

Abstract Compound flooding, where the combination or successive occurrence of two or more flood drivers leads to a greater impact, can exacerbate the adverse consequences of flooding, particularly in coastal/estuarine regions. This paper reviews the practices and trends in coastal/estuarine compound flood research and synthesizes regional to global findings. Systematic review is employed to construct a literature database of 271 studies relevant to compound flooding in a coastal/estuarine context. This review explores the types of compound flood events, their mechanistic processes, and synthesizes terminology throughout the literature. Considered in the review are six flood drivers (fluvial, pluvial, coastal, groundwater, damming/dam failure, and tsunami) and five precursor events and environmental conditions (soil moisture, snow, temp/heat, fire, and drought). Furthermore, this review summarizes research methodology and study applications trends, and considers the influences of climate change and urban environments. Finally, this review highlights knowledge gaps in compound flood research and discusses the implications on future practices. Our five recommendations for compound flood research are: 1) adopt consistent terminology and approaches; 2) expand the geographic coverage of research; 3) pursue more inter- comparison projects; 4) develop modelling frameworks that better couple dynamic Earth systems; and 5) design urban and coastal infrastructure with compounding in mind.

83 1) Introduction

- Average global flood losses in large coastal cities are estimated to increase approximately tenfold by
- 2050 due to socio-economic change alone, reaching up to US\$1 trillion or more per year when
- considering sea-level rise and land subsidence (Hallegatte et al., 2013). There is clear importance in
- advancing our understanding of flooding in coastal/estuarine regions.

coastal (surge, tide, waves, and total sea level) components, as well as their (d) compound flood interactions.

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302 *Table 1. Examples of different compound event (and related) terminologies, types, and definitions in scientific literature.* 303 *Unique aspects of varying definitions are emphasized in bold.*

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305 3) Flood Processes and Mechanisms

3.1 Main Drivers of Flooding in Coastal Regions

- Fluvial flooding (Figure 1a), also known as river (or riverine) flooding is induced by the accumulation of large volumes of rainfall and/or freshwater. Intense precipitation during extreme meteorological events (e.g., TCs/ETCs and atmospheric rivers) and weather seasons (e.g., monsoons) can inundate rivers quickly. Elevated volumes of water cause the level in rivers, creeks, and streams to rise above their channel banks and spill out into the adjacent low-lying area known as the floodplain. Thus, fluvial flooding depends on the hydrometeorological conditions and catchment characteristics (e.g., size, shape, slope, land cover, and soil type). The peak of river flooding can have a time lag of hours to weeks between the rainfall over a catchment and the exceedance of downstream channels (Valle-Levinson et al., 2020). In the spring, fluvial flooding can also be driven by snowmelt (or glacial melt) as large reservoirs of melting freshwater flows into downstream river channels. Freshwater fluvial flooding occurs worldwide but is more frequent in high latitude (e.g., Canada and Northern Europe) and high elevation (e.g., Hindu Kush and Andes Mountains) regions. Pluvial flooding (Figure 1b) is the result of rapid heavy rainfall (flash flooding) or long sustained rainfall. As the rain reaches the ground, the soil has the potential to become saturated, causing either ponding or surface runoff (overland flooding) that flows down terrain and into rivers (in practice the boundary between pluvial and fluvial flooding is not well defined and is usually based on catchment area rather than physical process). Pluvial flooding is thus closely dependent on surface drainage. Urban flooding is closely linked with pluvial flooding where excessive runoff in areas of human development has insufficient drainage, often due to impervious surfaces such as concrete and asphalt (Gallien et al., 2018). Urban flooding also ties in with sewer and stormwater flooding in which pluvial surface runoff infiltrate waste management infrastructure and exceed system capacity (Archetti et al., 2011; Gallien et al., 2018; Meyers et al., 2021). Coastal flooding (Figure 1c) mainly occurs from one or more combinations of high astronomical tides, storm surge, and wave action (runup, set up, swell, seiche), superimposed on relative mean
- sea level. Each of these components of total sea level contribute differently to flooding, but we have

3.2 Other Drivers of Flooding

 In Section 3.1 we considered the three main flood drivers, which most frequently contribute to compound flooding in coastal regions. However, other less frequent drivers can also play an important role in compound floods and are briefly summarised below. Groundwater flooding is the rise of the water table to the ground surface or an elevation above human development (Holt, 2019). This occurs during an increase in the volume of water entering an underlying aquifer. This can be the result of prolonged rainfall and snowmelt, but in the case of unconfined coastal aquifers can also be driven by SLR and saltwater intrusion (Plane et al., 2019; Befus et al., 2020; Rahimi et al., 2020). Groundwater flooding is often observed along shorelines that are equal to or below sea level

(Plane et al., 2019; Befus et al., 2020; Rahimi et al., 2020), in regions with high ground-surface

3.3 Precursor Events and Environmental Conditions

 In addition to the aforementioned six flood drivers, we also bring to attention five important precursor events and environmental conditions that can strongly influence flooding and whether or

4) Literature Database Methodology

444 *Table 2. Literature database keywords and Boolean search terms. Asterisks act as multi-character wildcards used to capture* 445 *alternative phrasing of truncated root words (e.g., 'flood*' returns 'flood-s', 'flood-ed', and 'flood-ing')*

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447 To fully clarify the scope of this review, we again emphasize that this review is focused on

448 compound flood literature in coastal (ocean/lake) and estuarine environments. Some may argue

449 that all coastal flooding (or really flooding in general) involves a combination of multiple drivers.

450 While this is not untrue, the majority of historical flood and coastal flood literature has not explicitly

451 focussed on the compounding interactions between the different components of flooding and how

452 those interactions influence flooding as a whole. For this reason, general coastal flood literature that

453 does not explicitly examine the interactions of different flood mechanisms on total flooding is

- 454 excluded. Additionally, while compound flood literature must examine flooding in coastal and
- 455 estuarine regions, it does not necessarily require the consideration of coastal drivers to be included
- 456 (e.g. compound fluvial-pluvial flooding at the coast). Finally, we highlight that historical literature
- 457 that do not use the phrase "compound flood" may still be included as they would have satisfied the
- 458 other keyword search terms listed in Table 2.

- From these literature search and database curation methodologies, we identified a total of 271
- compound flood publications. A detailed overview of the compound flood literature database is
- presented in the Appendix (Table A1).

5) Review of Literature Database

The fourth objective of the review is to identify and reflect on trends in the characteristics of

- compound flood research. We discuss general bibliometric characteristics of compound flood
- literature including: publications over time (Section 5.1), the geographic scope of compound flood
- case studies (Section 5.2), and the key scientific journals and/or institutions (Section 5.3). We then
- review the flood drivers considered (Section 5.4), the analytical approaches applied in the studies
- (Section 5.4), and their various research applications (Section 5.5).

5.1) Publications by Year

 As mentioned previously, we identified 271 publications on compound flooding up to the end of the year 2022. The number of publications per year, identified in the review, are shown in Figure 2. Up until the year 2000 there were very few compound flood studies (16) (Myers, 1970; Ho and Myers, 1975; Prandle and Wolf, 1978; Mantz and Wakeling, 1979; Walden et al., 1982; Loganathan et al., 1987; Chou, 1989; Vongvisessomjai and Rojanakamthorn, 1989; Flick, 1991; Tawn, 1992; Acreman, 1994; Coles and Tawn, 1994; Dixon and Tawn, 1994; Jones, 1998; Coles et al., 1999; Rodríguez et al., 1999), the earliest being published in 1970 (Myers, 1970). Since then, there has been a considerable increase in compound flood related papers. The past three years (2020-2022) in particular has spawned a considerable number of compound flood papers (129), nearly half (48%).

5.2) Publications by Geographic Region

 The number of compound flood related papers, organized by geographical region on which the study focuses, are displayed in Figure 3a, and spatially mapped in Figure 3b. Although there has been increasing focus on the compound nature of flooding, the spatial scope of compound flood research is largely limited to a few geographic regions. Nearly half the publications are directed at compound

- flooding along the US coastlines (110, 40%). The spatial distribution of US-related studies is
- visualized in Figure 3c. Following the US, some of the next most frequently studied regions are the
- UK (35, 13%), China (19, 7.0%), Global (12, 4.4%), Europe (12, 4.4%), Australia (9, 3.3%), the
- Netherlands (8, 3.0%), Canada (7, 2.6%), and Taiwan (7, 2.6%). Additional geographic regions
- assessed in <7 studies are presented in Figure 3a.

5.3) Publications by Journals and Institutions

- A total of 107 unique scientific journals and institutions (i.e., universities and government agencies)
- have published compound flood research (i.e., articles, reports, and theses). More than half (140,
- 52%) of the compound flood literature is published in 15 academic research journals (Figure 4), with
- the top 5 most frequent journals being Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences (26, 9.6%),
- Journal of Hydrology (15, 5.5%), Hydrology and Earth System Sciences (12, 4.4%), Water Resources
- Research (11, 4.1%), and Water (10, 3.7%). Although a considerable volume of compound flood
- research is published by a select few journals and institutions, a total of 65 journals and institutions
- have only published a single compound flood study. We suspect that this will change in the years to

come as the field of compound flood hazards gains further attention.

5.4) Review of Flood Drivers Considered

552 *Table 3. List of unique flood drivers, precursor events, and environmental conditions (plus terms and variables) observed in*

553 *compound flood research from the literature review database.*

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558 5.5) Review of Research Approaches

559 Across the database, the compound flood studies have tended to apply approaches that

560 generally fall into two categories: (1) physical (process-based) numerical modelling, and/or (2)

561 statistical modelling and analysis; similar findings to that of Tilloy et al. (2019). The number of

- 562 studies applying each approach are illustrated in Figure 6. In total, 96 (36%) studies used only
- 563 numerical modelling approaches, 97 (36%) used only statistical approaches, and 76 (28%) studies
- 564 applied hybrid methods involving a combination of numerical and statistical approaches. Within the
- 565 main two approach classes are many different methods for investigating compound floods, each of
- 566 which exhibiting their own benefits and limitations as discussed in Section 6. Lastly, 2 (<1%) studies
- 567 used neither of these approaches, instead completing qualitative survey-based investigations related

- to the perception and understanding of compound flooding by disaster managers and the wider
- public (Curtis et al., 2022; Modrakowski et al., 2022).

5.6) Review of Research Applications

- categories include 'Methodological Advancement' (26, 9.6%); 'Methodological Advancement, Risk
- Assessment' (21, 7.7%); 'Earth System Processes, Methodological Advancement' (18, 6.6%); and
- 'Planning & Management, Risk Assessment' (12, 4.4%) (Figure 7).
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6) Discussion

- compound flooding in the future (Section 6.4). Then, we reflect on the different approaches that
- have been used in the literature to analyse compound flooding (Section 6.5). Finally, we investigate
- the range of different applications considered across the literature (Section 6.6).

6.1) Compound Flood Hotspots and Spatiotemporal Dependence Patterns

- Our review highlights that knowledge of compound flooding hotspots, spatiotemporal patterns,
- and multivariate dependence characteristics has advanced considerably in recent years. However,
- the ways in which global meteorological and climate modulators affect the propensity of compound
- flooding in one region over another is not fully understood, and few studies consider the non-
- stationarity of multivariate flood variable dependence. Nonetheless, large-scale patterns in seasonal
- and interannual occurrence of compound events have become apparent in several regions (Wu et
- al., 2018; Ganguli and Merz, 2019b, a; Ridder et al., 2020; Lai et al., 2021a; Lai et al., 2021b; Camus
- et al., 2022; Stephens and Wu, 2022).

Existing compound event literature has identified certain areas around the world that are

especially prone to compound flooding, namely: Southern Asia, where monsoon floods and cyclones

cause widespread damage; the Gulf and East Coasts of the United States, where hurricanes induce

storm surge and heavy rainfall which exacerbate river flooding; global low-lying delta regions (e.g.,

Ganges, Irrawaddy, Mekong, Mississippi, Rhine, and Pearl) where riverine and coastal waters

together induce severe flooding; northern and western Europe which are prone to river flooding plus

- extreme precipitation and surge from storm events; and coastal areas of East Asia, Southeast Asia,
- and Oceania, where TCs/ETCs drive joint fluvial and coastal flooding (Apel et al., 2016; Ikeuchi et al.,
- 2017; Bevacqua et al., 2020; Couasnon et al., 2020; Eilander et al., 2020; Camus et al., 2021; Lai et
- al., 2021a). Below we further detail the spatiotemporal patterns in compound flooding and driver

interdependence by region.

 North America: The coasts of North America are the most studied in terms of compound flooding globally. Compound flooding predominantly occurs along the mid-eastern US coastline and the Gulf of Mexico due to TCs/ETCs that generate heavy rainfall and extreme sea levels (Ridder et al.,

- pluvial-coastal flooding processes in Hawaii, and Chou (1989) quantified the frequency of compound
- flooding from tide and storm surge along Saipan in the Mariana Islands.

6.2) Dominant Drivers of Compound Flooding

 shifted towards being pluvial-dominated. The importance of timing may also fluctuate depending on the size of the water bodies in question. Dykstra and Dzwonkowski (2021) found that slowing of river 782 propagation in larger watersheds (>5000 km²) led to a greater time lag between storm surge and river discharge, indicating greater risk of fluvial-coastal compounding in smaller watersheds where discharge travels downstream faster. Likewise, differences observed in the UK's Humber and Dyfi estuaries explain why maximum flood depth from fluvial-coastal compounding is less sensitive to timing in the case of a larger estuary (Humber) subject to slow river discharge, compared with short intense discharge in a smaller estuary (Dyfi) (Harrison et al., 2022).

6.3) Urban and Coastal Infrastructure

6.4) Compound Flooding and Changing Climate

 Many studies in the database stress that future compound flood risk is likely to increase from changes in the variability, intensity, frequency, phasing, and seasonality of sea level, precipitation, 855 river discharge, and temperature driven by climate change (Zscheischler et al., 2020; Harrison et al., 2022). Under a changing climate the interrelationships and dependence between variables

6.5) Research Approaches

- 883 As highlighted in Section 5.4, we identified two main categories of approaches that have been
- used to assess compound flooding, namely, (1) physical (process-based) numerical modelling; (2)
- 885 and/or statistical modelling/analysis. In both approach classes we observed a diversity of methods,
- similarly to the findings of Tilloy et al. (2019). Below, we discuss the use of computational numerical
- 887 methods for compound flood modelling (Section 6.5.1), then provide an overview of the statistical
- 888 and data science-based techniques for analysing compound flooding (Section 6.5.2), and finally
- reflect on the benefits of hybrid (numerical-statistical) approaches (Section 6.5.3).

6.5.1) Numerical Modelling

- Compound flood events are often examined by numerically modelling the physics-based
- 892 interactions of their processes and mechanisms. Through the simulation of historic and synthetic
- compound flood events, researchers can develop a better understanding of present and future

inundation magnitude and extent. Given the highly complex nature of compound flooding,

- numerical modelling often requires a combination of hydrological, hydrodynamic, and
- atmospheric/climate models to represent all earth systems components contributing to compound

flooding. A range of different numerical models are used in the literature, as we briefly discuss here.

- Further information on the hydrological, hydrodynamic, and atmospheric models, frameworks,
- systems, and toolsets used in the reviewed studies is provided in Table A2.

Hydrological models are used to simulate the movement, storage, and transformation of water

- within the hydrological cycle. These include land-atmosphere water exchange (precipitation and
- evapotranspiration), flow of water through the landscape (streamflow and rainfall-runoff), and the
- infiltration of water into the ground (groundwater recharge). Hydrodynamic models use a series of
- governing equations (e.g. shallow-water equations) to simulate the flow of water in rivers, oceans,
- estuaries, and coastal areas. Coastal hydrodynamic models replicate the propagation and advection
- of water based on a combination of tide, surge, and waves. In the realm of compound flooding,
- hydrodynamic models are vital for simulating the effects of complex river-ocean interactions, storm

- models only specialize in one or two earth systems (i.e., meteorology, climatology, hydrology, and
- oceanography).
- 6.5.2) Statistical Approaches and Dependence Analysis

joint exceedance probability (Ward et al., 2018; Xu et al., 2022). Failure to investigate driver

 Hybrid methods, involving linking numerical and statistical approaches off were commonly observed throughout the literature database, with around one-third of compound flood studies employing hybrid techniques (Figure 6). Hybrid approaches can complement each other or focus on multiple aspects of modelling in a way that would not be possible when using numerical or statistical approaches in isolation. For example, process-based numerical modelling of compound flood hazards may be ideal for physics-based inundation mapping and floodplain delineation, but can be very computationally expensive (this has pushed development of more computationally efficient models such as SFINCS (Leijnse et al., 2021)). Conversely, simplified statistical models are less

6.6) Research Applications

 As highlighted in Section 5.5, we identified that six main applications have been the focus of most compound flood studies in the database. Discussed in the following order, prominent case 1054 study applications include earth system processes (Section 6.6.1); risk assessment (Section 6.6.2); impact assessment (Section 6.6.3); forecasting (Section 6.6.4); planning and management (Section 6.6.5); and methodological advancement (Section 6.6.6). Note, many of the compound flood studies fall into multiple application categories.

6.6.1) Earth System Processes

 From the 271 literature database entries, 128 (47%) seek to better understand the processes, interactions, and behaviour of earth systems associated with compound flooding. Research papers within the earth system processes application theme examine a variety of topics including the role of various dynamic earth systems on compound flooding, the environmental and landscape

 (RNN) model that considers downstream geomorphological and hydrological characteristics to predict joint pluvial-coastal flooding in Taiwan. 6.6.5) Planning and Management Within the literature database there are 29 (11%) papers that focus on different aspects of flood management from emergency response planning to risk mitigation strategies. The Undrr (2016) define disaster management as the organization, planning, and application of measures for disaster response and recovery. Subsequently, disaster risk management is described as the use of disaster risk reduction strategies and policies to prevent, reduce, and manage risk (Undrr, 2016). Flood management strategies might involve identifying areas for prioritized flood protection and building risk reduction structures such as building levees, dykes, barriers, and sea walls; or enacting changes in land use planning and zoning policy to minimize habitation and activity in floodplains. Flood defence and water management structures have long been in use; however these features have predominantly been designed for responding to a single flood driver (e.g., storm surge) (Sebastian, 2022). Several studies examine the effectiveness of flood defence structures protecting against compound events. Christian et al. (2015) investigate the feasibility of a proposed storm surge barrier for mitigating pluvial-coastal flooding in the Houston Shipping Channel. Findings on the magnitude of reductions in surface height and floodplain area help guide project development decision making by coastal and port authorities. Del-Rosal-Salido et al. (2021) develop management maps to support decision making and long-term climate and SLR adaptation planning in Spain's Guadalete estuary, identifying sites for potential flood barriers. During extreme flood events, unpredictable impacts to utility and transportation infrastructure can exacerbate loss. Thus, another key component of flood management is flexible emergency response planning. Several articles address these elements of response planning, identify evacuation areas, routes, and emergency shelters in the event of compound flooding. In their analysis of urban infrastructure failure from compound flooding in Hawaii, Habel et al. (2020) locate road networks and urban spaces that are likely to be impassable and estimate the effects of traffic on resident

Methodological advancement is a broad application category, but most often describes research

projects: Current methodologies for analysing compound flooding are highly diverse, inhibiting

8) Conclusions

 We have long known that high-impact hazard events involve a combination of drivers, however existing research has largely been limited to single-factor or univariate analysis of climate extremes due to technical or methodological constraints. Such is the case with flooding, as standard flood hazard assessment practices have traditionally accounted for the effects of the different drivers of

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1440 Competing Interests

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References

Appendix

Table A1. Overview of the literature database containing 271 compound flood research publications. Note: Numerical models without defined names are given simple descriptions. Statistical methods are defined as explicitly stated in the literature and then simplified for brevity.

Risk Assessment

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2589 *Table A2. Table of numerical models, frameworks, systems, and toolsets observed in literature database studies for simulating hydrologic,* 2590 *hydrodynamic, oceanographic, and atmospheric systems that contribute to compound flooding.*

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