

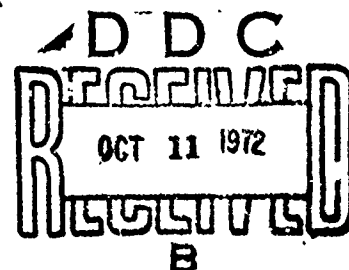
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**NOLTR 72-146**

**A TECHNIQUE FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE  
OPENING-SHOCK FORCES FOR SEVERAL TYPES  
OF SOLID CLOTH PARACHUTES**

By  
**William P. Ludtke**

20 JUNE 1972



**NOL**

**NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY, WHITE OAK, SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND**

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| 13. ABSTRACT<br>In 1965, the Naval Ordnance Laboratory was engaged in a project which required the deployment of a 35-foot-diameter extended-skirt parachute (type T-10) as the second stage of a retardation system at an altitude of 100,000 feet. At that time, there were no available data on the T-10 parachute deployed under similar circumstances. This new parachute opening-shock calculation technique was generated as a solution to this dilemma.<br><br>A drag area ratio-time ratio signature derived from infinite mass wind-tunnel parachute deployments is combined with Newton's second law of motion to develop instantaneous velocity ratios and shock factors during the deployment process. Methods of computing the reference time ( $t_0$ ) and the inflation time ( $t_f$ ) are presented. New concepts of the parachute canopy volume, canopy cloth permeability, parachute initial size at line stretch, and material elasticity are included.<br><br>Since the inception of this program, some of the assumptions used in its development have been demonstrated by other experimenters. Other assumptions have not yet been verified. However, the performance predicted by this technique has been in agreement with field test results. |  |                                                                             |                      |

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A TECHNIQUE FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE OPENING-SHOCK FORCES FOR  
SEVERAL TYPES OF SOLID CLOTH PARACHUTES

Prepared by:  
William P. Ludtke

ABSTRACT: In 1965, the Naval Ordnance Laboratory was engaged in a project which required the deployment of a 35-foot-diameter extended-skirt parachute (type T-10) as the second stage of a retardation system at an altitude of 100,000 feet. At that time, there were no available data on the T-10 parachute deployed under similar circumstances. This new parachute opening-shock calculation technique was generated as a solution to this dilemma.

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NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY  
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

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20 June 1972

A TECHNIQUE FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE OPENING-SHOCK FORCES FOR  
SEVERAL TYPES OF SOLID CLOTH PARACHUTES

The investigation of this report is related to the calculation of  
the opening-shock forces of solid cloth parachutes.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

|                  |                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $A_C$            | Steady-state projected area of the inflated parachute, $\text{ft}^2$                                                                               |
| $A_M$            | Instantaneous canopy mouth area, $\text{ft}^2$                                                                                                     |
| $A_{MC}$         | Steady-state inflated mouth area, $\text{ft}^2$                                                                                                    |
| $a$              | Acceleration, $\text{ft}/\text{sec}^2$                                                                                                             |
| $2\bar{a}$       | Maximum inflated parachute diameter of gore mainseam, ft                                                                                           |
| $b$              | Minor axis of the ellipse bounded by the major axis ( $2\bar{a}$ ) and the vent of the canopy, ft                                                  |
| $b'$             | Minor axis of the ellipse which includes the skirt hem of the canopy, ft                                                                           |
| $C$              | Effective porosity                                                                                                                                 |
| $C_D$            | Parachute coefficient of drag                                                                                                                      |
| $C_P$            | Parachute pressure coefficient, relates internal and external pressure ( $\Delta P$ ) on canopy surface to the dynamic pressure of the free stream |
| $F$              | Instantaneous force, lbs                                                                                                                           |
| $F_S$            | Steady-state drag force that would be produced by a fully open parachute at velocity $V_S$ , lbs                                                   |
| $F_C$            | Constructed strength of the parachute, lbs                                                                                                         |
| $F_{\text{max}}$ | Maximum opening-shock force, lbs                                                                                                                   |
| $g$              | Gravitational acceleration, $\text{ft}/\text{sec}^2$                                                                                               |
| $k$              | Permeability constant of canopy cloth                                                                                                              |
| $m$              | Mass, slugs                                                                                                                                        |

LIST OF SYMBOLS (continued)

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| M                 | Mass ratio - ratio of the mass of the retarded hardware (including parachute) to a mass of atmosphere contained in a right circular cylinder of length ( $V_{st_0}$ ), face area ( $C_D S_0$ ), and density ( $\rho$ ) |
| M'                | Mass flow ratio - ratio of atmosphere flowing through a unit cloth area to the atmosphere flowing through a unit inlet area at arbitrary pressure                                                                      |
| n                 | Permeability constant of canopy cloth                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| P                 | Cloth permeability - rate of airflow through a cloth at an arbitrary differential pressure, $\text{ft}^3/\text{ft}^2 \text{ sec}$                                                                                      |
| q                 | Dynamic pressure, $\text{lb}/\text{ft}^2$                                                                                                                                                                              |
| S                 | Instantaneous inflated canopy surface area, $\text{ft}^2$                                                                                                                                                              |
| $S_0$             | Canopy surface area, $\text{ft}^2$                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| t                 | Instantaneous time, sec                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| $t_0$             | Reference time when the parachute has reached the design drag area for the first time, sec                                                                                                                             |
| $t_f$             | Canopy inflation time when the inflated canopy has reached its maximum physical size, sec                                                                                                                              |
| u                 | Air velocity through cloth in effective porosity, $\text{ft}/\text{sec}$                                                                                                                                               |
| v                 | Fictitious theoretical velocity used in effective porosity, $\text{ft}/\text{sec}$                                                                                                                                     |
| V                 | Instantaneous system velocity, $\text{ft}/\text{sec}$                                                                                                                                                                  |
| $V_0$             | System velocity at the time $t = t_0$ , $\text{ft}/\text{sec}$                                                                                                                                                         |
| $V_s$             | System velocity at the end of suspension line stretch, $\text{ft}/\text{sec}$                                                                                                                                          |
| $\underline{V}_0$ | Volume of air which must be collected during the inflation process, $\text{ft}^3$                                                                                                                                      |
| W                 | Hardware weight, lb                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| $x_1$             | Instantaneous shock factor                                                                                                                                                                                             |

LIST OF SYMBOLS (continued)

|                  |                                                                                            |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $X_o$            | Shock factor at the time $t = t_o$                                                         |
| $\rho$           | Air density, slugs/ft <sup>3</sup>                                                         |
| $\eta$           | Ratio of parachute projected mouth area at line stretch to the steady-state projected area |
| $\epsilon$       | Instantaneous elongation                                                                   |
| $\epsilon_{max}$ | Maximum elongation                                                                         |
| $\epsilon_o$     | Initial elongation at the beginning of the elastic phase of inflation                      |
| S.F.             | Parachute safety factor = $F_c/F_{max}$                                                    |

## INTRODUCTION

In 1965, the Naval Ordnance Laboratory was engaged in a project which utilized a 35-foot-diameter, 10-percent extended-skirt parachute (type T-10) as the second stage of a retardation system for a 250-pound payload. Deployment of the T-10 parachute was to be accomplished at an altitude of 100,000 feet. In this rarefied atmosphere, the problem was to determine the second stage deployment velocity for successful operation. A search of available field test information indicated a lack of data on the solid cloth parachutes at altitudes above 30,000 feet. Also, applying the then existing methods of calculation, the inflation time and opening-shock force to the 100,000-foot altitude situation were questionable.

Utilizing existing wind-tunnel data, low-altitude field test data, and reasonable assumptions, a unique engineering approach to the inflation time and opening-shock problem was evolved that provided satisfactory results. Basically, the method combines a drag area ratio signature as a function of deployment time with Newton's second law of motion to analyze the velocity and force profiles during deployment. The parachute deployment sequence is divided into two phases. The first phase is considered to be inelastic as the parachute inflates initially to its steady-state size for the first time. At this point, it is considered that the elasticity of the parachute materials enters the problem and resists the applied forces until the canopy has reached full inflation.

In this system of analysis, the time ( $t_0$ ) at which the parachute first achieves its steady-state size is used as the calculation reference time, rather than the more conventional inflation time ( $t_f$ ). The reference time ( $t_0$ ) is the time required to collect the inflated steady-state volume of air associated with a canopy of elliptical profile with consideration for the mass flow balance into the inflating canopy mouth and the mass outflow through the inflated portion of the cloth surface area.

The equations developed in this analysis are in agreement with the observed performance of solid cloth parachutes in the field, such as: the decrease of inflation time as altitude increases, effects of altitude on opening-shock force, finite and infinite mass, inflation distance, etc.

# DEVELOPMENT OF VELOCITY RATIO AND FORCE RATIO EQUATIONS DURING THE UNFOLDING PHASE OF PARACHUTE DEPLOYMENT

The necessity for a quick answer to the high altitude inflation time and opening-shock problem dictated a simple engineering approach. It was considered that the parachute deployment would take place in a horizontal attitude in accordance with Newton's second law of motion.

$$\Sigma F = ma$$

$$-\frac{1}{2} \rho v^2 C_D S = \frac{W}{g} \frac{dv}{dt}$$

$$\int_0^t C_D S dt = \frac{-2W}{\rho g} \int_{V_s}^V \frac{dv}{v^2} \quad (1)$$

Multiplying the right-hand side of equation (1) by

$$1 = \frac{V_s t_o C_D S_o}{V_s t_o C_D S_o}$$

and rearranging

$$\frac{1}{t_o} \int_0^t \frac{C_D S}{C_D S_o} dt = \frac{-2W}{\rho g V_s t_o C_D S_o} V_s \int_{V_s}^V \frac{dv}{v^2} \quad (2)$$

In order to integrate the left-hand term of equation (2), the drag area ratio must be defined for the type of parachute under analysis as a function of deployment reference time ( $t_o$ ).

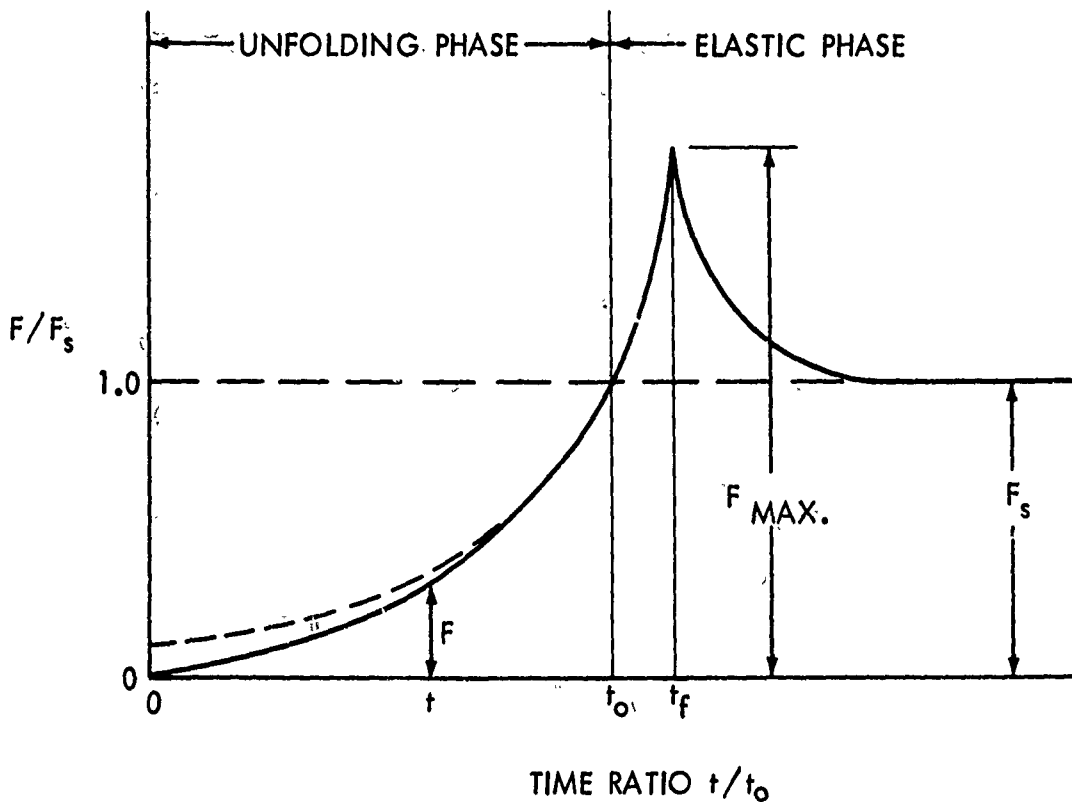


FIG. 1 TYPICAL INFINITE MASS FORCE-TIME HISTORY OF A SOLID CLOTH PARACHUTE IN A WIND TUNNEL

Figure 1 illustrates a typical force-time history of a solid cloth parachute deployed in a wind tunnel under infinite mass conditions. The depicted segment of the opening-shock signature is that portion which occurs after the snatch force. A parachute is defined to be fully inflated when the maximum physical size has been attained. The time at which this occurs is the inflation time ( $t_f$ ). In the infinite mass wind-tunnel case, the maximum physical size and shock force occur at the same time, since the air density and the velocity are constant during deployment. In the finite mass case, the maximum physical size and the maximum opening shock do not necessarily occur at the same time. Since the maximum physical parachute size is dependent upon the applied load, structural strength, and elasticity of the parachute materials, a reference opening time ( $t_0$ ) which can be considered to be independent of the applied loads is desirable. The inflation process was divided into two separate phases. The first phase is called the unfolding phase where the canopy is undergoing changes of shape during inflation. This phase progresses to reference time ( $t_0$ ). At reference time ( $t_0$ ), the canopy is considered to have attained its fully inflated steady-state shape for the first time. Additional inflation of the parachute in the elastic phase is considered to be caused by elongation of the canopy

materials under the applied loads. For purposes of curve fitting, the reference time ( $t_0$ ) was established on the infinite mass wind-tunnel force-time signature as the first point where the instantaneous force was equal to the steady-state drag ( $F_s$ ).

At any instant during the unfolding phase, the ratio of instantaneous force ( $F$ ) to the steady-state drag ( $F_s$ ) can be determined as a function of the time ratio ( $t/t_0$ ).

$$F = \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 C_D S$$

$$F_s = \frac{1}{2} \rho V_s^2 C_{D S_0}$$

Since the velocity and density are constant during infinite mass deployment

$$V = V_s$$

and

$$\frac{F}{F_s} = \frac{C_D S}{C_{D S_0}}$$

Infinite mass opening-shock signatures of several types of parachutes are presented in Figures 2 through 6. Analysis of these signatures using the force ratio ( $F/F_s$ ) - time ratio ( $t/t_0$ ) technique indicated a similarity in the performance of the various solid cloth types of parachutes which were examined. The geometrically porous ring slot parachute displayed a completely different signature as was expected. These data are illustrated in Figure 7. If an initial boundary condition of  $C_D S / C_{D S_0} = 0$  at time  $t/t_0 = 0$  is assumed, then, the data can be approximated by fitting a curve of the form

$$\frac{C_D S}{C_{D S_0}} = \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^6 \quad (3)$$

From a practical point of view, all parachutes have some drag area when line stretch is reached. The value of the drag area at  $t/t_0 = 0$  is a variable, depending on the type of deployment that is used and the reproducibility of a given deployment system. Taking this additional variable into account, a more generalized drag area ratio expression was determined

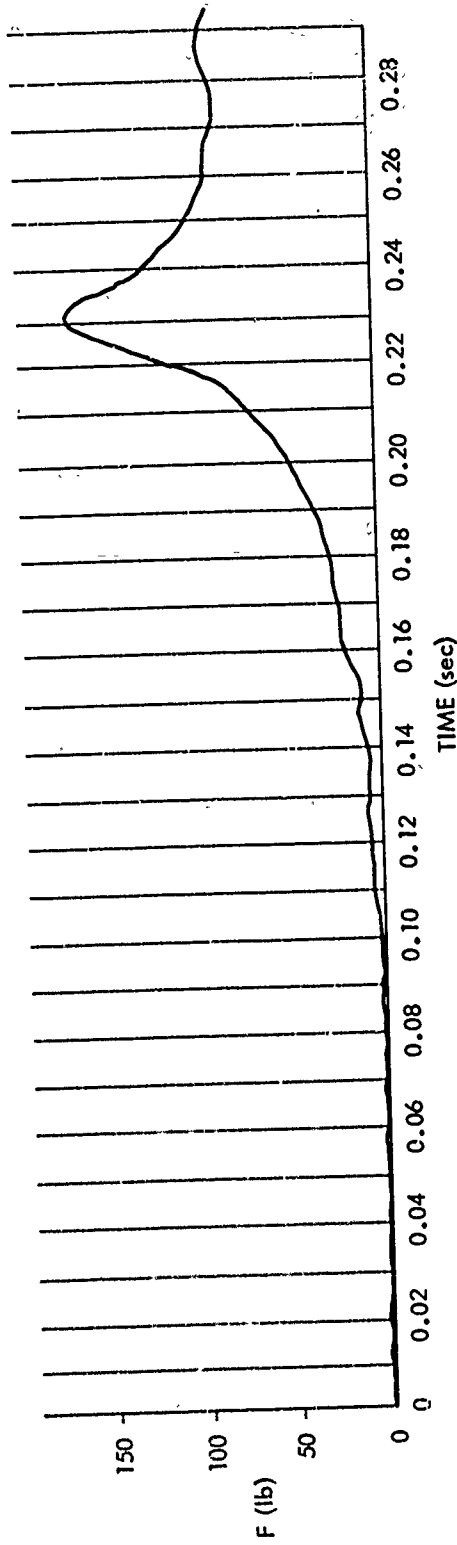


FIG. 2 TYPICAL FORCE-TIME CURVE FOR A SOLID FLAT PARACHUTE  
UNDER INFINITE MASS CONDITIONS

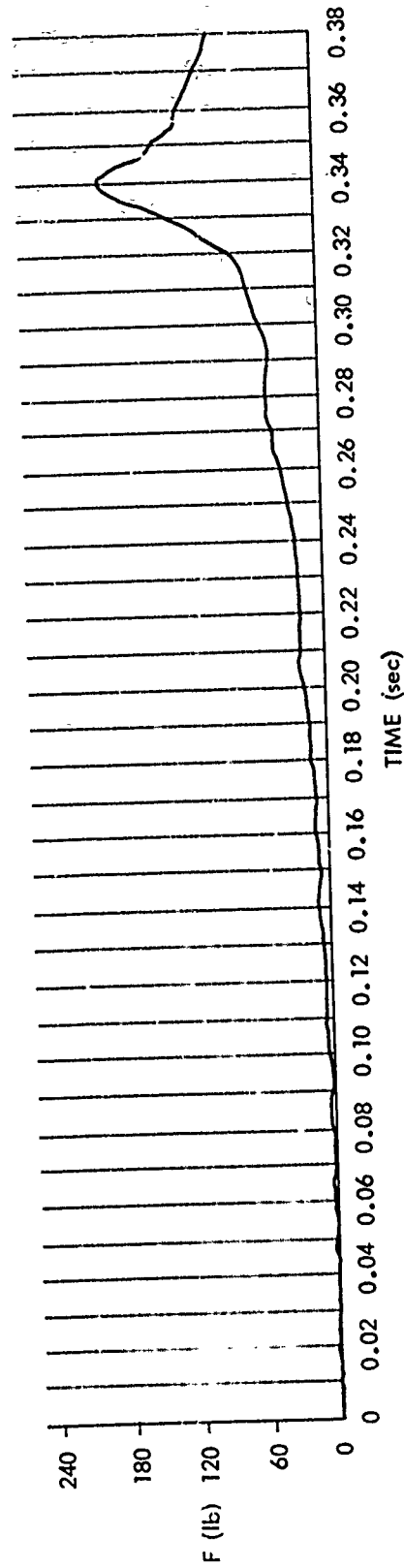


FIG. 3 TYPICAL FORCE-TIME CURVE FOR A 10% EXTENDED SKIRT PARACHUTE  
UNDER INFINITE MASS CONDITIONS

REPRODUCED FROM REFERENCE 11

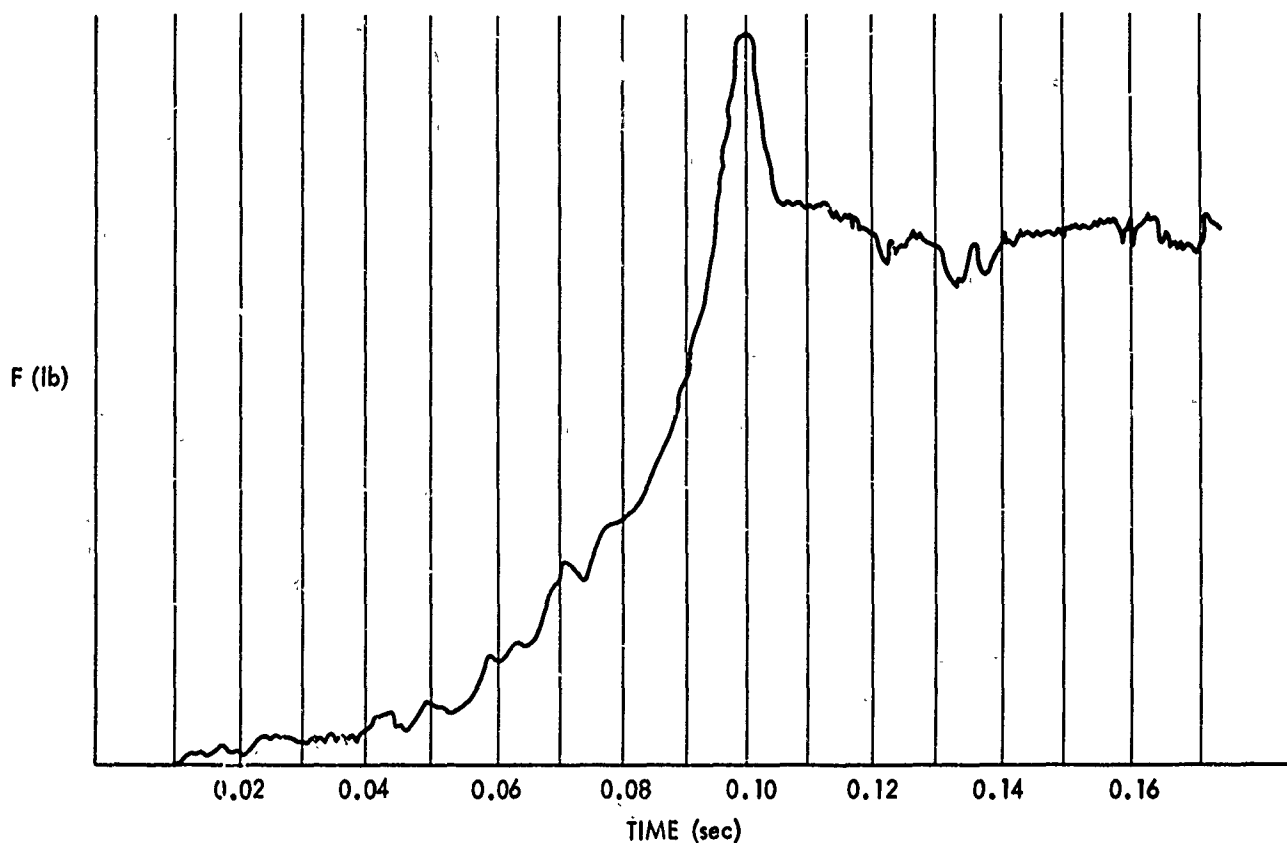


FIG. 4 TYPICAL FORCE-TIME SIGNATURE FOR THE ELLIPTICAL PARACHUTE UNDER INFINITE MASS CONDITIONS

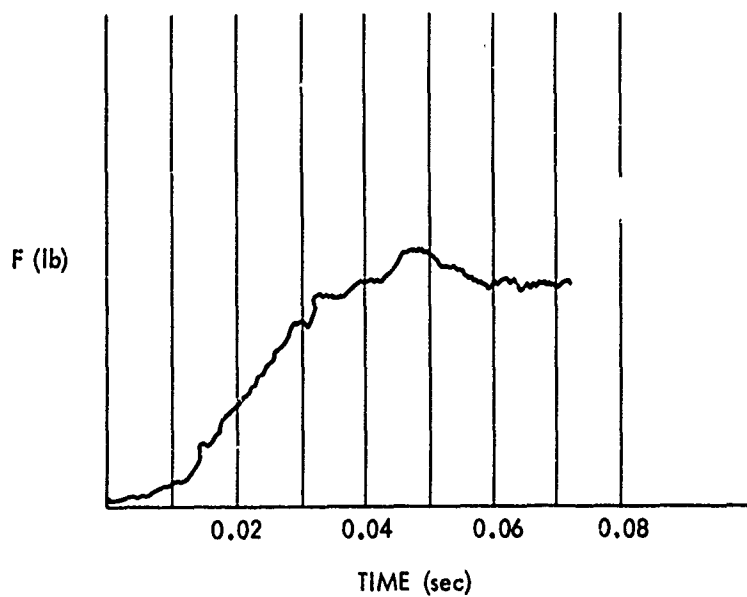


FIG. 5 TYPICAL FORCE-TIME SIGNATURE FOR THE RING SLOT PARACHUTE 20 % GEOMETRIC POROSITY UNDER INFINITE MASS CONDITIONS

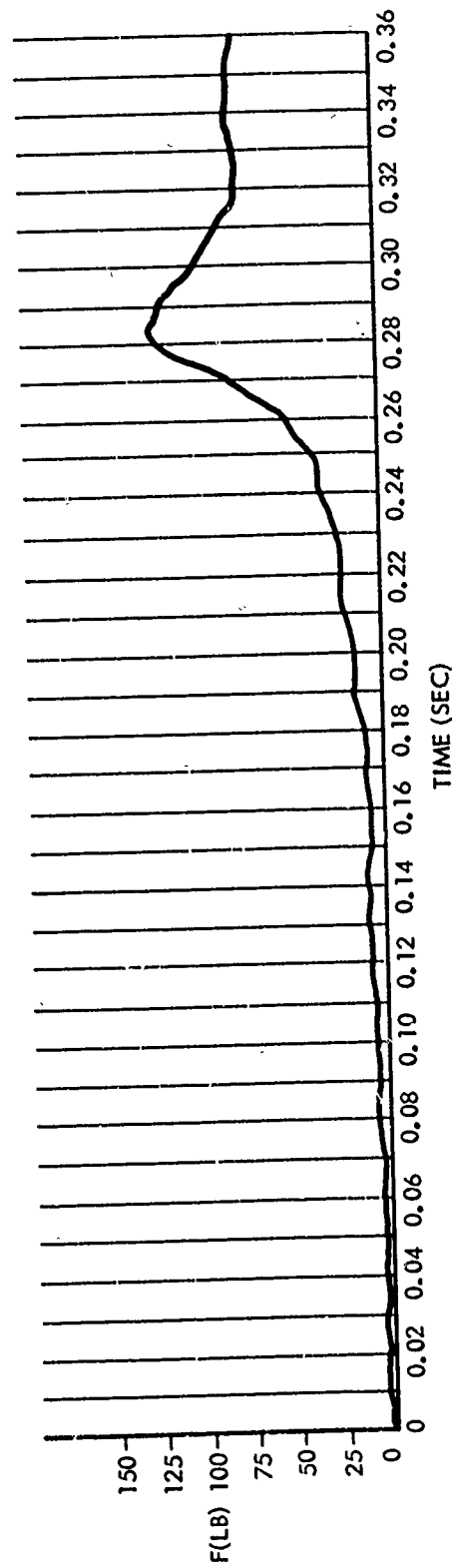


FIG. 6 TYPICAL FORCE-TIME CURVE FOR A PERSONNEL GUIDE  
SURFACE PARACHUTE UNDER INFINITE MASS CONDITIONS

REPRODUCED FROM REFERENCE (3)

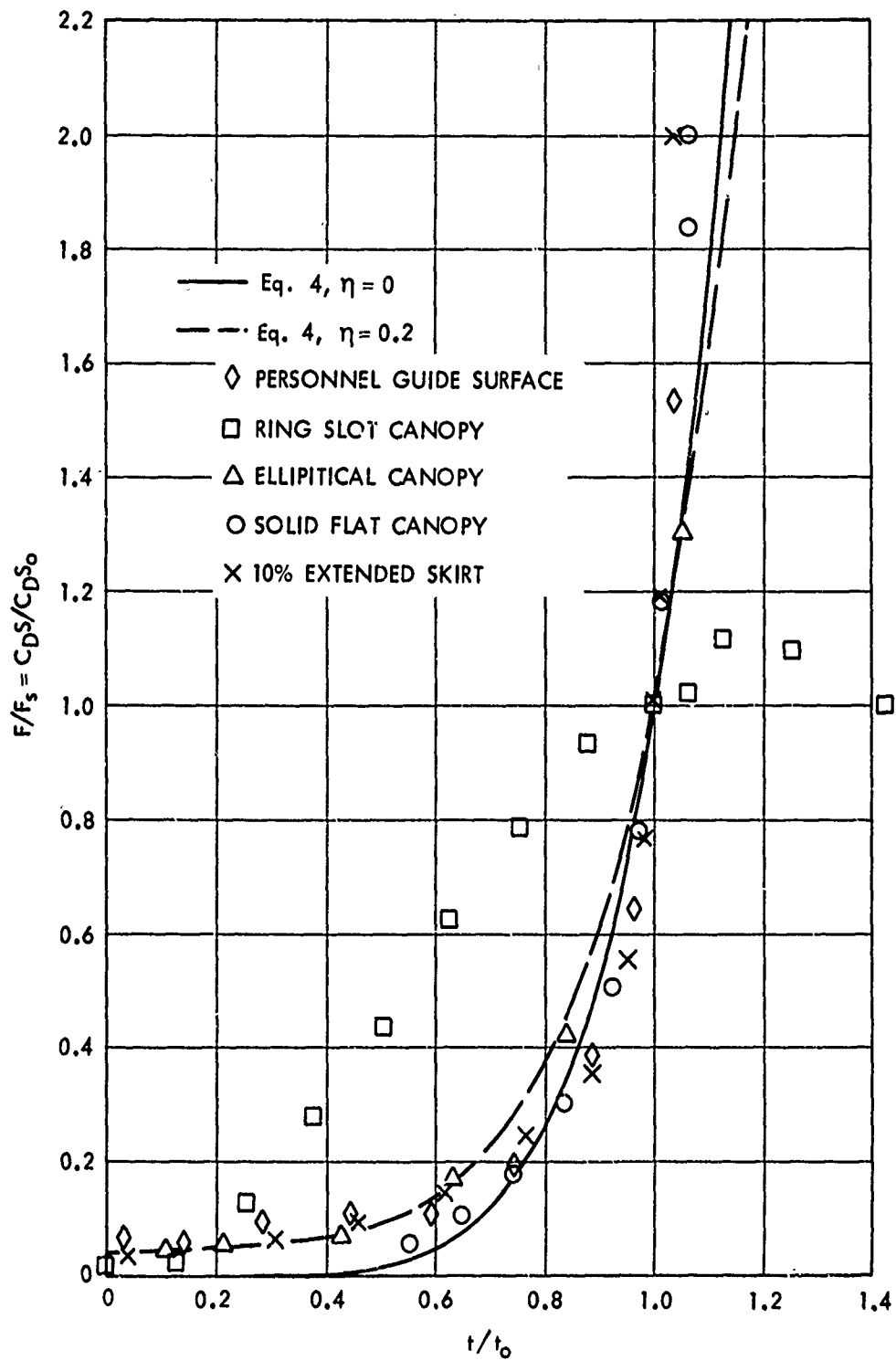


FIG. 7 DRAG AREA RATIO vs TIME RATIO

$$\frac{C_D S}{C_D S_0} = \left[ \left( 1 - \eta \right) \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^3 + \eta \right]^2 \quad (4)$$

where  $\eta$  is the ratio of the projected mouth area at line stretch to the steady-state projected frontal area. Expanding equation (4)

$$\frac{C_D S}{C_D S_0} = \left( 1 - \eta \right)^2 \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^6 + 2\eta \left( 1 - \eta \right) \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^3 + \eta^2 \quad (5)$$

At the time that equation (5) was ascertained, it suggested that the geometry of the deploying parachute was independent of density and velocity. It was also postulated that although this expression had been determined for the infinite mass condition that it would also be true for the finite mass case. This phenomenon has since been independently observed and confirmed by Berndt and De Weese in reference (2).

Parachute deployments presented in the force ratio ( $F/F_s$ ) - time ratio ( $t/t_0$ ) frame of reference show a repeatability of drag area development not evident in conventional representation. Figure 8 is reproduced from reference (3) and is a composite force-time diagram for a number of tests of the same solid flat parachute under constant test conditions. The three runs indicated are replotted in Figure 9 as ratios of  $F/F_s$  versus  $t/t_0$ . When viewed in this manner, the percentage of drag area developed for a given percentage of unfolding time is repeatable and conforms with equation (5).

Equation (2) did not include apparent mass or the included mass of the inflating canopy. It was assumed that the effects of these quantities on the deployment characteristics of the parachute are included in the drag area ratio formulation, since it was derived from actual deployment signatures.

The right-hand term of equation (2) contains the expression

$$\frac{2W}{\rho g V_s t_0 C_D S_0} = M \quad (6)$$

This term can be visualized as shown in Figure 10 to be a ratio of the retarded mass (including the parachute) to an associated mass of atmosphere contained in a right circular cylinder which is generated by moving an inflated parachute of area  $C_D S_0$  for a distance equal to the product of  $V_s t_0$  in an atmosphere of density ( $\rho$ ).

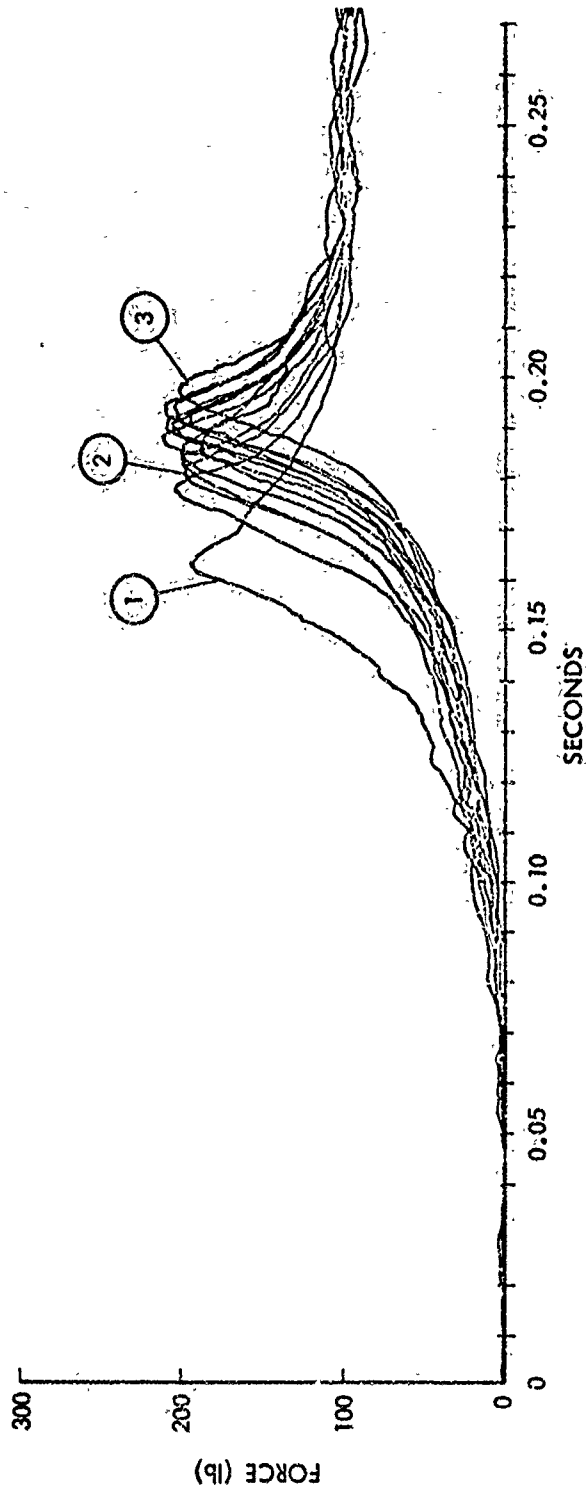


FIG. 8 OPENING FORCE OF A SOLID FLAT PRIMARY PARACHUTE

REPRODUCED FROM REFERENCE (3)

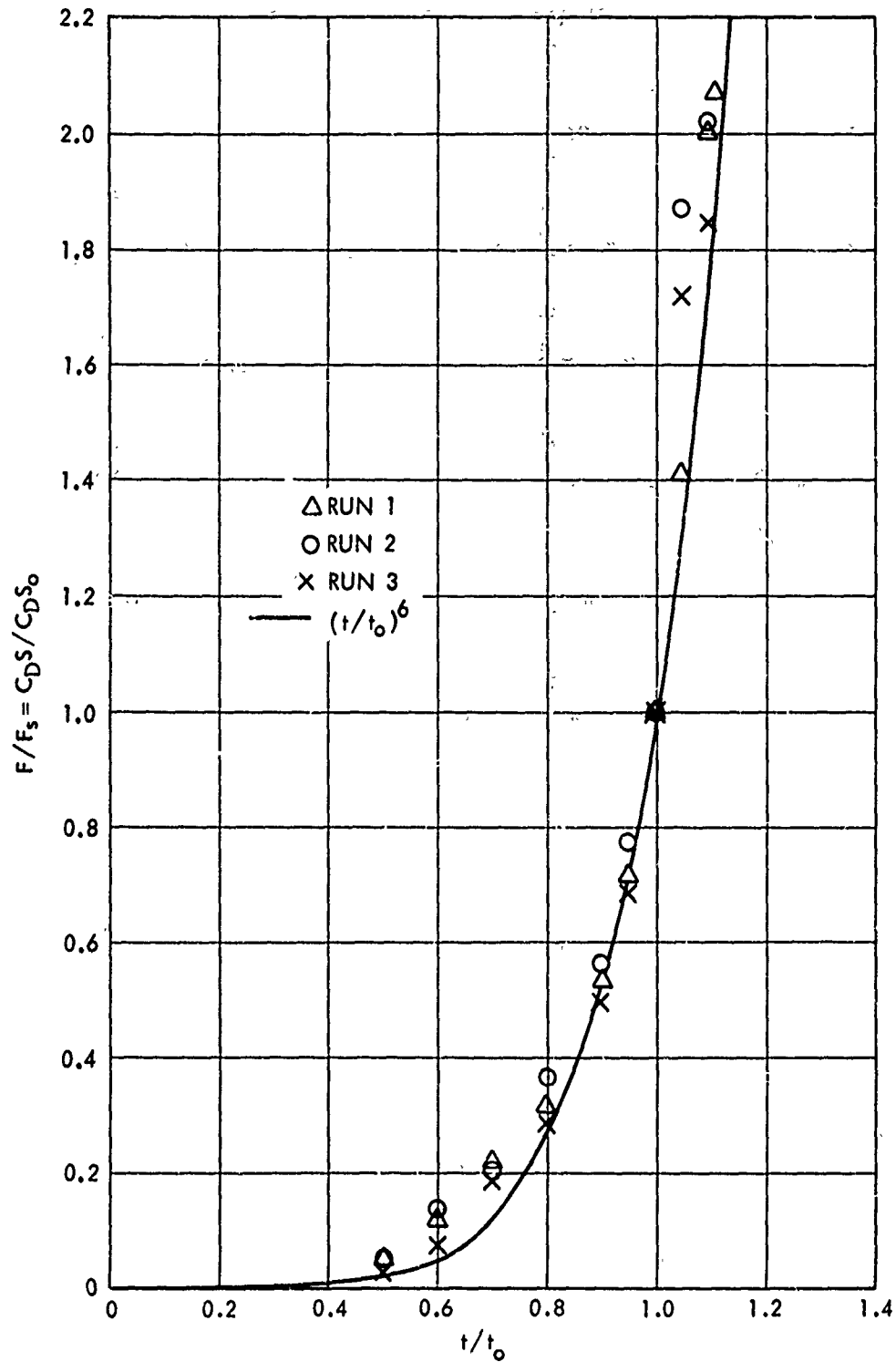


FIG. 9 REPEATABILITY OF THE SOLID, FLAT, PRIMARY PARACHUTE DRAG AREA UNDER CONSTANT TEST CONDITIONS

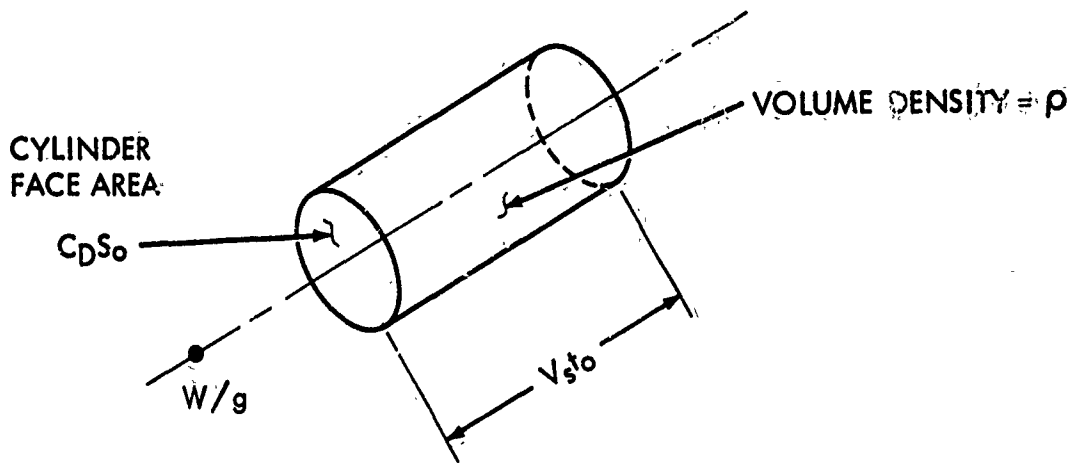


FIG. 10 VISUALIZATION OF THE MASS RATIO CONCEPT

It has been previously shown that the deployment geometry is independent of altitude and velocity. It is now demonstrated that the mass ratio ( $M$ ) is the scale factor which controls the velocity and force profiles during parachute deployment.

Substituting  $M$  and  $C_D S/C_D S_0$  into equation (2)

$$\frac{1}{t_0} \int_0^t \left[ (1 - \eta)^2 \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^6 + 2\eta (1 - \eta) \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^3 + \eta^2 \right] dt = -MV_s \int_{V_s}^V \frac{dV}{V^2}$$

Integrating and solving for  $V/V_s$

$$\frac{V}{V_s} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{M} \left[ \frac{(1 - \eta)^2}{7} \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^7 + \frac{\eta (1 - \eta)}{2} \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^4 + \eta^2 \frac{t}{t_0} \right]} \quad (7)$$

The instantaneous shock factor is defined as

$$x_i = \frac{F}{F_s} = \frac{\frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 C_D S}{\frac{1}{2} \rho V_s^2 C_D S_0}$$

If the altitude variation during deployment is small, then, the density may be considered as constant

$$x_i = \frac{C_D S}{C_{D S_0}} \left( \frac{v}{v_s} \right)^2$$

from equations (5) and (7)

$$x_i = \frac{(1 - \eta)^2 \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^6 + 2\eta (1 - \eta) \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^3 + \eta^2}{\left[ 1 + \frac{1}{M} \left[ \frac{(1 - \eta)^2}{7} \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^7 + \frac{\eta(1 - \eta)}{2} \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^4 + \eta^2 \frac{t}{t_0} \right] \right]^2} \quad (8)$$

#### MAXIMUM SHOCK FORCE AND TIME OF OCCURRENCE DURING THE UNFOLDING PHASE

The time of occurrence of the maximum instantaneous shock factor ( $x_i$ ) is difficult to determine for the general case. However, for  $\eta = 0$ , the maximum shock factor and time of occurrence is readily calculated. For  $\eta = 0$

$$x_i = \frac{\left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^6}{\left[ 1 + \frac{1}{7M} \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^7 \right]^2}$$

Setting the derivative of  $x_i$  with respect to time equal to zero and solving for  $t/t_0$  at  $x_i$  max

$$\left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)_{@x_i \text{ max}} = \left( \frac{21M}{4} \right)^{\frac{1}{7}} \quad (9)$$

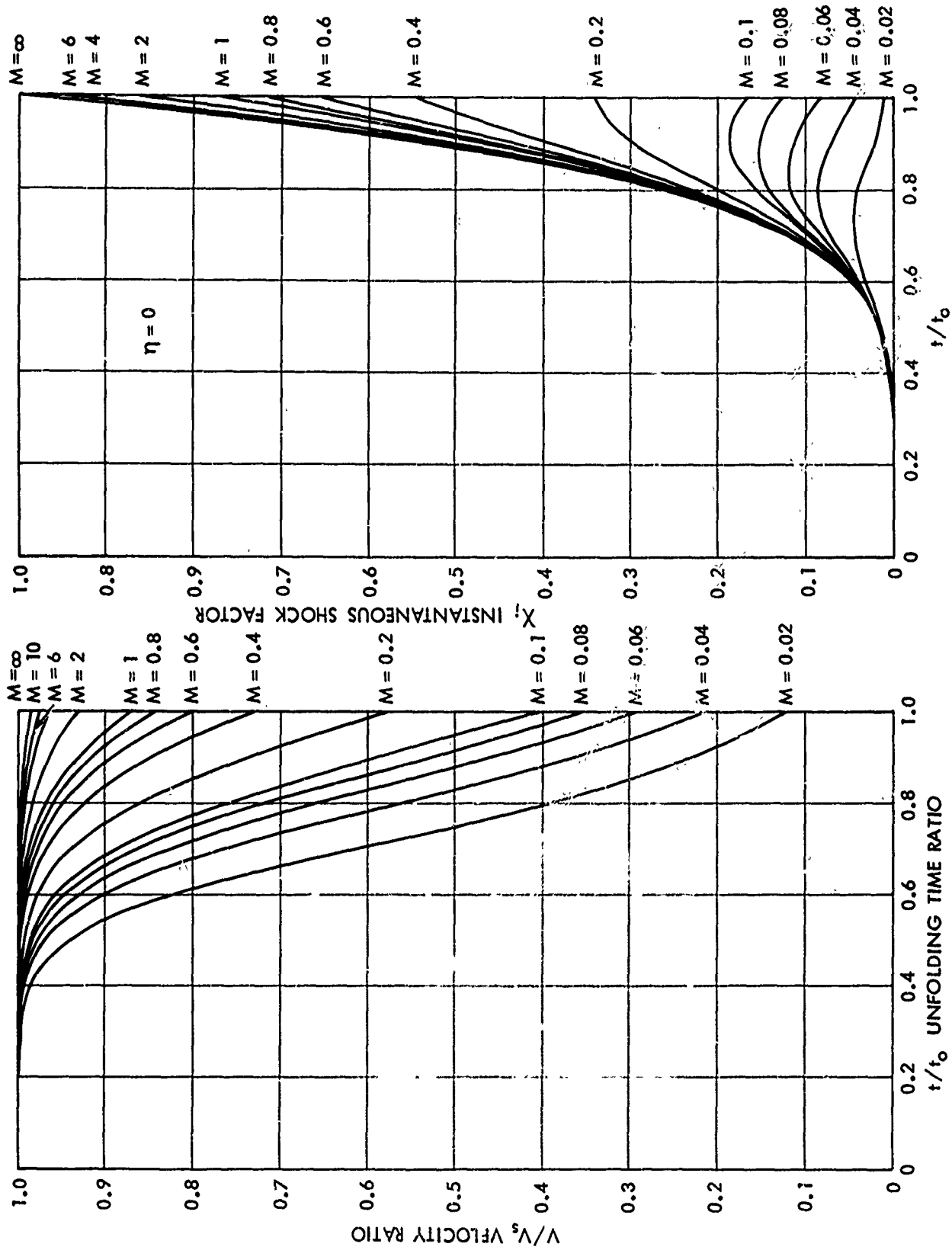


FIG. 11 EFFECT OF INITIAL AREA AND MASS RATIO ON THE SHOCK FACTOR AND VELOCITY RATIO DURING THE UNFOLDING PHASE FOR  $\eta = 0$

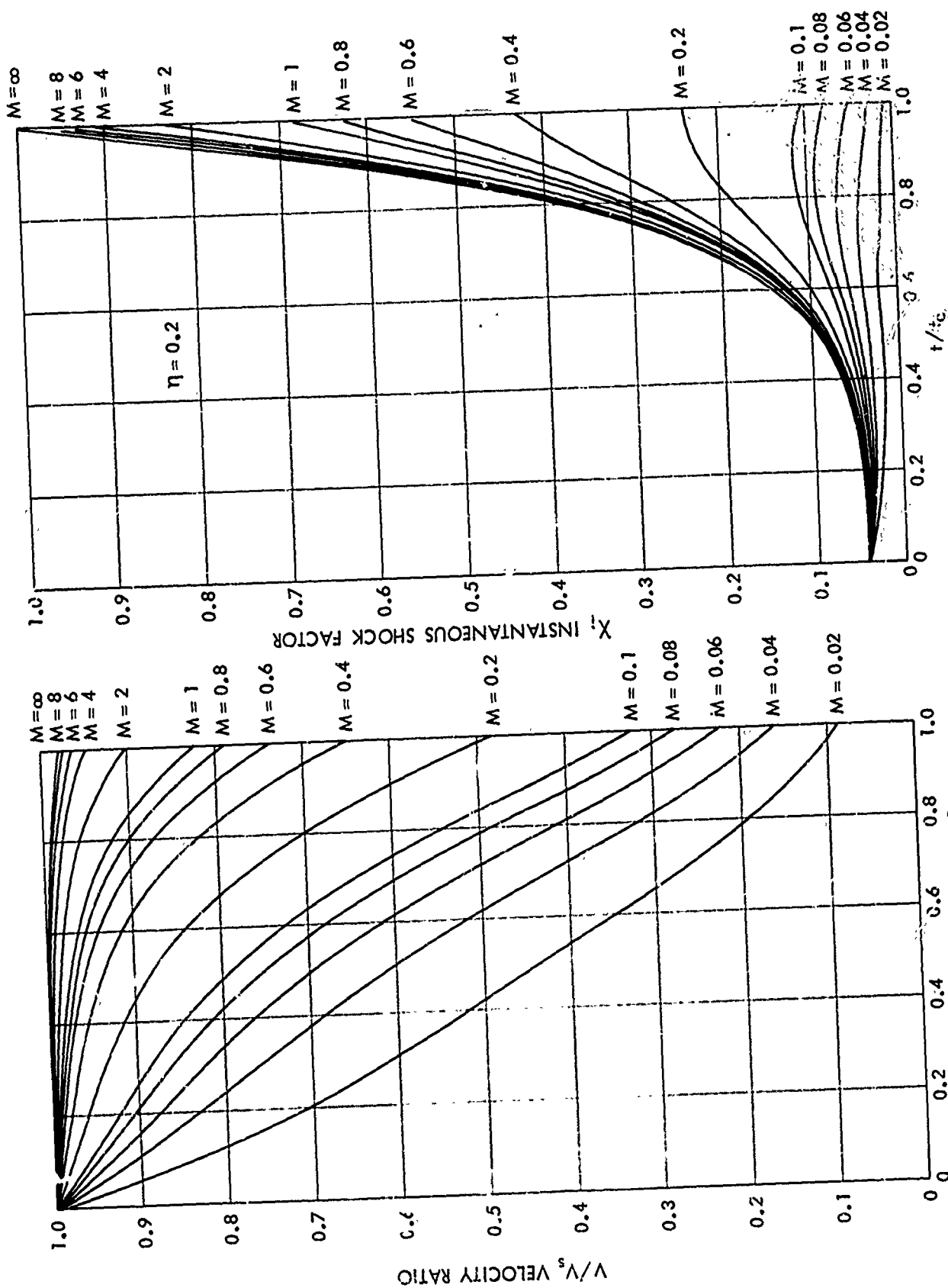


FIG. 12 EFFECT OF INITIAL AREA AND MASS RATIO ON THE SHOCK FACTOR AND VELOCITY RATIO DURING THE UNFOLDING PHASE FOR  $\eta = 0.2$

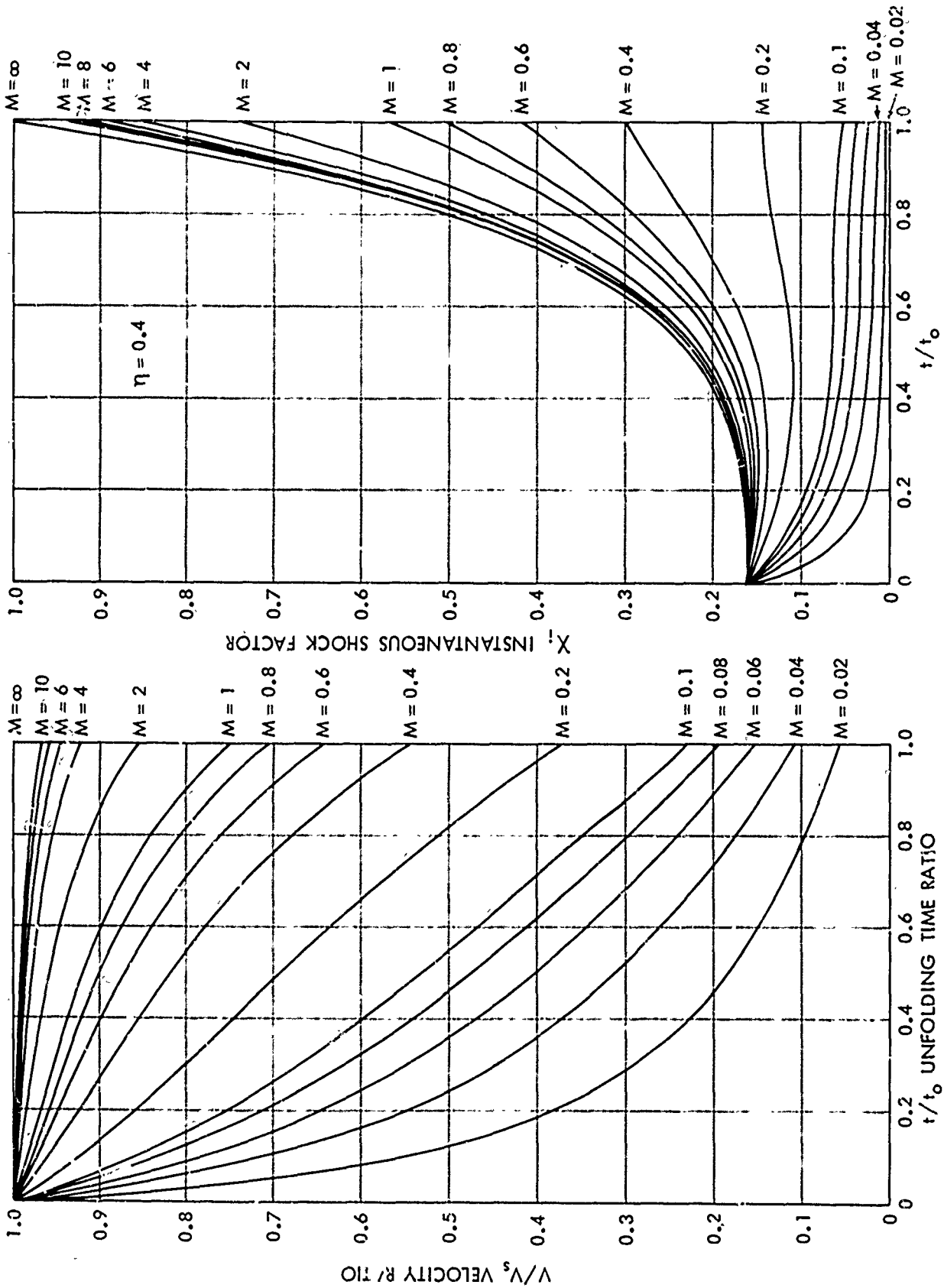


FIG. 13 EFFECT OF INITIAL AREA AND MASS RATIO ON THE SHOCK FACTOR AND VELOCITY RATIO DURING THE UNFOLDING PHASE FOR  $\eta = 0.4$

and the maximum shock factor is

$$x_{i \max} = \frac{16}{49} \left( \frac{21M}{4} \right)^{\frac{6}{7}} \quad (10)$$

Equations (9) and (10) are valid for values of  $M \leq \frac{4}{21}$ , since for larger values of  $M$ , the maximum shock force occurs in the elastic phase of inflation.

Figures 11, 12, and 13 illustrate the velocity and force profiles generated from equations (7) and (8) for initial projected area ratios of  $\eta = 0, 0.2$ , and  $0.4$ , with various mass ratios.

#### METHODS FOR CALCULATION OF THE REFERENCE TIME ( $t_0$ )

Although the ratio concept is an ideal method to analyze the effects of the various parameters such as initial area, mass ratio, launching conditions on the velocity, and force profiles of the opening parachute, a means of calculating the reference time ( $t_0$ ) is required before specific values can be computed. In order to calculate  $t_0$ , it is necessary to develop methods for computing the varying mass flow into the inflating canopy mouth and the varying mass flow out through the inflated canopy surface area. It is also necessary to define the volume of air ( $\bar{V}_0$ ) which must be collected during the inflation process.

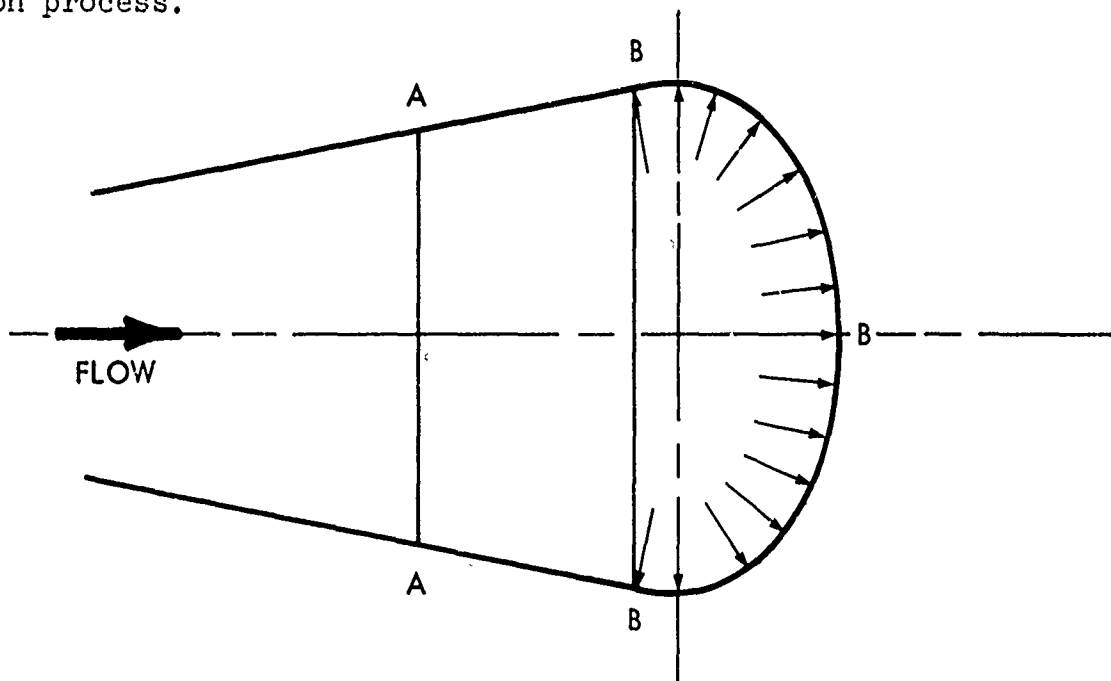


FIG. 14 PARTIALLY INFLATED PARACHUTE CANOPY

Figure 14 represents a solid cloth-type parachute canopy at some instance during inflation. At any given instance, the parachute drag area is proportional to the maximum inflated diameter. Also, the maximum diameter in conjunction with the suspension lines determines the inflow mouth area (A-A) and the pressurized canopy area (B-B-B). This observation provided the basis for the following assumptions.

a. The ratio of the instantaneous mouth inlet area to the steady-state, fully inflated mouth area is in the same ratio as the instantaneous drag area.

$$\frac{A_M}{A_{Mo}} = \frac{C_D S}{C_D S_o}$$

b. The ratio of the instantaneous pressurized cloth surface area to the canopy surface area is in the same ratio as the instantaneous drag area.

$$\frac{S}{S_o} = \frac{C_D S}{C_D S_o}$$

c. Since the suspension lines in the unpressurized area of the canopy are straight, a pressure differential has not developed, and, therefore, the net airflow in this zone is zero.

Based on the foregoing assumptions, the mass flow equation can be written

$$dm = m \text{ inflow} - m \text{ outflow}$$

$$\rho \frac{dV}{dt} = \rho V A_{Mo} \frac{C_D S}{C_D S_o} - \rho A_{So} \frac{C_D S}{C_D S_o} \quad P \quad (11)$$

From equation (3)

$$\frac{C_D S}{C_D S_o} = \left( \frac{t}{t_o} \right)^6 ; \text{ for } \eta = 0$$

From equation (7)

$$V = \frac{V_s}{1 + \frac{1}{7M} \left(\frac{t}{t_o}\right)^7} ; \text{ for } \eta = 0$$

From equation (A-2)

$$P = k \left( \frac{C_P \rho}{2} \right)^n V^{2n}$$

Appendix A describes how the permeability of cloth (P) is applied to the canopy inflation problem. Appendix B describes the method for determining the volume of air ( $\underline{V}_0$ ) associated with the steady-state inflated canopy.

Calculation of the reference time is simplified by eliminating the effect of initial area and calculating  $t_o$  for a parachute inflating from zero drag area. A correction for the time lapse required to theoretically inflate the parachute from zero to the initial drag area of the particular problem can be determined from the drag area ratio-time relationship. Substituting into equation (11)

$$\int_0^{\underline{V}_0} d\underline{V} = A_{Mo} V_s \int_0^{t_o} \frac{\left(\frac{t}{t_o}\right)^6}{1 + \frac{1}{7M} \left(\frac{t}{t_o}\right)^7} dt - A_{So} k \left( \frac{C_P \rho}{2} \right)^n$$

$$\int_0^{t_o} \left(\frac{t}{t_o}\right)^6 \left[ \frac{V_s}{1 + \frac{1}{7M} \left(\frac{t}{t_o}\right)^7} \right]^{2n} dt \quad (12)$$

Measured values of the cloth permeability parameter (n) indicate a data range from 0.57403 through 0.63246. A convenient solution to the reference time equation evolves when n is assigned a value of 1/2. Integrating equation (12) and using

$$V_s t_o M = \frac{2W}{g \rho C_D S_o}$$

$$t_o = \frac{14W}{g \rho V_s C_D S_o} \left[ e^{\frac{g \rho V_o}{2W} \left[ \frac{C_D S_o}{A_{Mo} - A_{So} k \left( \frac{C_p \rho}{2} \right)^{1/2}} \right]} - 1 \right] \quad (13)$$

Equation (13) expresses the unfolding reference time ( $t_o$ ) in terms of mass, altitude, snatch velocity, airflow characteristics of the cloth and the steady-state parachute geometry. Note that the term  $g \rho V_o / W$  is the ratio of the included air mass to the mass of the retarded hardware. Multiplying both sides of equation (13) by  $V_s$  demonstrates that

$$V_s t_o = \text{a constant which is a function of altitude}$$

The effect of altitude on the unfolding reference time ( $t_o$ ) of a T-10 type parachute, based on equation (13), at constant velocity and constant dynamic pressure is to decrease as the altitude rises, Figure 15. In the rarefied atmosphere at altitudes above 75,000 feet, the reference time tends to become constant. The unfolding distance, Figure 16, is the same for both modes of operation.

An unknown factor in this study is the magnitude and the variation of the pressure coefficient on an actual canopy during deployment. A pressure coefficient of 1.15 has been assumed.

Integration of equation (12) for a realistic value of n yields a more accurate value of  $t_o$  in the lower altitude region of deployment. In the higher altitude region where the canopy cloth is relatively imporous, the values of  $t_o$  obtained from equations (13) and (14) are nearly equal. The opening-shock force is strongly influenced by the inflation time. Because of this, the value of  $t_o$  determined by equation (14) should be used. However, since the reference time ( $t_o$ )

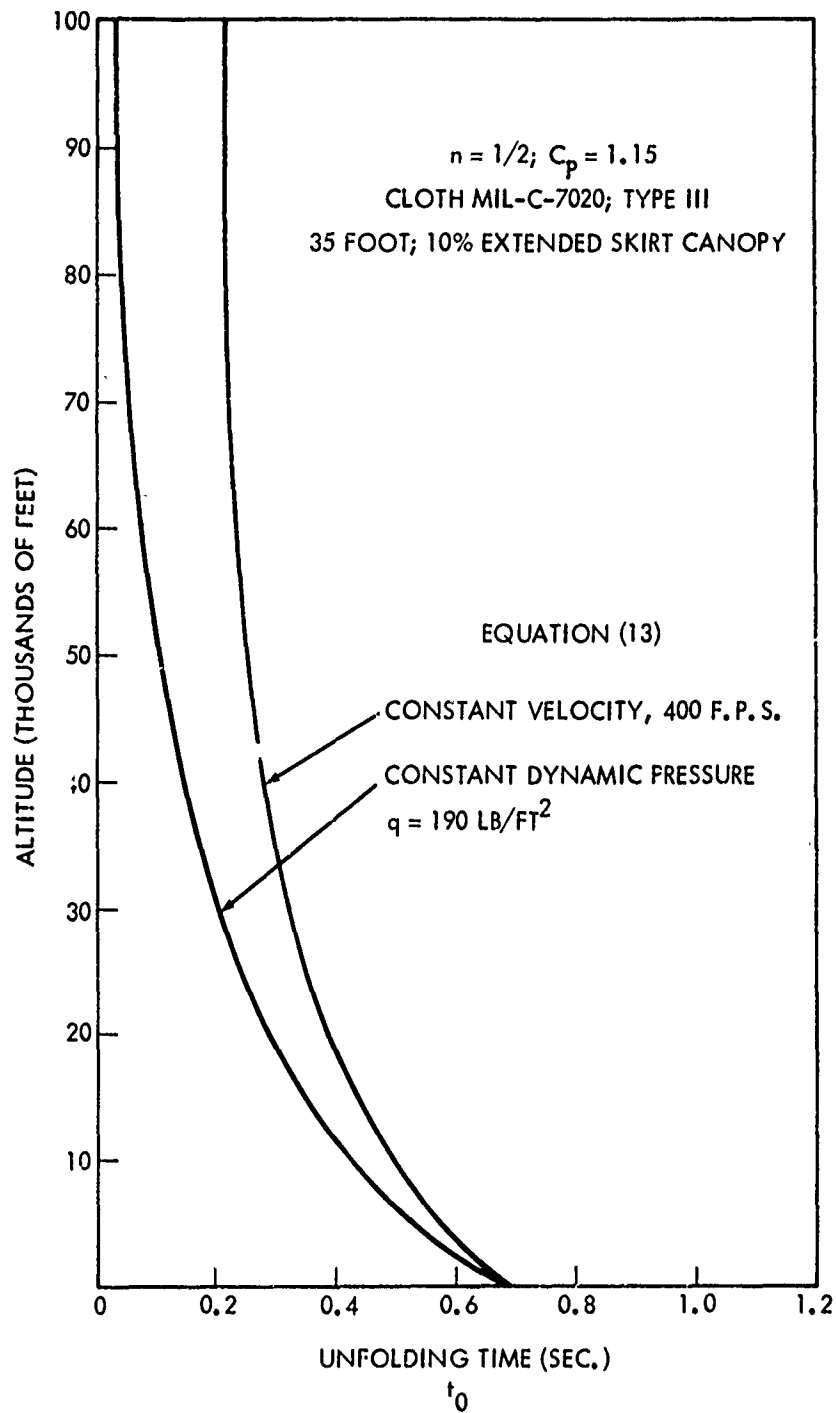


FIG. 15 EFFECT OF ALTITUDE ON THE UNFOLDING TIME " $t_0$ " AT CONSTANT VELOCITY AND CONSTANT DYNAMIC PRESSURE FOR  $n = 1/2$

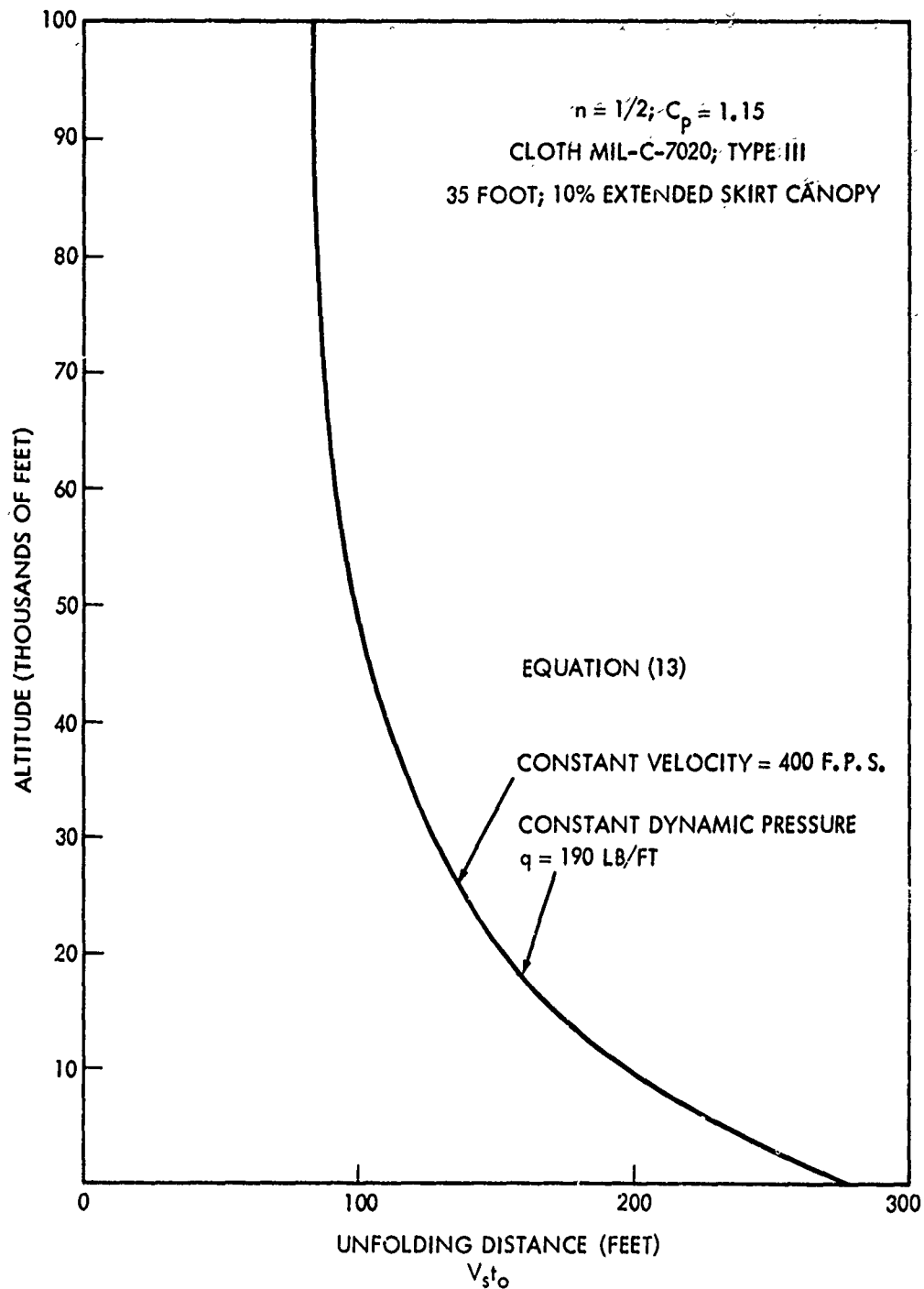


FIG. 16 EFFECT OF ALTITUDE ON THE UNFOLDING DISTANCE AT CONSTANT VELOCITY AND CONSTANT DYNAMIC PRESSURE FOR  $n = 1/2$

determined from equation (13) is always less than the  $t_o$  calculated from equation (14), it can therefore be used to estimate values for use in equation (14). (See Figures 17 and 18.)

$$\frac{V_o}{V_s} = A_{Mo} V_s t_o^M \ln \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{7M} \right] - A_{So} k \left( \frac{C_P}{2} \right)^n$$

$$\int_0^{t_o} \left( \frac{t}{t_o} \right)^6 \left[ \frac{V_s}{1 + \frac{1}{7M} \left( \frac{t}{t_o} \right)^7} \right]^{2n} dt \quad (14)$$

#### CORRECTION OF $t_o$ FOR INITIAL AREA EFFECTS

The unfolding reference time ( $t_o$ ) calculated by the previous methods assumes that the parachute inflates from zero drag area. In reality, a parachute has a drag area at the beginning of inflation. Once  $t_o$  has been calculated, a correction can be applied, based upon what is known about the initial conditions.

Case A - When the initial projected area is known

$$\frac{A_i}{A_c} = \left( \frac{t_i}{t_o} \right)^3$$

$$t_i = \left( \frac{A_i}{A_c} \right)^{1/3} t_o \text{ calculated}$$

$$t_o \text{ corrected} = \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{A_i}{A_c} \right)^{1/3} \right] t_o \text{ calculated} \quad (15)$$

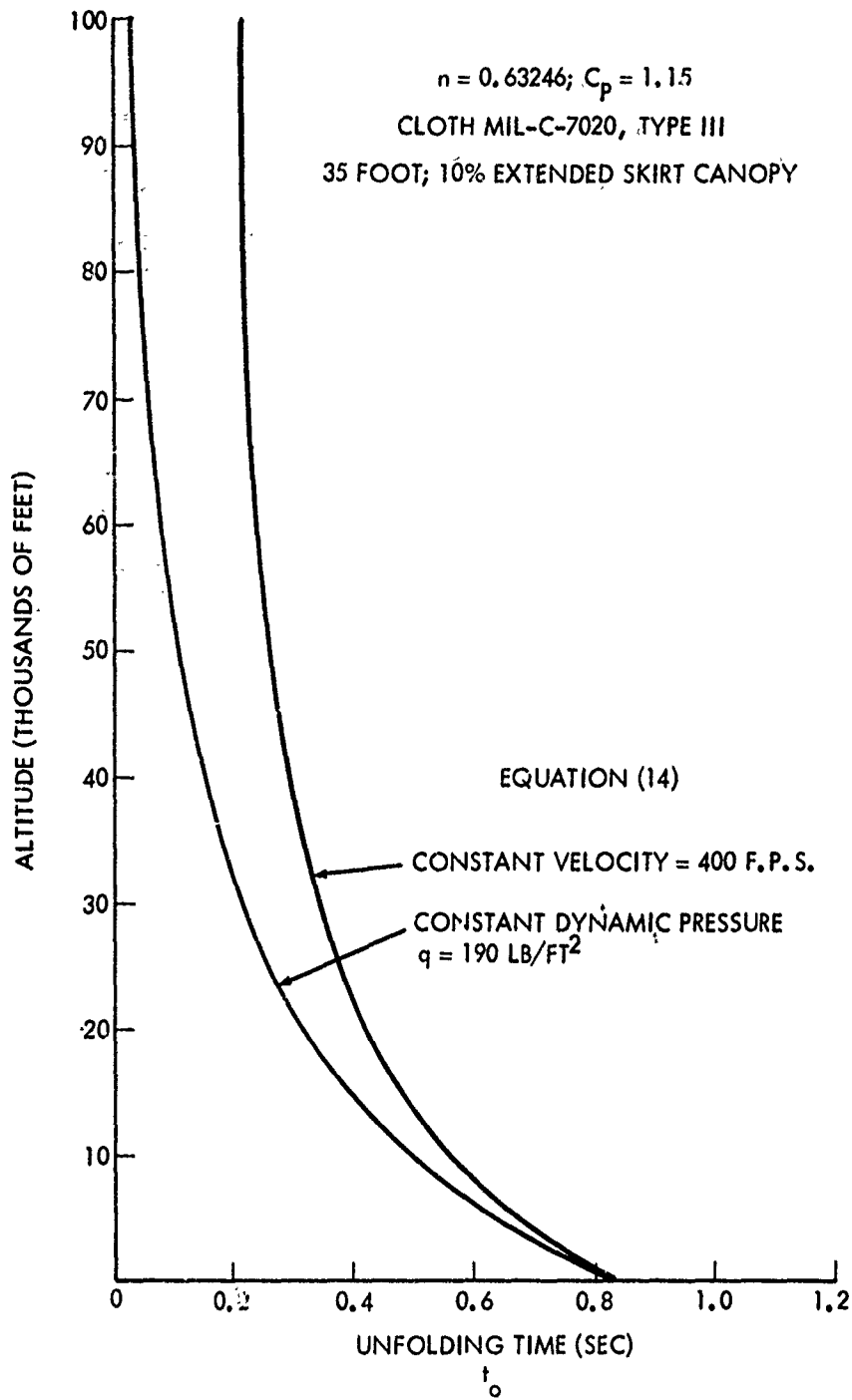


FIG. 17 EFFECT OF ALTITUDE ON THE UNFOLDING TIME " $t_o$ " AT  
CONSTANT VELOCITY AND CONSTANT DYNAMIC PRESSURE  
FOR  $n = 0.63246$

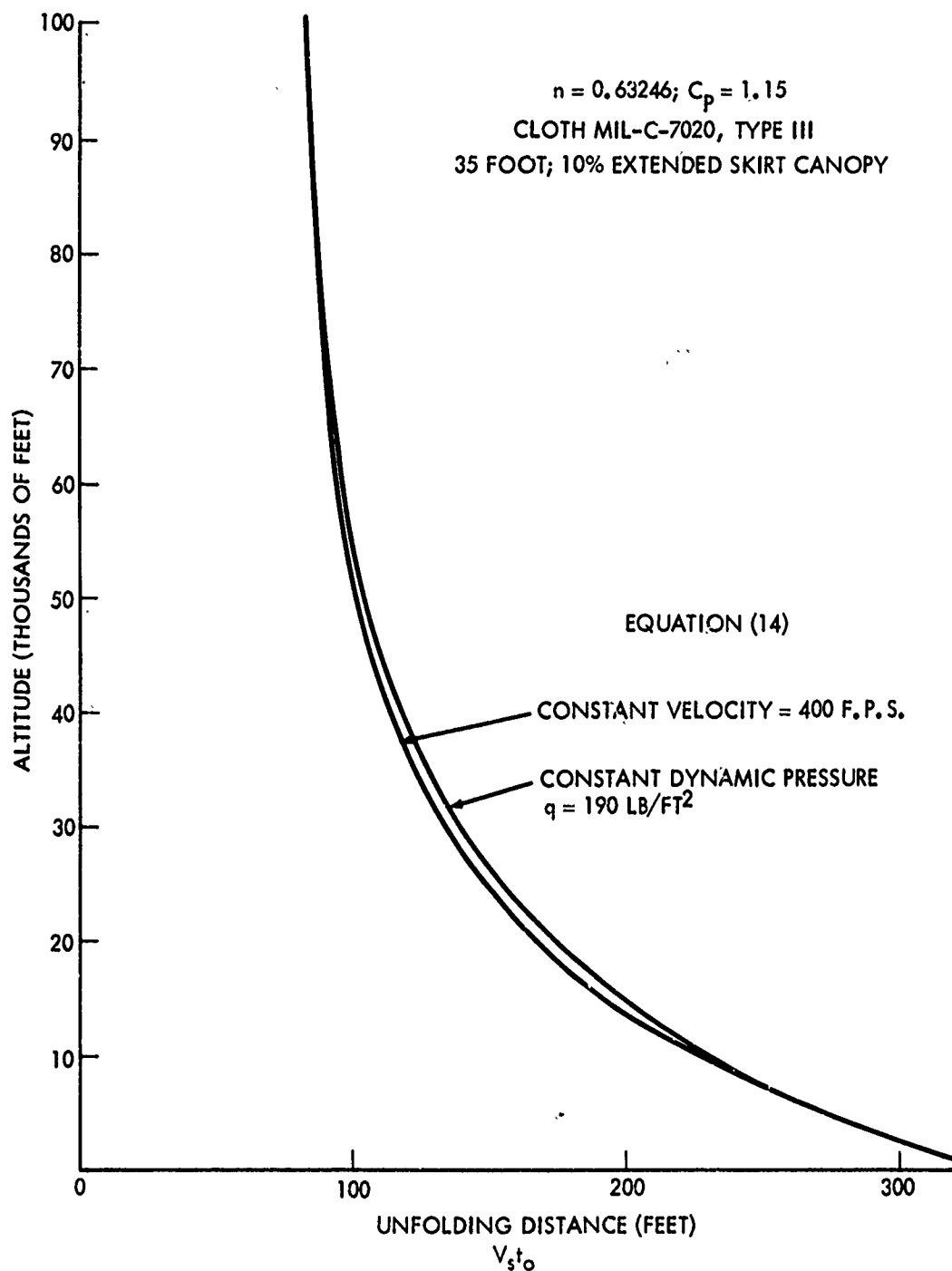


FIG. 18 EFFECT OF ALTITUDE ON THE UNFOLDING DISTANCE AT  
 CONSTANT VELOCITY AND CONSTANT DYNAMIC PRESSURE  
 FOR  $n = 0.63246$

where  $A_c$  is the projected area of the fully inflated canopy based on the maximum inflated diameter.

Case B - When the initial drag area is known

$$\frac{C_D S_i}{C_D S_o} = \left( \frac{t_i}{t_o} \right)^6$$

$$t_i = \left( \frac{C_D S_i}{C_D S_o} \right)^{1/6} t_o \text{ calculated}$$

$$t_o \text{ corrected} = \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{C_D S_i}{C_D S_o} \right)^{1/6} \right] t_o \text{ calculated} \quad (16)$$

The mass ratio should now be adjusted for the corrected  $t_o$  before velocity and force profiles are determined.

As an example of this method of opening-shock analysis, let us examine the effect of altitude on the opening-shock force of a T-10 type parachute retarding a 200-pound weight from a snatch velocity of  $V_s = 400$  feet per second at sea level. Conditions of constant velocity and constant dynamic pressure are investigated. The results are presented in Figure (19). At low altitudes, the opening-shock force is less than the steady-state drag force; however, as altitude rises, the opening shock eventually exceeds the steady-state drag force at some altitude. This trend is in agreement with field test observations.

#### OPENING-SHOCK FORCE, VELOCITY RATIO, AND INFLATION TIME DURING THE ELASTIC PHASE OF PARACHUTE INFLATION

The mass ratio ( $M$ ) is an important parameter in parachute analysis. For values of  $M \ll 4/21$ , the maximum opening-shock force occurs early in the inflation process, and the elastic properties of the canopy are not significant. As the mass ratio approaches  $M = 4/21$ , the magnitude of the opening-shock force increases, and the time of occurrence happens later in the deployment sequence. For mass ratios  $M > 4/21$ , the maximum shock force will occur after the reference time ( $t_o$ ). Parachutes designed for high mass ratio operation must provide a structure of sufficient constructed strength ( $F_c$ ) so that

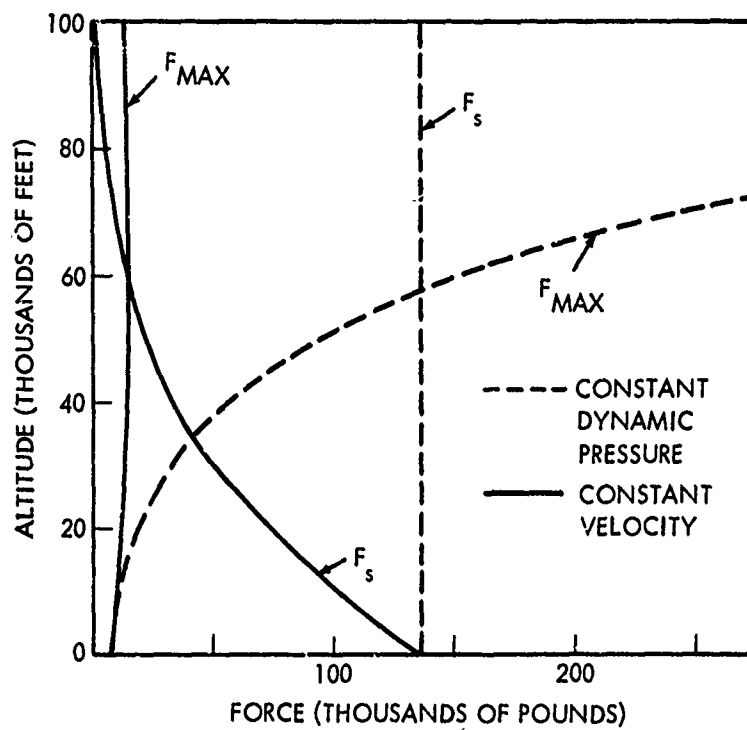


FIG. 17 VARIATION OF STEADY-STATE DRAG,  $F_s$ , AND MAXIMUM OPENING SHOCK WITH ALTITUDE FOR CONSTANT VELOCITY AND CONSTANT DYNAMIC PRESSURE

the actual elongation of the canopy under load is less than the maximum extensibility ( $\epsilon_{\max}$ ) of the materials.

Development of the analysis in the elastic phase of inflation is similar to the technique used in the unfolding phase. Newton's second law of motion is used, together with the drag area ratio signature,

$$\frac{C_D S}{C_D S_o} = \left(\frac{t}{t_o}\right)^6$$

which is still valid as shown in Figures 7 and 9, and mass ratio.

$$\frac{1}{Mt_o} \int_{t_o}^t \left(\frac{t}{t_o}\right)^6 dt = V_s \int_{V_o}^V \frac{-dV}{V^2}$$

Integrating and solving for  $\frac{V}{V_s}$

$$\frac{V}{V_s} = \frac{1}{\frac{V_s}{V_o} + \frac{1}{7M} \left[ \left(\frac{t}{t_o}\right)^7 - 1 \right]} \quad (17)$$

where  $\frac{V_o}{V_s}$  is the velocity ratio of the unfolding process at time

$t = t_o$ , equation(7).

$$\frac{V_o}{V_s} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{M} \left[ \frac{(1 - \eta)^2}{7} + \frac{\eta(1 - \eta)}{2} + \eta^2 \right]} \quad (18)$$

For convenience, let  $K = \frac{V_o}{V_s}$

The instantaneous shock factor in the elastic phase becomes

$$x_i = \frac{C_D S}{C_D S_o} \left( \frac{V}{V_s} \right)^2$$

$$x_i = \frac{\left( \frac{t}{t_o} \right)^6}{\left[ \frac{1}{K} + \frac{1}{7M} \left[ \left( \frac{t}{t_o} \right)^7 - 1 \right] \right]^2} \quad (19)$$

The end point of the inflation process depends upon the applied loads, elasticity of the canopy, and the constructed strength of the parachute. A linear load elongation relationship is utilized to determine the maximum drag area.

$$\frac{\epsilon}{F} = \frac{\epsilon_{max}}{F_c}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{F \epsilon_{max}}{F_c} \quad (20)$$

The force (F) is initially the instantaneous force at the end of the unfolding process

$$F = X_o F_s \quad (21)$$

where  $X_o$  is the shock factor of the unfolding phase at  $t = t_o$

$$x_o = \frac{(1 - \eta)^2 + 2\eta(1 - \eta) + \eta^2}{\left[ 1 + \frac{1}{M} \left[ \frac{(1 - \eta)^2}{7} + \frac{\eta(1 - \eta)}{2} + \eta^2 \right] \right]^2} \quad (22)$$

Since the inflated shape is defined, the drag coefficient is considered to be constant, and the instantaneous force is proportional to the dynamic pressure and projected area. The maximum projected area would be developed if the dynamic pressure remained constant during the elastic phase. Under very high mass ratios, this is nearly the case over this very brief time period; but as the mass ratio decreases, the velocity decay has a more significant effect. The simplest approach for all mass ratios is to determine the maximum drag area of the canopy as if elastic inflation had occurred at constant dynamic pressure. Then utilizing the time ratio determined as an end point, intermediate shock factors can be calculated from equation (19) and the maximum force assessed.

The following technique for determining the maximum drag area was derived from a method first suggested by Mr. J. F. McNelia of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory (NOL). The initial force ( $X_o F_s$ ) causes the canopy to increase in projected area. The new projected area in turn increases the total force on the canopy which produces a secondary projected area increase. The resulting series of events are resisted by the parachute materials. If the parachute has sufficient constructed strength, the series converges to a limiting value. Insufficient constructed strength results in a series that diverges, indicating failures. Combining equation (20) and (21), let

$$\epsilon_o = -\frac{X_o F_s}{F_c} \epsilon_{max} \quad (23)$$

The next force in the series at constant  $c$

$$F_1 = X_o F_s \frac{A_1}{A_c}$$

where

$$\frac{A_1}{A_c} = (1 + \epsilon_o)^2$$

$$F_1 = X_o F_s (1 + \epsilon_o)^2 \quad (24)$$

and the elongation produced by this force

$$\epsilon_1 = \frac{F_1}{F_c} \epsilon_{\max} = \frac{X_o F_s}{F_c} \epsilon_{\max} (1 + \epsilon_o)^2 \quad (25)$$

$$\epsilon_1 = \frac{X_o F_s}{F_c} \epsilon_{\max} \left( 1 + \frac{X_o F_s}{F_c} \epsilon_{\max} \right)^2 \quad (26)$$

$$\epsilon_1 = \epsilon_o (1 + \epsilon_o)^2 \quad (27)$$

produces another force

$$F_2 = X_o F_s (1 + \epsilon_1)^2 \quad (28)$$

and the next elongation

$$\epsilon_2 = \frac{F_2}{F_c} \epsilon_{\max} = \frac{X_o F_s}{F_c} (1 + \epsilon_1)^2 \epsilon_{\max} \quad (29)$$

$$\epsilon_2 = \frac{X_o F_s}{F_c} \epsilon_{\max} \left[ 1 + \frac{X_o F_s}{F_c} \epsilon_{\max} \left( 1 + \frac{X_o F_s}{F_c} \epsilon_{\max} \right)^2 \right]^2 \quad (30)$$

$$\epsilon_2 = \epsilon_o (1 + \epsilon_o (1 + \epsilon_o)^2)^2 \quad (31)$$

The series is further expanded until a convergent or divergent character is ascertained. If the series diverges, the constructed strength ( $F_c$ ) must be increased and the series recalculated.

An advantage of this system is that the required canopy constructed strength can be determined for a given set of deployment conditions. The limiting value of the series ( $\epsilon_l$ ) determines the end point time ratio.

$$\left(\frac{t}{t_0}\right)^6 = \frac{C_{D \max} S_{\max}}{C_{D0} S_0} = (1 + \epsilon_l)^2$$

$$\left(\frac{t}{t_0}\right) = \left(\frac{C_{D \max} S_{\max}}{C_{D0} S_0}\right)^{1/6} = (1 + \epsilon_l)^{1/3} \quad (32)$$

All convergent series can be expressed in terms of  $\epsilon_0$ . This relationship is shown in Figure 20 wherein the maximum drag area ratios are plotted as a function of  $\epsilon_0$ .

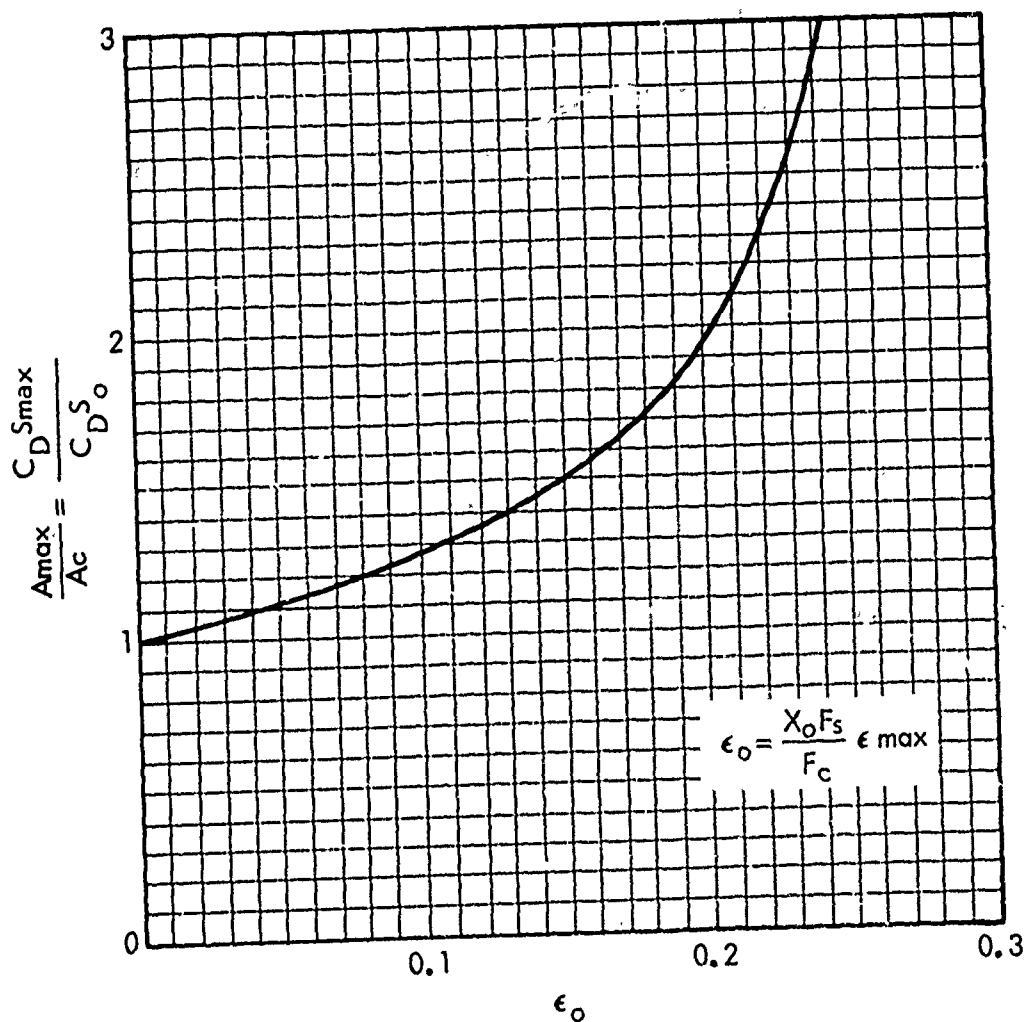


FIG. 20 MAXIMUM DRAG AREA RATIO vs INITIAL ELONGATION

The maximum shock factor and the time ratio at the time of occurrence of the maximum shock factor are assessed by means of equation (19) for various intermediate values between  $t/t_0 = 1$  and  $t/t_0$  from equation (32) using the particular mass ratio under investigation. The maximum shock force

$$F_{\max} = F_s X_{i \max} \quad (33)$$

The time of occurrence of the maximum shock force coincides with the maximum physical size of the parachute and, therefore, is defined as the inflation time ( $t_f$ ).

Examination of Figure 20 would seem to indicate that low elongation materials are desirable for parachutes operating under infinite mass. This is correct insofar as overloading is related to material elasticity.

The presented formulation, however, has not considered the inertial forces imposed upon the structure during deployment. While these forces are not studied in this report, it seems reasonable that material extensibility reduces the inertia forces in the joints and seams. In view of these two effects, an optimum material elongation should exist which maintains low inertia forces and limits parachute loading from canopy enlargement.

An illustrative problem is presented to demonstrate the effects of the elasticity of parachute materials and parachute constructed strength on opening-shock force. Example: A solid cloth parachute system is operating at a mass ratio of  $M = 100$ . The maximum material elongation ( $\epsilon_{\max} = 0.25$ ) and the ratio of the constructed strength to steady-state drag ( $F_c/F_s = 1.75$ ). Assume  $\eta = 0$ . Find:

- a. Ratio of  $t_f/t_0$
- b. Maximum shock factor ( $x_{i \max}$ )
- c. Parachute safety factor ( $F_c/F_{\max}$ )
- d. Determine the effect of varying the parachute constructed strength on the maximum shock factor

For mass ratios of  $M > 4/21$ , the maximum opening shock occurs in the elastic phase of inflation.

- a. Solution for  $t_f/t_0$ , for  $\eta = 0$

From equation (22)

$$X_o = \frac{1}{\left[1 + \frac{1}{7M}\right]^2}$$

$$X_o = \frac{1}{\left[1 + \frac{1}{7 \times 100}\right]^2}$$

$$X_o = .9803$$

and from equation (23)

$$\epsilon_o = X_o \frac{F_s}{F_c} \epsilon_{max}$$

$$\epsilon_o = \frac{.9803 \times .25}{1.75}$$

$$\epsilon_o = .1400$$

From Figure 20, the maximum drag area ratio

$$\frac{C_{D_{max}} S}{C_{D_o} S_o} = 1.45$$

The maximum time ratio ( $t_f/t_o$ )

From equation (32)

$$\frac{t_f}{t_o} = \left( \frac{C_{D_{max}} S}{C_{D_o} S_o} \right)^{1/6}$$

$$\frac{t_f}{t_o} = (1.45)^{1/6}$$

$$\frac{t_f}{t_o} = 1.064$$

b. Solution for  $x_{i \max}$

The velocity ratio at  $t = t_o$  for  $\eta = 0$

From equation (18)

$$\frac{V_o}{V_s} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{7M}}$$

$$\frac{V_o}{V_s} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{7 \times 100}}$$

$$\frac{V_o}{V_s} = K = .9901$$

The maximum shock factor ( $x_{i \max}$ )

From equation (19)

$$x_{i \max} = \frac{\left(\frac{t_f}{t_o}\right)^6}{\left[\frac{1}{K} + \frac{1}{7M} \left[\left(\frac{t_f}{t_o}\right)^7 - 1\right]\right]^2}$$

$$x_{i \max} = \frac{(1.064)^6}{\left[ \frac{1}{.9901} + \frac{1}{7(100)} (1.064^7 - 1) \right]^2}$$

$$x_{i \max} = 1.42$$

The maximum shock force ( $F_{\max}$ ).

From equation (33)

$$F_{\max} = X_{i \max} F_s$$

c. The parachute safety factor (S.F.)

$$S.F. = \frac{F_c}{F_{\max}}$$

$$x_{i \max} = \frac{F_{\max}}{F_s} \quad \frac{F_c}{F_c} = \frac{F_{\max}}{F_c} \quad \frac{F_c}{F_s}$$

$$\frac{F_c}{F_{\max}} = \frac{F_c}{F_s X_{i \max}}$$

$$\frac{F_c}{F_{\max}} = \frac{1.75}{1.42}$$

$$S.F. = 1.23$$

d. The effects of varying the parachute constructed strength can be determined by repeating the previous series of calculations for various ratios of  $F_c/F_s$ . The results are illustrated in Figure 21.

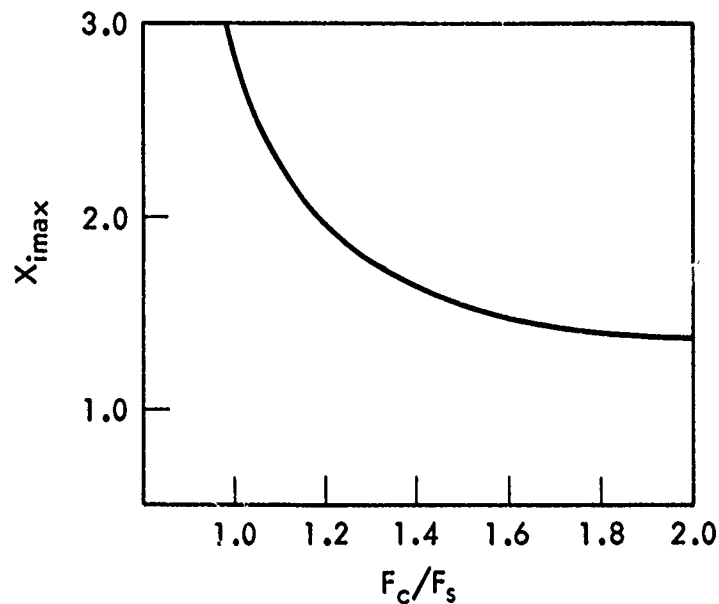


FIG. 21 EFFECT OF PARACHUTE CONSTRUCTED STRENGTH ON THE MAXIMUM SHOCK FACTOR AT CONSTANT DEPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

REFERENCES

- (1) "A Method to Reduce Parachute Inflation Time with a Minor Increase in Opening Force," WADD Report TR 60-761
- (2) Berndt, R. J., and DeWesse, J. H., "Filling Time Prediction Approach for Solid Cloth Type Parachute Canopies," AIAA Aerodynamic Deceleration Systems Conference, Houston, Texas 7-9 Sep 1966
- (3) "Theoretical Parachute Investigations," Progress Report No. 4, Project No. 5, WADC Contract AF33 (616)-3955, University of Minnesota
- (4) "Performance of and Design Criteria for Deployable Aerodynamic Decelerators," TR ASK-TR-61-579, AFFDL, AIRFORCESYSCOM, Dec 1963
- (5) "Investigation of Stability of Parachutes and Development of Stable Parachutes from Fabric of Normal Porosity," Count Zeppelin Research Institute Report No. 300, 23 Mar 1943
- (6) Ludtke, W. P., "A New Approach to the Determination of the Steady-State Inflated Shape and Included Volume of Several Parachute Types," NOLTR 69-159, 11 Sep 1969
- (7) Ludtke, W. P., "A New Approach to the Determination of the Steady-State Inflated Shape and Included Volume of Several Parachute Types in 24-Gore and 30-Gore Configurations," NOLTR 70-178, 3 Sep 1970

## APPENDIX A

APPLICATION OF CLOTH PERMEABILITY TO THE CALCULATION OF  
THE INFLATION TIME OF SOLID CLOTH PARACHUTES

The mass outflow through the pressurized region of an inflating solid cloth parachute at any instant is dependent upon the canopy area which is subjected to airflow and the rate of airflow through that area. The variation of pressurized area as a function of reference time ( $t_0$ ) was earlier assumed to be proportional to the instantaneous drag area ratio, leaving only the rate of airflow problem to solve. The permeability parameter of cloth was a natural choice for determining the rate of airflow through the cloth as a function of pressure differential across the cloth. Heretofore, these data have been more of a qualitative, rather than quantitative, value. A new method of analysis was developed wherein a generalized curve of the form  $P = k(\Delta P)^n$  was fitted to cloth permeability data for a number of different cloths and gives surprisingly good agreement over the pressure differential range of available data. The pressure differential was then related to the trajectory conditions to give a generalized expression which can be used in the finite mass ratio range, as well as the infinite mass case. The permeability properties were transformed into a mass flow ratio,  $M'$ , which shows agreement with the effective porosity concept.

Measured and calculated permeability-pressure data for several standard cloths are illustrated in Figure A-1. This method has been applied to various types of cloth between the extremes of a highly permeable 3-momme silk to a relatively impervious parachute pack container cloth with reasonably good results, see Figure A-2.

The canopy pressure coefficient,  $C_p$ , is defined as the ratio of the pressure differential across the cloth to the dynamic pressure of the free stream.

$$C_p = \frac{\Delta P}{q} = \frac{P(\text{internal}) - P(\text{external})}{1/2 \rho V^2} \quad A-1$$

where  $V$  is based on equation (7)

The permeability expression,  $P = k(\Delta P)^n$  becomes

$$P = k \left( C_p \frac{\rho V^2}{2} \right)^n \quad A-2$$

Although some progress has been made by Melzig on the measurement of the variation of the pressure coefficient on an actual inflating canopy, this dimension and its variation with time are still dark areas at the time of this writing. At the present time, a constant

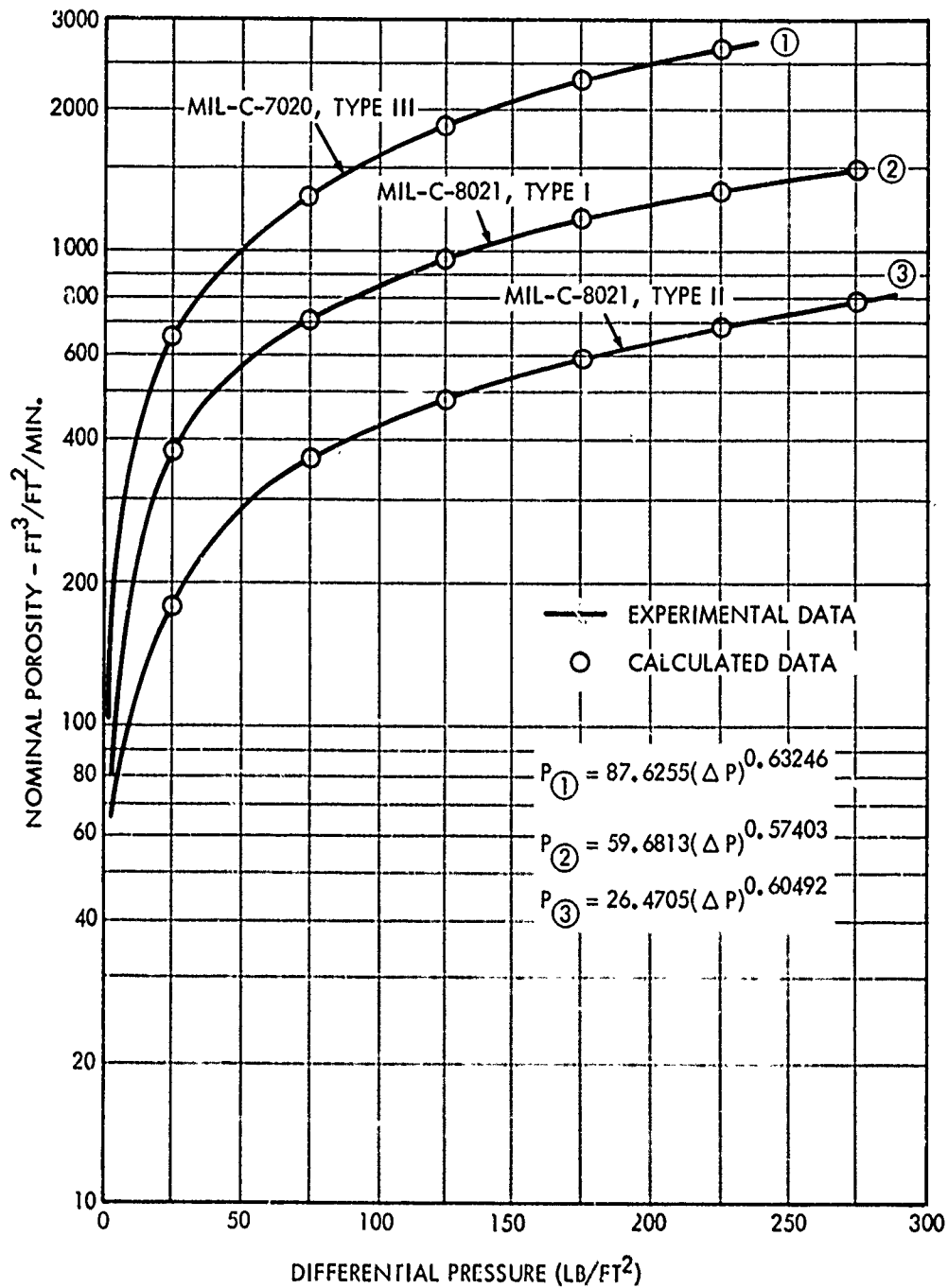


FIG. A-1 NOMINAL POROSITY OF PARACHUTE MATERIAL  
VS DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURE

REPRODUCED FROM REFERENCE (4)

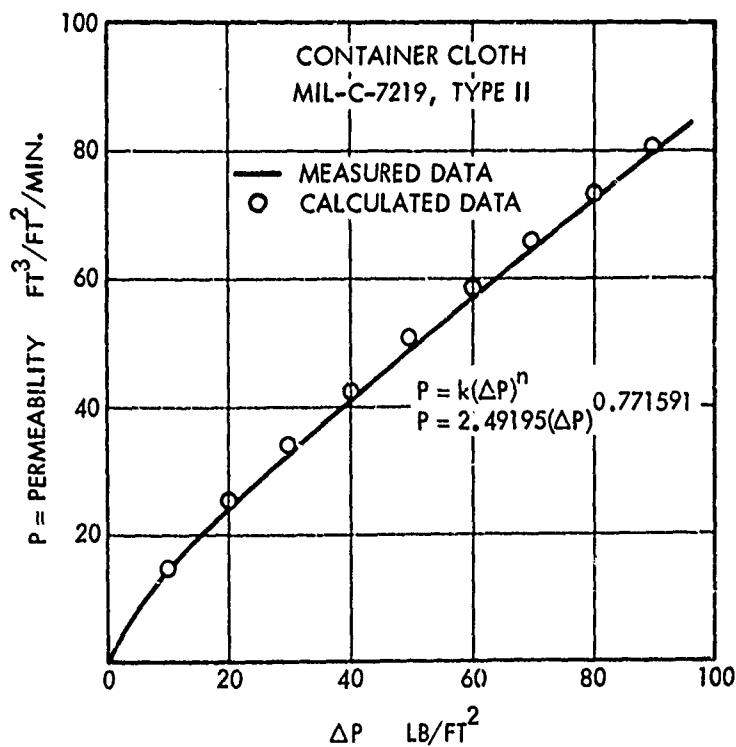
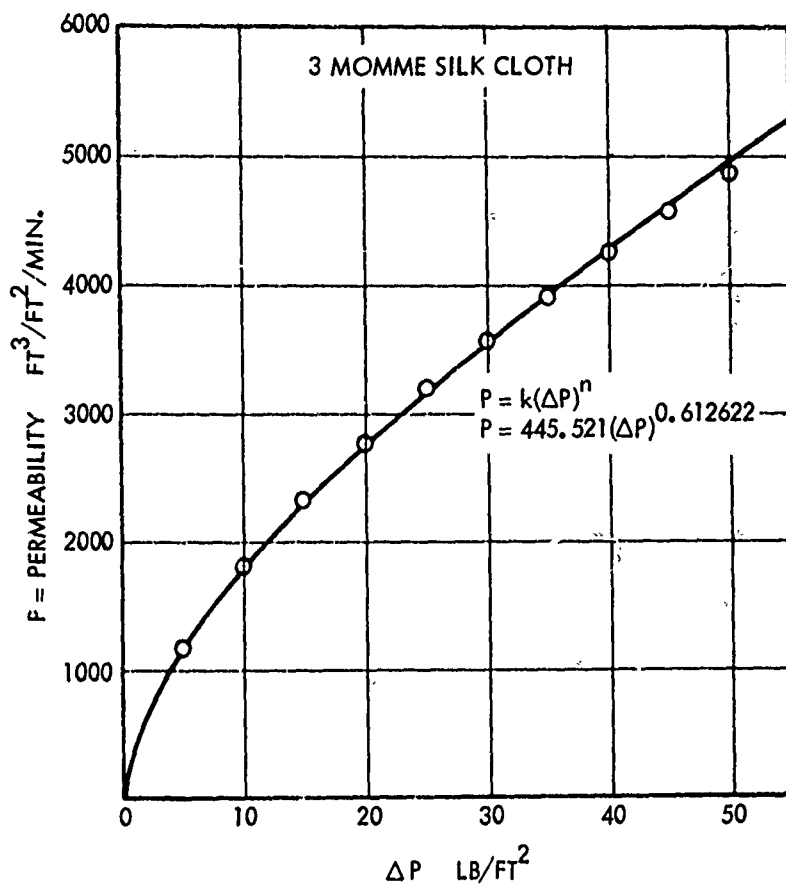


FIG. A-2 COMPARISON OF MEASURED AND CALCULATED PERMEABILITY FOR  
RELATIVELY PERMEABLE AND IMPERMEABLE CLOTHS

average value of pressure coefficient is used in these calculations. Figure A-3 presents the effect of pressure coefficient and altitude on the unfolding time for constant deployment conditions.

It is well known that the inflation time of solid cloth parachutes decreases as the operational altitude increases. This effect can be explained by considering the ratio of the mass outflow through a unit cloth area to the mass inflow through a unit mouth area.

$$M' = \text{mass flow ratio} = \frac{\text{mass outflow}}{\text{mass inflow}}$$

where

$$\text{mass outflow} = P\rho \frac{\text{slugs}}{\text{ft}^2\text{-sec}} \text{ (per ft}^2 \text{ cloth area)}$$

and

$$\text{mass inflow} = V\rho \frac{\text{slugs}}{\text{ft}^2\text{-sec}} \text{ (per ft}^2 \text{ inflow area)}$$

Therefore, the mass flow ratio becomes

$$M' = \frac{P\rho}{V\rho} = \frac{P}{V}$$

$$M' = k \left( \frac{C_P \rho}{2} \right)^n V^{2n-1} \quad \text{A-3}$$

Effective porosity (C) is defined as the ratio of the velocity through the cloth (u) to a fictitious theoretical velocity (v) which will produce the particular  $\Delta P = 1/2\rho v^2$ .

$$\text{effective porosity, } C = \frac{u}{v} \quad \text{A-4}$$

Comparison of the mass flow ratio and previously published effective porosity data is shown in Figure A-4. The effects of altitude and velocity on the mass flow ratio are presented in Figures A-5, A-6, and A-7 for constant velocity, constant dynamic pressure, and constant altitude. The decrease of cloth permeability with altitude is evident.

The permeability constants "k" and "n" can be determined from the permeability-pressure differential data as obtained from an instrument such as a Frazier Permeameter. Two data points, A and B, are selected in such a manner that point "A" is in a low-pressure

AVERAGE CANOPY PRESSURE COEFFICIENT  
DURING INFLATION INCLUDING THE VENT

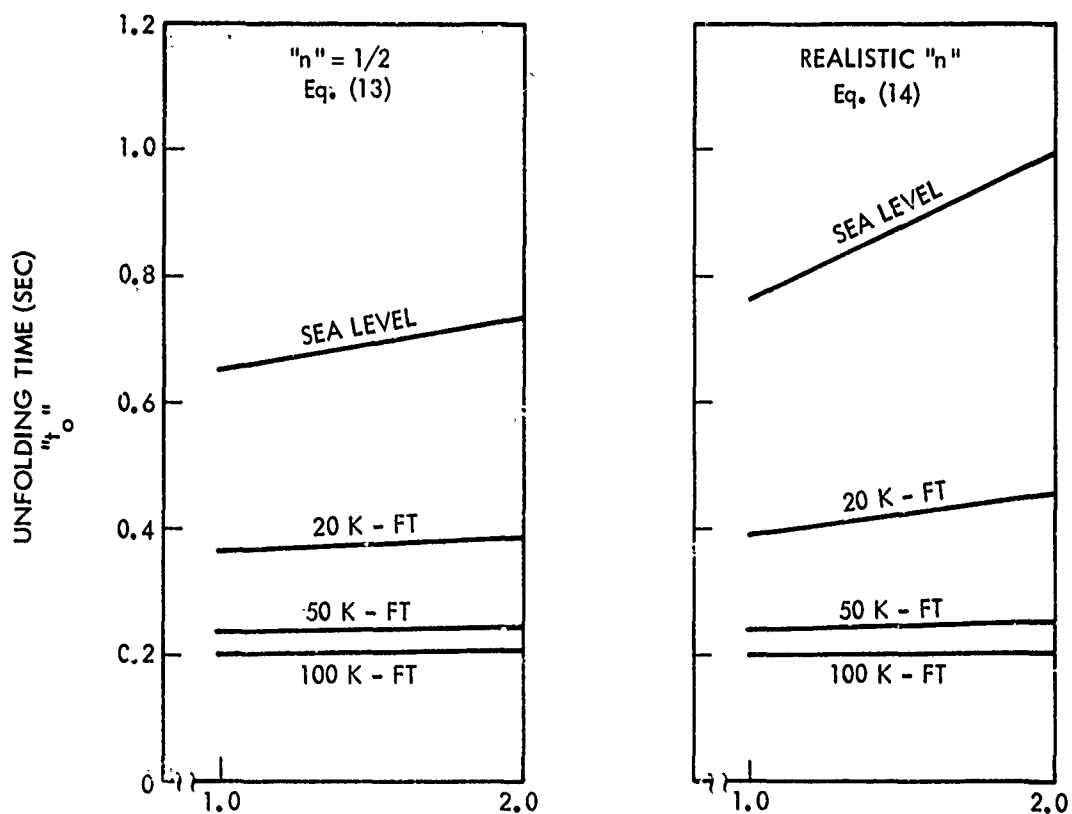


FIG.A-3 EFFECT OF PRESSURE COEFFICIENT AND ALTITUDE ON THE UNFOLDING TIME

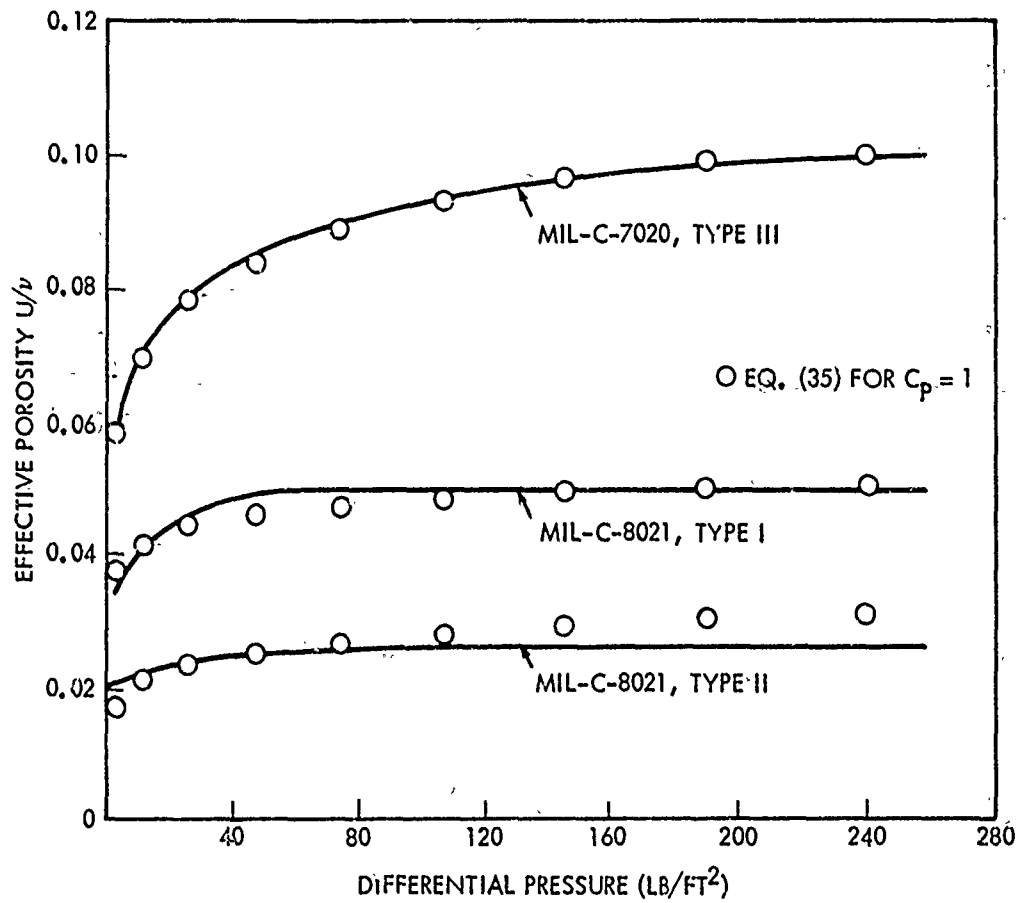


FIG. A-4 THE EFFECTIVE POROSITY OF PARACHUTE MATERIALS VS DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURE

REPRODUCED FROM REFERENCE (4)

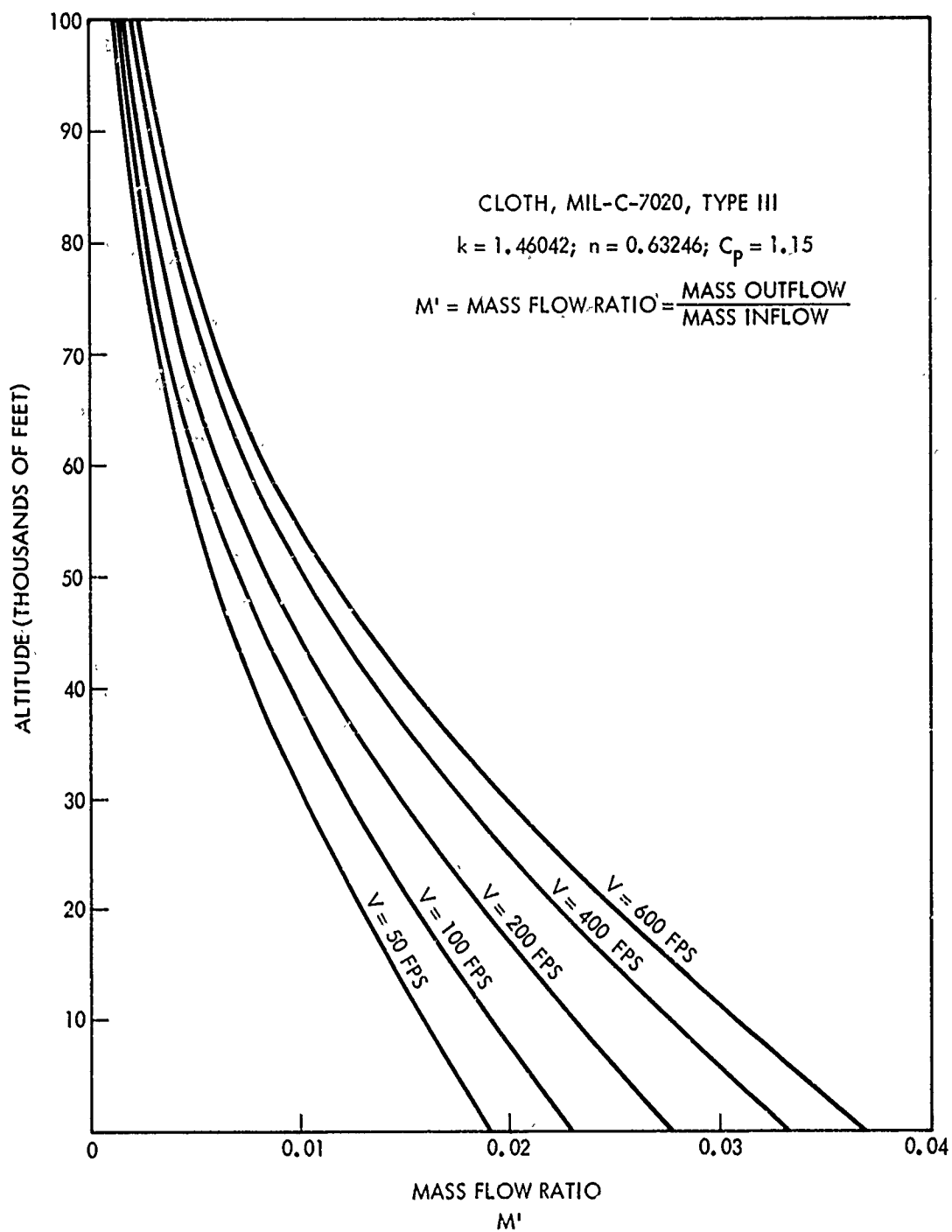


FIG. A-5 EFFECT OF ALTITUDE ON MASS FLOW RATIO AT CONSTANT VELOCITY

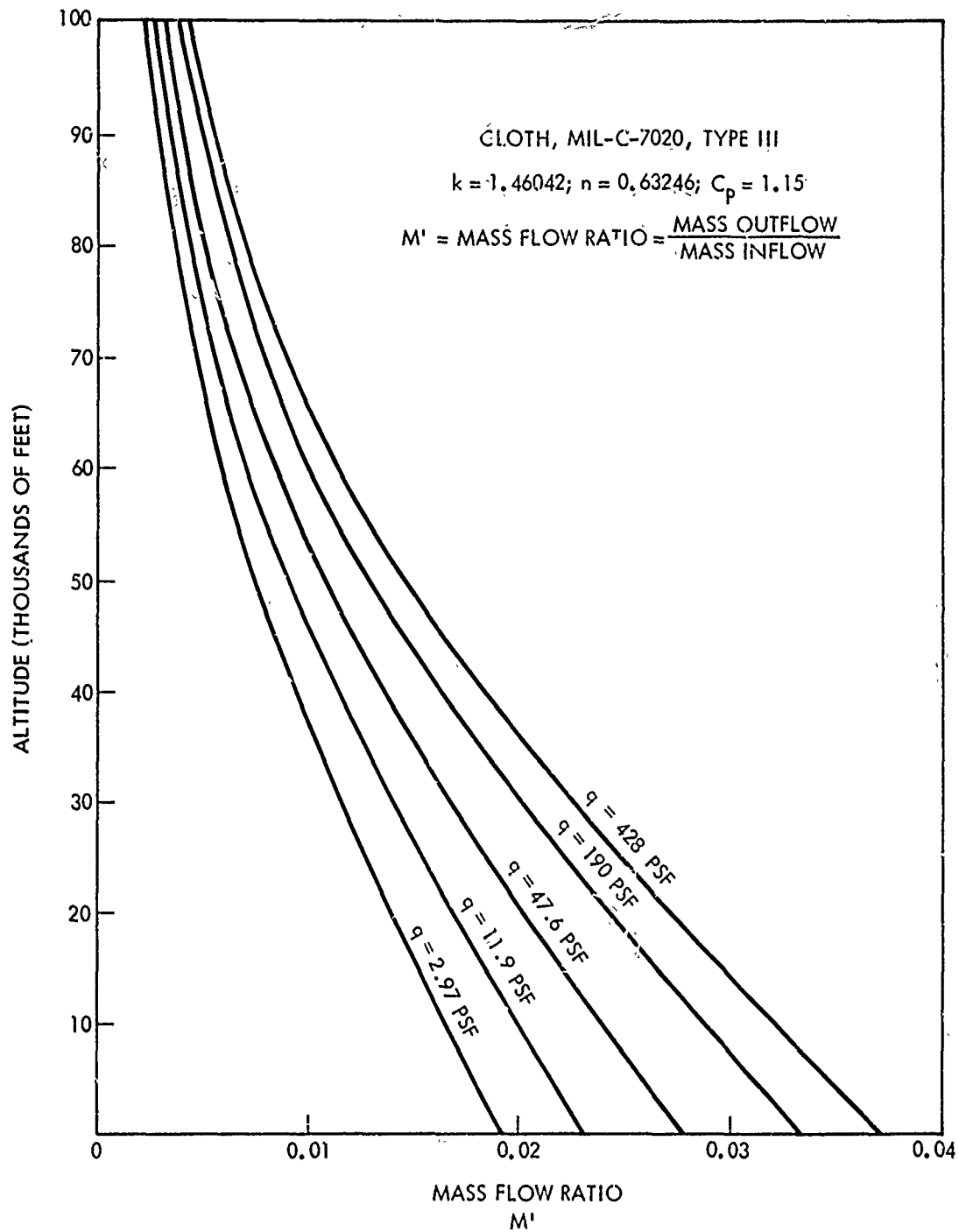


FIG. A-6 EFFECT OF ALTITUDE ON MASS FLOW RATIO AT  
 CONSTANT DYNAMIC PRESSURE

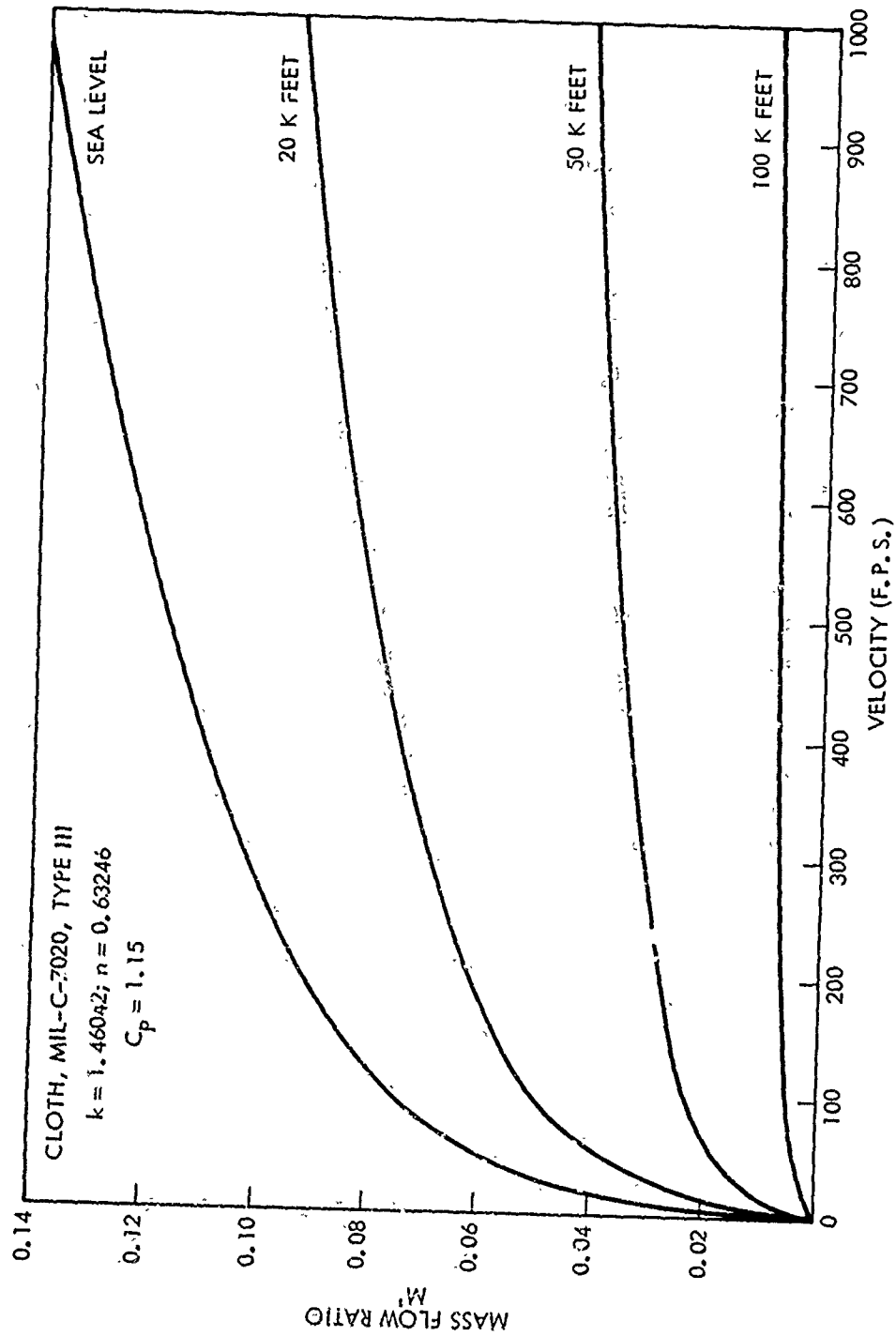


FIG.A-7 EFFECT OF VELOCITY ON MASS FLOW RATIO AT CONSTANT DENSITY

zone below the knee of the curve, and point "B" is located in the upper end of the high-pressure zone, as shown in Figure A-7.

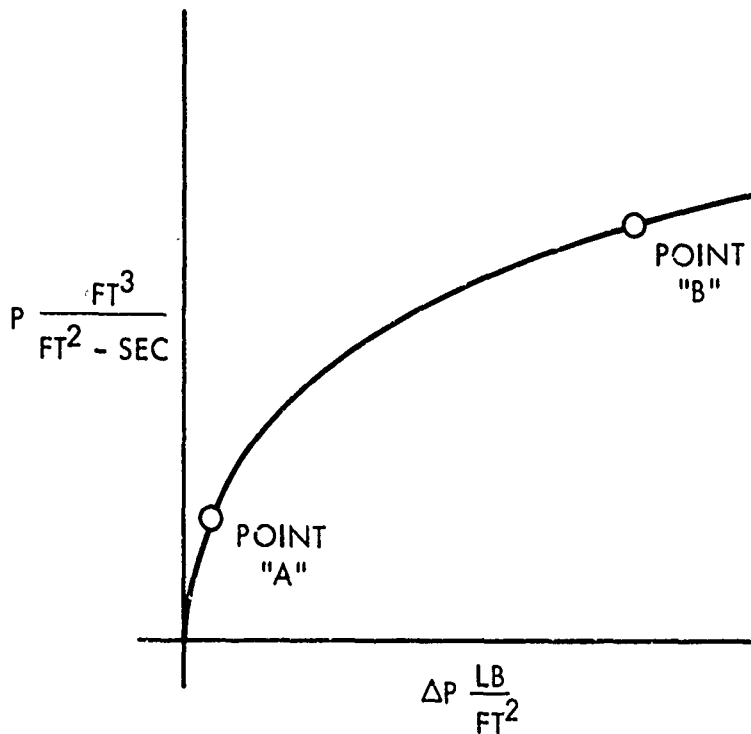


FIG.A-8 LOCATION OF DATA POINTS FOR DETERMINATION OF "k" AND "n"

The two standard measurements of 1/2 inch of water and 20 inches of water appear to be good data points if both are available on the same sample. Substituting the data from points "A" and "B" into  $P = k(\Delta P)^n$ :

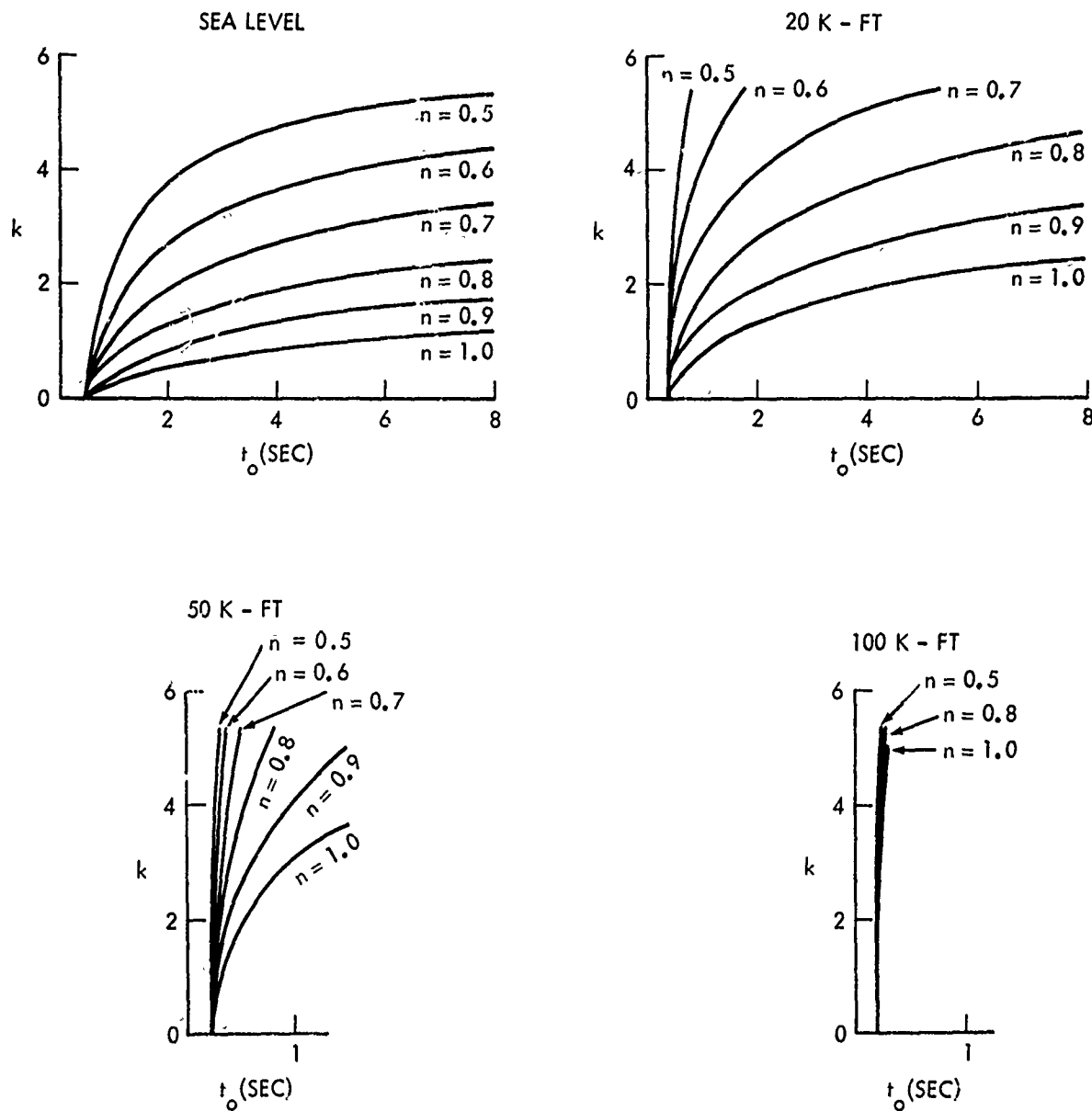
$$\frac{P_B}{P_A} = \left( \frac{\Delta P_B}{\Delta P_A} \right)^n$$

$$n = \frac{\ln \left( \frac{P_B}{P_A} \right)}{\ln \left( \frac{\Delta P_B}{\Delta P_A} \right)}$$

$$k = \frac{P_A}{(\Delta P_A)^n} = \frac{P_B}{(\Delta P_B)^n}$$

A-6

Theoretically, the inflation characteristics of parachutes can be controlled by designing canopy cloths using predetermined values of the permeability constants "k" and "n." Figure A-9 illustrates the effects of the permeability constants on a given parachute system at various altitudes from sea level through 100,000 feet for a constant deployment velocity. The permeability of the various cloth elements of parachute canopies vary widely. This variation is a source of divergence between calculated and measured inflation time.



| CLOTH                | k       | n       |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| MIL-C-7020, TYPE III | 1.46042 | 0.63246 |
| MIL-C-8021, TYPE I   | 0.99469 | 0.57403 |
| MIL-C-8021, TYPE II  | 0.44117 | 0.60492 |
|                      |         |         |

FIG. A-9 EFFECT OF CANOPY CLOTH CONSTANTS "k" AND "n" ON THE UNFOLDING TIME OF A 35-FOOT DIAMETER 10% EXTENDED SKIRT PARACHUTE  
 $V_s = 200$  FEET PER SECOND

## APPENDIX B

DETERMINATION OF THE PARACHUTE INCLUDED  
VOLUME AND ASSOCIATED AIR MASS

Before the reference time,  $t_o$ , and inflation time,  $t_f$ , can be calculated, the volume of atmosphere,  $V_o$ , which is to be collected during the inflation process must be accurately known. This requirement dictates that a realistic inflated canopy shape and associated volume of atmosphere be determined. Figure B-1 was reproduced from reference (5). The technique of using lampblack coated plates to determine the airflow patterns around metal models of inflated canopy shapes was used by the investigator of reference (5) to study the stability characteristics of contemporary parachutes, i.e., 1943. A by-product of this study is that it is clearly shown that the volume of air within the canopy bulges out of the canopy mouth (indicated by arrows) and extends ahead of the canopy hem. This volume must be collected during the inflation process. Another neglected, but significant, source of canopy volume exists in the billowed portion of the gore panels.

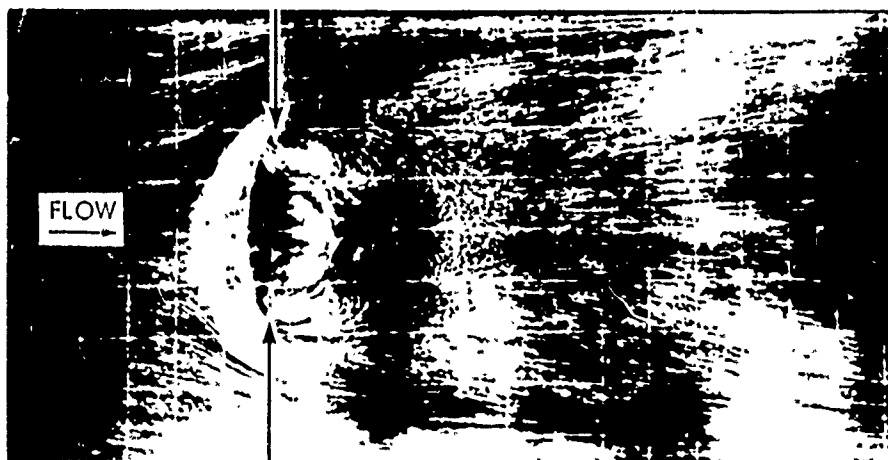
The steady-state canopy shape has been observed in wind-tunnel and field tests to be elliptical in profile. Studies of the inflated shape and included volume of several parachute types (flat circular, 10 percent extended skirt, elliptical, hemispherical, ring slot, ribbon, and cross) are documented in references (6) and (7). These studies demonstrated that the steady-state profile shape of inflated canopies of the various types can be approximated to be two ellipses of common major diameter,  $2\bar{a}$ , and dissimilar minor diameters,  $b$  and  $b'$ , as shown in Figure B-2. It was also shown that the volume of the ellipsoid of revolution formed by revolving the profile shape about the canopy axis was a good approximation of the volume of atmosphere to be collected during canopy inflation and included the air volume extended ahead of the parachute skirt hem together with the billowed gore volume.

$$V_o = \frac{2}{3} \pi \bar{a}^3 \left[ \frac{b}{\bar{a}} + \frac{b'}{\bar{a}} \right] \quad \text{B-1}$$

Tables B-I and B-II are summaries of test results reproduced from references (6) and (7), respectively, for the convenience of the reader.



HEMISPHERE



VENT PARACHUTE

REPRODUCED FROM REFERENCE (5)

FIG. B-1 AIRFLOW PATTERNS SHOWING AIR VOLUME AHEAD OF CANOPY HEM

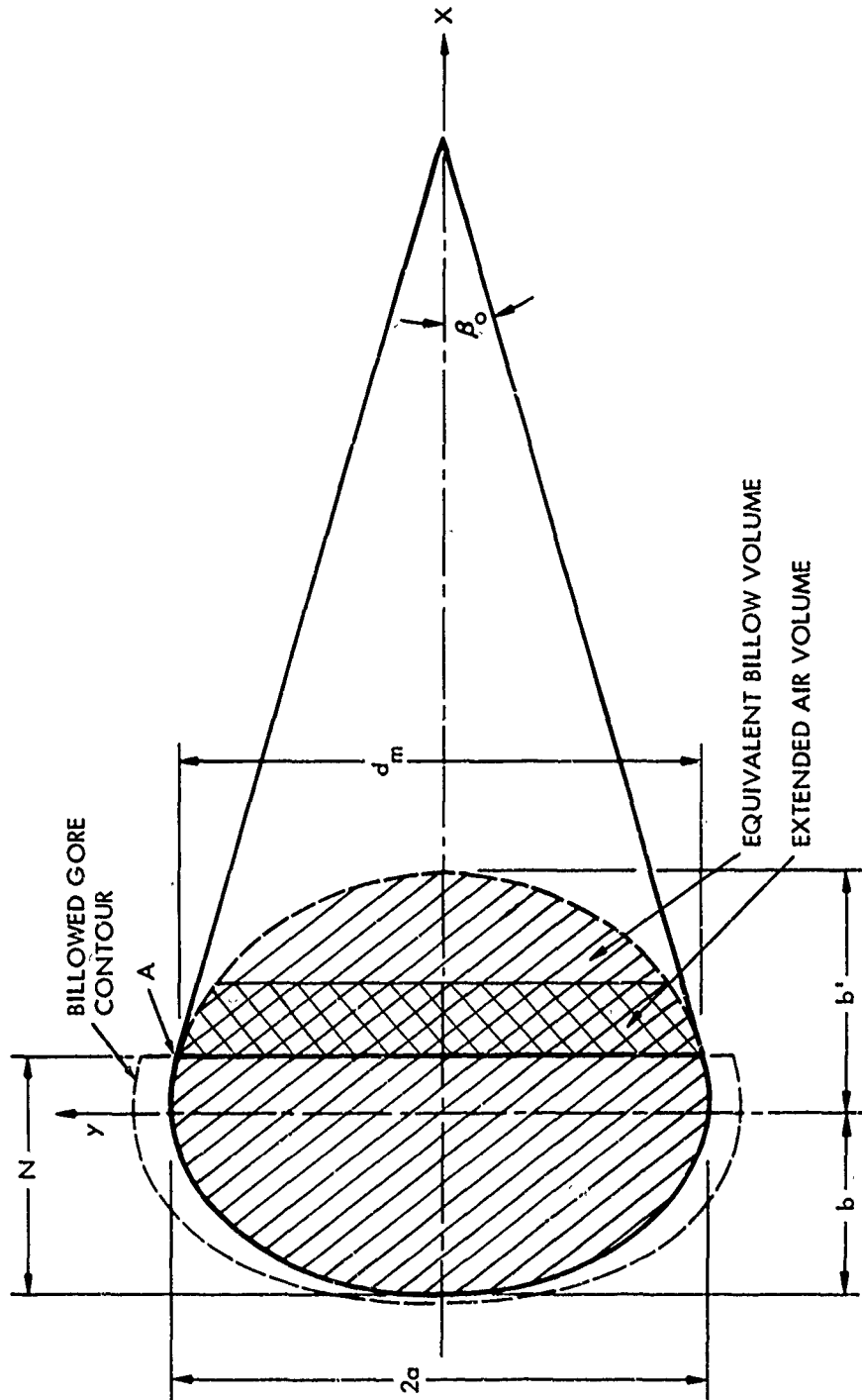


FIG. B-2 PARACHUTE CROSS SECTION NOMENCLATURE

REPRODUCED FROM REFERENCE (6)

TABLE B-1

SUMMARY OF PARACHUTE SHAPE TEST RESULTS FOR  
12-GORE AND 16-GORE CONFIGURATIONS

| Parachute Type            | No. of Gores | Suspension Line Length inches | Velocity mph | Scale Factor, K        |                        | $\frac{N}{\bar{a}}$ | Axes Ratio          |                      |                                          | Volume in <sup>3</sup> |       |       | $\frac{V_D}{V_H}$ |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|
|                           |              |                               |              | $\frac{2\bar{a}}{D_o}$ | $\frac{2\bar{a}}{D_F}$ |                     | $\frac{b}{\bar{a}}$ | $\frac{b'}{\bar{a}}$ | $\frac{b}{\bar{a}} + \frac{b'}{\bar{a}}$ | $V_H$                  | $V_C$ | $V_o$ |                   |
| Flat Circular             | 12           | 34                            | 50           | 73                     | .645                   | .650                | .6115               | .8817                | 1.4932                                   | 4476                   | 4481  | 6980  | 1.56              |
|                           | 16           | 34                            | 50           | 73                     | .663                   | .669                | .5558               | .9059                | 1.4597                                   | 4450                   | 4100  | 7325  | 1.65              |
| 10% Extended Skirt        | 12           | 34                            | 100          | 147                    | .663                   | .652                | .6424               | .8360                | 1.4784                                   | 3928                   | 4400  | 6783  | 1.73              |
|                           | 16           | 34                            | 17           | 25                     | .654                   | .640                | .5580               | .8502                | 1.4082                                   | 4051                   | 3920  | 6197  | 1.53              |
| Elliptical                | 12           | 34                            | 75           | 110                    |                        |                     | .5628               | .9657                | 1.5285                                   | 3322                   | 3405  |       |                   |
|                           | 16           | 34                            | 17           | 25                     |                        |                     | .6169               | .8163                | 1.4332                                   | 2726                   | 4405  |       |                   |
| Hemispherical             | 12           | 34                            | 125          | 183                    |                        |                     | 1.0005              | .9080                | 1.9085                                   | 6224                   | 8666  |       |                   |
|                           | 16           | 34                            | 75           | 110                    |                        |                     | .9129               | .9380                | 1.8509                                   | 5821                   | 8370  |       |                   |
| Ringslot                  | 12           | 34                            | 25           | 37                     | .607                   | .654                | .6566               | .8735                | 1.530                                    | 3800                   | 3650  | 5903  | 1.55              |
|                           | 12           | 34                            | 100          | 147                    | .616                   | .663                | .6566               | .8735                | 1.530                                    | 3800                   | 4198  | 6166  | 1.62              |
| 18% Geometric Porosity    | 12           | 34                            | 200          | 293                    | .637                   | .686                | .918                | .8735                | 1.7915                                   | 3800                   | 4624  | 6826  | 1.90              |
|                           | 16           | 34                            | 25           | 37                     | .611                   | .658                | .827                | .6004                | .8890                                    | 3800                   | 3673  | 5685  | 1.50              |
|                           | 16           | 34                            | 100          | 147                    | .617                   | .664                | .864                | .6004                | 1.4694                                   | 3800                   | 3985  | 6030  | 1.59              |
|                           | 16           | 34                            | 200          | 293                    | .645                   | .695                | .844                | .6004                | 1.4894                                   | 3800                   | 4430  | 6897  | 1.82              |
| Ribbon                    | 12           | 34                            | 25           | 37                     | .586                   | .632                | .859                | .8768                | 1.5326                                   | 3600                   | 3323  | 5335  | 1.40              |
|                           | 12           | 34                            | 100          | 147                    | .615                   | .663                | .837                | .8768                | 1.5326                                   | 3800                   | 3714  | 6163  | 1.62              |
| 24% Geometric Porosity    | 12           | 34                            | 200          | 293                    | .632                   | .681                | .877                | .8768                | 1.5326                                   | 3800                   | 4280  | 6683  | 1.76              |
|                           | 16           | 34                            | 25           | 37                     | .603                   | .650                | .797                | .8378                | 1.4148                                   | 3800                   | 3438  | 5358  | 1.41              |
|                           | 16           | 34                            | 100          | 147                    | .626                   | .674                | .791                | .8378                | 1.4148                                   | 3800                   | 3804  | 5983  | 1.57              |
|                           | 16           | 34                            | 200          | 293                    | .648                   | .698                | .781                | .8378                | 1.4148                                   | 3800                   | 4164  | 6656  | 1.75              |
| Cross Chute<br>w/L = .264 | 34           | 34                            | 25           | 37                     | .710                   |                     | 1.242               | .8867                | 2.1643                                   | 1928                   | 3768  | 5788  | 3.01              |
|                           | 34           | 34                            | 100          | 147                    | .707                   |                     | 1.270               | .8867                | 2.1643                                   | 1928                   | 3810  | 5712  | 2.96              |
|                           | 34           | 34                            | 200          | 293                    | .716                   |                     | 1.283               | .8867                | 2.1643                                   | 1928                   | 4212  | 5925  | 3.07              |
|                           | 47           | 47                            | 25           | 37                     | .759                   |                     | 1.113               | .8484                | 1.2312                                   | 1928                   | 4052  | 6868  | 3.56              |
|                           | 47           | 47                            | 100          | 147                    | .729                   |                     | 1.205               | .8484                | 1.2312                                   | 1928                   | 3973  | 5958  | 3.09              |
|                           | 47           | 47                            | 200          | 293                    | .775                   |                     | 1.110               | .8484                | 1.2312                                   | 1928                   | 4292  | 7303  | 3.79              |

REPRODUCED FROM REFERENCE (6)

TABLE B-2

SUMMARY OF PARACHUTE SHAPE TEST RESULTS FOR  
24-GORE AND 30-GORE CONFIGURATIONS

| Parachute Type                     | No. of Gores | Suspension Line Length inches | Velocity |     | Scale Factor, K        |                        | $\frac{N}{\bar{a}}$ | Axes Ratio          |                       |                       | Volume in <sup>3</sup> |       |       | $\frac{V_o}{V_H}$ |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------|-----|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|
|                                    |              |                               | mph      | fps | $\frac{2\bar{a}}{D_o}$ | $\frac{2\bar{a}}{D_f}$ |                     | $\frac{b}{\bar{a}}$ | $\frac{b^2}{\bar{a}}$ | $\frac{b^3}{\bar{a}}$ | $V_H$                  | $V_C$ | $V_o$ |                   |
| Flat Circular*                     | 24           | 34                            | 50       | 73  | .677                   | .679                   | .795                | .5758               | .8126                 | 1.3884                | 4362                   | 4695  | 7273  | 1.67              |
|                                    | 30           | 34                            | 17       | 25  | .668                   | .669                   | .827                | .6214               | .7806                 | 1.4020                | 4342                   | 4626  | 7027  | 1.62              |
| 10% Extended* Skirt                | 24           | 34                            | 100      | 147 | .665                   | .648                   | .834                | .5949               | .8771                 | 1.4720                | 4138                   | 4446  | 6930  | 1.67              |
|                                    | 30           | 34                            | 17       | 25  | .630                   | .633                   | .825                | .6255               | .7962                 | 1.4127                | 4172                   | 4076  | 6265  | 1.50              |
| Ring Slot 16% Geometrically Porous | 24           | 34                            | 25       | 37  | .663                   | .665                   | .824                | .5800               | .9053                 | 1.4853                | 3591                   | 3878  | 6031  | 1.68              |
|                                    | 24           | 34                            | 100      | 147 | .680                   | .682                   | .819                | .5800               | .9053                 | 1.4853                | 3591                   | 4079  | 6510  | 1.81              |
|                                    | 24           | 34                            | 200      | 293 | .694                   | .696                   | .809                | .5800               | .9053                 | 1.4853                | 3591                   | 4270  | 6924  | 1.93              |
|                                    | 30           | 34                            | 25       | 37  | .677                   | .678                   | .788                | .5800               | .9053                 | 1.4853                | 3582                   | 3826  | 6404  | 1.79              |
|                                    | 30           | 34                            | 100      | 147 | .684                   | .685                   | .802                | .5800               | .9053                 | 1.4853                | 3582                   | 4023  | 6508  | 1.84              |
|                                    | 30           | 34                            | 200      | 293 | .698                   | .699                   | .800                | .5800               | .9053                 | 1.4853                | 3582                   | 4260  | 7012  | 1.96              |
| Ribbed 24% Geometrically Porous    | 24           | 34                            | 25       | 37  | .671                   | .673                   | .770                | .5980               | .8187                 | 1.4167                | 3591                   | 3591  | 5968  | 1.66              |
|                                    | 24           | 34                            | 100      | 147 | .676                   | .678                   | .813                | .5980               | .8187                 | 1.4167                | 3591                   | 3927  | 6097  | 1.70              |
|                                    | 24           | 34                            | 200      | 293 | .687                   | .689                   | .804                | .5980               | .8187                 | 1.4167                | 3591                   | 4061  | 6389  | 1.78              |
|                                    | 30           | 34                            | 25       | 37  | .655                   | .657                   | .782                | .6021               | .8463                 | 1.4484                | 3582                   | 3396  | 5666  | 1.58              |
|                                    | 30           | 34                            | 100      | 147 | .669                   | .670                   | .784                | .6021               | .8463                 | 1.4484                | 3582                   | 3822  | 6022  | 1.68              |
|                                    | 30           | 34                            | 200      | 292 | .677                   | .679                   | .823                | .6021               | .8463                 | 1.4484                | 3582                   | 4002  | 6256  | 1.75              |

\*Since this parachute was "breathing" during the test, several photographs were taken at each speed. The data were reduced from the photograph which most reasonably appeared to represent the equilibrium state.

REPRODUCED FROM REFERENCE (7)