


**Water Resources Modelling: Part2 - Reservoir operation**  
*Evaluation of water availability and reservoir design*

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 Instituto Superior Técnico – Universidade de Lisboa


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**Strengthening of master curricula in water resources management for the Western Balkans HEIs and stakeholders**  
Project number: 597889-EPP-1-2018-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

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## Flow duration curves and empirical distribution curves

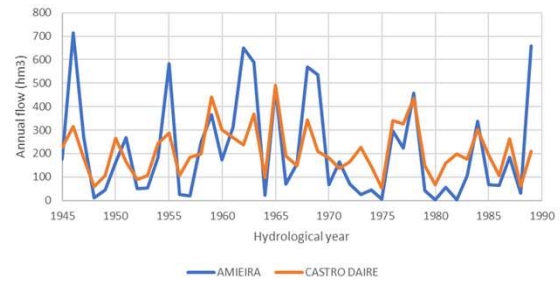
SWARM: IST - ULIsoa, February 2022 @Rodrigo Proença de Oliveira, 2022 2/9/2022 2

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## Four streamflow records



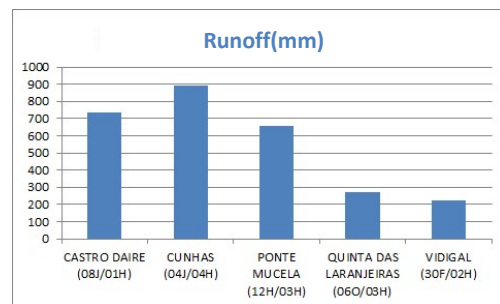
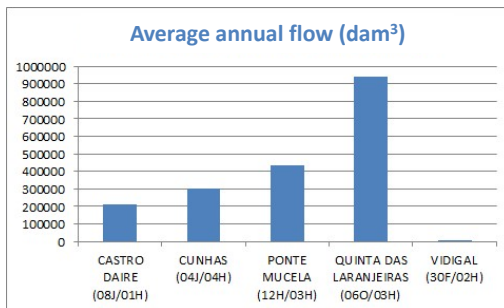
Hydrometric station	Watershed area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Average anual flow (dam <sup>3</sup> )	Runnof (mm)
CASTRO DAIRE (08J/01H)	288.17	211160	737
CUNHAS (04J/04H)	337.28	300041	890
PONTE MUCELA (12H/03H)	662.7	434818	656
QUINTA DAS LARANJEIRAS (06O/03H)	3487.49	939544	269
VIDIGAL (30F/02H)	18.57	4175	224



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## Stream flow characterization: Magnitude

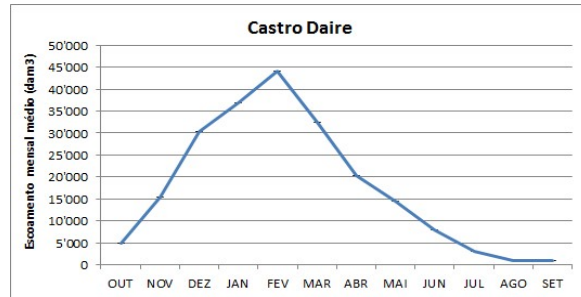
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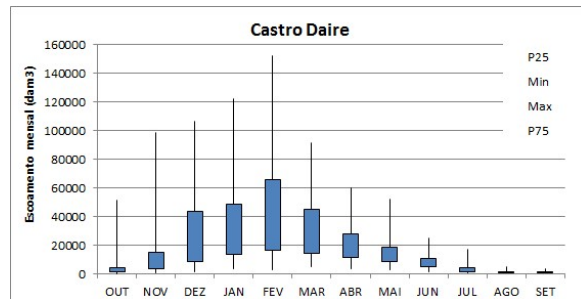
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## Stream flow characterization: Seasonality and flow variation

The graph of the average monthly flow shows us the magnitude of monthly flow and its seasonality



Box-Whiskers of monthly flow shows us the flow variability around the average of mean or median.



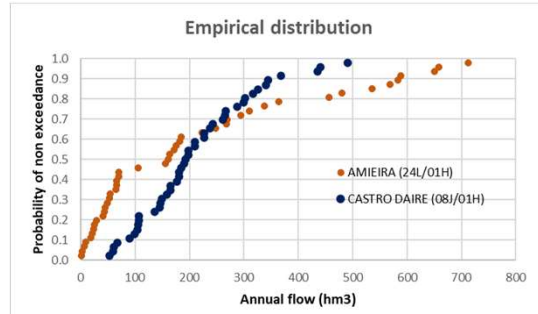
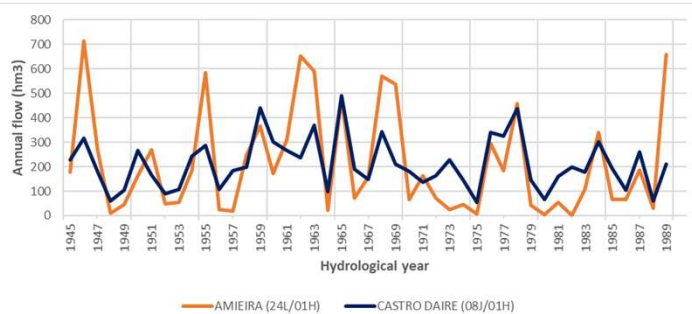
Both these graphs do not provide any information on intra-monthly variability.

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## Stream flow characterization: Annual flow variability

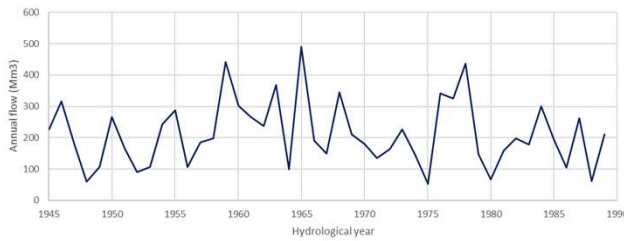
- A time-series graph of annual flow says nothing on seasonality or intra annual variability
- The plot of the empirical distribution of annual flow is a simple way to represented interannual variability

	Castro Daire	Amieira
River	Paiva	Degebe
River basin	Douro	Guadiana
Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	288	1477
Avg. annual flow (hm <sup>3</sup> )	212	213
Avg. annual runoff (mm)	736	144
Std.Dev. annual flow (hm <sup>3</sup> )	110	204



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Assume that the domestic uses of 100'000 persons are to be satisfied from a given water course with the following flow record of annual values. Is it possible ?



Assuming a net unit consumption of 150 l/hab/day and an efficiency of 80%, the gross water requirements are:

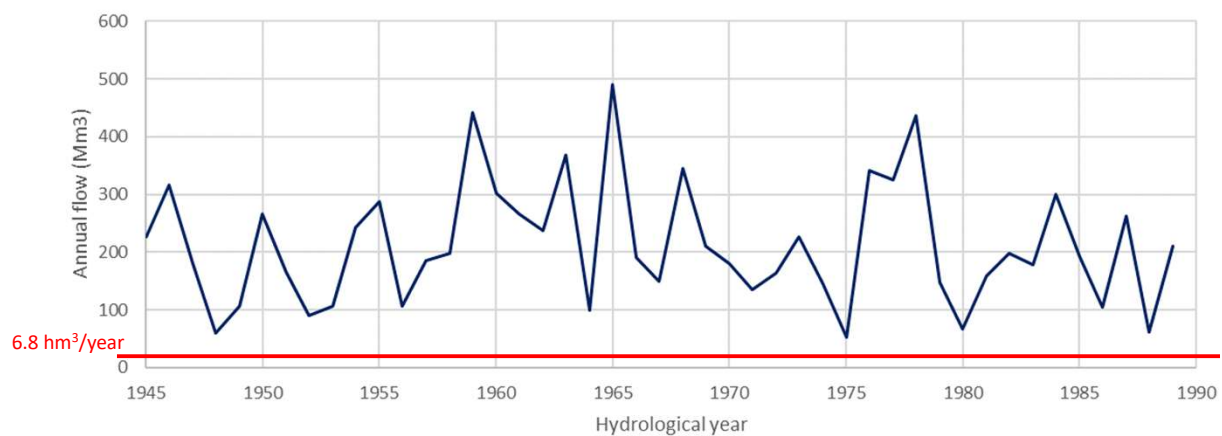
$$\text{Gross unit consumption} = 150 / 0,8 = 187,5 \text{ l/hab/day}$$

$$\text{Daily water needs} = 187,5 \times 100000 = 18,5 \text{ dam}^3$$

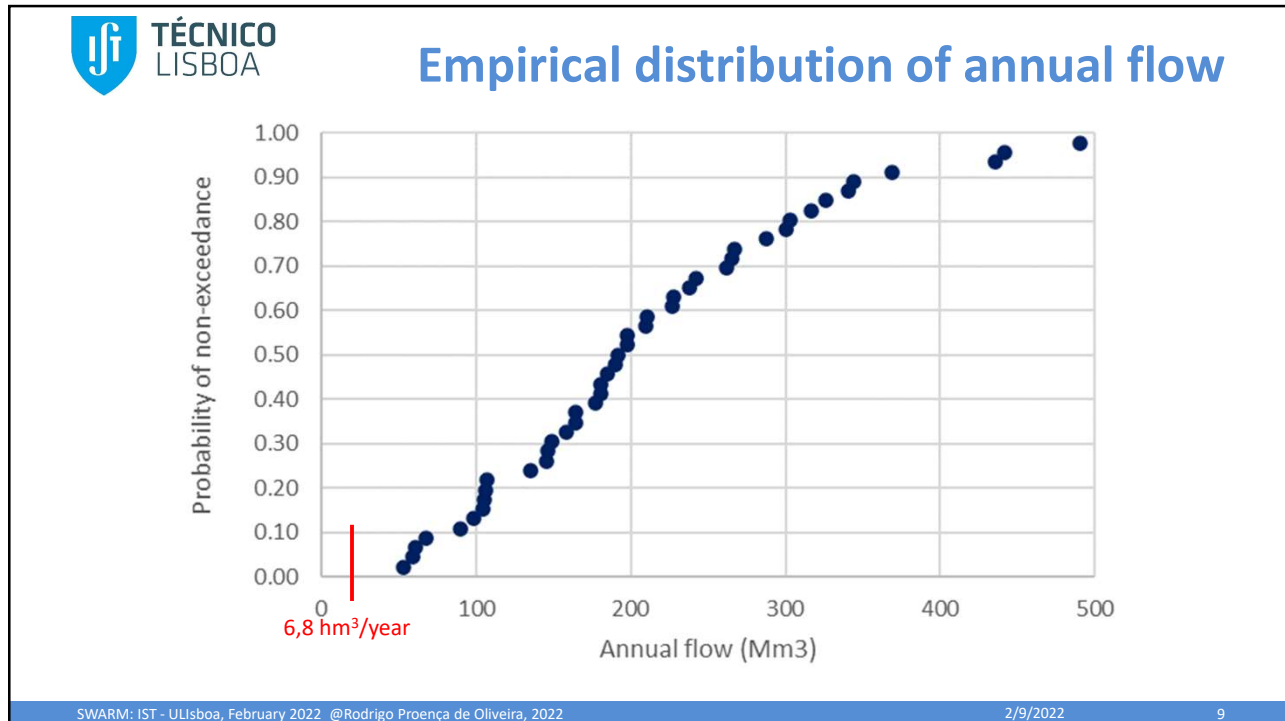
$$\text{Monthly water needs} = 18,5 \times 30 = 562,5 \text{ dam}^3$$

$$\text{Annual water needs} = 18,5 \times 365 = 6843,8 \text{ dam}^3$$

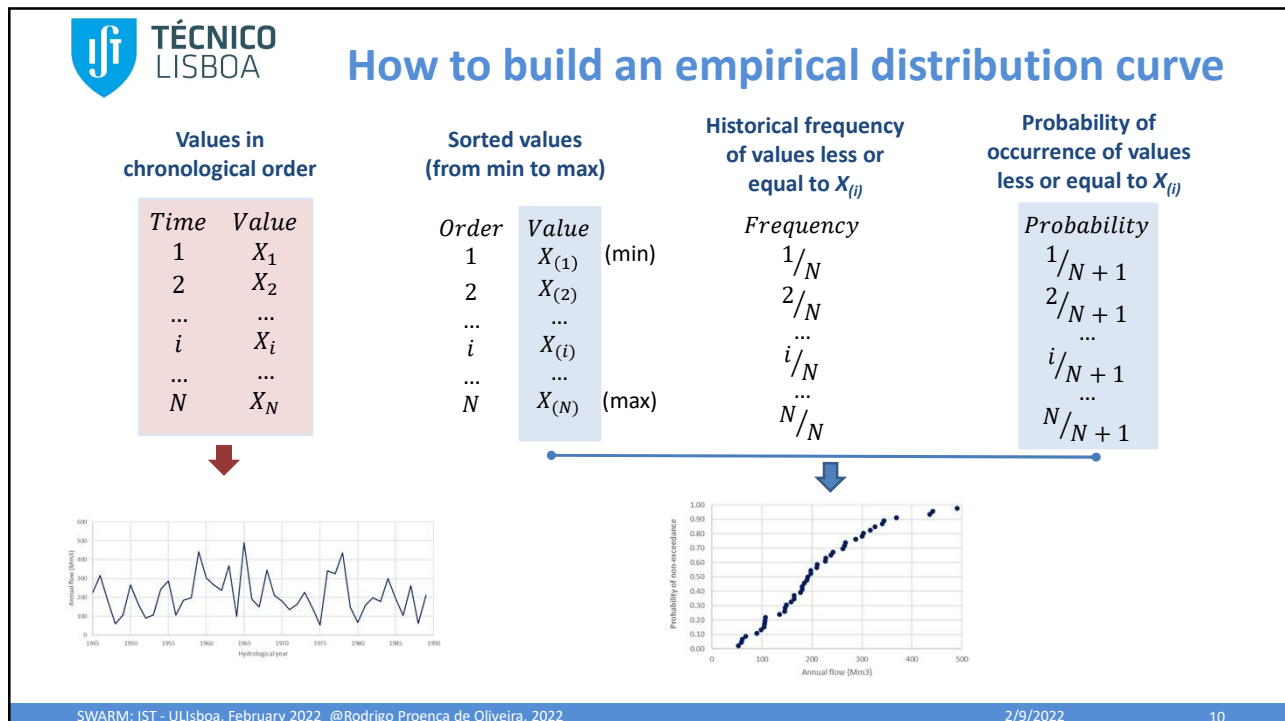
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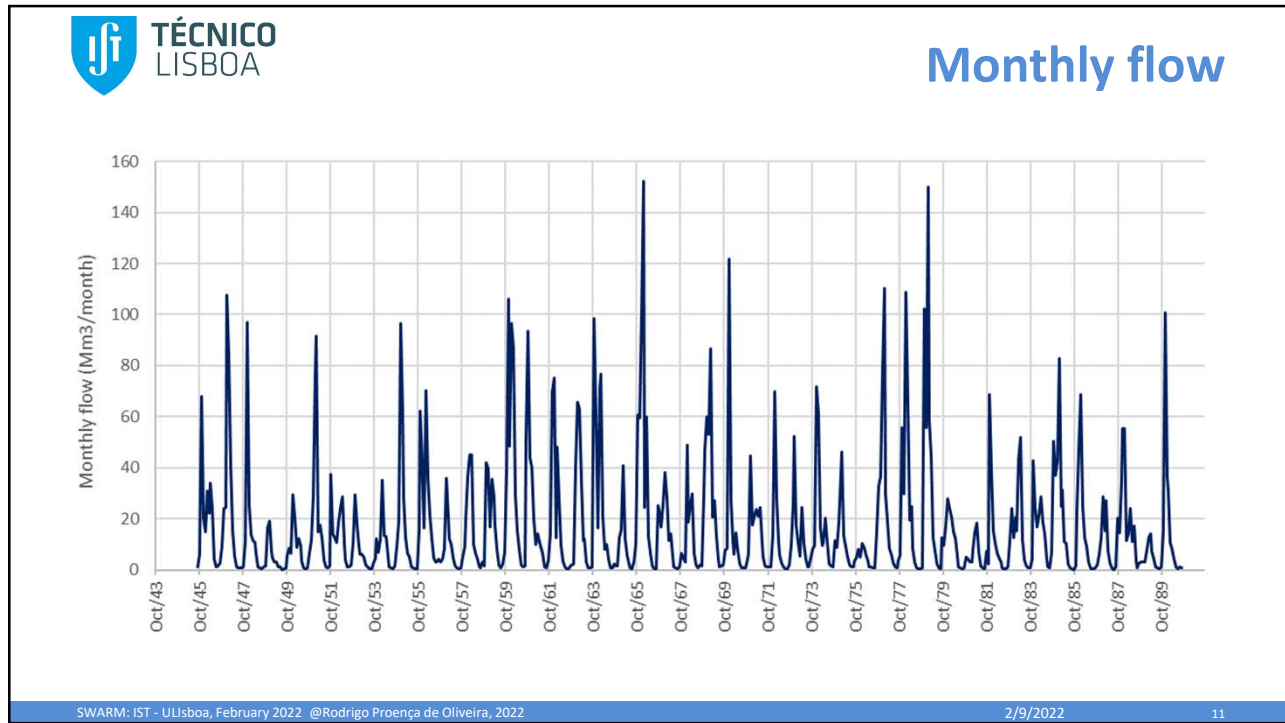
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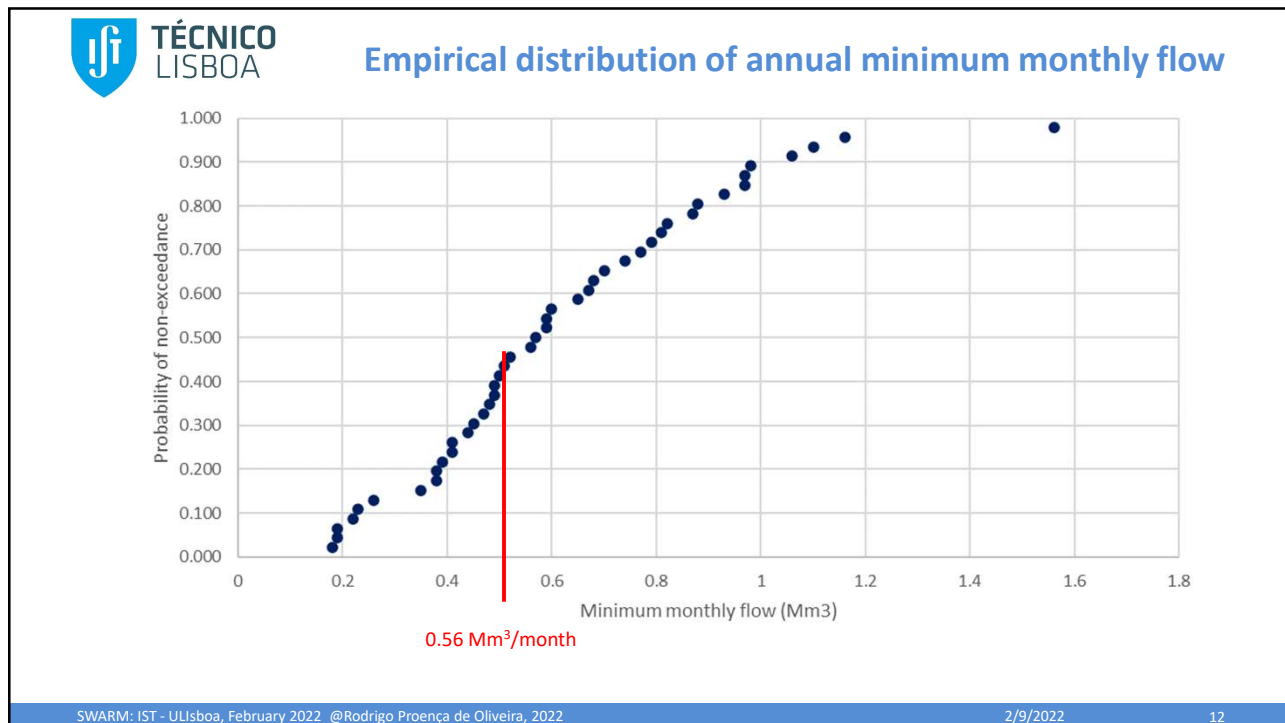
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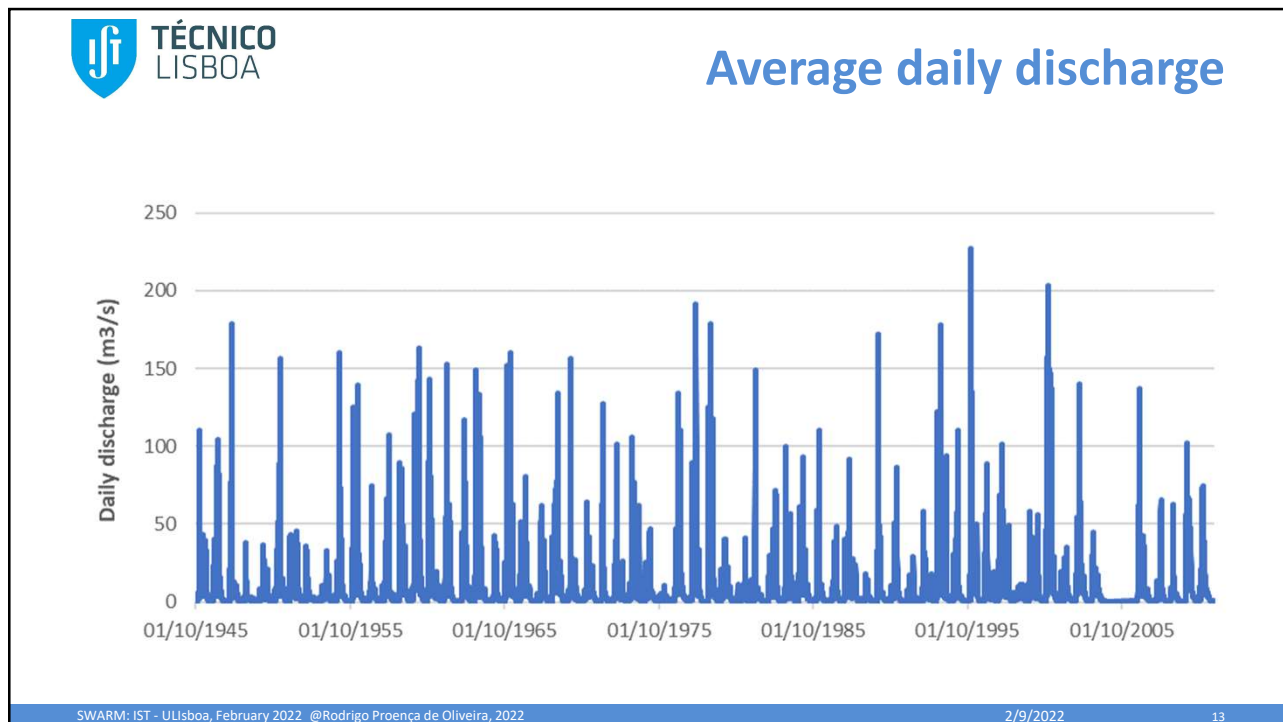
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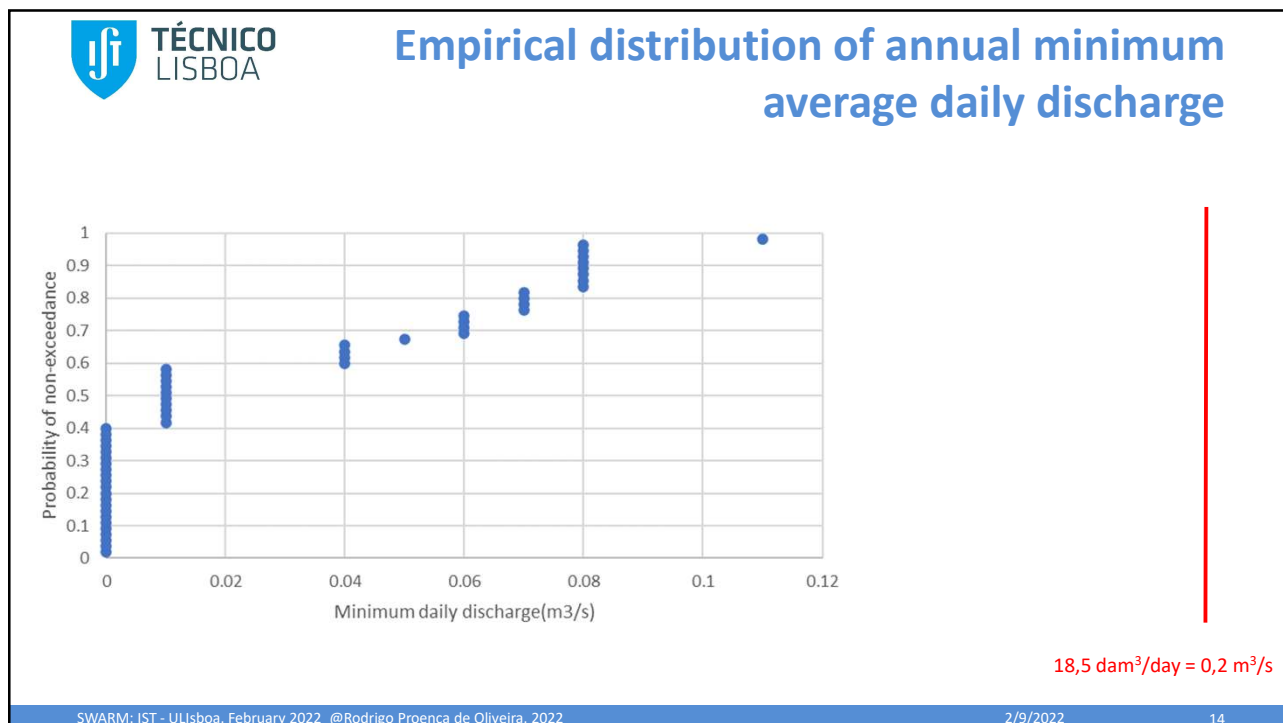
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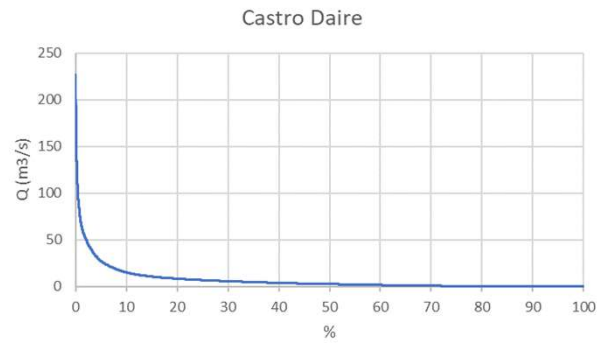
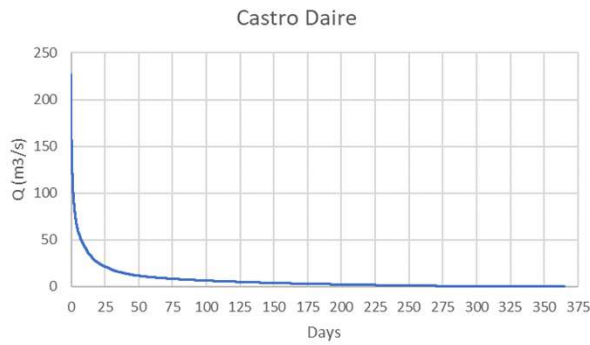


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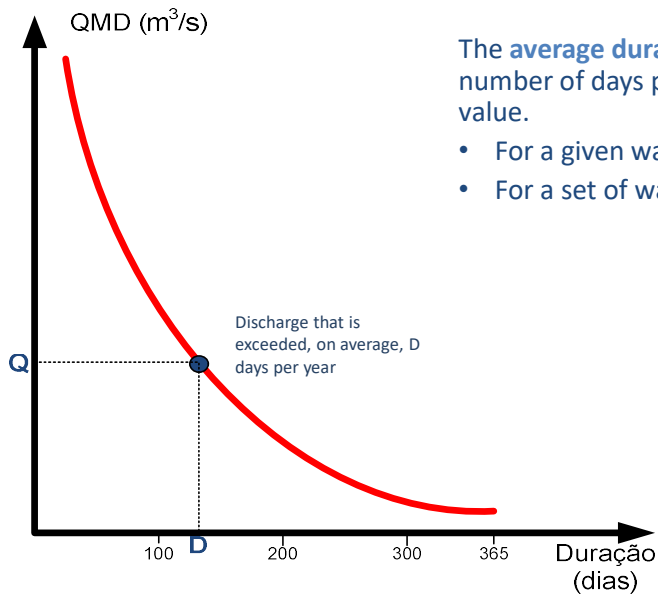
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## Flow average duration curves



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## Flow average duration curve

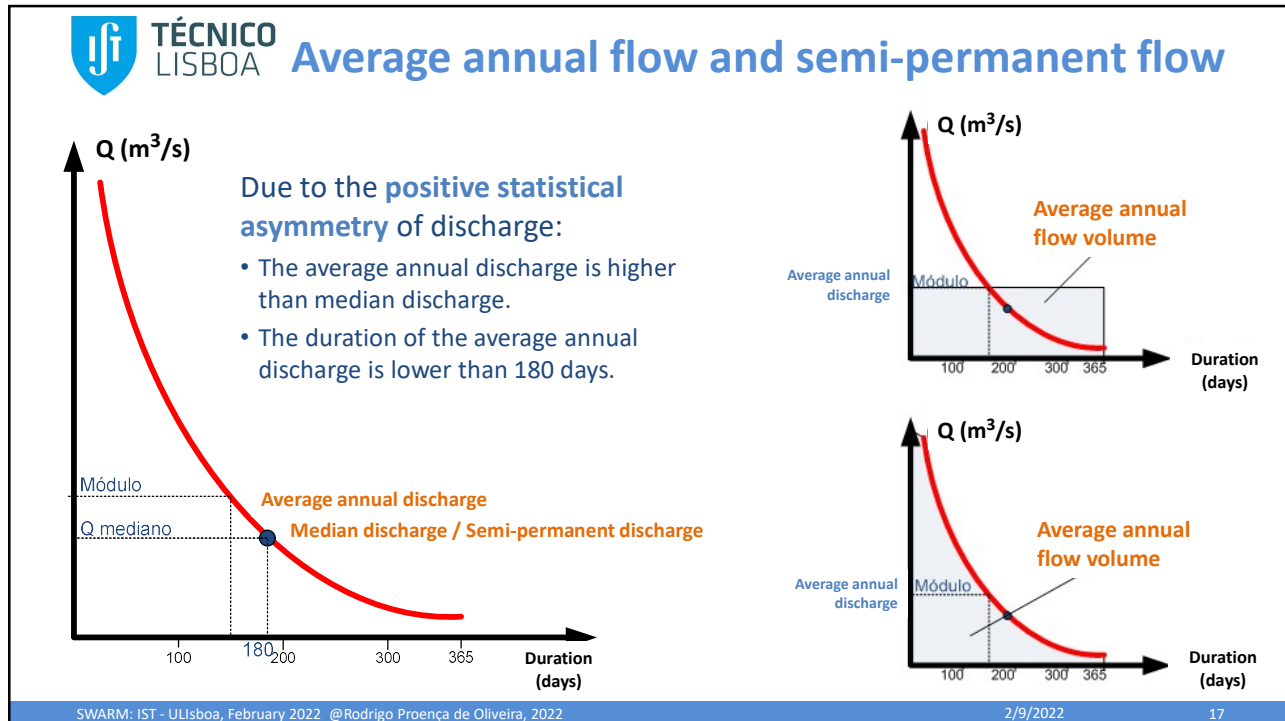


The **average duration of a discharge value** is the average number of days per year that the discharge exceeds that value.

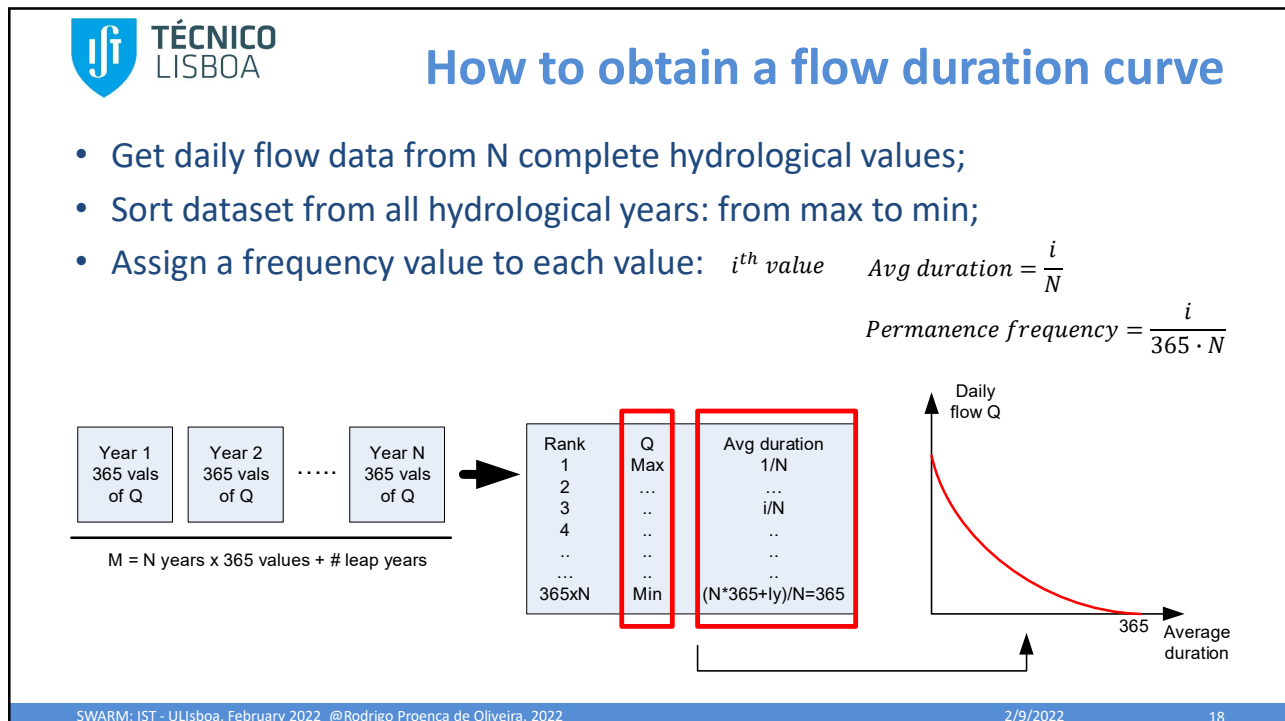
- For a given water year: flow duration curve
- For a set of water years: flow average duration curve

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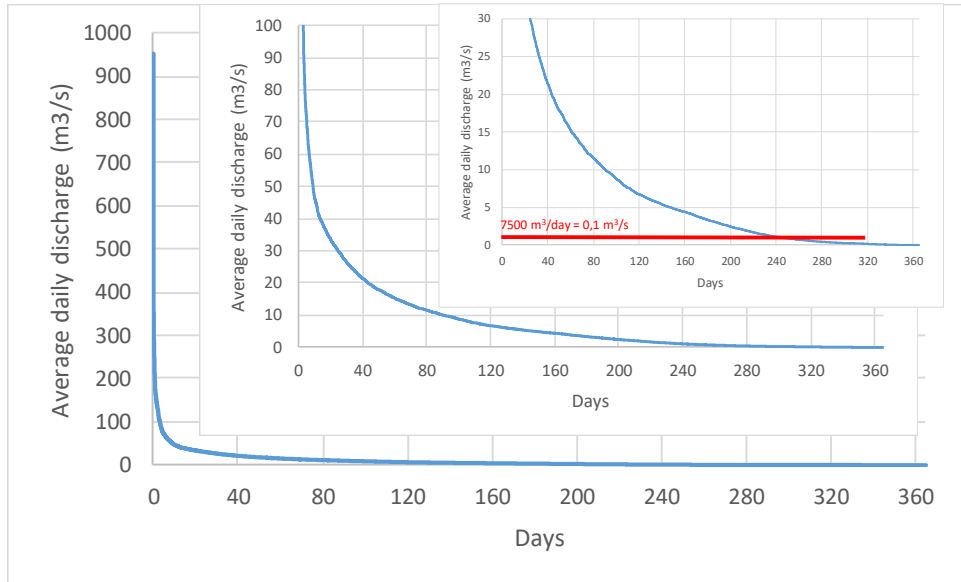


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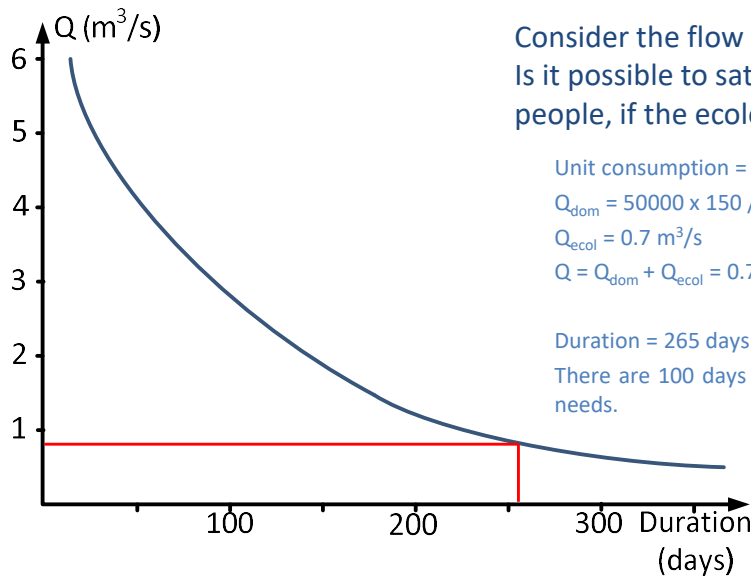
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### Previous problem: Flow duration curve



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### Application of flow duration curves: Water supply



Consider the flow average duration curve on the left. Is it possible to satisfy the domestic needs of 50,000 people, if the ecological requirements are 0.7 m<sup>3</sup>/s?

Unit consumption = 150 l/hab/day

$$Q_{\text{dom}} = 50000 \times 150 / 3600 / 24 = 90 \text{ l/s}$$

$$Q_{\text{ecol}} = 0.7 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$$

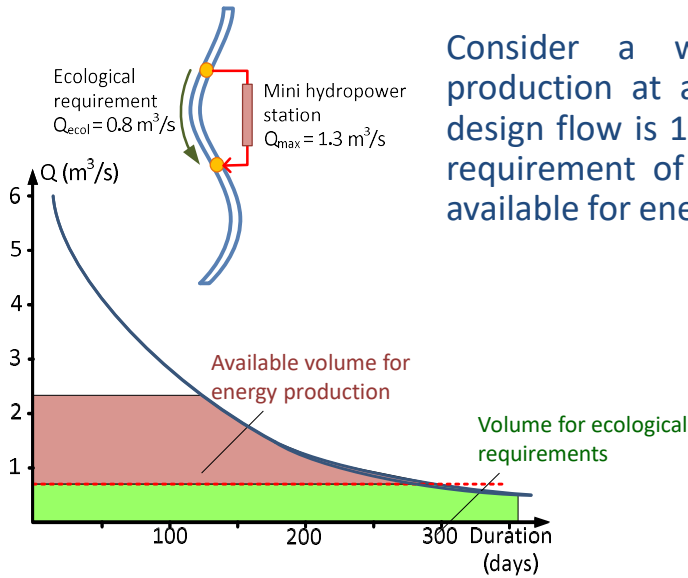
$$Q = Q_{\text{dom}} + Q_{\text{ecol}} = 0.79 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$$

Duration = 265 days

There are 100 days when it is not possible to satisfy the water needs.

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## Application of flow duration curves Energy production



Consider a water derivation for energy production at a mini power plant where the design flow is 1.3 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Assuming an ecological requirement of 0.8 m<sup>3</sup>/s, what is the volume available for energy production ?

Q (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Duration (days)	Qturb (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Vol (dam <sup>3</sup> )
2.1	0.0	1.3	
2.1	125.0	1.3	14040.0
2.0	140.0	1.2	1620.0
1.5	170.0	0.7	2462.4
1.0	240.0	0.2	2721.6
0.8	280.0	0.0	345.6
<b>Vtotal</b>			<b>21189.6 dam<sup>3</sup></b>

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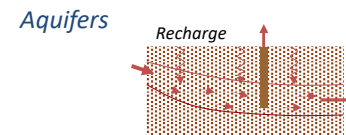
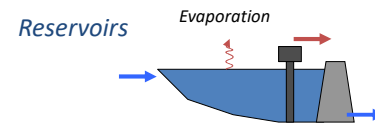
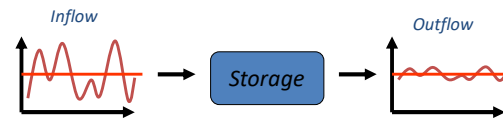
## Integrated River Basin Management

### Reservoir Sizing and Operation

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## Water storage needs

- Reservoirs and aquifers offer the ability to temporarily store water and to phase water availability with water demand.
- The capacity to attenuate inflow variability and to satisfy large water demands increases with the reservoir capacity.
- Key question: **What is the adequate reservoir capacity to ensure the supply of various uses with a given reliability ?**
- Consequences of *oversizing*:
  - Higher investment;
  - Higher operating costs;
  - Larger environment impacts;
- Consequences of *under sizing*:
  - Inadequate water supply reliability;



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## Storage coefficient

$$\text{Storage coef.} = \frac{\text{Net storage capacity}}{\text{Avg annual inflow}}$$

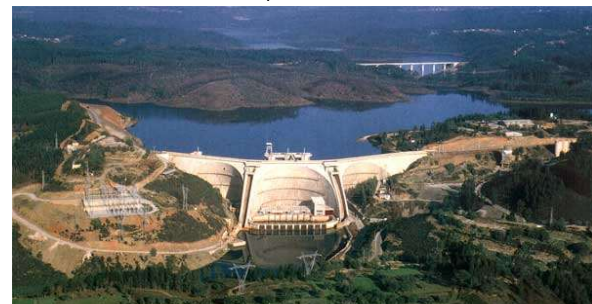
Storage coef.  $\ll 1$  Run-of-river reservoirs

$1 \ll \text{Storage coef.} < 1$  - Storage reservoirs with intrannual flow regulation

Storage coef.  $> 1$  Storage reservoirs with interannual flow regulation

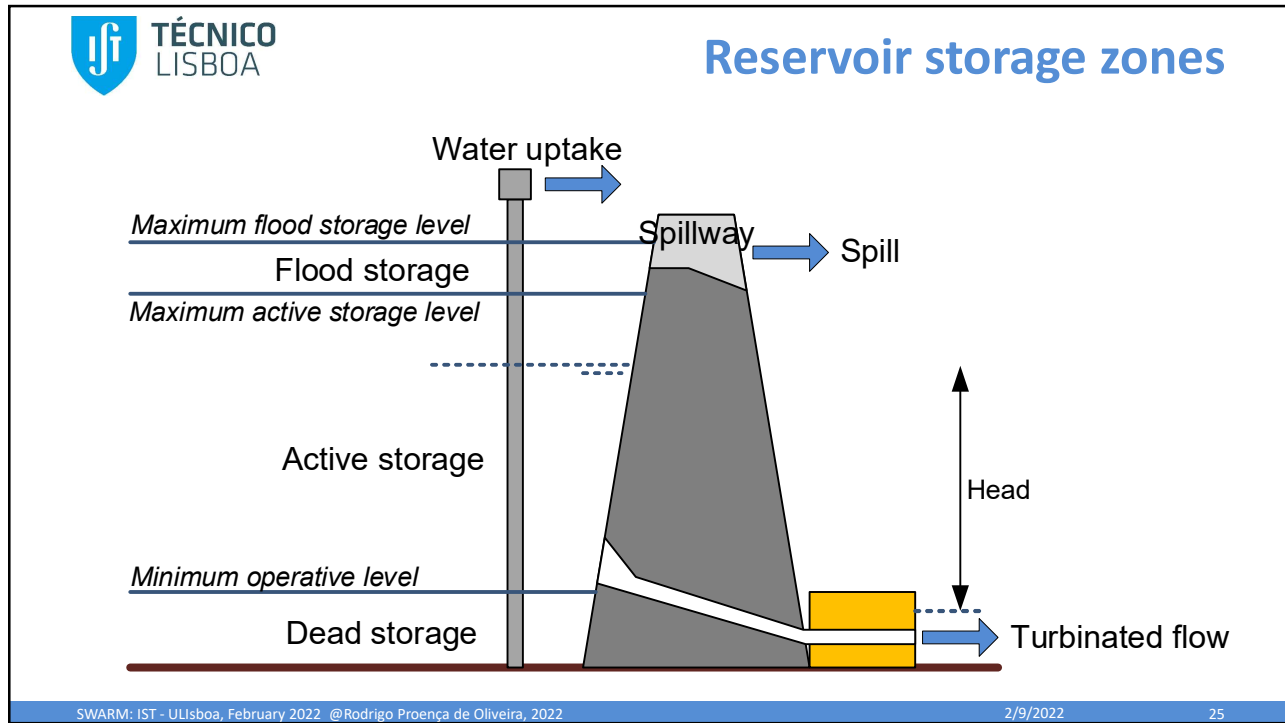


Example of run-of-river dam: Crestuma dam

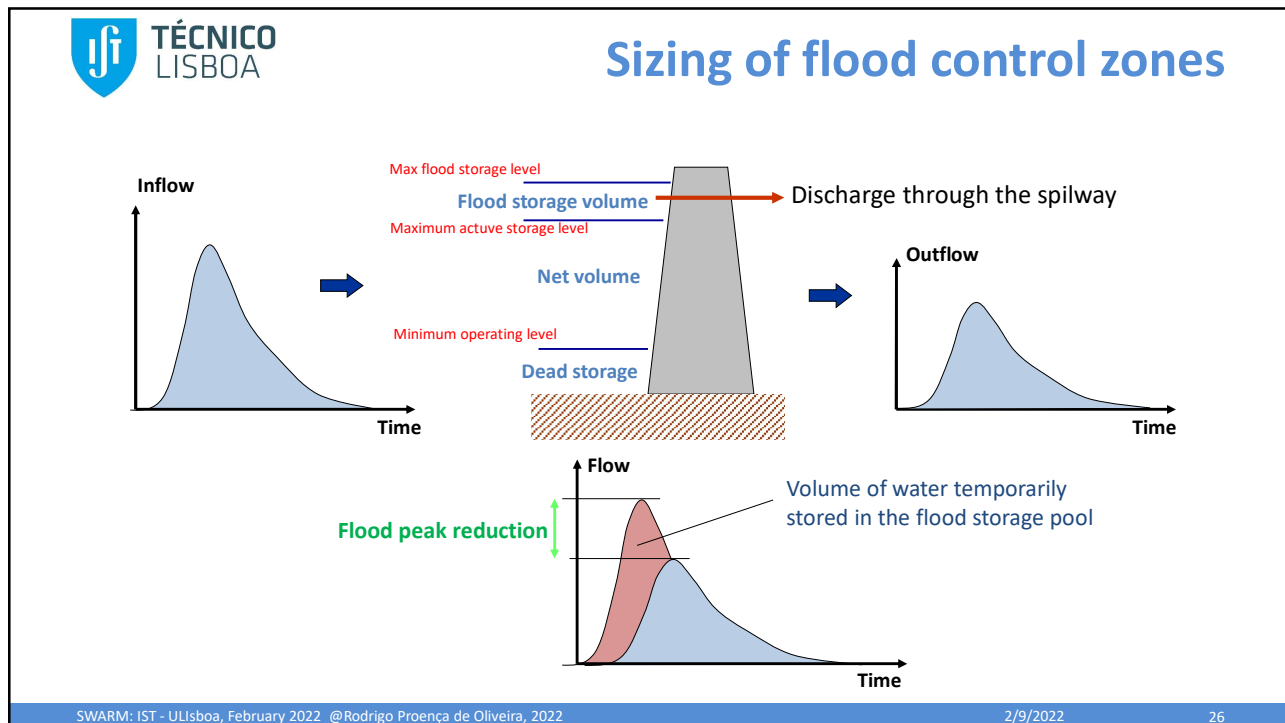


Example of a reservoir dam: Aguieira dam

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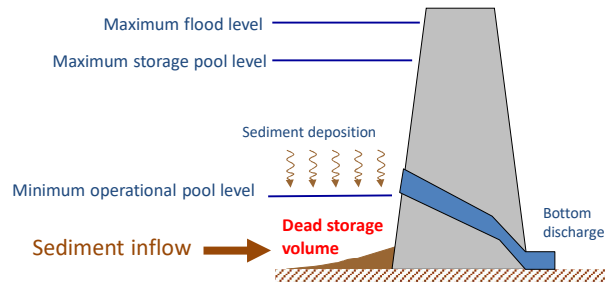


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## Sizing of the dead storage zone

- **Dead storage pool:** Volume below the lowest uptake level, which is usually not used for water demand satisfaction:
  - Sediment accumulates in this pool during the reservoir lifetime.
  - Water is usually of very quality, with low oxygen levels.
- The dead storage volume depends on:
  - Orography of the reservoir location;
  - Design of the dam and its abstraction infrastructures.
  - Reservoir sediment inflow.
  - Infrastructure lifetime.

Discharge at Xiaolangdi dam (Yellow river, China), in July 2012

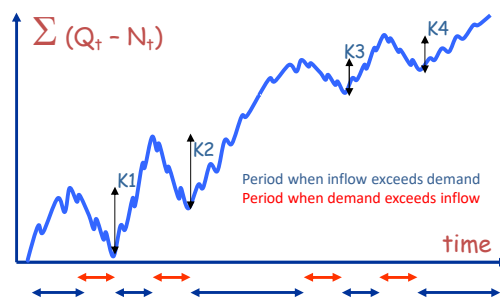


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## Sizing of the active storage pool Sequent Peak Algorithm

Month	Flow, Q	Sum (Q - N)
Oct 1917	Q <sub>1</sub>	Q <sub>1</sub> - N
Nov 1917	Q <sub>2</sub>	Q <sub>1</sub> + Q <sub>2</sub> - 2 N
Dec 1917	Q <sub>3</sub>	Q <sub>1</sub> + Q <sub>2</sub> + Q <sub>3</sub> - 3 N
Jan 1918	Q <sub>4</sub>	Q <sub>1</sub> + Q <sub>2</sub> + Q <sub>3</sub> + Q <sub>4</sub> - 4 N
...	...	...
Aug 1990	Q <sub>m-1</sub>	Q <sub>1</sub> + ... + Q <sub>m-1</sub> - (m-1) N
Sep 1990	Q <sub>m</sub>	Q <sub>1</sub> + ... + Q <sub>m</sub> - m N
Oct 1917	Q <sub>1</sub>	...
Nov 1917	Q <sub>2</sub>	...
Dec 1917	Q <sub>3</sub>	...
Jan 1918	Q <sub>4</sub>	...
...	...	...
Aug 1990	Q <sub>m-1</sub>	...
Sep 1990	Q <sub>m</sub>	...

- Assume a water demand N is to be satisfied from a river with flows Q<sub>1</sub>, Q<sub>2</sub>, .. Q<sub>m</sub>. How large should the reservoir be, if evaporation is not considered and the demand is to be satisfied with a 100% reliability (at all time steps)?
- Let K net storage capacity of the reservoir:



$$K = \text{Max} (K_1, K_2, \dots, K_n)$$

$$K = \max_k \left\{ \max_k \left\{ \sum_{t=1}^k (Q_t - N_t) \right\} - \sum_{t=1}^k (Q_t - N_t) \right\}$$

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## Sequent peak method

- The Sequent Peak Algorithm is an evolution of the mass curve method proposed by Rippl in 1883, originally thought to be solved by hand as a graphical method (Rippl diagram).
- It can be easily applied in Excel, as explained on the right.  $R_t$  is the required release to meet demand  $N$ .

### Sequent Peak Method

Let  $K_t$  be the storage required in a time step  $t$ .

$$K_t = R_t - Q_t + K_{t-1} \text{ if positive} \\ = 0 \text{ otherwise}$$

The maximum of all  $K_t$  is the required storage capacity for specified releases and flows.

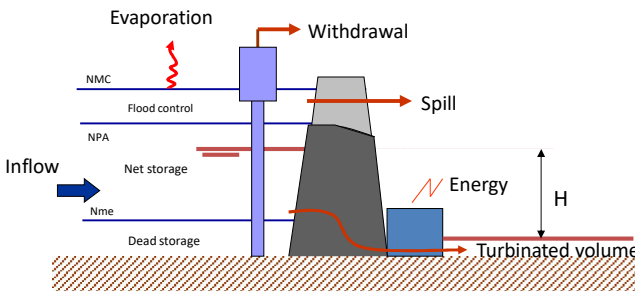
time t	$(R_t - Q_t + K_{t-1})^+ = K_t$
1	3.5 - 1.0 + 0.0 = 2.5
2	3.5 - 3.0 + 2.5 = 3.0
3	3.5 - 3.0 + 3.0 = 3.5
4	3.5 - 5.0 + 3.5 = 2.0
5	3.5 - 8.0 + 2.0 = 0.0
6	3.5 - 6.0 + 0.0 = 0.0
7	3.5 - 7.0 + 0.0 = 0.0
8	3.5 - 2.0 + 0.0 = 1.5
9	3.5 - 1.0 + 1.5 = 4.0
1	3.5 - 1.0 + 4.0 = 6.5
2	3.5 - 3.0 + 6.5 = 7.0
3	3.5 - 3.0 + 7.0 = 7.5
4	3.5 - 5.0 + 7.5 = 6.0
5	3.5 - 8.0 + 6.0 = 1.5
6	3.5 - 6.0 + 1.5 = 0.0
7	3.5 - 7.0 + 0.0 = 0.0

repetition begins

From Loucks and van Beek, 2017

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## Sizing of active pool: mathematical modelling



- $V_{t+1}$  – Storage at beginning of month  $t+1$
- $V_t$  – Storage at beginning of month  $t$
- $K$  – reservoir net capacity
- $E_t$  – Evaporation (volume) during month  $t$
- $e_t$  – Evaporation (mm) during month  $t$
- $Q_t$  – Inflow during month  $t$
- $R_{1t}$  – Volume supplied to use 1 during month  $t$
- $R_{2t}$  – Volume supplied to use e during month  $t$
- $S_t$  – Spilled volume (through the spillway) during month  $t$

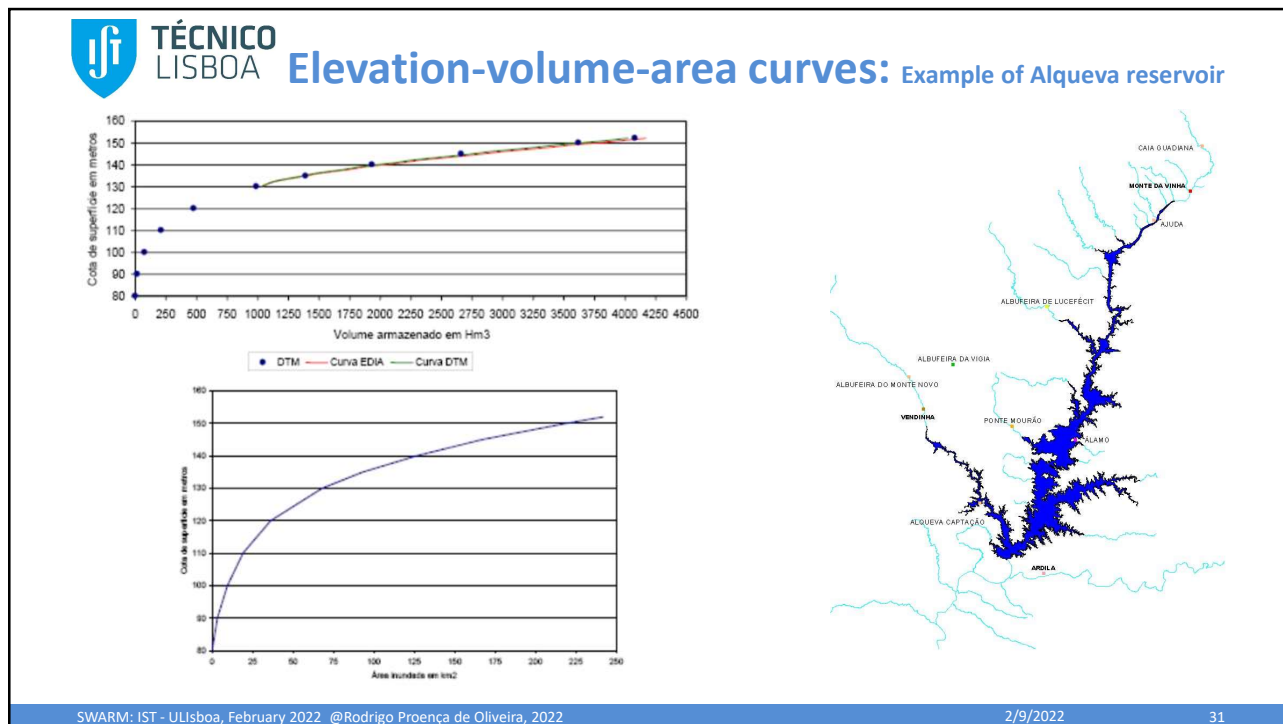
Mass balance equation:

$$V_{t+1} = V_t + Q_t - E_t - R_{1t} - R_{2t} - S_t$$

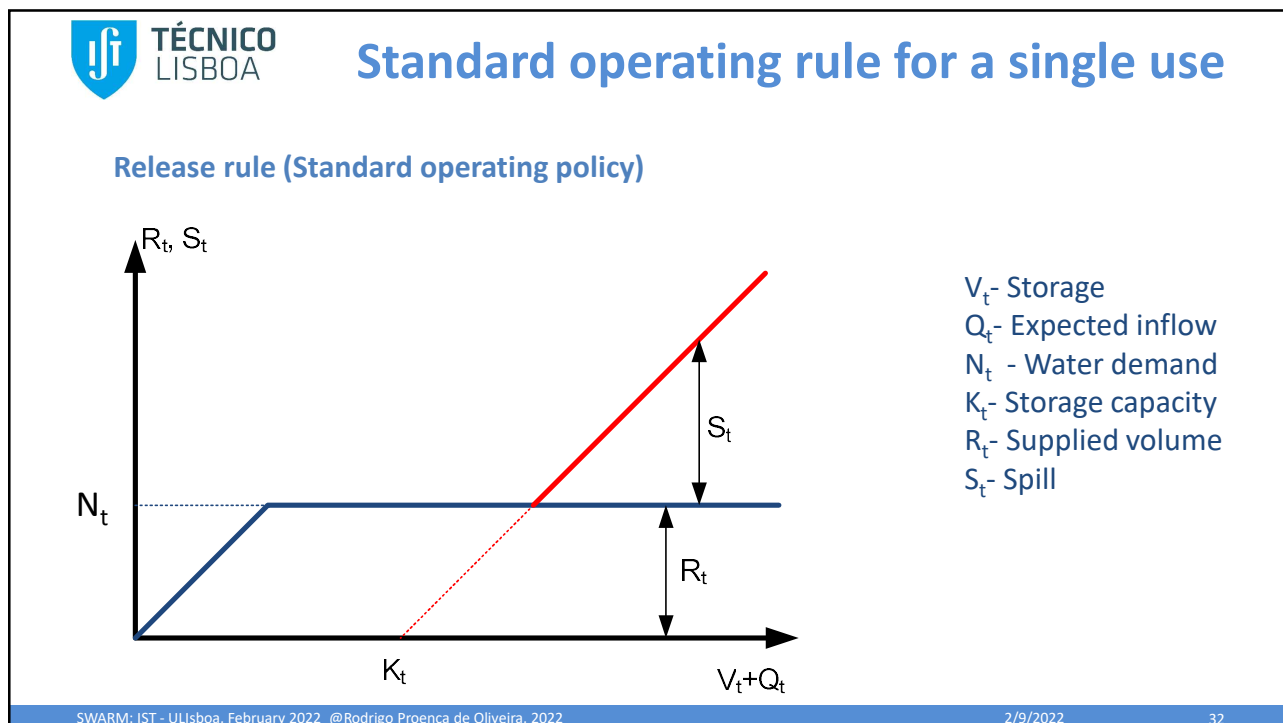
Evaporation:  $E_t (\text{dam}^3) = A_t (\text{km}^2) * e_t (\text{mm})$

Spill: If  $V_t + Q_t - E_t - R_{1t} - R_{2t} > K$  there is spill:  $S_t = V_t + Q_t - E_t - R_{1t} - R_{2t} - K$

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# Simulation in MS Excel

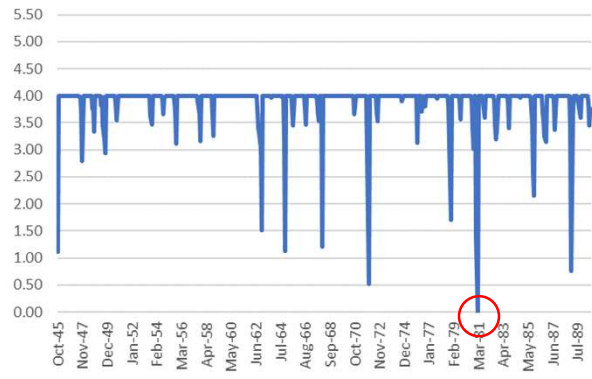
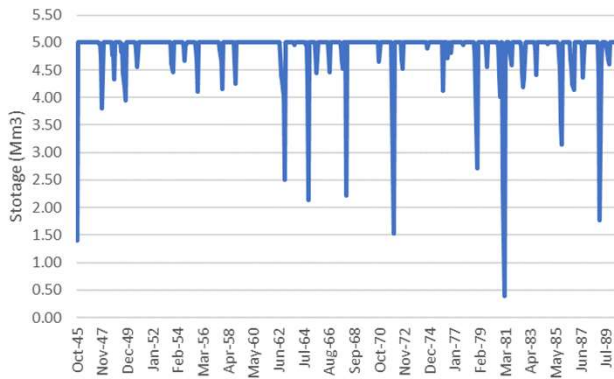
Station name	CASTRO DAIRE	Demand	4.7 Mm3/year									
Station code	(08)/0111	Res. Cap.	29 Mm3									
River	Palva (Douro)	Amx	0.6 km2									
4. Avg monthly flow (dem3)	19											
5. Avg annual flow (dem3)	228	Years	45									
			Total 9 5									
			Reliab 0.89									
Month	Monthly flow (Mm3)	Initial Storage (Mm3)	A (km2)	Net e(mm)	E (Mm3)	Ecol.Flow (Mm3)	Avail.Vol (Mm3)	Release (Mm3)	Final Storage (Mm3)	Spill (Mm3)	Monthly failure	Annual failure
Oct-45	0.97	8.7	0.12	180	0.02	0.481	9.1673	4.7	4.47	0.0	0	
Nov-45	5.98	4.47	0.06	100	0.01	1.537	8.9046	4.7	4.20	0.0	0	
Dec-45	67.82	4.20	0.06	70	0.00	3.038	68.9826	4.7	29.00	35.3	0	
Jan-46	20.05	29.00	0.40	60	0.02	5.281	43.7455	4.7	29.00	10.0	0	
Feb-46	14.84	29.00	0.40	40	0.02	4.411	39.4134	4.7	29.00	5.7	0	
Mar-46	30.93	29.00	0.40	30	0.01	3.340	56.6779	4.7	29.00	23.0	0	
Apr-46	22.06	29.00	0.40	60	0.02	2.023	49.0128	4.7	29.00	15.3	0	
May-46	33.89	29.00	0.40	90	0.04	1.453	61.4013	4.7	29.00	27.7	0	
Jun-46	23.97	29.00	0.40	120	0.05	0.790	52.1320	4.7	29.00	18.4	0	
Jul-46	4.14	29.00	0.40	140	0.06	0.300	32.7842	4.7	28.08	0.0	0	
Aug-46	1.25	28.08	0.39	160	0.06	0.100	29.1526	4.7	24.45	0.0	0	
Sep-46	1.44	24.45	0.34	170	0.06	0.092	23.7433	4.7	21.04	0.0	0	0
Oct-46	2.63	21.04	0.39	180	0.05	0.481	23.1399	4.7	18.44	0.0	0	
Nov-46	9.28	18.44	0.25	100	0.03	1.537	26.1580	4.7	21.46	0.0	0	
Dec-46	24.11	21.46	0.30	70	0.02	3.038	42.5093	4.7	29.00	8.8	0	
Jan-47	24.58	29.00	0.40	60	0.02	5.281	48.2755	4.7	29.00	14.6	0	
Feb-47	107.51	29.00	0.40	40	0.02	4.411	132.0834	4.7	29.00	98.4	0	
Mar-47	63.99	29.00	0.40	30	0.01	3.340	109.7379	4.7	29.00	76.0	0	
Apr-47	41.02	29.00	0.40	60	0.02	2.023	67.9728	4.7	29.00	34.3	0	
May-47	15.08	29.00	0.40	90	0.04	1.453	42.5913	4.7	29.00	8.9	0	
Jun-47	5.42	29.00	0.40	120	0.05	0.790	33.5820	4.7	28.88	0.0	0	

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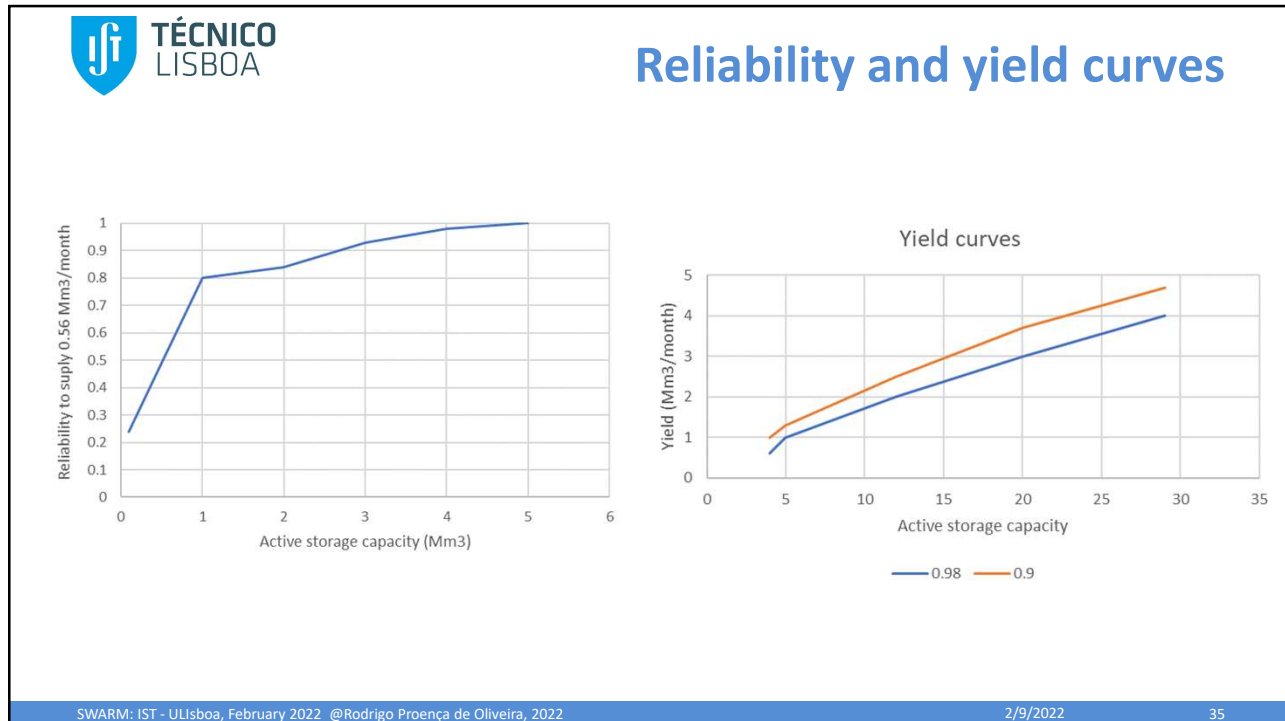
# Results

$K = 5 \text{ Mm}^3$   
 $N = 0.56 \text{ Mm}^3/\text{month}$

$K = 4 \text{ Mm}^3$   
 $N = 0.56 \text{ Mm}^3/\text{month}$



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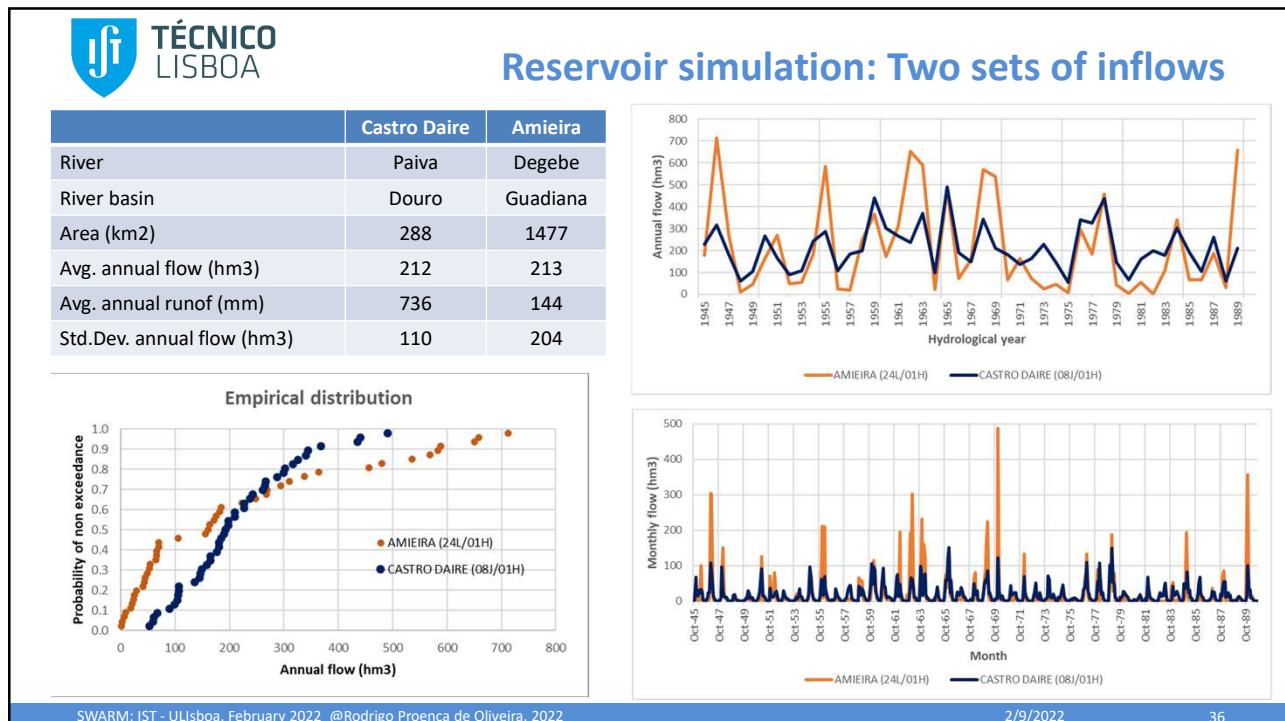


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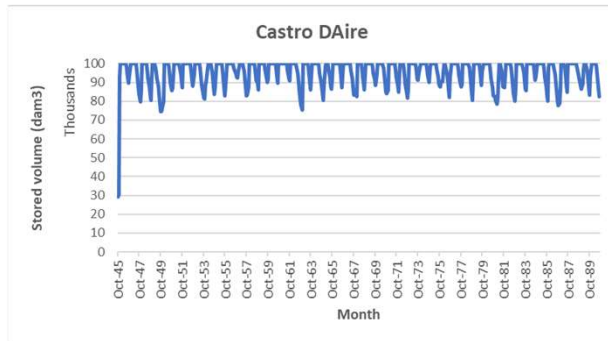
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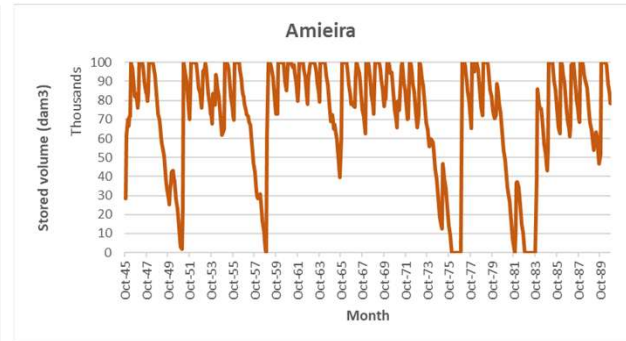
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## Reservoir simulation: Reservoir storage and water supply reliability

Reservoir storage capacity = 100 hm<sup>3</sup> (100 Mm<sup>3</sup>)  
 Water needs = 5 hm<sup>3</sup> /month (~30% of average monthly flow)  
 Nº of years in the simulation = 45



**0 monthly failures**  
**0 annual failures**  
**Reliability = 100%**



**24 monthly failures**  
**6 annual failures**  
**Reliability = 87%**

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## Performance criteria

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- **Natural streamflow** – Flow not affected by humans
- **Unregulated streamflow** – Flow without any upstream storage or diversions
- **Regulated streamflow**
- **Demand** (target demand)
- **Release**
- **Spill** – Uncontrolled or un regulated release from a reservoir
- **Yield** – Controlled release from a reservoir
- **Firm yield** – Yield that can be met with a given reliability
- **Safe yield (US)** – Yield that can be met with 100% reliability over a particular time period (it should not be used.)

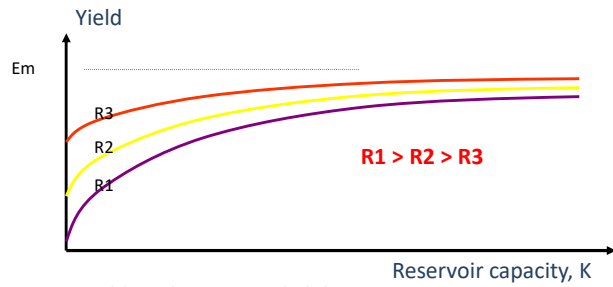
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- **Expected benefits (€):**
- **Reliability:** Measures the ability to meet water demands;
  - Time :  $\text{Reliability}_T = \# \text{years without supply failures} / \# \text{simulated years}$
  - Volume:  $\text{Reliability}_V = \text{Supplied volume} / \text{Water needs}$
- **Vulnerability:** Measures the severity of supply shortages;
  - Supply shortage as a percentage of the demand;
- **Robustness:** Inverse of vulnerability
- **Resilience:** Measures the ability of the system to recover from a supply shortage;
  - Average duration of a supply shortage;
  - Number of months the demand is satisfied that follow a month where a supply shortage has occurred over the number of supply shortages (months when demand was not satisfied).

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### Yield vs storage vs reliability vs inflow variability

Yield vs  
Storage capacity vs  
Reliability



Yield vs  
Storage capacity vs  
Inflow variability

