SEMI AUTOMATED FLOOD SIMULATION TRIGGER: AN INTEGRATED SOLUTION FOR FLOODS

FINAL YEAR DESIGN PROJECT UG 2020

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The SDGs are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another.

This flood simulation project aligns with the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations:

Through the development of an advanced flood simulation system using HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS, this project fosters innovation and provides a resilient infrastructure to predict and manage flood risks, thereby supporting industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

By enabling precise flood risk assessment for the Kabul River Basin, this initiative assists in making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. It offers critical information for urban planning, particularly in areas vulnerable to flooding.

This project contributes directly to climate action by enhancing the ability to predict and respond to natural disasters linked to climate change, such as flooding. This increased preparedness helps mitigate the impacts of climate-related hazards.

The collaborative nature of the project, which incorporates open-source software, community engagement, and institutional partnerships, embodies the essence of Goal 17. By sharing knowledge and resources, the project exemplifies the global partnership for sustainable development.

Through these alignments, the flood simulation system not only serves the immediate needs of disaster management but also furthers the global agenda for a more sustainable and resilient future.

ABSTRACT

In recent years, the need for accurate and accessible flood simulation tools has become increasingly crucial, particularly in regions susceptible to frequent flooding. This project introduces a sophisticated flood simulation system designed specifically for the Kabul River Basin, leveraging advanced hydrological and hydraulic modeling software, HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS, respectively. The system automates the process of generating flood simulations through a user-friendly website developed with React for the frontend and Flask for the server backend. Users can request flood simulations for specific dates, and the system processes these requests by first executing HEC-HMS for hydrological modeling, followed by HEC-RAS for hydraulic simulations. This automation streamlines the creation of detailed flood simulations, providing valuable insights into flood dynamics and potential impacts in the study area. The primary objective of this study is to offer a cost-effective, efficient, and easily accessible tool for disaster management and planning authorities to enhance preparedness and response strategies for flood-prone areas. The successful deployment of this system could serve as a model for similar flood-prone regions globally, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to resilience, sustainable cities, and climate action.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, all praise be to Allah, for it is by His will and blessings that our endeavors are realized.

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To our families and loved ones, we owe an eternal debt of gratitude. Their unwavering faith, love, and sacrifice have been the bedrock of our strength and perseverance. This accomplishment is as much theirs as it is ours.

Lastly, we extend our appreciation to Mr. Naqash Taj, who has contributed to this project in numerous ways. Without their support and belief in our vision, this project would not have reached its fruition.

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to the unwavering support and profound wisdom of our parents, whose teachings have instilled in us the value of perseverance and integrity. It is through their example that we have learned to navigate the complexities of this journey—one step at a time.

We also dedicate this work to our esteemed project supervisor, whose mentorship has not only guided this research but also shaped our approach to scientific inquiry and dedication to service.

To all who have believed in us, advocated for our cause, and uplifted us with their prayers and encouragement, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. This achievement bears the imprint of each of your contributions, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

This thesis introduces an automated flood simulation system designed specifically for the Kabul River Basin, harnessing the latest advancements in hydrological and hydraulic modeling. The innovative aspect of this system lies in its ability to provide detailed and reliable flood simulations through a streamlined, user-centric web interface. This approach demystifies the complexities traditionally associated with flood modeling software and presents a solution that is both accessible and practical for decision-makers and stakeholders.

Flood simulation systems have historically been challenging to use due to the technical expertise required and the limited availability of real-time data. However, this system aims to bridge the gap by combining hydrological and hydraulic models into an integrated framework, automating data collection, model setup, and simulation execution. Through this system, stakeholders can access actionable flood risk information quickly, facilitating effective planning and disaster management. This thesis not only emphasizes the technical merits of the system but also the broader implications for disaster preparedness and risk mitigation.

The following chapters of this thesis will delve into the nuances of the system's design and functionality. **Chapter 2** provides a comprehensive review of the literature, outlining previous work in the field and identifying the gap that this project aims to fill. The chapter highlights the evolution of flood modeling technologies and the challenges that have historically hindered effective implementation. Furthermore, it explores the existing systems' limitations in terms of user accessibility and resource requirements.

Chapter 3 describes the materials and methods, detailing the software requirements, system architecture, and automation process. The chapter will elucidate the design principles and technological choices that guided the development of the system, explaining the rationale behind selecting tools like HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS for modeling purposes. It also includes a detailed discussion on the system architecture, highlighting how automation simplifies data acquisition, model setup, and simulation.

Chapter 4 focuses on the web design and implementation, detailing the technological stack, the user interface, and the data entry portal. This chapter explains how the integration of various web technologies, such as React and Flask, facilitates the user experience. It also describes the process of HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS processing within the web interface, providing a comprehensive overview of how users interact with the system and how the system processes and validates data to generate accurate flood simulations.

Chapter 5 explores the automation components of the system, discussing the overall system architecture, the choice of technologies, and the integration of these technologies with web-based platforms. This chapter highlights the communication between the frontend (React) and the backend (Flask) and elaborates on the automation processes for HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS. By detailing the design and functionality of the automation processes, this chapter demonstrates how the system minimizes manual intervention, ensuring efficient and reliable flood simulations.

Chapter 6 presents the results and analysis, showcasing the system's capabilities and potential impact through a case study of the Kabul River Basin. The chapter will provide detailed visualizations and analyses of the simulated flood scenarios, demonstrating the system's accuracy and efficiency. It will also discuss the system's performance in various flood event simulations and compare the results against historical data.

Finally, **Chapter 7** concludes the thesis with a summary of findings, recommendations, and directions for future research. This chapter will synthesize the implications of the study, emphasizing the potential of the system for broader applications in regions with similar challenges. It will also provide recommendations for improving the system and discuss potential areas for further development, such as enhancing real-time data integration and expanding the geographical applicability.

1.1.Background, Scope, and Motivation

Floods are among the most devastating natural disasters, affecting millions of people worldwide. The ability to accurately simulate flood events is vital for effective planning, disaster management, and mitigation efforts. The Kabul River Basin, a critical watershed in Pakistan, has been prone to recurrent flooding, significantly impacting the region's socio-economic development. Traditional flood risk assessment methods are often hampered by the lack of real-time data, insufficient computational resources, and accessibility issues. Recent advancements in computational hydrology offer new avenues to overcome these challenges, with tools like HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS providing sophisticated modeling capabilities.

However, integrating these tools into a user-friendly and accessible platform remains a pressing need for regions with limited resources. While hydrological and hydraulic modeling software has evolved to become more accurate and detailed, challenges remain in making these tools widely usable. The complexities of setting up and calibrating these models often require specialized expertise, which many local authorities and organizations lack. Additionally, the availability of real-time data is a significant barrier, further complicating flood risk assessments.

The development of this automated flood simulation system is driven by the need to simplify and streamline flood risk assessment processes, particularly for resource-constrained regions like the Kabul River Basin. By leveraging the strengths of advanced modeling software and automation, this system aims to empower decision-makers with accurate, real-time flood simulation data. The integration of a user-centric web interface ensures accessibility, enabling stakeholders to conduct simulations and analyze results with minimal technical expertise.

1.2.Problem Statement

Despite the existence of powerful hydrological and hydraulic modeling software, the process of setting up, executing, and analyzing flood simulations remains complex and technically demanding. Many regions with limited access to advanced computational resources and expertise find it difficult to leverage these tools for flood risk management. Furthermore, existing software often requires significant manual intervention for data acquisition, model calibration, and result analysis, which adds to the time and resource requirements.

Additionally, there is a lack of systems that can offer real-time, easy-to-use, and automated flood simulation services tailored to specific local conditions, such as those in the Kabul River Basin. This gap prevents local authorities and communities from effectively planning and responding to flood events. Without accurate and accessible flood risk information, disaster management efforts become reactive rather than proactive, leading to higher socio-economic impacts.

Therefore, this thesis aims to address these challenges by developing a system that:

- Automates Data Collection and Model Setup: Simplifies the data acquisition and model configuration process, reducing the need for specialized technical expertise.

- Provides a User-Centric Interface: Offers a web-based platform that demystifies flood modeling complexities, making simulations accessible to decision-makers and stakeholders.
- Integrates Real-Time Data: Incorporates real-time data where possible to enhance simulation accuracy and relevance.
- Delivers Tailored Solutions: Customizes simulations to reflect the unique geographical and hydrological characteristics of the Kabul River Basin.
- By achieving these objectives, this system will significantly improve flood simulation accuracy and accessibility, providing a valuable tool for disaster management and mitigation efforts in the Kabul River Basin and similar regions.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

Flood modeling and forecasting have gained significant attention due to the increasing impacts of climate change and urbanization on flood risks. The existing body of research provides valuable insights into developing automated and integrated systems that can enhance flood prediction and management. This chapter reviews relevant studies, highlights their contributions, and identifies research gaps for future exploration.

2.1. Web-Based Flood Simulation Systems

The study develops a web-based system that enhances the accessibility of flood simulation and forecasting using the Hydrologic Engineering Center's Hydrologic Modeling System (HEC-HMS). The system leverages Jython scripts for seamless interaction between the web interface and the HEC-HMS engine, supporting tasks like data manipulation and model execution. The modular system architecture comprises a graphical user interface (GUI), service subsystem, information subsystem, knowledge subsystem, and model subsystem, utilizing technologies like PHP, MySQL, DHTMLX, Leaflet, and Apache ECharts. Validation of the system was conducted using 12 historical flood events in the Chuanchang watershed in southeastern China, where the system showed high accuracy in peak flow prediction, flood volume, timing, and hydrograph shape, with an average Nash–Sutcliffe efficiency of 0.81. Despite its success, the study identifies significant challenges in integrating complex hydrological models into web environments due to the sophisticated nature of model input and operational requirements. This research provides a practical framework for implementing these models in a user-friendly, web-based format, which is relevant to projects focused on developing semi-automatic flood simulation triggers using HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS [1].

The research addresses the integration of the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) with the Hydraulic Engineering Center's River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) to create an automated system for real-time flood forecasting. The system utilizes real-time data from a network of weather stations and stream gauges, processed and visualized in a web-based environment. Console scripts automate the generation of input files, execution of models, and visualization of outcomes. The integrated system has been statistically validated over a 20-year period, showing strong correlations ($R^2 \approx 0.95$ and NSI ≈ 0.93) and effectively predicting flood magnitudes and timings in test cases from 2015 and 2016. The system's computational efficiency, capable of processing data in less than five minutes, underscores its suitability for real-time applications. However, the study highlights a gap in applying integrated hydrological and hydraulic models at a river basin scale, suggesting further research into improving real-time flood simulation capabilities [2].

2.2. Integration of HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS Models

The study "Rainfall-Runoff Simulation and Modeling Using HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS Models: Case Studies from Nepal and Sweden" utilizes HEC-HMS for hydrological modeling and HEC-RAS for hydraulic modeling to simulate rainfall-runoff processes and flood inundation in the Kävlinge River in Sweden and the Kankai River in Nepal. The integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for spatial data handling significantly enhances the models' accuracy and functionality. The findings illustrate the models' effectiveness in simulating flood discharges and mapping flood inundation, providing valuable tools for flood risk assessment. In the Kankai River basin, the models captured substantial flooding impacts due to its large catchment area and complex river dynamics. The paper also discusses operational challenges, particularly in Nepal, where limited hydro-meteorological data coverage impacts the effective use of flood models. This study offers insights into the integration of hydrological and hydraulic models with real-world calibration, essential for enhancing predictive accuracy and decision-making processes in flood management [3].

This employs HEC-HMS for hydrological modeling and HEC-RAS for hydraulic analysis, integrated with Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques, to assess flood risks along the Khazir River. The study's methodology involves comprehensive hydrological and hydraulic modeling to calculate water flow rates, simulate flood scenarios, and map flood risks across various return periods, utilizing the HEC-GeoRAS extension for detailed floodplain data analysis. The integration of these modeling tools with GIS has enabled effective simulation of flood conditions and accurate estimation of flood risks. The study provides crucial data on flood depths and the spatial distribution of high-risk zones, which are instrumental in flood risk management. Moreover, the predictive models used in the study demonstrate a strong correlation between flood depths and river discharge rates, offering a robust basis for assessing and managing flood risks. The study highlights the need for continued improvements in the integration of hydrological and hydraulic models with real-time data systems. It also points out the necessity for better localized data on soil types, land use, and topography to refine flood risk predictions further [4].

2.3. Floodplain Mapping with HEC-RAS and GIS

The review paper explores the integration of floodplain mapping techniques using HEC-HMS (Hydrologic Modeling System), HEC-RAS (Hydraulic Engineering Center-River Analysis System), and ArcGIS, complemented by remote sensing technologies. Covering a period from 2000 to 2021, the paper categorizes studies by methodologies like Flood Frequency Analysis, the use of Digital Elevation Models (DEMs), and the software tools employed in these analyses. The paper highlights significant advancements in flood risk assessment capabilities brought about by the integration of these sophisticated tools. Notably, the incorporation of HEC-RAS with ArcGIS has facilitated in-depth flood risk assessments, allowing for more accurate and detailed floodplain mapping. These technologies have proven effective in various studies, demonstrating marked improvements in flood modeling accuracy and the management of flood-related data. One of the key findings is the critical role that DEMs play in enhancing the precision of floodplain mapping. Accurate elevation data is essential for effective flood modeling and risk management, as it directly impacts the accuracy of flood simulations and the subsequent risk assessments. Despite the advances noted, the review also identifies significant gaps, particularly the need for advancements in real-time data integration into flood modeling practices. The paper advocates for more detailed and dynamic incorporation of climatic variables and real-time hydrological data to enhance the predictive capabilities and operational use of flood models [5].

It focuses on the integration of HEC-RAS for hydraulic modeling and ArcGIS for spatial analysis to conduct floodplain mapping of the Kabul River in Pakistan. The methodologies involve using digital elevation models (DEM) from shuttle radar topography missions and conventional flood frequency analysis to calculate extreme flows and develop detailed floodplain maps. The research highlights the successful development of floodplain maps that aid in flood mitigation strategies and planning. The validation of the HEC-RAS model with historical flood data shows high accuracy in flood simulations. The identification of high-risk flood areas informs urban planning and disaster preparedness efforts, crucial for managing flood risks in rapidly urbanizing regions. The study points to the ongoing need for updates to hydraulic models and topographic data to maintain prediction accuracy, considering climatic changes and urban development [6].

2.4. Applications of Remote Sensing in Flood Modeling

The study uses 2D unsteady flow modeling with HEC-RAS, integrated with GIS and remote sensing techniques, to assess the flood hazards resulting from a levee breach in the Indus River Basin. The methodologies include calibrating and validating the HEC-RAS model using observed and simulated water levels and comparing flood extents using MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) and other remote sensing data. The findings from this study indicate high accuracy in simulating the flood extents, with a detailed match for the maximum flood inundation area and a high measure of fit for the flood risk maps produced. These maps effectively identify uninhabitable zones during peak flow events, highlighting areas of critical concern for flood risk management. The study underscores the challenges in modeling flood inundation behind levees, suggesting that future research should focus on integrating higher resolution topographic data and improving remote sensing integration for more precise flood modeling [7].

This study utilizes the Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System (HEC–RAS) version 5, integrated with satellite imagery, to perform flood inundation modeling. The research focuses on the calibration and validation of HEC-RAS using flood data from significant flood events in 2010 and 2015, supplemented by satellite products such as Landsat and MODIS alongside vegetation indexes (NDWI, MNDWI1, MNDWI2) to assess flood extents. The integration of hydrodynamic modeling with satellite data enables the study to predict flood extents with significant accuracy, as validated against satellite-based observations. The optimized roughness coefficients within the model significantly improve accuracy, highlighting the model's potential in early flood warning systems, particularly in regions like the Indus River Basin. The findings demonstrate the effectiveness of using integrated models for predicting and managing flood extents, which is crucial for developing robust flood management strategies. The study suggests further improvements in flood modeling accuracy through the use of higher resolution topographic data and more sophisticated handling of spatial variability in model parameters [8].

2.5. Detection of Spatial Shift in Flood Regime

It employs an array of hydrological tools and analytical techniques to detect and analyze spatial and temporal shifts in the flood regime of the Kabul River Basin. By integrating flood indicators, trend analysis, change point analysis, and hydrological modeling, the research provides a detailed evaluation of changes attributed to varying precipitation patterns and land use alterations. Key methodologies include the comprehensive use of hydrological data, extreme precipitation indices, and land use change analysis to assess the impacts on flood dynamics. The findings reveal significant spatial and temporal shifts within the basin, with increased flood risks particularly noted in the southern parts, where urban expansion and increased rainfall correlate with heightened flood risks. The study emphasizes the importance of integrating climate change projections and urban planning into flood risk mitigation strategies. However, it also highlights the need for more detailed and localized studies to understand the micro-variations within the river basin and the specific impacts of land use changes on flood dynamics [9].

2.6. Case Study in Uganda

This study showcases the use of HEC-HMS for hydrological modeling and HEC-RAS for hydraulic modeling, integrated with GIS tools for spatial analysis and flood hazard mapping. The study involves delineating the catchment basin using HEC GeoHMS in the ArcGIS environment, setting up the meteorological model with design storm data, and performing hydraulic modeling to determine flood depths and generate flood hazard maps. The findings include the production of flood hazard maps identifying the most flood-prone areas and the successful modeling of design floods for various return periods. The integration of HEC-HMS/RAS with GIS proved effective for both modeling and visualizing the spatial extent of flood risks, enhancing the ability to plan and manage flood risks effectively. The study emphasizes the need for more comprehensive data collection to enhance the accuracy of flood models, a critical factor in improving flood risk assessment and planning [10].

2.7. Research Gap

While the existing literature provides valuable insights into flood modeling, forecasting, and simulation techniques, there are notable gaps that future research should address. The integration of hydrological and hydraulic models into web-based environments remains challenging due to the sophisticated nature of model input and operational requirements. There is also a need for improving real-time flood simulation capabilities at the river basin scale. Limited hydro-meteorological data coverage, especially in developing regions like Nepal and Uganda, hampers the effective use of flood models. Furthermore, integrating higher resolution topographic data, remote sensing technologies, and real-time data systems into these models is essential for enhancing prediction accuracy. The application of parametric analysis and sensitivity studies is also crucial for refining model parameters and adapting to regional conditions. Advancements in dynamic data integration, automation, and real-time forecasting will significantly improve the predictive capabilities and operational use of flood models for disaster management planning.

CHAPTER 3: MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1. Study Area and Data

The Kabul River Basin, one of the principal river basins in Pakistan, spans Afghanistan and Pakistan and is characterized by a complex network of rivers and tributaries. It covers an approximate area of 20,000 square kilometers. The basin experiences significant variations in climate, topography, and hydrological conditions, which impact the hydrological processes and flood characteristics. Accurate modeling of this region requires a comprehensive understanding of the topography, land use, soil characteristics, and climate patterns.

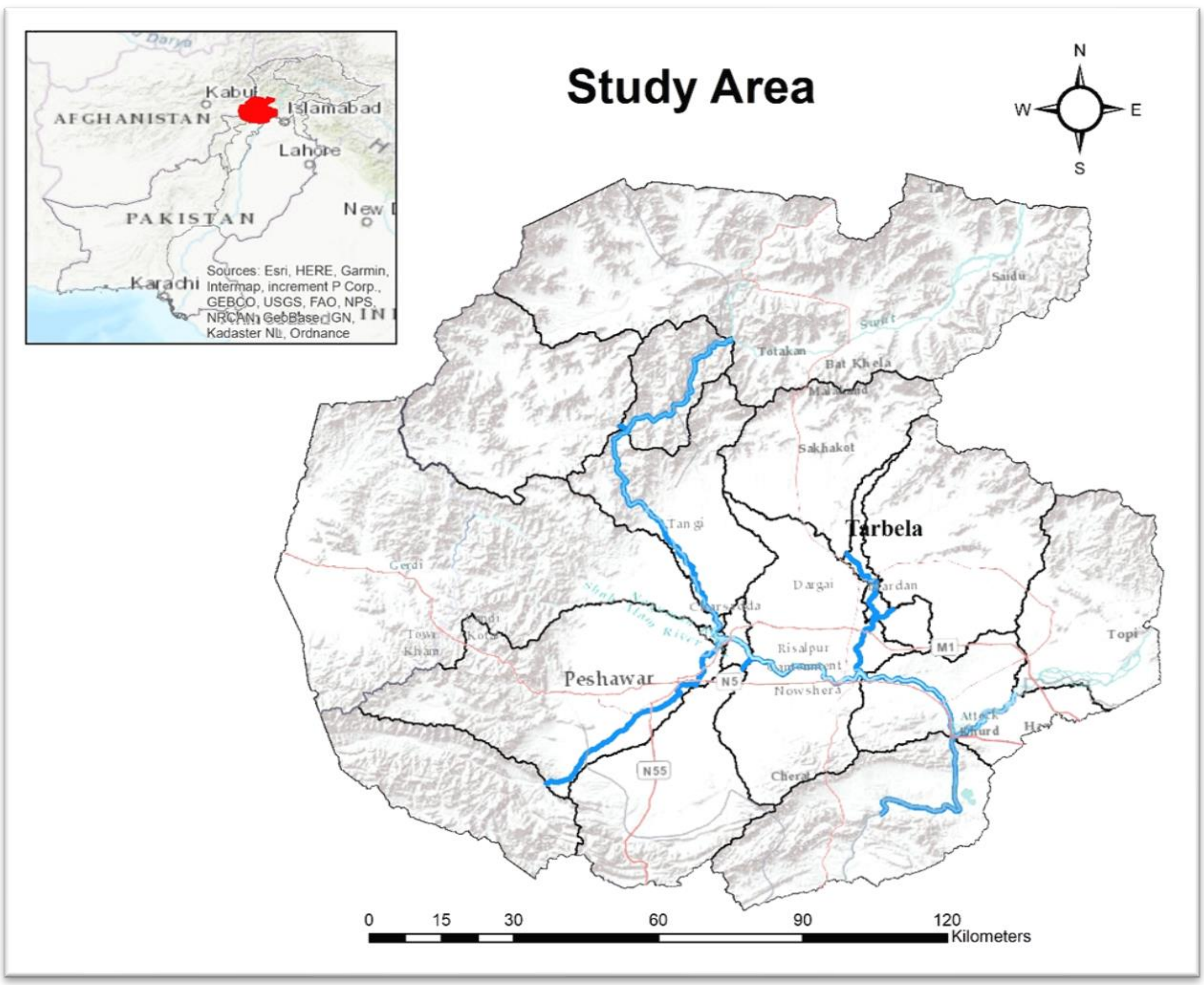

Figure 3.1. Study Area Map of Kabul River Basin located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

3.1.1. Digital Elevation Model (DEM)

A digital elevation model (DEM) provides a 3D representation of the terrain and forms the foundation of any basin model. High-resolution DEMs from ALOS PALSAR (Advanced Land Observing Satellite Phased Array Type L-band Synthetic Aperture Radar) are preferred, as they offer detailed information about the terrain's contours and features. This is crucial for delineating watersheds, defining drainage paths, and creating flood inundation maps. The DEM is used for flow direction analysis, sub-basin delineation, and stream network identification. Figure 3.2 shows the DEM of the study area and the river line.

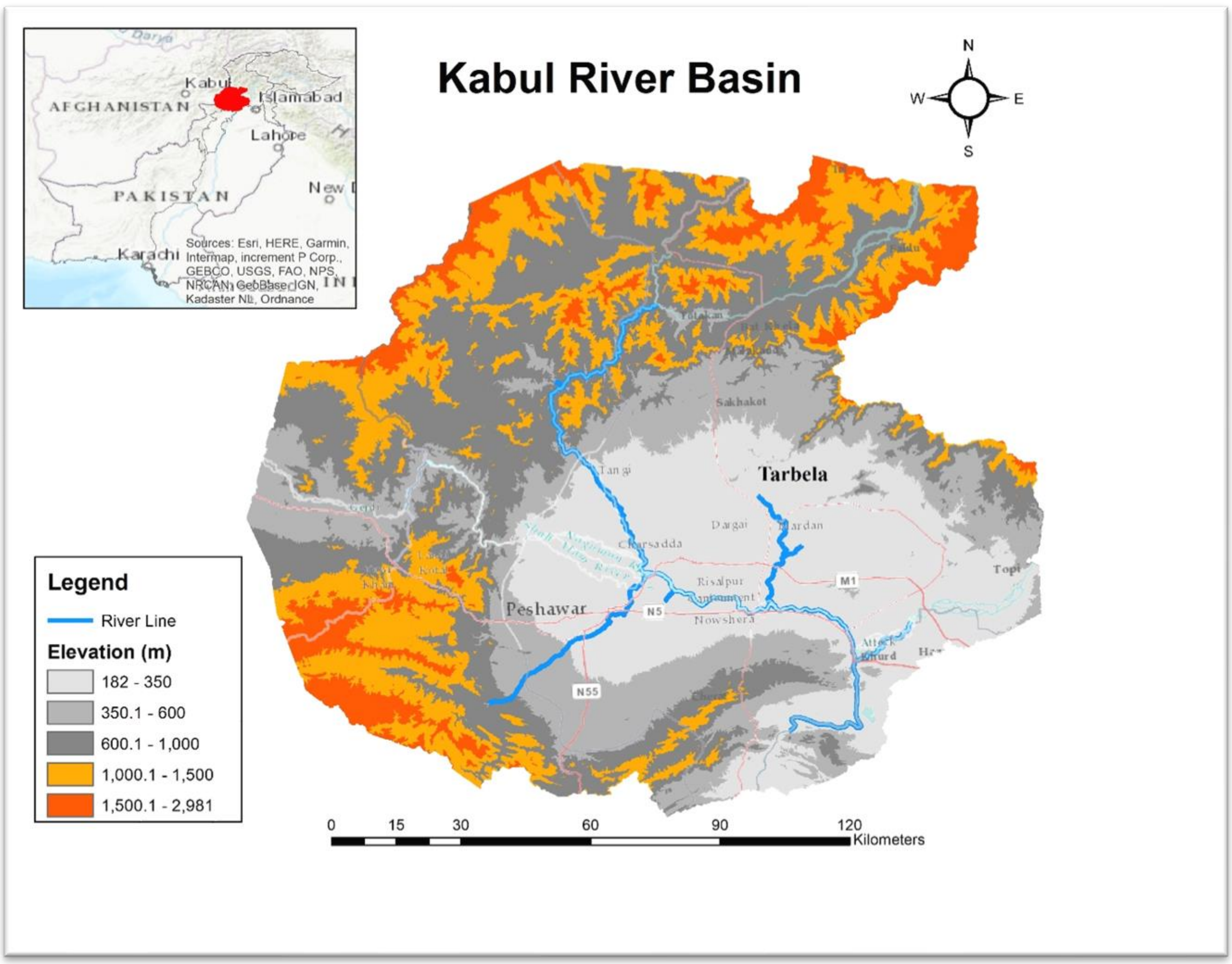

Figure 3.2. A digital Elevation Model of Kabul River Basin showing elevation heterogeneity

3.1.2 Soil Data:

Soil texture data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is essential for understanding soil properties and their influence on hydrological processes. The FAO provides comprehensive global datasets, classifying soils based on their physical and chemical characteristics.

The provided soil texture map visualizes the distribution of different soil textures across a specific region. In the map, three soil types are identified: Clay Loam, Loam, and Silt Loam. Each soil type is associated with distinct hydrological properties that influence infiltration rates, surface runoff, and moisture retention.

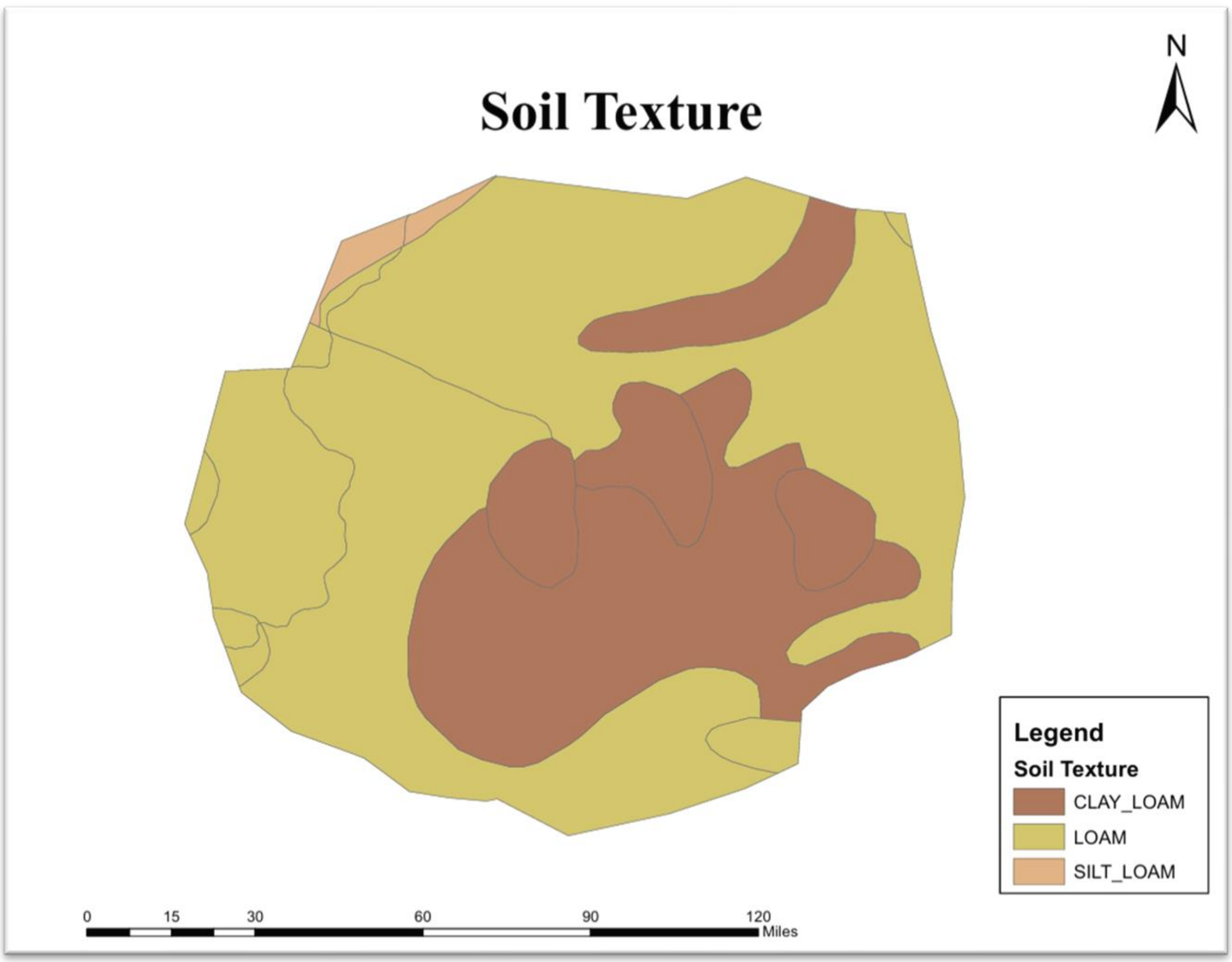

Figure 3.3 Soil Texture Map of Kabul River Basin obtained using FAO data

3.1.3 Land Cover:

The land cover data derived from Sentinel-2 imagery is crucial for hydrological modeling, especially when integrated with other datasets like soil texture. The SCS Curve Number method benefits greatly from accurate land cover information, as each land cover class corresponds to specific curve number values, influencing the runoff potential. For instance, built areas generally have higher curve numbers due to impervious surfaces, resulting in greater runoff, while forested regions have lower curve numbers and higher infiltration rates.

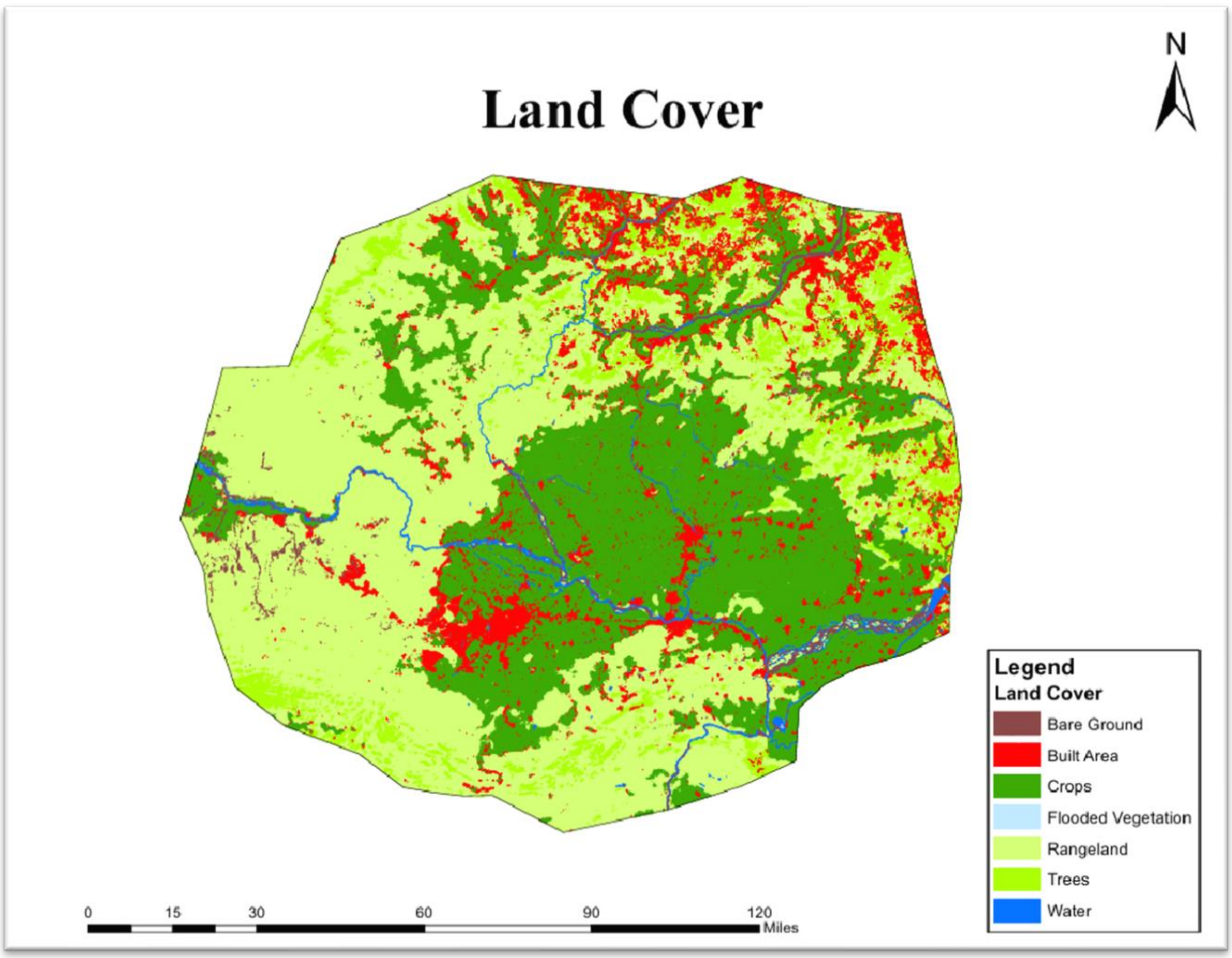

Figure 3.4 Land Cover map obtained from Sentinel-II

3.1.4 Curve Number

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Curve Number (CN) method is a widely used hydrological model for estimating direct runoff or infiltration from rainfall.

In practice, the CN method requires the user to identify the specific land cover and soil type within the study area. These factors are then used to determine the Curve Number value from predefined tables. Soil types are categorized into four hydrological groups (A, B, C, and D), with Group A soils having high infiltration rates and Group D soils having very low infiltration rates. Land cover classifications include urban development, agriculture, forest, and more, each affecting the CN differently.

The CN value typically ranges from 30 to 100, with higher values indicating greater potential for runoff and lower values suggesting more infiltration.

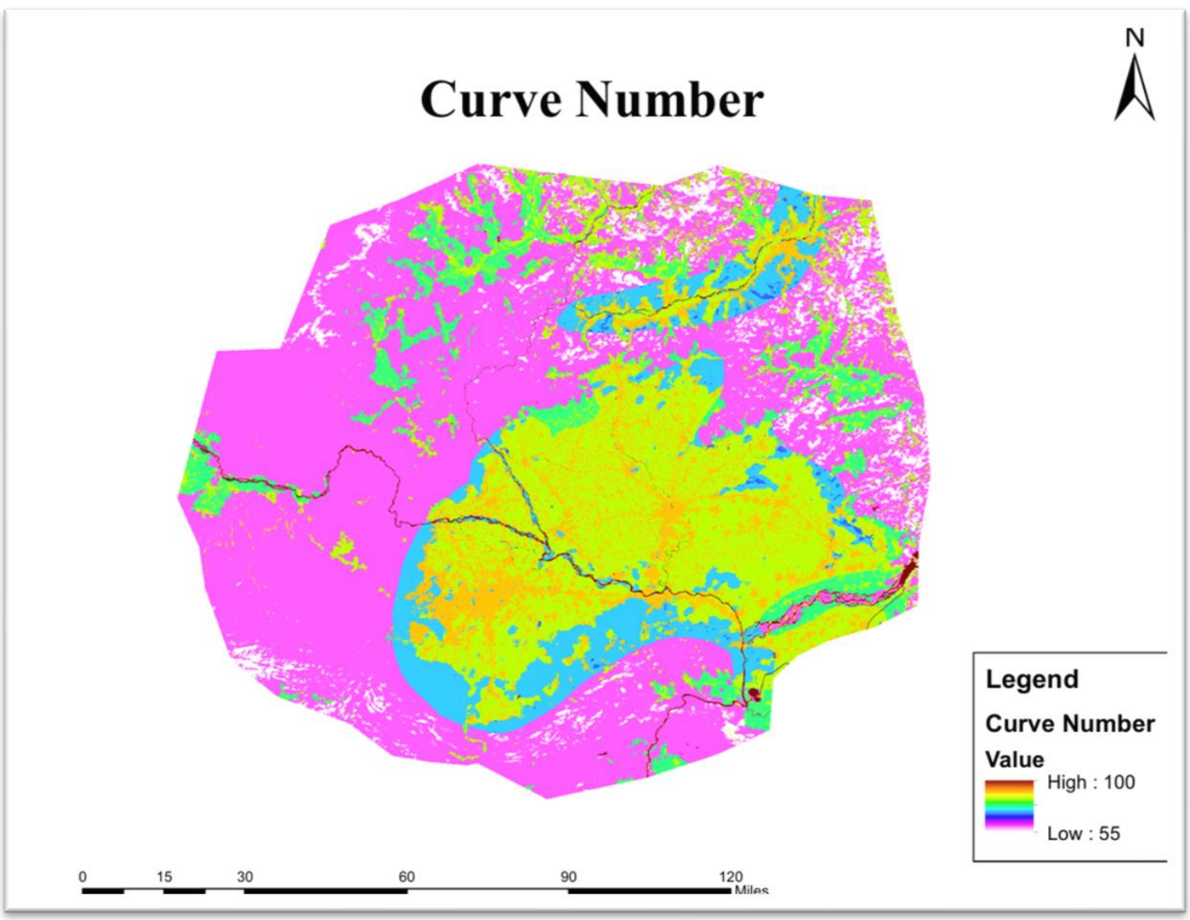

Figure 3.5 Soil Conservation Service Curve Number map

3.2. Hydrological Modeling

The hydrological model aims to delineate sub-basins and estimate the runoff characteristics for each sub-basin. The model setup involves several key steps:

3.2.1. Key Steps

Flow Direction Analysis:

This step determines the direction in which water will flow across each cell of the Digital Elevation Model (DEM). By analyzing the slope of each cell relative to its neighbors, the direction of water flow is calculated. This step helps in defining the drainage pattern, which is crucial for understanding the overall flow network within the watershed.

Flow Accumulation:

Flow accumulation identifies areas where water accumulates by summing the number of upstream cells contributing to flow in a given cell. This process assists in locating stream channels, with higher values indicating areas where water naturally converges, forming rivers and streams. The result is a map that highlights potential stream networks and drainage lines.

Stream Definition:

Stream definition involves setting a threshold for flow accumulation to define where streams begin. For example, a stream might be defined as starting at points where at least 500 upstream cells contribute to its flow. This threshold value determines the density of the stream network and represents the primary flow paths within the watershed.

Watershed Delineation:

Watershed delineation outlines the area that contributes flow to each stream segment, resulting in the creation of distinct sub-basins. This process identifies the contributing drainage area for each stream reach and divides the watershed into sub-basins based on their flow accumulation and direction.

River or Stream Networks:

Once sub-basins are delineated, the river or stream networks are defined. These networks consist of all stream segments and their corresponding drainage lines, creating a comprehensive map of the hydrological connections within the watershed. They also form the basis for identifying reaches and junctions.

Reach Definition:

Each segment of a stream or river between two junctions is defined as a reach. Reaches serve as primary pathways through which water flows from one part of the watershed to another. By defining reaches, it becomes possible to calculate flow rates, sediment transport, and other hydrological parameters accurately.

Junctions:

Junctions are points where two or more reaches meet. They help model the confluence of rivers and the interaction of flows from different sub-basins. By accurately defining junctions, the model can simulate how flows combine and distribute downstream, providing insights into flood potential and water resource management.

These steps altogether create a comprehensive hydrological model that enables accurate runoff estimation, stream network definition, and flood prediction within the delineated watershed.

3.2.2 Hydrological Parameters setting:

In the HEC-HMS model, key calibration parameters such as loss, transform, discretization, and baseflow methods are crucial in accurately simulating hydrologic processes across different watersheds.

Loss Method

The Loss Method in HEC-HMS represents how precipitation is partitioned into runoff and infiltration. The SCS Curve Number method, for instance, uses land cover, soil type, and management practices to estimate surface runoff by assigning each area a specific curve number (CN). This value helps in estimating the initial abstraction and infiltration losses, providing a practical approximation of rainfall losses.

Transform Method

The Transform Method converts excess precipitation into direct runoff. The SCS Unit Hydrograph method uses the SCS lag time to generate a unit hydrograph, which represents how runoff behaves in response to a unit of excess precipitation. This approach provides a simplified yet effective way to model the timing and magnitude of the flood response.

Discretization Method

The Discretization Method defines how the watershed is divided into smaller elements for modeling. A Structured method involves subdividing the watershed into predefined sub-basins or grid cells, each treated as a separate entity for routing runoff. This helps capture spatial variability in hydrologic processes while ensuring a structured organization of the watershed.

Baseflow Method

The Baseflow Method accounts for the sustained, groundwater-fed flow in rivers. The Constant Monthly method assumes a consistent baseflow value for each month, simplifying the estimation of groundwater contribution to streamflow. Accurate representation of baseflow ensures that the model captures both the peak flows and the sustained flows during dry periods

3.2.3 Simulation Setup

In this phase, the hydrological modeling process is defined to ensure accurate flood simulation. The key steps involved include:

Simulation Parameters Configuration

Simulation Duration: The start and end times of the simulation are set to cover the entire period of interest, which may include historical events, seasonal floods, or projected future scenarios.

Time Step: Determines the frequency of computations and results output. A shorter time step increases the resolution of results but demands more computational power. Typically, intervals range from minutes to hours depending on watershed characteristics and data availability.

Meteorological Data: Incorporating rainfall and temperature data from observed or forecasted sources like ERA5 or CMIP6. Different types of meteorological data are available:

- **Gaged Precipitation:** Uses data directly from local rain gauges.
- **Gridded Precipitation:** Applies spatially distributed precipitation data such as radar or satellite information.

3.2.4. Output of Hydrological Model

Hydrographs

The resulting hydrographs depict:

Precipitation: The input rainfall data.

Excess Precipitation: Rainfall that remains after accounting for losses.

Precipitation Loss: The amount of water lost due to infiltration and surface storage.

Outflow: The resulting runoff leaving each sub-basin.

Hydrographs provide insights into the temporal distribution of runoff and helps understand peak flow characteristics.

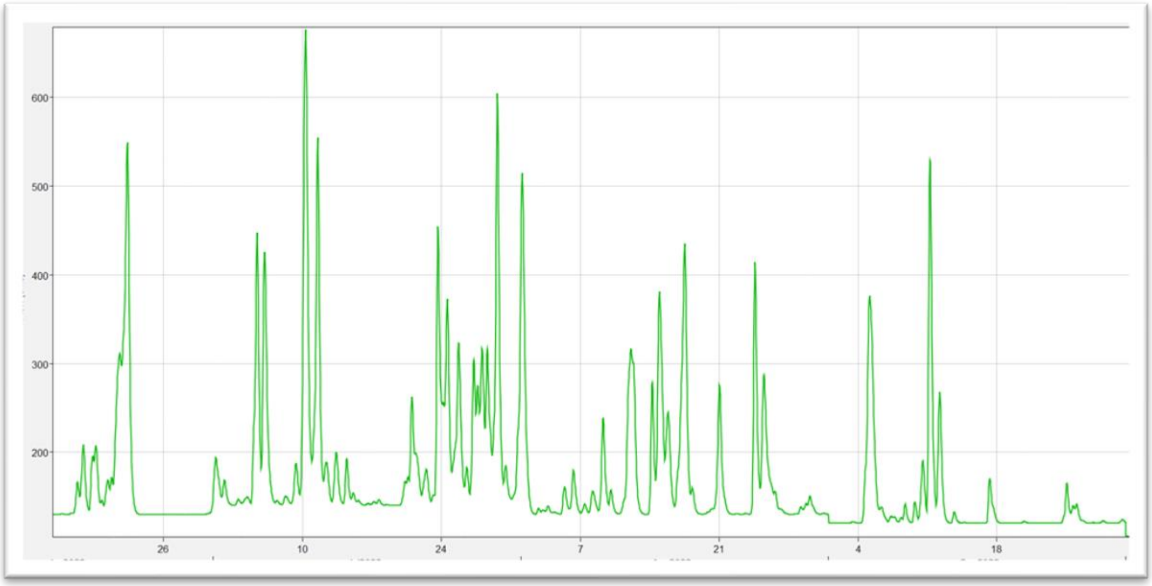

Figure 3.6 depicts the variation of flow with time at different sub-basin outlets.

Excess Precipitation

The graph illustrates the excess precipitation observed over the study area during the simulation period. Excess precipitation represents the amount of rainfall that contributes to direct surface runoff after accounting for initial abstractions and infiltration losses. This graph is crucial in understanding the temporal distribution of runoff-producing precipitation events across the basin.

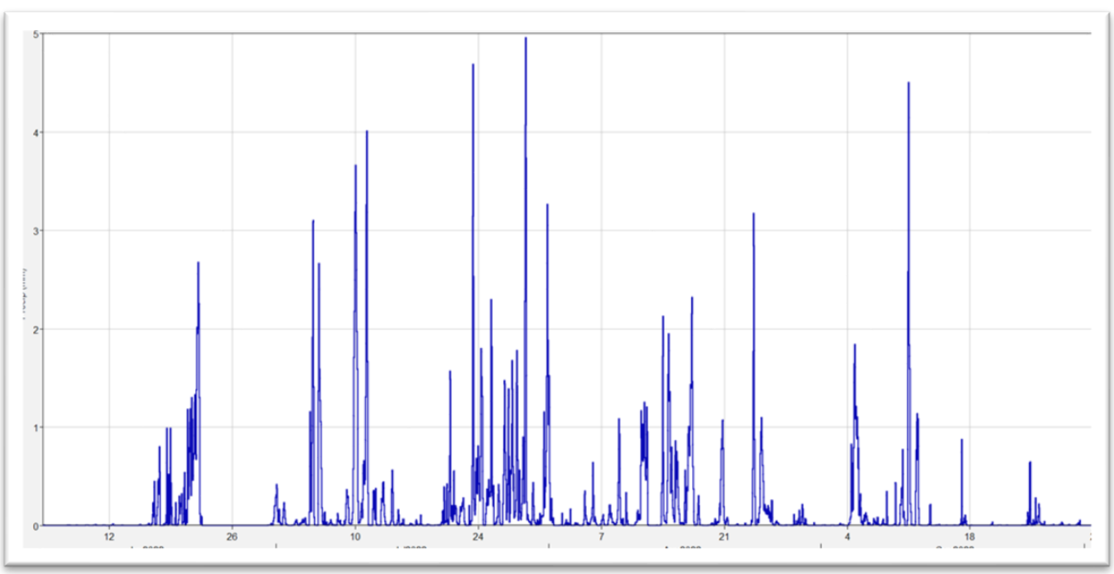

Figure 3.7 Excess precipitation graphs with respect to time

3.3. Hydraulic Modelling

3.3.1 Unsteady Flow Simulation and 2D Flow Area Setup in HEC-RAS:

This section details the process of generating unsteady flow simulations for each reach and creating 2D flow areas using HEC-RAS. The focus is on accurately modeling the dynamic behavior of water flow through the Kabul River Basin for better prediction and management of flood events.

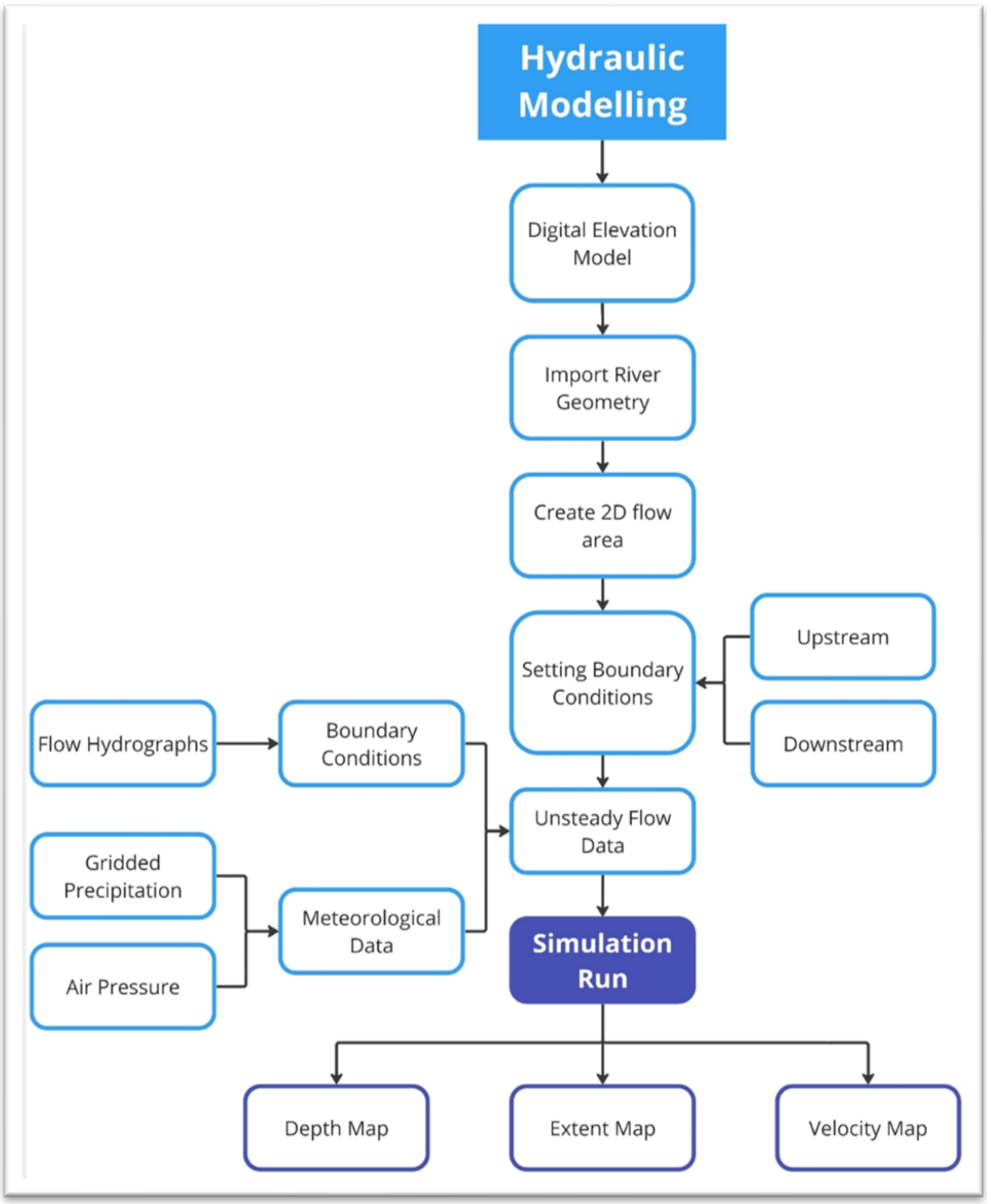

Figure 3.8 Flowchart showing step by step methodology of hydraulic modelling.

Methodology for Unsteady Flow & 2D Flow Area Setup in HEC-RAS:

3.3.2 Data Collection and Preparation:

Hydrologic Data:

Flow data from HEC-HMS includes hydrographs at various points within the watershed. This data is critical as it provides the temporal variation in flow for each sub-basin outlet.

1. **Importing Data into HEC-RAS:**

   Geometry Definition:

   River geometry data is input into HEC-RAS, which was initially generated in HEC HMS.

   Boundary Conditions Setup:

   Boundary conditions are specified based on the type of analysis. For unsteady flow, both upstream inflows (from hydrographs produced by HEC-HMS) and downstream boundary conditions such as normal depth need to be accurately defined.

2. **Hydraulic Model Configuration:**

   Time Step Selection:

   The computational time step for unsteady flow analysis is configured, which should be small enough to capture the critical dynamics but large enough for computational efficiency.

3. **Simulation Run:**

   The unsteady flow simulation is executed, which computes the water surface elevations and velocities for each time step across the entire network of river reaches. The final outcomes are the extent, velocity, and depth maps.

3.3.3 Calibration and Validation:

Model parameters are adjusted as needed based on observed data, and the model is validated by comparing simulated results with observed flood events. Hydrologic model parameters are adjusted based on historical hydrologic data (like streamflow records and rainfall data). The goal is to tune the model so its simulation outputs closely match observed data.

The flood depth map highlights the spatial distribution of flood depths, showing areas of critical concern where flood depths are highest.

We calibrated our stream flow with actual streamflow values obtained from NDMA (National Disaster Authority of Pakistan) and the NSE coefficient by validation is 0.81 that shows high accuracy.

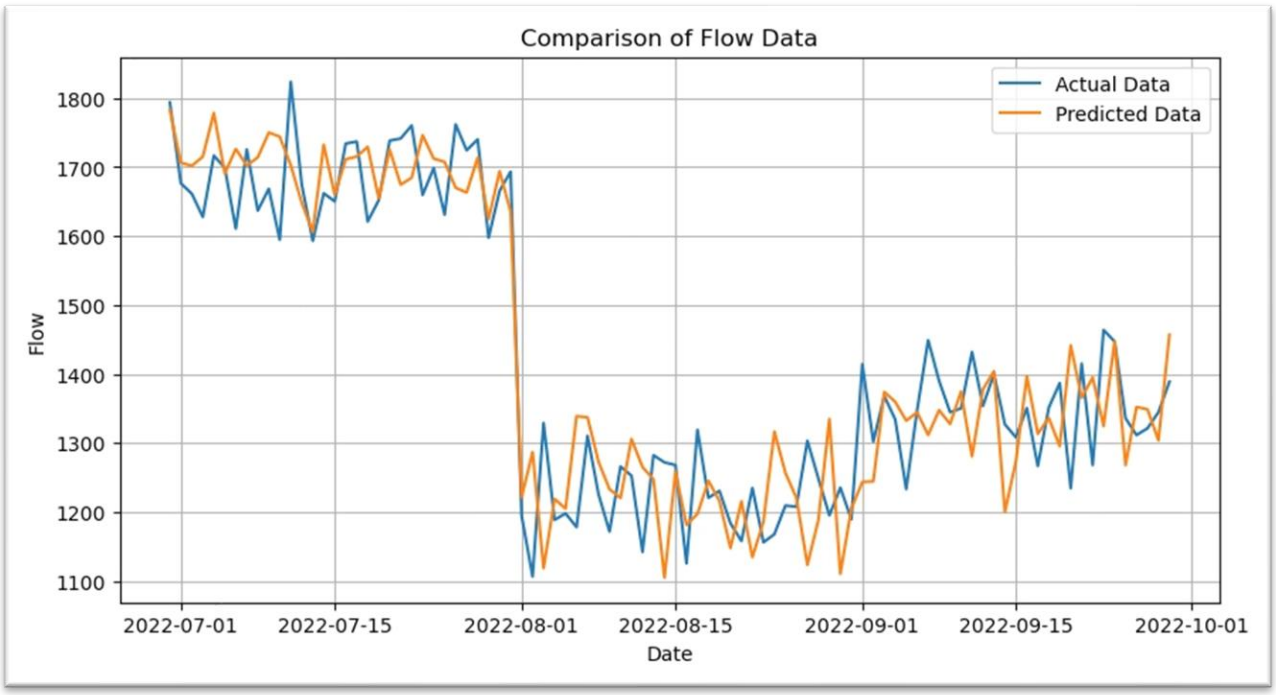

Figure 3.9. Comparison of actual (NDMA) and predicted (Model) flow data

3.3.4. Results:

Velocity Map

Figure 3.10 showcases a flood inundation map of a river in the Kabul River Basin. The color gradient indicates varying flood depths, with deep red representing higher depths and blue depicting shallower regions. This spatial visualization provides critical insights into flood-prone areas, aiding disaster management efforts by highlighting zones that require immediate attention. The map's detailed flood extent demonstrates the hydraulic modeling's effectiveness in predicting flood behavior across diverse topographies

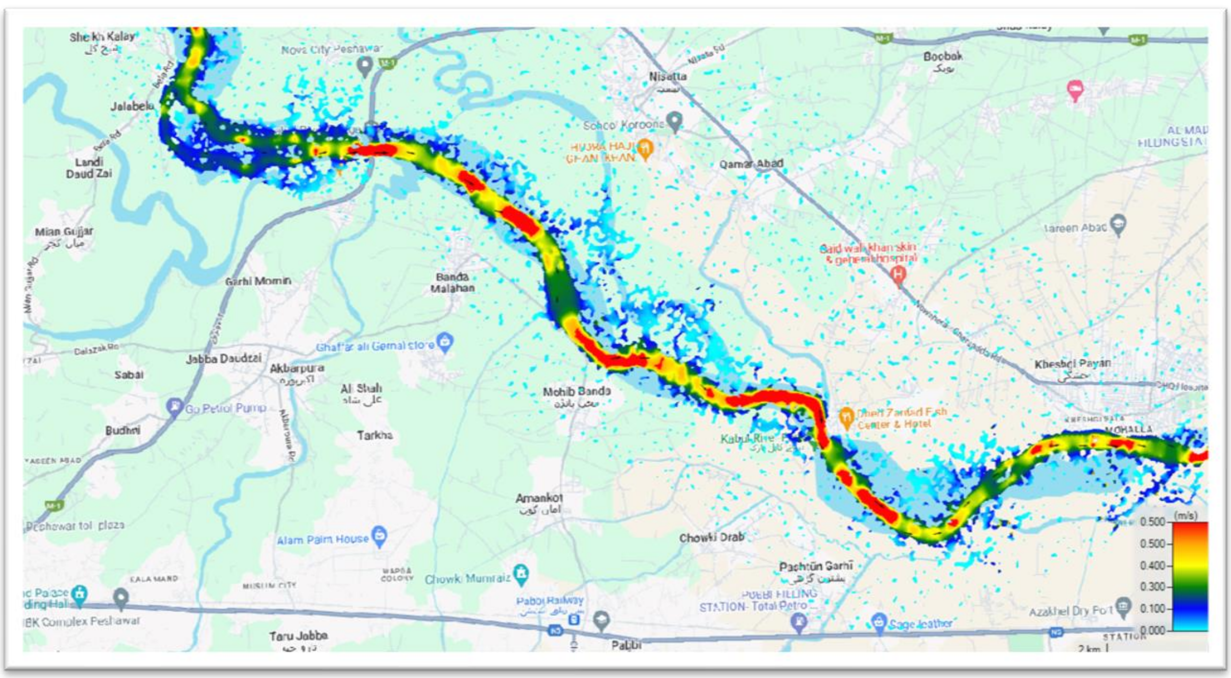

Figure 3.10. Flood Velocity Map from Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from August 2022.

Depth Map

Figure 3.11 presents a detailed flood depth map overlaid on a satellite view of the Kabul River Basin, visually indicating the areas most affected by flooding. It utilizes a color gradient from light blue to dark blue, with light blue indicating shallower waters and dark blue representing depths exceeding 2.5 meters. This map serves as a vital tool for disaster management and planning, allowing for precise identification of high-risk zones. The overlay on real-world geography also helps in contextualizing the impact on infrastructure and human settlements.

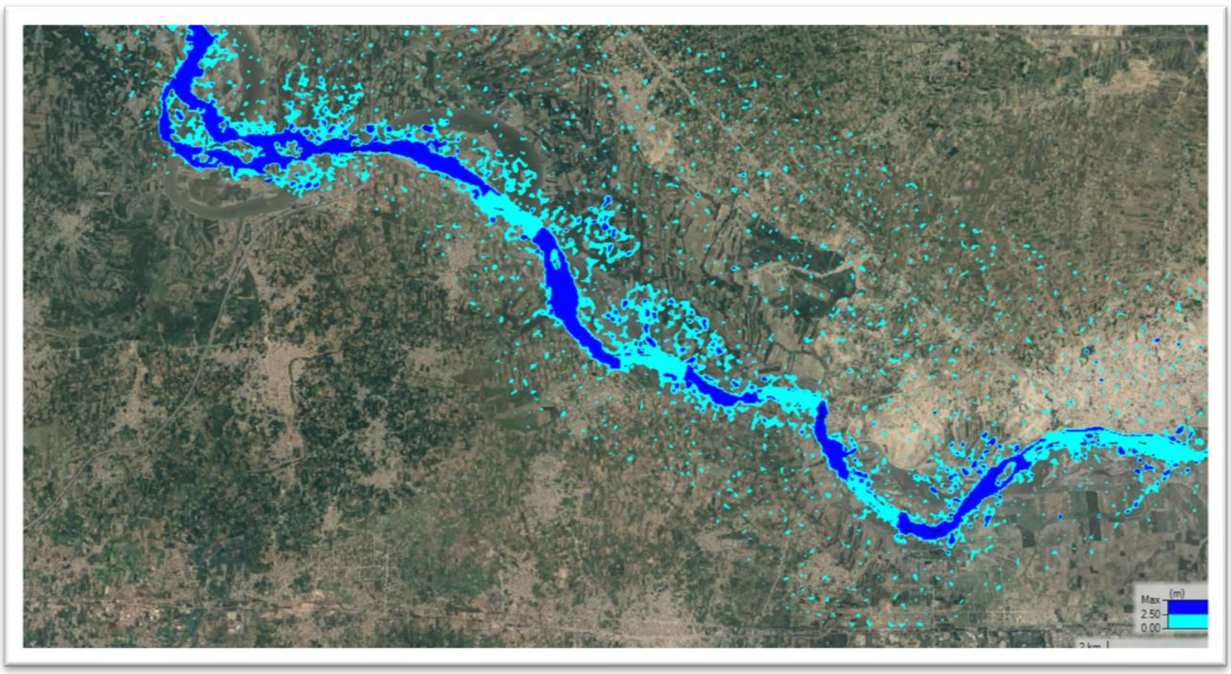

Figure 3.11. Flood Depth Map from Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from August,2022.

CHAPTER 4: WEB DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION

The semi-automated flood simulation system is presented through the FloodWeb portal, a comprehensive web application designed to provide a user-friendly interface for simulating floods in the Kabul River Basin. The frontend is built using React, while Flask is used for the backend. This combination allows for rapid and efficient development and deployment of a highly interactive platform.

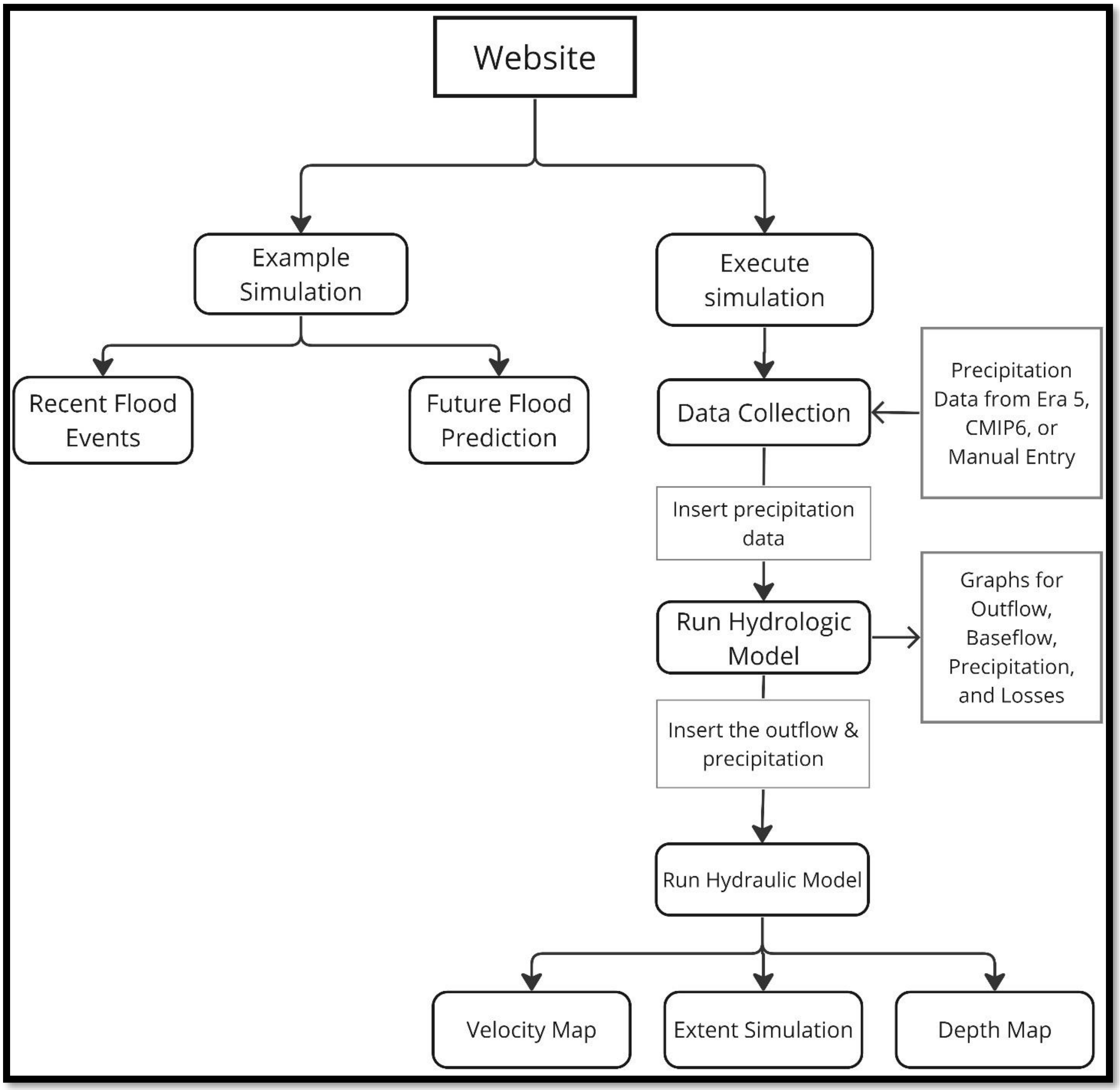

Figure 4.1. Flowchart showing the working and functions of the web portal

4.1. Technology Stack

4.1.1. React (Frontend):

Component-Based Architecture: React allows developers to build reusable components, making the development process faster and the code more maintainable.

Virtual DOM

Efficient rendering of dynamic data ensures that user interactions are swift and responsive.

Ecosystem and Libraries

A rich ecosystem and extensive libraries like react-leaflet for maps make it ideal for handling complex, interactive flood mapping and data visualization.

4.1.2. Flask (Backend):

Microframework

Flask's lightweight and modular nature allows it to work seamlessly with specialized libraries and tools like HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS.

RESTful API Support

Built-in support for REST APIs enables efficient data exchange between the backend and frontend.

Integration Capabilities

Python's robust ecosystem integrates well with data analysis libraries such as Pandas and NumPy, making it easier to handle simulation data.

4.2. Web Interface

The Landing Page is designed to provide users with a clear overview of the portal's features. It includes two main functions:

1. Access to the Portal: A button directs users to the data entry portal, where they can start new flood simulations.
2. Example Simulations: Links to flood simulations for the 2020 and 2022 events allow users to understand the predictive capabilities of the system.

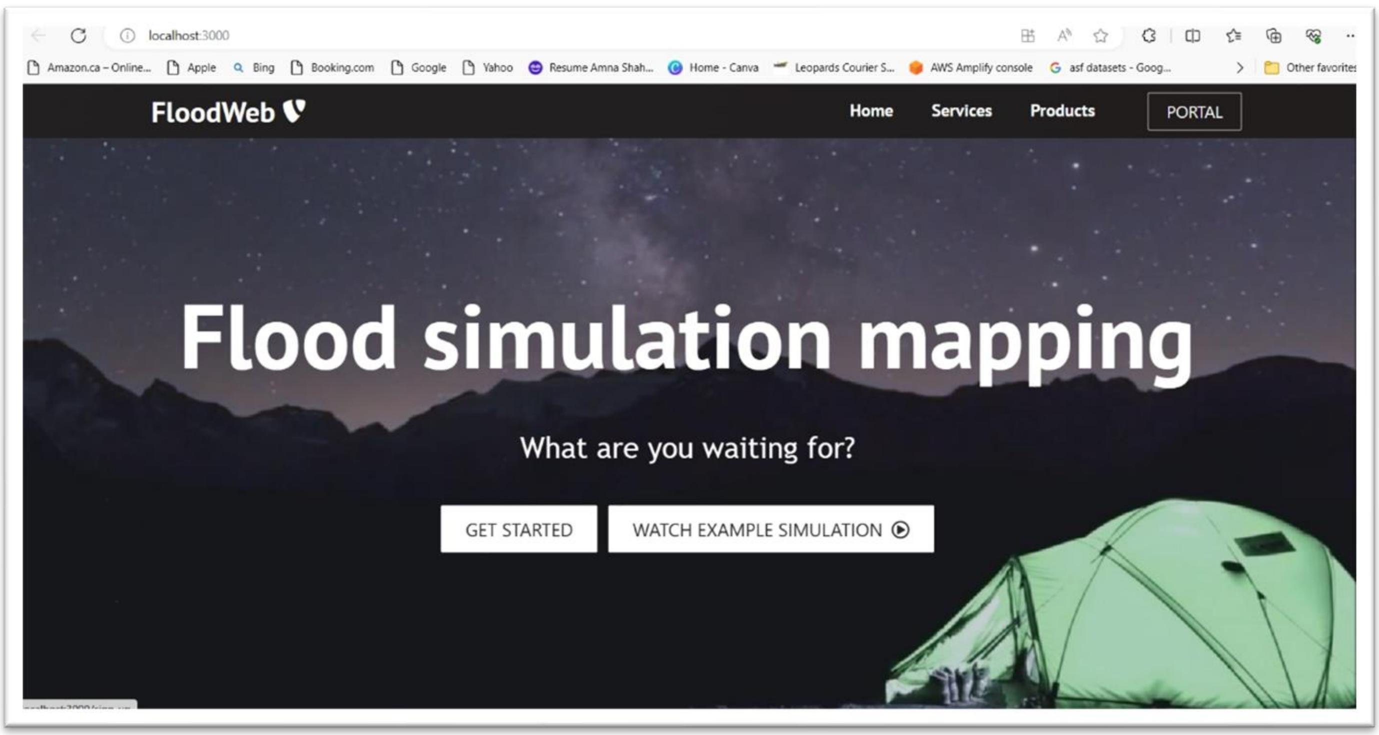

Figure 4.2. Landing Page of the FoodWeb Portal

4.3. Data Entry Portal

The portal accepts three types of data input, providing flexibility to users:

1. **Manual Entry:**
   Users can upload a CSV file containing specific climate data and input the relevant start and end dates.
2. **CMIP6 Download:**
   Users can directly download future climate scenarios from CMIP6 (Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6). Options include different climate scenarios (SSPs), such as SSP1-1.9, SSP5-8.5, and more.
3. **ERA5 Download:**
   Access to hourly climate data from the ERA5 reanalysis dataset is provided. ERA5 is chosen for its comprehensive historical weather data, which supports accurate flood modeling.
   After providing the required data, clicking the "Continue" button navigates the user to the HEC-HMS Processing page.

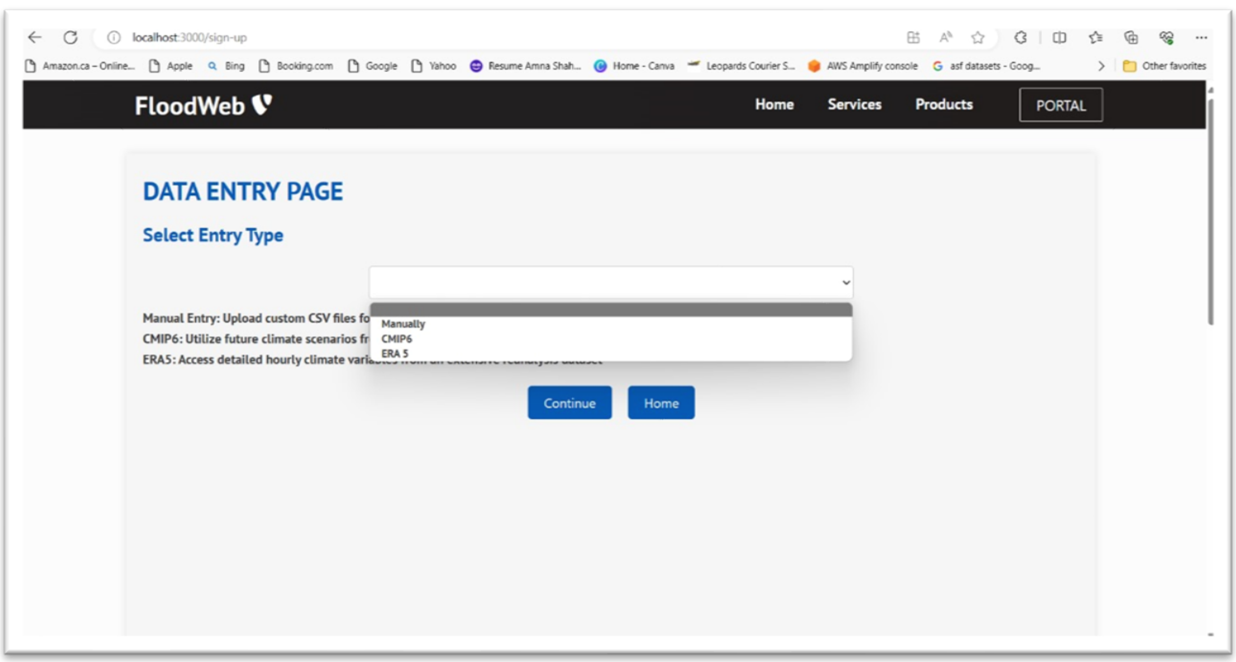

Figure 4.3. Data Entry Page of FloofWeb portal.

4.4. HEC-HMS Processing

On this page, users can:

4.4.1. Start the HEC-HMS Process:

As figure 4.4 shows, clicking the "Start HEC-HMS Process" button triggers HEC-HMS processing to simulate flood events based on the input data.

The processing typically takes around 30 minutes, depending on the complexity and size of the input data.

4.4.2. View and Download Graphs:

Users can select a specific sub-basin to generate graphs showcasing different metrics shown in figure 4.5, such as:

- Outflow: The discharge rate at a given sub-basin.
- Excess Precipitation: The amount of rainfall exceeding soil infiltration capacity.
- Base Flow: The base level of river flow sustained by groundwater.
- Precipitation-Loss: The rainfall amount absorbed by soil and vegetation.

Users can download these graphs for further analysis.

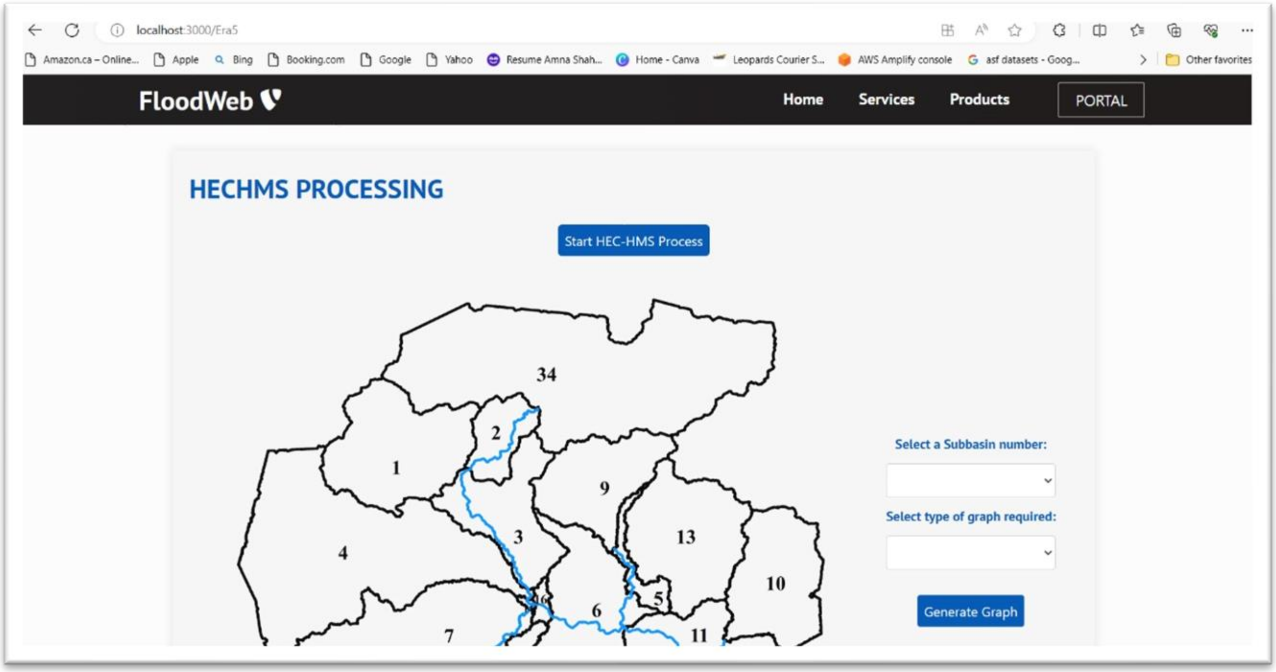

Figure 4.4. HEC HMS processing page.

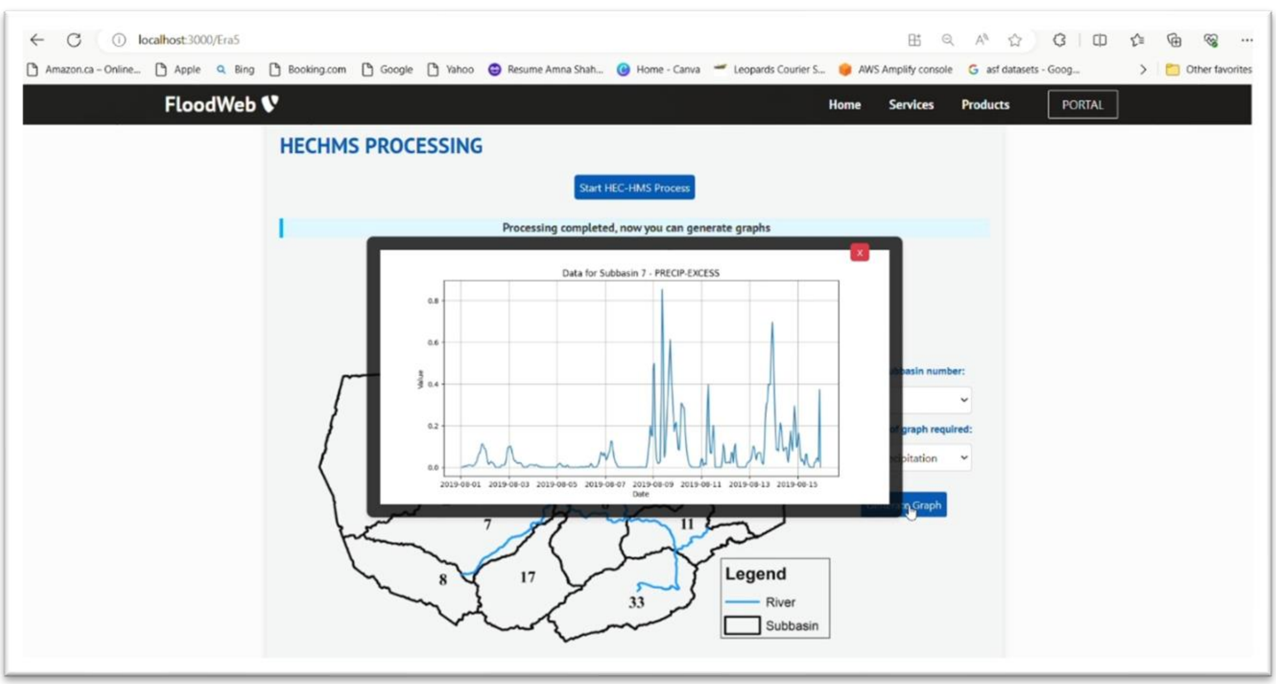

Figure 4.5. View and Download Graphs from HEC HMS processing.

4.5. HEC-RAS Processing

In the final stage, users move to the HEC-RAS Processing page, which provides:

4.5.1. Start HEC-RAS Processing:

The "Start HEC-RAS Process" button initiates HEC-RAS processing, predicting flood inundation across the Kabul River Basin.

Processing time is typically 2-3 hours, depending on the volume and complexity of the input data.

4.5.2. View Flood Simulation Videos:

Each clickable point on the river map corresponds to a specific sub-basin.

Clicking a point displays a flood simulation video highlighting the flood depth across that sub-basin.

The flood simulation video provides a visual representation of the predicted flood extent, volume, and depth over time.

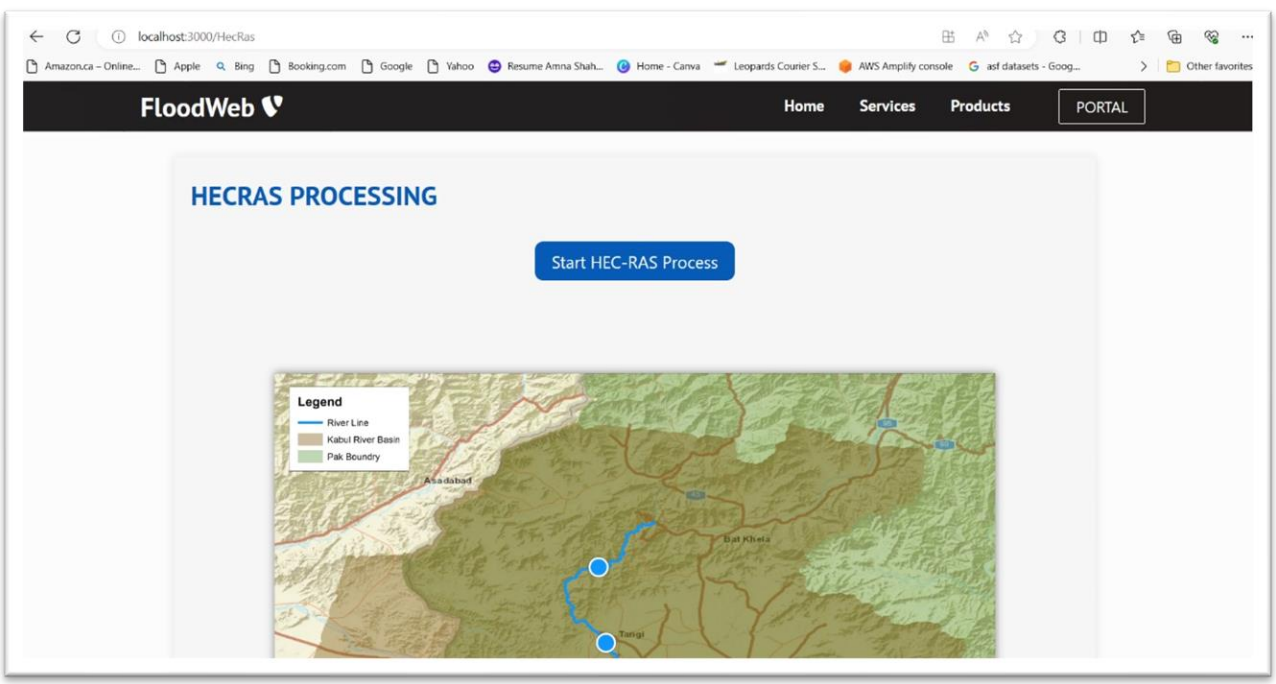

Figure 4.6. HECRAS processing page from FloodWeb Portal

4.6. Validation of Past Event

The portal also includes an "Example Simulations" page showcasing past flood events in 2020 and 2022. Selecting one of these events displays flood simulation results for the specified year, providing a practical demonstration of the portal's predictive accuracy.

Summary

The FloodWeb portal, powered by React and Flask, enables disaster management teams to:

Rapidly simulate floods using a semi-automated process.

Visualize flood predictions through intuitive graphs and videos.

Access future climate scenarios and historical data, enabling comprehensive flood risk analysis.

Overall, the platform empowers disaster management professionals to prepare better for future floods in the Kabul River Basin region.

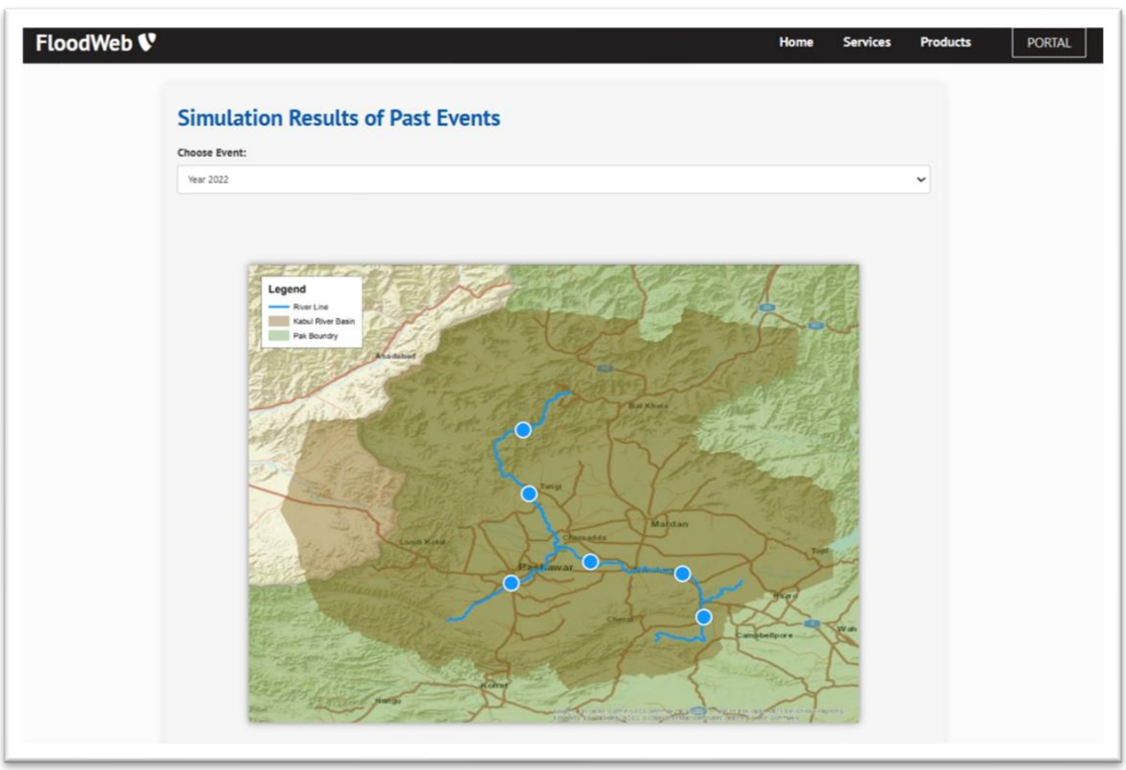

Figure 4.7. Example simulation page having flood simulation from year 2010 & 2022.

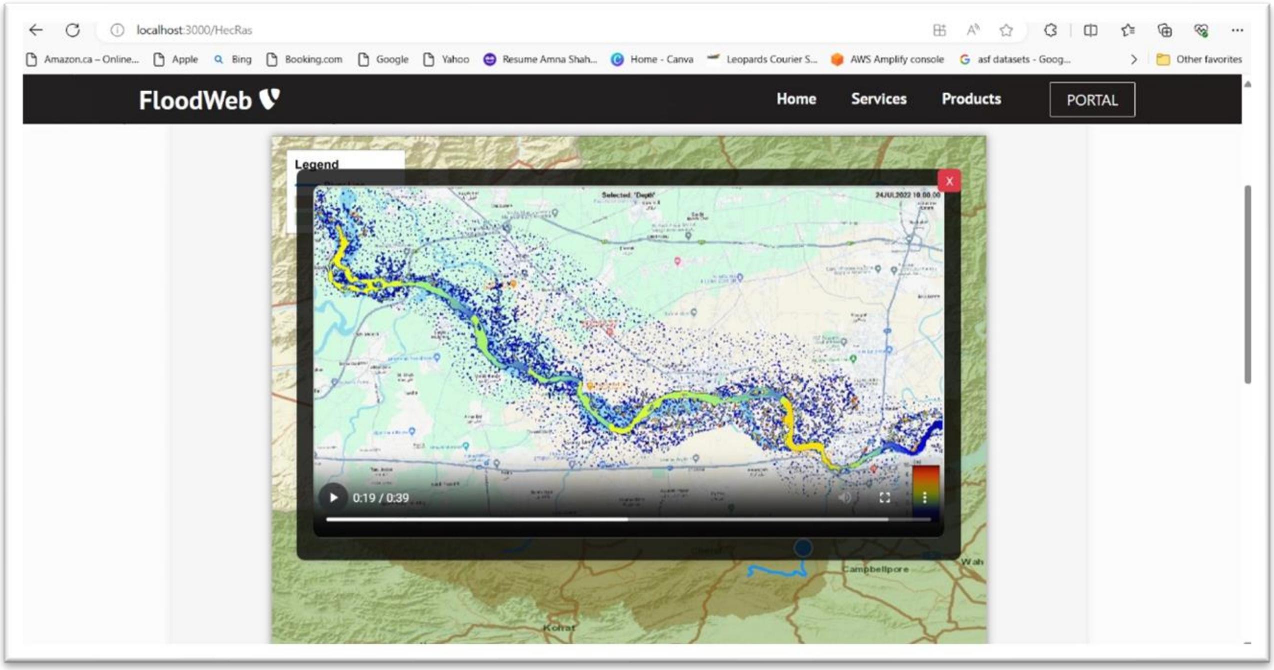

Figure 4.8. Flood simulation of Nowshera from year 2022 on the example simulation page.

CHAPTER 5: AUTOMATION

The automation process within the semi-automatic flood prediction system is critical for ensuring the system's efficiency and reliability. This process includes automating data retrieval with the Climate Data Store (CDS) API, scripting the automation of the Hydrologic Engineering Centers Hydrologic Modeling System (HEC-HMS) and

integrating the Hydrologic Engineering Centers River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) to generate simulation outputs. Each step is vital for the seamless operation, from data acquisition to flood prediction display.

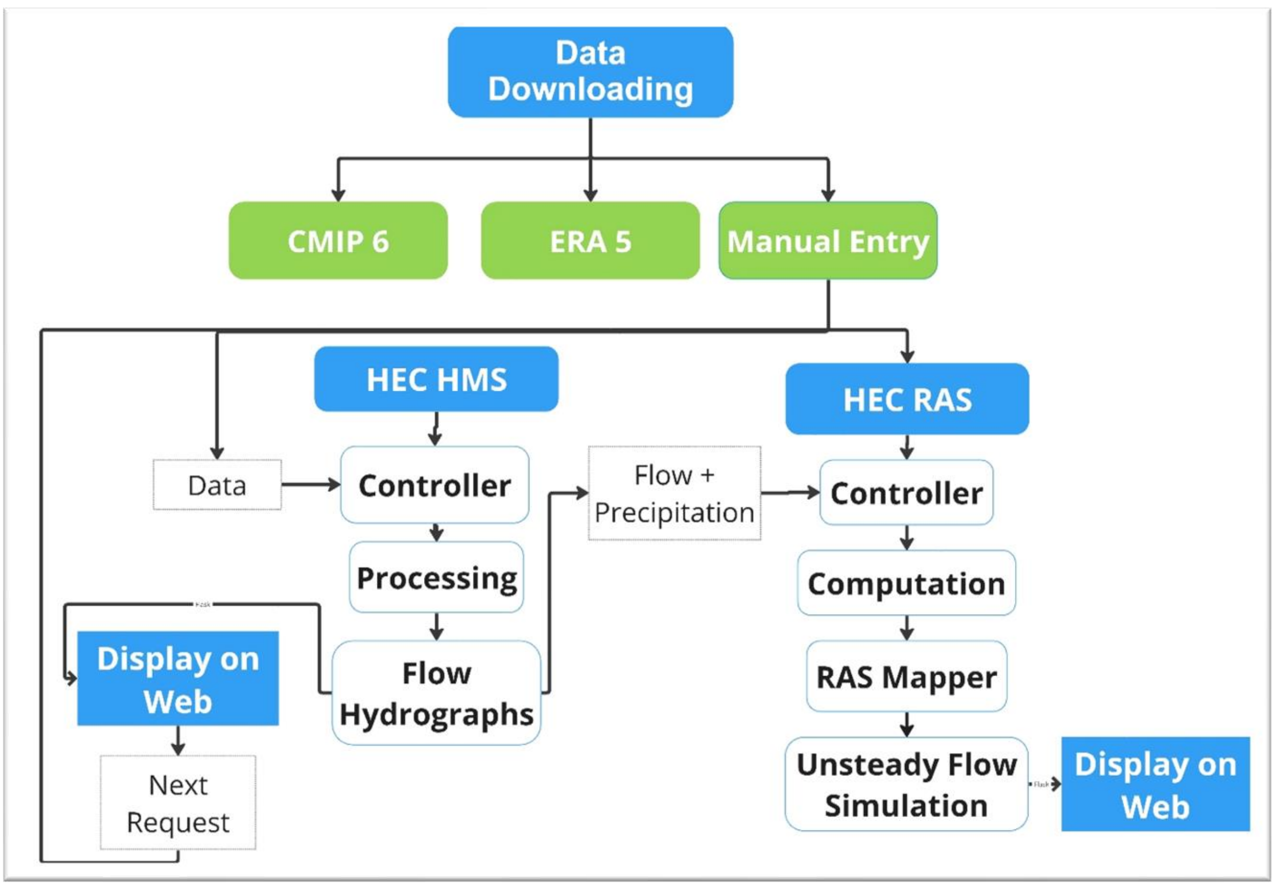

Figure 4.9. Methodology chart of the automated processes.

5.1 System Architecture: Design and Components

5.1.1. Data Retrieval Module:

This component is responsible for the automatic collection of meteorological and hydrological data essential for flood prediction. Utilizing Python scripts, it interfaces with the Climate Data Store (CDS) API to fetch real-time and historical data. The data includes precipitation levels, river discharge rates, and other relevant environmental parameters. This module serves as the backbone for the input data required by the simulation engine.

5.1.2. Simulation Engine:

At the heart of the system are the computational models HEC-HMS (Hydrologic Modeling System) and HEC-RAS (Hydraulic Engineering Center's River Analysis System). HEC-HMS is utilized for hydrologic analysis and modeling, allowing the system to process input data into a hydrologic perspective. On the other hand, HEC-RAS handles the hydraulic aspects, providing detailed flood prediction and mapping. These models run on a backend scripted in Python, which manages the automation of these systems, parameter configuration, and execution control.

5.1.3. User Interface:

Developed using React, the frontend framework provides a responsive and user-friendly web interface. This interface allows users to interact with the system, configure simulation parameters, initiate simulations, and view results. Flask, a lightweight Python web framework, acts as the bridge between the React frontend and the Python-based backend, handling API requests and delivering simulation data and results to the user in real-time.

5.2 Choice of Technologies and Tools

5.2.1. Python:

Chosen for its extensive support for scientific and numerical computations, Python facilitates effective scripting of both data retrieval and simulation automation processes. Python's rich ecosystem of libraries, including Flask for web services, makes it ideal for backend development.

5.2.2. React:

React's component-based architecture enables efficient management of the user interface's state and provides a dynamic experience for users. Its ability to handle complex user interactions and state management efficiently is crucial for the real-time aspects of the system.

5.2.3. Flask:

As a micro web framework, Flask is used due to its simplicity and flexibility in handling web requests. It efficiently links the powerful Python backend with the React frontend, serving as the intermediary layer that facilitates the communication between the user interface and the server-side logic. Flask is particularly well-suited for this role due to its lightweight nature and the ability to scale up to handle multiple requests simultaneously without the overhead of a full-featured framework.

5.3. Integration with Web Technologies

5.3.1. React: Building the User Interface

Interactive UI Development: React is utilized for developing the user interface due to its efficient handling of dynamic content updates, which is essential for displaying real-time simulation data and results. Reacts component-based architecture allows for modular development, where each part of the interface, such as control panels, data visualization graphs, and result displays, is developed as a separate, reusable component.

State Management: Reacts state management capabilities are crucial for maintaining the state of user inputs, configuration settings, and displaying results of simulations. This helps in creating a responsive experience, where changes in the state trigger UI updates automatically without requiring a page reload.

5.3.2. Flask: Backend Server Framework

API Handling: Flask serves as the backend framework that handles API requests from the React frontend. It processes these requests, which could include starting a new simulation, fetching simulation results, or adjusting parameters.

Data Integration: The backend, powered by Flask, is responsible for integrating with various data sources and simulation tools like HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS. It processes incoming data from these tools and packages it into appropriate formats (e.g., JSON) to be sent back to the frontend.

5.4. Communication Between React and Flask

5.4.1. RESTful APIs:

Data Requests and Responses: The React frontend communicates with the Flask backend through RESTful APIs. These APIs allow the frontend to send requests to the backend and receive responses. For example, when a user initiates a flood simulation, React sends an API request to Flask, which then triggers the simulation models, retrieves the results, and sends them back to React in the form of JSON data.

Endpoints: Flask defines various API endpoints that React can access. These endpoints correspond to specific functionalities and data requirements, such as retrieving past simulation data, updating simulation parameters, and starting or stopping simulations.

5.4.2. Connections:

Real-time Interaction: For more dynamic interactions, such as real-time data streaming or where immediate responsiveness is critical, WebSocket connections can be used. This technology provides a two-way interactive communication session between the user's browser (React) and the server (Flask). With WebSockets, the server can push updates to the frontend as soon as new data becomes available or when the state of the simulation changes, enhancing the system's interactivity.

5.4.3. Security and Efficiency:

Secure Data Transfer: The communication between Flask and React is secured using HTTPS protocols, ensuring that all data transferred is encrypted.

Efficiency: Efficient handling of requests and responses is vital, especially when dealing with high volumes of data or when multiple users are interacting with the system simultaneously. Flask manages these aspects by efficiently handling concurrent requests and minimizing the response time.

5.5 Automation Process of HEC-HMS

HEC-HMS is designed for simulating the precipitation-runoff processes of dendritic watershed systems. It is widely used for hydrologic studies of diverse complexity, ranging from assessing the impact of land-use changes on runoff to flood forecasting.

Key Steps in Automating HEC-HMS:

5.5.1. Initialization and Setup:

The system is configured with the necessary model parameters, which include drainage networks, soil characteristics, and historical precipitation data.

5.5.2. Automated Data Input:

Python scripts are used to automatically update model inputs with new meteorological data (like rainfall and snowmelt) retrieved from the CDS API. These scripts manage the transformation of data formats and resolutions to fit the model's requirements.

5.5.3. Scripted Simulation Execution:

A Python or batch script triggers the HEC-HMS software to run simulations using the latest input data. This can be scheduled or triggered by specific events (e.g., surpassing a precipitation threshold).

5.5.4. Output Processing:

The results from HEC-HMS, typically including runoff volumes and peak flow rates, are automatically parsed by another Python script and formatted for further analysis or direct input into HEC-RAS for detailed hydraulic simulation.

5.6. Automation Process of HEC-RAS

HEC-RAS is utilized for a detailed study of river hydraulics, including flow, sediment transport, and floodplain inundation. Automating HEC-RAS involves several components, from data input to result analysis.

Key Steps in Automating HEC-RAS:

5.6.1. Model Setup:

Includes configuring the geometric data of river channels, floodplains, and structures like bridges and culverts. This setup is usually static but may be updated periodically as part of maintenance or following significant environmental changes.

5.6.2. Automated Simulation Runs:

Simulations are initiated based on the outputs from HEC-HMS. If HEC-HMS predicts potential flood events, HEC-RAS models are automatically triggered to simulate detailed flow dynamics and flood extents.

This can be automated using Python scripts that interface with HEC-RAS through its command line or COM automation interface.

5.6.3. Result Handling:

After simulation, the data on water depths, flow velocities, and potential flood extents are extracted using automated scripts. This data is critical for warning systems and emergency planning.

5.6.4. Integration and Visualization:

The processed results can be integrated into the system's front end via Flask APIs, where they are visualized using interactive maps and graphs built with React.

5.6.5. Pydsstools Integration

The pydsstools library is a Python package designed to facilitate the manipulation and interaction with DSS (Data Storage System) files, which are commonly used in hydrological modeling and simulation. DSS files are binary data files used by various hydrological modeling software, including HEC-RAS and HEC-HMS, to store hydrological data such as time series, flow data, and simulation results.

Key Functionalities of Pydsstools

Reading DSS Files:

The library allows users to read data stored in DSS files, including time series data, flow data, and other hydrological parameters. Users can extract relevant data from DSS files for further analysis or visualization.

Writing to DSS Files:

Pydsstools enables users to write new data or update existing data in DSS files. This functionality is particularly useful for storing simulation results or incorporating new data into existing DSS databases.

Manipulating DSS Data:

Users can manipulate DSS data using various operations such as filtering, aggregating, or transforming time series data. This allows for data preprocessing and preparation before performing hydrological simulations or analysis.

Metadata Handling:

The library provides utilities to handle metadata associated with DSS files, such as dataset names, units, and descriptions. This metadata can be accessed and modified as needed to ensure proper documentation and organization of DSS datasets.

Interoperability:

pydsstools facilitates interoperability between Python and other hydrological modeling software that use DSS files. It allows users to seamlessly integrate Python-based data processing and analysis workflows with existing hydrological modeling workflows.

CHAPTER 6: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

6.1. Accuracy Assessment

In our flood assessment study, we evaluated the accuracy by comparing the flood extent captured in 2022 using satellite imagery with a depth map derived from flood simulations in HEC-RAS. This comparison was conducted in ArcMap, where sample points were extracted to create shapefiles for both datasets. These shapefiles enabled the creation of tables containing pixel values for the satellite image and the HEC-RAS depth map, which were then used to generate a confusion matrix.

The confusion matrix allowed us to calculate various accuracy metrics, including the Mean Squared Error (MSE) and Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE). Our analysis resulted in an overall accuracy of 81%, highlighting the robustness of our methodology and the high degree of congruence between the satellite imagery and HEC-RAS depth map in delineating flood extents. This high level of accuracy indicates effective integration of remote sensing data and hydrological modeling in flood assessment.

6.2. Results Analysis

The accuracy assessment indicated high consistency between the flood extents derived from satellite imagery and HEC-RAS simulations. The confusion matrix provided a detailed comparison of observed flood extents with predicted extents from the HEC-RAS depth map, identifying true positives, false positives, true negatives, and false negatives.

The MSE and RMSE values quantified the discrepancies between the two datasets. The MSE measures the average of the squares of the errors, while the RMSE, as the square root of the MSE, offers an interpretable metric in the same units as the original data. These metrics indicated minimal differences between the satellite imagery and HEC-RAS depth map, further reinforcing the high accuracy of our study.

The overall accuracy of 81% demonstrates the reliability of using satellite imagery and HEC-RAS depth maps for flood extent delineation. This result is significant given the complex nature of flood events and the inherent challenges in accurately mapping flood extents.

6.3. Discussion

The high accuracy observed underscores the potential of integrating remote sensing data with hydrological modeling for effective flood assessment. The combination of satellite imagery and HEC-RAS simulations provided a comprehensive analysis, leveraging the strengths of both datasets. Remote sensing data, such as satellite imagery, offers extensive spatial coverage and temporal consistency, making it invaluable for monitoring flood extents. Hydrological models like HEC-RAS provide detailed simulations of flood dynamics, capturing the physical processes driving flood events.

The confusion matrix was crucial in evaluating the agreement between observed and predicted flood extents, offering insights into the precision and reliability of our methodology. It facilitated the calculation of accuracy metrics and enabled a nuanced understanding of the types of errors present. For instance, identifying false positives and false negatives can inform future improvements in both data collection and modeling techniques.

The errors identified through the MSE and RMSE metrics suggest areas for further refinement in the modeling process. These discrepancies could be due to factors such as resolution differences between datasets, temporal mismatches, or inherent inaccuracies in the flood simulation model. Addressing these factors in future studies could enhance the accuracy and applicability of our approach. Employing higher resolution remote sensing data or more sophisticated hydrological models could reduce these errors.

Moreover, integrating additional data sources, such as ground-based observations or other satellite imagery, could further improve flood extent delineation accuracy. Combining multiple data sources can provide a more comprehensive view of flood events, capturing both large-scale patterns and local variations. This multi-source approach can also help validate results obtained from remote sensing and hydrological modeling, increasing confidence in the accuracy of the flood maps produced.

Overall, the successful integration of remote sensing and hydrological modeling in our study presents a robust framework for flood extent assessment. This methodology can be further applied and refined for other regions and flood events, contributing to improved flood management and mitigation strategies. By enhancing the accuracy of flood extent maps, we can provide valuable information for disaster response, urban planning, and environmental management. The high accuracy achieved in our study highlights the promise of this integrated approach in addressing the challenges of flood assessment and management in the face of increasing flood risks due to climate change and urbanization.

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In conclusion, this project has developed a sophisticated flood simulation visualization portal tailored for the Kabul River Basin within Pakistan. By leveraging advanced hydrological modeling tools, HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS, we have created a seamless and automated workflow that enables users to generate detailed flood simulations and hydrographs by simply inputting the required dates. This system not only enhances the understanding of flood dynamics but also aids in effective flood management and planning.

The use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has been fundamental in this project, providing robust capabilities for data collection, storage, analysis, and visualization. GIS has facilitated the integration of diverse spatial data, allowing us to comprehensively model the hydrological and hydraulic processes within the Kabul River Basin. This integration has been crucial in generating high-resolution flood simulation videos and accurate hydrographs, offering valuable insights into the temporal and spatial aspects of flood events.

The automation of HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS processes within our portal represents a significant advancement in hydrological modeling. By automating these complex workflows, we have made flood simulation more accessible and efficient, reducing the time and expertise required to perform these analyses. This innovation has the potential to significantly improve flood preparedness and response strategies.

Overall, this project underscores the importance of GIS and automated modeling tools in flood management. The integration of these technologies has the potential to revolutionize flood risk assessment and management, providing critical data for decision-making and planning. Our portal not only enhances the understanding of flood behavior but also serves as a vital tool for sustainable water resource management and disaster risk reduction.

For future work, this project can be expanded by incorporating real-time weather monitoring through weather stations, which would enhance the accuracy and timeliness of flood predictions. Additionally, integrating flood mitigation aspects into the portal could provide actionable strategies for reducing flood impacts. Developing an early warning system based on our simulations would significantly improve preparedness and response measures, potentially saving lives and reducing property damage. Moreover, establishing long-term monitoring and data collection programs would further enhance model accuracy and reliability. Advanced spatial analysis techniques could be employed to identify flood-prone areas and optimize flood mitigation measures. Integrating community feedback and local knowledge could enhance the applicability and impact of the portal.

Furthermore, extending the portal’s capabilities to other river basins in Pakistan and beyond would significantly broaden its utility. Enhancing data connectivity and transitioning to more resilient communication networks, such as Radio Frequency Models, would further improve the system's robustness. Finally, leveraging immersive technologies, such as Tangible Landscape, could provide interactive and engaging flood visualization experiences, thereby increasing stakeholder engagement and awareness.

In summary, our flood simulation visualization portal represents a pivotal step towards innovative and effective flood management. By continuing to evolve and expand this system, we can significantly contribute to safer and more resilient communities.

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