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AN EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF TRAILING-EDGE S--ETC(U)

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STRUCTURES NOTE 459

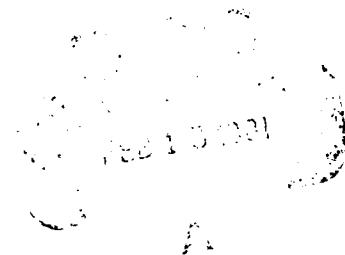
**AN EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION
OF THE EFFECTS OF TRAILING-EDGE STRIPS
ON THE UNSTEADY AERODYNAMIC FORCES ON TABS**

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by

G. LONG and P. A. FARRELL

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AN EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION
OF THE EFFECTS OF TRAILING-EDGE STRIPS
ON THE UNSTEADY AERODYNAMIC FORCES ON TABS

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by
G. LONG and P. A. FARRELL

SUMMARY

An investigation into the effect on unsteady aerodynamic forces of attaching trailing-edge strips to a control surface is described. Results from a brief series of two-dimensional wind-tunnel tests are compared with classical thin lifting surface calculations.

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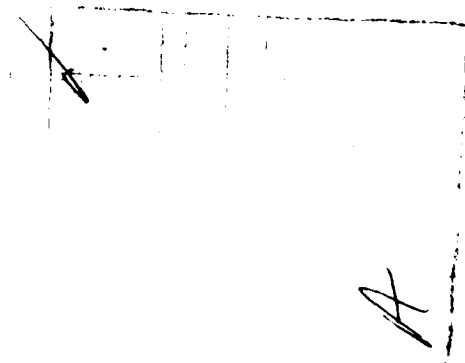
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16. **ABSTRACT**

An investigation into the effect on unsteady aerodynamic forces of attaching trailing-edge strips to a control surface is described. Results from a brief series of two-dimensional wind-tunnel tests are compared with classical thin lifting surface calculations.



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NOTATION

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| <i>L</i> | $\frac{1}{2}\rho v^2 l (Q_1' + ivQ_1'')be^{i\omega t}$ |
| <i>M</i> | $\frac{1}{2}\rho v^2 l^2 (Q_2' + ivQ_2'')be^{i\omega t}$ |
| <i>HM</i> | $\frac{1}{2}\rho v^2 l^2 (Q_3' + ivQ_3'')be^{i\omega t}$ |
| <i>L</i> | aerodynamic force on wing, positive upwards |
| <i>M</i> | aerodynamic moment about wing leading edge, positive nose down |
| <i>HM</i> | aerodynamic moment about control hinge line, positive nose down |
| ρ | air density |
| <i>v</i> | velocity of air |
| <i>l</i> | chord of wing |
| ν | frequency parameter $\omega l/v$ |
| ω | circular frequency of vibration |
| <i>t</i> | time |
| <i>b</i> | amplitude of control rotation, radians, positive tail down |
| $Q_1' Q_2' Q_3'$ | real parts of generalised forces |
| $Q_1'' Q_2'' Q_3''$ | imaginary parts of generalised forces |
| $\frac{1}{2}\rho v^2$ | factor used to non-dimensionalise measured pressures. |

1. INTRODUCTION

A fairly common problem on new aircraft is that of achieving good control surface effectiveness. Often boundary layer thickness and interference from other surfaces may cause flow separation on all or part of the control. This reduces control efficiency and can cause serious problems in achieving good control of aircraft response. These types of problems are difficult to predict analytically or from wind-tunnel tests. Usually the first evidence of such difficulties occurs during prototype flying and consequently serious efforts must be made to find a 'fix' which can be introduced fairly simply and cheaply at a late stage in the design. These 'fixes' often involve vortex generators, placed on or ahead of the control, or thickening of the trailing edge of the control. The latter may be simply achieved by attaching a small angle to one or both sides of the control along the trailing edge (see Fig. 1). The aim of these and other methods is to improve the effectiveness of the control and hopefully to increase this to its theoretical or design value.

While the effect of such modifications is fairly well known for steady flow, little evidence is available of the effect in unsteady flow. There are no theoretical methods of predicting unsteady aerodynamic forces on oscillating control surfaces which have vortex generators or trailing-edge angles attached as in Figure 1. Usually complete reliance is based on classical thin lifting surface theories for predicting flutter speeds and frequencies. In Reference 1 the user of such control surface 'fixes' is cautioned that they may have a very powerful effect on flutter properties. In Reference 2 details are given of a flutter incident involving a similar type of trailing-edge thickening device.

The work described was undertaken as a result of an accident to the Nomad aircraft (Ref. 3) in which flutter occurred as a result of fitting trailing-edge strips to the tailplane tabs. This flutter occurred at an unusually high value of frequency parameter (4.5 based on tailplane chord), and it was considered worthwhile to undertake an experimental investigation to determine the unsteady aerodynamic forces on the configuration used.

The results presented were obtained in a fairly short period of wind tunnel testing and were not as comprehensive as would normally be desired; however it is considered that the data should be of interest to flutter engineers as they provide an insight into the effects of trailing-edge strips on unsteady aerodynamic derivatives.

2. DESCRIPTION OF TESTS

2.1 Wind-tunnel Model

No attempt was made to construct a scale model of the tailplane. Instead a section of the full-scale tailplane was instrumented and mounted between large end plates 1.52 m apart in the ARL 9 - 7 wind-tunnel thus forming a two-dimensional test section (see Fig. 2). The tailplane, which is of symmetrical section (NACA 0015), was clamped rigidly by the end walls. The tab, which was attached with a standard piano-hinge, was rotated by means of push rods fitted at each end.

Pressure tappings were made on the section on both top and bottom surfaces at the locations given in Table 1. A drawing of the method of installing each tube is given in Figure 3. Each pressure tapping was connected by a 1.2 mm inside diameter tube to a 24 port acoustical scanning valve. This valve was used because its internal construction was such as to avoid all discontinuities or sharp corners. The valve was connected to a long length of tubing so that the single pressure transducer measured the pressure at one point of a pressure tube, which was effectively infinitely long (see Figure 4). In this way problems due to tube resonances were avoided. Each tube was individually calibrated at each frequency of oscillation by applying a known sinusoidal pressure at the inlet and comparing this with the outlet pressure. At the low velocities of the tests, errors due to the mean air flow velocity past the end of the tube are small (see Ref. 4).

The tab was oscillated by two electromagnetic shakers mounted outside the tunnel and connected by push rods to each end of the tab. Tab motion was monitored by an accelerometer and a velocity transducer at each end.

All the transducer signals were measured by means of a digital transfer function analyser which averaged the reading over 100 cycles of oscillation in order to reduce the effect of noise.

The major dimensions of the model are given in Table 3.

2.2 Test Procedure

The wind-tunnel speed was maintained constant at either 41.2 m/sec or 51.5 m/sec and the tab oscillated through approximately $\pm 1^\circ$. Four excitation frequencies were used: 5 Hz, 10 Hz, 20 Hz and 30 Hz. This resulted in a range of frequency parameters (based on model chord) of approximately 0.7 to 5.7.

Initial tests were conducted on the model without trailing-edge strips, then tests were performed with either 2.54 cm or 5.08 cm strips fitted. The effect of a mean tab deflection of approximately 1.27° was also investigated.

At each tunnel speed the tab was oscillated at constant amplitude and frequency, whilst the pressures were read individually by stepping the scanning valve from port to port. Only 24 surface pressures were measured in any one test.

The tab used on the model was a standard aircraft tab and the only modifications made to it were to provide transducer and pushrod mountings and to install pressure tappings. During oscillation the amplitudes of oscillation of each end of the tab were maintained equal and in-phase; however, some bending of the tab occurred which resulted in the centre of the tab having a greater amplitude than the ends. This effect varied with frequency as shown in Figure 5. Little difference in vibration mode shape occurred between the tests when the trailing-edge strips were on or off, the main effect being a gradual increase in the amount of tab bending with increase in frequency. Since the pressures were measured along the centre-line of the model it was considered desirable to use the centre-line amplitude of the tab as the controlling parameter when normalising the measured pressures. The appropriate scale factors, defining the ratio of centre-line amplitude to the mean amplitude of the ends, are given in Table 2.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 General

The pressures obtained were corrected for wind-tunnel blockage and non-dimensionalised with respect to the free-stream dynamic pressure. These pressure coefficients are plotted as modulus and phase angle against chordwise position. Both upper and lower surface pressures are plotted on each figure. In the phase angle graphs the phase angles of the upper surface pressures are changed π radians so that they can be directly compared with the lower surface values.

3.2 No T-strips Fitted

The pressure distributions, obtained when no T-strips were attached to the tab, are presented in Figures 6 and 7. Also shown in these figures are the theoretical values obtained using the method of Reference 5. In this method Possio's integral equation for two-dimensional unsteady flow has been solved using the doublet lattice technique. A total of 100 equal chord strips was used to calculate the pressures for each value of frequency.

In general the modulus of pressure, determined experimentally, is everywhere less than the theoretical value. The agreement between experimental and theoretical phase angles is good on the main surface but poor near the trailing-edge of the tab where the pressures are tending to zero. The experimental and theoretical data exhibit similar behaviour as frequency parameter is increased.

3.3 Tab with 2.54 cm T-strips

In Figures 8 and 9 the pressure distributions for the tab with T-strips are presented for three values of frequency parameter ν (written as NU in the figures). When these results are compared with those obtained without T-strips the most striking differences are the increased values of pressure obtained on the tab and the very large change in phase angle. Whereas in Figure 6 (no T-strips) the pressure at the trailing-edge falls to zero, in Figures 8 and 9 a finite pressure occurs. The phase response on the tab, which varies from approximately zero at the hinge to $\pi/2$ at the trailing-edge, when no strips are fitted, is approximately constant over the tab when strips are used. Over the fixed portion of the surface the modulus of the pressure increases slightly when T-strips are fitted and the phase angle decreases.

3.4 Tab with 5.08 cm T-strips

The pressure distributions, obtained for this configuration, are plotted in Figures 10 to 12 for the five values of frequency parameter used. These data are similar to those presented in Figures 8 and 9 for the 2.54 cm T-strips and indicate slight increases in the magnitude of the pressures but almost exactly the same phase response.

The net effect of the T-strips on the control surface derivatives, obtained by integrating the measured pressure distributions, is shown in Table 4A. In this table, the lift, moment about the leading edge and control hinge-moment are tabulated as modulus and phase angle and also as real and imaginary parts, for each value of frequency parameter.

3.5 Effect of Mean Tab Deflection

In order to determine the effect of a mean tab deflection on the oscillatory pressures the tab mean position was adjusted so that, at the operating speed, the tab mean incidence was 1.27 degrees. The results of these tests, for oscillations of the tab fitted with the 5.08 cm T-strips, are presented in Figures 13 and 14 for three values of frequency parameter. There are no significant differences in character between these results and those in Figures 10 to 12 for the control with no mean deflection, although there is evidence that the top and bottom surface pressures are no longer equal.

The forces and moments, obtained by integrating these pressures (see Table 4B), are compared with the data from the tests with no mean tab deflection in Figures 18 to 20. Inspection of these figures reveals that the major difference in the results is in the phase angle of response. In all instances the phase angles obtained with the control deflected are closer to the theoretical values than the no-deflection data.

3.6 Discussion

The theoretical and experimental pressure distributions for the tab without T-strips are compared in Figures 6 and 7. These show that the theory overestimates the pressures due to control rotation by approximately 50%. This is to be expected for a thick aerofoil and a small control surface, since the boundary layer is thickest in the region of the trailing-edge and this reduces the effectiveness of the control. The degree of agreement between the experimental and theoretical data compares favourably with results of other experiments (see Ref. 6).

In Figures 15 to 17 the data of Table 4A are plotted and compared with theoretical derivatives obtained from Reference 5. In Figure 14 the modulus and phase of the lift due to control rotation are shown. When no T-strips are fitted the measured lifts are approximately 70% of the theoretical values, whereas the measured phase angles are in closer agreement with the theory. When T-strips are fitted the magnitude of the lift increases to exceed the theoretical values for most frequency parameters investigated, but the phase angle decreases substantially. The forces generated by the larger T-strips are only slightly greater than those due to the small strips; however the change in phase angle is not significantly affected by T-strip size.

The moment about the leading edge due to control rotation is presented in Figure 16. Again the magnitudes of the experimental data are approximately 70% of the theoretical values, but there is much closer agreement between the phase angles. When T-strips are fitted the magnitude of the moment increases substantially and the phase angle decreases.

As in Figure 15 the differences between small and large T-strips are more pronounced on the magnitude of the moment than on the phase angle.

In Figure 17 the control surface hinge moments both theoretical and experimental, are compared. In this instance the effects of T-strips are more pronounced. The "no-strip" experimental data vary from 45% to 63% of the theoretical values and are as little as one sixth of the 5.08 cm T-strip data. Again the theoretical phase angles compare reasonably well with the no-T-strip experimental data, but differ significantly from the T-strip-fitted data. For the latter data the difference between theoretical and experimental phase angles increases with increase in size of the T-strips.

Only one value of mean tab deflection was investigated and the results of this test, presented in Figures 18 to 20, indicate that the major influence of tab deflection is on phase angle of response. There is however some indication in Figures 13 and 14 that the pressures on top and bottom surfaces, especially on the control, are no longer equal.

4. CONCLUSIONS

1. The addition of T-strips to a control surface significantly increases the pressures on the control and creates a step change in pressure at the trailing-edge. There is a significant increase in control hinge moment and a large change in the phase angle of response.
2. The lift and pitching moment about the leading edge, due to control rotation, are both increased by the addition of T-strips to the trailing edge; however the phase angle of response is decreased.
3. The larger T-strips in general, increased the magnitude of all the derivatives, more than the small strips.
4. A mean tab deflection of 1.27 degrees had a small effect on the derivatives, although it created a significant difference between the upper and lower surface pressures.

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5. Farrell, P. A. A fortran program to calculate two-dimensional, subsonic oscillatory aerodynamic forces, based on doublet lines. *ARL Memo* to be published.
6. Tijdeman, H. and Bergh, H. Analysis of pressure distributions on a wing with oscillating control surface in two-dimensional high subsonic and transonic flow. *NLR TR* F253, 1969.

TABLE 1**Locations of Pressure Tubes on Model**

| Tube Positions % Chord from Leading Edge | |
|---|---------------|
| Upper Surface | Lower Surface |
| 0.042 | 0.082 |
| 0.115 | 0.175 |
| 0.24 | 0.319 |
| 0.388 | 0.481 |
| 0.551 | 0.654 |
| 0.69 | 0.768 |
| 0.798 | 0.835 |
| 0.842 | 0.888 |
| 0.887 | 0.915 |
| 0.911 | 0.948 |
| 0.946 | 0.982 |
| 0.983 | |

TABLE 2**Amplitude Ratios Used to Normalise
Test Data**

| Frequency | Amplitude Ratio |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 5 Hz | 1.0 |
| 10 Hz | 1.04 |
| 20 Hz | 1.21 |
| 30 Hz | 1.40 |

TABLE 3**Major Dimensions of Model**

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|---------|
| Chord | 52 inches | 1.32 m |
| Tab Chord | 7 inches | 0.178 m |
| Span | 59.8 inches | 1.52 m |
| Aerofoil Section | NACA 0015 | |

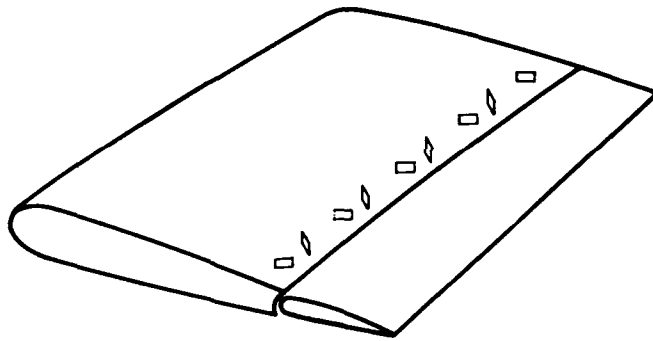
TABLE 4A
 Summary of Experimental Derivatives
 (No Control Deflection)

| | $\nu \approx 0.75$ | | $\nu \approx 1.6$ | | $\nu \approx 3.1$ | | $\nu \approx 4.8$ | | $\nu \approx 5.7$ | |
|----------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | T-strips | | T-strips | | T-strips | | T-strips | | T-strips | |
| | 5.08 cm | No Strips | 2.54 cm | 5.08 cm | 2.54 cm | 5.08 cm | 2.54 cm | 5.08 cm | 2.54 cm | 5.08 cm |
| Q_1' | 2.030 | 1.072 | 1.922 | 2.164 | 1.082 | 1.958 | 1.216 | 2.114 | 1.370 | 2.086 |
| Q_2' | 1.091 | 0.580 | 1.150 | 1.270 | 0.608 | 1.215 | 0.688 | 1.318 | 0.753 | 1.262 |
| Q_3' | 0.033 | 0.006 | 0.034 | 0.041 | 0.006 | 0.030 | 0.006 | 0.028 | 0.006 | 0.032 |
| Q_1'' | -0.917 | 0.032 | 0.268 | 0.283 | 0.092 | -0.024 | 0.109 | 0.048 | 0.141 | 0.104 |
| Q_2'' | -0.200 | 0.063 | 0.018 | 0.026 | 0.092 | 0.036 | 0.102 | 0.066 | 0.118 | 0.106 |
| Q_3'' | 0.002 | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.004 | 0.002 | 0.004 | 0.003 |
| Q_{11} | 2.138 | 1.074 | 1.970 | 2.208 | 1.118 | 1.708 | 1.326 | 1.786 | 1.606 | 2.174 |
| Q_2 | 1.101 | 0.588 | 1.150 | 1.270 | 0.672 | 1.072 | 0.844 | 1.168 | 1.024 | 1.408 |
| Q_3 | 0.033 | 0.008 | 0.034 | 0.042 | 0.012 | 0.030 | 0.018 | 0.030 | 0.024 | 0.036 |
| $/Q_1$ | 0.318 | 0.048 | -0.220 | -0.200 | 0.258 | -0.044 | 0.410 | 0.129 | 0.082 | 0.286 |
| $/Q_2$ | -0.133 | 0.175 | -0.025 | -0.033 | 0.439 | 0.104 | 0.618 | 0.275 | 0.222 | 0.460 |
| $/Q_3$ | -0.042 | 0.675 | 0.131 | 0.073 | 1.025 | 0.204 | 1.216 | 0.419 | 1.318 | 0.505 |

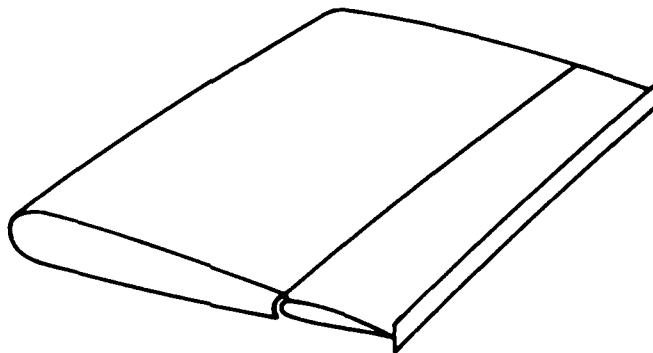
TABLE 4B

Summary of Experimental Derivatives
(Control Deflected)

| | $\nu \approx 1.6$ | $\nu \approx 3.1$ | $\nu \approx 4.6$ |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Q_1' | 1.984 | 1.888 | 2.120 |
| Q_2' | 1.218 | 1.180 | 1.344 |
| Q_3' | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 |
| Q_1'' | -0.234 | 0.018 | 0.090 |
| Q_2'' | 0.034 | 0.086 | 0.102 |
| Q_3'' | 0.046 | 0.004 | 0.004 |
| $ Q_1 $ | 2.016 | 1.890 | 2.160 |
| $ Q_2 $ | 1.220 | 1.209 | 1.424 |
| $ Q_3 $ | 0.037 | 0.034 | 0.038 |
| $\angle Q_1$ | -0.178 | 0.031 | 0.193 |
| $\angle Q_2$ | 0.044 | 0.221 | 0.339 |
| $\angle Q_3$ | 0.220 | 0.363 | 0.537 |



Vortex generators at leading edge of control



T-strips at trailing edge of control

FIG. 1: EXAMPLES OF TECHNIQUES USED TO IMPROVE CONTROL EFFECTIVENESS

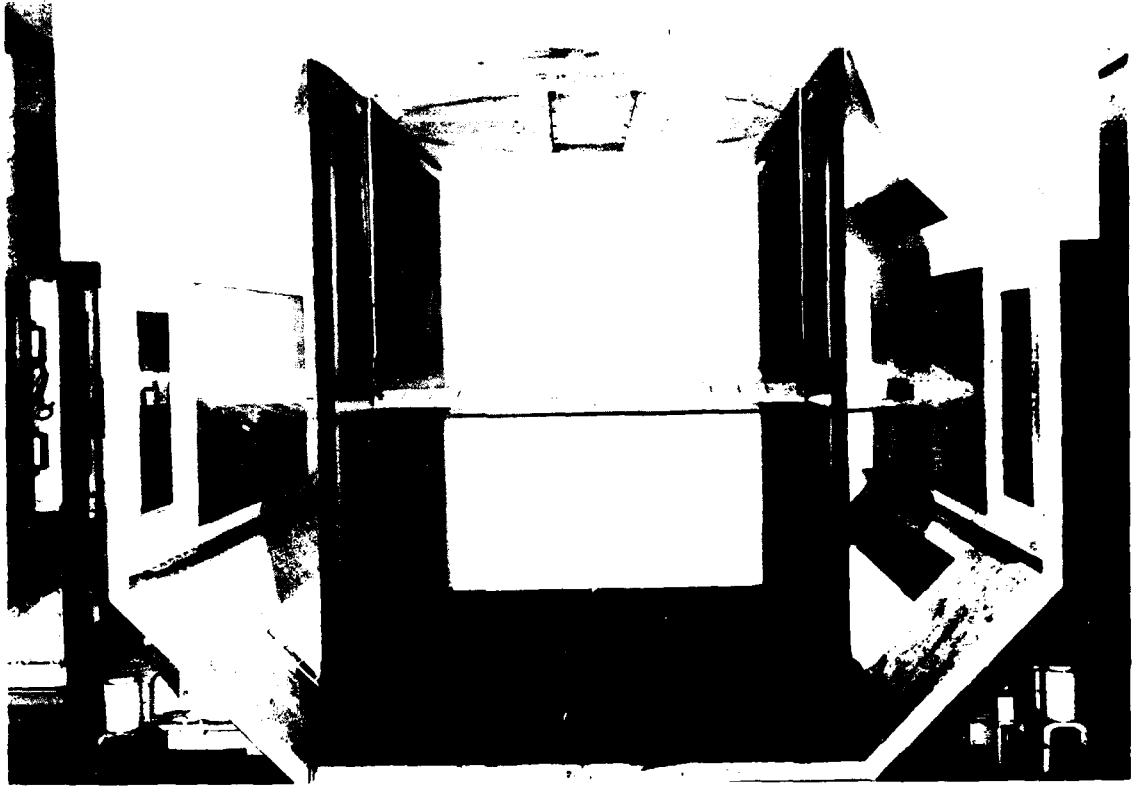


FIG. 2: WIND TUNNEL MODEL MOUNTED IN WORKING SECTION OF TUNNEL

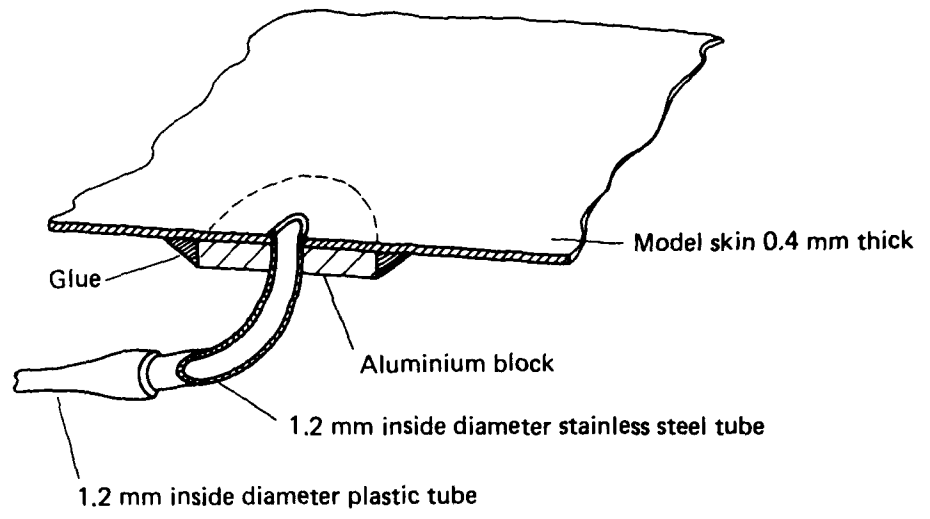


FIG. 3: METHOD OF INSTALLING PRESSURE TAPPING IN MODEL SKIN

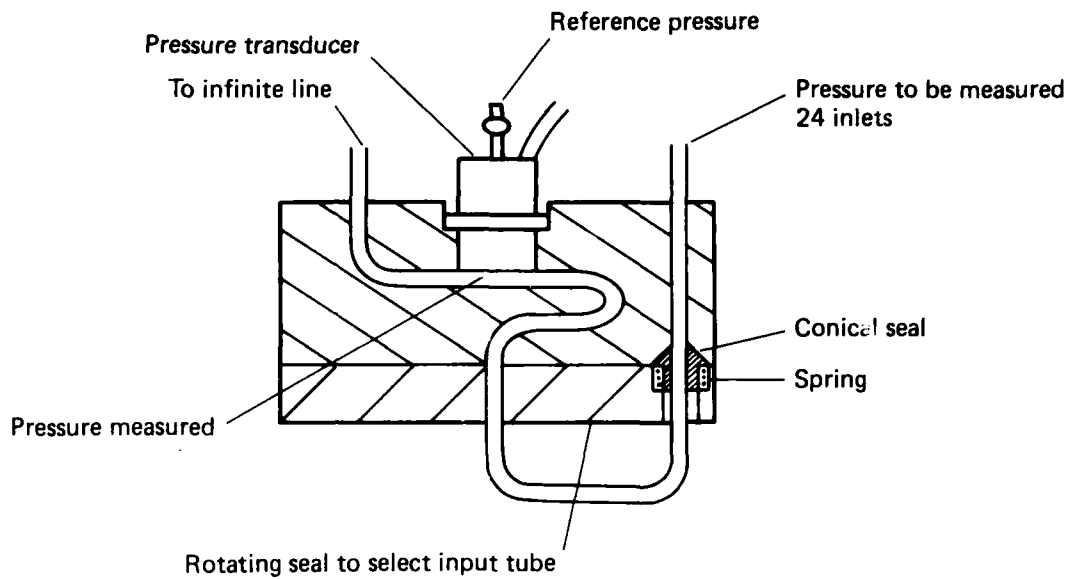


FIG. 4: DETAIL OF SCANI-VALVE SYSTEM

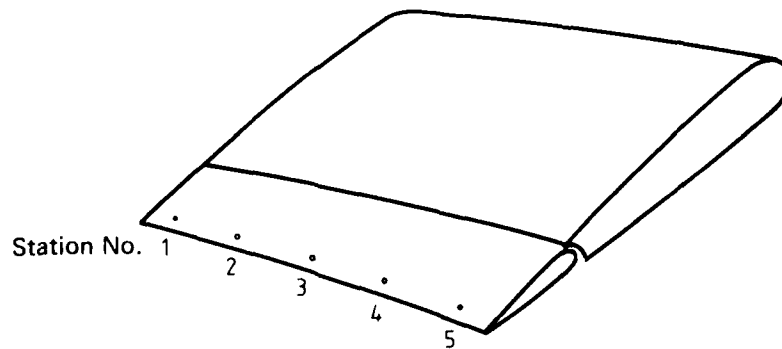
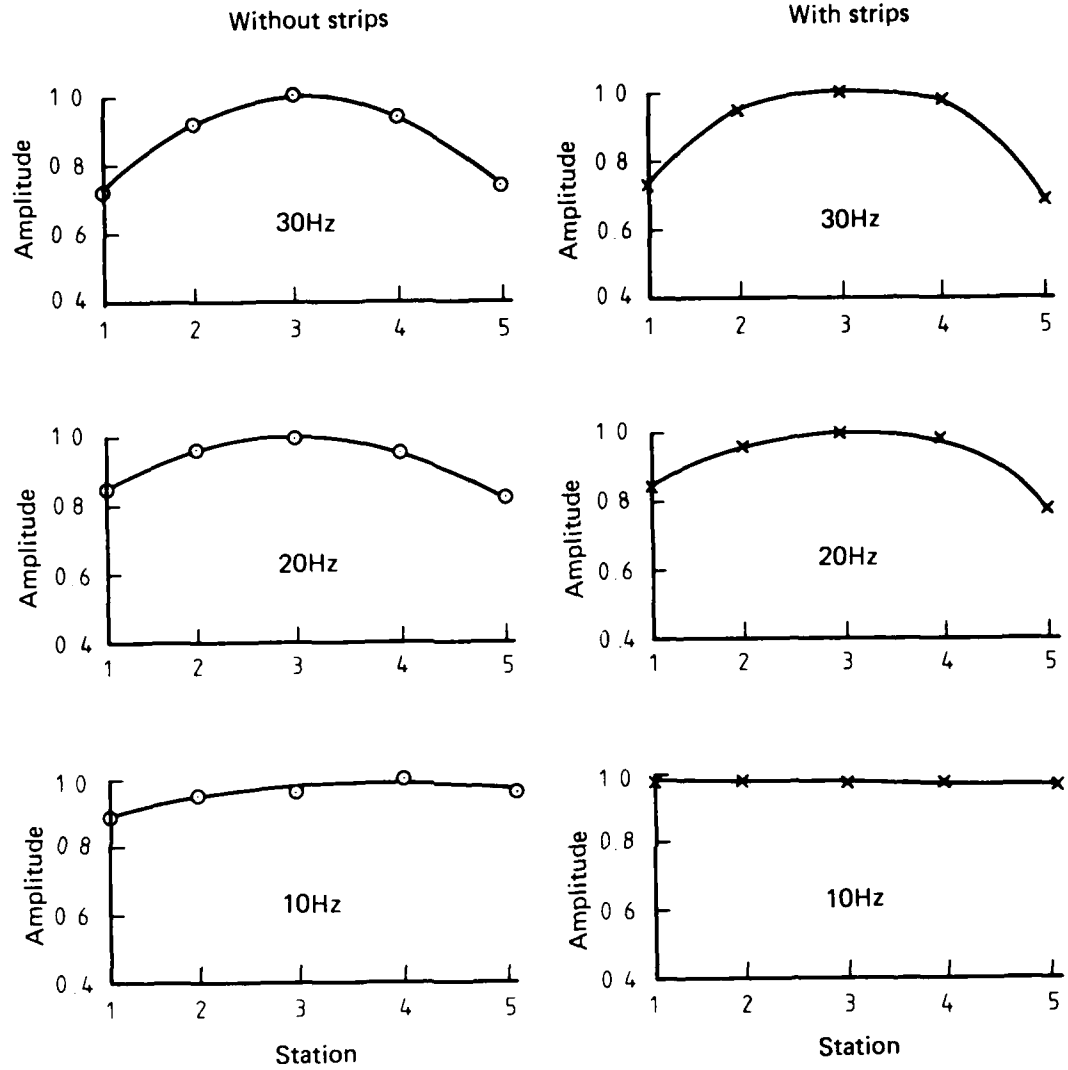


FIG. 5: VIBRATION MODE SHAPES OF TABS AT 10, 20, 30Hz

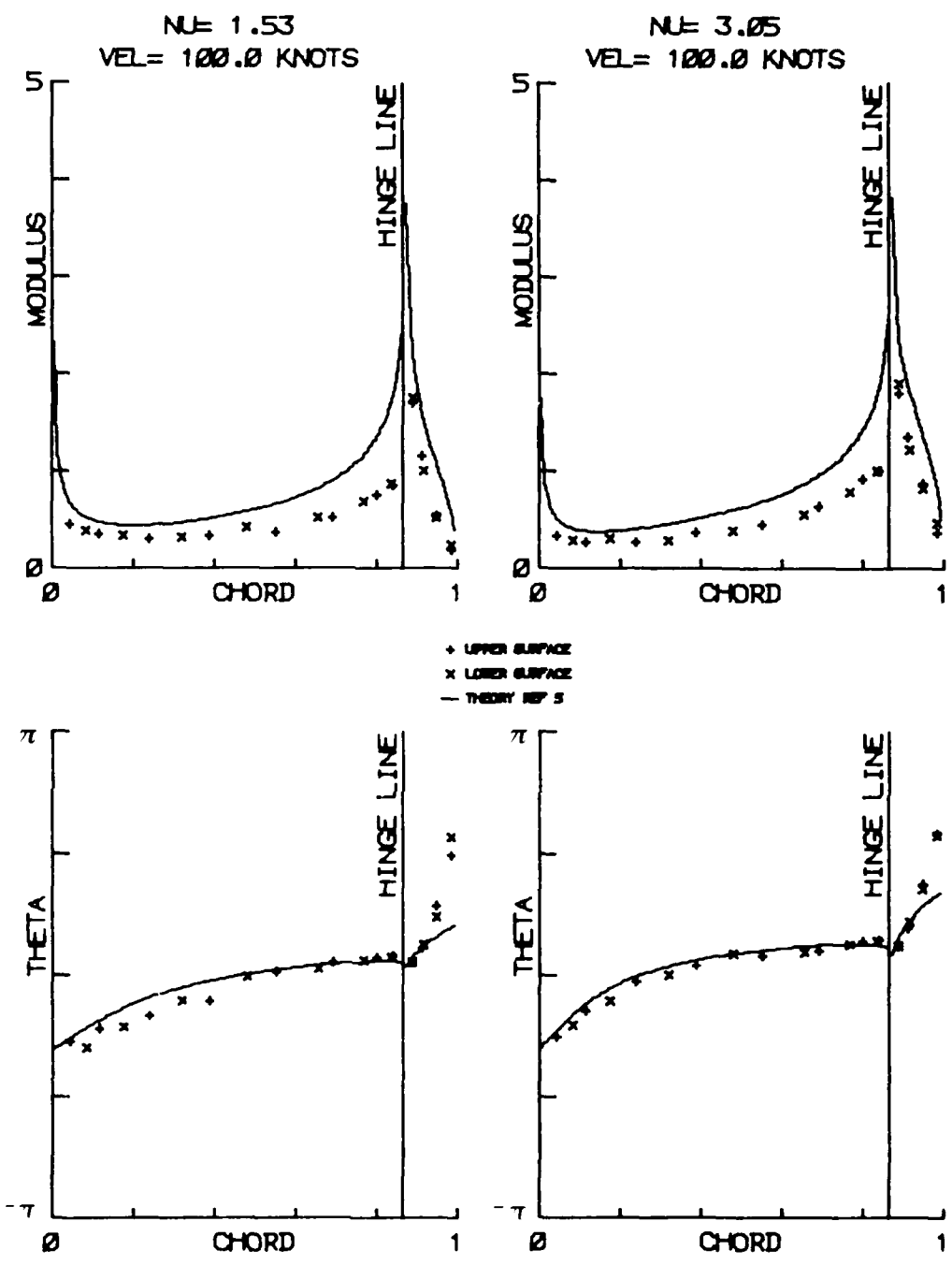


FIG. 6: CHORDWISE VARIATION OF PRESSURE (MODULUS AND PHASE ANGLE)
 NO CONTROL DEFLECTION NO T-STRIPS

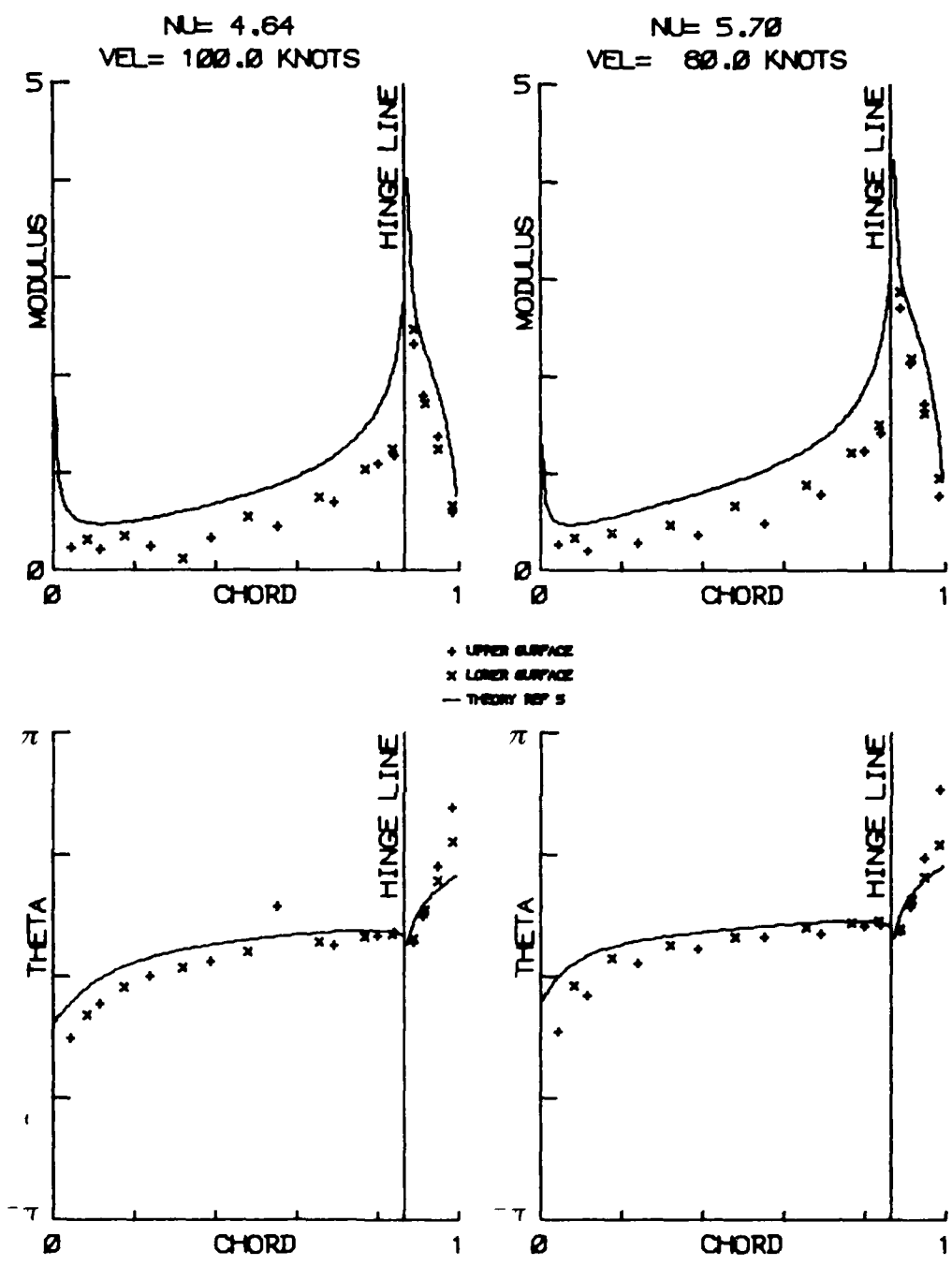


FIG. 7: CHORDWISE VARIATION OF PRESSURE (MODULUS AND PHASE ANGLE) NO CONTROL DEFLECTION NO T-STRIPS

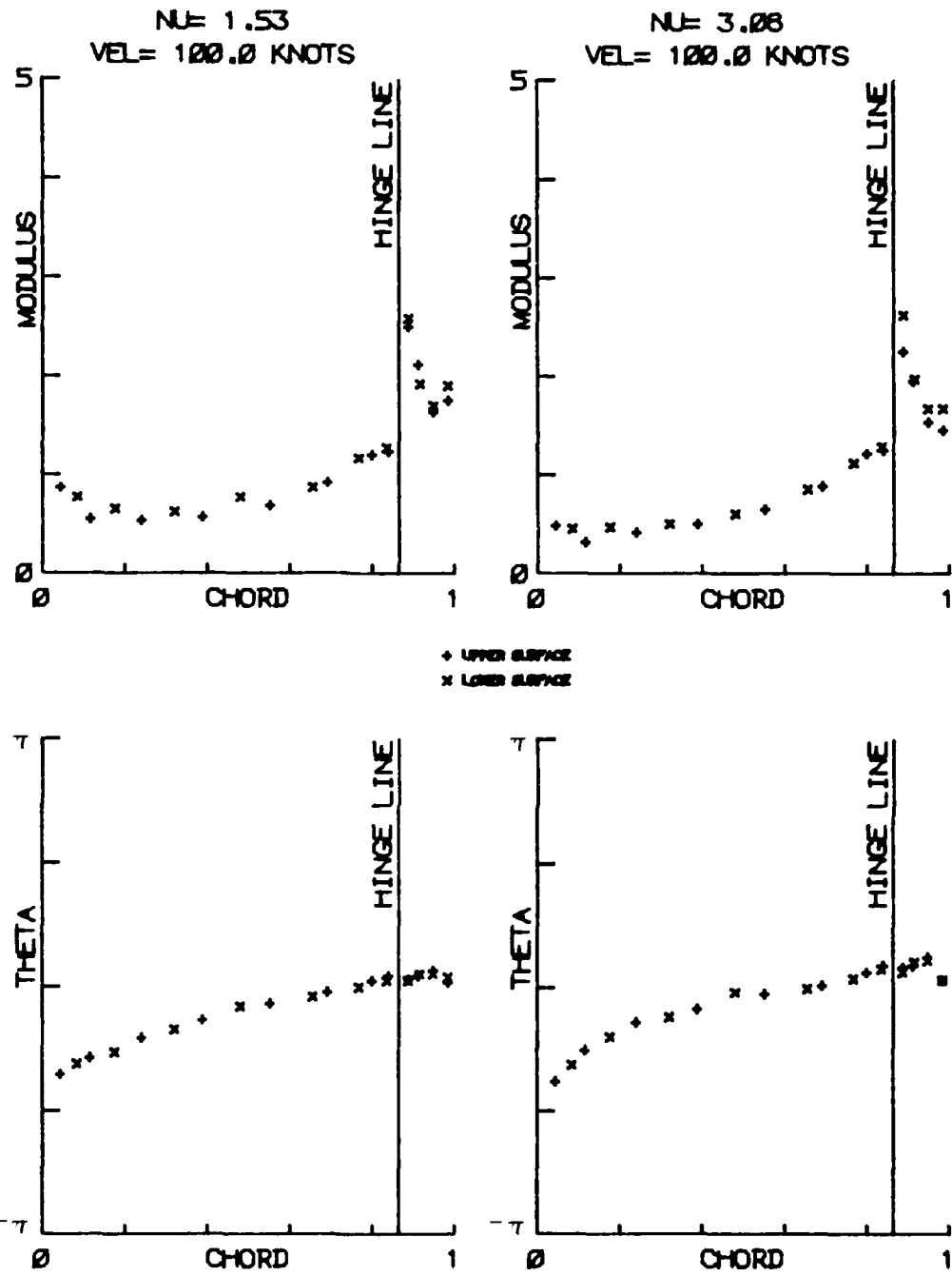


FIG. 8: CHORDWISE VARIATION OF PRESSURE (MODULUS AND PHASE ANGLE) NO CONTROL DEFLECTION 2.54CM T-STRIPS

NU = 4.61
VEL = 100.0 KNOTS

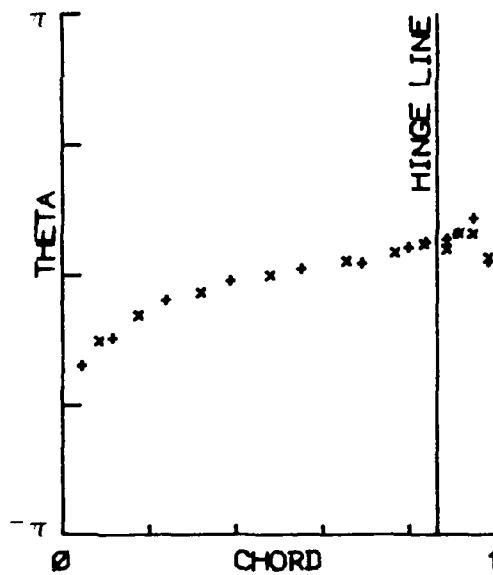
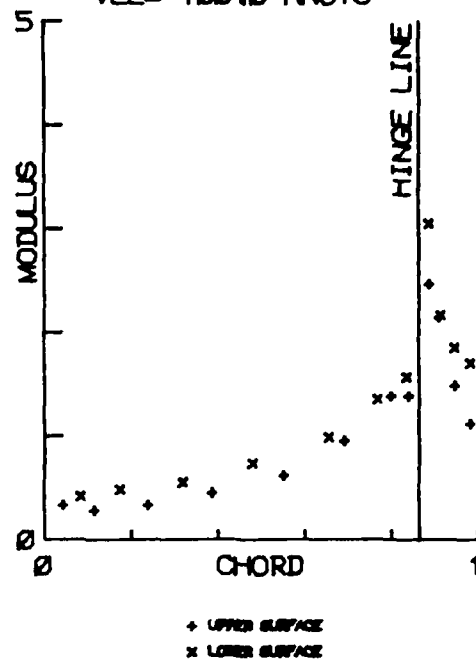


FIG. 9: CHORDWISE VARIATION OF PRESSURE (MODULUS AND PHASE ANGLE)
NO CONTROL DEFLECTION 2.54CM T-STRIPS

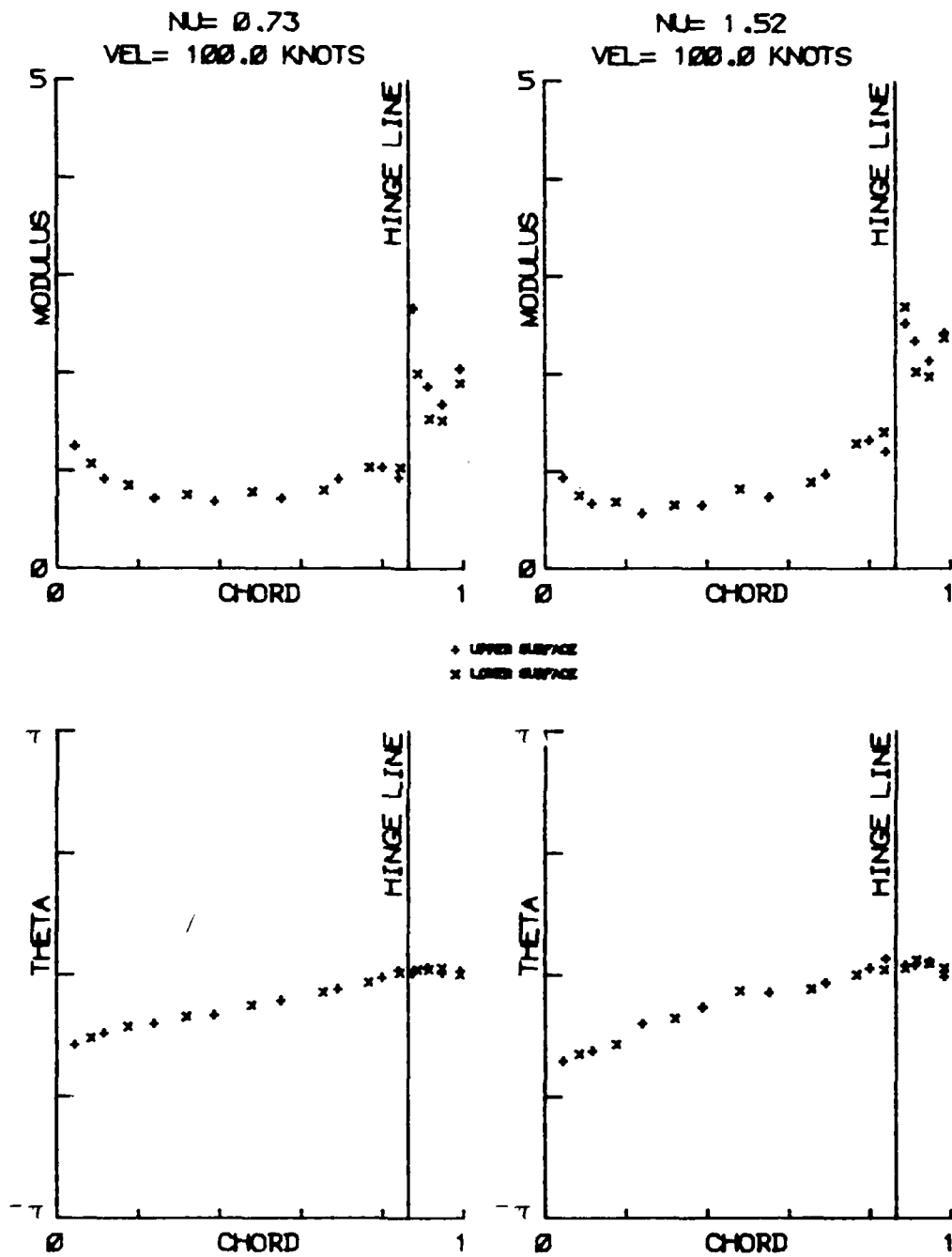


FIG. 10: CHORDWISE VARIATION OF PRESSURE (MODULUS AND PHASE ANGLE)
 NO CONTROL DEFLECTION 5.08CM T-STRIPS

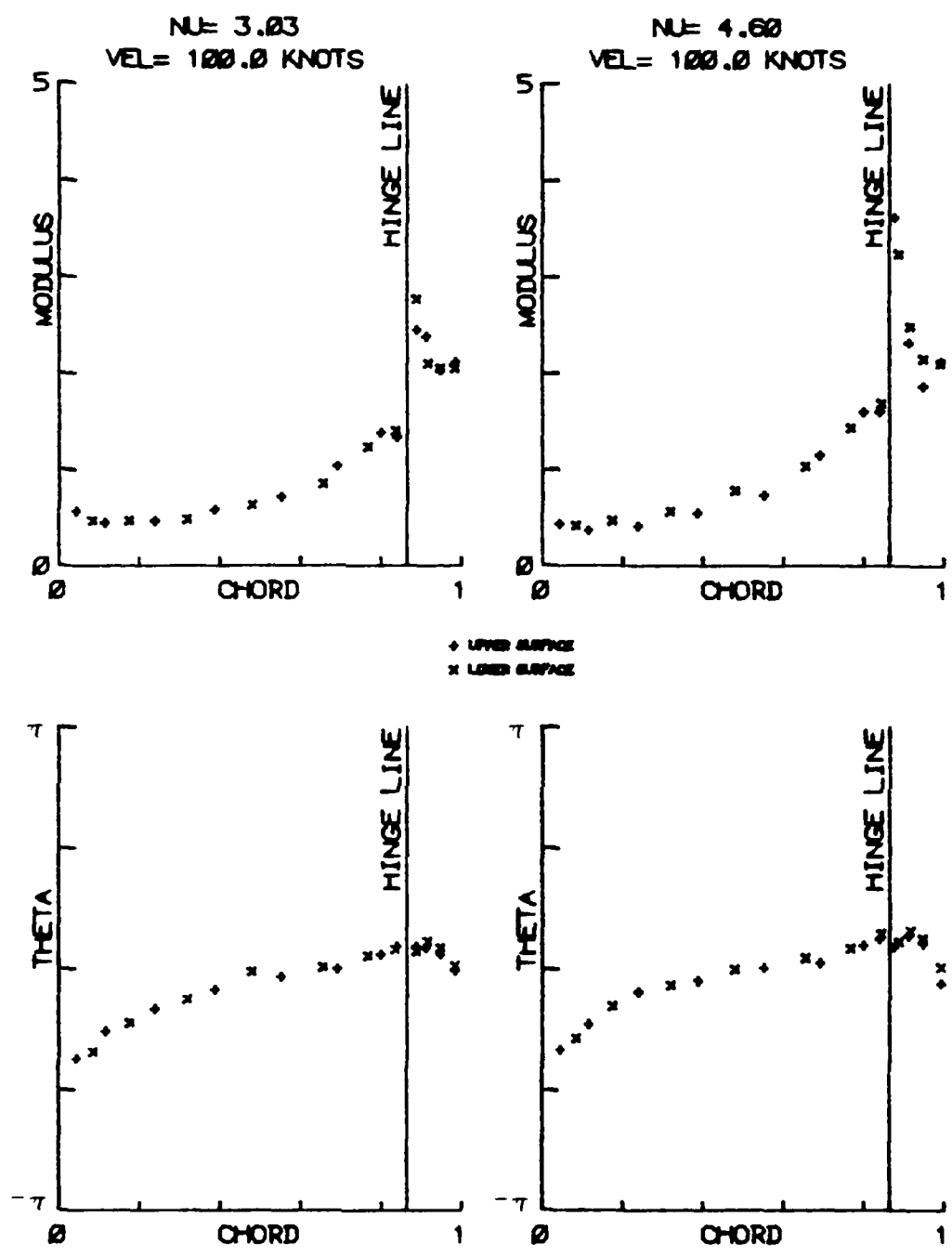


FIG. 11: CHORDWISE VARIATION OF PRESSURE (MODULUS AND PHASE ANGLE)
 NO CONTROL DEFLECTION 5.08CM T-STRIPS

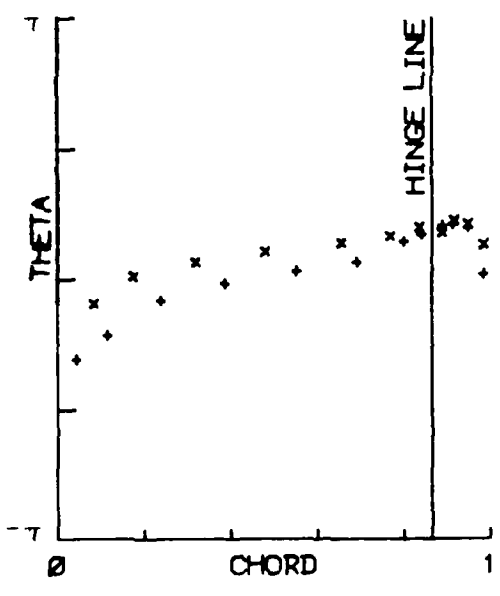
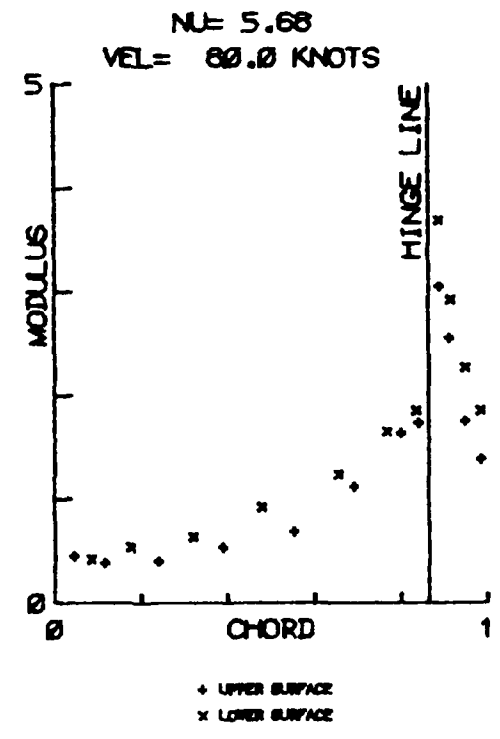


FIG. 12: CHORDWISE VARIATION OF PRESSURE (MODULUS AND PHASE ANGLE)
 NO CONTROL DEFLECTION 5.08CM T-STRIPS

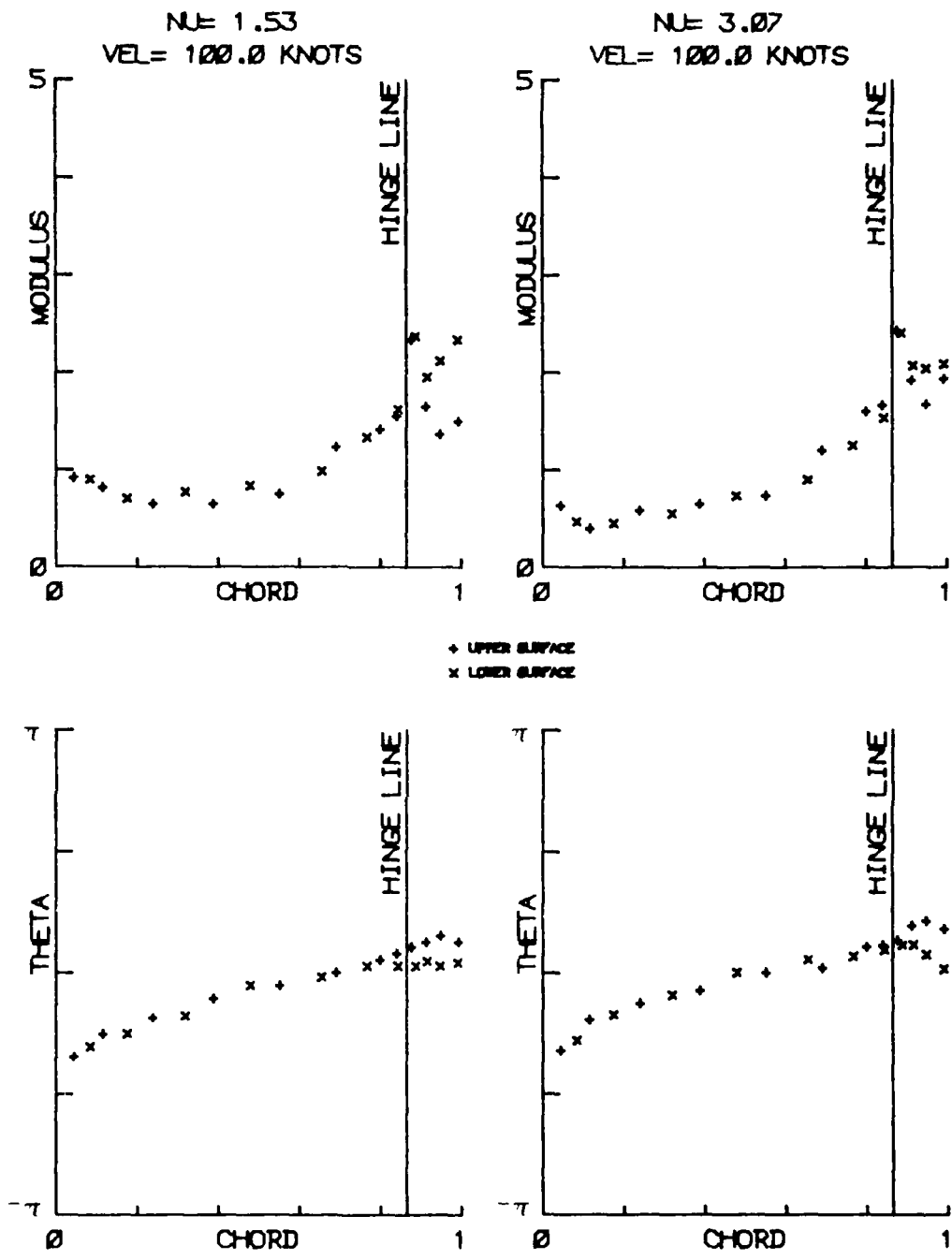


FIG. 13: CHORDWISE VARIATION OF PRESSURE (MODULUS AND PHASE ANGLE)
 CONTROL DEFLECTED 5.08CM T-STRIPS

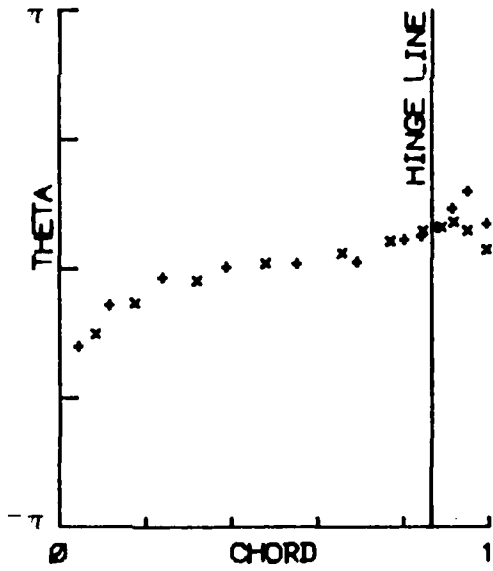
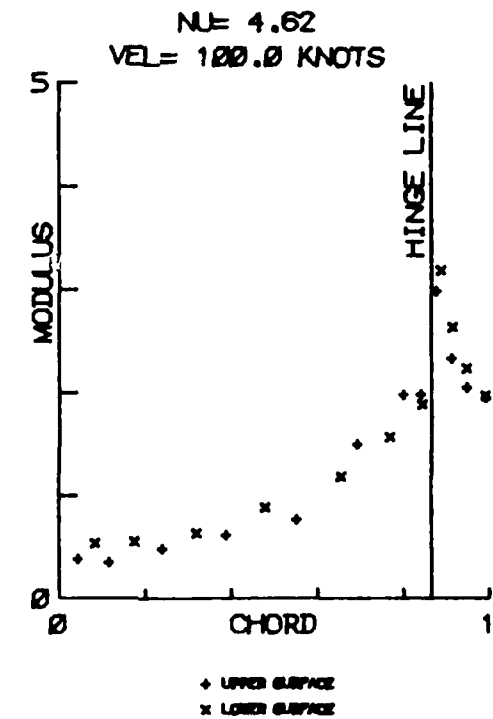


FIG. 14: CHORDWISE VARIATION OF PRESSURE (MODULUS AND PHASE ANGLE)
 CONTROL DEFLECTED 5.08CM T-STRIPS

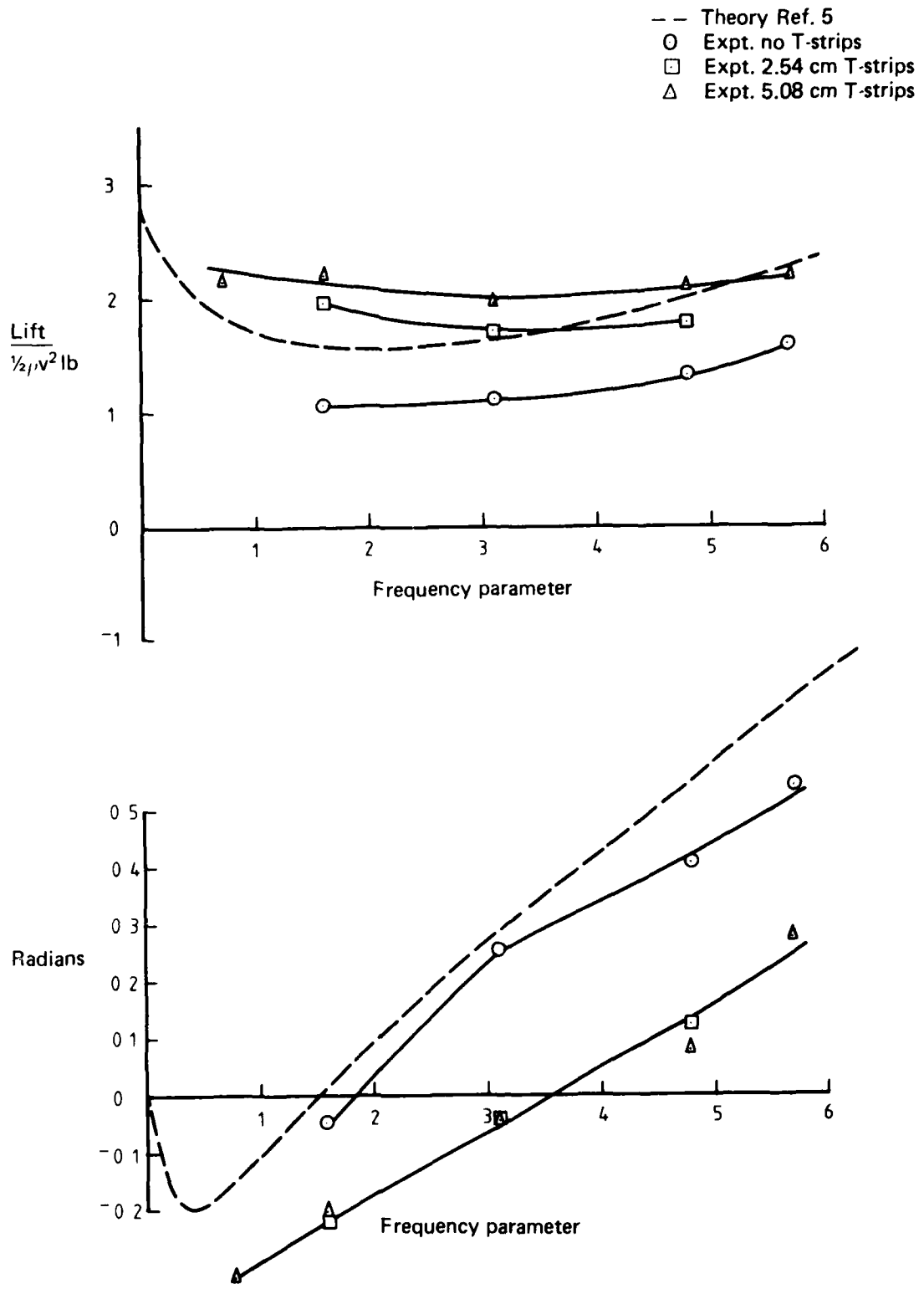


FIG. 15: COMPARISON OF THEORETICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL DERIVATIVES (Lift due to control rotation)

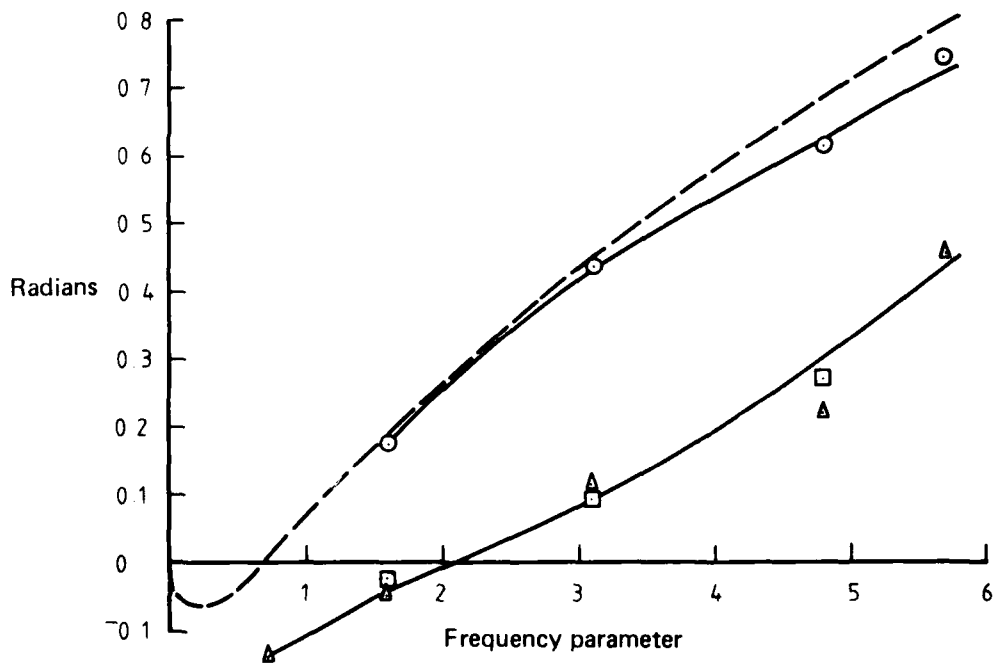
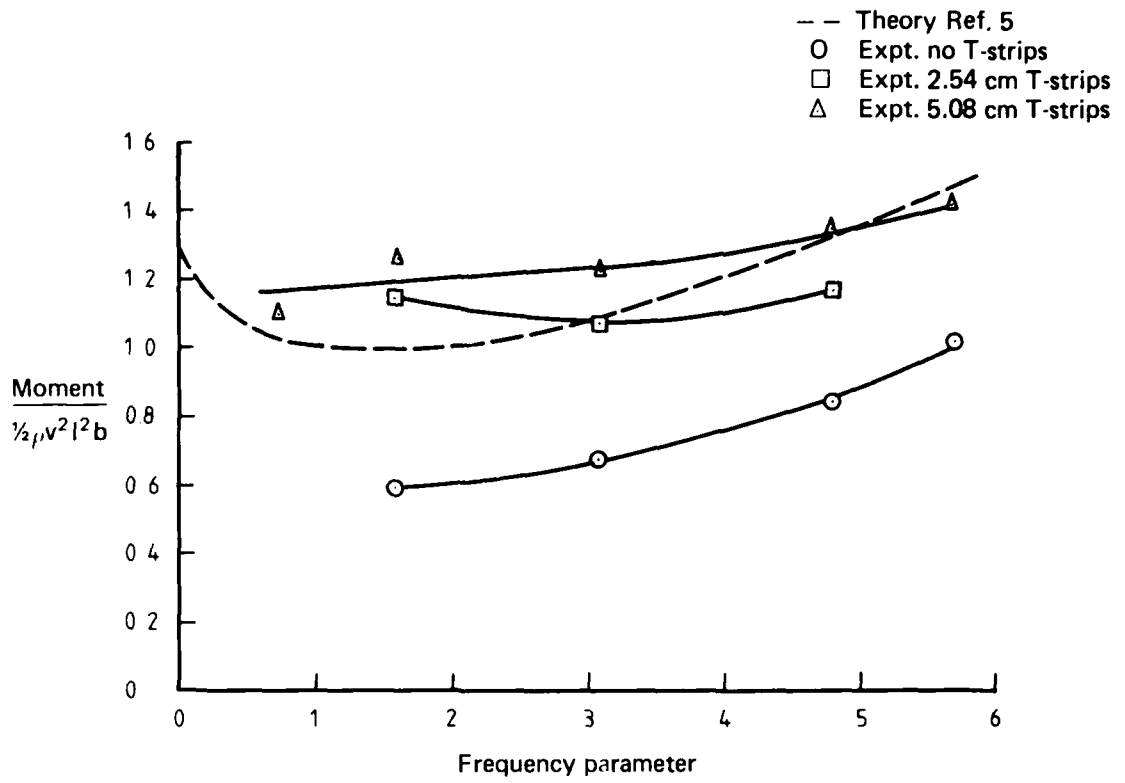


FIG. 16: COMPARISON OF THEORETICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL DERIVATIVES
(Moment about leading edge due to control rotation)

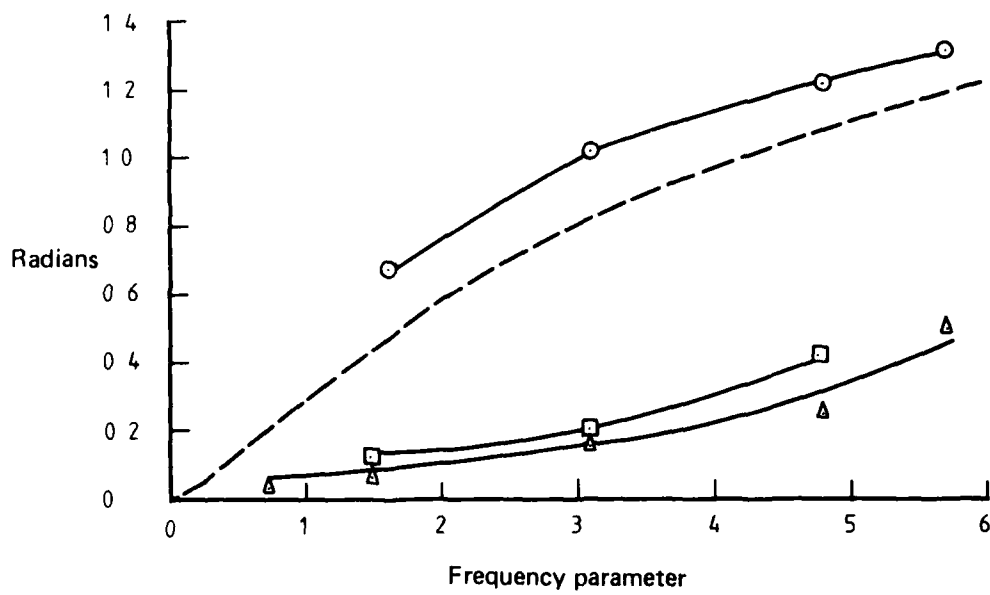
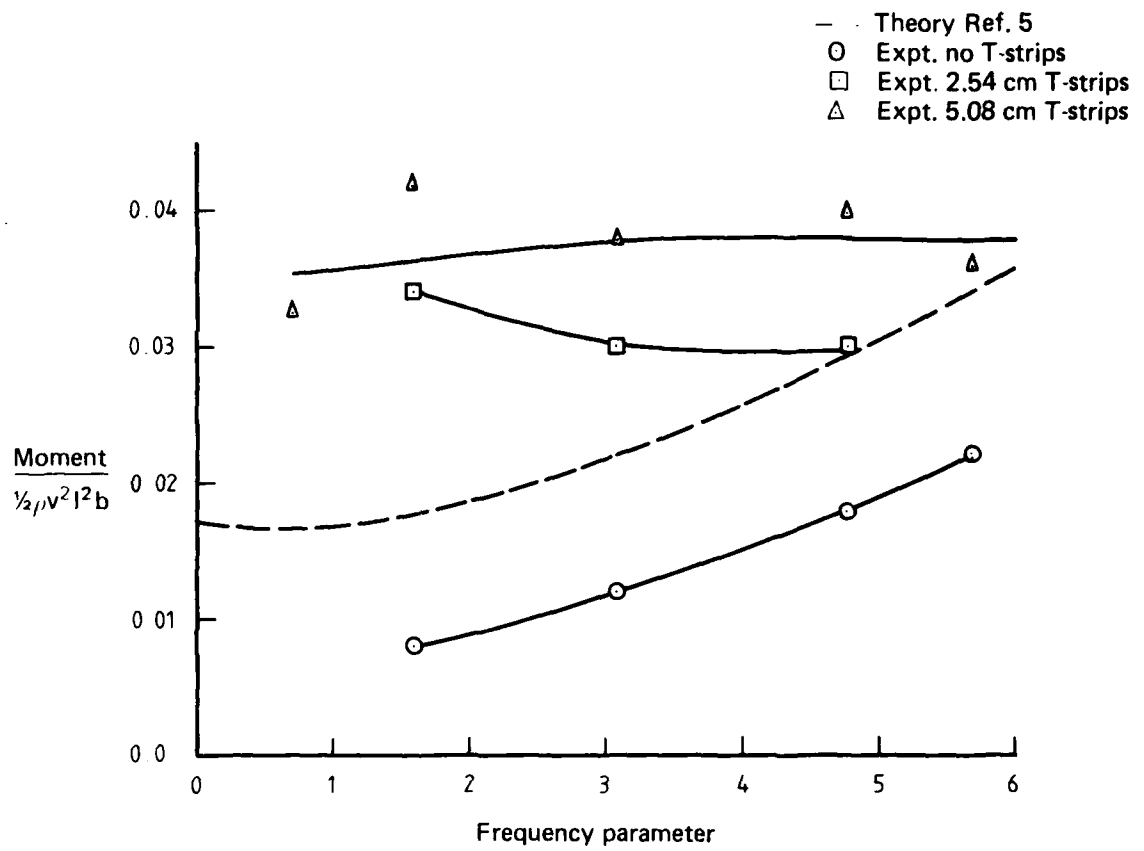


FIG. 17: COMPARISON OF THEORETICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL DERIVATIVES
 (Hinge moment due to control rotation)

Δ Expt. zero control deflection
 \circ Expt. 1.27° control deflection

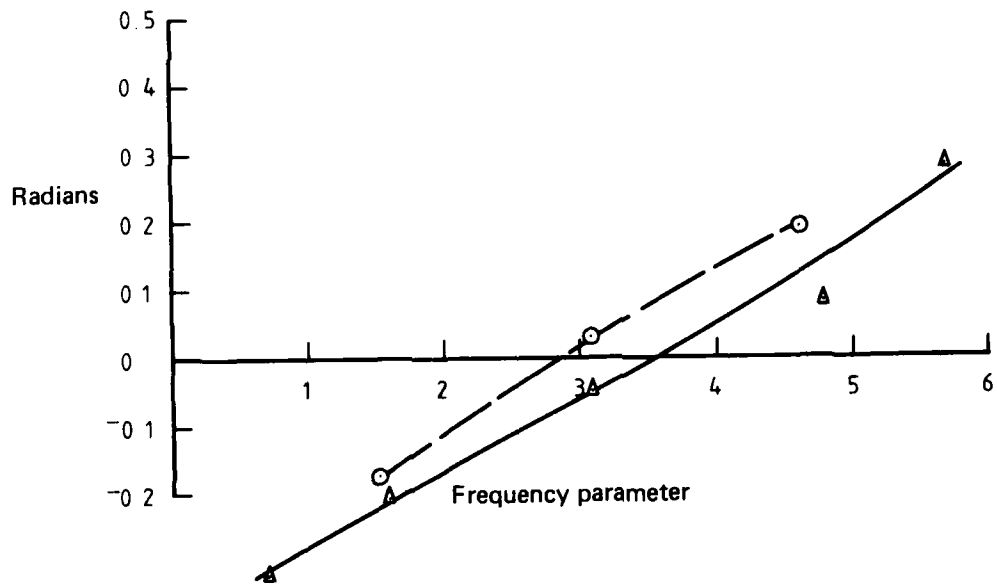
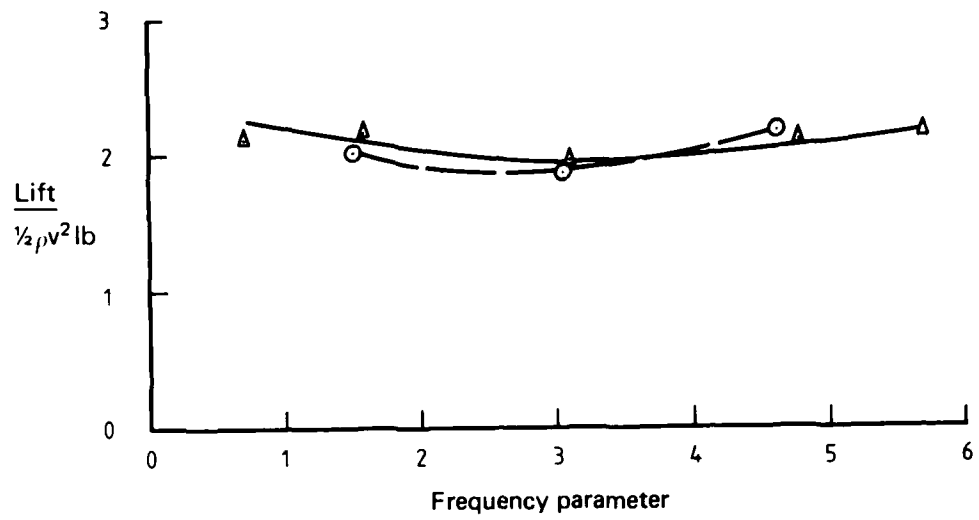


FIG. 18: EFFECT OF MEAN CONTROL DEFLECTION ON LIFT DUE TO CONTROL ROTATION (5.08CM T-STRIPS)

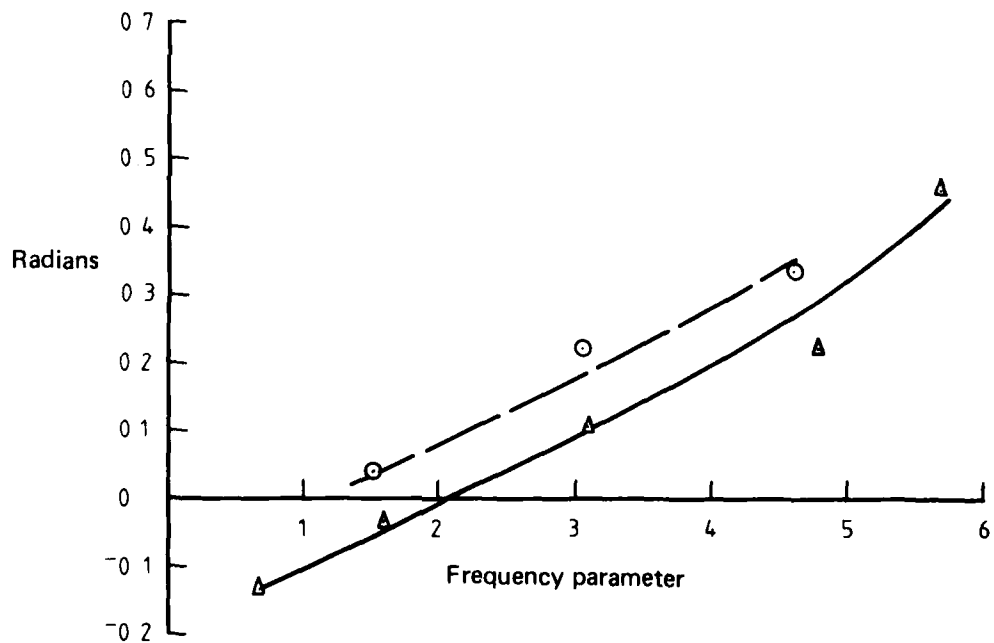
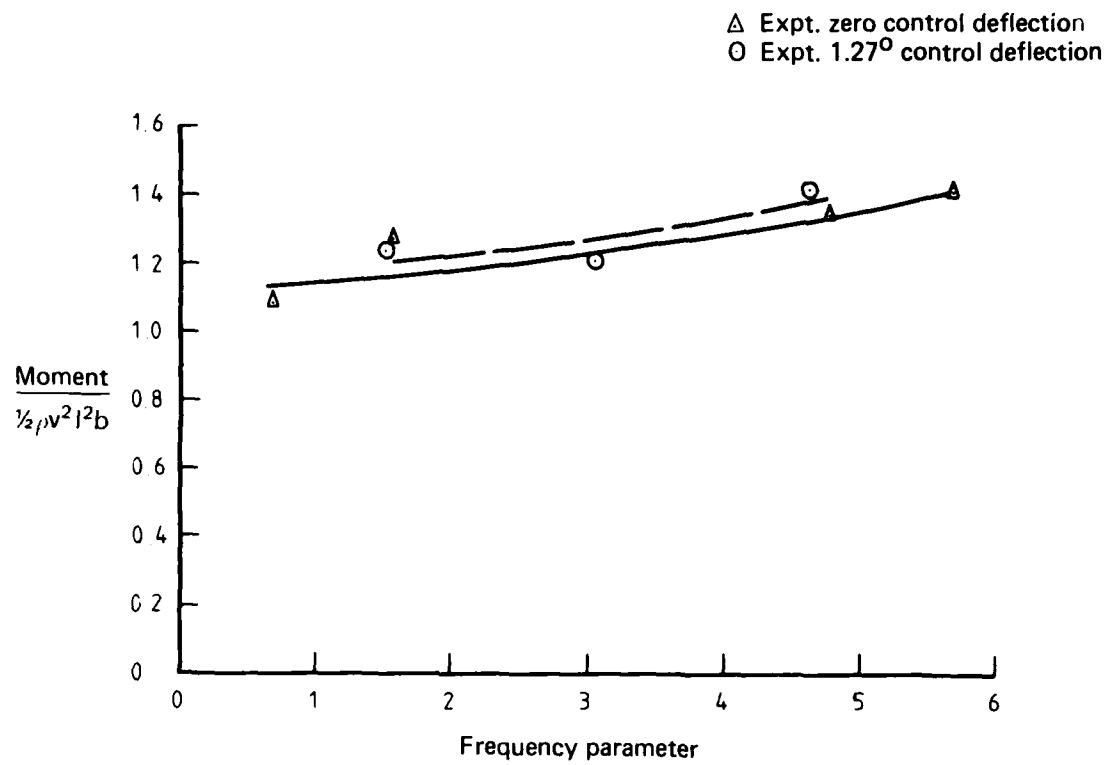


FIG. 19: EFFECT OF MEAN CONTROL DEFLECTION ON MOMENT ABOUT LEADING EDGE DUE TO CONTROL ROTATION (5.08CM T-STRIPS)

Δ Expt. zero control deflection
 \circ Expt. 1.27^u control deflection

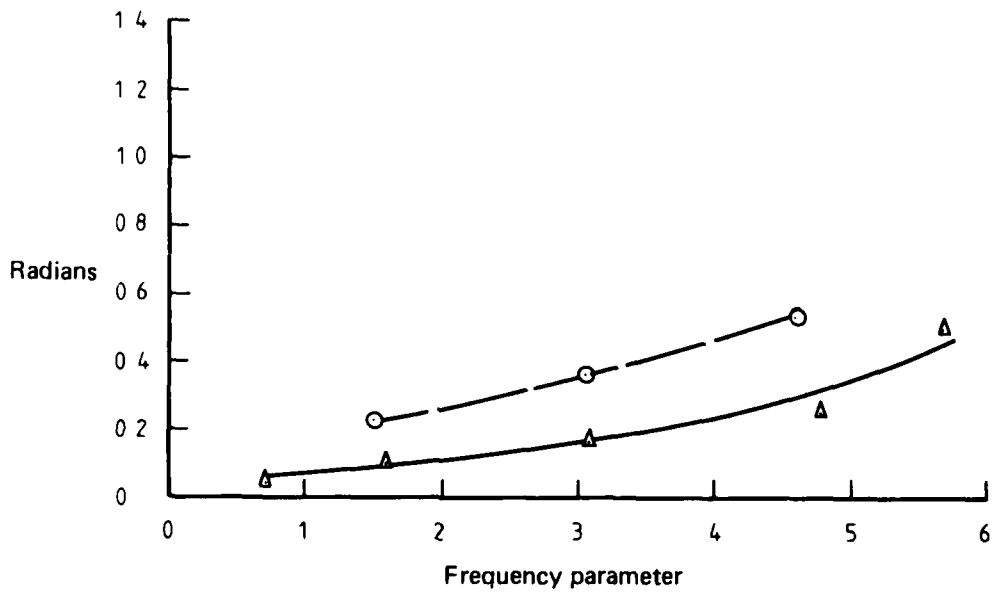
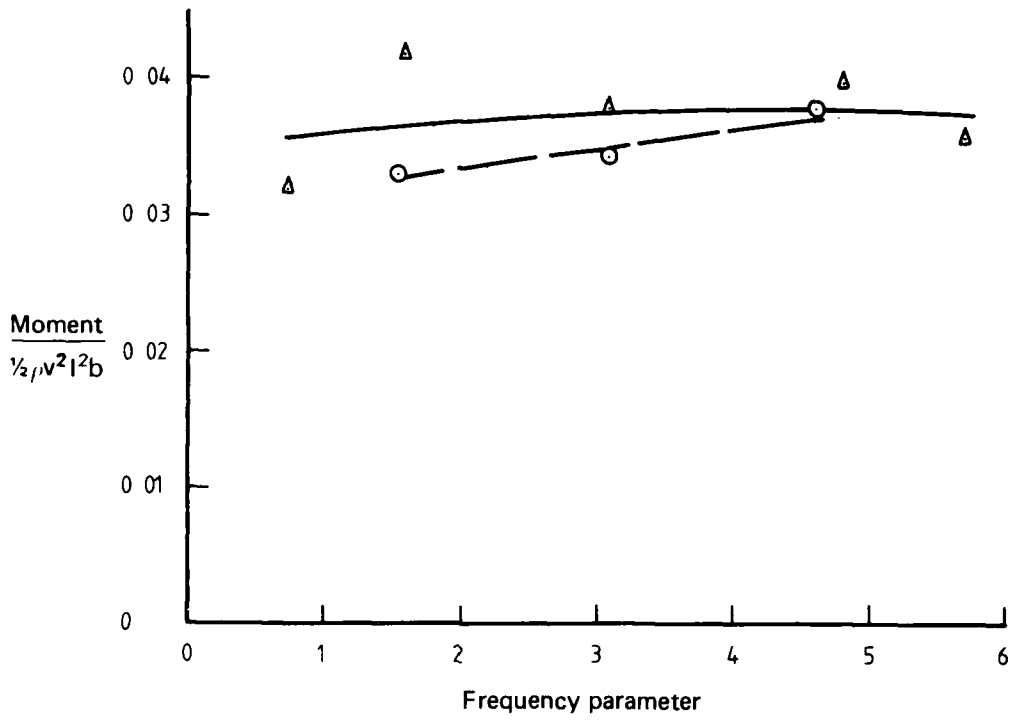


FIG. 20: EFFECT OF MEAN CONTROL DEFLECTION ON HINGE MOMENT DUE TO CONTROL ROTATION (5.08CM T-STRIPS)

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