

Example Problem: Air Pollutant Concentration Downwind of Ground Level Point Source

Given: a. $Q = 1$ gm/sec emission rate of H_2S from ground level vent

b. wind speed = $u = 3$ meter/sec

c. atmospheric stability classes of B and D (or 2 and 4)

d. "Acceptable source impact level" or ASIL for $H_2S = 0.9 \mu g/m^3$ for 24 hr average

e. equation 4-10 page 151 WW&Davis, for conc downwind with $Z = 0, Y = 0$
 where Z is the vertical height above ground level & $Y =$ distance from plume centerline
 (or in other words, equation is for ground level emission & ground level air poll. conc.)

$$\mu g := gm \cdot 10^{-6}$$

$$Q := 1 \cdot \frac{gm}{sec}$$

$$u := 3 \cdot m \cdot sec^{-1}$$

$$i := 0..7$$

Find: H_2S concentration in $x = 100$ to 7000 meters downwind.

Equation for pollutant conc C , eq 4.10 page 151 Wark, Warner & Davis is shown below:

$$C := \frac{Q}{\pi \cdot u \cdot \sigma_y \cdot \sigma_z}$$

Using 8 downwind distances x in meters

x is the downwind distance from the ground vent

100
200
400
700
1000
2000
4000
7000

$x :=$ m

The parameters σ_y and σ_z are the horizontal and vertical dispersion coefficients (sometimes called "standard deviations" as is presented on page 152 WW&D). These dispersion coefficients are for 10 minute average air pollutant concentrations, air pollutant concentrations in flat level open country, and for concentrations in under about 200 meters elevation above ground level. σ_y and σ_z are a function of the atmospheric stability class and downwind distance x from the emission. The σ_y and σ_z shown below are from a table in Wark & Warner, 2nd edition.

19
36
67
112
155
295
550
880

$\sigma_y B :=$ m

11
20
40
73
110
230
500
780

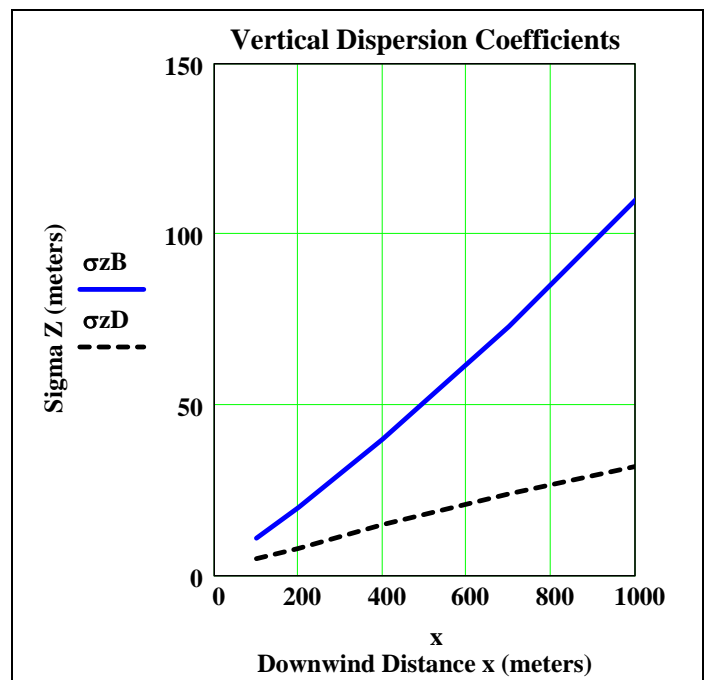
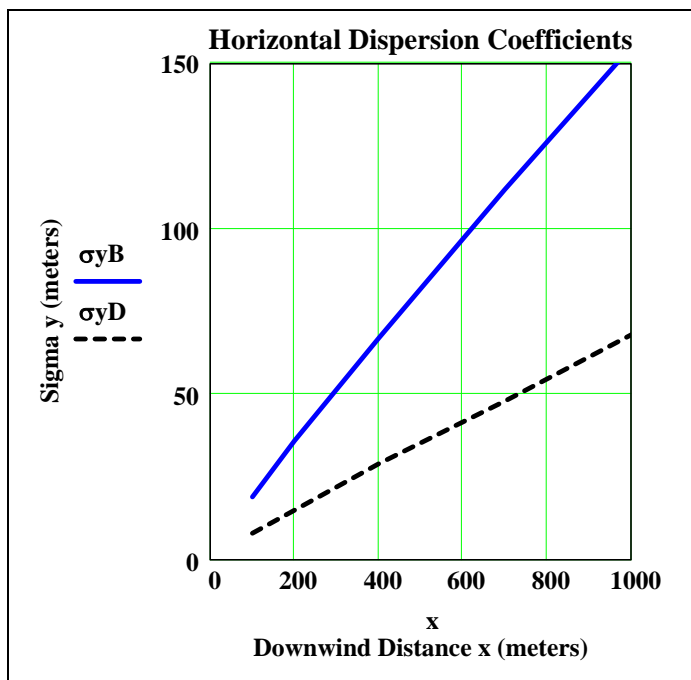
$\sigma_z B :=$ m

8
15
29
48
68
130
245
400

$\sigma_y D :=$ m

5
8
15
24
32
50
77
109

$\sigma_z D :=$ m



Now we can have Mathcad calculate the downwind H₂S 10 min average concentrations C for the atm stability classes B & D at the various downwind distances x

$$CB_i := \frac{Q}{\pi \cdot u \cdot \sigma_y B_i \cdot \sigma_z B_i}$$

$$CD_i := \frac{Q}{\pi \cdot u \cdot \sigma_y D_i \cdot \sigma_z D_i}$$

507.671
147.366
39.591
12.977
6.223
1.564
0.386
0.155

100
200
400
700
1000
2000
4000
7000

2652.582
884.194
243.916
92.104
48.761
16.324
5.624
2.434

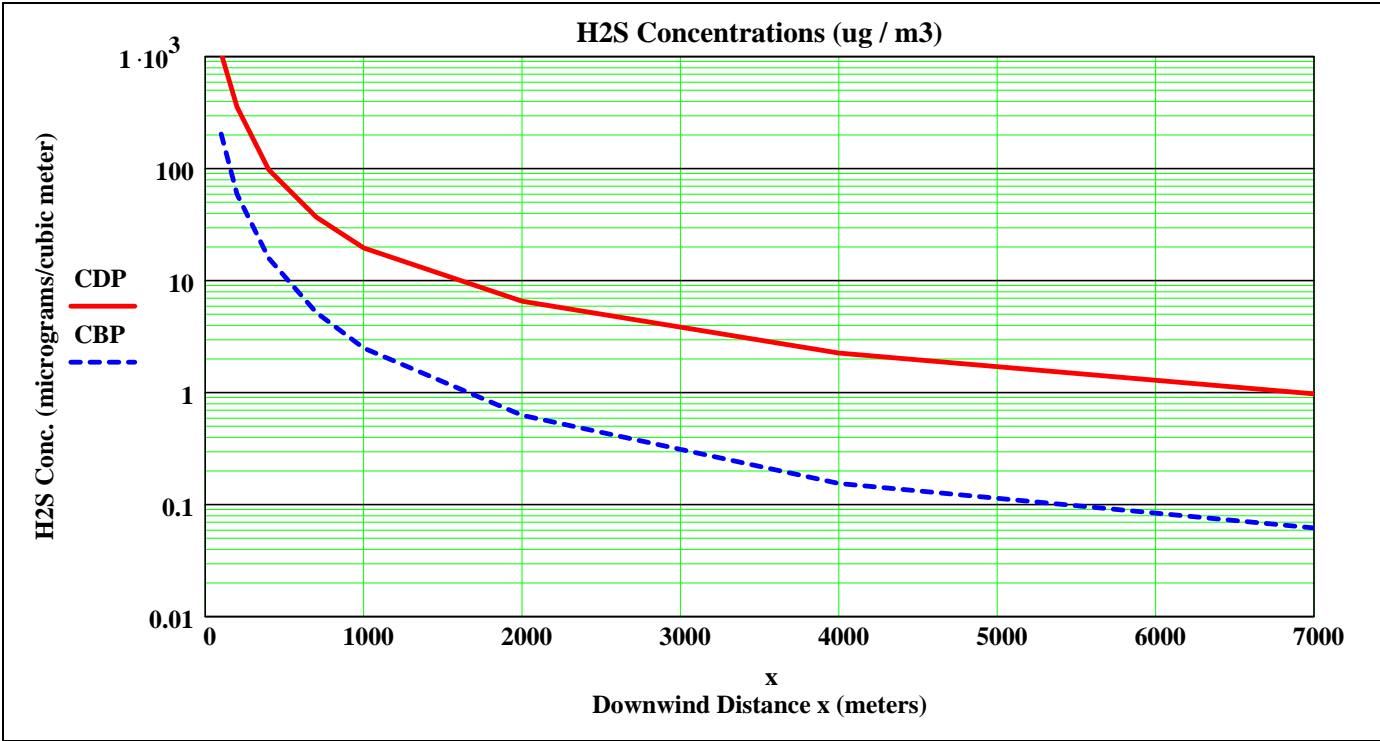
To convert from 10 minute to 24 hr averaging time, note that the EPA assumes the 10 min average conc represents the maximum 1-hr conc. and in the Table on page 169 WW&D it shows the 24 hr average conc. = 0.40 (1 hr average conc)

$$CBP_i := (0.4) \cdot (10^9 \cdot CB_i)$$

For graphing, convert the conc from kg/m³ to microgram/m³ multiply by 10⁹ (Mathcad graphs conc. in kg/m³ and not able to change it to micrograms/m³)

$$CDP_i := (0.4) \cdot (10^9 \cdot CD_i)$$

The graph below shows the 24 hr average H₂S concentrations downwind for Atm Stab Classes B & D. The upper solid red curve is class D, the dashed blue curve is B.



Do any of the H₂S concentrations exceed the Washington State ASIL or Accepted Source Impact Level of 0.9 μg/m³ for 24 hr average concentration?

Yes - the 24 hr H₂S concentration exceeds 0.9 μg/m³ for downwind distances from x = 0 to about x = 6500 meters for atmospheric stability class D - and from x = 0 to x = 1700 meters for class B.

The ASIL is the "Accepted Source Impact Level" and is used by the State of Washington. Most other states use the AAL or "Acceptable Ambient Level" for the "standard" for toxic and/or hazardous air pollutants (applies to permit to construct applications).