

Important Precipitation Formulas PDF



Formulas Examples with Units

List of 19 Important Precipitation Formulas

1) Correction Ratio in Test for Consistency of Record Formula ↻

Formula

$$C.R = \frac{M_c}{M_a}$$

Example

$$1.3333 = \frac{1.2}{0.9}$$

Evaluate Formula ↻

2) Depth of rainfall given volume of rainfall Formula ↻

Formula

$$d = \frac{V}{A}$$

Example with Units

$$20 \text{ mm} = \frac{50 \text{ m}^3}{25 \text{ m}^2}$$

Evaluate Formula ↻

3) Dredge or Burge Formula Formula ↻

Formula

$$Q_p = 19.6 \cdot \frac{A_{\text{catchment}}^{\frac{2}{3}}}{(L_b)^{\frac{2}{3}}}$$

Example with Units

$$4.0601 \text{ m}^3/\text{s} = 19.6 \cdot \frac{2.0 \text{ m}^2}{(30 \text{ m})^{\frac{2}{3}}}$$

Evaluate Formula ↻

4) Total Runoff over Catchment Formula ↻

Formula

$$Q_V = S_r + I + B + C$$

Example with Units

$$19.11 \text{ m}^3 = 0.05 \text{ m}^3/\text{s} + 2 \text{ m}^3/\text{s} + 16.96 \text{ m}^3/\text{s} + 100 \text{ mm}$$

Evaluate Formula ↻

5) Volume of rainfall Formula ↻

Formula

$$V = A \cdot d$$

Example with Units

$$50 \text{ m}^3 = 25 \text{ m}^2 \cdot 20 \text{ mm}$$

Evaluate Formula ↻

6) Maximum Intensity-Duration-Frequency Relationship Formulas ↻

6.1) Duration given Maximum Intensity Formula ↻

Formula

$$D = \left(\left(K \cdot \frac{T_r^x}{i_{\max}} \right) - a^n \right)^{\frac{1}{n}}$$

Example with Units

$$3.0121 \text{ h} = \left(\left(4 \cdot \frac{150^{1.5}}{266.794 \text{ cm/h}} \right) - 0.6^3 \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Evaluate Formula ↻



6.2) Maximum Intensity in General Form Formula

Formula

$$i_{\max} = \frac{K \cdot T_r^x}{(D + a)^n}$$

Example with Units

$$266.794 \text{ cm/h} = \frac{4 \cdot 150^{1.5}}{(2.42 \text{ h} + 0.6)^3}$$

Evaluate Formula 

6.3) Return Period given Maximum Intensity Formula

Formula

$$T_r = \left(\frac{i_{\max} \cdot (D + a)^n}{K} \right)^{\frac{1}{x}}$$

Example with Units

$$150 = \left(\frac{266.794 \text{ cm/h} \cdot (2.42 \text{ h} + 0.6)^3}{4} \right)^{\frac{1}{1.5}}$$

Evaluate Formula 

7) Measurement of Precipitation Formulas

7.1) Radar measurement of Rainfall Formulas

7.1.1) Intensity of Rainfall given Radar Echo Factor Formula

Formula

$$i = \left(\frac{Z}{200} \right)^{\frac{1}{1.6}}$$

Example with Units

$$1.6 \text{ mm/h} = \left(\frac{424.25}{200} \right)^{\frac{1}{1.6}}$$

Evaluate Formula 

7.1.2) Radar Echo Factor using Intensity Formula

Formula

$$Z = 200 \cdot i^{1.6}$$

Example with Units

$$424.2501 = 200 \cdot 1.6 \text{ mm/h}^{1.6}$$

Evaluate Formula 

7.1.3) Radar Measurement of Rainfall Formula

Formula

$$P_r = \frac{C_{\text{radar}} \cdot Z}{r^2}$$

Example with Units

$$2.1212 = \frac{2.00 \cdot 424.25}{20000 \text{ mm}^2}$$

Evaluate Formula 

8) Preparation of Data Formulas

8.1) Test for Consistency of Record Formulas

8.1.1) Corrected Precipitation at any Time Period at Station 'X' Formula

Formula

$$P_{cx} = P_x \cdot \frac{M_c}{M_a}$$

Example with Units

$$16 \text{ mm} = 12 \text{ mm} \cdot \frac{1.2}{0.9}$$

Evaluate Formula 



8.1.2) Corrected Slope of Double Mass Curve Formula

Formula

$$M_c = \frac{P_{cx} \cdot M_a}{P_x}$$

Example with Units

$$1.2 = \frac{16 \text{ mm} \cdot 0.9}{12 \text{ mm}}$$

Evaluate Formula 

8.1.3) Original Recorded Precipitation given Corrected Precipitation at any Time Period Formula

Formula

$$P_x = \frac{P_{cx} \cdot M_a}{M_c}$$

Example with Units

$$12 \text{ mm} = \frac{16 \text{ mm} \cdot 0.9}{1.2}$$

Evaluate Formula 

8.1.4) Original Slope of Double Mass Curve given Corrected Precipitation Formula

Formula

$$M_a = \frac{P_x \cdot M_c}{P_{cx}}$$

Example with Units

$$0.9 = \frac{12 \text{ mm} \cdot 1.2}{16 \text{ mm}}$$

Evaluate Formula 

9) Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) Formulas

9.1) Duration given Extreme Rainfall Depth Formula

Formula

$$D = \left(\frac{P_m}{42.16} \right)^{\frac{1}{0.475}}$$

Example with Units

$$2.42 \text{ h} = \left(\frac{641.52 \text{ mm}}{42.16} \right)^{\frac{1}{0.475}}$$

Evaluate Formula 

9.2) Extreme Rainfall Depth Formula

Formula

$$P_m = 42.16 \cdot D^{0.475}$$

Example with Units

$$641.524 \text{ mm} = 42.16 \cdot 2.42 \text{ h}^{0.475}$$

Evaluate Formula 

9.3) Statistical Approach of PMP by using Chow's Equation Formula

Formula

$$PMP = P + K_z \cdot \sigma$$

Example with Units

$$59.01 \text{ mm} = 49.7 \text{ mm} + 7 \cdot 1.33$$

Evaluate Formula 

10) Raingauge Network Formulas

10.1) Optimum number of rain gauge stations Formula

Formula

$$N = \left(\frac{C_v}{E} \right)^2$$

Example

$$2.7778 = \left(\frac{10}{6} \right)^2$$

Evaluate Formula 



Variables used in list of Precipitation Formulas above

- **a** Coefficient a
- **A** Area of Accumulated Rain (*Square Meter*)
- **A_{catchment}** Catchment Area (*Square Meter*)
- **B** Baseflow (*Cubic Meter per Second*)
- **C** Channel Precipitation (*Millimeter*)
- **C_{radar}** A Constant
- **C_v** Coefficient of Variation of Rainfall
- **C.R** Correction Ratio
- **d** Depth of Rainfall (*Millimeter*)
- **D** Duration of Excess Rainfall in Hours (*Hour*)
- **E** Allowable Degree of Error
- **i** Intensity of Rainfall (*Millimeter per Hour*)
- **I** Interflow (*Cubic Meter per Second*)
- **i_{max}** Maximum Intensity (*Centimeter per Hour*)
- **K** Constant K
- **K_z** Frequency Factor
- **L_b** Length of Basin (*Meter*)
- **M_a** Original Slope of Double-Mass Curve
- **M_c** Corrected Slope of Double-Mass Curve
- **n** Constant n
- **N** Optimum Number of Rain Gauge Stations
- **P** Mean Precipitation of Annual Maximum Values (*Millimeter*)
- **P_{cx}** Corrected Precipitation (*Millimeter*)
- **P_m** Extreme Rainfall Depth (*Millimeter*)
- **P_r** Average Echo Power
- **P_x** Original Recorded Precipitation (*Millimeter*)
- **PMP** Probable Maximum Precipitation (*Millimeter*)
- **Q_p** Peak Discharge (*Cubic Meter per Second*)
- **Q_v** Runoff Volume (*Cubic Meter*)
- **r** Distance to Target Volume (*Millimeter*)
- **S_r** Surface Runoff (*Cubic Meter per Second*)

Constants, Functions, Measurements used in list of Precipitation Formulas above

- **Measurement: Length** in Millimeter (mm), Meter (m)
Length Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Time** in Hour (h)
Time Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Volume** in Cubic Meter (m³)
Volume Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Area** in Square Meter (m²)
Area Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Speed** in Centimeter per Hour (cm/h), Millimeter per Hour (mm/h)
Speed Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Volumetric Flow Rate** in Cubic Meter per Second (m³/s)
Volumetric Flow Rate Unit Conversion 



- T_r Return Period
- V Volume of Rainfall (*Cubic Meter*)
- x Coefficient x
- Z Radar-Echo Factor
- σ Standard Deviation



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7/8/2024 | 7:35:42 AM UTC

