


ODA–UNESCO project:
Promotion of energy science education for
sustainable development in Lao PDR

Theme 5: Small-scale Hydropower

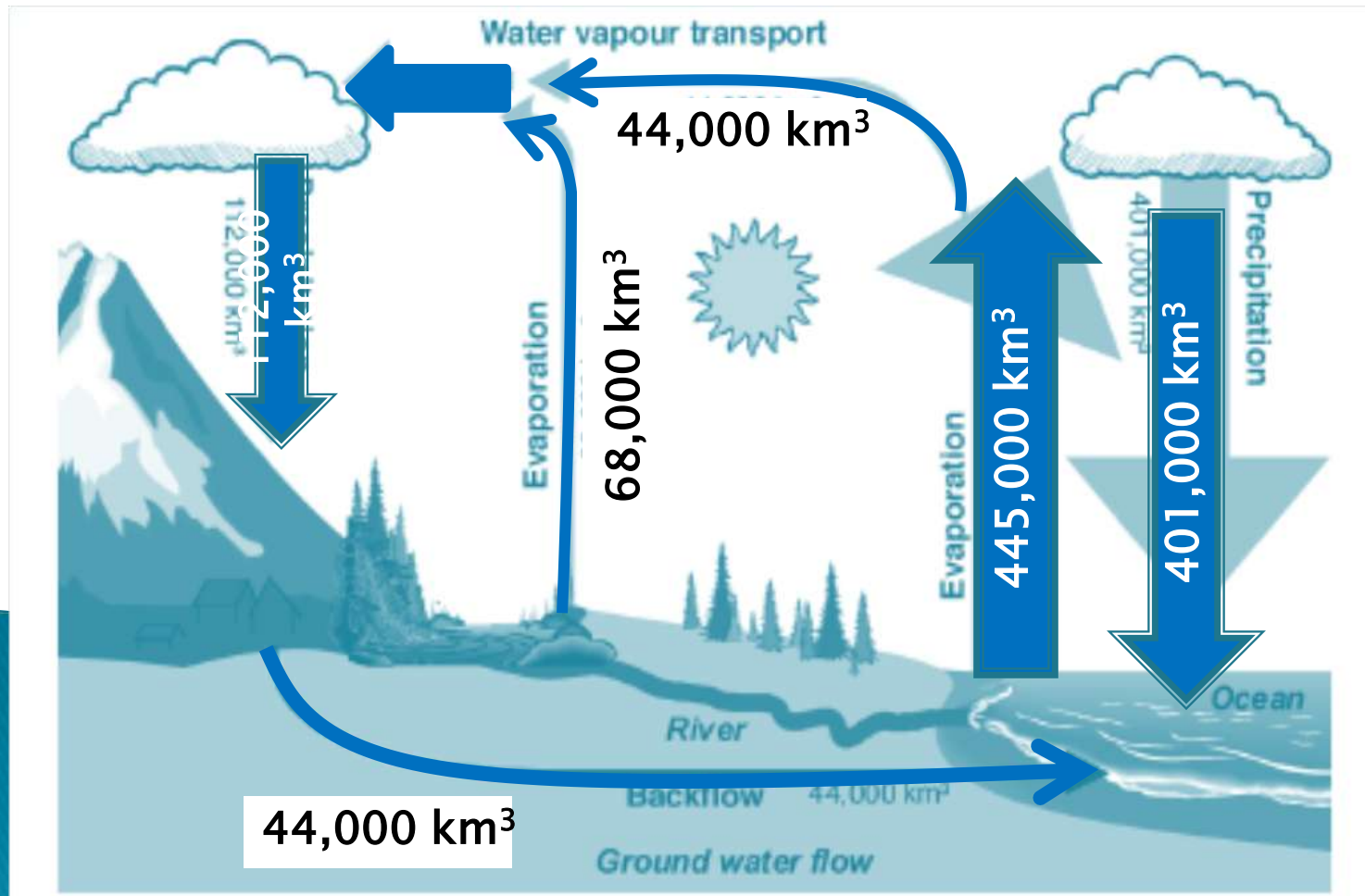
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 - **Why Small-scale Hydropower?**
 - **Small-scale hydropower Potential assessment**
 - ✓ **Hydrological Analysis**
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- 

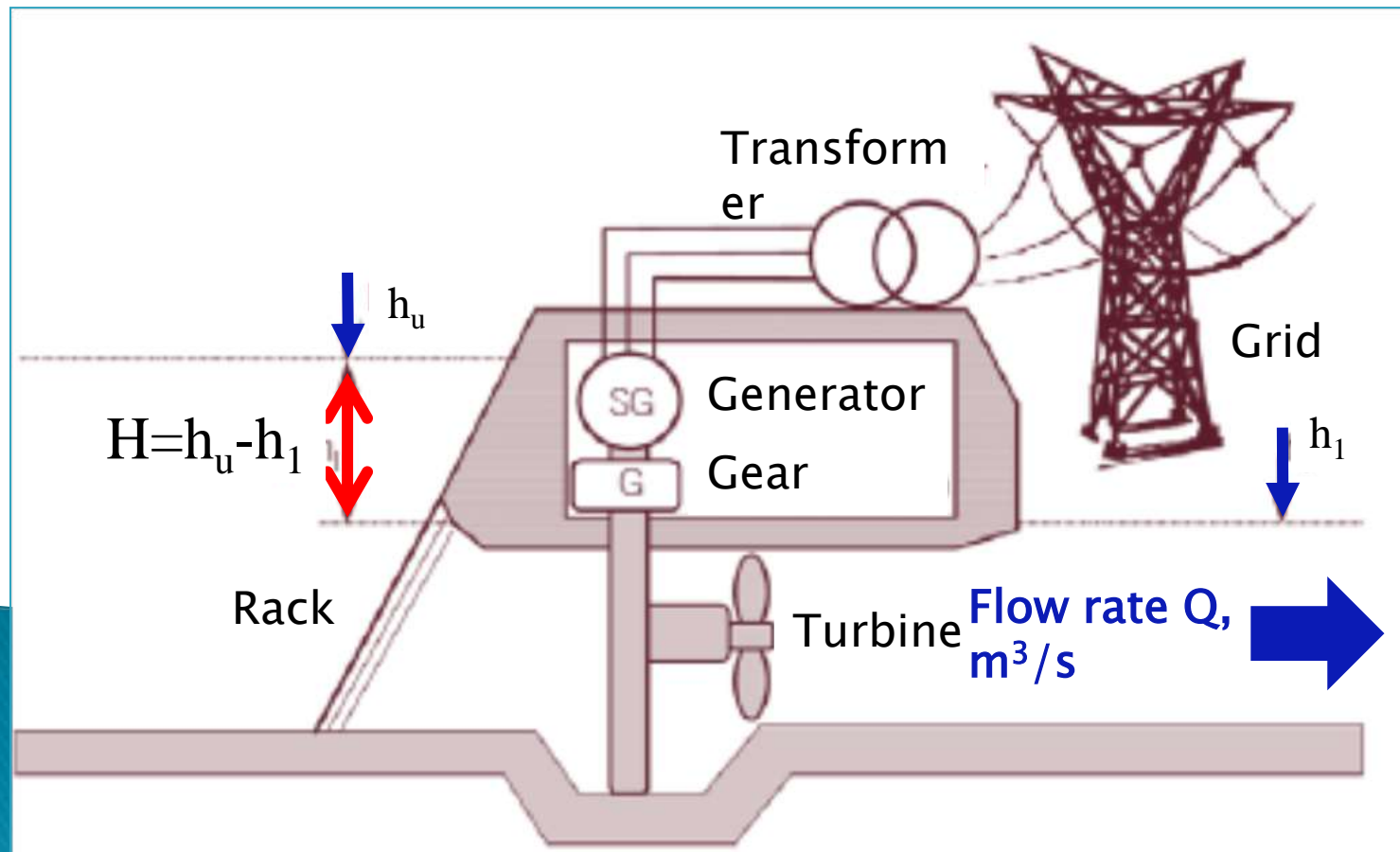
Fundamentals of Hydropower

• Hydrological cycle



Fundamentals of Hydropower

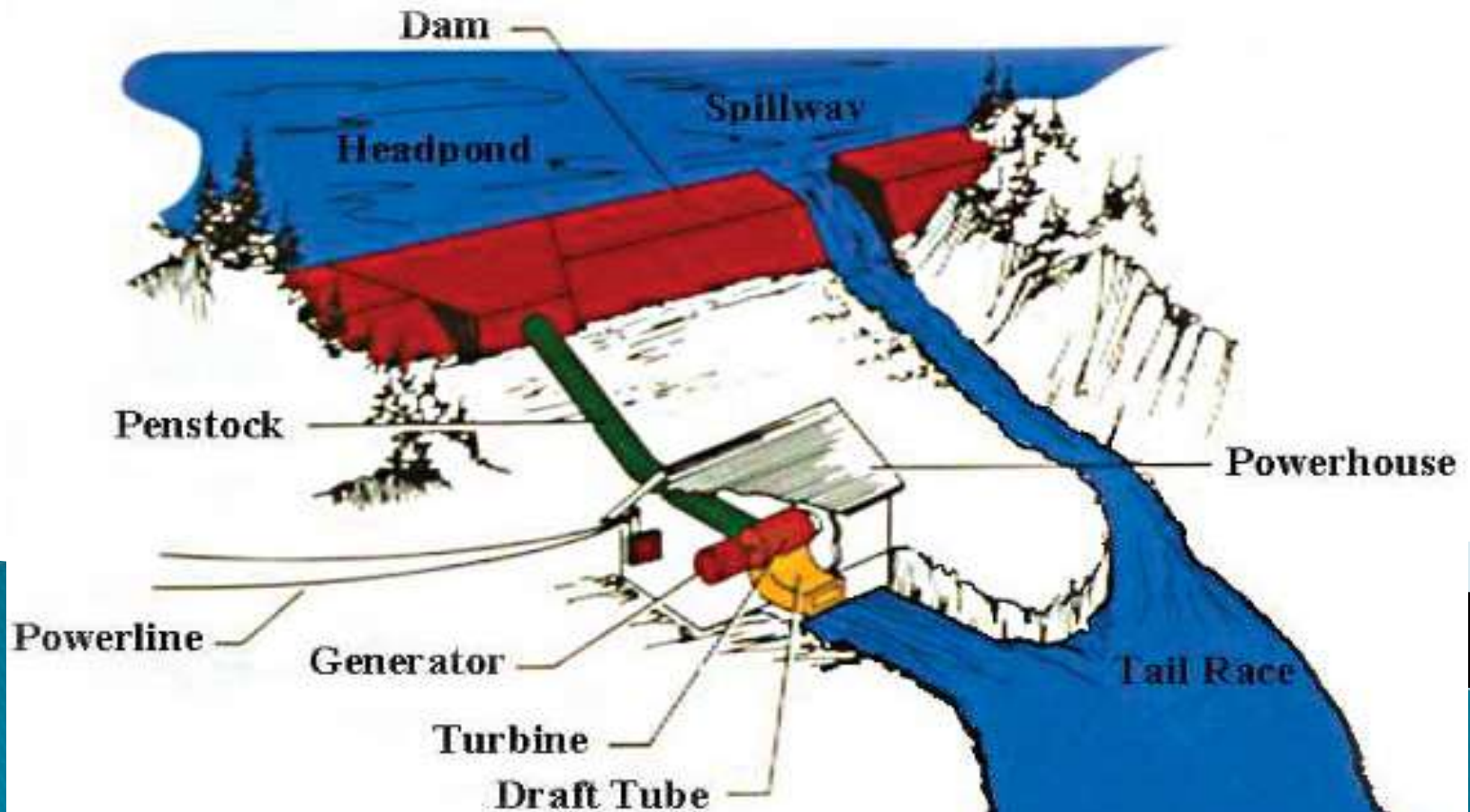
• Hydropower: Principle Hydro Electric Power Plant



Fundamentals of Hydropower

Hydropower Power Plant components

COMPONENTS OF A HYDRO SYSTEM



Hydropower Fundamentals

HP Classification

- **By installed capacity**

- PICO <1 kW, (somewhere <5 kW)
- MICRO: 1–100 kW (somewhere <200 kW)
- Mini 100–1000 kW
- Small 1–10 MW (In Lao case: <15 MW)
- Large or full scale: > 10 MW

- **By Heads**

- Low head (<15 m)
- Medium Head (15–50 m)
- High head (> 50 m)

Hydropower FUndamentals

HP Classification

PICO (≤ 1 kW)



Hydropower Fundamentals

HP Classification

80kW

MICRO
6–100 kW



70kW



55 kW

Hydropower Fundamentals

HP Classification

MINI (101–1000 kW)



500 kW



HP Classification

2 MW

Small ($< 15\text{MW}$)



Hydropower Fundamentals:

HP Classification

○ Full scale hydropower (> 10 MW)



Dam Name	Country	Installed capacity
Nam Ngum 1	Laos	150 MW
NamTheun 2	Laos	1 098 MW
ITAIPU	Brazil–Paraguay	14,000 MW
Three Gorges	China	22,000 MW

- Hydropower Fundamentals:
Run-off river scheme
→ Enlarged forebay



➤ Run-off river scheme with Enlarged forebay

Hydropower Fundamentals

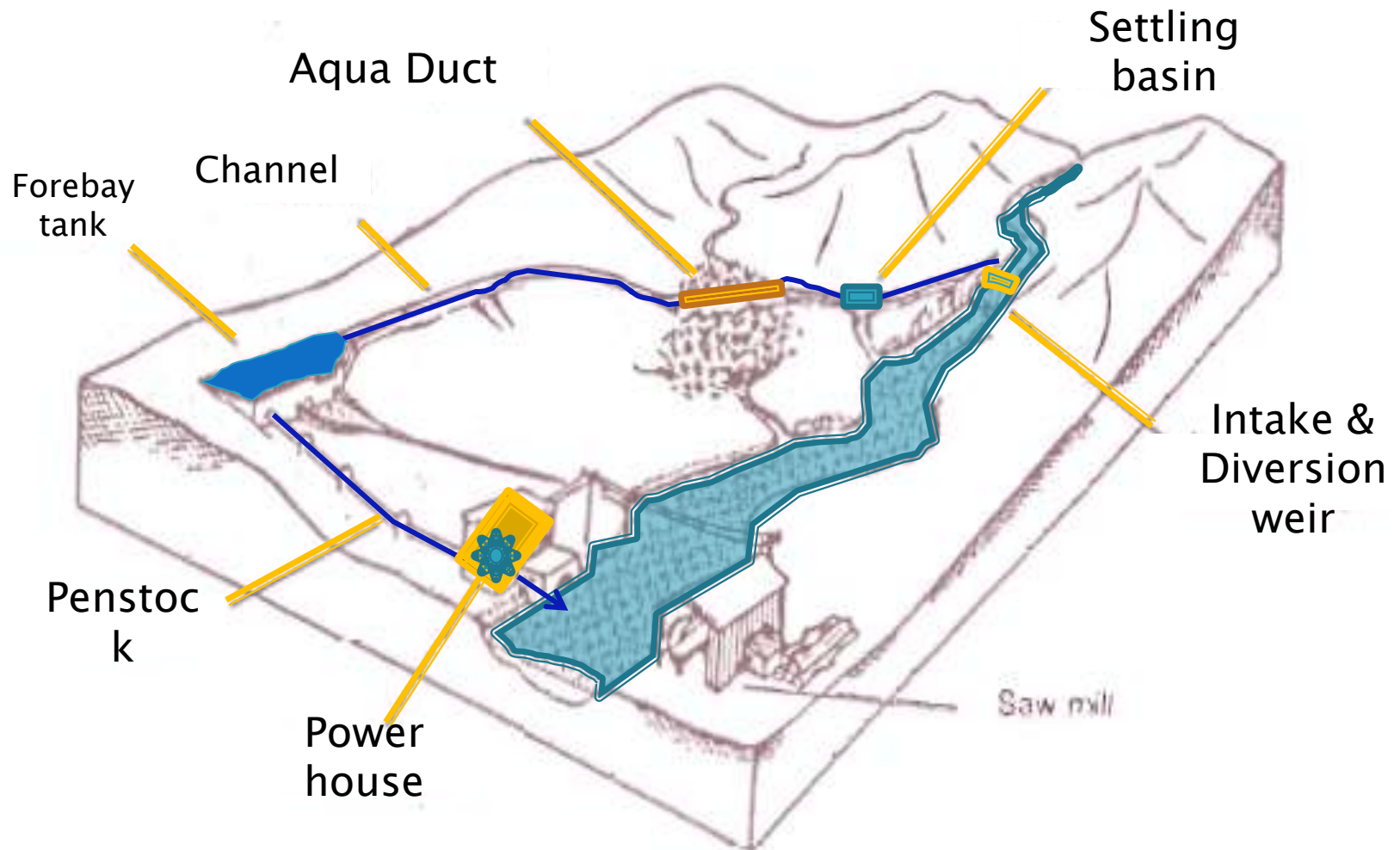
HP Classification

- **Supply Destination**

- stand alone or captive (with isolated mini grid)
- grid-connected: to feed power to grid network

Hydropower Fundamentals:

Components of Small scale-hydropower Scheme



Why Small-scale Hydropower?

Advantages of Small-scale Hydropower

- ✓ Uses Renewable energy resources
- ✓ Relies on a non-polluting, indigenous and locally available source of energy
- ✓ Can replace petroleum-based generating systems
- ✓ Uses a well-proven technology, well beyond research and development stage
- ✓ environmental impacts can be kept at very low level

Why Small-scale Hydropower?

• Advantages to other “renewables”

- ✓ High efficiency (70–90%)
- ✓ High capacity factor – 50% (PV–10%, Wind–30%) → reliable for captive systems
- ✓ High level of predictability, varying with annual rainfalls
- ✓ Slow rate of changes: gradually from day to day → Good correlation with demand
- ✓ Proven, robust and long lasting equipment

Why Small-scale Hydropower?

- **Other Advantages:**

- ✓ Alternatively, SHP can be used as shaft power (mechanical works): grain mill, water pumping
- ✓ Due to small size → allow involvement of local villagers during the construction phase
- ✓ Suitable locations are widely spread → good for decentralized electrification
- ✓ Encouraged local production of parts/equipment
- ✓ wide range of design and construction materials are available locally

Why Small-scale Hydropower?

Disadvantages:

- ✓ Associated with higher capital cost (usually > 2000 US\$/kW)
- ✓ Requires a considerable amount of specialist know-how
- ✓ require a simple but continuous effort for operation and maintenance:
 - Lack of organizational capacities
 - Lack of cash

Small scale Hydropower Fundamentals

• Power of Falling Water

Potential energy of body of mass m (kg) and elevated on h (m):

$$E = m \times g \times h$$

Gross Power produced:

$$P_{gross} = \frac{E}{t} = \frac{m}{t} \times g \times h_{gross} = \frac{\rho \times V}{t} \times g \times h_{gross} = Q \times \rho \times g \times h_{gross}$$

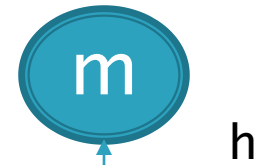
(V – falling water volume; ρ –water density)

$$\eta_o = \frac{P_{net}}{P_{gross}}$$

η_e = Overall efficiency of energy conversion (%)

$$\Rightarrow P_{net} = \eta_o \times \rho \times g \times Q \times h_{gross}$$

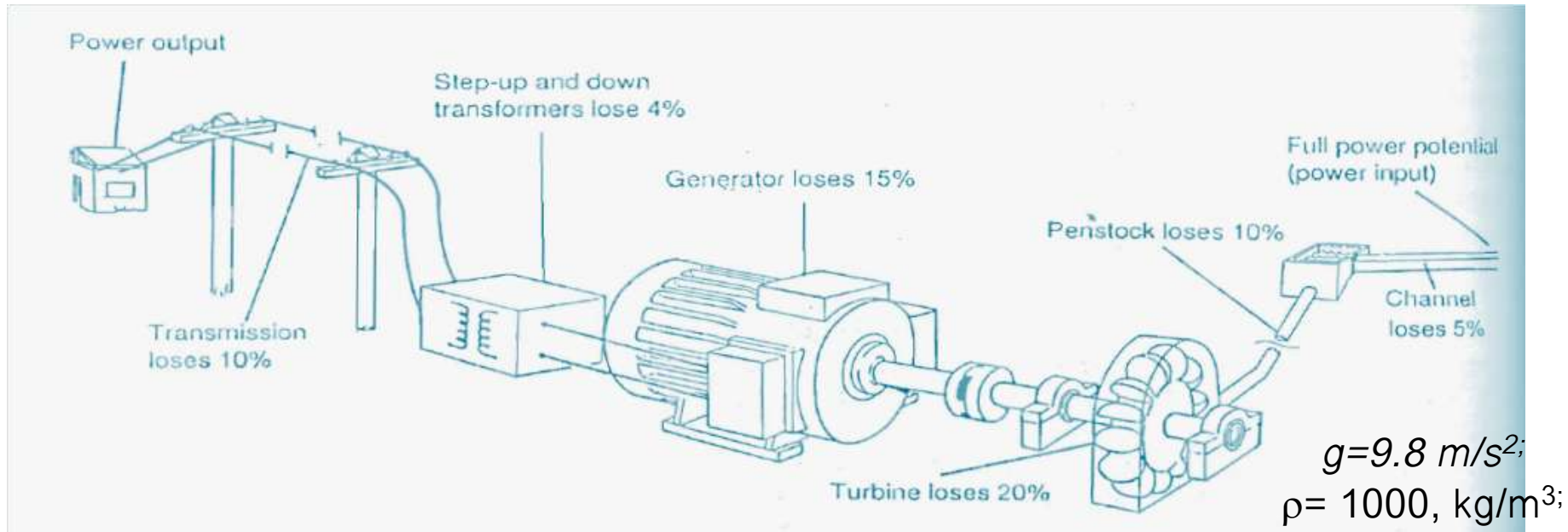
(P_{net} – Net Output Power)



Falling
Times
(t)

Small-scale Hydropower: Fundamentals

Power of falling Water



$$\eta_o = \eta_{channel} \times \eta_{penstock} \times \eta_{turbine} \times \eta_{generator} \times \eta_{transformers} \times \eta_{transmission}$$

$$= 0.95 \times 0.90 \times 0.80 \times 0.85 \times 0.96 \times 0.9 \approx 0.5$$

$$P_{net} = \eta_o \times P_{gross} = \eta_o \times Q \times \rho \times g \times h_{gross} = 0.5 \times 1000 \times 9.8 \times Q \times h_{gross}, \text{ W}_e$$

$$P_{output} = 5.0 \times Q \times h_{gross}, \text{ kW}_e$$

SHP potential assessment: planning

Stages of SHP Potential assessment :

1) Desk study (or hydrology study)

- ✓ To study on geological, hydrological and socio-economic conditions of the proposed site
- ✓ May identify appropriate site without site visit
- ✓ May know that there is no any potential at the proposed site, and hence no need to do site visit → save money
- ✓ Accuracy of project costs estimation at this stage is $\pm 30\%$

SHP potential assessment: planning

2) Reconnaissance visit:

a short site visit (usually 1 day visit) to verify the desk study results:

- ✓ Existing hydropower potential
- ✓ Appropriate power demand
- ✓ Site Accessibility

SHP potential assessment: planning

3) Pre-Feasibility Study

- ✓ to determine which of several proposed projects, sites or technical options are most attractive for SSHP development
- ✓ Preliminary assessment are reviewed and worked out with more details
- ✓ Accuracy of cost estimates: $\pm 20-25\%$

SHP potential assessment: planning

4) Feasibility Study(FS):

- ✓ Assessment whether the implementation of the proposed scheme is desirable or not
- ✓ Project Developer will make final decision and to locate funding on the base of FS
- ✓ Accuracy of cost estimates: $\pm 10-15\%$

Desk study:

❖ **Hydrological data analysis (desk study)**

- ✓ **To estimate minimum flow**
- ✓ **Necessary to visit the stream during the 'smallest flow' (usually driest period)**
- ✓ **Involve a Hydrograph and Flow Duration Curve**
- ✓ **Two approaches:**
 - **Area-Rainfall method**
 - **Correlation method**

Desk study

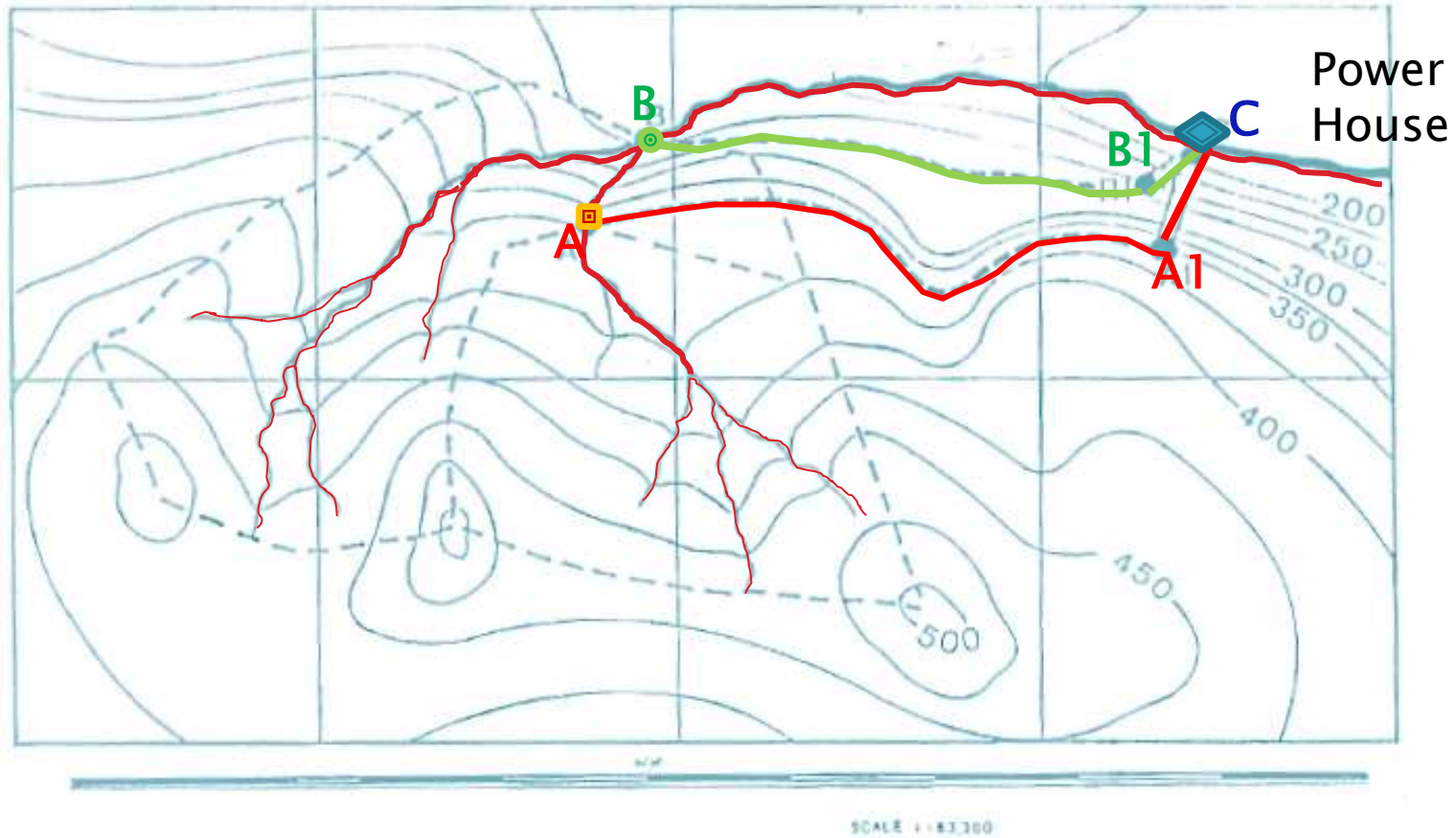
➤ Area-Rainfall method

- ✓ **Local map scale 1:50,000; better 1:20000 or 1:10000**
- ✓ **Necessary Statistic data/information**
 - **Rainfalls**
 - **Hydrograph**
 - **Flow Duration Curve (FDC)**

Desk study

➤ Rainfall-area method

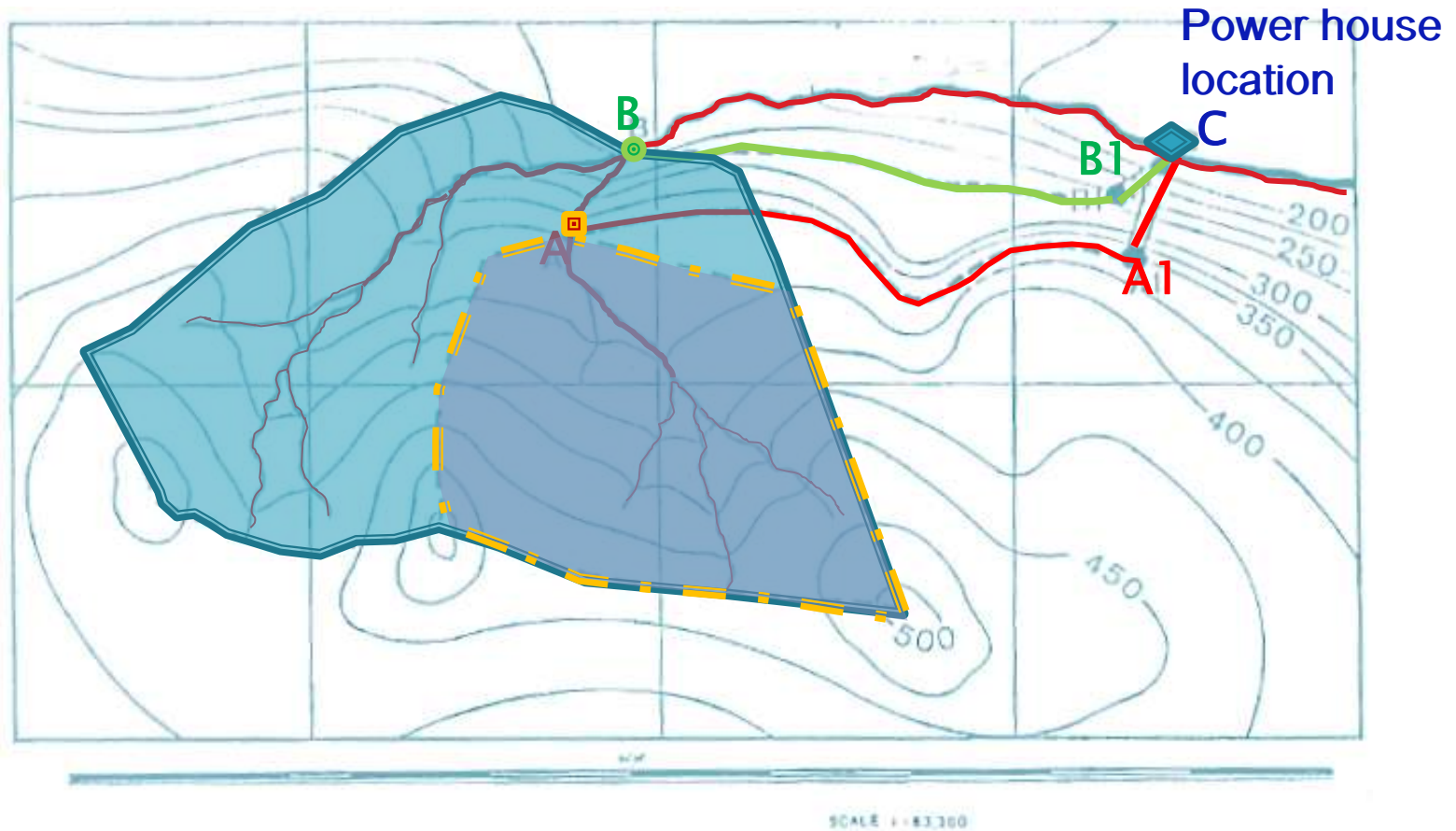
- Example : how to define project location on the map



Desk study

➤ Rainfalls-area method

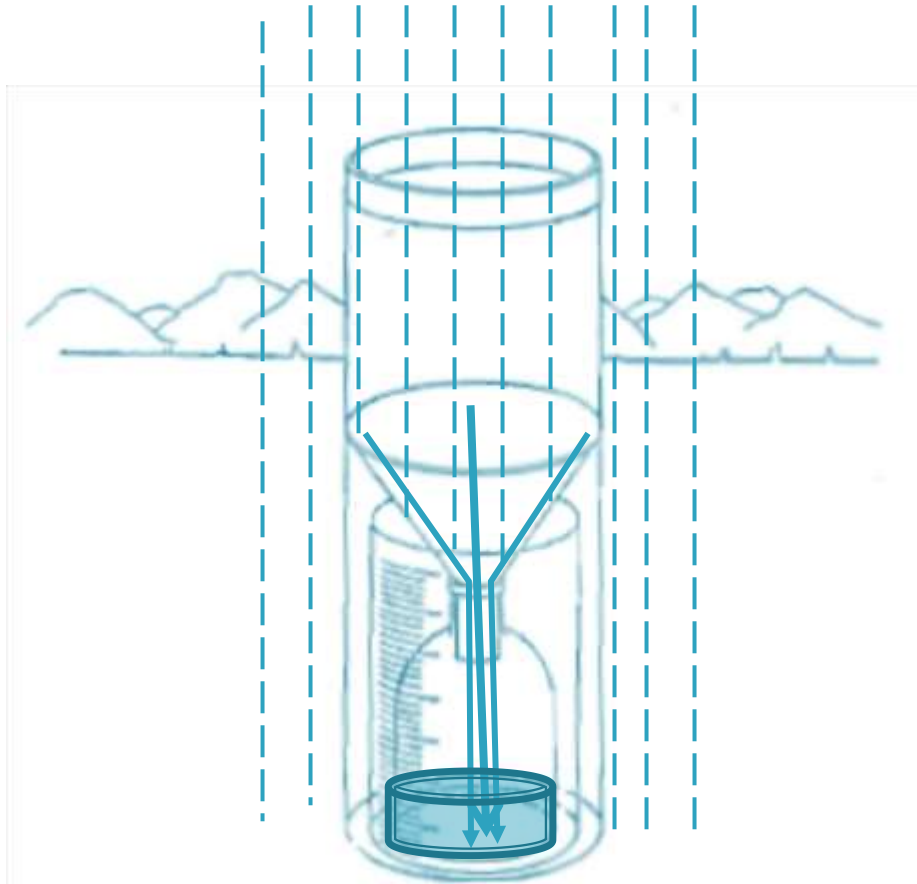
- Catchment area definition



Desk study

➤ Rainfalls – Areas method

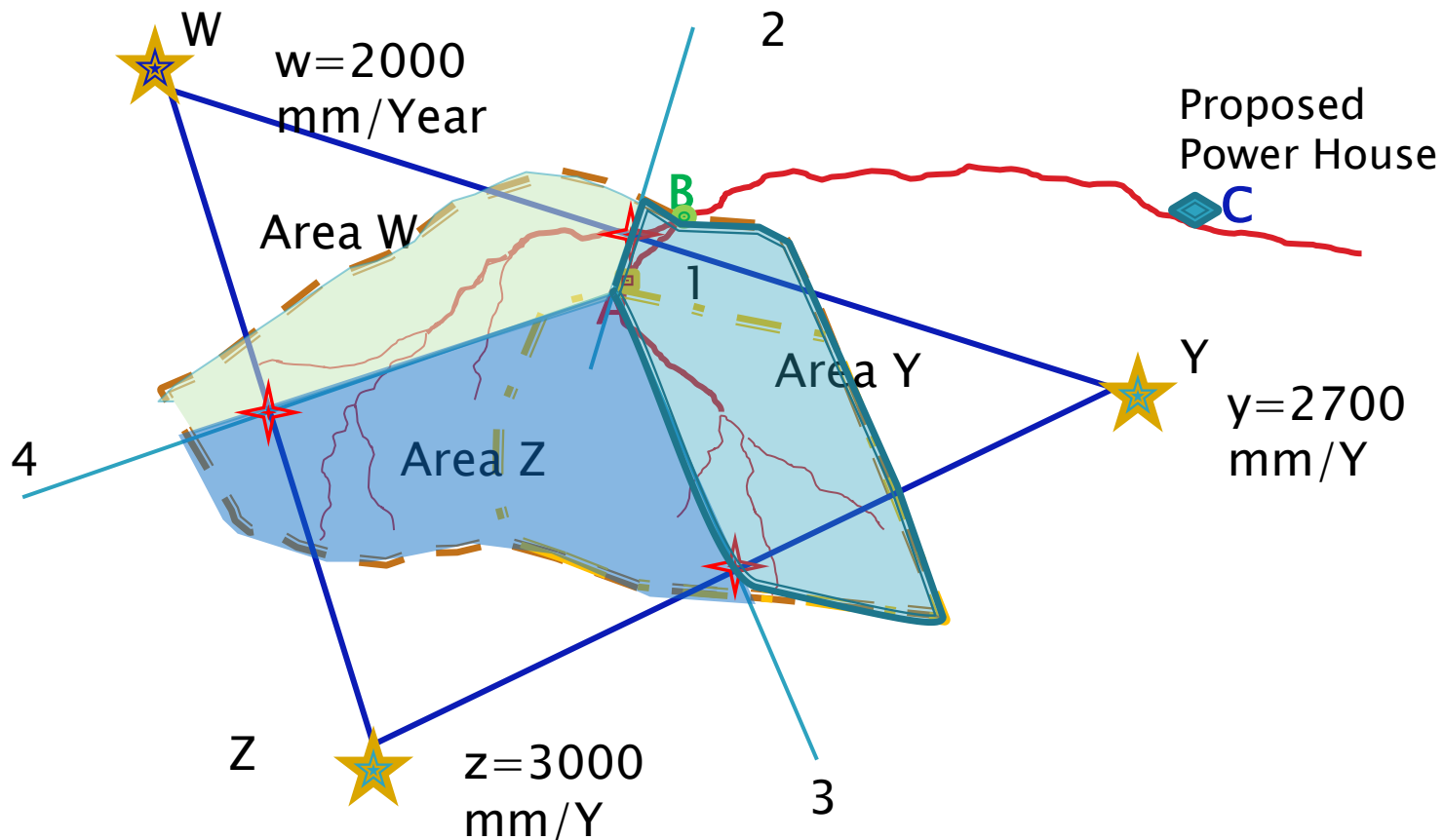
• Rain gauge



Desk study

➤ Area-Rainfalls method

- Calculation of rainfalls in catchment areas

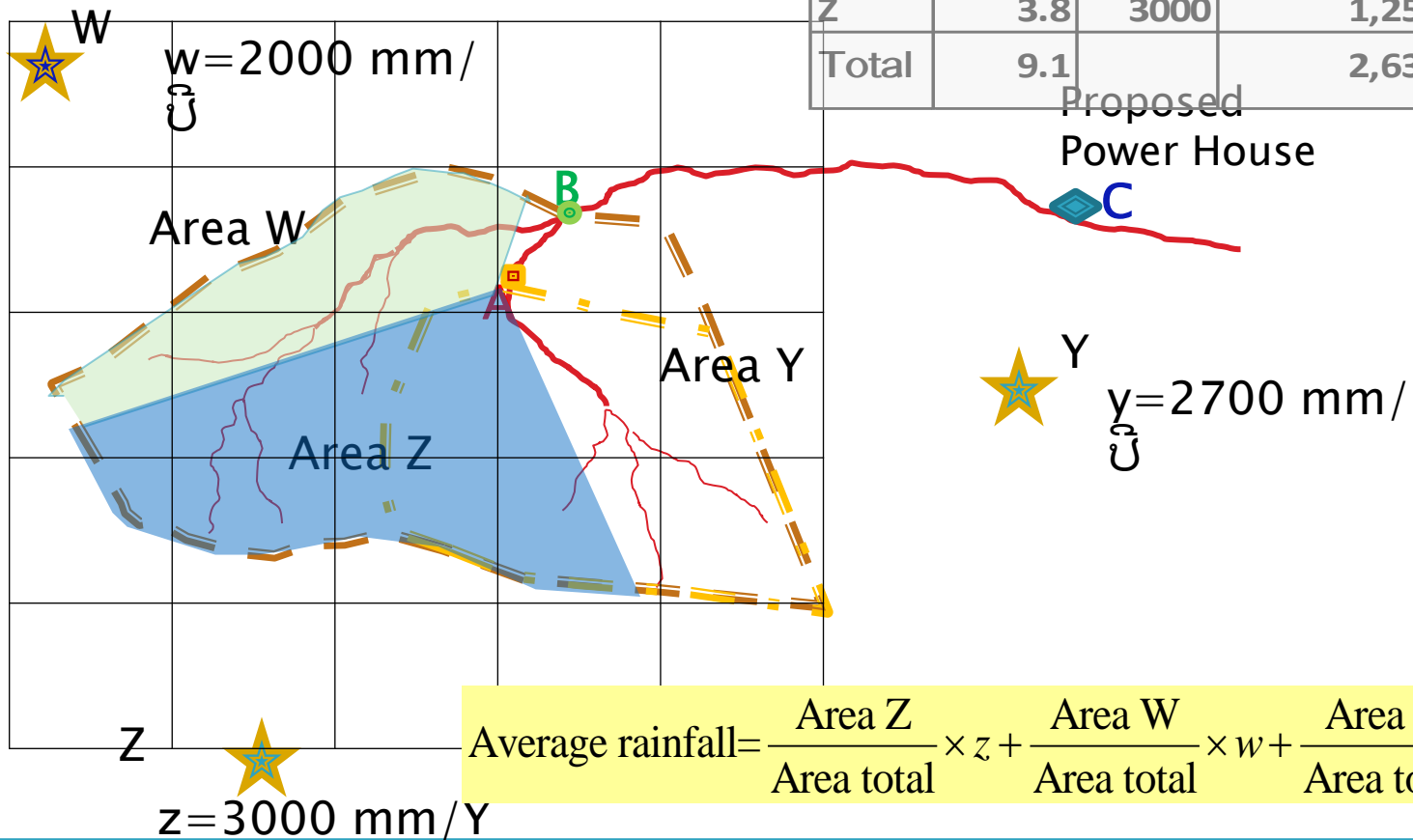


Desk study

Area-Rainfalls method

Example of rainfalls calculation

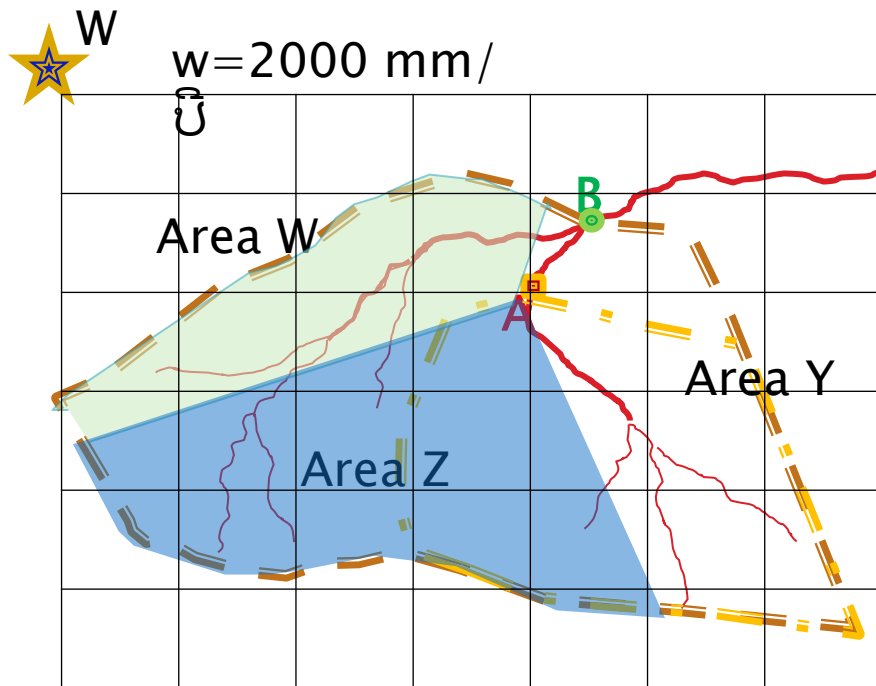
	Area	rain falls	Proportion rainfalls
W	2.5	2000	549
Y	2.8	2700	831
Z	3.8	3000	1,253
Total	9.1		2,633



Desk study

➤ Area-Rainfalls method

• Example



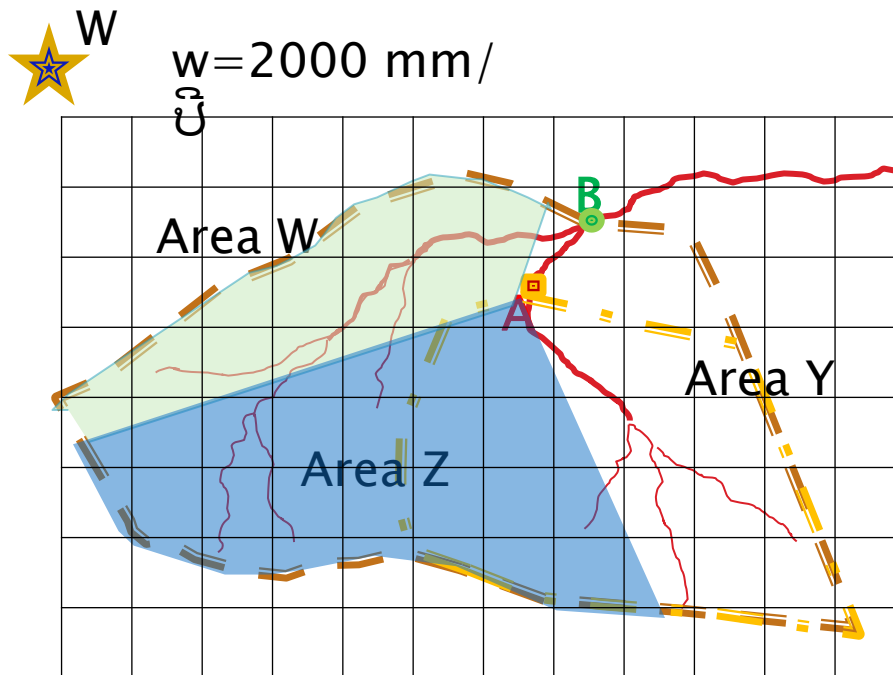
	Area	Rain falls	Proportion
W	4.5	2000	486
Y	6.5	2700	949
Z	7.5	3000	1,216
total	18.5		2,651
compared to case 1			2,633
Accuracy increased			0.70%

$$\text{Average rainfall} = \frac{\text{Area Z}}{\text{Area total}} \times z + \frac{\text{Area W}}{\text{Area total}} \times w + \frac{\text{Area Y}}{\text{Area total}} \times y$$

Desk Study

Area-Rainfalls method

Example



	Area	Rain falls	Proportion
W	10	2000	471
Y	14	2700	889
Z	18.5	3000	1,306
Total	42.5		2,666
Proposed Power House			2,633
Compared to case 1			Accuracy
			1.23%

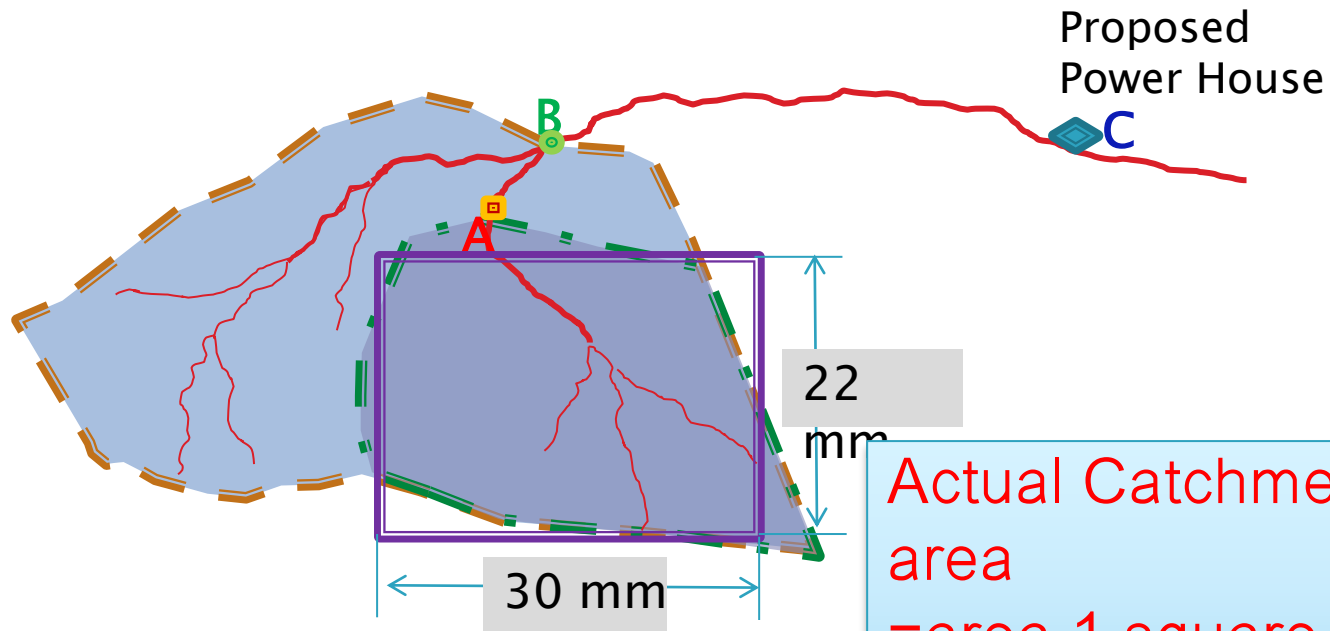
$$\text{Average rainfall} = \frac{\text{Area Z}}{\text{Area total}} \times z + \frac{\text{Area W}}{\text{Area total}} \times w + \frac{\text{Area Y}}{\text{Area total}} \times y$$

Desk study

➤ Area-Rainfalls method

• Catchment area of site A

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Size of square} &= (30 \times 63.36) \times (22 \times 63.36) \\ &= 2.652 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^2\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\text{Actual Catchment area} &= \text{area 1 square} \times \text{number of squares} \\ &= 2.652 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^2\end{aligned}$$

Desk Study

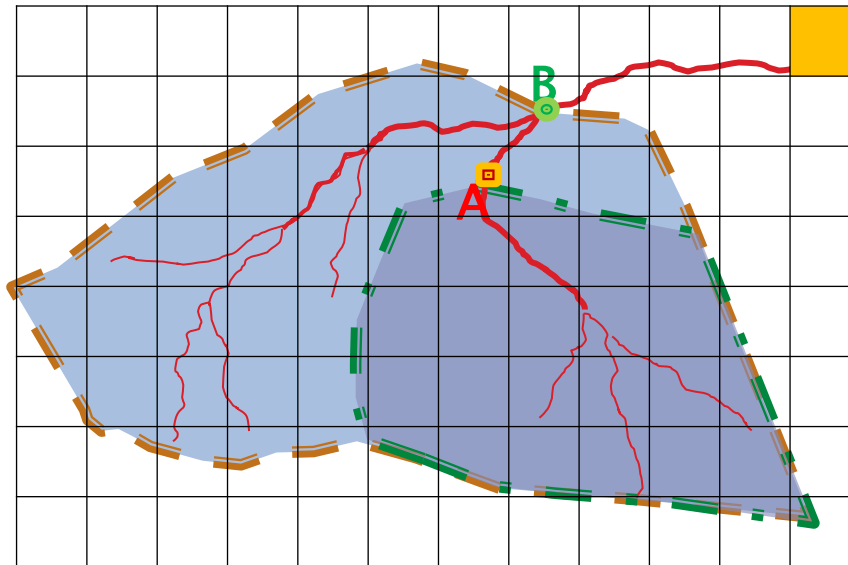
➤ Area-Rainfalls method

- Catchment area of site A
- Annual Discharge Flow Discharge (ADF)

Size of a square
 $= (4 \times 63.36) \times (4 \times 63.36), \text{ m}^2$
 $= 144,658 \text{ m}^2$

4 mm x 4 mm

Number of squares(A)= 21
Catchment area (A):
 $= 21 \times 144,658$
 $= 3.04 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^2$



1:63360

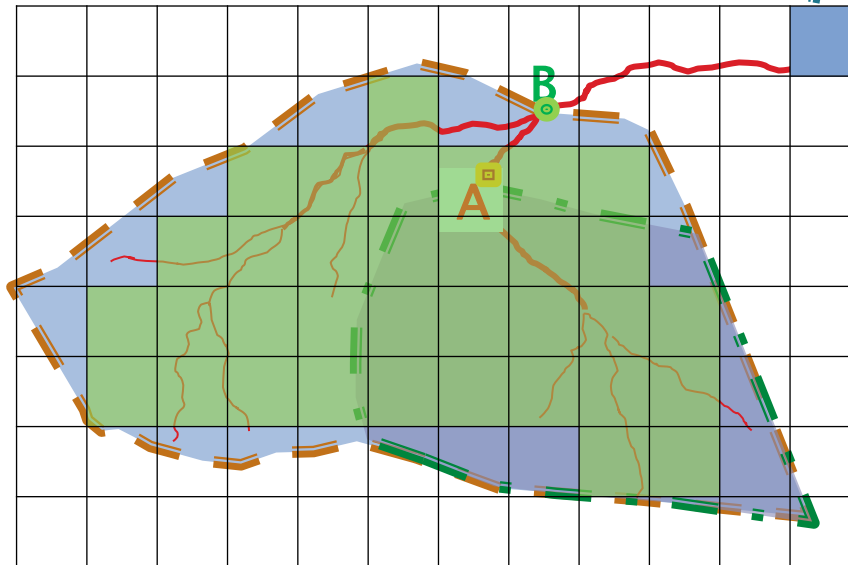
Map scale 1:63360

Rainfalls = 2666 mm/year
 $= 2.666 \text{ m/year}$
Water volume =
Catchment area x Rainfalls
 $= 3.04 \times 10^6 \times 2.666 =$
 $8.1 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{year}$
 $\text{ADF}_A = 8.1 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{year}$
 $/(365 \times 24 \times 60 \times 60 \text{ s/year})$
 $= 0.26 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$

Desk study

➤ Area-Rainfalls method

• Catchment area of site B



1:63360

ມາດຕາສ່ວນຂອງແຜນທີ່: 1:63360

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Square size} &= (4 \times 63.36) \times (4 \times 63.36), \text{ m}^2 \\ &= 144,658 \text{ m}^2\end{aligned}$$

4 mm x 4 mm

$$\begin{aligned}\text{No. of squares (B)} &= 46 \\ \text{Area of Catchment (B):} &= 46 \times 144658 \\ &= 6.654 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Rainfalls} &= 2666 \text{ mm/year} \\ &= 2.666 \text{ m/year} \\ \text{Water volume} &= \\ \text{Catchment area} \times \text{Rainfalls} &= 6.654 \times 10^6 \times 2.666 \\ &= 17.74 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{ປີ} \\ \text{ADF}_B &= 17.74 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{year} \\ &/ (365 \times 60 \times 60 \text{ s/year}) \\ &= 0.675 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}\end{aligned}$$

Desk Study

➤ Rainfalls-Area Method: Run-off :

Rainfalls = 2666 mm/year = 2.666 m/year

Water volume = Catchment area x Rainfalls
= $6.654 \times 10^6 (\text{m}^2) \times 2.666 (\text{m/year}) = 17.74 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{year}$

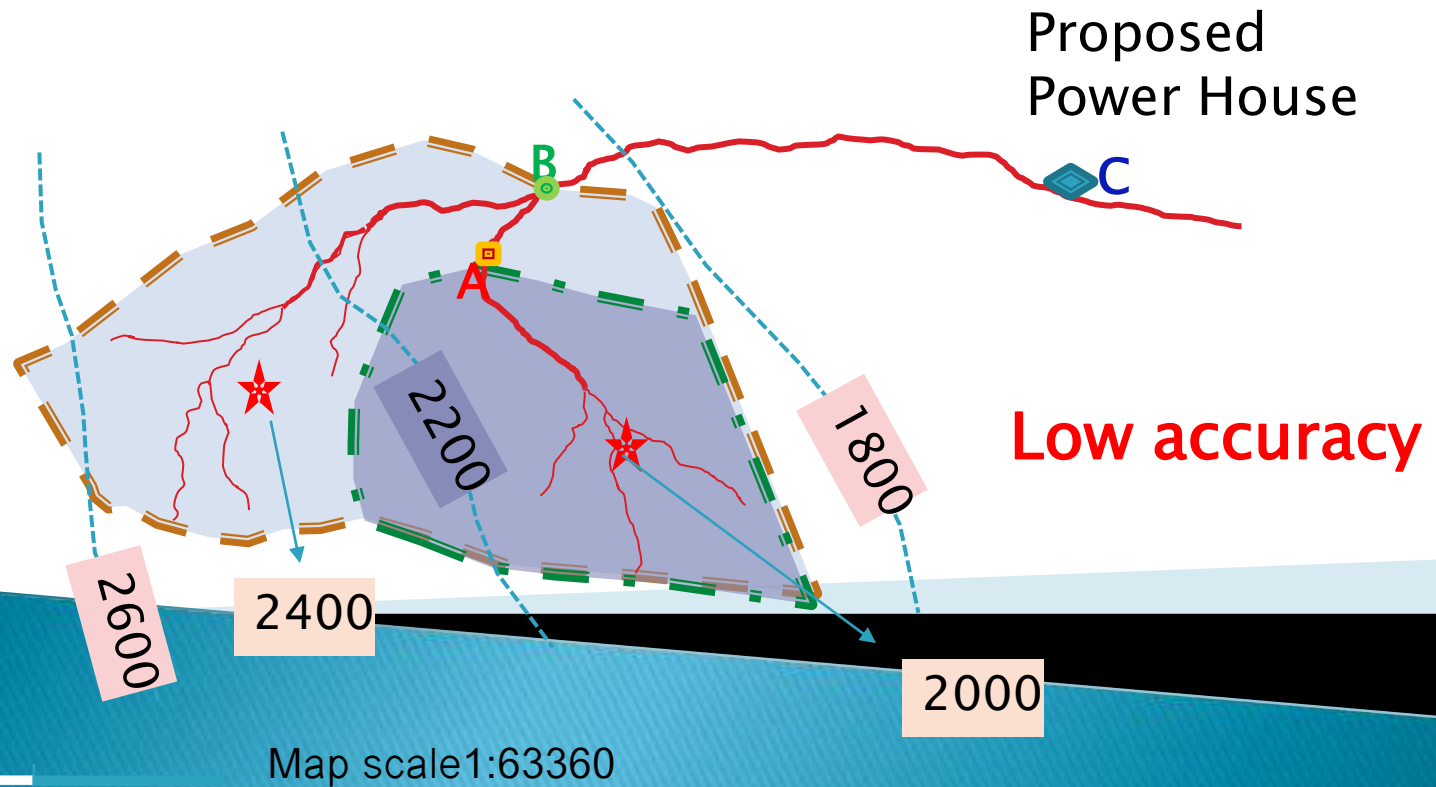
$$\begin{aligned} \text{ADF}_B &= 17.74 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{y} / (365 \times 60 \times 60 \text{ s/y}) \\ &= 0.675 \text{ m}^3/\text{s} \end{aligned}$$

Run-off = Annual rainfalls - Evaporation

Desk study

➤ Area-Rainfall method

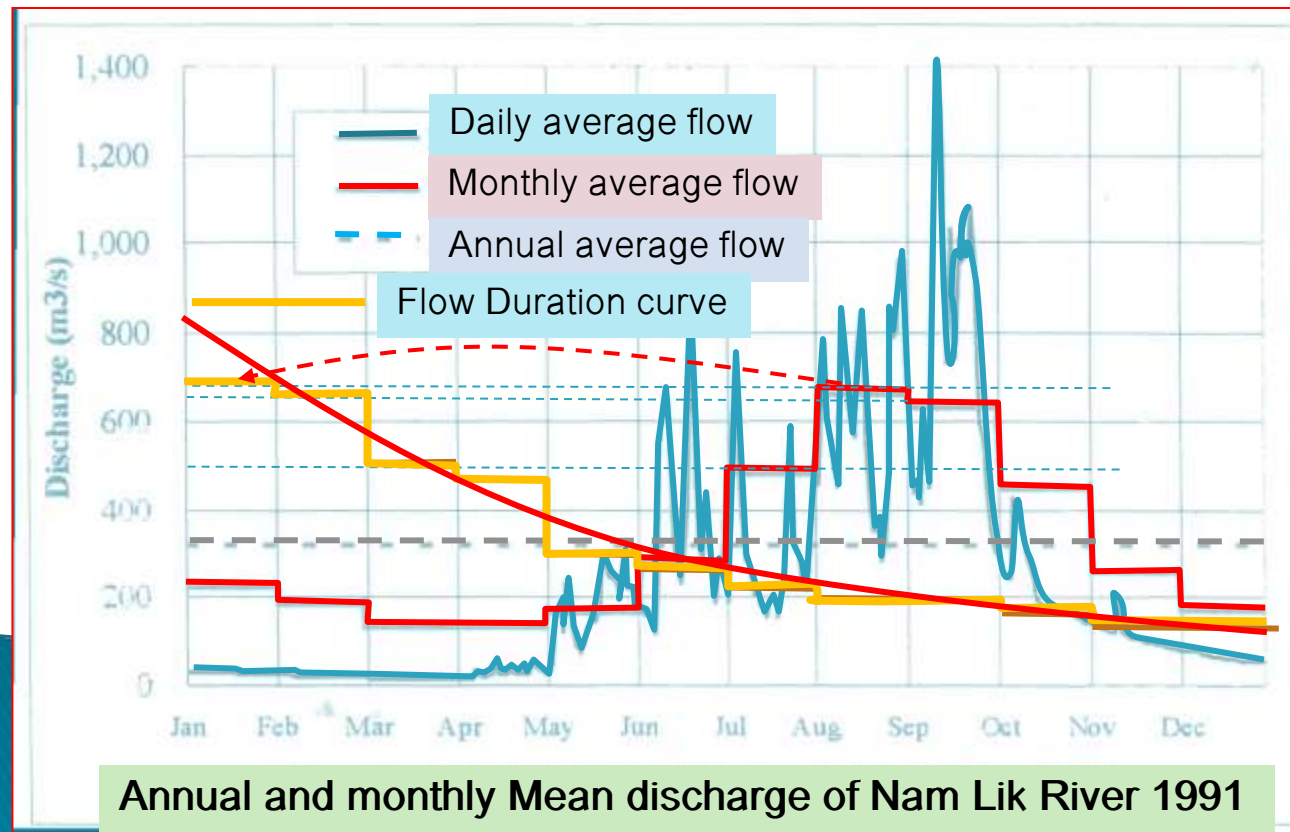
- In case of no Rain gauge
- But there a map with Isohyets



Correlation method

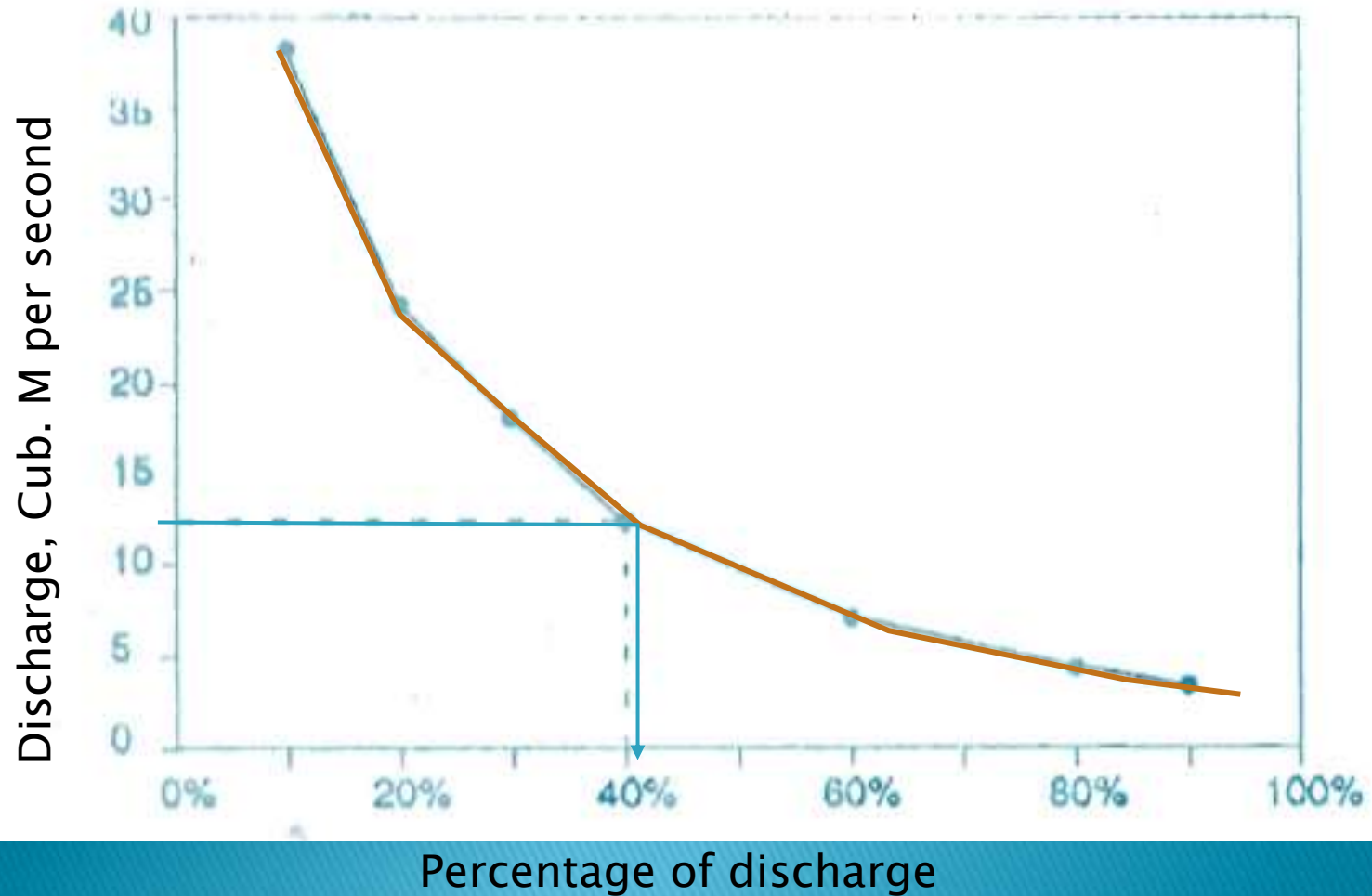
➤ Hydrograph and Flow duration curve

- Hydrograph Mean flows)



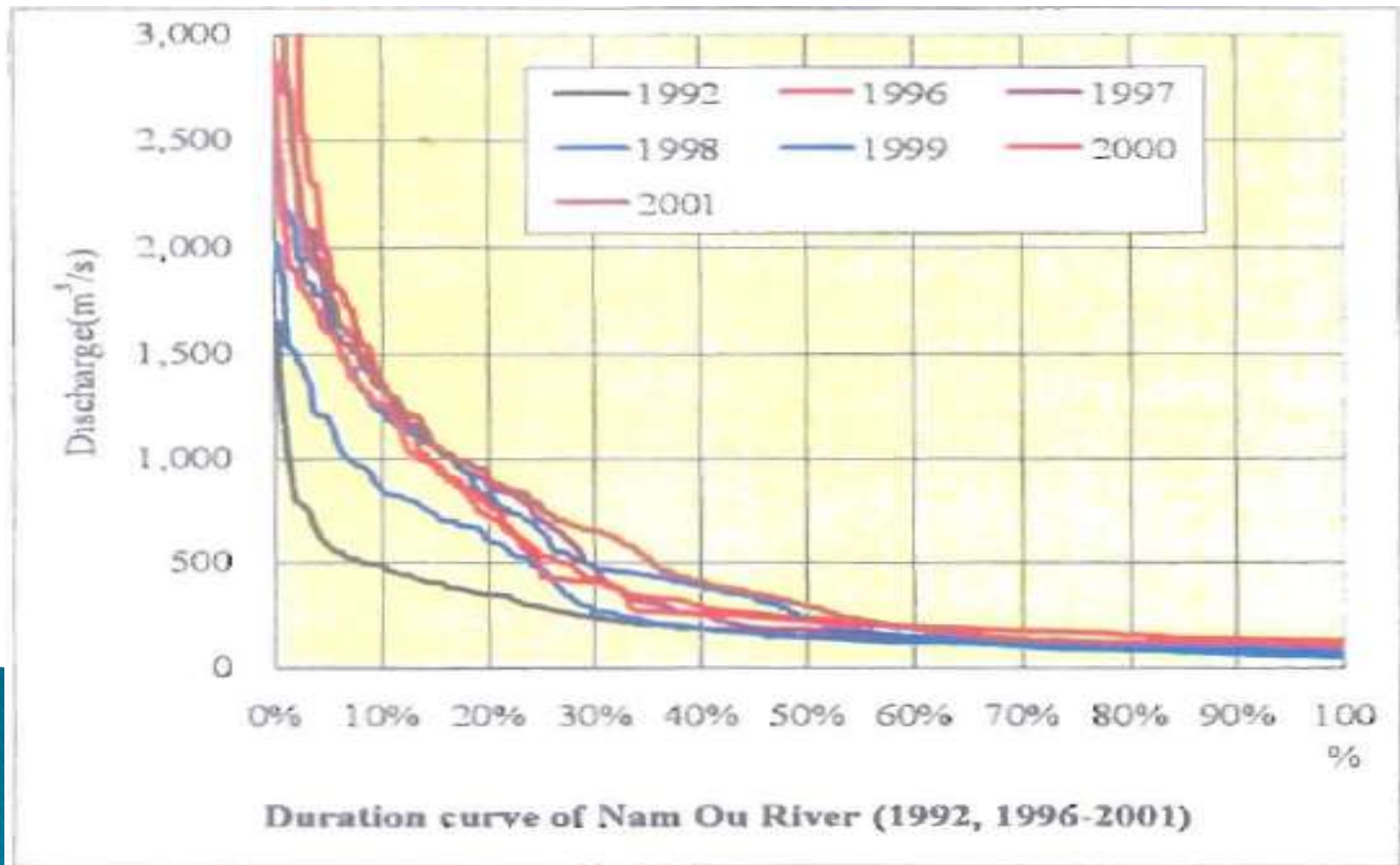
Correlation method

➤ Flow Duration Curve (FDC)



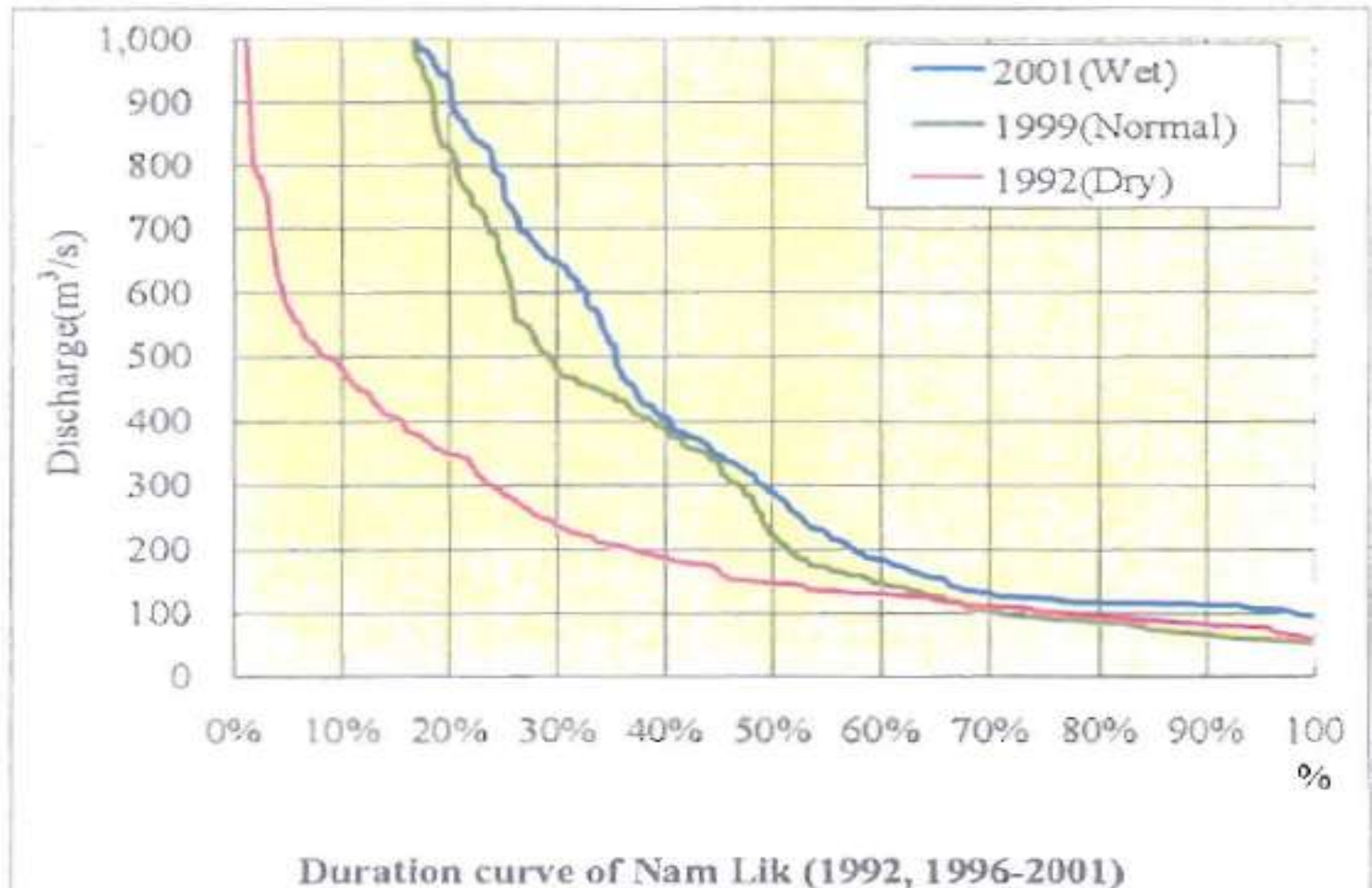
Correlation method

➤ Flow Duration Curve of Nam Ou River



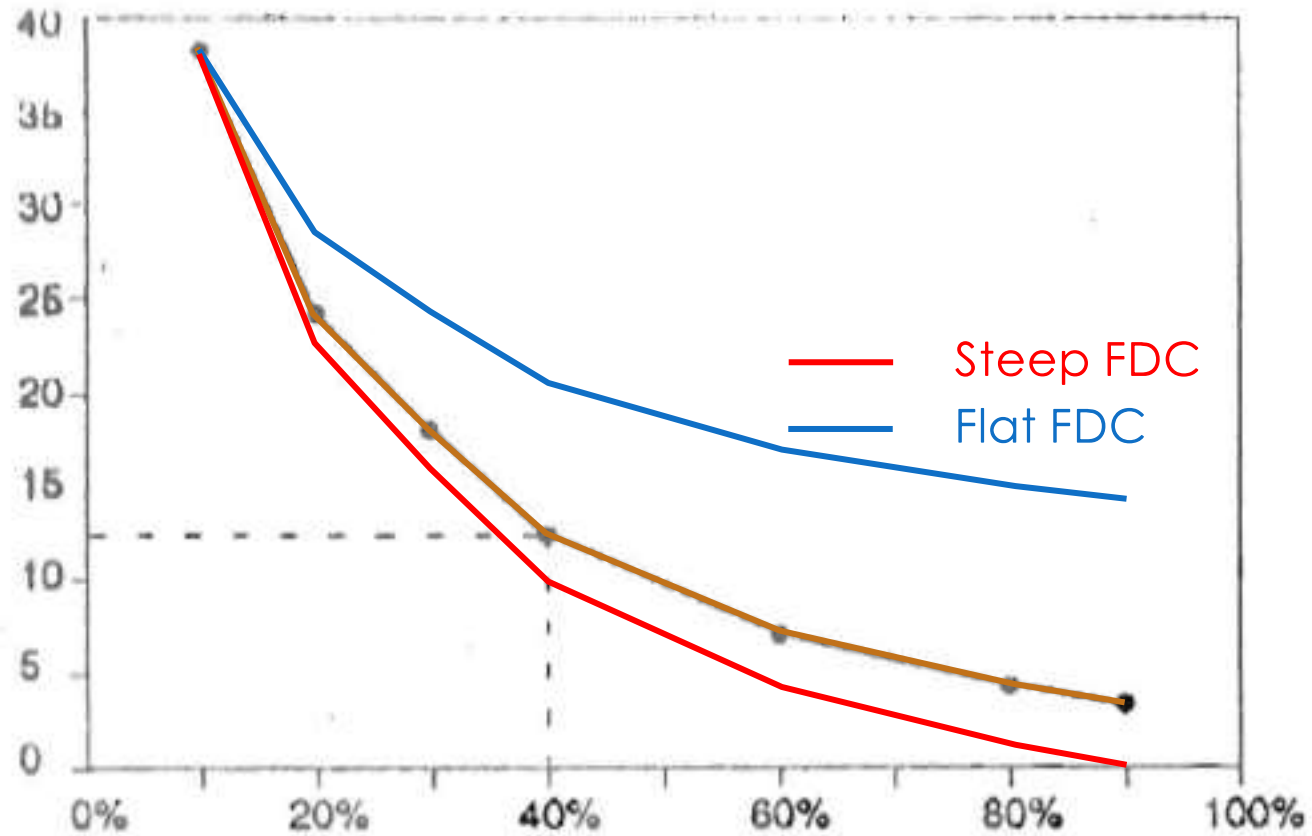
Correlation method

➤ FDC of Nam Lik River



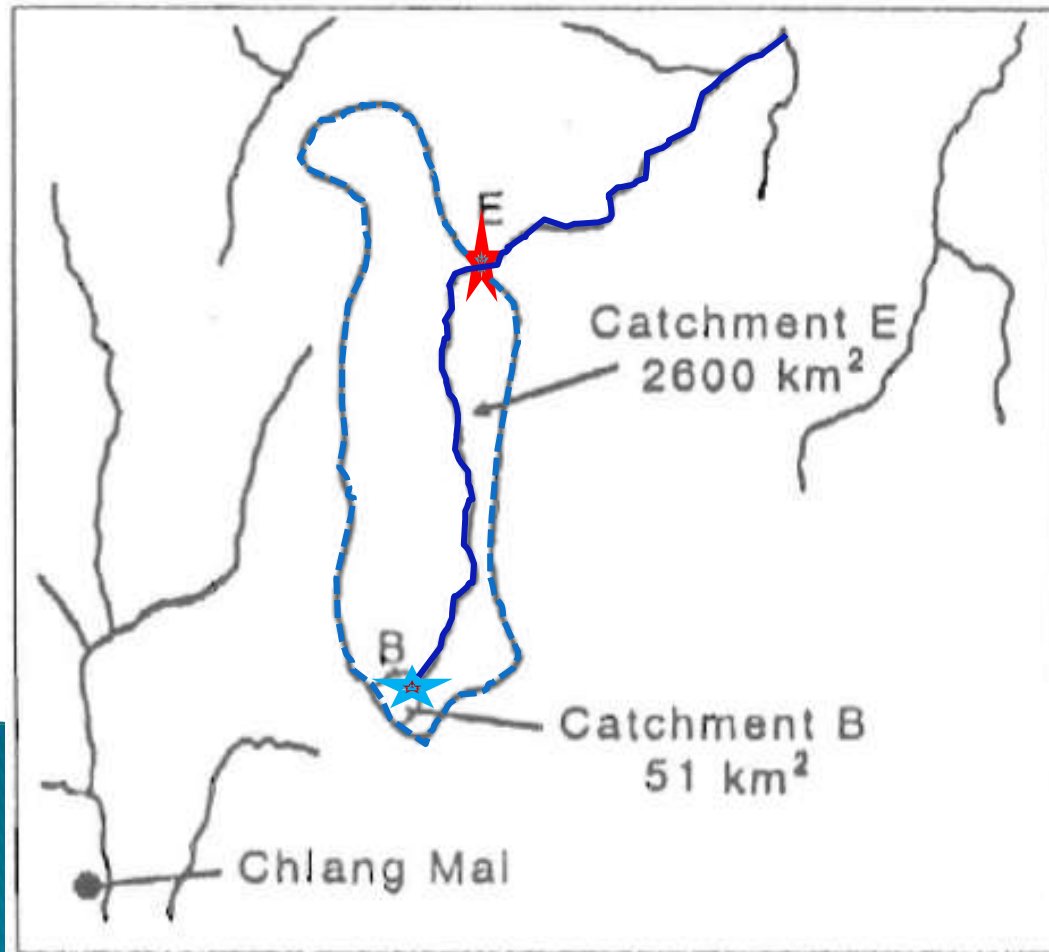
Correlation method

➤ Flow Duration Curve characteristics



Correlation method

➤ Absence of Rain gauge → to use data from near by gauged sites



E - Gauged site

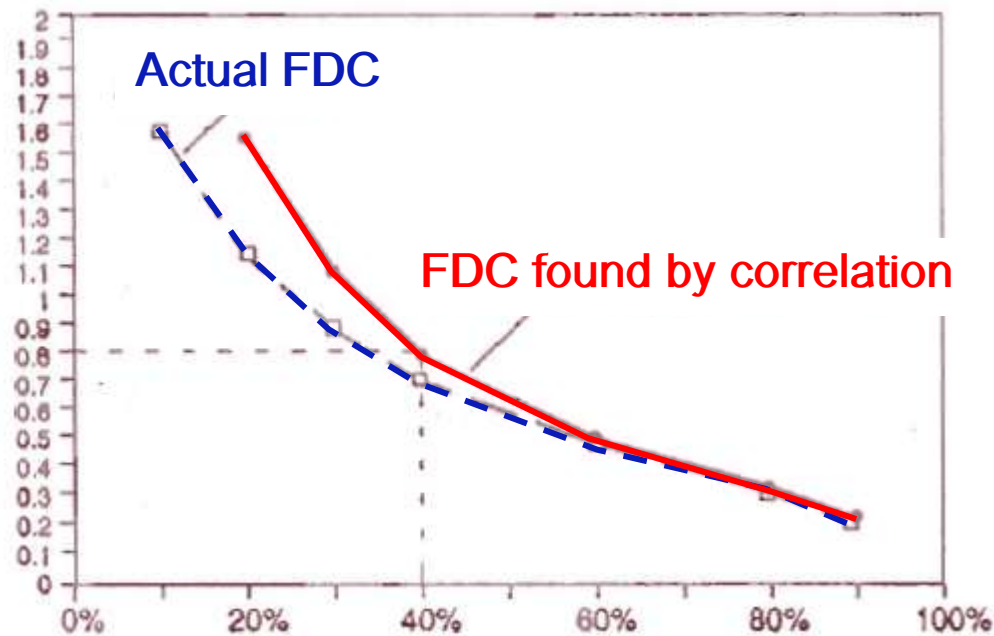
B - ungauged site

1) To do 10-12
measurements
at B at random
dates

Correlation Method

➤ Absence of Gauged data

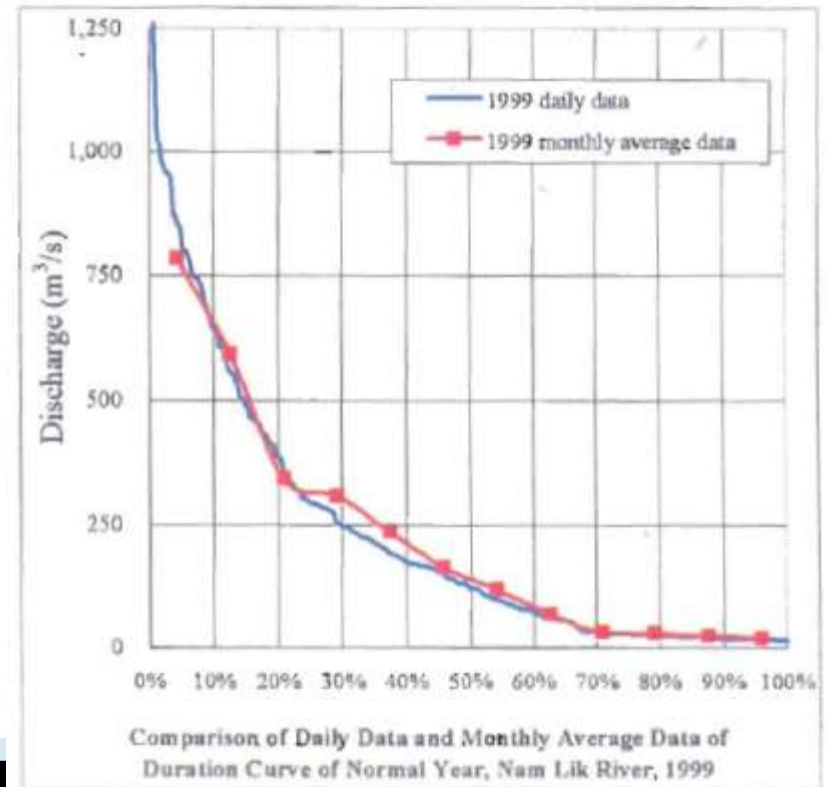
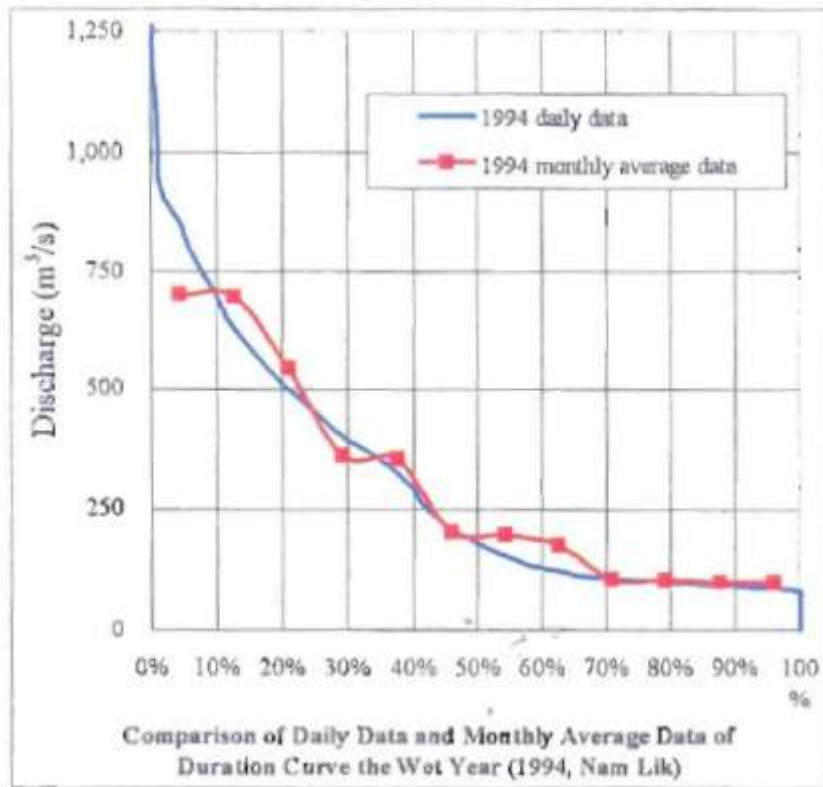
➤ Comparison of actual (measured) and found (correlated) FDC



- 2) Plot the corresponding flows on a graph of flow at E vs. flow at B
- 3) Use the FDC of the gauged site to select a flow at a specific exceedence value
- 4) Not much different in dry season

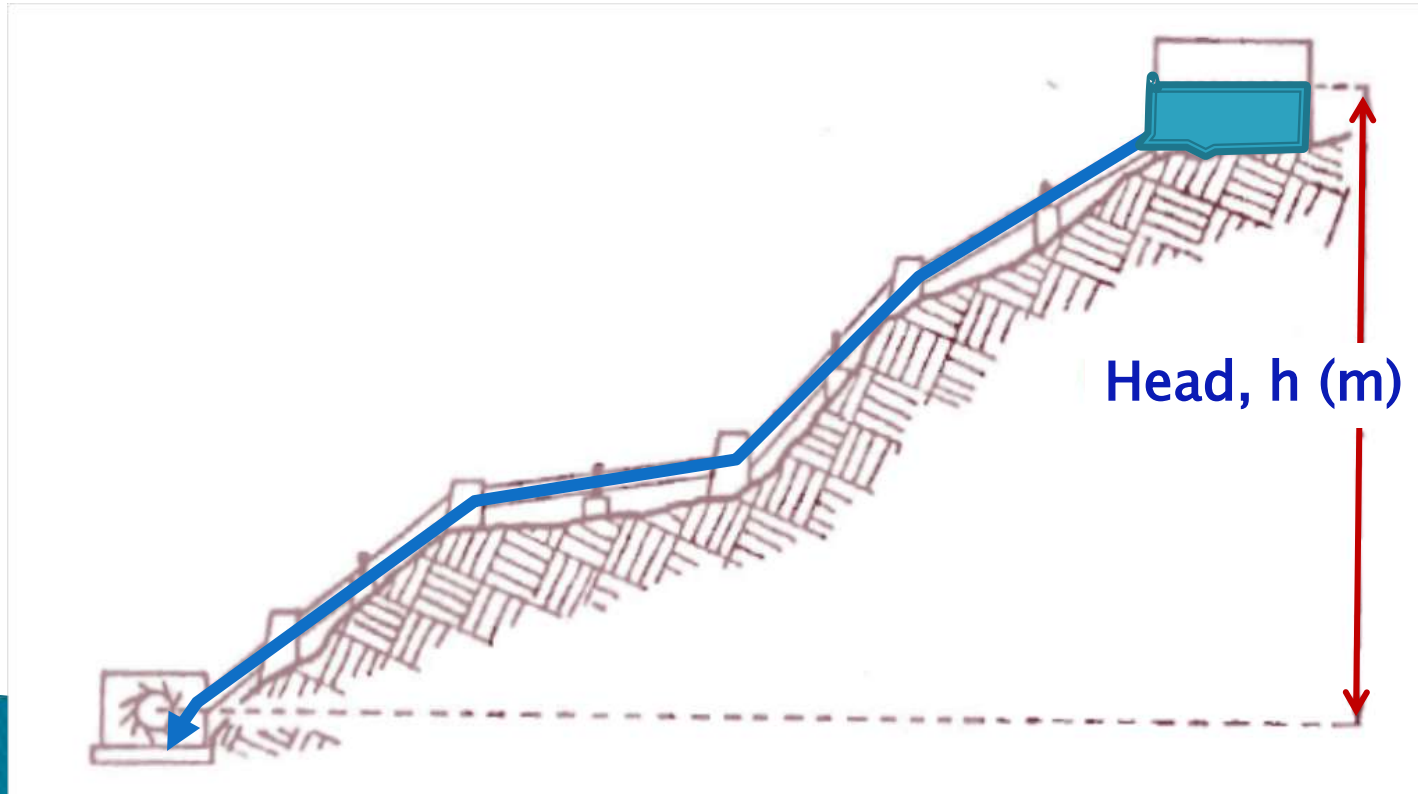
Correlation method

➤ Example of FDC



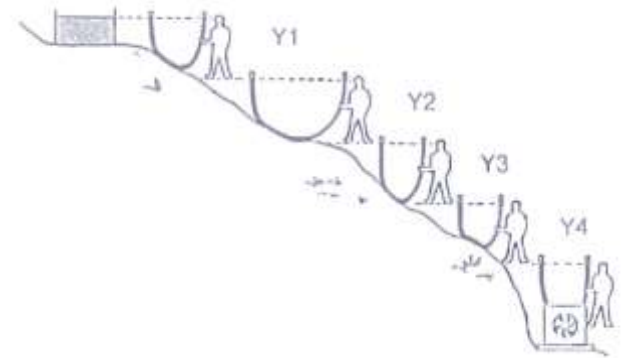
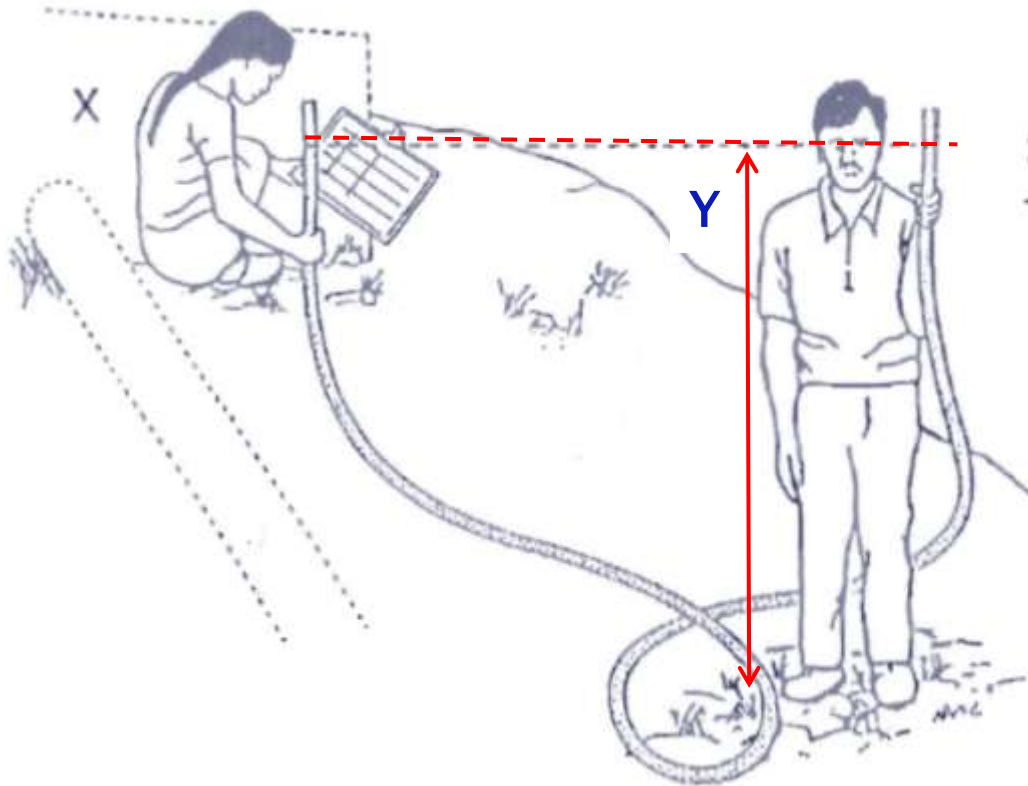
Site survey

◆ Head Measurement



Site survey

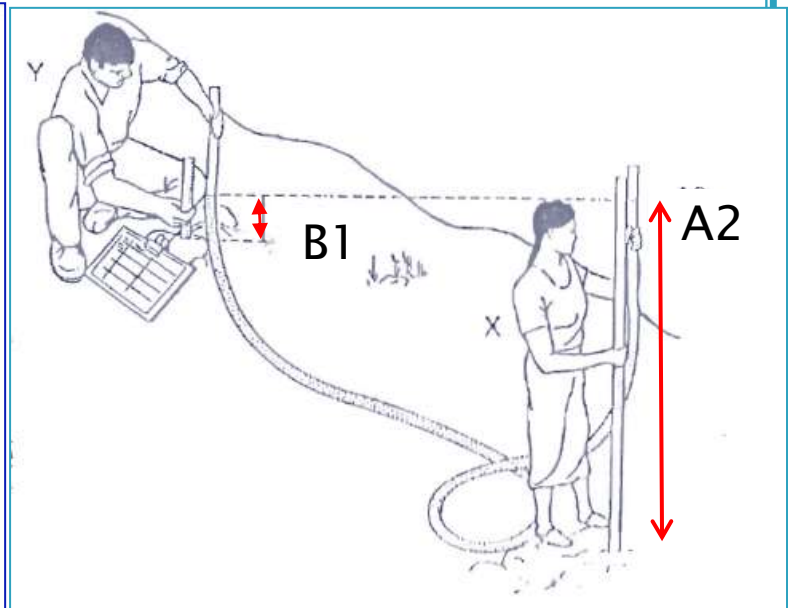
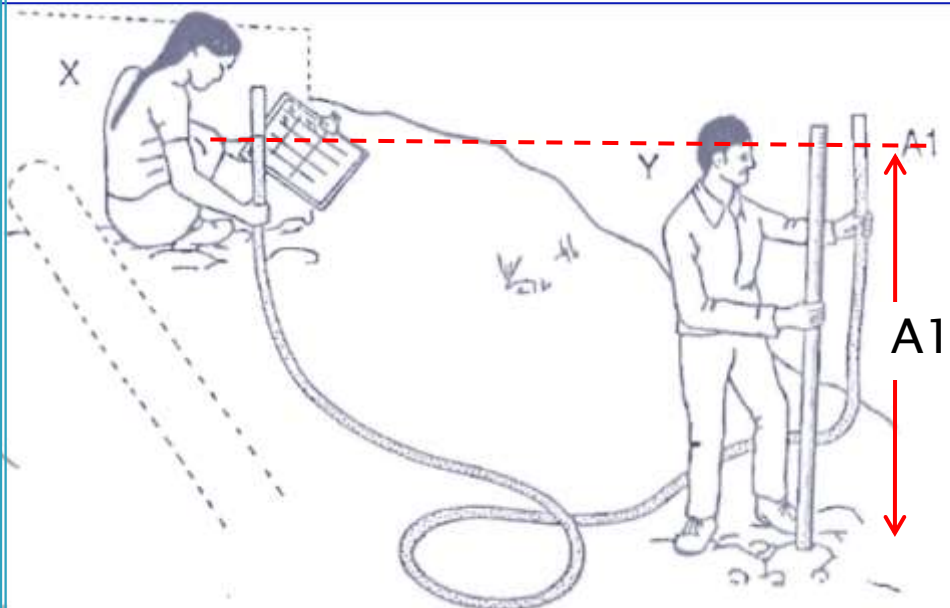
- **Head Measurement:** water-filled clear tube and person



$$H(m) = Y1 + Y2 + Y3 + Y4$$

Site Survey

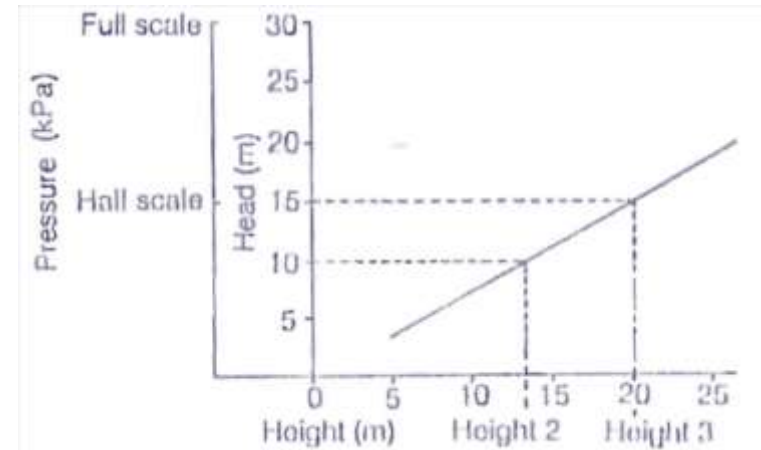
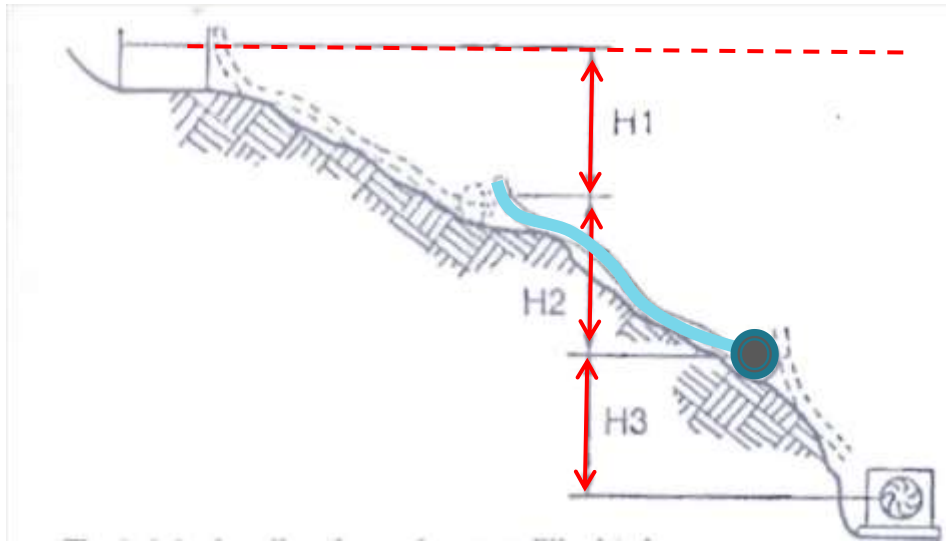
•Head Measurement: water-filled tube and rode



$A1 =$	$B1 =$	$H1 = A1 - B1$
$A2 =$	$B2 =$	$H2 = A2 - B2$
$A3 =$	$B3 =$	$H3 = A3 - B3$
$H = H1 + H2 + H3 + \dots$		

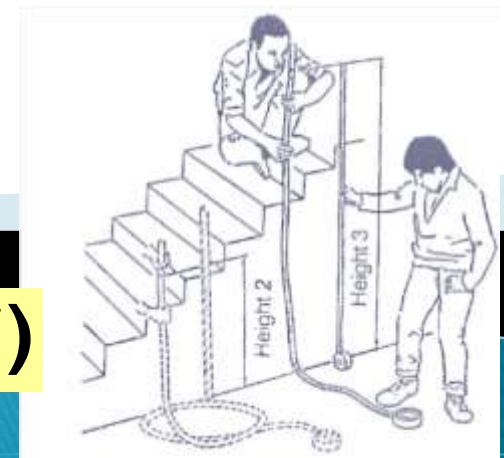
Site Survey

- **Head Measurement:** water-filled tube with pressure
- Can measure penstock length;



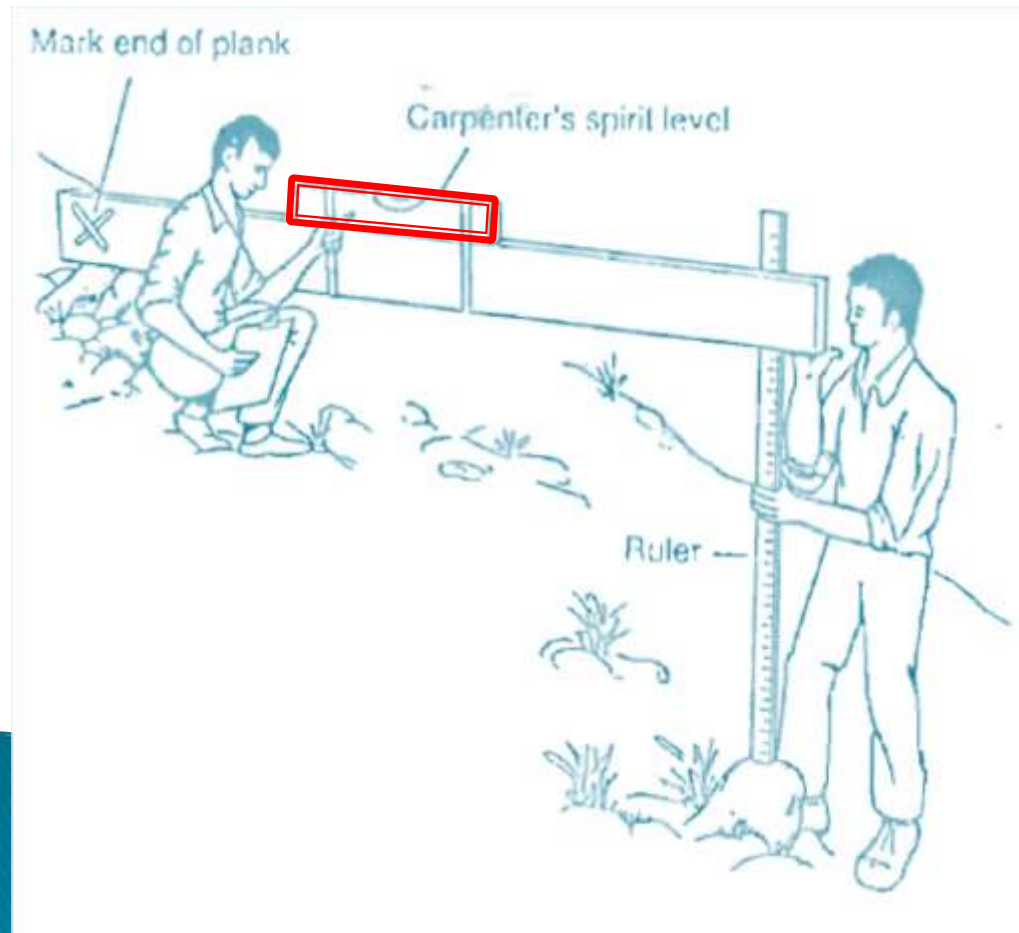
$$h(\text{m}) = \frac{p \text{ (kPa)}}{9.8}$$

$$h(\text{m}) = 0.704 \times p \text{ (psi)}$$



Site Survey

- **Head Measurement: Carpenter's spirit level**

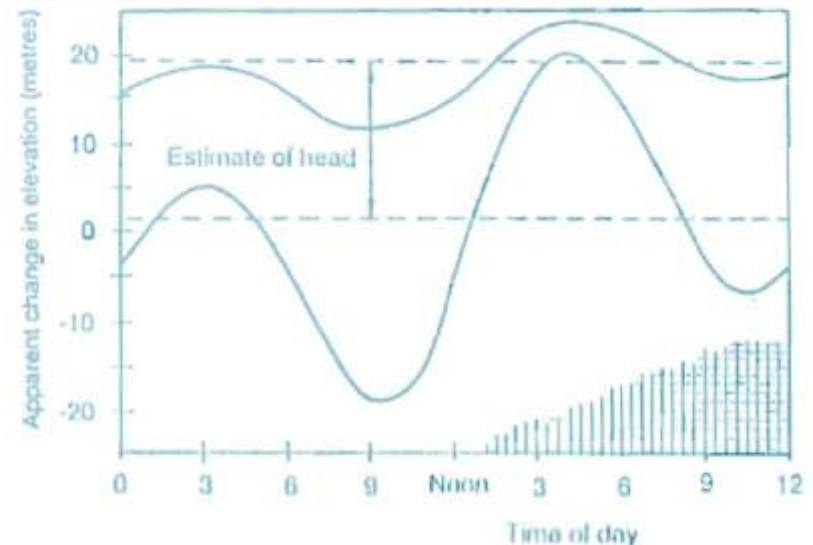


Site survey

•Head Measurement: altimeter

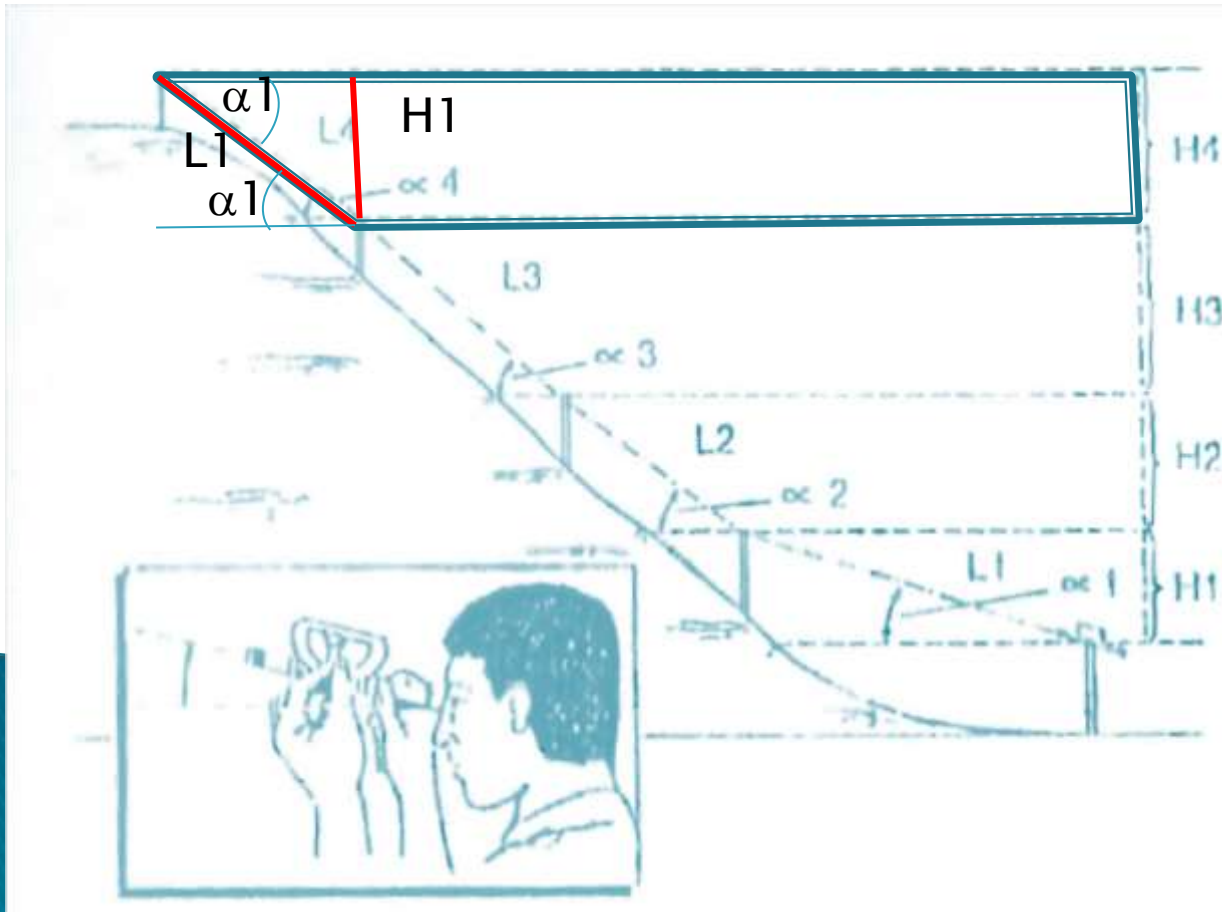
- ✓ Useful for medium and high height
- ✓ Sensitive to changes of air pressure, temperature and humidity
- ✓ Skills needed to get high accuracy

Forebay		Powerhouse	
Reading	Time	Reading	Time
1000	10.15	900	10.20
1010	10.50	915	10.55
1015	12.00	930	12.30
1015	1.00	940	1.30



Site Survey

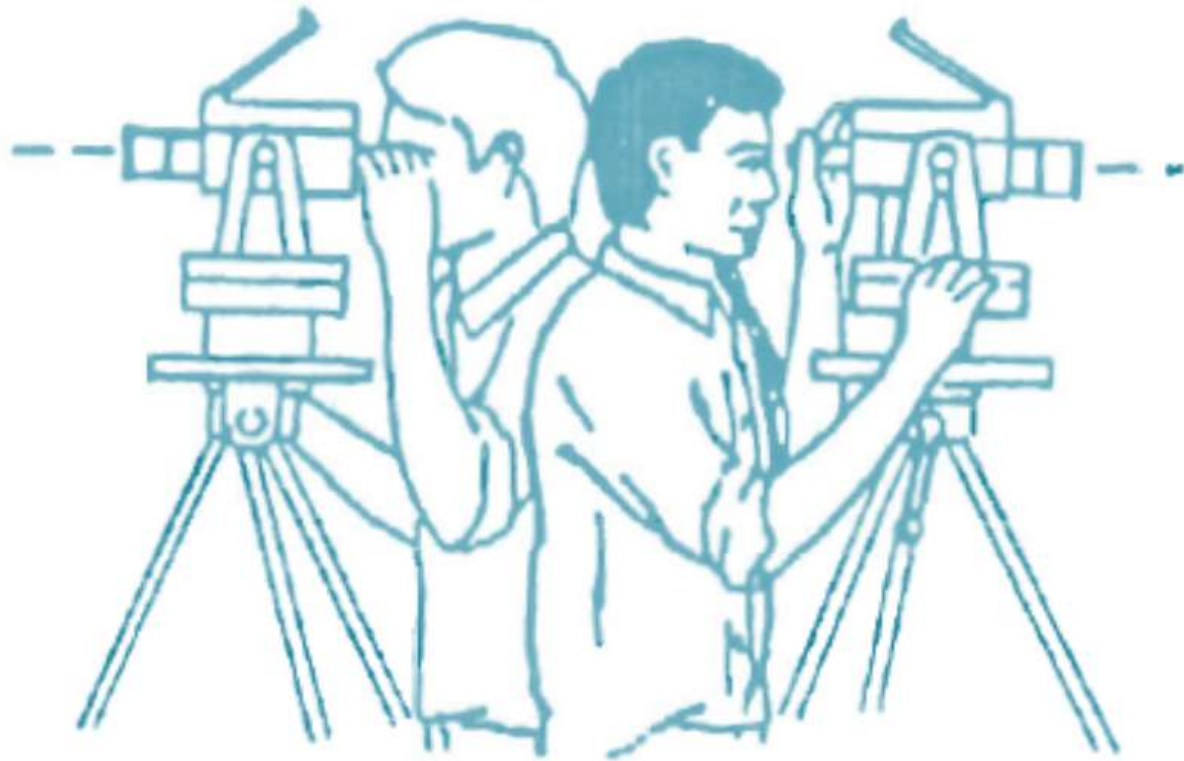
• Head Measurement: Clinometers



$$H_1 = L_1 \cdot \sin(\alpha_1)$$

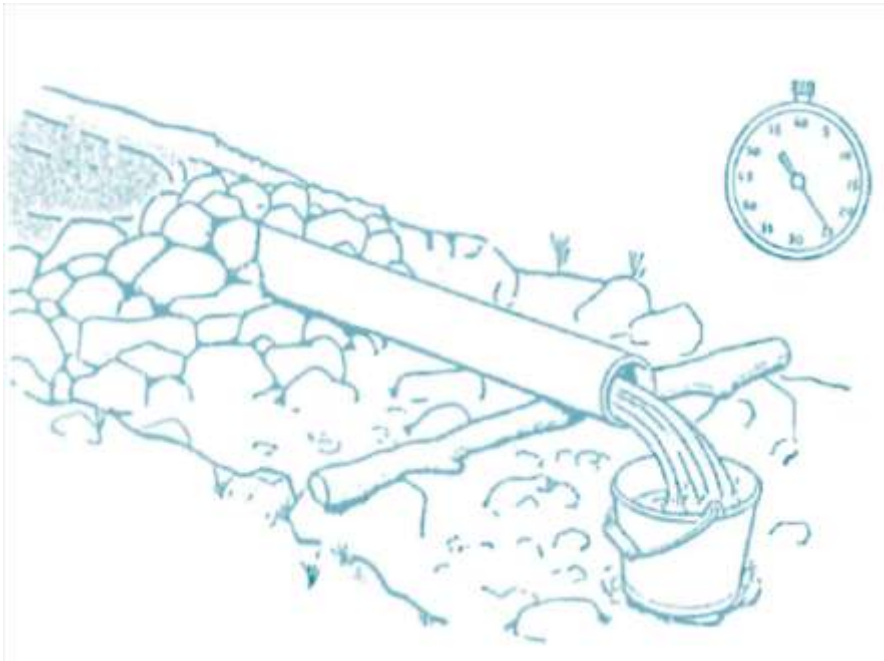
Site Survey

• Head Measurement: Sighting and Theodolites



Site Survey

• Site Flow Measurement: Bucket/Oil drum method



$$Q = \frac{V}{t}$$

$$V_{\text{water}} = \frac{m_{\text{water}}}{\rho_{\text{water}}}$$

$$m_{\text{water}} = m_{(\text{bucket} + \text{water})} - m_{\text{bucket}}$$

Bucket: suitable for flow rate $< 5 \text{ L/s}$

200L Oil drum: $< 50 \text{ L/s}$

Site Survey

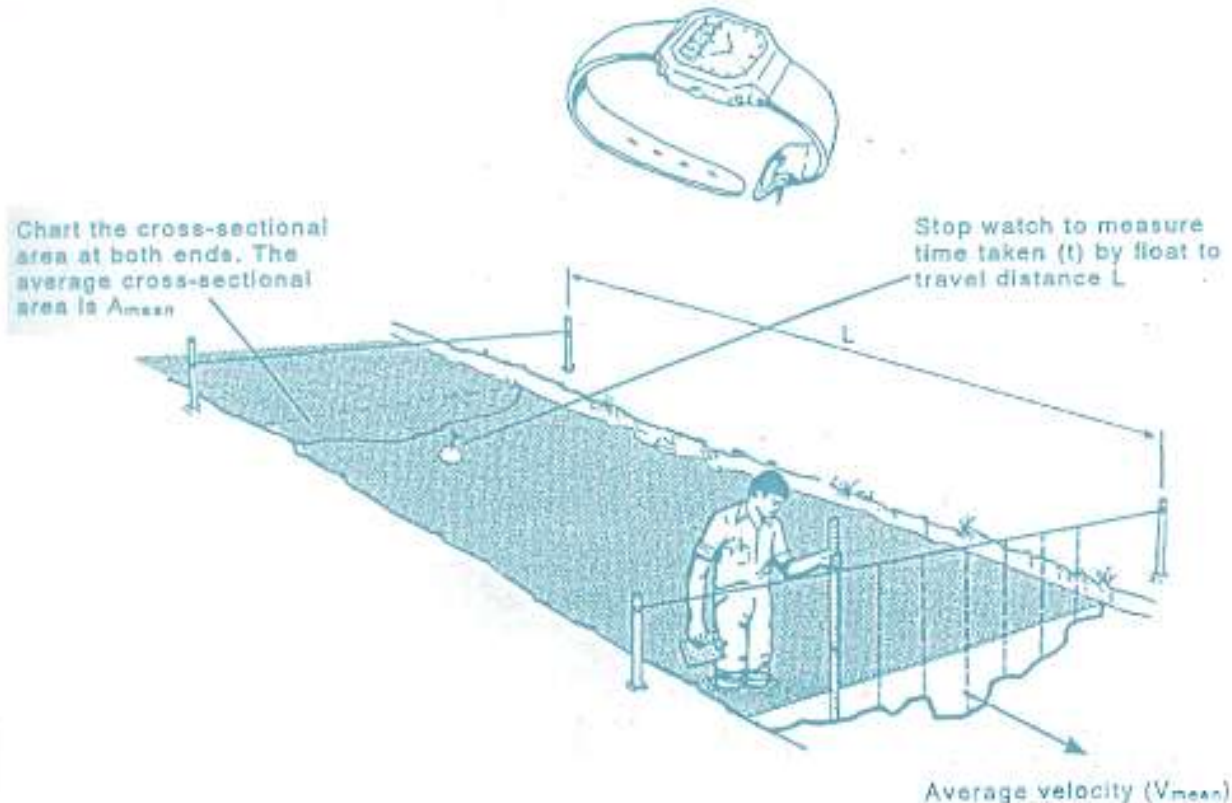
• Site Flow Measurement: Cross area & Velocity method

$$Q = A \times v_{mean}$$

Q – Flow rate, m³/s

A – Cross-sectional area, m²

v_{mean} – average velocity, m/s



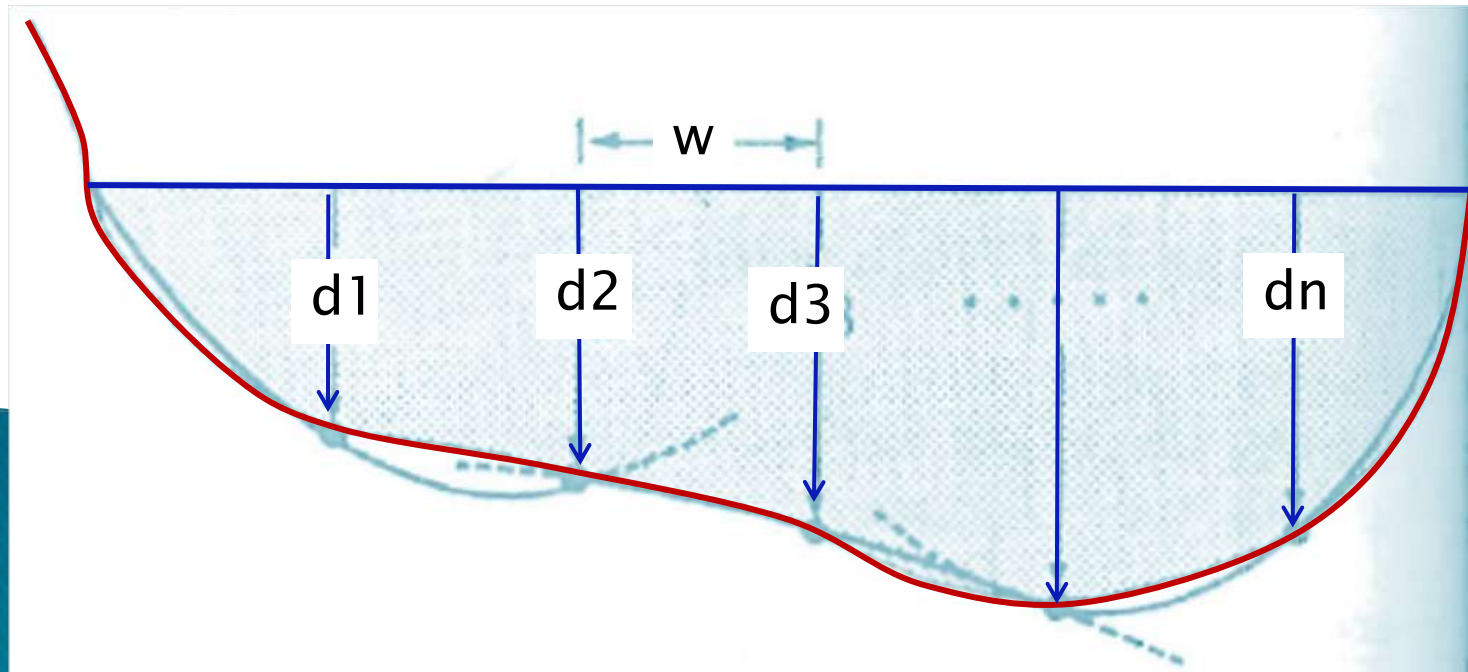
Site Survey

• Site Flow Measurement: A & V method

- ✓ Cross section area of a stream/river

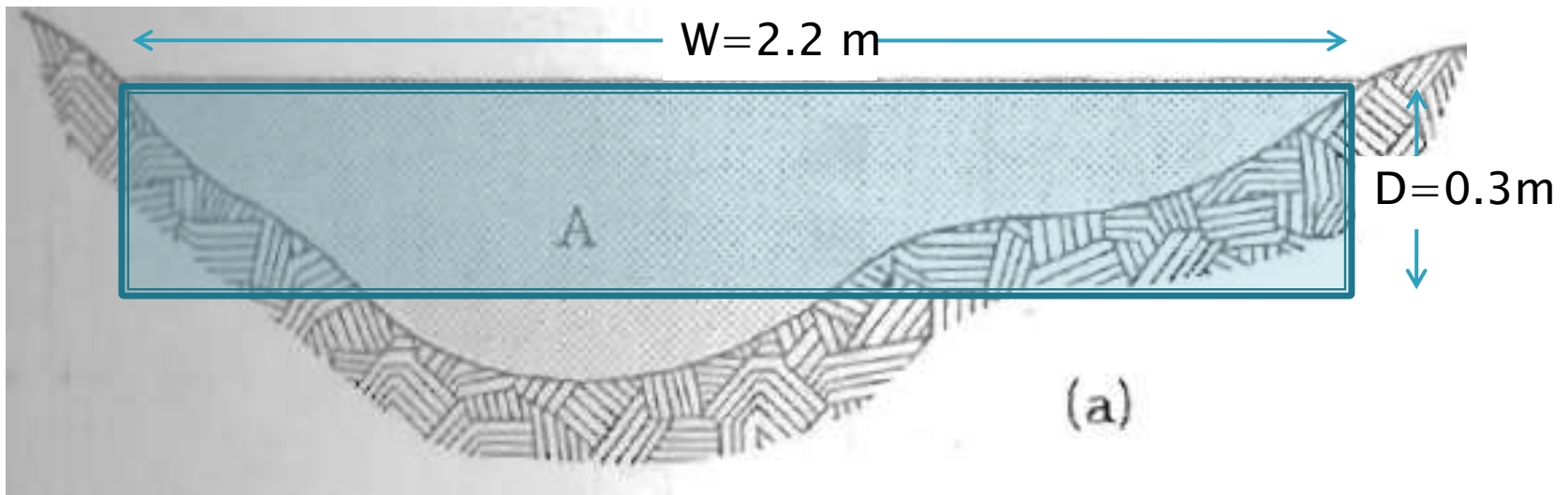
$$A = \frac{w}{3} [4(d_1 + d_3 + \dots + d_n) + 2(d_2 + d_4 + \dots + d_{n-1})]$$

n-Odd number (1,3,5,...)



Site Survey

- **Site Flow Measurement: A & V method**
 - Cross section area calculation: Simple cross section

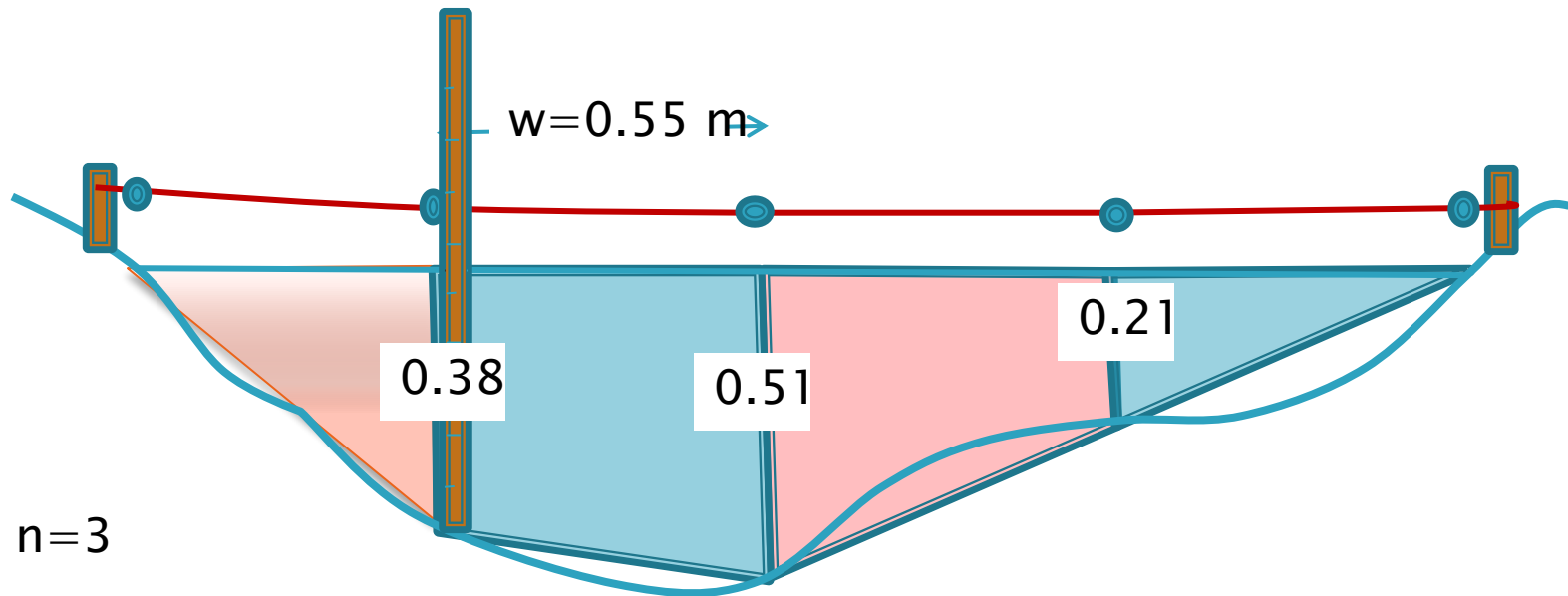


$$A = w \times d = 2.2 * 0.3 = 0.66 \text{ m}$$

Site Survey

• Site Flow Measurement: A & V method

- ✓ Un-uniform Cross section



$$A = \frac{w}{3} [4(d_1 + d_3 + \dots + d_n) + 2(d_2 + d_4 + \dots + d_{n-1})]$$

$$= \frac{w}{3} [4(d_1 + d_3) + 2(d_2)] = \frac{0.55}{3} [4 \times (0.38 + 0.21) + 2 \times (0.51)] = 0.62 \text{ m}^2$$

Site Survey

• Site Flow Measurement: A & V method

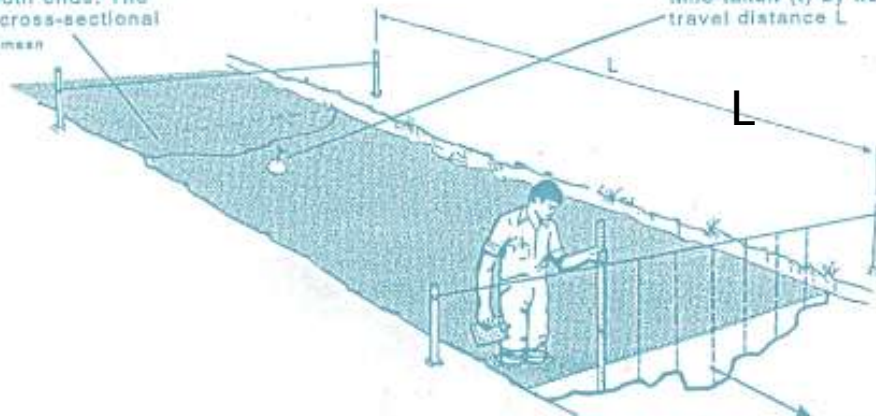
- ✓ Measuring average flow velocity \bar{V}

$$v_s = \frac{L}{t}$$

$$\bar{V} = C \times v_s$$

Chart the cross-sectional area at both ends. The average cross-sectional area is A_{mean}

Stop watch to measure time taken (t) by float to travel distance L



Average velocity (V_{mean})

Average velocity, \bar{v} or v_{mean}

$C=0.85$ - for smooth, rectangular concrete channels

$C=0.75$ - for large, slow, clear stream

$C=0.65$ - for small but regular stream with smooth stream bed

$C=0.45$ - for shallow (0.5 m) turbulent flow

$C=0.25$ - for very shallow and rocky stream

Site Survey

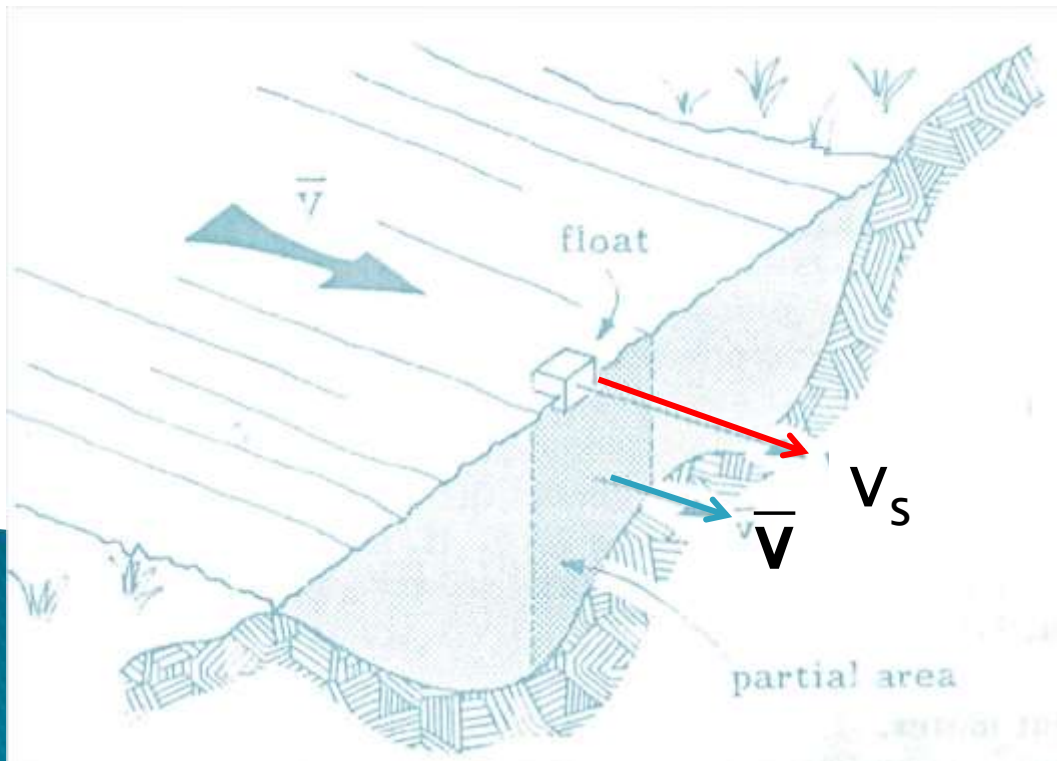
• Site Flow Measurement: A & V method

- ✓ Average velocity in a partial area

V_s – Velocity in a Partial area

$$\bar{V} = c \times V_s$$

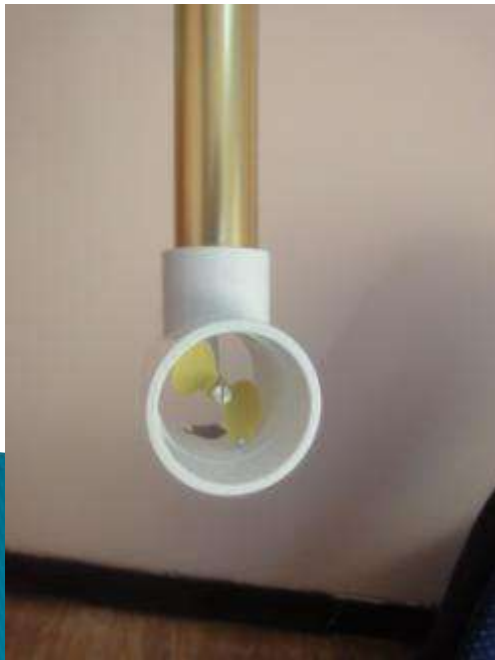
$c=0.75$ -Shallow stream
 $c=0.95$ -deep stream



Site Survey

• Site Flow Measurement: A & V method

- Propeller Flow meter can measure:
 - Partial area velocity
 - Average stream velocity



Site Survey

- Site Flow Measurement: A & V method
 - Propeller Flow meter use



Site Survey

• Site Flow Measurement: A & V method

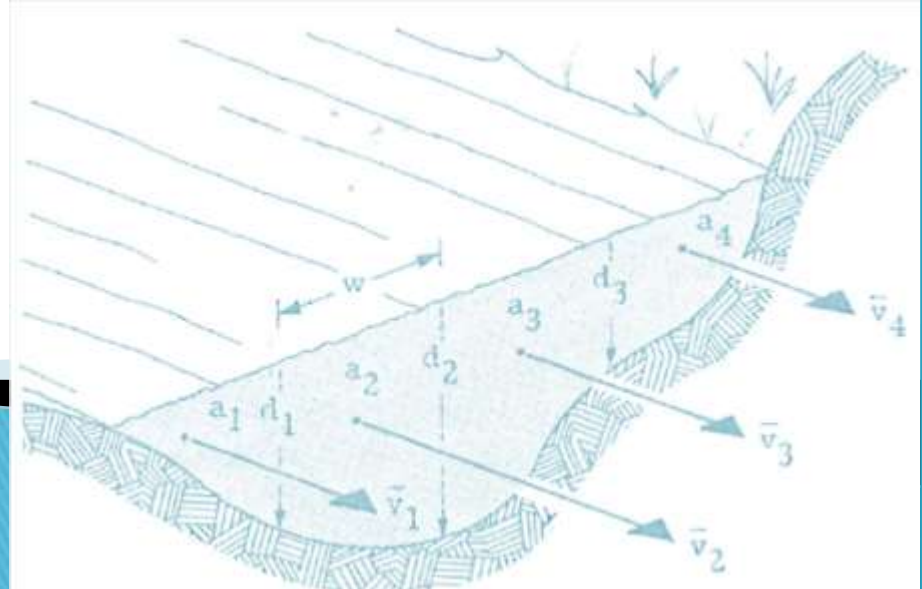
- Total Flow rate = Sum of Partial Area Flow rate

$$Q = a_1 \bar{v}_1 + a_2 \bar{v}_2 + \dots + a_n \bar{v}_n$$

where a_1, a_2, \dots partial areas

Example: partial area
between d_2 and d_3

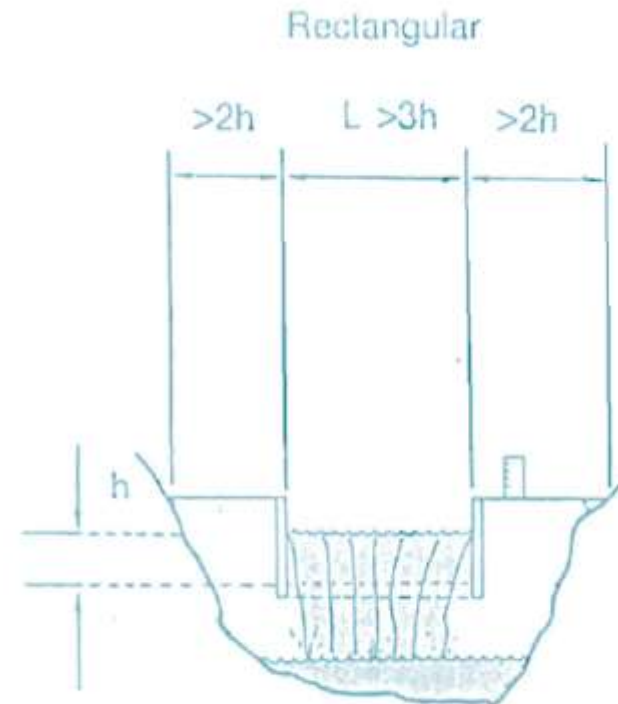
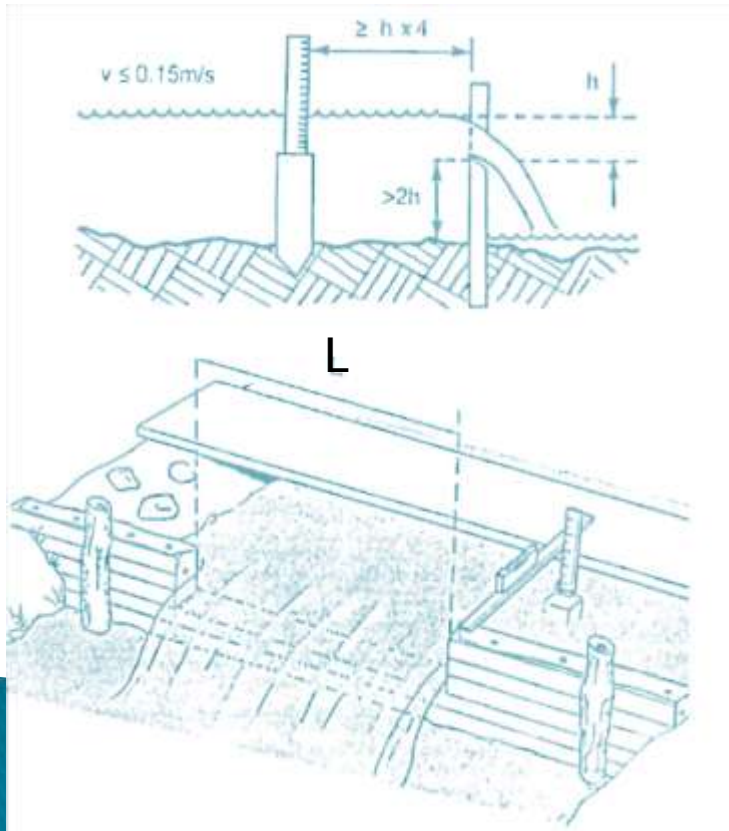
$$a_3 = \frac{(d_2 + d_3)}{2} \times w$$



Site Survey

• Site Flow Measurement: Weir method

➤ Rectangular weir

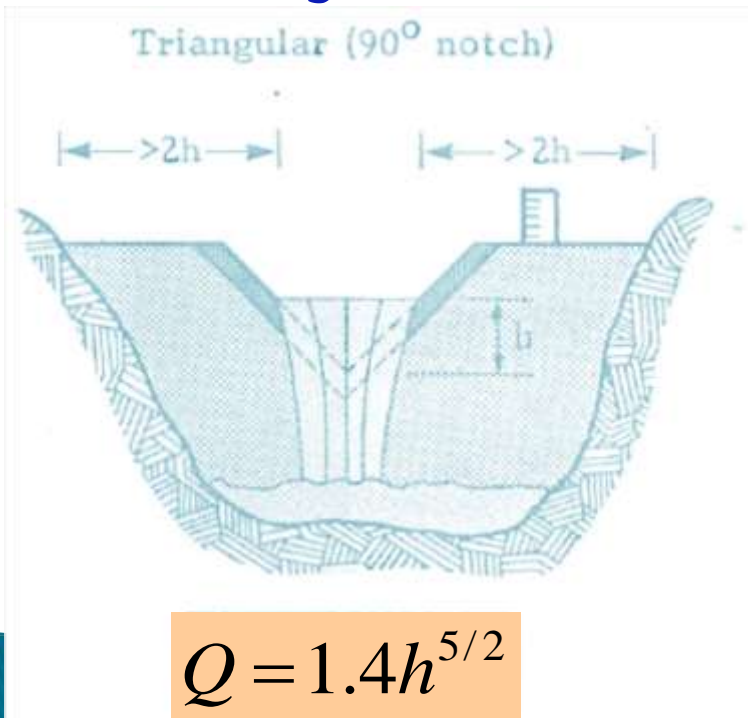


$$Q = 1.8(L - 0.2h)h^{3/2}$$

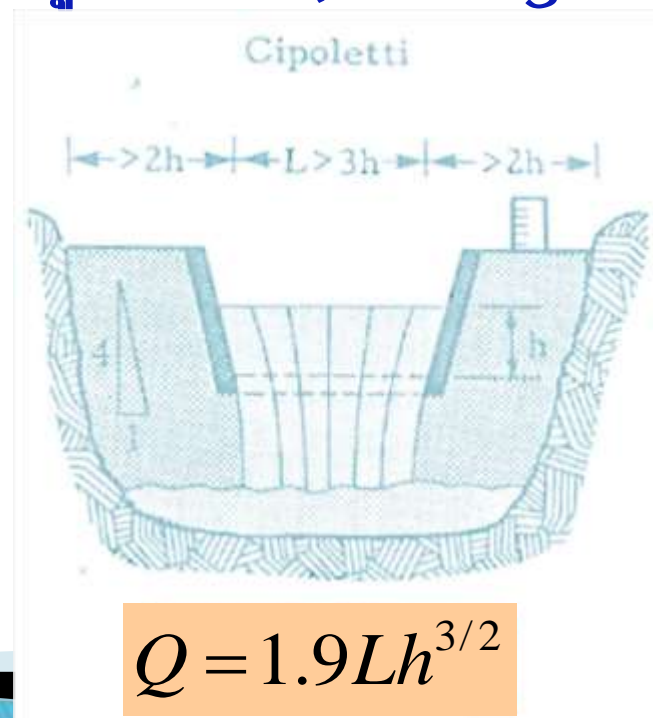
ໄຟຟ້ານໍ້າຕົກຂະໜາດນ້ອຍ Small-scale Hydropower

ວັດແທກອັດຕາການໄຫຼຂອງແມ່ນໍ້າ (Site Flow Measurement)

- ວິທີສ້າງຝາຍກັ້ນນໍ້າ ແລະປະຕູປ່ອຍນໍ້າ ຊະນິດອື່ນໆ



ປະຕູສາມຫຼ່ຽມ (ມຸມສາກ)



ປະຕູເປັນຮູບຄາງໝູ

Site Survey

• Site Flow Measurement: salt 'gulp' or salt dilution method

- ✓ Quick measurement
- ✓ High accuracy
- ✓ Conductivity meter needed

Conductivity meter calibration



Assessment of small scale hydropower
potential

Thank You !

