ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Hydraulic‑based optimization algorithm for the design of stormwater drainage networks

Amira A. Anwer1,2 · Ahmed H. Soliman2 · Hany G. Radwan[2](http://orcid.org/0000-0001-9288-6205)

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Abstract

Stormwater drainage networks are designed to reduce the risk of rainwater damage to the served area. The purpose of optimizing a stormwater drainage system is to reduce overall construction costs and to meet hydraulic design requirements. Currently, designs that rely on software or manual calculations are limited by the available time and the designer's capabilities. In fact, manual optimization for large networks consumes a lot of time and efort, and there is no guarantee that the optimal design is reached, also it is subject to human errors. In recent years, several researchers have focused on creating optimization design algorithms specifcally for sewer and storm networks, such as genetic algorithm (GA), linear programming (LP), heuristic programming (HP),…etc. However, these studies were limited to covering one or two design parameters and constraints. Additionally, in some studies, the hydraulic performance of the designed network was not treated in a proper way, especially the water surface profle efects. So, the main objective of the study is to develop an efective hydraulic-based optimization algorithm (HBOA) that can dynamically get the optimal design with minimum total cost for a given storm network layout and meet all hydraulic requirements. To achieve this, a MATLAB code is created and coupled with SewerGEMS software that automatically simulates all expected optimization scenarios based on network hydraulic performance. The HBOA is validated economically and hydraulically using two benchmark examples from the literature. According to the economic validation, the total network cost generated by HBOA was the lowest when compared to the optimization methods found in the literature. During the hydraulic evaluation, it was observed that the optimization algorithm (GA-HP) used in the literature for the benchmark examples does not meet the hydraulic requirements where the networks are fooded, whereas HBOA meets the hydraulic requirements with minimal overall network cost. Also, the HBOA is applied to four real stormwater drainage networks that were already designed, constructed, and optimized manually. The four redesigned real cases using HBOA revealed a cost reduction of about 15% compared to the original designs, while consuming a few hours for the design and optimization processes. Finally, the developed HBOA is a robust, time-efficient, and cost-effective optimization and hydraulic design tool which could be used in the design of stormwater drainage networks with diferent design constraints with minimal human interference.

Keywords Stormwater drainage · Algorithmic optimization · SewerGEMS · Hydraulic-based algorithm · Computational hydrology · Minimum cost · Optimal design · Sustainable development

 \boxtimes Hany G. Radwan hany.radwan@eng.cu.edu.eg

> Amira A. Anwer amira.aanwer@gmail.com

Ahmed H. Soliman a.soliman@cu.edu.eg

- ¹ Water Resource Engineer at CEEG Consultant, Cairo, Egypt
- ² Irrigation and Hydraulics Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, Giza 12614, Egypt

Introduction

Flooding and other severe damage have resulted from the heavy rain, endangering human life. The stormwater network is a crucial component of the infrastructure for efectively draining local direct rainfall. The construction and maintenance of large-scale networks require huge costs. So, it is crucial to design an optimal stormwater drainage network to reduce the total construction cost without violating the network's functionality and safety. Nowadays, the design of stormwater networks that rely on software such as Storm CAD, SewerGEMS, Storm Water Management Model (SWMM), and others has a hydraulic design idea linked with manual optimization of the system to reach the optimal design. The results of manual optimization are typically constrained by the designer's skills and time constraints. In reality, manual optimization is usually inefficient for largescale networks as it depends on the trials conducted by the designer, which may be limited to some parts of the network, especially in large and complex networks. Additionally, manual optimization consumes a lot of time to conduct a limited number of trials. As a result, manual optimization does not necessarily reveal an optimum design.

So, in the previous studies, researchers tried to solve the main problem of reaching the optimum design dynamically using algorithms instead of manual optimization process that consumes a lot of time and effort. Unfortunately, most of these algorithms were developed for sewer networks using several optimization techniques such as genetic algorithm (GA), linear programming (LP), and heuristic programming (HP),…etc. The previous studies may be divided into three main groups based on the function of the designed gravityflowing network. The first group is devoted to sewer networks, while the second group is for sewer-storm systems, and the last group is for storm systems.

Over the past decades, several researchers have been focused on the sewer network design optimization problem and proposed diferent methods, from traditional optimization techniques to modern heuristic search methods. For a portion of the Kerman sewerage system in Iran, Mansuri and Khanjani used the nonlinear programming technique to obtain the optimal design (Mansuri and Khanjani [1999](#page-24-0)). Then, Sotoodeh used Fletcher–Reeves method and achieved the lowest overall cost for this portion of Iran's sewage system (Sotoodeh [2004](#page-25-0)). Other optimization techniques are used for the optimization of sewer networks, such as genetic algorithm (GA), hybrid techniques based on cellular automata, tabu search (TS) and simulated annealing (SA), ant colony optimization algorithm (ACOA) and tree-growing algorithm (TGA), spanning tree and modifed particle swam optimization (PSO), mixed-integer linear programming (MILP) and others (Haghighi and Bakhshipour [2012](#page-24-1), [2015](#page-24-2); Afshar and Rohani [2012](#page-24-3); Afshar et al. [2016](#page-24-4); Yeh et al. [2013](#page-25-1); Emmerich et al. [2013](#page-24-5); Duque et al. [2016;](#page-24-6) Navin and Mathur [2016;](#page-24-7) Safavi and Geranmehr [2017](#page-25-2); Moeini [2017;](#page-24-8) Moeini and Afshar [2017](#page-24-9), [2018;](#page-24-10) Hassan et al. [2020;](#page-24-11) Saldarriaga et al. [2021](#page-25-3); Atiyah and Hassan [2021](#page-24-12)). When comparing the outcomes achieved through the utilization of genetic algorithm (GA) and TS to those obtained through alternative methods, it becomes evident that GA and TS yield optimal results with minimal network cost. However, it should be noted that GA is an unconstrained technique and is most efective when applied to a single design variable. If employed for multiple variables, GA requires a longer runtime. To overcome this problem, the genetic algorithm is coupled with a heuristic programming (GA-HP) technique to optimize the design of sewer networks (Hassan et al. [2018\)](#page-24-13). The results prove that the GA-HP is more optimized and effective in designing large sewerage networks compared with the results of the previous studies. Other optimization methods such as cellular automata (CA), iterative mathematical optimization technique, and decomposition–dynamic programming aggregation technique are used to get the minimum total network sewerage network (Zaheri et al. [2020](#page-25-4); Duque et al. [2020](#page-24-14); Tian and He [2020](#page-25-5)). The sewer-storm network design problem was addressed in the previous studies.

Several researchers were applying fxed loads in sewerstorm systems and using steady-state simplifed hydraulic equations like what is usually applied in separate sewage networks. On the other hand, diferent researchers applied the dynamic programming (DP) methods, which are the mostly commonly used method for the optimum design of storm-sewers. Robinson and Labadie ([1981](#page-24-15)), Yen et al. ([1984](#page-25-6)), Kulkarni and Khanna ([1985](#page-24-16)), and Li et al. [\(1990](#page-24-17)) employed DP to optimally design sewer-stormwater networks. Dynamic programming methods, which are theoretically capable of fnding the global optimum solution, suffer from the so-called curse of dimensionality; therefore, it does not apply to real-world sewer networks. Other researchers used linear programming methods to solve the problem of sewer-stormwater design, such as Swamee and Sharma ([2013](#page-25-7)), Safavi and Geranmehr ([2017\)](#page-25-2), and Gupta et al. ([2017\)](#page-24-18). In a diferent approach, researchers combined linear programming (LP) with a heuristic approach (HA). Elimam et al. [\(1989\)](#page-24-19) employed this combination to develop a sewer-stormwater network on a large scale, utilizing linear programming (LP) alongside a heuristic approach. Afshar and Zamani [\(2002\)](#page-24-20) have used heuristic approaches on spreadsheet templates to get near-optimal solutions for the problem. Afshar [\(2006](#page-24-21)) developed a genetic algorithm (GA) application specifcally for storm and storm-sewer networks in order to achieve optimal design. The decision variable in this case was the depth of the manholes within the gravityflowing network.

To analyze the trial solutions obtained through the GA optimizer, a steady-state simulation was employed. The methodology was tested on both large-scale and small-scale examples. The results of this model outperformed other methods, providing a more cost-efective solution for the large-scale network. However, for the smaller network, the methodology did not yield signifcant improvements, likely due to the simplicity of the network itself. Afshar et al. ([2006](#page-24-22)) developed more enhanced GA to get an optimized storm-sewer design. The proposed methodology depends on using GA and the TRANSPORT-SWMM module as search engines and hydraulic simulators, respectively. The pipe diameter and manhole depth were selected to be the decision variables. However, Haghighi and Bakhshipour (2012) (2012) (2012) found that GA was not computationally efficient compared to mathematical methods due to GA's slow progress in a random-based framework. So, the speed of GA becomes more serious when the number of variables and constraints increases. To obtain the optimal design for a storm-sewer network, various techniques such as cellular automata (CA), heuristic models, heuristic harmony search optimization algorithm, and large-system secondary decomposition–dynamic programming aggregation methods are employed (Guo et al. [2007;](#page-24-23) Steele et al. [2016](#page-25-8); Tan et al. [2019](#page-25-9); Tian and He [2020\)](#page-25-5).

Over the past decade, researchers' majority focused on sewage networks only or combined with storm networks. Dynamic programming (DP) technique was used to get the optimum design for a given storm network and tested by discrete diferential dynamic programming (DDDP) model (Meredith [1972](#page-24-24); Mays and Yen [1975](#page-24-25)). Then, Afshar applied an adaptive refnement with ant colony optimization algorithms (ACOA) (Afshar [2006\)](#page-24-21) and a re-birthing particle swarm optimization algorithm (RPSO) (Afshar [2008](#page-24-26)) to solve the same previous problem. Recently, several techniques were used to get the optimal design of the previous network, such as the single-stage CA method (Afshar et al. [2011\)](#page-24-27), the two-stage hybrid cellular automata (HCA) (Afshar and Rohani [2012\)](#page-24-3), and the two-phase simulation–optimization cellular automata (Zaheri et al. [2020](#page-25-4)). Also, the same previous network was solved using genetic algorithm coupled with a heuristic programming (GA-HP) technique (Hassan et al. [2018\)](#page-24-13). The last methodology (GA-HP) gave the minimum total network cost among all other techniques.

Several studies have developed evolutionary algorithms to achieve the optimum design, taking into consideration three objectives, including reducing the capital cost, food volume, and total suspended solids (Ghodsi et al. [2016;](#page-24-28) Eckart et al. [2018](#page-24-29); Macro et al. [2019](#page-24-30); Xu et al. [2020\)](#page-25-10). In addition, a new methodology to achieve the optimum layout and design of storm-sewer systems is developed (Alfaisal and Mays [2021](#page-24-31)). The Storm Water Management Model (SWMM) is one of the most influential software for hydraulic simulations, outlining water depths and fow rates, and is used for both design and manual optimization (Cely-Calixto et al. [2020](#page-24-32)). So, several researchers relied on this software (SWMM) in studies by coupling it with diferent optimization techniques to achieve the optimal design (Seyedashraf et al. [2021](#page-25-11); Fiorillo et al. [2023\)](#page-24-33).

According to all prior studies, it was ultimately determined that there are three primary issues. First, only one or at most two of three design parameters—namely, pipe diameter, pipe slope, and nodal cover depth—were optimized in each study. The second issue relates to the uncertainty of achieving the minimum total network cost. Finally, none of the earlier works examined the hydraulic performance of the optimized network, as all of the previous studies were hydraulically dealing with the network as separate pipes instead of studying the infuence of the water surface profle on the overall hydraulic performance of the network. Accordingly, the main objective of this study is to develop an efective hydraulic-based optimization algorithm (HBOA) that can be used to obtain the optimal design for a given layout of stormwater network dynamically with minimal network cost, efficient hydraulic performance, minimal human interference, and minimal run time, while taking all design parameters into account.

Materials and methods

Potential impacts of optimization process

Stormwater networks must be designed in a way that is both optimal and safe. The goal of optimal design is to reduce the total network cost to a minimum while maximizing hydraulic efficiency. An optimized stormwater network meets the sustainable development objectives adopted by all United Nations (UN) member states (Weiland et al. [2021\)](#page-25-12), which focus on the interdependent environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development. Environmental aspects of optimizing the storm-sewer network can be summarized as follows: Inadequate drainage network design will result in increased surface runoff (due to flooding) on impervious surfaces, roads, and compacted soil, resulting in a high discharge of pollutants from storm-sewers to surface waters. In some cases, the majority of contaminated surface water sinks underground and contributes to groundwater recharge. In addition to increasing the amount of pollutants released from the urban basin, stormwater runoff can also contribute to the erosion of streams, weed growth, and changes in natural fow patterns. Flooding caused by inadequate stormwater design poses a risk of fooding surrounding waterways and their surrounding communities, particularly given the projected rise in greenhouse gases concentrations as a result of climate change.

The social aspects of the optimal storm-sewer network include; urban fooding due to improper design of stormwater network, resulting in traffic gridlock and loss of life and property, particularly in high storm events. In addition to that, urban fooding can lead to sinkhole collapses, resulting in a sudden fall of the road beneath the vehicles, resulting in signifcant repair costs and additional time. Under-engineered storm network design leads to increased maintenance costs. However, the optimum design of stormwater network reduces the total network cost to a minimum (economic aspects) with the best hydraulic efficiency to prevent urban flooding.

Table 1 Comparison between available software design packages

Item	Available software design package			
	Storm Cad	EPA SWMM	SewerGEMS	
Numerical solver	GVF-rational method	SWMM solvers	-SWMM solvers -GVF-Rational Method -GVF-Convex (Sewer Cad)	
Calculation type	Used for analysis and design	Used for analysis only	Used for analysis $+$ design or analysis only	
Routing method		Several methods (uniform, kinetic, dynamic wave)	Several methods (uniform, kinetic, dynamic wave)	
Flow	Deal with peak discharge.	Deals with flow as actual calculated flow	Deals with flow as actual culated flow or peak discharge (GVF-Rational Method)	
Getting optimum design	Takes less time and effort, but does not get the optimum design	Takes more time and effort, to get the optimum design	Takes more time and effort, to get the optimum design	

Optimization parameters

By reviewing the design procedures and standards related to stormwater drainage networks, the selected design parameters for a given layout are pipe diameter (D), pipe slope (S), and pipe material. Meanwhile, the other design parameters (i.e., soil cover, percentage full, etc.) are either related to the selected design parameters or considered design constraints.

Design constraints

The importance of the design constraints is raised due to their direct efect on the built model's performance. So, to build an optimization algorithm to be used in the dynamic design of a storm drainage system (the main objective of this study), two groups of design constraints are considered. The frst group of design constraints is associated with hydraulic performance, while the second group is associated with design parameters.

Constraints related to hydraulic performance

Velocity constraint The pipe velocity should be greater than the minimum permissible velocity (which ranges from 0.3 to 0.6 m/s and varies based on the project area) for sediment cleaning. Also, the maximum velocity should be less than the maximum permissible velocity to prevent pipe abrasion, which leads to a shorter life span, which depends on the pipe material. Usually, the acceptable range of velocity is assigned based on the applied design standards in the project area.

Pipe slope constraint The slope of each pipe should be within a minimum and a maximum permissible value according to the applied design standards in the project area.

Flooding constraint The total flood volume in the storm drainage system should be less than the permissible value. The permissible value is determined according to the applied design standards in the project area. Some design standards do not allow the water depth inside manholes to be raised higher than a specific value. Also, other design standards specify the maximum fullness percentage for all pipes.

Fig. 2 Interrelation between SewerGEMS and the HBOA code

Constraints related to design parameters

Pipe diameter constraint The diameter of any downstream pipe should be equal to or greater than the diameter of the upstream pipe along the fow direction, based on the available commercial pipe diameters.

Pipe cover constraint It is necessary to provide adequate cover depth to avoid pipe damage due to loads. The cover depth should be greater than the minimum allowable cover depth, depending on local factors and specifcally on the pipe material used.

Connection of pipes constraint The pipes in the stormwater network should be linked crown to crown at the manholes.

Objective function

The total construction cost (objective function) of the storm drainage system is mainly depending on the costs of pipes, earthwork, and manholes including purchasing, transporting, and laying the pipes in the excavated trenches, …etc. So, the total cost of the network is calculated as follows:

(1) Total $Cost = pipe \ \ Cost + Manhole \ \ Cost + Earthwork \ Cost$

Hydraulic model simulator

There are several available software design packages used for the design of stormwater networks, such as Storm Cad, EPA SWMM, SewerGEMS, …etc. Table [1](#page-3-0) illustrates the comparison between the available design software packages based on their user manuals. SewerGEMS Bentley software is a fully-dynamic precipitation modeling software and surface runoff simulation. It is used to perform hydraulic modeling for drainage networks (stormwater and sewer networks) for diferent return periods. SewerGEMS software will be used as the hydraulic model simulator for this study to design the internal stormwater drainage system.

Optimizer

The optimizer can be built using diferent software, but in this study, the optimizer code is built using MATLAB due to the availability of a huge library of predefned functions, its ease of coding, and its graphical user interface.

Research methodology

The research methodology is illustrated in Fig. [1](#page-3-1), and it will be described in the following sections.

HBOA

Fig. 3 Schematic fowchart

Building HBOA model

After the identifcation of the optimization parameters and the objective function, building of the new technique will be presented. The new technique is called the hydraulic-based optimization algorithm (HBOA). HBOA is built using MAT-LAB code linked with SewerGEMS software. SewerGEMS is used as a hydraulic model simulator, and MATLAB code is used as an optimizer. The technique used in building HBOA model can be summarized in the following steps.

Step 1: interrelation between SewerGEMS and the HBOA model To defne a layout for a stormwater network, there is a need to determine certain information, such as topography, the plan of the study area, and the location of the outlet of the drainage system. All previous information will be used in building the proposed storm layout by using SewerGEMS. Pipes, nodes, and catchments with their initial characteristics will be built through a model builder in SewerGEMS. Also, rainfall data should be entered as timedepth, time-intensity, intensity duration frequency (IDF) curve, …etc.

For a given network layout, SewerGEMS will construct an INP fle (which contains all of the initial data). At this time, the MATLAB code (HBOA) will be able to read this fle, connect to it, and attempt to make the necessary changes for the optimization process in this fle (the INP fle). After that, SewerGEMS will receive the amended INP fle and run a hydraulic simulation to test the system's hydraulic performance with the newly modifed, optimized parameters. The INP fle will be returned to the MATLAB code to make yet another modifcation if there is a hydraulic issue with the SewerGEMS simulation. This process will continue for the given layout until the fnal optimized parameters are obtained in order to get the lowest construction cost with the best hydraulic performance. The relationship between SewerGEMS and the HBOA code is shown in Fig. [2](#page-4-0). The optimization process is divided into three sub-processes with different decision variables, which are solved iteratively using HBOA as described in the next sections. Figure [3](#page-5-0) presents a schematic flowchart for the optimization process of HBOA.

Step 2: optimization to pipe diameter—stage 1 In the frst optimization stage, the pipe diameters are considered decision variables of the optimization problem, and the pipe nodal elevations are fxed. The network starts with a large diameter and minimum pipe slope as initial values for all pipes, and all other parameters are fxed. First, the model optimizes all branch diameters, then optimizes the main pipe diameter network, and checks all design constraints until reaching an optimum design that satisfes all constraints with minimum cost.

If the designer is trying to optimize the pipe diameters for a particular pipe slope using the manual optimization process, this process will take a lot of time and effort, especially for a large network, depending on the design engineer's expertise. In manual optimization, there is a need to do several manual iterations in order to be close to the optimum pipe diameter because if you decrease the pipe diameter at the downstream end of the network, it can cause flooding at the upstream of the network, and so on, and at the end of this process, there is no guarantee that the optimal design is reached. HBOA will perform these iterations automatically, taking the design constraints into account, until it gets the optimal pipe diameters with minimal effort and time without any human intervention.

Step 3: transition step—stage 2 The outcomes from the previous stage are the optimum pipe diameters for a fxed pipe slope value (minimum pipe slope value). So before going to the third step, there is a need for this transition step. In this step, all the pipe slopes will be adjusted based on the last optimal diameters achieved from stage 1, based on the input data that tie the pipe slope to the pipe diameter. At this point, two checks must be made: frst, that all design constraints are met; second, that the pipe diameters are still optimal with the modifed pipe slopes; otherwise, stage 1 must be repeated until the adjusted optimum pipe diameters are reached. In this stage, if a designer has decided to perform the previous tasks manually, the designer will have to perform more and more iterations, which will take more time and effort, as mentioned in the previous stage. However, the HBOA model will do all these tasks automatically with minimal time and effort.

Step 4: optimization to pipe slope—stage 3 Meanwhile, in the third stage, the slope of the pipe is considered a decision variable of the optimization problem, while the pipe's diameter is obtained from the second stage. The user enters the allowable minimum slope for each used diameter according to the standards of the location of the study area and the allowable minimum cover according to the used material. The technique used to reach the optimal slope is that if the slope of the ground level (S_{α}) is negative, the slope of the pipe will be used as the minimum allowable pipe slope according to the diameter used. If the slope of the ground level (S_{α}) is positive, the slope of the pipe will be parallel to the slope of the ground level (S_g) , except in cases where the slope of the ground level (S_g) exceeds the maximum allowable slope (S_{max}) , so the drops will be done to satisfy the maximum allowable slope, as shown in Fig. [4.](#page-5-1) Pipe slope and pipe diameter updates are performed on a step-by-step basis (using HBOA instead of manual processes to reduce time and effort) until convergence is achieved, and the optimal design has been identifed that meets all design requirements.

Verifcation of HBOA model

Verification is the process of determining if the software is designed and developed as per the specified requirements and its results are correct and stable or not. So, the developed HBOA model is verified using two different analyses: The first involves assessing the sensitivity of the model's output to its input parameters, and the second involves evaluating the model's final output based on various initial input data values under an uncertainty assessment process.

Validation of HBOA model

Validation is the process of checking if the software (end product) has met the client's true needs and expectations. So, both an economic and a hydraulic perspective are used to validate the HBOA model. The hydraulic point of view examines the hydraulic efficiency of the storm network for the entire layout, whereas the economic point of view examines getting the least overall network cost. The effectiveness of the suggested HBOA model is validated using two benchmark examples from the literature.

Application of HBOA model

Four actual storm networks from various three countries that have already been planned, built, and optimized manually are used to test the HBOA concept. The outcomes of HBOA for the real cases are compared with those of the actual designs in order to test the applicability of using the HBOA model.

Results and discussion

Verifcation of HBOA model

The verification of the developed HBOA model is conducted through two different analyses (sensitivity analysis and uncertainty assessment).

Sensitivity analysis

The sensitivity analysis is conducted to test the sensitivity of the model results to the input parameters. Pipe diameter is the only input parameter in the initial layout, while other parameters are calculated automatically within the HBOA environment. So, the pipe diameter is changed several times to start with several large and small values. Based on that, the initial pipe diameter is assumed to be in a range between 50 and 2000 mm. So, the initial depth is randomly selected several times (i.e., 1000 times) to be within the specified wide range. Then, the HBOA was run to fnd the optimum diameter based on each initial diameter. The results show that the fnal diameter has the same value (550 mm) regardless of the initial diameter value, as shown in Fig. [5](#page-7-0).

Additionally, to confrm the results of sensitivity analysis, the root-mean-squared error (RMSE) equation is applied using Eq. (2) (2) .

RMSE =
$$
\left[\frac{1}{n s} \sum_{i=1}^{n s} (X_r - X_s)^2\right]^{0.5}
$$
 (2)

where *ns* is the number of trials (1000 trial), X_r is the reference parameter (diameter) value, and X_s is the calculated parameter (diameter) value.

The root-mean-squared error equation is applied using 1000 initial diameter values. The calculated RMSE value is found to be equal to ZERO, which means that the HBOA model is insensitive to the initial diameters.

Fig. 6 Results of uncertainty assessment

Uncertainty assessment

The uncertainty assessment of the HBOA model is conducted using the bootstrapping technique. The bootstrapping strategy is a technique for generating a large number of random samples with replacement from a single dataset to measure uncertainty (Zhang et al. [2017\)](#page-25-13). In this study, this approach is utilized to create 20,000 random samples (realizations) or combinations for the storm network with various pipe diameters. In each realization, diferent pipe diameters are assigned to the pipe network. So, each pipe in the network has a diferent initial pipe diameter in the same realization. Then, the HBOA was run to fnd the optimum diameter for each realization. The model shows certain results as it gives the same fnal result regardless of the initial dataset values (refer to Fig. [6\)](#page-8-0). Based on that, the newly proposed model (HBOA) is certain and stable.

Validation of HBOA model

Two benchmark examples from the literature are used to validate the performance of the proposed HBOA model. HBOA model was validated from an economic and hydraulic point of view. The frst benchmark example is part of Kerman sewerage system in Iran, which was originally designed by Mansuri and Khanjani [\(1999](#page-24-0)) using mathematical programming and genetic algorithm (GA). The second benchmark example is part of the storm-sewer network, originally designed by Mays and Yen ([1975](#page-24-25)), and the same example was also solved by several researchers. Each network consists of 21 nodes with 20 links; refer to Fig. [7](#page-8-1) for the frst benchmark

Fig. 7 Layout of the frst benchmark example

Fig. 8 Layout of the second benchmark example

Table 2 The network design constraints for the two Benchmark examples (Afshar et al. [2016;](#page-24-4) Hassan et al. [2018](#page-24-13))

Design constraint	Benchmark examples		
	First example	Second example	
Minimum velocity (m/s)	0.3	0.61	
Maximum velocity (m/s)	3.0	3.66	
Maximum fullness percentage for all pipes (d/d_{max})	0.82	0.82	
Manning roughness coefficient (n)	0.013	0.013	
Minimum soil cover (m)	2.45	2.4	
Commercial pipe diameters (mm)	200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, and 600	304.8, 381, 457.2, 533.4, 609.6, 762, 838.2, 914.4, 990.6, 1066.8, and 1219.2	

Table 3 Results of HBOA compared to previous optimization methods—frst benchmark example (Hassan et al. [2018](#page-24-13))

and Fig. [8](#page-9-0) for the second benchmark. Table [2](#page-9-1) illustrates the design constraints for the two benchmark examples.

Economic validation (cost comparison) of HBOA model

First benchmark example The proposed HBOA method is used to solve this example, and the results are compared with

Fig. 9 The optimal pipe diameter (mm) of the drainage network for the frst benchmark example using the GA-HP method and the HBOA method

the existing design as shown in Table [3](#page-9-2). The cost function for excavation, manhole, and pipe installation was assigned as per Mansuri and Khanjani [\(1999](#page-24-0)). As depicted in Table [3,](#page-9-2) the HBOA model has the lowest construction cost and opti-

Table 4 Results of HBOA compared to previous optimization methods—second benchmark example (Hassan et al. [2018](#page-24-13); Tan et al. [2019](#page-25-9))

Model	Optimization method	Total system cost $($ \$	
Mays and Yen (1975)	DDDP	265,775	
Robinson and Labadie (1981)	Version of DP	275,218	
Miles and Heaney (1988)	Spreadsheet	245,874	
Afshar (2006)	ACO	241,496	
Afshar et al. (2011)	CA	253,483	
Afshar (2012)	Rebirthing GA	241,988	
Roheni and Afshar (2012)	Hybrid CA	247,412	
Yeh et al. (2013)	TS	244,571	
Yeh et al. (2013)	SA	241,770	
Zaheri et al. (2020)	Two-phase CA	240,084	
Afshar et al. (2016)	Adaptive CA	239,757	
Hassan et al. (2018)	$GA-HP$	239,672	
Tan et al. (2019)	Harmony search	240,981	
Present model	HBOA	238,030	

mal design in comparison with other methods. Details of the optimal design attained by the proposed model (HBOA) are shown in Table [10](#page-21-0) in Appendix A. There was no diference in the obtained pipe diameters, either in the results obtained using GA-HP (Hassan et al. [2018](#page-24-13)) or using HBOA. But the diference in the cost between the two models comes from the manholes cost due to the reduction of the total manhole depths using HBOA model. Figure [9](#page-9-3) illustrates the optimal pipe diameters obtained from the literature review and from the HBOA method.

Second benchmark example The proposed HBOA method is used to solve this example, and the results are compared with the existing design as shown in Table [4.](#page-10-0) The cost function for excavation, manhole, and pipe installation was assigned as per Meredith ([1972\)](#page-24-24). The HBOA method has the lowest cost and optimal design in comparison with other methods. Details of the optimal design attained by the proposed model (HBOA) are shown in Table [11](#page-21-1) in Appendix A. Figure [10](#page-10-1) illustrates the diference in the designed optimal pipe diameters obtained from the literature review and from using HBOA method for this example.

Based on the results of the two benchmark examples, the HBOA optimization technique gives better results with a minimum total network cost and a minimum consumed time compared to the currently available optimization techniques (proposed by other researchers).

Hydraulic validation of HBOA model

The SewerGEMS program is used to simulate water fow within the network and evaluate the hydraulic performance of the two previous benchmark examples. The network surcharge and the maximum fullness percentage for all pipes $\left(d/d_{\text{max}}\right)$ are the two key factors that must be examined in order to validate the hydraulic system.

First benchmark example During the evaluation of the results of the frst benchmark example, there was a food in the system equal to 3 m³ ($\approx 0.02\%$ inflow), as shown in Fig. [11.](#page-11-0) Although this value is very small, it means that the given design constraints are not satisfed. The constraints were: No flooding occurs in the system, and the maximum fullness ratio of the pipe should not exceed 82% (see Table [2](#page-9-1)).

Figure [12](#page-11-1) illustrates the pipe fullness inside the network for the frst example as designed by the previous researchers and by the HBOA model. It is found that some pipes obtained using GA-HP method exceed the maximum fullness ratio (82%), but all pipes designed by HBOA do not exceed 82%.

Fig. 10 The optimal pipe diameter (mm) for the second benchmark example (**a)** using the GA-HP method and (**b)** using the HBOA method

************************** Flow Routing Continuity *********************	Volume hectare-m	Volume 106 ltr	************************** Flow Routing Continuity *************************	Volume hectare-m	Volume 106 1tr
Dry Weather Inflow Wet Weather Inflow Groundwater Inflow RDII Inflow External Inflow External Outflow Flooding Loss Evaporation Loss Exfiltration Loss Initial Stored Volume	0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 1,433 1.433 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000	0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 14.329 14.326 (0.003) 0.000 0.000 0.000	Dry Weather Inflow Wet Weather Inflow Groundwater Inflow RDII Inflow External Inflow External Outflow Flooding Loss Evaporation Loss Exfiltration Loss Initial Stored Volume	0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 1.433 1.433 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000	0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 14.329 14.329 $\frac{0.000}{0.000}$ 0.000 0.000
Final Stored Volume Continuity Error (%)	0.000 0.000	0.000 $\left(a\right)$	Final Stored Volume Continuity Error (%)	0.000 0.000	0.000 (b)

Fig. 11 The surcharge results for the frst benchmark example **(a)** using the GA-HP method and **(b)** using the HBOA method

Fig. 12 The fullness percentage for all pipes for the frst benchmark example **(a)** using the GA-HP method and **(b)** using the HBOA method

Fig. 13 The hydraulic calculation for the frst benchmark example using the GA-HP method **(a)** for pipe number 7 and **(b)** for pipe number 2

Fig. 14 Longitudinal profle for the frst benchmark example **(a)** key plan, **(b)** GA-HP method, and **(c)** HBOA method

Figure [12](#page-11-1)a shows that pipes 2, 3, and 7 (as shown in Figs. [7](#page-8-1) and [12](#page-11-1), respectively) have higher pipe fullness ratios than 82% for the design according to GA-HP (see Hassan et al. [2018](#page-24-13)). However, when we tested pipe fullness for these pipes individually (using FlowMaster software and Manning equation), we found that pipes 2, 3, and 7 satisfy pipe fullness ratios of 82% according to the design constraints (see Fig. [13\)](#page-11-2). On the other hand, if the HBOA model is used,

the hydraulic results satisfy the design constraints and pipe fullness ratio, so there is a diference between the hydraulic results obtained by GA-HP and HBOA for the simulated network.

The explanation of this difference confirms that the design obtained using the GA-HP method is based on the design of each pipe separately within the network, as per the FlowMaster software, without checking hydraulic gradient across the entire network or considering upstream and downstream pipes. This is the reason for surcharged manholes numbers 7, 2, and 3 when the whole network was simulated with SewerGEMS (Fig. [14\)](#page-12-0). Therefore, it is clear that the network optimization through the GA-HP method was done based on designing each pipe individually, knowing its fow, slope, and material type, and applying the Manning equation without considering the water surface profle and its efect on the entire network.

Second benchmark example In a similar manner to the first example, the network of the second benchmark has a food in the system equivalent to 75 m^3 (0.03% inflow), as shown in Fig. [15](#page-13-0). So, the previous researchers did not satisfy the design constraints. However, the HBOA-designed network

does not have a surcharge, as shown in Fig. [16](#page-13-1). The surcharged pipes are pipe numbers 4, 12, 13, 15, and 19 (see Figs. [8](#page-9-0) and [16\)](#page-13-1) which have fullness percentages higher than 82%. The main reason for having surcharged pipes for this example from the previous researchers is, as previously mentioned in the frst example, due to the separate design of each pipe in the network as shown in Fig. [17](#page-14-0). The longitudinal profles along some of the surcharged pipes in the prior design are shown in Fig. [18](#page-15-0), and the HBOA model solved this issue.

Finally, although it is unfair to compare the results of HBOA with the two benchmark networks due to the signifcant diference between the applied hydraulic principals in HBOA procedures and the procedures of the two benchmarks, HBOA gives better results not only from the hydraulic performance point of view but also from the construction cost point of view. To ensure a fair cost estimate comparison, for the frst benchmark example, if the HBOA method permits all pipes to be flled to the same fullness percentage as in the hydraulic evaluation results from the literature, the optimum cost of the network using the HBOA method will be 81,180 \$ instead of 81,212 \$ (mentioned in Table [3](#page-9-2)), representing a cost

**************************	Volume	Volume
Flow Routing Continuity	hectare-m	106 1tr
*************************	--------	--------
Dry Weather Inflow	0.000	0.000
Wet Weather Inflow	0.000	0.000
Groundwater Inflow	0.000	0.000
RDII Inflow	0.000	0.000
External Inflow	22.997	229.972
External Outflow	22.997	229.972
Flooding Loss	0.000	0.000
Evaporation Loss	0.000	0.000
Exfiltration Loss	0.000	0.000
Initial Stored Volume	0.000	0.000
Final Stored Volume	0.000	0.000
Continuity Error (%)	0.000	(b)

Fig. 15 The surcharge results for the frst benchmark example **(a)** using the GA-HP method and **(b)** using the HBOA method

Fig. 16 The fullness percentage for all pipes for the second benchmark example **(a)** using the GA-HP method and **(b)** using the HBOA method

Fig. 17 The hydraulic calculation for the second benchmark example using the GA-HP method **(a)** for pipe number 4 and **(b)** for pipe number 9

reduction of approximately 0.1% compared to the fndings of the literature review. In the same way, for the second benchmark example, if it is permitted to have the same fullness percentages for all pipes, the optimum cost of the network using the HBOA method will be 236,150 \$ instead of 238,030 \$ (mentioned in Table [4](#page-10-0)), representing a cost reduction of approximately 1.5% compared to the fndings of the literature review.

Application of HBOA model

In addition to the validation process conducted using two benchmarks' examples, the performance of the proposed HBOA model is tested in this section using four real cases. The four real cases are selected from three diferent countries to present diferent standards and requirements. Furthermore, the four real cases present diferent project scales, and all of them are already constructed or under construction. The main characteristics of the four projects are presented in Table [5](#page-16-0). All cases have diferent design constraints according to the standards applied in the served area of each network. The general alignments of the four real cases of the storm network are shown in Figs. [19,](#page-16-1) [20,](#page-16-2) [21,](#page-17-0) and [22](#page-17-1).

Design constraints

Table [6](#page-18-0) shows the design constraints for these four real cases: The cost objective function used in these four real cases is generalized to include the following four components: excavation cost, pipe cost, manhole cost, and fll cost, as shown in the following equation:

Total Cost = $(K *$ Unit price of excavation)

$$
+(L * Unit price of each pipe diameter)
$$

+
$$
(N * Unit price of manhole)
$$

+
$$
(Z * Unit price of fill)
$$
 (3)

where *K* and *Z* are the total cost function's parameters, it depends on the project location. The term *L* refers to the pipe length (m) associated with each pipe diameter, and *N* refers to the number of manholes. Table [8](#page-18-1) provides an overview of the total cost function's parameters *K* and *Z*. On the other hand, in case (1), the *Z* parameter value will be set to zero as the backflling cost is already covered by the unit prices of pipes and manholes. Meanwhile, in case (2), the unit prices of pipes and manholes include the excavation and backflling costs, so the *K* and *Z* parameter values will be set to zero.

Where W is the width of the pipe trench (m), *D* is the pipe diameter (m), *Y* is the average excavation depth until the invert of the pipe (pipe cover plus pipe diameter) (m), and *L* is the length of the pipe (m). Unit prices of the excavation, pipes, manholes, and backflls are illustrated in Tables [12,](#page-22-0) [13](#page-22-1), [14](#page-22-2), and [15](#page-22-3) in Appendix A.

Outputs from HBOA

Based on the given layouts for the four real cases, the HBOA model is used to reach the optimal design for each network

Fig. 18 Longitudinal profle for the second benchmark example **(a)** key plan, **(b)** GA-HP method, and **c** HBOA method

Table 5 Characteristics of four real projects

Fig. 19 General layout for the proposed storm network in Dalkhoot area (Case 1)—Oman

Fig. 22 General layout for the proposed storm network in Al Naq area (Case 4)—KSA

and compare the results with the fnal optimized design, as shown in Figs. [23](#page-19-0), [24,](#page-19-1) [25,](#page-19-2) and [26](#page-20-0). The detailed comparisons are presented in Tables [16,](#page-22-4) [17](#page-22-5), [18,](#page-23-0) and [19](#page-23-1) in Appendix A. Table [9](#page-20-1) illustrates the summary of the comparison conducted between the four real cases.

The results from HBOA method for the four real cases showed that HBOA provided about 15% (on average) lower cost while consuming only few hours.

The main limitation of HBOA is that it can only be used if the drainage network is pipe-based, whereas it cannot be used if the network is box-based or open channel-based (any other section instead of pipes), where the code can be expanded in the future to include other cross-sections.

Table 6 Design constraints for the four real cases

Table 7 The minimum allowable pipe slope for cases 2, 3, and 4	Case number	Diameter (mm)	Min. slope $(\%)$	Diameter (mm)	Min. slope $(\%)$
	2	315	0.24	700	0.09
		400	0.18	800	0.07
		500	0.15	900	0.06
		630	0.10	1000	0.05
	3 & 4	500	0.12		
		600	0.10		
		700	0.08		
		800	0.06		
		> 800	0.05		

Table 8 Total cost function's parameters K and Z

Summary and conclusions

A new optimization technique, HBOA (hydraulic-based optimization algorithm), is proposed and verifed with two benchmark examples from the literature and provides the lowest total network cost with a cost reduction range of 0.1–1.5%. During the hydraulic evaluation of the HBOA model through the verification process using the two benchmarks' examples from the literature, some pipes in the original two networks in the literature were allowed to

Fig. 23 The optimized pipe diameters for Case (1) **(a)** by the design engineer and **(b)** by the HBOA model

Fig. 24 The optimized pipe diameters for Case (2) **(a)** by the design engineer and **(b)** by the HBOA model

Fig. 25 The optimized pipe diameters for Case (3) **(a)** by the design engineer and **(b)** by the HBOA model

flood, which is against the hydraulic design requirement mentioned in the literature. The reason for the fooded network is that the methods used in the literature (GA-HP method) depend on designing each pipe in the network separately without studying the overall hydraulic performance of the whole network. In other words, Manning's formula was applied to each pipe individually, neglecting the efect of water surface profle (hydraulic gradient)

Table 9 Comparison between actual and HBOA results for the

four real cases

Fig. 26 The optimized pipe diameters for Case (4) **(a)** by the design engineer and **(b)** by the HBOA model

of the connected pipes on the fow characteristics of the designed pipe.

The HBOA is applied to four real storm networks from three diferent countries (representing diferent design constraints) that have already been designed, constructed, or under construction, and optimized by the design engineers. The results from HBOA for the four real cases are compared with the fnal optimized results. The results showed that the HBOA provided about 15% lower cost while consuming only few hours to reach the optimum design of each network.

Finally, the hydraulic-based optimization algorithm (HBOA) is a more robust and efficient tool that can be used by all infrastructure designers to achieve the optimal design of stormwater drainage networks in a dynamic process, efficient hydraulic performance, in addition to minimizing the consumed design time and total network cost.

Appendix

See Tables [10](#page-21-0), [11](#page-21-1), [12](#page-22-0), [13](#page-22-1), [14,](#page-22-2) [15,](#page-22-3) [16,](#page-22-4) [17,](#page-22-5) [18,](#page-23-0) and [19.](#page-23-1)

Table 10 Detailed results obtained using the HBOA model for the frst benchmark example

Table 11 Detailed results obtained using the HBOA model for the second benchmark example

Table 12 Pipes, manholes, and earthwork unit prices for Dalkhoot area (case 1)

Where D is the pipe diameter (mm), and H is the depth of the manhole (m)

Table 14 Pipes unit prices for Al Qassim and Al Naq' areas (cases 3&4)

Table 16 Comparison between original design and HBOA results for the Dalkhoot area (case 1)

Table 18 Comparison between original design and HBOA results for the Al Qassim area (case 3)

Author contributions AHS and HGR helped in conceptualization; AHS and HGR helped in methodology; AAA and AHS worked in software; AAA and AHS helped in validation; AHS and HGR helped in formal analysis; AHS and HGR helped in data curation; AAA and AHS contributed to writing—original draft preparation; AHS and HGR contributed to writing—review and editing; AHS and HGR helped in visualization; and AHS and HGR worked in supervision.

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Declarations

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Ethical approval We declare herein that our paper is original and unpublished elsewhere, and that this manuscript complies to the Ethical Rules applicable for this journal.

Consent to participate All of the authors consent to participate in this research work.

Consent for publication All of the authors consent to publish this work.

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