

# THE CYCLONES OF NOVEMBER 1977

W. Gangoda

(Dept. of Meteorology, Colombo)

In November 1977 two severe cyclones, one in the Arabian Sea & the other in the Bay of Bengal interacted with each other and changed their directions of movement abruptly. In the past such a clear demonstration of interaction has not been observed in the North Indian Ocean region. However, records indicate that there have been instances when the abnormal movement of a cyclone in the Arabian Sea could be attributed to interaction with a co-existing, cyclone in the Bay of Bengal. Such interactions have occurred in May 1932, May 1941 & October 1967. Interaction between binary cyclones could occur even when their centres are separated by as much as 2000 km.

The directions of movement of the two cyclones (November 1977) were compared with the estimated wind velocities over the centres of the cyclones. There is some evidence to suggest that tropical cyclones are steered by the mid-tropospheric winds during the early stages and by the upper tropospheric winds later.

## References

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