

# Combining seismic signal dynamic inversion and numerical modeling improves landslide process reconstruction

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## **Abstract**

Landslides present a significant hazard for humans, but continuous landslide monitoring is not yet possible due to their unpredictability. In recent years, numerical simulation and seismic inversion method have been used to provide valuable data for understanding the entire process of landslide movement. However, each method has shortcomings. Dynamic inversion based on long-period seismic signals gives the force-time history of landslide using empirical Green's function, but lack of detailed flowing characteristics of the hazards. Numerical simulation can simulate the entire movement process, but results are strongly influenced by choice of modelling parameters. Therefore, developing a method for combining those two techniques has become a focus for research in recent years. In this study, we develop such a protocol based on analysis of the 2018 Baige landslide in China. Seismic signal inversion results are used to constrain and optimize the numerical simulation. We apply the procedure to the Baige event and, combined with field/geological survey, show it provides a comprehensive and accurate method for dynamic process reconstruction. We found that the Baige landslide was triggered by detachment of the weathered layer, with severe top fault segmentation. The landslide process comprised four stages: initiation, main slip, blocking, and deposition. Multi-method mutual verification effectively reduces the inherent drawbacks of each method, and multi-method joint analysis improves the rationality and reliability of the results. The approach outlined in this study could help better understand the landslide dynamic

process.

**Keywords:** Landslide processes reconstruction, Seismic signal analysis, Dynamic inversion, Numerical simulation, 2018 “10.10” Baige Landslide.

## 1. Introduction

Landslides present a significant hazard for humans, the number of fatalities resulting from non- coseismic landslides between 2004 and 2016 averaged 4,000 per year (Froude and Petley, 2018). However, they cannot be continuously monitored due to their unpredictability and difficulty of detection (Chen et al., 2013; Yamada et al., 2013; Feng et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2020b), and the landslide movement process cannot be fully understood through post-event field investigation and remote sensing alone. Hence, to aid warning and prevention of landslide hazards and reduce associated losses, there is an urgent need to develop alternative methods to enable in-depth investigation of the dynamic characteristics of landslide generation and movement.

Landslide movement generates seismic signals that propagate to the surrounding area. The development of environmental seismology and construction of global seismic networks (Dammeier et al., 2016) means the seismic signals generated by landslide movement can be quantitatively recorded by nearby seismic stations (Walter et al., 2012; Yamada et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2013; Yamada et al., 2013). Seismic signals generated by landslides reflect the duration, location, and scale of the event (Kao et al., 2012; Yamada et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2013); seismic signal analysis is increasingly used for landslide hazard monitoring and early warning, but it also offers a research tool for understanding landslide dynamics. The size and location of landslides

can be estimated from the amplitude, frequency range, and time-frequency spectrum of the seismic signal (Favreau et al., 2010; Moretti et al., 2012; Moretti et al., 2015), along with timing of the event (Sakals et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2019), and landslide dynamics (Yamada et al., 2013; Hibert et al., 2015; Jiang et al., 2016). The method of detecting, locating, and identifying landslide events using broadband seismograph records is based on associating seismic signals with landslide characteristics. Some progress has been made in interpreting landslide seismic signals, but signal recognition is often hindered by interference from seismic signals generated by other factors (Feng, 2011; Zhao et al., 2015; Fuchs et al., 2018). Several methods have been developed to solve signal noise pollution (Helmstetter and Garambois, 2010; Feng, 2011), but analysis of landslide dynamic characteristics and reconstruction of landslide processes is still subject to errors and inaccuracies. Recently, filtering of seismic signals has been successfully applied to reconstruct dynamic landslide processes, allowing transition stages to be identified that are difficult to derive from field analysis alone (Yan et al., 2020a, 2020b).

Combining seismic signal analysis with dynamic inversion can improve the extraction of landslide dynamic characteristics. Landslide dynamic inversion using long-period seismic records based on a single-force source model (Kanamori and Given, 1982; Kanamori et al., 1984; Hasegawa and Kanamori, 1987; Dahlen, 1993; Fukao, 1995) and a static point source assumption has been widely adopted to study landslide kinematics (Allstadt, 2013; Ekström and Stark, 2013; Yamada et al., 2013; Hibert et al., 2014, 2015; Moore et al., 2017; Gualtieri and Ekström, 2018; Li et al., 2019b; Sheng et al., 2020; Zhao et al., 2020). Predictive relationships between the maximum inverted forces and sliding volume can be derived from inverted landslide force histories

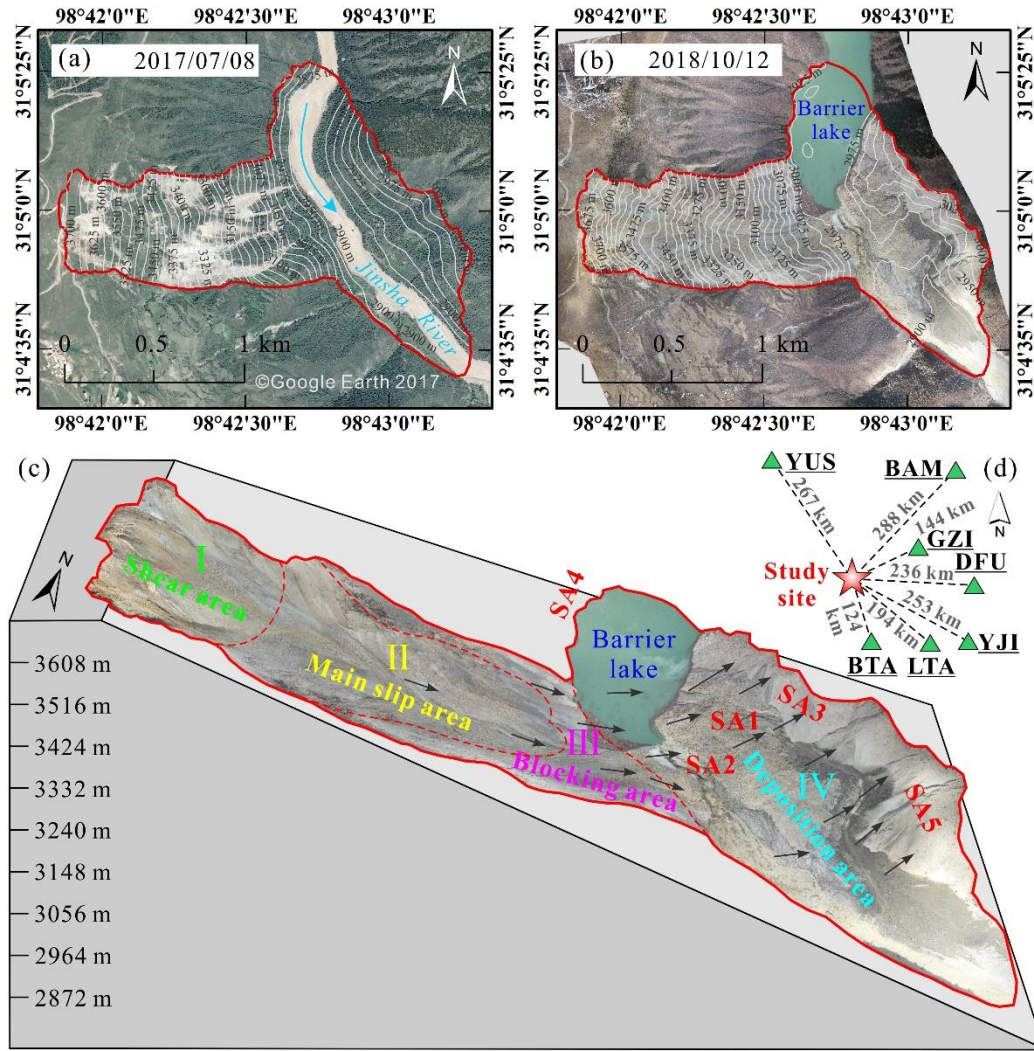
(Ekström and Stark, 2013; Chao et al., 2016). Landslide basal friction is estimated directly using a block model (Brodsky et al., 2003; Allstadt, 2013; Yamada et al., 2013; Zhao et al., 2015; Yu et al., 2020) or obtained from seismic analysis coupled with numerical simulation (Moretti et al., 2012, 2015; Yamada et al., 2016, 2018). Although numerical simulation of landslide dynamic processes has achieved remarkable results, there are issues with each of the following three main approaches. The continuous medium approach, including smoothed particle hydrodynamics (SPH) (Pastor et al., 2014), material point method (MPM) (Soga et al., 2016), finite element method (FEM) (Muceku et al., 2016), finite volume method (FVM) (Pitman et al., 2003), and finite difference method (FDM) (Shen et al., 2020), is not very effective in describing particle separation and internal fracture of rockslides. The thin-layer models are based on the thin-layer approximation and depth-averaging of the Navier–Stokes equations without viscosity, but a main issue is low computational accuracy (Moretti et al., 2012, 2015; Yamada et al., 2016, 2018). The discrete element approach utilizes software such as particle flow code (PFC) (Lo et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2020a) and DEM solutions (EDEM) (Wang et al., 2020c), but a major issue is low computational efficiency. MatDEM uses an innovative matrix discrete element method and three-dimensional contact algorithm, which can realize the efficient numerical simulation of millions of particles (Liu et al., 2013, 2017). However, studies utilizing MatDEM mostly determine the correctness of landslide simulation through comparison with post-event landslide characteristics derived from field investigation (Liu et al., 2017), which may not represent dynamic processes. An alternative approach that offers potential is to use seismic signal inversion as the constraint on landslide dynamic process (Yamada et al., 2016, 2018).

In this study, we use long period seismic signal to obtain the dynamic characteristics of Baige landslide, China, which occurred on October 10, 2018 (termed as the “10.10” event). Combined with the inversion results, the landslide process was reconstructed by numerical simulation. Through seismic signal analysis, landslide dynamic inversion and numerical simulation, combined with the post-event field investigation, we try to provide an improved characterization of the landslide movement process.

## **2. Study area and data sources**

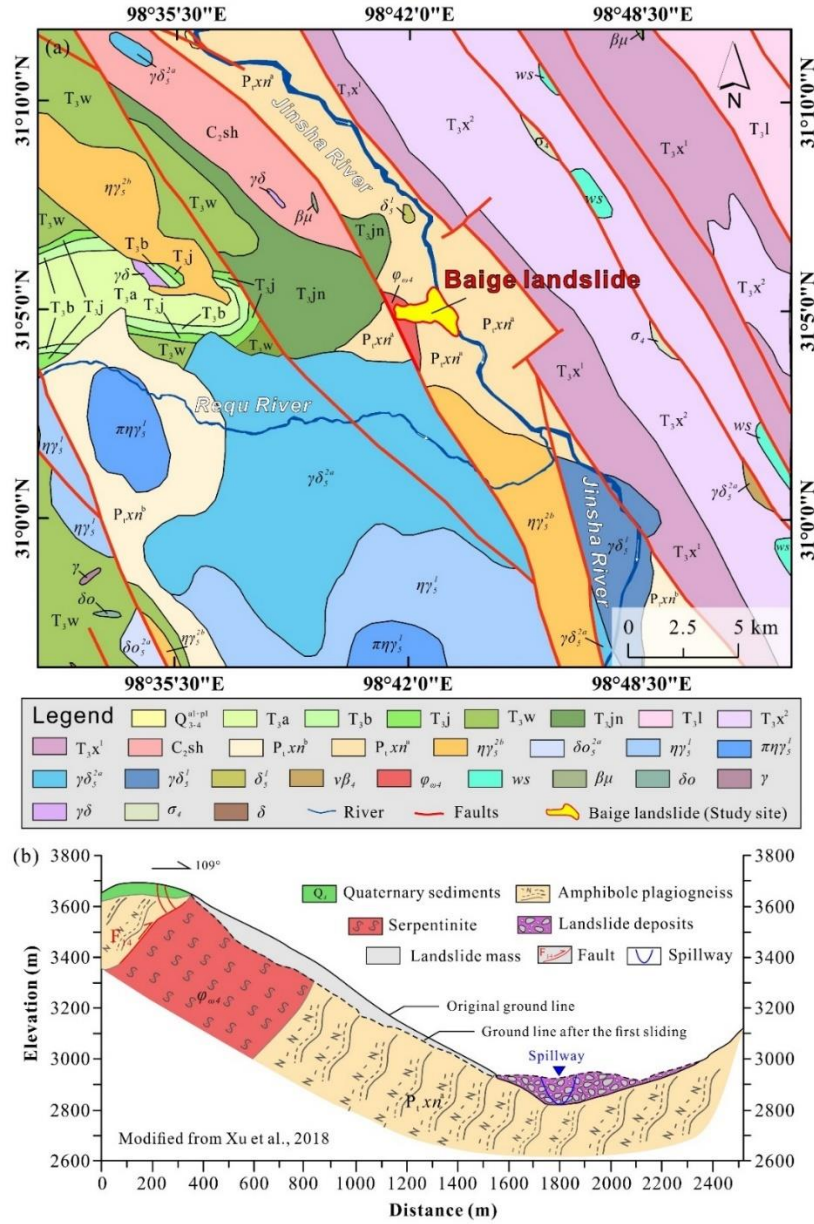
A massive landslide occurred at Baige, on the eastern Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, China, on October 10, 2018 (termed as the “10.10” event) (Fig. 1). The landslide caused the blockage of the main stream of Jinsha River and formed a barrier lake. On October 12, the water of the barrier lake began to discharge naturally until all the discharge was completed on October 13. On November 3, 2018, the rock and soil mass at the trailing edge of the slide source area of the first Baige landslide was unstable again, causing the second landslide. It has been studied by many researchers, Xu et al. (2018) and Deng et al. (2019) analysed the formation mechanism and process of the landslide, and found that the site is in the Jinsha River suture zone, where the influence of multiple tectonic movements provides a complicated regional tectonic profile; the main fault structures trend NW, within the Jiangda-Bolo-Jinshajiang fault zone (Fig.2). Ouyang et al. (2019), Fan et al. (2019a) and Wang et al. (2020c) carried out numerical simulation analysis of Baige landslide. In this study, only the “10.10” Baige landslide was studied. The landslide can be divided into four areas, namely, shear, main slip, blocking, and deposition, with maximum and average thicknesses

of 80 and 50 m (Fig. 1c). We used terrain data from Ouyang et al. (2019), comprising a 10 m resolution pre-landslide Digital Elevation Model (DEM) from 2017, and a 5 m resolution post-landslide DEM obtained through Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) photogrammetry in 2018 from field investigation. Based on DEM differencing, total landslide volume was calculated as  $1.96 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^3$ . The altitude range of the initiation zone is 3523 to 3730 m. Most of the rock mass that collapsed from the steep back wall accumulated at an elevation of 3100 to 3300 m, in an area of gentle slope angle from 20 to 25°.



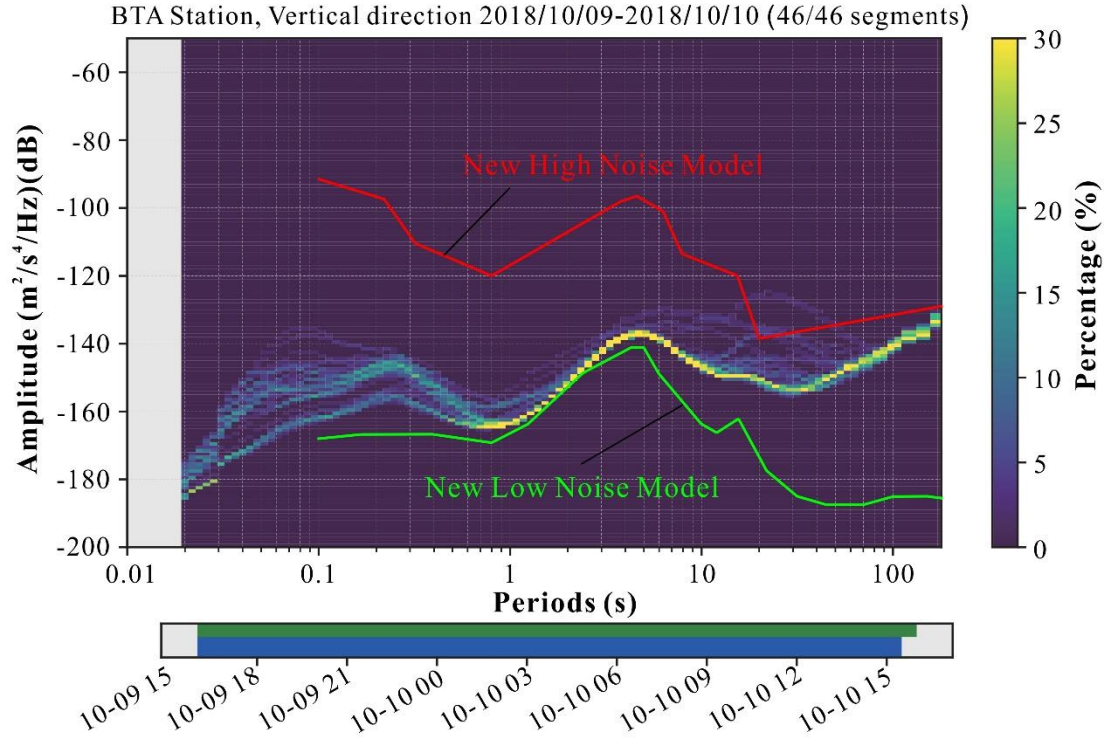
**Fig. 1.** Location of the study area. **(a)** Digital Orthophoto Map (DOM) of Baige landslide 2017; **(b)** DOM of Baige landslide after the 2018 event; **(c)** Schematic cross-section with remote sensing overlay showing key features of the Baige landslide (SA1 and SA2 is two main accumulation zone, the debris of SA1 is main from shear area, while SA2 main from main slip area and blocking area; SA3 is the left bank of the river, scoured by landslide debris; SA4 is a small area of the right bank scoured by landslide debris; SA5 is the downstream left bank, which is affected by the landslide body mix with the sandblasting water); **(d)** Location of the Baige landslide (red star) relative to seismic stations (green triangles) used in the study. The remote sensing image map data of Fig 1.a. is from the © Google Earth 2017, and the data of Fig 1.b. and Fig 1.c. are from the authors' own Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) photography measurements.





**Fig. 2.** Geology of the study area. (a) Geological map of the Baige landslide area (Q<sub>3-4</sub><sup>al-pl</sup>: Quaternary Holocene Upper Pleistocene; T<sub>3</sub>a, T<sub>3</sub>b, T<sub>3</sub>j, T<sub>3</sub>w, T<sub>3</sub>jn, T<sub>3</sub>l, T<sub>3</sub>x<sup>2</sup>, T<sub>3</sub>x<sup>1</sup>: Upper Triassic; C<sub>2</sub>sh: Upper Carboniferous; P<sub>1</sub>xn<sup>b</sup>, P<sub>1</sub>xn<sup>a</sup>: Proterozoic; nγ<sub>5</sub><sup>2b</sup>, δo<sub>5</sub><sup>2a</sup>: Yanshan period; nγ<sub>5</sub><sup>1</sup>, πnγ<sub>5</sub><sup>1</sup>, γδ<sub>5</sub><sup>2a</sup>, γδ<sub>5</sub><sup>1</sup>, δ<sub>5</sub><sup>1</sup>: Indosinian; vβ<sub>4</sub>, φω<sub>4</sub>, σ<sub>4</sub>: Variscan; ws: Detached block; βμ: Diabase-porphyrite; δo: Quartz diorite veins; γ: Granite veins; γδ: Granodiorite dikes; δ: Diorite veins.); (b) Cross-section of the landslide showing the geological profile. The geological map data in Figure 2a is from Li et al., 2019a, and the cross-section in Figure 2b is modified from Xu et al., 2018.

We selected broadband seismic signals from seven seismic stations that are distributed around the landslide with adequate azimuth coverage (Fig. 1d) to carry out the analysis. Landslide force history inversion uses long-period seismic waveforms and thus requires that the ambient noise at periods of tens of seconds should be at a low level in the study area. We used the probabilistic power spectral density (PSD) technique (McNamara and Buland, 2004) to characterize the background seismic noise. As illustrated by the PSD of the vertical component for seismic station BTA (Fig. 3), the main seismic energy is distributed between the new high noise model (NHNM) and the new low noise model (NLNM) (Peterson, 1993), indicating that the study area has a relatively good seismic observation environment. Before carrying out the dynamic inversion, we will calculate the SNR for each seismic trace and use it to determine if the trace will be used in the inversion, about which a detailed description can be found in section 4.2 Dynamic inversion of landslide.



**Fig. 3.** Probabilistic power spectral density of the vertical component at seismic station BTA. Red line in the PSD image is NHNM and green line is NLNM. Below the PSD image is a visualization of the data basis for the calculation. The top row shows data fed into the calculation with green patches representing available data. The bottom row in blue shows the single PSD measurements that go into the histogram.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Seismic data analysis

We used short-time Fourier transform (STFT) and PSD to quantitatively analyze the seismic signals for Baige landslide (Yan et al., 2020a, 2020b). A time-frequency domain transform of the seismic signal using STFT allowed information on both the time and frequency domain distributions of the seismic signal to be obtained. The power of each unit of frequency for each frequency band component that corresponds to a specific moment was estimated based on the PSD of the seismic signal in the frequency domain.

### 3.2 Landslide force history inversion

Assuming the landslide source is represented as a series of time-varying forces acting on a static point, synthetic seismograms  $u_n(\mathbf{x}, t)$  at the seismic station located at  $\mathbf{x}$  can be computed by convolution of force  $f_i(\mathbf{x}_0, t_0)$  at  $\mathbf{x}_0$  with nine-component Green's functions  $G_{ni}(\mathbf{x}, t; \mathbf{x}_0, t_0)$  (Moretti et al., 2012; Allstadt, 2013; Ekström and Stark, 2013; Yamada et al., 2013; Hibert et al., 2014; Li et al., 2017; Gualtieri and Ekström, 2018),

$$u_n(\mathbf{x}, t) = G_{ni}(\mathbf{x}, t; \mathbf{x}_0, t_0) * f_i(\mathbf{x}_0, t_0) \quad (1)$$

where  $*$  denotes convolution and bold type face indicates a vector. The Einstein summation convention is assumed in the equation. The convolution can be rewritten as matrix product,

$$\mathbf{u}_n = [\mathbf{G}_{n1} \quad \mathbf{G}_{n2} \quad \mathbf{G}_{n3}] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{f}_1 \\ \mathbf{f}_2 \\ \mathbf{f}_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

Suppose there are  $N$  seismic traces,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G}_{11} & \mathbf{G}_{12} & \mathbf{G}_{13} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{G}_{N1} & \mathbf{G}_{N2} & \mathbf{G}_{N3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{f}_1 \\ \mathbf{f}_2 \\ \mathbf{f}_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

Use  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_N \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G}_{11} & \mathbf{G}_{12} & \mathbf{G}_{13} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{G}_{N1} & \mathbf{G}_{N2} & \mathbf{G}_{N3} \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $\mathbf{f} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{f}_1 \\ \mathbf{f}_2 \\ \mathbf{f}_3 \end{bmatrix}$ , we get the linear forward model

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{f} \quad (4)$$

We use  $\mathbf{u}_o$  to denote observed seismic records and define the 2-norm of the vector difference between  $\mathbf{u}_o$  and  $\mathbf{u}$  as an objective function,

$$\mathbf{o} = \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_o\|_2 \quad (5)$$

An optimal solution of the forces can be obtained in a least-square sense,

$$\mathbf{f} = (\mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{G})^{-1} \mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{u}_o \quad (6)$$

The landslide force history can be reconstructed by direct deconvolution of the observed seismograms with Green's functions, which can be readily performed in both time and frequency

domains (Allstadt, 2013; Yamada et al., 2013; Li et al., 2017). We calculated Green's Function at the landslide location for each seismic station, using a matrix propagation method (Wang, 1999) and a 1-D layered velocity model from Crust1.0 (<https://igppweb.ucsd.edu/~gabi/crust1.html>).

Once the landslide force history  $\mathbf{f}$  was inverted, based on Newton's third law of motion, the forces acting on the sliding mass could be obtained by multiplying the inverted force history by -1 (Kanamori and Given, 1982; Yamada et al., 2013; Gualtieri and Ekström, 2018). And then the forces acting on the sliding mass can be used to calculate its velocity and displacement distributions for a given mass (Li et al., 2019c; Yu et al., 2020), or to estimate the sliding mass by minimizing discrepancies with independently derived sliding trajectories (Hibert et al., 2014), using the following equations,

$$\mathbf{v} = - \int \frac{\mathbf{f}}{m} dt \quad (7)$$

$$\mathbf{s} = - \iint \frac{\mathbf{f}}{m} dt \quad (8)$$

### 3.3 Numerical modeling

#### 3.3.1 Discrete element method

To quantitatively analyze the process of landslide initiation, movement, and accumulation for the "10.10" Baige event, we used MatDEM software, which is based on the matrix discrete element method, to numerically simulate the landslide (Liu et al., 2017). In the discrete element method, particle movement obeys Newton's second law, and particle velocity and displacement are sequentially updated to simulate the dynamic process of the landslide. In MatDEM, the landslide body is formed by the accumulation and cementation of particles endowed with specific

228 mechanical properties, and the contact and interaction of these particles are defined by the linear  
 229 elastic bonded model, as shown in Figure 4a. The normal force  $F_n$  and tangential force  $F_s$   
 230 between particles can be expressed by the following formula:

$$F_n = K_n X_n \quad (9)$$

$$F_s = K_s X_s \quad (10)$$

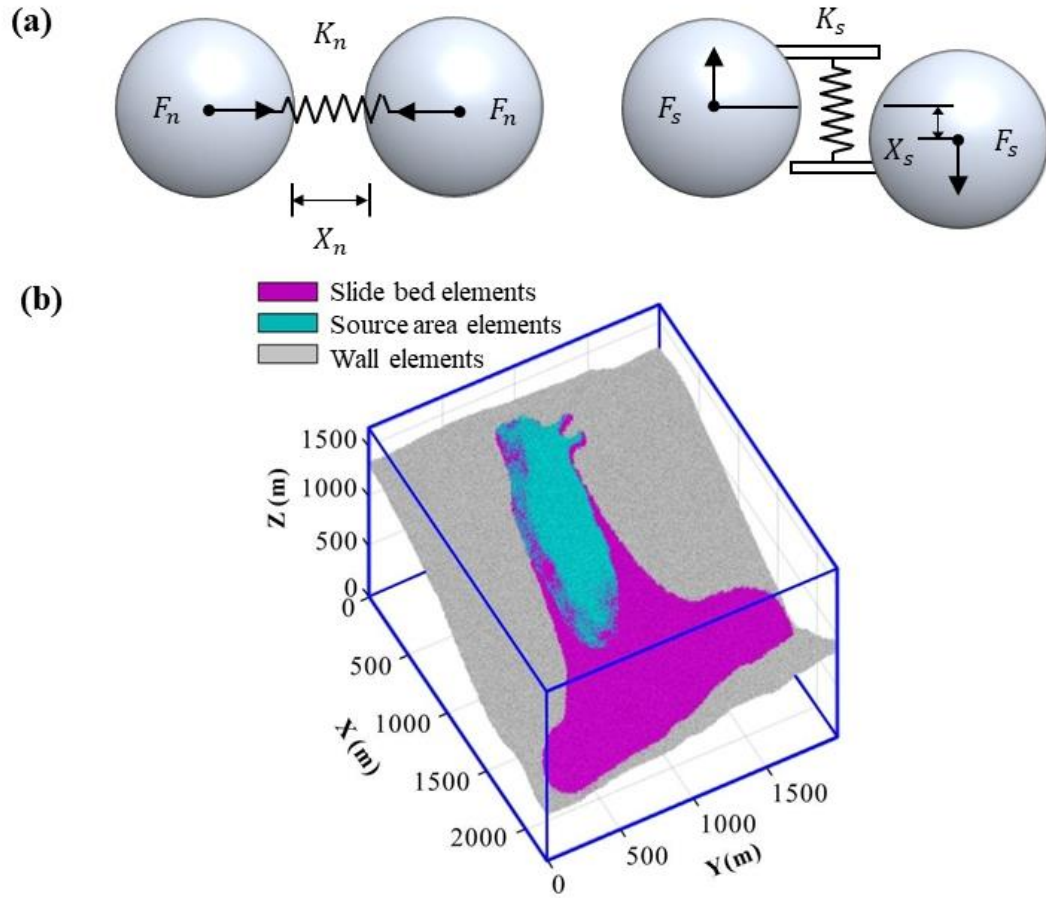
231 where,  $K_n$  is the normal stiffness;  $X_n$  is the normal relative displacement between two  
 232 particles at the contact point;  $K_s$  is the tangential stiffness; and  $X_s$  is the tangential displacement.

233 In the normal direction, when the displacement between particles  $X_n$  exceeds the fracture  
 234 displacement  $X_b$  the connection between particles is broken and the tension is set as zero. In the  
 235 tangential direction, spring failure follows the Mohr-Coulomb criterion, and the tangential bond is  
 236 broken when tangential force exceeds maximum shear force  $F_{smax}$ , so that only sliding friction  
 237  $(-\mu_p F_n)$  exists between particles. The maximum normal force  $F_{nmax}$  and maximum tangential  
 238 force that the cementation between particles  $F_{smax}$  can withstand is:

$$F_{nmax} = K_n X_b \quad (11)$$

$$F_{smax} = F_{s0} - \mu_p F_n \quad (12)$$

239 where,  $F_{s0}$  is the shear resistance between particles and  $\mu_p$  is the friction coefficient  
 240 between particles.



**Fig. 4.** Schematics showing properties of landslide particles and discrete element model. **(a)** Linear elastic bonded model; **(b)** Discrete element model of the Baige landslide (Fan et al., 2019a).

### 3.3.2 Discrete element model of Baige landslide

In MatDEM, the base of the landslide model is constructed of densely packed particles (20 m thick) arranged according to the topography of the slope base. The coordinates of these particles are fixed in the simulation (gray particles in Fig. 4b). The landslide area is constructed by particles accumulated in the cube model box using cutting topography of the pre- and post- landslide. Before starting the simulation, gravity is applied to particles in the sliding source area (blue particles in

Fig. 4b) and sedimentary layer (20–80 m thick) (purple particles in Fig. 4b); breaking the connection between particles in the source area allows them to slide down under the action of gravity to simulate landslide initiation. We used a simulation block of  $2270 \times 1980 \times 1680$  m, with 582,000 particles comprising 169,000 active cells for simulating landslide movement and 413,000 boundary elements to fill the geometry (bottom) and limit the range of activity (side). Average cell size was 5 m and the real-world time 80 s.

As shown in the flow chart of Fig. 5, we used the dynamic inverted from seismic signals and deposition characteristics as references for the DEM simulation. Initial macro parameter values, such as Young modulus, Poisson's ratio, were based on results of laboratory tests on Baige landslide materials from Zhou et al. (2019), the micro parameters, such as normal stiffness, shear stiffness, breaking displacement, initial shear resistance, of DEM input can be obtained by using the macro and micro conversion equations proposed by Liu et al. (2013) (see Appendix 1 for details). As elastic modulus and mechanical properties in laboratory tests are usually higher than those in large-scale rock masses in the field (Darlington et al., 2011; Hencher et al., 2014; Hoek, 2000), Liu et al. (2019) used MatDEM to simulate Xinmo landslide, set Young's modulus and strength to about 40% of the test value, and obtained appropriate simulation results. Therefore, we used 40% of the test value in our simulation.

The second step is to use the geometry of the deposits as a reference to adjust and obtain reasonable simulation result. For the discrete element method, the geometry of the deposits is affected by the bond strength between particles and the friction coefficient (An et al., 2020), which correspond to the fracture displacement, initial shear force, and friction coefficient between



particles in MatDEM. Other parameters, such as normal stiffness and tangential stiffness, remain constant during the simulation. Accuracy of the final landslide accumulation was evaluated by the critical success index (CSI) proposed by Mergili et al. (2017), calculated as:

$$CSI = \frac{TP}{TP + FP + FN} \quad (13)$$

where, TP (true positive) is intersection area from both simulation and filed observation, FN (false negative) is the deposition area observed from field that simulation cannot covered, and FP (false positive) is the additional deposition area from simulation where no deposition is observed from site. CSI ranges between 0 and 1, and the higher the value, the more accurate the simulation; when CSI is 1, the simulated accumulation range coincides with the observed. An et al. (2021) conducted 25 simulations by changing the parameters such as static friction coefficient, thermal weakening friction coefficient and normal bond strength. The results showed that only 8 cases had  $CSI > 0.6$  and the highest CSI was 0.83. In addition, among the 15 groups of results simulated by Mergili et al. (2017), the maximum CSI is 0.59. Therefore, in this study, the criterion is chosen as  $CSI > 0.6$ , it can be considered that the simulated accumulation characteristics are basically consistent with the actual situation.

The third step is to use the landslide motion velocity and displacement characteristics inverted by the seismic signal as a reference to back-calibrate parameters that affect the kinematic characteristics of the landslide, such as friction and average damping coefficients. The final values of the parameters are shown in Table 1.

The accuracy of simulated and inversed landslide velocity and displacement was preliminarily evaluated by the relative errors of several key points  $\delta$ . Then, the square residue  $S^2$

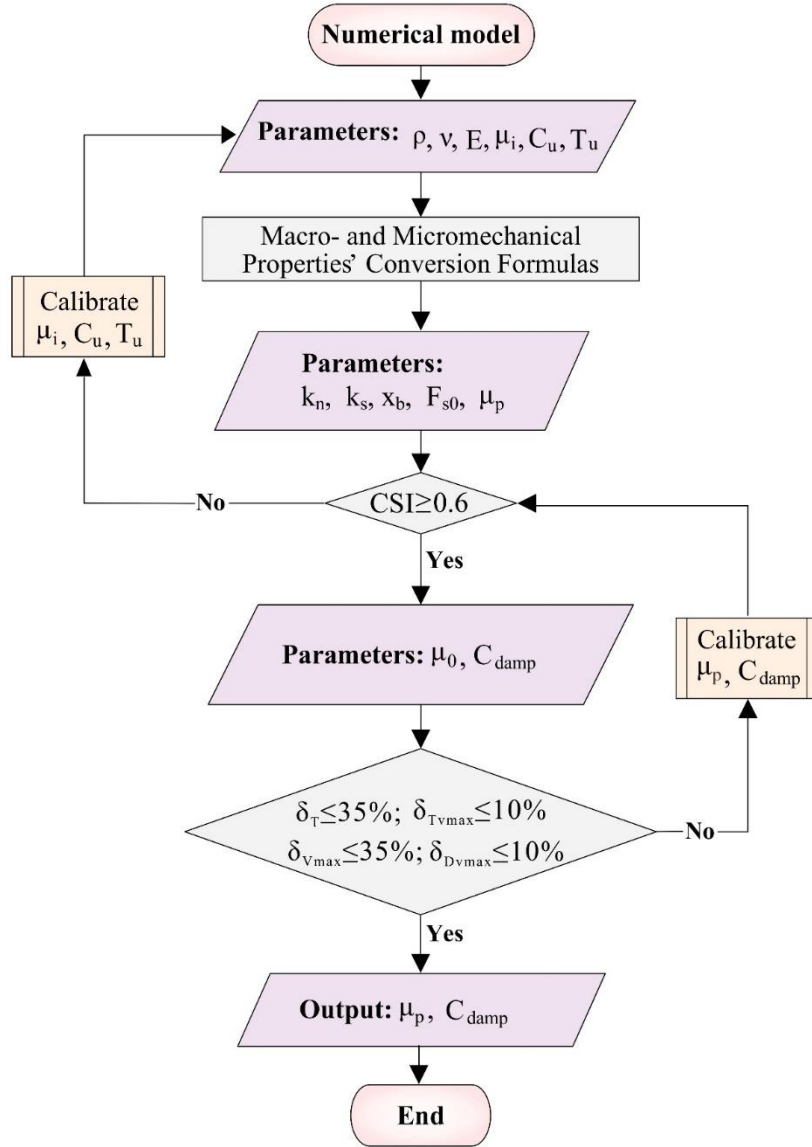
292 between the simulated value and the inversion value per second was calculated, and the difference  
293 between the two groups of data in the landslide process was analyzed in detail. Related error  $\delta$   
294 and square residue  $S^2$  were calculated as:

$$\delta_x = \frac{X_s - X_i}{X_i} \quad (14)$$

$$S^2 = (X_s - X_i)^2 \quad (15)$$

295 where,  $X_s$  is the simulated value and  $X_i$  the inversed value.  $X$  can be replaced by landslide  
296 duration  $T$ , peak velocity  $V_{max}$ , time when peak velocity achieved  $T_{Vmax}$ , and peak displacement  
297  $D_{max}$ .

298



**Fig. 5.** Flowchart of the method of discrete element parameter adjustment based on seismic signal inversion.

**Table 1.** Macro- and micromechanical parameters of Baige landslide material used in the discrete element model.

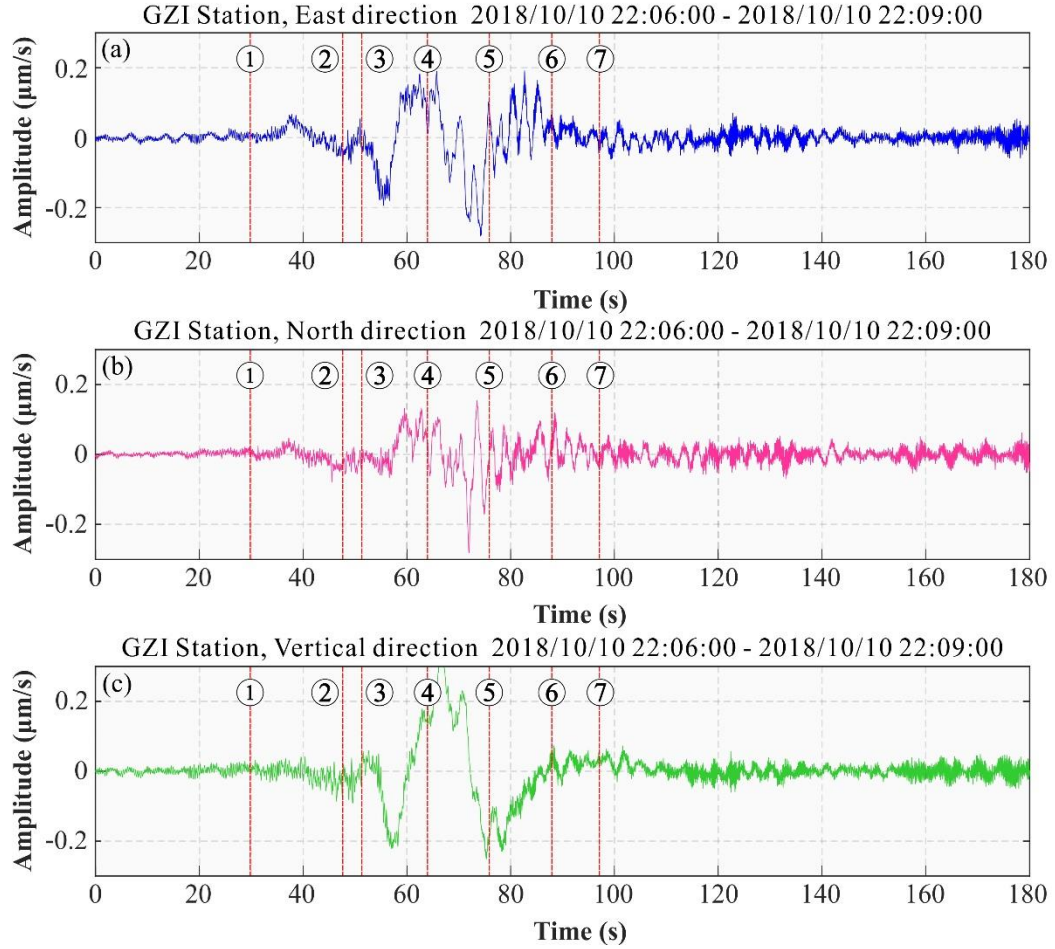
Parameter	Value	Reference
Young modulus $E$	20 GPa	Laboratory test (Zhou et al. 2019)
Poisson's ratio $\nu$	0.2	Laboratory test (Zhou et al. 2019)
Uniaxial compressive strength $C_u$	30 MPa	Laboratory test & Calibrated
Uniaxial tensile strength $T_u$	3 MPa	Laboratory test & Calibrated
Internal friction coefficient $\mu_i$	0.46	Laboratory test & Calibrated

Density $\rho$	2400 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	Zhang et al. (2019)
Normal stiffness $k_n$	486 GN/m	Calculated (Liu et al., 2013)
Shear stiffness $k_s$	270 GN/m	Calculated (Liu et al., 2013)
Breaking displacement $x_b$	1.3 mm	Calculated (Liu et al., 2013)
Initial shear resistance $F_{s0}$	3.28 GN	Calculated (Liu et al., 2013)
Intergranular friction coefficient $\mu_p$	0.0897	Calculated & Calibrated
Average damping coefficient $C_{damp}$	$1.06 \times 10^5$	Calibrated

## 4. Results and analysis

### 4.1 Seismic signal analysis

The time-domain velocity curve of the seismic signal generated by the “10.10” Baige landslide is shown in Figure 6. The SNR of the vertical (V) and east (E) components is relative higher, compared with north (N) component, roughly reflecting the main slide direction of landslide is E and N. Post-event geological survey showed sliding was mainly in south-east-to-south, approximately eastwards. The driving force of the landslide is gravity, and the surface on which the mass slides is inclined at about 35°, so velocity changes in the longitudinal direction are relatively large, and the SNR of the V component of the landslide signal appears high. The morphology of the landslide path means that the landslide stage has a large east-west component and a small north-south component, and in the deposition stage, it reverses. This feature is consistent with the high SNR of the N component at the end of the landslide signal and low SNR of the E component.



**Fig. 6.** Time-domain velocity signal (E/N/V direction) of the seismic generated by the Baige landslide at GZI seismic station, showing a relative high signal-to-noise ratio visually but different respectively (①~⑦ refer to the characteristic stage of the Baige landslide).

The sliding distance of the landslide was c. 600 m longitudinally and c. 100 m laterally, while the receiving stations are over 100 km away; as the sliding scale is relatively small relative to the propagation distance, we treated it as a point source. The velocity curve recorded at a seismic station is the velocity of the crustal vibration below the landslide area propagating to the station, and this is roughly determined by velocity and mass of the landslide body. Therefore, characteristics of the landslide downward movement can be obtained by analyzing the velocity curve recorded at seismic stations. The seismic signal from station GZI (Fig. 6) provides an

example to show the general seismic characteristics of the “10.10” Baige landslide. The time-domain velocity curve recorded at GZI determines the start time of the landslide as 22:06 on October 10, 2018 (all times are UTC+8), with a duration of about 76 s between 22:06:39 to 22:07:51. Five points of velocity change are apparent during the landslide process (Fig. 6, Table 2), dividing the event into three phases of acceleration and three of deceleration.

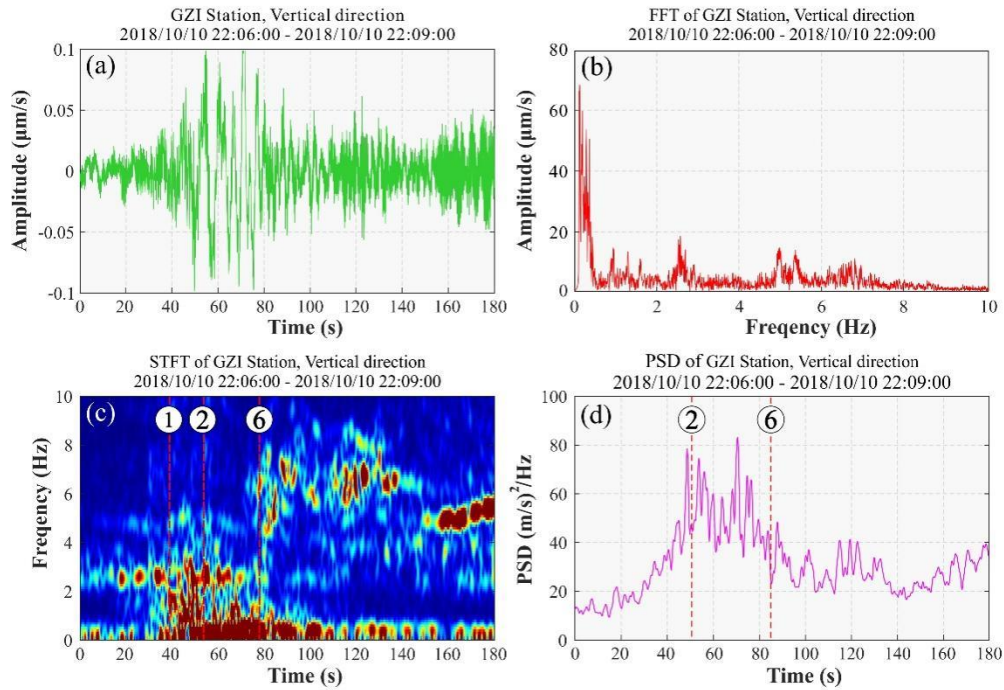
Due to seismic wave propagation, the start time determined by the original seismic signal at the station is slightly later than the true time; what’s more, the signal is mixed by longitudinal wave that stack with transverse wave, which makes the ending time picked by seismic signal much latter than the actual time. All these make the duration of the landslide derived from the original seismic signal would be lagged and longer, compared to the real time. A more accurate landslide duration can be determined by landslide force history inversion as it eliminates the propagation effect. The analysis of the velocity curve recorded at seismic stations helps understand the overall characteristics of the landslide and help verify the rationality of the subsequent Green's function stress inversion results.

**Table 2.** The beginning characteristic stage of the Baige landslide river blocking event picked by seismic signal recorded at GZI station.

Landslide stage						End Time
Start Time	deceleration	acceleration	deceleration	acceleration	deceleration	
22:06:39	22:06:51	22:06:54	22:07:01	22:07:12	22:07:27	22:07:51

The start and end time of sliding is demarcated on the time spectrum of the seismic curve (Fig. 7); strong energy clusters appear around 22:06:39, the intensity begins to decrease at 22:06:54 (UTC+8), and the frequency band narrows and the energy disappears at 22:07:27 (UTC+8). The

time spectrum shows the landslide was concentrated between 22:06:40–22:07:01. The frequency is concentrated in the 0–1 Hz range, and the low-frequency component has a high SNR (0–0.2 Hz), which is conducive to dynamic inversion.



**Fig. 7.** Seismic signals of the Baige landslide as recorded at seismic station GZI. **(a)** Vertical seismic signal; **(b)** Frequency spectrum; **(c)** Time-frequency spectrum and the key times picked frequency from it, that is, start time, 1st acceleration and 3rd deceleration, from left to right respectively; and **(d)** Power spectral density (PSD) curve and the key times picked from it, that is 1st acceleration and 3rd deceleration.

In Figure 7d, the PSD curve is divided into three stages in the longitudinal direction, with the first and third stages corresponding to slow sliding and the second stage to fast sliding. Comparing with the time domain stages (as in Table 2), the first PSD stage corresponds to the first acceleration and deceleration, the second stage corresponds to the second deceleration, acceleration and third deceleration, and the third stage corresponds to the third deceleration. The PSD curve shows a

marked increase in the second stage, indicating rapid downslope sliding, with multiple large fluctuations indicating rapid changes in landslide movement that are characteristic of the sliding stage.

According to Yan et al (2021), the frequency of landslide hazard seismic signals is usually low (0~5 Hz), and the morphology in the time-frequency domain and time domain presents single-peak or double-peak characteristics; while the frequency of flood or high-density flow seismic signals is usually high (5~50 Hz), and its morphology in the time-frequency domain and time domain is mostly flat. Combined with this landslide seismic signal has relatively low frequency (0~1 Hz) and the single-peak feature in time and time-frequency characteristics, apparently different from the spectrum (main frequency :15~30 Hz) of the outburst flood signal on October 12, 2018 (Xu et al., 2018). So, we think there was no flood discharge during the landslide process.

## 4.2 Dynamic inversion of landslide

Seismic data were processed using the following procedure before carrying out the landslide force history inversion. Firstly, they were deconvolved with the instrument response to obtain displacement; then a 4th-order Butterworth bandpass filter in the frequency band of 0.006–0.2 Hz was then applied; and finally, the records were resampled at a sampling rate of 5 Hz. The processed seismic records have a high signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) as shown in Table 3. Sixteen seismic traces with an SNR larger than 10 dB were selected to carry out the inversion.

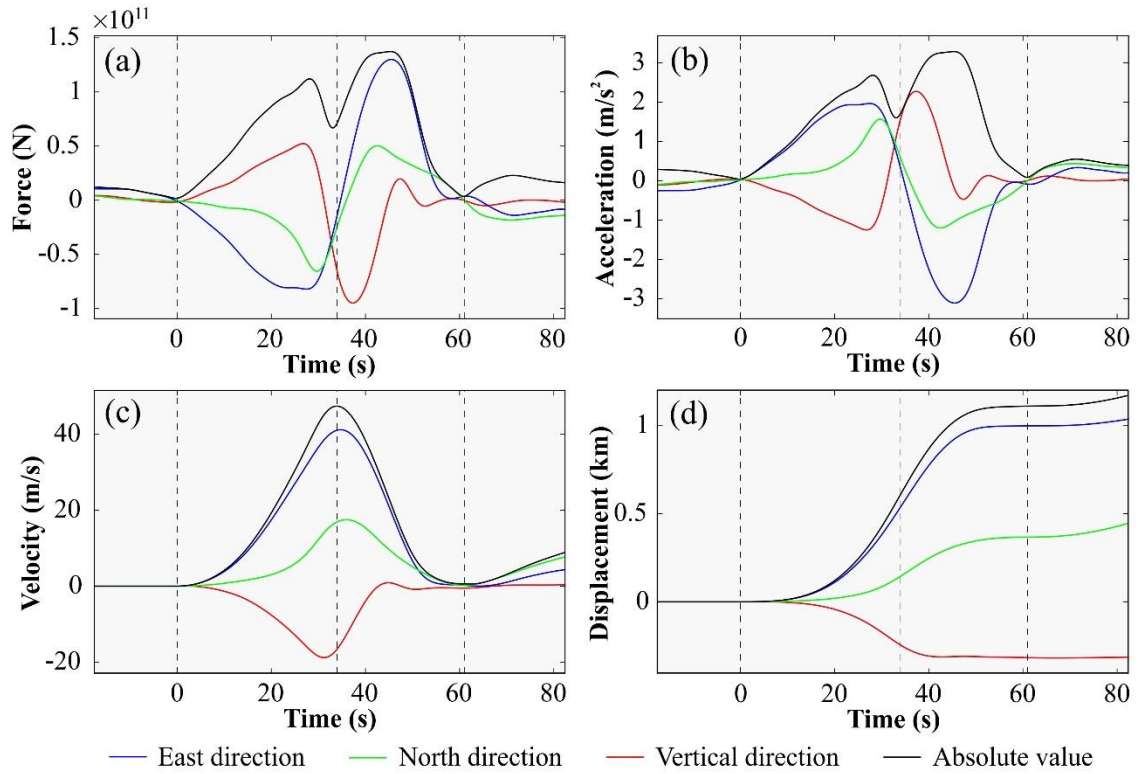
**Table 3.** SNR of seismic signals used in the inversion and CC and VR of the inversion results

Seismic Station		SNR	CC	VR
BTA	Z	19.19	0.96	0.90
	E	4.28	0.56	0.28
	N	8.45	0.60	0.34

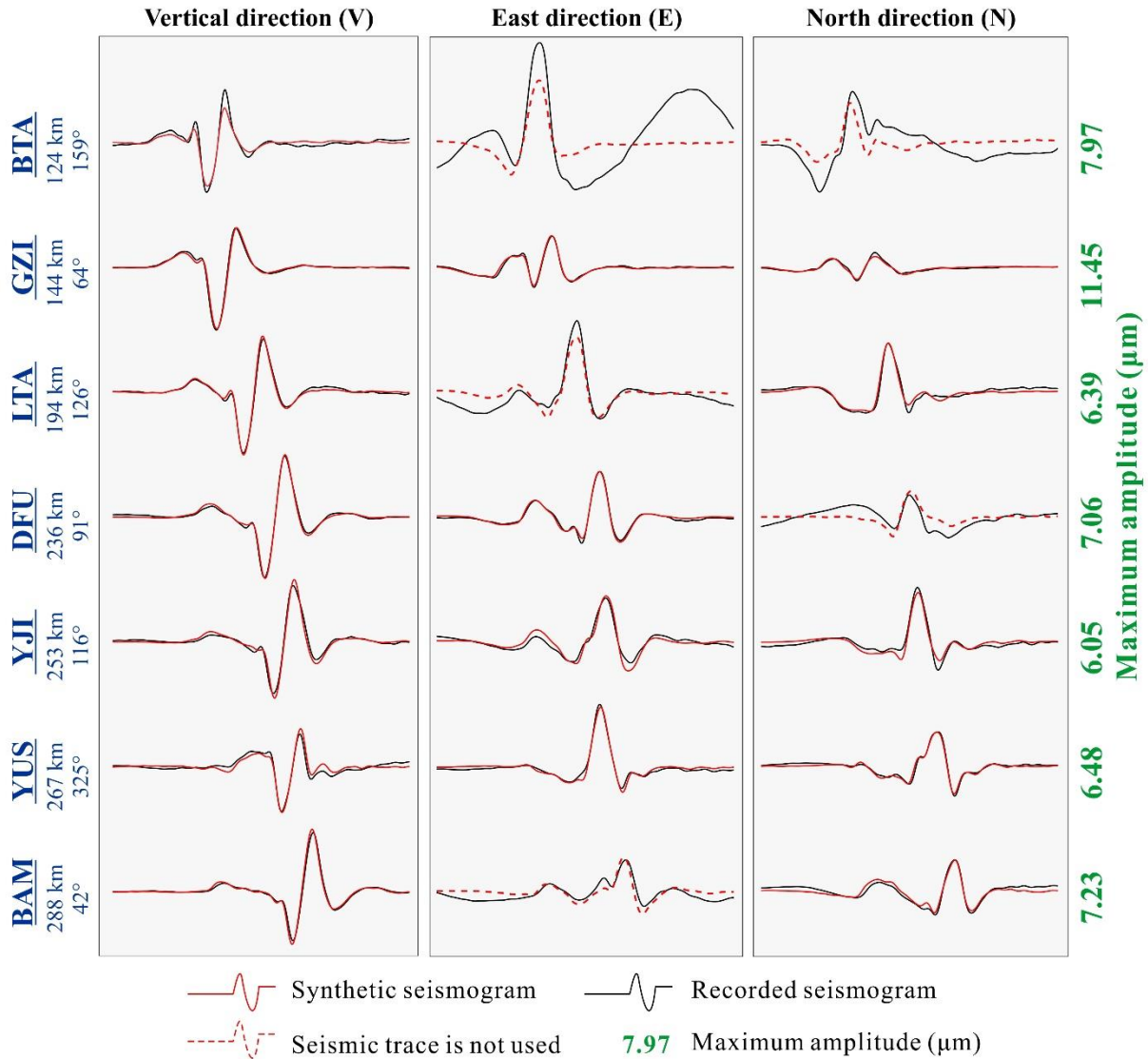


GZI	Z	29.63	0.99	0.99
	E	20.39	0.99	0.98
	N	15.29	0.97	0.94
LTA	Z	24.67	0.99	0.98
	E	7.92	0.86	0.71
	N	15.12	0.97	0.94
DFU	Z	23.60	0.99	0.99
	E	17.58	0.99	0.98
	N	5.92	0.54	0.28
YJI	Z	22.58	0.98	0.97
	E	11.64	0.93	0.85
	N	16.75	0.95	0.90
YUS	Z	18.05	0.94	0.89
	E	19.39	0.98	0.97
	N	18.01	0.98	0.96
BAM	Z	21.48	0.99	0.98
	E	5.86	0.74	0.53
	N	10.91	0.94	0.88

The inverted force histories are shown in Fig. 8. The good fit of the synthetic and recorded seismic waveforms in Fig. 9 and the high cross-correlation (CC) and variance reduction (VR) between synthetic and recorded seismograms provided in Table 3 indicate the high quality of the inversion results. The inverted forces show landslide initiation at 14:05:37.6, with ~61 s duration of the main motion.



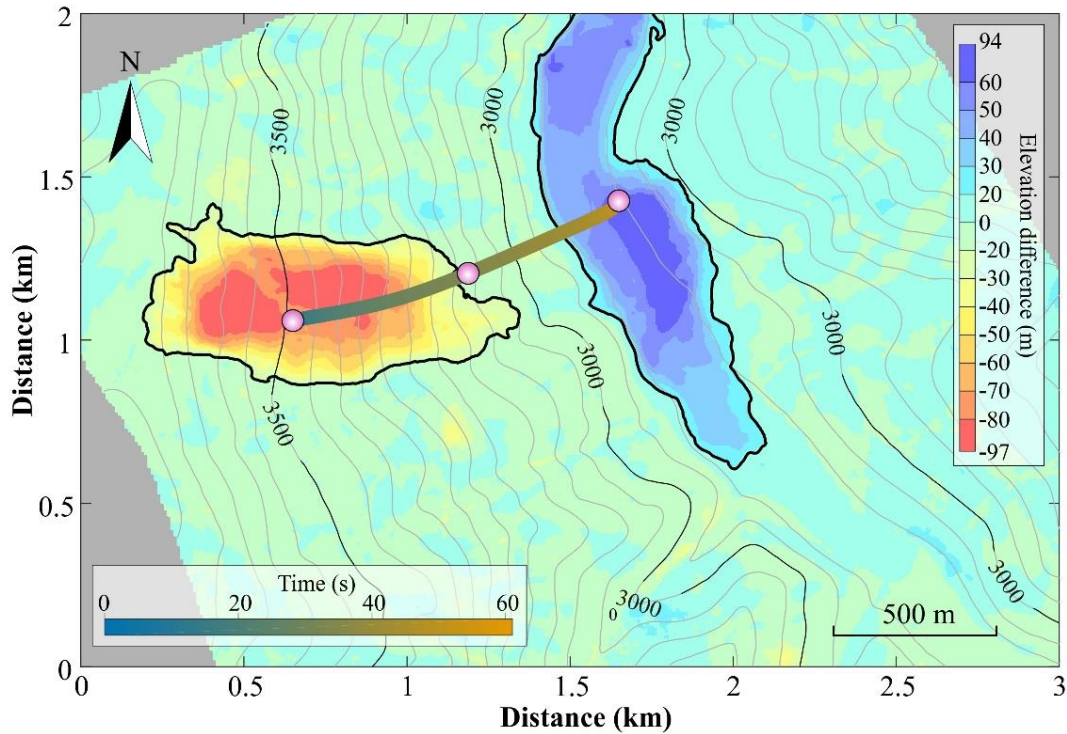
**Fig. 8.** Dynamic inversion used to obtain Baige landslide characteristics. **(a)** Inverted force time history; **(b)** Estimated acceleration distribution over time; **(c)** Reconstructed velocity distribution over time from the inverted landslide force time history; **(d)** Reconstructed displacement distribution over time from the inverted landslide force time history. Corresponding absolute values are shown as black lines. Dashed vertical black lines marked the landslide start and end times (the first and third ones) and the time that the sliding mass reached the maximum speed (the middle one).



**Fig. 9.** Seismograms of the Baige landslide. Synthetic (red lines) and recorded (black lines) seismograms are compared. Red dotted lines indicate that the seismic trace was not used in the inversion because their SNR is smaller than 10 dB. Station name, distance from study site (km) and azimuth (degree) are given to the left of each trace (see Fig. 1d for locations), and the maximum amplitude of the three components is given in  $\mu\text{m}$  to the right.

By comparing the DEMs before and after the event, we determined the mass centers of the source area and the depositional area and subsequently derived the displacement of the center of the sliding mass; then, by minimizing the predicted and actual displacements, we estimated the

sliding mass as  $4.2 \times 10^{10}$  kg. The recovered sliding trajectory fit well with the observations, shown in Fig. 10. We used the estimated sliding mass to determine the acceleration and velocity distributions over time (Figs. 8b to 8d).



**Fig. 10.** Reconstructed horizontal trajectory of the Baige landslide from the seismic dynamic inversion. The base map is the elevation difference derived from DEMs and the reconstructed trajectory is shown by the colored dots and connecting timeline.

The inversion results show two stages of landslide movement, 34 s of acceleration followed by 27 s of deceleration, which are separated by the vertical dashed black lines in Fig. 8. The sliding mass reached a maximum velocity of 47.4 m/s at the end of the acceleration stage and then rapidly decelerated (Fig. 8c). At c. 50 s, the vertical component shows reverse force and velocity, indicating this was when the main sliding mass traveled over the Jinsha River. The force of the E and V components increases in a nearly linear manner in the first 26 s, but then decreases rapidly.

The reconstructed horizontal trajectory of the landslide (Fig. 10) indicates that the front of the sliding mass ran up the opposite valley wall after it crossed the Jinsha River.

### **4.3 Numerical modeling results**

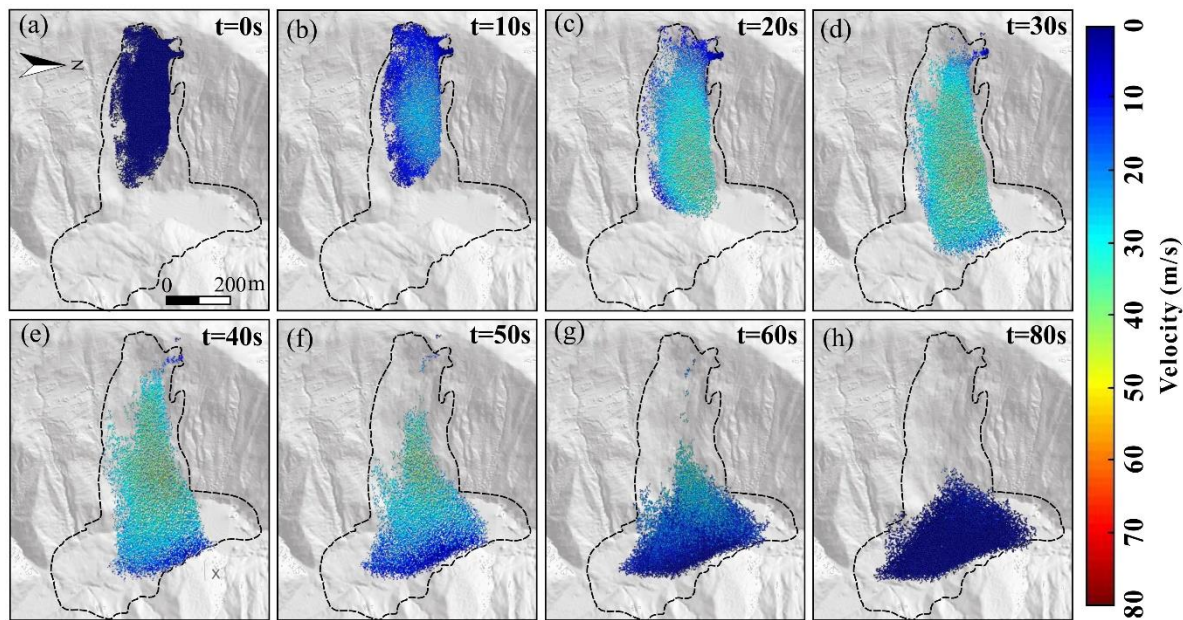
According to the results of numerical simulation the movement process of the “10.10” Baige landslide can be divided into three stages: (1) sliding (0–20 s); (2) acceleration when entering the river (20–40 s); and (3) diffusion and accumulation (40–80 s). The velocity distribution through each stage of the simulated landslide is shown in Figure 11.

At the start of the simulation, the connection between particles inside and outside the sliding source area was broken simultaneously to initiate the landslide, which then rapidly fell with a constant (gravitational) acceleration. Due to the small particle friction coefficient (0.0897), simulated average velocity and average displacement growth rate are both higher than that determined in the inversion until 18 s, but their variation trends are similar. From the square residue results, there is little difference between the simulated and inverted landslide velocity and displacement at this stage, as shown in Fig. 12.

In the second stage, the landslide body is moving downwards at a constant acceleration in the simulation, but the inversion shows increased acceleration; so, simulated average velocity and displacement appear to be substantially lower than the inversion. However, the time to reach peak velocity is similar for the simulation (32.8 s) and inversion (32 s). For both velocity and displacement, square residue between the inversion and simulation reaches a maximum in this stage, with  $S^2$  of  $2.19 \times 10^2$  and  $2.88 \times 10^4$ . At 40 s, the particles at the front edge of the landslide

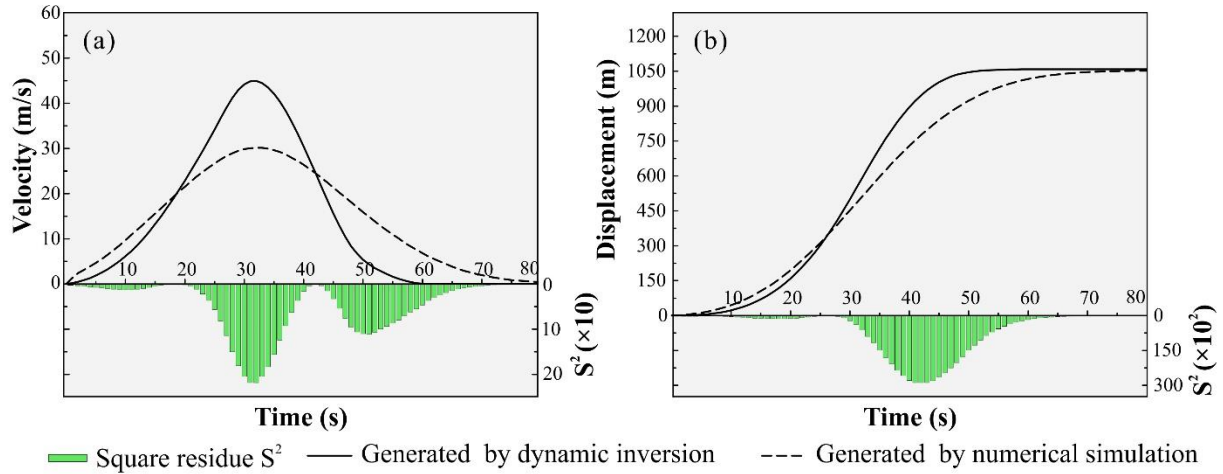
are stationary due to the obstacle provided by the valley wall/mountain slope on the opposite bank of Jinsha River.

In the third stage, from 40 s, particles in the middle and rear of the landslide body continue to move downwards, spreading and accumulating along the river, with a constant deceleration. After 60 s, the simulated average displacement reaches 1020 m and levels off thereafter, which corresponds well with the inversion. Most particles in the landslide body have accumulated and are stationary at this stage, but a few particles on the trailing edge are still moving. By 80 s, the average velocity tends to 0, showing that landslide movement has ended. The square residue of velocity residuals has a secondary peak around 50 s, while the displacement square residue decreases gradually. Overall, the simulated accumulation area is relatively small compared with that derived from DEM differencing, although the location of maximum thickness corresponds well (Fig. 13b). The CSI is calculated as 0.65, which suggests the simulation is moderately good.

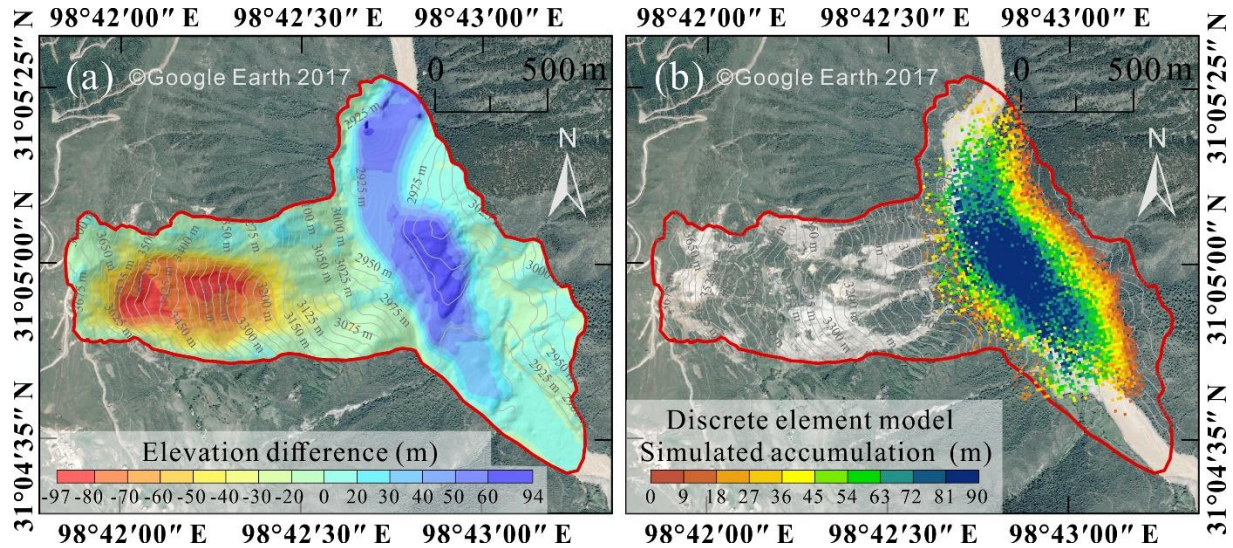




**Fig. 11.** Simulated landslide velocity distribution calculated in MatDEM. (a)  $t=0$  s; (b)  $t=10$  s; (c)  $t=20$  s; (d)  $t=30$  s; (e)  $t=40$  s; (f)  $t=50$  s; (g)  $t=60$  s; (h)  $t=80$  s. The digital terrain model (DTM) data of Fig 11. are from the authors' own UAV photography measurements.



**Fig. 12.** Comparison of landslide characteristics simulated using discrete element model with inversion results. (a) Average velocity; (b) Average displacement.



**Fig. 13.** Comparison of elevation change associated with the Baige landslide. (a) Estimated from pre- and post-failure topography; (b) Calculated using the discrete element model. The remote sensing image map data of Fig 13.a. and b. are from the © Google Earth 2017.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Field observation and dynamic inversion

Using the empirical relationships of Chao et al. (2016) and Ekström and Stark (2013), the maximum inverted force of  $1.37 \times 10^{11}$  N gives an estimated sliding mass of  $5.5 \times 10^{10}$  kg and  $7.4 \times 10^{10}$  kg, respectively, which are about 1.32 and 1.77 times of our estimation of about  $4.2 \times 10^{10}$  kg from landslide force inversion. We further use a density of  $2.4 \times 10^3$  kg/ m<sup>3</sup> (Zhang et al., 2019) to estimate the volumes corresponding to these masses. The results are  $1.75 \times 10^7$ ,  $2.29 \times 10^7$ , and  $3.08 \times 10^7$  m<sup>3</sup>, accounting for 89%, 117%, and 157% of that derived from DEM differences. All estimated volumes are consistent with the DEM-derived volume in general, only that the estimates from empirical relationships are slightly larger. This is not surprising as we used a different frequency band in our inversion (0.006–0.2 Hz) than the two studies (e.g., Ekström and Stark (2013) used the frequency band 0.0067 – 0.0286 Hz(35–150 s)). Previous work has shown that, for a given event, use of different frequency bands produces landslide force histories of different amplitudes (Hibert et al., 2014; Moore et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2020b). As a comparison, we performed inversion in the frequency band 0.0067 – 0.0286 Hz, which gave a maximum force of  $1.03 \times 10^{11}$  N and sliding mass estimates of  $4.20 \times 10^{10}$  kg and  $5.60 \times 10^{10}$  kg that are more consistent with our estimation. The newly estimated volumes from empirical relationships are also closer to the DEM-derived volume, accounting for 89% and 119%, respectively. Since the frequency bands that we used in the two inversions have similar lower cutoff frequencies, both of which include the duration of sliding (Gualtieri and Ekström, 2018; Toney and Allstadt, 2021), the kinematic parameters estimated from both inversion results are essentially similar in their characterization of overall landslide motion. We used the frequency band including relatively higher frequency energy (up to 0.2 Hz) in the inversion to allow finer scale characteristics of the forces and landslide motion



to be analyzed (Zhao et al., 2015), such as the near-linear increase of the vertical component force in the first 26 s and subsequent abrupt decrease.

## 5.2 Link with numerical modeling

The numerical simulation combining signal inversion and field data more realistically reflects the landslide process than that based on field data alone. Differencing of pre- and post-landslide terrain data is commonly used to calibrate discrete element simulations; however, it is a recognized limitation that this method does not inform on whether the landslide process is correctly modeled. Different combinations of discrete element parameters may produce very similar superposition results even if the motion processes differ. In this study, the simulation is calibrated by the accumulation characteristics, and then the landslide movement process is further constrained by the inversion of the seismic signal. The final simulation results produced CSI of 0.65,  $\delta T_{vmax}$  of 2.5%,  $\delta D_{max}$  of 0.6%,  $\delta T$  of 33.3%,  $\delta V_{max}$  of 33.3% ( $\delta T_{vmax}$ : error of time corresponds to peak velocity from simulated and inversed;  $\delta D_{max}$ : error of peak displacement from simulated and inversed;  $\delta T$ : error of time of landslide from simulated and inversed;  $\delta V_{max}$ : error of peak velocity from simulated and inversed), indicating they reflect the whole process of movement and accumulation well, overcoming the limitations of traditional methods.

Differences in the kinetic characteristics of different landslide phases between the numerical simulation and inversion are highlighted using analysis of square residue (Fig. 12). For example, the inversion results simulate the sliding stage (0–20 s) best, the diffusion and deposition stage (40–80 s) second, and the acceleration stage (20–40 s) least. The good simulation of the sliding

stage may be due to the fracture zone not yet being completely detached, so landslide movement is dominated by sliding of the whole body, which the theoretical assumption in the inversion approach. In the acceleration stage of large-scale landslides, friction between the sliding rock and soil and the base generates heat, which causes thermal compression and fluidization, leading to soil weakening (Wang et al., 2017, 2018). Reduction in the friction coefficient means the landslide moves faster, however, this factor is not considered in the current inversion model, so it underestimates peak velocity (Fig. 12). Despite the differences in kinematics, the simulation is essentially consistent with reality in terms of accumulation and movement characteristics.

### **5.3 Reconstruction of landslide process**

The Baige landslide has been the focus of much previous research (Xu et al., 2018; Deng et al., 2019; Fan et al., 2019a; Ouyang et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2020c), however, this study is the first analysis that couples seismic signal analysis, dynamic inversion, and numerical simulation. Our approach of multi-method mutual verification effectively reduces the inherent ambiguity of each method, and multi-method analysis improves the rationality and reliability of the results. Based on the characteristics of the “10.10” Baige landslide derived from our seismic signal inversion and discrete element model simulation analysis, we have developed a generic model of landslide dynamics (Figure 14). Our findings show the landslide was triggered by detachment of the weathered layer with severe top fault segmentation and the landslide process comprised four stages: initiation, main slip, blocking, and deposition, as outlined below.

1. Initiation stage (Fig. 14a): The fracture zone on the upper part of the first-level platform loses stability and slides down under the action of gravity. Landslide debris is hindered by friction

on the surface of the main sliding zone, so the landslide body moves relatively slowly. Increasing debris accumulates on the first-level platform and the lower main sliding area, which increases instability of the weathered layer, and other debris continues to fall downslope. The surface weathering layer of the main sliding area starts to slide, and the landslide body forms after the first fracture in the fracture development zone. Cascading from the initial fracture, continuous fracturing and sliding of the shear zone causes the landslide body to gradually increase; sliding of the top surface of the main sliding zone increases the scale of the landslide body. Downward sliding gradually accelerates as the landslide body increases, but friction in the main sliding area then acts to decelerate the mass; the deceleration process can be seen in the signal recorded at seismic station GZI (Fig. 7). As a result, acceleration increases slowly over c. 10 s; this is evident in both the inversion and numerical simulation results.

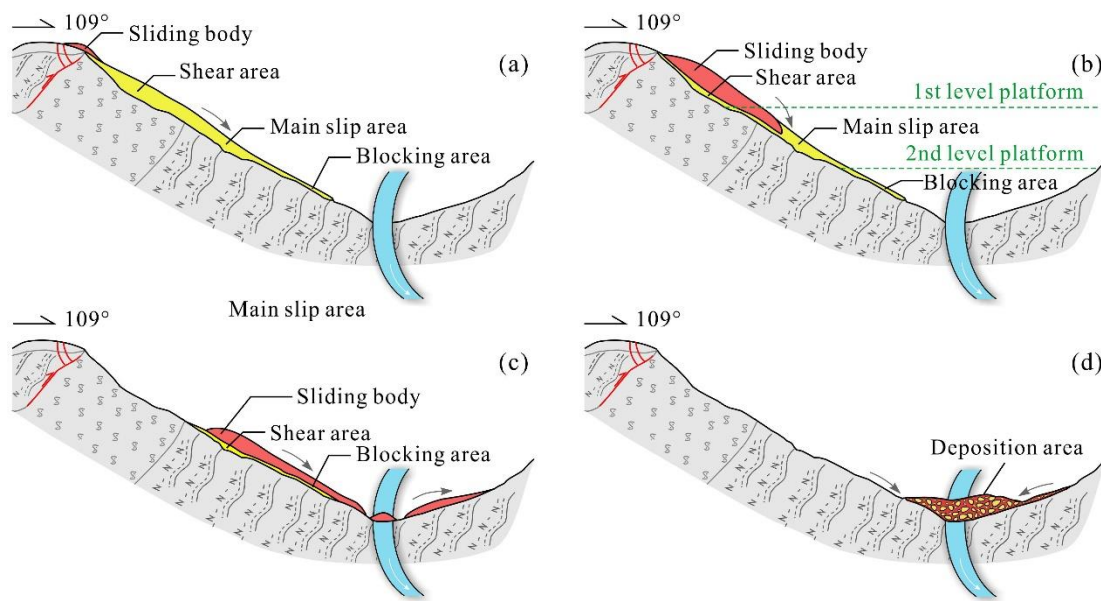
2. Main slip stage (Fig. 14b): The main sliding area gradually loses stability and slides rapidly under the control of structural surfaces formed by weathering; the landslide body passes through the main sliding area and enters the wide and gentle second level platform where resistance is relatively high. After crossing the second level platform, the landslide enters the slip resistance zone where the degree of weathering is relatively weak, so the scouring action of the landslide body drives resistance. The effect of both sliding and anti-slip zones on the landslide body is relatively weak and is characterized well by the seismic signal in the time domain and the inverted acceleration curve. The initial sliding stage of the main sliding zone is reflected in the gradually increasing acceleration that peaks when the landslide body reaches the second level platform, and then decreases. When acceleration is approximately zero, the front part of the landslide has entered

the river, and velocity of the landslide body peaks; the timing of maximum velocity in the inversion and simulation is consistent, at 32 s and 34 s, respectively (Fig. 12a).

3. Blocking stage (Crawling up the opposite valley wall) (Fig. 14c): After passing through the anti-slip area, the landslide detaches at high speed at an altitude of c. 2950 m and loses support of the ground surface. Part of the landslide body accumulates in the river and part hits the opposite (left) bank of the Jinsha River at a high speed and crawls upwards against the valley slope. During the upward movement, landslide debris spreads upstream and downstream, scouring the left bank of the river (SA3 in Fig. 1c) and a small area of the right bank (SA4 in Fig. 1c). Landslide debris reaches a maximum elevation of 3045 m on the opposite slope, then slides downslope under the action of gravity, forming debris strips like the scratches found on the sliding surface. Some debris remains on the relatively gentle slope of the left bank. The main feature of this process is that the action of gravity changes the force of the landslide body from dynamic to resistance; this is well reflected in the time-domain seismic curve and inversion results (Fig. 8), where the acceleration switches rapidly from increasing to decreasing over c. 10 s. As the upward crawling situation was not considered in the model design, the numerical simulation failed to describe the process.

4. Deposition stage (Falling back and accumulation) (Fig. 14d): Debris rapidly falls back down under the action of gravity, colliding with debris in the traction area of the river channel and interacting with stream flow to form a jet stream. Some finer particles in the landslide body mix with the sandblasting water to form a water-sand jet that discharges diagonally across the river, toward the downstream left bank (SA5 in Fig. 1c) and upstream right bank (SA4 in Fig. 1c). Most of the detrital material stops moving and is deposited in the river channel, forming a barrier dam

that starts to pond water. Under gravity and the action of water flow, small fragments at the top of the dam body lose stability and form a secondary slip zone (SA1 and SA2 in Fig. 1c) that becomes a drainage channel. The acceleration change during this downturn is roughly the same as the change trend of the main sliding phase. Acceleration first gradually increases and then decreases to zero before entering the deceleration phase. The seismic curve in the time domain and the inverted acceleration curve both characterize this process well, and the inversion results give a duration of c. 10 s.



**Fig. 14.** Schematic diagram of the Baige landslide model. **(a)** Stage 1 –initiation; **(b)** Stage 2 – main slip; **(c)** Stage 3 – crawling up against the slope (blocking); **(d)** Stage 4 – falling back and accumulation (deposition).

## 5.4 Research contribution

Post-event geological survey can examine depositional characteristics of the landslide and weathering and fracture conditions of rocks in the slide source area, which provides some information for understanding landslide causal processes. The seismic signal provides some

information on landslide evolution, with the low-frequency component reflecting the overall movement trend of the landslide and the high-frequency component reflecting detailed characteristics of the movement process. Experienced researchers can reconstruct the landslide process using a combination of geological survey and seismic signal analysis. However, the propagation effect of the stratum means that the seismic signal does not completely correspond to landslide movement and may generate false images, as well as confounding precise determination of landslide start time and duration.

Landslide dynamic inversion based on the long-wavelength information of the seismic signal eliminates the propagation effect which allows the dynamic parameter curve of the landslide to be obtained, giving a relatively accurate determination of landslide start and end time and event duration. The dynamic inversion result reflects the change process of the overall movement trend of the landslide (the low-frequency trend) and can be used to verify the results of combined geological survey and seismic signal analysis. The low-frequency (0~0.2 Hz) component of dynamic parameters, as provided by dynamic inversion, can guide the all band frequency motion, constraining the high frequency (>0.2 Hz) movement, analysis of the landslide process, which helps to reduce ambiguity.

The accuracy of numerical simulation results depends on scientific models and accurate parameters. When static parameters such as pre- and post-landslide topography are used to select parameters and constrain results of numerical simulation, there are often multiple solutions. The accuracy of the landslide dynamic with time evolution process will not be determined using only the calibration of the depositional morphology, because different velocities, evolutionary processes may produce similar accretionary landforms (An et al. 2021; Mergili et al. 2017), especially for large scale landslides like Baige, which occur next to deep-incised valleys. Compared with the study of An et al. (2021), which mainly focuses on force time history inversion, we further added the velocity and displacement characteristics retrieved from seismic signals to conduct dynamic quantitative constraints on dynamic parameters and improve the credibility of numerical simulation, so as to carry out efficient simulation of landslide process. The improved simulation

allows in-depth analysis of frequency motion characteristics of the landslide, such as speed change, characteristics of each stage, etc. These characteristics can also be used to verify and optimize the landslide process to improve analysis results.

Each of the three methods has disadvantages which may lead to errors and ambiguities in analyzing landslides. However, the combined use and mutual verification of the different methods can effectively avoid ambiguity and improve the reasonableness of results.

## **6. Conclusions**

In this study, we used on-site geological survey, landslide seismic signal analysis, dynamic inversion, and numerical simulation to provide a comprehensive analysis of “10.10” Baige landslide. We used short-time Fourier transform (STFT) and PSD to analyze the seismic signals for Baige landslide. We then reconstructed the landslide force history by direct deconvolution of the observed seismograms with Green’s functions. We then developed a method that use seismic inversion to constrain and calibrate the numerical input parameters using DEM. After calibrating the parameters of the numerical models, the dynamic process of the “10.10” Baige landslide was analysed. Nevertheless, several key issues, such as friction coefficient decreases as the landslide progresses, base entrainment, particle breakage, are not considered in the DEM, which leads the difference between simulation and inversion, should be considered in future research.

## **7. Appendix 1**

### **Macro and Micro Conversion Formula of Discrete Element Model**

There is an analytical solution between the macro and micromechanical parameters of the tightly packed discrete element model, that is, the conversion formula proposed by Liu et al. (2013). For the linear elastic model, there are five micromechanical parameters, that is, the normal stiffness ( $K_n$ ), shear stiffness ( $K_s$ ), breaking displacement ( $X_b$ ), shear resistance ( $F_{s0}$ ), coefficient of friction ( $\mu_p$ ) can be defined by Young's modulus ( $E$ ), Poisson's ratio ( $\nu$ ), tensile strength ( $T_u$ ), compressive

strength ( $C_u$ ) and coefficient of intrinsic friction ( $\mu_i$ ). The conversion formulas are as follows:

$$K_n = \frac{E}{\sqrt{3(1-2\nu)(1+\nu)}} \quad (A1)$$

$$K_s = \frac{E(1-4\nu)}{\sqrt{3(1-2\nu)(1+\nu)}} \quad (A2)$$

$$X_b = \frac{2K_n + K_s}{2\sqrt{3}K_n(K_n + K_s)} T_u d \quad (A3)$$

$$F_{s0} = \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}\mu_p\right) C_u d \quad (A4)$$

$$\mu_p = \frac{-3\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{3}I}{3 + 3I}, I = [(1 + \mu_i)^{0.5} + \mu_i]^2 \quad (A5)$$

## 8. Acknowledgements

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The probabilistic power spectral densities (PSD) are calculated and plotted using ObsPy (<https://docs.obspy.org/>).

## Data availability

All raw data can be provided by the corresponding authors upon request.

## Author contributions

The authors of this manuscript entitled “Combining seismic signal dynamic inversion and numerical modeling improves landslide process reconstruction” are Yan Yan, Yifei Cui, Jiaojiao



Zhou, Xinghui Huang, Wengang Zhang, Shuyao Yin, Jian Guo, Sheng Hu. Yan Yan is the first author, is responsible for most of the work and paper writing in this research. Yifei Cui is the second author and the corresponding author, is responsible for the processing and verification of the article data. JiaoJiao Zhou and Xinghui Huang is the third, fourth author and is responsible for the production of the article figures and tables. Wengang Zhang is responsible for checking the overall logical structure of the article. Shuyao Yin and Jian Guo is responsible for the numerical simulations. Sheng Hu is responsible for reviewing and editing the manuscript.

## Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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