

Prediction of logjam upstream backwater rise

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How do jams generate an upstream backwater?

Region of slower, deepened water formed by water flowing through jam
Relate jam structure to backwater rise
Enables model representation, cross-catchment comparison

Common designs channel-spanning jam (L), jam with lower gap (R)

Photo credit (R): Mr Geoff Smith/Shipston Area Flood Action Group

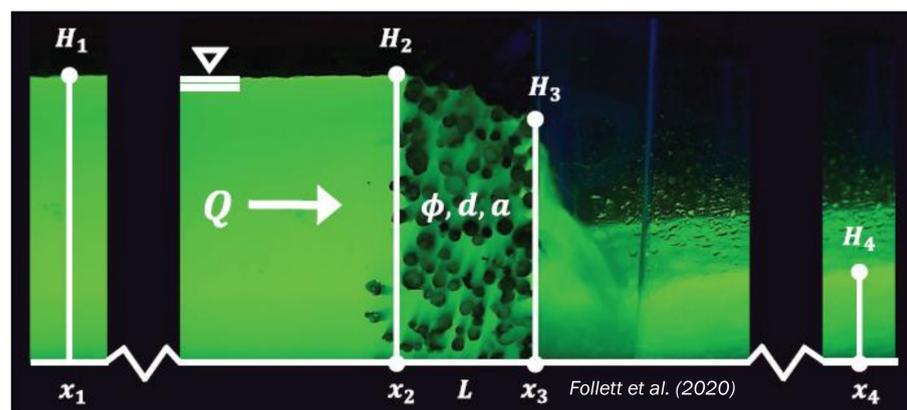


In-jam momentum loss represented by canopy model

584 flume experiments varied jam and flow conditions
Canopy drag model explained observed in-jam water surface profile

$$H_2^2 - H_3^2 - \frac{C_A}{(1-\phi)^3} \frac{L C_D a}{g H_3} q^2 = 0$$

Dimensionless jam accumulation factor C_A with jam length L , drag coefficient $C_D \approx 1$, frontal area per jam volume a and solid volume fraction ϕ



Predict upstream depth from flow, jam structure

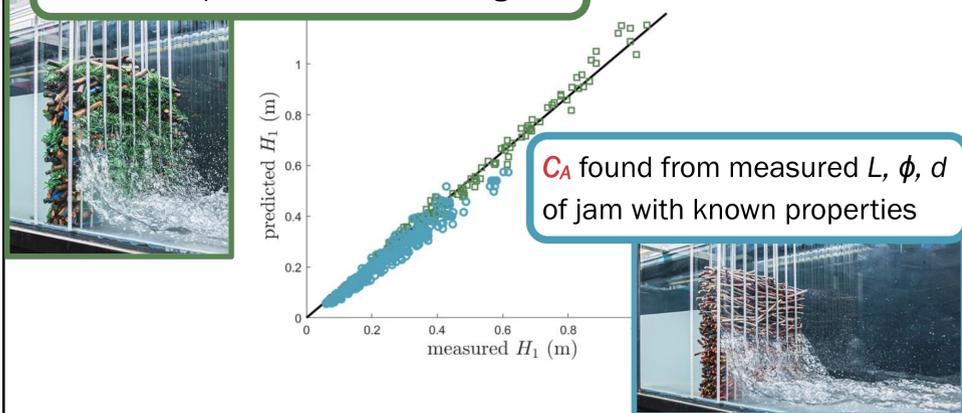
Water rises to minimum possible upstream depth, reducing in-jam losses and generating fall at downstream end of jam

$$q = \left[\frac{2gH_1^3}{3\sqrt{3}C_A} \right]^{1/2}$$

Backwater stores energy to compensate for in-jam losses, returning water to unobstructed depth far downstream of jam

For preexisting complex jams with fine material, C_A may be identified from flow measurements

Effective C_A for preexisting, complex jam found from q , H_1 , H_4 at low discharge



C_A found from measured L , ϕ , d of jam with known properties

Jams with a lower gap: flow redistribution & upstream depth

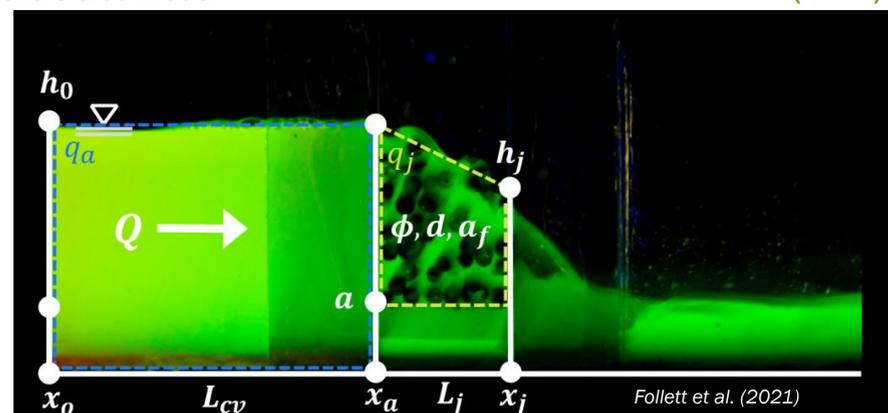
Two-box model constrained by in-jam drag, momentum loss in lower gap, and net pressure force

Validated by bulk velocity measurements and video analysis of spatial average velocity through gap

$$q = \left[\frac{C_{p0}}{\left(1 + C_b \frac{a}{h_0}\right)} g a^2 h_0 \right]^{1/2} + \left[\frac{2g(h_0 - a)^3}{3\sqrt{3}C_A} \right]^{1/2}$$

q_a
discharge through gap
solid sluice model

q_j
discharge through jam
Follett et al. (2020)



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References

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