

# **Hydraulic Modeling-Based Design of Retaining Wall Height for Flood Mitigation**

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# **1. Introduction**

Urban flooding, particularly in cities such as Jakarta, is exacerbated by high rainfall intensity and the increasing impermeability of urban landscapes [1]. This impermeability is often due to extensive urban development, which reduces green space, thereby limiting the natural drainage capacity of the land [2],[3]. In addition, Jakarta's relatively even terrain and proximity to the coast also enhance its susceptibility to flooding. Flat topography hinders the adequate flow of rivers, resulting in frequent flooding [4]. Furthermore, coastal areas experience backwater effects at high tides, which increase the risk of flooding when rivers overflow into the ocean [5].

Climate change exacerbates the frequency and intensity of flooding. Global temperatures have increased rainfall intensity and frequent extreme weather events [6]. Urban areas are greatly affected by this shift in climate patterns because it strains current drainage systems and leads to more runoff because of increased precipitation levels. The relationship between climate change and urban expansion creates a complicated problem for flood management [7].

Consequently, the occurrence of floods in urban settings is greatly affected by various factors related to the urban catchment region, such as use, surface permeability, drainage infrastructure, and meteorological conditions [8],[9].To address these issues, it is necessary to implement efficient flood management systems that can address both natural and humaninduced variables. A practical approach is to build retaining walls along rivers susceptible to floods [10],[11]. Retaining walls are purpose-built structures engineered to withstand the force of water and prevent metropolitan areas from flooding. They serve as crucial components in flood control systems by acting as barriers to water and protecting the surrounding surroundings.

The size of the flood-controlled retaining walls was calculated using hydrological and hydraulic analyses to ascertain the maximum levels of rainfall and flood discharge. Flood elevation maps were generated using previously described



levels [12]-[14]. The appropriate height of the retaining wall was determined based on these analyses [15],[16]. Furthermore, the stability of the retaining wall was evaluated by analyzing its capacity to withstand rolling and shearing pressures, considering safety issues, and assessing its economic feasibility [17],[18].

Various approaches can be employed in hydrological and hydraulic analyses; however, these analyses must adhere to the standard codes for flood discharge planning. Frequency analysis is a commonly used method [19],[20]. This approach analyzes the rainfall patterns in a region to predict the maximum rainfall for a specific return period based on the probability of occurrence [21]. The chosen method for analyzing the maximum flood discharge depends on the available data. When debit measurement data in a watershed are lacking, the synthetic-unit hydrograph method is often used [22]. This method converts rainfall data into direct runoff discharge data by leveraging watershed characteristics[23],[24].

## **2. Material and Method**

## **2.1. Study Area**

This study was conducted on the Bekasi River. The Bekasi River watershed is located in the Ciliwung Cisandane River Basin in Jakarta, Indonesia (Fig. 1a). The Bekasi River watershed lies between 6°18'14.66″ S and 106°58'19.95″ E and has a catchment area of 170.59 km<sup>2</sup>. The length of the Bekasi River from upstream to downstream was  $\pm$  33.84 km. The topography of the Bekasi River watershed is primarily at an elevation of 0-10 meters above sea level. The region has a very flat slope, with over 80% of the area having a gradient of less than 8%, classifying it as a Lower Watershed zone prone to flooding, as shown in Fig.1b. The Bekasi River watershed features a moderate width and relatively swift current upstream, which slows significantly downstream. Land use in the study area included 43.40% rice fields and 23.30% settlements, with forested areas being minimal and significantly below the recommended 30% for watershed forests (Fig. 1c).

## **2.2. Data Collection**

The hydrological data collection for analyzing rainfall and flood discharge planning consisted of rainfall and discharge data obtained from observations using an automatic water-level recorder (AWLR). Several agencies performed hydrological data collection; previous studies related to planning the Kali Bekasi watershed are presented in Table 1.







**Figure 1**. Study Area (a) Watershed Map, (b) Topographic Maps, (c) Slope Map





## **2.3. Methodology**

This research consisted of several stages: data collection, hydrological modeling, and hydraulic modeling using HEC-RAS [24],[26],[27]. In this study, we used HEC-RAS 6.2. The HEC-RAS application determined the water level profile along a river or across a water cross-section. The water level was calculated using the energy equation, which was solved using a technique known as the standard step method [28]. The equation is shown in Equation (1):

$$
Y_2 + Z_2 + \frac{a_2 V_2^2}{2g} = Y_1 + Z_1 + \frac{a_1 V_1^2}{2g} + h_f \tag{1}
$$

Where:

Yn: height (m)  $Z_n$ : Elevation  $(m)$ Vn: velocity (m/s) *α*1 : velocity distribution coefficient g: gravity  $(m/s^2)$ *hf*: head loss

Spatial data analysis included watershed boundary delineation, soil texture, and land cover classification. Hydrological modeling, including rainfall data analysis, consists of consistency, homogeneity, correlation, and regression tests calculationRegional average rainfall data were calculated using the Thiessen polygon method. Peak discharge modeling with a synthetic unit hydrograph used an average rainfall return period of 50 years and watershed characteristics.

The research stages are briefly presented as a flowchart in Fig.2.



**Figure 2.** Research Flowchart

# **2.4. Development Model**

## *2.4.1. Rainfall Analysis*

The analysis of rainfall data began with a frequency analysis of hourly historical rainfall data. The annual maximum rainfall values were extracted from the dataset and ranked from the highest to the lowest. The rank-order (M) method was used to organize and plot the rainfall data, with the most significant value ranked one and the smallest ranked n. To determine the return period, which indicates the probability of a particular rainfall event being equal to or exceeding each year, the Weibull plotting position equation in Equation (2) was applied [29].

$$
T = \frac{(y+1)}{M} \tag{2}
$$

where T is the return period in years, y is the number of years of data, and M is the data rank in the time series.

The Thiessen method was employed [30]. This method uses a proportional approach to account for the area of influence of each rainfall station, accommodating non-uniform distances between them. The rainfall stations used in the analysis were as follows: (1) Sta. Cikeas, and (2) Sta. Bend. Bekasi, (3) Sta. Bekasi Irrigation Hall, (4) Sta. Cikarang, (5) Sta. Tunggilis, (6) Sta. Sumur Batu, (7) Sta. Gadog (8) Sta. Cibongas, (9) Sta. Cibinong and (10) Sta. Klapa Nunggal. The proportional analysis of the rainfall distribution in the Kali Bekasi watershed is illustrated in Fig. 3.



 **Figure 3**. Area Proportion of Rainfall Station Distribution in Bekasi River Watershed

The widely recognized log-Pearson type III (LPT-III) distribution was used to analyze the probability distribution of rainfall events [31]. The LPT-III distribution applies a logarithmic transformation to calculate rainfall intensity for various durations and return periods. We analyzed the maximum annual rainfall events using LPT-III to determine the return period values for the dataset. The suitability of LPT-III for rainfall design analysis was validated in a recent comparison study, where it outperformed other methods such as the Normal, Gumbel, Pearson III, and Log-normal distributions. The study findings confirm that the LPT-III is appropriate for this analysis.

## *2.4.2. Flood Discharge Analysis.*

Hourly rainfall data were required to analyze the planned flood discharge. Hourly rainfall calculations are required to estimate the design of a flood hydrograph later using a unit hydrograph at a certain interval. The Mononobe method was used to calculate the hourly rainfall using Equation (3).

$$
R_t = \left(\frac{R_{24}}{T}\right) \tag{3}
$$

Where:

 $R_t$  = Average rainfall (mm)

- $R_{24}$  = Maximum daily rainfall over 24 h (mm)<br> $T =$  Rainfall duration (years)
	- $=$  Rainfall duration (years)
- $t =$  Rainfall duration (h).

The rainfall duration in Indonesia ranges from 5-7 hours/day. In this study, this value was estimated as six h/d. After obtaining the hourly rainfall distribution, the rainfall distribution ratio was calculated using Equation (4).

$$
R_t = (t \times R_T) - (t-1) \times R_{(T-1)}
$$
\n(4)

**3. Results**

#### **3.1. Hydrology Analysis**

To obtain the return period rainfall at the study site, where the basis of the calculation is taken from the regional rainfall generated based on the analysis of the Thiessen method, the distribution method is used at the initial stage: (1) normal, (2) Log Normal, (3) Gumbel, and (4) Log Person III. The results were then tested for distribution suitability using the chi-square and Smirnov-Kolmogorov methods. Based on the calculation results, the best distribution is LPT-III (Table 2), based on the results of  $\Delta D$ <sub>critis</sub>,  $X^2$ <sub>Table</sub>.

The LPT-III rainfall method was used to analyze the peak rainfall, which was converted to the hourly rainfall distribution using the Mononobe method. The results are presented in Table 3. To calculate the flood discharge design, the synthetic unit hydrograph (HSS) Nakayasu method was used, which uses the characteristics of the watershed in the study area in the form of (1) watershed area (A):  $1383 \text{ km}^2$ ; (2) length of river (L):  $157$ km; (3) runoff coefficient (C):  $0.326$ ; (4) time concentration (t<sub>c</sub>) and travel time  $(t_r)$ : 9.5 hours, and (5) peak time  $(T_p)$ : 17 h. The results of the peak discharge are shown in Fig.4.

**Table 2**. Rainfall Design using Frequency Distribution and Distribution Test

Period	<b>Normal</b>	Log-	Gumbel	<b>Log Person</b>	
(T)		<b>Normal</b>		Ш	
(years)	(mm)	(mm)	(mm)	(mm)	
2	106	106	127	126	
5	156	154	158	153	
10	169	170	179	171	
20	179	184	199	187	
25	182	188	205	195	
50	190	201	225	214	
100	199	214	244	233	
Smirnov-Kolmogorov					
$\Delta D_{\text{Table}}$	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	
$\Delta D_{\rm{critis}}$	0.22	0.43	0.19	0.13	
Chi-Square					
$X^2$ Table	5.99	5.99	5.99	5.99	
$X^2$ crit <u>is</u>	1.79	0.74	1.79	1.79	

**Table 3**. Hourly Rainfall Distribution – Mononobe Method **Time Hour s Ratio (%) Hourly Rainfall (mm/h) R<sup>10</sup> R<sup>20</sup> R<sup>25</sup> R<sup>50</sup> R<sup>100</sup>** 1 55.03 36.44 39.77 39.77 45.44 49.43 2 14.3 9.47 10.34 10.34 11.81 12.85 3 10.03 6.64 7.25 7.25 8.29 9.01 4 7.99 5.29 5.77 5.77 6.6 7.18 5 6.75 4.47 4.87 4.87 5.57 6.06 6 5.9 3.9 4.26 4.26 4.87 5.3 Daily rainfall (mm/d) <sup>171</sup> <sup>187</sup> <sup>195</sup> <sup>214</sup> <sup>233</sup> Adequate rainfall  $\text{m}/\text{d}$ 66 72 75 83 90



**Figure 4**. Flood Design Q<sup>50</sup> using Nakayasu Hydrograph

#### **3.2. Hydraulic Analysis**

Hydraulic analysis was performed to determine the embankment height of the retaining wall, which in this model was performed using HEC RAS 6.2. Due to changes in the upstream discharge, the type of flow used in this model could be more stable. For the downstream section, the water level was modeled as an average depth with a river slope of 0.002 and a manning coefficient of 0.03 (channel material: natural stream channel).

To assess the capacity of a river as a rainfall reservoir, flood discharge determination follows the Public Work and Housing Regulation, which considers the catchment area, type of urban area (metropolitan city), the high risk involved, and the return period for the discharge ranged from  $Q_{25}$  to  $Q_{50}$ . In this study, we used a return period of  $Q_{50}$ . The modeling results indicate that almost all channels are overflowing, except near the Bekasi Dam (Fig. 5). Water levels range from 0 to 2 m above the riverbank because of the very flat slope  $(\leq 8\%)$ , which is characteristic of downstream watersheds that are prone to flooding. This situation is worsened by land cover in the Bekasi River watershed, which is predominantly residential. accounting for only 2.11% (Table 4).



**Figure 5**. Hydraulic ModellingResult using Q<sub>50</sub> (Existing Condition)

Area (Hectar)	Percentage (%)
3056	2.11
6785	4.69
33751	23.32
33257	22.98
62785	43.38
228	0.16
3642	2.52
832	0.58
400	0.28

**Table 4**. Land-use of Bekasi River Catchment Area

## **3.3. Retaining Wall Design**

To address the flooding issue, the solution is to increase the channel capacity and reinforce the riverbank with retaining walls [32]. To determine the retaining wall's height, we identified the highest possible water level in the river. Next, we ascertained the necessary freeboard distance (1 m) above the highest water level. The retaining wall height is computed by adding the maximum water surface elevation to the required freeboard. The next step involved conducting the hydraulic modeling. The results of this model are shown in Fig. 6 and Fig.7. Fig. 6 shows the condition of the riverbank at each node. In contrast, Fig. 7 presents the cross-section of several nodes, comparing the existing conditions with the flood reduction achieved through riverbank restoration by enhancing the storage capacity and constructing retaining walls.



**Figure 6.** Hydraulic ModellingResult using Q<sub>50</sub> (after Riverbank Restoration)



**Figure 7**. Comparison of Cross Section (a) existing condition (b) after retaining wall construction

#### **4. Conclusions**

This paper explored hydraulic and hydrological modeling to mitigate the consequences of floods by implementing effective flood management strategies, such as constructing riverbank retaining walls. The optimal height and stability of the retaining walls were established by performing hydrological and hydraulic analyses using the HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS, respectively. A case study is The Bekasi River, located in the Ciliwung Cisandane River Basin, Jakarta, Indonesia. The area's topography is very flat  $( $8\%$ )$ , with the characteristics of the watershed in the study area being  $1383 \text{ km}^2$  and the length of the river 157 km. Hydrological analysis was performed using

rainfall, Mononobe to convert to the hourly rainfall distribution, and Nakayasu to calculate the flood discharge design. The result of the rainfall design was 214 mm, with the hourly rainfall distribution in the first hour being 45.44 mm/h. The flood design with a 50-year return period is  $1155.6 \text{ m}^3\text{/s}$ , causing the Bekasi River to overflow. The solution to flood mitigation is riverbank restoration, and constructing a retaining unit approximately 3 m high (including a 1-meter m freeboard) is required. This paper is limited by the use of historical hydrological data from 2011 to 2020. This limitation can impact the calibration of the models and reduce their predictive accuracy. Future work will model various scenarios of the nature-based solution (NbS) approach to address flooding in urban areas.

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#### **Conflict of interest**

The authors (s) declare that the publication of this article has no conflicts of interest.

#### **Author Contribution Statement**

Authors Yuliastuti Juliastuti: Conceptualization, methodology, validation, original draft preparation, writing, review, and supervising the findings of this work.

Author Yureana Wijayanti: Methodology, validation, and editing.

Author Muhamad Fajar: Conceptualization, methodology, data curation and computation.

Author Martin Anda: Conceptualization, validation, data curation

All the authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

## **Data Availability**

#### https://zenodo.org/records/13752411

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