


A CROSSCORRELATION METHOD
FOR
MEASURING THE IMPULSE RESPONSE OF REACTOR SYSTEMS

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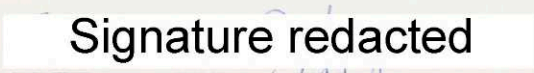
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ABSTRACT

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Submitted to the Department of Nuclear Engineering on May 12, 1961, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

By the use of crosscorrelation, the impulse response of a system can be calculated from the system response to a wide-band input signal. The crosscorrelation function of the input and the output signals is equal to the system impulse response. The crosscorrelation method offers advantages over the conventional methods of measuring system dynamics in that it can produce results quickly in the presence of large noise sources. Small input signals can be used which do not excite system non-linearities or interfere with normal system operation. In order to demonstrate the validity of the method for use on nuclear reactor systems, an analog computer study and two sets of experiments on widely differing reactor types have been performed all with satisfactory results. It is concluded that the crosscorrelation method is a useful reactor diagnostic technique, probably the best technique for measuring the dynamic response characteristics of some reactor systems, including rocket propulsion reactors. Included in the work are: a detailed analysis of the theory of the crosscorrelation method, an extensive and exact analysis of errors in the crosscorrelation data due to system noise, a description of a computer code for transforming data from the impulse response of a system to a system transfer function, a description of the equipment which has been built to implement the crosscorrelation method, and a description of the experiments performed and their results.

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Dedication

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The advent of new and specialized types of reactor systems has resulted in increasing difficulties in performing system dynamics measurements by the conventional methods.

The small signal dynamic response of reactor systems is normally measured either by exciting the reactor with sinusoidal^{2,3} or step changes⁴ of reactivity or by autocorrelating the reactor power fluctuations.^{5,6} These techniques each have inherent restrictions which limit their use. Oscillation tests require a relatively long operating time because many frequency components of the response spectrum must be excited separately. In addition, the system response to the sinusoidal input must be appreciably larger than the inherent reactor noise to obtain accurate results unless input-output crosscorrelation techniques are employed. Furthermore, large signals may exceed the linear range of the system. Step response experiments do not require a long time, but the requirements for such an experiment cannot always be met. The minimum step amplitude is determined by the accuracy required in the presence of the inherent reactor noise. The maximum step amplitude is determined either by safety considerations or by system non-linearities. In many cases the step amplitude required is greater than the permissible maximum and the experiment cannot be performed. Reactor power autocorrelation methods do not introduce system disturbances and do not require long experiment time. The autocorrelation function of the reactor power fluctuations is calculated and some assumptions are made about the origin of noise within

the system. The system dynamics can then be calculated. In most practical instances, very little is known about the internal system noise and so the autocorrelation function is of little use.

The crosscorrelation method is a means of measuring the impulse response of a system and is particularly useful in applications where the above three methods cannot be used. The method requires a minimum of time and can produce very usable results with system response amplitudes equal to the inherent system noise. The particular motivation for the work described in this writing was the need to make system dynamics measurements on the control systems of nuclear rocket reactors during actual operation. The experimental test conditions are such that conventional methods cannot be used. The reactors are operated for a short time, of the order of minutes, and only once. In addition, the allowable perturbations of reactor power are of the same magnitude as the noise in the measured reactor power. Boiling water reactors are another type of reactor system in which the crosscorrelation method could be used to advantage, since the noise level in these reactors is very large.

The crosscorrelation method consists basically of the following: The system, for which a dynamic response characteristic is desired, is excited by introducing a noise-like input signal. The signal contains, in equal magnitude, each frequency for which the system has a significant response. The crosscorrelation function of the input signal and the system output is computed. This crosscorrelation function is equal to the impulse response of the system. A simplified derivation, which illustrates why this result is obtained, follows.⁷

Consider a system characterized by an impulse

response or weighting function $h(t)$. For an input, $a(t)$, the corresponding system output, $b(t)$, is given by the convolution integral.

$$b(t) = \int_0^{\infty} d\lambda h(\lambda) a(t-\lambda) \quad (\text{I-1})$$

The crosscorrelation function, $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$, between the input and the output is defined as:

$$\phi_{ab}(\tau) = \lim_{P \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2P} \int_{-P}^P dt a(t) b(t+\tau) \quad (\text{I-2})$$

Substituting equation (I-1) for $b(t)$ and reversing the order of integration, one obtains

$$\phi_{ab}(\tau) = \int_0^{\infty} d\lambda h(\lambda) \lim_{P \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2P} \int_{-P}^P dt a(t) a(t+\tau-\lambda) \quad (\text{I-3})$$

The integral with respect to t in equation (I-3) is defined as the autocorrelation function of $a(t)$, the input.

$$\phi_{aa}(\tau) = \lim_{P \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2P} \int_{-P}^P dt a(t) a(t+\tau) \quad (\text{I-4})$$

Thus, equation (I-3) reduces to

$$\phi_{ab}(\tau) = \int_0^{\infty} d\lambda h(\lambda) \phi_{aa}(\tau-\lambda) \quad (\text{I-5})$$

If the autocorrelation function of the input is a delta function,

$$\phi_{aa}(\tau) = \delta(\tau) \quad (\text{I-6})$$

then the autocorrelation function of the input and the output is the impulse response of the system

$$\phi_{ab}(\tau) = h(\tau) \quad (\text{I-7})$$

Thus, the impulse response of a system can be measured by applying to the system input an appropriate signal, satisfying (I-6), and then calculating the input-output crosscorrelation function. This result holds even if the system output includes other noise or commanded signals as long as these signals do not correlate with $a(t)$. The impulse response is a complete description of the dynamics of a linear system and from it other useful descriptions of the system dynamics, such as the transfer function, can be developed.

The crosscorrelation method and the mathematical development given above were first suggested by Y.W. Lee.⁸ There have been several studies of techniques to apply the method; some of this work is reported in the references.^{9, 10, 11, 12} These approaches differ in the exact nature of the input signal employed and in the method used to calculate the crosscorrelation function. Of the methods of implementation employed, the technique of Aeronutronic Systems, Inc,⁹ who applied the crosscorrelation method to the measurement of airplane system dynamics, seemed to hold the most promise for reactor system dynamics measurements. Using an idealized, binary input signal developed by Aeronutronic Systems, Inc., the author has carried out a series of experiments on an analog computer and on two widely different types of reactor systems, which clearly demonstrate that the crosscorrelation method can be successfully applied to reactor systems.

During the same time that the experiments described in this writing have been carried out, V. Rajagopal¹³ has independently applied the crosscorrelation method to measure the mean neutron lifetime of a reactor. The implementation he has employed differs markedly from that which has been used by the author. He reports having obtained a number for the mean neutron lifetime in good agreement with measurements obtained by other means.

Chapters II, III, and IV comprise a detailed description of the work the author has done in applying the crosscorrelation method to the study on reactor system dynamics. Chapter V is a resumé of the conclusions that have been drawn from this experience. The following is a summary of these chapters:

CHAPTER II -

The derivation, leading to equation (I-7), contains two conditions which cannot be implemented in practice: the restriction of equation (I-6) on the input signal, and the infinite crosscorrelation integral of equation (I-2). In II-A and II-B the equations are modified to account for realistic input signals and for finite cross-correlation time, the characteristics of the idealized binary signal are presented, and the general result for this input signal is derived. The result, for properly chosen input conditions, is:

$$\phi_{ab}(\tau) = K \cdot h(\tau) + C + x(\tau) \quad (I-8)$$

The constants, K and C, can be calculated. The term, $x(\tau)$, is the noise in the measurements due to extraneous system noise; its exact mean-square value is derived in II-D. The appearance of $x(\tau)$ in equation (I-8) is a result of the finite crosscorrelation time. A model is developed and discussed which shows the analogy between the crosscorrelator and a pass-band filter. The filter characteristics are such that $x(\tau)_{\text{rms}}$ is inversely proportional to the square root of the crosscorrelation time. Thus, $x(\tau)$ approaches zero as the crosscorrelation time approaches infinity in accordance with equation (I-7).

In Chapter II-E there is a discussion of methods developed by the author to compute a system transfer

function from the impulse response. Included is a description of a digital computer code to perform the calculation from impulse response data. The code includes a Monte Carlo procedure for estimating the standard deviation of the calculated transfer function from the known standard deviations of the data points. Examples are given for a simple case.

The description in II-A and II-B is parallel with that given by Aeronutronic Systems, Inc.⁹ This author used a different approach which it is felt more clearly illustrates the requirements imposed. The analyses given in II-C, II-D, and II-E are presented here for the first time. Aeronutronic Systems, Inc. has made an estimate of the upper bound of $x(\tau)_{\text{rms}}$ which is in rough agreement with the exact solution obtained in II-D.

All of the analyses of Chapter II are valid for any linear system.

CHAPTER III -

This chapter contains a description of the equipment built by the author to implement the crosscorrelation method.

CHAPTER IV -

Three sets of experiments were carried out using the equipment described in Chapter III. The results of two analog computer studies are presented in IV-A. In the first study, typical crosscorrelation data from a simple linear system are given, and the necessary data processing steps are described in detail. The rms error in the impulse response measurement is 1.6%. The second analog computer study is an investigation of the effect of the non-linear behavior of a reactor. From data taken with inputs of $\pm 8\%$, $\pm 80\%$, and $\pm 120\%$ reactivity,

it is concluded that the crosscorrelation method tends to measure a linearized reactor impulse response in each case, even though the reactor fluctuations far exceed the linear region.

The description and results of an experiment on Godiva II are given in II-B. Godiva II is a bare U^{235} fast reactor. The crosscorrelation experiment was performed by introducing the binary input by means of the motion of a small plastic slug, smoothing the reactor output signal with a simple filter, and crosscorrelating the input and filter output signals. The results agree with the theoretical results although the variance of the data is large.

The most important experiments were carried out on Kiwi-A3, a prototype rocket propulsion reactor. Measurements of the reactor dynamics, at low power, at half power, and at full power are presented in IV-C. The results are uniformly good; they prove beyond doubt the feasibility of the crosscorrelation method for use on reactor systems.

CHAPTER V -

The conclusions are:

- 1) The crosscorrelation method has the following advantages:
 - a) It yields the entire information about the impulse response of the system in the shortest possible time, that is, the system settling time.
 - b) The method requires only small amplitude perturbations. Consequently it is not hazardous, not limited by system nonlinearities, and does not interfere with normal system operation.

- c) It can be used even in the presence of strong noise sources provided that the crosscorrelation time is increased beyond the system settling time.
- 2) The crosscorrelation method is a useful reactor diagnostic technique.
- 3) The crosscorrelation method is probably the best dynamics measurement tool for some reactor systems including rocket propulsion reactors.
- 4) The method is promising enough to warrant further expenditure of time and money. Professional equipment is being designed for future experiments on rocket propulsion reactors.
- 5) No disagreement with the theory has been found.
- 6) The original purposes of the thesis have been achieved.
 - a) The feasibility of the crosscorrelation method for use on reactor systems has been demonstrated.
 - b) Data of the performance of a control system of a rocket propulsion reactor have been obtained.

CHAPTER II

MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATIONS

The basic principles of the crosscorrelation method have been outlined in the introduction. The mathematical foundations of the method are expressed in the development of equations (I-1) through (I-7). The important result is expressed in equation (I-7) shown below

$$\phi_{ab}(\tau) = h(\tau) \quad (\text{I-7})$$

This result is obtained by specifying that

$$\phi_{aa}(\tau) = \delta(\tau) \quad (\text{I-6})$$

This development is adequate to illustrate the principles of the crosscorrelation method, but it is not adequate for describing an actual experiment. The development contains two statements which cannot be implemented in practice. Equation (I-6) states that the autocorrelation function of the input signal is a delta function; this implies that $a(t)$ contains all frequencies in equal proportion. This is not a realizable signal. In addition, it is not possible to implement the calculation of $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ since the integration is taken over infinite limits. In order to modify the equations to be more representative of a real experiment, the following two changes should be made:

- 1) The input signal, $a(t)$, is not specified.
- 2) The crosscorrelation time is finite.

These modifications can be made without impairing the simple, basic result stated by equation (I-7). There will always be some error in equation (I-7), but this error can be made sufficiently small by proper choice of conditions.

It is necessary that the input signal contain, in equal proportion, all frequencies for which the system has appreciable response, and that the crosscorrelation time be greater than the system settling time. The fact that the integration time is not infinite will result in some contribution to the crosscorrelation function due to noise entering the system. This error can be decreased by increasing the crosscorrelation time beyond the settling time of the system.

The crosscorrelation method, as discussed above and in the remainder of this chapter, applies to any linear system; it is not restricted to reactor systems in any way.

A. Basic Equations

Figure 1 is a schematic of an experiment in which noise may enter either at the system input or output.

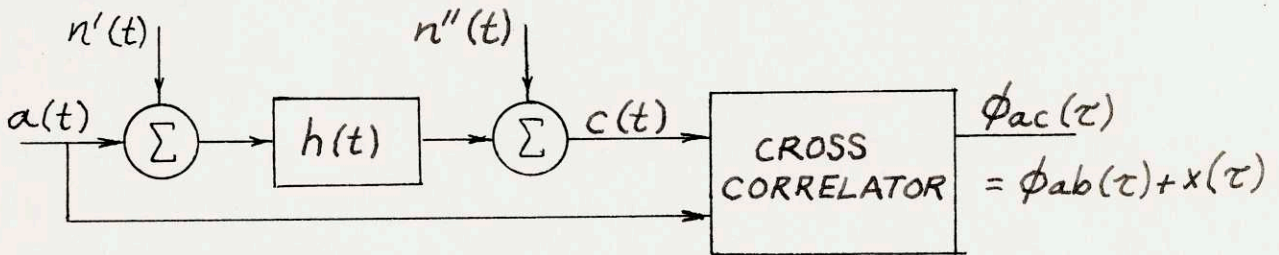


FIGURE 1

The system is assumed to be linear; $h(t)$ is the system weighting function or impulse response. The quantity, $b(t)$, is defined as that portion of the system response due to $a(t)$. The quantity, $n(t)$, is an equivalent noise referred to the system output

$$n(t) = n''(t) + \int_0^{\infty} d\lambda h(\lambda) n'(t-\lambda) \quad (\text{II-1})$$

In an experiment the quantities $n'(t)$, $n''(t)$, and $b(t)$ are not individually observable. An input, $a(t)$, is applied and an output, $c(t)$, is observed. $n(t)$ can be observed separately by setting $a(t)$ equal to zero.

The crosscorrelation function, $\phi_{ac}^*(\tau)$, is now redefined so that the integration time is finite

$$\phi_{ac}(\tau) = \frac{1}{P} \int_0^P dt c(t) a(t-\tau) \quad (\text{II-2})$$

This is identical to the usual definition given in equation (I-2) as $P \rightarrow \infty$, since in this case

$$\phi_{ac}(\tau) = \phi_{ca}(-\tau).$$

If $a(t)$ is applied to the system input starting at $t = t_0$, the system response, $b(t)$, is given by the convolution integral

$$b(t) = \int_{t_0}^t d\lambda a(\lambda) h(t-\lambda) = \int_0^{t-t_0} d\lambda h(\lambda) a(t-\lambda) \quad (\text{II-3})$$

Combine (II-2) and (II-3) and $c(t) = b(t) + n(t)$ to obtain the result:

$$\phi_{ac}(\tau) = \frac{1}{P} \int_0^P dt \left[\int_0^{t-t_0} d\lambda h(\lambda) a(t-\lambda) + n(t) \right] a(t-\tau) \quad (\text{II-4})$$

This result can be split up into two parts

$$\phi_{ac}(\tau) = \phi_{ab}(\tau) + \chi(\tau) \quad (\text{II-5})$$

where

*For a discussion of correlation functions, see reference(14).

$$x(t) \equiv \frac{1}{P} \int_0^P dt n(t) a(t-\tau) \quad (\text{II-6})$$

Evaluation of $x(\tau)$ is continued in Section D.

The integration in $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ is over the shaded part of the t, λ plane in Figure 2.

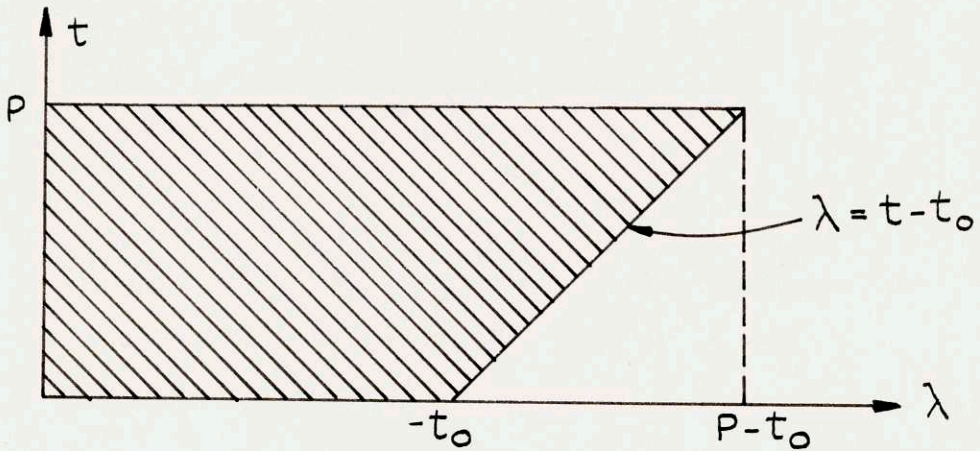


FIGURE 2

Invert the order of integration to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{ab}(\tau) = & \int_0^{-t_0} d\lambda h(\lambda) \frac{1}{P} \int_0^P dt a(t-\lambda) a(t-\tau) \\ & + \int_{-t_0}^{P-t_0} d\lambda h(\lambda) \frac{1}{P} \int_{\lambda+t_0}^P dt a(t-\lambda) a(t-\tau), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{II-7})$$

$t_0 < 0$

The integral with respect to t in the first term of (II-7) is recognized as the input autocorrelation function:

$$\phi_{aa}(\tau) = \frac{1}{P} \int_0^P dt a(t) a(t-\tau) \quad (\text{II-8})$$

If t_0 is chosen sufficiently negative so that

$$h(t) = 0, \quad t > -t_0 \quad (\text{II-9})$$

then equation (II-7) becomes

$$\phi_{ab}(\tau) = \int_0^\infty d\lambda h(\lambda) \phi_{aa}(\tau - \lambda) \quad (\text{II-10})$$

This equation is the same in form as equation (I-5) but applies for a finite correlation time P .

In order to continue the evaluation of $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ as given in equation (II-10) it is necessary to specify the input and to calculate its autocorrelation function.

B. Description of the Input Signal

The first part of Appendix A is a discussion of possible input signals including a listing of some of the advantages and disadvantages of each. As a result of these considerations an input is chosen which has the following properties;

- 1) It is binary; that is, it is either +1 or -1.
- 2) It may (but need not necessarily) change sign only at intervals spaced Δt apart.
- 3) It is periodic with period $T = N\Delta t$, $N \gg 1$.
- 4) It has an autocorrelation function as shown in Figure 3.

Signals with these properties have been synthesized by Aeronutronic Systems, Inc.⁹

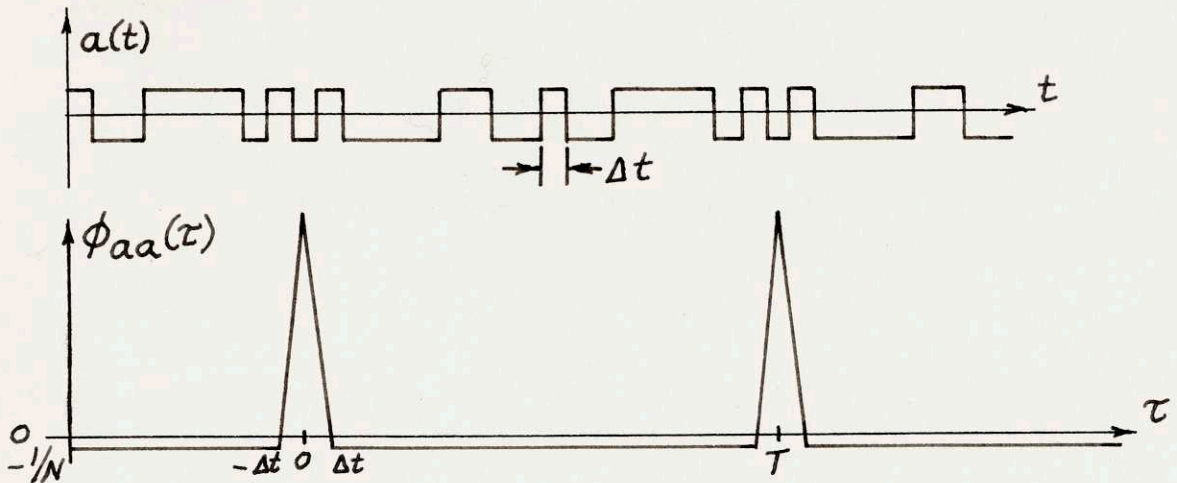


FIGURE 3 - Idealized Binary Signal, $N = 19$

The binary input is chosen because it affords convenience of storage and delay, and ease of multiplication.

In order to obtain a signal with the "idealized" autocorrelation function of Figure 3, it is necessary to know a "chain", $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots, A_N$; with $A_i = +1$ or -1 , such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{i=N} A_i A_{(i+j) \text{ modulo } N} = \begin{cases} N, & j=0 \\ -1, & j \neq 0 \end{cases} \quad (\text{II-11})$$

This chain defines an input signal which will have the desired autocorrelation function. The input signal is equal to A_1 for $0 < t < \Delta t$, A_2 for $\Delta t < t < 2\Delta t$, and so forth, up to $t = T$, where the sequence repeats.

It is known that chains having property (II-11) can be obtained for values of N which are prime numbers and which are of the form $4k - 1$, where k is an integer.⁹ The chains for $N = 251$ and $N = 1019$ are available and are the ones which have been used.¹⁵

Some insight into the nature of this signal can be gained by considering a different signal which has the same first three properties but, instead of property (4) has the sign chosen at random during each Δt interval. Such a signal for $N = 19$ is shown in Figure 4.

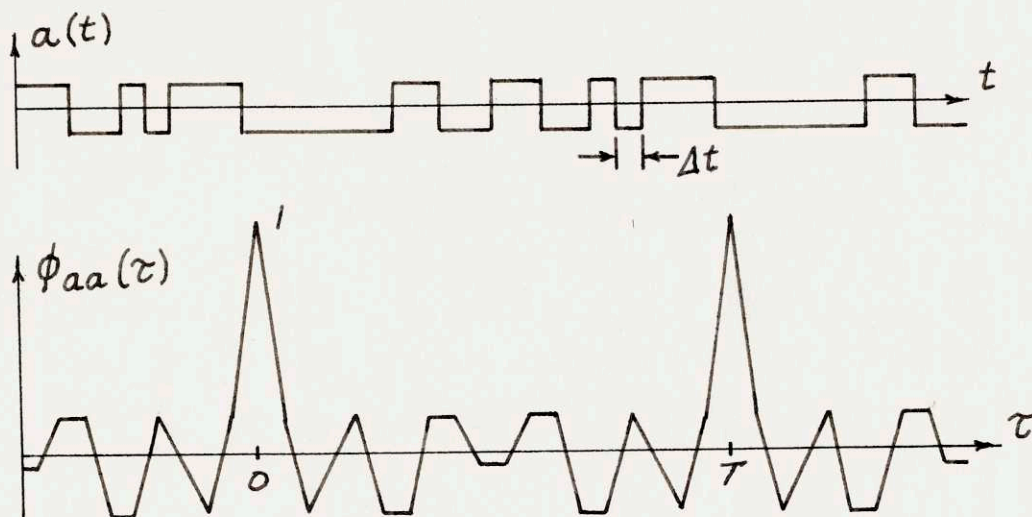


FIGURE 4 - Random Binary Signal, $N = 19$

The autocorrelation function, also shown in the figure, does have a shape nearly like Figure 3 within the range $-\Delta t < \tau < \Delta t$. Outside this range it has side lobes whose amplitudes are distributed according to a binary probability distribution, shifted so as to have a zero average value and a root-mean-square amplitude of \sqrt{N} . There is a close similarity between an idealized signal and a random signal of the same length. Detailed analysis, performed on the idealized chains for $N = 251$ and $N = 1019$ shows them to be statistically indistinguishable from random chains of the same lengths. The basic property which distinguishes the idealized signals from the random signals is the shape of the autocorrelation function. The reason that the idealized chains are better for the crosscorrelation method is that the contribution to the crosscorrelation function from the

side lobes is small, calculable, and reproducible (see equation II-10). If random signals are used, the contribution to the crosscorrelation function from these side lobes must be accepted as a random error in the measurements. In order to obtain accurate results with a random binary input, N must be made very large ($N = 10000$ will produce approximately 1% errors).

The function, $\phi_{aa}(\tau)$, of Figure 3 can be said to be composed of two parts: a constant, $-1/N$, plus a series of pyramids of height $(1 + 1/N)$ and width $2\Delta t$ centered at $\tau = kT$, where k is an integer. It is to be emphasized that even with an idealized binary signal, this autocorrelation function results only when the integration time is $T = N\Delta t$ or an integral multiple of T . If the integration time is not an integral multiple of T , then the autocorrelation function resembles the autocorrelation function for a random chain as depicted in Figure 4.

If the integration time, P , in equation (II-2) is set equal to an integral multiple of T , the resulting $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ is given by equation (II-10) using the $\phi_{aa}(\tau - \lambda)$ given in Figure 3. This convolution is shown graphically in Figure 5. In this figure $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ is the integral over λ of the product of the two curves. Essentially, the pyramid part of $\phi_{aa}(\tau - \lambda)$ samples the $h(\lambda)$ curve yielding for the integral $\Delta t \cdot h(\tau)$. In addition, the $-1/N$ portion of $\phi_{aa}(\tau - \lambda)$ yields

$$-(1/N) \int_0^{\infty} d\lambda h(\lambda) \equiv \bar{h} \Delta t$$

so that

$$\phi_{ab}(\tau) \approx \Delta t [h(\tau) - \bar{h}] \quad (\text{II-12})$$

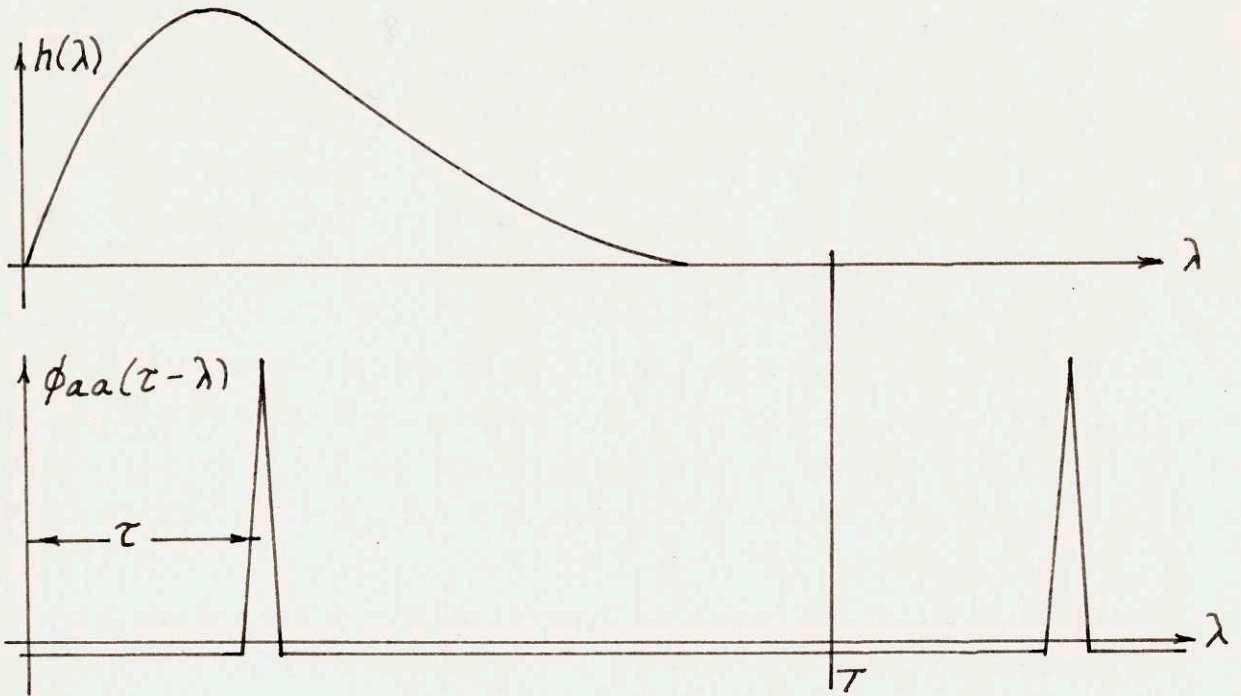


FIGURE 5

If τ is made equal to $-\Delta t$

$$\phi_{ab}(-\Delta t) = -\bar{h} \Delta t$$

since $h(t) \equiv 0$ for $t < 0$. Therefore, the equation for the impulse response is

$$h(\tau) = \frac{1}{\Delta t} (\phi_{ab}(\tau) - \phi_{ab}(-\Delta t)) \quad (\text{II-13})$$

This is the working equation of the crosscorrelation technique. It states that the shape of the impulse

response is the same as the shape of the crosscorrelation function (shifted by a constant so that $\overline{\phi_{ab}(\tau)} = 0$). The remainder of this chapter deals with corrections, errors, and transformations of this equation.

C. Correction for Finite Δt

In equation (II-11) it was assumed that the pyramid portion of $\phi_{aa}(\tau - \lambda)$ sampled the $h(\lambda)$ curve (Figure 5). If $h(\lambda)$ curves very much within $\pm \Delta t$ on either side of $\lambda = \tau$, then there will be some error in this assumption. To evaluate this error, and hence to generate a criterion for choosing Δt to make the error negligible, it is necessary to go back to the basic equation (II-10). The constant, $-1/N$, portion of $\phi_{aa}(\tau - \lambda)$ can be integrated out:

let

$$\phi'_{aa}(\tau - \lambda) \equiv \phi_{aa}(\tau - \lambda) + \frac{1}{N} \quad (\text{II-14})$$

$$\phi'_{ab}(\tau) \equiv \phi_{ab}(\tau) - \phi_{ab}(-\Delta t) \quad (\text{II-15})$$

then

$$\phi'_{ab}(\tau) = \int_0^{\infty} d\lambda h(\lambda) \phi'_{aa}(\tau - \lambda) \quad (\text{II-16})$$

From here there are two ways to proceed: one can apply an iterative technique to determine $h(\lambda)$ knowing $\phi'_{ab}(\tau)$; or equation (II-16) can be Fourier transformed to yield an explicit equation for the system transfer function. Each of these two methods has its uses depending on whether the impulse response or the transfer function is the desired end.

To apply the first approach, an iterative technique is employed to determine what curve for $h(\lambda)$ will yield the measured $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ from equation (II-16). As a first guess assume that $h_1(\lambda) = \phi_{ab}(\lambda)/\Delta t$ (refer: equation II-13)) and compute $\phi'_{ab1}(\tau)$ from equation (II-16). Then assume that $h_2(\lambda) = (2\phi_{ab}(\lambda) - \phi'_{ab1}(\lambda))/\Delta t$ and compute $\phi'_{ab2}(\lambda)$ from equation (II-16). Continue this process until there is no change, i.e., $h_n(\lambda) = h_{n-1}(\lambda)$.

In practice, $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ will be given by data points. If it is assumed that the $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ curve is a parabola through three adjacent points, then

$$h_n(\tau_i) = \phi'_{ab}(\tau_i)/\Delta t$$

$$\frac{\Delta t^2}{6(\tau_{i+1} - \tau_{i-1})} \left[\frac{h_{n-1}(\tau_{i+1}) - h_{n-1}(\tau_i)}{\tau_{i+1} - \tau_i} - \frac{h_{n-1}(\tau_i) - h_{n-1}(\tau_{i-1})}{\tau_i - \tau_{i-1}} \right] \quad (\text{II-17})$$

This iteration technique will always converge if the data points are spaced at least Δt apart. Equation (II-17) can serve as a guide for choosing Δt so that the correction will be negligible. Note that the lowest order error arises from the curvature of the impulse response curve and not from the slope.

In the second approach, equation (II-16) is Fourier transformed

$$\Phi'_{ab}(s) \equiv \mathcal{F}(\phi'_{ab}(\tau)) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\tau e^{-\tau s} \phi'_{ab}(\tau) \quad (\text{II-18})$$

The result of this transformation is

$$\Phi'_{ab}(s) = H(s) \Phi'_{aa}(s) \quad (\text{II-19})$$

$H(j\omega)$ is the system transfer function and can be found by division: $H(j\omega) = \bar{\Phi}_{ab}(j\omega) / \bar{\Phi}_{aa}(j\omega)$. $\bar{\Phi}_{aa}(j\omega)$ is a pure real quantity and is shown plotted in Figure 6. Methods for obtaining $\bar{\Phi}_{ab}(j\omega)$ will be discussed in detail in Section E. The major disadvantage of this second approach is that $h(\tau)$ is not determined except by calculating from $H(j\omega)$; this calculation is generally very difficult.¹⁶

D. Errors in the Crosscorrelation Result Due to System Noise

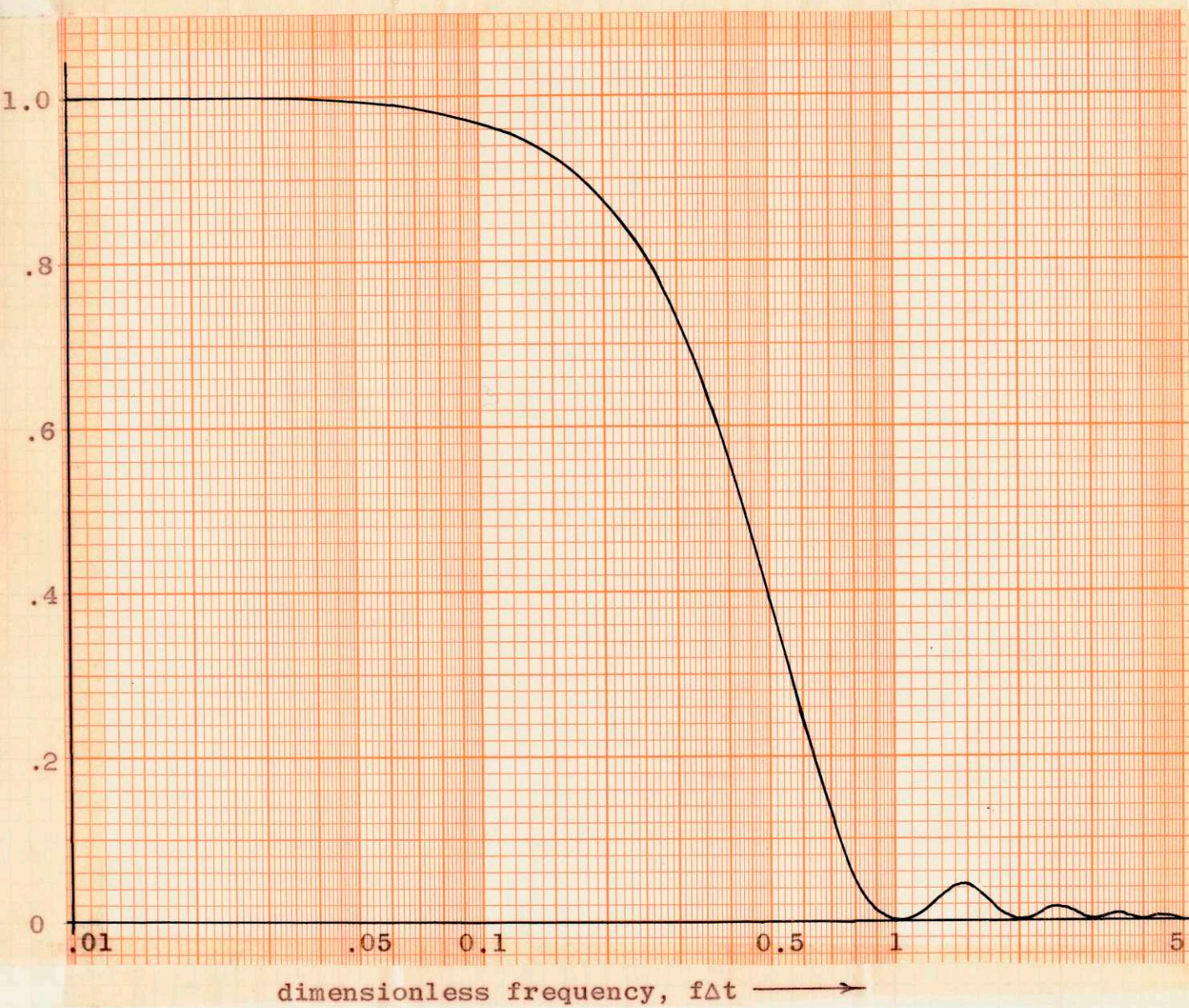
The major advantage of the crosscorrelation method is the improvement in signal-to-noise ratio over other experimental methods for measuring system dynamics. Hence, no discussion of the method would be complete without an evaluation of the errors due to noise. This section contains an evaluation of the "improvement factor" obtained by the crosscorrelation method.

In order to define an "improvement factor", it is necessary to define a figure of merit. For this purpose, it is convenient to talk in terms of signal-to-noise ratios defined in terms of root-mean-square quantities. The signal-to-noise ratio at the system output (crosscorrelator input) is defined as:

$$(S/N)_c = \frac{\sqrt{\overline{b^2(t)}}}{\sqrt{\overline{n^2(t)}}} \quad (\text{II-20})$$

The signal-to-noise ratio of the crosscorrelation data is defined as:

FIGURE 6



PLOT OF THE FUNCTION $\bar{\Phi}_{aa}(\omega)/\Delta t$

$$\bar{\Phi}_{aa}(\omega) = \Delta t \left[\frac{\sin \frac{\omega \Delta t}{2}}{\frac{\omega \Delta t}{2}} \right]^2, \quad \omega = 2\pi f$$

$$(S/N)_\phi = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{L} \int_0^L dt \phi_{ab}^2(\tau)}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\tau x^2(\tau)}} \quad (\text{II-21})$$

The time, L , is the system settling time. It is smaller than T by a factor M : $T = ML$. The improvement factor, IF , is equal to the ratio:

$$IF \equiv \frac{(S/N)_\phi}{(S/N)_C} = \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{L} \int_0^L dt \phi_{ab}^2(\tau)}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt b^2(t)}} \right\} \cdot \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{\frac{T}{n^2(t)}}}{\sqrt{\frac{T}{x^2(\tau)}}} \right\} \quad (\text{II-22})$$

The general result of this section is that IF is at least as great as \sqrt{M} .

An analogy can be drawn between the crosscorrelator and a pass-band filter. This equivalent filter has an attenuation factor of \sqrt{N} and a pass-band roughly equivalent to the spectrum of the $a(t)$ input signal. The analogy is rigorous only in the mean-square sense: the rms crosscorrelator output is identical to the rms filter output. This is true of all signals crosscorrelated with $a(t)$, the informative $b(t)$ signal as well as the $n(t)$ signal. It is apparent, then, that there is

no improvement in signal-to-noise ratio if the averaging span of the rms operation is taken to be the same for both the $x(\tau)$ and the $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ signals. The improvement in signal-to-noise ratio obtained by the crosscorrelation method is due to the action of the crosscorrelator in concentrating the information in the $b(t)$ signal into a small span compared to the crosscorrelation time. Stated differently, the crosscorrelator distributes the total power of $n(t)$ over the entire crosscorrelation interval, T ; the power of $b(t)$ is distributed within the smaller interval, L .

In order to show that IF is at least as great as \sqrt{M} , it is necessary to calculate each of the four terms in equation (II-22). It is convenient to treat each of the bracketed ratios separately. The first ratio is given approximately by:

$$Z_1 = \frac{\sqrt{\int_L \phi_{ab}^2(\tau) d\tau}}{\sqrt{\int_T b^2(t) dt}} \approx \frac{\sqrt{M}}{\sqrt{N}} \quad (\text{II-23})$$

if the input is wide band compared to the system. The second ratio is

$$Z_2 = \frac{\sqrt{\int n^2(t) dt}}{\sqrt{\int x^2(\tau) d\tau}} \geq \sqrt{N} \quad (\text{II-24})$$

The evaluation of Z_1 and Z_2 follows.

1. Evaluation of Z_1

The numerator is

$$\sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^L d\tau \phi_{ab}^2(\tau)} \cong \sqrt{\frac{M}{T} \int_0^\infty d\tau (\Delta t)^2 h^2(\tau)} \quad (\text{II-25})$$

To evaluate the denominator, define the autocorrelation function of $b(t)$

$$\phi_{bb}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt b(t) b(t+\lambda) \quad (\text{II-26})$$

Thus

$$\overline{b^2(t)} = \phi_{bb}(0) \quad (\text{II-27})$$

Put this in terms of the inverse Fourier Transform

$$\phi_{bb}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \Phi_{bb}(\omega) e^{j\omega\lambda}$$

$$\phi_{bb}(0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \Phi_{bb}(\omega) \quad (\text{II-28})$$

From the circuit equations

$$\Phi_{bb}(\omega) = \Phi_{aa}(\omega) |H(\omega)|^2 \quad (\text{II-29})$$

The spectrum of the input, $\phi_{aa}(\omega)$, is presumed to be constant at frequencies for which $H(\omega)$ has significant value. The constant is Δt . Thus

$$\overline{b^2(t)} \cong \frac{\Delta t}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega |H(\omega)|^2 \quad (\text{II-30})$$

Use Parseval's formula to obtain¹⁷

$$\sqrt{\overline{b^2(t)}} \cong \sqrt{\Delta t \int_0^{\infty} dt h^2(t)} \quad (\text{II-31})$$

The result is

$$Z_1 \cong \frac{\sqrt{\frac{M\Delta t^2}{T} \int_0^{\infty} d\tau h^2(\tau)}}{\sqrt{\Delta t \int_0^{\infty} dt h^2(t)}} = \sqrt{\frac{M}{N}} \quad (\text{II-32})$$

In deriving equation (II-32) several approximations have been made. This is justifiable since Z_1 contains the arbitrary choice for the output "signal" in the signal-

to-noise ratio definition. For this case an approximate, simple answer is preferable to an accurate but complicated answer.

2. Evaluation of Z_2

The ratio, Z_2 , is the rms attenuation factor for noise in the crosscorrelation process. To calculate Z_2 it is necessary first to calculate $\overline{x^2(\tau)}$. In order to evaluate $\overline{x^2(\tau)}$ it is convenient to consider two categories of $n(t)$: a) stochastic time functions which will be described by their power spectra, and b) known time functions which will be described by a power series.

a) $n(t)$ is a stochastic time function.

The result of this section is that

$$\overline{x^2(\tau)} = \frac{1}{N} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega R(\omega) \Phi_{nn}(\omega) \quad (\text{II-33})$$

where $\Phi_{nn}(\omega)$ is the power spectrum of $n(t)$

$$\Phi_{nn}(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\tau e^{-j\omega\tau} \phi_{nn}(\tau) \quad (\text{II-34})$$

and $R(\omega)$ is a special spectrum defined as

$$R(\omega) = 2 \text{ Real} \left[\frac{1}{T\Delta t} \int_0^T d\lambda e^{j\omega\lambda} \phi_{aa}(\lambda)(T-\lambda) \right] \quad (\text{II-35})$$

This result states that the crosscorrelator acts as a filter. An equivalent circuit to Figure 1 can be drawn as shown in Figure 7.

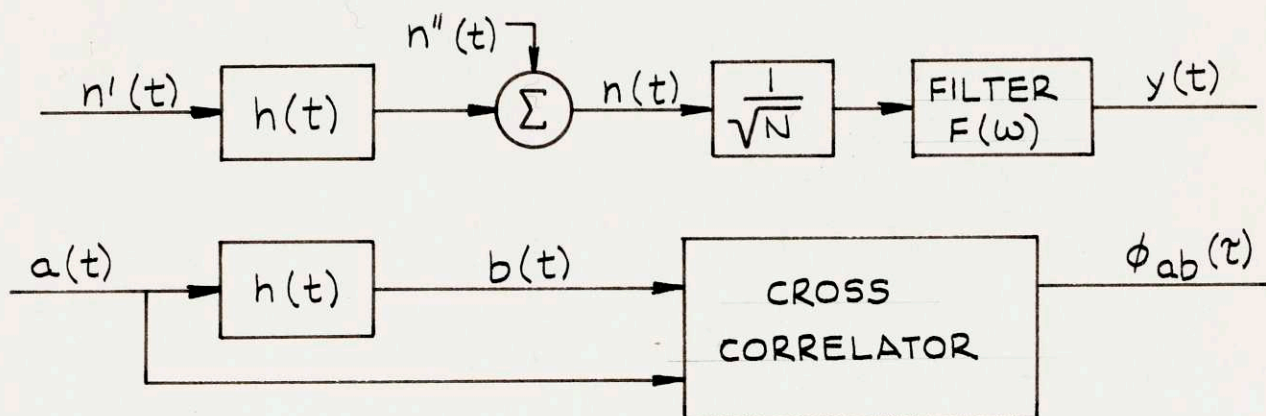


FIGURE 7

The equivalence between the two circuits is in the mean-square sense, namely:

$$\overline{y^2(t)} = \overline{x^2(\tau)} \quad (\text{II-36})$$

The filter shown in Figure 7 is described by its transfer function, $F(\omega)$, given by

$$|F(\omega)|^2 = R(\omega) \quad (\text{II-37})$$

Thus the magnitude of $F(\omega)$ is specified as $\sqrt{R(\omega)}$, but the phase shift is unspecified. This follows from the fact that phase shift of a filter does not affect the rms value of the output.

The function, $|F(\omega)|$, is plotted in Figure 8 for input parameters, $N = 251$, $\Delta t = .02$ sec. In general, $F(\omega)$ is a pass-band filter with

$$\begin{aligned} \text{lower cutoff frequency (3db)} &= .56/T \text{ cps} \\ \text{upper cutoff frequency (3db)} &= .33/\Delta t \text{ cps} \quad (\text{for } N > 10) \end{aligned}$$

From the equivalent circuit it is apparent that Z_2 is equal to \sqrt{N} if the noise spectrum lies entirely within the filter pass-band. If some of the noise is attenuated by the filter, then $Z_2 = \sqrt{N}/(\text{fraction of the noise passed by the filter})$.

The fact that Figure 7 is an equivalent circuit to Figure 1 follows from the observation that:

$$\Phi_{yy}(\omega) = \frac{1}{N} |F(\omega)|^2 \Phi_{nn}(\omega) \quad (\text{II-38})$$

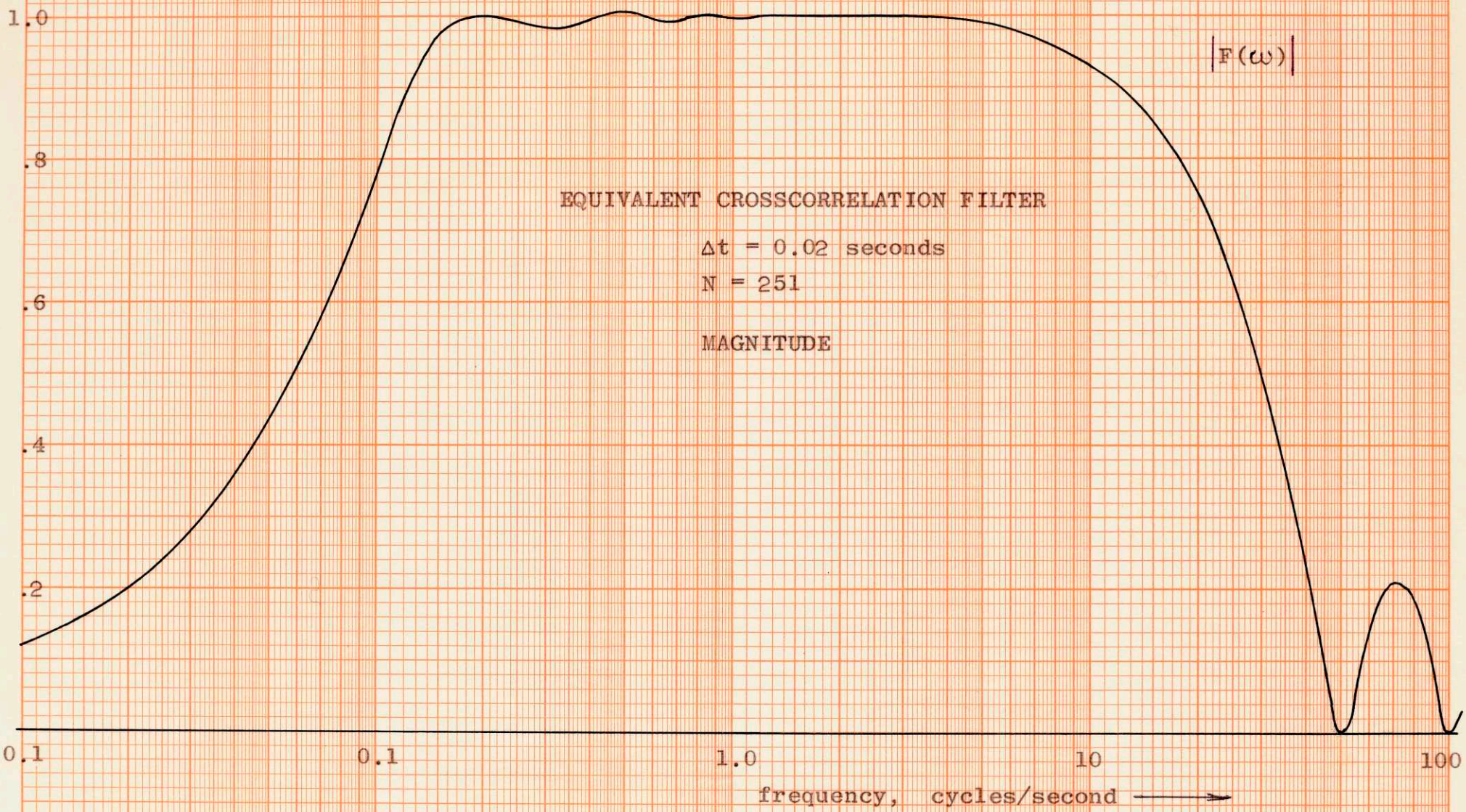
and

$$\overline{\phi_{yy}(0)} = \overline{y^2(t)} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \Phi_{yy}(\omega) \quad (\text{II-39})$$

Therefore

$$\overline{y^2(t)} = \overline{x^2(\tau)} \quad (\text{II-36})$$

FIGURE 8



In order to obtain equations (II-33, 34, 35), start with the definition of $x(\tau)$ from equation (II-6):

$$x(\tau) \equiv \frac{1}{T} \int_0^{\tau} dt n(t) a(t-\tau) \quad (\text{II-6})$$

The desired quantity is $\overline{x^2(t)}$; but if this is computed directly from equation (II-6), the result will depend on where, within the input cycle, the integration started. In equation (II-6) the integration is started at time $t = 0$. Consider that the integration might start at $t = \delta$ instead of at $t = 0$; equation (II-6) becomes

$$x(\tau, \delta) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{\delta}^{\tau+\delta} dt n(t) a(t-\tau) \quad (\text{II-40})$$

Introduction of this new variable in no way changes the results which have been obtained thus far in this chapter. This shift will have no effect on the equations for $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ in sections A and B since $\phi_{aa}(\tau)$ is unaffected by a shift in the integration range.

If, now, one calculates $\overline{x^2(\tau, \delta)}$ from equation (II-40)*, the result is independent of starting time, and, more important, the effects of $n(t)$ and $a(t)$ are separable.

* A bar over a quantity means the average. The symbol in front of the bar is the variable with respect to which the average is taken.

Start by changing variables $\beta = t - \tau - \alpha$, $\alpha = \delta - \tau$

$$x(\tau, \alpha) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\beta a(\beta + \alpha) n(\beta + \alpha + \tau) \quad (\text{II-41})$$

Define, in the usual manner,

$$\phi_{xx}(\lambda, \alpha) \equiv \lim_{P \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2P} \int_{-P}^P d\tau x(\tau, \alpha) x(\tau + \lambda, \alpha), \quad (\text{II-42})$$

so that

$$\overline{x^2(\tau, \alpha)} \equiv \lim_{P \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2P} \int_{-P}^P d\tau x^2(\tau, \alpha) = \phi_{xx}(0, \alpha) \quad (\text{II-43})$$

Then

$$\phi_{xx}(\lambda, \alpha) = \lim_{P \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2P} \int_{-P}^P d\tau \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\beta a(\beta + \alpha) n(\beta + \alpha + \tau) \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt a(t + \alpha) n(t + \alpha + \tau + \lambda) \quad (\text{II-44})$$

Reverse the order of integrations to give

$$\phi_{xx}(\lambda, \alpha) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\beta a(\beta + \alpha) \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt a(t + \alpha) \lim_{P \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2P} \int_{-P}^P d\tau n(\beta + \alpha + \tau) n(t + \alpha + \tau + \lambda) \quad (\text{II-45})$$

The last integral is the autocorrelation function of the noise, so that

$$\phi_{xx}(\lambda, \alpha) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\beta a(\beta + \alpha) \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt a(t + \alpha) \phi_{nn}(\lambda + t - \beta) \quad (\text{II-46})$$

Now compute the average over α

$$\overline{\phi_{xx}}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\alpha \phi_{xx}(\lambda, \alpha) \quad (\text{II-47})$$

$$\overline{\phi_{xx}}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\alpha \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\beta a(\beta + \alpha) \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt a(t + \alpha) \phi_{nn}(\lambda + t - \beta) \quad (\text{II-48})$$

Reverse the order of integrations to give

$$\alpha \overline{\phi}_{xx}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\beta \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \phi_{nn}(\lambda+t-\beta) \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\alpha a(\beta+\alpha) a(t+\alpha) \quad (\text{II-49})$$

The last integral is the autocorrelation function of the input; so that

$$\alpha \overline{\phi}_{xx}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\beta \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \phi_{nn}(\lambda+t-\beta) \phi_{aa}(t-\beta) \quad (\text{II-50})$$

Now compute the Fourier Transform of $\alpha \overline{\phi}_{xx}(\lambda)$.

$$\alpha \overline{\Phi}_{xx}(\omega) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\lambda \alpha \overline{\phi}_{xx}(\lambda) e^{-j\omega\lambda} \quad (\text{II-51})$$

$$\alpha \overline{\Phi}_{xx}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\lambda \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\beta \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \phi_{nn}(\lambda+t-\beta) \phi_{aa}(t-\beta) e^{-j\omega\lambda} \quad (\text{II-52})$$

Reverse the order of integrations

$$\alpha \overline{\Phi}_{xx}(\omega) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\beta \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \phi_{aa}(t-\beta) e^{j\omega(t-\beta)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\lambda e^{-j\omega(\lambda+t-\beta)} \phi_{nn}(\lambda+t-\beta) \quad (\text{II-53})$$

The last integral is 2π times the power spectrum of the noise (see equation (II-34)), so that

$$\overline{\Phi_{xx}}(\omega) = \frac{2\pi}{T} \int_0^T d\beta \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \phi_{aa}(t-\beta) e^{j\omega(t-\beta)} \Phi_{nn}(\omega) \quad (\text{II-54})$$

Thus

$$\overline{\Phi_{xx}}(\omega) = \frac{2\pi}{N} R(\omega) \Phi_{nn}(\omega) \quad (\text{II-55})$$

where

$$R(\omega) = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_0^T d\beta \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt e^{j\omega(t-\beta)} \phi_{aa}(t-\beta) \quad (\text{II-56})$$

$$\overline{x^2(\tau, \alpha)}$$

With $\overline{\Phi_{xx}}(\omega)$ known, $\overline{x^2(\tau, \alpha)}$, can be calculated from the inverse Fourier Transform

$$\overline{\phi_{xx}}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega e^{j\omega\lambda} \overline{\Phi_{xx}}(\omega) \quad (\text{II-57})$$

by setting λ equal to zero.

$$\overline{x^2(\tau, \alpha)} = \frac{1}{N} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega R(\omega) \Phi_{nn}(\omega) \quad (\text{II-58})$$

This is equation (II-33). This result is significant in that it represents an explicit, general solution for the rms effect of noise on the crosscorrelation function. It is general in two respects:

- 1) No restrictions on the input have been imposed. Changes in the nature of the input change the function $R(\omega)$. Non-periodic inputs can be handled by allowing T to approach infinity.
- 2) No restrictions have been placed on $n(t)$. Indeed, $n(t)$ could be set equal to $a(t)$.

Equation (II-33) is also helpful in that it allows the simple equivalent circuit of Figure 7 to be drawn. This mental picture of the crosscorrelator acting as a pass-band filter with an attenuation of $1/\sqrt{N}$ is fairly simple to interpret compared to equation (II-6) or equation (II-33).

The function, $R(\omega)$, in equation (II-56), can be reduced to a form that is easier to calculate. First change variables, $\lambda = t - \beta$,

$$R(\omega) = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_0^T d\beta \frac{1}{T} \int_{-\beta}^{T-\beta} d\lambda e^{j\omega\lambda} \phi_{aa}(\lambda) \quad (\text{II-59})$$

The double integration is computed over the shaded part of the β, λ plane in Figure 9.

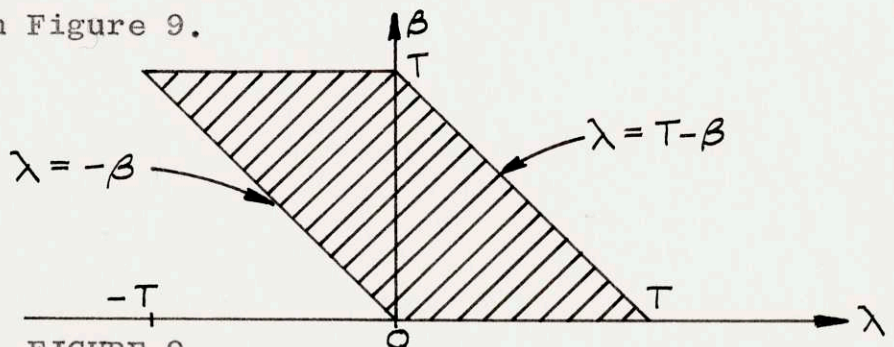


FIGURE 9

Reverse the order of integrations to give

$$R(\omega) = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{-T}^0 d\lambda e^{j\omega\lambda} \phi_{aa}(\lambda) \frac{1}{T} \int_{-\lambda}^T d\beta$$

$$+ \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_0^T d\lambda e^{j\omega\lambda} \phi_{aa}(\lambda) \frac{1}{T} \int_0^{T-\lambda} d\beta$$
(II-60)

In the first integral, let $-\lambda$ replace λ and compute the integrals with respect to β .

$$R(\omega) = \frac{1}{T\Delta t} \int_0^T d\lambda e^{-j\omega\lambda} \phi_{aa}(-\lambda)(T-\lambda)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{T\Delta t} \int_0^T d\lambda e^{j\omega\lambda} \phi_{aa}(\lambda)(T-\lambda)$$
(II-61)

The function, $\phi_{aa}(\lambda)$, is symmetric, ($\phi_{aa}(\lambda) = \phi_{aa}(-\lambda)$) so the first integral is the complex conjugate of the second integral.

$$R(\omega) = I(\omega) + I^*(\omega) = 2 \text{ Real } [I(\omega)]$$

$$I(\omega) \equiv \frac{1}{T\Delta t} \int_0^T d\lambda e^{j\omega\lambda} \phi_{aa}(\lambda)(T-\lambda)$$
(II-35)

The single integral of $I(\omega)$ is much easier to compute than the double integral of equation (II-56).

Up to this point the treatment is general. $R(\omega)$ is now evaluated for the special case of the idealized binary input.

From Figure 3 there follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_{aa}(\lambda) &= 1 - (1 + 1/N) \lambda / \Delta t, \quad 0 < \lambda < \Delta t \\ \phi_{aa}(\lambda) &= -1/N, \quad \Delta t < \lambda < T - \Delta t \\ \phi_{aa}(\lambda) &= -N + (1 + 1/N) \lambda / \Delta t, \quad T - \Delta t < \lambda < T\end{aligned}\quad (\text{II-62})$$

The integration is a bit tedious. The result is

$$\begin{aligned}I(\omega) &= \frac{1}{N^2 x^3} \left[e^{Nx} (Nx - 2(N+1)) \right. \\ &\quad + e^{(N-1)x} ((N+1)x + 2(N+1)) \\ &\quad + e^x ((N^2 - 1)x + 2(N+1)) \\ &\quad \left. + (-N^2 x^2 - N(N+2)x - 2(N+1)) \right]\end{aligned}\quad (\text{II-63})$$

where $x = j\omega\Delta t$

Take twice the real part to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}R(\omega) &= \frac{2}{(N^2)(y^3)} \left[-Ny \cos Ny + 2(N+1) \sin Ny \right. \\ &\quad - (N+1)y \cos (N-1)y - 2(N+1) \sin (N-1)y \\ &\quad - (N^2 - 1)y \cos y - 2(N+1) \sin y \\ &\quad \left. + (N^2 + 2N)y \right]\end{aligned}\quad (\text{II-64})$$

where $y = \omega\Delta t$

This function has been calculated on the IBM 704 for several values of N . The results (plus an asymptotic approximation) indicate that:

$$R(\omega) \longrightarrow 1/N, \text{ as } y \longrightarrow 0$$

$$R(\omega) \cong \left[\frac{\sin y/2}{y/2} \right]^2, \quad y > 1/N, \quad N > 100$$

Figure 9 is a plot of $\sqrt{R(\omega)}$ for $N = 251$, $\Delta t = .02$ sec.

The results of this section are very useful as a general aid in understanding the crosscorrelator. For example, Figure 8 can be used to observe the range of system transfer function that an input with $N = 251$ and $\Delta t = .02$ sec, is capable of measuring. Frequencies from 0.2 cps to 4.0 cps are passed by the crosscorrelator without distortion; frequencies from .05 cps to 30 cps are passed with a maximum distortion of 50%, etc. The crosscorrelator is an information filter as well as a noise filter.

b) Evaluation of $\overline{x^2(t)}$ if $n(t)$ is a known time function
Express $n(t)$ in a power series:

$$n(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} n_i(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Delta n_i}{T^i} t^i, \quad 0 < t < T \quad (\text{II-65})$$

where Δn_i is value of the i^{th} component, $n_i(t)$, at $t = T$.
The result of putting equation (II-65) into equation (II-6) is

$$\overline{x_i^2(\tau)} \cong (\Delta n_i)^2 / (2i+1)N \quad (\text{II-66})$$

To show this, first perform the substitution

$$x(\tau) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Delta n_i}{T^i} t^i a(t-\tau) \quad (\text{II-67})$$

Next reverse the order of summation and integration to give

$$x(\tau) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \Delta n_i M_i(\tau) \quad (\text{II-68})$$

where

$$M_i(\tau) = \frac{1}{\tau^{i+1}} \int_0^{\tau} dt a(t-\tau) t^i \quad (\text{II-69})$$

Now let $t = x\Delta t$, $\tau = k\Delta t$.

$$M_i(\tau) = \frac{1}{N^{i+1}} \int_0^N dx a(x\Delta t - k\Delta t) x^i \quad (\text{II-70})$$

$a(x\Delta t - k\Delta t)$ is a constant, A_{jk} , over the range $j-1 < x < j$, where $A = +1$ or -1 ; therefore

$$M_i(\tau) = \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{A_{jk}}{N^{i+1}} \int_{j-1}^j dx x^i \quad (\text{II-71})$$

$$M_i(\tau) = \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{A_{jk}}{N^{i+1}} \cdot \frac{j^{i+1} - (j-1)^{i+1}}{i+1}$$

If $-(j-1)^{i+1}$ is expanded in a binomial series, the first term will cancel j^{i+1} , and the next term, $(i+1)(j)^i$, will be much greater than the sum of the following terms, over most of the summation range (if N is large).

Therefore:

$$M_i(K) \cong \sum_{j=1}^N A_{jk} j^i / N^{i+1} \quad (\text{II-72})$$

If a series of numbers $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$ has a sum defined as

$$S_n \cong \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i \quad (\text{II-73})$$

where a_i is +1 or -1 with equal probability, then the average squared sum is:

$$\overline{S_n^2} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \quad (\text{II-74})$$

as can easily be shown by induction. This means that

$$\overline{M_i^2} \cong \left(\frac{1}{N^{i+1}} \right)^2 \sum_{j=1}^N j^{2i} \quad (\text{II-75})$$

The sum can be approximated closely by an integral

$$\overline{M_i^2} \cong \frac{1}{N^{2i+2}} \int_0^N j^{2i} dj = \frac{1}{(2i+1)N} \quad (\text{II-76})$$

Therefore: $\overline{x_i^2} \cong (\Delta n_i)^2 / (2i + 1)N$, which is equation (II-66). In order to compute Z_2 from this result, compute $\overline{n_i^2(t)}$:

$$\overline{n_i^2(t)} = \left(\frac{\Delta n_i}{T^i} \right)^2 \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T t^{2i} dt$$

$$\overline{n_i^2(t)} = (\Delta n_i)^2 / (2i + 1) \quad (\text{II-77})$$

Therefore

$$Z_2 = \frac{\Delta n_i / \sqrt{2i + 1}}{\Delta n_i / \sqrt{(2i + 1)N}} = \sqrt{N} \quad (\text{II-78})$$

The constraint of equation (II-11) on the A_{jk} will have the effect of decreasing M_i^2 in equation (II-75) and hence will increase the improvement factor.

E. System Transfer Function

The crosscorrelation method measures the system impulse response, $h(t)$, directly. The transfer function, $H(\omega)$ is an equally descriptive measure of system dynamics. These two functions are a transform pair:

$$H(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{-j\omega t} h(t) \quad (\text{II-79})$$

$$h(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega e^{j\omega t} H(\omega) \quad (\text{II-80})$$

This section includes a description of an IBM 704 code to perform the transformation plus a discussion of the propagation of errors from $h(t)$ to $H(\omega)$.

A major difficulty in computing the transformation of equation (II-79) is the fact that $h(t)$ is specified by discrete points; hence the curve between these points is ambiguous. Some assumptions must be made about the shape of the entire $h(t)$ curve. A few possibilities are:

- 1) $h(t)$ is a series of delta functions
- 2) $h(t)$ is described by straight line segments joining the data points
- 3) $h(t)$ is given by polynomial interpolation between data points
- 4) $h(t)$ is a least-squares fit of some function to the data points

Each of these possibilities has been explored successfully. The conclusions are, respectively:

- 1) Much better results can be obtained using method (2).
- 2) Good results are obtained, even with crude data.
- 3) Very good results are obtained from very good data. A small amount of error in the data, however, will cause large fluctuations in the interpolated curve. The interpolation order must be decreased as the relative error in the data increases.
- 4) Excellent results are obtained for data which can be made to fit a polynomial of eighth order or less. Most of the curves studied, however, were not at all suitable to polynomial fitting, and so this method was abandoned. Other types of functions would undoubtedly produce better fits. However, iteration tech-

niques for computing other least-square fits generally do not converge unless the data are very good, in which case method (3) is adequate.

The results of these four methods are presented in Tables B, C, and D for the three sets of data given in Table A.

TABLE A

Time (sec)	Set 1 e^{-t}	Set 2 $\sigma = .025$	Set 3 $\sigma = 0.1$
0	1.000	1.015	.947
.051	.950	.915	.847
.105	.900	.892	.977
.162	.850	.844	.796
.223	.800	.831	.703
.287	.750	.736	.735
.356	.700	.748	.725
.431	.650	.680	.922
.511	.600	.593	.593
.597	.550	.575	.601
.692	.500	.515	.505
.797	.450	.450	.597
.916	.400	.448	.364
1.049	.350	.381	.371
1.203	.300	.348	.290
1.383	.250	.227	.244
1.608	.200	.211	.345
1.896	.150	.110	.114
2.300	.100	.091	.254
2.810	.060	.099	-.040
3.510	.030	.040	.166
4.600	.010	.049	.045
6.900	.000	.000	.000

TABLE B- TRANSFORMS DERIVED BY THE FOUR METHODS

DATA - Set #1, Table A

Frequency cps	Actual	MAGNITUDE-DECIBELS				Actual	PHASE-DEGREES			
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
.00178	- .000	- .000	+ .001	+ .009	+ .001	- .64	- .31	- .66	- .66	- .34
.00316	- .002	- .000	- .001	+ .001	+ .003	- 1.14	- .55	- 1.16	- 1.16	- .60
.00562	- .005	- .002	- .005	- .005	+ .009	- 2.02	- .99	- 2.05	- 2.05	- 1.08
.01000	- .017	- .005	- .017	- .018	+ .026	- 3.59	- 1.75	- 3.65	- 3.65	- 1.93
.0178	- .054	- .015	- .055	- .057	+ .078	- 6.37	- 3.11	- 6.47	- 6.46	- 3.54
.0316	- .168	- .048	- .172	- .178	+ .219	-11.24	- 5.52	-11.41	-11.39	- 6.85
.0562	- .511	- .150	- .529	- .541	+ .471	-19.46	- 9.72	-19.77	-19.67	-14.57
.1000	- 1.445	- .452	- 1.514	- 1.514	+ .153	-32.14	-16.78	-32.52	-32.15	-32.71
0.178	- 3.519	- 1.247	- 3.60	- 3.50	- 3.867	-48.17	-27.61	-48.05	-47.90	-51.96
0.316	- 6.944	- 3.00	- 7.02	- 6.99	- 5.404	-63.28	-41.88	-63.12	-62.83	-67.21
0.562	-11.30	- 6.20	-11.31	-11.31	-10.48	-74.20	-55.57	-74.24	-74.35	-72.36
1.000	-16.07	-10.46	-16.08	-16.09	-15.41	-80.96	-63.80	-80.47	-81.05	-80.13
1.78	-21.00	-14.25	-21.13	-21.03	-20.23	-84.88	-63.38	-85.05	-84.75	-85.51
3.16	-25.97	-17.44	-26.07	-25.99	-25.51	-87.12	-52.62	-87.42	-87.14	-87.03
5.62	-30.97	-19.24	-30.96	-30.98	-30.83	-88.38	+14.80	-88.60	-88.38	-88.26
10.00	-35.96	-11.75	-36.01	-35.98	-37.03	-89.09	-10.01	-89.36	-89.10	-88.56
17.8	-40.96	-10.40	-41.00	-40.98	-48.91	-89.49	+13.33	-89.52	-89.49	-87.88
31.6	-45.96	- 8.29	-46.01	-45.98	-39.22	-89.71	-21.99	-89.81	-89.72	+88.74
56.2	-50.96	- 9.90	-51.01	-50.98	-40.72	-89.84	+22.99	-89.86	-89.84	-88.50
100.0	-55.96	-18.35	-56.01	-55.98	-41.30	-89.91	-61.66	-89.92	-89.91	-88.47

TABLE C - TRANSFORMS DERIVED BY THE FOUR METHODS

DATA - Set #2, Table A ($\sigma = .025$)

Frequency cps	Actual	MAGNITUDE-DECIBELS				Actual	PHASE-DEGREES			
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
.00178	- .000	- .000	- .002	- .002	- .001	- .64	- .33	- .81	- .86	- .81
.00316	- .002	- .001	- .005	- .005	- .003	- 1.14	- .58	- 1.47	- 1.55	- 1.44
.00562	- .005	- .002	- .011	- .012	- .010	- 2.02	- 1.04	- 2.62	- 2.74	- 2.56
.01000	- .017	- .006	- .033	- .038	- .031	- 3.59	- 1.84	- 4.65	- 4.86	- 4.55
.0178	- .054	- .019	- .105	- .119	- .098	- 6.37	- 3.28	- 8.22	- 8.60	- 8.06
.0316	- .168	- .061	- .327	- .373	- .309	-11.24	- 5.79	-14.39	-15.01	-14.12
.0562	- .511	- .186	- .998	- 1.133	- .947	-19.46	-10.13	-24.29	-25.10	-23.95
.1000	- 1.445	- .533	- 2.72	- 2.99	- 2.623	-32.14	-17.20	-36.16	-36.01	-36.10
.178	- 3.517	- 1.31	- 4.49	- 4.38	- 4.464	-48.17	-27.68	-48.08	-43.27	-43.57
.316	-6.944	- 3.02	- 7.48	- 7.72	- 7.513	-63.28	-42.87	-63.62	-62.29	-66.22
.562	-11.30	- 6.62	-13.08	-13.39	-12.07	-74.20	-57.38	-81.77	-83.35	-75.87
1.000	-16.07	-10.78	-16.96	-16.97	-17.01	-80.96	-61.54	-80.76	-81.40	-82.05
1.78	-21.00	-14.55	-22.68	-22.53	-22.02	-84.88	-60.04	-79.35	-79.22	-85.62
3.16	-25.97	-17.81	-27.25	-27.16	-27.13	-87.12	-48.16	-80.84	-76.29	-87.42
5.62	-30.97	-18.32	-31.01	-31.32	-32.47	-88.38	+12.82	-84.58	-84.46	-88.43
10.00	-35.96	-11.59	-36.27	-36.67	-38.71	-89.09	-13.17	-88.26	-91.83	-88.85
17.8	-40.96	-11.00	-41.70	-41.70	-50.53	-89.49	+13.47	-90.69	-86.79	-87.89
31.6	-45.96	- 8.11	-46.74	-46.88	-40.87	-89.71	-22.05	-89.33	-90.41	+88.85
56.2	-50.96	-10.08	-51.73	-51.83	-42.40	-89.84	+26.27	-90.31	-90.08	-88.80
100.0	-55.96	-17.74	-56.75	-56.83	-42.98	-89.91	-48.42	-90.13	-90.35	-88.78

TABLE D- TRANSFORMS DERIVED BY THE FOUR METHODS

DATA - Set #3, Table A
($\sigma = 0.1$)

Frequency cps	MAGNITUDE-DECIBELS					PHASE-DEGREES				
	Actual	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Actual	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
.000178	- .000	- .000	+ .009	+ .001	- .001	- .64	- .36	- .95	- .87	- .99
.00316	- .002	- .001	- .003	- .003	- .004	- 1.14	- .64	- 1.65	- 1.43	- 1.77
.00562	- .005	- .002	- .011	- .006	- .013	- 2.02	- 1.14	- 2.94	- 2.58	- 3.14
.01000	- .017	- .007	- .035	- .022	- .043	- 3.59	- 2.02	- 5.20	- 4.58	- 5.58
.0178	- .054	- .023	- .110	- .070	- .135	- 6.37	- 3.58	- 9.21	- 8.13	- 9.87
.0316	- .168	- .073	- .346	- .224	- .425	-11.24	- 6.33	-16.19	- 14.41	-17.28
.0562	- .511	- .225	- 1.08	- .723	- 1.316	-19.46	-11.04	-27.65	- 25.27	-29.10
.1000	- 1.445	- .646	- 3.14	- 2.38	- 3.681	-32.14	-18.58	-42.45	- 42.06	-42.02
.178	- 3.519	- 1.55	- 5.96	- 6.25	- 5.482	-48.17	-29.12	-47.30	- 48.78	-45.53
.316	- 6.944	- 3.29	- 8.01	- 6.92	- 9.170	-63.28	-44.59	-70.25	- 74.31	-67.90
.562	-11.30	- 6.24	-10.51	- 9.32	-13.52	-74.20	-58.45	-71.12	- 70.17	-78.24
1.000	-16.07	-11.74	-16.86	-16.35	-18.48	-80.96	-77.68	-109.19	-117.76	-83.35
1.78	-21.00	-15.05	-25.50	-23.68	-23.58	-84.88	-57.64	-69.36	- 46.77	-86.08
3.16	-25.97	-15.38	-24.35	-24.57	-28.61	-87.12	-72.70	-105.80	-106.50	-87.69
5.62	-30.97	-21.31	-32.16	-31.79	-33.96	-88.38	24.51	-119.31	-119.15	-88.55
10.00	-35.96	-10.71	-37.56	-34.14	-40.20	-89.09	-13.39	-80.96	- 78.95	-89.05
17.8	-40.96	-12.30	-44.40	-44.52	-52.03	-89.49	21.79	-93.34	- 81.04	-87.97
31.6	-45.96	- 9.24	-48.40	-47.52	-42.37	-89.71	-21.09	-92.64	- 87.43	+88.91
56.2	-50.96	-11.42	-53.06	-53.02	-43.90	-89.84	21.43	-89.63	- 90.52	-89.02
100.0	-55.96	-18.23	-58.51	-57.67	-44.48	-89.91	-31.42	-90.07	-90.43	-88.99

The first set of data is 23 exact points on the curve $h(t) = e^{-t}$. The second and third sets of data are for the same curve with simulated errors added to the data; the resulting points are distributed with a normal probability distribution centered about the exact curve. The standard deviation in set 2 is .025, and in set 3 it is 0.1. In each set the last data point is made equal to zero.

Method two is the basic tool that has been adopted for computing transfer functions. If the accuracy of the data warrants its use, method three is also available. In order to derive a formula for computing $H(\omega)$ if $h(t)$ is given by straight line segments, rewrite equation (II-79).¹⁸

$$H(\omega) = \frac{1}{j\omega} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{-j\omega t} \frac{dh(t)}{dt} \quad (\text{II-81})$$

The function, $dh(t)/dt$, is a delta function, $h(0)\delta(t)$, corresponding to a step in $h(t)$ at zero, plus a bounded function. Rewrite equation (II-81) as

$$H(\omega) = \frac{1}{(j\omega)^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{-j\omega t} \frac{d^2h(t)}{dt^2} + \frac{h(0)}{j\omega} \quad (\text{II-82})$$

The function, d^2h/dt^2 , consists of a series of delta functions

$$\frac{d^2h}{dt^2} = \sum_{i=1}^m \left[\text{change in the slope of the } h(t) \text{ curve at } t = t_i \right] \delta(t_i) \quad (\text{II-83})$$

Therefore:

$$H(\omega) = \frac{h_1}{j\omega} - \frac{1}{\omega^2} \left[\frac{h_2 - h_1}{t_2} - \frac{h_m - h_{m-1}}{t_m - t_{m-1}} e^{-j\omega t_m} \right. \\ \left. + \sum_{i=2}^{m-1} \left(\frac{h_{i+1} - h_i}{t_{i+1} - t_i} - \frac{h_i - h_{i-1}}{t_i - t_{i-1}} \right) e^{-j\omega t_i} \right] \quad (\text{II-84})$$

where $h_1 = h(0)$, $h_i = h(t_i)$, $t_1 = 0$, and $t_i < t_{i+1} < t_{i+2}$, etc.

An IBM-704 program has been written to compute the magnitude and phase of $H(\omega)$. In addition, the program can perform the following calculations:

- 1) It can interpolate a large number of points from the data provided. The order of the interpolation polynomial can be set from 1 to 6.
- 2) It can perform the finite Δt correction discussed in Section C, either by iteration in the time domain or by division in the frequency domain.
- 3) Given the observed or estimated standard deviation of the data points, the program can compute the theoretical standard deviation of the transfer function according to the propagation of errors formula:

$$\sigma^2(\omega) = \sum_{i=1}^m \left(\frac{\partial H(\omega)}{\partial h_i} \right)^2 \sigma_{h_i}^2 \quad (\text{II-85})$$

- 4) The program computes the area and the squared-area, $\int_0^{\infty} h^2(t) dt$, of the segmented data curve. The transfer functions are normalized by dividing by the area.
- 5) Given the $h(t)$ data points and their respective standard deviations, the program can compute a new data curve. Each new point is chosen at random on a normal probability distribution centered about the original data point. The program will then compute the transfer function of this new data curve. The program can compute a large number of such randomized curves and then compute, as a function of frequency, the average and standard deviation of the entire ensemble of curves.

The program is written in FORTRAN; the listings are given in Appendix B. Details of the equations used can be determined by reference to these listings.

The purposes of parts (3) and (5) are the same - to compute the expected standard deviations of the transfer function from the known standard deviations of the impulse response. No reasonable answers are obtained from the method of propagation of errors (part (3)) and hence the Monte Carlo method of part (5) is used exclusively. As an illustration of the type of results that are obtained, the Monte Carlo method has been used to calculate the standard deviations of the transforms of the impulse response data of Table A. Figure 10 shows the data of set 3 of Table A ($\sigma = 0.1$) plotted along with e^{-t} from which it was derived. Figure 11 shows the magnitude, phase, and standard deviations of the transform of $h(t)$ along with the transform of e^{-t} .

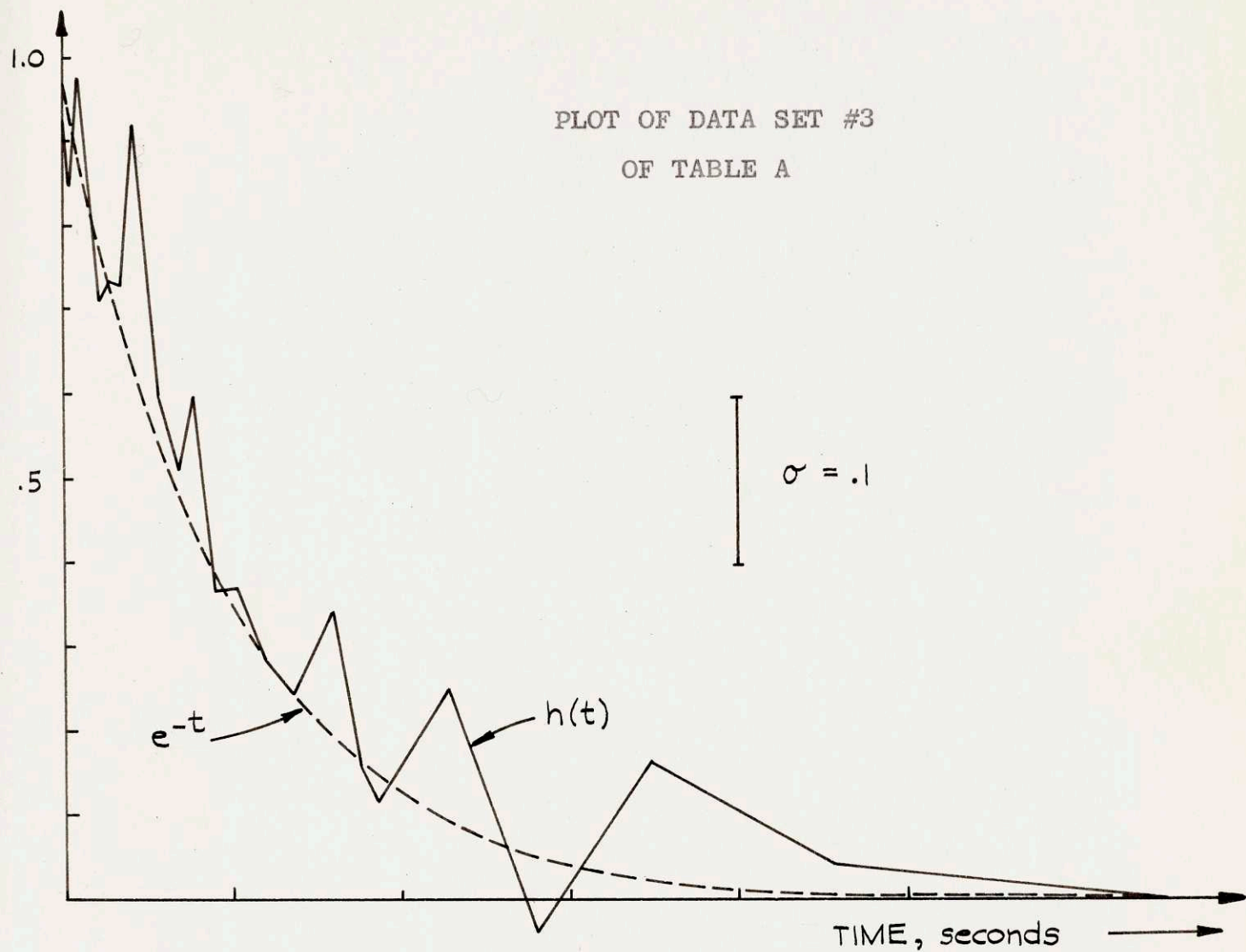


FIGURE 10

In Table E are tabulated the corresponding results for data set 2 of Table A ($\sigma = .025$). In both of these calculations, 50 data curves and their transforms were calculated. Since equation (II-79) is linear it follows that the transform of the average should equal the average of the transforms $\overline{F(h(t))} = F(\overline{h(t)})$. This condition is

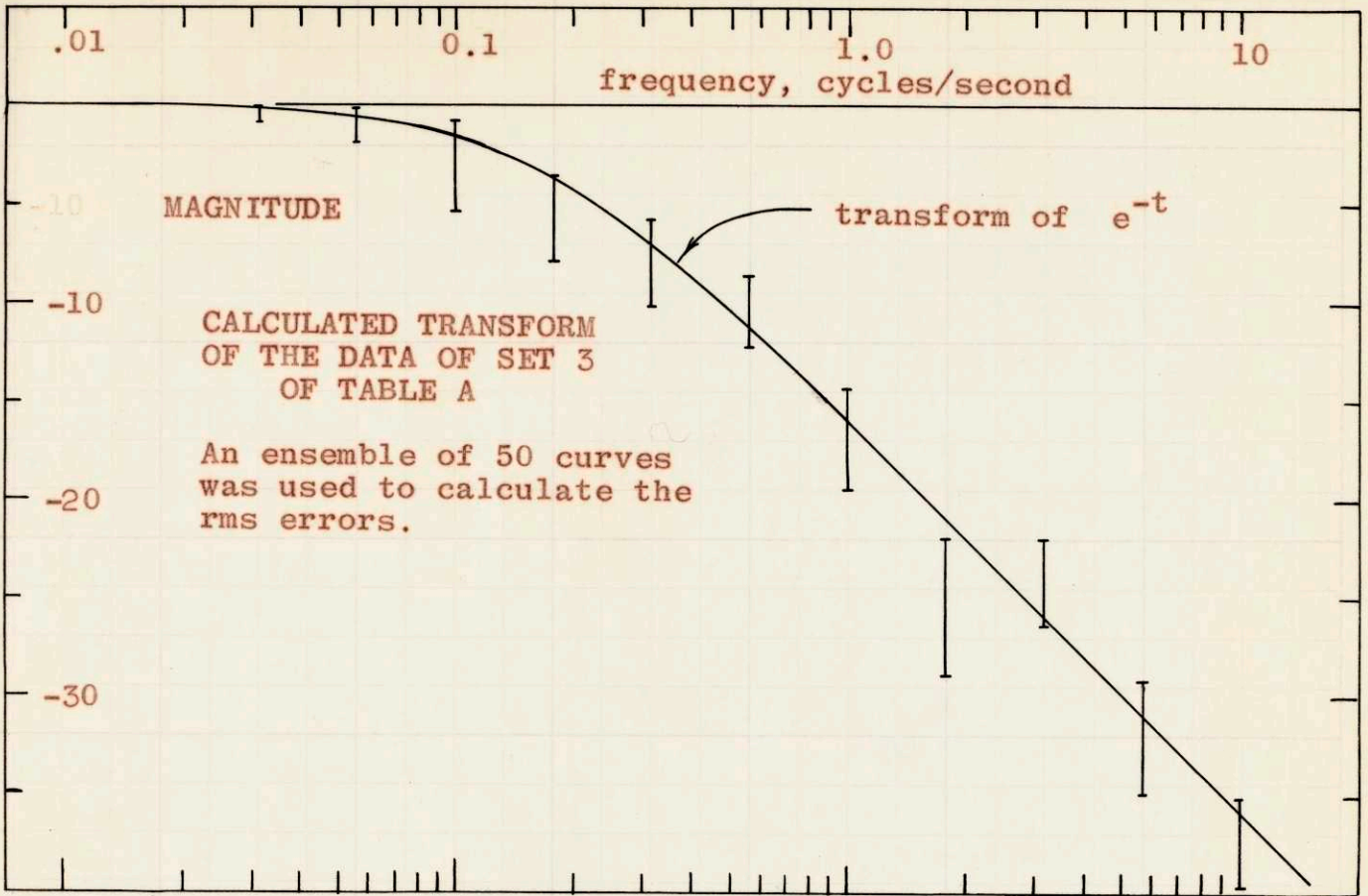
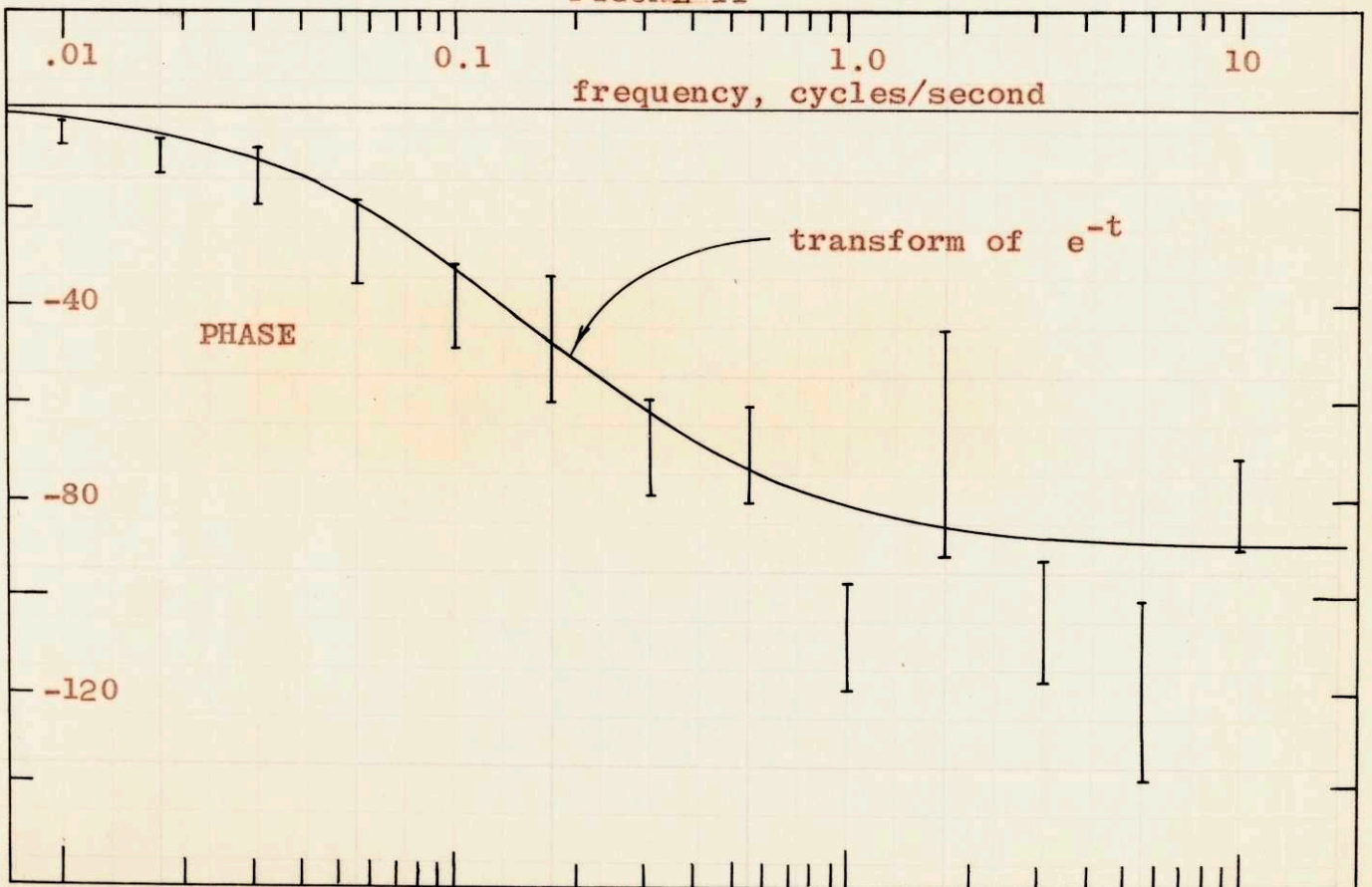


FIGURE 11



approached reasonably closely for an ensemble of 50 curves and hence the estimated standard deviations are judged to be a close guess to the true standard deviations.

The transfer function results that are given in Chapter IV on experiments have all been calculated using the IBM-704 code described and their standard deviations have been estimated by the Monte Carlo method of part (5).

TABLE E

EXPECTED ERRORS IN THE TRANSFORM OF DATA SET NO. 2

Frequency cps	Magnitude db	Phase Degrees
.00178	- .002 ± .002	- .81 ± .10
.00316	- .005 ± .001	- 1.47 ± .17
.00562	- .011 ± .003	- 2.62 ± .30
.01000	- .033 ± .009	- 4.65 ± .53
.0178	- .105 ± .027	- 8.22 ± .94
.0316	- .327 ± .086	-14.39 ± 1.61
.0562	- .998 ± .264	-24.29 ± 2.48
.1000	- 2.711 ± .693	-36.16 ± 2.22
.178	- 4.487 ± .539	-44.08 ± 3.39
.316	- 7.486 ± .568	-63.62 ± 2.48
.562	-13.08 ± .68	-81.77 ± 4.19
1.000	-16.96 ± .67	-80.76 ± 3.66
1.78	-22.68 ± .79	-79.35 ± 4.82
3.16	-27.25 ± .73	-80.84 ± 5.18
5.62	-31.01 ± .70	-84.58 ± 4.63
10.00	-36.27 ± .49	-88.26 ± 2.38
17.8	-41.70 ± .49	-90.69 ± .65
31.6	-46.75 ± .47	-89.33 ± .45
56.2	-51.73 ± .47	-90.31 ± .30
100.0	-56.75 ± .47	-90.13 ± .17

CHAPTER III

Implementation of the Crosscorrelation Method

In the previous chapter it has been shown that, for a properly chosen input signal, the impulse response of a linear system is given by the crosscorrelation function of the system input and output. This chapter describes the equipment that has been built to measure the impulse response of reactor systems.

There are two basic jobs the equipment must perform:

A) It must supply the input; and, B) it must compute the crosscorrelation function.

A) The Input and Delayed Inputs Generator

The input and delayed inputs are stored on punched paper tape. A small section is shown in Figure 1.

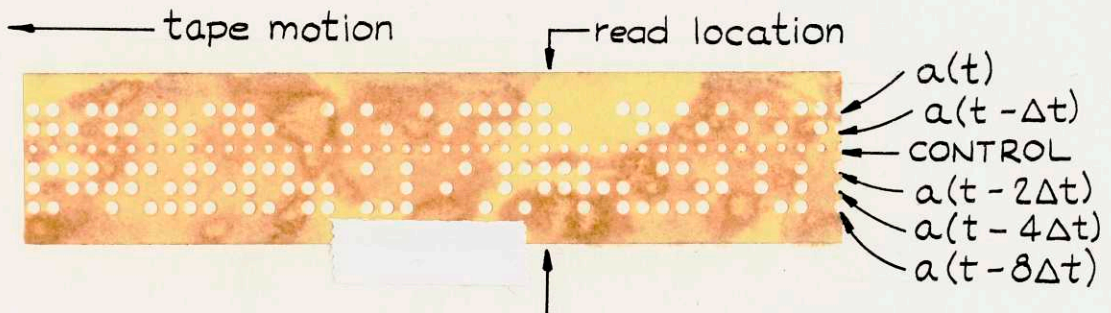


FIGURE 1

The top row is the input signal and the other four rows are the same signal shifted to the right 1, 2, 4, and 8

places respectively. A multi-vibrator generates one timing pulse each Δt seconds. This pulse moves the tape in the tape reader in jerks past the read location. Thus the output of a register that is set by any one of the five rows is a discrete-interval, binary square-wave. In particular, the signal from channel one is taken to be the input, the signal from channel two is equivalent to the signal from channel one delayed by Δt , channel three is equivalent to channel one delayed by $2\Delta t$, etc. Thus, any delay can be realized by properly punching the tape as long as the delay is an integer multiple of Δt .

B. The Crosscorrelator

The function to be computed is:

$$\phi_{ab}(\tau_1) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt b(t) a(t - \tau_1) \quad (\text{II-2})$$

This involves four steps:

- 1) Delay of $a(t)$ by τ_1 . This delay has been accomplished artificially by the use of second channel of the punched paper tape.
- 2) Multiplication of $b(t)$ by $a(t - \tau_1)$. This multiplication can be accomplished by selecting either $b(t)$ or $-b(t)$ depending on the sign of $a(t - \tau_1)$.
- 3) Integration of the product. This is accomplished by a high gain operational amplifier with resistor input and capacitor feedback.
- 4) Termination of the integration at time, T .

A schematic diagram of one channel of the crosscorrelator is shown in Figure 2.

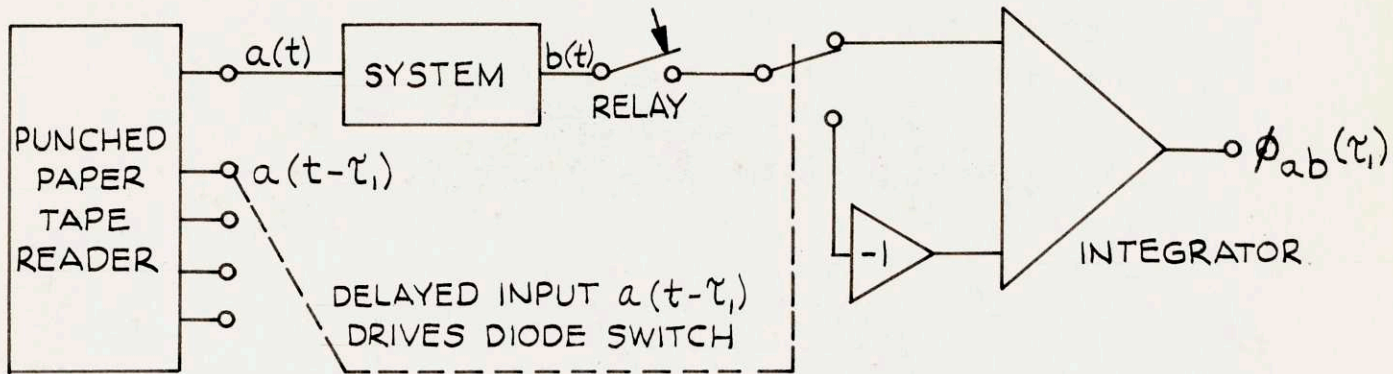


FIGURE 2

The system output is fed through a relay to a pair of six-diode gates. Depending on the polarity of $a(t - \tau_1)$ the gates switch the relay output to either the plus one or the minus one input of the integrator.

The calculation begins when a manual switch is thrown. The relay closes on the next timing pulse and a special scaler begins counting the timing pulses. When the scaler reaches the preset number, $T/\Delta t$, the relay opens and the integrator holds at the final value, $\phi_{ab}(\tau_1)$.

Figure 2 shows crosscorrelation channel No. 1 which computes $\phi_{ab}(\tau_1)$. Three other identical channels have been built to compute $\phi_{ab}(\tau_2)$, $\phi_{ab}(\tau_3)$, and $\phi_{ab}(\tau_4)$. By using a different punched paper tape with a different set of delays, a different group of four points on $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ can be calculated. The shape of most curves can be determined by 28 points calculated from seven tapes. Of course, a 28 channel crosscorrelator could be built to perform the same calculations in one seventh the time.

C. Accuracy and Design

The complete circuit diagrams for all the equipment that was built especially for this project are given in Appendix C. A schematic showing how the equipment was linked to a portable analog computer during use is also given. Figure 3 is a photograph of the equipment.

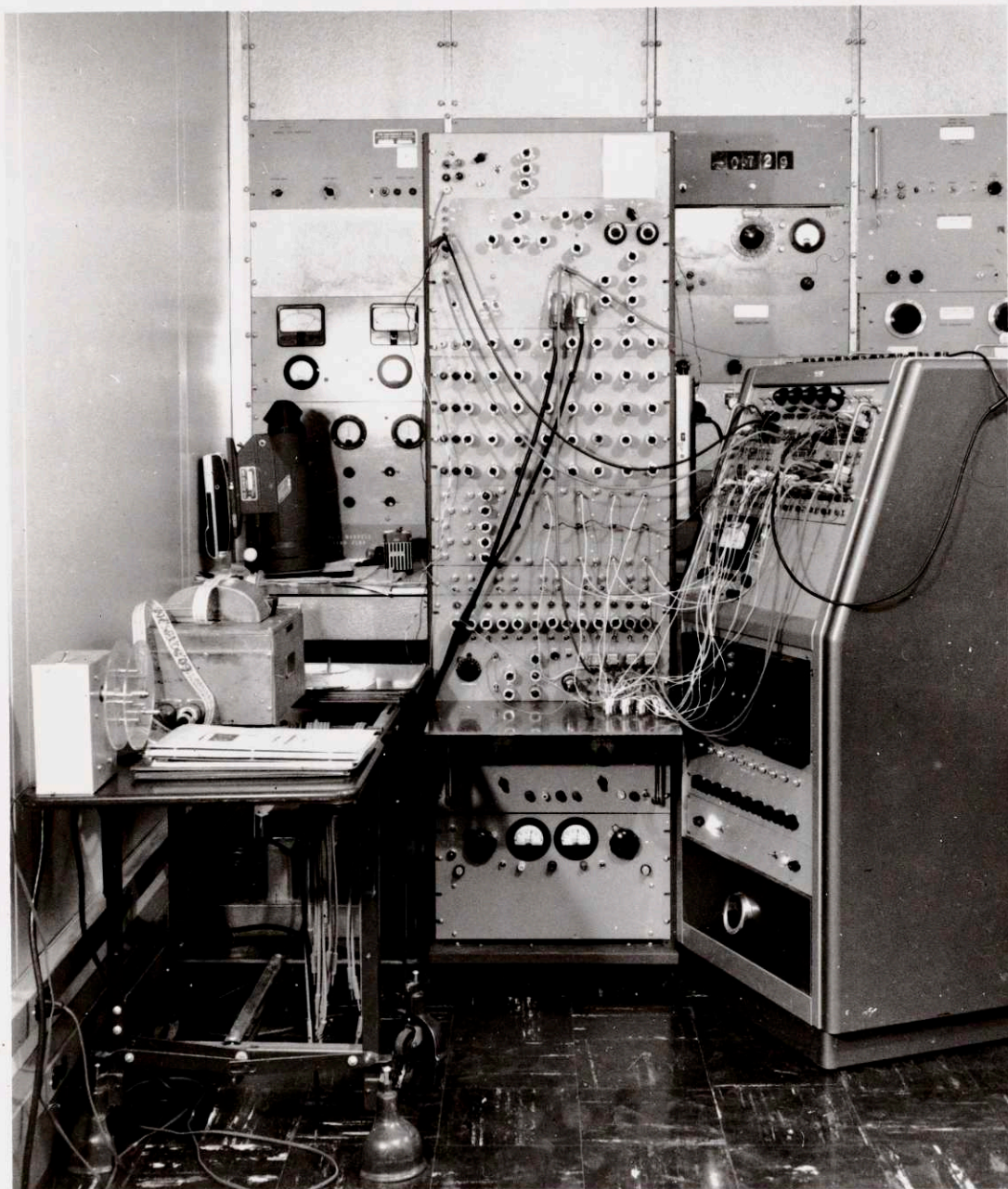
Most of the design utilizes switching type circuits (flip-flops, logic gates, etc.) and once the levels are set correctly there is no accuracy problem. The diode gates, however, do present a problem since the continuous level signal from the system output must pass through them without distortion. To accomplish this, diodes are selected in pairs which have the same forward voltage drop. A pair of trimming potentiometers were designed into the gates so that they could be precisely balanced. Once balanced, the gates proved to be linear within $\pm 0.3\%$ in both switch positions over a range of $-40v.$ to $+40v.$

The punched paper tape reader is a rewired photoelectric model that had served as an input to the Maniac I computer. It had originally been designed to operate at 200 bits/second but cannot now be pushed past 50 bits/second with complete reliability. This is the basic limitation of this particular implementation of the cross-correlation method. This means that Δt can be no smaller than .020 seconds; also that the system under study should have a bandwidth no greater than 5 cps. This is the point at which the finite Δt correction, discussed in Chapter II-C, begins to become significant.

D. The Punched Paper Tapes

Many paper tapes had to be punched. There are two chains, $N = 251$ and $N = 1019$, which are used; for each

FIGURE 3



PUNCHED PAPER TAPE AND CROSSCORRELATION EQUIPMENT

The crosscorrelator is in the center, the portable analog computer on the right, and the punched paper tape reader on the left.

of these, many different tapes, corresponding to different sets of delays, are needed. Conveniently, the Maniac digital computer at Los Alamos can be programmed to punch paper tapes. Two codes are written which will accept the input chain, compute the autocorrelation function, and punch out tapes for any arbitrary sets of delays.

The first type of tape that is used is a loop. A tape of length 251 bits, for example, is punched with the input in channel one and the desired shifted inputs in the other four channels. The tape is then cut and glued end to end to form a loop (see Figure 3). When placed in the reader, the input signal read out automatically has a periodicity of 251 bits. The shifted channels are punched modulo 251 so that they too form a continuous, periodic signal equivalent to the input signal delayed.

In some of the experiments there is not sufficient time to read the four voltages ($\phi_{ab}(\tau_i)$) from the integrator outputs and to swap loops in the reader between each integration. For these experiments the punched paper tapes are continuous and are wound on reels. Channel one contains the continuous, periodic input signal. The other channels contain the four shifted inputs as follows: adjacent to the first several cycles of the input signal the first four shifted inputs are punched; adjacent to the next several input cycles the next set of four shifted inputs are punched, etc. Thus there is an abrupt change in the delayed channels every several cycles. The number of cycles of each set of shifted inputs must necessarily be one greater than the number of cycles over which the integration is performed to allow time to reset for the next group. The four integrator voltages are recorded continuously on a Sanborn

recorder. The values of the crosscorrelation function can be read from the Sanborn record after the experiment.

E. Post Mortem Crosscorrelation

Any one cycle of the system response and of the input signal contains all the information needed to construct the crosscorrelation function. If these two signals are recorded, then the crosscorrelation can be performed at leisure afterward. The only equipment available to compute the crosscorrelation function, however, is that which has already been described. This equipment can be used to perform the crosscorrelation function of recorded signals as follows:

- 1) In addition to the input signal and the system output signal, the timing pulse is recorded on magnetic tape.
- 2) After the experiment, the magnetic tape is played back and the recorded timing pulses are used to control the punched paper tape reader.
- 3) The recorded input signal and the signal from paper tape channel No. 1 are recorded on a high speed Sanborn recorder and the relative shift between the two is noted.
- 4) Four points on the crosscorrelation function are computed using the other four paper tape channels to drive the diode switches as usual.
- 5) The total effective delays, τ_i (corresponding to the points on crosscorrelation function calculated in step 4), are computed: each τ is the sum of the shift observed in step 3 and the shift of the respective punched paper tape channel.

- 6) Steps 2) - 4) are repeated many times to obtain as wide a variety of delays as desired.

CHAPTER IV

EXPERIMENTS

As soon as the equipment described in Chapter III was completed it was tried out on analog computer simulations of simple systems. These analog computer studies gave experimental verification of the theoretical predictions and indicated the accuracy capabilities of the crosscorrelation method. During the time that the crosscorrelator was being built, an input device for a reactor was being designed and built. When this was ready, a set of experiments was carried out on the Godiva II fast reactor at Los Alamos. The results were not quite what had been hoped for, but they did establish the feasibility of using the crosscorrelation method on reactor systems. The data do agree with the theoretical predictions, but the variance is very large. The experience gained by experimenting on Godiva was invaluable.

The affirmative results of the Godiva experiment and the analog computer studies provided enough confidence in the crosscorrelation technique to permit its use on Kiwi A3. Kiwi A3 is a prototype nuclear rocket engine built and tested by the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. The original reason for the development of the method had been to measure the response characteristics of Kiwi type reactors. There are better methods of measuring the impulse response of Godiva because neither short experiment time nor small excursions are a requirement for experiments on that reactor.* But in the case of rocket propulsion reactors the crosscorrelation method is the only method which seems feasible. The experiments were carried out on Kiwi A3 at the Nevada Test Site during October, 1960. The results were uniformly quite good;

* See, for example, reference (19).

they prove beyond doubt the feasibility of the crosscorrelation method for use on reactor systems.

Up to this point, the effect of system nonlinearities had not been investigated, either analytically or experimentally. The particular type of nonlinearity of most interest is that of the reactor kinetics equations. An analog computer study was carried out on a reactor simulation to see if any adverse effects could be found. None were found.

The analog computer studies and the two sets of experiments will now be taken up one at a time in some detail.

A. The Analog Computer Studies

A great deal of data have been taken using the analog computer simulations; most of this was for practice. A few results are presented here to indicate the accuracy capabilities of the crosscorrelation method and to show in detail how the data are processed. In both examples given, the system noise was negligible.

The first system chosen for study is a second order system with a natural frequency of 2 rad/sec. and a damping factor of one half. Its characteristics are:

$$h(t) = \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-t} \sin(\sqrt{3} t)$$

$$H(\omega) = \frac{4}{(4 - \omega^2) + 2j\omega} \quad (\text{IV-1})$$

On the analog computer, this system can be simulated as shown in figure 1.²⁰

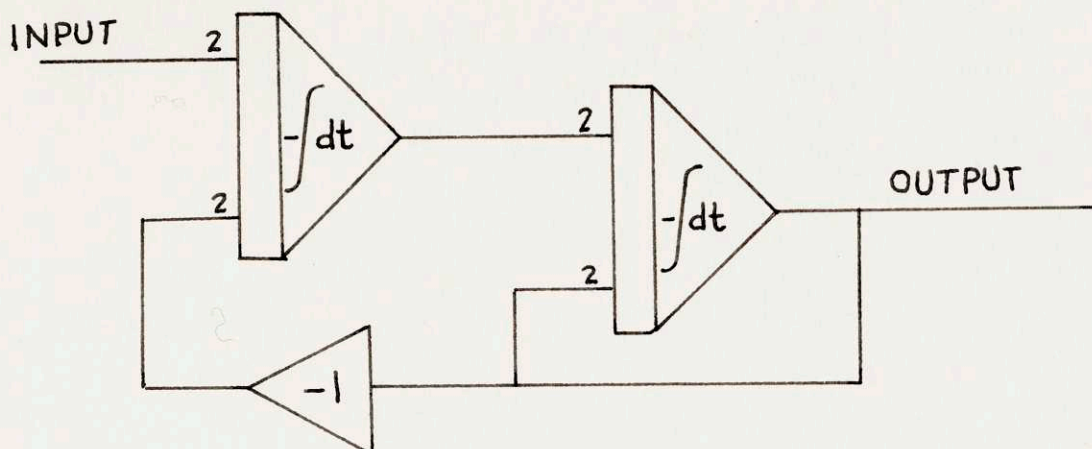


FIGURE 1.

Data were taken under the following conditions:

$$a(t) = \pm 56.7 \text{ volts}$$

$$\Delta t = .0203 \text{ seconds}$$

$$\text{Integration time} = 2T = 502 \Delta t = 11.5 \text{ seconds}$$

$$\text{Gain from system output to diode gates} = 2$$

$$\text{Integration rate constant} = 0.956$$

Table A lists the data. Explanation of each column of the table follows:

Column 1 - Lists the channel number.

Column 2 - Lists the delay, τ , in units of Δt . This corresponds to the number of bits the signal was shifted on the punched paper tape.

Column 3 - Lists the delay, τ , in seconds; column 2 times .0203 seconds.

Column 4 - Lists $T \phi_{ab}(\tau)$. This is the voltage at the integrator output at the end of the integration. Repeated measurements indicate that the standard deviation of these voltages is about 0.05 volts, independent of τ .

TABLE A

1 Channel Number	2 τ bits	3 τ sec.	4 $V_{ab}(\tau)$ Volt-sec	5 $V_{ab}(\tau)$ Volt-sec	6 $P(\tau)$ Volt-sec	7 $h(\tau)$ Sec ⁻¹	8 $h(\tau)$ normalized Sec ⁻¹	9 $h(\tau)$ true Sec ⁻¹
1	- 1	- .0203	- 3.98					
2	- 1	- .0203	- 4.01					
3	- 1	- .0203	- 4.08					
4	- 1	- .0203	- 4.00					
1	1	.0203	- 2.28	1.70	1.704	.076	.082	.079
2	2	.0406	- .65	3.36	3.363	.150	.163	.155
3	3	.0609	.90	4.98	4.989	.222	.241	.228
4	4	.0812	2.50	6.50	6.504	.290	.314	.297
1	6	.122	5.41	9.39	9.398	.419	.454	.426
2	8	.162	7.90	11.91	11.914	.531	.576	.542
3	10	.203	10.14	14.22	14.227	.634	.688	.646
4	12	.244	12.21	16.21	16.214	.723	.784	.737
1	15	.304	14.82	18.80	18.808	.838	.910	.853
2	18	.365	16.56	20.57	20.571	.917	.995	.943
3	21	.426	18.11	22.19	22.197	.990	1.074	1.011
4	25	.507	19.26	23.26	23.263	1.037	1.125	1.066
1	30	.609	19.71	23.69	23.693	1.056	1.146	1.089
2	40	.812	17.86	21.87	21.872	.975	1.058	1.010
3	50	1.015	13.85	17.93	17.931	.800	.867	.823
4	65	1.319	6.09	10.09	10.090	.450	.488	.471
1	80	1.624	- .81	3.17	3.169	.141	.153	.153
2	95	1.928	- 5.67	- 1.66	- 1.661	- .074	- .080	- .060
3	110	2.233	- 7.93	- 3.85	- 3.851	- .172	- .186	- .160
4	130	2.639	- 7.92	- 3.92	- 3.920	- .175	- .190	- .163
1	150	3.045	- 6.44	- 2.46	- 2.460	- .110	- .119	- .094
2	180	3.654	- 4.37	- .36	- .360	- .016	- .017	+ .001
3	200	4.060	- 3.80	.28	.280	+ .012	+ .014	+ .026
4	230	4.669	- 3.81	.19	.190	+ .008	+ .009	+ .021

Column 5 - Lists $T \phi'_{ab}(\tau)$. Equation (II-13) indicates that the value of $\phi_{ab}(-\Delta t)$ should be subtracted from each of the other values of $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$ to give an answer proportional to $h(\tau)$. It is observed that the four values of $\phi_{ab}(-\Delta t)$ are different. These differences are due to small inaccuracies in the diode gate operation; the differences will repeat with repeated measurements. Thus the practice was adopted of subtracting the value of $T \phi_{ab}(-\Delta t)$, as measured by each channel, from the other measurements made by that same channel. These values are listed in the column.

Column 6 - Lists the data of column 5 corrected for finite Δt . This correction has been discussed in Chapter II-C. (Refer: equation (II-17)). Thus, each value satisfies the relation:

$$P(\tau_i) = T \phi'_{ab}(\tau_i) \quad (\text{IV-2})$$

$$= \frac{\Delta t^2}{6(\tau_{i+1} - \tau_i)} \left[\frac{P(\tau_{i+1}) - P(\tau_i)}{\tau_{i+1} - \tau_i} - \frac{P(\tau_i) - P(\tau_{i-1})}{\tau_i - \tau_{i-1}} \right]$$

To satisfy this condition within 0.0001 required five iterations. Column 6 is listed to five significant figures in order to show the magnitude of the correction. In this particular example, this correction was not actually necessary, since Δt was chosen adequately small.

Column 7 - Lists $1/K$ times column 6. K is the theoretical constant between impulse response and $T \phi'_{ab}(\tau)$ corrected.

$$K = 2T\Delta t (\text{input}) (\text{output gain}) (\text{Integration constant})$$

$$K = (502) (.0203 \text{ sec})^2 (56.7 \text{ volts}) (2) (.965 \text{ sec})$$

$$K = 22.4 \text{ volt seconds}$$

Column 8 - Lists column 5 normalized to an area of unity. For any system, the D-C gain (gain at zero frequency) is given by the area under the impulse response: D-C gain = $\int_0^{\infty} h(t) dt$. It is a simple matter to determine the D-C gain very accurately; in this case it is unity. The normalization constant is 20.67 volt-seconds.

Column 9 - Lists the function $4/\sqrt{3} e^{-\tau} \sin(\sqrt{3}\tau)$, the true analytical system impulse response.

It is usually much easier to use a normalization constant than try to calculate K accurately. For some systems the D-C gain is zero or infinite and the normalization method cannot be used.

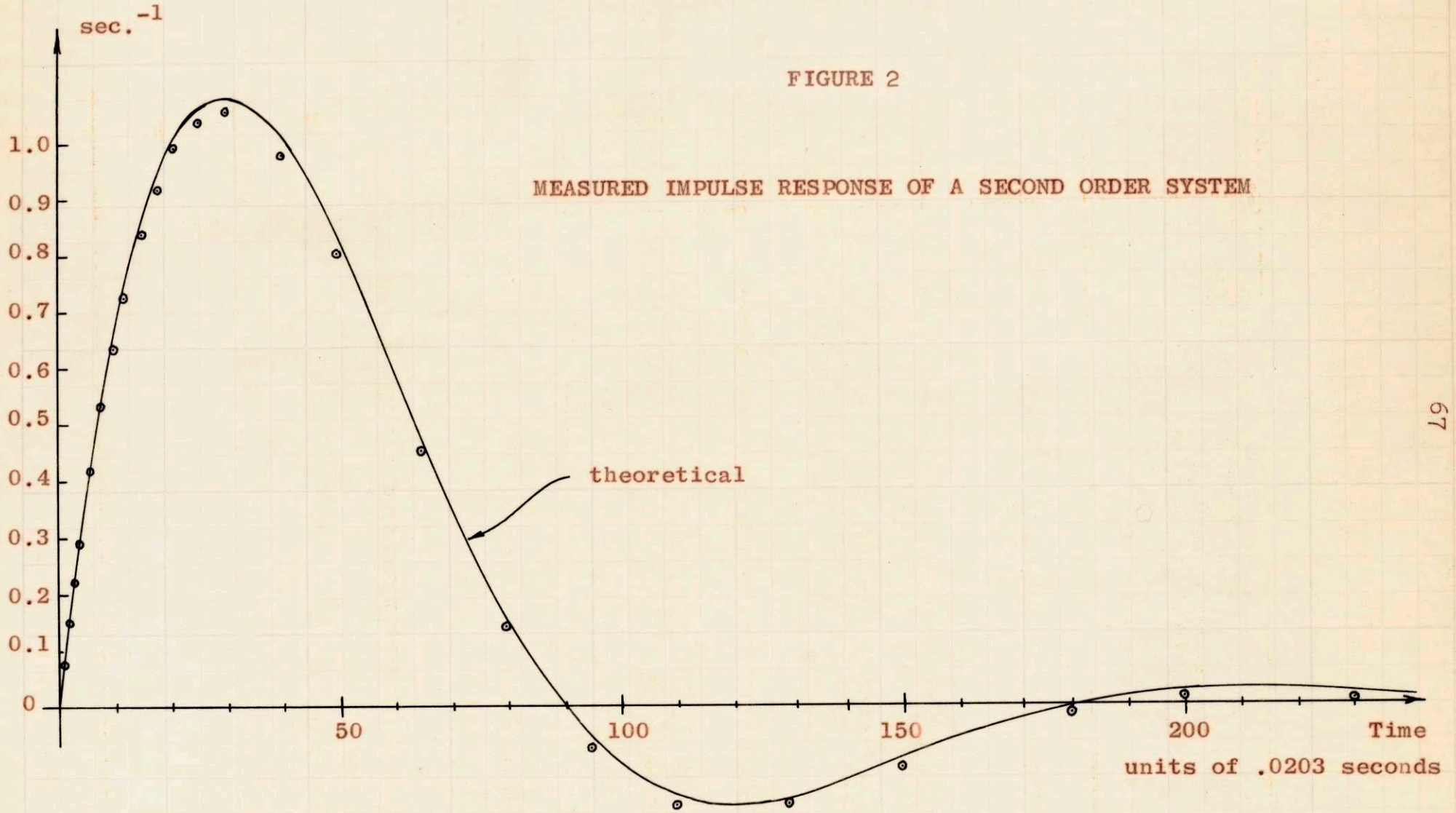
The data of column 8 in Table A have been used to calculate a system transfer function using the techniques discussed in Chapter II-E. For this purpose two points were added; the values of $h(\tau)$ at $\tau = 0$ and at $\tau = 251\Delta t$ were set equal to zero. The results are tabulated in Table B along with the theoretical results. Two hundred equally spaced points were machine interpolated (3rd order) and from these the transfer function was calculated, using equation (II-84).

The data of Tables A and B are plotted in Figures 2 and 3 respectively.

TABLE B
MEASURED AND ACTUAL TRANSFER FUNCTION
OF A SECOND ORDER SYSTEM

Frequency Cps	Magnitude - DB		Phase - Degrees	
	Measured	Actual	Measured	Actual
.00100	- .035	.000	- .15	- .18
.00178	- .011	.000	- .22	- .32
.00316	- .002	.000	- .40	- .57
.00562	+ .003	.001	- .73	- 1.01
.01000	+ .011	.004	- 1.30	- 1.80
.0178	+ .036	.013	- 2.33	- 3.20
.0316	+ .112	.042	- 4.24	- 5.73
.0562	+ .337	.133	- 8.05	- 10.33
.1000	+ .902	.404	- 16.76	- 19.22
.178	+ 1.755	1.049	- 39.00	- 39.08
.316	+ .472	.056	- 89.34	- 89.24
.562	- 8.366	- 8.819	-139.83	-140.21
1.000	-18.916	-19.471	-159.42	-160.50
1.78	-29.386	-29.749	-171.02	-169.52
3.16	-39.020	-39.842	-176.76	-174.19
5.62	-48.436	-49.871	-181.68	-176.75
10.00	-60.112	-59.881	-174.02	-178.17
17.8	-69.635	-69.884	-180.58	-178.97
31.6	-79.238	-79.884	-190.35	-179.42
56.2	-89.452	-89.885	-177.37	-179.68
100.0	-99.469	-99.885	-182.72	-179.82

CALCULATED FROM THE DATA OF TABLE A, COLUMN 8.
TWO HUNDRED EQUALLY SPACED WERE INTERPOLATED
(3RD ORDER) AND EQUATION (II-84) WAS USED TO
CALCULATE THE VALUES.



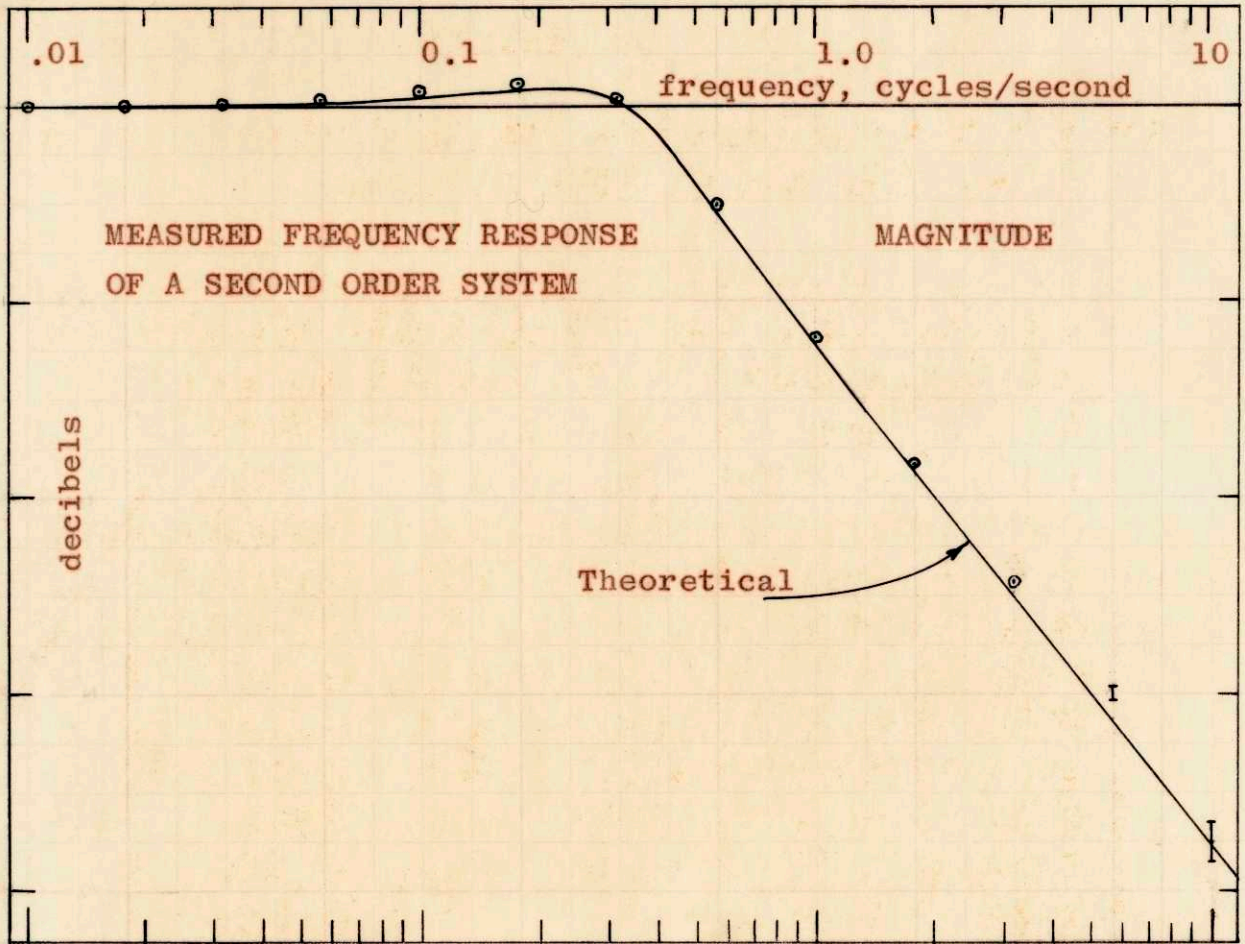
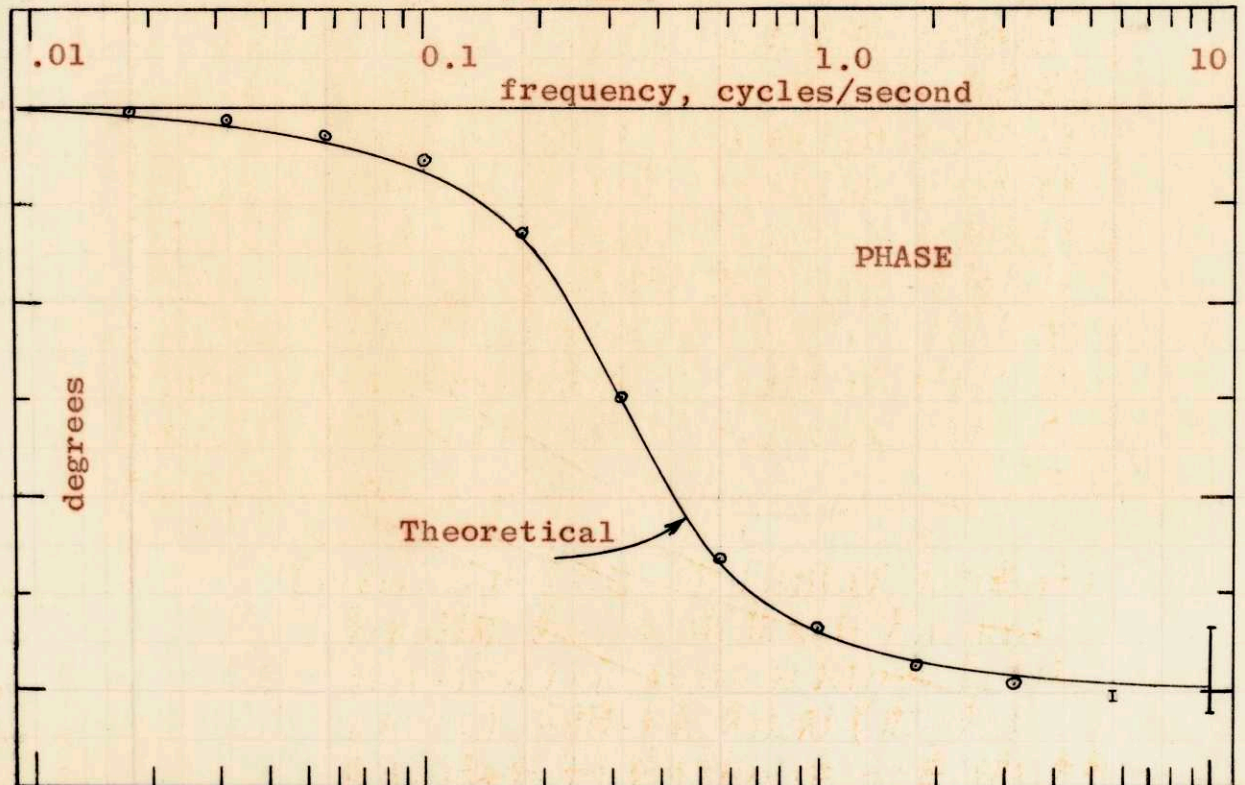


FIGURE 3



From these results a few general error indexes can be calculated:

Impulse response:

$$\frac{\text{Maximum error}}{\text{Maximum value}} = .035/1.09 = 3.2\%$$

$$\frac{\text{RMS error}}{\text{Maximum value}} = .018/1.09 = 1.65\%$$

Frequency response derived from impulse response:

	OUT TO 1 CPS	OUT TO 100 CPS
Maximum magnitude error	.7 decibels	1.5 decibels
Maximum phase error	2.5 degrees	10.9 degrees

The second system chosen for study is a reactor simulation. The equations used are:⁴

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \frac{\rho - \beta}{l^*} n + \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i c_i$$

$$\frac{dc_i}{dt} = \frac{\beta_i n}{l^*} - \lambda_i c_i \quad , i = 1, 2, \dots, k$$

(IV-3)

The non-linearity begins to become important when ρ is significantly different from zero during a time that n is significantly different from its initial value, n_0 . A series of three experiments were carried out to ascertain whether the non-linearity is an important limitation to the application of the crosscorrelation method to reactors. For simplification, l^* was made numerically equal to β , ρ was measured in units of 2β , and two groups of delayed neutrons were used.²¹

$$\lambda_1 = .00386 \text{ sec}^{-1}$$

$$\lambda_2 = .512 \text{ sec}^{-1}$$

$$\beta_1/\beta = .425$$

$$\beta_2/\beta = .575$$

On the analog computer, time was speeded up by a factor of 10. The linearized transfer function, which is valid for small perturbations, is:

$$\frac{\Delta n}{\Delta \rho} = \frac{2n_0 (s+0.512)(s+.00386)}{s (s+1.353)(s+0.163)} \quad (\text{IV-4})$$

The corresponding theoretical impulse response is

$$n(t) = 60(.009 + .705 e^{-1.353t} + .286 e^{-.163t}) \text{ volts} \quad (\text{IV-5})$$

Three experiments were carried out; the conditions are tabulated in Table C below.

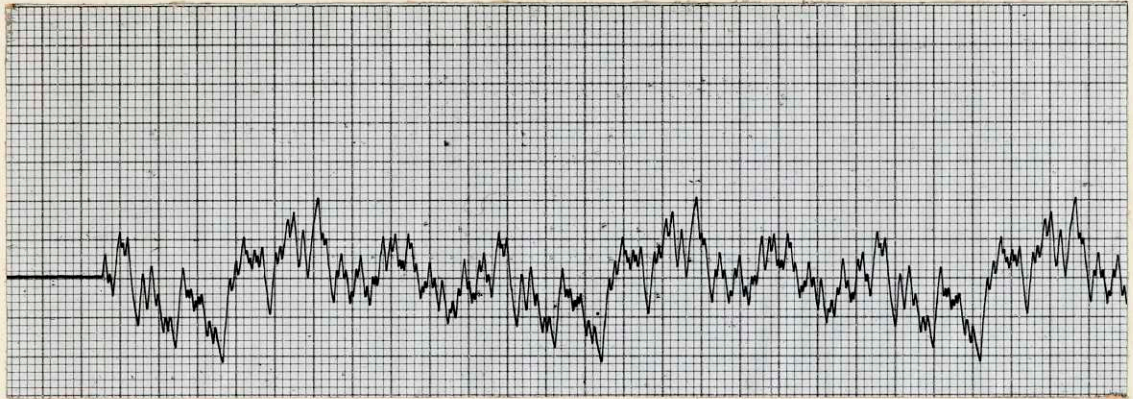
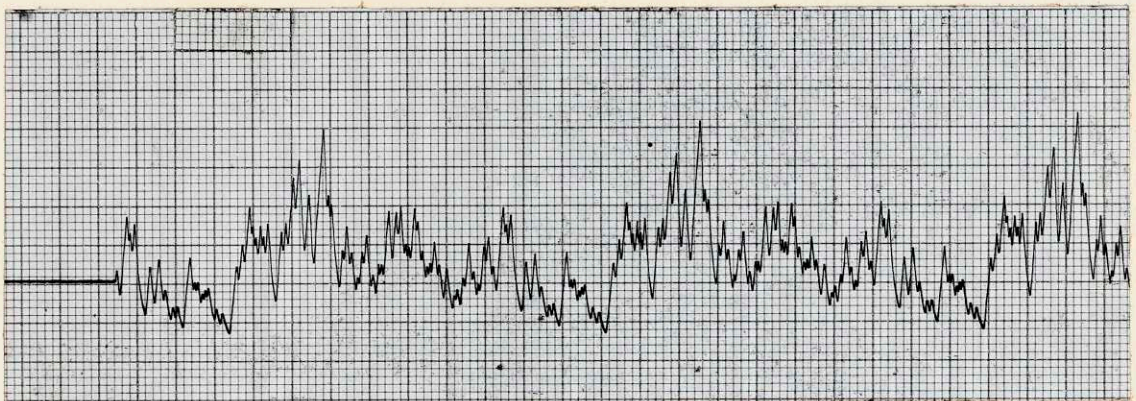
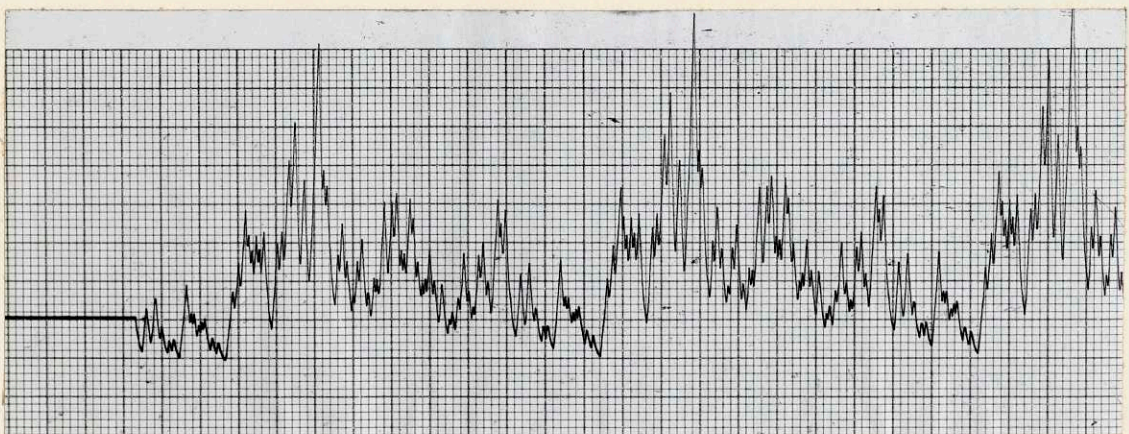
TABLE C

EXPERIMENT NO.	1	2	3
Input-Reactivity	$\pm 8\text{¢}$	$\pm 80\text{¢}$	$\pm 120\text{¢}$
Peak-To-Peak Power Fluctuation	14.3%	147%	230%
Δt (seconds)	.2017	.2021	.1951
T	502 Δt	502 Δt	502 Δt
ρ_0	-0¢	-5¢	-16¢
Noise in Data - % of Max. Data Point	.3%	1.0%	1.7%
Output Gain	10	1	2/3
$\int_0^T h(\tau) d\tau$	149	164	167
K	.783	.784	.731

$$K = (.956) (T) (\Delta t) \frac{\Delta \rho}{2\text{¢}} (\text{Output gain})$$

If the binary input is imposed on a just-critical reactor, the power level will rise exponentially due to the non-linearity. Figure 4 is a plot of the power level

REACTOR POWER FLUCTUATIONS

REACTIVITY = $\pm 8\text{¢}$ $N_0 = 150$ chart linesReactivity = $\pm 80\text{¢}$ $N_0 = 15$ chart linesReactivity = $\pm 120\text{¢}$ $N_0 = 10$ chart linesTime \longrightarrow one chart line = one second

for the three different reactivity input levels. The rise in power for $\pm 8\%$ is undetectable; for $\pm 80\%$ it is clearly noticeable, and for $\pm 120\%$ the signal quickly goes off the scale. The quantity, ρ_0 is that value of negative reactivity which will maintain the power at a constant average level. Figure 5 shows the power level traces with this reactivity imposed. The scaling of the traces in Figures 4 and 5 is in inverse ratio to the binary reactivity input level. Thus, if the system were linear, the traces would be identical. The increasing asymmetry of the signal, with increasing reactivity, is clearly noticeable.

Data taken during the three experiments are plotted and tabulated in Figures 6, 7, and 8. The values have been corrected and divided by K.

The important conclusion that can be drawn from these figures is that the impulse response data are not badly impaired by the non-linear effect. Indeed, it appears that the crosscorrelation method tends to minimize errors due to finite signal size.

It is apparent that the largest error in the data is in the scaling constant K. The data of all three experiments could be made to fit the theoretical curve very closely by adjusting the value of K a few percent. The least accurate quantity in the calculation of K is the true average power level, n_0 . In each of these experiments, the value of ρ_0 was established by trial. The computer was then reset with $n_0 = 30$ volts and started again at an arbitrary point in the input cycle. A shift in the average power level is entirely possible. Since it is the system dynamics that the crosscorrelation method measures, this inaccuracy in K is not particularly relevant; the system dynamics are given by the shape of the impulse response; the value of K leads to the system gain. This system property can generally be better measured by some other experimental technique.

REACTOR POWER FLUCTUATIONS

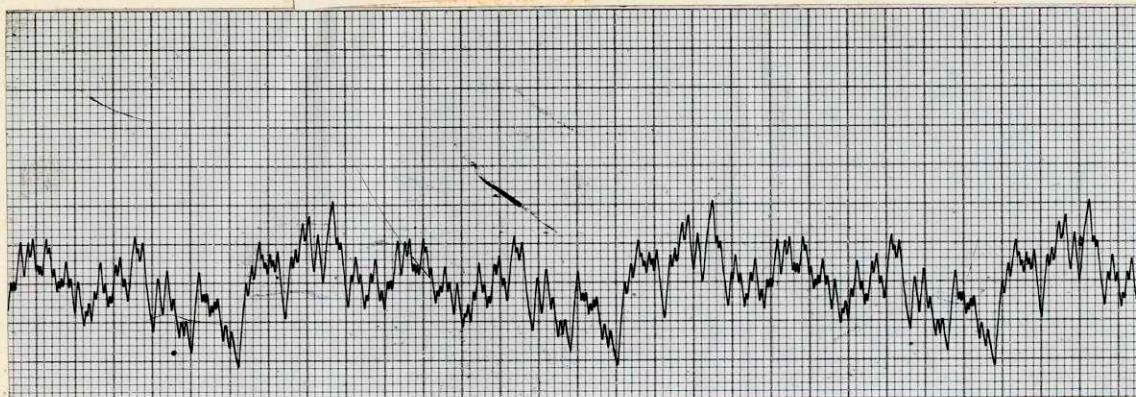
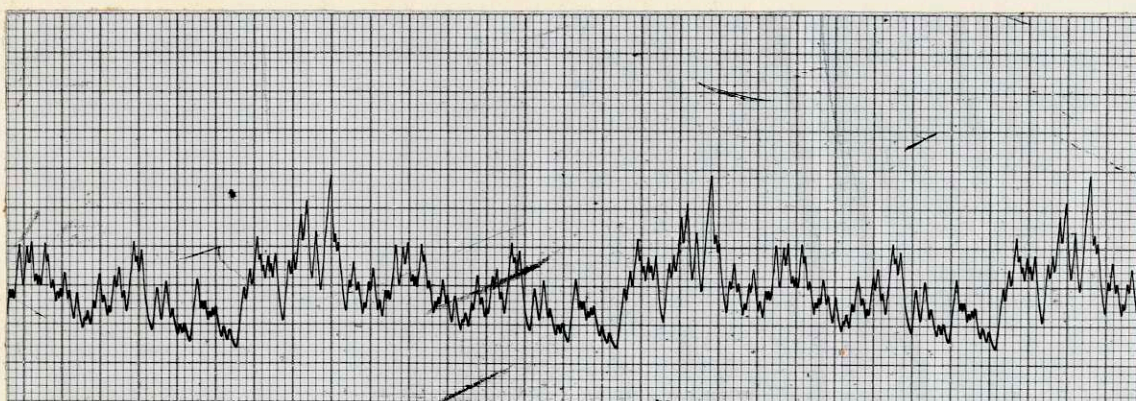
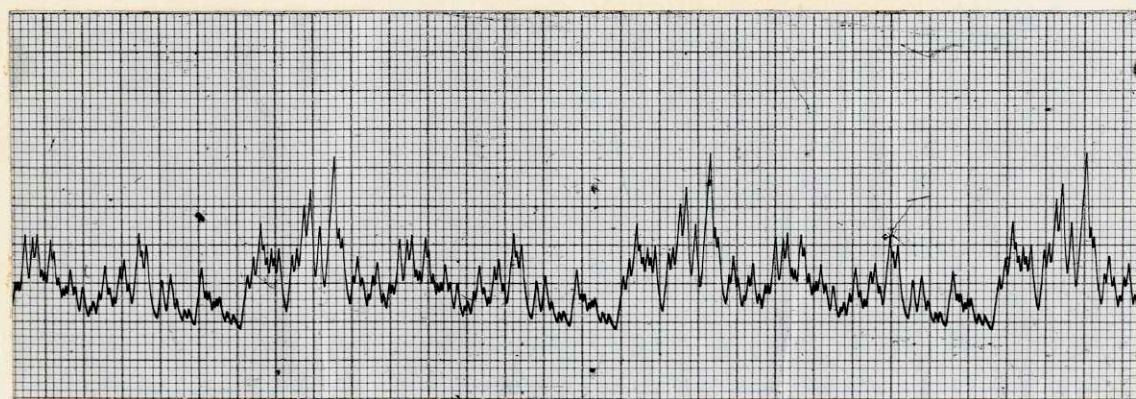
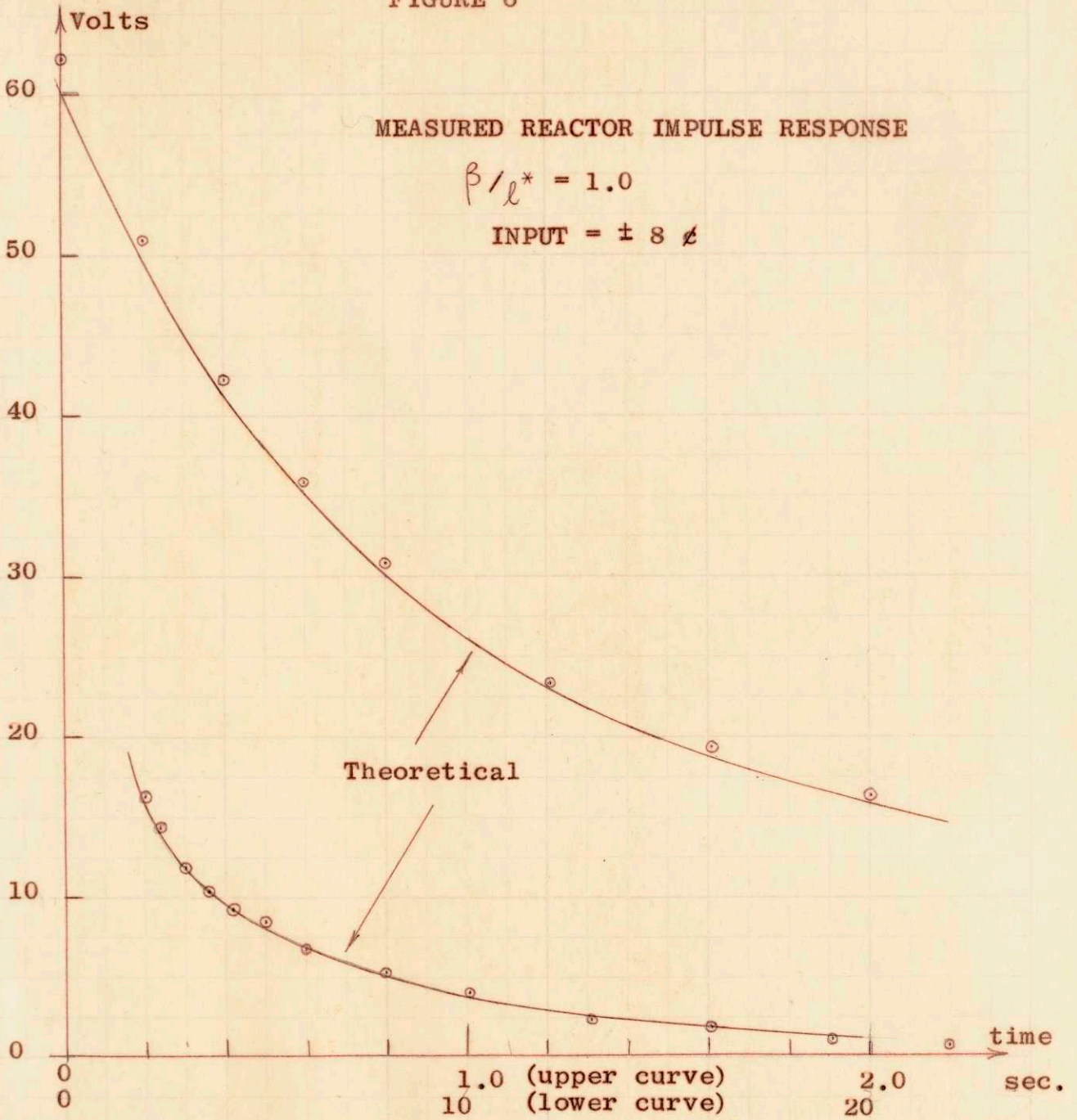
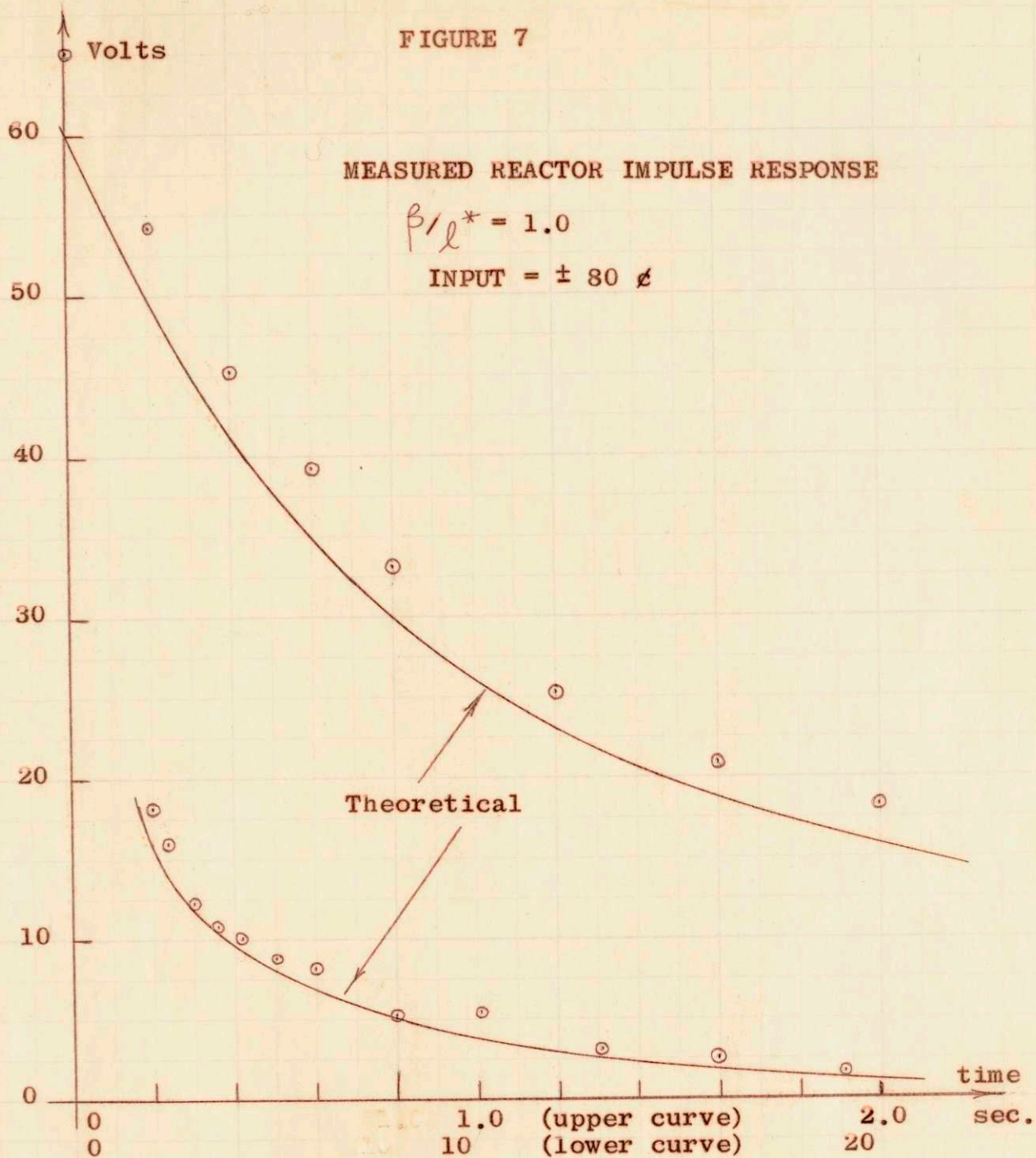
Reactivity = $-0 \pm 8\text{¢}$ $N_0 = 150$ chart linesReactivity = $-5\text{¢} \pm 80\text{¢}$ $N_0 = 15$ chart linesReactivity = $-16\text{¢} \pm 120\text{¢}$ $N_0 = 10$ chart linesTime \longrightarrow one chart line = one second

FIGURE 6



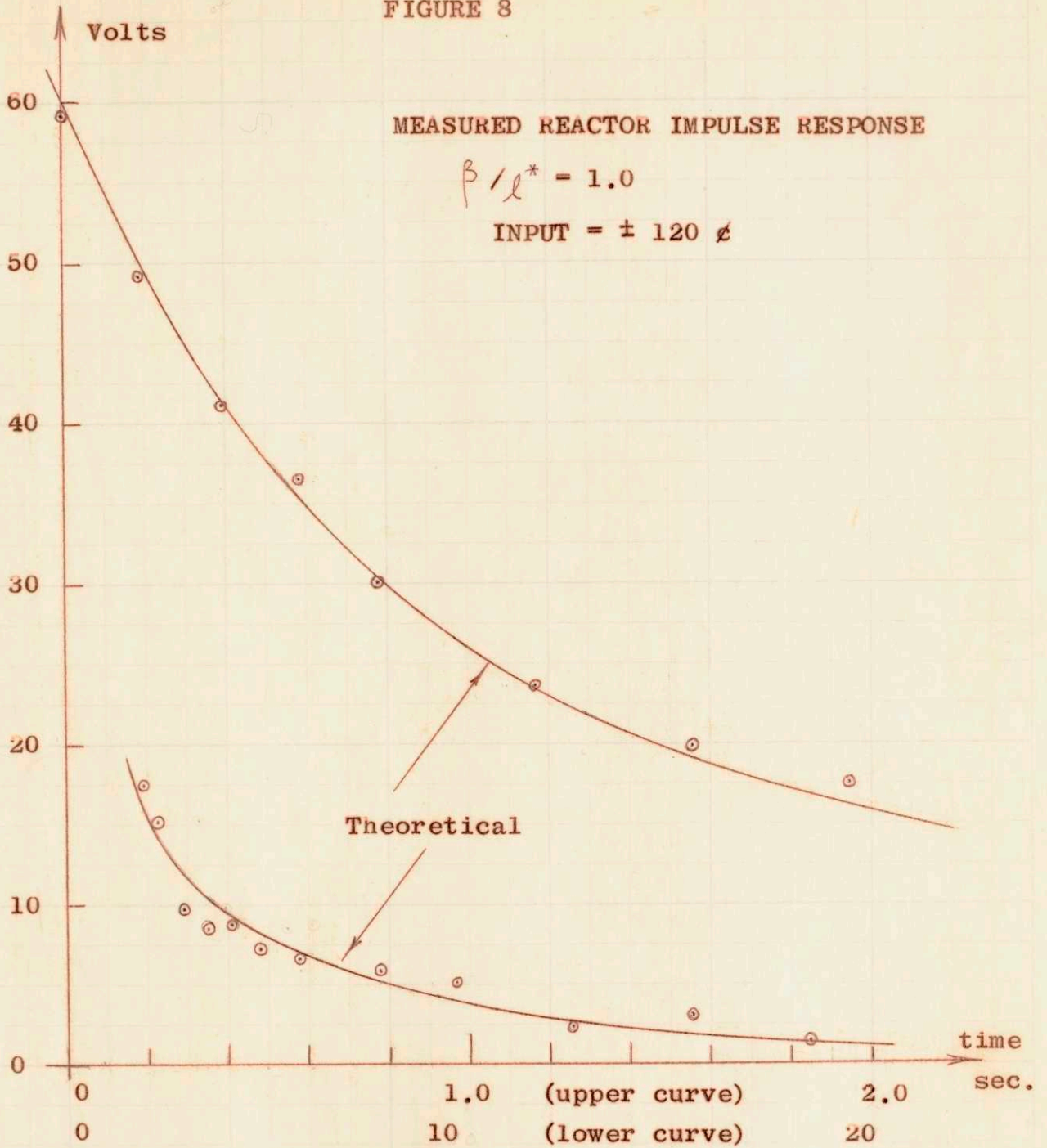
TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE
.000	62.08	2.017	16.28	8.07	5.36	30.26	.12
.202	50.48	2.420	14.34	10.09	4.04	36.31	.24
.403	42.34	3.025	12.20	13.11	2.30	40.34	-.32
.605	35.96	3.631	10.37	16.14	1.72	46.39	-.24
.807	30.81	4.236	9.24	19.16	1.05	50.63	.00
1.210	23.35	5.042	8.54	22.19	.77		
1.614	19.33	6.051	6.78	26.22	.44		

FIGURE 7



TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE
.000	65.05	2.021	18.21	8.08	5.34	30.32	.70
.202	54.18	2.425	16.03	10.10	5.43	36.38	-1.61
.404	45.14	3.031	12.36	13.13	3.10	40.42	-2.12
.606	39.40	3.638	10.83	16.17	3.00	46.48	-.06
.808	33.24	4.244	11.05	19.20	1.79	50.73	.00
1.213	25.31	5.052	8.78	22.23	1.98		
1.617	20.96	6.063	8.27	26.27	.77		

FIGURE 8



TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE
.000	59.26	1.951	17.50	7.80	5.99	29.27	1.89
.195	49.20	2.341	15.40	9.76	5.19	35.12	1.18
.390	42.18	2.926	9.95	12.68	2.49	39.02	-2.05
.585	36.57	3.512	8.58	15.61	3.08	44.87	.48
.780	30.55	4.097	8.81	18.53	1.40	48.97	.00
1.171	23.69	4.877	7.45	21.46	2.68		
1.561	19.91	5.853	6.67	25.36	.47		

B. The Godiva Experiment

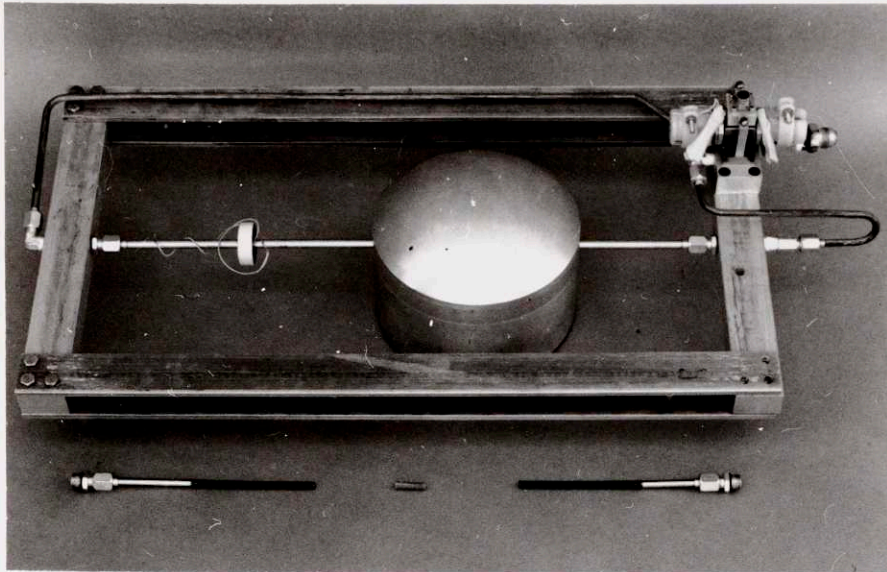
Godiva II is a bare U^{235} fast critical assembly at Los Alamos. It is a near-cylinder 7.5" in diameter and has a critical mass of approximately ~57.7 kg. A complete description of the reactor can be found in reference (22).

The main difficulty in performing a crosscorrelation experiment on a reactor like Godiva is in providing an input signal. There are two choices of input signal type, reactivity or neutron source. A neutron source that could be programmed to produce the idealized binary input signal was not available, so a reactivity input system was devised. Basically, this system consists of a pneumatic mechanism that positions a small plastic slug (called a rabbit) either at the reactor center or outside the reactor. If the rabbit position corresponds to the signal from the punched paper tape, then the desired binary reactivity input signal is realized.

The one gram plastic rabbit used is worth + 2.4¢ of reactivity at the reactor center due to moderation of the fast flux. Thus the reactivity signal imposed is $\pm 1.2\text{¢}$.

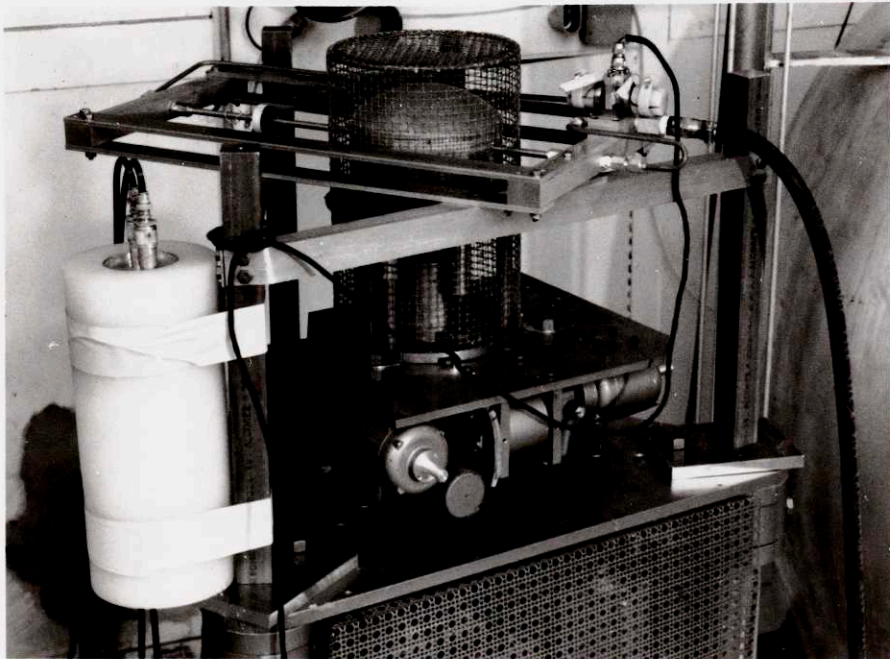
Figure 9 is a photograph of a reactor mockup with the rabbit transfer device in place. The 5/8" stainless steel tube runs through the center of the reactor. The rabbit (shown in the foreground) slides freely in the tube; it is stopped at both ends by springs mounted inside the tube. The springs are so positioned that the rabbit is dead center in the reactor at one extreme and about 1-1/2" outside the reactor at the other extreme. The rabbit is propelled from end to end and held against the ends by 50 psi air pressure. A servo valve controls the direction of the air flow and thus positions the rabbit.

FIGURE 9



RABBIT TRANSFER DEVICE SHOWN ON A GODIVA MOCKUP

A rabbit is shown in the foreground with two extra springs which have been removed from the transfer tube. The servo valve is on the upper right of the frame.



RABBIT TRANSFER DEVICE MOUNTED ON GODIVA II

The rabbit transfer device is built to be as fast as the available techniques and equipment will allow. The servo valve available requires 10 msec. to actuate. Since the valve ports are small, the time required to fill the volume of the piping is appreciable. A larger valve would have a longer actuation time. Determinations of the total time for the rabbit transfer are made with a magnetized steel rabbit in a plastic tube. A coil around the tube produces a voltage pulse as the rabbit passes by; this pulse is observed on an oscilloscope. The sequence of events after a change in sign of the binary command voltage is as follows:

t = 0	Change in command - outside to inside Servo valve receives voltage command
t = 10 msec.	Servo valve completes stroke
t = 30 msec.	All air passages filled up Rabbit begins to move
t = 35 ± 5 msec.	Rabbit hits inside spring, oscillates about two inches and stops
t = 50 msec.	End of one Δt time interval
t = 0 (return trip)	Change in command- inside to outside
t = 12 msec.	Servo valve receives voltage change
t = 22 msec.	Servo valve completes stroke
t = 30 msec.	All air passages filled up Rabbit begins to move
t = 35 ± 5 msec.	Rabbit stops - outside
t = 50 msec.	End of another Δt time interval

The asymmetry of the piping requires an electrical delay on the outward trip to balance the greater pneumatic delay on the inward trip. The delay circuit is diagram No. 8 of Appendix C.

The rabbit gets to traveling about 40 feet per second just as it hits the spring and thus the springs

take quite a beating. With Δt set at 50 msec the average number of collisions at one end is 5 per second. Spring life under these conditions is about 1 to 2 hours. The rabbits, by contrast, last much longer. They are 3/4" long by 1/4" in diameter cloth-bound phenolic plastic and are very resilient.

The photograph of Figure 9 (lower) shows the rabbit transfer device mounted on Godiva II.

The transfer function of a cold reactor is ²³

$$\frac{\Delta n/n_0}{\rho/\beta} = \frac{1}{s \left[\frac{l^*}{\beta} + \sum_i \frac{a_i}{s + \lambda_i} \right]}$$

$$= \frac{\prod_i (s + \lambda_i) \beta / l^*}{s \prod_i (s + r_i)}$$

For Godiva, $\beta = .0064$ and $l^* \approx .6 \times 10^{-8}$ sec.²⁴ This will yield $r_1 = \beta/l^*$; thus the reactor has a break frequency of $\beta/2\pi l^* = 170,000$ cps. The impulse response is a high spike, which decays exponentially with a relaxation time of l^*/β sec, plus a sum of very small, slow-decaying exponentials. The crosscorrelation equipment available could not be used to measure the shape of this impulse response, since the width of the response is 20,000 times narrower than Δt . The information about the delayed neutron behavior is masked by the prompt behavior. A filter was employed, in series with the reactor, to confine the impulse response to a bandwidth that could be measured by the crosscorrelator. The experimental setup is shown in Figure 10. The filter transfer function is:

$$H(\omega) = \frac{s}{(s + .058)(s + 1.063)}$$

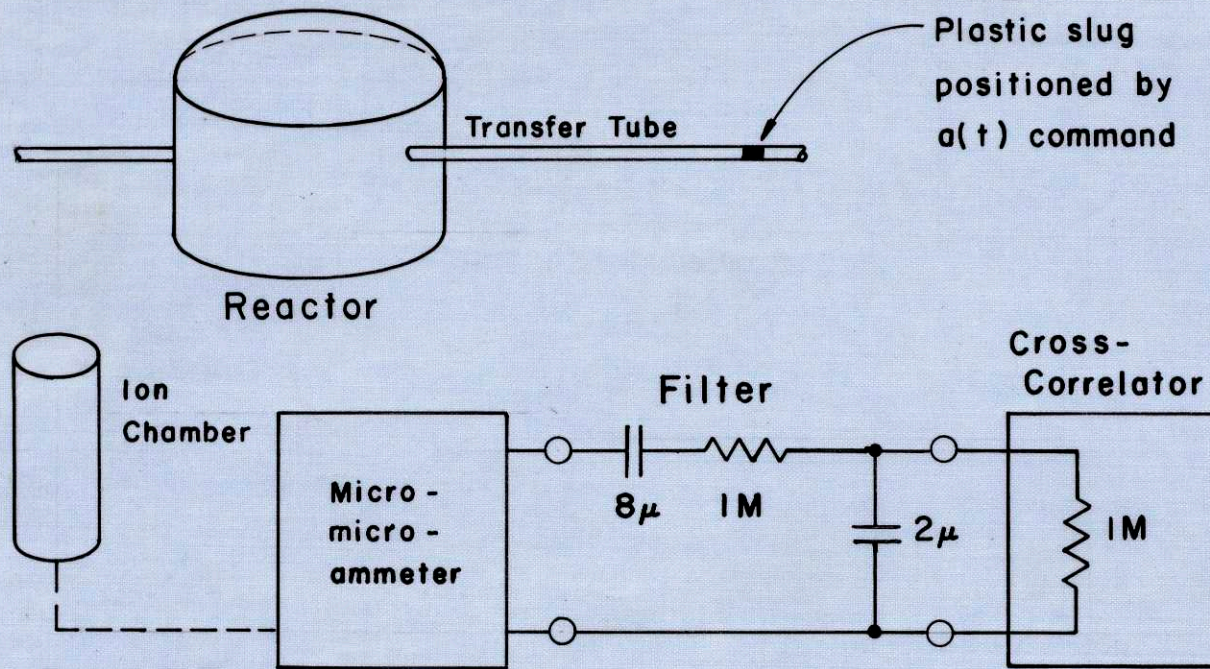


FIGURE 10

FIGURE 5.
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and the impulse response is

$$h(t) = 1.058 e^{-1.063t} - .058 e^{-.058t}$$

If one assumes a simplified, two-group reactor with ²¹

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1 &= .334, & \lambda_2 &= .027 \\ \beta_1/\beta &= .656 & \beta_2/\beta &= .344 \end{aligned}$$

The reactor transfer function is

$$\frac{\beta/l^*(s + .027)(s + .334)}{(s + \beta/l^*)(s + .113)}$$

At frequencies of interest the β/l^* terms cancel. The reactor-filter transfer function is

$$H(\omega) = \frac{(s + .027)(s + .334)}{(s + .113)(s + .058)(s + 1.063)}$$

and the corresponding impulse response is:

$$h(t) = .790 e^{-1.063t} + .364 e^{-.113t} - .154 e^{-.058t}$$

Experiments were carried out on four separate days. Due to difficulties with the rabbit transfer device, only one set of data is meaningful, that of 10/8/60. At this point the equipment had to be shipped to Nevada for the Kiwi experiments. Further experiments would surely have produced more meaningful results, but it was not felt later that they were warranted.

The data of the 10-8-60 experiment are shown in Figure 11 and are tabulated in Table D. Also plotted in the figure are crosscorrelation data, taken the same day, of the impulse response of the filter alone. The important conclusions to be drawn from this experiment are:

- 1) Meaningful data were taken in spite of the fact that the system output noise was equal to the response signal to the rabbit input.

TABLE D

GODIVA IMPULSE RESPONSE DATA - (10-8-60)

$$\Delta t = .05 \text{ Sec.}, N = 1019$$

$$T = 1019 \Delta t \approx 50 \text{ Sec.}$$

<u>Delay</u> <u>Sec.</u>	<u>Volts</u>	<u>Delay</u> <u>Sec.</u>	<u>Volts</u>
.150	67.91*	4.75	3.63
.30	63.01*	5.00	.73
.45	59.23*	5.50	4.41
.60	46.69	6.00	4.21
.75	43.23	6.50	4.69
.90	37.44	7.0	2.49
1.05	38.89	11.0	-.69
1.20	33.29	12.0	.19
1.35	32.84	13.0	.49
1.50	27.56	14.0	1.52
1.65	24.26	15.00	-1.21
1.80	20.99	17.5	-1.52
1.95	20.34	20.0	.34
2.10	15.30	22.5	-2.26
2.25	11.23	25.0	2.05
2.50	7.81	27.5	-4.61
2.75	7.29	30.0	.30
3.00	10.25	32.5	3.09
3.25	6.89	35.0	-2.64
3.50	6.65	37.5	-3.13
3.75	5.39	40.0	.72
4.00	5.07	42.5	-1.74
4.25	-6.54	52.45	0
4.50	-4.30		

OBSERVED $\sigma \approx 2.6$ VOLTS

*AVERAGE OF TWO READINGS

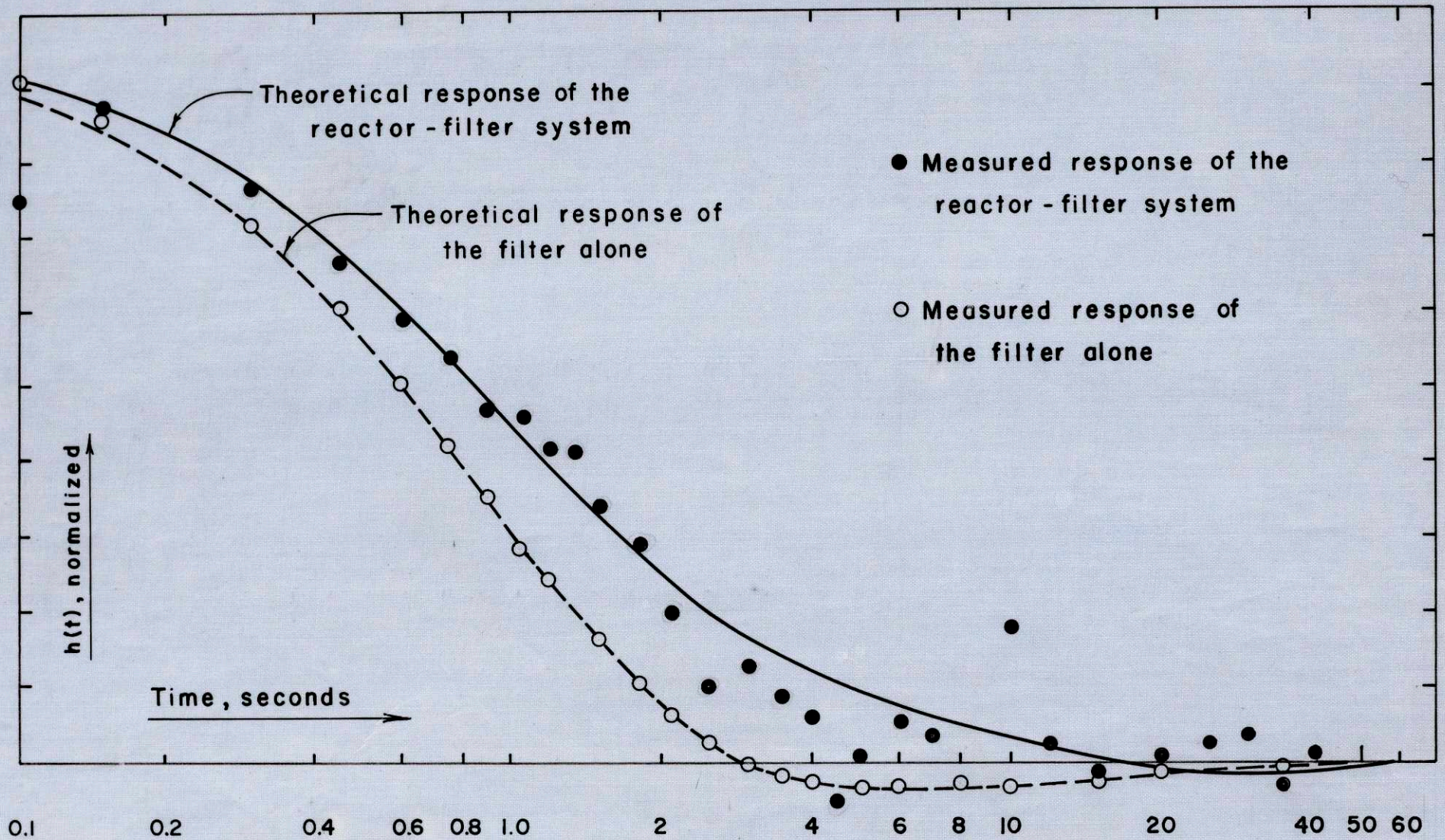


FIGURE II

- 2) The data obviously indicate the presence of the reactor. The theoretical impulse response of the reactor-filter is a possible fit to the data; the theoretical filter response alone is not.
- 3) The signal-to-noise ratio in the data is less than is theoretically predicted. Since the settling time is the same as the crosscorrelation time, M is equal to unity, and there is no improvement in signal-to-noise ratio expected. The signal-to-noise at the system output is about unity. The observed signal-to-noise at the crosscorrelator output is 0.41. (See equation (II-21) Therefore, a decrease in signal-to-noise ratio is observed. Also, the noise seems to increase with τ ; this is not predicted theoretically. Perhaps this indicates that there was some malfunction in the equipment, possibly in the rabbit system.

Data of the quality of Figure 11 cannot be used to deduce much about the reactor dynamics. A reactor-filter system transfer function was calculated from this data and is shown in Figure 12 along with the theoretical transfer function.

C. The Kiwi-A3 Experiments

The Kiwi-A reactors are a series of non-flying prototypes of rocket engines which utilize fission to produce heat. Hydrogen gas, flowing through the core under pressure, is heated to a high temperature and released through a sonic nozzle to produce thrust. Kiwi-A3, the third reactor of this series, was successfully tested at the Nevada Test Site on October 19, 1960. All three reactors were built and tested by the Los Alamos Scientific

FIGURE 12

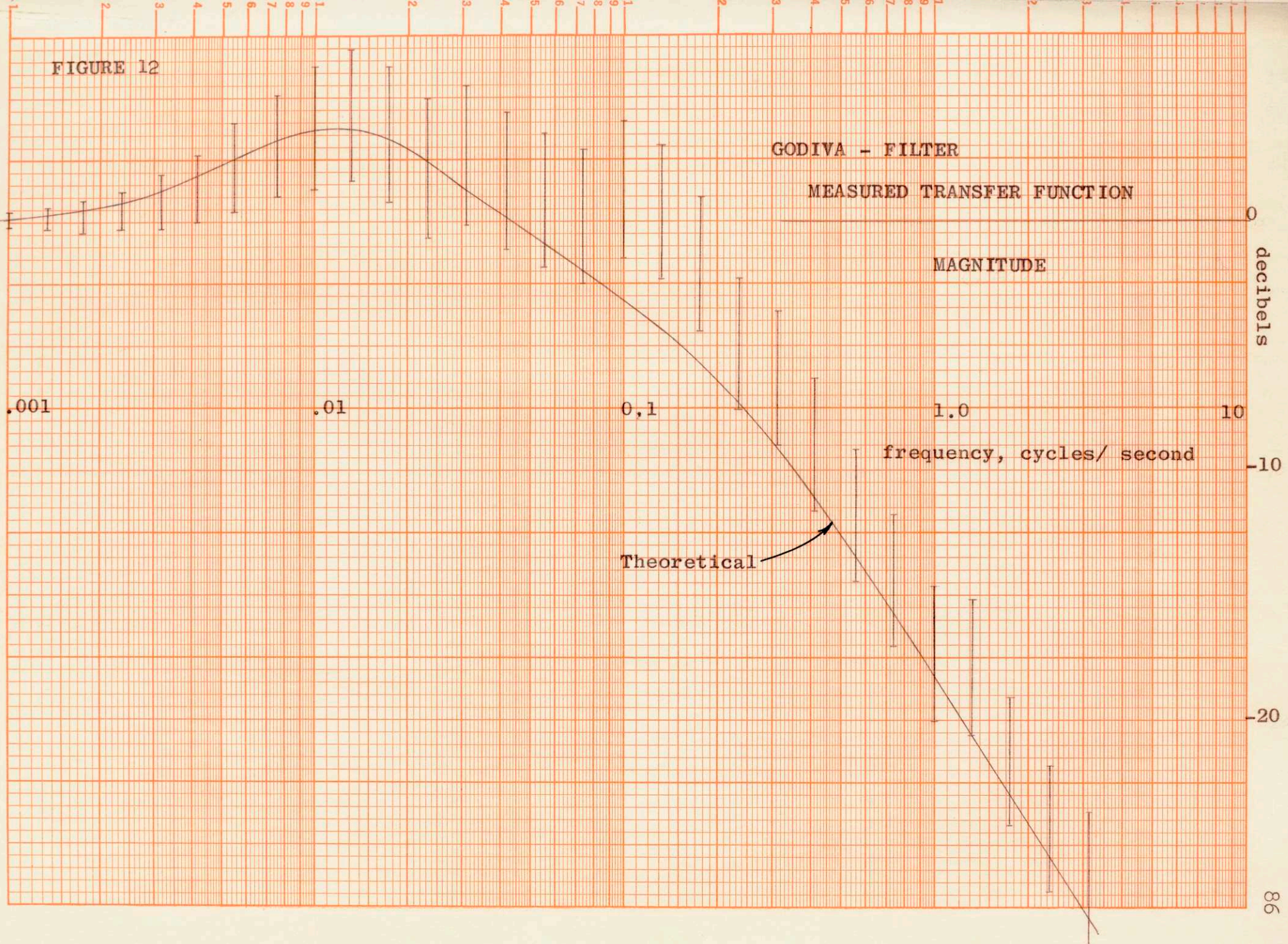
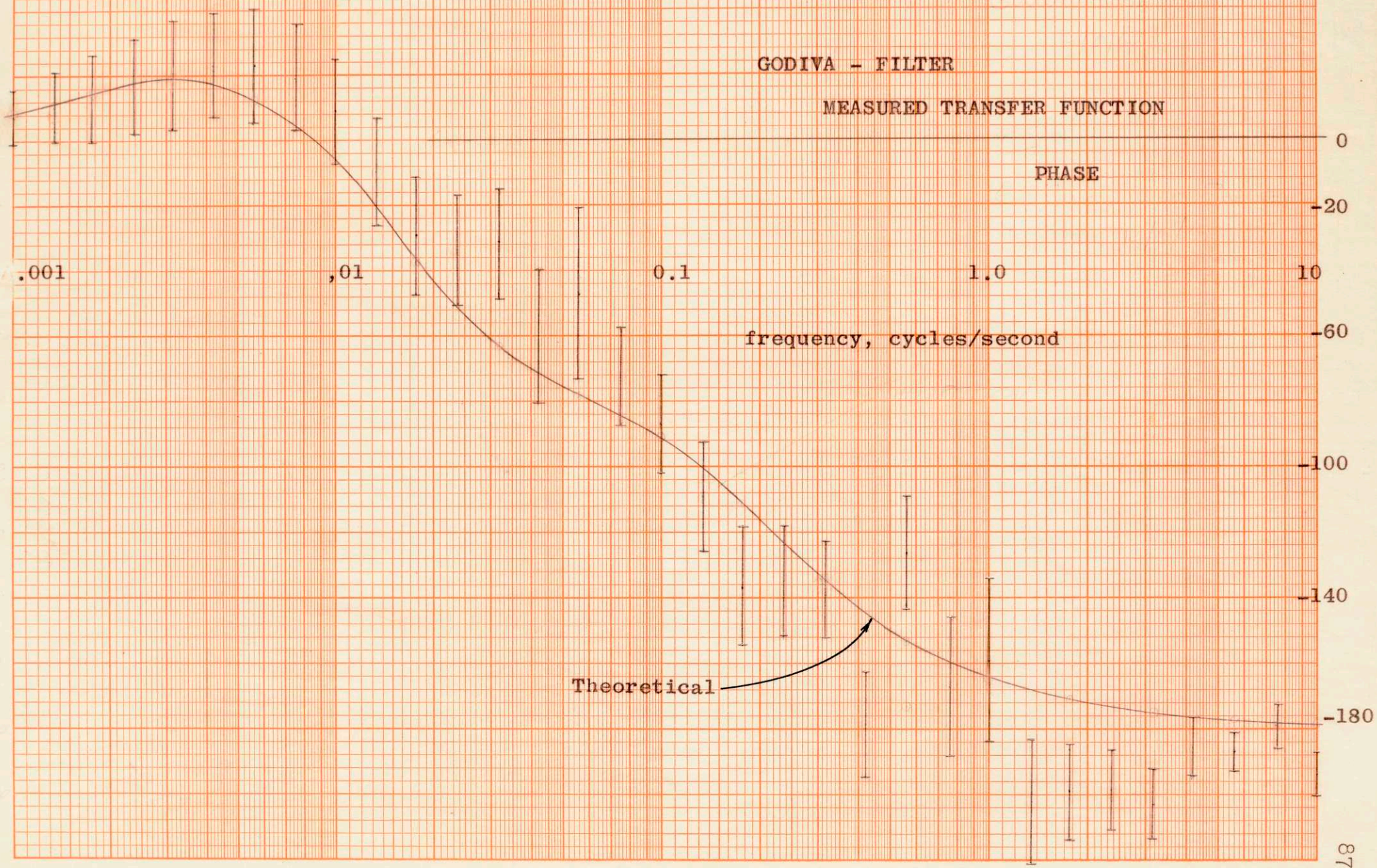


FIGURE 12



Laboratory.

The operating characteristics of these reactors are:

- 1) They operate at high temperature and very high power density. The core material is enriched uranium in a graphite matrix.
- 2) They are unshielded; control operations are two miles from the reactor.
- 3) The power control system is a closed loop. The reactor is brought up to power on a program and held at constant power for the test.
- 4) They are operated at full power for a short time, of the order of minutes, and only once.
- 5) Perturbations of the power for diagnostic purposes may not exceed about $\pm 2\%$ of the power level. The noise content of the measured reactor power (ionization chamber) is about $\pm \frac{1}{2}\%$.

It was desired to measure the performance of the control system at full power. The last two operating conditions listed preclude the normal methods of measuring system dynamics. Condition 5 rules out step response techniques. Condition 4 rules out methods utilizing sinusoidal inputs. The crosscorrelation method remains as the only technique which seems feasible. Confidence that the method would work was obtained from experiments on an analog computer simulation of Kiwi-A3 and from the experiments on Godiva.

1. Low Power Experiment

As a prelude to the full power experiment, an experiment was performed at low power (10 kw) with the reactor operating open loop, with no power feedback signal. The purposes of this experiment were to give the equipment a trial run, to check that the neutronics

instrumentation was performing properly, and to obtain a value for the reactor mean neutron lifetime.

The idealized binary signal was supplied as a position command to a control rod servo system. With the command input to this control rod servo set at $\pm 7\text{¢}$ reactivity, the combined impulse response of the rod servo-reactor-instrumentation system was measured. It was during this experiment that the post-mortem method (see Chapter III-E) was first tried. Data taken on-line agree with the data taken post-mortem. The impulse response is shown plotted in Figure 13 and the corresponding transfer function is Figure 14. Table E lists the impulse response data of Figures 13 and 15. The errors shown in the transfer function are due to the indeterminacy of the curve through the measured points on the impulse response; the errors in the points themselves are negligible.

In order to make a correction for the rod servo dynamics, its impulse response was measured alone, using the crosscorrelation method. The impulse response is shown plotted in Figure 15 and the transfer function in Figure 16.

The transfer function of the reactor alone can be calculated from the equation

$$\text{Reactor Transfer Function} = \frac{\text{Rod Servo-Reactor-Instrumentation Transfer Function}}{\text{Rod Servo Transfer Function}}$$

since the instrumentation transfer function was equal to unity over the range of interest. The calculated reactor transfer function is shown plotted in Figure 17. For frequencies greater than 0.5 cps, the theoretical transfer function is basically:

$$\frac{\Delta n}{\Delta \rho} = \frac{\beta/\lambda^*}{s + \beta/\lambda^*}$$

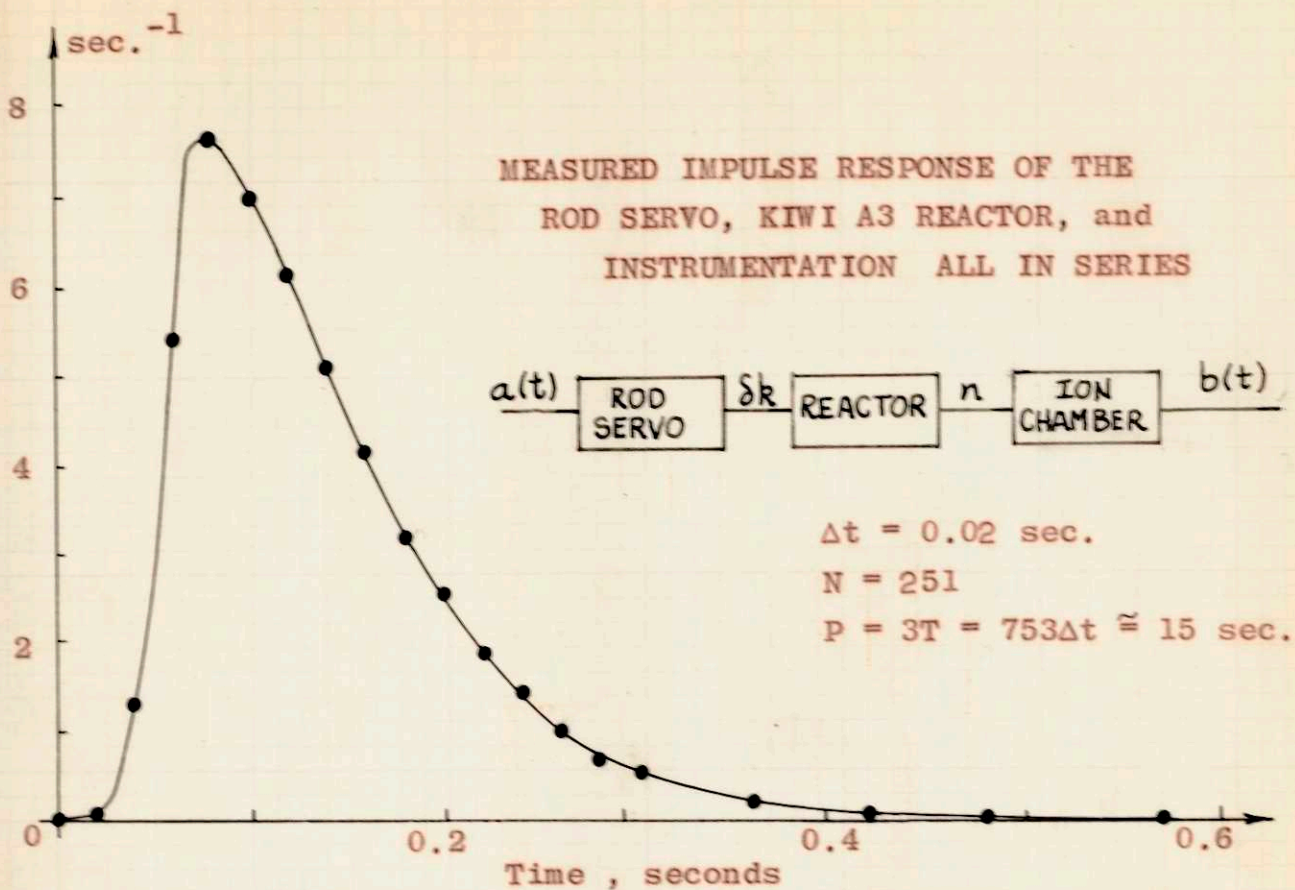


FIGURE 13

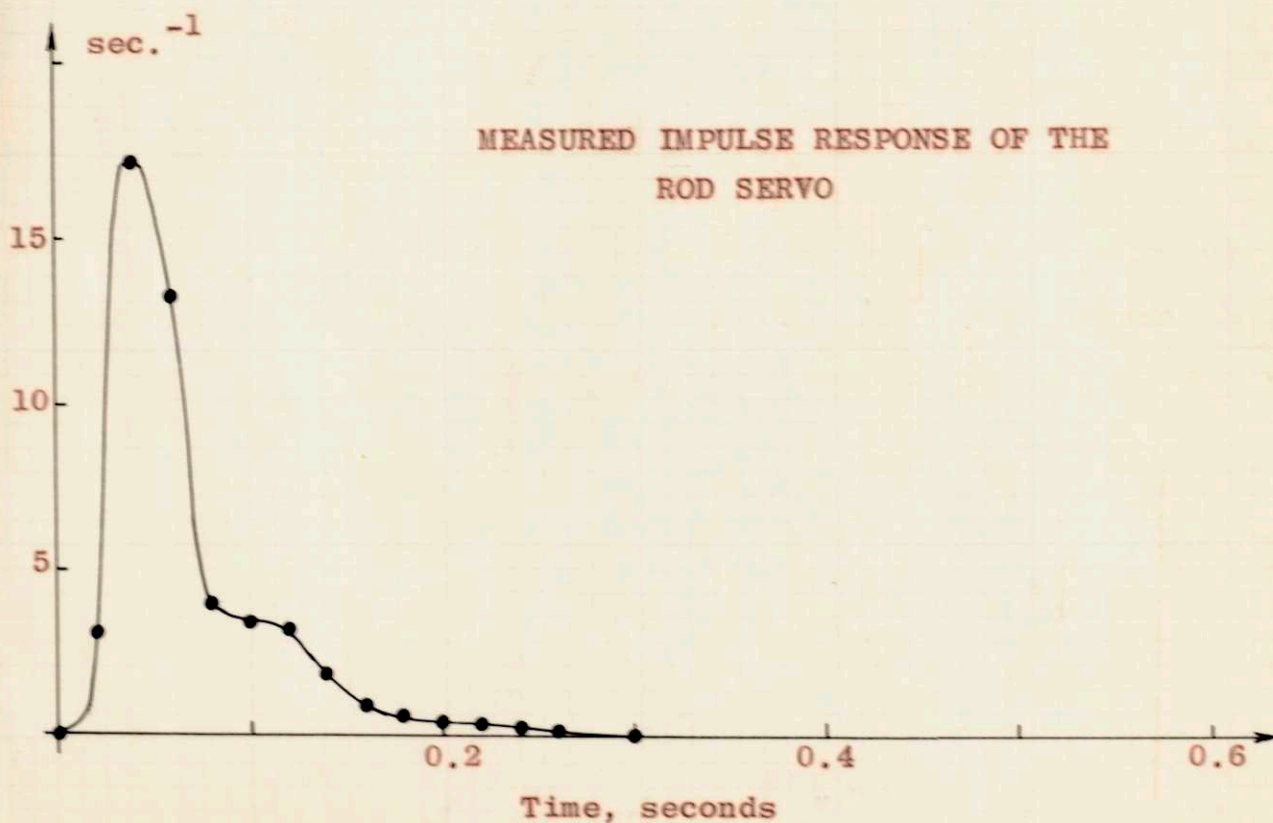


FIGURE 15

TABLE E
IMPULSE RESPONSE DATA

	KIWI-A3 + ROD SERVO + INSTRUMENTATION		ROD SERVO
<u>TIME</u>	<u>Volts</u>		<u>Volts</u>
<u>Seconds</u>			
0.020	0.700		5.200
0.040	15.200		29.900
0.060	74.600		22.900
0.080	88.300		6.800
0.100	80.500		5.800
0.120	70.500		5.400
0.140	58.800		3.200
0.160	47.600		1.600
0.180	36.300		1.000
0.200	29.100		0.600
0.220	21.200		0.500
0.240	16.600		0.400
0.260	11.500		
0.280	7.900		
0.300	6.100		0.000
0.360	2.400		
0.420	0.900		
0.480	0.400		

NORMALIZATION CONSTANT

Kiwi-A3 + Rod Servo + Instrumentation = 11.6 volt-sec

Rod Servo = 1.728 volt-sec

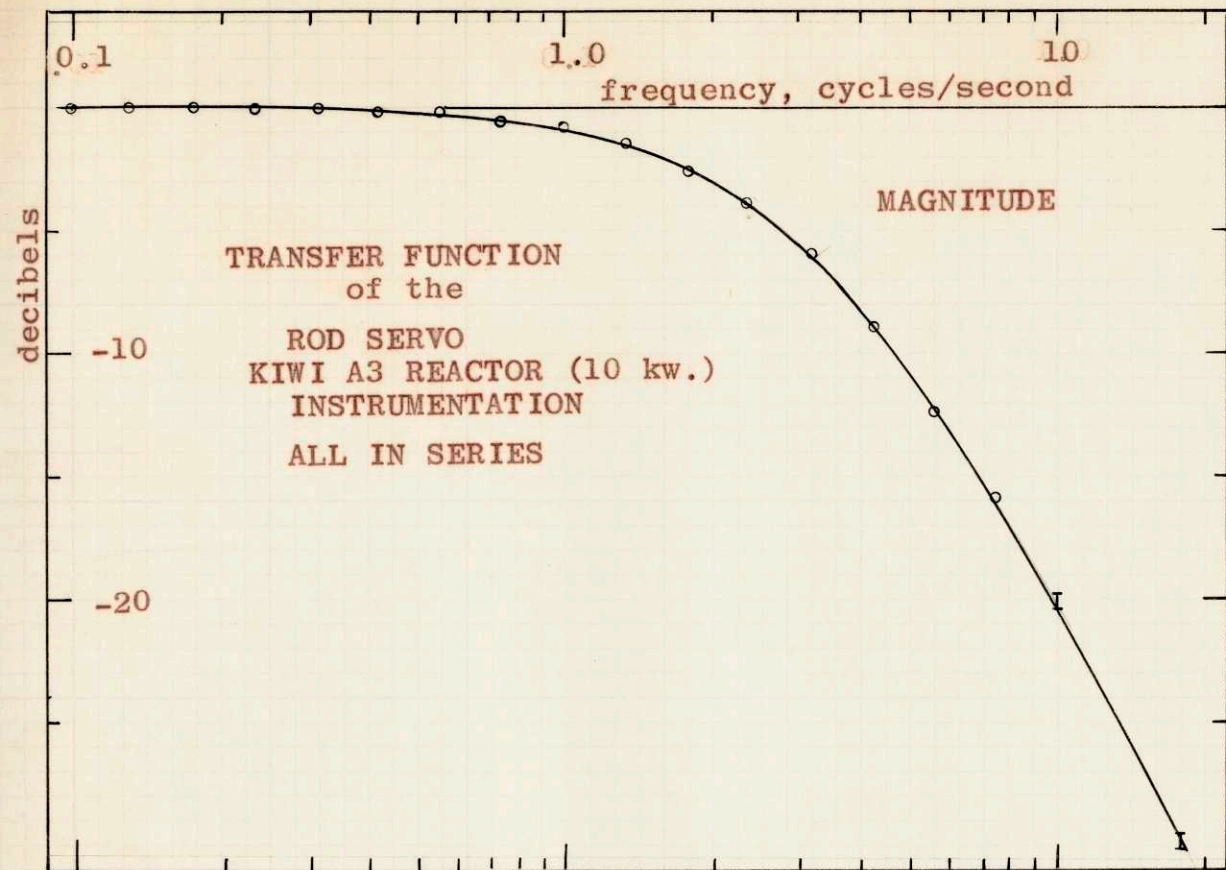
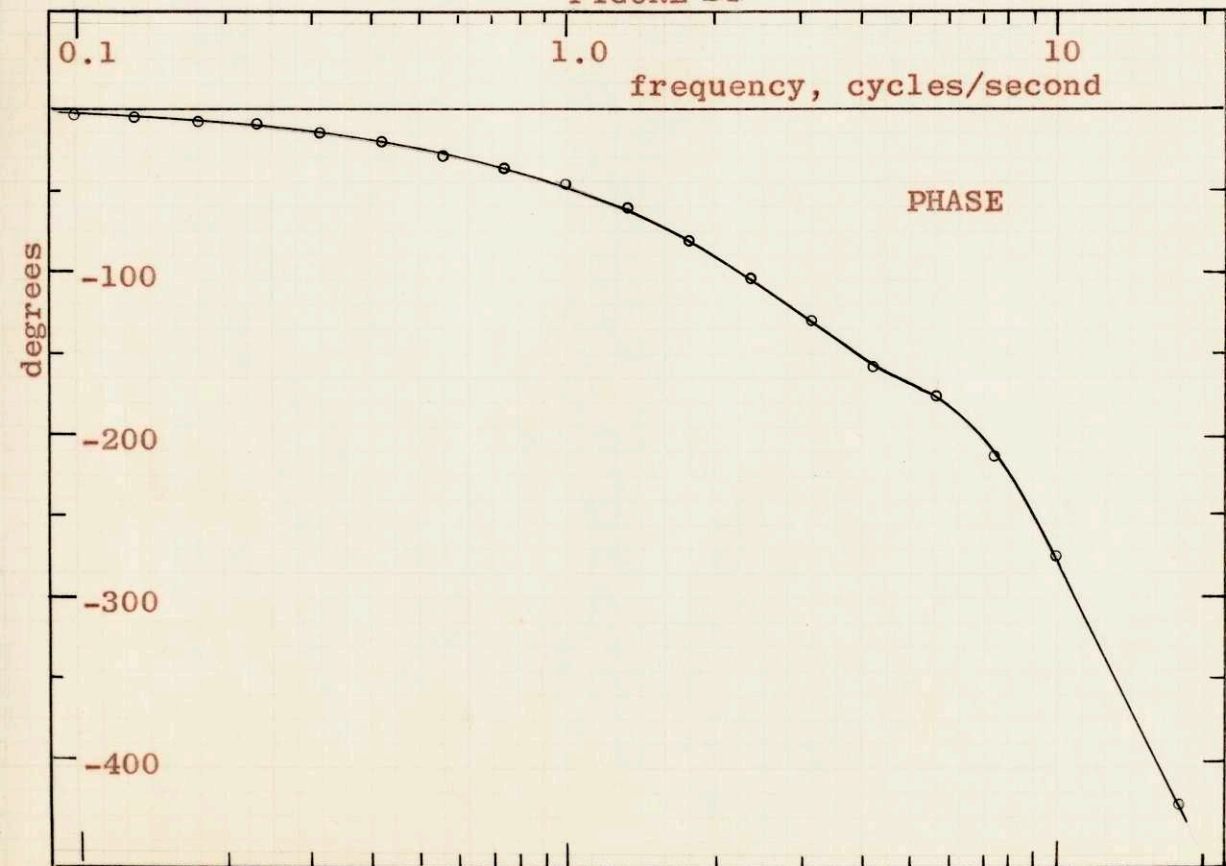


FIGURE 14



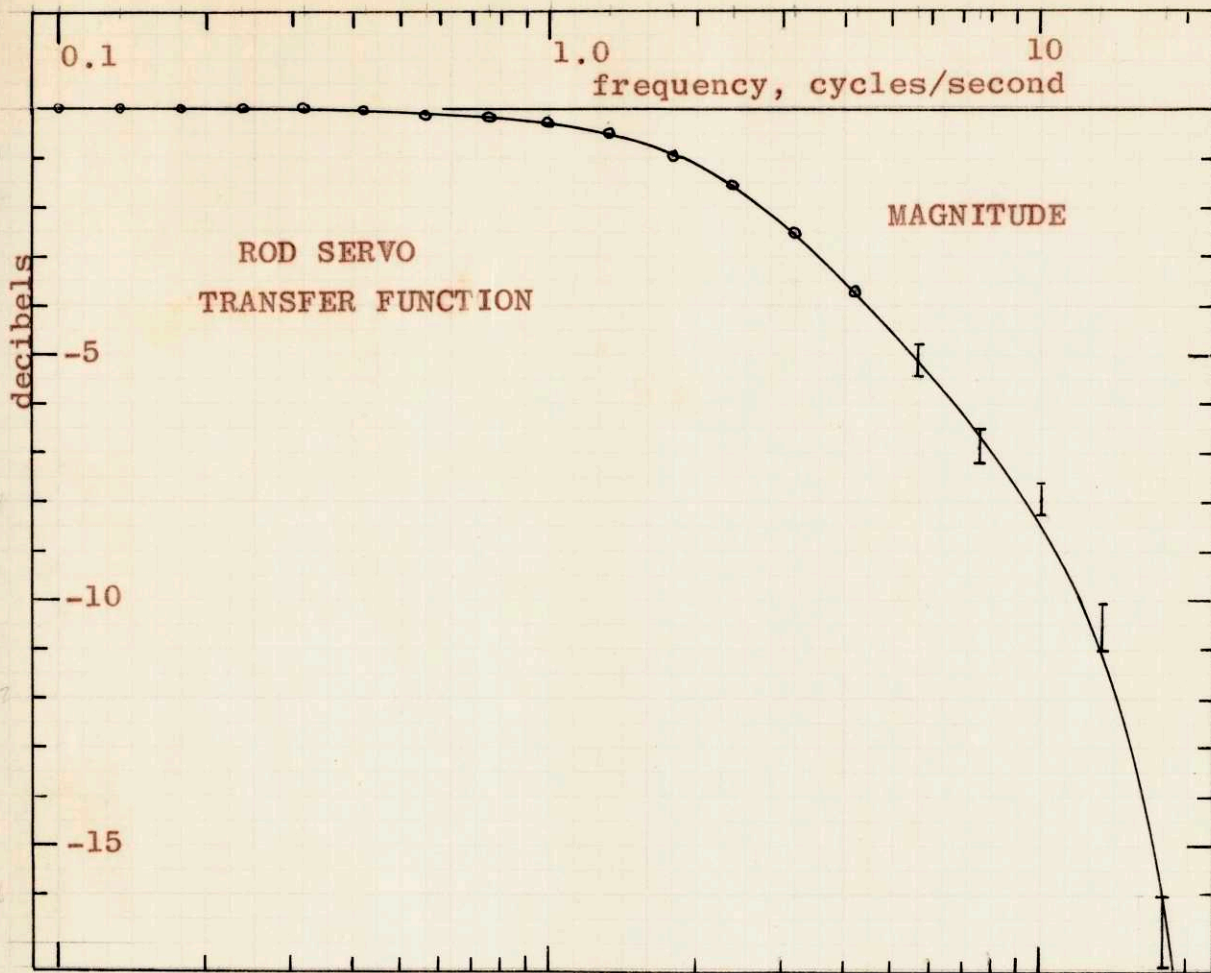
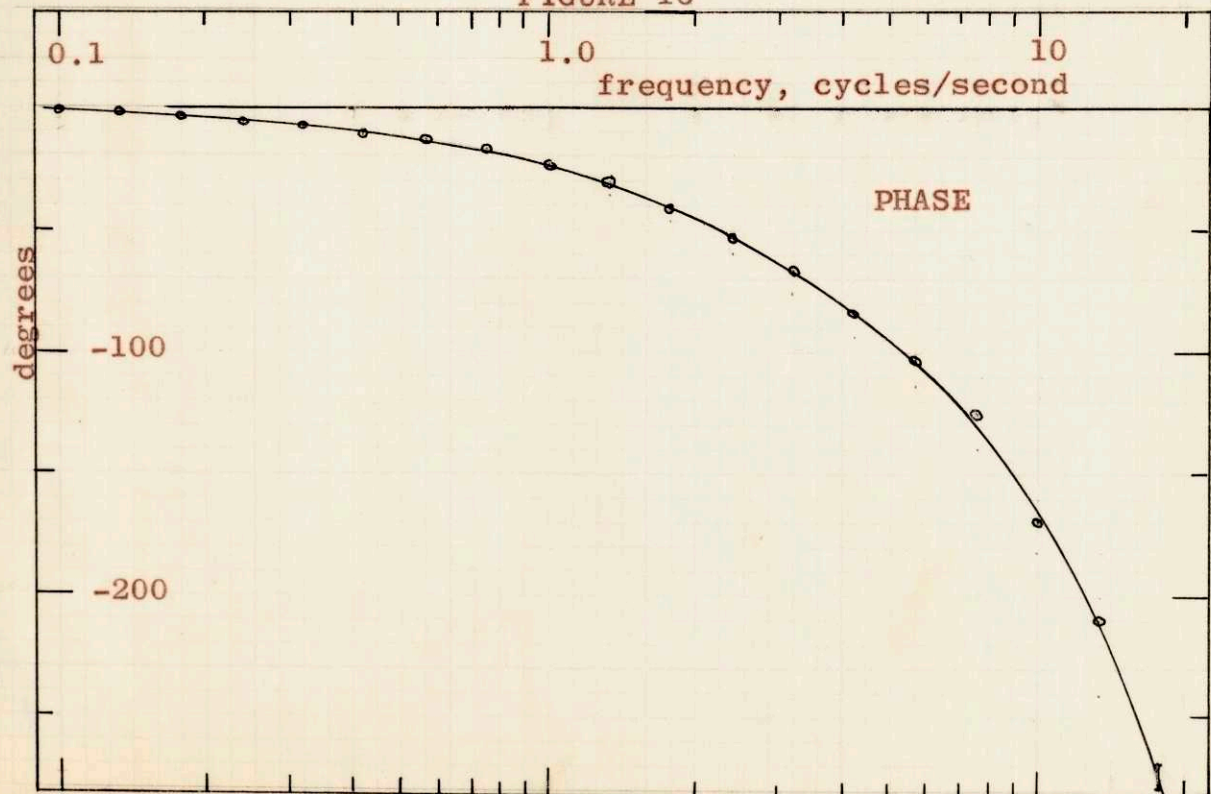


FIGURE 16



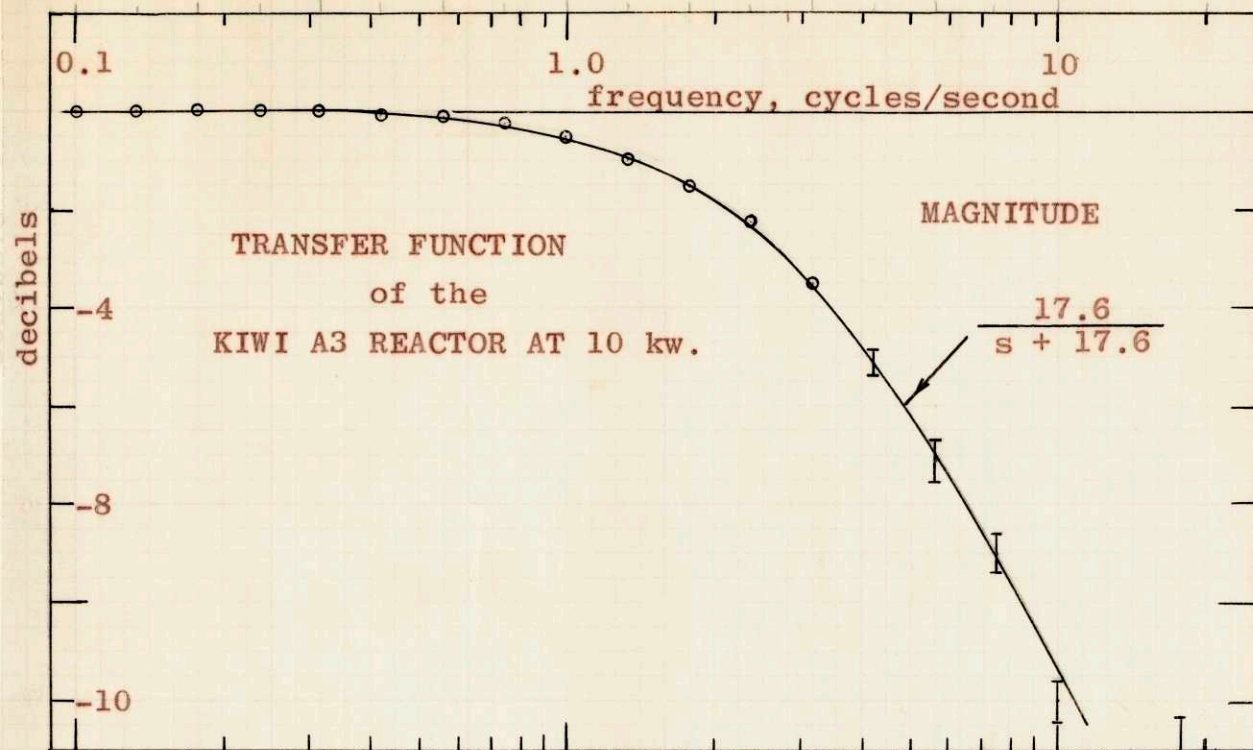
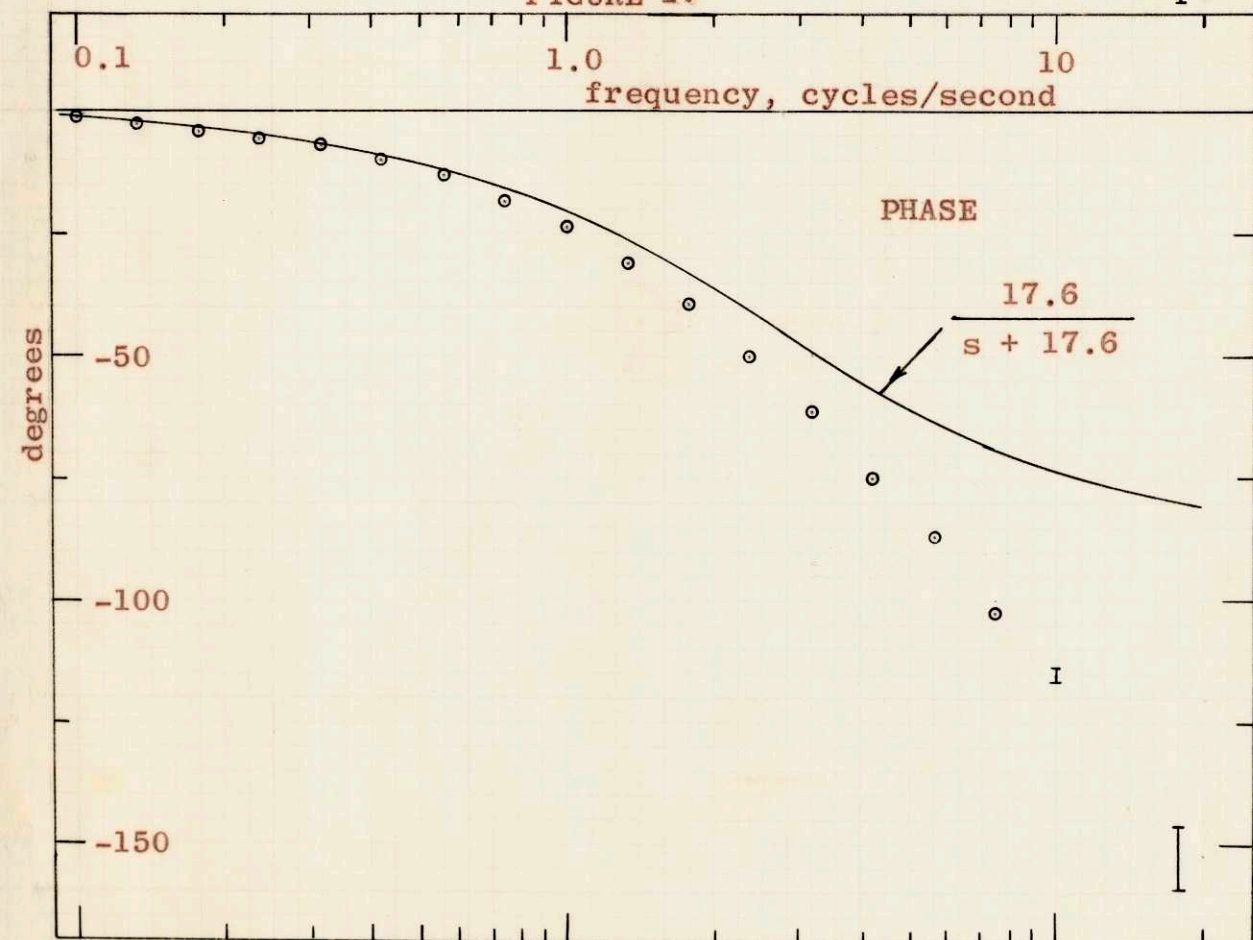


FIGURE 17



The magnitude curve of Figure 17 gives a very close fit to this form where

$$\beta/l^* = 17.6 \pm 1.0 \frac{\text{radian}}{\text{second}} = (2.8 \pm .16 \text{ cps})$$

Thus

$$l^* = (3.63 \pm .21) \times 10^{-4} \text{ sec.}$$

The phase curve indicates more phase lag than the theory predicts. If the point at which the phase is equal to -45° is chosen as a break frequency, then the value obtained for the mean neutron lifetime is

$$l^* = 4.9 \times 10^{-4} \text{ sec.}$$

However, it is apparent that some unknown system delay is contributing an additional phase lag (12° at 2.8 cps). It is simply not consistent to use this measured phase for a measure of neutron lifetime since it does not fit the theoretical form. Neither is it proper to quote the error in the l^* measurement derived from the fit to the magnitude curve. A compromise is to quote the value of l^* from the magnitude curve fit but assign to it a higher error:

$$l^* = (3.6 \pm .7) \times 10^{-4} \text{ sec.}$$

The weakest link in the chain of measurements is that of the rod servo system. Due to operating procedures, this impulse response measurement was made several days before the reactor system measurements were made. It has been stated by the designers that the rod servo system characteristics could change by the amount of the phase discrepancy over a period of hours.

An l^* measurement made on the Kiwi-A reactor, which was of similar neutronic design, gave: $l^* = 2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ sec.}$

An oscillator-rod transfer function measurement at low power was also performed on Kiwi-A3. From the last three measured points there is obtained:

$$\ell^* = (3 \pm 1) \times 10^{-4} \text{ sec.}$$

The value obtained by the crosscorrelation method seems reasonable in light of these other measurements.

2. High Power Experiments

A block diagram of the Kiwi-A3 power control system is shown schematically in Figure 18.*

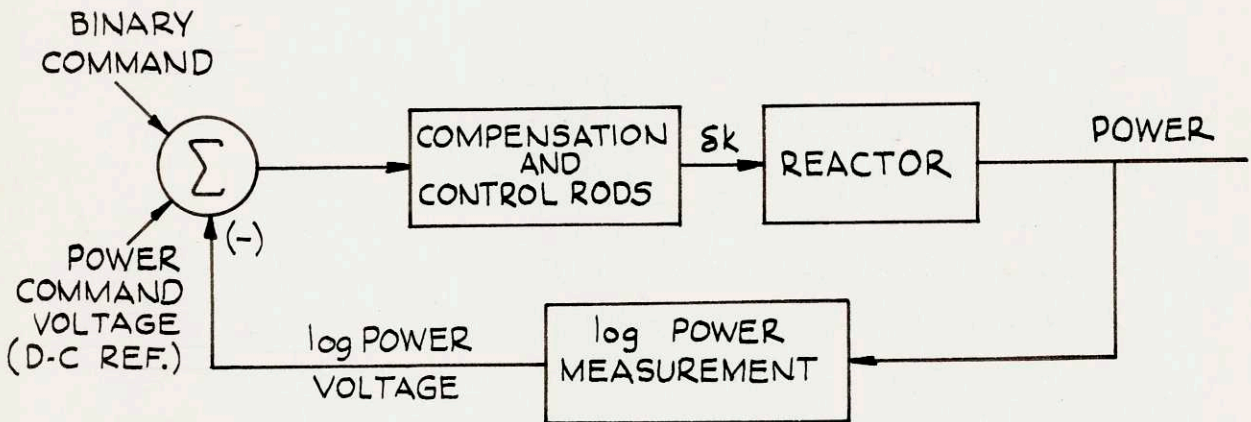


FIGURE 18

The purpose of the high power crosscorrelation experiment was to measure the dynamics of this control loop during actual test at full power.

The log power control system worked very well. The usual problem in reactor control, the fact that the reactor gain is proportional to power level, is just compensated by the log power measuring system, in which the gain is inversely proportional to power level. Thus, the system

*For a description of the control systems of the Kiwi reactors, see reference (25)

dynamics are independent of power. In addition, a four-decade operating range is feasible. The log power measuring system consists basically of an ionization chamber and a hot diode. The voltage-current relationship for a diode is logarithmic for small currents.

The crosscorrelation experiment was carried out with an input of $\pm .0162$ volts introduced as a log power demand. The scaling of log power is set at 1.88 volts per decade. If $V = 1.88 \log_{10} P$, then

$$\frac{dP}{P} = \frac{dV}{1.88 \log_{10} e} = 1.23 dV$$

where P is the power and dV is a small voltage change. Thus for a demanded binary input of $\pm .0162$ volts the demanded power change is $\pm 2\%$. With Δt set at .02 sec, the control system could not follow the binary input exactly; the observed power fluctuations were about $\pm 1\%$.

The impulse response measured is that of the closed loop power control system. The log power measuring system, for small variations, has a constant gain. Therefore, the closed loop impulse response of log power to log power demand can be found by measuring the closed loop impulse response of linear power to log power demand and then normalizing the curve to have an area of unity. It was desired to use the measured linear power as the system response signal instead of the measured log power since the noise in the linear signal was appreciably less.

It was necessary to subtract the steady-state power level from the measured linear power level signal and then amplify the difference to obtain the signal, $c(t)$ which was actually used for crosscorrelation. (See Figure 1, Chapter II) The steady-state power level signal is

obtained from a simple battery-supplied voltage-divider that can be manually adjusted to obtain a zero-mean signal for $c(t)$. The amplifier gain needed is fairly high (160 at full power).

The data which are to be presented were taken under the following conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} N &= 251 \\ \Delta t &= .02 \text{ sec} \\ P &= 3 \text{ cycles} = 753 \Delta t \approx 15 \text{ sec.} \end{aligned}$$

During the startup, the program held for about one minute at "half power".* Throughout this period, the binary input signal was on, the signals were being recorded, and crosscorrelations were being calculated. The noise in the linear power signal was observed to be approximately $\pm 1\%$. This is equal in magnitude to the system response to the binary input. The data, taken with the post-mortem technique from the recorded signals, are given in Table F and in Figure 19.

The errors are observed to be fairly large; analysis reveals that the standard deviation is $\pm .41 \text{ sec}^{-1}$ for a single measurement. Many of the values in the table, particularly of the first points, are averages of as many as five readings and hence have a smaller standard deviation. In order to calculate the observed improvement factor, as defined in Chapter II-D, it is necessary to relate the observed facts:

- a) The rms noise in the $c(t)$ signal is approximately equal to the rms response to the binary input signal.

$$(S/N)_c \approx 1.0$$

* More nearly 0.7 of full power

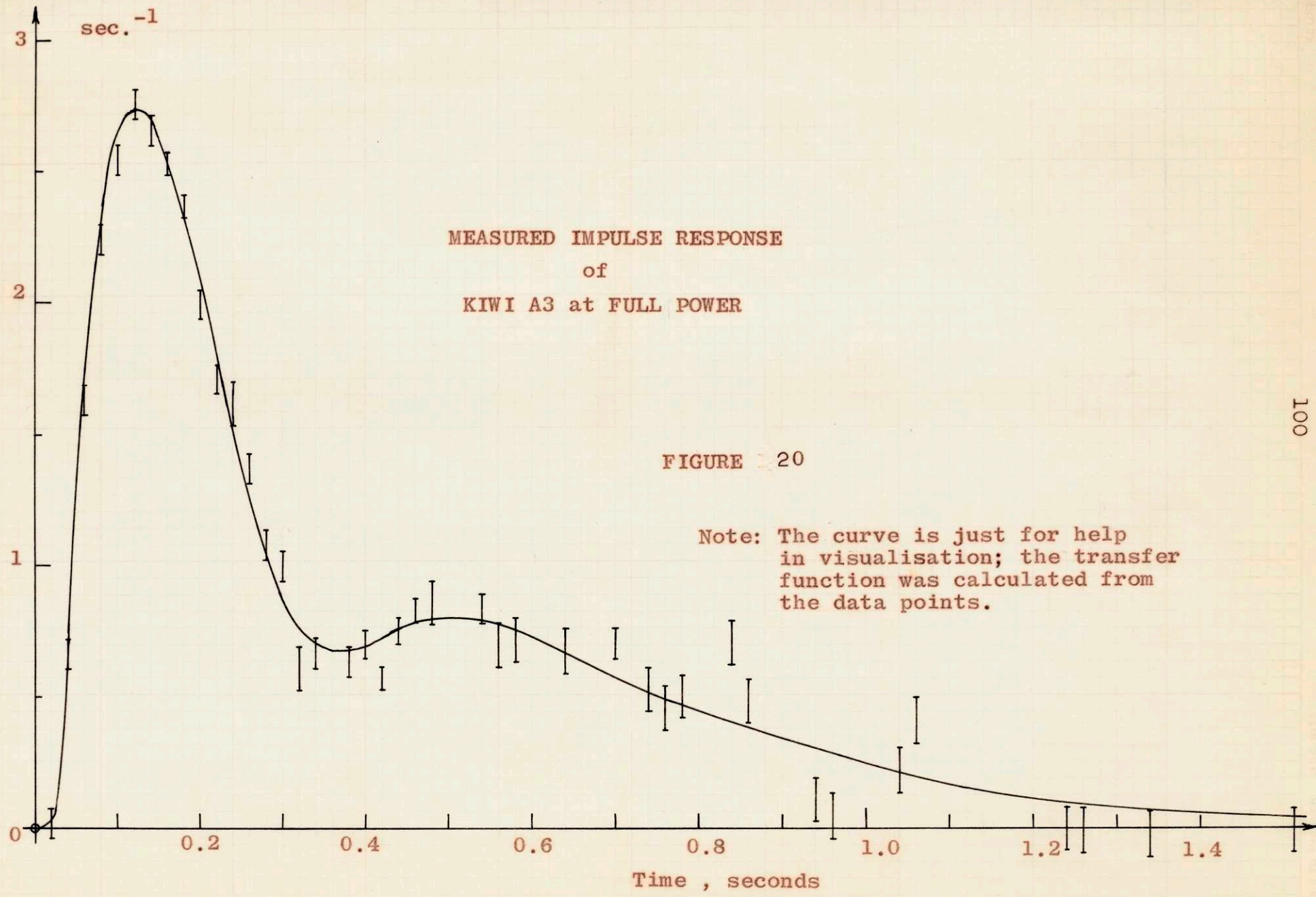
TABLE F
 IMPULSE RESPONSE DATA
 of the
 KIWI A-3 POWER RUNS

TIME Seconds	FULL POWER	HALF POWER	TIME Seconds	FULL POWER	HALF POWER
.020	0.4	-4.2	.580	11.3	16.9
.040	10.6	13.2	.600		12.3
.060	25.9	40.9	.640	10.8	
.080	35.4	61.1	.680		14.2
.100	40.2	61.6	.700	11.1	
.120	43.6	54.3	.740	8.4	9.6
.140	42.1	49.5	.760	7.1	
.160	40.1	45.6	.780	7.9	10.2
.180	37.6	39.2	.800		5.0
.200	31.6	27.9	.840	11.3	
.220	27.0	19.2	.860	7.7	11.7
.240	25.6	14.9	.880		9.1
.260	21.6	18.3	.940	1.7	8.6
.280	17.1	18.3	.960	0.8	
.300	15.8	13.8	1.000		-0.1
.320	9.6	9.0	1.040	3.4	
.340	10.6	11.0	1.060	6.6	6.3
.360		16.4	1.080		-0.8
.380	9.9	19.4	1.100		-3.2
.400	11.1	16.0	1.180		-2.1
.420	9.0	14.9	1.240	-0.0	4.4
.440	11.8	18.5	1.260	-0.2	
.460	13.1	21.2	1.300		-4.0
.480	13.5	20.0	1.340	-0.5	
.500		16.1	1.360		-0.8
.520		14.4	1.420		0.0
.540	13.3	16.9	1.560	0.0	
.560	11.1				

NORMALIZATION CONSTANTS

Full Power 15.37 volt-seconds

Half Power 17.88 volt-seconds



- b) The observed, normalized rms value of the crosscorrelation function is $.412 \text{ sec}^{-1}$.

$$(S/N)_\phi \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{L} \int_0^L h^2(t) dt}}{\sqrt{x^2(\tau)}} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{1.4} (1.685)}}{.412} = 2.7$$

The value for the system settling time, L , is taken to be 1.4 seconds. The crosscorrelation time is 15 seconds. Therefore $M = 15/1.4 = 10.7$. The expected improvement factor is $IF \geq \sqrt{M} = 3.3$. The observed improvement factor is approximately 2.7, in very good agreement.

Following the "half power" hold, the program continued to full power. Data obtained (again post-mortem) are tabulated in Table F and plotted in Figure 20. The errors in the data are much smaller than at "half power" because the relative noise in the reactor power was much less.

Closed loop transfer functions derived from the impulse response data of Table F are plotted in Figures 21 and 22.

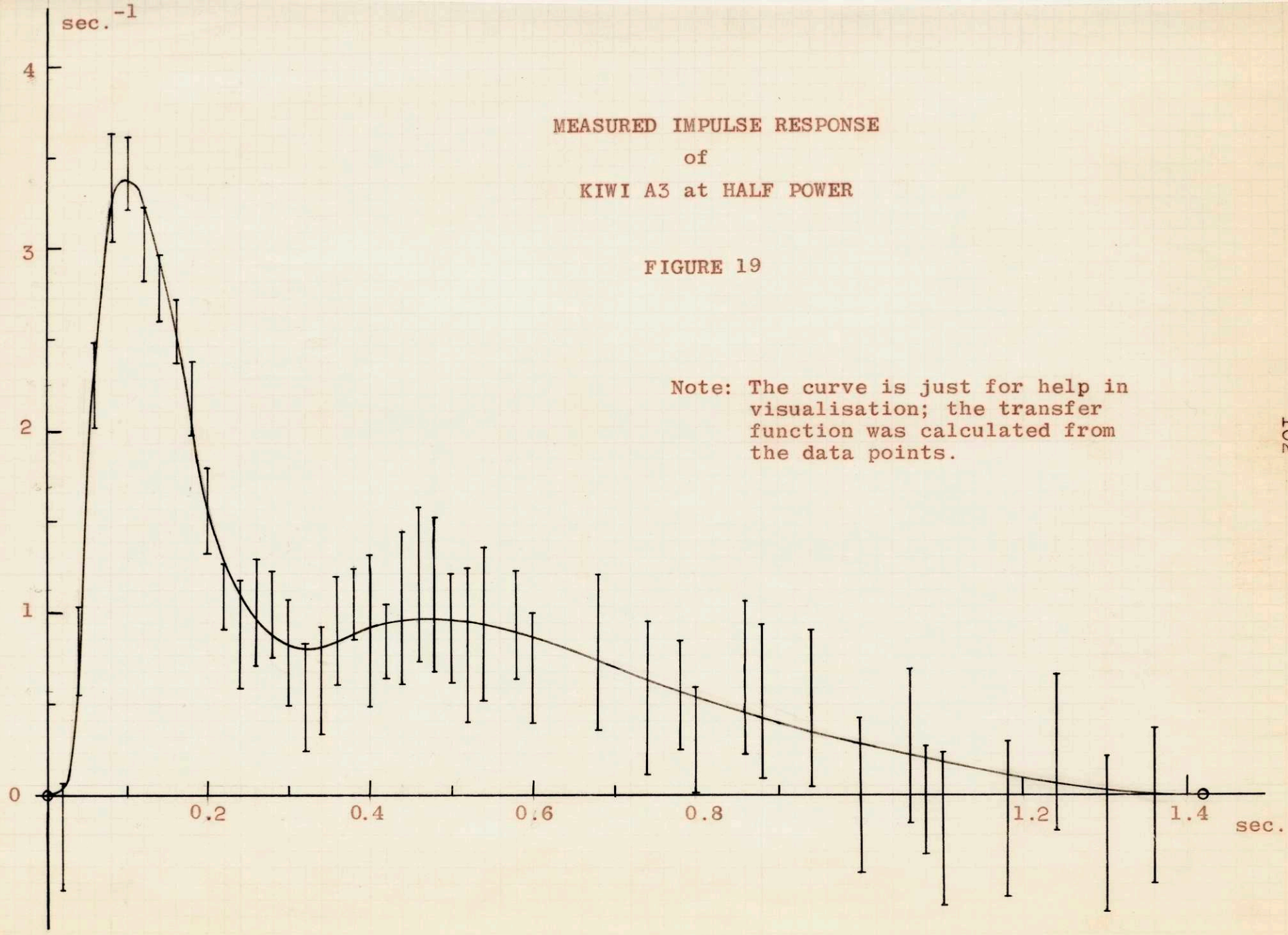
If a closed loop system has a transfer function $H(\omega)$, then the open loop transfer function is given by $G(\omega) = H(\omega)/(1 - H(\omega))$. This function has been calculated from the transfer functions of Figures 21 and 22, and the results are plotted together in Figure 23. These are the projected open loop transfer functions at "half" and full power. The only difference that one would expect to find between the two open loop transfer functions is a change in gain corresponding to a change in differential control rod worth. The control rod system is constructed so as to command a control rod displacement proportional to the compensated error voltage.

Hence, the reactivity change produced by an error voltage

MEASURED IMPULSE RESPONSE
of
KIWI A3 at HALF POWER

FIGURE 19

Note: The curve is just for help in
visualisation; the transfer
function was calculated from
the data points.



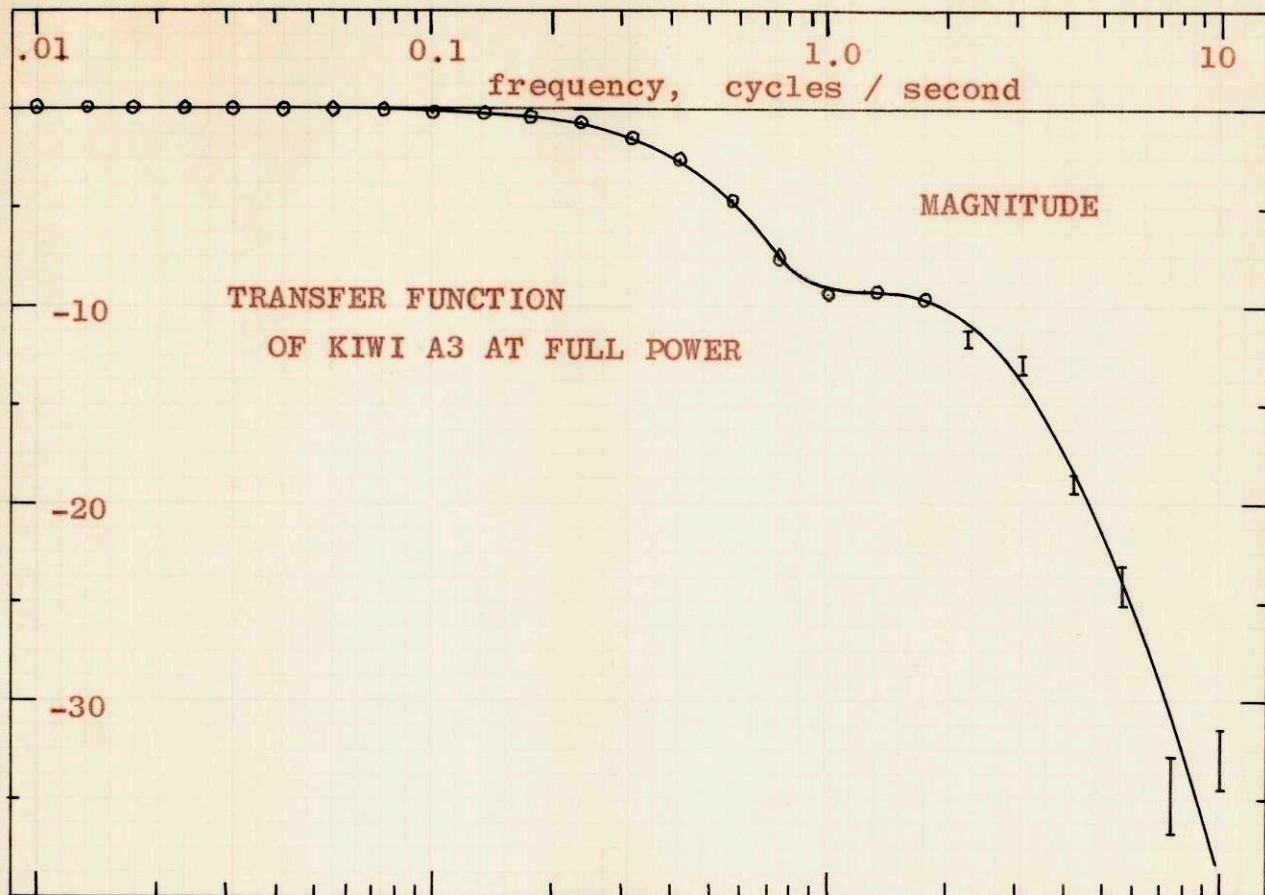
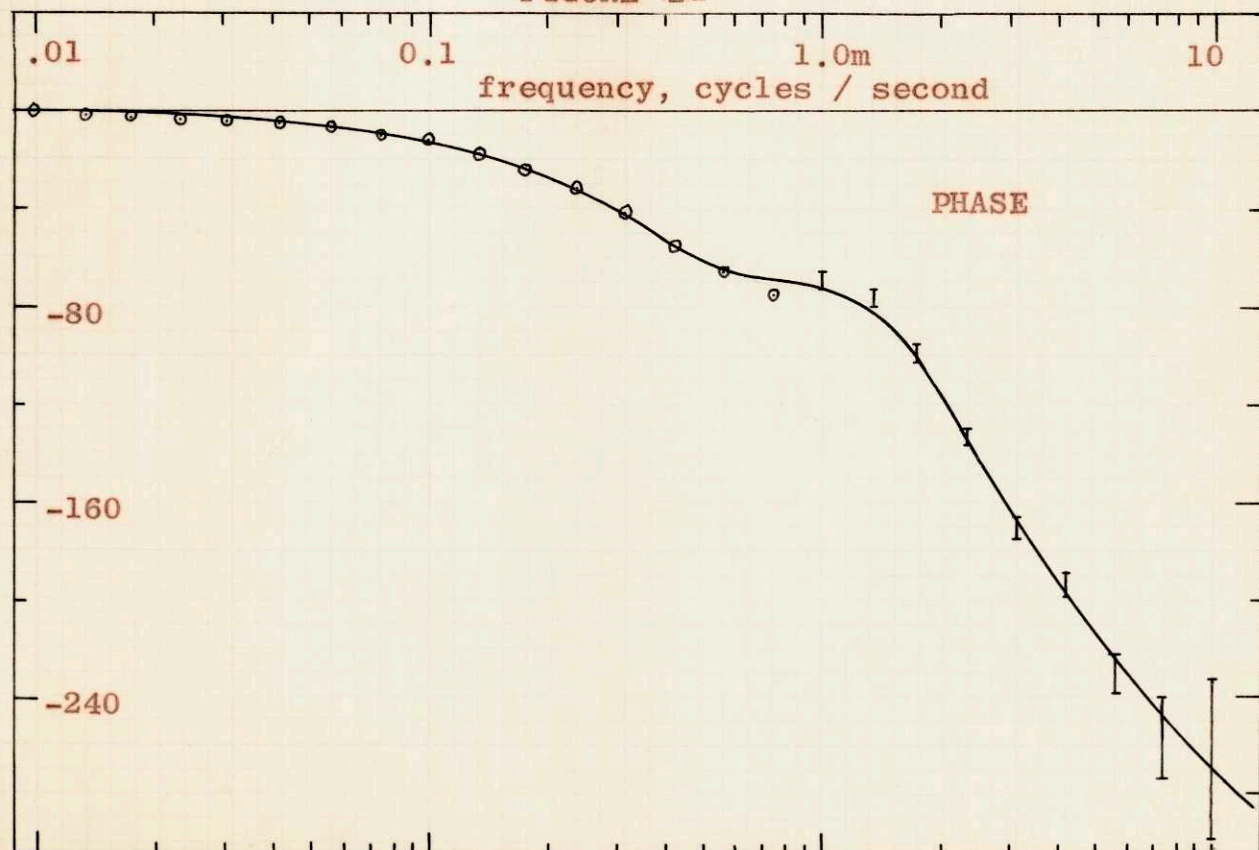


FIGURE 21



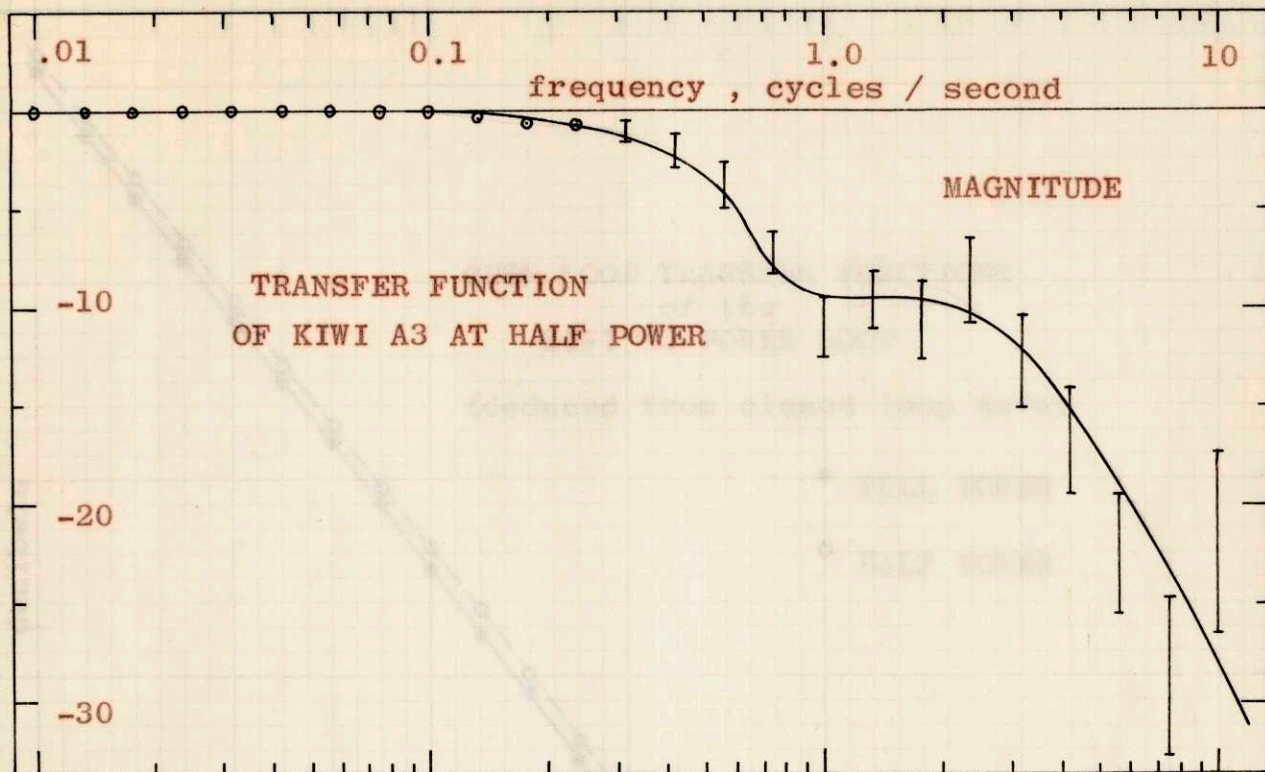


FIGURE 22

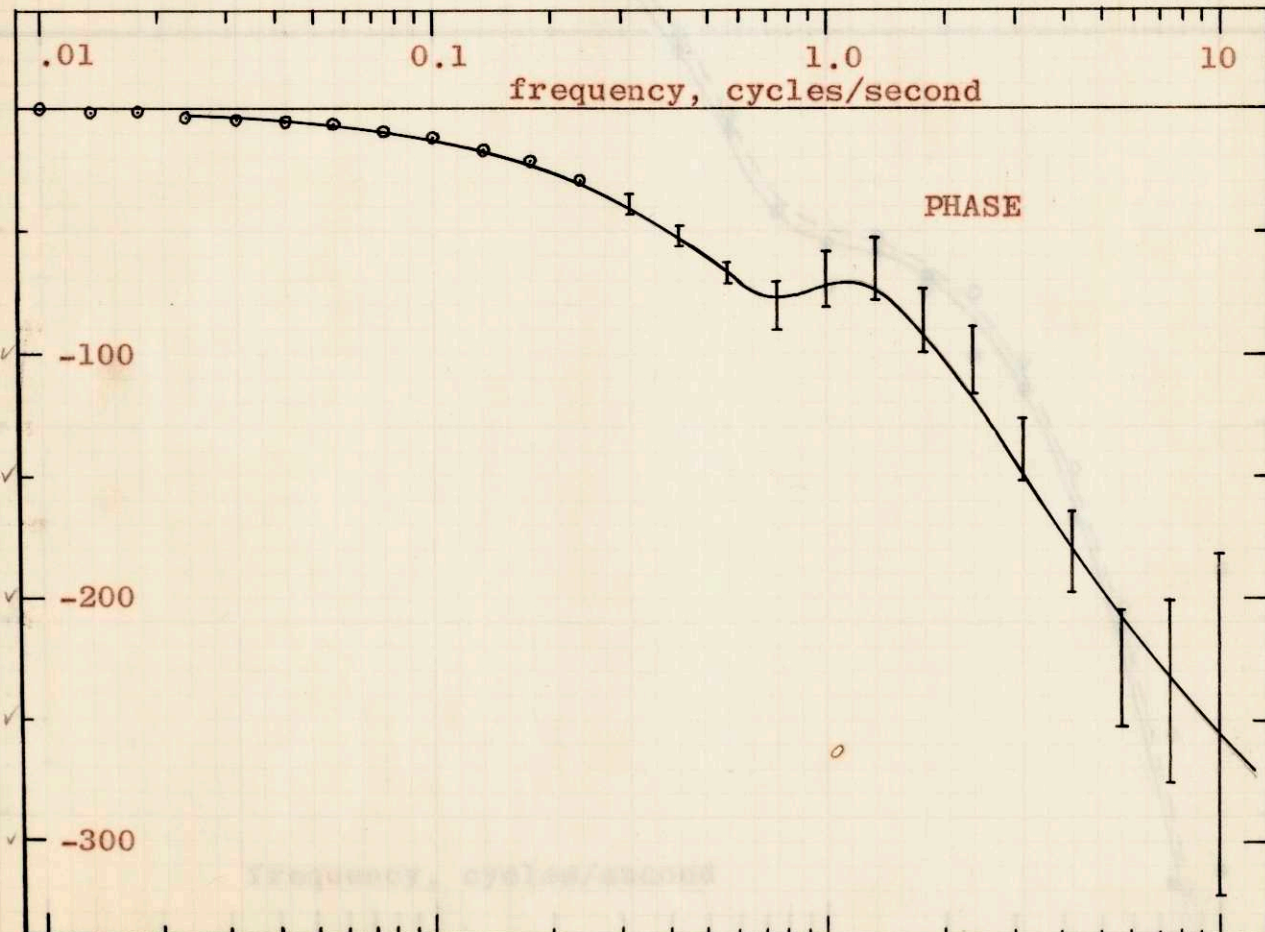
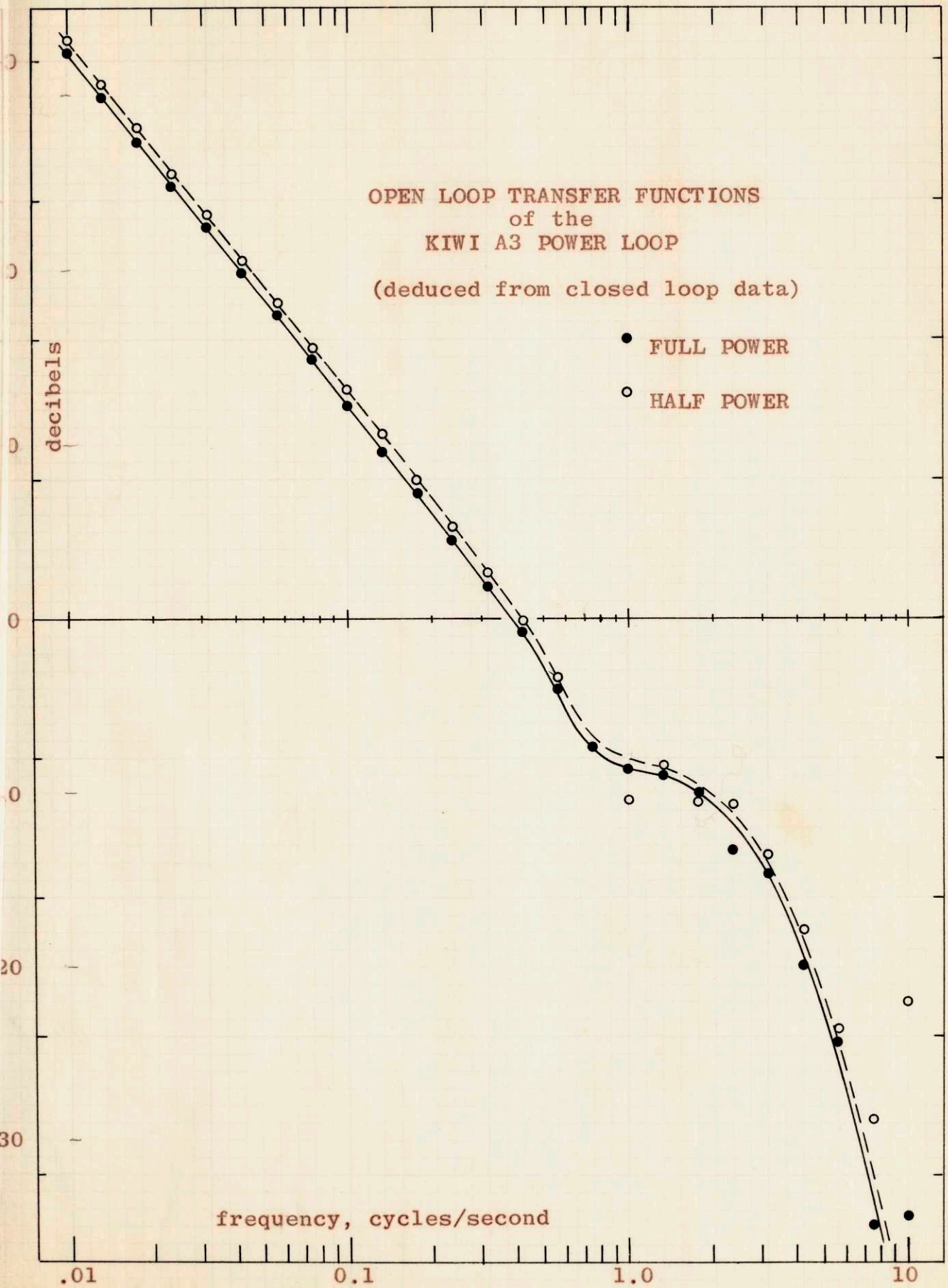


FIGURE 23



will be proportional to the "cents per inch" worth of the control rod. The control rod calibrations are given in the following table:

<u>Power</u>	<u>Observed Shim Bank Position</u>	<u>Worth cents/inch</u>
"half"	11.1"	16.85
full	12.8"	15.30

Thus, there is an expected decrease in open loop gain of $15.30/16.85 = 0.90$ in going from "half" power to full power. In Figure 23 the observed decrease in open loop gain is 0.92 (-0.7 decibels) in very good agreement with 0.9.

3. Significance of the Kiwi-A3 Results

This is the first time dynamics measurements of control system performance have been made on a rocket reactor at full power. The suggestion that the cross-correlation method be applied to rocket reactors was first made in full knowledge that it was perhaps the only practical method of making such measurements.*

The results indicate:

- a) The control system performed essentially as expected.
- b) The crosscorrelation method can produce useful dynamics data from reactor systems of this general power and bandwidth.

* Dr. George K. Hess, Jr., Bendix Corporation, Research Laboratory

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS

From the work that has been presented in the preceding chapters, the following primary conclusions can be drawn.

- 1) The crosscorrelation method has the following advantages:
 - a) It yields the entire information about the impulse response of the system in the shortest possible time, that is, the system settling time.
 - b) The method requires only small amplitude perturbations. Consequently it is not hazardous, not limited by system nonlinearities, and does not interfere with normal system operation.
 - c) It can be used even in the presence of strong noise sources provided that the cross-correlation time is increased beyond the system settling time.
- 2) The crosscorrelation method is a useful reactor diagnostic technique.
- 3) The crosscorrelation method is probably the best dynamics measurement tool for some reactor systems including rocket propulsion reactors.
- 4) The method is promising enough to warrant further expenditure of time and money. Professional equipment is being designed for future experiments on rocket propulsion reactors.
- 5) No disagreement with the theory has been found.
- 6) The original purposes of the thesis have been achieved:

- a) The feasibility of the crosscorrelation method for use on reactor systems has been demonstrated.
- b) Data of the performance of a control system of a rocket propulsion reactor have been obtained.

Both the theoretical considerations and experimental results described in the foregoing chapters show that the listed advantages can be realized in the application of the crosscorrelation method to reactor systems. The Kiwi-A3 experiment is a demonstration of the compatibility of the crosscorrelation method with normal system operation. The presence of the $\pm 1\%$ rms fluctuations of reactor power in no way interfered with the many other objectives of the Kiwi-A3 full power run. The fluctuations represented only a factor of two increase over normal system noise and were themselves noiselike; the power meter fluctuations were barely noticeable to the reactor operators.

A major advantage of the crosscorrelation method is that small input signals can be used. This is a result of the ability of the method to produce usable results even in the presence of strong noise sources. The crosscorrelator behaves (in the mean-square sense) as a pass-band filter which attenuates all frequencies contained in the system response signal which do not lie roughly within the frequency spectrum of the input signal. The noise frequencies which remain appear as random errors in the measured impulse response (but spread out over the entire crosscorrelation integration time interval). The magnitude of these errors, relative to the data, can be decreased by increasing the crosscorrelation time. In order to estimate the crosscorrelation time needed the

concept of an "improvement factor" has been proposed. The "improvement factor" is defined as the increase in rms signal-to-noise ratio from the crosscorrelator input to the crosscorrelator output. It is greater than or equal to unity if the crosscorrelation time is just equal to the system settling time; it increases proportional to the square root of the crosscorrelation time as the crosscorrelation time is increased beyond the system settling time. This theory has been successfully used to predict the errors in the data of the Kiwi-A3 "half" power run.

From the results of an analog computer study there is evidence that the method tends to measure a linearized reactor impulse response despite fluctuations which go outside the range of linearity of the reactor kinetics equations.

A basic purpose of this project has been to demonstrate experimentally the feasibility of the crosscorrelation method for use on reactor systems. The experimental results which have been obtained prove this feasibility. The proof consists of two parts: first, detailed verification of the validity of the method through analog computer studies, and second, more general verification of the practical ability to apply the method on two widely differing types of reactor systems. Godiva II is a fast reactor which operates at powers of a few watts. It is conceptually the simplest kind of reactor. Kiwi-A3 on the other hand, is a thermal reactor operating at many orders of magnitude higher power. It is only a part of a complex system. The crosscorrelation method has produced correct impulse response data from both of these systems. The obvious implication is that the method is feasible for use on all reactor systems. However, the

advantages of the method are most clearly manifested for the more complex reactor systems, since it is for such systems that the requirements of small input signals and short experiment time are likely to be imposed.

The other basic purpose of the project has been to obtain data of the control system performance of rocket propulsion reactors at full power. This information has not been available before. The results from Kiwi-A3 are presented graphically in Figures 19 to 23 of Chapter II.

Three secondary conclusions are:

- 1) The advantages of the idealized binary input signal are two. First, there are no random errors introduced by fluctuations in the statistics of the input signal such as would occur with a random input signal. Second, the fact that the signal is binary is a computational asset. The necessary storage, delay, and multiplication operations are much easier than with a continuously variable signal.
- 2) Three conclusions can be drawn from the experience of building the equipment which implements the crosscorrelation method and which is described in Chapter III.
 - a) Relays are not adequate for binary multiplication much beyond ten bits per second; diode gates are adequate to at least 500 bits per second.
 - b) The use of a punched paper tape input and delay system is limited to measurements on systems of bandwidth less than 16 cps (corresponding to 200 bits per second) with the present state of development of

reading devices. In any case a punched paper tape is seriously limited as to the possible number of crosscorrelation channels.

- c) All other equipment described will perform adequately in the range below 100 cps.
- 3) System transfer functions can be obtained from impulse response data by numerical techniques although the number of calculations involved justifies the use of a digital computer. A general code has been written for the purpose and is described in detail in Appendix B and more generally in II-E. A Monte Carlo method for estimating the standard deviations of a transfer function due to errors in the impulse response data has been devised and shown to give reasonable answers.

In any project as involved as this one has been, there are a few things left undone and a few questions left unanswered. Of these, one question is perhaps the most important and the most difficult: what is the crosscorrelation function when the system under test is non-linear? There is one bit of empirical evidence presented in this thesis which suggests that in a certain type of non-linearity, that of the reactor kinetics equations, the effect of the non-linearity tends to cancel out and a linearized impulse response is measured. Perhaps it will follow that the crosscorrelation method does tend to measure a linearized impulse response for most non-linear systems. It is felt that this question warrants further study.

APPENDIX A.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATIONS
OF
THE CROSSCORRELATION METHOD

The idea and the basic equations of the crosscorrelation method, put forth in the Introduction, were originally suggested by Y.W.Lee⁸. The technique has been used in the general field of Electrical Engineering for measuring the dynamics of systems.

In applying the method to the measurement of reactor dynamics, a great variety of possible implementations present themselves. First, there is a choice of input signals. The only condition limiting the choice is the requirement that the power spectrum be flat over the range of interest.

There is also a wide choice in the method of performing the crosscorrelation. The purpose of this appendix is to present some pros and cons of some possible implementations.

Input signals can be classified by two properties:

- 1) Predetermined or stochastic
- 2) Discrete level or continuous level

If the input is known in advance then the values of the delayed inputs are also known in advance and these can be used directly in the crosscorrelation calculation. Hence, no pure time delay device is required. In addition, specific inputs, having an optimized autocorrelation function, can be utilized. A stochastic input, on the other hand, has the advantage that it does not have to be stored prior to the experiment; and it can easily be

generated by a wide-band noise generator.

A discrete level signal has as main advantages ease of storage, ease of delay, and ease of multiplication. These advantages are particularly significant if the signal is just two level (binary); for this case digital techniques can be employed. The use of diode switching circuits to implement multiplication, for example, is a considerable equipment savings over the circuitry needed for multiplication of two continuous level signals, particularly if many values on the crosscorrelation function are to be computed simultaneously. One major advantage of being able to handle continuous level inputs is that any signal, perhaps deep within the system, can be regarded as the input signal and any other signal, further on in the system, can be regarded as the output signal. In addition, if the input signal is generated by a simple wide-band noise generator, it will usually be a continuous level signal.

To implement the crosscorrelation calculation, three operations must be performed: time delay, multiplication, and integration. One can implement the delay with a paper tape, magnetic storage, padé networks, a digital shifting register, etc. The paper tape system was used by the author mainly as a matter of convenience: a paper tape reader was on hand and a computer to punch the tapes was available. The main disadvantage of the paper tape system is the limited speed of operation.

A magnetic tape or drum delay can be used to delay either discrete or continuous level signals; and it can be used either to store predetermined delay signals or to actually delay a stochastic signal.

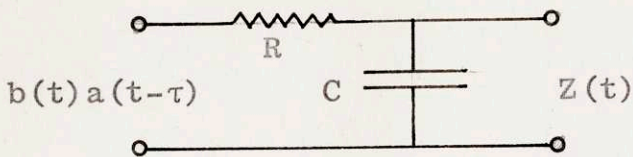
The Aeronutronic Company,⁹ in applying the cross-correlation method as the diagnostic component of a self-optimizing airplane controller, had a great deal of

success with drum storage. The basic advantage over tape storage, which is cheaper, is freedom from tape fluctuations: wow and flutter. The Aeronutronic Company reported considerable trouble in attempting to use a tape machine. On the other hand, Rajagopal,¹³ in applying the crosscorrelation method to a reactor claims to have surmounted tape wow and flutter problems through the use of a tape looping device.

Pade' networks,⁷ which are nodal networks built to approximate a pure time delay, have been tried out by the Aeronutronic Company and discarded. The basic difficulty is that a good approximation to a pure delay, over a frequency span of four decades, must be realized. It would require an impractical number of components to accomplish this.

Multiplication of the output signal by the delayed input signal is the second step in the crosscorrelation. Implementation of this multiplication has already been considered in discussing the choice of the input signal. If the input is a continuous level signal, then a continuous level multiplier must be used. If the input is binary then semi-digital multiplication can be used as described in Chapter III. In this connection it should be mentioned that an attempt was made to use relays for the switching; the fastest relays available proved too slow. Diode gates are much faster, more reliable, and can be made sufficiently accurate.

The integration is fairly easy. If precision is desired, a standard analog computer integration network can be used. These utilize a very high gain amplifier with capacitive feedback. The amplifier output will be the integral of the input current. Approximate integration can be obtained inexpensively from a simple R-C network:



$$Z(t) = \frac{1}{RC} \int_{-\infty}^t d\lambda b(\lambda) a(\lambda - \tau) e^{(\lambda - t)/RC}$$

This method has the advantage of producing a continuous output. The average value of $Z(t)$ is proportional to $\phi_{ab}(\tau)$. The fluctuation can be decreased by increasing the integration time constant ($\sigma_{\phi} \sim \sqrt{1/RC}$).

Thus far, the possibility of calculating the cross-correlation function completely on a digital computer has been ignored. For some applications, this appears to be a very practical technique. All that is required for the experiment itself is a tape recorder and a noise generator. The input noise signal and the output response are recorded together on the tape. Later, these signals are sampled at regular intervals and digitized. A digital computer can then calculate the crosscorrelation directly. There are two main disadvantages to this technique. First, there is considerable time delay between the experiment and the results, and second, the analog-to-digital conversion is a difficult operation requiring expensive equipment not generally available.

In the previous discussion it was mentioned that a time delay between experiment and result is a serious drawback. This is true for two reasons. First, because the input and output signals are noise-like, one cannot tell very easily, while an experiment is in progress, whether they are reasonable. About the only observable fact is that the output noise increases when the input is applied. It is a great advantage, in setting up an

experiment, to try it out, perhaps on a simulation of the real system, just to see that everything is working properly. Second, the crosscorrelation results are very quickly available.

This leads to the concept of a reactor stability monitor. If the crosscorrelator is set up to display the impulse response continuously (on an oscilloscope, for example), then the system dynamics can be continuously observed. This can be a very useful tool either for making adjustments to optimize system performance or just to keep an eye on system stability. A tendency toward instability is easily recognizable from a change in the impulse response. A convenient implementation of this monitor might utilize a binary input, diode switching multiplication, and R-C circuit integration.

APPENDIX B

IMP - A CODE TO COMPUTE A SYSTEM TRANSFER FUNCTION
FROM IMPULSE RESPONSE DATA
(IBM-704, FORTRAN)

The code is largely self-explanatory. It is written as master program (TRAN) plus several subroutines.

TRAP - this subroutine computes the transfer function according to equation (II-84). This assumes a trapezoidal curve (straight line segments between the data points). The area and squared-area are computed and the transfer function is normalized by dividing by the area.

CORRECT - this subroutine performs the iteration procedure discussed in II-C to correct for finite Δt . Equation (II-17) is used to calculate the successive points.

SIGMA - this subroutine calculates the theoretical standard deviations of the transfer function from the standard deviations of the impulse response. The equations for the transfer function from TRAP have been differentiated with respect to each data value and put into the form of equation (II-85).

TABLE - this subroutine calculates and stores a table of the error function.

NORMAL - this subroutine, given a point and a standard deviation, will calculate a new point which fits a normal distribution about the given point. It does this by selecting a random number between zero and unity using a standard RANDOM function and interpolating in TABLE to find the corresponding value on a normal distribution. Extensive chi-square tests have been performed by the author to show that the resulting distribution is indeed

normal.

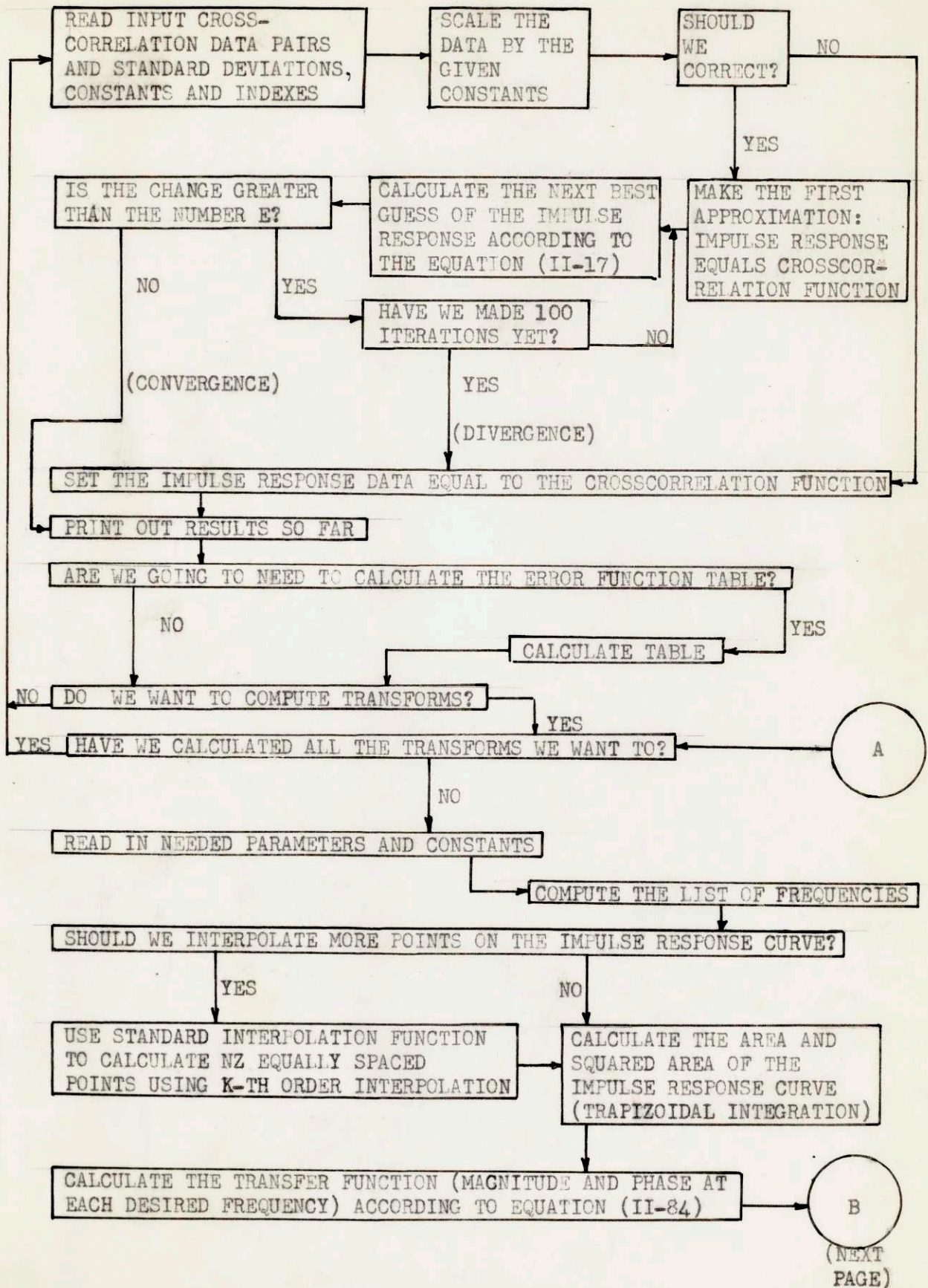
BAZFAZ - this subroutine calculates the magnitude and phase of a complex number from the real and imaginary parts.

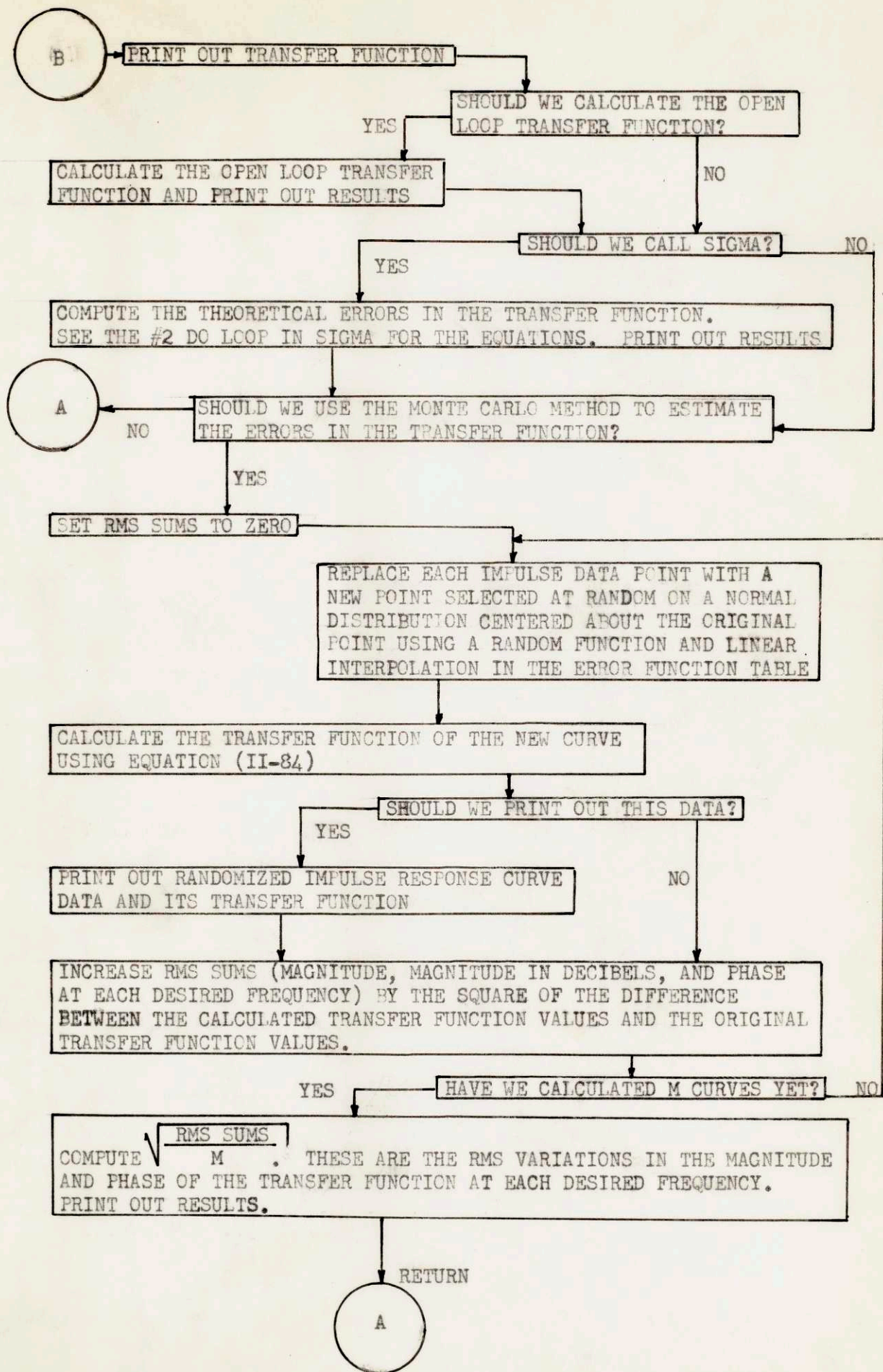
The master program, TRAN, allows for a wide variety of external decisions which are controlled by indexes as follows.

- L1 \neq 0(=0) Correct (Do not correct) the data for finite Δt
- L2 \neq 0(=0) Calculate (Do not calculate) the error function table
- L3 \neq 0(=0) Proceed (Return to the start and read more data)
- L4 \neq 0(=0) Use (Do not use) the corrected data instead of the original data
- L5 \neq 0(=0) Interpolate (Do not interpolate) more points in between the given data points
- L6 \neq 0(=0) Frequency correct for finite Δt by dividing the transfer function by $\Phi_{aa}(\omega)$. (See equation (II-19) and Figure 6 of Chapter II)
- L7 \neq 0(=0) Compute (Do not compute) the open loop transfer function
- L8 \neq 0(=0) Use (Do not use) SIGMA
- L9 \neq 0(=0) Compute (Do not compute) an ensemble of M new data curves (using NORMAL) and their transfer functions and compute the averages and standard deviations of the ensemble of transfer functions at each specified frequency
- L10 \neq 0(=0) Print (Do not print) each of the M curves and transfer functions calculated

The input is on cards. The output is on tape. Sample printouts follow the listings.

IMP : LOGIC FLOW DIAGRAM





```

C   IMP TRAN DOUG BALCOMB N4 82327
    DIMENSION H(72),T(72),SH(72),C(72),X(51),Y(51),S(100),D(72),FR(100
1) ,FI(100),FM(100),FDB(100),FP(100),OM(100),ODB(100),OP(100),SM(100
2) ,SDB(100),SP(100),SRM(100),SRDB(100),SRP(100),R(72),RM(100),RDB(1
300),RP(100),RR(100),RI(100),AM(100),ADB(100),AP(100),DM(100),
4DDB(100),DP(100)
101 FORMAT(72H1
    1
    )
102 FORMAT(5I5,4F10.5)
103 FORMAT(3F14.5)
104 FORMAT(2I3,E6.2,3I3,7I1)
201 FORMAT(9H0DELTA T=F8.3,5H L1=I2,5H L2=I2,5H L3=I2)
202 FORMAT(12H0ITERATIONS=I3,17H MAXIMUM ERROR=F8.5)
203 FORMAT(39H0 TIME DATA SIGMA CORRECTED/1H )
204 FORMAT(47H0 FREQUENCY MAGNITUDE DECIBELS PHASE/1H0)
205 FORMAT(1H0I3,27H POINTS INTERPOLATED-ORDER=I3)
206 FORMAT(14H0THIS IS CURVEI3,3H OFI3,18H RANDOMIZED CURVES)
207 FORMAT(4H0L4=I2,5H L5=I2,5H L6=I2,5H L7=I2,5H L8=I2,5H L9=I2,
16H L10=I2)
208 FORMAT(7H0 AREA=F8.3,17H SQUARED AREA=F10.3)
209 FORMAT(22H0PROPAGATION OF ERRORS)
210 FORMAT(28H0OPEN LOOP TRANSFER FUNCTION)
211 FORMAT(33H0RANDOMIZED RMS ERRORS M=I3)
212 FORMAT(F8.3,F10.3,F10.3,F10.3)
213 FORMAT(F12.5,F14.6,F11.3,F10.2)
214 FORMAT(F12.5,F14.8,F11.5,F10.5)
215 FORMAT(44H0AVERAGED RANDOMIZED TRANSFER FUNCTION M=I3)
216 FORMAT(25H0STANDARD DEVIATIONS M=I3)
    1 READ 101
      READ 102,N,NGROUP,L1,L2,L3,SPAN,E,CH,CT
      READ 103,(H(I),T(I),SH(I),I=1,N)
      DO 28 I,1,N
        H(I)=CH*H(I)
        SH(I)=CH*SH(I)
28 T(I)=CT*T(I)
        SH(N)=0.
        WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,101
        WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,201,SPAN,L1,L2,L3
        IF(L1)2,3,2
    2 CALL CORECT(H,C,T,N,SPAN,E,INDEX)
        WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,202,INDEX,E
    3 WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,203
        WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,212,(T(I),H(I),SH(I),C(I),I=1,N)
        IF(L2)4,1,4
    4 IF(L3)5,6,5
    5 CALL TABLE(X,Y)
    6 DO 7 I1=1,NGROUP
        READ 104,NPD,ND,S(1),K,M,NZ,L4,L5,L6,L7,L8,L9,L10
        IF(L4)8,9,8
    8 DO 10 I=1,N
10 D(I)=C(I)
        GO TO 11
    9 DO 12 I=1,N
12 D(I)=H(I)
11 NS=1+NPD*ND
        F=10.**(1./FLOATF(NPD))
        DO 13 I=2,NS
13 S(I)=F*S(I-1)
        CALL TRAP(D,T,N,S,NS,L5,NZ,K,L6,SPAN,A,SQ,FR,FI,FM,FDB,FP)
        WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,101
        WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,208,A,SQ
        WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,207,L4,L5,L6,L7,L8,L9,L10

```

```

IF(L5) 14,15,14
14 WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,205,NZ,K
15 WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,204
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,213,(S(I),FM(I),FDB(I),FP(I),I=1,NS)
IF(L7) 16,17,16
16 DO 18 J=1,NS
B=(1.-FR(J))*2+FI(J)**2
OR=(FR(J)*(1.-FR(J))-FI(J)**2)/B
OI=FI(J)/B
18 CALL BAZFAZ(OR,OI,OM(J),ODB(J),OP(J))
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,101
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,210
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,204
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,213,(S(I),OM(I),ODB(I),OP(I),I=1,NS)
17 IF(L8)19,20,19
19 CALL SIGMA(SH,T,N,S,NS,FR,FI,A,SM,SDB,SP)
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,101
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,209
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,204
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,214,(S(I),SM(I),SDB(I),SP(I),I=1,NS)
20 IF(L9) 21,7,21
21 DO 22 J=1,NS
AM(J)=0.
ADB(J)=0.
AP(J)=0.
SRM(J)=0.
SRDB(J)=0.
22 SRP(J)=0.
DO 23 I=1,M
DO 24 J=1,N
24 CALL NORMAL(D(J),SH(J),R(J),X,Y)
CALL TRAP(R,T,N,S,NS,0,NZ,K,L6,SPAN,A,SQ,RR,RI,RM,RDB,RP)
IF(L10) 25,26,25
25 WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,101
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,206,I,M
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,203
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,212,(T(J),R(J),SH(J),D(J),J=1,N)
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,101
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,206,I,M
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,208,A,SQ
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,204
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,213,(S(J),RM(J),RDB(J),RP(J),J=1,NS)
26 DO 23 J=1,NS
AM(J)=AM(J)+RM(J)
ADB(J)=ADB(J)+RDB(J)
AP(J)=AP(J)+RP(J)
SRM(J)=SRM(J)+(FM(J)-RM(J))*2
SRDB(J)=SRDB(J)+(FDB(J)-RDB(J))*2
23 SRP(J)=SRP(J)+(FP(J)-RP(J))*2
DO 27 J=1,NS
AM(J)=AM(J)/FLOATF(M)
ADB(J)=ADB(J)/FLOATF(M)
AP(J)=AP(J)/FLOATF(M)
DM(J)=SQRTF(SRM(J)/FLOATF(M)-(AM(J)-FM(J))*2)
DDB(J)=SQRTF(SRDB(J)/FLOATF(M)-(ADB(J)-FDB(J))*2)
DP(J)=SQRTF(SRP(J)/FLOATF(M)-(AP(J)-FP(J))*2)
SRM(J)=SQRTF(SRM(J)/FLOATF(M))
SRDB(J)=SQRTF(SRDB(J)/FLOATF(M))
27 SRP(J)=SQRTF(SRP(J)/FLOATF(M))
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,101
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,211,M
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,204
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,214,(S(I),SRM(I),SRDB(I),SRP(I),I=1,NS)

```

```

WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,101
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,215,M
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,204
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,213,(S(I),AM(I),ADB(I),AP(I),I=1,NS)
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,101
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,216,M
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,204
WRITE OUTPUT TAPE 9,214,(S(I),DM(I),DDB(I),DP(I),I=1,NS)
7 CONTINUE
GO TO 1
END(0,1,0,1,1)

```

```

C IMP TRAPIZOIDAL DOUG BALCOMB N4 82327
SUBROUTINE TRAP(H,T,N,S,NS,L1,NZ,K,L2,SPAN,A,SQ,FR,FI,FM,FDB,FP)
DIMENSIONH(72),T(72),S(100),FR(100),FI(100),FM(100),FDB(100),FP(100),
TZ(300),Z(300),B(300)
IF(L1)2,1,2
2 TZ(1)=T(1)
Z(1)=H(1)
IERR=0
DELT=T(N)/FLOAT(NZ-1)
NZ1=NZ-1
DO 3 I=2,NZ1
TZ(I)=TZ(I-1)+DELT
3 Z(I)=INTRPF(TZ(I),N,K,XLOC(T(1)),XLOC(H(1)),1,1,XLOC(IERR))
TZ(NZ)=T(N)
Z(NZ)=H(N)
GO TO 4
1 NZ=N
DO 5 I=1,NZ
TZ(I)=T(I)
5 Z(I)=H(I)
4 A=0.
SQ=0.
DO 6 I=2,NZ
A=A+(Z(I)+Z(I-1))*(TZ(I)-TZ(I-1))/2.
6 SQ=SQ+(Z(I)**2+Z(I-1)**2)*(TZ(I)-TZ(I-1))/2.
N1=NZ-1
B(1)=(Z(2)-Z(1))/TZ(2)
DO 7 I=2,N1
7 B(I)=(Z(I+1)-Z(I))/(TZ(I+1)-TZ(I))-(Z(I)-Z(I-1))/(TZ(I)-TZ(I-1))
B(NZ)=- (Z(NZ)-Z(NZ-1))/(TZ(NZ)-TZ(NZ-1))
DO 8 J=1,NS
W=6.28318*S(J)
FR(J)=0.
FI(J)=-Z(1)*W
DO 9 I=1,NZ
FR(J)=FR(J)-B(I)*COSF(W*TZ(I))
9 FI(J)=FI(J)+B(I)*SINF(W*TZ(I))
FR(J)=FR(J)/(A*W**2)
FI(J)=FI(J)/(A*W**2)
IF(L2)10,8,10
10 C=(2.*SINF(W*SPAN/2.)/(W*SPAN))**2
FR(J)=FR(J)/C
FI(J)=FI(J)/C
8 CALL BAZFAZ(FR(J),FI(J),FM(J),FDB(J),FP(J))
RETURN
END(0,1,0,1,1)

```

```

IMP SIGMA DOUG BALCOMB N4 82327
SUBROUTINE SIGMA(SH,T,N,S,NS,FR,FI,A,SFM,SFDB,SFP)
DIMENSION SH(72),T(72),S(100),FR(100),FI(100),SFM(100),SFDB(100),S
1FP(100)
DO 1 J=1,NS
W=6.28318*S(J)
X=W*T(2)/2.
SR=((SINF(X)**2)*SH(1)/X)**2
SI=((SINF(X)*COSF(X)/X-1.)*SH(1))**2
N1=N-1
DO 2 I=2,N1
X=W*(T(I)-T(I-1))/2.
Y=W*(T(I)+T(I-1))/2.
A=W*(T(I+1)-T(I))/2.
B=W*(T(I+1)+T(I))/2.
SR=SR+((SINF(A)*SINF(B)/A-SINF(X)*SINF(Y)/X)*SH(I))**2
2 SI=SI+((SINF(A)*COSF(B)/A-SINF(X)*COSF(Y)/X)*SH(I))**2
SR=SQRTE(SR)/(A*W)
SI=SQRTE(SI)/(A*W)
X=SQRTE(FR(J)**2+FI(J)**2)
SFM(J)=SQRTE((FR(J)*SR)**2+(FI(J)*SI)**2)/X
SFDB(J)=8.68579*SFM(J)/X
1 SFP(J)=57.295*SQRTE(FR(J)*SI+FI(J)*SR)/(X**2)
RETURN
END(0,1,0,1,1)

```

```

IMP TAB DOUG BALCOMB N4 82327
SUBROUTINE TABLE(X,T)
DIMENSION X(51),T(51)
T(1)=-4.
T(2)=-3.
DO 10 I=3,49
10 T(I)=T(I-1)+.125
T(50)=3.
T(51)=4.
X(1)=0.
X(51)=1.
X(26)=.5
DO 11 I=27,50
X(I)=(ERF(T(I)/1.41421)+1.)/2.
J=52-I
11 X(J)=1.-X(I)
RETURN
END(0,1,0,1,1)

```

```
C      IMP CORRECT DOUG BALCOMB N4 82327
      SUBROUTINE CORECT(H,C,T,N,SPAN,E,INDEX)
      DIMENSIONH(72),C(72),T(72)
      INDEX=0
      N1=N-1
      DO 30 I=1,N
30     C(I)=H(I)
36     FOM=0.
      INDEX=INDEX+1
      DO 31 I=2,N1
      DELH=(SPAN**2/(6.*(T(I+1)-T(I-1))))*((C(I+1)-
1C(I))/(T(I+1)-T(I))-(C(I)-C(I-1))/(T(I)-T(I-1)))
      DIF=ABSF(H(I)-C(I)-DELH)
      C(I)=H(I)-DELH
      IF(DIF-FOM)31,31,32
32     FOM=DIF
31     CONTINUE
33     IF(FOM-E)34,34,35
35     IF(INDEX-100)36,37,37
37     DO 38 I=1,N
38     C(I)=H(I)
34     E=FOM
      RETURN
      END(0,1,0,1,1)
```

DELTA T= 0.020 L1= 1 L2= 1 L3= 1

ITERATIONS= 6 MAXIMUM ERROR= 0.00038

TIME	DATA	SIGMA	CORRECTED
0.	0.	0.	0.
0.020	1.200	0.900	0.383
0.040	11.000	0.900	10.573
0.060	25.400	0.900	25.884
0.080	35.000	0.900	35.390
0.100	40.100	0.900	40.221
0.120	43.200	0.900	43.603
0.140	42.100	0.900	42.145
0.160	40.100	0.750	40.147
0.180	37.300	0.750	37.588
0.200	31.700	0.900	31.577
0.220	27.300	0.900	27.041
0.240	25.400	1.300	25.611
0.260	21.600	0.900	21.645
0.280	17.400	0.900	17.135
0.300	15.400	0.900	15.806
0.320	10.200	1.300	9.602
0.340	10.500	0.900	10.572
0.380	10.000	0.900	9.918
0.400	10.800	0.900	11.069
0.420	9.400	0.750	8.990
0.440	11.700	0.900	11.835
0.460	13.000	0.750	13.064
0.480	13.500	1.300	13.522
0.540	13.200	0.900	13.288
0.560	11.300	1.300	11.100
0.580	11.300	1.300	11.316
0.640	10.800	1.300	10.792
0.700	11.100	0.900	11.150
0.740	8.400	1.300	8.394
0.760	7.300	1.300	7.122
0.780	8.000	1.300	7.990
0.840	11.100	1.300	11.294
0.860	7.800	1.300	7.732
0.940	1.700	1.300	1.677
0.960	0.900	1.300	0.851
1.040	3.500	1.300	3.416
1.060	6.500	1.300	6.565
1.240	0.	1.300	-0.009
1.260	-0.200	1.300	-0.204
1.340	-0.500	1.300	-0.501
1.560	0.	0.	0.

8 ± 7
A - 7

AREA= 15.373 SQUARED AREA= 347.486

L4= 1 L5= 0 L6= 0 L7= 1 L8= 0 L9= 0 L10= 0

FREQUENCY	MAGNITUDE	DECIBELS	PHASE
0.01000	0.999682	-0.003	-1.38
0.01334	0.999691	-0.003	-1.84
0.01778	0.999379	-0.005	-2.46
0.02371	0.999042	-0.008	-3.28
0.03162	0.998367	-0.014	-4.37
0.04217	0.997126	-0.025	-5.84
0.05623	0.994883	-0.045	-7.78
0.07499	0.990928	-0.079	-10.36
0.10000	0.983917	-0.141	-13.80
0.13335	0.971543	-0.251	-18.36
0.17783	0.949847	-0.447	-24.37
0.23714	0.912243	-0.798	-32.22
0.31623	0.848465	-1.427	-42.27
0.42170	0.744850	-2.559	-54.54
0.56234	0.591700	-4.558	-67.52
0.74989	0.416990	-7.597	-74.47
1.00000	0.344016	-9.268	-69.24
1.33352	0.348484	-9.156	-78.74
1.77828	0.338966	-9.397	-93.27
2.37137	0.258291	-11.758	-131.38
3.16228	0.223987	-12.995	-169.37
4.21696	0.113485	-18.901	-194.11
5.62341	0.063080	-24.002	-230.79
7.49894	0.018245	-34.777	-256.81
9.99999	0.019108	-34.375	-266.87

RANDOMIZED RMS ERRORS

M= 25

FREQUENCY	MAGNITUDE	DECIBELS	PHASE
0.00100	0.01071946	0.09305	0.51916
0.00178	0.00442055	0.03832	0.23168
0.00316	0.00187583	0.01630	0.08175
0.00562	0.00042669	0.00371	0.04239
0.01000	0.00015704	0.00136	0.06126
0.01778	0.00011598	0.00101	0.10551
0.03162	0.00029204	0.00254	0.18704
0.05623	0.00091675	0.00800	0.32915
0.10000	0.00283186	0.02496	0.56683
0.17783	0.00832805	0.07579	0.90879
0.31623	0.02075004	0.20973	1.11713
0.56234	0.02699865	0.38789	1.19105
1.00000	0.01572697	0.39030	3.00801
1.77828	0.01217780	0.31010	3.28116
3.16228	0.01151776	0.44109	3.61052
5.62341	0.00812363	1.13058	8.89536
10.00000	0.00624689	3.05971	231.10238

APPENDIX C

CIRCUIT DIAGRAMS

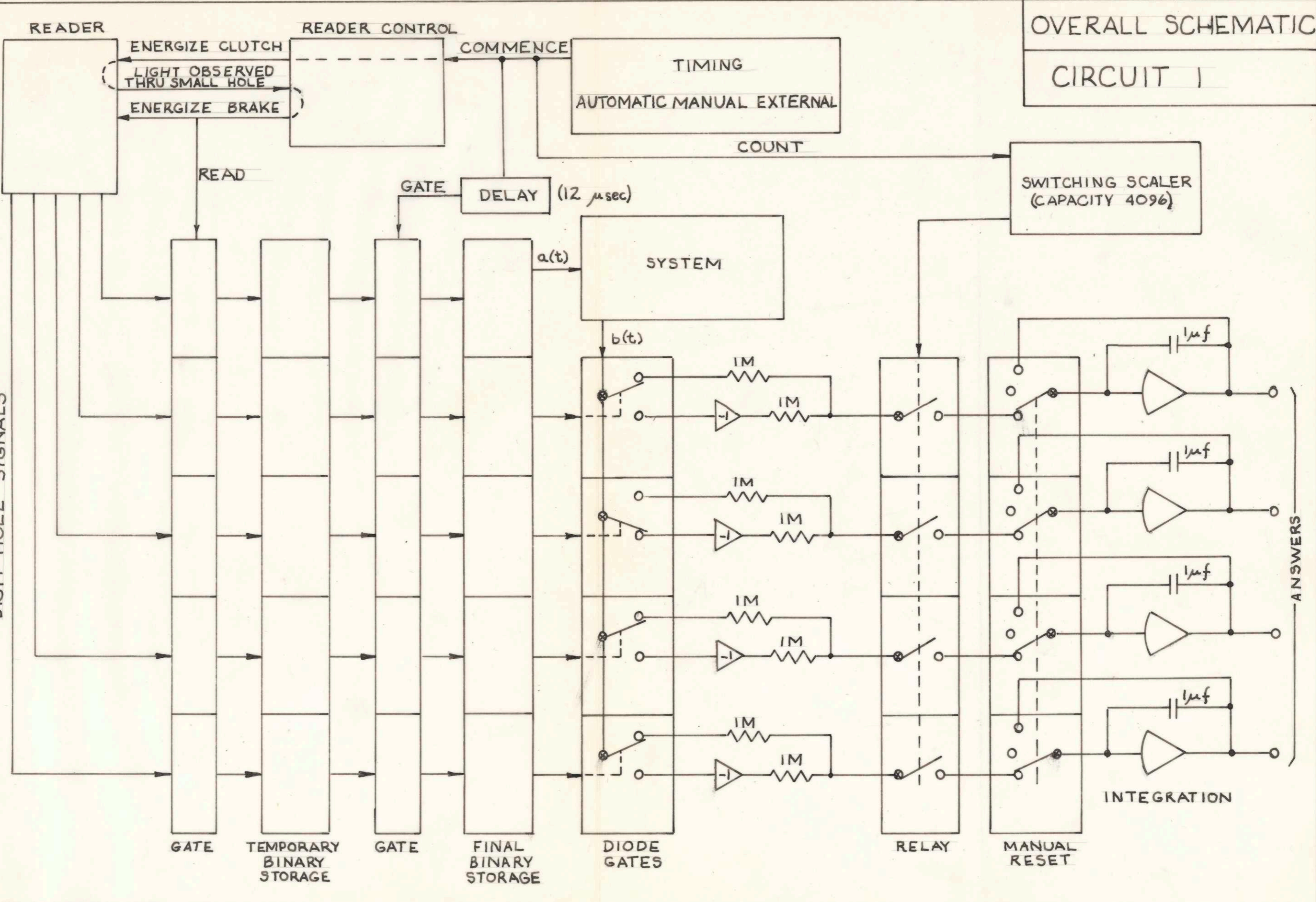
Diagram No. 1 is a schematic showing how Diagrams No. 2 through No. 7 fit together.

Diagram No. 8 is the delay circuit for the Godiva rabbit transfer device.

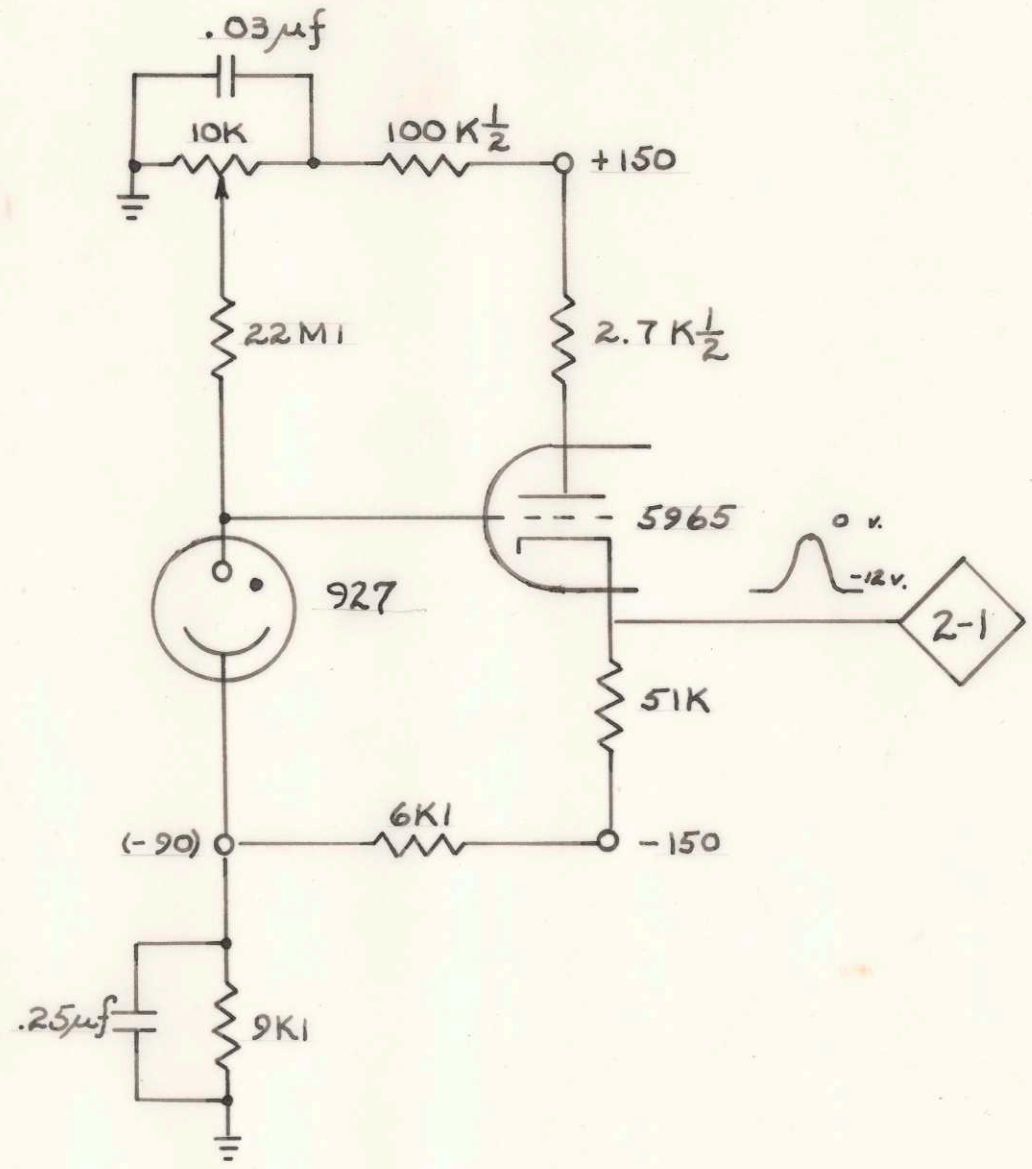
OVERALL SCHEMATIC

CIRCUIT 1

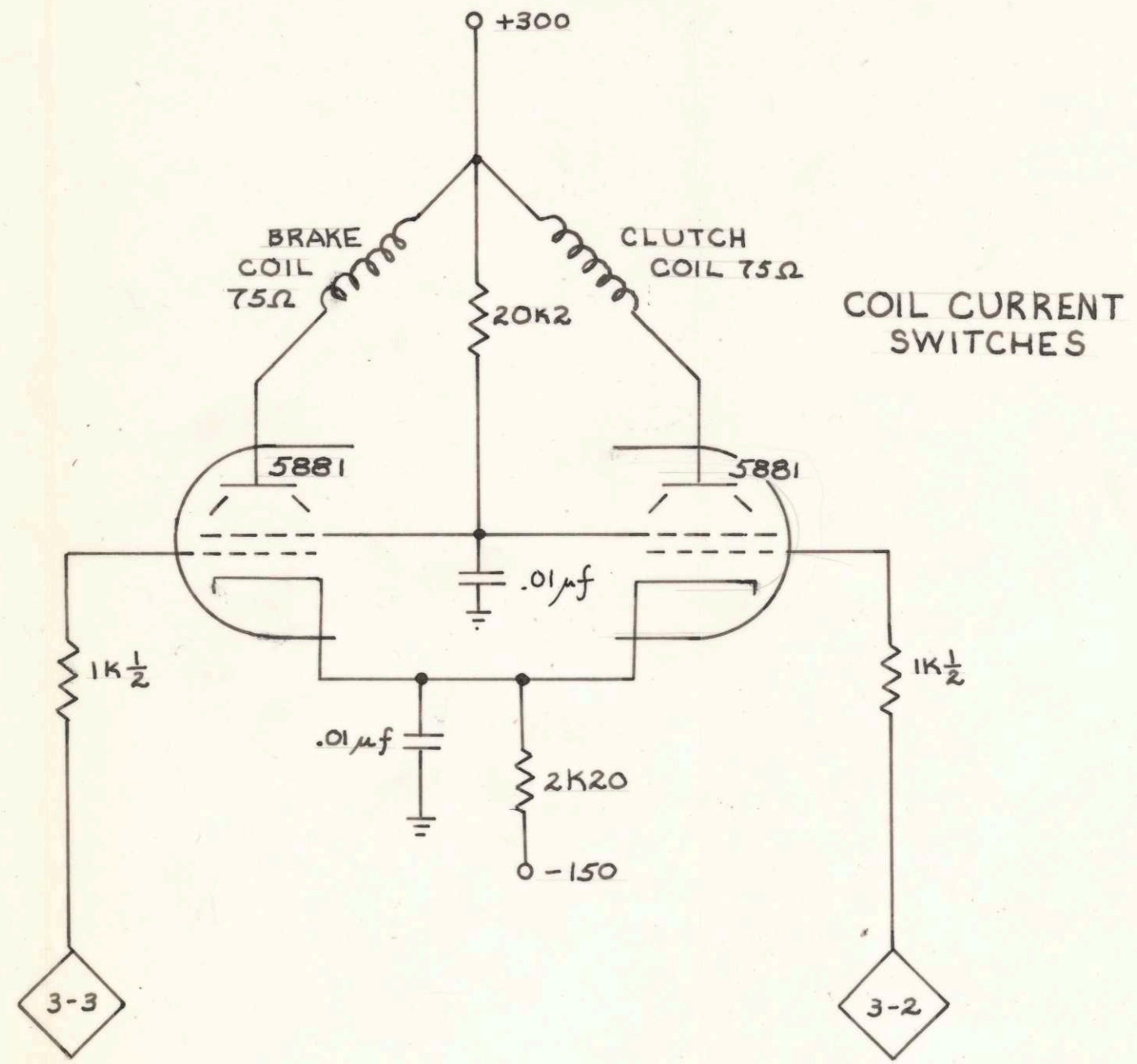
DIGIT HOLE SIGNALS



READER CIRCUITRY
CIRCUIT 2



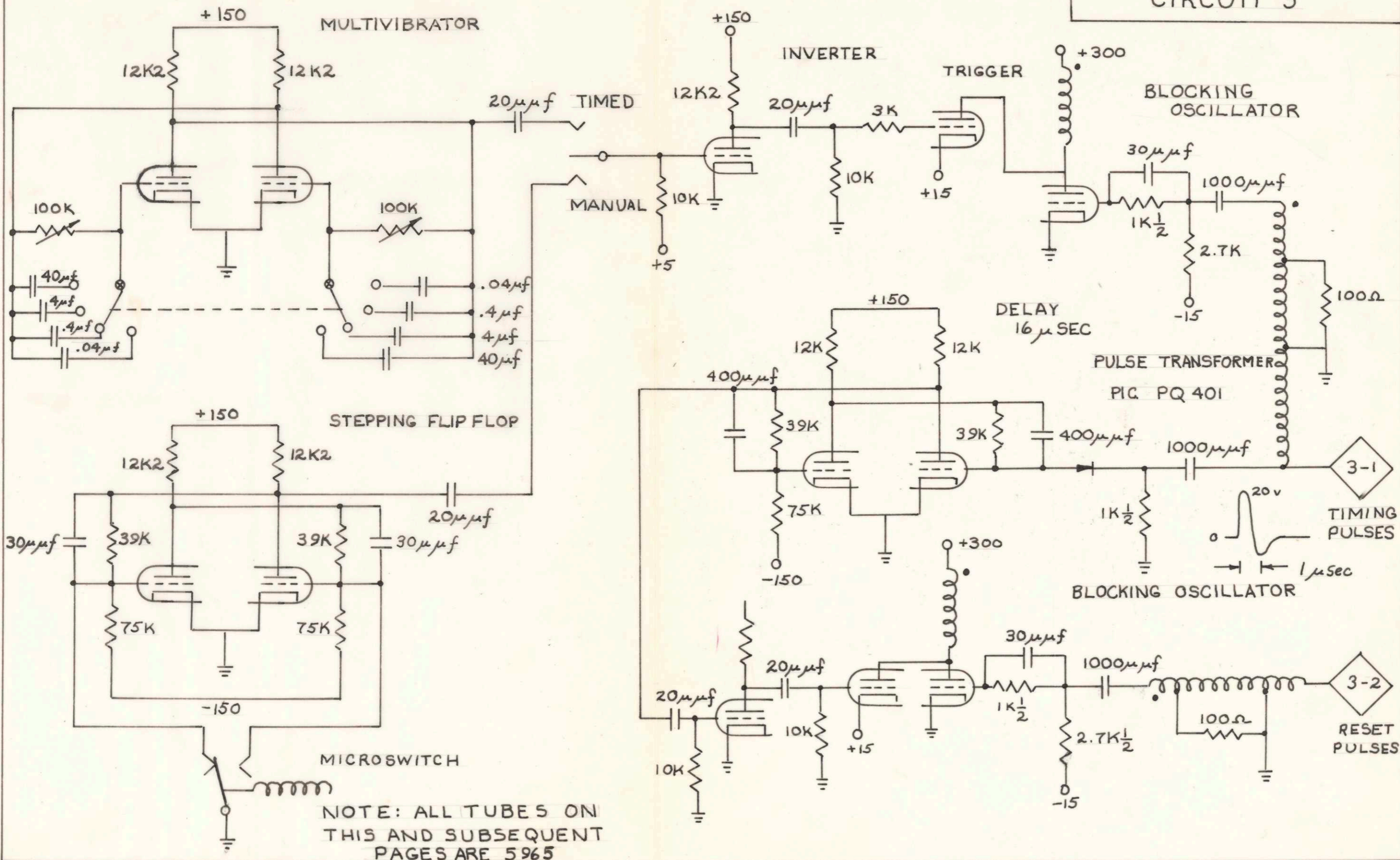
LIGHT TRANSDUCER -
6 IDENTICAL CIRCUITS



COIL CURRENT
SWITCHES

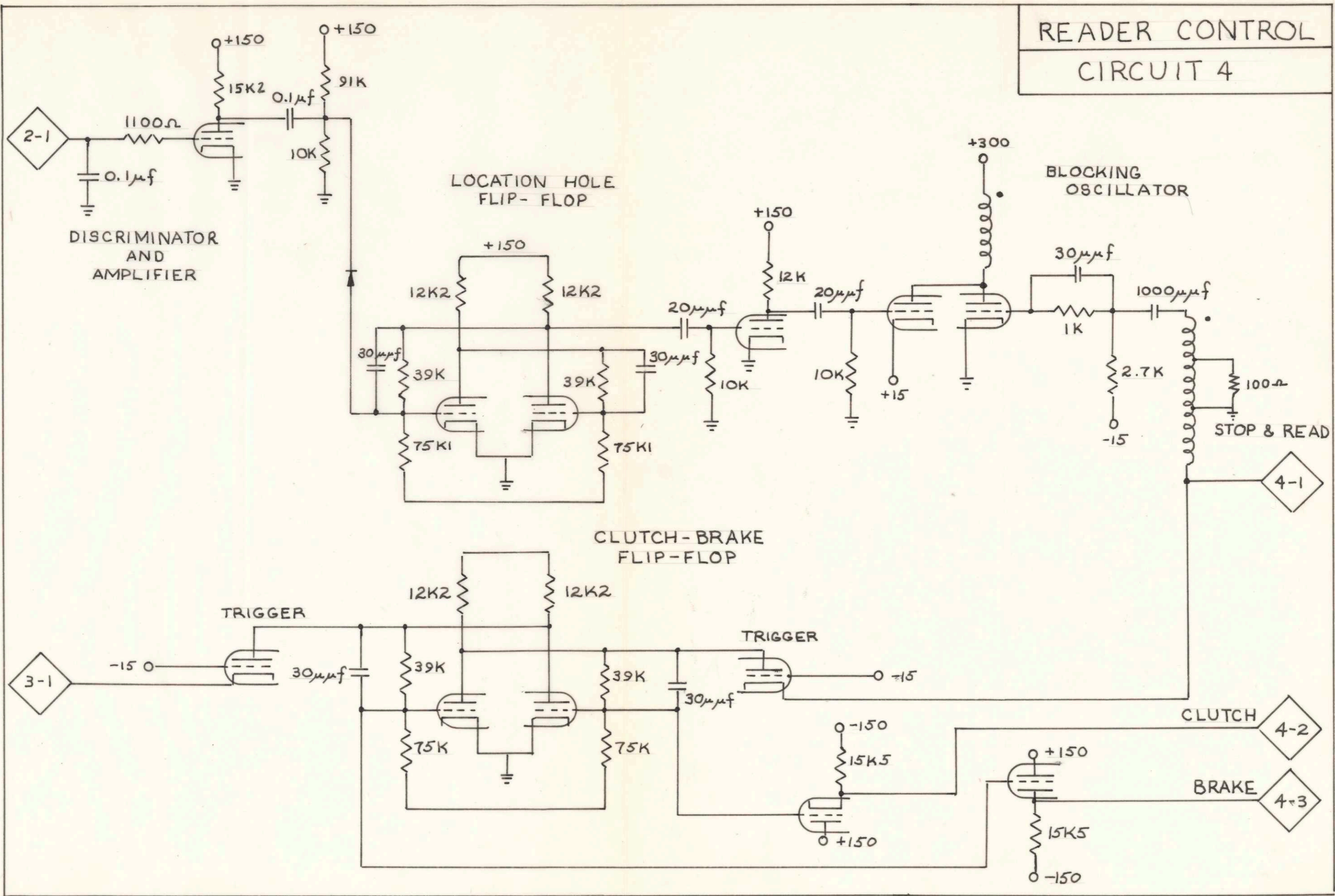
TIMING CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT 3



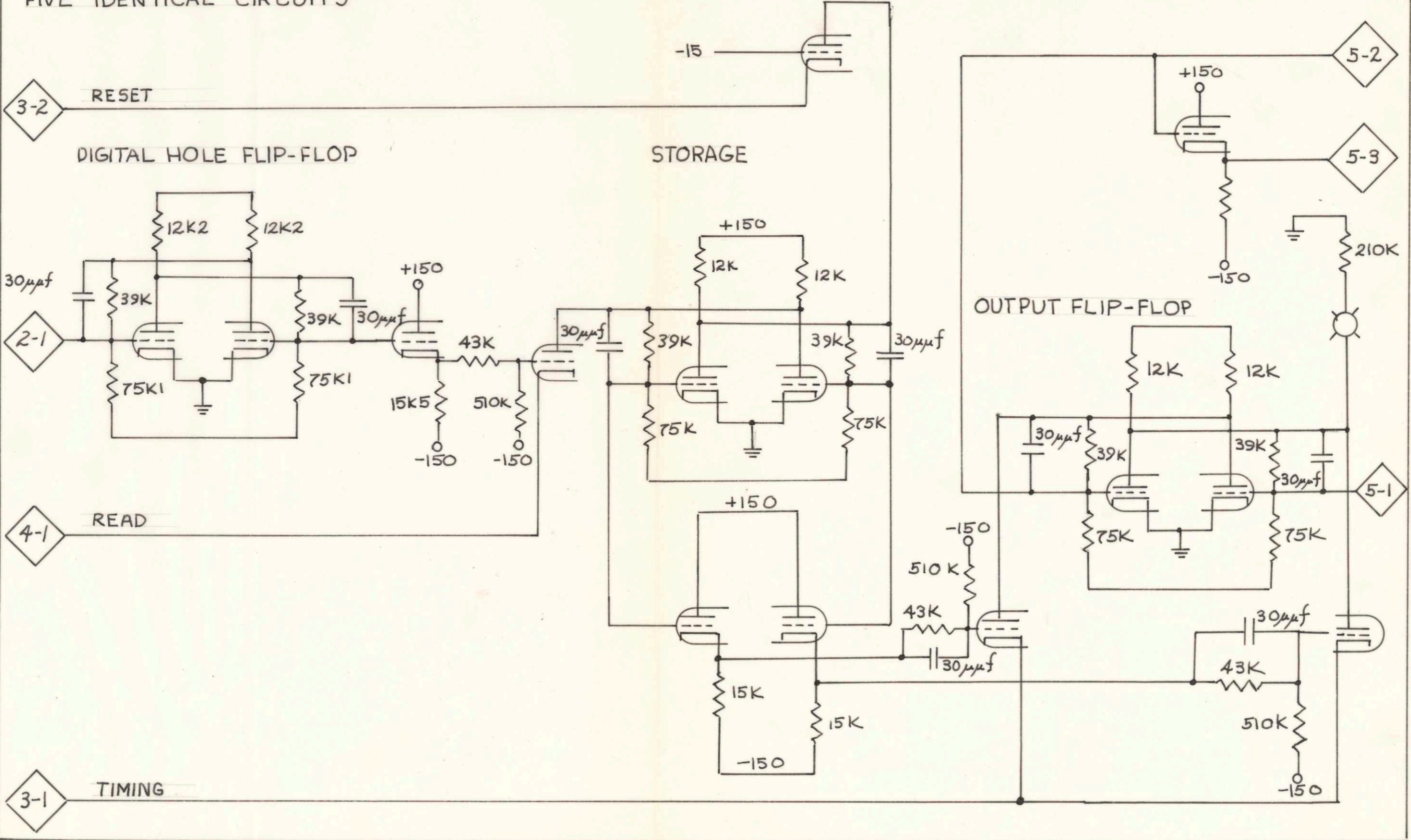
NOTE: ALL TUBES ON THIS AND SUBSEQUENT PAGES ARE 5965

READER CONTROL CIRCUIT 4

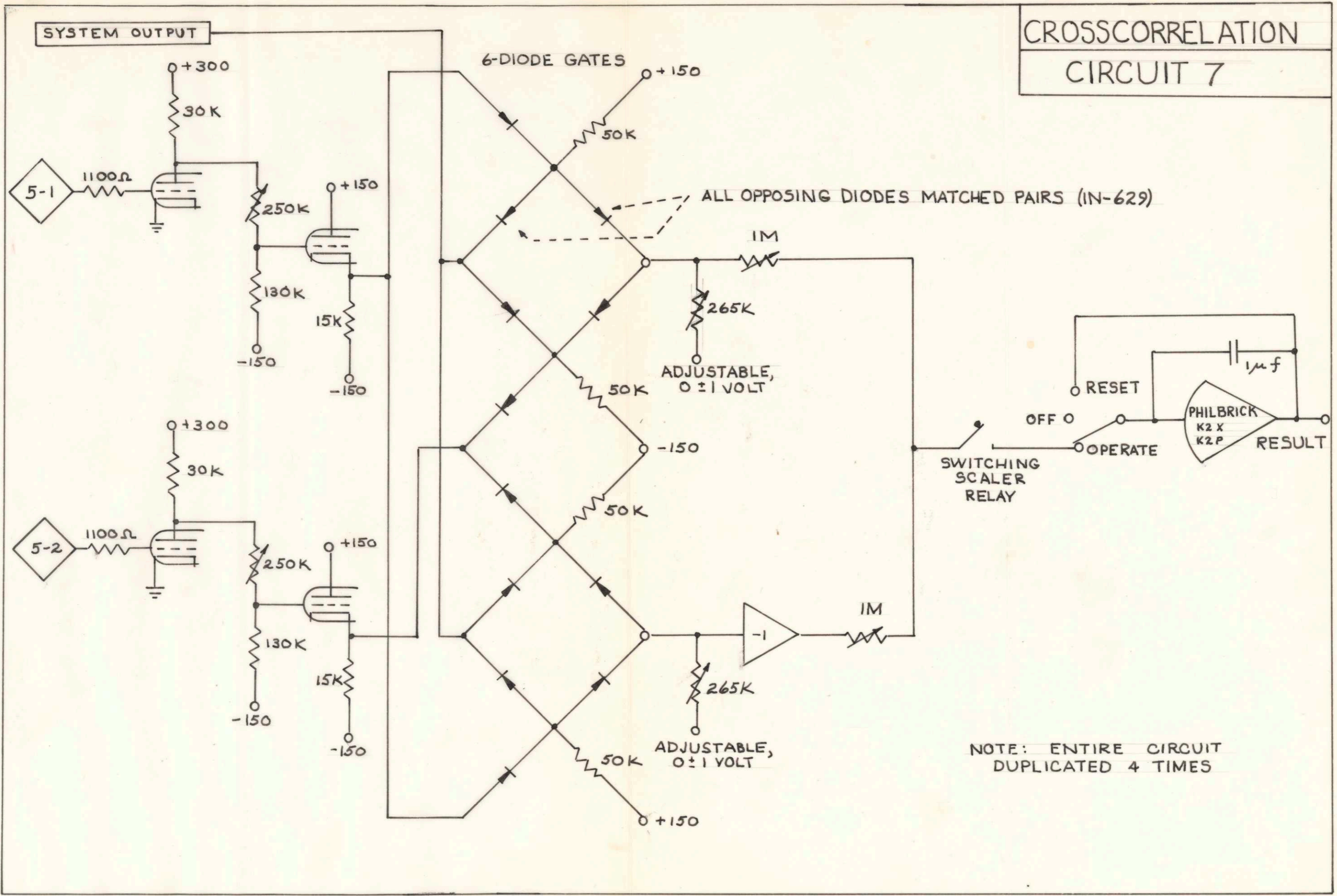


DIGIT HOLE FLIP-FLOPS(5)
CIRCUIT 5

FIVE IDENTICAL CIRCUITS

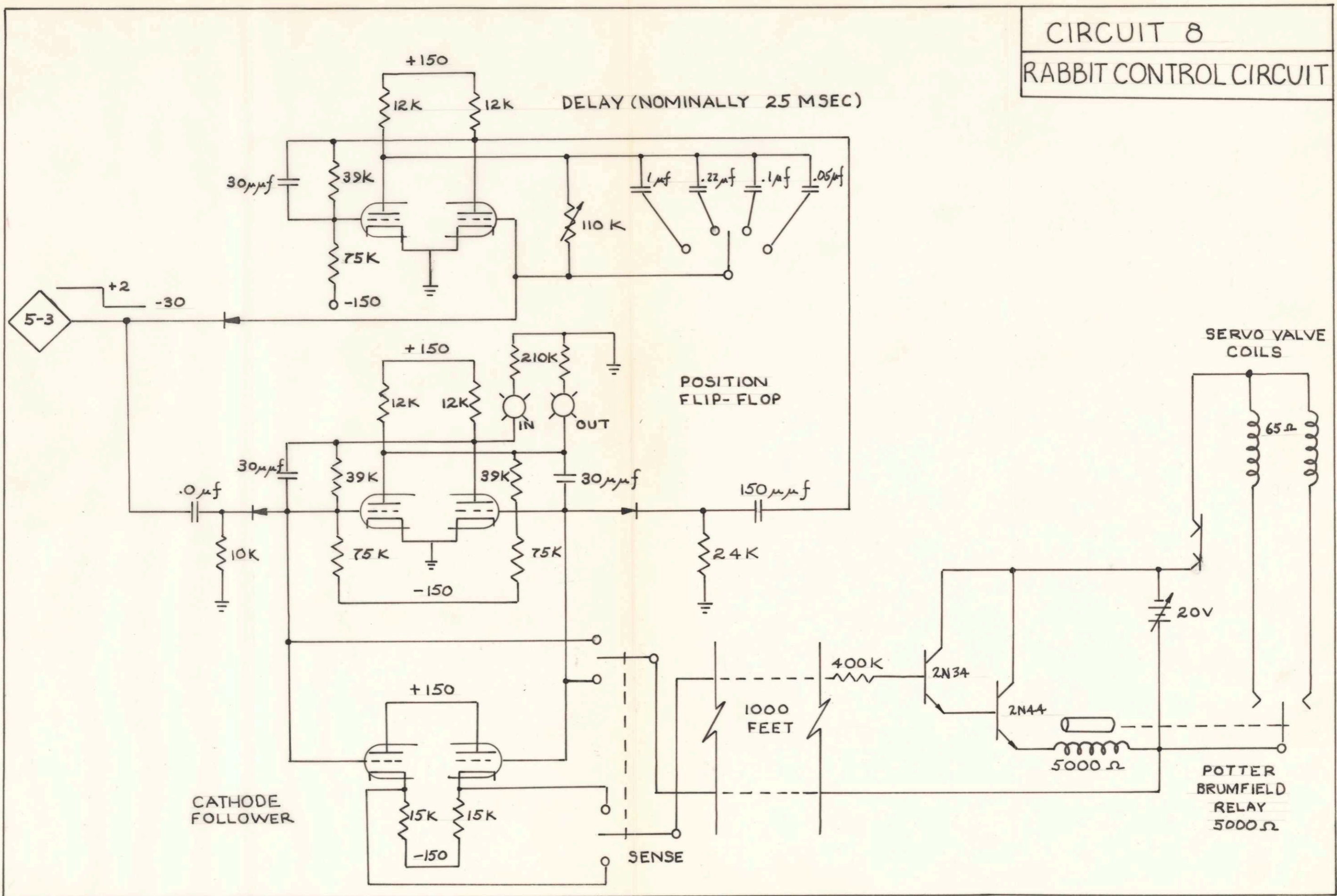


CROSSCORRELATION CIRCUIT 7



NOTE: ENTIRE CIRCUIT
DUPLICATED 4 TIMES

CIRCUIT 8
 RABBIT CONTROL CIRCUIT



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