

Rainfall-Runoff Hydrograph Prediction Using a Dynamic Wave Based Instantaneous Unit Hydrograph

Minyeob Jeong¹, Dae-Hong Kim¹, and Jongho Kim²

¹Department of Civil Engineering, University of Seoul, Seoul 02504, South Korea

²School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Ulsan, Ulsan, South Korea

Corresponding author: Dae-Hong Kim (dhkimhyd@uos.ac.kr)

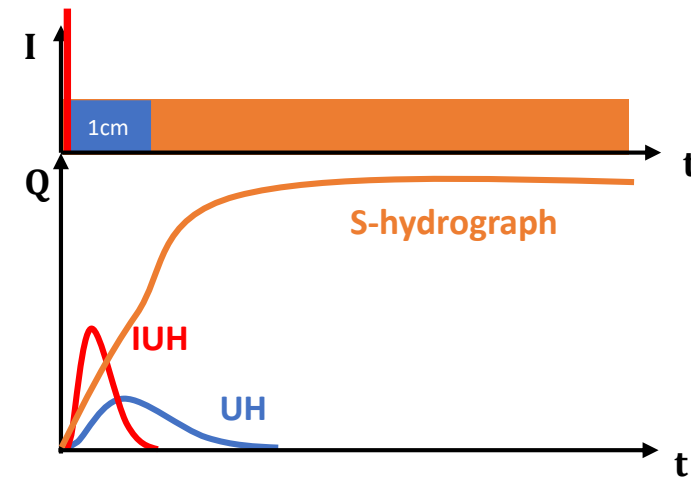


Contents

- I. Concept of Unit hydrograph (UH)
- II. Dynamic wave based IUH (DIUH) method
- III. Test in ideal basins
- IV. Application to a real watershed
- V. Conclusion

Concept of Unit hydrograph (UH)

- ✓ **Unit hydrograph (UH)** is a **direct runoff hydrograph** resulting from **one unit (1 cm or 1 inch) of effective rainfall** generated uniformly over the entire watershed at a constant rate for an effective duration.
- ✓ A UH model is a simple **linear model** that can be used to derive **runoff hydrographs** using the principles of superposition and proportionality.
- ✓ The UHs for a watershed have traditionally been derived by relating **measured rainfall and runoff discharge**.
- ✓ If the effective rainfall is of unit amount and its **duration is infinitesimally small**, the unit hydrograph may be called as an **Instantaneous unit hydrograph (IUH)**.
- ✓ **S-hydrograph** is a direct runoff hydrograph generated by a **continuous effective rainfall** occurring at an uniform rate for an indefinite period.
- ✓ S-hydrograph can be obtained by **summation of an infinite series of UHs or IUHs**.



Linsley, R. K., Kohler, M. A., Paulhus, J. L. H., 1958. Hydrology for Engineers. McGraw-Hill, New York.

Chow, V., 1964. Applied Hydrology. McGraw-Hill, New York.

Concept of Unit hydrograph (UH)

✓ Brief history of UH models

- Sherman (1932) : Introduction of unit hydrograph (UH)

Sherman, L.K., 1932. Streamflow from Rainfall by Unit-Graph Method. Engineering News-Record. 108, 501-505.

- Snyder (1938), Clark (1945) : Synthetic Unit hydrographs

Snyder, F. F., 1938. Synthetic Unit Graphs. Eos, Transactions American Geophysics Union. 19, 447-454.

Clark, C.O., 1945. Storage and the Unit Hydrograph. Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers. 110 (1), 1419-1446.

- Nash (1957), Dooge (1959) : Instantaneous unit hydrographs (IUH)

Nash, J.E., 1957. The Form of the Instantaneous Unit Hydrograph. International Association of Hydrological Sciences. 45, 114-121.

Dooge, J.C.I., 1959. A general theory of the unit hydrograph. Journal of Geophysical Research. 64 (2), 241-256.

- Rodriguez-Iturbe and Valdes (1979), Gupta et al. (1980) : Geomorphological instantaneous unit hydrographs (GIUH)

Rodriguez-Iturbe, I., Valdes, J.B., 1979. The geomorphologic structure of hydrologic response. Water Resources Research. 15(6), 1409-1420.

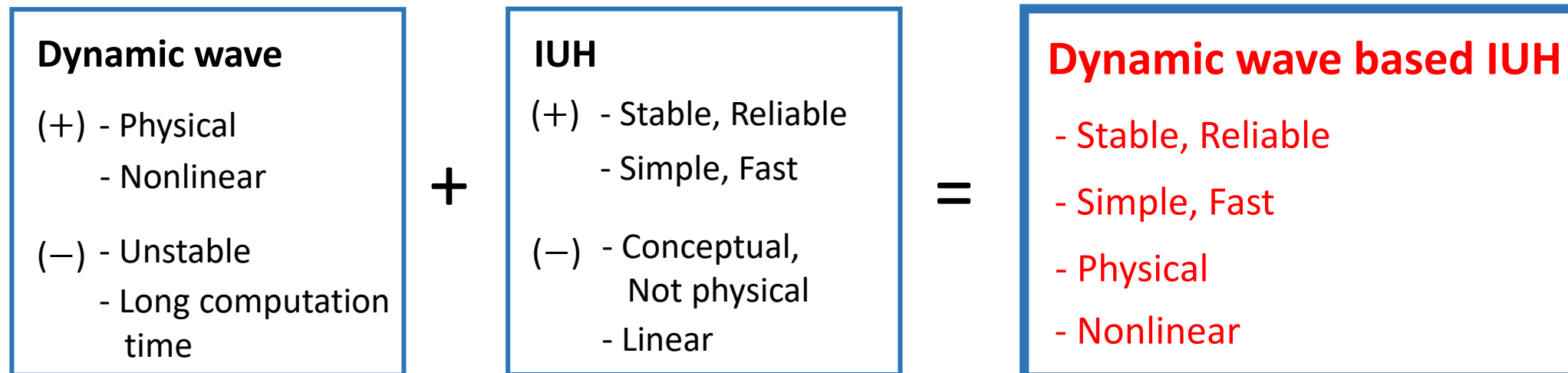
Gupta, V.K., Waymire, E., Wang, C.T., 1980. A representation of an instantaneous unit hydrograph from geomorphology. Water Resources Research, 16(6), 855-862.

- Lee and Yen (1997) : Kinematic wave based GIUH (KW-GIUH)

Lee, K. T., Yen, B. C., 1997. Geomorphologic and kinematic-wave-based hydrograph derivation. Journal of Hydraulic Engineering. 123(1), 73– 80.

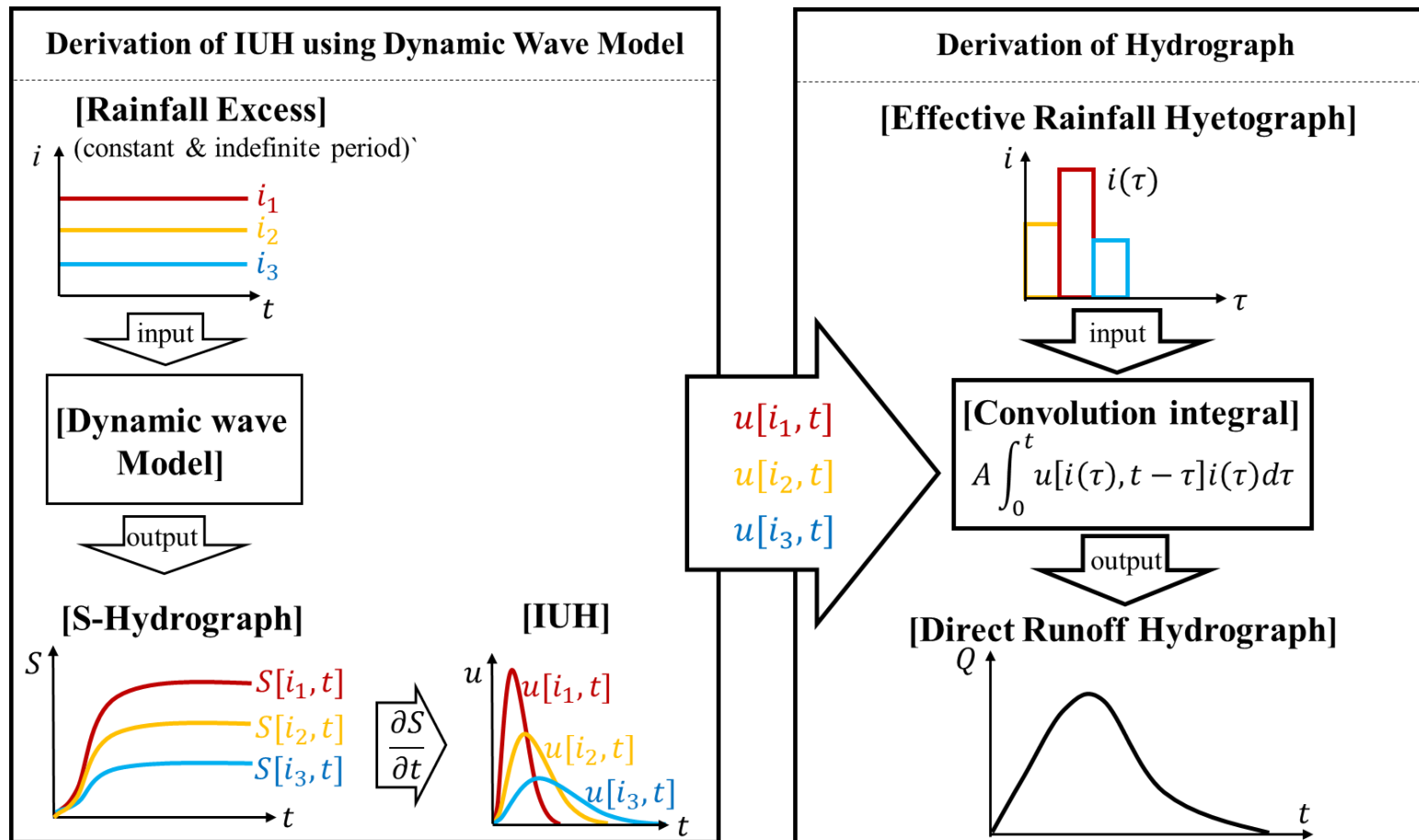
Dynamic wave based IUH (DIUH) method

- ✓ **Dynamic wave models** are known as one of the most **physically representative and accurate rainfall-runoff** modeling methods, thus can consider the **nonlinear relationship between rainfall and runoff**.
- ✓ However, the dynamic wave models are not appropriate for a practical purpose owing to their **numerical instability and high computational cost**.
- ✓ Our purpose is to present a **hybrid method composed of a dynamic wave approach and instantaneous unit hydrograph (IUH)** to predict rainfall-runoff discharge physically, stably, and instantly.



Dynamic wave based IUH (DIUH) method

Dynamic wave based IUH (DIUH) method



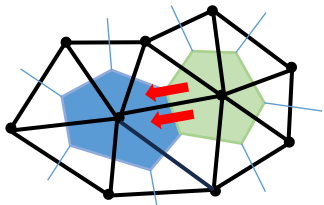
Schematic of dynamic wave based IUH (DIUH) method

Dynamic wave based IUH (DIUH) method

Step 1 : S-hydrograph Generation

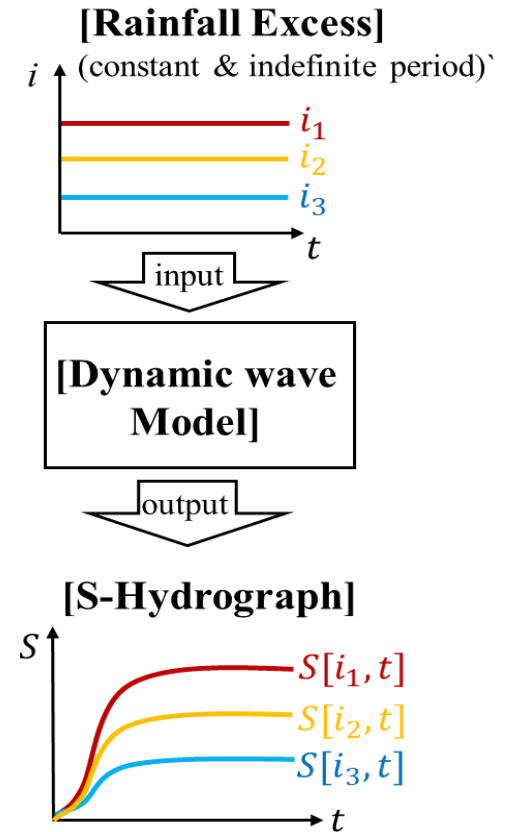
- ✓ **S-hydrographs** corresponding to each of the **various rainfall intensities** are produced by **simulating** uniform rainfalls in a watershed using a **dynamic wave model**.
- ✓ The **dynamic wave model** we use is a fully coupled hydrologic and hydrodynamic model, **tRIBS-FEaST** developed by Kim et al. (2012, 2013).
- ✓ The governing equations of FEaST for fluid motion are the **shallow water equations**.

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(Uh)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(Vh)}{\partial y} = S_r, \quad \frac{\partial(Uh)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(U^2h + \frac{1}{2}gh^2)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(UVh)}{\partial y} = -gh \frac{\partial z_b}{\partial x} - C_D U \sqrt{U^2 + V^2},$$



$$\frac{\partial(Vh)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(UVh)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(V^2h + \frac{1}{2}gh^2)}{\partial y} = -gh \frac{\partial z_b}{\partial y} - C_D V \sqrt{U^2 + V^2}$$

- ✓ To solve the governing equations, **the finite volume method** on an unstructured triangular grid and **Roe's approximate Riemann solver** (Roe, 1981) is used.



Kim, J., Warnock, A., Ivanov, V.Y., Katopodes, N.D., 2012. Coupled modeling of hydrologic and hydrodynamic processes including overland and channel flow. *Advances in Water Resources*. 37, 104–126.

Kim, J., Ivanov, V.Y., Katopodes, N.D., 2013. Modeling erosion and sedimentation coupled with hydrological and overland flow processes at the watershed scale. *Water Resources Research*. 49, 5134-5154.

Roe, P.L., 1981. Approximate Riemann solvers, parameter vectors, and difference schemes. *Journal of Computational Physics*. 43, 357-372.

Dynamic wave based IUH (DIUH) method

Step 2 : Derivation of Dynamic wave based IUH

- ✓ Mathematically, **the IUH is the first derivative of an S-hydrograph** normalized by the rainfall excess intensity and the area of a watershed.

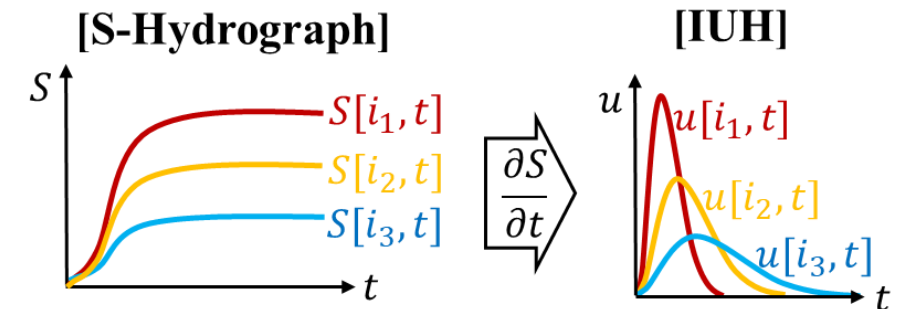
$$u(t) = \frac{1}{i_o A} \frac{dS(t)}{dt}$$

- ✓ Because $S(t)$ is computed numerically with the dynamic wave model, we calculate $u(t)$ using a discretized equation.

$$u(t) = \frac{S(t + 0.5\Delta t) - S(t - 0.5\Delta t)}{i_o A \Delta t} + O(\Delta t^2)$$

- ✓ Since we produced S-hydrographs corresponding to each of the various rainfall intensities, **the DIUH we derived is a function of both the watershed and rainfall properties.**

Ding, J. Y., 2011. A measure of watershed nonlinearity: interpreting a variable instantaneous unit hydrograph model on two vastly different sized watersheds. Hydrology and Earth System Sciences. 15(1), 405–423.



Dynamic wave based IUH (DIUH) method

Step 3 : Hydrograph Derivation

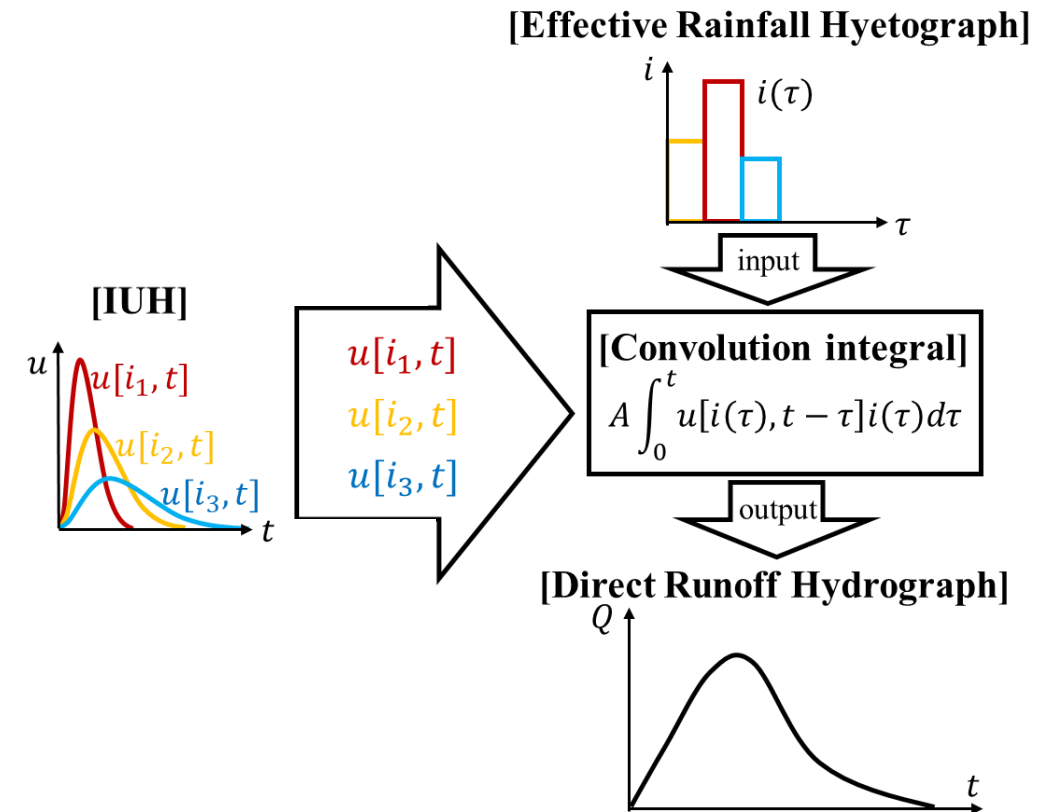
- ✓ To derive **the direct surface runoff hydrograph** of a watershed, we use an **alternative form of convolution integral proposed by Amorocho (1967)**.

$$Q(t) = A \int_0^t u[i(\tau), t - \tau] i(\tau) d\tau$$

- ✓ Because our method produces only discrete values of the DIUH, we numerically integrate the convolution integral equation.

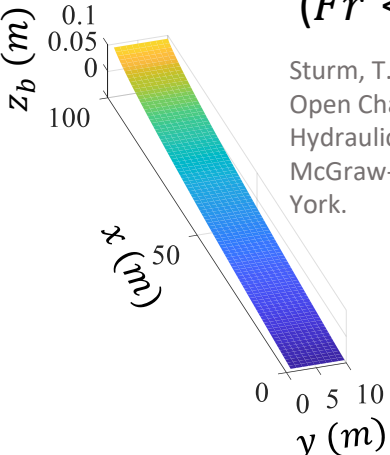
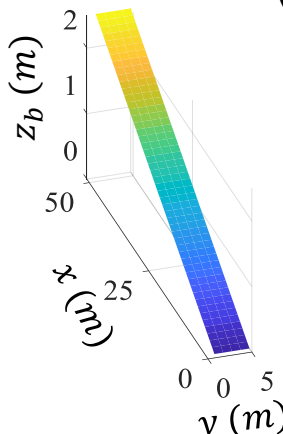
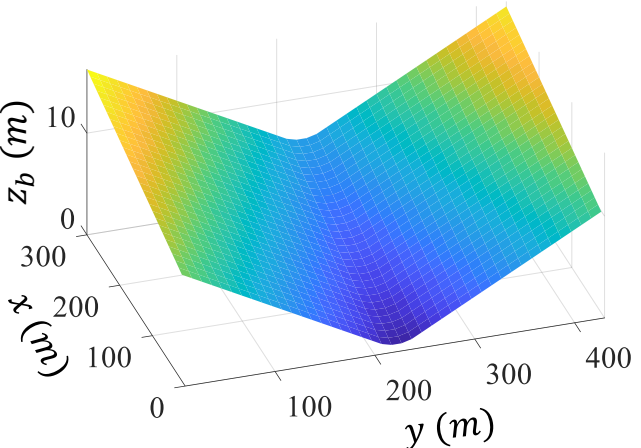
$$Q(t) = A \sum_{\tau=0}^t u[i(\tau), t - \tau] i(\tau) \Delta\tau$$

- ✓ The DIUH in the equation, $u[i(\tau), t - \tau]$, is a function of both time and rainfall intensity for a watershed, thus **nonlinear relationship between rainfall and runoff can be considered**.



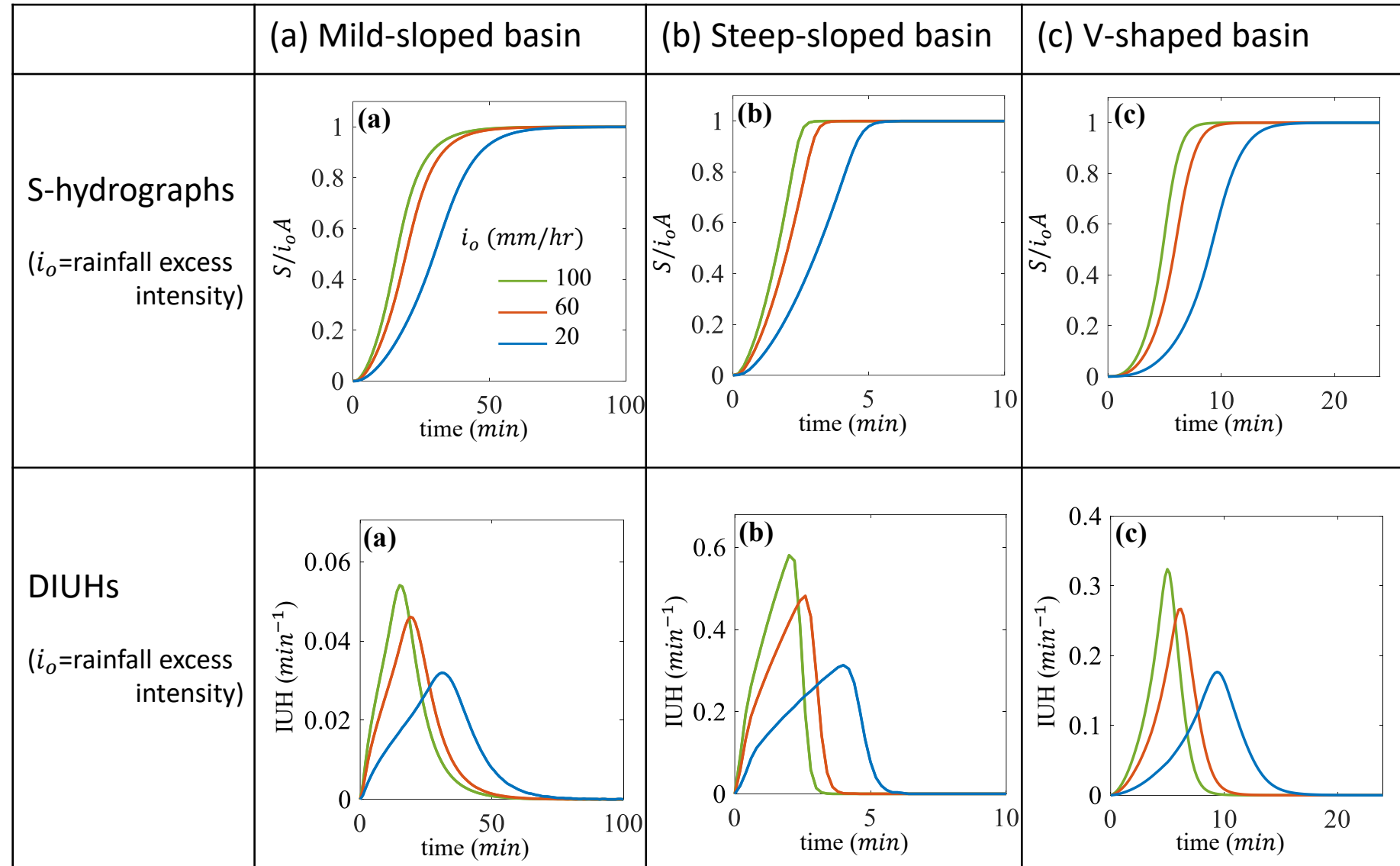
Test in ideal basins

✓ To test the performance of the proposed DIUH method, **three impervious ideal basins** are adopted.

Basin	(a) Mild-sloped basin $(Fr < 1)$  <small>Sturm, T.W., 2001. Open Channel Hydraulics. McGraw-Hill, New York.</small>	(b) Steep-sloped basin $(Fr > 1)$ 	(c) V-shaped basin 
Size	100 m × 10 m	50 m × 5 m	Two Planes: 200 m × 300 m Channel: 20 m × 300 m
Bottom slope	$S_o \propto A_d^{-\theta}$ A_d : drainage area along the main channel $\theta = 0.6$: concavity index <small>Flint, J.J., 1974. Stream gradient as a function of order, magnitude, and discharge. Water Resources Research. 10, 969– 973.</small>	0.05	Two planes : 0.05 channel : 0.02
Manning's roughness	$n = 0.04 \text{ s/m}^{1/3}$	$n = 0.015 \text{ s/m}^{1/3}$	$n = 0.015 \text{ s/m}^{1/3}$
Nodes and grids	1,224 nodes and 2,222 grids	364 nodes and 610 grids	1,408 nodes and 2,664 grids

Test in ideal basins

- ✓ Figures show S-hydrographs and **DIUHs** of the three ideal basins. (DIUHs for any i_o values can be derived.)
- ✓ The **peak** and **time to the peak** of the DIUHs are **proportional** and **inversely proportional** to the **rainfall intensity**, respectively.
- ✓ Therefore, DIUH is a **function of both the watershed and rainfall properties**.

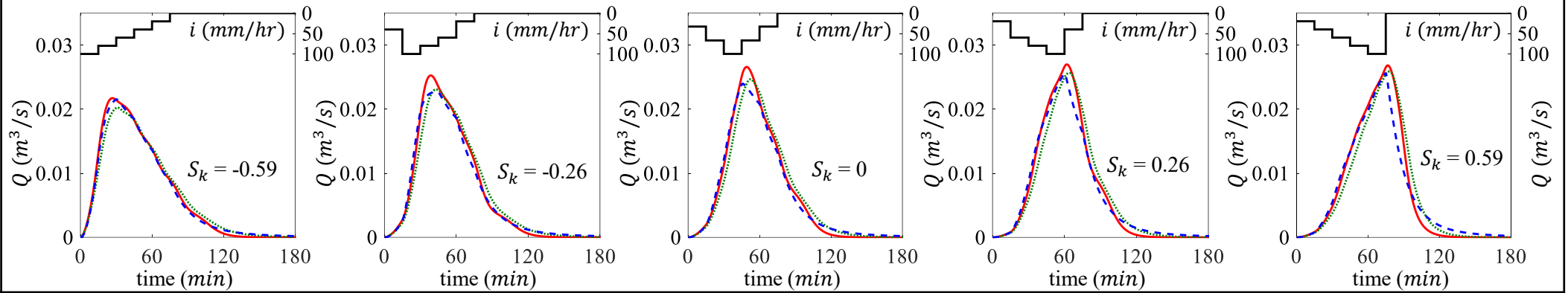


Test in ideal basins

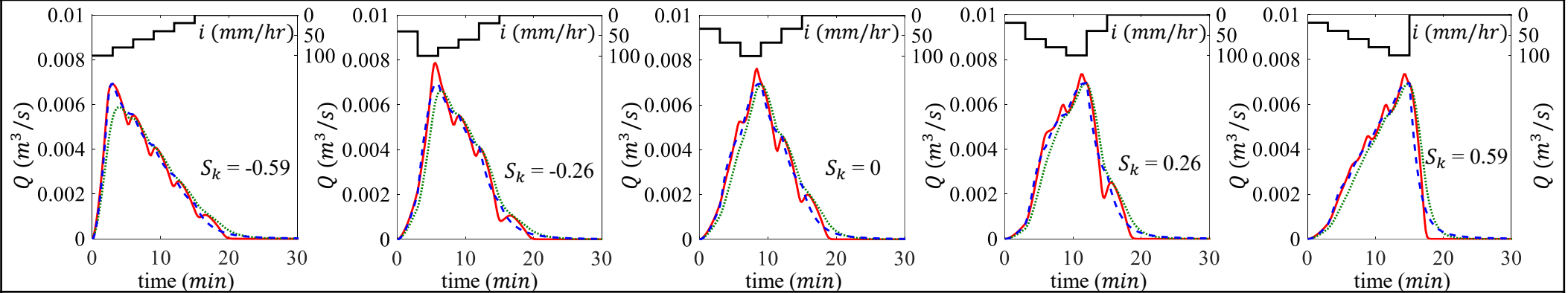
Direct surface runoff hydrographs

(a) Mild-sloped basin

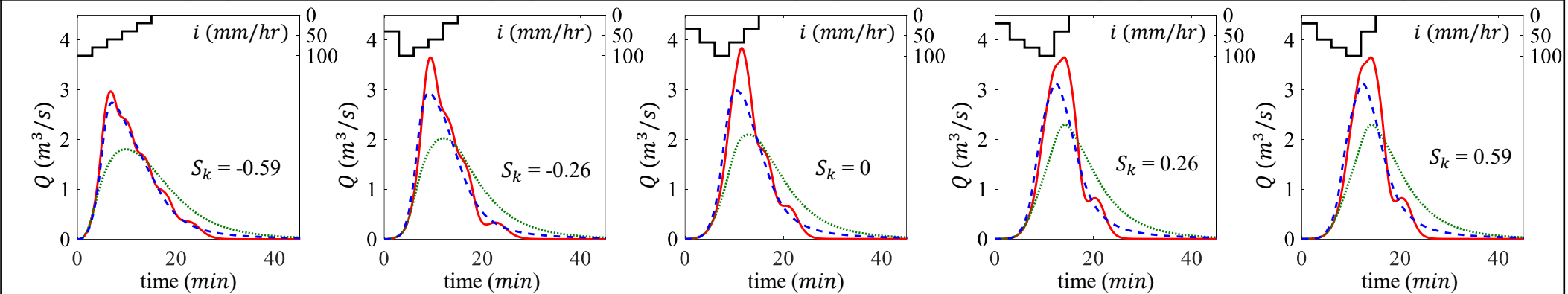
— Rainfall
— Present study
- - - KW-GIUH method
- - - Dynamic wave model



(b) Steep-sloped basin



(c) V-shaped basin



Skewness (S_k) of a rainfall hyetograph ($i(t)$)

Test in ideal basins

- ✓ We produced the **hydrographs by numerically integrating the derived DIUHs**, as shown on the previous page.
- ✓ For the temporally varying rainfall scenarios in a basins, the average of the rainfall intensities was $60 \text{ mm}/h$. The kurtosis of the **rainfall hyetographs** are the same, but the **skewness (S_k)** ranges from -0.59 to 0.59 .
- ✓ The hydrographs obtained with the **DIUH method show reasonable agreement with the criterion discharges** computed by the dynamic wave model, tRIBS-FEaST.

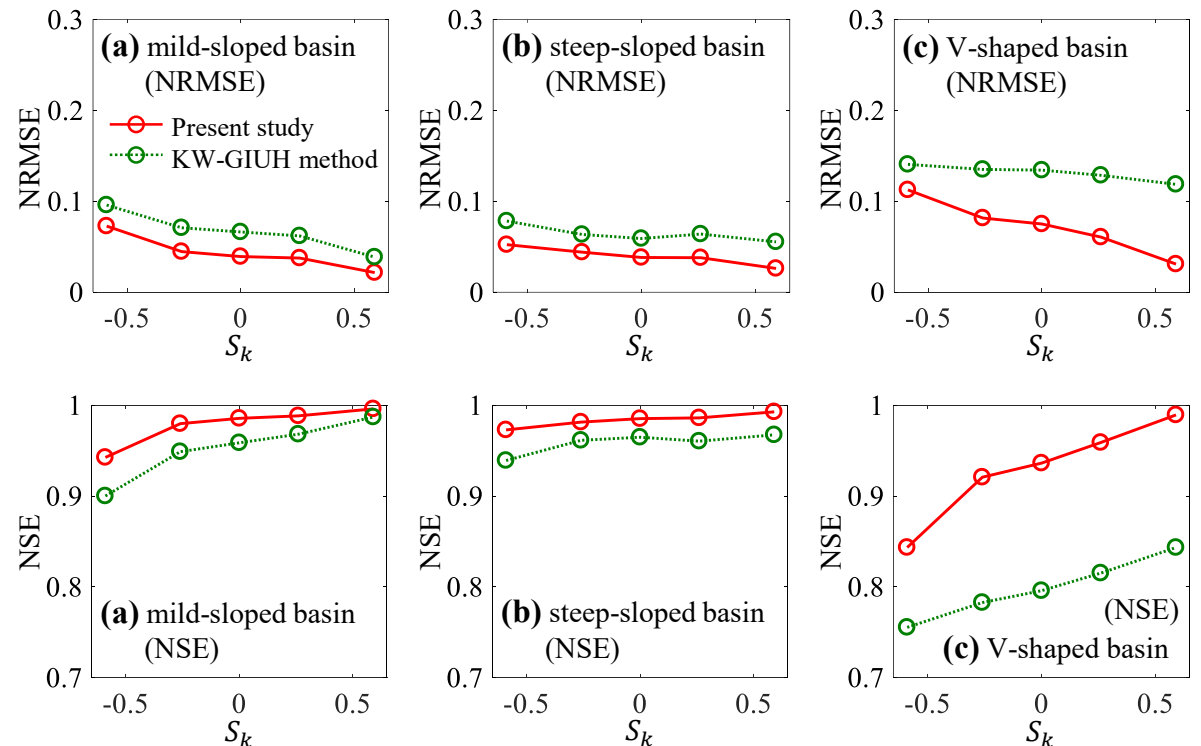
- ✓ All of the NSE for the predicted **results are in the 'very good ($NSE > 0.8$)' range.**

Nash, J.E., Sutcliffe, J. V., 1970. River flow forecasting through conceptual models part I - A discussion of principles. *Journal of Hydrology*. 10, 282-290.

Moriasi, D.N., Gitau, M.W., Pai, N., Daggupati, P., 2015. Hydrologic and water quality models: Performance measures and evaluation criteria. *Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers*. 58(6), 1763-1785.

- ✓ The **accuracy of the DIUH method increases as the S_k of the rainfall distribution increases.**
- ✓ We also compared the results with the hydrographs produced using the kinematic wave based GIUH (KW-GIUH) proposed by Lee and Yen (1997).

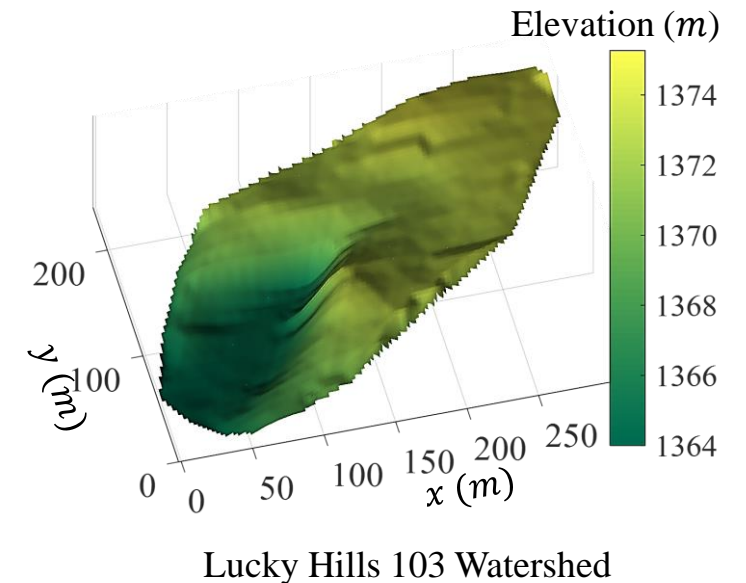
Lee, K. T., Yen, B. C., 1997. Geomorphologic and kinematic-wave-based hydrograph derivation. *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*. 123(1), 73– 80.



Application to a real watershed

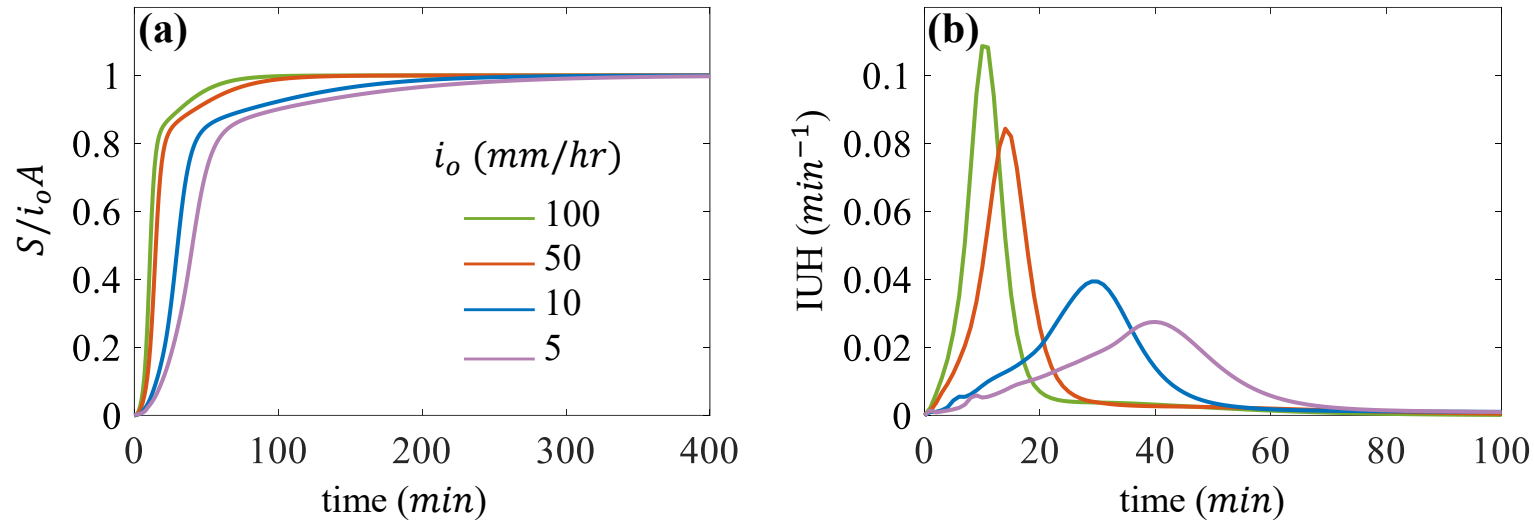
- ✓ To demonstrate the capability of the proposed DIUH method for runoff prediction in a real watershed, we applied the proposed method to a small-size experimental watershed, the **Lucky Hills 103 Watershed**.

Lucky Hills 103 Watershed	
Location	Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed, southeastern Arizona, USA
Area	36,800 m ²
Elevation	ranges from 1,364 to 1,375 m above sea level
Average slope	approximately 0.03
Nodes and grids	481 nodes and 928 grids



Application to a real watershed

- ✓ Figures show (a) **S-hydrographs** and (b) **DIUHs** for the **Lucky Hills 103 Watershed**.

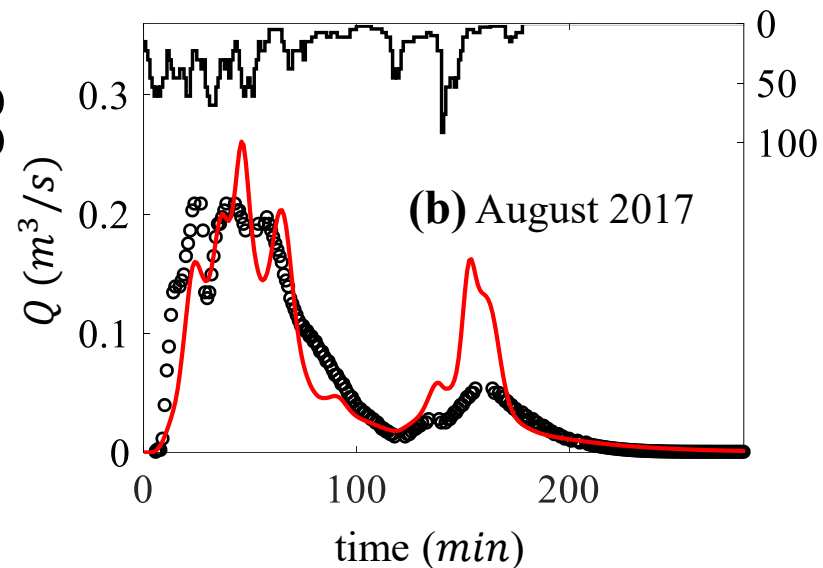
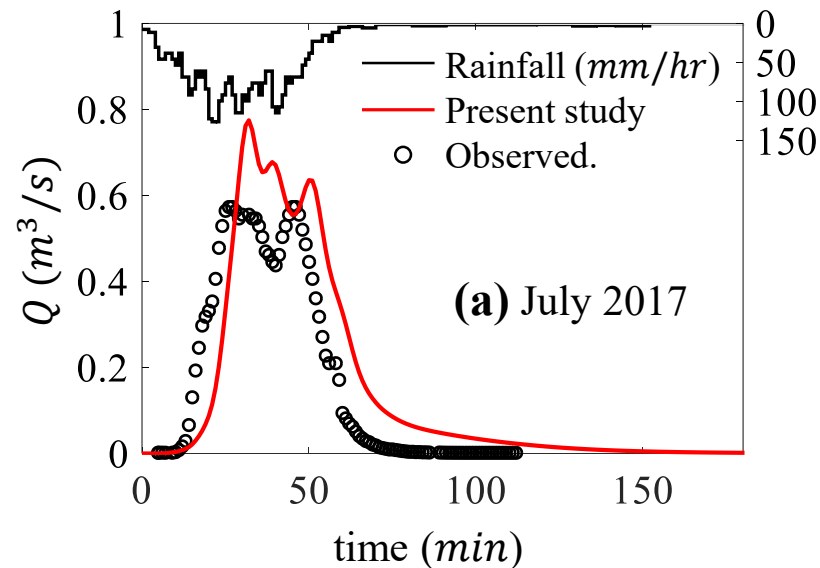


- ✓ **DIUHs** in the Lucky Hills 103 watershed showed **consistent characteristics with those in ideal basins**.

- The **peak** and **time to the peak** of the DIUHs are **proportional** and **inversely proportional** to the **rainfall intensity**, respectively.
- DIUH is a **function of both the watershed and rainfall properties**.

Application to a real watershed

- ✓ Figures show the measured and predicted runoff discharges of the **two rainfall-runoff events** in the Lucky Hills 103 Watershed.



- ✓ To consider the rainfall loss, the infiltration was estimated using the **Green–Ampt model** (Green and Ampt, 1911)

Green, W.H., Ampt, G.A., 1911. Studies on Soil Physics. Journal of Agricultural Science. 4(1), 1–24.

- ✓ The DIUH method resulted in NRMSE=0.232 and NSE=0.648 for event(a) and NRMSE=0.141 and NSE=0.788 for event(b).

Nash, J.E., Sutcliffe, J. V., 1970. River flow forecasting through conceptual models part I - A discussion of principles. Journal of Hydrology. 10, 282-290.

- ✓ Therefore, the proposed method can result in **'good' performance (NSE>0.6) for the real watershed.**

Moriassi, D.N., Gitau, M.W., Pai, N., Daggupati, P., 2015. Hydrologic and water quality models: Performance measures and evaluation criteria. Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. 58(6), 1763-1785.

Conclusion

- ✓ To predict rainfall-runoff discharge physically, stably, and instantly, a method predicting hydrograph, based on the IUH approach combined with a dynamic wave model, is presented.
- ✓ The presented method is capable of generating IUHs without measured runoff data only if the bottom friction drag is known.
- ✓ The DIUH is a function of both the watershed characteristics and rainfall intensity, thus the nonlinear relationship between rainfall and runoff can be partially considered in the hydrograph derivation.
- ✓ The peak and time to peak of the DIUHs were proportional and inversely proportional to the rainfall intensity, respectively.
- ✓ The test results for several rainfall-runoff events on ideal and real watersheds show reasonable accuracy, thus we can conclude that the proposed DIUH method can provide good performance for both simple and complex basins.
- ✓ The proposed method still needs further improvement in practical applications.
 - The method should be coupled with more physical and accurate infiltration and interception models.
 - We need to resolve the inaccuracy observed in the recession limb of the hydrographs.
 - Nonlinear methods considering the relationship among the water depth, flow velocity, and celerity should be adopted to improve the prediction accuracy.

Acknowledgement

- ✓ This research was supported by Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (2017R1E1A1A01074399).

References

- ✓ Amorocho, J., 1967. The nonlinear prediction problem in the study of the runoff cycle. *Water Resources Research*. 3, 861–874.
- ✓ Clark, C.O., 1945. Storage and the Unit Hydrograph. *Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers*. 110 (1), 1419-1446.
- ✓ Childs, E. F., 1958. Northeastern floods of 1955: flood control hydrology. *Journal of the Hydraulics Division*. 84 (3), 1-24
- ✓ Chow, V., 1964. *Applied Hydrology*. McGraw-Hill, New York.
- ✓ Dooge, J.C.I., 1959. A general theory of the unit hydrograph. *Journal of Geophysical Research*. 64 (2), 241-256.
- ✓ Ding, J. Y., 2011. A measure of watershed nonlinearity: interpreting a variable instantaneous unit hydrograph model on two vastly different sized watersheds. *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*. 15(1), 405–423.
- ✓ Flint, J.J., 1974. Stream gradient as a function of order, magnitude, and discharge. *Water Resources Research*. 10, 969– 973.
- ✓ Gupta, V.K., Waymire, E., Wang, C.T., 1980. A representation of an instantaneous unit hydrograph from geomorphology. *Water Resources Research*, 16(6), 855-862.
- ✓ Green, W.H., Ampt, G.A., 1911. *Studies on Soil Physics*. *Journal of Agricultural Science*. 4(1), 1–24.
- ✓ Horton, R.E., 1945. *Erosional Development of Streams and their Drainage Basins: Hydro-Physical Approach to Quantitative Morphology*. *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America*. 56, 275-370.
- ✓ Kim, J., Warnock, A., Ivanov, V.Y., Katopodes, N.D., 2012. Coupled modeling of hydrologic and hydrodynamic processes including overland and channel flow. *Advances in Water Resources*. 37, 104–126.
- ✓ Kim, J., Ivanov, V.Y., Katopodes, N.D., 2013. Modeling erosion and sedimentation coupled with hydrological and overland flow processes at the watershed scale. *Water Resources Research*. 49, 5134-5154.
- ✓ Lee, K. T., Yen, B. C., 1997. Geomorphologic and kinematic-wave-based hydrograph derivation. *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*. 123(1), 73– 80.
- ✓ Linsley, R. K., Kohler, M. A., Paulhus, J. L. H., 1958. *Hydrology for Engineers*. McGraw-Hill, New York.
- ✓ Moriasi, D.N., Gitau, M.W., Pai, N., Daggupati, P., 2015. Hydrologic and water quality models: Performance measures and evaluation criteria. *Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers*. 58(6), 1763-1785.
- ✓ Nash, J.E., 1957. The Form of the Instantaneous Unit Hydrograph. *International Association of Hydrological Sciences*. 45, 114-121.
- ✓ Nash, J.E., Sutcliffe, J. V., 1970. River flow forecasting through conceptual models part I - A discussion of principles. *Journal of Hydrology*. 10, 282-290.
- ✓ Rodriguez-Iturbe, I., Valdés, J.B., 1979. The geomorphologic structure of hydrologic response. *Water Resources Research*. 15(6), 1409-1420.
- ✓ Roe, P.L., 1981. Approximate Riemann solvers, parameter vectors, and difference schemes. *Journal of Computational Physics*. 43, 357-372.
- ✓ Sherman, L.K., 1932. Streamflow from Rainfall by Unit-Graph Method. *Engineering News-Record*. 108, 501-505.
- ✓ Snyder, F. F., 1938. *Synthetic Unit Graphs*. *Eos, Transactions American Geophysics Union*. 19, 447-454.
- ✓ Sturm, T.W., 2001. *Open Channel Hydraulics*. McGraw-Hill, New York.

Thank you
