

Response to Referee 2 Comments on:

Influence of building collapse on pluvial and fluvial flood inundation of metro stations in central Shanghai

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Thank you for your constructive feedback on our article regarding the impact of building collapse on flooding of metro stations. We appreciate your insights and agree that several areas need clarification and expansion. Below, we outline how we plan to address each point raised in your review.

Referee #2 (RC2):

1. When I finished to read the introduction (chap. 1) it did not become clear how the building collapse is taken into account; this should at least be addressed briefly here and then refer to chap 2.3 for more details; add reference(s) to the literature.

Response: We have revised the Introduction section to include a brief discussion on how building collapse is represented into our model:

“However, we do not directly model the building collapse processes. Instead, building collapse is represented as the spreading of the debris that changes the building height and spatial occupancy. The total volume of a building remains unchanged before and after it collapses. For a more detailed description of how building collapse is treated, please refer to Section 2.3 and Takabatake et al. (2022).”

2. Chap 2.2: how are the metro stations taken into account, as holes in the model, i.e. inner open boundaries, where water can flow out of the domain? If I see correctly, this is not the case and you just observe the water level in the cells where metro stations are; this simplification should be discussed and explained, possibly you already comment on this in chap. 1.

Response: Indeed, we do not model water flow into the metro stations. We only observe the water level in the cells where the station is located. We have added a brief discussion in Section 2.2 on the pros and cons of this approach. We have also discussed in Section 4.3 on the possible improvements of the treatment of metro stations in future works.

Section 2.2: “It should be noted that a real metro station often has multiple exits, each with different elevation and orientation that cannot be adequately resolved at the grid resolution we use. Thus, in our study, we do not treat metro stations as sink terms or outflow boundaries. We only observe the water depth of the grid cell where the metro station is located. The possibility of further refining the treatment of metro stations will be discussed in Section 4.3.”

Section 4.3: “In the present study, metro stations are simplified to single pixels on the DEM. However, real metro stations in Shanghai often contain multiple exits spanning several road

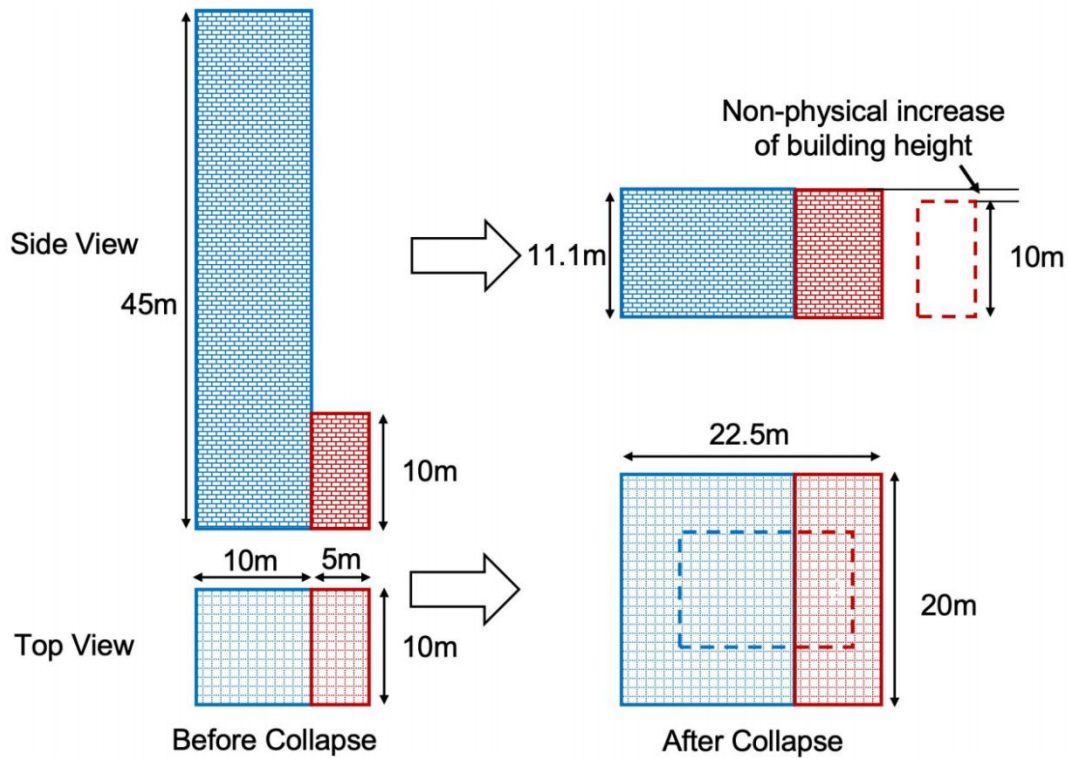
blocks. Consequently, the flooding status and flood resistance at each exit could vary. Although further refining the grid resolution to resolve the local topography at each metro exit remains challenging, a multi-scale approach might be feasible in the future. For example, based on the hydrodynamic simulation results at relatively coarse grid resolutions (e.g., the 5m resolution used herein), a finer resolution simulation could be performed in a smaller region near the metro station. This would characterize the detailed flooding processes at each exit. The multi-scale modeling approach, coupled with a physics-based building collapse model, would enable a true local-to-local analysis and evaluation of the multi-hazard risk posed to metro stations.”

3. 141: The sentence does not become clear, more explanation is required.

chap. 2.3: what happens during collapse is not fully clear; better description or a figure where 1 building is shown before and after collapse, give length, width, height, volume etc.

Response: The third and fourth comments are both related to the description of the building collapse mechanism. We have revised Section 2.3 and added a figure to address the reviewers' concerns :

“building collapse is modeled by distributing certain amount of the “building material” to its surroundings, thereby increasing the spatial occupancy and reducing the height of the building. In this study, we assume that when a building collapses, (i) its spatial occupancy doubles, and (ii) its total volume remains unchanged. The increased spatial occupancy (i.e., the “debris”) is distributed uniformly around the building. The reduced height of the building can be estimated using the volume and the new spatial occupancy. A special case exists when two buildings are adjacent and their spatial occupancy overlap when collapsed. In such situations, the two buildings are treated as one single building when calculating the debris extent. It should be noted that if two buildings with different heights are treated as one building, the final building height after collapse could be greater than its original height, which is unrealistic (Fig.3). However, this phenomenon has negligible influence on the subsequent flood simulation because as long as the building debris is not inundated, slight variation of its height has minor influence on the flow field. That is, the obstruction of the flow path (due to the spreading of the debris extent) has much stronger influence on flood propagation than minor changes of the debris height. With this approach, building collapse is only a simplified representation of the consequence of hypothetical seismic events, but the physical mechanism connecting earthquake and building collapse is not involved.”



4. You should more clearly state that your approach is a very first step to investigate impacts of building collapse on flooding at metro stations; what is the value of your results so far; you arbitrarily selected $n=100$ simulations with different number of collapses, what happens, if the number n is higher; you arbitrarily selected 3 break points for the fluvial flooding, what happens if this number differs; there is no need to make further simulations, but you should discuss this (more), include that in chap. 4, overall more justification.

Response: We have incorporated a more robust discussion in Section 4.3 regarding the implications of our simplifications and assumptions. We believe the scope and the limitations of our work is more clear now.

“The present study is a preliminary attempt to explore how building collapses affect pluvial and fluvial flooding at metro stations. To achieve the research goal, we conducted 100 flood simulations with various random realizations of building collapse patterns, allowing for a statistical examination of the consequences of building collapse on flooding, neutralizing any uncertainties in model parameters and simplified model treatments. Such uncertainties and simplifications arise from neglecting infiltration and drainage, using non-physical building collapse and levee breach models, assuming uniform rainfall intensity and omitting metro station structures. Herein, we illustrate that these simplifications do not affect our findings and analysis on how building collapse impacts flooding. The reported results remain significant for the development of more detailed, physics-based, local-to-local urban multi-hazard studies in the future.”

“Similar to building collapse, modeling of the levee breach process is also omitted. We randomly

selected three breach points that are sufficiently spaced apart to allow floodwaters to reach the interior of the study area as much as possible, and that the floodwaters from the breach points do not interact with one another. Future studies should consider the strength and vulnerability of the flood wall in greater detail.”

“Finally, we want to emphasize that the present work focuses exclusively on the hazard aspects of urban flooding, specifically examining the physical mechanisms by which building collapse affects urban flooding. An evaluation of risk, vulnerability, and urban resilience is beyond the scope of this study. Future research should incorporate both hazard and risk analysis to provide robust guidance for enhancing urban resilience against multi-hazard events. In particular, in alignment with the previously discussed local-to-local strategy, a more detailed investigation into the influence of local vulnerabilities in key infrastructures is required.”

5.some more information on OpenMP, Cuda, HIP, MPI; not everyone knows this.

Response: Thanks for the advice. We have added explanations and details of the above professional designations in Section 2.2:

“Without modifying the source codes, SERGHEI-SWE can perform parallel computation on a CPU through OpenMP, or on a Graphical Processing Units (GPUs) through either CUDA (a parallel computing model for Nvidia GPUs) or HIP (a C++ kernel language for parallel computing on Nvidia and AMD GPUs). This feature is achieved through the Kokkos framework. It also supports distributed memory parallelization through the Message Passing Interface (MPI), which allows parallel computation across multiple CPU or GPU nodes.”

6.in Tab 1, 2: give [%] here, then no need to repeat in each row

Response: We have modified Table 1 and 2 to put [%] in the first column.

Further minor comments are in the attached pdf.

Response: We have carefully fixed the typos and the grammar mistakes the reviewer pointed out in the PDF. They are not listed one-by-one here but they should be reflected in the revised manuscript.

We appreciate your insightful suggestions and believe these revisions will significantly enhance the clarity and depth of our paper. Thank you once again for your thorough review.

Sincerely,

Zhi Li (Corresponding Author)