

THEORETICAL INVESTIGATION  
OF STANDING WAVES  
IN HYDRAULIC STRUCTURES

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## INTRODUCTION

### NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

The recent upswing in the development of natural hydraulic resources in this country and abroad has resulted in the design of many power, irrigation and flood control projects in which high velocities of flow are utilized for the rapid and efficient handling of water.

This high velocity flow has introduced problems in hydraulic engineering which had not previously been encountered. Chief among these problems is the formation of standing waves, which are usually unpredictable and require expensive high-walled structures to prevent overtopping.

Methods of design used in the analysis of low velocity structures have been found insufficient and cannot be utilized to predict standing wave formation. Many high velocity channels have of course been designed, and with some degree of success. But these channels were designed by empirical methods without making any contribution to our understanding of the fundamental factors which underlie the problem.

Recently, i.e. in the last ten or fifteen years, some research has been done on the subject of high velocity flow in channels with a free surface. Most

important of this work has followed from the recognition of the analogy between supercritical flow

Figure 1

Standing Waves in Laboratory Apparatus  
in water and supersonic flow in gases. This analogy has made possible the utilization in hydraulic design of methods which have been highly developed in gas dynamics.

Supersonic flow in gases occurs when the velocity of flow is greater than the local velocity of a compression wave. Since sound travels at the velocity of a compression wave, or more correctly, since sound is a compression wave, such flow is termed supersonic.

Supercritical flow in water occurs when the velocity of flow is greater than the velocity of a small wave disturbance in the water surface. This velocity, termed the critical velocity, is given by the equation:

$$V_c = \sqrt{gh}$$

where h is the water depth.

Hereafter in this thesis supercritical flow will signify that  $V > V_c$ , subcritical flow that  $V < V_c$ .

#### HISTORICAL NOTE:

The analogy between supercritical flow in water and supersonic flow in gases was pointed out by Prandtl in 1931. (See reference 1 in bibliography) It has received thorough mathematical treatment by Prandtl, Von Karman (2), Riabouchinsky (3), and Busemann (4). Their work was extended and verified by Preiswerk (5), whose published report of

his theoretical and experimental study, based on the methods of gas dynamics, of flow in the Laval nozzle is especially noteworthy as an example of the methods of design based on gas wave theory.

In this country, Ippen and Knapp (6) did further research on this subject, and Ippen (7) has published a very concise summary of the previous work, demonstrating in some detail the methods involved in hydraulic design.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS WORK:

The purpose of this thesis is to demonstrate between the correlation/theory based on the methods of gas dynamics and experimental results obtained in laboratory flumes. A study is made of two types of channel contractions at various velocities of flow in the supercritical range.

## THEORY

### THE STANDING WAVE

If the velocity of a wave with respect to the body of water on which it moves is  $C$ , usually called the wave celerity, the wave when propagated by a point source of disturbance will move out in all directions at the velocity  $C$ , and at any time  $T$  the wave front will form a circle of radius  $CT$ .

If the wave is propagated on the surface of water which is moving down a channel with velocity  $V$ , the center of the wave front will move downstream with the velocity  $V$ . At any time  $T$  after the wave is propagated the center will be a distance  $VT$  downstream from the disturbance source, and the wave front will still be a circle of radius  $CT$ .

The velocity with which the disturbance moves directly upstream is then given by  $C - V$ , and the velocity with which it moves directly downstream is given by  $C + V$ . Thus if  $V$  is greater than  $C$ , the disturbance is never transmitted upstream. When  $V$  is greater than  $C$  the flow is termed supercritical, and the consequence that in supercritical flow disturbances are not transmitted upstream is of considerable importance in hydraulic design.

We may now investigate the manner in which a standing wave is formed in supercritical flow. A standing wave is a stationary wave, a wave which does not move with respect to a stationary observer. In other words its velocity with respect to the water over which it moves is equal and opposite to the absolute velocity of the water. Assume that the source of disturbance is a change in wall angle  $\theta$ , (Figure 2). The water is flowing with a velocity  $V$  which we assume to be greater than the wave velocity  $C$ .

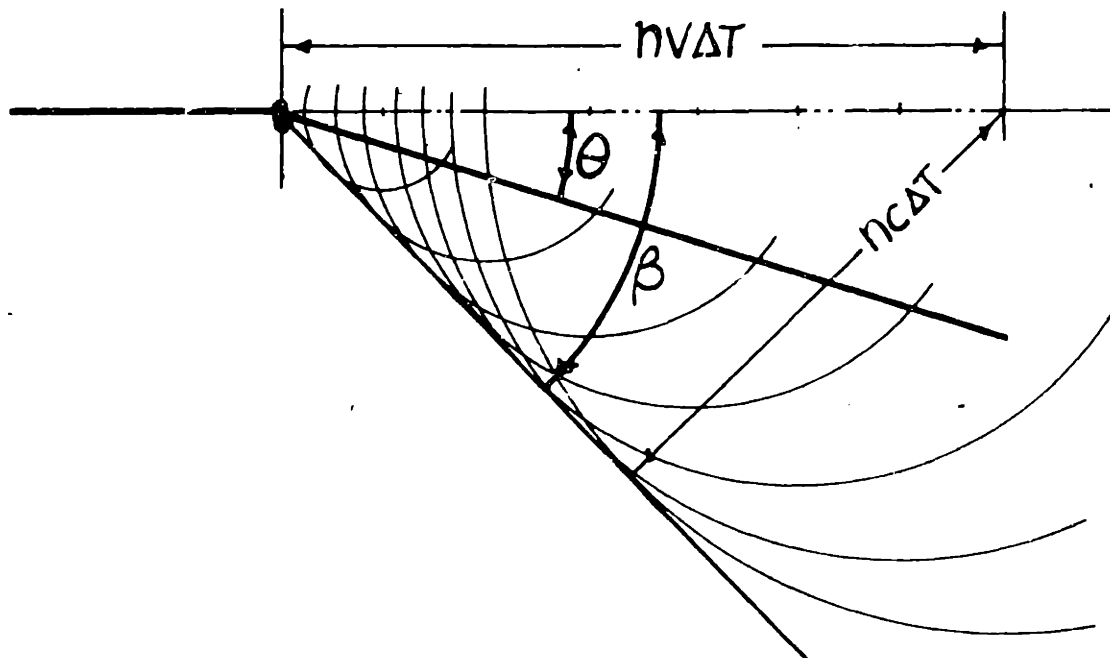


Figure 2

The disturbance is continuous, that is new disturbance waves are constantly being propagated.

We shall study the disturbances which are propagated at small intervals of time  $\Delta T$ .

After an interval of time  $n\Delta T$  since its propagation, the center of a wave front will have moved downstream a distance  $nV\Delta T$  from the disturbance source. In this time the radius of the wave front has increased to  $nC\Delta T$ . The angle  $\beta$  between the original velocity vector and the tangent to the wave front through the disturbance source is given by:

$$\sin \beta = \frac{nC\Delta T}{nV\Delta T} = \frac{C}{V}$$

This equation shows that the angle  $\beta$  is independent of time, and is a property of all the waves originating at the disturbance source. Hence all of these waves have a common tangent passing through the disturbance source, and this tangent is the limit above which the disturbance is not transmitted. This tangent is then a standing wave front.

#### DERIVATION OF WAVE CELERITY - C

We may now proceed to determine the factors which determine the angle  $\beta$ . We have found that  $\sin \beta = \frac{C}{V}$ .  $V$  is a measurable quantity, predetermined for a given design. We shall determine  $C$  as follows. Referring to figure 3, we have a flow which is sub-

ject to a disturbance such that the stream lines are deflected through an angle  $\theta$  as the flow crosses

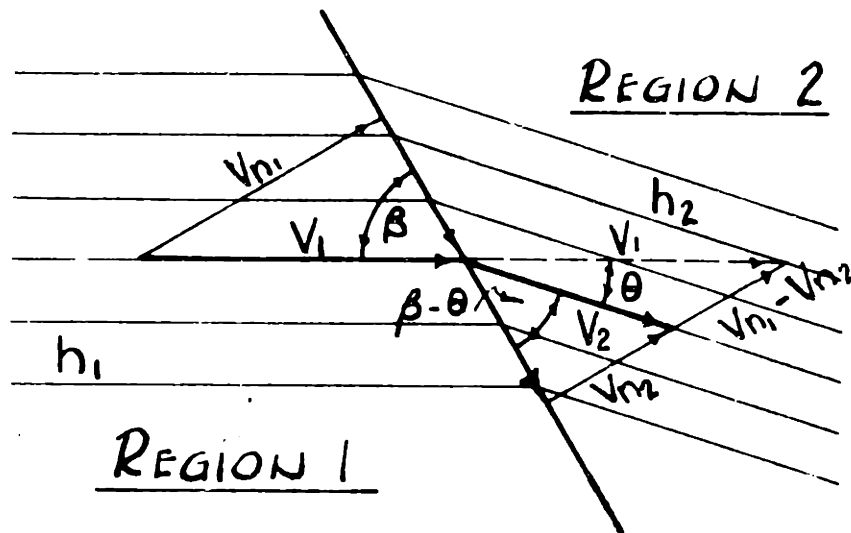


Figure 3

the standing wave shown. In region 1, the depth is  $h_1$ , the velocity is  $V_1$ , with components normal and tangential to the wave front given by  $V_{n1}$  and  $V_{t1}$  respectively. Beyond the wave front in region 2 we have  $h_2$ ,  $V_2$ ,  $V_{n2}$ , and the same tangential component  $V_{t1}$ .

From continuity considerations we may write:

$$h_1 V_{n1} = h_2 V_{n2}.$$



Whence:

$$V_{n2} = \frac{h_1}{h_2} V_{n1} \quad (1)$$

From the geometry of the flow:

$$V_{n1} = V_1 \sin \beta = C \quad (2)$$

The above follows from the fact that  $V_{n1}$  is the velocity of the approaching water relative to the wave front and vice versa.

From the momentum equation:

The static force across the wave front per unit length of wave is given by:

$$\frac{1}{2} \omega h_2^2 - \frac{1}{2} \omega h_1^2 = \frac{\omega}{2} (h_2^2 - h_1^2) \quad (3)$$

The change in momentum across the wave front per unit length of wave is given by:

$$\frac{\omega}{g} V_{n1} h_1 (V_{n1} - V_{n2}) \quad (4)$$

Substituting from (1), (4) becomes:

$$\frac{\omega}{g} V_{n1}^2 h_1 \left(1 - \frac{h_1}{h_2}\right) = \frac{\omega}{g} V_{n1}^2 \frac{h_1}{h_2} (h_2 - h_1) \quad (5)$$

Equating (3) and (5):

$$\frac{\omega}{2} (h_2^2 - h_1^2) = \frac{\omega}{g} V_{n1}^2 \frac{h_1}{h_2} (h_2 - h_1)$$

Solving for  $V_{n1}^2$ :

$$V_{n1}^2 = \frac{g}{2} \frac{h_2}{h_1} (h_2 + h_1) = gh_1 \frac{1}{2} \frac{h_2}{h_1} \left(1 + \frac{h_2}{h_1}\right)$$

$$V_{n1} = C = \sqrt{gh_1 \frac{h_2}{h_1} \left(1 + \frac{h_2}{h_1}\right)} \quad (6)$$

We can now see that if the wave is small, i.e. if  $h_2/h_1$  is near unity,  $C$  is approximately  $\sqrt{gh_1}$ , as originally stated.

DEVELOPMENT OF FLOW DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION

We are now in a position to develop an expression containing all the principal variables which affect the flow, making only such simplifying assumptions as are necessary for the mathematical analysis of the problem, without compromising seriously the accuracy of the method.

From (6) and the fact that  $V_{n1} = V_1 \sin \beta$ , we may write:

$$\sin \beta = \frac{\sqrt{gh_1}}{V_1} \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \frac{h_2}{h_1} \left(1 + \frac{h_2}{h_1}\right)}$$

Introducing the Froude number  $F = \frac{V}{\sqrt{gh}}$ , this becomes:

$$\sin \beta = \frac{1}{F_1} \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \frac{h_2}{h_1} \left(1 + \frac{h_2}{h_1}\right)} \quad (7)$$

We have not yet introduced the angle  $\theta$ , and its effect on the flow. From the geometry of the flow:

$$\frac{V_{n1}}{\tan \beta} = \frac{V_{n2}}{\tan(\beta - \theta)} = \frac{V_{n1} \frac{h_2}{h_1}}{\tan(\beta - \theta)}$$

Whence:

$$\frac{h_1}{h_2} \tan \beta - \tan(\beta - \theta) = \frac{\tan \beta - \tan \theta}{1 + \tan \beta \tan \theta}$$

Solving for  $\tan \theta$ :

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\tan \beta \left(1 - \frac{h_1}{h_2}\right)}{1 + \frac{h_1}{h_2} \tan^2 \beta} \quad (8)$$

All the above equations hold regardless of energy dissipation. We may now simplify (8) and obtain the differential equation we seek. We will make

the simplifying assumption that there is zero energy dissipation as the flow crosses a disturbance wave. To investigate the validity of this assumption, we shall determine the factors which control the amount of energy dissipation.

The energy per pound of fluid in region 1, taken with respect to the channel bottom as a datum is given by:

$$H_1 = \frac{v_1^2}{2g} + h_1$$

and the energy per pound in region 2 is given by:

$$H_2 = \frac{v_2^2}{2g} + h_2$$

The loss in energy in crossing the wave front, if the channel bottom is level, or nearly so, is:

$$\Delta H = \frac{v_1^2 - v_2^2}{2g} + (h_1 - h_2)$$

Since:

$$v_1^2 = v_{n1}^2 + v_{T1}^2 \quad v_2^2 = v_{n2}^2 + v_{T1}^2$$

It follows that:

$$v_1^2 - v_2^2 = v_{n1}^2 - v_{n2}^2 - v_{n1}^2 \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{h_1}{h_2} \right)^2 \right]$$

From (6):

$$v_{n1}^2 = \frac{gh_1}{2} \frac{h_2}{h_1} \left( 1 + \frac{h_2}{h_1} \right)$$

Hence:

$$v_1^2 - v_2^2 = \frac{gh_1}{2} \frac{h_2}{h_1} \left( 1 + \frac{h_2}{h_1} \right) \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{h_1}{h_2} \right)^2 \right]$$

And the lost energy per pound referred to the initial depth is given by:

$$\frac{\Delta H}{h_1} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{h_2}{h_1} \left(1 + \frac{h_2}{h_1}\right) \left[1 - \left(\frac{h_1}{h_2}\right)^2\right] + \frac{1}{h_1} (h_1 - h_2)$$

Multiplying out all terms in the numerator after multiplying and dividing by  $4 h_2/h_1$ :

$$\frac{\Delta H}{h_1} = \frac{\left(\frac{h_2}{h_1}\right)^3 - 3\left(\frac{h_2}{h_1}\right)^2 + 3\frac{h_2}{h_1} - 1}{4 \frac{h_2}{h_1}}$$

This is readily recognized as:

$$\frac{\Delta H}{h} = \frac{\left(\frac{h_2}{h_1} - 1\right)^3}{4 \frac{h_2}{h_1}} \quad (9)$$

It is now evident that the loss of energy is nearly zero when the wave is small, i.e. when  $h_2/h_1$  is near unity. It is evident from (8) that this requires a small change in wall angle  $\theta$ . If the change in wall angle is small:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{TAN } \theta &\approx \theta = d\theta \\ h_2 - h_1 &= dh \\ \text{SIN } \beta &\rightarrow \frac{1}{F} \\ h_1 &\rightarrow h_2 \rightarrow h \end{aligned}$$

Making these assumptions, we may rewrite (8) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{TAN } \theta = d\theta &= \frac{\frac{h_2 - h_1}{h_2} \text{TAN } \beta}{\frac{h_2 + h_1 \text{TAN}^2 \beta}{h_2}} = \frac{dh \text{TAN } \beta}{h(1 + \text{TAN}^2 \beta)} = \frac{dh}{h \text{csc}^2 \beta \text{TAN } \beta} \\ &= \frac{dh}{h F^2 \text{TAN } \beta} = \frac{dh}{\frac{V^2}{g} \text{TAN } \beta} \quad (10) \end{aligned}$$

### THE METHOD OF CHARACTERISTICS

Equation (10) is the basis for the method of characteristics long used in gas dynamics for the solution of problems involving supersonic flow. It is this equation which demonstrates the analogy between gas and water flow. We can put it in more useful form by transforming the velocity to a dimensionless form such as  $\bar{V} = \frac{V}{\sqrt{2gH}}$ , WHERE H is the energy per pound of fluid with respect to the channel bottom, given by:

$$H = \frac{V^2}{2g} + h$$

Then:

$$h = H - \frac{V^2}{2g} = H(1 - \bar{V}^2)$$

$$dh = 2\bar{V}Hd\bar{V}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tan \beta &= \frac{V_n}{V_T} = \frac{\sqrt{gh}}{\sqrt{V^2 - gh}} = \frac{\sqrt{gH(1 - \bar{V}^2)}}{\sqrt{\bar{V}^2 2gH - gH(1 - \bar{V}^2)}} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{1 - \bar{V}^2}}{\sqrt{3\bar{V}^2 - 1}} \end{aligned}$$

We may then write: -

$$d\theta = \frac{2H\bar{V}d\bar{V}}{\bar{V}^2 2H \frac{\sqrt{1 - \bar{V}^2}}{\sqrt{3\bar{V}^2 - 1}}}$$

and by rearranging we obtain the equation:

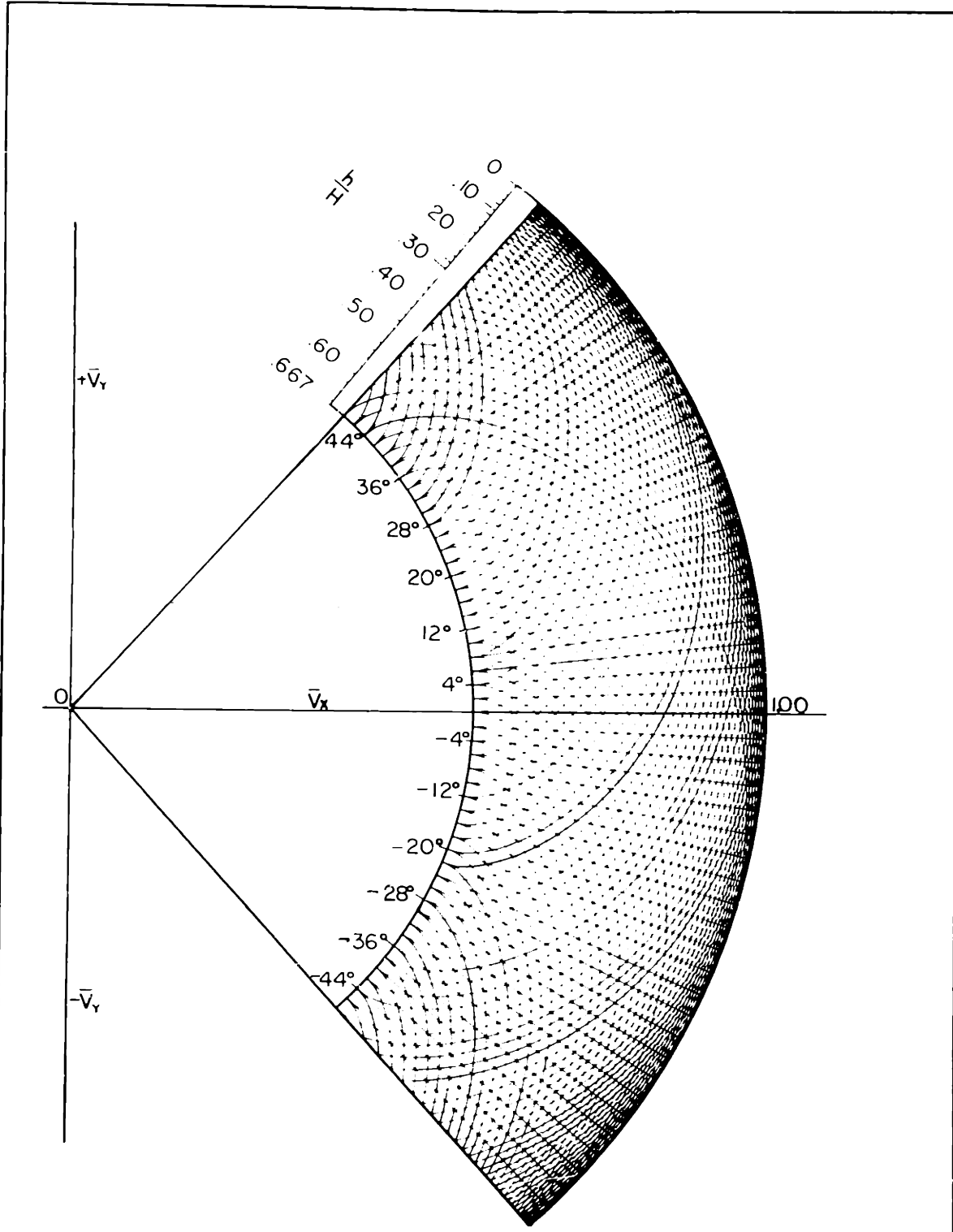
$$\frac{1}{\bar{V}} \frac{d\bar{V}}{d\theta} = \frac{\sqrt{1-\bar{V}^2}}{\sqrt{3\bar{V}^2-1}} \quad (11)$$

This expression is the differential equation in polar form of a family of epicycloids between circles of radius  $\frac{1}{3}$  and 1. The equation states that if the fluid is moving with a given velocity  $\bar{V}$ , represented in magnitude and direction by a radius vector to a point on the epicycloid, and the flow is deflected through a small angle  $\theta$ , the velocity vector will be rotated through an angle  $\theta$ , its point remaining on the epicycloid.

A portion of this family of epicycloids has been plotted by the author in figure 4, for angular increments of two degrees. The graphical method used with the epicycloids, called the method of characteristics is excellently described in Dr. Ippen's paper, "Gas Wave Analogies in Open Channel Flow." (7) It is the method based on these curves which was used throughout the investigations carried out in this thesis.

#### POLAR CURVES - FLOW WITH ENERGY DISSIPATION

If we have flow conditions such that the flow is deflected through large angles, under which conditions



CHARACTERISTICS DIAGRAM  
FIGURE 4

the assumptions underlying the method of characteristics are no longer valid, we may derive another graphical method which does not depend upon these assumptions, and in which it is not necessary to assume energy dissipation equal to zero.

If we transform equations (1) and (2) to contain the x and y components of the velocity instead of the tangential and normal components, by introducing into these equations the geometric relationships:

$$\bar{V}_{n1}(\bar{V}_{n1} - \bar{V}_{n2}) = \bar{V}_{x1}(\bar{V}_{x1} - \bar{V}_{x2}) \quad (12)$$

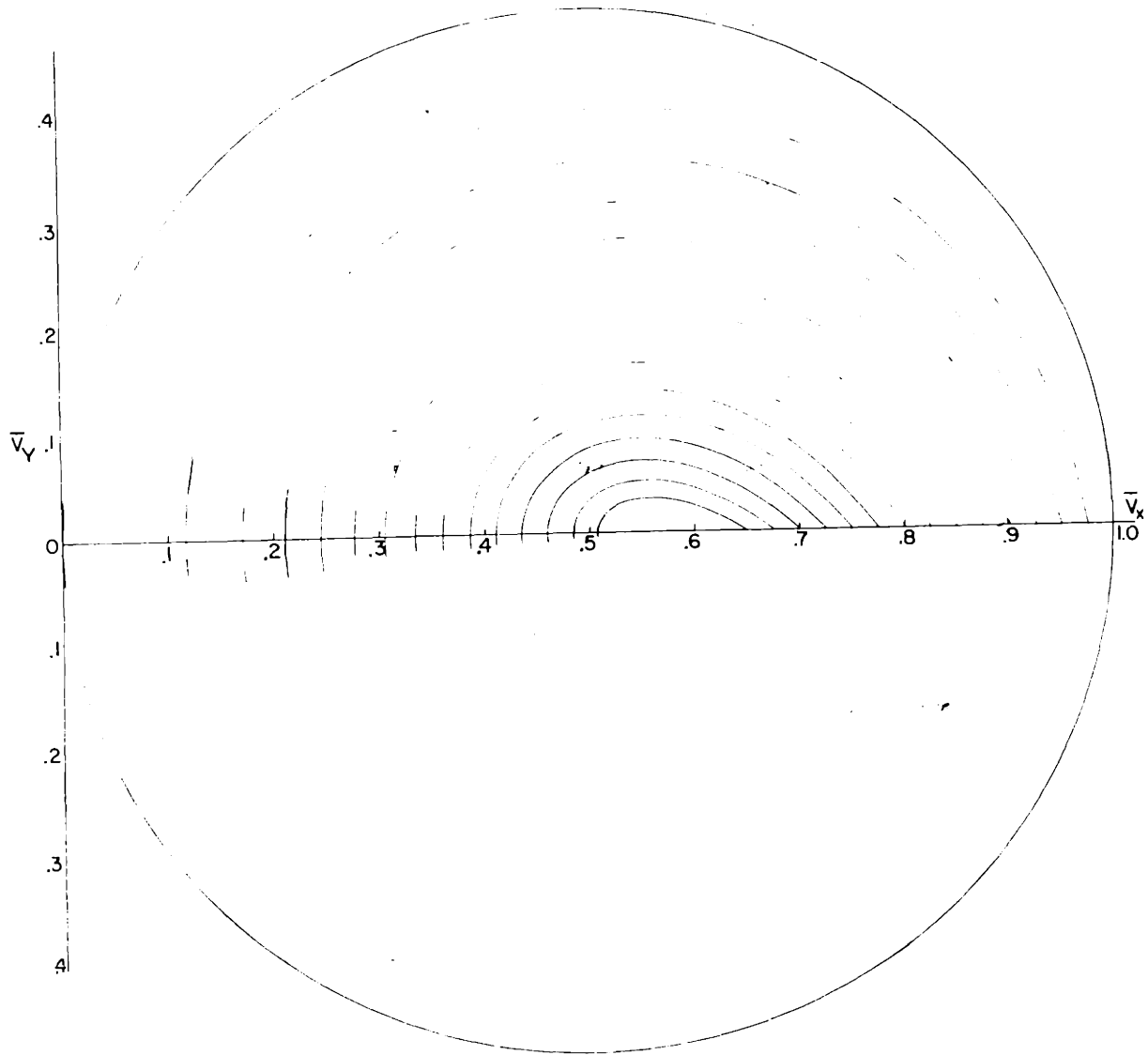
$$(\bar{V}_{n1} - \bar{V}_{n2})^2 = \bar{V}_y^2 + (\bar{V}_{x1} - \bar{V}_{x2})^2 \quad (13)$$

we may combine the resulting expressions with the energy equation to obtain the "Jump Polar" or "Shock Polar" curves, given by the expression:

$$\bar{V}_y^2 - \bar{V}_{x1}^2 \left(1 - \frac{\bar{V}_{x2}}{\bar{V}_{x1}}\right) \left[ \frac{\bar{V}_{x2}}{\bar{V}_{x1}} - \frac{\sqrt{1 - \bar{V}_{x1}^2}}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{V}_{x1}^2 - 4\bar{V}_{x1}^2 \left(1 - \frac{\bar{V}_{x2}}{\bar{V}_{x1}}\right)}} \right] \quad (14)$$

In this case, since there is energy dissipation along the channel, H is not a constant and the dimensionless velocity  $\bar{V}$  must be recomputed when each new region of the flow is reached. These curves are plotted in figure 5 and the values required for plotting the curves are given in table II in the appendix.





POLAR DIAGRAM FOR SLANTING HYDRAULIC JUMP

Figure 5

## METHOD OF APPROACH

### SOURCE OF EXPERIMENTAL DATA

The subject of this study is the correlation of experimental data with the theoretical method previously outlined. Experimental data were available from the work of J. H. Dawson (8), D. P. Rodriguez (9), and D. Coles and T. Shintaku (10). Their work was done in the hydraulic laboratories of the University of Lehigh, under the direction of Dr. A. T. Ippen.

### RESUME OF THE COLES - SHINTAKU EXPERIMENTS

Mention will first be made of the work of Coles and Shintaku, since their study brings out an important point not evident in the author's results.

These investigators, in a thesis entitled "Experimental relation between standing waves and sudden wall angle changes in supercritical flow," ran tests on the sharp angle contraction shown in figure 6, varying slope and discharge to obtain a wide range of Froude numbers. They then made measurements of the wave angle  $\beta$  and the depth ratio across the wave,  $h_2/h_1$ . These values were then compared in a tabulation to the theoretical values of these variables obtained from equations (7) and (8) of this work. In order to demonstrate this correlation the author

has plotted the curves of depth ratio and  $\beta$  thus obtained, (figure 7).

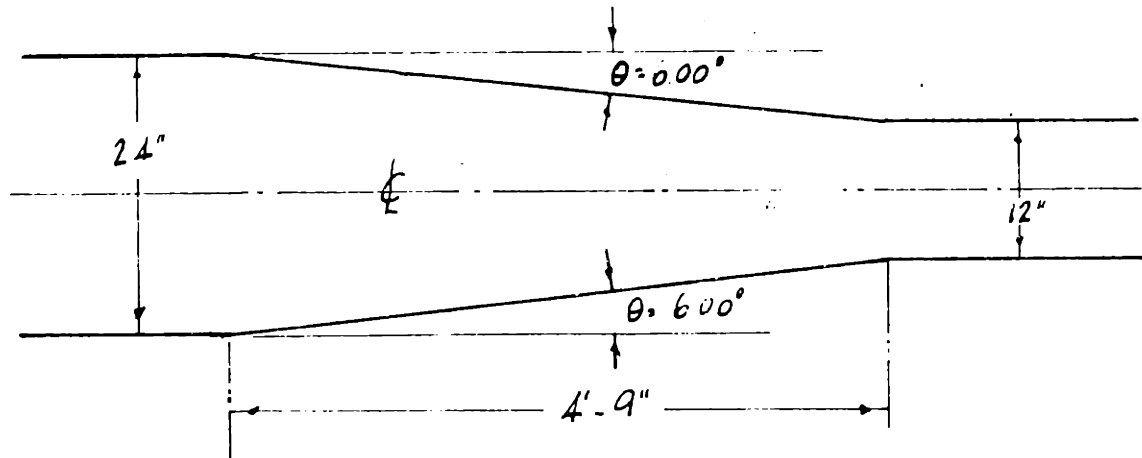


Figure 6

Coles - Shintaku channel

The tests performed by Coles and Shintaku are not numerous enough to be conclusive, but they show a definite trend. Theory and experiment show remarkable agreement between Froude numbers of 3.5 to 7.0. The theoretical and experimental curves diverge above and below this range.

This divergence is probably explained in the low Froude number range by the fact that viscous forces play a large part at low velocities, and give rise to a velocity distribution across the channel which invalidates the assumption of constant H.

COMPARISON OF EXPERIMENTAL AND  
CALCULATED VALUES OF  
 $h_2/h_1$  AND  $\beta$

(FROM WORK OF COLES AND SHINTAKU)

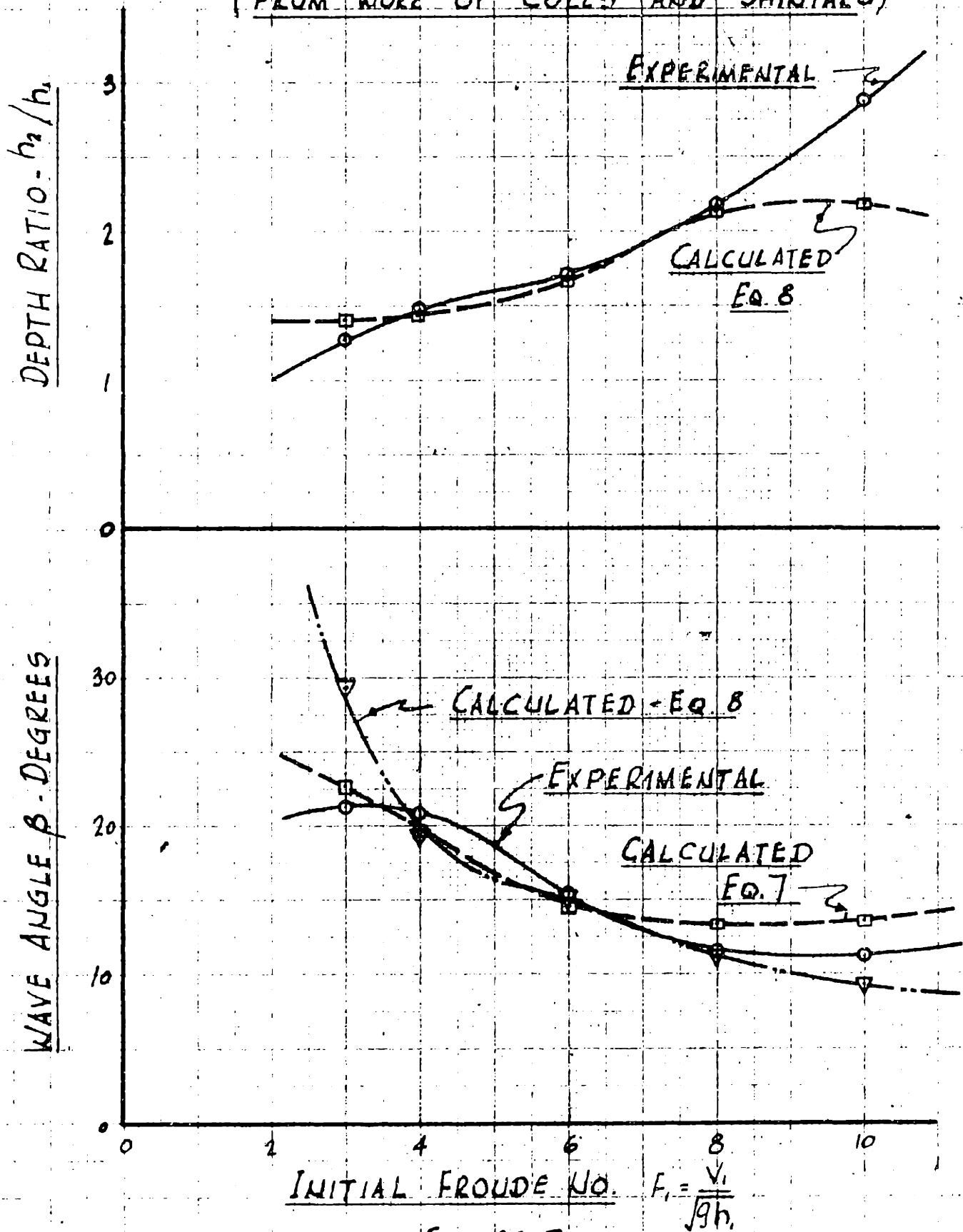


FIGURE 7

At high Froude numbers, vertical accelerations which result in non-hydrostatic pressure distributions probably cause the divergence between theory and experiment. Hydrostatic pressure distribution is a necessary condition for the validity of the statement that energy per pound  $H = \frac{V^2}{2g} + h$ .

Thus it would seem that theory gives the best results in the Froude number range between 3.5 and 7.0, a range in which viscous effect is relatively small and the pressure distribution in curvilinear flow is close to hydrostatic.

#### DAWSON EXPERIMENTS

J. H. Dawson (8) did very extensive work on the effect of lateral contractions on supercritical flow. His results for a flow with a Froude number of 4 for the symmetrical curved contraction shown in figure 8 were checked by the method of characteristics. Figure 10 shows the characteristics diagram of the flow. In figure 11 are plotted the experimental and theoretical side wall profiles which result from the contraction of the flow. The graphical construction of the flow is shown in figure 12.

#### RODRIGUEZ EXPERIMENTS

D. P. Rodriguez carried on experimental work using the sharp angle contraction shown in figure

9. The author made theoretical solutions by the method of characteristics for conditions corresponding

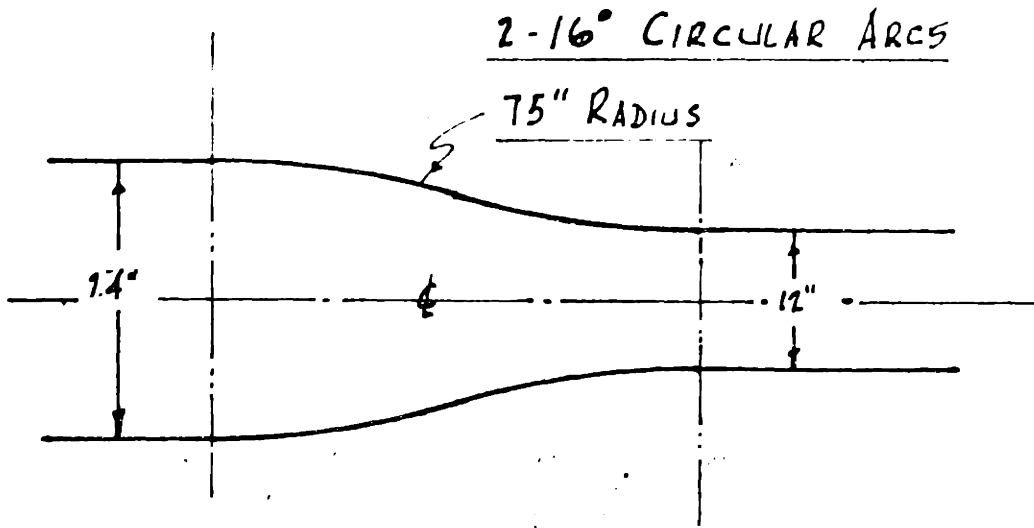


Figure 8

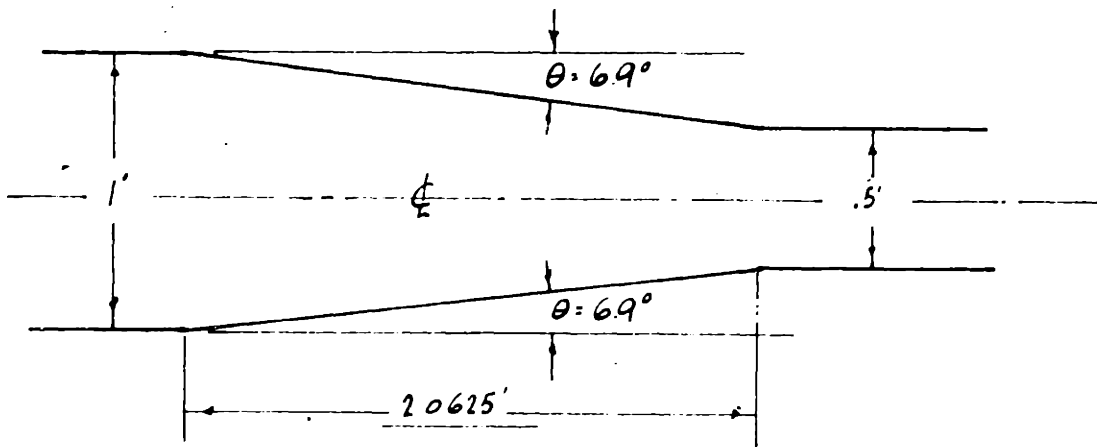


Figure 9

to Rodriguez's experiments at Froude numbers of 2.71, 3.17, 3.56, and 4.00. The resulting characteristic diagrams, comparisons of experimental and theoretical side wall profiles, and the graphical constructions of the flow for these analyses are shown in figures 13-23 inclusive. Because of lack of experimental data, side wall profiles for  $F = 4$  were not plotted.

#### NOTES ON THE USE OF THE METHOD OF CHARACTERISTICS

As pointed out previously, the characteristic curves are constructed from the differential equation of the flow. They are a plot in polar coordinates of  $\bar{V}$  vs.  $\theta$ . Their use enables one to analyze the flow in a channel and determine the effect that changes in direction have on the flow. The equation shows that the effect of a change in direction in supercritical flow is to change the velocity and the depth -- the characteristic curves make possible the quantitative determination of these changes.

To analyze a given flow, it is necessary first to determine the  $\bar{V}$  associated with the flow.  $\bar{V}$  is a vector having magnitude and direction. It is usually most satisfactory to so orient the diagram that

the  $V_x$  axis of the diagram is parallel to the initial direction of flow in the channel. Since the Froude number of the flow is known, the magnitude of  $\bar{V}$  may be directly determined from the relationship:

$$\bar{V} = \frac{F}{\sqrt{1 + F^2}}$$

This equation is derived on page 53 in the appendix and plotted in figure 24.

The point of the vector  $\bar{V}$  corresponds to a point on some epicycloid in the diagram. When the flow is deflected through an angle  $\theta$ , the point of the velocity vector moves along the epicycloid and the vector is rotated to a new position in the diagram through the angle  $\theta$ . The new point on the epicycloid represents a new region of the flow -- this region is characterized by the magnitude and direction of the velocity vector and the depth which is a unique function of  $\bar{V}$  and is given by the relationship:

$$\frac{h}{H} = 1 - \bar{V}^2$$

This equation is plotted in figure 25. The direction of the disturbance line or standing wave resulting from the change in direction of flow is given



by the mean of the perpendiculars to the epicycloid at the two points representing the regions of flow before and after the disturbance. This line is best drawn for small deflection angles by taking the perpendicular midway along the epicycloid between the two points. The perpendicular is easily drawn using a graphical method which is very well described in Dr. Ippen's paper (7).

We now present without proof some general rules for the use of the method of characteristics. Full discussions of these points are to be found in Preiswerk's memorandum (5).

1. A point in the characteristic diagram describes the depth and the magnitude and direction of the velocity in a region of the flow plane.

2. When two disturbance lines of the same family (i.e. disturbance lines emanating from the same wall and thus represented by perpendiculars to the same family of epicycloids) meet, they converge to form one disturbance line. The three regions originally involved become two, the one between the two disturbance lines disappearing and the upper and lower regions characterizing the new disturbance line.

3. When two disturbance lines of different families meet, they cross. The four regions involved form a parallelogram on the characteristics diagram. Since three of the regions are known before the lines cross, the fourth is always easily determined.

4. When a disturbance line meets a straight wall, it is reflected back into the flow. The three regions involved lie in a triangle on the characteristics diagram, the first and last regions lying on the same radial line. Since the first and second region are known, the third region is readily determined.

5. It is very valuable in making a study using this method, especially if the problem is complicated, to adopt some type of systematic numbering or lettering system for the points on the characteristic diagram. A careful study of figures 10 and 12 will show that this systematic approach gives a very good checking method in the flow plane. The author advocates no particular numbering system. But any systematic system yields valuable rewards in providing a continuous check against errors.

6. For flow along a smooth curved surface, such as the contraction in figure 8, the curve is broken

into 1, 2, or 4 degree arcs and approximated by a series of short straight lines. The accuracy of course increases as the increments are taken smaller.

## DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

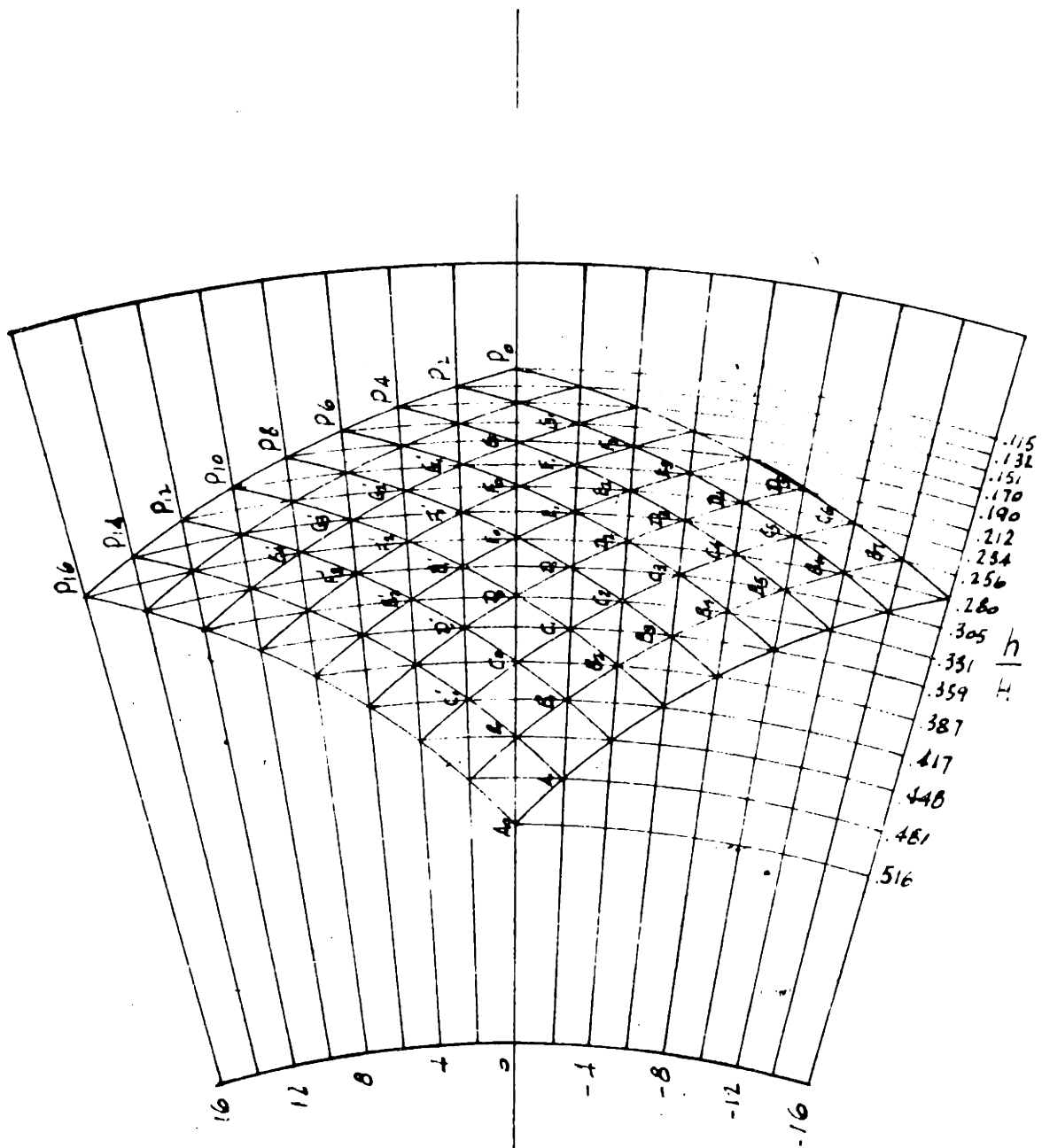
### SYMMETRICAL CURVED CONTRACTION

Within the length of the contraction the theoretical and experimental side wall profiles are practically superimposed. although the experimental profile tends to lag the theoretical. This is probably due to viscosity which gives a lower velocity along the wall than the average. The lag is more considerable when the wave peak reaches the center of the contraction. In general the amplitude of the wave is decreased by viscous action in the contraction.

Beyond the contraction a diamond shaped wave is set up, both in theory and experiment. The tendency in the theoretical wave is toward a very high peak near the end of the contraction, this peak rapidly diminishing with ensuing waves. Theory shows that this diminution is due to the convergence of disturbance lines, and the resultant disappearance of those regions which are characterized by great depth. The theoretical curves show the same tendency. In a solely experimental study it would appear logical to assume that the diminution is due to viscous damping. It would be difficult, however, to explain the steep slope of the wave envelope in the early

part of the channel, and the gradual slope of the envelope in the lower regions. Here theory gives us the answer. The steep slope of the envelope, the rapid diminution of wave crests, is due primarily to dynamic damping, the convergence of disturbance lines to give disturbance lines of lesser intensity. In the lower regions of the channel, where all but two theoretical disturbance lines have converged and the remaining two are parallel and will never converge, the reason for the decrease in wave height is completely viscous damping. Here we get a true picture of the magnitude of the viscous effect.

In the region where the theoretical disturbance lines are parallel, the theoretical wave has a wave length of 2.7 feet. In the same region the actual wave has a wave length of 3.5 feet. The ratio of actual to theoretical wave length is 1.3. In this one test this value means little, but it would be interesting to determine from further research the factors which effect this ratio. If these factors are determinable, a step will have been made in the science of predicting wave action in advance of design.



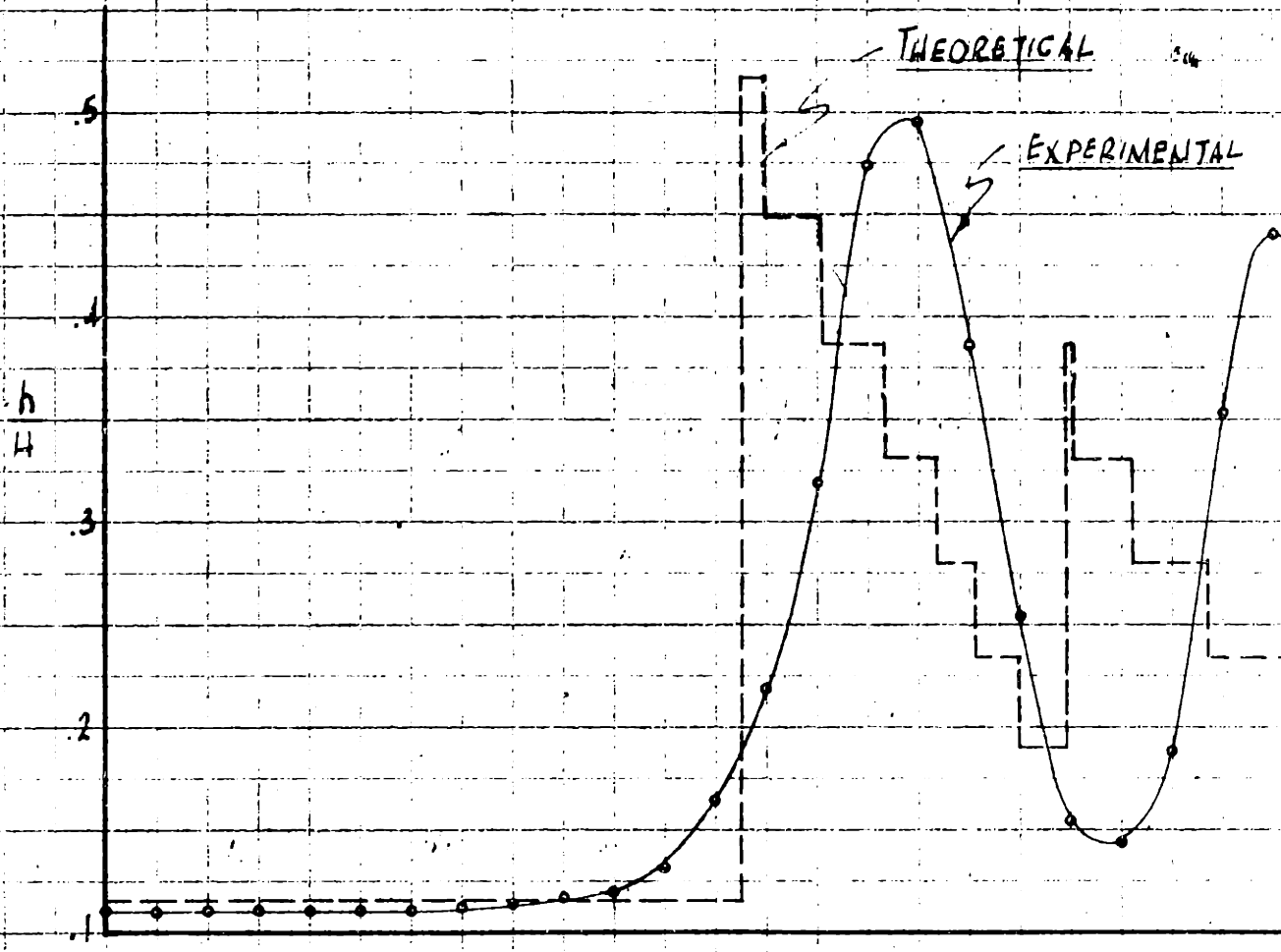
CHARACTERISTICS DIAGRAM

CURVED CONTRACTION

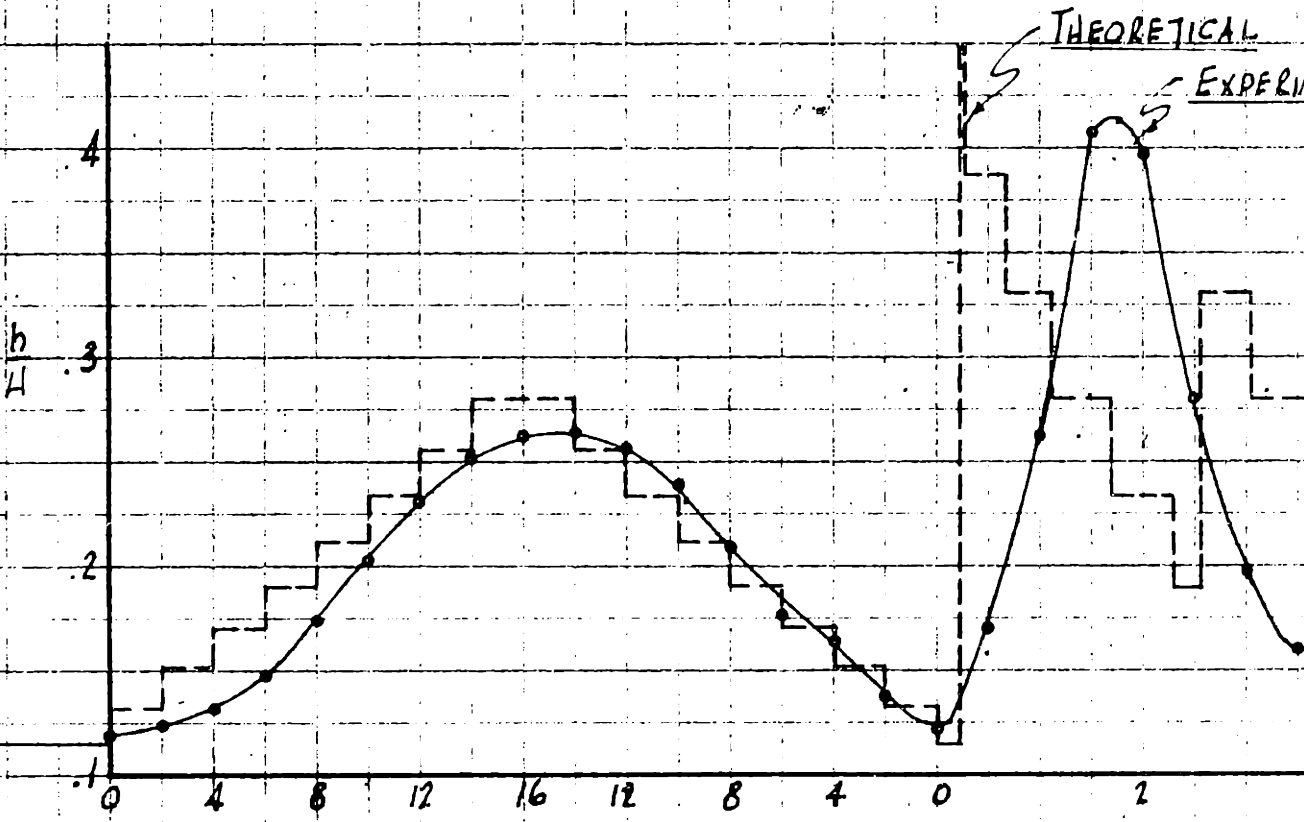
$F = 4$

FIGURE 10

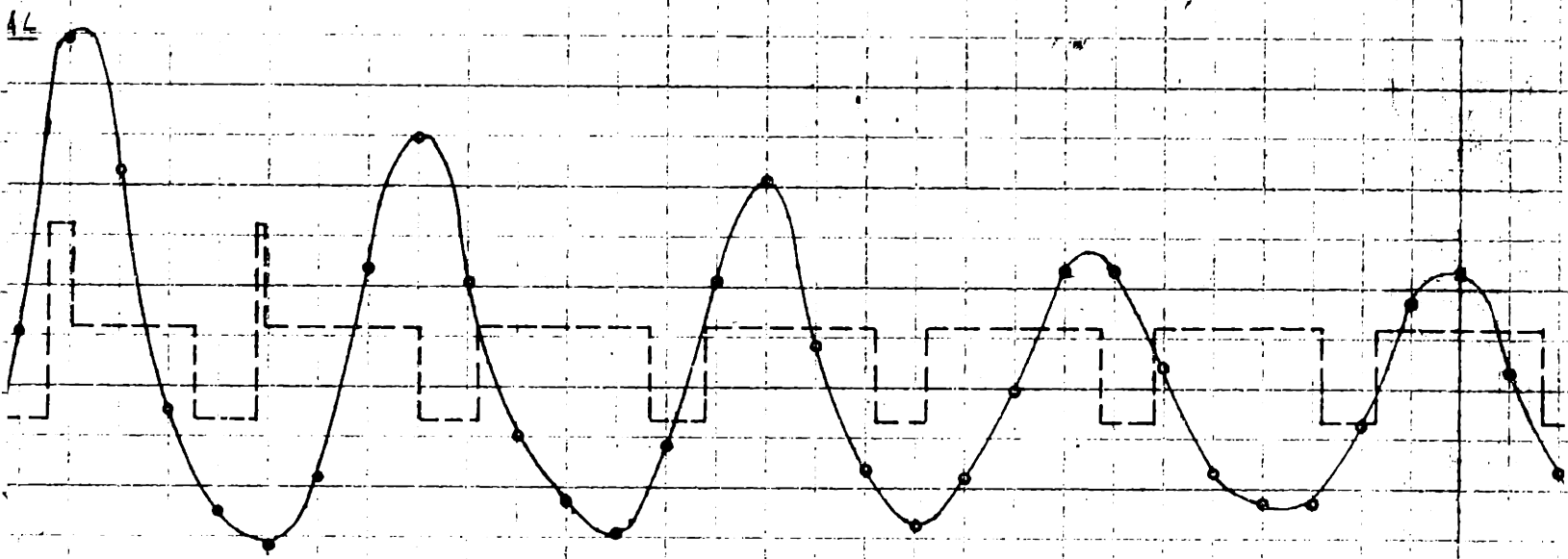
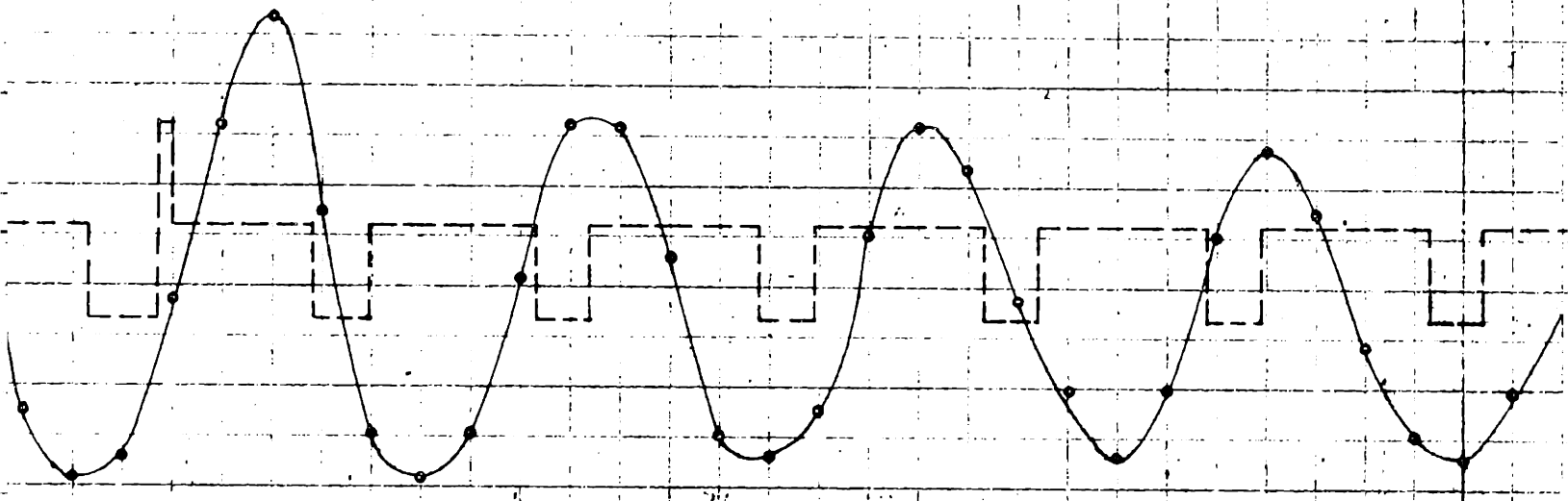
CENTER LINE PROFILE



SIDE WALL PROFILE



STATIONS ALONG C/L



IEL - FEET →

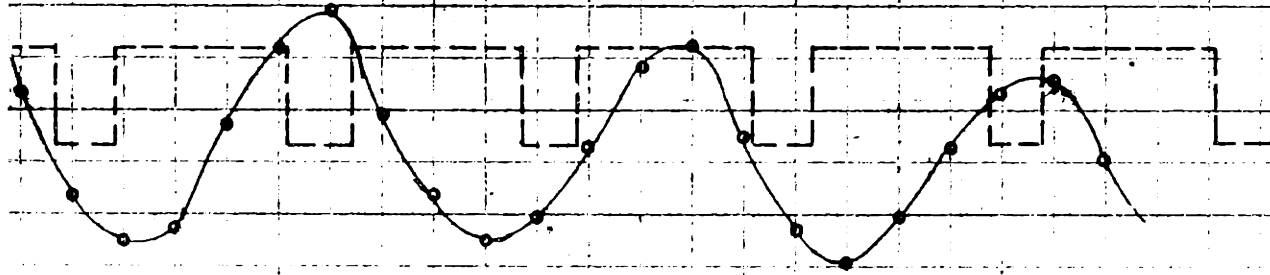


# COMPARISON OF THEORETICAL & EXPERIMENTAL WATER SURFACE PROFILES

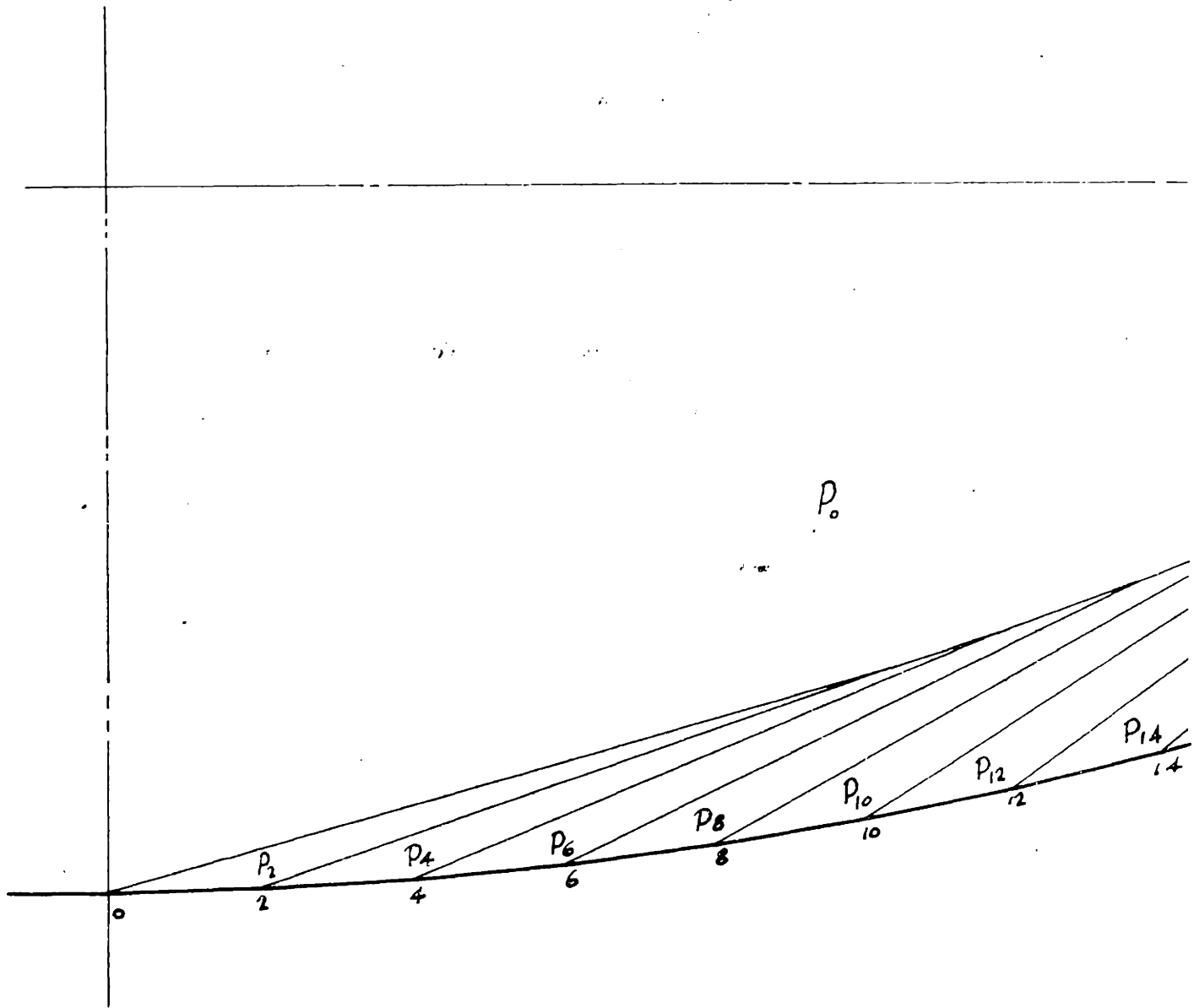
## CURVED CONTRACTION

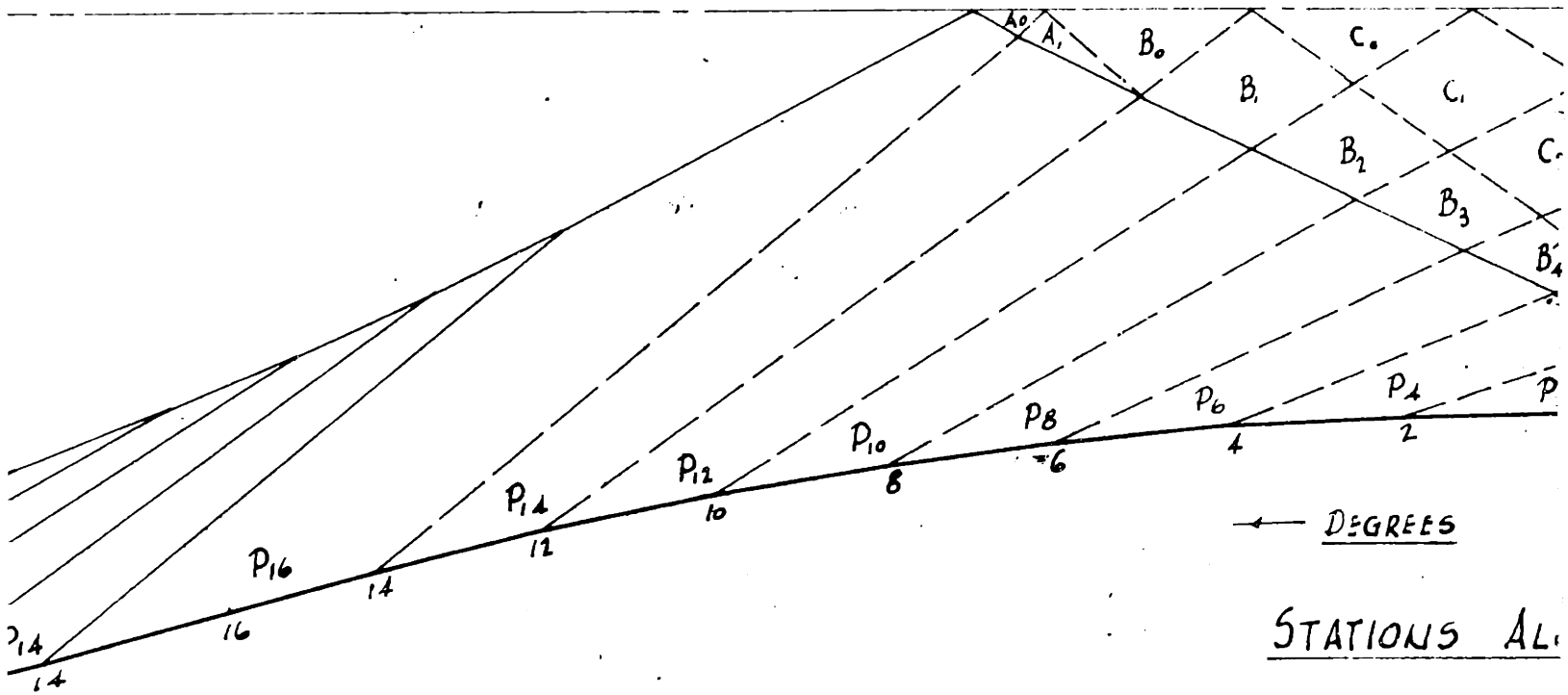
$F = 4$

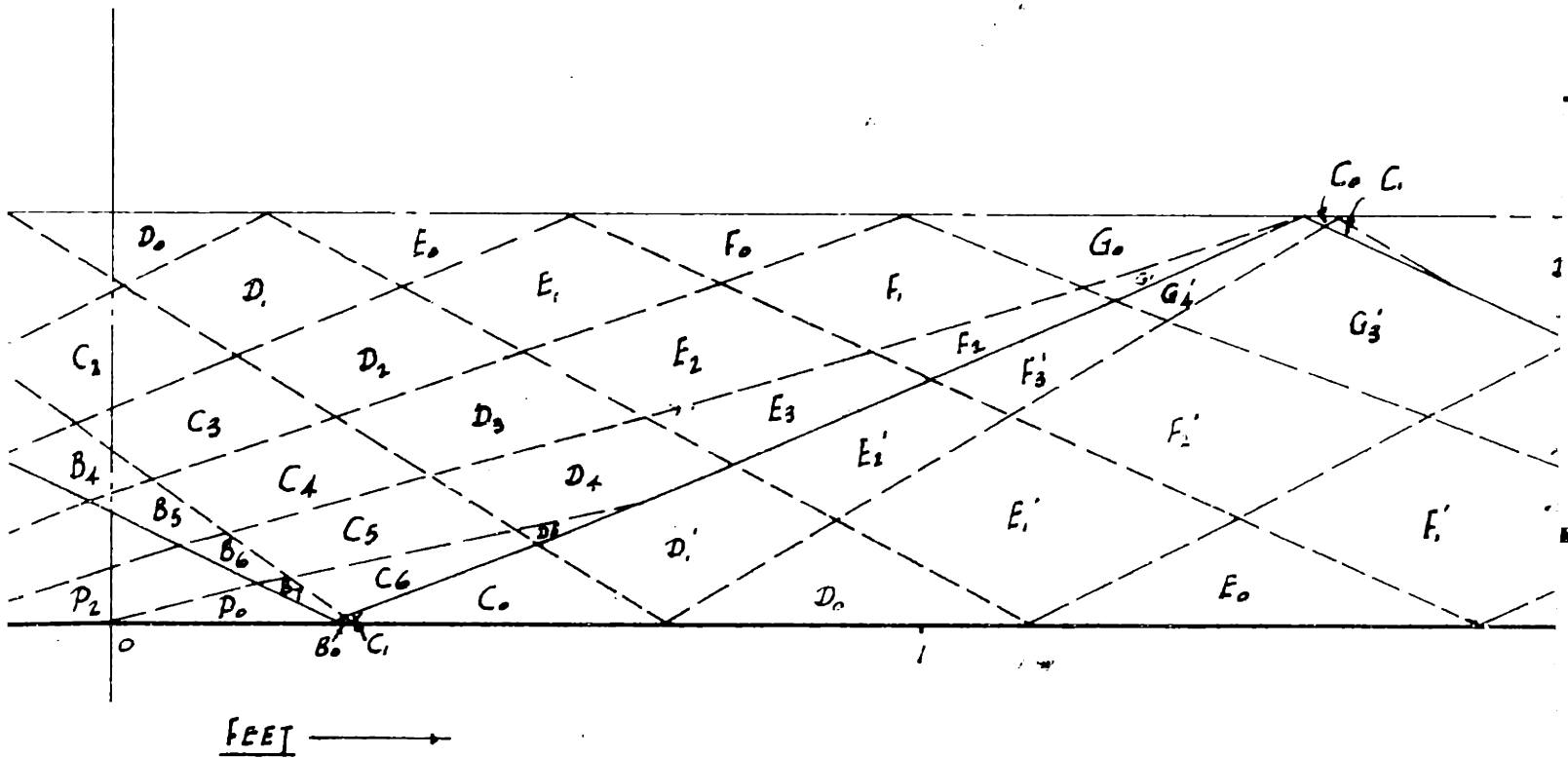
FIGURE II



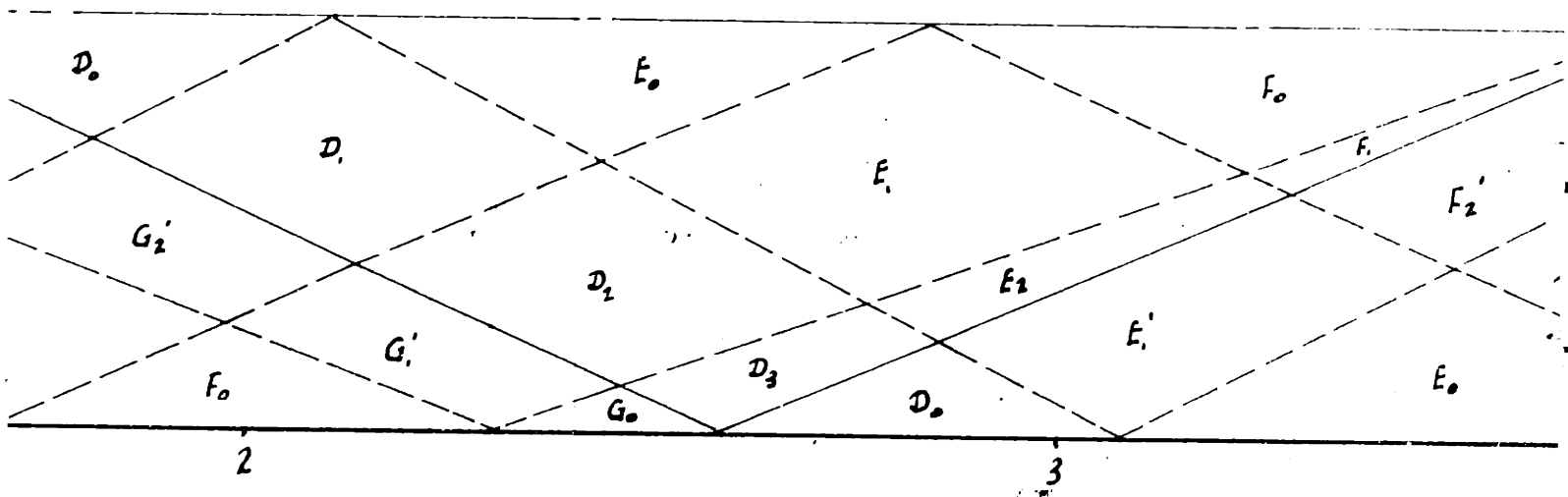
20                      22                      24                      26                      28                      30

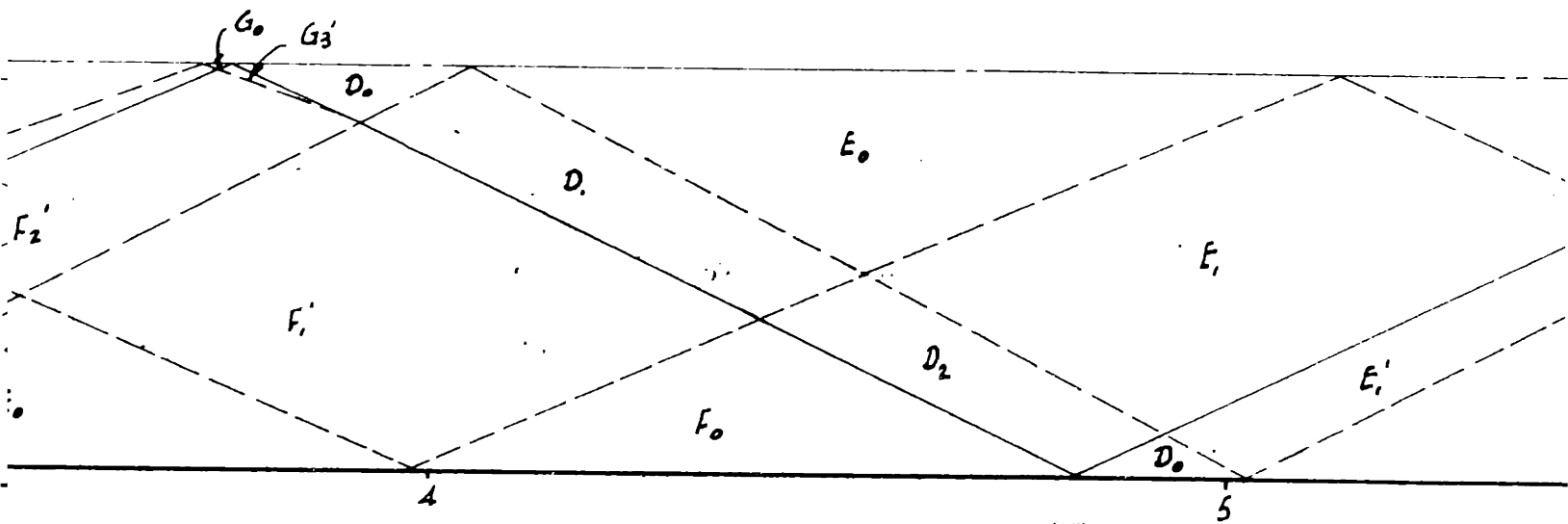


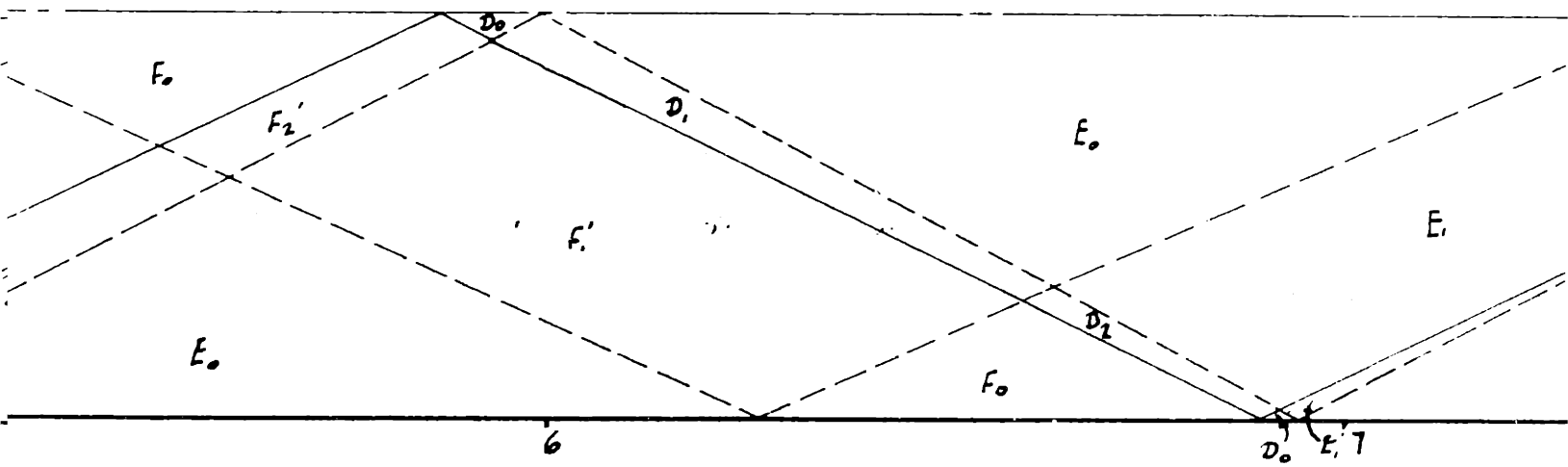


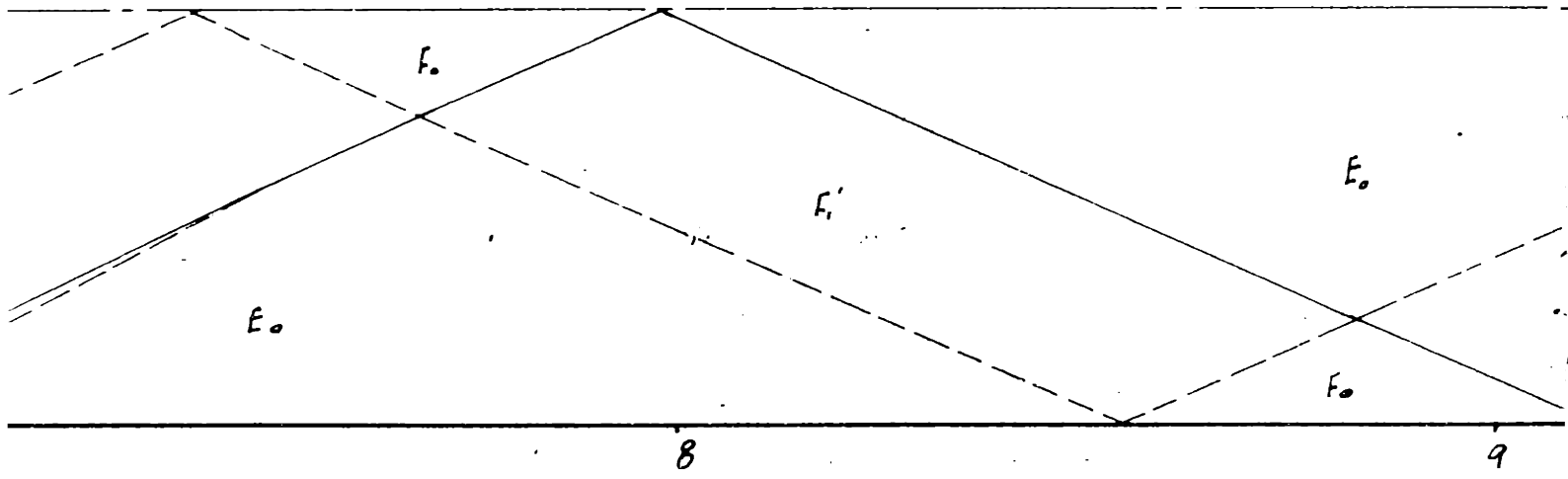


ALONG CHANNEL

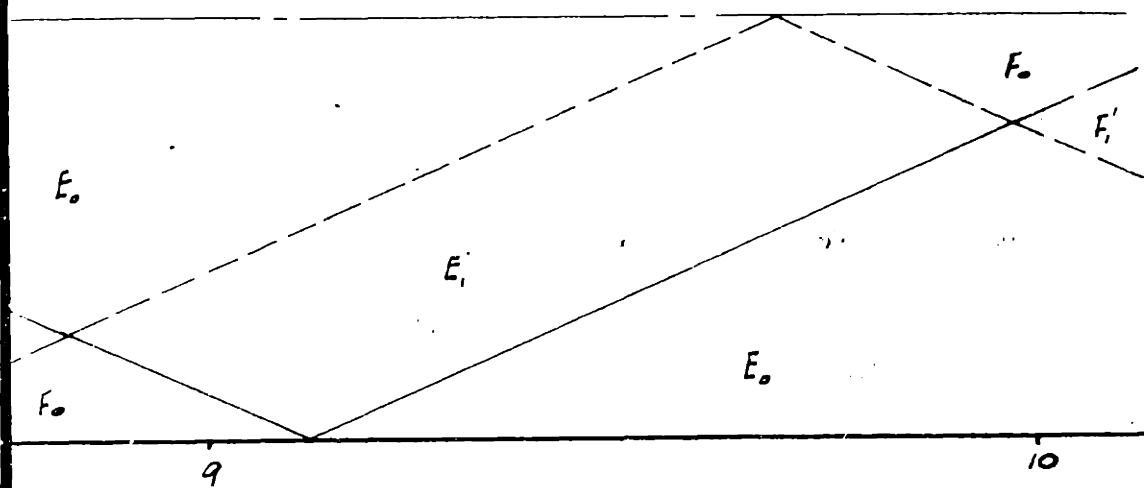












SYMMETRICAL CURVED CONTRACTION  
FIELD OF FLOW  
SHOWING DISTURBANCE LINES  
 $F = 4$   
FIGURE 12

### 6.9 SHARP ANGLE CONTRACTION

This channel was studied for values of  $F$  of 2.71, 3.17, 3.56, and 4.00. No experimental data were available for  $F = 4$ , but the channel was designed for this value. Accurately designed channels should be waveless at the design  $F$ . This channel appears to be slightly inaccurate, as shown by the disturbance lines in the field of flow. If the channel were correctly designed, the disturbance line originating at the upstream angle of the contraction would be reflected in such a manner that it just met the downstream angle of the contraction. Here an equal and opposite disturbance line is propagated, which would exactly cancel the first disturbance, leaving the channel waveless. As the channel is designed viscosity would undoubtedly bring about a quick damping of the wave which develops.

At  $F = 2.71$  the side wall profile plot shows quite good correlation within the contraction. The increases in depth are of course sudden in theory, whereas again in practice viscosity smooths out all sudden changes and smooth curves result. The disturbance wave propagated at the beginning of the contraction results in a sharp rise both in theory and

experiment. This wave when reflected back to the wall gives another sharp rise theoretically, but actually its influence has spread out and it is evidenced only by an inflection of the curve upward.

Theoretically - see the characteristics diagram, figure 13 - the flow jumps into the subcritical range toward the end of the contraction. In reality it does not do this, but remains in the supercritical range. Apparently the slope of the channel is sufficient to maintain supercritical flow, whereas the theory assumes a level channel.

Here a problem arises. The characteristic diagram gives no information for subcritical flow. We are faced with the problem of plotting the depth in the subcritical portion of the channel. A relationship is derived on page 56 of the appendix, stating:

$$\left(\frac{h}{H}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{h}{H}\right)^3 - \frac{Q^2}{2gHb^2} = \frac{A}{b^2}$$

We may determine A at any point in the channel, since it is a constant throughout the channel. If we choose the entrance, where  $h/H = 0.213$  and  $b = 1$  ft.:

$$A = b^2 \left[ \left( \frac{h}{H} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{h}{H} \right)^3 \right]$$
$$= 1 \left[ .0454 - .0097 \right] = .0357$$

At the contracted section  $b = 0.5'$

$$\left( \frac{h}{H} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{h}{H} \right)^3 = \frac{.0357}{(0.5)^2} = .1428$$

This gives  $h/H = 0.737$ , which we sought.

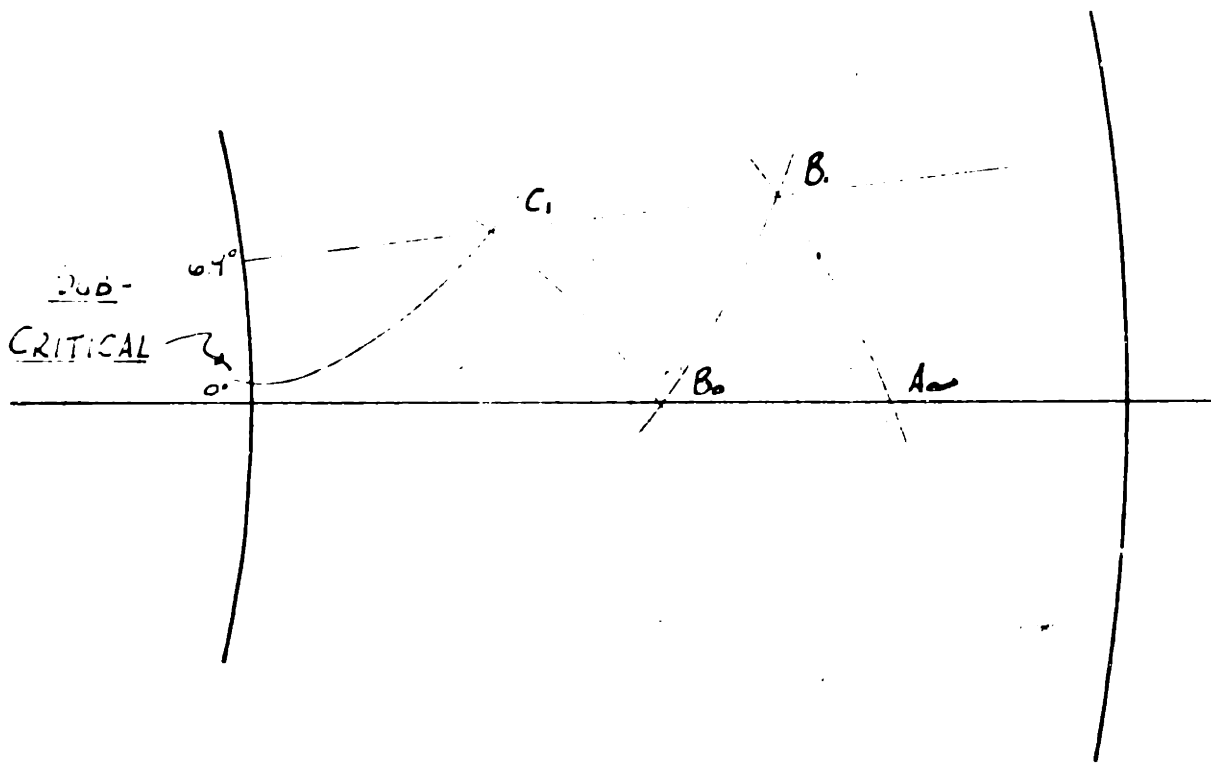
At  $F = 3.17$  quite good correlation was obtained in the contraction, as at  $F = 2.71$ . On leaving the contraction theoretical and actual flows both show a drop and subsequently a rise. The several individual waves of the theoretical solution are replaced by a much longer wave in the experimental flume. At  $F = 3.56$  this same phenomenon is noted. This seems to show a lack of accuracy in the theory. Further study may show some correlation between these two wave types.

### CONCLUSIONS

The method of characteristics has been shown to show the trend of wave patterns in channels with flow at supercritical velocities. An experienced man, faced with the design of a channel contraction, can make a theoretical study of a proposed contraction and predict quite accurately the wave forms which will be present in the contraction at various Froude numbers and draw the sidewall and centerline profiles which would result.

Beyond the contraction the effects are not so well defined. In the curved contraction it seems that some correlation could be found between theoretical and actual wave length. Amplitudes of the waves are predictable with some degree of accuracy. In the sharp angle contraction wave forms beyond the contraction were very poorly approximated by theory.

It has been indicated, but not conclusively shown, that the method is most accurate between Froude numbers of 3.5 and 7.0, that below this range the effect of viscosity is considerable, and that at higher Froude numbers the assumption of hydrostatic pressure distribution loses its validity.

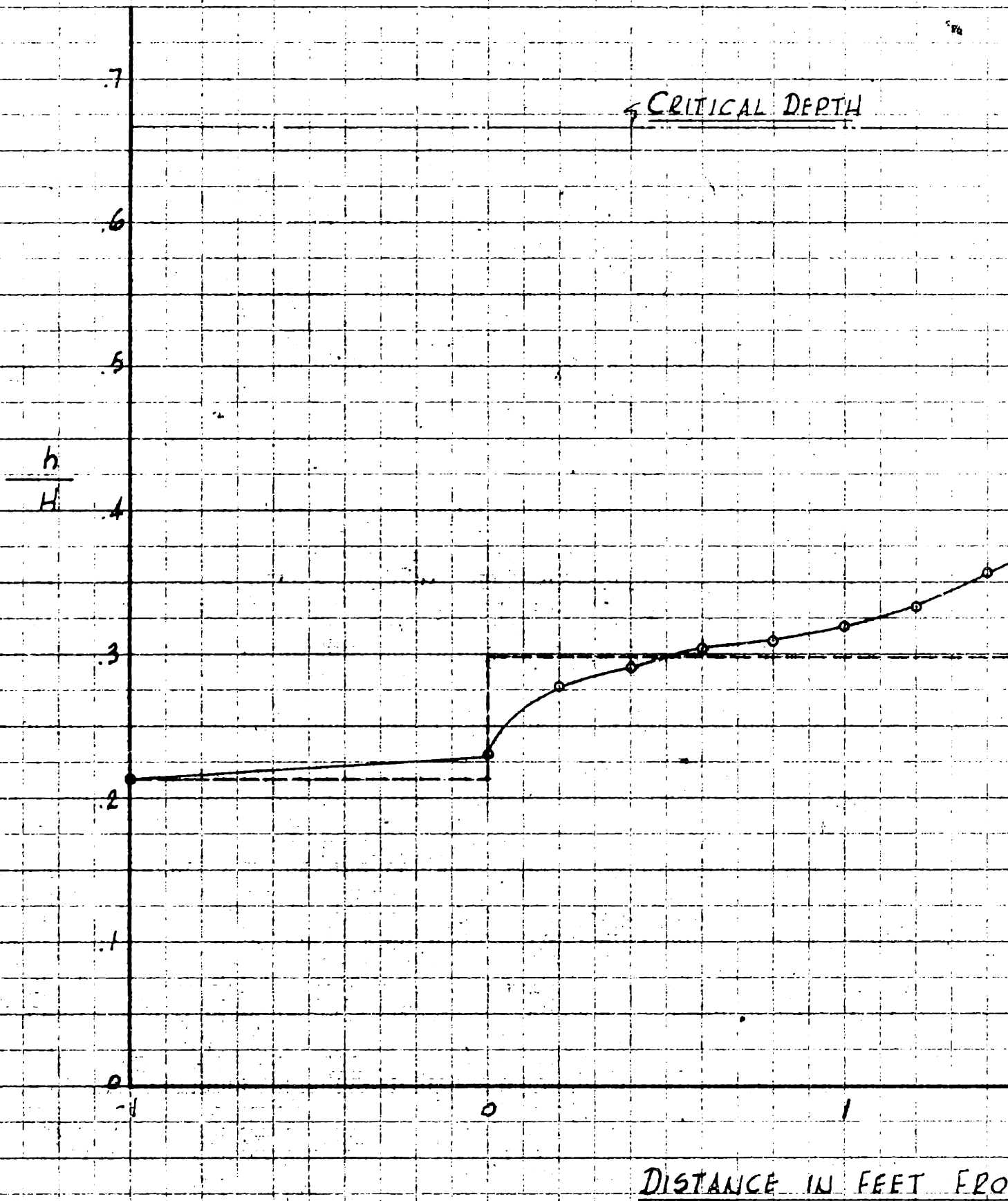


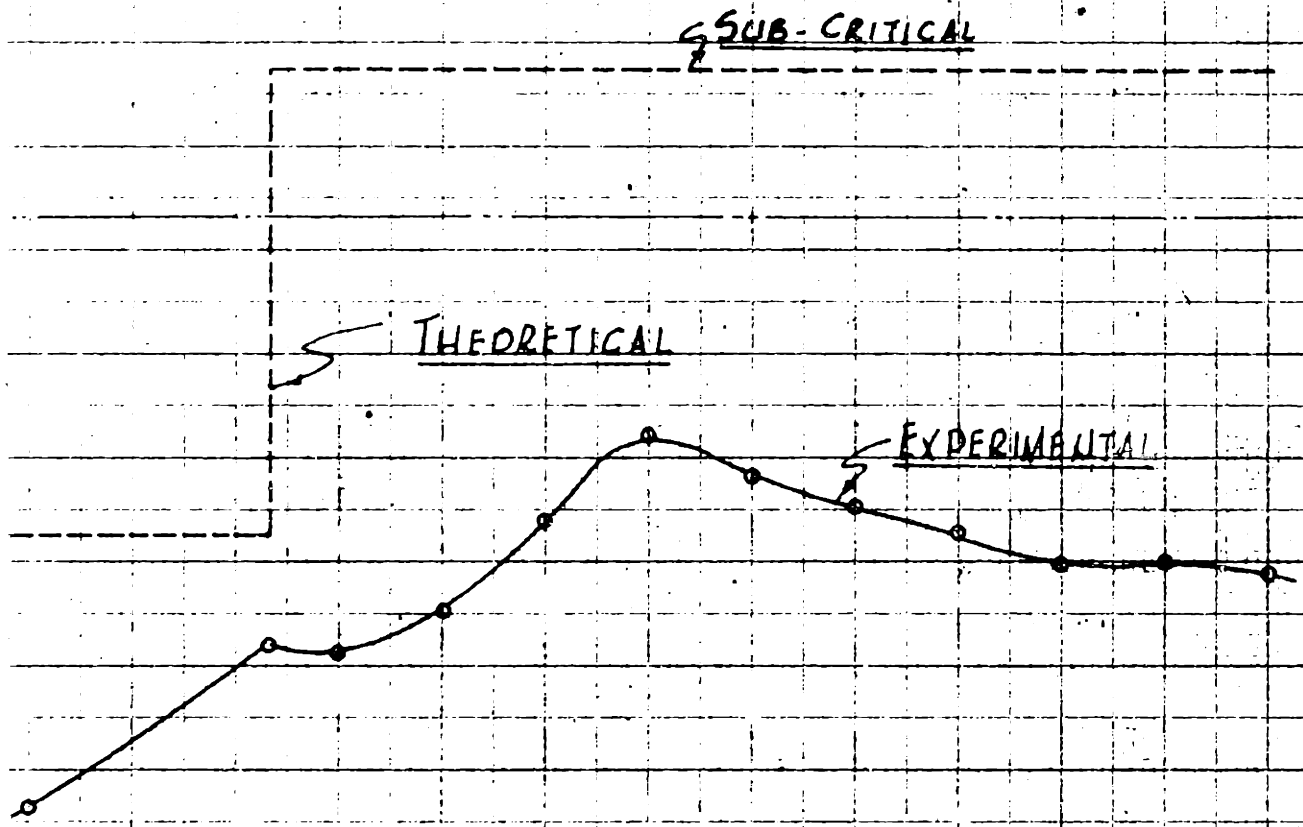
CHARACTERISTICS DIAGRAM

6.9° CONTRACTION

$F = 2.71$

FIGURE 13





COMPARISON OF THEORETICAL & EXPERIMENTAL  
SIDE WALL PROFILES

6.9° CONTRACTION

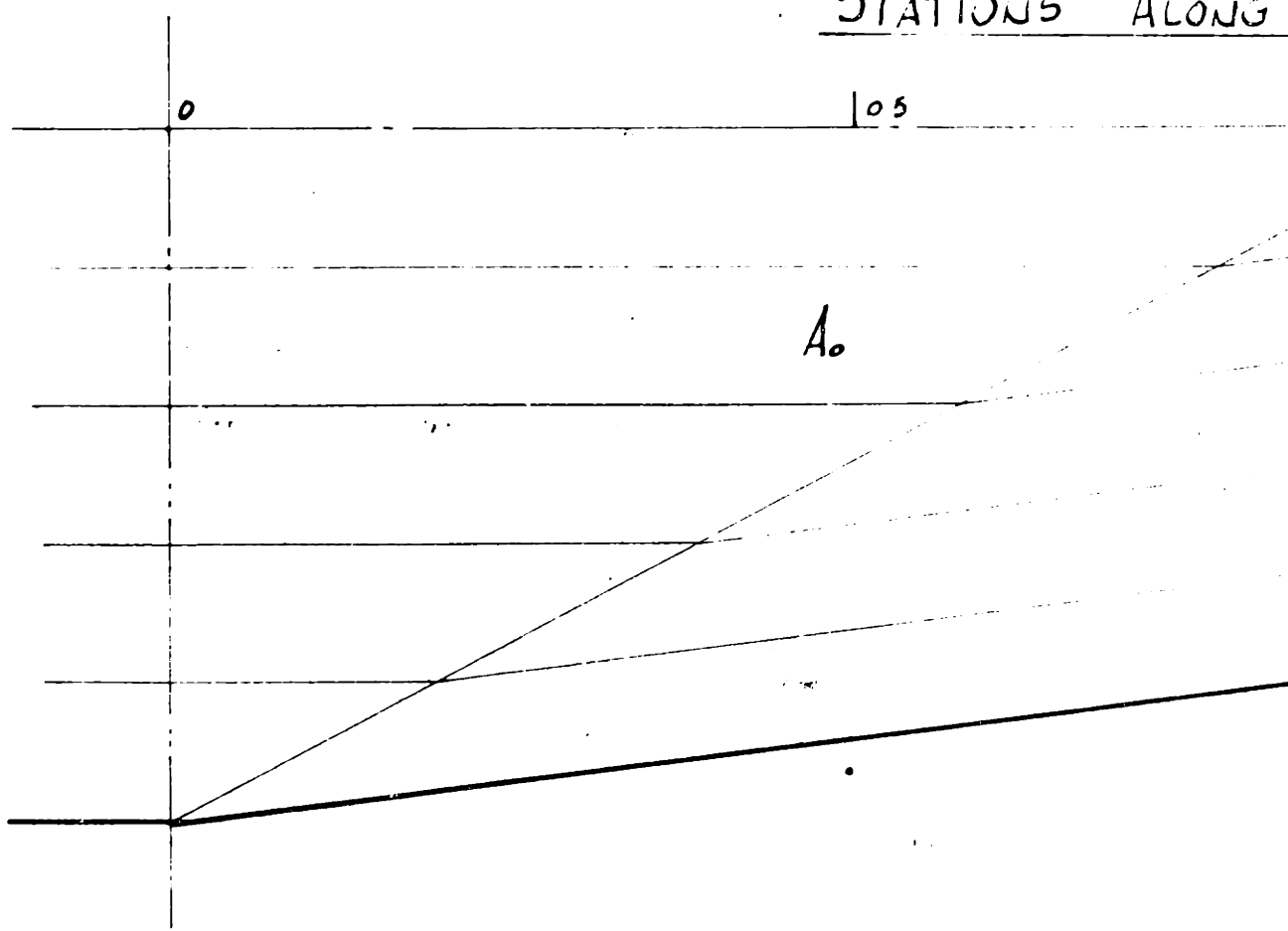
F = 2.71

FIGURE 14

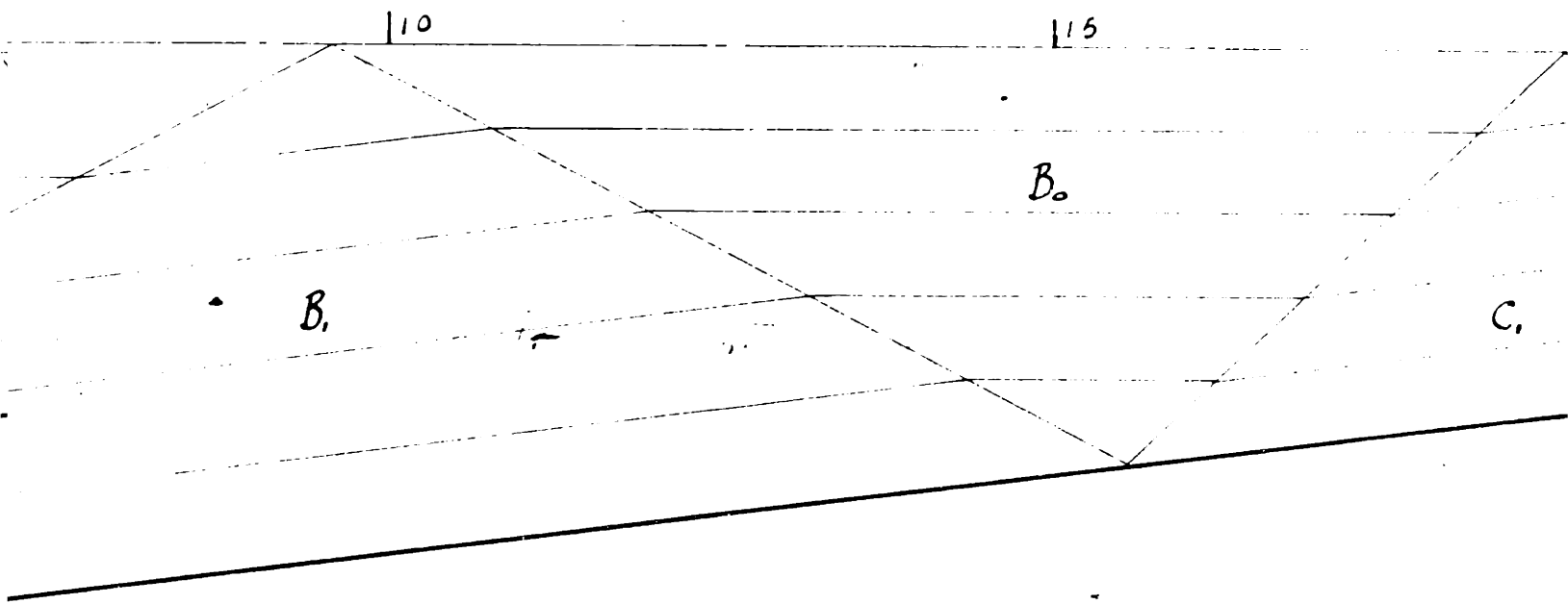
CONTRACTION ENTRANCE

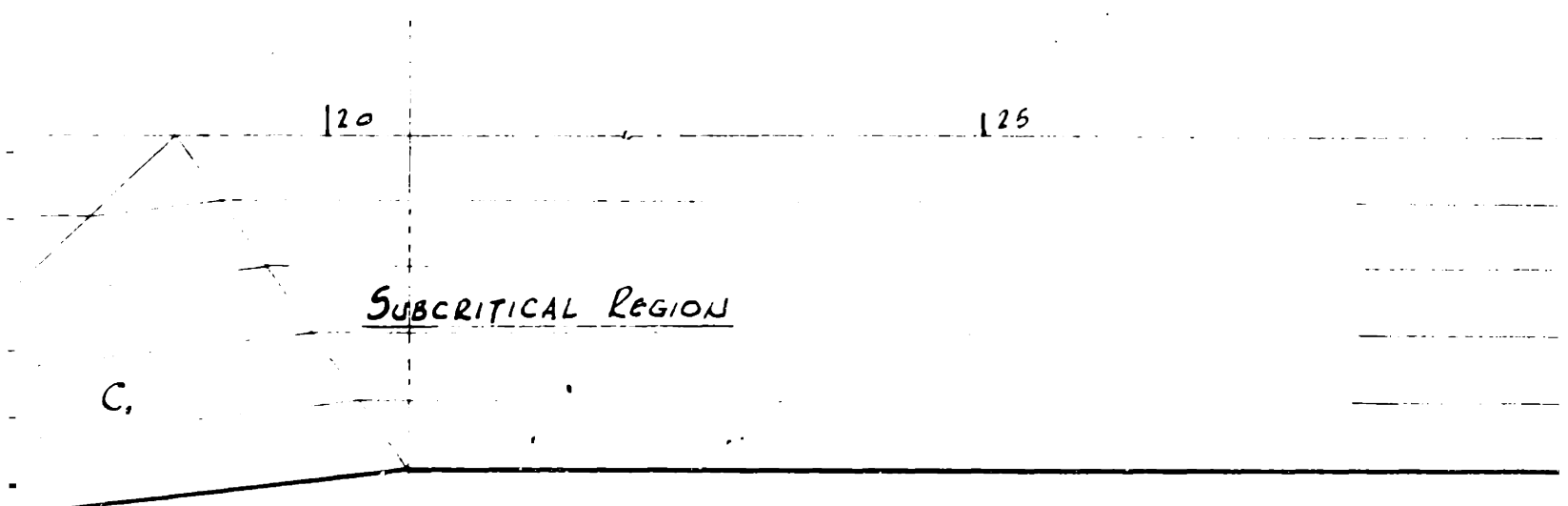


# STATIONS ALONG



ALONG CHANNEL - FEET

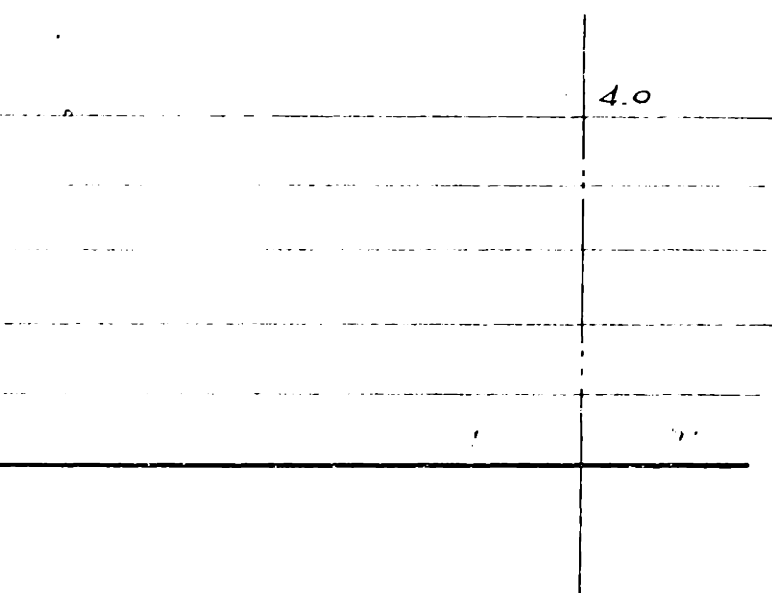




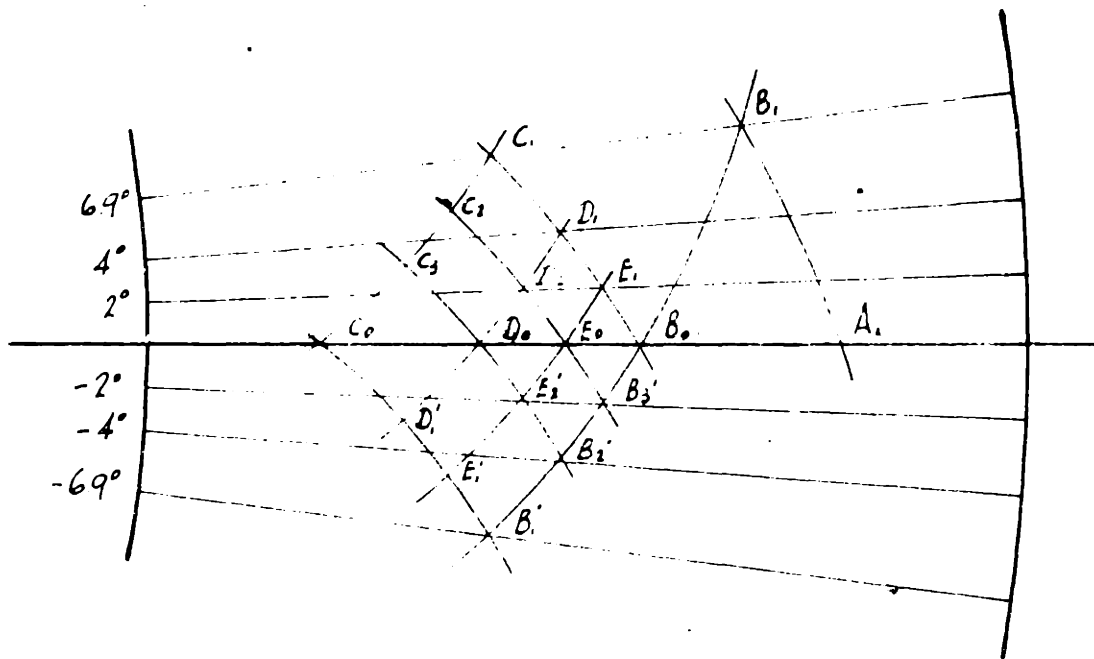
30

35

6.4° SYMMETRIC  
SHARP ANGLE  
FIELD OF F  
SHOWING STREAM & DIST  
 $F = 2.7$   
FIGURE



6.4° SYMMETRICAL  
SHARP ANGLE CONTRACTION  
FIELD OF FLOW  
SHOWING STREAM & DISTURBANCE LINES  
 $F = 2.71$   
FIGURE 15

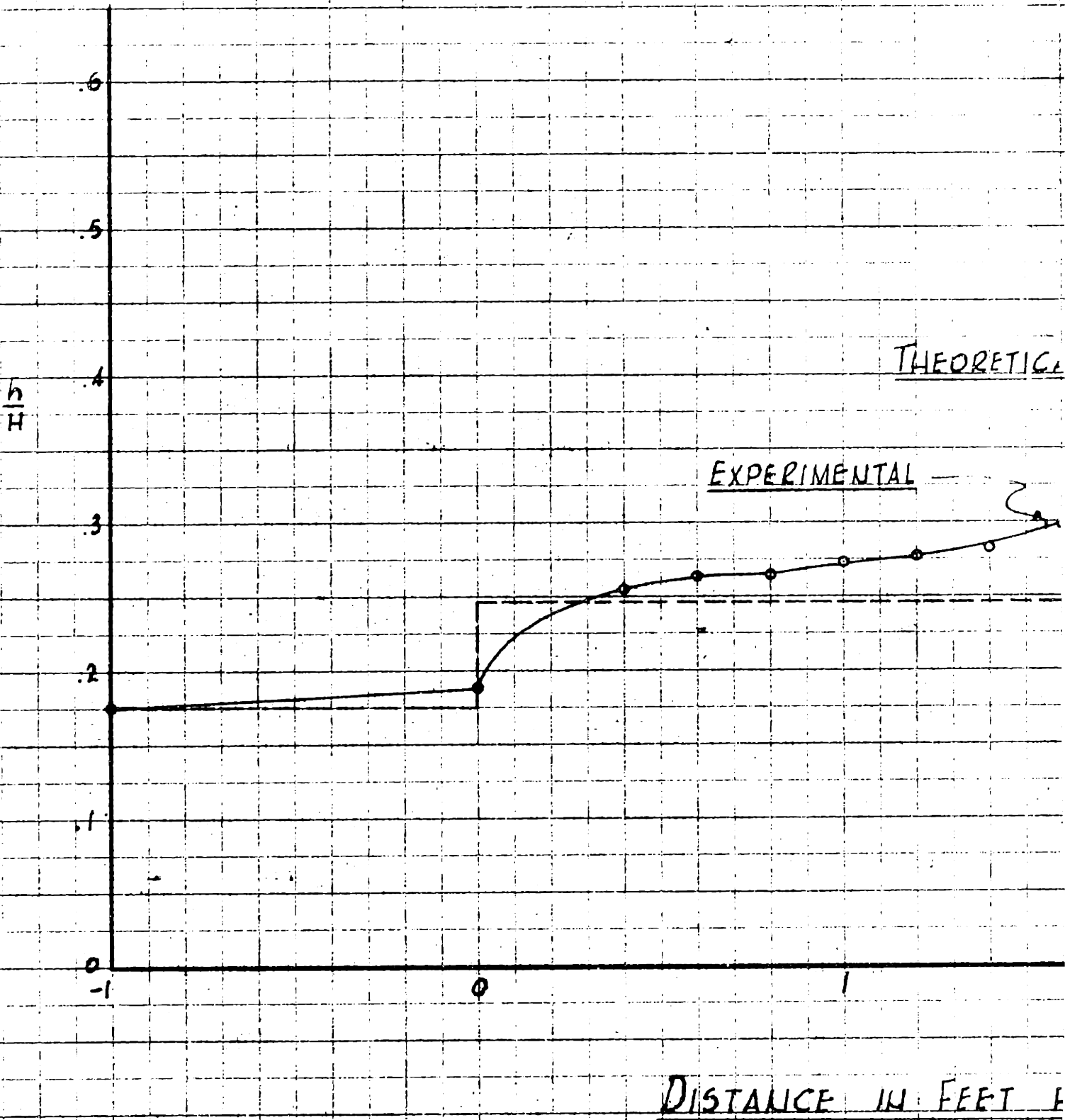


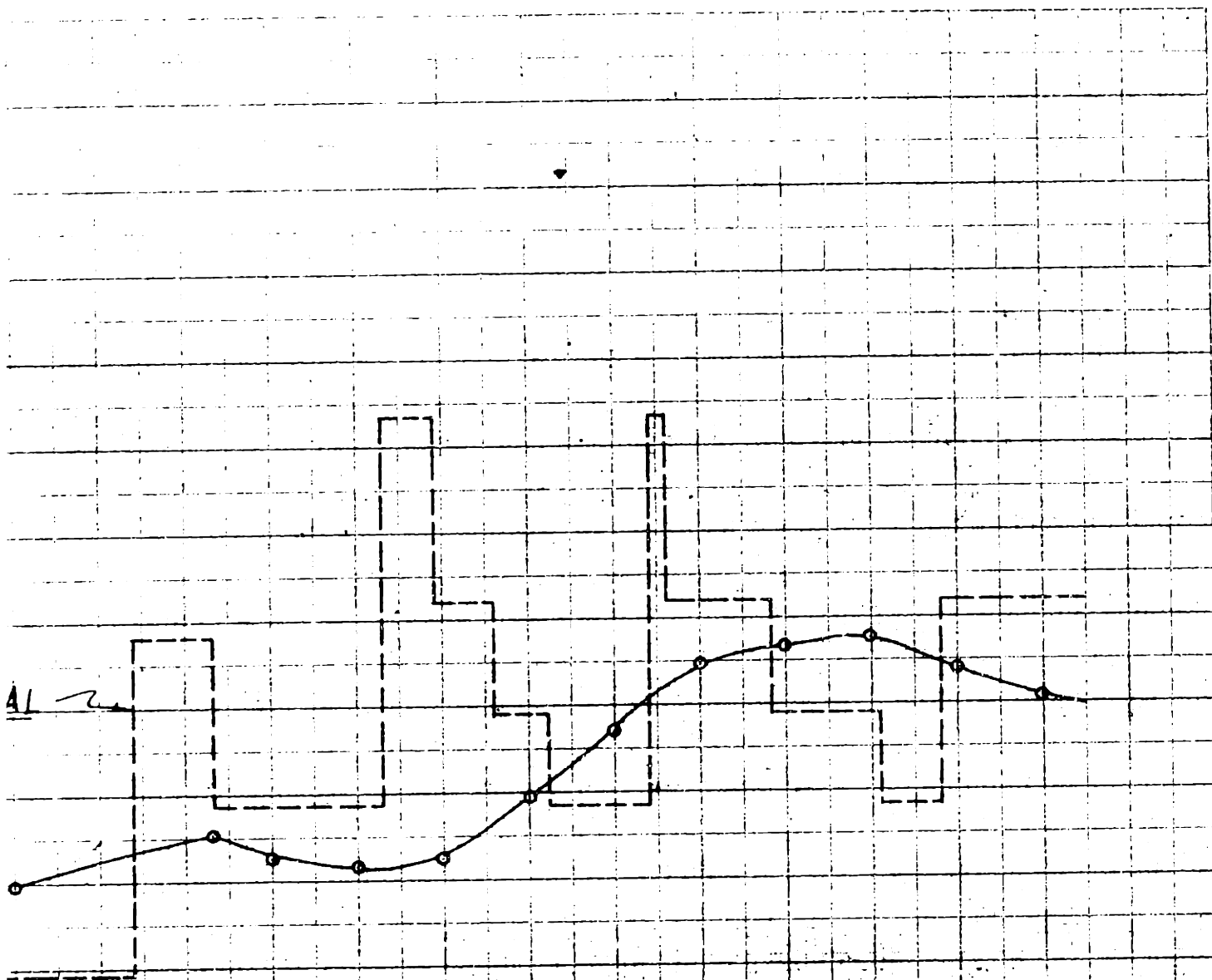
CHARACTERISTICS DIAGRAM

6.9° CONTRACTION

$F = 3.17$

FIGURE 16





COMPARISON OF THEORETICAL & EXPERIMENTAL  
SIDE WALL PROFILES

6.9° CONTRACTION

$F = 3.17$

FIGURE 17

2

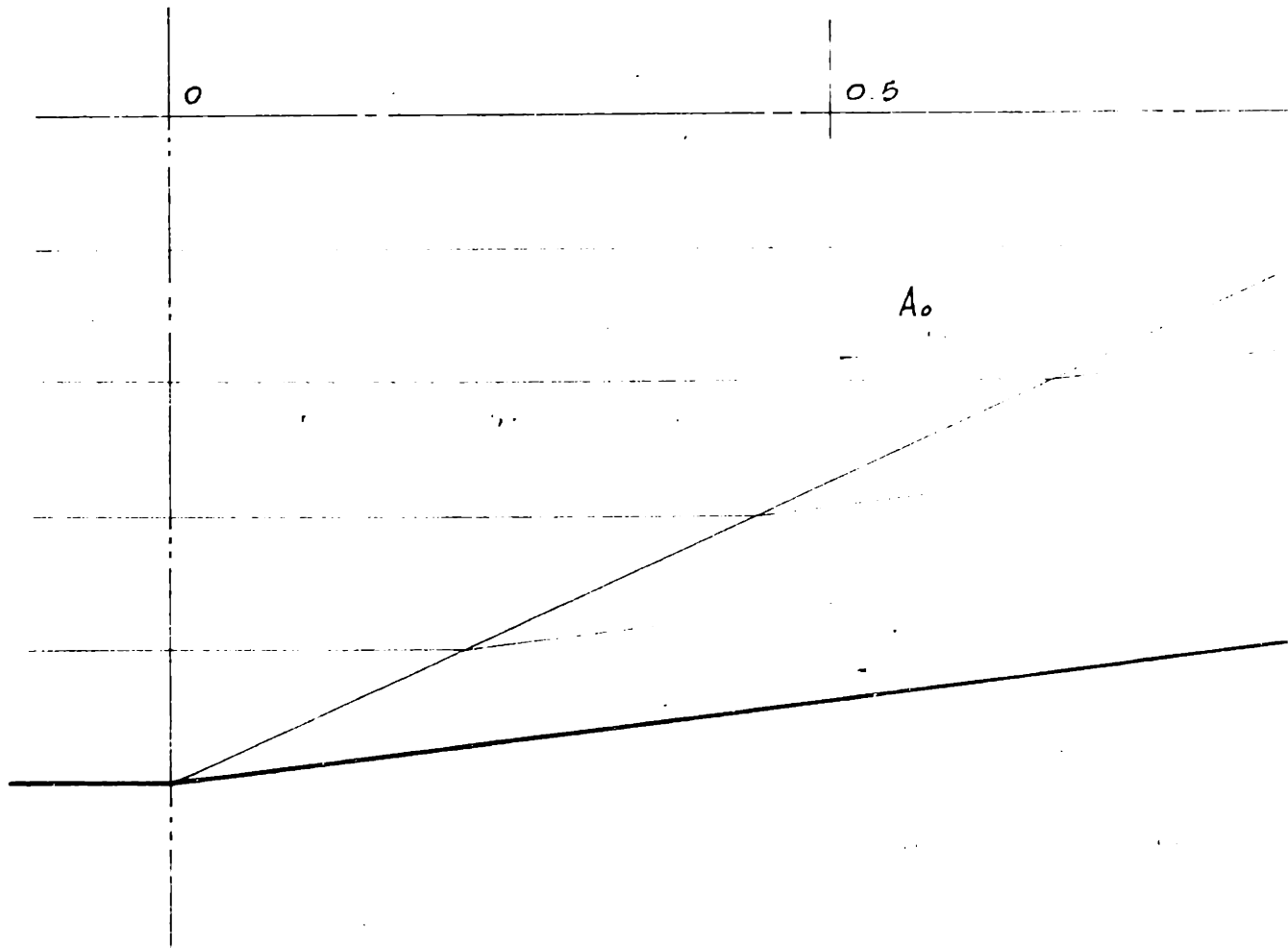
3

4

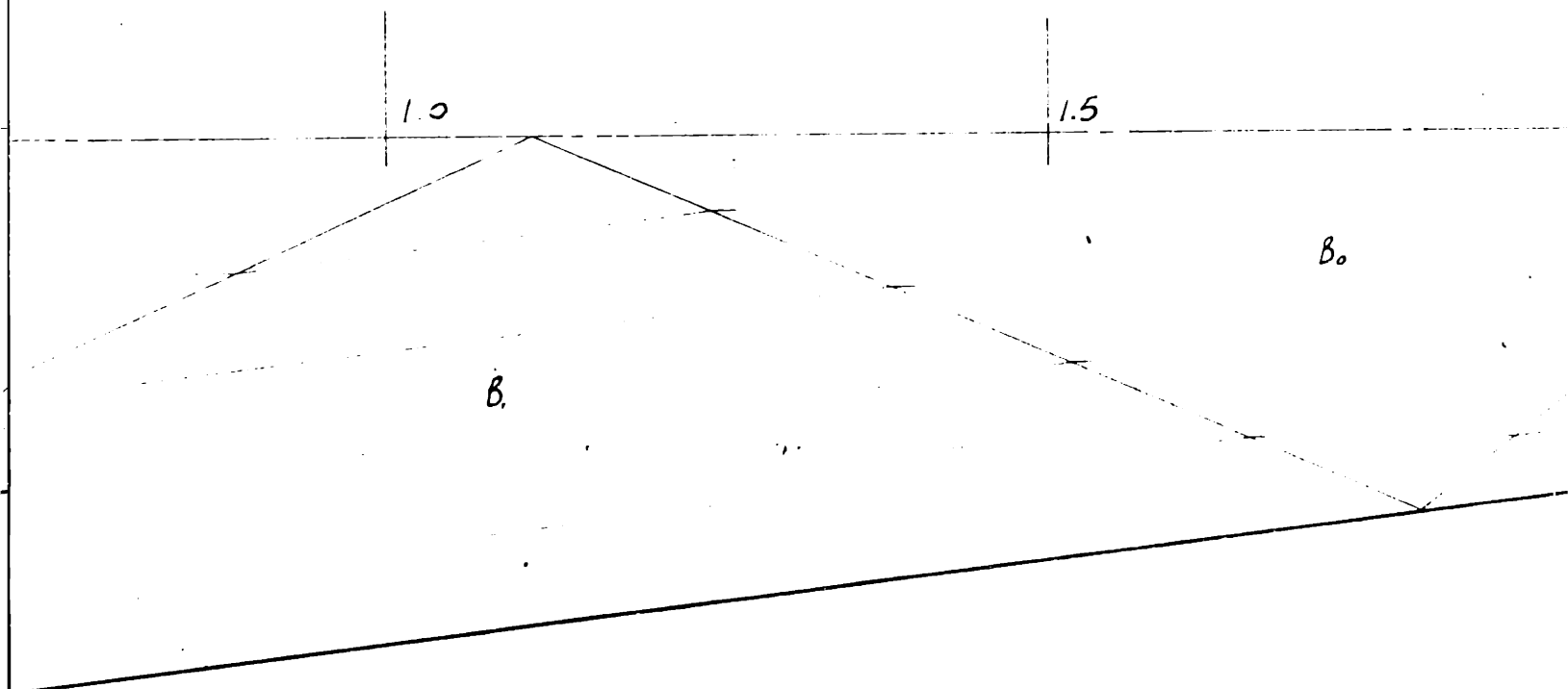
FROM CONTRACTION ENTRANCE

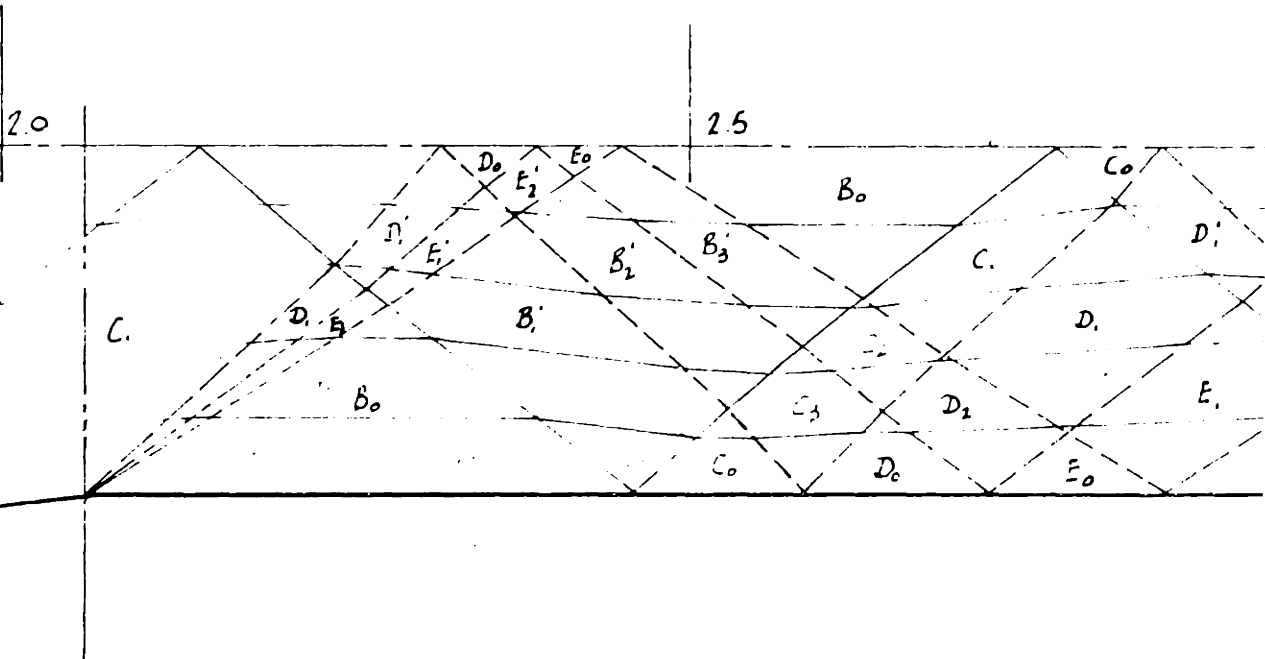


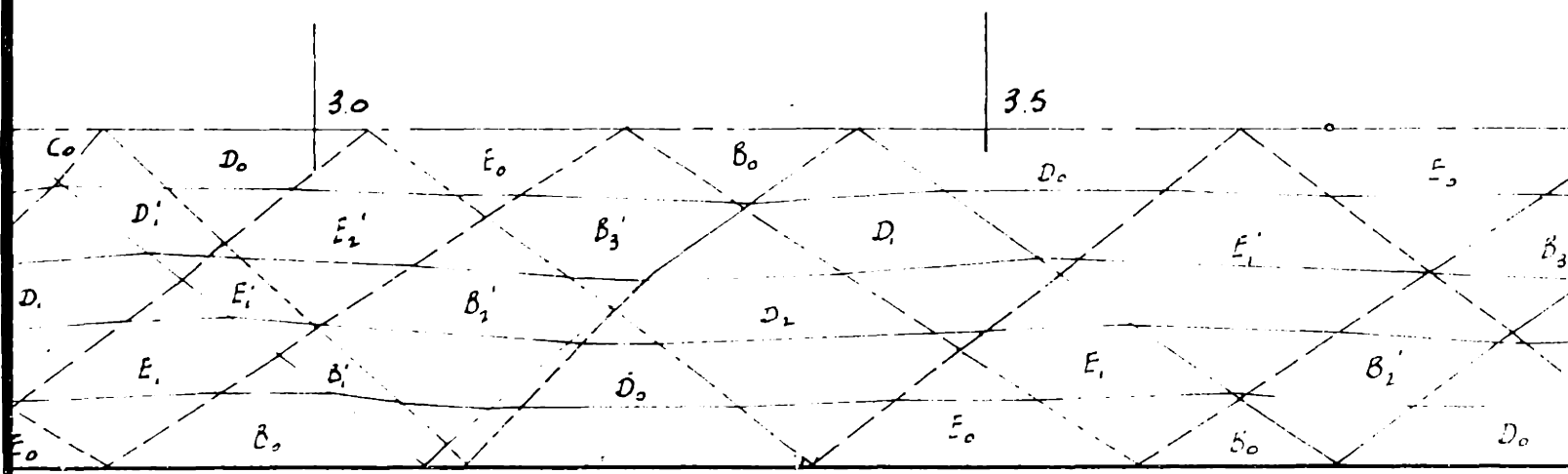
STATIONS A



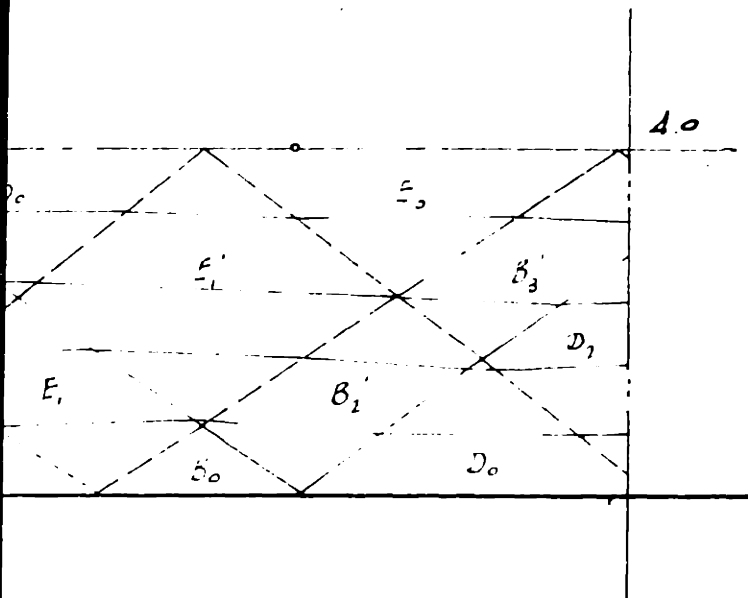
IONS ALONG CHANNEL - FEET



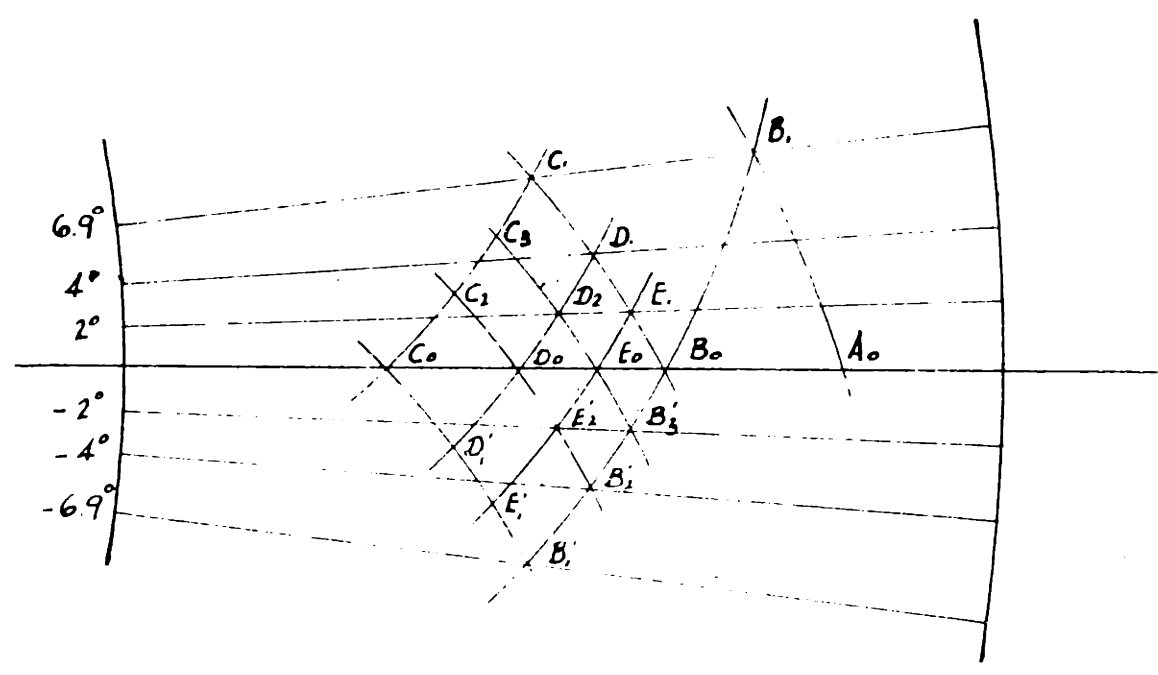




6.9°  
 SHARP ANGLE  
 FIELD  
 SHOWING STREAM  
 FI



6.9° SYMMETRICAL  
 SHARP ANGLE CONTRACTION  
 FIELD OF FLOW  
 SHOWING STREAM & DISTURBANCE LINES  
 $F = 3.17$   
 FIGURE 18



CHARACTERISTIC DIAGRAM

6.9° CONTRACTION

$\bar{V} = 3.56$

FIGURE 19

$\frac{h}{H}$

.6

.5

.4

.3

.2

.1

0

-1

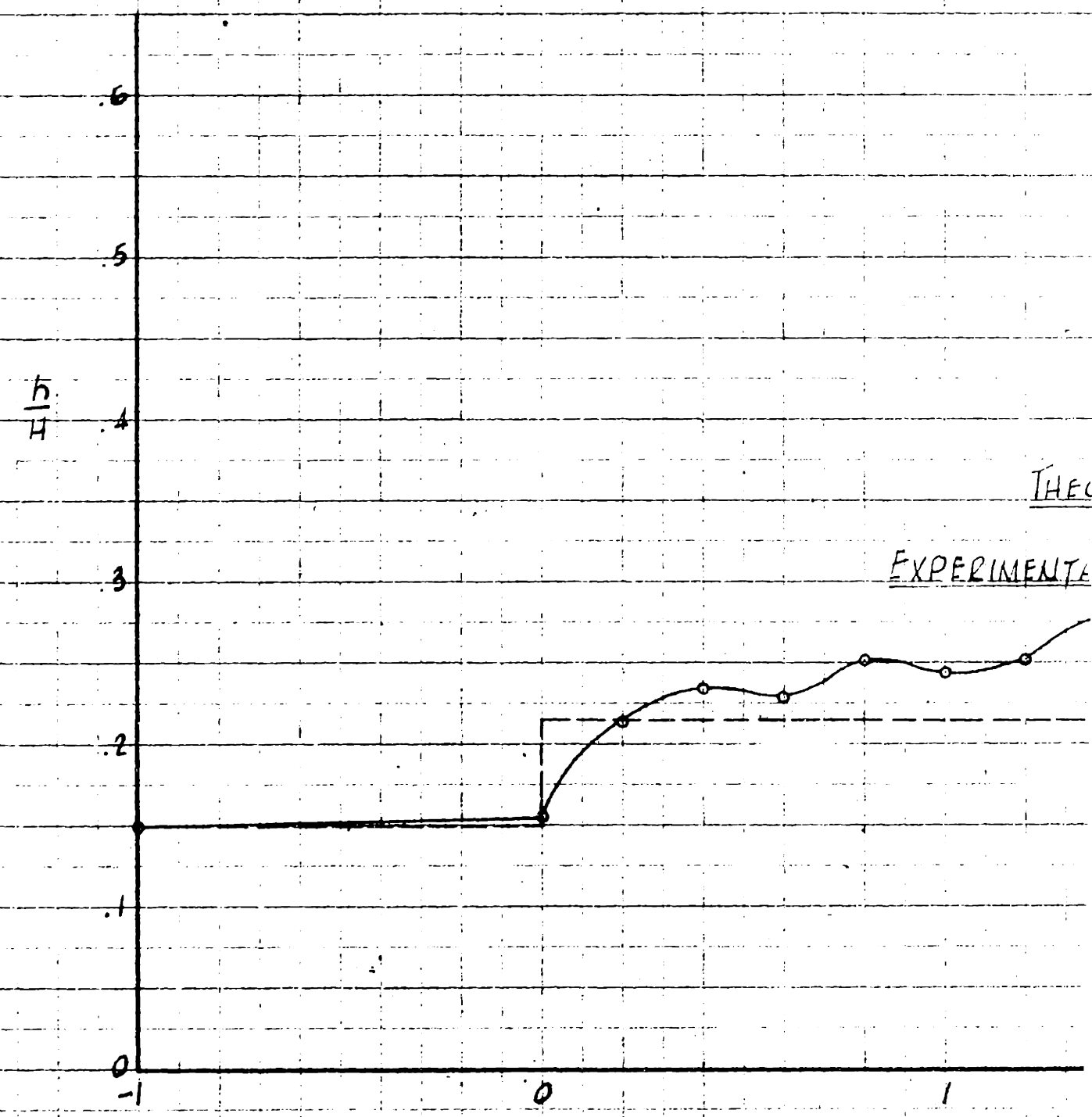
0

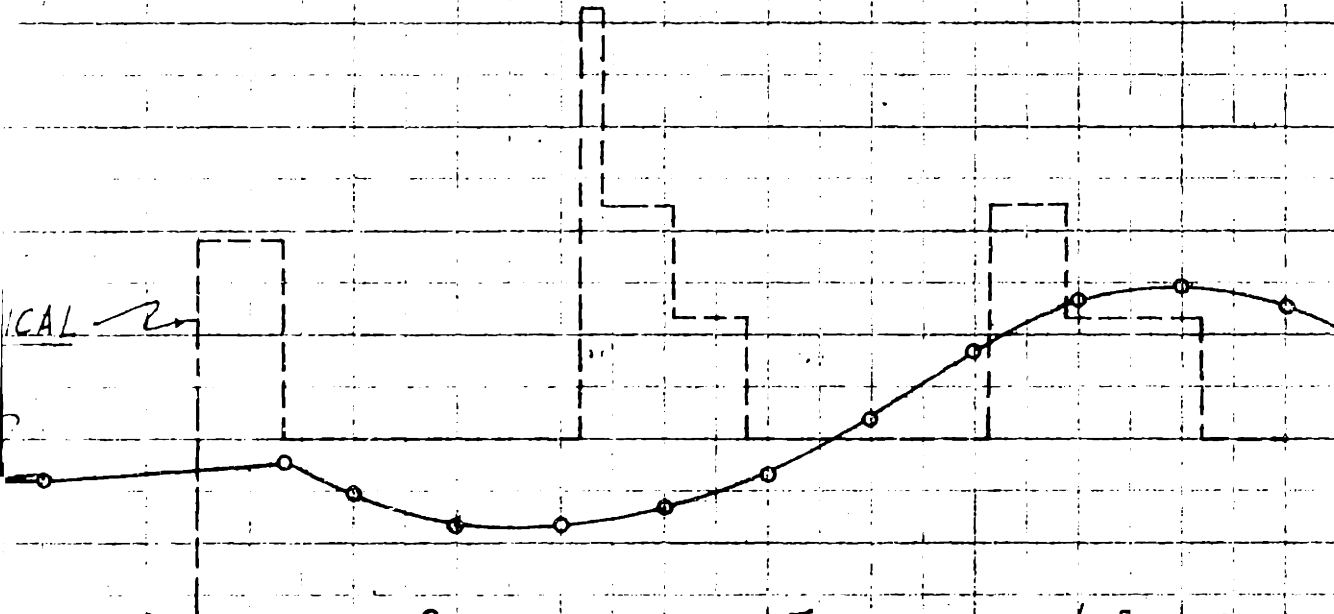
1

THEO

EXPERIMENTAL

DISTANCE IN





COMPARISON OF THEORETICAL & EXPERIMENTAL  
SIDE WALL PROFILES

6.9° CONTRACTION

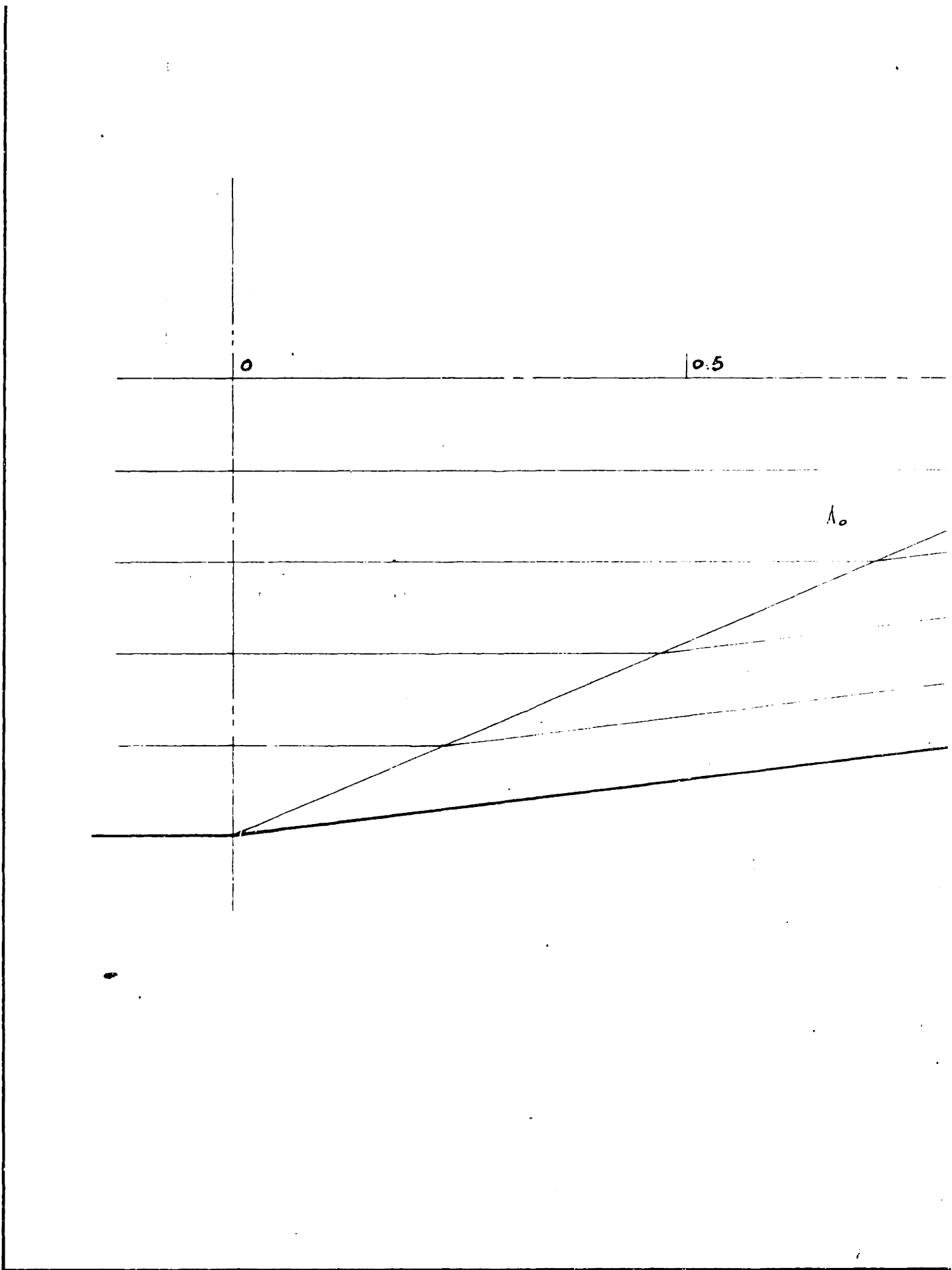
F = 3.56

FIGURE 2.

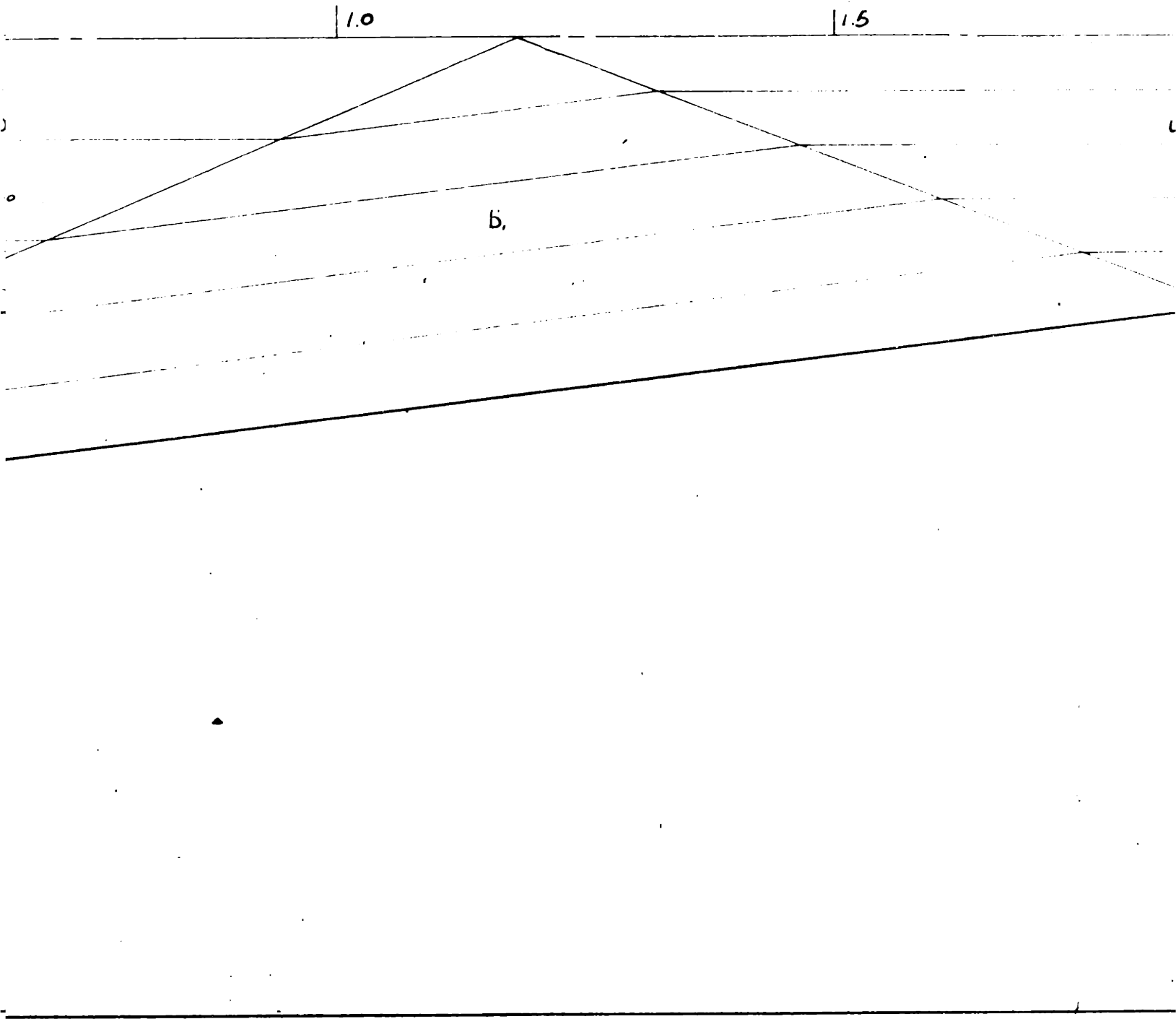
2 3 4

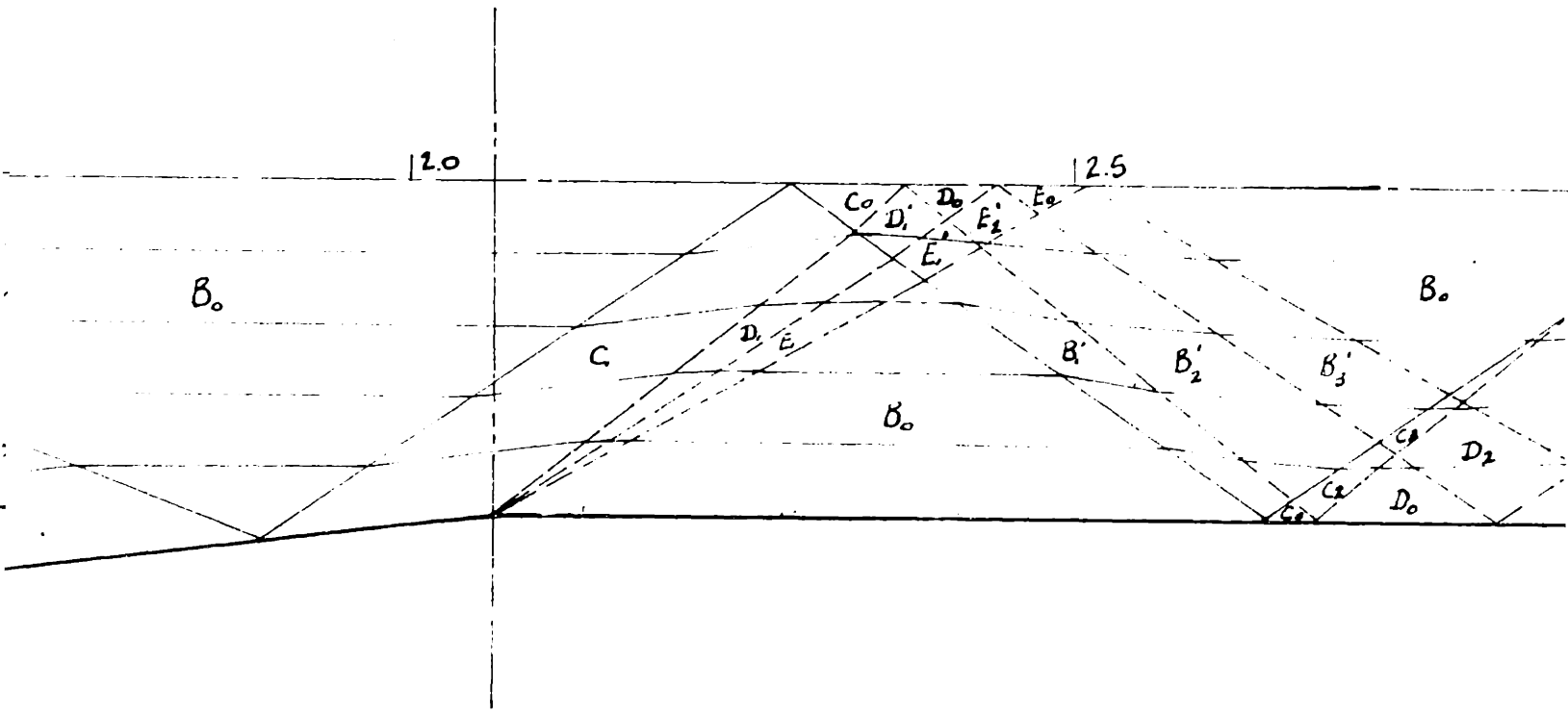
DISTANCE FROM CONTRACTION ENTRANCE

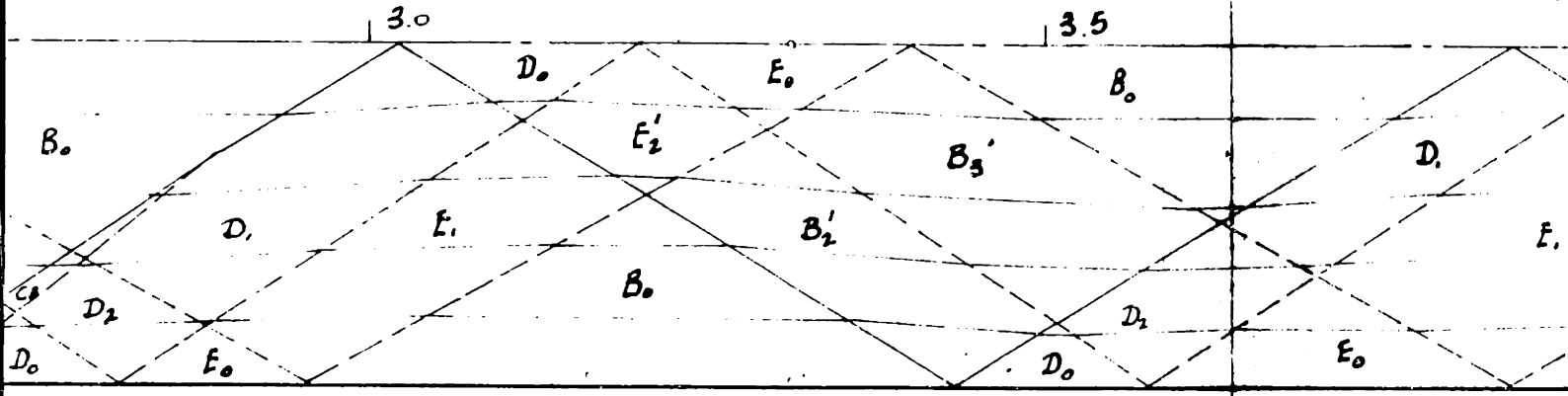




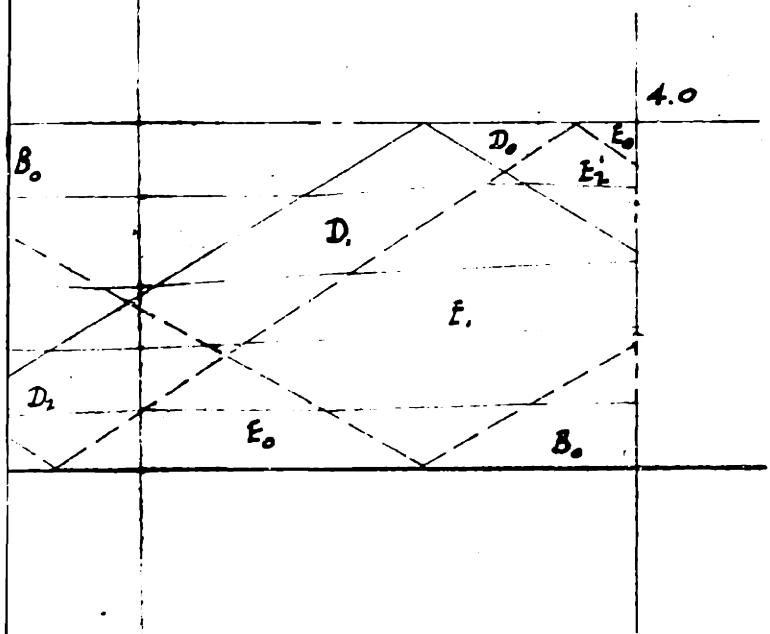
STATIONS ALONG CHANNEL - FEET







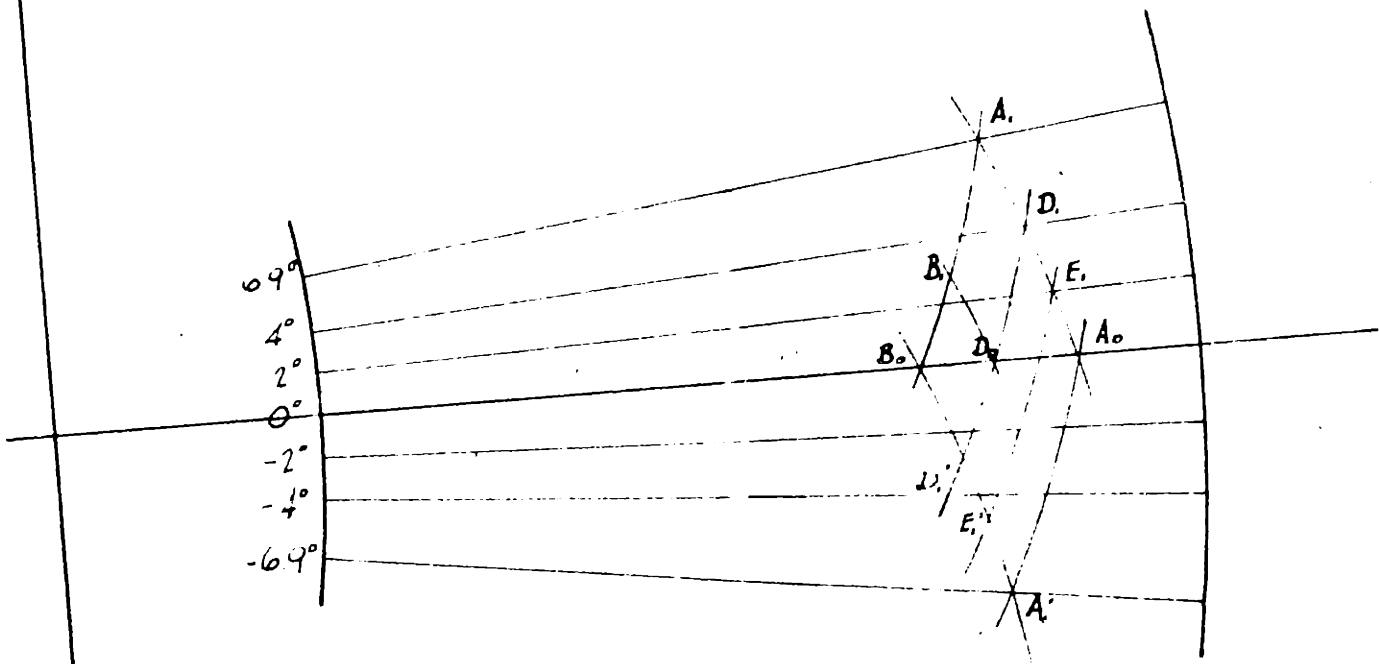
6.9° S  
 SHARP AN  
 FIELD OF  
 STREAM & DI  
 1  
 F.



6.9° SYMMETRICAL  
 SHARP ANGLE CONTRACTION  
 FIELD OF FLOW SHOWING  
 STREAM & DISTURBANCE LINES

$F = 3.56$

FIGURE 21



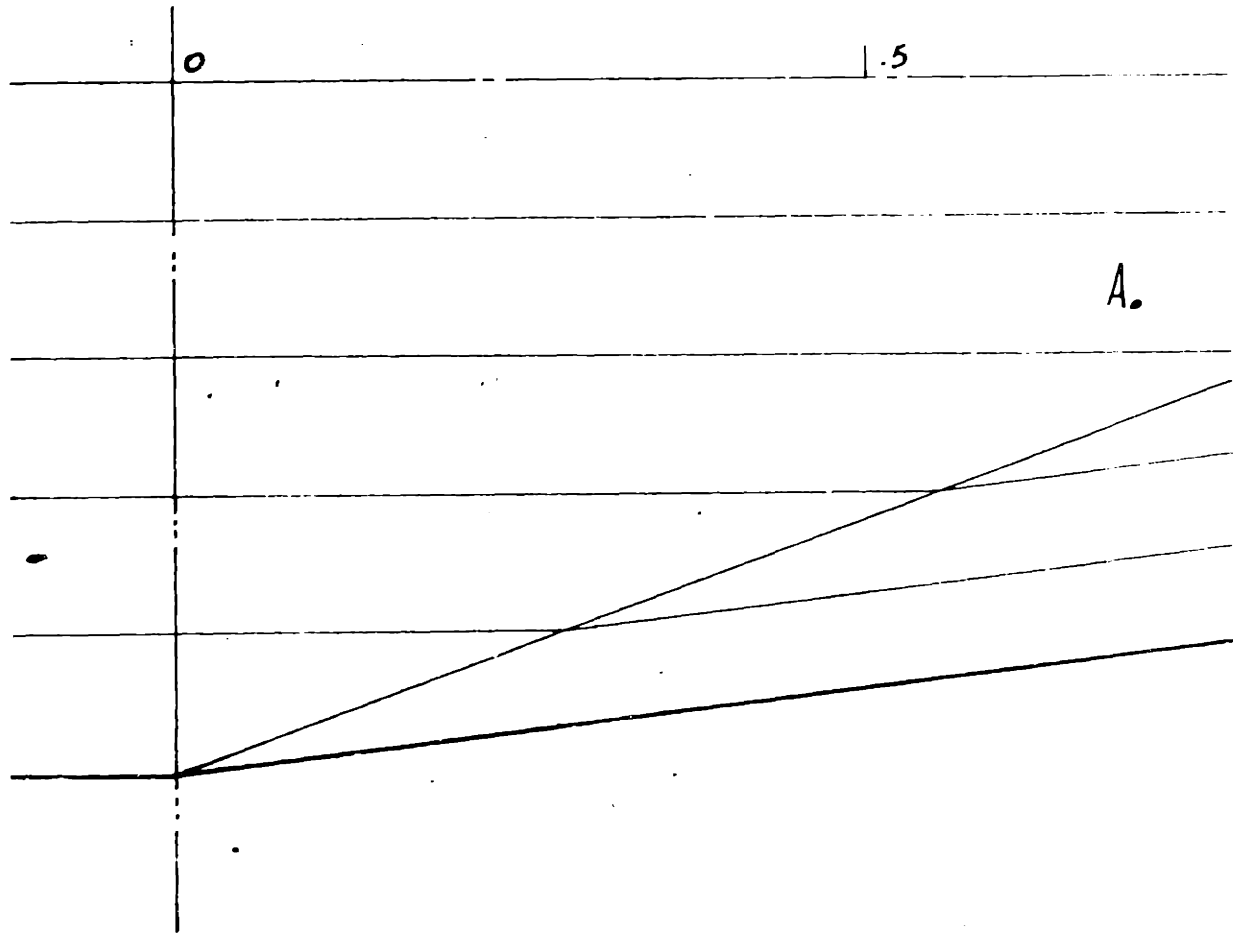
CHARACTERISTICS DIAGRAM

6.9° CONTRACTION

F = 4

FIGURE 22

STATIONS ALONG



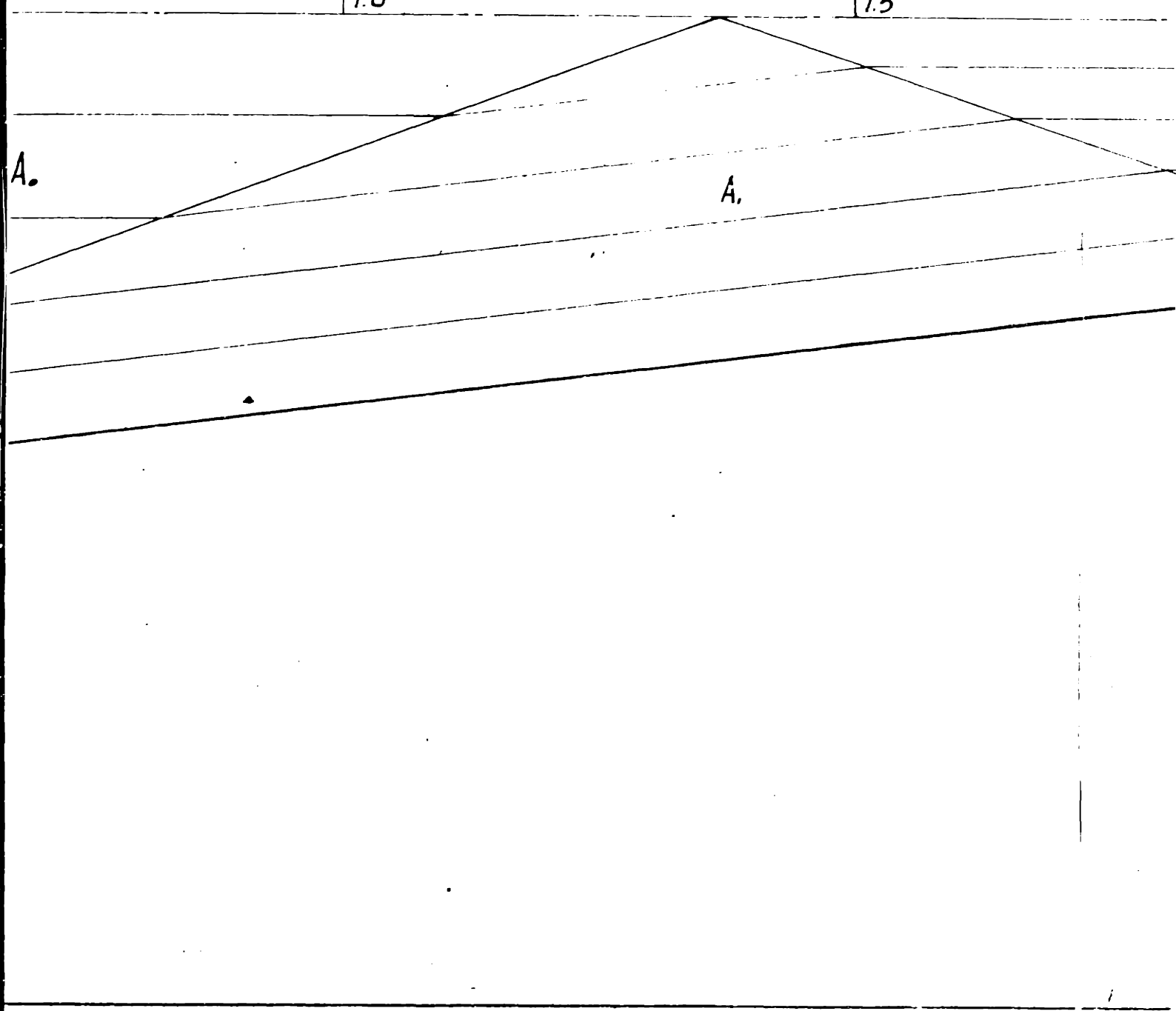
ALONG CHANNEL - FEET

| 1.0

| 1.5

A.

A.





2.0

2.5

B.

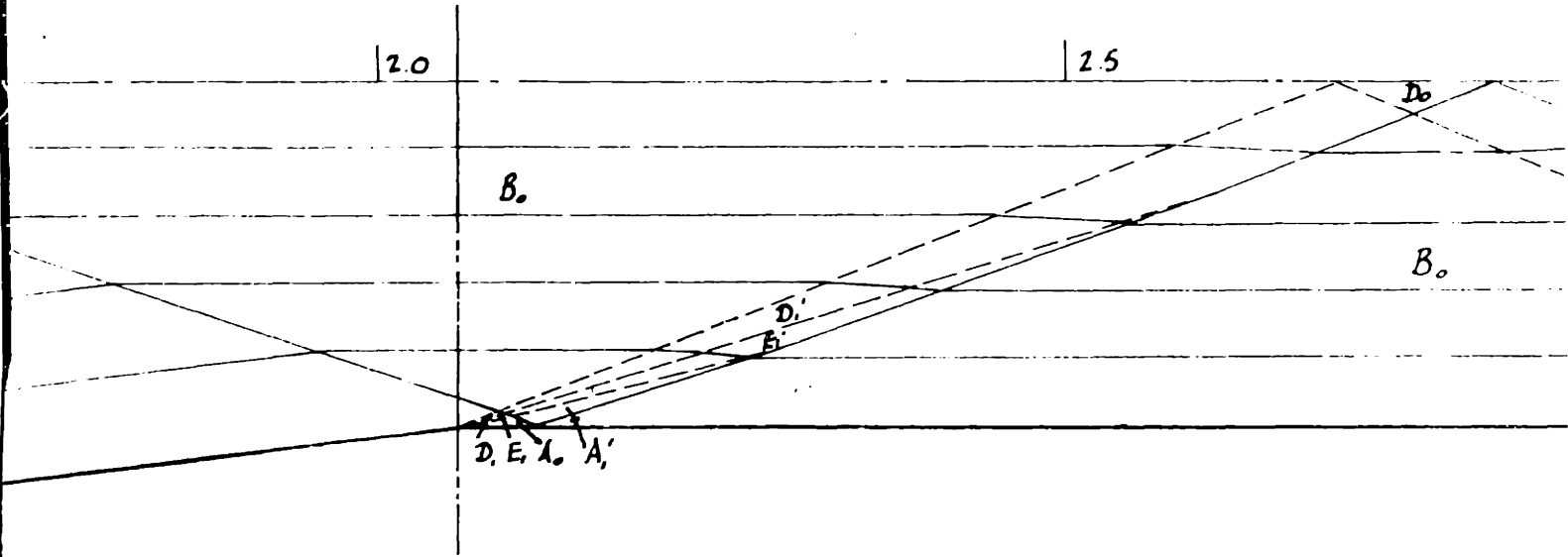
D<sub>0</sub>

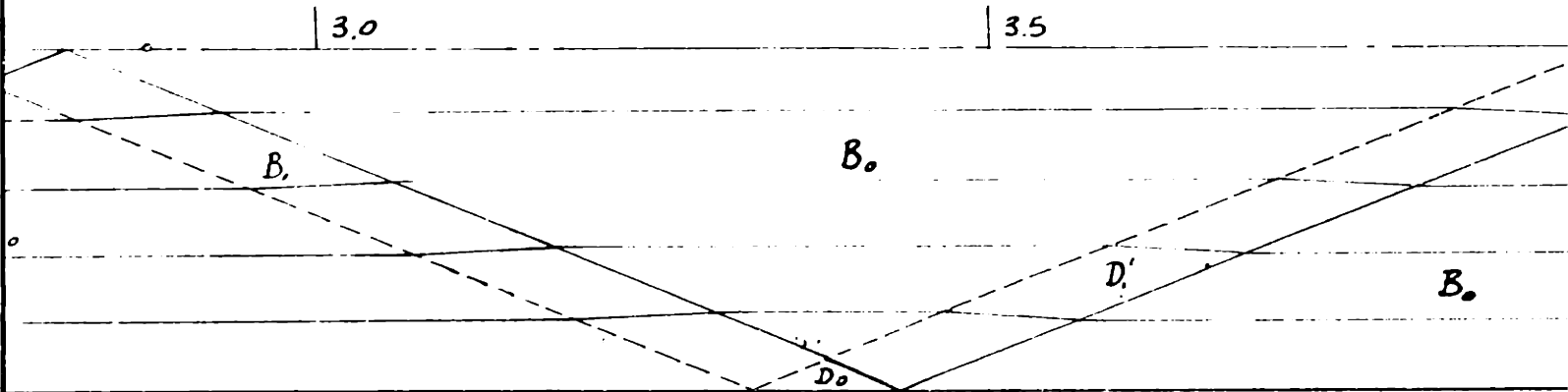
B.

D<sub>1</sub>

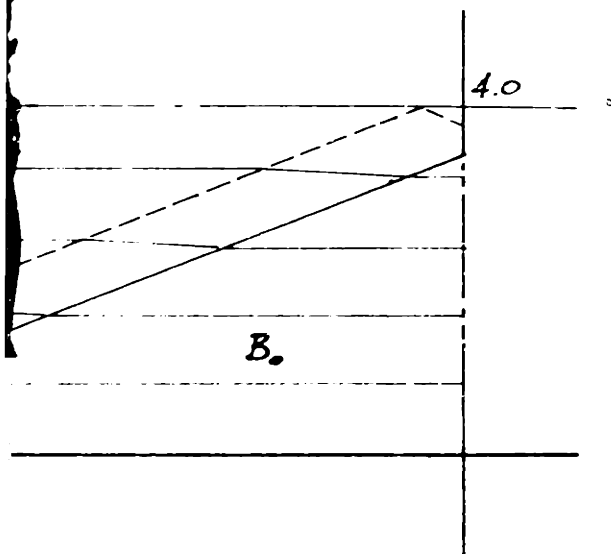
B<sub>1</sub>

D, E, A, A'





6.9° 54.  
 SHARP ANGLE  
 FIELD  
 SHOWING STRE  
 I  
 FIG.



6.9° SYMMETRICAL  
SHARP ANGLE CONTRACTION  
FIELD OF FLOW  
SHOWING STREAM & DISTURBANCE LINES  
 $\frac{F}{V} = 4$   
FIGURE 23

APPENDIX

TABLE I

Comparison of experimental and calculated

values of  $h_2/h_1$  and  $\beta$

(From work of Coles and Shintaku (8))

FROUDE NO.	$h_2/h_1$		$\beta$ (Degrees)		
	Cal. Eq. 8	Exp.	Cal. Eq. 7	Cal. Eq. 8	Exp.
3	1.408	1.276	22.83	29.30	21.33
4	1.440	1.464	19.67	19.38	20.08
6	1.665	1.680	14.50	15.00	15.30
8	2.130	2.170	13.42	11.25	11.47
10	2.180	2.880	13.67	9.27	11.23



TABLE II - Continued

$V_{x1} = .850$		$V_{x1} = .875$		$V_{x1} = .900$	
$V_{x2}$	$V_y$	$V_{x2}$	$V_y$	$V_{x2}$	$V_y$
.800	.081	.850	.051	.850	.101
.750	.134	.800	.122	.800	.165
.700	.170	.750	.174	.750	.209
.650	.196	.700	.205	.700	.231
.600	.211	.650	.228	.650	.262
.550	.217	.600	.242	.600	.275
.500	.214	.550	.247	.550	.281
.450	.197	.500	.244	.500	.278
.400	.174	.450	.232	.450	.267
.375	.153	.400	.210	.400	.247
.350	.126	.350	.171	.350	.215
.325	.081	.325	.142	.325	.192
.306	0	.300	.100	.300	.163
		.277	0	.275	.122
				.246	0

TABLE II - Continued

$V_{x1} = .925$		$V_{x1} = .950$		$V_{x1} = .975$	
$V_{x2}$	$V_y$	$V_{x2}$	$V_y$	$V_{x2}$	$V_y$
.900	.067	.925	.079	.950	.098
.875	.115	.900	.132	.925	.156
.850	.152	.875	.172	.900	.199
.800	.209	.850	.205	.850	.263
.750	.249	.800	.256	.800	.309
.700	.278	.700	.320	.700	.369
.600	.311	.600	.351	.600	.399
.500	.314	.500	.355	.500	.403
.400	.287	.450	.343	.400	.384
.350	.259	.400	.331	.350	.373
.300	.218	.350	.305	.300	.336
.275	.189	.300	.273	.250	.298
.250	.151	.250	.223	.225	.273
.225	.092	.225	.189	.200	.243
.212	0	.200	.143	.175	.205
		.171	0	.150	.158
				.125	.076
				.118	0



TABLE III

Values for plot of epicycloid between circles  
of radius  $\frac{1}{3}$  and 1.0

$\theta$ deg.	$\bar{V}$	$\theta$ deg.	$\bar{V}$	$\theta$ deg.	$\bar{V}$	$\theta$ deg.	$\bar{V}$
0	.577	13	.773	26	.874	39	.943
1	.613	14	.782	27	.880	40	.948
2	.635	15	.791	28	.886	41	.952
3	.651	16	.799	29	.893	42	.956
4	.666	17	.808	30	.900	43	.960
5	.683	18	.817	31	.905	44	.963
6	.695	19	.825	32	.910	45	.966
7	.709	20	.833	33	.915	46	.969
8	.720	21	.840	34	.920	47	.972
9	.731	22	.848	35	.925	48	.976
10	.742	23	.855	36	.930	49	.978
11	.753	24	.861	37	.935	50	.980
12	.763	25	.868	38	.939	65 13'	1.730

DERIVATION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  $\bar{V}$  AND F

By definition:

$$F = \frac{V}{\sqrt{gh}} \quad F^2 = \frac{V^2}{gh} \quad V^2 = ghF^2 \quad (1)$$

And again by definition:

$$\bar{V} = \frac{V}{\sqrt{2gH}} \quad \bar{V}^2 = \frac{V^2}{2gH} \quad V^2 = 2gH\bar{V}^2 \quad (2)$$

Combining (1) and (2):

$$ghF^2 = 2gH\bar{V}^2$$

$$\frac{h}{H} = \frac{2g\bar{V}^2}{gF^2} = \frac{2\bar{V}^2}{F^2} \quad (3)$$

From the energy equation:

$$\frac{V^2}{2g} + h = H$$

$$\frac{V^2}{2gH} + \frac{h}{H} = 1$$

$$\frac{h}{H} = 1 - \frac{V^2}{2gH} = 1 - \bar{V}^2 \quad (4)$$

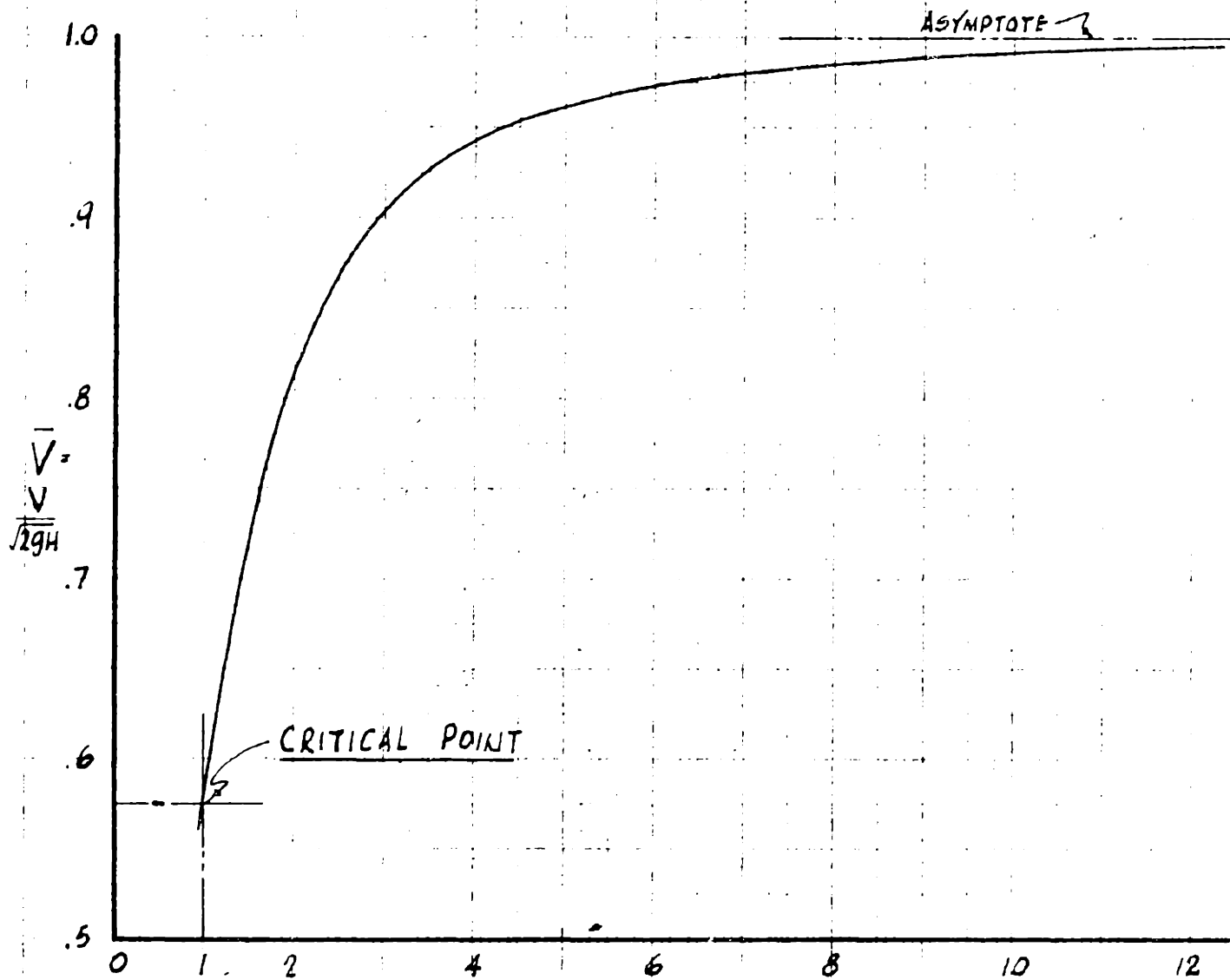
Combining (3) and (4)

$$\frac{2\bar{V}^2}{F^2} = 1 - \bar{V}^2$$

$$2\bar{V}^2 - F^2 + F^2\bar{V}^2 = 0$$

$$\bar{V}^2 = \frac{F^2}{2 + F^2} \quad \bar{V} = \frac{F}{\sqrt{2 + F^2}} \quad \leftarrow$$

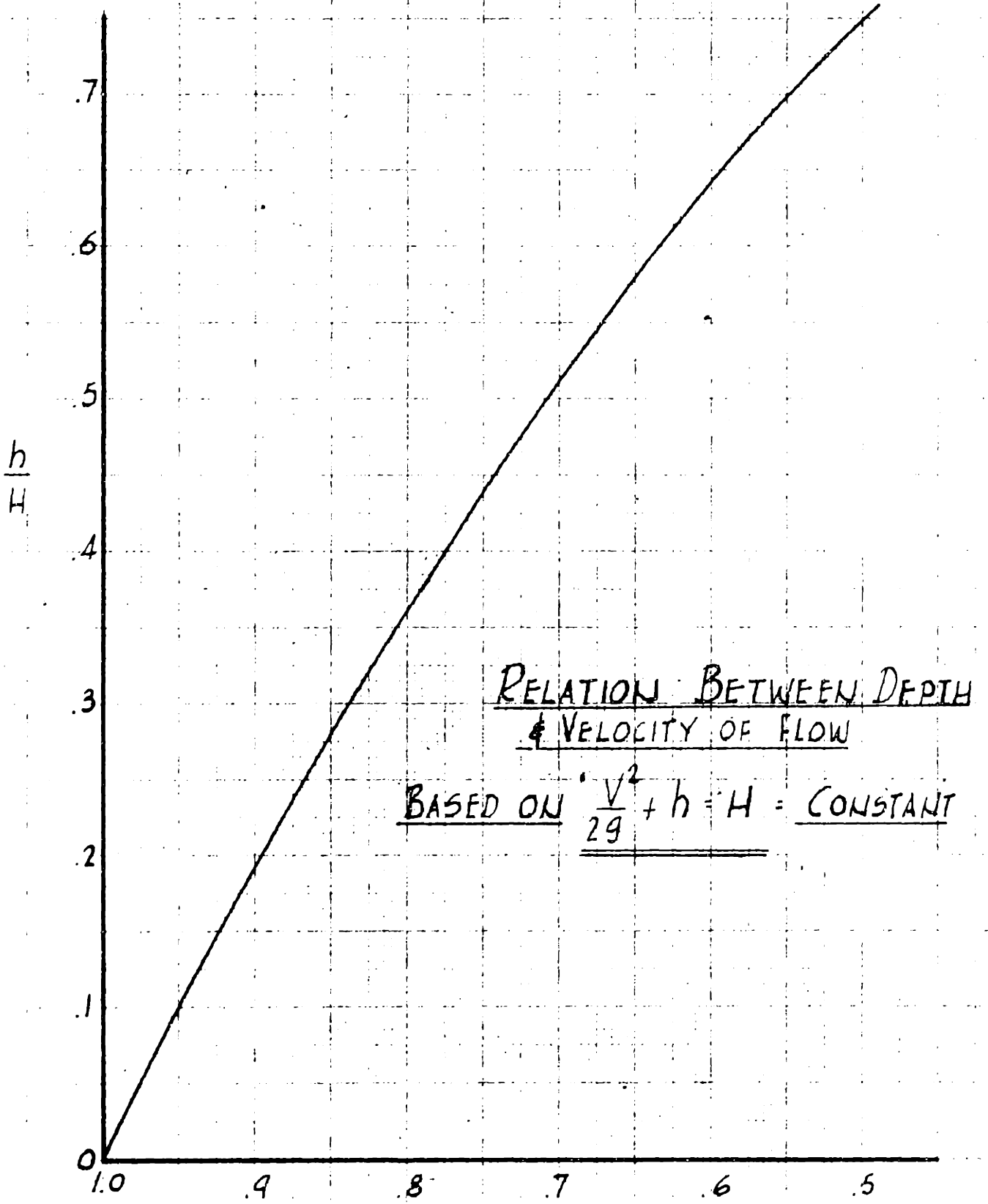
This equation is plotted in the following figure.



FROUDE NUMBER - F

RELATION BETWEEN VELOCITY  
OF FLOW AND F  
BASED ON  $V \propto \frac{F}{\sqrt{1+F^2}}$

FIGURE 24



$$V = \frac{V}{\sqrt{2gH}}$$

FIGURE 25

DERIVATION OF EQUATION GIVING  $\frac{h}{H}$  WHEN FLOW  
ENTERS SUBCRITICAL RANGE

Writing the energy equation:

$$\frac{v^2}{2g} + h = H$$

Substituting  $v = \frac{Q}{A} = \frac{Q}{bh}$

$$\frac{Q^2}{2gb^2h^3} + h = H$$

Multiplying by  $h^2$  and dividing by  $H^3$ :

$$\frac{Q^2}{2gb^2H^3} + \left(\frac{h}{H}\right)^3 = \left(\frac{h}{H}\right)^2$$

$$\left(\frac{h}{H}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{h}{H}\right)^3 = \frac{Q^2}{2gb^2H^3}$$

We make the assumption of zero energy dissipation,

hence  $H$  is constant, and the equation becomes:

$$\left(\frac{h}{H}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{h}{H}\right)^3 = \frac{A}{b^2} \quad \longleftarrow$$

Where  $A$ , a constant determinable at some point in the channel where conditions are known, is given by:

$$A = \frac{Q^2}{2gH^3}$$

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