Research Article

Experimental Study on Deformation Monitoring of Large Landslide in Reservoir Area of Hydropower Station Based on GB-InSAR

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1.Introduction

Landslide is a sliding geological phenomenon of rock and soil slope along the shear failure surface [1, 2]. Landslide is a natural disaster that causes great economic losses after earthquake in the world [3, 4]. In the reservoir area of a hydropower station, the rise and fall of the water level caused by water storage and flood discharge directly affects the stability of the upstream and downstream bank of the reservoir area and will cause hidden dangers to the safety of cruise ships, dams, and power generation facilities in the reservoir area. Monitoring the key landslides in a certain range of upstream and downstream of a hydropower station has great engineering significance. In recent years, many detections and monitoring techniques have been applied to landslide research [5, 6], including landslide regional investigation, landslide displacement monitoring, landslide disaster assessment, and landslide risk assessment [7], among which landslide monitoring is the most basic and important work [8, 9].

Compared with GPS, total station, digital level, optical remote sensing, three-dimensional laser scanning, and other monitoring technologies [10, 11], ground-based synthetic aperture radar interferometry (GB-InSAR) technology, which has been widely used, has the advantages of wide coverage, high resolution, no need for ground control points, and having archived data [10–12]. Compared with spaceborne and airborne platform SAR, GB-InSAR has more advantages in revisit cycle, ease of use, monitoring perspective, and use cost [13–15]. By the application of ground-based synthetic aperture radar in engineering disaster monitoring research, Liu et al. monitored and
evaluated the postdisaster stability of Dashuchang landslide and analyzed the postdisaster deformation evolution characteristics of the landslide, and the system used was the GB-InSAR system IBIS-L developed by the Netherlands [19]. Li et al. organically connected the deformation data obtained from GB-InSAR of open pit mine with GIS through the integration of GB-InSAR and GIS, which verified that this method can be well used in the emergency monitoring and early warning of a landslide disaster [20]. The MPDMR-05-LSA1701 GB-InSAR system developed by the direction map Technology Co., Ltd., of Mongolia Autonomous Region in China was used to carry out deformation monitoring on the red stone rock slope of Niulanjiang barrier lake in Yunnan Province, and the stability of the rock slope was analyzed [21, 22]. Luo et al. used the ArcFM CW SAR system developed by Institute of electronics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, to extract digital elevation model of a landslide and monitor the landslide [23].

To sum up, there are some GB-InSAR devices in China, which also play a role in many applications. However, the research of the GB-InSAR system in China is still insufficient, and more research is still needed. Simultaneously, there are only few reports about the application of GB-InSAR made in China in the deformation monitoring of superlarge landslides in the reservoir area of the hydropower station. In this paper, a new domestic ground-based interferometric synthetic aperture radar (the model is LKR-05-KU-S100) monitoring system is applied to study the Lagu landslide and Xiaozhajiu landslide of Dahuqiaio hydropower station in Lancang River Basin and the No. 1 landslide on the left bank of Xiaowan hydropower station. Through online monitoring tests, the accuracy and applicability of the system are analyzed. The research results are helpful for monitoring and warning of large-scale landslide disasters and radar monitoring. The application of the system is of great significance.

2. Measurement Principle of Ground-Based Synthetic Aperture Radar Technology

2.1. Basic Working Principle of GB-InSAR. The basic principle of GB-InSAR is to form a linear synthetic aperture by moving the radar antenna in the ground-based orbit and obtain a high-resolution two-dimensional image of the observation area through the stepped frequency continuous wave technology [24]. By combining the SAR complex images acquired at different times in the same target area and comparing the target phase difference at different times, the target’s millimetre precision displacement information can be obtained [25, 26]. Then, the network remote control system is used to realize all-weather automatic monitoring. When the deformation amount and deformation rate of the slope reach the early warning level, the disaster information is sent in advance. In the coordinate axis of the two-dimensional image acquired by the radar, the orbit’s direction is azimuth, and the direction along the radar wave is a range (see Figure 1).

In Figure 1, the moving trajectory of SAR is from $C_1$ to $C_n$, that is, the transmitting position of the coherent pulse signal is $C_1$, $C_2$, ..., $C_n$. $L$ is the orbit length, $r$ is the distance between the radar and the target, and $A$ is the scanning target point. The azimuth resolution is $\delta_\theta = \lambda/2L$, where $\lambda$ is the electromagnetic wavelength transmitted by the radar; the range resolution is $\delta r = c/2B$, where $c$ is the propagation velocity of an electromagnetic wave in vacuum and $B$ is the bandwidth of the radar transmitted signal (see Figure 2).

2.2. Differential Interferometry. Differential interference refers to data acquisition by the radar system for the same target at different time points to obtain the phase difference of the same phase element at different times, to calculate the corresponding displacement. The schematic diagram is shown in Figure 3.

Assuming that the target has a certain displacement at time $t_1$ and $t_2$ and the radar is in the same position to observe the target area at two times, it can be obtained that the distance between the radar and the target under two time conditions are $\rho\left(t_1\right)$ and $\rho\left(t_2\right)$, respectively. The relative displacement $\Delta \rho$ of the target can be obtained by interference processing. The linear relationship between the phase difference $\nabla \phi$ and deformation of the line of sight $\Delta \rho$ can be expressed as follows [27]:

$$\nabla \phi = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \left( \rho\left(t_1\right) - \rho\left(t_2\right) \right) = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \Delta \rho. \quad (1)$$

After obtaining the SAR complex images acquired at different times, the target’s displacement information is obtained by comparing the target’s phase difference at different times. If the ground-based SAR acquires two SAR complex images $I_1$ and $I_2$ of the same target area at different times, assuming that the images are completely matched, the corresponding phase difference can be obtained by conjugate multiplication of the corresponding pixels of the complex image, forming the interferogram. Thus, the phase difference $\varphi\left(p\right)$ of any pixel $P$ in the interferogram can be obtained as follows:

$$\nabla \varphi\left(p\right) = \angle \left( I_2\left(p\right) \cdot I_1^*\left(p\right) \right) = \varphi_2\left(p\right) - \varphi_1\left(p\right). \quad (2)$$

where “*” denotes complex conjugation and $\angle I_n\left(p\right) = \varphi_n\left(p\right)$, $n = 1$ or 2.

From the phase difference after unwrapping, the deformation of the target in the image along the radar line of sight can be calculated as follows:

$$\nabla R\left(p\right) = \frac{c}{4\pi f_c} \cdot \nabla \varphi\left(p\right), \quad (3)$$
where $f_c$ is the center frequency of the transmitted signal, $\Delta \phi$ is the phase difference, and $c$ is the propagation velocity of the electromagnetic wave in vacuum.

To sum up, the ground-based SAR differential interferometry combines the SAR complex images acquired at different times in the same target area. It obtains the target’s displacement and deformation information by comparing the target’s phase difference at different times.

3. Composition and Main Parameters of the New Ground-Based Synthetic Aperture Radar System LKR-05-KU-S100

3.1. Composition of New LKR-05-KU-S100 System. This paper adopts the advanced LKR-05-KU-S100 system developed by China Beijing Polytechnic Leike Electronic Information Technology Co., Ltd., as shown in Figure 3. The system consists of a radar host, data processing unit, linear slide, and energy supply unit. The high-precision electronic control displacement table used in the system can ensure the monitoring operation’s stability and reliability. The system frequency modulated continuous wave radar can transmit the linear frequency modulated electromagnetic wave signal. The imaging time is greatly shortened, and the observation time is less than 2 minutes. The system’s real-time monitoring data processing software has two-dimensional and three-dimensional modes, in which terrain-related information from the monitoring imaging results can be easily identified. The system’s data processing unit can build a database and publish the radar monitoring data in real time through the website. Also, radar monitoring data can be transmitted in real time by remote wireless mode.

3.2. Main Functions and Parameters of the System. The main functions of the LKR-05-KU-S100 radar system are as follows. (a) It can carry out long-distance, large-scale, and noncontact monitoring of the monitoring target area. Simultaneously, it can monitor the target object’s vibration information, and it has the function of remote control observation. (b) It can work for a long time, and the continuous working time is more than 100d. (c) The radar system has high precision, which can reach the sub-millimetre level. (d) It functions using energy-saving equipment and environmental protection, data acquisition, and short processing time. The frequency band of the radar signal is Ku, the signal type is SFCW, the aperture type is synthetic aperture, the gain mode is 18 dbi, the polarization mode is VV, and the main lobe-3 db angle width is $75^\circ H/90^\circ V$. The parameters of the LKR-05-KU-S100 system are shown in Table 1. The image processing interface of radar monitoring information is shown in Figure 4.

4. Application of New GB-InSAR in Deformation Monitoring of Lagu Landslide in Dahuaqiao Hydropower Station

4.1. Geological Survey of Lagu Landslide. Dahuaqiao hydropower station is located in the Township, Lanping County, Nujiang Prefecture, Yunnan Province [28]. It is the sixth cascade hydropower station among the eight cascade hydropower stations planned in the Lancang river mainstream hydropower base’s upstream reach. The hydropower station dam is a concrete gravity dam, with a crest length of 231.5 m, a dam height of 106 m, a total reservoir capacity of 293 million m$^3$, and an installed capacity of 920000 kW. The location of Dahuaqiao hydropower station is shown in Figure 5.
Table 1: Basic parameters of the LKR-05-KU-S100 system.

| Parameter               | Value                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Resolution              | Range resolution: 0.3 m                  |
|                         | Azimuth: 4 mrad (customizable)           |
| Monitoring distance     | 10 m~4000 m                              |
| Monitoring accuracy     | 0.1 mm                                   |
| Work environment        | −25°C~60°C                                |
| Software                | The software has open data interface,    |
|                         | simple interface, and convenient         |
|                         | operation                                |
| Customizability         | Multisource data fusion can be realized  |

Figure 4: Radar monitoring information imaging processing interface.

Figure 5: Location distribution of hydropower stations.
Lagu landslide is about 12.5 km away from the lower dam site, and its elevation distribution is between 1430 m and 2000 m. The whole slope is fan-shaped, wide in front, and narrow in back, spreading in the NS direction, and the front edge is about 1.6 km along the river. In the whole slope area, the potential is high in the west and low in the east, high in the south and low in the north, and, in some parts, it is a stepped slope landform, steep in the upper part and gentle in the lower part. The front edge of the landslide reached the edge of the Lancang River (the water level of the Lancang River is 1425–1427 m in the dry season), forming a nearly NS trending bank slope with a slope of 40° to 50°, and some bank slopes were unstable and sliding. There are five large deep gullies in the slope, one in the upstream and one downstream. On the whole, Lagu landslide is in three free sides; only the rear edge is connected with the mountain. There are few original natural vegetation on the whole landslide’s surface, and most of them are seasonal crops. Laguzhong village, Qingkouzhai, and other settlements are distributed in the middle of the slope’s upper reaches. The location of Lagu landslide is shown in Figure 6.

The landslide mass is mainly composed of quaternary colluvial debris with soil. Some sections include the purple-red slate with toppling deformation and extreme weathering at the lower part. The rock strata are seriously toppled and cracked, and the rock core is mostly fragmentary, and some rock strata are wrinkled. The content of rock fragments in the soil is high, showing subangular shape. The lithology is purplish-red slate and grey-green slate. The diameter of rock fragments is generally 2–15 cm, the thickness is 15–30 m, and the local thickness is 52 m. According to the drilling exposure, there is no unified bottom sliding surface in the landslide, but the second sliding surface is developed locally. The sliding zone is mainly composed of grey-green gravel, debris, and argillaceous material, with a gravel particle size of 3–8 mm and subangular shape, accounting for about 30%. The rock score is in the short column to column shape, with compact structure and high density, showing consolidated or semiconsolidated shape. The optical image of Lagu landslide is shown in Figure 7.

4.2. Monitoring and Analysis of Lagu Landslide. To monitor the deformation of Lagu landslide, according to the actual situation of the site and the working principle of the equipment, the measuring point of Lagu landslide is set on the opposite bank of the landslide, and the measuring point is about 390 m away from the landslide. Figure 8 shows the radar intensity image of Lagu landslide, and Figure 9 shows displacement variation with time of characteristic points of Lagu landslide.

According to the comparative analysis of the radar image and the optical photo of the slope, the following conclusions can be made. (a) The observation distance is longer than that of the conventional total station. (b) In the radar intensity influence map, the echo characteristics of the highway are stronger and more obvious. (c) The intensity characteristics of the surface exposed and gully areas in the radar image are more obvious. (d) The radar echo is relatively weak at the surface trees and clutter in the monitoring area, and the characteristics are not obvious in the places with dense vegetation such as grass. To sum up, when monitoring the slope, although the measuring point is far away from the slope and affected by the surface vegetation, the radar echo in some areas is weak. The characteristics are not very obvious, but the structures such as highway pavement and cutting in the landslide area and the areas with exposed slope surface have a strong echo, and the characteristics are undeniable, so the overall stability of Lagu landslide can be evaluated according to these typical areas’ effective real-time monitoring. (e) There are obvious bright lines at the zero point of azimuth, which are different from the actual observation scene to a certain extent, and the possible reason is that azimuth signal compression is not done well in the process of data processing. In the analysis, careful screening should be carried out to reduce the impact of this area. Simultaneously, it is necessary to further improve and optimize the monitoring system and enhance the compression effect of the azimuth signal in the process of data processing so that the monitoring results at the azimuth zero point should be consistent with the actual deformation as far as possible.

The cumulative deformation distribution map of Lagu landslide is shown in Figure 10. The analysis shows the following. (a) Limited to the monitoring time, the maximum displacement of the slope mainly occurs in the place with dense vegetation, which indicates that the dense vegetation has a certain impact on the monitoring accuracy. (b) During the monitoring period, the displacement of the main buildings in the monitoring area is minimal, which indicates that the Lagu landslide is basically in a stable state during the monitoring period. (c) Considering that the front of Can-giangqiao landslide was submerged in the later stage of Dahuaqiao hydropower station reservoir impoundment, which may induce the revival of an ancient landslide, the long-term monitoring of the slope by GB-InSAR is necessary and feasible.

5. Application of New GB-InSAR in Deformation Monitoring of Xiaozhaju Landslide

5.1. Geological Survey of Xiaozhaju Landslide. Xiaozhaju landslide deposit is located on the left bank of the Lancang River in the upstream of the dam site, about 7 km away from the dam site (see Figure 6). The elevation of the front edge of the accumulation body is 1420 m to the riverside. The back edge elevation is 1660 m, the height difference is about 240 m, and the width along the river is about 800 m, and the longitudinal length is about 500 m. The slope is about 30° below the elevation of 1530 m, about 20° above the elevation of 1530 m, and 40° to 50° locally. Zhaju village is located at the back edge of the accumulation body, and the volume of the accumulation body is estimated to be about 800 × 10^4 m^3 [28]. Xiaozhaju is mainly located above the left bank of the Dahua bridge, with an average width of 300 m, an average
area of $8.3 \times 10^4 \text{m}^2$, an average perimeter of 1300 m, an average thickness of 12 m, a maximum thickness of 18 m, and a volume of $38.4 \times 10^4 \text{m}^3$. From the aspect of landform, the back edge is in the shape of “armchair,” and there are longitudinal cracks in the middle and lower part of the back edge wall, with the width of about 20 cm. The gradient of the Dahua bridge axis is about 40° below 1450 m, about 25° to 30° above 1450 m, and about 20° above 1530 m. There is a spoil ground under the highway upstream of the bridge axis, which mainly stores the spoil from the river’s original highway tunnel. There are cracks at the top of the spoil and the edge of the upstream side. The terrain on the downstream side of the bridge axis is concave to the mountain, with an elevation of about 1450 m and a shear-out surface with a thickness of about 10–20 cm. The terrain at the lower part is steep. The optical image of Xiaozhaju landslide is shown in Figure 11.

5.2. Monitoring and Analysis of Xiaozhaju Landslide. The measuring point of Xiaozhaju landslide is located at the highway’s side on the opposite bank of the landslide, and the horizontal distance from the landslide is about 280 m. The radar intensity image of Xiaozhaju landslide is shown in Figure 12. It can be found as follows. (a) In the radar image, the echo characteristics of buildings and slopes such as houses, roads, cutting, and embankment are relatively strong, and the radar image characteristics are relatively obvious. (b) In the radar image, the echo characteristics of the slope and steps of the spoil ground are relatively strong, and the characteristics are also relatively obvious. (c) The radar echo characteristics of the exposed surface in the landslide area are relatively strong, and the characteristics are relatively obvious. (d) The echo characteristics of the landslide monitoring area are relatively strong, the radar echo is relatively weak, and the characteristics are not very obvious.
obvious in the areas with dense vegetation such as trees and weeds. To sum up, in the monitoring of Xiaozhaju landslides, the radar image of Xiaozhaju landslide is clearer than that of Lagu landslide because the monitoring distance is lower than that of Lagu landslide, which indicates that the clarity of the radar image is improved with the decrease of distance. In the landslide area, the echo characteristics of the spoil ground, houses, and roads are relatively strong, and the characteristics are undeniable. According to these typical areas, the overall stability of Xiaozhaju landslide can be effectively monitored in real time.

Figure 13 shows displacement variation with time of characteristic points of Xiaozhaju landslide, and Figure 14 shows the cumulative deformation curve of Xiaozhaju landslide. Because during the monitoring period, it is raining, and Xiaozhaju landslide is in the deformation acceleration period. Due to some special reasons, the monitoring time is short, and it can be found in the figure that, during the monitoring period, the maximum displacement of No. 4 and No. 5 measuring points is about 2 mm, the maximum displacement of No. 1 measuring point is 4 mm, and the maximum displacement of No. 2 measuring point is 6 mm. Therefore, the deformation and displacement of the landslide tend to increase. Combined with the engineering geological conditions and the observation of ground fissures, it is considered that the deformation of Xiaozhaju landslide is obvious during the monitoring period, and the online monitoring and early warning and prediction work should be continuously strengthened.

6. Application of New GB-InSAR in Deformation Monitoring of No. 1 Landslide on the Left Bank of Xiaowan Hydropower Station

6.1. Geological Survey of No. 1 Landslide on the Left Bank of Xiaowan Hydropower Station. Xiaowan hydropower station is located in the middle reaches of the Lancang River at the junction of Nanjian County of Dali Prefecture and Fengqing County of Lincang City, Yunnan Province, 455 km away from Kunming (see Figure 5). Xiaowan hydropower station is the second level of “two reservoirs and eight levels” in the hydropower planning of the middle and lower reaches of the Lancang River [29]. The upstream is Gongguqiao hydropower station, and the downstream is Manwan hydropower station. Xiaowan reservoir is the “leading reservoir” of cascade hydropower stations, with a total storage capacity of about 15 billion m$^3$ and a regulation capacity of nearly 10 billion m$^3$, which has a regulation capacity for many years.
Xiaowan hydropower station is a “leading reservoir” in the middle and lower Lancang River reaches, mainly for power generation, and has comprehensive utilization benefits such as flood control, irrigation, sediment retention, and shipping. The dam is a concrete double curvature arch dam with a height of 292 m, a crest elevation of 1245 m, a crest length of 922.74 m, a top width of 13 m, and a bottom width of 69.49 m. After the dam’s completion, a reservoir of 15.132 billion m³ will be formed, and the installed capacity of the hydropower station will be 4.2 million kW. The normal water level of the reservoir is 1240 m. Figure 15 shows the optical image of No. 1 landslide on the left bank of Xiaowan hydropower station.

6.2. Monitoring and Analysis of No. 1 Landslide on the Left Bank. The radar intensity influence diagram of No. 1 landslide on Xiaowan hydropower station’s left bank is shown in Figure 16. It can be seen from the diagram that the No. 1 landslide measuring point on the left bank is located on the side of the highway on the opposite bank of the landslide, and the horizontal distance from the landslide is about 1090 m. It can be found as follows. (a) In the radar image, the echo characteristics of roads, cutting, and embankment slopes are relatively strong, and the radar image characteristics are relatively obvious. (b) The echo characteristics of the left abutment slope are relatively strong, and the characteristics are also relatively obvious. (c) The radar echo characteristics of the front edge of the landslide area are relatively strong, and the characteristics are relatively
obvious. (d) The radar echo ratio of the areas with dense vegetation such as trees and weeds on the surface of the landslide monitoring area is relatively high. (e) There are obvious bright lines at the zero point of azimuth, which are different from the actual observation scene, and should be carefully screened in the analysis.

Figure 17 shows displacement variation with time of characteristic points of No. 1 landslide on the left bank, and Figure 18 shows the cumulative deformation curve of the landslide. It can be found in the figure that, during the monitoring period, the slope displacement of Xiaozhaju landslide is small, and the maximum displacement of the selected 7 measuring points is about 2 mm. Therefore, No. 1 landslide on the left bank is basically in a stable state. Considering that, in the later stage of Xiaowan hydropower station, the water level at the front edge of the landslide rises and repeatedly falls, which may lead to the revival of the landslide, and the landslide is close to the dam site, which has
a great impact on the safety of the dam structure, and it is essential to use GB-InSAR for long-term monitoring of the landslide, especially in the process of water storage and flood discharge.

7. Conclusions

In this study, the Chinese new ground-based synthetic aperture radar system LKR-05-KU-S100 was used to conduct field monitoring tests on Lagu landslide and Xiaozhaju landslide of Dahuaqiao hydropower station in Yunnan Province, and No. 1 landslide on the left bank of Xiaowan hydropower station.

(1) Monitoring the surface vegetation in the landslide area greatly impacts the monitoring accuracy. When the vegetation is dense, the monitoring accuracy will decrease. Therefore, the data of the landslide surface vegetation area need to be carefully screened and handled.

(2) For the bare surface of houses, buildings, highways, and spoil ground in the landslide area, the echo characteristics are strong, the measurement accuracy is high, and the error is small. Therefore, in the large-scale monitoring of landslide, the areas with strong echo characteristics can be selected as the typical feature points as the basis for the overall deformation and stability analysis of the landslide.

(3) This test shows that the new LKR-05-KU-S100 ground-based synthetic aperture radar system has the advantages of high precision, long-distance, all-day and all-weather monitoring, large measurement range, etc., and has unique advantages and good application prospects for the monitoring of large and extralarge landslides and other geological disasters. Reducing the influence of azimuth zero points and improving the measurement accuracy under the influence of surface vegetation still need further research and development.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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