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1 **Fully-coupled discontinuous Galerkin modelling of dam-break flows**  
2 **over movable bed with sediment transport**

3  
4 Georges Kesserwani<sup>1</sup>, Alireza Shamkhalchian<sup>2</sup> and Mahboobeh Jomeh Zadeh<sup>3</sup>

5  
6 **Abstract**

7 A one-dimensional (1D) discontinuous Galerkin morphodynamic model has been devised with  
8 application to simulate of dam-break flows over erodible beds with suspended sediment transport. The  
9 morphodynamic equations adopt the shallow water equations (SWE) considering the interaction of  
10 sediment transport and bed changes on the flow. A local second-order Runge-Kutta discontinuous  
11 Galerkin (RKDG2) model has been reformulated to numerically solve the morphodynamic equations in a  
12 fully-coupled manner and with a non-capacity sediment model. The model's implementation is  
13 thoroughly detailed with focus on the discretization of the complex source terms, the treatment of wetting  
14 and drying, and other stabilizing issues pertaining to high solution gradients and the transient character of  
15 the topography. The model has been favorably applied to replicate experimental dam-break flow over  
16 erodible sediment beds.

17  
18 **Key-words:** Dam-break flows; Discontinuous Galerkin; erodible beds; sediment transport; complex  
19 source terms; wetting and drying; model testing.

20

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## 21 **Introduction**

22 Modelling shallow water flows over mobile topographies is useful to study hydraulic engineering  
23 problems involving dam break, river, canal and coastal hydrodynamics. For turbulent flows over erodible  
24 sediment beds, such as the first instants of a dam-break wave, the sediment concentration is so high and  
25 the bed topography changes rapidly that their effects on the flow dynamics cannot be ignored, and thus  
26 the entire morphodynamic process needs to be incorporated in the simulation (Forman et al. 2007, El Kadi  
27 Abderrezak and Paquier 2009, Pasquale et al. 2011, Ali et al. 2012, Cao et al. 2012).

28 A mathematical morphodynamics model is commonly achieved by joining the Exner equation,  
29 taken with a model for sediment transport, to the depth-averaged shallow water equations (SWE).  
30 Numerical approaches for solving the resulting set of equations can be coupled or decoupled, and with  
31 capacity or non-capacity sediment transport relationship (Cao et al. 2002, Wu et al. 2004, Wu (2007), El  
32 Kadi Abderrezak and Paquier 2011, Cao et al. 2012). Here, the fully-coupled model philosophy of Cao et  
33 al. (2004), with non-capacity sediment, is considered within the focus of formulating a new hydro-  
34 morphodynamic model based on the Discontinuous Galerkin (DG) method.

35 In recent years, the class of finite volume Godunov-type methods solving the SWE (Toro and  
36 García-Navarro 2007) has been extended to solve the fully-coupled morphodynamic equations. Cao et al.  
37 (2004) used the HLLC Riemann solver providing reasonable level of modelling for fluvial processes over  
38 erodible beds. A more comprehensive model was later devised by Wu and Wang (2007) in which a  
39 correction factor was introduced to the sediment model. More recently, efforts have been made to extend  
40 second-order hydrodynamic models to resolve the fully-coupled morphodynamic equations (Xia et al.  
41 2010, Li and Duffy 2011, Li et al. 2013). Despite this progress, the discretizations issues particular to ad-  
42 hoc treatment of complex source terms, wetting and drying, and high-order slopes, relative to context of  
43 morphological modelling, seems to be somewhat overlooked. In this context, Benkhaldoun et al. (2012)  
44 studied slope-limiting issues suggesting the further need to limit the slope components involved in the  
45 bed-evolution to maintain stability. Li et al. (2013) concluded that the accuracy of second-order hydro-

46 morphological models is likely to be compromised if no special treatment to the irregular topography is  
47 further considered. Certainly, the reliability of a fully-coupled morphodynamic numerical model is further  
48 dependent on its further ability to handle wet/dry fronts along with the complex source terms. These are  
49 desirable features to possess within the design of a second-order accurate hydro-morphodynamic  
50 numerical model, which is the purpose of this work on the subject of an extension to a well-established  
51 RKDG2 (second-order Runge-Kutta [RK] DG) hydrodynamic solver (Kesserwani and Liang 2012b).

52         The DG method conceptually extends the local finite volume method to arbitrary order of  
53 accuracy, is locally conservative and highly suited for coarse mesh simulations (Cockburn and Shu 2001,  
54 Kesserwani 2013). The DG has become quite developed for modelling hydrodynamics supported by the  
55 latest advances in computational hydraulics such as accurate integration of irregular topographies,  
56 localized Total Variation Diminishing (TVD) slope limiting, and polynomial wet/dry front tracking (Buyna  
57 et al. 2010, Xing et al. 2010, Kesserwani and Liang 2012a; Lai and Khan 2012). As to the hydro-  
58 morphodynamic modelling, applications of the DG method are quite few and only considered bed-load  
59 sediment transport, wet domains and smooth flow simulations (Tassi et al. 2008; Mirabito et al. 2011). To  
60 the best of the writers' knowledge, the DG method has not yet been: (i) formulated for solving the fully-  
61 coupled morphodynamic equations with non-capacity suspended sediment model, and (ii) applied to solve  
62 dam-break flows over movable sediment beds.

63         This paper newly explores issues (i) and (ii) within an RKDG2 solver. The technical formulation  
64 of the RKDG2 hydro-morphodynamic model is presented including all key discretization details relevant  
65 to topography and sediment source terms, treatment of wetting and drying, and stabilization of the  
66 morphodynamic numerical solution. The model's performance is tested and discussed for two  
67 experimental dam-break flows scenarios involving bed-erosion and sediment-transport. Finally, results  
68 are summarized and conclusions are drawn.

69

## 70 **Hydro-morphodynamic model**

71 The 1D SWE coupled with the Exner equation including a sediment transport model may be cast in the  
 72 following conservative form (Cao et al. 2004, Li and Duffy 2011):

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{U}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})}{\partial x} = \mathbf{S} \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{U} = \begin{pmatrix} h \\ hu \\ h\Psi \\ \Phi \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) = \begin{pmatrix} hu \\ hu^2 + \frac{g}{2}h^2 \\ hu\Psi \\ hu\Psi \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

73  $t$  = time (s),  $x$  = space coordinate (m),  $\mathbf{U}$ ,  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U})$  and  $\mathbf{S}$  are, respectively, vectors containing the conserved  
 74 variables, the fluxes and the source terms, in which  $h$  = water depth (m),  $u$  = flow velocity (m/s),  $g$  =  
 75 gravitational acceleration ( $\text{m/s}^2$ ),  $\Psi$  = flux-averaged volumetric sediment concentration ( $\text{m}^3/\text{m}^3$ ) and  $\Phi$  is a  
 76 factor representing the bed evolution that may be expressed in terms of bed porosity  $p$  and the bed  
 77 elevation  $z$  (m):

$$\Phi = (1 - p)z + (h\Psi) \quad (3)$$

79 Assuming that there is no precipitation and infiltration, the suspended load is dominant over the bed load,  
 80 and constant roughness, the vector of source terms may be decomposed as sum of topography source  
 81 term, friction source term, the suspended-load sediment concentration variation and the sediment  
 82 exchange, which are respectively denoted by  $\mathbf{S}_0$ ,  $\mathbf{S}_f$ ,  $\mathbf{S}_c$  and  $\mathbf{S}_e$ , i.e.

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{S}_0 + \mathbf{S}_f + \mathbf{S}_c + \mathbf{S}_e \quad (4)$$

84 with,

$$\mathbf{S}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ ghs_0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{S}_f = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -C_f|u|u \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{S}_c = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{(\rho_s - \rho_w)gh^2}{2\rho} \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and } \mathbf{S}_e = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{E-D}{1-p} \\ -\frac{(\rho_z - \rho)(E-D)u}{\rho(1-p)} \\ E - D \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$

86 In which,  $s_0 = -\partial z / \partial x$  = bed slope,  $C_f = gn_m^2 / h^{1/3}$  = friction factor (with  $n_m$  = Manning coefficient);  $p$   
 87 = bed sediment porosity,  $\rho_w$  = density of water,  $\rho_s$  = density of sediment, and  $\rho$  and  $\rho_z$  are water-sediment  
 88 mixture density and saturated bed density, respectively, which are related as:

$$\rho = \rho_w(1 - \Psi) + \rho_s \Psi \text{ and } \rho_z = \rho_w p + \rho_s(1 - p) \quad (6)$$

90 Within  $S_e$ , E and D represent sediment entertainment and deposition fluxes, which can be obtained by  
 91 different empirical formulas (Fagherazzi and Sun 2003, Cao et al. 2004, El Kadi Abederrezak and Paquier  
 92 2011, Li and Duffy 2011, Cao et al. 2012). Herein, the following expression for E and D are selected (Li  
 93 and Duffy 2011):

$$94 \quad E = \alpha(\theta - \theta_c)h|u| \text{ and } D = \beta\Psi\omega \quad (7)$$

95 Where,  $\alpha$  = given calibration constant,  $\theta_c$  = critical shields factor for starting of sediment particles  
 96 movement, and  $\theta$  is evaluated as  $\theta = u_*^2/gsd$  where  $u_* = \sqrt{C_f u^2}$  = friction velocity,  $d$  = sediment  
 97 particle diameter and  $s = \rho_s/\rho_w - 1$  is the submerged specific gravity;  $\beta = \min[2, (1 - p)/\Psi]$ ,  $\omega =$   
 98 velocity of the sediment particles, which is given by  $\omega = \sqrt{(13.95\nu/d)^2 + 1.09gsd} - 13.95\nu/d$  with  $\nu$   
 99 = kinematic viscosity of water.

100

## 101 **Discontinuous Galerkin method**

102 The conceptual underpinning of local DG method for solving the hyperbolic conservation laws is mainly  
 103 attributed to Cockburn and Shu (2001). Here, the technical focus is mainly devoted to the extension of a  
 104 valid RKDG2 scheme solving the SWE to further solve the hydro-morphodynamic system (1).

105

### 106 **RKDG2 formulation**

107 A 1D computational domain  $[x_{\min}, x_{\max}]$  is subdivided into N uniform cells  $I_i = [x_{i-1/2}, x_{i+1/2}]$ , each centred  
 108 at  $x_i = (x_{i+1/2} + x_{i-1/2})/2$  of length  $\Delta x = x_{i+1/2} - x_{i-1/2}$ . The RKDG2 framework seeks a local linear approximate  
 109 solution  $\mathbf{U}_h$  that is spanned by two local coefficients  $\mathbf{U}_i^0(t)$  and  $\mathbf{U}_i^1(t)$  and can be expanded as:

$$110 \quad \mathbf{U}_h(x, t)|_{I_i} = \mathbf{U}_i^0(t) + \mathbf{U}_i^1(t) \frac{(x-x_i)}{\Delta x/2} \quad (\forall x \in I_i) \quad (8)$$

111 The initial coefficients are polynomial projections to the initial condition  $\mathbf{U}_0(x) = \mathbf{U}(x, 0)$  and may be  
 112 written as (Kesserwani et al. 2010):

$$113 \quad \mathbf{U}_i^0(0) = \int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} \mathbf{U}_0(x) dx \approx \frac{1}{2} [\mathbf{U}_0(x_{i+1/2}) + \mathbf{U}_0(x_{i-1/2})] \quad (9)$$

$$114 \quad \mathbf{U}_i^1(0) = \int_{x_{i-1/2}}^{x_{i+1/2}} \mathbf{U}_0(x) \left( \frac{x-x_i}{\Delta x} \right) dx \approx \frac{1}{2} [\mathbf{U}_0(x_{i+1/2}) - \mathbf{U}_0(x_{i-1/2})] \quad (10)$$

115 The semi-discrete DG transformation to the conservative form (1) produces two sets of independent  
 116 ODEs for the spatial update of the local coefficients

$$117 \quad \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{U}_i^0(t) & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{U}_i^1(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{L}_i^0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{L}_i^1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

118  $\mathbf{L}_i^0$  and  $\mathbf{L}_i^1$  are local space operators obtained by the DG discretization (Kesserwani and Liang 2011):

$$119 \quad \mathbf{L}_i^0 = -\frac{1}{\Delta x} [\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i+1/2} - \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i-1/2}] + \mathbf{S}_{|I_i}(\mathbf{U}_i^0) \quad (12)$$

$$120 \quad \mathbf{L}_i^1 = -\frac{3}{\Delta x} \left\{ \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i+1/2} + \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i-1/2} - \mathbf{F}_{|I_i} \left( \mathbf{U}_i^0 + \frac{\hat{\mathbf{U}}_i^1}{\sqrt{3}} \right) - \mathbf{F}_{|I_i} \left( \mathbf{U}_i^0 - \frac{\hat{\mathbf{U}}_i^1}{\sqrt{3}} \right) - \frac{\sqrt{3}\Delta x}{6} \left[ \mathbf{S}_{|I_i} \left( \mathbf{U}_i^0 + \frac{\hat{\mathbf{U}}_i^1}{\sqrt{3}} \right) - \mathbf{S}_{|I_i} \left( \mathbf{U}_i^0 - \frac{\hat{\mathbf{U}}_i^1}{\sqrt{3}} \right) \right] \right\} \quad (13)$$

121  $\mathbf{S}$  contains all the source terms in (4) excluding  $\mathbf{S}_f$ . The ‘‘hat’’ symbol over a slope coefficient refers to the  
 122 controlled slope coefficient due to the local slope-limiting process. The inter-cells fluxes, e.g.  $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i+1/2}$  at  
 123 interface  $x_{i+1/2}$  shared by neighbouring cells  $I_i$  and  $I_{i+1}$ , are obtained by solving the local Riemann problem,  
 124 defined by the solution’s at interface  $x_{i+1/2}$ :

$$125 \quad \mathbf{U}_{i+1/2}^- = \mathbf{U}_h(x_{i+1/2}^-, t) \Big|_{I_i} = \mathbf{U}_i^0 + \hat{\mathbf{U}}_i^1 \quad (14)$$

$$126 \quad \mathbf{U}_{i+1/2}^+ = \mathbf{U}_h(x_{i+1/2}^+, t) \Big|_{I_{i+1}} = \mathbf{U}_{i+1}^0 - \hat{\mathbf{U}}_{i+1}^1 \quad (15)$$

127 The numerical flux  $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i+1/2} = \tilde{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{U}_{i+1/2}^-, \mathbf{U}_{i+1/2}^+)$  is evaluated based on the HLL Riemann solver (Toro et  
 128 al. 1994). Finally, the two local coefficients are lifted to the next time level via the two-stage explicit RK  
 129 time method:

$$130 \quad (\mathbf{U}_i^{0,1})^{n+1/2} = (\mathbf{U}_i^{0,1})^n + \Delta t (\mathbf{L}_i^{0,1})^n \quad (16)$$

$$131 \quad (\mathbf{U}_i^{0,1})^{n+1} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ (\mathbf{U}_i^{0,1})^n + (\mathbf{U}_i^{0,1})^{n+1/2} + \Delta t (\mathbf{L}_i^{0,1})^{n+1/2} \right] \quad (17)$$

132 Theoretically, the RKDG2 time step is restricted by the Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy (CFL) condition, with a  
 133 Courant number smaller than 0.333 (Cockburn and Shu 2001). However our convergence study,  
 134 considering both aspects of mesh-size and slope-limiting, shows that the RKDG2 morphodynamic  
 135 numerical model requires a more restrictive time step – Courant number equal to 0.1 – to avoid numerical

136 instability that may occur in resolution of the mobile topography. This restriction has also been reported  
 137 for finite volume hydro-morphodynamic models (Li and Duffy 2011, Benkhaldoun et al. 2012).

138

139 **Discretization of the source terms**

140• Friction source term ( $\mathbf{S}_f$ ): to avoid possible numerical instability near dry zones with high roughness, the  
 141 friction source term is commonly discretised by a splitting implicit approach prior to time stage and step,  
 142 i.e. not included explicitly within the space operators  $\mathbf{L}_i^0$  and  $\mathbf{L}_i^1$ ; see Kesserwani and Liang 2012a for  
 143 technical details.

144• Sediment exchange source term ( $\mathbf{S}_e$ ): is discretized explicitly and via direct local calculation of E and D  
 145 evaluated using the local coefficients relative to the approximate variables  $h_h$ ,  $(hu)_h$ ,  $\Psi_h$  and Eq. (7).

146• Sediment concentration variations source term ( $\mathbf{S}_c$ ): is discretized explicitly but requires specific  
 147 mathematical and numerical treatment to cope with the gradient of the sediment concentration. That is,  
 148 the second term of the vector  $\mathbf{S}_c$  is first rewritten as:

$$149 \quad -\frac{(\rho_s - \rho_w)gh^2}{2\rho} \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} = -\frac{(\rho_s - \rho_w)g}{2\rho} h^2 \left( \frac{\partial \left( \frac{h\Psi}{h} \right)}{\partial x} \right) = -\frac{(\rho_s - \rho_w)g}{2\rho} \left[ h \frac{\partial (h\Psi)}{\partial x} - h\Psi \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \right] \quad (18)$$

150 and is then locally discretized as:

$$151 \quad \left[ -\frac{(\rho_s - \rho_w)gh^2}{2\rho} \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} \right]_{I_i} \approx -\frac{(\rho_s - \rho_w)g}{2\rho} \left[ h_h \frac{\partial (h\Psi)_h}{\partial x} - (h\Psi)_h \frac{\partial h_h}{\partial x} \right] \quad (19)$$

152 With

$$153 \quad \left[ \frac{\partial (h\Psi)_h}{\partial x} \right]_{I_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ (h\Psi)_i^0 + \left( \frac{x-x_i}{\Delta x/2} \right) (h\Psi)_i^1 \right] = \frac{(h\Psi)_i^1}{\Delta x/2} \quad (20)$$

$$154 \quad \left[ \frac{\partial h_h}{\partial x} \right]_{I_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ h_i^0 + \left( \frac{x-x_i}{\Delta x/2} \right) h_i^1 \right] = \frac{h_i^1}{\Delta x/2} \quad (21)$$

155• Topography source term ( $\mathbf{S}_0$ ): is locally discretized in a well-balanced manner (Kesserwani et al. 2010)  
 156 by:

$$157 \quad z_h(x, t)|_{I_i} = z_i^0(t) + z_i^1(t) \frac{(x-x_i)}{\Delta x/2} \quad (\forall x \in I_i) \quad (22)$$



158 With  $z_i^0(t)$  and  $z_i^1(t)$  are topography-associated coefficients, which may be initially produced following  
 159 similar (scalar) relationships as in (9) and (10). With this, the bed slope term,  $s_0$ , is locally discretized as:

$$160 \quad [s_0]_{I_i} = \left[ -\frac{\partial z_h(x,t)}{\partial x} \right]_{I_i} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ z_i^0(t) + \left( \frac{x-x_i}{\Delta x/2} \right) z_i^1(t) \right] = -\frac{z_i^1(t)}{\Delta x/2} \quad (23)$$

161

## 162 **Wetting and drying condition**

163 Prior to evaluation the operators  $\mathbf{L}_i^0$  and  $\mathbf{L}_i^1$ , the local coefficients,  $\mathbf{U}_i^0(t)$  and  $\mathbf{U}_i^1(t)$ , are revisited to ensure  
 164 the positivity of the water depth in the calculation of the inter-cells fluxes, the local fluxes and the source  
 165 terms. The action of the wetting and drying for the current hydro-morphodynamic model is summarized  
 166 in steps below:

167 1. Reconstruct the free-surface elevation,  $\eta = h + z$ , limits at interface  $x_{i+1/2}$  using relationships (14) and

$$168 \quad (15): \eta_{i+1/2}^- = (h_i^0 + z_i^0) + (h_i^1 + z_i^1) \text{ and } \eta_{i+1/2}^+ = (h_{i+1}^0 + z_{i+1}^0) - (h_{i+1}^1 + z_{i+1}^1).$$

169 2. Evaluate the limits of the discharge components in  $\mathbf{U}_h$  at interface  $x_{i+1/2}$ :  $(hu)_{i+1/2}^- = (hu)_i^0 + (\widehat{hu})_i^1$ ,

$$170 \quad (h\Psi)_{i+1/2}^- = (h\Psi)_i^0 + (\widehat{h\Psi})_i^1, (hu)_{i+1/2}^+ = (hu)_{i+1}^0 - (\widehat{hu})_{i+1}^1, (h\Psi)_{i+1/2}^+ = (h\Psi)_{i+1}^0 - (\widehat{h\Psi})_{i+1}^1.$$

171 3. Evaluate the limits of the topography  $z$  at interface  $x_{i+1/2}$ :  $z_{i+1/2}^- = z_i^0 + z_i^1$ ,  $z_{i+1/2}^+ = z_{i+1}^0 - z_{i+1}^1$ ;

172 accordingly estimate the limits of  $\Phi$  using Eq. (3):  $\Phi_{i+1/2}^K = (1-p)z_{i+1/2}^K + (h\Psi)_{i+1/2}^K$ , ( $K = +, -$ ).

173 4. Calculate the limits of the velocity and sediment concentration variables at interface  $x_{i+1/2}$ :  $u_{i+1/2}^K =$

$$174 \quad (hu)_{i+1/2}^K / h_{i+1/2}^K \text{ and } \Psi_{i+1/2}^K = (h\Psi)_{i+1/2}^K / h_{i+1/2}^K \text{ with } h_{i+1/2}^K = \eta_{i+1/2}^K - z_{i+1/2}^K \text{ (} K = +, - \text{)}.$$

175 5. Now apply the topography discretization, at interface  $x_{i+1/2}$ , along with wetting and drying:

176 a. Re-define numerically the topography limits:  $z_{i+1/2}^{K,*} = \eta_{i+1/2}^K - h_{i+1/2}^K$  ( $K = +, -$ ).

177 b. Set a single  $z$ -value  $z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*}$  defined by the maximum:  $z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*} = \max(z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*}, z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*})$ .

178 c. Preserve the positivity of the water depth:  $h_{i+1/2}^{K,*} = \max(0, \eta_{i+1/2}^K - z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*})$  ( $K = +, -$ ).

179 d. Find the flow and sediment discharges incorporating the original velocities and sediment

180 concentration, i.e.  $(hu)_{i+1/2}^{K,*} = h_{i+1/2}^{K,*} u_{i+1/2}^K$  and  $(h\Psi)_{i+1/2}^{K,*} = h_{i+1/2}^{K,*} \Psi_{i+1/2}^K$ , and the free-

181 surface elevation, i.e.  $\eta_{i+1/2}^{K,*} = h_{i+1/2}^{K,*} + z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*}$ , associated with the positivity-preserving  
 182 water depth and the single value of the topography.

183 e. Ensure that step 5-c does not cancel the actual water level at a wet/dry front (Liang 2010):

184 i. Calculate  $\Delta\eta_{i+1/2} = \max[0, -(\eta_{i+1/2}^- - z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*})]$  (during step 5-c).

185 ii. Adjust  $\eta_{i+1/2}^{K,*} \leftarrow \eta_{i+1/2}^{K,*} - \Delta\eta_{i+1/2}$  and  $z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*} \leftarrow z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*} - \Delta\eta_{i+1/2}$  ( $K = +, -$ ).

186 6. Calculate the flux  $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i+1/2}$  at interface  $x_{i+1/2}$  using  $\mathbf{U}_{i+1/2}^K$  incorporating the depth-positivity-variables

187  $h_{i+1/2}^{K,*} = \eta_{i+1/2}^{K,*} - z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*}$ ,  $h_{i+1/2}^{K,*} u_{i+1/2}^K$  and  $h_{i+1/2}^{K,*} \Psi_{i+1/2}^K$  ( $K = +, -$ ).

188 7. Repeat steps 1-6 to evaluate the flux  $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{i-1/2}$  at interface  $x_{i-1/2}$ .

189 8. Redefine the local coefficients of the main variables to comply with the action of wetting and drying,

190 i.e.  $\bar{z}_i^0 = (z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*} + z_{i-1/2}^{\pm,*})/2$ ,  $\bar{z}_i^1 = (z_{i+1/2}^{\pm,*} - z_{i-1/2}^{\pm,*})/2$ ;  $\bar{h}_i^{0,1} = \bar{\eta}_i^{0,1} - \bar{z}_i^{0,1}$  with  $\bar{\eta}_i^0 = (\eta_{i+1/2}^- +$

191  $\eta_{i-1/2}^+)/2$  and  $\bar{\eta}_i^1 = (\eta_{i+1/2}^- - \eta_{i-1/2}^+)/2$ ;  $(\bar{hu})_i^0 = [(hu)_{i+1/2}^- + (hu)_{i-1/2}^+]/2$  and  $(\bar{hu})_i^1 =$

192  $[(hu)_{i+1/2}^- - (hu)_{i-1/2}^+]/2$ ;  $(\bar{h\Psi})_i^0 = [(h\Psi)_{i+1/2}^- + (h\Psi)_{i-1/2}^+]/2$  and  $(\bar{h\Psi})_i^1 = [(h\Psi)_{i+1/2}^- -$

193  $(h\Psi)_{i-1/2}^+]/2$ ; then use them to evaluate the local fluxes and source terms within the local space

194 operators (12) and (13).

195

## 196 Local slopes control

197 To avoid spurious oscillations that would probably occur around discontinuous local solutions, the TVD

198 minmod limiter is applied to control the variation of the local slope coefficient  $\mathbf{U}_i^1$  (Toro 2001). Within

199 DG methods, the slope limiter needs to be localized to those troubled-slope components. Herein, the same

200 local slope-limiting strategy used within the RKDG2 hydrodynamic model has been applied to the

201 variables of the morphodynamic model, namely in a component-wise manner and after normalization.

202 Slope-limiting is deactivated around cells involving a wet/dry front to avoid unnecessary instabilities

203 (Kesserwani and Liang 2012b). After the slope monitoring process, a local slope coefficient is denoted by

204  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}_i^1$  regardless of whether it has been limited or not.

205

## 206 **Transient topography update**

207 While completing wetting and drying along with source terms discretization, the local topography-  
208 associated coefficients are extracted explicitly after each time step and inner time stage:

- 209 • At  $t = n$ , coefficients  $(z_i^0)^n$  and  $(z_i^1)^n$  are either initially available, i.e. when  $n = 0$ , or reset, i.e.

210  $(z_h|_{I_i})^n = (z_h|_{I_i})^{n+1}$ . These coefficients are used in the topography discretization with wetting and

211 drying to calculate the space operators  $(\mathbf{L}_i^{0,1})^n$ , and thereby move the local solution to the intermediate

212 stage  $n + 1/2$ , via Eq. (16).

- 213 • At  $t = n + 1/2$ ,  $(\mathbf{L}_i^{0,1})^{n+1/2}$  is evaluated using new topography coefficients, i.e.  $(z_i^0)^{n+1/2}$  and

214  $(z_i^1)^{n+1/2}$ , which are obtained from the intermediate solution variables by means of Eq. (3):

215 
$$(z_h|_{I_i})^{n+1/2} = \left[ \frac{\Phi_{h|_{I_i} - (h\Psi)_{h|_{I_i}}}{1-p}} \right]^{n+1/2} \quad (24)$$

- 216 • After the second RK stage, the two coefficients spanning  $z_h(x,t)$  are updated again, using Eq. (3),

217 according to the solution's variables at the next time level  $t = n + 1$ :

218 
$$(z_h|_{I_i})^{n+1} = \left[ \frac{\Phi_{h|_{I_i} - (h\Psi)_{h|_{I_i}}}{1-p}} \right]^{n+1} \quad (25)$$

219

## 220 **Model testing**

221 The RKDG2 scheme solving the hydrodynamic equations with fixed beds has been well tested for

222 benchmark tests involving irregular topographies, high friction effects, water jumps and wetting and

223 drying (Kesserwani and Liang 2010, 2011, 2012a,b). The purpose here is to retest these abilities for the

224 new RKDG2 hydro-morphodynamic solver, and, meanwhile, illustrate its performance in modelling dam-

225 break waves over erodible beds with sediment transport. The present model is validated for two small-

226 scale experimental tests characterized by an initially flat sediment beds.

227 The current RKDG2 model is applied to reproduce the dam-break experiments carried out in  
 228 Taipei and Louvain (Capart and Young 1998, Fraccarollo and Capart 2002), respectively. Both  
 229 experiments were conducted in horizontal prismatic flumes of rectangular cross-sections, but primarily  
 230 differ in the sediment materials used. The flume in the Taipei experiment was 1.2 m long, 0.2 m wide and  
 231 0.7 m high. It was initially covered by a 5-6 cm thick layer of light artificial pearls, of a diameter of 6.1  
 232 mm, specific gravity of 1.048 and settling velocity of 0.076 m/s. In the Louvain experiment, the flume  
 233 was 2.5 m long, 0.1 m wide and 0.35 m high. Cylindrical PVC pellets having a diameter of 3.2 mm,  
 234 height of 2.8 mm (an equivalent spherical diameter of 3.5 mm), specific gravity of 1.54, and settling  
 235 velocity of 0.18 m/s constituted an initial sediment layer of 5-6 cm thick over the fixed bottom. In both  
 236 experiments, a dam was located in the middle of the flume separating an upstream static flow region of 10  
 237 cm deep from the dry downstream part. At  $t = 0$  s, the dam was lifted rapidly to create the dam-break flow  
 238 over the flat beds. In both of the tests, the flow ( $hu$ ) and sediment discharges ( $h\Psi$ ), and the bed evolution  
 239 parameter ( $\Phi$ ) are initialized to zero, while the water level is assumed to be initially discontinuous:

$$240 \quad h(x, 0) = \begin{cases} 0.1 & (x < 0) \\ 0 & (x \geq 0) \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

241 The bed porosity is set to 0.28 and 0.3 for the Taipei test and the Louvain test, respectively, while a  
 242 Manning roughness  $n_m = 0.025 \text{ s/m}^{1/3}$  and a water density of  $\rho_w = 1 \text{ g/cm}^3$  are used for both (Li and  
 243 Duffy 2011). According to the critical shields curve, in Cao et al. (2006), the parameter  $\theta_c$  is estimated to  
 244 be (roughly) less than 0.076 for grained sediments with a diameter range between 3.5 mm and 6.1 mm.  
 245 However, past literature point out the use of higher values for  $\theta_c$  for these tests. For example, Li and  
 246 Duffy (2011) and Li et al. (2013) directly used a higher  $\theta_c$  (= 0.15 for the Louvain case) obtained by  
 247 calibration, whereas Wu and Wang (2007) introduced a correction factor, that (indirectly) amends  $\theta_c$ . In  
 248 this work, parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\theta_c$  were calibrated; two sets of parameters  $\{\alpha, \theta_c\}$  are selected and explored  
 249 for each test, which are  $\{2.5, 0.05\}$  and  $\{2.2, 0.12\}$  for the Taipei test, and  $\{4, 0.05\}$  and  $\{2.5, 0.05\}$  for  
 250 the Louvain test. Pseudo-analytical free-surface and bed elevations maybe derived based on a number of  
 251 assumptions (Fraccarollo and Capart 2002). The domains were divided into 100 cells and the simulation

252 time is 0.6 s and 1.2 s for the Taipei and the Louvain tests, respectively, which were non-dimensionalized  
253 according to  $t_0 = \sqrt{g/h_0} \approx 0.101$  ( $h_0 = 0.1$ ). Transmissive boundary conditions are configured during  
254 the simulations, for completeness, although the flow does not reach boundaries. Fig. 1 compares the  
255 predicted free-surface and bed evolutions, at three successive output times, with the pseudo-analytical  
256 profiles and the measurements for the Taipei (Fig. 1 - left panel) and Louvain (Fig. 1 - right panel) tests.

257 For the Taipei test, the numerical model is seen to underestimate the erosion upstream of the  
258 scour hole which is, however, overestimated by the pseudo-analytical bed solution, as compared to the  
259 measurement. The hydraulic jump, aligned with the bed erosion, is successfully predicted by the RKDG2  
260 model. Despite being a bit faster than the experimental jump profile, the RKDG2 model's localization to  
261 the jump matches the results of alternative finite volume models published in literature (Wu and Wang  
262 2007, Li and Duffy 2011, Li et al. 2013). The disagreements amongst the pseudo-analytical, numerical  
263 and experimental profiles are expected and their causes have been reported previously (Capart and Young  
264 1998; Fraccarollo and Capart 2002, Li and Duffy 2011, Li et al. 2013). Relating to the sediment  
265 parameters  $\{\alpha, \theta_c\}$ , as reflects Fig. 1 (left panel) the choice  $\{2.5, 0.05\}$ , incorporating  $\theta_c < 0.076$ ,  
266 appears to be more appropriate for this test.

267 For the Louvain test, the depth and bed profiles simulated by the RKDG2 model are displayed at  
268 the right panel in Fig. 1 revealing a more satisfactory agreement between the computed, pseudo-analytical  
269 and measured results than for the Taipei test. In this test, at  $t = 10t_0$ , the RKDG2 model provides a better  
270 prediction to the hydraulic jump relating to the measurements, and is able to locate well the position of  
271 the wave front and the erosion magnitude albeit showing a clear underestimation to the latter for the  
272 choice  $\{2.5, 0.05\}$  to the initial sediment parameters. In contrast, the RKDG2 predictions relative to the  
273 choice  $\{4.0, 0.05\}$  appear to capture both the analytical and experimental erosion extent with greater  
274 qualitative-accuracy; thus the second choice seems to be more appropriate for the Louvain test.  
275 Expectedly, the analytical solution excludes the hydraulic jump and tends to excessively overestimates the  
276 wave front at  $t = 10t_0$  (Wu and Wang 2007, Li and Duffy 2011, Li et al. 2013).

277 Fig. 2 illustrates the sediment concentration profiles reproduced by the numerical model at  
278 different output times for the Taipei (left panel) and Louvain (right panel) tests, respective to the sediment  
279 parameters  $\{2.5, 0.05\}$  and  $\{4.0, 0.05\}$ . From these qualitative results, it appears that the present RKDG2  
280 model is capable to represent high sediment concentrations with no sign of instability around steep  
281 sediment gradient under relatively strong (initial) erosive conditions. The RKDG2 sediment predictions  
282 relative to the other selected choices of parameters  $\{\alpha, \theta_c\}$  are quite similar to the predictions available in  
283 Fig. 2 and are, therefore, not illustrated further. The present RKDG2 predictions to the sediment  
284 concentration profiles match closely those predicted by alternative finite volume formulations reported in  
285 literature (Wu and Wang 2007, Li and Duffy 2011, Li et al. 2013) demonstrating the capability of the  
286 extended RKDG2 numerical model to deliver highly accurate and stable prediction to sediment  
287 concentration peaks along with the occurrence of wet/dry front, bed erosion and shock development.

288

## 289 **Conclusions**

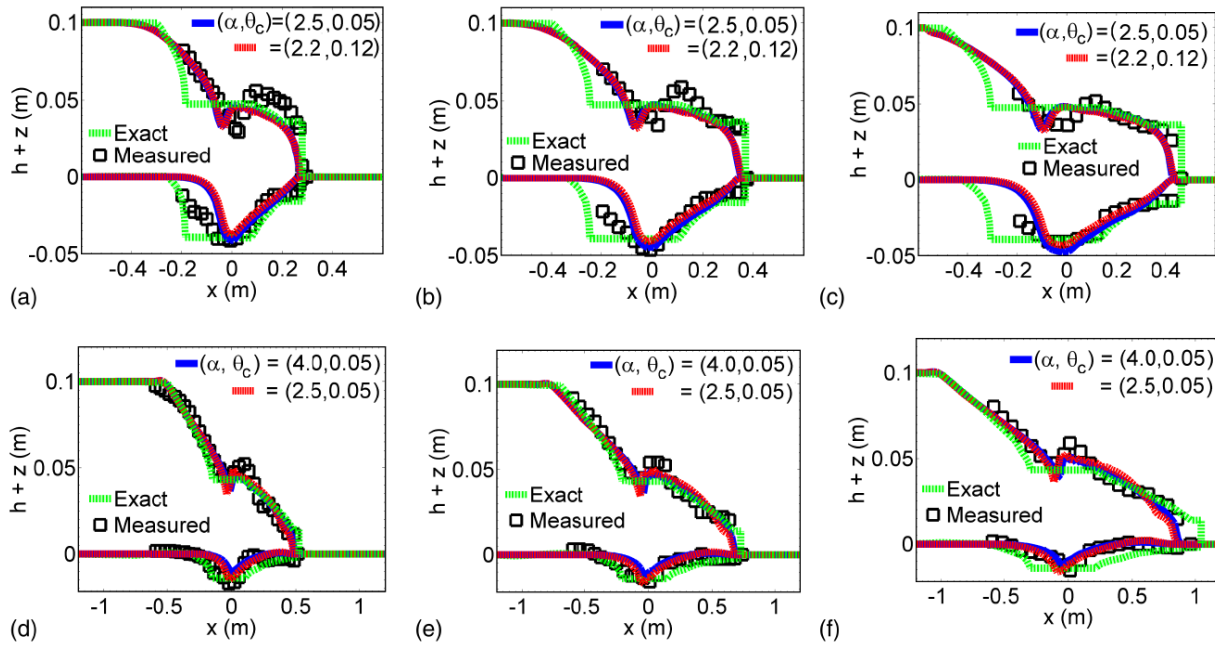
290 This work addressed 1D modelling of dam-break flow over movable sediment beds particular to the  
291 framework of a second-order Runge-Kutta Discontinuous Galerkin method (RKDG2). The RKDG2  
292 method was reformulated to solve the fully-coupled set of hydro-morphodynamic equations and including  
293 the interaction between sediment concentration and bed change on the flow. The extended RKDG2 model  
294 was reinforced with all necessary technical ingredients for handling steep solution gradients, wetting and  
295 drying, and complex source terms. The new RKDG2 morphodynamic formulation was applied to  
296 replicate experimental water-surface and bed-evolution data corresponding to two dam-break scenarios in  
297 which the wave breaks over an initially flat and dry sediment bed.

298 Numerical evidences demonstrate that the RKDG2 fully-coupled morphodynamic model is able  
299 to concurrently predict the changes occurring in the water flow, the bed-evolution and the concentration  
300 of suspended sediments with reasonable precision comparing to either the available experiments and/or  
301 alternative simulation published in literature. Our testing suggest that the present RKDG2

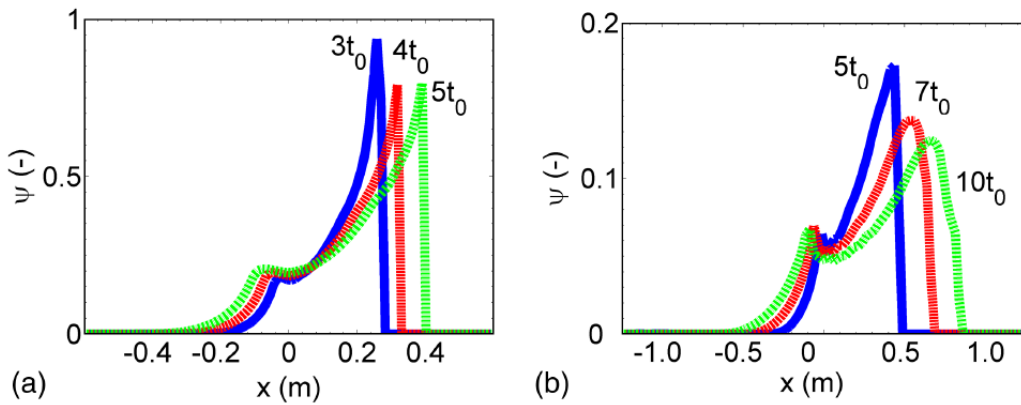
302 morphodynamic formulation is valid for simulation of complex shallow flow processes including water  
303 jumps, wetting and drying, irregular bed evolution and suspension of sediments. Nevertheless, its  
304 applicability seems to be highly dependent on appropriate selection and/or calibration to the sediment  
305 parameters for a specific configuration. Two-dimensional extension to the RKDG2 morphodynamic  
306 model is feasible and this work constitutes the gateway for it.

307

308 **List of figure legends**



309  
 310 **Fig. 1** water and bed surface RKDG2 predictions compared with the experimental and pseudo-analytical  
 311 solutions at three successive output times. Left panel: Taipei test results at time  $3t_0$ ,  $4t_0$  and  $5t_0$   
 312 (respectively from top to end); Right panel: Louvain test results at time  $5t_0$ ,  $7t_0$  and  $10t_0$  (respectively  
 313 from top to end).



314  
 315 **Fig. 2** sediment concentration predicted by the RKDG2 model for the Taipei (left panel) and Louvain  
 316 (right panel) tests.

317



318 **Notations**

- $\mathbf{S}$  =source terms
- $\mathbf{S}_0$  =Topography source term vector
- $\mathbf{S}_c$  = sediment concentration variation source term vector
- $\mathbf{S}_e$  = sediment exchange source term vector
- $\mathbf{S}_f$  =friction source term vector
- $\mathbf{F}$  =flux
- $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}$  =numerical flux
- $\mathbf{U}$  =conserved variables
- $\mathbf{U}_h$  =local approximate solution for  $\mathbf{U}$
- $\hat{\mathbf{U}}^1$  =limited slope-coefficient for  $\mathbf{U}^1$
- $\mathbf{U}_i^{0,1}$  =coefficients defining a local linear solution
- $\mathbf{U}^\pm = \mathbf{U}_h$  at left and right hand of interface
- $\mathbf{L}^{0,1}$  = Local space operator
- $C_f$  =friction coefficient
- $d$  =sediment particle diameter
- $D$  =sediment deposition flux
- $E$  =sediment entertainment flux
- $g$  =gravitational acceleration
- $h$  =water depth
- $i$  =Cell counter
- $I$  =Local cell
- $\mathbf{L}^{0,1}$  = Local space operator
- $m$  =exponent in sediment deposition
- $n$  =time level
- $n_m$  =Manning coefficient
- $p$  =bed sediment porosity
- $s$  =submerged specific gravity of sediment
- $s_0$  =bed slope
- $C_f$  =friction coefficient
- $t$  =time
- $t_0$  = Normalized time period
- $u$  =flow velocity
- $u_*$  =frictional velocity
- $x$  =space coordinate
- $z$  =bed elevation
- $z_i^{0,1}$  =local topography coefficients
- $\Delta x$  =computational cell length in x-direction
- $\Delta t$  =computational time step
- $\alpha$  =calibration constant
- $\eta$  =free-surface elevation
- $\theta$  =shields factor
- $\theta_c$  =critical shields factor
- $\nu$  =kinematic viscosity of water
- $\rho$  =water-sediment mixture density
- $\rho_s$  =sediment density
- $\rho_w$  =water density
- $\rho_z$  =saturated bed density
- $\Phi$  =bed evolution parameter
- $\Psi$  =volumetric sediment concentration
- $\omega$  =setting velocity of sediment particles

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