

# Predicting the amplitude and runup of the water waves induced by rotational cliff collapse, considering fragmentation

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## Abstract:

Cliff collapses in small lakes, and reservoirs induce powerful waves, threatening the offshore infrastructure. Unlike previous studies on waves induced by granular slide, this study experimentally and numerically investigates the waves induced by rotational cliff collapse, whereby the cliff fragments upon impact with the water surface, and determines the wave amplitude, runup, and energy transfer mechanics. Results indicate that as the water depth decreased, the impact Froude number and relative wave amplitude increased, wave velocity decreased, and splash showed greater elongation. The numerical modelling results also confirmed the experimental trends. Moreover, compared to an equivalent amount of granular mass sliding down a 30° slope, rotational cliff collapse produced 28-42% higher wave amplitudes due to the acute impact that transfers energy more efficiently. Machine learning based prediction models were subsequently developed to predict the wave amplitude and runup. The prediction models performed well both in the training and testing stages, with high  $R^2$  values, and were validated via established statistical indices, sensitivity, and parametric analysis. The prediction models highlighted a cumulative 90% contribution of impact velocity, cliff height, and the number of fragments on the wave amplitude. In comparison, runup was greatly influenced by bank slope angle, impact velocity, cliff mass, and height. The experimental results and developed prediction models can provide the basis for understanding the rotational cliff collapse-induced waves and can help with disaster

31 mitigation and risk assessment by effectively predicting the wave amplitude and runup.

32 Keywords: Cliff fragmentation; landslide tsunami; prediction models; rotational cliff  
33 collapse; wave amplitude, and runup.

34 **1. Introduction**

35 The phenomenon of cliff overturning is common along rivers and reservoirs (glacial  
36 lakes, recreational lakes). The cliffs around these lakes are weathered due to climate  
37 change and wave action (Ró and Cerkowniak, 2024; Young et al., 2021) and can no  
38 longer be supported by the parent rock. When these initially intact, weathered cliffs fall  
39 into water, they usually fragment upon impact with the water surface, and as a result,  
40 induce an impulse water wave. Upon impact, the energy of gravitational mass is  
41 transferred to the water body, resulting in a huge splash and a wave train, propagating  
42 away from the point of impact. In the reservoirs and water channels located in  
43 mountainous regions, such as glacial lakes, dams, and a river flowing through valleys,  
44 these waves do not travel a long distance before reaching obstacles, opposite shores, or  
45 other infrastructure. As the waves retain most of their energy, size, and strength, the  
46 impact can cause significant damage to the population and infrastructure located along  
47 the banks of the reservoir. Historically, extreme impulse wave heights have been  
48 observed induced by landslides in events of 1958 Lituya Bay, USA, which caused a  
49 wave height of 524 m (Boultbee et al., 2006; Franco et al., 2020; Miller, 1960a), 2007  
50 Chehalis Lake, Canada, induced a wave of 38 m (Wang et al., 2015), 2015 Taan Fjord,  
51 USA, caused a wave of 193 m (Higman et al., 2018), and 2014 Lake Askaja (Gylfadóttir  
52 et al., 2017). **More recently, a volcanic activity in 2018 at Anak Krakatoa, Indonesia,**  
53 **triggered a tsunami reaching up to a height of 13 m, and in 2023, the Dickson Fjord ice-**  
54 **rock avalanche caused a wave height of 200 m (Svennevig et al., 2024).**

55 The cases mentioned above are extreme, whereas the phenomena of sliding,  
56 toppling, and falling of cliffs in small lakes and reservoirs are quite frequent and have  
57 been captured by various people around the globe. Fig. 1 (a, b, and c) indicates a  
58 rotational (topple) cliff collapse in Furnas Lake, Brazil, on 8 January 2022, killing 10  
59 people (Maciel et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024). As a result of the collapse, a huge splash  
60 and induced waves can be seen in Fig. 1 (c). **Despite recurring events of cliff collapse**

61 along the water banks, the rotational failure of cliffs accompanied by fragmentation  
62 upon impact with the water surface remains poorly understood. Recent studies on water  
63 waves have focused on block slides, translational slides, or granular flows, where the  
64 mass moves along a predefined basal plane. Moreover, physical modeling has also been  
65 carried out to analyse the amplitude and runup of the landslides-induced water waves  
66 either by using block slide or granular slide (Heller and Spinneken, 2015, 2013;  
67 Lindstrøm, 2016; Lindstrøm et al., 2014; McFall and Fritz, 2016; Miller, 1960;  
68 Mohammed and Fritz, 2012; Montagna et al., 2011; Romano et al., 2023, 2020; Sælevik  
69 et al., 2009; Yin et al., 2015). However, the rotational collapse is different from the type  
70 of failure mentioned above. In rotational collapse, the cliff rotates along the base and  
71 falls into water, thus inducing a huge splash and fragmenting upon impact.

72 While a few relevant studies provide partial understandings on the phenomena,  
73 such as as Liu et al. (2025) numerically analyzed the waves induced by different types  
74 of mass movements, considering different shapes using smoothed particles, similarly,  
75 Heller et al. (2021) experimentally analyzed the waves induced by iceburg calving and  
76 Yin et al. (2015) studied the potential cliff collapse of Jianchuandong rock mass in  
77 Three Gorges dam. While these studies contribute to the broader understanding of the  
78 impact induced by water waves, they do not consider the combined effect of rotational  
79 collapse and fragmentation. Moreover, the shape of the induced splash, as observed in  
80 Lake Furnas, has also not been properly explored either experimentally or numerically,  
81 as can be seen in Fig. 1 (a, b, and c), the falling cliff was still intact and broke under its  
82 own weight upon impact with the water surface and induced a huge splash.

83 Parallel advancements in numerical modeling have enhanced our understanding of  
84 landslide induced water waves thorugh, computational fluid dynamics (CFD), Eulerian  
85 and Lagrangian methods, employing depth-averaged model, nonlinear shallow water,  
86 Navier-Stokes model, or Boussinesq equation, for both two- and three-dimensional  
87 modelling (Franci et al., 2020; Grilli et al., 2019; Guan and Shi, 2023; Heidarzadeh et  
88 al., 2020; Kim et al., 2020; Mulligan et al., 2020; Paris et al., 2021; Rauter et al., 2022;  
89 Ruffini et al., 2019). Though these methods have successfully analysed the wave  
90 generation, propagation, and wave dynamics either induced by granular slide or block

91 slide, their direct application to rotational cliff collapse remains limited.

92 Furthermore, empirical and regression-based hybrid prediction models have been  
93 developed for landslide-induced water waves by considering geometric, geological, and  
94 kinematic parameters, as shown in Table 1. Das and Wiegel (1972) proposed that the  
95 sliding velocity and water depth are the main factors affecting the wave amplitude.  
96 Watts (1998) emphasised the role of slope angle, length, and mass, while Fritz et al.  
97 (2003) highlighted the role of landslide mass thickness governing the amplitude of the  
98 induced wave. While these models provide important parameteric correlations, they  
99 were developed for translational or granular slides and show limited application for  
100 complex rotational cliff collapses involving fragmentation (Dai et al., 2023; Dignan et  
101 al., 2023; Esposti Ongaro et al., 2021).

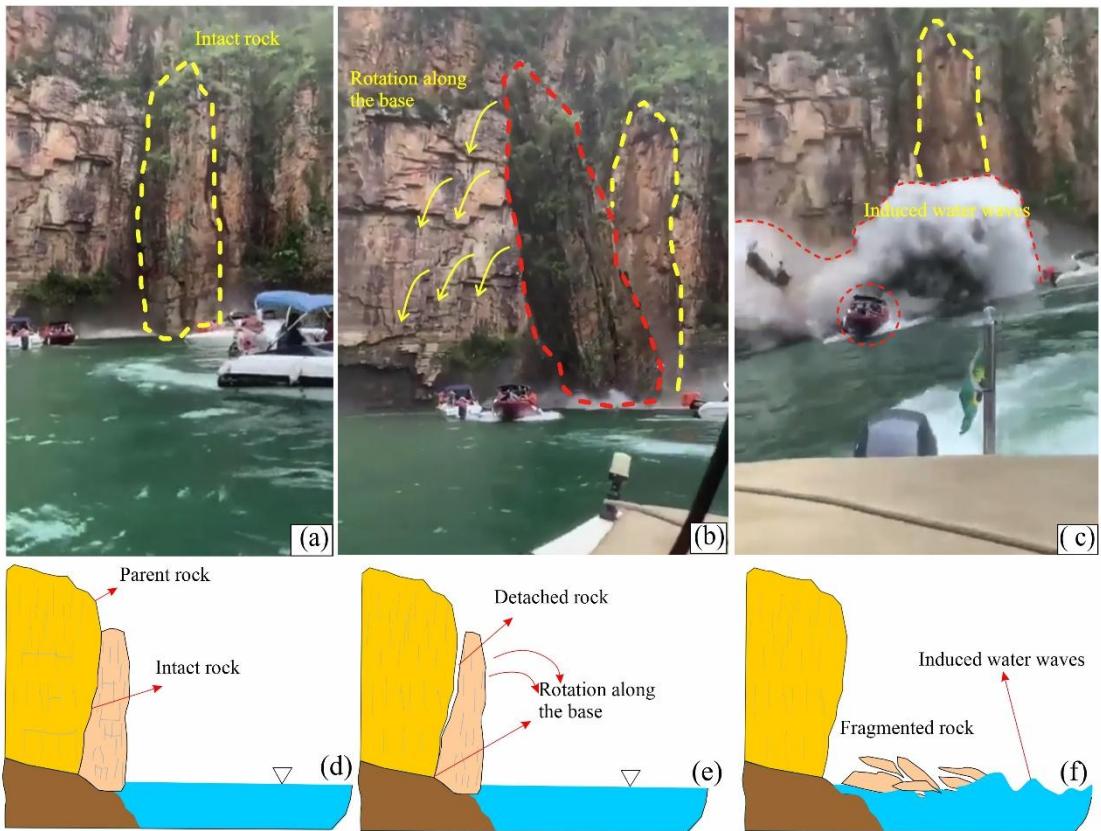
102 Recently, scientists have shifted to machine learning (ML) approaches for  
103 predicting wave dynamics (Bujak et al., 2023; Cesario et al., 2024; Li et al., 2024, 2023;  
104 Romano et al., 2009; Tarwidi et al., 2023; Tian et al., 2025; Wang et al., 2017; Wiguna,  
105 2022). While these prediction models have shown improved performance over  
106 traditional regression and hybrid models, there is a need to develop an ML-based  
107 framework for predicting amplitude and runup of the waves induced by rotational cliff  
108 collapse, considering fragmentation.

109 To address this gap, the current study uses Genetic Programming (GP), and  
110 specifically Multi-Expression Programming (MEP), to develop a data-driven prediction  
111 model for the wave amplitude and runup. This model is similar to living organisms,  
112 which can learn, adapt, and modify their composition, size, and shape (Gardezi et al.,  
113 2024). MEP is a cutting-edge, advanced form of GP that adopts a demonstrative model  
114 for programming and uses linear chromosomes to determine optimum population size,  
115 mutation probability, and evolutionary model. Compared to other ML models, it can  
116 produce more precise results even when the problem complexity is unknown (Usama  
117 et al., 2023)

118 In this study, we have experimentally and numerically analyzed the hydrodynamics  
119 of the wave induced by rotational cliff collapse, considering fragmentation of the cliff  
120 upon impact, and have also developed a prediction model for wave amplitude and runup.

121 The physical modeling was carried out by developing a scaled water flume and a  
122 platform inducing rotational motion of the cliff. A total of 162 experiments were carried  
123 out, varying seven control parameters: water depth, fall height, cliff mass, impact  
124 velocity, cliff height, runup slope angle, and number of fragments. To improve accuracy  
125 and consistency, each parametric combination was averaged from two experimental  
126 values; hence, a total of 81 experimental results were obtained. The parameters were  
127 selected to comprehensively elaborate on the distinct phases of rotational cliff collapse  
128 and induced waves. Water depth and runup slope angle provide the basis for wave  
129 propagation and runup. Whereas, the cliff collapse dynamics are explained by cliff mass  
130 (which governs the energy input), height of the cliff (defines the initial potential energy),  
131 and fall height (determines the transformation of potential to kinetic energy). Cliff  
132 impact velocity determines the amount of kinetic energy imparted to the water body at  
133 the time of impact, which is important for wave generation. Finally, the number of  
134 fragments is selected to demonstrate the effect of fragments of cliff upon impact with  
135 the water surface on wave amplitude and runup height. Together, these parameters  
136 define the energy budget from the state of rest to its release and then transfer to the  
137 water body to its final stage as amplitude and runup. Since the wave velocity was not  
138 directly measured during the experiments, it was measured using a 2D numerical model  
139 developed using Ansys-Fluent. Furthermore, the numerical modeling results for wave  
140 amplitude and runup were cross-validated with their experimental counterparts.

141 Finally, based on experimental results, prediction modeling for the amplitude and  
142 runup of water waves was carried out using multi-expression programming (MEP), and  
143 a novel prediction model was developed for the water waves induced by rotational cliff  
144 collapse, considering fragmentation of the cliff upon impact with the water surface.



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146 Fig. 1: (a, b, and c) waves induced by a cliff collapse in Lake Furnas, Brazil. (d, e, and  
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Table 1: Historical overview of the prediction models for wave amplitude

Authors	Predictive model
(Kamphuis and Bowering, 1970)	$A_m = \left( \frac{v_s}{\sqrt{gh}} \right)^{0.7} \left( 0.31 + 0.2 \log \left( \frac{l_s}{h^2} \right) \right) + 0.35 e^{-0.08(x/h)}$
(Noda, 1970)	$A_m = 1.32 \frac{v_s}{\sqrt{gh}}$
(Huber and Hager, 1997)	$\frac{H_m}{h} = 2 \times 0.88 \sin \theta \cos^2 \left( \frac{2\alpha}{3} \right) \left( \frac{\rho_s}{\rho_w} \right)^{0.25} \left( \frac{V}{wh^2} \right)^{0.5} \left( \frac{r}{h} \right)^{-\frac{2}{3}}$
(Fritz et al., 2004)	$A_m = 0.25 \left( \frac{v_s}{\sqrt{gh}} \right)^{1.4} \left( \frac{s}{h} \right)^{0.8}$
(Panizzo et al., 2005)	$\frac{H_m}{h} = 0.07 \left( \frac{T_s h^2}{ws} \right)^{-0.45} (\sin \alpha)^{-0.88} e^{0.6 \cos \theta} \left( \frac{r}{n} \right)^{-0.44}$
(Heller, 2007)	$A_m = \frac{4}{9} \left[ F \left( \frac{s}{h} \right)^{1/2} \rho^{1/4} \left( \cos \frac{6\alpha}{7} \right)^2 \right]^{4/5}$ $A_m = \max(A_{c1}, A_{c2})$
(Mohammed and Fritz, 2012)	$A_{c1} = 0.3 F^{2.1} \left( \frac{s}{h} \right)^{0.6} \left( \frac{r}{h} \right)^{\left( -1.2 F^{0.25} \left( \frac{s}{h} \right)^{-0.02} w - 0.33/h \right)} \cos \alpha$ $A_{c2} = 1.0 F S^{0.8} \left( \frac{w}{h} \right)^{-0.4} \left( \frac{l}{h} \right)^{-0.5} \left( \frac{v}{h} \right)^{-1.5 F^{0.5} \left( \frac{w}{h} \right)^{-0.07} \left( \frac{w}{h} \right)^{-0.3}} \cos^2 \alpha$
(Wang et al., 2016)	$A_m = 1.17 F \left( \frac{sl}{bh} \right)^{0.25} \left( \frac{w}{b} \right)^{0.45} (\sin^2 \alpha + 0.6 \cos^2 \alpha)$
(Li et al., 2023)	$A_m = 0.59 \sqrt{\frac{2H(1-f \cot \alpha)}{h}} \left( \frac{swl}{h^3} \right)^{N-0.11} \left( \frac{x}{h} \right)^{-0.43} \cos^2 \left( \frac{2}{3} \alpha \right)$

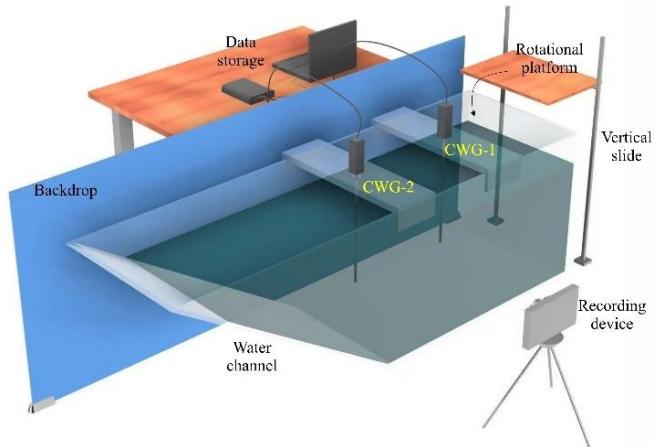
*Note:*  $l$  is the landslide length;  $s$  is the landslide thickness;  $w$  is the landslide width;  $m$  is the landslide mass weight;  $V$  is the landslide volume;  $H$  is the landslide height;  $T_s$  time for motion of slide,  $b$  is the river width;  $h$  is the still water depth;  $x(r)$  is the offshore distance from the bank slope;  $\alpha$  is the slope angle;  $\theta$  is the angular direction;  $v_s$  is the impact velocity.

## 2. Research methodology

### 2.1 Experimental setup

The physical modeling for wave amplitude and runup induced by rotational cliff collapse was carried out in a three-dimensional water flume made up of plexiglass, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. One end of the flume is vertical at  $90^\circ$ , whereas the other end is inclined and fixed at  $30^\circ$  (Fig. 3a and b). The flume is 0.55 m high, 0.5 m wide, and 1.4 m long along the base and 2.35 m long at the top. Furthermore, to measure the runup of induced water waves at various slope angles, two sliding rails were installed towards the inclined end at  $45^\circ$  and  $60^\circ$ . So, upon insertion of the gate at  $45^\circ$  and  $60^\circ$ , the top length of the flume was further reduced according to the Pythagoras theorem. To induce the rotational cliff collapse, a 0.55 m wide and 0.6 m high movable platform was

174 designed, which can move in the vertical direction and can also rotate about its axis.  
 175 The rotational motion was induced by pulling the hinge; the release ensured a pure  
 176 rotational motion, which was visually verified by video analysis. The flume was marked  
 177 with a vertical scale to measure the water depth. The wave amplitude was measured  
 178 using capacitance-type wave gauges with an accuracy of  $\pm 0.5$  mm, placed along the  
 179 centerline at specified intervals. The runup height was measured using a graduated  
 180 paper attached to the inclined surface. The entire process was recorded using a digital  
 181 camera (240 fps, 720p resolution) placed perpendicular to the experimental flume; the  
 182 velocity of the falling cliff was verified by frame-by-frame video analysis using Particle  
 183 Image Velocimeter (PIV).



184  
 185 Fig. 2: Illustration of experimental setup including wave gauges, rotational platform,  
 186 recording, and data storage devices.



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 188 Fig. 3: Photographs of the setup, (a) Experimental flume, (b) platform for inducing  
 189 rotational cliff collapse.

190 **2.2 Test preparation and materials**

191 Physical experiments were carried out by varying the water depth, fall height,

192 number of fragments, bank slope angle, mass of falling rock, cliff height, and impact  
193 velocity. The tests were carried out for three water depths, i.e., 0.34 m, 0.27 m, and 0.20  
194 m, and three fall heights, i.e., 0.64 m, 0.44 m, and 0.245 m from the surface of the water.  
195 Furthermore, the number of blocks was also varied, i.e., 6, 10, and 12 blocks having  
196 combined weights of 1.445 kg, 2.29 kg, and 2.82 kg, respectively. At the same time, the  
197 impact velocity changed by changing the fall height. The wave runup was measured by  
198 varying the bank slope angle, i.e., 30°, 45°, and 60°.

199 To replicate the field density of the rocks, red gutka bricks having a density of  
200 around 2000 kg/m<sup>3</sup> were used. A singular block had a dimension of 0.055 x 0.05 x  
201 0.042 m. The mass volume and dimension of all the blocks were unchanged to ensure  
202 consistency in the experiments. A combination of 6, 10, and 12 blocks of red gutka  
203 bricks was used to form a cliff and measure the wave amplitude and runup of induced  
204 waves. The blocks were joined together with the help of cement paste having a water-  
205 cement ratio W/C 0.8 and cured for 2 hours in front of an electric heater at 150 °C. To  
206 ensure the weak bond strength, several trials for bond strength were carried out after a  
207 curing period of 2 hours, and it was found to be in the range of 0.42-0.5 MPa. In contrast,  
208 the inertial stresses at the time of impact were several times higher, such that they  
209 caused the fragmentation of the cliff. This condition was purposely designed to imitate  
210 naturally fractured cliff materials, confirming that the structure fragmented primarily  
211 along the joints upon impact with the water surface, consistent with field observations  
212 of rotational cliff collapses. The bonded blocks were placed on the rotational platform  
213 at specific heights, i.e., 0.64 m, 0.44 m, and 0.245 m from the water level, and were  
214 allowed to rotate under their own weight by pulling the hinge, such that the placed block  
215 falls in the water following rotation motion along its base Fig. 3 (b). To avoid the  
216 slippage of blocks and to ensure that it had sufficient frictional resistance needed for  
217 pure rotational motion of the simulated cliff, finely-grounded bricks of the same cliff  
218 material were pasted on the rotational platform, thereby preventing translational motion  
219 or vertical free fall into the water.

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Furthermore, to reduce the impact of falling blocks on the base of the flume, a wooden plank weighing 2.69 kg and dimensions 0.65m x 0.37m x 0.01 m was placed at the point of impact inside the flume. Due to its large surface area and lighter density, it tends to float in the flume, so two blocks of concrete weighing 3.58 kg were placed on it, Fig. 3 (a). **Since the fall height was small, no considerable local breakage was observed in the blocks, and the brief water contact minimised the water absorption effect.**

The induced wave amplitude was measured by placing the wave measuring gauges at a distance of 0.65 m and 0.135 m from the vertical face; the gauges were wired and connected to the laptop. At the same time, the runup was measured manually with the help of a scale by pasting a scaled paper on the slope. Furthermore, the experiments were also recorded with the help of a high-resolution camera for verification purposes.

### 2.3 Numerical Modeling

Simulating multi-phase flows is challenging due to the constant deformation of the liquid-gas interface. Various numerical methods have been developed to model these flows, each offering unique advantages depending on the specific flow regime and characteristics of interest. In this study, the Volume of Fluid (VOF) method is utilized for its effectiveness in handling significant interface distortions and topological changes. The VOF method offers superior mass conservation, which is critical in high velocity impact conditions where liquid fragmentation and wave generation are significant (Backbill et al., 1992; Hirt and Nichols, 1981). **Alternative numerical schemes, such as the Front Tracking approach, are generally limited in handling complex topological changes (Tryggvason et al., 2001; Liu and Liu, 2010; Monaghan, 1994; Yang and Kong, 2018). Another approach is the Level Set method, but it suffers from mass conservation and convergence issues. The Lattice Boltzmann Method (LBM) is also common; however, its applicability to high velocity impact is rather limited (Aidun & Clausen, 2010).** Given these trade-offs, the Volume of Fluid (VOF) method finds an optimal balance of computational efficiency, interface tracking capability, and proven reliability for modeling multiphase flow in the moderate-to-high velocity range relevant to this

study. Therefore, a two-dimensional numerical model of a cliff, having the same properties as the experimental cliff mentioned previously, hitting the water surface is developed using the VOF method to accurately capture the liquid-gas interface.

In this approach, a volume fraction ( $\alpha$ ), ranging between 0 and 1, is applied across the entire computational domain. A value of  $\alpha = 1$  indicates a control volume filled with liquid, while  $\alpha = 0$  denotes a control volume filled with gas. The interface is represented by values where  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . In the Volume of Fluid (VOF) method, the momentum equation is solved across the entire computational domain, with the resulting velocity field shared by all phases. To account for surface tension effects, a continuum surface force (CSF) model is employed (Backbill et al., 1992). The normal vector  $n$  and interface mean curvature  $k$  are as follows, respectively:

$$n = \frac{\nabla \alpha}{|\nabla \alpha|} \quad (1)$$

and

$$k = \nabla \cdot \frac{\nabla \alpha}{|\nabla \alpha|} \quad (2)$$

The interface is maintained as sharp through the use of geometric reconstruction to ensure its clarity. The volume fraction ( $\alpha$ ) is discretised with the geo-reconstruct scheme, while the convective terms in the momentum equation are handled using a second-order upwind method. The PISO (Pressure-Implicit with Splitting of Operators) algorithm was employed for pressure-velocity coupling, which is well-suited for transient flows. Temporal discretisation employs a second-order implicit scheme, and spatial gradients are calculated using the Least Squares Cell-Based method.

The boundary conditions were defined as follows: the bottom boundary was modeled as a no-slip wall, while the top boundary was set as a pressure outlet at atmospheric conditions, and the lateral sides were modeled as stationary walls to confine the liquid film within the domain. For accurate simulation of the rotational motion of the cliff through the air-water interface in a multi-phase flow environment, dynamic meshing was implemented within the ANSYS Fluent framework. This approach facilitated the adaptation of the computational mesh to accommodate the cliff's movement while maintaining the integrity of the liquid-gas interface captured by

279 the Volume of Fluid (VOF) method. Dynamic meshing was critical for modeling the  
280 complex interactions between the falling cliff and the surrounding air and water phases,  
281 allowing the mesh to deform and adapt in response to the cliff's trajectory. In ANSYS  
282 Fluent, the dynamic meshing strategy employed a combination of mesh deformation  
283 and local remeshing techniques to handle the cliff's motion. Mesh deformation was  
284 applied to adjust the existing mesh nodes smoothly as the cliff moved, preserving mesh  
285 quality in regions experiencing moderate displacement. For areas near the cliff where  
286 significant deformation could lead to poor mesh quality, local remeshing was utilized  
287 to regenerate mesh elements for better numerical stability and accuracy. The smoothing  
288 and remeshing algorithms were configured to maintain high mesh quality, with a  
289 skewness threshold set to prevent excessive element distortion.

290 The rotational cliff collapse was simulated using an in-house user-defined function  
291 (UDF). This UDF interfaced with ANSYS Fluent to dynamically update the rock's  
292 position and velocity. To enhance computational efficiency, a dynamic mesh zone was  
293 defined around the cliff, with a finer mesh resolution near its surface to capture the  
294 sharp gradients in the flow field and interface dynamics. The mesh was gradually  
295 coarsened away from the rock to reduce computational cost while maintaining  
296 sufficient resolution in the far-field regions. The dynamic meshing process was  
297 synchronised with the transient flow solver, using a time step size determined through  
298 a time step independence study to balance accuracy and computational efficiency. **It is**  
299 **also worth mentioning that the numerical simulations were performed considering the**  
300 **rock as a unified mass. This approach describes the slight differences between the**  
301 **experimental and numerical results, which are nonetheless within the acceptable range.**

### 302 **2.4 Multi-expression programming**

303 The MEP model was developed for predicting wave amplitude and runup using  
304 experimental data, as shown in Table 2. **A dataset of 81 experimental results was used**  
305 **as an input to a machine learning model.** Furthermore, the data was divided into 70/30  
306 ratios for training and validation purposes before developing the model. The model  
307 starts working by generating a random chromosome population, and it continues to  
308 generate the chromosomes until a terminal condition is achieved, generating an optimal

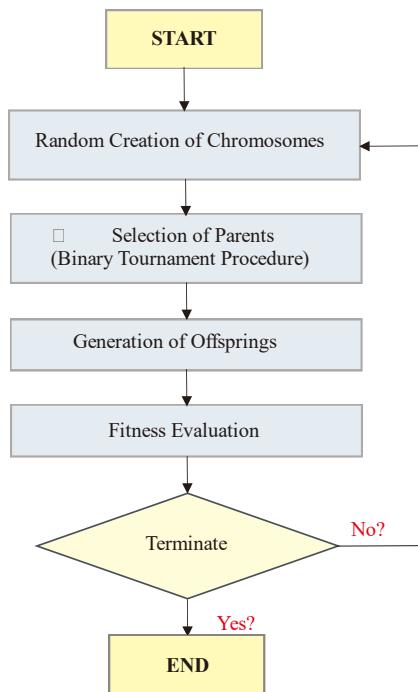
309 expression from the data having input and output pairs over a certain number of  
 310 generations, as shown in Fig. 4.

311 Based on a binary tournament process, parents are selected and then undergo a  
 312 recombination process through a consistent crossover probability. This recombination  
 313 produces two more offspring. These offspring go through mutation, and if these  
 314 offspring perform better than the least fitting offspring in the current population, then  
 315 the better offspring replace them. The illustrations used by MEP are similar to the ones  
 316 used by C++ and Pascal compilers. The MEP chromosomes are comprised of numerous  
 317 genes combined using various mathematical operators such as addition (+), subtraction  
 318 (-), multiplication (x), and division (/), and these genes create expression trees (ETs)  
 319 (Cheng et al., 2020). Moreover, there are several **hyperparameters** such as code length,  
 320 sub-population size and number, crossover probability, and other sets of various  
 321 functions involved in in generation of MEP code, and they also govern the overall  
 322 performance of the code. Among these parameters, the size of the population tells us  
 323 about the number of programs being generated, whereas an increase or decrease in  
 324 subpopulation size directly affects the complexity and computation time of the model.  
 325 Moreover, the length of the developed model is controlled by varying the code length  
 326 parameter. **During model development, prerequisite tuning procedures were applied to**  
 327 **optimize these hyperparameters. This careful selection minimized the risk of premature**  
 328 **convergence or underfitting while ensuring computational efficiency.**

329 **Table 2: Experimental dataset used for training and validation of the machine learning**  
 330 **model.**

S/No.	Water depth $d$ (m)	Fall height $H$ (m)	Fragments ( $N_f$ )	Angle $\alpha$ (°)	Cliff Mass $m$ (Kg)	Cliff height $h$ (m)	Velocity $v$ (m/s)	Amplitude $A$ (m)	Runup $R$ (m)
1	0.34	0.245	6	30	1.445	0.12	2.19	0.0225	0.051
2	0.34	0.445	6	30	1.445	0.12	2.95	0.0230	0.056
3	0.34	0.645	6	30	1.445	0.12	3.56	0.0365	0.068
4	0.34	0.245	6	45	1.445	0.12	2.19	0.0370	0.045
5	0.34	0.445	6	45	1.445	0.12	2.95	0.0425	0.051
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
37	0.27	0.245	10	30	2.295	0.20	2.19	0.0431	0.116

38	0.27	0.445	10	30	2.295	0.20	2.95	0.0510	0.129
39	0.27	0.645	10	30	2.295	0.20	3.56	0.0685	0.141
40	0.27	0.245	10	45	2.295	0.20	2.19	0.0390	0.085
41	0.27	0.445	10	45	2.295	0.20	2.95	0.0523	0.102
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
78	0.2	0.645	12	45	2.82	0.24	3.56	0.0733	0.146
79	0.2	0.245	12	60	2.82	0.24	2.19	0.0565	0.062
80	0.2	0.445	12	60	2.82	0.24	2.95	0.0636	0.083
81	0.2	0.645	12	60	2.82	0.24	3.56	0.0657	0.098



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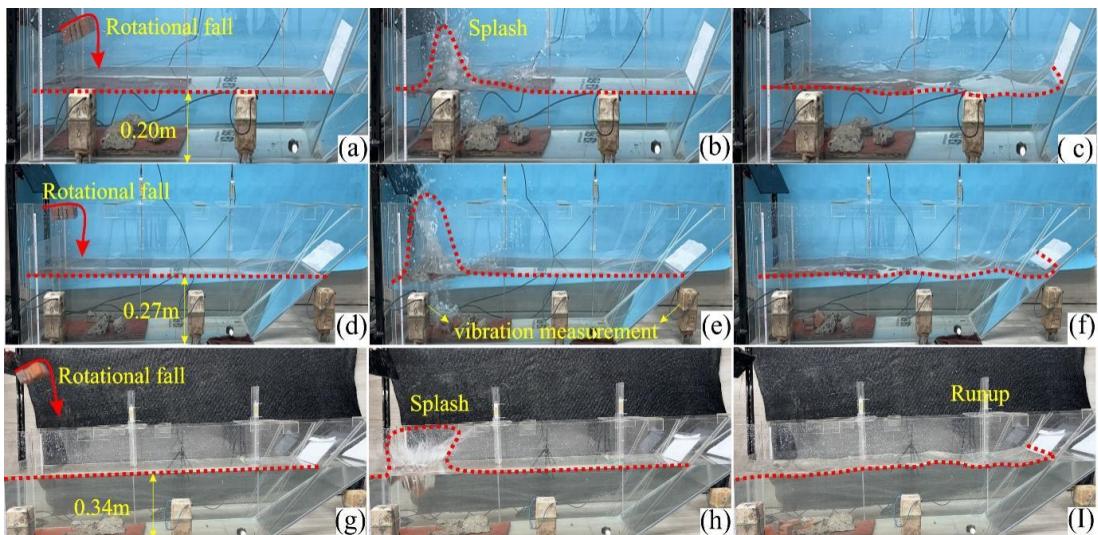
Fig. 4 Schematic representation of MEP workflow used in this study

333 **3. Results and discussions**

334 **3.1 Experimental results**

335 The experimental results of the wave amplitude and runup, induced by rotational  
 336 cliff collapse, reveal complex hydrodynamic processes. As shown in Fig. 5, the failure  
 337 is initiated by the rotational fall of the cliff, leading to a significant amount of impact  
 338 energy upon hitting the water surface. The impact induced a huge splash, which is  
 339 evident from Fig. 5 (b, e & h). It was observed that the shape of the splash also varies  
 340 with water depth for all the cases; higher water depths resulted in a mushroom-shaped  
 341 splash, i.e., broader on the top, as the momentum dissipates before interacting with the  
 342 bottom surface, resulting in a vertical jet and the formation of a mushroom-shaped

343 **splash**, as can be seen in Fig. 5(h). The observed phenomena perfectly align with the  
 344 basic concepts of fluid dynamics, which state that greater depths absorb more impact  
 345 energy compared to shallow waters. Shallow waters produced a vertically elongated  
 346 splash as can be seen in Fig. 5 (b & e). It can be observed that as the depth decreases,  
 347 the splash becomes more elongated, as shallower depths intensify the upward  
 348 momentum transfer, thus resulting in a more elongated shape (Kubota and Mochizuki,  
 349 2009).

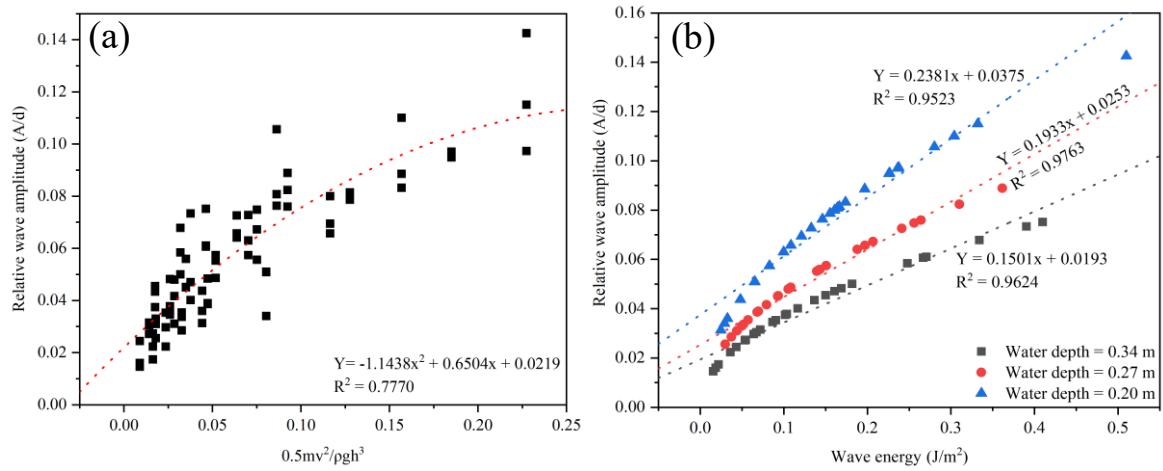


350  
 351 Fig. 5: A pictorial display of the experimental setup for various water depths, i.e., 0.20  
 352 m, 0.27m, and 0.34 m. (a, d & g) indicate rotational fall of the cliff, (b, e & h)  
 353 showing splash as a result of cliff impact, (c, f & I) formation and propagation of  
 354 induced wave and runup at various slope angles.

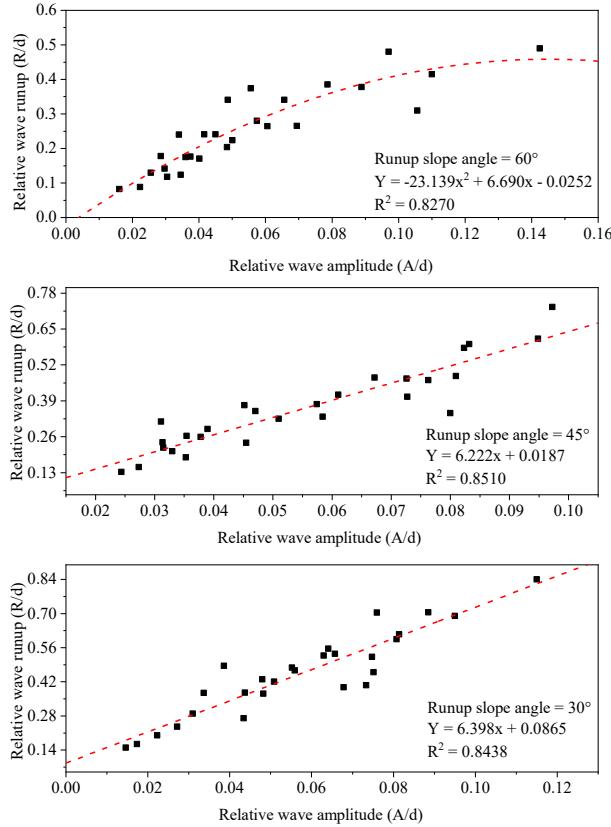
355 **3.1.1 Relation between energy and amplitude**

356 Further, the relationship between impact energy and wave response was also  
 357 investigated by establishing a dimensionless impact energy parameter ( $K.E/\rho gh^3$ ).  
 358 Where  $K.E$  is the kinetic energy of the cliff,  $\rho$  is the density, and  $h$  is the water depth.  
 359 The negative quadratic coefficient in Fig. 6(a) indicates a nonlinear response, such that  
 360 at the start, the wave amplitude increases as the impact energy increases, but later it  
 361 decreases, due to reduced energy transfer at higher impact values. **At higher impact**  
 362 **values, the released energy was not fully used in the wave formation and propagation;**  
 363 **instead, a part of the energy was dissipated in the formation of splash, and in the**  
 364 **formation of air pockets and their subsequent collapse.** Moreover, the coefficient of  
 365 determination was found to be 77% indicating a good data fit.

366 The results for the relative wave amplitude and wave energy were analyzed for  
 367 three water depths, i.e., 0.34 m, 0.27 m, and 0.20 m., as shown in Fig. 6(b). The results  
 368 indicate a strong correlation for all three cases, with coefficients of determination  
 369 around 0.96. The results indicate a direct relation between wave height and energy,  
 370 whereas the decreasing slope values with the increasing water depth suggest that for  
 371 deeper water the wave amplitude decreases at a slower rate with increasing wave energy,  
 372 thus highlighting the impact of water depth on the wave dynamics, such that shallower  
 373 water allows more amplification of waves for the same energy level, and this is due to  
 374 the increased non-linear interactions and enhanced energy concentrations in shallower  
 375 depths (Myrhaug and Lader, 2019).



376  
 377 **Fig. 6: (a) Dimensionless impact energy ( $K.E./\rho gh^3$ ) vs relative wave amplitude,**  
 378 **indicating a nonlinear trend, (b) Wave energy vs relative wave amplitude, indicating**  
 379 **higher wave amplifications in shallow waters.**



380

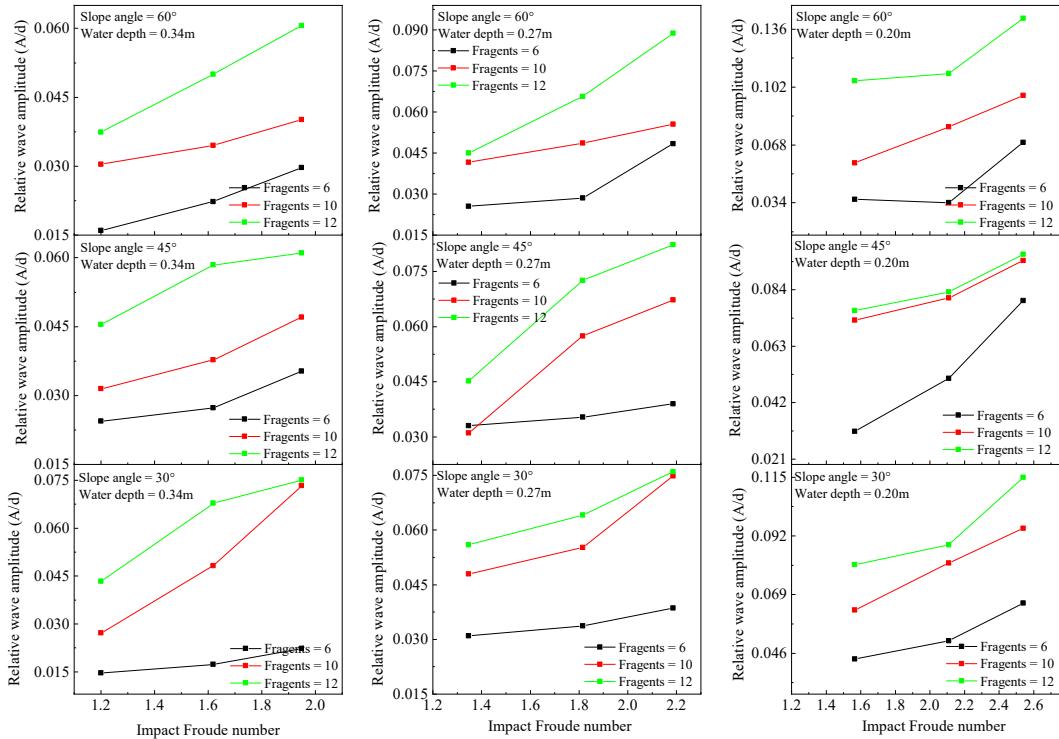
381 **Fig. 7: Relative wave amplitude vs relative wave runup at various slope angles and**  
 382 **water depth.**

383 The results for the relative wave height and runup for all three water depths and  
 384 three runup slope angles are shown in Fig. 7. The relationship indicates a strong  
 385 correlation between wave amplitude and runup for all three slope angles. The  
 386 decreasing line-slope values with increasing runup slope angle indicate that wave runup  
 387 increases at a slower rate for sharp slope angles compared to mild slopes. The trend  
 388 highlights the effect of slope angle on the runup. The result also indicates that the mild  
 389 slope angles help wave runup amplification, as they dissipate a very small amount of  
 390 energy, whereas steeper angles result in lower runup heights because of higher energy  
 391 losses (Wu et al., 2018).

392 **3.1.2 Impact Froude no vs Relative wave amplitude**

393 Fig. 8 indicates the relationship between the impact Froude number and relative  
 394 wave amplitude (A/d), under varying experimental conditions for the first gauge, i.e.,  
 395 near the impact zone. Since we are interested in the immediate response of the wave

396 influenced by the impact Froude number. The results indicate that as the water depth  
 397 decreases, the relative wave amplitude and impact Froude number increase, indicating  
 398 a reduction in the dissipation of impact energy, causing pronounced surface turbulence  
 399 and increased wave height. Additionally, the decreased water depth also increased the  
 400 value of the impact Froude number by reducing its characteristic velocity, resulting in  
 401 stronger wave generation upon impact. The calculations for Reynolds number for the  
 402 experiments resulted in very high values, thus indicating a strong turbulent flow, which  
 403 is also evident from Fig. 5, so viscous effects are very, very small and can be ignored,  
 404 thus indicating the Froude dynamics similarity. The experimental results indicate the  
 405 complex interaction between wave propagation, impact dynamics, and bathymetrical  
 406 effects in waves induced by rotational cliff collapse. Moreover, upon impact, the cliff  
 407 fragmentation distributes impact energy over a larger area of water, thus increasing  
 408 wave height by enhanced turbulence and water splashing effects.



409

410 **Fig. 8: Relationship between impact Froude number and relative wave amplitude.**

411 **3.1.3 Wave amplitude results**

412 The results for the wave amplitude for various parameters are shown in Figs. 9, 10,

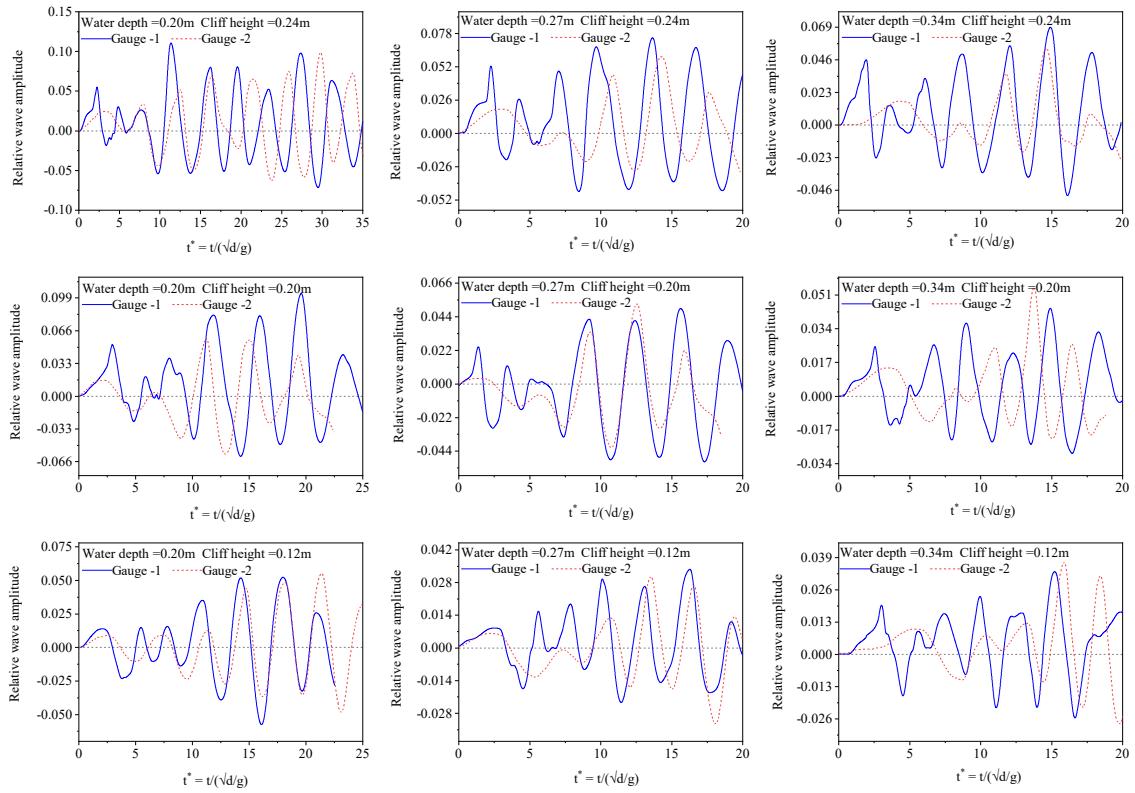
413 and 11. As mentioned earlier, two gauges were used to measure the induced wave  
414 amplitude. Fig. 9 provides a detailed comparison of the wave amplitude recorded at  
415 both gauges **for a 60° runup** slope angle and a 0.445 m fall height. It can be observed  
416 that gauge-1, which is near to impact zone, has a higher relative amplitude compared to  
417 gauge-2. Furthermore, the results for the relative wave amplitude against the  
418 normalized time were also analysed for all the water depths (0.20 m, 0.27 m, and 0.34  
419 m), fall height (0.245 m, 0.445 m, and 0.645 m), and cliff height (0.12 m, 0.20 m, and  
420 0.24 m). The results indicate that the wave amplitude increases as the cliff height,  
421 impact velocity, and number of fragments increase for all the water depths, as can be  
422 observed in Fig. 10, thus demonstrating that the potential energy of the falling cliff  
423 plays a critical role in the magnitude of the resulting wave.

424 Interestingly, comparing the wave amplitude induced by cliffs of various heights  
425 falling from the same height revealed that the water depth and the wave have an inverse  
426 relationship. As shown in Fig. 10 (a, b, and c), the average wave amplitude for various  
427 cliff heights and the same fall height of 0.245 m at 0.20 m water depth is 26% more  
428 than the average wave amplitude induced by 0.27 m water depth and 50% more than  
429 the 0.34m water depth wave amplitude. Similarly, Fig. 10 (d, e, and f) indicates that the  
430 average wave amplitude for 0.445 m fall height at 0.20 m water depth is 18% more than  
431 0.027 m and 47% more than 0.34 m water depth, whereas, for 0.645 m fall height wave  
432 amplitude induced by 0.20 m water depth is 25% more than 0.27 m and 37% more than  
433 0.34 m water depth (Fig. 10 g, h & i), thus suggesting that the deeper water dissipates  
434 the impact energy more effectively, as the deep water have more mass available to  
435 absorb and redistribute the impact energy, compared to shallower water thus reducing  
436 the overall amplitude of the induced wave. Moreover, a similar trend was observed for  
437 the wave amplitude involving 45°and 60°runup slope angle.

438 Later on, we performed another experiment by using granular material of  
439 equivalent mass as of cliff and slid it on a 30° slope, for all the water depths, and  
440 amplitude of the induced wave was measured as shown in Fig. 11. Fig. 11(a) indicates  
441 that the wave amplitude for 0.20 m water depth and 1.445 kg granular mass (equivalent  
442 to 0.12 m cliff height) was 15% more than 0.27 m water depth and 65% more than wave

443 amplitude induced by 0.34 m water depth. Whereas for 2.29kg and 2.82kg granular  
444 mass equivalent to 0.20 m and 0.24 m cliff height similar trend was observed as shown  
445 in Fig. 11 (b and c), thus indicating that as the water depth increases, the wave amplitude  
446 decreases for all the equivalent **granular masses**, as happened in the case of cliff fall.

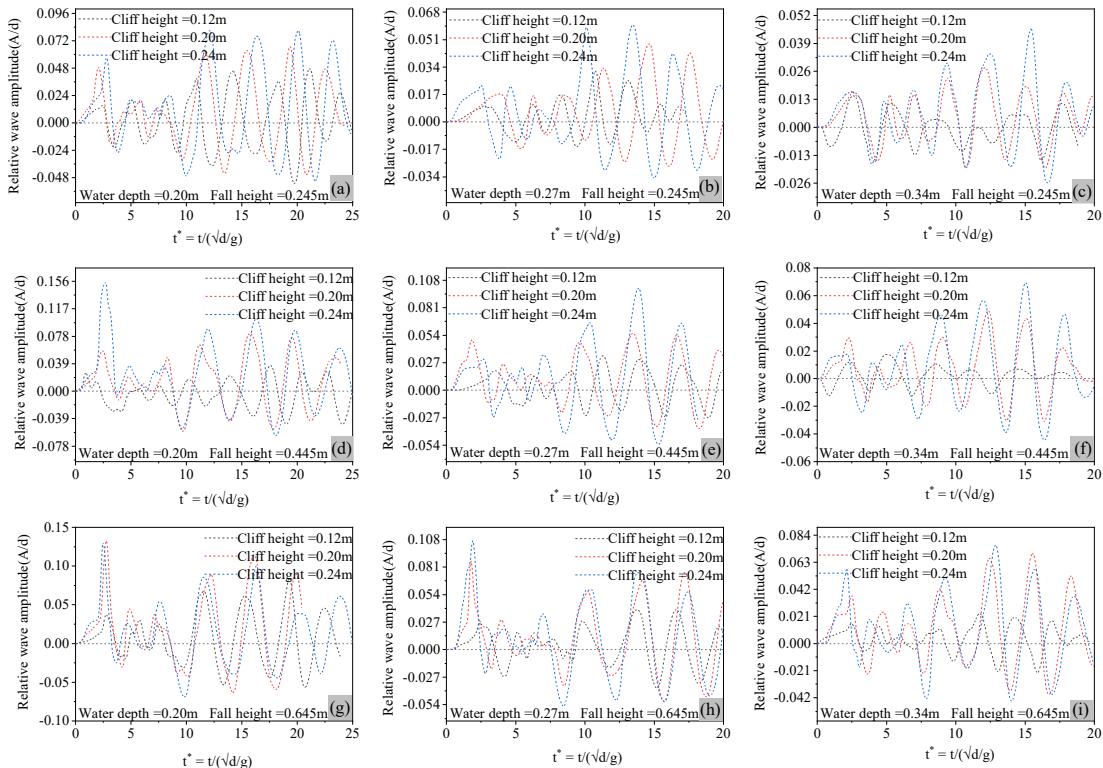
447 Furthermore, a comparison between the wave amplitude induced by a falling cliff  
448 and equivalent granular mass at various water depths indicates that the amplitude of the  
449 wave induced by an equivalent granular mass in 0.34 m, 0.27 m, and 0.20 m water depth  
450 was on average 28%, 35% and 42% less than the wave amplitude induced falling cliff.  
451 The substantial difference in wave amplitude highlights the importance of energy  
452 transfer in wave formation. The falling cliff following a rotational motion imparts a  
453 more sudden and concentrated impact that allows an efficient energy transfer to water,  
454 leading to higher wave amplitudes. On the other hand, granular flows, being more  
455 deformable and flowing along a slope, result in gradual energy transfer over a wide area,  
456 thus resulting in lower wave amplitudes. The results highlight that it's not only the total  
457 impact energy that affects the behavior of the induced wave, but the mode of energy  
458 transfer also plays a critical role (Mohammed and Fritz, 2012; Wunnemann and Weiss,  
459 2015). Based on the experimental results for wave amplitude and runup induced by  
460 rotational cliff collapse that fragments upon impact with the water surface, a novel  
461 prediction model was prepared using multi-expression programming. The justifications  
462 for the use of MEP have been well explained in the previous sections.



463

464  
465

Fig. 9: A comparative display of the water waves recorded at gauge 1&2 for a  $60^\circ$  slope angle, and 0.445 m fall height.

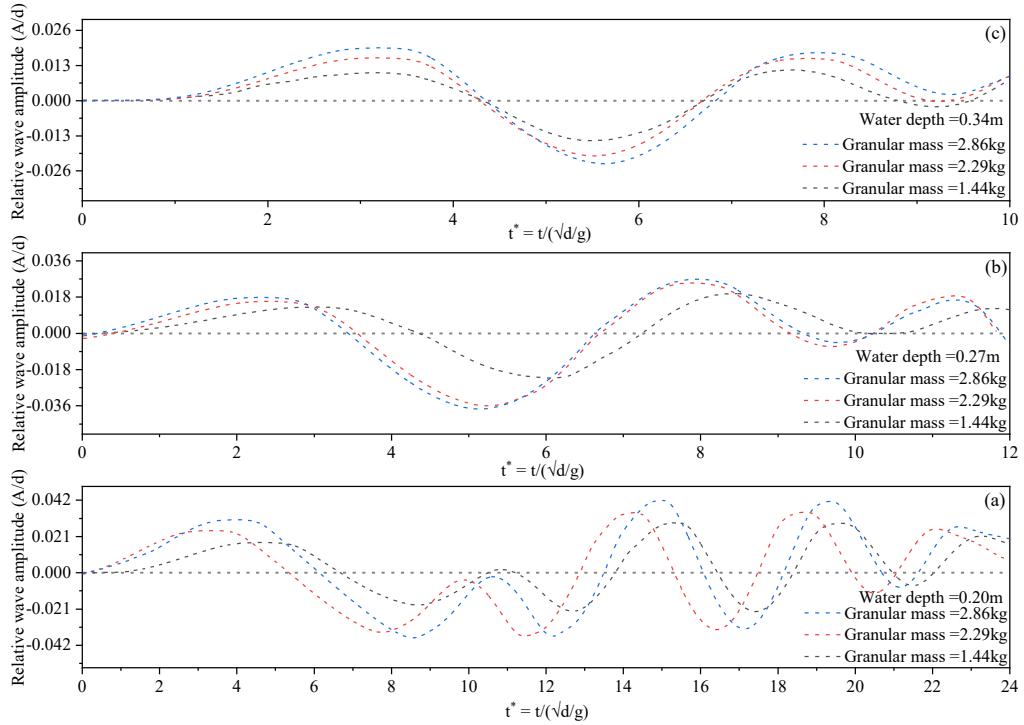


466

467

Fig. 10: Relative wave amplitude for various water depths, cliff height, and fall height

468 at 30°runup slope angle, (a, b&c) relative wave amplitude induced by 0.245 m fall  
469 height, (d, e&f) relative wave amplitude induced by 0.445 m fall height, (g, h&i)  
470 relative wave amplitude induced by 0.645 m fall height.



471

472 Fig. 11: Water waves induced by equivalent granular mass at 30° slope angle

473 **3.2 Numerical modeling results**

474 The numerical simulations conducted in this study successfully captured key  
475 dynamic characteristics of the wave generated by the rotational cliff collapse,  
476 specifically the wave amplitude and wave runup, across a range of test cases. Moreover,  
477 the front velocity of the incident wave was also measured. The simulations were also  
478 focused on verifying the results obtained from the rotational cliff collapse in the  
479 experiments. To quantify the wave amplitude, runup, and velocity, a post-processing  
480 technique was employed. To establish the reliability of the wave front velocity  
481 measurements, the velocity was calculated at 5–7 distinct locations along the wave's  
482 propagation path and at multiple time steps during the simulation. This multi-point  
483 sampling approach minimized errors due to spatial and temporal variations. Fig. 12  
484 shows a representative case of wave formation and propagation in a water tank at a  
485 depth of  $d = 0.2$  m at various time frames.

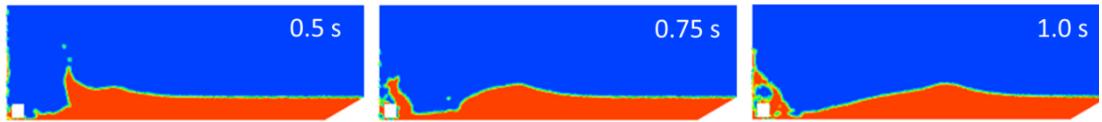
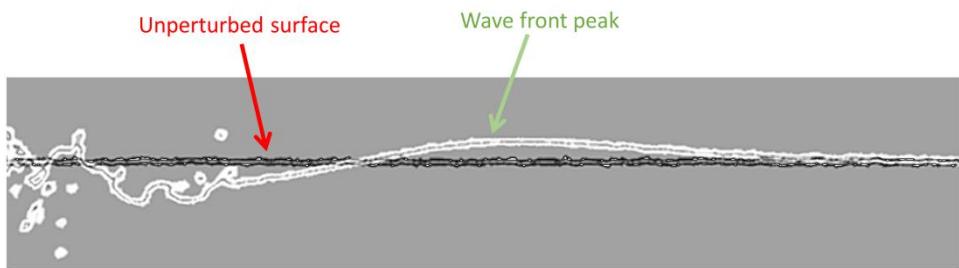


Fig. 12: Wave formation and propagation at water depth of  $d = 0.2$  m at various time frames.

486 The wave amplitude was defined as the peak vertical displacement of the liquid  
 487 surface relative to the undisturbed free surface level. Fig. 13 illustrates a representative  
 488 case, depicting the wave front propagation.



489  
 490 Fig. 13: Wave dynamics following a rotational cliff collapse in water depth  $d = 0.34$   
 491 m. Stable liquid surface before impact (black line); wave front propagating away from  
 492 the point of impact (white line).

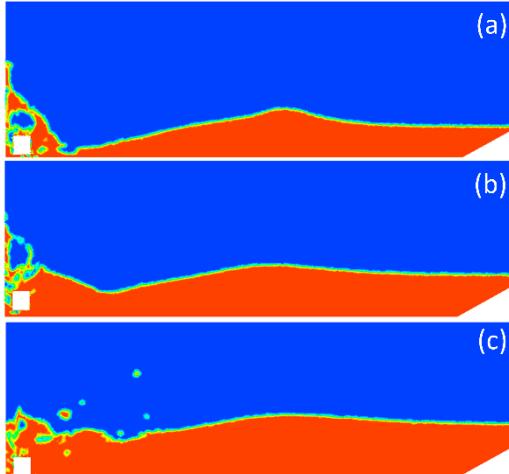
493 To validate the results of simulations, we compared the results of the runup height  
 494 with the experimental values. Table 3 presents the runup values for various runup slope  
 495 angles, i.e.,  $30^\circ$ ,  $45^\circ$ , and  $60^\circ$  for a water depth of 0.27 m. The comparison of simulated  
 496 values was performed at this depth, as it lies in the middle of the experimental test range  
 497 of water depths. Numerical modeling results indicate that for a fixed water depth, the  
 498 runup values consistently decrease as the runup slope angle increases from  $30^\circ$  to  $60^\circ$ .  
 499 At a water depth of 0.27 m, the runup decreases from 0.2 m at  $30^\circ$  to 0.17 m at  $45^\circ$ , and  
 500 further to 0.11 m at  $60^\circ$ . This reduction is attributed to the changing momentum transfer  
 501 dynamics with increasing slope angle. At less steep angles (closer to horizontal, e.g.,  
 502  $30^\circ$ ), the rock's momentum generates a stronger radial splash and greater upslope  
 503 displacement of the liquid along the cliff. As the angle increases toward  $60^\circ$ , a larger  
 504 component of the momentum is directed parallel to the cliff, reducing the vertical  
 505 impulse. The experimental and numerical results agree well, and the difference lies  
 506 within the acceptable range of 4-5%. The experimental results for the other two water  
 507 depths also indicate similar behavior.

508 Table 3: Peak runup values along the various slope angles at a water depth of 0.27 m

Depth $d$ (m)	Numerical-30°	Exp- 30°	Numerical-45°	Exp- 45°	Numerical-60°	Exp-60°
0.27	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.16	0.11	0.102

509 Next, we measured the wave velocity through the numerical results, as it wasn't  
 510 captured accurately through experimental images. Fig. 14 illustrates the simulated wave  
 511 fronts at a time instant of  $t = 1$  second following the impact of the solid rock on the  
 512 liquid pool, for various water depths and a fixed slope angle of 30 degrees. These  
 513 visualizations highlight the propagation of the waves from the impact zone. The slope  
 514 angle was varied across simulations to assess its influence on wave characteristics. It  
 515 was observed that changes in the slope angle induced only minor variations in both the  
 516 wave front velocity and wave amplitude for a given pool depth. These perturbations  
 517 were typically within 1–2% of the mean values. Consequently, to streamline the  
 518 analysis and focus on dominant trends, the wave front velocity and height were  
 519 averaged over the range of slope angles for each specific water depth.

520 However, variations in water depth exerted a pronounced effect on the wave  
 521 dynamics, leading to significant alterations in both the propagation velocity and  
 522 amplitude of the generated waves. This depth-dependent behavior is quantified in Table  
 523 4, which presents the averaged results from the numerical simulations. For a shallow  
 524 water depth of  $d=0.2$  m, the average wave front velocity was computed as 1.48 m/s,  
 525 with a corresponding average wave height of 0.11 m. As the pool depth increased to  
 526  $d=0.27$  m, the velocity rose to 1.58 m/s, while the wave height decreased to 0.07 m.  
 527 Further deepening to 0.34 m yielded a velocity of 1.74 m/s and a reduced wave  
 528 amplitude of 0.06 m. These trends indicate an approximately linear increase in velocity  
 529 with depth, accompanied by an inverse relationship for wave amplitude.



530

531 Fig. 14: Propagating wave fronts after the impact at time  $t = 1$  s for a slope angle of  
 532 30-degree. (a)  $d = 0.2$  m, (b)  $d = 0.27$  m, (c)  $d = 0.34$  m.

533 The observed depth dependence can be rationalized through fundamental  
 534 principles of wave propagation in gravity-dominated, multi-phase flows. In the shallow  
 535 water regime, given that the pool depths (0.2–0.34 m) are comparable to or smaller than  
 536 the wavelengths of the generated waves, the phase velocity  $c$  of long gravity waves  
 537 approximates  $c \approx \sqrt{gh}$ , where  $g$  is the gravitational acceleration (9.81 m/s<sup>2</sup>), and  $h$  is the  
 538 undisturbed water depth. This relation arises from the shallow water equations, where  
 539 hydrostatic pressure balance and negligible vertical acceleration dominate, leading to a  
 540 dispersionless incident wave speed that scales with the square root of depth.  
 541 Substituting the water depths yields theoretical velocities of approximately 1.40 m/s for  
 542  $d=0.2$  m, 1.63 m/s for  $d=0.27$  m, and 1.83 m/s for  $d=0.34$  m, which align closely with  
 543 the simulated values (discrepancies of 7–10% may stem from viscous dissipation, non-  
 544 hydrostatic effects near the impact zone, or spreading of the wave front). A comparative  
 545 analysis of the results is shown in Table 4.

546 Conversely, the decrease in wave amplitude with increasing water depth aligns with  
 547 energy conservation and volume displacement considerations in impact-generated  
 548 waves. The impact of rotational cliff collapse imparts a fixed kinetic energy and  
 549 displaces a finite volume of liquid, creating an initial cavity and subsequent outflow  
 550 that evolves into a propagating wave. In shallower pools, the displaced volume is  
 551 confined to a smaller cross-sectional area, resulting in greater vertical amplification to

552 accommodate the same mass redistribution. For deeper water depths, the energy is  
 553 distributed over a larger water column, diluting the surface perturbation and yielding  
 554 lower amplitudes. The trends observed in the numerical simulations for water waves  
 555 induced by rotational cliff collapse are in good agreement with theoretical and  
 556 experimental results, indicating that water depth has a direct effect on the wave velocity  
 557 and an inverse effect on the wave amplitude and runup.

558 Table 4: The average wave propagation velocity and amplitude for various water depths.

Water depth $d$ (m)	Avg. wave velocity $v$ (m/s)	Theoretical wave velocity $c$ (m/s)	Wave amplitude $A$ (m)
0.2	1.48	1.40	0.11
0.27	1.58	1.63	0.07
0.34	1.74	1.83	0.06

559 **3.3 MEP model results**

560 The purpose was to develop a precise model for wave amplitude and runup induced  
 561 by rotational cliff collapse. The predicted model is a function of seven variables, i.e.,  
 562 water depth, fall height, cliff mass, impact velocity, cliff height, runup slope angle, and  
 563 number of fragments, and can be described as follows,

564  $Wave\ amplitude\ and\ runup = f(d, H, m, v, h, \alpha, N_f)$  (3)

565 The relation among the parameters was evaluated using Pearson's correlation to  
 566 analyze the multicollinearity and interdependency between the parameters, as they can  
 567 obscure the interpretation of the developed model. The model was developed by  
 568 splitting the data into two subsets, i.e., training (70%) and testing (30%). The  
 569 randomization was done by MEP itself. Following the criteria, 70% of the data, i.e., 57  
 570 data points, were taken as training data, whereas 30% of the data, i.e., 24 data points,  
 571 were considered for validation of the model. The mathematical expression for MEP is  
 572 obtained by solving the C++ code and representing it as per optimized hyperparameter  
 573 settings, as shown in Table 5. The prediction model for wave amplitude and runup was  
 574 developed by analyzing the MEP code in MATLAB, as shown in Equations 4 and 5.

575 Table 5: Parametric settings of the MEP algorithm for wave amplitude and runup

Sr.No.	Parameters	Wave amplitude	Wave runup
1	Number of sub-populations	125	85
2	Sub-population size	115	75
3	Crossover probability	0.85	0.60
4	Code length	35	25
5	Tournament size	30	10
6	Mutation probability	0.085	0.06
7	Number of generations	250	120
8	Crossover type	Uniform	Uniform
9	Error measure	Mean absolute error	Mean absolute error
10	Problem type	Regression	Regression
11	Function set	+, -, x, /, ^	+, -, x, /, ^
12	Terminal set	Problem Input	Problem Input
13	Operators	0.5	0.5
14	Simplified	Yes	Yes
15	Variables	0.5	0.5
16	Random seed	0	0
17	Constants	0	0

576  $Wave\ amplitude\ A = d^{\left(\frac{\alpha}{d(d+N_f+m)}\right)} + \frac{2vh^2}{m+N_f+d(d+N_f+m)} + 2vh d^{\left(\frac{\alpha}{d(d+N_f+m)}\right)}$  (4)

577  $Wave\ runup\ R = \frac{A\left(h + \left(A \cdot \left(d - \frac{B}{\alpha}\right)\right)^{B/\alpha}\right)^A \cdot B}{\alpha}$  (5)

578  $A = v + h^d$

579  $B = v + m + h^d$

580 Whereas  $d$  is the water depth (m),  $m$  is the mass of the cliff (kg),  $v$  is the  
 581 impact velocity (m/s),  $h$  is the cliff height (m),  $\alpha$  is the runup slope angle, and  $N_f$   
 582 is the number of fragments.

583 **3.3.1 Prediction performance of the developed model**

584 The robustness of the proposed model was evaluated by comparing it with well-  
 585 established statistical indices, i.e., mean absolute error (MAE), root mean square error  
 586 (RMSE), correlation coefficient (Cr), Nash–Sutcliffe efficiency (NSE), and  
 587 performance index (PI). The indices can be represented by equation (6-10) (Khan et al.,  
 588 2022).

589  $MAE = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |e_i - p_i|}{n}$  (6)

590  $RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (e_i - p_i)^2}{n}}$  (7)

591  $NSE = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (e_i - p_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (e_i - \bar{e}_i)^2}$  (8)

592  $PI = \frac{RRMSE}{1+R}$  (9)

593  $R^2 = \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (e_i - \bar{e}_i)(p_i - \bar{p}_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n (e_i - \bar{e}_i)^2 \sum_{i=1}^n (p_i - \bar{p}_i)^2} \right)^2$  (10)

594 Whereas,  $\bar{e}_i$  and  $\bar{p}_i$  are the average values of the experimental and predicted  
 595 results, and  $e_i$  and  $p_i$  are  $i^{\text{th}}$  values of the modeled and predicted results, for  $n$  total  
 596 samples. It is good to consider the error indices while analyzing the predictive capability  
 597 of complex models. The wave runup model demonstrated a robust performance for both  
 598 training and testing datasets. The lower values of RMSE and MAE indicate little  
 599 deviation from experimental values, while RSE and RMSE values confirm lower  
 600 normalized error, as shown in Table 6. The higher values of NSE and Cr further  
 601 validated the model reliability for the training phase. Whereas for the validation dataset,  
 602 i.e., the unseen data model displays even stronger performance with lower RMSE and  
 603 MAE values compared to the training dataset. Moreover, higher Cr and lower  
 604 performance index values highlight enhanced model efficiency. This suggests that the  
 605 model works well for unseen data, making it suitable for predicting the wave runup  
 606 induced by rotational cliff collapse (Gardezi et al., 2024).

607 The predictive performance of the wave amplitude model in the case of training  
 608 data demonstrated a strong correlation with high  $R^2$  values and low RMSE and MAE  
 609 values corresponding to 13.14% relative error, thus suggesting a good agreement  
 610 between experimental and predicted values, as shown in Table 6. The higher NSE and  
 611  $C_r$  values further confirmed the model's reliability for the training dataset with minimal  
 612 systematic bias. When the model was exposed to unseen data, it still maintained  
 613 reasonable accuracy with an  $R^2$  value of 0.78. Though the values of error matrices, i.e.,  
 614 RMSE, MAE, and RRMSE, are a bit higher than the training data set, this is expected  
 615 due to inherent generalization challenges. Similarly, the higher NSE and  $C_r$  values,  
 616 though lower than the training dataset, indicate consistent predictive performance of the  
 617 wave amplitude model with little increase in bias. Overall model exhibited strong

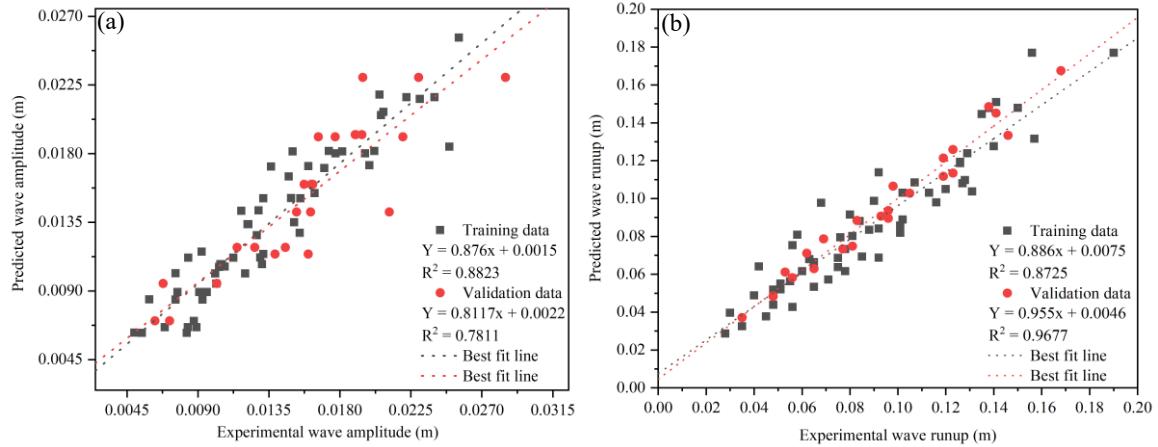
618 predictive performance in the training and testing phase, with a little expected decline  
619 in the validation phase.

620 **Table 6: Performance index values for the MEP-based water wave amplitude and**  
621 **runup prediction model.**

Performance parameters	Wave Amplitude		Wave Runup	
	Training data	Validation data	Training data	Validation data
RSQ	0.8823	0.7811	0.8748	0.9691
RMSE	0.00178	0.0025	0.01327	0.00617
MAE	0.00135	0.00176	0.0108	0.00504
RSE	0.1180	0.2439	0.1306	0.0312
RRMSE	0.1314	0.1594	0.1472	0.0660
P. index	0.0698	0.0908	0.076	0.0333
NSE	0.8819	0.7560	0.8693	0.9687
$C_r$	0.9393	0.8829	0.9353	0.9844

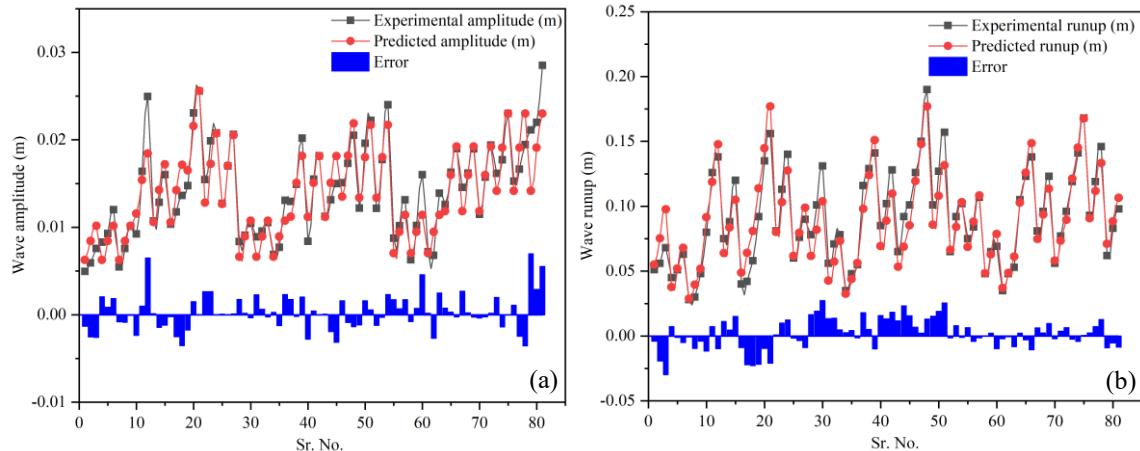
622 Previously, scientists have also used the slope of the regression line as a  
623 performance indicator for AI models, thus representing a correlation between  
624 experimental and predicted results. Fig. 15 (a & b) shows the regression line for our  
625 wave amplitude and runup model. For wave amplitude, the slope value for the training  
626 data set is 0.88, which is adequate, and 0.78 in validation, which is still greater than the  
627 minimum value of 0.7; it can happen as the model involving numerous parameters and  
628 complex phenomena usually performs slower for the unseen data (Yarkoni and Westfall,  
629 2019). Whereas, for wave runup, the model performed very well for both training and  
630 validation data sets with an  $R^2$  value of 0.87 and 0.96, respectively.

631 The accuracy of the proposed model can also be checked using residual error plots,  
632 which are obtained by subtracting experimental and predicted values. The results  
633 indicate that the amplitude model has minimum and maximum values of -0.004 m and  
634 0.0065 m, as shown in Fig. 16 (a), whereas for wave runup the minimum and maximum  
635 values are -0.01875 and 0.024 (Fig. 16b). Moreover, it can also be observed that error  
636 values are populated along the x-axis, therefore, showing low error frequency, and  
637 accuracy of both the models.



638

639 Fig. 15 Tracing the experimental results by predicted values, (a) wave amplitude and  
 640 (b) wave runup



641

642 Fig. 16 Indicating error values between experimental and predicted model (a) wave  
 643 amplitude, and (b) Wave runup

644

### 645 3.2 Validation of the developed model

646 The validation of the proposed model is an important feature in predictive modeling.  
 647 It has been observed that sometimes the model performs very well for training data sets,  
 648 but fails to perform during the validation stage for unseen data. So, the developed  
 649 prediction model was further validated by conducting the sensitivity and parametric  
 650 analysis for both the wave amplitude and runup.

#### 651 3.2.1 Sensitivity analysis

652 Sensitivity and parametric analysis play a vital role in determining the robustness  
 653 of the proposed model. The sensitivity analysis (SA) of the developed prediction model  
 654 for the entire dataset tells us how sensitive the model is to any changes in input

655 parameters. So, for an independent parameter  $Y_i$  the SA can be calculated using  
 656 equations 11 and 12, which indicates that for any parameter, the values were varied  
 657 between two extremes, and others were constant at their average, and the outcome was  
 658 found in the form of  $Y_i$ , and then the same process was repeated for all the remaining  
 659 parameters.

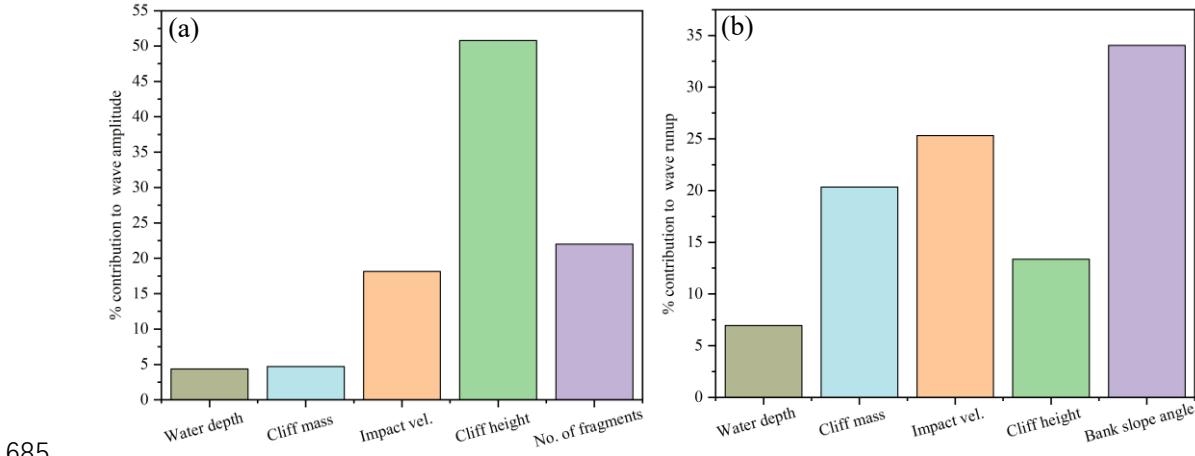
660 
$$R_k = f_{max}(Y_k) - f_{min}(Y_k) \quad (11)$$

661 
$$\text{Relative Importance SA (\%)} = \frac{R_k}{\sum_{j=1}^n R_j} \times 100 \quad (12)$$

662 Whereas,  $f_{max}(Y_k)$  and  $f_{min}(Y_k)$  represent the minimum and maximum values  
 663 of the model-based results grounded on the  $k$ th domain of the input parameters in the  
 664 above equation. Fig. 17 (a & b) shows the results of the sensitivity analysis of the  
 665 developed prediction model for the wave amplitude and runup. Figure 17 (a) indicates  
 666 that the wave amplitude is greatly influenced by the height of the cliff ( $h$ ) and has an  
 667 effect of almost 51%. The water depth ( $d$ ) contributes 4.36% to wave amplitude, cliff  
 668 mass ( $m$ ) contributes 4.69%, and impact velocity ( $v$ ) and number of fragments ( $N_f$ )  
 669 contribute 18% and 22% to the induced wave amplitude. Whereas the fall height ( $H$ )  
 670 and runup slope angle ( $\alpha$ ) do not affect the wave amplitude. Since the impact velocity  
 671 parameters have already catered for the fall height that's why it is not visible in the  
 672 proposed model. The model tells us that impact velocity, cliff height, and number of  
 673 fragments contribute approximately 90% to the wave amplitude induced by the  
 674 rotational fall of the cliff. It can be concluded that the effect of  $h > N_f > v > m > d$   
 675 on the induced wave amplitude.

676 Similarly, the sensitivity analysis of wave runup (Fig. 17b) indicates that runup is  
 677 greatly influenced by bank slope angle ( $\alpha$ ) and has an effect of 34%. Impact velocity  
 678 ( $v$ ) contributes 25.3%, cliff mass ( $m$ ) 20.3%, cliff height ( $h$ ) 13.3%, and water depth  
 679 ( $d$ ) contributes around 7% to wave runup. Whereas, the number of fragments and fall  
 680 height that have already been catered in impact velocity don't contribute to wave runup.  
 681 This suggests that wave runup is primarily governed by coastal geometry, i.e., bank  
 682 slope angle and cliff height, and hydrodynamic forces, i.e., impact velocity, whereas  
 683 water depth contributes a little to wave runup. It can also be concluded as the effect of

684  $\alpha > v > m > h > d$  on the induced wave amplitude.



686 Fig. 17 Sensitivity analysis of the MEP-based wave amplitude and runup  
687 prediction model

### 688 3.2.2 Parametric Analysis

689 Parametric analysis results for the input parameters for the wave amplitude used in  
690 this study are displayed in Fig. 18. The parametric analysis indicates that wave  
691 amplitude decreases as the water depth, number of fragments, and cliff mass increase,  
692 whereas it increases with the increase in cliff height and impact velocity. These trends  
693 are in line with the fundamental physics principles (Bougouin et al., 2020; Lipiejko et  
694 al., 2023). Deep waters dissipate more energy, and greater impact velocities and larger  
695 cliff heights impart more kinetic and potential energies to water bodies for wave  
696 generation. In contrast, the inverse relation between the number of fragments and wave  
697 amplitude proposes a potential threshold effect in which initial fragmentation  
698 contributes to wave formation, whereas excessive fragments contribute to energy  
699 dissipation owing to increased turbulence. The sensitivity analysis further quantified  
700 the effect of these parameters, classifying cliff height as a major contributing factor in  
701 wave amplitude variations, followed by impact velocity, number of fragments, water  
702 depth, and mass of cliff. The strong influence of cliff height indicates its direct effect in  
703 determining the potential energy for wave generation. Moreover, the larger sensitivity  
704 value of fragments regardless of their inverse parametric relation shows a complex  
705 relation, where fragment count plays a considerable but context-dependent role in wave  
706 generation and propagation. The dominance of cliff height, impact velocity, and

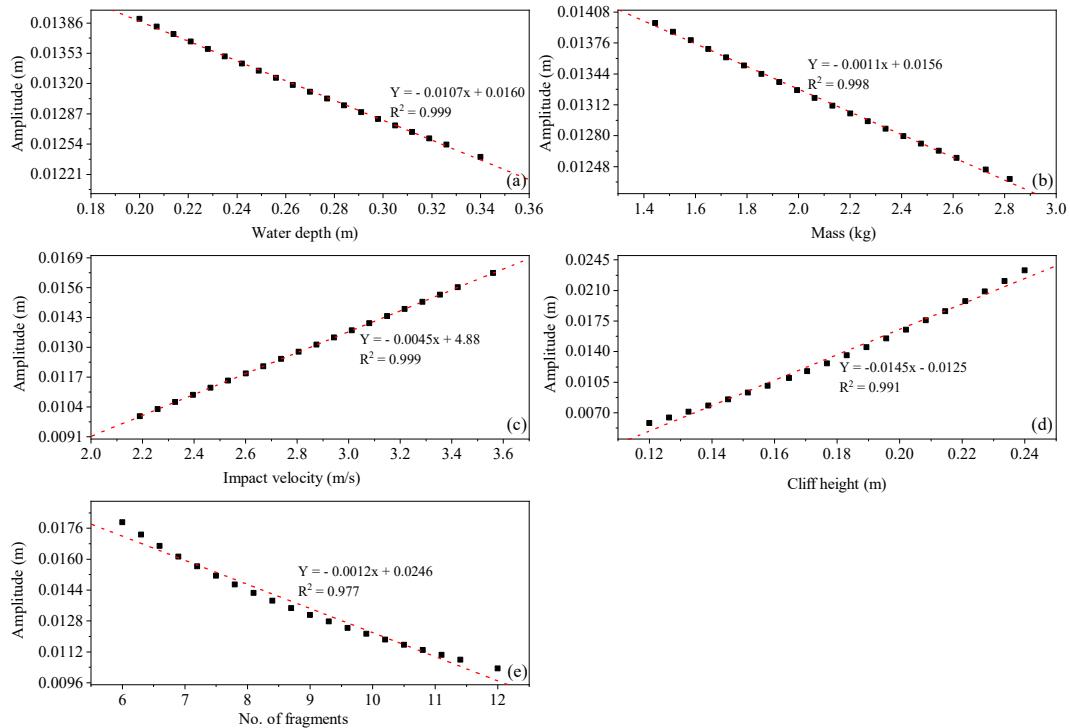
707 fragment count suggests that these parameters should be prioritized in future prediction  
708 models. These findings are important for developing predictive models for wave  
709 generations due to rotational cliff collapse.

710 The developed model for wave amplitude provides valuable insights into  
711 fundamental physics governing wave formation and propagation induced because of  
712 rotational cliff collapse. The strong height dependence of the model confirms the  
713 classical principle of conservation of potential energy, whereas the fragment count  
714 dependence reveals energy partitioning mechanisms. The results of performance  
715 indices and sensitivity, and parametric analysis increase our understanding of how  
716 geometric and dynamic characteristics govern the wave characteristics, with relevance  
717 to hazard assessment and disaster mitigation in coastal regions prone to cliff collapse  
718 following rotational motion.

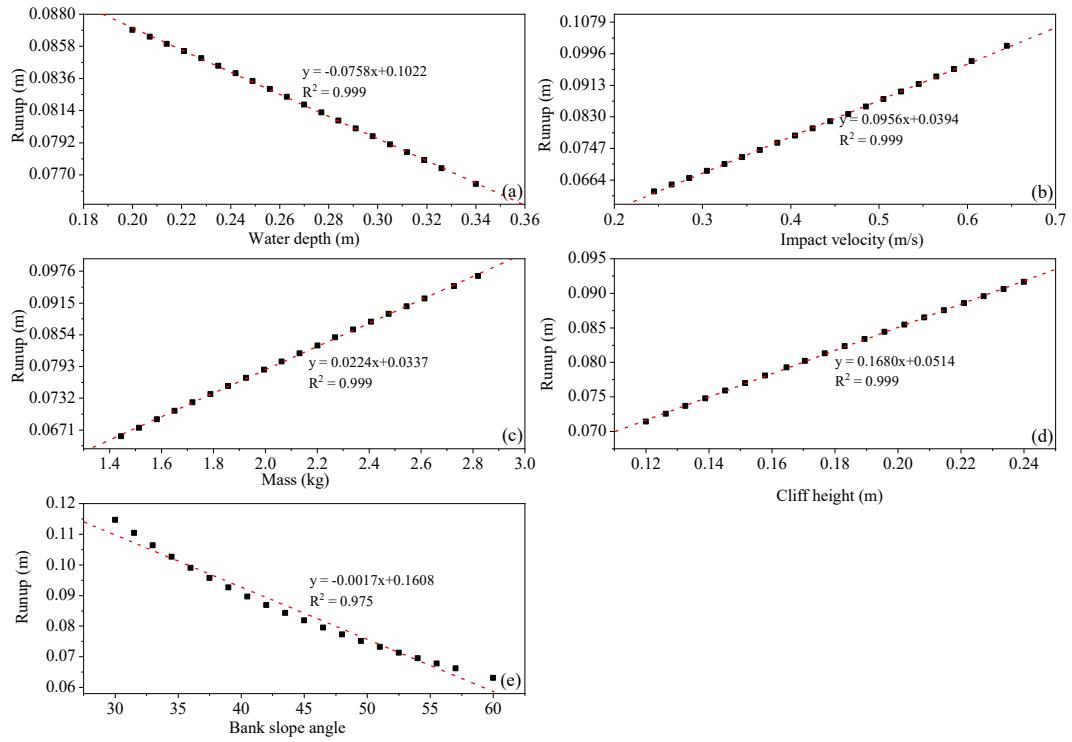
719 The results of the parametric analysis for wave runup are presented in Fig. 19. It  
720 can be observed from Fig. 19 (a & e) that as the water depth and bank slope angle  
721 increase, the wave runup decreases, due to energy dissipation and different wave  
722 breaking dynamics. Conversely, as the cliff mass, cliff height, and impact velocity  
723 increase, the wave runup increases, as greater kinetic energy and inertia impart greater  
724 uprush. Notably, all the parameters present a strong correlation with the runup (more  
725 than 97%), highlighting their statistical significance. The results agree with the general  
726 physics laws, where mild slopes and larger impact forces result in higher runups,  
727 whereas deep waters attenuate wave energy.

728 An important observation from parametric analysis of wave amplitude and runup,  
729 as shown in Fig. 18b, and 19c, indicates that cliff mass represents a nonlinear relation  
730 with wave amplitude and a linear relation with runup. This is due to the fact that the  
731 variations in wave amplitude are governed by a nonlinear energy dissipation, where  
732 hydrodynamic forces follow a quadratic dependence on the velocity. In the case of light  
733 cliff collapses, the dynamic responses result in complex absorption and distribution,  
734 whereas heavier cliff collapses promote wave reflection along with nonlinear effects of  
735 wave breaking and splash-induced turbulence, as can be observed in Fig. 5 (b, e&h).  
736 Conversely, the wave runup exhibits a linear relation with cliff mass, and this is due to

737 the law of conservation of momentum, such that the resisting inertial force is directly  
 738 proportional to cliff mass. The greater resistance to motion of heavier cliffs allows more  
 739 energy to be conserved and utilized for higher wave runups before dissipation. The  
 740 main difference between the two trends is that the wave amplitude is controlled by  
 741 localized energy losses, whereas runup is governed by bulk momentum transfer rather  
 742 than localized losses.



743  
 744 Fig. 18 Parametric analysis for wave amplitude (a) water depth, (b) cliff mass, (c)  
 745 impact velocity, (d) cliff height, (e) number of fragments.



746

747 Fig. 19 Parametric analysis for wave runup (a) water depth, (b) impact velocity, (c)  
 748 mass of the cliff, (d) cliff height, (e) bank slope angle.

749 **4. Conclusions**

750 While designing wave protection structures along the banks of reservoirs, it is  
 751 common to use the empirical relations developed for granular flows, i.e., landslides and  
 752 avalanches, to predict the amplitude and runup of the waves. However, the waves  
 753 induced by various types of slides behave differently and should be treated accordingly.  
 754 The dynamics of the waves induced by falling cliffs are entirely different from the  
 755 waves induced by continuous granular flows. Similarly, the dynamics of the waves  
 756 induced by falling cliffs following different types of motion (translational, rotational)  
 757 are also different. This study aimed to develop a novel wave amplitude and runup  
 758 prediction model for waves induced by rotational fall of the cliff using a combination  
 759 of seven governing parameters, and then compare it with the dynamics of the wave  
 760 induced by continuous granular flows. Based on the results and discussions, the study  
 761 concludes as follows,

762 1. It was concluded that water depth strongly controls the shape of the induced splash  
 763 and wave amplification. Shallow water induced elongated, tall splashes, and higher

764 wave amplitudes; in contrast, deep water produced mushroom-shaped splashes  
765 with higher energy dissipation and lower wave amplitudes.

766 2. The higher values of Froude number ( $> 1.2$ ) for all the experiments indicate that  
767 the viscous effects were negligible, so the Froude number was selected as the most  
768 suitable dynamic scaling factor for describing the behaviour of the waves.

769 3. The wave amplitude was greatly influenced by cliff height (51 %), number of  
770 fragments (22 %), Impact velocity (18 %), cliff mass (4.69 %), and water depth  
771 (4.36 %). Whereas the wave runup was governed by the runup slope angle, impact  
772 velocity, and cliff mass.

773 4. The amplitude of the wave induced by equivalent granular mass sliding on a  $30^\circ$   
774 slope was 28-42% lower than the waves induced by rotational cliff collapse, thus  
775 concluding that the mode of energy transfer to the water body plays a critical role  
776 in wave dynamics.

777 5. A novel MEP-based prediction model was developed for wave amplitude and  
778 runup. The model showed great performance during the training and testing stage,  
779 and showed high sensitivity to the used parameters, thus confirming its reliability.

780 6. Research findings highlight that accurate hazard assessment of the cliff collapse  
781 requires models that account for the rotational failure mode and the fragmentation  
782 upon impact with the water surface. Traditional granular slide models may result  
783 in an underestimation of the initial wave amplitude and energy transferred.

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789 **Author contributions**

790 HG wrote the manuscript and performed the experiments, TK performed numerical  
791 modeling, XL designed the research, TMS helped in writing the manuscript, YH  
792 supervised the project, and ZC helped in conducting experiments.

793 **Data availability**

794 Data will be made available upon reasonable request.

795 **Declarations**

796 Competing interests: The authors declare no competing interests.

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