

# 1 Estimation of raindrop size distribution and rain rate with infrared 2 surveillance camera in dark conditions

3 Jinwook Lee<sup>1</sup>, Jongyun Byun<sup>1</sup>, Jongjin Baik<sup>1</sup>, Changhyun Jun<sup>1</sup>, Hyeon-Joon Kim<sup>1</sup>

4 <sup>1</sup>Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, Chung-Ang University, Seoul, 06974, South  
5 Korea

6 *Correspondence to:* Hyeon-Joon Kim (hjkim22@cau.ac.kr)

7 **Abstract.** This study estimated raindrop size distribution (DSD) and rainfall intensity with an infrared surveillance camera in  
8 dark conditions. Accordingly, rain streaks were extracted using a  $k$ -nearest neighbor (KNN)-based algorithm. The rainfall  
9 intensity was estimated using DSD based on physical optics analysis. The estimated DSD was verified using a disdrometer for  
10 the two rainfall events. The results are summarized as follows. First, a KNN-based algorithm can accurately recognize rain  
11 streaks from complex backgrounds captured by the camera. Second, the number concentration of raindrops obtained through  
12 closed-circuit television (CCTV) images had values between  $100 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$  and  $1,000 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$ , the RMSE for the number  
13 concentration by CCTV and PARTicle Size and VELocity (PARSIVEL) was  $72.3 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$  and  $131.6 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$  in the 0.5 to 1.5  
14 mm section. Third, maximum raindrop diameter and the number concentration of 1 mm or less produced similar results during  
15 the period with a high ratio of diameters of 3 mm or less. Finally, after comparing with the 15-min cumulative PARSIVEL  
16 rain rate, the mean absolute percent error (MAPE) was 49% and 23%, respectively. In addition, the differences according to  
17 rain rate can be found that the MAPE was 36% at a rain rate of less than  $2 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$  and 80% at a rate above  $2 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ . Also,  
18 when the rain rate was greater than  $5 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ , MAPE was 33%. We confirmed the possibility of estimating an image-based  
19 DSD and rain rate obtained based on low-cost equipment during dark conditions.

## 20 1 Introduction

21 Precipitation data is vital in water resource management, hydrological research, and global change analysis. The primary means  
22 of measuring precipitation is to use a rain gauge (Allamano et al., 2015) to collect raindrops from the ground. Due to the  
23 restrictions on the installation environment of the rain gauge, it is difficult to understand the spatial rainfall distribution in  
24 mountains and urban areas (Kidd et al., 2017). Furthermore, the tipping-bucket-type rain gauge, which accounts for most rain  
25 gauges, has a discrete observation resolution (0.1 or 0.5 mm) for the discrete time-steps, producing uncertainty in temporal  
26 rainfall variation. For this reason, weighing gauges are nowadays used very often instead of tipping-bucket-type. the weighing  
27 gauge is a meteorological instrument used to observe and analyze various precipitation, including rainfall and snowfall. Also,  
28 the tipping bucket has a large error due to the observation time delay when the rainfall is less than  $10 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$  compared to the

29 weighing gauge. However, when the observation time size is set to 10 to 15 minutes, the relative percentage error has a very  
30 low value of -6.7~2.5%, resulting in high accuracy (Colli et al., 2014).

31 In contrast, it is possible to obtain spatial rainfall information on a global scale with remote sensing techniques (Famiglietti  
32 et al., 2015). However, remote sensing techniques provide only indirect measurements that must be continuously calibrated  
33 and verified through ground-level precipitation measurements (Michaelides et al., 2009). Recently, a disdrometer capable of  
34 investigating the microphysics characteristics of rainfall has been used for observation instead of the traditional rainfall  
35 observation instrument (Kathiravelu et al., 2016). However, these devices cannot be widely installed because of their high cost  
36 and difficulty in accessing observational data. Consequently, a high-resolution and low-cost ground precipitation monitoring  
37 network has not yet been established.

38 With the advent of the Internet of Things (IoT) era, using non-traditional sources is attractive for improving the spatio-  
39 temporal scale of existing observation networks (McCabe et al., 2017). In recent years, such cases have been common in  
40 rainfall observation. For example, there have been attempts to estimate rainfall using sensors to capture signal attenuation  
41 characteristics in commercial cellular communication networks (Overeem et al., 2016), vehicle wipers (Raibei et al., 2013),  
42 and smartphones (Guo et al., 2019). Furthermore, crowdsourcing information has been used to confirm the utility of estimating  
43 regional rainfall (Haberlandt and Sester, 2010; Rabiei et al., 2016; Yang and Ng, 2017).

44 In a similar context, a surveillance camera is a sensor with high potential. Surveillance cameras are often referred to as  
45 closed-circuit television (CCTV). Compared with other crowdsourcing methods, the visualization data of surveillance cameras  
46 are highly intuitive (Guo et al., 2017). Therefore, they have been used in various fields (Cai et al., 2017; Nottle et al., 2017;  
47 Hua, 2018). In Korea, public surveillance camera installations have been rapidly increasing, from approximately 150,000 in  
48 2008 to 1.34 million in 2020—approximately a public CCTV camera per 0.07 km<sup>2</sup>. Thus, the potential for precipitation  
49 estimation using camera sensing is expected to be greater in Korea.

50 Recently, various studies have been conducted to estimate rainfall intensity using the rain streak image obtained from  
51 surveillance camera videos. Many studies attempted to use artificial intelligence to capture changes in the image captured by  
52 the camera when it rains (Zen et al., 2019; Avanzato and Beritelli, 2020; Wang et al., 2022). In contrast, some studies have  
53 tried to estimate rainfall intensity using geometrical optics and photographic analyses. Typically, the rain streak layer is  
54 separated from the raw image or video. A rain streak is the visual appearance of raindrops caused by visual persistence—  
55 raindrops falling because of the blur phenomenon of raindrop movement from the camera’s exposure time appears as streaks  
56 on the image. Garg and Nayar (2005) made one of the first attempts to measure this rainfall.

57 It is true that these previous studies confirmed the possibility of rainfall measurement using surveillance cameras. However,  
58 several limitations still prevent the actual expansion of the measurement systems using surveillance cameras. In general, most  
59 surveillance cameras are installed for monitoring purposes, and people's faces are inevitably captured. Therefore, it is not easy  
60 to disclose the data due to privacy concerns. Data storage and transmission are also limitations. Since most surveillance  
61 cameras use a hard disk, data must be taken out directly. In other words, rainfall estimation cannot be done in real-time unless  
62 a system is in place to transmit data over the Internet. In addition, the applicability to night-time is more limited. In the case of

63 general surveillance cameras in the past, observation is possible only when sunlight exists. For the observation system to  
64 expand, these various limitations must be addressed, and it seems that a lot of time and effort are needed. Nevertheless, research  
65 to develop algorithms using surveillance cameras in various conditions and to confirm applicability can have sufficient  
66 meaning. The case of dark conditions is one of the conditions worth studying. This is because the recently installed surveillance  
67 cameras are equipped with an Infrared recording function, so most cameras will be able to take videos at night soon. However,  
68 the final purpose of utilizing these devices and the method is not to replace existing devices. It could be a supplement to  
69 improve the spatiotemporal resolution and accuracy of existing observation instruments. In particular, a study on the drop size  
70 distribution of rainfall, rather than simple rainfall estimation, would have more potential application value.

71 Since then, many studies have been conducted to develop and improve efficient algorithms. Allamano et al. (2015)  
72 proposed a framework to estimate the quantitative rainfall intensity using camera images based on physical optics from a  
73 hydrological perspective. Dong et al. (2017) proposed a more robust approach to identifying raindrops and estimating rainfall  
74 using a grayscale function, making grayscale subtraction nonlinear. Jiang et al. (2019) proposed an algorithm that decomposes  
75 rain-containing images into rain streak layers and rainless background layers using convex optimization algorithms and  
76 estimates instantaneous rainfall intensity through geometric optical analysis.

77 Some studies (e.g., Dong et al., 2017) have sought to estimate raindrop size distribution (DSD) using a surveillance camera.  
78 However, the existing studies have focused on the time when video can be captured with visible light. It is impossible to obtain  
79 input data without visible light using the existing image-based rainfall measurement method. Thus, these methodologies are  
80 only applicable in daytime conditions. However, when recording using infrared rays, it is possible to obtain a rainfall image  
81 even when there is no sunlight. No study has estimated the rain in dark conditions to our knowledge. Furthermore, most  
82 previous studies did not verify the estimated DSD using a disdrometer. In contrast, this study estimated DSD with an infrared  
83 surveillance camera in dark conditions, based on which rainfall intensity was also estimated. Rain streaks were extracted using  
84 a k-nearest neighbor (KNN)-based algorithm. The DSD was used to calculate rainfall intensity with physical optics analysis  
85 and verified using a PARticle SIze and VELOCITY (PARSIVEL) disdrometer (Löffler-Mang and Joss, 2000).

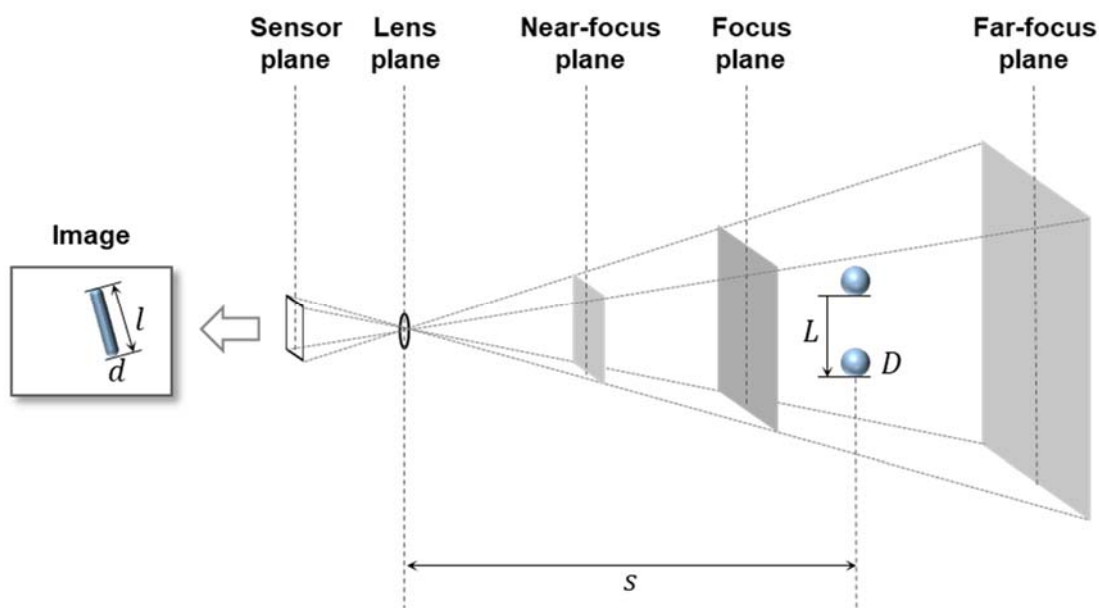
## 86 **2 Methodology**

### 87 **2.1 Recording video containing rain streaks using infrared surveillance camera**

88 The surveillance camera records video. The video looks continuous, but it is also composed of discrete still images, so-called  
89 frames. The frequency of recording frames (i.e., acquisition rate) is called frame per second (fps). In other words, fps is how  
90 many images are taken per second for recording video. Another important factor in video recording is exposure time. Exposure  
91 time, also called shutter speed, refers to the time the camera sensor is exposed to light to capture a single frame. The real  
92 raindrops are close to a circle, but in a single image, the raindrops look like a streak. This is because raindrops move at a high  
93 speed during the exposure time. Therefore, the raindrops that moved during the exposure time are visualized in the rain streaks  
94 in a single frame.

95 Fig. 1 shows an example of capturing a raindrop for a single frame. Here, only the raindrops near the point of focus are  
 96 visible, and objects that are more than a certain distance appear invisible. That is, the point where the focus is best is called the  
 97 focus plane, and there is a range in which it can be recognized that objects are focused before and after the focus plane. The  
 98 closest plane that can be considered to be in focus is called the near-focus plane, and the farthest plane is called the far-focus  
 99 plane. This range is generally called depth of field (DoF). Ultimately, the rainfall intensity can be estimated based on the  
 100 volume and raindrops in the DoF.

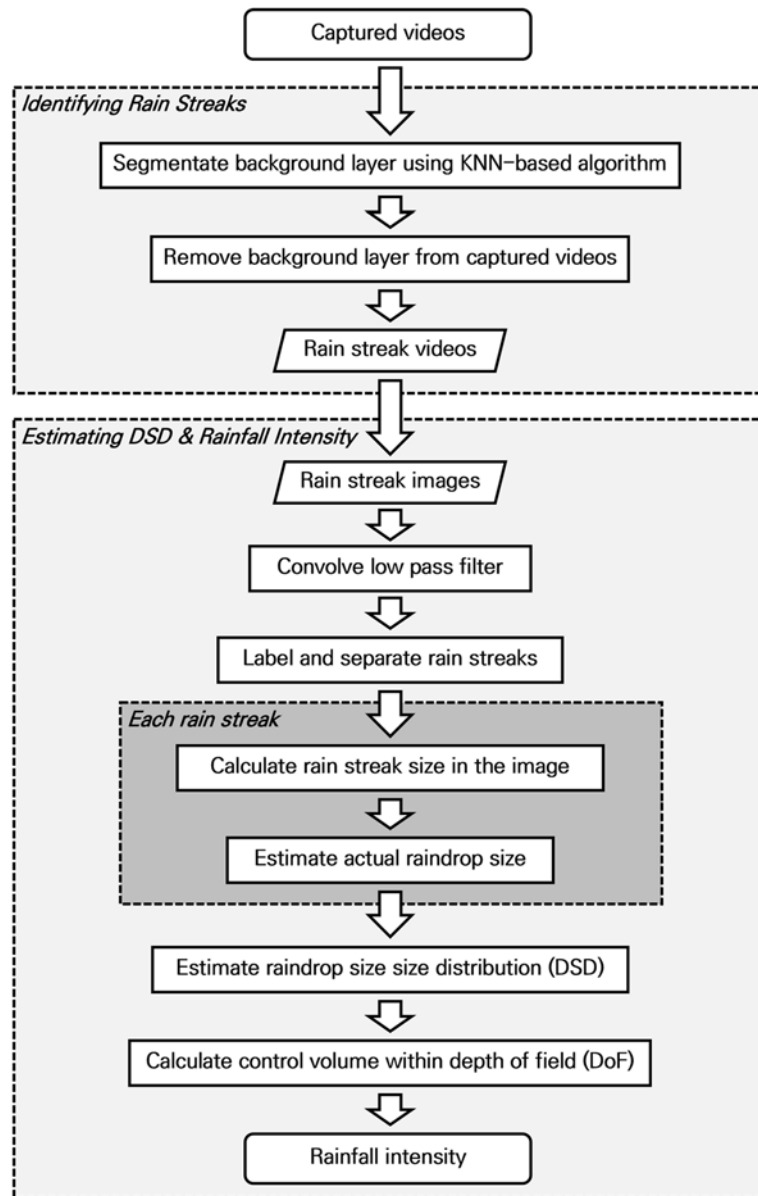
101 In this study, an infrared surveillance camera was considered under dark conditions. Here, the dark condition refers to a  
 102 condition in which raindrops cannot be captured by a general surveillance camera with visible light. Infrared cameras emit  
 103 near-infrared rays through an infrared emitter and receive the reflected light from the objects. Accordingly, it has the advantage  
 104 of being able to detect raindrops that are invisible to the human eye.



105 **Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the photographed rain streak in the image and the movement of a raindrop during the exposure**  
 106 **time.**

## 107 2.2 Algorithm for identifying rain streaks and estimating DSD and rain rate

108 Image-based rainfall estimation can be divided into two processes: identifying rainfall streaks and estimating DSD. Fig. 2  
 109 illustrates these processes in a flowchart. Identifying rain streaks requires an algorithm that separates the moving rain streaks  
 110 from the background layer. Next, in estimating DSD, raindrops are extracted from the image of the rain streaks, and the overall  
 111 distribution is obtained.



112 **Figure 2. Flowchart of the methodology for estimating DSD and rainfall intensity.**

113 Most existing algorithms aim to remove raindrops in images because raindrops are considered noise in object detection  
 114 and tracking (Duthon et al., 2018). Such algorithms are categorized into multiple-image-based and single-image-based  
 115 approaches (Jiang et al., 2018).

116 For example, Garg and Nayar (2007) classified the conditions in which the brightness difference between the previous  
 117 pixel and that of the next pixel exceeds a specific threshold over time, assuming that the background is fixed. Improved  
 118 algorithms were then developed considering the temporal correlation of raindrops (Kim et al., 2015) and chromatic properties

119 (Santhaseelan and Asari, 2015). Tripathi and Mukhopadhyay (2014) proposed a framework that removes rain that reduces the  
 120 visibility of the scene to improve the detection performance of image feature information. However, single-image-based  
 121 algorithms rely more on the properties of raindrops (Deng et al., 2018). The central idea of a single-image-based algorithm is  
 122 to decompose rain-containing images into rainless layers (Li et al., 2016; Deng et al., 2018; Jiang et al., 2018).

123 An image including grayscale rainfall may be mathematically expressed in a two-dimensional (2D) matrix in which each  
 124 element has a grayscale value. A single image ( $m \times n$ ) is expressed as follows (Jiang et al., 2018):

$$125 \quad O = B + R, \tag{1}$$

126 where  $O \in R^{m \times n}$ ,  $B \in R^{m \times n}$ , and  $R \in R^{m \times n}$  are the raw image, rain-free background layer, and rain streak layer.

127 Accordingly, various algorithms are available for rain streak identification. Different still image and video-based algorithms  
 128 have been proposed to eliminate objects such as moving objects for application to actual surveillance cameras. However, most  
 129 of these algorithms face optimization problems because of the vast number of decision variables (Jiang et al., 2019). This task  
 130 is not easy to solve or requires excessive computation time. Therefore, existing studies present techniques suitable for post-  
 131 analysis rather than application in real-time. The use of complex algorithms can increase versatility and accuracy, but there is  
 132 a trade-off that reduces computational speed. The time required for such computing is a critical disadvantage in practical  
 133 applications for estimating rainfall intensity.

134 In this study, a KNN-based segmentation algorithm (Zivkovic and Heijden, 2006), a popular non-parametrical method for  
 135 background subtraction, was considered for segmenting the rain streaks (foreground) and background layers. KNN is used in  
 136 classification and regression problems (Bouwman et al., 2010). The concept of KNN is that similar things are close—the  
 137 KNN-based segmentation algorithm finds the closest  $k$  samples (neighbors) to the unknown sample using Euclidean distance  
 138 to determine the class (i.e., foreground or background). Thus, the KNN-based segmentation method to detect foreground  
 139 changes in the video was used to identify rain streaks by recording infrared videos under conditions with little background  
 140 influence. In the algorithm, The KNN subtractor works by updating the parameters of a Gaussian mixture model for more  
 141 accurate kernel density estimation (Trnovský et al., 2017). KNN is more efficient for local density estimation (Qasim et al.,  
 142 2021); therefore, the algorithm is highly efficient if the number of foreground pixels is low.

143 We used the package provided by OpenCV to implement the KNN-based segmentation algorithm (Zivkovic and Heijden,  
 144 2006). Accordingly, three main parameters (history, dist2Threshold, detectShadows) needed to be set. Table 1 presents the  
 145 description of the parameters used for the KNN background subtractor package.

146 **Table 1. Parameters in KNN background subtractor package in OpenCV.**

Parameter	Description
history	Length of the history
dist2Threshold	Threshold on the squared distance between the pixel and the sample to decide whether a pixel is close to that sample. This parameter does not affect the background update.

detectShadows	If true, the algorithm will detect shadows and mark them. This decreases the speed slightly, so if you do not need this feature, set the parameter to false.
---------------	---

147 It is essential to capture raindrops within the camera's depth of field (DoF) to calculate the final DSD and rainfall intensity.  
148 Accordingly, this study proposed a novel algorithm to extract each rain streak from the rain streaks image. First, we applied a  
149 low-pass filter to the rain streaks image to remove unfocused raindrops that may remain in the image, which smooths each  
150 pixel using a 2D kernel. Videos from infrared mode have usually a blur effect. Thus, the additional 2D kernel was applied to  
151 remove the pixels having blur. Highly detailed parts (e.g., out-of-focus raindrops and some noises) are erased, leaving some  
152 clear rain streaks. A background layer with a value of 0 and a part not in the image were separated to extract the rain streaks  
153 and labeled one by one to identify each rain streak from the image.

154 Because the rain streak observed in the surveillance camera image causes an angle difference (influenced by the wind), a  
155 diameter estimation process considering the angle of the rain streak (fall angle of a raindrop) is required. If the angle of rain  
156 steak is considered and converted to the raindrop diameter through the horizontal pixel size in the image, the shape change in  
157 the raindrop because of air buoyancy (i.e., during the falling of the raindrop) may not be reflected, and overestimation can  
158 occur.

159 Accordingly, the representative angle of each extracted rain streak was calculated. The border information of each rain  
160 streak was obtained, and center axis information of the rain streak was obtained based on the border information to calculate  
161 the drop angle. Moreover, the rain streak was rotated to set the long and short axes of the streak at  $0^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$ , using the angle  
162 information.

163 The size of raindrops in the rain streaks image can be estimated through the analysis of microphysical characteristics of  
164 raindrop and geometric optical analysis (Keating, 2002). The instantaneous velocity of a raindrop on the ground can be  
165 estimated from the exposure time and the size of the raindrop. However, the distance from the raindrop to the lens surface (i.e.,  
166 the object distance) is unknown and should be inferred. Object distance can be calculated through physical optics analysis  
167 because it causes perspective distortion. Assuming a raindrop is spherical, the length of the trajectory where the raindrop falls  
168 when the camera is exposed and the diameter of the raindrop can be inferred through the lens equation (Keating, 2002):

$$169 \quad L(s) = \frac{d_f - f}{d_f \cdot f} \frac{h_s}{h_p} l_p s, \quad (2)$$

$$170 \quad D(s) = \frac{d_f - f}{d_f \cdot f} \frac{w_s}{w_p} d_p s, \quad (3)$$

171 where  $s$  is the distance from the raindrop to the lens plane (mm).  $L(s)$  and  $D(s)$  are the length of falling trajectory during camera  
172 exposure (rain streak) and the raindrop's diameter.  $d_f$  is the focus distance (mm),  $f$  is focal length (mm).  $h_s$  and  $w_s$  are the  
173 vertical and horizontal sizes of the active area of the image sensor (mm), and  $h_p$  and  $w_p$  are the vertical and horizontal sizes of  
174 the captured image (in number of pixels).  $l_p$  and  $d_p$  are the length and width of the rain streaks in the image (in number of  
175 pixels).

176 It is then possible to infer the falling speed of raindrops using the camera's exposure time (Jiang et al., 2019), as follows:

177  $v(s) = \frac{L(s)}{1000\tau},$  (4)

178 where  $\tau$  is the exposure time of the camera (seconds) and  $v(s)$  is the fall velocity of the raindrop from the image. Furthermore,  
 179 the fall velocity of a raindrop can be approximated by an empirical formula for raindrop diameter. The most frequently used  
 180 equation is as follows (Atlas et al., 1973; Friedrich et al., 2013):

181  $v(D) = 9.65 - 10.3\exp(-0.6D),$  (5)

182 where  $D$  is the raindrop diameter and  $v$  is the fall velocity of raindrop. The actual diameter of raindrops can be obtained by  
 183 solving the equation with the fall velocity obtained through the exposure time and Eqs. (4) and (5). Furthermore, the DoF for  
 184 the images using the camera's setting information can be calculated, and the effective volume for estimating rainfall intensity  
 185 can be obtained. Details of the process are described in previous studies (Allamano et al., 2015; Jiang et al., 2019).

186 The control volume must be determined to estimate the rainfall intensity using the diameter of each raindrop. An understanding  
 187 of DoF is required to achieve the volume. The DoF, is simply the range at which the camera can accurately focus and capture  
 188 the raindrops. Calculating this range requires obtaining the near and far focus planes as follows:

189  $s_n = \frac{d_f \cdot f^2}{f^2 + N \cdot c_p \cdot (d_f - f)},$  (6)

190  $s_f = \frac{d_f \cdot f^2}{f^2 - N \cdot c_p \cdot (d_f - f)},$  (7)

191 where  $s_n$  and  $s_f$  are the distances from the near and far focus planes.  $c_p$  is the maximum permissible circle of confusion, a  
 192 constant determined by the camera manufacturers.  $N$  is the F-number of the lens relevant to the aperture diameter. Accordingly,  
 193 the theoretical sampling volume ( $V, m^3$ ) indicate the truncated rectangular pyramid between the near and far focus planes:

194  $V = \frac{1}{3 \cdot 10^9} \left( \frac{d_f - f}{d_f \cdot f} \right)^2 w_s h_s (s_f^3 - s_n^3),$  (8)

195

196 Then, we used the gamma distribution equation, Eq. (6), proposed by Ulbrich (1983), to calculate DSD parameters using  
 197 data at every 1 min interval.

198  $N(D) = N_0 D^\mu \exp(-AD),$  (9)

199 where  $N(D)$  ( $mm^{-1}m^{-3}$ ) is the number concentration value per unit volume for each size channel, and  $N_0$  ( $mm^{-1-\mu}m^{-3}$ ) is an  
 200 intercept parameter representing the number concentration when the diameter has 0 value.  $D$  (mm) and  $A$  ( $mm^{-1}$ ) are the drop  
 201 diameter and slope parameter. Raindrops smaller than 8.0 mm were used to avoid considering non-weather data such as leaps  
 202 and bugs (Friedrich et al., 2013).

203 The gamma distribution relationship is a function of formulating the number concentration per unit diameter and unit  
 204 volume. It was proposed by Marshall and Palmer (1948) as improved model of exponential distribution as a favorable form to



205 reflect various rainfall characteristics. By including the term containing  $\mu$  in the distribution function, the shape of the number  
 206 concentration distribution for small drops smaller than 1 mm is improved.

$$207 \quad N(D) = N_0 \exp(-\Lambda D), \quad (10)$$

208 As the  $\Lambda$  decreases, the slope of the distribution shape decreases and the proportion of large drop increases. Conversely, as  
 209 the value increases, the distribution slope becomes steeper, and the weight of the large particles decreases. When  $\mu$  has a large  
 210 value, the distribution is convex upward, and it has a distribution with a sharp decrease in number concentration at small  
 211 diameters. Whereas when it has a negative value, the distribution is convex downward with an increase in the concentration  
 212 of drops smaller than 1 mm. In the gamma distribution, the  $\mu$  is mainly affected by the difference in concentration of raindrops  
 213 smaller than 3 mm (Vivekanandan et al., 2004).

214 Vivekanandan et al. (2004) explained the reason for using the gamma distribution as follows. First, it is sufficient to  
 215 calculate the rainfall estimation equation using only the first, third, and fourth moments (Eq. (11)) (Smith, 2003). Second, the  
 216 long-term raindrop size distribution has an exponential distribution shape (Yuter and Houze, 1997).

217 The raindrop size distribution observed from the ground is the result of the microphysical development of raindrops falling  
 218 from precipitation clouds. The drop size distribution shape is changed during fall by microphysical processes such as collision,  
 219 merging, and evaporation, and changes in the concentration of drops larger than 7.5 mm and small drops occur mainly. As a  
 220 result, the drop size distribution observed on the ground mainly follows the gamma distribution shape (Ulbrich, 1983; Tokay  
 221 and Short, 1996). The gamma distribution relationship should be used to analyze the distribution of raindrops that are actually  
 222 floating and falling.

$$223 \quad M_n = \int_{D_{min}}^{D_{max}} D^n N(D) dD, \quad (11)$$

224 Eq. (11) indicate a moment expression for the  $n^{\text{th}}$  order. For example, the second moment is calculated as the product of  
 225 the square of the diameter of each channel and the number concentration and the diameter of each channel. Each moment value  
 226 has a different microphysical meaning. Therefore, the gamma distribution including three dependent parameters is more  
 227 advantageous in reflecting the microphysical characteristics of the precipitation system than the exponential distribution  
 228 including two dependent parameters. Eq. (11) can be expressed in gamma distribution format as follows:

$$229 \quad M_n = \int_{D_{min}}^{D_{max}} D^n N(D) dD = N_0 \Lambda^{-(\mu+n+1)} \Gamma(\mu + n + 1), \quad (12)$$

230 where  $N_T$  (total number concentration,  $\text{m}^{-3}$ ) is the zero-order moment ( $M_0$ ) and represents the total number concentration of  
 231 raindrops per unit volume.  $\eta$  was determined for calculating  $\mu$  and  $\Lambda$ . In this study, a combination of moments in the ratio of  
 232  $M_2$ ,  $M_4$ , and  $M_6$ , which accurately represents the characteristics of small rainfall particles, was applied (Vivekanandan et al.,  
 233 2004):

$$234 \quad \eta = \frac{(M_4)^2}{(M_2)(M_6)} = \frac{(\mu+3)(\mu+4)}{(\mu+5)(\mu+6)}, \quad (13)$$

235  $\mu$  and  $\Lambda$  are calculated as follows:

$$236 \quad \mu = \frac{(7-11\eta) - [(7-11\eta)^2 - 4(\eta-1)(30\eta-12)]^{1/2}}{2(\eta-1)}, \quad (14)$$

$$237 \quad \Lambda = \left[ \frac{M_2 \Gamma(\mu+5)}{M_4 \Gamma(\mu+3)} \right]^{1/2} = \left[ \frac{M_2(\mu+4)(\mu+3)}{M_4} \right]^{1/2}, \quad (15)$$

238 A larger value of  $D_m$  (mm) estimated using Eq. (16), the diameter of the average mass of raindrops contained in the unit  
239 volume, indicates that predominantly larger drops are distributed.

$$240 \quad D_m = \frac{M_4}{M_3}, \quad (16)$$

241  $R$  (mm h<sup>-1</sup>) is the rain rate calculated using Eq. (17).

$$242 \quad R = \frac{6\pi}{10^4} \int_{D_{min}}^{D_{max}} D^3 N(D) V(D) dD, \quad (17)$$

### 243 3 Study site and observation equipment

244 This study used a building's rooftop as the study site. The building is the Chung-Ang University's Bobst Hall, located in the  
245 central region of Seoul in Korea. It is located at 37° 30' 13" north latitude and 126° 57' 27" east longitude, at an elevation of  
246 42 m. Fig. 3 illustrates the CCTV (marked with a red circle) and PARSIVEL installed at the study point. The CCTV was used  
247 for the main analysis, and PARSIVEL was considered for verification purposes.



(a) Surveillance camera



(b) PARSIVEL

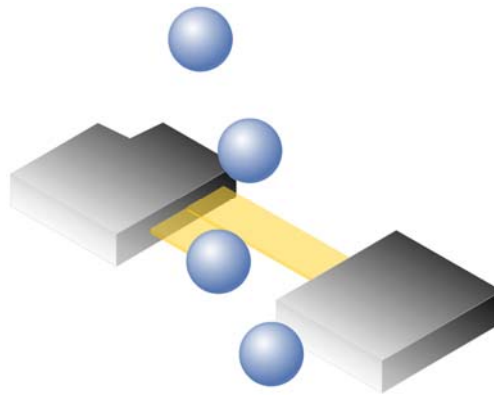
248 **Figure 3. Observation measurements considered in this study.**

249 The CCTV model used in this study is DC-T333CHRX, developed by IDIS. The camera has a 1/1.7 inch complementary  
250 metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) with a height and width of 5.70 mm and 7.60 mm. The focal length is 4.5 mm, and the

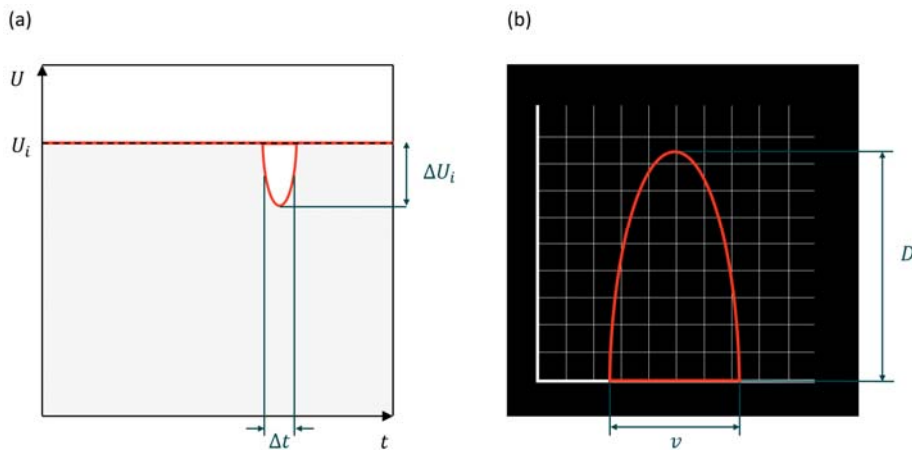
251 F-number of the lens is 1.6. The shutter speed was set to 1/250 s, and the frame per second (fps) was set to 30. The infrared  
252 ray distance is 50 m. The maximum permissible circle of confusion is 0.005 mm. The camera's resolution is 1,080 pixels for  
253 the height and 1,920 pixels for the width, but the cropped images (640×640 pixels) were considered for the analysis.

254 The PARSIVEL is a ground meteorological instrument that can observe precipitation particles' diameter and fall speed  
255 (e.g., raindrops, snow particles, hail). The meteorological information, including raindrop size, is used to estimate the  
256 quantitative precipitation amount and reveal the precipitation system's microphysical characteristics and development  
257 mechanism.

258 The PARSIVEL used in this study is the second version of the instrument manufactured by OTT in Germany, and it is  
259 improved observation accuracy of small particles. The PARSIVEL uses a laser-based optical sensor to send a laser from the  
260 transmitter and continuously receive it from the receiver (Fig. 4). As the laser beam moves from the transmitter to the receiver,  
261 the precipitation particle passes over the laser beam, and the size and velocity of the precipitation particle are observed (Nemeth  
262 and Hahn, 2005). The diameter and velocity of the particle are calculated by calculating the time the particle passes through  
263 the laser and the laser intensity that decreases during the passage (Fig. 5).



264 **Figure 4. Functional principle of the PARSIVEL disdrometer.**



265 **Figure 5. (a) Signal changes whenever a particle falls through the beam anywhere within the measurement area. (b) The degree of**  
 266 **dimming is a measure of the particle's size; together with the duration of the signal, the fall velocity can be derived.**

267 Parameters such as rain rate, reflectivity, and momentum of raindrops are calculated through particle concentration values for each  
 268 diameter and falling speed channel obtained through PARSIVEL observation. In this study, the temporal resolution of the observation data  
 269 was set to 1 minute. The particle diameters from 0.2 to 25 mm (Table 1 in Appendix) and fall velocity from 0.2 to 20 m s<sup>-1</sup> (Table 2 in  
 270 Appendix) can be observed by the PARSIVEL. The particle diameter and the fall speed each have 32 observation channels, so the number  
 271 of observed particles for the time resolution set in 1,024 channels (32×32) is observed. The first and second channels of diameter are not  
 272 included in the observable range of the PARSIVEL and are treated as noise. Therefore, the observation data of the first and second diameter  
 273 channels were not considered in the actual analysis. The detailed information on the specifications of the PARSIVEL is presented in Table  
 274 2.

275 **Table 2. Technical information of the PARSIVEL disdrometer.**

Wavelength of optical sensor		780 nm
Measuring area		30 × 180 mm (54 cm <sup>2</sup> )
Measuring range	Size	0.2 ~ 25 mm (32 channel class)
	Fall velocity	0.2 ~ 20 m s <sup>-1</sup> (32 channel class)
Precipitation intensity		0.001 ~ 1,200 mm h <sup>-1</sup>
Measurement time interval		10 sec ~ 60 min
Instrument dimensions (H×W×D)		670 × 600 × 114 mm

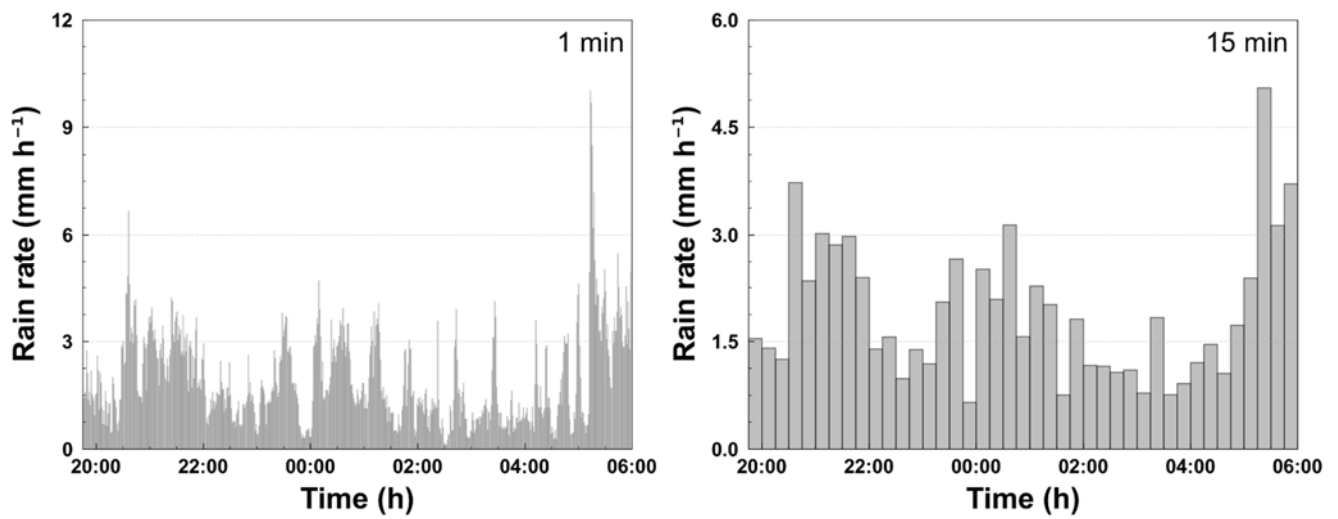
276

## 277 4 Application result

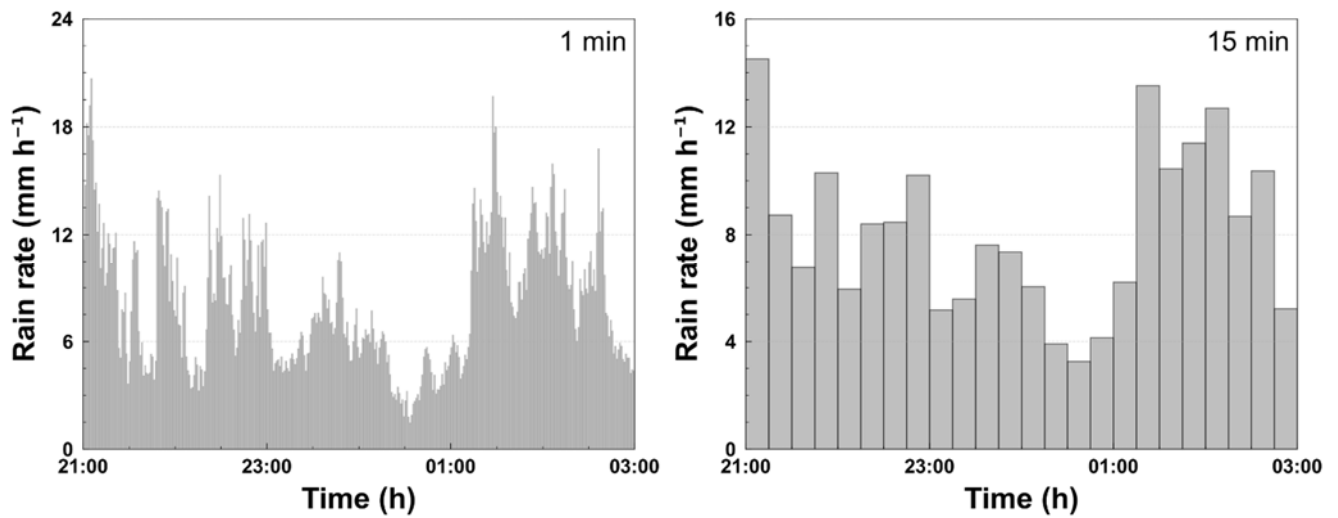
### 278 4.1 Rainfall event

279 We considered two rainfall events from 1945 LST on March 25, 2022, to 0615 LST on March 26, 2022 (case 1), and 2100  
 280 LST on September 5, 2022, to 0300 LST on September 6, 2022 (case 2). Fig. 6 illustrates the hyetographs of the rainfall event  
 281 considered in this study according to the time resolution. The total rainfall of case 1 and 2 is 19.5 and 48.7 mm based on the  
 282 PARSIVEL, respectively. The maximum rain rate is 10.0 and 20.7 mm h<sup>-1</sup> based on the 1 min resolution, and 5.0 and 14.5 mm  
 283 h<sup>-1</sup> based on the 15 min resolution for case 1 and case 2.

284



(a) Case 1



(b) Case 2

285 **Figure 6. Hyetograph of PARSIVEL and rain gauge observation data for the rainfall events considered in this study (left: 1 min**  
 286 **resolution, right: 10 min resolution).**

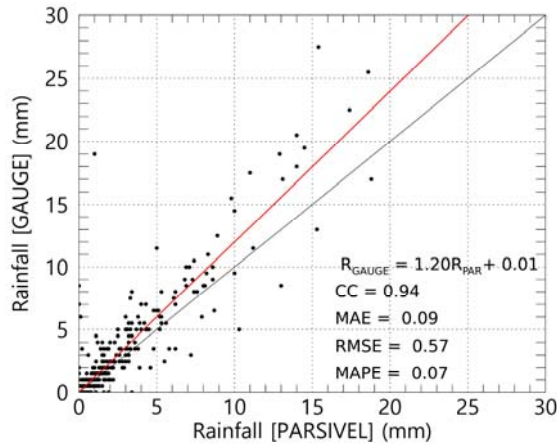
287 In order to secure the quantitative reliability of the PARSIVEL observation data, rain gauge observation data were used to  
 288 verify the rainfall calculated through the PARSIVEL observation. The rainfall data used for verification are rain gauge  
 289 observation data operated by KMA (Korea Meteorological Administration) installed closer than 4 km from the PARSIVEL  
 290 observation site (Table 3). The rainfall comparison period is from September 14, 2021, to October 4, 2022, including the period  
 291 of the analysis case. Fig. 7 shows scatter plots comparing hourly rain rates from rain gauges and PARSIVEL. As a result of  
 292 comparison with the observation data at three rain gauge sites, it had low MAE (Mean Absolute Error), RMSE (Root Mean

293 Square Error), MAPE (Mean Absolute Percent Error) values of less than  $0.11 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ ,  $0.6 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ , and 8%. Also, correlation  
 294 values were more than 0.9.

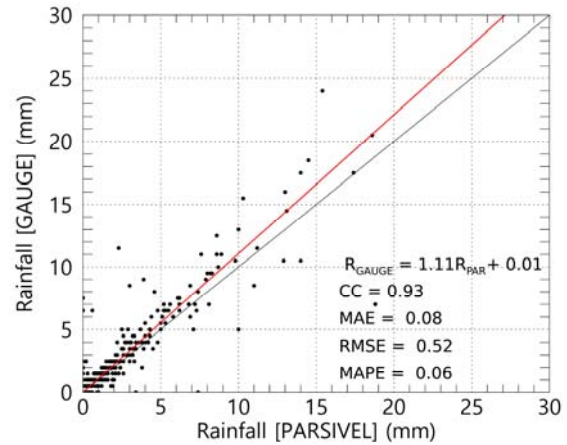
295 **Table 3. Location information of rain gauge observation sites.**

Raingague site	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Range from PARSIVEL site (km)
G1	37.4933	126.9175	3.73
G2	37.5196	126.9763	2.42
G3	37.5249	126.9390	2.87

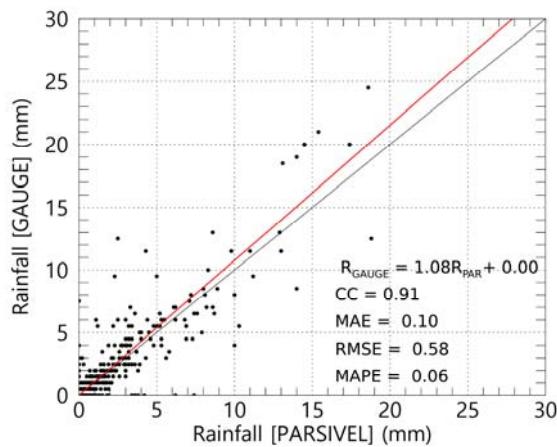
296



(a) G1



(b) G2

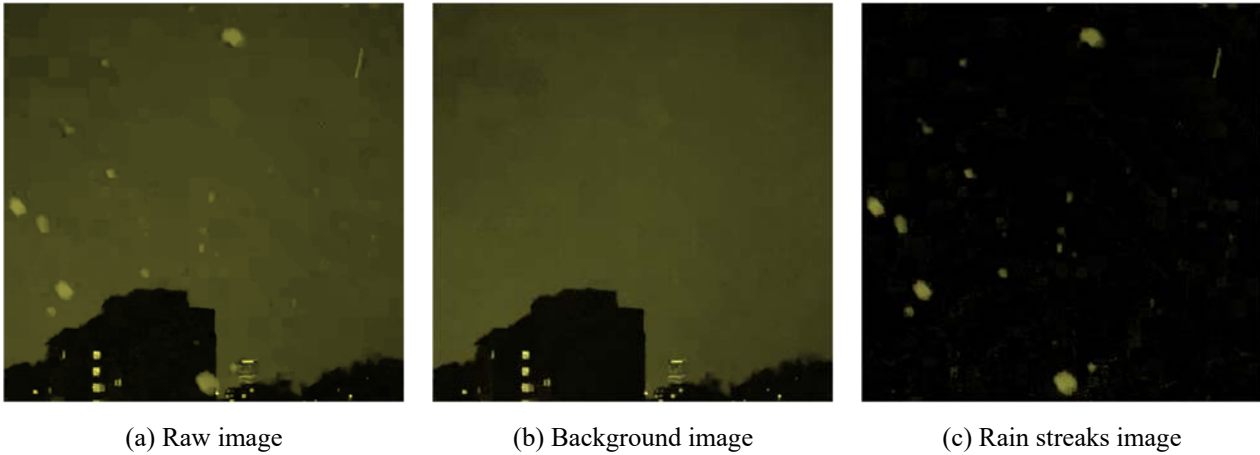


(a) G3

297 **Figure 7. Scatter plot of rainfall amount every 1 hour from the PARSIVEL observation and the rain gauge observation.**

## 298 4.2 Identifying rainfall streaks

299 The rain streaks were distinguished from the original raw images using the KNN-based algorithm described in Section 2.2.  
300 Accordingly, two parameters (history and dist2Threshold) were set to default values (500 and 400). The other parameter  
301 (detectShadows) was set to “false.” Fig. 8 illustrates the raw, background, and rain streaks images for an example time image  
302 (20:30:57 March 25, 2022), scaled in yellow to make it easier to verify the visual change.



303 **Figure 8. Segmentation example of raw image into background and rain streaks image based on KNN-based algorithm (20:30:57**  
304 **March 25, 2022).**

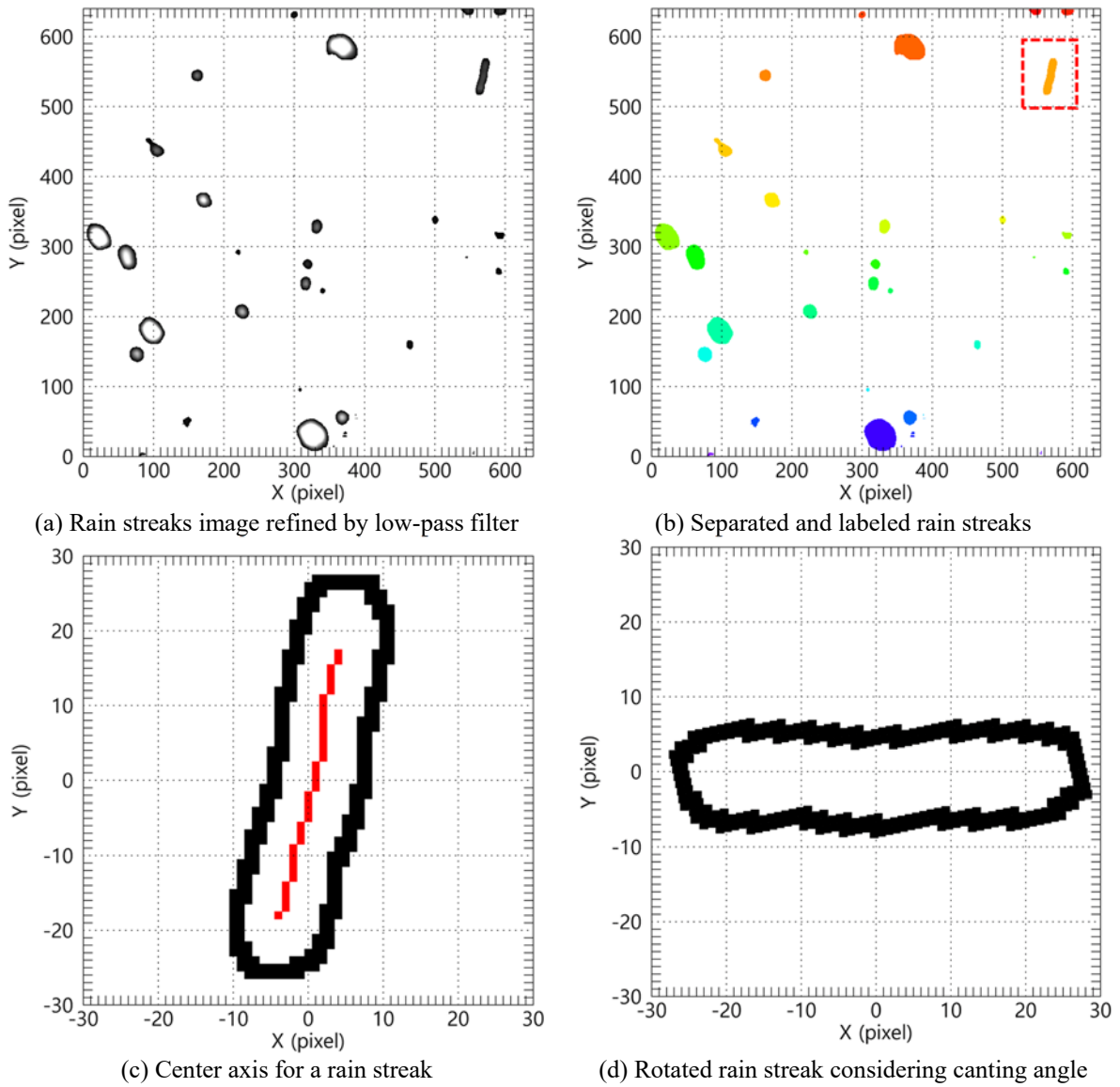
305 As confirmed in Fig. 8, adequate background separation performance can be achieved using the KNN-based method used  
306 in this study. Because it is an infrared camera and the camera’s exposure time is 1/250 s, the length of rain streaks is relatively  
307 short. The longer the exposure time, the longer the raindrops appear on the image (Schmidt et al., 2012; Allamano et al., 2015).  
308 If the exposure time is too long, some rain streaks may penetrate the image. In this case, it is difficult to estimate the rain streak  
309 length, a clue for estimating raindrop size.

310 The identification algorithm was implemented using Anaconda Software Distribution on a workstation with an AMD Ryzen  
311 5 5600X 6-Core Processor and 32 GB RAM. The computing time for the 15 min video was approximately 50 s using only  
312 CPU computation. As described previously, the KNN-based algorithm used in this study has high-speed computing  
313 performance compared with various algorithms based on optimization, so it will likely have an advantage in real-time  
314 applications.

## 315 4.3 Estimation of DSD and rain rate

316 The rain streaks image presented in Fig. 8(c) was not considered for the final DSD estimation because of noise and factors  
317 other than rain caused by the sudden brightness change. As described in Section 3, a low-pass filter was first applied rain  
318 streaks image.

319 The 10×10 kernel was applied considering the total image size (640×640), and each grid value of the kernel was set to  
 320 0.01. The set kernel was filtered by convolution pixel by pixel. Moreover, the convolution was performed once more using the  
 321 following 2D kernel [0 1 0; -1 0 1; 0 -1 0] to highlight the rim of the rain streaks. A background layer with a value of 0 and a  
 322 part not in the image were separated to extract the rain streaks, which were labeled one by one to identify each rain streak from  
 323 the image. Fig. 9(a) illustrates the example result after performing the processes described above to Fig. 8(c). Each rain streak  
 324 was then separated and labeled, as in Fig. 9(b).



325 **Figure 9. Extraction example of rain streak based on the proposed algorithm.**



326 The border information of each rain streak needed to be obtained. The center axis was calculated by connecting the center  
327 (median) of the minimum pixel and maximum pixel values of the x-axis for each y-axis using border information. The angle  
328 of rain steak was obtained from the slope value obtained by calculating the linear function through the center axis's x and y  
329 pixel number values. Fig. 9(c) is an example of the extraction of a rain streak extracted from the image of Fig. 9(b).

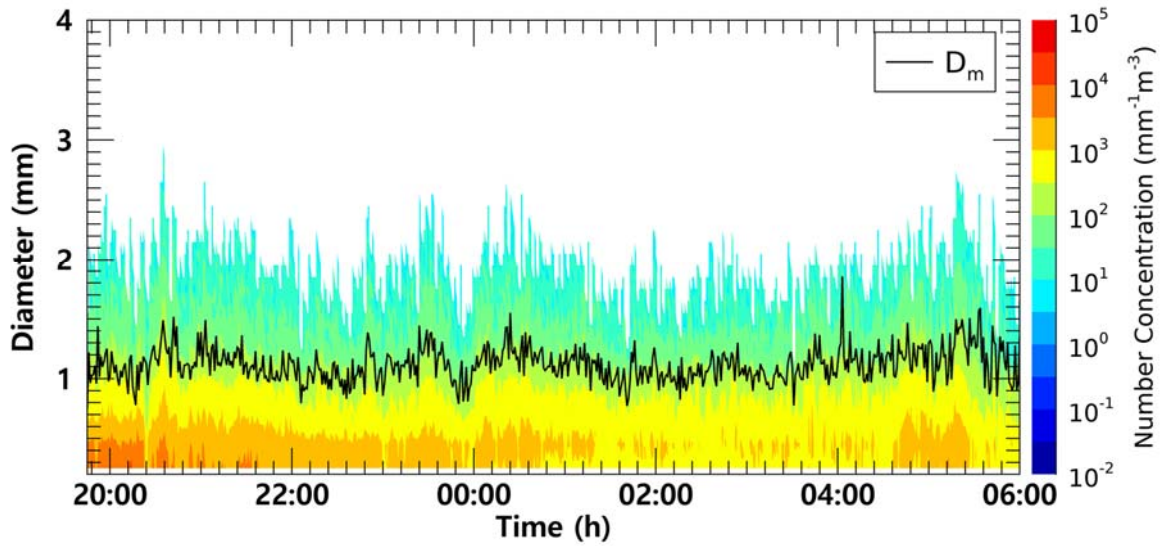
330 The drop angle was then calculated, and the rain streak was rotated using the angle information. Raindrops can be broken  
331 up by strong wind or collisions between raindrops during falling. The maximum difference value between the minimum and  
332 maximum pixel number values of y-axis calculated using border information of the rotated rain steak was used to calculate the  
333 raindrop diameter and exclude the influence of the distorted shape of rain steak by break up (Fig. 9(d)) (Testik, 2009; Testik  
334 and Pei, 2017). Fig. 9(d) illustrates the result of the final process. If the rain streaks overlap, the diameter of the raindrops can  
335 be estimated as large. To reduce the overestimation of raindrop diameter, this study tried to find the main central axis  
336 coordinates of overlapping rain streaks and set the longest central axis as the representative value. Then, estimate the primary  
337 diameter by calculating the distance between each pixel value of the set central axis and the edge pixels of rain streaks.

338 Fig. 10 illustrates the time series of the number concentration and  $D_m$  obtained from CCTV and PARSIVEL. From 1945  
339 LST to 2350 LST, the maximum number concentration of lower than  $1,000 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$  was observed from the PARSIVEL  
340 observation, and from 2000 LST to 2010 LST, a number concentration lower than  $100 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$  was observed. At 2005 LST,  
341 large raindrops (of 3.8 mm) were observed, resulting in a sharp increase in  $D_m$  above 2 mm. In contrast, in the results based on  
342 CCTV images, the number concentration of less than  $10,000 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$  was continuously demonstrated during the entire analysis  
343 period, and a number concentration greater than  $5,000 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$  was observed before 2200 LST. Because the proportion of  
344 small drops was high,  $D_m$  was predominantly less than 1.5 mm.

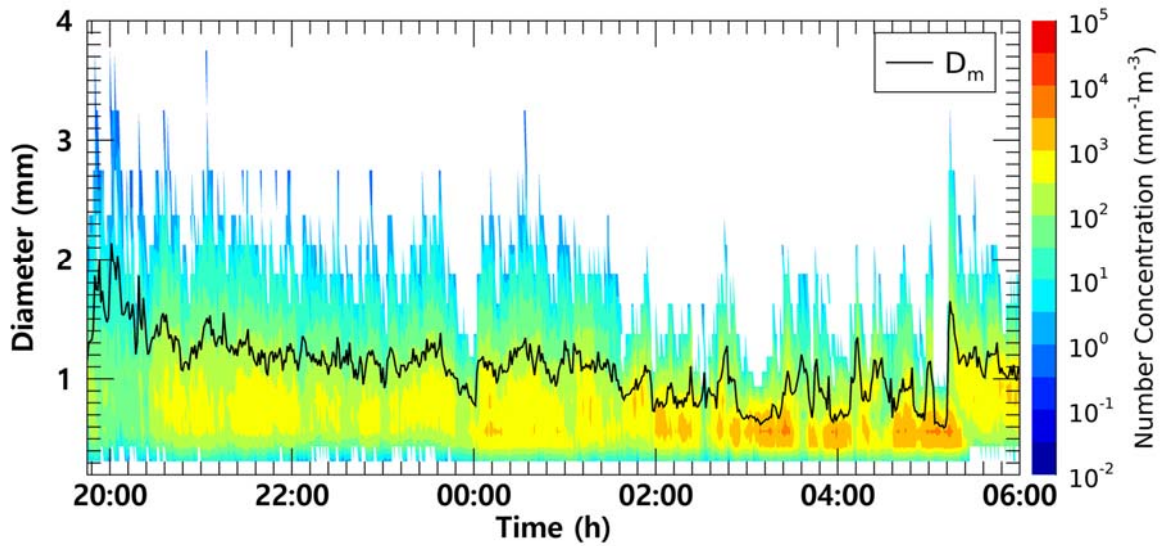
345 From 0000 LST to 0100 LST, both CCTV and PARSIVEL-based data had a predominant maximum diameter of about 2.4  
346 mm. At 0035 LST, raindrops larger than 3.2 mm were observed in PARSIVEL, but raindrops less than 3 mm were not observed  
347 in CCTV. However, the number concentration of small diameters of 0.5 mm or less had similar values between 1,000 and  
348  $5,000 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$ . Despite the difference in the maximum size of the drops, there was no predominant difference in the  $D_m$   
349 because the number concentration of raindrops smaller than 1 mm had similar values.

350 From 0300 LST to 0530 LST, number concentrations higher than  $5,000 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$  in the raindrops smaller than 1 mm were  
351 observed using PARSIVEL. However, CCTV data revealed that number concentrations less than  $5,000 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$  were  
352 consistently observed. From 0500 LST to 0510 LST, CCTV image-based number concentration consistently appeared as about  
353 1.2 mm, whereas  $D_m$  was smaller than 0.7 mm in PARSIVEL. The cause for the rapid decrease in  $D_m$  of the PARSIVEL was  
354 that the CCTV-based maximum diameter is about 2.4 mm, which was similar to the PARSIVEL observation data, but the  
355 number concentration of 0.5 to 0.6 mm raindrops observed by PARSIVEL had a large value of more than  $10,000 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$ .

356  
357



(a) CCTV



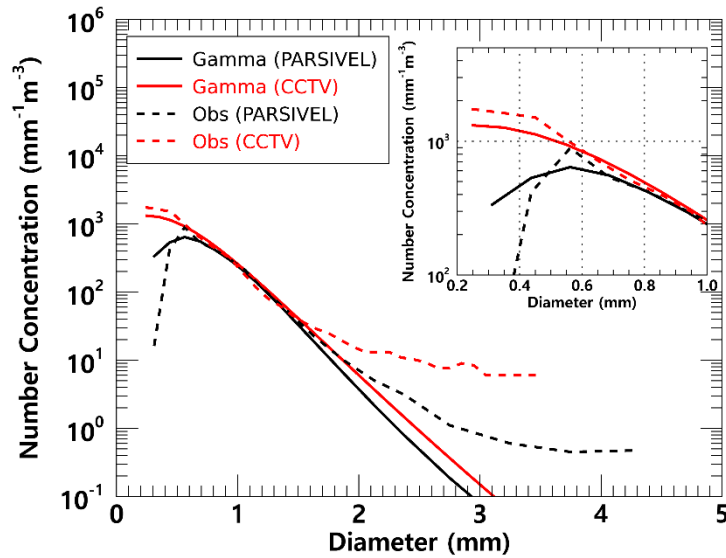
(b) PARSIVEL

358 Figure 10. Time series of number concentration and  $D_m$  (black coloured line) from (a) the surveillance camera images, (b) the  
 359 PARSIVEL observation data from 2145 LST on March 25 to 0600 LST on March 26, 2022 (case 1).

360 Fig. 11 illustrates the average number concentration versus diameter of raindrops calculated using CCTV image and  
 361 PARSIVEL observation data from 1945 LST on March 25 to 0600 LST on March 26, 2022. The PARSIVEL disdrometer data  
 362 has a fixed raindrop diameter channel; thus, it can differ in number concentration depending on the diameter channel setting.

363 Therefore, in this study, the simulated DSD through the gamma model was also analyzed to compare the distribution of rainfall  
364 particles.

365 For raindrop diameters from 0.7 to 1.5 mm, the simulated and observed number concentrations produced similar values.  
366 However, above 1.5 mm, the model-based number concentration was under-simulated. From these results, in the precipitation  
367 case selected in this study, the gamma model appears limited in simulating the number concentration of raindrops larger than  
368 3 mm. In diameters from 0.2 to 1.0 mm and above 1.5 mm, the number concentration obtained from CCTV images tended to  
369 be higher than that from PARSIVEL observation. PARSIVEL observation data decreased sharply for diameters smaller than  
370 0.3 mm. In contrast, CCTV gradually increased the number concentration as the diameter decreased.

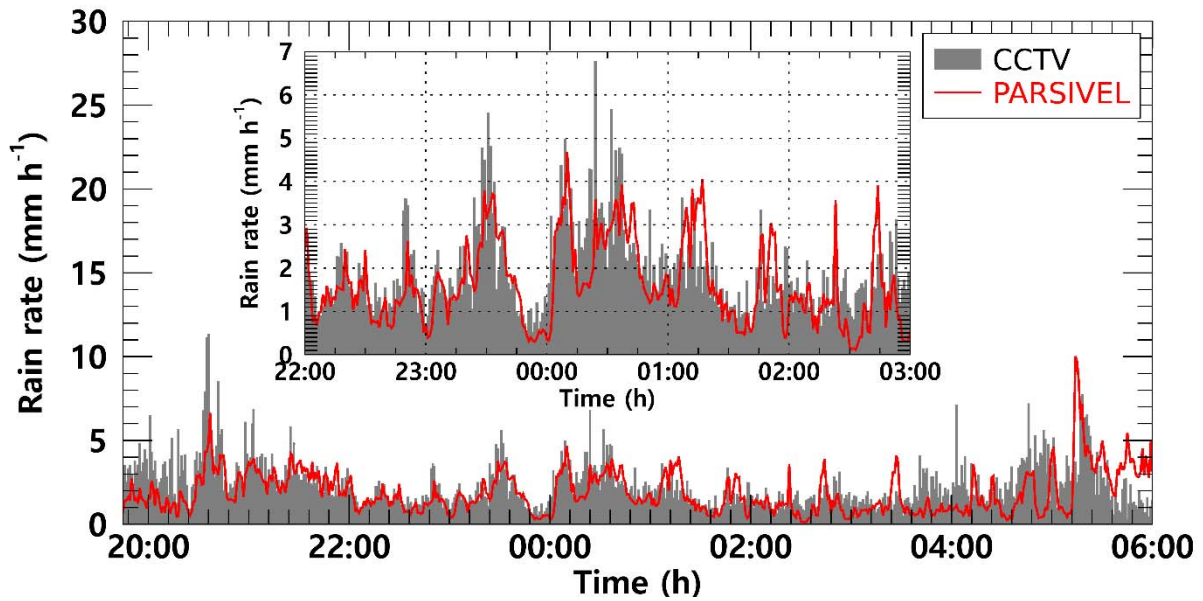


371 **Figure 11. Average number concentration versus diameter from the surveillance camera images and the PARSIVEL (case 1).**

372 Rainfall intensity was estimated based on the obtained number concentration from CCTV images and PARSIVEL. The  
373 near ( $s_n$ ) and far ( $s_f$ ) focus planes were calculated as 718 and 1,648 mm from Eqs. (8) and (9). The DoF was calculated as 930  
374 mm. The focal distance was set to 1 m, referring to previous studies (Dong et al., 2017; Jiang et al., 2019). The control volume  
375 was  $2.9 \text{ m}^3$ , applying Eq. (10) with the variables determined above. Fig. 12 illustrates the rain rate time series calculated using  
376 CCTV images and PARSIVEL observation data. The increase or decrease in rain rate according to time change based on  
377 CCTV data followed the trend of rainfall intensity change based on PARSIVEL observation data.

378 At 2037 LST, the PARSIVEL based rain rate was  $5.9 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ , but the CCTV based rain rate was overestimated to be higher  
379 than  $10 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ . On the other hand, the CCTV based rain rate was underestimated by about  $2 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$  than the PARSIVEL  
380 based rain rate at 0514 LST. Quantitative changes in CCTV based rain rate showed a similar tendency to increase and decrease

381 the number concentration of raindrops smaller than 1 mm and the maximum diameter. From 0100 LST to 0200 LST, when the  
 382 number concentrations of CCTV and PARSIVEL had similar values, the rain rate also showed similar results.



383 **Figure 12.** The rain rate time series calculated from the surveillance camera images (gray bar) and PARSIVEL observation data  
 384 (red line) from 2145 LST on March 25 to 0600 LST on March 26, 2022 (case 1).

385 Fig. 13 illustrates the scatter plot of the average rain rate every 15 min from the PARSIVEL observation and the CCTV  
 386 images. Uncertainty exists in the resolution of the rain gauge in the 1 min step. Accordingly, the time step for analysis is set  
 387 to 15 min. The slope of the regression line was 0.71 because the CCTV based rain rate tended to be overestimated at a rain  
 388 rate of weaker than 2 mm h<sup>-1</sup>.

389 The cumulative average rainfall intensity every 15 min was weaker than 10 mm h<sup>-1</sup>, concentrated at a rain rate less than 6  
 390 mm h<sup>-1</sup>, so the correlation coefficient (CC) was 0.64. Furthermore, the MAE, RMSE, and MAPE were 0.61 mm h<sup>-1</sup>, 0.99 mm  
 391 h<sup>-1</sup>, and 48%. Differences according to rain rate can also be determined. The accuracy is higher at a rain rate smaller than 2  
 392 mm h<sup>-1</sup> as a boundary. The MAE, RMSE, and MAPE were 0.29 mm h<sup>-1</sup>, 0.72 mm h<sup>-1</sup>, and 38% for a rain rate of 2 mm h<sup>-1</sup> or  
 393 less, and 0.58 mm h<sup>-1</sup>, 1.17 mm h<sup>-1</sup>, and 55% for a rain rate above 2 mm h<sup>-1</sup>.

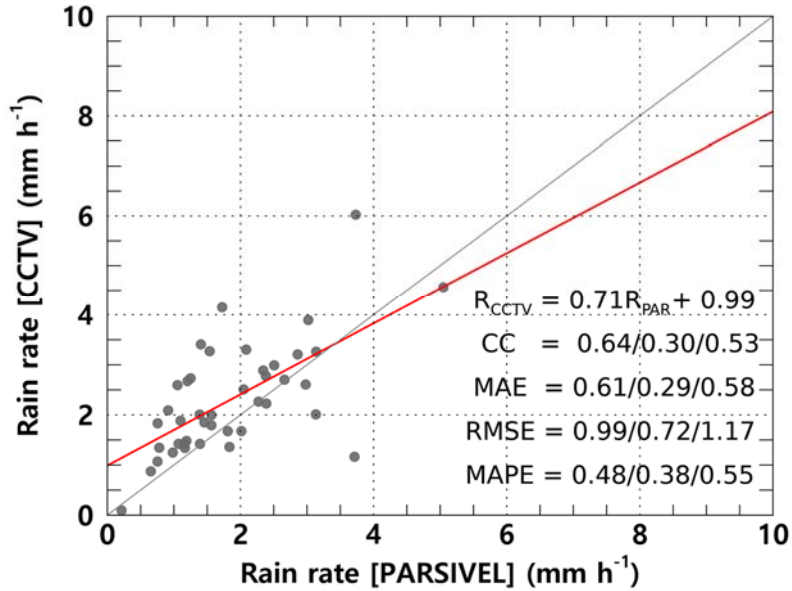
394 The statistical values of the rain rate and DSD parameters for the rainfall cases analyzed in this study are summarized in  
 395 Table 3. The rain rate and  $D_m$  calculated using CCTV images were 0.459 mm h<sup>-1</sup> and 0.025 mm more than the values calculated  
 396 using PARSIVEL observation data on average, respectively. A high rain rate and  $D_m$  were caused by overestimating the number  
 397 concentration for raindrops larger than 1.5 mm confirmed in Fig. 10. The number concentration for the small diameter (less  
 398 than 0.3 mm) was higher in the CCTV data than in the PARSIVEL data. Due to the high concentration value of the number  
 399 concentration of raindrops below 0.5 mm and above 2 mm, the CCTV based rain rate had a large value.

400 In the  $D_m$  calculated through the PARSIVEL observation data, the concentration change of small drops over time was large,  
 401 and the variance (0.063 mm) of  $D_m$  was large due to the rapid change in number concentration. The variability of the maximum  
 402 diameter was greater in the PARSIVEL observation data, but the variance of the rain rate was greater in the CCTV data. The  
 403 large variability of the concentration of raindrops below 3 mm was effected the change in the rain rate. Also, due to the high  
 404 number concentration of small drops, the skewness of CCTV (1.903) based rain rate had a higher value than that of the  
 405 PARSIVEL (1.589) based rain rate. The low variability (0.063 mm) of the  $D_m$  calculated from CCTV data means that the  
 406 change in the shape of the raindrop size distribution was small, supported by the low variance of  $\Lambda$  (3.016  $\text{mm}^{-1}$ ).

407 **Table 4. Statistical values of the rain rate and DSD parameters for case 1.**

		$R$ ( $\text{mm h}^{-1}$ )	$D_m$ (mm)	$\log_{10}N_0$ ( $\text{mm}^{-1}\mu\text{m}^{-3}$ )	$\mu$ (unitless)	$\Lambda$ ( $\text{mm}^{-1}$ )
PARSIVEL	Mean	1.905	1.091	7.379	7.394	11.829
	Variance	1.667	0.063	15.170	35.975	88.288
	Skewness	1.589	0.551	2.470	2.015	2.714
	Kurtosis	5.189	1.233	7.751	5.132	9.165
CCTV	Mean	2.364	1.116	4.857	2.131	5.713
	Variance	1.998	0.021	0.472	1.680	3.016
	Skewness	1.903	0.536	1.109	0.628	1.151
	Kurtosis	6.073	1.041	2.188	0.739	2.506

408

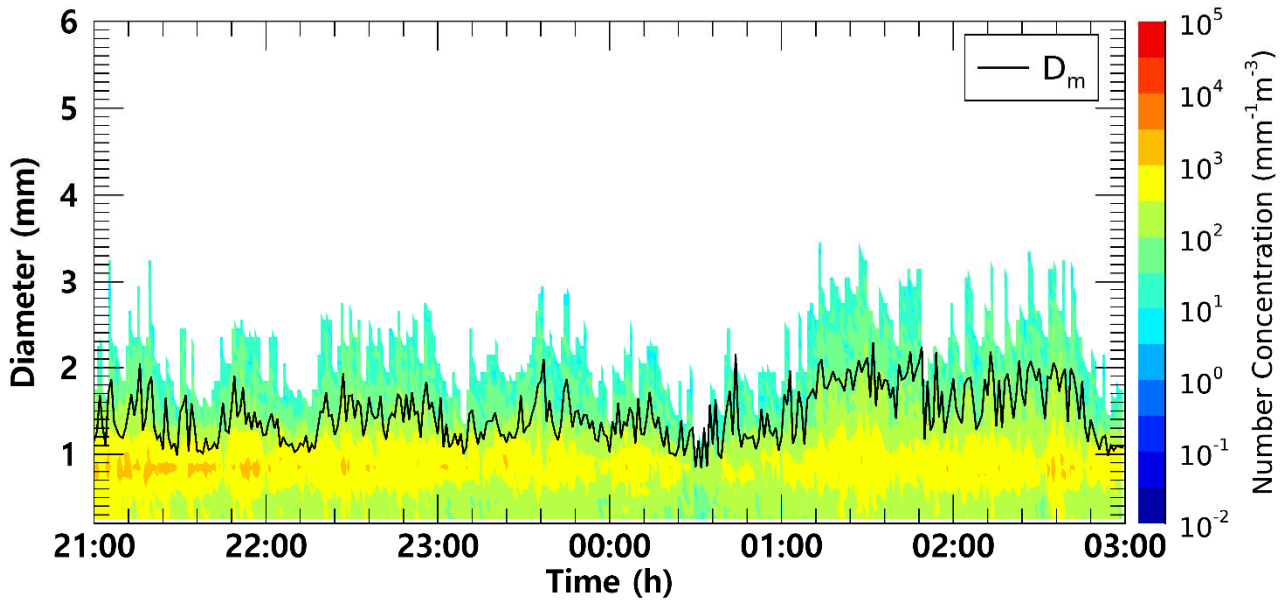


409 **Figure 13. Scatter plot of average rain rate every 15 minutes from the PARSIVEL observation and the surveillance camera images**  
 410 **(case 1). Red line is linear regression. Scatter plot displays CC, MAE, RMSE, MAPE for  $R > 0 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ ,  $R < 2 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ , and  $R \geq 2 \text{ mm}$**   
 411  **$\text{h}^{-1}$  (sequentially from left to right).**

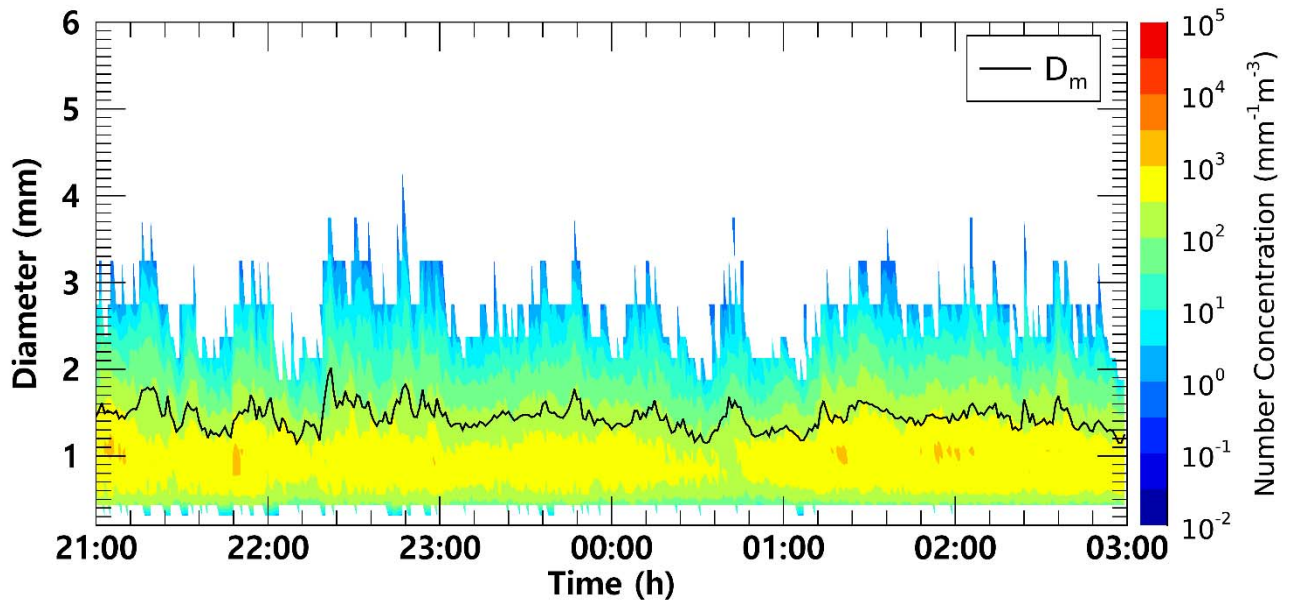
412 Fig. 14 illustrates the time series of the number concentration and  $D_m$  obtained from CCTV and PARSIVEL for case 2. In  
413 both CCTV and PARSIVEL observation data, the number concentration for a diameter between 0.5 mm and 1.5 mm had a  
414 value between  $500 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$  to  $5,000 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$ , and there was no significant change in the number concentration with time.

415 The maximum diameter also consistently had a value close to about 3 mm, and the  $D_m$  was also similar to about 1.5 mm  
416 because the maximum diameter and the number concentration of 1 mm intermediate drop had similar values.

417 From 0100 LST to 0230 LST, the maximum particle diameter through CCTV was overestimated, resulting in a large value  
418 close to 3.5 mm. As a result, the  $D_m$  value increased significantly to more than 2 mm. PARSIVEL data showed a sharp decrease  
419 in the number concentration of 1 mm drops at 0030 LST, and an increase in  $D_m$  under the influence of the decreased number  
420 concentration. However, in the case of CCTV, only raindrops smaller than of 1.5 mm were observed at the time, and there was  
421 similar in that  $D_m$  was decrease (about 1.1 mm).



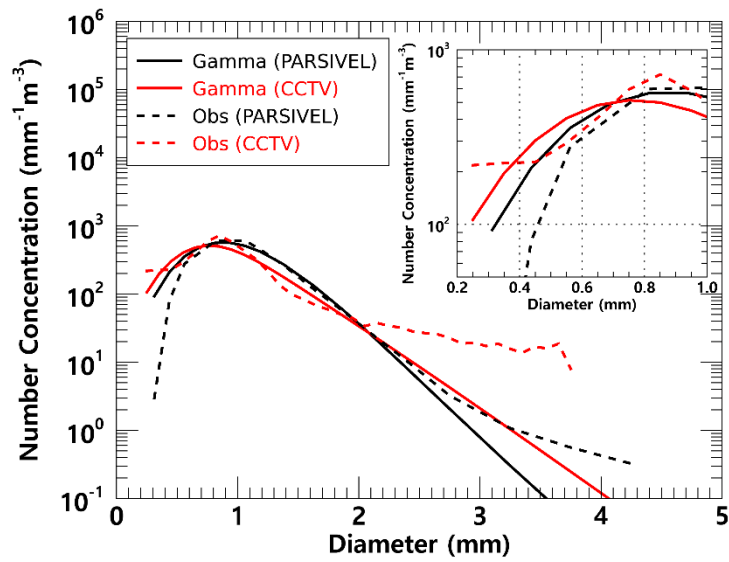
(a) CCTV



(b) PARSIVEL

422 Figure 14. Time series of number concentration and  $D_m$  (black coloured line) from (a) the surveillance camera images, (b) the  
 423 PARSIVEL observation data from 2100 LST on September 5 to 0300 LST on September 6, 2022 (case 2).

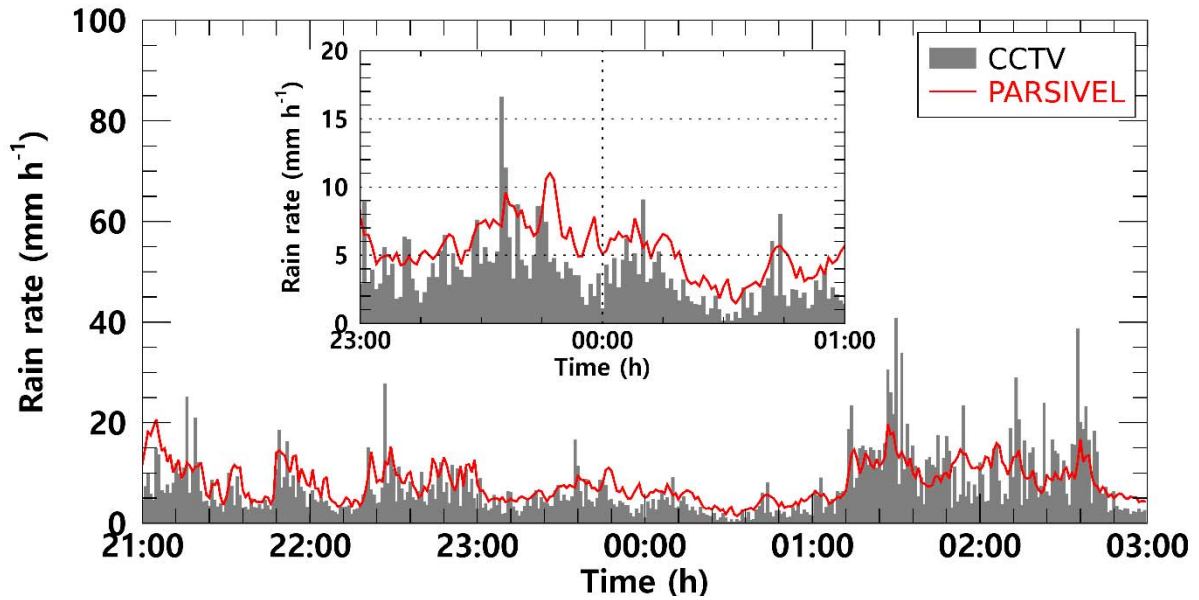
424 As clearly shown in Fig. 14, there was no significant difference in number concentration according to the time change. The  
 425 average number concentration distribution also showed similar results because the number concentration values were  
 426 concentrated at  $1,000 \text{ mm}^{-1}\text{m}^{-3}$  concentration in both observation instruments. (Fig. 15). As in case 1, PARSIVEL observation  
 427 data showed a tendency to underestimate in sections less than 0.5 mm and underestimated in sections larger than 2 mm  
 428 compared to CCTV data. The diameter section where CCTV data is underestimated compared to PARSIVEL data was from 1  
 429 mm to 2 mm. Since the number concentration of the CCTV data was underestimated in this section, the rain rate based on the  
 430 number concentration data was also underestimated compared to the rainfall intensity based on the PARSIVEL data.



431 **Figure 15. Average number concentration versus diameter from the surveillance camera images and the PARSIVEL (case 2).**

432 Between 2100 LST on September 5 and 0100 LST on September 6, when the number concentration of about 1 mm  
 433 raindrops is similar and the maximum diameter size is similar, the rain rate time series distribution has a value of about 5 mm  
 434 h<sup>-1</sup> and has a very similar flow. However, between 0130 LST and 0300 LST, which is a time period with overestimation of  
 435 raindrop diameter in CCTV observation data, the increase and decrease in rain rate was similar. However, the magnitude of  
 436 the increase and decrease rain rate differed every 15 minutes. During that time, the maximum rain rate was less than 20 mm h<sup>-1</sup>  
 437 <sup>1</sup> in the PARSIVEL observation data, while strong rainfall of 30 mm h<sup>-1</sup> or more was observed in the CCTV observation data.



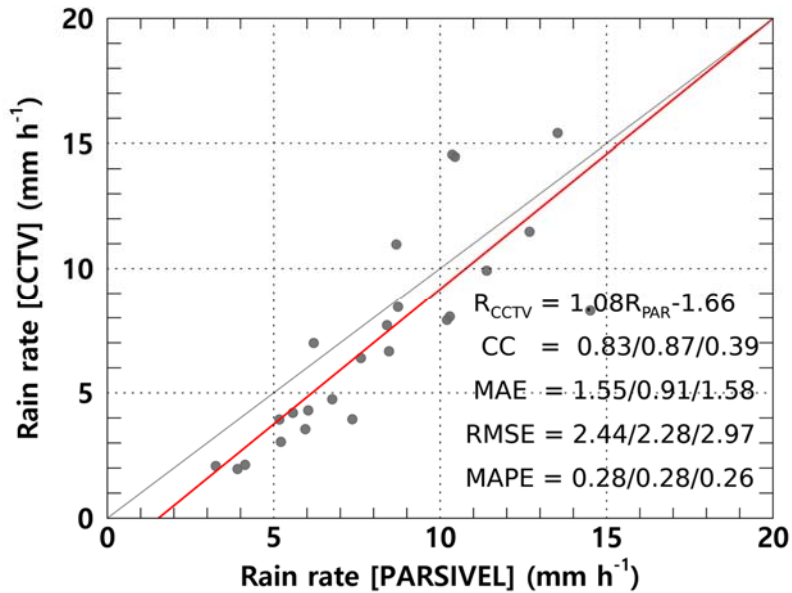


438 Figure 16. The rain rate time series calculated from the surveillance camera images (gray bar) and PARSIVEL observation data  
 439 (red line) from 2100 LST on September 5 to 0300 LST on September 6, 2022 (case 2).

440 Fig. 17 illustrates the scatter plot of the average rain rate every 15 min from the PARSIVEL observation and the CCTV  
 441 images for case 2. Compared to case 1, case 2 was a strong rainfall case with a rain rate of about 8.94 mm h<sup>-1</sup>. Compared to  
 442 the PARSIVEL observation data, the CCTV observation data showed a larger  $D_m$  by 0.221 mm, while the  $\log_{10}N_0$  showed a  
 443 small feature of 1.1 mm<sup>-1</sup>μm<sup>-3</sup>. As the weight of medium and large drops over 1 mm increased,  $\mu$  and  $\Lambda$  showed lower values  
 444 of 4.262 and 5.397 mm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively (Table 5). According to the 15-minute cumulative rain rate comparison result, the rain  
 445 rate based on CCTV image data tends to be underestimated when it is less than 10 mm h<sup>-1</sup>. Conversely, there was a tendency  
 446 to overestimate the rainfall period of 10 mm h<sup>-1</sup> or more. This tendency was confirmed in case 1 which may be caused by  
 447 recognizing overlapping rain streaks as a single big raindrop. MAPE had a low value of 0.3% or less regardless of the rain rate,  
 448 and even though the rainfall intensity was relatively large compared to case 1, MAE and RMSE did not significantly increase.  
 449 This is because there was no abnormally large value of CCTV rainfall during the rainfall period of case 2 compared to case 1.

450 Table 5. Statistical values of the rain rate and DSD parameters for case 2.

		$R$ (mm h <sup>-1</sup> )	$D_m$ (mm)	$\log_{10}N_0$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> μm <sup>-3</sup> )	$\mu$ (unitless)	$\Lambda$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )
PARSIVEL	Mean	8.12	1.445	5.900	6.379	7.341
	Variance	13.82	0.020	1.160	6.498	5.596
	Skewness	0.65	0.447	1.061	0.9467	1.198
	Kurtosis	-0.13	0.472	2.480	1.818	2.792
CCTV	Mean	8.94	1.666	4.813	4.262	5.397
	Variance	69.33	0.121	1.185	4.577	6.714
	Skewness	2.75	0.355	2.596	1.903	2.640
	Kurtosis	11.71	-0.202	8.962	5.714	9.756



452 Fig. 17. Scatter plot of average rain rate every 15 minutes from the PARSIVEL observation and the surveillance camera images  
 453 (case 2). Red line is linear regression. Scatter plot displays CC, MAE, RMSE, MAPE for  $R > 0 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ ,  $R < 5 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ , and  $R \geq 5$   
 454  $\text{mm h}^{-1}$  (sequentially from left to right).

## 455 6 Conclusion

456 This study estimated DSD with an infrared surveillance camera, based on which rainfall intensity was also estimated. Rain  
 457 streaks were extracted using a KNN-based algorithm. The rainfall intensity was estimated based on DSD using physical optics  
 458 analysis. A rainfall event was selected, and the applicability of the method in this study was examined. The estimated DSD  
 459 was verified using a PARSIVEL. The results from this study can be summarized as follows.

460 KNN-based algorithm illustrates suitable performance in separating the rain streaks and background layers. Furthermore,  
 461 the possibility of separation for each rain streak and estimation of DSD was sufficient.

462 The number concentration of raindrops obtained through the CCTV images was similar to the actual PARSIVEL observed  
 463 number concentration in the 0.5 to 1.5 mm section. In the small raindrops in the section of 0.4 mm or less, the PARSIVEL  
 464 observation data underestimates the actual DSD. However, the CCTV image-based rain rate had an advantage over the  
 465 raindrop-based data—the number concentration decreased rapidly as the number concentration gradually increased in the 0.2–  
 466 0.3 mm diameter section.

467 The maximum raindrop diameter and number concentration of less than 1 mm produced similar results during the period  
 468 with a high ratio of diameters less than 3 mm. However, the number concentration was overestimated during the period when

469 raindrops larger than 3 mm were observed. The CCTV image-based data revealed that the rain rate was overestimated because  
 470 of the overestimation of raindrops larger than 3 mm. After comparing with the 15-min cumulative PARSIVEL rain rate, the  
 471 CCs—MAE, RMSE, and MAPE of case 1 (case 2)—were 0.61 mm h<sup>-1</sup> (1.55 mm h<sup>-1</sup>), 0.99 mm h<sup>-1</sup> (1.43 mm h<sup>-1</sup>), and 48%  
 472 (44%). The differences according to rain rate can be identified. The accuracy is higher at a rain rate smaller than 10 mm h<sup>-1</sup> as  
 473 a boundary.

474 The rain rate and  $D_m$  calculated using CCTV images exhibited similar average values. The overestimated number  
 475 concentration of 1.5 mm or larger caused high kurtosis for the rain rate and  $D_m$  of CCTV-based data and a low  $\mu$  value. Because  
 476 of the high number concentration for raindrops larger than 3 mm of CCTV, the PARSIVEL observation data had a higher  $A$   
 477 value than the result based on the CCTV data.

478 In this study, DSD was estimated using an infrared surveillance camera; the rain rate was also estimated. Consequently,  
 479 we could confirm the possibility of estimating an image-based DSD and rain rate obtained based on low-cost equipment in  
 480 dark conditions. Though, the infrared surveillance camera considered in this study will not be able to replace traditional  
 481 observation devices, if future studies can be continued to secure robustness, it will be an excellent complement to the existing  
 482 observation system in terms of spatiotemporal resolution and accuracy improvement.

483 **Appendix. The diameter and fall velocity information for each diameter channel class.**

484 **Table 1. The representative diameter and spread for each diameter channel class.**

Class number	Class average (mm)	Class spread (mm)	Class number	Class average (mm)	Class spread in (mm)
1	0.062	0.125	17	3.250	0.500
2	0.187	0.125	18	3.750	0.500
3	0.312	0.125	19	4.250	0.500
4	0.437	0.125	20	4.750	0.500
5	0.562	0.125	21	5.500	1.000
6	0.687	0.125	22	6.500	1.000
7	0.812	0.125	23	7.500	1.000
8	0.937	0.125	24	8.500	1.000
9	1.062	0.125	25	9.500	1.000
10	1.187	0.125	26	11.000	2.000
11	1.375	0.250	27	13.000	2.000
12	1.625	0.250	28	15.000	2.000
13	1.875	0.250	29	17.000	2.000
14	2.125	0.250	30	19.000	2.000
15	2.375	0.250	31	21.500	3.000
16	2.750	0.500	32	24.500	3.000

485 **Table 2. The representative fall velocity and spread for each diameter channel class.**

Class number	Class average (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	Class spread (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	Class number	Class average (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	Class spread (m s <sup>-1</sup> )
1	0.050	0.100	17	2.600	0.400
2	0.150	0.100	18	3.000	0.400
3	0.250	0.100	19	3.400	0.400
4	0.350	0.100	20	3.800	0.400
5	0.450	0.100	21	4.400	0.800
6	0.550	0.100	22	5.200	0.800
7	0.650	0.100	23	6.000	0.800
8	0.750	0.100	24	6.800	0.800
9	0.850	0.100	25	7.600	0.800
10	0.950	0.100	26	8.800	1.600
11	1.100	0.200	27	10.400	1.600
12	1.300	0.200	28	12.000	1.600
13	1.500	0.200	29	13.600	1.600
14	1.700	0.200	30	15.200	1.600
15	1.900	0.200	31	17.600	3.200
16	2.200	0.400	32	20.800	3.200

486 **Data availability**

487 The raw videos and data used in the analysis can be downloaded from <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.c.6392430.v1>, and  
488 the sample codes are available in a public GitHub repository from [https://github.com/jinwook213/Rain\\_CCTV.git](https://github.com/jinwook213/Rain_CCTV.git).

489 **Acknowledgements**

490 - This research was supported by the Korea Meteorological Administration Research and Development Program (KMI2022-  
491 01910) and Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the  
492 Ministry of Education (2022R1I1A1A01065554).

493 - This research was supported by the Chung-Ang University Graduate Research Scholarship in 2021.

494 **References**

- 495 Allamano, P., Croci, A., Laio, F.: Toward the camera rain gauge. *Water Resour. Res.* 51 (3), 1744-1757, 2015  
496 Atlas, D., Srivastava, R. C., Sekhon, R. S.: Doppler radar characteristics of precipitation at vertical incidence. *Rev. Geophys.*  
497 11 (1), 1–35, 1973.  
498 Avanzato, R., Beritelli, F.: A cnn-based differential image processing approach for rainfall classification. *Adv. Sci. Technol.*  
499 *Eng. Syst. J.* 5 (4), 438-444, 2020.

500 Bouwmans, T., El Baf, F., Vachon, B.: Statistical background modeling for foreground detection: A survey. In: Chen, C. H.  
501 (Ed.) Handbook of pattern recognition and computer vision, fourth ed. World Scientific, Singapore, pp. 181-199, 2010

502 Cai, F., Lu, W., Shi, W., He, S.: A mobile device-based imaging spectrometer for environmental monitoring by attaching a  
503 lightweight small module to a commercial digital camera. *Sci. Rep.* 7 (1), 1-9, 2017.

504 Colli, M., Lanza, L. G., La Barbera, P., Chan, P. W.: Measurement accuracy of weighing and tipping-bucket rainfall intensity  
505 gauges under dynamic laboratory testing. *Atmos. Res.*, 144, 186-194, 2014.

506 Deng, L. J., Huang, T. Z., Zhao, X. L., Jiang, T. X.: A directional global sparse model for single image rain removal. *Appl.*  
507 *Math. Model.* 59, 662-679, 2018.

508 Dong, R., Liao, J., Li, B., Zhou, H., Crookes, D.: Measurements of rainfall rates from videos. In 2017 10th International  
509 Congress on Image and Signal Processing, BioMedical Engineering and Informatics, IEEE, Shanghai, China, 14-16 October,  
510 pp. 1-9, 2017.

511 Duthon, P., Bernardin, F., Chausse, F., Colomb, M.: Benchmark for the robustness of image features in rainy conditions. *Mach.*  
512 *Vis. Appl.* 29 (5), 915-927, 2018.

513 Famiglietti, J. S., Cazenave, A., Eicker, A., Reager, J. T., Rodell, M., Velicogna, I.: Satellites provide the big picture. *Sci.* 349  
514 (6249), 684-685, 2015.

515 Friedrich, K., Kalina, E. A., Masters, F. J., Lopez, C. R.: Drop-size distributions in thunderstorms measured by optical  
516 disdrometers during VORTEX2. *Mon. Weather Rev.* 141 (4), 1182-1203, 2013.

517 Garg, K., Nayar, S. K.: Vision and rain. *Int. J. Comput. Vis.* 75 (1), 3-27, 2007.

518 Guo, B., Han, Q., Chen, H., Shangguan, L., Zhou, Z., Yu, Z.: The emergence of visual crowdsensing: Challenges and  
519 opportunities. *IEEE Commun. Surv. Tutor.* 19 (4), 2526-2543, 2017.

520 Guo, H., Huang, H., Sun, Y. E., Zhang, Y., Chen, S., Huang, L.: Chaac: Real-time and fine-grained rain detection and  
521 measurement using smartphones. *IEEE Internet Things J.* 6 (1), 997-1009, 2019

522 Haberlandt, U., Sester, M.: Areal rainfall estimation using moving cars as rain gauges-A modelling study. *Hydrol. Earth Syst.*  
523 *Sci.* 14 (7), 1139-1151, 2010.

524 Hua, X. S.: The city brain: Towards real-time search for the real-world. In The 41st International ACM SIGIR Conference on  
525 Research & Development in Information Retrieval, New York, NY, 8-12 July. pp. 1343-1344, 2018

526 Jiang, S., Babovic, V., Zheng, Y., Xiong, J.: Advancing opportunistic sensing in hydrology: A novel approach to measuring  
527 rainfall with ordinary surveillance cameras. *Water Resour. Res.* 55 (4), 3004-3027, 2019.

528 Jiang, T. X., Huang, T. Z., Zhao, X. L., Deng, L. J., Wang, Y.: Fastderain: A novel video rain streak removal method using  
529 directional gradient priors. *IEEE Trans. Image Process.* 28 (4), 2089-2102, 2018.

530 Kathiravelu, G., Lucke, T., Nichols, P.: Rain drop measurement techniques: A review. *Water*, 8 (1), 29, 2016.

531 Keating, M. P.: Geometric, physical, and visual optics, Second ed. Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford, UK, 2002.

532 Kidd, C., Becker, A., Huffman, G. J., Muller, C. L., Joe, P., Skofronick-Jackson, G., Kirschbaum, D. B.: So, how much of the  
533 Earth's surface is covered by rain gauges?. *Bull. Am. Meteorol. Soc.* 98 (1), 69-78, 2017.

534 Kim, J. H., Sim, J. Y., Kim, C. S.: Video deraining and desnowing using temporal correlation and low-rank matrix completion.  
535 IEEE Trans. Image Process., 24 (9), 2658-2670, 2015.

536 Li, Y., Tan, R. T., Guo, X., Lu, J., Brown, M. S.: Rain streak removal using layer priors. In 2016 IEEE Conference on Computer  
537 Vision and Pattern Recognition, IEEE, Las Vegas, NV, 27-30 June, pp. 2736-2744, 2016.

538 Löffler-Mang, M., Joss, J.: An optical disdrometer for measuring size and velocity of hydrometeors. J. Atmos. Ocean. Technol.  
539 17 (2), 130–139, 2000.

540 Marshall, J. S., Palmer, W. M.: The distribution of raindrops with size. J. Meteor. 5, 165–166, 1948.

541 McCabe, M. F., Rodell, M., Alsdorf, D. E., Miralles, D. G., Uijlenhoet, R., Wagner, W., Lucieer, A., Houborg, R., Verhoest,  
542 N. E. C., Franz, T. E., Shi, J., Gao, H., Wood, E. F.: The future of earth observation in hydrology. Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. 21  
543 (7), 3879-3914, 2017.

544 Michaelides, S., Levizzani, V., Anagnostou, E., Bauer, P., Kasparis, T., Lane, J. E.: Precipitation: Measurement, remote  
545 sensing, climatology and modeling. Atmos. Res. 94 (4), 512-533, 2009.

546 Nemeth, K., Hahn, J. M.: Enhanced precipitation identifier and new generation of present weather sensor by OTT Messtechnik,  
547 In WMO/CIMO Technical Conference, Germany, 2005.

548 Nottle, A., Harborne, D., Braines, D., Alzantot, M., Quintana-Amate, S., Tomsett, R., Kaplan, L., Srivastava, M. B.,  
549 Chakraborty, S., Preece, A.: Distributed opportunistic sensing and fusion for traffic congestion detection. In 2017 IEEE  
550 SmartWorld, Ubiquitous Intelligence & Computing, Advanced & Trusted Computed, Scalable Computing & Communications,  
551 Cloud & Big Data Computing, Internet of People and Smart City Innovation, IEEE, San Francisco, CA, 4-8 August, pp. 1-6,  
552 2017.

553 Overeem, A., Leijnse, H., Uijlenhoet, R.: Two and a half years of country-wide rainfall maps using radio links from commercial  
554 cellular telecommunication networks. Water Resour. Res. 52 (10), 8039-8065, 2016.

555 Qasim, S., Khan, K. N., Yu, M., Khan, M. S.: Performance evaluation of background subtraction techniques for video frames.  
556 In 2021 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, IEEE, Islamabad, Pakistan, 5-7 April, pp. 102-107, 2021.

557 Rabiei, E., Haberlandt, U., Sester, M., Fitzner, D.: Rainfall estimation using moving cars as rain gauges—laboratory  
558 experiments. Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. 17 (11), 4701-4712, 2013.

559 Rabiei, E., Haberlandt, U., Sester, M., Fitzner, D., Wallner, M.: Areal rainfall estimation using moving cars—computer  
560 experiments including hydrological modeling. Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. 20 (9), 3907-3922, 2016.

561 Santhaseelan, V., Asari, V. K.: Utilizing local phase information to remove rain from video. Int. J. Comput. Vis., 112 (1), 71-  
562 89, 2015.

563 Schmidt, J. M., Flatau, P. J., Harasti, P. R., Yates, R. D., Littleton, R., Pritchard, M. S., Fischer, J. M., Fischer, E. J., Kohri,  
564 W. J., Vetter, J. R., Richman, S., Baranowski, D. B., Anderson, M. J., Fletcher, E., Lando, D. W.: Radar observations of  
565 individual rain drops in the free atmosphere. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 109 (24), 9293-9298, 2012.

566 Smith, P. L.: Raindrop size distributions: Exponential or gamma—Does the difference matter?. J. Appl. Meteorol. Climatol.,  
567 42 (7), 1031-1034, 2003.

568 Testik, F. Y.: Outcome regimes of binary raindrop collisions. *Atmos. Res.* 94 (3), 389–399, 2009.

569 Testik, F. Y., Pei, B.: Wind effects on the shape of raindrop size distribution. *J. Hydrometeorol.* 18 (5), 1285-1303, 2017.

570 Tokay, A., Short, D. A.: Evidence from tropical raindrop spectra of the origin of rain from stratiform versus convective clouds.

571 *J. Appl. Meteorol. Climatol.* 35 (3), 355–371, 1996.

572 Tripathi, A. K., Mukhopadhyay, S.: Removal of rain from videos: A review. *Signal Image Video Process.* 8 (8), 1421-1430,

573 2014.

574 Trnovszký, T., Sýkora, P., Hudec, R.: Comparison of background subtraction methods on near infra-red spectrum video

575 sequences. *Procedia Eng.*, 192, 887-892, 2017.

576 Ulbrich, C. W.: Natural variations in the analytical form of the raindrop size distribution. *J. Appl. Meteorol. Climatol.* 22 (10),

577 1764–1775, 1983.

578 Vivekanandan, J., Zhang, G., Brandes, E.: Polarimetric radar estimators based on a constrained gamma drop size distribution

579 model. *J. Appl. Meteorol.* 43 (2), 217-230, 2004.

580 Wang, X., Wang, M., Liu, X., Glade, T., Chen, M., Xie, Y., Yuan, Hao., Chen, Y.: Rainfall observation using surveillance

581 audio. *Appl. Acoust.* 186, 108478, 2022.

582 Yang, P., Ng, T. L.: Gauging through the crowd: A crowd-sourcing approach to urban rainfall measurement and storm water

583 modeling implications. *Water Resour. Res.* 53 (11), 9462-9478, 2017.

584 Yuter, S. E., Houze Jr, R. A.: Measurements of raindrop size distributions over the Pacific warm pool and implications for Z–

585 R relations. *J. Appl. Meteorol.* 36 (7), 847-867, 1997.

586 Zen, R., Arsa, D. M. S., Zhang, R., Er, N. A. S., Bressan, S.: Rainfall estimation from traffic cameras. In: Hartmann, S., Küng,

587 J., Chakravarthy, S., Anderst-Kotsis, G., Tjoa, A., Khalil, I. (Eds.) *Database and Expert Systems Applications*, Springer, Cham,

588 Switzerland, pp. 18-32, 2019.

589 Zivkovic, Z., Van Der Heijden, F.: Efficient adaptive density estimation per image pixel for the task of background subtraction.

590 *Pattern Recognit. Lett.* 27 (7), 773-780, 2006.