## NSci233 Notes-Week 6

### Lesson Plan 4 - Precipitation Week 4 of 4

## Charles Jason Tinant 2/27/2018

**Note:** this is an update of lesson plan 3 I removed lesson plan 3 ## Important Updates \* We will have a Friday make-up class from 1-4 for students who are snowed in or missed prior classes.

- The midterm will consist of an open book and a closed book section. I will be sending out the open book section on Friday. Homework from Lesson Plans 1, 2, 3 is **due**March 3rd so that you are ready for the midterm. Late homework will recieve a lower grade.
- We are adding another 30-minutes to class to give addional technical help (e.g. 9:00 12:30)
- The most recent versions of the lesson plans can be downloaded from https://github.com/cjtinant/NSci253\_Notes

## **Old Updates**

- If you have not already, please download the following software to start the remote control tool TeamViewer Quicksupport: http://connect.teamviewer.com/v13 This way, I can take a look at your computer screen and resolve issues.
- The password for your OLC account in Gmail is experiencing technical issues that I hope to resolve as soon as possible. Please try "banana-ripple-fudge" as a default password.
- Two R-Studio issues were causing read\_csv() to not work:
- 1. a space somewhere in the file folder path caused by naming the folder something like "R hydro". The way to resolve this is to use an "\_" or a "-" if you want a space in a name.
- 2. the data that R was looking for using read\_csv() was not in the same file as the lesson plan, which caused R to be confused. The way to resolve this is to unzip the file, then copy all of the data you need into your working folder.
- Homework from Lesson Plans 1, 2, 3 is **due THIS FRIDAY**, March 3rd so that you are ready for the midterm.
- We are going to add another 30-minutes to class to give addional technical help (e.g. 9:00 12:30)

- $\bullet$  The most recent versions of the less on plans can be downloaded from https://github.com/cjtinant/NSci253\_Notes
- If you have not already, please download the following software to start the remote control tool TeamViewer Quicksupport: http://connect.teamviewer.com/v13 This way, I can take a look at your computer screen and resolve issues.

#### Overview

Precipitation is the single most important variable driving hydrologic processes and events, because it replenishes soil moisture, lakes and streams, and groundwater. Precipitation is any form of solid or liquid water the falls from the atmosphere to the earth's surface. Precipitation can be thought about in terms of events, as averages over a period of time, or as deviations from the normal or "adequate" amount. In this section we are going to discuss the role of precipition in climate, what causes precipitation, precipitation events, and rainfall frequency.

## Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) & Lesson Goals:

- SLO1: Students will demonstrate proficiency in the components of the hydrologic cycle: precipitation, infiltration, runoff, and evapotranspiration Students will be able to generally describe what causes precipitation, precipitation events, and rainfall frequency.
- SLO2: Students are able to analyze components of the hydrologic with computer software Students will be generally able to read data into R, and perform some analysis using packages. Students will will be able to read arguments of a package from R Documentation.

#### new reading

Tunkashila le miya yelo.

Le anpetu ki wihinapu kici. Pilamaya.

Kici oniya na wiconi tanmahel na icin.

Taku iyaha ya kaga ki. Le anpetu ki.

Mita kola wica ya waste na. Tunkashila.

Woceki ya mitawa ki.

Nahon wo, na wocekiya mitawa ohota yo, Hihanni waste.

Bryant High Horse (author - transcriber)

#### Otakuye - everything that moves

- Read sections 2.7 2.8 of the text
- Article on Cape Town, South Africa water crisis hotlinked and at https://www.vox.com/world/2018/2/9/16964416/cape-town-water-crisis-day-zero-south-africa
- Data Visualization with ggplot2 hotlinked and at (https://www.rstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ggplot2-cheatsheet.pdf)

#### Homework

#### No new homework this week.

The homework listed below was assigned last week. You are welcome to turn in homework in Rmd, pdf, html or Word. Upload the file into a folder with your name in Google Drive.

## Reading Assignment

- Read sections 2.7 2.8 of the text
- Article on Cape Town, South Africa water crisis hotlinked and at https://www.vox.com/world/2018/2/9/16964416/cape-town-water-crisis-day-zero-south-africa

Data Visualization with ggplot2 hotlinked and at (https://www.rstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ggplot2-cheatsheet.pdf)

# Homework (note there are another couple of new problems from this week)

You are welcome to turn in homework in Rmd, pdf, html or Word. Upload the file into a folder with your name in Google Drive.

- 1. Vocabulary Summarize the terms: weather, climate, frontal precipitation, convection, orographic, stratosphere, troposphere, jet stream
- 2. Use the following link: Koeppen Climate to download a map of Koeppen climates for the United States. What is the climate for Western South Dakota? What is the climate for Eastern South Dakota.
- 3. Use the following link: Drought Monitor What is the drought intensity for this week for the county you live in? If your county is in drought, then is the drought short-term or long-term? What is the drought summary for the High Plains? What is the the drought summary for the West?
- 4. Calculate the effective depth in mm and volume of water in the last snowstorm in cubic meters for two watersheds. Assume the snow has a 10% moisture content, 8 inches of snow fell over a 500 square mile watershed, and 6 inches of snow over a 300 square mile watershed. Recall: 1 inch = 22.54 mm, 1 square mile = 2.59 square kilometers. Feel free to use either R or another approach.
- 5. Look up the average monthly precipitation totals for the county you live in. The Drought Monitor may be a helpful resource. You can use a table to show the precipitation totals using the method discussed on the lower left part of page 2 of the R Markdown cheatsheet that you can download from https://www.rstudio.com/resources/cheatsheets/
- 6. Pick three short-term and three long-term intensities for Table 2.5 and look up on a map the locations they are recorded in. Based on the geographic location of these areas, what is the process causing the precipitation?
- 7. Take a look at the graphs for the Cottonwood station below. Identify: 1) the greatest 24-hour event, 2) the wettest year, 3) the dryest year, 4) the wettest decade, 5) the dryest decade, 6) whether the region is recieving more or less precipitation than 100 years ago.

#### Class Timeline - March 6th

8:30 - Study Hall

9:00 - Questions on homework / technical issues

9:30 - Averaging precipitation over space and time

9:50 - Break (please be back in 10 minutes)

10:00 - Historic time trends

10:20 - Frequency Distributions

10:50 - Break (please be back in 10 minutes)

- 11:00 Self-directed work
- 11:40 Summary discussion
- $11{:}50$  Feedback to instructor  $12{:}00$  IT Questions

#### Lecture Notes with R-code

```
# one of the biggest issues we have been having the first four weeks
# of class is setting the workspace. I have taught the most basic
# approach to setting a workspace. However, given the challenges many
# are experiencing, I want to try a different approach using the 'here'()'
# package.

# download 'here' package -the install function below is commented out.
# install.packages("here")

library("tidyverse") # load the tidyverse package
library("lubridate")
library("here")
library("janitor")
here() # this checks where R thinks the working directory is...
```

## [1] "/Users/cjtinant/Google Drive/NSci253-master/NSci253 Notes"

#### Weather, Climate, and Water Resources

Weather is the result of the day-to-day movement of moist air masses from thier sources and thier associated effects on precipitation and temperature. Climate is a long-term average of the weather. Intermediate to weather and climate is a moving window of recent weather history and intermediate term forecasting, and how these relate to the climate. Precipitation is an important part of both weather and climate. Too much precipitation on a particular day, weather, causes schools to close. Too little precipitation in a given season results in a drought. Too much water extraction for the climate generally, or during a drought results in a loss of water resources as (Cape Town is currently experiencing)[https://www.vox.com/world/2018/2/9/16964416/cape-town-water-crisis-day-zero-south-africa].

A lot of systems have been used to describe climate. The **Koeppen Climate Classification System** is the most widely adopted approach, Köppen's classification is based on a subdivision of terrestrial climates into five major types, which are represented by the capital letters A, B, C, D, and E. Except for type B, each of these climate types is defined by temperature criteria. **Type B designates climates in which the controlling factor on vegetation is dryness** (rather than coldness). **Aridity** is not a matter of precipitation alone but is defined by the relationship between the precipitation input to the soil in which the plants grow and the evaporative losses. Since evaporation is difficult to evaluate and is not a conventional measurement at meteorological stations, Köppen was forced to substitute a formula that identifies aridity in terms of a temperature-precipitation index (that is, evaporation is assumed to be controlled by temperature). Dry climates are divided into arid (BW) and semiarid (BS) subtypes, and each may be differentiated further by adding a third code, h for warm and k for cold.

Temperature defines the other four major climate types. These are subdivided, with additional letters again used to designate the various subtypes. Type A climates (the warmest) are differentiated on the basis of the seasonality of precipitation: Af (no dry season), Am (short dry season), or Aw (winter dry season). Type E climates (the coldest) are conventionally separated into tundra (ET) and snow/ice climates (EF). The mid-latitude C and D climates are given a second letter, f (no dry season), w (winter dry), or s (summer dry), and a third symbol (a, b, c, or d [the last subclass exists only for D climates]), indicating the warmth of the summer or the coldness of the winter. Although Köppen's classification did not consider the uniqueness of highland climate regions, the highland climate category, or H climate, is sometimes added to climate classification systems to account for elevations above 1,500 metres (about 4,900 feet; source: https://www.britannica.com/science/Koppen-climate-classification). You can check out the changing climate at http://koeppen-geiger.vu-wien.ac.at/.

For land and water resources management, one important tool is the **Drought Monitor** (http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/). The Drought Monitor describes weather trends, and relates them to long-range weather forecasts and the climate.

## Causes of Precipitation

The precipitation process begins when water droplets condense in the atmosphere around dust, smoke, or ice particles. As the droplet size increases it reaches a size at which gravity begins to pull them down. Condensensation is caused by cooling, which is caused by the lifting of air masses. There are three processes that lift air masses: \* Frontal air masses - frontal precipitation, \* Convection - thunderstorms, \* Mountains - orographic precipitation.

\*\* Frontal precipitation \*\* occurs when warm moist air masses meet colder, heavier air masses. It is the dominant precipitation type in the northern United States, and other mid-latitude areas, and is caused by differences in the temperature and pressure of air packets. Weather fronts, the places where air packets meet, are associated with mid-latitude cyclones (low pressure) moving from west to east. Pressure refers to **barometric pressure**, the force exerted by the weight of air above a surface. At sea level, that average pressure exerted by air is 1 atm = 29.01.325 kPa. This is also equal to 29.92 inches of mercury (Hg) or 406.6 inches of liquid water. In the Northern Hemisphere, air circulates counterclockwise around low-pressure areas, so warm air is most often found in the south and east of low-pressure areas. The **troposphere**, the 4 to 11 mile thick layer of atmosphere where packets of air that weather occur, is steered by the **jet stream** in the **stratosphere**.

\*\* Convection\*\* occurs as moist air near the surface heated by solar radiation becomes lighter and rises up. The rising air and latent heat released by water changing phase causes atmospheric instability, and possibly late afternoon thundershowers. Convective precipitation also can result as air flows into the center of a low pressure system and chills until the moisture in the air reaches saturation. Hurricanes are a large-scale convective storm cell that forms up in the tropics and generally move northerly.

**Orographic** effects are caused by moist air rising over mountains. These effects cause the high amounts of snow in mountains, as well as the rain shadow east of the mountains.

### **Precipitation Events**

Storms can be described by **type**, **amount**, and **duration**. \* type - hail, rain, snow, sleet; \* amount - depth of precipitation (as rain or as snow); \* duration - length of time the storm is occurring.

\*\* intensity\*\* is the average rate of precipation found by  $intensity(mm/hr) = \frac{depth(mm)}{duration(hr)}$ . Another useful thing to consider is an event's **return period**, the average number of years between storms of a particular magnitude. We will discuss return period in more detail next week.

We usually think about precipitation as a **depth** rather than a volume. We can use the equation Vol = depth \* area. To find out the average volume of water from a **depth** of water that falls on each country each year, we need to multiply the land area by the precipitation depth.

```
# We are going to calculate a volume from a given depth of water
# -> we need to pay close attention to units
# Review: we can quickly add data together in R rather than read it in
# from a .csv file using the 'concatinate' function, c(). Than using the
# 'tidyverse', we can easily bind rows and columns together.
# make a vector of strings with continent names and a vector of area values
continent <- c("Africa", "North America", "South America", "Asia",</pre>
              "Europe", "Oceania")
depth in \leftarrow c(27, 26.4, 64.9, 28.6, 28.9, 29.0)
area thos km2 \leftarrow c(3022, 2471, 1784, 4458, 1018, 853)
# turn the vectors into data.frames & remove the old data
continent <- as.data.frame(continent)</pre>
depth in <- as.data.frame(depth in)
area thos km2 <- as.data.frame(area thos km2)
# bind the two vectors together and then make it into a data-frame
precip <- bind cols(continent, depth in)</pre>
precip <- bind_cols(precip, area thos km2)</pre>
rm(continent, depth in, area thos km2)
# 1 inch equals 22.54 mm
\# 1,000,000 mm (10^6 mm) = 1 km
# Use the 'mutate' function
# You can use the '%>%' called a pipe to connect parts together.
# Use the 'mutate' function
```

```
# You can use the '%>%' called a pipe to connect parts together.
# In class answer
precip <- precip %>%
  # 1 inch = 22.54 mm
 mutate(depth mm = depth in * 22.54) %>%
 # 1000 m = 1 km
 # 1000 m = 1 km
 \# 1,000,000 \text{ m2} = 1 \text{ km2}
 mutate(area thos m2 = area thos km2 * 10^3 * 10^3) %>%
 # 1000 mm = 1 m
 mutate(depth_m = depth_mm * 10^-3) %>%
 # 1000 m = thos m
 # 1000 m = thos_m
 # 1000 * 1000 m2 = thos m2
 mutate(area_m2 = area_thos_m2 * 10^6) %>%
 mutate(vol m3 = area_m2 * depth_m)
# here is the answer
precip <- precip %>%
 mutate(depth mm = 22.54 * depth in) %>%
 mutate(precip km3 = area thos km2 * 10^3 * depth mm *10^-6) %>%
 mutate(precip_m3 = precip_km3 * 10^9)
print(precip)
         continent depth in area thos km2 depth mm area thos m2 depth m
## 1
            Africa
                       27.0
                                     3022 608.580
                                                      3.022e+09 0.608580
## 2 North America
                       26.4
                                     2471 595.056
                                                      2.471e+09 0.595056
## 3 South America
                       64.9
                                     1784 1462.846
                                                      1.784e+09 1.462846
## 4
              Asia
                       28.6
                                     4458 644.644
                                                      4.458e+09 0.644644
## 5
                       28.9
                                     1018 651.406 1.018e+09 0.651406
           Europe
## 6
           Oceania
                       29.0
                                      853 653.660
                                                      8.530e+08 0.653660
##
       area m2
                     vol m3 precip km3
                                          precip m3
## 1 3.022e+15 1.839129e+15 1839.1288 1.839129e+12
## 2 2.471e+15 1.470383e+15 1470.3834 1.470383e+12
## 3 1.784e+15 2.609717e+15 2609.7173 2.609717e+12
## 4 4.458e+15 2.873823e+15 2873.8230 2.873823e+12
## 5 1.018e+15 6.631313e+14 663.1313 6.631313e+11
## 6 8.530e+14 5.575720e+14
                              557.5720 5.575720e+11
rm(precip)
```

#### Geographical and seasonal variations

Precipitation varies by season and by location. Average annual precipitation in the United States is 30 inches (75 cm), but there is great spatial variation across the country by location and by season (Figures 2.4 - 2.6 in text).

```
# I downloaded station data for Cottonwood station, SD from
# NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)
# https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/
# the column descriptions are below. The depths are in metric (mm)
prcp raw <- read_csv("1228041 cottonwood sta.csv") %>%
  # drop the columns we dont need
  select(-(4:12)) %>%
  select(-(6))
precip <- prcp_raw %>%
  # clean the names
  clean_names() %>%
  # make a column of years, months, and days
  mutate(year = year(date)) %>%
  mutate(month = month(date)) %>%
  mutate(day = day(date)) %>%
  # change the mm to inches
  mutate(prcp in = prcp/22.54) %>%
  # drop 2018 from the data
  filter(year != "2018")
precip event <- precip %>%
  filter(prcp != 0)
# this is to check on NA values
prcp_na <- precip %>%
  filter(is.na(prcp))
# this is to check on the dryest year
prcp_test <- precip %>%
  filter(year == "1961")
prcp na <- precip %>%
  filter(is.na(prcp))
# this is to check on the dryest year
prcp_test <- precip %>%
  filter(year == "1961")
```

```
# make an annual precipitation
prcp ann <- precip %>%
# make a group of the years so that we can see how much prcp per year
 group_by(year) %>%
 summarize(prcp = sum(prcp, na.rm = TRUE),
           prcp_in = sum(prcp_in, na.rm = TRUE)) %>%
 arrange(prcp) %>%
 # add back in the month and days (helps with the stuff below)
 mutate(month = 1) %>%
 mutate(day = 1) %>%
 mutate(date = ymd(paste(year, month, day, sep="-"))) %>%
 select(date, year, month, day, prcp, prcp in)
# Here is what the columns from the raw data mean:
#EVAP - Evaporation of water from evaporation pan
#DAPR - Number of days included in the multiday precipitation total (MDPR)
#DAEV - Number of days included in the multiday evaporation total (MDEV)
#SNOW - Snowfall
#PRCP - Precipitation
#MNPN - Daily minimum temperature of water in an evaporation pan
#MDEV - Multiday evaporation total (use with DAEV)
#MXPN - Daily maximum temperature of water in an evaporation pan
#MDPR - Multiday precipitation total (use with DAPR and DWPR, if available)
#MDSF - Multiday snowfall total
#SNWD - Snow depth
#DASF - Number of days included in the multiday snow fall total (MDSF)
```

## Averaging precipitation over space and time

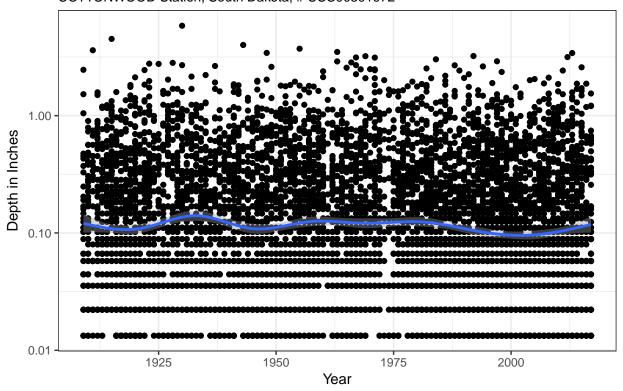
Precipitation is measured at points often using tipping rainfall buckets, or by pillows to measure the snowfall mass. These point measurements can be averaged over an area such as a watershed using different approaches such as Theissen polygons and contouring that can be automated in ArcGIS or R.

The averaging period for rainfall depth and intensity can be important, depending on the question of interest. Shorter averaging periods (15 minute data or shorter) can show differences in intensity over a storm. Oftentimes, the magnitude of 24-hour rainfall events is used for hydrologic studies. However, daily, monthly, or annual data is useful for most hydrologic budget studies depending on what you are interested in

```
# make a plot of the daily precip values
ggplot(precip_event, aes(x = year, y = prcp_in)) +
geom_point() +
```

```
geom_smooth() +
theme_bw() +
scale_y_log10() +
labs(title = "24-hour precipitation events over the last hundred years", subtitle = "0"
x = "Year", y = "Depth in Inches")
```

# 24-hour precipitation events over the last hundred years COTTONWOOD Station, South Dakota; # USC00391972

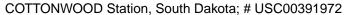


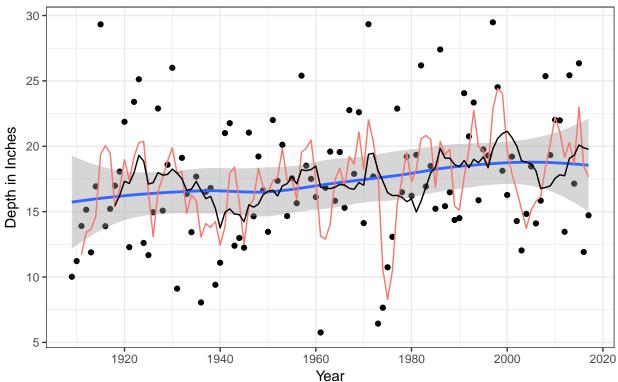
#### Historic time trends

Climate tends to have distinct wetter and drier periods (Figure 2.7), with periods of 3-7, 15-20, 100 or so recurrence intervals having been defined. Different approaches to showing variability in the region influenced by the Great Lakes using trend lines, running averages to smooth the data, and standard deviations.

```
# install.packages("tidyquant")
library(tidyquant)
# We want to calculate a rolling mean to look at the three year and
# 10 year wetter and drier cycles.
# The code was adapted from the article above... Googling the thing
# you want to do and seeing how others have done it is a great way
# to learn new things.
prcp_ann <- prcp_ann %>%
    tq_mutate(
        # tq_mutate arguments to select the data and apply a rolling mean
       select
                  = prcp in,
       mutate_fun = rollapply,
        # rollapply arguements to make a 3-yr window for the mean
       width
               = 3,
                  = "right",
       align
       FUN
                  = mean,
        # arguments about calculating the mean;
        # 'na.rm = TRUE' means remove the NA values
                = TRUE
       na.rm
    ) %>%
    tq_mutate(
       # tq_mutate args
       select = prcp in,
       mutate fun = rollapply,
        # rollapply args (10-year rolling average)
       width
                 = 10,
                  = "right",
       align
       FUN
                 = mean,
        # mean args
                = TRUE
       na.rm
    ) %>%
  # rename the columns made above
 rename(mean 3yr = prcp in.1) %>%
 rename(mean_10yr = prcp_in.2)
# make a plot of the annual precip values
ggplot(prcp ann, aes(x = date, y = prcp in)) +
 geom_point() +
 geom_smooth() +
 geom_line(aes(y = mean 3yr, color = "red")) +
 geom_line(aes(y = mean_10yr)) +
 theme_bw() +
```

#### Annual precipitation





## Rainfall frequency distributions

Hydrologists use estimates of the probability of rainfall events occurring to design hydrologic structures. The main parameters used in estimation are duration, intensity, and frequency. Frequency means the probability of an event of a particular magnitude or greater occurring, usually in a given year. Return interval, also called return period, is the average period of time in years that an event of some magnitude or greater to occur. Some examples for design are for agricultural drainage (10-year return interval), culverts (20 year recurrence interval), placement of houses near a stream (100-year return interval). Return interval and frequency are two ways of communicating how often should we expect a flood (or drought) of a particular magnitude to return. They two parameters are related by the formula

$$Frequency, F = \frac{100}{return - interval, T}$$

.

```
# make a vector of return intervals and turn it into a dataframe
T_return_yr <- c(2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500)
T_return_yr <- as.data.frame(T_return_yr)

freq_return_table <- T_return_yr %>%
    mutate(F_prob_percent = 100/T_return_yr)
rm(T_return_yr)
print(freq_return_table)
```

##		T_return_yr	${\tt F\_prob\_percent}$
##	1	2	50.0
##	2	5	20.0
##	3	10	10.0
##	4	20	5.0
##	5	50	2.0
##	6	100	1.0
##	7	500	0.2

The approach above works great if you have all of the information in a population. However, we almost never have this, so we use a statistical method to plot the observations of rainfall or floods or drought and estimate how rare or common is an event of a given magnitude. Most of the methods mentioned in the text don't work great for hydrologic data (see Cunnane 1977 for a discussion of this), but the Hazen Method works pretty good.

The Hazen method uses the following plotting position to find the percent probability,  $F_a$  of some event n occurring in a given year is

$$F_a = \frac{100(2n-1)}{2y}$$

where n is the event from littlest to biggest, y is the total number of events.

The 24-hour depth - duration - frequency (DDF) plot for Cottonwood Station is shown below. If we were investigating this more in detail, I would take additional time to investigate the low precipitation years, to ensure there wasn't an error with the data. I marked the 50% probability of occurrance on the graph. The graph reads that we should expect 16 or more inches of rain half of the time (odds = 1:1), so the recurrence interval is 2-years. Note, that (if the data are correct) there seems to be a climate (something) that is leading to an upper-interval for precipitation in very wet years.

```
# answers to the question above are: a) 14-inches;
# b) 20% or 5-year recurrence (odds = 1:4)

# we can create the variables we need to calculate the probability
# of wet years in Cottonwood station

test <- prcp_ann %>%
```

```
# arrange prcp_in from biggest to littlest
 arrange(desc(prcp in)) %>%
 # there are many ways to do things, but this is one way to get
 # observations from 1 to 109
 rowid_to_column(var = "n") %>%
 # this makes the max observation
 mutate(y = n()) \%>\%
 # this calculates the probability of the event or greater occurring
 mutate(Fa_prob = (100 * ((2 * n) - 1))/(2 * y)) %>%
 mutate(T return yr = 100 / Fa prob)
# note that we are using a bit of trick here to get the number of
# observations, because day is the same all the way down.
ggplot(test, aes(x = Fa prob, y = prcp in)) +
  # plot the x, y points
 geom_point() +
 # make a smooth line through the points using a linear model
 geom smooth(method = "lm") +
 # make the x-axis a log 10 axis & make log ticks along the bottom
 scale_x_log10() +
 annotation_logticks(base = 10, sides = "b") +
 # black and white theme
 theme bw() +
 # labels for the graph
 labs(title = "Depth - Duration - Frequency Curve",
      subtitle = "Cottonwood Station, SD; 24-hour duration",
      x = "Annual exceedance probability, percent",
      y = "Precipitation depth, inches") +
  # make a vertical line at the x = 50 intercept
 geom_vline(xintercept = 50)
```

Depth – Duration – Frequency Curve

Cottonwood Station, SD; 24-hour duration

