

## ICC user notes:

**About this chapter:**

Chapter 3 contains a wide array of building planning requirements that are critical to designing a safe and usable building. This includes, but is not limited to, requirements related to general structural design, fire-resistant construction, light, ventilation, sanitation, plumbing fixture clearances, minimum room area and ceiling height, safety glazing, means of egress, automatic fire sprinkler systems, smoke and carbon monoxide alarm systems, accessibility, solar energy systems, swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

## SECTION R301—DESIGN CRITERIA



**R301.1 Application.** Buildings and structures, and parts thereof, shall be constructed to safely support all loads, including *dead loads*, *live loads*, roof loads, flood loads, snow loads, wind loads and seismic loads as prescribed by this code. The construction of buildings and structures in accordance with the provisions of this code shall result in a system that provides a complete load path that meets the requirements for the transfer of loads from their point of origin through the load-resisting elements to the foundation. Buildings and structures constructed as prescribed by this code are deemed to comply with the requirements of this section.

**R301.1.1 Alternative provisions.** As an alternative to the requirements in Section R301.1, the following standards are permitted subject to the limitations of this code and the limitations therein. Where engineered design is used in conjunction with these standards, the design shall comply with the *International Building Code*.

1. AWC *Wood Frame Construction Manual* (WFCM).
2. AISI *Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing—Prescriptive Method for One- and Two-Family Dwellings* (AISI S230).
3. ICC *Standard on the Design and Construction of Log Structures* (ICC 400).

**R301.1.2 Construction systems.** The requirements of this code are based on *platform* and *balloon-frame* construction for light-frame buildings. The requirements for concrete and masonry buildings are based on a balloon framing system. Other framing systems must have equivalent detailing to ensure force transfer, continuity and compatible deformations.

**R301.1.3 Engineered design.** Where a building of otherwise conventional construction contains structural elements exceeding the limits of Section R301 or otherwise not conforming to this code, these elements shall be designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice. The extent of such design need only demonstrate compliance of nonconventional elements with other applicable provisions and shall be compatible with the performance of the conventional framed system. Engineered design in accordance with the *International Building Code* is permitted for buildings and structures, and parts thereof, included in the scope of this code.

**R301.1.4 Intermodal shipping containers.** *Intermodal shipping containers* that are repurposed for use as buildings or structures shall be designed in accordance with the structural provisions in Section 3114 of the *International Building Code*.

**R301.2 Climatic and geographic design criteria.** Buildings shall be constructed in accordance with the provisions of this code as limited by the provisions of this section. Additional criteria shall be established by the local *jurisdiction* and set forth in Table R301.2.

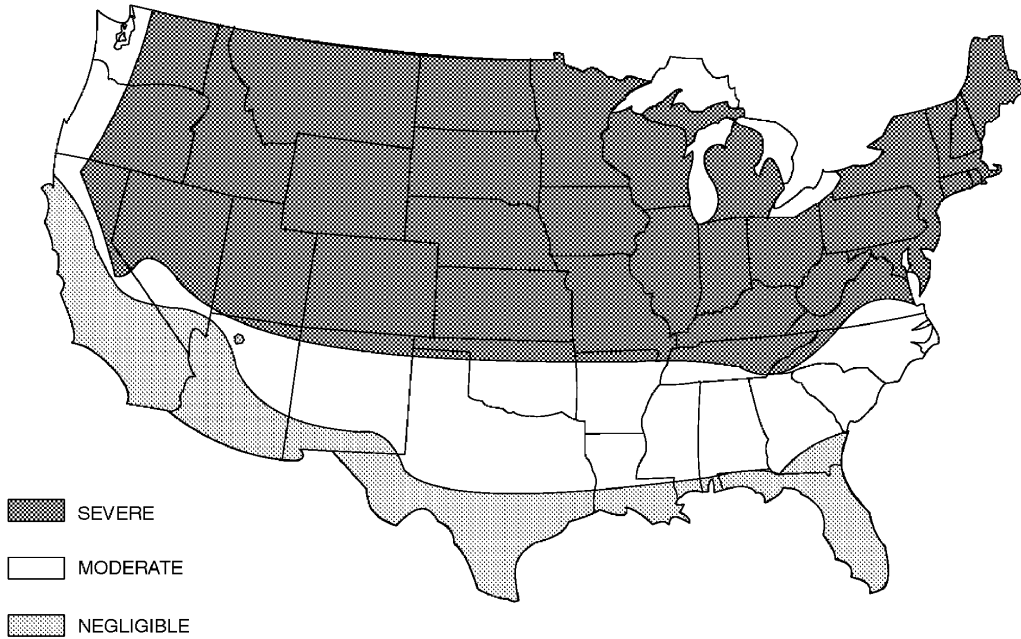
TABLE R301.2—CLIMATIC AND GEOGRAPHIC DESIGN CRITERIA

GROUND SNOW LOAD <sup>o</sup>	WIND DESIGN			SEISMIC DESIGN CATEGORY <sup>f</sup>	SUBJECT TO DAMAGE FROM			ICE BARRIER UNDERLAYMENT REQUIRED <sup>h</sup>	FLOOD HAZARDS <sup>s</sup>	AIR FREEZING INDEX <sup>i</sup>	MEAN ANNUAL TEMP <sup>j</sup>
	Speed <sup>d</sup> (mph)	Topographic effects <sup>k</sup>	Special wind region <sup>l</sup>		Windborne debris zone <sup>m</sup>	Weathering <sup>a</sup>	Frost line depth <sup>b</sup>				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>MANUAL J DESIGN CRITERIA<sup>n</sup></b>											
Elevation			Altitude correction factor <sup>e</sup>	Coincident wet bulb	Indoor winter design relative humidity	Indoor winter design dry-bulb temperature	Indoor winter design dry-bulb temperature	Outdoor winter design dry-bulb temperature		Heating temperature difference	
Latitude			Daily range	Summer design gains	Indoor summer design relative humidity	Indoor summer design dry-bulb temperature	Indoor summer design dry-bulb temperature	Outdoor summer design dry-bulb temperature		Cooling temperature difference	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

For SI: 1 pound per square foot = 0.0479 kPa, 1 mile per hour = 0.447 m/s.

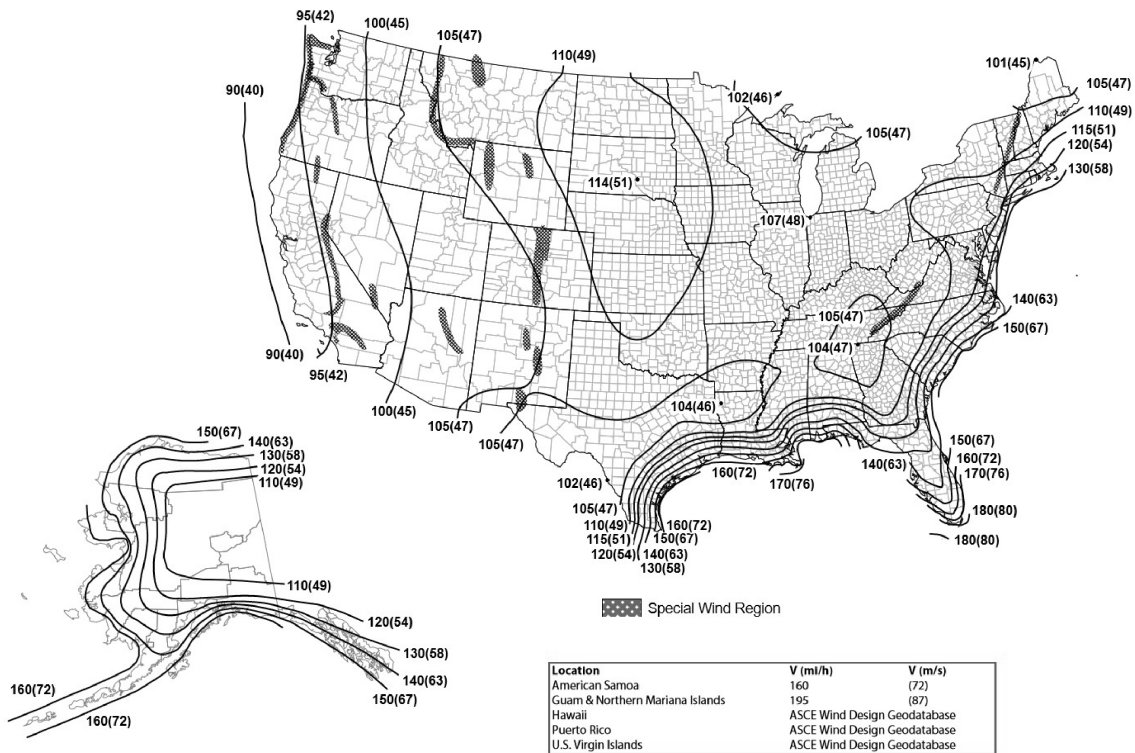
- a. Where weathering requires a higher strength concrete or grade of masonry than necessary to satisfy the structural requirements of this code, the frost line depth strength required for weathering shall govern. The weathering column shall be filled in with the weathering index, "negligible," "moderate" or "severe" for concrete as determined from Figure R301.2(1). The grade of masonry units shall be determined from ASTM C34, ASTM C55, ASTM C62, ASTM C73, ASTM C90, ASTM C129, ASTM C145, ASTM C216 or ASTM C652.
- b. Where the frost line depth requires deeper footings than indicated in Figure R403.1(1), the frost line depth strength required for weathering shall govern. The jurisdiction shall fill in the frost line depth column with the minimum depth of footing below finish grade.
- c. The jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table to indicate the need for protection depending on whether there has been a history of local subterranean termite damage.
- d. The jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with the wind speed from the ultimate design wind speeds map [Figure R301.2(2)]. Wind exposure category shall be determined on a site-specific basis in accordance with Section R301.2.1.4.
- e. The jurisdiction shall fill in this section of the table to establish the design criteria using Table 10A from ACCA Manual J or established criteria determined by the jurisdiction.
- f. The jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with the seismic design category determined from Section R301.2.2.1.
- g. The jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with: the date of the jurisdiction's entry into the National Flood Insurance Program (date of adoption of the first code or ordinance for management of flood hazard areas); and the title and date of the currently effective Flood Insurance Study or other flood hazard study and maps adopted by the authority having jurisdiction, as amended.
- h. In accordance with Sections R905.1.2, R905.4.3.1, R905.5.3.1, R905.6.3.1, R905.7.3.1 and R905.8.3.1, where there has been a history of local damage from the effects of ice damming, the jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with "YES." Otherwise, the jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with "NO."
- i. The jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with the 100-year return period air freezing index (BF-days) from Figure R403.3(2) or from the 100-year (99 percent) value on the National Climatic Data Center data table "Air Freezing Index-USA Method (Base 32°F)."
- j. The jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with the mean annual temperature from the National Climatic Data Center data table "Air Freezing Index-USA Method (Base 32°F)."
- k. In accordance with Section R301.2.1.5, where there is local historical data documenting structural damage to buildings due to topographic wind speed-up effects, the jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with "YES." Otherwise, the jurisdiction shall indicate "NO" in this part of the table.
- l. In accordance with Figure R301.2(2), where there is local historical data documenting unusual wind conditions, the jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with "YES" and identify any specific requirements. Otherwise, the jurisdiction shall indicate "NO" in this part of the table.
- m. In accordance with Section R301.2.1.2 the jurisdiction shall indicate the wind-borne debris wind zone(s). Otherwise, the jurisdiction shall indicate "NO" in this part of the table.
- n. The jurisdiction shall fill in these sections of the table to establish the design criteria using Table 1a or 1b from ACCA Manual J or established criteria determined by the jurisdiction.
- o. The jurisdiction shall fill in this section of the allowable stress design table using the Ground Snow Loads in Figure R301.2(3).

**FIGURE R301.2(1)—WEATHERING PROBABILITY MAP FOR CONCRETE <sup>a, b</sup>**



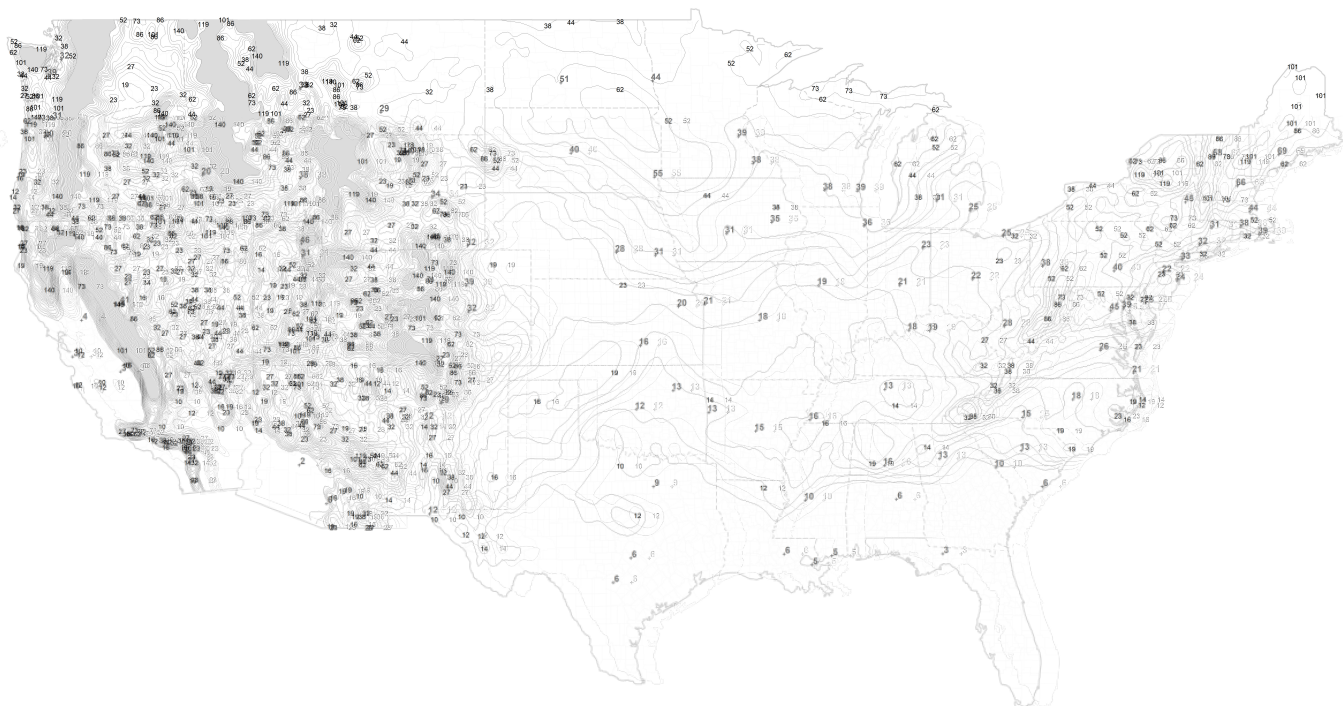
- a. Alaska and Hawaii are classified as severe and negligible, respectively.
- b. Lines defining areas are approximate only. Local conditions may be more or less severe than indicated by region classification. A severe classification is where weather conditions result in significant snowfall combined with extended periods during which there is little or no natural thawing, causing deicing salts to be used extensively.

**FIGURE R301.2(2)—ULTIMATE DESIGN WIND SPEEDS**



- Notes:**
1. Values are 3-second gust wind speeds in miles per hour (m/s) at 33 feet (10 m) above ground for Exposure Category C.
  2. Linear interpolation is permitted between contours. Point values are provided to aid with interpolation.
  3. Islands, coastal areas and land boundaries outside the last contour shall use the last wind speed contour.
  4. Location-specific basic wind speeds shall be determined using the ASCE Wind Design Geodatabase.
  5. Wind speeds for Hawaii, US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico shall be determined from the ASCE Wind Design Geodatabase.
  6. Mountainous terrain, gorges, ocean promontories and special wind regions shall be examined for unusual wind conditions. Site specific values for selected special wind regions shall be permitted to be determined using the ASCE Wind Design Geodatabase.
  7. Wind speeds correspond to approximately a 7-percent probability of exceedance in 50 years (Annual Exceedance Probability = 0.00143, MRI = 700 years).
  8. The ASCE Wind Design Geodatabase can be accessed at the ASCE 7 Hazard Tool (<https://asce7hazardtool.online>) or approved equivalent.

**FIGURE R301.2(3)—ALLOWABLE STRESS DESIGN GROUND SNOW LOADS,  $P_g(ASD)$ , FOR THE UNITED STATES (lb/ft<sup>2</sup>)**



For SI: 1 foot = 34.8 mm, 1 pound per square foot = 0.0479 kPa, 1 mile = 1.61 km.

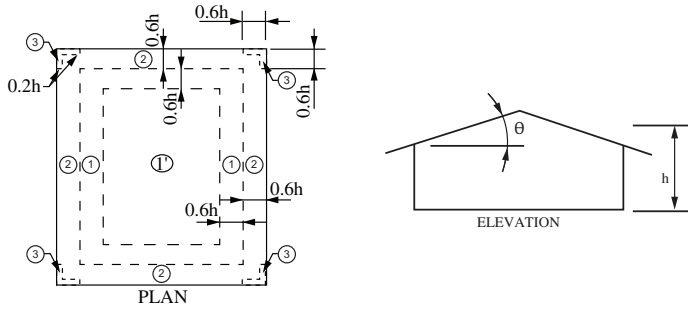
**Notes:**

1. Location-specific ground snow load values are provided in the Ground Snow Load Geodatabase of geocoded design ground snow load values, which can be accessed at the ASCE 7 Hazard Tool at <https://asce7hazardtool.online/> or an approved equivalent.
2. Lines shown on the figure are contours separated by a constant ratio 1.18 with values of 10, 12, 14, 16, 19, 23, 27, 32, 38, 44, 52, 62, 73, 86, 101, 119 and 140 psf.
3. Values denoted with a "+" symbol indicate design ground snow loads at state capitals or other high-population locations.
4. Areas shown in gray represent areas with ground snow loads exceeding 140 psf. Ground snow load values for these locations can be determined from the Geodatabase.

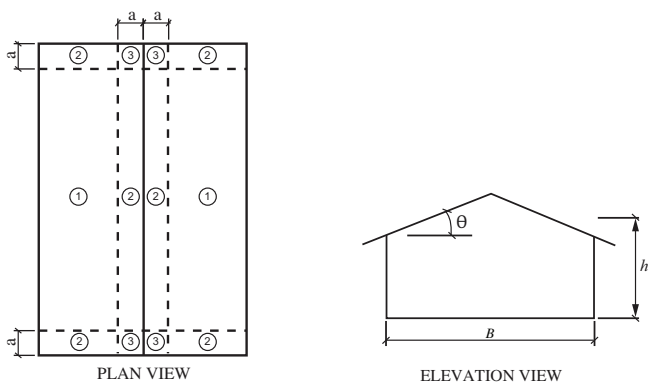
**R301.2.1 Wind design criteria.** *Buildings* and portions thereof shall be constructed in accordance with the wind provisions of this code using the ultimate design wind speed in Table R301.2 as determined from Figure R301.2(2). The structural provisions of this code for wind loads are not permitted where wind design is required as specified in Section R301.2.1.1. Where different construction methods and structural materials are used for various portions of a *building*, the applicable requirements of this section for each portion shall apply. Where not otherwise specified, the wind loads listed in Table R301.2.1(1) adjusted for height and exposure using Table R301.2.1(2) shall be used to determine design load performance requirements for wall coverings, curtain walls, *roof coverings*, exterior windows, *skylights*, garage doors and exterior doors. Asphalt shingles shall be designed for wind speeds in accordance with Section R905.2.4. *Metal roof shingles* shall be designed for wind speeds in accordance with Section R905.4.4. A continuous load path shall be provided to transmit the applicable uplift forces in Section R802.11 from the *roof assembly* to the foundation. Where ultimate design wind speeds in Figure R301.2(2) are less than the lowest wind speed indicated in the prescriptive provisions of this code, the lowest wind speed indicated in the prescriptive provisions of this code shall be used.



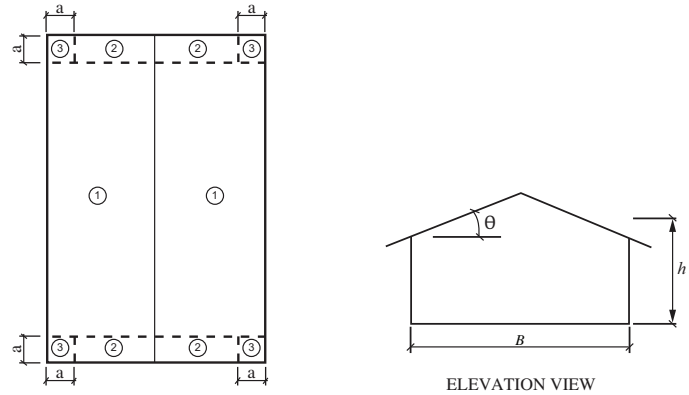
FIGURE R301.2.1—COMPONENT AND CLADDING PRESSURE ZONES



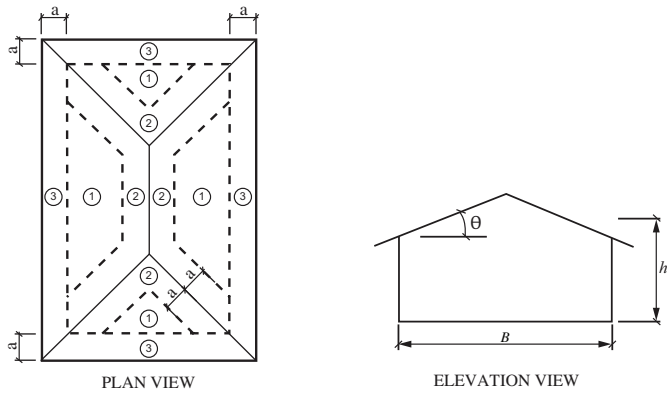
Gable and Flat Roofs  $\theta \leq 7^\circ$



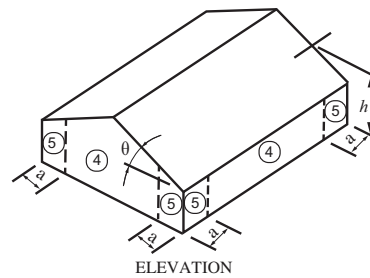
Gable Roofs  $7^\circ < \theta \leq 45^\circ$



Gable Roofs  $27^\circ < \theta \leq 45^\circ$



Hip Roofs  $7^\circ < \theta \leq 45^\circ$



Walls

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 degree = 0.0175 rad.  
**Note:** a = 4 feet in all cases.

**TABLE R301.2.1(1)—COMPONENT AND CLADDING LOADS FOR A BUILDING WITH A MEAN ROOF HEIGHT OF 30 FEET LOCATED IN EXPOSURE B (ASD) (psf)<sup>a,b,c,d,e,f,g</sup>**

EFFECTIVE WIND AREAS (square feet)		ULTIMATE DESIGN WIND SPEED, $V_{ult}$																									
		90.0		95.0		100.0		105.0		110.0		115.0		120.0		130.0		140.0		150.0		160.0		170.0		180.0	
		Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg
Gable roof 0 to 7 degrees	1, 1'	3.6	-13.9	4.0	-15.5	4.4	-17.2	4.8	-19.0	5.3	-20.8	5.8	-22.7	6.3	-24.8	7.4	-29.1	8.6	-33.7	9.9	-38.7	11.2	-44.0	12.7	-49.7	14.2	-55.7
	1, 1'	3.3	-12.4	3.7	-13.8	4.1	-15.3	4.5	-16.8	5.0	-18.5	5.4	-20.2	5.9	-22.0	7.0	-25.8	8.1	-29.9	9.3	-34.4	10.5	-39.1	11.9	-44.1	13.3	-49.5
	1, 1'	3.0	-10.3	3.4	-11.5	3.8	-12.7	4.1	-14.0	4.5	-15.4	5.0	-16.8	5.4	-18.3	6.3	-21.5	7.4	-24.9	8.4	-28.6	9.6	-32.5	10.8	-36.7	12.2	-41.2
	1, 1'	2.8	-8.7	3.1	-9.7	3.5	-10.8	3.8	-11.9	4.2	-13.1	4.6	-14.3	5.0	-15.5	5.9	-18.2	6.8	-21.2	7.8	-24.3	8.9	-27.6	10.0	-31.2	11.3	-35.0
	2	3.6	-18.4	4.0	-20.5	4.4	-22.7	4.8	-25.0	5.3	-27.4	5.8	-30.0	6.3	-32.7	7.4	-38.3	8.6	-44.5	9.9	-51.0	11.2	-58.1	12.7	-65.6	14.2	-73.5
	2	3.3	-16.4	3.7	-18.2	4.1	-20.2	4.5	-22.3	5.0	-24.5	5.4	-26.7	5.9	-29.1	7.0	-34.2	8.1	-39.6	9.3	-45.5	10.5	-51.8	11.9	-58.4	13.3	-65.5
	2	3.0	-13.7	3.4	-15.3	3.8	-16.9	4.1	-18.7	4.5	-20.5	5.0	-22.4	5.4	-24.4	6.3	-28.6	7.4	-33.2	8.4	-38.1	9.6	-43.3	10.8	-48.9	12.2	-54.8
	2	2.8	-11.7	3.1	-13.0	3.5	-14.5	3.8	-15.9	4.2	-17.5	4.6	-19.1	5.0	-20.8	5.9	-24.4	6.8	-28.3	7.8	-32.5	8.9	-37.0	10.0	-41.8	11.3	-46.8
	3	3.6	-25.0	4.0	-27.9	4.4	-30.9	4.8	-34.1	5.3	-37.4	5.8	-40.9	6.3	-44.5	7.4	-52.2	8.6	-60.6	9.9	-69.6	11.2	-79.1	12.7	-89.4	14.2	-100.2
	3	3.3	-21.0	3.7	-23.4	4.1	-26.0	4.5	-28.6	5.0	-31.4	5.4	-34.4	5.9	-37.4	7.0	-43.9	8.1	-50.9	9.3	-58.4	10.5	-66.5	11.9	-75.1	13.3	-84.2
3	3.0	-15.7	3.4	-17.5	3.8	-19.4	4.1	-21.4	4.5	-23.5	5.0	-25.6	5.4	-27.9	6.3	-32.8	7.4	-38.0	8.4	-43.6	9.6	-49.6	10.8	-56.0	12.2	-62.8	
3	2.8	-11.7	3.1	-13.0	3.5	-14.5	3.8	-15.9	4.2	-17.5	4.6	-19.1	5.0	-20.8	5.9	-24.4	6.8	-28.3	7.8	-32.5	8.9	-37.0	10.0	-41.8	11.3	-46.8	
1	5.8	-16.2	6.4	-18.0	7.1	-19.9	7.9	-22.0	8.6	-24.1	9.4	-26.4	10.3	-28.7	12.1	-33.7	14.0	-39.1	16.1	-44.9	18.3	-51.0	20.6	-57.6	23.1	-64.6	
1	5.3	-13.9	5.9	-15.5	6.5	-17.1	7.2	-18.9	7.9	-20.7	8.6	-22.7	9.4	-24.7	11	-29.0	12.7	-33.6	14.6	-38.6	16.6	-43.9	18.8	-49.5	21.1	-55.5	
1	4.6	-10.9	5.1	-12.1	5.7	-13.4	6.2	-14.8	6.8	-16.3	7.5	-17.8	8.2	-19.4	9.6	-22.7	11.1	-26.4	12.7	-30.3	14.5	-34.4	16.4	-38.9	18.3	-43.6	
1	4.1	-8.6	4.5	-9.6	5.0	-10.7	5.5	-11.7	6.1	-12.9	6.6	-14.1	7.2	-15.3	8.5	-18.0	9.8	-20.9	11.3	-24.0	12.9	-27.3	14.5	-30.8	16.3	-34.5	
2	5.8	-21.3	6.4	-23.8	7.1	-26.3	7.9	-29.0	8.6	-31.9	9.4	-34.8	10.3	-37.9	12.1	-44.5	14.0	-51.6	16.1	-59.3	18.3	-67.4	20.6	-76.1	23.1	-85.4	
2	5.3	-18.4	5.9	-20.5	6.5	-22.7	7.2	-25.1	7.9	-27.5	8.6	-30.1	9.4	-32.8	11.0	-38.4	12.7	-44.6	14.6	-51.2	16.6	-58.2	18.8	-65.7	21.1	-73.7	
2	4.6	-14.6	5.1	-16.2	5.7	-18.0	6.2	-19.8	6.8	-21.8	7.5	-23.8	8.2	-25.9	9.6	-30.4	11.1	-35.3	12.7	-40.5	14.5	-46.1	16.4	-52.0	18.3	-58.3	
2	4.1	-11.7	4.5	-13.0	5.0	-14.4	5.5	-15.9	6.1	-17.4	6.6	-19.0	7.2	-20.7	8.5	-24.3	9.8	-28.2	11.3	-32.4	12.9	-36.8	14.5	-41.6	16.3	-46.6	
3	5.8	-28.0	6.4	-31.2	7.1	-34.6	7.9	-38.1	8.6	-41.8	9.4	-45.7	10.3	-49.8	12.1	-58.4	14.0	-67.8	16.1	-77.8	18.3	-88.5	20.6	-99.9	23.1	-112.0	
3	5.3	-24.0	5.9	-26.7	6.5	-29.6	7.2	-32.7	7.9	-35.8	8.6	-39.2	9.4	-42.7	11.1	-50.1	12.7	-58.1	14.6	-66.6	16.6	-75.8	18.8	-85.6	21.1	-96.0	
3	4.6	-18.7	5.1	-20.8	5.7	-23.1	6.2	-25.4	6.8	-27.9	7.5	-30.5	8.2	-33.2	9.6	-39.0	11.1	-45.2	12.7	-51.9	14.5	-59.1	16.4	-66.7	18.3	-74.7	
3	4.1	-14.7	4.5	-16.3	5.0	-18.1	5.5	-20.0	6.1	-21.9	6.6	-24.0	7.2	-26.1	8.5	-30.6	9.8	-35.5	11.3	-40.8	12.9	-46.4	14.5	-52.3	16.3	-58.7	
1	5.8	-12.4	6.4	-13.9	7.1	-15.4	7.9	-16.9	8.6	-18.6	9.4	-20.3	10.3	-22.1	12.1	-26.0	14.0	-30.1	16.1	-34.6	18.3	-39.3	20.6	-44.4	23.1	-49.8	
1	5.3	-11.2	5.9	-12.5	6.5	-13.9	7.2	-15.3	7.9	-16.8	8.6	-18.4	9.4	-20.0	11.0	-23.5	12.7	-27.2	14.6	-31.2	16.6	-35.5	18.8	-40.1	21.1	-45.0	
1	4.6	-9.7	5.1	-10.8	5.7	-11.9	6.2	-13.1	6.8	-14.4	7.5	-15.8	8.2	-17.2	9.6	-20.2	11.1	-23.4	12.7	-26.8	14.5	-30.5	16.4	-34.5	18.3	-38.6	
1	4.1	-8.5	4.5	-9.4	5.0	-10.4	5.5	-11.5	6.1	-12.6	6.6	-13.8	7.2	-15.0	8.5	-17.7	9.8	-20.5	11.3	-23.5	12.9	-26.7	14.5	-30.2	16.3	-33.8	
2	5.8	-19.9	6.4	-22.1	7.1	-24.5	7.9	-27.0	8.6	-29.7	9.4	-32.4	10.3	-35.3	12.1	-41.4	14.0	-48.0	16.1	-55.2	18.3	-62.8	20.6	-70.8	23.1	-79.4	
2	5.3	-17.0	5.9	-18.9	6.5	-20.9	7.2	-23.1	7.9	-25.3	8.6	-27.7	9.4	-30.1	11.0	-35.4	12.7	-41.0	14.6	-47.1	16.6	-53.6	18.8	-60.5	21.1	-67.8	
2	4.6	-13.1	5.1	-14.6	5.7	-16.2	6.2	-17.9	6.8	-19.6	7.5	-21.4	8.2	-23.3	9.6	-27.4	11.1	-31.8	12.7	-36.5	14.5	-41.5	16.4	-46.8	18.3	-52.5	
2	4.1	-10.2	4.5	-11.4	5.0	-12.6	5.5	-13.9	6.1	-15.3	6.6	-16.7	7.2	-18.2	8.5	-21.3	9.8	-24.7	11.3	-28.4	12.9	-32.3	14.5	-36.5	16.3	-40.9	
3	5.8	-23.6	6.4	-26.3	7.1	-29.1	7.9	-32.1	8.6	-35.2	9.4	-38.5	10.3	-41.9	12.1	-49.2	14.0	-57.0	16.1	-65.4	18.3	-74.5	20.6	-84.1	23.1	-94.2	
3	5.3	-20.0	5.9	-22.3	6.5	-24.7	7.2	-27.2	7.9	-29.9	8.6	-32.6	9.4	-35.5	11.0	-41.7	12.7	-48.4	14.6	-55.5	16.6	-63.2	18.8	-71.3	21.1	-80.0	