Doctoral Dissertation

博士論文

Evaluation of rainfall-induced mass movements and sediment yields in Taiwan

(台湾における降雨で生じたマスムーブメントと土砂流出の評価**)**

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Abstract

Rainfall-induced mass movements are significant natural hazards in Taiwan. However, few studies have explored the rainfall conditions associated with mass movements for a broad area in Taiwan. This dissertation presents results of studies for the whole of Taiwan, to establish the relationship between the initiation of mass movements and rainfall conditions, apply a useful index to Taiwan which may contribute to a future warning system of mass movements, identify dimensional characteristics of landslides, and discuss the effects of landslides on the sediment discharge in rivers.

This study analyzed mass movements caused by rainfall events in Taiwan during a seven-year period from 2006 to 2012. Data from 263 mass movement events, including 172 landslides and 107 debris flows (16 events with both), were collected from the reports of the Soil and Water Conservation Bureau of Taiwan. After confirming the location of each event, we compiled relevant rainfall data by interpolating data from >400 rain gauges. Subsequently, the rainfall intensity–duration (*I–D*) relationship was examined to establish the rainfall threshold for mass movements using random sampling: $I = 18.10(\pm 2.67)D^{-0.17(\pm 0.04)}$, where *I* is mean rainfall intensity (mm/h) and *D* is the time between the beginning of a rainfall event and resulting mass movements (h). Significant differences in the rainfall intensity and the thresholds were detected between landslides and debris flows. For short duration rainfall events, higher mean rainfall intensities were required to trigger debris flows. Contrastingly, for long duration rainfall events, similar mean rainfall intensities triggered both landslides and debris flows. We also rescaled mean rainfall intensity using mean annual precipitation (*MAP*), which defined a new threshold calculated as

 $I_{MAP} = 0.0060(\pm 0.0009)D^{-0.17(\pm 0.04)}$, where I_{MAP} is the rainfall intensity rescaled by a *MAP* value of 3,000 mm, the minimum *MAP* of mountainous areas in Taiwan. Although the *I–D* threshold for Taiwan was high relative to those for other areas around the world, the *IMAP–D* threshold tended to be lower. Our results indicate that Taiwan is highly prone to rainfall-induced mass movements. This study also shows that most of the mass movements occurred around the period when rainfall intensity was highest, but some events occurred significantly before and after the rainfall peak. Both the antecedent and peak rainfall played important roles in triggering landslides, whereas debris flow occurrence was more related to peak rainfall than antecedent rainfall.

We also used the soil water index (*SWI*) which can represent the conceptual soil water contents as influenced by the present and antecedent rainfall. *SWI* is used by the Japan Meteorological Agency to assess mass movement hazards in Japan. Previous studies show that *SWI* can successfully predict the occurrence of mass movements in Japan. Therefore, this study examines whether *SWI* can be also applied to Taiwan. We used the mass movement data in 2006–2012 for analyses and those in 2013 ($n = 19$) for verification. The values of *SWI* before the rainfall events which triggered mass movements were used as the indicator of the antecedent rainfall condition. We found that under different values of *SWI* before rainfall events, the rainfall conditions needed for triggering mass movements, such as the rainfall intensity, duration, and cumulative rainfall, are different. Then we classified rainfall conditions for triggering mass movements into two types, short duration–high intensity (SH) and long duration–low intensity (LL), based on the principal component analysis. The SH type is associated with a rapid increase of *SWI* within a short duration, and the LL type is with a gradual rise and subsequent constancy of *SWI*. Based on this result, we modeled the general trend of changes in *SWI* for the two types. We then verified the model by analyzing the mass movements in 2013, with 14 SH types and five LL types. We also checked hourly changes in *SWI* for these events and found that they all followed the general trend of the inferred SH and LL curves. From these results, it seems possible to predict a mass movement of the SH or LL type at an early stage of a rainfall event. Our results indicate that *SWI* is applicable to Taiwan in assessing regional mass movement hazards.

Both *I–D* thresholds and *SWI* contribute to mass movement warnings. For the *I– D* threshold, once the rainfall conditions exceed the threshold, it can provide warnings of a potential mass movement hazard. According to our results, both antecedent rainfall and peak rainfall intensity play important roles in triggering mass movements. The results of *SWI* also showed that soil water contents for many cases of LL type increased rapidly before mass movements. However, this phenomenon cannot be found in the *I–D* threshold because it is defined as the minimum-level of the rainfall conditions, and the *I*–*D* plots represent average rainfall event conditions and do not necessarily reflect some sporadic high rainfall intensities. Thus, predicting the exact time of mass movements using only the *I–D* threshold is difficult. On the other hand, *SWI* is a long-term and dynamic index that reflects effects of antecedent rainfall and temporal rainfall intensity variations. Therefore, real-time monitoring using *SWI* together with the *I*–*D* conditions allows local authorities to make appropriate decisions about mass movement warnings.

Among the 263 mass movements during 2006–2012, this study identified dimensional characteristics of 172 landslides. The area of each landslide was mapped and calculated using FORMOSA–II satellite images. The volume and depth were also calculated using empirical formula. Comparing the landslide size with rainfall conditions, this study found that deep landslides usually occurred due to long duration and moderate intensity rainfall, whereas shallow landslides occurred due to short duration and high intensity rainfall. This observation is consistent with some previous studies and is ascribable to the fact that deep landslides need a high groundwater level, soil moisture, and pore water pressure caused by a prolonged rainfall. Concerning the area of landslides, their frequency–area distribution correlates well with a power-law relation having an exponent of -1.1 , over the range 6.3×10^2 m² < A_L < 3.1×10^6 m². The slope of the power-law relation for Taiwan is lower than those for other areas around the world. It indicates that for the same total area or total number of landslides, the proportion of large landslides will be higher in Taiwan than in other areas. To assess landslide events particularly historical ones, this study has also proposed a landslide-event magnitude scale $m_L = \log V_a$, where V_a is the average volume of landslides associated with an event. The average m_L for all landslides during 2006– 2012 was estimated to be 6.4.

Debris sourced from mass movements will result in environmental problems such as increased sediment discharge in rivers. This study analyzed the sediment discharge of the 17 main rivers during the 15 typhoon events that caused the mass movements collected in this study. The measured suspended sediment and water discharge, collected from hydrometric stations of the Water Resources Agency of Taiwan, were used to establish rating-curve relationships. Then sediment discharge during typhoon events were estimated using the rating-curve method and the measured data of daily water discharge. Positive correlations between sediment discharge and rainfall conditions for each river indicate that sediment discharge increased when there was a greater amount of rainfall or a higher intensity rainfall during a typhoon event. In addition, the amount of sediment discharge during a typhoon event is mainly controlled by the total amount of rainfall, not peak rainfall. Differences in the correlation equations among the rivers suggest that the catchments with larger areas and steeper slopes produce more sediment. Catchments with

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relatively low sediment discharge show more distinct increase in sediment discharge in response to increase in average daily rainfall.

The positive correlation between the average sediment discharge and the average area of landslides during typhoon events indicates that when larger landslides are caused by heavier rainfall during a typhoon event, more loose materials from latest landslide debris are flushed into rivers resulting in higher sediment discharge. However, the correlation between landslides and sediment discharge is not very high and is lower than the correlation between sediment discharge and rainfall conditions. This means that the latest landslides caused by each of the 14 typhoon events are not an only single source of sediment discharge. Previous studies in Taiwan pointed out that the latest landslide debris have not been delivered completely to rivers but have been successively delivered to rivers by following heavy storms. Therefore, the condition of landslide debris staying on slopes since previous heavy storms also affects sediment discharge. According to our result of the frequency–area distribution of landslides, the proportion of large landslides is high in Taiwan. Previous studies in Taiwan indicated that when the lowest point of a landslide reaches a location with the drainage area $> 1 \text{ km}^2$, produced sediment are delivered to channels. This means that debris of large landslides have higher opportunity to reach such locations and supply sediment to rivers. Therefore, large landslides in Taiwan contribute significantly to the high annual sediment yield of the world top class, in spite of the small area of Taiwan.

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Chapter 1 Introduction

Mass movements such as landslides and debris flows are common natural hazards in mountainous areas of the world (Aleotti and Chowdhury, 1999; Guzzetti et al., 1999; Dai et al., 2002; Dou et al. 2014). These hazards not only cause considerable loss of property and life but also cause ecological and environmental problems such as increased soil erosion rates and sediment discharge (Hovius et al., 1997; Claessens et al., 2007). They are caused mainly by three triggers: earthquakes, rainfall and rapid snowmelt (Keefer, 1984; Guzzetti et al., 2002; Malamud et al., 2004a,b) and influenced by numerous factors such as topography, lithology, geological structure, soil moisture content, and anthropic influence (Crozier, 1999; Glade et al., 2000). Numerous methodologies have been developed to solve the problems of mass movements. Such methodologies generally employ hydrological and/or statistical models to assess and map mass movement susceptibility and probability. Hydrological models assess slope stability on the basis of topographical, hydrological, and soil texture parameters, and calculate the factor of safety along a critical slip surface using the ordinary method of slices or its variations (Fellenius, 1927; Bishop, 1955; Janbu et al., 1956; Morgenstem and Price, 1965; Spencer, 1967). Other factors or methods have also been used with hydrological models to determine slope stability – for example, vegetation-root cohesion (Sidle, 1992), colluvial soil thickness (Dietrich et al., 1995), and the contact element method (Jiang et al., 2006). In contrast, statistical models assess slope stability by means of multivariate analysis of selected and weighted site factors such as geology, topography, climate, land use, and vegetation. Several methods have been proposed to establish statistical models and assess mass movement susceptibility for different areas. These models include logistic regression (Guzzetti et al., 1999; Dai and Lee, 2002; Ayalew and Yamagishi, 2005), weight of evidence (Lee and Choi, 2004), likelihood ratio (Lee et al., 2007), discriminant analysis (Guzzetti et al., 2006), frequency ratio (Lee and Lee, 2006), analytical hierarchy processing (Komac, 2006; Yalcin, 2008; Wu and Chen, 2009), artificial neural networks (Chang and Chao, 2006; Lee, 2007; Lee et al., 2007; Melchiorre et al., 2008), and decision-tree models (Pal and Mather, 2003; Xu et al., 2005; Bou Kheir et al., 2008; Schneevoigt et al., 2008; Saito et al., 2009). Assuming that mass movements will occur in the future because of the same conditions that triggered them in the past, susceptibility assessments can be used to predict geographical locations of future mass movements (Guzzetti et al., 1999, 2005, 2006). However, this kind of approach does not allow us to predict the time of mass movement occurrence.

Rainfall is the primary factor triggering mass movements in countries like Japan and Taiwan, and also a key factor in predicting where and when mass movements will occur. Therefore, this study analyzes rainfall-induced mass movements in Taiwan and focuses on rainfall parameters as the most important aspect of mass movement hazards. This relatively simple approach can be applied to the whole of Taiwan. Several studies have used rainfall characteristics, such as intensity, duration, cumulative rainfall, and antecedent rainfall during a particular period, to identify the threshold value for mass movement initiation (Caine, 1980; Keefer et al., 1987; Crozier, 1999; Glade et al., 2000; Aleotti, 2004; Guzzetti et al., 2007; Saito et al., 2010a). This study also follows the same approach. Although other factors such as terrain shape also affect the occurrence of mass movements, Lin et al. (2009) pointed out that the areas in and around the Central Mountain Range of Taiwan are characterized by highly similar V-shaped valleys with a typical inclination value of 35°. This particular characteristic for Taiwan permits us to focus on the effects of rainfall conditions.

This paper also deals with sediment discharge from major rivers in Taiwan. Sediment discharge in rivers is an important indicator for not noly erosion in river catchments but also sedimentation in downstream areas and ocean floors (Hovius et al., 2000; Fuller et al., 2003; Dadson et al., 2004). In mountainous areas of Taiwan, landslides and debris flows are highly important erosional processes of river catchments as the main sources of sediment in rivers (Lin et al., 2008; Chuang et al., 2009).

1.1 Review on rainfall-induced mass movements and sediment discharge

1.1.1 Rainfall thresholds

Mass movements, especially shallow landslides and debris flows, are often triggered by heavy rainfall. Sitar et al. (1992) pointed out that a sudden rise in pore water pressure of soil is critical for the occurrence of debris flows. Wieczorek et al. (2000) found that necessary rainfall conditions for the occurrence of debris flows are high rainfall intensity and sufficiently long rain duration. Finlay et al. (1997) found the relationship between the occurrence probability of landslides and rainfall expressed by linear, quadratic, and cubic curves fitted to data of 791 landslides in Hong Kong during 1984–1997.

Many studies have investigated rainfall thresholds for the initiation of mass movements across the globe using both physical and empirical models, because such thresholds are essential for predicting future mass movements. Physical models mainly use slope stability models and are used widely in the field of engineering geology (Wu and Sidle, 1995; Iverson, 2000). In order to connect rainfall patterns and data into the slope stability/instability conditions, slope stability models and infiltration models are sometimes used simultaneously (Salvucci and Entekabi, 1994). Wilson (1989) proposed the "leaky barrel" model which can estimate the amount of cumulative groundwater via infiltration. This model was used in San Francisco to predict the occurrence of debris flows (Wilson and Wieczorek, 1995). Physical models can determine the needed amount of rainfall to trigger mass movements and predict the location and time of mass movement occurrences as a warning system. However, it requires detailed information of hydrology, lithology, topography and soil characteristics. These are difficult to collect precisely over a large area.

Although the simplicity of empirical approaches neglects detailed hydrological controls, it offers a straightforward means for issuing regional-scale mass movement warnings based solely on rainfall data. Caine (1980) first used the rainfall intensity and rainfall duration plotting on logarithmic coordinates to create the rainfall threshold for shallow landslides and debris flows. He considered that rainfall threshold is more precise than the external geomorphological threshold (Schumm, 1973). It can be further quantified and calculated for shallow landslides and debris flows. Keefer et al. (1987) successfully predicted the time of major landslides during a rainstorm event by using the rainfall threshold using data from rain gauges and the national weather forecast. Aleotti (2004) used the annual average rainfall in their study area to rescale the rainfall intensity and cumulative rainfall to better reflect local rainfall characteristics. The rainfall threshold was also considered with the needed time for evacuation of people to establish a warning system. Saito et al. (2010a) used 1174 landslides which occurred during 2006 to 2008 in Japan to establish a rainfall threshold and compared it with known thresholds for other areas in the world. They found that rainfall thresholds of shallow landslides for Japan are lower than those for

the other areas. This is mainly due to the fact that Japan is located on the subtropical monsoon climate zone with high-relief topography and complex geological conditions.

In order to derive empirical rainfall thresholds for mass movements, many studies have focused on rainfall parameters such as the rainfall intensity, duration, cumulative rainfall, and antecedent rainfall (see Guzzetti et al., 2007, 2008 for detailed reviews). Among these, the relationship between rainfall intensity (*I*) and duration (*D*) is most commonly used to estimate rainfall thresholds (e.g., Caine, 1980; Guzzetti et al., 2007, 2008; Brunetti et al., 2010; Saito et al., 2010a; Saito et al., 2014). Several studies have also examined the importance of peak rainfall intensity in the initiation of mass movements; e.g., the occurrence of peak rainfall intensity and the initiation of mass movements are often concurrent (Aleotti, 2004; Chien-Yuan et al., 2005; Guzzetti et al., 2007, 2008; Dahal and Hasegawa, 2008; Saito et al., 2010a,b). Although antecedent rainfall also plays an important role in mass movement initiation (Kim et al., 1992; Glade, 1997; Crozier, 1999; Glade et al., 2000; Guzzetti et al., 2007, 2008; Dahal and Hasegawa, 2008), intensity–duration (*I*–*D*) thresholds and/or the peak rainfall intensity are often used to predict mass movements and to warn the appropriate authorities of potential mass movement hazards (Onodera et al., 1974; Keefer et al., 1987; Aleotti, 2004; Hong et al., 2005; Jan and Chen, 2005; Cannon et al., 2008; Coe et al., 2008; Dahal and Hasegawa, 2008; Guzzetti et al., 2008).

Okada et al. (2001) from the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) proposed the soil water index (*SWI*) as the conceptual soil water contents influenced by present and antecedent rainfall. This index uses a calculated value of the total water depth of a three-layer tank model with fixed parameters (Sugawara et al., 1974; Ishihara and Kobatake, 1979). Previous studies for Japan show that *SWI* can successfully predict the occurrence of mass movements (Osanai et al., 2010; Saito et al., 2010b). Using *SWI*, the Japanese Government has established a nationwide early-warning system for mass movement disasters in 2005. The system sets a criterion for the occurrence of mass movements based on 60-mins cumulative rainfall and *SWI* in each 5-km grid cell covering all areas of Japan (Osanai et al., 2010).

Saito et al. (2010b) proposed the normalized soil water index (*NSWI*) which is *SWI* divided by the highest value of *SWI* over the past decade. They identified two types of rainfall conditions for shallow landslide initiations in Japan: short-duration– high-intensity (SH) type and long-duration–low-intensity (LL) type. This classification can be used for predicting shallow landslides resulting from the rapid increase of *NSWI* with short duration in the SH type, and from the gentle rise of *NSWI* followed by heavy rainfall with long duration in the LL type. *NSWI* was then used for a regional case study of landslide disasters triggered by a record-breaking rainfall due to Typhoon Talas that caused enormous damages in the Kii Peninsula, Japan, in September 2011. Most of landslides occurred in an area where the maximum *NSWI* was high (Saito and Matsuyama, 2012).

In some previous studies, *SWI* was used to assess the influence of antecedent rainfall. For example, the investigation team of landslide disasters triggered by the 2004 Mid-Niigata Prefecture earthquake in Japan used *SWI* to analyze the influence of rainfall before the earthquake (Sassa, 2005). The heavy rainfall prior to the Mid-Niigata Prefecture earthquake resulted in numerous landslides which significantly differed from another case, the Nikawa landslide due to the Hyogoken-Nambu earthquake with a long travel distance and almost no antecedent rainfall.

There are some unique approaches related to rainfall thresholds of mass movements in Taiwan. For example, Chang and Chiang (2009) combined slope stability and statistical models to establish a landslide probability model based on geographical and hydrological data for landslides triggered by typhoon events, and they validated the model using data from an additional typhoon event. Lin and Chen (2012) used a rainfall kinetic energy conversion formula and rainfall intensity data from typhoon events between 1994 and 2008 to determine that $2,000$ J/m² is the landslide rainfall threshold for the mountainous areas of central Taiwan. In order to validate this threshold, they utilized rainfall, sediment discharge, and flow discharge data from another typhoon event.

1.1.2 Geomorphological and geological characteristics of mass movements

Rock strength and discontinuities density of geological materials will control the distribution of mass movements. Using statistical data of landslides, Keefer (2000) found that landslide density is higher in areas with weak rocks than areas with hard rocks. Clague and Evans (2003) pointed out that in the sedimentary formation with alternation of sand and shale, when the pore water pressure of sandstone increased by rainfall, the formation becomes vulnerable to failures due to disintegration. In addition, Chen et al. (1999) found that developed discontinuities are the main factor for the occurrence of debris flows in Hualien, eastern Taiwan. Developed discontinuities on valley sides are also the major source of materials for debris flows. When heavy rainfall raises soil moisture contents and groundwater table, the safety factor of slopes will drop drastically and cause failures (Chen and Su, 2001). Chuang et al. (2009) also found that areas with higher density of discontinuities in rocks are more prone to rainfall-induced mass movements.

A lot of studies have examined landslides in terms of their number, area, and volume. Regarding rainfall-induced landslides, Lumb (1975) correlated the characteristics of landslides in Hong Kong with the 24-h rainfall and the 15-day antecedent rainfall. He found that disastrous events with more than 50 landslides per day occurred when the 24-h rainfall exceeded 100 mm and the 15-day antecedent rainfall exceeded 350 mm. Several events causing 10–50 landslides per day were triggered by rainfall of 100 mm/day following 200 mm of antecedent rainfall. Dai and Lee (2001) also studied rainfall-induced landslides in Hong Kong and found that the 12-hour rolling rainfall is the most important in predicting the number of landslides; but in terms of failure volume, the most important rainfall period seems to be 24 hours. Saito et al. (2014) found that rainfall totals appear to be a suitable predictor of landslide volumes mobilized during typhoons and frontal storms in Japan. Some studies have also pointed out that deep slides in soils usually occurred only for long duration, moderate intensity storms, whereas very shallow slides of soil over bedrock also occurred for short duration, high intensity storms (Wieczorek, 1987; Larsen and Simon, 1993).

In terms of the landslide area, it was found that the frequency–area distribution of landslides correlates well with a power-law relation (Hovius et al., 2000; Guzzetti et al., 2002; Malamud et al., 2004a,b). In addition, Malamud et al. (2004a) and Guzzetti et al. (2009) proposed the use of the total number or total volume of landslides to measure the magnitude of a landslide event.

1.1.3 Sediment discharge in Taiwan

Mass movements produce debris that will enter rivers and will be transported to the ocean. Therefore, by analyzing sediment yield, we can identify not only the average exhumation rate of an area but also the effect of mass movements on surface morphology. Mass movements can directly or indirectly affect sediment discharge in rivers (Hovius et al., 1997; Claessens et al., 2007). There are about 384 Mt of sediment transported into the ocean every year in Taiwan (Dadson et al., 2003). Among these, about 30–42% of sediment was discharged at hyperpycnal sediment concentrations, typically during typhoon events (Dadson et al., 2005). However, it is difficult to estimate how much the proportion of materials, produced by the latest mass movements, enters rivers. Few previous studies have directly discussed the relationship between mass movements and sediment discharge in Taiwan.

Dadson et al. (2004) used the drainage area of the lowest point reached by each landslide to estimate the proportion of materials, produced by the latest mass movements, which entered a river. The result shows that when a landslide reaches a location with the drainage area $> 1 \text{ km}^2$, the delivered sediment enters a river. In the Chenyoulan river catchment, Taiwan, about 80% of materials produced by the Chi-Chi earthquake were not delivered to rivers immediately, but successively delivered to rivers by following typhoons (Dadson et al., 2004). In addition, Lin et al. (2011) studied landslides in the upstream area of the Shihmen Reservoir, Taiwan, and pointed out that high landslide ratios do not correspond to high sediment discharge, probably because sediment discharge is controlled by water discharge and landslide debris may still stay on slopes.

1.2 Objectives of the dissertation

Taiwan represents an area extremely susceptible to mass movements because of the steep mountainous topography, complex geological conditions, frequent heavy rainfall, and frequent earthquakes. Thus, as noted above, many studies have been performed on mass movements in Taiwan. However, these studies typically examined specific events or locations. Surprisingly few studies have explored the rainfall conditions associated with mass movements for Taiwan as a whole. Although Chien-Yuan et al. (2005) investigated the *I*–*D* threshold of debris flows for Taiwan, their data were generally sourced from specific areas in northern and central Taiwan and was relatively old (1989–2001) and, thus, possibly less credible than more recent data.

Since mass movements are densely and widely distributed in Taiwan, it is important to firmly establish the relationship between the initiation of mass movements and rainfall conditions. Therefore, the first objective of this dissertation was to analyze rainfall conditions associated with mass movements for the whole of Taiwan and to establish the *I*–*D* threshold using relatively abundant recent data.

In order to combine the effects of antecedent and current rainfall intensities and contribute to mass movement warnings, the second objective was to apply *SWI* for analyzing mass movements in Taiwan and to verify its effectiveness.

Then to understand characteristics of landslides in Taiwan and its effects on sediment discharge in rivers, the third and fourth objectives were to identify dimensional characteristics of landslides in Taiwan, and to identify sediment discharge of main rivers during typhoon events in Taiwan and to find out the relationship between sediment discharge and landslides.

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Chapter 2 Study area

Taiwan is located on a convergent plate boundary between the Eurasian Continental and the Philippine Sea plates, with the Philippine Sea plate moving towards the Eurasian Continental plate at a rate of 80 mm/yr (Yu et al., 1997). The subduction of the Philippine Sea plate beneath the Eurasian Continental plate resulted in the formation of an active mountain belt called the Central Range with over 200 peaks higher than 3,000 m a.s.l. (Ho, 1986; Teng, 1990) (Fig. 2.1). It is also responsible for frequent large earthquakes and an orogenic uplift rate of about 5 to 7 mm/yr (Li, 1976; Willett et al., 2003). According to the elevation histogram derived from a 10-m DTM of Taiwan, about 32% of the country is above 1,000 m. The slope of mountainous areas is mostly between 30° and 50° (Fig. 2.2).

Because of the long and narrow shape of Taiwan, most rivers are sourced from the Central Range and radially flow into the ocean in all orientations. Among these rivers, 17 are main representative rivers (Fig. 2.1). They include three rivers (Xindian, Tahan, and Touchien Rivers) in the northern part of Taiwan, four (Taan, Tachia, Wu, and Choshui Rivers) in the central part, five (Tsengwen, Erhjen, Kaoping, Linpien, and Sihjhong Rivers) in the southern part, and five (Peinan, Hsiukuluan, Hualien, Hoping, and Lanyang Rivers) in the eastern part.

The geological map provided by the Central Geological Survey of Taiwan (Ho, 1988) illustrates the seven major geological zones of Taiwan (Fig. 2.3). The western region and part of the northeastern coastal region are mainly underlain by Tertiary marine sedimentary rocks. Central Taiwan is composed of metamorphic rocks. The pre-Tertiary metamorphic complex is exposed mainly in the eastern Central Range, while the majority of the western Central Range consists of Tertiary indurated

metamorphosed argillaceous sedimentary rocks (Ho, 1988). The eastern coastal region is underlain by volcanic-arc sediments, orogenic sediments, and a subduction-collision complex formed in the Pliocene to Pleistocene. Northern Taiwan consists mainly of agglomerates-masses of igneous rock fragments. Finally, lowlands such as alluvial fans and coastal plains are mostly composed of Quaternary sediments.

Taiwan is located between 120°E and 122°E and between 22°N and 25°N, and the boundary between tropical and subtropical-monsoon climates is located in the south of Taiwan (Wang and Ho 2002). The average temperature over the Taiwanese lowlands during the wet season (May to October) is above 20°C, while that during the dry season (November to April) is between 14°C and 20°C. Central and southern Taiwan is mountainous, making the average temperature lower than in other regions of the country (Fig. 2.4). On average, four typhoons strike Taiwan every year (Wu and Kuo, 1999), causing heavy and concentrated rainfall. Annual rainfall over Taiwan averages 2,500 mm. However, annual rainfall in mountainous regions can surpass 3,000 mm (Shieh, 2000). Approximately 60% to 80% of rainfall falls during the wet season (Fig. 2.4).

Heavy rainfall, steep topography and high seismicity in Taiwan have contributed to an erosion rate of 3 to 7 mm/yr (Dadson et al. 2003). Mass movements triggered by frequent rainfall and earthquakes, particularly landslides and debris flows, represent the primary mechanisms of this erosion and are important for maintaining balance between erosion and uplift (Dadson et al. 2003). Taiwan also has a fragile geological environment, and areas that display a high density of geological discontinuity are more prone to mass movements (Chen et al., 1999; Chen and Su, 2001; Chuang et al., 2009). Interestingly, the number and magnitude of rainfall-induced mass movements increased after the 1999 Chi-Chi earthquake, because slopes became more vulnerable due to intense ground shaking (Chang and Slaymaker, 2002; Dadson et al., 2004; Cheng et al., 2005), reducing both the maximum rainfall intensity and critical cumulative rainfall required to trigger mass movements (Lin et al., 2003; Chang et al., 2009; Shieh et al., 2009; Chen, 2011).

Fig. 2.1 Main rivers and representative hydrometric stations in Taiwan.

Fig. 2.2 Distribution of (a) elevation, and (b) slope in Taiwan.

Fig. 2.3 Geology of Taiwan. I: Pleistocene basalt; II: Quaternary alluvial deposit; III: Neocene clastic rock; IV: Tertiary sub-metamorphic rock (a: argillite and slate; b: slate and phyllite); V: Pre-Tertiary metamorphic complex (a: schist, marble, and granite; b: schist and serpentine); VI: plate suture belt; VII: Neogene volcanic rock

Fig. 2.4 Average monthly temperature (curved lines) and rainfall (bars) in different regions of Taiwan (averaged from 1981 to 2010). North: Taipei, Keelung, Taoyuan,

Hsinchu, and Miaoli regions; Central: Taichung, Changhua, Nantou, and Yunlin regoins; South: Chiayi, Tainan, Kaohsiung, and Pingtung regions; East: Ilan, Hualien,

and Taitung regions

Chapter 3 Data and methods

3.1 Mass movement data

This study analyzed 263 mass movements caused by 15 typhoons and nine rainstorm events during the seven-year period between 2006 and 2012 (Fig. 3.1; Table 3.1; Appendix). We collected mass movement data from the reports of the Soil and Water Conservation Bureau (SWCB) of Taiwan. These data include 172 landslides and 107 debris flows, with 16 events including both landslides and debris flows. The 16 events are landslides completely or partially mobilized to form debris flows during the same rainfall event. Mass movements occurred across Taiwan (Fig. 3.1), and these occurred during the wet season: one in May, 26 in June, 33 in July, 141 in August, 24 in September, and 38 in October (Fig. 3.2).

The SWCB has conducted detailed field surveys when rainfall-induced mass movement disasters such as damage of houses and roads occurred for preventing secondary disasters and quick recovery. The resultant reports contain information on the type, location, and approximate time (accuracy in hour) of each disaster event. They speculate the time based on real-time videos taken at observation stations, the time people informed disasters, and interviews with residents. They investigate the extent of affected areas and the damaged condition of residents and constructions. Types of disaster in these reports are classified into three: landslides**,** debris flows, and floods. Among them, landslides are the slide type of mass movements and different from the flow type. Therefore, we selected landslides and debris flows for our analysis. Falls or topples are more related to the gravity, so only a few cases of these types were reported, and all of them occurred during the time with almost no rainfall.

Therefore, we carefully checked all reports $(n = 292)$, and excluded some data that were not caused by rainfall (almost no rainfall during mass movements). In addition, this study also collected 19 mass movements occurred in 2013 but only used for verifying the results of *SWI* (Fig. 3.1; Appendix). In the dataset used, only a few mass movements distributed in very high mountainous areas, because the SWCB only reported mass movements which directly affected residences and infrastructures.

Although mass movements occur frequently in Taiwan, there is yet no complete inventory with very detailed information. The relatively high integrity and consistency of the data collected by the SWCB indicate that at this moment the data are the best for analyzing the relation between mass movements and rainfall conditions over Taiwan.

Fig. 3.1 Distribution of rain gauges and mass movements that occurred between 2006

and 2013.

Fig. 3.2 Number of mass movements in each month.

3.2 Rainfall data

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau has installed more than 400 rain gauges with a density of approximately one gauge every 76 km^2 (Fig. 3.1) that record hourly data. The apparatuses of these rain gauges are the tilting-bucket type which can be used for automated observations. Since rain gauges were not always located close to mass movement sites and relatively few rain gauges were distributed in mountainous areas, we selected the nearest five rain gauges for each mass movement and conducted a kriging interpolation using the ordinary kriging and the spherical semivariogram model with a variable search radius to estimate rainfall at each mass movement location. Then we obtained the hourly rainfall value at the location of each mass
movement from the beginning to the end of a rainfall event. As is common in Taiwan, one continuous rainfall event was considered to begin when hourly rainfall surpassed 4 mm and to end when hourly rainfall decreased to below 4 mm over the next six consecutive hours (e.g., Chang et al., 2011) (Fig. 3.3a).

We calculated the mean rainfall intensity (*I*, mm/h), rainfall duration (*D*, h), and peak rainfall intensity (mm/h) from the beginning of a rainfall event to the time of mass movement occurrence. Some previous studies have used one week's antecedent rainfall for analyzing the antecedent soil moisture and found that it is an important factor for triggering landslides (Crosta 1998; Jakob et al. 2006). Therefore, we also examined rainfall totals for 168 hours (one week) before the beginning of a rainfall event which caused mass movements and used it as the antecedent rainfall.

Fig. 3.3 Definitions of one rainfall event. (a) Rainfall begins when hourly rainfall surpassed 4 mm and to end when hourly rainfall decreased to below 4 mm over the next 6 consecutive hours. (b) Rainfall period delimited by a non-rainfall period of more than 24 h.

3.3 Topographic and geological data

Topographic data such as elevation and slope are derived from a 10-m DTM of Taiwan. The DTM was measured and produced by the Aerial Survey Office, Forestry Bureau of Taiwan. They used the analytical photogrammetric method for three-dimensional phase of aerial photographs and mapping elevation points. Raster grids were sampled to produce the DTM with the Transverse Mercator projection. Units of the plane coordinate and elevation are in meters.

Although several geologic maps of Taiwan were published in the early 20th century by Japanese geologists, newer 1:500,000 geologic maps with explanatory text have been published since 1984 based on the assessment and screening of all relevant data (Ho, 1988). This paper utilizes the 1:500,000 maps.

3.4 *I***–***D* **thresholds**

The *I*–*D* threshold for mass movements is defined as the lower bound of rainfall conditions for a mass movement to occur on a plot of the *I–D* relationship, namely minimum-level of the rainfall conditions (e.g., Guzzetti et al., 2007). In early years, the lower bound line was determined manually (e.g., Caine, 1980; Larsen and Simon, 1993; Chien-Yuan et al., 2005). However, more recently, mathematical and/or statistical criteria have been used to objectively determine the lower bound line. Guzzetti et al. (2007) were the first to propose the Bayesian inference method for determining *I–D* thresholds; Brunetti et al. (2010) proposed a frequentist approach; and Saito et al. (2010a) adopted the quantile-regression method.

Although many different methods were proposed, the general form of the relationship between rainfall intensity and duration is:

where κ is a scaling constant (intercept), and ε is the shape parameter (slope).

Like all landslide inventories, the data we analyzed contain inherent uncertainties including measurement errors, erosional or geographical censoring, and reporting biases (Kirschbaum et al., 2012; Korup et al., 2012; Petley, 2012). We therefore determined thresholds by the frequentist statistical method and the random sampling method, which are statistically robust approaches. Brunetti et al. (2010) suggested the frequentist statistical method for the definition of objective empirical-rainfall thresholds. The method firstly plots the empirical rainfall data in a logarithmic coordinate (*I*–*D* plot) and to find out the regression line for the plotted data. Next, the difference $\delta(D)$ between mean rainfall intensity for each data and the generalized rainfall intensity based on the regression line is calculated and used to determine the probability density function in a Gaussian form. Lastly, thresholds corresponding to different exceedance probabilities are defined based on the fitted distribution of $\delta(D)$. Following this method, we determined 5% as the standard *I*–*D* threshold. We also used the robust random sampling method due to its resistance to errors and outliers. To establish the threshold line equation, two-thirds of the data were randomly sampled, and this was repeated one hundred times, allowing us to calculate the mean and standard deviation of κ and ε in Eq. (3.1).

This study determined thresholds for all mass movements, landslides only, and debris flows only according to the statistical methodology mentioned above. As a result, the threshold for all mass movements can be higher than that for landslides only or debris flows only. This may be confusing because the threshold for all data should not be philosophically higher than that for a portion of data. Therefore,

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discussion of, this study focuses on thresholds for landslides only and debris flows only.

Regional *I*–*D* thresholds are limited by their specificity to a certain region. They cannot be easily applied to other areas because the topographic, lithological, meteorological, and climatological characteristics of one region may vary from those of another (Jakob and Weatherly, 2003; Guzzetti et al., 2007, 2008). For example, the limited surface vegetation and the accumulation of regolith on slopes during long dry periods allow a relatively short and weak rainfall event to initiate mass movements in arid areas. Therefore, rainfall intensity (*I*) was divided by the mean annual precipitation (*MAP*) (Aleotti, 2004; Guzzetti et al., 2007, 2008; Dahal and Hasegawa, 2008; Saito et al., 2010a) to offset regional effects and obtain comparable rainfall thresholds for different areas. The relationship between rescaled rainfall intensity (I_{MAP}) and rainfall duration $(I_{MAP}-D$ condition) was analyzed using the same procedure described for non-rescaled values.

The *MAP* of mountainous areas in Taiwan spatially varies but is greater than 3000 mm (Shieh, 2000). Therefore, for mountainous regions we divided *I* by a *MAP* value of 3000 mm to obtain *IMAP* and allow us to conservatively examine average conditions. The *I*–*D* and *IMAP*–*D* thresholds for Taiwan were then compared with previously reported threshold values compiled by Saito et al. (2010a).

We also adopted the principal component analysis (PCA) to *I*–*D* conditions of each mass movement. The rainfall condition associated with mass movements in Taiwan can be objectively grouped into two types: short duration–high intensity (SH) and long duration–low intensity (LL) types along with the first principal component (PC).

Although this study focuses on rainfall parameters and does not discuss topographic and geologic conditions in detail, we also briefly examine topographic

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conditions such as elevation and slope and geologic conditions represented by four main lithological domains (sedimentary rocks, metamorphic rocks, igneous rocks, and alluvium) when a significant deviation from the generally expected influence of rainfall is observed. As the mass movements are point data, we overlayed them with the 10-m DTM and the geological map of Taiwan for deriving topographic and geologic conditions of each mass movement point.

3.5 Time difference between mass movements and peak rainfall intensity

To account for the effect of temporal rainfall intensity variations on mass movements, we calculated the time difference (T_d) between mass movements and peak rainfall intensity (maximum hourly rainfall) as follows:

$$
T_d = \text{time of a mass movement - time of peak rainfall intensity} \tag{3.2}
$$

Positive T_d values indicate that mass movements occurred after peak rainfall intensity, and negative T_d values indicate the opposite conditions.

3.6 Soil water index

The soil water index (*SWI*) was proposed by Okada et al. (2001) from the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). This index uses a calculated value of the total water depth of a three-layer tank model with fixed parameters (Sugawara et al., 1974; Ishihara and Kobatake, 1979) (Fig. 3.4).

The tank model is a hydrological model to calculate water discharge. The

formula of *SWI* is as follows:

$$
SWI = S_1 + S_2 + S_3 \tag{3.3}
$$

where *S*1, *S*2, and *S*³ are the remaining water heights (mm) for each tank which can be calculated as below:

$$
S_1 (t + \Delta t) = (1 - \beta_1 \Delta t) \times S_1 (t) - q_1 (t) \times \Delta t + R
$$
\n(3.4)

$$
S_2 \left(t + \Delta t \right) = \left(1 - \beta_2 \Delta t \right) \times S_2 \left(t \right) - q_2 \left(t \right) \times \Delta t + \beta_1 \times S_1 \left(t \right) \times \Delta t \tag{3.5}
$$

$$
S_3(t + \Delta t) = (1 - \beta_3 \Delta t) \times S_3(t) - q_3(t) \times \Delta t + \beta_2 \times S_2(t) \times \Delta t \tag{3.6}
$$

where *t* is time (h); β_1 , β_2 , and β_3 show the coefficient of permeability (1/h) for each tank; *R* is rainfall (mm) q_1 , q_2 , and q_3 are runoff (mm/h) from side holes for each tank which can be calculated as below:

$$
q_1(t) = \alpha_1 \{ S_1(t) - L_1 \} + \alpha_2 \{ S_1(t) - L_2 \}
$$
\n(3.7)

$$
q_2(t) = \alpha_3 \{ S_2(t) - L_3 \}
$$
\n(3.8)

$$
q_3(t) = \alpha_4 \{ S_3(t) - L_4 \}
$$
 (3.9)

where α_1 , α_2 , α_3 , and α_4 show the outflow coefficient (1/h) for each tank; L_1 , L_2 , L_3 , and *L*⁴ represent the outflow height (mm) for each tank.

Okada (2007) indicated that, for predicting the occurrence of mass movements,

not the absolute value of *SWI* but the relative rank order of current *SWI* is important; the latter considers the previous largest value and 2nd largest value and so on in the same region during 10 years. The rank order of the *SWI* includes the concept of recursive time of mass movements in relation to the rainfall intensity and antecedent rainfall in the region. According to Okada (2007), the rank order of the *SWI* remains unchanged in many cases even if the parameters of the tank model change. The fixed parameters $(a, \beta, a$ and L) were identified by the statistical analysis of the relationship between rainfall and discharge in the granitic region in Japan (Table 3.2). Although both Japan and Taiwan are characterized by complex geological conditions, *SWI* only represents the conceptual soil water contents and the value will not change much when the parameters are adjusted to different types of geology. Therefore, the Japanese government applies *SWI* using the fixed parameters for the whole of Japan in spite of various geological conditions. For this reason, this paper applies *SWI* to Taiwan using the same parameters as in Japan.

In this study, values of *SWI* were calculated from one month before each mass movement (Fig. 3.5). For the analysis of *SWI*, we defined one continuous rainfall event as the rainfall period delimited by a non-rainfall period of more than 24 h as is commonly applied in Japan (Fig. 3.3b). This is suitable because *SWI* is the dynamic conceptual soil water content for a long time period, representing a long-term rainfall event.

Fig. 3.4 Three-layer tank model.

Table 3.2 Parameters of *SWI*.

350 300 One month Soil water index, SWI 250 lass movements 200 150 ntecedent rainfa Ш conditio 100 50 k**ainfall star**t $\boldsymbol{0}$ Time

Fig. 3.5 Example of change in *SWI*.

3.7 Landslide size and magnitude

As mentioned in Section 3.1, the mass movement data collected in this study includes 172 landslides and 107 debris flows. However, the areal extent of each debris flow is difficult to identify on satellite images. Therefore, we selected the 172 landslides for mapping. The mapping was conducted using FORMOSA–II images which can be previewed at the website of the Center for Space and Remote Sensing Research, Nation Central University, Taiwan [\(http://earth.csrsr.ncu.edu.tw/CSRSR/QUERY3/QueryScreen.htm\)](http://earth.csrsr.ncu.edu.tw/CSRSR/QUERY3/QueryScreen.htm). After mapping the landslides, we calculated the area of each landslide. The volume and depth of each landslide were also estimated using the empirical formula of the relationship between landslide area and volume (Guzzetti et al., 2009):

$$
V_L = 0.074 \times A_L^{1.450} \tag{3.10}
$$

where A_L is the area in m², and V_L is the volume in m³.

Eq. 3.10 was empirically obtained through a worldwide literature search by Guzzetti et al. (2009). They collected areas and volumes of 677 landslides occurred in different lithological, morphological and climatic settings, and were triggered by different causes, including rainfall, earthquakes, and rapid snowmelt. Therefore, it is possible to apply Eq. 3.10 also to Taiwan.

Many previous studies have found that the frequency–area distribution of landslides correlates well with a power-law relation (Hovius et al., 2000; Guzzetti et al., 2002; Malamud et al., 2004a,b). Differences in the shape of frequency–area distribution between different areas reflect regional characteristics. The frequency– area distribution was obtained using the landslide area data and the probability density function:

$$
P(A_L) = \frac{1}{N_{LT}} \frac{dN_L}{dA_L} = CA_L^{-\gamma}
$$
\n(3.11)

where N_{LT} is the total number of landslides, dN_L is the number of landslides with area between A_L and $A_L + dA_L$, C is the scaling constant (intercept), and γ is the shape parameter (slope).

Malamud et al. (2004a) and Guzzetti et al. (2009) proposed the use of the total number or total volume of landslides to measure the magnitude of a landslide event. However, standardization is needed to compare landslide intensity among regions with different areal extent. Therefore, this study uses the average volume of landslides for calculating the magnitude scale:

$$
m_L = \log V_a \tag{3.12}
$$

where V_a is the average volume of landslides in m^3 .

3.8 Estimation of sediment discharge

In Taiwan there are over 250 hydrometric stations, installed by the Water Resources Agency (WRA). To measure the suspended sediment discharge in main rivers, the WRA collects river water samples by using a DH-48 depth integrating suspended sediment sampler at each station, two to three times per month on average. Each sample is filtered, dried, and weighed, and the concentration of suspended sediment is recorded in parts per million (ppm). A rating-curve relationship of the type is set between the measured sediment discharge (S_d) and daily water discharge (Q) ,

$$
S_d = aQ^b \tag{3.13}
$$

where *a* and *b* are constants for a given region (Walling, 1977; Cohn, 1995).

For each of the 17 main rivers (Fig. 2.1), we chose a hydrometric station that represents sediment discharge of the river (Fig. 2.1). The principle of the choice is either the station near the boundary between the mountain and the plain, or the most downstream station in a catchment. Sediment discharge during a typhoon event can be estimated using the rating-curve method and daily water discharge measured by the WRA (Dadson et al., 2004). This study estimated sediment discharge during the 15 typhoon events.

Although the sediment discharge includes suspended sediment discharge and bedload, the latter spatial distribution varies greatly and frequent measurements are difficult to carry out. In Taiwan, there is no routine observation of bedload. Therefore, this study focuses on suspended sediment discharge.

Chapter 4 Results of basic analyses

4.1 Rainfall conditions and *I***–***D* **thresholds**

Mean rainfall intensity for all investigated mass movements ranged from 8.9 to 64.8 mm/h with an average of 21.7 mm/h, and rainfall duration ranged between 2 and 71 h with an average of 33.2 h. Cumulative rainfall was as low as 60.3 mm and as high as 1916.5 mm with an average of 668.8 mm. Antecedent rainfall was between 1.8 and 707.7 mm with an average of 124.9 mm (Table 4.1). The *I*–*D* correlation (Fig. 4.1) revealed that an increase in rainfall duration caused a reduction in the rainfall intensity required to trigger a mass movement.

Average mean rainfall intensity, duration, cumulative rainfall, and antecedent rainfall for debris flows were 23.2 mm/h, 33.5 h, 692.6 mm, and 101.1 mm, respectively, and those for landslides were 20.7 mm/h, 32.5 h, 652.4 mm, and 142.2 mm, respectively (Table 4.1). A t-test and resultant *p*-values indicate that the mean rainfall intensity and antecedent rainfall significantly differ between landslides and debris flows (Table 4.1). Fig. 4.1 also shows that the *I–D* correlation line for debris flows is higher than that for landslides.

Fig. 4.2 shows the time difference (T_d) between mass movements and peak rainfall intensity. Approximately 16% of mass movements occurred very close to the time of peak rainfall intensity (within \pm 30 min), and most mass movements (75%) occurred within \pm 7 hours of the time of peak rainfall intensity.

As previously stated, we utilized the frequentist method with random sampling to delineate the *I*–*D* thresholds for all mass movements, landslides only, and debris flows only (Fig. 4.1). The resultant equations for these three conditions were as follows:

$$
I = 18.10(\pm 2.67)D^{-0.17(\pm 0.04)} (2 \le D \le 71 \text{ h}; \text{ all mass movements})
$$
 (4.1)

$$
I = 13.25(\pm 2.76)D^{-0.08(\pm 0.06)} (2 \le D \le 71 \text{ h}; \text{ landslides only})
$$
 (4.2)

$$
I = 26.92(\pm 6.67)D^{-0.26(\pm 0.07)} (2 \le D \le 68 \text{ h}; \text{ debris flows only})
$$
\n
$$
(4.3)
$$

The equation for all mass movements indicates that for short duration rainfall events (e.g., 2 h), high rainfall intensity (e.g., > 16.1 mm/h) can potentially trigger mass movements. For a long duration rainfall events (e.g., 71 h), low rainfall intensity (e.g., < 8.8 mm/h) may also trigger mass movements.

Saito et al. (2010a) compiled *I*–*D* thresholds for various locations around the world. For this study, we added the *I-D* thresholds for Taiwan to their graph (Fig. 4.3), revealing that the *I*–*D* threshold for Taiwan is generally higher than the thresholds for other areas.

Fig. 4.1 *I*–*D* correlations and thresholds for all mass movements, landslides only, and

debris flows only during 2006**–**2012.

Fig. 4.2 Time differences between mass movement occurrences and peak rainfall

intensity during 2006**–**2012.

Duration, D(h)

Fig. 4.3 Comparison of *I*–*D* thresholds. Green lines: thresholds for Taiwan. Blue lines: thresholds for Japan. Black lines: global thresholds. Gray lines: thresholds for humid (sub)tropics or Asian monsoon regions. Dashed line: other regional threshold. 1-1: Chien-Yuan et al., 2005; 1-2 & 1-3: Jan and Chen, 2005; 2-1 & 3-2: Jibson, 1989; 2-2: Hong et al., 2005; 2-3: Saito et al., 2010a; 3-1: Caine, 1980; 3-3, 3-4 & 3-5: Guzzetti et al., 2008; 4-1 & 4-2: Guzzetti et al., 2008, Cfa (climate of humid subtropical east coast in Köppen's system); 4-3: Larsen and Simon, 1993, Puerto Rico; 4-4: Dahal and

Hasegawa, 2008, Nepal Himalaya; 5: Cannon et al., 2008, Southern California.

4.2 *IMAP–D* **thresholds**

We rescaled mean rainfall intensity by dividing it by a *MAP* value of 3000 mm. Fig. 4.4 shows the *IMAP*–*D* thresholds for Taiwan, and the new thresholds for all mass movements, landslides only, and debris flows only are described by the following equations:

$$
I_{MAP} = 0.0060(\pm 0.0009)D^{-0.17(\pm 0.04)} (2 \le D \le 71 \text{ h}; \text{ all mass movements})
$$
 (4.4)

$$
I_{MAP} = 0.0044(\pm 0.0009)D^{-0.08(\pm 0.06)} (2 \le D \le 71 \text{ h}; \text{ landslides only})
$$
\n(4.5)

$$
I_{MAP} = 0.0090(\pm 0.0022)D^{-0.26(\pm 0.07)} (2 \le D \le 68 \text{ h}; \text{ debris flows only})
$$
\n(4.6)

We also added the *I_{MAP}*-*D* thresholds for mass movements in Taiwan to the graph provided by Saito et al. (2010a). After rescaling, the *IMAP–D* threshold for Taiwan was generally lower than that of other areas (Fig. 4.5).

Fig. 4.4 *IMAP*–*D* thresholds for all mass movements, landslides only, and debris flows only during 2006**–**2012.

Fig. 4.5 Comparison of *IMAP*–*D* thresholds. Blue lines: thresholds for Japan. Black lines: global thresholds. Gray lines: thresholds for humid (sub)tropics or Asian monsoon regions. Dashed lines: other regional thresholds. 2-1 & 3-2: Jibson, 1989;

2-3: Saito et al., 2010a; 3-3, 3-4 & 3-5: Guzzetti et al., 2008; 4-4: Dahal and Hasegawa, 2008, Nepal Himalaya; 4-5: Guzzetti et al., 2007, Mild mid-latitude climates; 6: Cannon, 1988, San Francisco; 7: Bacchini and Zannoni, 2003, Cancia, Dolomites, Italy; 8 & 9: Aleotti, 2004, Piedmont, Italy; 10: Guzzetti et al., 2007, Central and Southern Europe.

4.3 Differences in thresholds for landslides and debris flows

The calculated *I*–*D* and *IMAP*–*D* correlations for landslides and debris flows revealed that debris flows tend to occur under more severe rainfall conditions than landslides (i.e., high intensity). In addition, t-tests revealed that the κ and ε of the *I–D* and *IMAP*–*D* thresholds for landslides (Eqs. 4.2 and 4.5) and debris flows (Eqs. 4.3 and 4.6) are statistically different at the 5% significance level. However, Figs. 4.1 and 4.4 also demonstrate that the *I*–*D* correlation lines and thresholds for landslides and debris flows get closer as *D* increases; their difference becomes negligible once *D* reaches approximately 50 h.

4.4 Two types of rainfall conditions

For *I* and *D* of each mass movement event during 2006–2012, PCA was adopted to classify the rainfall conditions (Fig. 4.6). Two types of *I*–*D* conditions along with the positives and negatives of the first PC, whose proportion of variance was 71.8%, and those along with the second PC was 28.2%. Positives of the first PC score (120 mass movement events) mainly occur when rainfall persists for 20–40 h from the beginning of rainfall, i.e., SH rainfall. Conversely, negatives (143 mass movement events) mainly occur when rainfall persists for 80–200 h, i.e., LL rainfall.

In Fig. 4.6, we also plotted rainfall conditions of 19 mass movements occurred in 2013. According to the result shown in Fig. 4.6, the rainfall conditions of the 19 mass movements were classified into 14 SH types and 5 LL types.

Fig. 4.6 PCA for *I*–*D* conditions of mass movements. Gray circles and black circles are SH and LL types, respectively, and red crosses are data for 2013.

4.5 Changes in *SWI*

During 2006–2012, the changes in *SWI* (Table 4.2) show that *SWI* at the moment before a rainfall event, which triggered mass movements, was 17.5 on average, ranging from 0 to 104.95. At the moment of mass movements, *SWI* was 336.81 on average, ranging from 68.63 to 645.04. Their differences were 319.31 on average, ranging from 47.79 to 639.08. In 2013, *SWI* at the moment before the rainfall events was 36 on average, ranging from 3.8 to 91.9. At the moment of mass movements, *SWI* was 154.4 on average, ranging from 81.7 to 220.7. The differences were 118.4 on average, ranging from −10.2 to 213.4. The values of *SWI* in 2013, except for that before the rainfall event, were all smaller than those during 2006–2012. Fig. 4.6 also shows that the rainfall conditions in 2013 tend to be lower than in the other years.

	SWI (2006–2012)			<i>SWI</i> (2013)		
Moment	Before	Mass	Difference	Before	Mass	Difference
	rainfall	movement		rainfall	movement	
Average	17.5	336.8	319.3	36	154.4	118.4
Max.	105	645	639.1	91.9	220.7	213.4
Min.	0	68.6	47.8	3.8	81.7	-10.2

Table 4.2 Changes in *SWI* during 2006–2012 and in 2013.

4.6 Landslide area, volume, depth, and magnitude

Table 4.3 shows the landslide area, volume and depth based on the landslide mapping and calculated using the above-noted empirical formula (Eq. 3.10). During 2006–2012, the landslide area was 7.0×10^4 m² on average, ranging from 6.3×10^2 to 3.1×10⁶ m². The volume was 2.4×10⁶ m³ on average, ranging from 8.9×10² to 1.9×10⁸ m³. The depth was 7.3 m on average, ranging from 1.4 to 62.0 m. Most of landslides (91.9%) have areas between 10^3 and 10^5 m² (Fig. 4.7). There are two particularly large landslides caused by Typhoon Morakot in 2009. The largest one occurred in Jiaxian District, Kaohsiung City with the area of 3.13×10^6 m², mean rainfall intensity of 23.3 mm/h, duration of 57 h, and cumulative rainfall of 1327.3 mm (Fig. 4.8). The second largest one occurred in Wutai Township, Pingtung County with the area of 2.11×10^6 m², mean rainfall intensity of 16.8 mm/h, duration of 29 h, and cumulative rainfall of 485.9 mm (Fig. 4.9).

From the estimated landslide volume, this study measured the magnitude of a landslide using Eq. 3.12. The resultant magnitude during 2006–2012 in Taiwan is *m^L* $= 6.4.$

	Average	Min.	Max.
Area (m^2)	7.0×10^{4}	6.3×10^{2}	3.1×10^{6}
Volume (m^3)	2.4×10^6	8.9×10^{2}	1.9×10^{8}
Depth (m)	7.3	1.4	62.0

Table 4.3 Area, volume and depth of landslides during 2006–2012.

Fig. 4.7 Distribution of landslide area during 2006–2012.

Fig. 4.8 Information on the largest landslide that occurred in Jiaxian District,

Kaohsiung City, from the report of the SWCB.

Fig. 4.9 Information on the second largest landslide that occurred in Wutai Township, Pingtung County from the report of the SWCB.

4.7 Frequency–area distribution of landslides

The areas of all 172 mapped landslides exhibit a frequency–area distribution that can be described by a power-law over more than three orders of area magnitude with a good fit $(R^2 = 0.91)$ (Fig. 4.10):

$$
P(A_L) = 292.5A_L^{-1.1} (6.3 \times 10^2 \text{ m}^2 < A_L < 3.1 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^2)
$$
\n(4.7)

Fig. 4.10 Frequency–area distribution of 172 landslides in Taiwan during 2006–2012.

4.8 Sediment discharge of the 17 main rivers during typhoon events

Fig. 4.11–4.14 show the sediment discharge of the 17 main rivers during the 15 typhoon events and the related rainfall conditions, the cumulative rainfall and the average daily rainfall, calculated from the nearest rain gauge of each hydrometric station.

4.8.1 Northern rivers

During the 15 typhoon events, sediment discharge in the Xindian River ranged from 353 to 3.556 \times 10⁵ t with an average of 8.179 \times 10⁴ t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Sinlaku in 2008 with a cumulative rainfall of 631.5 mm and an average daily rainfall of 105.3 mm. In the Tahan River, sediment discharge ranged from 1667 to 1.540 \times 10⁶ t with an average of 2.479 \times 10⁵ t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Sinlaku in 2008 with a cumulative rainfall of 868.5 mm and an average daily rainfall of 144.8 mm. In the Touchien River, sediment discharge ranged from 4 to 8874 t with an average of 2016 t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Krosa in 2007 with a cumulative rainfall of 727 mm and an average daily rainfall of 181.8 mm.

4.8.2 Central rivers

During the 15 typhoon events, in the Taan River, sediment discharge ranged from 164 to 1.055×10^4 t with an average of 4100 t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Saola in 2012 with a cumulative rainfall of 794.5 mm and an average daily rainfall of 158.9 mm. In the Tachia River, sediment discharge ranged from 177 to 2.632×10^4 t with an average of 5505 t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Morakot in 2009 with a cumulative rainfall of 815 mm and an average daily rainfall of 135.8 mm. In the Wu River, sediment discharge ranged from 411 to 5.714 \times 10⁴ t with an average of 2.395 \times 10⁴ t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Morakot in 2009 with a cumulative rainfall of 815 mm and an average daily rainfall of 135.8 mm. In the Choshui River, sediment discharge ranged from 2.779×10^4 to 1.345×10^8 t with an average of 2.037×10^7 t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Morakot in 2009 with a cumulative rainfall of 658 mm and an average daily rainfall of 109.7 mm.

4.8.3 Southern rivers

During the 15 typhoon events, in the Tsengwen River, sediment discharge ranged from 109 to 9.676 \times 10⁶ t with an average of 8.839 \times 10⁵ t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Morakot in 2009 with a cumulative rainfall of 1088 mm and an average daily rainfall of 181.3 mm. In the Erhjen River, sediment discharge ranged from 303 to 4.291×10^6 t with an average of 5.346×10^5 t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Nanmadol in 2011 with a cumulative rainfall of 333 mm and an average daily rainfall of 66.6 mm. In the Kaoping River, sediment discharge ranged from 6.989×10^4 to 2.870×10^8 t with an average of 2.084×10^{7} t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Morakot in 2009 with a cumulative rainfall of 1126.5 mm and an average daily rainfall of 187.8 mm. In the Linpien River, sediment discharge ranged from 3200 to 4.257×10^6 t with an average of 6.370×10^5 t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Morakot in 2009 with a cumulative rainfall of 877.5 mm and an average daily rainfall of 146.3 mm. In the Sihjhong River, sediment discharge ranged from 22 to 5.961×10^5 t with an average of 8.864×10^4 t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Megi in 2010 with a cumulative rainfall of 223.5 mm and an average daily rainfall of 74.5 mm.

4.8.4 Eastern rivers

During the 15 typhoon events, in the Peinan River, sediment discharge ranged from 2.436×10⁴ to 2.618×10⁷ t with an average of 3.706×10⁶ t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Tembi in 2012 with a cumulative rainfall of 415.2 mm and an average daily rainfall of 51.9 mm. In the Hsiukuluan

River, sediment discharge ranged from 5249 to 2.517×10^{7} t with an average of 3.788×10^6 t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Tembi in 2012 with a cumulative rainfall of 265.5 mm and an average daily rainfall of 33.2 mm. In the Hualien River, sediment discharge ranged from 4663 to 3.568×10^7 t with an average of 4.958×10^6 t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Sepat in 2007 with a cumulative rainfall of 352.5 mm and an average daily rainfall of 88.1 mm. In the Hoping River, sediment discharge ranged from 124 to 2.551×10^{7} t with an average of 3.284×10^{6} t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Fung-Wong in 2008 with a cumulative rainfall of 392.5 mm and an average daily rainfall of 98.1 mm. In the Lanyang River, sediment discharge ranged from 643 to 2.217 \times 10⁷ t with an average of 4.263 \times 10⁶ t. The maximum sediment discharge appeared during Typhoon Jangmi in 2008 with a cumulative rainfall of 248 mm and an average daily rainfall of 62 mm.

Fig. 4.11 Sediment discharge of northern rivers during typhoon events and the related

rainfall conditions. Red background means no available data.

Fig. 4.12 Sediment discharge of central rivers during typhoon events and the related rainfall conditions. Red background means no available data.

Fig. 4.13 Sediment discharge of southern rivers during typhoon events and the related rainfall conditions. Red background means no available data.

Fig. 4.14 Sediment discharge of eastern rivers during typhoon events and the related rainfall conditions. Red background means no available data.

Chapter 5 Assessment of mass movement occurrences

5.1 *I***–***D* **thresholds and rainfall conditions for mass movements**

5.1.1 Thresholds for landslides and debris flows

The difference in the *I*–*D* and *IMA*P–*D* thresholds between landslides and debris flow as well as data in Table 1 indicates that a higher mean rainfall intensity is required to flush surface materials and cause a debris flow for short duration rainfall events. Although these trends may include reporting biases of our mass movement inventory, we ruled out reporting biases based on the unaltered trends that we obtained using the frequentist statistical method and the random sampling methods. Our results reflect the fact that relatively abundant water is needed along channels and streams to trigger a debris flow. A long duration rainfall event leads to a gradual increase in groundwater level, soil moisture, and pore water pressure (Wieczorek and Glade 2005), and flow along channels and streams increases concurrently. Therefore, similar rainfall intensity levels can trigger both landslides and debris flows if rainfall duration is sufficiently long. In addition, landslides may completely or partially mobilize to form debris flows (Iverson et al. 1997), which also applies to the 16 cases in Taiwan, and the condition of their occurrence is comparable to that for debris flows (Figs. 4.1 and 4.4). This observation further confirms the above statement.
5.1.2 Comparing the obtained thresholds with those from previous studies

Jan and Chen (2005) established *I*–*D* thresholds for debris flows in the Chenyoulan river catchment in central Taiwan before and after the 1999 Chi-Chi earthquake. The threshold determined in this study for the whole of Taiwan was similar to the threshold for the Chenyoulan river catchment before the Chi-Chi earthquake (1-2 in Fig. 4.3), lower than the threshold for Taiwan from 1989 to 2001 (1-1 in Fig. 4.3), and higher than the threshold for the Chenyoulan river catchment just after the Chi-Chi earthquake (1-3 in Fig. 4.3). These results suggest that the rainfall threshold for mass movements in Taiwan decreased in 1999 when the Chi-Chi earthquake generated an enormous quantity of loose material, which resulted in a rapid decrease of the mass movement rainfall threshold for this region. Our results indicate that the threshold recovered to pre-earthquake values during 2006–2012. Many previous studies reported similar decreases in both the maximum rainfall intensity and critical cumulative rainfall required to trigger mass movements after the Chi-Chi earthquake (Lin et al. 2003; Chang et al. 2009; Shieh et al. 2009; Chen 2011). As observed in this study, these values gradually regained to the pre-earthquake conditions after several years (Lin et al. 2003; Chang et al. 2009; Shieh et al. 2009; Chen 2011).

The slope of the rainfall threshold line for debris flows as determined in this study is similar to the value calculated by Jan and Chen (2005). However, our slope is quite different from that reported in Chien-Yuan et al. (2005), which utilized data from 61 debris flows that occurred between 1989 and 2001. Chien-Yuan et al. (2005) obtained data from newspapers and interviews with local residents, and the *I*–*D* threshold was visually defined rather than statistically determined. The differences in the threshold line slope between our study and Chien-Yuan et al. (2005) are likely attributable to their relatively small sample size and their subjective method for establishing *I*–*D* thresholds. Comparatively, we determined the *I*–*D* threshold using 107 debris flow events and employed statistical methods to ensure the validity of our results. Nevertheless, our study along with the studies performed by Chien-Yuan et al. (2005) and Jan and Chen (2005) reported thresholds for debris flows that were larger than thresholds for landslides.

Our *I–D* thresholds for Taiwan tend to be higher than those for other areas of the world, particularly for long duration rainfall events (Fig. 4.3). As Taiwan is characterized by high-relief topography and complex geology (Fig. 2.1) that facilitate mass movements, the above observation seems contradictory. In Taiwan, high cumulative precipitation amounts and frequent heavy storms, particularly those associated with typhoons (Wu and Kuo, 1999), have created landforms that are well adjusted to the extreme climatic conditions of the region. Therefore, since unconsolidated hillslope materials are limited, strong rainfall is needed to trigger mass movements. Several studies on mass movements in Japan also found that hillslopes in regions with high cumulative precipitation displayed greater resistance to rainfall than hillslopes in regions with low cumulative precipitation (Omura, 1980, 1982). Saito and Matsuyama (2012) confirmed this for Japan using *MAP* data. They found that because the *MAP* is extremely high in the eastern part of the Kii Peninsula, Japan, it is not prone to landslides even with the high cumulative rainfall and maximum hourly rainfall intensity due to the typhoon event. Therefore, the higher *I*–*D* threshold for Taiwan relative to other areas of the world is acceptable. In addition, the gentle slope of threshold in Taiwan may indicate that the rainfall intensity plays a much more important role in triggering mass movements. This observation further confirms the above statement that landforms are well adjusted to the extreme climatic conditions. Mass movements then triggered only when the rainfall intensity reaches a certain value.

As indicated above, the *IMAP*–*D* threshold is useful for eliminating biases caused by regionally varied rainfall conditions. Even though we used a relatively conservative *MAP* value of 3000 mm to rescale the data, the *IMAP*–*D* threshold for Taiwan was generally lower than in other areas. Therefore, the steep topography and highly deformed underlying bedrock of Taiwan likely contribute to the frequent mass movements in the region. In summary, analysis of both *I*–*D* and *IMAP*–*D* thresholds is useful for examining the effects of topography, geology, and hillslope adjustment to rainfall conditions on mass movements.

5.1.3 Mass movements in relation to rainfall peaks and antecedent rainfall

I–*D* plots represent average rainfall event conditions and do not necessarily reflect high rainfall intensities at the time of a mass movement occurrence. Therefore, predicting the exact time of mass movements using only *I*–*D* thresholds is difficult. Many studies have found that peak rainfall intensity occurs very close to the time of mass movement occurrence (Aleotti 2004; Chien-Yuan et al. 2005; Guzzetti et al. 2007, 2008; Dahal and Hasegawa 2008; Saito et al. 2010a,b). Thus, analyzing peak rainfall intensity in conjunction with *I*–*D* thresholds is useful for characterizing mass movements.

Most mass movement occurrences investigated were concentrated around the time of peak rainfall intensity; approximately 75% of mass movements occurred within seven hours from the rainfall peak (Fig. 4.2). To focus on the remaining 25% of mass movements that occurred significantly before and after the rainfall peak, we classified the mass movements into three groups: $T_d < -7$ (Group 1 = G1), $T_d = -7$ to 7 (G2), and $T_d > 7$ (G3). Table 5.1 shows average peak intensity, mean intensity, duration, and antecedent rainfall for these three groups.

G2 had the highest peak and mean intensities for both landslides and debris flows and the difference from the other groups is statistically significant in most cases. The antecedent rainfall for landslides in G2 was also significantly higher. This indicates that G2 includes typical landslides in terms of not only the large event number but also their mechanisms directly related to hillslope hydrology. Landslide occurrence is highly relevant to soil moisture contents (Terlien 1998; Wu and Chen 2009) and antecedent rainfall elevates the moisture contents (Glade 1997; Crosta 1998; Crozier 1999; Glade et al. 2000; Jakob et al. 2006). Therefore, the combination of abundant antecedent rainfall and high intensity rainfall can easily trigger landslides, especially around the time of rainfall peak. In addition, during or just after the rainfall peak, high intensity rainfall flushed large amounts of debris in rivers, triggering debris flows. In this case, abundant antecedent rainfall is not a requirement, because debris flows can be caused from river-bed material saturated with surface water (Berti et al. 1999; Coe et al. 2008), not necessarily hillslope material saturated with underground soil water.

G3 had the longest rainfall duration for both landslides and debris flows. Although G3 is characterized by low peak and mean rainfall intensities, rainfall continued for a long period, resulting in mass movements long after the rainfall peak. Terlien (1998) also indicated that when there is no significant antecedent rainfall and rainfall intensity is low, triggering landslides with high soil moisture content often requires a long duration rainfall event.

According to Table 5.1, G1 does not correspond to any strong, abundant or long rainfall, meaning that the mass movements occurred in spite of relatively small impacts of the corresponding rainfall and antecedent rainfall. This is an unexpected result; our first assumption had been that such mass movements well before the rainfall peak reflect abundant antecedent rainfall, which was found to be invalid. For G1, the role of factors other than rainfall, such as local topography or geology highly susceptible to mass movements, seems to be more important. However, the result may be due to the definition of antecedent rainfall. Although we considered the period of 168 hours in computing the amount of antecedent rainfall, even earlier rainfall might have affected the mass movements in G1. Indeed, the definition of antecedent rainfall is a difficult task (Crozier 1999; Glade et al. 2000; Dahal and Hasegawa 2008). To discuss these issues, the effects of topography and geology are examined in the next section.

Fig. 5.1 shows changes in *SWI* for the G1, G2, and G3 mass movements. From the beginning of rainfall to the occurrence of mass movements, the three group present similar trends of changes in *SWI*. This means that in spite of small influence of the corresponding rainfall and antecedent rainfall on the G1 mass movements, changes in soil water contents show the sign of mass movements (see detailed discussion in Section 5.2). Table 5.2 shows average values of *SWI* for G1, G2, and G3. Values of *SWI* before a rainfall event are almost the same for the three groups. However, the average value of *SWI* at the moment of mass movements for G1 is much lower than those for the other two groups. Since the G1 mass movements occurred significantly before the rainfall peak, without very strong rainfall, soil water contents cannot increase much. This again proves that other factors may be more important in the occurrence of the G1 mass movements.

Table 5.1 Average rainfall conditions of different T_d groups. Bold values show significantly higher values for one group than the other groups

identified using t-test between two groups ($p < 0.05$).				

Fig. 5.1 Changes in *SWI* for (a) G1, (b) G2, and (c) G3 mass movements.

Group	Before rainfall	Mass movement	Difference	
G1	14.2	258.8	244.5	
G2	17.4	351.2	333.8	
G ₃	20.8	326.8	306.0	

Table 5.2 Average values of *SWI* for the G1, G2, and G3 mass movements.

5.1.4 Topographic and geological conditions for G1 mass movements

As mentioned in Section 5.1.3, an unexpected result came out for G1 – the mass movements occurred significantly before the rainfall peak in spite of relatively small impacts of the corresponding rainfall and antecedent rainfall. Using the 10-m DTM and the geological map of Taiwan, the frequency distributions of elevation, slope and geology for the whole of Taiwan, all the 263 mass movements, and the G1 mass movements are summarized (Fig. 5.2). The percentage of the G1 mass movements below 500 m in elevation and below 10° in slope are less than those for all mass movements. For higher and steeper areas, the percentage of the G1 mass movements is always larger than that of all mass movements. This indicates that the G1 mass movements tended to occur under severer topographical conditions. In addition, the G1 mass movements occurred more in the domain of sedimentary rocks whose strength is usually weaker than that of metamorphic rocks. These observations suggest that the topographical and geological conditions more favorable for erosion induced the G1 mass movements in spite of relatively small impacts of the corresponding and antecedent rainfall.

Fig. 5.2 Frequency distribution of (a) elevation, (b) slope, and (c) lithological domains for the whole of Taiwan, all mass movements, and G1 mass movements.

5.2 Soil water index

5.2.1 Antecedent rainfall condition based on *SWI*

The *SWI* values before a rainfall event which triggered mass movements can be regarded as an indicator of antecedent rainfall condition. We compared *SWI* with the mean rainfall intensity, duration and cumulative rainfall (Fig. 5.3). The results suggest that the two values of *SWI* before the rainfall event, 20 and 40, represent rainfall conditions for triggering mass movements. When *SWI* is above 40, rainfall conditions needed for triggering mass movements are lower than 15 mm/h in mean intensity, shorter than 100 h in duration, and less than 1000 mm in cumulative rainfall. When *SWI* is between 20 and 40, rainfall conditions needed are up to 30 mm/h in mean intensity, 150 h in duration, and 1500 mm in cumulative rainfall. When *SWI* is below 20, rainfall conditions needed are up to 30 mm/h in mean intensity, 350 h in duration, and 2000 mm in cumulative rainfall. The above statement indicates that the upper bound of rainfall conditions for triggering mass movements can be defined on the basis of *SWI*. This means the *SWI* can be used as the indicator for assessing the effect of antecedent rainfall on mass movements. However, it is difficult to define the lower bound, because some mass movements occur under quite low impacts of rainfall.

Fig. 5.3 Comparing *SWI* with the mean intensity (a), duration (b) and cumulative rainfall (c) during 2006–2012.

5.2.2 Changes in *SWI* **for the two types of rainfall condition**

Fig. 5.4 shows hourly changes of *SWI* for the SH and LL rainfall types from the beginning of rainfall events to mass movement occurrences, based on the data for the years 2006–2012. Non-parametric median regressions were adopted to determine the general trends of *SWI* of these two types (SH and LL curves in Fig. 5.4). The SH type shows that *SWI* rises rapidly within 100 h of duration and exceeded 150 for more than 90% of events. This result shows that a rapid increase of soil water contents with short duration is responsible for mass movements initiation in the SH type.

SWI of the LL type gently rises to about 150 and tends to be stable during 100– 300 h. Although the LL curve is not located at the high domain where mass movements are initiated, the temporal change of *SWI* for each event is large. Many events were associated with high values of *SWI*, which reveals that heavy rainfall also occurs during long-term rainfall. This raises soil water contents and causes mass movements. Therefore, gentle rise of *SWI* over a long duration from the beginning of a rainfall event, followed by heavy rainfall, is critical for mass movement initiation for the LL type.

The changes in *SWI* for the mass movements with very large positive first PC values significantly differ from those with very large negative first PC values, and are with the SH and LL general curves. In addition, 80% of the events of SH type occurred with durations shorter than 72 h and 80% of the events of LL type occurred with durations longer than 93 h. Therefore, the classification of the two types is generally acceptable. The remaining 20% of the events of each type belonged to the transitional zone of the two types, and allocation of one of the types was only operational. Further studies are needed to improve the classification methodology.

Fig. 5.4 Changes in *SWI* between two types of rainfall condition during 2006–2012.

5.2.3 Verification of inferences on *SWI*

The observations in Sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 based on data for 2006–2012 were tested by analyzing 19 rainfall-induced mass movements in 2013. The rainfall conditions of the 19 mass movements were classified into 14 SH types and 5 LL types (Fig. 4.6). Their *SWI* values before rainfall events and rainfall condition of mass movements were plotted (Fig. 5.5). Most of them correspond to the upper bound of rainfall conditions, confirming that *SWI* can be used as the indicator of antecedent conditions and to detect the upper bound of rainfall conditions for mass movements. The changes in *SWI* of the mass movements in 2013 also follow the trends of the predefined SH and LL curves (Fig. 5.6). These results verify the observations in Sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.2.

Fig. 5.5 Verification of the *SWI* analysis using data for 2013. (a) mean intensity, (b) duration, and (c) cumulative rainfall.

Fig. 5.6 Verification of the changing trends of *SWI* for the two types of rainfall conditions using data for 2013.

5.3 Contributions of the *I***–***D* **threshold and** *SWI* **to mass movement warnings**

Both *I–D* thresholds and *SWI* contribute to mass movement warnings. For the *I– D* threshold, once the rainfall conditions exceed the threshold, it can provide warnings of a potential mass movement hazard. *SWI* of the LL type often increased rapidly before mass movements (Fig. 5.4), which can also be used for warnings. This phenomenon cannot be found in the *I–D* threshold because the *I*–*D* plot represents average event rainfall and does not necessarily reflect sporadic high rainfall intensities. Thus, predicting the exact time of mass movements using only the *I*–*D* threshold is difficult. On the other hand, *SWI* is a long-term and dynamic index that reflects antecedent rainfall and temporal rainfall intensity variations. Therefore, *SWI* is suitable for real-time monitoring. However, effective usage of *SWI* may be sometimes difficult because it requires a more complex procedure than the *I–D* threshold including the early determination of the SH or LL type for each event. Therefore, the combined use of the *I–D* threshold and *SWI* is recommended to local authorities for making appropriate decisions to prevent mass movement hazards.

Chapter 6 Assessment of landslide magnitudes and sediment discharge in rivers

6.1 Landslide magnitudes

6.1.1 Landslide size and rainfall conditions

Fig. 6.1a shows rainfall conditions of landslides in which the circle size represents the size of landslide area. Large landslides tend to be associated with longer duration rainfalls. The landslides were classified into three groups with similar landslide numbers, according to the landslide area: 1) <9000 m², 2) 9000–24000 m², and 3) >24000 m². The three groups contain 58, 58, and 56 landslides, respectively. Fig. 6.1b shows the density of data distribution of these three groups: the data of group 1 are distributed very widely but with the increase of landslide area (groups 2 to 3), data distributions become more centralized at longer duration rainfalls. This phenomenon is consistent with some previous studies that deep and large slides usually occur only due to long-duration, moderate-intensity storms that provide a high ground water level, soil moisture, and pore water pressure; whereas, shallow and small slides that remove only soils over bedrock can occur even by short duration storms (Wieczorek, 1987; Larsen and Simon, 1993).

Fig. 6.1 Rainfall duration–intensity relationship for landslides during 2006–2012. (a) Landslide size and rainfall conditions. Circle size represents the size of landslide area.

(b) Rainfall conditions for three groups of landslide area.

6.1.2 Frequency and area of landslides

Many previous studies have demonstrated that the frequency–area distribution correlates well with a power-law relation but only for medium to large landslides (Sugai et al., 1994; Hovius et al., 2000; Guzzetti et al., 2002; Malamud et al., 2004a,b). The distribution from medium to small landslides often shows a deviation from a power-law (so-called rollover) (Hovius et al., 2000; Guzzetti et al., 2002; Malamud et al., 2004a,b). However, in this study, the distribution only displayed the segment for medium to large landslides $(6.3 \times 10^2 \text{ m}^2 < A_L < 3.1 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^2)$ without a significant rollover (Fig. 4.10). The SWCB may not have reported small-scale landslides because they focused on the landslides which caused disasters such as the damage of houses or roads.

Researchers have investigated the frequency–area relationship of landslides for different areas in the world. Fujii (1969) studied 800 landslides caused by various heavy rainfall events in Japan and found that the slope of the frequency–area distribution (γ) is 1.96. Hovius et al. (1997) obtained $\gamma = 2.17$ for 4984 landslides in the mountainous area along the Alpine fault in New Zealand. Hungr et al. (1999) dealt with 1937 rockfalls and rock slides along the main transportation route of southwestern British Columbia and found $\nu = 1.75 \pm 0.30$. Malamud and Turcotte (1999) noted that 1130 landslides in the Challana Valley, Bolivia yielded $\nu = 2.6$; In the Akaishi Range, central Japan, 3243 landslides yielded $\gamma = 3.0$; and in the Eden Canyon, Alameda, USA, 709 landslides yielded $\nu = 3.3$. Dai and Lee (2001) analyzed 2811 landsides in Hong Kong and found that γ is 2.2. Guzzetti et al. (2002) studied two data sets of landslides in central Italy and found that γ is 2.5. They then concluded that many landslide inventories satisfy $\gamma = 2.5 \pm 0.5$.

However, in this study, ν for Taiwan is 1.1. Hovius et al. (2000) have studied

1040 landslides in the Ma-An and Wan-Li catchments, eastern Taiwan, and found that γ is 1.7. Both values for Taiwan are much lower than those in the other areas. The lower values for Taiwan indicate that if the same total area or total number of landslides occurred, the proportion of large landslides is higher in Taiwan. It may reflect high-relief topography, complex geology, high cumulative precipitation amounts and frequent heavy storms in Taiwan that lead to frequent deep and large landslides. The difference in ν between eastern Taiwan (Hovius et al., 2000) and the whole of Taiwan (this study) could be related to massive and intact metamorphic rocks in the former, which may lower the possibility of large landslides.

Reference	Area	Slope (γ)	
This study	Taiwan	1.1	
Hovius et al. (2000)	Eastern Taiwan	1.7	
Fujii (1969)	Japan	1.96	
Hovius et al. (1997)	New Zealand	2.17	
Hungr et al. (1999)	British Columbia	1.75 ± 0.30	
	Bolivia	2.6	
Malamud and Turcotte	Central Japan	3.0	
(1999)	USA	3.3	
Dai and Lee (2001)	Hong Kong	2.2	
Guzzetti et al. (2002)	Central Italy	2.5	

Table 6.1 Slope of landslide frequency–area distributions.

6.1.3 Magnitude of landslide events

As noted, the magnitude scale of all studied landslide in Taiwan (*mL*) during 2006–2012 is 6.4. We also picked up two major representative landslide events (Table 6.2). One was caused by Typhoon Morakot in 2009, including 73 landslides. The other was caused by Typhoon Megi in 2010, including 21 landslides. The average volume of landslides of these two events are 5.4×10^6 and 5.6×10^4 , respectively, and the magnitude scale of landslide events are $m_L = 6.7$ and 4.8, respectively. Concerning their rainfall conditions, the mean intensity for the two events and 2006–2012 are almost the same: 21–23 mm/h. However, the rainfall duration and cumulative rainfall are quite different; both increases as *m^L* increase. This indicates that, under the same rainfall intensity, longer duration and greater cumulative rainfall will cause larger landslides, which sounds reasonable. Therefore, the magnitude scale can be used to assess the characteristics of past landslide events.

$\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$. The starting $\frac{1}{2}$ such that				
	2009 Typhoon	2010 Typhoon	2006-2012	
Event	Morakot	Megi	$(n = 172)$	
	$(n=73)$	$(n = 21)$		
Area (m^2)	1.4×10^{5}	1.0×10^{4}	7.0×10^{4}	
Volume (m^3)	5.4×10^{6}	5.6×10^{4}	2.4×10^{6}	
m _L	6.7	4.8	6.4	
Mean intensity (mm/h)	21.7	22.7	20.9	
Duration (h)	46.6	22.2	32.9	
Cumulative rainfall (mm)	1020.5	501.2	663.8	

Table 6.2 Comparison of magnitude scale and rainfall conditions of two major events

and all events during 2006–2012.

6.2 Sediment discharge

6.2.1 Sediment discharge and rainfall conditions

According to sediment discharge of the 17 main rivers during the 15 typhoon events (Fig. 4.11–4.14), high sediment discharge during a typhoon event was usually accompanied with high cumulative rainfall and high average daily rainfall. Therefore, this study compared the sediment discharge with cumulative rainfall and average daily rainfall (Fig. 6.2). Except the Tachia River, all the main rivers presented a positive correlation between the sediment discharge and cumulative rainfall or average daily rainfall. When sediment discharge is compared with cumulative rainfall, the correlation ($R^2 = 0.54$ on average) is better than that with average daily rainfall (R^2 $= 0.47$ on average). This is because the sediment discharge is mainly controlled by water discharge (Lin et al., 2011) and the total rainfall better reflects water discharge via the precipitation into rivers than a shorter daily rainfall.

Dadson et al. (2004) pointed out that suspended-sediment concentrations in rivers within ~40 km of the 1999 Chi-Chi earthquake were four times as much as the decadal background values even four years after the earthquake. Since the Tachia River is located near the epicenter, the unique relationships between sediment discharge and rainfall conditions for the river could be related to the effect of the Chi-Chi earthquake. However, some rivers closer to the epicenter than the Tachia River such as the Choshui River still showed positive correlations between sediment discharge and rainfall conditions. Therefore, further investigations are needed to fully understand the uniqueness of the Tachia River.

Fig. 6.2 Relationships between sediment discharge and rainfall conditions of the 17 main rivers. (a) Cumulative rainfall and (b) average daily rainfall

6.2.2 Characteristics of the sediment discharge between rivers

Table 6.3 summarizes the equation of the regression line for each river shown in Fig. 6.2a. The exponent of the regression line in the form of a power function is related to the sensitivity of sediment discharge to river discharge. The large exponent means sediment discharge of the river will increase drastically when rainfall intensity increases. On the other hand, the coefficient of the regression line is related to the inherent ability to transport sediment of a river. In other words, the large coefficient means the river still has a high sediment discharge even under a relatively small amount of rainfall. Table 6.3 shows that the exponent and coefficient are quite different among the rivers. We then discuss reasons for these differences using the area and mean slope of river catchments. There are a positive correlation between the coefficient and catchment area, and a slight positive correlation between the coefficient and mean slopes (Fig. 6.3a,b). These results seem to be reasonable because a larger area and a steeper mean slope of a river catchment leads to more sediment yields. Fig. 6.4 shows the 17 river catchments in Taiwan with the distribution of average coastal suspended sediment flux estimated by Dadson et al. (2003). It appears that the high sediment flux is usually associated with the large catchments, confirming the above inference. In addition, the exponent and the coefficient are negatively correlated (Fig. 6.3c), indicating that a river catchment with relatively small sediment yields even starts to produce a lot of sediments when precipitation becomes intense. This mechanism seems to be one of reasons for the wide distribution of high sediment flux along the Taiwanese coasts as shown in Fig. 6.4.

River	Equation
Xindian	$S_d = 19.7 \times E^{2.0}$
Tahan	$S_d = 24.5 \times E^{1.9}$
Touchien	$S_d = 0.2 \times E^{1.5}$
Taan	$S_d = 174.0 \times E^{0.5}$
Tachia	$S_d = 1776.1 \times E^{0.1}$
Wu	$S_d = 575.1 \times E^{0.7}$
Choshui	$S_d = 3106.2 \times E^{1.5}$
Tsengwen	$S_d = 19.0 \times E^{1.7}$
Erhjen	$S_d = 4.4 \times E^{2.0}$
Kaoping	$S_d = 335.0 \times E^{1.5}$
Linpien River	$S_d = 80.6 \times E^{1.2}$
Sihjhong	$S_d = 1.2 \times E^{1.7}$
Peinan	$S_d = 18653.0 \times E^{0.9}$
Hsiukuluan	$S_d = 109.8 \times E^{1.7}$
Hualien	$S_d = 12.4 \times E^{2.0}$
Hoping	$S_d = 11.2 \times E^{1.8}$
Lanyang	$S_d = 3.5 \times E^{2.3}$

Table 6.3 Regression equations for the relationship between sediment discharge and

the cumulative rainfall for each river.

Sd: sediment discharge; *E*: cumulative rainfall

Fig. 6.3 Correlations between (a) coefficient and area, (b) coefficient and mean slope, and (c) exponent and coefficient of each river.

Fig. 6.4 The 17 major river catchments in Taiwan and the distribution of average annual coastal suspended sediment flux according to Dadson et al. (2003)

6.3 Effects of landslides debris on sediment discharge in rivers

To examine how landslide debris affects sediment discharge in rivers, we compared the average sediment discharge with the average area of landslides during the 14 typhoon events (Fig. 6.5). They are positively correlated with $R^2 = 0.42$. This indicates that when larger landslides are caused by heavier rainfall during a typhoon event, more loose materials from the latest landslide debris are flushed into rivers, resulting in higher sediment discharge. However, the correlation is not very high and is lower than that between sediment discharge and rainfall conditions described in Section 6.2.1. This means that the latest landslides caused by each of the 14 typhoon events do not constitute an only single source of sediment discharge; debris on slopes and river-bed materials that already existed before the event are also sources of sediment discharge. Previous studies in Taiwan also pointed out that some of landslide debris are not delivered to rivers during the single rainfall event that induced the landslides but are successively delivered to rivers by following heavy storms (Dadson et al., 2004; Lin et al., 2011).

However, it can also be said that a large amount of landslide debris is quickly transported into rivers in Taiwan. As noted, the proportion of large landslides is high in Taiwan. Dadson et al. (2004) indicated that, when the lowest point of a landslide reaches a location with the drainage area $> 1 \text{ km}^2$, produced sediment are delivered to channels. This means debris of large landslides have higher opportunity to reach such locations and supply sediment to rivers. A reasonably good positive correlation shown in Fig. 6.5 reflects this mechanism.

Fig. 6.5 Relationship between the average sediment discharge and the average area of landslides during each typhoon event.

Chapter 7 Conclusions

This study established empirical *I*–*D* thresholds for mass movements in Taiwan from data for landslides and debris flows, and these thresholds were compared with those for other areas in the world. For short duration rainfall events, higher mean rainfall intensities were required to trigger debris flows, while long duration rainfall events can trigger both landslides and debris flows with almost the same rainfall intensity. *I*–*D* thresholds for mass movements in Taiwan tended to be higher than those for other areas, but the rescaled I_{MAP} – D thresholds, which the rainfall intensity rescaled by a *MAP* of 3,000 mm, tended to be lower. These results reflect the rainfall characteristics of the region along with the topographic and geological conditions of Taiwan. This study has also demonstrated the importance of peak rainfall intensity in that most mass movements (74.9%) occurred within seven hours from the rainfall peak. Antecedent rainfall is also important in triggering such landslides from saturated hillslope material, whereas it is less important in triggering debris flows from material on the river bed. Other events that occurred significantly before or after the rainfall peak may be related to duration of rainfall and non-meteorological factors such as local topography and geology.

This study is the first to apply the *SWI* index to Taiwan which has been used by the Japan Meteorological Agency to assess mass movement hazards in Japan. For different values of *SWI* before rainfall events, the rainfall conditions needed for triggering mass movements, such as the rainfall intensity and duration, are different. When higher values of *SWI* are observed before rainfall events, the upper limit of rainfall conditions needed for triggering mass movements will be lower. Therefore, *SWI* can be used as the indicator of the antecedent rainfall condition. We classified

rainfall condition for triggering mass movements into two types, SH and LL, based on PCA. The two types performed differently in determining changes of *SWI*. The SH type is associated with a rapid increase of *SWI* within a short duration, and the LL type is with a gradual rise and subsequent constancy of *SWI*. Thus, a rapid increase of soil water contents with short duration is responsible for mass movement initiation in the SH type; while the gentle rise of *SWI* over a long duration, followed by heavy rainfall, is critical for mass movement initiation in the LL type. All the observations were successfully verified by analyzing 19 mass movements that occurred in 2013. Therefore, we recommend the use of *SWI* for real-time prediction of mass movements in Taiwan, to allow relevant authorities to establish a usable warning system. At the same time, *I–D* thresholds provide a widely applicable general guideline for mass movements. The use of both *SWI* and the *I–D* threshold seems to be useful to build a comprehensive warning system.

The areas of 172 landslides were mapped using FORMOSA–II images and their volumes and depths were estimated using an empirical formula. We found that deep landslides usually occurred due to long duration and moderate intensity rainfall, whereas shallow landslides occurred due to short duration and high intensity rainfall. Shallow landslides can occur even during a short rainfall event because flushing surface materials is easier; whereas deep landslides need a high groundwater level, soil moisture, and pore water pressure caused by a prolonged rainfall. The frequency– area correlation of the landslides is expressed by a power-law relation having an exponent of −1.1. This exponent value is lower than those for other areas around the world, indicating that the proportion of large landslides is exceptionally high in Taiwan. This may be because Taiwan is characterized by high-relief topography, complex geology, high cumulative precipitation amounts and frequent heavy storms. This study also proposed a landslide-event magnitude scale, and its average for all

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landslides during 2006–2012 was estimated to be 6.4. We also found that the magnitude scale can be used to assess historical landslide events.

The sediment discharge of the 17 main rivers in Taiwan during 15 typhoon events was estimated using the rating-curve method. Positive correlations between sediment discharge and rainfall magnitudes for each river indicate that sediment discharge increased due to heavy rainfall during a typhoon event. The correlation is better when the sediment discharge is compared with the cumulative rainfall than the average daily rainfall, indicating that the amount of sediment discharge during a typhoon event is mainly controlled by total rainfall amount. The differences in correlation lines for different rivers clearly show that the catchments with larger areas and steeper slopes produce more sediment. However, the results also indicate that even catchments with relatively small sediment yields start to provide quite high sediment flux when rainfall intensity becomes higher.

A positive correlation between the average sediment discharge and the average area of landslides during typhoon events indicates that landslides caused during a typhoon event lead to higher sediment discharge. However, the relatively low correlation means that the landslides caused by the latest typhoon event do not constitute a single source of sediment discharge, and landslide debris staying on slopes since previous heavy storms and river-bed materials are also important sources of river sediment.

Further studies are necessary in various aspects such as building a more complete mass movement inventory for each typhoon event to enable detailed analyses on the *I*–*D* thresholds and *SWI*; performing multivariate analyses for geomorphological, geological and other environmental factors affecting mass movements along with rainfall characteristics to obtain a more comprehensive statistical model; and analyzing the effects of debris produced in different periods and stored in various

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locations in a catchment using a sediment budget approach. Such trials will help us better understand how landslides are triggered and affect sediment discharge in rivers under the highly dynamic erosional condition of Taiwan.

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Appendix

Mass movements data

