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Global optimization for data assimilation in landslide tsunamis models

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8 Abstract

The goal of this article is to make automatic data assimilation for a landslide tsunami model, given by the coupling between a non-hydrostatic multi-layer shallow-water and a Savage-Hutter granular landslide model for submarine avalanches. The coupled model is discretized using a positivity preserving second-order path-conservative finite volume scheme. The data assimilation problem is posed in a global optimization framework and we develop and compare parallel metaheuristic stochastic global optimization algorithms, more precisely multi-path versions of the Simulated Annealing algorithm, with hybrid global optimization algorithms based on hybridizing Simulated Annealing with gradient local searchers, like L-BFGS-B.

9 *Keywords:*

10 Landslide tsunamis, non-hydrostatic multi-layer shallow-water model, finite
11 volume method, global optimization, Simulated Annealing, hybrid
12 optimization algorithms, Basin Hopping, multi-path, L-BFGS-B, parallel,
13 multi-CPU.

14 1. Introduction

15 The goal of this work is twofold. On the one hand, assessing the feasibility
16 of performing data assimilation for models of tsunamis generated by submarine
17 landslides (also known as submarine mass failures, SMF), when only informa-
18 tion/data of the fluid free surface is available: that is, checking whether the data
19 assimilation problem is well posed, i.e. the identifiability of the model param-
20 eters. On the other hand, if the former is possible, we also aim at developing a
21 generic data assimilation framework/machinery based on parallel and efficient
22 global optimization algorithms which can deal with landslide tsunami models.

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23 The tsunami hazard modeling is of great importance to prevent and forecast
24 the consequences of such events, as they can cause a large number of casualties
25 and huge financial losses. Tsunamis can be generated mainly by earthquakes,
26 storm surges or landslides (subaerial or submarine). The majority of them are
27 caused by an offshore earthquake that pushes the ocean up or down. Never-
28 theless tsunamis can also be generated in other ways. Underwater landslides,
29 which might accompany an earthquake or occur independently, are a classic ex-
30 ample. Traditional warning systems completely miss tsunamis from those types
31 of sources. Once we have a model for these phenomena, the correct calibra-
32 tion of the parameters is of key importance for the accurate simulation of the
33 tsunami. This calibration could be even done in real time, feeding the model
34 with the measures given by the tide-gauges in the ocean, in the first moments
35 of the tsunami. After the calibration, the data can be used to rerun the model
36 and predict the trajectory of the tsunami and the impact areas.

37 Several types of models can be found in the literature for modeling land-
38 slide tsunamis. Their development focuses in three aspects: a physical model
39 for landslide material, a hydrodynamic model that simulates the generation
40 and propagation of resulting waves, and the coupling between both. The hy-
41 drodynamics of landslide-induced tsunamis has been extensively studied using
42 numerical models based on different levels of simplification.

43 The simplest model contemplates the landslide as a rigid solid with fixed
44 landslide shape (see for example [1]). Another approach to simulate landslide-
45 induced tsunamis is to consider both the landslide and the water as two different
46 fluids (see [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]). This approach allows the landslide to deform, and
47 to couple the landslide and the fluid. Although the two-fluid models described
48 above can be reasonably successful in predicting tsunami wave generation, they
49 may fail to determine the landslide motion from initiation to deposition.

50 Initial steps towards development of granular flow-based models for land-
51 slide behavior have usually been based on depth-integrated models pioneered
52 by Iverson (1997, see [8]), Savage and Hutter (1989, see [9]), and others. These
53 models were initially developed for application to shallow subaerial debris flows.
54 In [10] a two-layer Savage-Hutter type model was proposed to simulate subma-
55 rine landslides, where the hydrostatic pressure assumption is assumed to derive
56 the model.

57 In [11] a two-phase model for granular landslide motion and tsunami wave
58 generation is developed. The granular phase is modeled by a standard Savage-
59 Hutter type model governed by Coulomb friction and the tsunami wave genera-
60 tion is simulated using a three-dimensional non-hydrostatic wave model, which
61 is capable of capturing wave dispersion efficiently using a small number of dis-
62 cretized vertical layers.

63 Here, we follow a similar approach, that is, we consider a two-phase model,
64 however we will replace the three-dimensional non-hydrostatic model by the
65 multi-layer non-hydrostatic model recently proposed in [12]. We briefly describe
66 this model in Section 2.

67 The previous model depends on a set of parameters that need to be cal-
68 ibrated in order to match real data. Note that, having a good model and a

69 strong and reliable numerical method for solving the problem, is as important
70 as performing a good parameters adjustment of the model according to phys-
71 ical measures. In other words, a good model, together with a good numerical
72 method, can lead to totally wrong results with poorly calibrated parameters.
73 Data assimilation is the tool for embedding reality in numerical simulation. To-
74 gether with mathematical modeling and development of the proper numerical
75 methods, it could be considered as the third leg supporting the numerical sim-
76 ulation of processes in science and engineering, allowing the model to learn and
77 profit from real measured data, see the pioneering work of J. Lions about the
78 mathematical basis of data assimilation and control, [13]. Data assimilation is
79 of key importance, for example, in atmospheric models for weather forecasting,
80 see [14].

81 Our work follows the classical approach to calibrate the parameters of a
82 model, i.e. the parameters are adjusted in such a way that the behaviour of
83 the model approximates, as closely and consistently as possible, the observed
84 response of a hydrologic system over some historical period of time. Ultimately,
85 the best parameters are those minimizing the simple least square objective func-
86 tion of the residuals, which accounts for the differences between the model-
87 simulated output and the measured data. This is the right approach as long
88 as the mathematical model is correct (realistic enough), and physical data are
89 measured without error. The uncertainty in the model prediction will be due
90 to the uncertainty in the parameter estimates.

91 There is a separate line of research [15] arguing that models have structural
92 errors arising from the aggregation of spatially distributed real-world processes
93 into mathematical models. Besides, due to this aggregation process, model pa-
94 rameters usually do not represent directly measurable entities and must there-
95 fore be estimated using measurements of the system inputs and outputs, thus
96 adding another source of errors. As a consequence, during the calibration pro-
97 cess one should also take also into account input, output and model structural
98 errors. Several methods were firstly proposed to deal with model structural and
99 data errors, like the Bayesian approach, Recursive Parameter Estimation algo-
100 rithms, multiobjective calibration or stochastic input error models. Bayesian
101 methods treats model parameters as probabilistic variables, in contrast with
102 Frequentists approaches which consider model parameters fixed but unknown.
103 Examples of Bayesian methods in hydrology are the Generalized Likelihood
104 Uncertainty Estimation framework of Beven and Binley [16] and the Bayesian
105 Recursive Estimation approach of Thiemann [17]. Recursive Parameter estima-
106 tion algorithms help to identify model structural flaws by reducing the temporal
107 aggregation associated with traditional batch processing, like PIMLI and recur-
108 sive Shuffled Complex Evolution Metropolis algorithms (SCEM-UA) [18, 19].
109 Multiobjective frameworks in order to better understand the limitation of the
110 models, use complementary criteria in the optimization procedure and analyze
111 the trade off in the fitting of these criteria; MOCOM [20] and MOSCEM-UA
112 [15] being examples of these algorithms. Finally, realistic stochastic input error
113 models, like the Bayesian Total Error Analysis of Kavetski, only account for
114 input errors.

115 These previously discussed methods were not successful to account for all the
116 referred sources of uncertainty in hydrologic modelling, i.e. parameter, input,
117 output and structural model errors. Later, sequential data assimilation (SDA)
118 techniques, represented by Kalman and extended Kalman filters techniques, for
119 linear and nonlinear models respectively, continuously update the parameters
120 of the model when new measurements are available, in order to improve the
121 model forecast and evaluate the forecast accuracy. Recently, Vrugt et al. in [15]
122 enrich the classical calibration approach with SDA techniques, thus developing
123 the called simultaneous parameter optimization and data assimilation (SODA)
124 method, which combines the strengths of the parameter search efficiency and
125 explorative capabilities of the Shuffled Complex Evolution Metropolis algorithm
126 [21], with the power and computational efficiency of the ensemble Kalman filter,
127 thus accounting for the parameter, input, output and model structural uncer-
128 tainties in hydrologic modeling.

129 Another approach aiming to reduce the uncertainty of models and improve
130 their prediction skills consists on identifying the sensitive parameters and then
131 focus on reducing the error of these delicate parameters [22]. For example,
132 in [23], Yuan Shijin et al. studied the sensitivity of wind stress, the viscosity
133 coefficient and the lateral friction for the simulation of the double-gyre variation
134 in the Regional Ocean Modeling System [24], a model that can be used to
135 simulate global waters of any size from basins to oceans. This sensitivity study
136 was carried out not only for single parameters, but also for the combination of
137 multiple parameters, by means of solving the Conditional Nonlinear Optimal
138 Perturbation related to Parameter (CNOP-P) method [25], with the help of
139 a modified Simulated Annealing (SA) algorithm in order to find the optimal
140 solution in an efficient way. These works ([23]) exploring optimal parameters
141 using sensitivity experiments, not only for individual parameters but also taking
142 into account the interdependence between model parameters, are not feasible
143 for models with large number of parameters, due to the fact that the number
144 of necessary experiments increases exponentially with the involved number of
145 model variables. A study of the sensitivities of the parameters for a simplified
146 version of the model we are considering in this work was carried out by means of
147 Multi-Level Monte Carlo in [26], the fluid model component being hydrostatic
148 with just one fluid layer.

149 In a general setting, the data assimilation problem, for a given model, can be
150 posed as an unconstrained global optimization problem in a bounded domain.
151 Stochastic global metaheuristic algorithms are useful to solve these kind of prob-
152 lems. They have the advantage of needing little information of the function, and
153 also allow to escape from local optima, being their main disadvantage the slow
154 rate of convergence, which is typical of Monte Carlo algorithms. Classical well
155 known examples of these methods are Simulated Annealing (see [27, 28]), Parti-
156 cle Swarm (PS, see [29, 30]) or Differential Evolution (DE, see [31]). Conversely,
157 local optimization algorithms are deterministic and use more information of the
158 function, thus being faster. Their main disadvantages are that, in general, they
159 require some regularity of the cost function, and even more important, they
160 do not guarantee reaching the global optimum, as they can get trapped into a

161 local minimum. They can be gradient free, for example Pattern Search (PS, see
162 [32]) or Nelder-Mead (NM, see [33]); or gradient based, like steepest descent,
163 Newton method, Conjugate Gradient (CG), Nonlinear CG (NCG, see [34]) or
164 Quasi-Newton methods, for example, BFGS [35, 36, 37, 38], L-BFGS [39] or L-
165 BFGS-B [40]. One idea to profit from the good properties of stochastic (global)
166 and deterministic (local) algorithms, is to hybridize them: this can be done, for
167 example, by nesting the local search inside the global algorithm. One example
168 is the Basin Hopping (BH) algorithm [41, 42, 43]. In this work, in order to
169 calibrate the tsunami model, we follow this idea, using a in-house developed
170 parallel multi-path version of the BH algorithm.

171 Data assimilation for shallow-water models has been addressed in many
172 works. In these works usually gradient based local optimization methods, like
173 the simplest steepest descent method, have been used to solve the resulting
174 optimization problem. Due to the high computational cost, the gradient is
175 computed by solving the adjoint problem, either by solving directly the ad-
176 joint system or computing the adjoint by automatic differentiation (AD, see
177 [44, 45]). For example, in [46] the identification of Manning's roughness coeffi-
178 cients in shallow-water flows is performed, and the authors compare three local
179 optimization algorithms, a n-trust region method, L-BFGS and L-BFGS-B min-
180 imizers, where the gradients are computed by solving the adjoint equations. In
181 [47] the variational data assimilation method (4D-VAR) is presented as a tool
182 to forecast floods, in the case of purely hydrological flows: the cost function is
183 a modification of the shallow-water equations to include a simplified sediment
184 transport model and the steepest descent algorithm is then used to find the min-
185 imum. The initial and boundary conditions are calibrated. The gradient of the
186 cost function is analytically computed by solving the adjoint equations of the
187 model. In [48] the authors developed a 4D-VAR combining remote sensing data
188 (spatially distributed water levels extracted from spatial images, SAR) and a
189 2D shallow-water model to identify time-independent parameters (e.g. Manning
190 coefficients and initial conditions) and time-dependent parameters (e.g. inflow).
191 In [49] the authors show the application of the technology developed in [48]
192 to derive water levels with precision from satellite images of a real event. In
193 [50] the authors presented a method to use Lagrangian data along with classi-
194 cal Eulerian observations, in a variational data assimilation process for a river
195 hydraulics 2D shallow-water model, using the trajectories of particles advected
196 by the flow and extracted from video images. In all the cited works AD is ap-
197 plied for computing the gradients, and the data assimilation is performed using
198 gradient local optimization algorithms.

199 Data assimilation for tsunamis forecasting and early warning is a very chal-
200 lenging problem, and on top of that some data are even unknown, for example
201 the geometry of the landslide or bottom deformation related to earthquake. Real
202 time data is available in the Tsunami Early Warning Systems (TEWS), for ex-
203 ample in the tide-gauges network of Deep-Ocean Assessment and Reporting of
204 Tsunamis (DART) from National Data Buoy Center of the NOAA, or similar
205 systems from other countries, see [51]. Tsunami buoys are not only intended to
206 display the occurrence of the tsunami, but also to provide real time data that

207 can be assimilated into the tsunami warning system, to improve the accuracy
208 of the tsunami forecasting. Real time data assimilation in tsunamis models
209 is mostly done using optimal interpolation (OI) and tsunami Green functions,
210 which are calculated in advance with linear tsunami propagation models, see for
211 example [52, 53]. Another alternative assimilation method, is to use Kalman
212 filter techniques (see [54, 55]) for wave field reconstructions and forecasts, see
213 [56, 57]. In [58] data assimilation is done using a OI algorithm to both the
214 real observations and virtual stations, in order to construct a complete wave
215 front of tsunami propagation. In [59] tsunami data assimilation of high-density
216 offshore pressure gauges is performed. In [56] a Kalman filter technique is pro-
217 posed and compared with OI. In [60] the assimilation of Lagrangian data into
218 a primitive equations circulation model of the ocean at basin scale, using the
219 four-dimensional variational technique and the adjoint method, is performed.
220 In [61] retrospectively data assimilation is applied to the tsunami generated in
221 2011 off the Pacific coast by the Tohoku Earthquake (Mw 9.0). The data assim-
222 ilation is done using an algorithm of near-field tsunami forecasting with tsunami
223 data recorded at various offshore tsunami stations: these measures were taken
224 between 5 and 10 minutes before the tsunami reached the coastal tide-gauge
225 stations nearest to its origin.

226 Nevertheless data assimilation in landslide generated tsunamis is not so well-
227 developed. In this work we propose to use global optimization algorithms, that
228 in general produce better results than the local ones. In fact many times the
229 calibrated parameters do not correspond to the global minimum of the involved
230 cost function because the considered local optimizer got stuck in a local minima
231 far from the global solution.

232 Our work lies in the same vein of the recent works of Sumata et al. [62] and
233 [63]. For example in [63] the authors applied a global minimization algorithm
234 in order to calibrate an Arctic Sea Ice-Ocean model. Their approach consists
235 on minimizing a cost function corresponding to the model-observation misfit of
236 three sea ice quantities (the sea ice concentration, drift and thickness), with
237 a genetic algorithm. The similarities between this work and our approach are
238 the use of bound constrained global stochastic minimization and the method to
239 assess on the optimality of the achieved solution by using a pool of independent
240 and randomly initialized minimization experiments. Nevertheless, the approach
241 we are proposing differs from their strategy in several features. First of all,
242 our goal is to calibrate a tsunami model involving less parameters than the 15
243 model variables of the sea ice-ocean model calibrated in their article. Besides,
244 the different nature between this model and the tsunami model we are looking
245 at, enforces a different optimization window, a large one (two decades) in their
246 work versus a small one (a few hours at most) in our sketch. On top of that,
247 Sumata et al. performed the optimization of the cost function on a discrete
248 search space, while our approach, allowing a continuous parameter domain, is
249 richer.

250 Based on their previous work [62], Sumata et al. in [63] support, as our
251 work does, the statement that gradient descent local minimization algorithms
252 are likely to get stuck at local minima for these complicated cost functions.

253 Therefore, the authors impose the need to use stochastic global minimization
254 algorithms. In fact, in [62] two types of optimization methods were applied
255 to the calibration of a coupled ocean-sea ice model, and a comparison was
256 made to assess the applicability and efficiency of both methods. One was a
257 gradient descent method based on finite differences for computing the gradient,
258 while the other was a genetic algorithm. Also a parallel implementation was
259 carried out to speed up the optimization process. In the case of the gradient
260 descent method, each component of the gradient was computed in parallel.
261 They precisely conclude that the global optimization GA is preferred, because
262 it yields a better optimum, since the gradient local optimizers could get trapped
263 in local optima, even if several launches of the gradient algorithm are launched,
264 in a multistart fashion. This statement exactly coincide with our forthcoming
265 conclusions in Section 4.1 and 4.2 (see Figures 4 and 11).

266 In our paper, we overcome this disadvantage, by proposing for first time in
267 this field, the use of a parallel hybrid local-global minimization algorithm. More
268 precisely we develop a BH like algorithm. BH consists on hybridizing SA and
269 local gradient searchers, allowing to benefit from both worlds, the global conver-
270 gence properties of SA and the speed of local optimizers. We go even further
271 by proposing a parallel version of the BH algorithm. For the local searcher in-
272 creased, we use a bounded version of the L-BFGS algorithm used in [62],
273 namely the L-BFGS-B algorithm. This version is able to increase the conver-
274 gence speed and the success rate of BH. The multistart technique performed in
275 [62] can be seen as computing only one temperature stage of our multi-path BH
276 algorithm. Another advantage of our algorithm is its embarrassingly parallel
277 nature, as we can map each search path to a different parallel thread. In [62]
278 each CPU thread computes one component of the gradient, while in our case,
279 each thread is responsible of one L-BFGS path. We show using an analytical
280 test, that this algorithm improves the multi-start technique, as it is always able
281 to find the global optimum. Besides, in our article not only we compare the
282 efficiency of this multi-path BH, with the equivalent version of a multipath SA
283 (that can be seen as the BH without performing the local searches), but also
284 show that by using the gradient searches the convergence speed of even a mul-
285 tipath SA increased. As mentioned before, a SA algorithm was also used in [23]
286 to effectively solve the CNOP-P of ROMS.

287 The organization of this paper is as follows. In Section 2 we pose the data
288 assimilation problem. In Section 2.1 we describe the cost function, which is
289 given by the measure of the mismatch between the free surface laboratory data
290 and the computed one, that depends on the parameters we want to assimilate.
291 The optimization of this cost function is a hard problem: on the one hand,
292 the evaluation of the cost function is an expensive computational problem, be-
293 cause it relies in the solution of a time dependent system of partial differential
294 equations. On the other hand, this data assimilation problem gives rise to a
295 global optimization problem. In Section 2.2 we briefly describe the two-phase
296 tsunami model and give some references about the numerical scheme we use.
297 The physical parameters of the system, that need to be calibrated, are the ratio
298 of densities between the grain and the fluid, the Coulomb friction angle and

299 the Manning friction coefficient. The evaluation of the cost function requires a
300 numerical solution of this two-phase model, computed for a given set of param-
301 eters.

302 In Section 3, we recall the global optimization algorithms that we will use:
303 multi-path Simulated Annealing and multi-path Basin Hopping algorithms.
304 Both algorithms were proposed by the authors in [64] and [65] for accelerating
305 the convergence of SA and BH respectively, and are based in performing syn-
306 chronized parallel Metropolis searches, or parallel gradient based local searches.
307 They were assessed against the hard benchmarks in the global optimization
308 field, and have been successfully applied to the calibration of models in finance,
309 even in the case where the costly Monte Carlo method is the only alternative
310 to price the involved financial products (see for example [66]). In this work we
311 apply these algorithms for data assimilation in landslide tsunami modeling. One
312 of the objectives of this article is to show that this type of algorithms can be
313 successfully applied for the parameters calibration on challenging geophysical
314 problems.

315 In Section 4, we present the numerical experiments that we have carried
316 out: Section 4.1 is devoted to validating the methodology using synthetic tests,
317 in which the model is run for fixed sets of parameters, and we generate files
318 with the free surface information. Then, we consider these data as data coming
319 from laboratory, and try to recover the parameters that were used to generate
320 those data, by global optimization in a large domain. After validating the
321 methodology, in Section 4.2 we apply the technique for performing the data
322 assimilation considering real laboratory data.

323 2. Data assimilation problem

324 In general, the cost function measures the error, computed in some norm,
325 between the real data and the solution produced by the numerical model. The
326 model will depend on a set of parameters. For example, in the case of a one
327 layer shallow-water model, they can be: one Manning coefficient for the whole
328 domain, or also several Manning coefficients, one per subdomain; the initial
329 conditions; the boundary conditions, etc. These parameters can be even time
330 dependant (boundary conditions, for example).

331 2.1. Cost function

332 In this study, the cost function only depends on the free surface elevation
333 because this quantity is easily measurable and perhaps the most important
334 magnitude to predict the tsunami inundation. Thus, to carry out the data
335 assimilation method we can introduce the following cost function using the
336 Hilbert space $L^2(0, T; \Omega)$ norm:

$$f(\mathbf{p}) = \|\eta^{\mathbf{p}} - \eta^{obs}\|_{L^2(0, T; \Omega)} = \left(\int_0^T \|\eta^{\mathbf{p}}(\cdot, t) - \eta^{obs}(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 dt \right)^{1/2}, \quad (1)$$

where $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}$ is the spatial domain, $[0, T]$ is the time domain, $\eta^{\mathbf{p}}(x, t)$ is the free surface elevation at the point x and at time t computed with some model using the set of parameters \mathbf{p} , and η^{obs} are the observed values, that can be obtained from SAR images, sea buoys or laboratory experiments. This leads to an unconstrained global optimization problem in a bounded domain. More precisely, we address problems that can be formulated as

$$\min_{\mathbf{p} \in D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n} f(\mathbf{p}),$$

where f is a real valued function, with $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ the vector of parameters, defined on $D = \prod_{i=1}^n [l_i, u_i]$, with l_i and u_i being the lower and upper bounds in direction i , respectively. The solution can be written as:

$$\mathbf{p}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{p} \in D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n} f(\mathbf{p}).$$

In the discrete case, the cost function will have the following expression:

$$f(\mathbf{p}) = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{N_T} \sum_{i=1}^N (\eta_{i,k}^{\mathbf{p}} - \eta_{i,k}^{obs})^2},$$

337 where $\eta_{i,k}^{\mathbf{p}} = \eta^{\mathbf{p}}(x_i, t_k)$ and $\eta_{i,k}^{obs} = \eta^{obs}(x_i, t_k)$ being x_i the i -th measure point,
 338 for $i = 1, \dots, N$ and t_k the k -th measure time, with $k = 1, \dots, N_T$.

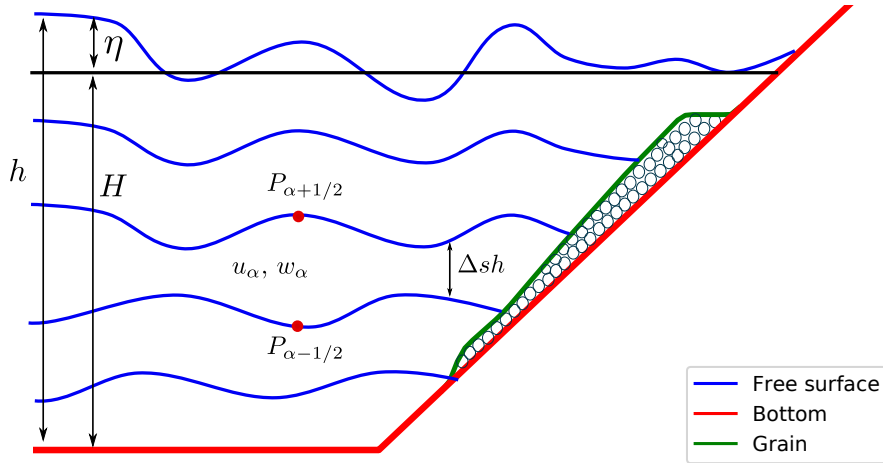


Figure 1: Sketch of the model.

339 Note that the cost function depends on $\eta^{\mathbf{p}}$, which implicitly depends on the
 340 parameters to be calibrated. Therefore, a single evaluation of the cost function
 341 requires a realization of the numerical model for a given set of parameters. In

342 the next section we present the equations of the two-phase model, pointing out
 343 what are the parameters to be calibrated. Some basic idea about the numerical
 344 scheme we use is also sketched.

345 2.2. Mathematical model

346 As discussed in the introduction, we use a two-phase model in order to
 347 describe the interaction between the submarine landslide and the fluid. In this
 348 work, a Savage-Hutter model (see [9]) is considered for the kinematics of the
 349 submarine landslide, and a multi-layer non-hydrostatic shallow-water model is
 350 used for the evolution of the ambient water (see [12]). Both models are coupled
 351 through the boundary conditions at the sea-floor.

352 At this point, we suppose that the landslide is totally submerged and that
 353 the ratio of densities between the ambient fluid and the granular material is
 354 given by the parameter r . Usually

$$r = \frac{\rho_f}{(1 - \varphi)\rho_s + \varphi\rho_f},$$

355 where ρ_s is the typical density of the granular material, ρ_f is the density of
 356 the fluid ($\rho_s > \rho_f$), and φ is the porosity ($0 \leq \varphi < 1$). Here, we suppose that
 357 φ is constant on space and time, and therefore r is also constant. Note that
 358 $0 < r < 1$. Finally, let us remark that even on a uniform material, r is difficult
 359 to estimate as it depends on porosity φ . Typical values of r are in the interval
 360 $[0.3, 0.8]$.

361 The 1D Savage-Hutter model that we consider in this article is written as
 362 follows:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t z_s + \partial_x(z_s u_s) = 0, \\ \partial_t(z_s u_s) + \partial_x\left(z_s u_s^2 + \frac{g(1-r)}{2} z_s^2\right) = g(1-r)z_s \partial_x H + \tau_C, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

363 where g is the gravity acceleration ($g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$); $H(x)$ is the non-erodible
 364 bathymetry measured from a given reference level and unchanged during the
 365 simulation; $z_s(x, t)$ is the landslide depth at each point x at time t ; and $u_s(x, t)$
 366 the averaged horizontal velocity. τ_C is the Coulomb friction term given by:

$$\tau_C = -g(1-r)\mu z_s \frac{\sqrt{u_s^2}}{u_s}.$$

367 Note that this term is multi-valuated when $u_s = 0$. The simplest friction law
 368 corresponds to a constant friction coefficient:

$$\mu = \tan(\theta), \quad (3)$$

369 where θ is the friction angle, although more complex friction terms could be
 370 used to simulate natural subaerial or submarine landslides (see [67, 68]). Other

371 definitions, derived from experimental data, have been proposed by Pouliquen
 372 (see [69]) where the friction coefficient depends on the velocity and thickness
 373 of the granular layer. This law is widely used in the literature and involves at
 374 least three parameters to be calibrated (see e.g. [70]).

375 The Coulomb friction term τ_C is quite relevant, as it controls the motion of
 376 the landslide. In particular, it is defined in terms of the friction angle θ , which
 377 is a parameter to calibrate in order to fit the simulation with the experimental
 378 data. Finally, let us mention that in the derivation of the previous model we
 379 have supposed a rigid-lid assumption with respect to the free surface of the
 380 ambient fluid: that is, the pressure variations induced by the fluctuation on the
 381 free surface of the ambient fluid over the landslide are neglected. Nevertheless,
 382 the buoyancy effects have been taken into account.

383 The ambient fluid is supposed to be modeled by a multi-layer non-hydrostatic
 384 shallow-water system recently proposed in [12]. This system is obtained by a
 385 process of depth-averaging of the incompressible Euler equations. More pre-
 386 cisely, it can be seen as a particular semi-discretization with respect to the
 387 vertical variable of the incompressible Euler equations. Total pressure is de-
 388 composed into a sum of a hydrostatic and a non-hydrostatic component. In this
 389 process, vertical velocities are assumed to have a linear vertical profile, whilst
 390 the horizontal velocities are supposed to have a constant vertical profile. The re-
 391 sulting multi-layer model admits an exact energy balance, and when the number
 392 of layers increases, the linear dispersion relation of the linear model converges
 393 to the same of Airy's theory. The model proposed in [12] can be written in
 394 compact form as

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \partial_t h + \partial_x(h\bar{u}) = 0, \\ \partial_t(hu_\alpha) + \partial_x\left(hu_\alpha^2 + \frac{g}{2}h^2\right) - gh\partial_x(H - z_s) \\ \quad + u_{\alpha+1/2}\Gamma_{\alpha+1/2} - u_{\alpha-1/2}\Gamma_{\alpha-1/2} = -h(\partial_x p_\alpha + \sigma_\alpha \partial_z p_\alpha) - \tau_\alpha, \\ \partial_t(hw_\alpha) + \partial_x(hu_\alpha w_\alpha) + w_{\alpha+1/2}\Gamma_{\alpha+1/2} - w_{\alpha-1/2}\Gamma_{\alpha-1/2} = -h\partial_z p_\alpha, \\ \partial_x u_{\alpha-1/2} + \sigma_{\alpha-1/2} \partial_z u_{\alpha-1/2} + \partial_z w_{\alpha-1/2} = 0, \end{array} \right. \quad (4)$$

395 for $\alpha \in \{1, 2, \dots, L\}$, being L the number of layers. In the previous system, we
 396 have used the following notation:

$$\begin{aligned}
u_{\alpha+1/2} &= \frac{1}{2}(u_{\alpha+1} + u_{\alpha}), & \partial_z u_{\alpha+1/2} &= \frac{1}{h\Delta s}(u_{\alpha+1} - u_{\alpha}), \\
w_{\alpha+1/2} &= \frac{1}{2}(w_{\alpha+1} + w_{\alpha}), & \partial_z w_{\alpha+1/2} &= \frac{1}{h\Delta s}(w_{\alpha+1} - w_{\alpha}), \\
p_{\alpha} &= \frac{1}{2}(p_{\alpha+1/2} + p_{\alpha-1/2}), & \partial_z p_{\alpha} &= \frac{1}{h\Delta s}(p_{\alpha+1/2} - p_{\alpha-1/2}), \\
\sigma_{\alpha} &= \partial_x(H - z_s - h\Delta s(\alpha - 1/2)), & \sigma_{\alpha-1/2} &= \partial_x(H - z_s - h\Delta s(\alpha - 1)).
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

397 As depicted in Figure 1, the flow depth h is split along the vertical axis into
398 $L \geq 1$ layers and $\Delta s = 1/L$. u_{α} and w_{α} are the depth averaged velocities in
399 the x and z directions respectively, and g is the gravitational acceleration. The
400 term $p_{\alpha+1/2}$ is the non-hydrostatic pressure at the interface $z_{\alpha+1/2}$. The free
401 surface elevation measured from the still-water level is $\eta = h - H + z_s$, where
402 again $H(x)$ is the unchanged non-erodible bathymetry measured from a given
403 reference level. $\tau_{\alpha} = 0$, $\alpha > 1$ and τ_1 is the Manning friction term that is only
404 present at the lowest layer ($\alpha = 1$) given by

$$\tau_1 = gh \frac{n^2}{h^{4/3}} u_1 |u_1|.$$

405 Finally, for $\alpha = 1, \dots, L-1$, $\Gamma_{\alpha+1/2}$ account for the mass transfer across inter-
406 faces and are defined by

$$\Gamma_{\alpha+1/2} = \sum_{\beta=\alpha+1}^L \partial_x(h\Delta s(u_{\beta} - \bar{u})), \quad \bar{u} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^L \Delta s u_{\alpha}.$$

407 Here we suppose that $\Gamma_{1/2} = \Gamma_{L+1/2} = 0$, that is, there is no mass transfer
408 through the bottom nor the free-surface.

409 In order to close the system, the following boundary conditions are consid-
410 ered: $p_{L+1/2} = 0$, $u_0 = 0$ and $w_0 = \partial_t z_s$. Note that the last two conditions enter
411 into the incompressibility condition for the lowest layer ($\alpha = 1$), given by

$$\partial_x u_{1/2} + \sigma_{1/2} \partial_z u_{1/2} + \partial_z w_{1/2} = 0.$$

412 Observe that both models are coupled through the unknown z_s , present in the
413 equations and in the boundary condition ($w_0 = \partial_t z_s$).

414 Note that the two-phase model depends on three coefficients (that are the
415 ones to be calibrated), namely the vector of coefficient is $\mathbf{p} = (r, \theta, n)$, where r is
416 the ratio of densities between the fluid and the granular phase, θ the Coulomb
417 friction angle, and n the friction (Manning) coefficient. In particular the first
418 two are quite relevant for the landslide motion and therefore, for the induced
419 tsunami water waves.

420 System (2) could be written in the following compact way:

$$\partial_t U_s + \partial_x F_s(U_s) = G_s(U_s) \partial_x H - S_s(U_s), \tag{6}$$

421 being

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_s &= \begin{bmatrix} z_s \\ u_s z_s \end{bmatrix}, \quad F_s(U_s) = \begin{bmatrix} z_s u_s \\ z_s u_s^2 + \frac{g(1-r)}{2} z_s^2 \end{bmatrix}, \\
 G_s(U_s) &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ g(1-r)z_s \end{bmatrix}, \quad S_s(U_s) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \tau_C \end{bmatrix}.
 \end{aligned}$$

423 The multi-layer non-hydrostatic shallow-water system could also be expressed
 424 in a similar way:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t U_f + \partial_x F_f(U_f) + B_f(U_f) \partial_x U_f = G_f(U) \partial_x (H - z_s) + \mathcal{T}_{NH} - S_f(U_f), \\ B(U_f, (U_f)_x, H, H_x, z_s, (z_s)_x) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where

$$U_f = \begin{bmatrix} h \\ hu_1 \\ \vdots \\ hu_L \\ hw_1 \\ \vdots \\ hw_L \end{bmatrix}, \quad F_f(U_f) = \begin{bmatrix} h\bar{u} \\ hu_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}gh^2 \\ \vdots \\ hu_L^2 + \frac{1}{2}gh^2 \\ hu_1 w_1 \\ \vdots \\ hu_L w_L \end{bmatrix}, \quad G_f(U_f) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ gh \\ \vdots \\ gh \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

425 $B_f(U_f) \partial_x (U_f)$ contains the non-conservative products involving the momentum
 426 transfer across the interfaces

$$B_f(U_f) \partial_x (U_f) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ u_{3/2} \Gamma_{3/2} \\ u_{5/3} \Gamma_{5/2} - u_{3/2} \Gamma_{3/2} \\ \vdots \\ -u_{L-1/2} \Gamma_{L-1/2} \\ w_{3/2} \Gamma_{3/2} \\ w_{5/3} \Gamma_{5/2} - w_{3/2} \Gamma_{3/2} \\ \vdots \\ -w_{L-1/2} \Gamma_{L-1/2} \end{bmatrix},$$

427 $S_f(U_f)$ contains the Manning friction term

$$S_f(U_f) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \tau_1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

428 The non-hydrostatic corrections in the momentum equations are given by

$$\mathcal{T}_{NH} = \mathcal{T}_{NH}(h, h_x, H, H_x, z_s, (z_s)_x, p, p_x) = - \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ h(\partial_x p_1 + \sigma_1 \partial_z p_1) \\ \vdots \\ h(\partial_x p_L + \sigma_L \partial_z p_L) \\ h \partial_z p_1 \\ \vdots \\ h \partial_z p_L \end{bmatrix},$$

429 and finally, the operator related with the incompressibility condition at each
430 layer is given by:

$$B(U_f, (U_f)_x, H, H_x, z_s, (z_s)_x) = \begin{bmatrix} \partial_x u_{1/2} + \sigma_{1/2} \partial_z u_{1/2} + \partial_z w_{1/2} \\ \vdots \\ \partial_x u_{L-1/2} + \sigma_{L-1/2} \partial_z u_{L-1/2} + \partial_z w_{L-1/2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

431 The discretization of systems (6) and (7) becomes difficult. In this article, we
432 have considered the natural extension of the numerical schemes proposed in [71]
433 and [72], where a splitting technique has been described. Firstly, the systems (6)
434 and (7) can be expressed as the following non-conservative hyperbolic system:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t U_s + \partial_x F_s(U_s) = G_s(U_s) \partial_x H, \\ \partial_t U_f + \partial_x F_f(U_f) + B_f(U_f) \partial_x (U_f) = G_f(U_f) \partial_x (H - z_s). \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

435 Both equations are solved simultaneously using the same *time step*, by means of
436 a second order HLL, positivity-preserving and well-balanced, path-conservative
437 finite volume scheme (see [73]). The synchronization of time steps is done tak-
438 ing into account the CFL condition of the complete system (8). A first order
439 estimation of the maximum of the wave speed for system (8) is the following:

$$\lambda_{\max} = \max(|u_s| + \sqrt{(g(1-r)h_s}, |\bar{u}| + \sqrt{gh}).$$

440 Next, the non-hydrostatic pressure corrections $p_{1/2}, \dots, p_{L-1/2}$ at the ver-
441 tical interfaces are computed from

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t U_f = \mathcal{T}_{NH}(h, h_x, H, H_x, z_s, (z_s)_x, p, p_x), \\ B(U_f, (U_f)_x, H, H_x, z_s, (z_s)_x) = 0. \end{cases}$$

442 This requires the discretization of an elliptic operator by means of standard
 443 second order central finite differences. The resulting linear system is solved
 444 using an iterative Scheduled Jacobi method (see [74]). Finally, the horizontal
 445 and vertical momentum at each layer are updated using the computed non-
 446 hydrostatic corrections. At this stage, the frictions $S_s(U_s)$ and $S_f(U_f)$ are also
 447 discretized (see [71, 72]). We refer the reader to [10] for the discretization of the
 448 Coulomb friction term.

449 3. Multi-path BH global optimization

450 In this section we describe the optimization algorithms multi-path SA (SA_M)
 451 and multi-path BH (BH_M), that can be seen as a modification of the sequential
 452 BH algorithm, introducing a parallel multi-path searching technique.

453 The BH algorithm is a hybrid between the Metropolis algorithm and some
 454 kind of gradient local optimization method, in order to profit from the speed and
 455 accuracy of the local optimizer, while retaining the global convergence properties
 456 of the stochastic one. The seminal idea was presented by Navon and Robertson
 457 et al. in [41, 42] for finding the global minimum of Potential Energy Surfaces
 458 (PES) related to structures of mixed Argon-Xenon clusters. The authors devel-
 459 oped the finite-temperature lattice based Monte Carlo method and compared
 460 the use of three different limited memory Quasi-Newton-like conjugate gradient
 461 methods as local minimizers, the L-BFGS against two others, being L-BFGS
 462 the better performing one. Seven years later, a similar idea was also success-
 463 fully applied by Wales and Doye (see [43]) in order to minimize the PES, for
 464 finding Lennard-Jones clusters using a nonlinear conjugate gradient method
 465 (Polak Ribière [34]) as the local optimizer. In the latter reference the authors
 466 named the method Basin-Hopping; this name became widely accepted for refer-
 467 ring to these kind of global optimization methods. Nowadays, the term BH
 468 encompasses a family of algorithms obtained by combining different local (NCG,
 469 BFGS, ...) and global stochastic algorithms (Metropolis or SA): quasi-Newton
 470 methods (BFGS and descendants) are the most common choice for the local
 471 component. BH methods have been extensively studied by Locatelli et al., see
 472 [75, 76, 77, 78], and Leary [79]. In the BH method, the local optimizer can be
 473 seen as an operator that transforms the original function $f(\mathbf{x})$, returning a new
 474 piece-wise constant function, $L(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathcal{L}\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}))$, being $\mathcal{L}\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x})$ the point where a
 475 local minimum of f is obtained from a starting point \mathbf{x} . The resulting global op-
 476 timization problem for the function $L(\mathbf{x})$, is much more tractable for the global
 477 optimizer component, as the barriers between local minima have been softened.

478 The idea of BH is to use a temperature process like in SA: we denote by \mathcal{T}
 479 and \mathcal{T}_{min} the current and minimum temperatures, we consider the temperature
 480 reduction schedule, $\mathcal{T}_{k-1} = \rho\mathcal{T}_k$, being ρ the cooling rate, and we perform a
 481 Metropolis process with N steps at each temperature level. More precisely, at
 482 temperature level \mathcal{T}_k , being \mathbf{x}_k the starting point, first, we generate a random
 483 neighbor, \mathbf{y}_k , inside a ball with radius r_k and centered in \mathbf{x}_k , $\mathbf{y}_k \in B(\mathbf{x}_k, r_k)$.
 484 Next, we perform a gradient local search starting from \mathbf{y}_k , in order to obtain a

485 local minimum, and we decide whether to accept or discard it, using the Boltz-
 486 mann law. Finally, we advance to the next temperature level. The algorithm
 487 stops when the temperature reaches \mathcal{T}_{min} , or the number of successive rejections
 488 exceeds J . The radius r_k is updated after a certain interval, by using the 50%
 489 acceptance rule [80]. A nice property is that BH can also be seen as a general-
 490 ization of SA: SA can be recovered by skipping the local optimization phase in
 491 BH.

492 In [64, 65] the authors proposed a synched multiple Metropolis path approach
 493 for SA and BH-like algorithms, respectively. The idea is to perform not one,
 494 but M Metropolis searches at each temperature level \mathcal{T}_k , from the same initial
 495 point \mathbf{x}_k (see Algorithm 1). In the simplified case with $N = 1$, the algorithm
 496 consists of launching M gradient local searchers (see Figure 2), starting from the
 497 corresponding set of random neighbors \mathbf{y}_k^l , $l = 1, \dots, M$, of the current minimum
 498 point, and thus the Metropolis searches are entirely replaced by local searches.
 499 After performing the N steps of Metropolis at each path, and before advancing
 500 to the next temperature level, we gather the final information, keeping the best
 501 of the attained minima, so that $\mathbf{x}_{k+1}^{best} = \min(\mathbf{x}_*^l)$ (see Figure 2 and Algorithm
 502 1). We will refer to this algorithm as BH_M , M being the number of paths
 503 (number of Metropolis processes with local searchers; or just the number of
 504 local searches, if $N = 1$) launched at each temperature optimization step. Note
 505 that if besides $M = 1$, then BH_1 corresponds with the classical BH (only one
 506 Metropolis path, or only one local search). Also, if we replace the local search
 507 operator, \mathcal{LS} , with the identity, *id*, we recover the multi-path SA algorithms,
 508 SA_M [64]; furthermore SA_1 corresponds to the classical single path SA. These
 509 multi-path BH_M algorithms have two interesting properties: on the one hand,
 510 they are highly parallelizable; on the other hand they improve convergence
 511 properties, both the convergence speed and the success rate of the classical SA
 512 and BH.

513 This approach has the advantage of being easily parallelizable, because the
 514 multiple search paths can be computed asynchronously at the same time. For
 515 example, if we have a multi-CPU architecture, each CPU thread can take care
 516 of computing one local search, and after that the results have to be synchronized
 517 (see Figure 2). In this paper, we will use this multi-path implementation in a
 518 multi-CPU setting, each CPU thread will take care of a search path.

519 Regarding the convergence properties, in [65] the study of the optimal num-
 520 ber of multi-searches, both from the convergence rate and the success rate view-
 521 point, is done empirically. According to the results, increasing the number of
 522 searchers improves the convergence rate, although this increase in convergence
 523 rate is not unlimited. For example, if the problem is simple and/or the dimen-
 524 sion is low, by increasing the number of searchers one would only obtain a
 525 marginal increase in convergence speed. Nevertheless, even in those cases, the
 526 computing time can be lower because the evaluations can be done in parallel,
 527 and thus this increase in the number of search paths comes almost for free.
 528 Even if the problem is computationally hard, it always comes a point where
 529 the optimal convergence rate is achieved and a further increase in the number
 530 of searchers will not have any advantage. Usually this number of searches for

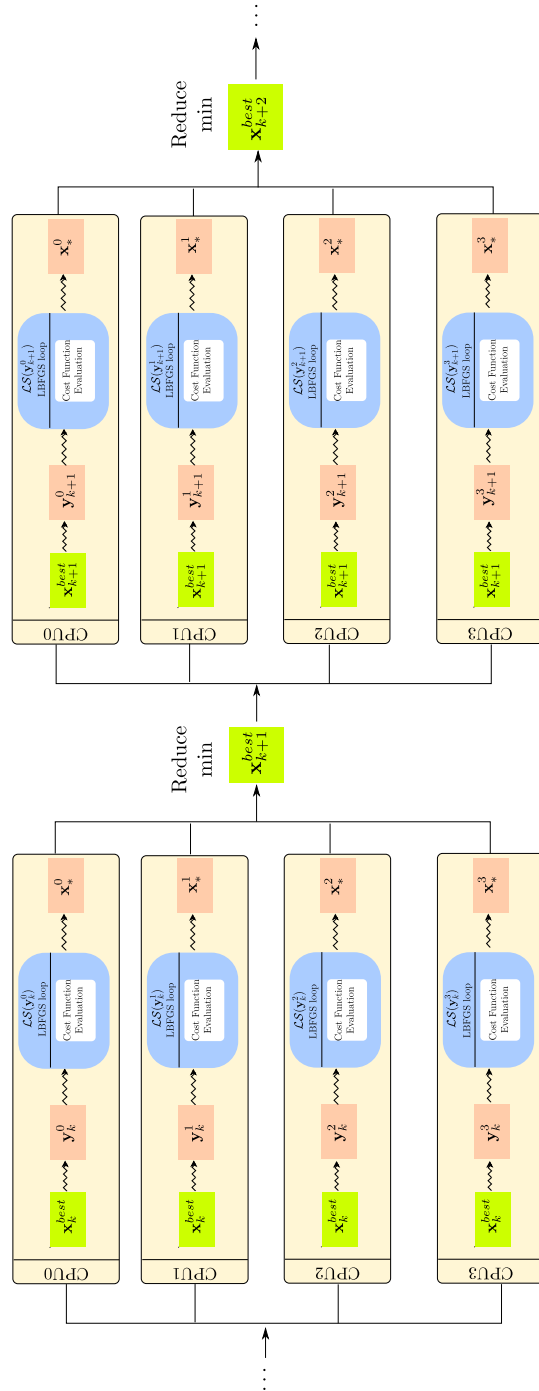


Figure 2: Schematic visualization of the BHM algorithm (with $M = 4$).

Algorithm 1: Synched multi L-BFGS-B BH, pseudocode.

```
y = random uniform in  $D$ ;  
Set # successive rejections:  $j = 0$ ;  
Iteration number:  $k = 0$ ;  
Initial position:  $\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}_* = \mathcal{LS}(\mathbf{y})$ ;  
while ( $j < J$ ) or ( $\mathcal{T} < \mathcal{T}_{min}$ ) do  
  for  $l = 1:M$  do  
    for  $i = 1:N$  do  
       $\mathbf{y}_i^l$  = random uniform in  $B(\mathbf{x}_i^l, r_k)$ ;  
       $\mathbf{u}$  = random uniform in  $[0, 1]$ ;  
       $\Delta = L(\mathbf{y}_i^l) - L(\mathbf{x}_*^l)$ ;  
      if  $\mathbf{u} < \exp(-\Delta/\mathcal{T})$  then  
         $\mathbf{x}_*^l = \mathbf{x}_{i+1}^l = \mathcal{LS}(\mathbf{y}_i^l)$ ;  
         $j = 0$ ;  
      else  
         $j = j + 1$ ;  
      end if  
    end for  
  end for  
  Synchronization:  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1}^{best} = \min(\mathbf{x}_*^l)$ ;  
  for  $l = 1:M$  do  
     $\mathbf{x}_*^l = \mathbf{x}_{k+1}^{best}$ ;  
  end for  
   $k = k + 1$ ;  
  Update  $r_k$ ;  
   $\mathcal{T} = \rho \cdot \mathcal{T}$ ;  
end while
```

531 obtaining an optimal convergence rate is moderate: the optimization problem
532 has to be really tough in order to demand a high number of local searchers. The
533 good properties of the proposed algorithm also apply to the success rate and
534 the same conclusions can be obtained. Usually, it comes a point when a 100%
535 success rate is achieved, more number of searchers will not have any advantage.
536 Besides, the number of searches for obtaining this 100% success rate is, once
537 more, normally moderate. For tough problems, the advantage of performing a
538 large number of local searches becomes more evident.

539 In this work, for the local optimizer we will use the very robust L-BFGS-B
540 algorithm. This minimizer is intended for problems in which information on
541 the Hessian matrix is difficult to obtain. It was presented by Nocedal in [81] as
542 an extension of the L-BFGS minimizer, being a limited-memory quasi-Newton
543 algorithm (it does not need to store the Hessian matrix) that allows to solve
544 nonlinear optimization problems with restrictions given by simple bounds on
545 the variables of the function to be optimized.

546 In our work since the parameters are known to vary between given bounds,
547 and we need to ensure that the optimizer would never explode by following
548 a wrong path outside the physical domain, we used the L-BFGS-B bounded
549 gradient method. If one uses a non bounded gradient local optimizer, some
550 search paths could reach points outside the physical domain, where the equations
551 could stop making sense. In that case the evaluation of the cost function (a finite
552 volume solver) may explode, either by crashing or by entering in a very low
553 Δt state (imposed by the CFL condition). As a consequence the assimilation
554 process will crash or never end. We preferred to stay safe with the bounded
555 algorithm, as it has almost the same computational cost as the unbounded L-
556 BFGS version.

557 In order to compute the partial derivatives with respect to the variables to be
558 identified, needed for the gradient of the objective function, we can use either al-
559 gorithms based on the so-called adjoint method or the standard finite-difference
560 method. Both techniques have their own advantages and disadvantages. In this
561 article we opted for the finite difference procedure attending to the reasons that
562 will be discussed hereafter.

563 There are two different approaches for tackling the adjoint problem. One
564 technique is the classical approach developed by Lions (see [13]) and applied
565 for the simpler 2D one layer shallow water model by Monnier et al. in [48]. It
566 consists in computing the adjoint PDE system, and then solving it by numerical
567 methods. This is a very challenging problem even for the simpler shallow water
568 model assimilated by Monnier, and even much more for our problem at hand:
569 we emphasize that we are dealing with a coupled model involving an arbitrary
570 number of fluid layers (denoted by L in the PDE system (4)) of “shallow-water
571 type systems”, along with the Savage-Hutter equations, thus resulting in a large
572 hyperbolic system of coupled conservation laws. The mentioned system can only
573 be numerically approximated by means of very involved finite volume numerical
574 discretizations, thus dealing with the corresponding stability issues related to
575 high nonlinearities involved in hyperbolic problems along with spatial-temporal
576 discretization issues. As a consequence, the adjoint method will lead to a system
577 of conservation laws with source terms and non-conservative products, for which
578 it would not be clear the hyperpolicity region. Besides, the numeric approxima-
579 tion of this adjoint system will be very sophisticated. One wonders if all this
580 challenging work, even if feasible, is worth it for calibrating just this particular
581 model. On the other hand, a way to circumvent those difficulties and avoid
582 computing the adjoint system, is to compute the partial derivatives by means of
583 Automatic Differentiation (AD). As in the close future we pretend to tackle real
584 two dimensional problems, which involve much higher computational cost, and
585 consequently even more for the adjoint AD procedure, speeding up on GPUs the
586 cost function evaluation (i.e. the solution of the system) becomes compulsory.
587 In this scenario, also the automatic differentiation algorithm should be carried
588 out in the GPU side. Therefore, an AD library for GPUs is needed, something
589 that can be an obstacle due to the fact that these tools are not always avail-
590 able, specially for massively parallel architectures like GPUs. Furthermore, the
591 code should be rewritten from the very basics using the overloaded operators

592 provided by the AD library. On top of that, more memory will be needed in
593 this adjoint setting, which is again an issue in GPUs.

594 Having in mind all the previously discussed issues, in this article we opted
595 for the direct numerical approximation of the partial derivatives involved in the
596 gradient using finite differences. In our case this has several advantages when
597 compared to the adjoint computation. First of all, one of our goals is to develop
598 a data assimilation framework/machinery for landslide tsunami models, generic
599 enough in the sense that it should be directly applicable if one wants to enrich
600 the here considered model with further characteristics or even fully replace it
601 with other models. This machinery should endow us with a tool for comparing
602 the accuracy of (possibly quite) different models, and this is a reason for not
603 developing an algorithm that is too tailored/tight for a particular model or nu-
604 merical scheme. In this sense, by computing the gradient via finite differences
605 we gain generality, since the method can be easily applied to models of all kinds
606 without changes in the calibration procedure (in the same vein of [62]); one will
607 just need to invoke it by plug in the new model solver (no changes are needed
608 in the solver, unlike with the adjoint method). Hence we are well positioned in
609 order to face the calibration of the previously mentioned oncoming richer two
610 dimensional model to real data. Additionally, our technique is able to cope with
611 the strongly nonlinear relation between model state and parameters, for which
612 other approaches based on Kalman filter have difficulties. Finally, regarding the
613 computational efficiency, finite-difference method for computing the derivatives
614 of the cost function with respect to the parameters to be calibrated is not much
615 more computing time demanding than the adjoint method if the number of op-
616 timization variables is short; indeed this is the case we are dealing with, our
617 goal is to calibrate three parameters, namely the ratio r of densities between
618 the fluid and the granular phase, the Coulomb friction angle θ , and the friction
619 Manning coefficient n . Last but not least, nowadays, thanks to the available
620 high computational power, the numerical computation of the gradient could be
621 directly addressed making use of parallel codes that combine multi-CPU im-
622 plementation of the optimizer and multi-GPU implementation of the numerical
623 solver used to evaluate the cost function.

All in all, the gradient of the cost function will be numerically computed,
using first order progressive finite differences

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial p_i}(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{f(\mathbf{p} + \varepsilon \mathbf{e}_i) - f(\mathbf{p})}{\varepsilon},$$

624 with $\varepsilon = 10^{-6}$, and $\mathbf{e}_i = (0, \dots, 1, \dots, 0)$ the unitary vector of direction i .

625 Regarding the implementation of the algorithms, the whole implementation
626 of both the cost function (finite volume solver) and its gradients, and the opti-
627 mization algorithms, is custom made. Both algorithms have been integrated in
628 an efficient code using C++, and OpenMP is used for the parallel implementa-
629 tion of the optimization codes (see Figure 2). Also we want to emphasize that
630 the cost function is integrated with the optimization tool, so that it is called on
631 the fly for each set of parameters during the optimization process. Therefore

632 no intermediate results need to be discharged from RAM to the hard drive for
 633 computing the value of the cost function, thus resulting in an efficient code.
 634 Furthermore, during the whole optimization process the laboratory data is read
 635 only once at the beginning.

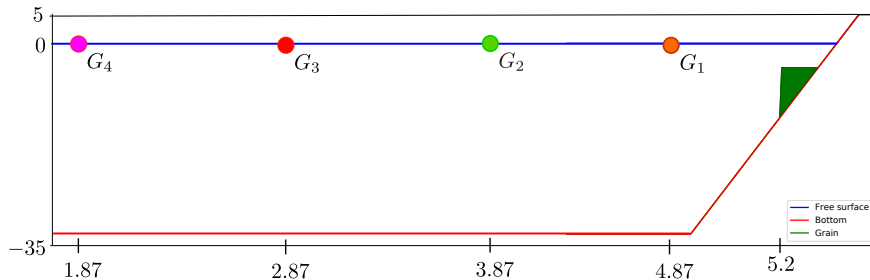


Figure 3: Sketch of the channel, initial condition and position of the tide-gauges.

636 4. Numerical results

637 In this section we present two sets of numerical examples. The first one in
 638 Section 4.1 is a pool of synthetic tests with known solutions, that are used to
 639 validate the proposed algorithms and methodology, to discuss about the identi-
 640 fiability of the problem, and to show the convergence results and computational
 641 speedup. The second one in Section 4.2 shows an application of the proposed
 642 methodology to the assimilation of real laboratory data.

643 The laboratory experiment that will be calibrated in this article was pre-
 644 sented in [82], and the data can be accessed at [83]. In that work, the authors
 645 design different laboratory experiments and perform numerical simulations to
 646 validate a landslide tsunami model and to asses how tsunami hazard from SMFs
 647 is affected by slide kinematics and rheology.

648 In [84] the Tsunami-HySEA model is used to perform some of the numerical
 649 benchmark problems proposed in [82]. The obtained results are documented in
 650 the “Proceedings and results of the 2011 NTHMP Model Benchmarking Work-
 651 shop”.

652 In our article we focus in one of the experiments performed in [83]: the
 653 benchmark 4 (deformable submarine landslide). For both the analytical and
 654 the laboratory experiments, the physical conditions of this benchmark are con-
 655 sidered. The length of the channel is 6 meters, and its sketch can be seen in
 656 Figure 3. The initial condition is water at rest with $\eta = 0$ and a triangular block
 657 of sediments, whose geometry is depicted in Figure 3. In our numerical results,
 658 we will have four tide-gauges, $N = 4$, where laboratory measures have been
 659 taken each 5 milliseconds, thus generating four tidal series. These buoys are
 660 located at the positions 1.87, 2.87, 3.87 and 4.87 meters, and they are depicted
 661 in Figure 3. We take $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$ and $L = 5$ layers of fluid in the model.

662 The calibration tests are run until $T = 8$ seconds both for the synthetic test
 663 and the laboratory experiment. For the finite volume method we consider 200
 664 cells in the analytical test and 800 cells in the laboratory essay with $CFL = 0.5$.

665 We recall that the parameters are three, $\mathbf{p} = (r, \theta, n)$, where r is the ratio of
 666 densities between the fluid and the sediment, θ the Coulomb angle, and n the
 667 friction coefficient. The search domain for all the experiments in this section is
 668 $D = [0.3, 0.8] \times [5, 45] \times [10^{-5}, 10^{-3}]$, which is quite a broad domain.

669 Concerning the hardware configuration, all tests have been performed in
 670 a server with 16 CPU cores (two Intel Xeon E5-2620 v4 clocked at 2.10GHz,
 671 accounting 32 logical threads) and 16 GB of RAM.

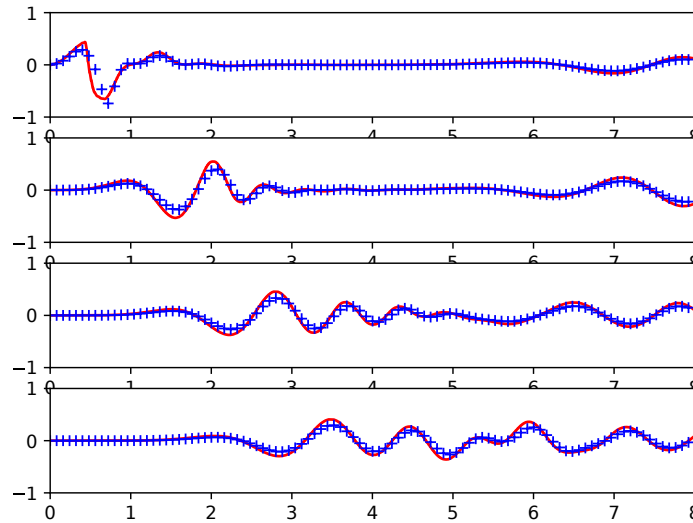


Figure 4: Synthetic generated series vs calibrated ones with the multi-start L-BFGS-B. Target series in red, simulated series in blue.

	r	θ	n
Target values	0.55	12°	0.0002
Obtained values	0.55	12°	0.0002

Table 1: Target and obtained values of the parameters.

672 *4.1. Synthetic test*

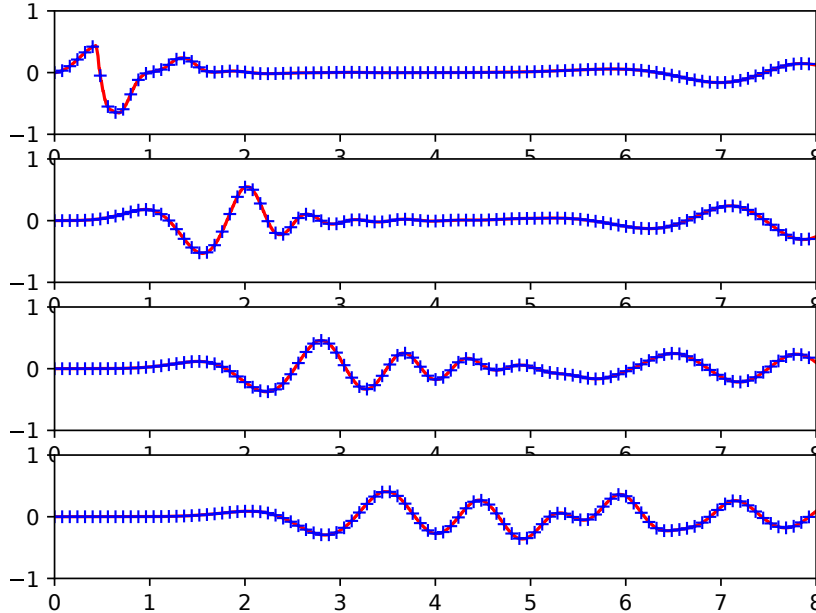


Figure 5: Synthetic generated series vs calibrated ones. Target series in red, simulated series in blue.

673 The notion of identifiability addresses the question of whether it is at all
 674 possible to obtain unique solutions of the inverse problem for unknown param-
 675 eters of interest in a model from data collected in the spatial and temporal
 676 domains [85, 86]. As we have seen, data assimilation problems deal in the end
 677 with the search of the global minimum of a cost function. The exploration of
 678 the global minimum is a nontrivial task as long as the cost function has a com-
 679 plicated structure, and, on top of that, ensuring that the involved cost function
 680 has a unique global minimum is an extremely difficult goal, mainly due to the
 681 fact that sophisticated numerical methods are needed to simulate from landslide
 682 tsunami models being able to recover realistic physical phenomena, as discussed
 683 in Section 2.2.

684 Analyzing parameter identifiability is precisely one of the aims of this work.
 685 We seek to check whether the data assimilation problem for landslide tsunami
 686 models is well posed when using only information of the fluid free surface. In
 687 fact, our goal in this first set of numerical experiments is precisely to empiri-
 688 cally discuss the problem of identifiability and uniqueness of the here proposed
 689 parameters calibration strategy. We will observe that the parameters are iden-

690 tifiable using only data from the free surface, which is something unexpected
691 and eye catching from our point of view, because at first sight one could expect
692 that information of the lower layers, the sediment layer or the speed of the fluid
693 should be required in order to assimilate the data into the model. Nevertheless,
694 in practice the information of the free surface proves to be enough.

695 In this work, as in the article [63], the uniqueness of the minimum of the
696 cost function will be discussed by invoking results from the following additional
697 optimization experiments.

698 4.1.1. *Synthetic test 1*

699 First of all, we designed a synthetic experiment, where given the unknown
700 set of parameters, we created the observations numerically, which were then
701 assimilated into the model to retrieve the original set of parameters. The values
702 of the parameters were set at $r = 0.55$, $\theta = 12^\circ$ and $n = 0.0002$. The test was
703 run for 8 seconds. With these data we computed the simulation and stored the
704 series corresponding with the free surface at each measure point in an interval of
705 0.005 seconds. Then, we supposed that the parameters were unknown and tried
706 to recover them using our optimization algorithms. There is no doubt about the
707 uniqueness of the global minimum: the value of the cost function at this unique
708 global minimum is zero, since the observations are perfect because they arise
709 from the model. This problem has a very similar level of complexity from the
710 optimization point of view to the real one we want to tackle, although it has the
711 advantage of being easier to handle, as the exact solution is known. Moreover,
712 this benchmark allowed us to test and compare the different algorithms with
713 different number of parallel search paths.

714 First we show that if a local optimization algorithm, like L-BFGS-B is
715 applied, which can be seen as performing only one path and one tempera-
716 ture step of the hybrid algorithm, no convergence to global minimum is ob-
717 tained. Thus, after executing a local L-BFGS-B searcher, starting from a ran-
718 dom point of the search domain, the obtained set of parameters is $(r, \theta, n) =$
719 $(6.826989 \times 10^{-01}, 10.68841753^\circ, 8.178492 \times 10^{-4})$, the value of the cost function
720 being 5.273542×10^{-02} . The simulation obtained with this set of parameters is
721 shown and compared with the exact solution at Figure 4. Therefore, a robust
722 global optimization algorithm should be used to compute the global minimum
723 of this problem.

724 Figure 5 shows the results obtained if both hybrid multi-path SA or BH
725 algorithm are applied. Now, the parameters are computed exactly (see Table
726 1), and a perfect agreement between the signals is observed.

727 We can also use this benchmark to assess the convergence and efficiency of
728 the two proposed hybrid multi-path global optimization algorithms. In Figures 6
729 and 7, we show a comparison of the convergence of SA_M and BH_M algorithms,
730 respectively, using different number of paths ranging from 1 to 16. At each
731 temperature, the value of the cost function at the best point visited so far by
732 the algorithm is shown. Note that the current state of the minimizer at each
733 stage could be different to the referred best visited point owing to the stochastic
734 nature of the SA and BH algorithms.

Simulated Annealing	#Threads	\mathcal{T}	#Func Evals	Cost Function
	1	1	101	3.25×10^{-2}
		0.48	3.61×10^3	2.31×10^{-2}
		10^{-4}	3.92×10^5	1.11×10^{-3}
	2	1	201	3.51×10^{-2}
		0.48	7.21×10^3	2.16×10^{-2}
		10^{-4}	7.83×10^5	4.58×10^{-4}
	4	1	401	2.38×10^{-2}
		0.48	1.44×10^4	1.82×10^{-2}
		10^{-4}	1.57×10^6	9.11×10^{-5}
8	1	801	1.73×10^{-2}	
	0.48	2.88×10^4	1.24×10^{-2}	
	10^{-4}	3.13×10^6	1.33×10^{-4}	
16	1	1601	7.88×10^{-3}	
	0.48	5.76×10^4	7.20×10^{-3}	
	10^{-4}	6.27×10^6	3.50×10^{-5}	
Basin Hopping	#Threads	\mathcal{T}	#Func Evals	Cost Function
	1	1	82	2.28×10^{-2}
		0.48	1.72×10^3	1.47×10^{-2}
		10^{-4}	1.96×10^5	6.33×10^{-4}
	2	1	103	2.29×10^{-2}
		0.48	3.48×10^3	1.24×10^{-2}
		10^{-4}	3.15×10^5	1.50×10^{-3}
	4	1	285	9.83×10^{-3}
		0.48	6.99×10^3	2.71×10^{-3}
		10^{-4}	6.49×10^5	1.33×10^{-4}
	8	1	369	2.08×10^{-2}
		0.48	1.30×10^4	7.04×10^{-4}
		10^{-4}	1.38×10^6	1.04×10^{-4}
	16	1	825	1.17×10^{-2}
		0.48	2.51×10^4	3.75×10^{-4}
		10^{-4}	2.67×10^6	9.92×10^{-6}

Table 2: Parallel SA (SA_M) vs. parallel BH (BH_M). The column labeled as “Cost Function” shows the value of the cost function at the best point visited so far by the minimization algorithm.

Number of cores	1	2	4	8	16
Time (seconds)	872.64	1640.57	3035.07	5493.48	9338.92
Speedup	1	1.88	3.47	6.30	10.70

Table 3: Multi-path BH_{16} : speedup using multi-CPU implementation.

735 In Table 2 we show the convergence of the multi-path algorithms when in-
736 creasing the number of paths. The convergence speed is shown in terms of the

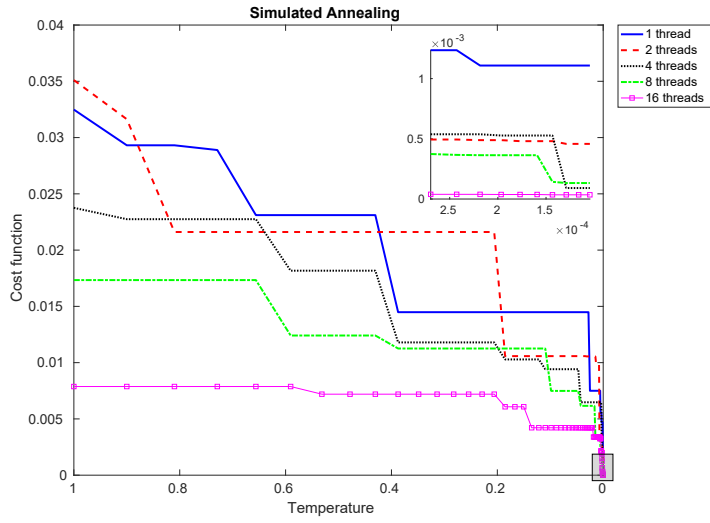


Figure 6: Convergence of multi-path SA, with 1,2,4,8 and 16 search paths.

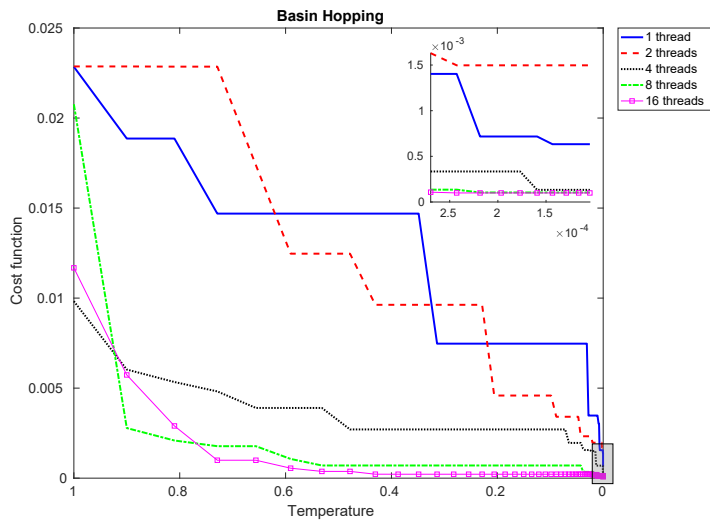


Figure 7: Convergence of multi-path BH, with 1,2,4,8 and 16 search paths.

Gauges	Parameters			Cost func.
	r	θ	n	
$G1-G2-G3-G4$	0.55	12°	2×10^{-4}	9.923×10^{-6}
$G3-G4$	5.493439×10^{-1}	11.8404944°	2.045592×10^{-4}	6.234×10^{-4}
$G4$	5.529343×10^{-1}	11.2507678°	2.132503×10^{-4}	1.648×10^{-3}

Table 4: Obtained values of the parameters and value of cost function.

737 number of function evaluations performed by the algorithm. This number of
738 evaluations is shown at different levels of temperatures in the annealing pro-
739 cess, $\mathcal{T} = 1, 0.48, 10^{-4}$, and for different number of search paths, ranging from
740 1 to 16. The computing time of each evaluation for this test is 2.8 seconds in
741 our hardware configuration. We want to remind that when doing more than
742 one search, the searches are distributed among the number of CPU cores, and
743 that for BH_M this number of evaluations include the three extra evaluations
744 performed for computing the gradients. In Table 3 we show the parallel com-
745 putational efficiency, in terms of the speedup, when using multiple cores for
746 performing 16 search paths, with a number of threads ranging from 1 to 16.

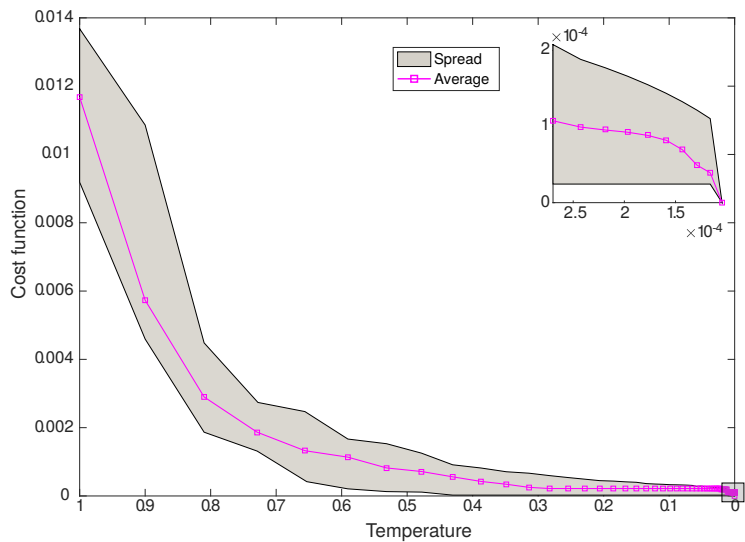


Figure 8: Evolution of the cost function for 20 optimization experiments. The gray shade denotes the spread (the range of maximum-minimum cost) and the squared line the average of the 20 experiments.

747 Next, we check the convergence of the algorithm to the global optimum
748 when a lower number of measure points is used. We made the experiment of
749 considering the time series of the free surface only at tide-gauge G4, or only at

r	θ	n	Cost func.
0.35	12	0.0002	1.19×10^{-5}
0.35	12	0.0004	9.34×10^{-5}
0.35	25	0.0002	2.90×10^{-5}
0.35	25	0.0004	6.53×10^{-5}
0.35	37	0.0002	3.50×10^{-5}
0.35	37	0.0004	6.41×10^{-5}
0.55	12	0.0002	1.89×10^{-5}
0.55	12	0.0004	8.75×10^{-5}
0.55	25	0.0002	6.89×10^{-5}
0.55	25	0.0004	2.75×10^{-5}
0.55	37	0.0002	2.06×10^{-5}
0.55	37	0.0004	8.33×10^{-5}
0.75	12	0.0002	5.49×10^{-5}
0.75	12	0.0004	8.61×10^{-5}
0.75	25	0.0002	4.81×10^{-5}
0.75	25	0.0004	8.96×10^{-5}
0.75	37	0.0002	4.62×10^{-5}
0.75	37	0.0004	2.21×10^{-5}

Table 5: Values of the cost function for several data assimilations.

750 tide-gauges G3-G4. In Table 4 we show the value of the cost function together
751 with the obtained set of parameters using only data from G4, and the same
752 information when calibrating against tide-gauges G3-G4. As expected, the value
753 of the cost function is better when taking the four tide-gauges.

754 *4.1.2. Synthetic test 2*

755 Secondly, we ran a pool of 20 independent optimization experiments with
756 our set up, each optimization starting from different initial parameter values,
757 randomly chosen in the search domain, and each test used a different seed for the
758 creation of the random numbers consumed by the algorithm in order to explore
759 the search domain, i.e. each experiment performed a seek of the minimum
760 from a different starting point along a different search path. Figure 8 shows the
761 evolution of the cost function and its spread for the 20 optimization experiments.
762 The spread is defined by the range of the maximum value of the cost function
763 and its minimum in the set of the 20 optimizations at each temperature step.
764 The average of the 20 realizations was also computed. More precisely at each
765 temperature, the worse, the best, and the average of the best points visited by
766 each one of the twenty minimizers up to the current temperature, are shown.
767 All experiments show an asymptotic reduction of the values of the cost function
768 toward the same zero value, and none of the optimizations ends up in a local
769 minimum. Therefore, this study clearly shows that this stochastic approach
770 (hybrid local-global optimization) is suitable to find the global minimum of a

771 structurally complicated cost function.

772 *4.1.3. Synthetic test 3*

773 Finally, we sampled the search domain with 18 sets of parameters, for all of
774 them, once more we generated the corresponding synthetic tests and performed
775 a successful data assimilation, these experiments being summarized on Table 5.
776 We note that with this pool of data we swimmingly calibrated the model to all
777 types of waves varying from those with very high amplitudes to the flat ones,
778 see Figure 9. Notice that this smoothing effect was obtained by increasing more
779 and more the ratio of densities r and the Coulomb angle θ . Therefore, the issue
780 of identifiability is accomplished for the very different types of possible waves.

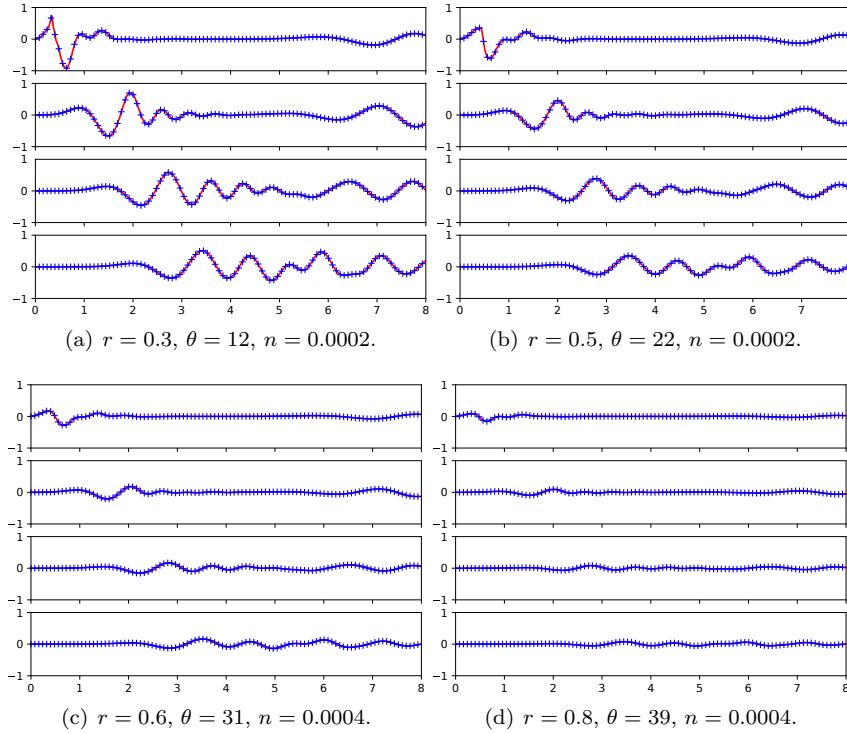


Figure 9: Synthetic generated series vs calibrated ones. In red, target series that are a priori generated with a set of known parameters. In blue, simulated series obtained with the assimilated parameters achieved with the global optimizer.

781 *4.2. Application to a laboratory test with real data*

782 In this experiment we performed the data assimilation for a real situation
783 where laboratory series of the free surface for four measure points were given.

784 The experiment was performed at École Centrale de Marseille (IRPHE), France,
785 [82]. The positions of the measure buoys were once more 1.87, 2.87, 3.87 and
786 4.87 meters. The time series for these points are shown in Figure 10. These
787 time series, together with the description of the experiment and some videos,
788 are available in the web page [83].

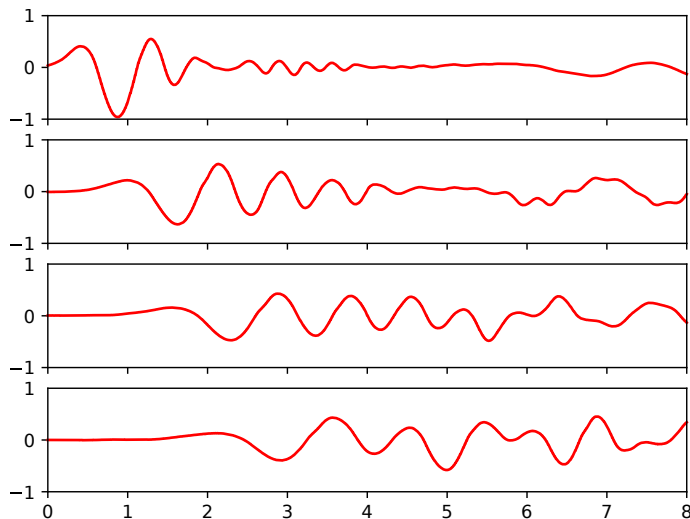


Figure 10: Series measured in laboratory experiments.

789 One more time, first we show that the results obtained with a multi-start
790 algorithm are worse than those obtained with a hybrid multi-path algorithm.
791 For example, if we apply a multi-start L-BFGS-B to this problem, the ob-
792 tained solution does not match adequately the laboratory data (see Figure 11).
793 This experiment corresponds with launching only one temperature step of BH_M
794 with 32 paths, and the set of obtained parameters is $(r, \theta, n) = (4.632742 \times$
795 $10^{-01}, 9.48064720^\circ, 8.176018 \times 10^{-1})$, for which the value of the cost function is
796 1.321301×10^{-01} .

797 After global calibration with BH_M , the results can be seen in Figures 12 and
798 13. The obtained values for the parameters are shown in Table 6 and the value
799 of the cost function is 1.224355×10^{-1} .

800 In those figures we can see that with the calibrated set of parameters a good
801 agreement in the signals amplitudes and pulses is obtained, between laboratory
802 and simulated data. The approximation is even better up to the 4th second (see
803 Figure 12). The matching is quite good at initial seconds, and it becomes worse
804 as time evolves. Also we see a better agreement for the farthest tide-gauges,
805 $G3$ and $G4$, and it becomes worse the closer we are to the the initial position
806 of the landslide, close to tide-gauge $G1$. The amplitudes of the signal are very
807 well captured by the model. The period (pulses, maximums and minima of the
808 signal) is well captured for the last three tide-gauges until the fourth second,

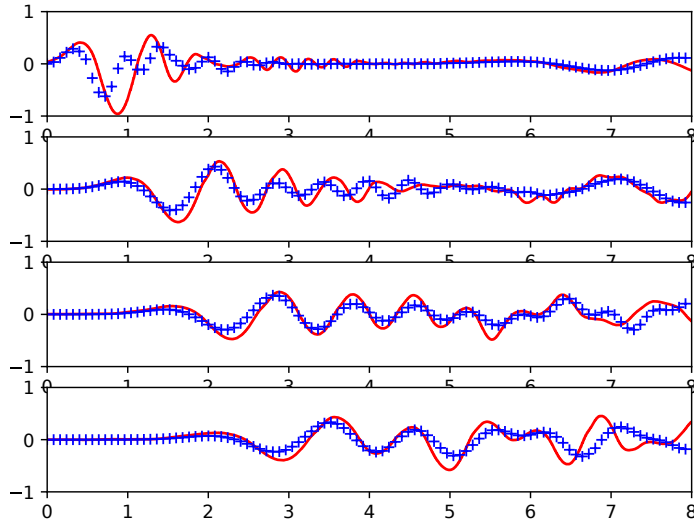


Figure 11: Multi start solution with 32 L-BFGS-B local searches: computed signals in blue and laboratory data in red.

809 and there is a little gap from that time on. The first tide-gauge is difficult to
 810 be captured by the model. Further investigation should be done. In fact, at
 811 this early stage, compaction and dilatancy effects are quite important, and they
 812 are not taken into account in the here considered landslide model. Therefore, a
 813 more accurate model for the landslide motion is needed to better simulate this
 814 early stages of the landslide motion.

815 Newly in this laboratory experiment we repeated the practice of using a
 816 lower number of measure points. We made the test of considering the free
 817 surface series only at tide-gauge $G4$, or only at tide-gauges $G3-G4$, the results
 818 can be seen in Table 6. The obtained error considering the four series until time
 819 $T = 8$ seconds, using the parameters calibrated with only the last tide-gauge
 820 $G4$, is 1.31589×10^{-1} . Besides, the obtained error considering the four series,
 821 using the parameters calibrated with only the last two tide-gauges $G3-G4$ is
 822 1.24279×10^{-1} . The result is not too poor when considering only the measures
 823 of the last tide-gauge, nevertheless it is off course much better when considering
 824 $G3-G4$. Using the last two tide-gauges, the free surface series are quite close to
 825 the best obtained result using the four tide-gauges, and also interesting is the
 826 fact that the set of parameters gets closer to the ones obtained with the four
 827 tide-gauges.

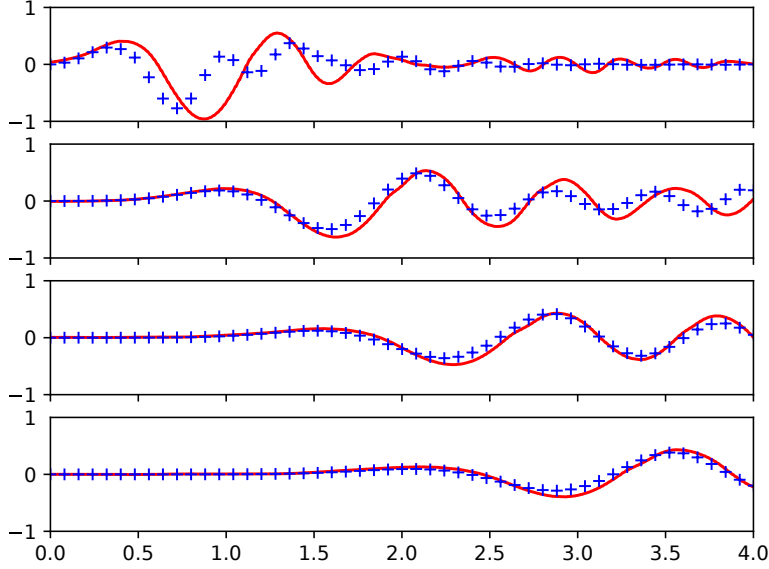


Figure 12: Laboratory series vs calibrated ones. Lab series in red, simulated series in blue. From top to bottom, free surface at tide-gauges $G1$, $G2$, $G3$ and $G4$.

Gauges	Parameters			Cost func.
	r	θ	n	
$G1-G2-G3-G4$	0.6501164	6.03510265°	4.3690×10^{-4}	1.224355×10^{-1}
$G3-G4$	7.080885×10^{-1}	5.38770216°	3.144702×10^{-4}	1.24279×10^{-1}
$G4$	7.633579×10^{-1}	5.16240342°	2.397312×10^{-4}	1.31589×10^{-1}

Table 6: Obtained values of the parameters and value of cost function.

828 5. Conclusions

829 We have shown that hybrid multi-path global optimization algorithms can
 830 be suitable for solving the data assimilation problem for models of submarine
 831 avalanches.

832 Besides, we have assessed the identifiability of the model, if only data of the
 833 free surface is available, i.e. we have checked that the data assimilation problem
 834 is well posed when calibrating only against measures of the fluid free surface.

835 We have discussed that using a local optimizer or a multi-start technique
 836 produces poor results, and that the consideration of global optimization algo-
 837 rithms is more suitable for this kind of problems. We have also exhibited that

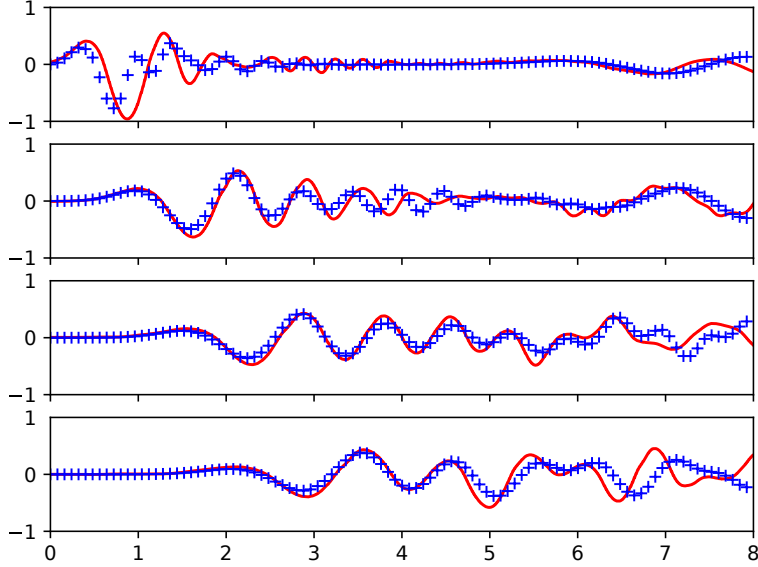


Figure 13: Laboratory series vs calibrated ones. Lab series in red, simulated series in blue. From top to bottom, free surface at tide-gauges $G1$, $G2$, $G3$ and $G4$.

838 the problem can be solved using gradient numerical optimization algorithms in
 839 the local part.

840 This calibration procedure/technique results also interesting because it al-
 841 lows to measure the quality of the model: the quality of two different models can
 842 be quantitative (not only qualitative) compared attending to the result of the
 843 calibration. It provides us with a machinery for comparing the good properties
 844 of different models. The one with the lowest minimum, can be quantitative said
 845 to better approximate the real physical problem.

846 The laboratory experiment is quite challenging. The obtained results look
 847 promising, although a perfect match between laboratory data and the calibrated
 848 model has not been achieved due to limitations of the underlying model. In
 849 any case, we have shown that the multi-path BH algorithm could be used to
 850 calibrate this kind of problems. Moreover, this opens the door to the use of this
 851 global optimization machinery for real problems, and in particular, for helping
 852 in developing better models for landslide tsunamis and assessing their precision
 853 and adjustment to the laboratory data.

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