#### **Enhancing Stormwater Control Measures Using Real-Time Control Technology: A Review**

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## Abstract

Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) are increasingly applied to capture and utilize urban runoff to augment water supply, reduce flood risk, and to restore natural flow regimes in receiving waters. New advances in Real-Time Control (RTC) technology offer the potential to dynamically optimise SCM performance to meet multi-objectives, without the need for major structural upgrades. This paper reviews the application of RTC applied to different types of SCMs at a range of scales, revealing both the benefits and challenges. RTC can improve urban water management both now and into the future, and the applications are vast. SCM performance can be optimised at a single site scale, but its real utility will be in larger collaborative systems, and its potential will increase with improved forecast capability and decreased costs of sensors and control elements. There is a critical need for creating new regulatory environments, governance and business models, to facilitate widespread implementation.

> Key Words: Real-Time Control (RTC), Urban Water Management, Stormwater Control Measures, Flow Regime, Smart Control Technology, Water Sensitive Urban Design

## **1. Introduction**

Despite recent advances in urban water management, many old challenges remain, and new ones are emerging. Dwindling freshwater resources threaten human water security (Vörösmarty et al. 2000; Vörösmarty et al. 2010). Flooding is still a major social and economic hazard in many cities (Jongman et al. 2012) and urban stream channels are eroding at alarming rates, driven by excessive flows from urban runoff (Russell et al. 2019; Hawley et al. 2013; Vietz et al. 2017). Untreated impervious runoff contaminates downstream receiving waters through either sewer overflows and exfiltration in combined sewer systems or through direct discharge in systems with separate stormwater and wastewater networks (Sercu et al. 2011; Divers et al. 2013; Kim et al. 2007; Ellis and Hvitved-Jacobsen 1996). These altered water cycles and flow regimes lead to ecological degradation in urban streams and a subsequent loss of ecosystem services (Walsh et al. 2012; Bunn and Arthington 2002; King et al. 2005; Wright et al. 2011).

For years, researchers and practitioners have promoted the use of Stormwater Control Measures (termed here as SCMs; for a full description of related terminology, see Fletcher et al. 2014a) to capture and utilize urban runoff to augment supplies and reduce flood risk and overall load on the combined sewer treatment plant, and to restore more natural flow regimes by promoting infiltration and groundwater recharge (Ashley et al. 2013; Marsalek and Chocat 2002; Hamel et al. 2013; Rhea et al. 2015). Common SCMs include infiltration-based systems (e.g. unlined biofilters, infiltration trenches, basins and porous pavement; Bhaskar et al. 2016; Shuster and Rhea 2013; Bell et al. 2016; Rhea et al. 2015) and retention-based systems (e.g. rainwater harvesting systems, wetlands and green roofs; Burns et al. 2015b; Askarizadeh et al. 2015; Al-Rubaei et al. 2016). Despite the intentions of this move towards more water-sensitive approaches to stormwater management, change to date has arguably been limited (Bedan and Clausen 2009; Bell et al. 2016; Hur et al. 2008), with SCM implementation constrained by a

53 range of factors (Farrelly and Brown 2011; Brown et al. 2011). Given additional stressors of 54 future climate change and population growth, there is a real need to enhance both the 55 performance and adaptability of Stormwater Control Measures.

Novel advances in Real-Time Control (RTC) technology offer great promise to improve conventional urban water management. RTC is a collection of sensors, communication devices, actuators and software (Bennett 1994; Brogan 1991), which can be used to actively and automatically operate components of the urban water cycle. RTC can modify the passive operation of conventional SCMs by actively controlling the system processes, including inflow, outflow and detention time, allowing them to cope better with the stochastic nature of stormwater quantity and quality. For a new system, RTC could potentially allow it to be built at a smaller size while delivering the same level of service as a conventional larger design. For existing systems, RTC could improve current performance, without requiring system capacity to be upgraded. Most importantly, RTC could change the way people and organizations manage urban water at a range of scales. Doing so could transform individuals to become active providers of urban water services, utilising new governance models inspired by the increasingly-decentralised energy market (Mah et al. 2012). 

Applications of real-time control technology in urban water management are numerous. However, harnessing the potential of such technologies requires 1) greater trust in the technology, 2) development and testing of case studies, and 3) overcoming of social, institutional and economical barriers. In this paper we aim to examine use of RTC technology in urban water management by reviewing its application to different types of infrastructure: nature-based SCMs (including wetlands, biofilters and vegetated swales), detention basins and rainwater harvesting systems. Building on this new understanding, we consider how the technology could be used to transform the current urban water management.

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This review consists of two principal components. The first part discusses how RTC could enhance the hydrologic performance of different types of SCMs-e.g. their ability to improve water quality and attenuate peak flows locally. While the benefits of control might depend on the particular context, several studies suggest that RTC can improve the performance of SCMs at the site scale, but further empirical validation is required to be confident in this hypothesis. The second part investigates the potential of RTC technology to play a major role at larger scales, by operating a range of distributed small-scale systems as a coordinated system. This envisions a future intelligent water management network, where all water related assets will be cooperatively operated. Application across these scales will likely face a number of technical and also social-economic challenges. Without such understanding, adoption may fail due to the inertia inherent in urban water management.

88 2. Real-time control in stormwater control measures

Real-time control technology is not novel to urban water management. Application can be seen
extensively in wastewater systems to monitor and manage sewer overflows (Campisano et al.
2016; Dirckx et al. 2011; Ly 2019; Vezzaro et al. 2014; Piro et al. 2019; Ibrahim 2020) or to
control water quality (Schütze et al. 2004; Mollerup et al. 2017; Campisano and Modica 2002).
Recent advances in sensor technology, however, makes RTC a cost-effective tool to enhance
operation of a range of systems (Chee-Yee and Kumar 2003) and scales.

95 Real-time control has been increasingly applied to SCMs. We summarize such 96 application based on the type of SCMs (e.g. detention basins or rainwater harvesting systems) 97 (Table 1). Current investigations predominantly focus on modelling studies, with only a few 98 empirical studies. Most studies to date have focused on single systems at either small or 99 catchment scale, without consideration of network interactions or cooperation. The details of 100 these studies will be discussed in the following sections. 101 Table 1. List of key studies on real-time controlled SCMs. The studies are classified according

102 to the type of SCM (nature-based solution, detention basin, or rainwater harvesting system),

103 the type of approach (modelling or empirical) and with a distinction between single and

104 multiple systems.

	Single system at small-/catchment scale	Multiple systems at catchment scale
-	Nature-based s	solutions
Modelling	Shen et al. (2018)	-
Empirical	Persaud et al. (2019), Shen et al. (2019)	-
	Detention E	Basins
Madalling	Gaborit et al. (2013), Muschalla et al. (2014), Carpenter et al. (2014), Gaborit et al. (2016),	
Modennig	Bilodeau et al. (2018), Shishegar et al. (2019a), Shishegar et al. (2019b) and Sharior et al. (2019)	-
Empirical	Jacopin et al. (2001), Middleton and Barrett (2008), Gilpin and Barrett (2014) and Poresky et al. (2015)	Mullapudi et al. (2018)
	Rainwater Harves	ting Systems
Modelling	Melville-Shreeve et al. (2016), Xu et al. (2018), Roman et al. (2017), Behzadian et al. (2017) and Oberascher et al. (2019)	Di Matteo et al. (2019)
Empirical	Han and Mun (2011), Gee and Hunt (2016)	-

# 106 2.1 Nature-Based Stormwater Control Measures

Nature-based SCMs are characterised by their use of soil and vegetation in the retention and treatment of stormwater. Structurally, they often employ stormwater storage and vegetation to enable ponding and biotreatment, with the nature of the water flow within the system varying according to design (Figure 1). For example, in biofilters, the treatment is primarily via vertical percolation through the vegetation-enhanced soil-based filter media (Davis et al. 2009). In surface wetlands, however, treatment occurs predominantly in the water column, where interactions with vegetation, the soil surface, and their associated biofilms, play an important role. Subsurface wetlands have a functioning between these two, with predominantly horizontal flow through the (typically coarse) filtration media.

Treatment in nature-based SCMs is provided through a combination of physical (Feng
 et al. 2012; Shrestha et al. 2018), chemical (Henderson et al. 2007) and biological processes
 (Payne et al. 2014; Chandrasena et al. 2012) (Figure 1). The ponding provided by nature-based

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SCMs acts to buffer the stormwater runoff, attenuating peak flows (e.g. wetland; Al-Rubaei et
al. 2016) and biofilters (Davis 2008; Hunt et al. 2012; Winston et al. 2016b)).

The effectiveness of such systems is closely linked to operating conditions, such as temperature, wetting and drying and the flow regime (Winston et al. 2016a; Ge et al. 2016; Yi et al. 2016). The treatment effect of abiotic and biotic reactions (e.g. anoxia, de-/nitrification and mineralization) largely depends on water level and retention time, which determines the extent and period of contact between the stormwater and the filter media, vegetation and biofilms which mediate treatment processes (Bratieres et al. 2008; Klocker et al. 2009). Hydrologic performance and pollutant removal are thus affected by inflow dynamics resulting from the variability of rainfall and runoff (Hunt et al. 2006). The wet-dry cycle and soil moisture are also critical for both treatment (e.g. nutrient leaching) and system health (e.g. survival of plants) (Afrooz and Boehm 2017; Hatt et al. 2008; Zinger et al. 2007b; Blecken et al. 2009b). Therefore, maximizing the performance of nature-based solutions depends on maintaining optimal detention time and moisture regime, to support physical and biological treatment processes.

 


Figure 1. Conceptual representation of conventional nature-based solution, adapted from Fletcher et al. (2013). The elements in brown are components dedicated to the real-time control (RTC) of the system. RTC of nature-based stormwater control measures generally control the inflows and/or outflows for a range of objectives.

System performance can be improved by system design. For example, the inclusion of a carbon-enriched saturated zone in biofilters can mitigate against the impacts of extended dry periods, providing a more stable anaerobic zone for better nutrient removal and reduced nutrient leaching after extended dry periods (Zinger et al. 2007b; Zinger et al. 2007a; Blecken et al. 2009a). Expanding system size could also increase the retention time, but may not always be feasible in space-constrained urban areas, and may also have the effect of accentuating impacts of long dry periods on system function. The passive nature of nature-based SCMs thus intrinsically limits their ability to respond to variations in operating conditions.

The effectiveness of such systems could also be enhanced using real-time control
 technology (Shen et al. 2017; Persaud et al. 2019; Shen et al. 2019). This involves the
 installation of sensors and actuators to monitor and control various system processes, such as

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the *retention time*, for better treatment (elements in brown in Figure 1). Shen et al. (2017) modelled a controlled biofilter and predicted improved outflow quality when collected runoff was treated by batch. Inlet and outlet valves were kept shut when the system was full, bypassing any inflow, until the desired retention time was reached. This finding was later validated by Shen et al. (2019) through a long-term laboratory experiment. Persaud et al. (2019) experimentally tested similar control strategies in a column study over a 9-week period and concluded that the RTC system can better remove heavy metals and ammonium. Both of the studies also identified the trade-off between retention time and overall capacity to receive inflow, thus requiring further optimisation.

The potential of real-time control in nature-based SCMs remains largely untested, in terms of delivering more natural flow regimes and improving the moisture regime. Systems could use a rainfall forecast to create sufficient storage for incoming events through a controlled outlet pre-storm discharge. This outflow could theoretically be regulated to match pre-development flow regimes using real-time flow monitoring of a nearby "reference" waterway (Rode et al. 2016). Furthermore, RTC could optimise the moisture regime of substrate-based SCMs (e.g. biofilter) for plant and microbial community survival during extended dry periods, and thus minimize subsequent impact on treatment effectiveness. This could be achieved by a controlled outlet to maintain sufficient water within the system (e.g. substrate in biofilter and permanent ponding in wetland) using real-time water monitoring (e.g. water level in wetland and soil moisture in biofilters) (Figure 1). While no studies to date have demonstrated this for SCMs, a similar idea has been used in operating natural wetlands (Lyons et al. 2008), to provide adequate aquatic habitat for native species and migratory waterbirds. By coupling with evolving real-time or surrogates quality monitoring (Zhang et al. 2015; Chandrasena et al. 2016; Wang et al. 2019), a more reliable nature-based SCM could be delivered for stormwater harvesting (Payne et al. 2019) or even greywater treatment potential

(Barron et al. 2019). Future study is required to further understand the effect of RTC on their performance, through both modelling and empirical proof-of-concept. This also includes the development of robust control models to provide accurate performance prediction and real-time operation.

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# 179 2.2 Detention basins

180 A detention basin is a stormwater storage mainly designed to provide attenuation of
181 downstream peak flows. It temporarily stores runoff, discharging at the rates that is matched to
182 the capacity of downstream drainage networks (Figure 2).

Early use of real-time control in detention basins has been focussed on increasing the capacity of flooding control by reducing the frequency and volume of discharge. The outlet hydraulic valves are typically pre-programmed to close during the rain event and only open when storage exceeds a certain level (e.g. 70%), or stormwater has been held for a pre-set period (e.g. 12 hours) (Jacopin et al. 2001; Middleton and Barrett 2008). This results in decreased frequency and volume of runoff discharged to the downstream drainage network during storm events.

Several studies have demonstrated the use of control in real-time to adapt to predicted rainfall (Gaborit et al. 2013; Gilpin and Barrett 2014; Bilodeau et al. 2018; Sharior et al. 2019; Shishegar et al. 2019a; Shishegar et al. 2019b). Rainfall forecasts are used to predict the timing and volume of overflow by comparing incoming runoff and available capacity (Figure 2). This allows the system to perform a *pre-storm release* – creating sufficient room before storm events to avoid system overflow. The release rate (i.e. control valve opening percentage) is determined by the time before a forecasted overflow occurs and volume required to hold that inflow. Such modification further increases the detention performance, however, the effect of discharge rate on downstream erosion should also be considered.

Reducing channel erosion not only requires the reduction of runoff volume. It requires the attenuation of erosion-inducing flow (Vietz et al. 2017). Large SCMs, such as detention basins, can perversely intensify erosion, by increasing the time flows remain above the mobilisation threshold for downstream bed and bank sediments (Hawley et al. 2013). An appropriate design which limits flows below the threshold can effectively reduce erosion

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potential (Elliott et al. 2010). The addition of real-time control to an existing detention basin could help to achieve this result, without sacrificing performance in flood events. It can be configured to avoid wet-weather discharge (through both hydraulic valve and overflow) and mimic pre-development peak flow by adaptively limiting outflow, thus substantially reducing erosion potential. For example, Poresky et al. (2015) demonstrated that RTC can reduce the erosive flow by 50% to 60% more than a conventional configuration. Although erosion potential is highly related to a suite of physical attributes and might be ecologically important (Fletcher et al. 2014b), a single threshold is commonly adopted in current applications (Elliott et al. 2010; Poresky et al. 2015). Future design of RTC detention basins could consider multiple ecohydrological metrics to deliver better environmental outcomes for the stream.

Detention basins are also used to manage water quality. Temporarily holding stormwater can partially remove pollutants and achieve water quality improvement through sedimentation and biological conversion (Shammaa et al. 2002; Guo and Adams 1999; Carpenter et al. 2014). The treatment effectiveness depends on detention time and outflow rate (Muschalla et al. 2014). Water quality treatment performance can be improved using RTC technology. For example, the detention basin can purge the captured stormwater when the treatment desired is reached. Modulating discharge rate can also reduce the likelihood of pollutant resuspension. Both empirical and modelling evidence showed that, by employing real-time control, the removal efficiency of ammonia-nitrogen and total suspended solids (TSS) were increased by 80% and 50% respectively (Carpenter et al. 2014; Gaborit et al. 2013; Gaborit et al. 2016). The simulation results from Muschalla et al. (2014) also predicted that RTC detention basins improved the removal of small particles by up to 60% compared to the traditional design. Such benefits were also demonstrated for the removal of biological contaminants, such as Escherichia coli (Gilpin and Barrett 2014).



Figure 2. Conceptual representation of conventional storage-based stormwater control measure (i.e. detention basin and rainwater harvesting system) adapted from Fletcher et al. (2013). The elements in brown present the components required to enable the real-time control (RTC) of the system. RTC of storage-based stormwater control measures generally control the outflows for a range of objectives.

# 234 2.3 Rainwater Harvesting Systems

Rainwater harvesting systems are designed to capture surface runoff from impervious surfaces (e.g. roofs), to both provide a source of water and to mitigate stormwater runoff (Mikkelsen et al. 1999; Gardner and Vieritz 2010; Ward et al. 2012; Amos et al. 2016). Diversion of rainwater from direct runoff to water supply helps to reduce the excess runoff volume delivered to receiving waters (Fletcher et al. 2007). Deliberately releasing some of the retained water to the receiving water in a temporal pattern close to the natural flow regimes can help to return the hydrograph shape of the remaining runoff (Burns et al. 2012).

Reducing excess runoff requires adequate freeboard available to store incoming rainfall events, so that uncontrolled overflows to the downstream drainage network are avoided (Campisano and Modica 2016). In general, most conventional rainwater harvesting systems have frequent uncontrolled overflow (Jones and Hunt 2010; Burns et al. 2015a; Campisano and Modica 2012). This is because they often lack constant and high demand uses for their stored water, and thus often remain at or near full (Burns et al. 2015a; DeBusk et al. 2013).

Increasing the type of end-uses (e.g. laundry or hot water usage) may help address the problem, but may not always be feasible. For example, public perceptions of rainwater quality might limit connected end-uses (Gwenzi et al. 2015; Ward et al. 2010), as may cost (Roebuck et al. 2011; Rahman et al. 2011).

Uncontrolled overflow could be reduced further using RTC technology, both in new and retrofit situations (Gee and Hunt 2016; Han and Mun 2011). The technology enables the system to receive information on operating conditions (e.g. water level) and weather forecast. This allows pre-storm release before a rainfall event to ensure sufficient storage for incoming runoff (Figure 2). One commonly applied control strategy, for example, opens the valve until enough room is made to contain predicted rainfall. Page 15 of 99

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Such a logic can enhance the runoff retention, without substantially compromising water supply performance. Modelling studies predicted that RTC technology reduced uncontrolled overflows by 10-35% (Behzadian et al. 2017; Roman et al. 2017; Oberascher et al. 2019). Han and Mun (2011) reported a 47% reduction of annual runoff at larger scale through empirical evidence. More importantly, Xu et al. (2018) predicted that the active system was able to limit loss of water supply yield to less than 2%, although this depends on the enduse profile of the stored water (Melville-Shreeve et al. 2016).

Actively-controlled rainwater harvesting systems are better able to control flow peaks, particularly for small rainfall events. For example, Roman et al. (2017) simulated RTC systems, finding that they could retain all the runoff generated during small events (< 5mm/hr). Similar results can be seen in empirical studies, where Gee and Hunt (2016) demonstrated an average of 93% peak flow rate reduction during 15-month period, including one event with an intensity higher than that of 2-year 5-min storm. Such levels of retention are likely to mitigate nuisance flooding (i.e. low-level inundation).

Such peak control by RTC can be extended to large rainfall events. Modelling results by Melville-Shreeve et al. (2016) reported a 33% greater runoff volume reduction compared to conventional systems for a rainfall with depth similar to a 20-year, 24 hour storm. This level of peak reduction could potentially allow the downstream drainage network originally designed for a 10-year rainfall to handle a 50-year rainfall event (Han and Mun 2011). Testing such models with empirical evidence is of course difficult, given the infrequent nature of such large rainfall events. Monitoring studies generally involve a single geographic location and set of design and operating parameters (Gee and Hunt 2016; Han and Mun 2011). There is a need for more empirical experiments to test the long-term ability of RTC in a wider variety of operating conditions, recognising that performance in extreme events may not be able to be observed within a reasonable timeframe.

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RTC may offer the important ability for multiple systems to operate in a coordinated way, thus overcoming the limitations of a single allotment scale system (Damodaram et al. 2010; Schubert et al. 2017). For example, Di Matteo et al. (2019) demonstrated a better peak flow mitigation in a 1 in 100-year, 24-hr storm. This requires two system orifices discharging at different rates and times throughout the event. Such a strategy can potentially be upscaled to deliver catchment-scale benefits, where small-scale systems within the catchments can be operated as an integrated network.

Real-time controlled systems are likely to retain more runoff than conventional approaches, such as passive 'trickle release' systems, where a slow-release outlet is provided at an intermediate depth to frequently empty the storage above. Both modelling (Xu et al. 2018) and empirical studies have shown that the RTC system (Gee and Hunt 2016) can deliver more natural flow regimes, ensuring that any release can be controlled to not only limit overflows, but to mimic more natural dry weather flows.

Both passive and active systems have the potential to address the baseflow component of flow regimes (Mitchell et al. 2007; Fletcher et al. 2007; Askarizadeh et al. 2015). To counter the common (but not ubiquitous) effect of lost baseflows in urban areas (Price 2011) release of tank water can be directed to the adjacent landscape (Walsh et al. 2015; Burns et al. 2012) or to infiltration systems (Hunt et al. 2006) to promote infiltration and thus groundwater recharge. Xu et al. (2018) explored this potential through a modelling study and concluded that the active release system is capable of simultaneously delivering baseflow contributions (i.e. persistent low rate discharge) and runoff retention (i.e. pre-storm release) with only minor reductions in the reliability of water supply. A similar level of baseflow emulation using passive systems required unrealistically small outlet diameters (Xu et al. 2018).

# **3. Effect of scale**

## 307 3.1 Current decentralized control at local scales

Despite the increasing number of studies on real-time control for optimising stormwater control measures, the focus to date has mainly been on the decentralised control at local scales (Table 1), without consideration of network interactions or cooperation. In such an application, the information held by each system (e.g. water level and valve status) is not shared with other systems within the network. Therefore, control decisions are made independently at a local level, without considering a catchment-level context.

314 Decentralised control of SCMs is a robust solution, as its configuration will not require 315 complex communication and logic structures (Schütze et al. 2004). However, doing so 316 precludes the potential synergies of 'cooperation' achieved by network control (Petrucci et al.

317 2013; Emerson et al. 2005).

# 318 3.2 Distributed control at large scales

Distributed control of SCMs network needs to be implemented in a way that each system works collaboratively to meet the catchment-scale hydrological objective (Figure 3). The theory of such control has long been established (Bondy and Murty 1977; Camponogara et al. 2002; Dijkstra 1982) and has been demonstrated by a few preliminary studies. Di Matteo et al. (2019) modelled two coordinated rainwater harvesting systems using perfect rainfall forecasts. They concluded that the peak flow can be better mitigated by the centralised control than by the decentralized control. Mullapudi et al. (2018) reported that two cooperatively controlled detention basins could create a hydrograph that prevented erosion-induced flows. The common features for those control strategies are (1) operating multiple local-scale systems, (2) regulating the outflow based on hydrological and hydraulic metrics, and (3) releasing storage required in different patterns.

Real-time distributed control can also play a major role in providing necessary redundancy and increasing resilience. Sensors can detect and report in real-time systems being offline due to failure or maintenance. The underlying neighbouring systems can virtually replace the failed systems, and so remain a well-functioning network (e.g. distributed control in Figure 3). A similar strategy could be used in the case of RTC rainwater harvesting to ensure that adequate contributions are made to stream baseflow, even if some systems are empty at any given time. This might also be applied to RTC biofilters, where the emptying of the systems can start from those with longer treatment (i.e. detention time). Such an application offers a new possibility for real-time asset management, which could potentially address the major problem of poor system function due to inadequate maintenance of SCMs (Blecken et al. 2017).



Figure 3. Real-time control of SCMs network, including current decentralized control atsmall scale and future potential of distributed control at large scale.

## 343 3.3 Future vision of integrated water management

Overall, real-time control offers a real opportunity to advance conventional water systems (Table 2). The control of SCM networks could be jointly operated with other water systems, such as water distribution networks (Cembrano et al. 2000; Leirens et al. 2010) and combined sewer systems (Garofalo et al. 2017). For stormwater systems, SCMs could coordinate with the overall drainage network, and so manage storages and outflows to best use the capacity of all system nodes to avoid overflow (Lund et al. 2019). Future water supply could use a hybrid system that integrates stormwater harvesting to supplement mains water (or vice versa). The real-time prediction of spatial-temporal demand could inform optimal use of tank storage (i.e. rather than using when needed by each household) and mains water at a system level to ensure overall water network reliability. Improved monitoring and removal of contaminants could promote such hybrid supply and even achieve on-site grey water reuse (Barron et al. 2019), thus significantly reducing the resources required for downstream centralized treatment (e.g. 

356 wastewater treatment plant in combined systems). The states of all these assets could be 357 visualized and managed in a central control system, where a universally integrated water 358 system is then formed to deliver sustainable future in smart cities.

In addition to its impact on operation of the urban water system, real-time technology could change the relationship between people and water management. Real-time information triggers feedback from private householders, giving them the ability to proactively choose to coordinate their systems with the overarching network. This coordination can avoid major infrastructure upgrades and reduce problems of water scarcity. Financial incentives could be used to illicit such contributions, inspired, for example by economic innovations pioneered in the energy market (Giordano and Fulli 2012; Rodríguez-Molina et al. 2014). Doing so could transform the private householder from passive consumers to active providers of urban water service, envisioning new governance models. Such application will, however, be confronted by challenges from both technical and socio-economical perspectives.

## 370 Time Control

Objectives	Passive Control	Active (RTC) Control
	Design based solely on historical data	Real-time monitoring and anticipating flood hazard
Flooding and runoff control	Capacity matched to design event (thus over-designed for many situations)	Adaptive system to create storage for each storm event
	Each system works individually	Distributed control to enable synergy effect
	No ability to adapt to an event	Flow bypass the predicted overflow area
Combined sewer overflow	Require often overdesigned drainage network or detention basin	Enhance storage efficiency without structur change
Stream baseflow	No ability to ensure spatial and temporal variability of flow regimes	Emulate baseflow based on real-time river monitoring
Supply	Mains supply with passive supplement of rainwater. No mechanisms ensure the integration of hybrid system.	A monitored and controlled hybrid system that can be optimally integrated and coordinated. Rainwater supply can also optimised by other objectives, such as flooding mitigation.
	No ability to check remotely system state	Real-time monitoring and failure detection
Maintenance	Regular visit depending on expertise and diligent	Site visit only when maintenance is needed
	Manual maintenance	sediments using control valve)
	Irrigate on a routine base	Monitor soil moisture and irrigate wheneve
Irrigation	Require regular visit to adapt irrigation	needed
	to the need	Full remote control
Cyber Security	N/A	Need regulation and standard for privacy protection
	Higher capital expenditure due to oversized systems	Costs of monitoring and RTC to add but system size can be decrease with adapti response to events
Economics	Higher operational expenditure due to reactive maintenance and routine	Allows remote monitoring and proactive maintenance
	inspection	Increase of energy consumption
Redundancy and resilience	No mechanism to ensure resilience	High resilience and adaptative system(s)

#### **4.** Barriers to implementation of RTC on SCMs

## 373 4.1 Technical challenges

#### 374 Model for Real-Time Control

Real-time control systems applied to SCMs (Stormwater Control Measures) can be based on pre-defined rules (termed here as heuristic algorithms; Persaud et al. 2019; Carpenter et al. 2014; García et al. 2015). Such rules are often expressed in the form of binary logic (i.e. "if-then-else") and generally require simple operational devices such as microcontrollers. However, the robustness of such control has not been appropriately tested. It might be robust in operating a small number of decentralised small-scale systems, but may demand a too complex number of rules and scenarios when operating complex multi-scale systems. Furthermore, the establishment of rules requires expertise on system mechanisms and operational context. The understanding of spatio-temporal dynamics that govern water quality and flow across different scales in the urban environment is the key to avoid perverse impacts introduced by real-time control when applied to SCMs (e.g. erosion-induced flow from controlled detention basins). Only a few preliminary studies have investigated the theoretical framework for such operation (Mullapudi et al. 2017; Rimer et al. 2019).

Future operation can be advanced using optimization-based control, especially for complex multi-scale SCMs networks. Compared to rule-based control, such a strategy turns the pre-defined logic into an objective function that is solved continuously to represent the desired system behaviour. This is generally achieved by a process model which anticipates the performance of a number of control scenarios. The optimal scenario is then selected, based on predefined objective metrics. The objectives often aim to minimize the resource cost when meeting the compulsory demand for operation, while simultaneously maximising the performance for the entire system. This approach can be seen in the operation of SCMs at site-

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scale. For example, Shishegar et al. (2019a) and Shishegar et al. (2019b) utilized an optimisation-based control to minimize the total outflow discharge from a detention basin for flood control, while preventing unnecessary movement of the outlet gate. Therefore, such a control can also potentially operate complex distributed systems in a cooperative and optimised way, not only achieving optimal performance, but minimising long-term maintenance requirements by minimising operation of system components. Large-scale applications can be widely found in other water networks, such as water distribution networks (Cembrano et al. 2000; Miyaoka and Funabashi 1984; Joalland and Cohen 1980; Fallside and Perry 1975) and combined sewer networks (Garofalo et al. 2017).

Appropriate selection and design of control strategies is vital to the implementation of RTC-based SCMs. Control strategies have received significant attention in the urban drainage literature. Heuristic-based control can be appealing because no control-oriented model is required and the resulting control seems rational (García et al. 2015). However, as mentioned previously, heuristic-based control depends on expert knowledge, and so might not be considered formally as achieving an optimal solution (Cen and Xi 2009; Mollerup et al. 2013). One of the most common heuristic algorithms used in urban drainage systems is Rule-Based Control (Klepiszewski and Schmitt 2002), with increasing popularity of using a particular rule that specifies the output parameters in a non-binary way (i.e. ranging between 0 and 1, allowing partial states between true and false), known as Fuzzy Logic Control (Tang et al. 2010; Seggelke et al. 2013; Chiang et al. 2011). In contrast, while optimisation-based control delivers more objectivity, it can be difficult to implement due to more complex control-oriented models and consequential challenges in terms of the computational power required, especially in large-scale systems (García et al. 2015). Model Predictive Control, which recursively recalculates the optimal control using newly available information on system states and other data (e.g. rainfall forecast), has shown to be the most successful optimisation-based technique applied in

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urban drainage systems due to its capacity in handling multi-variable systems (for further detail, extensive review can be found in Lund et al. (2018)). Other approaches also include the linear-quadratic regulator (Bemporad et al. 2002; Marinaki and Papageorgiou 2003), evolutionary strategies (Savic and Walters 1997; Bernard et al. 2001; Martínez et al. 2007; Fu et al. 2008), and Population Dynamics-based control (Ramírez-Llanos and Quijano 2010; Barreiro-Gomez et al. 2015). Additionally, the type of RTC strategies (e.g. rule-based or optimisation-based) and process model used (e.g. fast or detailed, linear or non-linear, stochastic or deterministic) intimately link to the selection of controllers. Therefore, there is a critical need to test different control approaches in operating RTC SCMs. By improving such understanding, it will then be possible to posit the most robust ways to operate SCMs at a range of scales and levels of complexity. 

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# 432 Role of Forecast Accuracy

When RTC is based on weather forecasts, there is the potential for performance loss due to inaccurate forecasts. The effectiveness of forecast accuracy on RTC has been considered in a range of studies in urban drainage systems (Löwe et al. 2016; Achleitner et al. 2009). This issue, however, has only been addressed by a few studies in RTC SCMs (Gee and Hunt 2016; Xu et al. 2018; Xu et al. 2020), and has generally been ignored in RTC modelling studies, where perfect forecasts (i.e. use of historical precipitation as forecast) are typically used (Roman et al. 2017; Di Matteo et al. 2019). This is widely recognized as a major knowledge gap for future investigation (Gee and Hunt 2016; Kerkez et al. 2016; Xu et al. 2018).

441 Several methods exist to mitigate the impact of forecast error on RTC performance. 442 There may, for example, be potential to improve performance by strategically using different 443 forecast horizons. The pre-storm release to avoid flooding could be determined based on both 444 long-term (e.g. weekly) forecasts, and then refined using short-term (e.g. sub-daily) rainfall 445 forecasts, taking advantage of improved forecast accuracy as the forecast window shortened. 446 Another approach to improve performance is to use accumulated knowledge on past forecasts 447 and their associated error to include them in the future management strategy.

448 Monitoring

Real-time control relies on the knowledge of the system and its surroundings. Such knowledge of the system includes input (inflows), output (outflows), but also its present state (pump flow, volume in storage, valve status) and environmental conditions (rainfall, streamflow, etc.). While economic and technological complexity have acted in the past as barriers to incorporation of sensors into RTC-based systems, the recent possibilities offered by new monitoring technologies are substantial: user-friendly deployment and interfaces, lower cost, lower power consumption, enhanced communication capabilities, open-source and high modularity (Cherqui et al. 2019). Such cost-effective technologies have been successfully
implemented in other fields such as agriculture (Fisher 2007) and air quality (Morawska et al.
2018). This technology is also increasing in the water sector, such as for water quality
monitoring (Rao et al. 2013), sewer overflow monitoring (Montserrat et al. 2013) and pipe
inspection (Romanova et al. 2012).

461 Data Platform and Communication

Future large-scale deployment of controlled SCMs networks will need to consider suitable data platforms and communications (Figure 3). Central to the question is how to collect, transmit, store and use the data. This has been extensively addressed in networked control systems (Yang 2006; Hespanha et al. 2007; Gupta and Chow 2010) and smart cities (Kitchin 2014; Cocchia 2014: Zanella et al. 2014). Such advances drive the technological movement of continuous environmental monitoring at large-scale (Crawford et al. 2015; Pellerin et al. 2016; Lefkowitz et al. 2016). Therefore, it is now feasible to build a platform that conducts environmental monitoring and control simultaneously (Bartos et al. 2018; Lefkowitz et al. 2016). Future work will be needed to develop agreed data exchange standards and different platform architecture to handle the operation of SCMs network. This need will become even greater as operations of water networks and other urban infrastructure become increasingly integrated.

# 473 4.2 Social-economic Challenges

### 474 Institutional Inflexibility

The broader adoption of RTC largely depends on the regulatory environment and whether it hinders or facilitates adoption. This is because water-related services are often centrally provided by government, semi-government agencies or private companies operating as natural monopolies (Marques 2010). The research on RTC is arguably focussed primarily on the technological invention, with less attention paid to the need for institutional innovation. Such a phenomenon can be widely found in the water sector (Mitchell 2006; Farrelly and Brown 2011; Kiparsky et al. 2013). This is likely to create inertia, impeding or delaying adoption (Brown and Farrelly 2009; Brown 2005). There will be a need to address the regulatory environment and governance of real-time controlled systems, so that innovation and competition are facilitated, but that the benefits of centralised control can be realised.

## 485 Ownership

One key tension impacting the adoption of RTC is who owns the right for control. Unlike wastewater systems, SCMs equipped with RTC are deployed at a variety of scales and on land owned by a variety of actors, therefore involving both public and private spaces and actors. Centralised control by a government agency could conflict with private property or interest, resulting in potential social impediments. Similarly, the distributed control may fail to deliver a collective optimal outcome due to simultaneous intervention from different stakeholders. Furthermore, there could be potential conflict of interests even within the public sector. Therefore, such an obscure ownership and operational jurisdiction could slow down the development of the investment model for the deployment and ongoing effort for maintenance.

## *Cyber insecurity*

RTC potentially creates new concerns for cyber security and data privacy. Failure to identify, prevent and manage cyber attacks can lead to large-scale system disfunction (Ebersold and Glass 2016; Brous and Janssen 2015), introducing new risks to public health and safety. Vulnerabilities can also increase the risk of information leakage, resulting from potential exposure of private information (e.g. the diurnal pattern of rainwater usage). These consequences may also affect user risk perception and could undermine trust and usage behaviour. Future study must focus on the standards of data protection that minimize the risk of cyber security problems during system design.

## *Lack of market incentives*

505 Investment in RTC-based SCM networks will only happen if there is regulatory obligation or 506 a market incentive. Research is needed to identify suitable business models to drive such 507 investment, potentially drawing on ideas that have been applied to increasingly decentralised 508 or hybrid energy markets (Giordano and Fulli 2012). This may include the positioning of RTC 509 in the existing water management market as well as an economic model that captures and 510 appropriately shares the benefits for different stakeholders.

2		
3 4	511	5. Conclusions
5 6 7	512	Use of RTC technology has the real potential to improve current urban water management and
, 8 9	513	overcome existing barriers. RTC can improve the performance of various type of SCMs at the
10 11	514	site scale, in terms of both runoff quality and quantity. There is an untested potential to tackle
12 13	515	the mix of scales, where RTC could gather the decentralised small-scale systems into a virtually
14 15 16	516	connected network, achieving much greater control of urban runoff at catchment scale. More
17 18	517	importantly, such a strategy could transform the relationship between people and the urban
19 20	518	water cycle, such that private householders could proactively supply urban water services in
21 22 23	519	coordination with major water companies, creating a new governance models for future urban
24 25	520	water management.
26 27	521	Applications of RTC technology in urban water management are vast. Building on the
28 29	522	previous research, we therefore suggest the following future exploration to underpin the use of
30 31 32	523	RTC:
33 34 35	524	(1) testing the effect of rule-based and optimization-based control in operating SCMs at
36 37	525	different scales;
38 39 40	526	(2) investigating the role of forecast accuracy;
41 42	527	(3) developing low-cost sensor technology and promoting widespread monitoring of
43 44	528	SCMs;
45 46 47	529	(4) developing agreed data exchange standards and different platform architecture to
48 49	530	handle the operation of SCMs network;
50 51	531	(5) creating new regulatory environment and governance models for implementation;
52 53 54	532	(6) identify ownership and operational jurisdiction for deployment and maintenance;
55 56	533	(7) developing data protection technique to minimize the risk of cyber security;
57 58	534	(8) developing a suitable business model to drive the investment.
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