An improved dynamic bidirectional coupled hydrologic-1 hydrodynamic model for efficient flood inundation prediction 2 Yanxia Shen, Zhenduo Zhu, Qi Zhou, Chunbo Jiang* 3 State Key Laboratory of Hydroscience and Engineering, Department of Hydraulic 4 5 Engineering, Tsinghua University, Beijing, 100084, China 6 Abstract: To improve computational efficiency while maintaining numerical accuracy, 7 coupled hydrologic-hydrodynamic models based on non-uniform grids are used for 8 flood inundation prediction. In those models, a hydrodynamic model using a fine grid 9 can be applied for flood-prone areas, and a hydrologic model using a coarse grid can 10 be used for the rest of the areas. However, it is challenging to deal with the separation and interface between the two types of areas because the boundaries of the flood-prone 11 12 areas are time-dependent. We present an improved Multigrid Dynamical Bidirectional Coupled hydrologic-hydrodynamic Model (IM-DBCM) with two major improvements: 13 14 1) automated non-uniform mesh generation based on the $D\infty$ algorithm was implemented to identify the flood-prone areas where high-resolution inundation 15 conditions are needed; 2) ghost cells and bilinear interpolation were implemented to 16 17 improve numerical accuracy in interpolating variables between the coarse and fine grids. A hydrologic model, two-dimensional (2D) nonlinear reservoir model was 18 bidirectionally coupled with a 2D hydrodynamic model that solves the shallow water 19 20 equations. Three cases were considered to demonstrate the effectiveness of the 21 improvements. In all cases, the mesh generation algorithm was shown to efficiently and 22 successfully generate high-resolution grids in those flood-prone areas. Compared with 23 the original M-DBCM (OM-DBCM), the new model had lower RMSEs and higher

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NSEs, indicating that the proposed mesh generation and interpolation were reliable and stable. It can be adapted adequately to the real-life real flood evolution process in watersheds and provide practical and reliable solutions for rapid flood prediction.

Key words: Coupled hydrologic-hydrodynamic model; Multi-grid generation; Bilinear
interpolation; Computational efficiency and accuracy; Flood simulation

29 **1 Introduction**

Floods are the most frequent natural disasters that seriously harm human health and economic growth. Numerical models are critical for predicting flooding processes to help prevent or mitigate the damaging effects of floods on people and communities (Bates, 2022). Coupled hydrologic-hydrodynamic models are widely used to translate the amount of rainfall obtained from weather forecasting models or rain gauge observations into surface inundation (Xia et al., 2019).

Coupled hydrologic-hydrodynamic models can be generally divided into external 36 (one-way) and internal (two-way) coupling models (see Figure 1). The external 37 38 coupling models utilize hydrographs obtained from hydrologic models as an input for 39 hydrodynamic models in a fixed position, providing a one-way transition (Schumann et al., 2013; Feistl et al., 2014; Choi and Mantilla, 2015; Bhola, 2018; Wing et al., 2019). 40 41 It is powerful tools for watershed flood simulation, in particular large spatial and 42 temporal scale, due to its convenience in model construction. However, this one-way 43 flow information cannot capture the mutual interaction between runoff production and flood inundation, and the fixed interface is inconsistent with the actual flood process 44 where the inflow discharge positions, flow path, and discharge values change with 45 46 accumulating rainfall.

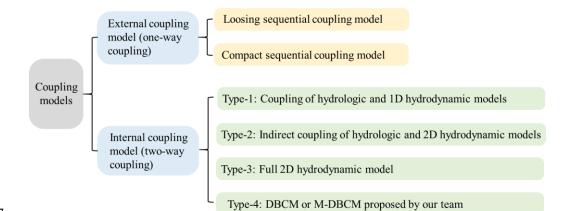


Figure 1 Classifications of coupled hydrologic and hydrodynamic models 48 49 The two-way coupling models are further divided into: the coupled hydrologic-1D hydrodynamic model (HH1D), indirect coupled hydrologic-2D hydrodynamic models 50 (ICM2D), full 2D hydrodynamic models (HM2D), and dynamic bidirectional coupling 51 52 model (DBCM or M-DBCM) proposed by author's team. In the HH1D, the discharges obtained from the hydrologic model is treated as mass source of the 1D hydrodynamic 53 54 model, while the water depth calculated in 1D hydrodynamic model is fed back to 55 hydrologic model, such as the coupled Mike SHE and Mike 11 (Thompson et al., 2004). The application of 1D modeling of overland flow is limited when developing precise 56 57 and reliable flood maps in 2D inundation regions.

In order to overcome the lack of 2D hydrodynamic simulation in HH1D, the 58 ICM2D is proposed, where the runoff first flows into 1D rivers, and then discharge into 59 the 2D inundation regions (Seyoum et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2017 and 2018). For 60 61 example, Mike SHE and Mike11 are coupled to form Mike Urban, and Mike11 and 62 Mike21 are dynamically coupled to form Mike Flood. The indirect coupling between 63 the hydrologic and the 2D hydrodynamic models can be developed by coupling Mike Urban and Mike Flood. The 1D hydrodynamic model is a connection channel between 64 65 the hydrologic and the 2D hydrodynamic models. Compared with the HH1D, this coupling type has satisfactory and acceptable accuracy and is widely used. As the 2D 66

hydrodynamic model is only calculated in local inundation regions, its computational 67 efficiency is greatly improved in comparison with the HM2D. However, the ICM2D 68 69 assumed that the water first discharges into the 1D rivers, and then flows from 1D rivers 70 to the 2D regions. The hydrologic model is not directly coupled with the 2D 71 hydrodynamic model, which is inconsistent with the actual flood processes. In reality, water may be discharged into both 1D channel and 2D waterbodies simultaneously, and 72 73 the hydrologic, 1D and 2D hydrodynamic models should be linked directly. Direct coupling of hydrologic and 2D hydrodynamic models can physically reflect the flood 74 75 processes, which deserves more attention.

76 In HM2D, the 2D hydrodynamic model is used to simulate the overland flow (runoff routing and flood inundation), and the runoff generation serves as its mass 77 78 source term (Singh et al., 2011; Garcia-Navarro et al., 2019; Hou et al., 2020; Costabile 79 and Costanzo, 2021). It has satisfactory and acceptable numerical accuracy and has been widely used. But the development and simulation of HM2D require high-80 81 resolution topographic data at the catchment scale and extensive computational time, 82 which hinder their application in large-scale flood forecasting (Kim et al., 2012). In HEC-RAS (US Army Corps of Engineers, 2023), for instance, the flooding process in 83 84 1D rivers was simulated by a 1D hydrodynamic model, whereas the flooding process 85 in 2D regions was simulated using 2D diffusion wave equations (DWEs) or shallow water equations (SWEs). If the 2D regions were discretized into finer grids and the 2D 86 SWEs was applied, the 1D hydrodynamic model was coupled with the 2D SWEs. It has 87 high numerical accuracy but is computationally prohibitive for large-scale applications. 88 89 Conversely, if the 2D regions were discretized into coarse grids and the 2D DWEs was 90 applied, the 1D hydrodynamic model was coupled with the 2D DWEs, which can 91 expand the application scale at the cost of reducing the accuracy.

92 Jiang et al. (2021) proposed a DBCM based on uniform structured grids, where the hydrologic and 2D hydrodynamic models were coupled in a two-way manner and 93 94 the coupling interface of these two models was time-dependent. The model can automatically evolve the surface flow and fully consider the flow states with both mass 95 and momentum transfer. However, because uniform grids were adopted in DBCM, it 96 inevitably increased the computational cost and time, especially in the large watershed. 97 98 An essential consideration to reduce computational time is mesh coarsening (Caviedes-Voullième et al., 2012). Adaptive mesh refinement (AMR) has been used to 99 100 optimize the grid resolution during flood simulations (Donat et al., 2014; Hu et al., 2018; Ghazizadeh, 2020; Ding et al., 2021; Kesserwani and Sharifian, 2023). Aiming to 101 102 increase computational efficiency by reducing computing nodes, it adjusts grid size for 103 local grid refinement by domain features or flow conditions. Yu (2019) used quadtree 104 grids to divide the computational domain and applied the DBCM to simulate the flooding process. It needs to segment and merge the grid elements repeatedly during 105 106 the calculation, which can be time-consuming and offset the calculation time saved by 107 the optimized grid. Besides, the mesh generation and flood simulation were compiled in the same code base, which increased the computation cost and time. 108

109 Static non-uniform grids have increasingly received attention in recent years, 110 which simplified grid generation procedure compared with AMR (Caviedes-Voullième 111 et al., 2012; Hou et al., 2018; Bomers et al., 2019; Ozgen-Xian et al., 2020). Compared 112 with uniform grids and AMR, it can not only reduce computational nodes, but use different time steps in different grid sizes to further reduce computation time. Shen et 113 114 al. (2021) and Shen and Jiang (2023) divided the computational domain based on static multi-grids, where the different grid size ratios of coarse to fine grids were designed. 115 116 But there were two limitations to this scheme. One limitation is that the grids need to

117 be generated manually, which can be subjective and uncertain. It also needs a heavy workload, especially for large watersheds. Besides the grid generation, the variable 118 119 interpolation between the coarse and fine cells was also not reasonable. There are shared and hanging nodes at the interpolation interface. Shen et al. (2021) assumed the 120 121 variables at the shared nodes were equal to that at the cell center, and the hanging nodes were calculated by the shared nodes. The results showed that this scheme has 122 123 unsatisfactory accuracy and frequently fails to converge. Although the multi-grid-based model can reduce computational time, there are remarkable challenges such as the grid 124 125 partition technique, determination of coarse and fine regions, and variables interpolation between coarse and fine grids. 126

The objective of this study is to develop an integrated system that fully couples 127 the hydrologic and 2D hydrodynamic models, utilize an automated method for efficient 128 multi-grid mesh generation, and resolve variable interpolation between coarse and fine 129 grids more accurately. An improved dynamic bidirectional coupling model (IM-DBCM) 130 131 was presented, where the 2D nonlinear reservoir (NLR) model was coupled with the 2D hydrodynamic model through a CMI. The $D\infty$ algorithm was implemented to divide 132 the computational domain into non-uniform grids automatically. Ghost cells (i.e., the 133 134 virtual cells located on the boundaries of the computational domain) and bilinear 135 interpolation were used to interpolate variables between the coarse and fine grids. Three 136 case studies were conducted, and the simulation results were compared with the original M-DBCM (OM-DBCM) to evaluate the effectiveness of the improvements. 137

138 2 Methodology

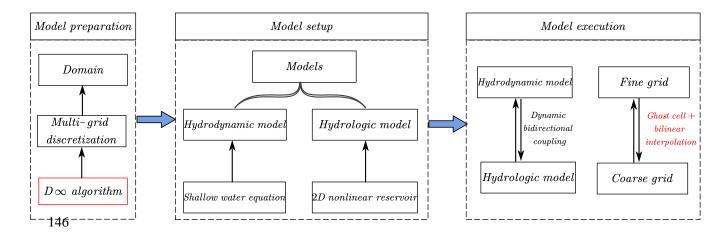
The Fortran programming language was adopted to apply the coupling model. The framework of IM-DBCM is illustrated in Figure 1. The model consists of two components: a hydrologic model (i.e., 2D NLR) that simulates the runoff generation

142 and routing, and 2D hydrodynamic model simulating the flood inundation process.

143 Before the model setup, it is required to first design the grids. For the model execution,

the variables interpolation between coarse and fine grids and the coupling of hydrologic

and hydrodynamic models are the two main issues that must be addressed.



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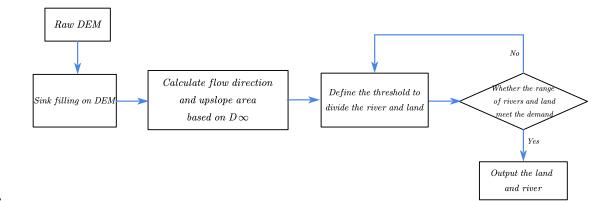
Figure 1 Framework of IM-DBCM

148 2.1 Automated multi-grid generation

Associated with flood models, the design of computational grids that are scalable 149 150 and suitable for all applications is challenging. The grid generation can be considered 151 as a model preprocess, which is the foundation of flood simulation and can influence 152 both computational accuracy and efficiency. In this study, a multi-grid generation method was proposed based on the $D\infty$ algorithm, to generate refined grid cells at flood-153 154 prone areas where high-resolution representation of topographic features is essential for flood simulation while discretizing the rest of the domain using coarse grids. The $D\infty$ 155 algorithm is a method of representing flow directions based on triangular facets in grid 156 DEM proposed by Tarboton (1997). It allocates the flow fractionally to each lower 157 neighboring grid in proportion to the slope toward that grid. The flow direction is 158 159 determined as the direction of the steepest downward slope on the eight triangular facets formed across a 3 × 3-pixel window centered on the pixel of interest, which was detailed 160 by Tarboton (1997). Compared with the D8 algorithm, where the flow is discretized 161

into only one of eight possible directions, separated by 45° , the D ∞ algorithm is more reasonable and accurate for delineating the actual river trend.

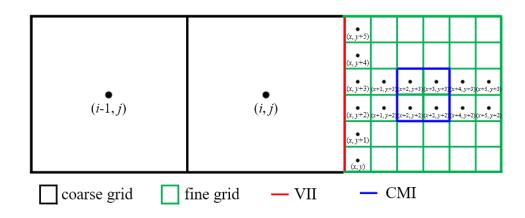
164 The process of discretizing computational domain based on the $D\infty$ algorithm is shown in Figure 2. First, a raw DEM was prepared, and sink filling was performed on 165 the DEM. Second, the $D\infty$ algorithm was applied to determine the flow direction on 166 grids. Subsequently, the upslope area, defined as the total catchment area that is 167 168 upstream of a grid center or short length of contour (Moore et al., 1991), was calculated based on the flow direction. Finally, an area threshold was defined to identify the slope 169 170 lands and derive the river drainage networks from accumulated drainage areas. In a grid cell, if the upslope area was larger than the predefined threshold, it was considered as a 171 river drainage network; otherwise, it was defined as slope lands. The generated slope 172 173 lands and river network were verified through field surveys or satellite images-based 174 estimates. Generally, the river drainage networks present low slopes and hydraulic conveyance, which is subject to flooding. Therefore, these areas should be discretized 175 using fine grids to represent the flooding process in high resolution. However, in the 176 slope lands, fine grids were not required and coarse grids were used to improve 177 computational efficiency. Because the regions of interest were of high resolution, the 178 179 reliability of the prediction would not deteriorate, although the number of grid cells was 180 considerably reduced, which can increase model efficiency and capability for flood 181 simulations over large domains. Compared with manual work, the grid generation 182 based on the $D\infty$ algorithm can both reduce workload and time.



184

Figure 2 Grid generation based on the $D\infty$ algorithm

A schematic of grid generation is shown in Figure 3. Two types of connecting 185 interfaces are presented, which divide the computing domain into three parts. The first 186 type is the red line (Variable Interpolation Interface, VII) between the coarse and fine 187 grids. The grid cell size changes suddenly on both sides of this line. The second type 188 189 (Coupling Moving Interface, CMI) is marked in blue on fine grids, which is moving and time-dependent. The first part represents the coarse-grid areas, where the 190 hydrologic model is used to simulate rainfall-runoff. The other two parts are located in 191 192 the fine-grid areas. The regions between VII and CMI are defined as intermediate transition zones, where the hydrologic model is used to simulate the flooding process. 193 These transition zones facilitate the application of different time steps in different grid 194 195 cell sizes to improve computational efficiency. The hydrologic and hydrodynamic models are dynamically coupled to represent the flooding process on fine grids, and the 196 197 CMI is a coupling boundary.



198

Figure 3. Schematic diagram of grid generation, where *i* and *j* are the coordinates of
coarse grid; *x* and *y* are the coordinates of fine grid; VII is the Variable Interpolation
Interface and CMI is the Coupling Moving Interface

202 **2.2 Variable interpolation between coarse and fine grids**

203 During a flow computation, if a cell has a neighbor of different size, interpolation 204 may be required to approximate variables in certain locations so that the governing equation can be solved smoothly. An example is presented in Figure 4(a), where the 205 206 coarse grid has two eastern neighbors that are half its size. In this case, the variable values of the smaller cells are obtained from those of larger cells. In the traditional 207 method, these variables are directly calculated using certain interpolation methods. 208 209 There are shared (P_1, P_2) and hanging (Q) nodes at the interface between the coarse and fine grids. In Shen et al. (2021), the variable values on shared nodes can be transmitted 210 211 directly, while the values on hanging nodes were obtained by linear interpolation of the shared nodes. This method is simple, feasible and easy to use. However, the variable 212 values are stored at the cell center, and there are no values at the interface nodes. Shen 213 214 et al. (2021) assumed that the values at the interface nodes were equal to that at the cell center. It is inaccurate to make such an assumption, which can bring errors. And the 215 216 resulting error will increase as the cell size increases.



To overcome these drawbacks, ghost cells and bilinear interpolation method were

used to interpolate variables between coarse and fine grids.

219 Figure 4(a) shows the variable interpolation between the coarse and fine grids. 220 Two ghost fine cells were created, which were overlaid with partial coarse grids. The variables on the ghost fine cells were interpolated through the coarse and fine grids 221 between the interface, which were then used as the boundary conditions for the 222 223 calculation of the fine grids at the next time step. The bilinear interpolation method was applied. The variable interpolation may involve variables at locations c_1 , c_2 , c_3 , f_{v1} , f_{v2} , 224 f_1 and f_2 . As the variables are stored at the cell center, the variables at c_1 , c_2 , c_3 , f_1 225 and f_2 are available directly. The values at $f_{v1}^{'}$ and $f_{v2}^{'}$ are obtained via natural 226 neighbor interpolation, as follows: 227

228
$$U_{f_{\nu_1}'} = U_{c_1} + \frac{U_{c_2} - U_{c_1}}{y_{c_2} - y_{c_1}} (y_{f_{\nu_1}'} - y_{c_1})$$
(1)

229
$$U_{f_{\nu_2}} = U_{c_3} + \frac{U_{c_1} - U_{c_3}}{y_{c_1} - y_{c_3}} (y_{f_{\nu_2}} - y_{c_3})$$
(2)

where $U_{f_{v1}'}, U_{f_{v2}'}, U_{c_1}, U_{c_2}, U_{c_3}$ are the variables at locations $f_{v1}', f_{v2}', c_1, c_2, c_3$ respectively; $y_{f_{v1}'}, y_{f_{v2}'}, y_{c_1}, y_{c_2}, y_{c_3}$ are the coordinates in y directions at $f_{v1}', f_{v2}', c_1, c_2, c_3$ respectively. And then, the variables of ghost fine cells at f_{v1} and f_{v2} can be calculated based on that at f_{v1}' and f_{v2}' , as follows:

234
$$U_{f_{v1}} = U_{f_{v1}'} + \frac{U_{f_1} - U_{f_{v1}'}}{x_{f_1} - x_{f_{v1}'}} (x_{f_{v1}} - x_{f_{v1}'})$$
(3)

235
$$U_{f_{\nu_2}} = U_{f_{\nu_2}'} + \frac{U_{f_2} - U_{f_{\nu_2}'}}{x_{f_2} - x_{f_{\nu_2}'}} (x_{f_{\nu_2}} - x_{f_{\nu_2}'})$$
(4)

where $U_{f_{v1}}$, $U_{f_{v2}}$ are the variables of ghost fine cells; U_{f1} , U_{f_2} are the variables at f_1 , f_2 , respectively, which were calculated in the last time step; x_{f_1} , x_{f_2} , $x_{f_{v1}}$, $x_{f_{v2}}$, $x_{f_{v1}}$ and $x_{f_{v2}}$. are the coordinates in x directions at f_1 , f_2 , f_{v1} , f_{v2} , f_{v1} , f_{v2} respectively.

239 The values at f_{v1} , f_{v2} were used as the boundary conditions for the calculation of 240 fine grids.

The variable interpolation from fine to coarse grids is presented in Figure 4(b), where one ghost coarse cell was established. The variables of ghost coarse cells were determined according to the fine and coarse grids between the interface. The variable interpolation may involve variables at locations c'_{ν} , c_1 , f_1 , f_2 . As the variables are stored at the cell center, the variables at c_1 , f_1 , f_2 are available directly. The values at c'_{ν} are obtained via natural neighbor interpolation, as follows:

247
$$U_{c_{v}} = U_{f_{2}} + \frac{U_{f_{1}} - U_{f_{2}}}{y_{f_{1}} - y_{f_{2}}} (y_{c_{v}} - y_{f_{2}})$$
(5)

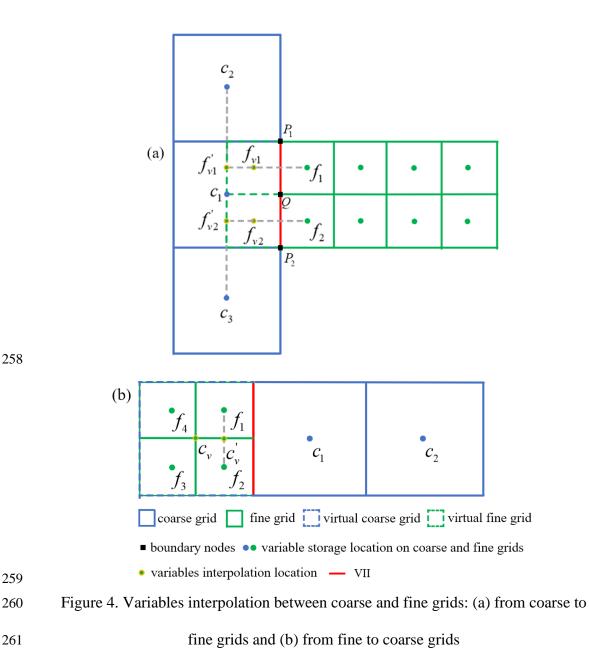
where U_{c_v} , U_{f_1} , U_{f_2} are the variables at c_v , f_1 , f_2 respectively; y_{c_v} , y_{f_1} , y_{f_2} are the coordinates in y direction at c_v , f_1 , f_2 respectively.

And then, the variables of ghost coarse cells at c_v can be calculated based on that at c'_v, c_1 , as follows:

252
$$U_{c_{\nu}} = U_{c_{\nu}} + \frac{U_{c_{1}} - U_{c_{\nu}}}{x_{c_{1}} - x_{c_{\nu}}} (x_{c_{\nu}} - x_{c_{\nu}})$$
(6)

where U_{c_v} are the variables of ghost fine cells; U_{c_1} are the variables at c_1 , which were calculated in the last time step; $x_{c_1}, x_{c_v}, x_{c_v}$ are the coordinates in *x* direction at c_1, c_v, c_v respectively.

The values at c_v were used as boundary conditions for the calculation of coarse grids at the next time step.



2.3 Numerical models 262

2.3.1 Hydrologic model 263

In this study, referring to the runoff calculation in the Storm Water Management 264 Model (SWMM), a 2D NLR model, including water balance and Manning equations, 265 266 was used to simulate rainfall-runoff. In SWMM, the watershed is divided into many water tanks or reservoirs, where 1D NLR model including water balance and 1D 267 Manning equations is used to simulate the runoff (Rossman, 2015). It is a simple and 268 269 efficient method to calculate the runoff routing. In reality, however, the runoff routing is a 2D way, so it is not accurate to calculate the 2D runoff routing using 1D NLR model.
Also, it is difficult to directly couple the 1D NLR model with 2D hydrodynamic model.
Therefore, the 2D NLR model was used to simulate the 2D surface runoff routing in
this study, as shown in Eqs. (7-11).

274
$$\frac{V_i^{n+1} - V_i^n}{\Delta t} = (Q_x)_{in i} - (Q_x)_{out i} + (Q_y)_{in i} - (Q_y)_{out i} + A_i q_{ri}^n$$
(7)

275
$$\left(Q_x\right)_{in\,i} - \left(Q_x\right)_{out\,i} = -\sum_{l=1}^L \left(q_x^n \cdot n_x\right)_l \Delta L_l$$
(8)

276
$$\left(Q_{y}\right)_{in i} - \left(Q_{y}\right)_{out i} = -\sum_{l=1}^{L} \left(q_{y \Gamma}^{n} \cdot n_{y}\right)_{l} \Delta L_{l}$$
(9)

277
$$q_x = \frac{h^{5/3} S_x^{1/2}}{n_r}$$
(10)

278
$$q_{y} = \frac{h^{5/3} S_{y}^{1/2}}{n_{r}}$$
(11)

279 where the superscript n and n+1 is the time step; V is the water volume of grid (m³); $(Q_x)_{in i}, (Q_x)_{out i}$ is the inflow and outflow of grid *i* in *x* direction (m³/s); 280 $(Q_y)_{ini}, (Q_y)_{out i}$ is the inflow and outflow of grid *i* in *y* direction (m³/s); q_{ri} indicates 281 runoff rate of grid *i* (mm/h), which is rainfall intensity minus infiltration rate; A_i is the 282 area of grid i (m²); q_x, q_y are the unit discharge stored at cell-center along x and y 283 direction (m²/s), with h, u and v being water depth (m), flow velocity (m/s) in x and y 284 directions, respectively; $q_{x\Gamma}, q_{y\Gamma}$ are the unit discharge at grid boundary in x and y 285 direction, respectively (m²/s), which are calculated based on q_x, q_y ; ΔL_t is the side 286 length of grid (m); l = 1, 2, 3, ..., L is the number of edges of cell; n_r is the Manning 287 roughness coefficient; S_x and S_y are water level gradients along x and y direction, 288

289 respectively,
$$S_x = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(z_b + h), S_y = -\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(z_b + h)$$
, where z_b is the surface elevation.

290 2.3.2 Hydrodynamic model

291 The 2D SWEs, consisting of mass and momentum conservation equations (Toro
2001), were used to represent the hydrodynamic model.

293
$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial G}{\partial y} = S$$
(12)

294
$$U = \begin{pmatrix} h \\ hu \\ hv \end{pmatrix}, F = \begin{pmatrix} hu \\ huu + gh^2 / 2 \\ huv \end{pmatrix}, G = \begin{pmatrix} hv \\ huv \\ hvv + gh^2 / 2 \end{pmatrix}, S = \begin{pmatrix} q_r \\ -gh\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} - \frac{g}{C^2}u\sqrt{u^2 + v^2} \\ -gh\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} - \frac{g}{C^2}v\sqrt{u^2 + v^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

where U is the conserved variables; F, G are the convection term in the x and y directions; S is the source term; C is Chezy's coefficient, $C = \frac{1}{n_r} R^{1/6}$, where n_r is the

297 Manning roughness coefficient and *R* is the hydraulic radius.

The Finite Volume Method for Conservative Scheme was used to solve the SWEs, which can ensure local mass and momentum conservation in each control volume cell.

300 The Eq. (12) can be discretized based on structured grids, as follows:

301
$$U_{i,j}^{n+1} = U_{i,j}^{n} - \frac{\Delta t}{A_{i,j}} \sum_{l=1}^{L} \left[F^{l} \left(U_{i,j}^{n} \right) dy - G^{l} \left(U_{i,j}^{n} \right) dx \right] + \frac{\Delta t}{A_{i,j}} S \left(U_{i,j}^{n} \right)$$
(13)

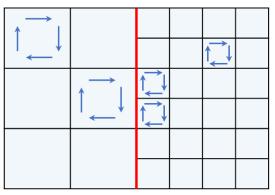
where the superscript n and n+1 is the time step; the subscript i, j refers to the grid i, j; dx and dy are the grid edge length. The meaning of other symbols is the same as before.

The Harten-Lax-van Leer contact (HLLC) approximate Riemann solver was used to solve the convection term. The second-order accuracy in temporal and spatial discretization was obtained based on the Runge-Kutta method and Monotone Upstream-centered Schemes for Conservation Laws (MUSCL) (Van Leer, 1979). The 308 solution of SWEs was detailed in many references (Toro 2001).

309 **2.4 Dynamic bidirectional coupling of hydrologic and hydrodynamic models**

310 The hydrologic and hydrodynamic models were coupled dynamically and bidirectionally. A water depth threshold was defined in advance and used to determine 311 the state of the cell. In a grid cell, if the water depth was lower than the predefined 312 threshold, it was defined as a non-inundation region where the hydrologic model was 313 314 applied. Conversely, if the water depth was higher than the threshold, it was considered an inundation region where the 2D hydrodynamic model was applied. When the rainfall 315 316 intensity increased, the water depth increased because of the gradual accumulation of surface water volume. Once the water depth exceeds the predefined threshold, the non-317 inundation regions defined last time step may change to the inundation regions. The 318 319 inflow discharge positions, flow path, and discharge values subsequently changed. 320 Therefore, a CMI was formed between the inundation and non-inundation regions and the hydrologic and 2D hydrodynamic models were coupled bi-directionally through this 321 322 CMI.

The hydrologic model is rational for the continuous non-inundation regions, and 323 the hydrodynamic model is rational for the continuous inundation regions. However, 324 325 since discontinuity existed at the CMI, the single hydrologic or hydrodynamic models 326 were not acceptable, which was a challenge for the model calculation, as shown in 327 Figure 5. The key issue with the coupled model was to establish a reasonable approach for determining the fluxes passing through the coupling interface, which should 328 integrate the effect of the current flow state obtained from these two models on both 329 330 sides of the coupling interface.



Non-inundation regions CMI Inundation regions

Figure 5 Model calculation at inundation regions, non-inundation regions and CMI A pair of characteristic waves was used to determine the fluxes calculation methods through the CMI. The characteristic waves were calculated as follows:

331

$$S_L = u_{i,j} - \sqrt{gh_{i,j}} \tag{1}$$

336
$$S_R = u_{i+1,j} - \sqrt{gh_{i+1,j}}$$
(2)

where S_L and S_R are the characteristic waves; *u* is the flow velocity (m/s); *h* is the water depth (m); subscript (*i*, *j*) and (*i*+1, *j*) refer to the cells in non-inundation and inundation regions, respectively.

If $S_R > 0$ and $S_L > 0$, the fluxes through the CMI were calculated by the hydrologic model, and the CMI may move toward the non-inundation regions. Therefore, the non-inundation regions shrunk, whereas the inundation regions expanded. Only mass conservation through the CMI can be considered in this situation. If $S_L < 0 < S_R$, the fluxes were calculated by both hydrologic and hydrodynamic models, and the CMI remained unchanged.

If $S_L < 0$ and $S_R < 0$, the fluxes are calculated by the hydrodynamic model, and the CMI may move toward inundation regions. Therefore, the inundation regions shrunk, whereas the non-inundation regions expanded. Both the mass and momentum conservation through the coupling boundary were obtained in the latter two situations. The couplings were detailed in Jiang et al. (2021) and Shen et al. (2021).

351 2.5 Time step

An explicit scheme was used to solve the hydrologic and hydrodynamic models over time. The time step was constrained by the Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy condition (Delis and Nikolos, 2013), where the time step was a dynamic adjustment based on the velocity and water depth in the computational domain. Different time steps were adopted for the coarse and fine grids, and the time step of the fine grids was determined as follows:

358
$$\Delta t_f = C \cdot min\left(\frac{min(\Delta x_f)}{max(|u_f| + \sqrt{gh_f})}, \frac{min(\Delta y_f)}{max(|v_f| + \sqrt{gh_f})}\right)$$
(14)

where Δt_f is the time step of fine grids; *C* is a constant used to maintain format stability; Δx_f and Δy_f are the side lengths of fine grid in *x* and *y* directions; u_f and v_f are the flow velocities on fine grids along *x* and *y* directions, respectively; h_f is the water depth on fine grids.

The time step of the coarse grids (Δt_c) was determined based on that of the fine grids. If the size of the coarse grid was *k* times that of the fine grid, the time step of the coarse grid was determined to be $\Delta t_c = k \Delta t_f$.

366 **3 Results**

The performance of the IM-DBCM was analyzed by applying it to two 2D rainfallrunoff experiments and one real-world flooding process. And the OM-DBCM developed by Shen et al. (2021) was applied to the same cases for comparison with the IM-DBCM.

371 **3.1 Rainfall over a plane with varying slope and roughness**

In this case, a sloping plan measuring $500m \times 400m$ was designed, with slopes

373	$S_{ox} = 0.02 + 0.0000149x$ and $S_{oy} = 0.05 + 0.0000116y$ along the x and y directions,
374	respectively (Jaber and Mohtar, 2003). The Manning coefficient is equal to
375	$n = \sqrt{n_x^2 + n_y^2}$, where $n_x = 0.1 - 0.0000168x$ and $n_y = 0.1 - 0.0000168y$. The rainfall
376	intensity is given by a symmetric triangular hypetograph $r = r(t)$, with
377	$r(0) = r(200 \text{ min}) = 0$ and $r(100 \text{ min}) = 0.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m/s}$. The total simulation time was
378	14,400 s.

Different cases with various grid resolutions were developed to divide the computational domain based on the D ∞ algorithm, as listed in Table 1. In these cases, the size of all the fine grids was $1m \times 1m$. The grid discretization of different cases is shown in Figure S1 in Supplement.

383

Table 1 Different cases designed to simulate

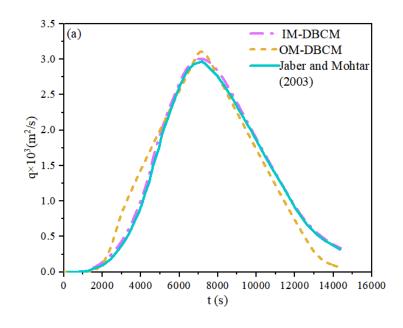
Cases	The ratio of coarse to fine grids	Number of grids
case12	1:2	112,100
case15	1:5	86,840
case10	1:10	83,220

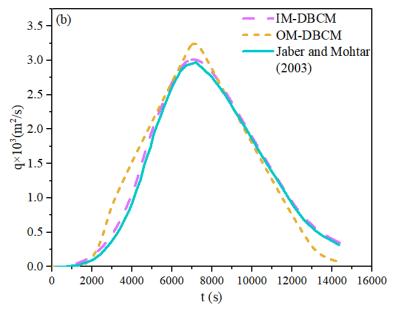
The hydrographs at the outlet node of coordinates of (500m, 400m) obtained from different models are shown in Figure 6. A model proposed by Jaber and Mohtar (2003) was also used to simulate the overland runoff. Because finer grids and small time step were used to divide the computational domain to obtain more accurate results in the model developed by Jaber and Mohtar (2003), the results calculated by Jaber and Mohtar (2003) can be used as a reference solution.

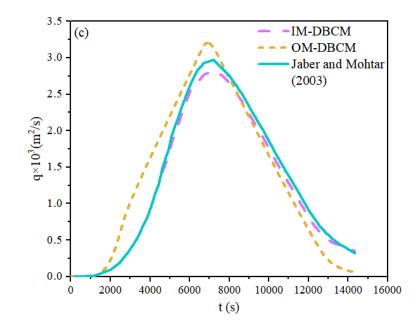
From Figure 6, the IM-DBCM held a shape close to the results simulated by Jaber and Mohtar (2003) in all cases, as well as the peak discharge. But the peak discharge of the hydrograph is slightly overestimated by the OM-DBCM, which may be attributed to the difference in the variable interpolation between the coarse and fine grids. In the

OM-DBCM, variables at the interpolation interface were equal to that at the cell center, 394 which was then used to interpolate variables between the coarse and fine grids through 395 396 shared and hanging nodes. This interpolation method had two drawbacks. Firstly, it is not reasonable to assume the variables at the interpolation interface are equal to that at 397 the cell center, and the resulting error could increase as the grid size increases. Besides, 398 399 compared with bilinear interpolation, the values at the hanging nodes are calculated by 400 linear interpolation through shared nodes, which may result in relatively large errors. The results show that the methods to interpolate variable between the coarse and fine 401 402 grids by developing ghost cells proposed in this study has acceptable accuracy.

To quantitatively assess the performance of IM-DBCM, the Root Mean Square 403 Error (RMSE) of different cases was computed. The RMSEs of case12, case15 and 404 405 case10 were 4.01E-04, 7.85E-03 and 3.25E-02, respectively. It is showed that the error gradually increased with the increasing of the ratio of coarse to fine grids. The IM-406 DBCM may capture the shape of the hydrograph in case12 and case15, both in limbs 407 and peak discharge, but the peak discharge is slightly underestimated in case10. A 408 possible explanation is that, compared to the coarse grids, the fine grids could better 409 capture the geometry of the channel cross-sections. High-resolution grids can better 410 411 represent small-scale topographic features and flow passages (Hou et al., 2018); 412 consequently, the simulation results on case12 and case15 are more satisfactory than 413 those on case10. Similarly, the simulation accuracy of the OM-DBCM also gradually 414 decreased with the increasing of the ratio of coarse to fine grids. Overall, the benefit of using the IM-DBCM for the flood simulations is evident. 415







419 Figure 6 Hydrographs obtained from different models: (a) case12, (b) case15 and (c)

418

case10

421 **3.2 2D rainfall-runoff experiment**

In this case, the IM-DBCM was used to compute the hydrograph generated by uniform rainfall conditions over a simple 2D geometry. The numerical results were compared with experimental data obtained in a laboratory model developed by Cea et al. (2008). The 2D geometry used in the experiment comprised a rectangular basin composed of three stainless-steel planes, each with a slope of 0.05. The basin had two walls that increased the residence time of the runoff in the basin and the length of the outlet hydrograph. The geometric dimensions of the basin are shown in Figure 7.

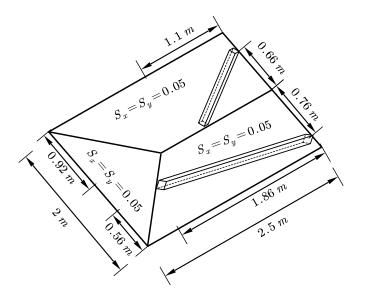


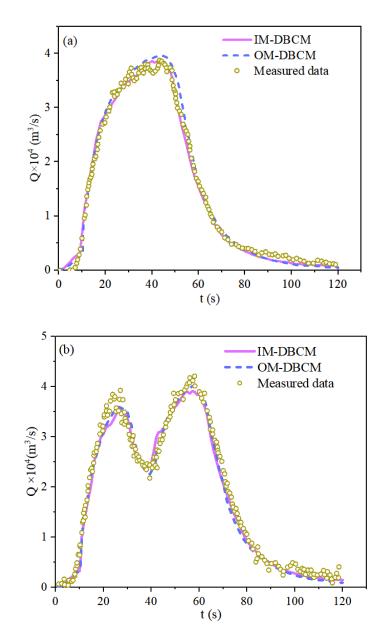
Figure 7. Geometry and size of the 2D basin for the rainfall-runoff experiment
Two rainfall intensities were simulated. In case01, the rainfall intensity was 317
mm/h for 45 s. In case02, the rainfall had an intensity of 320 mm/h for 25 s, then it
stopped for 7 s and started again continuing for 25 s with an intensity of 328 mm/h.

The computational basin was divided into coarse and fine grids based on the D ∞ algorithm. The size of the fine grids was $0.01m \times 0.01m$, whereas that of the coarse grids was $0.02m \times 0.02m$. The grid partition is presented in Figure S2 in Supplement. According to Cea et al. (2008), the Manning coefficient was $0.009 \text{ s/m}^{1/3}$.

438 Figure 8 shows a comparison between the numerical and experimental outlet 439 hydrographs. The shape of hydrographs was well predicted in both cases, indicating that the IM-DBCM could capture the flow process and exhibited satisfactory accuracy. 440 In case02, the first peak discharge rate occurred when the rainfall stopped for the first 441 442 time. Subsequently, the discharge rate began to decrease. After 7 s, rainfall started again, 443 and the discharge rate continued to decrease. The RMSEs of discharge simulated by IM-DBCM in case01 and case02 were 0.107 and 0.023, respectively. The numerical 444 445 results were in good agreement with the experimental data. Compared to the results obtained from OM-DBCM, the simulation results obtained from IM-DBCM were 446

447 closer to the experimental data. The results for case01 were slightly over-predicted by

the OM-DBCM.



449

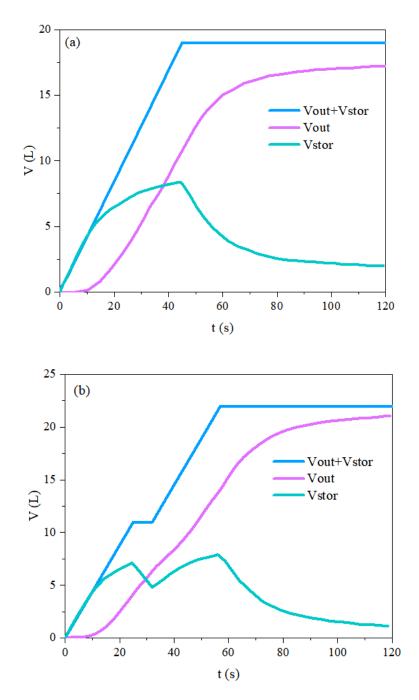


451 Figure 8. Simulated and measured discharge rate at different cases: (a) case01 and (b)

case02

452

To verify the conservation of the IM-DBCM, the inflow and outflow of different cases were determined to represent the water balance, as shown in Figure 9. In case01, the outflow increased with the increasing of simulation time, whereas the water storage increased first and then decreased. When the rainfall stopped at 45 s, water was discharged from the basin; therefore, the water storage decreased. The sum of the outflow and storage was equal to the accumulated rainfall, indicating that the IM-DBCM can ensure the conservation of water mass. In case02, the outflow continuously increased. Two peak flows were observed for the water storage, which was caused by the intermittent rainfall. Overall, the sum of the outflow and water storage was equal to the accumulated rainfall, indicating that the IM-DBCM ensured mass conservation.





465 Figure 9. Inflow and outflow for different cases: (a) case01 and (b) case02, where

466 "Vout" refers to the outflow and "Vstor" refers to water storage in the computational

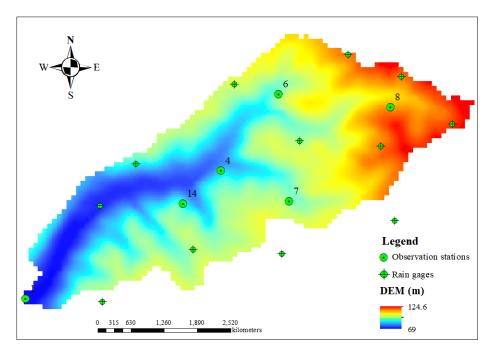
basin

467

468 **3.3 Flood simulation in a natural watershed**

469 The Goodwin Creek watershed, located in Panola County, Mississippi, USA, is often selected as a benchmark to assess the capability of flood models because of 470 sufficient available observed data. Drainage is westerly to Long Creek which flows into 471 472 the Yocona River, one of the main rivers of the Yazoo River, a tributary of the Mississippi River. The Goodwin Creek watershed covers an area of 21.3 km². The 473 474 overall terrain gradually decreased from northeast to southwest, which is consistent with the trend of the main channel, and the elevation ranged from 71 to 128 m. The 475 computational basin and bed elevations are shown in Figure 10. 476

477 Land use in this watershed was divided into four classes including forest, water, cultivated, and pasture, and their Manning coefficients were 0.05, 0.01, 0.03, and 0.04, 478 respectively (Sánchez, 2002). The infiltration coefficients of different soil types were 479 determined according to Blackmarr (1995). The rainfall event in sixteen rain gages (see 480 Figure 10) of October 17, 1981 was chosen for simulation (Sánchez, 2002), and the 481 inverse distance interpolation method (Barbulescu, 2016) was used to calculate the 482 precipitation over the entire watershed. The rainfall duration was 4.8 h. Rainfall was 483 484 spatially distributed at different times, as shown in Figure S3 in Supplement. There 485 were measured data in six observation stations (i.e., 1, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 14) (Blackmarr, 1995), whose locations were shown in Table S1 in Supplement, and the simulated 486 results were compared with the measured data in these stations. 487



488 489

Figure 10. Overview of the Goodwin Creek watershed

The simulations were performed for 12 h. Different cases with various grid resolutions were developed to verify the computational efficiency and numerical accuracy of IM-DBCM, as listed in Table 2. In M-DBCM, the rivers were covered by fine-grid cells with dimensions of 10 m \times 10 m, whereas the coarseness in the rest of the domain was increased to higher levels, as presented in Figure S4 in Supplement. Table 2. Different cases designed to simulate the Goodwin Creek watershed

Cases	The ratio of coarse to fine grids	Number of grids
case12	1:2	104,555
case15	1:5	65,240
case10	1:10	59,431

The OM-DBCM was also used to simulate the rainfall runoff with the same resolutions. The Nash-Sutcliffe efficiency (NSE) was used to quantify errors in each model. The NSEs of IM-DBCM and OM-DBCM are shown in Table 3. From this table, the NSEs of IM-DBCM were higher than that of OM-DBCM at most stations, which was probably caused by the different interpolation method at the interface between coarse and fine grids. It is verified that the IM-DBCM has relatively high accuracy in simulating rainfall-runoff. In OM-DBCM, it is unreasonable to make the variables at the interface between coarse and fine grids equal to that at the cell center, which can bring errors. The induced error will increase as the ratio of coarse and fine grids increase. Therefore, it is also observed that the NSEs of OM-DBCM decreased with the increased ratio of coarse and fine grids. It is indicated that the ghost cells and bilinear interpolation used in the IM-DBCM to interpolate variables between coarse and fine grids can make the simulation more reasonable.

509 Table 3 NSEs of different models ("IM" and "OM" refer to IM-DBCM and OM-

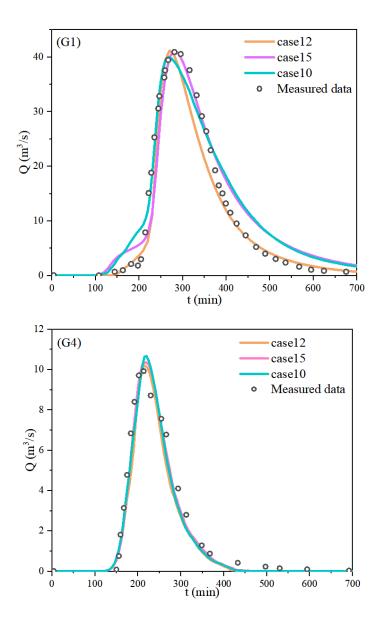
5	1	0
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DBCM, respectively)

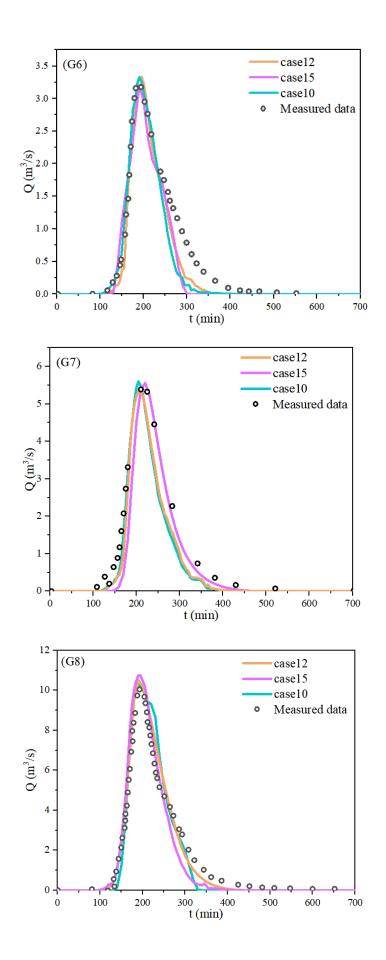
Station	G1		G1		G4		G6		G7		G8		G14	
Model	IM	ОМ												
case12	0.9496	0.9108	0.9611	0.9011	0.9904	0.8982	0.9658	0.9004	0.9435	0.9104	0.9311	0.8804		
case15	0.9399	0.8766	0.9404	0.8800	0.9426	0.8819	0.9258	0.8931	0.9341	0.8942	0.9001	0.7942		
case10	0.9207	0.8261	0.8907	0.8435	0.9513	0.7977	0.9358	0.8525	0.9358	0.8678	0.9135	0.8078		

511 Figure 11 shows a comparison of the measured and simulated hydrographs by IM-512 DBCM at the monitoring gauges, whose locations are presented in Figure 10. At all gauges, the hydrographs obtained from different cases were well aligned with the 513 measured data, which indicates that the IM-DBCM could reliably reproduce the flood 514 wave propagation in the complex topography. The results of case12, in general, were 515 516 better than those of case15 and case10, especially at station G1. A possible explanation 517 is that a finer grid is needed to better capture the watershed geometry and obtain more satisfactory simulation accuracy. The cell size of case15 and case10 is larger than that 518 519 of case12.

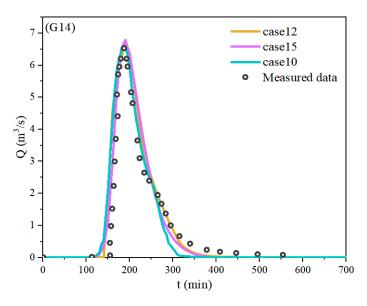
520 Compared with other stations, at station G1, the simulation results obtained from 521 case15 and case10 deviated substantially from the measured data, especially at receding limb of the hydrographs. We deduced that the reason for this discrepancy is not the 522 523 mesh partitioning, but the location of the G1. G1 is located at the watershed outlet, where water flows out of the watershed from here. The errors generated upstream may 524 be accumulated at this station. Despite the deviation, the overall trend of the 525 hydrographs indicated that the IM-DBCM is satisfactory and can reliably reproduce 526 flood wave propagation in complex topography. 527



528



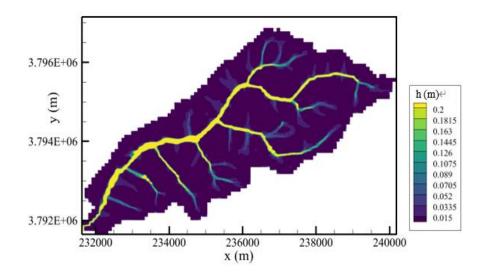




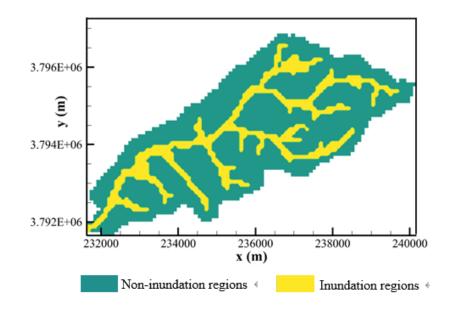
533 534

Figure 11. Hydrographs obtained from different cases

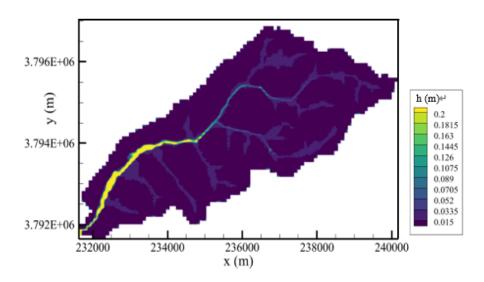
535 The water depth and location of the coupling interface at different times are shown in Figure 12. The position of the coupling interface was time-dependent. From 0 to 5 h, 536 the water depth in the computational basin increased with the rainfall. Once the water 537 538 depth was higher than the predefined threshold, the regions were defined as inundation regions and the hydrodynamic model was used to simulate the rainfall runoff. The water 539 depth peaked in the watershed at 5 h, as shown in Figure 12(a1), and most of the regions 540 were defined as inundation regions, as shown in Figure 12(a2). After 5 h, when rainfall 541 stopped, the water depth in the computational basin decreased (Figure 12(b1)). When 542 543 the water depth was lower than the predefined threshold, the inundation regions defined 544 last time step became non-inundation regions. Accordingly, as shown in Figure 12(b2), 545 the non-inundation regions expanded, whereas the inundation regions decreased. The 546 location of the coupling interface was shifted to the inundation regions defined at the 547 last time step. The results indicated that the coupling interface shifted during the 548 simulation, which was consistent with the flood migration process.



(a1) Water depth at t = 5 h



(a2) Position of the coupling interface at t = 5 h



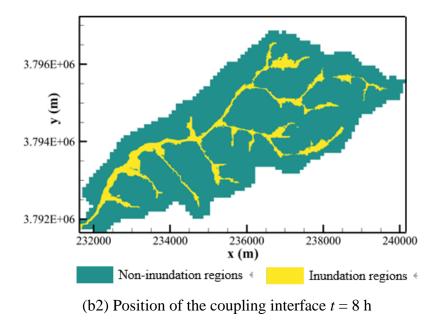


Figure 12. Water depth and position of the coupling interface of the hydrologic-

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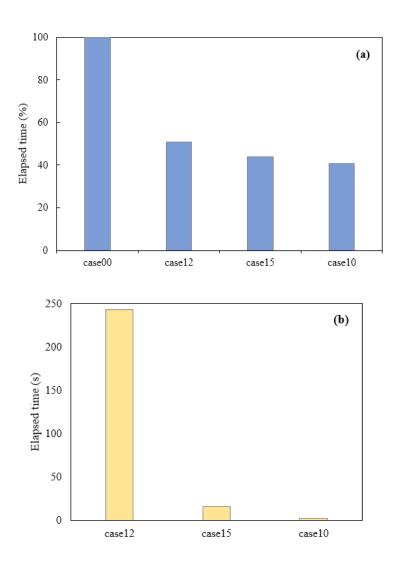
hydrodynamic model at different times

In terms of efficiency, the total execution time of IM-DBCM was compared with 559 560 the uniform grid-based model (case00), as shown in Figure 13. The total execution time of the different cases ranked from highest to lowest is as follows: case00> case12> 561 case15> case10. Uniform fine grids were used to divide the computing zones in case00, 562 and 207.198 computational grids were generated. Compared with case00, most of the 563 areas were discretized with coarse grids, and only a small part of the regions was 564 calculated based on fine grids in IM-DBCM; the computational grids of the multi-grid-565 based model (Table 2) were considerably lower than that of case00. The advantages of 566 using IM-DBCM based on multi-grids for flood simulations are evident. The difference 567 in total runtime between the IM-DBCM and OM-DBCM is the time spent on mesh 568 generation. In the OM-DBCM, the computational domain is divided manually, which 569 is highly subjective, and the computational time varied from person to person. 570 Furthermore, case12 required more computational time than case15 and case10. Fewer 571 572 computational grid nodes were presented in case15 and case10, which required less

573 time for calculation, and the computational efficiency could be further improved.

However, there was not a significant difference in the computation time among 574 575 these three cases. The calculation time for coarse grids is shown in Figure 13(b). It is observed that the runtime for coarse grids decreases rapidly in different cases. In case12, 576 case15 and case10, the number of coarse grids is 42517, 7425, and 2153, respectively. 577 As the number of coarse grids decreased significantly, the runtime for these grids also 578 579 decreased rapidly. The number of fine grids is consistent in case12, case15, and case10, with a calculation time of 4800s. The fine grids number is much greater than that of the 580 581 coarse grids, especially in case15 and case10. The 2D hydrodynamic model was solved in the fine-grid regions, which cost more computation time compared with the coarse 582 grids where the hydrologic model was applied. The calculation time for fine grids is 583 584 significantly longer than that for coarse grids, comprising a substantial portion of the overall execution time. 585

586 In many watersheds, the 2D inundation regions account for a minor proportion of the total watershed area. The fine grids were employed to partition the small inundation 587 regions, while the coarse grids were utilized to discretize the majority of the non-588 inundation regions. The computational efficiency can be significantly enhanced due to 589 the smaller proportion of fine grids and larger proportion of coarse grids. In the IM-590 591 DBCM, the 1D rivers and 2D inundation regions were not distinguished, resulting in 592 their division using fine grids. Consequently, the 2D hydrodynamic model was applied to both regions, leading to an increased computational time. In future studies, the 1D 593 hydrodynamic model will be used to compute the flood evolution specifically in the 1D 594 595 rivers, leading to a reduction in computational time. Hence, the computational efficiency advantages of the proposed IM-DBCM are more pronounced. 596



598

Figure 13 Computation time of different cases: (a) the relative difference of uniformgrid-based model and multi-grid-based models; (b) the runtime for coarse grids

601 4 Conclusions

An improved dynamic bidirectional coupled hydrologic-hydrodynamic model 602 based on multi-grid (IM-DBCM) was presented in this study. A multi-grid system was 603 generated based on the $D\infty$ algorithm, dividing regions that required high-resolution 604 representation using fine grids and the rest using coarse grids to reduce computational 605 load. A two-dimensional non-linear reservoir was adopted in the hydrologic model, 606 while two-dimensional shallow water equations were applied in the hydrodynamic 607 model. The hydrologic model was applied to the coarse-grid regions, whereas the 608 609 hydrologic and hydrodynamic models were coupled in a bidirectional manner for the 610 fine-grid areas. Different time steps were adopted in coarse and fine grids. Ghost cells 611 and bilinear interpolation were used to interpolate variables between coarse and fine 612 grids. The hydrologic and hydrodynamic models were dynamically and bidirectionally 613 coupled with a time-dependent and moving coupling interface.

The performance of IM-DBCM was verified using three cases. The IM-DBCM 614 was demonstrated to effectively simulate flow processes and ensure reliable simulation. 615 616 Compared with the OM-DBCM, the results obtained from the IM-DBCM were well aligned with the measured data, and it could reliably reproduce the flood wave 617 618 propagation in complex topography. In addition to producing numerical results with 619 similar accuracy, the IM-DBCM saved computational time compared with the model on fine grids. Furthermore, a moving coupling interface between the hydrologic and 620 hydrodynamic models was observed in the IM-DBCM. The IM-DBCM has both high 621 computational efficiency and numerical accuracy, which was adapted adequately to the 622 real-life flooding process and provided practical and reliable solutions for rapid flood 623 prediction and management, especially in large watersheds. 624

The IM-DBCM accurately and efficiently reproduces the flooding process and has the potential for a wide range of practical applications. Adding a one-way hydrodynamic model to the model could further enhance its performance. A one-way model can simulate flow in a narrow river, saving more time than using a two-way hydrodynamic model.

630 Data availability

Model simulation and calibration data are available upon request from the corresponding author. Digital elevation model data are provided by the Geospatial Data Cloud at <u>http://www.gscloud.cn</u>. The data sets of Soil Properties and Land cover are provided by Sánchez (2002) and Blackmarr (1995). The rainfall and measured data 635 were Blackmarr (1995).

636 Author contributions

Yanxia Shen designed the methodology and carried out the investigation. Qi Zhou
provided the original model input data. The study was supervised by Chunbo Jiang.
Yanxia Shen prepared the first draft of the manuscript and Zhenduo Zhu revised and
improved the original manuscript.

641 **Competing interests**

642 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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