## APPLIED HYDRAULICS

CHPATER 12:

## HYDROLOGY

## Hydrology

- Introduction
- Hydrologic cycle
- Statistical methods in Hydrology
- Frequency analysis


## Hydrology

- Hydrology is the scientific study of the movement, distribution, and quality of water on Earth and other planets.
- A practitioner of hydrology is a hydrologist, working within the fields of earth or environmental science, physical geography, geology or civil and environmental engineering.
- Hydrology is subdivided into:

1. Surface water hydrology,
2. Groundwater hydrology (hydrogeology), and
3. Marine hydrology.


## Hydrology and Hydraulic Differences

- Hydrology is generally related to the study of rainfall and water in connection to geography and geology .
- Hydrology deals with precipitation (rain, snow), evaporation, infiltration, groundwater flow, surface runoff, streamflow.
- Hydraulics is defined as the study of the mechanical behavior of water in physical systems.
- Hydraulic is the analysis of how surface, and/or subsurface flows move from one point to the next.
- Hydraulic analysis is used to evaluate flow in rivers, streams, storm drain networks, water aqueducts, water lines, sewers, etc.


## Hydrology Branches

| Chemical <br> Hydrology <br> Study of chemical characteristics of water <br> Water Quality <br> Chemistry of water in rivers and lakes, both of pollutants and natural solutes | Eco Hydrology | Hydrogeology | Hydrometeorology | Surface Hydrology | Drainage Basin Management |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Study of interactions of living organisms and the hydrologic cycle | Study of the distribution and movement of groundwater in the soils and rocks of the Earth's crust | Study of the transfer of water and energy between land and water body surfaces and the lower atmosphere | Study of hydrologic processes that operate at or near Earth's surface | Covers waterstorage, in the form of reservoirs, and floodprotection |

Hydrology

## Hydrology Applications



## Hydrology

## Hydrologic Cycle

- The illustration shows the hydrologic cycle in which water leaves the atmosphere and falls to earth as precipitation where it enters surface waters or infiltrates into the water table and groundwater.
- Then, it is taken back into the atmosphere by transpiration and evaporation to begin the cycle again.


## Evaporation

- As water is heated by the sun, and then evaporate and rise as invisible vapour in the atmosphere.



## Hydrology

## Condensation

- As water vapour rises, it cools and eventually condenses, usually on tiny particles of dust in the air.
- These water particles then collect and form clouds.


## Precipitation

- Precipitation in the form of rain, snow comes from clouds.
- It is the primary connection in the water cycle that provides for the delivery of atmospheric water to the Earth. Most precipitation falls as rain.



## Hydrology

## Runoff

- Excessive rain or snowmelt can produce overland flow to creeks and ditches.
- Runoff is visible flow of water in rivers, creeks and lakes as the water stored in the basin drains out.


## Infiltration

- Some of the precipitation and snow melt moves downwards, infiltrates through cracks, joints and pores in soil and rocks until it reaches the water table where it becomes groundwater.



## Hydrology

## Groundwater

- Subterranean water is held in cracks and pore spaces.
- Depending on the geology, the groundwater can flow to support streams.
- It can also be tapped by wells. Some groundwater is very old and may have been there for thousands of years.


## Water table

- The water table is the level at which water stands in a shallow well.



## Hydrology



## Hydrology

## Watershed

- A watershed is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or any point along a stream channel.
- Water is channeled into soils, ground-waters, creeks, and streams, making its way to larger rivers and eventually the sea.



## Hydrology

- Watershed also known as: Catchment, Catchment area, Catchment basin, Drainage area, River basin, and Water basin.
- Watershed characteristics factor include:
i. Topography
ii. Shape
iii. Size
iv. Soil type
v. Land use



## Data Analysis in Hydrology

- The development of almost all hydrologic design methods uses some form of data analysis.
- In other words, the design method usually is made operational only after analyzing measured hydrologic data.
- The necessary methods in hydrology are:

1. Probability concepts,
2. Statistical moments,
3. Hypothesis tests,
4. Regression analysis,
5. Frequency analysis.

## Hydrology

## Probability

- Probability is a scale of measurement that is used to describe the likelihood of an event.
- The scale on which probability is measured extends from 0 to 1.
- A value of $\underline{\underline{1}}$ indicates a certainty of occurrence of the event and a value of $\underline{0}$ indicates a certainty of failure to occur or nonoccurrence of the event.
- Probability is specified as a percentage.
- For example, when the weatherperson indicates that there is a $30 \%$ chance of rain, it means that based on past experience and under similar meteorological conditions it has rained 3 out of 10 times.


## Hydrology

## Random Variables

- There are two types of random variables:

1. A discrete random variable is one that may only take on distinct, usually integer, values.

- For example, the outcome of a roll of a dice may only take on the integer values from 1 to 6 and is therefore a discrete random variable.
- Or, if we define a random variable to be whether or not a river has overflowed its banks in any one year, then the variable is discrete because only discrete outcomes are possible; the out-of-bank flood occurred or it did not occur in any one year.

2. The outcome of an event may take on any value within a continuum of values; such a random variable is called continuous.

- For example, the volume of rainfall occurring during storm events is an example of a continuous random variable because it can be any value on a continuous scale from $\underline{0}$ inches to some very large value.
- A distinction is made between discrete and continuous random variables, because the computation of probabilities is different for the two types.
- A probability density function (PDF) is used to define the likelihood of occurrence of a continuous random variable.


## Hydrology

- The probability that the random variable $x$ lies within the interval from $x_{1}$, to $x_{2}$ is given by the integral of the density function from $x_{1}$, to $x_{2}$, over all values within the interval:

$$
p\left(x_{1} \leq x \leq x_{2}\right)=\int_{x_{1}}^{x_{2}} f(x) d x
$$

$f(x)$ is the density function

- It is also noted that the integral of the PDF from $-\infty$ to $+\infty$ equals 1.0.

$$
p\left(x_{1} \leq x \leq x_{2}\right)=\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x) d x=1
$$



## Hydrology

- The Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) of a continuous random variable is defined by:

$$
F(X)=p\left(x \leq x_{k}\right)=\int_{-\infty}^{x_{k}} f(x) d x \quad f(x) \text { is the density function }
$$

- It is also noted that the integral of the PDF from $-\infty$ to $+\infty$ equals 1.0.

$$
p\left(x \geq x_{k}\right)=\int_{x_{k}}^{+\infty} f(x) d x=1-p\left(x \leq x_{k}\right)=1-F(X)
$$

## Hydrology

## Example 1

Assume that the probability distribution of evaporation $E$ on any day during the year is given by:

$$
F(E)=\left\{\begin{array}{lr}
4 & 0 \leq E \leq 0.25 \text { in } / \text { day } \\
0 & \text { otherwise }
\end{array}\right.
$$

What is the probability of $E$ between 0.1 to 0.2 ? And what is the probability of E less than $0.15 \mathrm{in} /$ day? What is the probability that E is greater than $0.05 \mathrm{in} /$ day?

## Population

- The total set of observation $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots x_{n}\right)$ with finite or infinite sample data length is referred to the population.
- Whether summarizing a data set or attempting to find the population, one must characterize the sample.
- Moments are useful descriptors of data.
- For example, the mean (or average), which is a moment, is an important characteristic of a set of observations on a random variable, such as rainfall volume or the concentration of a water pollutant.
- There are three important moments: (1) Mean, (2) Variance, (3) Skew


## Hydrology

- The mean is the first moment measured about the origin, it is also the average of all observations on a random variable.
- For a continuous random variable, it is computed as:

$$
E(X)=\bar{x} \text { or } \mu=\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x f(x) d x
$$

- For a discrete random variable, the mean is given by

$$
E(X)=\bar{x} \text { or } \mu=\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i}
$$

## Hydrology

- The variance is the second moment about the mean. The variances of the population and sample are denoted by $\operatorname{Var}(X)$ or $\sigma^{2}$. For a continuous random variable, the variance is computed by:

$$
\operatorname{Var}(X)=\sigma^{2}=\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty}(x-\mu)^{2} f(x) d x
$$

- For a discrete random variable, the variance is given by:

$$
\operatorname{Var}(X)=\sigma^{2}=\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(x_{i}-\mu\right)^{2} \quad \operatorname{Var}(X)=\sigma^{2}=\frac{1}{n-1}\left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i}^{2}\right)-n \bar{x}^{2}\right]
$$

$$
\text { Standard Deviation }=\sigma=\sqrt{\operatorname{Var}(X)}
$$

## Hydrology

- The skew is the third moment measured about the mean an it is denoted by $\operatorname{Var}(X)$ or $\sigma^{2}$.
- For a continuous random variable, the variance is computed by:

$$
g=\gamma=\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty}(x-\mu)^{3} f(x) d x
$$

- For a discrete random variable, the variance is given by:

$$
\operatorname{Var}(X)=\sigma^{2}=\frac{n}{(n-1)(n-2) \sigma^{3}} \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(x_{i}-\mu\right)^{3}
$$

## Hydrology

The skewness coefficient is a dimensionless coefficient of which sign shows the degree of PDF symmetry.

- If $\gamma<0$ distribution is skewed to the left (negatively skewed);
- If $\gamma>0$ the distribution is skewed to the right and the PDF tail will be heavier there (positively skewed).

The skewness coefficient for symmetric distribution, is zero.

## Hydrology

## Example 2

Observed flow data of a river is available from 1960 to 1989 and presented in the following table. Determine the mean, variance, standard deviation and skewness.

Introduction to Risk and Uncertainty in Hydrosystem Engineering

| Year | Flow $(Q, c f s)$ | Year | Flow $(Q, c f s)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1960 | 5759.278 | 1975 | 8742.511 |
| 1961 | 1113.213 | 1976 | 5984.455 |
| 1962 | 2531.58 | 1977 | 8685.196 |
| 1963 | 1716.61 | 1978 | 8752.519 |
| 1964 | 4718.362 | 1979 | 7366.032 |
| 1965 | 9248.881 | 1980 | 868.9257 |
| 1966 | 399.9453 | 1981 | 6121.915 |
| 1967 | 2306.414 | 1982 | 8277.696 |
| 1968 | 2947.42 | 1983 | 4654.374 |
| 1969 | 5472.883 | 1984 | 6820.767 |
| 1970 | 6096.213 | 1985 | 2575.634 |
| 1971 | 2589.628 | 1986 | 7508.591 |
| 1972 | 2111.904 | 1987 | 8238.025 |
| 1973 | 3945.78 | 1988 | 29.47444 |
| 1974 | 9789.477 | 1989 | 7021.186 |

$$
E(a)=a
$$

$$
E(b x)=b(E x)
$$

$E(a+b x)=a+b E(x)$

$$
\operatorname{Var}(a)=0
$$

$$
\operatorname{Var}(b x)=b^{2} \operatorname{Var}(x)
$$

$$
\operatorname{Var}(a+b x)=\operatorname{Var}(a)+\operatorname{Var}(b x)=b^{2} \operatorname{Var}(x)
$$

## Hydrology

## Example 3

Assume the following density function over the interval [0,1]: $f(x)=x+3$
Calculate $E[x], \operatorname{Var}[X], E[4 x], \operatorname{Var}[4 X]$, and $E[4 x+5]$ and $\operatorname{Var}[4 x+5]$.

Introduction to Risk and Uncertainty in Hydrosystem Engineering

## APPLIED HYDRAULICS

CHPATER 13:

## HYDROLOGY

## Hydrology

- Binomial Distribution
- Normal Distribution
- Hydrographs


## Hydrology

- Random variables can be measured either at discrete values or over a continuous scale.
- Probability functions is used to represent a random variable and to determine the probability of occurrence.
- Although there are many probability functions, for our purposes, only two will be discussed in this section:

1. Binomial


## Hydrology

## Binomial Distribution

- The binomial distribution is used to define probabilities of discrete events. It is applicable to random variables that satisfy the following four assumptions:
i. There are n occurrences, or trials, of the random variable.
ii. The $n$ trials are independent.
iii. There are only two possible outcomes for each trial.
iv. The probability of each outcome is constant from trial to trial.
- The probabilities of occurrence of any random variable satisfying these four assumptions can be computed using the binomial distribution.


## Hydrology

- For example, in flipping a coin $n$ times, the $n$ trials are independent, there are only two possible outcomes, and the probability of a head remains 0.5.
- One could not use the binomial distribution to compute probabilities for the toss of a dice because there are six possible outcomes.
- However, if one defines the two outcomes as either an even or an odd number of dots, then the four assumptions would apply.



## Hydrology

- As this distribution has a binary base, the outcomes can be either success or fail.
- If the probability of success and fail occurrence is denoted by $p$ and $q$, respectively, the binomial probability mass function (PMF) can be written as:

$$
p(x)={ }_{n}^{1} C_{x} p^{x} q^{n-x}=B(n, p), \quad x=0,1,2, \ldots \ldots, n
$$

- where $q=1-p$ and ${ }_{n}^{1} C_{x}$ is a Binomial coefficient:

$$
{ }_{n}^{1} C_{x}=\binom{n}{x}=\frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!}
$$

## Hydrology

- If random variable $X$ follows a Binomial distribution, then mean, variance and skewness of $X$ can be estimated as follows:

$$
E[X]=n p \quad \operatorname{Var}(X)=n p q \quad \gamma_{x}=\frac{1-2 p}{\sqrt{n p(1-p)}}
$$




## Hydrology

## Example 1

Calculate the probability of having $x$ successes in seven trials $(n=7)$ for different $p$ values such as $p=0.1, p=0.5$, and $p=0.8$.

| $\boldsymbol{n}$ | $\boldsymbol{p}$ | $\boldsymbol{x}$ | $\boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{x})$ | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | $\boldsymbol{p}$ | $\boldsymbol{x}$ | $\boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{x})$ | $\boldsymbol{n}$ | $\boldsymbol{p}$ | $\boldsymbol{x}$ | $\boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{x})$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 7 | 0.1 | 0 | $4.783 \mathrm{E}-01$ | 7 | 0.5 | 0 | $7.813 \mathrm{E}-03$ | 7 | 0.8 | 0 | $1.280 \mathrm{E}-05$ |
|  |  | 1 | $3.720 \mathrm{E}-01$ |  |  | 1 | $5.469 \mathrm{E}-02$ |  |  | 1 | $3.584 \mathrm{E}-04$ |
|  |  | 2 | $1.240 \mathrm{E}-01$ |  |  | 2 | $1.641 \mathrm{E}-01$ |  |  | 2 | $4.301 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
|  |  | 3 | $2.296 \mathrm{E}-02$ |  |  | 3 | $2.734 \mathrm{E}-01$ |  |  | 3 | $2.867 \mathrm{E}-02$ |
|  |  | 4 | $2.552 \mathrm{E}-03$ |  |  | 4 | $2.734 \mathrm{E}-01$ |  | 4 | $1.147 \mathrm{E}-01$ |  |
|  | 5 | $1.701 \mathrm{E}-04$ |  |  | 5 | $1.641 \mathrm{E}-01$ |  | 5 | $2.753 \mathrm{E}-01$ |  |  |
|  |  | 6 | $6.300 \mathrm{E}-06$ |  |  | 6 | $5.469 \mathrm{E}-02$ |  | 6 | $3.670 \mathrm{E}-01$ |  |
|  | 7 | $1.000 \mathrm{E}-07$ |  |  | 7 | $7.813 \mathrm{E}-03$ |  |  | 7 | $2.097 \mathrm{E}-01$ |  |

## Hydrology

## Normal Distribution

- Normal distribution is one of the most commonly used probability distributions by engineers.
- It is also known as Gaussian distribution in honor of Carl Friedrich Gauss.
- Normal distribution can be identified from the mean $\left(\mu_{x}\right)$ which shows the center of distribution, and variance ( $\sigma_{x}^{2}$ ) which determines the distribution spread or the height and width of the normal curve.
- Hence, the normal random variable $x$ with mean $\left(\mu_{x}\right)$ and variance $\left(\sigma_{x}^{2}\right)$ can be shown as $N \sim\left(\mu_{x}, \sigma_{x}^{2}\right)$. The variance is always positive while the mean can have negative or positive value.


## Hydrology

- The PDF of a normal distribution is defined as follows:

$$
f(x)=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \pi \sigma_{x}^{2}}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_{x}}{\sigma_{x}}\right)^{2}\right] \quad \text { for } \quad-\infty<x<\infty
$$

- The normal PDF is a bell-shaped curve with a peak at the mean, and extends to $\pm \infty$.
- The biggest distribution concentration is located in the center and it decreases along the $x$-axis.

- Mean, variance, and skewness of normal distribution are $\mu_{x}, \sigma_{x}^{2}$, and 0 , respectively.
- Normal distribution can be used as a simple model to explain complex events in various science fields when there is sufficiently large number independent random variables.



## Hydrology

- The probability that the random variable $x$ lies within the interval from $x_{1}$, to $x_{2}$ is given by the integral of the density function from $x_{1}$, to $x_{2}$, over all values within the interval:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& p\left(x_{1} \leq x \leq x_{2}\right)=\int_{x_{1}}^{x_{2}} f(x) d x \\
& \\
& \quad f(x)=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \pi \sigma_{x}^{2}}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_{x}}{\sigma_{x}}\right)^{2}\right] \quad \text { for } \quad-\infty<x<\infty
\end{aligned}
$$

- Standard normal distribution is a normal distribution with mean and standard deviation of $\underline{0}$ and 1 , respectively.


## Hydrology

- The standard type uses a transferring factor $(z)$ in the following form:
- in which $x$ is the normal random variable with mean $\mu_{x}$ and standard deviation $\sigma_{x}$.
- On the other hand, for a known $Z$ value, the normal random variable $x$ with mean $\mu_{x}$ and

$$
z=\frac{x-\mu_{x}}{\sigma_{x}}
$$ standard deviation $\sigma_{x}$ can be computed as:

- The probability density function (PDF) of standard normal distribution $z$ is:

$$
f(z)=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \pi}} \exp \left(-\frac{z^{2}}{2}\right) \quad \text { for }-\infty<z<\infty
$$

## Hydrology

- The probability that the random variable $z$ lies within the interval from $z_{1}$, to $z_{2}$ is given by the integral of the density function from $z_{1}$, to $z_{2}$, over all values within the interval:

$$
p\left(z_{1} \leq z \leq z_{2}\right)=\int_{z_{1}}^{z_{2}} f(z) d z
$$

$$
f(z)=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \pi}} \exp \left(-\frac{z^{2}}{2}\right) \quad \text { for }-\infty<z<\infty
$$

- Because probabilities for the standard normal distribution are frequently required, integrals, have been computed and placed in tabular form.



## Hydrology

- Probabilities for cases in which the lower limit is different from $-\infty$ can be determined using the following identity:

$$
\begin{aligned}
p\left(z_{1} \leq z \leq z_{2}\right)= & \underbrace{p\left(-\infty \leq z \leq z_{2}\right)}_{\text {From z Table }}-\underbrace{p\left(-\infty \leq z \leq z_{1}\right)}_{\text {From z Table }}= \\
& p\left(z \leq z_{2}\right)-p\left(z \leq z_{1}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

- For example, the probability of $p(0.55 \leq z \leq 2.25)$ would be:

$$
p(0.55 \leq z \leq 2.25)=p(z \leq 2.25)-p(z \leq 0.55)
$$

## Hydrology

## Example 2

Assume that the distribution of soil erosion $x$ from small urban construction sites is normally distributed with a mean of 100 tons/acre/yr and a standard deviation of 20 tons/acre/yr. What is the probability of soil erosion rates being greater than 150 tons/acre/yr.

|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

## Hydrology

## Hydrographs

- A hydrograph is a graph showing discharge (i.e., stream flow at the concentration point) versus time.
- At the beginning, there is only base flow.
- Baseflow is the portion of streamflow that comes from "the sum of deep subsurface flow and delayed shallow subsurface flow".


## Hydrology

- The hydrograph gradually rises and reaches its peak value after a time $t_{p}$ (called lag time or basin lag).
- Thereafter it declines and there is a change of slope at the inflection point.
- in actual streams gauged, the hydrograph may have a single peak or multiple peaks according to the complexity of storms.



## Hydrology

- Time of concentration $\left(t_{c}\right)$ is defined as the time needed for water to flow from the most remote point in a watershed to the watershed outlet.

$$
t_{c}(h r)=0.06628 L^{0.77} S^{-0.385}
$$

$L$ is length (km) and $S$ is slope

- It is a function of the topography, geology, and land use within the watershed.



Path "A" is 1000 ft . long with a Time of Concentration $=1.00$ Hours

Path " B " is 750 ft . long with a Time of Concentration $=1.25$ Hours

## Hydrology

## Floods

- A flood is an unusual high stage of a river due to runoff from rainfall and/or melting of snow in quantities too great to be confined in the normal water surface elevations of the river or stream.
- The maximum flood that any structure can safely pass is called the 'design flood' and is selected after consideration of economic and hydrologic factors.
- The design flood is related to the project feature; for example, the spillway design flood may be much higher than the flood control reservoir design flood.


## Hydrology

- When the structure is designed for a flood less than the maximum probable, there exists a certain amount of flood risk to the structure.
- However, sometimes we have to do this as it is not economical to design for $100 \%$ flood protection.
- Protection against the highest rare floods is uneconomical because of the large investment and infrequent flood occurrence.
- In the design flood estimates, reference is usually made to three classes:

1. Standard Project Flood (SPF),
2. Maximum Probable Flood (MPF)
3. Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP).

## Hydrology

- Standard Project Flood (SPF): This is the estimate of the flood likely to occur from the most severe combination of the meteorological and hydrological conditions, but excluding extremely rare combination.
- Maximum Probable Flood (MPF): This differs from the SPF in that it includes the extremely rare and catastrophic floods and is usually confined to spillway design of very high dams.
- Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP): the greatest depth of precipitation for a given duration that is physically possible over a given storm area at a particular geographical location at a certain time of the year.


## Hydrology

## Estimation of Peak Flood

- The maximum flood discharge (peak flood) in a river may be determined by the following methods:

1. Physical indications of past floods—flood marks and local enquiry
2. Empirical formulae and curves
3. Concentration time method
4. Overland flow hydrograph
5. Rational method
6. Unit hydrograph
7. Flood frequency studies

## Hydrology

## Rational Method

- The rational method is based on the application of the following formula:

$$
Q=C i A
$$

- where $C\left(\frac{f t^{3}}{s}\right)$ is a coefficient depending on the runoff qualities of the catchment called the runoff coefficient ( 0.2 to 0.8 ), the intensity of rainfall $i\left(\frac{i n c h}{h r}\right)$ is equal to the design intensity or critical intensity of rainfall $i_{c}$, and $A$ (acres) is the catchment

| Type of terrain | Value of C |
| :--- | :---: |
| Flat residential areas | 0.4 |
| Moderately steep residential crea | 0.6 |
| Built up areas- impervious | 0.8 |
| Rolling lands and clay-loam soils | 0.5 |
| Hilly arears, forests, clay and loamy soils | 0.5 |
| Flat cultivated lands and sandy soils | 0.2 | area.

## Hydrology

## Example 3

Consider the design problem where a peak discharge is required to size a storm drain inlet for a 2.4-acre parking area in Baltimore, with a time of concentration of 0.1 hr and a slope of $1.5 \%$. The rainfall intensity is $8.6 \mathrm{in} . / \mathrm{hr}$ and the runoff coefficient is 0.95 . What is the design discharge?

## Hydrology

## Flood Frequency

- Flood frequency analyses are used to predict design floods for sites along a river.
- The technique involves using observed annual peak flow discharge data to calculate statistical information such as mean values, standard deviations, and skewness.
- Flood frequency plays a vital role in providing estimates of floods return periods.
- In order to evaluate the optimum design specification for hydraulic structures, and to prevent over-designing or under designing, it is imperative to apply statistical tools to create flood frequency estimates.
- Along with hydraulic design, flood frequency estimates are also useful in flood insurance and flood zoning activities.
- Accurate estimation of flood frequency not only helps engineers in designing safe structures but also in protection against economic losses due to maintenance of structures.
- In order to understand how flood frequency analysis works, it is essential to understand the concept of return period.
- The theoretical definition of return period is the inverse of the probability that an event will be exceeded in a given year.
- In general, return period provides an estimate of the likelihood of any event in one year.
- These events include natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes.
- For example, a 10-year return period corresponds to a flood that an exceedance probability of 0.10 or a $10 \%$ chance that the flow will exceed in one year.
- This does not mean that a 10-year flood will happen regularly every 10 years, or only once in 100 years.
- In any given 100-year period, a 100-year event may occur once, twice, more, or not at all.
- The probability of occurrence of a flood (having a recurrence interval T-yr) in any year, is:

$$
P=\frac{1}{T}
$$

- The probability that it will not occur in a given year

$$
q=1-P=1-\frac{1}{T}
$$

