

ANALYSIS OF LANDSLIDE OCCURRENCES IN IDAHO

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to evaluate the relation between landslides in Idaho and several related site conditions. In this landslide study I gathered information from landslide sites in order to attain two goals. The first goal was to evaluate the number of failures associated with earth-materials. The second goal was to determine the site characteristics that are most likely to promote failure in these materials. I propose that a simple inventory of site conditions from known landslides coupled with a careful data analysis can direct an investigator to a particular earth-material that has significant landsliding potential.

The scope of the study involved an analysis of the site conditions from over 1500 landslides. The methods used in this analysis of landslides were based on the following set of nine interactive site conditions; elevation, slope angle, slope aspect, rock type or material origin, presence of formational contact, presence of mapped fault, square mile area, precipitation and snow load. The initial data gathering was completed for the Landslide Inventory of Idaho, a project funded by the Idaho Geological Survey and the U.S. Geological Survey. The landslides were categorized by the "naturally occurring" materials at the failure site. The data describing each landslide site were gleaned from several sources and map scales. The precipitation and snow load values were assigned after the initial inventory using a weighted averaging technique based on the spatial dependence of the values.

The selection of the landslide site characteristics was dependant on the scale of the inventory and chosen for various reasons relating slope stability to the site geometry, material strength and water conditions. The landslide material group was the major division for classification and site variables for these groups are distributed differently in different regions of the state. The distribution of the site variables is useful for a qualitative examination of the landslide potential for a given site. The discriminant analysis was used to derive mathematical functions that assigned a given set of site variables to the landslide material most likely to produce a landslide in a select region of Northern Idaho. Using different selection techniques, snow load and precipitation were identified as the two most important site characteristics for distinguishing landslides associated with different earth-materials.

I recommend that a validation of the discriminant functions derived in this study be used to determine the accuracy of the group assignments. It also would be helpful to construct a simplified model which would derive one discriminant function to determine the likelihood of developing a landslide at a given site regardless of the material type. Further discrimination based on groups of landslides in specified slope intervals and elevation intervals may aid in prediction capabilities.

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this thesis is to evaluate the relation between landslides in Idaho and several related site conditions. In this landslide study I gathered information describing known landslide sites in order to attain two goals. The first goal was to evaluate the number of failures associated with earth-materials. The second goal was to determine the site characteristics that are most likely to promote failure in these materials. The scope of the study involves an analysis of the site conditions from over 1500 landslides. The initial data gathering was completed for the Landslide Inventory of Idaho. This inventory took place during a one year period from November 1986 through November 1987 and was funded by the Idaho Geological Survey with matching funds from the U.S. Geological Survey. The procedures used to compile the data are explained further in the Idaho Geological Survey report: "Landslides of Idaho," (Adams and Breckenridge, in progress).

The objective of the inventory was to produce a landslide map at a scale of 1:500,000, with an accompanying report summarizing landslide occurrence. Information sources included both published and unpublished material. The initial stage of the inventory concentrated on available literature with the aid of bibliographic references and field notes on file at the Idaho Geological Survey. The literature search included a review of theses, maps and reports which specifically mentioned landslide locations in Idaho. The majority of the landslide locations came from interviews of the field personnel listed in Appendix A.

Specific information from each landslide site was gathered on the following nine characteristics:

- 1\* ELEVATION
- 2\* SLOPE
- 3\* ASPECT
- 4\* ROCK TYPE OR MATERIAL ORIGIN
- 5\* PRESENCE OF FORMATIONAL CONTACT
- 6\* PRESENCE OF MAPPED FAULT
- 7\* SQUARE MILE AREA
- 8\* PRECIPITATION
- 9\* SNOW LOAD

Many of these characteristics were not available at the time of the personal interviews. Several, or in many cases, all of the above characteristics were obtained from topographic and geologic maps. The precipitation and snow load values were added after the completion of the landslide inventory project. For convenience I will refer to this data gathering process as "data collection."

During the course of the inventory I began to notice that for a given group of landslides in a similar region, no single site characteristic, or variable, seemed to explain landsliding. Rather, a group of variables most likely influenced the stability in different regions to different degrees. I applied the multivariate discriminant analysis to delineate between groups of site variables that seem to best describe landslides in particular material types.

## PREVIOUS WORK ON LANDSLIDE OCCURRENCE

### Stability Analysis

It is important in any study of landslides to review the basic mechanical process used to describe failure. In general, the mechanics of a failure combines the driving forces and resisting forces in a slope mass. A mathematical model is used as a tool to combine these forces and to evaluate the stability of a slope in terms of a factor of safety. Alternately, the model can be used to back calculate and estimate earth parameters at the time of failure. This type of evaluation equates the driving forces or shearing forces due to water and gravity with the resisting forces of soil strength, cohesion and friction, (Hunt, 1984).

Mass movement is a progressive process in which the shear strength of a material decreases relative to the shear stress until resisting forces are less than the driving forces. In reference to this continuing process Terzaghi (1950) pointed out that a slope is exposed to many degrading climatic conditions over a long period. He stressed that it is more likely that a slope fails from a gradual decrease in shear strength than by extreme conditions occurring at the time of failure. Because of this perspective, it is reasonable to assert that a change in any combination of the following three site parameters will affect the equilibrium of a slope.

- \* slope geometry
- \* surface water and or groundwater conditions
- \* material strength

### Other Landslide Investigations

Several authors, Zaruba and Mencl 1969; Swanston and Swanson 1976; Megahan et al. 1978; Prellwitz et al. 1983; Roth 1983; Rice et al. 1985; and Hammond et al. 1988, have shown that the study and selection of site characteristics is useful for landslide prediction. Current methods for analyzing landslide occurrence rely on the hypothesis that a group of interactive site conditions promote mass movement. These conditions apply to a predictive model that is developed for a particular region or locality. With this model in mind, researchers collect measurements of site parameters to study slope failure conditions. Applying data from known landslides, a reasonable inference about the relative landslide potential can be successfully deduced.

The measurement and collection of site characteristics at landslide locations in the Western United States has centered around the forest industry. The correlation between landslides and vegetation shows that a decrease in the vegetative cover increases landslide activity (Swanson and Swanston 1977; Megahan et al. 1978; Wu and Swanston 1980; and McHugh 1986). This process decreases stability by removing the bonding strength of roots and increasing the water retained by the soil. Monitoring the saturation of earth-material and the resulting elevated pore water pressures is helpful in predicting earth and debris flows. Workers in California studying the incidence of debris flows found that the effect of storm intensity is an important tool for prediction (Wieczorek, 1987).

It is important to note that the method of choosing or defining what features to identify as landslides can affect the conclusions of an

analysis. One landslide study in Idaho measured several characteristics at landslide locations. The conclusion stated; "The single most important factor found contributing to landslides in the Northern Rocky Mountains was road construction, accounting for 58% of the landslides" (Megahan et al., 1978, p. 137). There is general agreement in the literature that road building contributes to landslides, (Gonsior and Gardner, 1971 and Cook, 1984). However, the conclusion cited above is misleading because the authors did not clarify what types of features were being measured; in their study a major proportion of the landslide sites are also road fill failures. Considering that information from fill failures was collected, it would not seem too surprising that roads accounted for 88% of all landslides in the study areas (Megahan et al., 1978).



## COMPILATION OF LANDSLIDE DATA

The term landslide refers to a variety of mass-movement involving the transport of "naturally occurring" earth-materials. Varnes' (1978) classification proved useful in describing the earth-material at the failure sites. The data was gathered from individual failure sites using several sources and map scales. The mapped earth-material associated with landsliding is used as the key indicator for significant landslide potential. The precipitation map (Miller et al., 1974) and the snow load map (Sack and Sheikh-Taheri, 1986) help to estimate the water available at landslide locations.

### Definition of Landslides

Landslide is a general term for a variety of mass movement types that involve down slope transport of "naturally occurring" earth-materials. The term describes several types of mass movement which may or may not include actual sliding as a mechanism for ground failure. It is important to distinguish "slope failures" as those failures related to mans activities; "landslides" will refer to mass movement which occurs as a failure in "natural material." Certainly, many of the landslides in this study relate to activities such as vegetation removal, disruption of surface or ground water flow, and alteration of other site characteristics. Because of the stated purpose of this study I excluded landslides from the data base if the features were obviously and chiefly man related. I propose that a simple inventory of site conditions from

known landslides coupled with a careful data analysis can direct an investigator to a particular earth-material that has significant landsliding potential.

I do not wish to imply that this type of analysis can replace a detailed site investigation. The complexity to which past environmental changes have influenced landsliding is best addressed on a case by case, site specific level. Mass movement can depend on many interacting conditions. Thus it is impossible, on a state-wide level, to distinguish all of the causes that may promote failure. Therefore the data base used for this thesis includes site features that are compatible with a preliminary stability study of an area with known landslides. The complete list of definitions assigned to each site characteristic collected for this study is in Appendix B.

#### Landslide Classification Scheme

The classification system presented by Varnes (1978) is shown in abbreviated form in Table 1. Varnes' complete classification (1978) proved valuable during the initial stages of data collection. I would like to point out two important features concerning the complete classification. First, the Type of Movement is Varnes' primary category. The lack of inventory information in many of these Type of Movement categories forced me to use the Type of Material as the main division for classification. I collected information for both categories but found that most people interviewed were not familiar enough with the Type of

Table 1: Abbreviated Classification of Landslides.

TYPE OF MOVEMENT	TYPE OF MATERIAL		
	ROCK	Coarse	Fine
FALLS	Rock fall	Debris fall	Earth fall
TOPPLES	Rock topple	Debris topple	Earth topple
SLIDES	ROTATIONAL Rock slump	Debris slump	Earth slump
	TRANSLATIONAL Rock slide Block slide	Debris slide Block slide	Earth slide Block slide
LATERAL SPREADS	Rock spread	Debris spread	Earth spread
FLOWS	Rock flow (deep creep)	Debris flow (soil creep)	Earth flow

COMPLEX: Two or more principle types of movement.

Adapted from Varnes, 1978.

Movement definitions and chose to select familiar terms such as slump or slide.

The second feature of the classification concerns the importance of the selection the Type of Material as a basis for classifying landslides. Varnes states that the type of material involved in the failure is chosen based on the state of the material before initial movement. This is important because any correlations between a landslide and the site conditions should include the material failing at the site at the time of movement. This material type may, after analysis, prove useful in predicting landslides in some areas. Unlike a geologic map which concentrates on the present state of the mappable site material there are advantages to a system which forces the investigator to consider the site material, mechanisms and conditions at the time of landsliding. This is particularly true if one has come to rely on a collection of maps and air photographs for landslide reconnaissance.

Zaruba and Mencil (1969, p.1) discuss these two perspectives in the following statement;

Landslide phenomena are usually studied from two different points of view. .... Geologists study sliding phenomena as one of the significant exogenic denudation processes, with respect to the causes of their origin, their courses and the resulting surface forms. The approach of engineers and engineering geologists is quite different. They investigate the slopes from the point of view of the safety of the constructions to be erected on them. Therefore, they endeavor to ascertain in advance the proneness of slopes to sliding to determine the maximum angle of excavated slopes and to develop methods for a reliable assessment of the stability of slopes, as well as the controlling and corrective measures needed. ... The best results of landslide studies can be achieved only by the combination of both of

these approaches. The quantitative determination of the stability of slopes by the methods of soil mechanics must be based on a knowledge of the geological structure of the area, the detailed composition and orientation of strata, and the geomorphological history of the land surface. On the other hand, geologists may obtain a clearer picture of the origin and character of sliding processes by checking their considerations against the results of static analysis and the research done by means of soil and rock mechanics.

I have collected information on material type in two ways by; a) using Varnes' material divisions and b) noting the mapped geologic material or earth-material. This second material description proved to be an important category for the statistical models discussed later.

#### Estimating the Water Available at Each Site

The precipitation available as rain or snow in a geographic location can influence the stability of a particular landslide. I chose two sources of information to represent water conditions at each landslide site. These two sources were; the 50 year mean recurrence interval (MRI) 6 hour precipitation map by Miller et al. (1974) and the Normalized Snow Load (NSL) map developed by Sack and Sheikh-Taheri (1986), also based on the 50-year MRI. The MRI is the average interval, in years, within which a given magnitude event will be equaled or exceeded. So that the 50 year MRI signifies that a given map value will occur on the average once in 50 years or have a probability of 1 in 50 of occurring in any given year.

In order to assign precipitation and snow load values to specific landslide sites I used the FORTRAN Kriging program presented in Jones

(1988). Kriging is a statistical weighted averaging technique which relies on the spatial dependence of the mapped data evaluated by the variogram. I applied a BASIC variogram program in order to assess the spatial dependence of the precipitation and NSL map values. Variograms for the two maps are included in Appendices E-1 and E-2. I divided each map into blocks in order to assign kriged values to all of the landslide sites in the selected database. With the proper block size, a search radii of approximately 60 kilometers for the precipitation map and 150 kilometers for the NSL map permitted the program to collect more than enough points to effectively fit a spherical model to the values for the variograms. This method was useful in assigning values to each individual landslide location using the Universal Transverse Mercator Grid (UTM) system. The grid coordinates were used in order to facilitate plotting of landslide points and obtain Kriged values using distances which plot on non-converging lines, as opposed to latitude and longitude which converge at the poles (see Jones, 1988, page 22).

The precipitation and NSL maps were digitized in blocks using the UTM grid in order to establish a computer file containing a set of x, y location points and an assigned z value representing the particular map value. These points formed the data file for the Kriged precipitation or snow load estimate at the landslide locations.

## SUMMARY OF LANDSLIDE CHARACTERISTICS

Sampling error introduced during the classification of landslides was caused by confusion of terms and lack of specific information supplied by those interviewed. The site characteristics collected from many sources were chosen for various reasons related to past research on landslides. The earth-material was the major division for grouping landslides. The site variables are distributed differently in different regions of the state. The distribution of continuous variables for the five groups of landslide materials are useful for estimating failure potential.

### Landslide Types- Identified by Material and Movement

The number of landslides classified in this study is shown Table 2. Sampling error was introduced during the personal interviews where terms such as slump or slide were chosen for classification because of a familiarity on the part of those interviewed. I suspect that the more unfamiliar terms were avoided. This became clear during the review of photographs received near the end of the landslide inventory project. Many of the landslides classified as earth slumps during the interviews could be described from the photographs as earth slides or complex landslides according to Varnes (1978). In many cases not enough information was known about the type of material at the failure surface, thus the earth and debris classifications are likely in error. The information concerning the type of landslides in Idaho is presented with these sources of error in mind.

Table 2: Number of Landslides Classified Using Varnes' (1978) Landslide Types.

TYPE OF MOVEMENT	TYPE OF MATERIAL			TOTALS	PERCENT
	ROCK	DEBRIS	EARTH		
FALLS	13	0	0	13	3.1
TOPPLES	5	11	0	16	3.9
SLIDES	41	80	2	125	30.1
SLUMPS	0	0	127	127	30.6
LATERAL SPREADS	0	0	2	2	.5
FLOWS	0	38	43	81	19.5
AVALANCHES	0	51	0	51	12.3
TOTALS	59	180	174	415	
PERCENT	14.2	43.9	41.9		

Note: 28 complex and 1088 unclassified types not included.



The spatial distribution of landslide occurrence for Varnes' divisions of rock, earth and debris material is included in the figures of Appendix F. Table 3 shows the total square mile area contained by landsliding for each group.

#### Site Characteristics Collected for Each Landslide

The collection of data from several scales and sources influenced the accuracy of the values representing each site characteristic. The published and unpublished sources of information come from three distinctly different groups;

- \* geologic maps and reports
- \* field maps from individual accounts
- \* field notes and recollections from individuals

Most often the characteristics; longitude, latitude, elevation and slope angle were obtained in the laboratory from 15 minute and 7 1/2 minute quadrangles. The Idaho Geological Survey's Landslide Report Form (Appendix C) and the data file format (Appendix D-1) served as effective organizing tools. I coded the data files for statistical analysis using the group numbers shown in Appendix D-2. The aspect of the landslide was coded in the data base by a 1, 2, 3 or 4 for NW, NE, SE, SW respectively. The aspect was treated as a directional vector for the discriminant analysis. The designations for NW, NE, SE, SW were in degrees of 315, 45, 135 and 225 respectively. The actual values assessed during

Table 3: Square Mile Area Contained by Types of Landslides.

TYPE OF MATERIAL	TYPE OF MOVEMENT			TOTALS PERCENT	
	ROCK	DEBRIS	EARTH		
FALLS	.612	0	0	.612	2.7
TOPPLES	.093	.028	0	.301	1.4
SLIDES	2.137	7.900	.022	10.059	44.0
SLUMPS	0	0	5.947	5.947	26.0
LATERAL SPREADS	0	0	.062	.062	.3
FLOWS	0	.851	1.852	2.703	11.8
AVALANCHES	0	3.157	0	3.157	13.8
TOTALS	2.842	12.116	7.883	22.841	
PERCENT	12.4	53.0	34.5		

Note: This table does not include 327.988 square miles contained by 28 complex and 1088 unclassified types.

discrimination involved a pair of transformed numbers applying the sine and cosine function to each vector as shown in Appendix D-2. Varnes' material types; rock, earth, debris were coded 1, 2, or 3 with an additional category 4 for complex and unclassified features.

The errors that developed using Varnes' terminology prompted the use of categories defined by the mapped material groups. I grouped the mapped rock type or material origin into five basic categories; 1) igneous extrusive, 2) igneous intrusive, 3) metamorphic, 4) sedimentary and 5) surficial (Appendix D-2). These groups will be referred to as the "landslide material groups" in the remainder of this thesis. This represents the actual material existing along the surface of failure or, in cases where information is lacking, the mapped geologic material.

The characteristics from each landslide site relate to the site parameters as shown below;

GEOMETRY	STRENGTH	WATER
Elevation	Rock Type/Origin	Precipitation
Slope Angle	Formation Contact	Snow Load
Slope Aspect	Fault	
Failure Area		

Many of these characteristics likely influence each other to some degree. For instance, one would expect elevation to roughly correlate with the maximum snow accumulation in a region.

### Geometry

For this study, the actual geometric proportions at a landslide site relate the size, area and attitude of a failure mass. These attributes are important for an accurate evaluation of the potential stability.

Elevation: In the studies previously mentioned the average elevation proved to be a key to identifying landslides controlled by more than one site characteristic. Williamson (1965) noted that certain groups of elevations bracketed mass movement in terrain with deposits from alpine glaciation in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. He successfully used this "key" to help identify earth-materials and slope segments susceptible to failure. Elevation also roughly corresponds to precipitation. In general, rain and snow increase with a rise in elevation. Swanson and Swanston (1977) found that in the western part of the Cascade Mountains the "middle elevations" receive high intensity precipitation and snow melt during major storm events. This is the case in Idaho particularly during "warm rain on snow" events, (see Gonsior and Gardner, 1971, p. 13).

Slope Angle: Engineers and geologists often use the slope angle, in relation to the weight of the mass, as an indication of the stability of a site. In particular Gonsior and Gardner (1971, p.32) noted that the stability of "both natural and artificial slopes steeper than 35 degrees is largely due to temporary sources of additional strength such as live tree roots." Megahan et al. (1978) reported that 60 percent of the landslides studied in two areas of Idaho occurred on slopes of about 30 degrees while 90 percent were on slopes less than 41 degrees. Rice et

al. (1985, p.778) found that the slope angle improved the landslide prediction model for the English Peak Area in Northwest California. In the Dunnigan Creek, Idaho region Scanlan (1986, p.46) reports that "for design purposes any slope over 30 degrees should be suspect. In areas of known shearing, [a] 25 degree [slope angle] should be considered potentially dangerous." Experienced engineering geologists working in Northern Idaho have found that debris type landslides are less frequent on slope angles greater than 60 to 70 degrees, (Agar, 1987, personal communication).

Slope Aspect: Slope aspect has been reported to correlate with landsliding in some regions of the state, (Wilson, 1987, personal communication). Prellwitz et al. (1983) suggests that the aspect of a slope may play a role in landslide potential.

Square Mile Area: The total area for each landslide was collected as part of the original inventory. The size of a landslide may relate to other factors measured and it might be possible to predict the size of a failure. However, I did not explore that possibility.

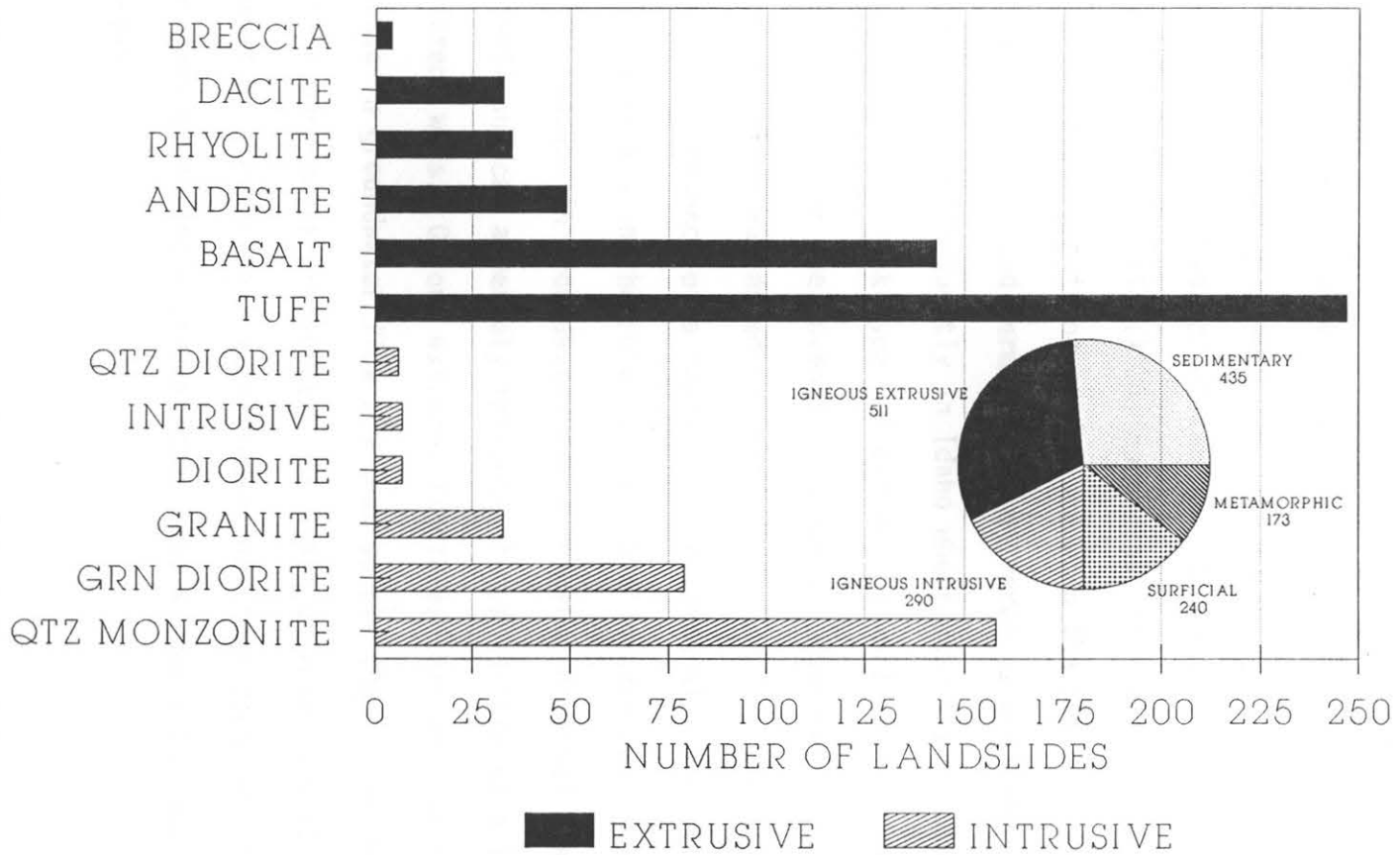
### Strength

Rock Type and Earth-material: The strength of a rock or soil mass depends on several things. First there may be a relation between mapped rock type and the landslide material at the site of failure. The question then arises concerning the exact relation between these mapped materials and failure. It is often stated in published literature that a landslide "occurred in" some particular rock type. This is misleading in

the sense that a landslide often intersects many material types and failure may relate to a) the rock type mapped at that site b) the material along the failure surface or c) a combination of these material strengths. For instance, many of the earth slumps identified during the inventory are reported to have moved along a failure surface in colluvium, (Agar, 1987, personal communication and Hultman, 1988).

According to several authors, Swanson and Swanston, 1977; Megahan et al. 1978; Clayton et al., 1979; and McHugh, 1986, the relative strength of certain rock types and their weathering products is a principle determination for the material strength along the failure surface. Landslides that fail in rock, such as a rock slide would depend on the strength of the rock mass, lithologic character, degree of weathering, amount and orientation of discontinuities and a myriad of other characteristics of the host rock. This association between the mapped rock type and strength does not necessarily exist for an earth slump or debris flow because failure may occur in a material that is not directly related to the mapped rock unit at the location of the failure.

I collected measurements in order to evaluate the number of failures associated with earth-materials and to determine the degree of influence of site characteristics which are most likely to promote failure in these materials. The bar chart in Figure 1 depicts the number of landslides collected in association with igneous rock. The complete distribution of associated earth-materials is included in the graphs of Appendix G and shown on the pie chart inset of Figure 1. Recording the mapped earth-material proved the most convenient and reliable way to categorize each



**Figure 1: Number of Landslides Associated With Igneous Rock and Pie Chart Showing Total in Each Material Group.**

failure. I would like to point out that I have attempted to define the material likely to exist along the failure plane whenever possible. However, there is often wide variability in strength for many of the earth-materials gathered from maps. For instance, a site mapped as Tuff may contain many interbeds of differing lithologic character and origin.

Formational Contact: Roth (1983) notes that the formational contact creates a potential condition of failure when the plane or zone failing occurs where strength and permeability differences are the greatest. This association appears frequently in Idaho where basalt rock overlies an older more weathered rock type. I did not collect the stratigraphic rock type associations for the inventory database. However, the presence of a formational contact was noted.

Faulting: The presence of a fault or shear zone at a landslide site can indicate a weakness in the rock mass or this feature may serve as a source for changes in groundwater and other environmental conditions. These conditions can adversely influence the stability at a landslide in two different ways. On one extreme, fractures that are "open" allow for an increase in groundwater flow and thus supply the failure mass with an increase in pore water pressures. The other extreme case is the development of a relatively impermeable zone from gouge and filling along the fractures producing a barrier that also allows a buildup of pore water pressure.

#### Water

Precipitation: Terzaghi (1950) asserted that the most common causes for a decrease in shearing resistance in a material is the increase in pore



water pressure and the progressive decrease in shear strength. Recent studies in California by Ellen and Fleming (1987) have identified a relation between heavy rainfall and debris flows. The increase in pore water pressure and the subsequent decrease in shear strength due to the buoyant force of water and the reduction in capillary tension affects the stability at the location of a potential slide. Precipitation becomes particularly important when there is enough water to saturate the entire earth-material to cause elevated pore pressures. Wieczorek (1987) indicates that the intensity, or amount per hour, and the duration of a precipitation event are related to some types of landsliding.

Snow load: The snow load, included in the data base in units of pounds per square foot (psf), is meant to estimate of the amount of water available during thaw at any particular landslide. Day and Megahan (1976) noted that a rain-on-snow storm in 1974 caused considerable landsliding on the Clearwater National Forest in Northern Idaho. The significance of the amount of snow likely to fall in an area is similar to the precipitation "mechanism" previously discussed. The rate of melting and the amount of water available as snow would dictate the degree of influence on mass movement. Megahan (1984, p.1) states that for many mountainous regions in Idaho the piezometric levels "are caused by snowmelt rather than rainfall and are not the result of fluctuations in permanent groundwater levels." As previously mentioned I used the NSL Map by Sack and Sheikh-Taheri (1986) to assign the snow load to each landslide in the database.

The development of the NSL map made use of about 50 years of

historical information from 514 stations in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Annual snow load maxima were extrapolated beyond the historical record. Sack and Sheikh-Taheri (1986) selected the value of snow load accumulation with a .02 probability of being exceeded in any one year from a cumulative frequency distribution function. Thus the 50-year MRI is the 2 percent probability of exceeding a value shown on the map in any given year, (Sack and Sheikh-Taheri, 1986). In this thesis, the NSL value was converted to a pressure by multiplying the NSL by the site elevation. This "snow pressure" is intended to approximate the average equivalent water likely to accumulate as snow in any given year at a landslide in a 50 year period. From these precipitation and snow load values it is possible to evaluate the relative amounts of water available at each landslide.

#### Summary Graphs of Selected Characteristics

Bar graphs and cumulative frequency curves for elevation, slope, precipitation and snow load are presented in Appendices H and I, according to the five material categories. These plots are divided into two different groups: 1) the set of landslides in the entire state (Appendix H), and 2) a subset (Appendix I) consisting of those landslides in a select area (see Appendix F-1) in Northern Idaho. Examples of these plots for landslides associated with sedimentary rock are given in Figures 2 and 3.

Statistical distributions of the variables in the subset are different from those in the set that represents the entire state. This

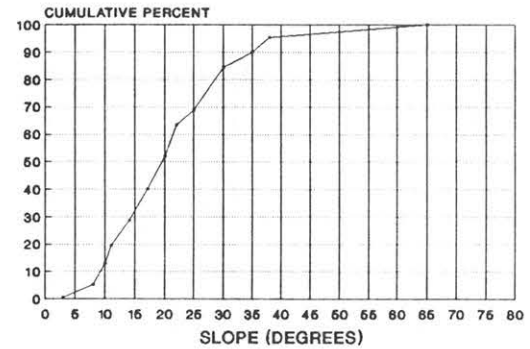
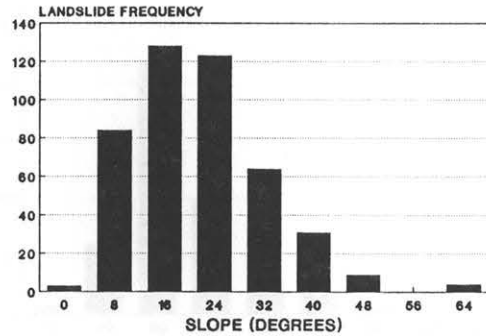
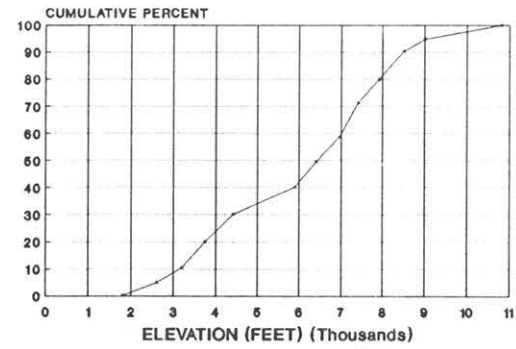
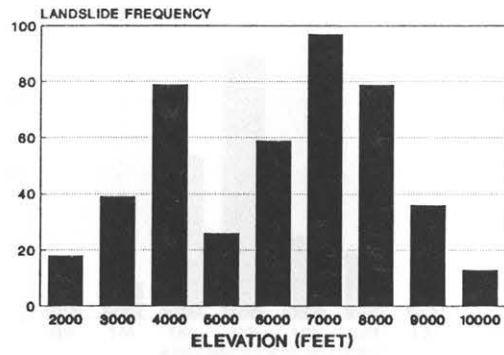


Figure 2: Elevation and Slope Angle for Landslides Associated with Sedimentary Rock in Idaho.

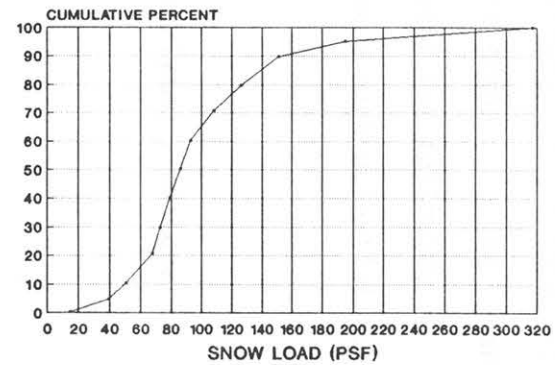
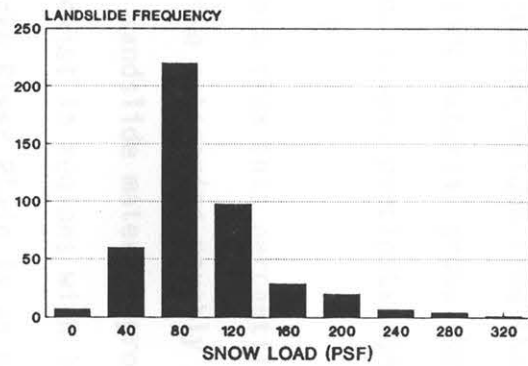
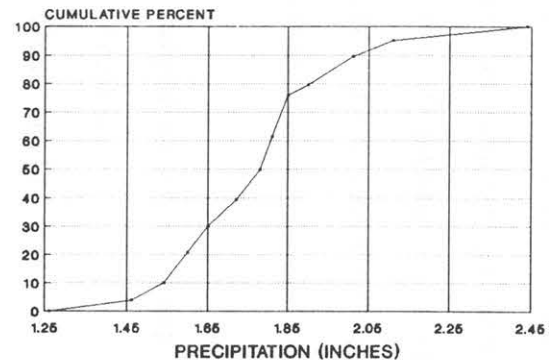
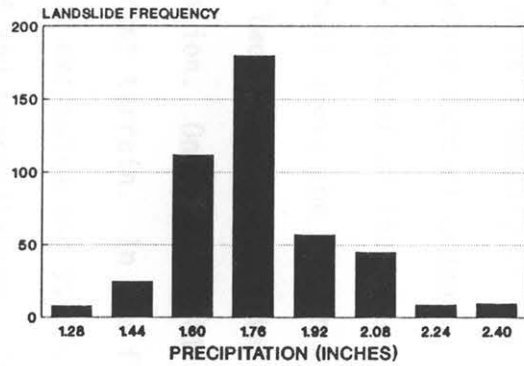


Figure 3: Precipitation and Snow Load for Landslides Associated with Sedimentary Rock in Idaho.

difference likely is caused by local environmental, physiographic and material conditions. To qualitatively evaluate the landslide potential at a particular site one can examine the graphs for the locality of interest and mapped geologic material. For example, using Figures 2 and 3, a site of unknown landslide potential with the following characteristics would be considered to have a high potential for landslides;

mapped material group:	colluvium overlying limestone
elevation:	6000 feet
slope angle:	20 degrees
precipitation:	1.75 inches
snow load:	80 pounds per square foot

Table 4 is a summary of the twentieth percentile values from the cumulative percent graphs. In each landslide material group shown, eighty percent of the values for elevation, slope, precipitation and snow load fall above the number given in Table 4.

Two general categories are discernable from this percentile evaluation. On a state wide scale these two categories roughly describe different terrain. In the first category landslide material groups of igneous extrusive and surficial deposits exist in regions with less relief and precipitation. The greater Snake River Plain is an example of a region mapped as containing igneous extrusive and surficial materials. Landslides classified by the second category containing

Table 4: Summary of Selected Twentieth Percentile Values.

ENTIRE STATE OF IDAHO				
	ELEVATION	SLOPE	PRECIPITATION	SNOW LOAD
IGNEOUS EXTRUSIVE	3500	10	1.60	45
SURFICIAL	3000	8	1.55	50
IGNEOUS INTRUSIVE	3700	14	1.80	70
METAMORPHIC	2500	17	1.75	70
SEDIMENTARY	3700	11	1.60	70

SELECTED REGION OF NORTHERN IDAHO				
	ELEVATION	SLOPE	PRECIPITATION	SNOW LOAD
IGNEOUS EXTRUSIVE	1500	10	1.59	30
SURFICIAL	1200	17	1.59	22
IGNEOUS INTRUSIVE	3200	17	2.00	155
METAMORPHIC	2300	19	1.76	80
SEDIMENTARY	2400	17	1.60	85

igneous intrusive and metamorphic material groups tend to be associated with regions of higher relief and larger amounts of precipitation. Central Idaho contains a large proportion of materials from the second group. This region of Idaho also receives notably higher precipitation particularly in the form of snow as reflected by the cumulative graphs in Appendix H and Appendix I. The twentieth percentile values for the sedimentary material are intermediate between these two categories.

Considering that the higher regions in the state generally accumulate more moisture. One would expect that landslides would occur through a broad range of elevations in regions of high moisture. This is the case for the category of landslides associated with igneous intrusive and metamorphic rock, landslides occur over a wide range of elevations. I would like to emphasize that in many cases landslides may not directly correlate with the mapped landslide material group and that some unmeasured characteristic or special combination of conditions may create the most unstable environment.

### Interpretation of Variables

Numerous analogies can be drawn about landslide occurrence from the bar graphs and plots of Appendices H and I. In this section I will outline a few of the more obvious trends between the landslide occurrence and the physical environment. Naturally, landslides associated with a particular material group are found where that material exists. As an example, this simple analogy can be applied to the bimodal bar graph in Appendix H-7 where the distribution of elevations for landslides reflects

the occurrence of mapped sedimentary formations in the state. The location, age and stage of weathering for the five material groups also has a major effect on the distribution of landslides at various elevations and slope angles.

We usually find little soil available for failure in regions of relatively extreme weather conditions such as we find in the higher elevations of Idaho. With this line of reasoning one would expect to find few landslides at high elevations where there is an absence of material covering rock. In looking at the data representing the materials of intrusive and metamorphic terrain in Appendices H-3 and H-5 the bar graphs are skewed to the right. This indicates that most of the landslides are occurring at lower elevations and slope angles. The concentration of landslides at the lower slope angles also points to the fact that most of the steeper areas in these material groups have lost the material available for failure. Since rock related failures were not well represented in the data base and these failures are usually concentrated on steep slopes, we see even fewer landslide events for the higher values of slope angle.

Most of the graphs showing the distribution of snow load values for failures in Appendix H are skewed to the right. This is a reflection of a) the amount of area in Idaho covered by the lower snow load values and b) the fact that high snow loads often occur in regions of high elevation. This means that the distributions for elevation will roughly correspond to snow and we find most landslides where there are low snow loads because the failures were found to occur at lower elevations as



previously mentioned. One should take note that there is a danger in applying this relation over the entire state because several of the higher regions in Southern Idaho receive little snow in comparison to Northern Idaho.

#### Entire State of Idaho

Eighty percent of the landslides associated with igneous extrusive and surficial deposits tend to occur where;

- \* elevations are greater than 3000 feet
- \* slope angles are greater than 8 degrees
- \* precipitation values are greater than 1.55 inches
- \* snow loads are greater than 45 pounds per square foot

For category two, landslides assigned to igneous intrusive and metamorphic material groups, eighty percent of the values are found where;

- \* elevations are greater than 2500 feet
- \* slope angles are greater than 14 degrees
- \* precipitation values are greater than 1.75 inches
- \* snow loads are greater than 70 pounds per square foot

#### Selected Area in Northern Idaho

Similar comparisons can be made in the lower part of Table 4 for the selected area of Northern Idaho. The first category has consistently lower values than the second. The igneous extrusive and surficial material groups contain 80 percent of the landslide occurrence above 1200 feet. The igneous intrusive and metamorphic material groups contain eighty percent of the landslides above an elevation of 2300 feet. This

is reasonable since the material of the second category is often exposed in the higher elevations of Northern Idaho. I do not consider the percentiles for the surficial material group to be reliable estimates because of the small sample size.

### Slope Aspect

Figure 4 is a bar graph showing the relative frequency of failure for natural slopes in the four selected directions of slope aspect. The slope aspect for landslides is uniformly distributed in each direction measured. Figure 5 shows the relative frequency of landslides and slope aspect for each material group in North Idaho. These graphs show that there is a slight directional preference in a) the northern quadrants for landslides associated with igneous materials and b) the eastern quadrants for landslides associated with the sedimentary material group.

### Precipitation and Snow Load

Before estimating the map values the two dimensional, omnidirectional variograms generated for each digitized map block required a preliminary check to assure that no digitized point was entered more than once. Since the variogram program checks distances between points, the distance between two points with the same coordinates results in a division by zero. Many variograms showed a slight "hump" reflecting a local dome of map values. This effect is shown in the graph for the precipitation map block 11, Appendix E-1. Several of the variograms may warrant a power

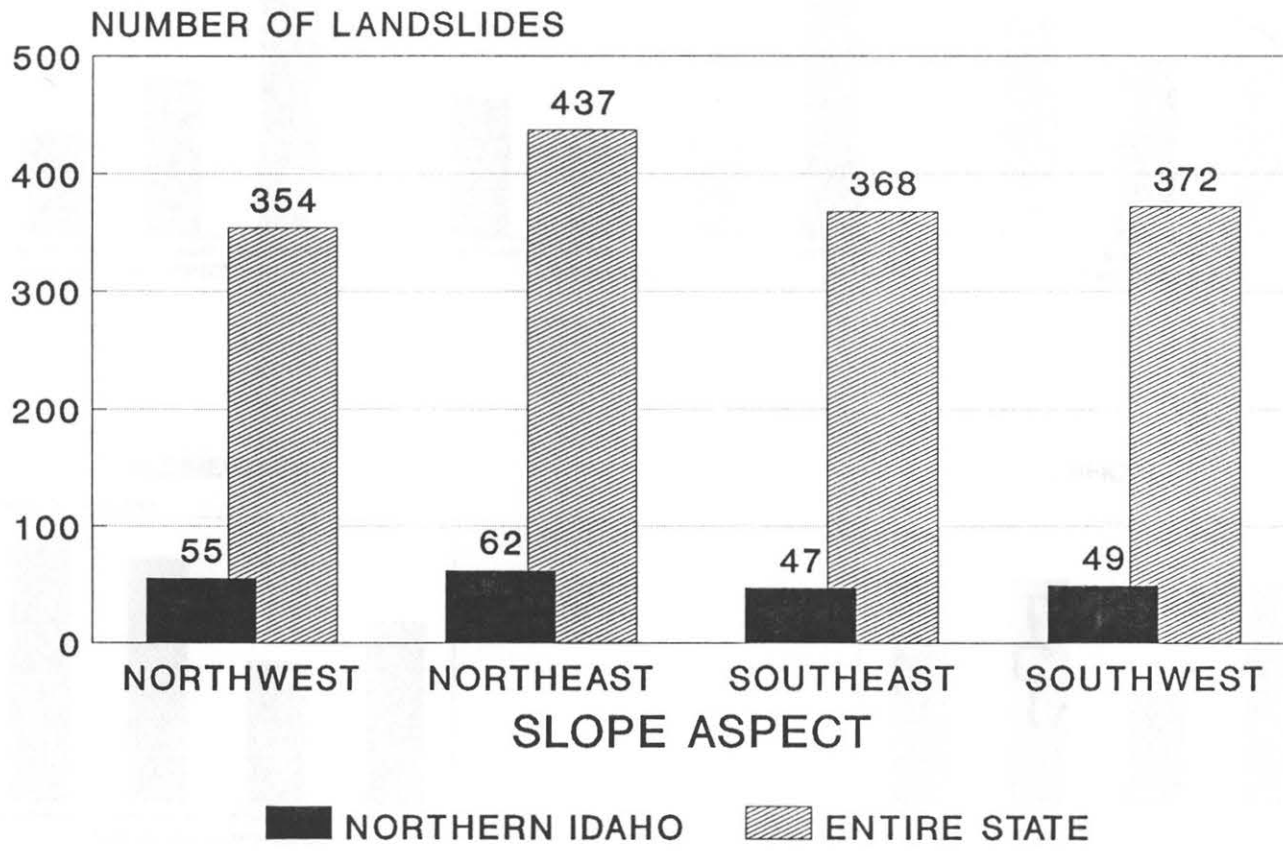


Figure 4: Distribution of Landslide Slope Aspect

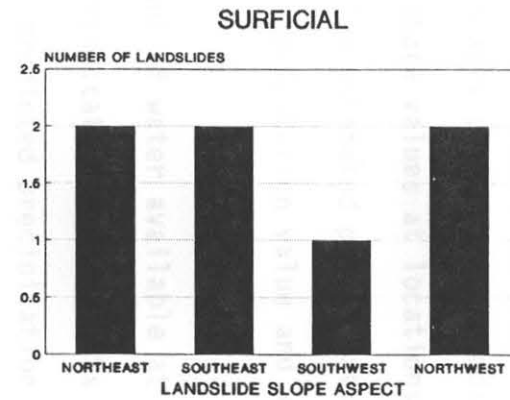
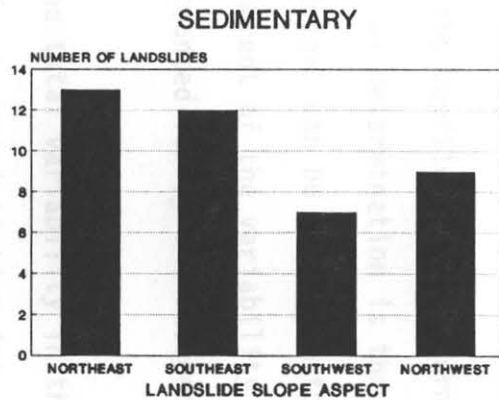
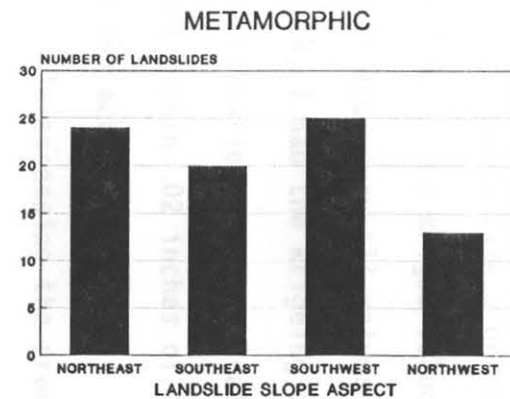
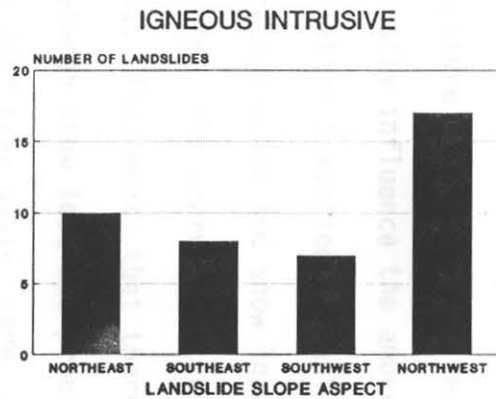
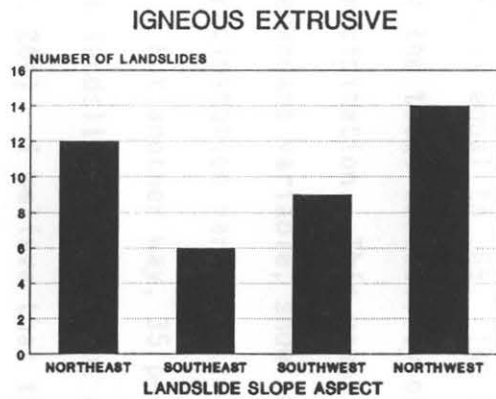


Figure 5: Distribution of Aspect for North Idaho Landslide Material Groups.

model to facilitate a better fit to the data. However, I checked a minimum of ten kriged values against the landslide locations in each map block and found all values to be reasonably close. As an additional check, I had the kriging program estimate values at locations with known precipitation and snow load values. The estimated precipitation values were within .02 inches of the actual precipitation value and within .001 of the actual NSL value.

In assessing the predicted amount of water available at a landslide site one might assume that because precipitation measurements include moisture from snow that the amount of predicted precipitation would greatly influence the amount of predicted snow. To check this implied relation I applied a least squares regression fit to 213 pairs of precipitation and snow load values from the set of landslides in Northern Idaho. The correlation coefficient,  $r$ , for this regression was equal to .81. This means that there is a reasonably good linear relationship between snow load and precipitation. One should note that the "goodness of fit" (see Davis, 1986, p. 182) or the coefficient of determination,  $r^2$ , is equal to .65. The coefficient of determination is the proportion of the total variability of snow load that can be accounted for by precipitation. This means that 65 percent of the variability in the dependant variable, snow load, is accounted for by the independent precipitation variable.

Put another way, 35 percent of the total variability in the snow load at landslide sites is not accounted for by precipitation (see Ott, 1984, p. 264). I believe that the majority of this "unaccountable" variability

is caused by two factors. First, snow load values are widely scattered in relation to the precipitation values. Second, the precipitation values I used were from the 50 MRI 6 year precipitation map. These precipitation values are typically used to represent the high intensity spring and summer storms which do not contain much precipitation in the form of snow.

## STATISTICAL MODEL

The multivariate discriminant analysis is applied to problems where several measurements are collected for a given category of samples. The multivariate problem is envisioned using spatial coordinates in multidimensional space. The analysis used in this thesis develops a group of functions that can be used to assign a set of variables from each landslide to a landslide material group. The development of the discriminant functions were made by using the Statistical Analysis for Science (SAS, 1985). The analysis of landslides in Northern Idaho correctly assigned the surficial, igneous extrusive and intrusive material groups with reasonable success.

### Discriminant Analysis

The multivariate problem of landslide occurrence is best considered as an analysis of several dimensions in space. The set of observed values for variables from landslides in this study, as Davis (1986) points out for multivariate data in general, are represented by spatial coordinates along certain dimensions. The discriminant analysis "selects" a linear combination of variables that produces the maximum difference between the predefined groups. Specifically, the analysis computes an axis orientation that minimizes the ratio of the difference between a pair of group multivariate means to the multivariate variances within the groups. In our case this linear combination, or discriminant function, transforms an original set of landslide measurements into a

discriminant score. This score represents the position of the sample along a new line described by the linear discriminant function.

The two assumptions made in the derivation of the function are: 1) a normal distribution of variables and 2) homogeneity of variance. Harris (1975, p.231) indicates that these two assumptions rarely are valid for any real set of data. He asserts that even though an assumption is used in deriving a test for validity this does not mean that a violation of the original assumptions invalidates the function. Harris also reports that strong mathematical and empirical evidence are available to suggest that the discriminant analysis is not very sensitive to these assumptions.

In more simplified terms, the discriminant functions are used in this thesis to assign a collection of variables from a landslide to defined landslide material groups. The functions are derived by searching for a specific orientation of axes along which the group in question has the greatest separation from all other groups. The entire data set then is re-evaluated and each individual set of variables is assigned to a group based on the location (score) on the new axis described by the function. The success frequencies for the assignments are presented in the form of a table showing the number and percent of correctly assigned landslides.

In order to apply the discriminant analysis I selected the eight continuous and categorical variables for each matching landslide material group as shown in Table 5.



Table 5. Variables used in the Discriminant Analysis.

FUNCTION VARIABLES	METHOD OF MEASURE	TYPE
elevation	feet	continuous
slope	degrees	continuous
aspect	quadrant	categorical
formation contact	yes/no	categorical
faulting	yes/no	categorical
square mile area	square miles	continuous
precipitation	inches	continuous
snow load	pounds/square foot	continuous

The general form of the discriminant function was:

$$X_n = W_1A_1 + W_2A_2 + W_3A_3 \dots W_zA_z + C$$

Where: X = material group  
 W = coefficient or weight  
 A = site variable  
 C = constant  
 n = number of landslide material groups  
 z = number of site variables

Johnson and Winchern (1982, p.518) note that inclusion of qualitative, or categorical, variables often may prove useful in a discriminant function. They also warn that little theoretical basis exists to support "mixed" correlations.

### Stepwise Selection of Variables

I applied the stepwise, discriminant analysis computer program STEPDISC available in SAS to make a selection of the variables having the most discriminating power. The first variable chosen is the most important single variable having the largest F test for regression based on a selected level of significance. The variable chosen next is

combined with the first to form the pair that has the largest F and best improves the discrimination between groups. The selection of the variables with the largest F statistic proceeds, and some variables may be removed, until the next variable chosen adds little discriminating power to the model at the chosen level of significance. (Hair et al. 1979 and Ott, 1984).

I ran this selection process on landslide data from the area in Northern Idaho described earlier and outlined in Appendix F-1. The stepwise selection provided the following variables, in descending order of discriminating power, at the chosen 0.15 level of significance:

- 1 snow load
- 2 precipitation
- 3 formation contact
- 4 slope angle

As a word of caution, Johnson and Wichern (1982) have stated that the stepwise discriminant analysis may not select all of the most important variables. I consider these four variables the most important in this study for distinguishing between landslides associated with the five landslide material groups. To illustrate the idea of discriminating power the bar graph of Figure 6 presents the snow load distribution for three material types. As an example, a snow load of 50 psf in Figure 6 distinguishes mass movement likely associated with an igneous extrusive rock type.

I applied a canonical analysis using the program CANDISC (SAS, 1985) to cross validate the selected variables. Eighty percent of the

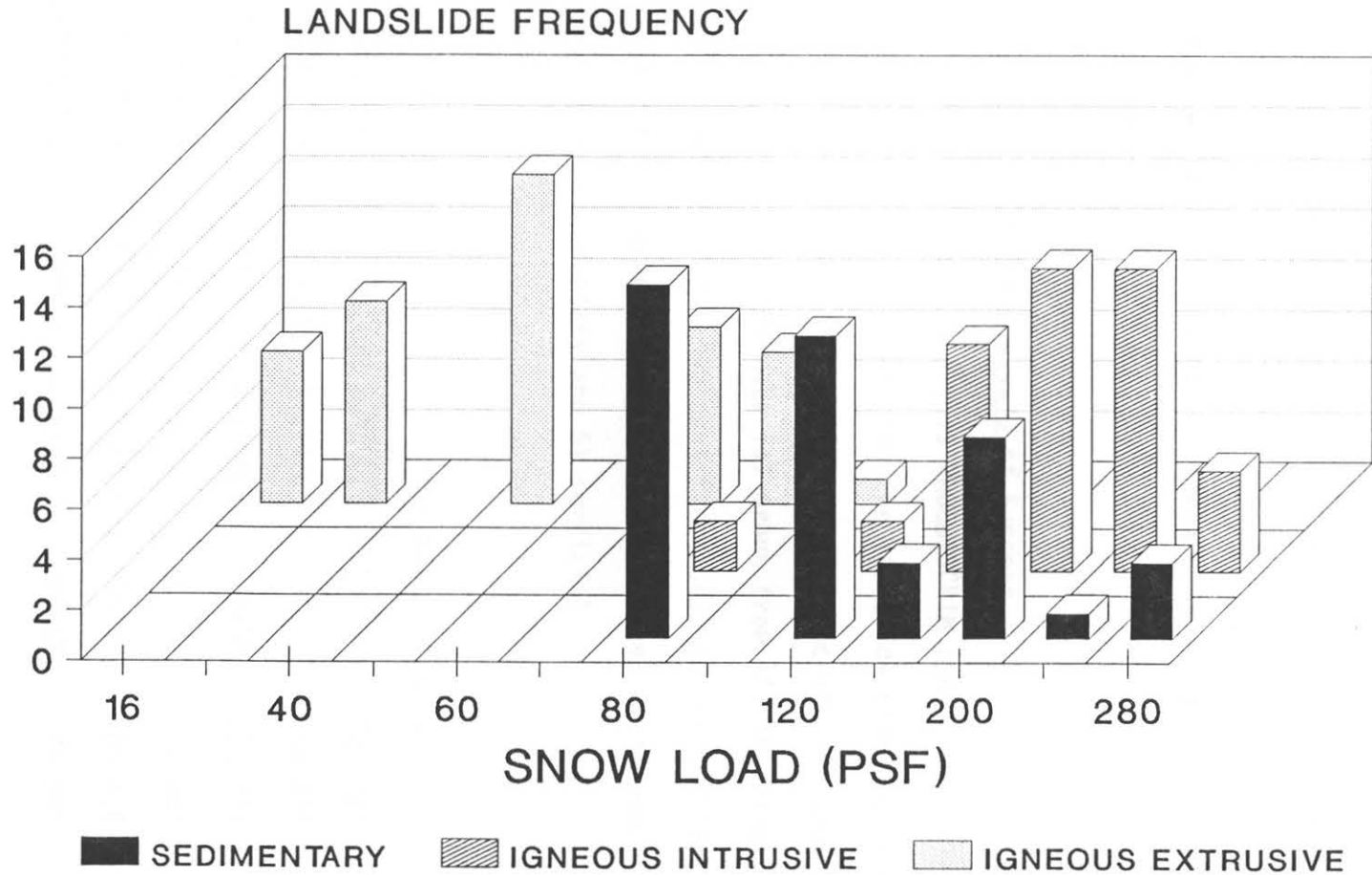


Figure 6: Example of Snow Load Values Assisting in the Distinction Between Three Selected Material Groups.

separation between the material groups was captured by the first canonical function. In relation to distinguishing material groups, this function identified a correlation between the variables of snow load and precipitation at the 0.01 level of significance. The program also identified snow load, precipitation, formational contact and slope angle at the 0.15 level of significance.

### Discriminant Functions and Analysis of Success

I used the discriminant analysis PROC DISCRIM (SAS, 1985) to derive the discriminant functions and assign the landslide site characteristics into five groups. The discriminant functions describe the greatest separation for each landslide material group from all the other groups. Table 6 shows the linear discriminant functions and derived coefficients for the five material groups: 1) igneous extrusive, 2) igneous intrusive, 3) metamorphic, 4) sedimentary and 5) surficial.

Table 6: Discriminant Functions for Five Material Groups.

<u>SCORE</u>	<u>SNOW LOAD</u>	<u>PRECIPITATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>SLOPE</u>	<u>CONSTANT</u>
$X_1$	$= -.187(SN) +$	$101.476(P) +$	$5.644(C) -$	$.104(SP) -$	$84.376$
$X_2$	$= -.157(SN) +$	$107.486(P) +$	$5.812(C) -$	$.023(SP) -$	$101.574$
$X_3$	$= -.161(SN) +$	$103.548(P) +$	$5.871(C) -$	$.023(SP) -$	$93.068$
$X_4$	$= -.158(SN) +$	$98.637(P) +$	$6.368(C) -$	$.019(SP) -$	$85.114$
$X_5$	$= -.177(SN) +$	$96.849(P) +$	$3.499(C) -$	$.020(SP) -$	$76.902$

With these equations the program analyzed the data from each landslide site to calculate five discriminant scores. The function that provided the highest score for each site identified the group to which the landslide characteristics have the greatest resemblance. After assigning all the landslides to groups, the success of this discrimination was checked against the classified value given in the data base. The assignment summary is shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Summary of Discriminant Analysis Success.

		NUMBER / PERCENT CLASSIFIED IN MATERIAL GROUP					
		1	2	3	4	5	TOTALS
ACTUAL MATERIAL GROUP IN DATABASE	1	<b>31/76</b>	0/0	1/2	1/2	8/19	41/100
	2	0/0	<b>30/71</b>	10/23	1/2	1/2	42/100
	3	11/13	35/43	<b>17/21</b>	12/15	7/9	82/100
	4	0/0	5/12	11/27	<b>18/44</b>	7/17	41/100
	5	1/14	0/0	0/0	0/0	<b>6/86</b>	7/100

As seen in the success frequencies, the four site variables best distinguish landslides associated with surficial material (group 5), where 86 percent of the occurrences were placed correctly. The analysis correctly assigned 76 and 71 percent of the landslides associated with igneous extrusive (group 1) and igneous intrusive (group 2) rock respectively. This model was less successful in discriminating landslides in metamorphic (group 3) and sedimentary (group 4) terrain.

The relative group assignment success can be attributed to the lack of similarities between some of the material groups. Table 8 is a summary of the percentile values for the four variables used to discriminate North Idaho landslide occurrence based on material types. In reviewing Table 8, the fiftieth percentile for the variables in the metamorphic and sedimentary categories are similar. This likeness decreases the discriminating power of the discriminant functions.

Table 8. Summary of Percentile Values for Landslide Site Variables from a Selected Area of Northern Idaho.

	SNOW LOAD (psf)	PRECIPITATION (in.)	CONTACT PRESENT (% yes)	SLOPE ANGLE (degrees)
PERCENTILE:	90/50/10	90/50/10		90/50/10
IGNEOUS EXTRUSIVE	75/45/11	1.81/1.63/1.58	51	27/15/6
IGNEOUS INTRUSIVE	260/205/140	2.20/2.14/1.98	28	40/28/11
METAMORPHIC	260/170/60	2.28/2.00/1.62	22	37/25/14
SEDIMENTARY	220/125/75	2.03/1.86/1.58	14	37/25/12
SURFICIAL	90/35/24	1.69/1.61/1.58	86	28/23/13

## SUMMARY

The purpose of this thesis is to evaluate the relation between landslides in Idaho and several related site conditions. In this landslide study I gathered information about known landslide sites in order to attain two goals. The first goal was to evaluate the number of failures associated with earth-materials. The second goal was to determine the site characteristics that are most likely to promote failure in these materials. I propose that a reconnaissance level inventory of site conditions from known landslides coupled with a careful data analysis can direct an investigator to a particular earth-material that has significant landsliding potential.

The methods used in this study were based on a set of nine interactive site conditions collected during an inventory of known landslides in Idaho, (Adams and Breckenridge, in progress). The landslides were categorized by the "naturally occurring" materials in two ways using; 1) Varnes' rock, earth and debris types and 2) mapped geologic material units. The data describing each landslide site were gleaned from both published and unpublished notes and maps. The precipitation and snow load values were assigned after the initial inventory using a weighted averaging technique based on the spatial dependence of the values.

The selection of the landslide site characteristics was dependant on the scale of the inventory and on various sources of knowledge concerning the relations between slope stability, site geometry, material strength



and water conditions. The landslide material group was the major division for classification and site variables for these groups are distributed differently in different regions of the state. The distribution of variables is useful for a qualitative examination of the landslide potential for a given site or region. The discriminant analysis was applied to derive mathematical functions that used a given set of site variables in order to determine the landslide material most likely to produce a landslide. The discriminant functions developed in this thesis help to evaluate the failure potential for landslide material groups in a select region of Northern Idaho. The discriminant functions for surficial, igneous extrusive and igneous intrusive material groups have the best success for correct assignment with the given set of variables.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Snow load and precipitation are identified as the two most important site characteristics for distinguishing landslides associated with different earth-materials. It is likely that earth-materials in the state vary in a way similar to the geographic distribution of snow load and precipitation. Specifically, some rock types are more resistant depending on the age, and comprise the steeper and higher regions in Idaho. Terzaghi (1950), however, implied that precipitation in the form of rain or snow is a principle agent to the progressive decrease in shear strength of earth-materials. I believe that a prerequisite for initiation of landslides in Idaho is the sudden increase in porewater pressure brought about by melting snow. The typical rain on snow event in Idaho is a precursor to landsliding and therefore a predictive model for landslides in Idaho should attempt to incorporate snowmelt and precipitation intensity.

In conclusion; precipitation, particularly in the form of snow, is a key factor in recognizing material types likely to be associated with slope failure in Idaho. This analysis of landslide occurrences in North Idaho can be successfully used to discriminate the landslide material group most likely to produce a landslide given the information on snow load, precipitation, formational contact and slope angle. Similar analyses in other select regions of Idaho would most likely result in an equal degree of success provided that a large enough number of landslide samples were obtained. It is prudent to warn that the distribution of

variables may be different in other regions of Idaho. This variability is due to local environmental factors that may effect the selection of the variables having the most power for discrimination.

In retrospect I would recommend several changes in the methods and a more thorough examination of the possible interaction between variables. A validation of the discriminant functions derived in this study would help to determine the accuracy of the group assignments. This could be done with the random removal of a portion of the data set as described in Johnson and Wichern (1982, p. 490). This technique requires that the initial discriminant function is derived with a portion of the data set. The functions are checked by evaluating the success frequencies of group assignments for the withheld data set.

It also would be helpful to construct a simplified model which would derive one discriminant function to determine the likelihood of developing a landslide at a given site regardless of the material type. This would best be accomplished using a method similar to the ones described by Rice et al. (1985) or Roth (1983). These models use a regular grid to locate sample sites for a data set that has no known landslide occurrence. This set of variables would form a group to be compared with the group of known landslides.

Further discrimination based on groups of landslides in specified slope intervals may aid in prediction capabilities. Megahan et al. (1978) recognized that slope gradients vary according to slope position and that landslide frequency increases from the upper to lower portions of a slope. Similarly, intervals of elevation should be used for

discrimination. A more rigorous analysis might include a series of discriminant analysis deleting one variable for each run in order to check the success for group assignments. These suggestions are a few of the many additions that could be combined in a thorough multivariate analysis and may require more time than is acceptable for a reconnaissance level identification of landslide susceptibility.

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APPENDIX A  
INDIVIDUALS CONTRIBUTING LANDSLIDE DATA



**Idaho Department of Transportation, Division of Highways**

Bryant Brown, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Division of Highways.

Pat Lightfield, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Division of Highways.

Bob Smith, and Tri Buu, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes and Reports, Division of Highways, Boise.

Dick Sorenson, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Department of Highways, District 4.

Jim Winger, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Division of Highways, District 5.

**Idaho Geological Survey**

Wayne Adams, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Idaho Geological Survey.

Bill Bonnichson, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Idaho Geological Survey.

Roy Breckenridge, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Idaho Geological Survey.

Kurt Othberg, and Steve Wood, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Idaho Geologic Survey.

Carl Savage, 1973, Unpublished Engineering Geology Maps and Field Notes of the Coeur d'Alene area, Idaho, Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology.

**Individuals**

Glen Embree, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes and Maps, Ricks College.

Robert Howard and Chris Beck, Howard Consultants Incorporated, 1987, Geotechnical Evaluation of Lane County Landfill, Idaho, 14 pages.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

LeeAnn Pugh, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Army Corps of Engineers.

**U.S. Bureau of Land Management**

Ted Carrol, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Bureau of Land Management.

Gene Decker, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Boise District Office.

David Fortier, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Bureau of Land Management, Cour d'Alene District Office.

Alan Harkness, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Boise District Office.

David Jeppson, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Falls District.

Kurt Koch, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Bureau of Land Management, Burley District Office.

Norm Satter, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Bureau of Land Management.

Ted Weasma, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Boise District Office.

Tom Woodward, 1987, Personal Communication, Bureau of Land Management, Boise District Office.

#### **U.S. Forest Service**

George Agar, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Norm Bare, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Caribou National Forest.

Dave Gilman, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Salmon National Forest.

Hamilton, R., 1987, Unpublished Field Map, Salmon National Forest.

Gary Jackson, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Salmon National Forest.

Rich Kennedy, 1983, Unpublished Field Notes, NezPerce National Forest.

Walt Megahan, 1987, Unpublished Field Data, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah.

Duane Monte, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes and Maps, Challis National Forest.

Jerry Nehoff, Jim Northrup, and Bill Beach, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Earl Olson, 1987, Unpublished Field Maps, U.S. Forest Service, Region 4.

Ken Radek, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes and Maps, Targhee National Forest.

Rees, T.H., and Madenka, G., 1987, Unpublished Field Maps, Challis National Forest.

Dale Wilson, 1987, Unpublished Field Notes, Clearwater National Forest.

#### **U.S. Geological Survey**

Stuart Gutenburger, 1987, Unpublished field notes, Water Resources Division, Sandpoint.

APPENDIX B  
DEFINITIONS OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS

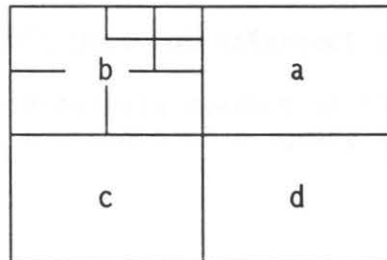
MREF: Landslide Map reference number penciled in and circled on the reference map or notes.

BIB: The chronologic reference number from the preliminary bibliography.

LAT.: The latitude of the approximate center of the mass. In thousandths of a degree, e.g. 44.413.

LONG.: The longitude of the approximate center of the mass. Same degree of accuracy as latitude.

T R SEC: The Township, Range, and Section that contains the majority of the mass. The section number is followed by a maximum of three letters to denote the quarter sections, see the example below:



e.g. T27N R4E SECTION 27 b,a,d is entered as: 27N 4E 27 bad

ELEV: Elevation of the adjacent "natural" ground closest to the center of mass in feet. (i.e. 2700)

SLOPE: The text in this column refers to the average degree inclination of the "undisturbed" ground. This is used to estimate the "natural slope" near where movement has occurred, (e.g. not the slope of the actual mass). Notice that this will be difficult to measure on small map scales.

ASP: Aspect of the slope is the compass quadrant toward which the slope faces. Enter a maximum of two letters such as; N,S,E,W, or NW,NE,SW,SE.

TYPE: See the attached abbreviations summary for types of mass movement. These abbreviations are to be entered only when field verified or documented. See Varnes (1978).

LITH: See the attached abbreviations summary for rock types or origin abbreviations of the underlying material at the site occupied by the mass. (If more than one formation is contained by the site boundaries, choose the formation which is most likely to have a lower shear strength or leave this column blank.)

C?: Contact present.

"Y" denotes that a formational contact intersects the middle half of the mass.

"N" denotes that a formational contact does not intersect the middle half of the mass.

F?: Fault present.

"Y" denotes that a fault intersects the mass.

"N" denotes that a fault does not intersect the mass.

S MI: Is used as an approximate measure of the square mile area of the mass measured to the thousandth of a square mile. (e.g. 0.052 S MI)

APPENDIX C  
LANDSLIDE REPORT FORM

MASS MOVEMENT INFORMATION REPORT  
 Idaho Geological Survey  
 Morrill Hall, Room 332  
 Moscow, Idaho 83843

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Feature (as T14N-R3E-SEC23) \_\_\_\_\_ Location in Section \_\_\_\_\_

Major Road \_\_\_\_\_


County \_\_\_\_\_ Quadrangle Map \_\_\_\_\_  
 (attach copy of map showing location if possible)

Elevation (feet) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Natural Slope (degrees) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Azimuth Direction Slope Faces \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegetative Cover \_\_\_\_\_

Lithology \_\_\_\_\_  
 (type of materials; e.g., colluvial soil over limestone)

Type of Feature (see attached examples, check best answer)

Rock fall       Earth slump       Debris slide  
 Rock slump       Earth slide       Debris flow  
 Rock slide       Earth flow       Debris  
 Rock glacier       Complex       avalanche

The feature is: (check best answer)

Active                       Inactive  
 Natural                       Man-induced

Date of Last Movement, or age (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate:

Area (sq. ft.) \_\_\_\_\_ Cost of Damage \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cost for Repair \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of Movement (stream cut, road cut failure, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Include additional comments or information on reverse.







APPENDIX D-2  
ABBREVIATIONS AND CODES USED IN DATA BASE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DEGREES</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>ASPECT</u>		
			<u>CODES FOR DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS</u>		
			<u>VECTOR</u>	<u>SINE</u>	<u>COSINE</u>
NORTHWEST	270 - 0	1	315	-.71	+.71
NORTHEAST	0 - 90	2	45	+.71	+.71
SOUTHEAST	90 - 180	3	135	+.71	-.71
SOUTHWEST	180 - 270	4	225	-.71	-.71

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VARNES' MATERIAL TYPE</u>	
	<u>CODE</u>	
ROCK	1	
EARTH	2	
DEBRIS	3	
COMPLEX	4	
UNCLASSIFIED	4	

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAPPED GEOLOGIC MATERIAL</u>	
	<u>CODE</u>	
IGNEOUS EXTRUSIVE	1	
IGNEOUS INTRUSIVE	2	
METAMORPHIC	3	
SEDIMENTARY	4	
SURFICIAL	5	

**PRESENCE OF FORMATIONAL CONTACT**

YES = 1

NO = 2

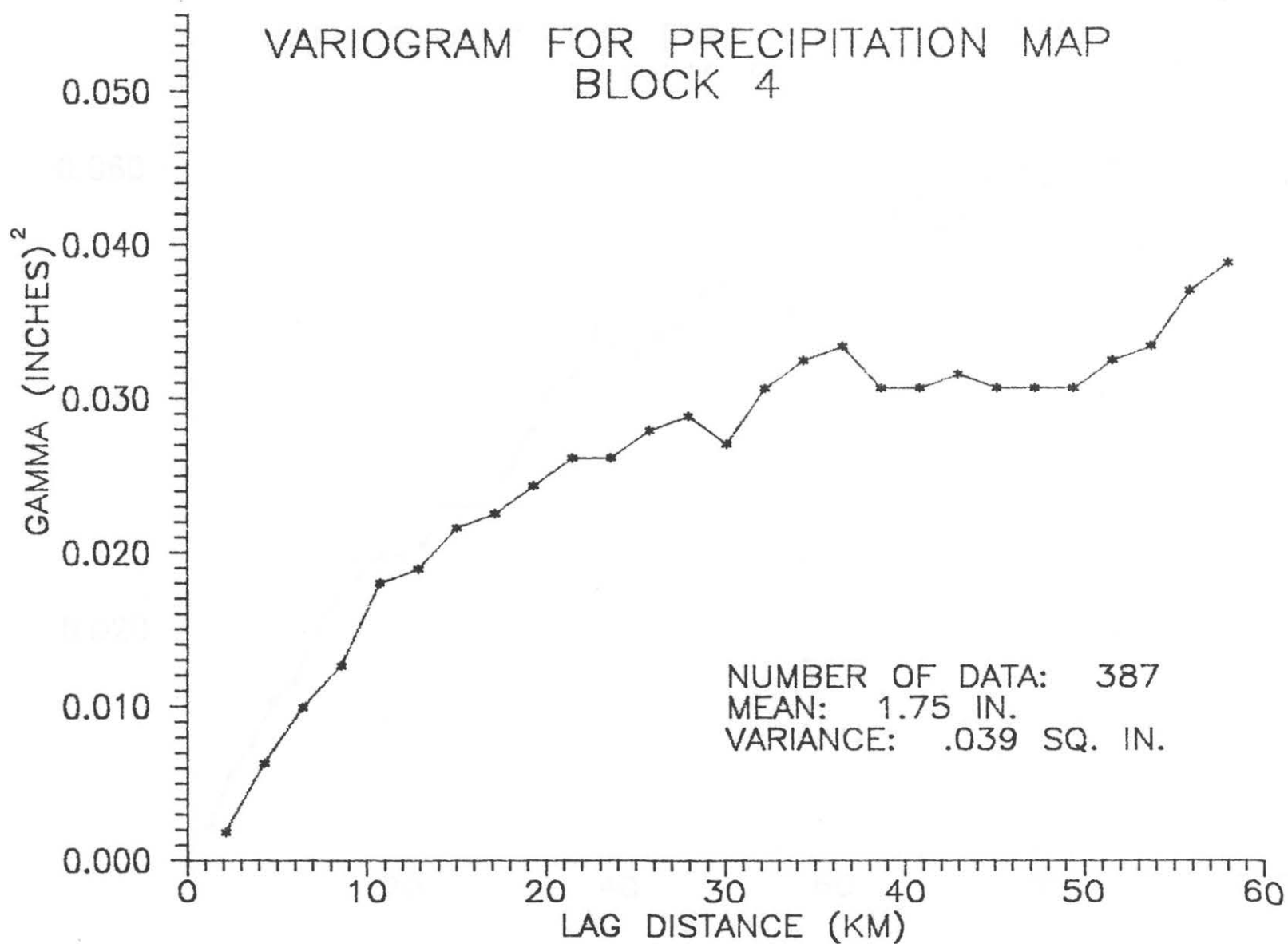
**PRESENCE OF A MAPPED FAULT**

YES = 1

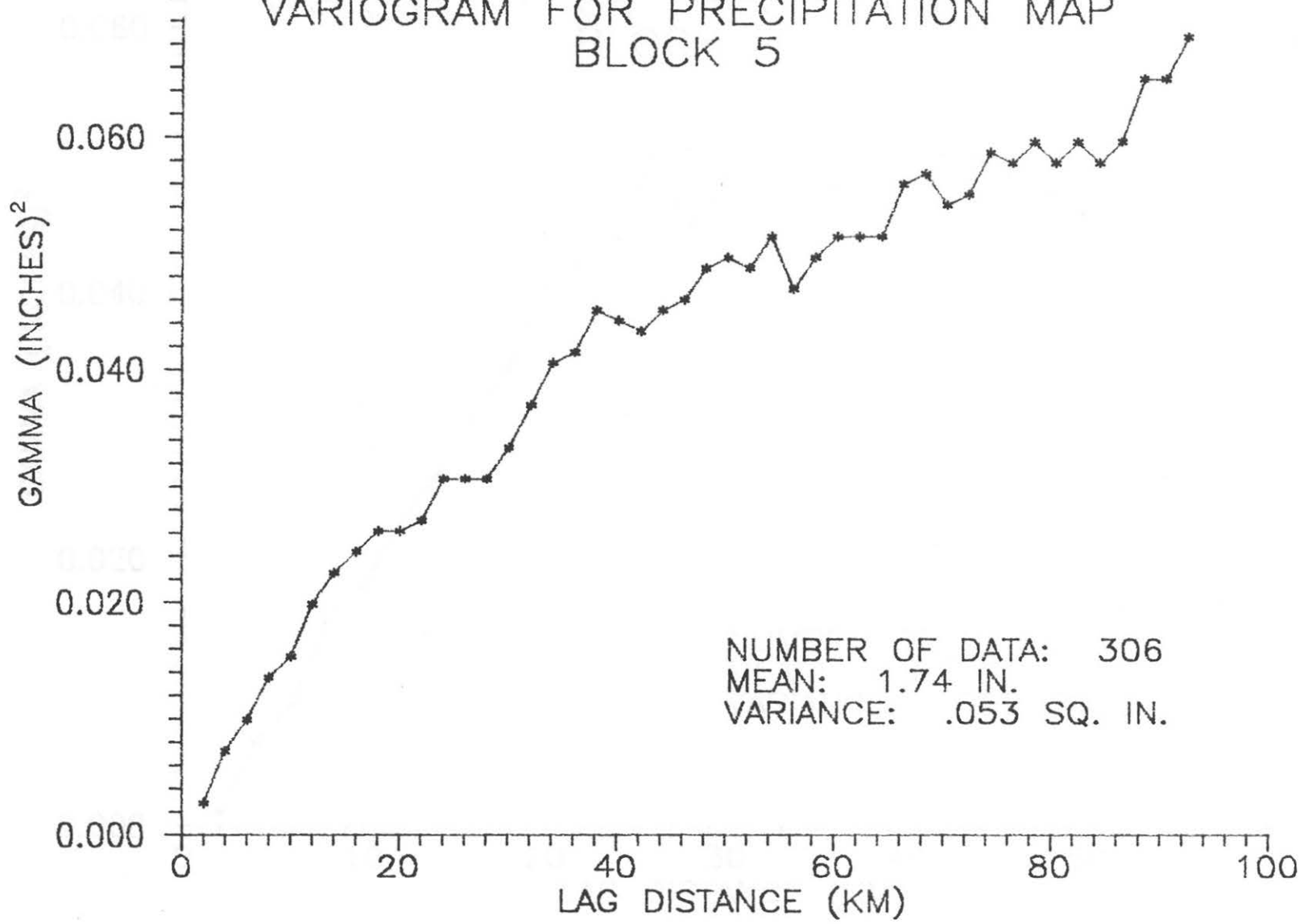
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APPENDIX E-1  
VARIOGRAMS FOR PRECIPITATION MAP

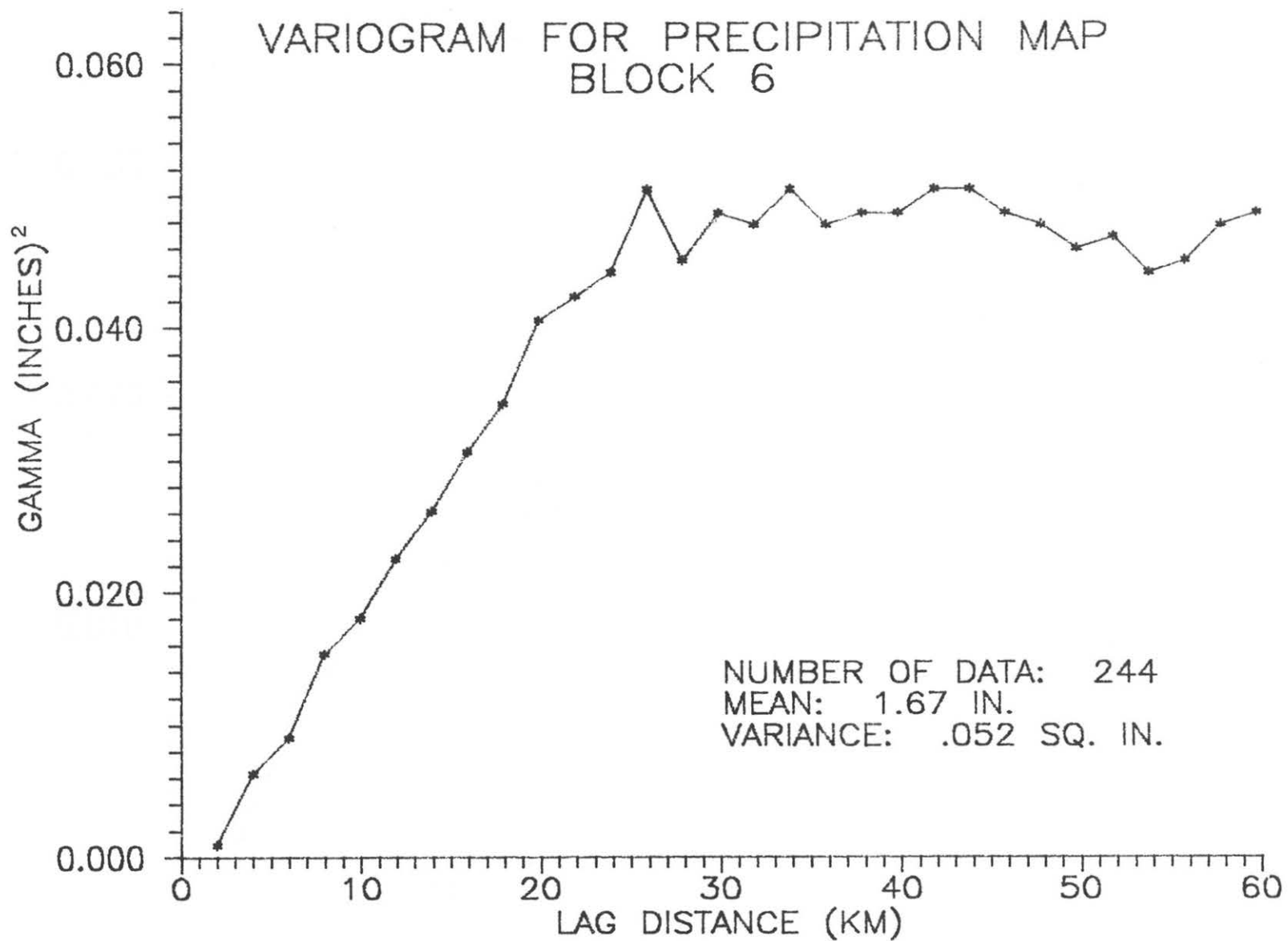
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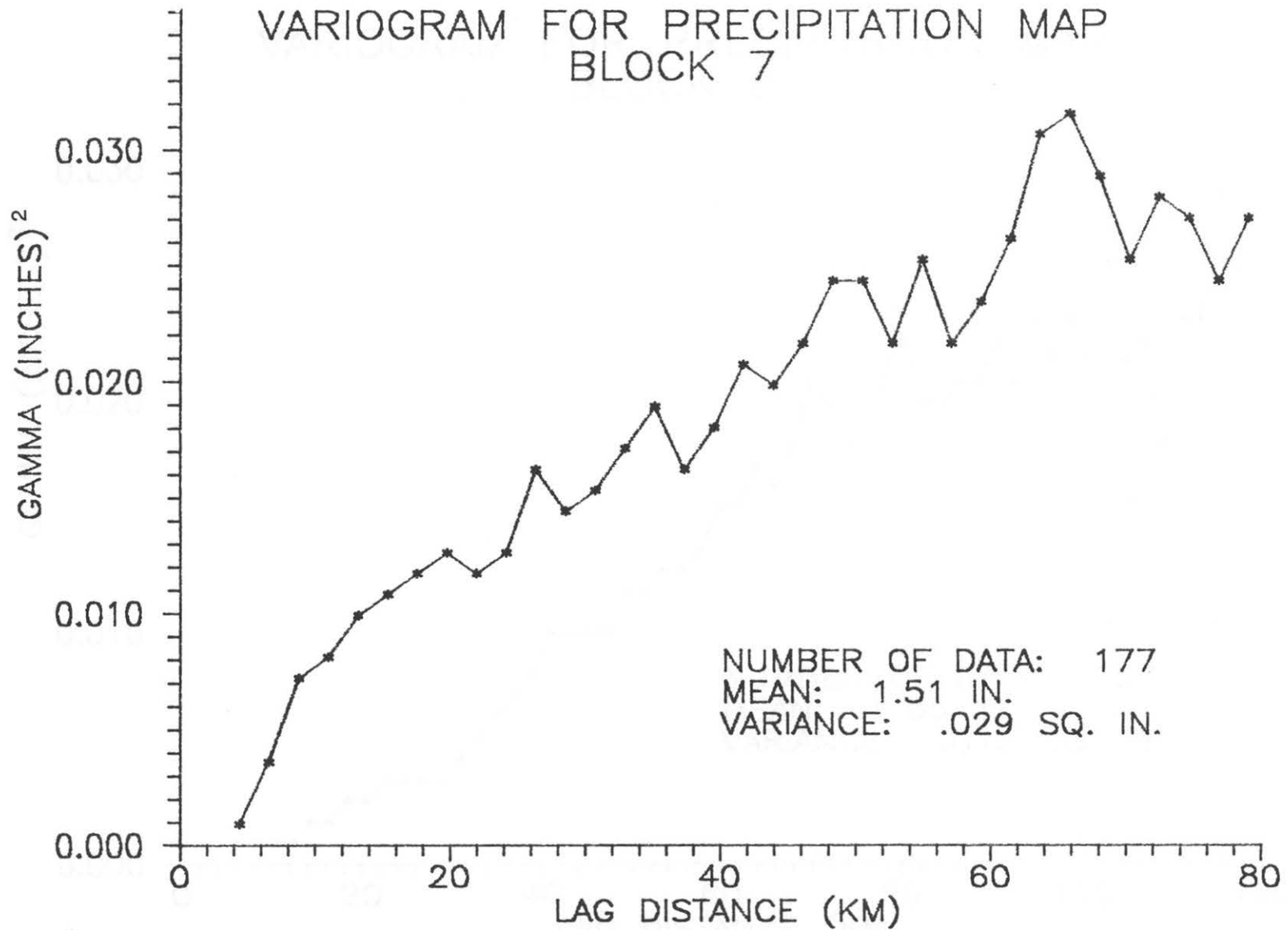
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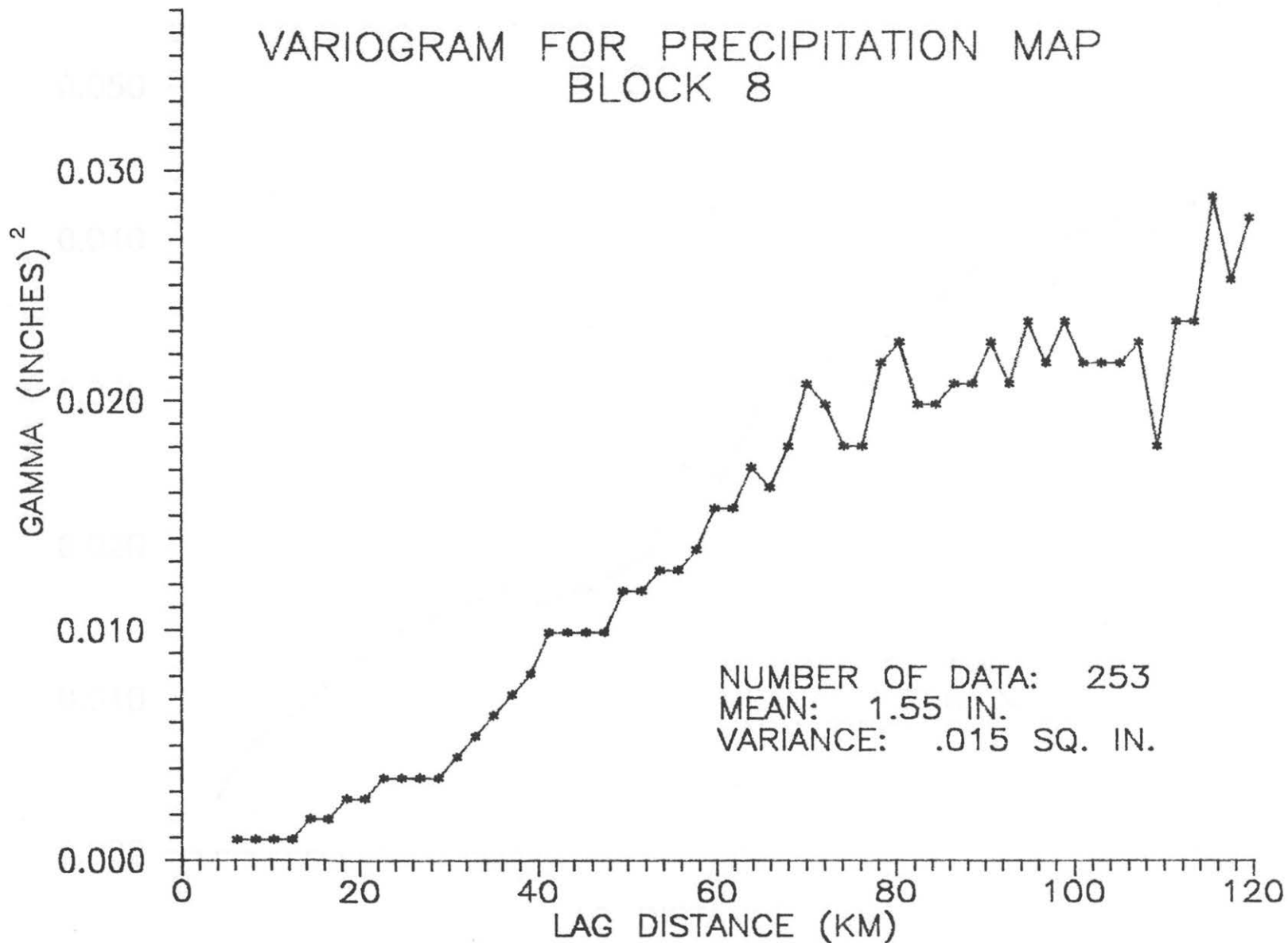


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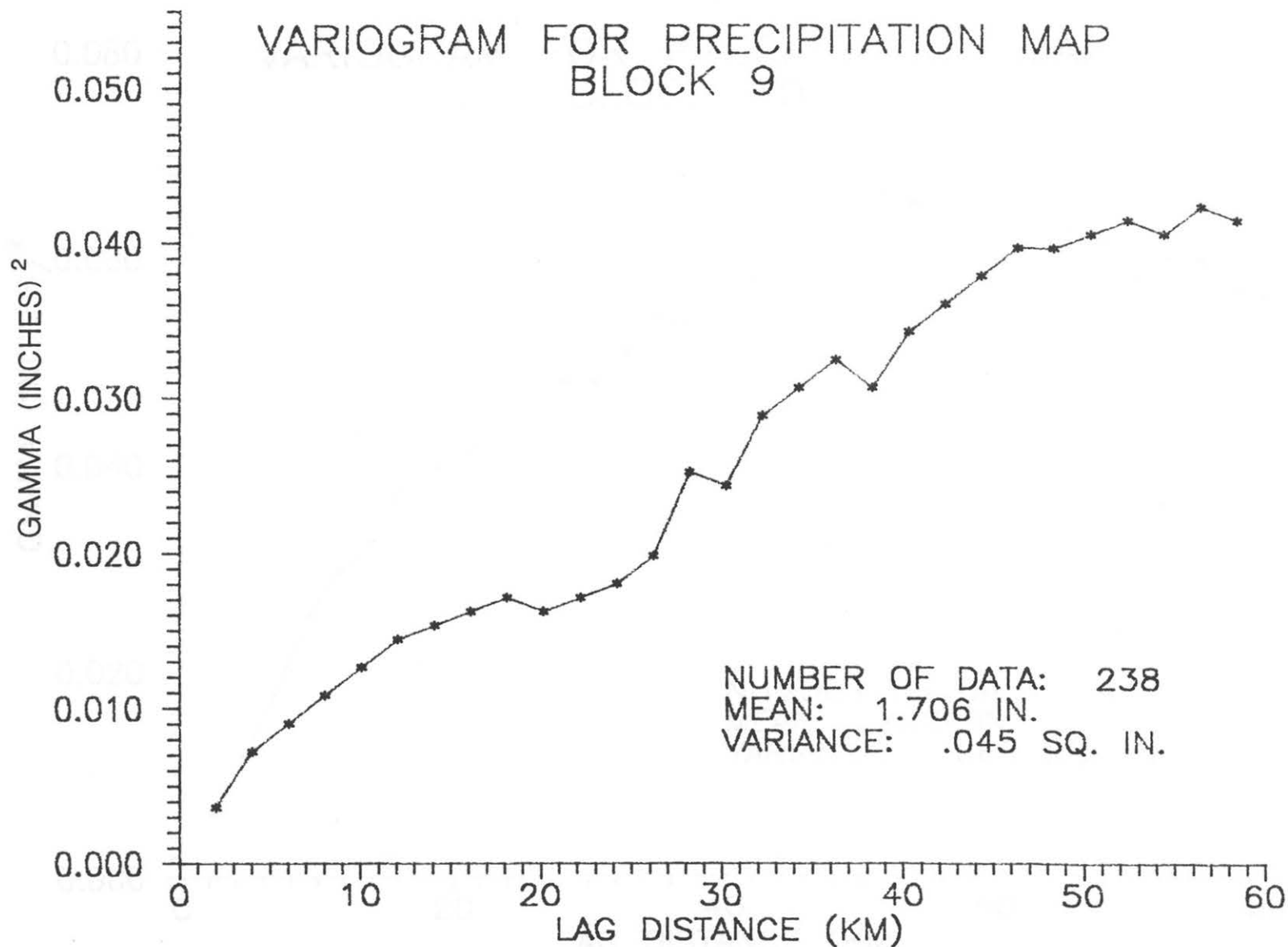




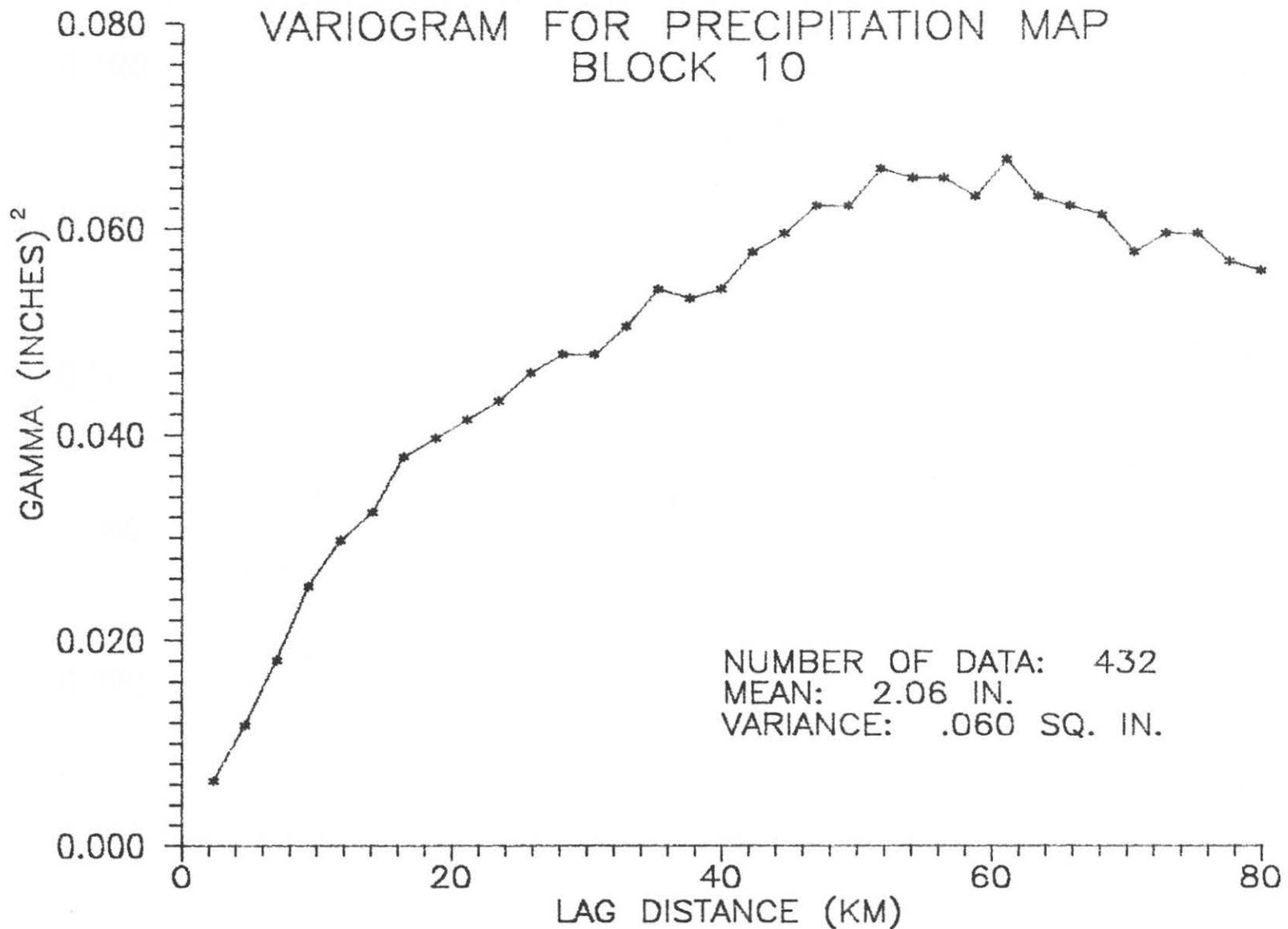
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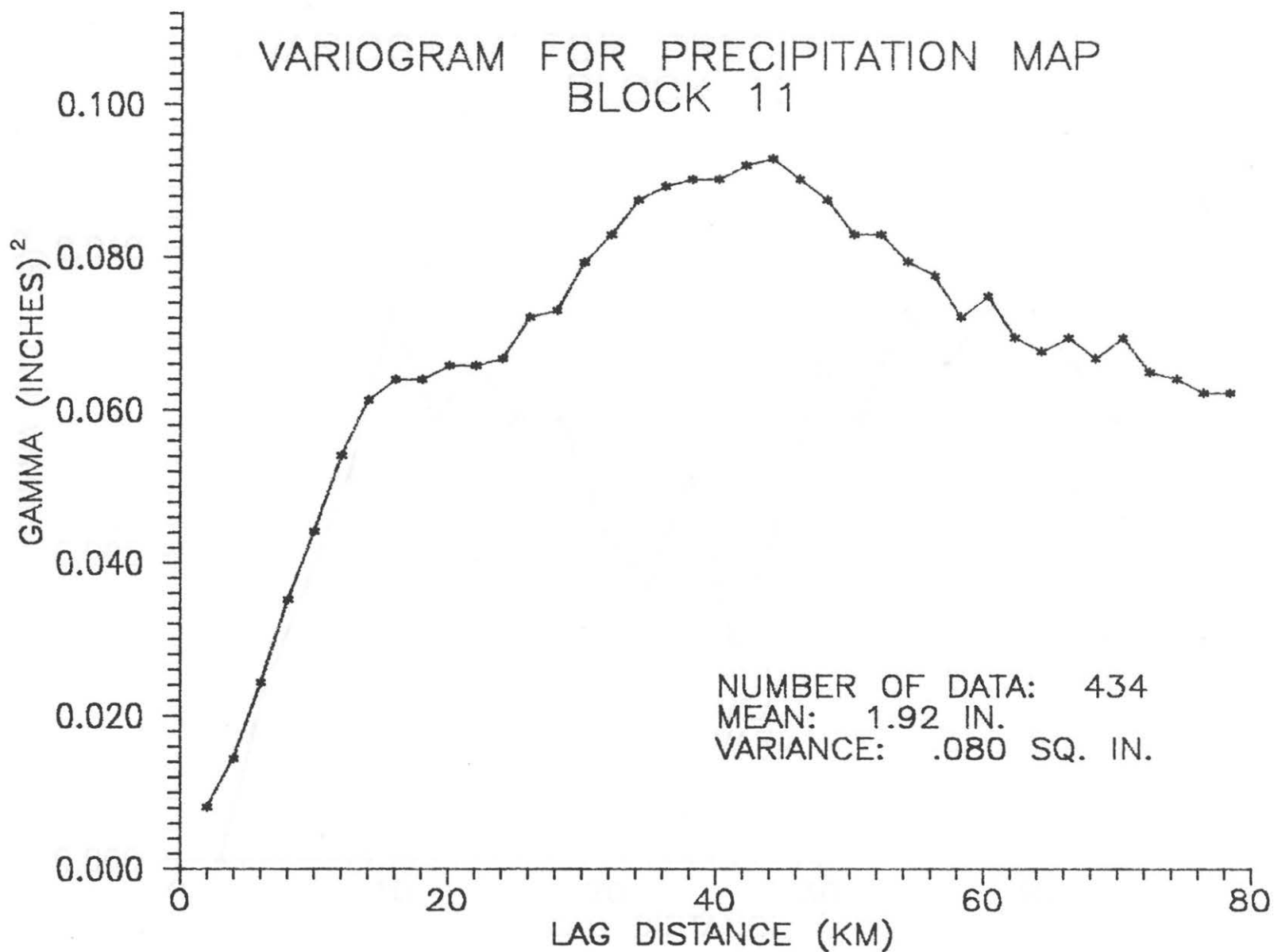
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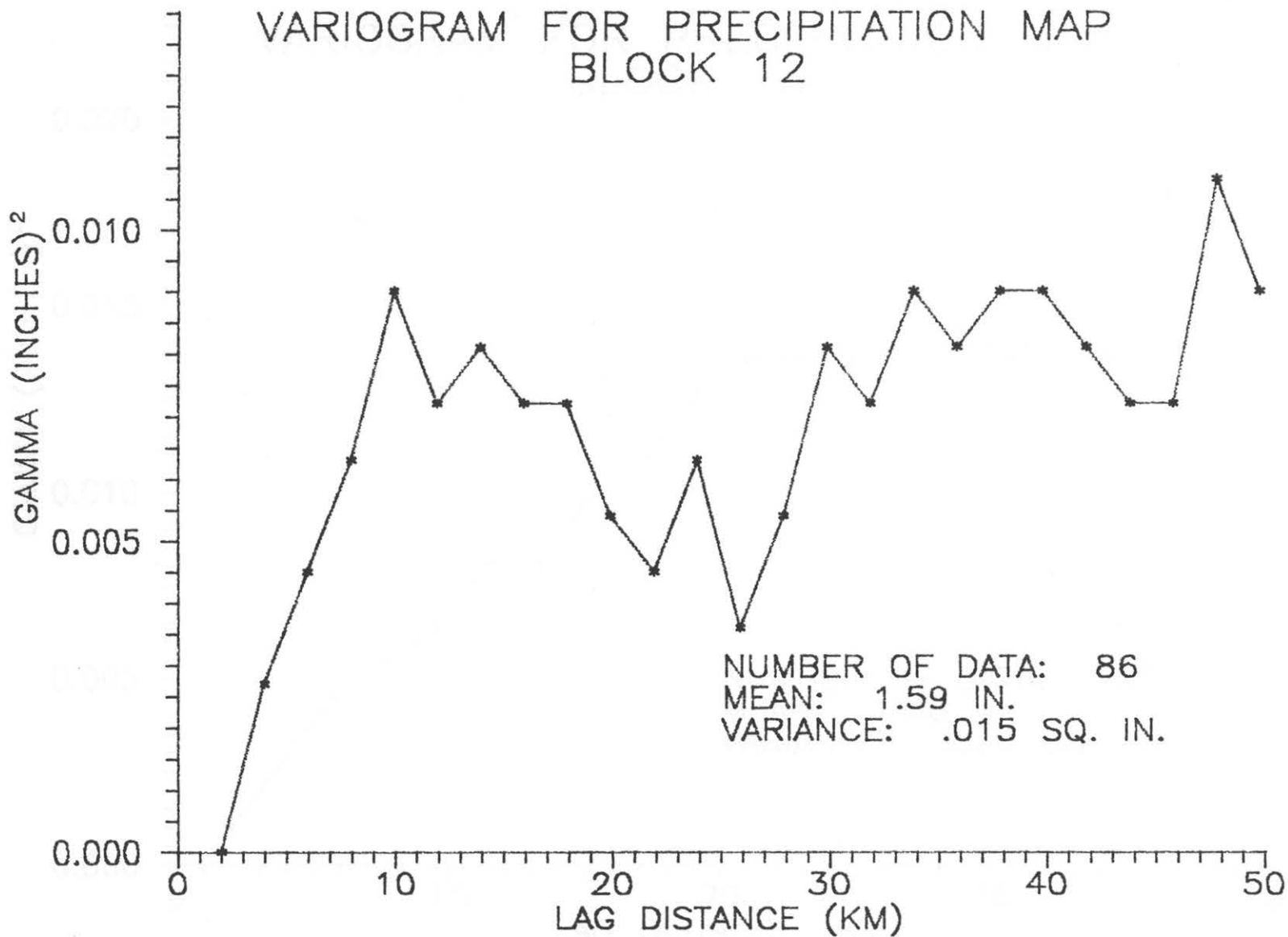
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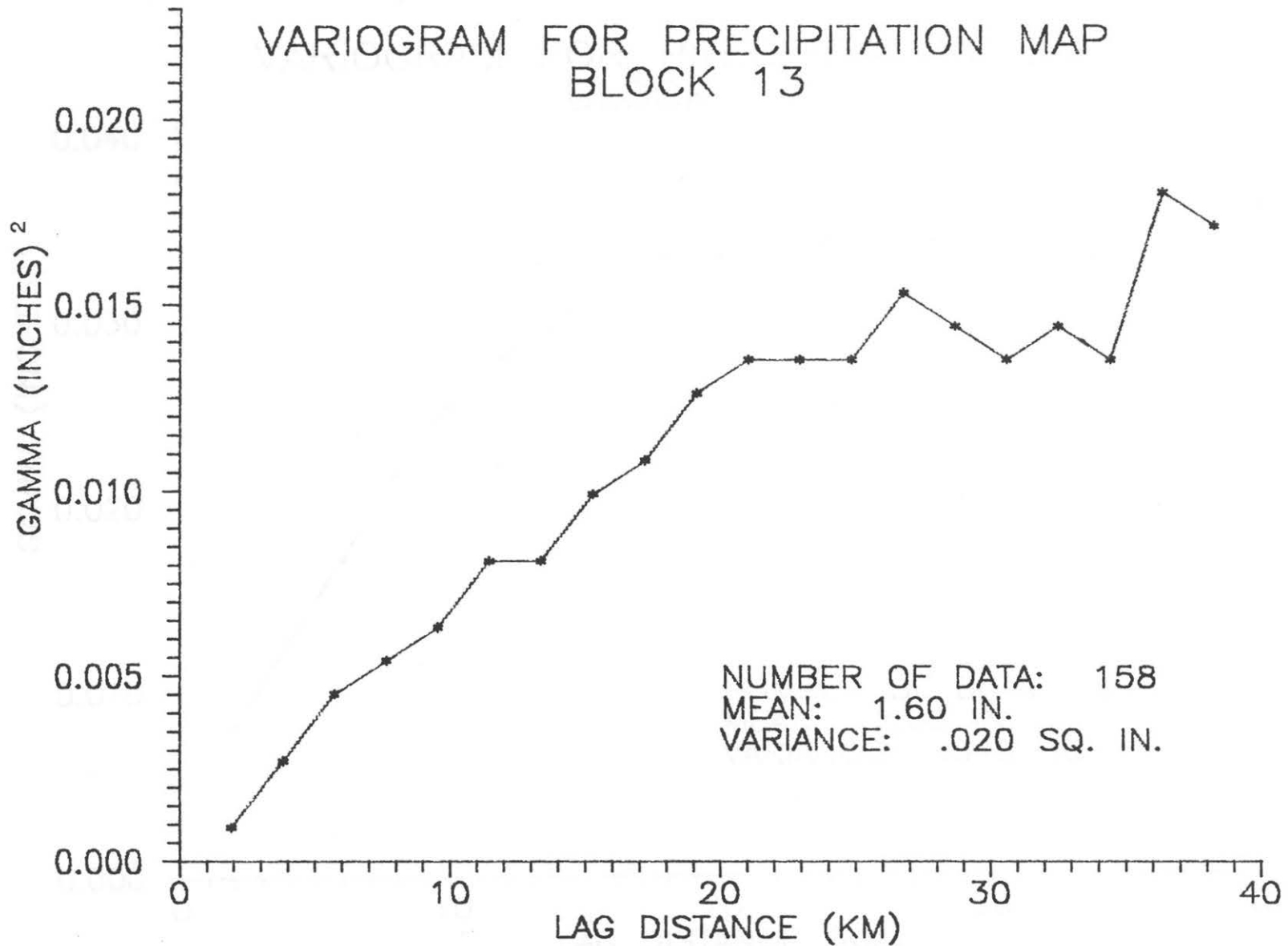
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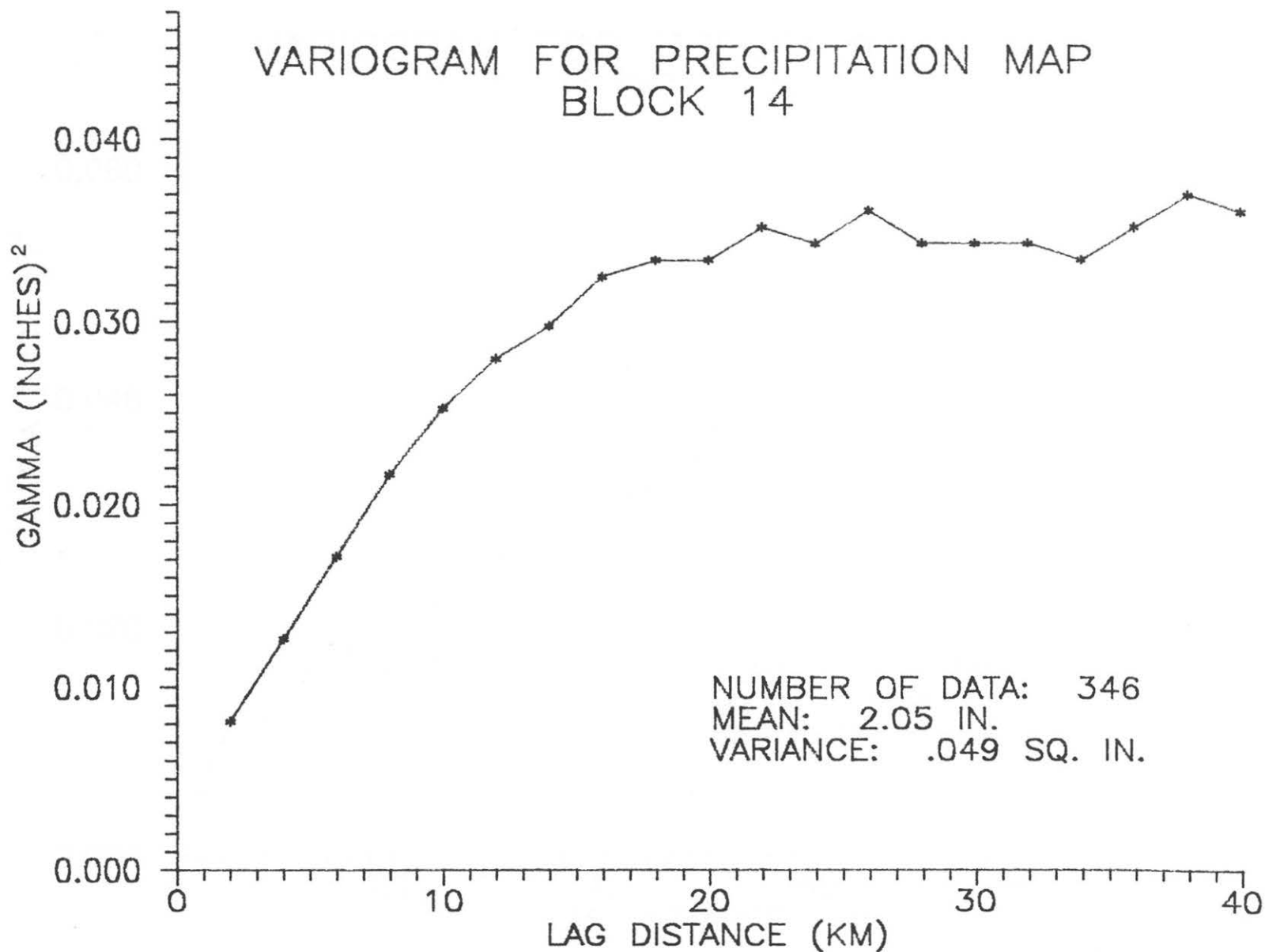
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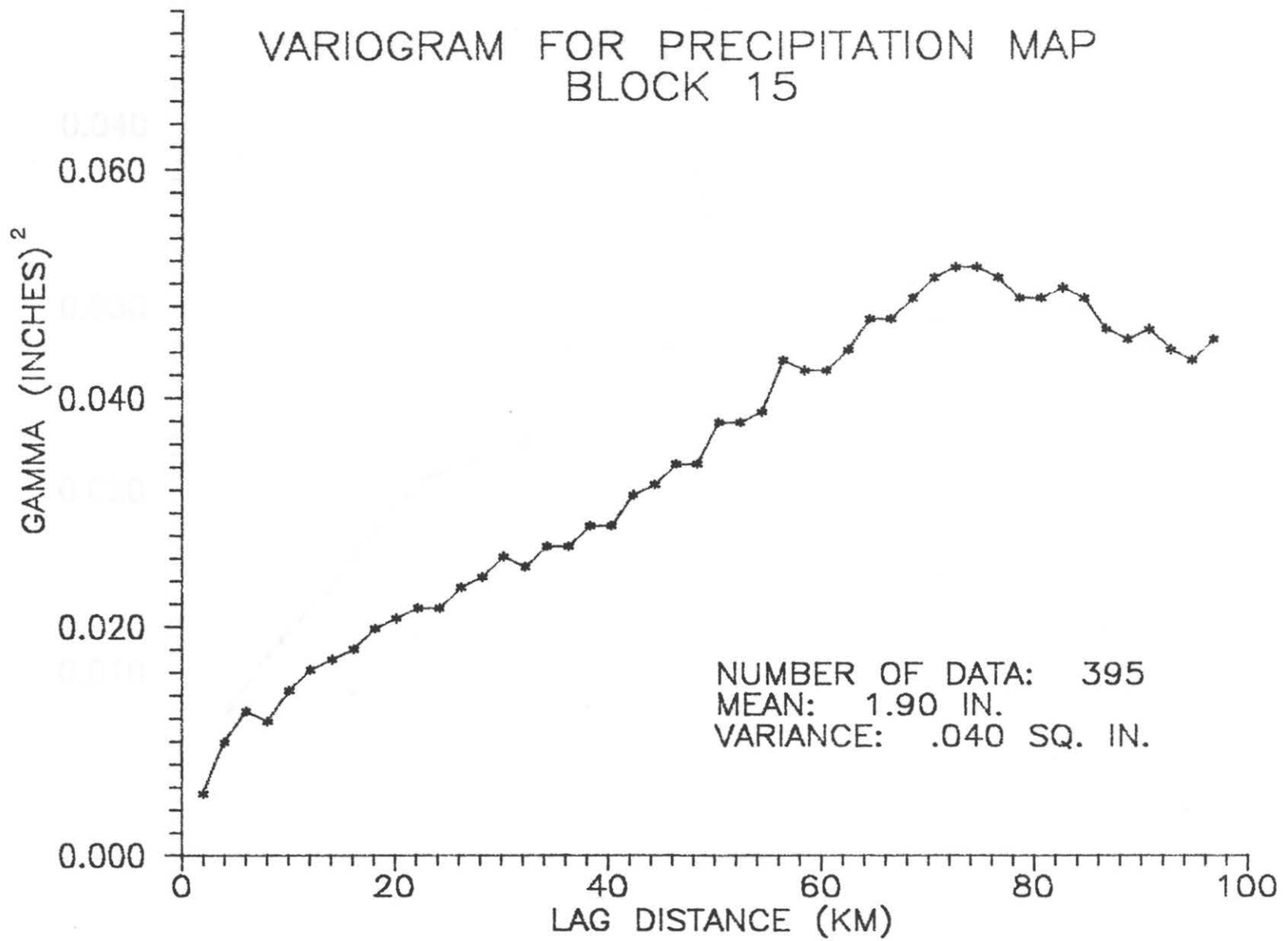
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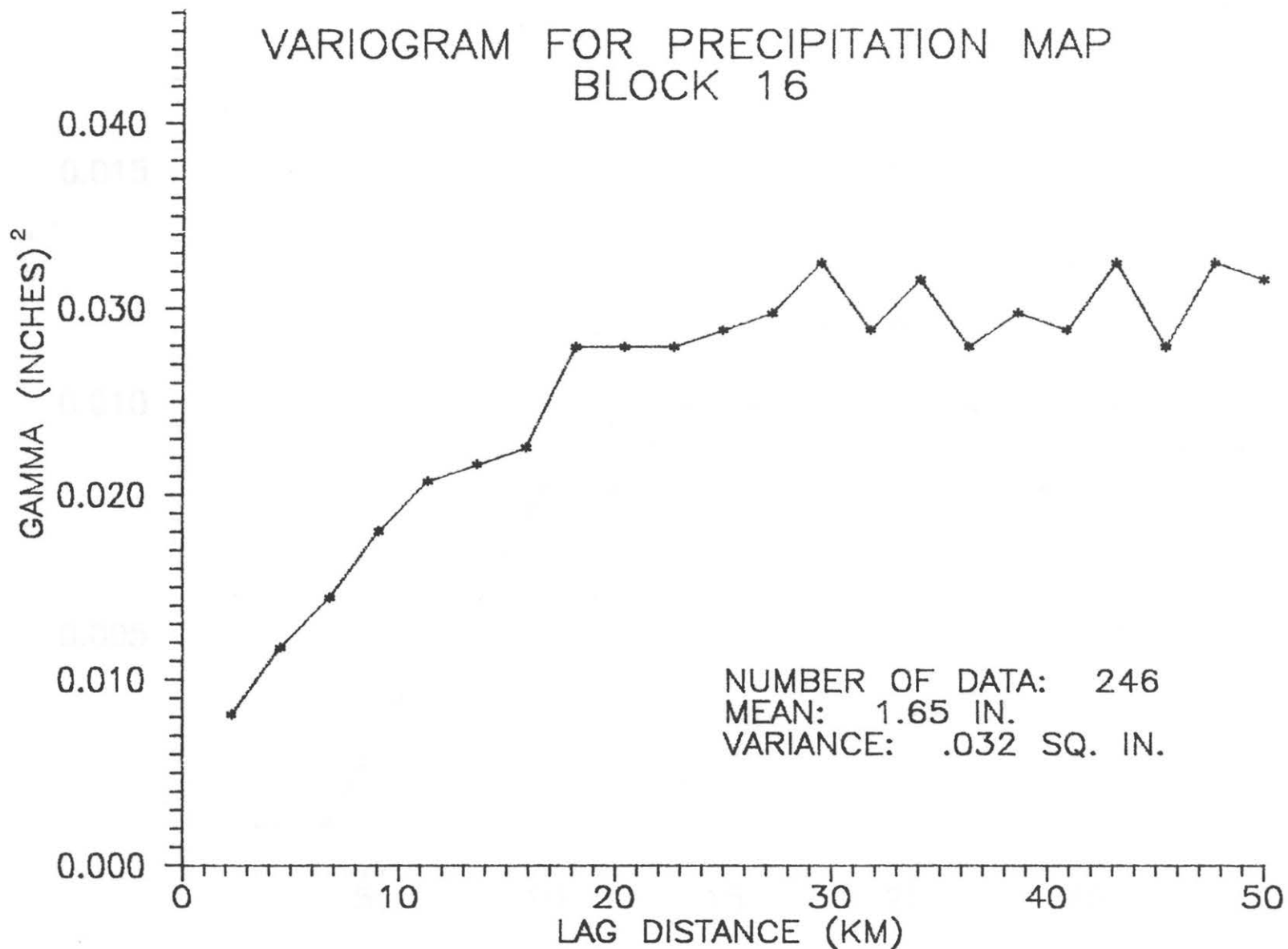


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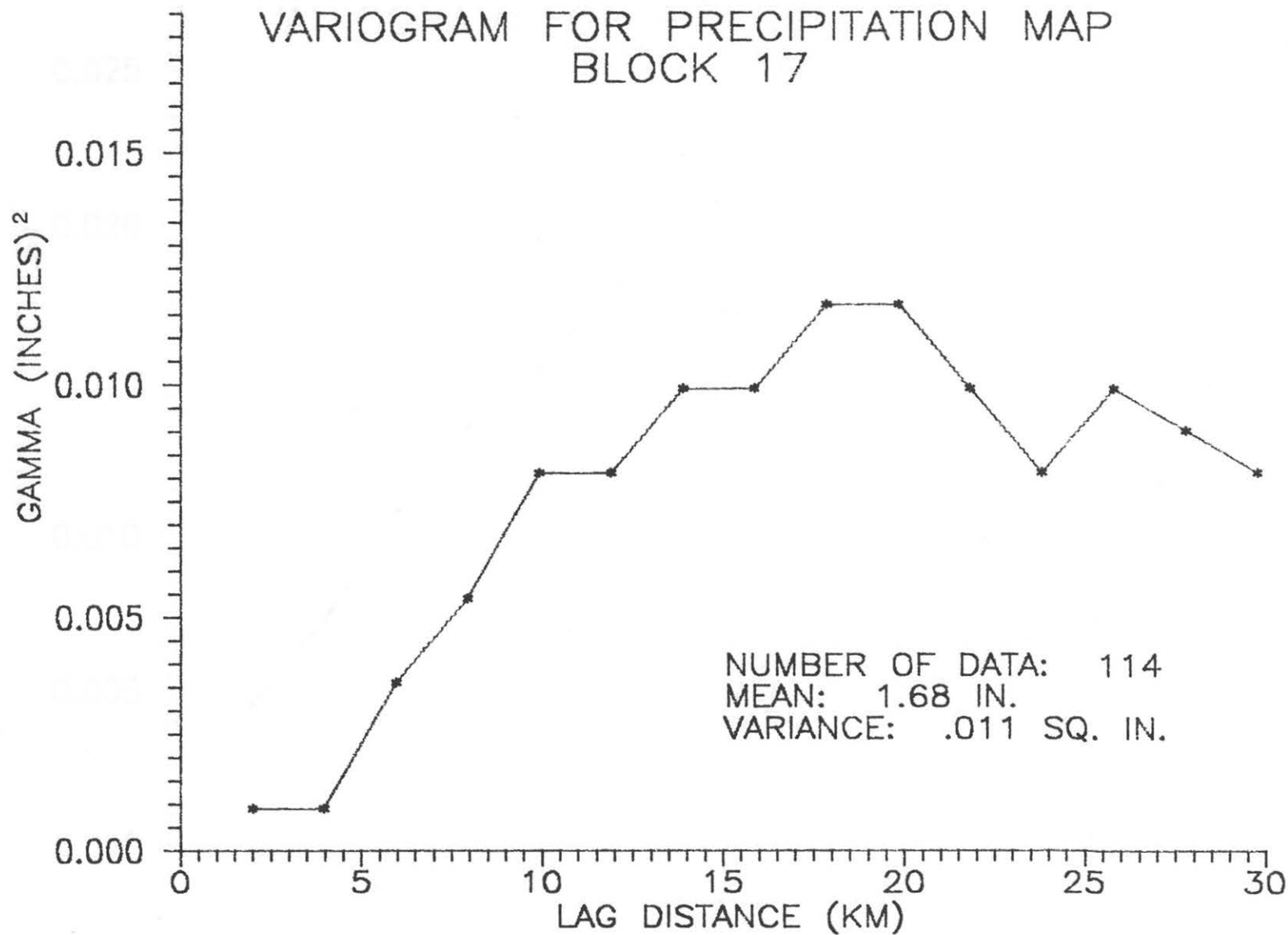




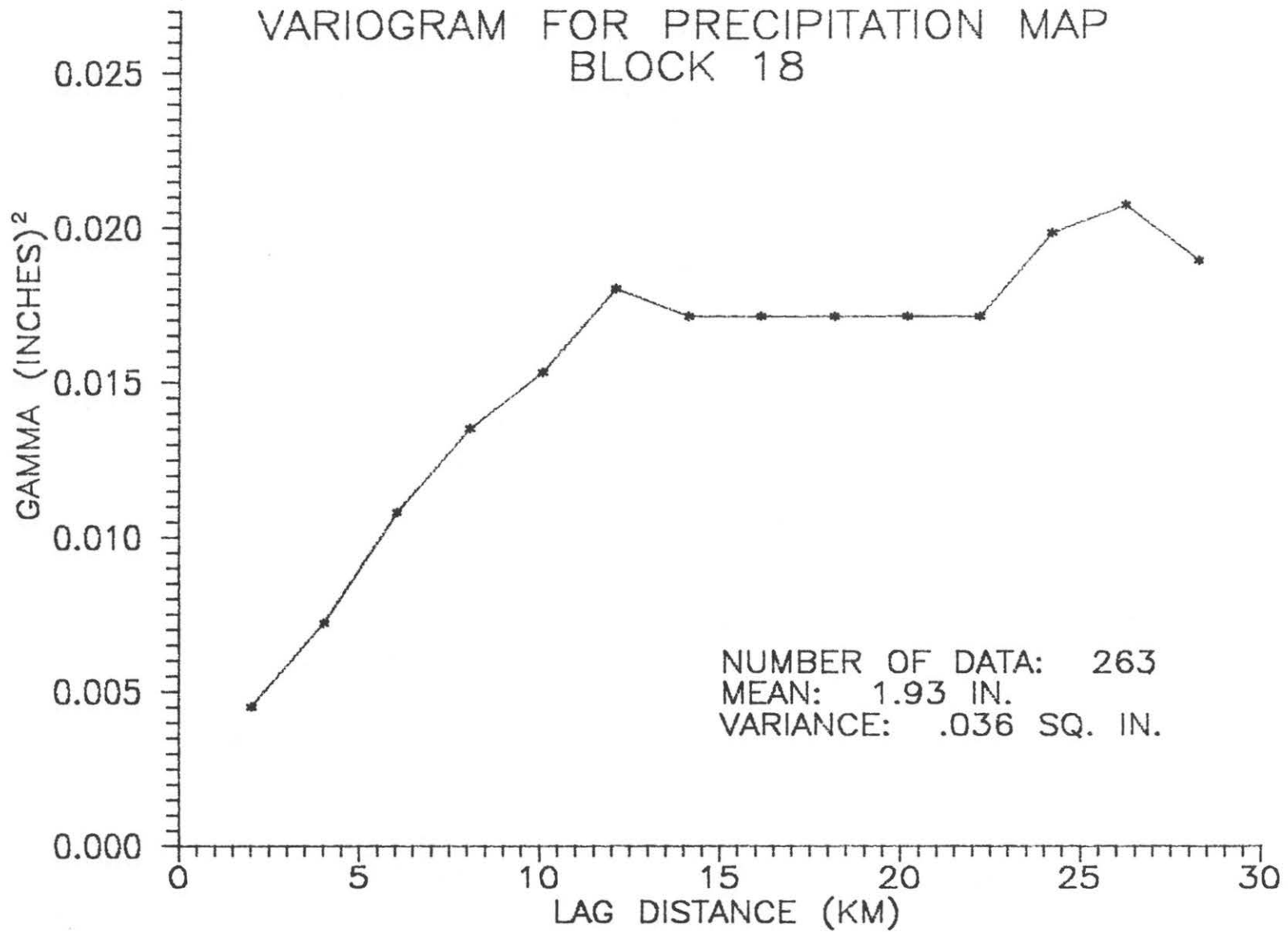
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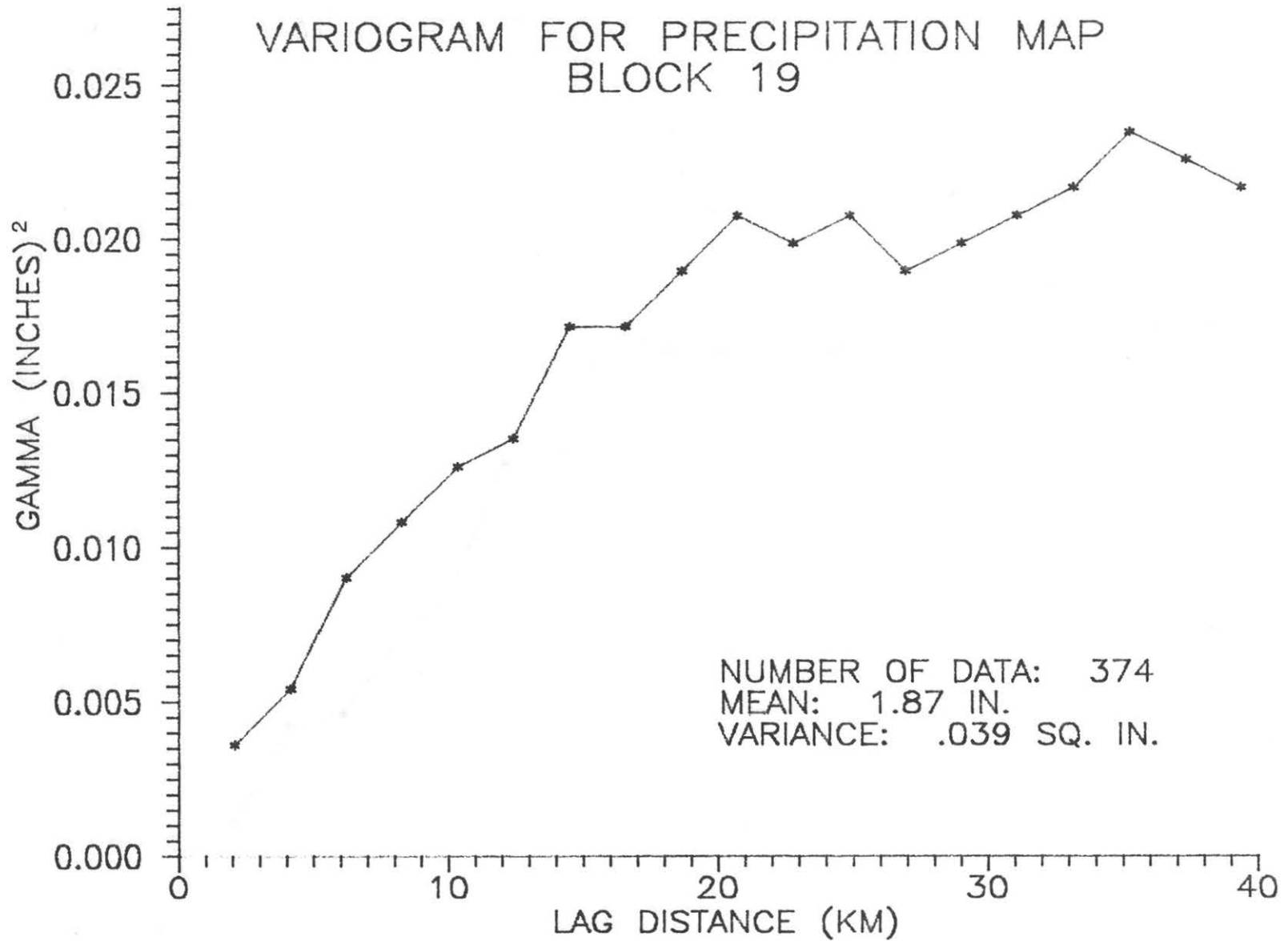
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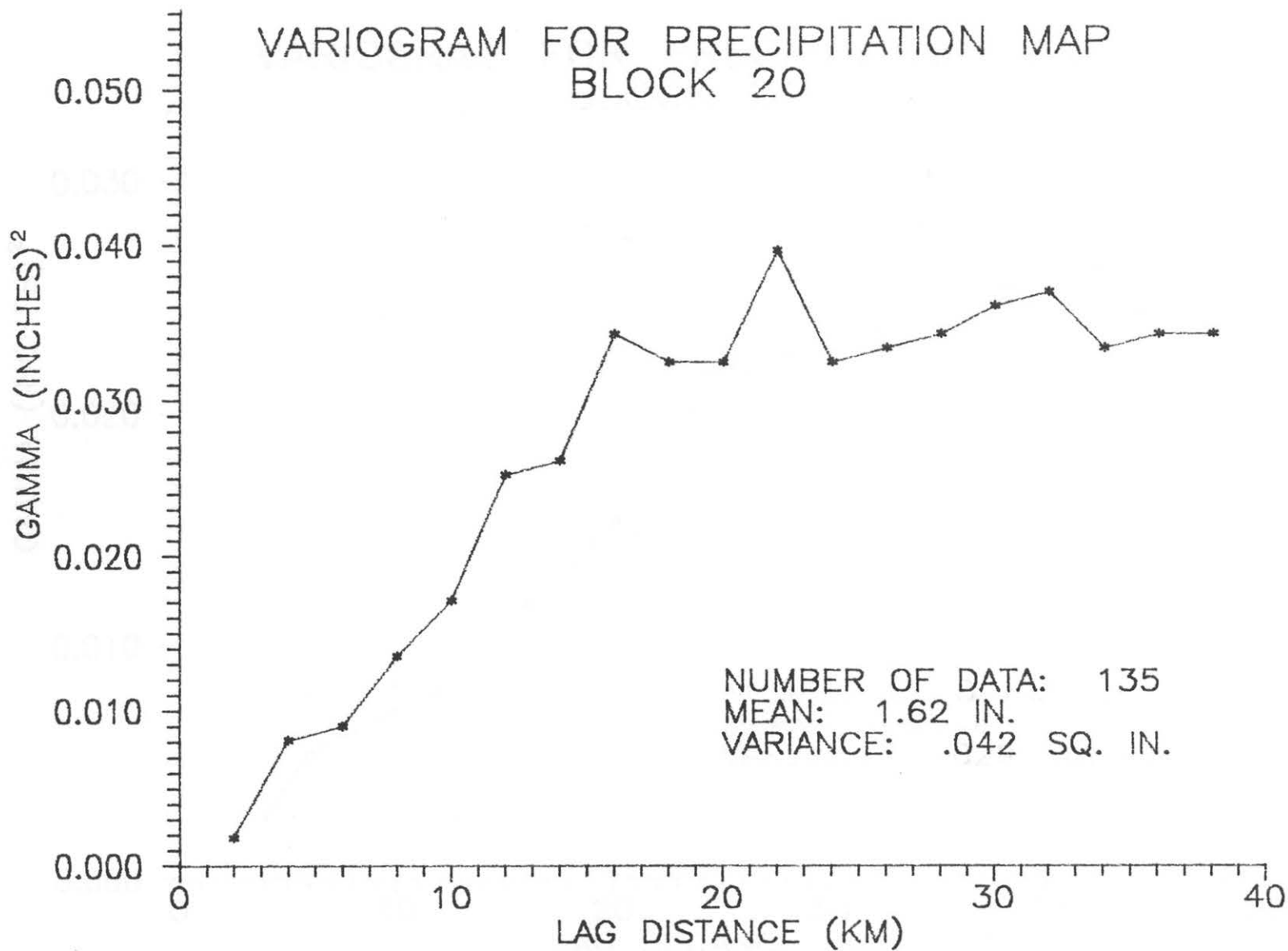
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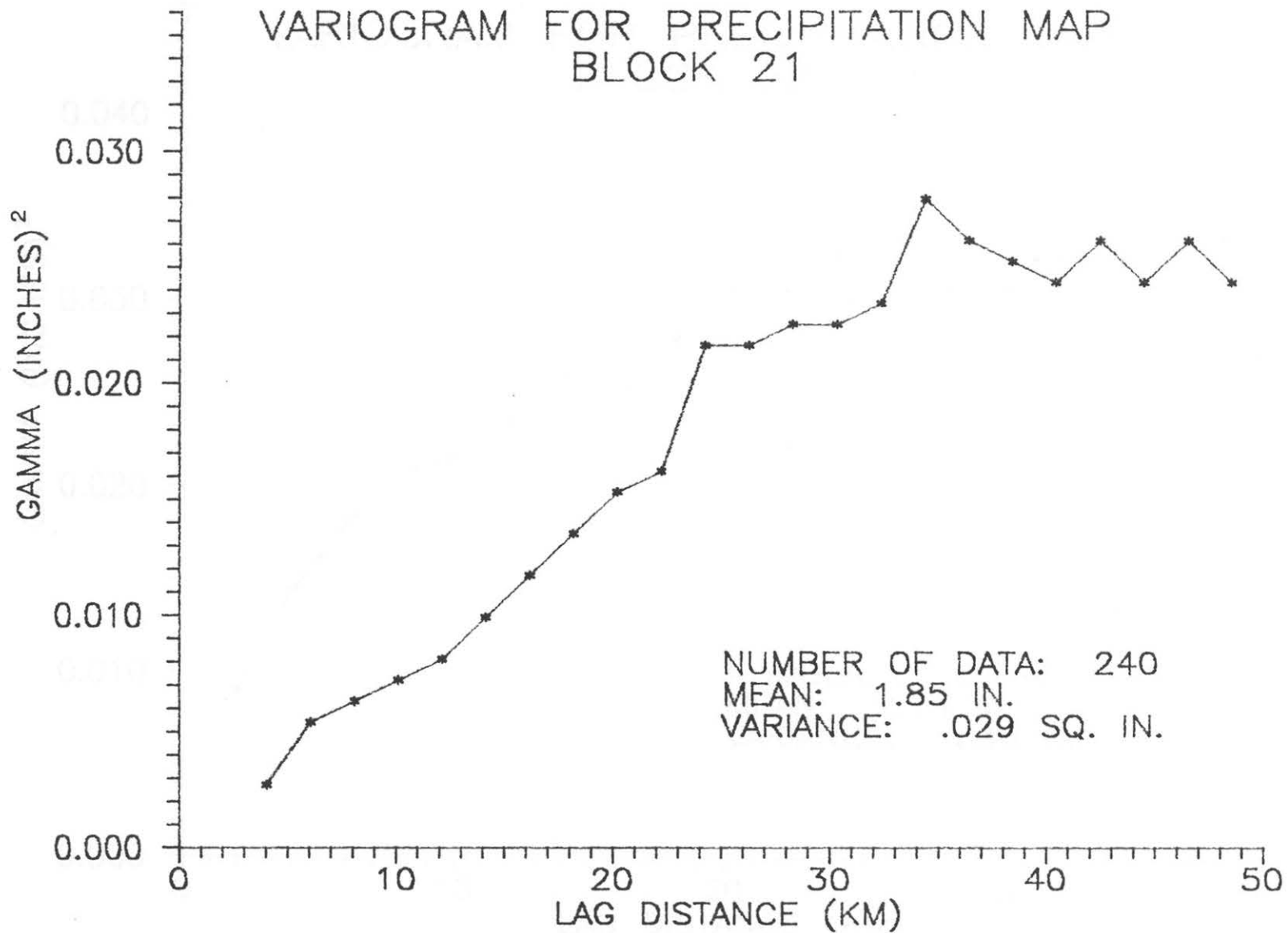
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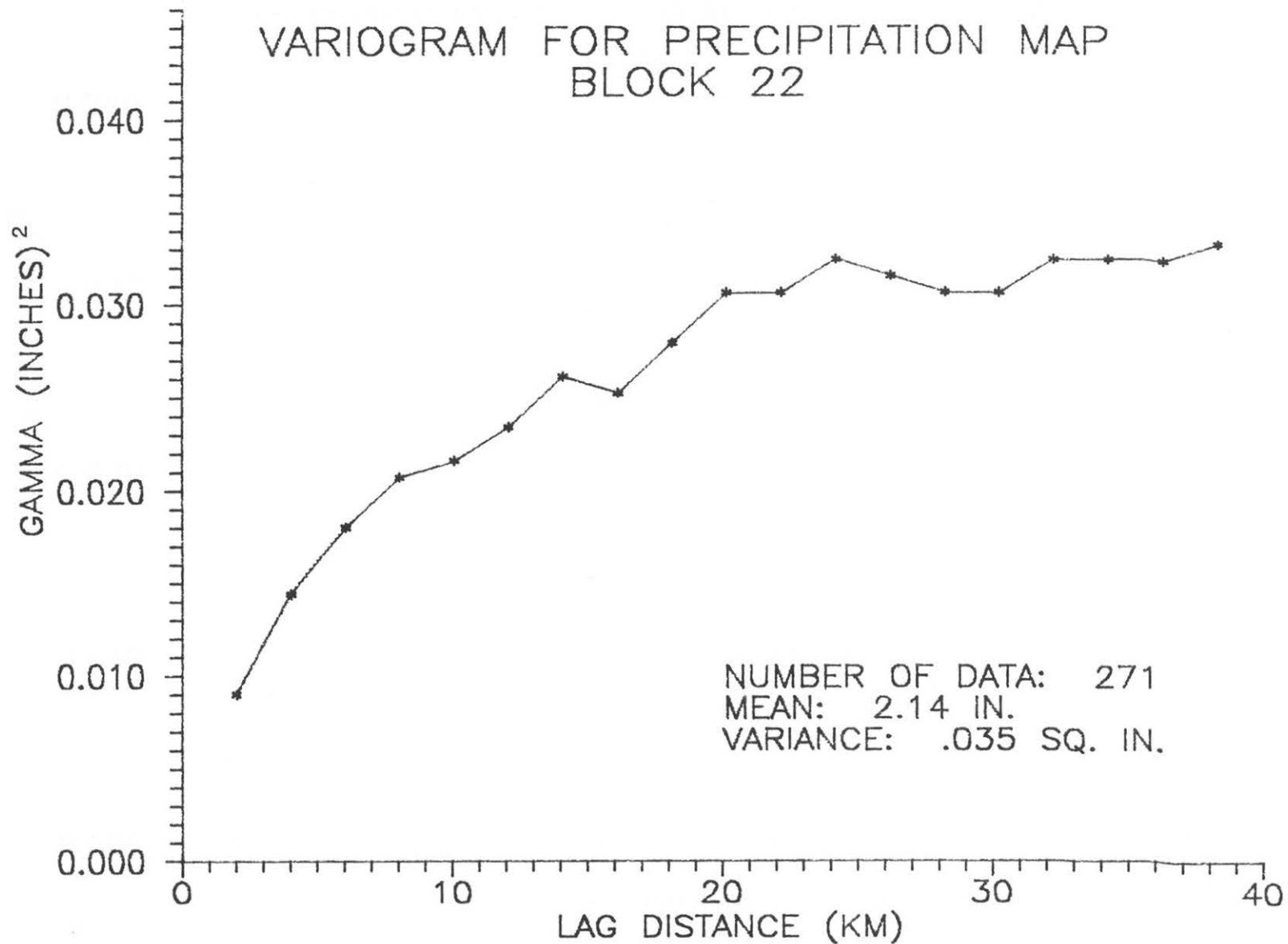
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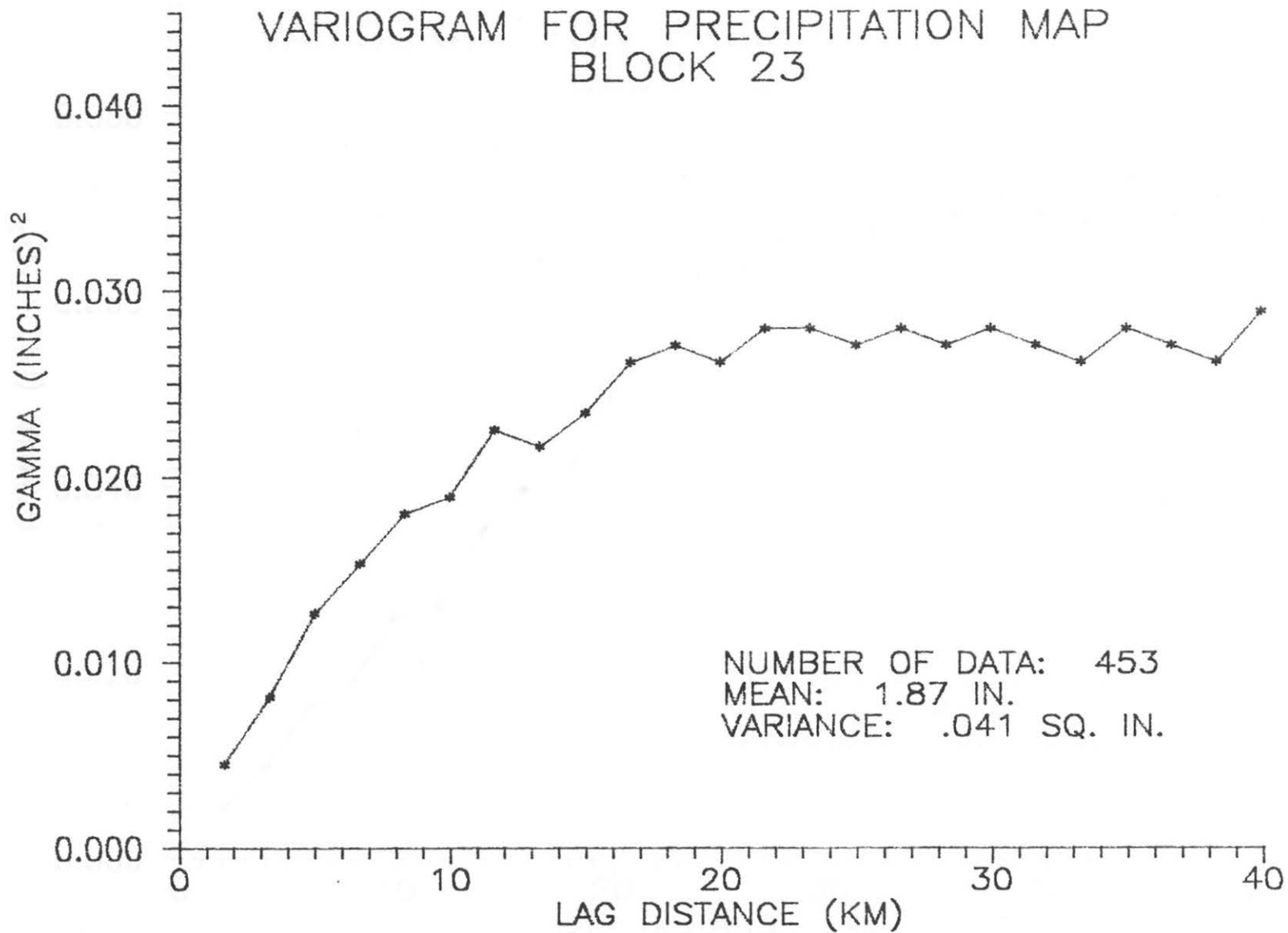
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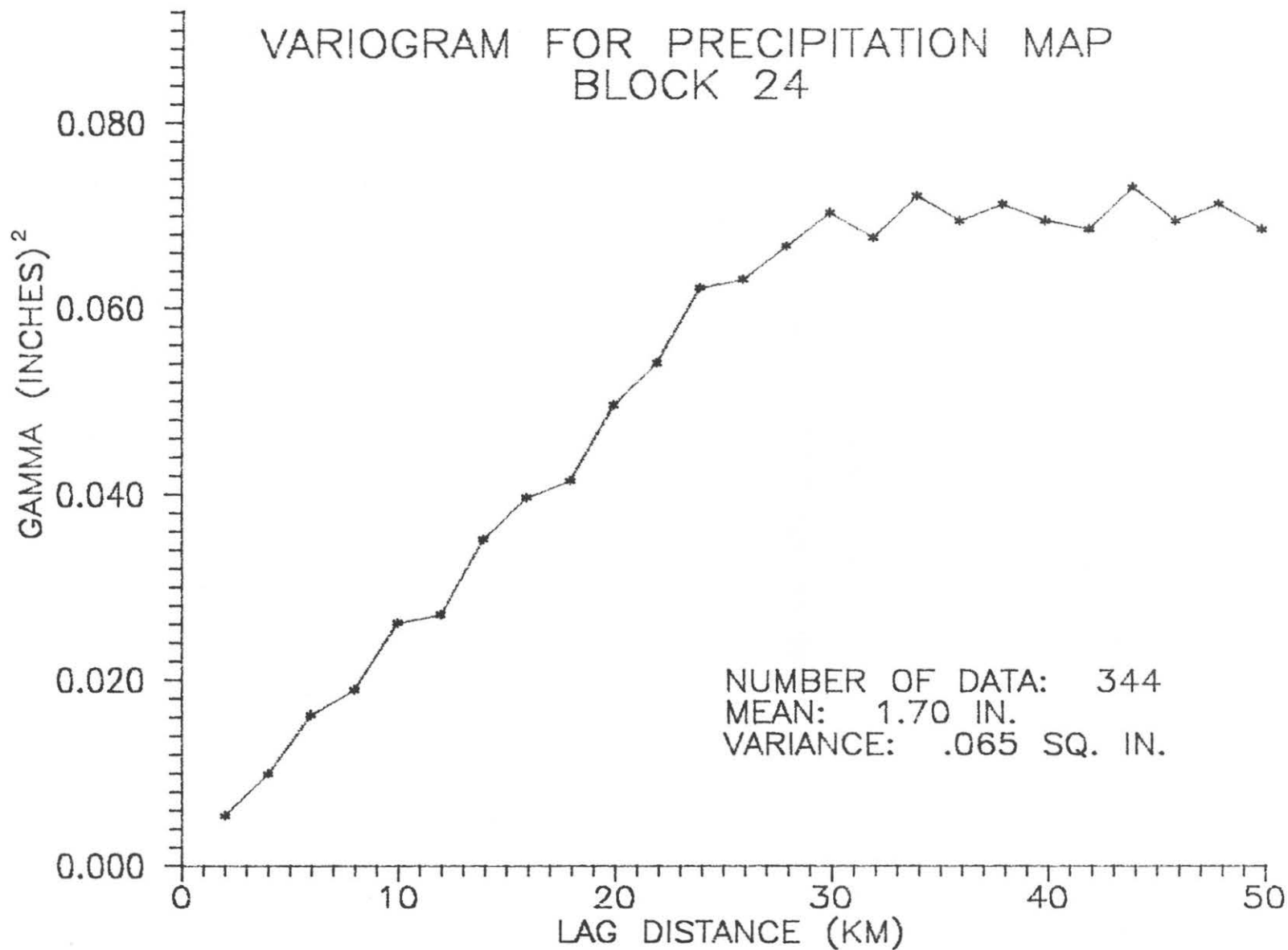


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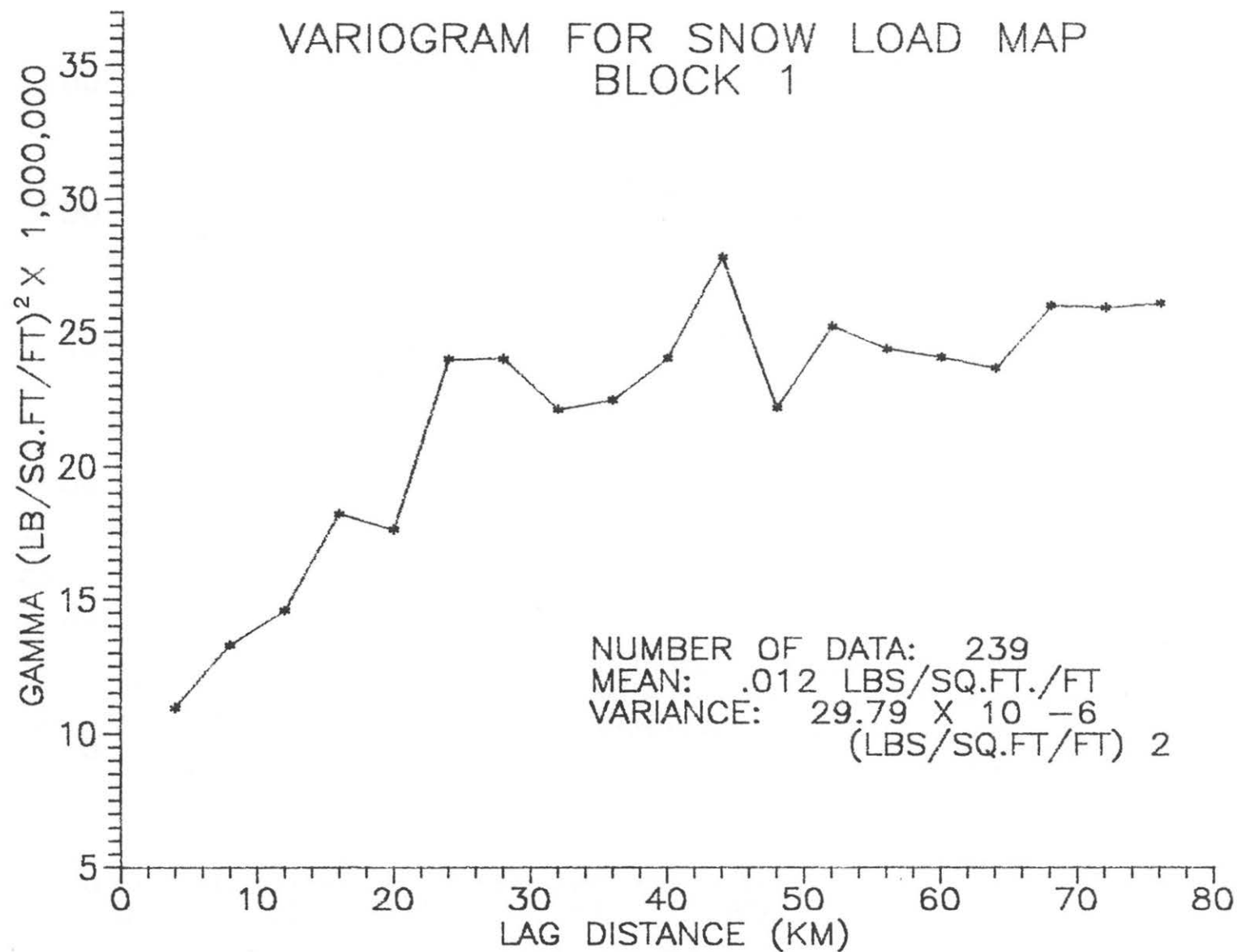


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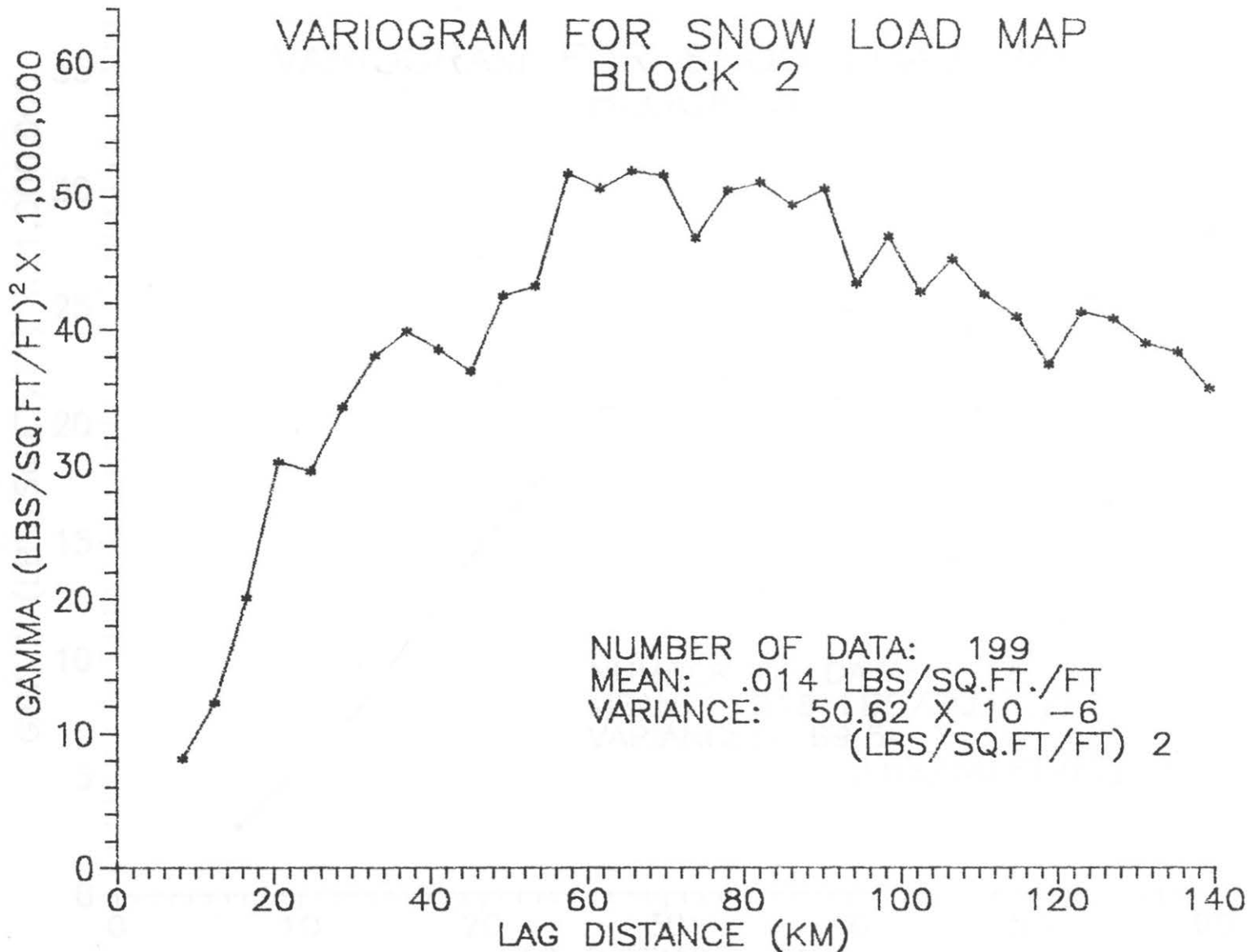


APPENDIX E-2  
VARIOGRAMS FOR SNOW LOAD MAP

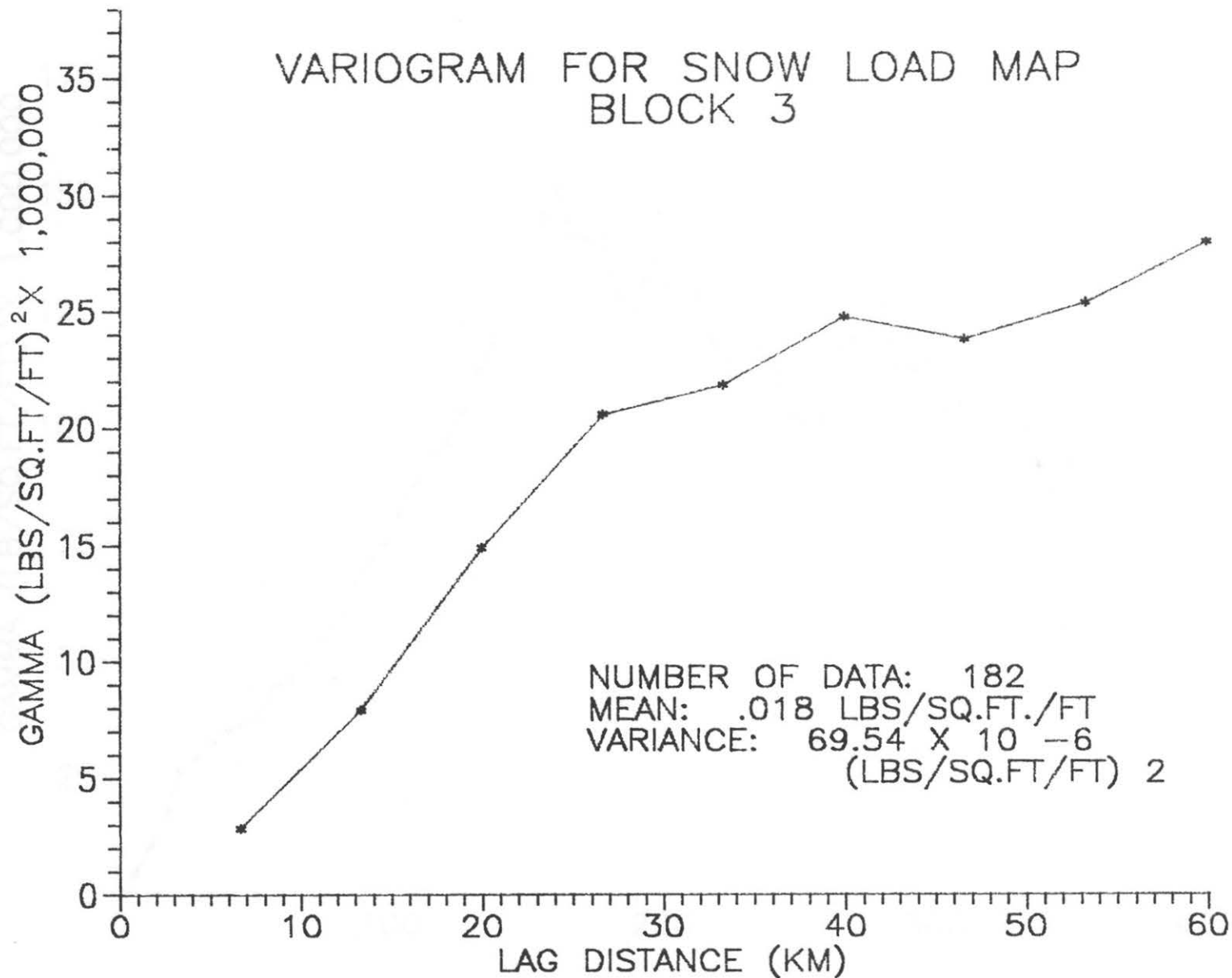
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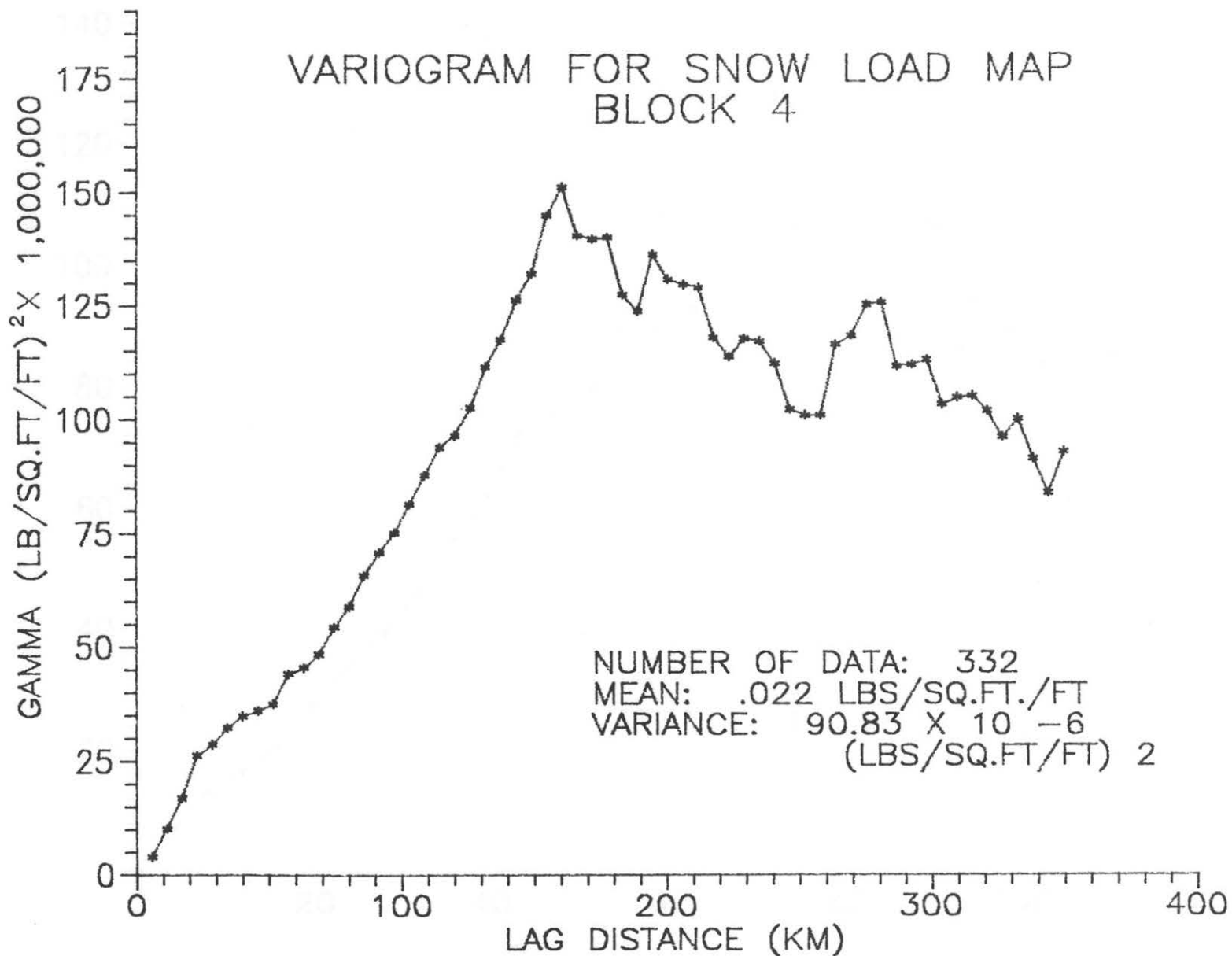
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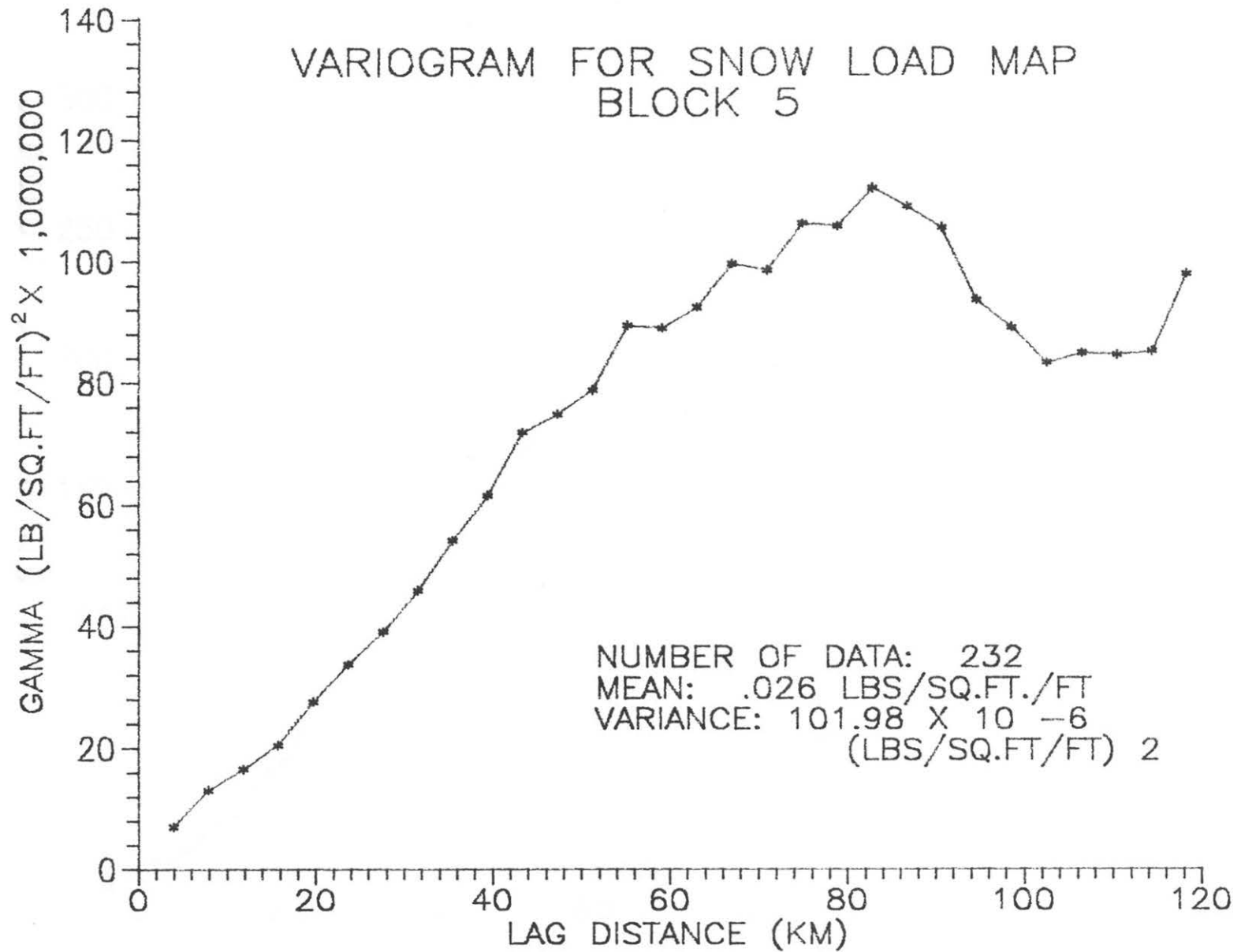
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BLOCK 3



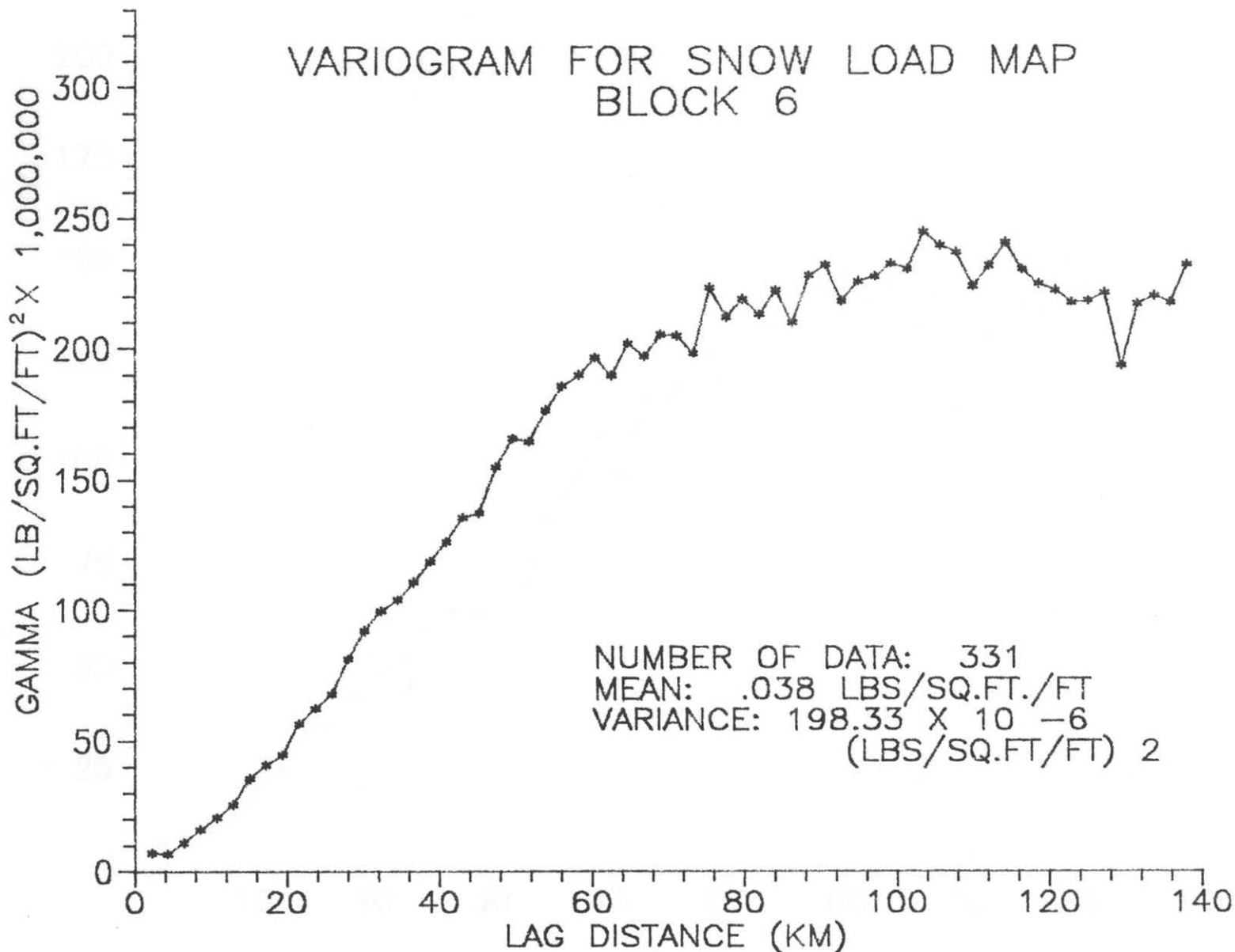
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# VARIOGRAM FOR SNOW LOAD MAP BLOCK 5

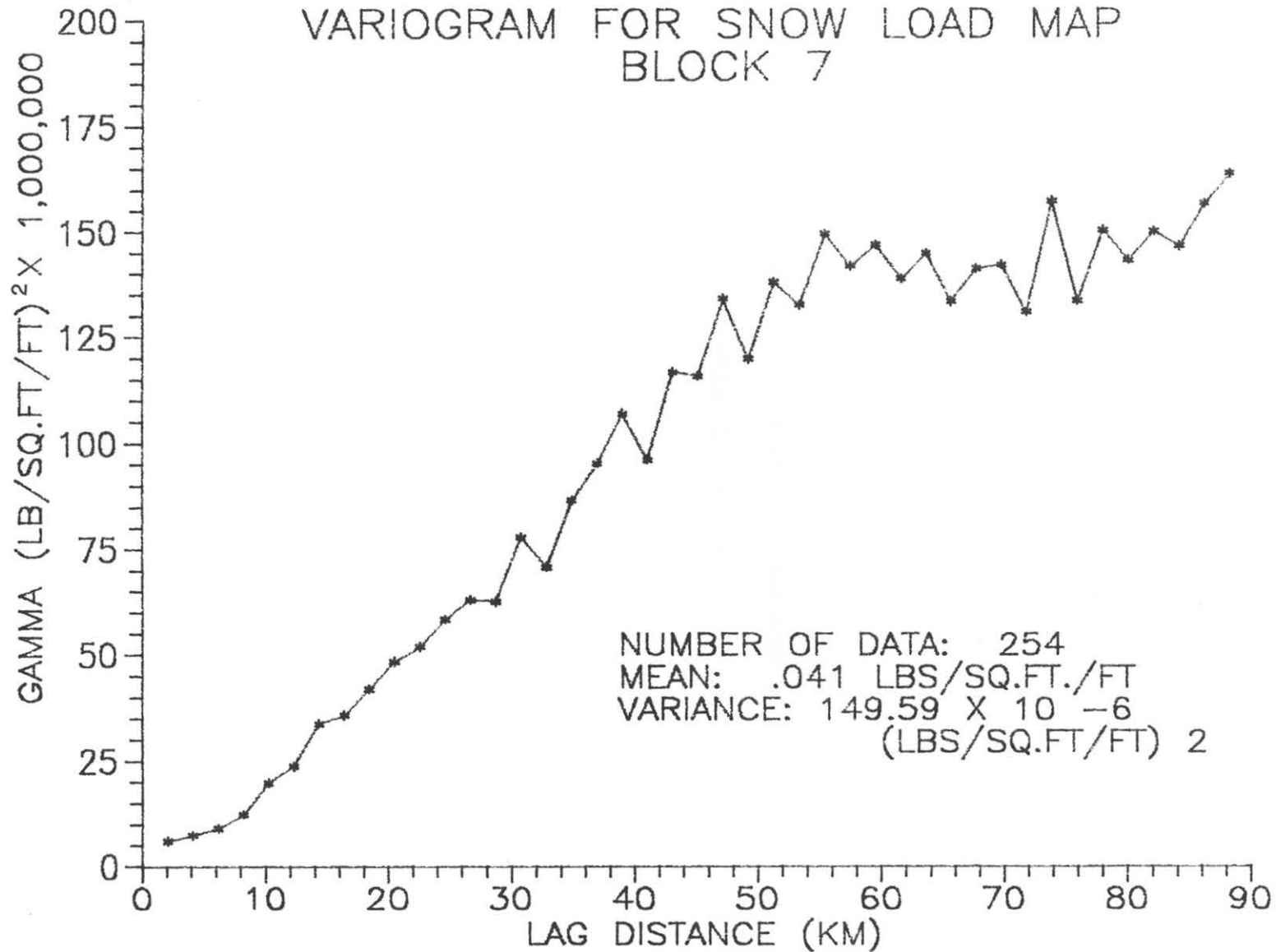


# VARIOGRAM FOR SNOW LOAD MAP BLOCK 6

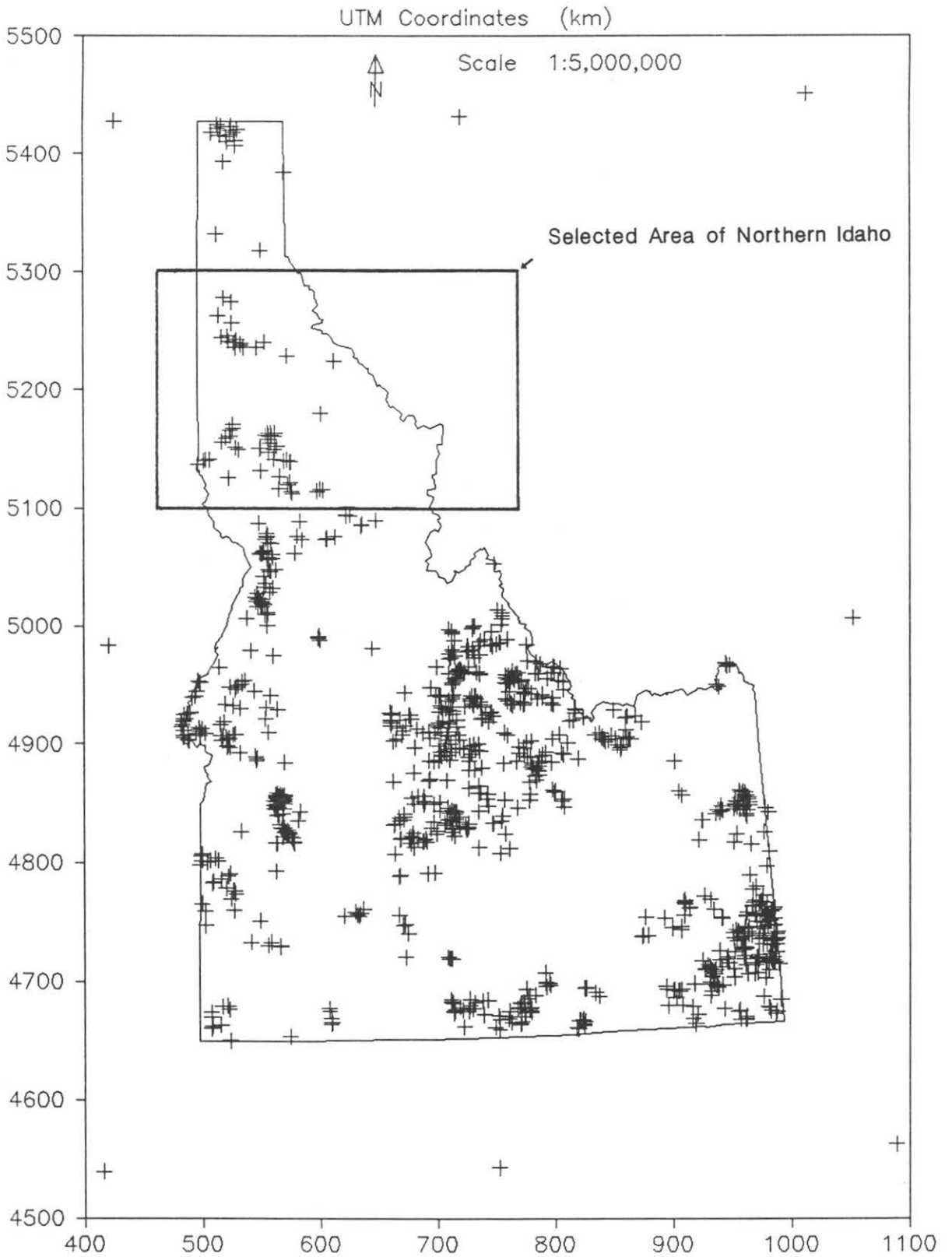




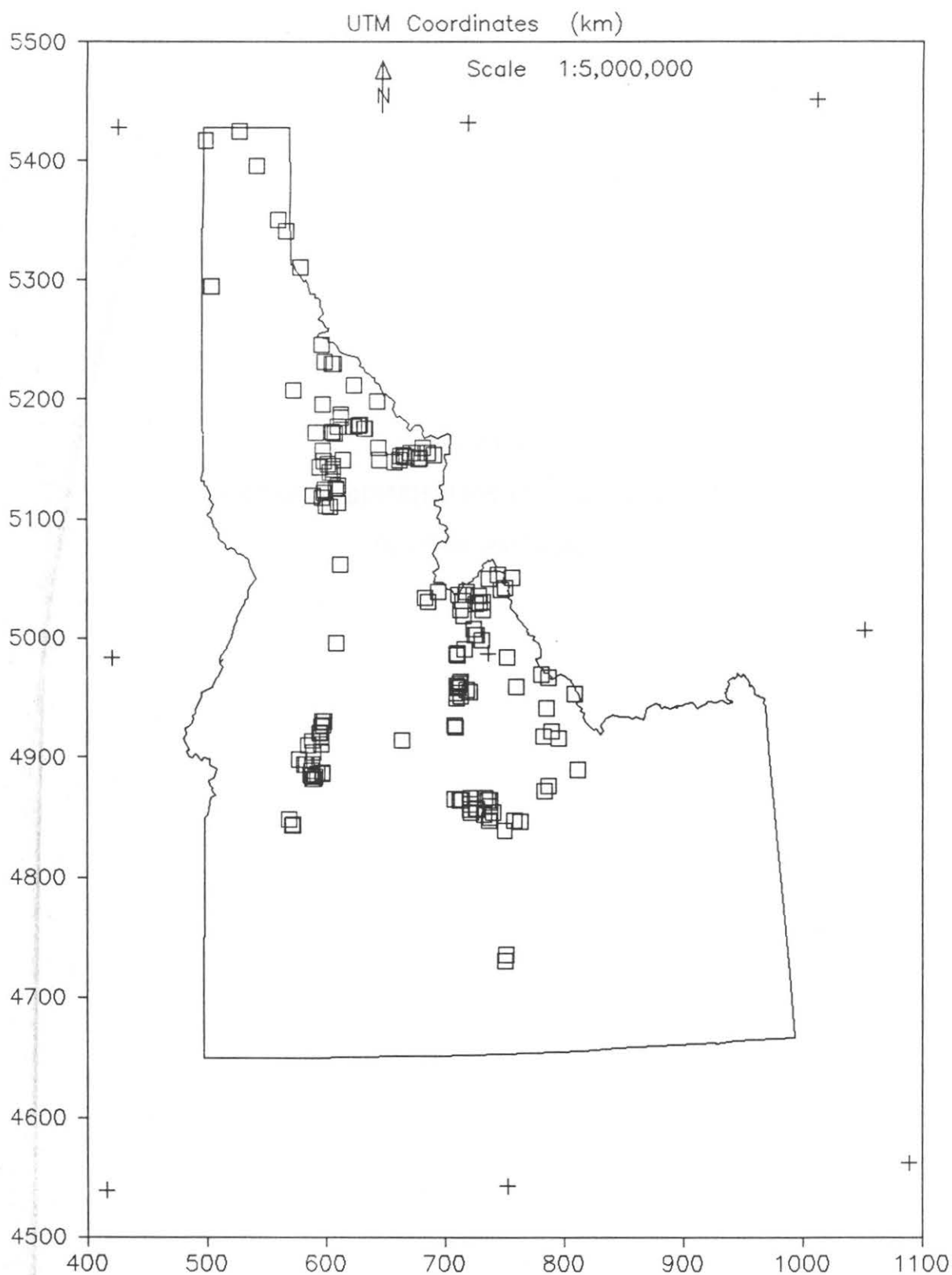
# VARIOGRAM FOR SNOW LOAD MAP BLOCK 7



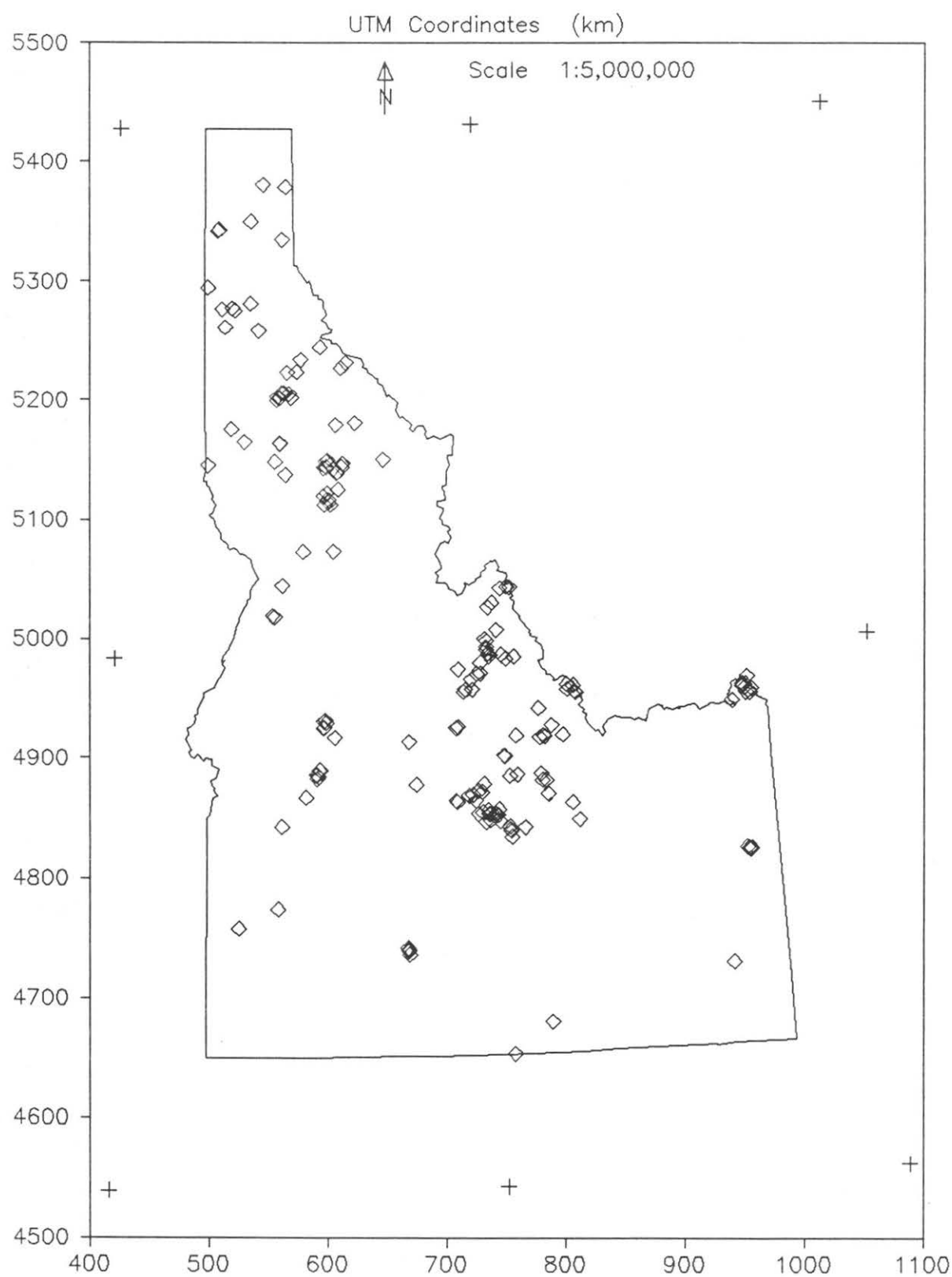
APPENDIX F-1  
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF UNCLASSIFIED  
LANDSLIDES IN IDAHO



APPENDIX F-2  
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF IDAHO LANDSLIDES  
IN DEBRIS MATERIAL

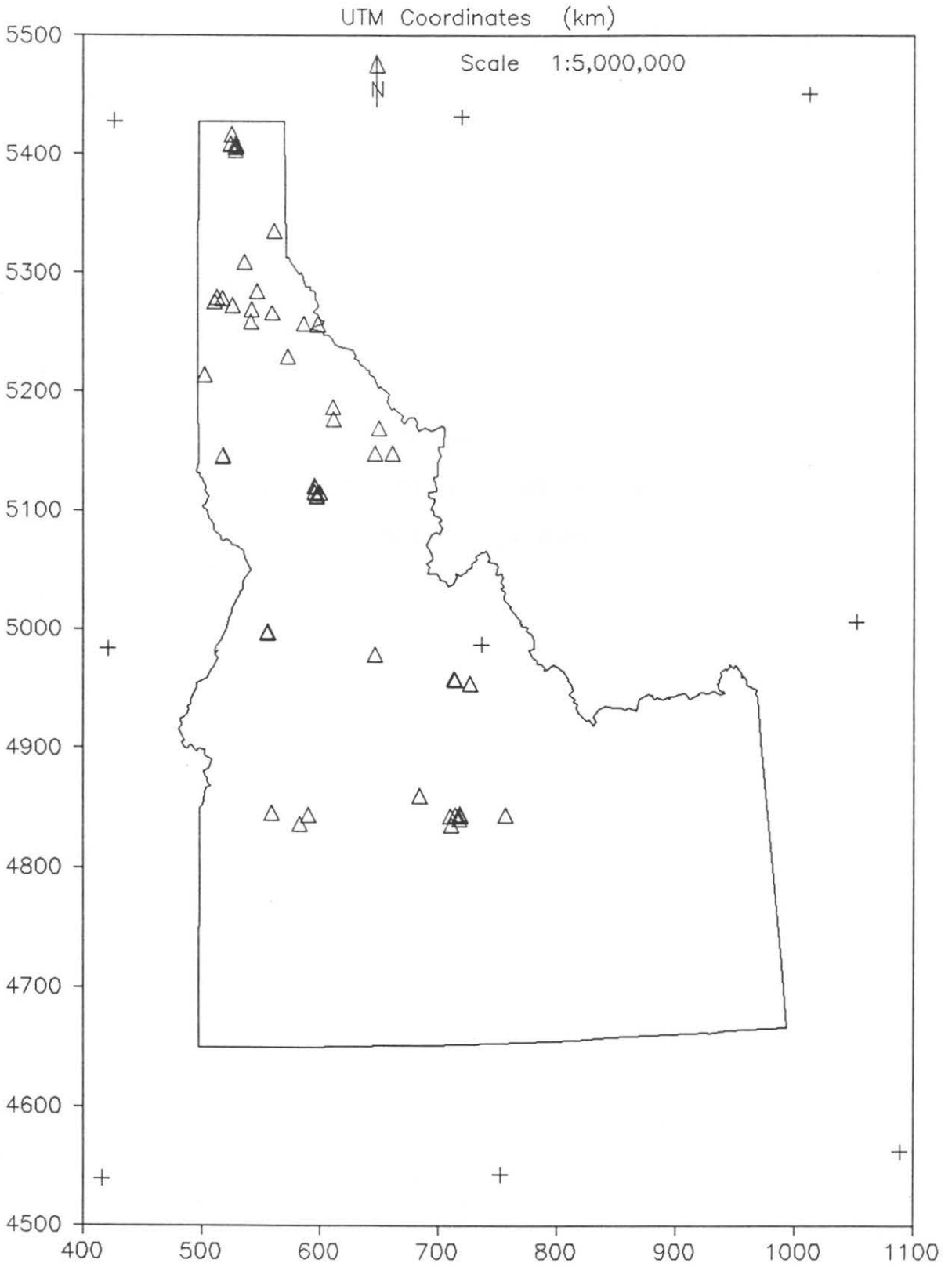


APPENDIX F-3  
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF IDAHO LANDSLIDES  
IN EARTH MATERIAL

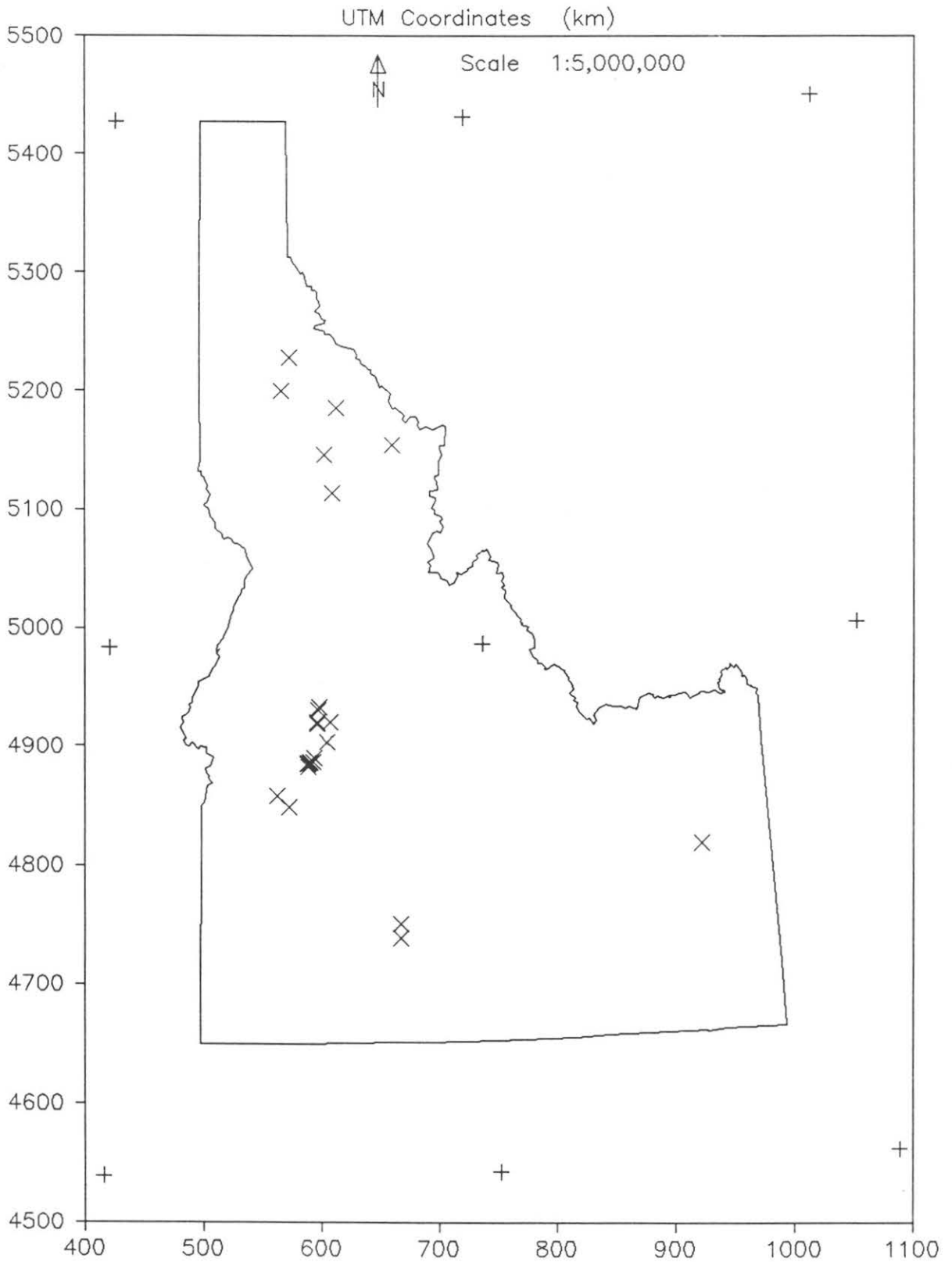


APPENDIX F-4  
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF IDAHO LANDSLIDES  
IN ROCK MATERIAL





APPENDIX F-5  
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF COMPLEX  
LANDSLIDES IN IDAHO



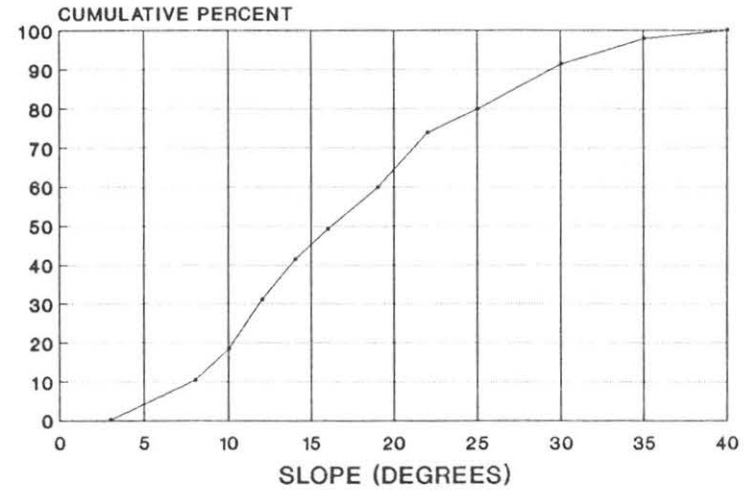
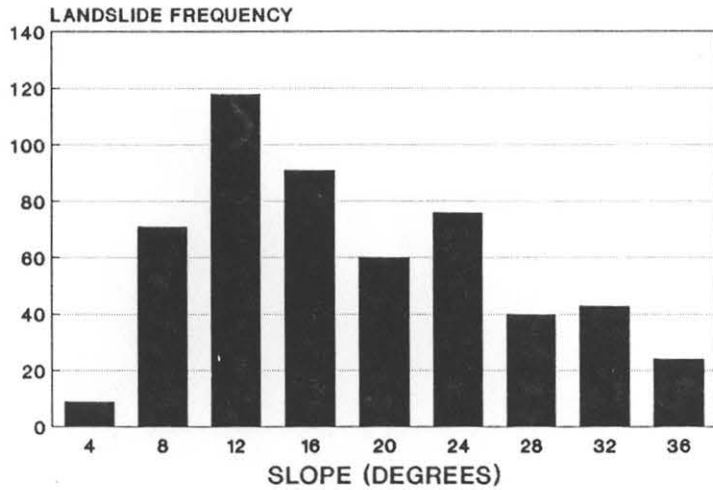
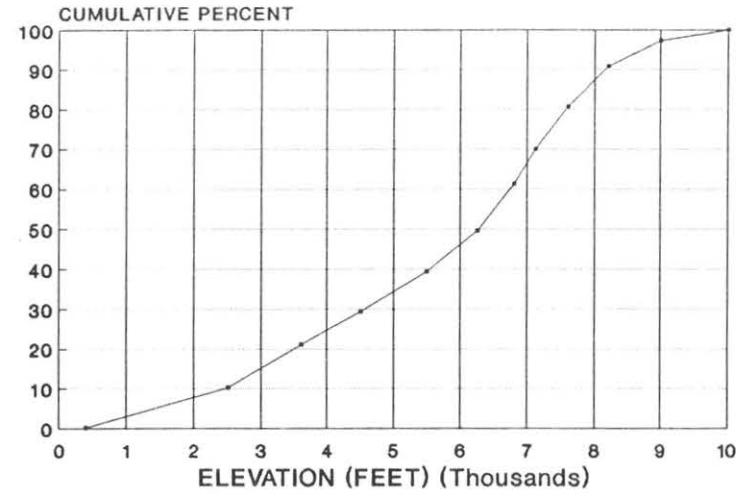
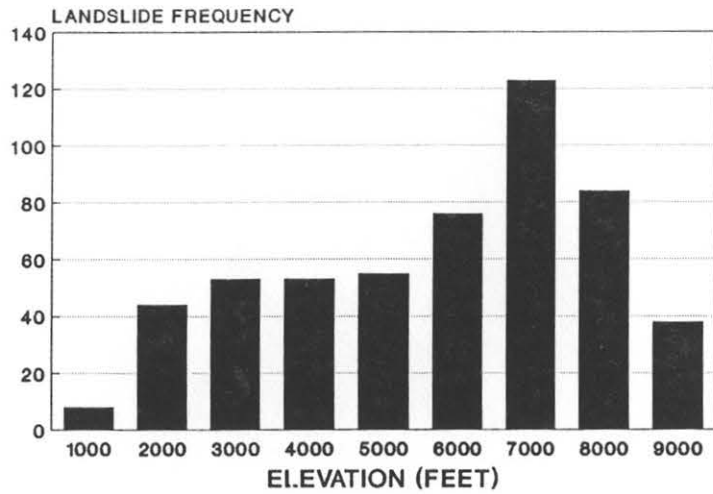
APPENDIX G  
NUMBER OF LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED WITH  
MAPPED LANDSLIDE MATERIALS

## MAPPED Earth-material

## NUMBER OF LANDSLIDES

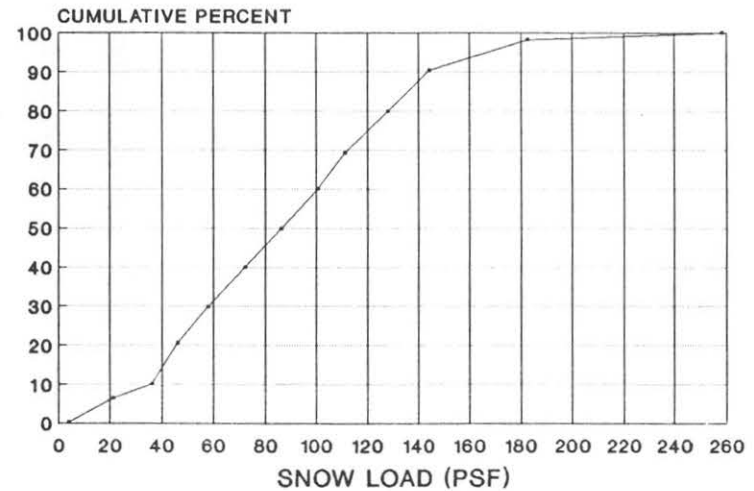
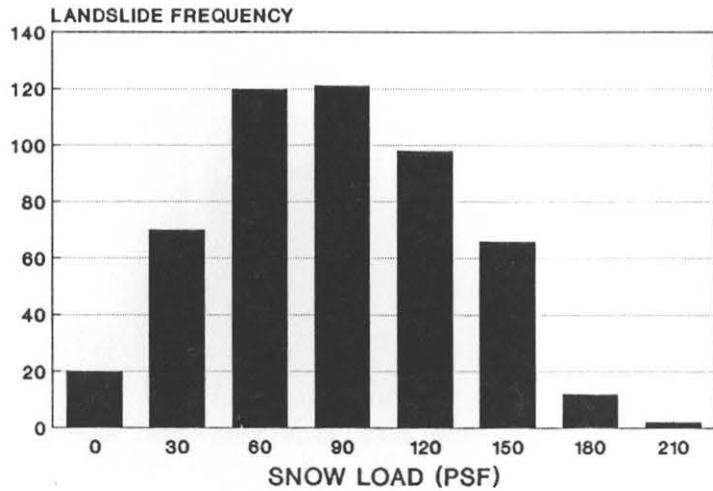
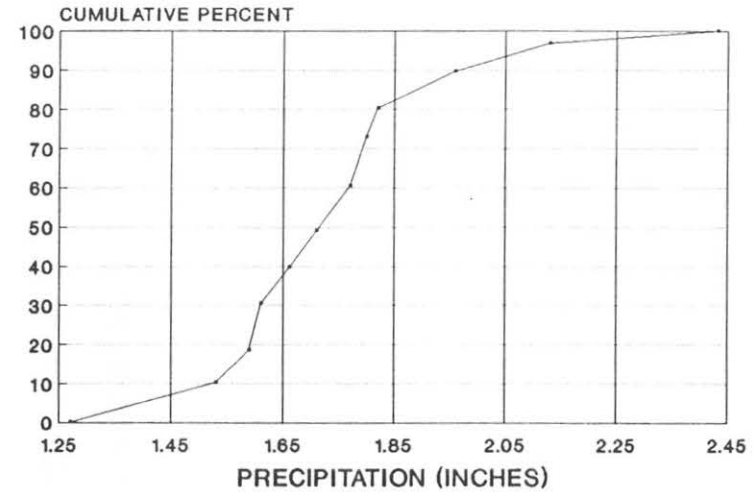
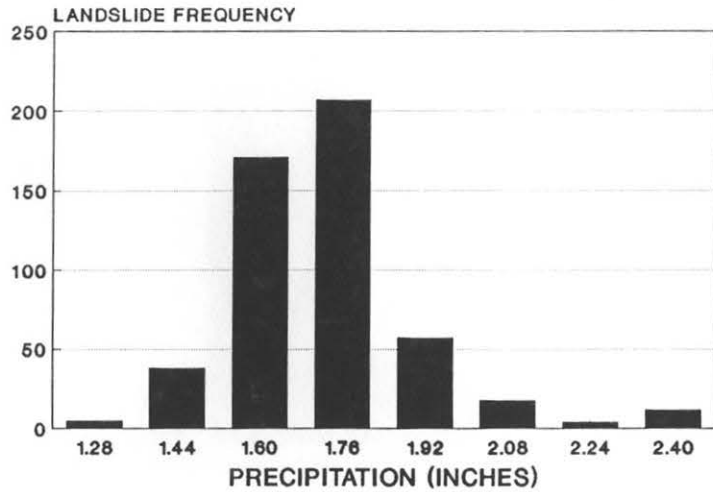
MATERIAL GROUP:		1	2	3	4	5
AND	= andesite . . . . .	49				
ALLU	= alluvium . . . . .					38
ARG	= argillite . . . . .				12	
BA	= basalt . . . . .	143				
BIGN	= biotite gneiss . . . . .			1		
BR	= breccia (tuff). . . . .	4				
COLV	= colluvium . . . . .					13
CONG	= conglomerate . . . . .				21	
DACI	= dacite . . . . .	33				
DIO	= diorite . . . . .		7			
DOLO	= dolomite . . . . .				9	
GDIO	= granodiorite . . . . .		79			
GNEI	= gneiss . . . . .			45		
GRAV	= gravel . . . . .					21
GRNT	= granite . . . . .		33			
GWKE	= graywake . . . . .				2	
INTR	= intrusives undifferentiated . . . . .		7			
LMST	= limestone . . . . .				84	
MSED	= metasediments undifferentiated . . . . .			6		
MVOL	= metavolcanics undifferentiated . . . . .			13		
PHYL	= phyllite . . . . .				15	
QTZD	= quartz diorite . . . . .		6			
QTZM	= quartz monzonite . . . . .		158			
QTZT	= quartzite . . . . .				119	
RHYL	= rhyolite . . . . .	35				
SAND	= sand . . . . .					1
SED	= sediments undifferentiated . . . . .				38	
SHL	= shale . . . . .				63	
SHST	= schist . . . . .			91		
SLAT	= slate . . . . .			17		
SLT	= silt . . . . .					6
SLST	= siltstone . . . . .				30	
SSTN	= sandstone . . . . .				42	
TILL	= glacial till and debris . . . . .					41
TUFF	= volcanic tuff and ash . . . . .	247				
LANDSLIDE MATERIAL GROUP TOTALS:		511	290	173	435	120

APPENDIX H-1  
DISTRIBUTION OF ELEVATION AND SLOPE ANGLE  
FOR IDAHO LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED  
WITH IGNEOUS EXTRUSIVE ROCK



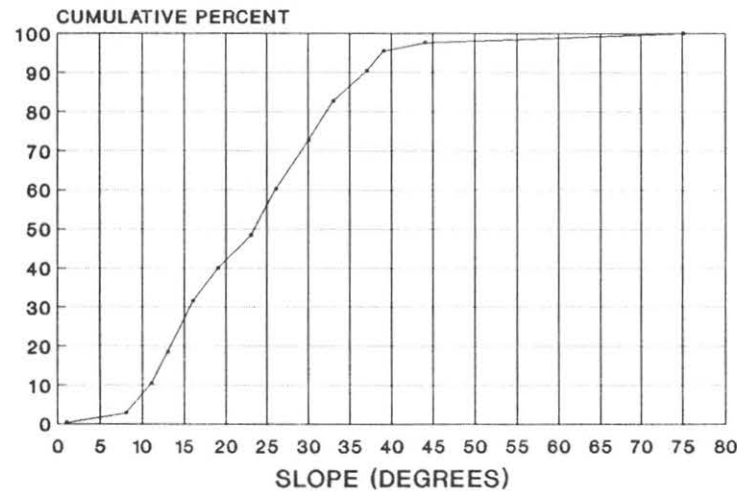
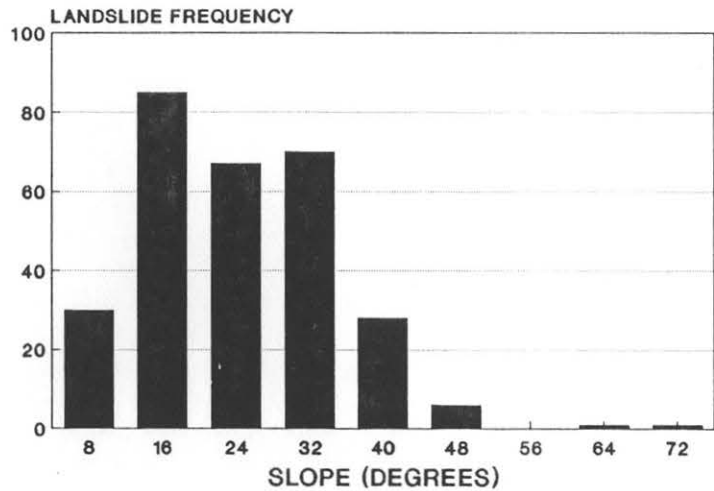
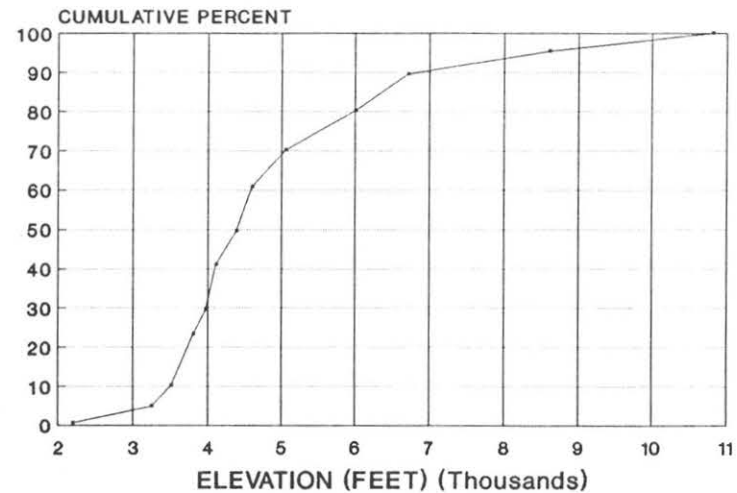
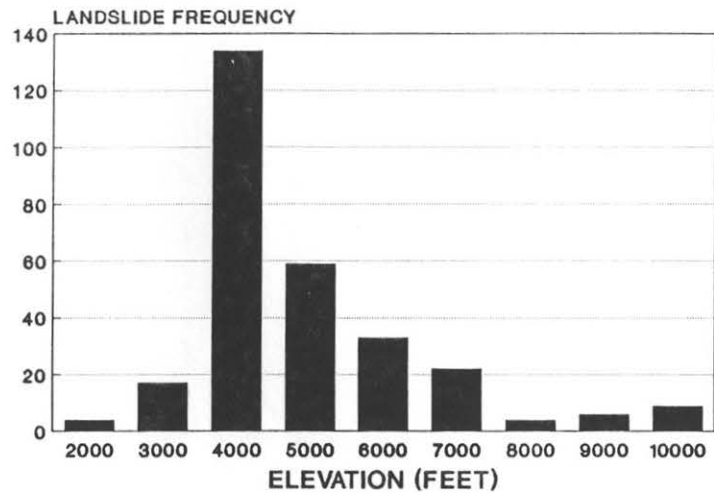
APPENDIX H-2  
DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION AND SNOW LOAD  
FOR IDAHO LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED  
WITH IGNEOUS EXTRUSIVE ROCK





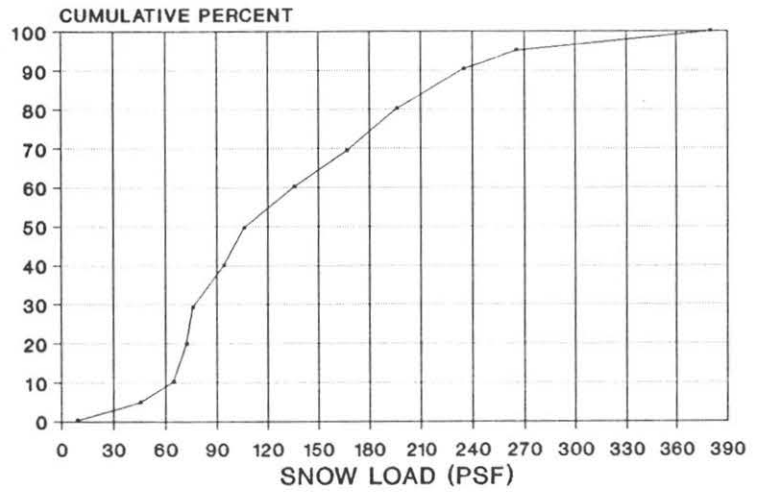
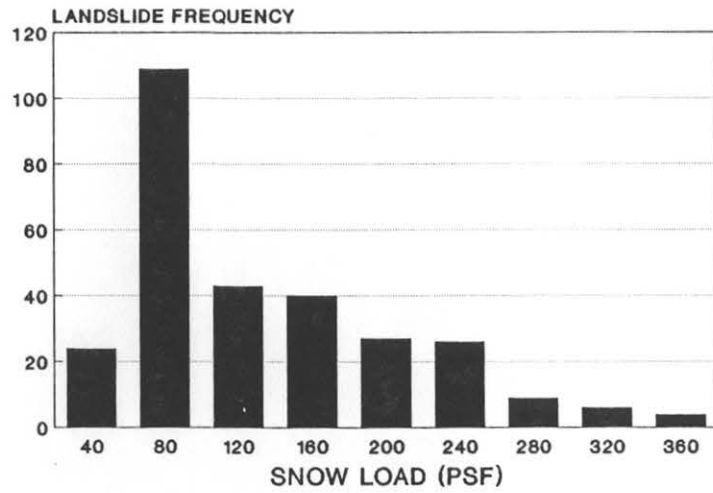
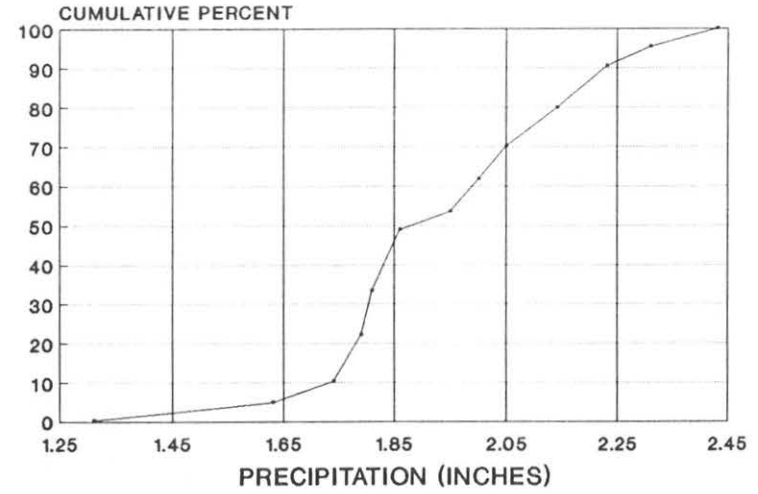
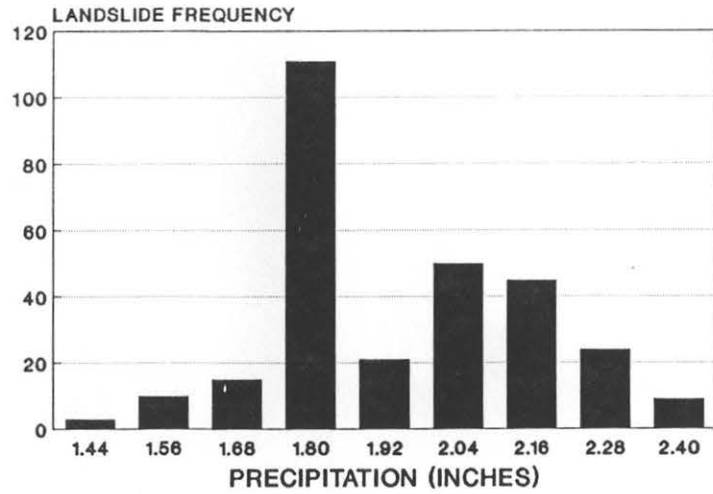
APPENDIX H-3  
DISTRIBUTION OF ELEVATION AND SLOPE ANGLE  
FOR IDAHO LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED  
WITH IGNEOUS INTRUSIVE ROCK



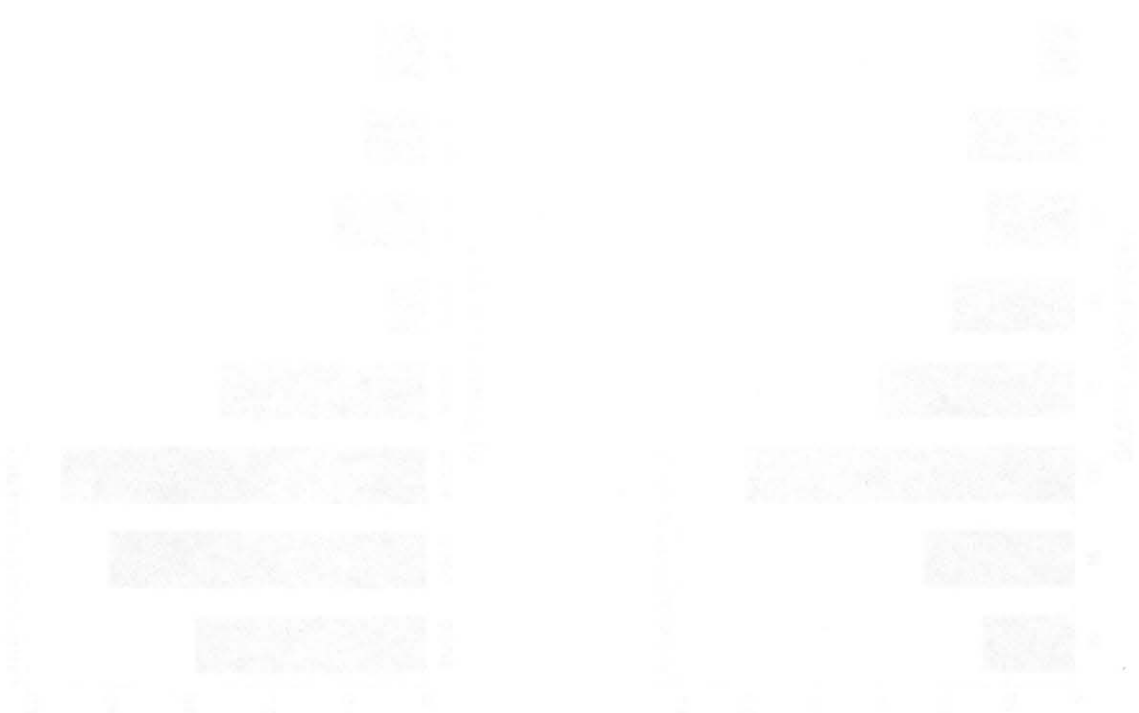


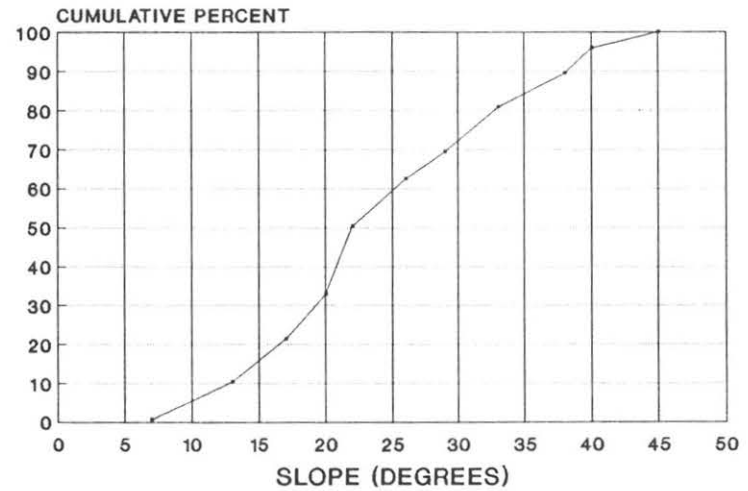
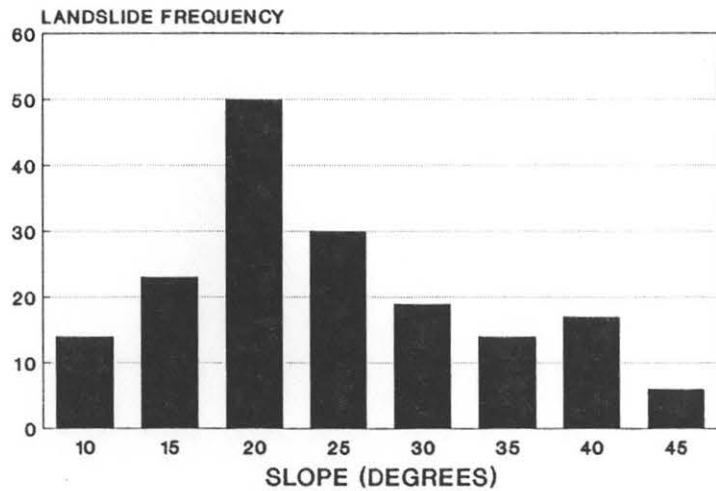
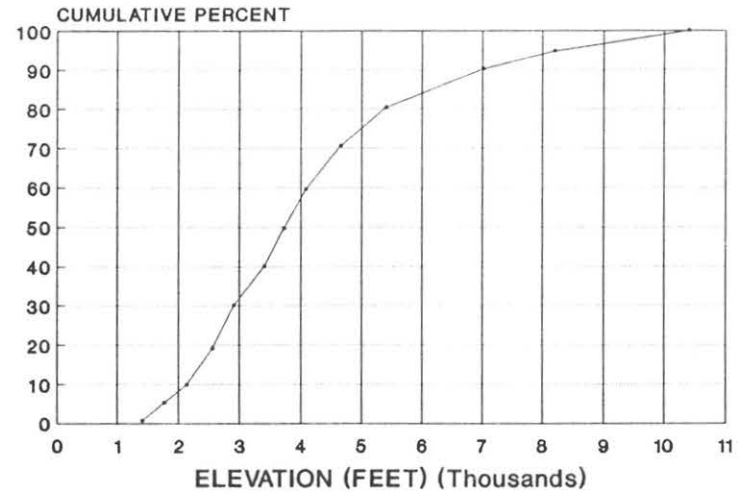
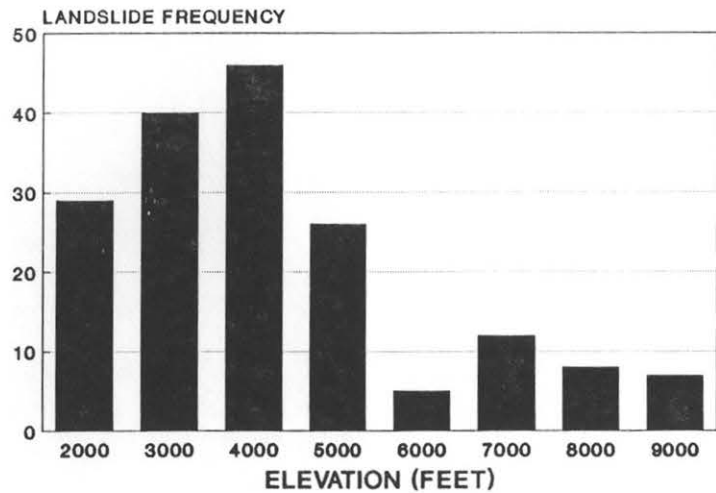
APPENDIX H-4  
DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION AND SNOW LOAD  
FOR IDAHO LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED  
WITH IGNEOUS INTRUSIVE ROCK





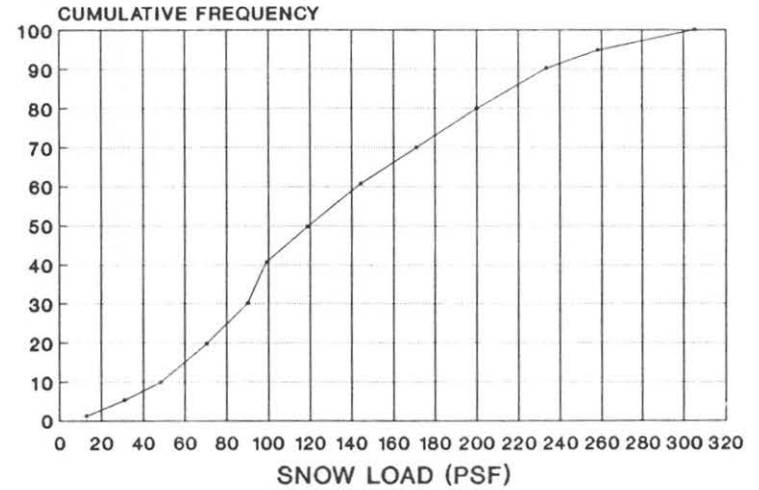
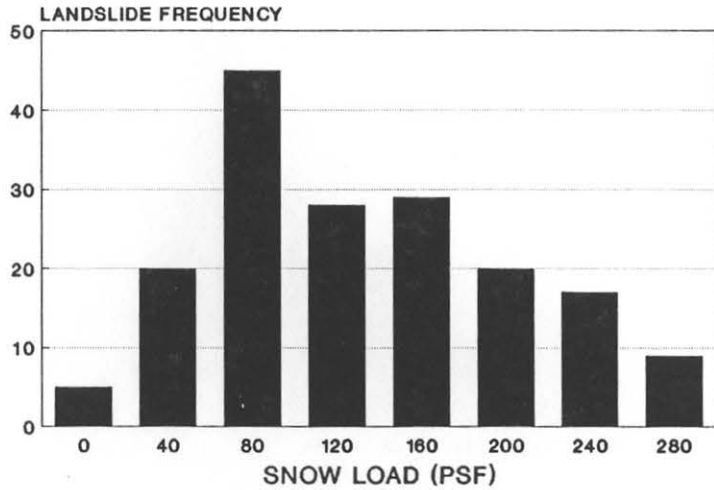
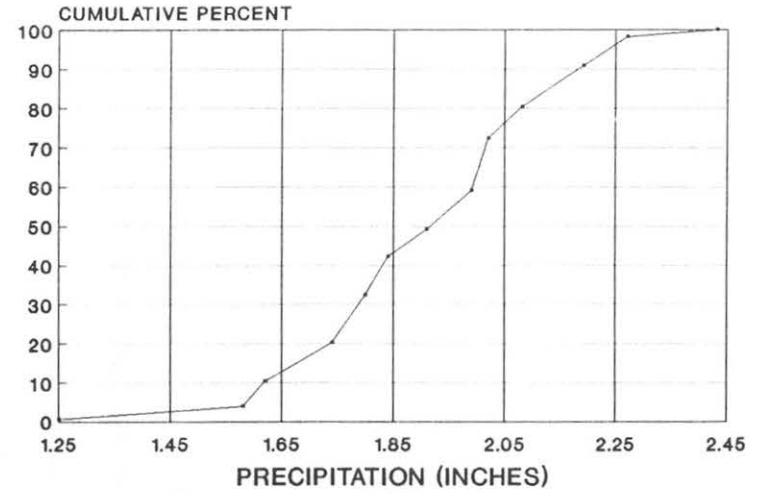
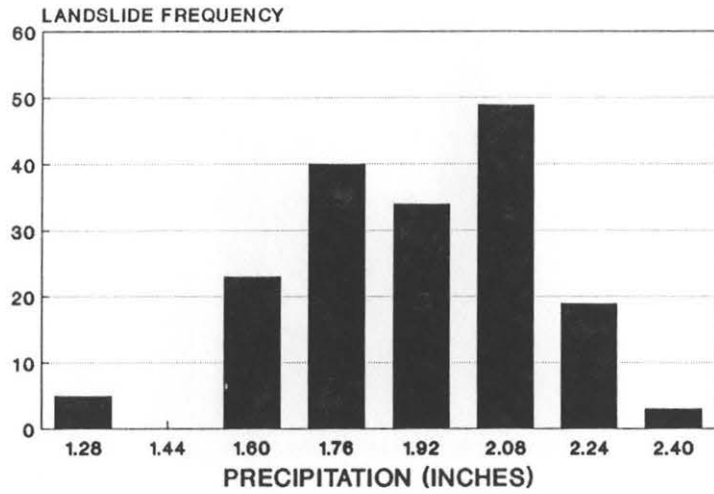
APPENDIX H-5  
DISTRIBUTION OF ELEVATION AND SLOPE ANGLE  
FOR IDAHO LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED  
WITH METAMORPHIC ROCK



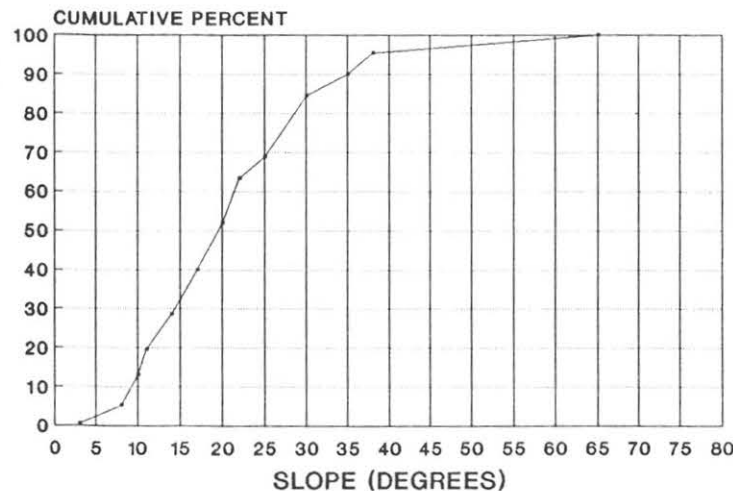
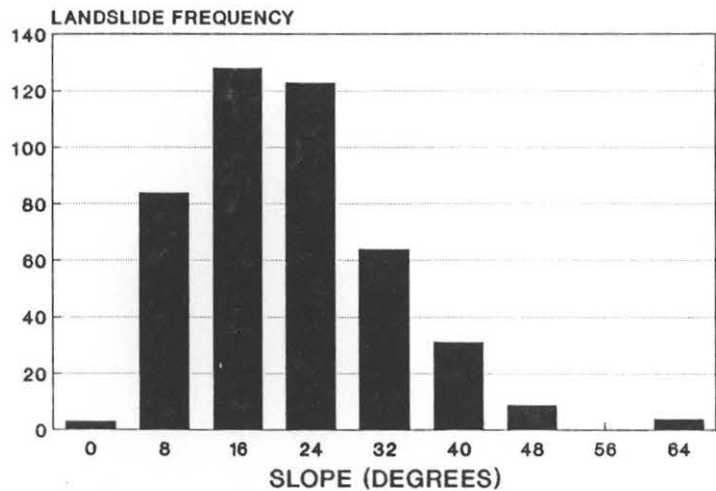
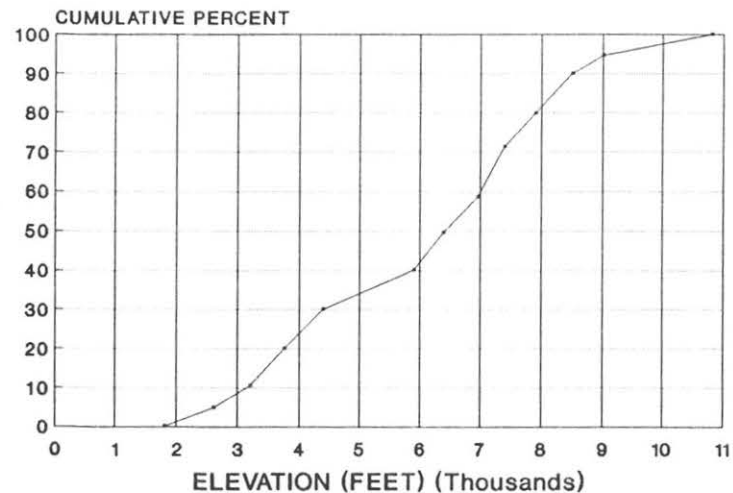
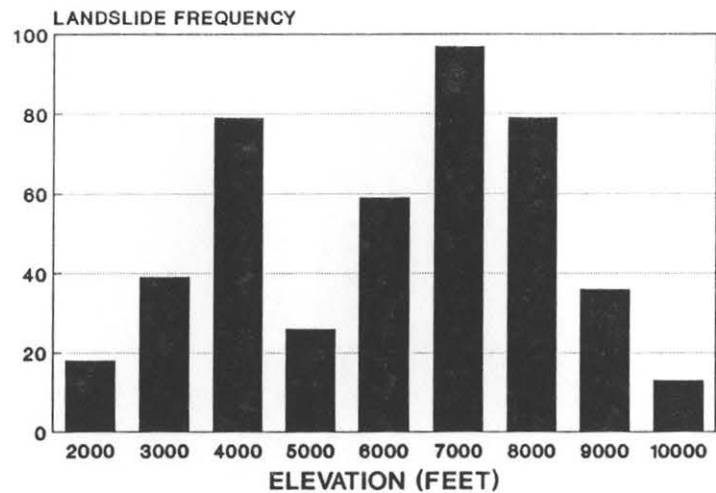


APPENDIX H-6  
DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION AND SNOW LOAD  
FOR IDAHO LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED  
WITH METAMORPHIC ROCK



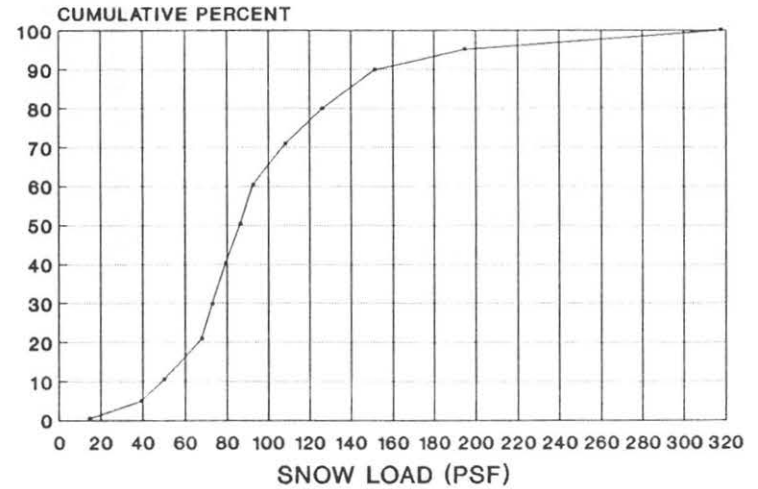
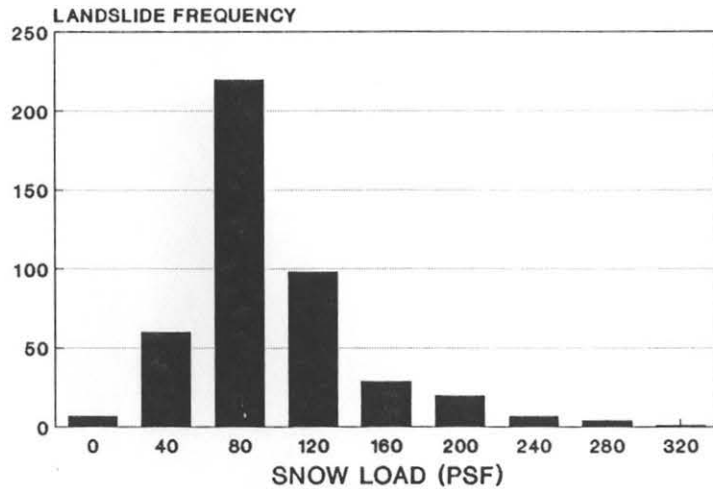
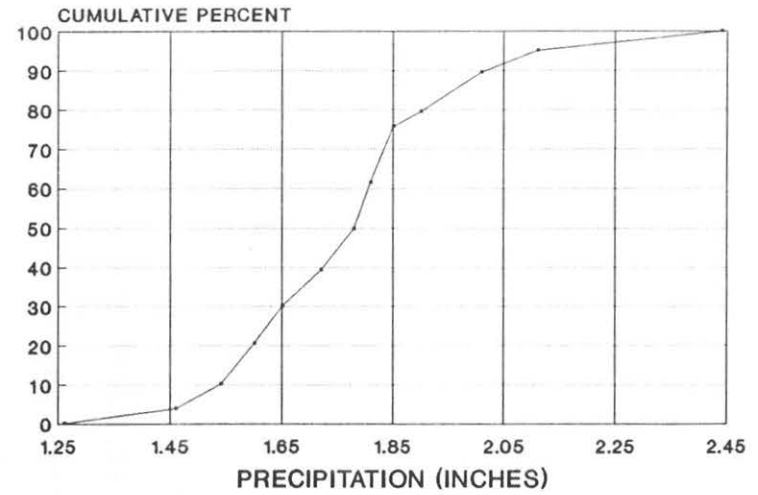
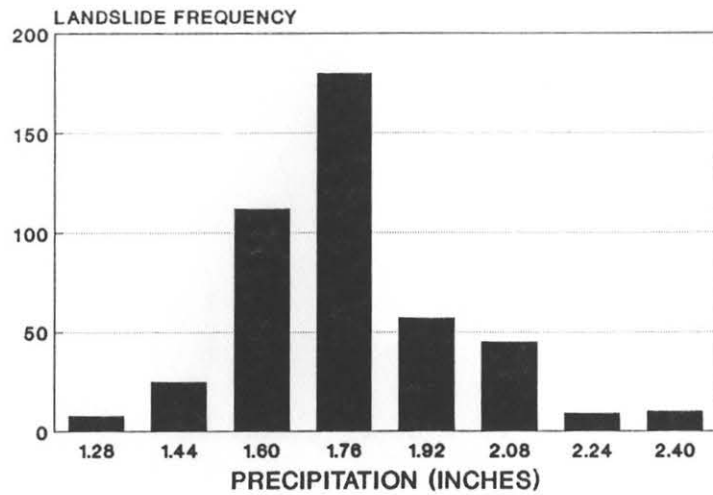


APPENDIX H-7  
DISTRIBUTION OF ELEVATION AND SLOPE ANGLE  
FOR IDAHO LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED  
WITH SEDIMENTARY ROCK

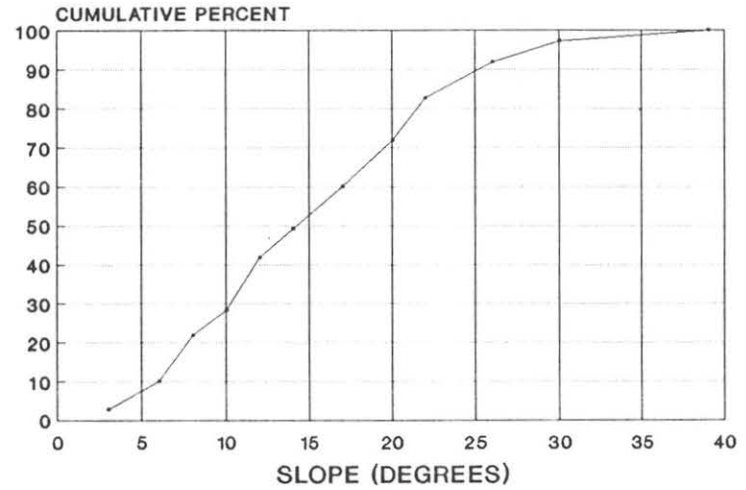
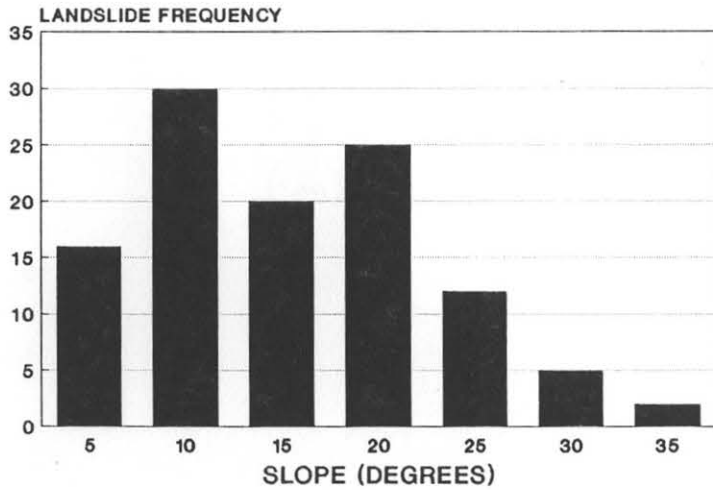
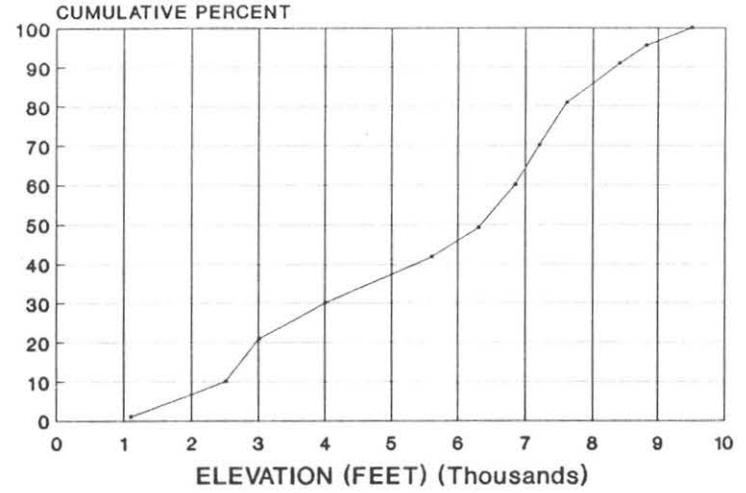
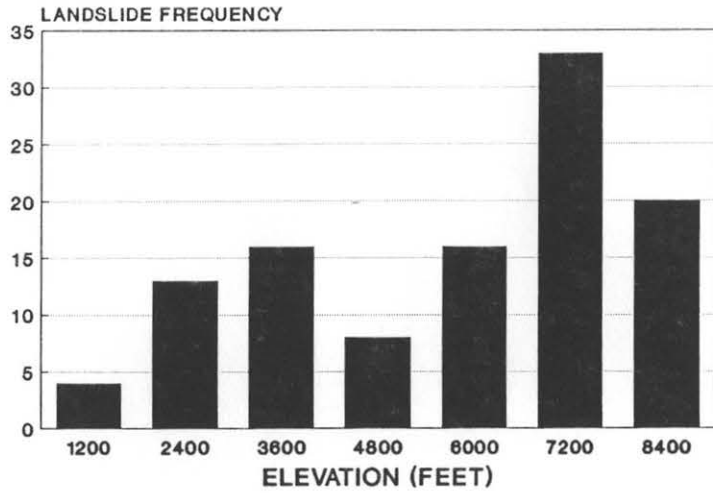


APPENDIX H-8  
DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION AND SNOW LOAD  
FOR IDAHO LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED  
WITH SEDIMENTARY ROCK



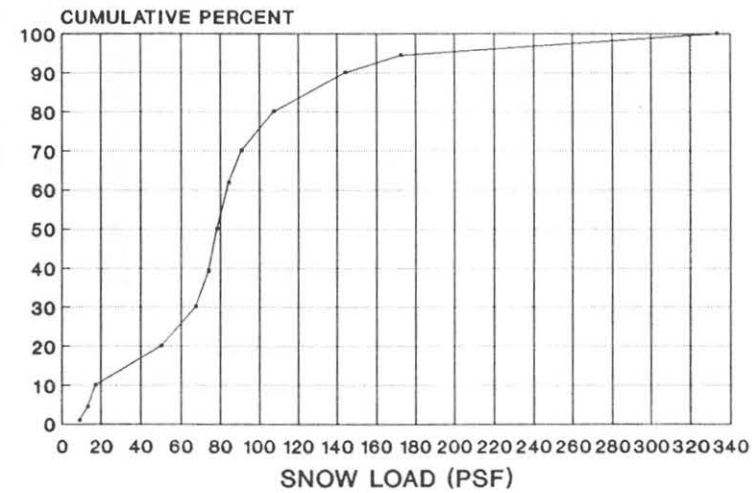
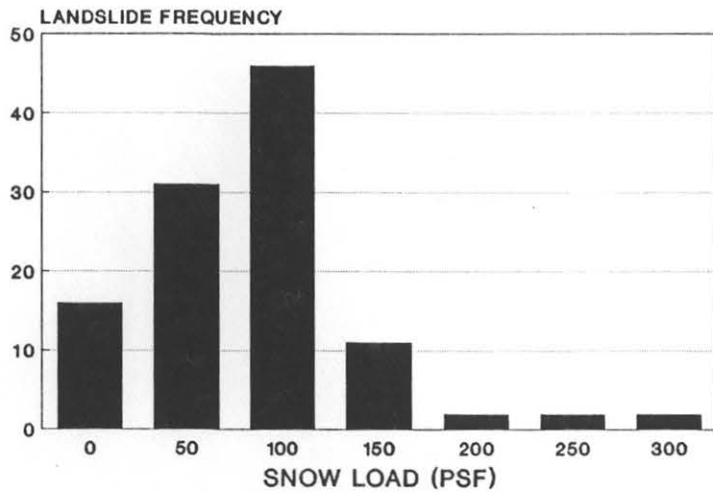
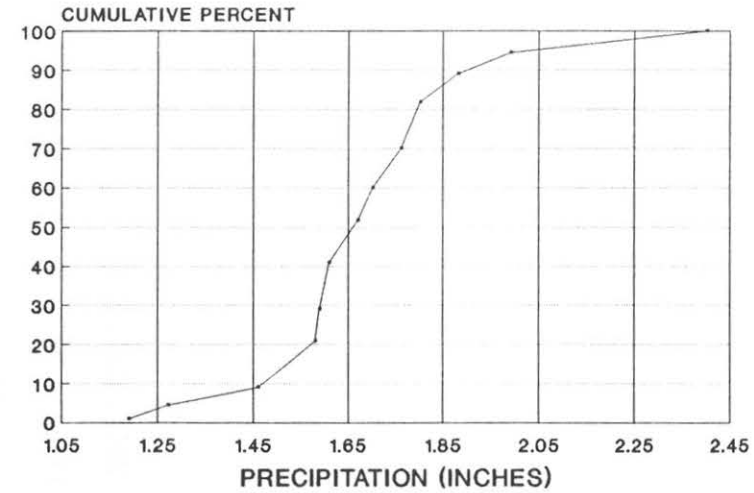
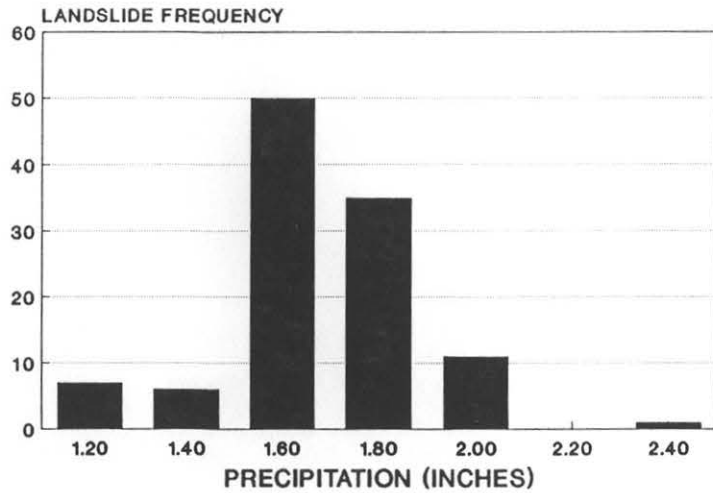


APPENDIX H-9  
DISTRIBUTION OF ELEVATION AND SLOPE ANGLE  
FOR IDAHO LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED  
WITH SURFICIAL DEPOSITS

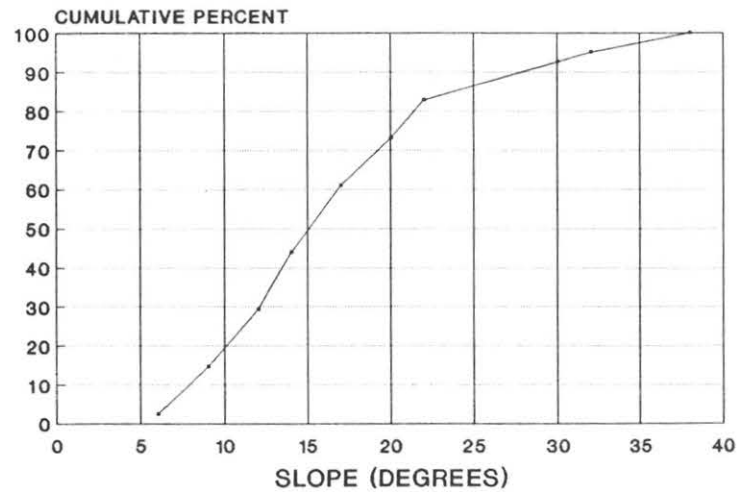
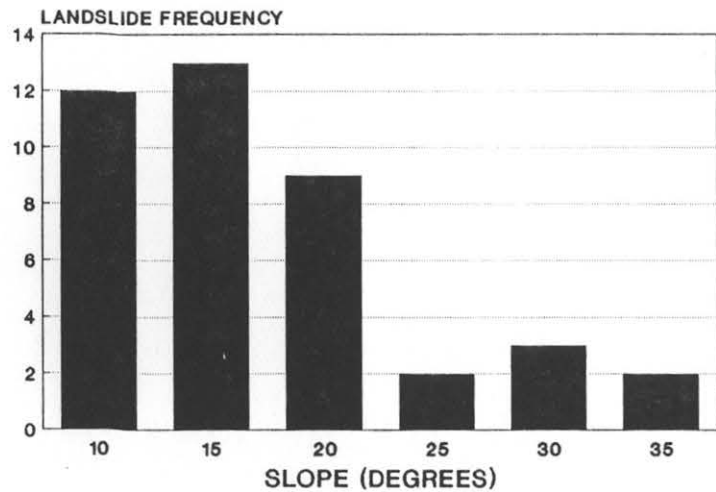
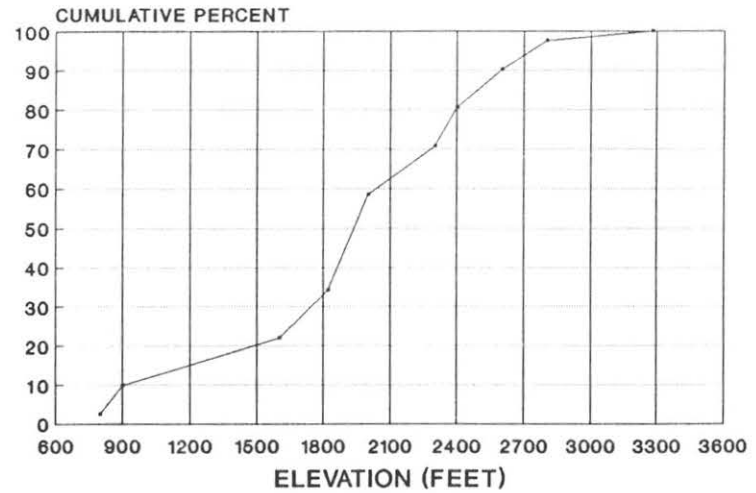
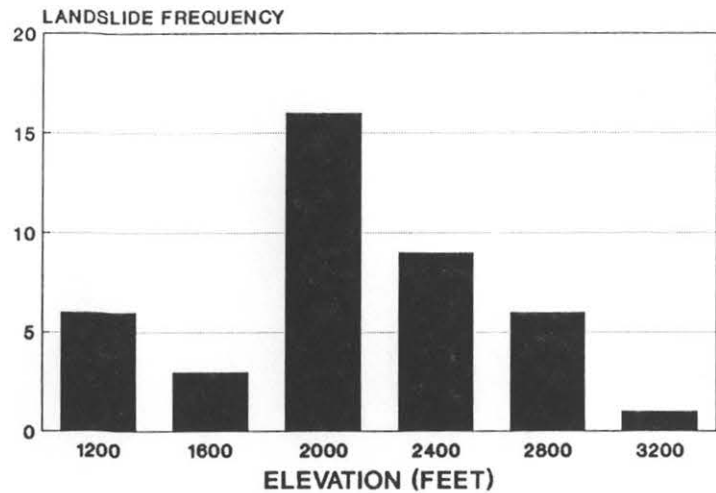


APPENDIX H-10  
DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION AND SNOW LOAD  
FOR IDAHO LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED  
WITH SURFICIAL DEPOSITS

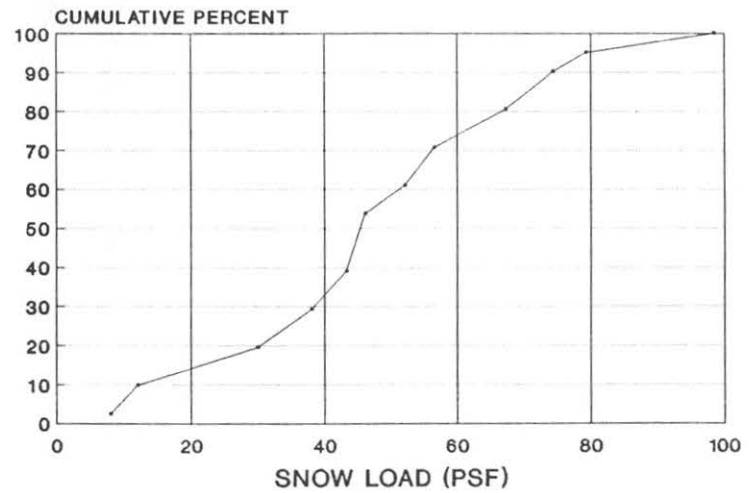
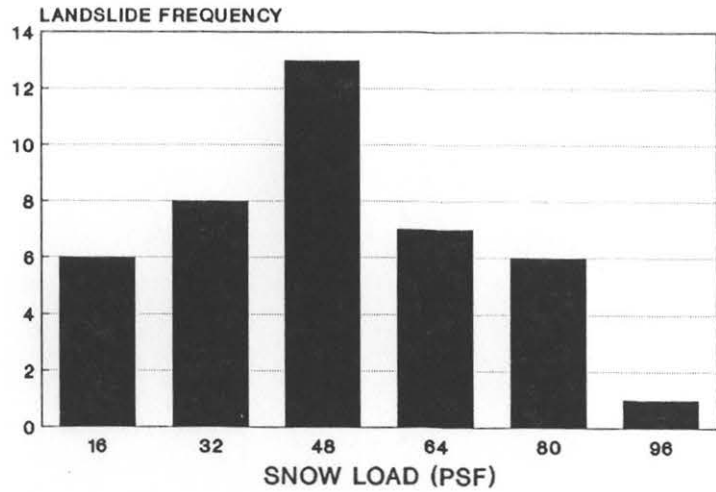
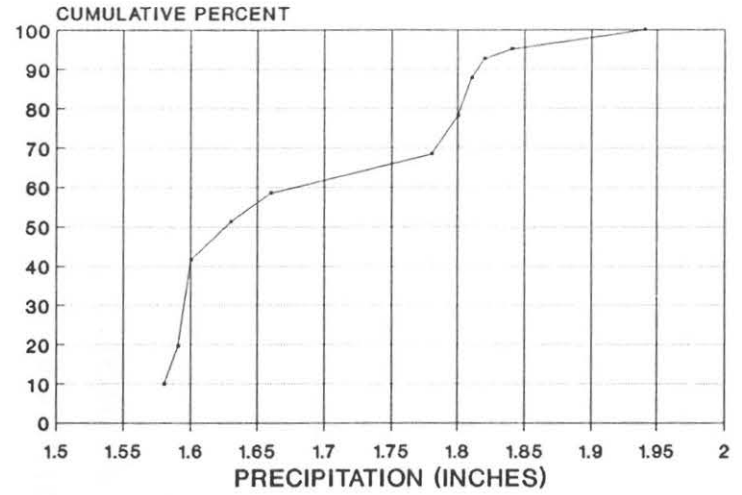
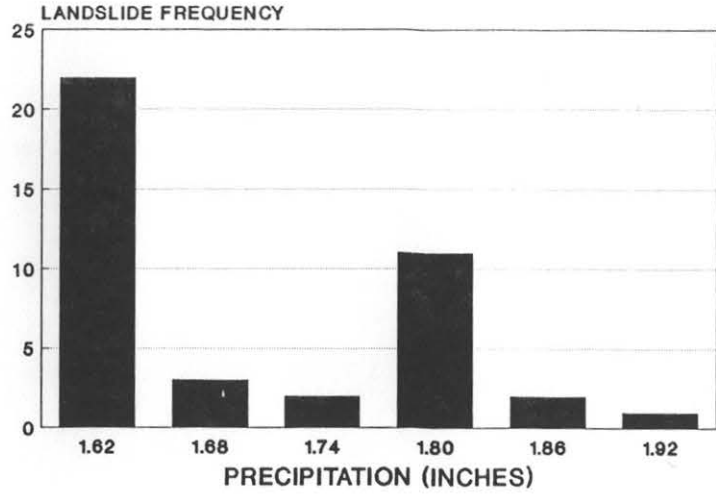




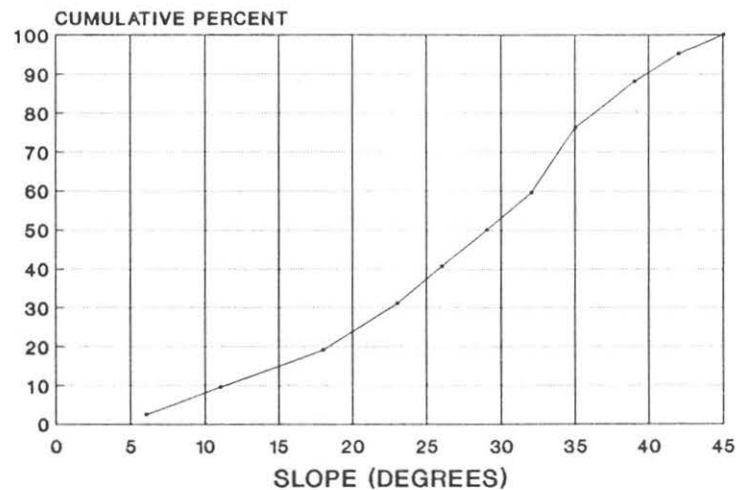
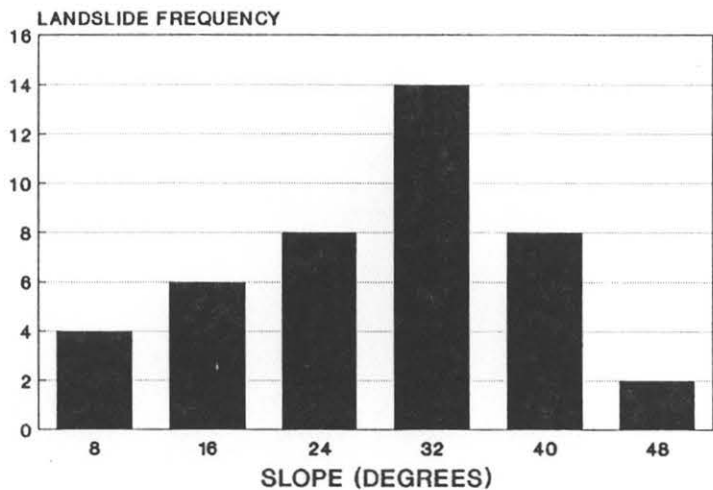
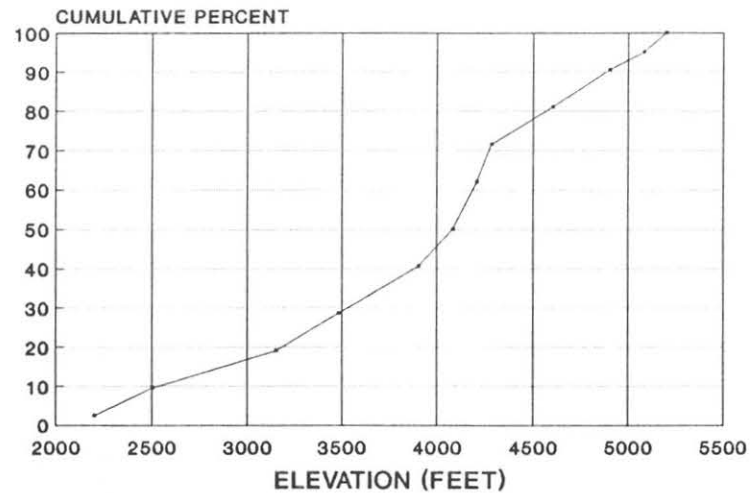
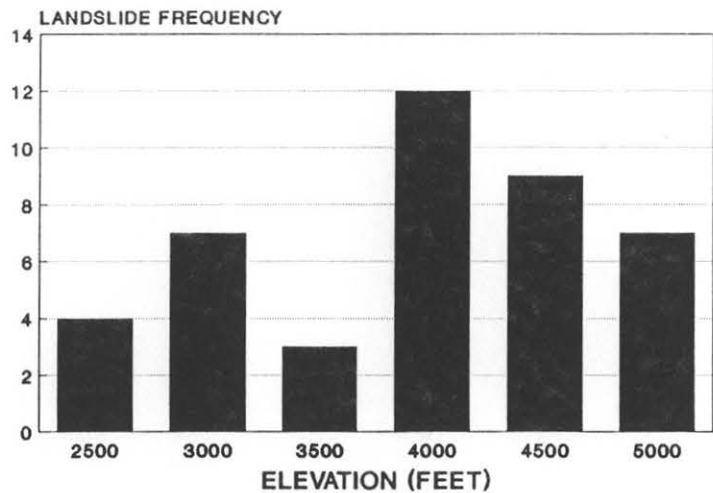
APPENDIX I-1  
DISTRIBUTION OF ELEVATION AND SLOPE ANGLE  
IN A SELECT REGION OF NORTH IDAHO  
FOR LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED WITH  
IGNEOUS EXTRUSIVE ROCK



APPENDIX I-2  
DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION AND SNOW LOAD  
IN A SELECT REGION OF NORTH IDAHO  
FOR LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED WITH  
IGNEOUS EXTRUSIVE ROCK

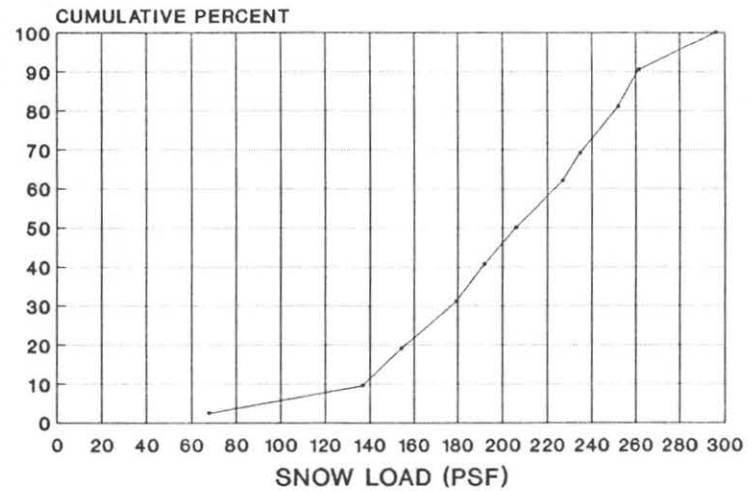
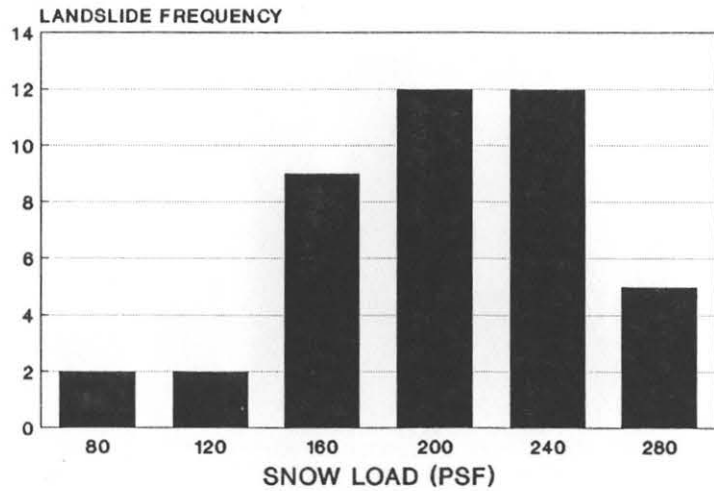
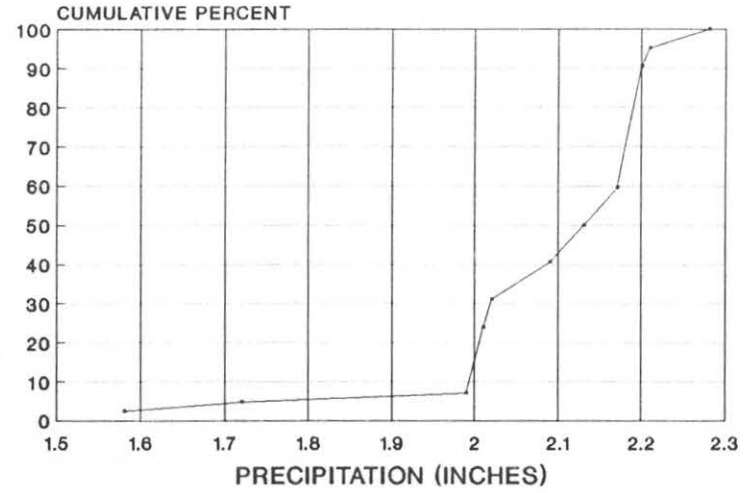
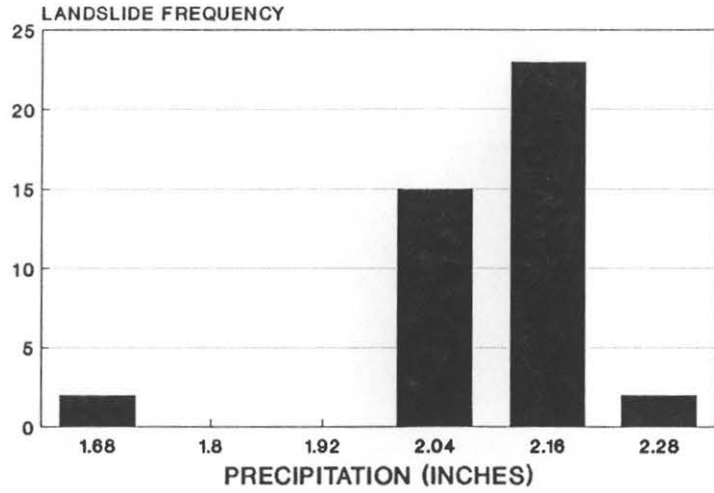


APPENDIX I-3  
DISTRIBUTION OF ELEVATION AND SLOPE ANGLE  
IN A SELECT REGION OF NORTH IDAHO  
FOR LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED WITH  
IGNEOUS INTRUSIVE ROCK

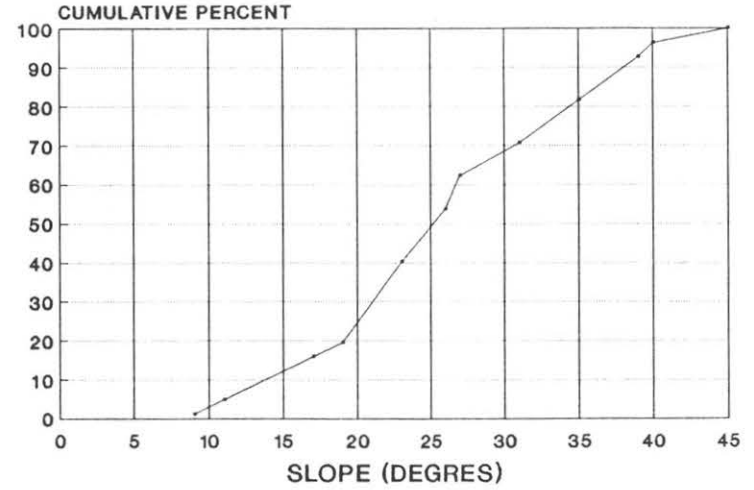
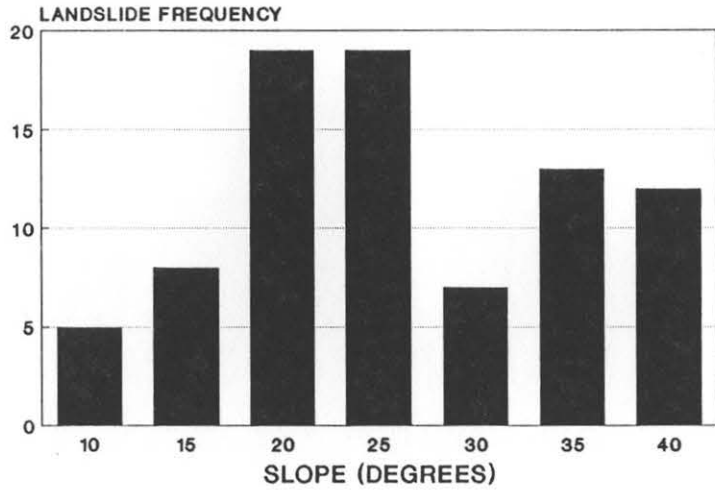
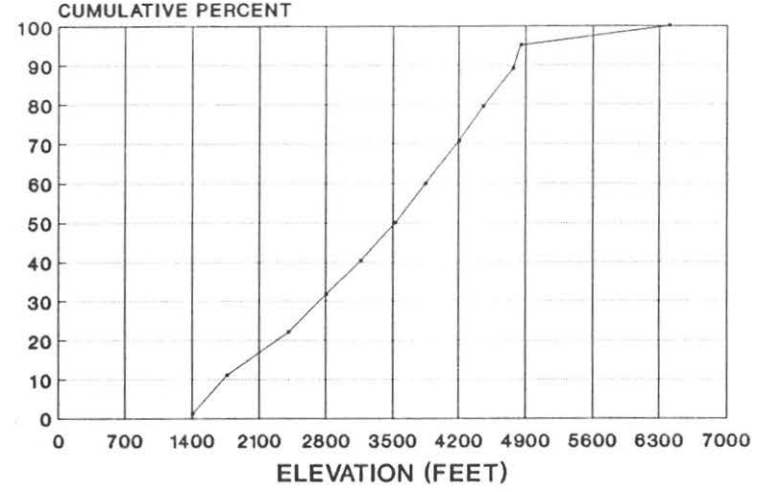
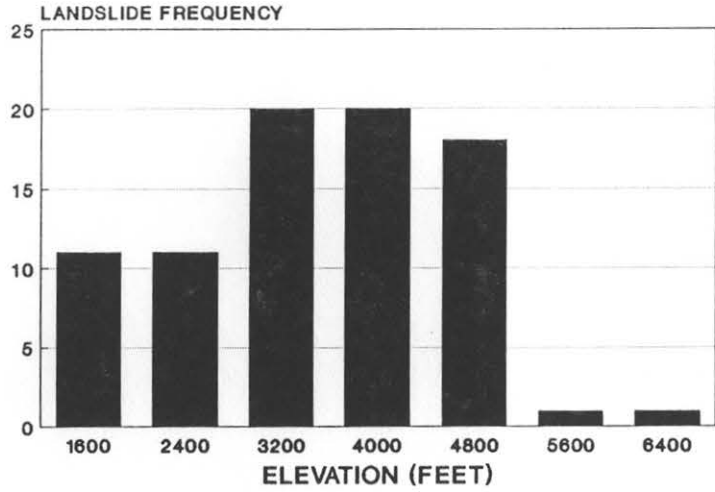


APPENDIX I-4  
DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION AND SNOW LOAD  
IN A SELECT REGION OF NORTH IDAHO  
FOR LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED WITH  
IGNEOUS INTRUSIVE ROCK

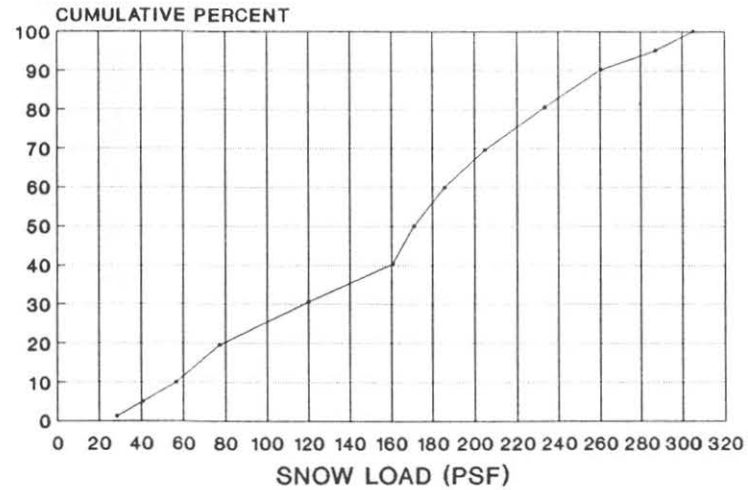
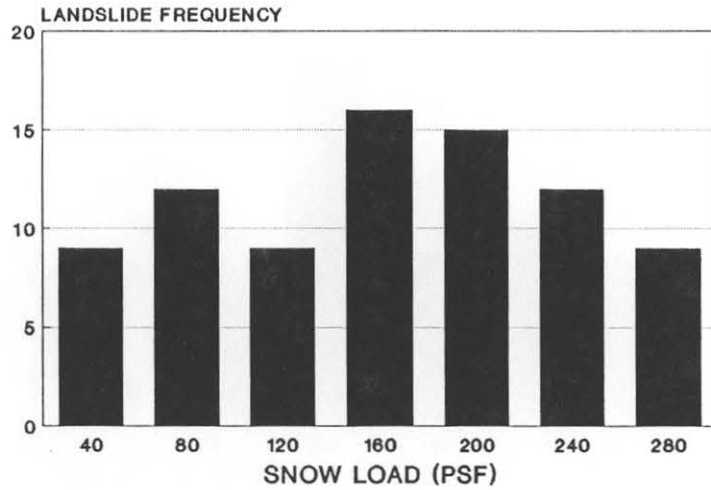
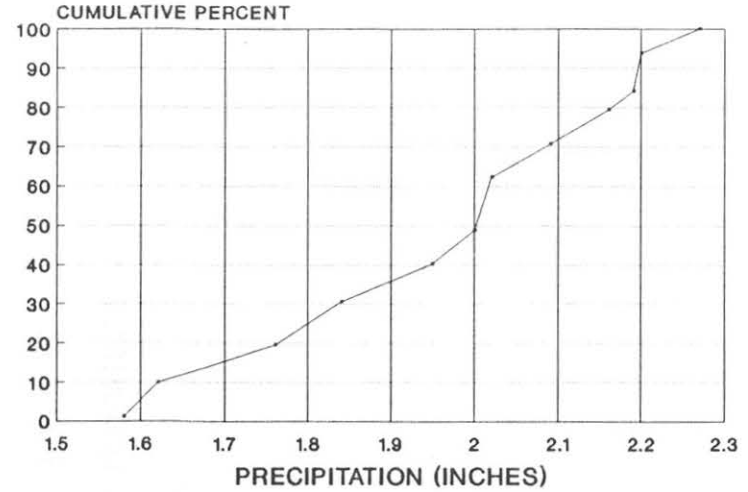
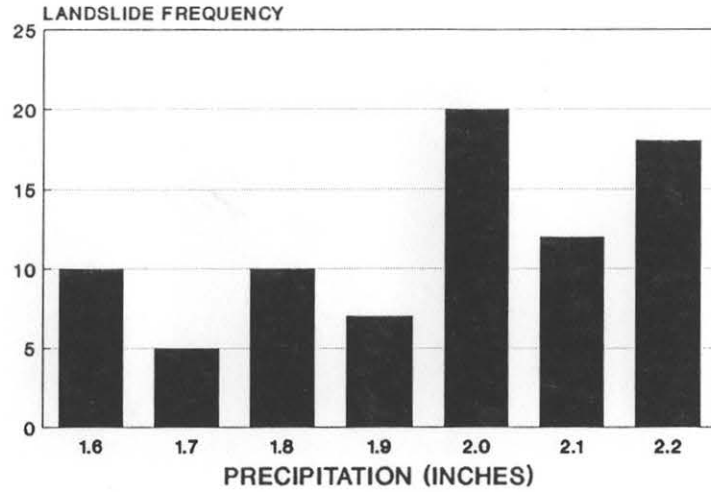




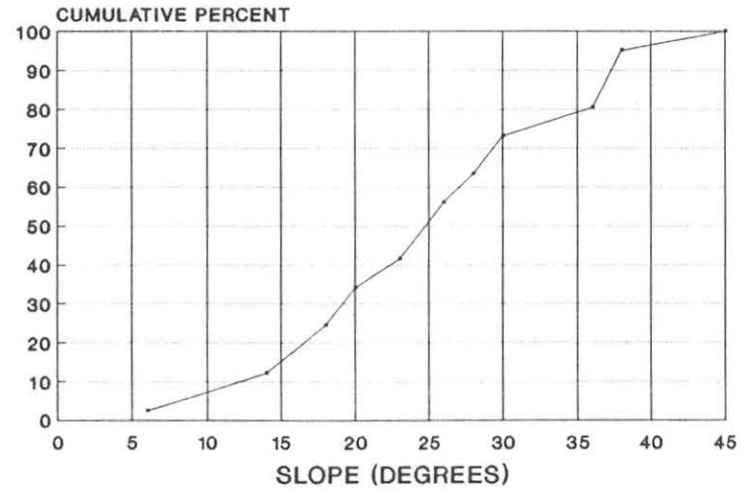
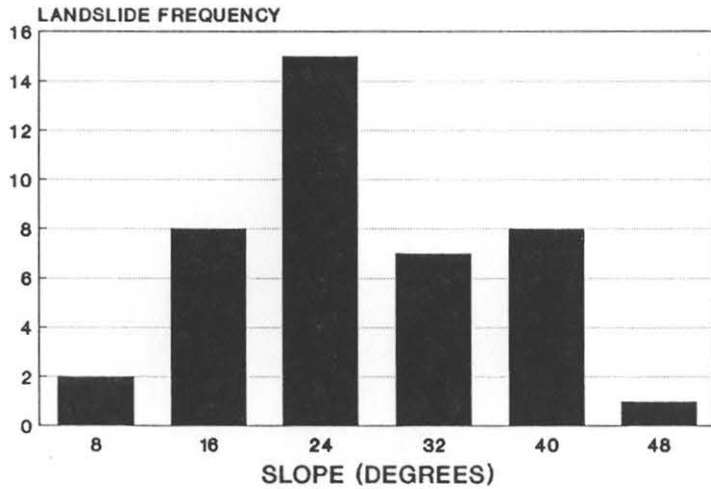
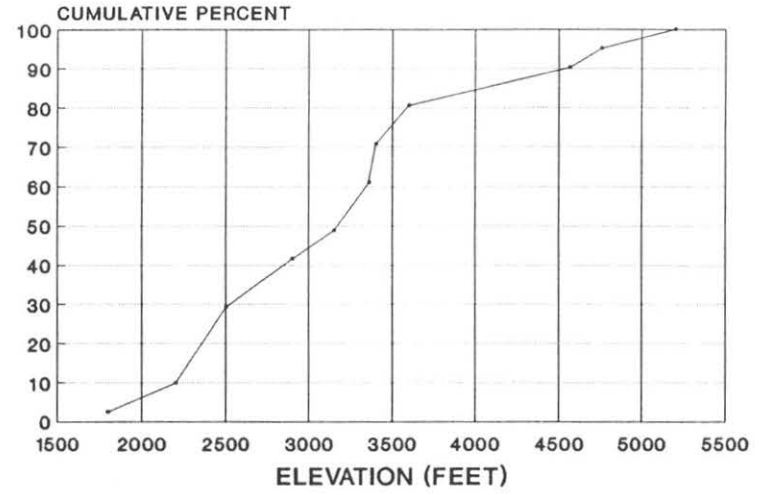
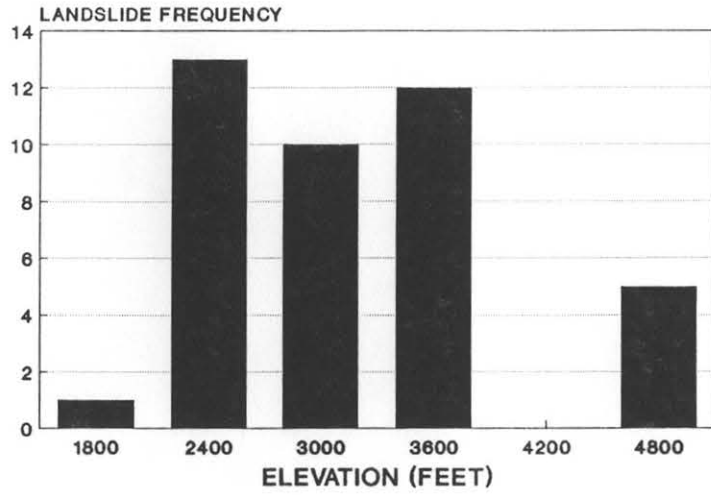
APPENDIX I-5  
DISTRIBUTION OF ELEVATION AND SLOPE ANGLE  
IN A SELECT REGION OF NORTH IDAHO  
FOR LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED WITH  
METAMORPHIC ROCK



APPENDIX I-6  
DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION AND SNOW LOAD  
IN A SELECT REGION OF NORTH IDAHO  
FOR LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED WITH  
METAMORPHIC ROCK



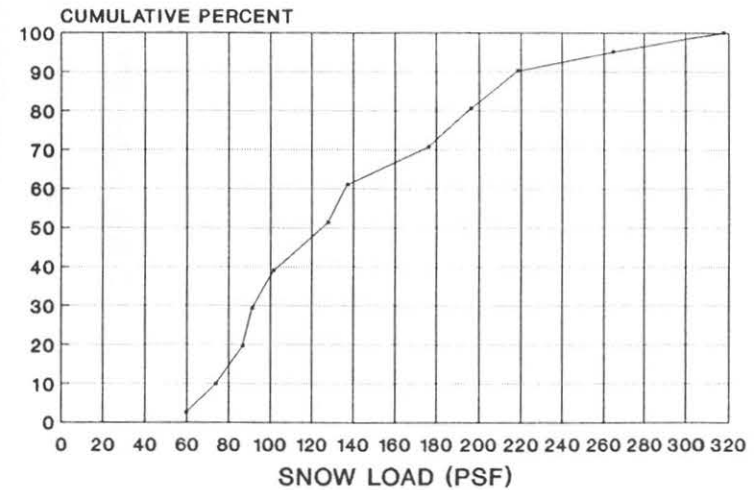
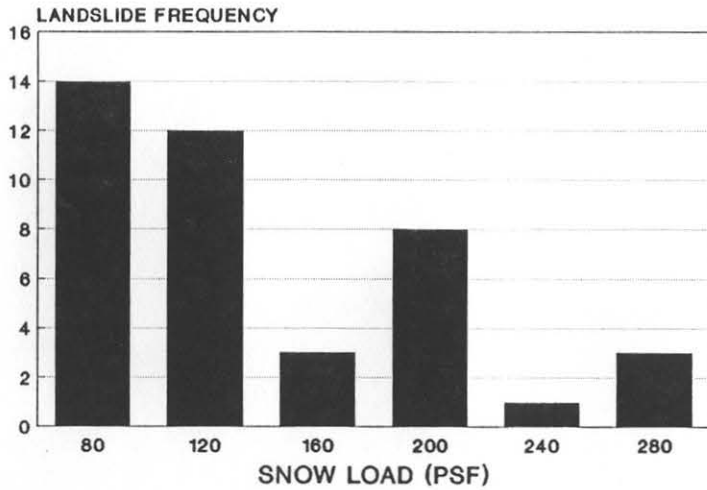
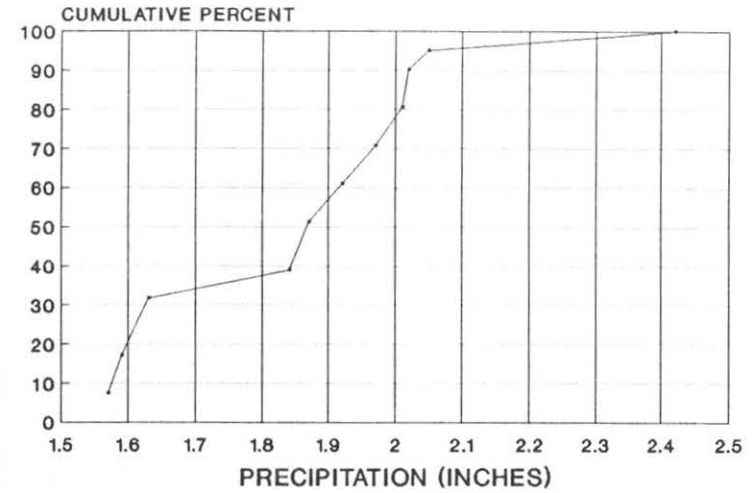
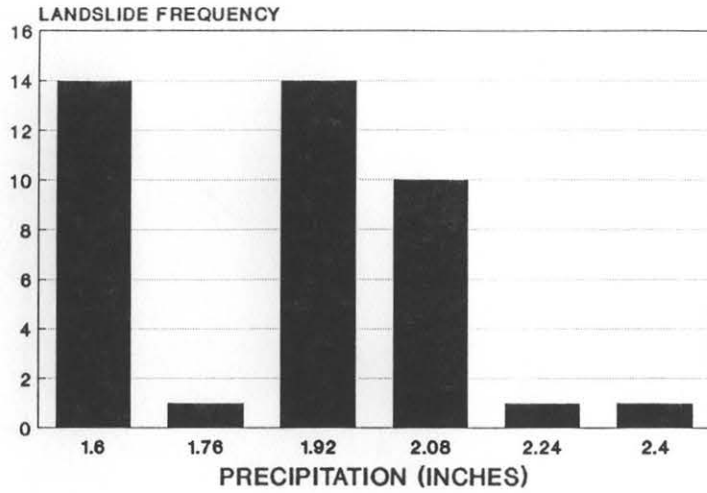
APPENDIX I-7  
DISTRIBUTION OF ELEVATION AND SLOPE ANGLE  
IN A SELECT REGION OF NORTH IDAHO  
FOR LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED WITH  
SEDIMENTARY ROCK



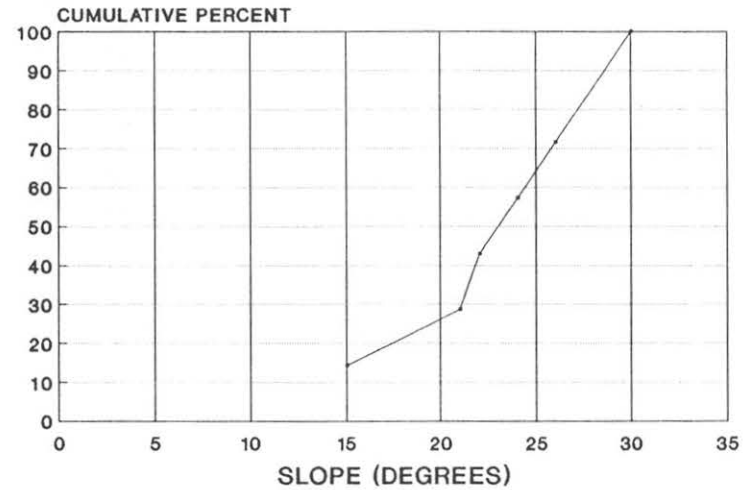
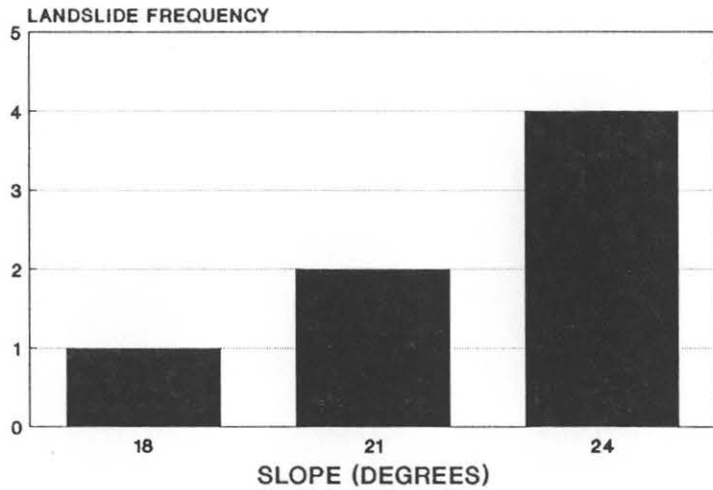
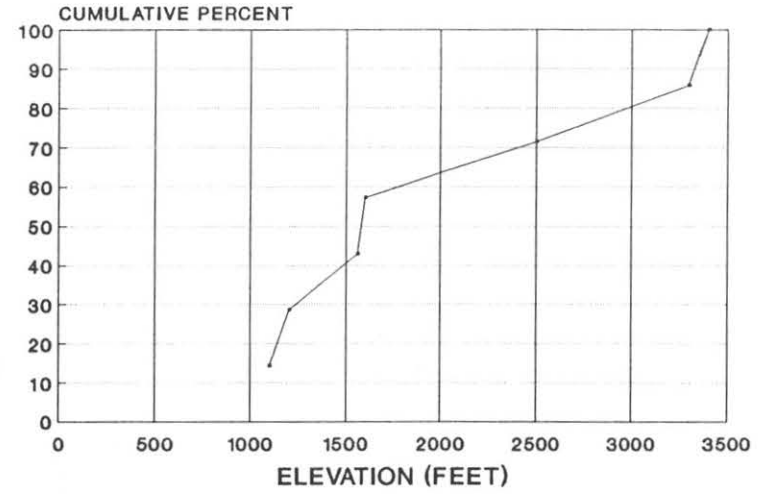
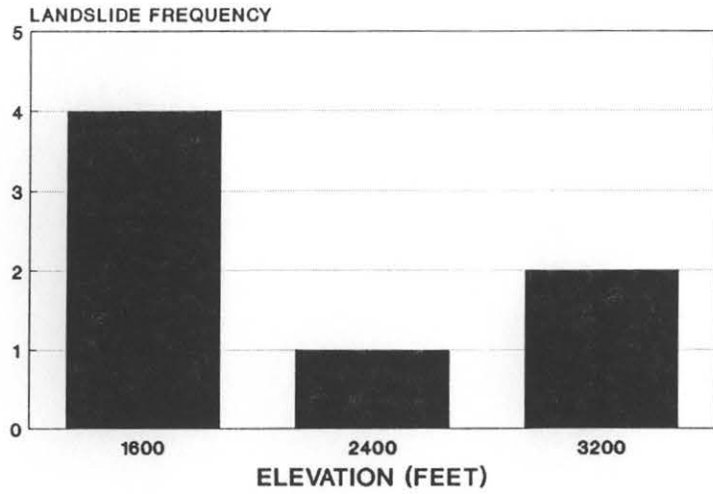
APPENDIX I-8  
DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION AND SNOW LOAD  
IN A SELECT REGION OF NORTH IDAHO  
FOR LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED WITH  
SEDIMENTARY ROCK







APPENDIX I-9  
DISTRIBUTION OF ELEVATION AND SLOPE ANGLE  
IN A SELECT REGION OF NORTH IDAHO  
FOR LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED WITH  
SURFICIAL DEPOSITS



APPENDIX I-10  
DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION AND SNOW LOAD  
IN A SELECT REGION OF NORTH IDAHO  
FOR LANDSLIDES ASSOCIATED WITH  
SURFICIAL DEPOSITS

