# NOAA Technical Report NWS 21



# Interduration Precipitation Relations for Storms — Southeast States

Silver Spring, Md. March 1979

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Ralph H. Frederick

Office of Hydrology Silver Spring, Md. March 1979

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# INTERDURATION PRECIPITATION RELATIONS FOR STORMS - SOUTHEAST STATES

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ABSTRACT. Annual maximum precipitation events for N = 1-, 2-, 3-, 6-, 12-, and 24-hr durations are identified. The precipitation event for each of M = 1-, 2-, 3-, 6-, 12-, and 24-hr durations  $(M \neq N)$ concurrent with the N-hr event is then selected. The events are stratified according to magnitude (class intervals in terms of return period) and relations between the N-hr and M-hr event are studied by forming a ratio of shorter to longer duration precipitation totals. Accumulated frequency distributions of this ratio by duration and return period class interval are suggested as a tool to estimate precipitation increments in constructing precipitation mass curves. By analyzing the relative timing of the shorter duration within the larger duration event, a characteristic time distribution can be developed. Examples of applying this method are shown.

#### INTRODUCTION

When hydraulic engineers or designers lack sufficient runoff and/or streamflow data to define flow frequencies for a project of interest, they most often synthesize such data through use of the more abundant precipitation data and analyses. One common practice is to synthesize a design precipitation mass curve from available precipitation-frequency values and calculate a design hydrograph from it. This requires using precipitation-frequency values for more than one duration in order to estimate both peak discharge and volume of water involved. The precipitation-frequency values for the different durations are generally derived from independent data samples without consideration of the concurrence of the storms defining the precipitation-frequency values for the different durations. Thus, a precipitationfrequency value for a short (1 to a few hours) duration derived mostly from convective storms might be combined with a longer duration (12 to 24 hours) value derived from cyclonic storms of either tropical or extratropical origin. The probability of the concurrence of the two events is undefined and adds uncertainty to the probability (or frequency) of the design storm.

This study examines the time and magnitude relationships between concurrent precipitation events for 1, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 hours. It examines such relationships in terms of duration and how the relationships vary according to the magnitude (identified by frequency) of the various precipitation

events. It then illustrates one approach to estimating incremental storm values and constructing a characteristic precipitation mass curve. The proposed method requires the engineer or designer to first determine the hydrologically critical storm in terms of duration and frequency and then to determine the critical probability for precipitation increments to be combined with the design storm for construction of the precipitation mass curve.

#### DEFINITION OF TERMS

The terminology used in this report requires that very specific definitions be given for the words "storm" and "rainfall." Although common usage may indicate otherwise, the words "storm" and "rainfall" as used in this report are defined in this section. Until their definitions are understood, subsequent sections of the report could be confusing to the reader.

The annual maximum storm at a station is the largest total precipitation event for N-consecutive hours (N = 1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 24) during a calendar year. The annual maximum storm is for an *independent duration* (ID). [No consideration is given to the concurrence of this precipitation event with events for other durations.] Independent duration events are henceforth referred to as storms.

For each annual maximum storm, five other precipitation values are abstracted. These are the largest concurrent precipitation totals for M-consecutive hours (M = 1, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24, M  $\neq$  N). These are the events which include (surround) or are contained within the annual maximum storm. These are called *dependent duration* (DD) events since they are dependent upon the occurrence of the ID storm. DD events are referred to as rainfalls in this study.

Both storms and rainfalls begin with measurable precipitation during the first hour. After the first hour, each other hour may, or may not, have measurable precipitation. Thus, an N-hr storm or rainfall may actually have precipitation for as little as 1 hour and can have, or not have, some precipitation in each of the other hours. When there is no measurable precipitation in the last hour(s) of a storm or rainfall, the hour(s) from the last hour with precipitation to the end of the period are filled with trailing zeros.

Some examples are given. At a station in a particular year, the largest 3-hr precipitation fell between 5 and 8 p.m. (table 1a) during a thunderstorm on a sultry summer evening. This is the annual maximum event for that station and that year and the 21.6 mm is the depth in the 3-hr storm (ID). On this day, however, some rain fell intermittently from mid-afternoon through the evening. The 6-hr rainfall (DD) associated with this storm was from 4 to 10 p.m. and the depth was 24.9 mm. Notice that there was no rain between 9 and 10 p.m. so the 6-hr rainfall had 1 trailing zero. At this same station during this same year, an intense winter storm (table 1b) brought the annual maximum 6-hr storm. Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., 29.8 mm of precipitation fell. The 6-hr independent duration storm for this year at this

Table 1.--Excerpts from hourly precipitation record - Someplace, SE, USA, 19XX.

#### a. A sultry summer evening

#### b. A stormy winter day

Hour Ending	Precipitatio (mm)	on Hour Ending	Precipit (mm	
2 p.m. 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 TRAILING	$\begin{array}{c} 12.2 \\ 3.8 \\ \hline 0.8 \end{array}$	10 a.m. 11 12 noon 1 p.m. 2 6-HR 3 RAINFALL 4 5 6	$ \begin{array}{c}       0.3 \\       \hline       3.8 \\       \hline       3.8 \\       \hline       4.6 \\       \hline       3.6 \\       \hline       0.5 \\       0.5 \\       \hline       0.5 \\       0.5 \\       \hline       0.5 \\       0.5 \\       \hline       0.5 \\   $	3-HR RAINFALL

station has now been selected. The heaviest 3-hr precipitation during this storm is 18.6 mm from noon to 3 p.m. and defines the 3-hr dependent duration rainfall associated with the 6-hr storm.

Previous studies were concerned only with the values we have defined as storms. This study investigates the sequential and quantitative relation between what we have defined as storms and rainfalls.

#### AREA OF STUDY AND ITS PRECIPITATION CLIMATOLOGY

The area selected for this study is the Southeastern States south of 35°N from Arkansas and Louisiana eastward (fig. 1). In choosing the area for a study of this type, two opposing constraints must be compromised. The data sample must be 1) climatologically homogeneous for the elements studied; and 2) large enough to define time and magnitude patterns in the wide variety of precipitation distributions found in nature. If an area were truly "climatologically homogeneous," its climatology could be defined with only a single well-placed station with a long enough record. In the United States there are no stations with a "long enough" record and no reasonable size area that is strictly climatologically homogeneous. Therefore, for a study of this type climatological homogeneity must be viewed realistically so as to obtain the large data sample needed to fulfill requirement (2) above.

In the section "Storm/Rainfall Relations by Ratio," an analysis of the ratio of shorter to longer duration precipitation events is described. To test whether the study area is reasonably climatologically homogeneous with respect to this ratio, three stations were randomly selected between 34° and 35°N in each of the States of Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. Likewise, three stations each south of 31°N were chosen in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. For each of these stations, the three largest 1- and 24-hr storms and their associated rainfalls were

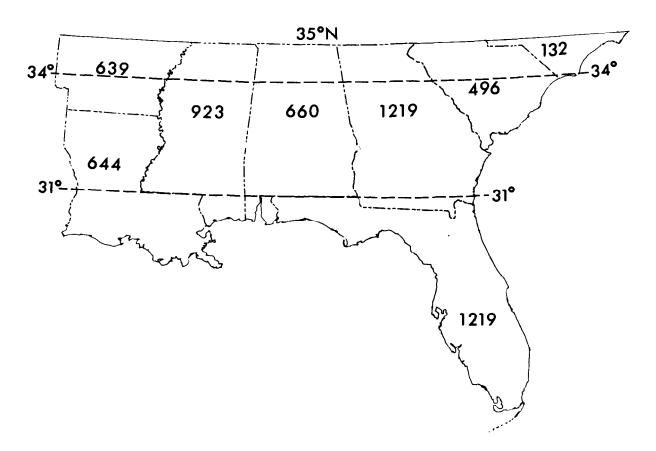


Figure 1.--Study area showing station years of data per state.

tabulated. The 1-hr to 24-hr ratio for both 1-hr storms and 24-hr storms was computed and averaged separately for the northern and southern station data samples. As shown in table 2, the mean ratios differed by only a fraction of a standard deviation from each other. A similar test comparing stations in eastern and western portions of the study area showed similar results. These tests support the concept that the climate of the area is sufficiently homogeneous in the elements under study that relations developed for the region as a whole will be meaningful.

Physiographically, the region is comprised of coastal plains and upland plateau with elevations under 600 m. The southeastern Appalachian Mountains extend into northern Georgia and extreme western South Carolina, but in each State the mountainous regions are less than 10% of the State's area. While there are some ridge and valley sections in the rest of the study area, the only other mountains are the Ouachita Mountains in Arkansas (highest just over 850 m). Thus, orography is important to the precipitation climatology in only a small portion of the study area. The physiographic feature of most importance to the precipitation is the long coast of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

Table 2.--Results of climatological homogeneity test between northern and southern stations (N = 45).

	Nor	<u>th</u>	Sou	th
	Mean	S. D.	Mean	S. D.
1-hr storm 24-hr rainfall	0.721	0.197	0.682	0.212
1-hr rainfall	0.226	0.087	0.220	0.082

In the study area, normal annual precipitation (Environmental Science Services Administration 1968) ranges from 1525 to 1650 mm in some coastal and mountainous regions to 1145 to 1270 mm in South Carolina and portions of interior Georgia. It falls on an average of 100 to 120 days each year. Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year except for the pronounced summer and early fall maximum in Florida. Snowfall is not an important factor. Mean annual depths are 10 cm or less in northern sections and under 2.5 cm over about 60% of the area.

In the Southeastern States, intense rains of short duration (1 to a few hours) come mainly from convective showers and thunderstorms during the warmer portions of the year. As the duration of precipitation increases, the intense rains come from the passage of cyclonic disturbances of both tropical and extratropical origin. Many are associated with quasi-stationary fronts and inverted V isobaric patterns. Cry (1967) estimates that 10 to 15% of the June-to-October precipitation in the study area comes from tropical cyclones with as little as 5% in northeast Mississippi. While these percentages seem minor in terms of total precipitation, tropical cyclones contribute significantly to the study of intense rains (see section Comparative Seasonality of Storms). Hershfield and Wilson (1960) found no well-defined dichotomy between the hydrologic characteristics of hurricane or tropical storm rainfall vs. precipitation from other types of storms. Large precipitation amounts at long durations can also be caused by separate periods of convective activity following each other after several hours of no precipitation. This study does not separate precipitation events on the basis of their causative agent; i.e., a 24-hr precipitation event is not labeled as tropical, extratropical, or a series of convective events.

#### SELECTION AND PROCESSING OF DATA

The hourly precipitation observations published in Climatological Data (U.S. Weather Bureau 1948-51) and Hourly Precipitation Data (Environmental Data Service 1951-73) for the period 1948 (in most cases mid-1948) through 1972 were available on magnetic tape (Peck et al. 1977). For Louisiana, the data were available through 1973. The hourly precipitation record for each station year was read into a computer from these tapes. A computer program scanned the record to tabulate the number of hours listed as "missing"

and "accumulated." Precipitation accumulations\* representing time periods of 6 hours or less were assumed to have uniform distribution during the period of accumulation. Accumulations for over 6 hours were set to zero and treated as missing data. Each period of accumulated data and its disposition was printed out by the computer program.

Next, the 6 storms and 30 rainfalls and their times of occurrence were selected and listed for the station-year. This output was screened visually and compared with the list of accumulations and missing data to give reasonable assurance that the selected values were indeed the maximum values for that station for that year. If there were a likelihood that the largest storm for any of the durations for that year occurred when the data were missing or zeroed due to long accumulations, data for that station-year were eliminated from the station's series. As with any multi-million piece data set, a few (a small portion of 1%) erroneous values (punch errors, uncorrected observation errors, etc.) found on the data tapes caused enough ambiguity to require elimination of a year's data from the station series. The screened and edited data series were accepted for analysis.

Table 3 shows the distribution of station-years of data and the number of stations by length of record. The rule was that stations with less than 15 years of acceptable data were not used but one station with only 14 years of data managed to slip through the screening procedures. Two Louisiana stations had 26 years of acceptable record. Three-fourths of the stations used

Table 3.--Distribution of stations and station-years of data by length of record.

					Length	of re	cord (	(years)				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Percent of stations											
0.4	6.5	3.2	5.1	5.8	4.0	9.0	9.7	10.5	12.6	15.2	17.3	0.7
Percent of station-years												
0.2	4.5	2.4	4.0	4.9	3.5	8.4	9.6	10.8	13.6	17.0	20.2	0.9

had 20 or more years of data and over 80% of the sample came from stations with 20 or more years of record. Over 1/5 of the station-years of data in the sample came from stations with 25 (or 26) years of record (the total in

<sup>\*</sup>Accumulated precipitation is a total for several hours which is recorded on the rain gage chart as falling during a short period. For instance, the clock drive stops so that the pen trace remains at the same time; or snow falls in the funnel of an unwinterized gage and melts at some later time.

table 3 is 100.1 percent because of rounding). Figure 1 shows the number of station-years for each State. The total number of station-years was almost 6,000 from 277 stations.

#### STRATIFICATION INTO FREQUENCY CLASSES

The Fisher-Tippett Type I extreme value distribution was fitted to each of the six ID sets for each station using the Gumbel (1958) fitting method. By reference to this distribution, each storm and rainfall for each station year was tagged with a return period (frequency) class. There was no cross reference of frequency values to those for neighboring stations, or to those in the literature. Thus, a storm or rainfall of X mm at one station might, or might not, be of the same frequency class as an equal X mm value at another station. At the same station, an X mm rainfall would be of the same frequency class as an X mm storm of the same duration. The classes and their terminology for this study are shown in table 4.

Table 4.--Frequency classes and terminology for storms and rainfalls.

Class interval limits	Terminology
Equal to or exceeding the 25-yr storm.	Class I
Equal to or exceeding the 10-yr but less than the 25-yr storm.	Class II
Equal to or exceeding the 5-yr but less than the 10-yr storm.	Class III
Equal to or exceeding the 2-yr but less than the 5-yr storm.	Class IV
Less than the 2-yr storm.	Class V

#### ANALYSIS OF JOINT FREQUENCY OF STORMS AND RAINFALLS

Two-way frequency distributions of each ID data set vs. each of its DD data sets were formed by the return period classes just defined. Table 5 is an example of one such distribution. Table 5 shows, for example, that 152 6-hr storms of class IV had 2-hr rainfalls of class III. No class I 2-hr rainfalls were associated with class V 6-hr storms. Joint frequency tables similar to table 5 for all 30 ID-DD combinations are presented in appendix I.

As expected, small storms and rainfalls in this area tend to co-occur, no matter what the durations involved. Table 6 shows the co-occurrence of class V storms and rainfalls (first column, first row) of all 30 tables similar to table 5, converted to percent; e.g., [3481/4005] X 100 = 86.9. The class V co-occurrence percentage exceeds 86 for all duration combinations. A rate of 90% co-occurrence is not uncommon.

Table 5.--Joint frequency distribution of 6-hr storms and 2-hr rainfalls.

Storm Class	V	IV	III	II	I	sum
Rainfall Class						
			Number of	events		
V	3481	577	144	57	6	4265
IV	452	285	94	82	13	926
III	64	152	63	59	23	361
II	8	85	79	64	47	283
I	0	9	10	34	44	97
sum	4005	1108	390	296	133	5932

Table 6.--Percent of co-occurrence of storms and rainfalls of class V.

DD	1	2	3	6	12	24
1		99.0	87.5	87.5	88.6	89.3
2	89.9		93.1	86.9	86.3	87.3
3	88.7	94.4		89.7	87.0	87.1
6	89.1	90.8	92.4		91.2	88.8
12	89.6	89.5	90.0	92.2		91.8
24	90.2	89.9	89.2	90.5	93.5	

At the other end of the frequency scale, table 7 shows percent of class I storms accompanied by rainfalls of that class.

Although the percent of co-occurrence is as high as 75 (at ID = 2, DD = 3), the percentage falls off rapidly away from the table diagonal. The average for the 10 values adjacent to the diagonal is just over 55% of co-occurrence. Outward toward the corners of the table, the average percentage drops progressively to 34.7, 19.0, 11.5 and 7.4. In table 6, this average was just under 89% at the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th removals from the diagonal. While table 6 shows small storms and rainfalls tend to co-occur, table 7 shows large storms and rainfalls do not usually co-occur except at durations differing by only one to a few hours.

Table 7.--Percent of co-occurrence of storms and rainfalls of class I.

DD	1	2	3	6	12	24
1		50.0	37.7	21.1	9.5	7.0
2	43.1		65.8	33.1	15.9	11.4
3	37.1	75.0		51.9	26.9	14.9
6	24.1	44.0	60.5		50.0	36.8
12	11.2	21.0	30.7	48.9		54.5
24	7.8	14.0	16.7	32.3	51.6	

#### STORM/RAINFALL RELATIONS BY RATIO

Concurrent storms and rainfalls were related to each other by forming a ratio of the shorter duration (either ID or DD) to the longer duration (either DD or ID) precipitation. This was done for each ID-DD combination by the frequency classes defined in table 4 and accumulated frequency distributions were formed of this ratio. For example, figure 2 shows the accumulated frequency distribution for three storm classes of the ratio of the 1-hr ID / 24-hr DD. The figure shows a systematic variation in the ratio as the rarity of the storm increases. As shown by the dashed line, class V 1-hr storms are 40% or more of the concurrent 24-hr rainfall 80% of the time while class III and I storms are 46.5% and 55% of the concurrent 24-hr rainfall 80% of the time. This means that there is a probability of 0.80 that the 24-hr

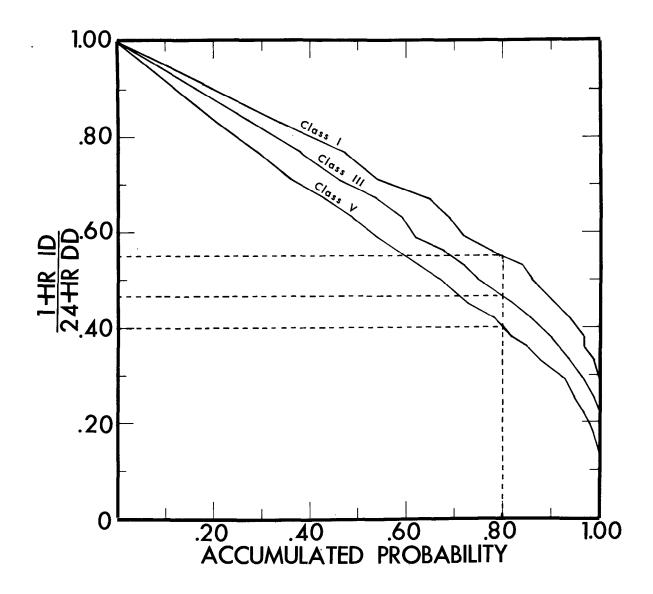


Figure 2.--Accumulated probability of percent of 24-hr rainfall concurrent with selected classes of 1-hr storms.

rainfall associated with a Class I 1-hr storm will be less than 1.82 times that 1-hr value (1.0/0.55 = 1.82). Likewise, there is only a 0.20 probability that the 24-hr rainfall will exceed 1.82 times the 1-hr value.

Appendix II contains accumulated probability figures for each storm duration and three storm classes. All DD possibilities are shown for each ID. The curves in the appendix have been smoothed by eye-fitting and have been checked for consistency both duration-wise and frequency-wise. Interpolation to obtain class II and IV relations is appropriate.

#### COMPARATIVE SEASONALITY OF STORMS

Tabulations were made of the month of occurrence of storms for each duration for each frequency class (shown as bar graphs in appendix III). Month of occurrence was defined as the month in which the first hour of precipitation fell. Inspection indicated no consistent differences among classes I, II, III, and IV and they were combined. For this analysis, therefore, the data were stratified into only two classes: 1) storms smaller than 2-yr, and 2) all others.

Figure 3, seasonal distribution of storms equal to or greater than the 2yr storm shows a remarkably consistent variation with duration. From September through March, percent of storms for each month increases as duration increases with only two minor exceptions. In November the 1- and 2-hr storms have equal frequency and the 24-hr is slightly less frequent than the 12-hr storms. From May through August, frequency decreases as duration increases with the exception of June when there is a crossing of the 12- and 24-hr curves. Nearly 60% of the 1-hr storms are in June, July, or August against less than 25% of the 24-hr storms in these months. This illustrates the climatological fact that summer thunderstorms dominate the sample for short (1-, 2-, and 3-hr) durations. On the other hand, November through March have at least 2.5 times as many annual maximum 24-hr storms as 1- or 2-hr storms in each month. The 6-, 12- and 24-hr curves show a bimodel tendency with the major peak in September and minor peak in the spring. An investigation of the September peak using a random sample of 100 September 24-hr storms larger than the 2-yr storm showed something on the order of 40% of the annual maximum values in that month were associated with hurricanes. The remainder came from cold fronts, extra-tropical circulations, inverted V troughs, and air mass storms, with a few that were a combination of causes or did not really fit the above classes.

#### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STORMS AND RAINFALLS OF THE SAME DURATION

In the Southeastern States storms and rainfalls of 6-, 12-, and 24-hr durations differ in the number of hours with measurable precipitation and in the number of trailing zeroes. Table 8 quantizes some of these differences.

The first part of the table addresses the question: How likely is it that a storm (or rainfall) has precipitation in each of the hours? As shown in the table, the answer is, not very likely especially at the 24-hr duration.

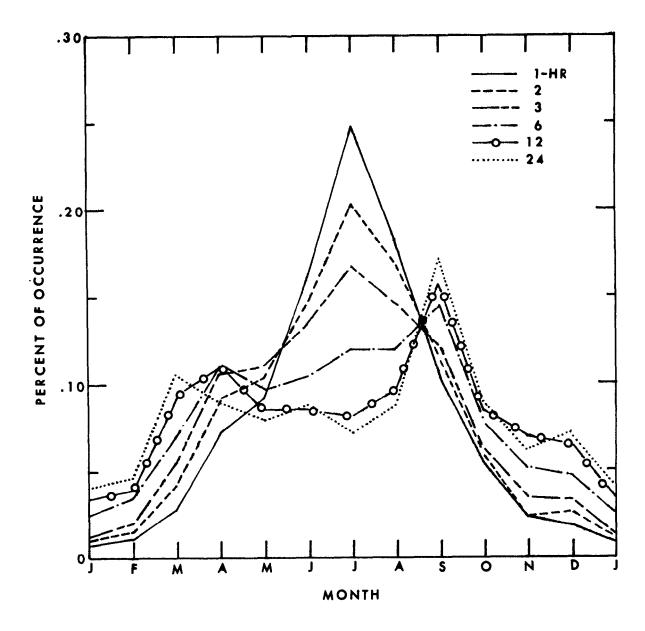


Figure 3.--Monthly distribution of annual maximum N-hr storms equal to or exceeding the 2-yr storm at station of observation.

The less frequent 24-hr storm (class I) is more likely to have 24 hours of precipitation but even then the probability is less than one-in-three. Rainfalls with precipitation in all 24 hours are rare. The likelihood of N-hours of precipitation increases as the duration decreases reaching around 80% in 6-hr storms of class I or III.

Since many, if not most, storms and rainfalls do not have precipitation in all N-hours, what percent of the storm or rainfall hours do contain measurable amounts of precipitation? The second section of table 8 illustrates this quantity. The table shows that 6-hr storms have about 90% or more hours

Table 8.--Differences between storms and rainfalls

				Storm Class	
			I	III	V
Percent of storms -	ID=24		32	17	5
rainfalls with mea- surable precipita-	ID=1 ID≈12	DD=24	0 57	1 54	1 32
tion in all of the	ID=1	DD=12	9	7	9
N-hours	ID≈6	DD-6	82	79 26	64
	ID=1	DD=6	35	36	34
Precent of storm -	ID≃24		84	76	60
rainfall hours with measurable	ID=1	DD=24	34	35	35
precipitation	ID=12		90	89	76
	ID=1	DD=12	51	51	51
	ID=6		95	94	88
	ID=1	DD=6	73	74	73
Percent of storms -	ID=24		65	60	42
rainfalls with no	ID=1	DD=24	17	28	26
trailing zeros	ID=6	DD=24	31	34	27
	ID=12		81	75	<b>5</b> 5
	ID=1	DD=12	26	25 7.5	26
	ID=6	DD=12	54	<b>5</b> 5	41
	ID=6	_	86	84	73
	ID=1	DD=6	47	44	46

with precipitation. 24-hr storms have from 60% to 84% (dependent upon relative frequency) of their hours with precipitation. N-hr rainfalls have more zeros (less hours with precipitation). At the 12-hr duration the likelihood is about 50/50 with more precipitation hours at the shorter duration and fewer such hours at the 24-hr duration.

The last section of table 8 examines the occurrence of trailing zeros. Once again the numbers depend upon frequency and duration and whether the event is a storm or rainfall.

Figure 4 shows the accumulated percent of 24-hr storms (class III) and rainfalls by count of hours without precipitation. Eighty percent of these 24-hr storms have less than 10 hours without precipitation (dash line, fig. 4). On the other hand (dot line, fig. 4) only 20% of the 24-hr rainfalls concurrent with class III 1-hr storms have less than 10 zero hours.

Table 8 and figure 4 show that although the percentages change, 6-, 12-, and 24-hr rainfalls have, on the average, more non-precipitation hours and more trailing zeros than do equal class 6-, 12-, and 24-hr storms.

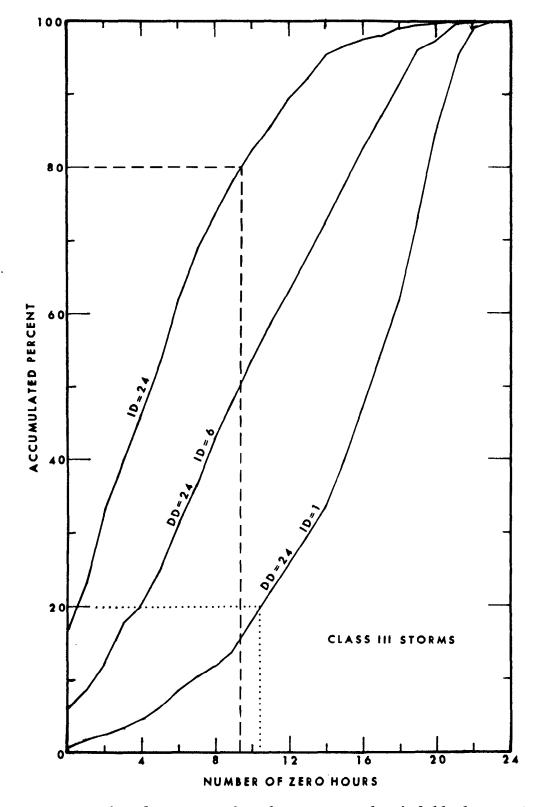


Figure 4.--Accumulated percent of 24-hr storms and rainfalls by count of hours without measurable precipitation.

# ESTIMATION OF RAINFALL VALUES FOR STORM PRECIPITATION MASS CURVES

This section suggests a method of obtaining rainfall increments for use in the construction of design storm precipitation mass curves, once the basic design storm duration and frequency have been defined from hydrologic/economic/safety factors. The appropriate choice of the design storm and frequency are not the subject of this study. The incremental rainfalls can be estimated from the analysis of concurrent storm and rainfall events.

Curves similar to figure 2 showing accumulated probability for each rainfall duration at each storm duration for class I, III and V storms are presented in appendix II. Using the figure for the storm duration and frequency most pertinent to a project, the engineer or designer chooses what he/she considers the appropriate hydrologic risk factor for the needed rainfall durations. · This risk can be the same for all rainfall durations or can vary according to the design requirements. It should be pointed out that there are numerous storm frequency-rainfall accumulated probability combinations which will result in the same combined probability. For example, a 50-yr storm (probability of occurrence in any given year is 0.02) and a rainfall at the 0.50 accumulated probability level have a combined probability of 0.01 per year. The 25-hr storm (0.04 probability of occurrence) and the 0.25 rainfall accumulated probability values likewise have a combined probability of 0.01. From among the combinations of equal meteorological probability the choice should be of the combination that tends to produce the most hydrologically critical result when this is known.

As an example, assume the 50-yr 1-hr storm is the basic design storm. The engineer or designer has decided that 0.80 is an appropriate risk factor for dependent duration rainfalls (DD's). From figure 2, the 24-hr rainfall at accumulated probability of 0.80 is 1.82 (1/0.55) times the 1-hr value. Using a 1-hr storm value from a published source (e.g., Frederick et al. 1977) and multiplying by 1.82, gives the 24-hr rainfall value for this example. Rainfalls for each other duration can likewise be estimated and all can be assembled into a precipitation mass curve after a decision on timing, discussed in the next section.

#### TIME DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION IN STORMS AND RAINFALLS

Construction of a precipitation mass curve requires a time sequence as well as the magnitude of the precipitation increments. For guidance on this, tabulations were made of the time of the beginning of the shorter duration precipitation event within the longer duration event for all ID-DD combinations by the 5 classes. Since not all storms and rainfalls had measurable precipitation in the last hour(s), we also tabulated the actual length of the precipitation.

To study the time distribution within storms and rainfalls, the first step is to delineate the observed frequency of hour of beginning of the short duration within longer duration precipitation events by simple conversion to percentages of occurrences for each hour. For example, of 3922 6-hr class V storms, 512 had the 1-hr rainfall during the 4th hour. Thus, 512/3922 = .1305 is the observed frequency for that hour as indicated in the line of table 9 labeled "observed."

To interpret these frequencies, we must isolate the statistical effects of the definition that zeros are trailing, not leading. For example, if the last two hours of a 6-hr storm have no precipitation, there is no possibility of the associated 1-hr rainfall during these particular hours. Continuing this example, we compute an expected frequency of timing of the 1-hr rainfall within 6-hr storms based on random (or uniform) distribution of the 1-hr rainfalls within the period during which precipitation actually occurred. The observed frequency and this theoretical random one are then compared. Table 9 illustrates this process for 1-hr rainfall within 6-hr storms of frequency class V. The second column of table 9 shows the fraction of storms of this subset having the number of trailing zeros indicated in the first column. If random distribution occurred, one-sixth of the 1-hr rainfalls in storms with no trailing zeros would be expected to occur in each of the six storm

Table 9.--Example of time distribution analysis using 1-hr rainfalls within 6-hr class V storms.

				Stor	m Hours		
Trailing zeros	Fraction of storms	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Random 1	Probabilit	У	
0 1	0.729 0.112	.1215	•1215 •0224	.1215	.1215 .0224	•1215 •0224	.1215
2 3 4	0.074 0.056 0.026	.0185 .0187 .0130	.0185 .0187 .0130	.0185 .0187	.0185		
5	0.003	.0030				·	
"Expected" Observed Ratio (O/E)	1.000	.1971 .2318 1.18	.1941 .2856 1.47	.1811 .1622 0.90	.1624 .1305 0.80	.1439 .1101 0.77	.1215 .0798 0.66

hours, or 0.729/6 = 0.1215 of the class V subset, as indicated in the table. Likewise, 0.112/5 = 0.0224 of the 1-hr rainfalls would occur in each of the first 5 hours when a storm had 1 trailing zero with no possibility, by definition, in the last hour. Listing each hour's possibilities and summing results in the "expected" figures shown at the bottom of the table (the expected" row total can sum to 1.0001 because of rounding). The observed frequencies are listed on the next line of the table, followed by a line showing the observed/expected (O/E) ratio. The highest ratio is interpreted as marking the most likely hour for the 1-hr rainfall in a 6-hr storm of this class with no trailing zeros, and likewise as a composite position that

would result if the trailing zeros were replaced by small amounts of precipitation. This is the second hour in this example.

This same process was carried out for all ID-DD combinations involving the 6-, 12-, or 24-hr durations for class I, III, and V storms. Tables 10, 11, and 12 show the most probable beginning hour of the shorter duration DD or

Table 10.--Most likely beginning hour of shorter duration storm (ID) or rainfall (DD) within longer duration storm or rainfall - class V storms.

DDID	1	2	3	6	12	24			
			ID-DD Hou	ır					
1 2	1	1	1 or 2 1	2 1	2 1	2 1			
2 3 6	1	1		1	1	1			
6 12	1 1	1 1	1 1	1	1	1 1			
24	i	1	1	1	1	Т			
	Table 11	Same as to	uble 10, cla	ss III sto	rms.				
DDID	1	2	3	6	12	24			
\	ID-DD Hour								
1.		1	2	2	2	2			
1 2 3	1	<del>-</del>	1	1 or 2	2	2 2 1			
	1	1		1.	1				
6	2	1	1		1	1			
12	2	1	1	1		1			
24	2	1	1	1	1				
	Table 12.	Same as t	able 10, cl	ass I stor	ms.				
DDID	1	2	3	6	12	24			
			ID-DD Hou	r					
1		1 or 2	2	4	2	4			
$\frac{\overline{2}}{2}$	1	<del>-</del>	ī	3	2				
2 3	1 or 2	1		3	ī	3 3 1			
6	2	ī	1.	-	ī	ī			
	_		_	_					

ID within longer duration DD or ID class V, III, and I storms, determined in the above manner. The results for ID-DD combinations with both 3 hours or less are also included in the tables. In most cases here the observed data were overwhelming in pointing out the most likely beginning hour and normalization in the style of table 9 was unnecessary.

Tables 10, 11, and 12 are not based strictly on the computed O/E ratio values but also take other factors into account. In cases where the O/E ratio had a double peak, judgment was applied in choosing the peak rather than always accepting the largest. For example, in 24-hr rainfalls around class III 1-hr storms, the O/E ratio for the 23rd hour is 3.09 while the 2nd hour had a ratio of only 2.21. Hour 23 had only 4.25 percent of all observed occurrences but the 2nd hour had nearly 24 percent of the observed values. We felt the O/E ratio of 2.21 based on such a large quantity of observed data was more significant than the 3.09 ratio based on so few occurrences.

Also considered in choosing between peaks was the distribution of other duration storms or rainfalls. In the previous example, if the 1-hr storm were allowed to occur in the 23rd hour of the 24-hr rainfall, the 6-hr rainfall would have to have its 1-hr storm in the 5th hour (remember both 6-hr rainfall and 1-hr storm must be within the 24-hr rainfall). But the 0/E ratio for class III 1-hr storms within 6-hr rainfalls was only 0.51 at the 5th hour. For the 2nd hour the 0/E ratio was 1.55.

Tables 10, 11, and 12 contain a few entries "1 or 2." This indicates about equal probability and a synthesized storm using either hour would not be inconsistent with the data. The tables are constructed to represent one burst storms and rainfalls; i.e., the 1-hr event is within the 2- or 3-hr event and the 2-hr event includes the 1-hr and is, in turn, included within the 3-hr. Specifically when using the tables as guides to constructing mass curves of precipitation for a 6-hr storm or rainfall the 1-, 2-, and 3-hr events can all be placed as shown in the tables. Any hours not specifically assigned values, e.g., the 4th, 5th, and 6th hours of a 6-hr storm could have linear distribution of remaining amounts. That is, the remaining 3 hours could each have one-third of the difference between the 6-hr value and the 3-hr value. Despite the fact that storms and especially rainfalls typically contain non-precipitation hours and trailing zeros, the amounts resulting from this differing method are quite small and should not be hydrologically much different from zero once the steep portion of the precipitation mass curve or hydrograph is defined.

When hydrologically critical, precipitation mass curves using a time distribution somewhat different from "most likely" patterns listed would not be unrealistic. For instance, placing the maximum 1-hr event in the second or third hour instead of the suggested first hour so that it would have less infiltration and produce greater runoff to carry to a hydrograph would not be "untypical." In a study for Pennsylvania, Kerr, et al. (1974) suggest that a design precipitation mass curve should position the most intense portion of the storm immediately after the initial abstraction has occurred.

#### EXAMPLE OF CONSTRUCTION OF PRECIPITATION MASS CURVE

A project at 85°00'W and 32°30'N requires the 50-yr 6-hr storm as the critical design value. A precipitation mass curve for 24 hours which includes the 50-yr 6-hr storm must be constructed. The design engineer has determined that he should use an accumulated probability of 0.70 to relate the storm with its associated rainfalls. The use of an accumulated

probability level of 0.70 in this example and of 0.80 in the discussion of figure 2 are for illustrative purposes only. They are not intended to be recommendations or proposed standards.

The first step is to estimate the design storm value. From Technical Paper No. 40 (Hershfield 1961) the 50-yr 6-hr value for the location in question is read as 142.2 mm. Storm rainfall ratios are read from the ID = 6, class I figure in appendix II. For the 1-, 2-, and 3-hr rainfalls, the abscissa scale at the top of the diagram is used (accumulated probability (DD < ID)). Reading down the 0.70 Accumulated Probability line the values are 0.86, 0.72, and 0.45 for the 3-, 2-, and 1-hr ratios, respectively. For 12- and 24-hr rainfalls, the bottom abscissa scale (accumulated probability (DD > ID)) is used and the ratios of 0.785 and 0.87 are read for 24 and 12 hours. The rainfall ratios are tabulated in column 3, table 13. Rainfall values for each increment are computed in column 4 by multiplying the ratios by 142.2. Using the ID = 6 column of table 12, the beginning hour for each rainfall increment is tabulated in column 5, table 13.

Table 13.--Construction of precipitation mass curve for 50-yr 6-hr storm at 85°00'W 32°30'N using accumulated rainfall probability of 0.70.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Duration (hr)	ID Precip. (mm)	DD/ID at 0.70 Accum. Prob.	DD Precip. (mm)	Beginning Hour
1		0.45	64.0	4
2		0.72	102.4	3
3		0.86	122.3	3
6	142.2			
12		1/0.87	163.5	1
24		1/0.785	181.2	1

The precipitation mass curve constructed from table 13 is shown in figure 5. The 6-hr storm total of 142.2 mm begins in the 1st hour of the 181.2 mm 24-hr rainfall, the maximum 1-hr (64.0 mm) is in hour 4, etc.

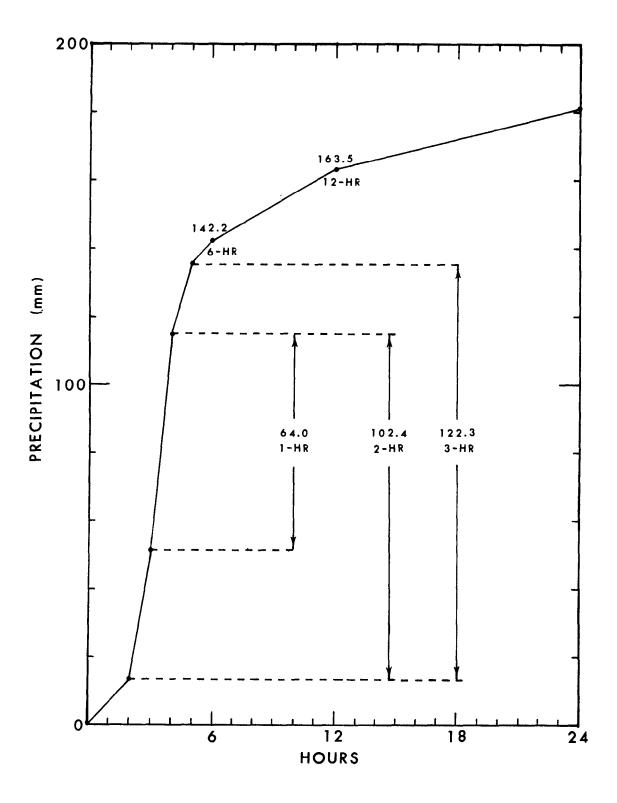


Figure 5.--24-hr precipitation mass curve using 50-yr 6-hr storm at 85°00'W and 32°30'N and N-hr rainfall probability 0.70.

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APPENDIX I. TABLES OF JOINT FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF N-HR STORMS WITH M-HR RAINFALLS

TABLE I- OF 1-HR	1 JOINT STORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 2-HR F	/ DISTRI	BUTION S		
ID CLASS	V	1 A	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3595 325 63 18 0 4001	572 350 120 55 5 1102	72 193 84 64 16 429	3 81 83 93 24 284	0 2 17 47 50 116	4242 951 367 277 95 5932
TABLE I- OF 1-HR	2 JOINT STORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 3-HR F	/ DISTRII RAINFALLS	BUTION S		
ID CLASS	٧	١٧	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3550 338 73 35 5 4001	681 257 82 68 14 1102	147 152 56 57 17 429	33 98 69 60 24 284	0 15 26 32 43 116	4411 860 306 252 103 5932
TABLE I- OF 1-HR	3 JOINT STORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 6-HR F	DISTRIE	BUTION		
ID CLASS	٧	IV	111	11	1	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3566 287 92 45 11 4001	795 174 56 54 23 1102	238 101 33 37 20 429	100 80 50 32 22 284	12 37 14 25 28 116	4711 679 245 193 104 5932
TABLE I- OF 1-HR	4 JOINT STORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 12-HR R	DISTRIE	BUTION		
ID CLASS	٧	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3583 252 98 53 15 4001	864 134 46 36 22 1102	293 73 25 26 12 429	149 71 30 20 14 284	38 27 19 19 13	4927 557 218 154 76 5932

TAE OF		5 JOINT STORMS WI	FREQUENC TH 24-HR	Y DISTRII RAINFALLS	BUTION S		
ID	CLASS	v	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III II SUM	3609 233 90 50 19 4001	901 107 44 36 14 1102	309 59 30 21 10 429	181 61 15 20 7 284	57 28 9 13 9	5057 488 188 140 59 5932
TAE OF		6 JOINT STORMS WI	FREQUENC TH 1-HR	Y DISTRII RAINFALLS	BUTION		
	CLASS	V	IV	111	ΙΙ	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III II SUM	3531 383 52 3 0 3969	550 353 161 67 2 1133	106 141 83 77 15 422	32 73 68 91 44 308	0 7 18 25 50 100	4219 957 382 263 111 5932
TAE OF	BLE I- 2-HR	7 JOINT STORMS WI	FREQUENCY	Y DISTRIÉ RAINFALLS	BUTION		
ID	CLASS	V	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III II SUM	3747 203 19 0 0 3969	335 666 100 30 2 1133	1 190 153 75 3 422	0 11 102 165 30 308	0 0 0 25 75 100	4083 1070 374 295 110 5932
TAE OF	BLE I- 2-HR	8 JOINT STORMS WI	FREQUENCY	Y DISTRIE RAINFALLS	BUTION		
ID	CLASS	٧	IV	Ш	11	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III III SUM	3602 273 68 23 3	689 294 76 66 8	103 176 65 58 20 422	13 100 86 64 45 308	0 9 11 36 44 100	4407 852 306 247 120 5932

TABLE 1- 9 OF 2-HR ST	JOINT TORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 12-HR I	Y DISTRIE RAINFALLS	BUTION		
ID CLASS	٧	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV 111 11 SUM	3552 278 84 44 11 3969	806 207 64 41 15 1133	213 112 44 31 22 422	72 117 44 49 26 308	18 28 25 21 100	4651 732 264 190 95 5932
TABLE I-10 OF 2-HR ST	JOINT TORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 24-HR f	Y DISTRIE RAINFALLS	BUTION		
ID CLASS	V	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3565 248 92 50 14 3969	854 168 58 44 9 1133	252 89 43 21 17 422	133 82 35 43 15 308	18 39 15 14 14	4822 626 243 172 69 5932
TABLE I-11 OF 3-HR ST	JOINT TORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 1-HR F	/ DISTRIE	BUTION		
ID CLASS	٧	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3479 389 87 23 0 3978	668 259 121 76 14 1138	153 101 56 63 22 395	64 87 65 60 31 307	11 16 20 24 43 114	4375 852 349 246 110 5932
TABLE I-12 OF 3-HR S1	JOINT TORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 2-HR F	/ DISTRIB RAINFALLS	UTION		
ID CLASS	V	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3704 273 1 0 0 3978	320 641 167 10 0 1138	41 109 148 97 0 395	39 81 159 25 307	0 2 6 31 75 114	4068 1064 403 297 100 5932

TAI OF	BLE 1-1: 3-HR	3 JOINT STORMS WIT	FREQUENC H 6-HR	Y DISTRI RAINFALL	BUTION S		
ID	CLASS	٧	IV	111	ΙΙ	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III II SUM	3670 251 44 12 1 3978	517 486 96 36 3 1138	20 205 101 59 10 <b>3</b> 95	0 43 94 124 46 307	0 2 6 37 69 114	4207 987 341 268 129 5932
TAE OF	BLE I-14 3-HR	4 JOINT	FREQUENCY H 12-HR 1	Y DISTRI	BUTION S		
10	CLASS	V	IV	111	1 I	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III II SUM	3580 267 79 39 13 3978	706 281 83 56 12 1138	132 157 55 32 19 395	23 114 71 70 29 307	3 11 28 37 35 114	4444 830 316 234 108 5932
TAE OF	3LE I-15 3-HR	5 JOINT   STORMS WITH	FREQUENCY H 24-HR F	/ DISTRIE	BUTION		
ID	CLASS	V	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III II SUM	3550 273 75 63 17 3978	783 213 74 50 18 1138	206 100 43 36 10 395	75 112 58 36 26 307	6 41 15 33 19 114	4620 739 265 218 90 5932
TAE OF	BLE I-16 6-HR S	5 JOINT I STORMS WITH	REQUENCY	/ DISTRIE RAINFALLS	BUTION S.		
ΙĐ	CLASS	v	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III II SUM	3506 329 107 55 8 4005	759 174 83 62 30 1108	232 68 31 47 12 390	131 66 44 31 24 296	29 30 23 23 28 133	4657 667 288 218 102 5932

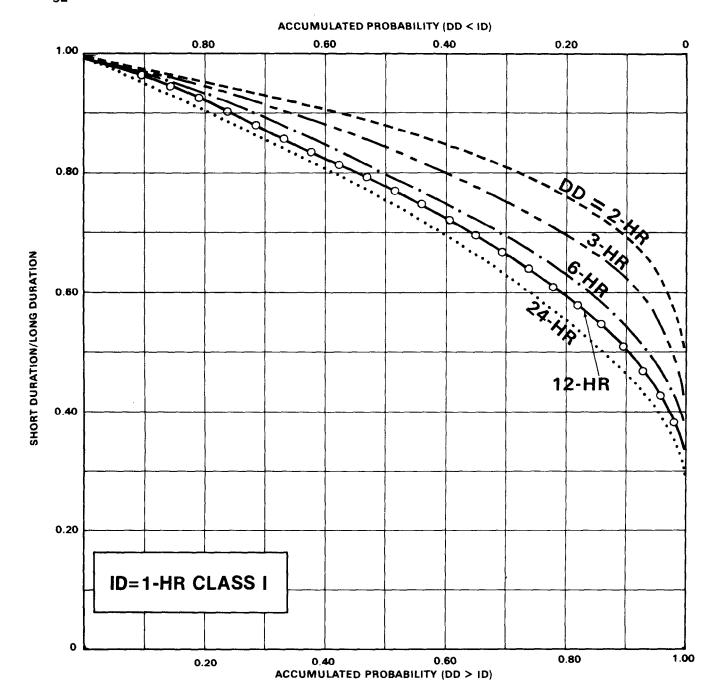
TABLE I-17 OF 6-HR S	JOINT TORMS WIT	FREQUENC H 2-HR	Y DISTRI RAINFALL	BUTION S		
ID CLASS	V	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3481 452 64 8 0 4005	577 285 152 85 9 1108	144 94 63 79 10 390	57 82 59 64 34 296	13 23 47 44 133	4265 926 361 283 97 5932
TABLE I-18 OF 6-HR S	JOINT TORMS WIT	FREQUENC H 3-HR	Y DISTRI	BUTION S		
ID CLASS	v	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3591 400 14 0 0 4005	424 467 178 38 1 1108	77 121 101 85 6 390	25 54 61 121 35 296	1 12 46 69 133	4118 1047 366 290 111 5932
TABLE I-19 OF 6-HR S	JOINT   TORMS WIT	FREQUENC H 12-HR	Y DISTRIE RAINFALLS	BUTION		
ID CLASS	V	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3694 265. 35 9 2 4005	449 492 121 44 2 1108	11 200 100 66 13 390	1 46 121 90 38 296	0 0 8 60 65 133	4155 1003 385 269 120 5932
TABLE 1-20 OF 6-HR S	JOINT I	REQUENCY 1 24-HR f	Y DISTRIE RAINFALLS	NOITUS		
ID CLASS	V	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III III SUM	3624 287 63 31 0 4005	613 312 100 67 16 1108	101 152 61 57 19 390	9 130 66 66 25 296	2 11 29 48 43 133	4349 892 319 269 103 5932

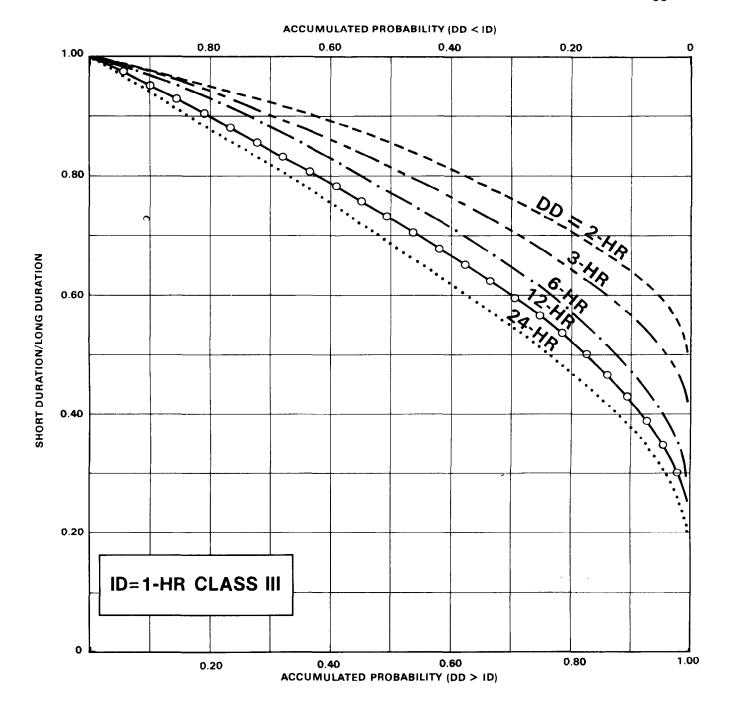
TAE OF	3LE I-2 12-HR	1 JOINT   STORMS WIT	FREQUENC H 1-HR I	Y DISTRI RAINFALL	BUTION S		
ID	CLASS	v	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III II SUM	3488 262 97 68 21 3936	880 135 61 53 20 1149	308 46 26 28 17 425	181 48 30 20 17 296	62 26 13 13 12 126	4919 517 227 182 87 5932
TAE OF	BLE 1-2 12-HR	2 JOINT ( STORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 2-HR I	Y DISTRI	BUTION S		
ID	CLASS	٧	IV	HI	11	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III II SUM	3398 372 116 43 7 3936	758 191 95 89 16 1149	237 79 44 42 23 425	132 58 33 51 22 296	39 18 23 26 20 126	4564 718 311 251 88 5932
TAE OF	BLE 1-2 12-HR	3 JOINT I STORMS WITH	REQUENCY	Y DISTRII RAINFALLS	BUTION S		
ID	CLASS	V	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III II SUM	3424 410 83 17 2 3936	651 266 134 89 9 1149	182 97 57 65 24 425	88 72 33 68 35 296	23 20 19 31 33 126	4368 865 326 270 103 5932
	BLE 1-2 12-HR	4 JOINT F STORMS WITH	REQUENCY	/ DISTRIE	BUTION		
ID	CLASS	V	I۷	111	11	I	SUM
DD	CLASS V IV III II SUM	3591 338 7 0 0 3936	469 471 173 36 0 1149	75 136 98 109 7 425	17 64 69 92 54 296	2 4 16 41 63 126	4154 1013 363 278 124 5932

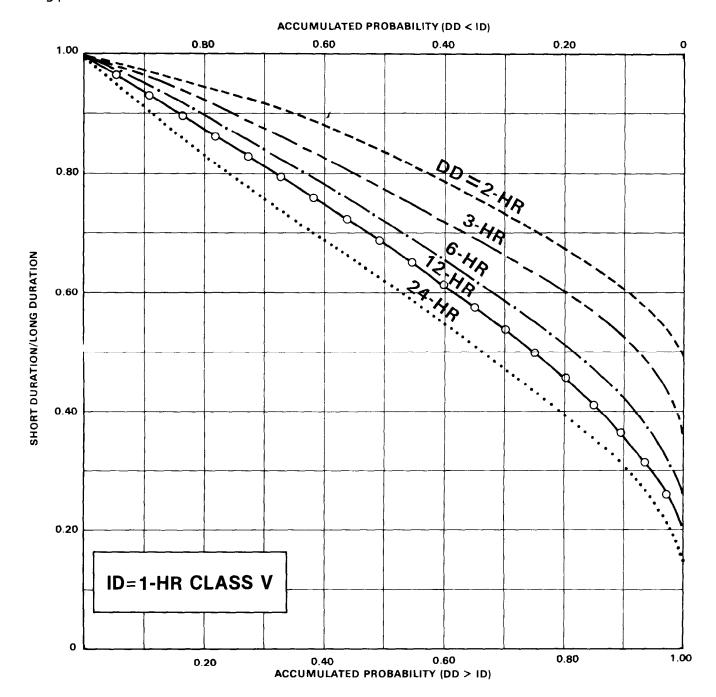
TABLE 1-25 OF 12-HR ST	JOINT TORMS WIT	FREQUENC H 24-HR	Y DISTRI RAINFALL	BUTION S		
ID CLASS	٧	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3680 230 23 3 0 3936	423 576 116 32 2 1149	218 144 57 2 425	0 26 91 140 39 296	0 0 4 57 65 126	4107 1050 378 289 108 5932
TABLE 1-26 OF 24-HR S1	JOINT TORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 1-HR I	Y DISTRI	BUTION S		
ID CLASS	٧	IV	111	11	Ī	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II. I SUM	3492 252 71 67 27 3909	938 107 60 54 21 1180	320 51 29 13 8 421	212 41 23 20 12 308	71 17 11 7 8 114	5033 468 194 161 76 5932
TABLE 1-27 OF 24-HR S1	JOINT TORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 2-HR F	/ DISTRIE RAINFALLS	BUTION		
ID CLASS	V	IV	111	11	I	SUM
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3413 322 101 60 13 3909	828 167 80 73 32 1180	265 73 39 32 12 421	172 58 23 42 13 308	51 18 17 15 13 114	4729 638 260 222 83 5932
TABLE I-28 OF 24-HR ST	JOINT   ORMS WIT	FREQUENCY H 3-HR F	' DISTRIE RAINFALLS	BUTION		
ID CLASS	V	IV	111	11	1	SUM
DD CLASS V IV !!! !! SUM	3403 353 105 43 5 3909	741 217 94 95 33 1180	229 85 43 50 14 421	138 65 38 37 30 308	35 24 10 28 17 114	4546 744 290 253 99 5932

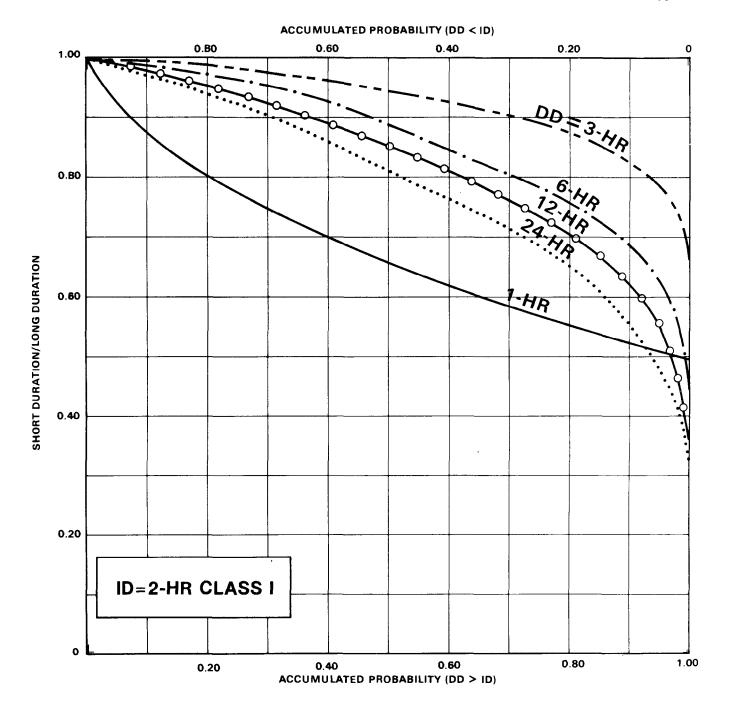
TABLE 1-29 JOINT FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF 24-HR STORMS WITH 6-HR RAINFALLS									
ID CLASS	V	IA	111	11	I	SUM			
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3472 368 61 6 2 3909	636 295 134 106 9 1180	154 119 60 61 27 421	56 81 59 66 46 308	2 23 22 25 42 114	4320 886 336 264 126 5932			
TABLE I-30 JOINT FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF 24-HR STORMS WITH 12-HR RAINFALLS									
ID CLASS	V	IV	111	11	I	SUM			
DD CLASS V IV III II SUM	3588 317 4 0 0 3909	414 553 190 23 0 1180	53 137 139 88 4 421	10 43 63 136 56 308	0 4 6 42 62 114	4065 1054 402 289 122 5932			

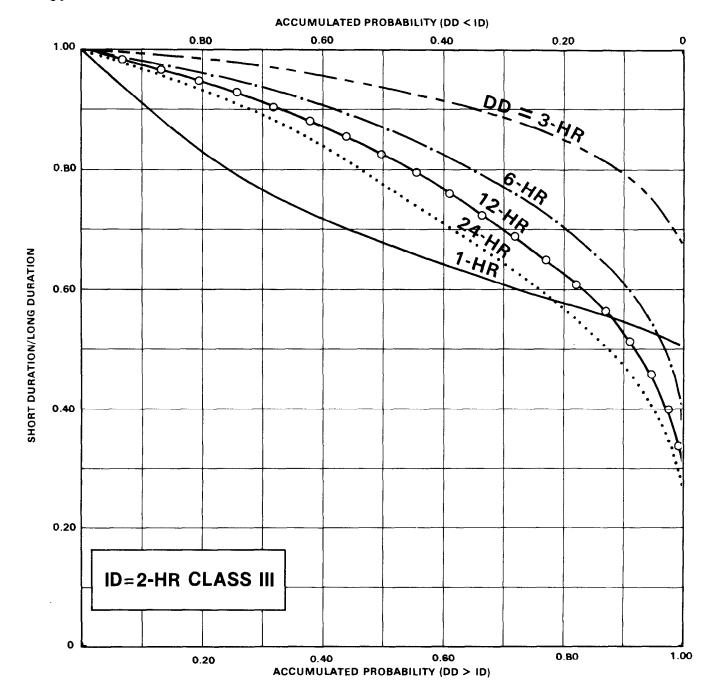
APPENDIX II. GRAPHS OF ACCUMULATED PROBABILITY FOR CLASS I, III, AND V N-HR STORMS

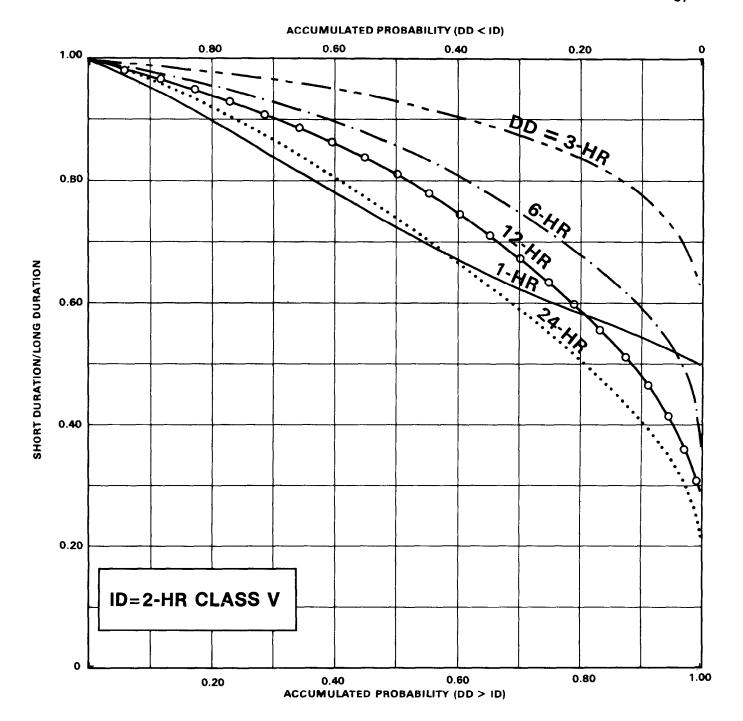


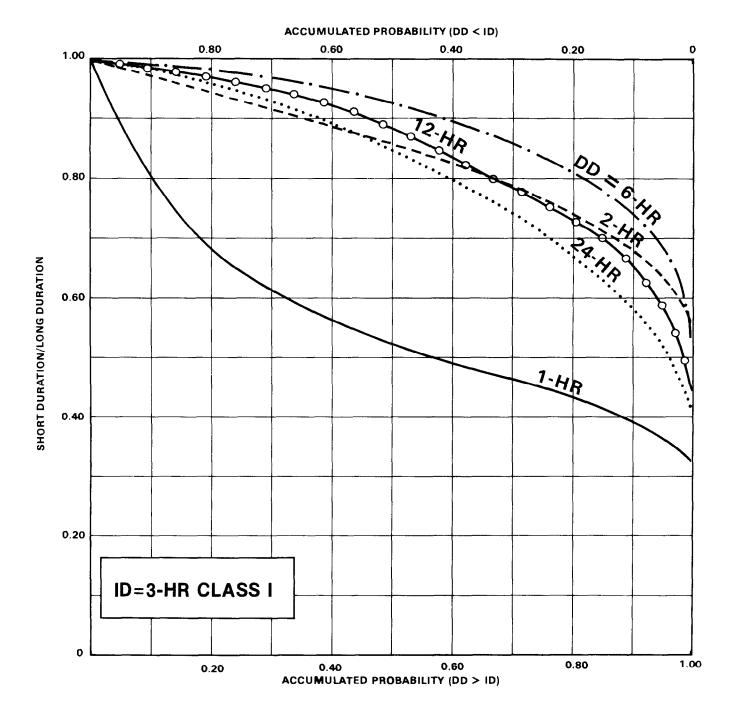


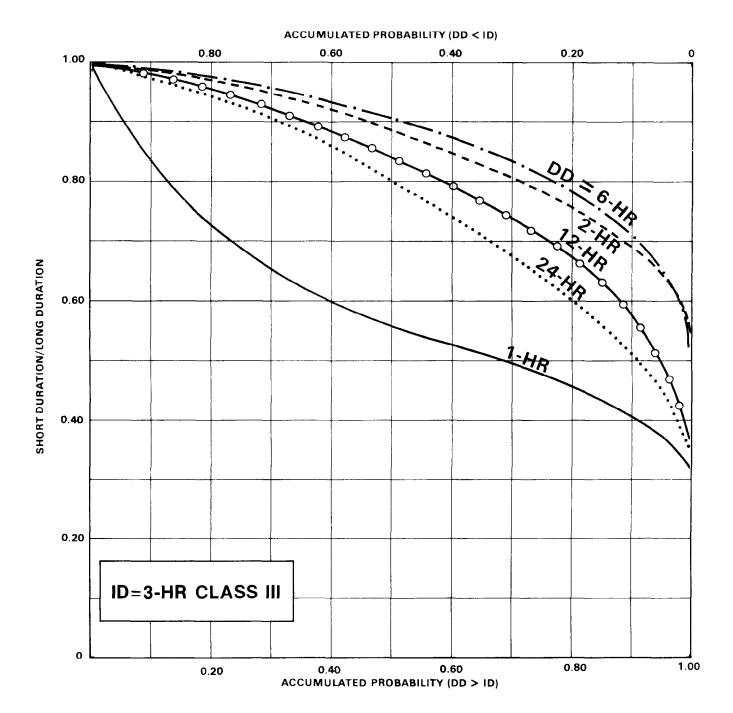


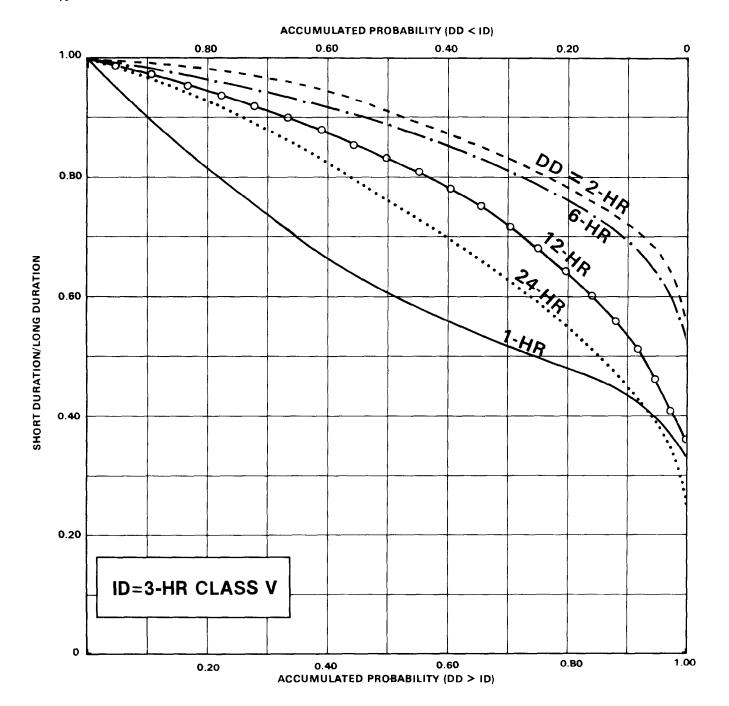


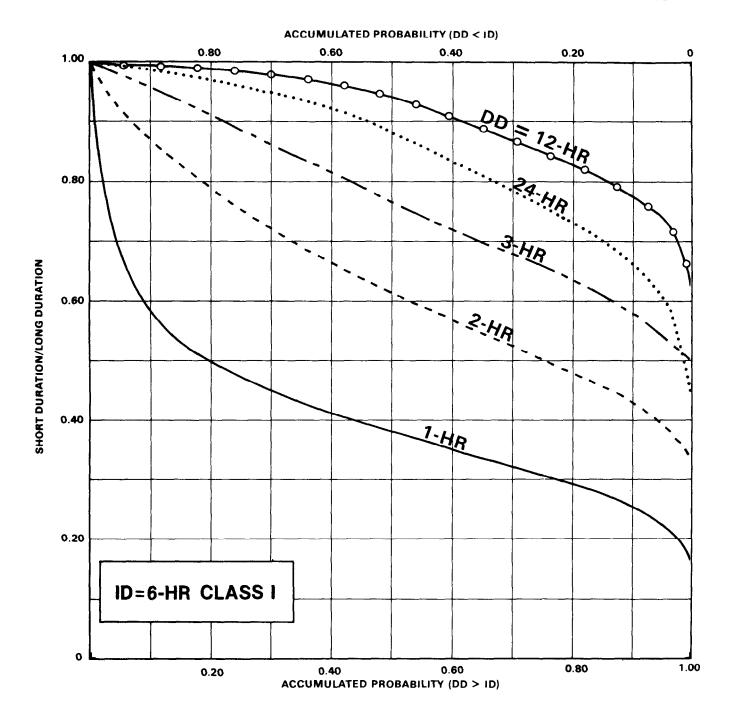


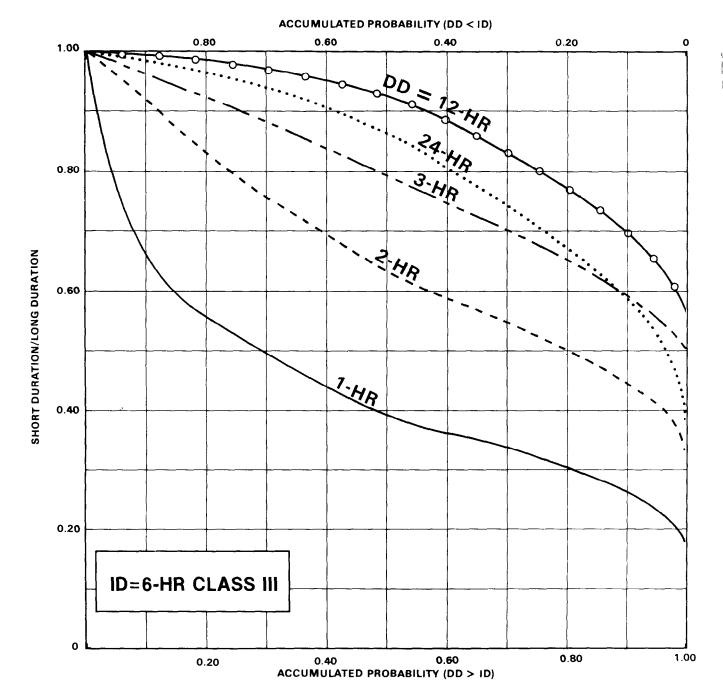


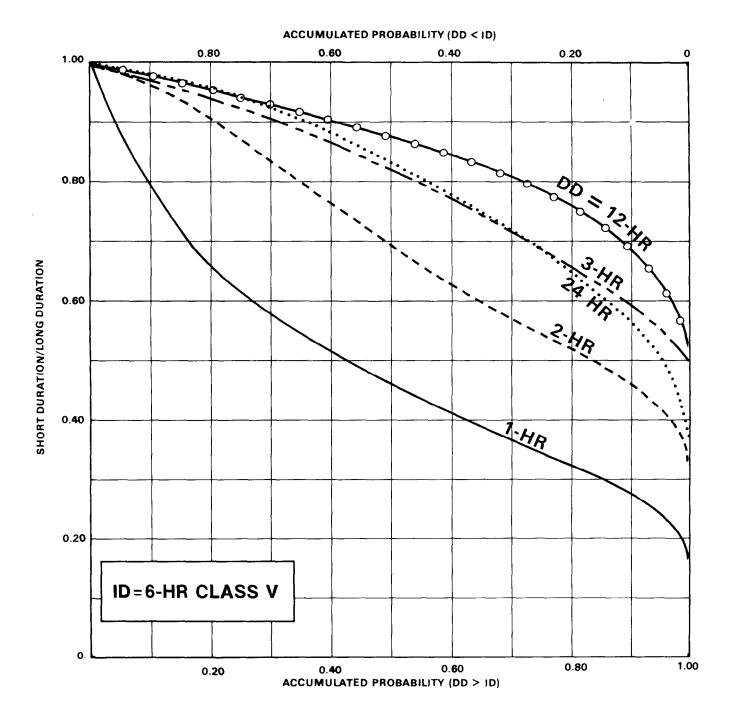


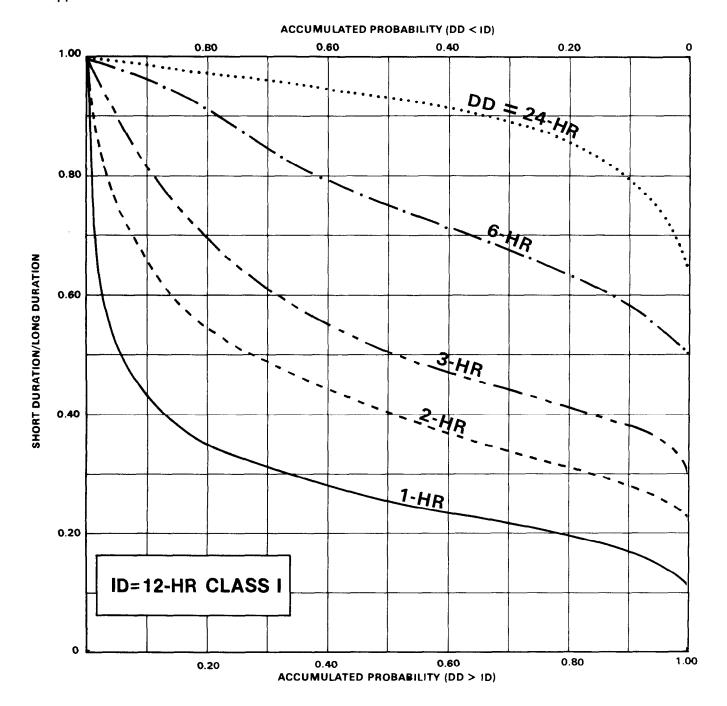


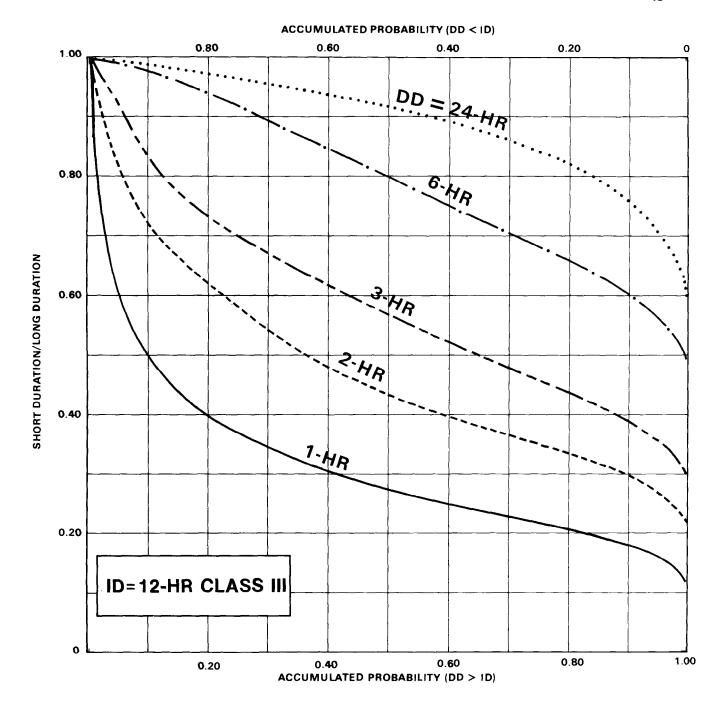


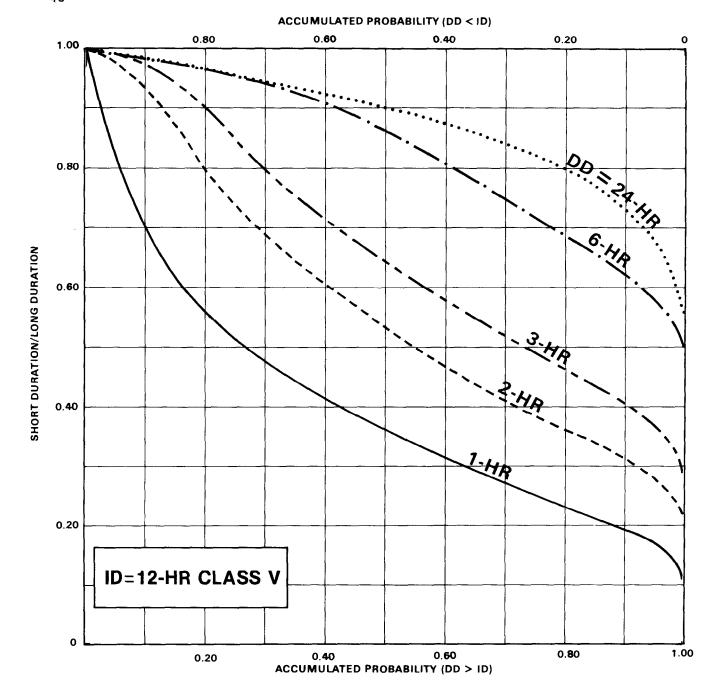


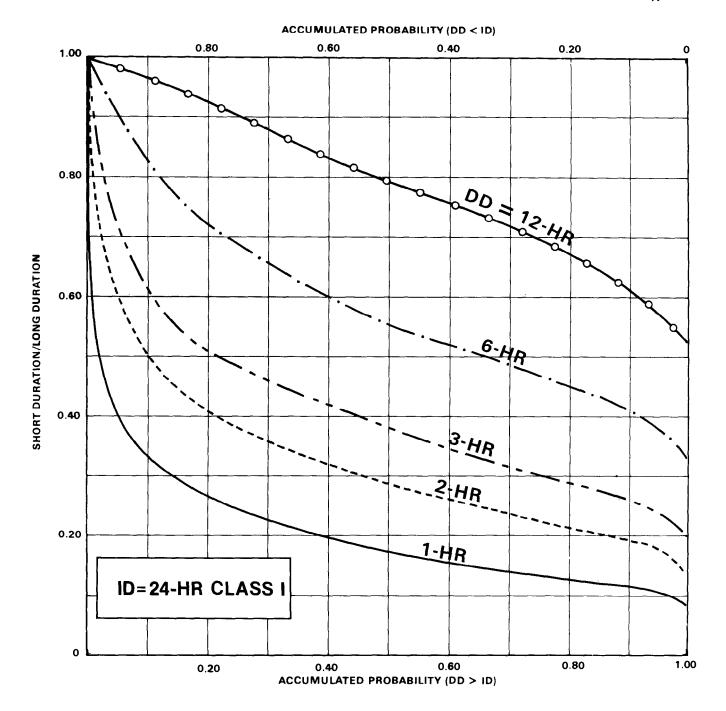


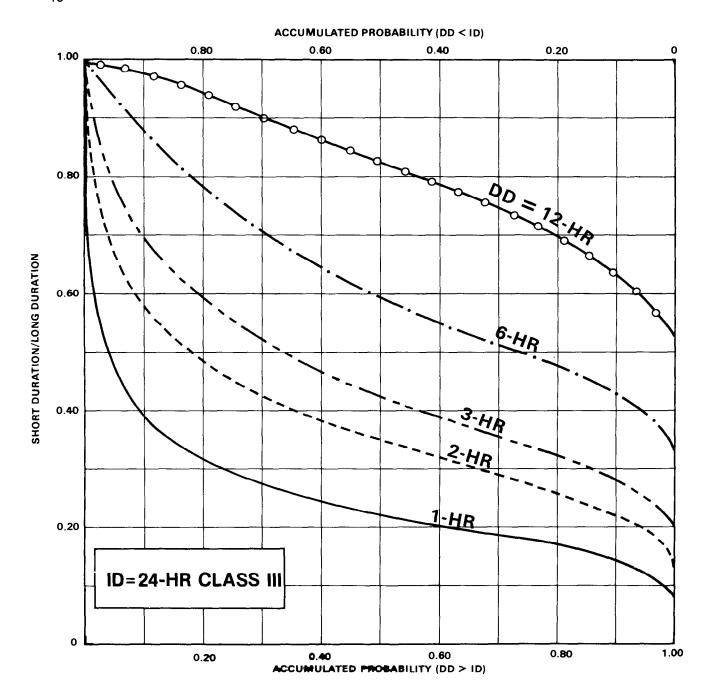


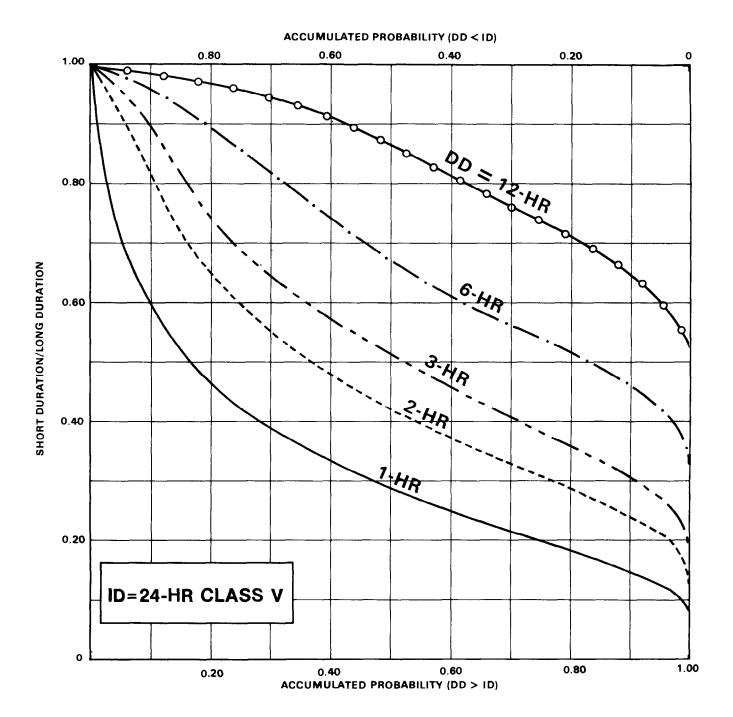






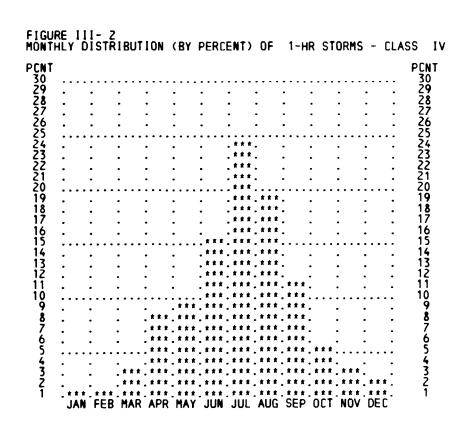




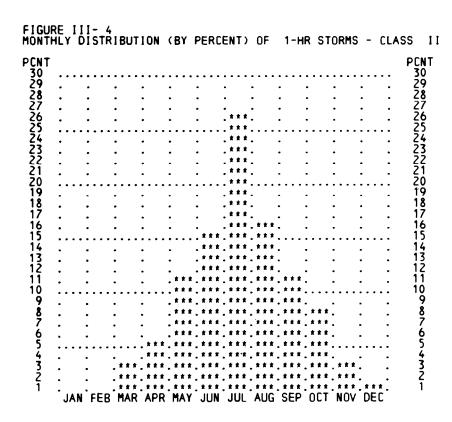


APPENDIX III. GRAPHS OF MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF N-HR STORMS

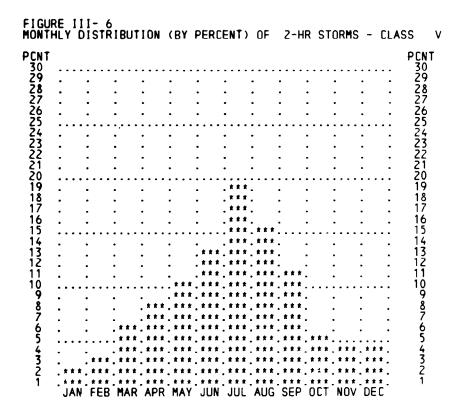
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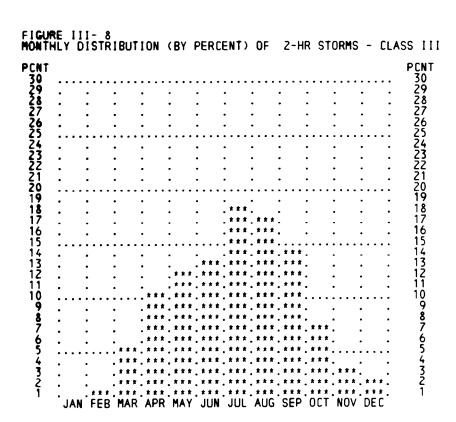
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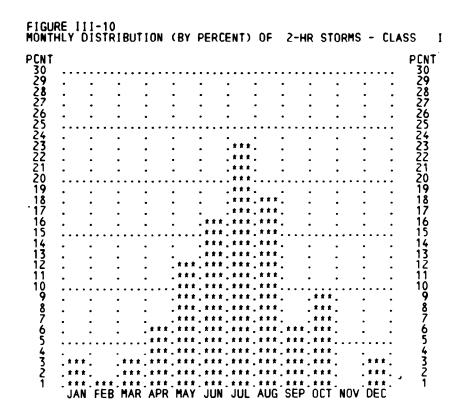
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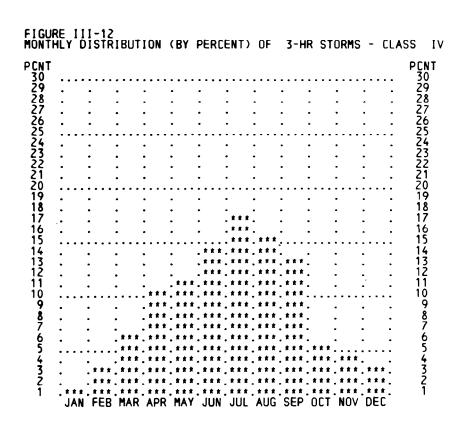
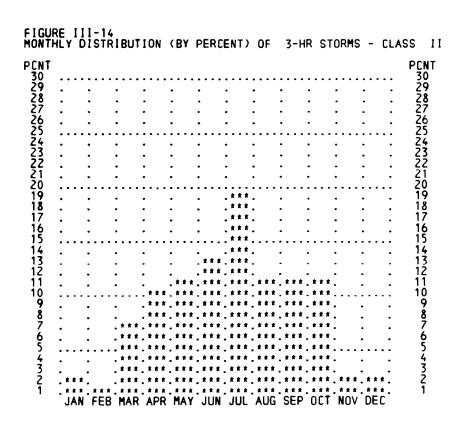
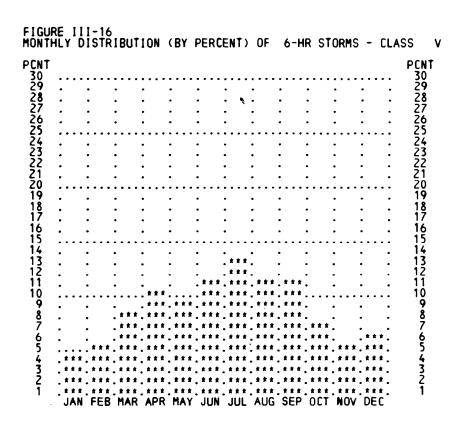


FIGURE III-13

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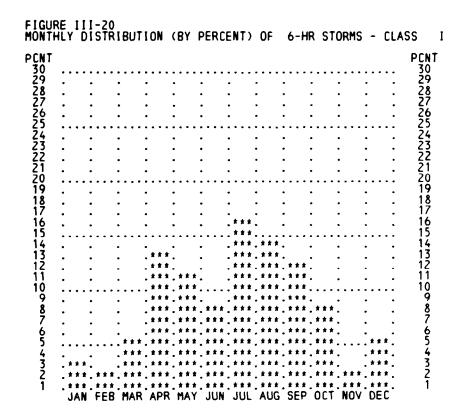


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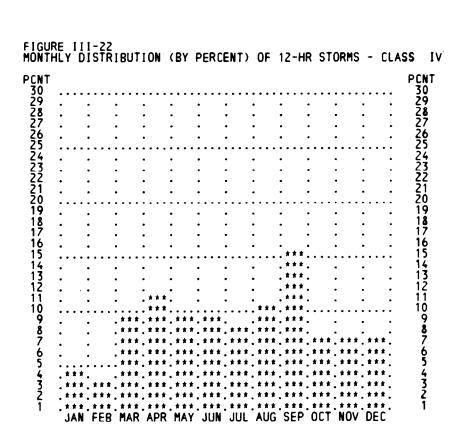
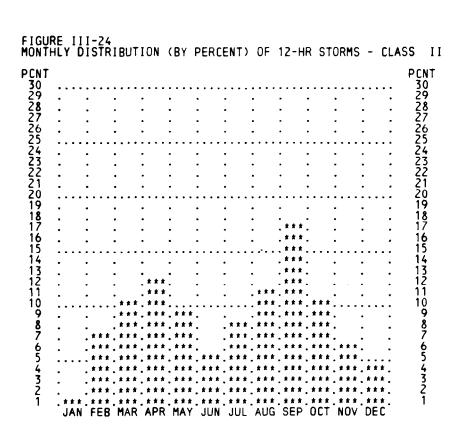
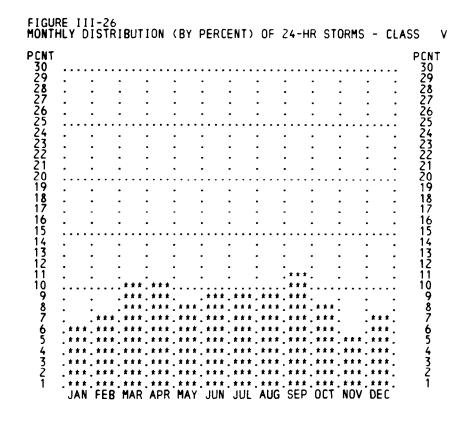


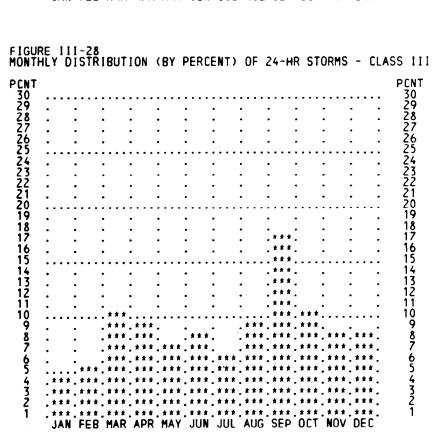
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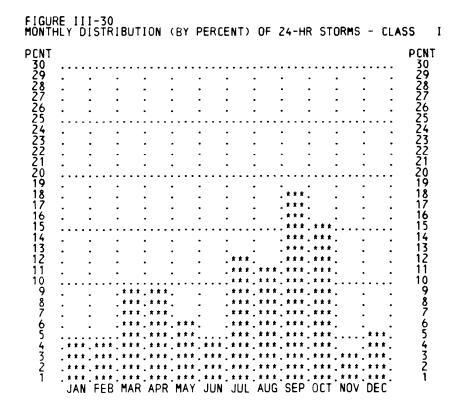
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## (Continued from inside front cover)

- NWS 16 Storm Tide Frequencies on the South Carolina Coast. Vance A. Myers, June 1975, 79 p. (COM-75-11335)
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- NWS 20 Precipitable Water Over the United States, Volume 1: Monthly Means. George A. Lott, November 1976, 173 p. (PB-264219)

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