

Mangroves versus salt marshes: Morphodynamics and implications for restoration

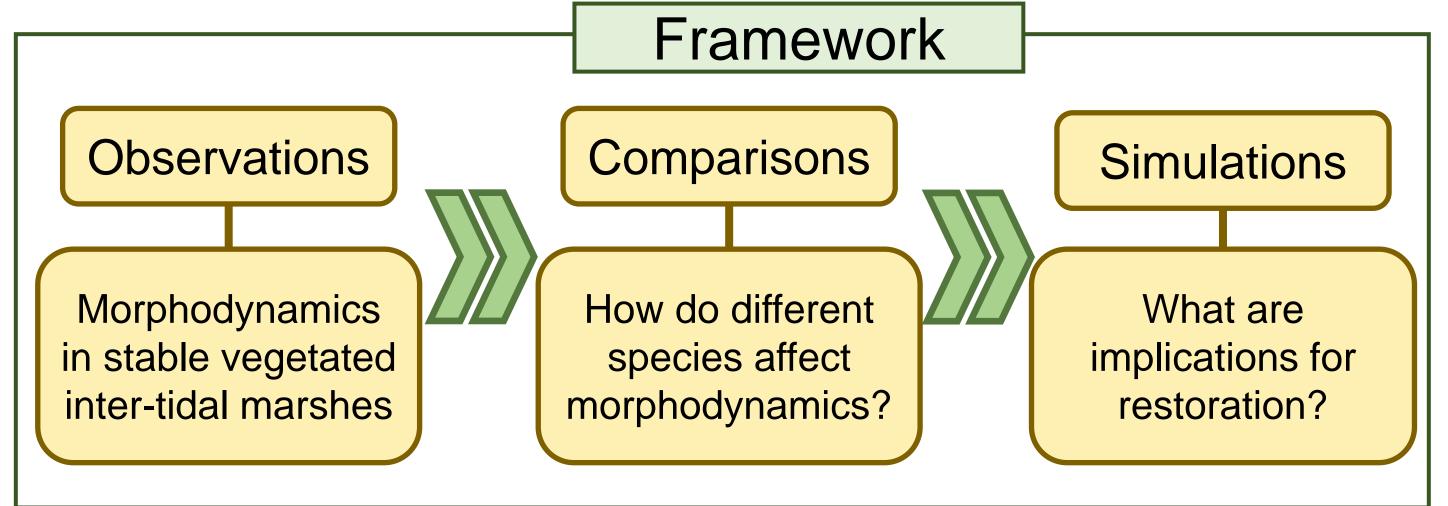


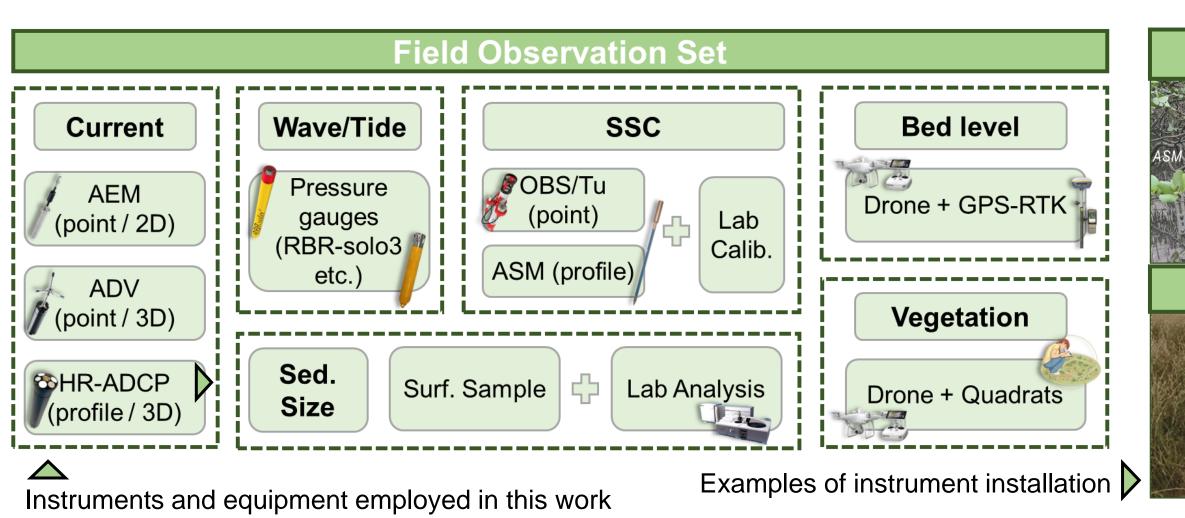
Jiejun Luo^{1,2}, Zhijun Dai¹, Jaap Nienhuis²

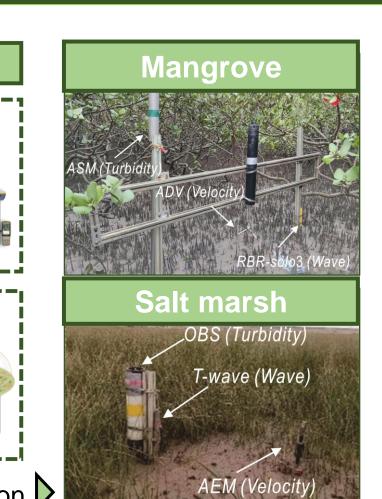
¹State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China, ²Department of Physical Geography, Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands

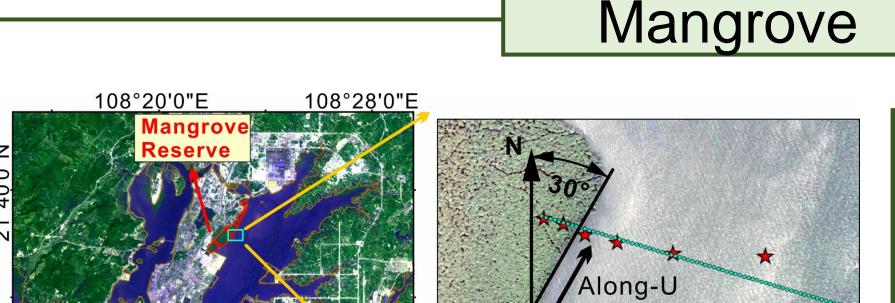
Introduction

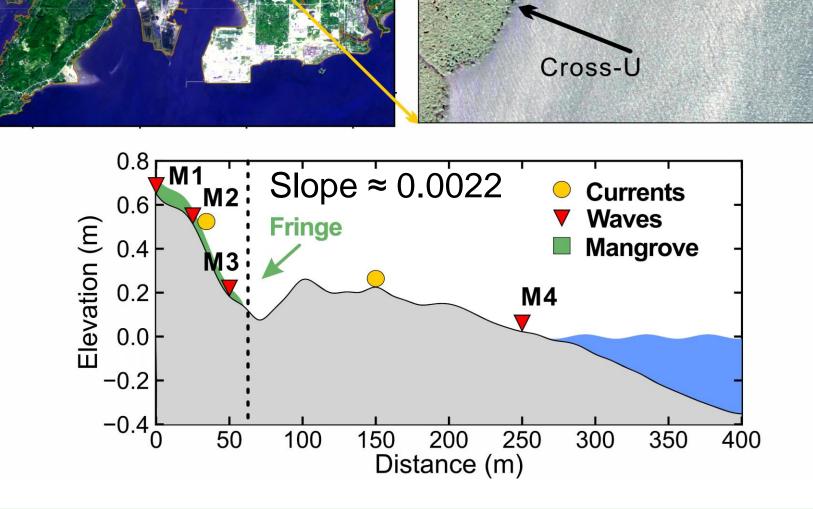
Under global change, tidal wetlands are experiencing significant shifts, including potential mutual invasion between mangrove and salt marsh species. However, their regional morphodynamic impacts remain unclear. Here, we compare seasonal observations of hydro-morphological differences in two wetlands dominated by mangroves and salt marshes. Furthermore, restoration efforts are being compared between salt marshes and mangroves in two regions through integrated measurements and modeling.











☐ Fieldwork [Species]

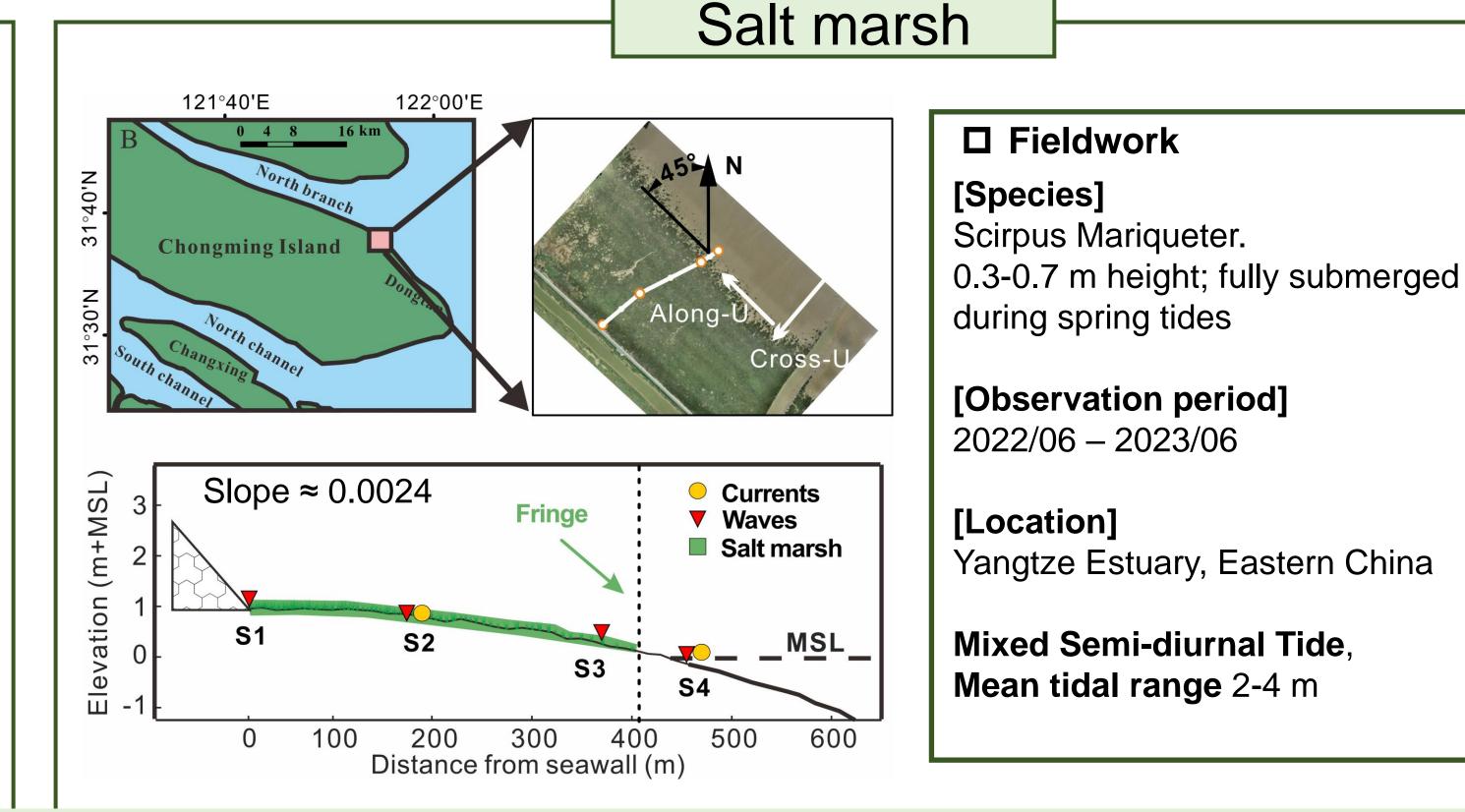
[Location]

Avicennia Marina. Aerial roots; mature 2-3 m, not fully submerged mostly; small seedlings at the fringe

[Observation period] 2020/08 - 2021/11

Beibu Gulf, Southern China Mixed Diurnal Tide,

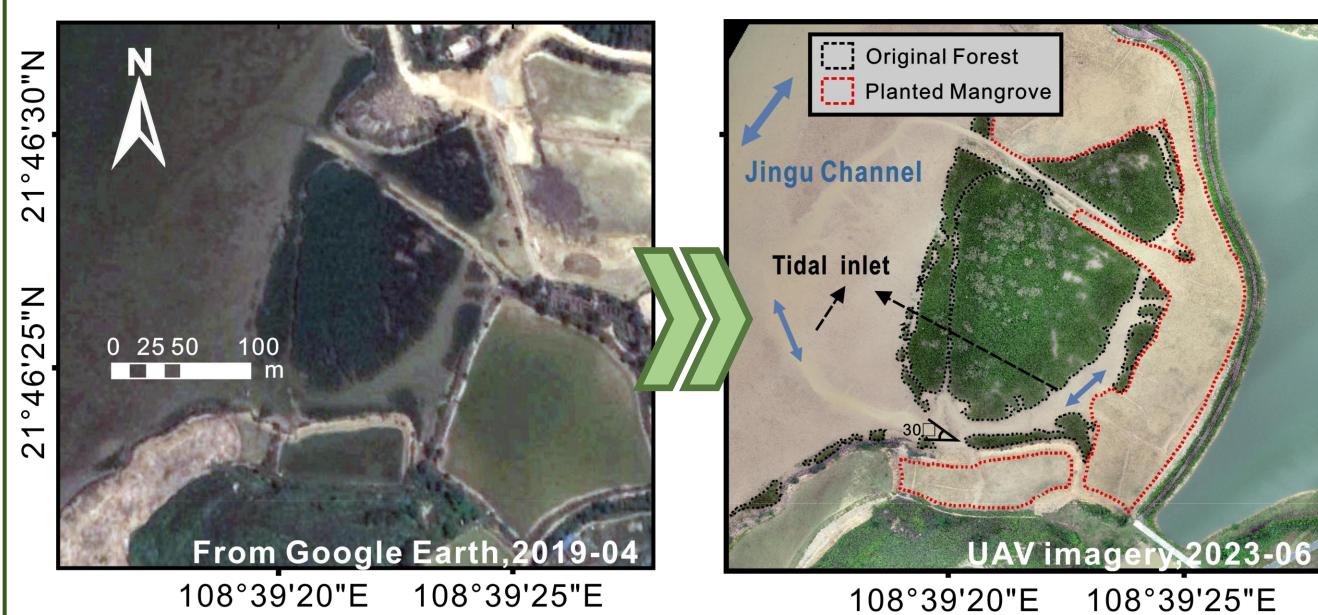
Mean tidal range 2-4 m



Future Work

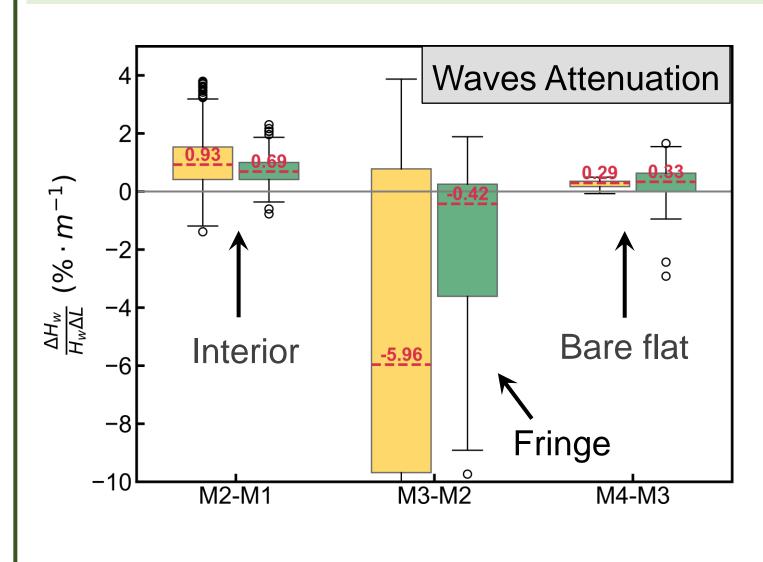
Ongoing Modeling: mangrove saplings growth exhibits a non-linear influence on sediment deposition dynamics within a restored pond^[4]

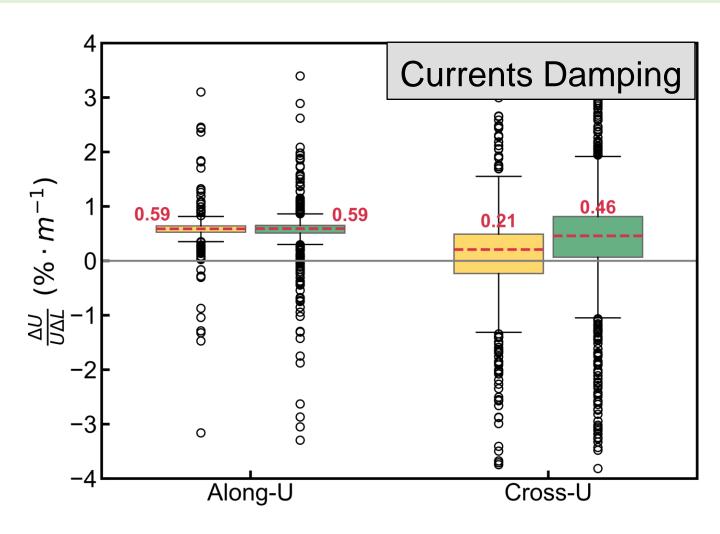
Pond-to-mangrove restoration

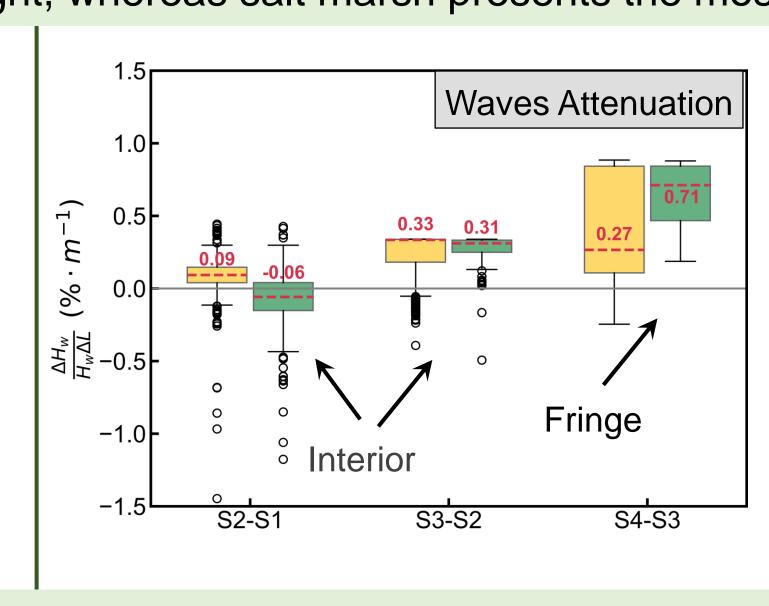


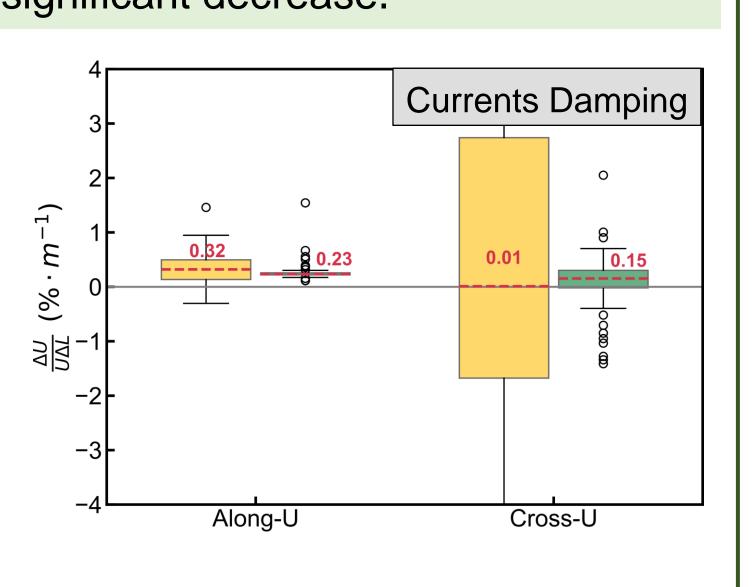
1. Vegetated areas are more effective in dissipating hydrodynamics compared to bare flats^[1, 2].

2. Seasonal variations in vegetation result in differing rates of wave and current attenuation^[3]. 3. Vegetated fringe of mangrove exhibits an anomalous increase in wave height, whereas salt marsh presents the most significant decrease.





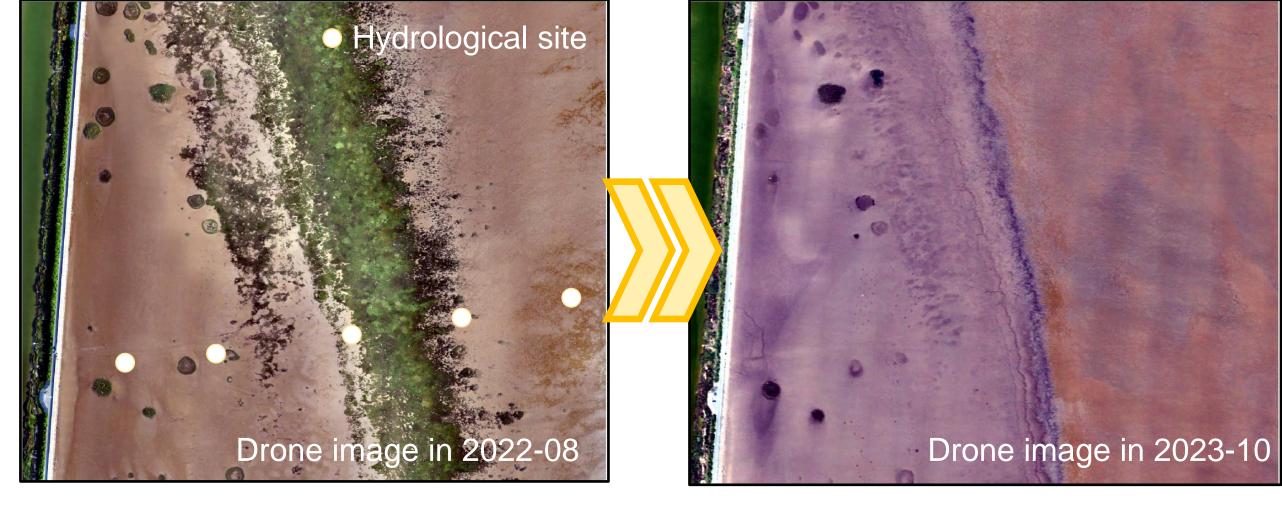




Winter

Summer

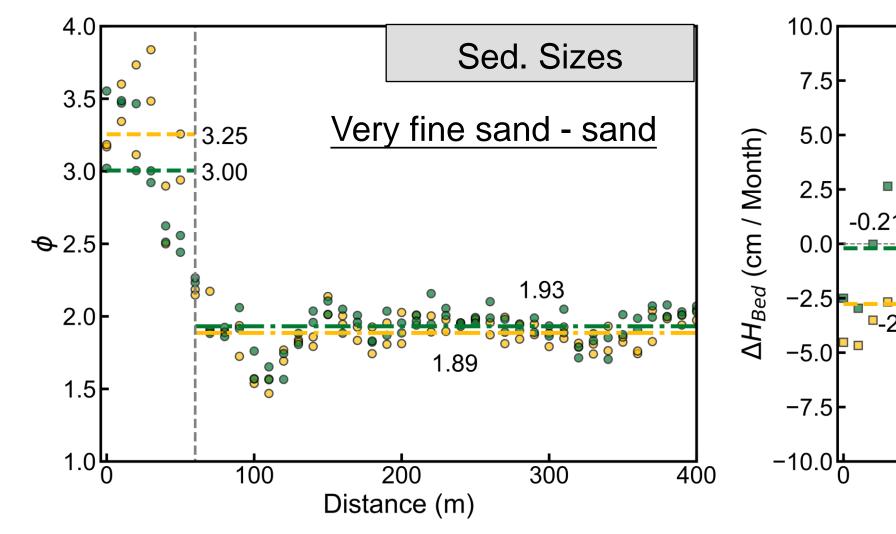
Drone-observed disappearance of salt marsh in a restored region

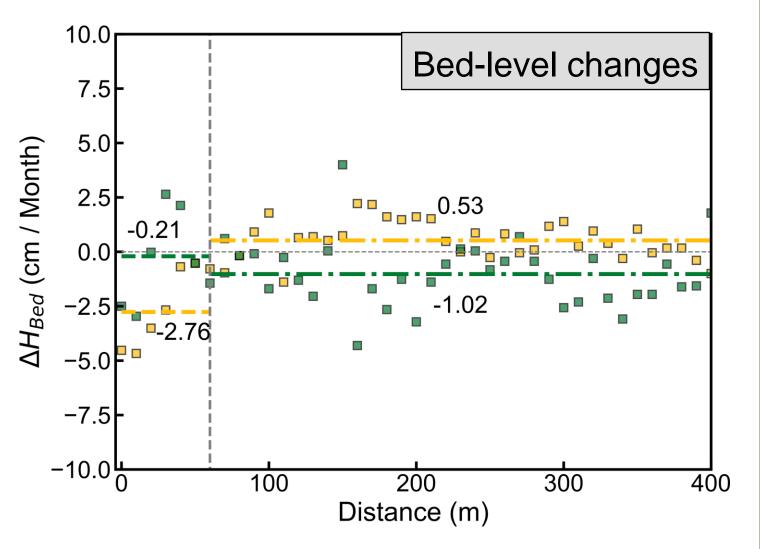


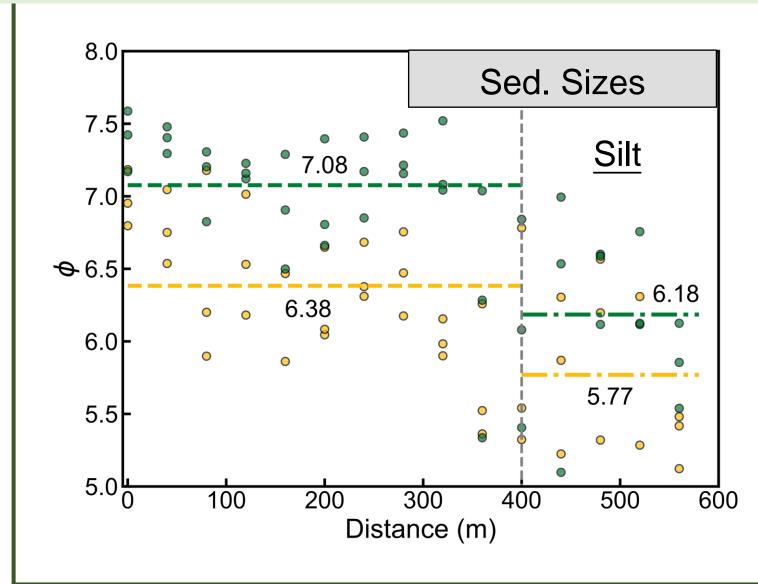
Modelling the morphodynamic effect of significant gain and loss of salt marsh (including seasonal variations) based on observation

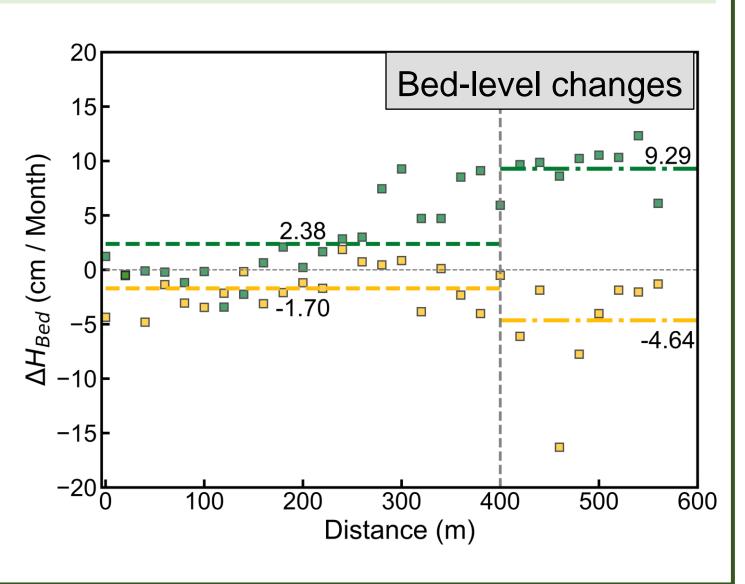
1. Seasonal variation of sediment grain sizes and bed level changes is more significant in salt marsh compared to mangrove.

2. Mangrove exhibits contrasting trends in sediment grain sizes and bed levels between vegetated areas and fringing flat, but the salt marsh doesn't.









References:

[1] Jiang, W., Huang, Z., Dai, Z., Luo, J., Zeng, W., & Liang, X. (2025). Attenuation of hydro-sediment dynamics progradation over mangrove wetland. Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans, 130(2), e2024JC021531.

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Science, 109155. [3] Zhou, X., Dai, Z., Carniello, L., Long, C., Wang, R., Luo, J., & Huang, Z. (2022). Linkage between mangrove wetland dynamics and wave attenuation during a storm-a case study of the

Nanliu Delta, China. Marine Geology, 454, 106946. [4] Luo, J., Dai, Z., Liang, X., Zeng, W., Wang, R., Huang, H., and Nienhuis, J. H. Hydrosediment dynamics in an abandoned estuarine pond under artificial mangrove restoration. Submitted to Journal of Hydrology (under review) [Jan. 2025].

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Contact <a> : jiejunluo@stu.ecnu.edu.cn or j.luo1@uu.nl

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