[[1]](#footnote-1)

Remotely Sensing Landslides: The Integration of Landsat 8 and GPM Information to Devise an Automated Landslide Identification Product

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*Abstract*— Nepal is a hotspot for rainfall induced landslide activity due to its mountainous topography, monsoon rains, and poor building practices. Over the past 25 years, rainfall induced landslides have affected over 443,094 people in the region and have caused over $15 million worth of damage. There have been regional effort to identify landslide hotspot areas, but these efforts are hindered by the lack of complete and non-biased landslide event datasets. Current landslide event detection requires high-resolution imagery with software aided classification, or manual digitization by analysts. These methods are plagued by low spatial and temporal accuracy. Addressing the issues in conventional measurements, this study combined optical data from Landsat 8 Operational Land Imager (OLI), a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) generated from Advanced Spaceborn Thermal Emissions and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER), and precipitation data from the Global Precipitation Measurement Mission (GPM) to create two complementary landslide and rainfall identification products. The Sudden Landslide Identification Product (SLIP) uses Landsat 8 and an ASTER DEM to identify landslides in near real-time and provides damage assessments by mapping landslides triggered by precipitation. The Detecting Real-time Increased Precipitation (DRIP) product monitors precipitation levels extracted from the GPM- IMERG 30 min product to create alerts in near real-time when current rainfall levels exceed regional threshold values. After a landslide detection is made by SLIP, historical rainfall data from DRIP is analyzed to estimate a date for the detected landslide.

*Index Terms*— ASTER, DEM, DRIP, GPM, Landsat 8, Landslides, Nepal, Remote Sensing, SLIP, TRMM

# INTRODUCTION

A landslide is a type of mass wasting event that occurs when down-slope forces exceed the strength of the slope materials (Cruden, 1991). Changes in slope stability can occur due to natural forcings including intense rainfall, rapid snowmelt, and seismicity (Caine, 1980; Wieczoreck, 1996), as well as anthropogenic factors like deforestation and land use change (Swanson and Dyrness, 1975). Therefore, due to its complex mountainous topography, active seismicity, monsoon rain, and underdeveloped infrastructure, Nepal is highly susceptible to landslides.

Annually, the region experiences hundreds of fatalities and millions of dollars in losses due to landslide events (Dahal and Hasegawa, 2008). On April 25, 2015, the magnitude 7.8 Gorkha earthquake struck Nepal, causing more than 9,000 fatalities, 21,000 injuries, and $1-2 billion in damages. Because of this monumental earthquake, rainfall-triggered landslides are likely to emerge as a significant induced hazard in the region. Historic data shows that more than 80% of landslides in the region occur between June and August due to increased levels of precipitation associated with the summer monsoon season (Dahal and Hasegawa, 2008). As such, more attention must be given to mitigating loss of life and economic damages during the monsoon period.

Previous research efforts have utilized landslide event data and heuristic (Deoja et al., 1991), statistical (Dahal et al., 2008a), and deterministic models (Sharma and Shakya, 2008) to create landslide susceptibility maps for the Himalayan region. These susceptibility maps depict hotspot areas that are at significant risk of experiencing a rainfall induced landslide event. These studies aim to prevent loss of life and economic damages caused by rainfall-induced landslides, but are limited in accuracy due to the availability and inherent biases present in most landslide event datasets.

It is currently estimated that landslide event datasets are available for less than 1% of the sloped areas globally (Guzzetti et al., 2012). If these datasets are available for a region of interest, two major sources of uncertainty exist. First, there is usually an under-reporting bias associated with rainfall induced landslide events because landslides are grouped with primary triggering hazards such as floods. Secondly, landslide events that occur in unpopulated areas are usually not reported in the dataset because it is not evident that these events occurred (Kirschbaum et al., 2010).

With current underestimation of landslide impacts and the increasing trend in frequency and intensity of landslide events due to anthropogenic factors (Petley et al., 2007), it is critical to develop a landslide event inventory that has the ability to accurately quantify landslide event formation and has the capability to serve as a decision support tool. Satellites and remote sensing technologies promise to remove inherent biases, by reducing the time and resources required for event compilation (Guzzetti et al., 2012). Conventional methods for detecting landslide events using satellite technology rely on visual interpretation of high-resolution imagery, with software aided classification, or manual digitization by analysts. Although these methods are more efficient that *in situ* data collection, these methodologies are resource intensive, time consuming, and are plagued by spatial and temporal constraints.

This study looks to address the issues present in conventional collection methods, by leveraging Landsat 8 Operational Land Imager (OLI) red band properties to develop an automated Sudden Landslide Identification Product (SLIP) to identify landslides. The study also seeks to use Global Precipitation Measurement Mission (GPM) and Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) data to develop a real-time rainfall measurement tool known as Detecting Real-time Increased Precipitation (DRIP). Together SLIP and DRIP form a real-time landslide hazard assessment model for the Nepal region. SLIP and DRIP were then validated on a regional and global scale by comparing the model results to known landslide events throughout Nepal, Brazil, and the United States.

# Methodology

## SLIP: Sudden Landslide Identification Product

## DRIP: Detecting Real-time Increase Precipitation

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

Define abbreviations and acronyms the first time they are used in the text, even after they have already been defined in the abstract. Abbreviations such as IEEE, SI, ac, and dc do not have to be defined. Abbreviations that incorporate periods should not have spaces: write “C.N.R.S.,” not “C. N. R. S.” Do not use abbreviations in the title unless they are unavoidable (for example, “IEEE” in the title of this article).

## Other Recommendations

Use one space after periods and colons. Hyphenate complex modifiers: “zero-field-cooled magnetization.” Avoid dangling participles, such as, “Using (1), the potential was calculated.” [It is not clear who or what used (1).] Write instead, “The potential was calculated by using (1),” or “Using (1), we calculated the potential.”

Use a zero before decimal points: “0.25,” not “.25.” Use “cm3,” not “cc.” Indicate sample dimensions as “0.1 cm × 0.2 cm,” not “0.1 × 0.2 cm2.” The abbreviation for “seconds” is “s,” not “sec.” Use “Wb/m2” or “webers per square meter,” not “webers/m2.” When expressing a range of values, write “7 to 9” or “7-9,” not “7~9.”

A parenthetical statement at the end of a sentence is punctuated outside of the closing parenthesis (like this). (A parenthetical sentence is punctuated within the parentheses.) In American English, periods and commas are within quotation marks, like “this period.” Other punctuation is “outside”! Avoid contractions; for example, write “do not” instead of “don’t.” The serial comma is preferred: “A, B, and C” instead of “A, B and C.”

If you wish, you may write in the first person singular or plural and use the active voice (“I observed that ...” or “We observed that ...” instead of “It was observed that ...”). Remember to check spelling. If your native language is not English, please get a native English-speaking colleague to carefully proofread your paper.

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# MATH

If you are using *Word,* use either the Microsoft Equation Editor or the *MathType* add-on (http://www.mathtype.com) for equations in your paper (Insert | Object | Create New | Microsoft Equation *or* MathType Equation). “Float over text” should *not* be selected.

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Number equations consecutively with equation numbers in parentheses flush with the right margin, as in (1). First use the equation editor to create the equation. Then select the “Equation” markup style. Press the tab key and write the equation number in parentheses. To make your equations more compact, you may use the solidus ( / ), the exp function, or appropriate exponents. Use parentheses to avoid ambiguities in denominators. Punctuate equations when they are part of a sentence, as in

(1)



Be sure that the symbols in your equation have been defined before the equation appears or immediately following. Italicize symbols (*T* might refer to temperature, but T is the unit tesla). Refer to “(1),” not “Eq. (1)” or “equation (1),” except at the beginning of a sentence: “Equation (1) is ... .”

# Units

Use either SI (MKS) or CGS as primary units. (SI units are strongly encouraged.) English units may be used as secondary units (in parentheses). This applies to papers in data storage**.** For example, write “15 Gb/cm2 (100 Gb/in2).” An exception is when English units are used as identifiers in trade, such as “3½-in disk drive.” Avoid combining SI and CGS units, such as current in amperes and magnetic field in oersteds. This often leads to confusion because equations do not balance dimensionally. If you must use mixed units, clearly state the units for each quantity in an equation.

The SI unit for magnetic field strength *H* is A/m. However, if you wish to use units of T, either refer to magnetic flux density *B* or magnetic field strength symbolized as µ0*H*. Use the center dot to separate compound units, e.g., “A·m2.”

# Some Common Mistakes

The word “data” is plural, not singular. The subscript for the permeability of vacuum µ0 is zero, not a lowercase letter “o.” The term for residual magnetization is “remanence”; the adjective is “remanent”; do not write “remnance” or “remnant.” Use the word “micrometer” instead of “micron.” A graph within a graph is an “inset,” not an “insert.” The word “alternatively” is preferred to the word “alternately” (unless you really mean something that alternates). Use the word “whereas” instead of “while” (unless you are referring to simultaneous events). Do not use the word “essentially” to mean “approximately” or “effectively.” Do not use the word “issue” as a euphemism for “problem.” When compositions are not specified, separate chemical symbols by en-dashes; for example, “NiMn” indicates the intermetallic compound Ni0.5Mn0.5 whereas “Ni–Mn” indicates an alloy of some composition NixMn1-x.

Be aware of the different meanings of the homophones “affect” (usually a verb) and “effect” (usually a noun), “complement” and “compliment,” “discreet” and “discrete,” “principal” (e.g., “principal investigator”) and “principle” (e.g., “principle of measurement”). Do not confuse “imply” and “infer.”

Prefixes such as “non,” “sub,” “micro,” “multi,” and “ultra” are not independent words; they should be joined to the words they modify, usually without a hyphen. There is no period after the “et” in the Latin abbreviation “*et al.*” (it is also italicized). The abbreviation “i.e.,” means “that is,” and the abbreviation “e.g.,” means “for example” (these abbreviations are not italicized).

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Fig. 1. Magnetization as a function of applied field. Note that “Fig.” is abbreviated. There is a period after the figure number, followed by two spaces. It is good practice to explain the significance of the figure in the caption.

TABLE I

Units for Magnetic Properties

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Symbol | Quantity | Conversion from Gaussian and  CGS EMU to SI a |
| Φ | magnetic flux | 1 Mx → 10−8 Wb = 10−8 V·s |
| *B* | magnetic flux density,  magnetic induction | 1 G → 10−4 T = 10−4 Wb/m2 |
| *H* | magnetic field strength | 1 Oe → 103/(4π) A/m |
| *m* | magnetic moment | 1 erg/G = 1 emu  → 10−3 A·m2 = 10−3 J/T |
| *M* | magnetization | 1 erg/(G·cm3) = 1 emu/cm3  → 103 A/m |
| 4π*M* | magnetization | 1 G → 103/(4π) A/m |
| σ | specific magnetization | 1 erg/(G·g) = 1 emu/g → 1 A·m2/kg |
| *j* | magnetic dipole  moment | 1 erg/G = 1 emu  → 4π × 10−10 Wb·m |
| *J* | magnetic polarization | 1 erg/(G·cm3) = 1 emu/cm3  → 4π × 10−4 T |
| χ*,* κ | susceptibility | 1 → 4π |
| χρ | mass susceptibility | 1 cm3/g → 4π × 10−3 m3/kg |
| μ | permeability | 1 → 4π × 10−7 H/m  = 4π × 10−7 Wb/(A·m) |
| μr | relative permeability | μ → μr |
| *w, W* | energy density | 1 erg/cm3 → 10−1 J/m3 |
| *N, D* | demagnetizing factor | 1 → 1/(4π) |

Vertical lines are optional in tables. Statements that serve as captions for the entire table do not need footnote letters.

aGaussian units are the same as cg emu for magnetostatics; Mx = maxwell, G = gauss, Oe = oersted; Wb = weber, V = volt, s = second, T = tesla, m = meter, A = ampere, J = joule, kg = kilogram, H = henry.

# Guidelines for Graphics Preparation and Submission

## Types of Graphics

The following list outlines the different types of graphics published in IEEE journals. They are categorized based on their construction, and use of color / shades of gray:

### *Color/Grayscale figures*

### Figures that are meant to appear in color, or shades of black/gray. Such figures may include photographs, illustrations, multicolor graphs, and flowcharts.

### *Lineart figures*

### Figures that are composed of only black lines and shapes. These figures should have no shades or half-tones of gray. Only black and white.

### *Author photos*

### Head and shoulders shots of authors which appear at the end of our papers.

### *Tables* Data charts which are typically black and white, but sometimes include color.

## Multipart figures

Figures compiled of more than one sub-figure presented side-by-side, or stacked. If a multipart figure is made up of multiple figure types (one part is lineart, and another is grayscale or color) the figure should meet the stricter guidelines.

## File Formats For Graphics

Format and save your graphics using a suitable graphics processing program that will allow you to create the images as PostScript (PS), Encapsulated PostScript (.EPS), Tagged Image File Format (.TIFF), Portable Document Format (.PDF), or Portable Network Graphics (.PNG) sizes them, and adjusts the resolution settings. If you created your source files in one of the following programs you will be able to submit the graphics without converting to a PS, EPS, TIFF, PDF, or PNG file: Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, or Microsoft Excel. Though it is not required, it is recommended that these files be saved in PDF format rather than DOC, XLS, or PPT. Doing so will protect your figures from common font and arrow stroke issues that occur when working on the files across multiple platforms. When submitting your final paper, your graphics should all be submitted individually in one of these formats along with the manuscript.

## Sizing of Graphics

Most charts, graphs, and tables are one column wide (3.5 inches / 88 millimeters / 21 picas) or page wide (7.16 inches / 181 millimeters / 43 picas). The maximum depth a graphic can be is 8.5 inches (216 millimeters / 54 picas). When choosing the depth of a graphic, please allow space for a caption. Figures can be sized between column and page widths if the author chooses, however it is recommended that figures are not sized less than column width unless when necessary.

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## Resolution

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While IEEE does accept, and even recommends that authors submit artwork in vector format, it is our policy is to rasterize all figures for publication. This is done in order to preserve the figures’ integrity across multiple computer platforms.

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The term color space refers to the entire sum of colors that can be represented within the said medium. For our purposes, the three main color spaces are Grayscale, RGB (red/green/blue) and CMYK (cyan/magenta/yellow/black). RGB is generally used with on-screen graphics, whereas CMYK is used for printing purposes.

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## Using Labels Within Figures

### Figure Axis labels

Figure axis labels are often a source of confusion. Use words rather than symbols. As an example, write the quantity “Magnetization,” or “Magnetization *M*,” not just “*M*.” Put units in parentheses. Do not label axes only with units. As in Fig. 1, for example, write “Magnetization (A/m)” or “Magnetization (Am−1),” not just “A/m.” Do not label axes with a ratio of quantities and units. For example, write “Temperature (K),” not “Temperature/K.”



Multipliers can be especially confusing. Write “Magnetization (kA/m)” or “Magnetization (103 A/m).” Do not write “Magnetization (A/m) × 1000” because the reader would not know whether the top axis label in Fig. 1 meant 16000 A/m or 0.016 A/m. Figure labels should be legible, approximately 8 to 10 point type.

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Figures (line artwork or photographs) should be named starting with the first 5 letters of the author’s last name. The next characters in the filename should be the number that represents the sequential location of this image in your article. For example, in author “Anderson’s” paper, the first three figures would be named ander1.tif, ander2.tif, and ander3.ps.

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## A conclusion section is not required. Although a conclusion may review the main points of the paper, do not replicate the abstract as the conclusion. A conclusion might elaborate on the importance of the work or suggest applications and extensions.

Appendix

Appendixes, if needed, appear before the acknowledgment.

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## References

References need not be cited in text. When they are, number citations on the line, in square brackets inside the punctuation. Multiple references are each numbered with separate brackets. When citing a section in a book, please give the relevant page numbers. In text, refer simply to the reference number. Do not use “Ref.” or “reference” except at the beginning of a sentence: “Reference [3] shows ... .” Please do not use automatic endnotes in *Word*, rather, type the reference list at the end of the paper using the “References” style.

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--Third, click and drag the right margin bar to just over 4 inches in width.

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5. Papers that describe ongoing work or announce the latest technical achievement, which are suitable for presentation at a professional conference, may not be appropriate for publication.

References

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1. J. K. Author, “Title of chapter in the book,” in *Title of His Published Book, x*th ed. City of Publisher, Country if not
2. USA: Abbrev. of Publisher, year, ch. *x*, sec. *x*, pp. *xxx–xxx.*

*Examples:*

1. G. O. Young, “Synthetic structure of industrial plastics,” in *Plastics,* 2nd ed., vol. 3, J. Peters, Ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1964, pp. 15–64.
2. W.-K. Chen, *Linear Networks and Systems.* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1993, pp. 123–135.

*Basic format for periodicals:*

1. J. K. Author, “Name of paper,” *Abbrev. Title of Periodical*, vol. *x,* no. *x,* pp*. xxx-xxx,* Abbrev. Month, year.

*Examples:*

1. J. U. Duncombe, “Infrared navigation—Part I: An assessment   
   of feasibility,” *IEEE Trans. Electron Devices*, vol. ED-11, no. 1, pp. 34–39, Jan. 1959.
2. E. P. Wigner, “Theory of traveling-wave optical laser,” *Phys. Rev*.,   
   vol. 134, pp. A635–A646, Dec. 1965.
3. E. H. Miller, “A note on reflector arrays,” *IEEE Trans. Antennas Propagat*., to be published.

*Basic format for reports:*

1. J. K. Author, “Title of report,” Abbrev. Name of Co., City of Co., Abbrev. State, Rep. *xxx*, year.

*Examples:*

1. E. E. Reber, R. L. Michell, and C. J. Carter, “Oxygen absorption in the earth’s atmosphere,” Aerospace Corp., Los Angeles, CA, Tech. Rep. TR-0200 (4230-46)-3, Nov. 1988.
2. J. H. Davis and J. R. Cogdell, “Calibration program for the 16-foot antenna,” Elect. Eng. Res. Lab., Univ. Texas, Austin, Tech. Memo. NGL-006-69-3, Nov. 15, 1987.

*Basic format for handbooks:*

1. *Name of Manual/Handbook*, *x* ed., Abbrev. Name of Co., City of Co., Abbrev. State, year, pp. *xxx-xxx.*

*Examples:*

1. *Transmission Systems for Communications*, 3rd ed., Western Electric Co., Winston-Salem, NC, 1985, pp. 44–60.
2. *Motorola Semiconductor Data Manual*, Motorola Semiconductor Products Inc., Phoenix, AZ, 1989.

*Basic format for books (when available online):*

1. Author. (year, month day). *Title.* (edition) [Type of medium]. *volume (issue).* Available: site/path/file

*Example:*

1. J. Jones. (1991, May 10). *Networks.* (2nd ed.) [Online]. Available: [http://www.atm.com](http://www.atm.com/)

*Basic format for journals (when available online):*

1. Author. (year, month). Title. *Journal.* [Type of medium]. *volume (issue),* pages. Available: site/path/file

*Example:*

1. R. J. Vidmar. (1992, Aug.). On the use of atmospheric plasmas as electromagnetic reflectors. *IEEE Trans. Plasma Sci.* [Online]. *21(3),* pp. 876–880. Available:<http://www.halcyon.com/pub/journals/21ps03-vidmar>

*Basic format for papers presented at conferences (when available online):*

1. Author. (year, month). Title. Presented at Conference title. [Type of Medium]. Available: site/path/file

*Example:*

1. PROCESS Corp., MA. Intranets: Internet technologies deployed behind the firewall for corporate productivity. Presented at   
   INET96 Annual Meeting. [Online]. Available: <http://home.process.com/Intranets/wp2.htp>

*Basic format for reports and handbooks (when available online):*

1. Author. (year, month). Title. Comp an y . C ity, State or Country. [Type of Medium]. Available: site/path/file

*Example:*

1. S. L. Tall een. (1996 , Apr . ). The In t r an et Archi -tecture: M a nagi ng i n f o rm at i on i n t h e ne w paradigm. Amdahl Corp., CA. [Online]. Available:<http://www.amdahl.com/doc/products/bsg/intra/infra/html>

*Basic format for computer programs and electronic documents (when available online):* ISO recommends that capitalization follow the accepted practice for the language or script in which the information is given.

*Example:*

1. A. Harriman. (1993, June). Compendium of genealogical software. *Humanist.* [Online]. Available e-mail: [HUMANIST@NYVM.ORG](mailto:HUMANIST@NYVM.ORG) Message: get GENEALOGY REPORT

*Basic format for patents (when available online):*

1. Name of the invention, by inventor’s name. (year, month day). *Patent Number* [Type of medium]. Available: site/path/file

*Example:*

1. Musical toothbrush with adjustable neck and mirror, by L.M.R. Brooks. (1992, May 19). *Patent D 326 189*

[Online]. Available: NEXIS Library: LEXPAT File: DESIGN

*Basic format for conference proceedings (published):*

1. J. K. Author, “Title of paper,” in *Abbreviated Name of Conf.*, City of Conf., Abbrev. State (if given), year, pp. *xxxxxx.*

*Example:*

1. D. B. Payne and J. R. Stern, “Wavelength-switched pas- sively coupled single-mode optical network,” in *Proc. IOOC-ECOC,* 1985,   
   pp. 585–590.

*Example for papers presented at conferences (unpublished):*

1. D. Ebehard and E. Voges, “Digital single sideband detection for interferometric sensors,” presented at the 2nd Int. Conf. Optical Fiber Sensors, Stuttgart, Germany, Jan. 2-5, 1984.

*Basic format for patents:*

1. J. K. Author, “Title of patent,” U.S. Patent *x xxx xxx*, Abbrev. Month, day, year.

*Example:*

1. G. Brandli and M. Dick, “Alternating current fed power supply,”   
   U.S. Patent 4 084 217, Nov. 4, 1978.

*Basic format**for theses (M.S.) and dissertations (Ph.D.):*

1. J. K. Author, “Title of thesis,” M.S. thesis, Abbrev. Dept., Abbrev. Univ., City of Univ., Abbrev. State, year.
2. J. K. Author, “Title of dissertation,” Ph.D. dissertation, Abbrev. Dept., Abbrev. Univ., City of Univ., Abbrev. State, year.

*Examples:*

1. J. O. Williams, “Narrow-band analyzer,” Ph.D. dissertation, Dept. Elect. Eng., Harvard Univ., Cambridge, MA, 1993.
2. N. Kawasaki, “Parametric study of thermal and chemical nonequilibrium nozzle flow,” M.S. thesis, Dept. Electron. Eng., Osaka Univ., Osaka, Japan, 1993.

*Basic format for the most common types of unpublished references:*

1. J. K. Author, private communication, Abbrev. Month, year.
2. J. K. Author, “Title of paper,” unpublished.
3. J. K. Author, “Title of paper,” to be published.

*Examples:*

1. A. Harrison, private communication, May 1995.
2. B. Smith, “An approach to graphs of linear forms,” unpublished.
3. A. Brahms, “Representation error for real numbers in binary computer arithmetic,” IEEE Computer Group Repository, Paper R-67-85.

*Basic format for standards:*

1. *Title of Standard*, Standard number, date.

*Examples:*

1. IEEE Criteria for Class IE Electric Systems, IEEE Standard 308, 1969.
2. Letter Symbols for Quantities, ANSI Standard Y10.5-1968.

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