

# Improving Indian meteorological department method for 24- hourly rainfall downscaling to shorter durations for IDF modelling

## Abstract

The development of Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) models for storm drain design and related flood mitigation structures requires rainfall amount and corresponding duration records. To achieve this purpose, three short duration downscaling methods from 24-hourly rainfall amount data were selected for improvement, namely: IMD, AIMD and MCIMD, with the CAMS method used as the experiment control. Three types of general PDF-IDF models (GEVT-1, LPT-3 and ND) were developed based on the downscaling methods yielding goodness of fit ( $R^2$ ) with very high correlation of 0.995–0.999 and model accuracy with mean square error (MSE) of 4.123–7.85. The PDF-IDF models predicted intensities plotted against durations for different return periods of 2, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 years, showed visual differences in the predictive performance of the intensities derived from the downscaling methods. Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric test of significance at 5% level carried out showed that no-significant difference exist for 15-60 minutes duration, while the difference was significant for durations between 90–300 minutes. The LPT-3 based on MCIMD yielded higher improved performance in prediction of intensities relative to the IMD. The level of improvement ranges from 35.17 to 52.26% and 25.0 to 39.89%; while that of AIMD ranges from 10.97 to 20.87% and 3.33 to 12.53% for 10 and 100 year return periods, respectively. The use of the IMD downscaling method with the LPT-3 PDF-IDF model for design purposes will be justified if modified with some percentage improvement or adjustment factor.

**Keywords:** 24-hourly rainfall amount, short duration downscaling, IMD, AIMD, MCIMD, PDF- IDF model, predicted intensities

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Masi G Sam, Ify L Nwaogazie, Chiedozie Ikebude

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

**Correspondence:** Ify L Nwaogazie, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria, Tel +2348033399923, Email ifynwaogazie@yahoo.com

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## Introduction

A major proven tool for the design of flood mitigation structures for urban, semi-urban and rural settlement in a typical watershed is the intensity-duration-frequency (IDF) models. The efficiency in performance of IDF models in prediction of rainfall intensity are dependent on the quality of the measured precipitation records which serve as input data for calibration of the IDF models. Records of rainfall amount and their corresponding durations are used for IDF modeling. Automated rain-gauge provides information on rainfall amount and its corresponding duration while the manual rain-gauge can only provide information on accumulated daily rainfall amount. Historical time series can be evaluated based on the rainfall Annual Maximum Series (AMS). The AMS daily rainfall is defined as an extreme instance with critical durations for a watershed, catchment area or river basin which has some consequences to agriculture and soil conservation, roads, dams and drainage.<sup>1</sup> AMS include the highest value(s) that occur for each year spanning through the period of record. The AMS method is often preferable in frequency analysis because the resulting values can be converted to partial series values using conversion factors.

The emergence of the extreme value theory as one of the most important disciplines of applied science in the last 50 years has been of immense contribution in its application in various fields of science and engineering. Thus, by recording daily or 24 hourly rainfall values the extreme value records can be obtained. Extreme value theory is a probability science that studies the stochastic behavior of the extremes of a set of random variables.<sup>2</sup> Two different approaches exist for the

construction and analysis of daily ams rainfall data, namely, the application of highest precipitation amount for different durations, and the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) method for shorter duration rainfall downscaling. Both methods are briefly discussed herein:

### Conventional annual maximum series (CAMS) method

The conventional annual maximum series is the use of records of highest precipitation amount with corresponding durations. This is the most common approach used for construction of AMS that is applied in rainfall frequency analysis and consequently in Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) modeling. The analysis is anchored on ground-based observations of precipitation extremes being the annual maxima. The annual maxima series is constructed by the extraction of the averages of the highest precipitation amount for different durations. Thus, numerical analysis are performed on AMS for storm durations such as 10, 15, 30 and 45 minute which are typical time of concentration for small urban catchments and 1, 2, 6, 12, and 24 hour, also typical time of concentration for larger rural watersheds. In the USA, Adamowski et al.<sup>3</sup> adopted the CAMS rainfall analysis method to develop a scaling model of a rainfall IDF relationship; Cheng et al.<sup>4</sup> used the CAMS construction method to develop a generalized framework for estimating IDF curves and their uncertainties using Bayesian inference. Like in USA and other Countries, the CAMS method as the most prevalent rainfall analysis method has been of immense usage by Nigerian scholars to develop IDF models for major cities.<sup>5-10</sup>

## Indian meteorological department (IMD) Method

The IMD method is simply the application of an empirical formula for downscaling of daily or 24- hourly precipitation amount into precipitations of shorter durations. The availability of observed hourly rainfall data is limited due to very poor network of such rain gauges. By analyzing data at some locations where both hourly and daily rainfall data are available Ramaseshan<sup>11</sup> proposed an empirical relationship adopted by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), to disaggregate daily rainfall to a given hourly values. The daily rainfall data commonly available in both urban and rural areas especially in non-automated rain gauge stations can be converted to peak hourly rainfall as may be required for analysis. Thus, from the daily rainfall records the AMS data can be obtained for any gauge station by the use of the IMD empirical formula by its reduction to shorter durations such as 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 1, 2, 6 and 12 hours. The derived rainfall values of shorter durations serve as representative values of the various durations having been derived from the annual daily extreme values from a common statistical population. Burgess et al.<sup>12</sup> applied a modified version of the IMD empirical formula for frequency analysis, infilling and trends for extreme precipitation for Jamaica (1895-2100). Rasel<sup>13</sup> adopted the IMD method to derive rainfall IDF equations and curves for seven divisions in Bangladesh, while the IMD method was similarly applied by Dakheel<sup>14</sup> and Hamaamin<sup>15</sup> to develop IDF models for Cities in Iraq. Diwan et al.<sup>16</sup> also used the IMD method to investigate practices such as roof water harvesting and artificial recharge to be evaluated as alternative intervention to undertake such restoration of natural conditions in urban areas for proper restoration of declining groundwater levels. The IMD method of rainfall analysis can be applied in stations where there exist no automated rain gauges to record both rainfall amount and duration simultaneously, but has rain gauges to record cumulated 24-hourly rainfall amount data. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to develop PDF-IDF models from rainfall amounts with corresponding durations extracted from downscaled daily (24-hourly) precipitation records from an automated

gauge station using the IMD method. The PDF-IDF model adopted as control experiment was developed using the same data for IMD which were sorted (amount versus duration) for model calibration. It is here-in taken as Conventional Annual Maximum Series (CAMS) model. Thus, correction factor can be determined if necessary, to enhance a pragmatic universal application of the IMD method for construction of rainfall amount versus duration for IDF modeling for gauge stations that does not have automated rain gauges but can measure 24-hourly rainfall amount only which are very common especially in developing countries.

## Materials and methods

### Study area

The study area is Uyo metropolis located in the state of Akwa Ibom, South-Eastern Nigeria, with GPS coordinates of Latitude: 5° 2' 20"N and Longitude: 7° 54' 34"E, (Figure 1). The elevation above sea level is 45m. Uyo has a topography that is characterized by undulating sandy plain terrain that is well drained to the Atlantic Ocean in the Southern end. Uyo metropolis has mean daily maximum and minimum temperatures of 34 °C and 23 °C with average humidity of 72% especially during the month of January. The annual rainfall ranges from 1599.5mm to 3855.5mm in 1983 and 1977, respectively. The mean annual rainfall value is 2466.6mm with rainfall concentration occurring in the months of April to October which exhibits mostly high intensity of prolonged rainstorm.<sup>17</sup>

### Data collection

Historical rainfall records for Uyo were obtained from the meteorological gauge station of Department of Oceanography and Regional Planning of the University of Uyo, for the period of 1986-2015 (30 years inclusive). The rainfall records collected were recorded as rainfall amounts in mm against corresponding durations in minutes. These records were sorted out by extraction of the daily (24-hourly) annual maximum for the rest of the 30 years (Table 1) (Figure 1).



Figure 1 Google map showing Uyo metropolis.

**Table 1** Daily Rainfall AMS measurement downscaled into different durations for Uyo

Year No	Duration (Hours)							
	0.25	0.5	0.75	1	2	6	12	24
1	99.11±	62.4	47.6	39.3	24.8	11.9	7.5	4.7
2	79.9	50.4	38.4	31.7	20	9.6	6.1	3.8
3	121.6	76.6	58.5	48.3	30.4	14.6	9.2	5.8
4	83.3	52.5	40.1	33.1	20.8	10	6.3	4
5	76.3	48	36.7	30.3	19.1	9.2	5.8	3.6
6	97.2	61.3	46.7	38.6	24.3	11.7	7.4	4.6
7	72.9	45.9	35	28.9	18.2	8.8	5.5	3.5
8	105.1	66.2	50.5	41.7	26.3	12.6	8	5
9	112.9	71.1	54.3	44.8	28.2	13.6	8.5	5.4
10	129.7	81.7	62.4	51.5	32.4	15.6	9.8	6.2
11	116.9	73.6	56.2	46.4	29.2	14	8.8	5.6
12	94.7	59.7	45.5	37.6	23.7	11.4	7.2	4.5
13	102.6	64.6	49.3	40.7	25.6	12.3	7.8	4.9
14	86.8	54.7	41.7	34.5	21.7	10.4	6.6	4.1
15	103.5	65.2	49.8	41.1	25.9	12.4	7.8	4.9
16	67.1	42.3	32.3	26.6	16.8	8.1	5.1	3.2
17	76.3	48	36.7	30.3	19.1	9.2	5.8	3.6
18	121.6	76.6	58.5	48.3	30.4	14.6	9.2	5.8
19	121.6	76.6	58.5	48.3	30.4	14.6	9.2	5.8
20	129.7	81.7	62.4	51.5	32.4	15.6	9.8	6.2
21	123.3	77.7	59.3	48.9	30.8	14.8	9.3	5.9
22	102.6	64.6	49.3	40.7	25.6	12.3	7.8	4.9
23	102.6	64.6	49.3	40.7	25.6	12.3	7.8	4.9
24	85.7	54	41.2	34	21.4	10.3	6.5	4.1
25	127.5	80.3	61.3	50.6	31.9	15.3	9.7	6.1
26	157.2	99.1	75.6	62.4	39.3	18.9	11.9	7.5
27	120.1	75.7	57.7	47.7	30	14.4	9.1	5.7
28	143.7	90.5	69.1	57	35.9	17.3	10.9	6.9
29	208.7	131.5	100.3	82.8	52.2	25.1	15.8	10
30	172.4	108.6	82.9	68.4	43.1	20.7	13	8.2
Mean	111.4	70.2	53.6	44.2	27.9	13.4	8.4	5.3
std. Dev	30.9	19.5	14.9	12.3	7.7	3.7	2.3	1.5
Skewness	1.211458	1.211458	1.211458	1.211458	1.211458	1.211458	1.211458	1.211458

<sup>a</sup>Dis-segregated Rainfall Intensities (mm/hr)

### Construction of short duration rainfall

The 30 year 24 - hourly AMS sorted out were downscaled into shorter durations of 15, 30, 45, 60, 120, 360, and 720 minutes. The reduction of sorted AMS into time scale of shorter values less than 24 hour was achieved using scaling relationships in Equation (1) originally proposed by Ramaseshan<sup>11</sup> to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD),

$$R_t = R_{24} \left( \frac{t}{24} \right)^n \quad (1)$$

$$\text{And, } I = R_t / t \quad (2)$$

Where:  $R_t$  is the required rainfall depth in mm for durations less than 24 hours,  $R_{24}$  is the daily rainfall depth (mm),  $t$  is required duration (hours),  $n$  is an exponential constant =1/3 and  $I$  = rainfall intensity (mm/hr). The corresponding values of downscaled rainfall intensities in Table 1 were converted to their logarithmic (base 10) values for the development of Probability Distribution Function (PDF)-IDF models. Equation (1) is an empirical equation that requires calibration of the model to obtain a modified exponent  $n$  to capture the true physiographic features dominant in the catchment for a new amended version of Equation (1). Another IMD empirical reduction formula adopted for estimation of rainfall depths,  $R_t$  (mm) for various durations ( $t$ ) from AMS values was that of Modified Chowdhury Indian Meteorological Department (MCIMD) method<sup>18</sup> shown in Equation (3):

$$R_t = R_{24} \left( \frac{t}{24} \right)^n + C \quad (3)$$

Where  $n$  and  $C$  are constants for determination. The basis for the Chowdhury model also remains the use of 24-hour event rainfall depth,  $R_{24}$ .

### Statistical parameter estimates and frequency distribution analysis of rainfall intensities

The determination of the probability distribution requires the application of method of moments on the sorted data in Table 1 to calculate their statistical parameters such as mean ( $\bar{x}$ ), standard deviation ( $S$ ), and coefficient of skewness ( $C_s$ ) using Equations (4) to (6).<sup>22</sup>

$$\text{Mean, } \bar{x} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x}{n} \quad (4)$$

$$\text{Standard deviation, } S = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x - \bar{x})^2}{n-1}} \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Coefficient of Skewness, } C_s = \frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n (x - \bar{x})^3}{(n-1)(n-2)S^3} \quad (6)$$

Extreme value theory was adopted in the probability distribution assumption of the rainfall sample data in determination of their frequency distribution and for computing their magnitude of occurrence. Therefore, some of the commonly used probability distribution function (PDF) are the Gumbel Extreme Value Type -1 (GEVT-1), Log Pearson Type -3 (LPT-3) and Normal distributions (ND). In order to determine the rainfall intensity value on the basis of the PDF, selected the formula proposed by Chow (1951) (Equation (7)) or its logarithmic equivalent (Equation (8)) was applied.

$$X_T = \bar{x} + K_T S \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Or, } \log X_T = \log \bar{x} + K_T S_{\log x} \quad (8)$$

Where,  $\log \bar{x}$  = logarithmic mean;  $S$  = standard deviation and  $K_T$  = distribution factor. And the required rainfall intensity,  $X_T$  is found by taking the antilog of  $\log X_T$ . The frequency factor  $K_T$  and the PDF type are both function of the return period,  $T$ . Hence to calculate the rainfall intensity applying either Equation (7) or its Log equivalent of Equation (8) frequency factors  $K_T$  can be generated using the following formula given in Equations (9) to (12) thus;

For ND frequency factor;

$$K_T = z = w - \frac{2.515517 + 0.802853w + 0.010328w^2}{1 + 1.432788w + 0.189269w^2 + 0.001308w^3} \quad (9)$$

$$\text{Where } w = \left[ \ln \left( \frac{1}{p^2} \right) \right]^{1/2} \text{ for } (0 < p \leq 0.5) \quad (10)$$

And,  $z$  = standard normal variate; and probability function,  $p = \frac{1}{T}$

Also, for GEVT-1 distribution, frequency factor;

$$K_T = \frac{-\sqrt{6}}{\pi} \left\{ 0.5772 + \ln \left[ \ln \left( \frac{T}{T-1} \right) \right] \right\} \quad (11)$$

And for LPT-3 distribution, the frequency factor using Kite (1977) approximation formula as given in Equation (12);

$$K_T = Z + (Z^2 - 1)K + \frac{1}{3}(Z^3 - 6)K^2 - (Z^2 - 1)K^3 + ZK^4 + \frac{1}{3}K^5 \quad (12)$$

For,  $C_s \neq 0, K = \frac{C_s}{6}$ , normal variate,  $Z = K_T$  for coefficient of skewness of sample,  $C_s = 0$ .

### Calibration of IDF models

The modified Sherman empirical equation is selected for calibration as given in Equation (13),<sup>19</sup> which shows probabilities that are functions of rainfall intensities average over durations that are typical of intervals of the storm;

$$\text{Intensity, } I = \frac{c T_r^m}{T_d^a} \quad (13)$$

Where;  $I$  = rainfall intensities (mm/hr);  $T_r$  = return period (years);  $T_d$  = duration of rainfall in minutes; and  $c$ ,  $a$ , and  $m$  = physiographic constants. Thus, the calibration of Equation (13) including the evaluation of the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) and the mean squared error (MSE) followed the optimization technique or non-linear regression method as reported by Zakwan<sup>20</sup> The method uses Excel Solver in Microsoft to estimate the parameters of IDF models.<sup>20</sup> The procedure requires feeding into the spreadsheet, 48 PDF computed intensities from Table 4 as observed intensity values with their durations (15, 30, ..., 1440 min) and return periods (2, 5, ..., to 100 years). Intensities corresponding to each duration and return period were calculated using the selected equation based on the assumed values of parameters of the IDF equation. To obtain the values of optimum IDF parameters sum of square error between observed intensity and predicted intensity were set to minimization as shown in

Equation (14). The equation was solved using Generalized Reduced Gradient (GRG) solver as the objective function:

$$Min\ SSE = \sum_{i=1}^n (I_{obs} - I_{pred})^2 \quad (14)$$

Where:  $I_{obs}$  = computed or observed rainfall intensity,  $I_{pred}$  = IDF model predicted rainfall intensity,  $n$  = number of data sets and  $I$  is a counter. Therefore, solving Equation (14) gives the optimum values for the constants,  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $m$  and  $c$  achieved through iterative process that produced the least squared error. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) and the mean squared error (MSE) were also calculated from Equations (15) and (16) applying optimization technique:<sup>20</sup>

$$R^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (I_{obs} - I_{avg})^2 - \sum_{i=1}^n (I_{obs} - I_{pred})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (I_{obs} - I_{avg})^2} \quad (15)$$

$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (I_{obs} - I_{avg})^2 \quad (16)$$

Where:  $I_{avg}$  = average of observed or computed PDF rainfall intensity.

## Results and discussion

### Results

#### Evaluation of PDF rainfall intensities

Downscaled 24 hourly rainfall amounts with the IMD method applying Equation (1) are presented in Table 1. The statistical parameters were estimated to obtain the sample mean, standard deviation and coefficient of skewness using Equations (4), (5) and (6) respectively. These results are recorded in the last three rows of the same table. Following are the generation of frequency factor values calculated using either of Equations (9), (10), (11) or (12), as presented in Nwaogazie et al.<sup>21</sup> The frequency factors calculated were substituted into Equation (7) to obtain the PDF intensities for GEVT-1 and ND. Using the converted logarithmic equivalent of Table 1 intensity values including LPT-3 generated frequency factors, substitution were similarly made into Equation (8) to produce LPT-3 PDF intensities presented in Table 2.

**Table 2** Summary of LPT-3 IDF- computed rainfall intensities based on IMD Method

Duration (mins)	Return period					
	2	5	10	25	50	100
15	105.43	133.87	152.63	175.89	192.81	209.38
30	66.41	84.33	96.15	110.8	121.47	131.9
45	50.68	64.36	73.38	84.56	92.7	100.66
60	41.84	53.13	60.57	69.8	76.52	83.09
120	26.36	33.47	38.16	43.97	48.2	52.34
360	12.67	16.09	18.34	21.14	23.17	25.16
720	7.98	10.14	11.56	13.32	14.6	15.85
1440	5.03	6.38	7.28	8.39	9.2	9.99

#### Calibration of general PDF-IDF model

Most existing IDF models are return period specific (RPS) which means that input data are required to be limited to specific duration with corresponding PDF intensity values for a specified return period. However, the calibration of a general PDF-IDF model remains different as non-return period specific (NRPS), because they require larger size of input data that are more encompassing than as in the RPS model calibration. This is because the calibration of the general PDF-IDF model requires that the values of all the durations and their corresponding intensity for each of the 6 return period equating to 48 data set as contained in Table 2 serve as input data for the calibration of the selected Sherman's quotient-power Equation (13) to produce PDF-IDF models presented in Table 4 for LPT-3, and similarly repeated for GEVT-1 and ND model types. The optimization technique was applied for evaluation of the calibration processes.

#### Improved IMD rainfall downscaling and CAMS modeling

In order to achieve improved performance in rainfall intensity prediction of the PDF- IDF models obtained from the IMD short duration downscaling methods, Equation (1) was subjected to modification to obtain a new exponent values consistent with the

physiographic factors of the catchment locality. The amended Indian Meteorological Department (AIMD) method relies on the substitution of the IMD Equations (1) and (2) into the intensity probability distribution frequency formula (see Equation (7)) of the 24-hourly and any other durations, which are summed-up for each return period and integrated. Existing PDF-IDF models established for the study station – Uyo metropolis were achieved using CAMS method herein referred to as the control experiment.<sup>22</sup> The parameter values for the exponent in the IMD model were optimized for the least square error by comparing the initial derived intensities of the PDF-IDF model from the IMD method (observed) with those of the existing CAMS PDF-IDF model intensities (predicted). The mean square error (MSE) of their differences were subjected to optimization and reduced to the least minimum. New parameter values for the exponent of IMD model were obtained for the AIMD for each PDF as presented in Table 3. Similarly, for the MCIMD, the optimizing functions were applied to obtain the best fit values for its exponent ( $n$ ) and constant ( $C$ ). Thus, using Equation (3) the downscaling formula for the MCIMD was calibrated to obtain the constant values for the GEVT-1, LPT-3 and ND PDFs as shown in Table 3. From the results obtained of the IMD, AIMD and MCIMD short duration downscaling models calibration for

the various PDFs short duration intensities were obtained to serve as input data for the corresponding IDF models calibrated and presented in Table 4. Furthermore, a power model as adjustment factor based on Equation (17) was calibrated to serve as an alternative approach to apply the achieved improvements directly to the original IMD method predicted intensities:

$$R_a = Ct^a \quad (17)$$

Where;  $R_a$  =adjustment factor ratio,  $t$  =duration (minutes), while  $C$  and  $a$  are parameters. The calibration was carried out by regression of the ratio of MCIMD and IMD method as dependent variable for any given duration ( $t$ ) as independent variable. Optimization of this inputted values gave the values of the parameters  $C$  and  $a$ . For example, the calibrated adjustment factor ratio ( $R_a$ ) for LPT-3 PDF-IDF models yielded adjustment parameters of;  $C=0.9896$ ,  $a=0.0761$

with  $R^2=0.999$ , and  $C=0.9094$ ,  $a=0.0761$  with  $R^2=0.9291$  for 10 and 100 year return periods, respectively. Thus, adjustment factor was calculated for any given duration to obtain the equivalent intensity values as that of the MCIMD improved downscaling method for PDF-IDF models for any given catchment area.

**Table 3** Constants of calibrated short duration downscaling models

S/N	Method	GEVT-I		LPT-3		ND	
		n	C	N	C	n	C
1	IMD	0.3333	0	0.3333	0	0.3333	0
2	AIMD	0.2359	0	0.2596	0	0.2457	0
3	MCIMD	0.252	6	0.295	14.4	0.259	6

**Table 4** Summary of developed general PDF-IDF Models

IDF Model	Model equation	R2	MSE
<b>Conventional Annual Maximum Series (CAMS) Method±</b>			
GEVT-I	$I = \frac{336.44T_r^{0.200}}{T_d^{0.422}}$	0.976	66.23
LPT-3	$I = \frac{440.77T_r^{0.109}}{T_d^{0.441}}$	0.943	117.4
ND	$I = \frac{374.06T_r^{0.144}}{T_d^{0.420}}$	0.969	63.84
<b>Indian Metrological Department (IMD) Method</b>			
GEVT-I	$I = \frac{619.78T_r^{0.160}}{T_d^{0.667}}$	0.999	4.58
LPT-3	$I = \frac{618.45T_r^{0.162}}{T_d^{0.667}}$	0.999	5.68
ND	$I = \frac{678.54T_r^{0.114}}{T_d^{0.667}}$	0.999	7.13
<b>Amended Indian Metrological Department (AIMD) Method</b>			
GEVT-I	$I = \frac{1150.93T_r^{0.122}}{T_d^{0.737}}$	0.999	4.123
LPT-3	$I = \frac{997.22T_r^{0.131}}{T_d^{0.720}}$	0.999	5.119
ND	$I = \frac{1191.40T_r^{0.088}}{T_d^{0.734}}$	0.999	7

Table Continued...

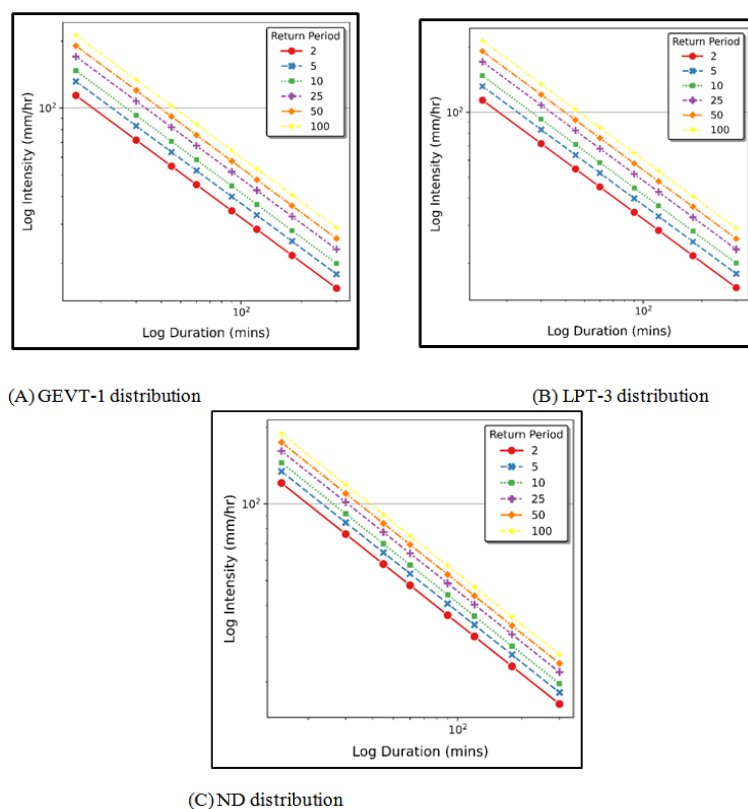
IDF Model	Model equation	R2	MSE
<b>Modified Chowdhury Indian Metrological Department (MCIMD) Method</b>			
GEVT-1	$I = \frac{981.07T_r^{0.121}}{T_d^{0.684}}$	0.996	4.64
LPT-3	$I = \frac{677.69T_r^{0.128}}{T_d^{0.593}}$	0.997	10.26
ND	$I = \frac{1004.09T_r^{0.087}}{T_d^{0.678}}$	0.995	7.85

±Source: Nwaogazie et al. (2021)

**Distribution and comparison of various predicted rainfall intensity curves**

Consequent to the development of the general PDF-IDF models listed in Table 4 based on the different short duration downscaling methods applied, the predicted rainfall PDF-IDF curves were generated for GEVT-1, LPT-3 and ND, respectively. Figure 2 are typical family of curves for return periods of 2, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 years plotted for intensity versus duration obtained from the general PDF-IDF model with respect to the IMD method. This is to verify if the curves or intensity distributions are in conformity with those in literature. For comparative analysis, plots of predicted rainfall intensity against duration were made on same graph sheets for various PDF-IDF models derived as per CAMS, IMD, AIMD and MCIMD methods (of short duration downscaling) for different return periods (2, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 years) as shown in Figure (3–5).

The skewness test computed for the downscaled intensity in Table 1 served as the Normality test. The positive skewness values of the results are evidence that non-parametric analysis could be applied for test of significance at confidence level of 5% (Table 6). Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric analysis of variance (ANOVA) was carried out for two segments, that is, 15-60 minutes and 90-300 minutes durations to ascertain the null hypothesis that there exist no significant difference amongst the rainfall intensity distribution curves for the plots. Further to the plots, the predicted intensities of the PDF-IDF models developed for each of the short duration downscaling methods were analyzed for differences in predicted intensities performance between the CAMS and the IMD, AIMD and the MCIMD methods (Table 5). This is for determination of the degree of bias. Also, the percentage improvements of the intensity distributions of the AIMD and MCIMD over the original IMD were equally computed (Table 5).



**Figure 2** Intensity curves of rainfall predicted from general PDF-IDF models based on IMD method.

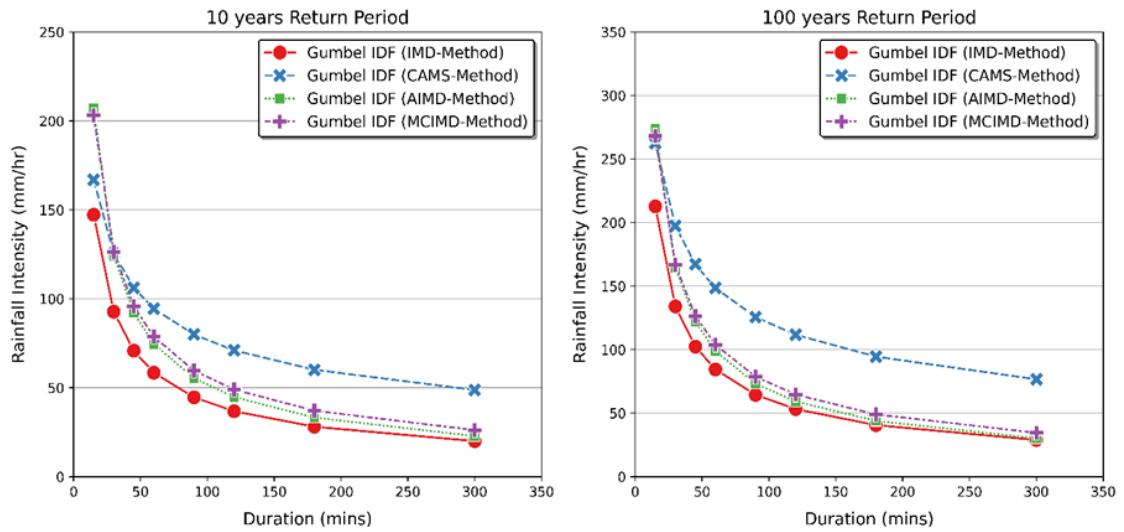


Figure 3 Distributions of IMD,AIMD, MCIMD and CAMS methods for GEVT-I IDF predicted intensity curves for 10 and 100 years return period.

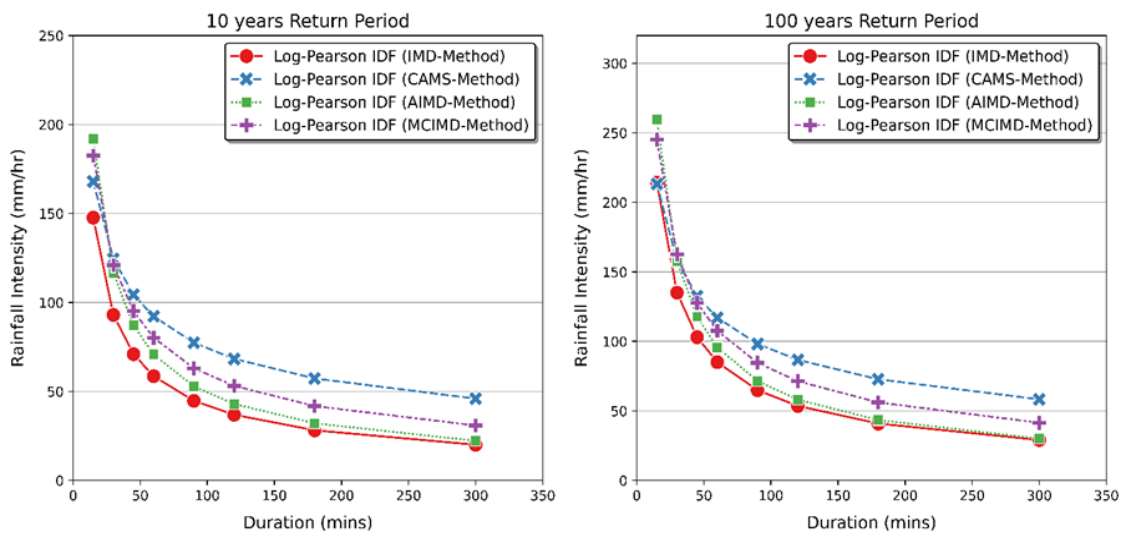


Figure 4 Distributions of IMD,AIMD, MCIMD and CAMS methods for LPT-3 IDF predicted intensity curves for 10 and 100 years return period.

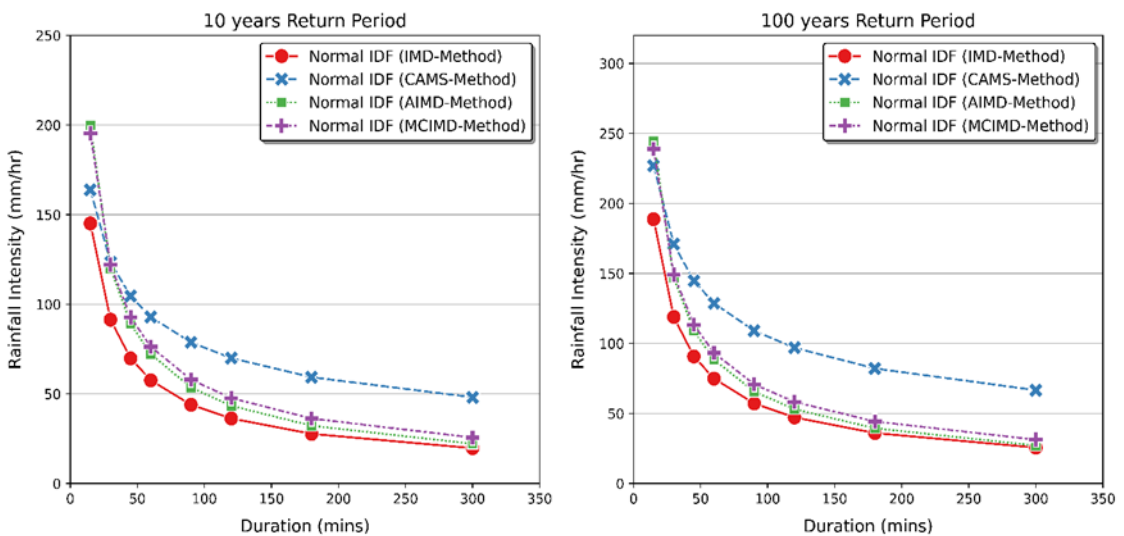


Figure 5 Distributions of IMD,AIMD, MCIMD and CAMS methods for Normal IDF predicted intensity curves for 10 and 100 years return period.



**Table 5** Bias and Improvement of downscaling methods on predicted intensities for LPT-3 at 10 and 100 years return periods

Duration (mins)	Control experiment Intensities (mm/hr)	Predicted intensities of downscaling methods (mm/hr)			Predicted intensities bias (mm/hr)			Predicted intensity improvement (%)	
		CAMS (a)	IMD (b)	AIMD (c)	MCIMD (d)	IMD (a)-(b)	AIMD (a)-(c)	MCIMD (a)-(d)	AIMD (e+)
60	93.116	58.517	70.718	79.096	34.599	22.398	14.02	20.85	35.17
	119.68	84.973	95.619	100.217	34.707	24.061	13.463	12.53	25
90	77.871	44.65	52.813	62.187	33.221	25.058	15.684	18.28	39.28
	100.087	64.838	71.409	83.503	35.249	28.678	16.584	10.13	28.79
120	68.594	36.854	42.932	52.436	31.74	25.662	16.158	16.49	42.28
	88.163	53.517	58.048	70.409	34.646	30.115	17.754	8.47	31.56
200	54.754	26.213	29.72	38.731	28.541	25.254	16.023	13.38	47.75
	70.378	38.064	40.185	52.007	32.314	30.193	18.371	5.57	36.63
300	45.794	20.001	22.196	30.454	25.793	23.598	15.34	10.97	52.26
	58.868	29.045	30.011	40.893	29.813	28.847	17.965	3.33	39.89

$(e^+) = [(c) - (b)] / (b) \times 100\%$ ;  $(f^+) = [(d) - (b)] / (b) \times 100\%$

**Table 6** Kruskal Wallis Non-parametric test result on distribution of IMD,AIMD,MCIMD and CAMS method PDF-IDF predicted intensities for LPT-3

Kruskal wallis statistic	Return period (years)					
	2	5	10	25	50	100
K (Observed value)	2.5809	2.4706	1.8309	1.5441	1.4779	0.8162
K (Critical value) $\alpha = 5\%$ DF	7.8147	7.8147	7.8147	7.8147	7.8147	7.8147
p-value (Two-tailed)	3	3	3	3	3	3
	0.4609	0.4806	0.6082	0.6721	0.6874	0.8456

(a) For 15-60 minutes duration

Kruskal wallis statistic	Return period (years)					
	2	5	10	25	50	100
K (Observed value)	7.875	7.6985	7.6985	6.9485	6.7279	6.7279
K (Critical value)	7.8147	7.8147	7.8147	7.8147	7.8147	7.8147
$\alpha = 5\%$						
DF	3	3	3	3	3	3
p-value (Two-tailed)	0.0487	0.0527	0.0527	0.0736	0.0811	0.0811

(b) For 90-300 minutes duration

## Discussion of result

### Derived PDF rainfall intensities

The purpose of this study is to develop PDF-IDF model from 24 hourly AMS rainfall measurement collected for Uyo metropolis, and develop strategies for its application as alternative approach for data generation for IDF modeling. In order to achieve this purpose, the IMD empirical formula as Equation (1) originally proposed by Ramaseshan<sup>11</sup> was adopted to reduce the 24-hourly rainfall amount to shorter durations (0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1, 2, 6 and 12 hours) to produce result in Table 1. Descriptive statistical parameters such as mean, standard deviation and coefficient of skewness were derived and presented in the last three rows of Table 1. The results of the mean and standard deviation indicate variations from lower to higher durations in line

with the trend of rainfall downscaling. The downscaled intensities had a constant positive skewness value of 1.211458 confirming that the rainfall intensities data are non-parametric. Table 2 shows typically the summary of LPT-3 PDF computed rainfall intensities, derived via Equation (8), while Equation (7) was used to compute GEVT-1 and ND PDF rainfall intensities. A visual examination of the derived PDF rainfall intensity values indicates that there are no large noticeable difference among the various PDF types selected.

### Calibrated general PDF-IDF models with short duration downscaling methods

Based on the different short duration downscaling methods applied and the GEVT-1, LPT-3, and Normal PDFs selected, the Sherman's quotient-power equation was calibrated to develop general PDF-IDF

models shown in Table 4. The downscaled values of computed PDF intensity values as shown in Table 2 obtained from the original IMD Equation (1) with exponent constant value of 1/3 produced PDF-IDF models with goodness of fit ( $R^2$ ) of 0.999, indicative of very high correlation amongst the various variables of the models. The mean square error (MSE) were 4.58, 5.68 and 7.13 for GEVT-1, LPT-3 and ND general PDF-IDF models, respectively. The MSE of the derived models were very low value. Likewise for the LPT-3 it had a very low bias that ranged from 24.16–50.75 mm and 7.54–62.42 mm for 10 and 100 years return period, respectively when compared to the existing CAMS method predicted intensity values.

The AIMD model maintained the same range of goodness of fit ( $R^2$ ) of 0.999 and also produced an improved lower MSE values of 4.123, 5.119 and 7.0 for GEVT-1, LPT-3 and ND, respectively. Similarly, the MCIMD model had very high goodness of fit ( $R^2$ ) values of 0.996, 0.997 and 0.995 with MSE values of 4.64, 10.26 and 7.85 for the GEVT-1, LPT-3 and ND, respectively. The AIMD produced improved exponents for Equation (1) presented in Table 3 as 0.2359, 0.2596 and 0.2457 for the GEVT-1, LPT-3 and ND, respectively. On the other hand, the modified Chowdhury IMD (MCIMD) model in Equation (3) was similarly optimized, thus, producing improved exponent ( $n$ ) and additive constant ( $C$ ) values of 0.252 and 6.0; 0.295 and 14.4; and 0.259 and 6.0 for the GEVT-1, LPT-3 and ND, respectively (Table 3).

The LPT-3 PDF-IDF model for 60 minute duration with respect to the MCIMD produced higher improved performance in prediction of intensities relative to the original IMD model (Table 5). That is the improvement ranges from 35.17 to 52.26% and 25.0 to 39.89%, for 10 and 100 year return periods, respectively. Similarly, AIMD showed improvement in the range of 10.97 to 20.87% and 3.33 to 12.53% for 10 and 100 year return periods, respectively. Additionally, MCIMD equally displayed the least bias from the CAMS (control experiment). The bias ranges from 14.02 to 15.34 mm/hr and 13.463 to 17.965 mm/hr for 10 and 100 year return periods, respectively. For AIMD the bias ranges from 22.398 to 25.662 mm/hr and 24.061 to 30.193 mm/hr for 10 and 100 year return periods, respectively. In order to implement the application of the improvements shown by the MCIMD method of PDF-IDF models, an adjustment factor was developed for direct multiplication to the original IMD computed rainfall intensities as indicated in Equation (17). Therefore, the introduction of the adjustment factor to the original IMD enabled the improvement of its predictive capability and promote its universal adoption for development of PDF-IDF models comparable to PDF-IDF models constructed from CAMS methods for any given catchment area.

### Distribution of predicted rainfall intensity curves

Using the original IMD general PDF-IDF models predicted rainfall intensities were plotted against various durations in a log-log graph paper as shown in Figure 2 with each containing a total of six plots for different return periods (2, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100). The observed common features of the IDF curves were that: an increase in duration produced a corresponding decrease in intensity, and, for any given duration, an increase in the return period also produced a corresponding increase in intensity. These observed features were in agreement with those of IDF theory in literature.<sup>23,24</sup> However, the predicted intensity values of the IMD PDF-IDF models were consistently higher than those of the PDF-computed intensity values (Table 2).

### Performance analysis of PDF-IDF models predicted intensity distributions for the various short durations per downscaling methods

The PDF-IDF models in Table 4 developed predicted intensities versus durations were plotted together for different return periods of

2, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 years for the GEVT-1, LPT-3 and ND as presented in Figure 4,5. The figures are showing noticeable visual differences in the predictive performance of the intensity distributions of the models derived from the IMD, AIMD and MCIMD short duration downscaling methods along with the CAMS method (control experiment). The CAMS method derived PDF-IDF models used for the experimental control produced intensities with corresponding durations from an automated rain gauge for the study station. Therefore, the plots of the IMD, AIMD and MCIMD methods derived PDF-IDF models were compared against that of the CAMS method.

A cursory look at Figure 4,5 indicates that the distribution of the intensities for the IMD model showed lower intensities prediction closely followed by the AIMD model with the MCIMD model consistently higher as proved by earlier scholars.<sup>12,18</sup> Furthermore, the LPT-3 PDF-IDF model type out-performed the GEVT-1 and ND PDF-IDF models as the best-fit, high intensity prediction and least bias distributed model type. However, the PDF-IDF models obtained from the downscaling methods predicted intensities for short durations less than or equal to 60 minutes were very good match with the CAMS method (control experiment) for all return periods. The intensity distribution of the plots in Figures 4 to 6 for two segments of the durations: 15–60 minutes and 90–300 minutes were subjected to Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric test of significance at 5% level. The test was carried out for the selected PDFs and return periods as shown in Table 6. For 15-60 minutes duration the K (observed) values were lower than the K (critical) and the p-values were higher than alpha value of 0.05. Thus, the null hypothesis that no-significant difference exist is accepted. Interestingly, researchers<sup>3,4</sup> gave the short durations of 60 minutes or less as the reliable but typical time of concentration for small urban catchment storm drain design. Therefore, it will suffice to state that the short duration downscaling using either of the IMD, AIMD or better the MCIMD methods will be appropriate for IDF modeling for urban storm drain where there are no automated rain gauges to record both rainfall amount and duration concurrently.

Hence, confirming the merit in the application of 1 hour duration in various storm design investigations.<sup>11,25</sup> For durations between 90–300 minutes, the result shows that for the GEVT-1 and ND the K (observed) maintained lower values over the K (critical) and slightly higher p-values except at 100 year return period where the K (observed) was 8.4485 with also a lower p-value of 0.0376 for both distributions. In contrast, the case of the LPT-3 was different as the K (observed) of 7.8750 at 2 year return period was higher than the K (critical) with a lower K (observed) value for the rest of return periods. Similarly, the p-value exhibited the same trend of being slightly lower at 2 year return period while being slightly higher value for other return periods than the alpha value (0.05). Thus, amongst the three model types it is the LPT-3 that showed better distribution and performance at 90–300 minutes duration, and this result agrees with the report in literature.<sup>14,15,26</sup> Wherein, for design purposes the LPT-3 model type ranks 1<sup>st</sup>, the GEVT-1 came 2<sup>nd</sup>, and ND occupied the 3<sup>rd</sup> position; where either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> general PDF-IDF model type can be used along with any of the improved short duration downscaling methods.<sup>27–29</sup>

### Conclusion

The objective of improvement in predictive performance of the IMD method was achieved by integration of the probability of distribution into the original IMD and re-evaluated by optimization technique to obtain improved exponent and constant values contained in the IMD, AIMD and MCIMD formula. Three type of general PDF-IDF models (GEVT-1, LPT-3 and ND) were developed based on the downscaling methods yielding goodness of fit ( $R^2$ ) of 0.995 – 0.999

and model accuracy with mean square error (MSE) of 4.123 – 7.85. For LPT-3 PDF-IDF model based on MCIMD model for 60 – 300 minutes duration had higher improved performance in prediction of intensities relative to the original IMD. The range of improvements were from 35.17 to 52.26% and 25.0 to 39.89% for 10 and 100 year return periods, respectively. The AIMD level of improvement ranges from 10.97 to 20.87% and 3.33 to 12.53% for 10 and 100 year return periods, respectively. However, it was also observed that the predicted intensity values of the IMD PDF-IDF models were consistently higher than their PDF-computed intensity values. Also, intensities derived from the original IMD model can be adopted by multiplying with an adjustment factor and this approach can subsequently be applied in any catchment area. A comparison of the downscaling models indicates that the distribution of the intensities for the IMD model showed lower intensities prediction closely followed by the AIMD model with the MCIMD model consistently higher. Also, the LPT-3 PDF-IDF model type performed better than GEVT-1 and ND PDF-IDF models in terms of best-fit and high intensity prediction with least bias. However, the general PDF-IDF models developed, predicted intensities for short durations less than or equal to 1 hour matched that of the control experiment for all return periods. Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric test of significance at 5% level conducted for 15 - 60 minutes duration confirmed that no-significant difference exists, but was rejected for 90 – 300 minutes. Therefore, short duration downscaling methods are adequate and hereby recommended for IDF.

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## Conflicts of interest

The author declares there is no conflict of interest.

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