GIS-Based Automated Flood Forecast Modelling Application Using Climatic Data in Daduru Oya River Basin

M. N. L. Bandara 189464U

Faculty of Information Technology University of Moratuwa Sri Lanka

August 2021

GIS-Based Automated Flood Forecast Modelling Application Using Climatic Data in Daduru Oya River Basin

M. N. L. Bandara 189464U

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka for the partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Master of Science Degree in Information Technology

August 2021

Declaration

I declare that this thesis is my own work and has not been submitted in any form for another degree or diploma at any university or other institution of tertiary education. Information derived from the published or unpublished work of others has been acknowledged in the text and a list of references is given.

Name of Student	Signature of Student
M. N. L. Bandara	Date:
Supervised by:	
Name of Supervisor	Signature of Supervisor
Professor H. M. R. Premasiri	Date:
Mr. B. H. Sudhantha	

Date:

Dedication

To my loving parents for being the guiding light that illuminate the path of knowledge throughout my life.

Acknowledgment

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude towards my supervisors, Professor H. M. R. Premasiri, Senior Lecturer, Department of Earth Resources Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa and Mr. B. H. Sudhantha, Dean, Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa for their guidance, supervision, advice, and support by spending their valuable time thorough out the research project to make it a success.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Mr. S.C. Premaratne, Head of the Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Information Technology and Mr. C. Wijesiriwardana, MSc. In IT Course Coordinator, Faculty of Information Technology for their support throughout the project. Not only that my thanks should go to all the lecturers in MSc. in Information Technology degree program of Faculty of IT, who gave their hands to sharpen our knowledge and ideas over the course of two years as they were the light that illuminated our path to success.

Irrigation Department contribute to this research by giving their rainfall and water level data. Special thanks to Eng. S.P.C. Sugeeshwara, Director of Irrigation (Hydrology) for his kind support without which the success of the project was not possible, and Eng. (Ms.) T. Kodippili, Eng. N. De Silva, Engineers of the Irrigation Department for initiating the contact with the department and helping to receive data needed, Eng. K.A.S. Samarajeewa, Divisional Irrigation Engineer, Wariyapola for his kind assistance and the staff of Hydrology division in Colombo for their support. So, thank you all for your great support.

Eng. N. Ranaweera, Systems Engineer, Centre for IT Services, University of Moratuwa and Mr. R. Ferdinando, Mr. S. Siriwardane GIS Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd., Esri Sri Lanka staff, Ms. U.N. Kodithuwakku, Ms. D.N.T. Gunawardhana, Mr. C.N.D. Punchihewa, Senior Assistant Librarians of the University of Moratuwa Library thank you for your valuable support in ArcGIS licensing and providing access to e-learning resources. A big thank goes to Dr. G.V.I Samaradivakara, Head of the Department, Department of Earth Resources Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Eng.(Ms.) S. Thiruchittampalam, Lecturer, Department of Earth Resources Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, and Ms. P. Dissanayake, Technical Officer, and Mr. S.D. Sumith, Lab Attendant, Geology Laboratory of Department of Earth Resources Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Ms. Hashini Hemanjalee, Instructor, Shamika Ariyasinghe, Isuru Mahesh, past students and staff of Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa for their support in various stages of the project.

My heartfelt gratitude for family and friends for the support they provided me through the entire research project. I must acknowledge my husband's encouragement and all the assistance, and my two son's patience and help without which I would not have finished this thesis.

Abstract

Flood is the most common and deadliest form of disaster that affects lives and properties all around the world. Predicting natural disasters is very complex due to lack of proper methods and resources in countries like Sri Lanka. But if there is an efficient prediction system it helps to save not only lives but the environment and infrastructure too. Therefore, the aim of this study is to pave the pathway to build an efficient and effective flood prediction system through analysing available flood modelling techniques and their applications to find their strengths and weaknesses. Then the result of the study could be used to put the foundation for the main requirement of building the system to predict natural disasters. To achieve this the GIS technology, Big data analytic and IoT with machine learning techniques, two-dimensional hydrodynamic flood models, statistical models, rainfall-runoff models, Fuzzy-neuro approach and data mining and data analysis applications were analysed by a thorough review of available recent literature.

A generic model was developed to take any DEM data and a pour point feature class layer for the specific DEM to generate outputs based on other variable that could input to the model. It gave model calibration capability as well as significant time saving on tasks. Use of special tools like 'Parse Path' tool, gave the capability to name outputs easily and quickly. And it also made saving so efficient because it automatically saves all the results to the file path of the DEM. Due to these factors, when it starts raining in upper catchment area, could forecast due inundation area in minutes.

Including the GIS technology could improve the data quality and availability while incorporating different data sources for more in-depth analysis could give more accurate predictions. Using GIS based hydrological model, a suitable system to implement in Sri Lanka could be developed.

Abbreviations

- 2D Two Dimensional
- 3D Three Dimensional
- AI Artificial Intelligence
- ANN Artificial Neural Networks
- **API Application Programming Interface**
- AWS Automatic Weather Stations
- CDMA Code Division Multiple Access
- **CEB** Ceylon Electricity Board
- CNN Convolutional Neural Network
- CRML Convolution Regression based on Machine Learning
- DDMCU District Disaster Management Coordinating Units
- DEM Digital Elevation Model
- DMC Disaster Management Centre
- DSTA Dynamic Spatiotemporal Attention
- ELM Extreme Learning Machine
- GIS Geographical Information Systems
- GUH Geomorphologic Unit Hydrograph
- GWO Grey Wolf Optimizer
- HEC-HMS Hydrologic Engineering Centre's-Hydrologic Modelling System
- HEC-RAS Hydrologic Engineering Centre's-River Analysis System
- HMM Hidden Markov Model
- **ID** Irrigation Department
- KNN K-Nearest Neighbour
- LSTM Long Short-Term Memory
- MAE Mean Absolute Error
- MAPE Mean Absolute Percentage Error
- MASL Mahaweli Authority Sri Lanka
- ML Machine Learning

- MWOA Mutated Whale Optimization Algorithm
- NBRO National Building Research Organisation
- NCDM National Council for Disaster Management
- RH Relative Humidity
- RMSE Root Mean Square Error
- RNN Recurrent Neural Networks
- SVM Support Vector Machine
- SWAT Soil and Water Assessment Tool
- UH Unit Hydrograph
- WMO World Meteorological Organisation

Table of Contents

Declaration	i
Dedication	ii
Acknowledgment	iii
Abstract	v
Abbreviations	vi
Table of Contents	viii
List of Tables	xii
List of Figures	xiii
Chapter 1 - Introduction	1
1.1 Background and Motivation	1
1.1.1 The vision behind the ancient	1
1.1.2 Background	2
1.1.3 Motivation for the research	6
1.2 Research Problem	6
1.2.1 Research questions	7
1.3 Scope of the Research	8
1.4 Aim and Objectives of the Study	8
1.4.1 Aim of the project	8
1.4.2 Objectives of the project	8
1.4.3 Significance of the study	9
1.5 Limitations of the Project	9
1.6 Thesis Structure	9
Chapter 2 - Literature Review	10
2.1 Introduction	10
2.2 Importance of Water and Water Management	11
2.3 Flood Disaster	13
2.3.1 Definitions of flood	13
2.3.2 Flood types	13
2.3.2.1 Flash floods	13
2.3.2.2 Fluvial (riverine) floods	14
2.3.2.3 Single event floods	14
2.3.2.4 Multiple event floods	14
2.3.2.5 Seasonal floods	14
2.3.2.6 Coastal floods	15
2.3.2.7 Estuarine floods	15

2.3.2.8 Urban floods	16
2.3.2.9 Snowmelt floods	16
2.3.2.10 Ice- and debris-jam floods	16
2.4 Flood Management Initiatives	17
2.5 Flood Forecasting and Warning	17
2.5.1 The role of flood forecasting in flood management	18
2.5.2 Elements of flood forecasting systems	18
2.5.3 Basic contemplations	19
2.5.4 Type of services offered	20
2.5.5 Required Data	21
2.6 Methods of Flood Prediction and Modelling	22
2.6.1 Why model?	22
2.6.2 Process of model building	24
2.6.3 Understanding flood hydrology	26
2.6.4 Selection of appropriate lead times	28
2.7 Available Technological Options	28
2.7.1 Artificial Intelligence based methods	28
2.7.2 Sensors and Gauges-based measurement	33
2.7.3 Radar and Satellite-based observation	34
2.7.4 Other modelling methods	37
2.7.5 Integrated methods	38
2.8 Geographic information systems (GIS)	39
2.8.1 Water resources engineering applications of GIS	40
2.9 Present Flood Management Systems in Sri Lanka	44
2.9.1 Floods in Sri Lanka	46
2.9.1.1 Flood types	46
2.9.1.2 Area prone to flood	46
2.9.1.3 Damage from floods	47
2.9.2 Early warning process	49
2.9.2.1 Daily reports issued by the Department of Irrigation to the community	54
2.9.2.2 Hydro-meteorological network	55
2.9.2.3 Station distribution	56
2.9.2.4 Forecasting methods	58
2.9.2.5 Real-time rainfall data input	58
2.9.2.6 The theory used in the hydrological model	59
2.9.2.7 Warning methods	61
2.9.2.8 Inundation mapping	62
2.9.3 Conclusion	63
Chapter 3 - Methodology	64
3.1 Introduction	64
3.2 Study Area	65
3.2.1 Topography and climate of Sri Lanka	65
3.2.2 Water sources	68
3.2.2 Water sources 3.2.3 General information on the Daduru Oya basin	69
3.2.3.1 Groundwater	72
3.2.3.2 Pattern of land use	72
3.2.3.3 Soil types	73
	, ,

3.2.3.4 Major and medium irrigation systems including major diversions 3.2.3.5 Small tanks and diversions	73 74
5.2.5.5 Sman tanks and diversions	/4
3.3 Users	75
3.3.1 Identification of stakeholders	75
3.4 Inputs	75
3.5 Outputs	76
3.6 Data Collection	76
3.7 Selection of Models/ Tools for Analysis	77
3.7.1 Spatial analysis in ArcGIS Pro	77
3.7.2 Modelling and scripting	78
3.7.3 What is geoprocessing?	79
3.7.4 Create a model tool	79
3.7.4.1 Add data	79
3.7.4.2 Add geoprocessing tools	79
3.7.4.3 Connect data and tools	80
3.7.4.4 Change tool parameters	80
3.7.4.5 Set model parameters	80
3.7.4.6 Validate a model	80
3.7.4.7 Validate data variables	81
3.7.4.8 Validation of a tool	81
3.7.4.9 Run the model	81
3.7.4.10 Add to Display	81
3.7.4.11 As a geoprocessing tool, run a model	81
3.8 Technology Adopted	81
3.9 Summary	82
Chapter 4 - Implementation	83
4.1 Model Developed for Daduru Oya Flood Forecast	83
4.2 Understanding Drainage Systems	84
4.3 Digital Elevation Models (DEM)	85
4.4 Deriving Runoff Characteristics	87
4.4.1 Hydrologic conditioning	87
4.4.1.1 Fill sinks	88
4.4.2 Watershed delineation	89
4.4.2.1 Estimate flow directions	90
4.4.2.2 Flow accumulation	91
4.4.2.3 Snap outlet to stream	92
4.4.3 Construct a velocity field	94
4.4.3.1 Generate the slope raster	95
4.4.3.2 Determine the slope-area term	97
4.4.3.3 Compute the velocity field	99
4.4.3.4 Bound the velocities	102
4.4.4 Generate an isochrone map	105
4.4.4.1 Produce a weight grid4.4.4.2 Calculate the flow time to the outlet pour point	106 108
4.4.4.2 Calculate the now time to the outlet pour point 4.4.4.3 Flow time reclassification into isochrone zones	108
4.4.5 Create a unit hydrograph	109
Crouve a univergraph	

4.4.5.1 Formulate the unit hydrograph table	112
4.4.5.2 Develop a unit hydrograph	116
4.4.6 Additional Processes	117
4.4.6.1 Identifying stream networks	117
4.4.6.2 Stream ordering	118
4.4.6.3 Stream links	119
4.4.6.4 The vectorization of a raster stream network	120
4.4.6.5 Creating flood depth and flood extent using HAND tool	122
4.4.6.6 Flow distance	122
4.5 Summary	125
Chapter 5 - Evaluation	126
5.1 Introduction	126
5.2 Evaluation of the Final Model	127
5.2.1 With Kelani river map	127
5.2.2 With Kalu ganga(river) map and data	128
5.3 Summary	130
Chapter 6 - Conclusion and Future Work	131
6.1. Conclusion	131
6.2. Challenges	131
6.3. Future Work	132
References	133
Appendix A – Getting DEM and Pour Point	139
Appendix B - Reclassification Table	143
Appendix C - Kalu Ganga	144
Appendix D - Kalani Ganga	157
Appendix E - Python Code of the Model	169
Appendix F - PRISMA Statement	177

List of Tables

Table 1.1: Number of houses damaged/ destroyed due to various disasters in Sri Lanka	3
Table 1.2: Damage in 2017 due to disasters in Sri Lanka	3
Table 1.3: Amount of money allocated for disaster mitigation projects after taking into	
consideration the damages caused by the flood disaster	5
Table 1.4: Relief expenditure: 2007-2011	5
Table 1.5: SWOT analysis	7
Table 2.1: Types of river basins	19
Table 2.2: Physical processes of flooding	20
Table 2.3: Latest remote sensing technology and sensors are used for water resources,	
hydrological fluxes, drought, and flood mapping	42
Table 2.4: Natural disasters in Sri Lanka from 1957 to 2003	47
Table 2.5: Damage in 2015	48
Table 2.6: Damage in 2016	48
Table 2.7: Damage in 2017	48
Table 2.8: Authorities in charge of early warning for different disasters	50
Table 2.9: Hydro-meteorological Network in Sri Lanka	55
Table 3.1: Methodology of the project	64
Table 3.2: Five Seasons in Sri Lanka	66
Table 3.3: Average rainfall in the Daduru Oya basin	70
Table 3.4: Monthly long-term, average rainfall (mm)	70
Table 3.5: Basic features of the Daduru Oya	71
Table 3.6: Daduru Oya run off (Daduru Oya long-term annual discharge at Chilaw)	71
Table 3.7: Land use pattern in the Daduru Oya basin	72
Table 3.8: Soil types in the basin	73
Table 3.9: Basic data on reservoirs (tanks) and diversions (anicuts)	73
Table 3.10: Small tanks and diversions in the sample DS divisions in the basin	74

List of Figures

Figure 1.1: Families affected in May 2018 Flood in Sri Lanka	3
Figure 1.2: The number of deaths and disappearances due to disasters in year 2017 in Sri	
Lanka	4
Figure 1.3: People affected due to disasters in Sri Lanka – annual time series distribution	4
Figure 2.1: The Hydrologic Cycle	11
Figure 2.2: Water resources engineering	12
Figure 2.3: A general framework for the application of a river basin model	23
Figure 2.4: Schematic diagram of the components of a river basin system	24
Figure 2.5: General diagram of the steps in the model building process	26
Figure 2.6: The source-pathway-receptor approach (Hankin et al., 2008)	27
Figure 2.7: The trade-off between warning time and flood forecast accuracy for flash floor	
situations (Wright, 2001)	28
Figure 2.8: Disaster Occurrence 1990-2018	44
Figure 2.9: Damages caused by disasters between 1990-2018 in Sri Lanka	48
Figure 2.10: Satellite Products Used in Forecasting	51
Figure 2.11: Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) Activities in the ID	51
Figure 2.12: Flood Forecasting and Decision Support System of Irrigation Department	52
Figure 2.13: Multi-Hazard Early Warning Dissemination System	53
Figure 2.14: Early Warning System of Sri Lanka	53
Figure 2.15: Irrigation Department Hydro Information	54
Figure 2.16: Daduru Oya Reservoir Status	54
Figure 2.17: Water Level of Daduru Oya at Ridi Bendi Ella	55
Figure 2.18: River Gauging Station Distribution	56
Figure 2.19: Types and numbers of Hydro-meteorological stations	56
Figure 2.20: Instruments installed	57
Figure 2.21: Reservoir stations	57
Figure 2.22: Side Looking Doppler	57
Figure 2.23: Real Time Rainfall Data Input	58
Figure 2.24: Theory used in Hydrological model	59
Figure 2.25: Flood Forecasting/ Reservoir Operation in Daduru Oya River	59
Figure 2.26: HEC HMS model Daduru Oya	60
Figure 2.27: Rainfall stations in Daduru Oya basin	60
Figure 2.28: Flood status report by Irrigation Department	61
Figure 2.29: Inundation Map for Kelani Ganga during the previous (2016) major flood	62
Figure 3.1: Map of Sri Lanka	65
Figure 3.2: Seasonal Rainfall Distribution of Sri Lanka	67
Figure 3.3: Distribution of Mean Annual Rainfall	67
Figure 3.4: River basins of Sri Lanka	68
Figure 3.5: Renewable freshwater resources of Sri Lanka	69
Figure 3.6: Daduru Oya river basin and the study region concerning the climatic zones of S	Sri
Lanka	70
Figure 4.1: Developed flood model for Daduru Oya	83
Figure 4.2: Generic flood model	83
Figure 4.3: Components of drainage basin	84

Figure 4.4: A Digital Elevation Model	85
Figure 4.5: Daduru Oya DEM	86
Figure 4.6: Parse Path tool	86
Figure 4.7: Hydrologic conditioning flowchart	87
Figure 4.8: Filling sinks	898
Figure 4.9: Using the Fill tool	898
Figure 4.10: Fill sinks tool parameters	89
Figure 4.11: Model part for watershed delineation	89
Figure 4.12: Watershed delineation flow chart	90
Figure 4.13: Flow direction D8 method	90
Figure 4.14: Flow direction coding	91
Figure 4.15: Using flow direction tool	91
Figure 4.16: How flow accumulation works	92
Figure 4.17: Using flow accumulation tool	92
Figure 4.18: The snap pour point tool	93
Figure 4.19: Watershed tool	94
Figure 4.20: Model part for slope tool	95
Figure 4.21: The slope tool utilisation	96
Figure 4.22: Creating the velocity field steps	96
Figure 4.23: Calculating slope area term and velocity unlimited	97
Figure 4.24: Raster calculator tool	97
Figure 4.25: Developed Map Algebra expression for the model	98
Figure 4.26: Code part for raster calculator	98
Figure 4.27: Change environment for raster calculator tool	99
Figure 4.28: Finding mean value of slope area term	99
Figure 4.29: Raster Calculator to get velocity unlimited	100
Figure 4.30: Layer symbology compared	100
Figure 4.31: Model part for calculate value tool and raster calculator tool	101
Figure 4.32: Calculate value tool's parameters dialog box	101
Figure 4.33: Code snippet 1 for calculate value tool	101
Figure 4.34: Code snippet 2 for calculate value tool	102
Figure 4.35: Model part for calculate the velocity field and weight raster	102
Figure 4.36: Setting the velocity lower limit	103
Figure 4.37: Con tool parameters for velocity lower limit	103
Figure 4.38: Code snippet for velocity lower limit	104
Figure 4.39: Setting the velocity upper limit	104
Figure 4.40: Con tool parameters for velocity upper limit	104
Figure 4.41: Code snippet for velocity upper limit	105
Figure 4.42: Steps of creating an isochrone map	105
Figure 4.43: Using raster calculator to create weight raster	106
Figure 4.44: Creating weight raster	107
Figure 4.45: Part of the model for extracting flow direction for the watershed	107
Figure 4.46: Use of extract by mask tool	108
Figure 4.47: Model part to assess flow time	108
Figure 4.48: Using flow length tool	109
Figure 4.49: Reclassifying Isochrones	110
Figure 4.50: Output of the reclassification of Isochrones	110

Figure 4.51: Picking the Isochrone nearest to the outflow for analysis	111
Figure 4.52: Picking an Isochrone near to Kandy for analysis	111
Figure 4.53: Part of the model for creating Unit Hydrograph table	112
Figure 4.54: Using table to table tool	112
Figure 4.55: Using add field tool	113
Figure 4.56: Using calculate field tool	114
Figure 4.57: Using add field tool to add one more field	114
Figure 4.58: Calculating the field	115
Figure 4.59: Unit hydrograph at outlet point of Daduru Oya	116
Figure 4.60: Model part for stream networks	117
Figure 4.61: Raster calculator to calculate stream network	117
Figure 4.62: Stream network calculation by raster calculator	118
Figure 4.63: Stream order tools usage	119
Figure 4.64: How stream link tool works	119
Figure 4.65: Links in a stream channel	119
Figure 4.66: Stream link tool	120
Figure 4.67: Model part for stream order and stream to feature tools	120
Figure 4.68: Stream to feature tool	121
Figure 4.69: How to use HAND tool	122
Figure 4.70: HAND concept	122
Figure 4.71: Flow distance tool usage	123
Figure 4.72: Flood Extent map of Daduru Oya for depth of 4m	123
Figure 4.73: Flood Depth map of Daduru Oya for depth of 4m	124
Figure 4.74: Flood depth of 9m near Pallekelle	124
Figure 5.1: Observed flood event in Kelani River in May 2016	127
Figure 5.2: Predicted flood extent map using the model for Kelani River	127
Figure 5.3: Observed flood inundation map for Kalu Ganga in year 2003	128
Figure 5.4: Predicted flood extent map using the model for Kalu Ganga	128
Figure 5.5: May 2003 flood details of Kalu Ganga	129
Figure 5.6: Putupaula flood depth from the model	129
Figure 5.7: Millakanda flood depth from the model	129
Figure 5.8: Ellagawa flood depth from the model	130
Figure 5.9: Rathnapura flood depth from the model	130