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Houda Nouasse, Pascale Chiron, Bernard Archimède. Transportation network model with time delay for flood lamination strategy. 2013 XXIV International Conference on Information, Communication and Automation Technologies (ICAT), Oct 2013, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. pp. 1-7. hal-00926533v2

**HAL Id: hal-00926533**

**<https://hal.science/hal-00926533v2>**

Submitted on 9 Jan 2014

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Nouasse, Houda and Chiron, Pascale and Archimède, Bernard  
*Transportation network model with time delay for flood lamination strategy*. In: 2013 XXIV International Conference on Information, Communication and Automation Technologies (ICAT), 30 October 2013 - 01 November 2013 (Sarajevo, Bosnia And Herzegovina).

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# Transportation network model with time delay for flood lamination strategy

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**Abstract**— Flooding due to rivers overflowing have affected this year many countries in the world. The engendered problems, due to their intensity, are relative to goods and persons safety, and often cause a sharp increase of the insurance costs, which is no more tolerable in the actual economic context. To prevent these problems, it is necessary to limit water heights downstream the streams. In the literature, numerous described works were done on flows modelling and management. The work presented in this paper, is interested in the quantitative management by means of floods diversion areas placed along the river and for which location and sizing are known. A management method computing the height of gates opening at each time step is proposed. The strategy is based on a transportation network model of the flood diversion area system including the time transfer delays. It allows the computation of the water volumes to be stored in time. Simulation results for different flood episode are discussed.

**Keywords**—transportation networks; time delay; flood lamination; network modelling.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The last decades violent natural phenomena have been observed on both sides of the planet, which according to experts are largely due to climate change [1]. Among these phenomena, we are interested in floods due to river overflowing, whose severity and magnitude are increasingly significant. Today, this is particularly manifest as attested by the floods in all Europe and particularly in central Europe where flooding of the Elbe and Danube were deadly and exceeded the record level of 2002. In fact, flooding due to excessive rainfall and surface runoff can cause significant damages, properties loss and injuries around the world. To prevent these problems, river systems are increasingly equipped with means for detecting floods and floodplains sized and positioned according to the topography. Flood management requires increased reactivity as compared to other management methods based on planning where the necessary data are known a priori. Indeed, given rapidity climatic phenomena at origin of the most of these floods, and difficulty of accurately assess their magnitude; managers must take important decisions quickly in an uncertain context. The integration of adapted digital tools to these crises is relevant and necessary to improve the decision-making [2], [3]. The

difficulty is related to the choice of the optimization model associated to management method, which depends on device characteristics, data availability, goals to achieve and constraints to be satisfied. In the literature, different optimization techniques are proposed to help flood management among which we can mention: the linear programming [4], nonlinear programming [5], [6], multiobjective optimization [7] or genetic algorithms [8]. Some heuristics are also used to deal with this management, notably algorithms for flows maximizing [9], [10], [11]. Unfortunately, the management methods based on algorithms for flows maximizing do not take into account the transfer time of water volumes. Thus, the objective of this paper is to describe a method for managing storage of volume displaced in expansion areas, which are available along of a watercourse in a river system. The proposed method is based on the transport networks with time delay. The paper is organized as follows. Section II describes the flood-diversion area system. Section III gives the main definitions of network flow modeling with time delay. A three-flood-diversion-area system modeling is detailed. In section IV, the simulation results during a flooding period are displayed and discussed. Finally, the conclusion summarizes the interest of the proposed flood lamination strategy combined to the 1D simulator and suggests some future works.

## II. FLOOD DIVERSION AREA SYSTEM

A flood-diversion-area (FDA) system consists of a series of FDAs distributed along the river. A FDA is a floodplain area equipped with  $n_G$  controlled gate. The gate opening creates depression waves that interfere with the flood wave to reduce peak flood discharges. To illustrate our approach we use a simplified example, with  $n_G = 3$ , of a river as a benchmark.

A river reach provide with three lateral floodplain area ( $FDA_1, FDA_2, FDA_3$ ) is assumed (see Fig.1). The river and the floodplains are separated by levees everywhere except at certain points where they are connected through a gate,  $G_r$ ,  $r = 1, 2, 3$ . These vertical levees are high enough for avoiding overflow. For simulation purposes, this river is modeled using 1D Shallow water equations [12], [13]. We assume that  $T_r$  is the transfer time from the gate  $G_r$  to the following gate  $G_{r+1}$ ,  $r = 1, 2$ .

### III. TRANSPORTATION NETWORK DESIGN INCLUDING TIME DELAY

In previous work [14], in order to model our benchmark, we proposed the use of a static transportation network, where we assume that  $\tau_1 = 0$  and  $\tau_2 = 0$ . The problem was formulated as a *Min-Cost-Max-Flow* problem that minimizes a linear cost function subject to the constraints of flow conservation and minimal and maximal capacities. In this formulation we tried to determine an optimal lamination flow that satisfies physical constraints required by a flood scenario

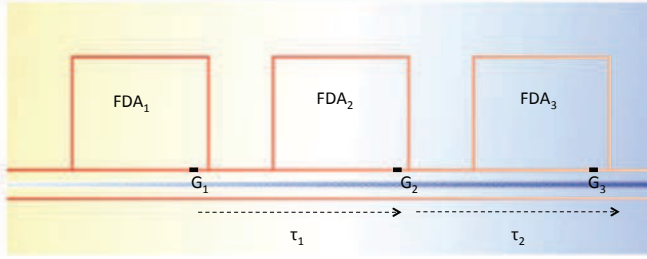


Fig. 1. River with three lateral floodplain.

and the optimization method management parameters. However, the transfer time delays were not taken into account. Therefore, herein, in order to improve the management method, we propose to introduce time delay in the system through the use of a temporized transportation network. Thus, we will see some aspects of the impact of time delay on the studied river system.

For this purpose, we study the evolution of the state of our flood-diversion area system at each  $kT_c, k = 0, \dots, n$  in the horizon  $H_f$ , with  $H_f = n \times T_c, n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , using the temporized transportation network  $\mathbb{G}$  given in Fig. 2. It can be seen as a dynamic flow network [15], [16] composed by interconnected static sub-networks. These connections allow for model temporization.

The network  $\mathbb{G} = \{\mathcal{N}, \mathcal{A}\}$  where  $\mathcal{N}$  is a set of  $3n_G + 2$  nodes defined as follows. The network layers are indexed through the use of exponent  $k$ .

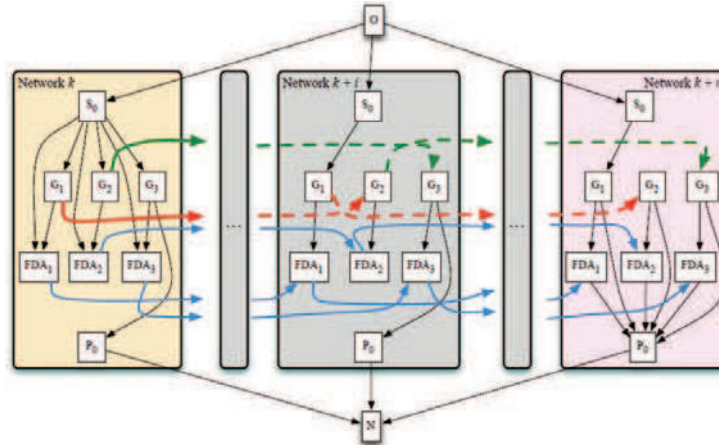


Fig. 2. Temporized network model with static sub-networks.

- $G_r^k$  represents the gate  $G_r$  at  $k$ , with  $r = 1, \dots, n_G$ ,  $FDA_r^k$  is the  $FDA_r$  at  $k$ ;
- $S_0^k$  is a source node corresponding to the fictive entry point of our FDAs system at  $k$ ;
- $P_0^k$  is a sink node corresponding to the fictive exit point of our FDAs system at  $k$ ;
- $O$  is an extra source node corresponding to the fictive entry point of our transportation network whatever the period is;
- $P$  is an extra sink node corresponding to the fictive exit point of our transportation network whatever the period is;

These nodes are associated to the set of valued arcs  $\mathcal{A}$  describing the following connections:

- Between the nodes  $G_r^k$  and  $G_{r+1}^{k+k_r}$  such as  $k = 0, \dots, n - k_r$  with  $\tau_r = k_r T_c$  and  $r = 1, \dots, n_G - 1$ . It carries the delayed discharge that passes by between the gate  $G_r$  and the gate  $G_{r+1}$ . This kind of arc is designed as type 1 arcs in the following.
- Between  $G_r^k$  and  $P_0^k$ , with  $r = 1, \dots, n_G - 1$  and  $k = n - k_r + 1, \dots, n$ , it represents the flow downstream the exit point of our FDAs system when this discharge is not stored in the  $FDA_r^k$ .
- Between  $G_{n_G}^k$  and  $P_0^k$ , with  $k = 0, \dots, n$ , it represents the flow downstream the exit point of our FDAs system when this discharge is not stored in the  $FDA_{n_G}^k$ .
- Between nodes  $S_0^k$  and  $G_1^k$ , is the flow  $Q_{input}(k)$  at the entry point that is always transferred towards the gate  $G_1$ .
- Between nodes  $S_0^k$  and  $G_r^k$ , with  $k = 0, \dots, k_r$  and  $r = 2, \dots, n_G$ , it takes into account at initialization the flow upstream the gate  $G_r$  in the FDAs system.

- Between nodes  $S_0^0$  and  $FDA_r^0$ , it takes into account the water volume already stored in the  $FDA_r$  at the initialization.
- Between nodes  $G_r^k$  and  $FDA_r^k$ , the arc connects each gate with its FDA, and represents the flow crossing the gate  $G_r$  towards the  $FDA_r$  at the end of each period  $k$ .
- Between nodes  $FDA_r^k$  and  $FDA_r^{k+1}$ , with  $k = 0, \dots, n-1$ , the arc indicates that the water stored in the  $FDA_r$  at the end of the period  $k$  is available at the beginning of period  $k+1$ . This kind of arc is designed as type 2 arcs in the following.
- Between nodes  $FDA_r^n$  and  $P_0^n$ , the arc respects transportation network conservation flow rules.

In each sub-network there is no transfer time between the different nodes. Transfer times are introduced by connecting the different sub-networks with type 1 and type 2 arcs.

The use of such a model requires that transfer times are static from a layer to another in the set  $H_f$  while they depend on the flow-rate, which changes over time. Moreover, this kind of model, depending on the size of the time horizon  $H_f$  and the period  $T_c$ , can lead to an oversized transportation network.

Herein, in order to overcome these two points we propose a reduced size model (see Fig. 3), which allows enhancing the temporized network: more dynamic and suitable for various river sections with variable transfer time.

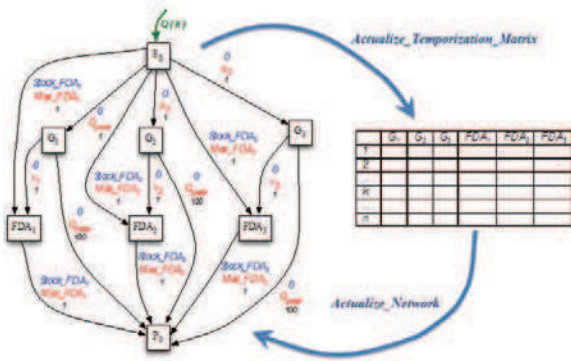


Fig. 3. Dynamic reduced size network.

This reduced transportation network is obtained by the conservation of nodes number of a sub-network, by the fusion of all the different sub-networks of our previous model and by eliminating arcs between sub-networks. In this reduced size model, link between layers are represented through a matrix and thus the transportation network communicates with this matrix where the values of delayed flow are stored. In Fig. 3, for each arc, its maximum capacity is written in blue, its minimum capacity is written in red and its cost is written in black.

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**Algorithm : Flood Lamination**

---

**Input**

$H_f, T_c$  the time horizon and the time period

$n = E(\frac{H_f}{T_c}) + 1$  the number of samples

$n_G$  the numbers of gates and FDA in the

river system, herein  $n_G = 3$

$k_r$  such that the transfer time  $\tau_r$  from gate  $G_r$

to gate  $G_{r+1}$  is  $\tau_r = k_r T_c, r = 1, \dots, n_G - 1$

$\gamma_r$  indicator for using or not  $FDA_r$

$Q_{input}(k)$  the flow of flood scenario at

$kT_c$  for  $k = 1 \dots n$

$Q_{lam}(k)$  the lamination flow at  $kT_c$  for  $k = 1 \dots n$

$\mathbb{G}$  the network

**Output**

$\phi(i, j)$  the optimal flow from

arc  $i$  to arc  $j$  in the network

The gate  $G_r$  opening value

is equal to  $\phi(G_r, FDA_r)$

**Begin**

**for**  $k = 1$  **to**  $n$

$TM(k, 1) \leftarrow Q_{input}(k)$

    %  $TM$  is the  $n \times 2n_G$  temporization matrix

**for**  $r = 2$  **to**  $2n_G$

$TM(k, r) \leftarrow 0$

**end**

**end**

**for**  $k = 1$  **to**  $k_r$

**for**  $r = 2$  **to**  $n_G$

$TM(k, r) \leftarrow \min(Q_{input}(k), Q_{lam})$

**end**

**end**

**for**  $k = 1$  **to**  $n$

$Actualize\_Network(\mathbb{G}, k, TM)$

$Compute\_Optimal\_Flow(\mathbb{G}, k)$

$Actualize\_Temporization\_Matrix(\mathbb{G}, k, TM)$

**end**

**End**

---

Fig. 4. Flood lamination algorithm.



---

**Algorithm : *Actualize\_Network***


---

**Input**

$n_G$  the numbers of gates and FDA in the river system, herein  $n_G = 3$

$TM$  the  $n \times 2n_G$  temporization matrix

$k$  the iteration number

$\gamma_r$  indicator for using or not  $FDA_r$

$Q_{lam}(k)$  the lamination flow at  $kT_c$

$\mathbb{G}$  the network

**Output**

$\mathbb{G}$  the network

**Begin**

$Q(k) \leftarrow 0$

**for**  $r = 1$  to  $2n_G$

$Q(k) \leftarrow Q(k) + TM(k, r)$

**end**

**for**  $r = 2$  to  $n_G$

$\alpha_r \leftarrow TM(k, r)$

**end**

**for**  $r = 1$  to  $n_G$

$\nu_r \leftarrow \min[\max(0, TM(k, r) - Q_{lam}(k)), \max(0, Max\_FDA_r - TM(k, n_G + r))] \times \gamma_r$

**end**

**End**


---

Fig. 5. Actualization network algorithm.

---

**Algorithm : *Actualize\_Temporization\_Matrix***


---

**Input**

$n_G$  the numbers of gates

and FDA in the river system, herein  $n_G = 3$

$TM$  the  $n \times 2n_G$  temporization matrix

$k$  the iteration number

$k_r$  such that the transfer time  $\tau_r$  from

gate  $G_r$  to gate  $G_{r+1}$  is  $\tau_r = k_r T_c$

$\mathbb{G}$  the network

**Output**

$TM$  the  $n \times 2n_G$  temporization matrix

**Begin**

**for**  $r = 1$  to  $n_G - 1$

$TM(k + k_r, r + 1) \leftarrow$

$TM(k + k_r - 1, r + 1) + \phi_{(G_r, P_0)}(k)$

**end**

**for**  $r = 1$  to  $n_G$

$TM(k + 1, n_G + r) \leftarrow$

$TM(k, n_G + r) + \phi_{(FDA_r, P_0)}(k)$

**end**

**End**


---

Fig. 6. Actualization temporization matrix algorithm.

The Flood-Lamination algorithm described in Fig.4 uses all these arc values in order to derive the gate opening set-point values. In the Flood-Lamination algorithm, after an initialization phase, at each  $kT_c$ , the network is actualized (see Fig. 5), the optimal flow is computed and the temporization matrix is actualized (see Fig. 6). In order to compute the optimal flow, the Min cost Max flow problem resolution for this reduced size temporized network is done, using a Linear Programming formulation (as described in Nouasse et al., 2012), according to our management objectives. In the algorithms:

- $Q(k)$  is the flow entering the network at  $kT_c$ .
- $Q_{peak}$  is the maximum peak flow of flood scenario.
- $Max\_FDA_r$  is the maximum  $FDA_r$  storage capacity, depending on  $Q_{peak}$ .
- $\nu_r$  is the maximal capacity on the arc between the gate  $G_r$  and the  $FDA_r$ .
- $\gamma_r$  is a strategy parameter with
 
$$\gamma_r = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if decision is not to stock water in } FDA_r \\ 1 & \text{if decision is to stock water in } FDA_r \end{cases}$$
- $Q_{lam}$  is the lamination flow chosen by the river system manager and defined as the flow level at which the river flow must be laminate, i.e. the hydraulic set point over the foreseen horizon  $H_f$ .
- $Stock\_FDA_r$  is the minimum capacity on the arc between the source  $S_0$  and the  $FDA_r$ . It corresponds to the amount of water already present in the  $FDA_r$ .

The dynamic reduced size network has been connected to the 1D simulator (developed by [12], [13]), in order to update flow and water quantity stocked with measured values. The scheme used is given in Fig. 7 and the algorithm for actualization of temporized matrix is modified as given in Fig. 8.

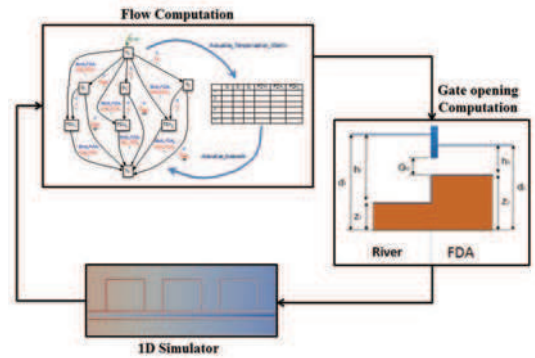


Fig. 7. Dynamic reduced size network connected with 1D simulator

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**Algorithm : Actualize TempORIZATION Matrix**


---

**Input**

$n_G$  the numbers of gates  
 and FDA in the river system, herein  $n_G = 3$   
 $TM$  the  $n \times 2n_G$  temporization matrix  
 $k$  the iteration number  
 $k_r$  such that the transfer time  $\mathcal{T}_r$  from  
 gate  $G_r$  to gate  $G_{r+1}$  is  $\tau_r = k_r T_c$   
 $\mathbb{G}$  the network

**Output**

$TM$  the  $n \times 2n_G$  temporization matrix

**Begin**

```

for  $r = 1$  to  $n_G - 1$ 
  |  $TM(k + k_r, r + 1) \leftarrow$ 
  |  $TM(k + k_r - 1, r + 1) + \phi_{(G_r, P0)}(k)$ 
end
for  $r = 1$  to  $n_G$ 
  |  $TM(k + 1, n_G + r) \leftarrow$ 
  |  $TM(k, n_G + r) + \phi_{(FDA_r, P0)}(k)$ 
end

```

**End**


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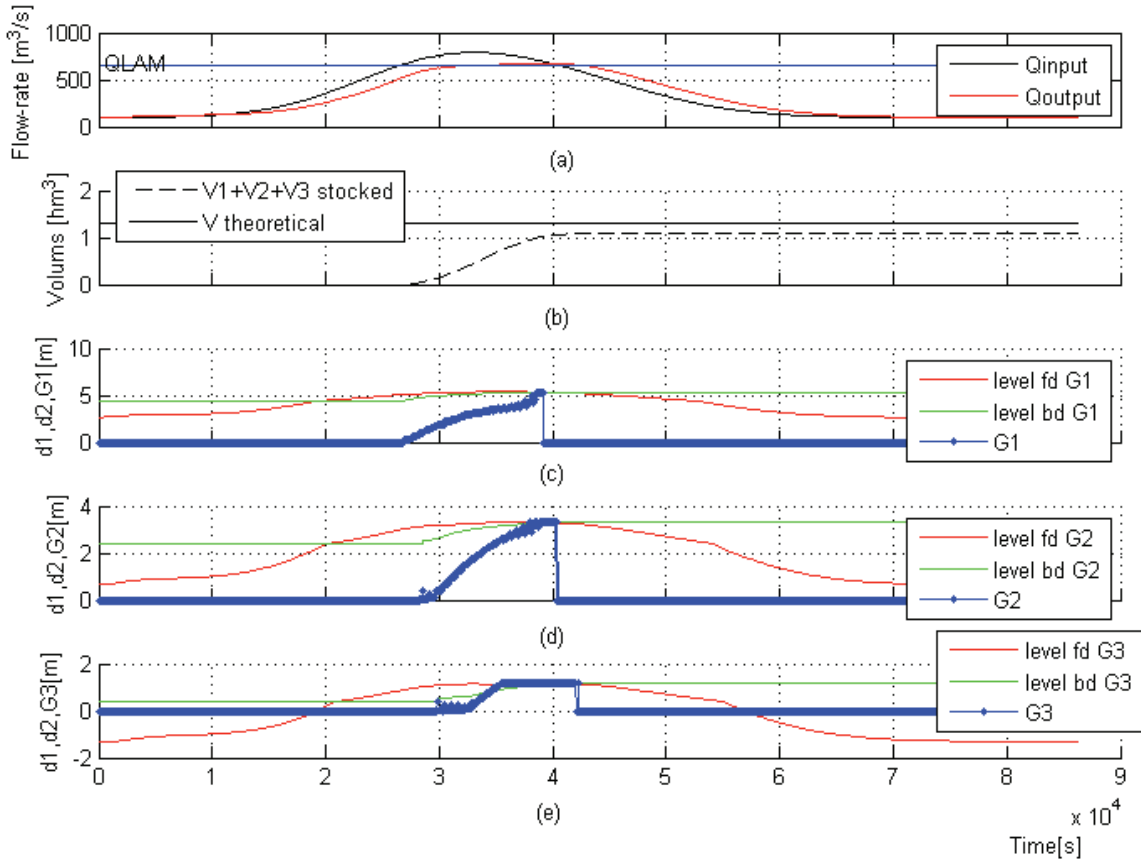
Fig. 8. Actualization temporization matrix algorithm

## IV. COMPUTATIONAL RESULTS

We present some results obtained using the method where our network model is connected with the 1D hydraulic simulator. The network model allows calculating the optimal flow-rate. This flow-rate value will be used for computing the opening height of each FDA gate. The computation algorithm involves a static inversion of the free flow open channel equations [17].

In Fig. 9 (a)  $Q_{input}$  is the inlet discharge. The  $Q_{output}$  is the outlet measured discharge when the flood lamination strategy is applied. The parameters of the network delay model are  $\tau_1 = 11T_c$ ,  $\tau_2 = 15T_c$  and  $Q_{lam} = 650m^3/s$ .

The sum of the stored water volume in each FDA is plotted in Fig. 9 (b). The water volume to store in the FDAs is the volume such as  $Q_{input}$  is over  $Q_{lam}$ . This volume is denoted  $V_{theoretical}$  in Fig. 9 (b), and approximated with the trapezoidal numerical integration of the flow-rate function above  $Q_{lam}$ .


 Fig. 9. Simulation results for  $\tau_1 = 11T_c$ ,  $\tau_2 = 15T_c$ , water levels forward the gates (d1, fd) and backward the gates (d2, bd)

In Fig 9. (c), (d) and (e) the gate opening values are displayed for gate 1, 2 and 3 respectively. In these figures,  $d_1$  stands for the water level forward each gate and  $d_2$  stands for the water level backward each gate.

The values of  $\tau_1 = 11T_c$  and  $\tau_2 = 15T_c$  were estimated by an empirical method for  $T_c = 100s$ , however methods like the one developed in [18] can be used.

Simulations were done for the same input scenario (i.e. values of  $Q_{input}$  displayed in black) and for  $Q_{lam} = 650m^3/s$  for three different regulation strategies. Results are given in Fig. 10, where  $Q_{output}$  obtained in case where the gates were always open is displayed in red dotted line ( $Q_{output-OG}$ ). In the case where the lamination strategy proposed in [14] was applied  $Q_{output}$  is displayed in blue crosses line ( $Q_{output-REG-oldgraph}$ ). Finally, when the lamination strategy proposed here (with the network delay model)  $Q_{output}$  is displayed in red ( $Q_{output-REG}$ ). The peak flood discharge reduction is better in the latter case.

## V. CONCLUSION

A flood lamination strategy based on a transportation network model including time delay was proposed. The strategy allows controlling a river system equipped with flood diversion areas. In order to avoid oversize in the transportation network and to include non-static transfer times, a reduced graph with temporization matrix was proposed. Results obtained with this strategy for water storage purpose were discussed. The strategy can be improved by modeling the release of water from the FDAs to the river. Furthermore, beyond a quantitative flood management an important problem to address is the quality of water in the river and in the FDAs. These extensions will be studied in future works.

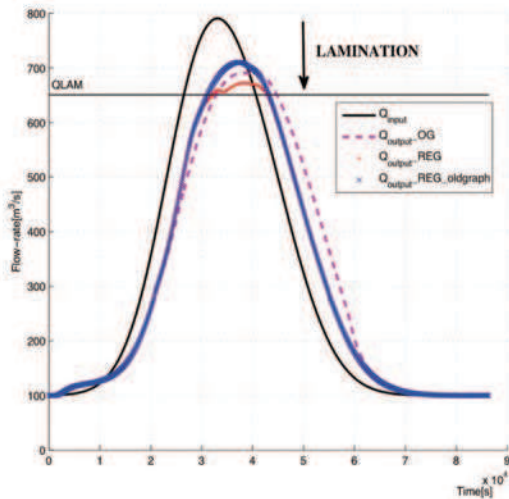


Fig. 10. Comparison of simulation results for  $Q_{lam} = 650m^3/s$ .

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors want to thank Confederación Hidrográfica del Ebro for providing the case study used in this paper as well as

for sharing their hydrological management expertise and Fluid Mechanics, LIFTEC-EINA, University of Zaragoza for providing the 1D simulator.

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