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# Towards Predicting the Occurrence of Geysers and CSOs in Combined Sewer Systems

Recent developments and future perspectives

Arturo Leon<sup>1</sup>, Assistant Professor  
Yunji Choi<sup>1</sup>, PhD Student  
<sup>1</sup>Oregon State University  
2/27/2013



## Research Questions

- Q1: Is there any waterhammer push effect from the flow in the horizontal pipe when air pocket enters the vertical shaft?
- Q2: What causes air pocket to accelerate in vertical shaft?
- Q3: What air-water interaction mechanisms occur in vertical shaft during the air pocket rise?

### Introduction to Geysers



### Causes of Dynamic Geysers



### Laboratory of Control Experimental Studies



## Research Goals

- Mechanistic understanding of dynamic geysers and non-dynamic CSO events in complex Combined Sewer Systems
- Determining relationships for quantifying CSO discharges and implementing these into an open source model: Illinois Transient Model (ITM)

### Preliminary Results



### Illinois Transient Model

- Open source, state-of-the-art model
- Applied to various CSS in the U.S. (e.g., Chicago, Dallas) and around the world (e.g., New Zealand, Mexico)

### CSO of Portland, Oregon



## References

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Chen, J. H., and Chen, H. (2012). "A Study on the Geysers in the Combined Sewer System." *Journal of Environmental Engineering and Construction*, 5(1), 1-10.

### Thank you!

Arturo Leon  
Yunji Choi

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# Introduction to Geysers

## Definitions

Combined Sewer System (CSS)

A wastewater collection system designed to collect and convey sanitary wastewater and stormwater through a single system

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)

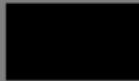
When collection system (CSS) capacity is exceeded, sanitary wastewater and storm water discharge directly to surface waters

Dynamic Geysers

Dynamic CSO event (air-water interaction)

EPA (2004)

Combined Sewer System (CSS)



Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)  
"Dynamic Geysers"



## Significance of Geysers

why should we study geysers?

Impact on Society

Public health and safety

Interest of Municipalities and EPA

Minimizing CSOs



Interests of Scientific Community

Why do dynamic geysers occur?

How can geysers be reproduced in a laboratory setting?

Development of numerical models for predicting the occurrence of geysers and CSOs

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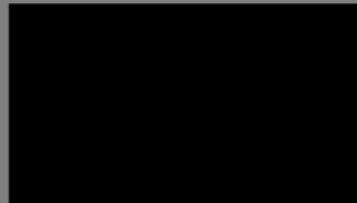
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## Dynamic Geysers

Dynamic CSO event (air-water interaction)

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## Combined Sewer System (CSS)



© 2004 EPA Region 5, Office of Water  
EPA/600/R-04/001

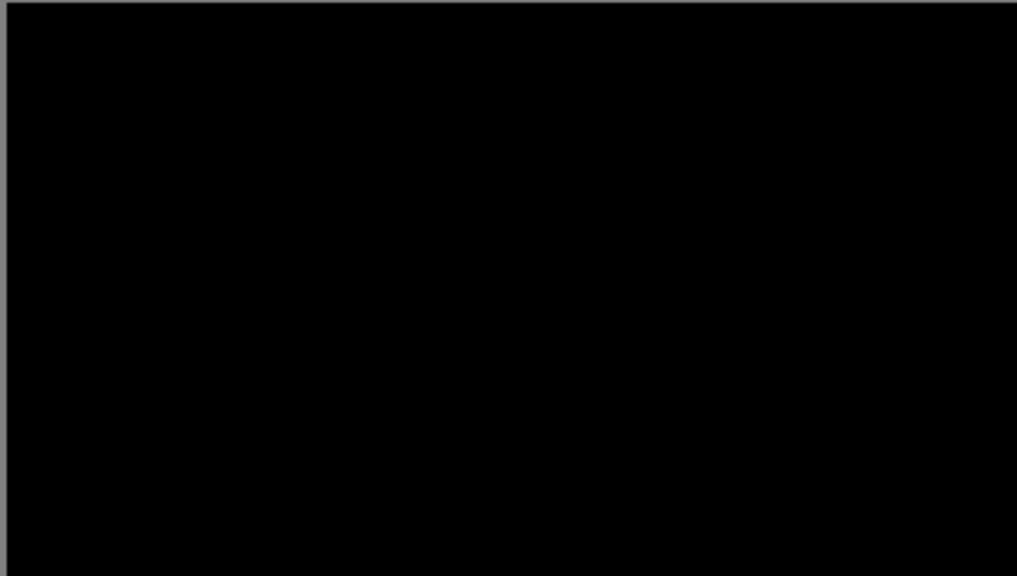
## Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) "Dynamic Geysers"



© 2004 EPA Region 5, Office of Water  
Recorded by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, University of Minnesota  
August 14, 2004

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# Combined Sewer System (CSS)



Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District's  
Deep Tunnel System, Suite Imagery LLC



# Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) "Dynamic Geyser"



Stormwater Tunnel in Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Recorded by St. Anthony Falls Hydraulics Laboratory, University of Minnesota  
Wright et al. (2008)

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# Definitions

## Combined Sewer System (CSS)

A wastewater collection system designed to collect and convey sanitary wastewater and stormwater through a single system

## Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)

When collection system (CSS) capacity is exceeded, sanitary wastewater and storm water discharge directly to surface waters

## Dynamic Geyser

Dynamic CSO event (air-water interaction)

EPA (2004)

# Significance of Geysers

why should we study geysers?

## Impact on Society

Public health and safety

## Interest of Municipalities and EPA

Minimizing CSOs



Photo Courtesy to Duluth Deluge 2012 - the torrential flooding of June 2012 Blog

## Interests of Scientific Community

Why do dynamic geysers occur?

How can geysers be reproduced in a laboratory setting?

Development of numerical models for predicting the occurrence of geysers and CSOs

- Laboratory studies are pipe - no complex pipe
- Experiments performed For instance, experimental velocity field information rising pocket

# Causes of Dynamic Geysers

How can we explain dynamic geysers?

Guo and Song (1991) & (1988)

It must be the impact force of rising water because the manhole cannot be blown off by air pressure alone.

Bellos and Sakkas (1967)

Instability in horizontal pipes are caused by the relative motion of the air and water which results in surge development, air pocket entrapment and flow regime change.

Vasconcelos (2006)

Presence of air pockets in pressurized portion of the flow can influence the hydrodynamics of the system.

Wright and Vasconcelos (2011)

Pressure developed from sewer flow is not sufficient to produce a water column that is observed in the video. Air is involved!

**"Air-water Interaction"**

# Limitations of Current Experimental Studies

- Laboratory studies are restricted to a single pipe - no complex pipe network was used
- Experiments performed were not rigorous. For instance, experiments did not extract velocity field information surrounding the rising pocket

# Research Questions

Q1: Is there any waterhammer push effect from the flow in the horizontal pipe when air pocket enters the vertical shaft?

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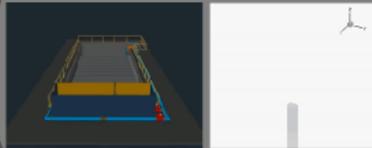


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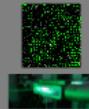
# Research Goals

- Mechanistic understanding of dynamic geysers and non-dynamic CSO events in complex Combined Sewer Systems
- Determining relationships for quantifying CSO discharges and implementing these into an open source model: Illinois Transient Model (ITM)

## Preliminary Results



### Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV)

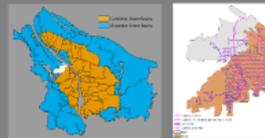


## Illinois Transient Model

- Open source, state-of-the-art model
- Applied to various CSS in the U.S. (e.g; Chicago, Dallas) and around the world (e.g; New Zealand, Mexico)



## CSS of Portland, Oregon



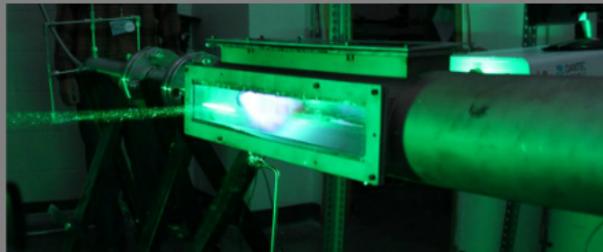
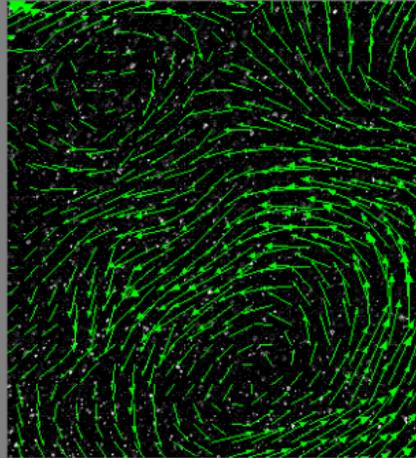
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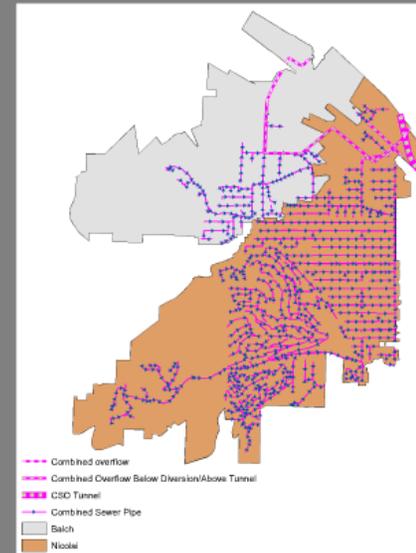
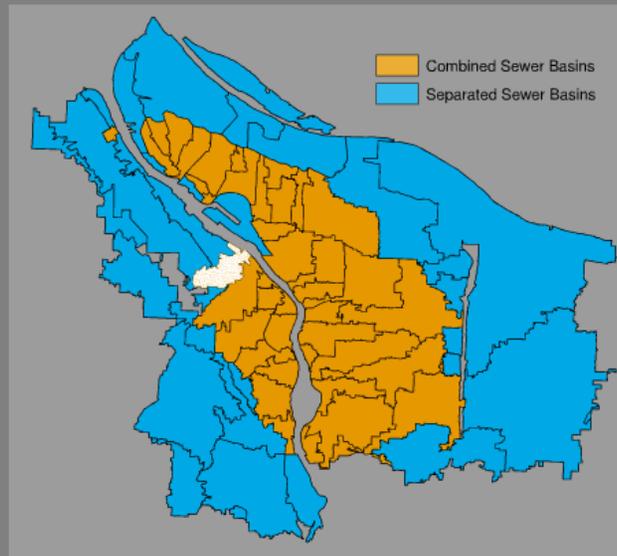
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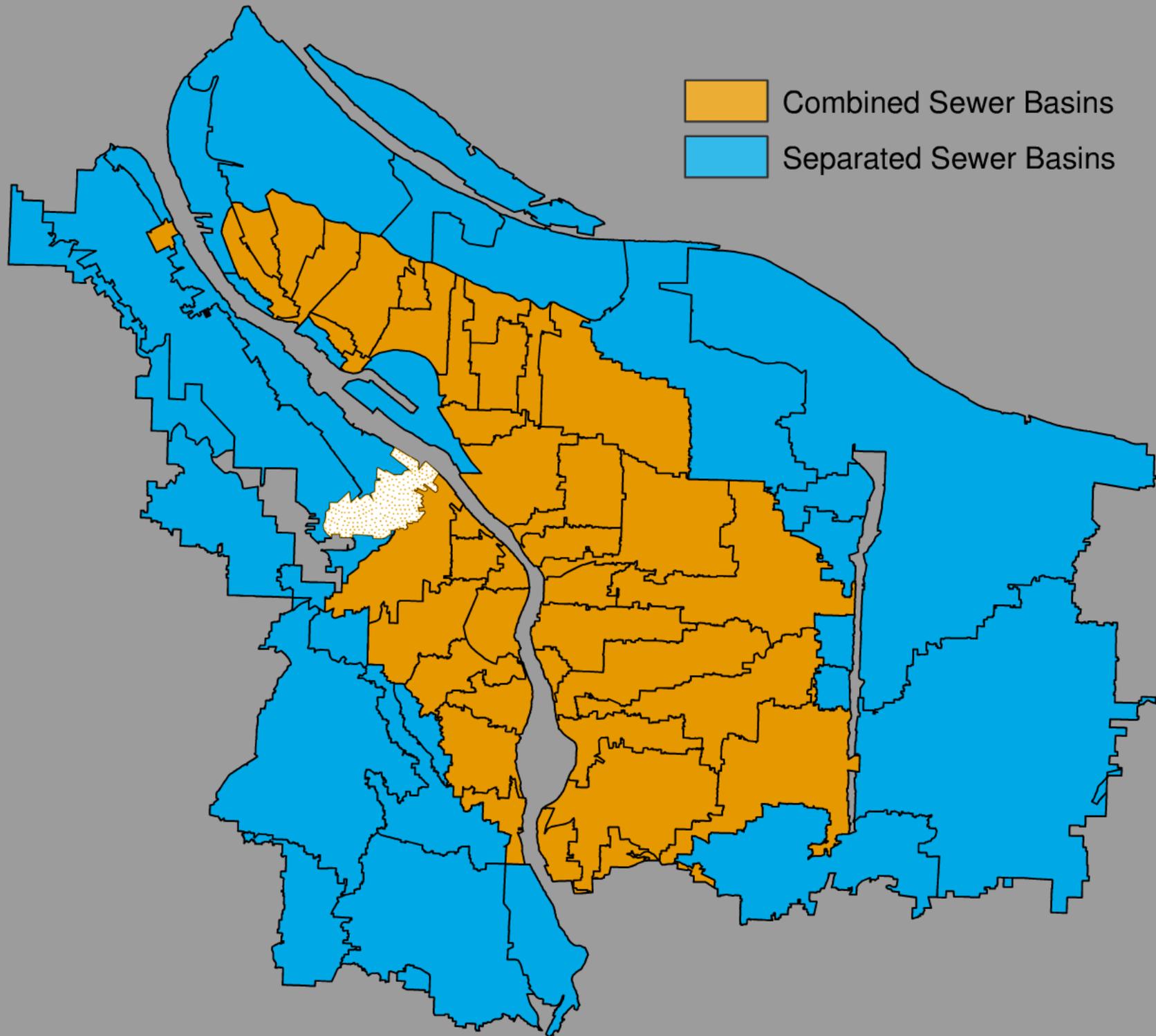
**Preliminary Results**

# Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV)



# CSS of Portland, Oregon

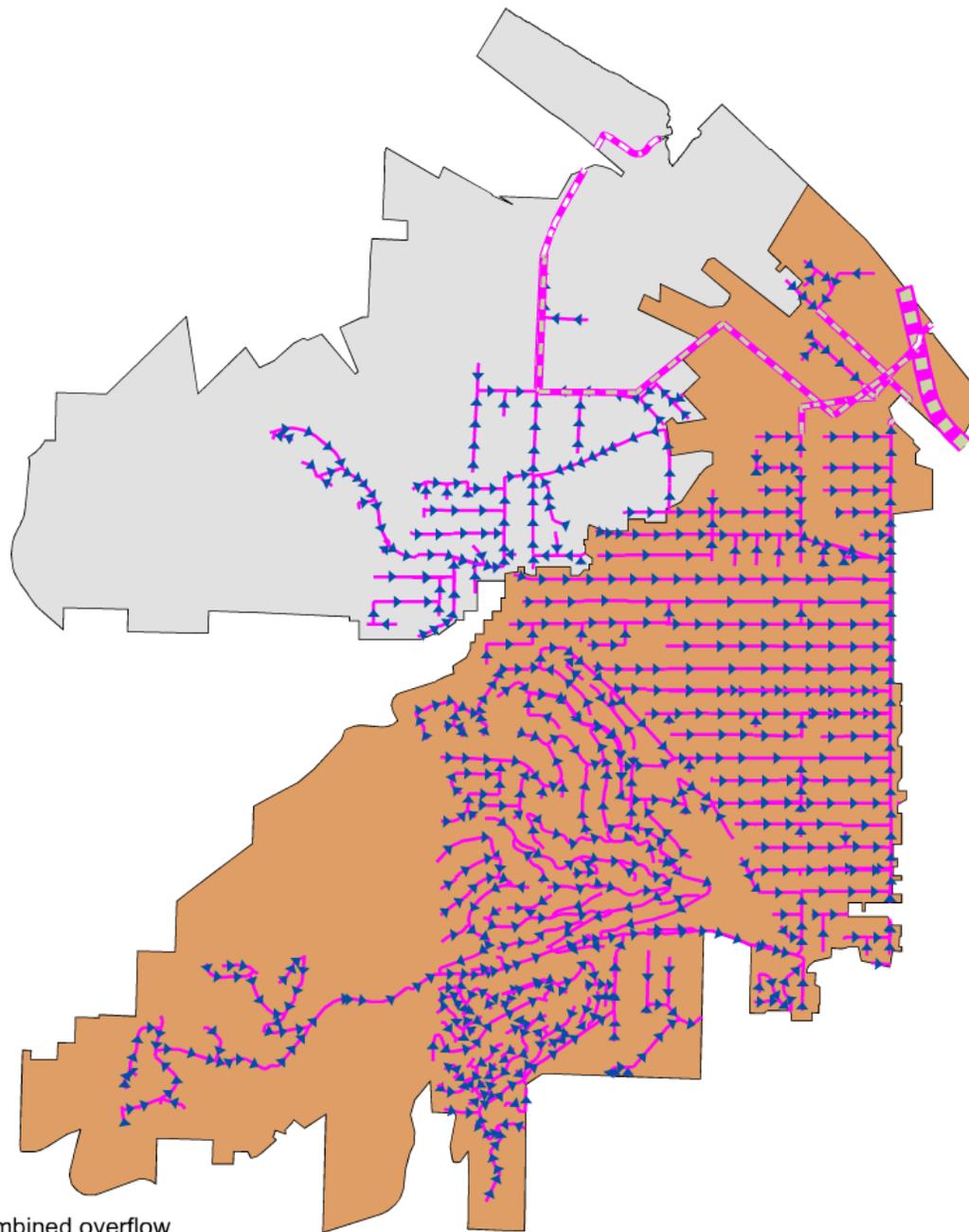
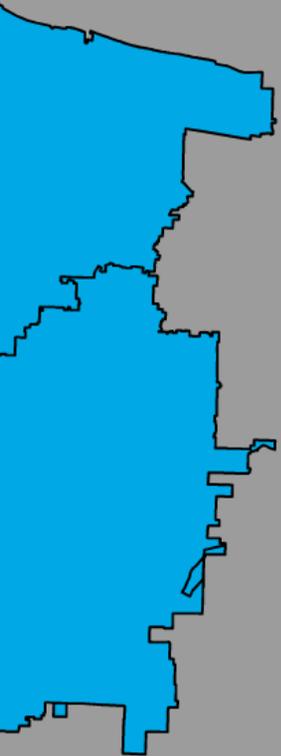




Combined Sewer Basins

Separated Sewer Basins

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- Combined overflow
- Combined Overflow Below Diversion/Above Tunnel
- CSO Tunnel
- Combined Sewer Pipe
- Balch
- Nicolai

metry (PIV)

# Illinois Transient Model

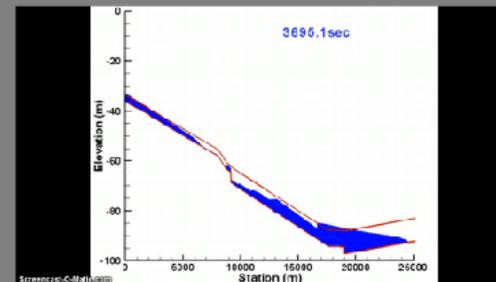
- Open source, state-of-the-art model
- Applied to various CSS in the U.S. (e.g; Chicago, Dallas) and around the world (e.g; New Zealand, Mexico)

**Illinois Transient Model 1.3**

Ven Te Chow Hydrosystems Lab at the University of Illinois  
Numerical code written by Arturo S. Leon  
User interface developed and modified by Nils Oberg  
User interface based in part on the Storm Water Management Model originally developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Cincinnati, OH) and CDM, Inc. (Cambridge, MA)

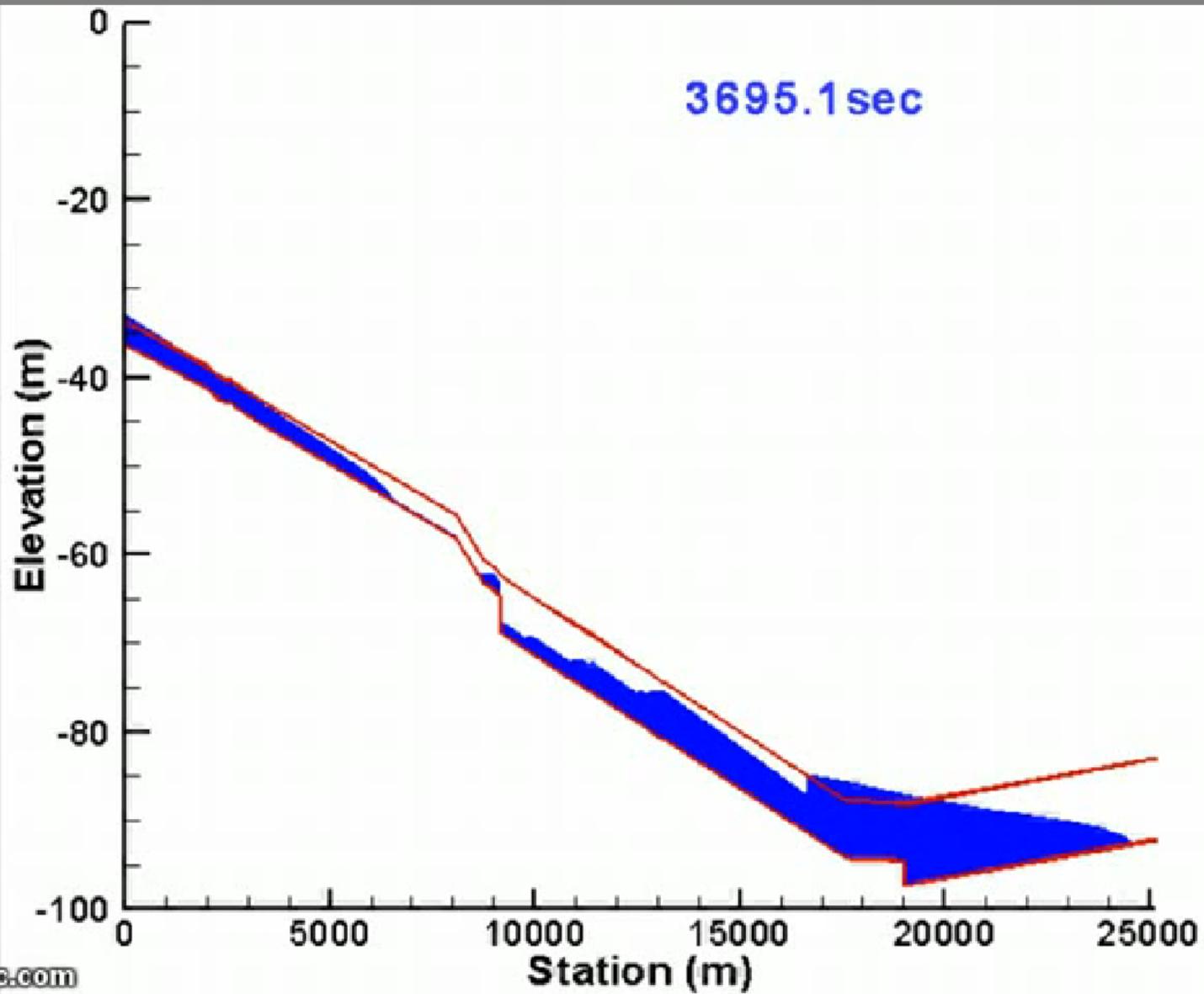
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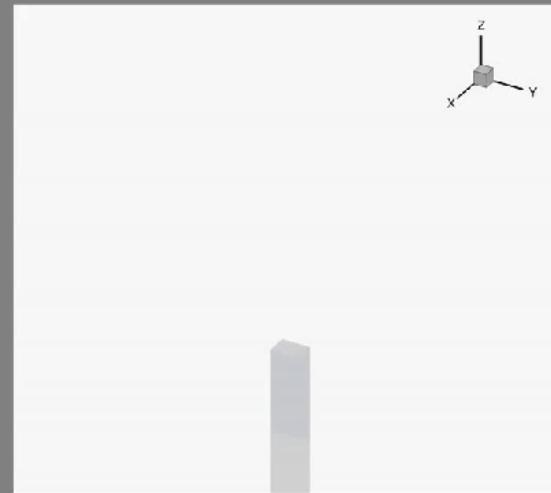
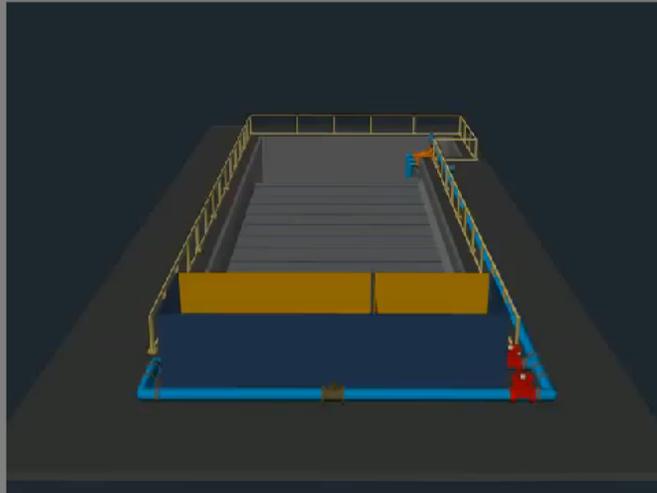


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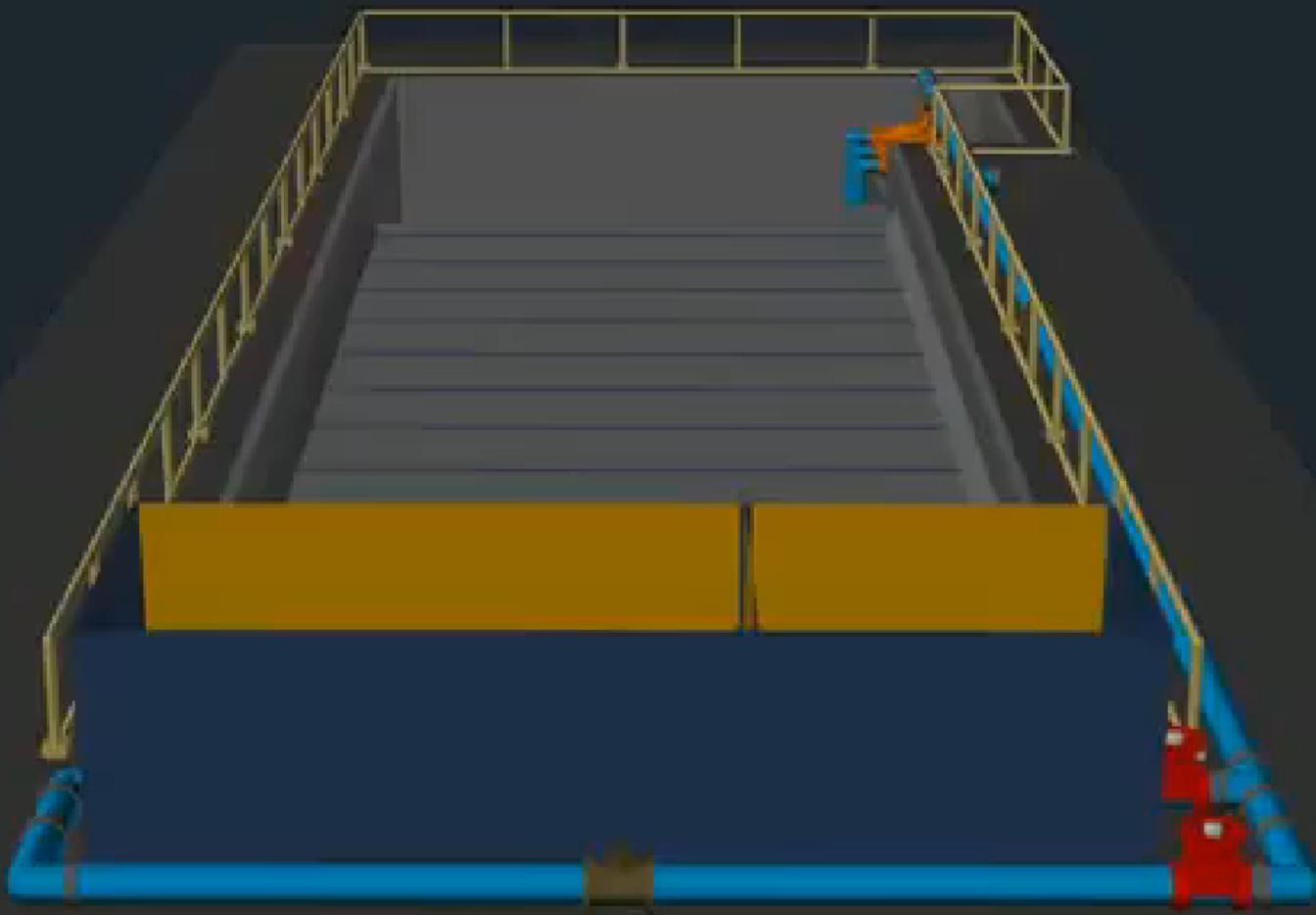


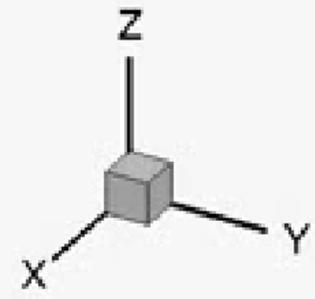
# Preliminary Results



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Research

# Thank you!

Many thanks for your attention!

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