





9th International Conference on Urban Drainage Modelling Belgrade 2012

Flood hazard assessment in the Raval District of Barcelona using a 1D/2D coupled model

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Introduction about CORFU project

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CORFU (Collaborative Research on Flood Resilience in Urban areas) aims to improve the practice of urban flood risk management. Through the project, European and Asian cities will learn from each other through the development, investigation and dissemination of strategies that aim to improve flood resilience.





Introduction about Barcelona Case Study

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General information:

- Barcelona is located in Mediterranean area (NE Spain)
- 1,621,000 inhabitants
- Area of 101.4 Km²
- Density of 15,980 inhab./ Km² (19,200 inhab./ Km² not considering Collserola mountain)
- High slopes in the mountain and nearly flat on the coast
- High density of population and land imperviousness

Climate:

- Mediterranean, with cool winters and hot summers
- Heavy rainfall with high intensities (flash flood events). Average annual precipitation 600 mm
- Maximum intensity in 5 min is 205 mm/h for a 10 yr return period
- 50% of annual precipitation can occur in only 2 or 3 events



Introduction about Barcelona Case Study

Collserola mountain

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High gradients Runoff preferred direction Low/ghadients and ers critical points → FLOODS









Besós River



Introduction about Barcelona Case Study

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Raval District

- Spot susceptible to flooding as demonstrated by historical data
- 44000 inh./Km²
- High social and economical vulnerability
- Traditional 1D sewer models do not detect flooding problems



Model setup: main features (I)



- 35 sluices (fixed and variable)
- 23 weirs and 3 flap valves
- 6 storage tanks with a storage volume of more than 170,000 m³

- 1D/2D coupled model through ICM software
- 5 catchments (aprox. 40 Km²) involved
- 234 Km of pipes with 3625 manholes





Model setup: main features (II)

- Creation of 1D/2D detailed coupled model with secondary network and microcatchments inside the Raval District for the hydraulic characterization of surface drainage structures
- Definition of the Rainfall-Runoff transformation model (losses and routing models) for the building area
- Definition of the "2D infiltration zones" in the 2D mesh. Hydrological characterization of pervious and the impervious areas using the hydrological model of the cells (new feature of the last version of ICM).

Characterization of the Surface Drainage Structures (I)

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1D/2D approach

- Rainfall directly falls on cells characterized by a hydrological model
- 1D and 2D models are coupled through Node Type 2D (manholes) or Node Type Gully2D (inlets)
- Gully2D nodes (only in the Raval District) were hydraulically characterized (experimental expressions were used) in order to take into account flow entering into the network and surcharged overflows.





Characterization of the Surface Drainage Structures (II)

- Exchange of water between the 2D manhole and the mesh is calculated using a specific "Head/Discharge relationship"
- Overland flow paths and microcatchments in the Raval District
- ICM allows to treat a manhole as a set of inlets defining the "number of equivalent inlets"









Digital Terrain Model (DTM)

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 According to the information provided by ICC, DTM used for this model is characterized by a precision of 15 cm in terms of ground level. • Topographic information was provided by Catalan Institute of Cartography (ICC). DTM covers almost the whole administrative land of the city (92 Km²) with a resolution of 1x1 m².





Calibration of the 1D/2D coupled model (I)

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Calibration process

- Selection of 3 calibration events
- Selection of 1 validation event
- Rainfall and records time series (flow depths) processing
- Selection and adjustment of the calibration model parameters
- Qualitative calibration related to surface flooded areas, pressured pipes and manholes with overflows
- Collection of field data (reports of policemen, firemen, municipality authorities, etc.) concerning selected events
- Results verification



Calibration of the 2D/1D coupled model (II)

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Selection of calibration and validation events

- Due to the recent significant changes of the Barcelona sewer system (new infrastructures like pipes and tanks were built in the last months and regularly work actually), rainfall events were selected in the year 2011. This year was characterized by several heavy rainfall events
- Main characteristics of the selected calibration and validation events

Date event	Cumulative rainfall	Maximum rainfall intensity in 5	Maximum rainfall intensity in	m Function of in the event	
	(mm)	(mm/h)	20 minutes		
	(11111)		(11111/11)		
15/03/11	54.1	98.4	69.6	Calibration	
07/06/11	26.8	49.2	24.3	Calibration	
19/07/11	45.9	135.6	95.1	Calibration	
30/07/11	30.4	140.4	105.9	Verification	





Calibration of the 1D/2D coupled model (III)

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Rainfall and records time series (flow depths) processing

- Data concerning rainfall time series related to 11
 selected rain gauges
 were processed
 (CLABSA rain gauges
 network counts 24
 measuring equipments).
- Data concerning flow depths time series related to 29 limnimeters were processed (CLABSA counts more than 100 limnimeters in the sewer system)





Collection of field data

• Reports and plans summarizing the effects of the selected events





Calibration of the 2D/1D coupled model (IV)

DOMINGO 31 DE JULIO DEL 2011

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34 Gran Barcelona

Collection of field data

- Images and video concerning the effects of the selected events 0
- Newspaper articles concerning the effects of the selected events o.

METEOROLOGÍA

El episodio de lluvias ocurrido el sábado fue breve en el tiempo, pero de una intensidad que tan sólo se produce cada sesenta y siete años

Tormenta inolvidable

nyola (57 l/m²) Valles (48 l,m²) adadi- ta, especia lmente de Paral-le La ciu

nalidad. Los ron afectados por este tempo-ral repararon los destroros. A dalles entre Mataró y



Una niñ a recoge ramas de árbol taldas por las lluvis

de Sants y de paseo de Gràcia

ros de Barcelona

in an e or he

os más at CIDA DE ACU Las precipitaciones llenaron los depósitos pluvial hasta el 60% PRECAUCIÓN EN EL MAR Las playas de Barcelona lucieron ayer





EXCEPCIONAL FENÔMENO METEOROLÓGICO

Una tormenta bate el récord de intensidad de lluvia en BCN

Las precipitaciones inundaron el Paral·lel y afectaron a paradas de metro y Rodalies



nto de jóvenes. 🔳 -Periódico



AGUACERO DE MADRUGADA EN LA CAPITAL CATALANA BCN dobla en un día la ción de trenes en ambas direccione media de lluvia del mes

Caen en una hora hasta 80 litros por metro cuadrado. que causaron inundaciones

EL PERIÓDICO

ciones de Verdaguer y Bogatell. A la 06.11 horas se cerró por esta causa la primera estación, que reabrió a las 07.26. La de Bogatell, por su parte, estuvo cerrada entre las 06.34 a intensa lluvia que azotó la mahorasy las 06 50 En ambos casos se

rugada de ayer a la capital catalahabilitó un servicio de autobuses paentre 60 y 80 litros por metro ra el tramo afectado. En cuanto al ferrocarril, la peor parte se la llevó la uadrado, mientras la media de too el mes de julio está en 30– causó 1 mañana de ayer algunos probleúblico. La lí- de Gràcia y Sants paralizó la circula-

entre las dos estaciones, lo que provocó retrasos de más de media hora en las líneas R-2 sur y R-2 norte y en los Media Distancia El temporal de agua provocó tam-

nea de metro más más afectada fue bién cortes de suministro eléctrico la L-4, donde se inundaron las esta- en varias zonas de la capital catalana. Los más afectados fueron los ba rrios del Guinardó y Sagrera, así como el Baix Llobregat.

OTRA AVERÍA EN LA L-1// Para rematar una jornada aciaga, una avería en la catenaria en la estación de Urgell cortó entre las 16.42 y las 19.24 horas de ayer el servicio en la L-1 enlínea 2 de Rodalies. La acumulación de agua entre las estaciones de paseo ya, tramo en el que se habilitó un ser vicio alternativo de autobu



Selection of calibration model parameters

• Runoff model parameters for building areas globally affecting the calibration of all catchments

Surface	Roughness	Hydrological	Surface type	Initial loss	Initial	Residual	Decay	Recovery
classification	factor	losses		value	infiltration	infiltration	constant	constant
type		model			rate f_0	rate $f_{\scriptscriptstyle \infty}$	k	k'
	s·m ^{-1/3}			т	mm/h	mm/h	s·m ^{1/3}	
Road	0.013	Fixed	Impervious	0.000071				
Roof	0.013	Fixed	Impervious	0.000071				
Pervious	0.2	Horton	Pervious	0.002	108	7.2	0.043	0.108

- Overland flow calibration parameters for the main sewer model
 - Maximum triangle area: 25 m²
 - Minimum virtual element area: 10 m² (in order to adapt the mesh to the urban topography, model reduce this area automatically to very small cells (less than 1 m²)
 - Manning's roughness: 0.015 s/m^{1/3} for impervious areas and 0.020 s/m^{1/3} for green areas (Sensitivity analysis was carried out in order to study the influence of Manning roughness ranged from 0.013 to 0.020 s/m^{1/3})
 - Minimum angle: 25 degree
 - Boundary points: Critical conditions
 - Mesh summary: 403,925 triangles



Sensitivity analysis on the overland flow

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Main parameters

- Modelling of buildings
- Mesh density

Secondary parameters

- Manning roughness
- Discharge coefficient applied to 2D manhole





Qualitative calibration

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Qualitative calibration

- Results of the models were compared to historical data and field data (videos and images associated to the last heavy storm events)
- Flooded areas and flow depths are shown respect to historical and field data









Computational time

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Historically 1D/2D coupled models were considered too computationally demanding, so its use was restricted to those parts of the catchment where overland flow pathways could be multi-directional or could not be easily defined.

In this case study a computational analysis was carried out considering the following hardware configurations for a specific simulation of 3 hours, with storm duration of 1 hour:

- Workstation with 64-bit operating system (Windows 7) and 2Gb of RAM memory.
- Virtual server in a blade system with 64-bit operating system (Windows 7), 2Gb of RAM memory and 4 CPU Intelxeon in order to exploit the ability of ICM to support full multi core processing.
- Workstation with 64-bit operating system (Windows 7), 2Gb of RAM memory, 4 CPU Intelxeon for multi core processing and a specific GPU card that play an important role during the treatment of the 2D calculations.





Flood hazard assessment

- Flood hazard assessment was carried out for the Raval district according to specific criteria achieved for flooded streets during heavy storm events
- High hazard conditions were defined for velocities above 1.9 m/s and flow depths above 10 cm, while for moderate hazard, 1.5 m/s and 6 cm were considered as thresholds.





Conclusions

- In the framework of 7th FP CORFU project, the hydraulic behavior and flood resilience of a critical area of Barcelona (Raval District) is analyzed. A 1D/2D coupled model was developed and the interface between the two drainage layers was characterized through empirical expressions related to hydraulic performance of surface drainage systems.
- Calibration and validation of the model were based on the data (rain gauge data, time series of flow depths recorded by water level gauges, reports and videos concerning flooded areas) related to 4 heavy storm events occurred in 2011. The obtained results show that it is possible to reproduce the effects of urban floods in the Raval District in a more realistic way than traditional 1D sewer flow simulations.
- Flood hazard maps concerning specific hazard criteria related to flooding in urban areas, have been elaborated for several return periods.
- Sensitivity analysis was carried out indicating the poor influence of the roughness and the discharge coefficient of the manholes on the 2D flow parameters.
- A specific analysis on the computational time proved that it is possible to carry out simulations in few minutes. This aspect allows to use simulation results for real time strategies and early warning systems.
- The next step in this research is to incorporate the results of hydraulic modelling (for a range of scenarios) with a flood damage assessment tool.