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NONLINEAR AXISYMMETRIC LIQUID CURRENTS IN SPHERICAL ANNULI

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16. Abstract A numerical analysis of non-linear axisymmetric viscous flows in spherical annuli of different gap sizes is presented. Only inner sphere was supposed to rotate at a constant angular velocity. The streamlines, lines of constant angular velocity, kinetic energy spectra and spectra of velocity components are obtained. A total kinetic energy and torque needed to rotate the inner sphere are calculated as functions of $R_0$ for different gap sizes. In small-gap annulus non-uniqueness of steady solutions of N.-St. equations is established and regions (in $R_0$ ) of different flow regime existences are found. Numerical solutions in a wide-gap annulus together with experimental results permit to conclude the flow stability in considered range of $R_0$ . The comparison of experimental and numerical results shows the close not only qualitative but quantitative agreement.		
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## ANNOTATION

We present a numerical analysis of nonlinear axisymmetric currents in a viscous liquid in spherical annuli of various thickness when only the inner sphere rotates.

We obtained the lines of flow and the lines of equal angular velocity, the spatial spectra of the kinetic energy and of individual velocity components; we calculated the integral characteristics of the motions: the total kinetic energy and the torque for various values of the numbers  $Re$ .

In a thin annulus, the nonuniqueness of the steady-state solutions of the Navier-Stokes equations was established, and the regions (with respect to  $Re$ ) in which various flow regimes exist were determined.

Calculations of the currents in a thick annulus together with the results of previous experiments make it possible to draw conclusions concerning the stability of currents in the  $Re$  range considered.

Comparison of the numerical results with experiments shows good quantitative and qualitative agreement.

## Nonlinear Axisymmetric Liquid Currents in Spherical Annuli

N. N. Astaf'yeva, N. D. Vvedenskaya, and I. M. Yavorskaya

### INTRODUCTION

The study of nonlinear shearing currents in a liquid or a gas in a rotating spherical annulus is the basis for an understanding of many dynamic processes of global scale in oceans, the atmospheres of the Earth, planets, and in the interior of stars of various spectral classes. /5\*

In all these instances, the form of the currents and their stability depends essentially on two important factors: the spherical geometry of the volume in which they flow, and the rotation. Neglect of even one of these factors can lead to results quite remote from reality, as experiments show [1 - 6].

One of the simplest shearing currents in which such factors are considered is a current in a viscous incompressible liquid in a spherical annulus, the boundaries of which rotate around the same axis with different constant angular velocities. By analogy with the plane and cylindrical cases, we call it the Couette spherical current.

The published results of experiments [1 - 6] have shown that, depending on the values of the parameters of similar problems: the Reynolds number  $Re = (\Omega_1 r_1^2) / \nu$ , the relative thickness of the

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\*Numbers in the margin indicate pagination in the original foreign text.

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annulus  $\delta = \frac{r_2 - r_1}{r_1}$ , and the Rossby number  $\epsilon = \frac{\Omega_2 - \Omega_1}{\Omega_1}$  (or the Reynolds number with respect to the external sphere  $Re_2 = \frac{\Omega_2 r_2^2}{\nu}$ ), /6

the character and form of the currents arising in the annulus turn out to be extraordinarily diverse ( $r_1$ ,  $r_2$ ,  $\Omega_1$  and  $\Omega_2$  are the radii and the angular velocities of rotation of the internal and external spheres, respectively, and  $\nu$  is the kinematic viscosity).

For sufficiently small numbers  $Re$  [7 - 10], the Couette spherical current is axisymmetric and consists of differential rotations around the axis and the meridional circulation whose intensity and form for fixed numbers  $Re$  are determined by the parameters  $\delta$  and  $\epsilon$ . Here it is already clear that the analogy between the plane and cylindrical currents, on the one hand, and the spherical, on the other, is purely external: the first two currents are one-dimensional and have one velocity component in the direction of the displacement of the velocity. A current in a spherical annulus is much more complex: it has three velocity components and depends on the two spherical coordinates  $r$  and  $\theta$ , and on the Reynolds number.

This difference becomes still more significant when the basic current loses stability. In the plane case, if the very first instability leads to the spontaneous development of turbulence and, in the cylindrical case, to the appearance of stationary axisymmetric or (when the Rossby numbers are large and negative) periodic undulating Taylor vortices, then in the spherical annulus [5, 11] when the basic current loses stability, there arise diverse currents which differ widely among themselves, depending on the thickness of the annulus and the number  $\epsilon$ . Obviously this indicates that there are various mechanisms which cause the instability of the basic current for different  $\delta$  and  $\epsilon$ .

Such a difference between plane, cylindrical and spherical currents arouses not only applied, but also theoretical interest in the study of Couette spherical currents, since they obviously are

more general in character. This greater generality leads, as is to be expected, to significantly greater mathematical difficulties in obtaining a solution: indeed, for arbitrary values of similar parameters, calculation of the spherical current reduces to the solution of a boundary value problem for a system of nonlinear partial differential equations. 17

It is possible, therefore, that the most interesting results were those obtained experimentally in recent years. The analytical and numerical results are few in number and relate only to certain specific points in the space of similar parameters. A detailed analysis of all results in papers published up to 1974 is given in our survey article [12]. Here we shall touch on only those results in recent years, of which our paper is a direct development.

First of all, let us note that spherical annuli can be subdivided into thin annuli where  $\delta < \delta^*$ , and thick annuli with  $\delta > \delta^*$ , depending on whether or not the principle of "change of stability" holds at the limit of stability when  $Re = Re_c$ . The critical value of the Reynolds number is a function of  $\delta$  and  $\epsilon$ , and the critical value of the thickness of the annuli  $\delta^*$ , for which the character of the secondary current changes also, is obviously a function of the Rossby number  $\epsilon$ . Henceforth, we shall consider only rotations of the internal sphere for which  $\delta^* = 0.24$ .

Up to the present, the question as to the stability of the Couette spherical current in thick annuli has not been resolved unambiguously. For a long time it was assumed that thick annuli were always stable [1, 2, 13]. The fact which the energy theory [10] of the qualitative difference between thick and thin shells did not discover is that the lower boundary of the limit of stability in thick annuli was somewhat higher than in thin annuli. According to this theory, the most dangerous disturbances for all  $\delta$  and  $\epsilon$  turned out to be the nonaxisymmetrical disturbances with azimuthal wave number  $m = 1$ .



The most detailed experiments have shown, however, that thick annuli are also unstable. In the papers [3, 6], the authors demonstrated visually the loss of stability by currents in annuli of thickness  $0,24 \leq \delta \leq 1$  for  $Re_c = Re_c(\delta)$ , significantly exceeding the critical values of  $Re_E$  from the energy theory and exceeding the anticipated critical values obtained by extrapolation from the experimental stability curve in thin annuli. At the limit of stability, a complex secondary nonaxisymmetrical current was observed, consisting of the same number of vortices in each hemisphere and propagated in an azimuthal direction at a certain phase velocity

$$\Omega(\delta) < \Omega_c.$$

A completely different result was obtained in [4], where the stability of the currents in thick annuli with  $\delta = 1,27$  and 2.25 were studied by measuring the torque  $M$  transmitted to the external sphere, and by visual means. On the curve  $M = M(Re)$ , four breaks were found in the current in the annulus with  $\delta = 1,27$ , the first three when the numbers  $Re_{c1} < Re_{c2} < Re_{c3}$  were smaller than  $Re_c(\delta = 1,33)$  (obtained in [6, 11]), and only the fourth break occurred when  $Re_{c4} \approx Re_c(\delta = 1,33)$ . Usually, breaks in the integral characteristics of the currents correspond to the onset of instability and the emergence of a secondary current visually distinct from the pre-critical current. Visually, no significant rearrangements of the current were detected for the first three breaks; the fourth break, corresponding to  $Re_c(\delta = 1,33)$  of [11], was identified with a sudden complete turbulization of the flow. In [4] it was proposed that for  $Re_{c1}$  the first break corresponds to a drastic instability of the basic current of finite amplitude, which leads to secondary currents of the same form as the basic current.

Additional experiments conducted by us [11] in a thick annulus with  $\delta = 1,33$ , with the help of the film thermal flowmeter "DISA"

mounted in the equatorial plane of the current, have shown that there are no changes in the characteristics of the current up to the values  $Re_c = Re_c$ . When  $Re > Re_c$  the recorded signal, its spectral density and the correlation function have shown the presence of only one frequency of the visually observed vortices. Moreover, investigation of the spectral characteristics of the current for the highly supercritical numbers  $Re \approx 2 Re_c$  have also shown that there are in the current no more than two different oscillation frequencies. Thus it was established that the transition through  $Re = Re_c$ , corresponding to the fourth break, is not accompanied by the sudden emergence of turbulence, but by the transition to a complex stratified periodic motion such as may be found in [3]. The question regarding the first three breaks remained open, since the change to a steady-state regime established with the aid of a thermal flowmeter is much more complicated.

To clarify this question in the present paper, numerical investigations of liquid currents were undertaken in an annulus of thickness  $\delta = 1,53$  in the interval  $0 \leq Re \leq 250$ , the results of which are discussed in sections 2 and 3. We obtained curves of the torque and the kinetic energy as functions of the Reynolds number, and we studied the structure and scale of the prevailing motions.

Previous numerical investigations of the currents in a thick annulus ( $\delta = 1$ ) were presented in [7 - 10]. However, the form in which these results were presented and the small number of them made them unsuitable for our purposes.

In thin annuli with  $\delta < 0,24$  in the supercritical region, it was discovered experimentally that there exist several steady-state axisymmetric current regimes [2, 4 - 6, 14, 15] such that some of them can exist for the same number  $Re$ , depending on the prehistory of the process — which agrees with the nonuniqueness of the solution of the steady-state boundary problem for the Navier-Stokes equations. In particular, it was established experimentally that

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in an annulus with thickness  $\delta = 0,11$ , there exist 4 steady-state currents with two, four, six, and eight annular vortices, parallel to the equator [6].

In the present paper, we study numerically all the experimentally obtained nonlinear steady-state axisymmetric currents in an annulus of  $\delta = 0,11$ ; we establish the limits of their existence and the possible transitions from one regime to another. In contrast to the experiment, numerical modeling made it possible to study the structure of the currents, their energy characteristics, and the linear scale of the prevalent motions, etc.

We know of only one paper [14] in which the authors discuss the results of separate calculations for the flow functions of the currents when  $E = -1$  in thin annuli with  $\delta = 0,176$  for  $Re = 700, 900$ , and 1500 and with  $\delta = 0,9375$ ,  $Re = 3000 - 8000$  without any analysis of the sequential transitions of the various regimes and the regions of existence and nonuniqueness of the currents.

We present the results of calculations of the currents in a liquid in a thin and a thick annulus during rotation of the internal sphere only; the physical interpretation of the results and a comparison with experiment are discussed later in sections 2 and 3.

## 1. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND THE METHOD OF SOLUTION

The Couette spherical current is described mathematically by the solution of the boundary value problem for the Navier-Stokes system of equations. We shall find the steady-state solution by the method of adjustment, i.e., as the limit (if it exists) when  $t \rightarrow \infty$  of the solution of the initial-boundary value problem for the non-steady-state equations ( $t$  is time). In dimensionless form, the problem has the form:

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$$\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} + (\bar{u} \nabla) \bar{u} = -\nabla p + \frac{1}{Re} \Delta \bar{u}, \quad (2.1)$$

$$\operatorname{div} \bar{u} = 0,$$

$$\begin{aligned} u_r = u_\theta = 0, \quad u_\varphi = \sin \theta \quad | \text{ when } z = 1, \\ u_r = u_\theta = 0, \quad u_\varphi = \omega(1+\delta) \sin \theta \quad | \text{ when } z = 1+\delta, \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

$$u_r \Big|_{t=0} = u_r^0, \quad u_\theta \Big|_{t=0} = u_\theta^0, \quad u_\varphi \Big|_{t=0} = u_\varphi^0. \quad (2.3)$$

here,  $\bar{u}$  is the velocity vector;  $p$  is the pressure;  $u_r, u_\theta, u_\varphi$  are the components of  $\bar{u}$  in spherical coordinates  $r, \theta, \varphi$ . For the scales of length, time, velocity and pressure, we assume, respectively, the radius of the internal sphere  $r_1$ , the reciprocal of the angular rotational velocity of the internal sphere

$\Omega_1^{-1}$ ,  $\Omega_1 r_1$  and  $\rho_0 \Omega_1 r_1^2$  ( $\rho_0$  is the density of the liquid),

$$\omega = \Omega_2 / \Omega_1 = \varepsilon + 1.$$

For the numerical solution of the problem, we shall follow the procedure in [16].

We seek an axisymmetrical solution of (2.1) - (2.3). Let us represent the desired functions in the form of a series in terms of the associated functions  $P_e^0(x)$  and  $P_e^1(x)$ , where  $x = \cos \theta$ , and the coefficients depend on  $r$  and  $t$ . We shall restrict ourselves to a finite number of terms in the series:

$$u_r(r, \theta, t) = \sum_{e=0}^L U_e(r, t) P_e^0(x); \quad p(r, \theta, t) = \sum_{e=0}^L P_e(r, t) P_e^0(x),$$

$$u_\theta(r, \theta, t) = \sum_{e=1}^L V_e(r, t) P_e^1(x), \quad (2.4)$$

$$u_\varphi(r, \theta, t) = \sum_{e=1}^L W_e(r, t) P_e^1(x) + \omega r P_1^1(x).$$

Here in  $U_0$ , the term  $\tilde{\omega} \varepsilon P_1^r(x)$  which is isolated in the steady-state solution of (2.1) - (2.2) when  $Re \rightarrow 0$  (the Stokes current). For this term we have:

$$\tilde{\omega} = 1 + \alpha \left(1 - \frac{t}{\tau_0}\right) ; \alpha = (\omega - 1) \frac{(1 + \delta)^3}{(1 + \delta)^3 - 1}$$

Let us represent the nonlinear terms in analogous form [for brevity all calculations are hereafter presented much as the first of the equations (2.1)]:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_1(z, \theta, t) &= - \left\{ U_0 \frac{\partial U_0}{\partial z} + \frac{U_0}{\varepsilon} \frac{\partial U_0}{\partial \theta} - \frac{U_0^2 + U_0^2}{\varepsilon} \right\} = \\ &= - \left\{ \sum_{e=0}^L U_e P_e^0 \sum_{e=0}^L \frac{\partial U_e}{\partial z} P_e^0 + \right. \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \sum_{e=1}^L V_e P_e^1 \sum_{e=1}^L U_e P_e^1 - \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( \sum_{e=1}^L V_e P_e^1 \right)^2 - \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left( \sum_{e=1}^L W_e P_e^1 + \tilde{\omega} \varepsilon P_1^r \right)^2 \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

$$\mathcal{F}_2(z, \theta, t) = \sum_{e=0}^L \Phi_{1,e}(z, t) P_e^0.$$

$$\mathcal{F}_i(z, \theta, t) = \sum_{e=1}^L \Phi_{i,e}(z, t) P_e^0, \quad i=2,3.$$

Let us especially stress the choice of the method of approximating the terms  $\mathcal{F}_i$ ,  $i=1, 2, 3$ . We shall consider our expansions as interpolational, i.e., we shall require that the equations (2.5)

be satisfied for  $\theta = \theta_j$ ,  $j=0, \dots, L$ , where  $\theta_j = j \frac{\pi}{L}$ .

Such a choice of  $\theta_j$  is explained by the fact that it is natural to treat our functions like the function  $x = \cos \theta$ ,  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ , and the points  $x_j = \cos \theta_j$  are here the zeros of a Chebyshev polynomial. It is well-known that interpolation with respect to such a system of nodes is optimal in some sense. /13

Substituting (2.4) and (2.5) into (2.1), we may now separate the variables, and obtain for  $U_e, V_e, W_e, P_e$  the following system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial U_e}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{Re} \left\{ \frac{1}{z^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} z^2 \frac{\partial U_e}{\partial z} + \frac{2}{z} \frac{\partial U_e}{\partial z} + \frac{2 - e(e+1)}{z^2} U_e \right\} + \\ + \frac{\partial P_e}{\partial z} = \Phi_{1,e}, \\ \frac{\partial V_e}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{Re} \left\{ \frac{1}{z^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} z^2 \frac{\partial V_e}{\partial z} - \frac{e(e+1)}{z^2} V_e + \frac{2}{z^2} U_e \right\} + \\ + \frac{P_e}{z} = \Phi_{2,e}, \\ \frac{\partial W_e}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{Re} \left\{ \frac{1}{z^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} z^2 \frac{\partial W_e}{\partial z} - \frac{e(e+1)}{z^2} W_e \right\} = \Phi_{3,e}, \\ \frac{1}{z^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} z^2 U_e - \frac{e(e+1)}{z} V_e = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

The boundary conditions assume the form:

$$U_e(z,t) = V_e(z,t) = W_e(z,t) = 0 \text{ for } z=1; 1+\delta. \quad (2.7)$$

It is clear that equations (2.5) are exactly satisfied on the rays:

$$\theta = \theta_j \quad ; \quad j=0, \dots, L.$$

Let us now carry out the discretization of the problem with respect to  $t$  and  $r$  and pass from (2.6) to finite difference equations. As a preliminary step, let us make a change in the independent variable  $r$  by means of the formulas  $\zeta = f(r)$ , so that, after obtaining the equally spaced points of the difference scheme, the calculated points could be obtained which are not equally spaced relative to  $r$ .

Thus, we shall consider all the functions only at the moment  $t_n = n\tau$ ,  $n = 0, I, \dots$  and at the points  $\zeta_k = f(r) + kh$ ,  $k = 0, I, \dots, K$ , or at the points  $\zeta_{k+1/2} = f(r) + (k + \frac{1}{2})h$ ,  $k = 0, 1, \dots, K-1$ . The functions  $U_e, V_e, W_e$  will be given at the points  $\zeta_k$ , and  $P_e$  at the points  $\zeta_{k+1/2}$ . Let  $g(t_n, \zeta_j) = g^n(j)$ . The finite difference equations have the form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{U_e^{n+1}(k)}{\tau} - \frac{i}{Re} \left\{ (f'(k))^2 \frac{U_e^{n+1}(k+1) - 2U_e^{n+1}(k) + U_e^{n+1}(k-1)}{h^2} + \right. \\
 & + \left[ f''(k) + \frac{4f'(k)}{\zeta(k)} \right] \frac{U_e^{n+1}(k+1) - U_e^{n+1}(k-1)}{2h} + \\
 & + \frac{2 - \ell(\ell+1)}{(\zeta(k))^2} U_e^{n+1}(k) \left. \right\} + f'(k) \frac{P_e^{n+1}(k+1/2) - P_e^{n+1}(k-1/2)}{h} = \\
 & = \Phi_{j,e}^n(k) + \frac{U_e^n(k)}{\tau}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

Here,  $\Phi_{j,e}^n(k)$  is the  $j$ th coordinate in the expansion for  $F_j(z, \theta, t)$ .

$$U_e^n(k) \frac{U_e^n(k+1) - U_e^n(k-1)}{2h} f'(k) + \frac{U_e^n(k)}{\zeta(k)} \frac{\partial U_e^n(k)}{\partial \theta} - \frac{(U_e^n(k))^2 + (U_e^n(k))^2}{\zeta(k)}.$$

The boundary conditions for (2.8):

$$U_e^n(0) = V_e^n(0) = W_e^n(0) = U_e^n(\mathcal{K}) = V_e^n(\mathcal{K}) = W_e^n(\mathcal{K}) = 0. \quad (2.9)$$

Here,

$$\mathcal{K} = \left[ s(1+\delta) - s(\delta) \right] / h$$

everywhere.

It should be emphasized that in (2.8) the linear terms are computed on the  $(n+1)^{\text{st}}$  annulus, and the nonlinear right side pertains to the  $h^{\text{th}}$  annulus, so that on each new annulus a linear boundary value problem is solved.

We shall consider only the current which is symmetric with respect to the equator  $\theta = \pi/2$ ; therefore, in the expansion (2.4) it is sufficient to restrict ourselves to the terms of corresponding parity. Namely,

$$u_r = \sum_{\ell=0,2}^{L-1} U_\ell \mathcal{P}_\ell^0; \quad p = \sum_{\ell=0,2}^{L-1} P_\ell \mathcal{P}_\ell^0,$$

$$u_\theta = \sum_{\ell=1,3}^{L-1} V_\ell \mathcal{P}_\ell^1; \quad u_\varphi = \sum_{\ell=1,3}^{L-1} W_\ell \mathcal{P}_\ell^1 + \omega r \mathcal{P}_1^1.$$

In the calculations,  $L$  is odd. The equations must be satisfied on

$\frac{L-1}{2}$  rays:

$$\theta = \theta_j = j \frac{\pi}{L}, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{L-1}{2}.$$

(The choice of even  $L$  is inconvenient, since in this case the system (2.6) has an additional degeneracy for  $\ell = L$ ). The values of  $L$  for various versions are specified in section 2.

The choice of any even step with respect to  $t$  requires a certain accuracy; since our scheme is "explicit-implicit", the inertial terms



in it are calculated on the lower annulus. The estimate from above for  $\tau$  which guarantees the stability of the scheme is obtained without difficulty in case the coefficients in (2.8) do not depend on  $k$ . It has the form:

$$\tau < C \max |\bar{u}|^2 / Re,$$

where  $C \sim 1$ . In the case of variable coefficients, the character of the estimate is preserved, but varies somewhat. For values of  $\tau$  in our calculations, cf. the supplement.

While establishing the solutions with respect to time, we varied the torque transmitted to the external sphere:

$$M = M_0 / \int_0^{\delta} \int_0^{\pi} r_1^3 \Omega_1 \mu = \left[ \frac{\partial w_1(r, t)}{\partial r} - \frac{w_1(r, t)}{r} \right]_{r=1},$$

and the kinetic energy of the current:

$$E = \pi \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{1+\delta} (u_r^2 + u_\varphi^2 + u_\theta^2) r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta.$$

This was necessary so that these integral characteristics may be maintained with a precision of up to 0.1%. /16

## 2. RESULTS OF THE NUMERICAL CALCULATIONS

Calculations of the boundary value problem for the Navier-stokes equation in a thick annulus with  $S = 1.23$ , when only the internal sphere was rotated, were carried out in the interval  $Re: 5 \leq Re \leq 150$  in five steps relative to  $Re$ ; close to the values  $Re_{cr1}$  and  $Re_{cr2}$ , the steps relative to  $Re$  were reduced to two. In addition, the current was calculated for  $Re = 150, 200, \text{ and } 250$ . For the initial data, we usually took the values of the functions for the preceding step relative to  $Re$ . An example of the calculation for  $Re = 200$  is given in Figure 1.

In all the intervals of the  $Re$  values considered, a unique steady-state axisymmetric current was obtained. To verify the uniqueness of the solution, calculations with different initial data were performed. Thus, for example when  $Re = 60 > Re_c \approx 55$  disturbances were introduced into the basic current computed for  $L = 31$ , disturbances which substantially change the scale of the prevailing motions: 1) the amplitudes of all harmonics, beginning with  $l \geq 8$ , were significantly increased, and for  $l < 8$ , they remained unchanged; 2) the amplitudes of the harmonics with  $l \leq 4$  were equated to zero, and with  $l \geq 6$ , they increased significantly.

In all cases, the solution was quickly established for the basic regime.

In proportion to the growth in the Reynolds number, the number of associated functions  $L$ , used during the calculations, increased. Simultaneously with the characteristics of the current, the spectra of the kinetic energy and the individual components of the velocity were calculated, depending on the meridional wave number  $l$ . The spectra made it possible to determine the order of the neglected terms, and thus to evaluate the accuracy with which the solution is approximated by the finite series (2.4).

Since for  $Re = 60$ , it turns out to be sufficient to take  $L = 17$ , /17 and for  $Re = 150$  to set  $L = 25$ , so that the kinetic energy of the neglected terms does not exceed 0.1% of the total kinetic energy of the current. Simultaneously with the calculation of the structure of the current, the integral characteristics were calculated: the torque transmitted to the external sphere  $M$  (Figure 2), and the total kinetic energy  $E$  as a function of  $Re$  (Figure 3).

In a thin annulus, numerous calculations of the current were carried out from  $Re = 300$  to  $Re < 2600$ . The concrete values of  $Re$  for which solutions were obtained are marked with dashes on the diagram (Figure 4). Usually when making the calculations, we took for the initial data the values of the current characteristics for the

preceding step relative to  $Re$ , the step relative to  $Re$  being chosen positive as well as negative.

One of the basic questions in the case of numerical calculations by the direct as well as the semi-direct methods is the question concerning the number of terms retained in the series (2.4). The general notions concerning the increase in  $L$  as  $Re$  increases are of little help, as we shall see subsequently. To clarify this question for several values of  $Re$ , experimental calculations of the currents were performed for various values of  $L$  from II to III; the results of the calculations for  $Re = 1300$  and  $1500$  in the form of the spectral component of the current velocity with respect to  $\lambda$  for various values of  $L$  are presented in Figures 5 and 6.

The difficulty in choosing  $L$ , as is clear from Figures 5 and 6, is due to the fact that in critical situations (loss of stability of the basic current), the spectrum drops rapidly when  $L \geq 10$ , so that nothing is determined. Indeed, when  $Re = 1300$ , the spectra of the  $r$ -component of the velocity when  $L = 11, 21, \text{ and } 31$  are practically identical, and the order of the next terms neglected does not exceed 1% of the maximum value. However, as the calculations with  $L = 39, 63, 75, \text{ and } 91$  have shown, the actual spectrum has little in common with the spectrum for small  $L$ . The point is, as experiment shows, that near this value of  $Re$  the basic current becomes unstable, the emerging secondary current has a substantially smaller characteristic linear dimension, and in the spectrum of the meridional component there appears a second maximum for large wave numbers, the prediction of whose occurrence on the basis of calculations with  $L < 30$  turned out to be impossible. The spectrum of the  $r$ -component changed qualitatively with the increase in  $L$ , and the kinetic energy included in the radial component of the motions is now contained not only in the large scale motions of maximum size with  $\lambda = 2$ , but also in the small scale motions with wave numbers  $\lambda \approx 30$  to  $46$ , i.e., for a sufficiently accurate description of the current when  $Re \approx 1300$ , it is necessary to take  $\lambda \approx 60$ .

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Thus, to obtain a real picture of the current beyond the limit of stability ( $Re_c < Re = 1300$ ), it is necessary to increase the number of terms of the series more than three-fold. At the same time, to describe the current when  $Re < 1300$  it is sufficient, as calculations showed, to take  $L = 11$ . It must be emphasized that five terms of the series (2.4) give smooth, rapidly determined solutions of the equations even for very large  $Re$  (calculations performed up to  $Re = 3000$ ) when, as is familiar from experiment, [5, 6], not a single stability limit is traversed and the basic current simply does not exist, and the ratio of the energy of several of the first neglected terms to the total energy does not exceed the order of several percent.

As the spectrum of  $U_\xi$  shows for  $Re = 1500$  (Figure 6), the qualitative picture of the current is easily discerned when  $L = 61$ ; when  $L = 75, 91, 111$ , the spectral characteristics of the current practically coincide.

As noted above, reorganization of the solution was observed when  $Re > 1300$ , and the current emerging here corresponded to the formation near the equator of four annular axisymmetric vortices (Figures 7a, 8a, 9a). This solution exists up to  $Re = 2200$ ; when the number  $Re$  increases further, there occurs a further reorganization of the current, as a result of which another secondary current emerges with eight annular vortices parallel to the equator (Figures 9c, 9c). The solution with 8 vortices exists in our calculations in the interval  $1750 \leq Re \leq 2600$ ; when  $Re = 2700$ , a solution did not appear for a steady-state regime, and an oscillating periodic regime was established with period approximately equal to the period of the single rotation of the sphere. The cause of such oscillations is under study.

Henceforth for brevity in diagram 4, and from time to time in the text, we shall use the following designations for the current regimes: we shall designate the current with  $2i$  steady-state annular vortices the regime  $i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ), and we shall call

the basic current the regime 0; the transition from one regime to another will be indicated by arrows.

When  $Re$  decreased from 1700, the number of annular vortices in regime 4 decreased to 6 (Figures 7b, 8b, 9b). The regime 3 thus obtained exists "up" to  $Re = 2700$ , where it — like regime 4 — becomes oscillatory.

For decreasing  $Re$  when  $Re = 1550$ , regime 3 goes over into regime 2, and when  $Re$  decreases still more, it become regime 0 (for  $Re = 1300$ ), by-passing regime 1.

To obtain a solution with two annular vortices (regime 1) which, as was known from experiment, arise when  $Re \geq 1212 \pm 25$  during loss of stability by the basic current [6], a special disturbance is introduced into the basic current whose form is close to that of the desired current. In Figures 7c, 10, and 11, the function of the flow and the values of the angular velocity on the surface  $r = 1.049$  are shown, as are also the spectral characteristics of the azimuthal and meridional motions for two different current regimes (regimes 0 and 1) for the same  $Re = 1270$ , calculated for the same number of spherical functions  $L = 91$ . /20

Regime 1 exists in the interval  $1260 < Re \leq 1400$ ; for larger values of  $Re$ , the current is reorganized into the regime with four annular vortices, previously described (regime 2). When  $Re = 1260$ , the regime is reorganized into the basic current.

Besides the flow functions and the angular velocity of rotation, spatial spectra of the total kinetic energy and the individual components of the velocity were obtained. In Figure 10 - 19, the graphs of the change in the flow functions and the angular velocity with respect to  $\theta$  are shown in the center of the annulus when  $r = 1.049$ ; also included are the Fourier coefficients,  $U_\theta$ ,  $W_\theta$  of the meridional and azimuthal component of the velocity for various regimes of the current when  $Re = 1270, 1600, 1900, \text{ and } 2000$ . In Figure 20, the flow lines and a photograph of regime 4 when  $Re = 1900$

are shown. The spectra of the total kinetic energy for all regimes for  $Re = 1270, 1600, 1900,$  and  $2200$  are presented in Figures 21 - 22. An analysis of the energy spectral show that if we were interested in the basis kinetic energy of the motions, then clearly it would be possible in many cases to limit ourselves to  $L \approx 40$ . However, here the meridional motion, whose basic scale close to the equator is much less than the scale of the azimuthal motions, would be greatly distorted.

### 3. THE HYDRODYNAMIC INTERPRETATION OF THE RESULTS OBTAINED. COMPARISON WITH EXPERIMENT

The numerical solutions of the problem posed in the thick annulus with  $\delta = 1.33$  and  $\epsilon = -1$  have demonstrated the uniqueness of the solution of the axisymmetric current in the interval of  $Re$  considered.

The conformity with experimental and numerical results previously obtained [1 - 3, 8 - 10], the meridional current is concentrated in the lower latitudes (Figure 1) as  $Re$  increases, in the profile of the angular velocity there appears a point of inflection, and the spectrum of the kinetic energy shows that the basic part of the energy is contained in the large-scale motions.

The graph of the torque  $M$  as a function of  $Re$  (Figure 2) has no breaks up to the value of  $Re \approx 410$ , but near  $Re \approx 54$  there is a point of inflection. Up to  $Re = 130$ , the experimental and numerical values of  $M$  agree with very good accuracy within 0.5%. For  $Re = 150, 200,$  and  $250$ , the calculated values of  $M$  are given by circles in Figure 2; as is clear from the figure, the difference between the measurements and the calculated values is on the order of 2.5%, recorded when  $Re = 250$ , and it is possible in this connection that for this value of  $Re$  the accuracy of the current calculations declines for  $L = 31$ . Analysis of the spectra of the kinetic energy near the breaks noted by Munson [4] for  $Re_{c_1}$  and  $Re_{c_2}$  also discloses the absence of any reorganization in the current.

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The results discussed together with the results of experiment [3, 11] make it possible to state a conclusion concerning the stability of a Couette spherical current in thick annuli in the interval for  $Re$  which was considered.

In the thin annulus with  $\delta = 0.11$  and  $\epsilon = -1$ , the basic axisymmetric Couette current exists up to  $Re = 1300$  according to the calculations, which is somewhat larger than the first experimental value of the critical number  $Re = 1212 \pm 25$ . For values of  $Re > 1260$ , only a special type of disturbance makes it possible to obtain numerically a current regime with two annular vortices. This impossibility of obtaining regime 1 from the basic current by a simple increase in  $Re$  is connected, obviously, with the condition of symmetry of the current relative to the equator which we imposed. In an experiment [6], the appearance of regime 1 was connected with the momentary disruption of such symmetry at the limit of stability. /22

The cause of the approximately 4% divergence in the numerical and experimental values of the first critical value of  $Re$  ( $Re_c = 1260$  by calculation;  $Re_c = 1212 \pm 25$  by experiment) is still not clear to us.

Just as in the case of experiment, calculations show that for supercritical values of  $Re$  there exist several different steady-state current regimes at one and the same point in space. On the diagram (Figure 4a), the regions of existence (relative to  $Re$ ) corresponding to the regimes of the calculations are denoted by lines opposite the numerals 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4. The arrows indicate the transition from one regime to another as  $Re$  increases without the introduction of additional disturbances; a dotted arrow denotes the passage from the basic current to regime 1 when disturbances of special type are introduced into the current. The upper mark corresponds to the domain of existence of these regimes in the experiment [6]. The wavy form of the mark indicates the appearance of sinusoidal disturbances in the annular vortices in the corresponding regimes.

Regimes 3 and 4, as is clear from the diagram, exist for larger values of  $Re$  than in the experiment. Regime 4 for  $Re = 2150$  and regime 3 for  $Re = 2300$  are reorganized into essentially non-axisymmetric regimes with spirals [5, 6]. In the calculations, both solutions for  $Re = 2700$  become oscillations with a period approximately equal to the period of one revolution. For the present, it is difficult to say whether these oscillations are purely a calculational phenomenon, or the period axisymmetric regimes are solutions of the Navier-Stokes equations. If the latter is true, then they must be unstable relative to the non-axisymmetric disturbances, since in the experiment on spherical [6] and cylindrical [17] annuli no periodic axisymmetric current was observed.

Qualitatively, the forms of the currents for the regimes obtained by calculation and by experiment compare favorably also. Thus in regime 4, the third annular vortex from the equator always occupies more space than the remaining vortices, in the experiment as well as in the calculations. Supercompression of the lines of flow and the formation of closed vortices in the basic current (current of the "cat's eyes" type), obtained in the numerical calculation (Figures 7, 8, 9, 20B) were recorded in experiment [6] in the form of regions with large velocity gradients (the broad, dark belts below the annular vortices in Figure 20a).

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#### CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY

The results of the numerical investigation of nonlinear steady-state axisymmetric currents in a viscous incompressible liquid in a thick ( $\delta = 1.33$ ) and a thin ( $\delta = 0.11$ ) annulus when only the internal sphere rotates ( $\varepsilon = -1$ ) in the indicated intervals of variation of  $Re$  make it possible to draw the following conclusions:

1. In the interval  $5 \leq Re \leq 250$  in a thick annulus, there was obtained (in agreement with experiment) a unique steady-state axisymmetric solution — the basic Couette spherical current.



2. The absence of breaks in the curves of the torques  $M(Re)$  (Figure 2) and the kinetic energy  $E(Re)$  (Figure 3), and also the absence of qualitative changes in the spectrum for the kinetic energy of the current as  $Re$  increases, make it possible to draw an inference concerning the stability of the Couette spherical current in a thick annulus relative to the steady-state axisymmetric disturbances in the  $Re$  interval considered. Taking into account the results of experiment [11], this conclusion can be generalized to the stability of the Couette spherical current in thick annuli relative to arbitrary disturbances when  $Re \leq 410$ .

3. In a thin annulus, only those steady-state axisymmetric current regimes are obtained numerically which were observed experimentally, i.e., the basic current and currents with two, four, six, and eight annular vortices. The regions of existence of the numerical solutions, as is clear from Figure 4, can be distinguished from the regions obtained experimentally. The prolongation of certain current regimes into the region of larger  $Re$  values can be explained by the fact that the conditions of axisymmetry and symmetry relative to the equator are imposed on the motions, and the current regimes observed in these regions are essentially non-axisymmetric and non-symmetric with respect to the equator. /24

4. The basic steady-state axisymmetric Couette current in a thin annulus exists up to the value  $Re = 1300$ , which is somewhat larger than the experimental value of the first critical Reynolds number  $Re = 1212 \pm 25$ , above which the basic current turns out to be unstable.

5. In the supercritical region, the numerical as well as the physical experiment gives a non-unique solution for the same  $Re$  values.

6. In a thin annulus, the spectral characteristics of the velocity components disclose the following features of the secondary currents: a large part of the energy of differential rotation during supercritical regimes is contained in maximum scale motions

(the wave numbers  $l \approx 2 - 4$ ), and the energy of the meridional motions have two approximately equivalued maxima for  $l \approx 2$  and  $l \approx 40$ , i.e., large-scale and small-scale motions which are equally justified from the standpoint of energy. It is interesting to note that as  $Re$  increases within the very same regime, the predominant scale of the small-scale part of the periodic motions increases, i.e., the wave number  $l$  decreases.

Thus, numerical modeling of the nonlinear Couette spherical current and the secondary currents which emerge for the supercritical values of  $Re$  produced results which are in good agreement with experiment. As a supplement to a physical experiment, the calculations make it possible to determine the total kinetic energy of currents, its spectral distribution, to study the fine structure of currents, and in disputed cases to resolve the question of the stability of currents.

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#### APPENDIX

In the calculations, the time-related quantities for the  $(n + 1)^{st}$  annulus were obtained after completion of the calculations for the  $n^{th}$  annulus. At this time there were files for the quantities  $U_e^n(k)$ ,  $V_e^n(k)$ ,  $W_e^n(k)$  in the storage of the computer by means of which, with the aid of formula (2.3), the values

$u_e^n(k, \theta_j)$ ,  $\frac{\partial u_e^n(k, \theta_j)}{\partial \theta}$ ,  $u_\theta^n(k, \theta_j)$ , etc., were calculated. By

means of these quantities, the nonlinear terms  $F_i^n(k, \theta_j, t)$ ,

$i = 1, 2, 3$  were computed. To reduce the time to calculation  $F_i^n$ ,

at the beginning before undertaking the problem, three matrices were calculated and the results stored in the memory of the computer. The

elements  $a_{jl}$  of these matrices are (in the generally accepted notation):

$$P_e^0(\cos \theta_j), \quad e=0, 2, \dots, L-1; \quad j=0, 1, \dots, \frac{L-1}{2};$$

$$P_e^1(\cos \theta_j), \quad e=2, \dots, L-1; \quad j=1, \dots, \frac{L-1}{2}; \quad (A.1)$$

$$P_e^1(\cos \theta_j), \quad e=1, \dots, L-2; \quad j=1, \dots, \frac{L-1}{2}.$$

To calculate the values of  $\Phi_{i,e}^n(k)$ , (with respect to  $F_i^n(k, \theta_j)$ ) the inverse of the matrices (a.1) were stored in the computer.

After calculating the values of  $\Phi_{i,e}^n(k)$ , the difference equations (2.8) and (2.9) were solved. Here,  $U_e, V_e, P_e$  are found from equations 1, 2 and 4 with the help of a matrix trial run, and  $W_e$  is obtained with the aid of the usual run. (We draw attention to the fact that no difficulties are encountered here because of the absence of boundary conditions for  $p$ .) /26

The major part of machine time was spent in calculating  $F_i$  and  $\Phi_{i,e}$ .

Choice of the function  $f$  is quite arbitrary. We assume:

$$f = z^3 + bz^2 + cz + d$$

$$b = -1.5(2+\delta)$$

$$c = \delta + b^2/3; \quad d = -(b+c)$$

The computed points  $z(k)$  on the boundaries  $z = I$  and  $z = I + \delta$  were thicker here than in the center of the annulus. In calculations relative to  $\delta = 1.33$ , the number of points along the radius  $\mathcal{K} = 20$ , and in calculations for  $\delta = 0, II$ , we assumed  $\mathcal{K} = 10$ .

The calculations for  $\delta = 1.33$  were carried out with the values of the calculated parameter  $\tau = 0.6$ ; when  $\delta = 0.11$ , it was assumed that  $\tau = 0.2$ .

The time to determine the solution depended on the initial data and the value of  $Re$ . Here near the critical values of  $Re$ , at which the current of the given regime lost stability, the time to obtain the solution increased. Thus, e.g., when  $Re = 1750$  with initial values corresponding to  $Re = 1800$ , the fourth sign for torque  $M$  was determined after 400 steps with respect to  $t$ , and for  $Re = 1700$  and initial values corresponding to  $Re = 1750$ , 1200 steps were required.

Since we are interested in cases in which the solution of the steady-state equations is not unique, we devoted special attention to the extent to which these equations are effectively satisfied. Let us consider the following figures: when  $Re = 1250$  in the first of the equations,  $\frac{\partial u_z}{\partial z} = -0,11175871 \times 10^{-6}$ ; here the contribution of the energy terms = 0.90864956; that of the viscosity terms = -0.0046423005, and of the pressure gradient = -0.086222768.

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The processing and development of the results were carried out according to separate programs. Since the solutions are presented in the form of interpolational sums, we were able to calculate the values of the desired functions at any point  $\theta$ , which made it possible to obtain a detailed picture of the current in the equatorial region (Figure 7 - 9).

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\* Translators Note: MzhG = Izvestiya Akademii Nauk SSSR, Mekhanika Zhidkosti i Gaza

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CAPTIONS TO THE FIGURES

- Figure 1. Flow functions of the meridional current and the lines of constant angular velocity in the annulus  $\delta = 1.33$ ,  $Re = 200$  /30
- Figure 2. The curve of the torque  $\hat{M}(Re)$  for the annulus  $\delta = 1.33$ . Experiment and theory  $\hat{M} = M_0 / \delta^2 \pi \nu^3 \Omega_1 \mu$ .
- Figure 3. The curve of the kinetic energy  $E(Re)$  for the annulus  $\delta = 1.33$
- Figure 4. Existence diagram for various regimes of currents (a) and the wave length of a vortex near the equator as a function of the number  $Re$  (B) in the thin annulus  $\delta = 0.11$
- Figure 5. The spectrum  $U_\theta(\lambda)$  for various  $L$  when  $Re = 1300$  in the annulus  $\delta = 0.11$
- Figure 6. The spectrum  $U_\theta(\lambda)$  for various  $L$  when  $Re = 1500$  in the annulus  $\delta = 0.11$
- Figure 7. The current functions  $\psi \cdot 10^2$  and the lines of constant angular velocity in the annulus  $\delta = 0.11$
- a)  $Re = 1600$  regime 2,
  - b)  $Re = 1600$  regime 3,
  - c)  $Re = 1270$  regime 1
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- a) regime 2,
  - b) regime 3,
  - c) regime 4
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- a) regime 2,
  - b) regime 3,
  - c) regime 4
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- Figure 21. The spectra of the kinetic energy of the currents in the thin annulus  $\delta = 0.11$
- Figure 22. a)  $Re = 1270$  region 0  
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 c)  $Re = 1600$  regime 2  
 d)  $Re = 1600$  regime 3
- Figure 22. The same as Figure 21  
 a)  $Re = 1900$  regime 2  
 b)  $Re = 1900$  regime 3  
 c)  $Re = 1900$  regime 4  
 d)  $Re = 2200$  regime 2  
 e)  $Re = 2200$  regime 3  
 f)  $Re = 2200$  regime 4
- Figure 23. The kinetic energy  $E$  and the torque  $M$  as functions of  $Re$  in the thin annulus  $\delta=0.11$



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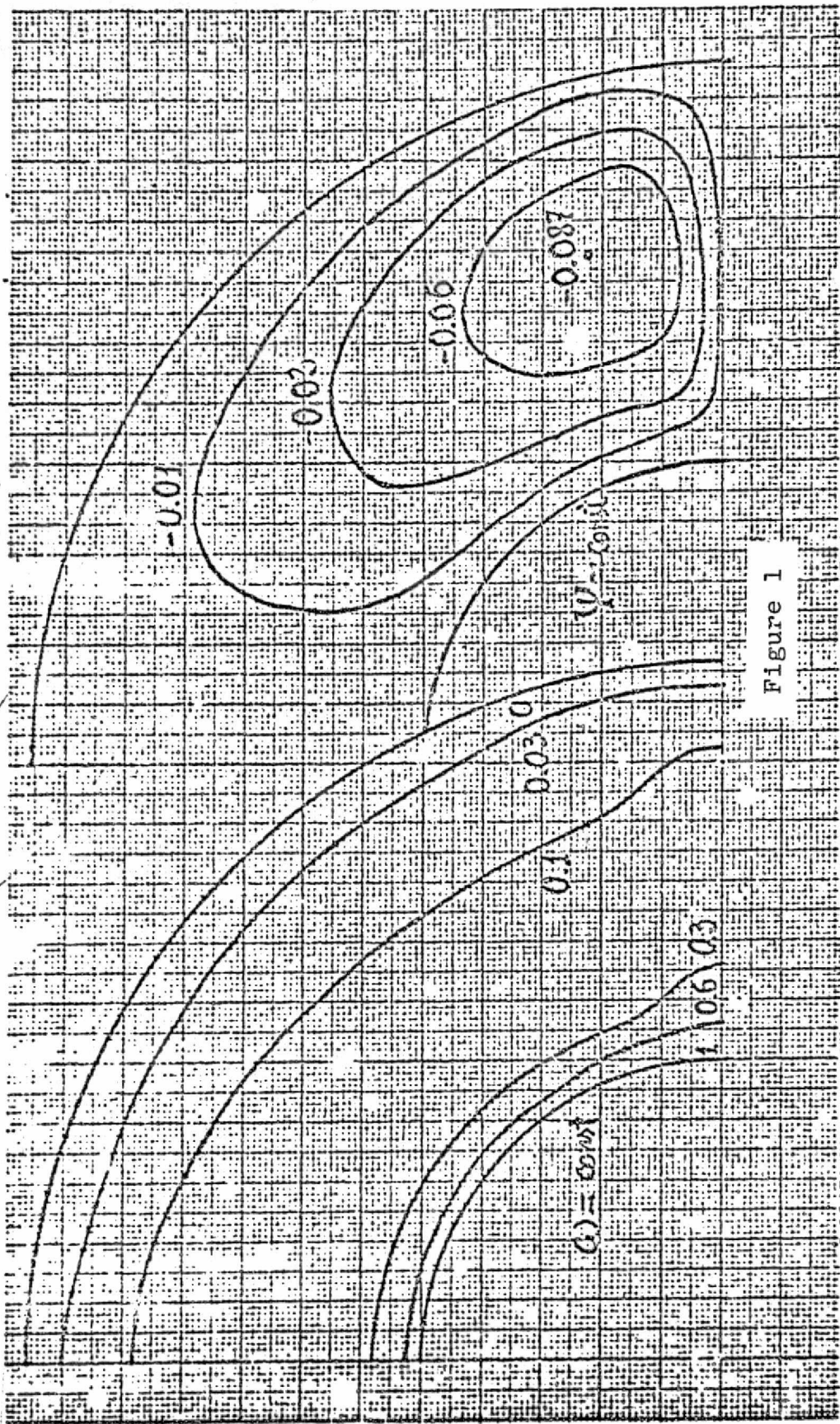


Figure 1

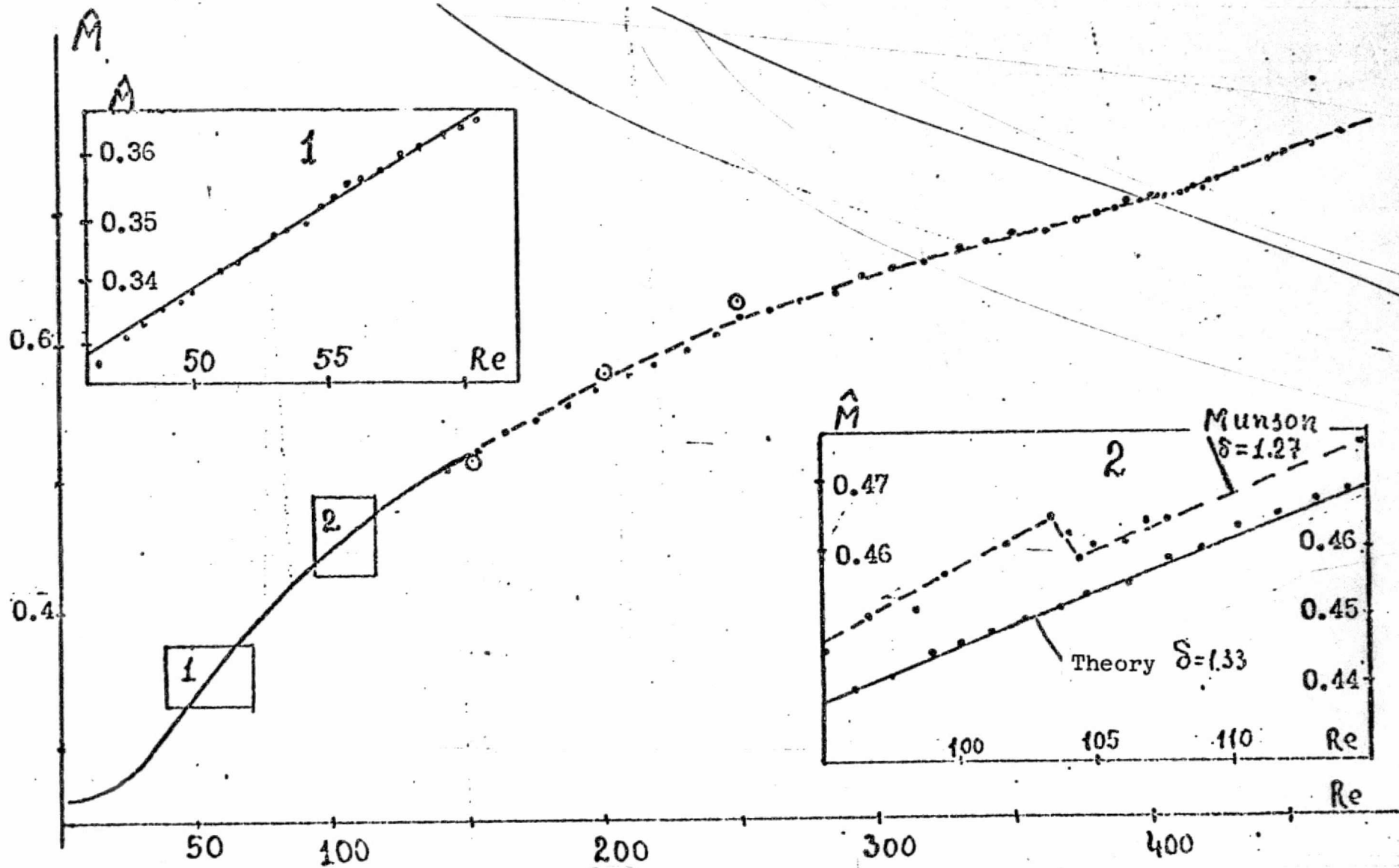


Figure 2

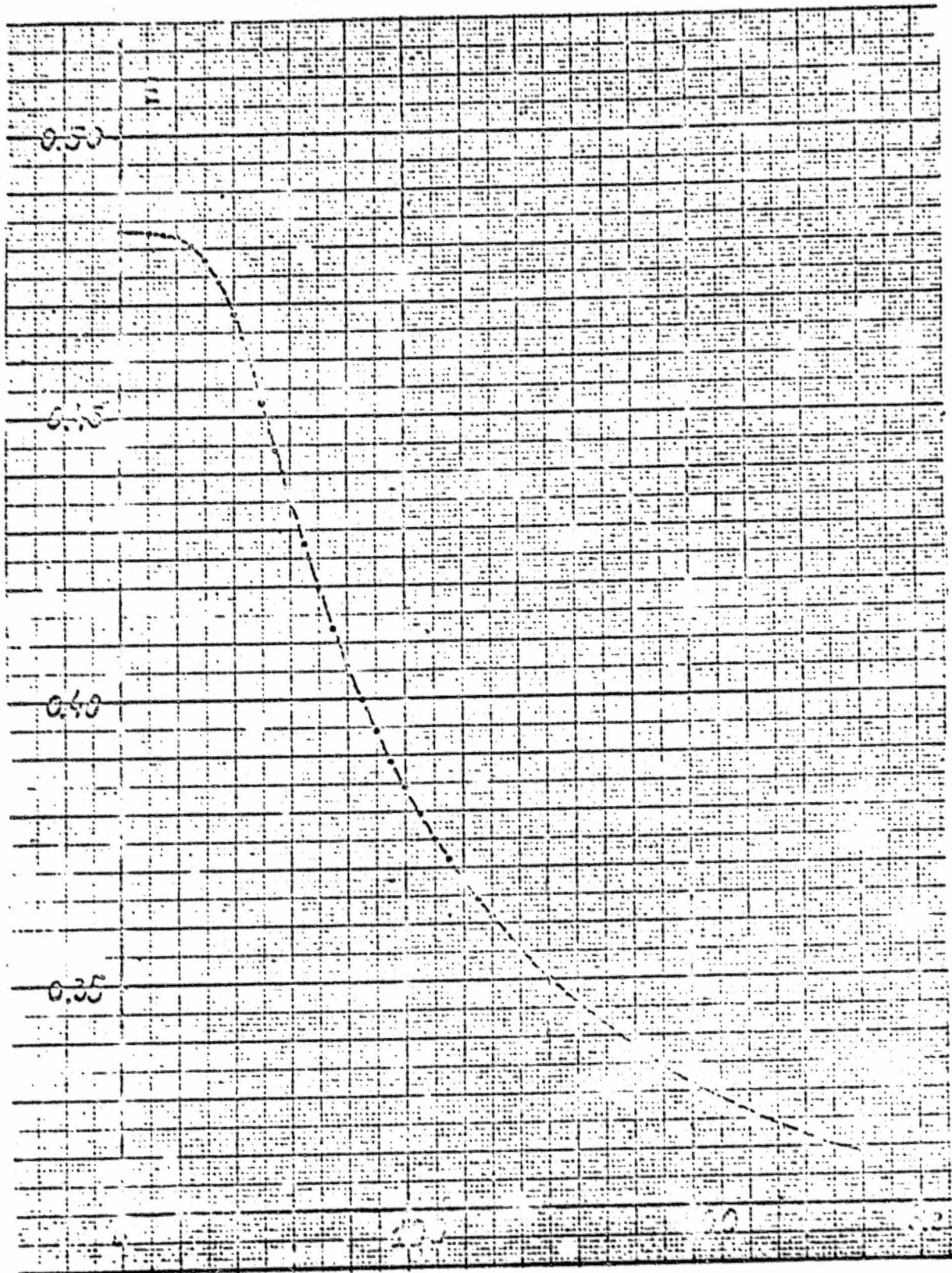


Figure 3

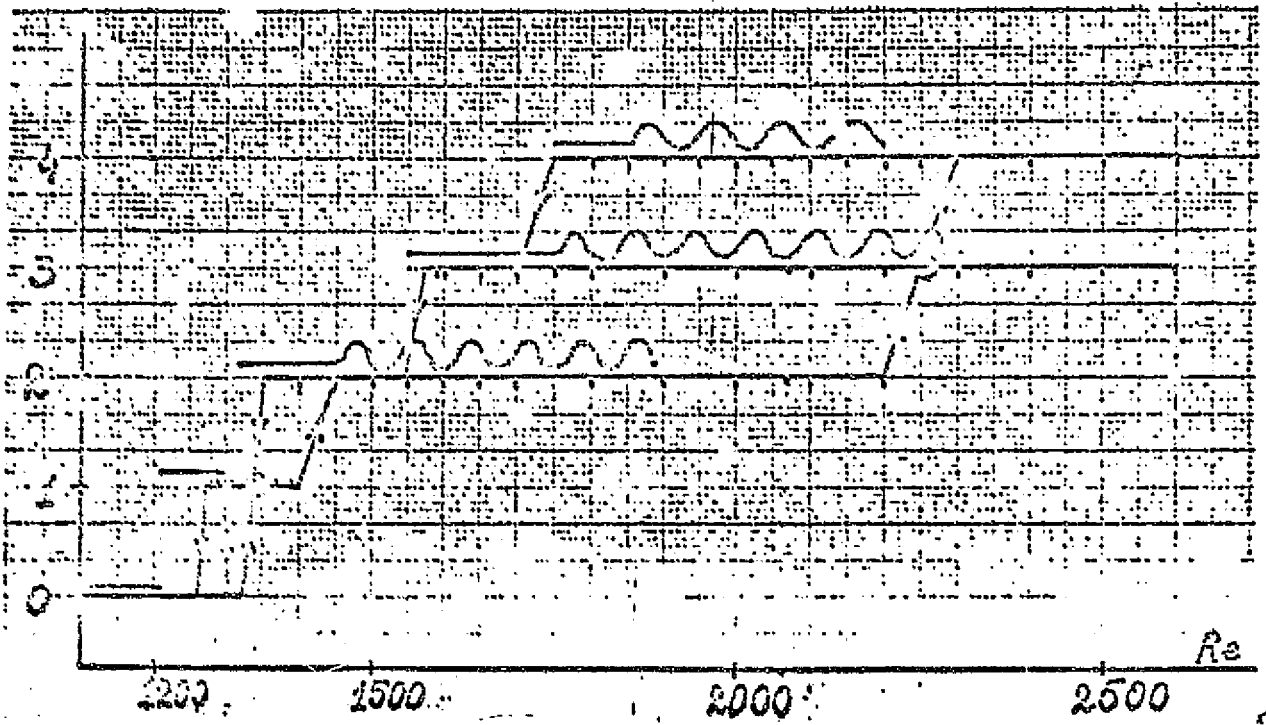


Figure 4a

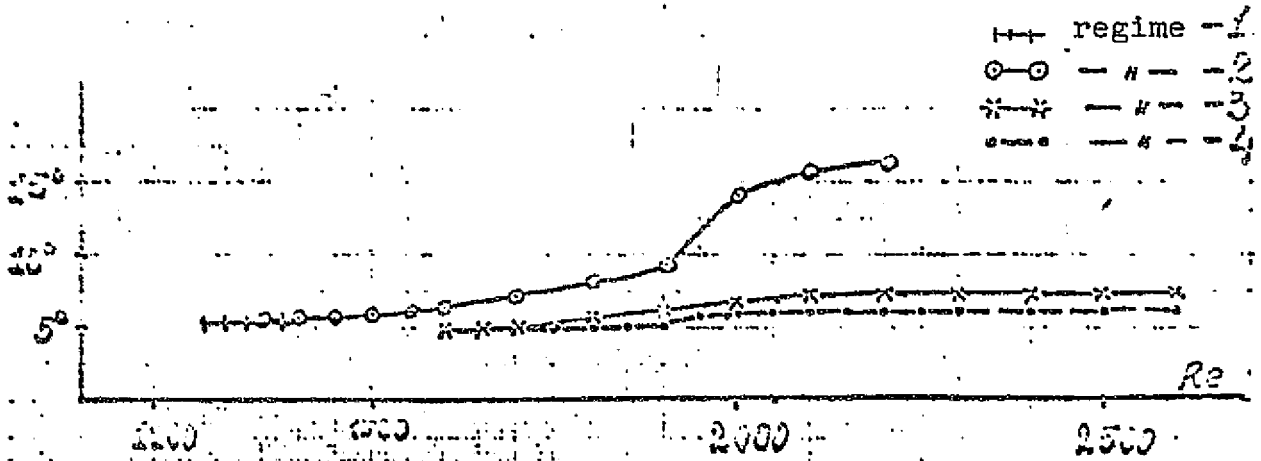


Figure 4b

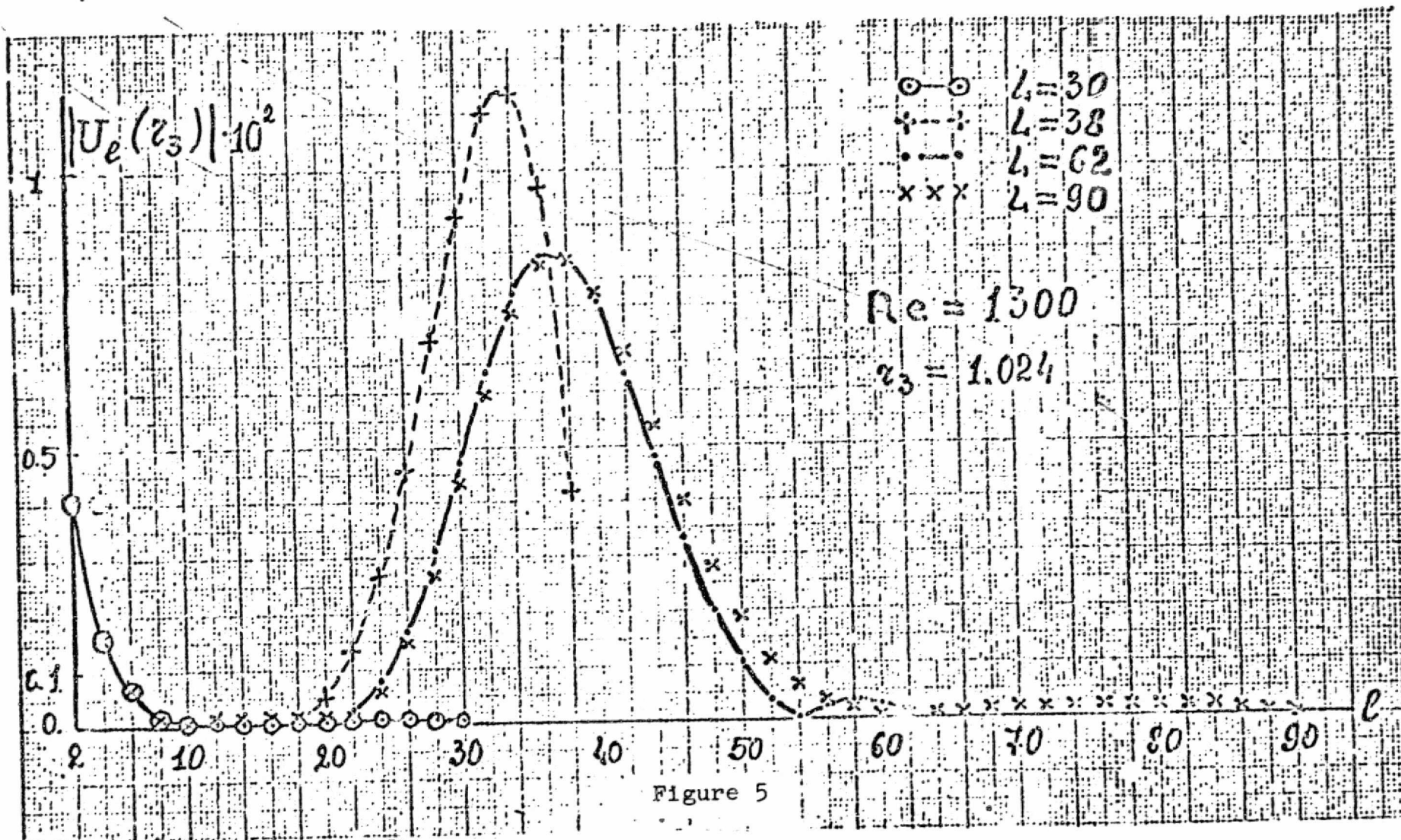
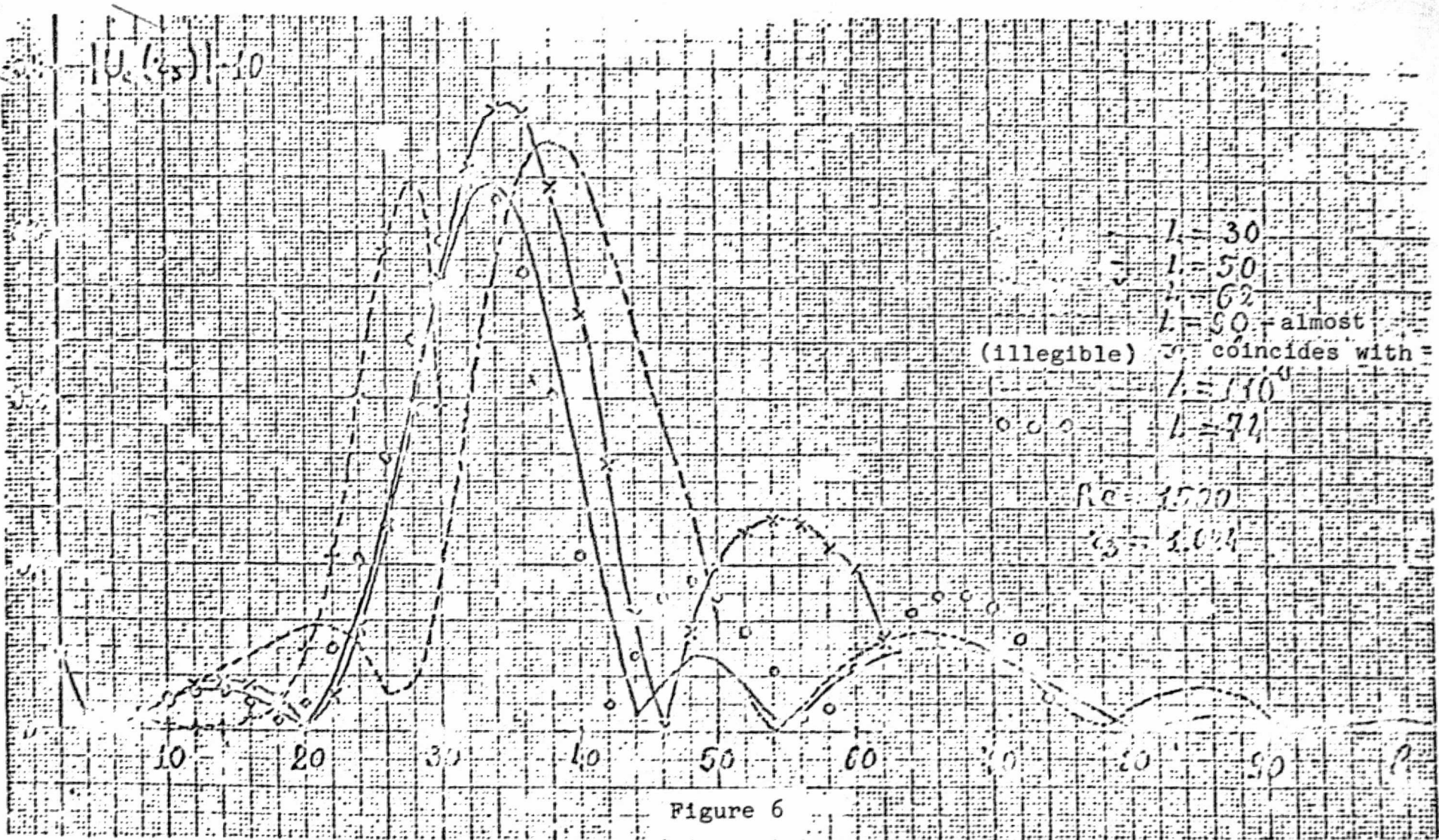


Figure 5



Re=1000

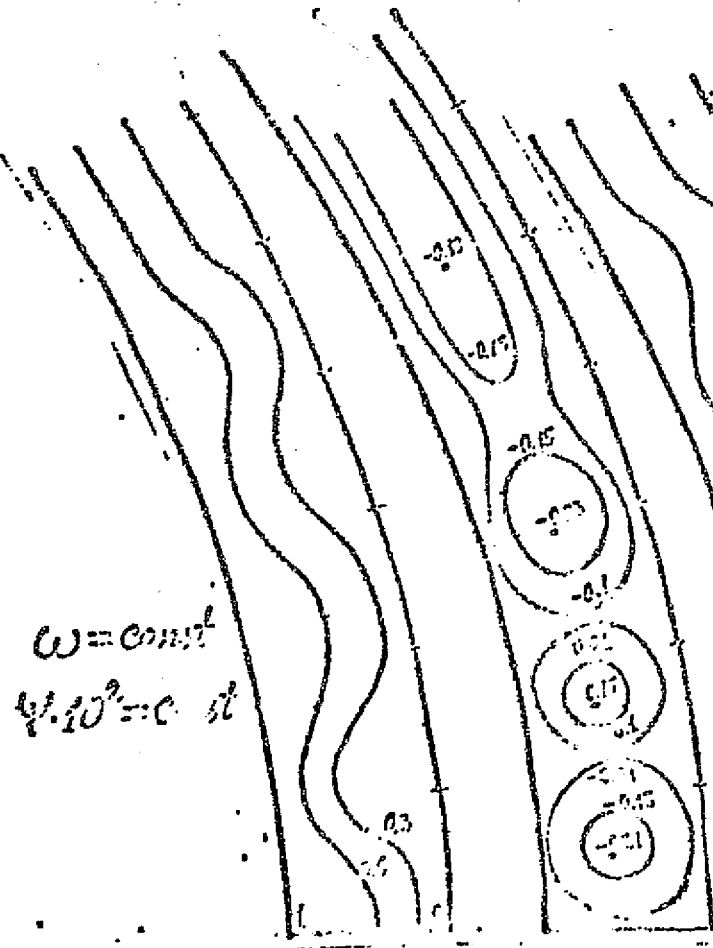


Figure 7a

Re=1600

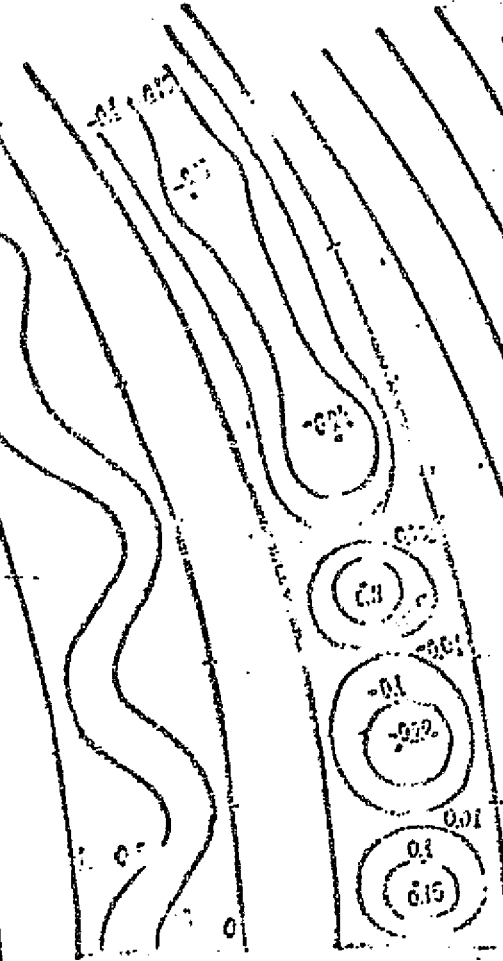


Figure 7b

Re=3370

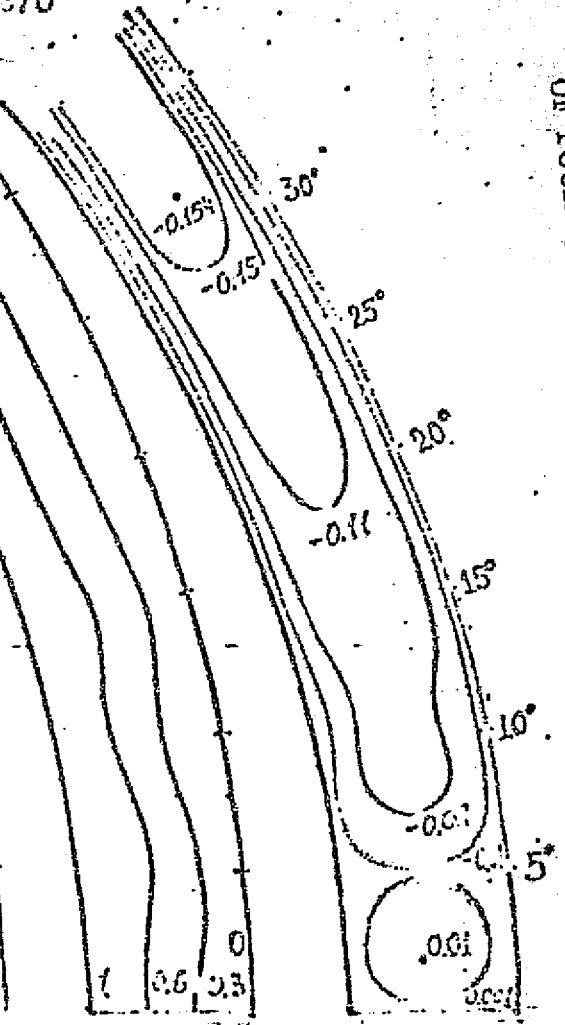
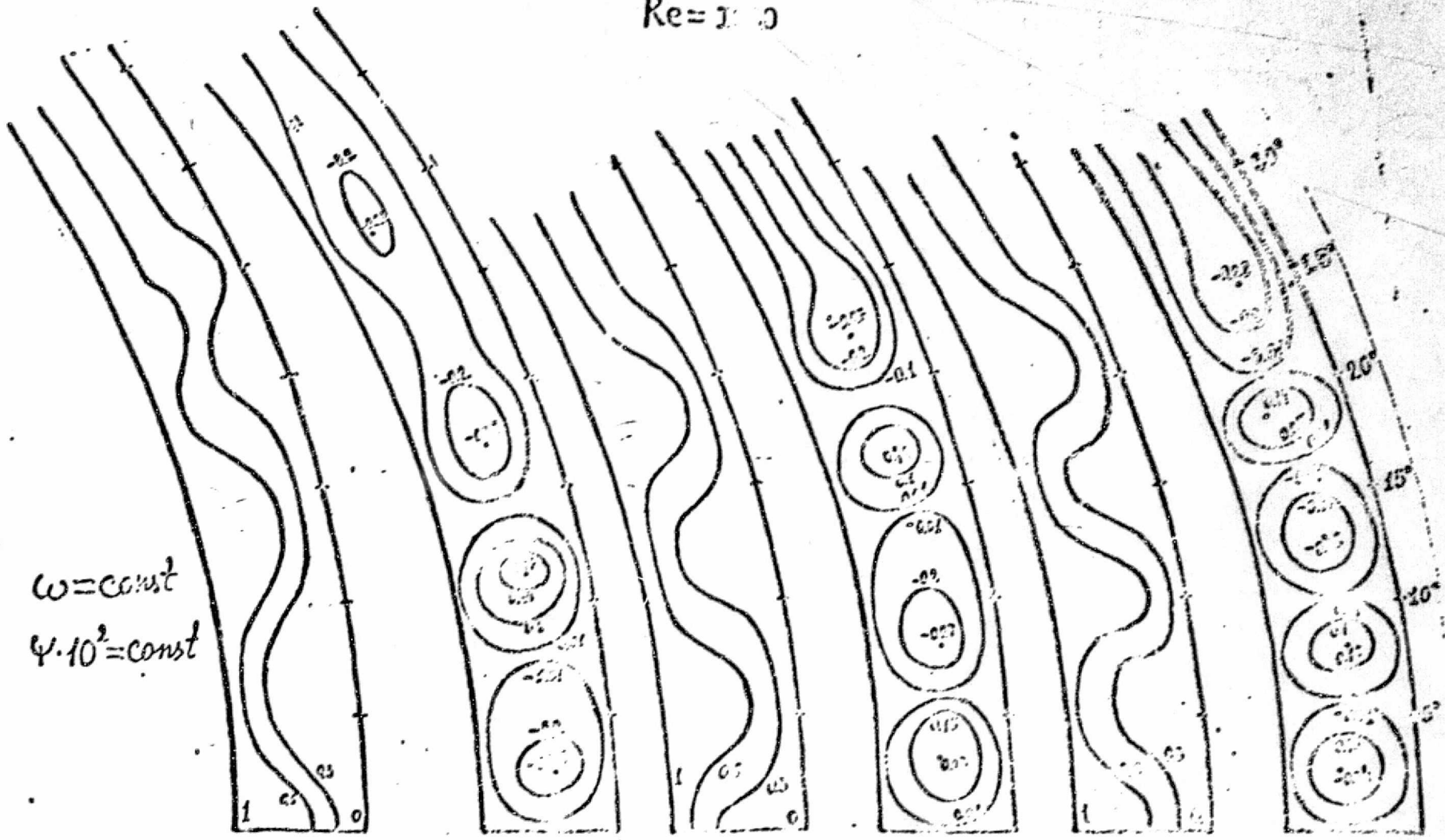


Figure 7c

Re = 100



$\omega = \text{const}$   
 $\psi \cdot 10^2 = \text{const}$

Figure 8a

Figure 8b

Figure 8c



Re = 2200



Figure 9a

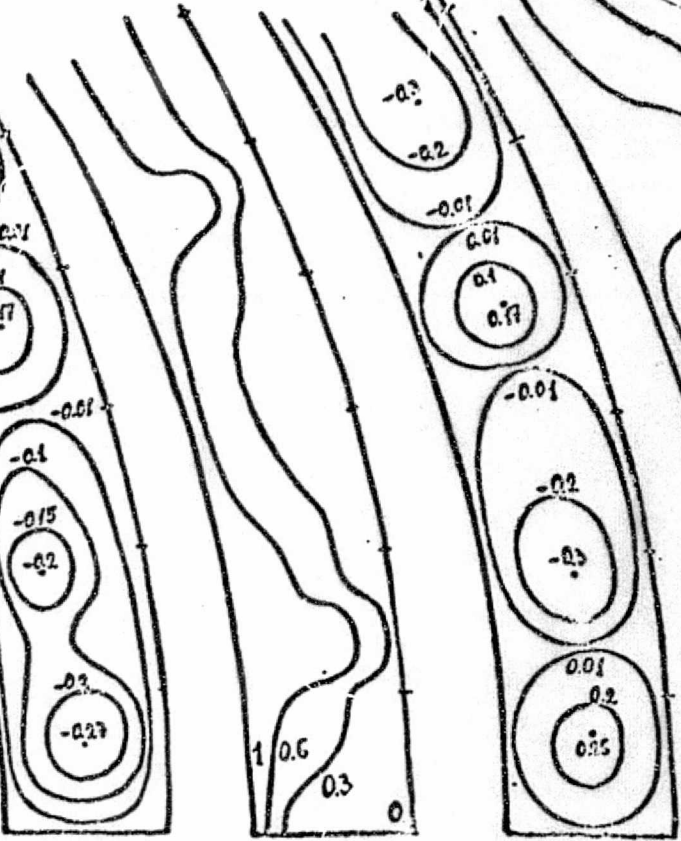


Figure 9b

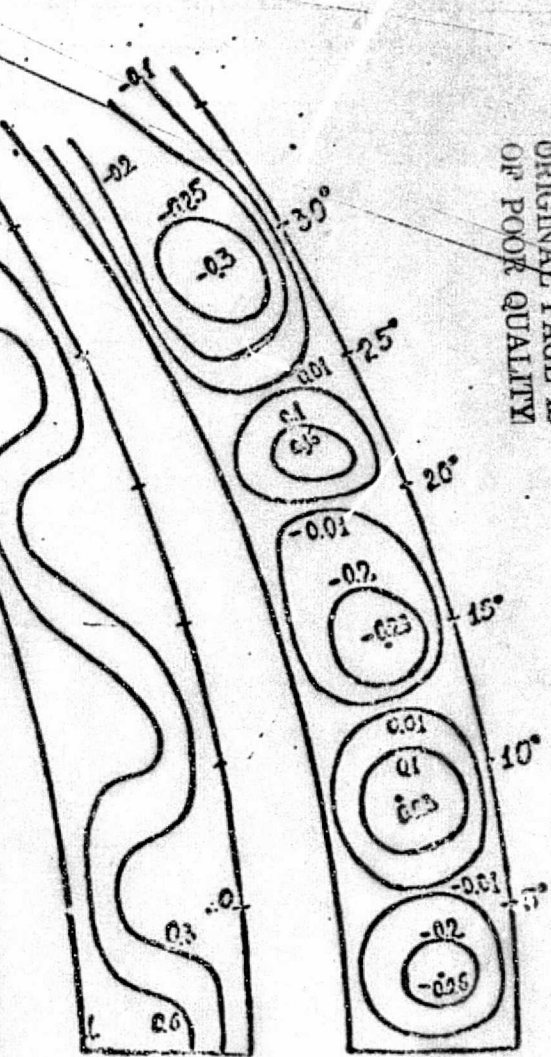
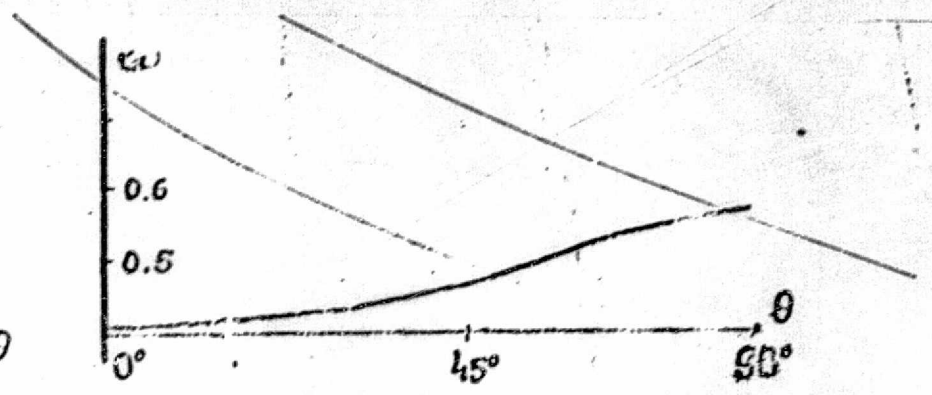
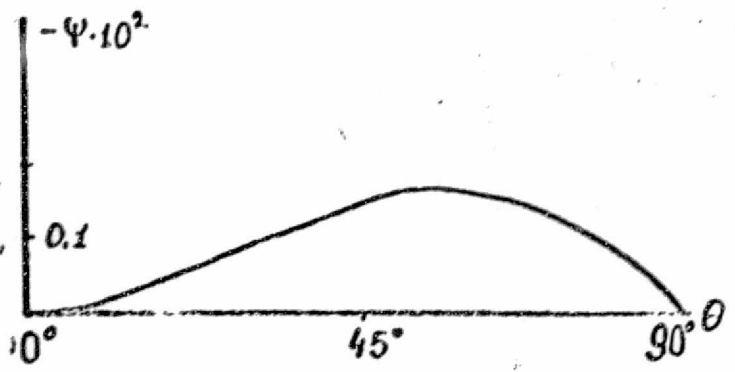


Figure 9c

$\omega = \text{const}$   
 $\psi \cdot 10^2 = \text{const}$

ORIGINAL PAGE IS  
OF POOR QUALITY



Re = 1270.

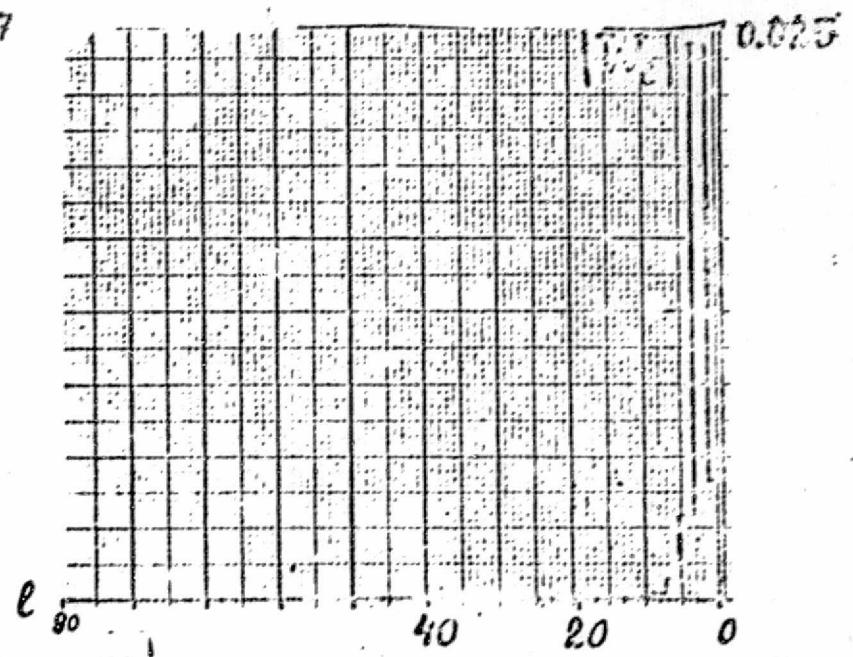
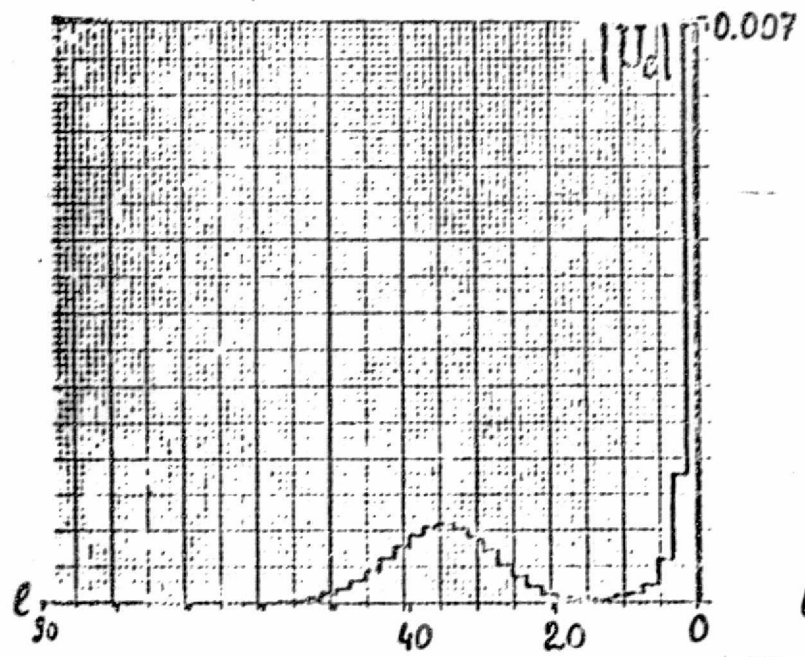
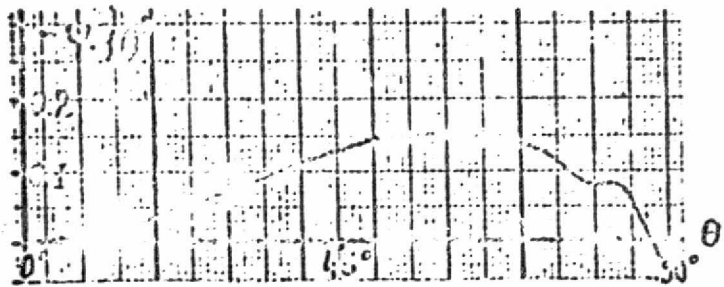
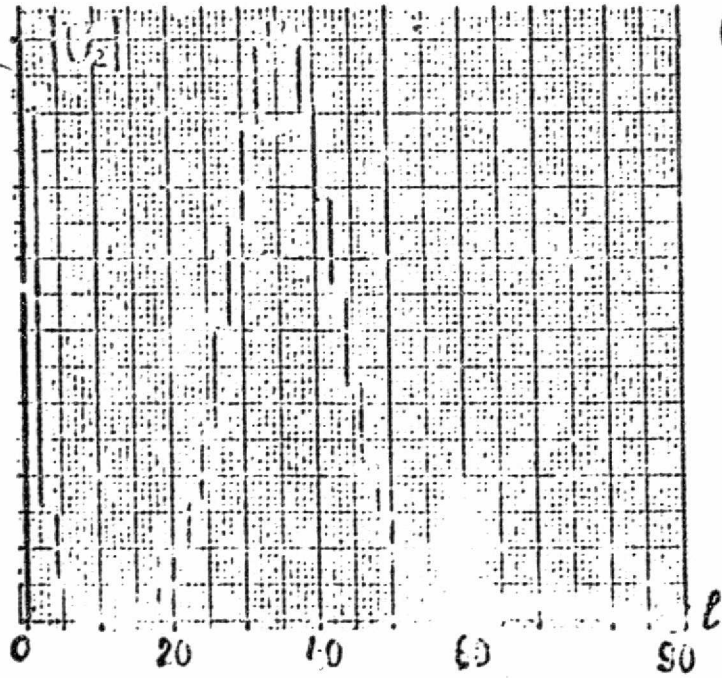


Figure 10



Re = 1270

0.003



0.024

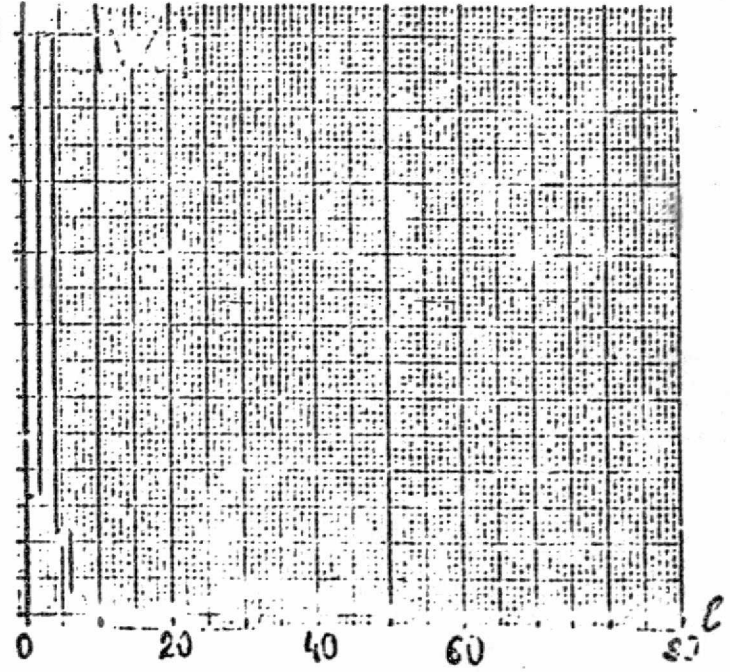
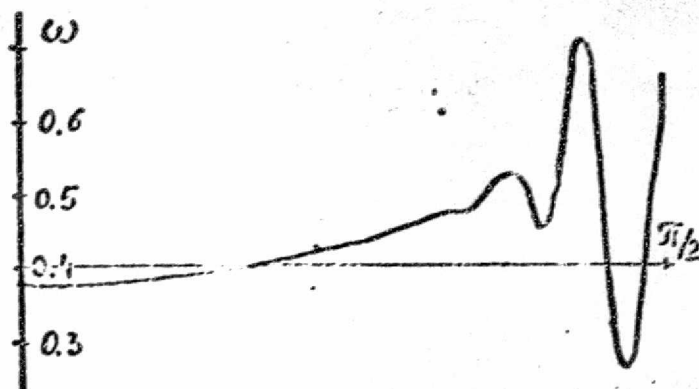
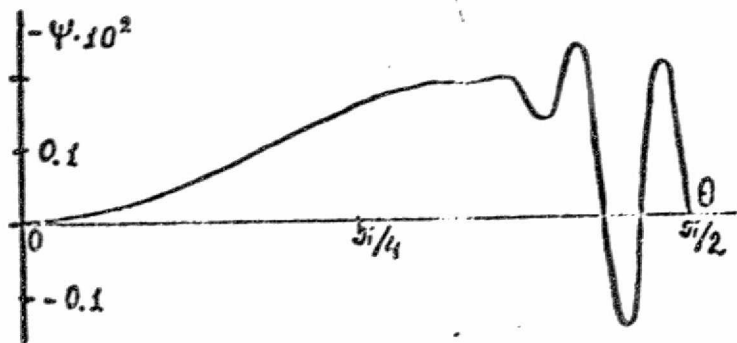


Figure 11

ORIGINAL PAGE IS OF POOR QUALITY



Re=1000.

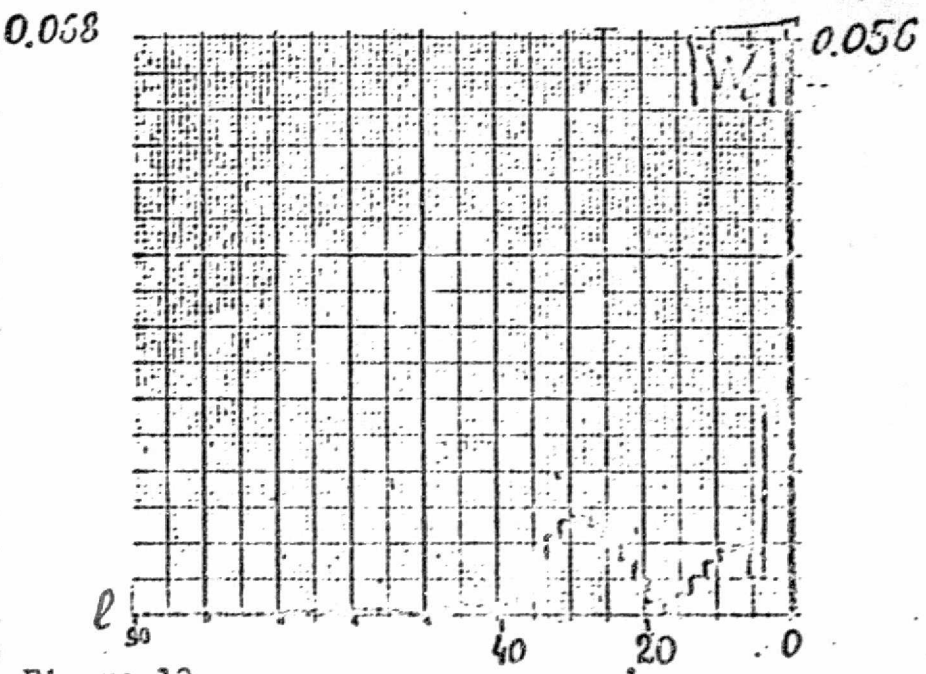
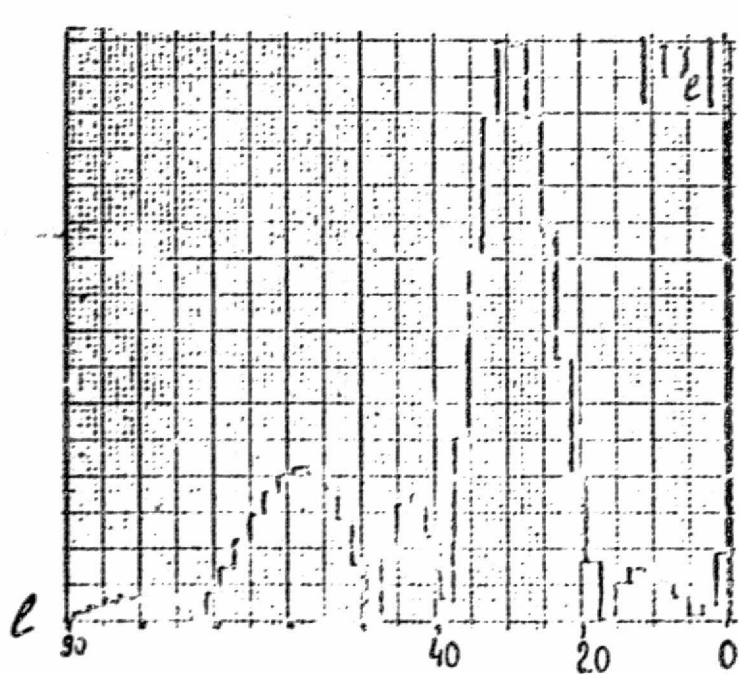
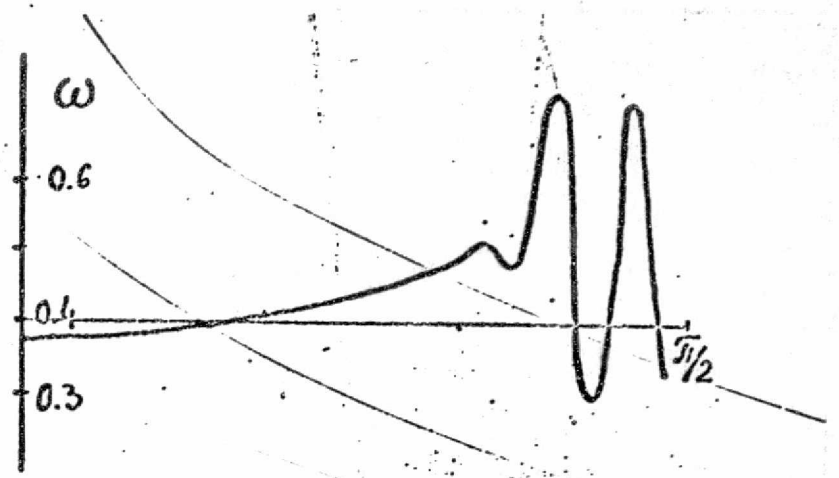
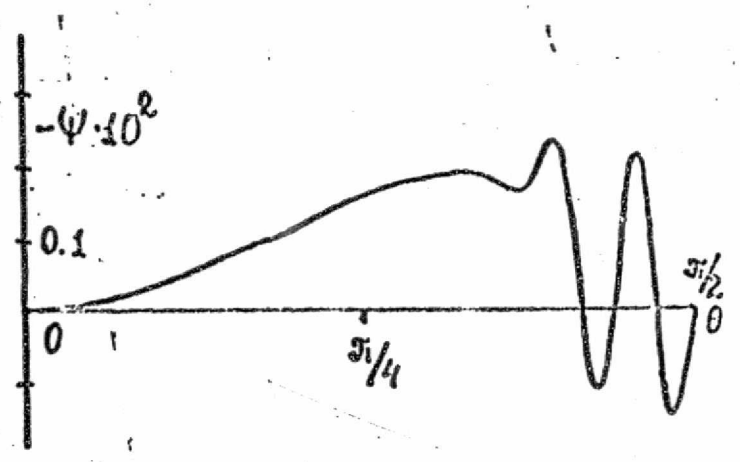


Figure 12

07



Re=1600

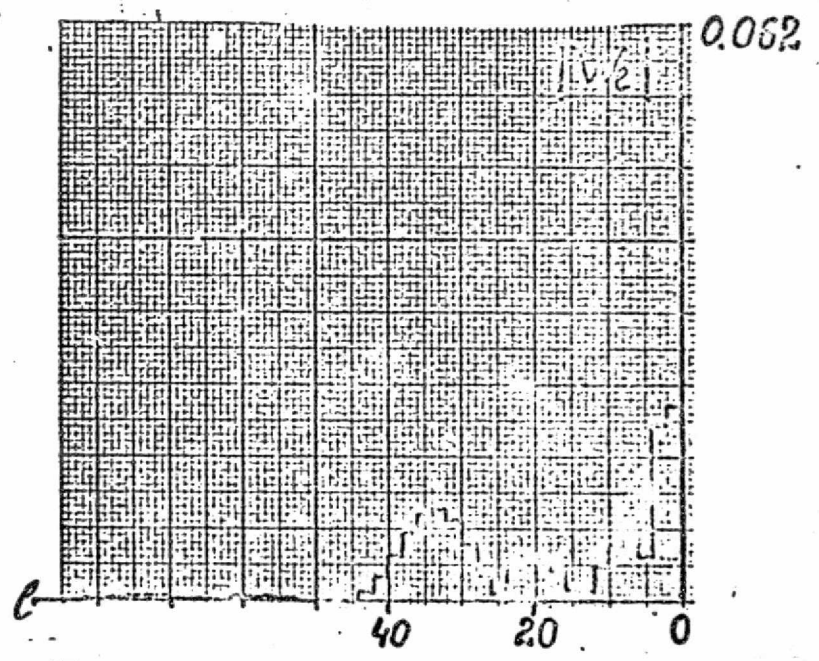
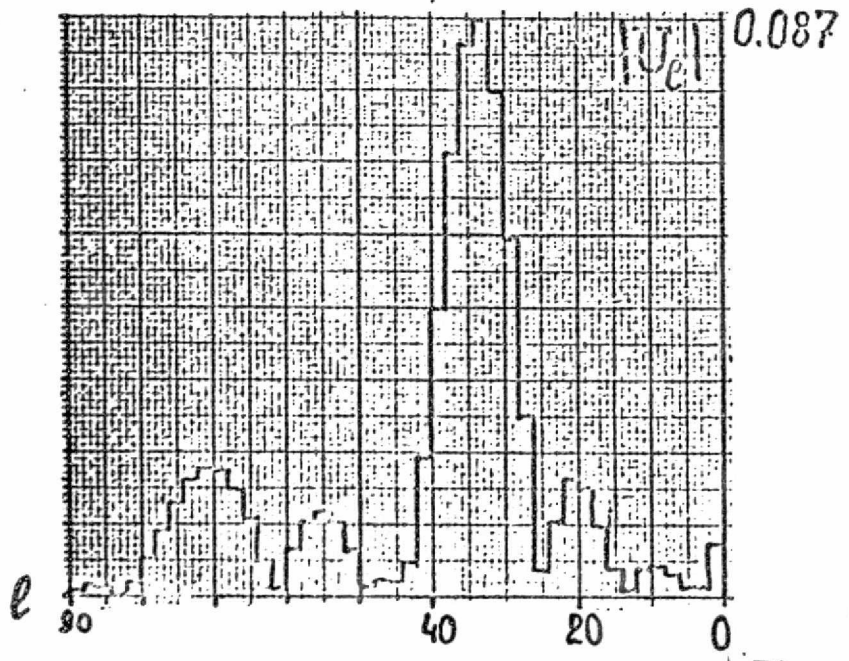
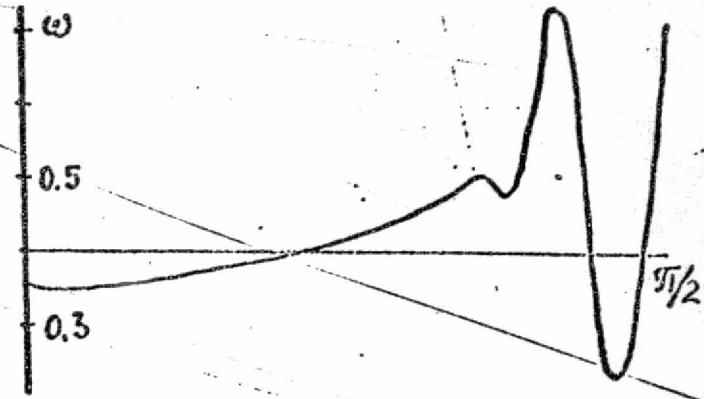
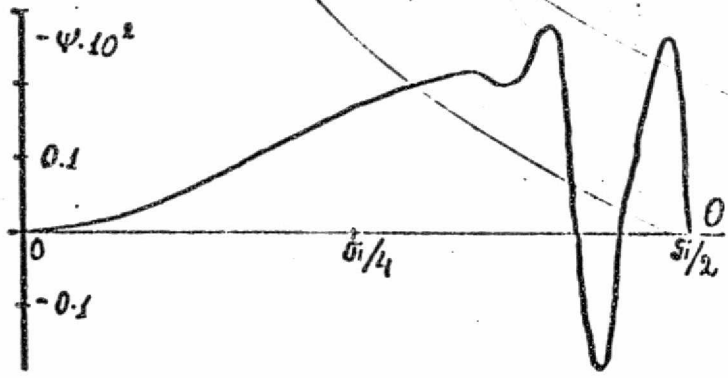
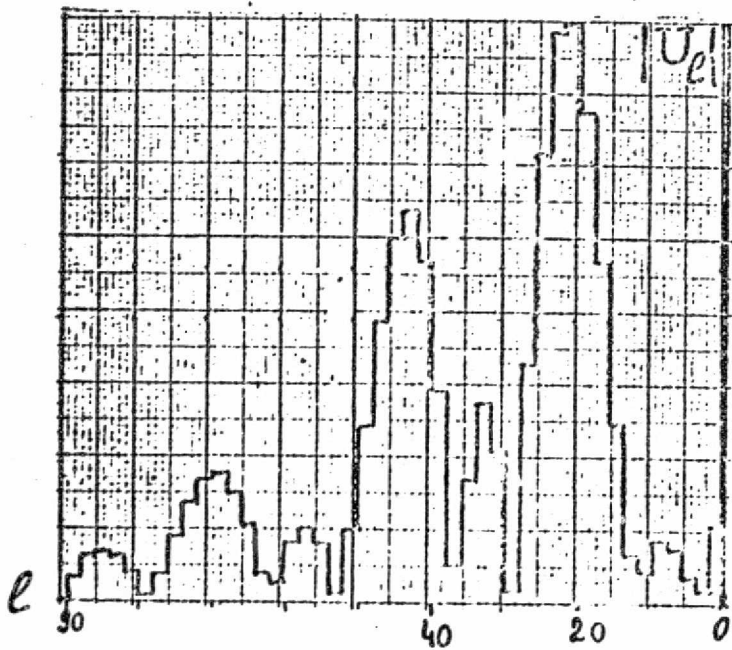


Figure 13

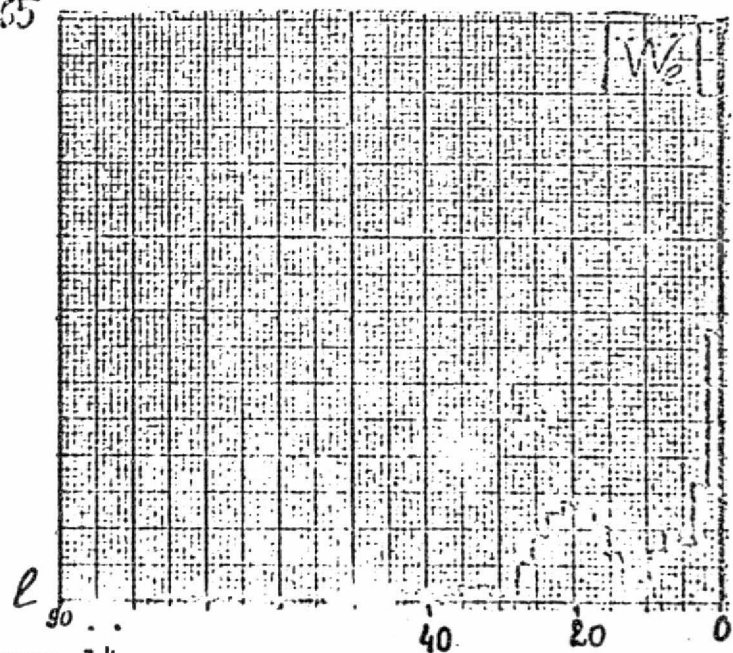
ORIGINAL PAGE IS OF POOR QUALITY



Re=1900

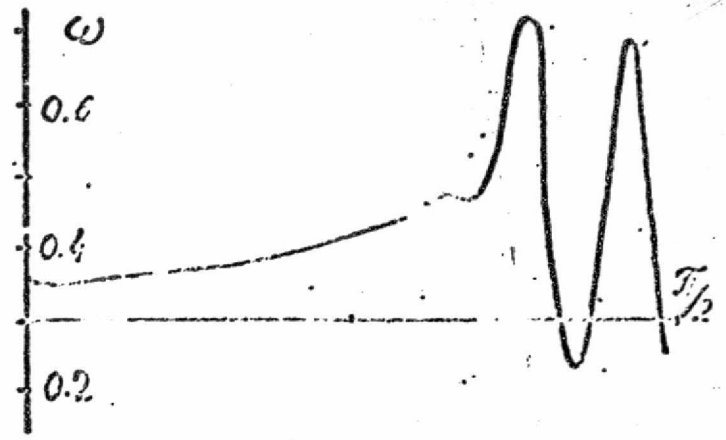
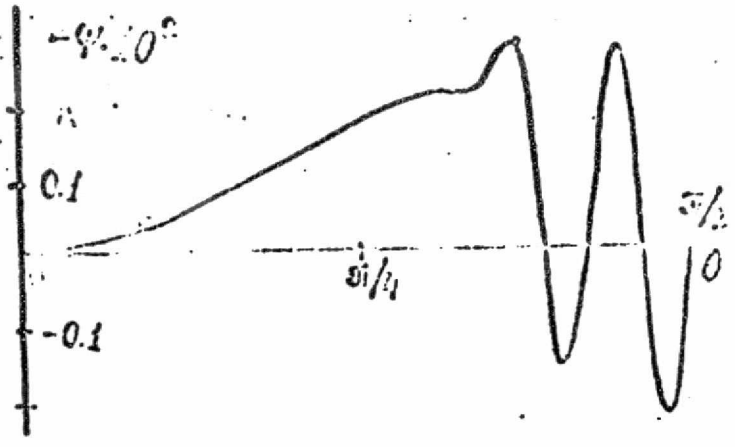


0.055



0.087

Figure 14



Re = 1900

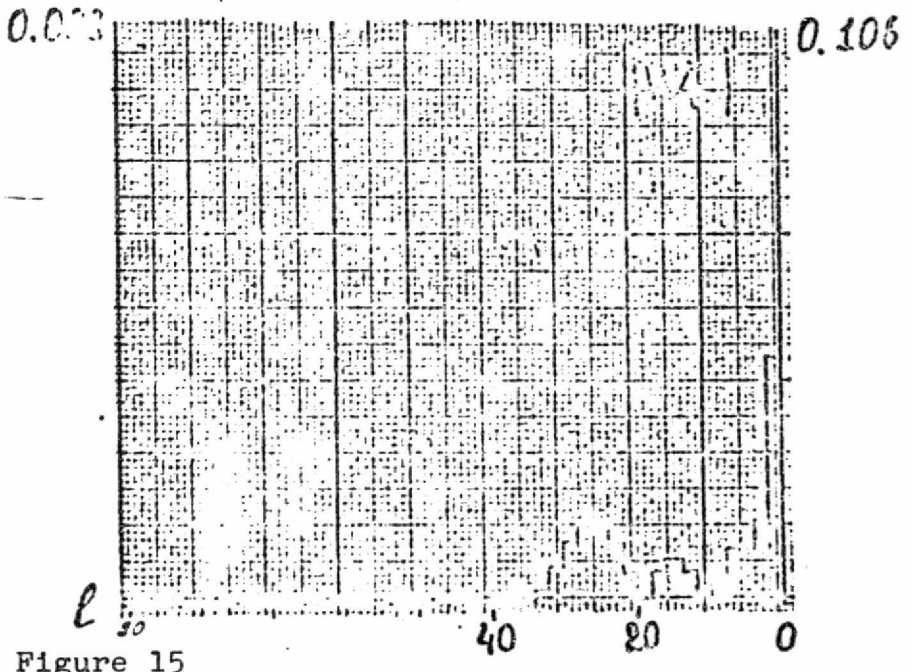
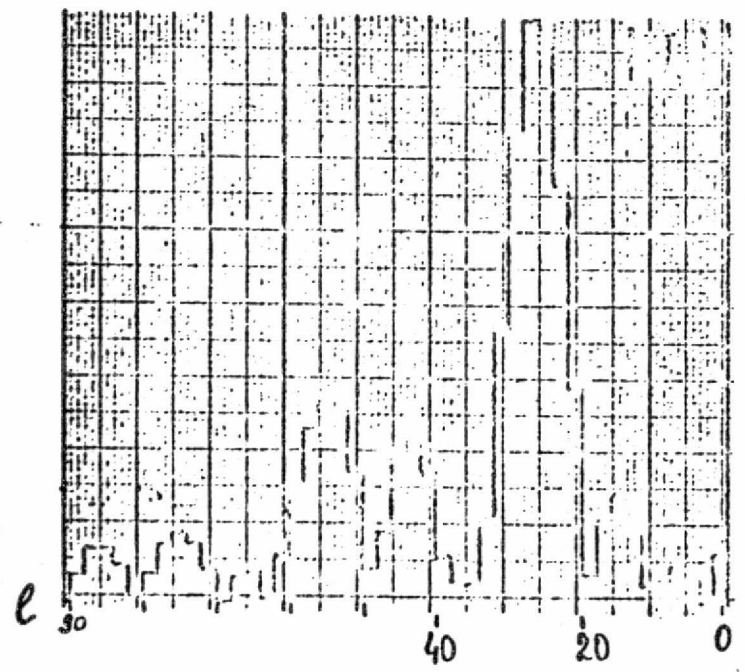
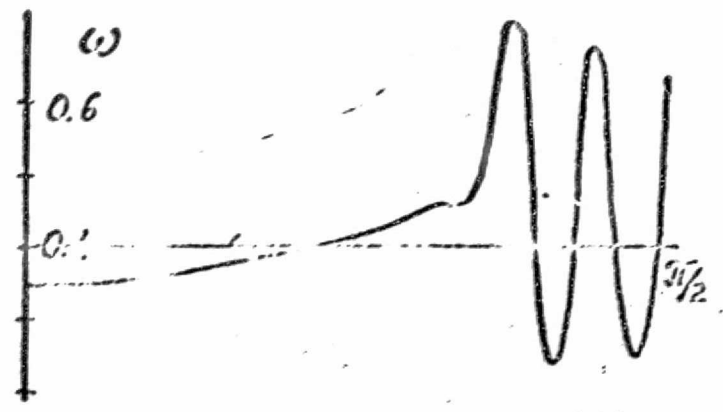
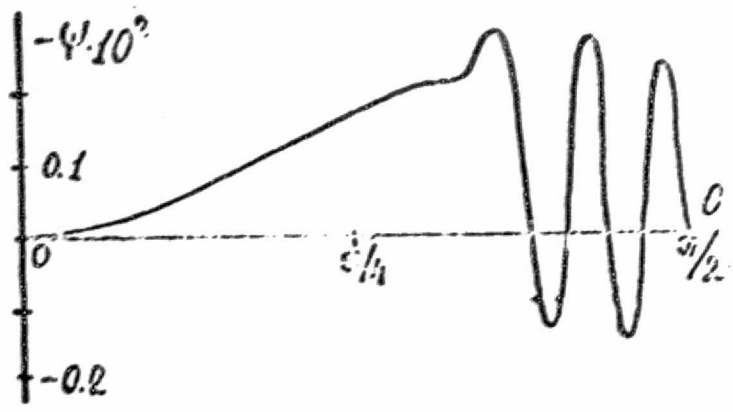


Figure 15



Re = 1900

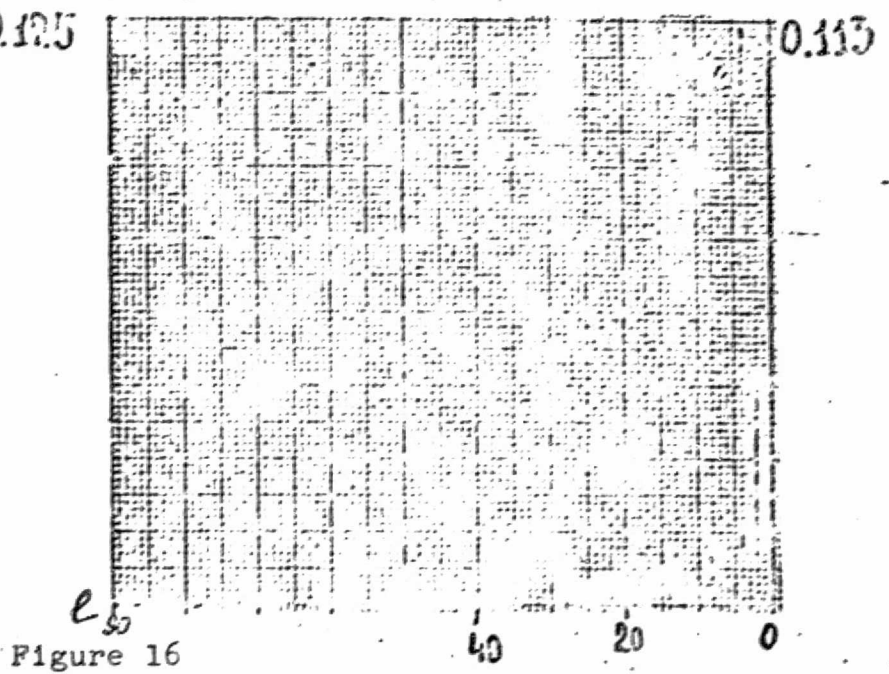
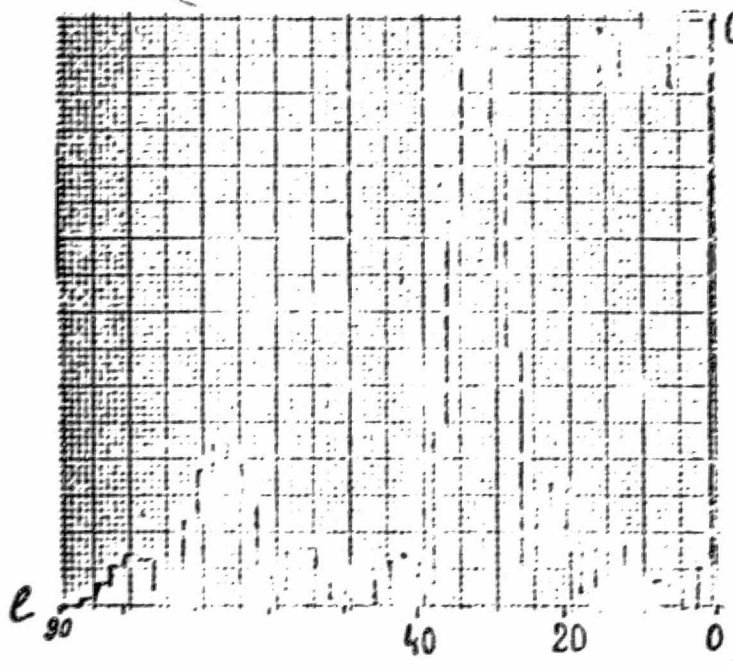


Figure 16



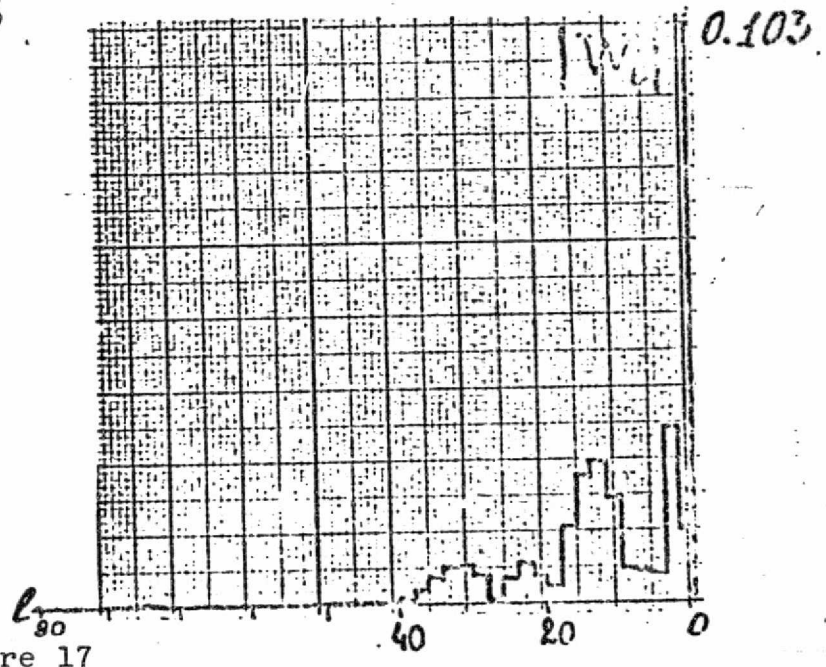
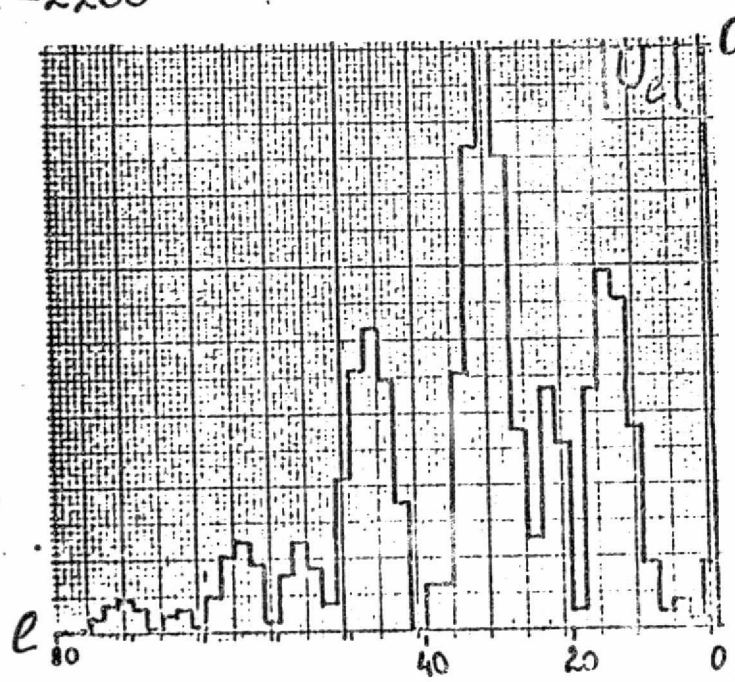
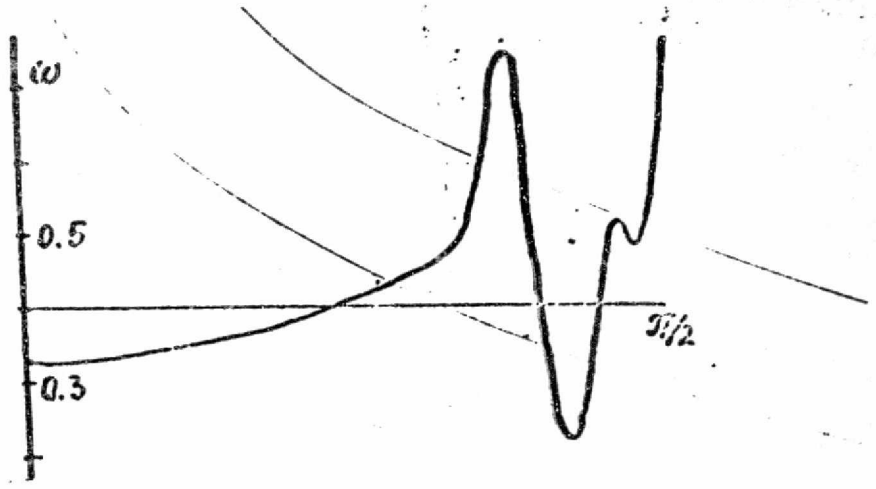
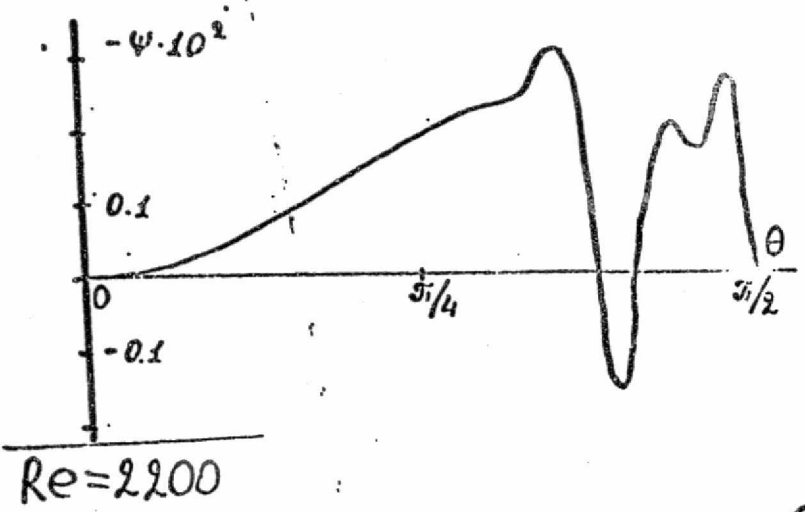
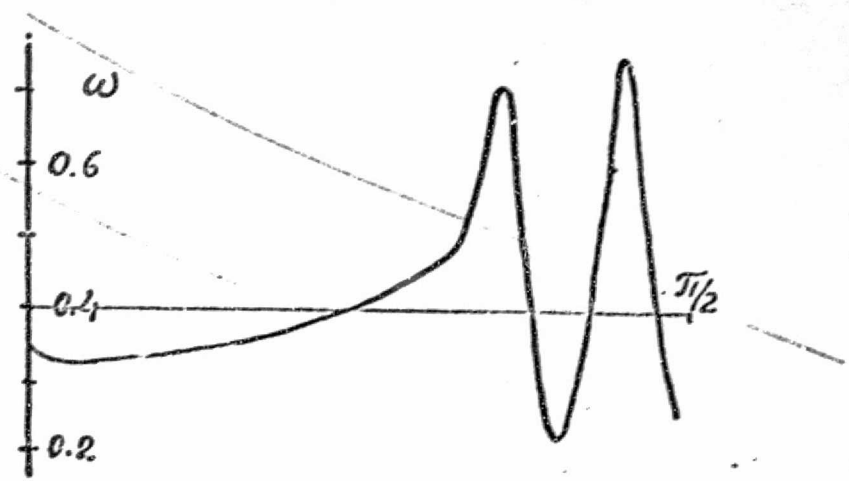
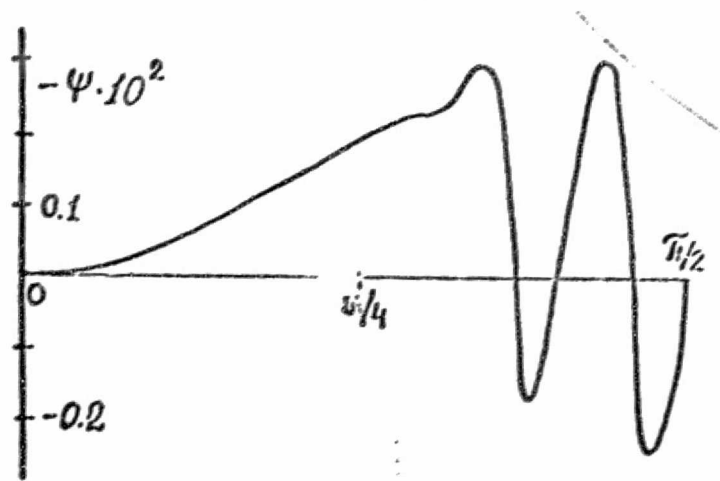


Figure 17



Re = 2200

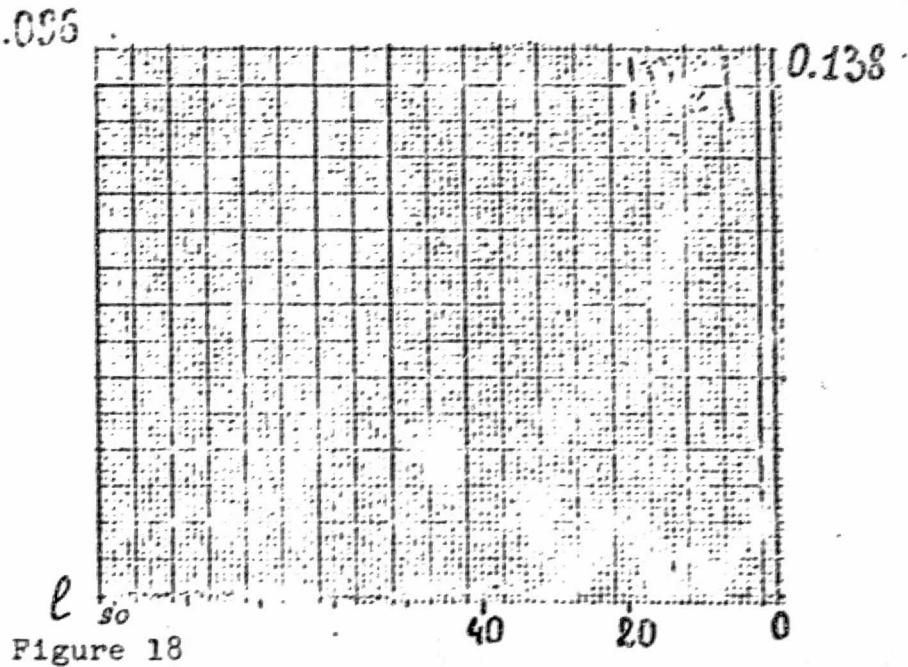
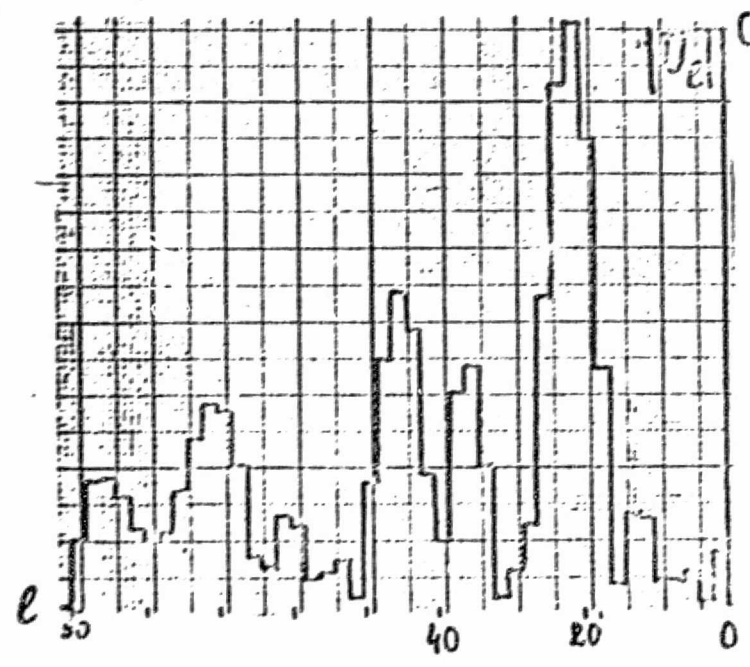
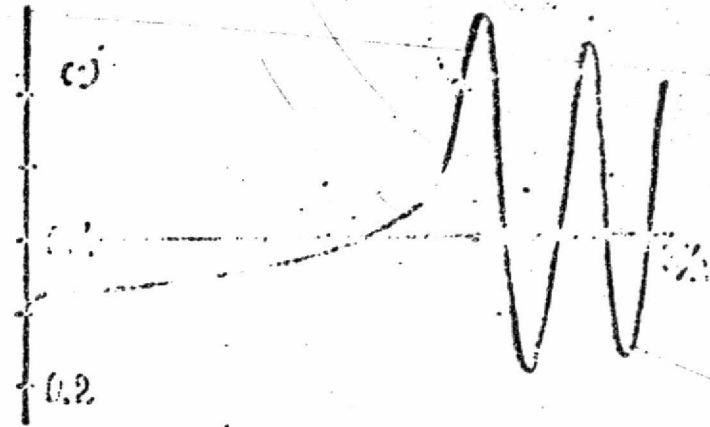
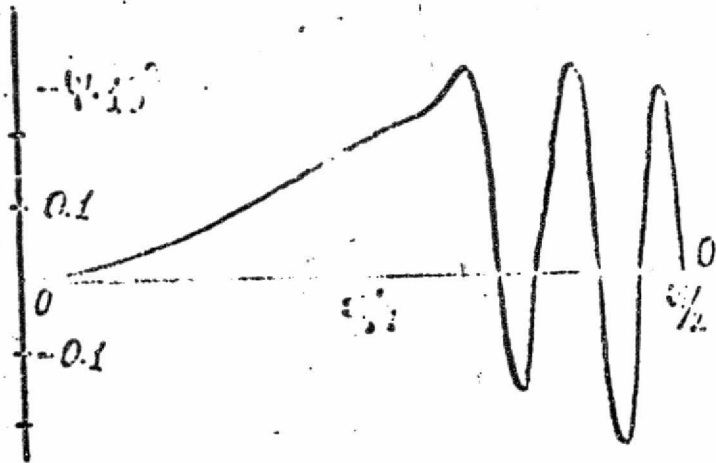
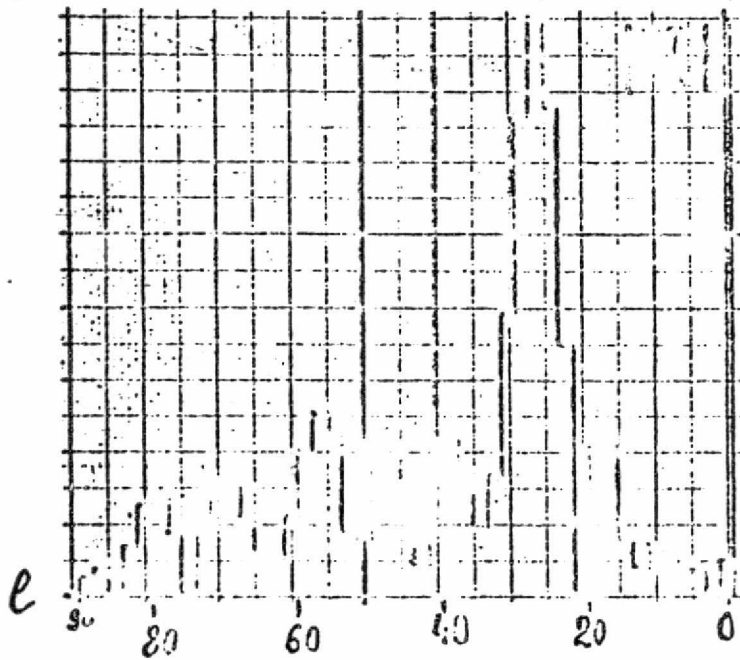


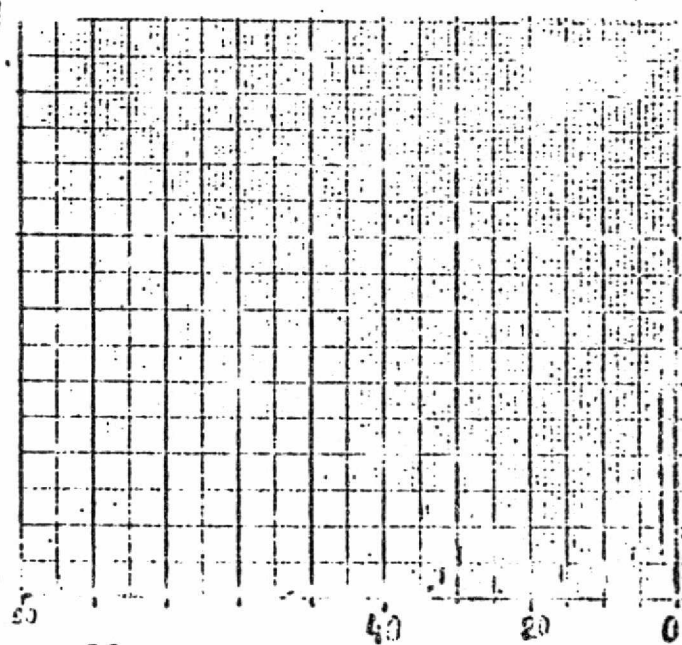
Figure 18



Re = 2900



0.123



0.170

Figure 19

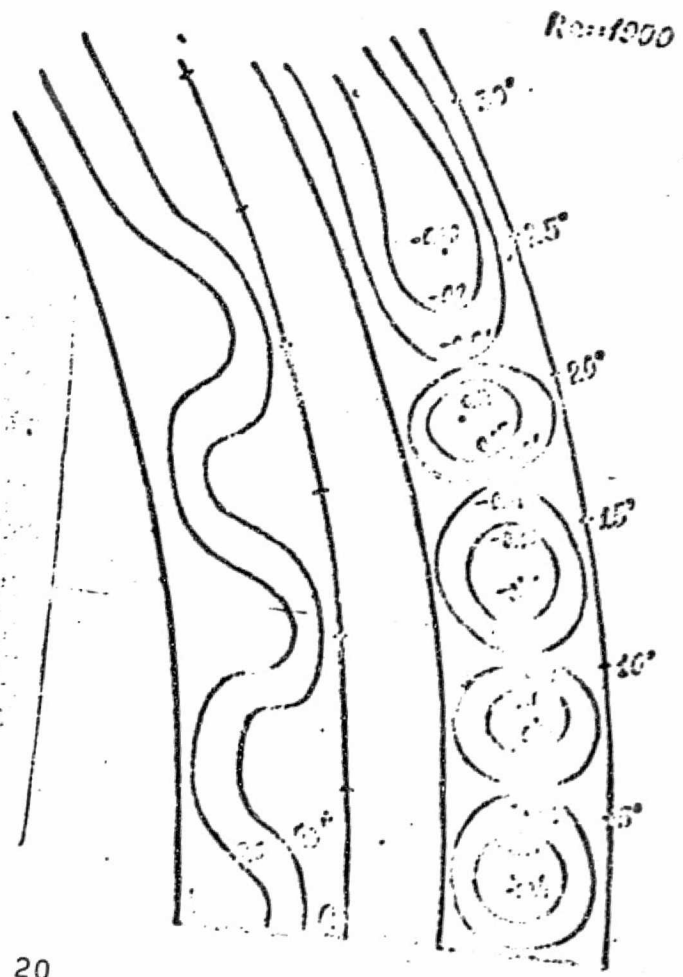
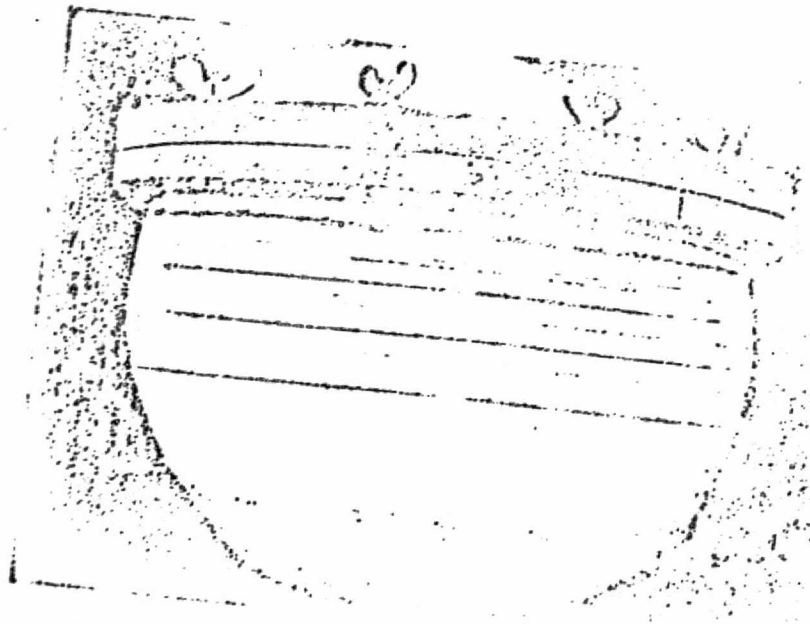


Figure 20

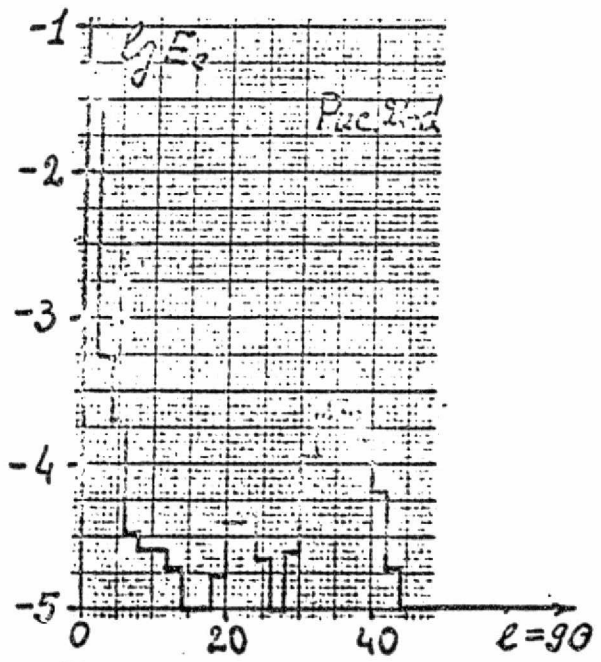
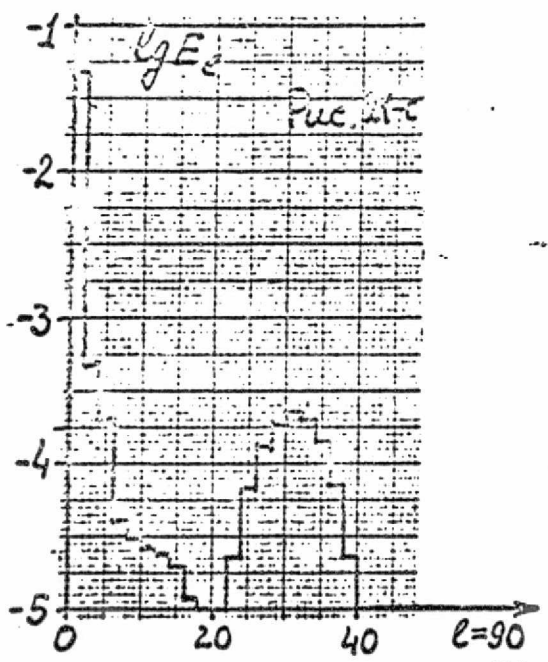
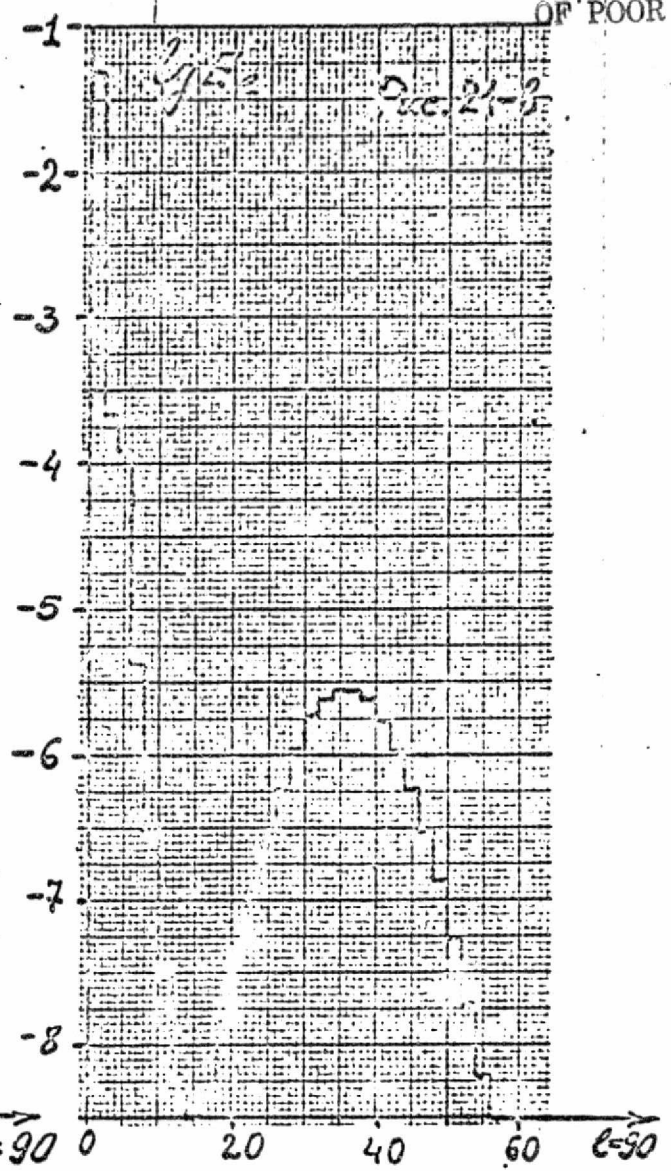
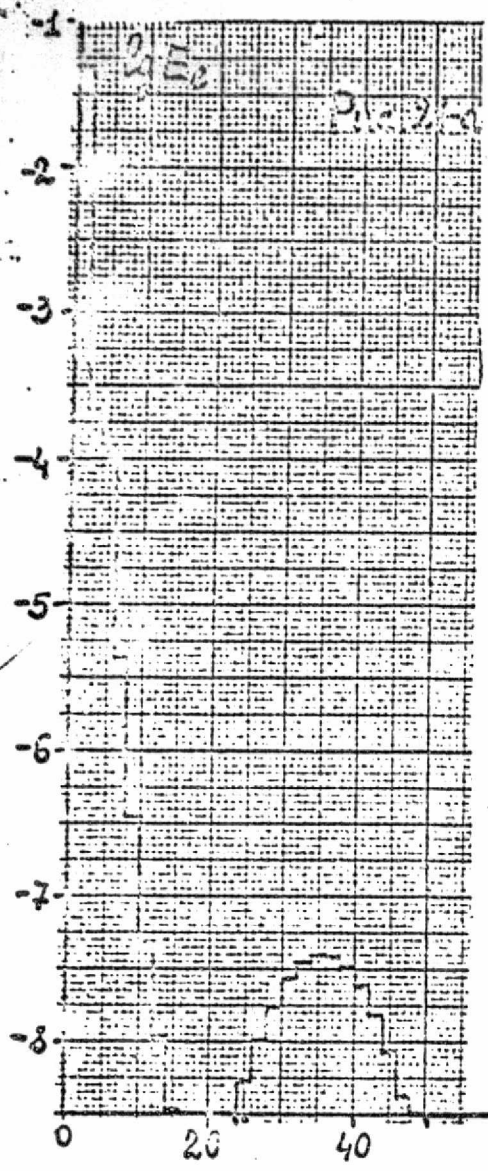


Figure 21

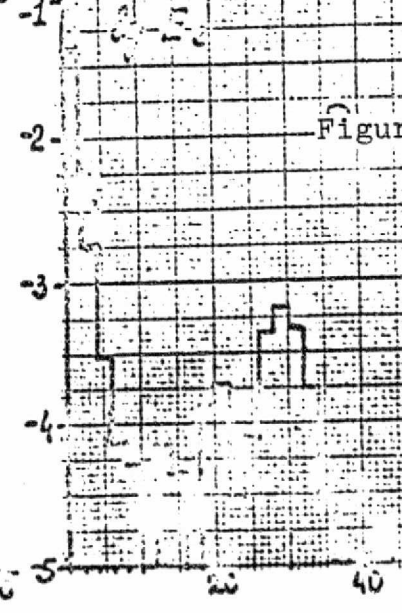
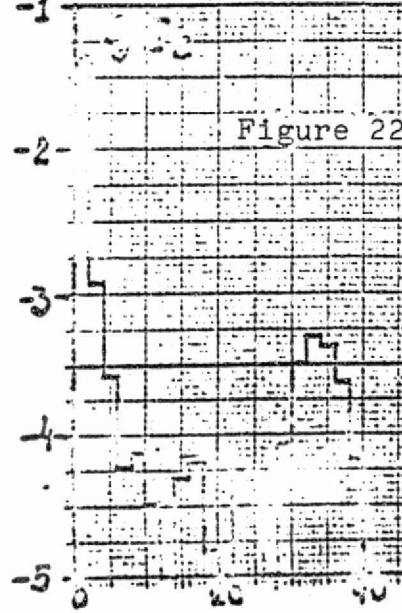
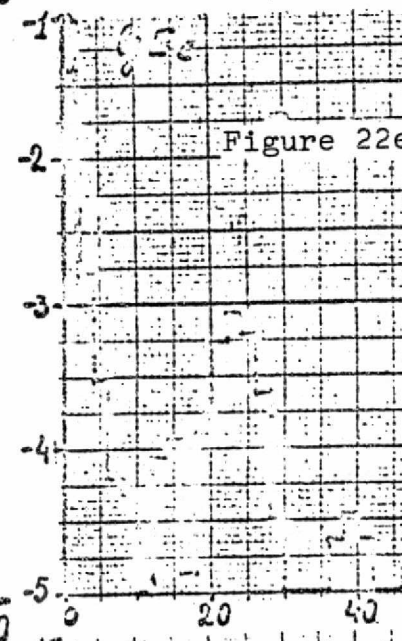
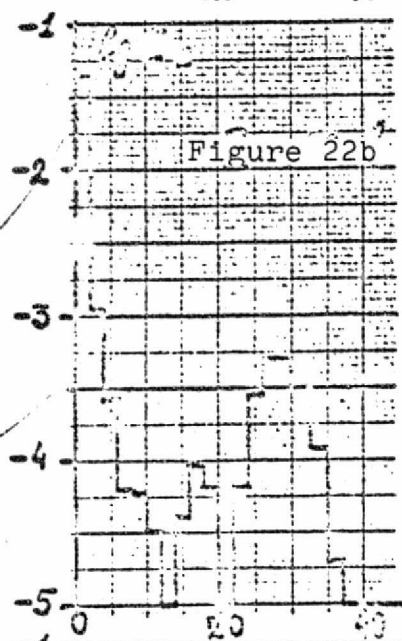
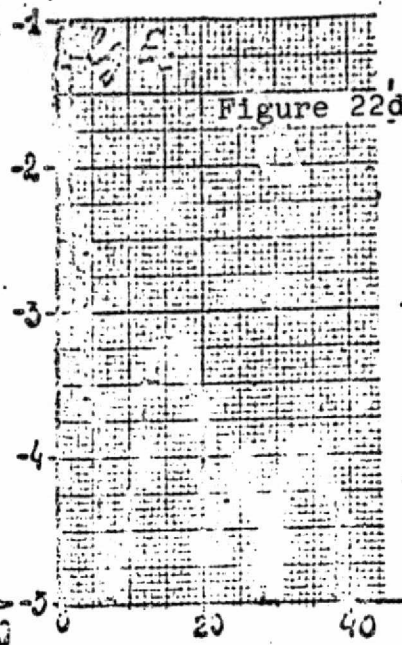
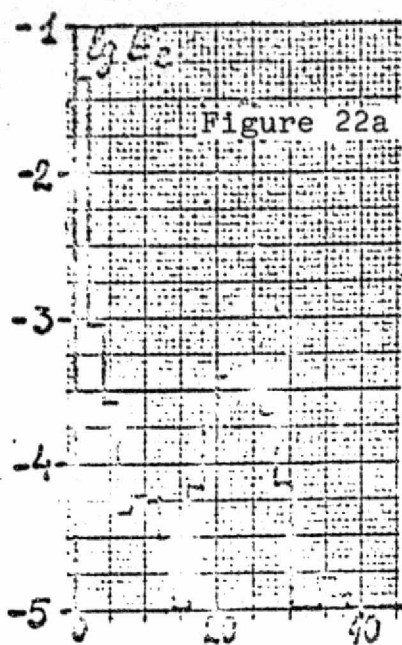


Figure 22

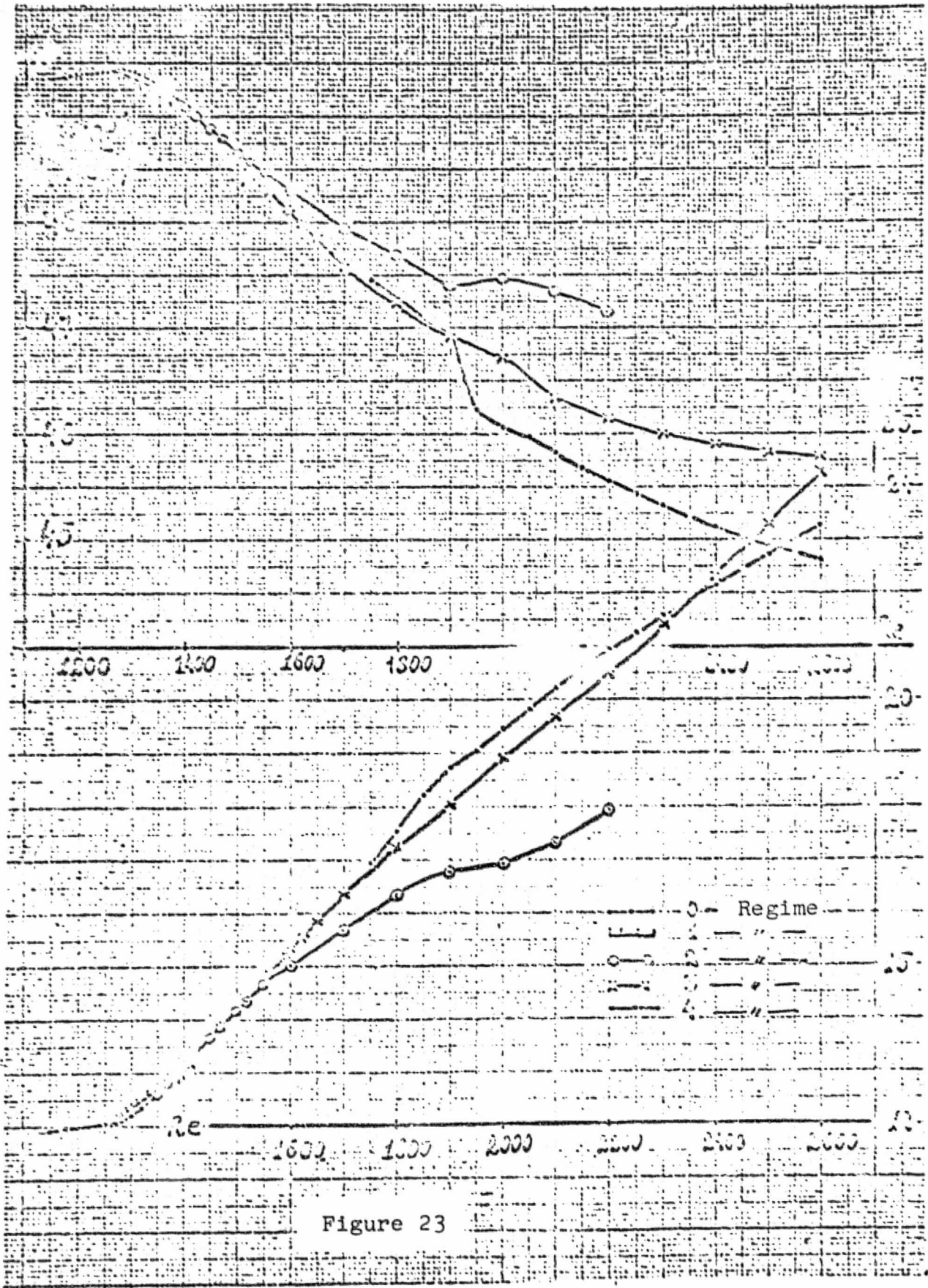


Figure 23