

1 **Impacts from cascading multi-hazards using hypergraphs: a case** 2 **study from the 2015 Gorkha earthquake in Nepal**

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21 **Abstract**

22 This study introduces a new approach to multi-hazard risk assessment, leveraging hypergraph theory to model the
23 interconnected risks posed by cascading natural hazards. Traditional single-hazard risk models fail to account for the
24 complex interrelationships and compounding effects of multiple simultaneous or sequential hazards. By conceptualising
25 risks within a hypergraph framework, our model overcomes these limitations, enabling efficient simulation of multi-
26 hazard interactions and their impacts on infrastructure. We apply this model to the 2015 M_w 7.8 Gorkha earthquake in
27 Nepal as a case study, demonstrating its ability to simulate the primary and secondary effects of the earthquake on
28 buildings and roads across the whole earthquake-affected area. The model predicts the overall pattern of earthquake-
29 induced building damage and landslide impacts, albeit with a tendency towards over-prediction. Our findings underscore
30 the potential of the hypergraph approach for multi-hazard risk assessment, offering advances in rapid computation and
31 scenario exploration for cascading geo-hazards. This approach could provide valuable insights for disaster risk reduction
32 and humanitarian contingency planning, where anticipation of large-scale trends is often more important than prediction
33 of detailed impacts.
34

35 **Keywords**

36 Cascading multi-hazards, multi-hazard modelling, earthquake impacts, landslides, Nepal, network modelling,
37 hypergraphs

38 **1. Introduction**

39

40 There is a growing recognition over the last 15 years that natural hazards can interact and occur in conjunction with each
41 other, leading to a potential compounding effect that is greater than the sum of the single-hazard impacts (Kappes et al.,
42 2012; Arosio et al., 2018, Terzi et al., 2019). While the global prevalence of cascading hazards specifically is difficult to
43 quantify reliably, there are increasing calls for effective multi-hazard risk assessments (e.g., Ward et al., 2022). Multi-
44 hazards are defined by UNISDR (2016) as "events [that] may occur simultaneously, cascadingly or cumulatively over
45 time, and taking into account the potential interrelated effects". Multi-hazard approaches seek to overcome the limitations
46 of a narrower focus on single-hazard models, which are unable to account for the observed inter-relationships between
47 different hazards as well as potential compounding or cascading effects (e.g., Gill and Malamud, 2014; Tilloy et al., 2019;
48 Dunant, 2021; Ming et al., 2022). Multi-hazard approaches to risk are now widely encouraged (e.g., UNISDR, 2005;
49 Government Office for Science, 2012) and are increasingly integrated into risk assessment (see recent reviews by Gill et
50 al., 2022; Ward et al., 2022).

51

52 There remain, however, some important challenges and limitations with multi-hazard risk assessment. Because of the
53 difficulties in recognising, understanding, and defining the inter-relationships between hazards, and the lack of data on
54 their co-dependence (Tilloy et al., 2019; Hochrainer-Stigler et al., 2023), most 'multi-hazard risk' models simply overlay
55 single hazards without considering their interactions – an approach that Gill and Malamud (2014) termed 'multi-layer
56 single hazard'. Even when hazard-hazard interactions are considered in risk models, there is still a lack of comprehensive
57 approaches that capture the intricate interplay among hazards, exposure, and vulnerability beyond simple spatial overlaps
58 (Mignan et al., 2014; de Ruiter et al., 2020). These interactions are critical because of the possibility that risks may be
59 clustered in space and time or may amplify each other, as demonstrated by Mignan et al. (2014). Zschau (2017) extended
60 the ideas of Gill and Malamud (2014) to risk assessment, distinguishing between risk from single hazards, risk from multi-
61 layer single hazards, and risk from multi-hazards – the latter allowing for dynamic hazard interactions, but no dynamic
62 interactions between hazard and exposure or vulnerability). Hochrainer-Stigler et al. (2023) noted that hazard-exposure
63 relationships and changes in exposure over time, as well as vulnerability, are also critical to fully characterise multi-risks.
64 This complexity means that multi-hazard risk modelling can be both computationally expensive and extremely demanding
65 of quality input data (e.g., Kappes et al. 2012). Multi-hazard risk models may also be limited by the diversity of hazard
66 types that can be incorporated, mismatches in the appropriate spatial and temporal scale of analyses, and complex data
67 requirements (e.g., Kappes et al., 2012; Tilloy et al., 2019; Dunant, 2021).

68

69 A further complication is the growing need for national, regional, or even global-scale risk assessments, in order to
70 understand potential patterns of impacts, provide science-based evidence for disaster risk reduction and advocacy, and
71 allow coordinated planning (see review by Ward et al., 2020). At the same time, data are available at ever-increasing
72 spatial and temporal resolution, including information on populations, building stock, and topography, as well as datasets
73 on hazard drivers such as rainfall forecasts or observed precipitation. While these are welcome developments, the
74 combination of demands for increasing scale and increasingly-fine spatial and temporal resolution data leads to a much
75 higher computational burden. Addressing the need for both larger spatial scales and finer spatio-temporal resolutions is a
76 growing challenge for the assessment of multi-hazard risks. The distribution of risk may also be highly spatially
77 imbalanced if exposed elements are concentrated in specific areas, meaning that grid-based or GIS-based approaches to
78 risk modelling may expend much computational effort on areas where risk is low or negligible.

79

80 To address these concerns, Dunant et al. (2021a) proposed a novel approach to multi-hazard risk modelling using graph
81 theory. In this framework, both the hazards and the elements at risk are modelled as a set of interconnections between
82 nodes. For example, a house can be linked to ground accelerations in an earthquake, or a hillslope to rainfall in a storm.
83 This framework can then be used to generate many disaster scenarios by cascading from node to node according to a set
84 of rules (e.g., a threshold earthquake shaking value for slope failure). The resulting network model is highly
85 computationally efficient, and the network structure is a natural fit to the simulation of coincident or cascading events and
86 their propagation through exposure networks (Dunant et al., 2021a) because network structures are purposefully designed
87 to capture the interdependencies and feedbacks among different elements. The framework is agnostic to the types of
88 objects that can be included, so it can be easily adapted to include hazard-hazard, hazard-exposure, and hazard-
89 vulnerability relationships. It is also highly flexible, so that the links between objects can be represented via different
90 interactions depending on the level of understanding and data availability, including threshold values, empirical functions,
91 fuzzy distributions, process models, or other approaches (e.g., Tilloy et al., 2019).

92

93 Despite its advantages, however, the network model suffers from some important limitations. Most critically, because the
94 interactions in a network model are modelled as pairs, the computational burden grows substantially as the number of
95 components (nodes and edges) of the model increases. Prior applications focused on the epicentral area of the 2016 M_w
96 7.8 Kaikōura earthquake (Dunant et al., 2021a) and the area around Franz Josef township (Dunant et al., 2021b), both in
97 New Zealand and containing on the order of hundreds of nodes. Expanding the network model to a national scale at a
98 similar resolution would increase the model size by several orders of magnitude. Similarly, increasing the number of
99 hazards that are considered would lead to a combinatorial increase in interactions and rapid growth in computation time.

100

101 Here we propose a new approach to modelling the impacts of multi-hazards using hypergraphs – two-dimensional surface
102 equivalents of the pairwise links found in the graph-theory network model of Dunant et al. (2021a). The hypergraph model
103 retains the advantages of the network approach while simultaneously reducing the model complexity. Below, we first
104 present a brief review of graphs and hypergraphs and outline the benefits of using hypergraphs in a multi-hazard risk
105 modelling framework. We describe the structure of the multi-hazard impact model, including its components and the
106 interactions between nodes. We illustrate its application by simulating the impacts from the 2015 M_w 7.8 Gorkha
107 earthquake in Nepal, as an exemplar of a large-scale event that had cascading effects on people and infrastructure due to
108 both primary and secondary hazards. We close by considering wider potential applications of the hypergraph model,
109 including national- or regional-scale disaster scenario ensembles and how they might be used to support humanitarian
110 contingency planning (e.g., Robinson et al., 2018).

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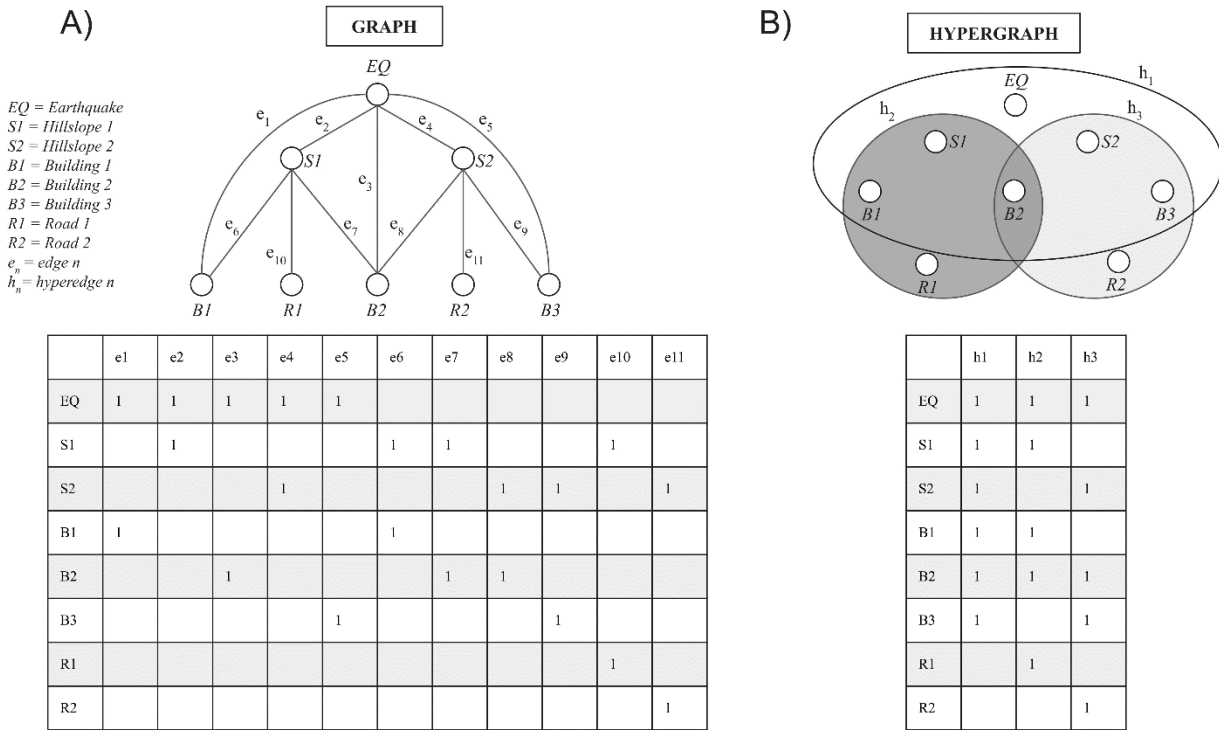
112 **2. Summary of graph and hypergraph approaches**

113

114 A graph is essentially a mathematical representation of a network. The term was originally introduced by Sylvester (1878)
115 but graph theory had been used more than a hundred years before by Euler (1736) to solve the Seven Bridges of
116 Königsberg problem. Since then, graph theory has been used in a wide variety of fields such as geography, computer
117 science, social science, and biology (e.g., Buzna et al., 2006; Chorley & Kennedy, 1971; Dezső & Barabási, 2002;
118 Dorogovtsev & Mendes, 2003).

119

120 A graph comprises a set of nodes connected by edges. In the context of risks posed by environmental hazards, such nodes
 121 may represent a geographical location (spatially explicit; e.g., a fault segment, or a house) or a nominal property (spatially
 122 implicit; e.g., the occurrence of an earthquake) and the edges represent the relations between the nodes (e.g., earthquake
 123 shaking affecting exposed houses) (Fig. 1A).
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 126 **Figure 1: Graph (A) and hypergraph (B) representations of a hypothetical set of hazard and exposure interactions. The same**
 127 **set of elements are represented in both graphical form (top) and tabular form as incidence matrices (bottom). In the tables, a**
 128 **blank cell means no interaction between the nodes, and a value of 1 means that interactions are possible between the nodes.**

129
 130 A defining characteristic of graphs is the set of pairwise connections or edges between nodes that define the relationships
 131 between these nodes. For example, we would represent earthquake shaking on a set of hillslopes as edges between the
 132 earthquake and each hillslope that is affected. In tabular form, each edge is represented by a row in a relational database,
 133 called an incidence matrix (Fig. 1A). The edges are directional, so a two-way relationship – for example, a hillslope
 134 potentially affecting a road via landslides, and a road potentially affecting a hillslope via excavation and steepening –
 135 would be represented by two separate rows.

136
 137 As summarised by Dunant et al. (2021a), here we consider relationships between nodes that are observed or felt – that is,
 138 via shaking, mass movement, or water flow. We also consider that nodes are connected if (1) the geographical effect of
 139 one node overlaps that of another, and (2) that effect is relevant to considering impacts from hazards. For example,
 140 earthquake ground shaking might affect a hillslope and trigger a new landslide or the mobilisation of loose material in a
 141 debris flow; to allow for these effects, we would represent the relationship between earthquake and the hillslope as an
 142 edge, and the relationship between the hillslope and any houses or road segments on it as a series of additional edges (Fig.
 143 1A). If we were to assume that the earthquake ground motion can potentially cause direct impacts on houses but not roads,
 144 then the earthquake would be connected to the houses by edges but not to the road segments (Fig. 1A).

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In contrast, a hypergraph is a special type of graph where the edges, called hyperedges, can link one or more nodes (Fig. 1B). This allows us to represent interactions that extend beyond a single pair of nodes (Wolf et al., 2016). Compared to pairwise edges, which only connect two nodes, hyperedges can connect multiple nodes and provide a more natural representation for the spatial overlap between exposed elements, like houses, and geographical hazard footprints. Hyperedges can thus represent nested information between the nodes of the system, such as their properties or locations, with far fewer tabular entries (Fig. 1B). The hypergraph uses fewer edges to represent the same number of interactions for a given number of nodes; this size difference (e.g., for the example in Figure 1, $11 \times 8 = 88$ entries for the graph framework and $3 \times 8 = 24$ for the hypergraph framework) highlights the efficiency of the hypergraph approach.

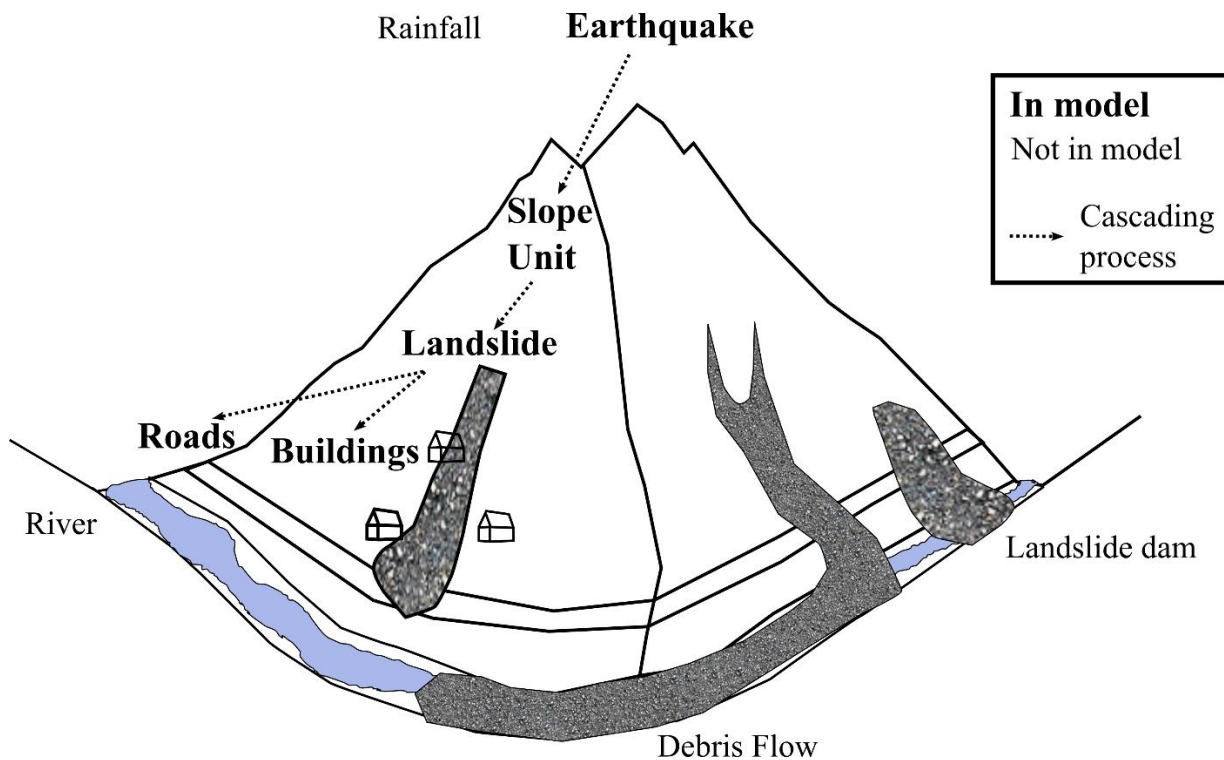
The increased efficiency enabled by hypergraphs becomes more apparent when dealing with large, interconnected datasets and when iterative data manipulation is required. For example, we can run hundreds or thousands of separate simulations on the same hypergraph, choosing different events or altering input parameters within a Monte Carlo framework (e.g., Dunant et al., 2021a) to generate ensemble distributions of scenario outcomes (Robinson et al., 2018). The improvement in computation time allows the hypergraph framework to be applied to multi-hazards risk assessment over larger extents, over longer time periods, and with more complex interactions than would be feasible using a GIS-based approach or standard graph framework.

3. Methodology

Below we describe the setup and operation of the multi-hazard hypergraph model and describe its application to the 2015 Gorkha earthquake.

3.1 Model overview and setup

The model is based around a set of interactions between elements in Nepal that are drawn from experience in both the annual monsoon (Kincey et al., 2022; Jimée et al., 2019; Goda et al., 2015; Rosser et al., 2021; Kargel et al., 2016) and recent earthquakes, including the 2015 Gorkha event (e.g., Roback et al., 2018; Milledge et al., 2019; Kincey et al., 2021). For the simulations in this paper, the model is driven only by earthquakes (Fig. 2) and seeks to assess the risk to buildings and roads at a national scale. Earthquake shaking is simulated as a spatial distribution of peak ground acceleration (PGA) values; these could be derived from measurements or generated for a potential scenario earthquake via a shaking model. For the experiments shown here, we use empirical PGA values estimated by the US Geological Survey Shakemap for the 2015 Gorkha earthquake (<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us20002926/shakemap/pga>). Earthquake shaking can affect infrastructure either directly (described via a set of fragility functions) or by triggering landslides. Landslides, in turn, may affect both buildings and roads. In this version of the model, other hazards such as rainfall and floods are not considered, but they could be added via additional sets of hyperedges and interactions.



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183 **Figure 2: Driving stimuli and important process interactions for the area affected by the 2015 Gorkha earthquake in Nepal.**
 184 **The elements that are included in the multi-hazard impact experiments documented here are shown in bold text.**

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186 To model coseismic landslides, we subdivide the landscape into discrete units and consider the characteristics of the
 187 topography as well as the driving mechanisms within those subdivisions. Here we divide the landscape into slope units
 188 that are bounded by drainages and divide lines (Alvioli et al., 2016; Woodard et al., 2024) (see Supplemental Information
 189 and Fig. S1). Woodard et al. (2024) demonstrated that slope units are preferable to gridded topography when representing
 190 landslide susceptibility, especially for input landslide data that are imprecise or highly spatially variable in quality. The
 191 slope units were generated following the procedure from Kinney et al (2021) where a DEM is used to segment the
 192 landscape into distinct terrain units defined by hydrological and geomorphological boundaries.

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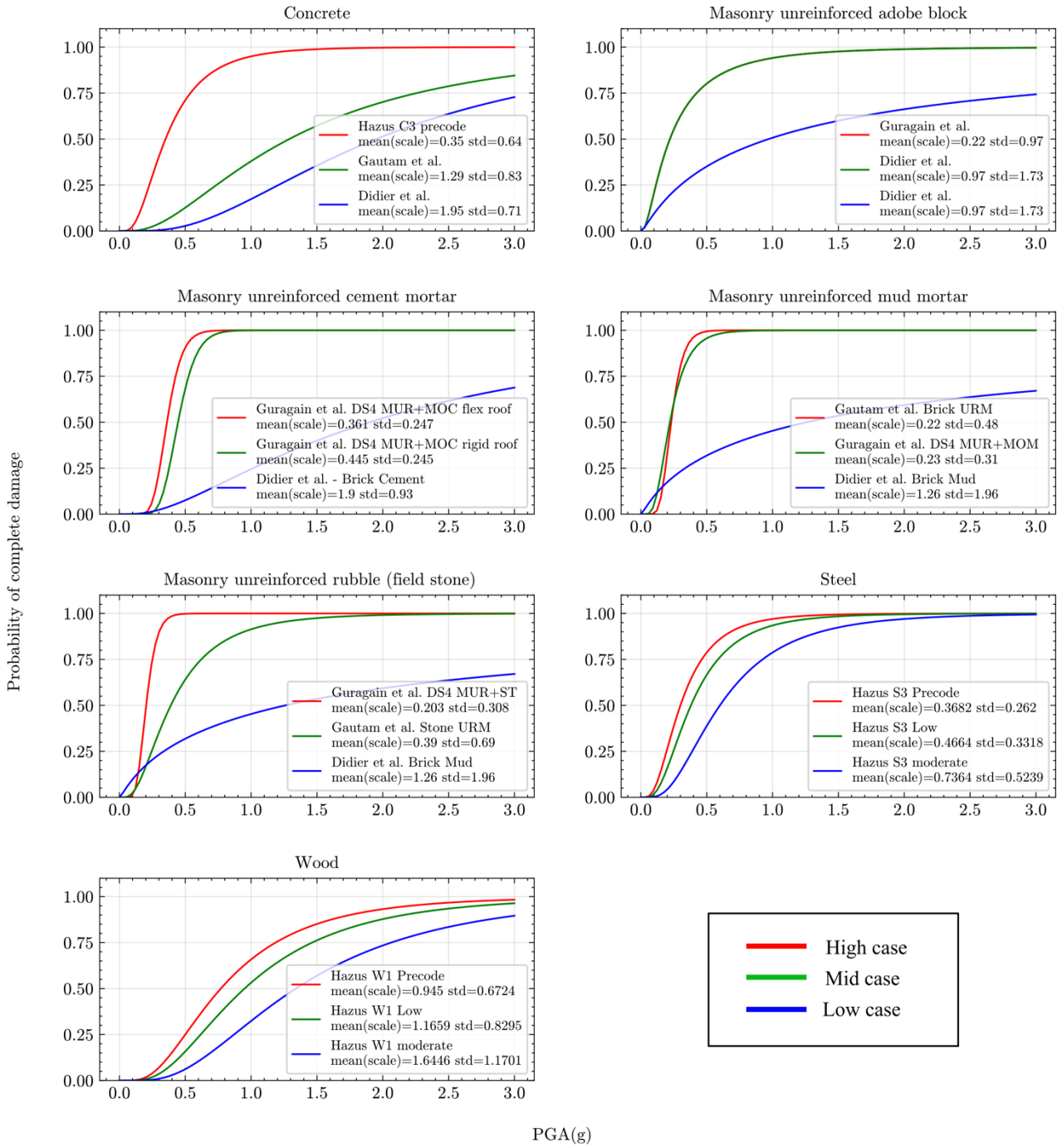
194 The hyperedges are constructed based on the interactions in Figure 2. A hyperedge connects the earthquake node with all
 195 of the slope units and buildings within the ‘footprint’ of the earthquake, defined by the extent of a minimum PGA ($X g$)
 196 contour. Similarly, hyperedges connect each slope unit with the buildings and roads (divided into 100 m segments) within
 197 it; we therefore assume that landslides from one slope unit cannot impact elements in another. Attributes for each building,
 198 road segment, and slope unit, such as location, PGA, building type, landslide susceptibility, are stored on the hyperedges
 199 and can be displayed as continuous values in a tabular form. We describe each of these attributes below.

200

201 We use building locations and roads taken from the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, covering the whole of Nepal,
 202 and available at https://data.humdata.org/dataset/hotosm_npl_buildings and
 203 https://data.humdata.org/dataset/hotosm_npl_roads, respectively (accessed 1 January 2021). The datasets contain c. 7.1
 204 million building polygons and c. 3 million road segments. Because we lack specific information on the construction type
 205 of each building to assess its fragility, we instead use exposure data from the Modeling Exposure Through Earth
 206 Observation Routines (METEOR) project (<https://maps.meteor-project.org/map/building-exposure-map-of-nepal>)

207 (version 2020-02-15) , which includes a list of building types and the number and value of each type within each cell of
208 a 90 x 90 m grid across Nepal. The METEOR project used a combination of Earth Observation (EO) data, such as satellite
209 imagery, and ground-based sampling to classify homogeneous development regions and assess vulnerability of building
210 structures in countries like Nepal and the United States. The development patterns are then associated with typologies
211 observed on the ground (<https://nora.nerc.ac.uk/id/eprint/533439/>) to create a national scale vulnerability layer. The PGA
212 value of the 2015 Gorkha earthquake is extracted at the centroid of each METEOR grid cell. To account for variability in
213 construction detail and quality within these broad types, we adopt low, middle, and high fragility functions for the
214 ‘complete damage’ state for typical building types in Nepal from the METEOR dataset (Fig. 3). We take the definition of
215 ‘complete damage’ from the Hazus framework of the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA, 2020). We
216 generate a weighted-average fragility function for the buildings within each 90 x 90 m grid cell based on the proportion
217 of different building types; thus, in the absence of any national-scale building-specific information, all buildings within
218 that cell are assumed to have the same average fragility. We assess the likelihood of ‘complete damage’ because this
219 implies loss of usability or habitability, with consequences for displacement and disruption to life and livelihoods, and is
220 typically used to estimate fatality and injury rates (FEMA, 2020).

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223 **Figure 3: Fragility functions used in the hypergraph network modelling. Each panel shows fragility curves for a different**
 224 **building type in the METEOR dataset, and which relate the peak ground acceleration (PGA, in g) to the probability of being**
 225 **reduced to a complete damage state. Note that each sigmoidal fragility curve is defined by two parameters: a mean or scale**
 226 **parameter that sets the PGA value for a 50% probability of complete damage, and a standard deviation (std) that defines the**
 227 **spread of the curve. Parameter values and sources for the fragility curves are included in the plots.**

228

229 We estimate landslide susceptibility based on topographic factors alone, using a seven-parameter static susceptibility
 230 model that incorporates elevation, hillslope aspect, distance to rivers, plan-view curvature, regional relief, local hillslope
 231 gradient, and a terrain ruggedness index. These factors are derived from a 10 m digital elevation model (DEM) that was
 232 downsampled from the 5 m Advanced Land Observing Satellite World 3D DEM

233 (<https://www.aw3d.jp/en/products/standard/>). We generate the susceptibility model using a gradient boosting machine
234 learning approach, XGBoost, implemented in Python. For the experiments shown here, the susceptibility model is trained
235 on the locations of coseismic landslides triggered by the 2015 Gorkha earthquake as mapped by Kinsey et al. (2021),
236 yielding an area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve of 0.75 (Fig. S2). We stress that this susceptibility
237 layer is used simply as an exemplar which is optimised for the 2015 Gorkha earthquake; for other model applications,
238 susceptibility data generated with other approaches (see review in Reichenbach et al., 2018), or trained on different
239 inventories, could be substituted. Because landslide susceptibility is modelled on a 10 x 10 m grid, each slope unit contains
240 a unique distribution of cell-wise susceptibility values in the range [0,1], and each building polygon or road segment
241 overlaps with one or more cellwise susceptibility values. Importantly, because the multi-hazard model is intended to
242 simulate dynamic cascading scenarios, we choose not to include earthquake shaking as a determining factor in the static
243 landslide susceptibility model. This choice preserves independence between shaking, landslide triggering, and the
244 propagation of hazards along the hyperedges within the model.

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246 We extract the mean and standard deviation of susceptibility for each slope unit, building and road segment, although
247 other measures of the distribution could also be used. Because we lack general building or road fragility functions for
248 landslides that are comparable to those for earthquakes and that encompass the wide range of possible landslide types and
249 sizes (see Luo et al., 2023, for a recent review), we adopt a simplified binary vulnerability model, such that any building
250 or road that is affected by a landslide is considered as 'impacted'.

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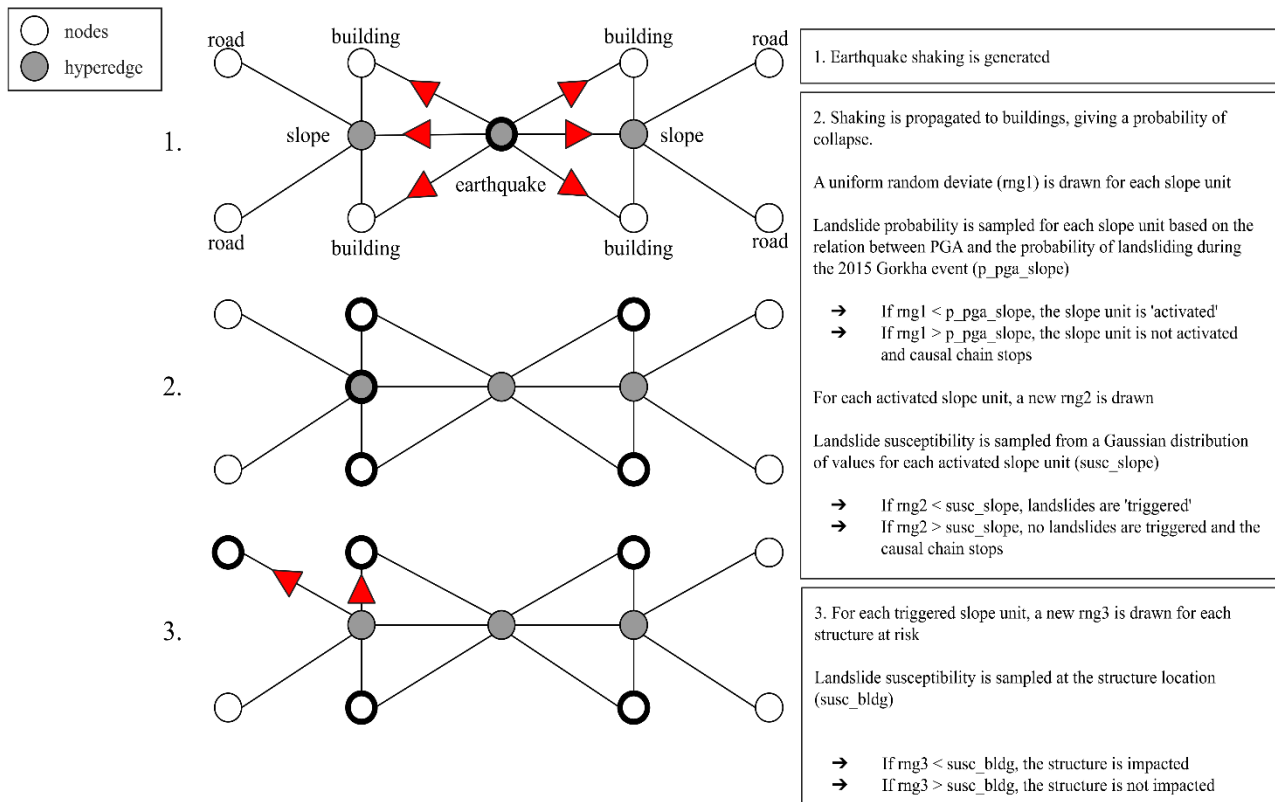
252 **3.2 Simulation steps**

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254 In each simulation, the model works iteratively through the hyperedges that connect the driving stimulus of earthquake
255 shaking to the other elements in the model, checking against a condition to see whether that hyperedge of the network is
256 'activated' – i.e., a building is damaged by earthquake shaking, or a slope unit is affected by one or more landslides.
257 Activation of that hyperedge then allows the stimulus to propagate, and potentially to cascade along other hyperedges if
258 further conditions are met (Fig. 4). The simulation continues until all cascades stop and no further impacts are possible.

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262 **Figure 4. Step-by-step overview of the hypergraph framework for modelling cascading multi-hazard impacts. The hypergraph**
 263 **is represented in a simplified example on the left and the algorithm steps are specified on the right. The simplified hypergraph**
 264 **assumes a landscape with two slope units, each of which contains two buildings and two road segments. The causal cascades of**
 265 **the algorithm are represented in three steps; from top to bottom, these are (1) earthquake shaking, (2) tests for ‘activation’ of**
 266 **a hillslope and ‘triggering’ of landslides, and (3) tests for impacts on structures by landslides. In the simplified hypergraph,**
 267 **black outlines show the hyperedges where hazards occur (e.g., landslides are triggered by the earthquake), and the nodes that**
 268 **are damaged by either shaking (step 2) or landsliding (step 3). The process is embedded in an iterative Monte Carlo simulation**
 269 **to determine the uncertainty associated with each step, creating a series of disaster scenarios that can be queried for further**
 270 **analysis.**

271

272 In the experiments shown here, the first step is to work through the hyperedge that connects the earthquake to the
 273 individual buildings to assess their damage state. For each building, we assign the PGA value at the centroid of its 90 x
 274 90 m METEOR grid cell. We use the high, middle, and low weighted mean fragility functions for that grid cell to
 275 determine the likelihood of that building being completely damaged – which is equivalent to the proportion of buildings
 276 within that 90 x 90 m grid cell in the METEOR dataset that is completely damaged. This likelihood of complete damage
 277 [0,1], reproduces the weighted mean fragility when applied over the METEOR grid cell. The low, middle, and high cases
 278 provide a range of outcomes for an individual building at a specific PGA value. The per-building likelihoods of complete
 279 damage under the three cases can then be summed by slope unit or administrative area to give the total predicted number
 280 of completely-damaged buildings in each area.

281

282 Next, we assess which slope units are ‘activated’ by ground shaking (Fig. 4). Activation of a slope unit means that the
 283 ground accelerations are high enough to potentially trigger one or more landslides, if this is permitted by the topographic
 284 conditions as represented by the landslide susceptibility. Again, this allows the stimulus to propagate within the

285 earthquake hyperedge to the slope unit, and potentially to cascade within that slope unit (and affect buildings or road
286 segments within it). In these experiments, we conduct a logistic regression between PGA and the locations of landslides
287 in the inventory of coseismic landslides triggered by the 2015 Gorkha earthquake (Kinsey et al., 2021) to define the
288 regional-scale probability of landslide occurrence as a lognormal function of PGA (see Supplemental Information and
289 Fig. S3).

290 We begin by calculating the mean PGA value for each slope unit. This mean PGA value is then used to determine the
291 probability of a landslide occurring within that slope unit, based on the lognormal distribution previously mentioned. To
292 simulate whether a landslide may actually occur, we compare this calculated probability to a randomly generated number
293 from a uniform distribution. The value sample is coming from a uniformly distributed over the half-open interval $[0, 1)$.
294 In other words, any value within the given interval is equally likely to be drawn. If the probability exceeds the random
295 number, the slope unit is considered ‘activated,’ indicating that the conditions are sufficient for a potential landslide.

296 Over many simulations, slope units with a higher frequency of observed coseismic landslides will generally be activated
297 more often, reflecting their greater susceptibility to landsliding. However, because the activation in each simulation
298 depends on the random number generated, the specific pattern of activated slope units will differ from one simulation to
299 the next. As a result, different portions of the hypergraph network are sampled in each individual simulation, providing a
300 varied assessment of potential cascading scenarios.

301 Once a slope unit is activated, the model advances to assess the potential impact on subsequent components of the
302 network, specifically focusing on whether buildings or road segments within the slope unit are directly affected by a
303 landslide (as illustrated in Fig. 4). This assessment is conducted through a two-step process in the experiments presented
304 here. First, the model checks whether a landslide actually occurred within the activated slope unit. Even if the shaking
305 was intense enough to ‘activate’ the slope unit, the slope might still not experience a landslide due to its low susceptibility.
306 In other words, an activated slope unit does not always result in a ‘triggered’ landslide.

307
308 Triggering in the slope unit is determined by drawing a value (A) from a Gaussian distribution of landslide susceptibility
309 with the same mean and standard deviation as the distribution of susceptibility values in that slope unit, and comparing
310 that value with a uniform random deviate (B). We employ a Gaussian distribution for efficiency, as this can be calculated
311 in advance of the simulation, and note that it provides a reasonable fit to the actual distribution across a wide range of
312 slope units (Supplemental Information, Fig. S4). If the susceptibility value A is smaller than B, then no landslide has
313 occurred in that slope unit, and propagation along that hyperedge stops. If A is larger than B, then one or more landslides
314 has occurred in that slope unit. We then check if each building and road segment within the slope unit is affected by this
315 landsliding by comparing the landslide susceptibility value at the infrastructure location with another uniform random
316 deviate. If the random deviate exceeds the landslide susceptibility value, then the building or road segment remains
317 unaffected by the landslide (in other words, even if a landslide happens in the slope unit, it doesn’t affect the building or
318 road). Then, the simulation continues to evaluate other buildings or roads within the same slope unit, and then moves on
319 to other slope units activated by the earthquake. If the random deviate is less than the susceptibility value, then the building
320 or road segment is impacted by landsliding. In this case, we add it to the pool of affected elements for this simulation and
321 move to the next building or road. We continue this process to search iteratively through all slope units in the network to
322 generate a single cascading impact scenario.

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3.3 Outputs and evaluation

The iterative simulation process outlined above is repeated within a Monte Carlo framework to create an ensemble of scenarios, each of which explores a different set of outcomes within the same set of hyperedges. In the experiments shown here, we generate 10,000 scenarios from the initial stimulus of the 2015 Gorkha earthquake. Hence, all scenarios in these experiments use the same spatial distribution of PGA values and thus the probability of an individual building suffering complete damage by shaking stays the same. What differs between scenarios are the details of which slope units are activated, which slope units experience landsliding, and which buildings or road segments are impacted by those landslides. Thus, we take the likelihood of a structure being affected by landsliding over the whole ensemble as the proportion of the 10,000 scenarios in which the structure is impacted. This leads to a shaking impact likelihood and a landslide impact likelihood, both in the range [0,1], for each of the buildings and road segments in our combined dataset.

To explore the trade-off between spatial resolution and model performance, we aggregate the structure-level results over successively larger administrative units. Nepal is divided, from smallest unit to largest, into 6,743 wards, 753 urban and rural municipalities, 77 districts, and 7 provinces. Aggregation across these units allows us to evaluate the performance of the model against independent measures of earthquake impacts from the 2015 Gorkha earthquake at different spatial resolutions. For buildings damaged by earthquake shaking, we evaluate the model in two ways. First, we sum up the per-building likelihoods of complete damage in each district for the low, middle, and high fragility estimates – which yields the number of completely-damaged buildings in each case – and compare those sums to incident reports summarising the number of "fully damaged" buildings per district and published on the Government of Nepal's Bipad Portal (<http://drrportal.gov.np/> – see also Chaulagain et al., 2018) based on the Post-Disaster Damage and Needs Assessment (PDNA) (National Planning Commission, 2015). This assesses the ability of the model to estimate the absolute number of damaged buildings. While this data remains the most extensive for validation purpose, the PDNA was done urgently after the disaster with limited systematic gathering hence it relies on judgement by the PDNA participants and, therefore, carry significant uncertainty (Lallemant et al., 2017). Note that wards and municipalities were defined in the federal restructuring of Nepal in 2017, and so data on damaged buildings from the 2015 earthquake are not available at ward or municipality level. Second, we take the mean likelihood of complete damage in each district, in the range [0,1], and compare that with the presence or absence of damaged buildings in each of the 77 districts. This second measure is independent of the absolute number of buildings, and gives information instead on the ability of the model to anticipate the occurrence of one or more completely damaged buildings in an area.

For structures impacted by landslides, we derive similar statistical measures for model evaluation. First, we sum up the per-structure likelihoods of landslide impact over successively larger areas of aggregation – ward, municipality, district, and province. Because there are no systematic published data on observed landslide impacts on buildings and roads in the 2015 earthquake, we generate an estimate of affected structures by overlaying the coseismic landslide polygons from Kinsey et al. (2021) on our building and road dataset; all structures that intersect with a mapped landslide polygon are assumed to have been impacted by landsliding in the earthquake. Note that this measure of landslide impacts does not consider the significant post-earthquake changes in landslide footprint and debris runout (e.g., Tian et al., 2020; Kinsey et al., 2022). Also, the coseismic landslides were mapped on medium-resolution satellite imagery (c. 10 m, equivalent to our DEM and derived topographic metrics) and so will have omitted small landslides or rockfalls, especially in areas of

365 dense vegetation or steep topography (e.g., Williams et al., 2018); this error and the inherent uncertainty in mapped
366 landslide outlines (Kincey et al., 2021) mean that our estimate of the number of landslide-affected structures is likely to
367 represent a lower bound. We then sum the observed number of impacted buildings and road segments by administrative
368 area to compare with our modelled totals. We also compare the mean likelihood of landslide impact, averaged by
369 administrative area and ranging from [0,1], with the presence or absence of landslide impacts in that area. We evaluate
370 the relationship between these parameters with the area under the ROC curve and the F1 score.

371

372 **4. Results**

373

374 **4.1 Impacts from earthquake shaking**

375

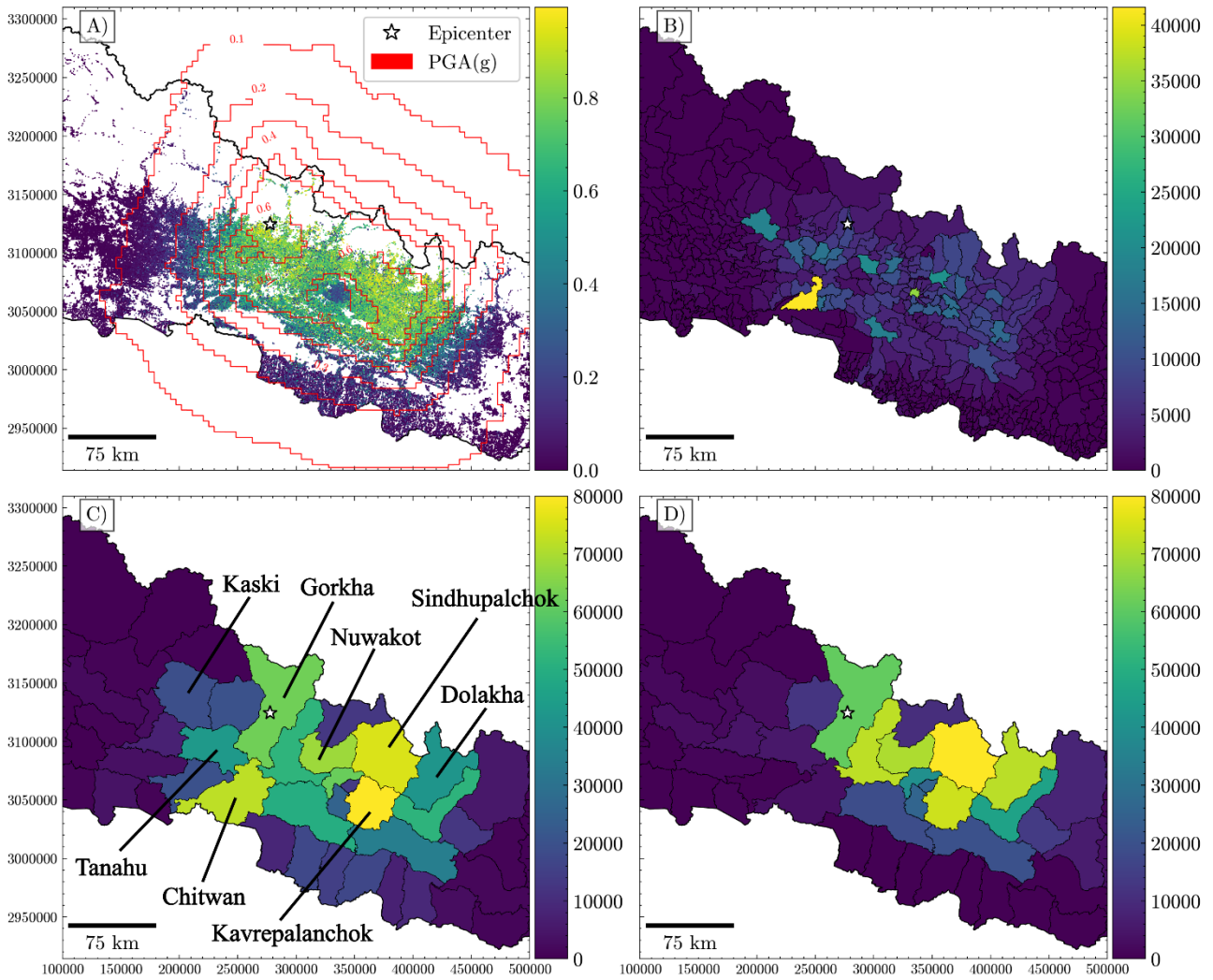
376 We first consider modelled impacts from earthquake shaking alone. Unsurprisingly, the probability of complete damage
377 per building, or equivalently the proportion of completely-damaged buildings within each 90 x 90 m exposure grid cell,
378 closely matches the estimated PGA contours from the Gorkha earthquake (Fig. 5A). There are particularly high
379 probabilities in the hill and mountain districts, especially to the east and northeast of Kathmandu, where the values exceed
380 0.7. Notably, these values generally increase to the north and this increase is cut off only by the lack of buildings above
381 elevations of around 3,500 m in northern Nepal (visible as the white areas in Fig. 5A). The Kathmandu Valley itself yields
382 a low proportion of completely-damaged buildings, despite moderately high PGA values, due to the preponderance of
383 less-fragile building types.

384

385 We convert the proportion of completely-damaged buildings per grid cell into a sum total aggregated over municipalities
386 (Fig. 5B) and districts (Fig. 5C). These totals reflect the PGA pattern and the weighted mean fragility functions, but
387 importantly also the number of buildings within each administrative area. When aggregated by municipality, the largest
388 modelled totals tend to occur in the more densely-populated Middle Hills in the vicinity of Kathmandu, rather than the
389 more sparsely-populated north. There are some notable exceptions to this pattern, such as Bharatpur to the south of the
390 earthquake epicentre (Fig. 5B), which combines a large stock of fragile building types with moderately high PGA values.
391 When aggregated by district, the largest modelled totals are again dominated by areas with both large numbers of buildings
392 and moderate to high PGA values (Fig. 5C). With the exception of Chitwan to the south of the epicentre, the largest totals
393 are found in districts where PGA exceeded 0.4 g. It is instructive to compare the aggregated pattern by district to the
394 actual numbers of completely-damaged buildings (Fig. 5D). There are broad similarities between modelled and observed
395 totals, especially in the hill and mountain districts of Sindhupalchok, Nuwakot, and Kavrepalanchok. Notably, the model
396 over-predicts the impacts in districts close to the epicentre, including Gorkha and Chitwan, and under-predicts the impacts
397 at the eastern margin of the rupture in Dolakha (Fig. 5D).

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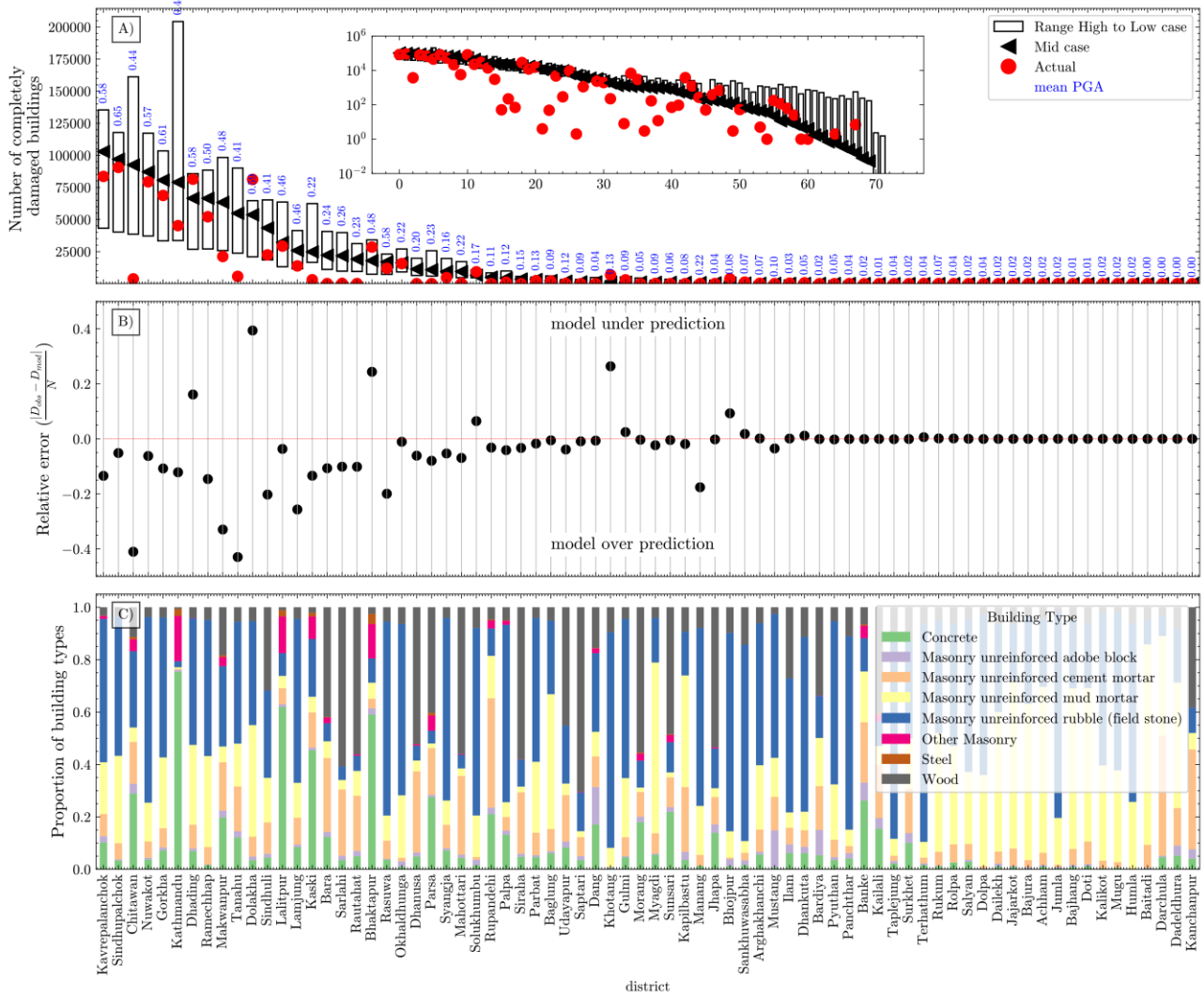
400

401 **Figure 5: Modelled building impacts from shaking in the 2015 Gorkha earthquake. In all panels, the red contours show the**
 402 **estimated PGA values from the earthquake in g. Note that these results are derived from the middle-case fragility functions in**
 403 **Fig. 4. A, modelled probability of complete damage for individual buildings across the country. This is equivalent to the**
 404 **proportion of completely-damaged buildings in each 90 x 90 m grid cell in the METEOR exposure dataset. B, modelled sum**
 405 **total of completely-damaged buildings aggregated by municipality. C, modelled sum total of completely-damaged buildings**
 406 **aggregated by district. D, actual sum of reported “fully damaged” buildings aggregated by district. Note similar colour scales**
 407 **in panels C and D.**

408

409 To better visualise the agreement between modelled and observed totals of completely-damaged buildings, we compare
 410 the observed totals for all 77 districts in Nepal with model results using the high, middle, and low fragility cases (Fig.
 411 6A). For most districts with non-zero impacts, the observed totals fall within the range of model results using the different
 412 fragility curves, with a slight bias toward model over-prediction (Fig. 6B). Among the top 15 districts in terms of modelled
 413 impacts, observed impacts fall below that range in three districts (Chitwan, Tanahu, and Kaski; see Fig. 5C for locations),
 414 within that range in 11, and above that range in only one (Dolakha). Alternatively, out of the ‘14 worst-affected districts’
 415 identified by the Government of Nepal, observed impacts fall within the range of model results in thirteen districts, with
 416 Dolakha being the only outlier. The model thus appears to be somewhat conservative in that it slightly over-predicts
 417 building impacts due to shaking in the 2015 earthquake. The mismatch between modelled and observed totals is not

418 clearly related to building typologies (Fig. 6C). There may be a weak correlation with shaking; districts with significant
 419 over-prediction tend to be those with lower mean PGA values (typically <0.44 g) while Dolakha has a larger mean PGA
 420 (0.59 g), and we explore this point in the Discussion.
 421



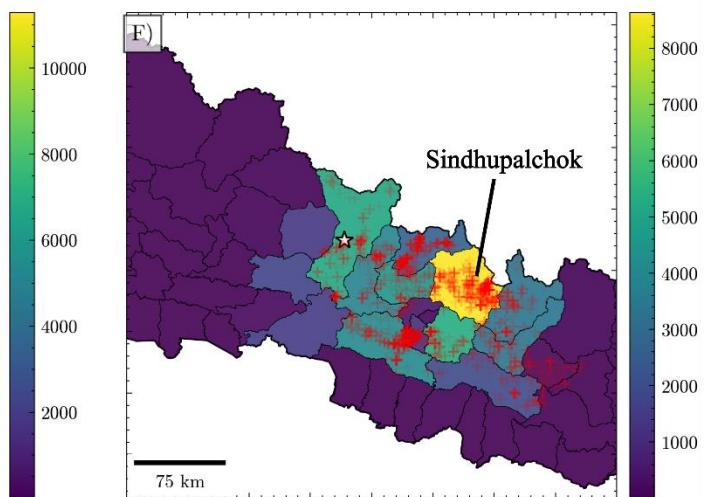
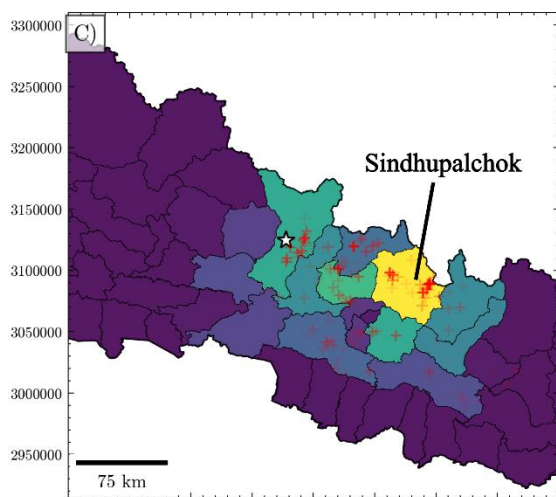
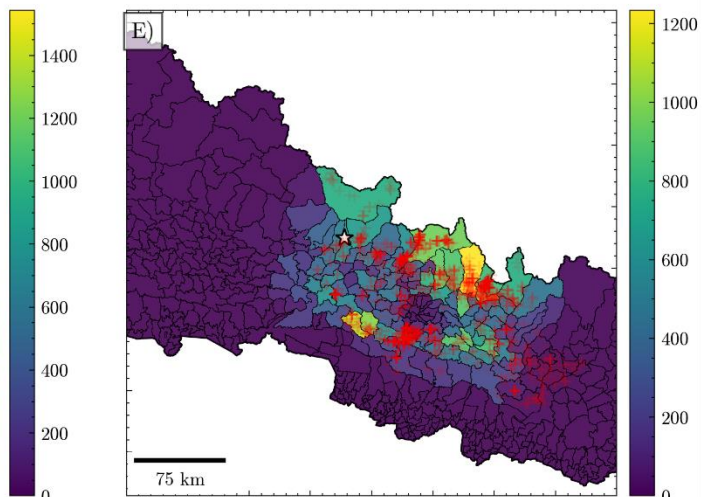
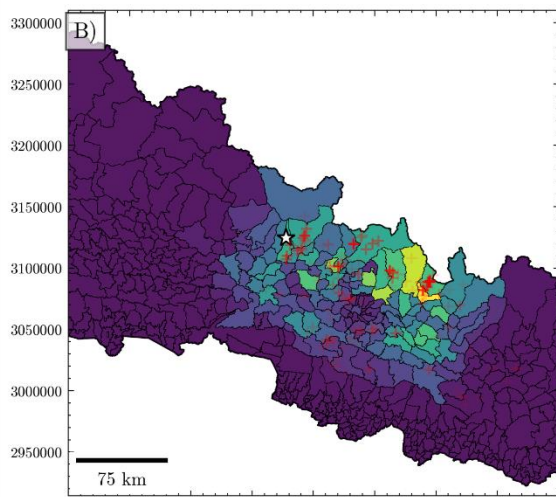
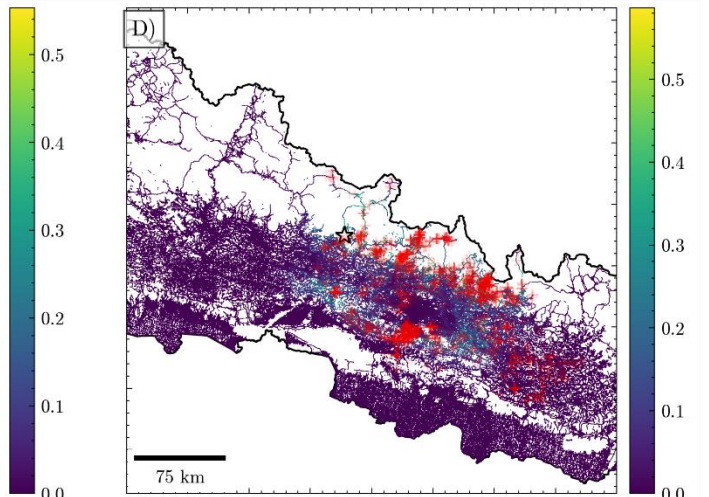
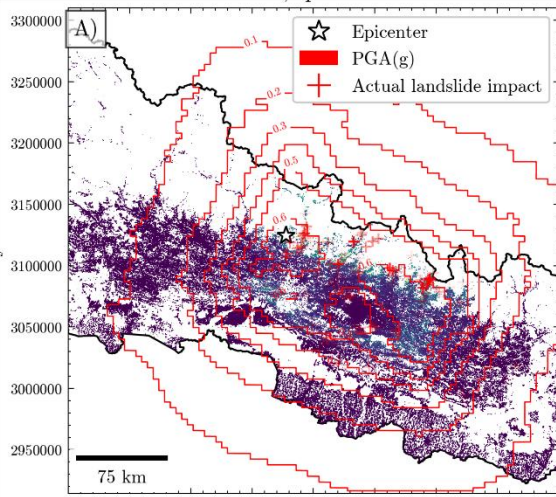
422
 423 **Figure 6: A, comparison of modelled and observed numbers of completely-damaged buildings per district in the 2015 Gorkha**
 424 **earthquake. Bars show the range of modelled results for each district using high and low fragility cases (see Fig. 4), with the**
 425 **middle case shown by the black arrow. Red dots show the reported numbers of "fully damaged" buildings. Blue numbers show**
 426 **the mean PGA for each district, in g. The inset shows the same quantities with a logarithmic y-axis scale. B, mismatch between**
 427 **observed (D_{obs}) and modelled (D_{mod}) numbers for each district, normalised by the total number of buildings in that district (N).**
 428 **Negative values indicate model over-prediction, while positive values indicate model under-prediction. Note that impacts in**
 429 **most of the districts with non-zero damage values are slightly under-predicted. C, proportion of different building types in each**
 430 **district from the METEOR exposure data set. There is no clear correlation between the residuals in panel B and the dominant**
 431 **building types.**

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4.2 Impacts from coseismic landslides

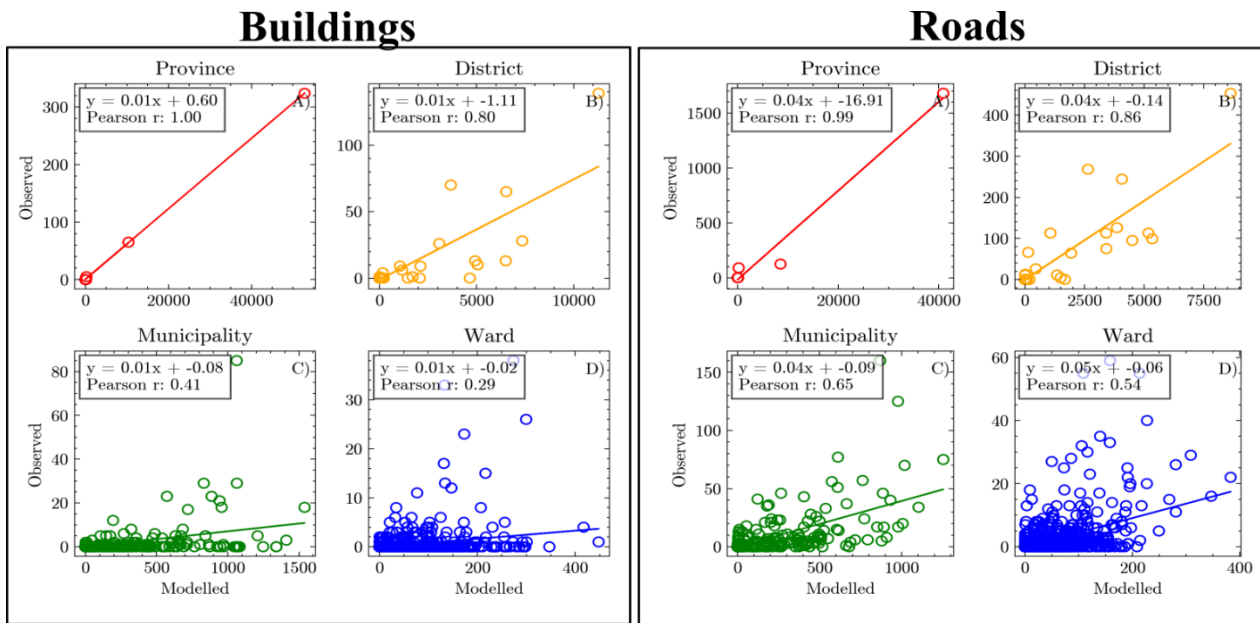
As with shaking damage, the modelled probability of a building (Fig. 7A) or road segment (Fig. 7D) being impacted by a coseismic landslide scales with PGA; this is simply a consequence of the assumed relationship between PGA and landslide triggering (Fig. S3). Higher probability values are found in northern areas of Nepal, where landslide susceptibility is elevated (Fig. S2). We aggregate these probabilities to estimate the number of impacted buildings and road segments at the municipality (Fig. 7B, E) and district (Fig. 7C, F) levels. The regions experiencing the highest predicted impacts closely align with those observed, notably concentrated in Sindhupalchok district, where both modelled and observed landslide impacts are most prevalent (Fig. 7C, F). Again, these areas predominantly lie in northern Nepal where susceptibility to landslides is greatest, contrasting somewhat with the distribution of modelled shaking damage. This disparity may stem from the higher and more widely dispersed density of buildings in the southern regions. Consequently, while shaking-related damage appears diffuse, landslide-related damage is more focused in specific regions due to localized exposure. Importantly, the model anticipates approximately an order of magnitude fewer building impacts from landslides as compared to those damaged by shaking (note the scale difference between Figs. 5 and 7). We also note that, while the overall spatial patterns of modelled building and road impacts are similar, the model predicts somewhat higher numbers of road impacts (by about 50%), and that this generally matches the observed differences in intersections between these infrastructure types with coseismic landslides (Fig. 7). Roads are typically sited along or near valley floors, thus increasing their exposure to landslides. Additionally, there is a significant association between roads and landslides (e.g., Hearn and Shakya, 2017; McAdoo et al., 2018), suggesting that the interaction between landslides and roads may cover a broader spatial extent compared to the relationship between landslides and buildings.



458 **Figure 7: Modelled structural impacts from coseismic landslides in the 2015 Gorkha earthquake. In all panels, the red contours**
 459 **show the estimated PGA values from the earthquake in g. The red crosses show observed landslide impacts on buildings (left**
 460 **column) and road segments (right column), derived by mapping the intersections between those structure locations and the**
 461 **coseismic landslide inventory of Kincey et al. (2021). A, modelled probability of impact for individual buildings across the**
 462 **country. B, sum of per-building probabilities aggregated by municipality, of which there are 753 in Nepal. C, sum of per-**
 463 **building probabilities aggregated by district, of which there are 77 in Nepal. D, modelled probability of impact for individual**
 464 **100 m road segments across the country. E, sum of per-road segment probabilities aggregated by municipality. F, sum of per-**
 465 **road segment probabilities aggregated by district.**

466
 467 The correlation between the modelled and observed numbers of buildings impacted by landslides depends upon the area
 468 over which they are aggregated (Fig. 8). At province (n = 7) and district (n = 77) levels, there is an approximately linear
 469 relationship between modelled and observed numbers of buildings, with a Pearson's correlation coefficient >0.80 (Fig.
 470 8). At municipality and ward levels, however, the correlation is much weaker. Notably, modelled numbers of buildings
 471 over-predict the observed totals by a factor of about 50-100, irrespective of the administrative area. Similar results are
 472 seen for road segments: good linear correlations for province- and district-level aggregation, much weaker performance
 473 for municipalities and wards, and over-prediction of impacts by a factor of about 20-25 (Fig. 8).

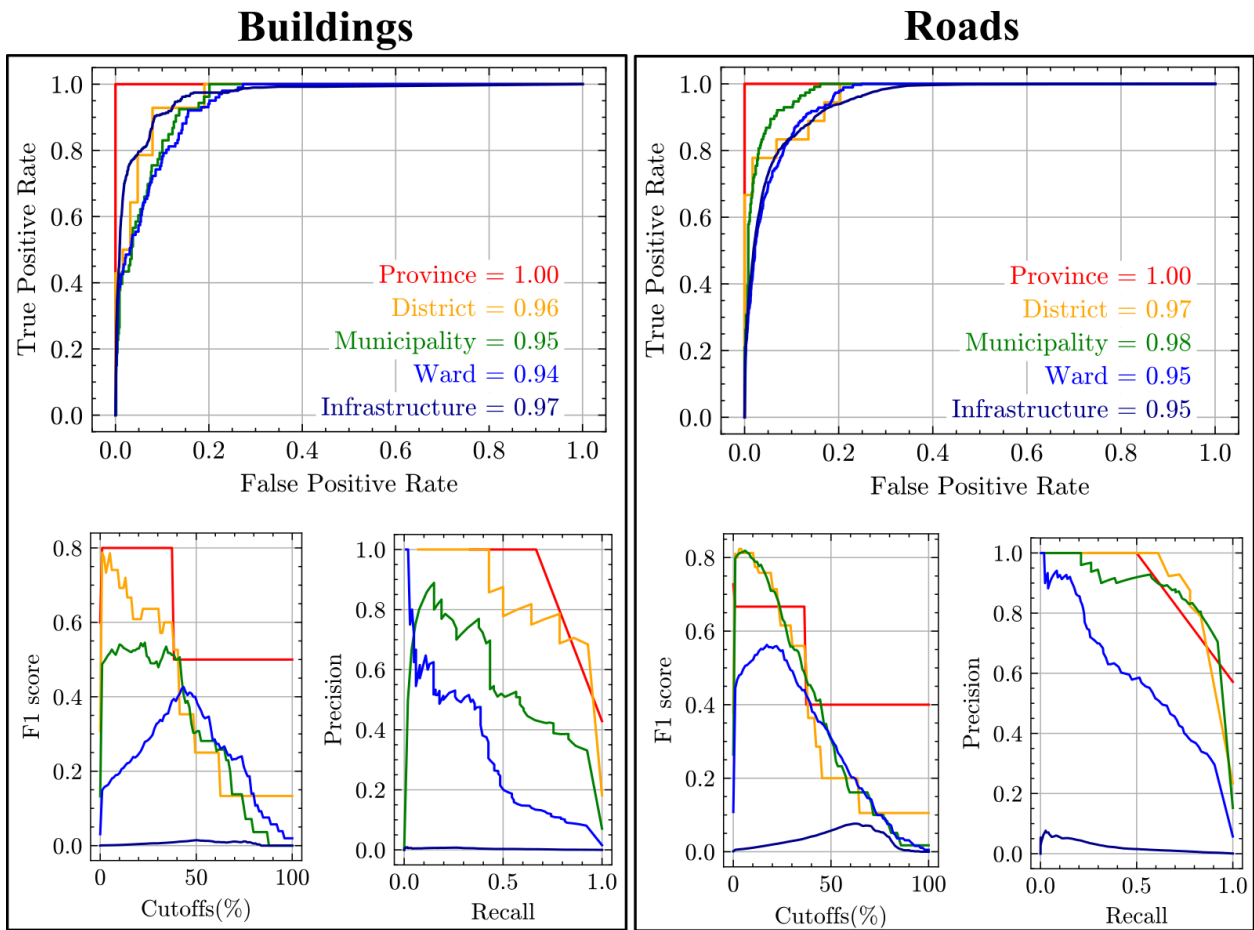
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476 **Figure 8: Comparison of modelled (x-axis) and observed (y-axis) numbers of building and road impacts from coseismic**
 477 **landslides in the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, summed over different administrative areas. Straight lines show best-fit linear**
 478 **regression results. Note differences in axis limits depending on the area of aggregation by province (red), district (orange),**
 479 **municipality (green), or ward (blue).**

480



481

482 **Figure 9: ROC (top), F1 (lower left), and precision-recall (lower right) curves for coseismic landslide impacts of buildings and**
 483 **road segments aggregated over province, district, municipality, ward and at the individual infrastructure scale. Numbers in**
 484 **the top panels show the area under the ROC curves. Line colours match the symbol colours in Fig. 8.**

485

486 As a more permissive test of the model's ability to anticipate landslide impacts, we also compare the mean likelihood of
 487 landslide impacts, averaged by administrative area, with the presence or absence of impacts in those areas. While the area
 488 under the ROC curves is high for all aggregation levels (Fig. 9), this is likely due to the strong imbalance between
 489 prediction categories (i.e., there are many more non-impacted buildings than impacted buildings, so the ROC curve is
 490 dominated by the large number of true negative model results). In contrast, precision-recall curves show a progressive
 491 decrease in model performance at progressively smaller levels of aggregation, from province to ward, and very low
 492 precision at the scale of an individual building or road segment (Fig. 9). Because F1 scores combine precision and recall,
 493 they show a similar pattern (Fig. 9); across the full range of thresholds, F1 scores for both buildings and roads (Fig. 9) are
 494 highest for province- and district-level aggregation and lowest for ward-level aggregation. For an optimal model
 495 threshold, province-level aggregation achieves maximum F1 scores of around c. 0.8 for buildings and c. 0.65 for roads.
 496 The maximum F1 scores for buildings are also around 0.8 for districts and diminish progressively to 0.55 for
 497 municipalities and 0.4 for wards. For roads, the maximum F1 scores are 0.8 for districts and municipalities, and 0.55 for
 498 wards. In sum, these results indicate that, while the model can reproduce the spatial pattern of landslide impacts at the
 499 provincial or district scale, its predictive capability is much weaker when assessing impacts within smaller administrative
 500 units like municipalities and wards, and it should not be used to predict impacts to individual buildings or road segments.

501

502 **5. Discussion**

503

504 **5.1 General observations**

505

506 Overall, the hyperedge model is able to reproduce the overall spatial pattern of the impacts from the Gorkha earthquake.
507 This lends some confidence that the model framework could be adapted to estimate the potential impacts from a future
508 event, such as a large earthquake or rainstorm. While the computational efficiency of the hyperedge approach is a notable
509 strength – enabling rapid simulations involving extensive elements, such as the approximately 7.1 million individual
510 buildings and 3 million road segments in our case – its significance extends beyond speed and flexibility because it fosters
511 the generation of multi-hazard scenario ensembles, diverging from the limitation of focusing solely on deterministic
512 impact scenarios. Robinson et al. (2018) demonstrated the advantages of scenario ensembles over the more common
513 approach of single deterministic scenarios, especially as a tool for facilitating awareness of what could be possible in a
514 future event. While creation of multi-hazard scenario ensembles is our wider goal, the experiments shown here focus on
515 multiple realisations of the same past event for the purpose of evaluation.

516

517 A key finding of the experiments is the trade-off between model performance, in terms of the ability to anticipate both
518 the spatial pattern and number of impacts, and the resolution of the model outputs. Because of the probabilistic nature of
519 the model and limitations in our understanding of exposure, earthquake shaking, and landslide susceptibilities, we cannot
520 say with confidence which buildings were impacted by hazards related to the 2015 earthquake. As we aggregate the model
521 results over increasingly large areas, however, our ability to rank those areas in terms of impact, and to estimate the
522 number of structures affected, increases monotonically. While our results can therefore not be used to anticipate the risk
523 to individual households, they could be used by organisations working at a larger scale to identify areas that are more or
524 less prone to different types of hazards, and provide a relative ranking in terms of the number and scale of expected
525 impacts. Thus, the value and potential usefulness of the hypergraph approach as implemented here lies more in informing
526 planning over larger spatial scales, at which the model performs best, as opposed to rapid response to a particular event
527 where detailed spatial information would be required. There is some indication that absolute numbers of affected
528 structures could be generated for larger administrative units by extrapolating the scaling by our analysis of the 2015
529 earthquake (see, for example, Fig. 8), but we hesitate to draw conclusions from a single earthquake without further testing.

530

531 **5.2 Over-prediction and relative impacts between hazards**

532

533 We note that the model over-predicts the number of impacts at all levels of aggregation, and is therefore conservative in
534 terms of anticipating the scale of impacts for the 2015 earthquake. The possible reasons for this over-prediction are likely
535 to differ for shaking and landslide impacts. The mismatch in the number of buildings damaged by shaking is especially
536 notable for districts with moderate mean PGA values (typically <0.5 g; Fig. 6A). The sigmoidal fragility functions used
537 in the model are steepest at moderate PGA values (Fig. 3); for the middle case, this corresponds to PGA values of ~0.2-
538 0.5 g for the most common building types in Nepal. Thus, small uncertainties in PGA will yield large differences in the
539 likelihood of complete damage, and thus in the numbers of completely-damaged buildings in our model experiments.
540 This issue is compounded by the highly-uncertain values of ground motion in the Gorkha earthquake stemming from the
541 paucity of strong-motion recordings, as noted by Goda et al. (2015). We also note that our experiments do not account
542 for aftershocks, including the M_w 7.3 earthquake that occurred on 12 May and that ruptured the eastern end of the 25

543 April slip patch under Dolakha district (Avouac et al., 2015). This event likely led to additional building damage which
544 was included in the observations but is not simulated here, perhaps leading to under-prediction in Dolakha in particular.

545

546 Over-prediction of observed landslide impacts, in contrast, may result from a range of different factors. As noted above,
547 in the absence of an independent dataset of landslide impacts on buildings or roads in the 2015 earthquake, we have
548 generated these data by intersecting those elements at risk with the coseismic landslide inventory of Kincey et al. (2021).
549 This is likely to underpredict the actual number of impacts due to errors and limitations in landslide mapping as well as
550 the potential for buildings to be omitted from the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap database. It is also important to note that
551 our approach relies on a probabilistic sampling of an underlying landslide susceptibility dataset in order to anticipate (1)
552 the slope units in which a landslide is most likely to be triggered, and (2) the buildings and road segments that were most
553 likely to be affected. Our results are thus highly dependent upon the quality of the underlying susceptibility information.
554 In the experiments described here, susceptibility is a static quantity that depends only upon local topography. Because we
555 are focused on a single event, there is no direct provision for dynamic variation in susceptibility over time or for other
556 factors that may affect landslide occurrence, such as the presence or absence of antecedent rainfall, soil moisture or other
557 measures of ground condition, or land cover. Further applications of the model could incorporate susceptibility estimates
558 that are trained on other landslide inventories – for example, time-varying susceptibility that captures the evolution of
559 landslide hazard over time (e.g., Tian et al., 2020; Kincey et al., 2021, 2022) or that depends upon other causative factors
560 (e.g., Reichenbach et al., 2018).

561

562 Our model result that the number of buildings damaged by ground shaking is approximately an order of magnitude greater
563 than that impacted by landslides is difficult to test directly because of the lack of a systematic description of the sources
564 of building damage in the 2015 Gorkha earthquake. It is broadly consistent, however, with previous work on the relative
565 importance of secondary hazards – including landslides – and ground shaking in determining earthquake losses. Bird and
566 Bommer (2004) assessed the relative impacts of ground shaking and ground failure on direct and indirect losses in
567 earthquakes. They found that fatal landslides occurred in 10 of their 50 studied earthquakes and that landslides could be
568 the primary cause of building damage in affected areas, locally overshadowing ground shaking. Overall, however, ground
569 shaking was the primary cause of building damage in 88% of their studied earthquakes, and landslides in only 6%. They
570 also found that landslide-induced disruption of road or transport networks was much more common than building damage,
571 which matches our model results for the Gorkha earthquake. Daniell et al. (2017) argued that ground shaking has caused
572 62% of total economic costs in earthquakes over the period 1900-2016, with landslides responsible for 5% of total costs.
573 Marano et al. (2010) found that 21.5% of the fatal earthquakes in the PAGER-CAT database had deaths due to secondary
574 hazards, but that these were rarely the main cause of death. Landslides were the leading cause of non-shaking-related
575 deaths if the 2004 Great Sumatra earthquake was excluded, although they accounted for about an order of magnitude
576 fewer deaths than ground shaking. In contrast, Budimir et al. (2014) demonstrated that earthquakes with landslides
577 typically cause more fatalities than those without, independent of other factors such as earthquake size or affected
578 population. Their results demonstrate the need to account for the full multi-hazard cascade in anticipating losses at
579 anything other than a simplified regional scale (e.g., Bird and Bommer, 2004; Daniell et al., 2017).

580

581

5.3 Limitations

582

583 While the model operates on a hyperedge that connects every structure within the dataset, there are a number of factors
584 that cannot be resolved at a building scale. Notably, PGA values were gridded at a spatial resolution of 100 by 100 m,
585 meaning that we have no information on the actual accelerations experienced by individual buildings or road segments.
586 Similarly, while landslide susceptibility was estimated using a comparatively fine-scale DEM with a grid size of 10 x 10
587 m, each individual building or road segment occupies at most a few grid cells and the susceptibility values are thus highly
588 location-dependent. It is also important to note that we do not simulate the triggering, occurrence, and runout of individual
589 landslides, nor do we ‘place’ landslides in the landscape as would be done for example in a landscape evolution model
590 (e.g., Croissant et al., 2017; 2019). Such a calculation would dramatically increase both the model complexity, making it
591 infeasible to construct a multi-hazard scenario ensemble at a national scale. Because of this limitation, we cannot directly
592 evaluate which elements at risk are directly impacted by landslides, nor can we anticipate which elements may be affected
593 by remobilisation and runout of landslide debris (e.g., Kincey et al., 2022). By sampling the landslide susceptibility
594 distribution for each slope unit, and the landslide susceptibility values for each building, we are (over enough iterations)
595 recovering those distributions, but we cannot overcome the inherent uncertainty in susceptibility at those locations.
596 Finally, the METEOR exposure dataset contains information on the building types and numbers within each 90 x 90 m
597 grid cell, but we have no information on the type and fragility of individual buildings. Therefore, while impact likelihood
598 is calculated at the scale of individual structures, we stress that this estimate is only meaningful across the whole scenario
599 ensemble, and should never be interpreted as a statement that ‘building X will be affected by this earthquake’.

600

601 **5.4 Other applications**

602

603 Because of its efficiency, the framework allows exploration of other elements of model performance, including the
604 distinction between false positive and false negative errors. While performance measures such as the area under an ROC
605 or precision-recall curve can be used to define an ‘optimum’ model outcome, the model application and users may
606 determine which type of error is more important to minimise. For example, a humanitarian organisation may view false
607 positives as more acceptable than false negatives; the former may lead at worst to unnecessary preparations, whereas the
608 latter means that impacts are not anticipated and may delay relief and recovery efforts. By quickly generating numerous
609 multi-hazard scenarios, the framework can be run with users to explore these different outcomes, and to examine the
610 specificity of model results to the details of a particular scenario (e.g., Robinson et al., 2018). The model could also be
611 used to explore ‘what-if’ questions with users to examine the effects of particular interventions or remediation measures.
612 In addition, the efficiency of the framework could be used to explore the evolution of risk over time, where increased
613 simulation length or time resolution would lead to an increase in computational cost. Thus, the effects of policy decisions,
614 climate change and consequent changes in hazard occurrence, or demographic shifts on the pattern of anticipated impacts
615 could be explored (Zschau, 2017).

616

617 The flexibility of the hyperedge framework also lends itself to other types of simulation. Other elements of the multi-
618 hazard chain shown in Fig. 2 could be included; for example, susceptibility to landslide debris remobilisation and runout
619 could be included and sampled for each element at risk, allowing the model to anticipate both the direct impacts within
620 an event as well as potential longer-term impacts arising from later secondary hazards (e.g., Fan et al., 2019; Kincey et
621 al., 2022). Impacts from other types of driving events, such as monsoon rainfall, could also be explored. It would be
622 feasible, for example, to generate an ensemble of scenarios around different rainfall patterns associated with a seasonal
623 monsoon outlook, or with different iterations of shorter-term weather forecasts, to look at the pattern and specificity of

624 impacts. Such an application would be subject to the comparatively low spatial resolution of both observational (e.g., Hou
625 et al., 2014) and forecast rainfall data products, so that – just as with the earthquake scenarios developed here – the impact
626 results at the scale of an individual structure would not be meaningful. The hyperedge framework would, however, allow
627 exploration of the trade-offs between aggregation and model performance, as demonstrated here, and could be useful for
628 informing humanitarian contingency planning for annual rainfall-related impacts in Nepal and other monsoon-affected
629 countries.

630

631 **6. Conclusions**

632

633 Accounting for the multi-hazard aspects of risk is crucial for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian planning. Traditional
634 approaches to risk modelling tend to omit the interactions between hazards and, even when these interactions are
635 accounted for, may struggle to meet the computational demands posed by such complex scenarios. Here, we demonstrate
636 that a new model based on hypergraph theory, a type of network modelling approach, is able to efficiently simulate multi-
637 hazard risk. The model framework accounts for the interactions between a driving stimulus such as an earthquake or
638 rainstorm with processes on the landscape (such as landslides) and exposed infrastructure. Beyond overcoming
639 computational challenges, this framework can facilitate multi-hazard risk assessments by enabling the generation of
640 ensembles to explore the importance of different geophysical hazards, larger areas, longer timeframes, and diverse
641 counterfactual scenarios. This versatility enhances our understanding of complex risk landscapes and empowers decision-
642 makers with valuable insights for proactive disaster preparedness and response strategies.

643

644 We explore the capabilities of the model through a case study of the 2015 M_w 7.8 Gorkha earthquake in Nepal, which
645 caused widespread damage due to both primary shaking and secondary landslides. We find that the model can reproduce
646 the overall spatial pattern of earthquake impacts. The observed numbers of completely-damaged buildings in most
647 districts, including 13 out of the 14 worst-affected districts, fall within the range of model predictions, which depends
648 primarily on the assumed fragility functions for the typical building types found in Nepal. The model also broadly
649 reproduces the spatial patterns of structures that were damaged by coseismic landslides in the earthquake, although it
650 overestimates the absolute number of impacts. This may be due to limitations in the data used by the model to determine
651 impacts. Importantly, there is an increase in model performance when the results are aggregated over larger administrative
652 areas; the model does a reasonable job of anticipating the relative impacts at a province or district scale, but performs
653 much less well at the smaller scales of municipalities or wards. This result suggests that the hypergraph framework could
654 be usefully applied to rank administrative areas by expected impacts, for example due to a future earthquake or rainstorm,
655 to underpin pre-disaster contingency planning efforts where large-scale trends are more important than detailed impact
656 predictions. The computational efficiency of the hypergraph framework, even at the scale of an entire country such as
657 Nepal, lends itself to the generation of multiple impact scenarios and raises the possibility of using an ensemble of
658 potential scenario results rather than depending upon single-event scenarios for disaster preparedness and planning.

659

660 **Author contributions**

661 Funding was acquired by ALD, TRR, and NJR. The study was conceived by ADu, TRR, ALD, and NJR. ADu wrote the
662 code and carried out the numerical experiments with input from TRR, ALD, NJR, RMR, and MEK. ADu and ALD
663 prepared the original draft of the manuscript and all authors contributed to review and editing.

664

665 **Competing interests**

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

667

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