

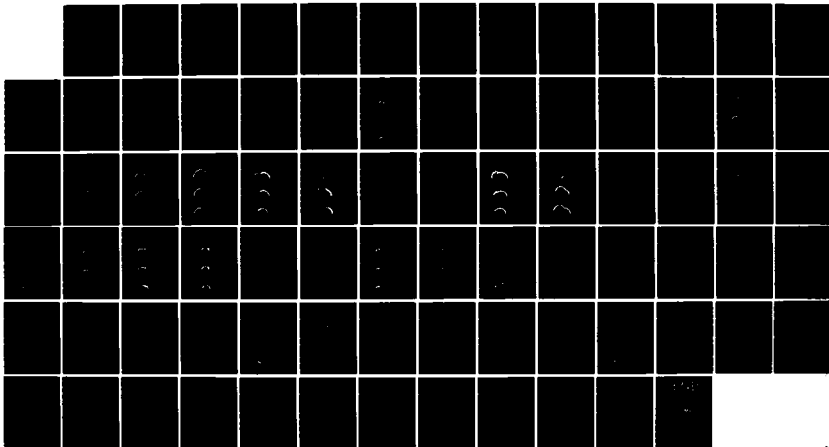
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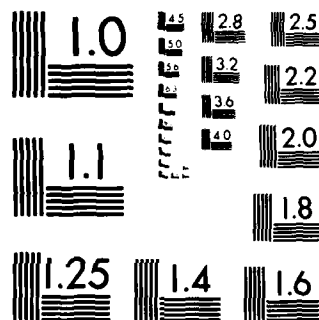
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MERGING OF NON-CONCENTRIC FIREBALLS

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Mission Research Corporation
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1 December 1983

Technical Report

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SECTION I INTRODUCTION

One of the goals of the C/LAMP project is to provide a good mode of multiple burst phenomenology. In order to do this, it is necessary to have a corresponding data base. While there have been several calculations of concentric bursts (References 1, 2, 3) and low yield nonconcentric bursts (Reference 4), little has been done for other multiple burst configurations.

The goal of the calculations described in this report is to expand the data base with calculations of non-concentric bursts with a higher yield than past calculations (1 megaton), spanning the regime in which the fireballs are expected to merge, in order to determine the thermal yield as a function of burst separation.

SECTION II CALCULATION

In the current calculations MICE was run in its low altitude mode using 2-D cylindrical geometry in which radiation and hydrodynamic effects were followed and equilibrium chemistry was used. Hydrodynamic calculations were done using an implicit continuous Eulerian grid.

Radiation used two approximations with one always dominant in any given region. In regions of large optical depth, a diffusion approximation was used, while in regions of small optical depth a free streaming approximation was used. Both approximations are discussed in detail in Reference 1.

Finally, in order to simplify the analysis by removing effects which have nothing to do with multiple bursts, the ground was removed and the atmosphere was allowed to continue smoothly to negative altitudes, thus removing reflected shocks.

The first burst, which was used in all of the calculations, was at an altitude of 2 km and, like all of the bursts studied, was of a generic 1 megaton explosion consisting of 250 kilotons of debris kinetic energy and 750 kilotons of X-ray deposition energy. In order to save time, the development through 0.995 seconds was obtained from a calculation done in 1982 and described in Reference 1. Since that calculation included a ground, it was regridded at 0.995 seconds (before the shock reached the ground) so as to remove the ground.

In all of the calculations, the second detonation occurred 4 seconds after the first and was identical to the first except for location. In this report, all times for calculations involving two bursts are measured from the time of the second burst. The desired separation was achieved by displacing the second bursts directly below the first. Whenever possible, The various calculations will be distinguished by Δz , the separation distance from the first burst.

SECTION III

RESULTS

In all of the cases studied except the concentric case ($\Delta z = 0$), asymmetries eventually developed due to the interaction of the fireballs. The density gradient was so steep at the burst point for the cases of $\Delta z = 0.6$ km and $\Delta z = 0.7$ km, that the initial x-ray deposition was noticeably asymmetric causing an initial temperature distribution that was also asymmetric, as can be seen in Figure 1. Bursts with larger Δz had a relatively constant x-ray deposition, but still eventually developed asymmetries. These asymmetries were due to the variation of shock propagation speeds between the top and bottom of the new fireball when that fireball became sufficiently large that there was a significant variation in density due to the first fireball.

Figure 2 shows the fractional thermal yield of the second burst at 10 seconds as a function of separation distance. As can be seen, the radiated energy varies dramatically with separation. For example, at a separation of 0.6 km, the thermal yield is over 50% greater than that of a single burst - for the concentric case, almost twice. For a separation of 1.2 km, the radiative yield is essentially the same as that radiated by a single burst. As can be seen from the power curves in Figures 3 and 4, quantities related to the radiated power, such as the power output at second maximum, varied much more slowly. And, in fact, these were often within the uncertainty of MICE. Past comparisons with RADFLO calculations have indicated that MICE is better at predicting thermal yield, than the radiated power of any given instant.

Figure 5 shows the thermal yield $\int_0^t P(t') dt'$, where P is the power radiated. The fireballs from the multiple bursts radiated more energy at later times than did the single burst. This was due to the larger dimensions of the combined fireball, which increased the average optical depth. In addition, in all cases the majority of the thermal yield came from the merged fireball. In all of the non-concentric cases studied, complete fireball merging occurred between 0.2 and 0.5 seconds - approximately the time of second thermal maximum.

Figure 6 shows the early rise for some selected cases. As expected, all of the dual bursts had larger vertical extents than the single burst case. For bursts with $\Delta z \geq 1.0$ km, the passage of the shock from the second burst caused the first fireball to form a torus and increased the altitude of the top of the combined fireball.

Figures 7 through 54 show the detailed evolution of the six non-concentric dual bursts. The three quantities which are plotted are the density, temperature, and the specific power loss due to radiative cooling. The last quantity is defined as the power loss per gram of material due to radiation escaping the grid. The power loss per gram is quite sharply peaked, especially when the fireball is opaque. This sharp gradient can be used to measure the fireball size.

As expected, the fireballs tend to remain spherical during their expansion phase as long as the density of the air through which they are expanding does not vary much over the region of the fireball.

Figures 7 through 12 show the situation at 0.01 seconds, long before merging. At this time, the fireballs are very symmetrical. Even those bursts with small Δz , which started out with unsymmetrical x-ray deposition have become more spherical at this time than they were earlier or will be later.

Figures 13 through 18 show the fireballs at 0.1 seconds, immediately before merging and second thermal maximum. The plots of density (Figures 13 and 14) show how the shocks of the bursts with the smaller Δz have advanced significantly farther into the first fireball than those with larger Δz . In none of the cases could the fireballs be said to have completely merged. The plots for the case with $\Delta z = 0.6$ km are done with a different scale than the others.

Figures 19 through 21 show the fireballs at 0.3 seconds. By this time some of the fireball have completely merged. This is also approximately the time of second thermal maximum. If the time at which merging is completed is defined as the time when the shock of the second fireball reaches the far side of the first, then it appears that the fireballs at $\Delta z = 0.6$ and 0.7 km have merged, while the one at $\Delta z = 0.8$ has almost merged. Fireballs with greater separation are well on their way to completing merging but certainly have not finished the process yet. All of this is most clearly seen in the temperature plots.

During the second thermal maximum -- between approximately 0.3 and 0.5 seconds -- a cooling wave propagates back through the combined fireball. Afterwards, the hottest region is at the position of greatest optical depth -- well within the area originally occupied by the first fireball.

Figures 25 through 30 show the fireballs at 1.0 second. Again, the temperature plots (Figures 27-28) give the best picture of merging. These plots show that by this time all of the fireballs have merged. The cooling plots (Figures 29-30) show that for separation distances greater than 1.0 km, there is a torus forming in the region originally occupied by the first fireball. This is presumably due to the passage of the shock from the second burst. The region occupied by the second fireball shows no sign of torus formation. At this time, the density plots (Figures 25-26) show the relative positions of the shocks. The shock from the second burst has the appearance of coming from the combined fireball, although it has traveled farther from the new fireball than from the old. The first shock may appear to be distorted, but this is due to a distortion of the contours arising from the nonuniformity of the ambient atmosphere and is not a real effect.

Figures 31 through 36 show the situation at 2.0 seconds. The toruses for those cases with Δz of at least 1.0 km have become more obvious and can be distinguished on all three plots -- density, temperature, and radiative cooling.

As Figures 37 through 42 show, the shock toruses for the cases with Δz of at least 1.0 km are well developed by 5.0 seconds. At this time, the shock from the first burst has left the grid. Since the aim of this investigation is to study the fireball, no attempt was made to follow the shock.

Figures 43 through 48 show the situation at 10.0 seconds. At this time, the shock from the second burst has also left the grid. Those fireballs with $\Delta z < 1.0$ km and the lower portions of the fireballs with greater separation are showing the early stages of formation of a rise torus.

Figures 49 through 54 show the fireballs at 20.0 seconds. At this time, all of the fireballs are rising and have formed toruses. It is interesting to note that at 20 seconds, the combined fireballs whose top is at the highest altitude are those which started out with the second burst at the lowest altitude -- thus giving the largest Δz . This was mentioned earlier in this report and is due to the shock from the second burst raising the top of the fireball of the first.

Since in all of the cases studied, the second burst was underneath the first, two toruses are not seen as is the case for some of the dual bursts studied in Reference 4.

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER CALCULATIONS

Taking advantage of the fact that both of the bursts had the same yield, then if a scaled separation distance is defined as $\Delta z/Y^{1/3}$, and scaled separation times as $\Delta t/Y^{1/3}$, then one of the calculations of Reference 4 falls between the current calculations as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Thermal yields from equal non-concentric bursts.

Y	Δz	$\Delta t(\text{sec})$	$\Delta z/Y^{1/3}$	$\Delta t/Y^{1/3}$	Fractional Thermal Yield
1 MT	1200	4.0	120	0.40	0.37
1 MT	1100	4.0	110	0.40	0.40
1 MT	1000	4.0	100	0.40	0.46
5 KT*	150	0.8	88	0.47	0.54
1 MT	800	4.0	80	0.40	0.60
1 MT	700	4.0	70	0.40	0.62
1 MT	600	4.0	60	0.40	0.66

* The 5 KT calculation, in which the second burst was displaced below the first, is from Reference 4.

SECTION IV CONCLUSIONS

As expected, fractional thermal yield at 10 seconds varies dramatically as a function of separation distance. For $\Delta z \geq 1.2$ km the yield is essentially that of a single burst for the 1 megaton case studied in this investigation.

Also as expected, the initial energy deposition due to X-rays was asymmetric when the second burst occurred in a region of rapidly varying density. In this investigation, this occurred for Δz near 0.6 km.

Combined fireballs tend to emit more energy at later times. This is due to the larger dimensions of the combined fireball, which in turn increases the average optical depth. In addition, in almost all of the cases studied, the majority of the energy is radiated from the combined fireball. Even for those cases when Δz is large enough that the amount of radiated energy is the same as that from a single burst, a significant fraction of the energy is emitted after the fireballs have merged.

For Δz greater than 1.0 km, the passage of the shock from the second burst causes the first fireball to form a torus and increases the altitude of the top of the combined fireball. No shock torusing effect is evident for the cases utilizing smaller Δz .

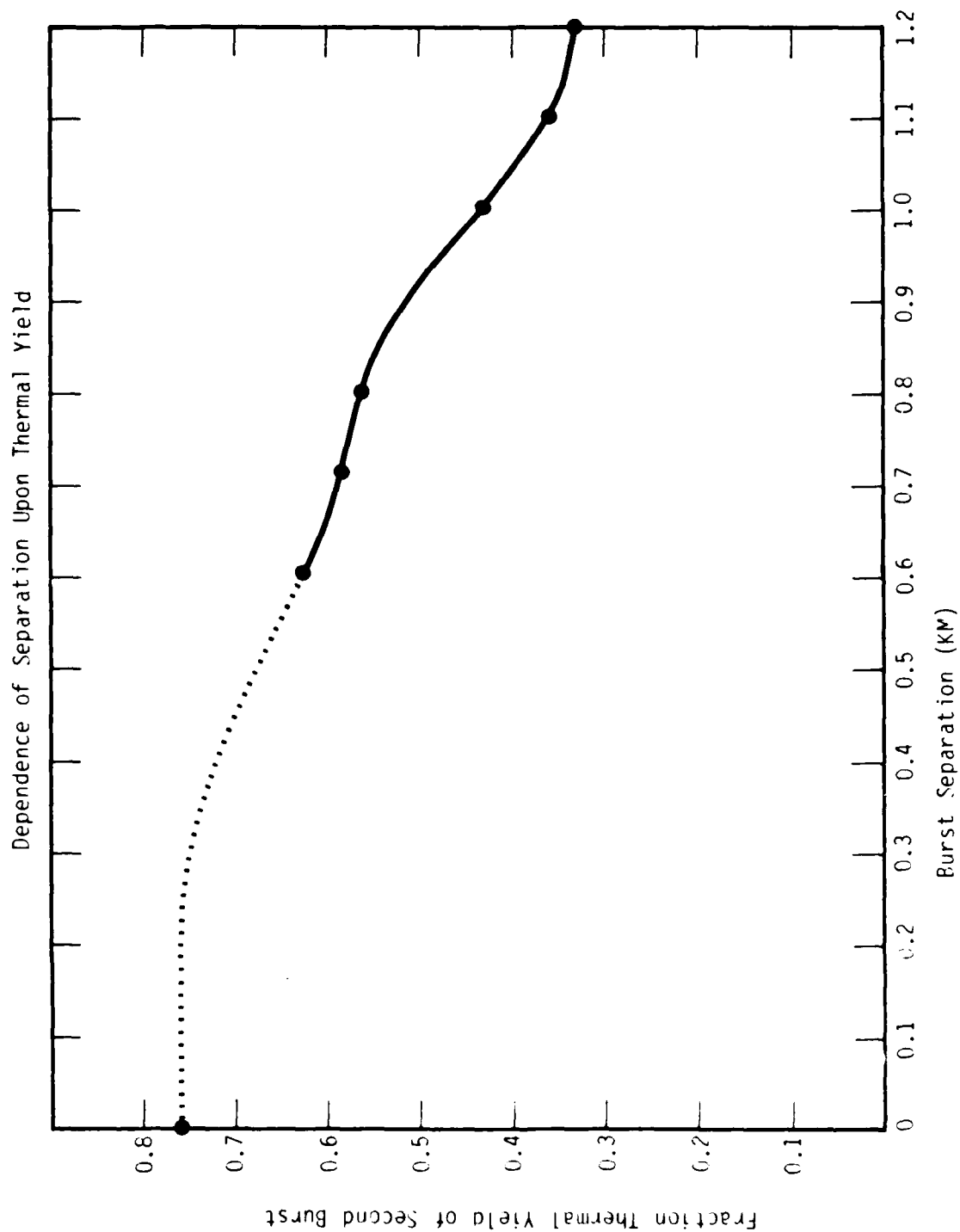


Figure 2. Fraction of the yield of one burst, in the form of thermal radiation by 10 seconds, as a function of burst separation.

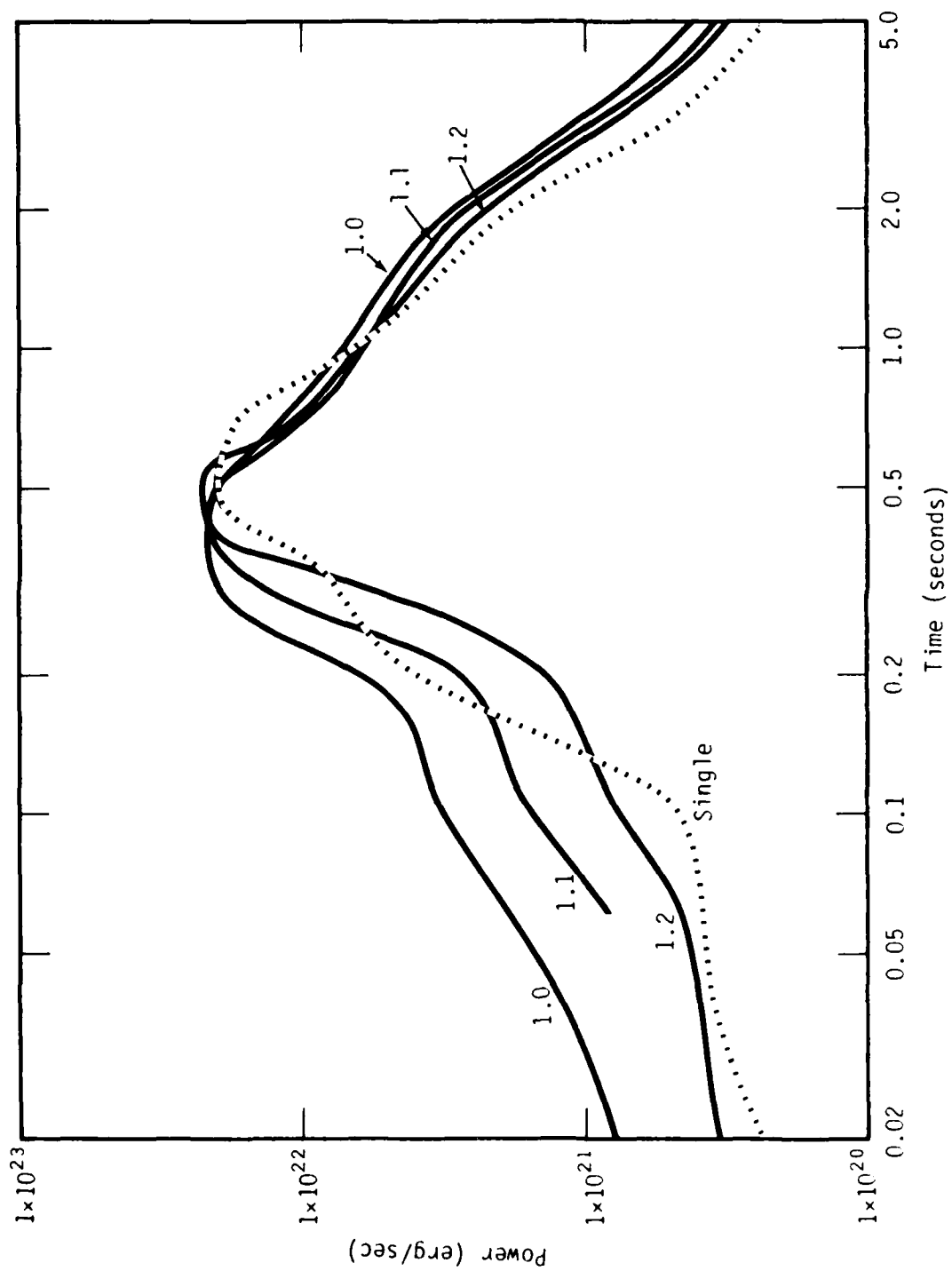


Figure 3. Power curves for $Az = 1.2, 1.1$, and 1.0 km (solid lines), and a single burst (dotted line).

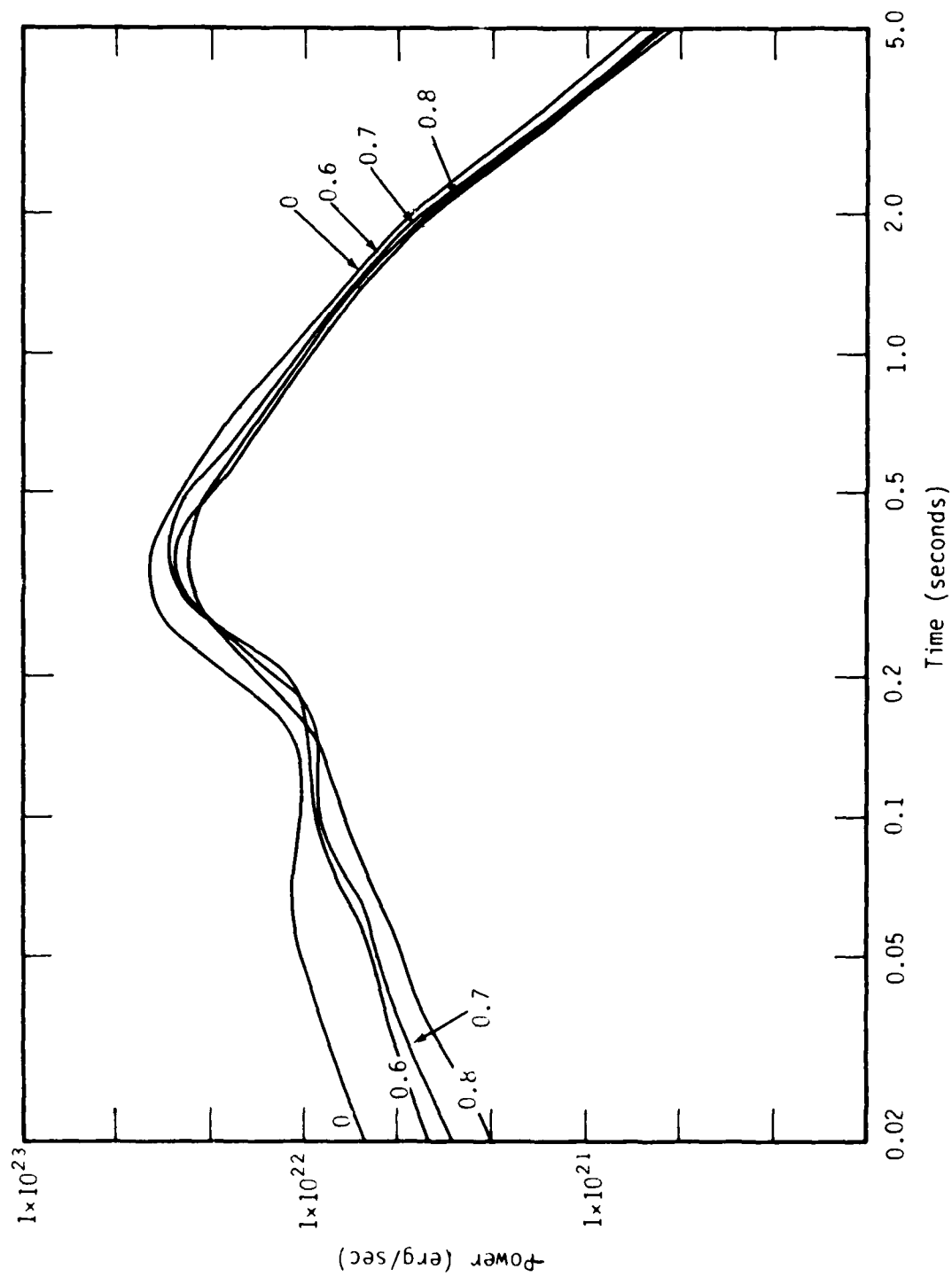


Figure 4. Power curves for $\Delta z = 0, 0.6, 0.7,$ and 0.8 km.

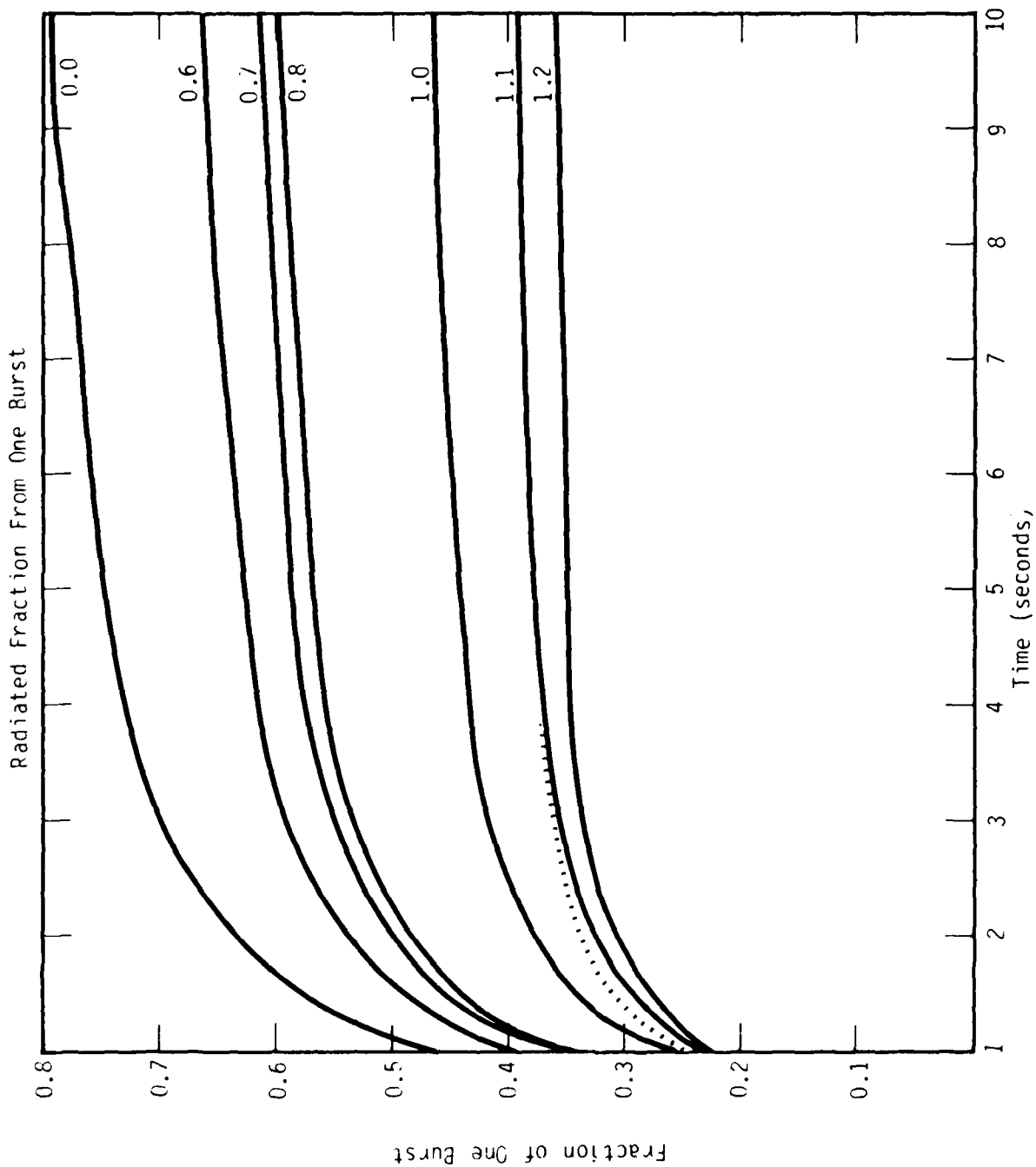


Figure 5. Fraction of the yield of one burst lost by thermal radiation. The labels indicate the value of Δz . Dotted line shows single burst case.

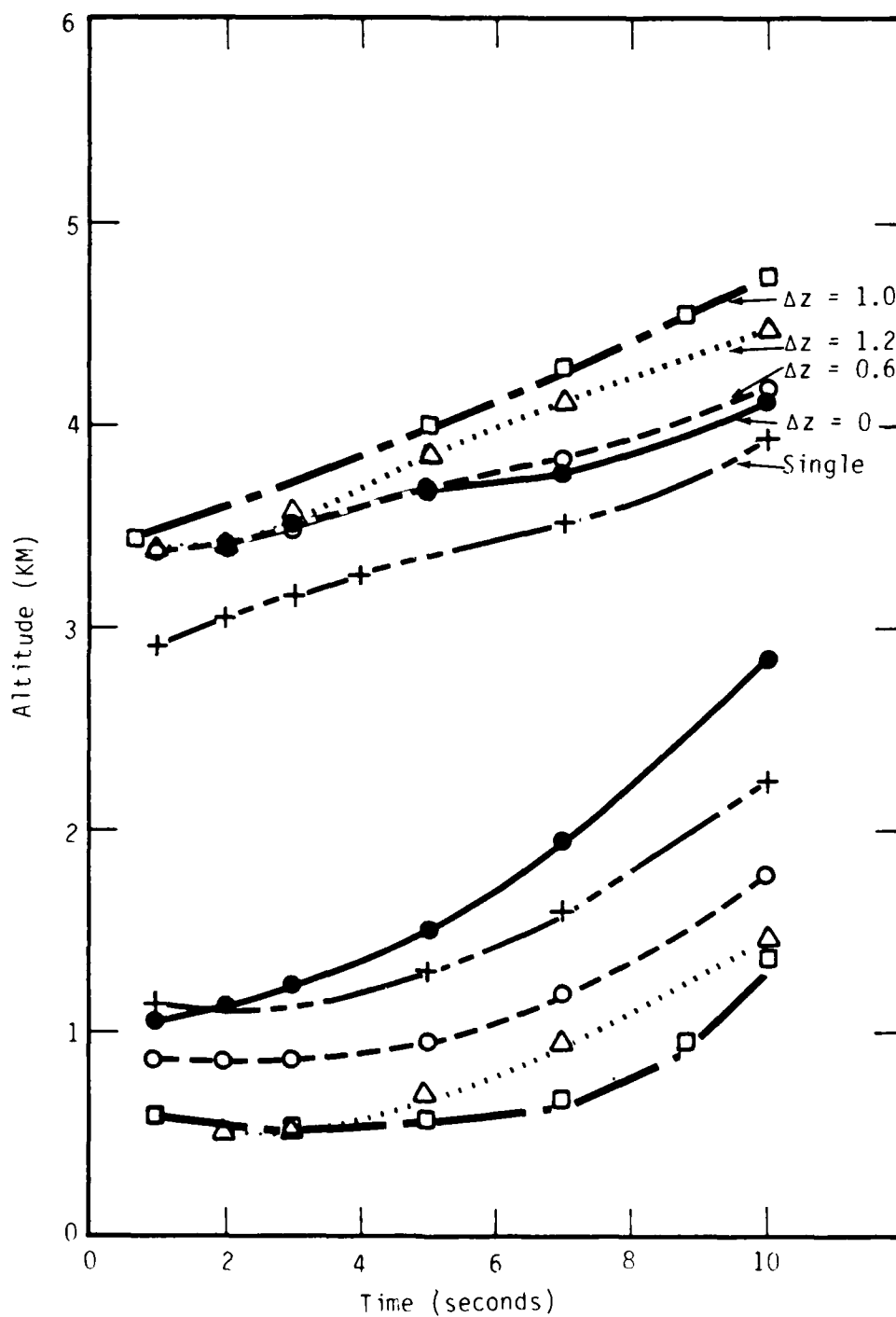


Figure 6. Uppermost and lowermost positions which are cooling due to radiation.

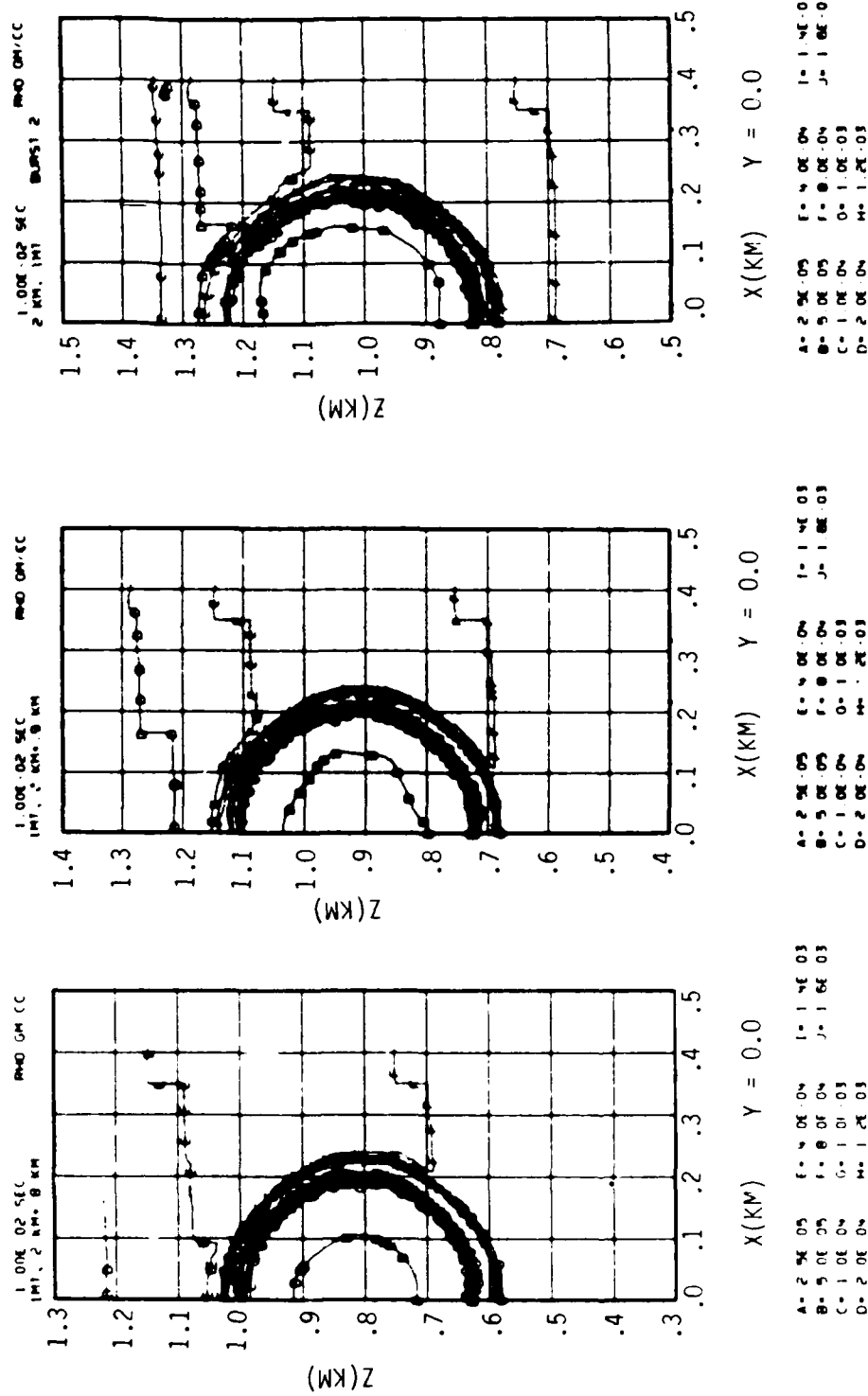


Figure 7. Distribution of density at 0.01 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2, 1.1,$ and 1.0 km from left to right.

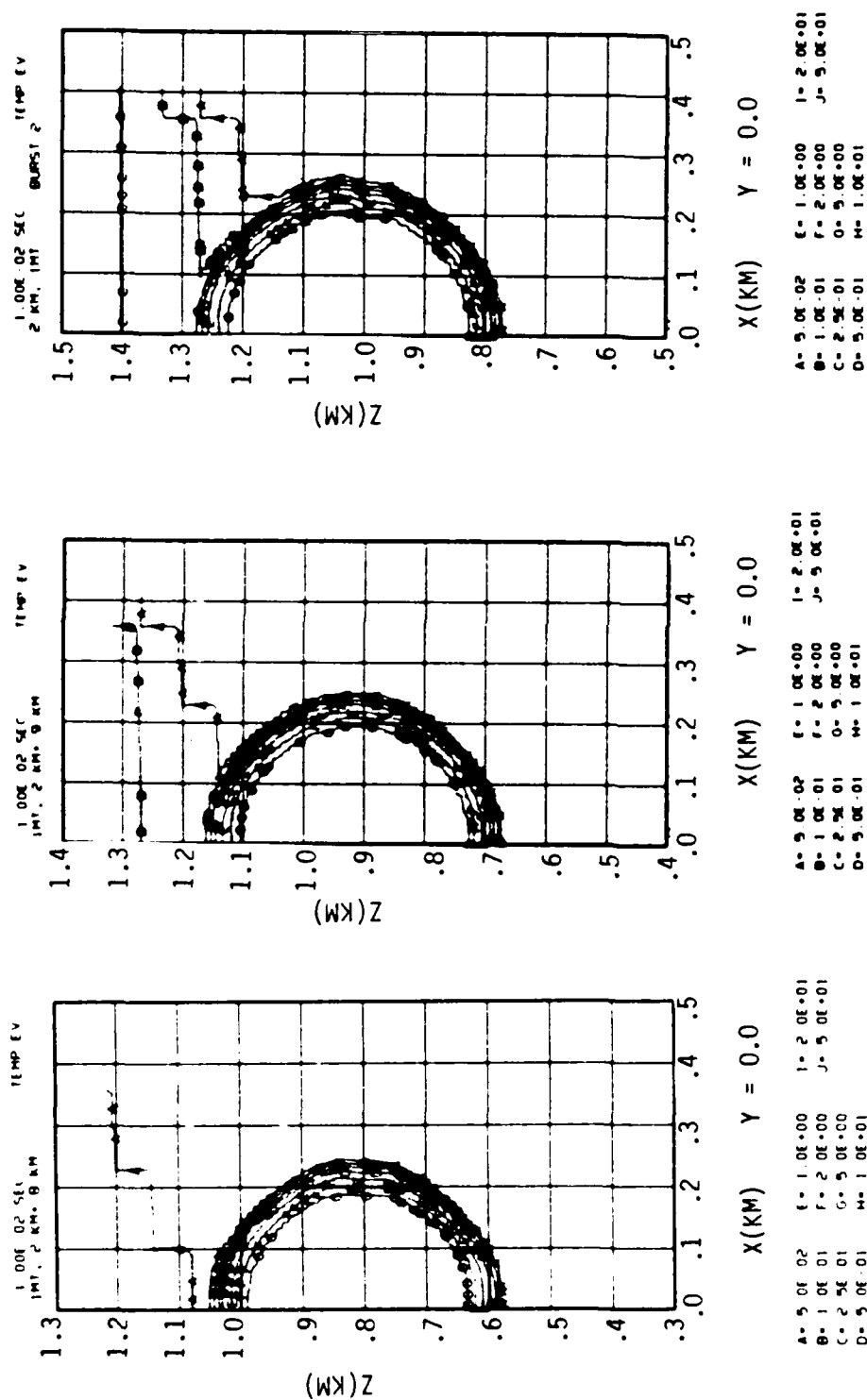


Figure 9. Distribution of temperature at 0.01 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2, 1.1$, and 1.0 from left to right.

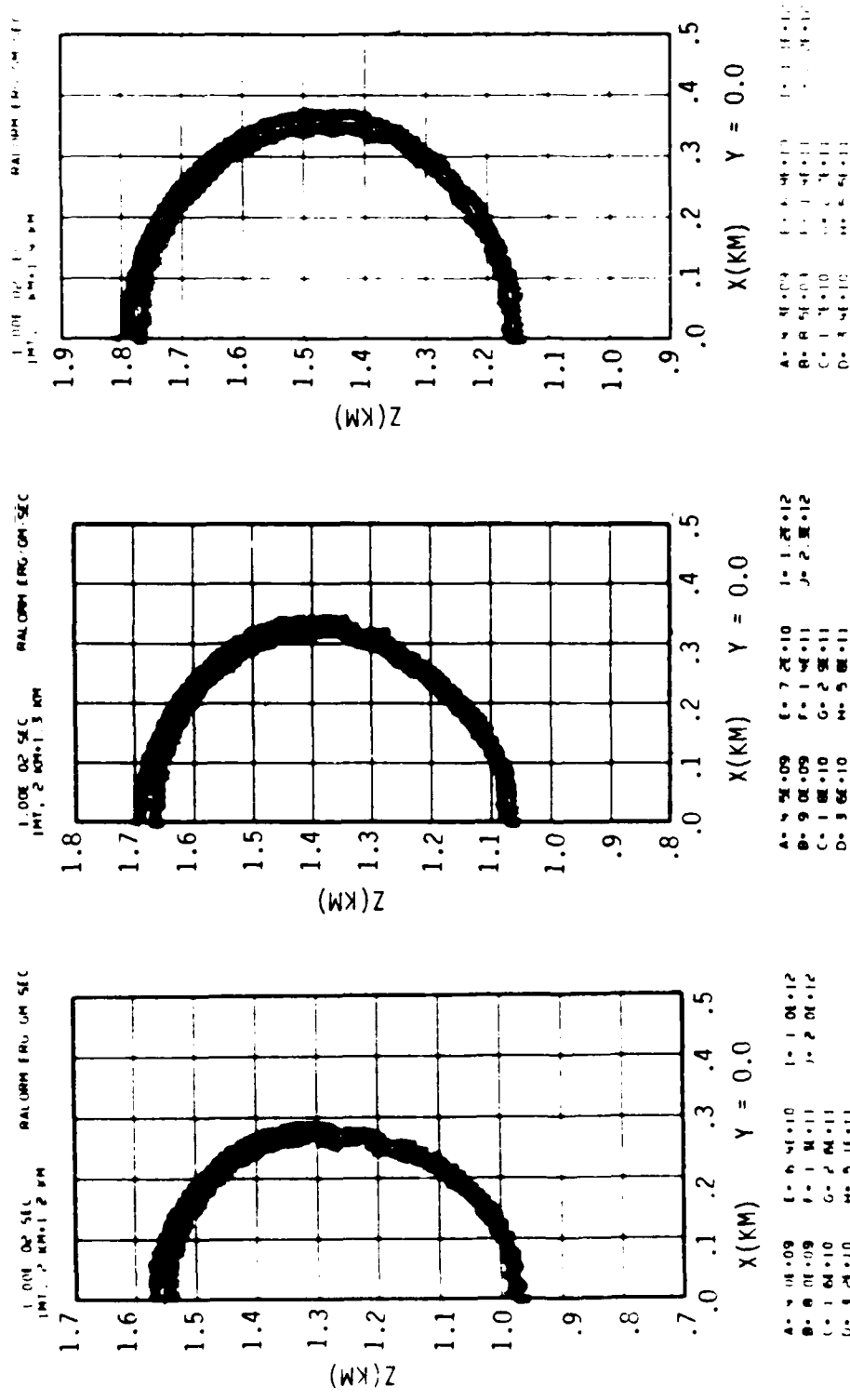
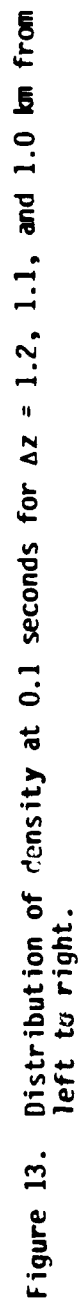


Figure 12. Distribution of cooling due to escaping radiation at 0.01 seconds for $Az = 0.8$, 0.7 , and 0.6 km from left to right.



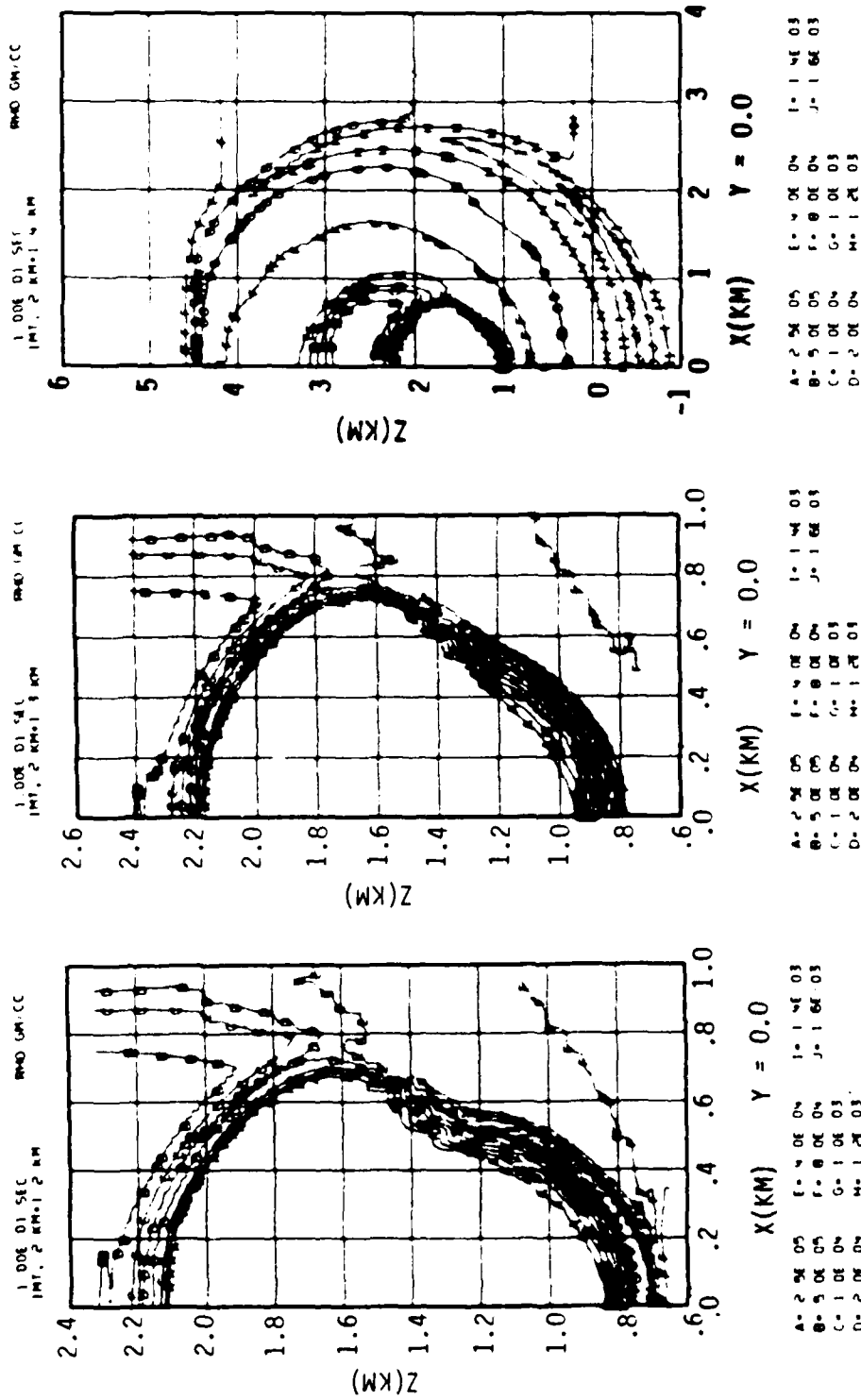


Figure 14. Distribution of density of 0.1 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8, 0.7$, and 0.6 km from left to right.

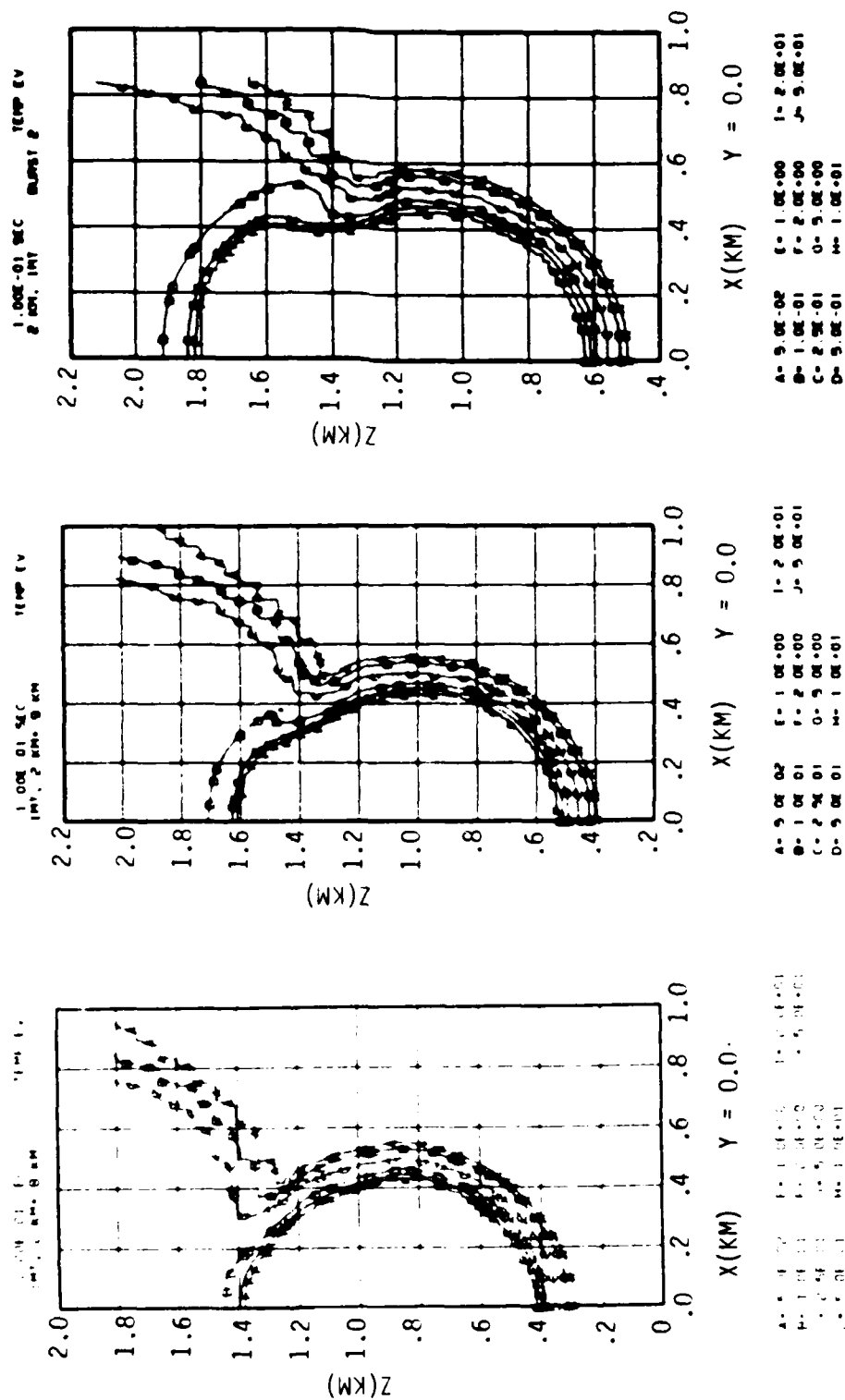


Figure 15. Distribution of temperature at 0.1 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2, 1.1, \text{ and } 1.0 \text{ km}$ from left to right.

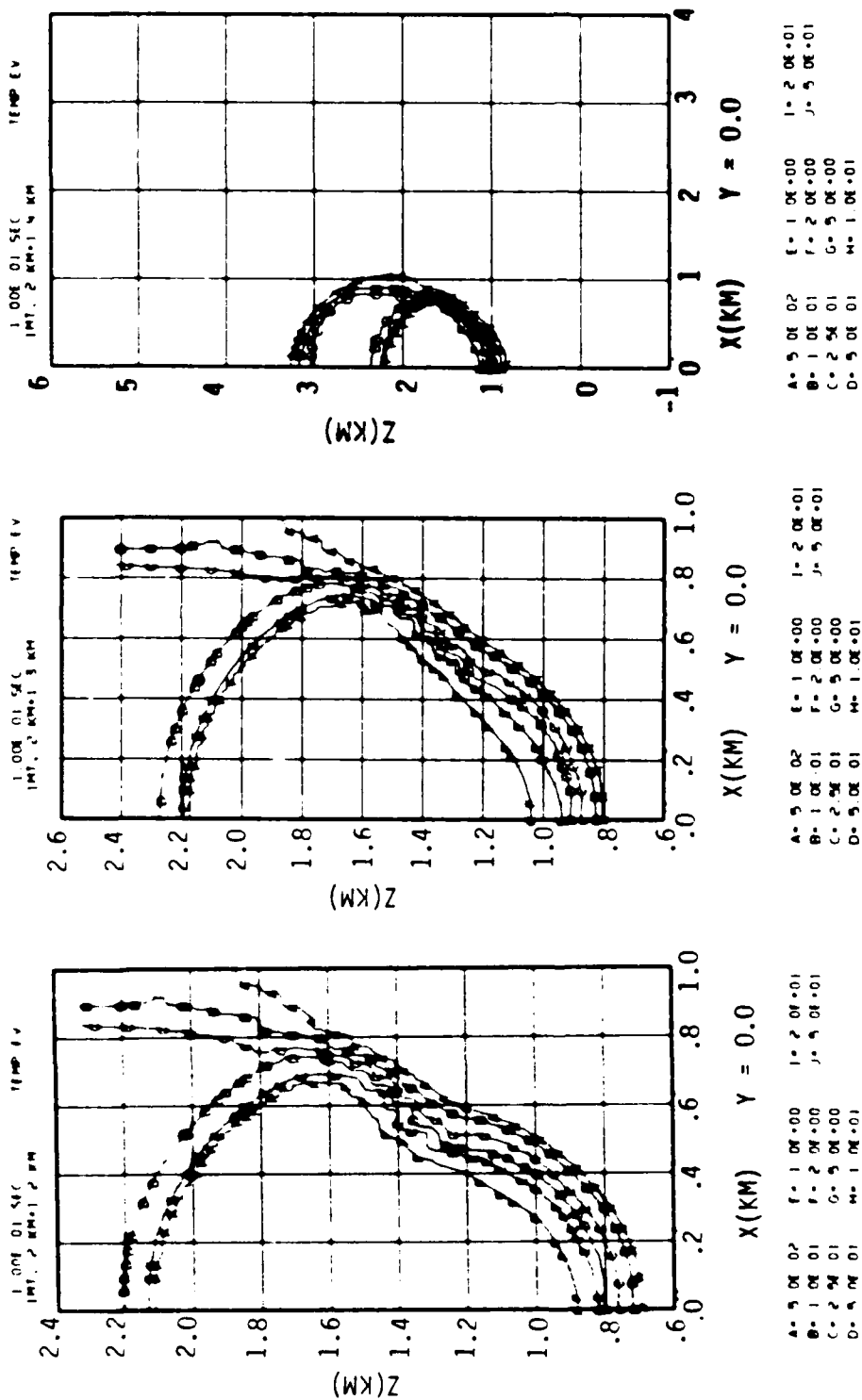


Figure 16. Distribution of temperature at 0.1 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8, 0.7$, and 0.6 km from left to right.

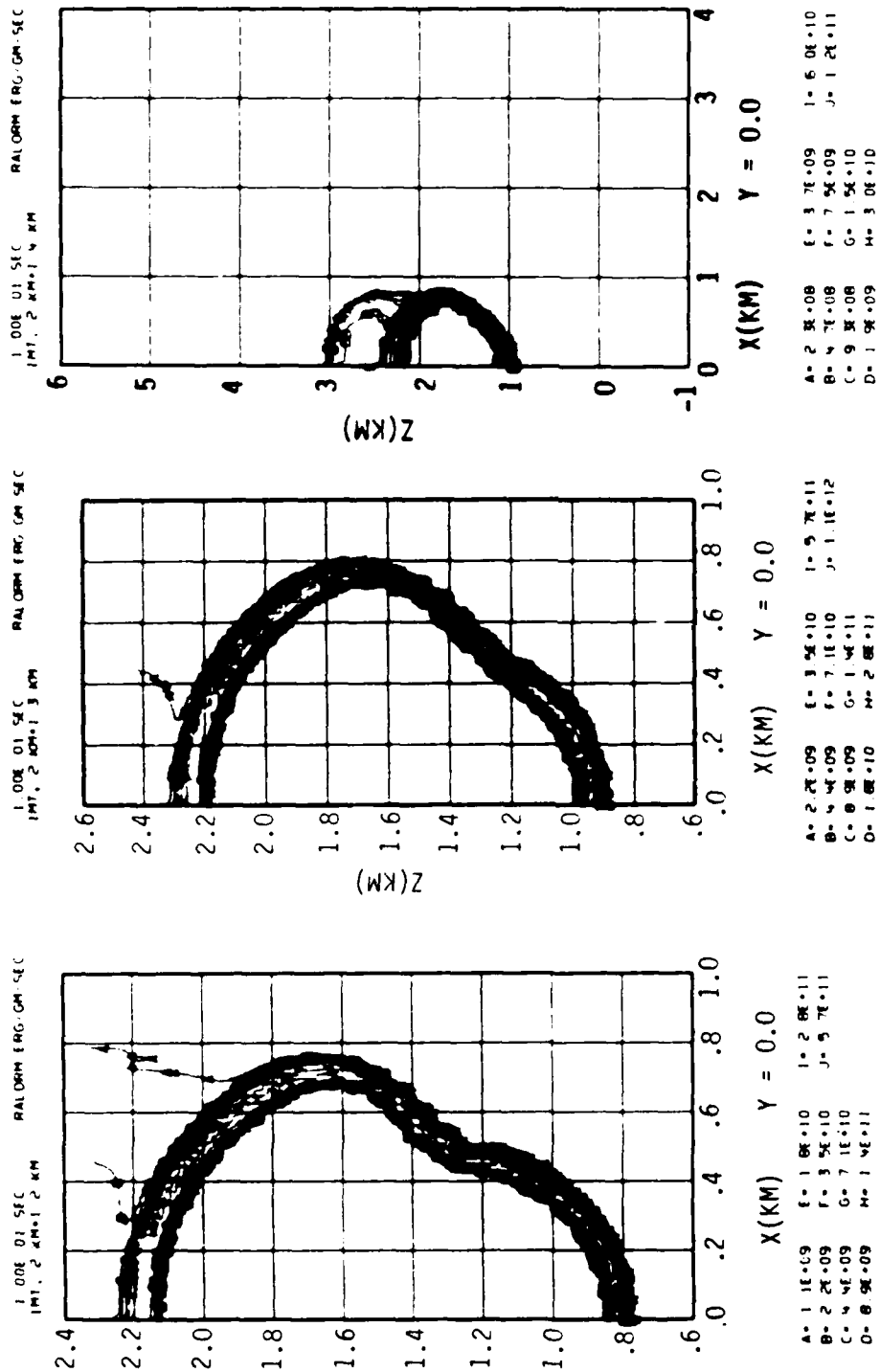


Figure 18. Distribution of cooling due to escaping radiation at 0.1 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8$, 0.7 , and 0.6 km from left to right. Note that the contours for $\Delta z = 0.6$ are plotted at a different scale than for the other separations.

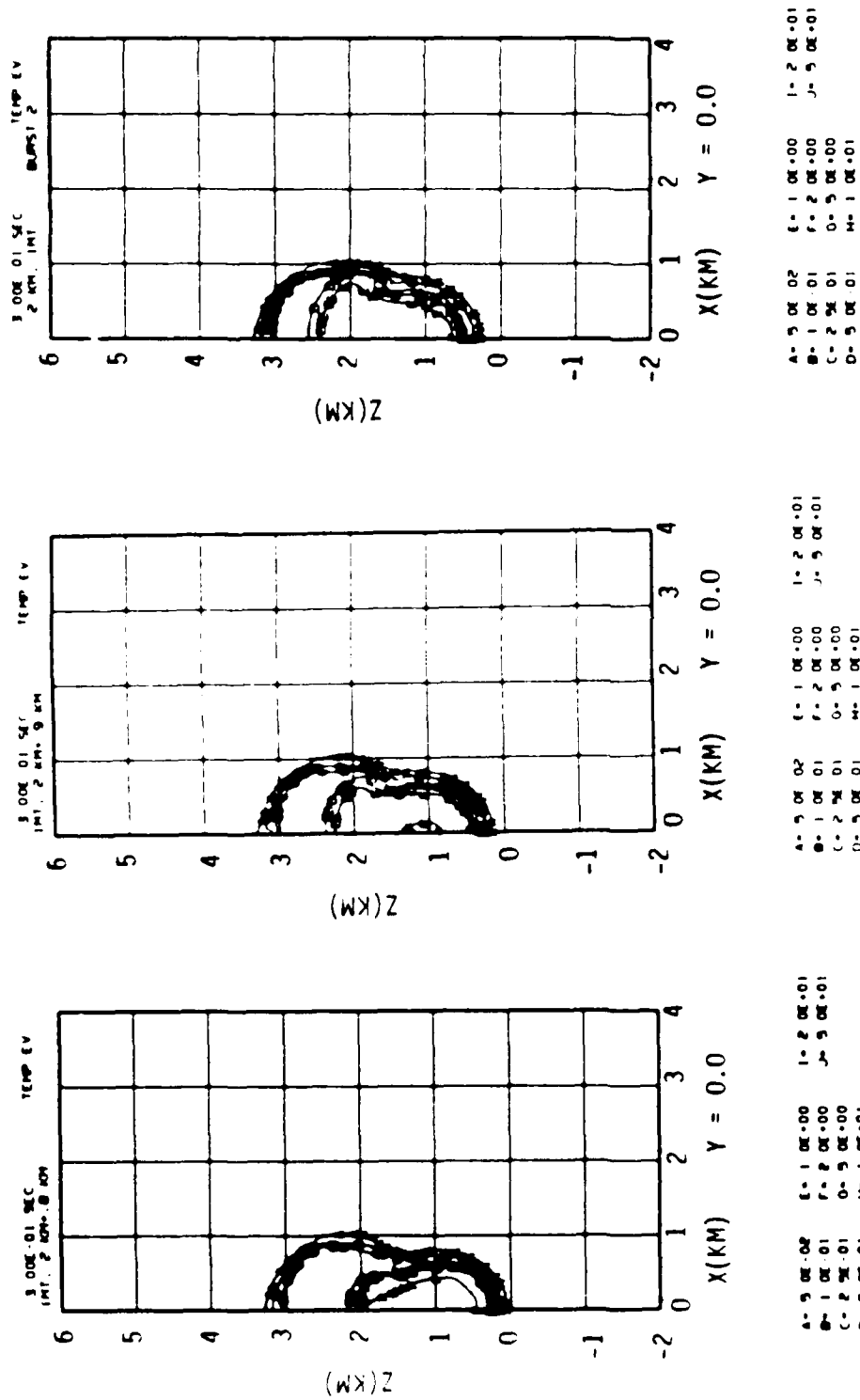
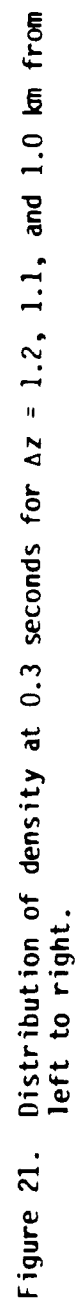


Figure 19. Distribution of temperature at 0.3 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2, 1.1,$ and 1.0 km from left to right.



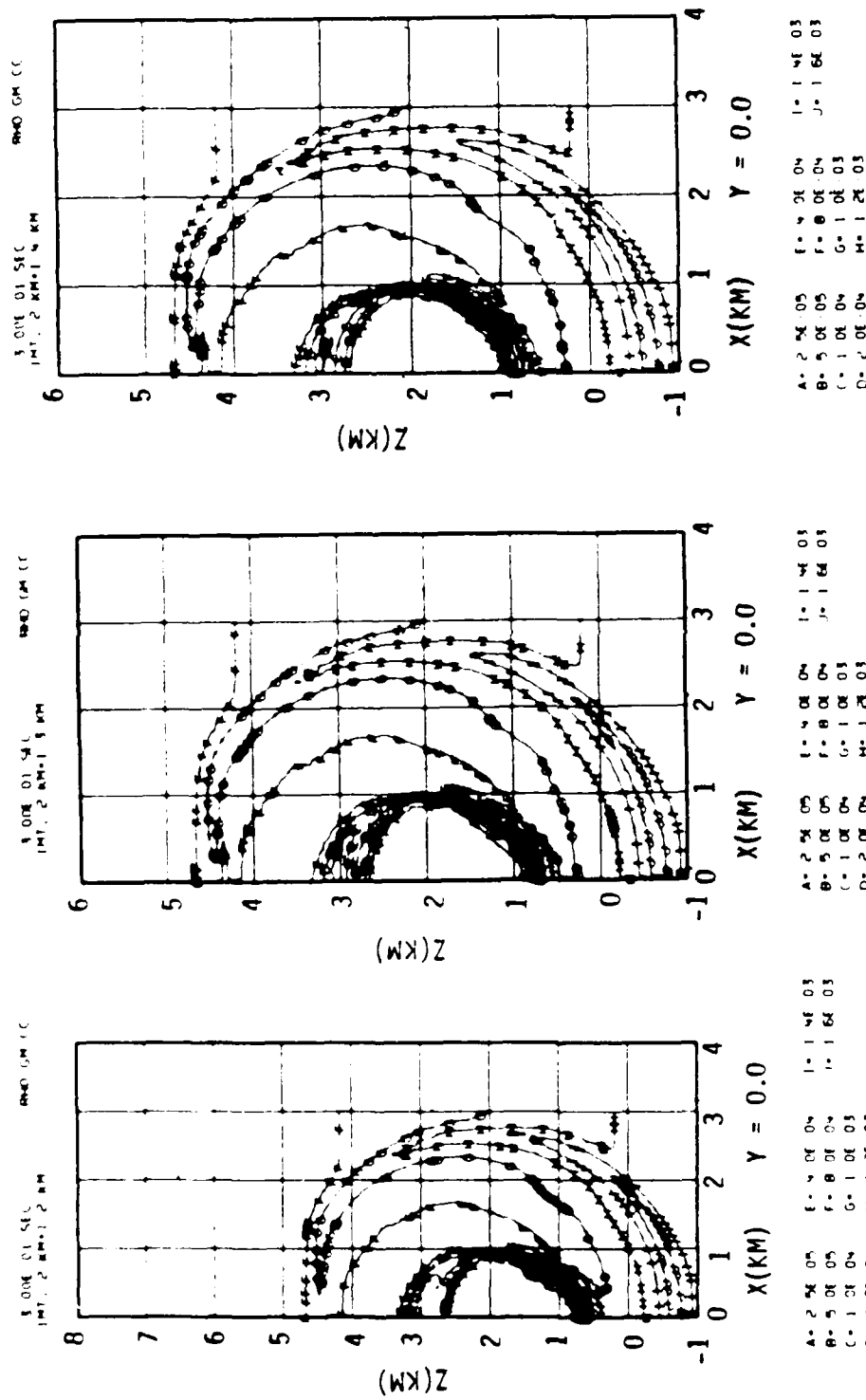


Figure 22. Distribution of density at 0.3 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8, 0.7,$ and 0.6 km from left to right.

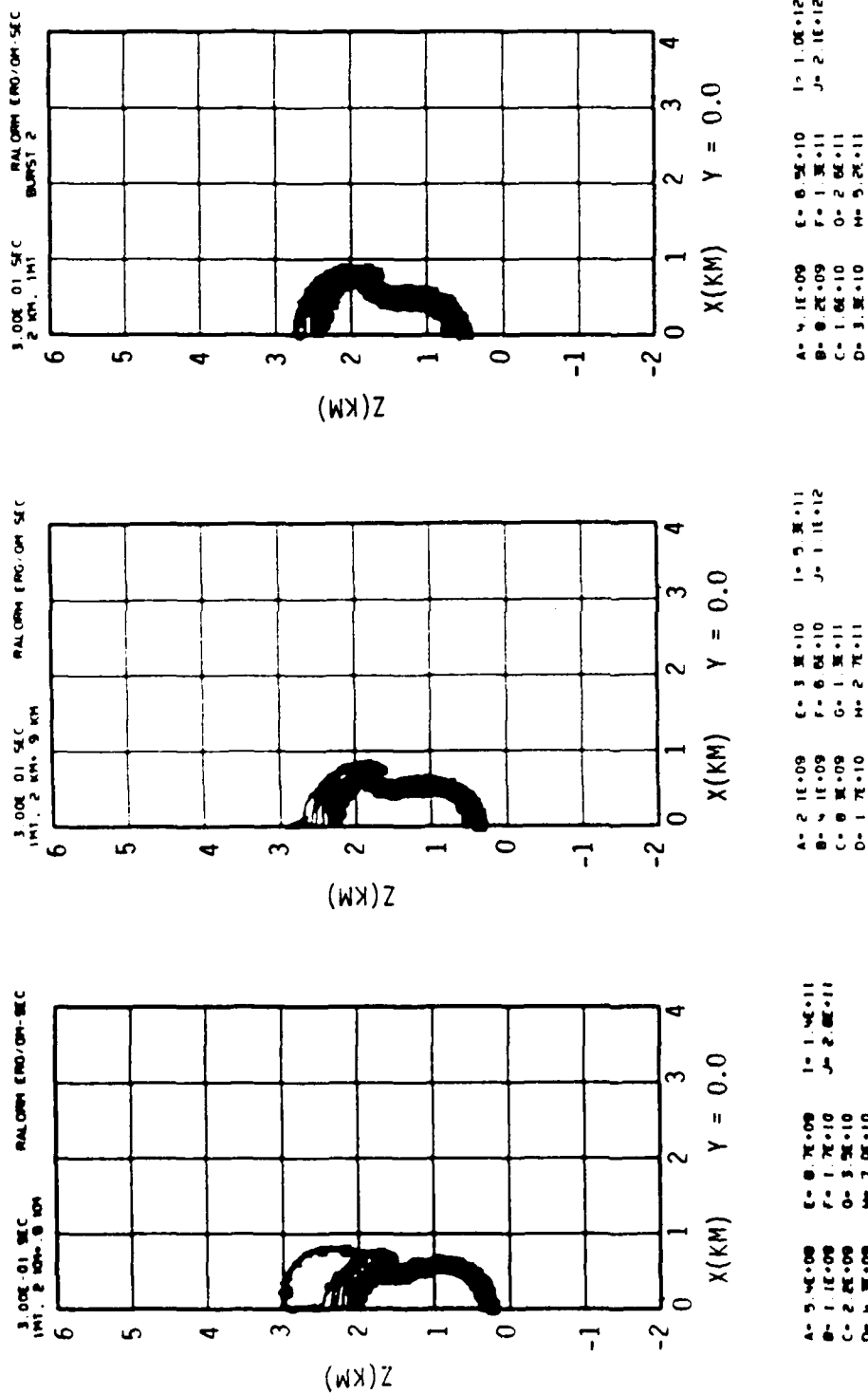
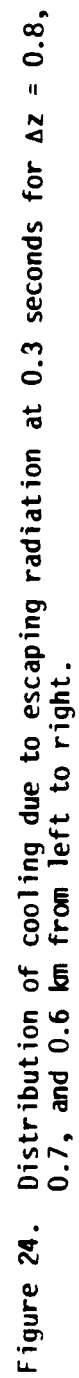
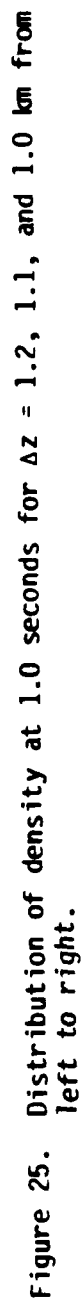


Figure 23. Distribution of cooling due to escaping radiation at 0.3 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2$, 1.1, and 1.0 km from left to right.







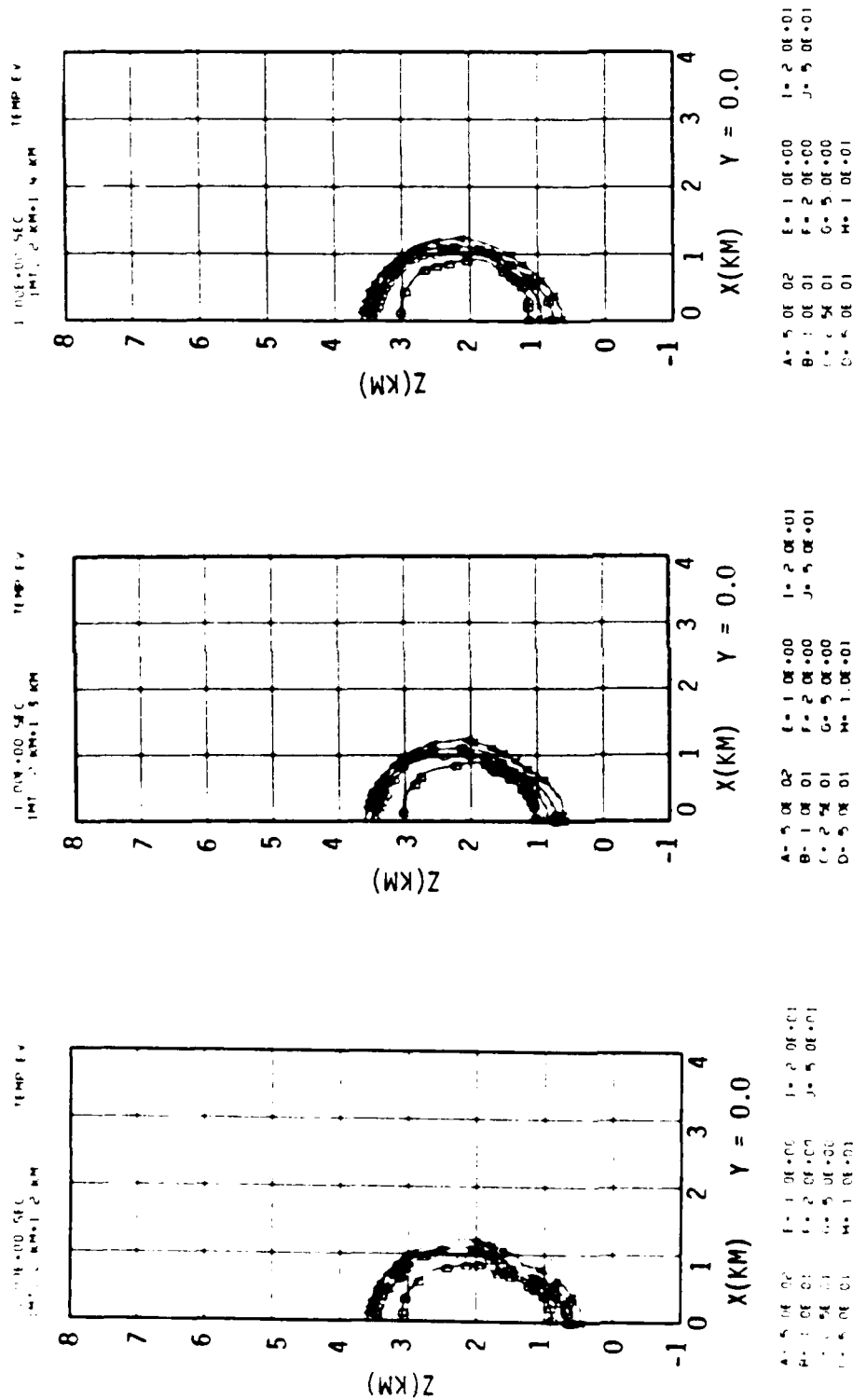


Figure 27. Distribution of temperature at 1.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8, 0.7$, and 0.6 km from left to right.

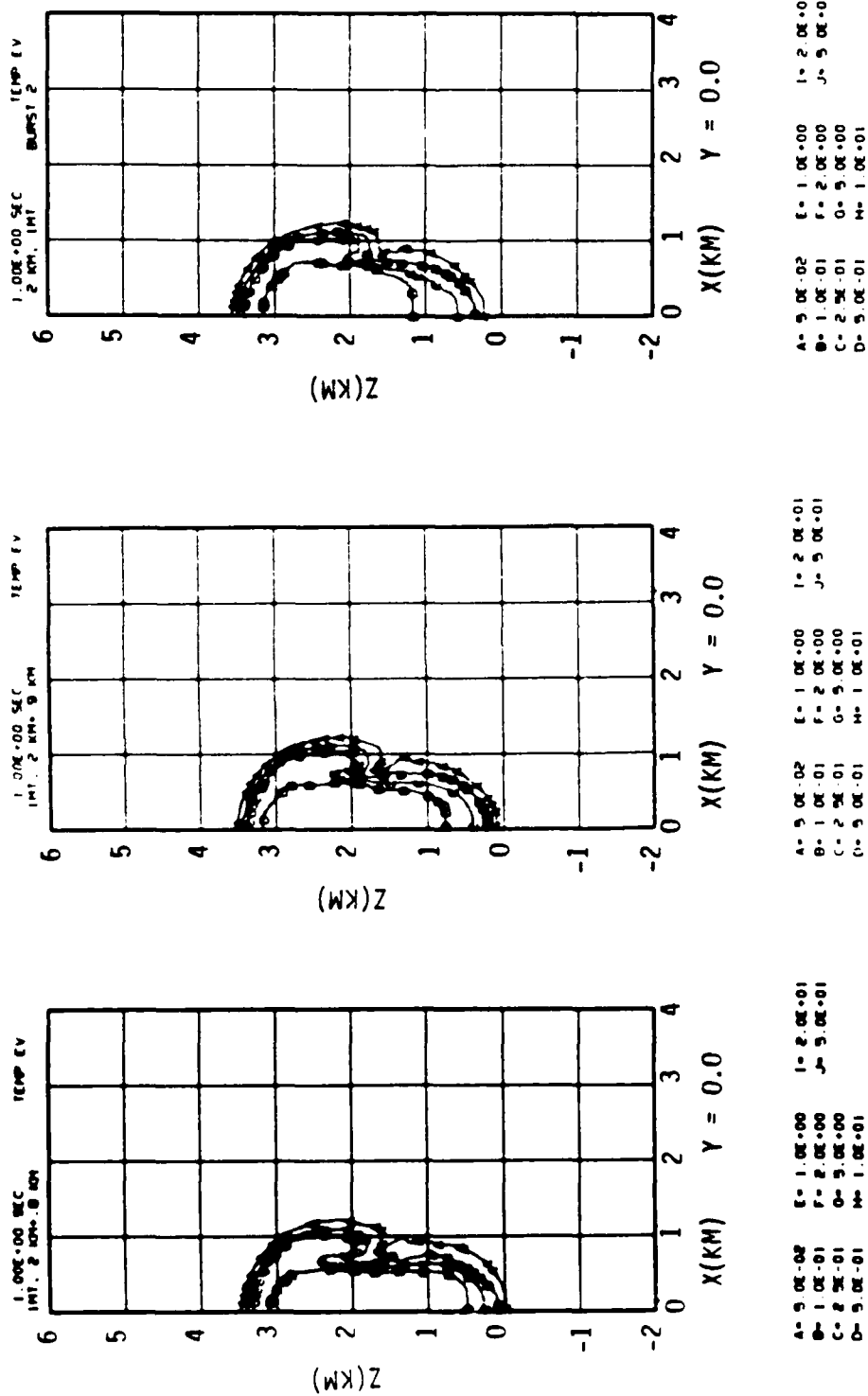
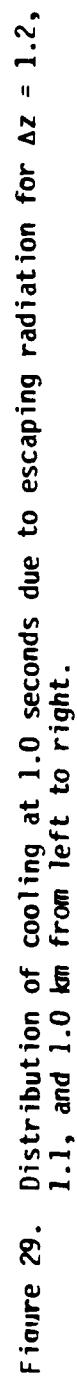


Figure 28. Distribution of temperature at 1.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2, 1.1, 1.0$ km from left to right.



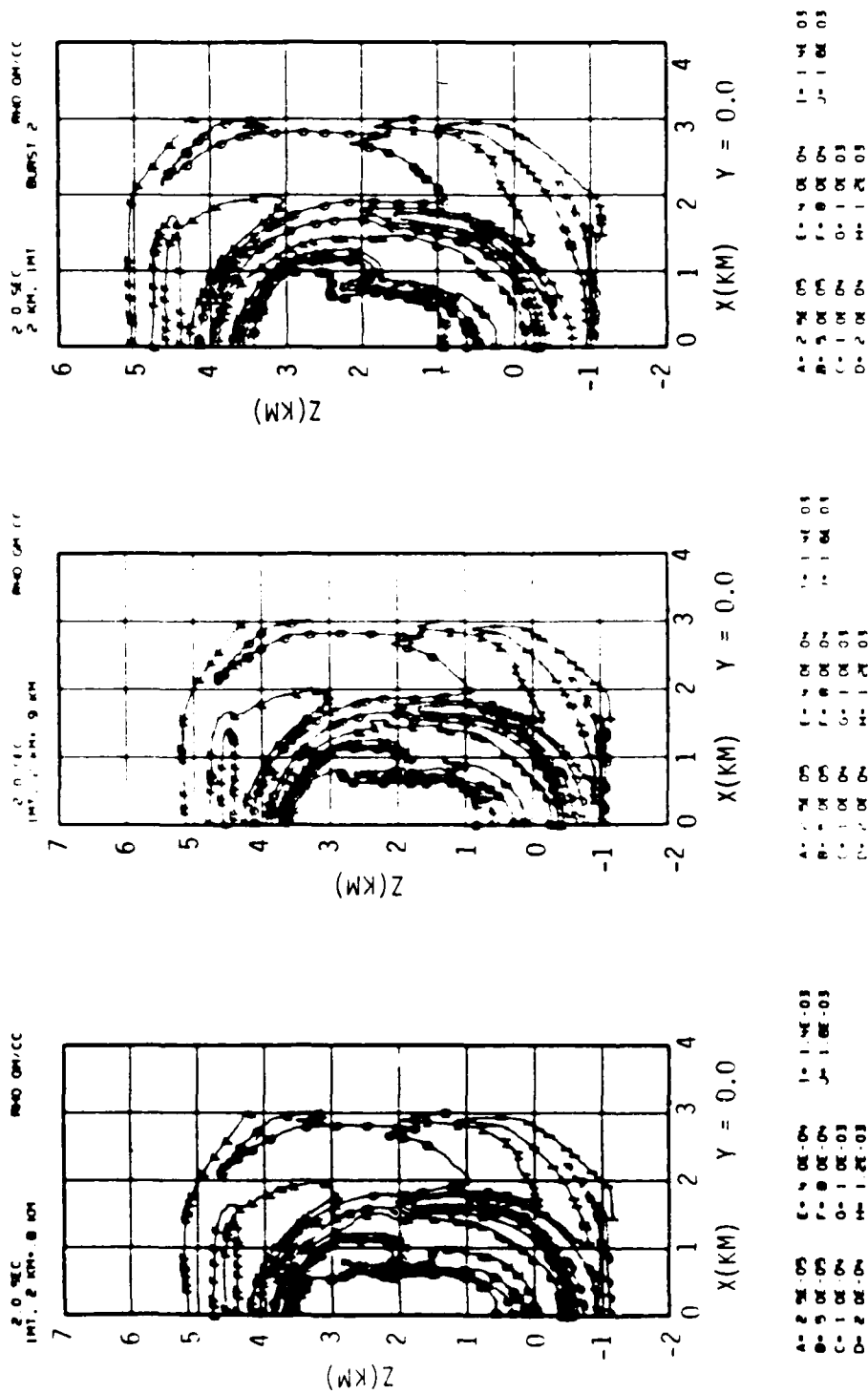


Figure 31. Distribution of density at 2.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2, 1.1,$ and 1.0 km from left to right.

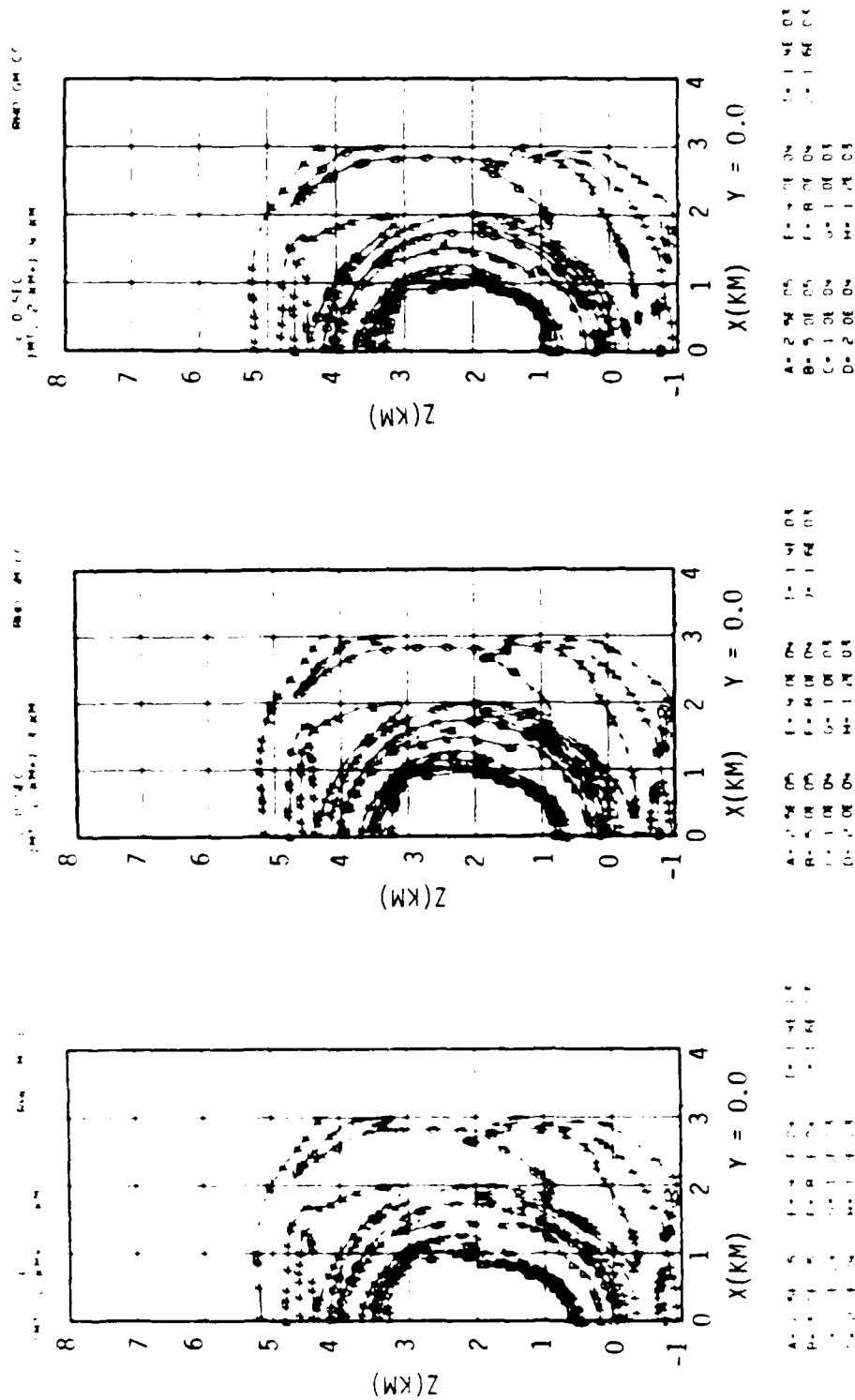


Figure 32. Distribution of density at 2.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8$, 0.7 , and 0.6 km from left to right.

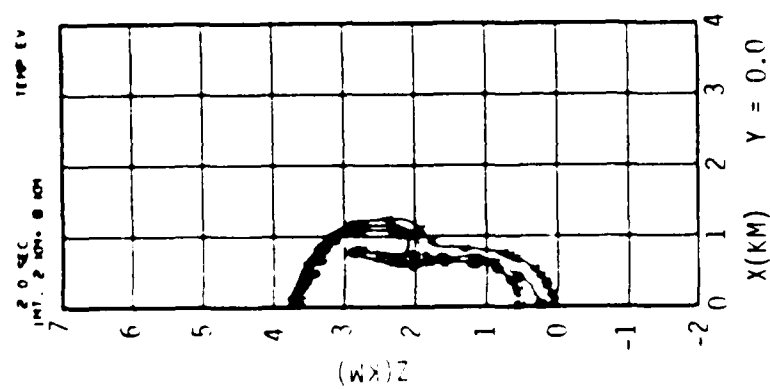
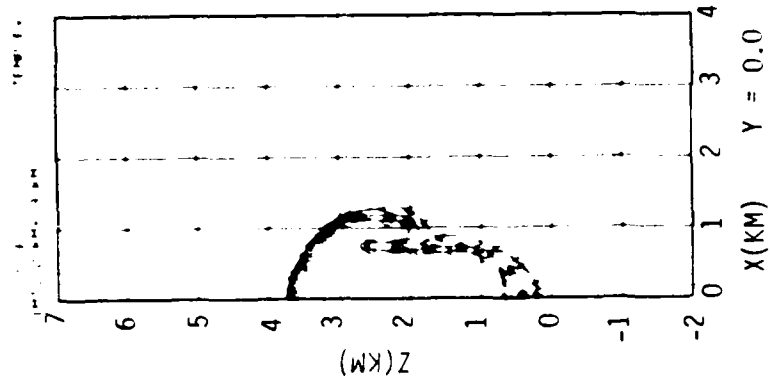
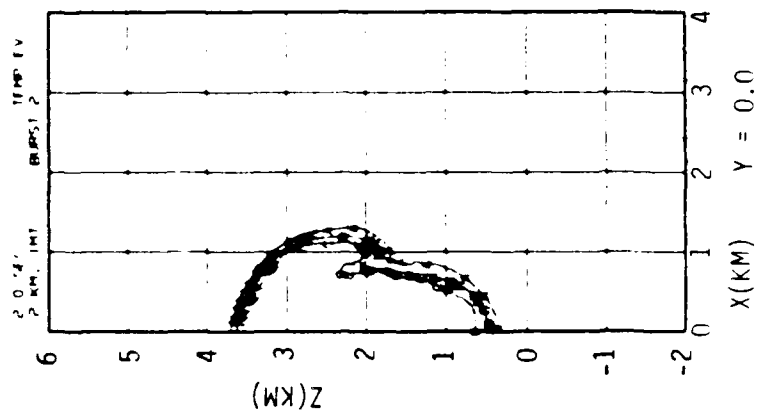


Figure 33. Distribution of temperature at 2.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2$, 1.1 , and 1.0 km from left to right.

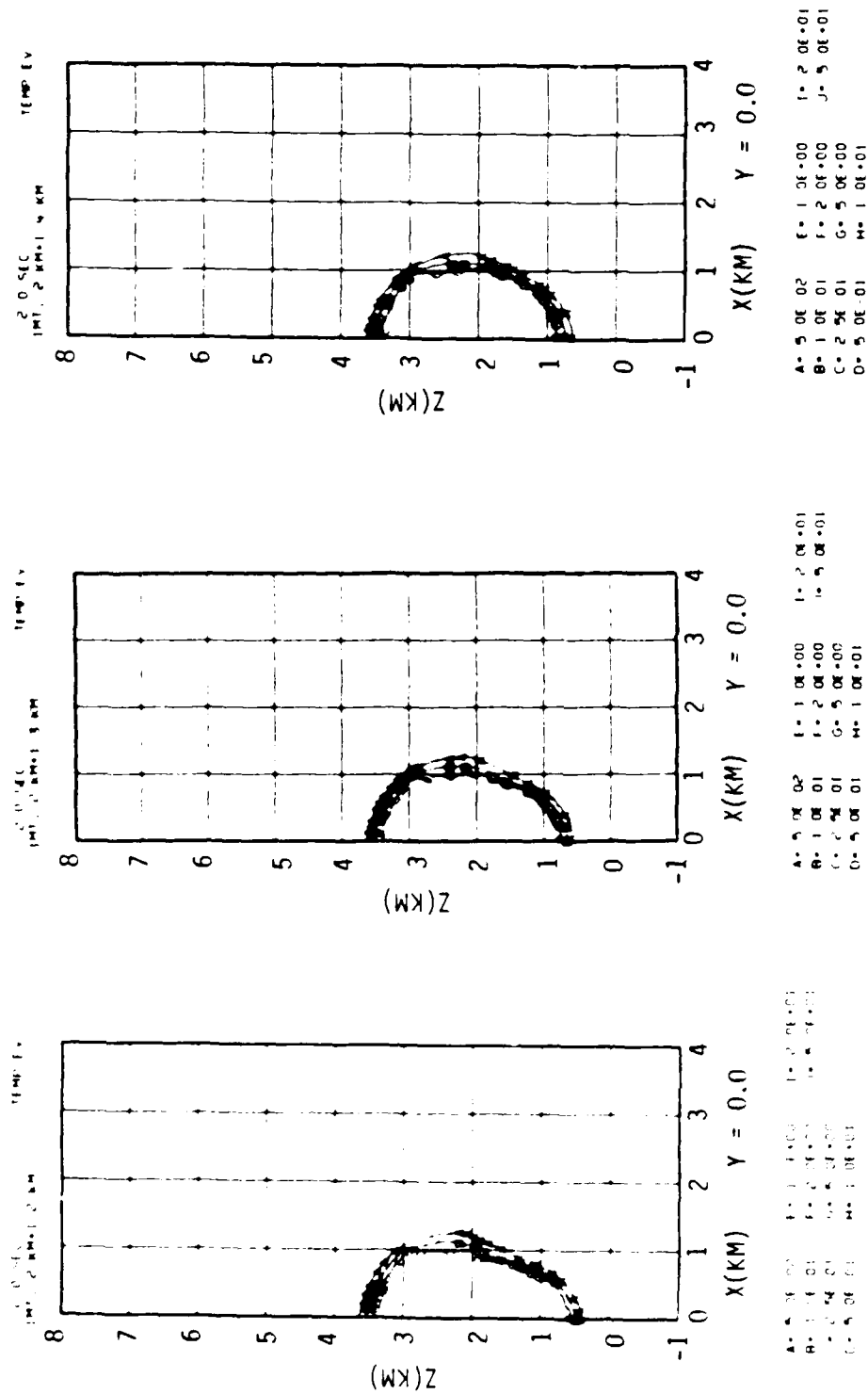


Figure 34. Distribution of temperature at 2.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8, 0.7,$ and 0.6 km from left to right.

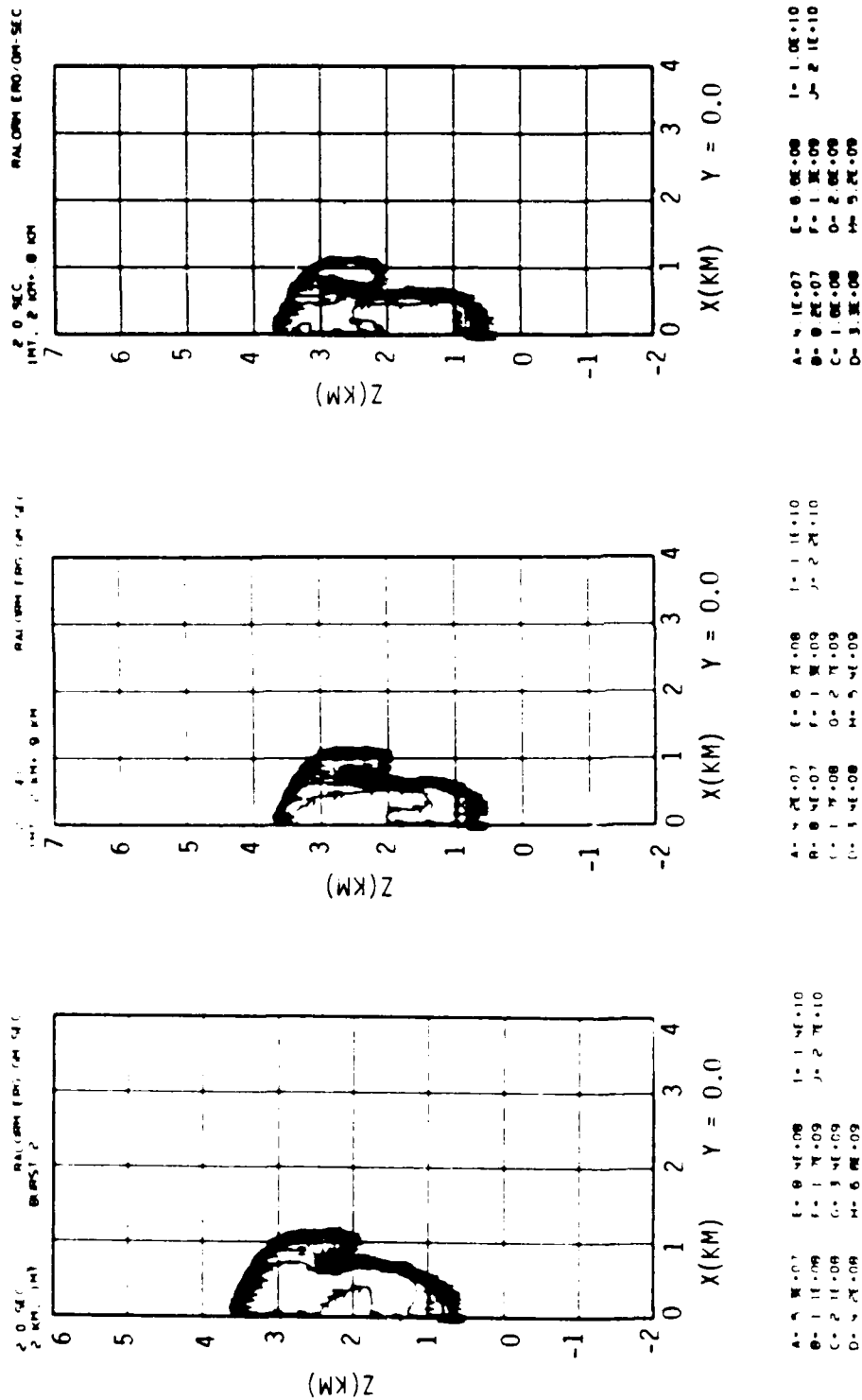


Figure 35. Distribution of cooling due to escaping radiation at 2.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.0$, 1.1, and 1.2 km from left to right.

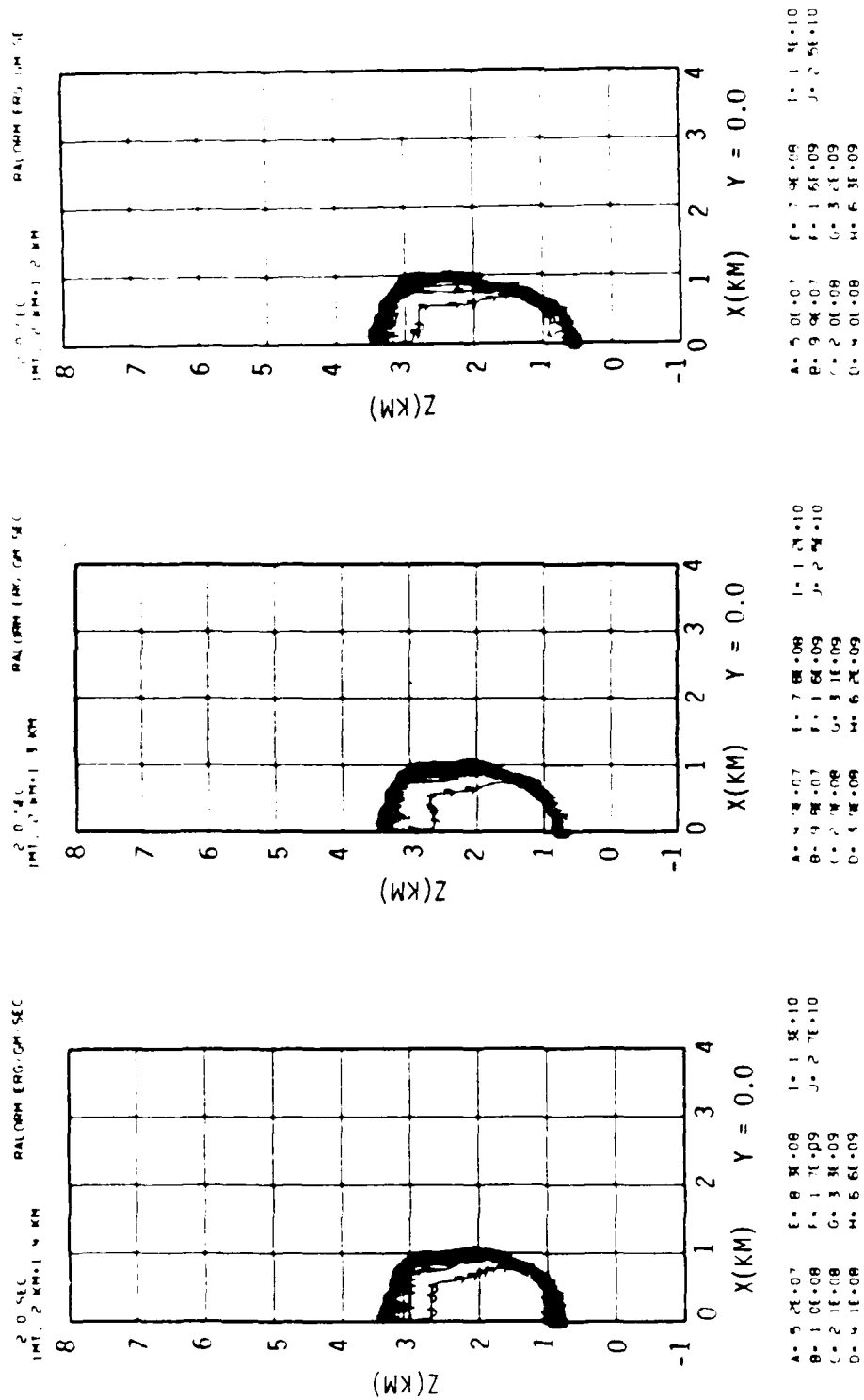
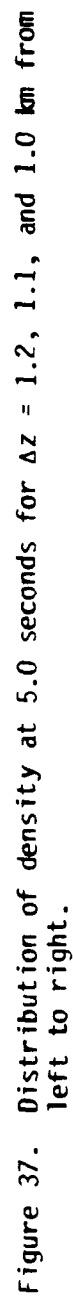
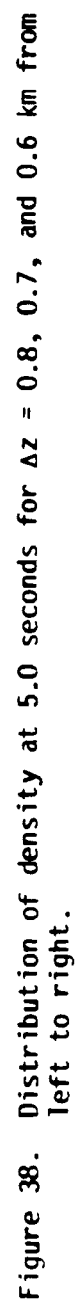


Figure 36. Distribution of cooling due to escaping radiation at 2.0 seconds for $Az = 0.6$, 0.7 , and 0.8 km from left to right.





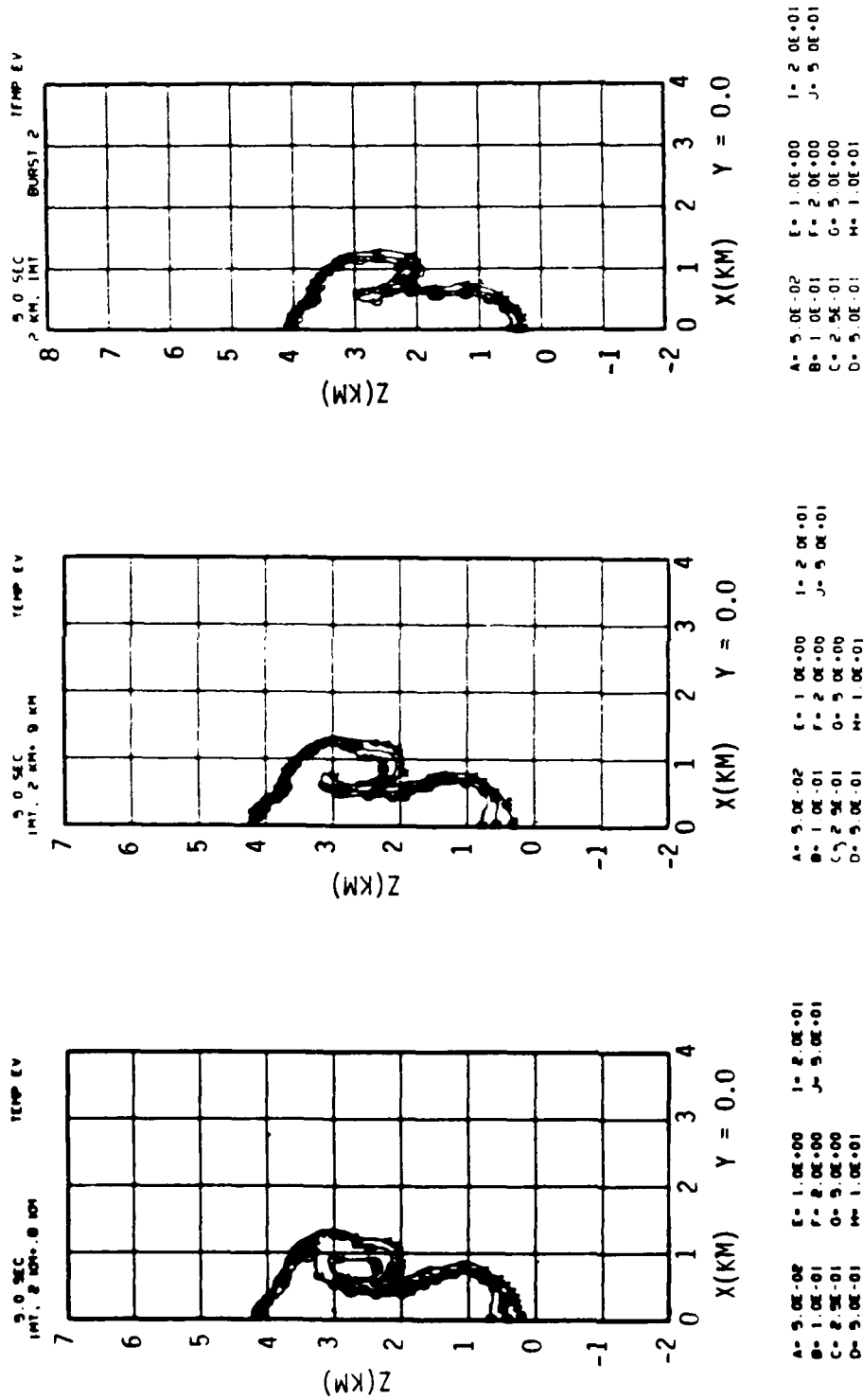


Figure 39. Distribution of temperature at 5.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2, 1.1,$ and 1.0 km from left to right.

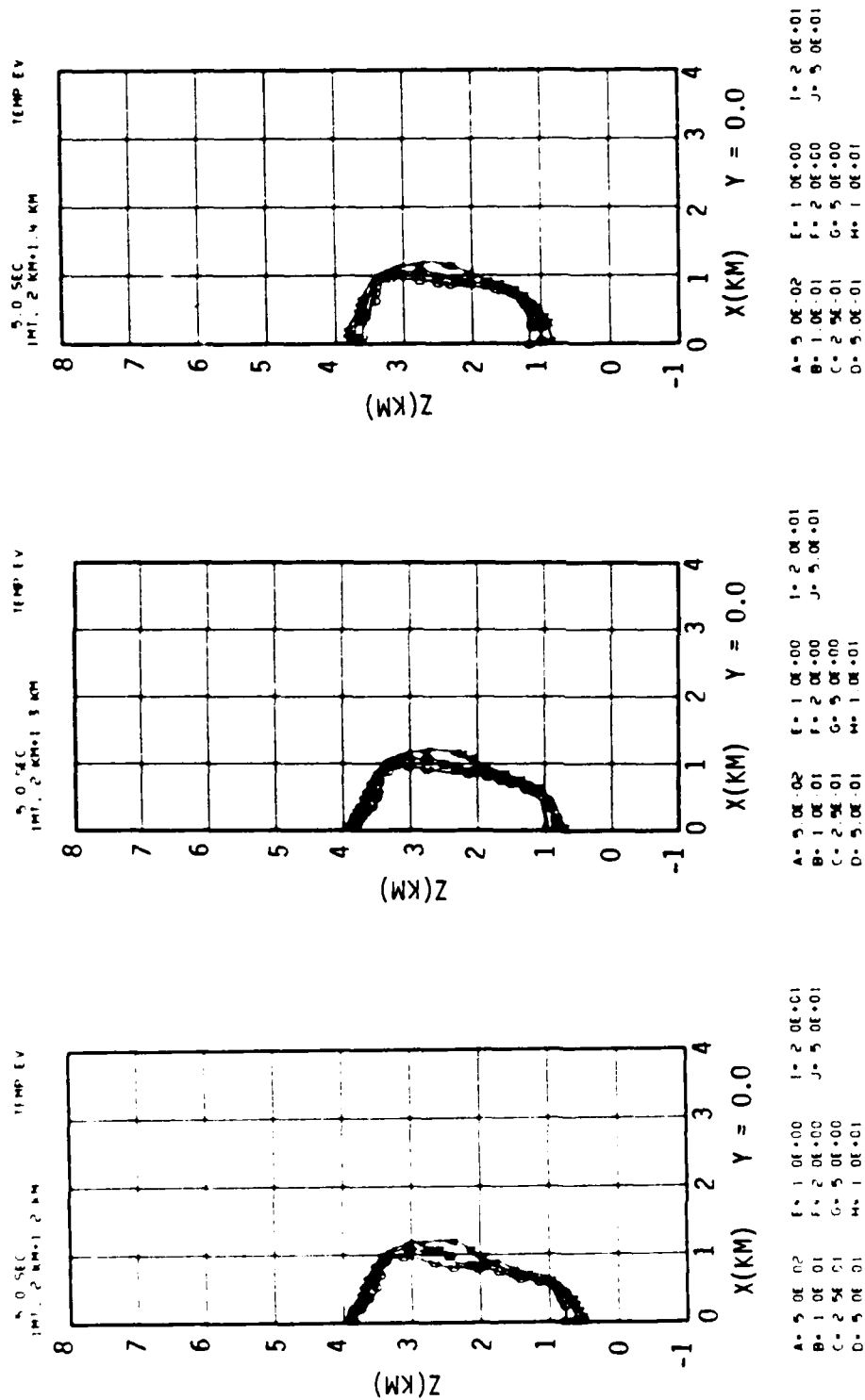


Figure 40. Distribution of temperature at 5.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8, 0.7,$ and 0.6 km from left to right.

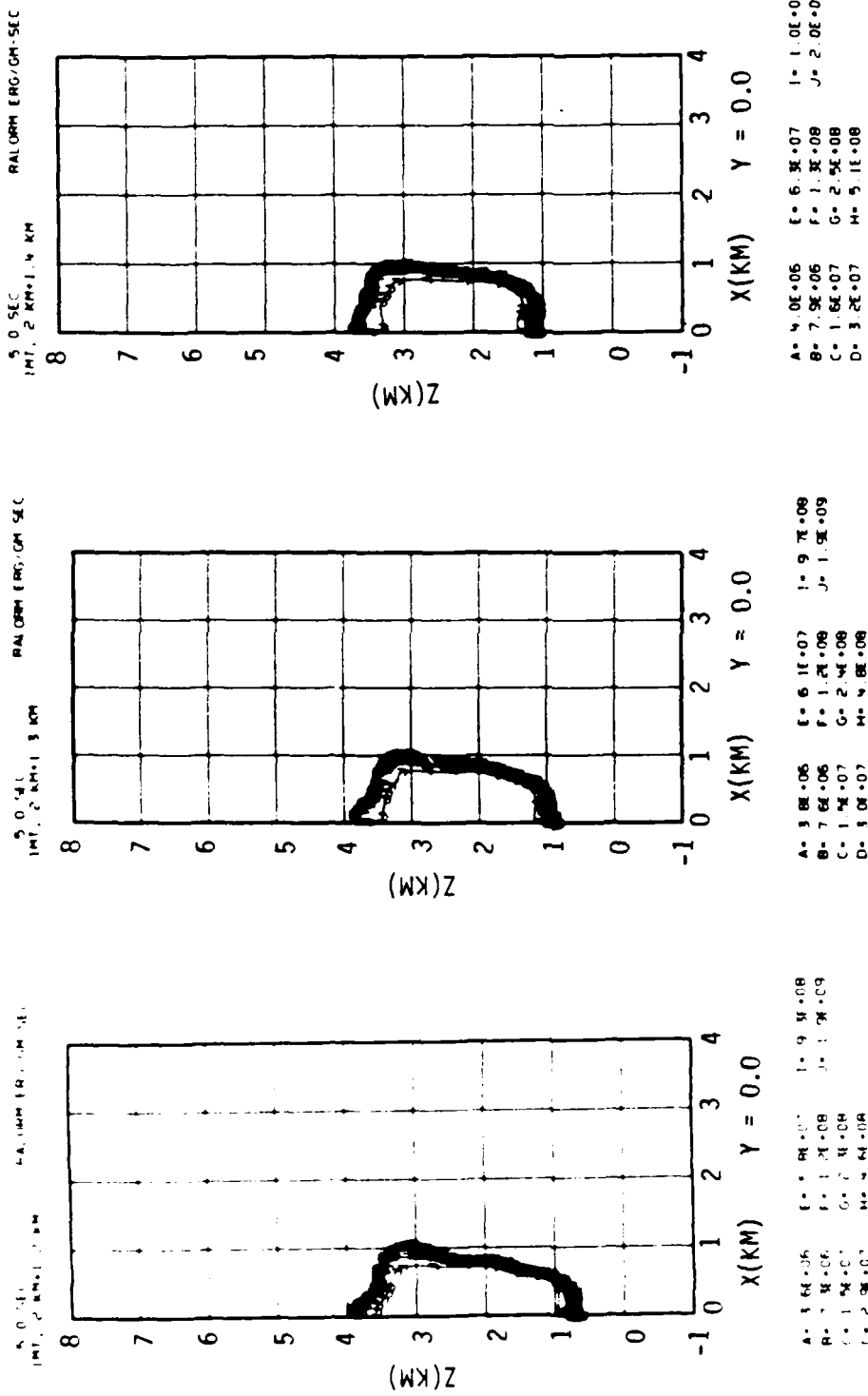


Figure 42. Distributions of cooling due to escaping radiation at 5.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8$, 0.7, and 0.6 km from left to right.

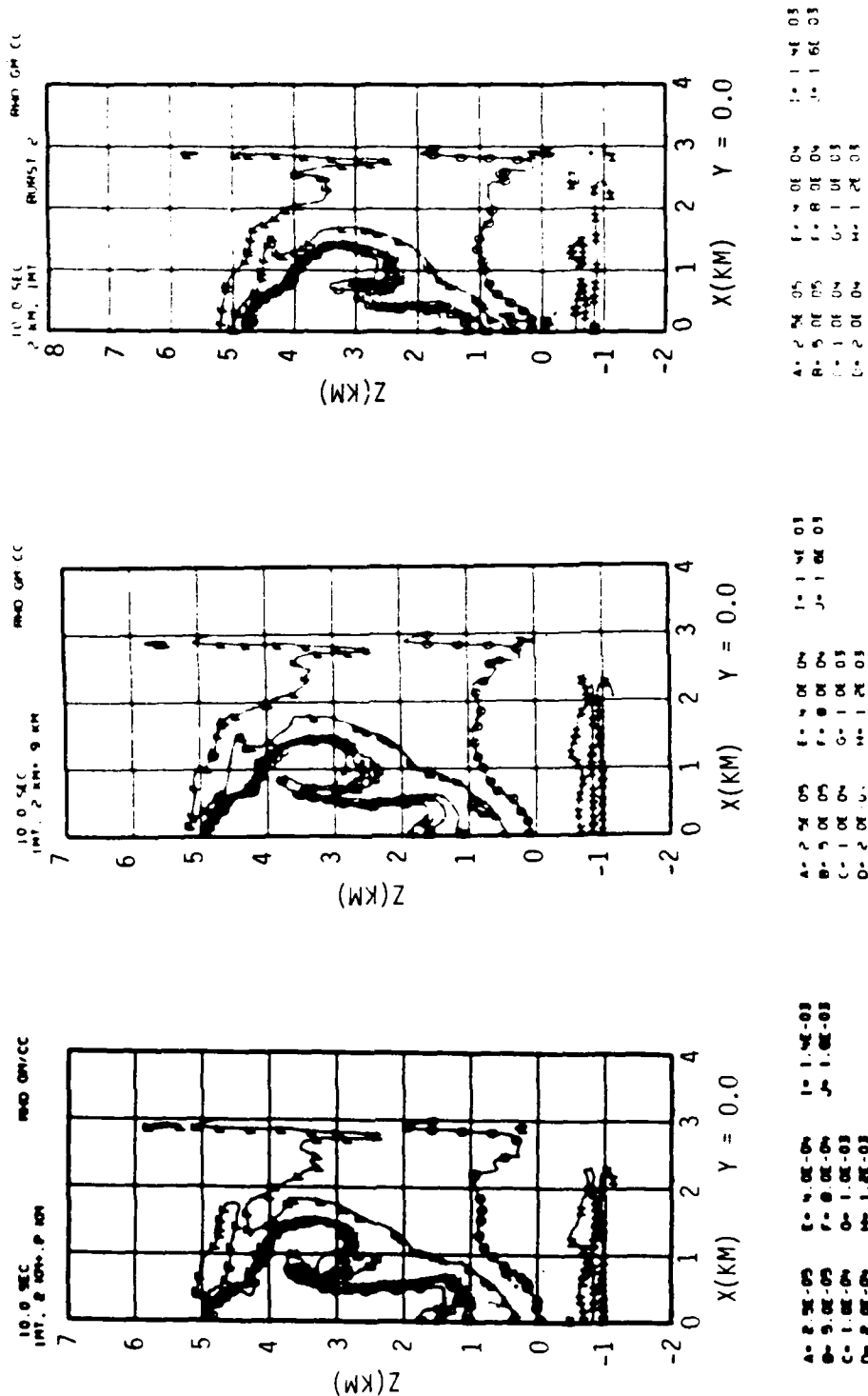


Figure 43. Distribution of density at 10.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2, 1.1$, and 1.0 km from left to right.

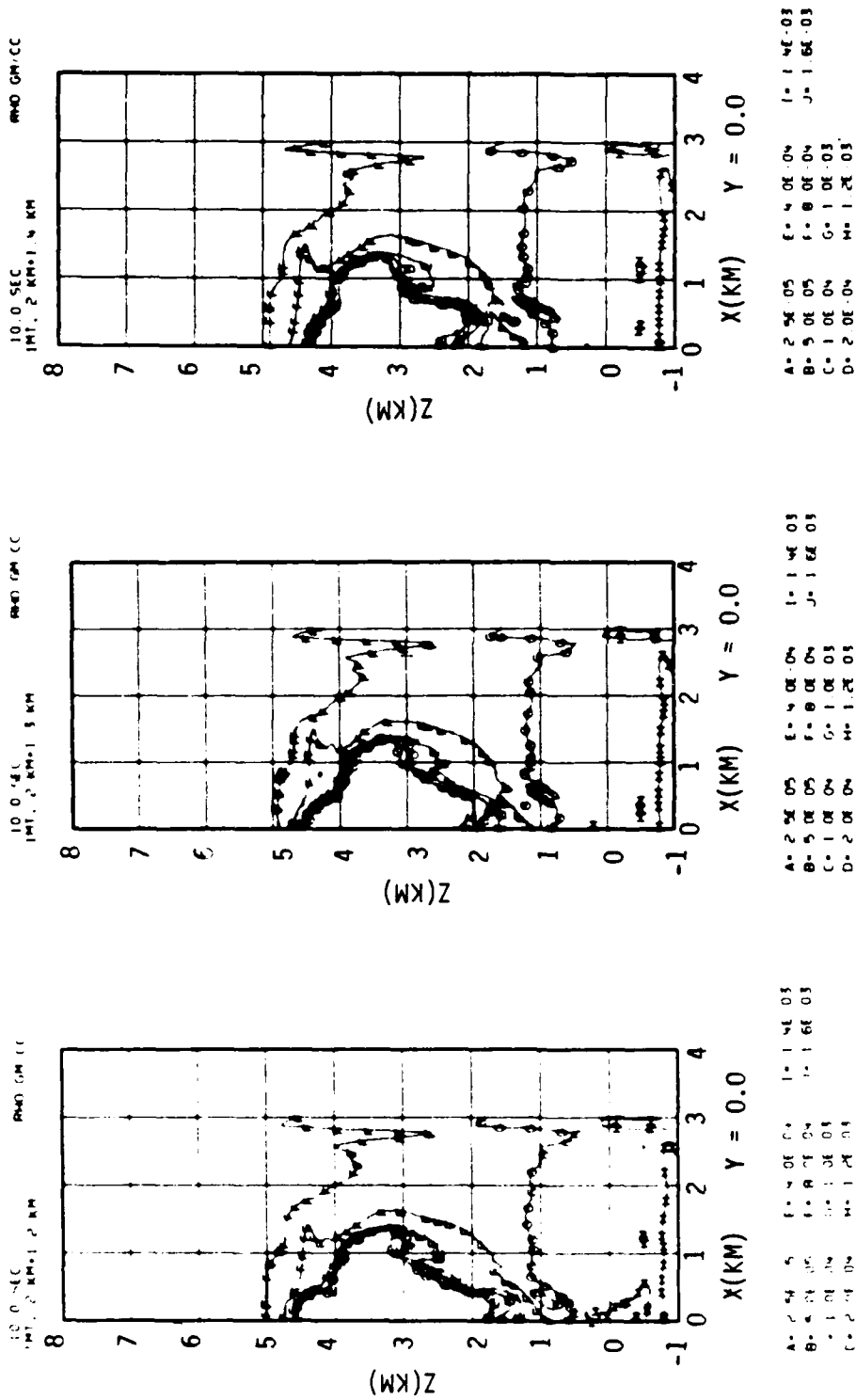


Figure 44. Distribution of density at 10.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8, 0.7$, and 0.6 km from left to right.

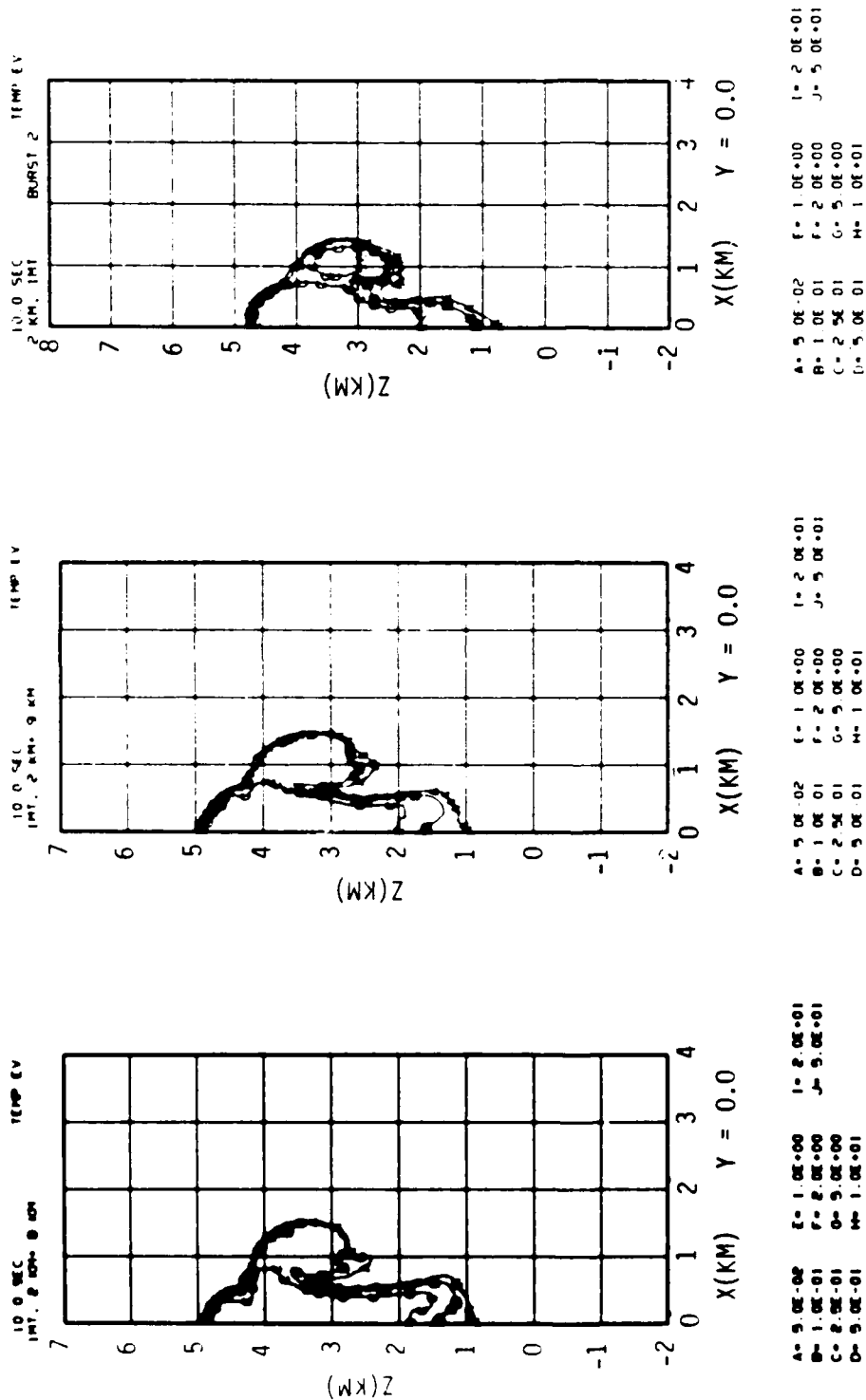


Figure 45. Distribution of temperature at 10.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2, 1.1, \text{ and } 1.0 \text{ km}$ from left to right.

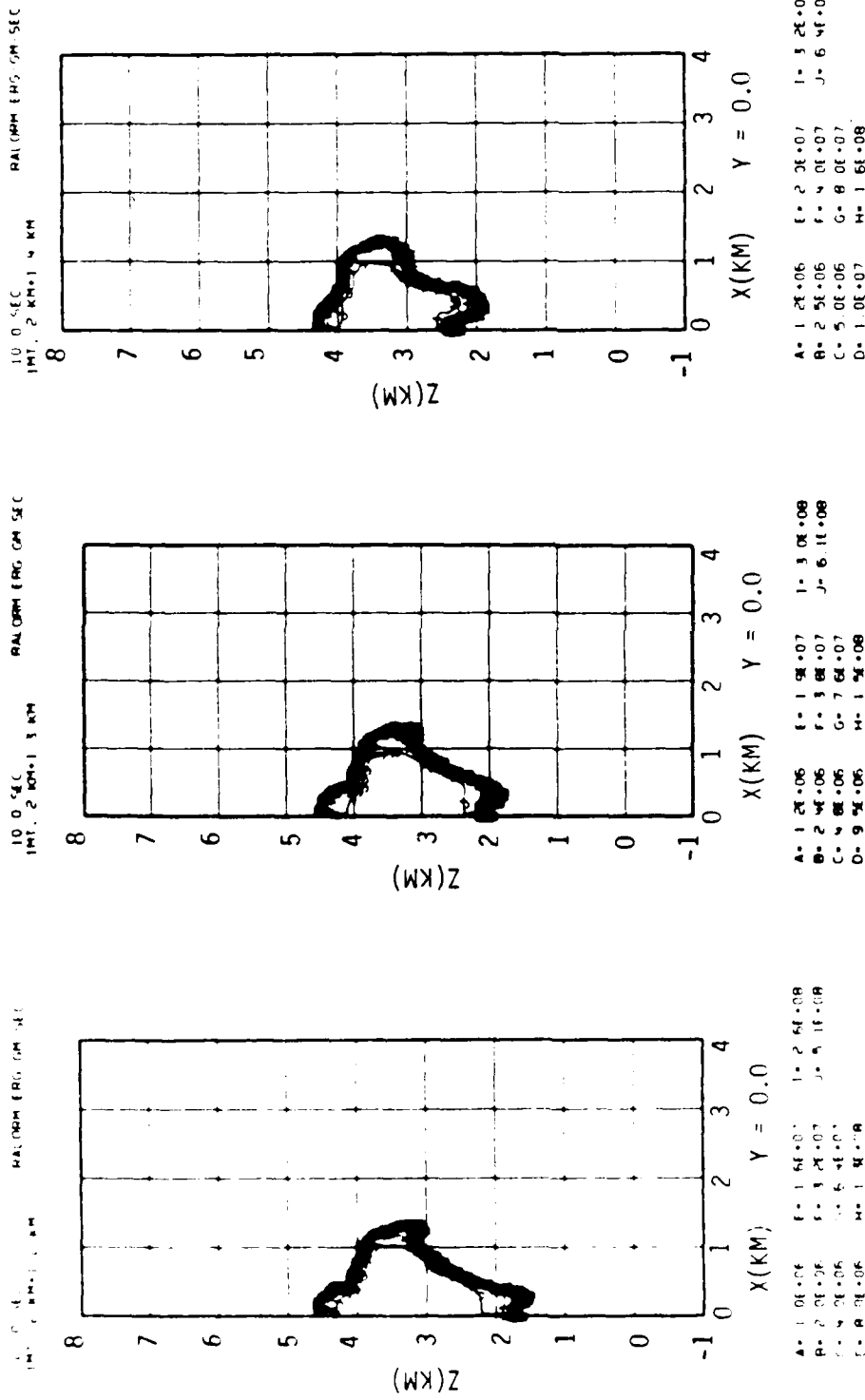


Figure 48. Distribution of cooling due to escaping radiation at 10.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8$, 0.7, and 0.6 km from left to right.



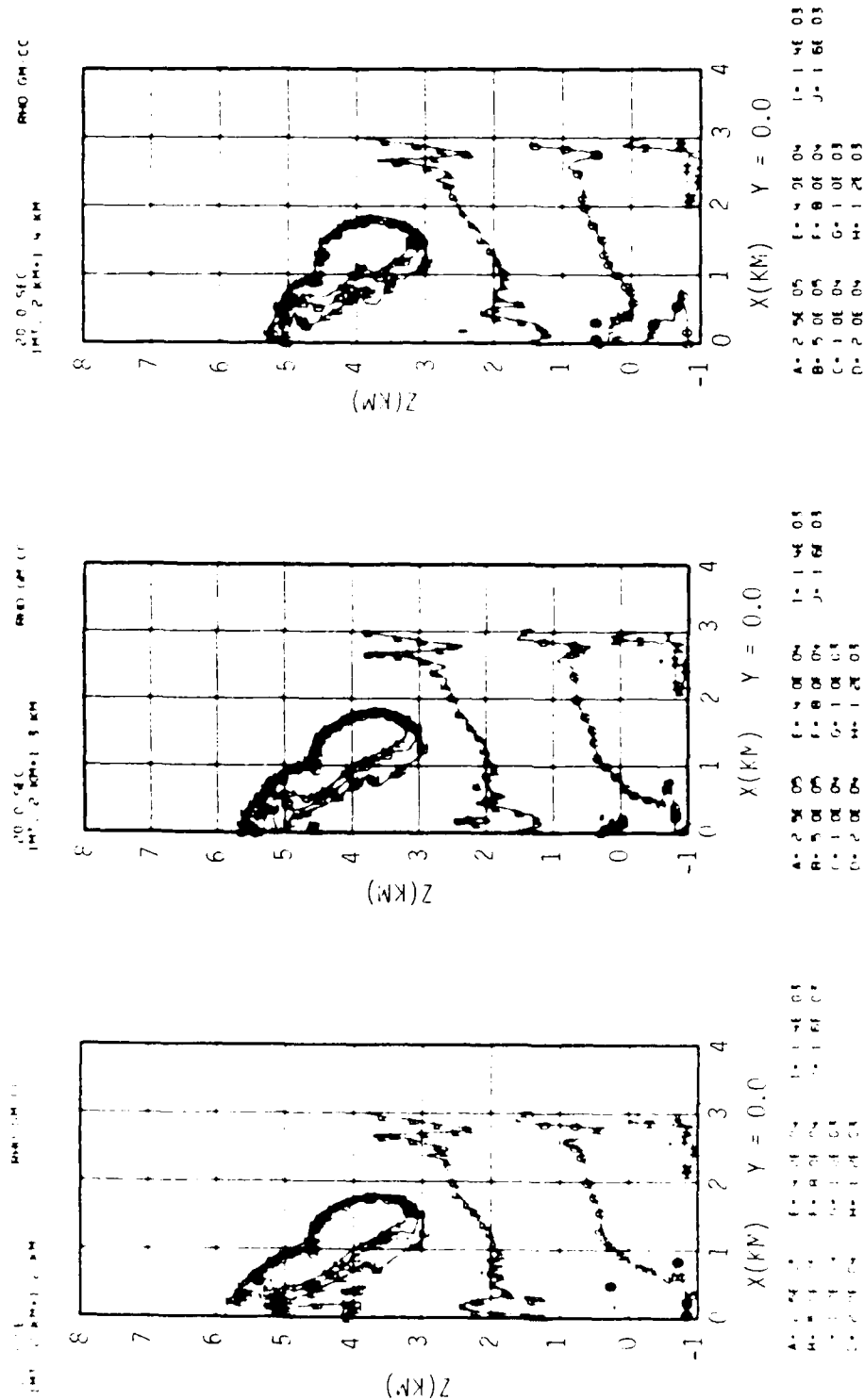


Figure 50. Distribution of density at 20.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8, 0.7$, and 0.6 km from left to right.

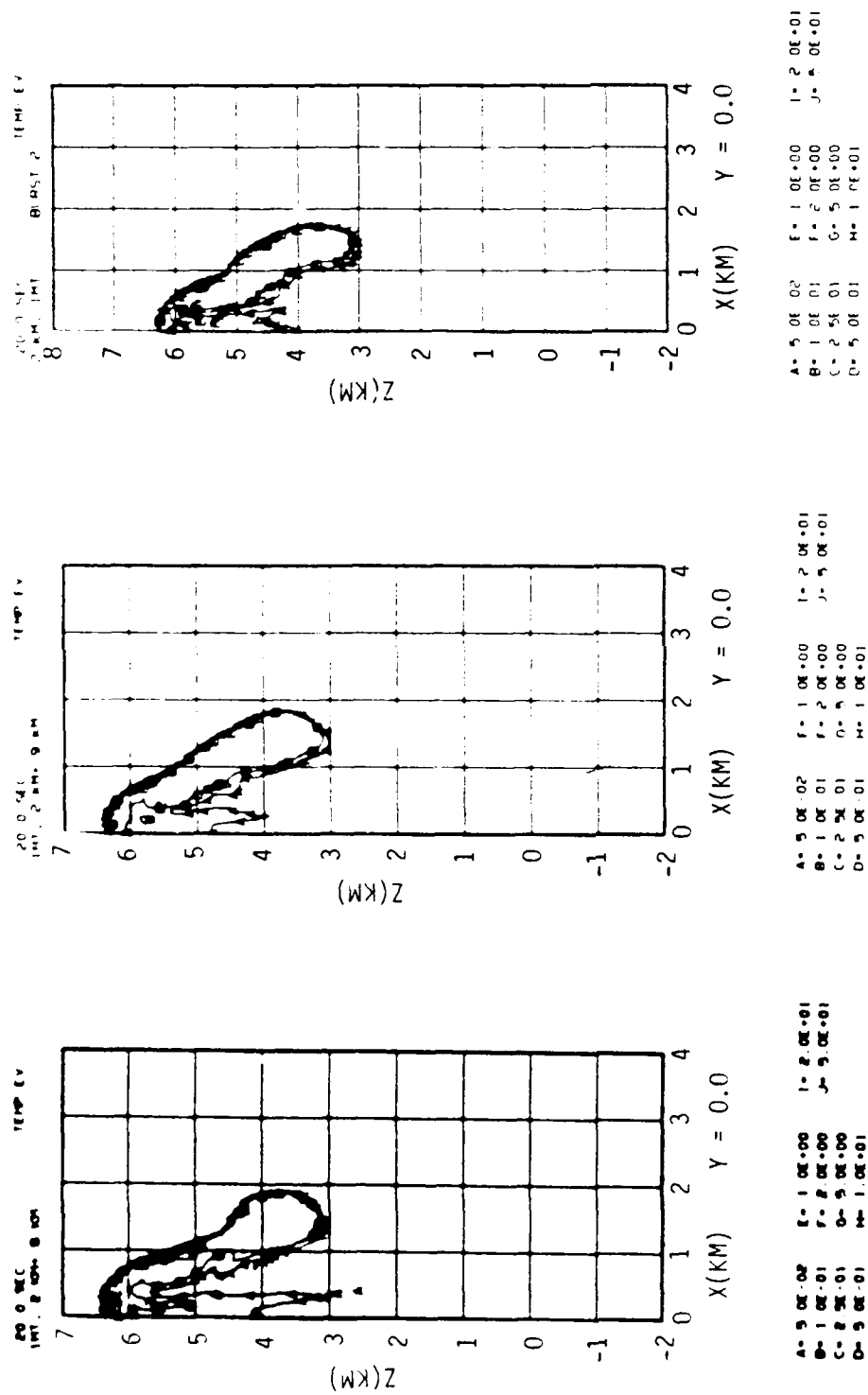
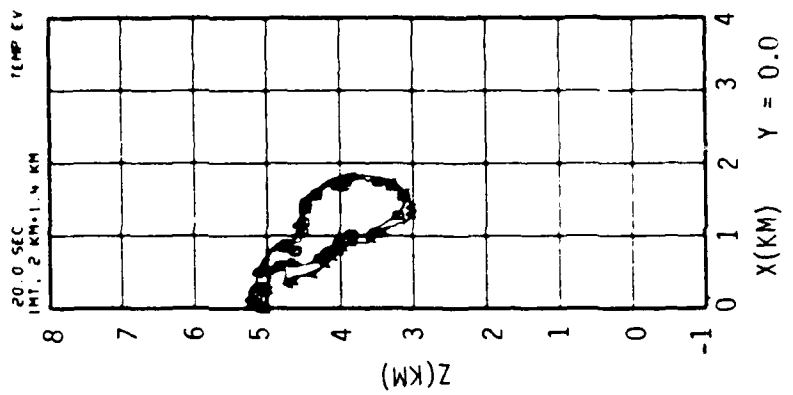
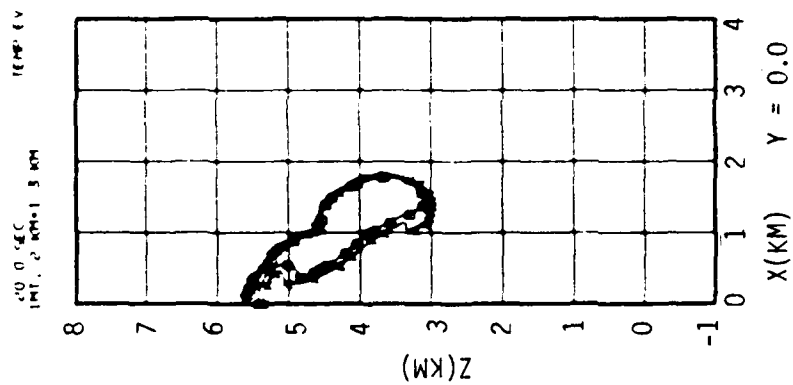


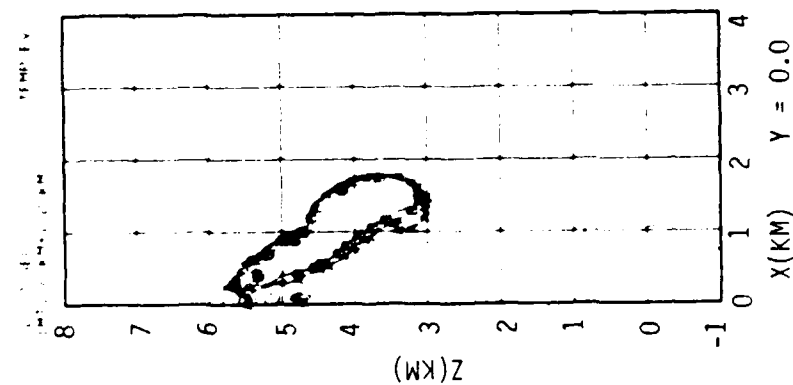
Figure 51. Distribution of temperature at 20.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2, 1.1, \text{ and } 1.0 \text{ km}$ from left to right.



A= 5.0E-02 E= 1.0E+00 I= 2.0E+01
B= 1.0E-01 F= 2.0E+00 J= 5.0E+01
C= 2.5E-01 G= 5.0E+00
D= 5.0E-01 M= 1.0E+01



A= 5.0E-02 E= 1.0E+00 I= 2.0E+01
B= 1.0E-01 F= 2.0E+00 J= 5.0E+01
C= 2.5E-01 G= 5.0E+00
D= 5.0E-01 M= 1.0E+01



A= 5.0E-02 E= 1.0E+00 I= 2.0E+01
B= 1.0E-01 F= 2.0E+00 J= 5.0E+01
C= 2.5E-01 G= 5.0E+00
D= 5.0E-01 M= 1.0E+01

Figure 52. Distribution of temperature at 20.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 0.8, 0.7,$ and 0.6 km from left to right.

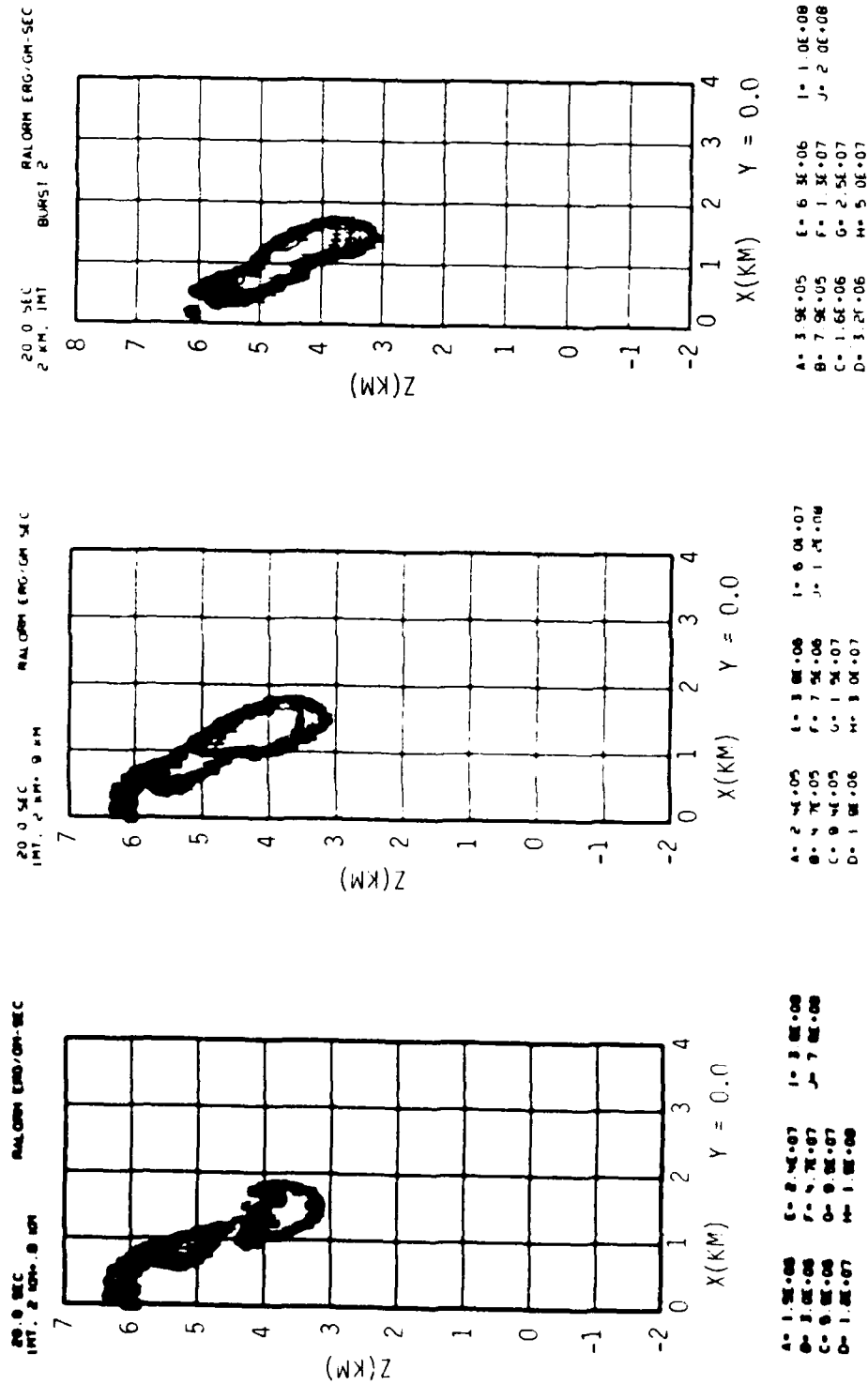


Figure 53. Distribution of cooling due to escaping radiation at 20.0 seconds for $\Delta z = 1.2$, 1.1, and 1.0 km from left to right.

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4. Christian, R. H., R. E. Stoeckly, and W. A. Schlueter, "Two-Dimensional Dual Burst Results (U)," Unpublished.

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