flooding. A 2D hydro-
98 inundation model Floodmap is used to simulate the process of the compound flood event that
99 occurred in Qianbujing Creek to improve our understanding of the evolution of flood
100 inundation. The results of the approach are validated by field measurements, including the
101 inundation depth and the flood extent over time. The findings can provide support for decision-
102 makers to develop flood adaptation measures.

103

104 **2. Materials and methods**

105

106 **2.1 Study area**

107

108 The study area is located at the junction of the Huangpu River and Qianbujing Creek in the
109 upstream Huangpu River Basin, Shanghai, China. The rural area covers about 1.5 km² with the
110 majority being agricultural land and the minority being human settlements. It is characterized

111 by a mild and low-lying topography (with an average altitude of about 3 m above Wusong
112 Datum). Due to its location, the study area has faced high flood risk from the river system;
113 however, the heights of the flood defense measures are relatively low (i.e., a 50-year return
114 period flood protection standard) compared to the high floodwall (1000-year period flood
115 protection standard) along the middle and downstream urban regions of the Huangpu River
116 (Yin et al., 2020). Furthermore, because of the northern subtropical monsoon climate in this
117 region, pluvial flood events caused by extreme rainfall, typically associated with typhoons, are
118 frequently recorded during the flood season (June to September) (Yin & Zhang, 2015).
119 Therefore, the risk of compound flooding from both riverine and pluvial sources is significantly
120 higher than that in other locations. Figure 1 shows the location of the study area and the levee
121 breach during typhoon Fitow.

122

123 **2.2 Data sources and processing**

124

125 **2.2.1 Topographic data**

126

127 We use a high-resolution digital surface model (DSM) with the 6-m horizontal resolution, 0.1-
128 0.2m vertical resolution of the study area, which was constructed from images of the China
129 Resource 3 satellite (ZY-3) and other high-resolution satellites. Since buildings and trees
130 represent barriers to water flow and reduce the area available for water storage in the
131 hydrodynamic model, we remove the non-topographic features (e.g., trees and buildings)
132 according to the Google historical dataset of remote sensing images to generate a bare-earth

133 digital elevation model (DEM) based on the Wusong Datum of Shanghai. (Fewtrell et al., 2010;
134 Neal et al., 2011; Yu & Lane, 2006b). We further resample the cell size of the bare-earth DEM
135 from 6 m to 2 m using ArcGIS software to improve the spatial resolution of the flood inundation
136 model. The simulation domain of the study area consisted of 0.3 million cells with an area of
137 nearly 1.26 km².

138

139 **2.2.2 Precipitation and water level**

140

141 Time series of the precipitation and water level records during Typhoon Fitow is used as
142 boundary conditions to simulate the hydrodynamic process of the levee breach-induced
143 flooding and the rainfall-runoff. The data are typically derived from the stage measurements at
144 gauge stations or radar-based rainfall data. However, due to the small scale of the study area,
145 the gauging records are considered to be more reliable. Thus, we collected the historical records
146 of the precipitation and water level data at the nearest gauging station from 0:00 on 8 Oct to
147 12:00 on 9 Oct 2013 for about 12 hours before and after the levee failure.

148

149 The station-based precipitation records (at one-hour intervals) are obtained from the
150 Information Center of the Shanghai Meteorological Administration. The water level data (at 5
151 min intervals) at the closest gauging station along the Huangpu River (i.e. Songpu Bridge
152 gauging station at the upstream of the Huangpu River, about 4 km away from Qianbujing Creek)
153 are provided by the Shanghai Municipal Water Administration. The time series of the rainfall
154 and water level data interpolated from the gauging stations is shown in Figure 2 (A, B). Heavy

155 rainfall occurred four hours before the levee breach, with the maximum hourly rainfall
156 exceeding 20 mm/h, resulting in the high water level of the river. Due to the high rainfall and
157 rising storm tide, the water level increased rapidly to nearly 4.8-m and caused the collapse of a
158 15-m long floodwall section at about 14:30 on 8 Oct.

159

160 **2.2.3 Validation data**

161

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

174

175 **2.3 Levee breach modeling**

176

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

185

186 We identified the location of the levee breach from the historical news reports and through field
187 investigation. The 15-m long levee breach was located at the junction of Qianbujing creek and
188 the main channel of the Huangpu River. The levee height and location are obtained from the
189 Shanghai Municipal Institute of Surveying and Mapping. The height of the remaining intact
190 floodwalls without the breach section (about 5 m above Wusong Datum) is then overlaid onto
191 the original bare-earth DEM using the raster calculator in ArcGIS 10.6 software. Due to the
192 model cannot change the topography boundary during the running time, so we control the levee
193 height by changing the relative water level, namely before the levee breach, the relative water
194 level is 0 because there was no flooding, while during the levee breaching period, the relative
195 water level is the historical river water level, so that the flood spread from the breach section.

196

197 **2.4 Compound flood modeling**

198

199 The compound flood modeling is performed using a 2D hydro-inundation model (FloodMap)
200 (Yu & Coulthard, 2015; Yu & Lane, 2006a; 2006b), which couples hydrological processes (e.g.,
201 infiltration, evapotranspiration, and drainage) module with 2D surface flood inundation
202 modeling. The Floodmap model provides an effective approach for compound flood simulation,
203 allowing for more than one hydrological boundary condition, including pluvial, fluvial, coastal,
204 and groundwater sources. The fluvial flood modeling and pluvial flood modeling are described
205 in Sections 2.4.1 and 2.4.2, respectively.

206

207 **2.4.1 Fluvial flood modeling**

208

209 For simulating the levee breach-induced flooding, a simplified flood inundation module based
210 on a raster environment is used to solve the inertial form of the 2D shallow water equations.
211 The module considered the mass and momentum exchange between the river flow and
212 floodplain inundation, it has been used to simulate the dynamic nature of flood routing and to
213 extract potential flood maps (Yang et al., 2020; Yin et al., 2015). The 2D inundation model is
214 similar to the inertial algorithm of Bates et al. (2010). The difference is the time-step calculation
215 approach. The optimal time step is calculated using the subsequent iteration instead of using
216 the time step of the next iteration calculated by the current iteration. The main structure of the
217 model is presented below.

218

219 The Saint-Venant momentum equation without the convective acceleration has the following
220 form:

221
$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial t} + \frac{gh\partial(h+z)}{\partial x} + \frac{gn^2q^2}{R^{4/3}h} = 0 \quad (1)$$

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

226
$$\frac{q_{t+\Delta t} - q_t}{\Delta t} + \frac{gh_t\partial(h+z)}{\partial x} + \frac{gn^2q_t^2}{h_t^{7/3}} = 0 \quad (2)$$

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

229
$$q_{t+\Delta t} = \frac{q_t - gh_t\Delta t \left(\frac{\partial(h_t+z)}{\partial x}\right)}{(1 + gh_t\Delta t n^2 q_t / h_t^{10/3})} \quad (3)$$

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

235
$$\Delta t \leq \min \left(\frac{wd_i d_j n}{d_i^{1.67} (S_i)^{1/2} + d_j^{1.67} (S_j)^{1/2}} \right) \quad (4)$$

236 where w represents the cell size, i and j are the indices for the flow direction in the x - and
 237 y -directions, d_i and d_j are the effective water depths; S_i and S_j are the water surface
 238 slopes. The effective water depth is defined as the difference between the high water surface
 239 elevation and the high bed elevation of two cells that exchange water. The minimum time step
 240 that satisfies the FCFL condition for all wet cells is used as the global time step for this iteration.
 241 This approach does not require the back-calculation of the Courant number because the time
 242 step is calculated based on the CFL condition that satisfies every wet grid cell for the current

243 iteration. The universal time step calculated with the FCFL may need to be scaled further by a
244 coefficient with a value between 0 and 1 because the FCFL condition is not strictly the right
245 stability criteria for an inertial system. A scaling factor in the range of 0.5–0.8 was found to
246 yield a stable solution in previous studies; here, a scaling factor of 0.7 is used for all simulations.
247 The calibration and validation of the model for the study area were conducted by Yin et al.
248 (2016).

249

250 **2.4.2 Pluvial flood modeling**

251

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

258

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

$$262 \quad f(t) = K_s \left(\frac{\varphi_f + h_o}{z_f} + 1 \right) \quad (5)$$

263 where K_s expresses the hydraulic conductivity of the saturated soil, φ_f is the capillary
264 potential across the wetting front, h_o is the water ponding on the soil surface, and z_f is the

265 cumulative depth of infiltration.

266

267 The evapotranspiration is determined using a simple seasonal sine curve of daily potential
268 evapotranspiration (Calder et al., 1983) as follows:

269
$$E_p = \overline{E_p} \left[1 + \sin \left(\frac{360i}{365} - 90 \right) \right] \quad (6)$$

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

273

274 We use the topography boundary conditions, flow boundary conditions, and precipitation
275 boundary conditions as inputs to model a 36-h compound flood process, including the 12 h
276 before and after the levee breach, and we assumed evapotranspiration of 3 mm/day, a value that
277 which generates a good inundation prediction in the urbanized area (Yin et al., 2016; Yu and
278 Coulthard, 2015). The soil hydraulic conductivity (K_s) is an important but highly complex
279 parameter used to calculate infiltration. Empirically-based correlation methods or in situ
280 hydraulic laboratory measurements can be used to determine the value of K_s . Given the
281 practical constraints, this study refers to previous flood simulations in Shanghai (Yin et al.,
282 2016; Yin et al., 2015; Yu & Coulthard, 2015; Yu et al., 2016) and use the value of 0.001 m/h
283 for the hydraulic conductivity. A relatively high roughness value ($n = 0.06$) is used in the
284 simulation, according to the type of cultivated land and crops in the study area. Since the
285 Qianbujing creek is located in a rural area, we did not consider the urban storm drainage
286 capacity in this simulation.

287

288 **3. Results and Discussion**

289

290 **3.1 Time series of flood inundation**

291

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

309

310 A cross-comparison of the derived flood hazard maps over time further indicated that although
311 the rainstorm caused extensive surface water flooding in the majority of the study area, the
312 inundation depth was generally shallow (< 15 cm). This effect can be attributed to the
313 evapotranspiration and infiltration in a few hours. However, unlike the short-term waterlogging
314 caused by the rainstorm, the compound effects of the rainfall and levee breach-induced flood
315 inundation continued over 12 h, with an average water depth of nearly 60 cm.

316

317 **3.2 Maximum flood inundation**

318

319 The maximum flood extent and inundation during the event are shown in Figure 5. We use 2
320 cm as the threshold for surface water flooding and treat water depths shallower than 2 cm as
321 sheet flow, which did not accumulate in topographic lows (Yu et al., 2016). Figure 5 shows that
322 over half (56%) of the study area was inundated from the compound flooding, and most of the
323 flooded areas were low-lying farmland with maximum flood depths of higher than 2 m. Aside
324 from the waterfront areas, many low-lying farmland areas were affected by the rainstorm, with
325 maximum water depths over 50 cm. In contrast, the water depth on the roads and the buildings
326 were shallow; most of it was less than 0.5 m and disappeared quickly. In nearly half of the
327 flooded locations, the water depths were between 2 cm and 15 cm (44.1%), and a smaller
328 proportion of the area (21.12%) had water depths between 15 cm to 50 cm. About 33.26% of
329 the inundated areas had water depths of 50 cm to 2 m. In combination with the time series of
330 water level and rainfall (Figure 2 (A, B)), it can be inferred that the maximum flood inundation

331 occurred at about the fourth hour after the levee breaching (at ~16:00) in the waterfront area,
332 while it occurred at about 11:30 a.m. in other areas.

333

334 **3.3 Model validation**

335

336 The field measurements are used to validate the performance of the compound flooding model.
337 Figure 5 shows the location of the measurement points. The points are divided into building,
338 road, and farmland types. Since there are few residential areas in the study area, reliable
339 inundation information could not be obtained in most flooding areas. Therefore, most points
340 represent buildings with extensive inundation. Since there are uncertainties and errors in the
341 survey results, including the respondents' memory bias, exaggeration of inundation, and false
342 positives, we set the observed error to 5 cm for building points, 10 cm for road points, and 15
343 cm for farmland points. The simulation error is set as 5 cm. Figure 6 shows the scatter plot of
344 the simulated and observed water depth and the 95% confidence interval. A correlation is
345 observed between the simulated water depth and observed water depth, and most points fell
346 within the confidence band. The observed water depth was slightly higher than the simulated
347 water depth, which may be attributed to the exaggeration of the water depth by the respondents.

348

349 **3.4 Sensitivity analysis**

350

351 The model sensitivity to Manning's roughness coefficient over time is analyzed. Several
352 Manning's n values (0.01–0.1 at a 0.01 increment) are used for the roughness parameterization.

353 The difference between the average water depth (Figure 7A) and the total inundation area
354 (Figure 7B) predicted by the simulations with different n values is calculated on a cell-by-cell
355 basis. The results indicate similar trends of the average water depth and inundation area for
356 different roughness values and differences in the values. As the roughness increased, the
357 average water depth decreased, and the difference is more pronounced at higher roughness
358 values. For example, the maximum average depth decreased from 0.61 m to 0.55 m with an
359 increase in the n value of 0.01 to 0.1. Interestingly, there are differences in the sensitivity to the
360 roughness before and after the levee breach for the flood inundation extent. The inundation area
361 increases as the roughness rise during the rainstorm. However, the inundation area decreases
362 slightly with the growth of the n value during the levee breach when the river flow is the major
363 cause of the flooding. As a result, the rainfall is more likely to cause ponding with high
364 roughness, as it drops the flow velocity. Whereas, when the river flow is the main force, the
365 decline of roughness value leads to an increase in flood velocity which accelerates the spread
366 of flood. These results demonstrate the sensitivity of the model to the roughness.

367

368 **4. Conclusion**

369

370 Simulation of real-life historical severe flooding events can reveal the dynamic flooding process
371 and mechanism. In this study, a serious compound levee breach-induced flooding during the
372 typhoon Fitow has been adequately investigated used by a simple 2D hydro-inundation model
373 (Floodmap). The surface runoff caused by the rainstorm and river overflow is well considered
374 in the model.

375

376 The following conclusions can be drawn from the simulation results. Firstly, one key advantage
377 of this modeling approach is the analysis of a single historic flood event. The flooding results
378 showed the time series of the flooding extent and inundation depth, indicating that the low-
379 lying area especially for farmland areas near the river had a very high flood risk. The compound
380 flooding caused extensive damage to low-lying areas not only due to the elevation but the lack
381 of a drainage network, resulting in an average water depth of over 0.5 m more than 12 h.
382 Secondly, within 1-3 h after the dike failure, the floodwaters spread rapidly, and the inundation
383 area and average water depth reached the peak value; chiefly because of the rising riverine tides
384 at the same time, however, during the falling tide period, although the dike has not been repaired,
385 the flooding diffusion tends to be slow, the flood risk decreased as the water level dropped as
386 well. Thus, it can be indicated that the levee breach-induced flooding spread was heavily
387 dependent on the change of riverine tides, the key period for levee breach-induced flooding
388 control (such as repairing the levee, evacuation) was from levee breach to the end of the rising
389 tide. Thirdly, the water does not drain rapidly only by infiltration or evaporation, and the
390 waterlogging lasts for more than 12 h, resulting in the loss of farmland with high vulnerability.
391 Therefore, for levee breach-induced flood response in the rural area, in addition to repairing the
392 levee in time, it is essential to remove the flood water using drainage measures at the same time,
393 such as setting water pumps near the farmland or other low-lying area. As well, the government
394 should guide nearby residents to evacuate to a safe place when necessary.

395

396 Beyond the flood emergency response measures, effective long-term engineering measures may

397 be more suitable for fundamentally reducing the unpredictable levee-breach flooding risk.
398 Local specifications for flood-control engineering should be updated with the increasing flood
399 risk in the context of climate change (Yang et al., 2015).

400

401 Model validation is a challenging aspect of this research. The topographic data resolution, land
402 use, and land cover affect the simulation results. The validation data include field observations,
403 and the uncertainty is associated with incorrect recollections of the residents led to errors. It is
404 assumed that the error ranged from 5 cm to 15 cm for different land uses. Most of the
405 verification results match the field observations and fell within the confidence band,
406 demonstrating the model's reliability. Nevertheless, some of the simulated water depths are
407 slightly smaller than the field observations, which is attributed to the exaggeration of the depth
408 by the respondents.

409

410 Another important component of this study is the comparison of the predictions (flooding extent
411 and average water depth) using different Manning's n values (from 0.01 to 0.1 at a 0.01 interval).
412 The results demonstrated the model's sensitivity to roughness. Overall, the model exhibited
413 good reliability for single and compound flood modeling. Future researches on this topic may
414 focus on the following aspects to improve the robustness of the model. (1) Higher-resolution
415 topography and hydrological boundary conditions should be used to represent typical flood
416 conditions. (2) The drainage capacity could be modeled to provide a more reliable result. (3)
417 Urban compound flood risks should be evaluated to help decision-makers develop effective
418 emergency response plans and flood adaptation strategies.

419

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

424

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

429 **Acknowledgments**

430 This paper was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant no:
431 51761135024, 41871164), the National Key Research and Development Program of China
432 (Grant no: 2017YFE0107400) and the Shanghai Sailing Program (Grant No. 21YF1456900).

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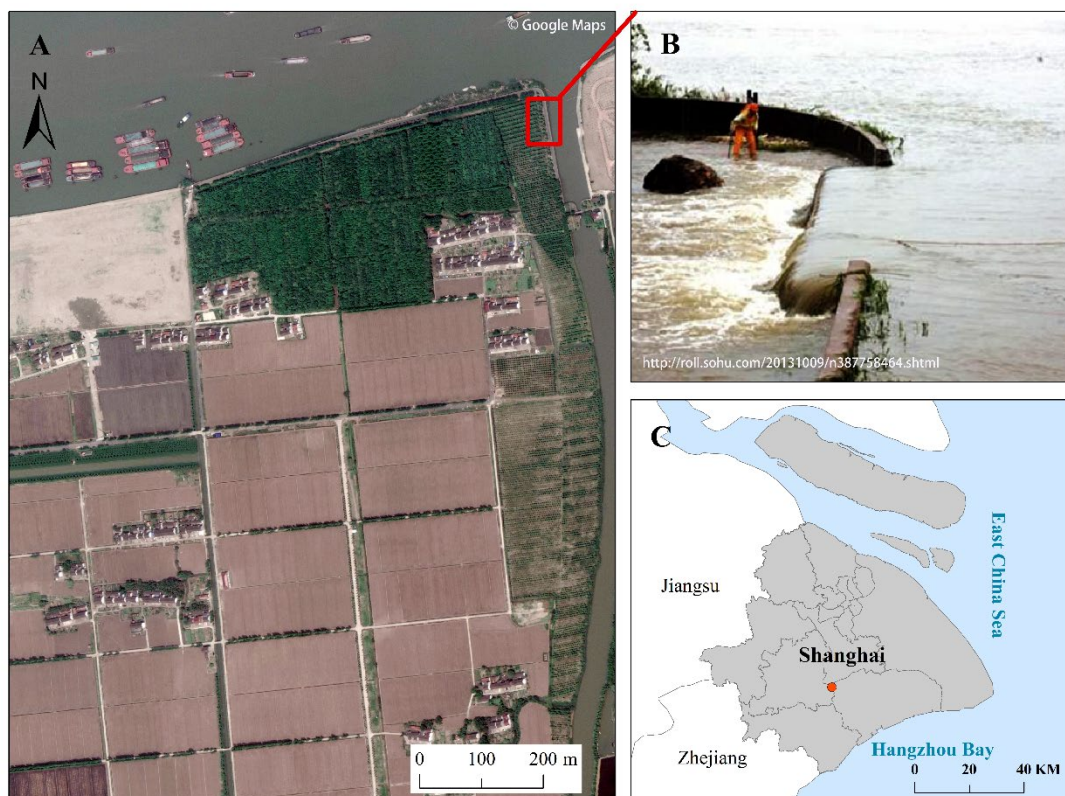
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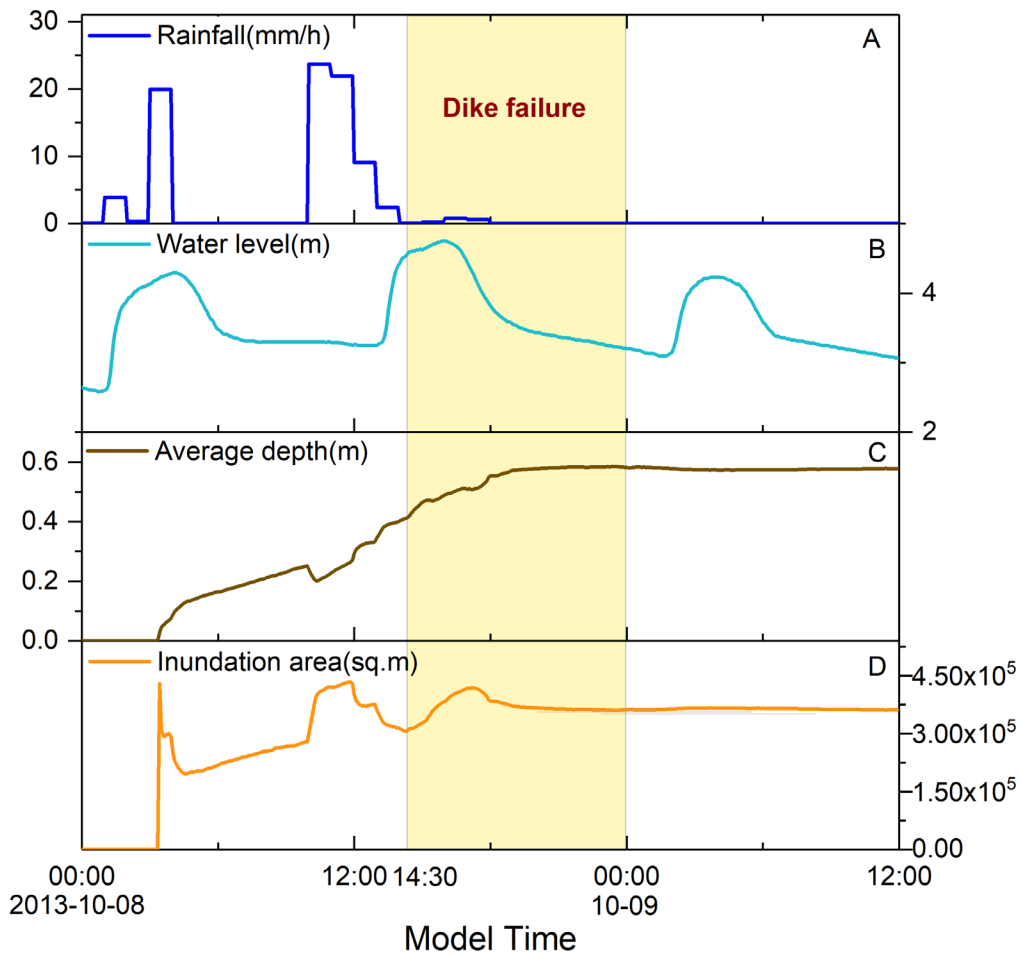
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Fig. 1 Location of the study area and levee breach during typhoon Fitow



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527 Fig.2 Time series of the rainfall(A) and water level(B) data at Qianbujing Creek during

528 Typhoon Fitow; Time series of simulated average water depth(C) and inundation area(D)

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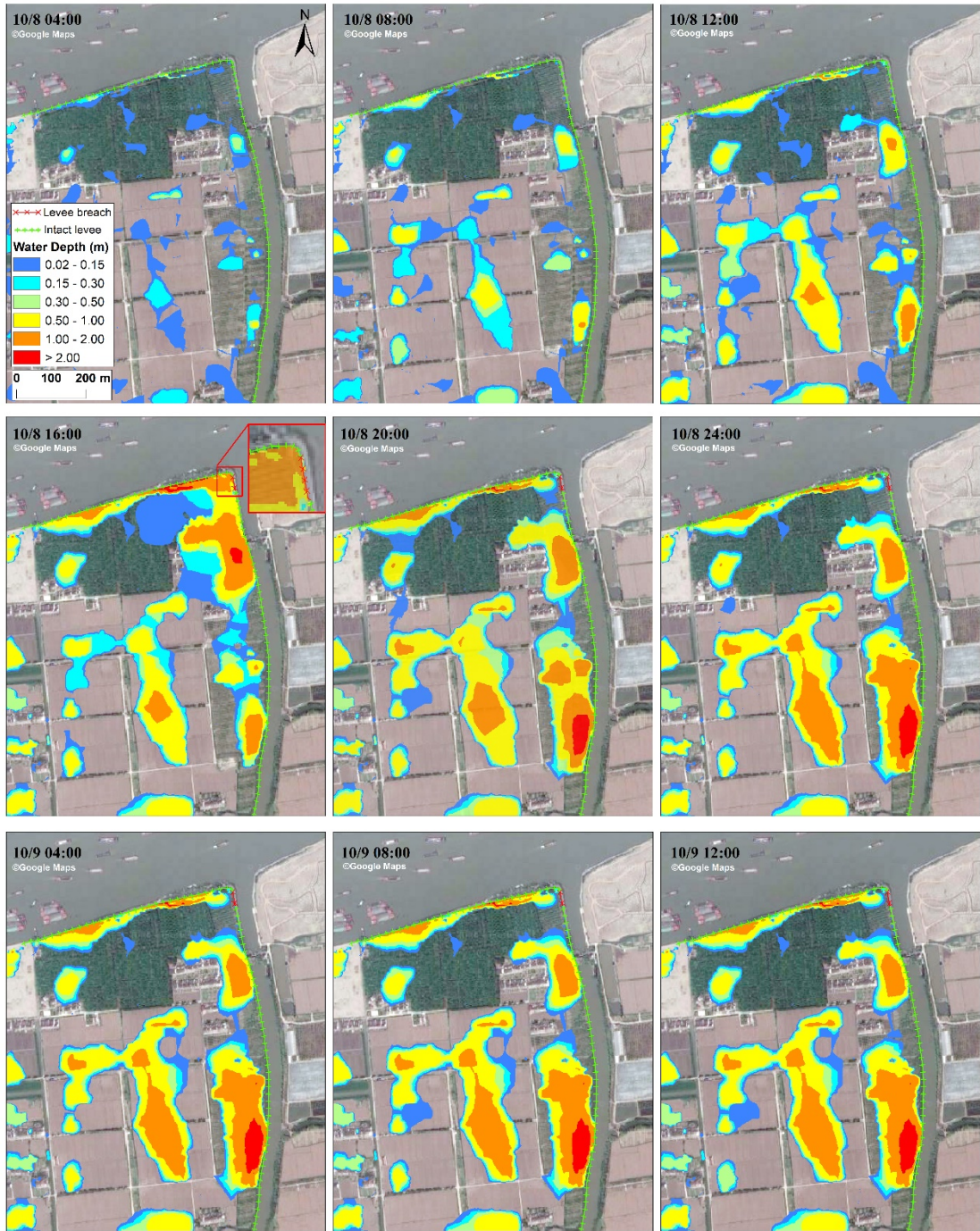
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Fig. 3 Field investigation of flood inundation after the event

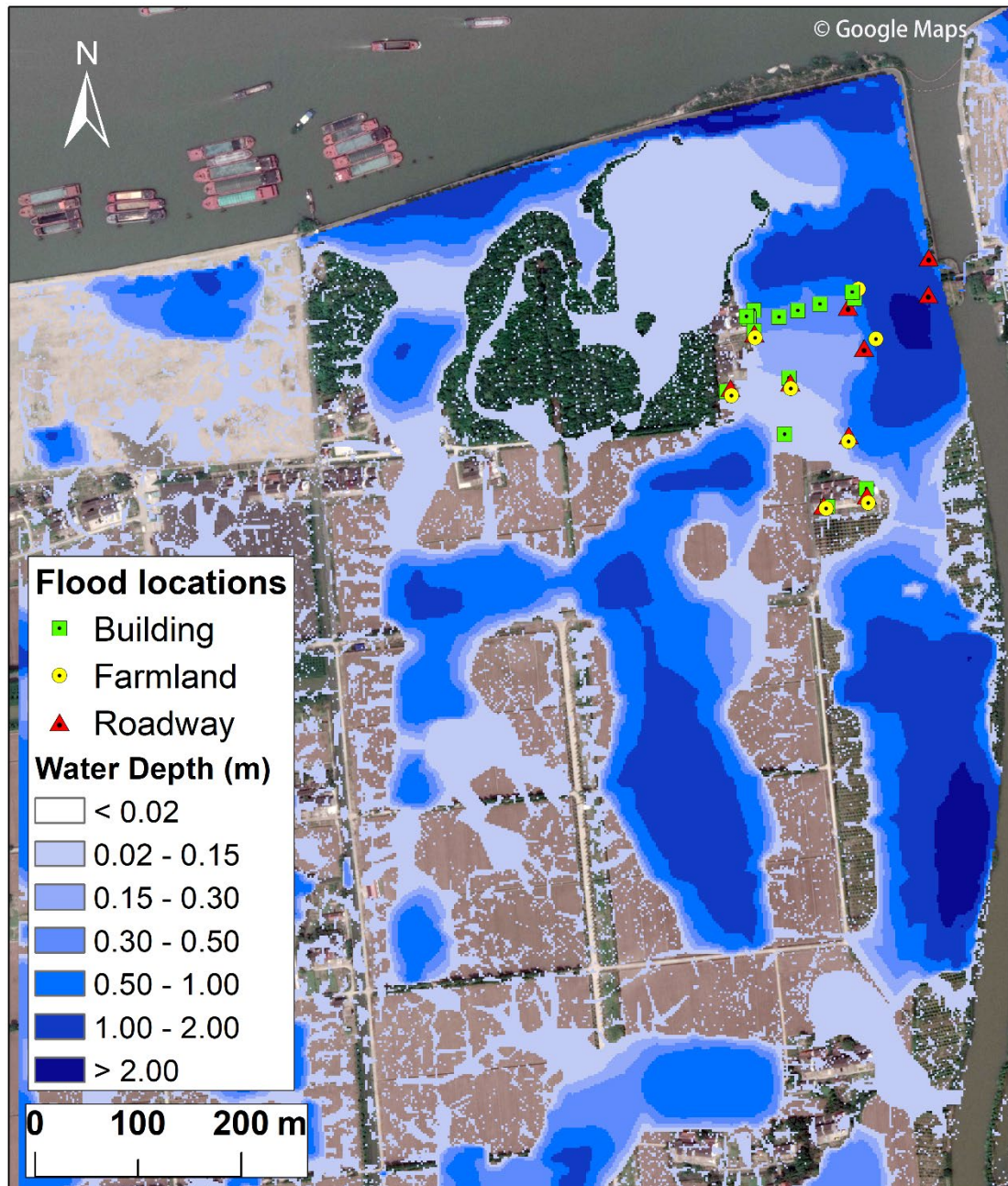


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Fig. 4 Time series of flood inundation during the typhoon event

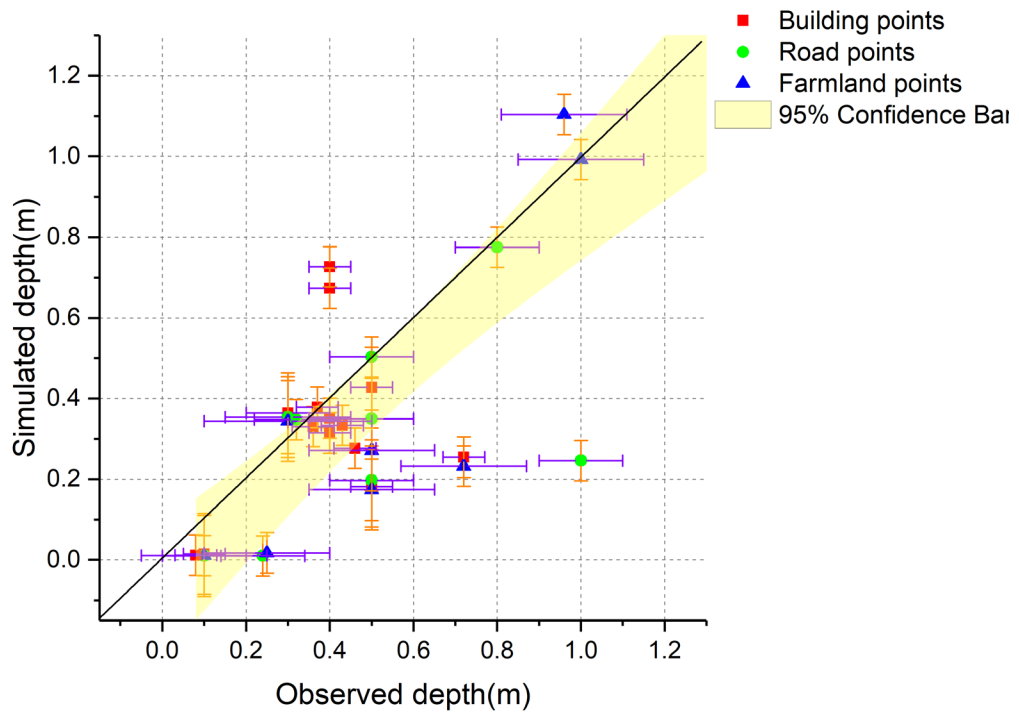
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Fig. 5 Maximum flood extent and depth predicted by the model



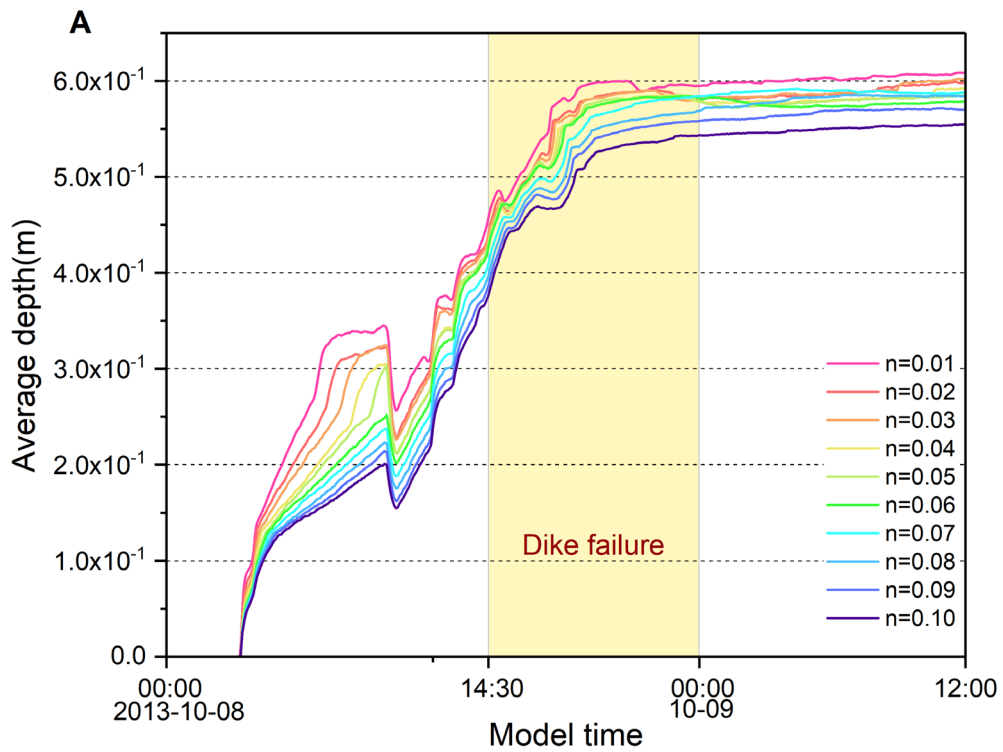
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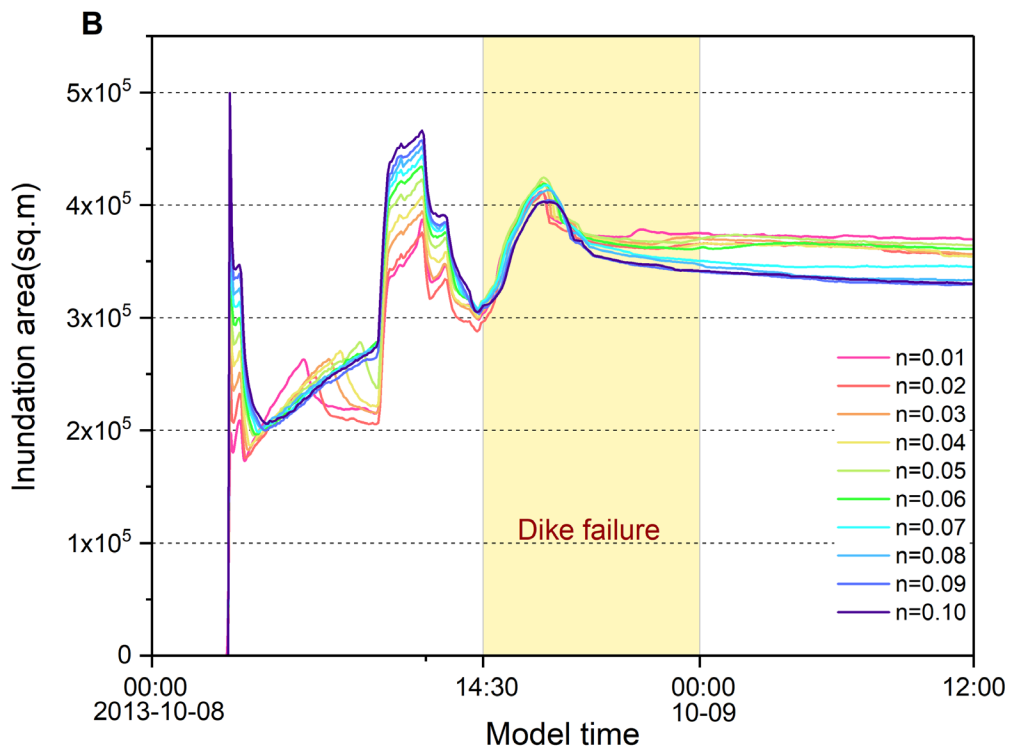
Fig. 6 A comparison of the simulated and observed depths

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Fig. 7 Sensitivity analysis of the model to Manning's roughness coefficient