

Table III-1-3
Qualitative Sediment Distribution Ranges for Standard Deviation, Skewness, and Kurtosis

Standard Deviation	
Phi Range	Description
<0.35	Very well sorted
0.35-0.50	Well sorted
0.50-0.71	Moderately well sorted
0.71-1.00	Moderately sorted
1.00-2.00	Poorly sorted
2.00-4.00	Very poorly sorted
>4.00	Extremely poorly sorted
Coefficient of Skewness	
<-0.3	Very coarse-skewed
- 0.3 to - 0.1	Coarse-skewed
- 0.1 to +0.1	Near-symmetrical
+0.1 to +0.3	Fine-skewed
>+0.3	Very fine-skewed
Coefficient of Kurtosis	
<0.65	Very platykurtic (flat)
0.65-0.90	Platykurtic
0.90-1.11	Mesokurtic (normal peakedness)
1.11-1.50	Leptokurtic (peaked)
1.50-3.00	Very leptokurtic
>3.00	Extremely leptokurtic

f. Uses of distributions. The median grain size is the most commonly used sediment size characteristic, and it has wide application in coastal engineering practice. The standard deviation of sediment samples has been used in several ways, including beach-fill design (see Hobson (1977), Ch. 5, Sec. III,3) and sediment permeability (Krumbein and Monk 1942). When a set of samples are taken from a single project site, they will frequently show little or no consistent variation in median diameter. In this case, various higher order moments are usually used to distinguish different depositional environments. There is an extensive literature on the potential application of the measures of size distribution; see, for example, Inman (1957), Folk and Ward (1957), McCammon (1962), Folk (1965, 1966), Griffiths (1967), and Stauble and Hoel (1986).

g. Sediment sampling procedures.

(1) Although a beach can only be composed of the available sediments, grain size distributions change



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