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# Numerical study of the dam-break waves and Favre waves down sloped wet rigid-bed at laboratory scale

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**Abstract:** The bed slope and the tailwater depth are two important ones among the factors that affect the propagation of the dam-break flood and Favre waves. Most previous studies have only focused on the macroscopic characteristics of the dam-break flows or Favre waves under the condition of horizontal bed, rather than the internal movement characteristics in sloped channel. The present study applies two numerical models, namely, large eddy simulation (LES) and shallow water equations (SWEs) models embedded in the CFD software package FLOW-3D to analyze the internal movement characteristics of the dam-break flows and Favre waves, such as water level, the velocity distribution, the fluid particles acceleration and the bed shear stress, under the different bed slopes and water depth ratios. The results under the conditions considered in this study show that there is a flow state transition in the flow evolution for the steep bed slope even in water depth ratio  $\alpha = 0.1$  ( $\alpha$  is the ratio of the tailwater depth to the reservoir water depth). The flow state transition shows that the wavefront changes from a breaking state to undular. Such flow transition is not observed for the horizontal slope and mild bed slope. The existence of the Favre waves leads to a significant increase of the vertical velocity and the vertical acceleration. In this situation, the SWEs model has poor

26 prediction. Analysis reveals that the variation of the maximum bed shear stress is affected by both  
27 the bed slope and tailwater depth. Under the same bed slope (e.g.,  $S_0 = 0.02$ ), the maximum bed shear  
28 stress position develops downstream of the dam when  $\alpha = 0.1$ , while it develops towards the end of  
29 the reservoir when  $\alpha = 0.7$ . For the same water depth ratio (e.g.,  $\alpha = 0.7$ ), the maximum bed shear  
30 stress position always locates within the reservoir at  $S_0 = 0.02$ , while it appears in the downstream of  
31 the dam for  $S_0 = 0$  and  $0.003$  after the flow evolves for a while. The comparison between the  
32 numerical simulation and experimental measurements shows that the LES model can predict the  
33 internal movement characteristics with satisfactory accuracy. This study improves the understanding  
34 of the effect of both the bed slope and the tailwater depth on the internal movement characteristics of  
35 the dam-break flows and Favre waves, which also provides a valuable reference for determining the  
36 flood embankment height and designing the channel bed anti-scouring facility.

37

38 **Keywords:** Dam-break flow; Bed slope; Wet bed; Velocity profile; Bed shear stress; Large eddy  
39 simulation.

40

## 41 **1. Introduction**

42 The evolution of the dam-break floods has attracted significant researchers and engineers'  
43 attention, primarily due to its huge destructive power to the human's lives and properties. It is  
44 necessary to implement corresponding flood emergency plans during the dam design and operation.  
45 In order to capture the propagation characteristic of the dam-break flows effectively and accurately,  
46 extensive studies have been carried out using various methods in the past decades (Stansby et al.,  
47 1998; Xia et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2016, 2018, 2020a). In addition, Favre waves will affect the  
48 navigation and transportation of ships and generate periodic pressure loads acting on the structures in  
49 the channel. In the design of the tailwater channel of hydropower station (such as the channel height

50 and the bottom erosion prevention) also need to consider the effect of Favre waves. The earliest  
51 systematic measurement was carried out by Favre (1935) in a rectangular flume. Subsequently, many  
52 researchers carried out further research on Favre waves (Peregrine, 1966; Treske, 1994; Marche et al.,  
53 1995; Soares-Frazaio and Zech, 2002). Both dam-break flow and Favre waves can be generated by  
54 instantaneously lifting the gate in the channel. As for which kind of flow phenomenon will appear, it  
55 mainly depends on the relative relationship between the initially upstream and downstream water  
56 depths. According to the review made by Castro-Orgaz and Chanson (2020), dam-break flow will  
57 appear in the channel (the main feature is that the wavefront is broken) when the water depth ratio  $\alpha$   
58  $< 0.4-0.55$  ( $\alpha$  is the ratio of the tailwater depth to the reservoir water depth), and Favre waves will  
59 occur in the channel (the main feature is that the wavefront is undular) when the water depth ratio  
60  $\alpha > 0.4-0.55$ . However, there are rarely studies on the internal movement characteristics of  
61 dam-break flows or Favre waves under the condition of sloping wet bed.

62 For the study of dam break waves, experimental studies mainly focus on the changes in water  
63 depth (Miller and Chaudhry, 1989; Lauber and Hager, 1998a, 1998b), propagation velocity (Leal et  
64 al., 2006; Marra et al., 2011) and pressure load (Chen et al., 2009) during the evolution of the  
65 dam-break flows. Considering different boundary conditions, Kocaman and Ozmen-Cagatay (2012)  
66 carried out laboratory experiment of the dam-break flows with laterally contracted cross-sections. In  
67 their experiments, the image processing technology was used to successfully capture the water depth  
68 change. They found that the water depth would increase in the contraction section, and the negative  
69 wave appeared after encountering the contraction section. The speed of the negative wave increased  
70 with the increase of the initial tailwater depth. Wang et al. (2019) used image processing technology  
71 to carry out laboratory experiments on both the rectangular and the triangular cross-sections, and

72 compared the evolution pattern and water depth change of the dam-break flows in the triangular and  
73 rectangular cross-sections. Liu et al. (2020) studied the propagation characteristics of the dam-break  
74 flows (water surface profile, wave height, wave speed, etc.) for different bed slopes and tailwater  
75 depths through the image processing technology. They found that the increase of the bed slope would  
76 accelerate the speed of shock wave and reduce the speed of the negative wave. The previous  
77 numerical simulation studies mainly focused on capturing the free surface (Savic and Holly, 1993;  
78 Chang et al., 2011; Marsooli and Wu, 2014), the sediment transport (Wu and Wang, 2007;  
79 Khosronejad et al., 2020a, 2020b), and the change of the turbulence intensity (Park et al., 2012). In  
80 the case of a horizontal bed, Shigematsu et al. (2004) studied the change of the water surface profile,  
81 and the distribution of velocity and turbulence intensity. They found that the location with large  
82 turbulence intensity mainly appeared within the bottom boundary area. Biscarini et al. (2010)  
83 compared the difference between the shallow water model and the full three-dimensional calculation  
84 through the numerical simulation of the dam-break flow. The analysis indicated that the shallow  
85 water model can obtain the main characteristics of the flow, but lose some three-dimensional  
86 information due to the simplification in the model. Khosronejad et al. (2019) used a coupled model  
87 to simulate the water surface and sediment transport in the dam break flow, and presented that the  
88 coupled model can accurately capture the scour processes of the river bed and the variation of the  
89 water surface. Taking the bed slope into account, Fraccarollo and Toro (1995) applied a shallow  
90 water model to analyze the water depth variation of the dam-break flow. They found that when there  
91 was a high free surface gradient in the dam-break flow, the calculated pressure and velocity  
92 distribution based on the shallow water model deviated greatly from the measurements.

93 For the research of Favre waves, Peregrine (1966) used numerical simulation to successfully

94 present the development process of Favre waves. The author pointed out that the maximum  
95 amplitude of the undulations is limited by breaking, and most of the measured breaking waves have  
96 the amplitude of about 0.6. Treske (1994) measured the water level elevations, the wave amplitude,  
97 the wave length and the frequencies of Favre waves in rectangular and trapezoidal open channels. He  
98 found that the primary wave undulations occur at Froude number ranging between 1.1 and 1.25, and  
99 the frequencies of secondary waves in the rectangular channel are about two to three times than that  
100 in the trapezoidal channel for the same Froude number. Soares-Frazao and Zech (2002) generated  
101 Favre waves in the flume by raising the gate instantaneously. After comparing the experimental  
102 results with their numerical calculation results, they found that the propagation of Favre waves is a  
103 typical weak non-hydrostatic flow, and the undulations appear if the Froude number ranges between  
104 1 and 1.28. For higher Froude number, the wave front will break and lead to a steep front.

105 It can be seen that most of the above studies were carried out under the condition of either the  
106 horizontal bed or the slopping dry bed, and the focus of the previous studies were mainly on the  
107 macroscopic characteristics of the flow. However, the actual dam break flows or Favre waves are  
108 affected by both the bed slope and the tailwater (Wang et al., 2017, 2020b). The internal movement  
109 information (such as, velocity profile and bed shear stress distribution) is not only important for  
110 assessing the potential channel erosion damage (Shigematsu et al., 2004), but also a significant  
111 parameter for understanding and mitigating the impact of dam-break flood and Favre waves  
112 (Biscarini et al., 2010). Considering the limitation of the flume length (Liu et al., 2020) and the  
113 difficulty of collecting the internal flow characteristics, the purpose of this article is to better  
114 understand the internal characteristics of dam break flows and Favre waves under the conditions of  
115 the sloping wet bed by numerical simulation. The numerical model used in this article is

116 systematically validated by comparing with available experimental data (Barnes and Baldock, 2006;  
117 Larocque et al., 2013a; Liu et al., 2020). The dam-break flow and Favre waves under different bed  
118 slopes and tailwater depths are comprehensively analyzed in terms of water surface profile, velocity  
119 distribution, bed shear stress and fluid particles acceleration. The present study will further guide the  
120 preparation of flood control plans and the development of flood management, as well as the  
121 scheduling work in the channel and the design of the tailwater channel of hydropower station.

122

## 123 **2. Numerical Models**

124 The governing equations are discretized by the finite volume method in the commercial software  
125 FLOW-3D (Flow Science Inc., 2016), and many turbulence models are provided, such as prandtl  
126 mixing length model, standard  $k-\varepsilon$  model,  $k-\omega$  model, large eddy simulation model and so on. The  
127 free water surface is captured using the Volume of Fluid (VOF) method that can accurately capture  
128 the changes of free water surface and has been widely used in the numerical simulation of dam-break  
129 flow in the past decades (Oertel and Bung, 2012; Kocaman and Ozmen-Cagatay, 2015; Yang et al.,  
130 2018a). In this paper FLOW-3D is applied to calculate the dam-break flow under different bed slopes  
131 and tailwater depths.

132

### 133 **2.1. Navier-Stokes equations with large eddy simulation**

134 In FLOW-3D, the continuity equation and momentum equations describing fluid motion have  
135 the following forms:

$$\frac{\partial(uA_x)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(vA_y)}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial(wA_z)}{\partial z} = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{V_F} (uA_x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + vA_y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + wA_z \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}) = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + g_x + f_x \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{V_F} (uA_x \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + vA_y \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + wA_z \frac{\partial v}{\partial z}) = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + g_y + f_y \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{V_F} (uA_x \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + vA_y \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + wA_z \frac{\partial w}{\partial z}) = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + g_z + f_z \quad (4)$$

136 where  $u$ ,  $v$ ,  $w$  are the flow velocity in the three directions  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , respectively,  $A_x$ ,  $A_y$ ,  $A_z$  are the  
137 fraction area open to flow at cell face in the three directions  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , respectively (e.g.,  $A_x$  is equal to  
138 the open area in the  $x$  direction divided by the cell edge area in the  $x$  direction),  $\rho$  is the fluid density,  
139  $p$  is the pressure,  $V_F$  is the volume fraction (fraction of open volume in cell, it means that the cell is  
140 fully open when  $V_F$  equals to 1),  $g_x$ ,  $g_y$ ,  $g_z$  are the body acceleration in the three directions  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ ,  
141 respectively,  $f_x$ ,  $f_y$ ,  $f_z$  are the viscous acceleration in the three directions of  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , respectively.

142 To better simulate the turbulent flow, the computational grid is required to be sufficiently small  
143 to capture small vortex motion in the turbulent flow with reasonable computational cost. In this  
144 regard, the large eddy simulation (LES) approach is one of the options. Since the LES model can  
145 provide more details about the movement of the dam-break flow and has been widely used for the  
146 dam-break flow simulation (Bung, et al., 2008; Larocque et al., 2013a, 2013b; Khoshkonesh et al.,  
147 2019), it is applied in this study.

148 The LES model solves the turbulent motion that is larger than the grid scale directly through the  
149 Navier-Stokes equations, while the influence of the small-scale vortex is simulated by establishing a  
150 model, the so called sub-grid scale closure:

$$L = (\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z)^{1/3} \quad (5)$$

$$\tau_{ij} - \frac{1}{3} \tau_{kk} \delta_{ij} = -2\mu_t S_{ij} = -2(C_s L)^2 |S_{ij}| S_{ij} \quad (6)$$



$$S_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right), \quad |S_{ij}| = \sqrt{2S_{ij}S_{ij}} \quad (7)$$

151 where  $L$  is the filter length,  $\Delta x$ ,  $\Delta y$ ,  $\Delta z$  are the grid sizes in the  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  directions respectively, the  
 152 sub-grid scale tensor values are calculated using formulas (6) and (7), where  $\mu_t$ ,  $S_{ij}$ , and  $C_S$  are the  
 153 turbulence viscosity, strain rate tensor and Smagorinsky's coefficient which is taken as 0.167  
 154 (Smagorinsky, 1963, Flow Science Inc., 2016, Khoshkonesh, 2019), respectively.

155

## 156 **2.2. Shallow water equations model**

157 For the comparison with the LES predictions, the shallow water equations (SWEs) model in  
 158 FLOW-3D is also used in the study. The SWEs are obtained by performing water depth averaging  
 159 processing on the three-dimensional incompressible Navier-Stokes equations. It can be used to  
 160 describe the fluid flow when water depth is small comparing with the horizontal scales, and has a  
 161 very broad application scenario (Soares-Frazao and Zech, 2002; Guo et al., 2012; Castro-Orgaz and  
 162 Chanson, 2020). The SWEs model in FLOW-3D ignores the vertical acceleration of the flow and  
 163 assumes that the movement of the flow satisfies the static pressure distribution. The continuity and  
 164 momentum equations under 1D conditions read (Kocaman and Ozmen-Cagatay, 2015):

$$\frac{\partial(H - h_b)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial[u(H - h_b)]}{\partial x} = 0 \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + g_x + f_x \quad (9)$$

165 where  $u$  is water depth averaging velocity,  $h_b$  is the height of bottom contour and  $H$  is the surface  
 166 elevation measured from the bottom of the grid. The SWEs model requires two layers of grids in the  
 167  $z$  direction, and the height of the bottom layer of grids needs to be greater than the maximum height  
 168 that appears during the evolution of flow. The shallow water flow can reside in only one vertical

169 layer of control volumes (e.g., the bottom layer of cells in the  $z$  direction). The pressure in an element  
 170 containing a free-surface is defined as follows:

$$p = p_0 + \rho g H \quad (10)$$

$$H = F V_F \delta_z + (1 - V_F) \delta_z \quad (11)$$

171 where  $p_0$  is the atmospheric pressure on the free surface,  $\delta_z$  is the cell size in the bottom layer,  $F$  is  
 172 the fluid fraction, and  $V_F$  is the volume fraction (fraction of open volume in cell). The Sketch of  
 173 related variables involved in the SWEs model in FLOW-3D is shown in the Figure 1. The  
 174 volume/area blockages used in the FAVOR (Fractional Area/Volume Obstacle Representation)  
 175 method can describe the geometry, and the water surface profile is tracked by the VOF method (Flow  
 176 Science Inc., 2016).

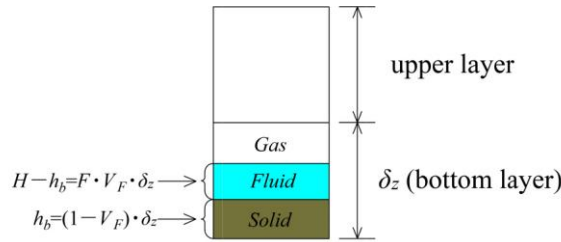


Fig. 1. Sketch of related variables involved in shallow water model

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### 178 **2.3. Initial and boundary conditions**

179 The atmospheric pressure is specified at the free water surface. The outlet of the flume is set to  
 180 outflow (Ozmen-Cagatay and Kocaman, 2012; Ozmen-Cagatay et al., 2014; Guo et al., 2014). No  
 181 slip condition is applied to all solid boundaries, including the upstream end and bottom of the flume.  
 182 Since no flux and shear of any property across the side wall, the side wall of the flume is set as  
 183 symmetry. The water in the reservoir area and the downstream of the dam is initially at a static state,  
 184 while the corresponding water depth is set according to the designed working conditions.

185

## 186 **2.4. Numerical model setup**

187 Taking into account the length limitation of the flume mentioned in the experiment of Liu et al.  
188 (2020), the reservoir area is extended to 18 m, and the downstream of the dam is extended to 19 m in  
189 the numerical simulation. In the numerical calculations, the upstream initial water depth  $h_u$  is 0.4 m.  
190 For the numerical simulation with the LES model, a solid gate is arranged at the dam position, and  
191 the movement of the gate is controlled by the General Moving Objects (GMO) module in FLOW-3D.  
192 The corresponding gate lifting speed is set to 2 m/s after comparing with the experimental conditions  
193 of Liu et al. (2020). The initial water in the reservoir area and downstream of the dam is imported  
194 through STereo Lithography (STL) files. The “history probe” in FLOW-3D is used to realize the  
195 function of marking particles. This kind of marking particles has no mass and will not affect the  
196 movement of the fluid. After setting it to follow the movement of the fluid, it is convenient to study  
197 the movement of a single fluid particle. As such, the internal motion characteristics of the dam-break  
198 flows can be studied in details through analyzing its trajectory and the acceleration variation of  
199 particles. The fluid particles with different position coordinates are set for analysis, and the  
200 corresponding position coordinates are shown in Table 1 (the position of the fluid particles is the  
201 same under the same water depth ratio for different bed slopes). The flume model in the numerical  
202 calculation is shown in Fig. 2, where  $h_u$  and  $h_d$  represent the initial upstream and downstream water  
203 depth respectively. The grid sizes in the  $x$  and  $z$  directions are 0.02m and 0.01m, respectively.  
204 Sensitivity analysis of the grid size in the  $y$  direction is mainly carried out in this study. The  
205 calculation results of different grid size are shown in Fig. 3 with  $h_u = 0.4$  m and  $h_d = 0.04$  m. It can  
206 be seen that the calculation results of the water surface profile and the velocity distribution have  
207 small difference. Considering the impact of calculation speed and accuracy,  $\Delta y = 0.02$  m is used in

208 the subsequent numerical simulations. The final total number of grids are 4349850, 4812600, and  
 209 7681650 for  $S_0 = 0, 0.003$  and  $0.02$ , respectively. The time step is determined automatically in  
 210 FLOW-3D, which is based on the Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy (CFL) criterion. In the SWEs model, the  
 211 grid heights in the  $z$  direction are  $\Delta z_1 = \Delta z_2 = 0.5$  m,  $\Delta z_1 = \Delta z_2 = 0.7$  m, and  $\Delta z_1 = \Delta z_2 = 1$  m for  $S_0 = 0,$   
 212  $0.003,$  and  $0.02,$  respectively (where  $\Delta z_1$  and  $\Delta z_2$  are respectively the height of the bottom and top  
 213 grids in the  $z$  direction), the horizontal grid  $\Delta x$  and the lateral grid  $\Delta y$  are  $0.005$  m in all simulation  
 214 cases. The calculation grids for the three bed slope cases are all  $14800,$  and calculation time is about  
 215  $130$  s for the dam-break flow evolution for  $10$  s. The computational grid system is shown in Table 2.

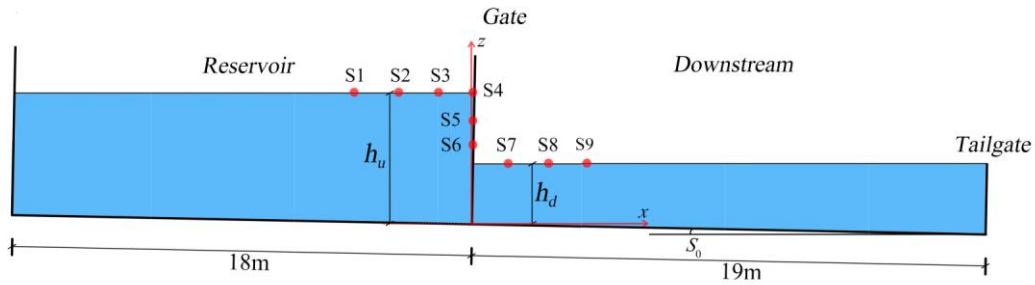


Fig. 2. Flume model in numerical simulation.

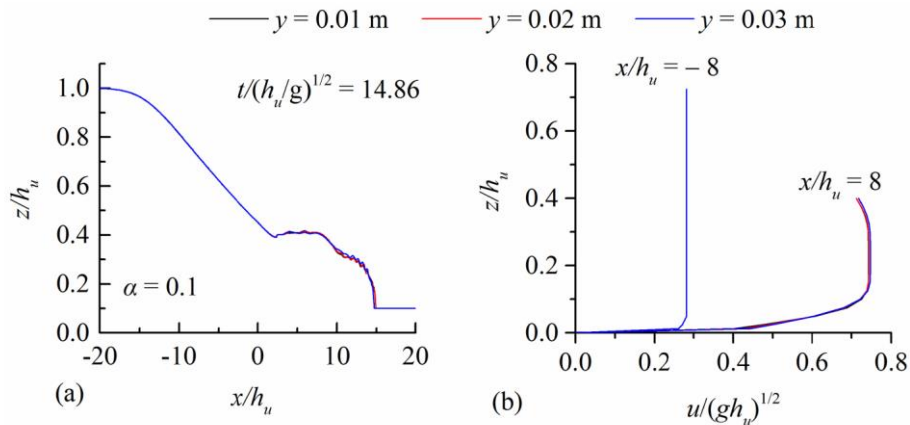


Fig. 3. Grid sensitivity analysis (a) water surface profile; (b) velocity profile.

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Table 1. Mark particle coordinates.

$\alpha$	S1		S2		S3		S4		S5		S6		S7		S8		S9	
	x/m	z/m	x/m	z/m	x/m	z/m	x/m	z/m	x/m	z/m	x/m	z/m	x/m	z/m	x/m	z/m	x/m	z/m
0.1	-3	0.40	-2	0.40	-1	0.40	0	0.40	0	0.30	0	0.20	1	0.04	2	0.04	3	0.04
0.3	-3	0.40	-2	0.40	-1	0.40	0	0.40	0	0.30	0	0.20	1	0.12	2	0.12	3	0.12
0.5	-3	0.40	-2	0.40	-1	0.40	0	0.40	0	0.33	0	0.26	1	0.20	2	0.20	3	0.20
0.7	-3	0.40	-2	0.40	-1	0.40	0	0.40	0	0.35	0	0.30	1	0.28	2	0.28	3	0.28

222

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Table 2. Computational grid system for LES and SWEs models.

model	$S_0$	$\Delta x$ (m)	$\Delta y$ (m)	$\Delta z$ (m)	number of real cells in $N_x \times N_y \times N_z$	total number of cells
LES	0	0.02	0.02	0.01	$1851 \times 50 \times 47$	4349850
LES	0.003	0.02	0.02	0.01	$1851 \times 50 \times 52$	4812600
LES	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	$1851 \times 50 \times 83$	7681650
SWE	0	0.005	0.005	0.5	$7400 \times 1 \times 2$	14800
SWE	0.003	0.005	0.005	0.7	$7400 \times 1 \times 2$	14800
SWE	0.02	0.005	0.005	1	$7400 \times 1 \times 2$	14800

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### 225 3. Model validation

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The accuracy of the numerical calculation results in terms of water surface profile, velocity distribution and bed shear stress are validated by comparing with previous experimental measurement results (the LES model is mainly calibrated here). In this section, we mainly focus on comparing the calculated velocity distribution and bed shear stress with the measurements of Larocque et al. (2013a) and Barnes and Baldock, (2006). The comparison with Liu et al., (2020) will be discussed in the section 4.1.

The first test case is an experimental conducted in the Hydraulics Laboratory, University of South Carolina in a smooth wooden flume (Larocque et al., 2013a). The experimental setup is shown in Fig. 4, the length of the reservoir area was 3.37 m, and the downstream length of the dam was 3.94 m. The flume was 0.18 m wide, 0.42 m high, and the bed slope was 0.93%. The water depth was

236 measured at different locations using a Baumer ultrasonic distance measuring sensor, and the  
237 velocity was measured using UVP. The velocity distribution at different times for location 4 is used  
238 for calibration under the experimental condition of  $h_u = 0.3$  m and  $h_d = 0$  m. The grid size used in the  
239 first case is  $\Delta x = \Delta y = \Delta z = 0.005$  m with the total number of grids being 5368464, and the initial and  
240 boundary conditions are set as section 2.3. The second test case was conducted at the University of  
241 Queensland (UQ) Gordon McKay Hydraulics Laboratory with a dam break flume (Barnes and  
242 Baldock, 2006). The main structure of the flume is shown in the Fig. 5. The length of the reservoir  
243 was 2.25 m, and the downstream length of the dam was 1.75 m, the width of the flume was 0.4 m,  
244 and the height was 0.4 m. The roughness height of the flume was about 0.1 mm. The bed shear stress  
245 was measured using a novel shear plate at  $x = 0.45$  m downstream of the dam for the dry horizontal  
246 bed case. The water depth of the reservoir area was  $h_u = 0.2$  m. The grid size used in the second case  
247 is taken as  $\Delta x = \Delta y = \Delta z = 0.005$  m and the corresponding total number of grids is 4352000. The  
248 initial and boundary conditions are also set as section 2.3. The relative root mean square error  
249 (*RRMSE*) is used for estimating the difference between the results of the numerical simulation and  
250 experimental measurements:

$$RRMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{s_i - e_i}{e_i} \right)^2} \quad (12)$$

251 where  $n$  is the total number of all measured data points,  $s_i$  is the numerical simulation value,  $e_i$  is  
252 the measured value. The comparison result is shown in Fig. 6. It can be seen that the velocity  
253 distribution of the numerical simulated agrees well with the experimental results. The velocity  
254 distribution along the water depth all presents the typical characteristics of a bottom shear layer and  
255 an upper stable layer. Analysis shows that the thickness of the shear layer roughly accounts for about  
256 5% of the reservoir water depth, which is generally consistent with the result of Larocque et al.

257 (2013a). The calculated bed shear stress is also in good agreement with the experimental  
 258 measurements. In the case of  $h_u = 0.2$  m, the maximum dimensionless bed shear stress is about 0.008  
 259 at  $x = 0.45$  m. The results show that the LES model can be used to simulate the dam break flow with  
 260 satisfactory accuracy.

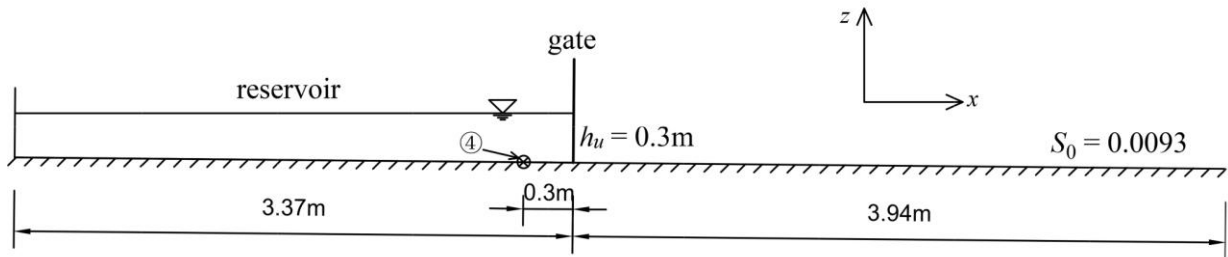


Fig. 4. Sketch of experimental set-up for validating the velocity profile.

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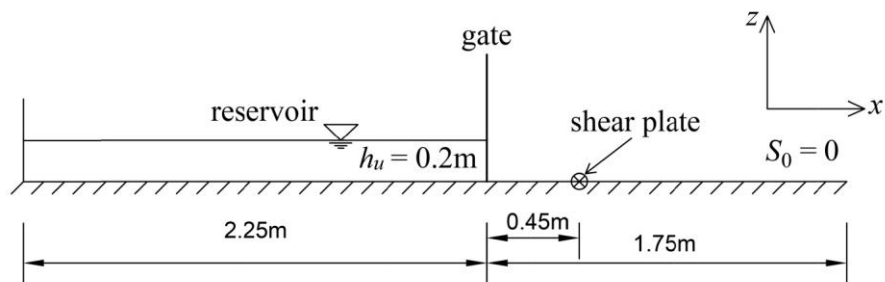


Fig. 5. Sketch of experimental set-up for validating the bed shear stress.

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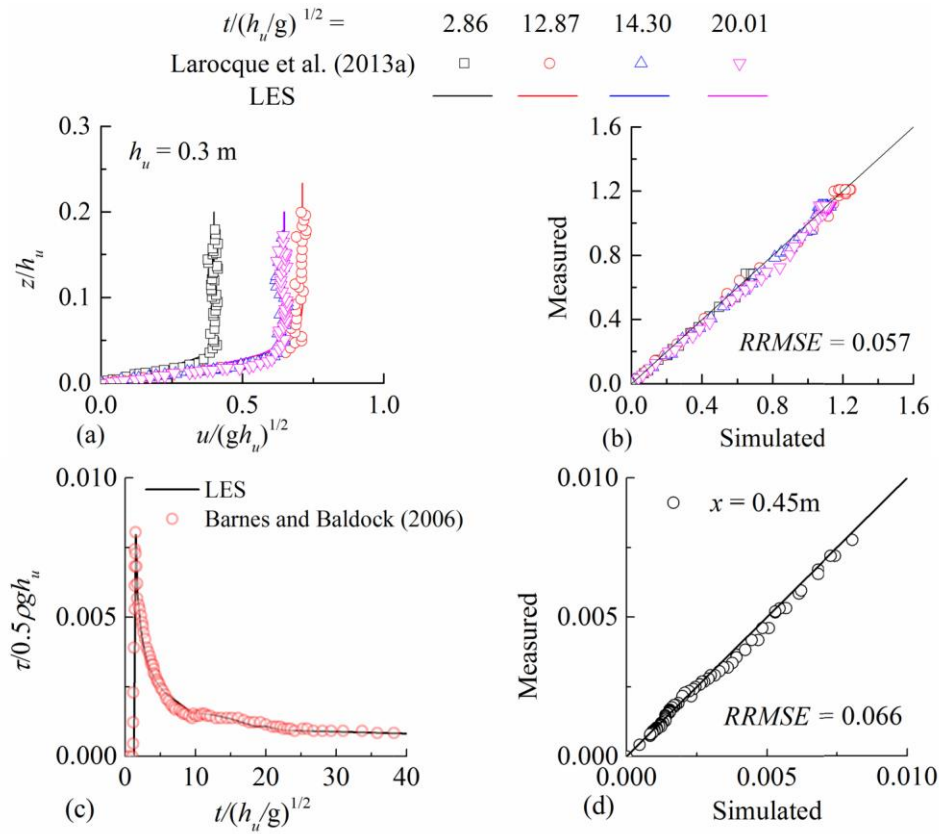


Fig. 6. Model validation results (a) variation of the velocity profile; (b) error value of the velocity profile; (c) variation of the bed shear stress; (d) error value of the bed shear stress.

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#### 266 4. Results

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In order to facilitate the comparison and description of the propagation characteristics of the dam-break flow, the evolution area of the flow is generalized by different zones, as shown in Figure 7. In Figure 7, Zone 1 represents the area near the negative wavefront within the rarefaction wave, Zone 2 represents the area relatively far from the negative wavefront within the rarefaction wave, Zone 3 is the area affected by extra negative waves (Wang et al., 2020c, 2020d), Zone 4 is the shock wave area (its wavefront shape is marked with a dotted line, it mainly appears when the water depth ratio is relatively small (e.g.,  $\alpha = 0.1$  and  $\alpha = 0.3$ ), and at this time the wavefront presents a steep front state), Zone 5 is an area where there is no obvious fluctuation near the dam (this area is not



275 affected by extra negative waves or Favre waves), and Zone 6 is the area affected by Favre waves (it  
 276 mainly appears when the water depth ratio is relatively large, i.e.  $\alpha = 0.5$  and  $\alpha = 0.7$ , at this time  
 277 Favre waves appear in the wavefront).  
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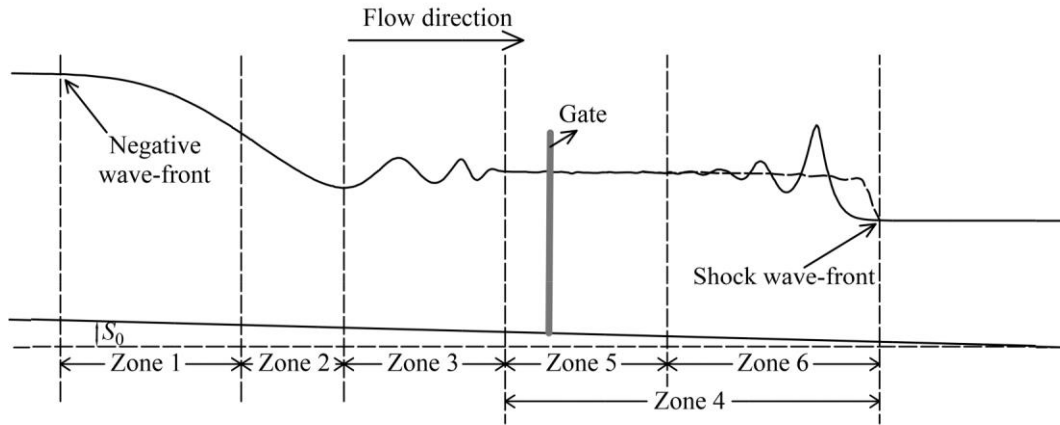


Fig. 7. Schematic diagram of regional division.

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#### 280 4.1. Water surface profile

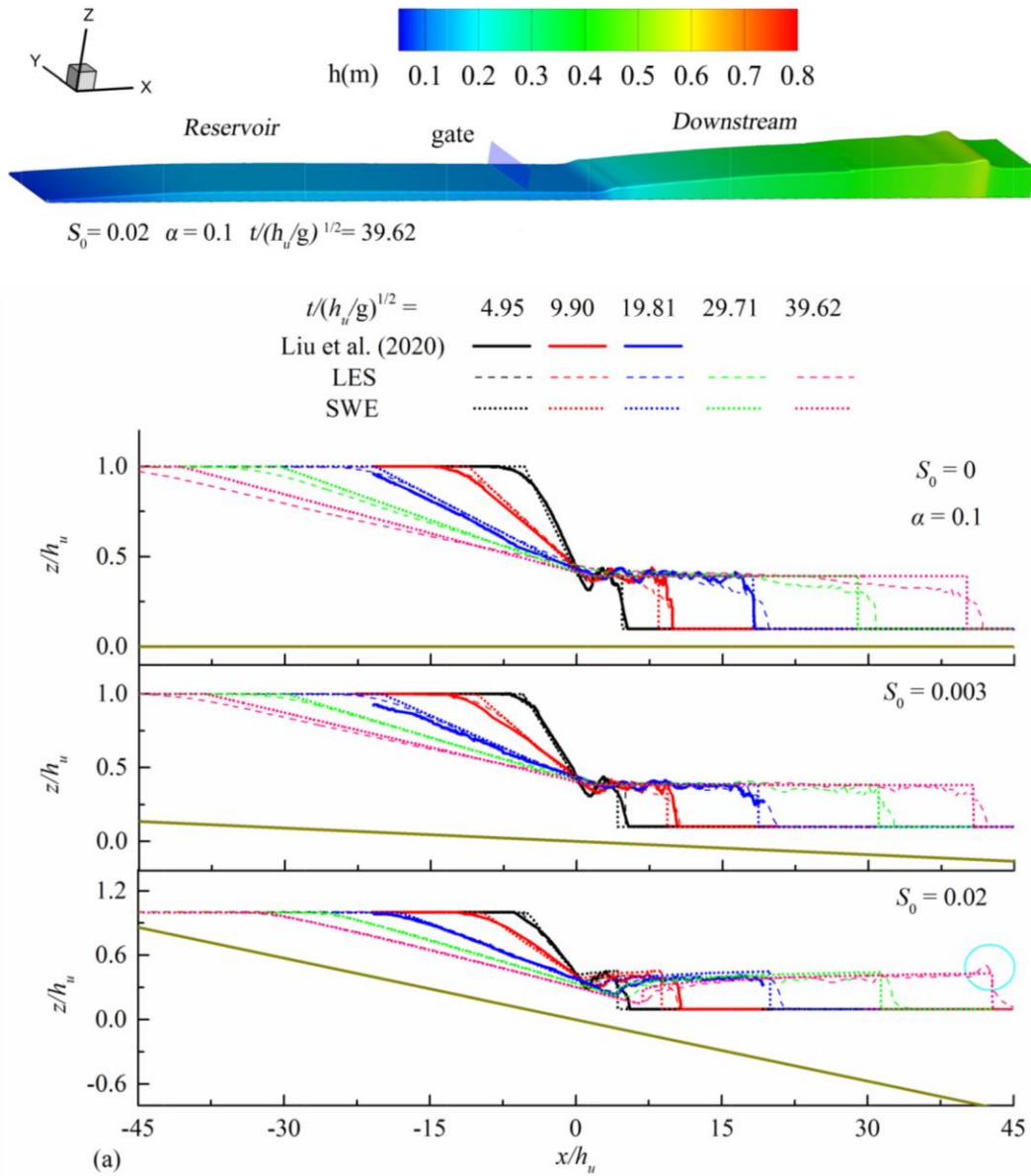
281 The experimental results of Liu et al. (2020) are used to verify the accuracy of the numerical  
 282 calculations in this section. The variation of water surface profile is shown in Figure 8. When  $\alpha = 0.1$ ,  
 283 the LES results at  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} = 4.95 - 19.81$  are consistent with the experimental measurements.  
 284 While, it is seen that the SWEs model is unable to capture the jumping phenomenon of the flow at  
 285 the initial stage of the dam break (e.g.,  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} = 4.95$ ) and the SWEs model prediction deviates  
 286 from the experimental result in Zone 1. Favre waves do not appear throughout the entire evolution  
 287 time for  $S_0 = 0, 0.003$ . However, for  $S_0 = 0.02$ , Favre waves gradually form in the late stage of the  
 288 flow evolution (e.g.,  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} = 39.62$ ). In addition, it is worth noting that its movement pattern  
 289 changes during the evolution of the dam-break flows (the propagation form of wave front changes  
 290 from steep bore to undular bore), and Favre waves cannot be captured by using the SWEs model.  
 291 Mohapatra and Chaudhry (2004) found that when the water depth ratio is less than 0.4, the

292 calculation results of the SWEs model are basically consistent with the results of the Boussinesq-type  
 293 models (nonhydrostatic pressure distribution models) in the case of horizontal bed. The present study  
 294 found that when the bed slope is 0.02, even the water depth ratio is less than 0.4 (e.g., the water  
 295 depth ratio is 0.1 or 0.3), there are fluctuations near the wavefront. The SWEs model underestimates  
 296 the maximum water depth of the wavefront, while it can still capture of the wavefront position.  
 297 Figure 9 shows the variation of Froude number for  $\alpha = 0.1$ . When analyzing the propagation  
 298 characteristics of Favre waves,  $Fr$  is calculated using the formula  $Fr = (C_a - U_0) / C_0$  developed by  
 299 Treske (1994), where  $C_a$  is the absolute speed of the wavefront,  $C_0$  is the celerity defined as  
 300  $C_0 = \sqrt{gh_0}$  ( $h_0$  is water depth immediately in the wavefront),  $U_0$  is the speed of the base flow  
 301 downstream, equal to zero in this study. It can be found that when the bed slope  $S_0 > 0$ ,  $Fr$  continues  
 302 to decrease with the evolution of the flow. For the bed slope  $S_0 = 0.02$ , the  $Fr$  falls below 1.28 after  
 303  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} > 31.5$  or  $x_s/h_u > 36.9$ . When the bed slope  $S_0 = 0.003$ , the  $Fr$  is much greater than 1.28  
 304 during the calculation period, so the Favre waves did not appear in this study. The variation of water  
 305 depth in  $\alpha = 0.3$  is similar to that of  $\alpha = 0.1$ , and the main difference is that Favre waves appear  
 306 earlier when  $\alpha = 0.3$ . The reason may be that the increase of the water depth ratio will cause a  
 307 significant decrease in  $Fr$  (Liu et al., 2020). When  $\alpha = 0.5$  and 0.7, it is seen that the LES model can  
 308 better capture the variation of the extra negative waves and Favre waves than the SWEs model. The  
 309 results provided by the SWEs model differ greatly from the experiment in the Zone 3 and Zone 6,  
 310 though the calculated water level in Zone 5 is in good agreement with the experiment. The flow state  
 311 of the wavefront is still broken at  $S_0 = 0$  in the late stage of the flow evolution (e.g.,  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} =$   
 312 39.62), but it can better maintain the wave shape and continue to propagate steady downstream at  $S_0$   
 313  $= 0.003$  for  $\alpha = 0.5$ . This is consistent with the propagation state found by Liu et al., (2020). The flow

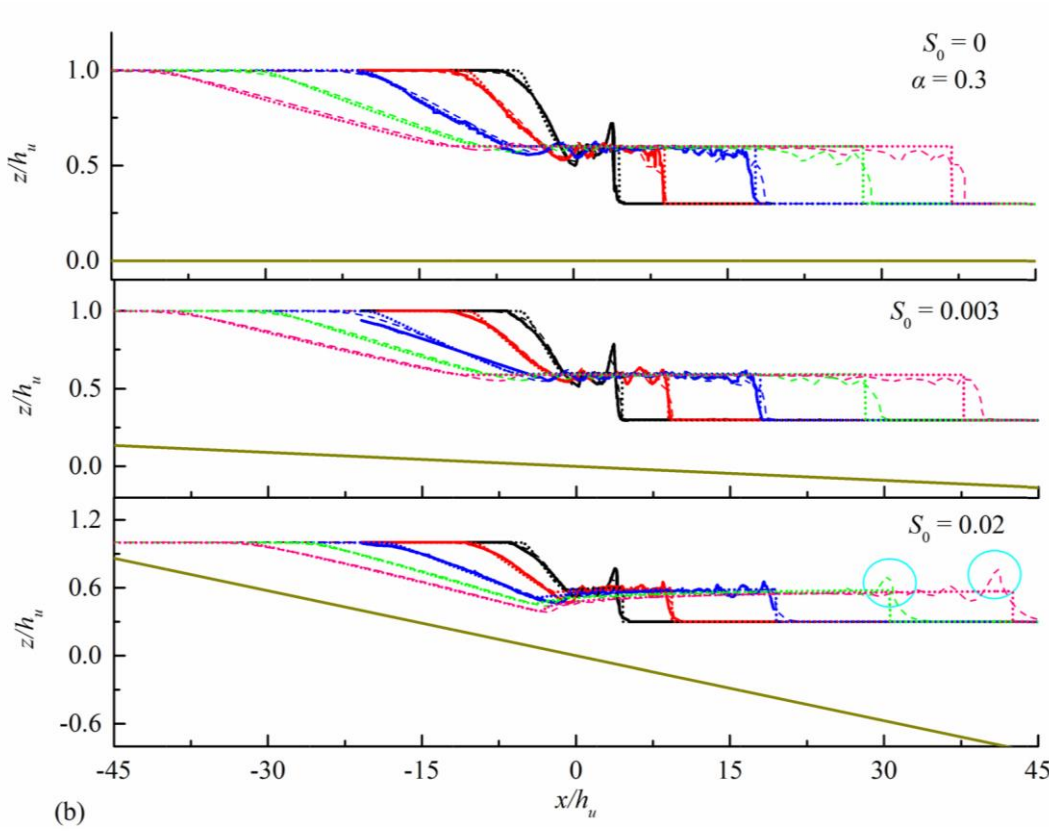
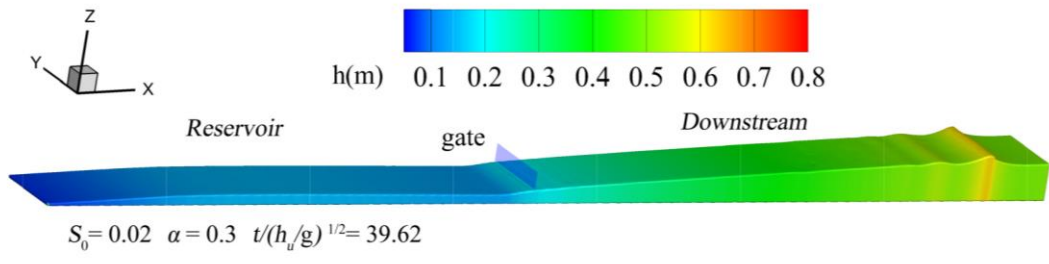
314 patterns basically show similar movement characteristics under the three different bed slopes, and

315 Favre waves propagate downstream in a stable form for  $\alpha = 0.7$ .

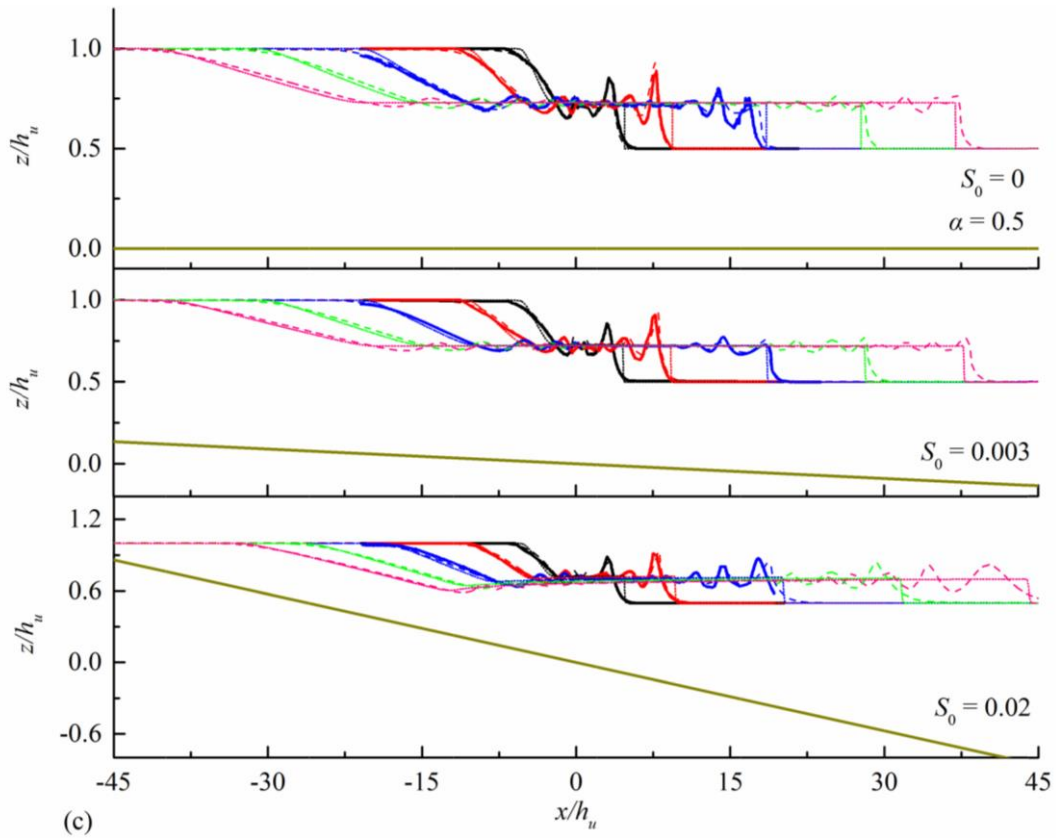
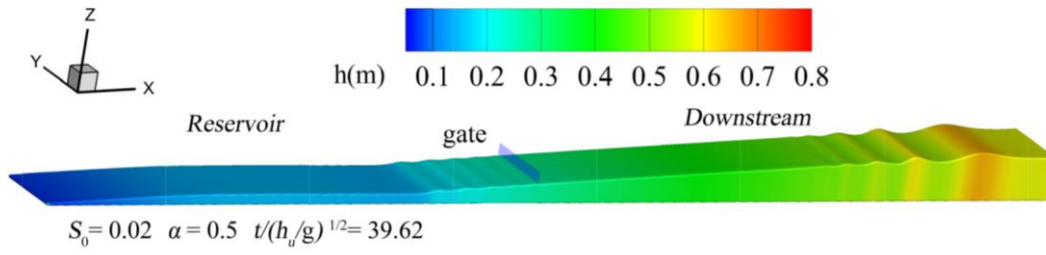
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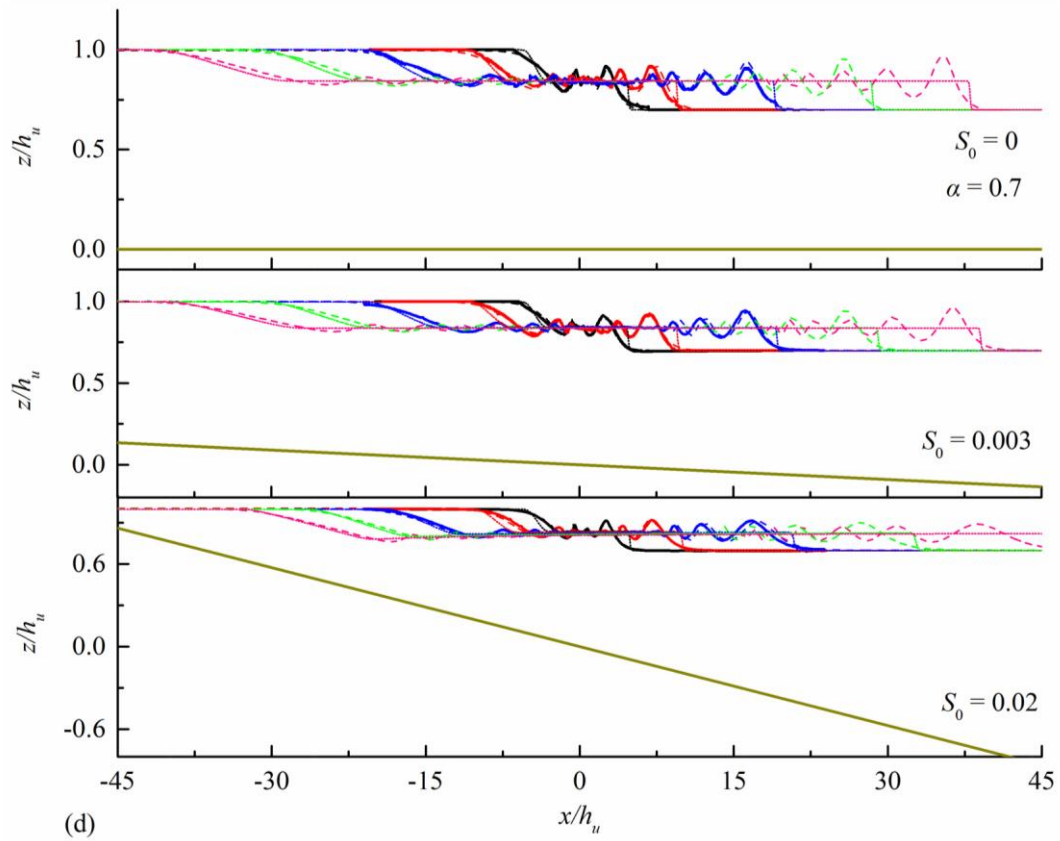
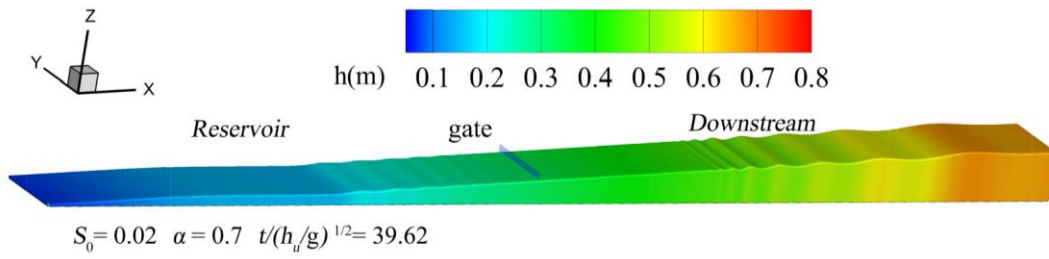


Fig. 8. Variation of water surface profile (a)  $\alpha = 0.1$ ; (b)  $\alpha = 0.3$ ; (c)  $\alpha = 0.5$ ; (d)  $\alpha = 0.7$ .

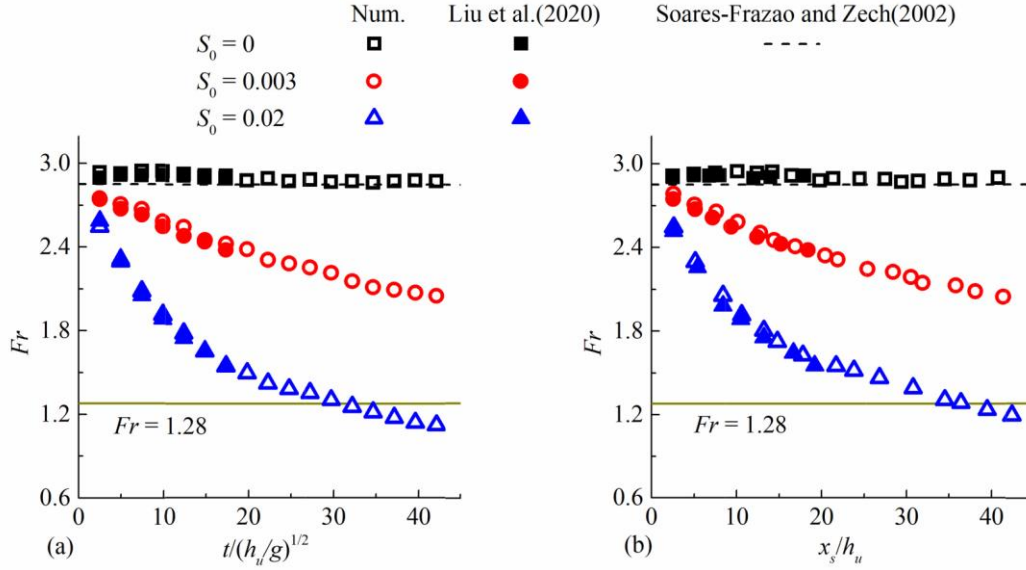


Fig. 9. Froude number for  $\alpha = 0.1$  (a) variation with time; (b) variation with wavefront position.

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#### 323 4.2. Dimensionless velocity profile

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The cross-section positions for studying the velocity distribution under different bed slopes are shown in Table 3 for  $t/(h_u/g)^{1/2} = 14.86$ . For the convenience of description, each position is marked as P1 – P6 according to the coordinate value. Soares-Frazao and Zech (2002) found that ignoring the vertical velocity may be a reason that the SWEs model could not accurately describe the Favre waves. Yang et al. (2018b) also found that the results near the negative wave front produced from the SWEs model greatly differed from the experimental measurements, and they found this difference was mainly caused by the neglect of the vertical velocity. However, the previous analyses are all qualitative descriptions, since there is no quantitative method for the proportion of the vertical velocity in the past. This paper uses the following formulas (13 – 15) for the first time to quantify the proportion of the vertical velocity:

$$\beta_h = \left| \frac{w}{u} \right| \quad (13)$$

$$\beta_p = \frac{\int_0^{h_s} \beta_h dh}{h_s} \times 100\% \quad (14)$$

$$\bar{\beta} = \frac{\int_{x_a}^{x_b} \beta_p dx}{x_b - x_a} \quad (15)$$

334 where  $\beta_h$  is the absolute value of the ratio of the vertical velocity over the horizontal velocity for a  
335 certain water depth at a fixed position,  $h_s$  is the local water depth at  $t/(h_u/g)^{1/2} = 14.86$ ,  $\beta_p$  is the  
336 depth-averaged proportion for a certain fixed position,  $x_a$  is the lower limit of the zone,  $x_b$  is the  
337 upper limit of the zone, and  $\bar{\beta}$  is the average proportion of the vertical velocity within the zone.  
338 Table 4 lists the range of different zones. The distribution of the dimensionless horizontal velocity  $U_x$   
339  $= u/(gh_u)^{1/2}$  (solid line) and the dimensionless vertical velocity  $U_z = w/(gh_u)^{1/2}$  (scattered points) is  
340 shown in Fig. 10 and the proportion of the vertical velocity is shown in Fig. 11. When the velocity  
341 profile deviates either to the left or to the right, it means that the flow direction is opposite or the  
342 same as the positive direction of coordinate axis. When  $\alpha = 0.1$ , the horizontal velocity of the  
343 reservoir area all presents the characteristic of the bottom shear layer and the upper stable layer, and  
344 the vertical velocity presents a linear increase from the bottom to the water surface, and the velocity  
345 profile all deviates to the left (the velocity direction is negative). The horizontal velocity at P6  
346 presents the characteristic that the flow velocity of the upper water is obviously higher, especially in  
347  $S_0 = 0.02$ . The reason may be that the upper water is firstly driven by the interaction between the  
348 wavefront and the downstream stationary water and the flow velocity increases in a short time, while  
349 the lower water needs longer time to gain energy via momentum and energy exchange. In the  
350 meantime, since the water depth at the downstream still water interacting with the wavefront  
351 increases with time at  $S_0 = 0.02$ , it takes longer for the velocity of the deep water to rise. When  $\alpha =$   
352 0.3, the vertical velocity of P3 becomes positive, which is just the opposite of P4 under the effect of



353 the extra negative waves at  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} = 14.86$ . The velocity distribution characteristic at  $\alpha = 0.5$  is  
354 similar to that at  $\alpha = 0.3$  in general. It can be observed that the variation of the vertical velocity at P2,  
355 P3 and P5, P6 are exactly the opposite for  $\alpha = 0.7$ , indicating that the extra negative waves and Favre  
356 waves have the opposite effects on the variation of the vertical velocity. The proportion of the  
357 vertical velocity in Zone 1 is significantly larger than that in Zone 2 and 4 for  $\alpha = 0.1$ . It may be the  
358 reason that the result based on the SWEs model can't match very well near the negative wave front.  
359 Although the water level at Zone 3 is affected by the extra negative waves at  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} = 14.86$ , the  
360 proportion of the vertical velocity in Zone 3 is still small for  $\alpha = 0.3$ . It can be seen from the Fig. 11  
361 that the influence of the extra negative waves on the vertical velocity becomes more important as the  
362 water depth ratio increases. The proportion of the vertical velocity in Zone 3 increases at this time.  
363 The Zone 5 has the smallest proportion of the vertical velocity comparing to other zone when  $\alpha = 0.5$   
364 and 0.7. The proportion of the vertical velocity in Zone 6 (affected by Favre waves) shows a very  
365 large value and gradually rises with the bed slope increases. It is obviously that the influence of the  
366 vertical velocity cannot be ignored at this moment. From the above analysis, it can be concluded that  
367 the distribution of the vertical velocity does not change uniformly along the water depth, and the  
368 extra negative waves or Favre waves will increase the proportion of the vertical velocity. The  
369 movement characteristics of the flow are also affected by the vertical velocity at this time. As such,  
370 some assumptions in the shallow water model are no longer valid in this situation. Consequently, the  
371 SWEs model is no longer applicable to describe the entire process of the dam-break flow evolution  
372 (Marche et al., 1995; Soares-Frazao and Zech, 2002; Soares-Frazao and Guinot, 2008; Bristeau et al.,  
373 2011; Cantero-Chinchilla et al., 2016).

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Table 3. Dimensionless positions for studying the velocity distribution.

$S_0$	$\alpha$	$x/h_u$ (P1)	$x/h_u$ (P2)	$x/h_u$ (P3)	$x/h_u$ (P4)	$x/h_u$ (P5)	$x/h_u$ (P6)
0	0.1	-12.5	-7.5	-2.5	0	7.5	12.5
0.003	0.1	-12.5	-7.5	-2.5	0	7.5	12.5
0.02	0.1	-12.5	-7.5	-2.5	0	7.5	13.8
0	0.3	-12.5	-7.5	-0.8	0.5	4.5	11.3
0.003	0.3	-10	-5	-0.8	0.6	7.5	12.5
0.02	0.3	-8.8	-5	-0.4	0.6	4.5	13.8
0	0.5	-10	-3.8	-2.1	0	3.5	12.5
0.003	0.5	-10	-3.8	-2.1	0	3.8	12.5
0.02	0.5	-8.8	-3.4	-1.9	3.8	12.5	14.3
0	0.7	-11.3	-6.3	-4.3	0	10.8	12.8
0.003	0.7	-11.3	-6.3	-4.3	2	11	13.3
0.02	0.7	-10	-5.8	-4.3	2	10.5	13

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Table 4. Range of different zones for calculating the average proportion of the vertical velocity.

$S_0$	$\alpha$	$x/h_u$ (Zone1)	$x/h_u$ (Zone2)	$x/h_u$ (Zone3)	$x/h_u$ (Zone4)	$x/h_u$ (Zone5)	$x/h_u$ (Zone6)
0	0.1	[-19.5, -7]	[-7, 2]	-	[2, 15.1]	-	-
0.003	0.1	[-19, -7]	[-7, 2.7]	-	[2.7, 15.6]	-	-
0.02	0.1	[-17.5, -7]	[-7, 2.8]	-	[2.8, 16.6]	-	-
0	0.3	[-18, -7]	[-7, -2.1]	[-2.1, 3]	[3, 14.2]	-	-
0.003	0.3	[-17.5, -7]	[-7, -2]	[-2, 3]	[3, 14.9]	-	-
0.02	0.3	[-17, -7]	[-7, -1.4]	[-1.4, 3.2]	[3.2, 15.9]	-	-
0	0.5	[-18, -10]	[-10, -5.3]	[-5.3, 1]	-	[1, 5.4]	[5.4, 14.6]
0.003	0.5	[-17.5, -10]	[-10, -5]	[-5, 1.2]	-	[1.2, 5.5]	[5.5, 15.1]
0.02	0.5	[-16.5, -9]	[-9, -4.5]	[-4.5, 1.4]	-	[1.4, 5.8]	[5.8, 16.1]
0	0.7	[-17.5, -12]	[-12, -7.9]	[-7.9, 0]	-	[0, 4]	[4, 15.1]
0.003	0.7	[-17, -12]	[-12, -7.5]	[-7.5, -0.1]	-	[-0.1, 4.5]	[4.5, 15.4]
0.02	0.7	[-16, -11]	[-11, -7]	[-7, -0.5]	-	[-0.5, 4.6]	[4.6, 16.1]

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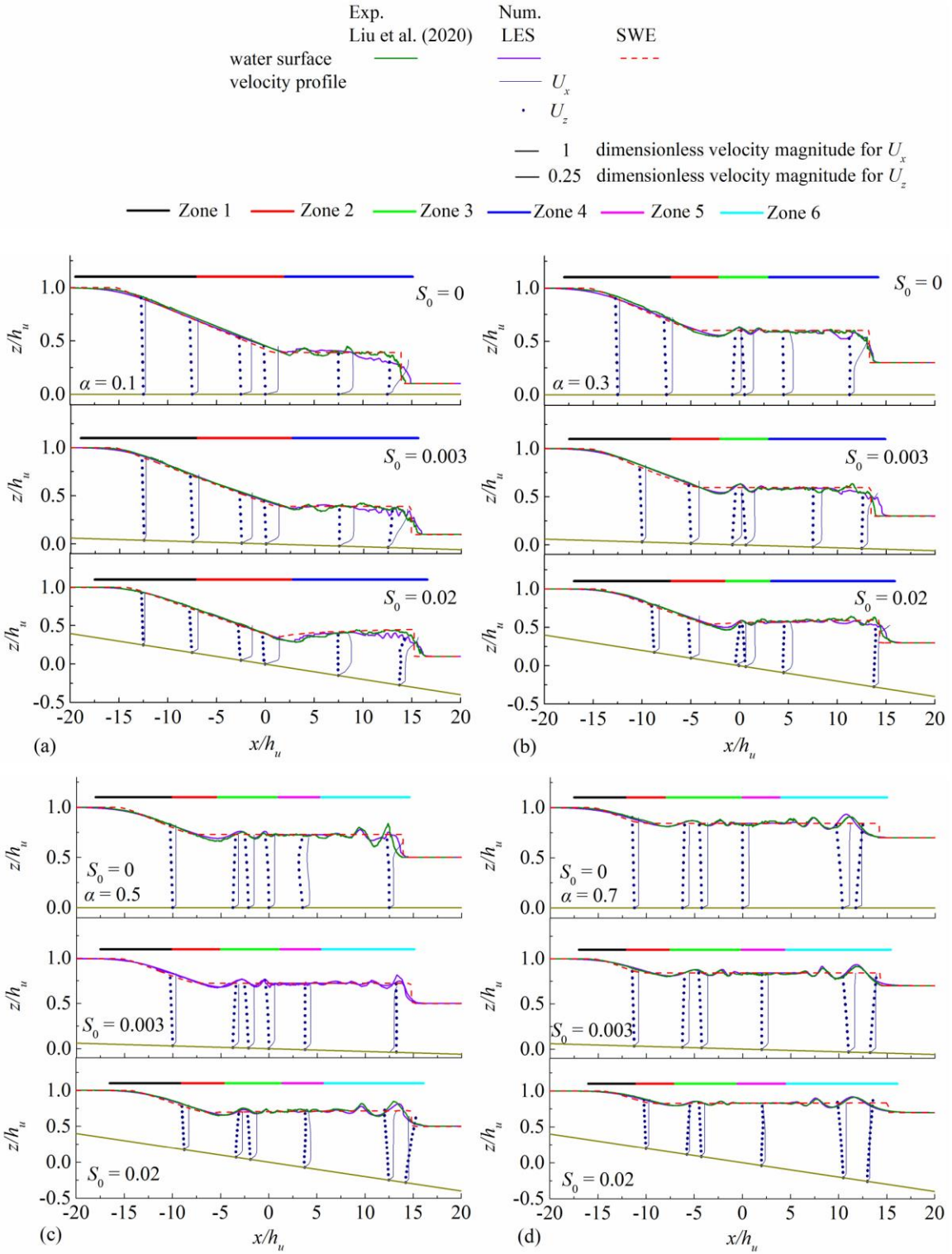


Fig. 10. Characteristics of velocity distribution at  $t/(h_u/g)^{1/2} = 14.86$  (a)  $\alpha = 0.1$ ; (b)  $\alpha = 0.3$ ; (c)  $\alpha = 0.5$ ; (d)  $\alpha = 0.7$ .

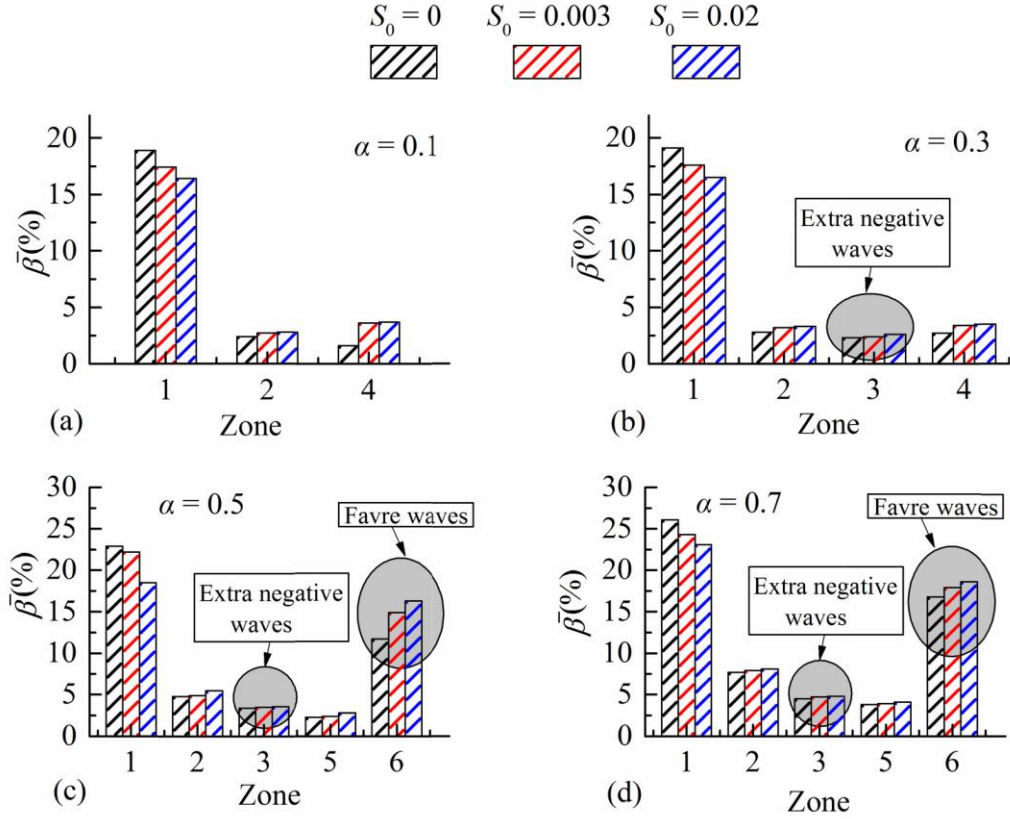


Fig. 11. Average proportion of the vertical velocity (a)  $\alpha = 0.1$ ; (b)  $\alpha = 0.3$ ; (c)  $\alpha = 0.5$ ; (d)  $\alpha = 0.7$ .

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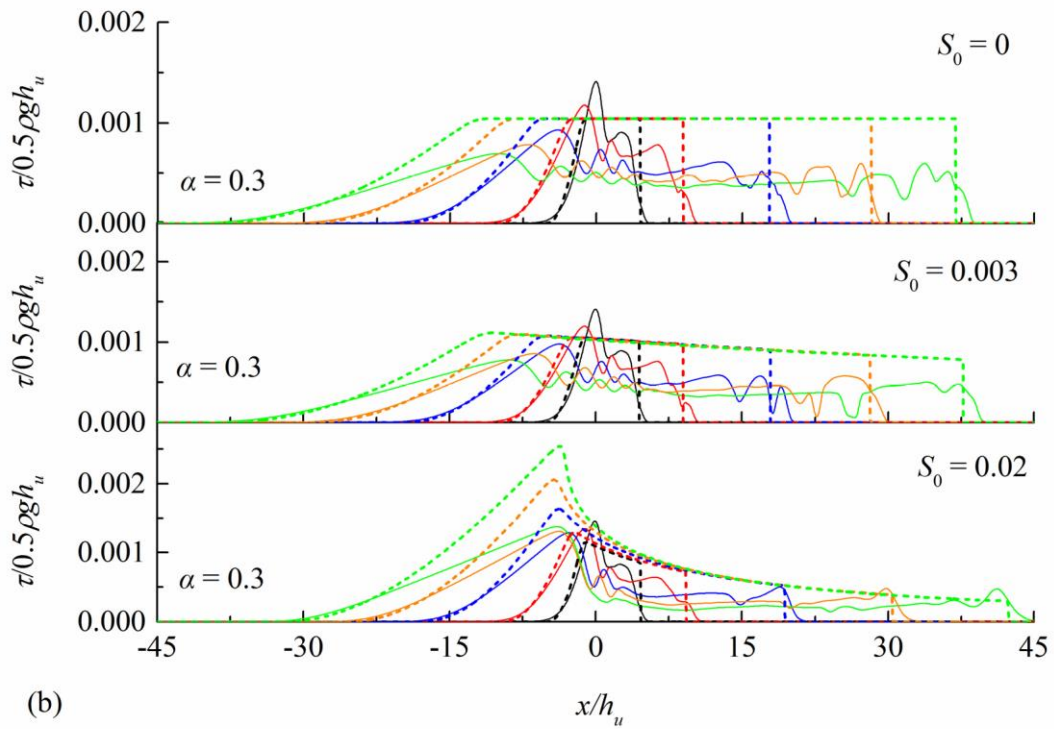
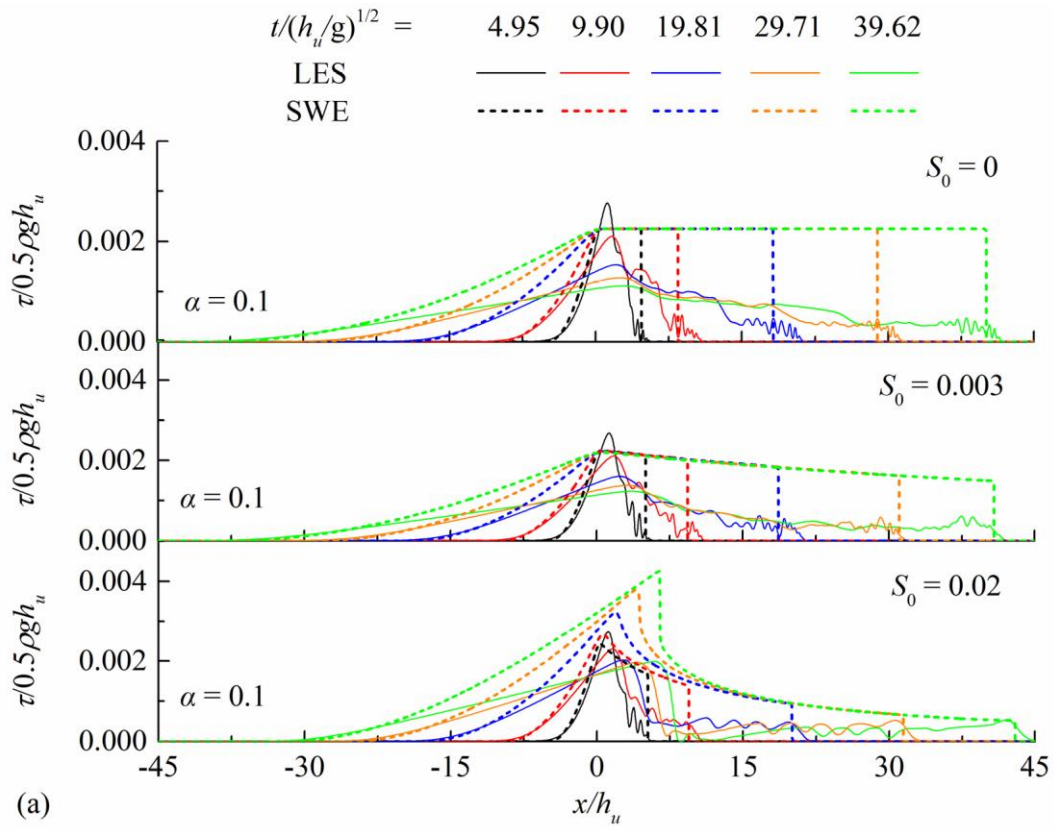
### 386 4.3. Bed shear stress distribution

387 Figure 12 is the calculated bed shear stress distribution. When  $\alpha = 0.1$ , the LES results show that  
 388 the bed shear stress in the wavefront has a high frequency oscillation phenomenon at  $S_0 = 0, 0.003$ .  
 389 This is because the downstream water is relatively shallow at this moment and the interaction  
 390 between the wavefront and the downstream stationary water is very intensive. However, the  
 391 interaction is relatively weaker at  $S_0 = 0.02$ , and its high frequency oscillation effect no longer  
 392 appears after  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} > 4.95$ . FLOW-3D uses a quadratic law to evaluate the bed shear stress in the  
 393 SWEs model, and the formula is  $\tau = \rho C_D u_d^2$  in the one-dimensional case. Where  $u_d$  is the  
 394 depth-averaged velocity in the  $x$  direction, and  $C_D$  is a default value of 0.0026 in FLOW-3D, it is  
 395 used to characterize the influence of frictional resistance. This value can simulate bed friction

396 relatively accurate in most cases according to the recommendation of FLOW-3D. In general, the  
397 SWEs model overestimates the bed shear stress. The depth-averaged velocity method does not seem  
398 to correctly predict the bed shear stress distribution. When  $\alpha = 0.3$ , the LES results show that there is  
399 a fluctuation bed shear stress in the reservoir area (affected by the extra negative waves) and the bed  
400 shear stress at the wavefront also exhibits fluctuations due to the appearance of Favre waves at  
401  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} = 39.62$  for  $S_0 = 0.02$ . The SWEs predictions are basically similar to those at  $\alpha = 0.1$ .  
402 Obvious fluctuation appears in both the upstream and downstream reaches of the dam when  $\alpha = 0.5$   
403 and 0.7 in the LES results, while the SWEs model cannot capture the fluctuation of the bed shear  
404 stress and underestimate the local bed shear stress in the fluctuating area. Therefore, when the water  
405 depth ratio is relatively high, in addition to considering the extra protection height of the  
406 embankment, it is also necessary to consider the increase in the bed shear stress caused by the waves,  
407 and take safer protection measures to prevent scouring. There are obvious differences in the variation  
408 of the bed shear stress under different bed slopes. Particularly, when the water depth is relatively  
409 large, the impact of the bed slope is more significant. The variation of the maximum bed shear stress  
410 position with time is shown in Fig. 13. When  $\alpha = 0.1$ , it is seen that the maximum bed shear stress  
411 always occurs near the dam site. The variation of the maximum bed shear stress position with time is  
412 almost the same when  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} \leq 15$  for three bed slopes. However, the position moves farther with  
413 the increase of the bed slope after  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} > 15$ . The maximum bed shear stress position appears  
414 downstream of the dam when  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} \leq 3.96$  and moves into the reservoir area after  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} >$   
415 3.96 for  $\alpha = 0.3$ . After the gate is lifted, the water in the reservoir area subducts downstream of the  
416 dam at a very fast speed in the early stage, resulting in a relatively large bed shear stress in the  
417 downstream of the dam. And then, due to the adjustment of the flow velocity, the maximum bed

418 shear stress gradually developed towards the end of the reservoir. When  $\alpha = 0.5$ , it can be found that  
419 the maximum bed shear stress firstly appears downstream near the dam, and moves towards the  
420 reservoir area, and it moves downstream of the dam again when  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} \geq 35.66$ . It can be found  
421 from Figure 12(c) that the maximum bed shear stress in the reservoir area is significantly greater than  
422 that in the downstream of the dam in the early stage of the dam-break flow, however, because the  
423 maximum bed shear stress in the reservoir area continues to decrease over time, the maximum bed  
424 shear stress in the downstream of the dam will exceed that in the reservoir area in the latter stage.  
425 However, for sloping bed (i.e.  $S_0 = 0.003$  and  $0.02$ ), the maximum bed shear stress always appears in  
426 the reservoir area. For the case of  $S_0 = 0.003$ , as the water depth in the reservoir area is slightly  
427 reduced compared to the horizontal bed, the maximum bed shear stress in the reservoir area  
428 decreases slowly compared to the horizontal bed. Simultaneously, the bed shear stress in the  
429 downstream of the dam is reduced due to the increase in the water depth downstream of the dam.  
430 Therefore, during the entire simulation period, the location of the maximum bed shear stress is in the  
431 reservoir area. As for  $S_0 = 0.02$ , the effect of water depth changes is more significant. The maximum  
432 bed shear stress in the reservoir area has the characteristic of increasing over time, while the bed  
433 shear stress downstream of the dam has dropped significantly. In the case of  $\alpha = 0.7$ , the maximum  
434 bed shear stress occurs in the reservoir area when  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} \leq 5.94$  and then develops towards  
435 downstream of the dam for  $S_0 = 0$ , and  $0.003$ , while it continues to develop towards the end of the  
436 reservoir for  $S_0 = 0.02$ . For the condition of  $S_0 = 0$  and  $0.003$ , the appearance of Favre waves  
437 increases the bed shear stress downstream of the dam, but at  $S_0 = 0.02$ , the increase in the  
438 downstream water depth leads to a more significant decrease in the shear velocity, at this time the  
439 bed shear stress still shows a downward trend. Figure 14 plots the time when the maximum bed shear

440 stress appears at different positions. When  $\alpha = 0.1$ , the bed shear stress has been rising during the  
441 simulated time period ( $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} = 39.62$ ) at the reservoir position  $x/h_u \leq -12.5$  for  $S_0 = 0$  and 0.003,  
442 so the time when the maximum bed shear stress appears at these locations is not shown here. But  
443 when  $-12.5 < x/h_u < 0$ , it can be seen that the time when the maximum bed shear stress appears  
444 earlier at  $S_0 = 0$  than that at  $S_0 = 0.003$  for the same dimensionless position. It can be seen from  
445 Figure 14(c) and 14(d) that the large reduction of water depth in the reservoir area enables the shear  
446 velocity to be maintained at a higher level for a long duration when  $S_0 = 0.02$ . Correspondingly, the  
447 time when the maximum bed shear stress appears in the reservoir area is delayed. As for the situation  
448 downstream of the dam, the time when the maximum bed shear stress appears is later at  $S_0 = 0.02$   
449 than that at  $S_0 = 0$  and 0.003 for the same dimensionless position when  $0 < x/h_u < 17.5$ , while the  
450 situation is the opposite when  $x/h_u \geq 17.5$ . When  $\alpha = 0.3$ , the time when the maximum bed shear  
451 stress appears at the reservoir location  $x/h_u = -12.5$  is earlier than that at  $\alpha = 0.1$ . It can be found that  
452 the furthest location of the reservoir area where the maximum bed shear stress can occur within the  
453 simulation time range is continuously developing toward the end of the reservoir as the water depth  
454 ratio increases. The time when the maximum bed shear stress appears is later for larger bed slope at  
455 the same dimensionless position, but for the situation of the downstream of dam, the conclusion is  
456 the opposite for  $\alpha = 0.5$  and 0.7.





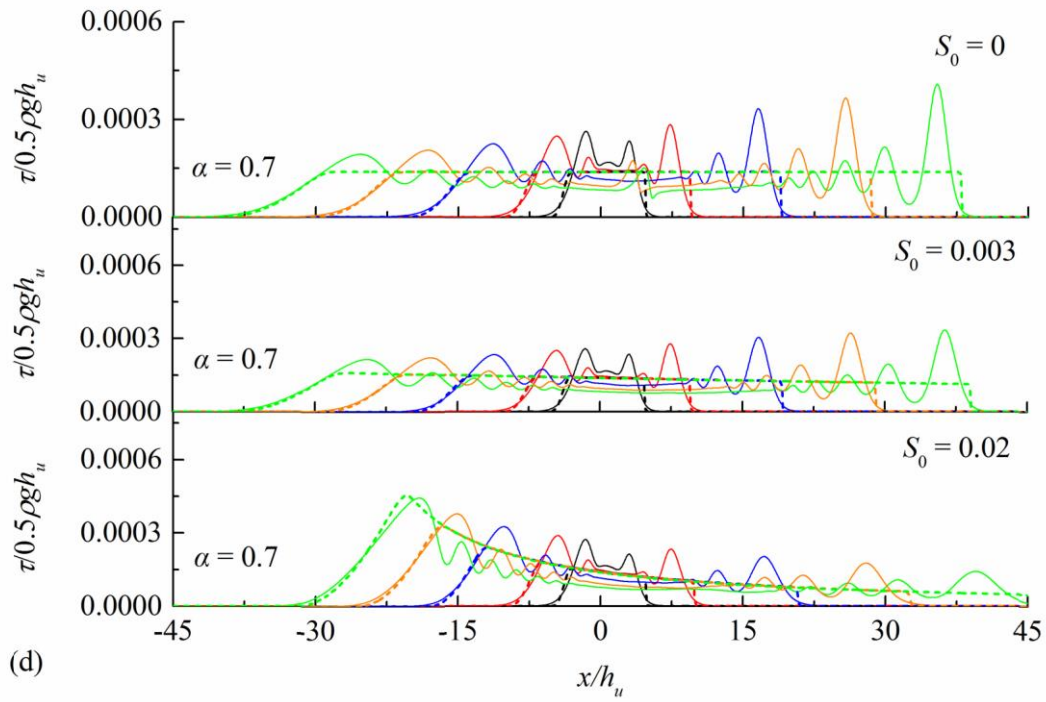
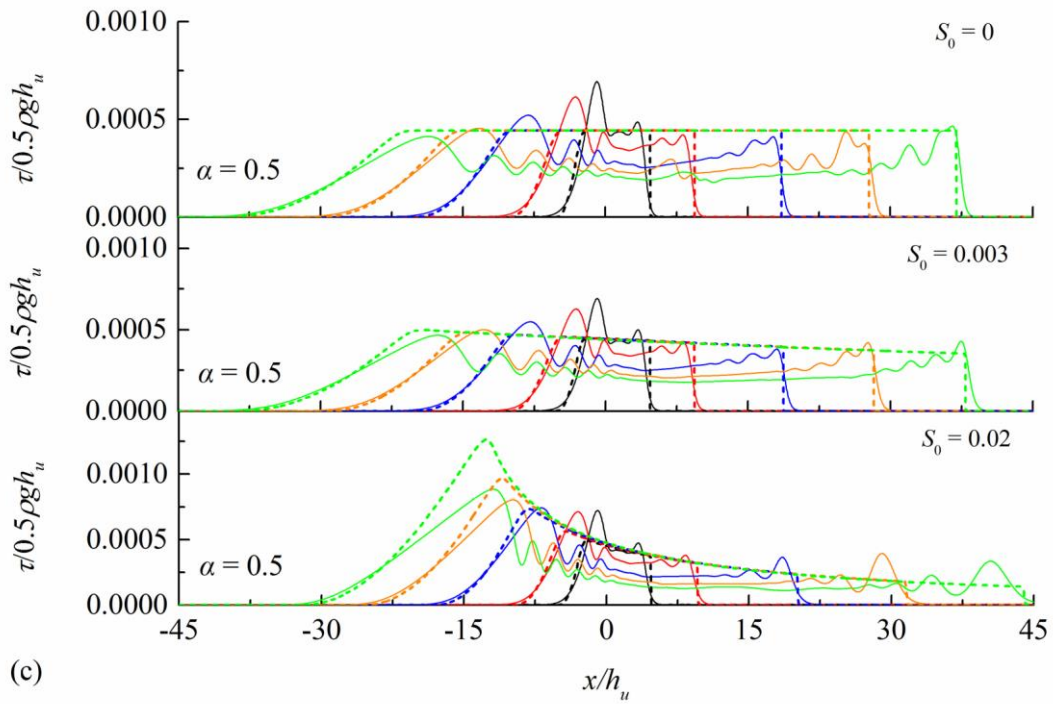


Fig. 12. Bed shear stress distribution (a)  $\alpha = 0.1$ ; (b)  $\alpha = 0.3$ ; (c)  $\alpha = 0.5$ ; (d)  $\alpha = 0.7$ .

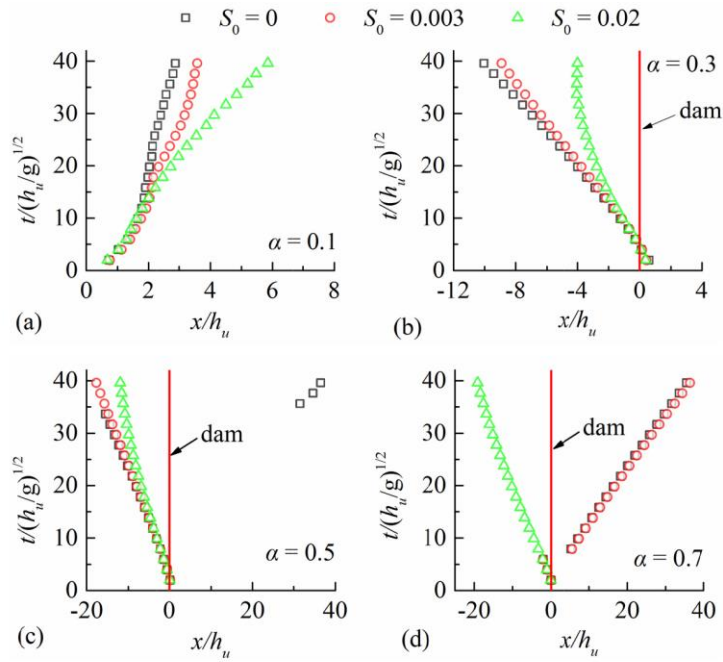


Fig. 13. Variation of the maximum bed shear stress position with time (a)  $\alpha = 0.1$ ; (b)  $\alpha = 0.3$ ; (c)  $\alpha = 0.5$ ; (d)  $\alpha = 0.7$ .

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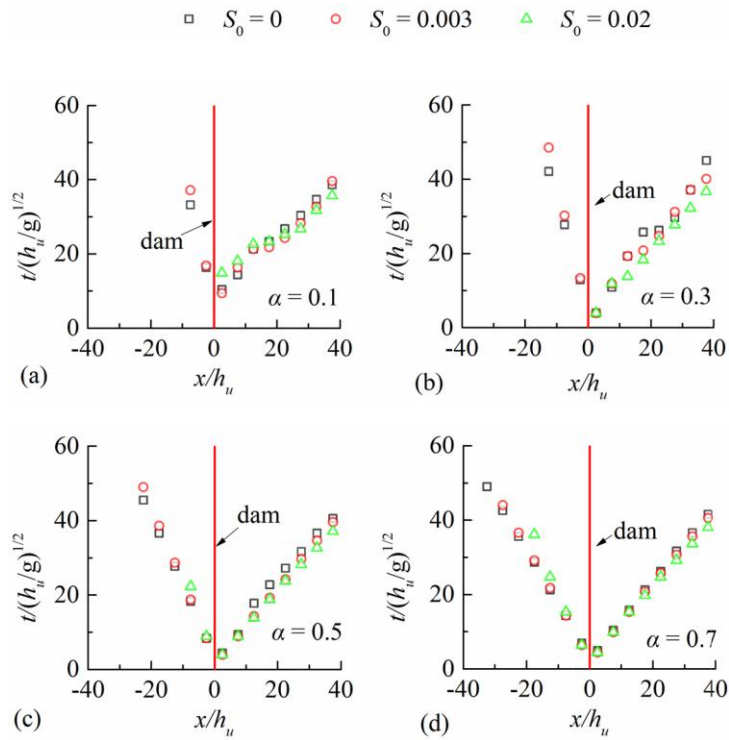


Fig. 14. Time when the maximum bed shear stress appears at different positions (a)  $\alpha = 0.1$ ; (b)  $\alpha = 0.3$ ; (c)  $\alpha = 0.5$ ; (d)  $\alpha = 0.7$ .

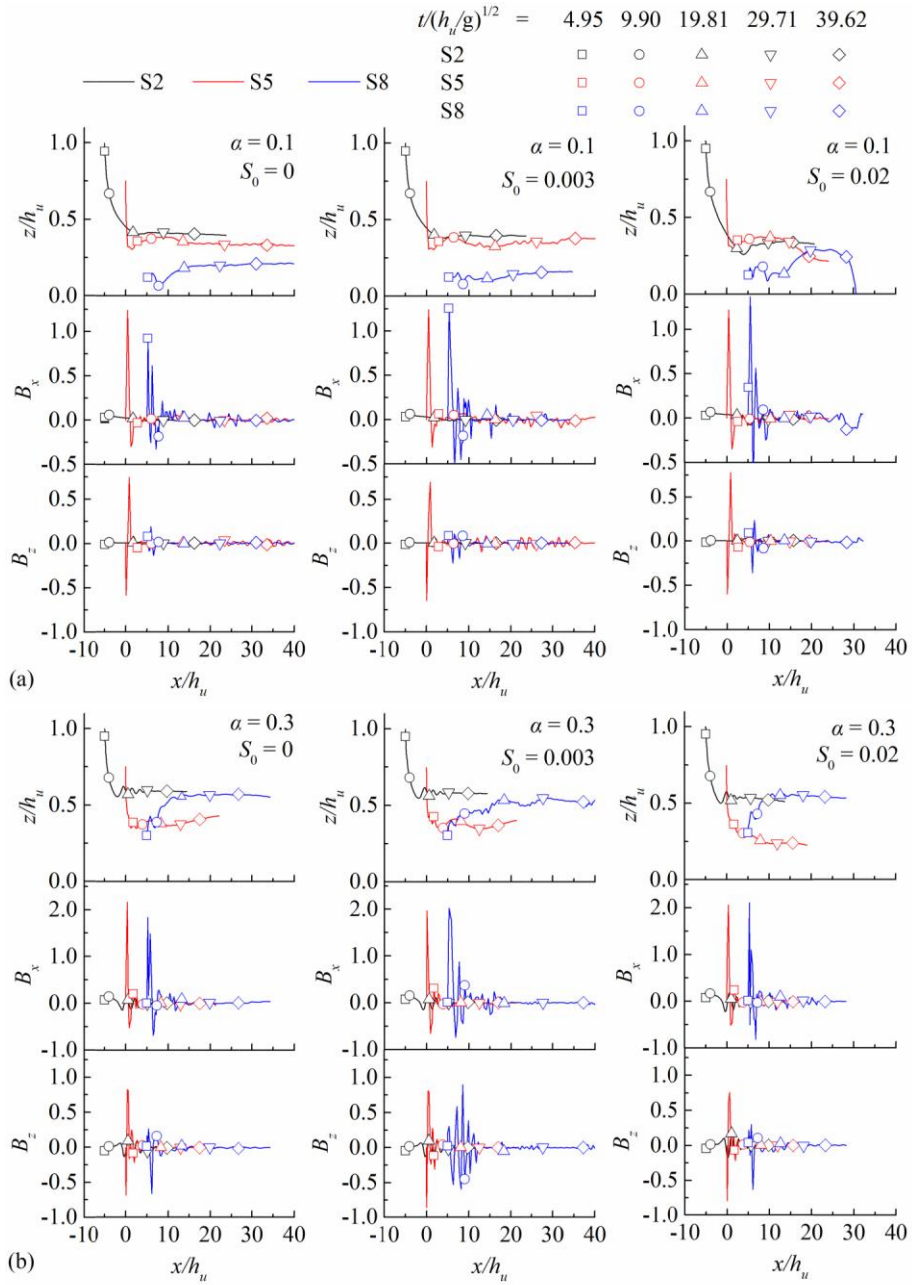
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463 **4.4. Fluid particles movement trajectory and acceleration variation**

464 The analysis of the fluid particles movement trajectory can provide a deeper understanding of  
465 the internal characteristics of the flow. The analysis of particles acceleration can provide a reference  
466 for the application of related simplified mathematical models (such as the SWEs model). Figure 15  
467 shows the movement characteristics of the fluid particles for different water depth ratios, among  
468 them, the top image represents the motion trajectory of the particles, and the middle and bottom  
469 images are the dimensionless horizontal and vertical acceleration of the particles respectively, and  $B_x$   
470  $= b_x/g$ ,  $B_z = b_z/g$ , where  $b_x$  and  $b_z$  are horizontal and vertical acceleration of fluid particle respectively.  
471 It is found that the movement characteristics (e.g. acceleration changes) of the particles (S1, S2 and  
472 S3) in the reservoir area are basically the same, so are the particles in the dam location (particles S4,  
473 S5 and S6) and downstream of the dam (particles S7, S8 and S9). For convenience, only the  
474 movement of S2, S5, S8 is selected for analysis. When  $\alpha = 0.1$ , the water level of the particle S2 in  
475 the reservoir area gradually recovers to stable state after falling for a period of time, and its  
476 horizontal and vertical acceleration are very small. The water level of the particle S5 at the dam  
477 location decreases sharply in a very short time, and the horizontal and vertical accelerations at the  
478 initial stage are relatively large, but only maintain for a very short time. Both the horizontal and the  
479 vertical accelerations decrease and approach to 0 after  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} \geq 4.95$ . The acceleration change of  
480 the particle S8 also has a similar feature to S5. When  $\alpha = 0.3$ , the water level of the particle S2 in the  
481 reservoir area has a minor fluctuations after  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} \geq 9.90$ , which is affected by the extra negative  
482 waves, and the horizontal and the vertical accelerations are still small. The horizontal and the vertical  
483 acceleration of the particle S5 at the dam location is similar to that when  $\alpha = 0.1$ . The water level of  
484 the particle S8 gradually stabilizes after rising slowly. The acceleration variation characteristics is

485 almost the same as that at  $\alpha = 0.1$ . When  $\alpha = 0.5$ , the water level of the particle S2 in the reservoir  
486 area appears a small fluctuations after a period of decline, and the horizontal and the vertical  
487 accelerations also show weak fluctuations at this time. The water level of the particle S5 at the dam  
488 location fluctuates after a rapid decline at  $S_0 = 0$  and 0.003, while the water level continues to  
489 decrease in the later stage of the dam-break flows at  $S_0 = 0.02$  (e.g.,  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} \geq 9.90$ ). The  
490 acceleration change of particle S5 is very similar under the three bed slopes with all having a big  
491 acceleration at the early short stage and reduces to near 0 in the later stage. The water level of the  
492 particle S8 forms a steep peak when the dam-break flow spreads to this location, and it then  
493 gradually decreases and fluctuates again in the later stage ( $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} \geq 29.71$ ). The horizontal and the  
494 vertical accelerations are maintained at large value when  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} \leq 9.90$ , and it appears a weak  
495 fluctuation in the later stage. When  $\alpha = 0.7$ , the movement characteristic of the particle S2 and S5 is  
496 very similar to that at  $\alpha = 0.5$ . The main difference is the movement of particle S8. Its water level  
497 affected by Favre waves appears fluctuation, and it gradually returns to stability after  $t/(h_w/g)^{1/2} \geq$   
498 19.81. The horizontal and the vertical accelerations also fluctuate when Favre waves are formed, and  
499 the magnitude of the vertical acceleration is roughly equal to the horizontal acceleration, which  
500 means that the vertical acceleration can't be neglected in this moment. This may be a reason that the  
501 SWEs model cannot accurately capture the free-surface undulations in the wavefront.



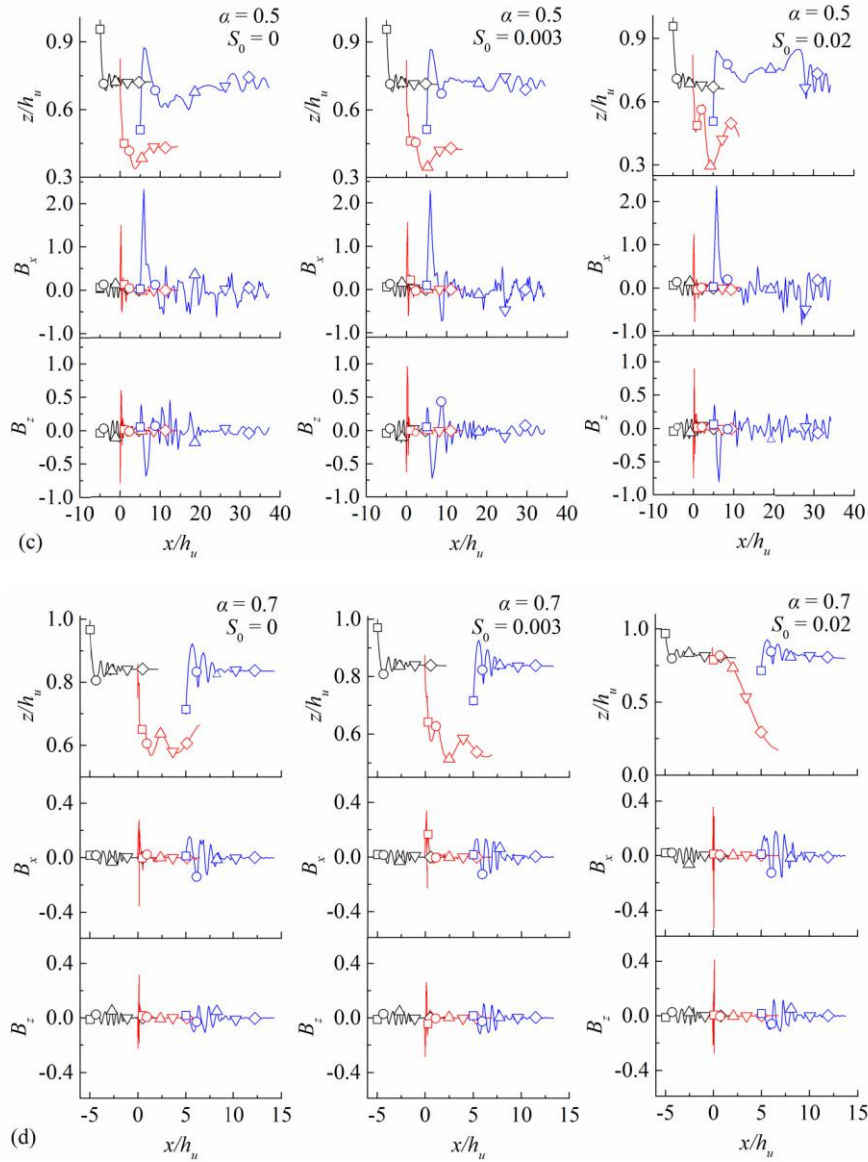


Fig. 15. Movement characteristics of the fluid particles (a)  $\alpha = 0.1$ ; (b)  $\alpha = 0.3$ ; (c)  $\alpha = 0.5$ ; (d)  $\alpha =$

0.7.

503

504

## 505 5. Conclusions

506 In this study, FLOW-3D is applied to conduct detailed numerical simulation on the dam-break  
 507 flow under different bed slopes and water depth ratios. The internal movement characteristics have  
 508 been analyzed. The main conclusions are as follows:

- 509 1. For the dam break flow propagating along the steep wet bed (e.g.  $S_0 = 0.02$ ), the  
 510 downstream static water depth that interacts with the wave front increases significantly, so that the  $Fr$   
 511 decreases with the evolution of the dam-break flow (Liu et al., 2020). Even under the condition of

512 the initial water depth ratio of 0.1, the phenomenon of Favre waves will appear after a relatively long  
513 evolution time. However, this phenomenon does not appear for the horizontal and the mild bed slope  
514 (i.e.  $S_0 = 0$  and 0.003) in the present tests.

515 2. The vertical velocity and vertical acceleration increase under the influence of Favre waves.  
516 It is found that the vertical velocity can reach about 26.1% of the horizontal velocity, while the  
517 maximum vertical acceleration is approximately 74.1% of the maximum horizontal acceleration  
518 when  $\alpha = 0.7$ . This means that the vertical movement plays an important role in this moment. This  
519 may be one of the reasons that the SWEs model cannot accurately describe this fluctuation  
520 phenomenon.

521 3. The bed slope and the water depth have a coupling relationship in both the upstream and the  
522 downstream reservoir in current cases. It is found that the water depth has a significant impact on the  
523 variation of the bed shear stress. When  $\alpha = 0.7$ , the peak value of the bed shear stress in the reservoir  
524 area continues to rise with the evolution of the dam-break flow at  $S_0 = 0.02$ , while it continues to  
525 decline for the horizontal and the mild bed slope (i.e.  $S_0 = 0$  and 0.003). For the downstream of dam,  
526 the situation is opposite.

527 Although the shallow water equations models failed to capture some detail of the flow  
528 movement, the average results are generally acceptable. Considering that the 3D calculation requires  
529 more calculation costs, it is feasible to use the calculation results of the shallow water equations  
530 models to guide the work when the water depth ratio and the bed slope are small. But when the water  
531 depth ratio or the bed slope is larger (especially when Favre waves appear in the channel), the  
532 calculation of the shallow water equations models will ignore the influence of Favre waves. This  
533 study shows that flow state is significantly affected by the bed slope, especially when the bed slope is  
534 large (e.g.,  $S_0 = 0.02$ ). Favre waves are formed at the later stage even in the small water depth ratio  
535 (e.g.,  $\alpha = 0.1$ ). Generally, the actual bed slope is not so large, but the occurrence of this phenomenon  
536 has an obvious temporal cumulative effect, Favre waves will also appear as long as the evolution

537 time is long enough even when the bed slope is small. Considering that Favre waves will obviously  
538 increase the wavefront height and causes the difficulty of flood control, the influence of the bed slope  
539 should be taken into account when selecting the height of the flood embankment. In addition, it is  
540 often necessary to use gates to adjust flow discharge in the canals. Because the maximum bed shear  
541 stress presents different characteristics under different bed slopes and tailwater depths, it is necessary  
542 to take into account the influence of the bed slope and the water depth ratio at the same time for  
543 better formulating the riverbed anti-scouring plans.

544

#### 545 **Declaration of Competing Interest**

546 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

547

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554

#### 555 **Notation**

556 The following symbols are used in this paper:

557  $A$  = fraction area;

558  $b$  = acceleration of fluid particle movement;

559  $B$  = dimensionless acceleration of fluid particle movement;

560  $C_s$  = Smagorinsky's coefficient;

561  $f$  = viscous acceleration;



562  $Fr$  = Froude number;

563  $g$  = body acceleration;

564  $h$  = water depth;

565  $H$  = surface elevation measured from the bottom of the grid;

566  $p_0$  = atmospheric pressure on the free surface;

567  $RRMSE$  = relative root mean square error;

568  $S_0$  = bed slope;

569  $S_{ij}$  = strain rate tensor;

570  $t$  = time;

571  $u, v, w$  = flow velocity in the  $x, y, z$  direction;

572  $U$  = dimensionless flow velocity;

573  $V_F$  = volume fraction;

574  $x_a$  = the lower limit of the zone;

575  $x_b$  = the upper limit of the zone;

576  $z$  = water level;

577  $\Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z$  = the grid size in the  $x, y, z$  direction;

578  $\alpha$  = water depth ratio;

579  $\beta_h$  = percentage of the vertical velocity for a certain water depth;

580  $\beta_p$  = depth-averaged percentage of the vertical velocity for a certain location;

581  $\bar{\beta}$  = average percentage of vertical velocity within the region;

582  $\rho$  = fluid density;

583  $\mu_t$  = turbulence viscosity;

584  $\tau$  = bed shear stress;

585

586 Subscripts:

587  $x, y, z$  = horizontal, transverse and vertical directions in the Cartesian coordinates;

588

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