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### Operation and Management of Irrigation Systems Water Distribution Principles. Canal Control Structures. Flow Measurement Structures

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Strengthening of master curricula in water resources management for the Western Balkans HEIs and stakeholders

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# Scheduled irrigation

**N**SW2rm

- The farmers are divided in groups
  - ✓ Queue in a group (limited irrigation time)
  - ✓ Large farm discharge d

Restriction of irrigation time.

- "On-demand" irrigation
  - The farmers irrigate independently.
    - ✓ No queue
    - ✓ Limited discharge *d* for each farmer
- Restriction of irrigation discharges.

The distributed water volume is equal in both types of distribution! The type of distribution affects discharges only!



### **Scheduled irrigation - Consecutive Delivery**

 $\succ$  Let us assume the following case:

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- ✓7 farms with different areas  $f_i$  [ha];
- ✓ Each farm is supplied by an outlet which has discharge  $d_i$  [ℓ/s];
- ✓ Total area of all farms is F [ha];
- ✓ The total time for irrigation of all farms is *T*, [h];
- ✓ The water duty (hydromodule) of all area is q [ℓ/s/ha];
- $\checkmark$  All farm outlets are supplied with a single pipe;
- ✓ The design discharge at the head of the pipe is Q [ℓ/s];





### **Scheduled irrigation - Consecutive Delivery**

- The farms are irrigated one after another.
- The farm discharges are constant:  $d_i = Q$

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and 
$$Q = qF$$
 , 1/s  
 $q$  - the water duty, 1/s.ha.  
 $F = \sum f_i$ 

The irrigation duration for a given farm is  $t_i = \frac{f_i}{F}T$ 



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### **Scheduled irrigation - Simultaneous Delivery**

All farms are irrigated at the same time

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is:

 $\succ$  The discharge of each owner

$$d_i = \frac{f_i}{F}Q$$
,1/s

and 
$$Q = qF$$
, 1/s  
 $F = \sum f_i$ 

The irrigation duration of each farm is  $t_1 = t_2 = ... = t_i = ... = t_n = T$ 







### Scheduled irrigation – Pros (+) and Cons (-)

### Consecutive Delivery

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- ✓ Main pipe size has constant size ⇒ expensive pipes, i.e. expensive network
- ✓ Farm discharges are big ⇒ farmers can use highly efficient irrigation equipment
- ✓ Irrigation time of small farms is very short ⇒ a farmer may miss his turn ⇒ violation of schedule is possible
- The delivery type can be converted, if needed; Main pipe and outlets have enough capacity.

### Simultaneous Delivery

- ✓ Main pipe size decreases downstream ⇒ cheap pipes, i.e. cheap network
- ✓ Farm discharges of a small farms are small ⇒ farmers cannot use highly efficient irrigation equipment
- ✓ Irrigation time of all farms is too long ⇒ all farmers must irrigate long ⇒ no freedom.
- ✓ The delivery type cannot be converted; Main pipe and outlets have no enough capacity



### **Scheduled irrigation - Mixed Delivery**

The farms are divided into groups

**Swarm** 

- ✓ The groups irrigate simultaneously
- ✓ Within the group farms are irrigated one after another
- The discharge of the group is proportional to its area

$$Q_j = \frac{F_j}{F}Q$$

The irrigation duration for a farmer within the group is proportional to its area

$$t_{j,i} = \frac{f_{j,i}}{F_j}T$$





### **Scheduled irrigation - Mixed Delivery**

 ✓ Main pipe size decreases downstream ⇒ the same as for simultaneous delivery, i.e. cheap network

swarm)

- ✓ The farm discharges are bigger than these for simultaneous delivery and smaller than these for consecutive delivery
  - ✓ All farms can be irrigated by highly efficient irrigation equipment
- ✓ Farmers have relatively long time for irrigation
- Possible switch to simultaneous delivery





### "On-demand" irrigation

Every owner irrigate whenever he wants

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- Q the continuous discharge for scheduled irrigation;
  - Q = qF
- Q' the average discharge throughout the period T';
- Q" the "on-demand" design discharge;





### "On-demand" irrigation

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- ✓ Each farm has its own outlet, which has discharge  $d_i$ , proportional to the farm area  $f_i$ .
- $\checkmark$  Every farmer can irrigate whenever he/she wants
- ✓ The water duty for the whole area q is the same as for scheduled irrigation
- ✓ The irrigation period is T [h]
- ✓ If it is assumed unlimited capacity for the main pipe and the system is operated absolutely free from any restrictions, then the discharge variation in the period T will be presented with the blue line shown on previous page.
  - The system is in real operation for period T' < T. There are idle periods;
  - There are discharge peaks when (almost) all outlets are open
    - » These peaks have very short duration (marked in **red** on the graph)





### "On-demand" irrigation

- ✓ It is not advisable to design the network for big discharges with short duration – the network will be too expensive
- ✓ *René Clément (France)* developed a formula for estimation of the design discharge Q".
- $\checkmark$  The actual on-demand discharge Q is a stochastic variable
- ✓ The discharge Q'' is estimated for probability of 95% (or 99%) that it is not surpassed
  - In 95% (or in 99%) of cases the needed discharge is less or equal to Q''
  - In 5% (or in 1%) of cases the needed discharge is greater than Q''.





Variation of ratio Q''/Q versus the number of outlets being served *n* for different values of degree of freedom  $e_d$  and network utilization coefficient *r* at  $P_a = 95\%$  (FAO-59, 2000)





### "On-demand" irrigation

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- The ratio Q"/Q expresses the oversizing of the network in comparison to scheduled distribution.
  - $\checkmark n$  is the number of outlets served by the pipe section
  - ✓  $e_d$  is the ratio between the nominal discharge of the farm outlets d and the needed discharge for continuous irrigation of the plots.
- The biggest values of Q"/Q are when n is small, i.e. in the end sections of the networks (laterals)
  - $\checkmark$  oversizing from 1,6 to 2,4 times.
- $\succ$  The head sections of the network are less oversized
  - $\checkmark$  oversizing from 1,2 to 1,9 times.
- ➤ In usual case  $(P_q = 95\%, r = 0.83 \text{ and } e_d = 3) Q''$  is 30÷60% bigger than continuous discharge at scheduled distribution Q.



### Implementation

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- Scheduled irrigation
  - The Delivery network of IS is designed for simultaneous delivery
  - The Distribution networks of Irrigation Fields in Bulgaria were designed for Mixed delivery
  - The network within the farm is designed either for consecutive, or for mixed delivery
- "On-demand" irrigation
  - Mainly for pressurized distribution networks of so called Collective farms (analog of Bulgarian Irrigation Fields)
  - Sometimes used for open channel distribution networks of ISs



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2. Need of Flow Control

- Canals in IS
  - Main canal
  - Secondary canals
    - ✓ also called
       Distributary canal
       (Distributor in BG)
  - Tertiary networks
    - ✓ Watercourses
    - ✓ Farm canals





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# 2. Need of Flow Control

- All delivery network is designed for maximal discharge, i.e. for maximum water level
- The position of the turnouts (and division boxes) is chosen according local conditions
- The maximum discharge through turnouts should be assured when the water level in major canal is minimal, i.e. head is *min*.









- At minimum discharge in Main canal the water level drops
  - Some turnout entrances may occur above the water level
  - > Head at turnouts varies significantly
  - Any change in discharge in Main canal causes change in water level, i.e. change in head at turnouts, thus the discharge of the turnouts is also changed. A lot of adjustments are needed at turnouts





# 2. Need of Flow Control



- Check structures are used for Flow Control
- Check structures at Main canal are needed keep constant head
  - To avoid frequent discharge adjustments at turnouts,
  - ➤ To decrease discharge variation
  - ➤ To facilitate flow measurement
  - ➤ To make flow measurement more accurate







# 2. Need of Flow Control

### **Basic Principles of Flow Control**

- Flow control is used for both main flow parameters discharge Q and head H (water level)
  - At turnouts the water level (head H) is regulated to be approximately constant.
  - $\succ$  At the head of each canal the discharge Q is adjusted (controlled)
- These 2 principles are used for water control in each level of the Delivery Network





# **3.** Flow Control Systems and Structures

Upstream Control Systems

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Designed and operated for Scheduled Distribution in IS

- Head (Water Level) Control Structures
  - ✓ Sliding Gate / Sluice Gate (undershot structure)
  - ✓ Long Crested Weir (overshot structure)
  - ✓ AMIL gates (undershot structure)
  - ✓ Leaf gates / Rubicon FlumeGate (overshot structure)
- Downstream Control Systems

Designed and operated for On-demand Distribution in IS

- Head (Water Level) Control Structures
  - ✓ AVIS regulators (undershot structures)
  - ✓ AVIO regulators (orifice structures)



# **3. Flow Control Systems and Structures**

### Discharge Regulators

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Some of them can be used also as flow measurement structures

- ✓ Sliding gates (undershot structure)
- ✓ Baffle Distributors (undershot structure)
- ✓ Khamadov Distributor (undershot structure)
- ✓ Metergate (orifice/undershot structure)
- Flow measurement Structures
  - ✓ Flumes (Parshall flume, Venturi)
  - ✓ Weirs (Broad crested weirs, Sharp crested weirs)

N.B. There are other structures for discharge regulation and for flow measurement.



• Operation principle

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- The upstream water level at canal regulators located at Main and Secondary Canals is maintained fairly constant
- ➤ The water is released from the headworks on the basis of pre-set schedule, which is done after the consumers send their requests
- ➢ Gate operators adjust the discharges of tertiary unit turnouts according to requests, sent in advance, and according to the preset schedule





#### Canal reaches

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- Automated and non-automated systems have the same canal reach specifics.
- The water level @  $Q_{max}$  is approx. parallel to canal bed
- The water level @ Q = 0 is horizontal
- ➤ Canal bank parallel to canal bed
- The canal slope should be less than critical.
- It is preferable that the turnouts are situated just upstream of the regulator, where the water level is maintained fairly constant.







• Water Level Regulators

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- Sliding gates (sluice gates)
  - ✓ The upstream water level is regulated by adjusting the gate opening *a*
  - $\checkmark$  This is undershot structure
  - $\checkmark$  The flow has to be submerged
  - $\checkmark$  Lots of adjustments are needed
    - If gate opening *a* is changed, at first *Q* increases.
    - This leads to increase of the downstream depth *h*.
    - Increase of *h* leads to decrease of the head  $z_0$ , thus *Q* decreases  $\Rightarrow$
    - New adjustment is needed







• Water Level Regulators

Swarm

- Sliding gates (sluice gates)
  - ✓ The gate and the frame are mounted on a wall, which has weir on both sides of the gate
  - ✓ The weirs are needed in case that the gate opening is not enough to convey the flow (if the gate is not adjusted on time).
  - ✓ There is a small bridge (called also catwalk or walk way) to allow access to the lifting device
  - Widely used in Bulgaria, although they are
     not suitable for head regulators







#### Water Level Regulators

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- Sliding gates (sluice gates)
  - ✓ For big canals 2 or 3 gates in parallel can be installed
  - ✓ Sliding gates are operated:
    - Manually (typical)
    - Manually, but with a helf of electric motors (if possible)
    - Remotely using remotely commanded electric motors





• Water Level Regulators

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- > Long Crested Weirs
  - ✓ The weir should be in free flow conditions, i.e. the weir should not be submerged
    - when the crest length b is great a small change in head H leads to great change in discharge Q.
    - in the opposite big change in discharge Q leads to small change in head H – thus, the water level can be kept in practically constant





• Water Level Regulators

🔊 swarm

- Long Crested weirs
  - ✓ Permanent structures
  - ✓ Needs canal widening just downstream of the structure to prevent the submergence









#### • Water Level Regulators

#### Long Crested weirs

 $\checkmark$  There are several types of constructions





 ✓ It needs openings at the tip of the weir (flushouts), made with sliding gates, to allow flushing out of the sediments, caught by the structure



- Water Level Regulators
  - > Overshot Gates

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- ✓ Weirs with adjustable crest hight
- $\checkmark$  By adjusting the angle of the gate  $\theta$ , the weir crest level is changed, thus the head  $h_1$  is changed and also discharge Q.





#### **Rubicon Flume Gate** Adjustments are made using electric

motors powered by solar panels



Lecture 3

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- Water Level Regulators
  - > AMIL Gates

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- ✓ French construction (and patent until 1990's)
- $\checkmark$  The construction parts are:
  - gate leaf ① cylindrical, with center point O;
  - float <sup>(2)</sup>, welded to <sup>(1)</sup>
  - frame ③
  - counterweights ④ and ⑤.



- F = buoyance of the float
- ✓ When the discharge Q increases, the upstream water level rises, which causes the rising of the float, and thus opening of the gate leaf. The discharge  $Q_{AMIL}$ through the gate also increases.
- ✓ When the discharge *Q* decreases, the upstream water level decreases ⇒ the float and the gate leaf move down ⇒  $Q_{AMIL}$  also decreases.



- Water Level Regulators
  - > AMIL Gates

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The canal cross section at the gate should have very steep walls





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#### Canal reaches

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- When hydraulically operated regulators are used (such as AVIS gates), the distance between regulators must be thoroughly determined.
- Because of the lag time the volume between water levels
   Q = 0 and Q<sub>max</sub> must be enough to store the volume of water released through upstream regulator for the period of time between closing of the downstream regulator and closing of the upstream regulator.





- Water Level Regulators
  - > AVIS Gates

SWarm

- ✓ French construction (and patent until 1990's)
- $\checkmark$  The construction parts are:
  - gate leaf ① cylindrical, with center point O;
  - float ②,
  - frame ③
  - counterweight ④.

- ✓ The operation principle is the same as for AMIL gates the float ② causes rotation of the gate leaf ①.
- ✓ When the downstream discharge Q increases, the downstream water level drops, which causes the opening of the gate.
- In contrast, when nobody uses water the water level increases, this the gate closes.



• Water Level Regulators

#### > AVIS Gates

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- ✓ The canal cross section at the gate should have very steep walls
- ✓ The bottom below the float is slightly deeper.
- ✓ The float is located in the middle of the canal cross section

SECTION B.B





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- Water Level Regulators
  - > AVIO Gates

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- Designed for intakes from large and deep canals
- $\checkmark$  The leaf is set against an orifice
- ✓ The leaf decreases the incoming flow, when the downstream water level increases











#### • Sliding gates

- ✓ Cheap structures
- ✓ When used for discharge regulation they should operate in *free flow* conditions
- ✓ If the flow is submerged it is difficult to regulate the discharge
  - In this case it is recommended to install discharge measurement structure downstream of the sliding gate (for example – Cipolletti weir)







• Sliding gates – free flow conditions



- Relatively big change of head H produces relatively small change in the discharge Q – suitable structures to maintain fairly constant Q
- At free flow conditions the discharge Q is not influenced by downstream water depth
- > Only the head H and the gate opening a affect the discharge Q





- Baffle Distributors
  - French design
    - $\checkmark$  There are 2 types single baffle and double baffle regulators

Single baffle

- $\checkmark$  The baffles are fixed
- ✓ The regulator operates in two modes – as a weir (unsubmerged) and as undershot structure - orifice (unsubmerged flow)





weir

unsubmerged flow through orifice







### Baffle Distributors

- ✓ A sliding gate is used to open or close one baffle section
- ✓ The sliding gate is not used for regulation
- ✓ At relatively high change in upstream head H (±10%), the discharge Q is maintained within ±5% of design flow.
- $\checkmark$  The baffles are made of metal
- ✓ They are placed over a concrete structure







- Baffle distributors
  - $\checkmark$  The baffle distributors contain several sections
  - $\checkmark$  Each section is designed for a standard discharge







### Khamadov Distributor

- ✓ Designed in USSR
- $\checkmark$  Operate using the same principles as Baffle distributors
- $\checkmark$  Difference the baffles are welded on a sliding gate
- $\checkmark$  The discharge is adjusted by gate opening.
- $\checkmark$  There is no need of sections the structure is very compact

#### Khamadov Distributor (Дозатор "Хамадов")









• Metergates

Designed in USA (US Bureau of Reclamation)



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- Metergates
  - > The inlet and outlet parts may be prefabricated
  - Can be used as water measurement structure
    - $\checkmark$  Head at inlet should be fairly constant





Pictures provided by prof. C.M. Burt from ITRC at CalPoly (USA) for Strategy for management and development of hydro-melioration in Bulgaria



### • Measurement of Transit Flows

> Flumes

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### ✓ Parshall flume

- ✓ Venturi flumes (Long Throated flumes)
- > Weirs
  - ✓ Broad crested weirs
    - Trapezoidal
    - Replogle Flume
    - Classic
  - ✓ Sharp crested weirs
     Cipoletti





Sharp Crested Weir Cipoletti



• <u>General requirements</u>

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- Canal cross section and longitudinal slope constant
  - $\checkmark$  Cross section symmetrical about the axis
- > Canal axis to coincide with the axis of the structure
- Straight canal section  $-L \sim 10$  time the water surface width  $B_{\kappa}$  $\checkmark (2 \div 3)B_{\kappa}$  upstream and  $(3 \div 4)B_{\kappa}$  downstream of structure



The throat width *b* of the measurement structure should be less than  $B_{\kappa} - \text{e.g.} \ b = (1/2 \div 1/3)B_{\kappa}$ .

• Flumes

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• Flumes

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> Parshall Flume



- Operates at free flow conditions, as well as submerged when  $H_2/H_1 \le 0.95$ 
  - Large operating range  $Q_{min} = (1,5\% \div 2,5\%)Q_{max}$ .

#### Accuracy:

- $> \pm 2\%$  at free flow conditions
- $> \pm 5\%$  at submerged flow
- Advantages:
  - Relatively small head losses;
  - Operates both at free and submerged flow
  - Conveys floating debris and bed load
  - May be installed in existing canals

#### Disadvantages:

- High requirements for accuracy of construction lengths, slopes, etc.
- Relatively expensive



• Flumes

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#### > Venturi Flumes

- ✓ Operating principle to create *vena* contracta, i.e. flow contraction
- $\checkmark$  Contraction can be
  - Horizontal
  - Horizontal and vertical
- $\checkmark$  The cross section can be
  - Rectangular
  - Trapezoidal
  - Triangular
- ✓ The water depth is measured at the converging section (inlet section)
- ✓ Suitable for installation in exiting canals, due to small head losses, i.e. small backwater effect.
- ✓ Individual design to meet requirements





Horizontal contraction, rectangular cross section





Horizontal and vertical contraction, rectangular cross section



Horizontal and vertical contraction, trapezoidal cross section



• Flumes

Venturi Flumes (Long Throated Flumes)



- Weirs
  - ≻ Trapezoidal weirs (ISO 4362)



- For rectangular cross sections
- The structure can be designed to fit into any canal
- Discharges  $Q_{max} = 0.1 \div 10.0 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$
- Wide range of measured flows
- Operates at free and submerged flow
- According to the combination of  $H_1$ and L can be either broad crested, or nappe-shaped weir
- Accuracy:
  - $> \pm 4\%$  at free flow conditions
  - $> \pm 6\%$  at submerged flow

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• Weirs

#### Replogle Flume - Trapezoidal weir / flume



- In case of rectangular cross section it may have horizontal contraction in addition to vertical
- $\checkmark$  The structure can be designed to fit into any canal
- ✓ Discharges  $Q_{max} = 0.5 \div 15.0 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$
- $\checkmark$  Wide range of measured flows
- ✓ Suitable for existing canals
- $\checkmark$  Operates at free and submerged flow

Accuracy:

- ✓ 4% at free flow
- ✓ 6% at submerged flow



• Weirs **Replogle Flume** 



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• Weirs

#### > Replogle Flume



#### Source: ITRC (Irrigation Training and Research Center)



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