Evaluating real-time control of stormwater drainage network and green stormwater infrastructure for enhancing flooding resilience under future rainfall projections

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Abstract

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Abstract: Traditional stormwater control measures are designed to handle system loadings induced by fixed-size storm events. However, climate change is predicted to alter the frequency and intensity of flooding events, stimulating the need to explore another more adaptive flooding solution like real-time control (RTC). This study assesses the performance of RTC to mitigate impacts of climate change on urban flooding resilience. A simulated, yet realistic, urban drainage system in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, shows that RTC improves the flooding resilience by up to 17% under climatic rainfall changes. Compared with green stormwatre infrastructure (GSI), RTC exhibits a lower resistibility, lower flooding failure level, and higher recovery rate in system performance curves. Results articulate that keeping RTC’s performance consistent under ‘back-to-back’ storms requires a tradeoff between upstream dynamical operation and downstream flooding
functionality loss. This research suggests that RTC provides a new path towards smart and resilient stormwater management strategy.

**Keywords**: smart city, urban drainage modeling, rainfall nonstationarity, nonlinear dynamical control, continuous flood modeling, long-term resilient stormwater management

1. Introduction

Urban flooding will become more frequent due to climate change increasing the frequency of higher intensity storm event. Historical rainfall changes have contributed approximately 36% of cumulative flooding damages across the U.S. from 1988 to 2017 (Davenport et al., 2021). A 1% increase in historical rainfall intensity increased the urban flooding volume by 1.8% in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA (Li and Burian, 2022). The anticipated continued changes in rainfall patterns challenge the use of historical rainfall and the stationary assumption for design of UDSs (Wright et al., 2019). Given financial constraints and priorities, cities expect UDSs to serve their purpose for 50 years and are now anticipating infrastructure system durability to be 100 years. Considering the present challenges and uncertain future conditions, cities need to consider building adaptability and resilience into their UDSs.

The resilience approach aims to minimize the consequences of system failure through adaptation to changing conditions without permanent loss of functionality (Park et al., 2013). In engineering systems, resilience is defined as the adaptive capacity to resist to, recover from, and adapt to intentional anthropogenic attacks, unpredictable natural events, and human-made disturbances (Holling, 1973). The stormwater engineering field incorporates resilience design complementarily
to risk-based design to minimize flooding duration and magnitude (Jiada Li et al., 2023b; Jiada Li, 2021). The key benefit of adding resilience design is to mitigate exceptional disturbances, such as rainfall and imperviousness changes, leading to the system functionality loss (Butler et al., 2017). Resilience applied in stormwater engineering can be interpreted as designing a UDS by optimizing resilience profiles composed of resistance, failure, recovery, and adaptation (Ahern, 2011; Ouyang et al., 2012). However, with the use of resilience analysis recently being introduced, questions remain about how rainfall change and imperviousness change will affect the resilience phases of resistance, failure, recovery, and adaptation (Butler et al., 2014).

Urban flooding can be mitigated by upgrading and re-sizing stormwater infrastructure, such as pipes, pump stations, and storage tanks, which convey stormwater runoff into downstream receiving water bodies. Previous studies focused on enhancing resilience through rehabilitating and redesigning UDSs (Mohammadiun et al., 2020), adding system storage components (Mugume et al., 2015), and optimizing the drainage system's structure (Bakhshipour et al., 2021). The locations of structural facilities and the layout of pipelines affect UDS resilience (Zhang et al., 2021). Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), particularly permeable pavement, bio-retention, and green roofs, are more cost-effective than system rehabilitation when seeking to introduce resilience to climate change and urbanization (Dong et al., 2017; Salerno et al., 2018). GSI, which mimics the natural hydrological process to absorb excess discharge and reduce surface runoff in the form of small-scale distributed practices, is a proven effective solution for small-scale pluvial flooding (Feng et al., 2016; Li et al., 2019b). However, Hou et al. (2020) found that current stormwater gray and green infrastructure are insufficient to ensure the future resilience of UDSs under climate change. Additionally, these passive and static flood controls are designed to meet fixed
performance criteria, but once constructed, they fail to adapt to the exceptional climate changes
(Jiada Li, 2021).

Smart stormwater systems with real-time control (RTC) have re-emerged as an adaptive solution
to improve infrastructure performance in mitigating urban flooding dynamically. The
implementation of RTC contributes to reducing the drainage peak flow (Schmitt et al., 2020;
Shishegar et al., 2019), diminishing urban flooding volume (Li, 2020; Mullapudi et al., 2020),
controlling combined sewer overflow (Rathnayake and Faisal Anwar, 2019), keeping streams
healthy (Xu et al., 2020), and improving water and stormwater quality (Sharior et al., 2019;
Troutman et al., 2020). Implementing RTC involves retrofitting (or building with new) UDSs with
water level sensors, flow sensors, actuators, and moveable gates to achieve real-time sensing and
controlling of system operations (Marchese et al., 2018; Schütze et al., 2004). Sensors provide
real-time system states for actuators, which accordingly open or close gates to some extent until
the next sensed information changes operations (Li et al., 2023; Li et al., 2020b, 2019a). UDSs can
be controlled in real-time to make full use of the available or under-used storage capacity, to retain
water in a tank and GSI, or to selectively discharge water before the next storm comes (Lewellyn
and Wadzuk, 2017).

The potential to enhance flooding resilience under future rainfall conditions needs further study.
Prior studies solely consider assessing resilience changes under artificially designed single rainfall
events (Dong et al., 2017; Mugume et al., 2014). Wang et al. (2019) found that measuring
resilience based on single storms overestimates the resilience by 18% to 33%, compared with
continuous rainfall, in study of changes due to climate change. When simulating RTC under a
single event, the storage volumes are initially empty or partially filled, and once the storm has passed, tanks are slowly drained. However, in back-to-back storm scenarios, where another storm begins before the tanks have been entirely drained, those partially drained tanks might not retain sufficient storage capacity to buffer incoming rainfall-runoff events (Wong and Kerkez, 2018).

Assessing RTC performance uses long-term data to inform decisions beyond what a short-term event can provide giving more temporal dynamics and flexibility in control actions, which is crucial to improve stormwater system response to continuous rainfall events (Bowes et al., 2020; Sadler et al., 2020). The leading resilience solution, GSI, presents concerns for long-term effectiveness because it requires more frequent on-site inspection and maintenance than gray and smart infrastructures. GSI requires intensive maintenance and performs inconsistently over long periods, which may trigger early system functionality loss (Brasil et al., 2021; Li et al., 2023a; Li et al., 2021, 2019c).

This study seeks to answer the following question: can RTC outperform GSI in enhancing flooding resilience for future design storms and continuous rainfall for a long-term resilient stormwater management? To that end, this study compares the performance between RTC-equipped and GSI-equipped UDSs located in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. The primary contribution of this work not only improves the understanding of how smart RTC to tackle the climate-driven urban flooding risks but also address the public concerns of the long-term performance in RTC. This is achieved by assessing resilience based on the performance dynamics in the form of time-dependent performance curves. The novelty of the current study comes from utilizing different stages of performance curves to reflect how stepwise RTC actions enhance resilience in a quantitative and graphical manner.
2. Methodology

2.1. System performance curves
Flooding resilience is estimated by the area between the original system performance curve and the actual performance curve at any time after the occurrence of a storm (Mugume et al., 2015).

Fig. 1 shows the time-dependent graph profile of the system performance curve, also called the resilience profile graph or resilience envelope, for a failure-causing rainfall event. The system performance curve consists of the original state from $t_o$ to $t_{fs}$ without flooding, flooding state from $t_{fs}$ to $t_r$, and adapted state from $t_r$ to $t_n$ without flooding. The flooding phase includes the resistance stage from $t_{fs}$ to $t_{mf}$, failure stage from $t_{mf}$ to $t_{rs}$, and recovery stage from $t_{rs}$ to $t_r$. The black solid horizontal line, $P_o$, represents the original performance level of service. The actual system performance curve is $P_i(t)$, at any time $t$ after the occurrence of the $i^{th}$ storm that leads to system failure. Failure is defined as the occurrence of a flooding event. $P_{mf}$ corresponds to the system's maximum failure level resulting from the considered threat. The flooding magnitude is quantified as the distance from $P_o$ to $P_{mf}$. The flooding duration corresponds to the period of flooding state, which is equal to the failure duration. The system resistibility or resistance is featured as the falling limb of the performance curve. Before the resistance stage, the resilience envelope is called system robustness. The slope from the maximum system failure level to the original performance level is defined as the recovery rate. After the recovery stage, the resilience graph is regarded as the system reliability. Enhancing resilience can be achieved by reshaping the system performance curve. For example, the dashed blue line in Fig. 1 represents a more resilient UDS with a greater resistibility, lower maximum failure magnitude, and a higher quicker recovery rate than the solid black line.
Fig. 1. The system performance curve of an urban drainage system for a failure-causing rainfall event (The $t_o$ is the time of occurrence of storms; The $t_f$ is the flood starting time; The $t_{mf}$ is the starting time of maximum failure; The $t_r$ is the ending time of maximum failure; The $t_e$ is the recovery ending time; The $t_f$ is the flooding duration; The $t_n$ is the total simulation time).

2.2. Flooding resilience computation

The definition of flooding resilience ($Res$) is a single quantitative index comprised of the magnitude and duration of the system's functional failure during storm events (Casal-Campos et al., 2018; Ouyang et al., 2012). Flooding resilience can be categorized into functional resilience and structural resilience based on the different failure modes (Mugume et al., 2015). This study only focuses on functional flooding resilience under external drivers such as climate change and urban redevelopment. Resilience below refers to functional flooding resilience. The flooding resilience can be quantified by using the concept of flooding severity $Sev$, which is a function of failure magnitude and failure duration (Hwang et al., 2015; Mugume et al., 2014). Traditionally,
the total flooding volume and mean duration of nodal flooding are used to represent the failure magnitude and duration, respectively. The \( Sev \) is quantitatively represented as the shaded area (Fig.1) between the original system performance level, \( P_0 \) and the actual system performance curve, \( P_i(t) \). The shaded rectangular area can be computed by Equation 1, which has been simplified to Equation 2 to approximate the volumetric \( Sev \). The \( Res \) is estimated as one minus the computed \( Sev \), shown in Equation 3. However, adopting mean nodal flooding duration to represent the system flooding duration is limited. Firstly, the mean nodal flooding duration is an empirical flooding duration computation. When the nodal flooding duration is not statistically uniform, a mean value might not be representative of all nodes’ flooding duration. Secondly, the initially ponded flooding water in the last storm event might be repetitively counted in the next storm events if ‘back-to-back’ storms continuously occur. The repetitive computation in nodal flooding volume would lead to the over-estimation of flooding duration in continuous modeling. To addresses these issues, this study develops a new resilience computation method for long-term modeling situations. We used the event flooding duration separated by the inter-event period interval to replace the mean nodal flooding duration of \( t_F \) in Equations (4) and (5). This method extends the applicability of flooding resilience for continuous simulations.

\[
Sev = f[Sev_p, t_f] = \frac{1}{P_0} \int_{t_0}^{t_n} (P_0 - P_i(t)) dt \tag{1}
\]

Where \( t_f \) is the failure duration; \( t_0 \) is the time of occurrence of the threat; \( t_n \) is the total modeling time.

\[
Sev = \frac{V_{TF}}{V_{T1}} \times \frac{t_r - t_r}{t_n - t_0} = \frac{V_{TF}}{V_{T1}} \times \frac{t_f}{t_n} \tag{2}
\]
\[ Res = 1 - Sev = 1 - \frac{V_{TF}}{V_{T1}} \times \frac{t_f}{t_n} \quad (3) \]

Where \( V_{TF} \) is the total flood volume, \( V_{T1} \) is the total inflow into the system, \( t_f \) is the mean duration of nodal flooding; \( t_n \) is the total simulation time.

\[ Sev = \frac{V_{TF}}{V_{T1}} \times \frac{t_r-t_f}{t_n-t_0} = \frac{V_{TF}}{V_{T1}} \times \frac{t_F}{t_n} \quad (4) \]

\[ Res = 1 - Sev_i = 1 - \frac{V_{TF}}{V_{T1}} \times \frac{t_F}{t_n} \quad (5) \]

Where \( V_{TF} \) is the total flood volume, \( V_{T1} \) the total inflow into the system, \( t_F \) the event flooding duration and \( t_n \) the total simulation time.

For a given external disturbance like storm events, \( Res \) quantifies the UDS residual functionality as a function of total flooding volume and mean duration of nodal flooding. The \( Res \) ranges from 0 to 1. A value of 0 for \( Res \) indicates the lowest level of resilience, while 1 is the highest level of resilience. The solid blue line in Fig. 1 represents a more resilient UDS with a small shaded area. Reshaping the resilience graph is to lower maximum failure level and flooding magnitude or to improve resistibility and recovery rate.

3. Case study

3.1 Study drainage catchment overview

The case study drainage catchment is located in the southeastern corner of Salt Lake City, Utah, USA (Fig. 2). Salt Lake City has a semi-arid climate with an average annual precipitation depth of 412 mm, and more than 85% of the rainfall occurring during the spring and summer seasons.
Changes in rainfall intensity from climate change are projected to magnify runoff volume and worsen over-loadings in the local UDSs during rainfall extremes. Consequently, changes in hydrological regimes like the water depths have raised great flooding concerns from local residents (Jiada Li, 2021).

Fig. 2. The study area in the Sugar House area of Salt Lake City, Utah, USA showed alongside the urban drainage network model used in the study.

3.2 Urban drainage model

For this study, we use a drainage system model built using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Storm Water Management Model (SWMM) Version 5.1 (Rossman 2015). The model includes 28 sub-catchments, 184 conduits, and 181 junctions, and one rain gauge (Fig. 2). The details of the model development, validation, and parameter settings can be found in previous work (Li and Burian, 2022).
3.2.1 Simulating the effect of adaptation strategies on UDS performance

In this study, two adaptation strategies, RTC of distributed storage tanks and GSI, are implemented to improve resilience. The GSI adaptation strategy used in this study consists of three bio-retention cells and two permeable pavements distributed in the drainage sub-catchments (Fig. 1: bio-retentions in sub-catchments SC15 and 16, permeable pavement in sub-catchments SC1, 4, and 18) of the SWMM model. Bioretention cells and permeable pavement are selected because of the installation accessibility, construction and maintenance budgets, usage of existing facilities, and their performance in a semi-arid environment. These GSI practices are designed to capture the 80th percentile rainfall event, which is the local standard (12.7 mm rainfall depth) (Department of Environmental Quality, 2018), by increasing in SWMM the number GSI units in a sub-catchment until the stormwater is completely retained. Converting 15% of the impervious area to bio-retention units and 10% to permeable pavement is able to fully retain the stormwater in the study area (SLCDPU, 2018). In the SWMM model, the percent imperviousness of each sub-catchment is accordingly changed to account for the impacts of GSI implementation. For each sub-catchment, 50% of the impervious area is routed to its corresponding bio-retention units, and the other 50% routed to its permeable pavement. The SWMM parameters used in modeling the bio-retention and pervious pavement are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. SWMM model parameter settings for simulating bio-retention cells and permeable pavement (data sources for designing GSIs are referred to previous GSI studies in Salt Lake City (Burian et al., 2009; Feng et al., 2016; Tavakol-Davani et al., 2016, 2019))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attributes</th>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Bio-retention Cells</th>
<th>Permeable Pavement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface</td>
<td>Berm height (m)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vegetation volume fraction</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surface roughness</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surface Slope (%)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thickness (m)</td>
<td>0.075</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Porosity</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field capacity</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RTC adaptation strategy is developed to control three hypothetical orifice gates and three corresponding storage tanks with sizes of 4000, 5000, and 5000 m³ (Li et al., 2021). The storage volume is designed to meet the capacity to accommodate the total stormwater runoff volume from the upstream contributing sub-catchments and to prevent the tanks’ outflow from exceeding the predevelopment system peak flow under the same rainfall event of design GSI. The RTC strategy automatically adjusts the gate opening to control the tank storage volume and outflow. Actions in gates (% openings of gates) are computed by the nonlinear control Equation (4).

\[ GO_i = \min \left(1, \frac{D_i + R_i}{A \cdot \sqrt{\frac{2 \cdot g \cdot Q_i}{D_i + R_i}}} \right) \times 100\% \]  

Where \( GO_i \) is the gate percentage opening at the \( i^{th} \) time step; \( D_i \) is the tank water depth at the \( i^{th} \) time step; \( R_i \) is the rainfall intensity at the \( i^{th} \) time step; \( Q_i \) is the tank outflow at the \( i^{th} \) time step; \( A \) is the maximum opening area of the gate, and this study assumes the maximum area to be 1 m²; \( g \) is the acceleration of gravity (9.8 m²/s); \( \min \) is to select the minimum value between the actual opening output and 1 as the final gate opening, which avoids the gate opening over 100%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Soil</strong></th>
<th><strong>Wilting point</strong></th>
<th>0.1</th>
<th>0.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conductivity (mm/hr)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conductivity slope (%)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suction head (m)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Storage** | Thickness (m) | 0.15 | 0.3 |
| Voids ratio | 0.25 | 0.75 |
| Seepage rate (mm/hr) | 18 | 5 |
| Clogging factor | 0 | 0 |

| **Drainage** | Flow coefficient (mm/hr) | 0 | 0 |
| Flow exponent | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Offset height (m) | 0.05 | 0 |

| **Pavement** | Thickness (m) | None | 0.2 |
| Void Ratio | None | 0.15 |
| Imperviousness | None | 0 |
| Permeability (m/hr) | None | 2.54 |
| Clogging Factor | None | 0 |
In the nonlinear control equation, including rainfall forecasts as control inputs allows the RTC system to compute coordinated gate actions in advance and prepare available storage volumes for incoming storm events. Meanwhile, the consideration of tank water level and outflow is advantageous to prevent local overflow and downstream flooding issues. Detailed explanations about the development of control rules used in the RTC strategy can be found in Li et al. (2020a) and Li et al. (2021). All adaptation strategies are simulated by using PySWMM, which is a Python language software package for the creation, manipulation, and study of the structure, dynamics, and function of SWMM models throughout stepwise rainfall-runoff simulations (McDonnell et al., 2020).

3.2.2 Future scenarios

Future (2035-2049) daily precipitation datasets from Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) were acquired for the Global Circulation Model (CCSM) 4.1. The CCSM 4.1 was chosen due to the favorable performance in reproducing historical climate for the study area and the wide connection between climatic variability and mean monthly precipitation (Smith et al., 2015). Climate scenarios proposed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) were Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs), which reflect the radiative forcing level of climate systems (O’Neill et al. 2016). We selected RCP 4.5 and 8.5 since they cover the range of greenhouse gas emissions from low to high levels. RCP 4.5 represents a moderate scenario that assumes future trends throughout the 21st century will follow the historical patterns, while RCP 8.5 is the worst greenhouse gas emission scenario. The future daily precipitations were downscaled by using the combined change factor method due to its simplicity, efficiency, and acceptable accuracy (Hansen et al., 2017). The downscaled data assumes changes from the historical to the
projection period, so we conducted bias-correction with the linear scaling method implemented in the CMhyd tool (Teutschbein and Seibert, 2012). We further disaggregated daily precipitations into hourly resolution by using NetSTORM (Heineman, 2004). This study focused on the warm season months in Salt Lake City (May to September), so the October to April period was not considered in the simulation.

For the design storm part of the study, hourly rainfall projections were analyzed to generate the future Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) curves using the same approach as the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Atlas 14 for design rainfall events (United States Department of Agriculture, 2009). Fig. 3a shows the future rainfall intensities corresponding to durations of 1-, 3-, 6-, 12-, 24-, and 48-hour and return periods of 1-, 2-, 10-, 25-, 50-, and 100-year for the RCP 4.5 and 8.5 climate scenarios, respectively. These future IDF curves show consistent results to previous studies quantifying climate change impacts on rainfall extremes in Western U.S. cities, like Tucson, Arizona (Tousi et al., 2021). Because of their general relevance for stormwater management, the present study only considers the 3-hour duration and 2-, 10-, 100-year average recurrence interval future rainfalls, which are assigned the Farmer-Fletcher rainfall time distribution developed for the region (Fig. 3b) (Humphrey, 2009). All future rainfalls peak at 1:15, and have rainfall intensity with an average of 13% (RCP 4.5) and 25% (RCP 8.5) higher than the historical estimates of NOAA Atlas 14 point precipitation frequency. Fig. 3c shows the 2049 continuous rainfalls for RCP 4.5 and 8.5 scenarios. RCP 4.5 includes 7 rainfall events, while RCP 8.5 has 8 events highlighted in purple dashed squares. These rainfall events are selected since they cover short- to long-duration and low- to high-intensity events, and these events have an average depths of 21 mm and 20 mm for RCP 4.5 and 8.5 scenarios, respectively; these rainfall depths are
close to the average rainfall depth of 2-year and 3-hour rainfall event in the study area.

**Fig. 3.** A graphic combination of a) future IDF curves, b) future design rainfalls of 3-hour duration and 2-, 10-, and 100-year return periods, and c) 2049 future continuous rainfalls under RCP4.5 and 8.5 climate scenarios.

We compared the RTC and GSI performance for enhancing flooding resilience under the following simulation scenarios:

1) **Future Baseline (BS):** SWMM model driven by future design storms and continuous rainfall of RCP 4.5 and 8.5 without GSI and RTC

2) **GSI:** Same as BS but with GSI retrofits;

3) **RTC:** Same as BS but with control retrofits.

Continuous modeling outcomes, including time-series gate opening, tank outflow, system inflow, and flooding volume and duration, were collected at each timestep to quantify the system performance curve and resilience changes and investigate the system responses after adaptation.
4. Results

4.1 Performance comparison under future design storms

System performance curves are significantly reshaped by GSI and RTC adaptation strategies. Fig. 4 shows that GSI and RTC elevate the UDS’s maximum failure (worst performance) level and accelerate the system recovery rate, compared with the baseline scenario. GSI and RTC have smaller flooding severity volumetric areas than the baseline system, indicating GSI and RTC can improve the UDS performance on RCP 4.5 climate scenario. Particularly, the top subplot of Fig. 4 shows that GSI enables the system to have a higher maximum failure level of 0.97 than the RTC (0.96) for the 2-year 3-hour event. As storm size increases to 10-year, the maximum failure level of GSI drops slightly below the RTC, but it is still higher than the baseline in the middle subplot of Fig. 4. As the storm return period increases to 100-year, GSI shows limited influences on subsiding the flooding severity volumetric area in comparison to the baseline system (bottom subplot of Fig. 4).
Fig. 4. System performance curves for the 3-hour and 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year future rainfall events under RCP 4.5 climate scenario.

RTC retains the adaptive capacity as rainfall intensity increases. Fig. 5 shows that RTC has few changes in failure level and flooding severity volumetric area from small to large rainfall events. This finding illustrates that RTC is able to protect the system's functionality by addressing the impacts across a range of design storms. Without adaptations, the maximum failure level
significantly declines from 0.9 to about 0.6, and the flooding severity volumetric area doubles from small (top subplot of Fig. 5) to large (middle subplot of Fig. 5) storms. With GSI retrofits, the UDS has the maximum failure level decreasing from 0.95 to 0.78 from 2-year to 100-year rainfall events. Even worse, GSI lessens the system functionality in the RCP 8.5 scenario. The middle subplot of Fig. 5 shows that the maximum failure level of GSI surprisingly falls below the baseline system, and induces a significantly larger severity volumetric area than RTC during the 100-year 3-hour storm event (bottom subplot of Fig. 5). GSI is designed like the passive gray stormwater infrastructure to meet fixed stormwater criteria, but increased rainfall volume and intensity can surpass these design standards leading to increases in flooding. In contrast, RTC adjusts the system operations to cope with the changes in rainfall and runoff volume.
Fig. 5. System performance curves for the 3-hour and 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year future rainfall events under RCP 8.5 climate scenario. Please note the left y-axis has different intervals and ranges for each subplot.

Although the system is overwhelmed in the 100-year storm event, RTC makes full use of the available storage to retain the additional flooding volume. This operation can be done by expanding gate opening magnitude and extending the duration of 100% full opening. In general, RTC opens gates a larger percentage under 100-year event than under the 2- or 10-year event.
loadings (Fig. 6). RTC senses the runoff peaking time in advance so that outflow can be timely discharged to prepare sufficient storage for incoming events. For instance, Fig. 6 shows that RTC continues opening the gate to 100% for 20 minutes (1:10-1:30) at the 100-year rainfall peaking time, and then gradually closes the gate to about 20% from 1:30 to 3:00. During this period, the storage tanks release the biggest amount of outflow to prepare the maximum storage volume. The dynamic operation is found to be the key reason why RTC is advantageous to the GSI’s static performance when dealing with future rainfall extremes.

**Fig. 6.** RTC dynamically opens the gate to release outflow for preparing sufficient storage volume for storm events under RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 climate scenarios.
RTC shows greater performance for achieving higher resilience for rainfall events beyond the 10-year design storms. GSI amplifies the flooding resilience up to 5% and 13% for RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 100-year storms in Fig. 7. RTC improves the resilience up to about 6% and 17% at the 100-year event for RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5, respectively.

**Fig. 7.** Resilience relative changes from GSI or RTC adaptation strategy to the baseline model under future artificially-designed rainfalls of RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 climate scenarios.
4.2. Performance comparison under future continuous rainfalls

RTC consistently outperforms GSI during the long-term continuous simulations. During rainfall peaks, the RTC and GSI adaptations significantly improve upon the baseline system performance (blue curves in Fig. 8). Events 1-4 (05/01/2049 to 06/01/2049) show larger differences in flooding severity volumetric areas between the baseline curve and adaptation curve than other storms after June 2049. This can be attributed to the fact that events 1-4 generally have longer storm durations than events 5-8, shown in Table 2. In RCP 4.5 climate scenario, RTC has higher performance curves (red curves) than GSI (black curves) at any time the occurrence of storm events in Fig.8. Still, such a finding is not applicable to the rainfall events of RCP 8.5 climate scenario. This discovery can be explained by Fig. 9, which shows that GSI has relatively higher performance than RTC at the system resistance stage. Especially under ‘back-to-back’ events 5-8 (medium or high rainfall intensity) of RCP 8.5, GSI has slower falling limbs of performance curves than RTC (Fig. 9), indicating that GSI retrofit is more important to improve system resistibility than RTC.
Fig. 8. System performance curves for 2049 continuous future rainfalls under a) RCP 4.5 and b) RCP 8.5 climate scenarios.

However, improving system resistibility does not necessarily mean enhancing system resilience. RTC has lower failure levels and faster recovery rates than GSI (recovery stage of Fig. 9), resulting in a higher resilience than GSI in future storms ranging from the short to long duration and low to high intensity. The advantage of the RTC is to improve system maximum failure level and recovery rate, while GSI is superior to improve the system resistance capacity. These adaptation benefits, consequently, promote system resilience under future climatic impacts.
Fig. 9. System performance curves under continuous storm events of RCP 8.5 climate scenario. During the resistance stage, GSI (black curves) has higher performances than RTC (red curves), but this phenomenon reverses at the recovery stage.

5. Discussion

The present research finds that RTC has inconsistent performance during continuous ‘back-to-back’ storms due to the system functionality loss in the resistance stage of performance curves. During the ‘back-to-back’ storms, RTC only opens gates from 0% up to 25% when runoff peaks, and ends up fully closing the gate when rainfall recesses. In this way, water is still retained in the storage tank when the subsequent storm comes. This operation avoids releasing overloaded water to the downstream catchments to cause downstream flooding. Also, it ensures a certain amount of
stormwater discharge and prepares sufficient storage volume for the incoming storms. However, the deposited water diminishes the initial storage capacity of the UDS system and loses the system's functionality. The RTC’s performance curve drops earlier than GSI in events of RCP 8.5 climate scenario (Fig. 9), which is the reason why GSI has resistibility exceeding RTC during the initial flooding stage. Such a case does not exist in designed storm events. During a single storm event, RTC gradually opens the gate to 100% when rainfall peaks, and ends up partially closing the gate when rainfall goes away (Fig. 6). In this case, no water is ponded in the storage tank when the next storm comes. As such, the RTC remains stable in performance without resistance functionality loss for design storms.

The functionality loss in RTC can be offset by the following smaller failure level and quicker recovery speed than GSI. Referring to the recovery stages of performance curves in Fig. 9, we discover that RTC performance stops declining at a higher bottom point and then reverses back to original states with a higher performance than GSI. These changes reflect the high level of adaptivity and flexibility of RTC due to dynamic operations to cope with changing conditions. The increased adaptivity and flexibility, as two resilience attributes, directly enhance the system's resilience. Fig. 10 shows that RTC has higher resilience than GSI, but the resilience differences become smaller from RCP4.5 to RCP8.5 scenarios. Future work will focus on how to maintain consistency in RTC performance during long-term simulations with various flooding events of different volumes, durations, and intensities. RTC retains water in the system after prior storms, which reduces the initial storage capacity available for the next storms, but prevents the floods from occurring in downstream hotspots (Li et al., 2020b). In contrast, GSI completely infiltrates and discharges water into drainage inlets during storm events, which promotes the initial storage
capacity and system resistibility for the next rainfall events. These findings coincide with those reported in previous literature (Dong et al., 2017; Tavakol-Davani et al., 2016), but GSI still fails to handle large (100-year) floods in our case.

The 100% gate opening for mitigating the runoff peaks is acceptable since the RTC operation has the potential to reduce functionality loss and enhance flooding resilience. However, fully opening the gate would cause a higher outflow to trigger downstream flooding when the next storm arrives before discharge ends. Simply releasing upstream storage tanks’ outflow into downstream catchments cannot boost the flooding resilience, which agrees with the catchment flooding resilience study (Wang et al., 2019). The resilience improvement under ‘back-to-back’ storms needs a system view. Thus, building the tradeoff between the gates’ dynamical operation and system’s functionality loss is crucial to keep consistent control performance in the long-term period. Control operation process increases system storage capacity but may lead to system functionality loss due to the occurrence of downstream flooding. This information is of great importance for guiding stormwater engineers, who have expertise in stormwater infrastructure design and can gain from understanding controls and how to implement RTC to adapt to future rainfall changes.

6. Conclusions

In the age of climate adaptation, the present study contributes to resilience advancements in Urban Drainage Systems (UDSs) by smart and green stormwater infrastructure retrofits for long-term resilient stormwater management. This research work compares the performance of real-time control (RTC) and green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to mitigate the impacts of climate change
on urban flooding in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. The comparison of resilience changes highlights that RTC can perform better than GSI as a crucial component of long-term resilient stormwater management. This study covers the flooding resilience assessment under various disturbances induced by future single and continuous rainfalls scenarios, which is helpful to improve the understanding of the temporal dynamics in system performance and functionality loss. Under a single storm, we summarized that both GSI and RTC are effective adaptation strategies by improving resilience by up to 13% and 17%, respectively, by 2049. As the storm size increases over the 10-year return period, GSI is less capable of enhancing system performance and resilience than RTC. Under future ‘back-to-back’ storms, we concluded that the performance curves of GSI have a stronger resistance capability while RTC has a faster recovery future from RCP (Representative Concentration Pathway) 4.5 to 8.5 climate scenarios. Our research represents the first step to explore how to build a long-term climate-adaptation strategy tailored for existing UDSs under various rainfall scenarios for smart stormwater community.

Data Availability Statement

Some or all data, models, or code that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request (SWMM model, part of datasets, and codes for modeling RTC).

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