

TABLE 11.1 SUMMARY OF TIME OF CONCENTRATION FORMULAS

Method and date	Formula for $t_c$ (min)	Remarks
Kirpich (1940)	$t_c = 0.0078L^{0.77}S^{-0.385}$ $L = \text{length of channel/ditch from headwater to outlet, ft}$ $S = \text{average watershed slope, ft/ft}$	Developed from SCS data for seven rural basins in Tennessee with well-defined channel and steep slopes (3% to 10%); for overland flow on concrete or asphalt surfaces multiply $t_c$ by 0.4; for concrete channels multiply by 0.2; no adjustments for overland flow on bare soil or flow in roadside ditches.
USBR Design of Small Dams (1973)	$t_c = 60(11.9L^3/H)^{0.385}$ $L = \text{length of longest water-course, mi}$ $H = \text{elevation difference between divide and outlet, ft}$	Essentially the Kirpich formula; developed from small mountainous basins in California (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 1973, pp. 67-71). <sup>14</sup>
Izzard (1946) <sup>15</sup>	$t_c = \frac{41.025(0.0007i + c)L^{0.33}}{S^{0.333}i^{0.667}}$ $i = \text{rainfall intensity, in/h}$ $c = \text{retardance coefficient}$ $L = \text{length of flow path, ft}$ $S = \text{slope of flow path, ft/ft}$	Developed in laboratory experiments by Bureau of Public Roads for overland flow on roadway and turf surfaces; values of the retardance coefficient range from 0.0070 for very smooth pavement to 0.012 for concrete pavement to 0.06 for dense turf; solution requires iteration; product $i$ times $L$ should be $\leq 500$ .
Federal Aviation Administration (1970) <sup>16</sup>	$t_c = 1.8(1.1 - C)L^{0.50}/S^{0.333}$ $C = \text{rational method runoff coefficient}$ $L = \text{length of overland flow, ft}$ $S = \text{surface slope, \%}$	Developed from air field drainage data assembled by the Corps of Engineers; method is intended for use on airfield drainage problems, but has been used frequently for overland flow in urban basins.
Kinematic Wave Formulas Morgali and Linsley (1965) <sup>17</sup> Aron and Erborge (1973) <sup>18</sup>	$t_c = \frac{0.94L^{0.6}n^{0.6}}{(i^{0.4}S^{0.3})}$ $L = \text{length of overland flow, ft}$ $n = \text{Manning roughness coefficient}$ $i = \text{rainfall intensity in/h}$ $S = \text{average overland slope ft/ft}$	Overland flow equation developed from kinematic wave analysis of surface runoff from developed surfaces; method requires iteration since both $i$ (rainfall intensity) and $t_c$ are unknown; superposition of intensity-duration-frequency curve gives direct graphical solution for $t_c$ .
SCS Lag Equation (1972) <sup>19</sup>	$t_c = \frac{1.67L^{0.8}[(1000/CN) - 9]^{0.7}}{1900S^{0.5}}$ $L = \text{hydraulic length of watershed (longest flow path), ft}$ $CN = \text{SCS runoff curve number}$ $S = \text{average watershed slope, \%}$	Equation developed by SCS from agricultural watershed data; it has been adapted to small urban basins under 2000 acres; found generally good where area is completely paved; for mixed areas it tends to overestimate; adjustment factors are applied to correct for channel improvement and impervious area; the equation assumes that $t_c = 1.67 \times \text{basin lag}$ .
SCS Average Velocity Charts (1975, 1986) <sup>20</sup>	$t_c = \frac{1}{60} \sum \frac{L}{V}$ $L = \text{length of flow path, ft}$ $V = \text{average velocity in feet per second from Fig. 3-1 of TR 55 for various surfaces}$	Overland flow charts in Ref. 20 provide average velocity as function of watercourse slope and surface cover.

Source: After Ref. 13.