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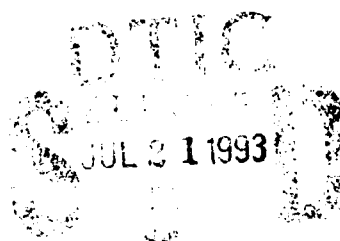
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Atmospheric Transmittance Between 1.0 and 2.0 μm

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*Applied Optics Branch
Optical Sciences Division*

June 30, 1993



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ATMOSPHERIC TRANSMITTANCE BETWEEN 1.0 AND 2.0 μM

G.L. Trusty and J.A. Welch

INTRODUCTION

In the design of EO systems that operate in the infrared the most important aspect for outdoor use is the choice of wavelength. Because of molecular absorption by atmospheric gases, there are few locations in the infrared spectrum that provide sufficiently high transmission for a system to perform successfully. For laser-based systems, the high complexity of the spectrum usually requires a calculation for each proposed wavelength.

In 1983, primarily driven by calculations required for the HF-DF laser, two members of this section at NRL (Leslie and Lebow) produced a report¹ that provided calculated plots of high-resolution molecular absorption spectra of the composite atmospheric gases from 2.0 to 5.0 μm . These plots were of sufficiently high resolution (40 cm^{-1} total on each 7-inch-long graph) that all spectral structure at one atmosphere of pressure, i.e., at sea level, was readily discernable by the reader. That report proved to be extremely useful; in fact, after these ten years it is still regularly referred to for laser and system choices in that spectral region.

THE CALCULATIONS

In the past several years, new laser developments and new requirements revitalized interest in atmospheric propagation. Over that time we have found many wavelengths being investigated that fall between 1.0 and 2.0 μm . Due to the durable value of the original report we deemed it worthwhile to provide a similar atlas for this new spectral region.

As an historical note the calculations for the first report were done in 1983 on a DEC PDP-11/40 minicomputer. The computer program used at the time was a version of a HITRAN-like code that was written by one of the current authors (Trusty) while a graduate student at Ohio State University. He had brought the code with him to NRL where S. Hanley and K. Haught each added significant improvements to it as it became an integral part of the section operation.

Today we do the calculations on a PC, using a commercial product², which is a version of the AFGL(AirForce Geophysical Laboratory, now Phillips Laboratory) FASCODE³. Thus, this report, unlike the original, is not based on an NRL-produced calculational capability. It is presented, instead, as a result of NRL's continued interest in high-resolution propagation issues. Except for the spectral region, the output product here is essentially the same as that of the first report; the primary improvement is probably in the accuracy of the more recent AFGL Absorption Atlas⁴ data, the basis of all HITRAN-like codes.

Note that most of the atmospheric absorption in this spectral region comes from water vapor, and therefore, the actual transmittance of a particular laser line can vary significantly with a change in humidity. By necessity, the plots in the report give results for only one value of humidity. Thus, they are only to provide a quick check on applicability to propagation through the atmosphere to determine if further study is required.

For consistency with the earlier report, we have chosen the AFGL Mid-Latitude Summer model⁵ for the atmospheric conditions. At sea level, which these current calculations represent, this gives a temperature of 21 °C and a water vapor pressure of 14 torr. While the earlier report considered only molecular absorption, here, primarily because of the larger scattering contribution at these shorter wavelengths, we have included aerosol scattering. We used the Maritime 23Km-Visibility aerosol model in the calculations. The low-resolution LOWTRAN⁶ plot in Fig. 1 shows the resultant total transmittance for the entire spectral region as well as the transmittance for the aerosol scattering contribution.

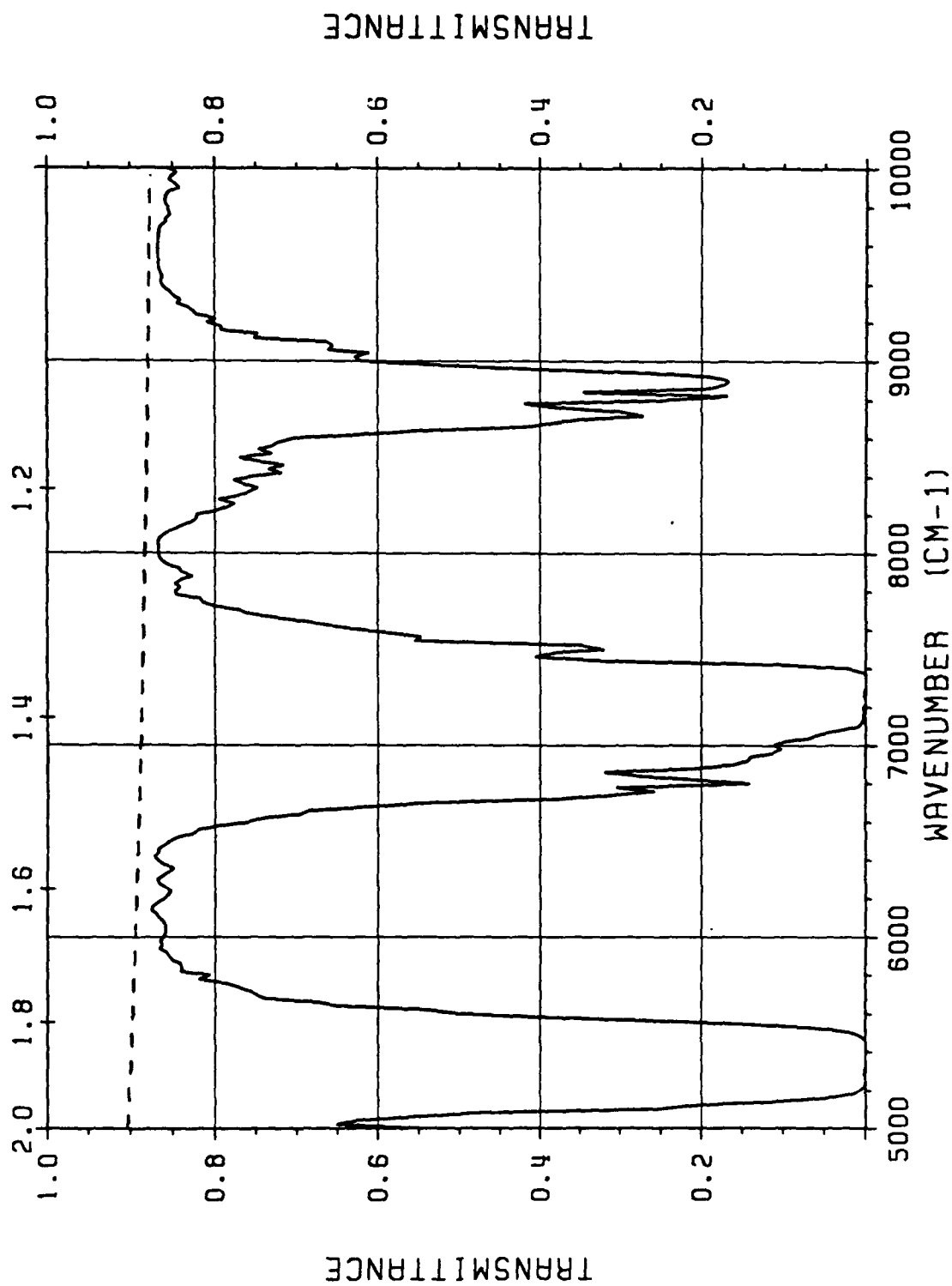
THE COMPUTED HIGH-RESOLUTION SPECTRA

The high-resolution plots are given in the Appendix. Each page shows a plot of the extinction coefficient of the atmosphere, for the conditions given above, over the 40-cm⁻¹ spectral region noted by the X-axis. Because each plot does show a labeled X-axis noting the spectral region, figure numbers and figure captions seemed redundant and are not included.

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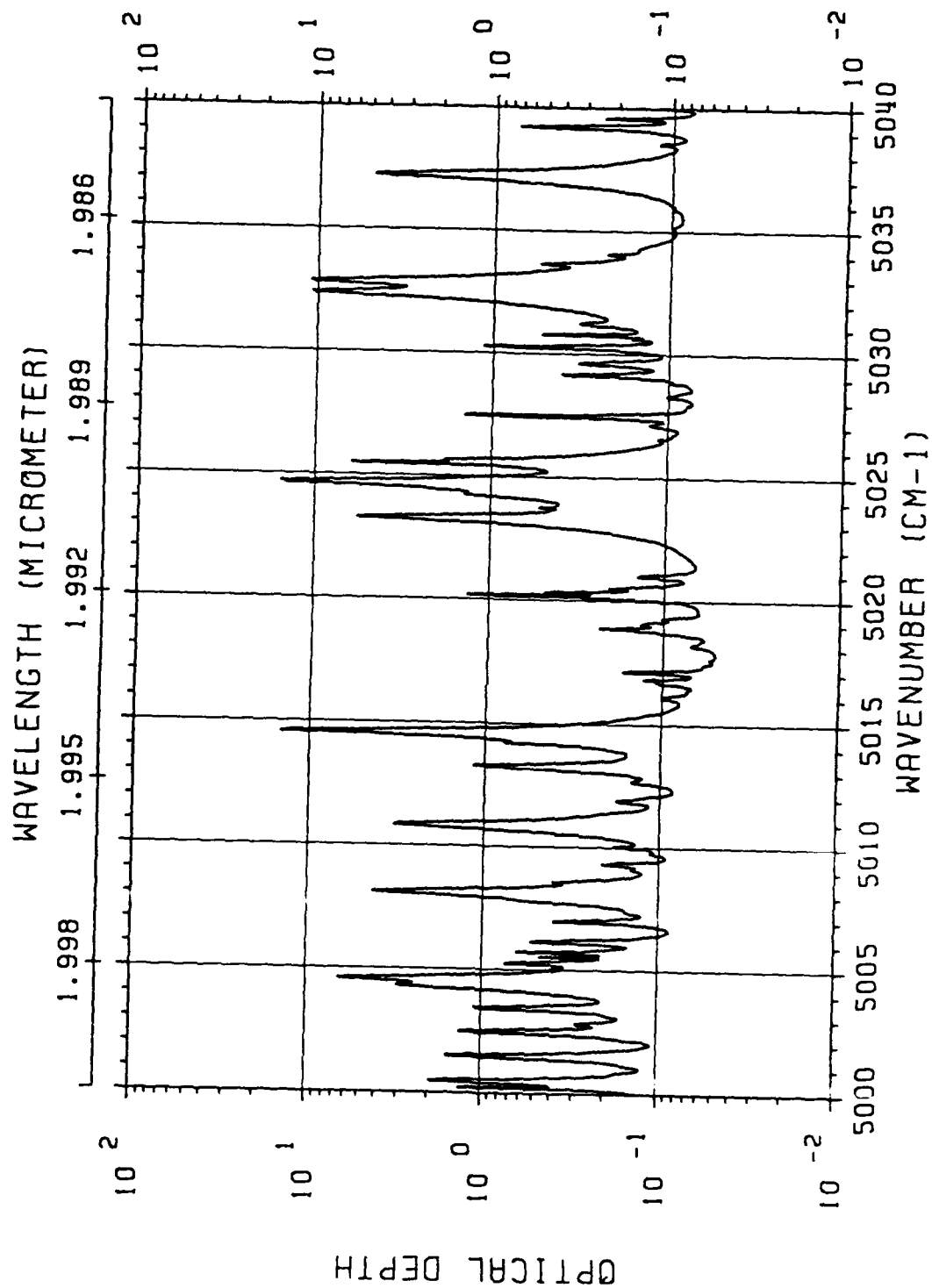
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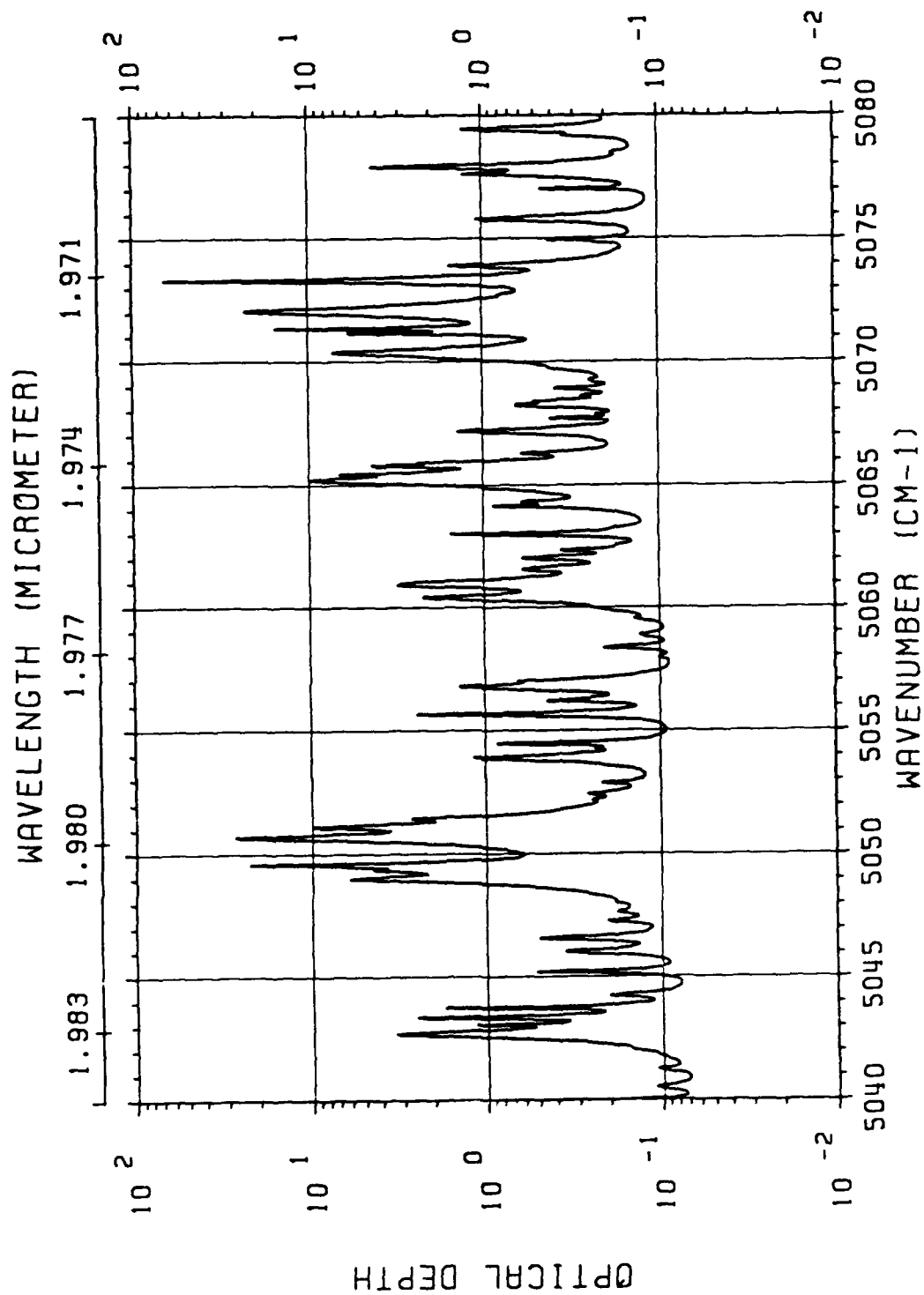
1-KM HORIZONTAL MIDLATITUDE SUMMER

Figure 1. Low-resolution plot of transmittance between 1.0 and 2.0 μm

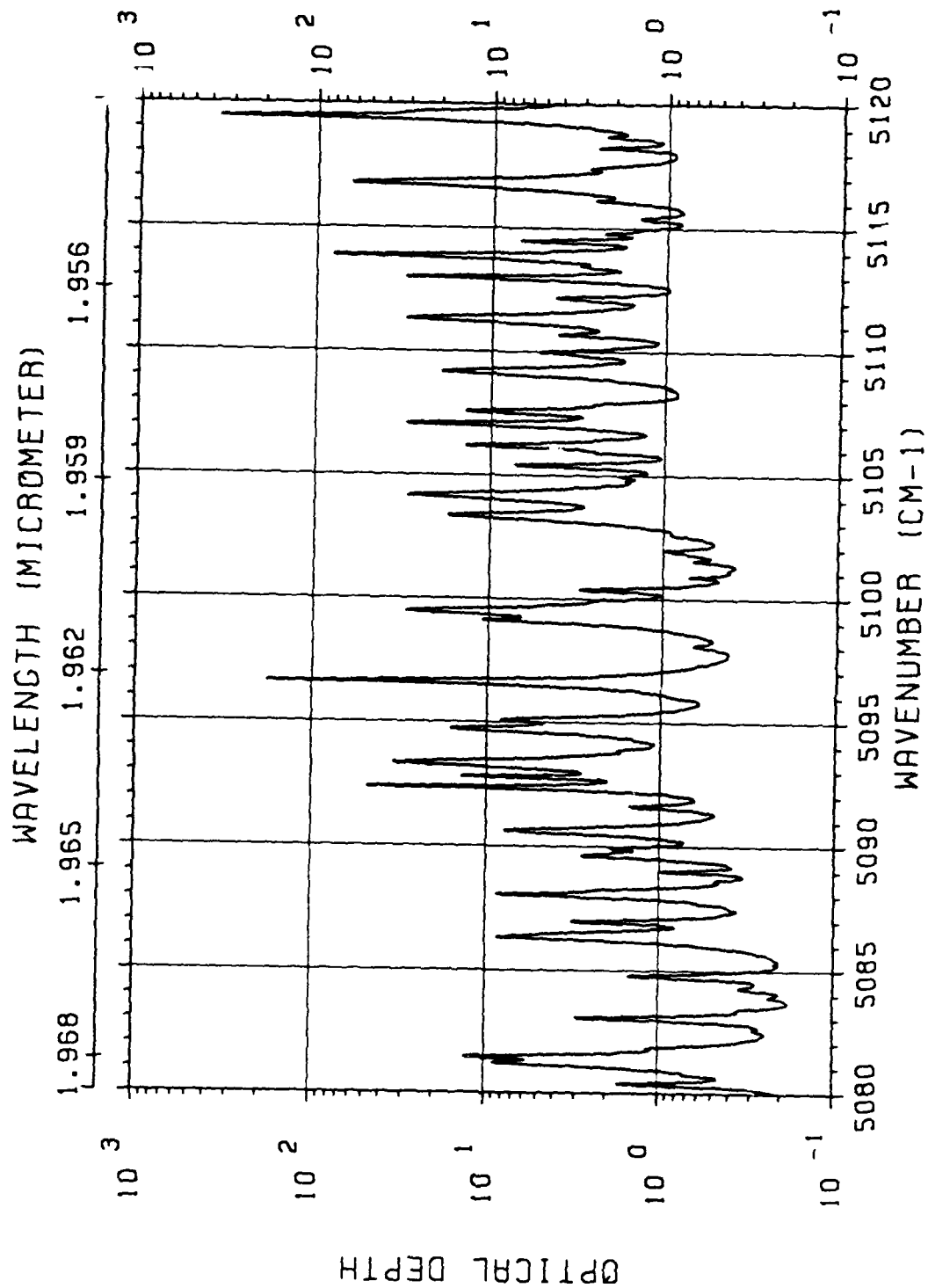
APPENDIX
THE COMPUTED HIGH-RESOLUTION SPECTRA



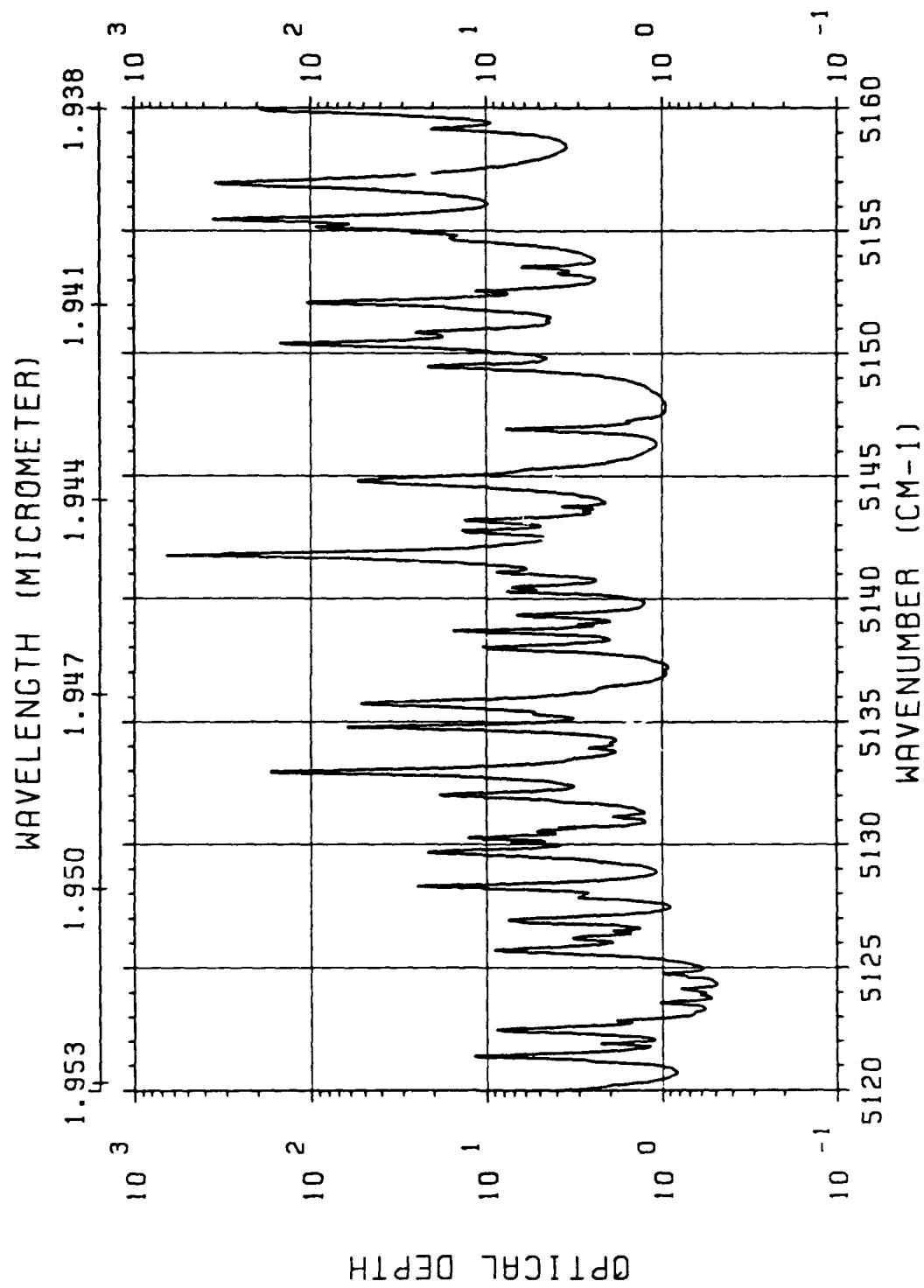
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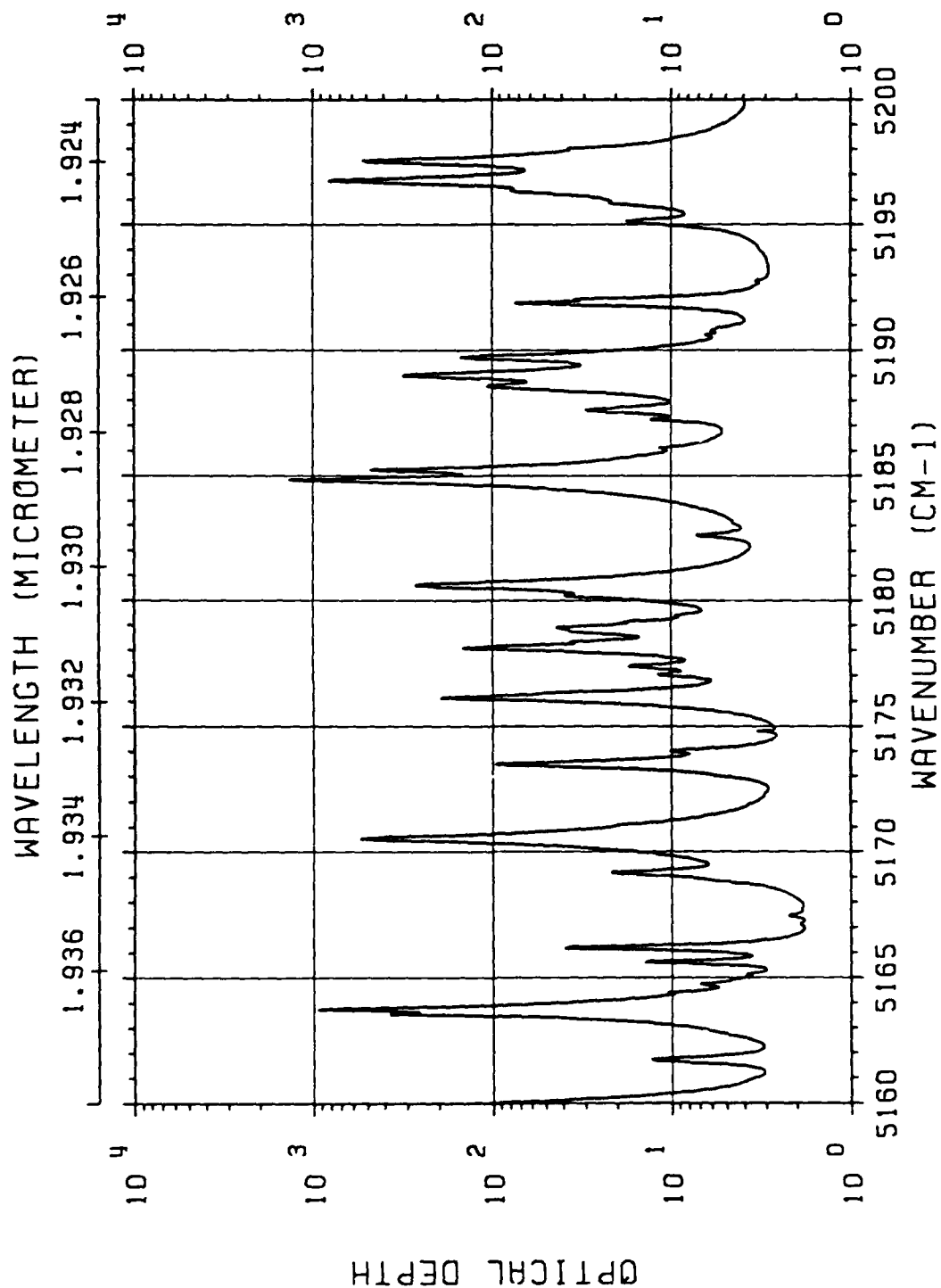
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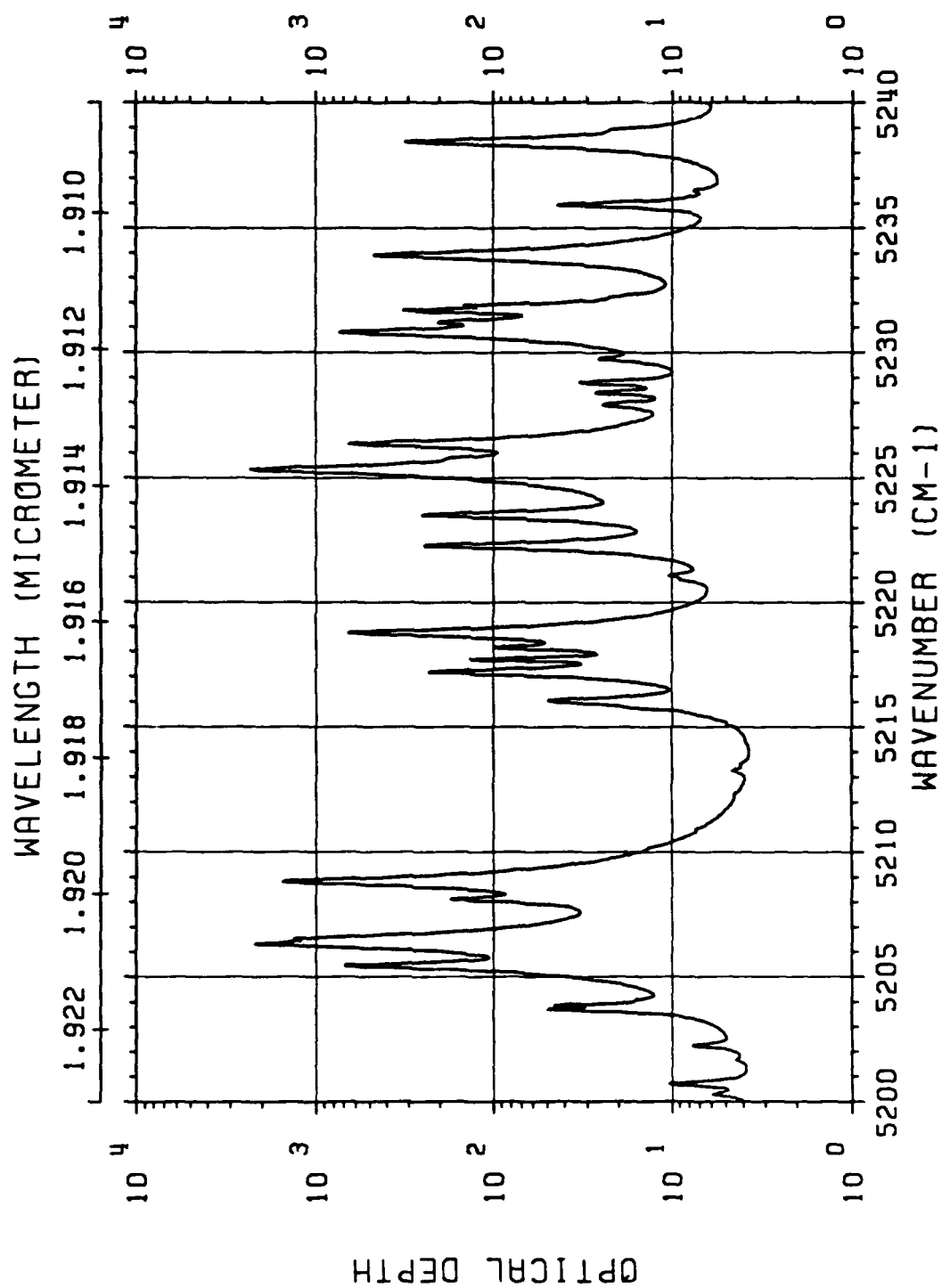
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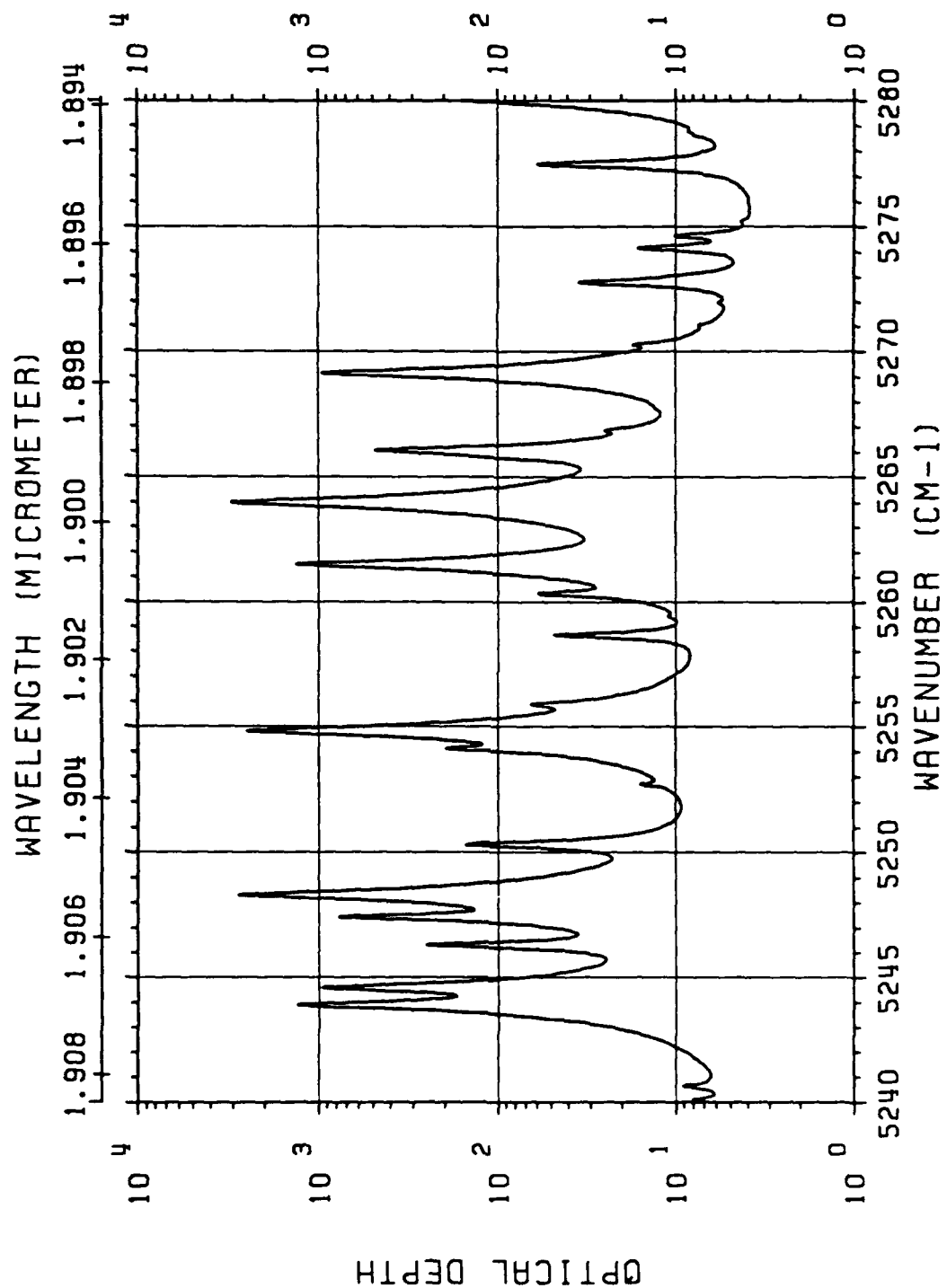
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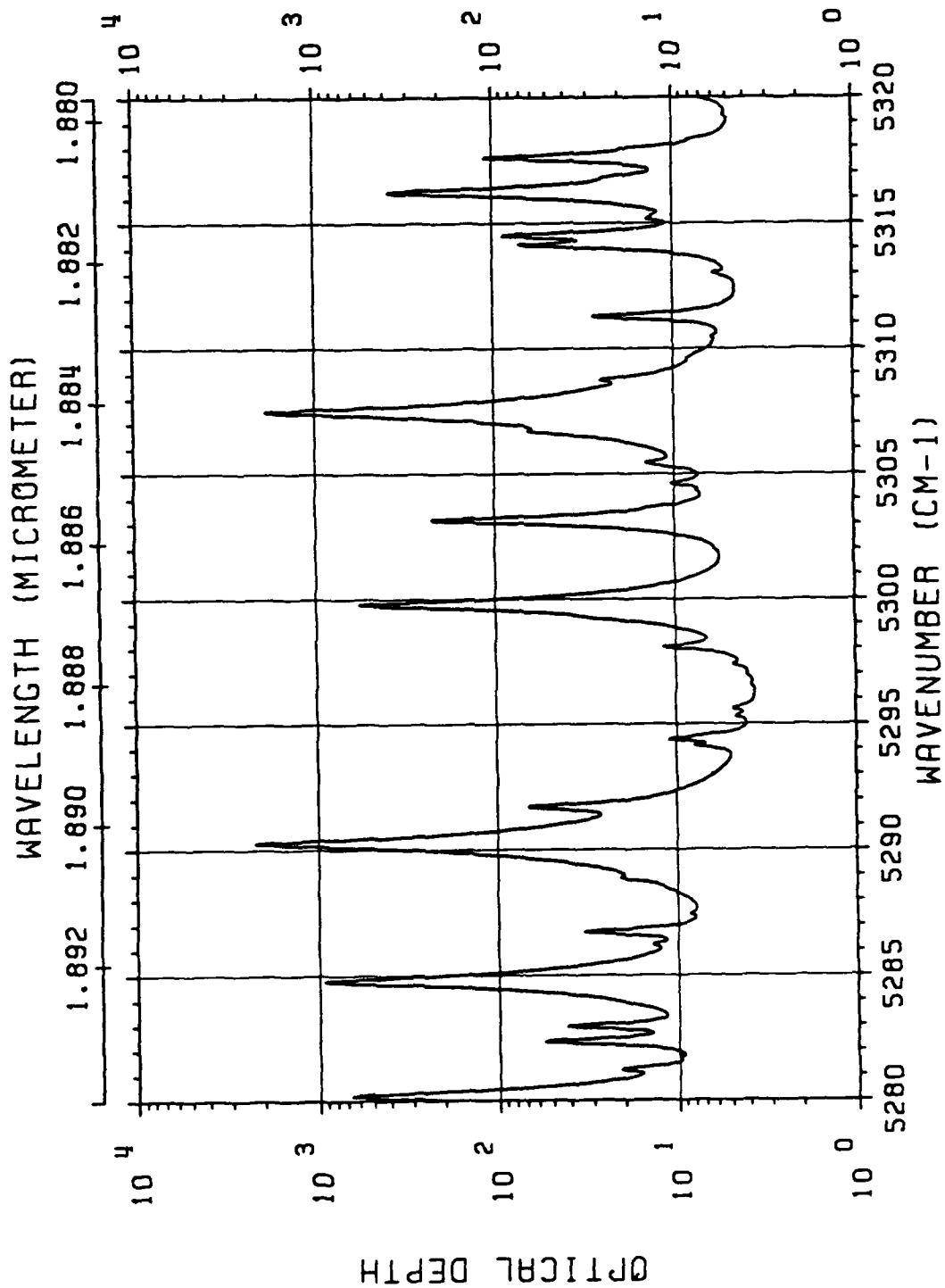
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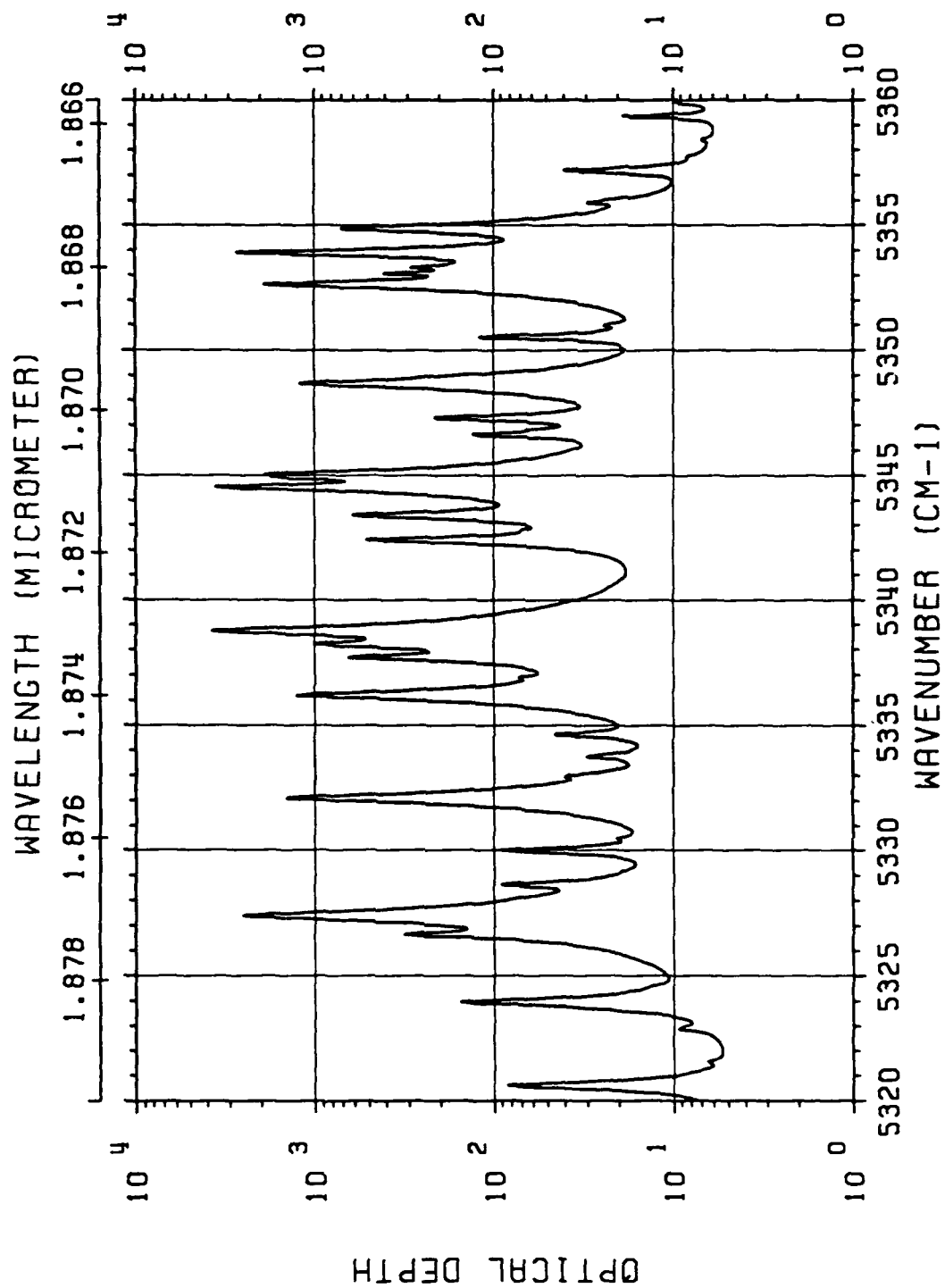


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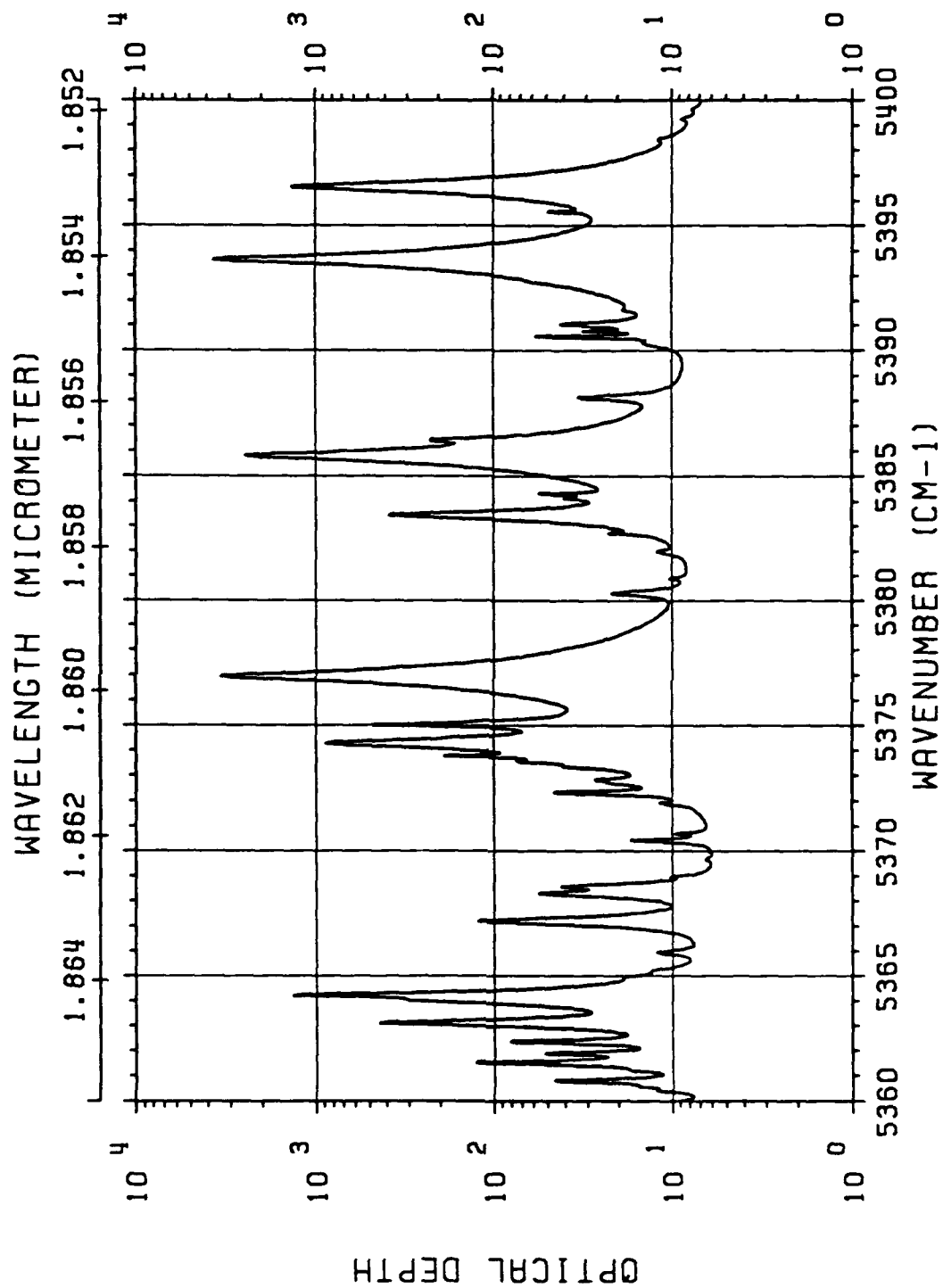


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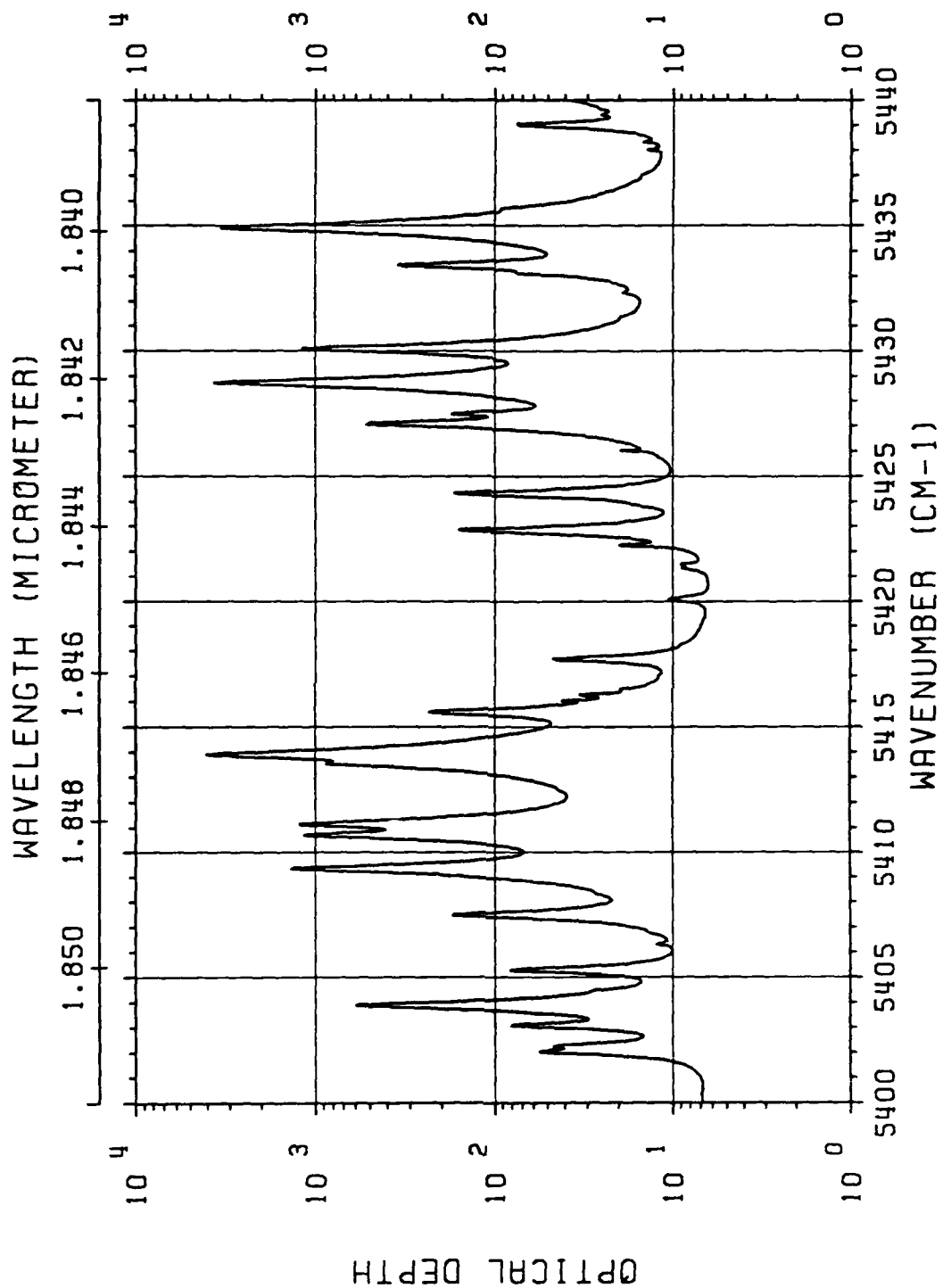




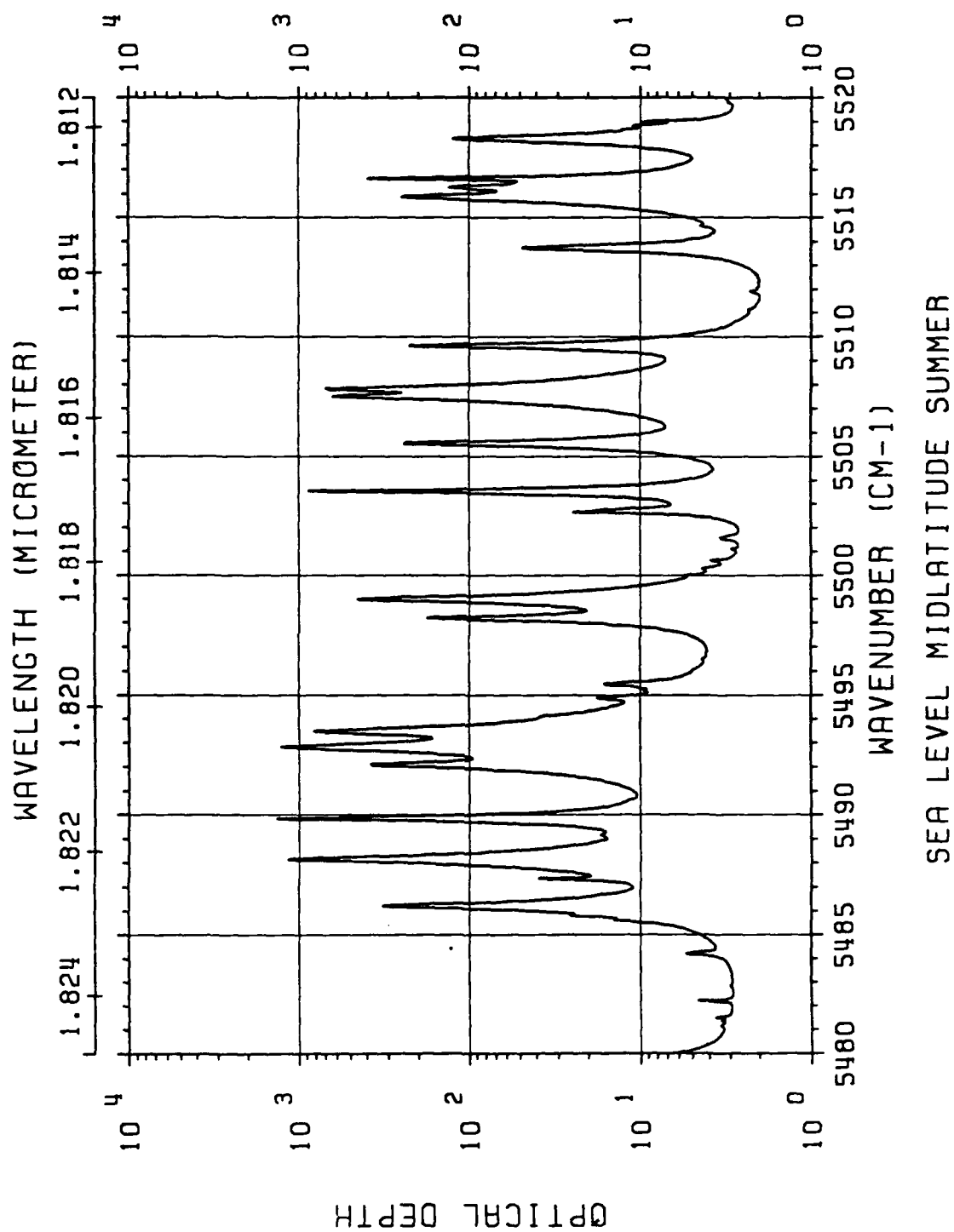
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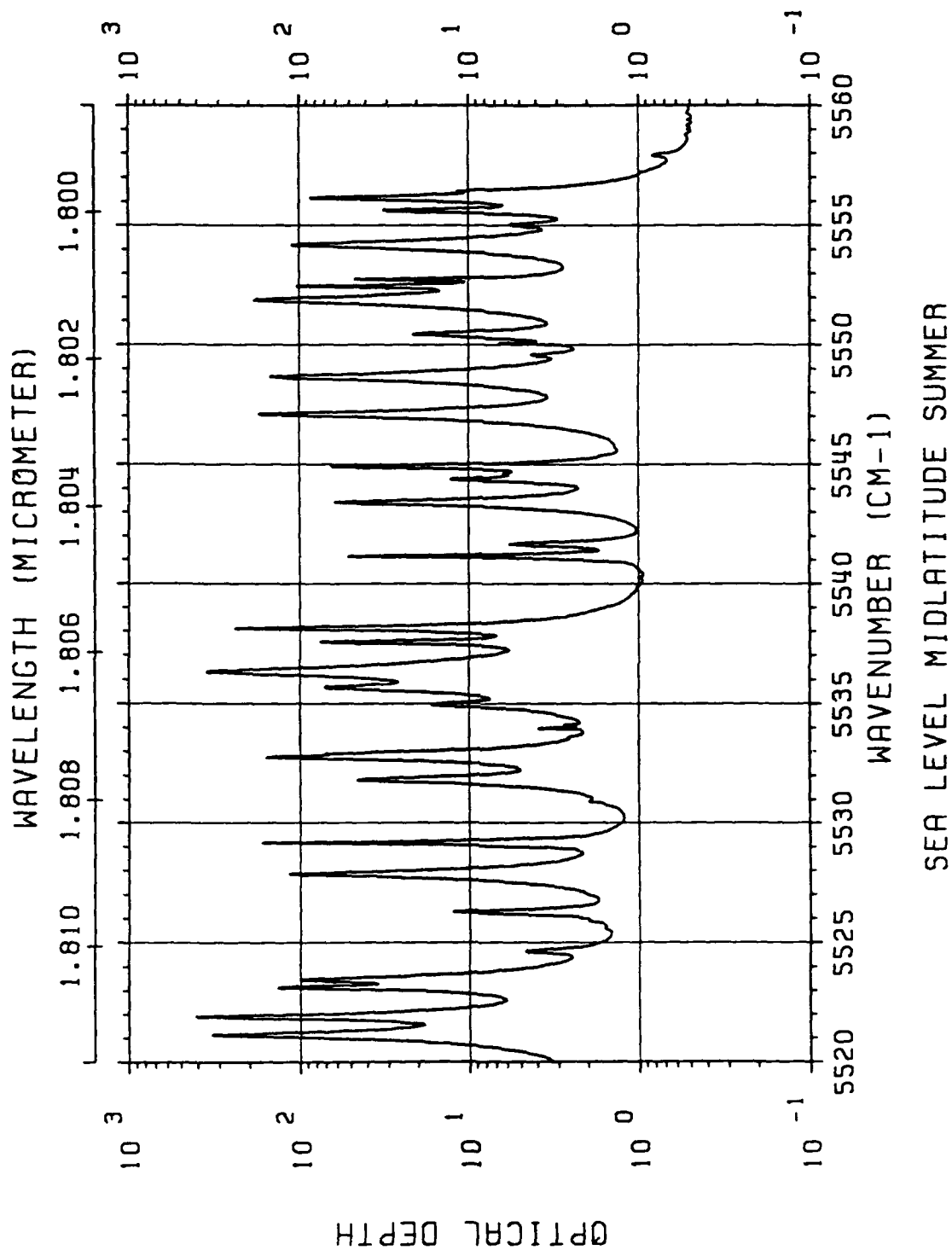


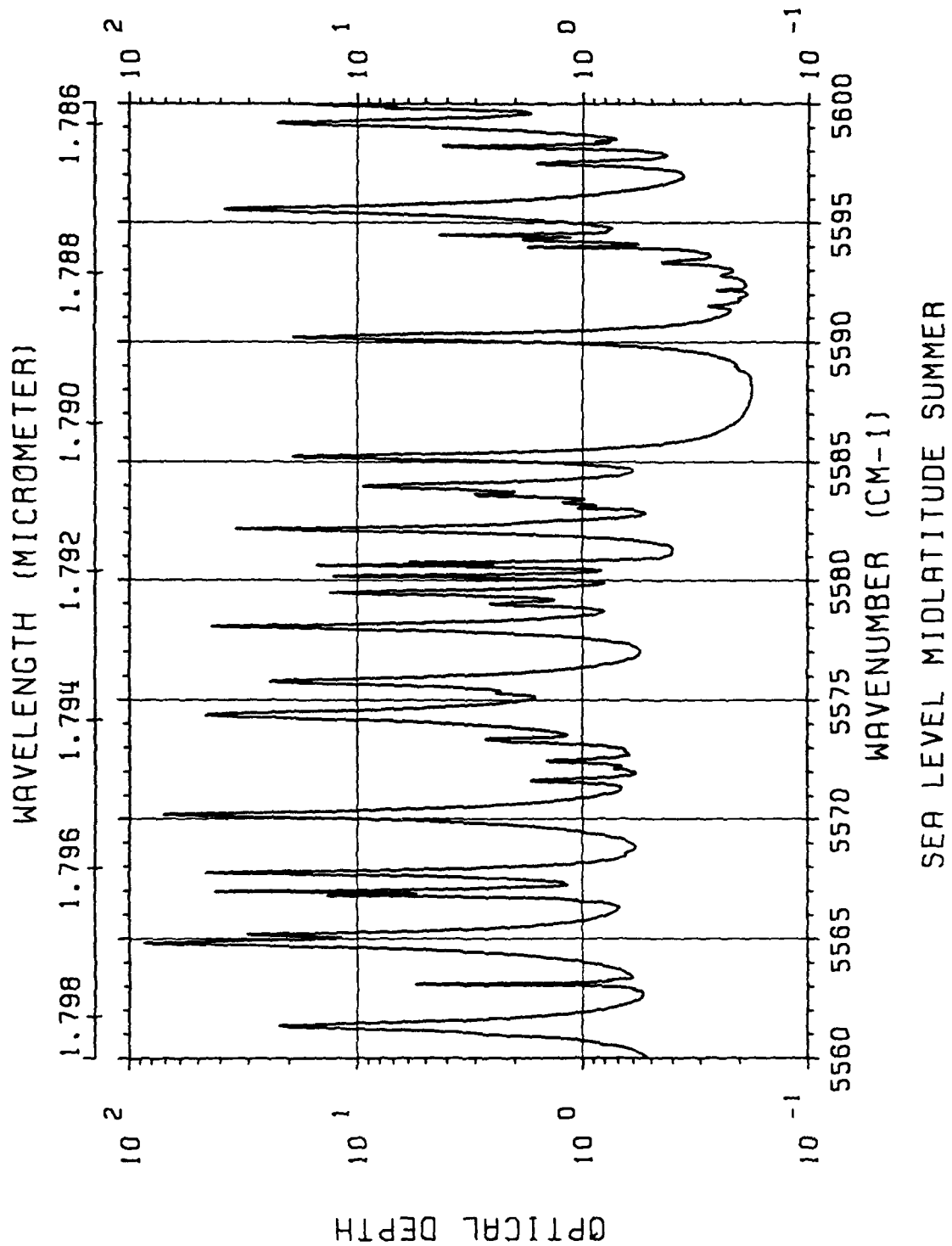
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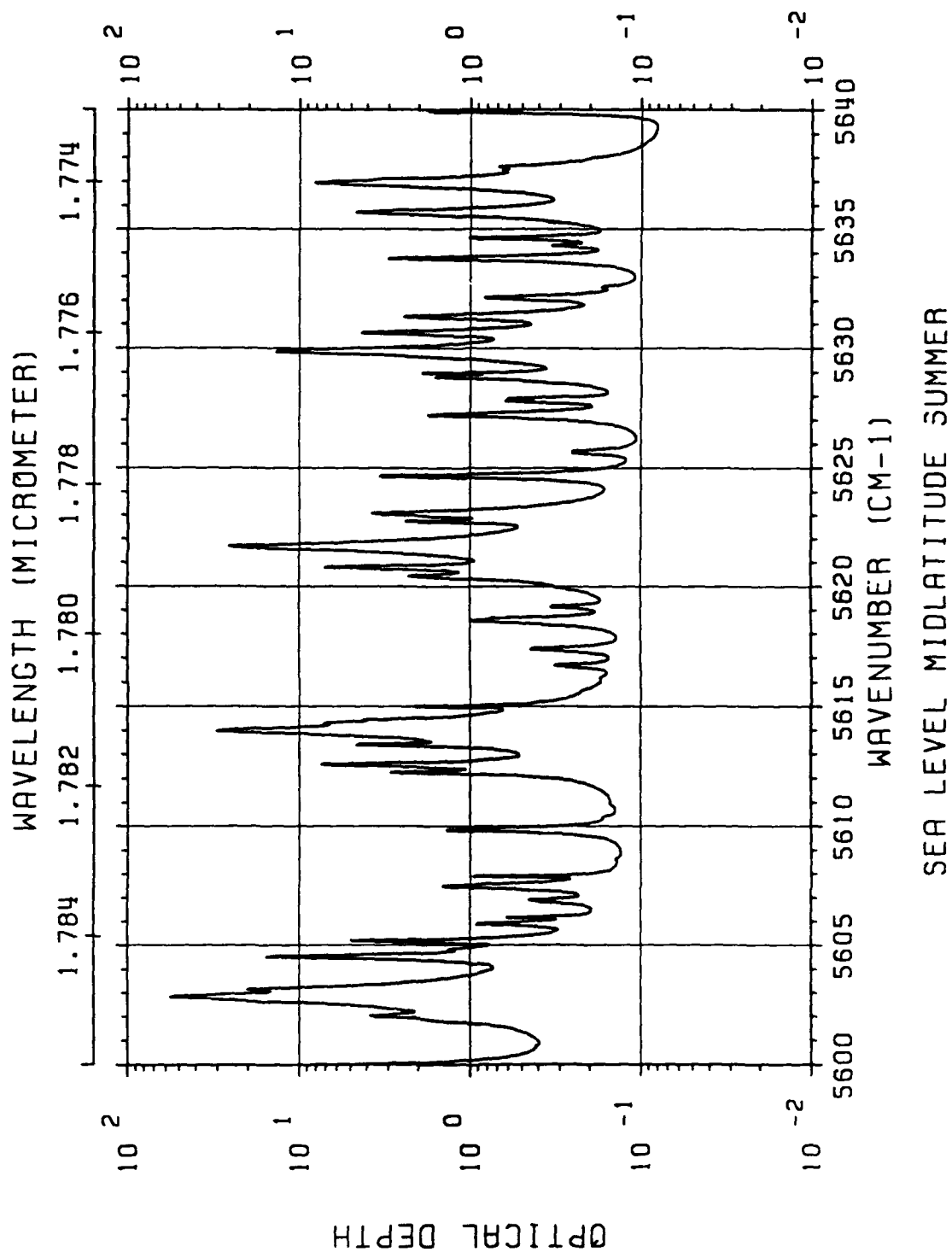


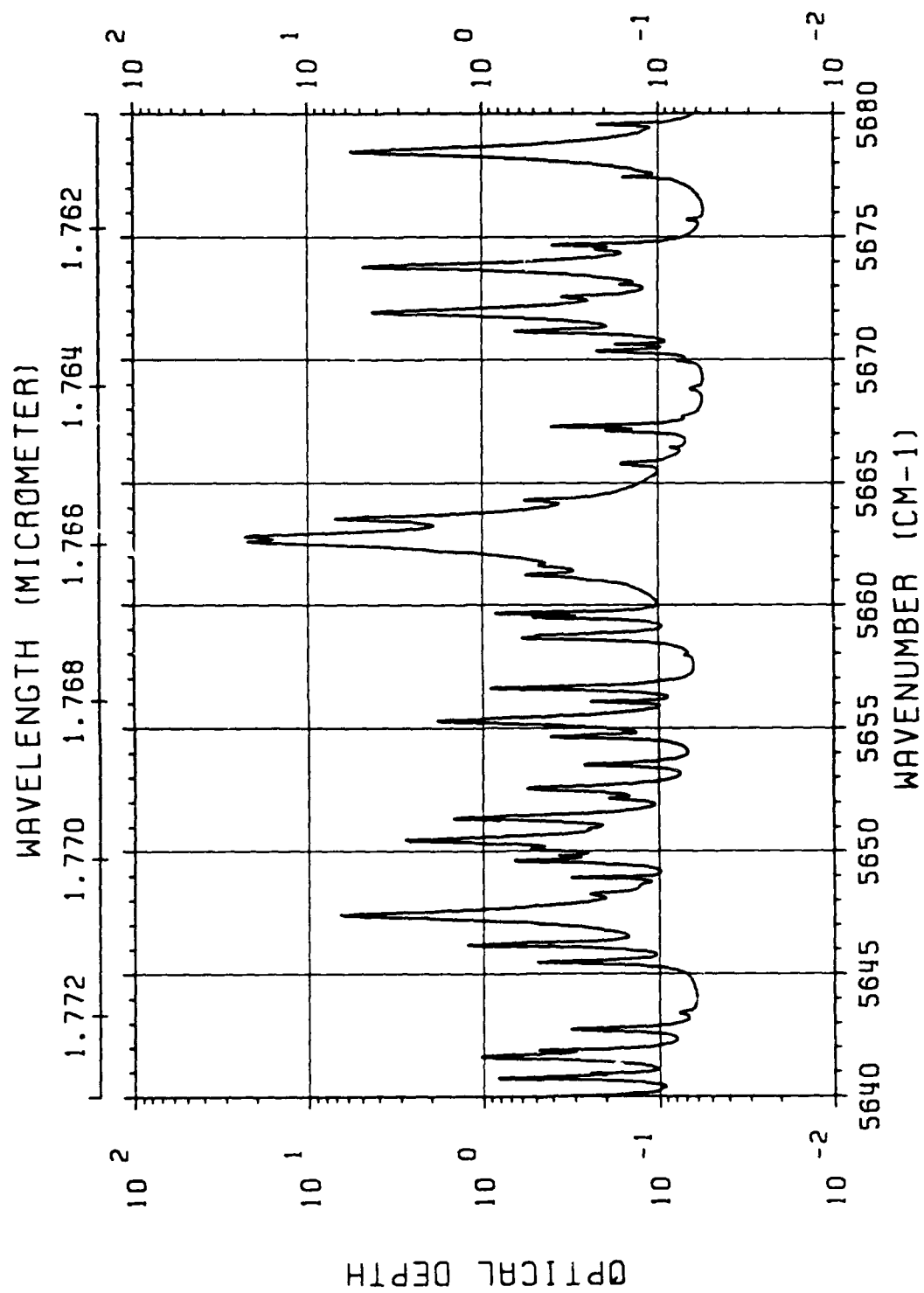
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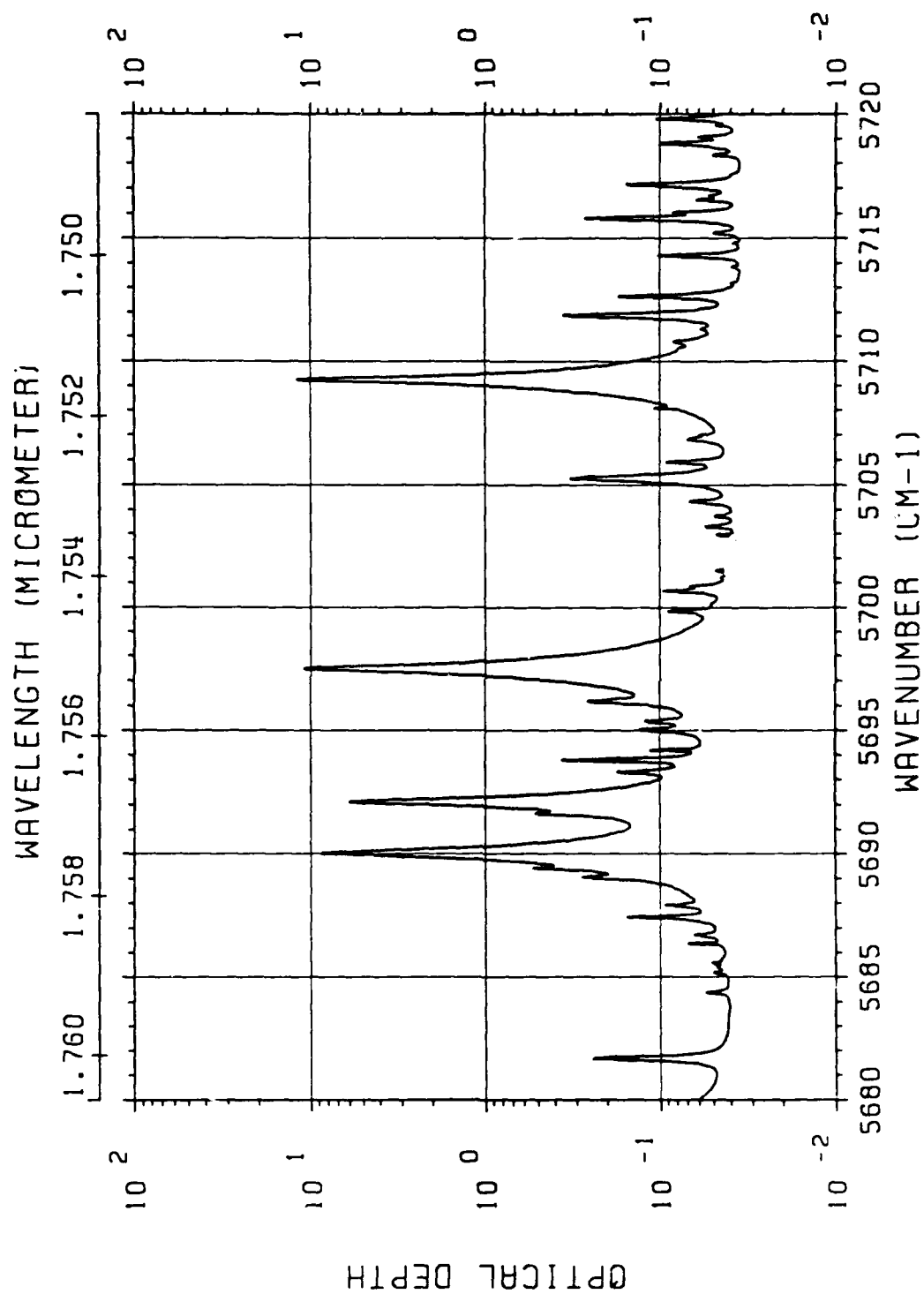




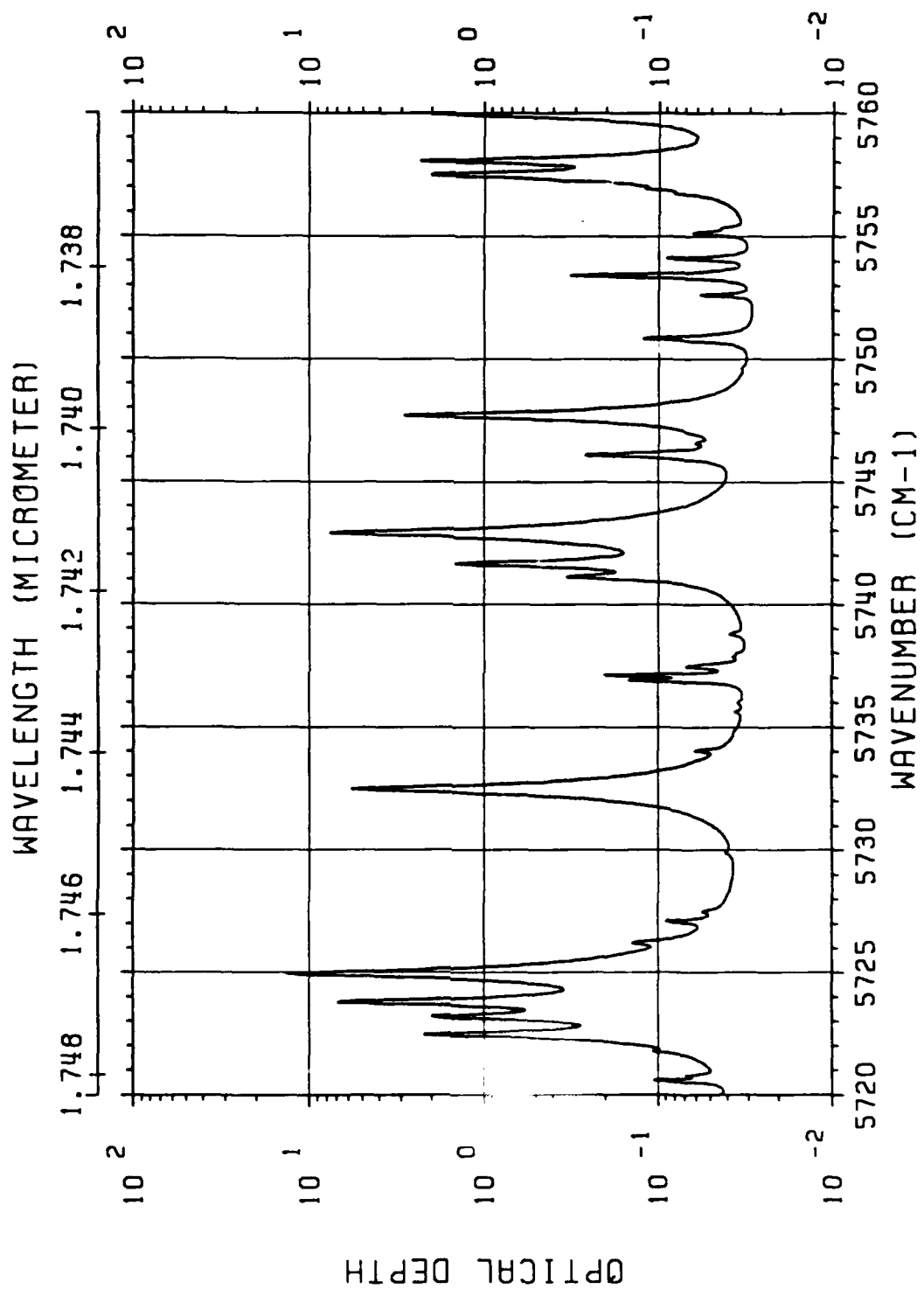




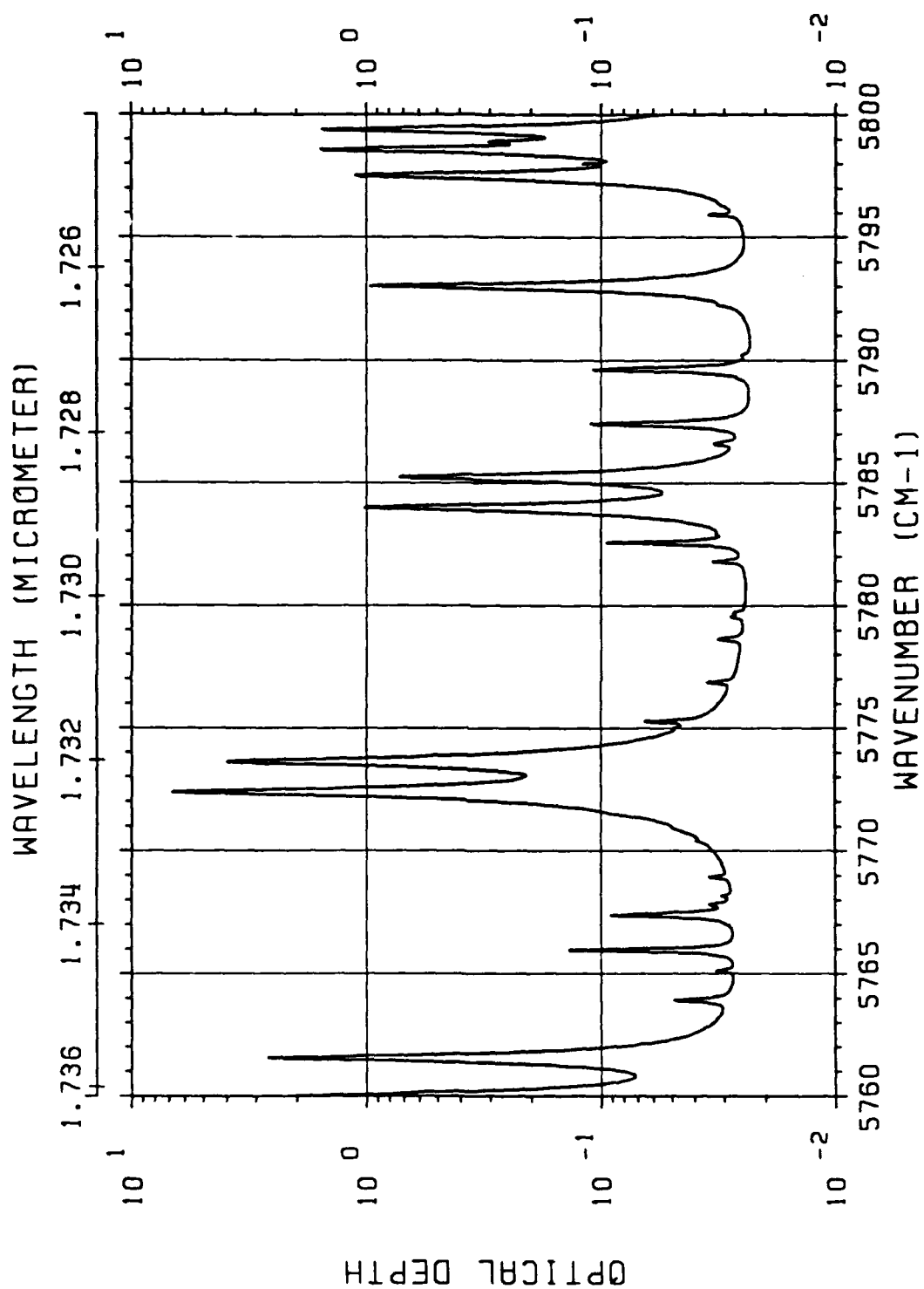
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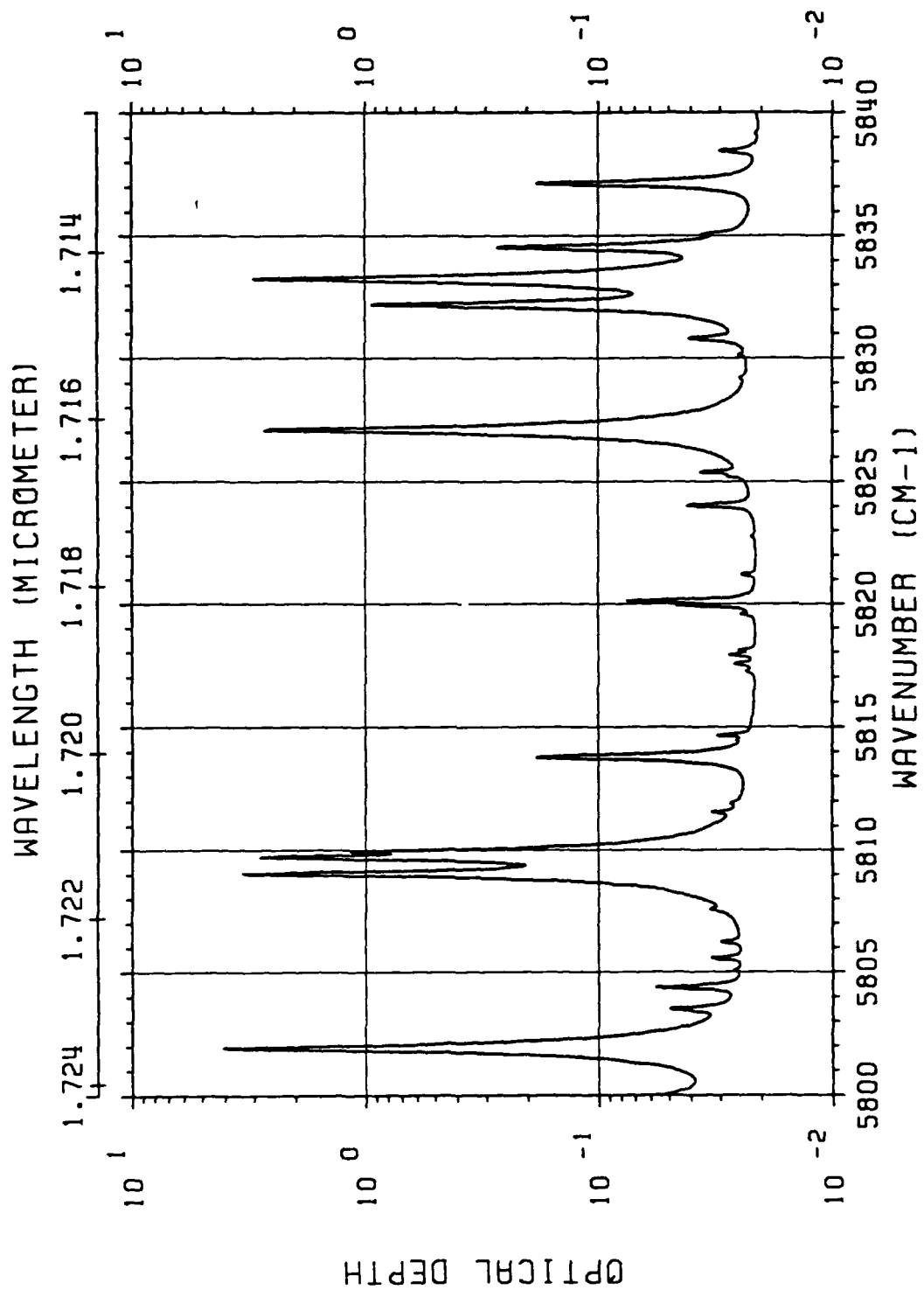
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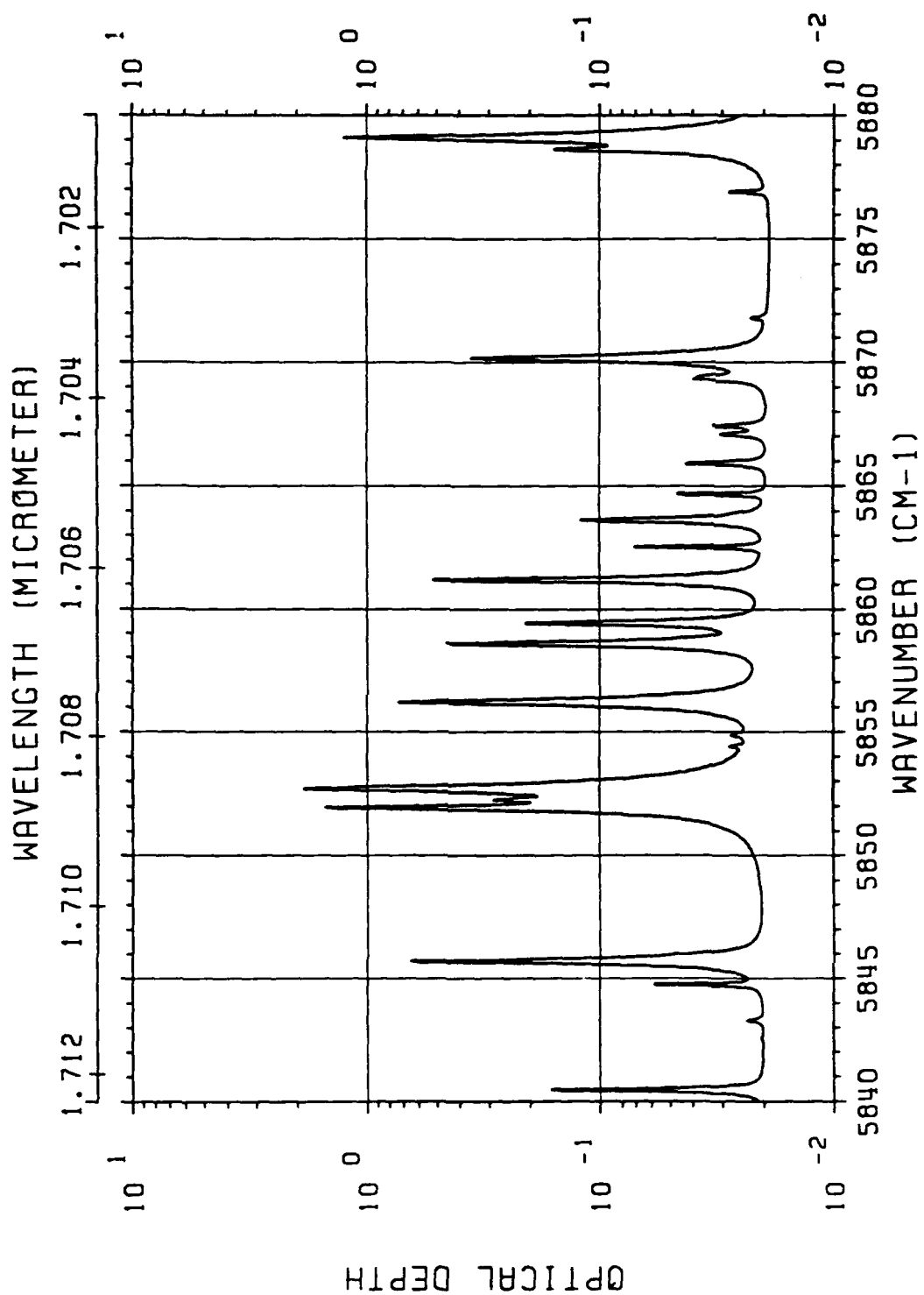
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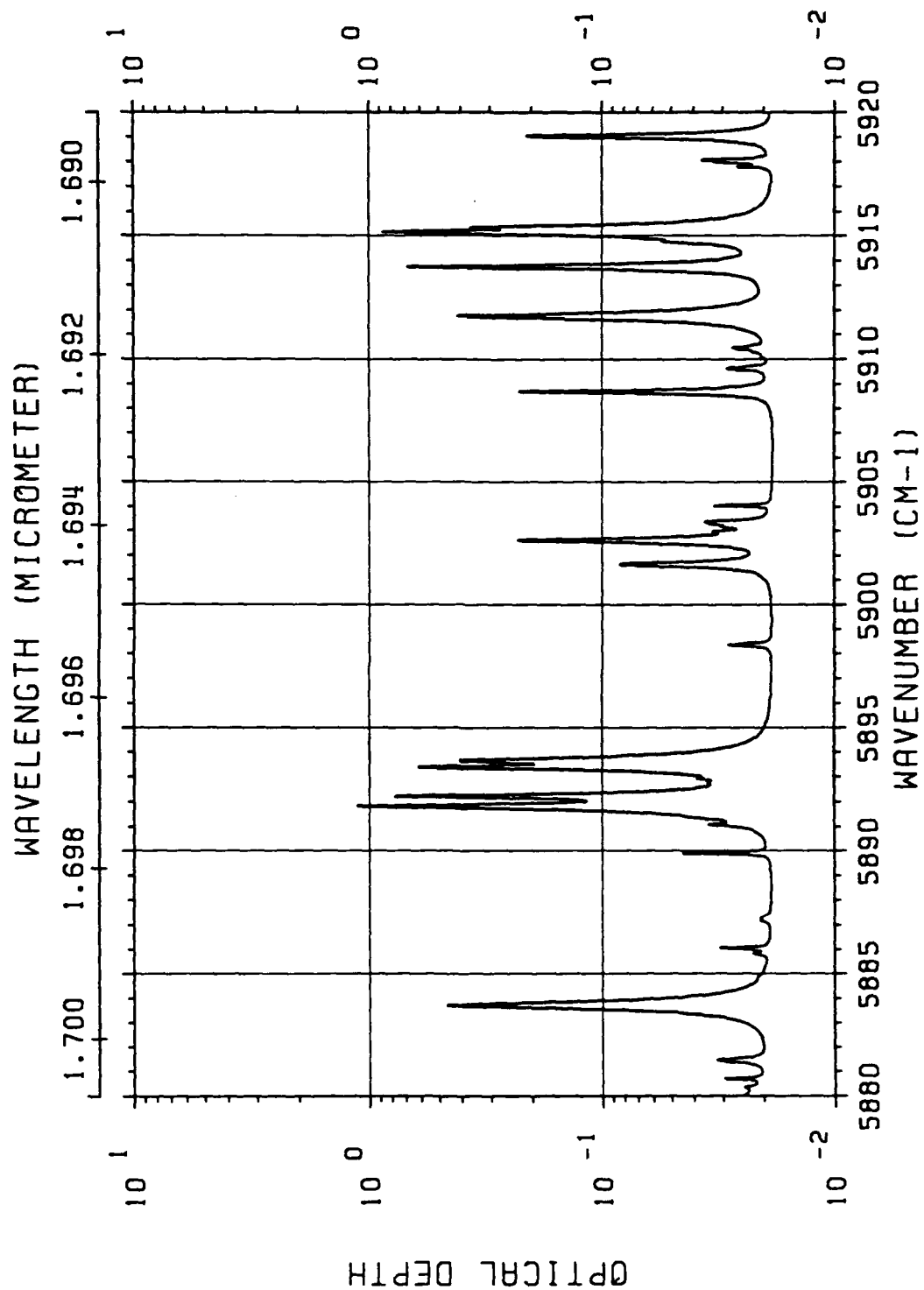
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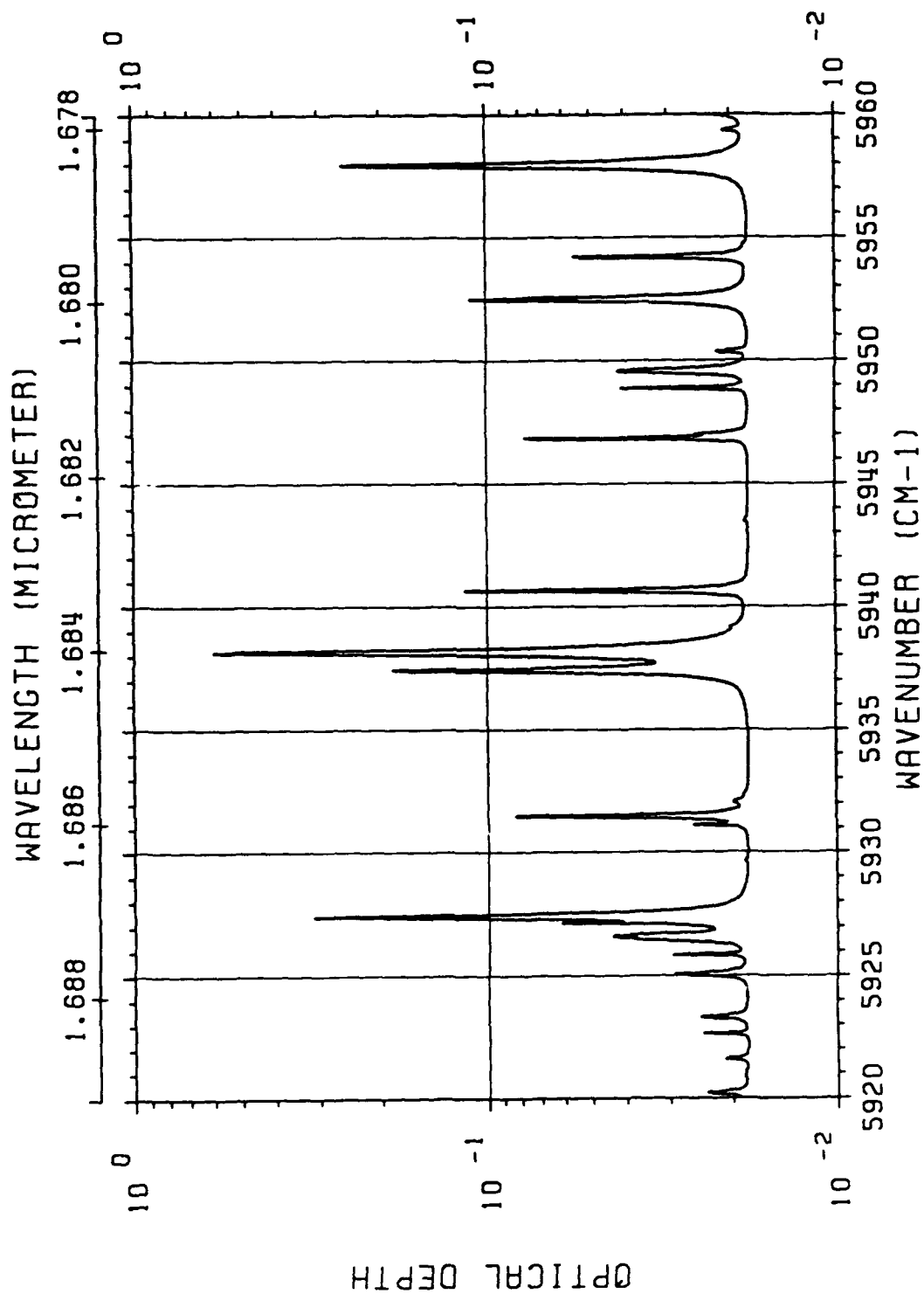
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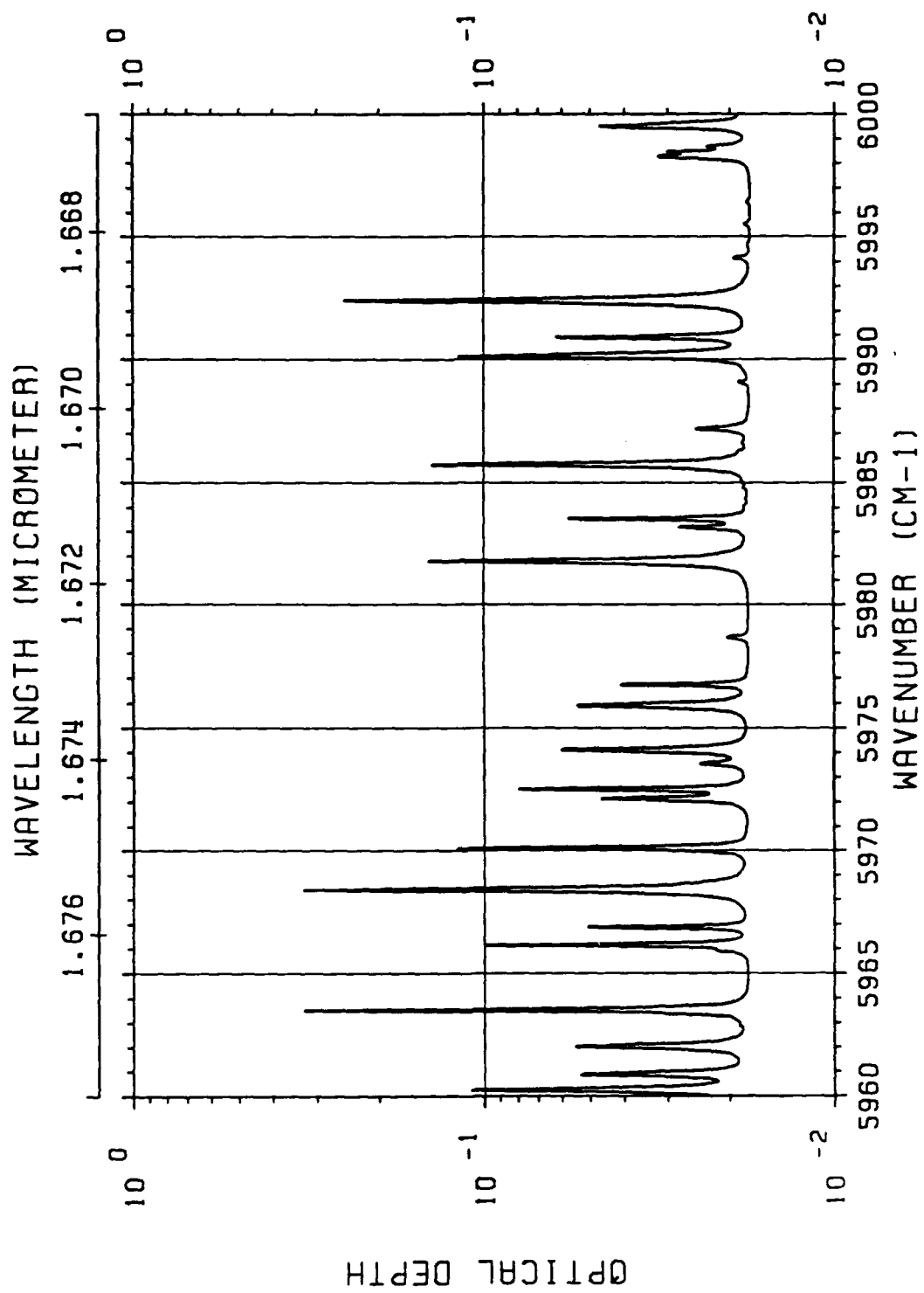
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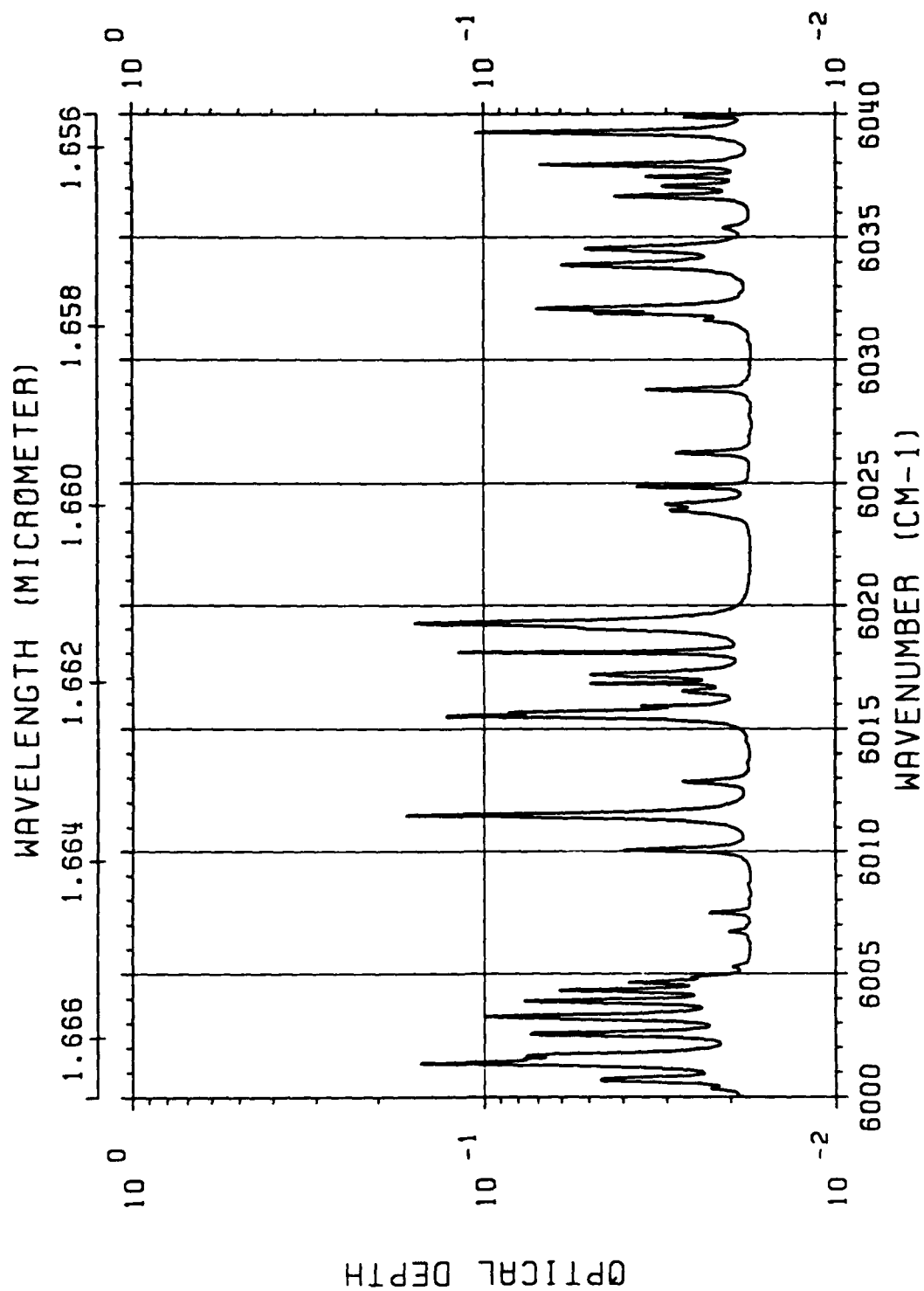
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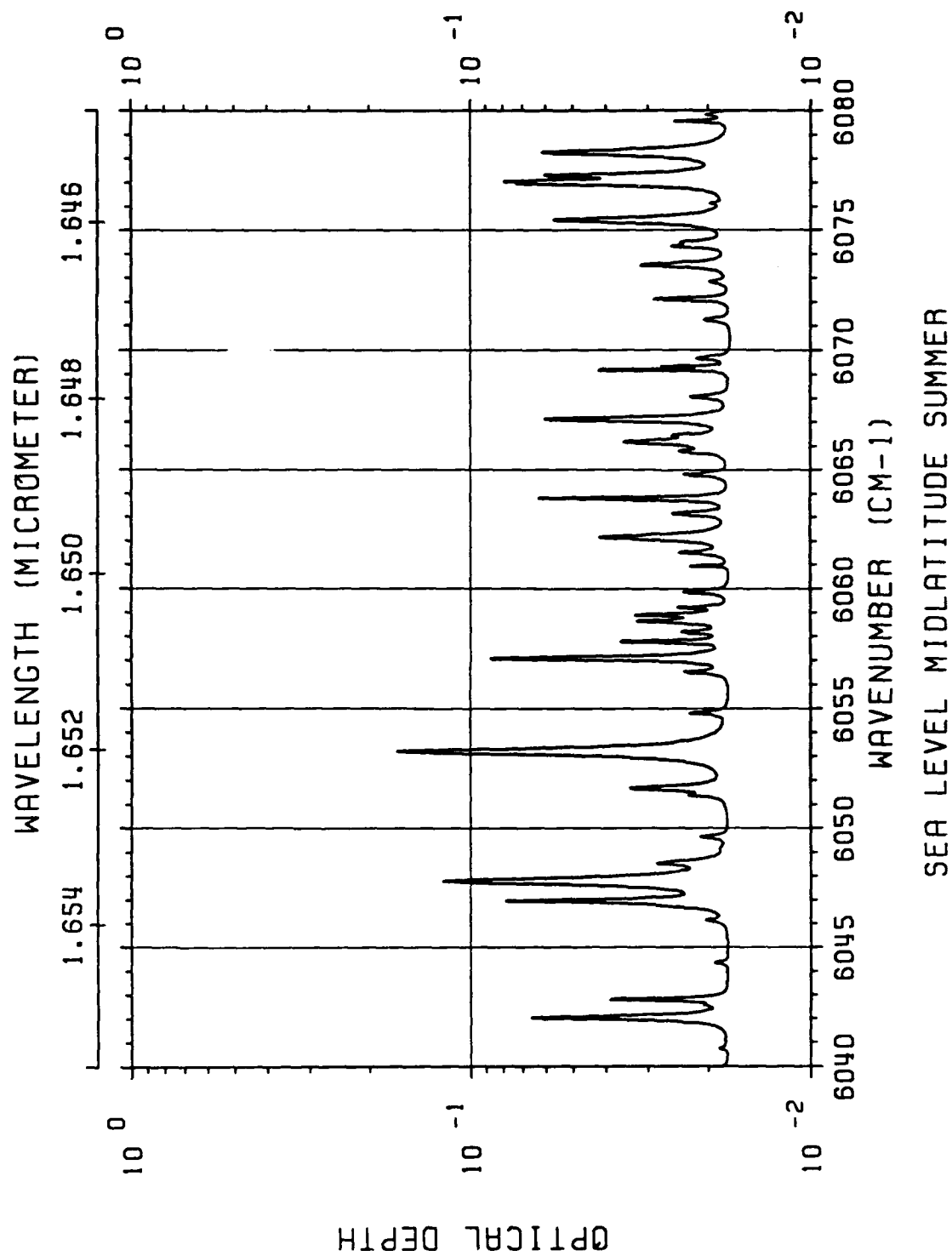
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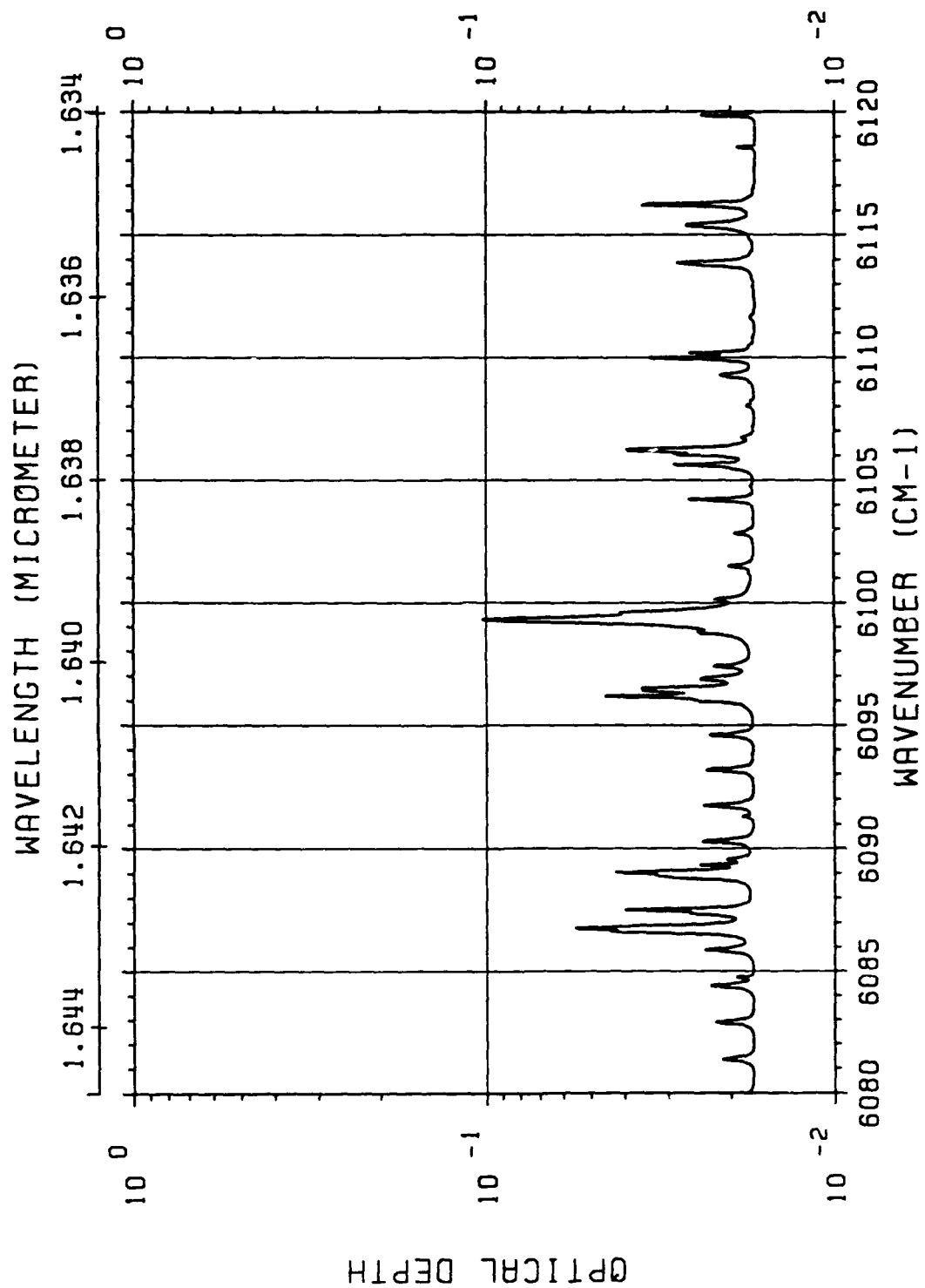


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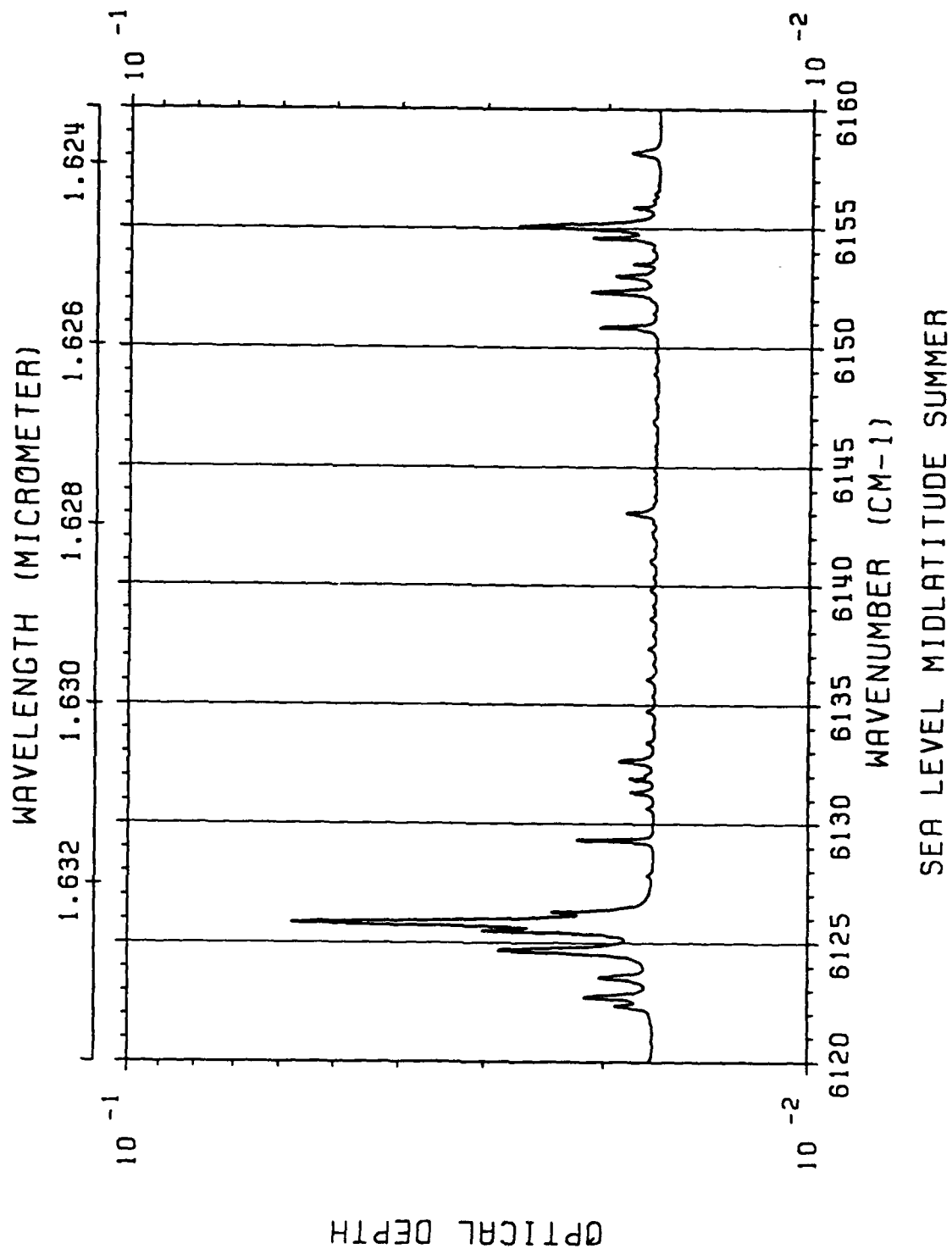


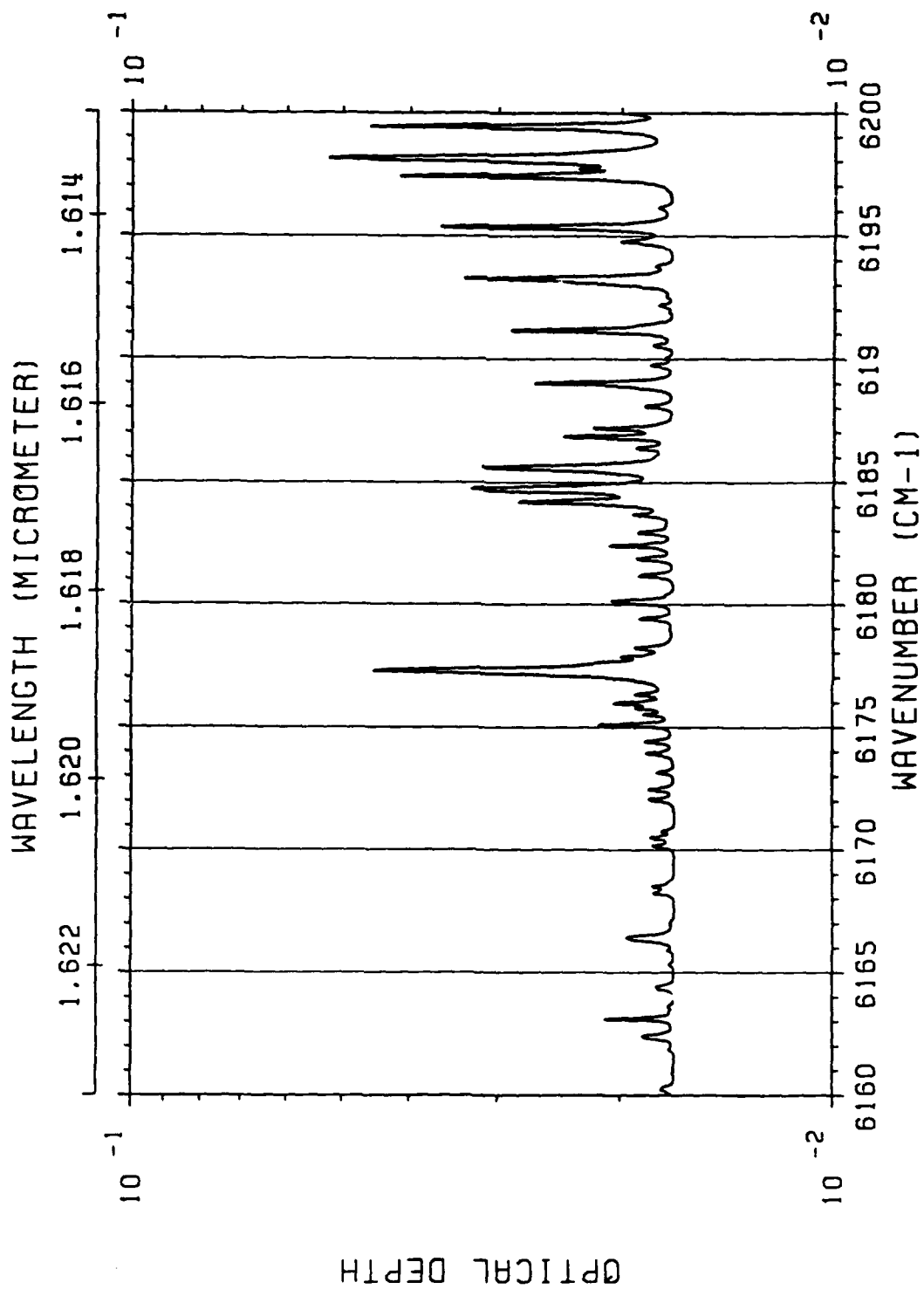
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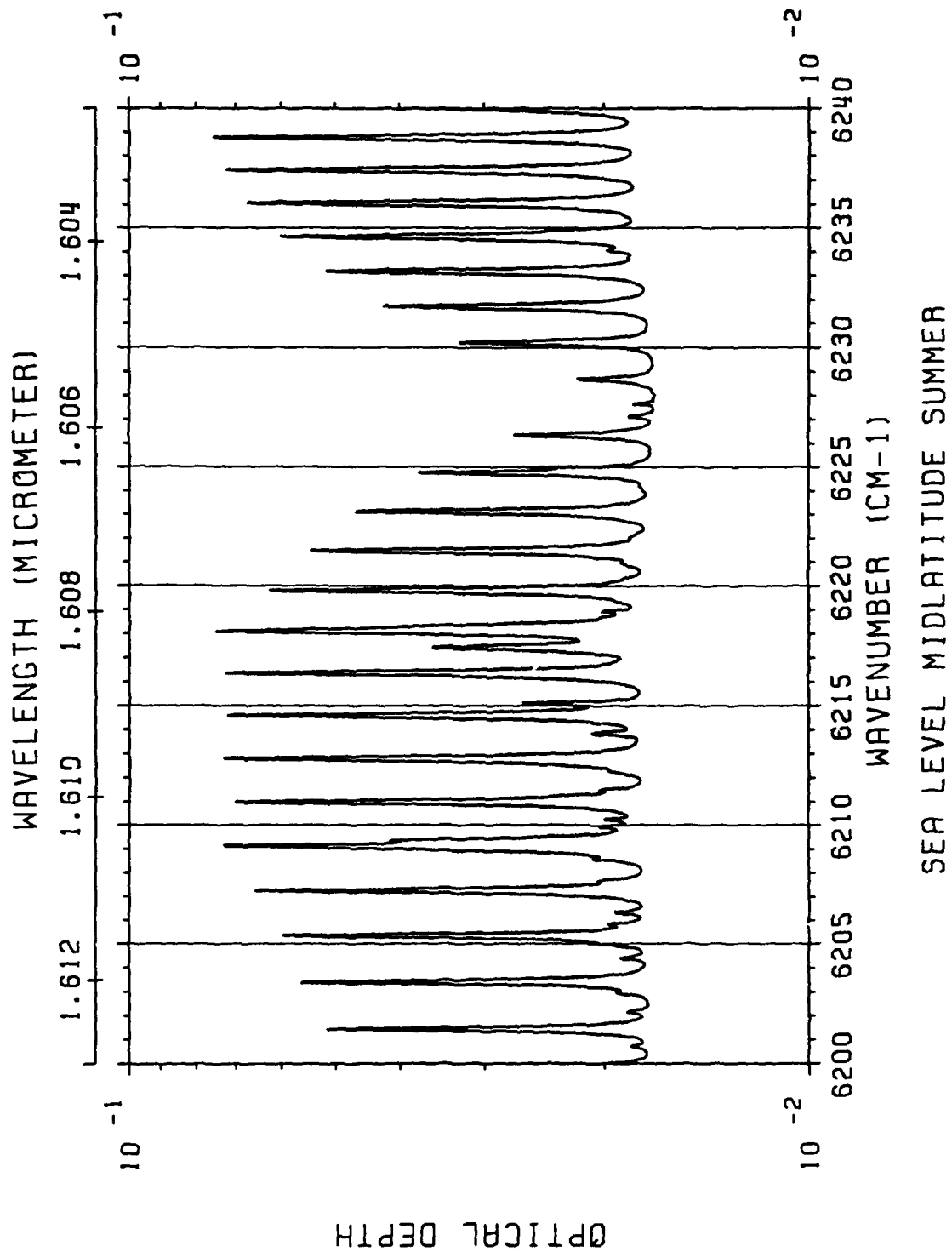


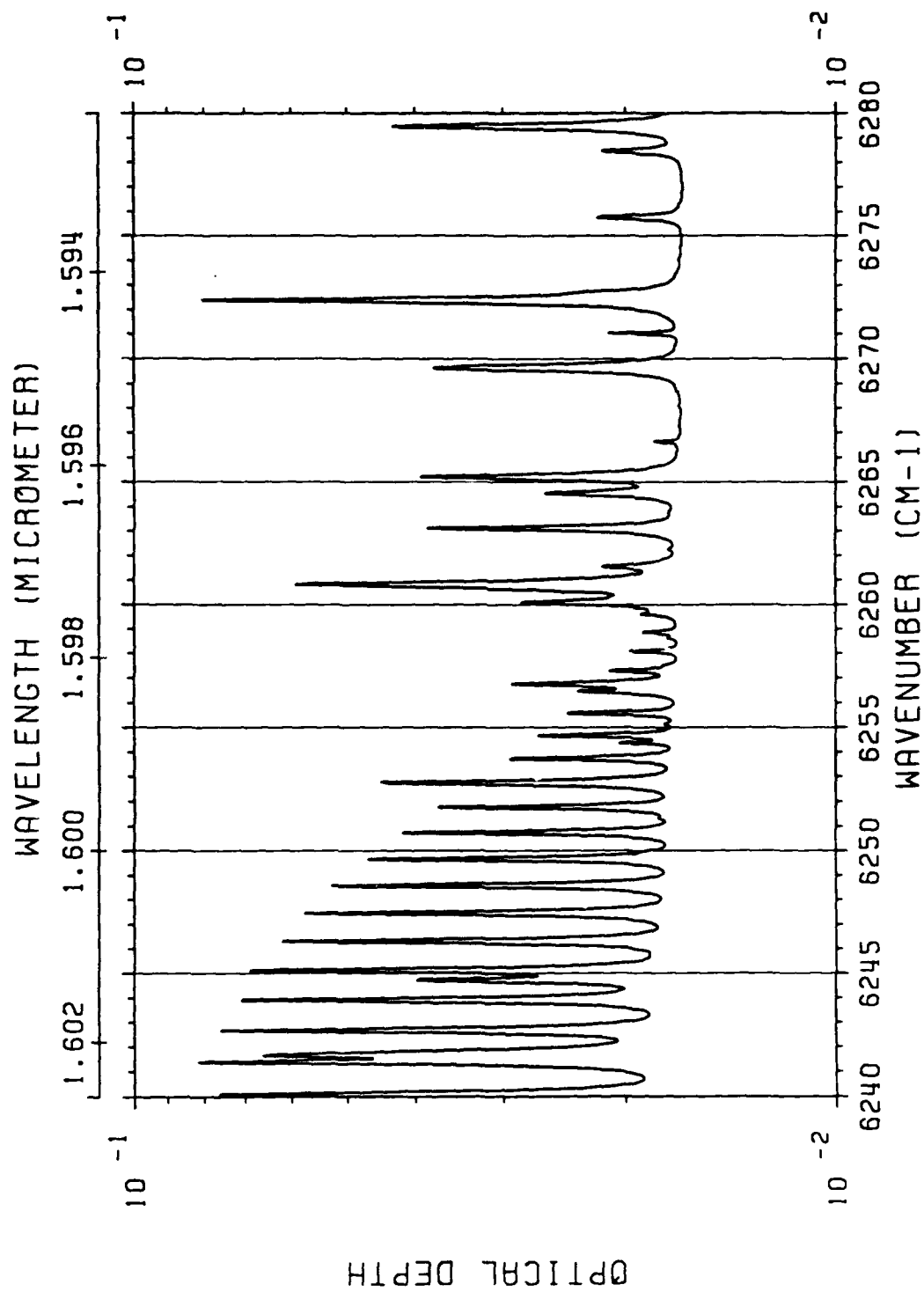


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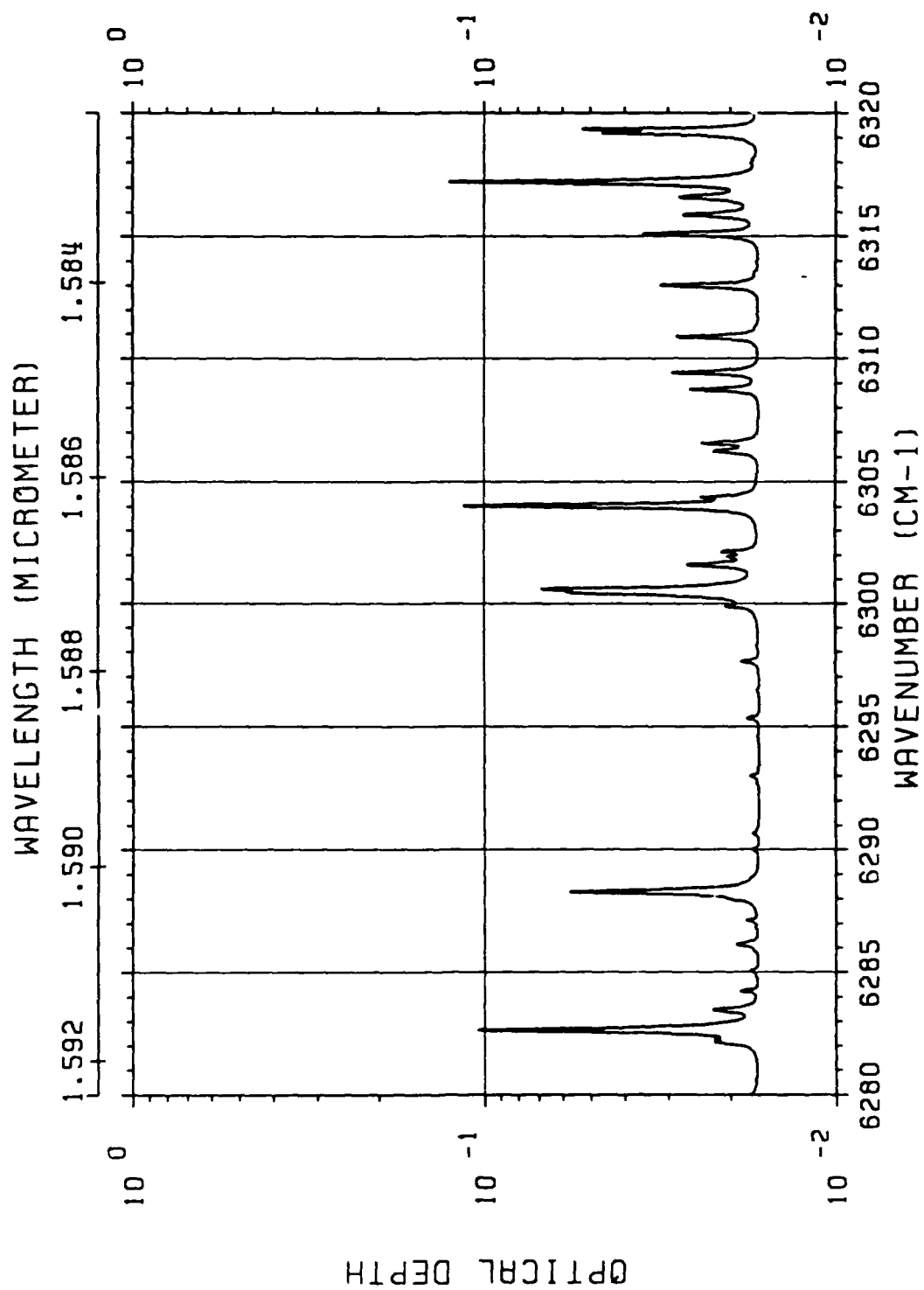




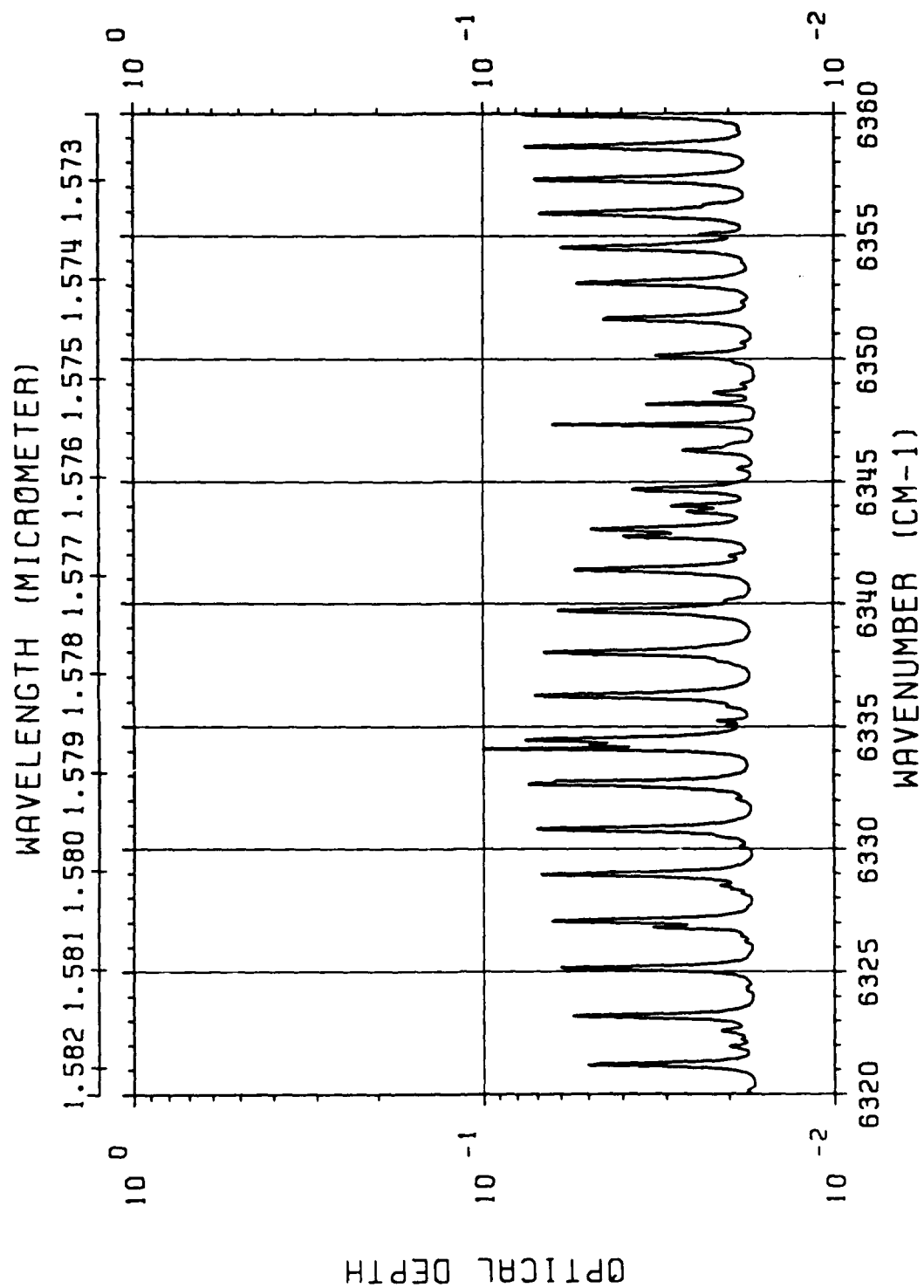




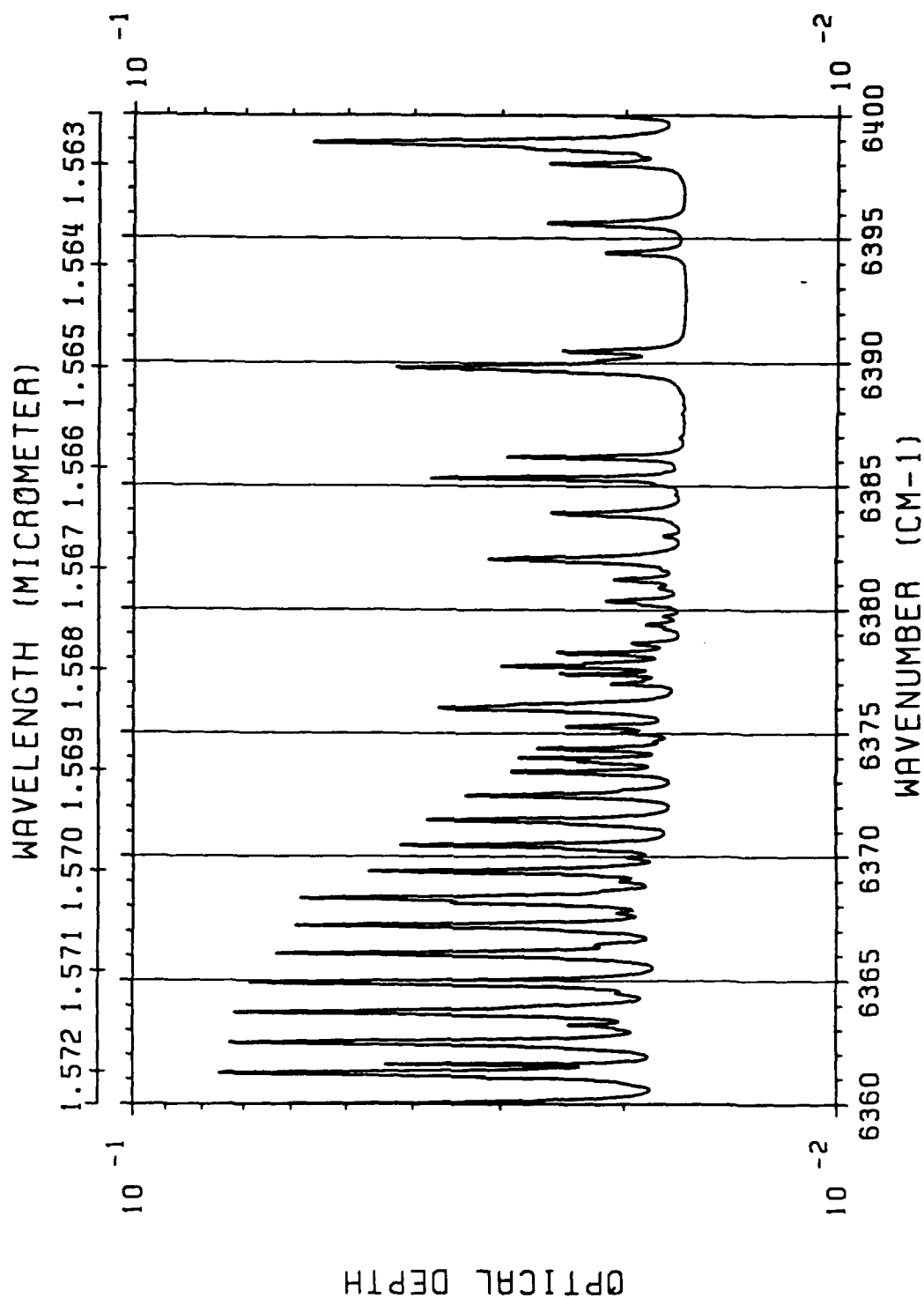
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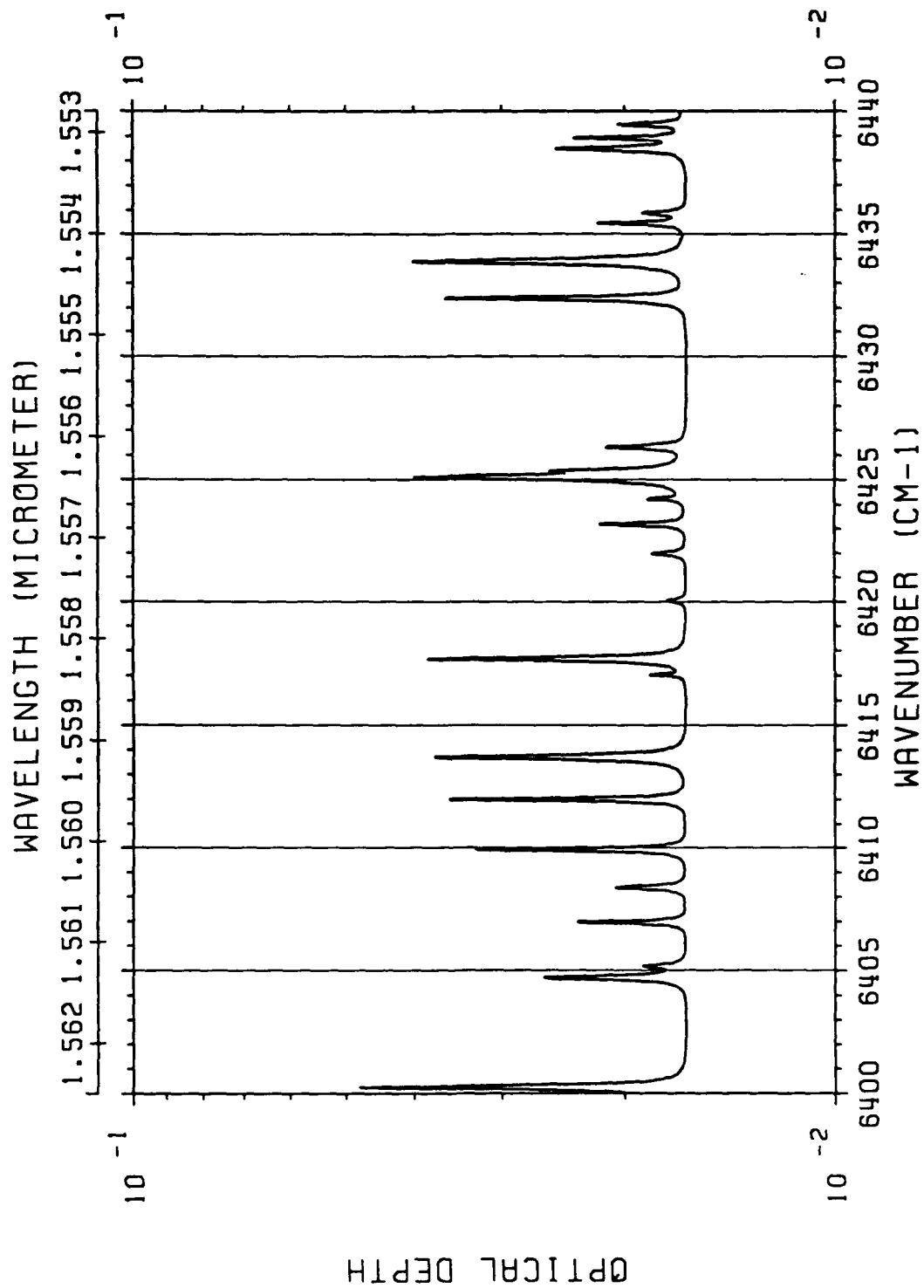
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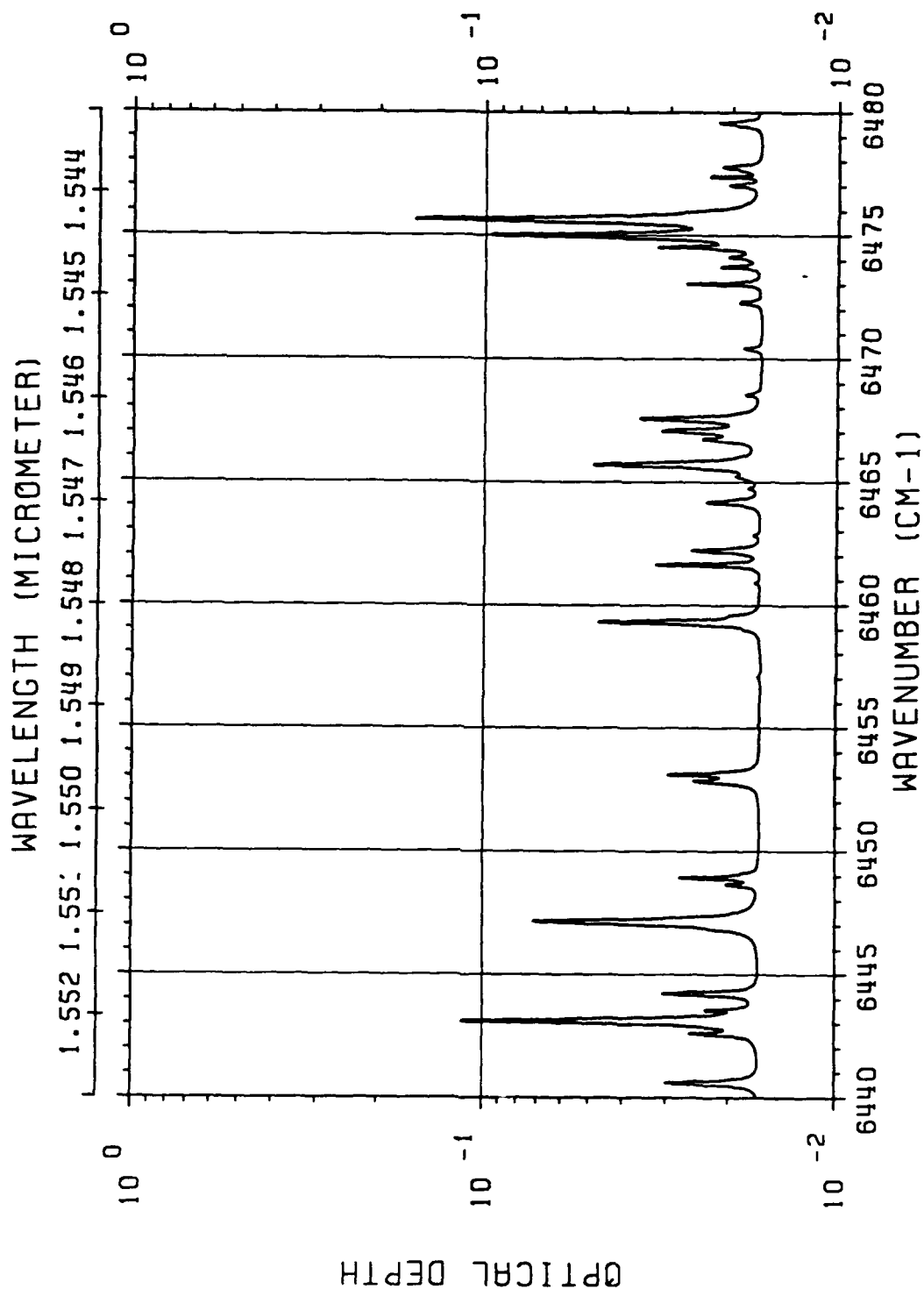


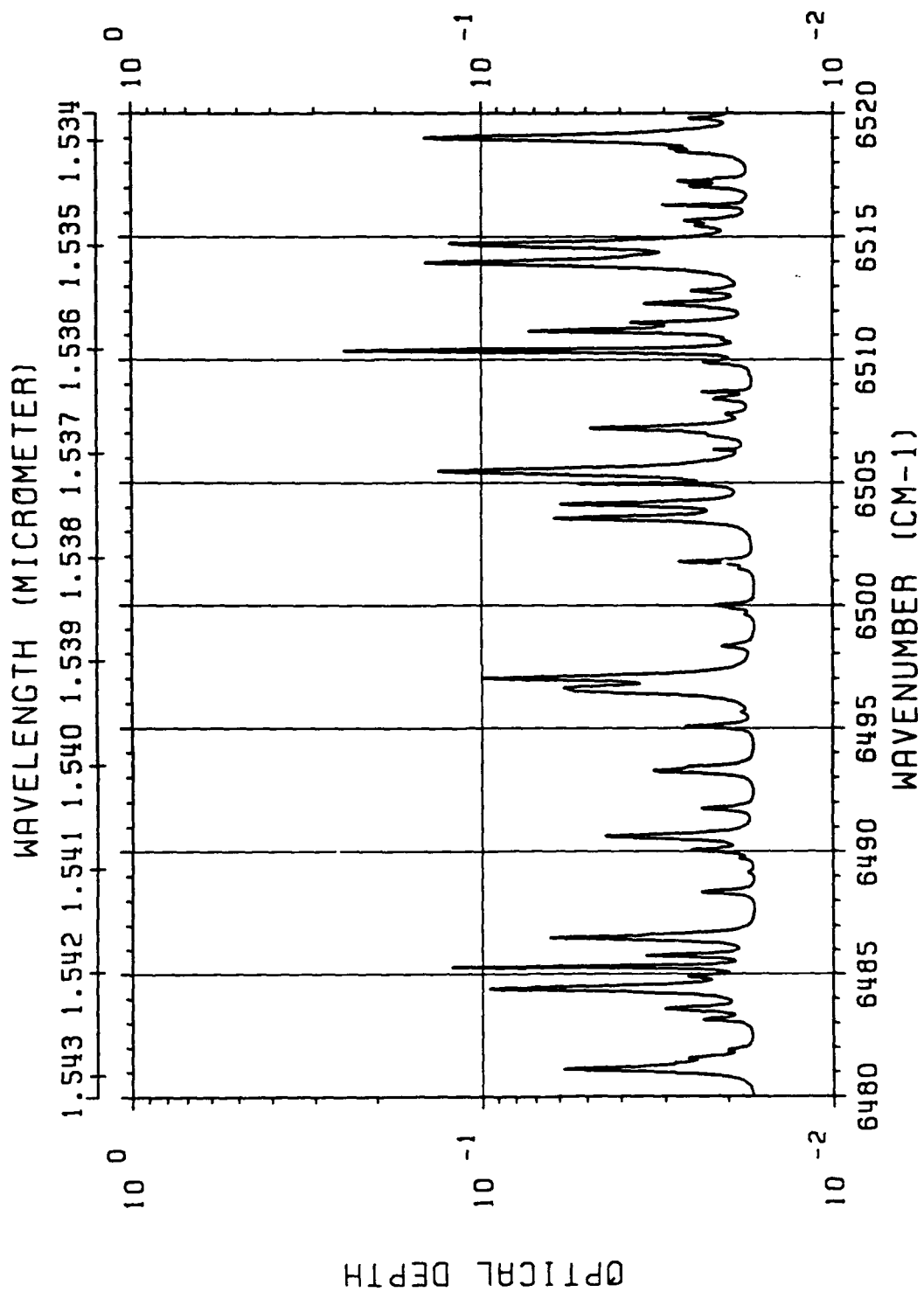
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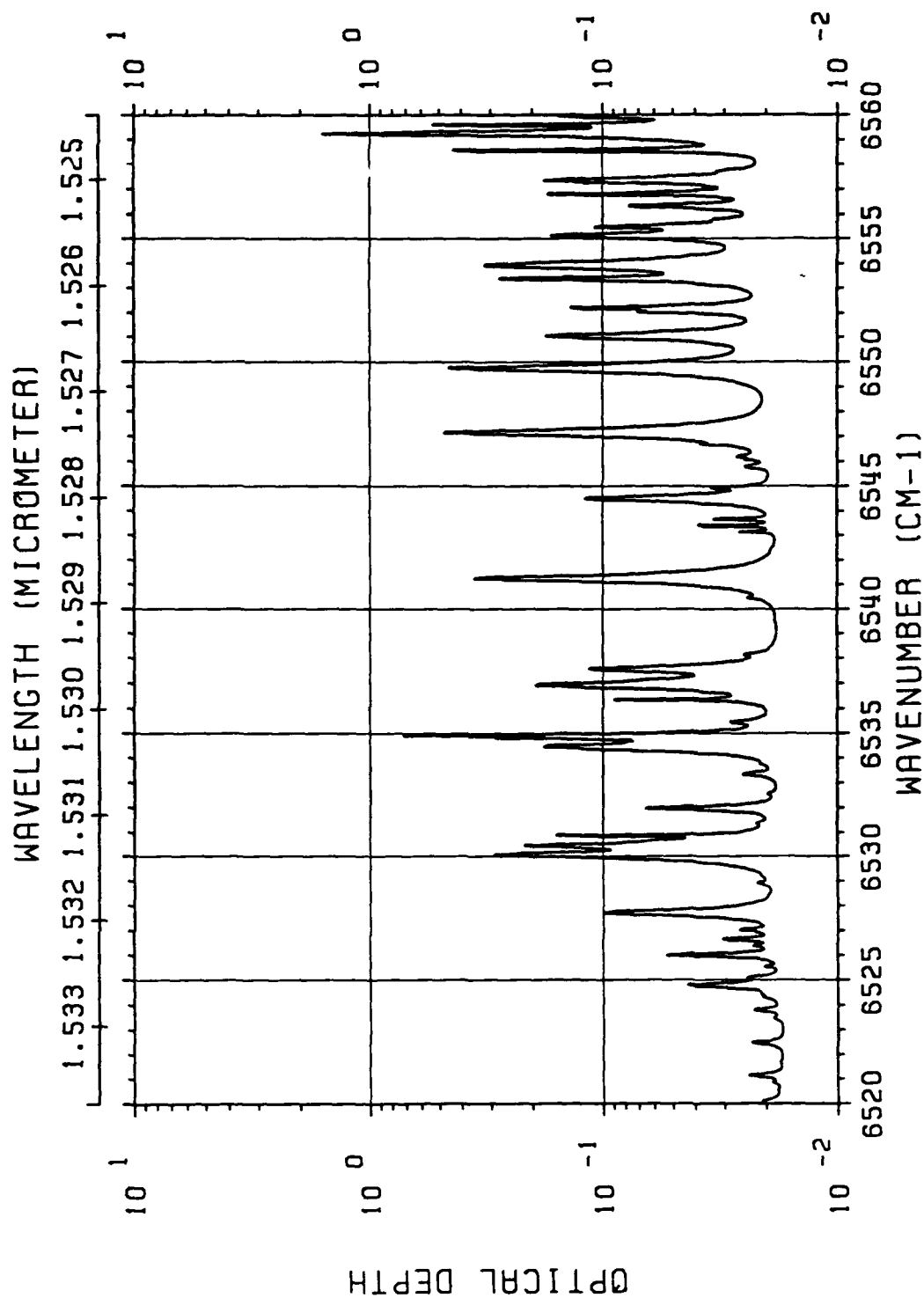


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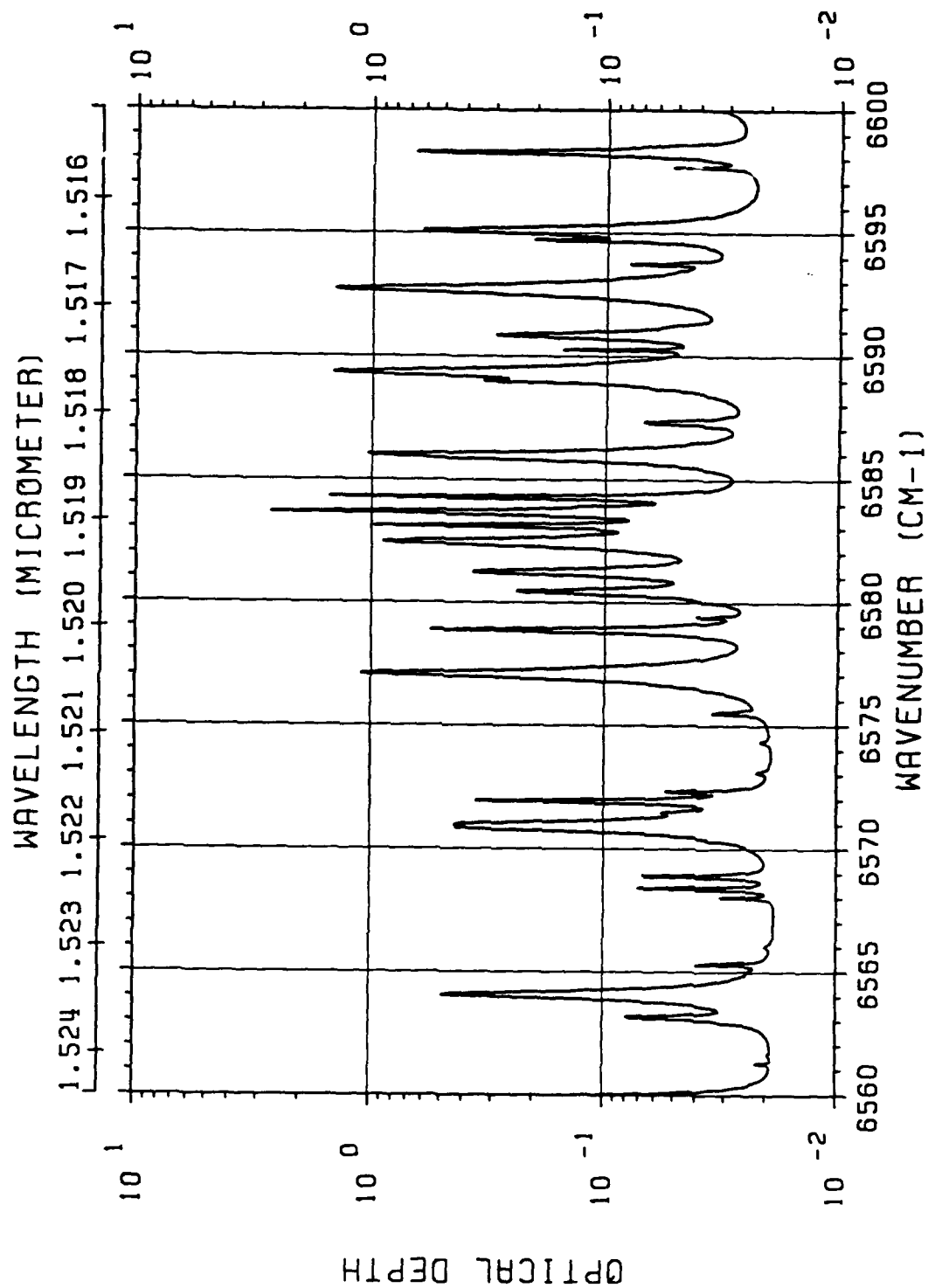




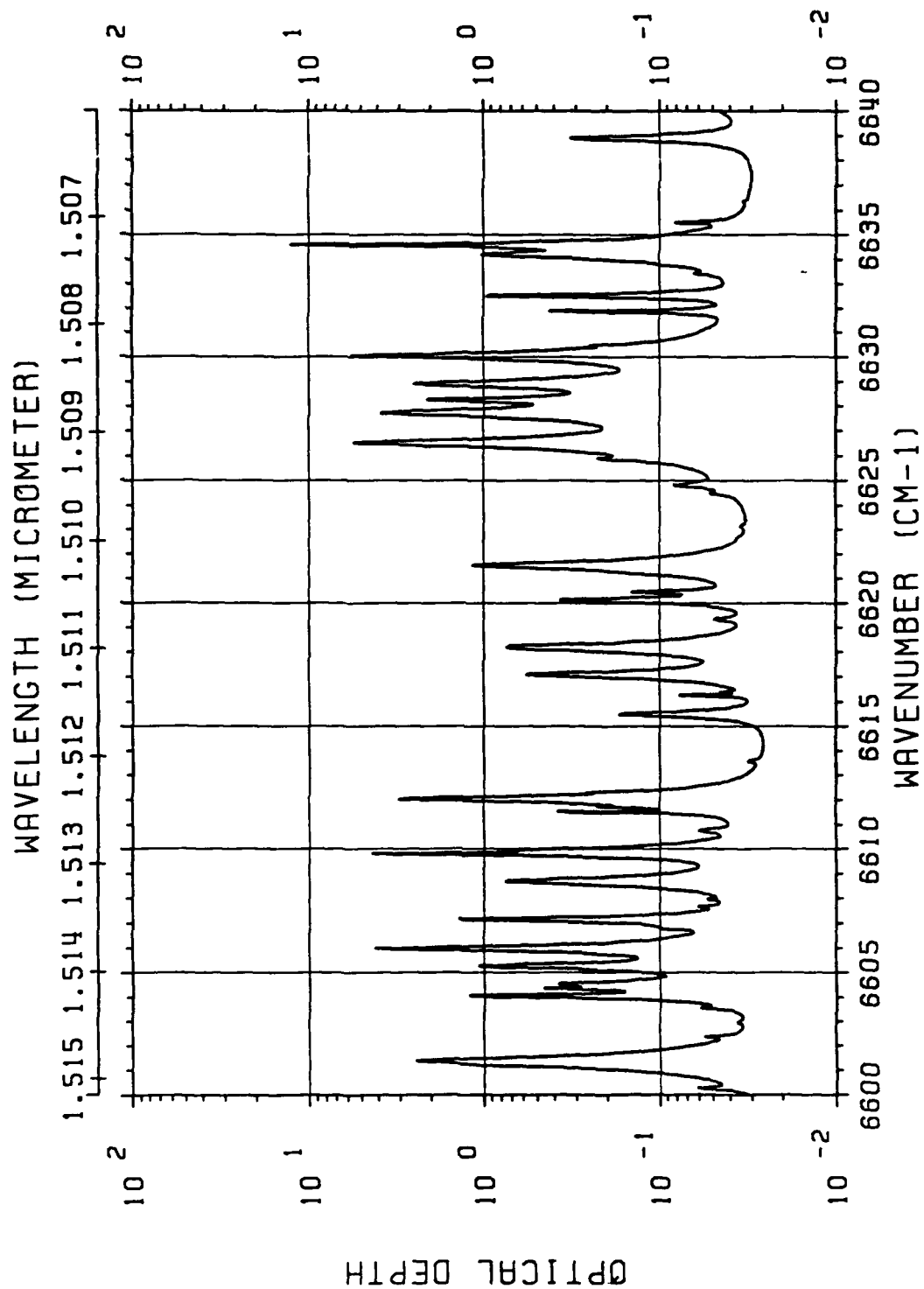


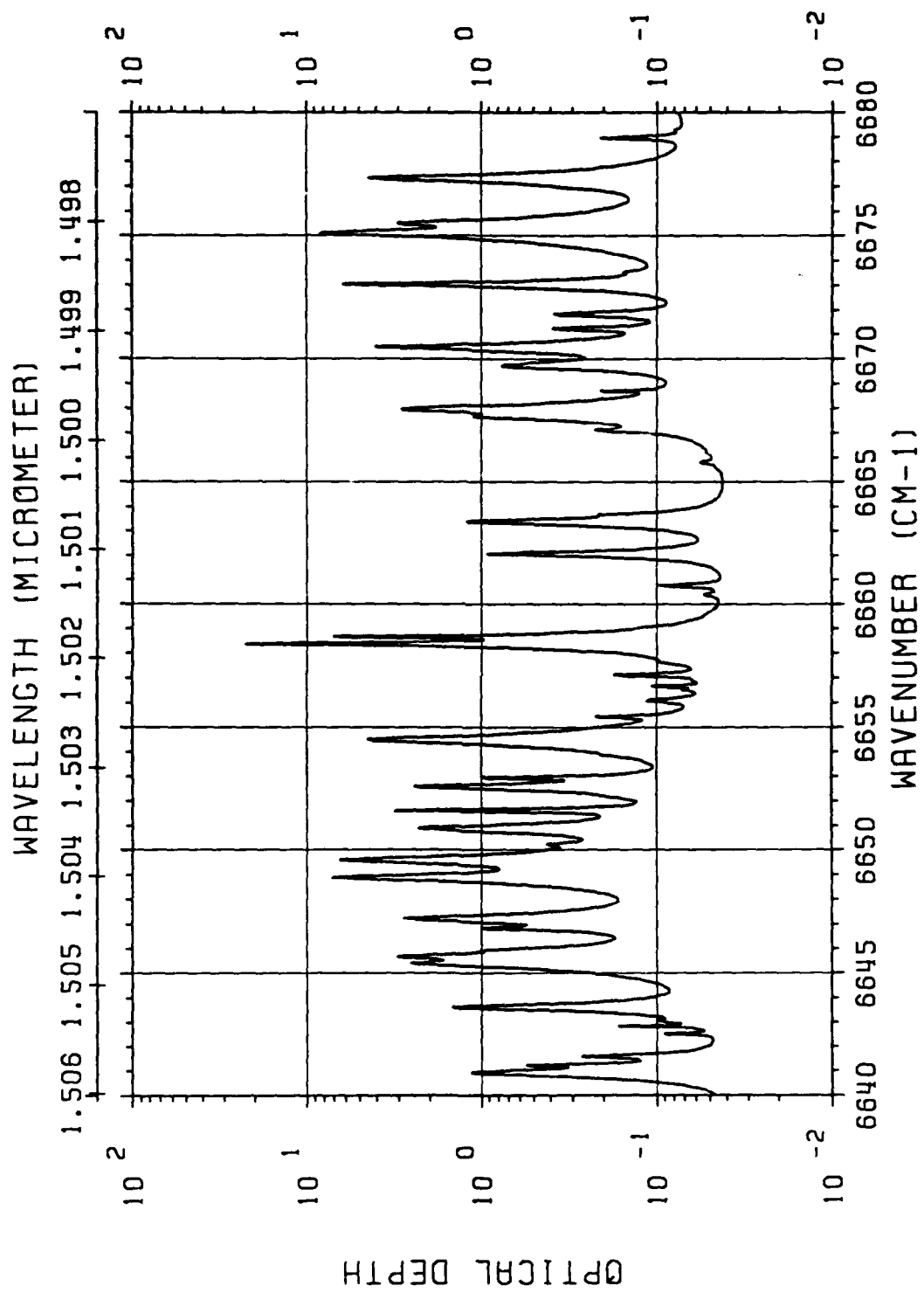


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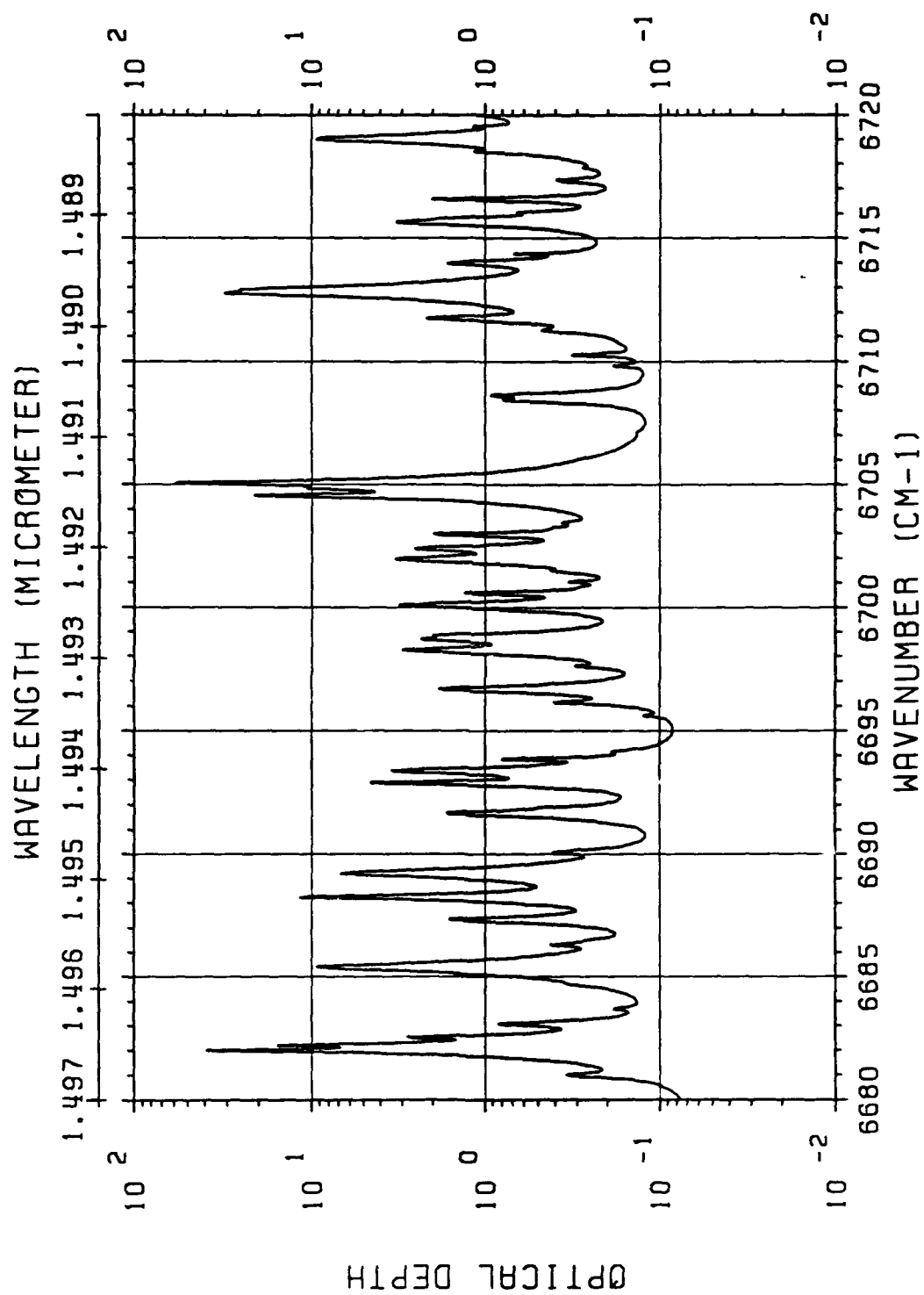


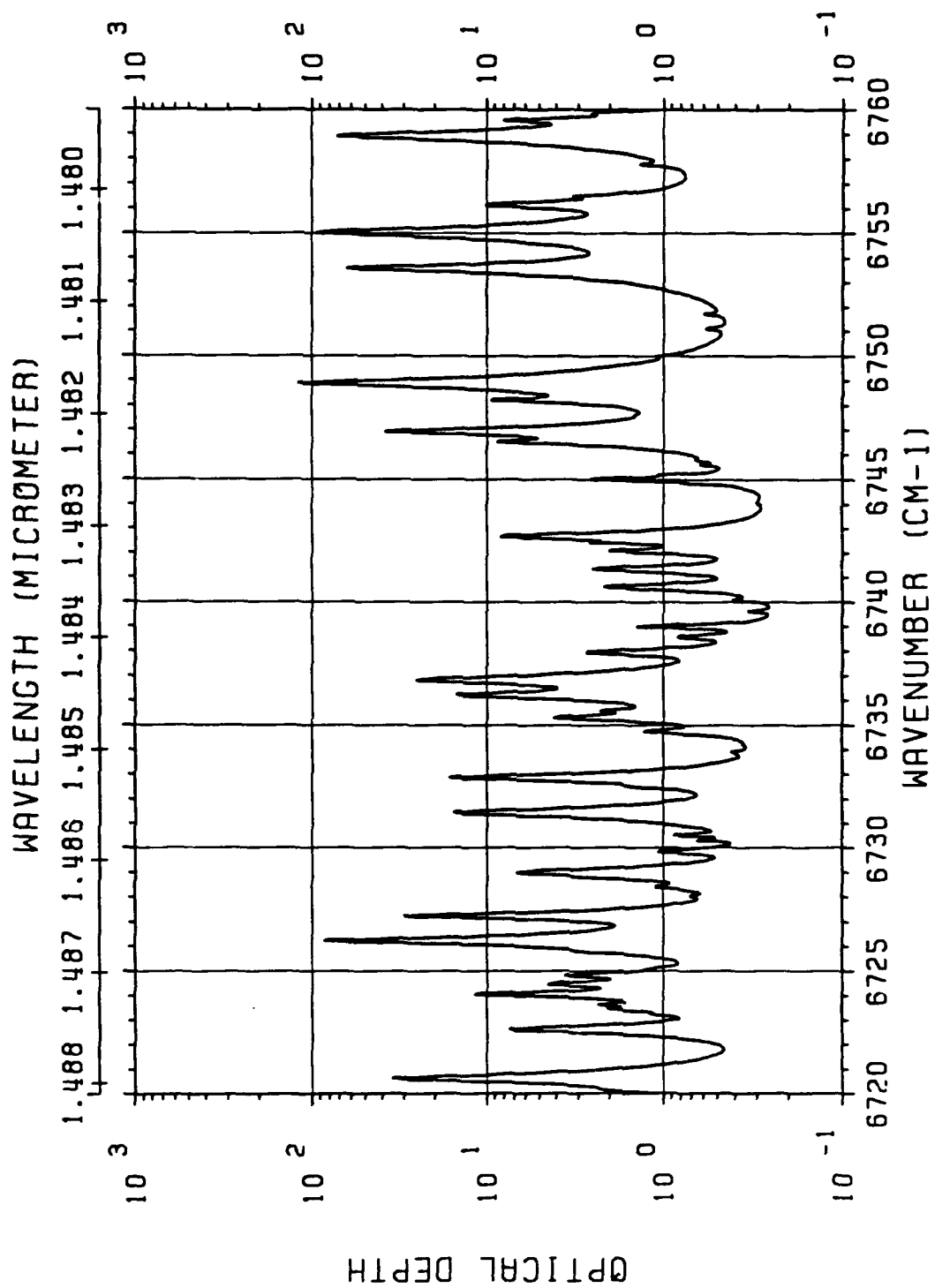
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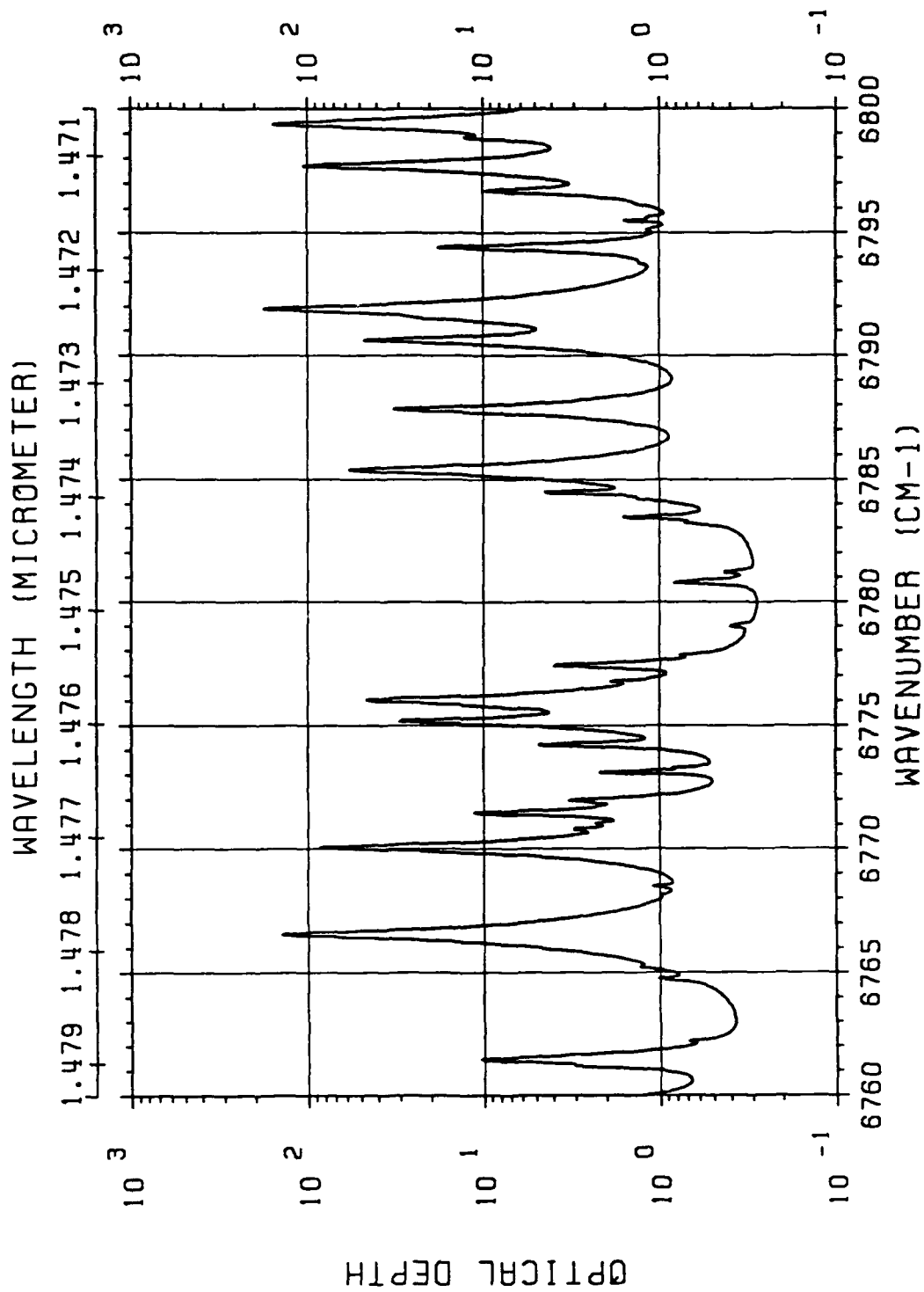


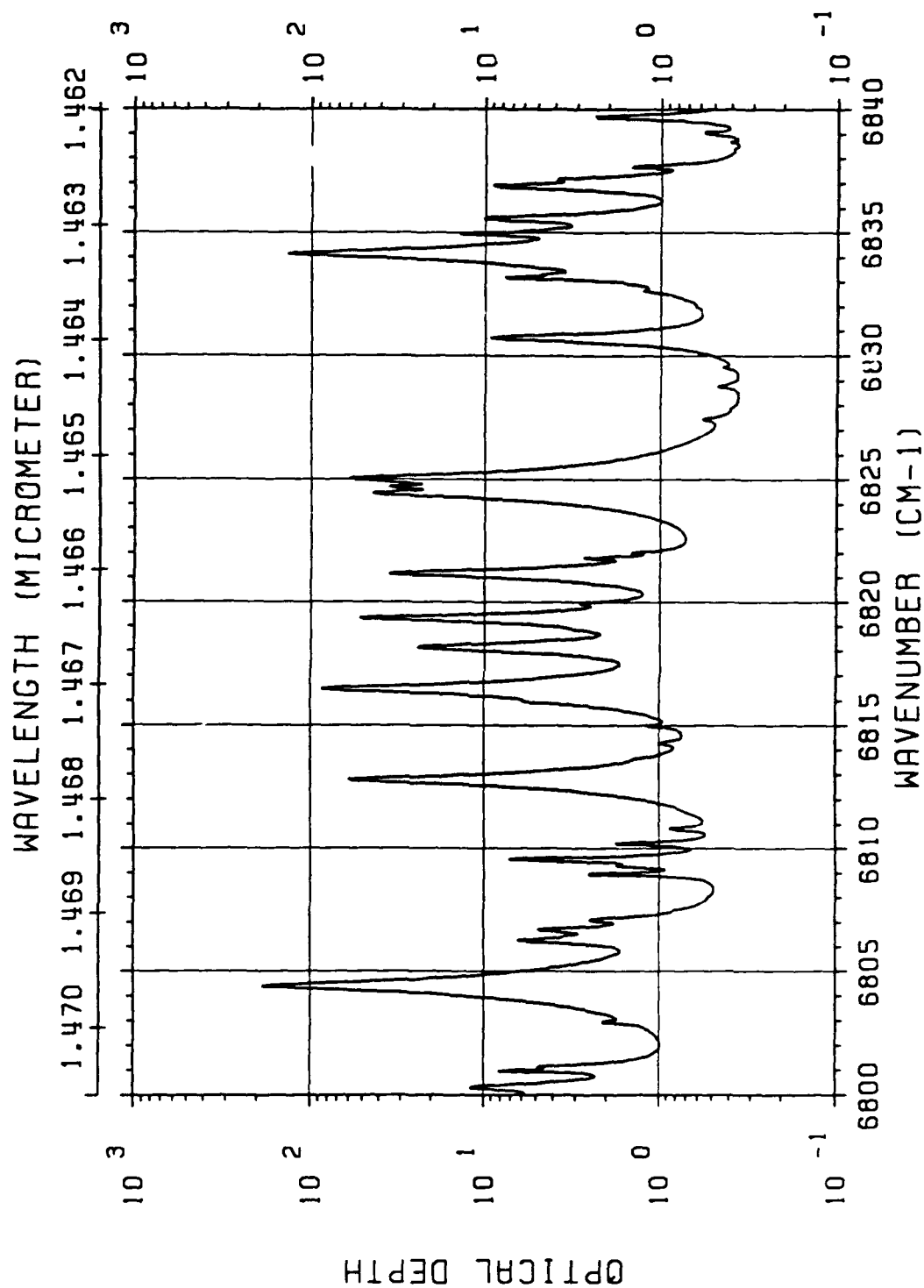
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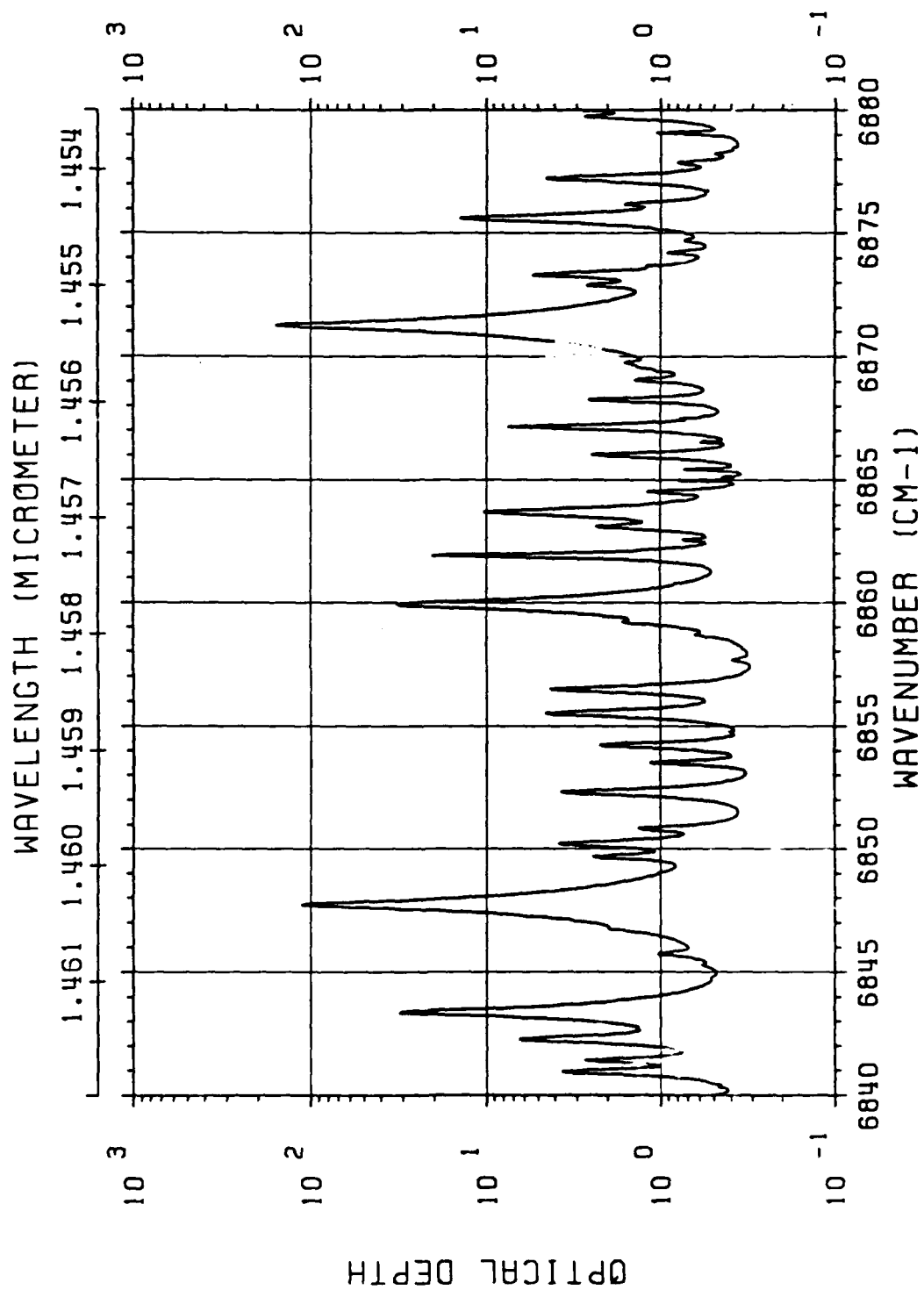


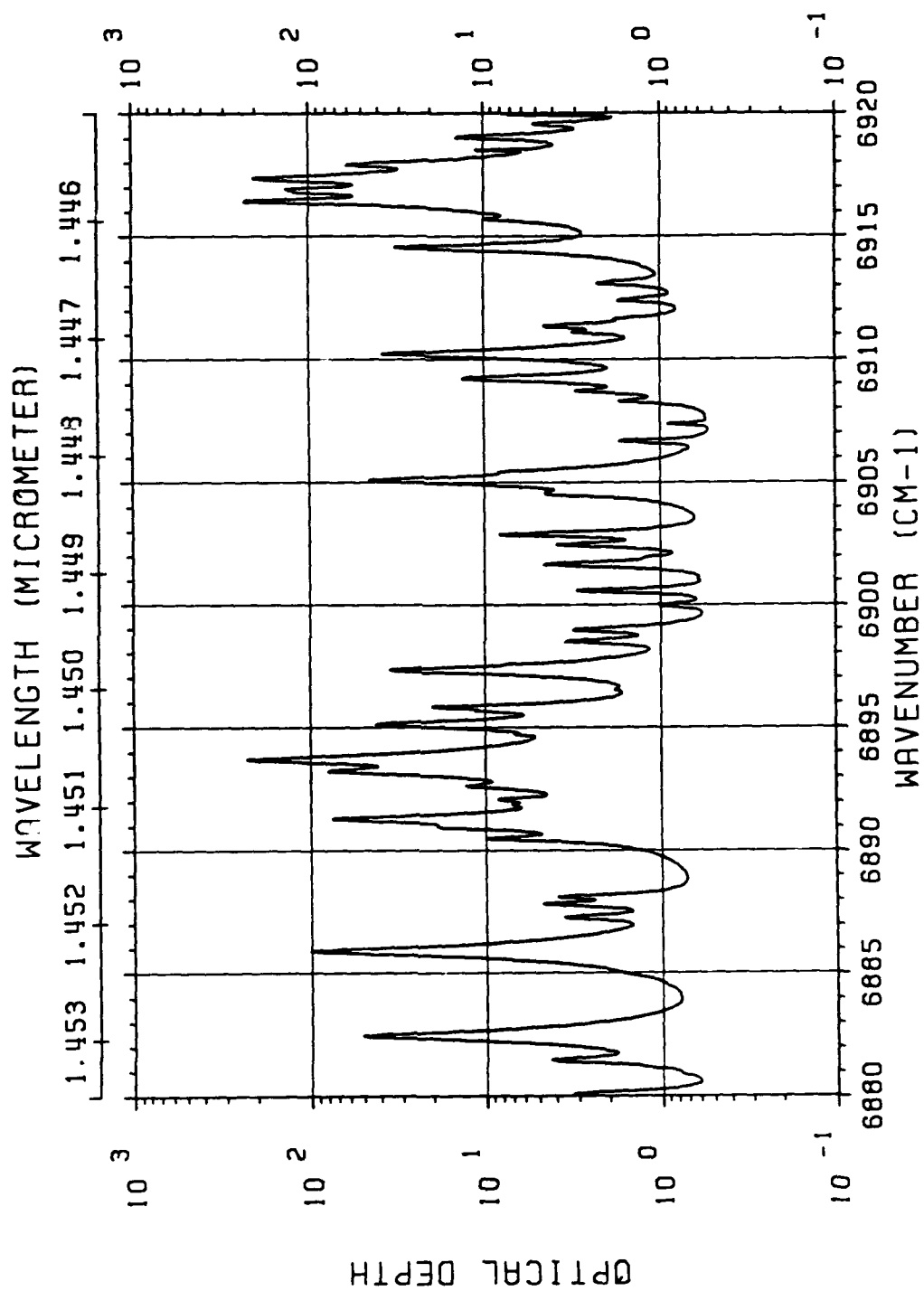
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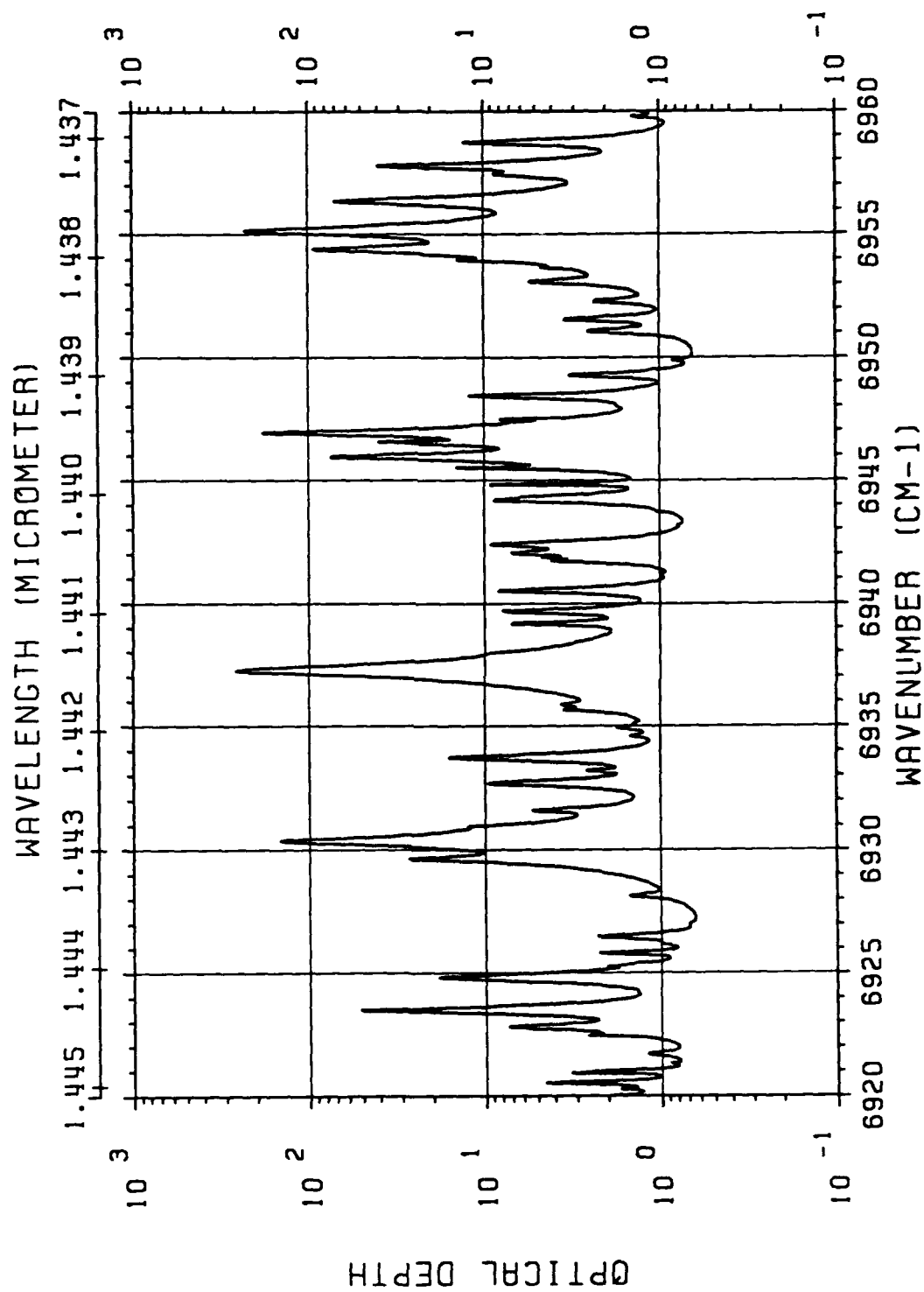


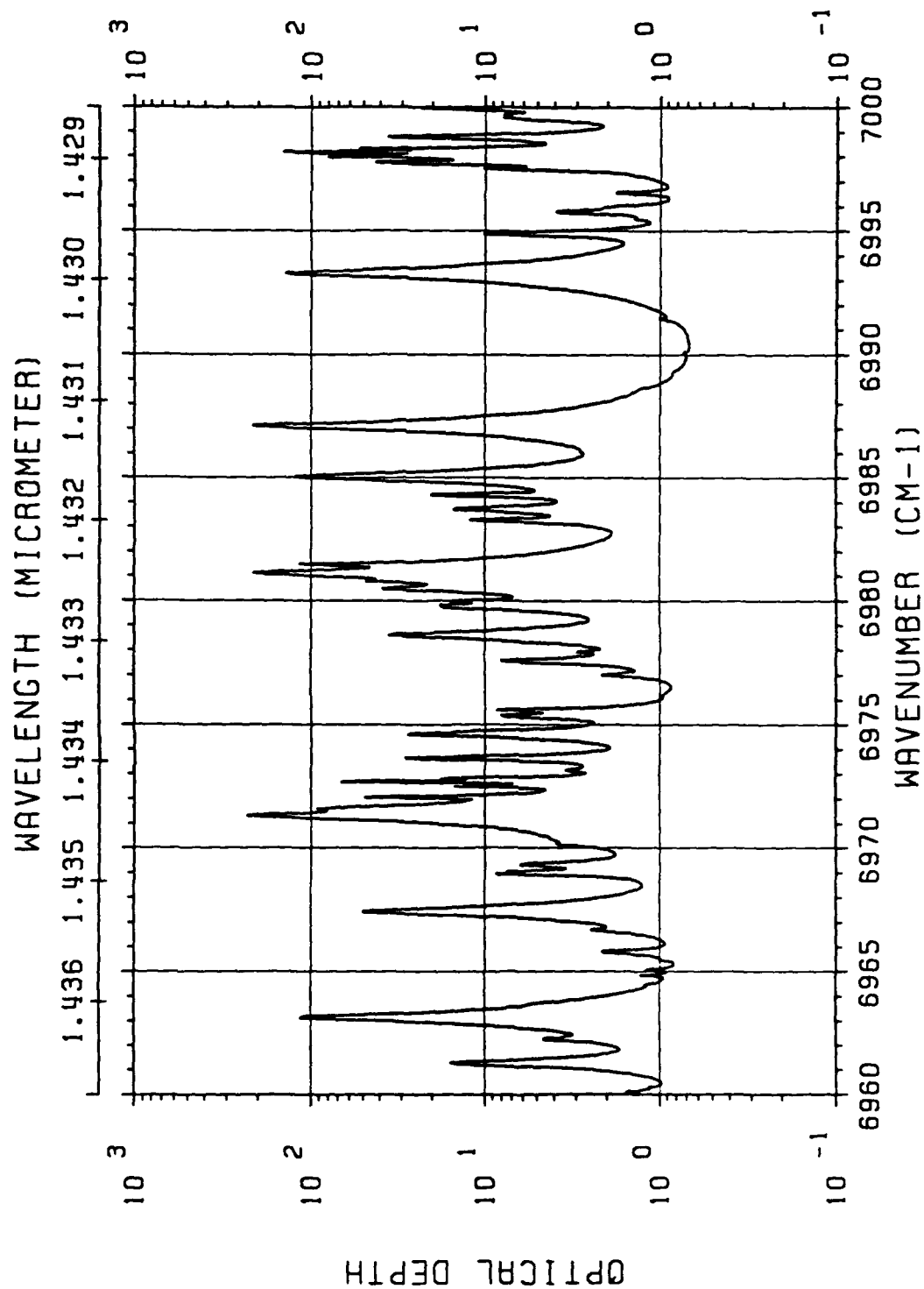


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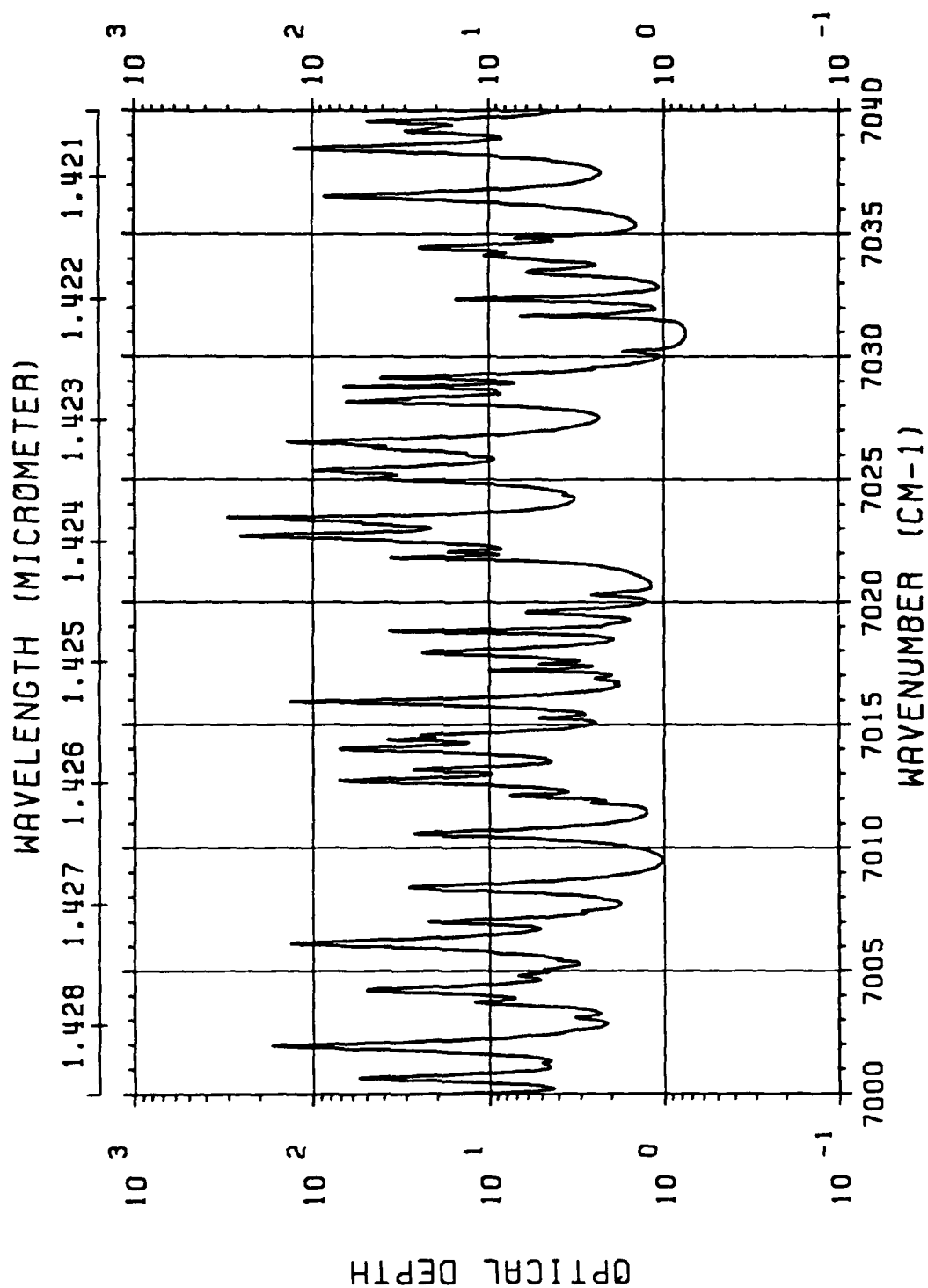




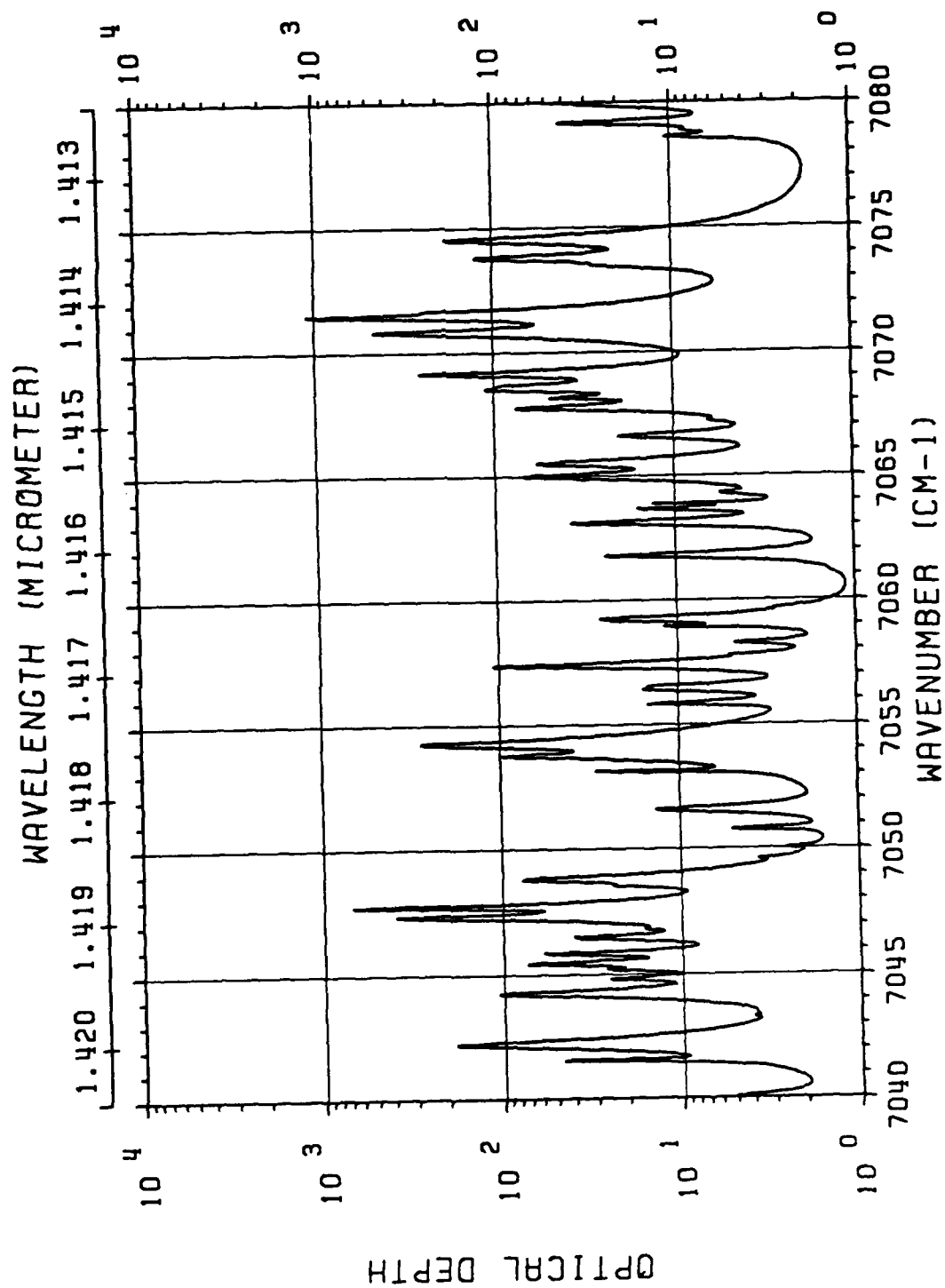




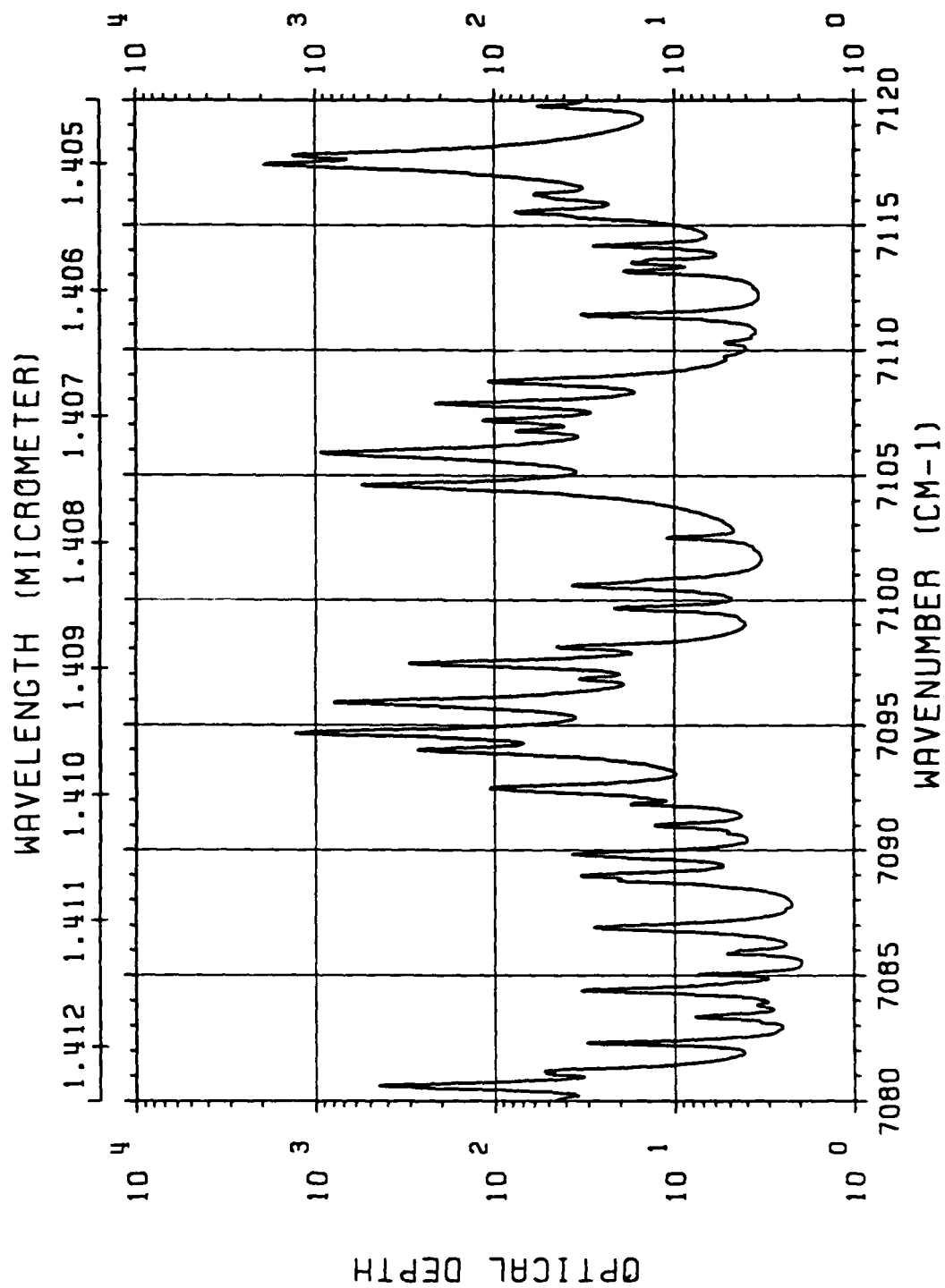
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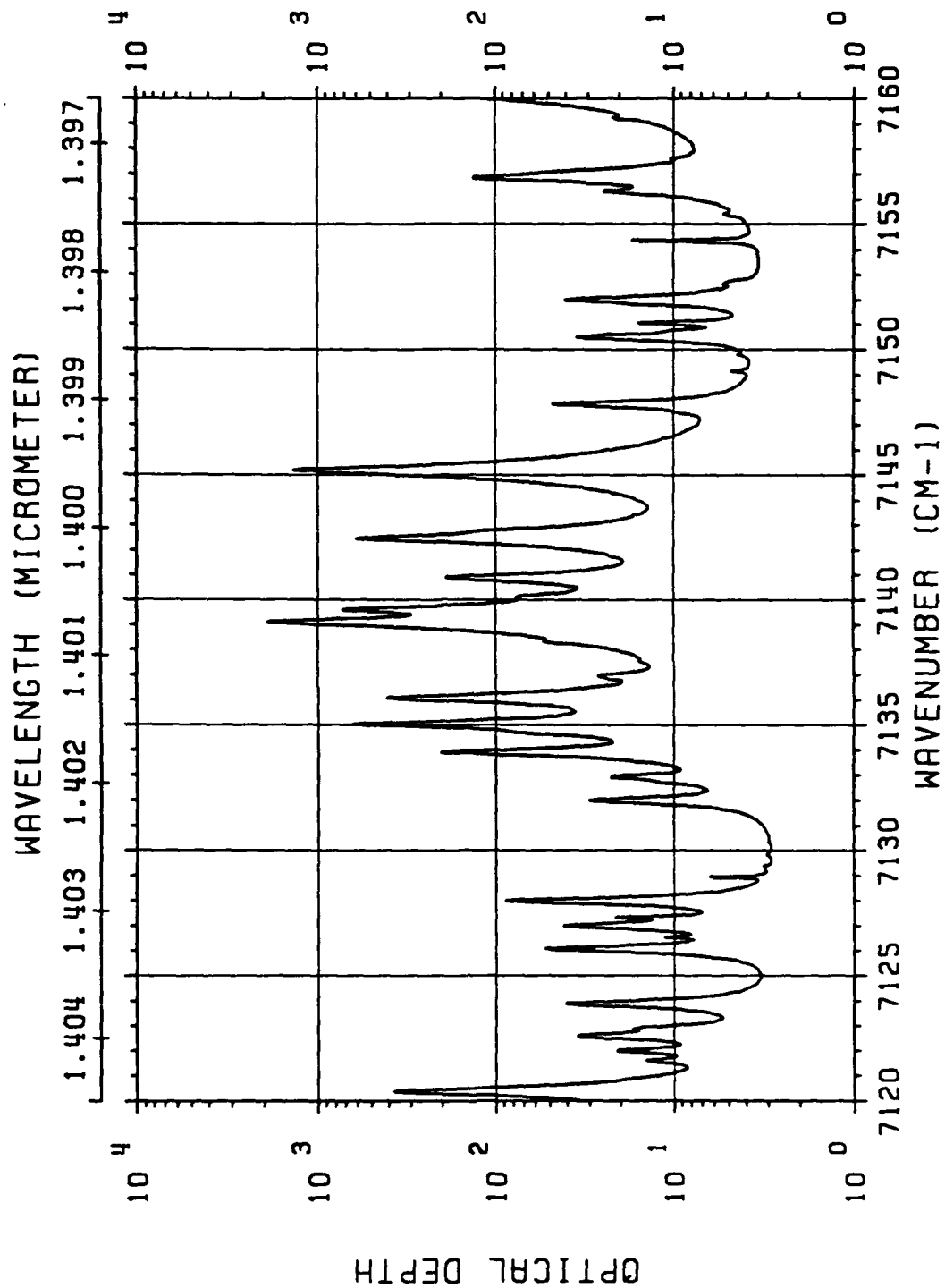
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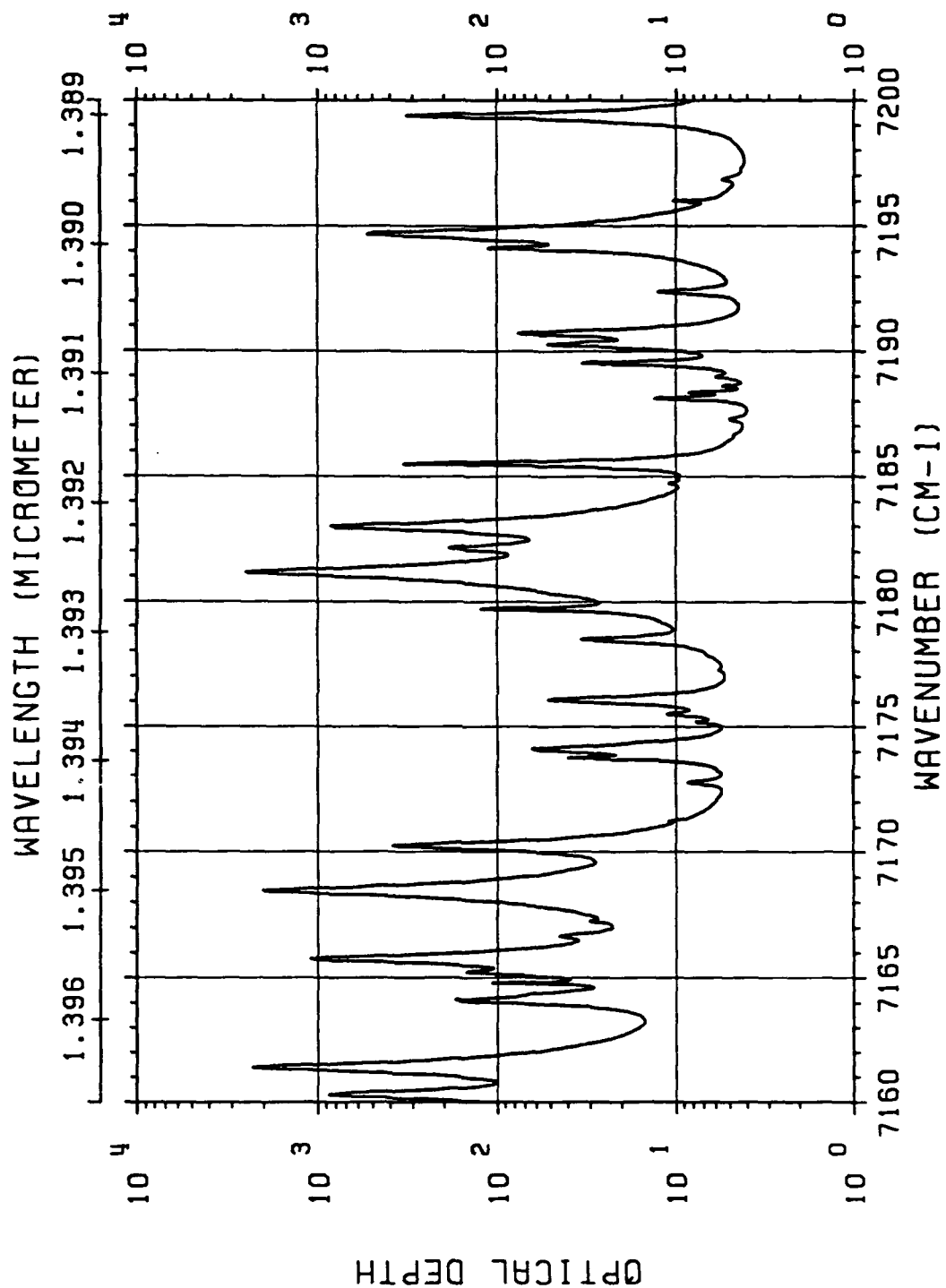
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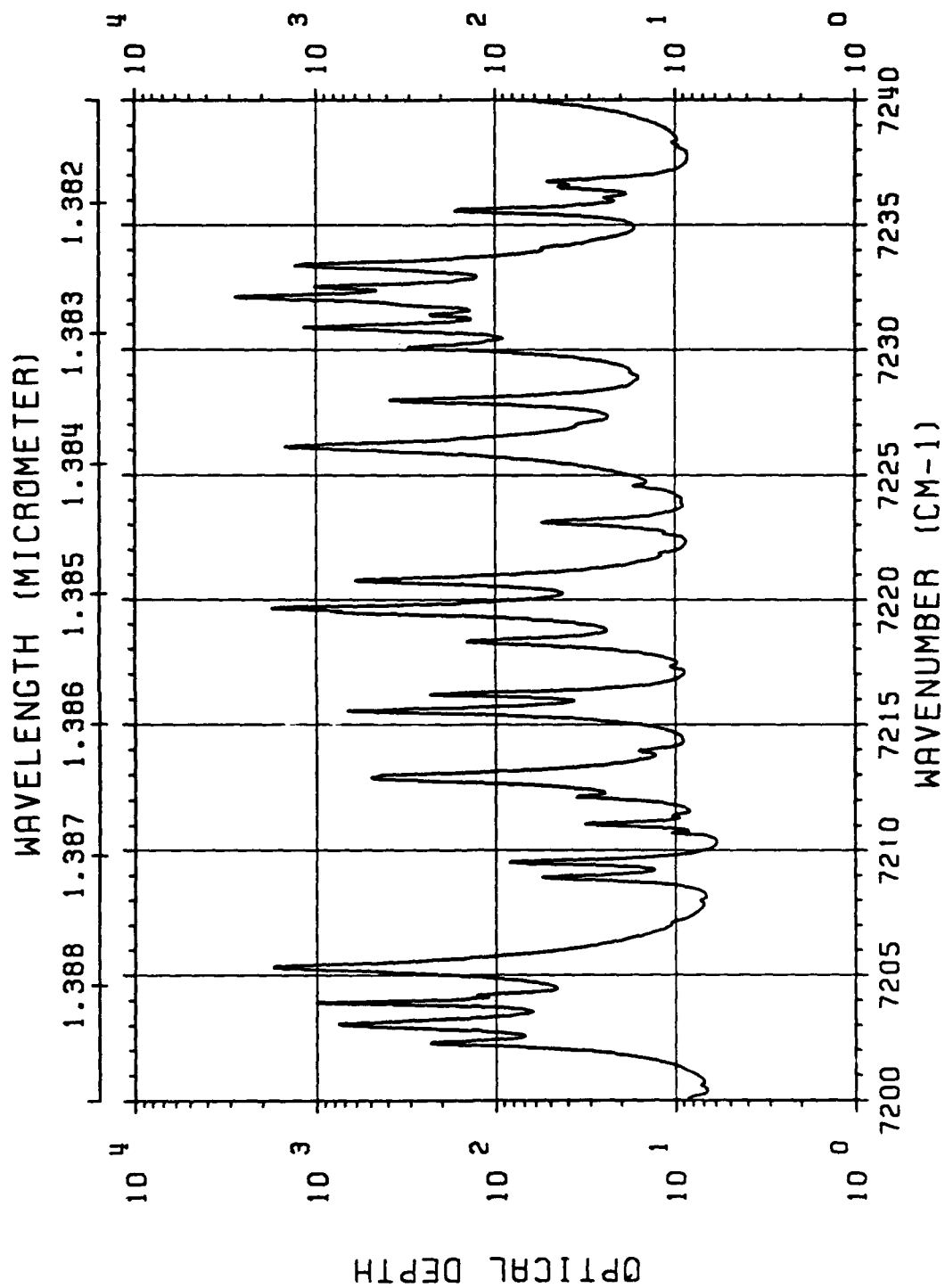
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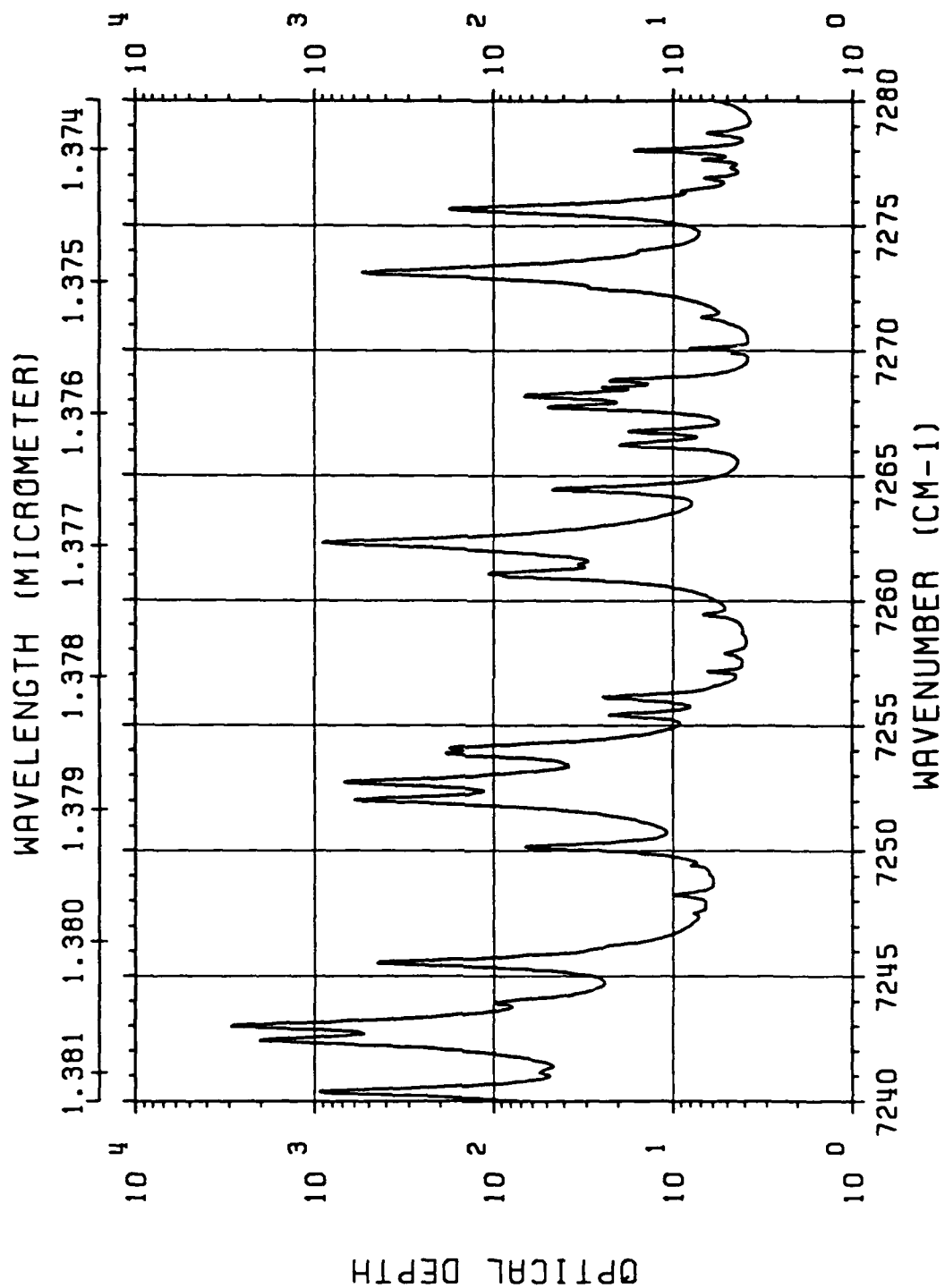
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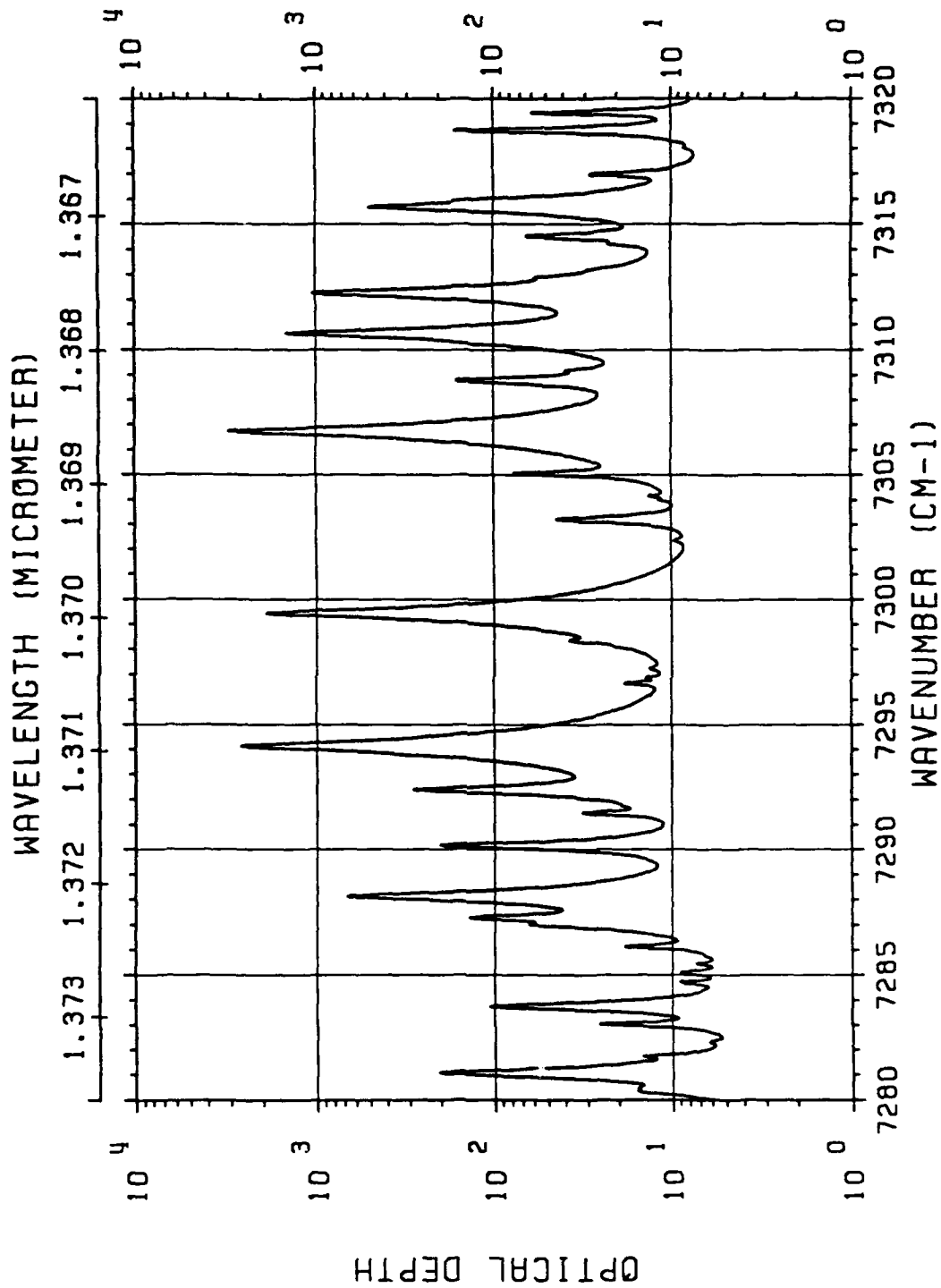


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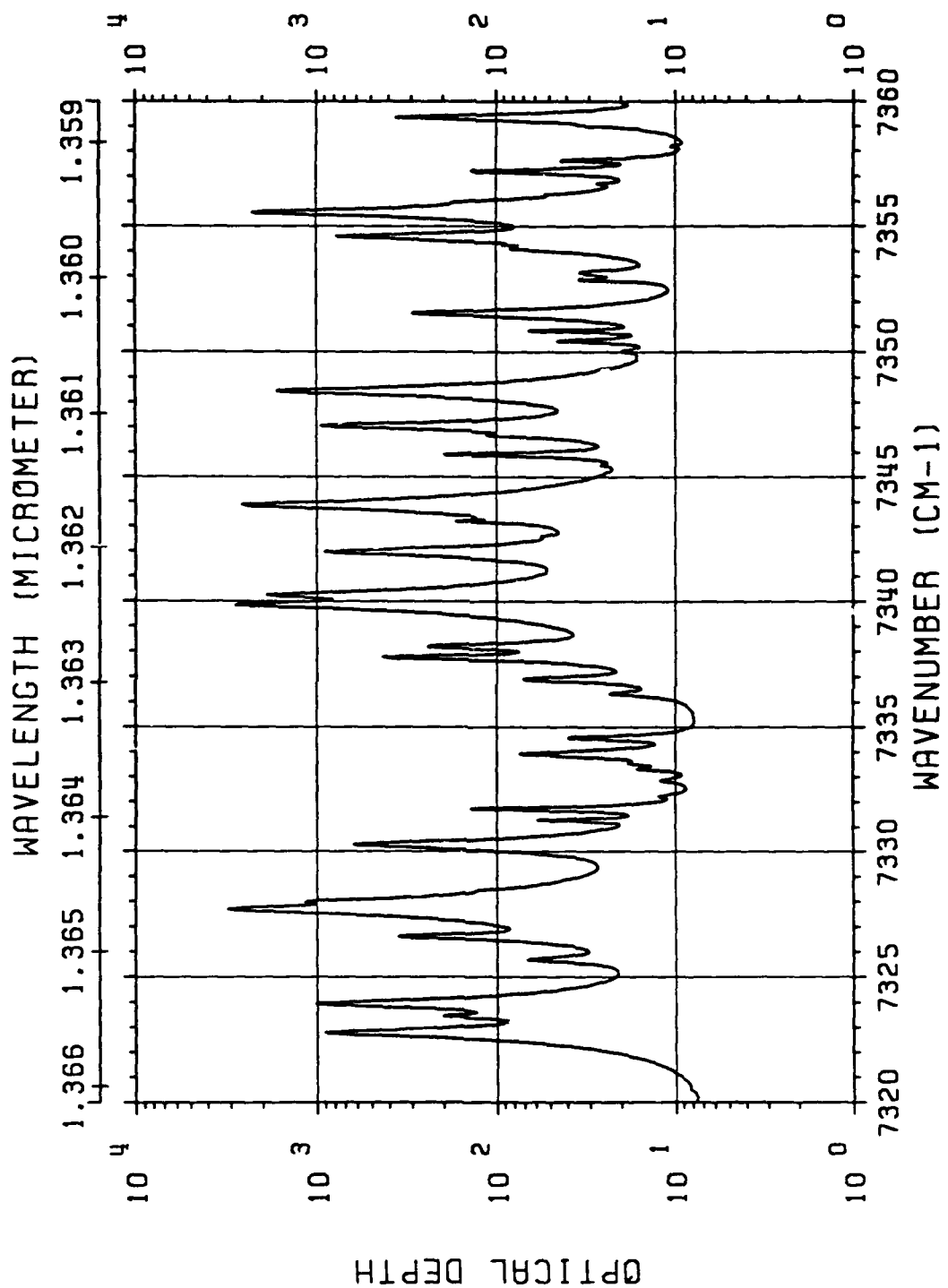


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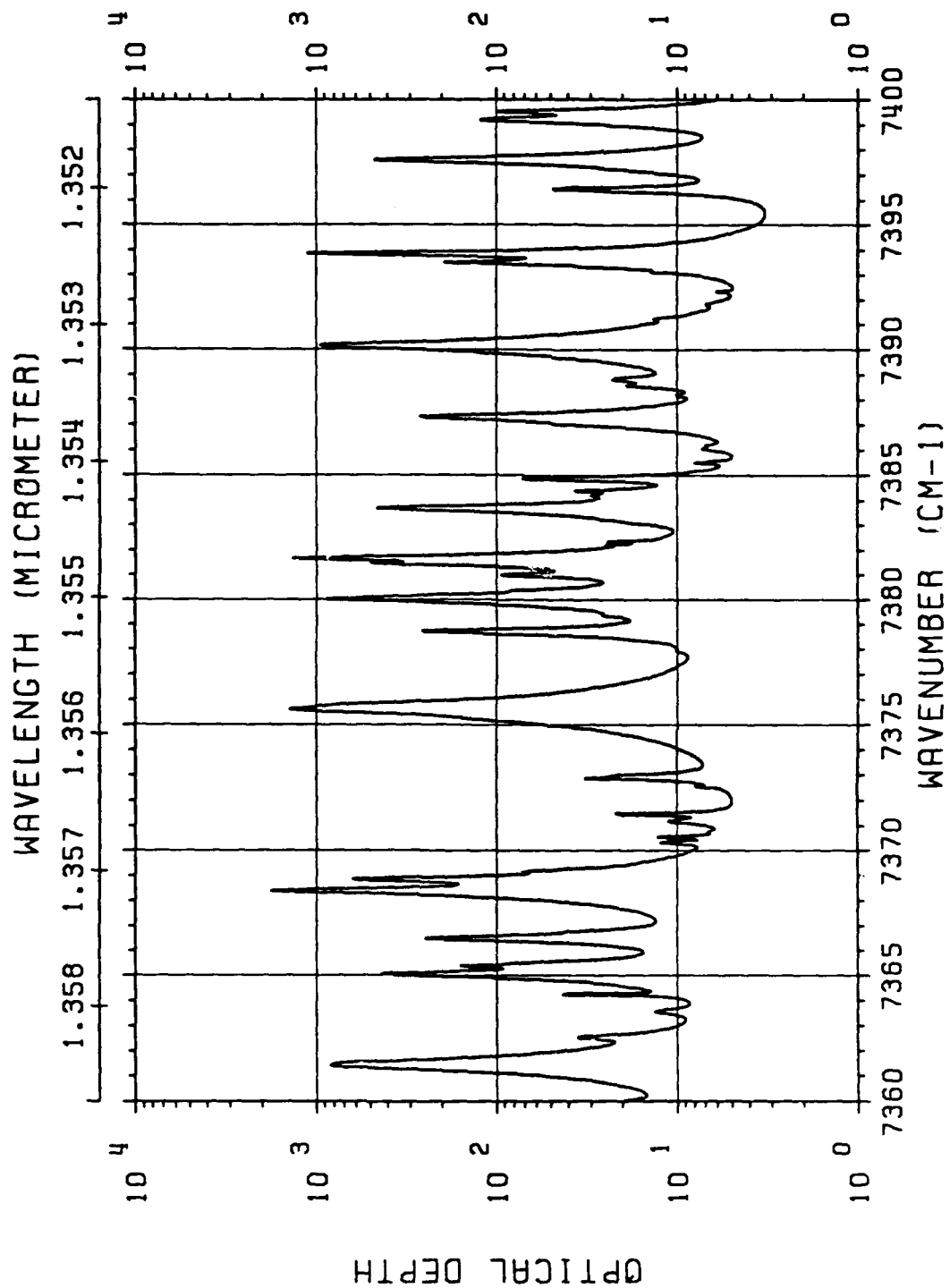




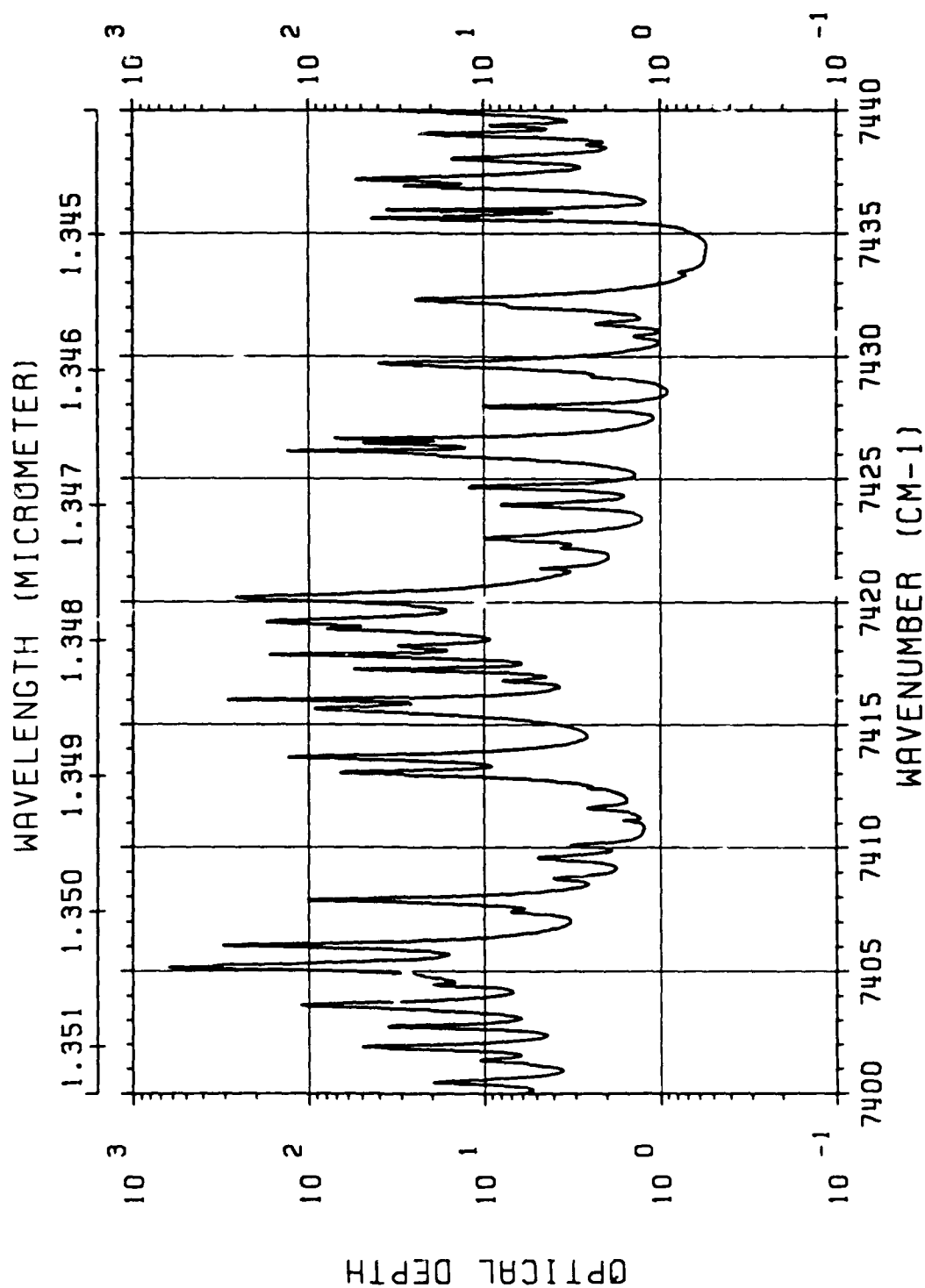
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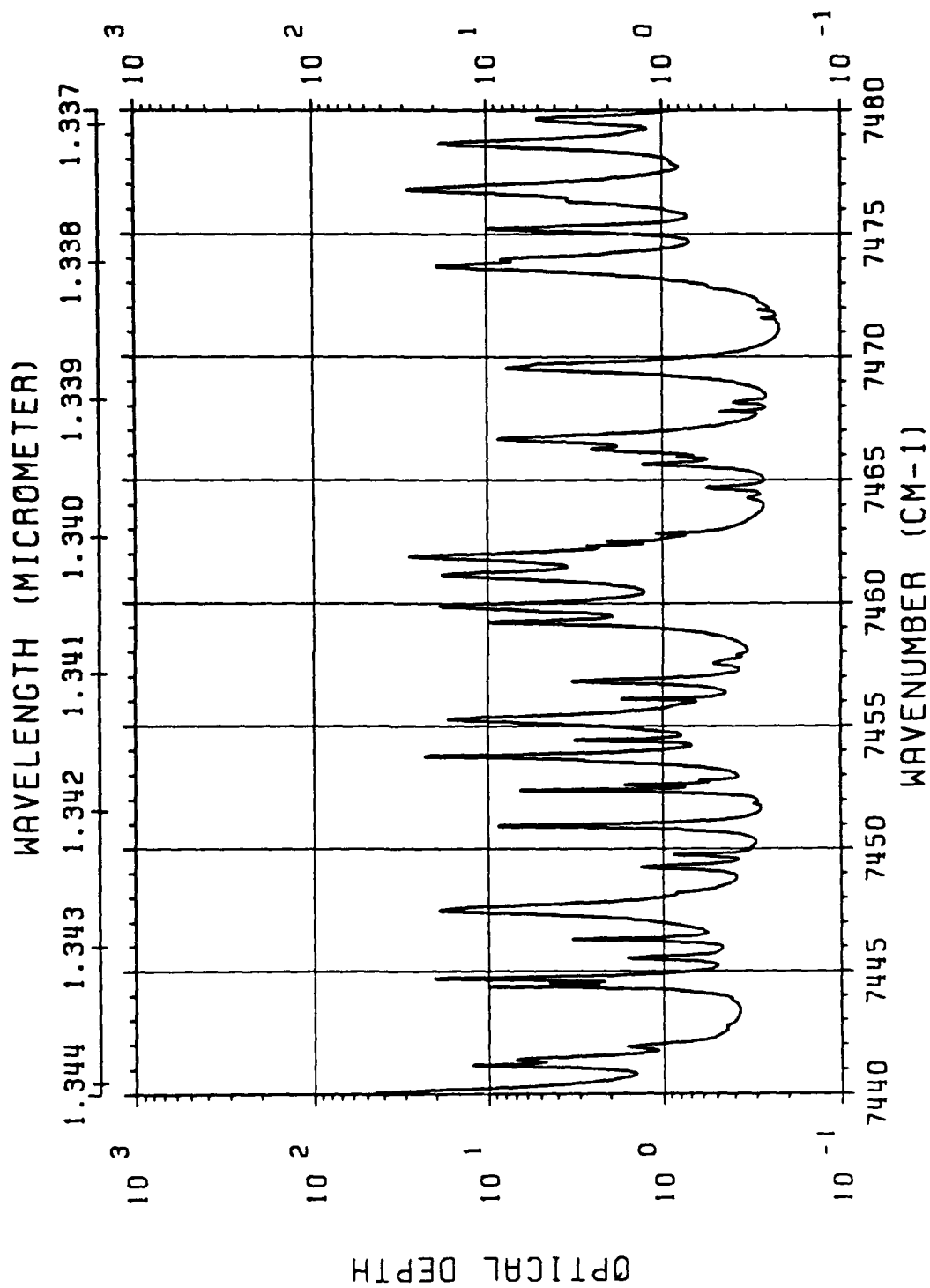
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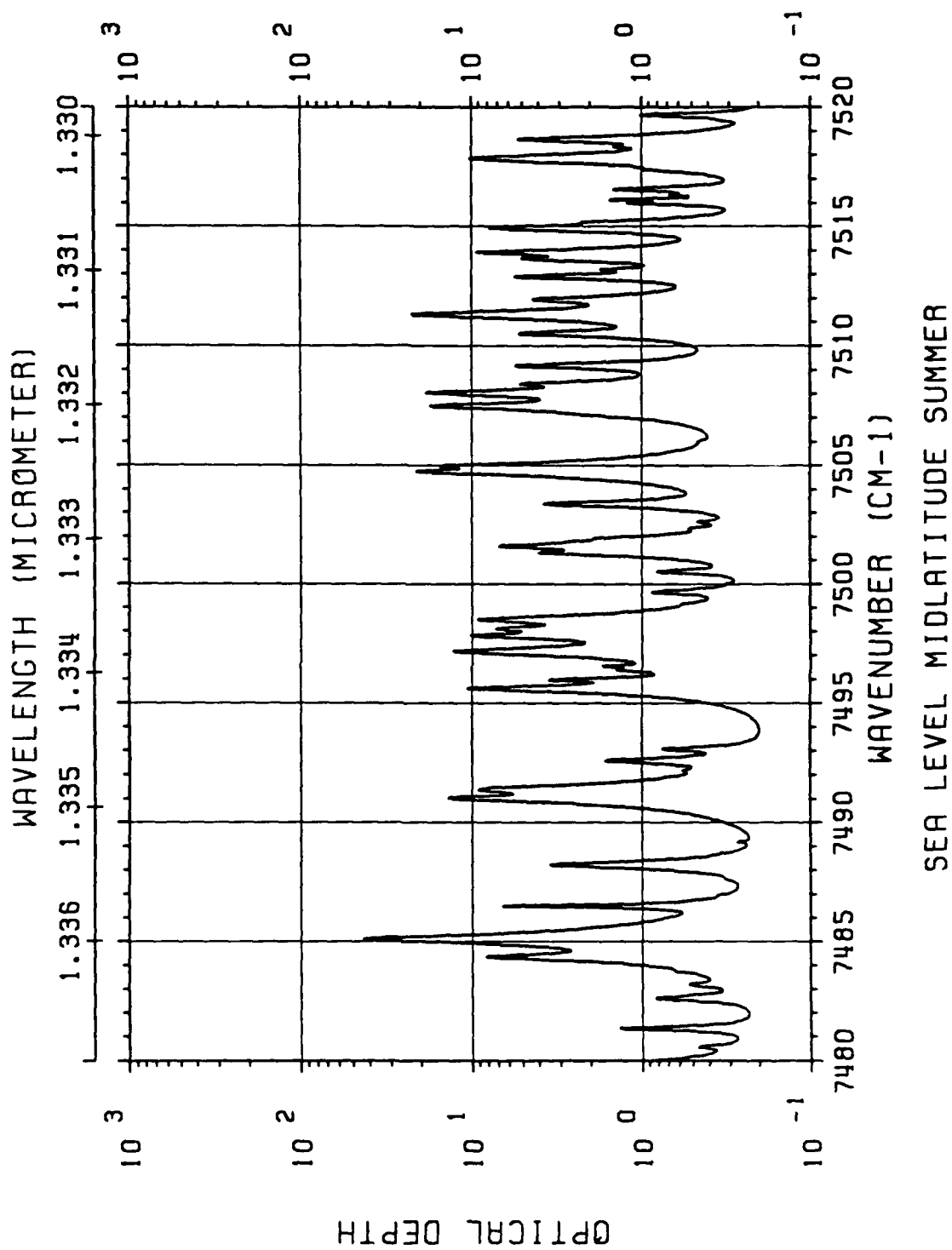


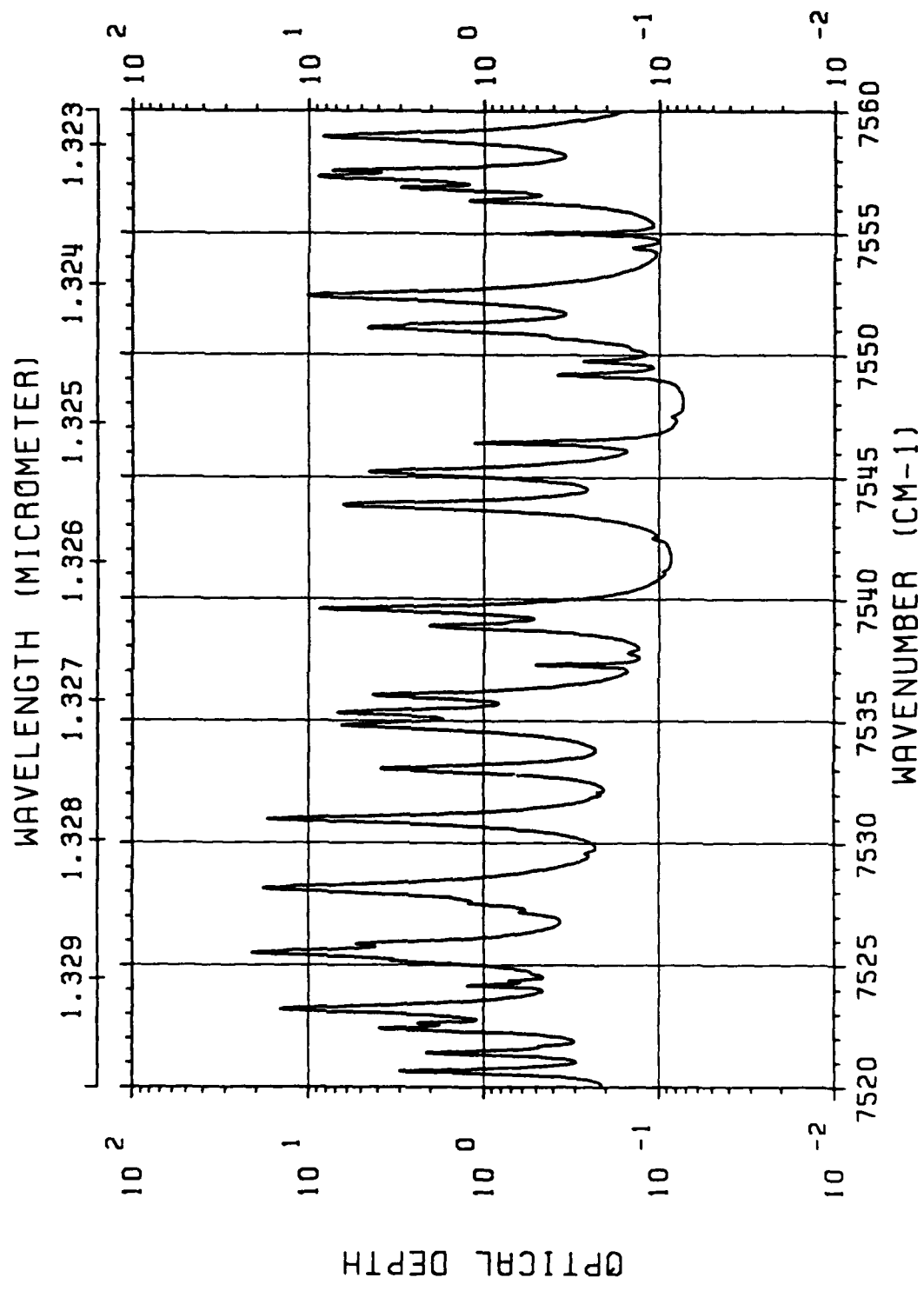
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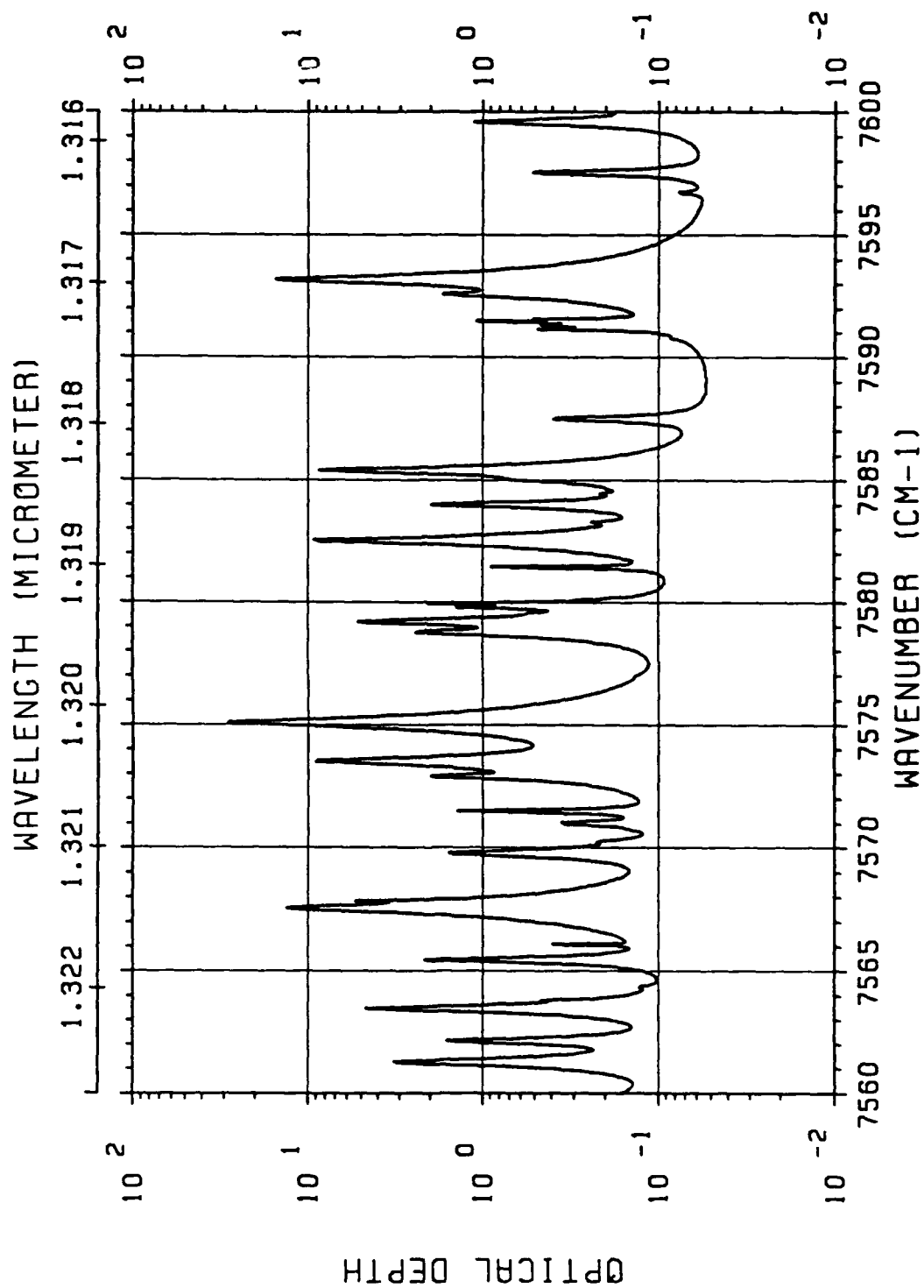
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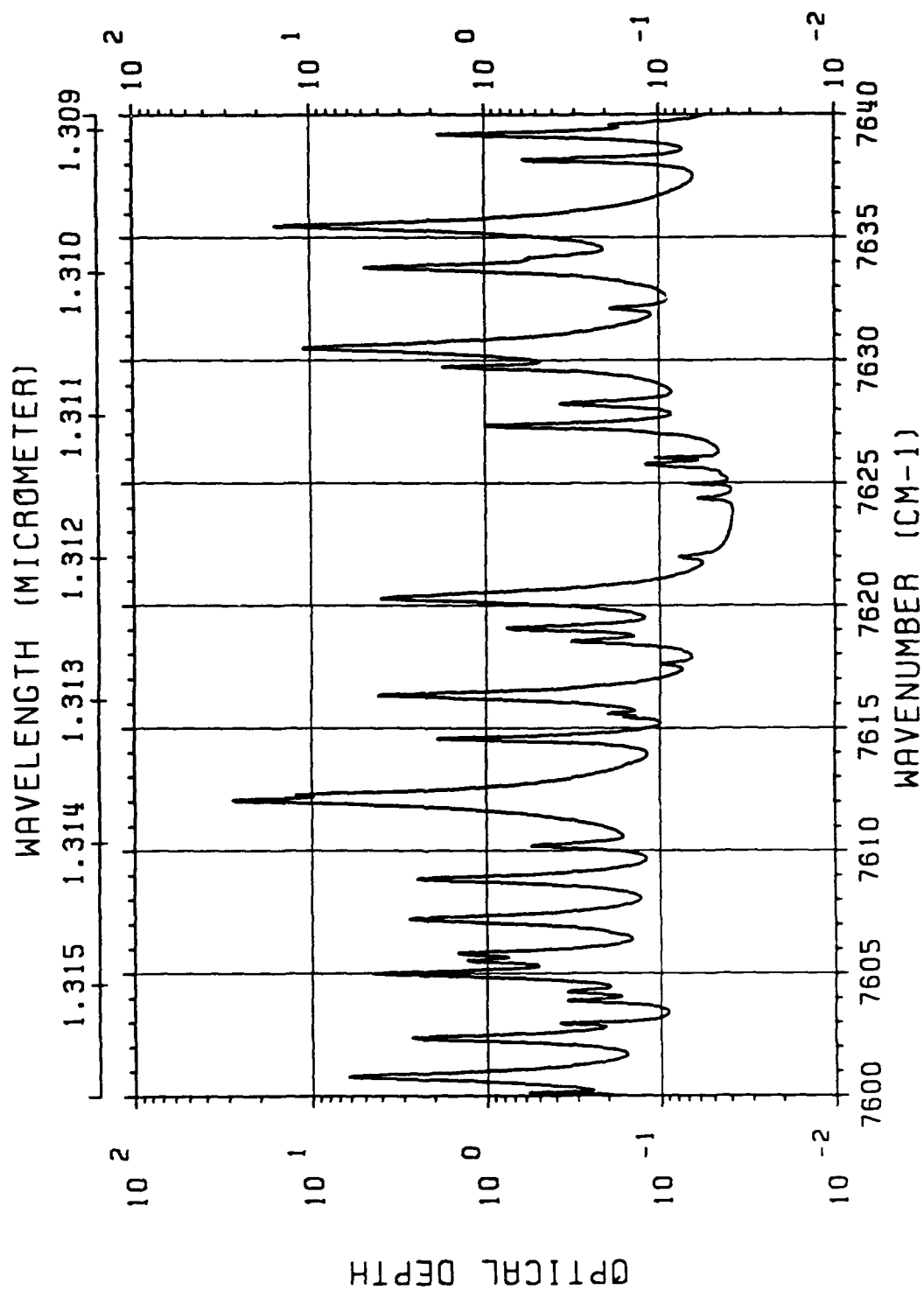




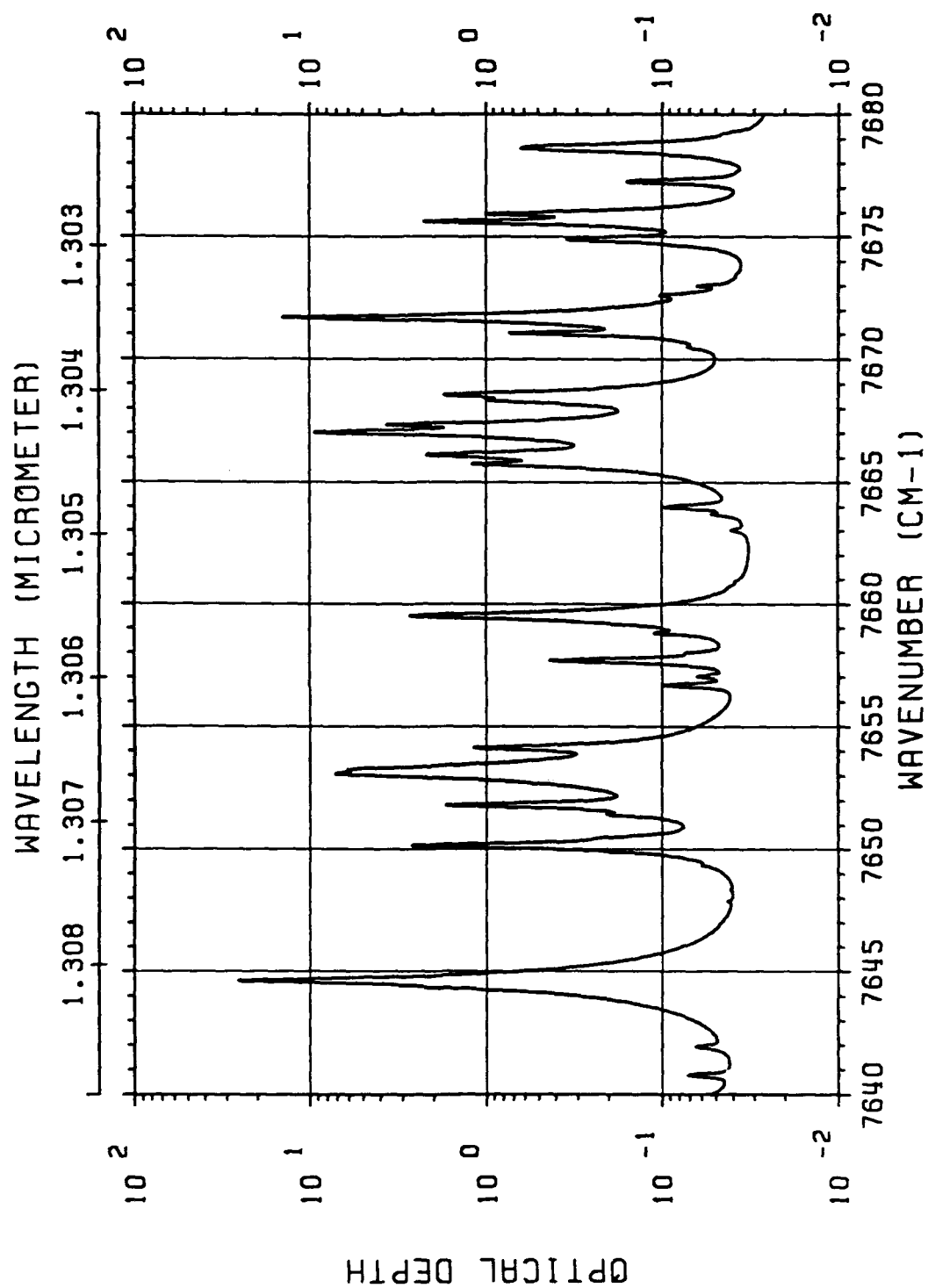
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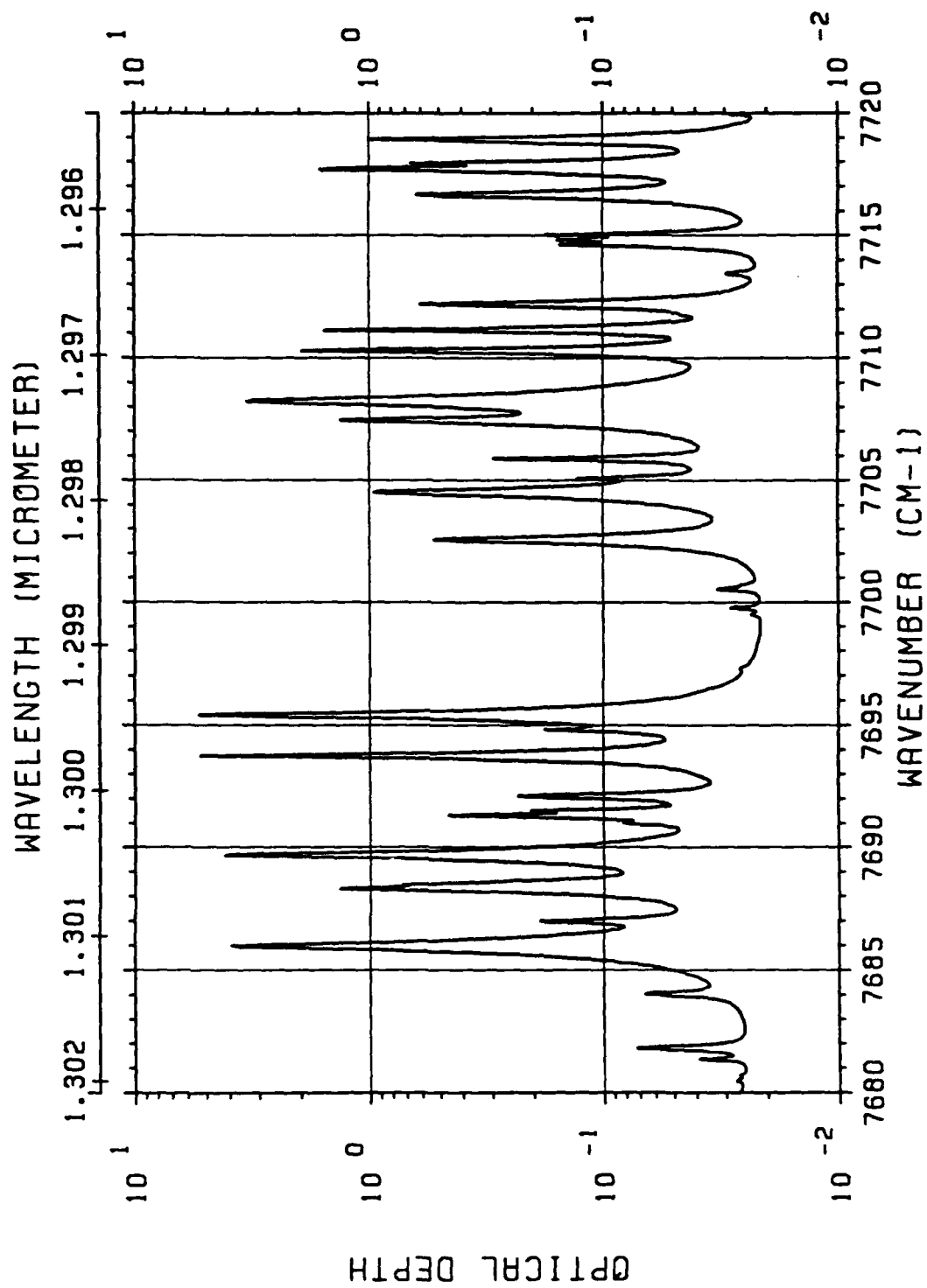
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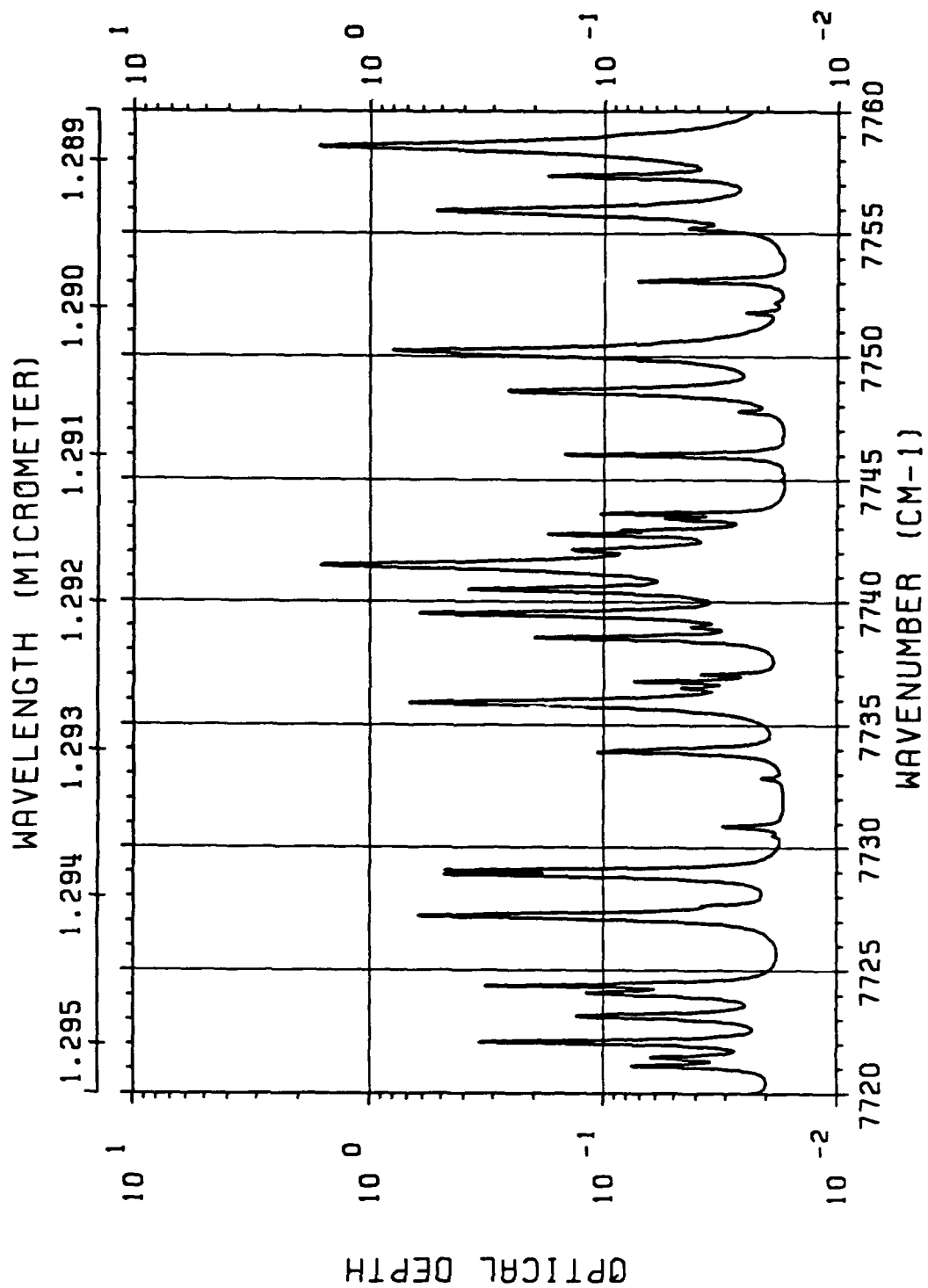


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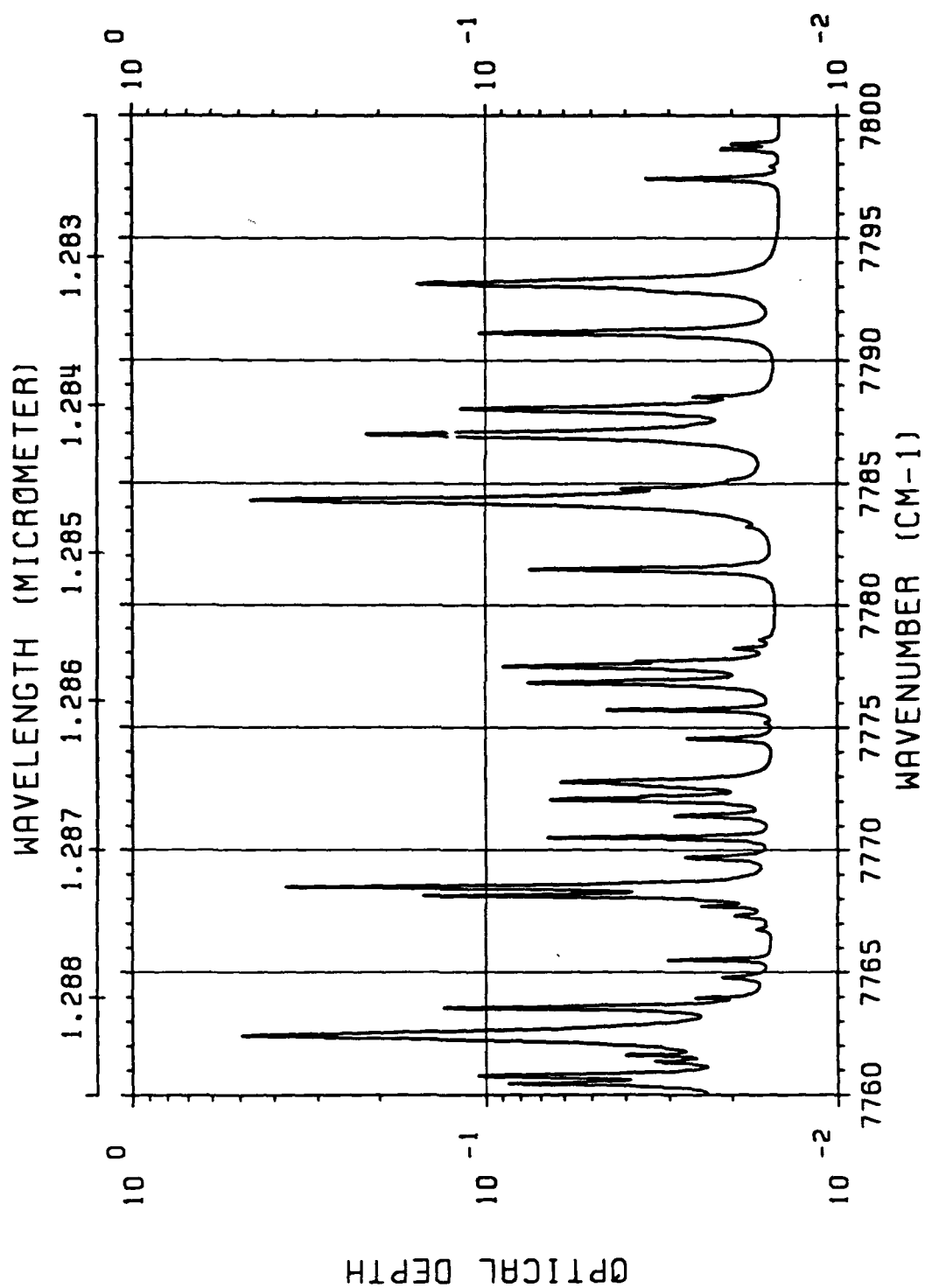


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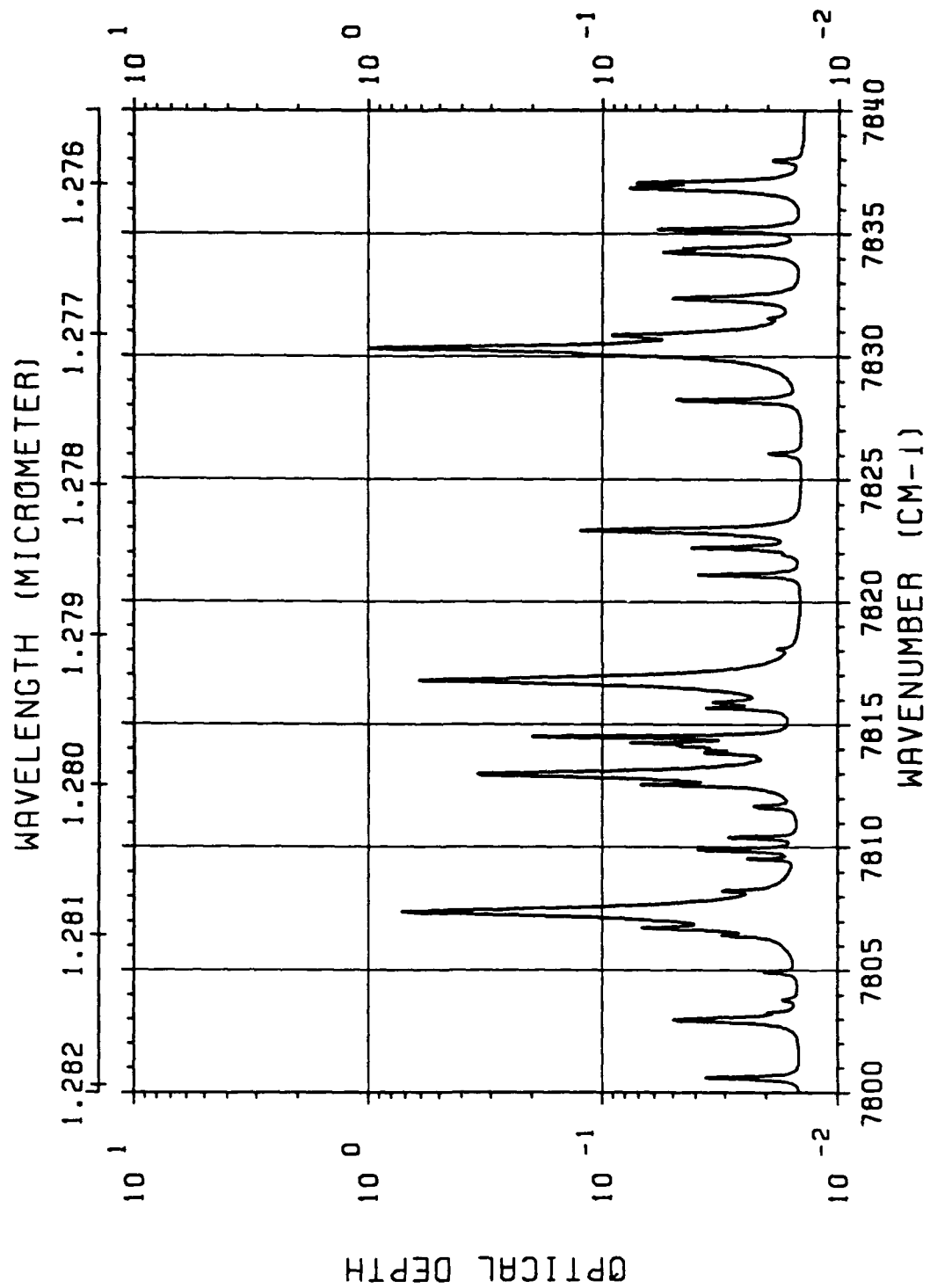


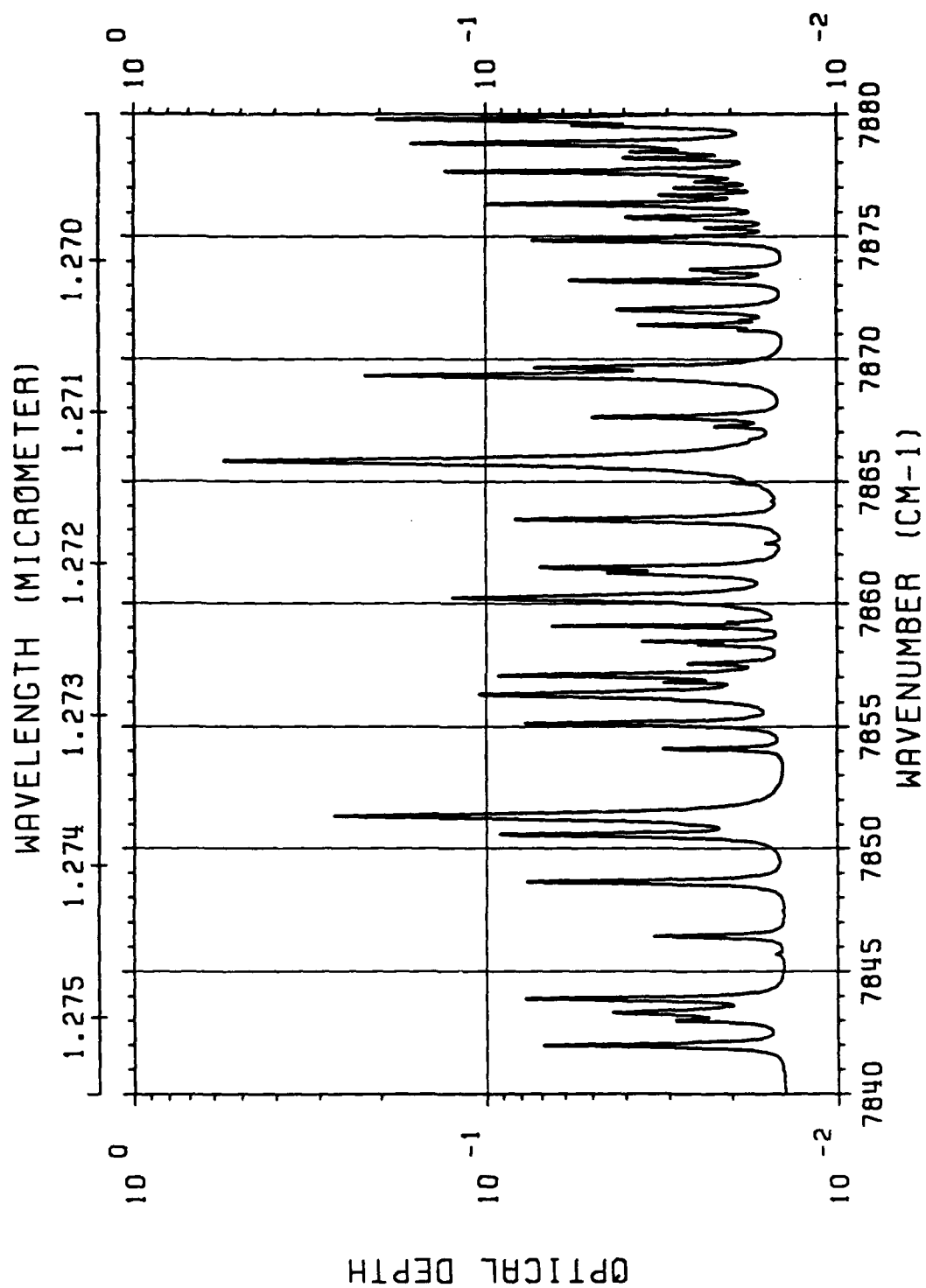


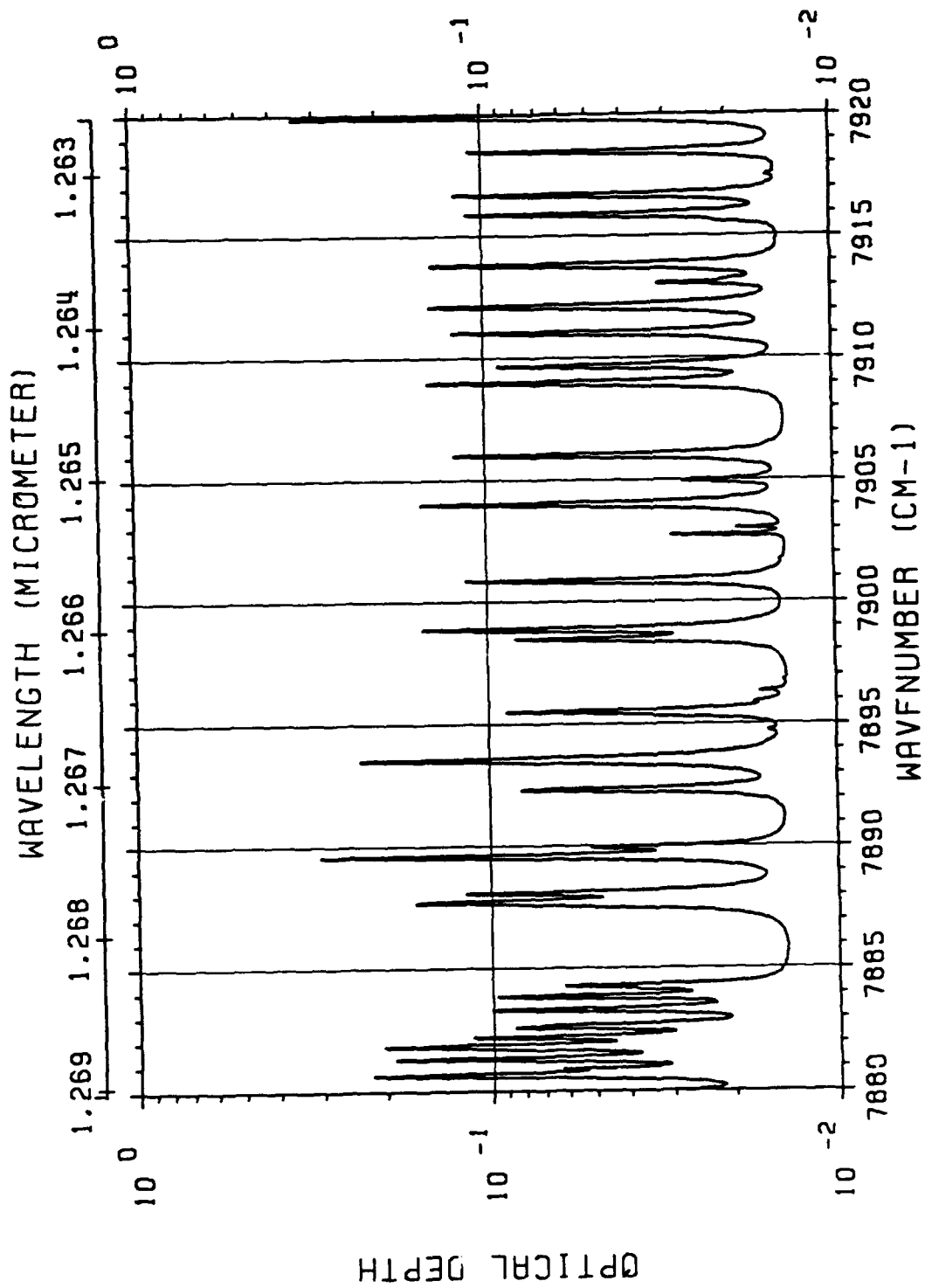
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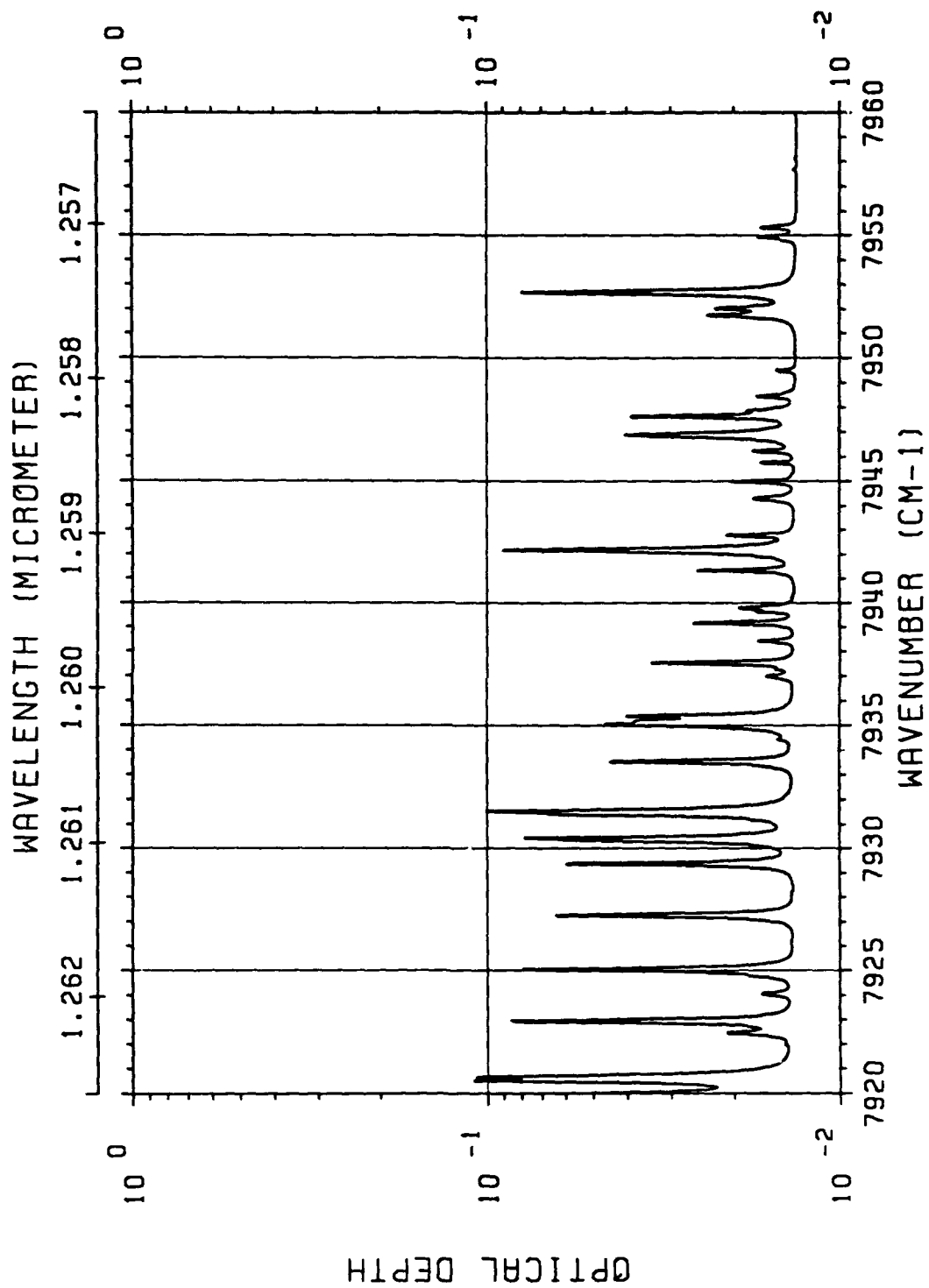


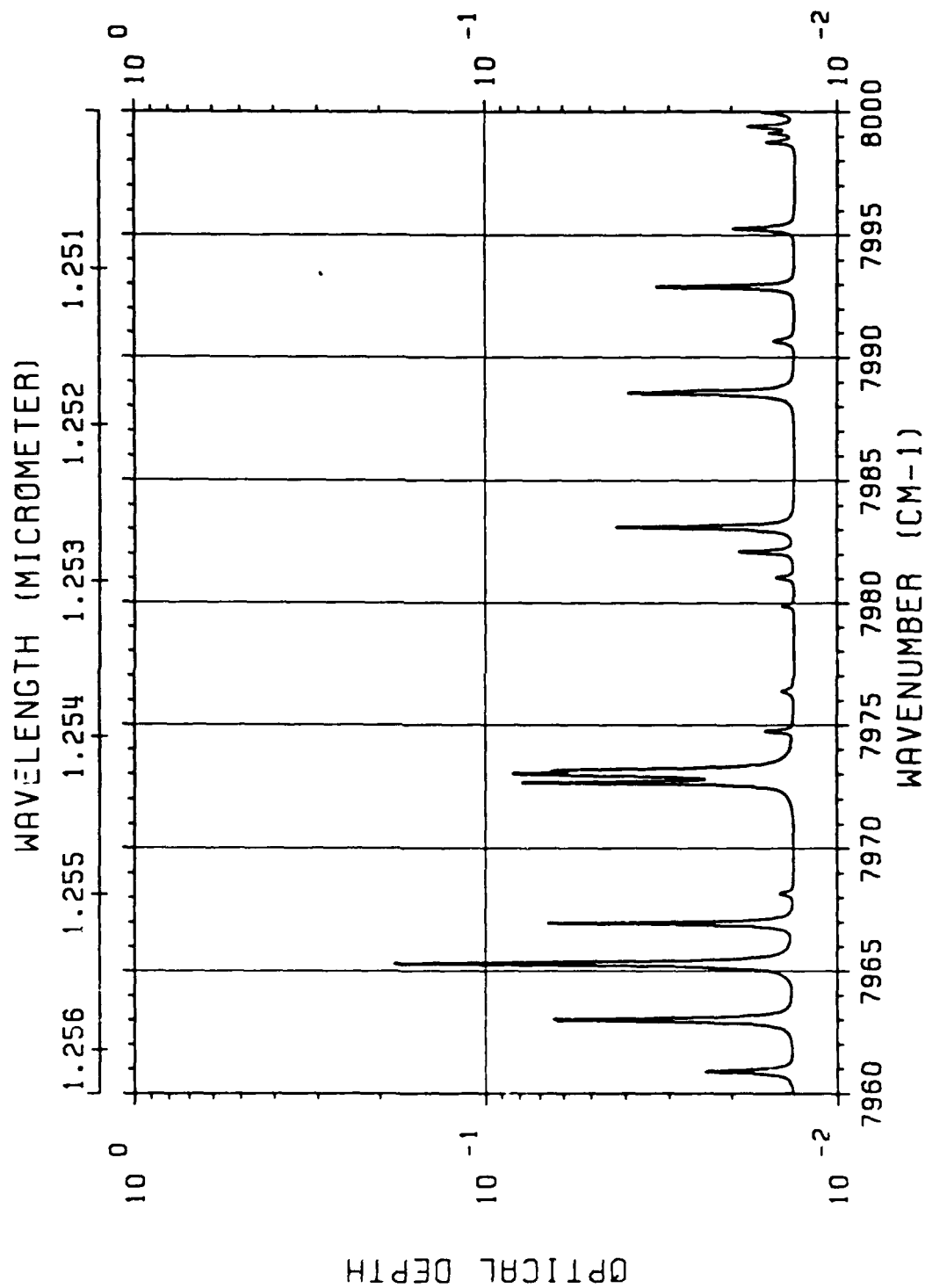
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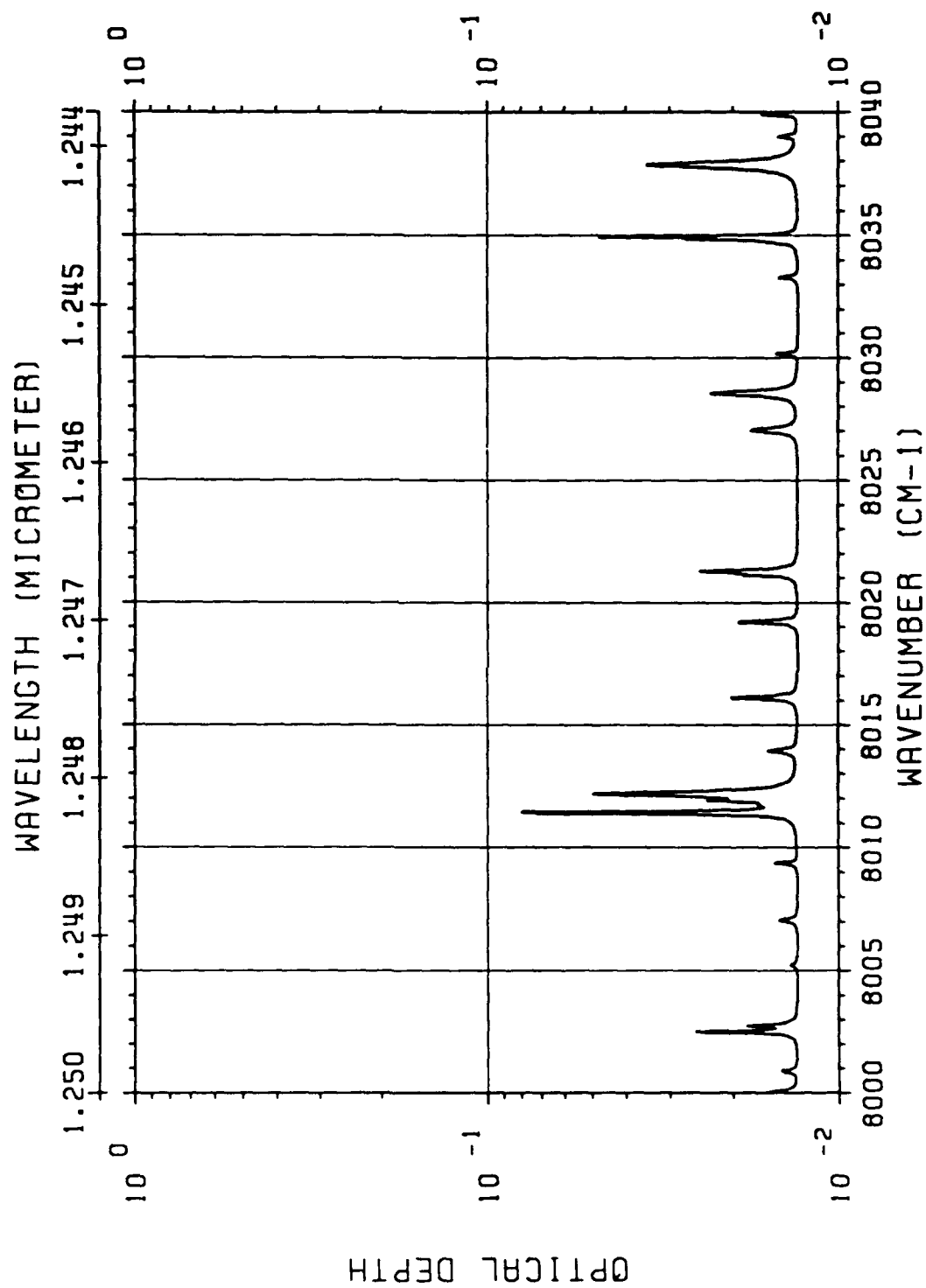




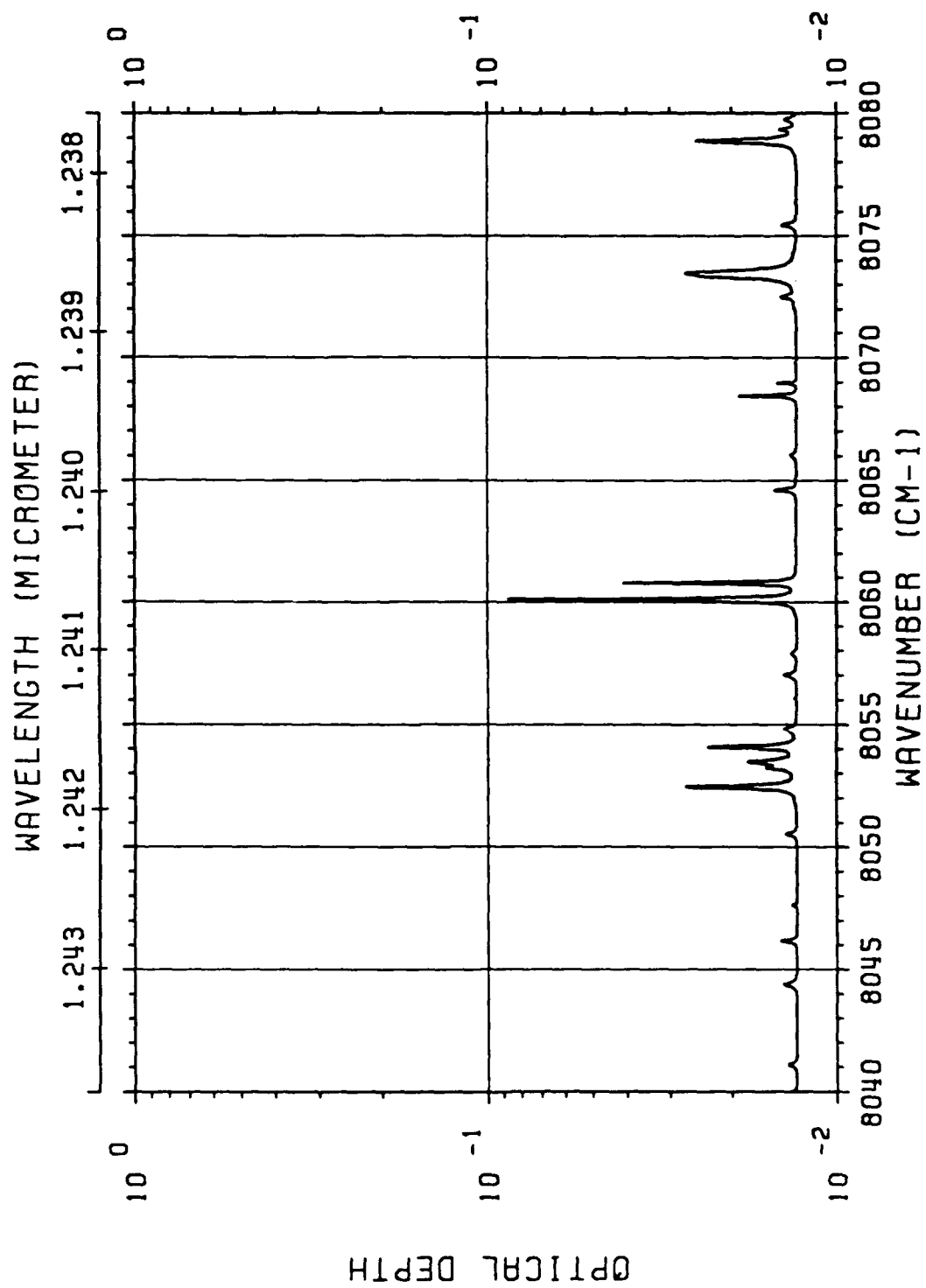


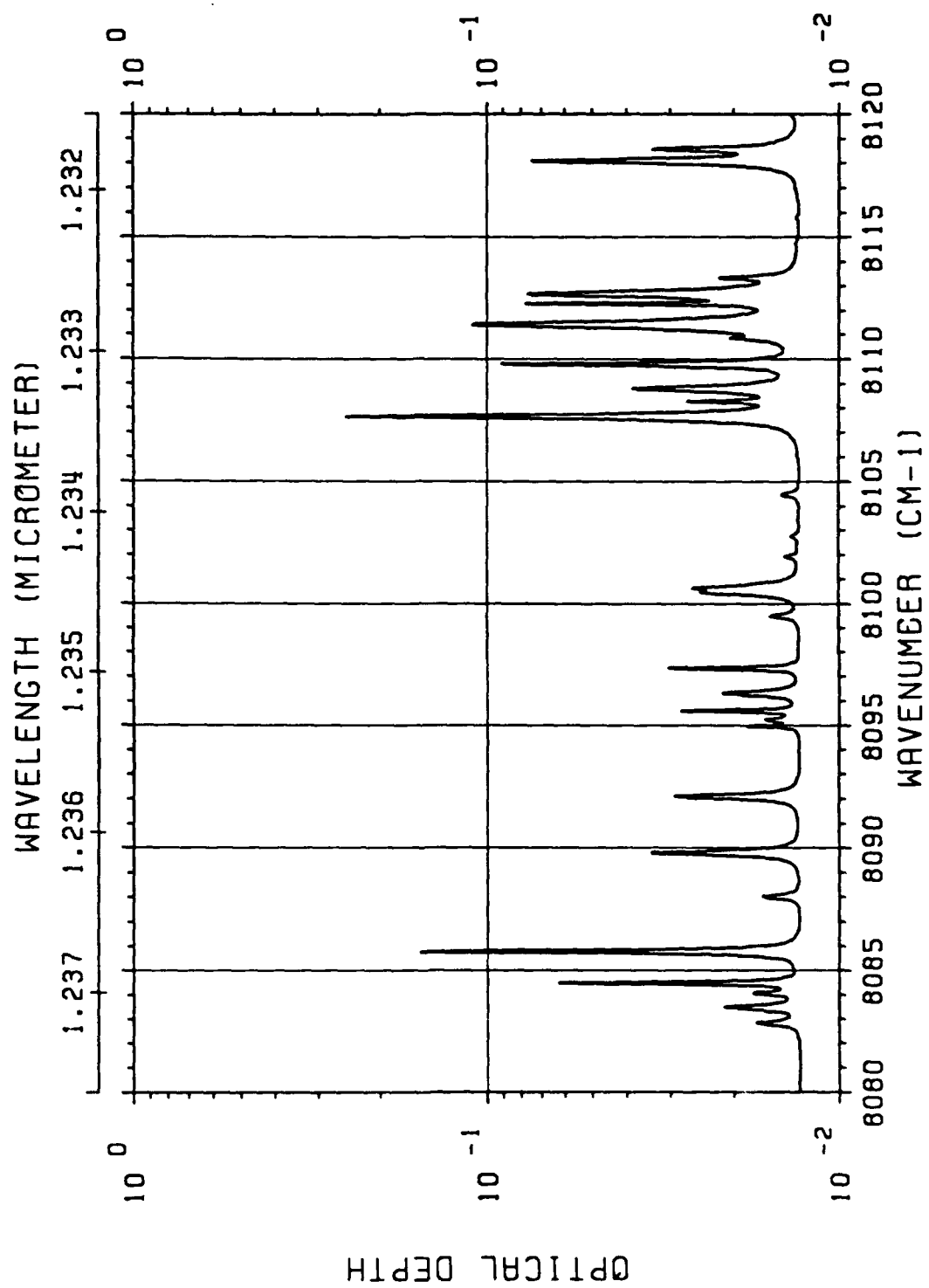


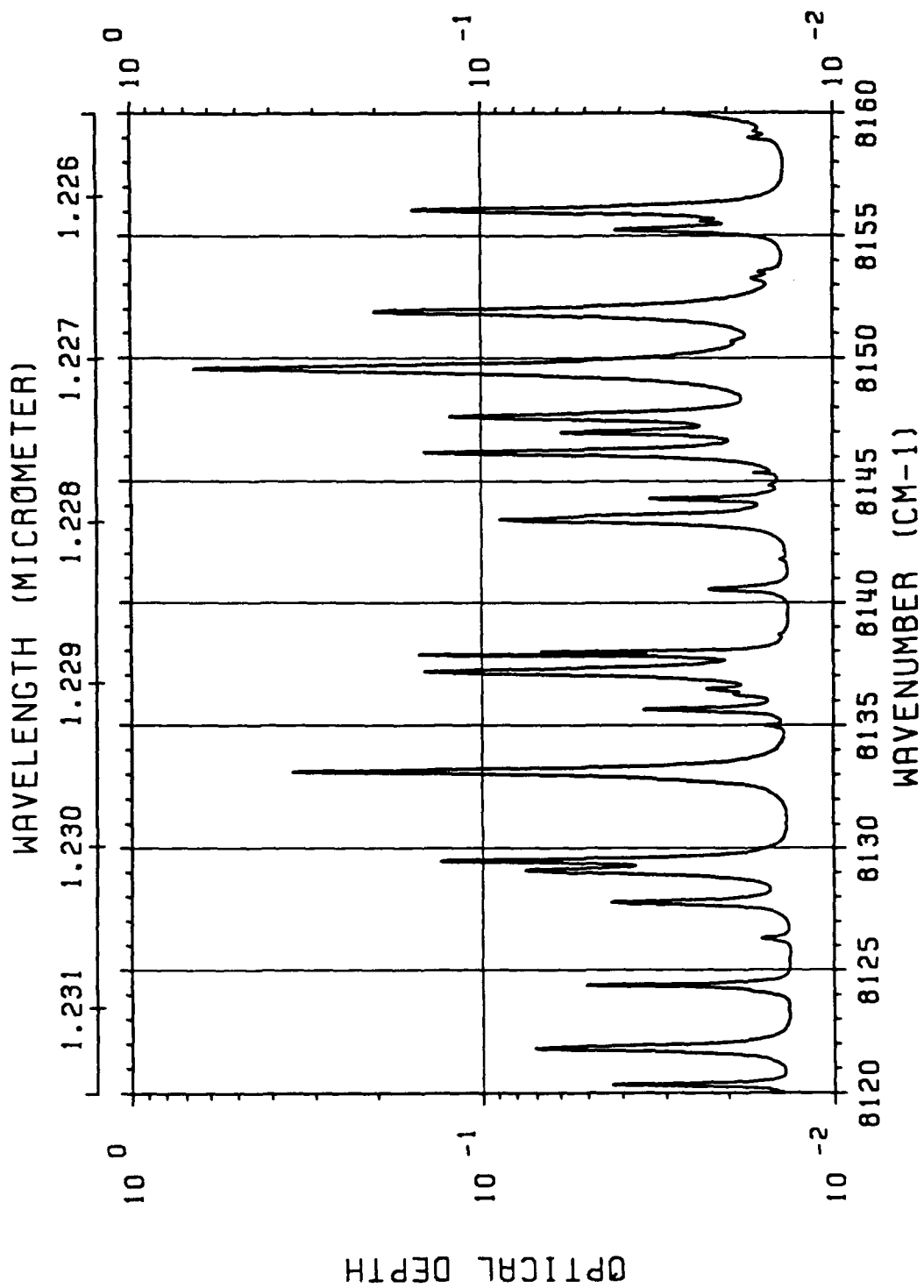
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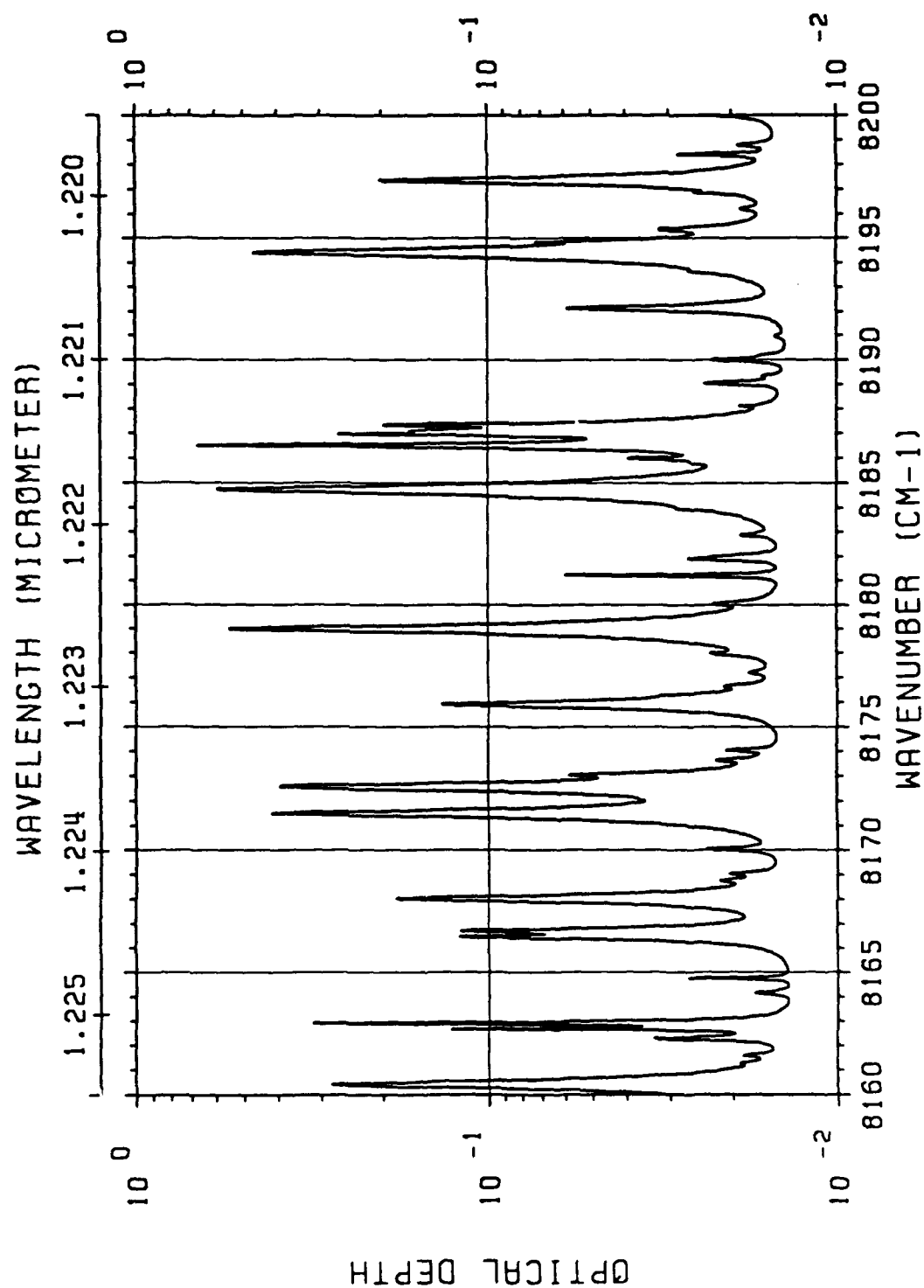
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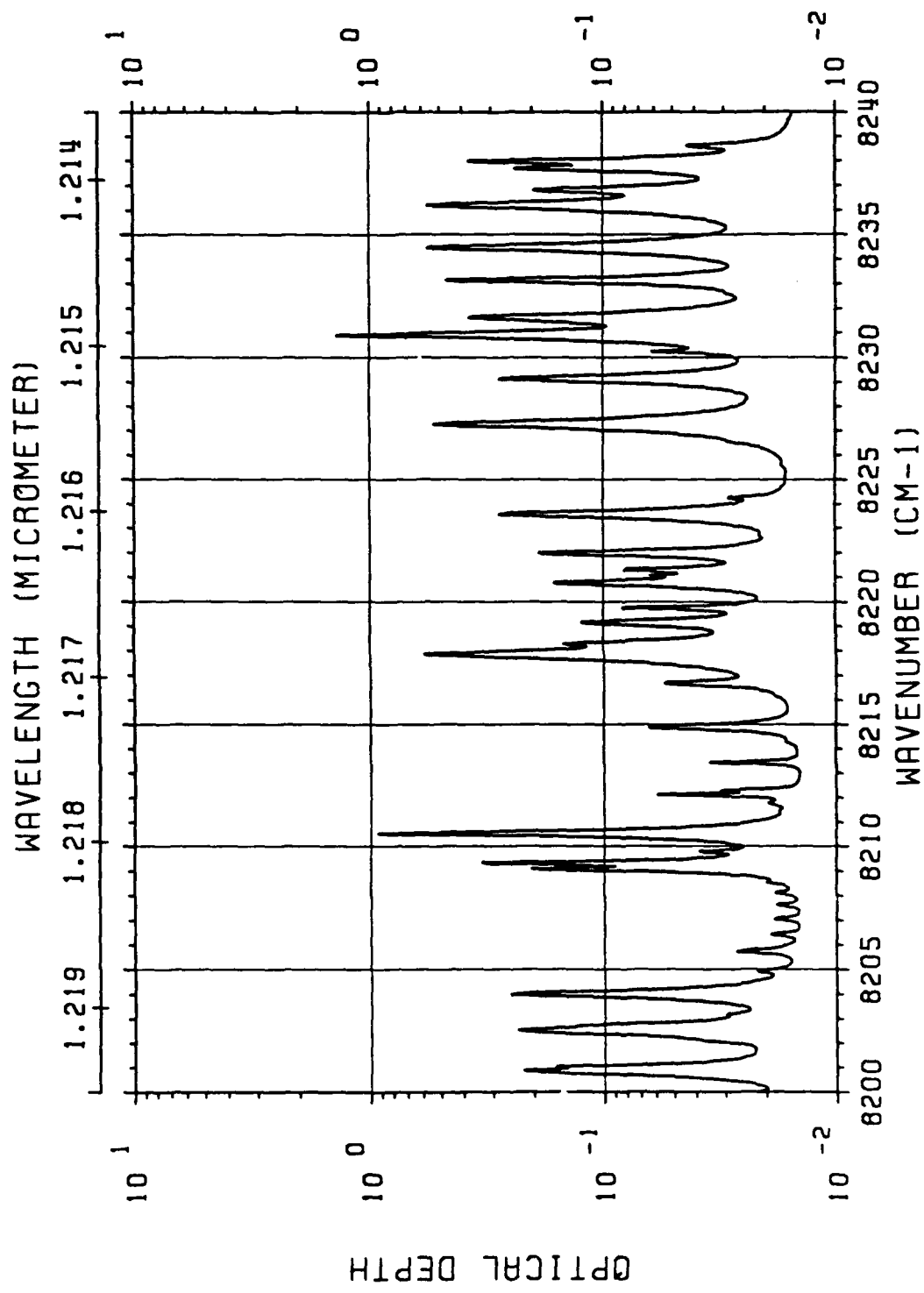




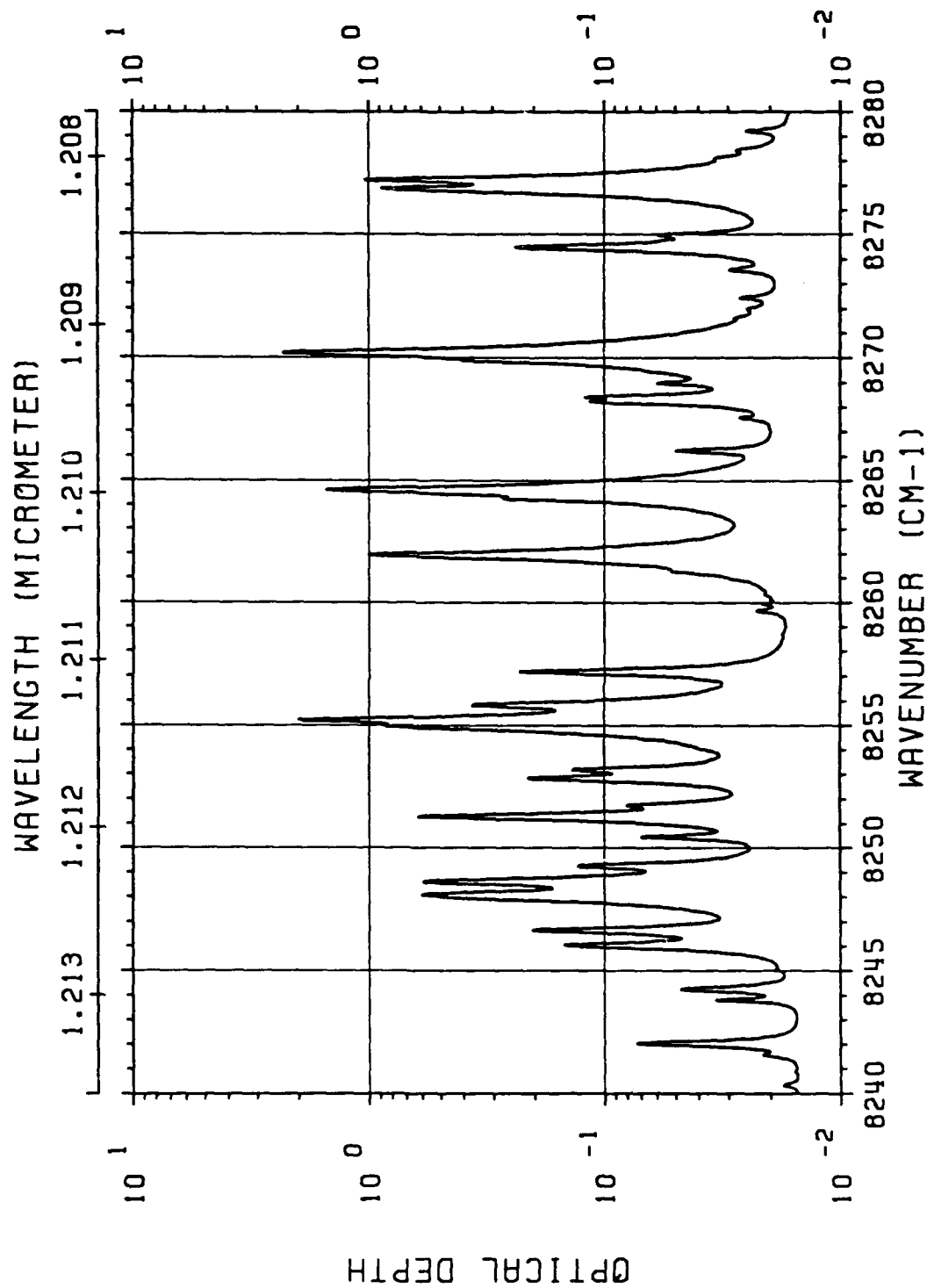


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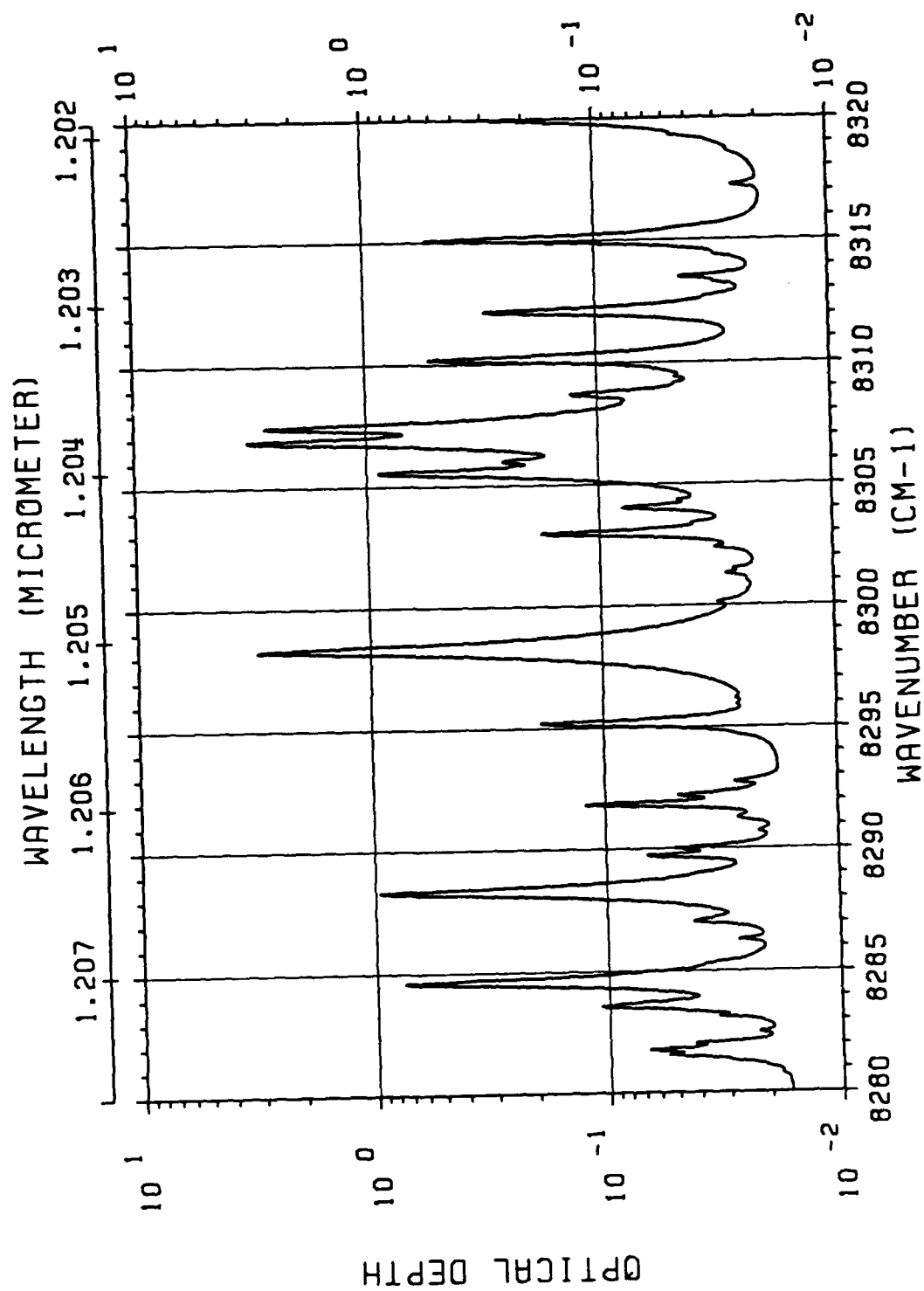


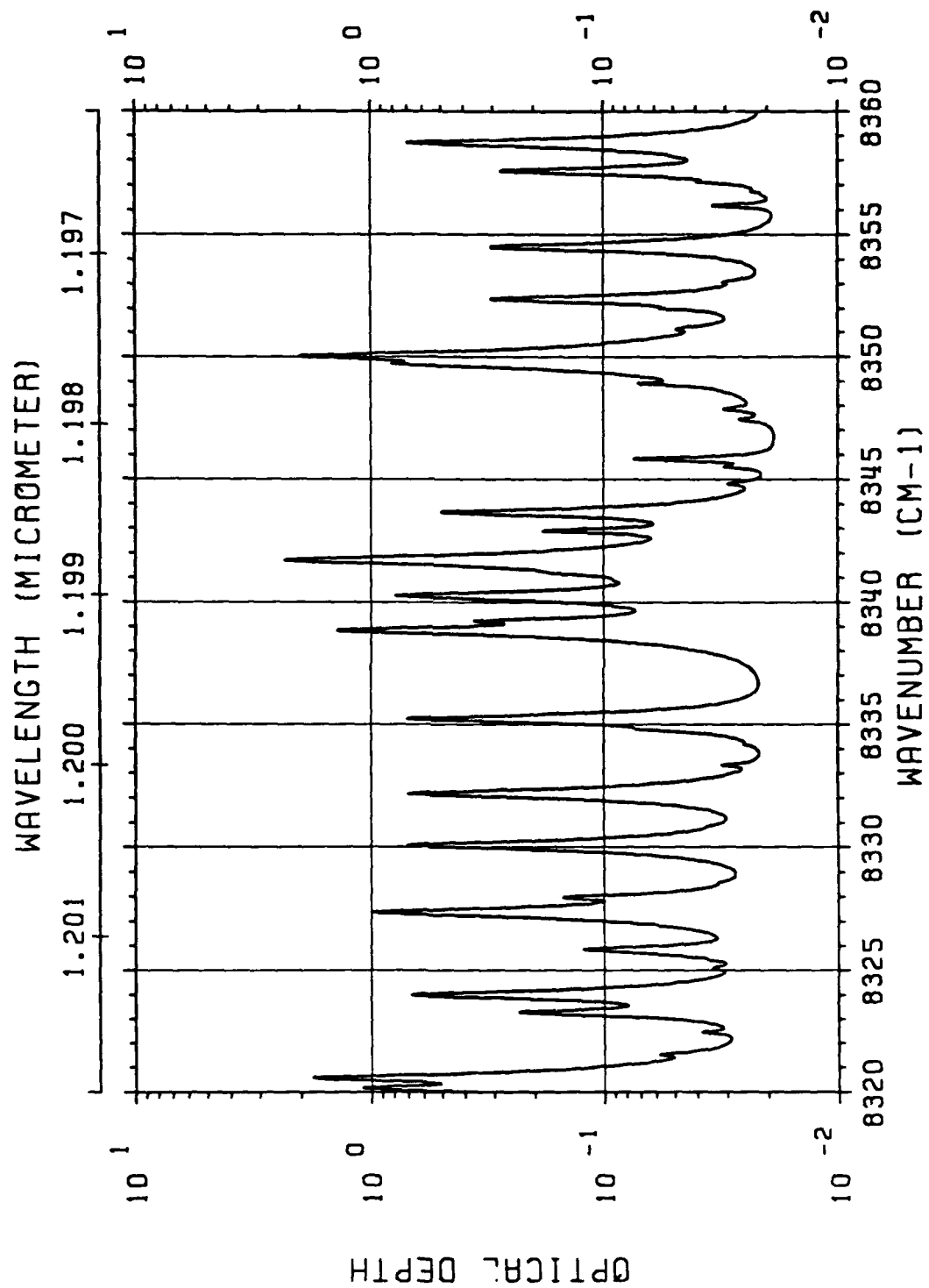


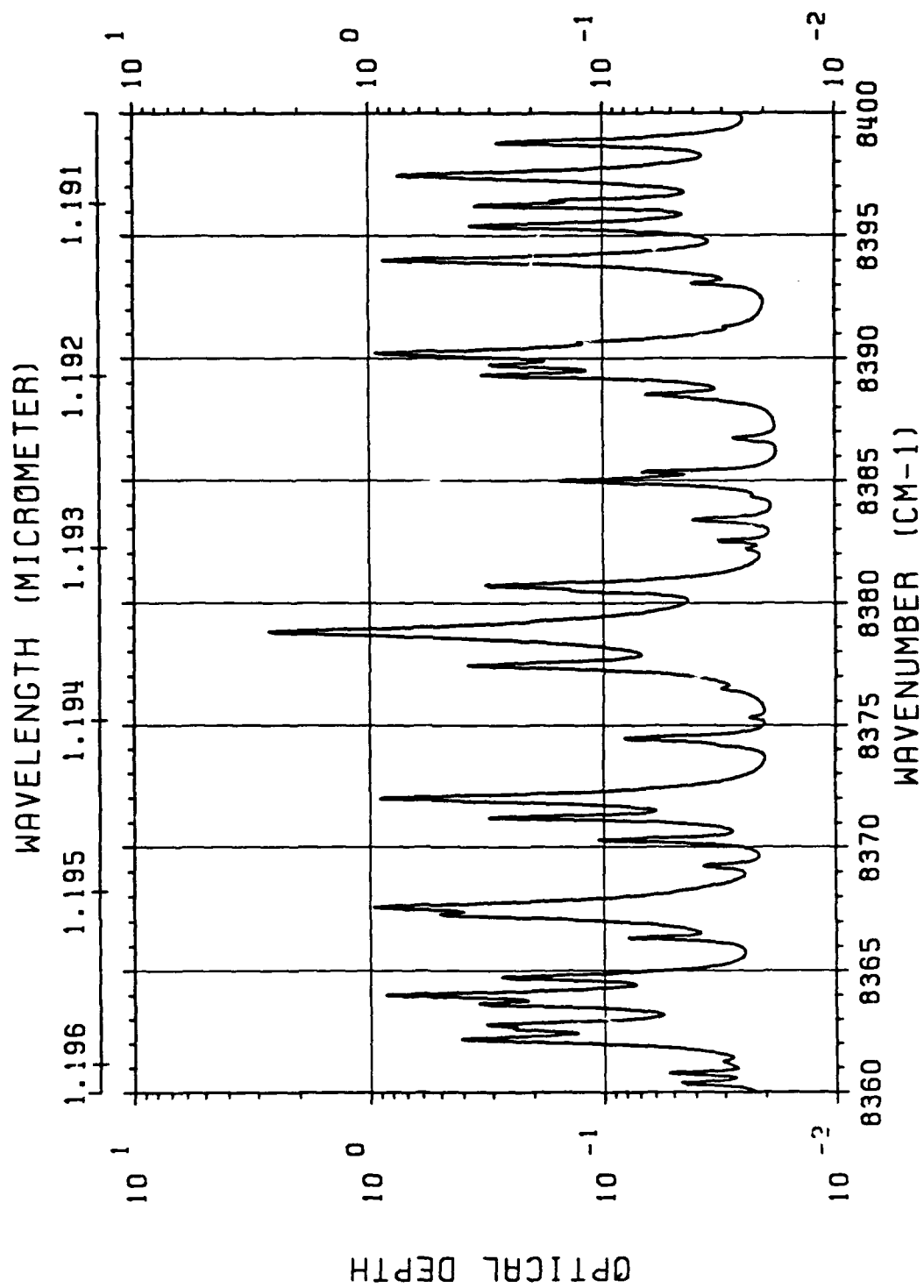
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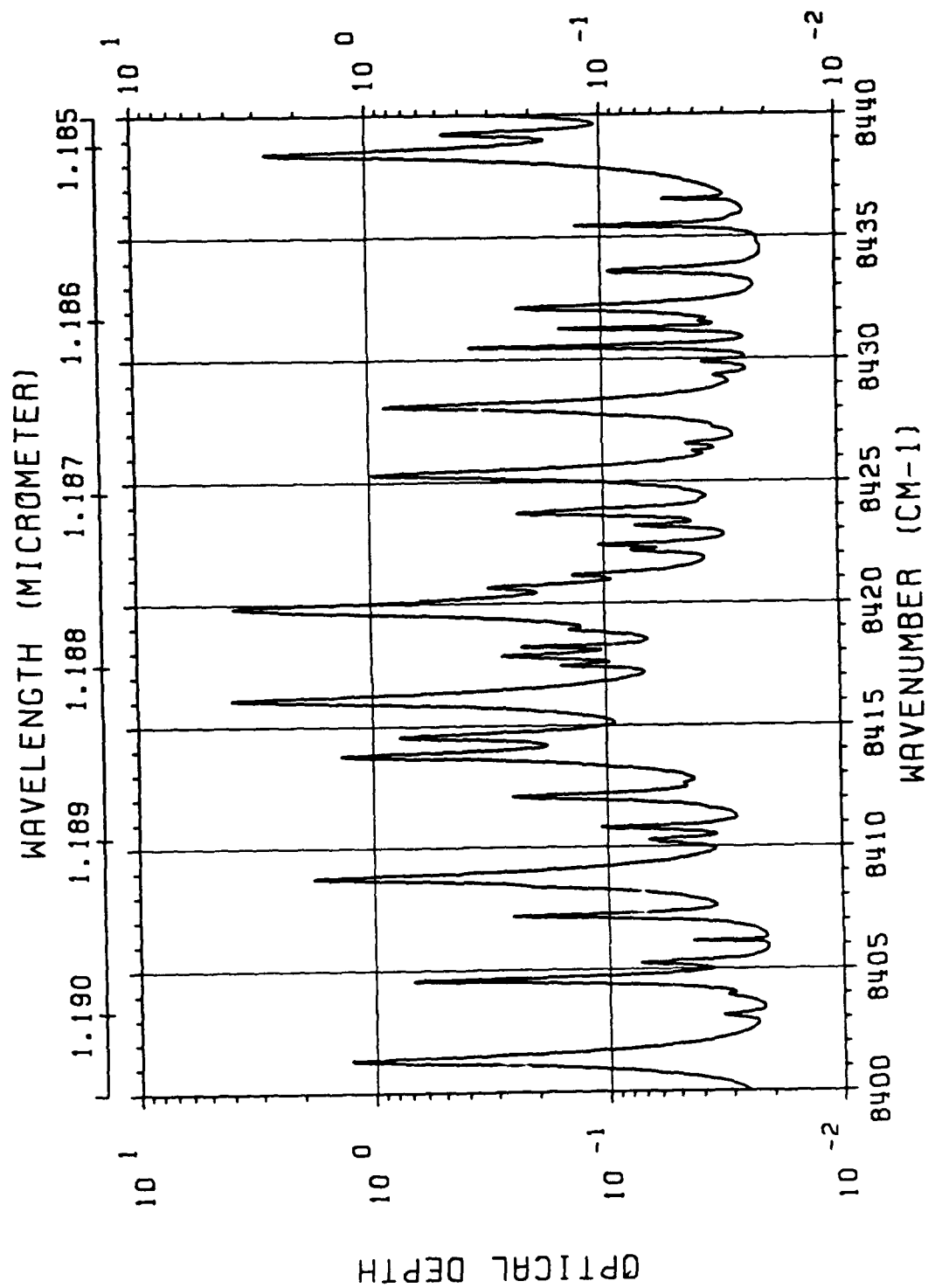


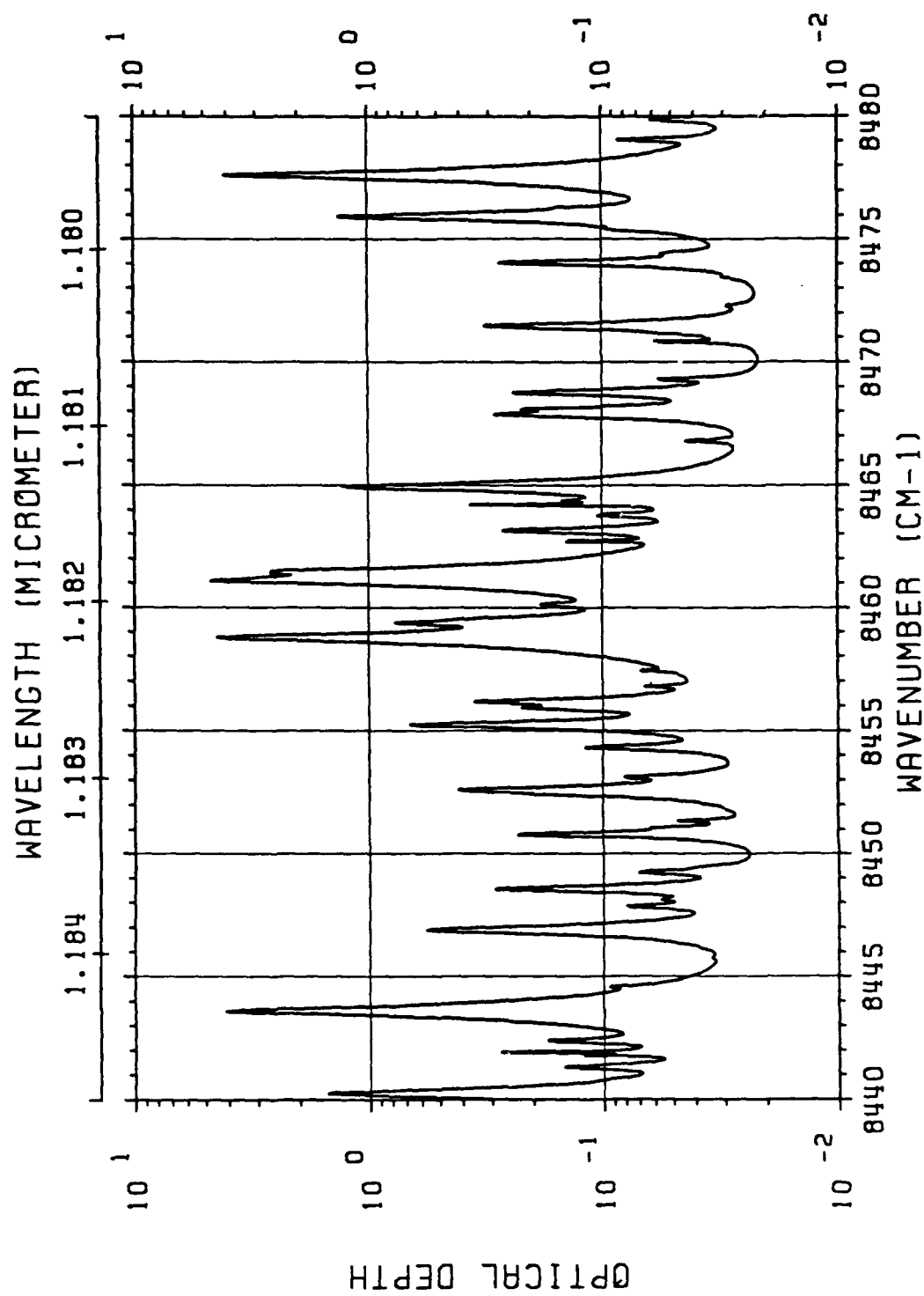
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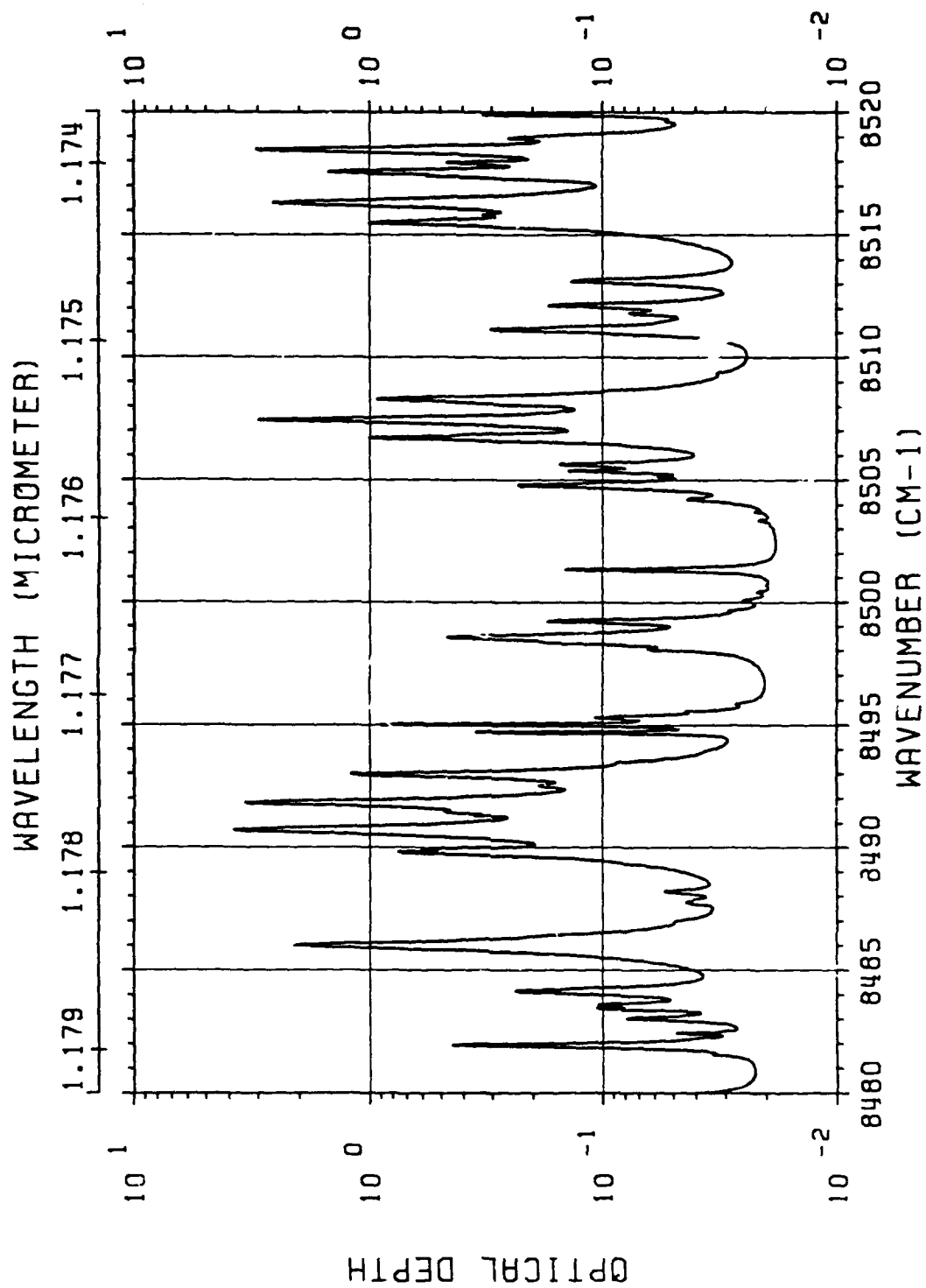




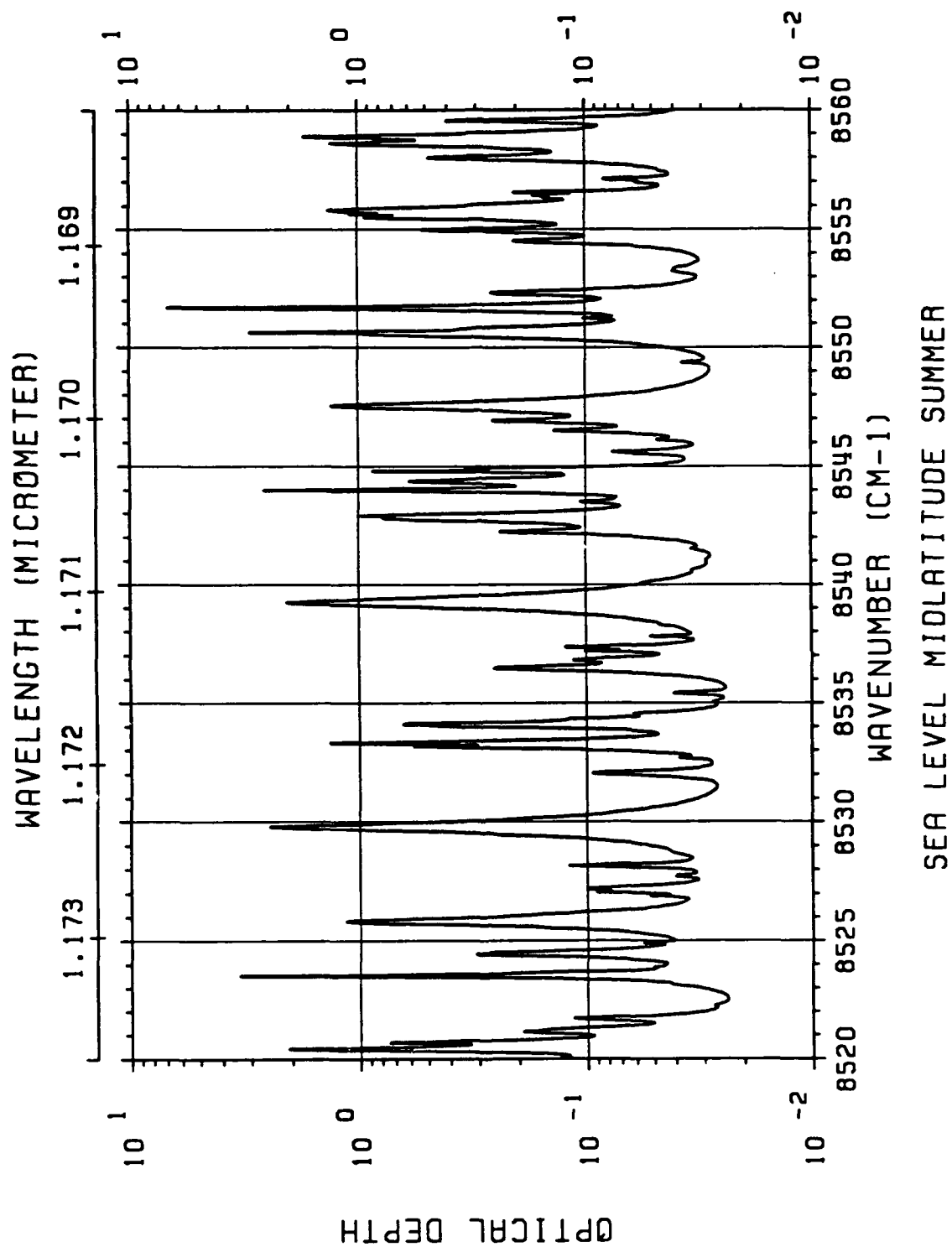


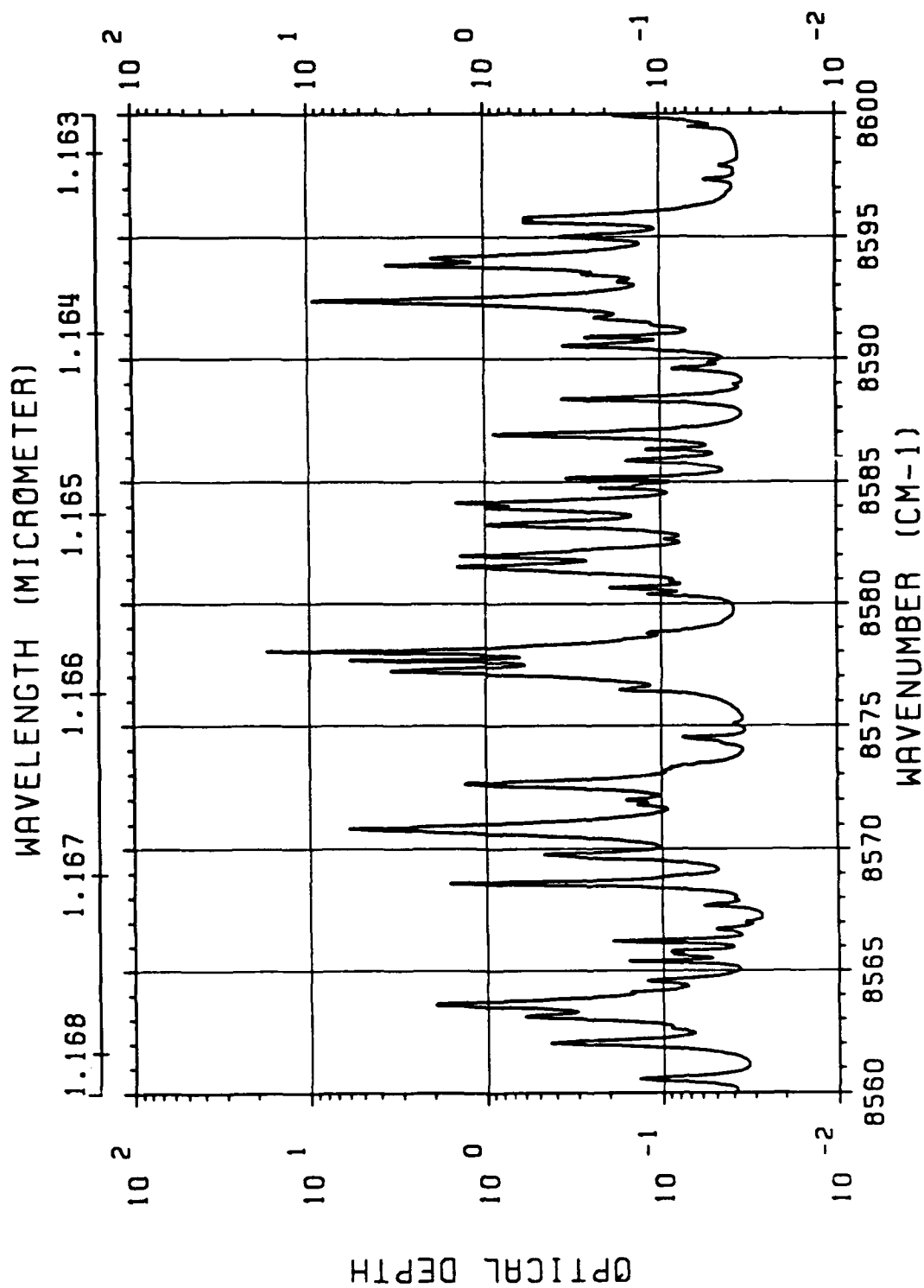


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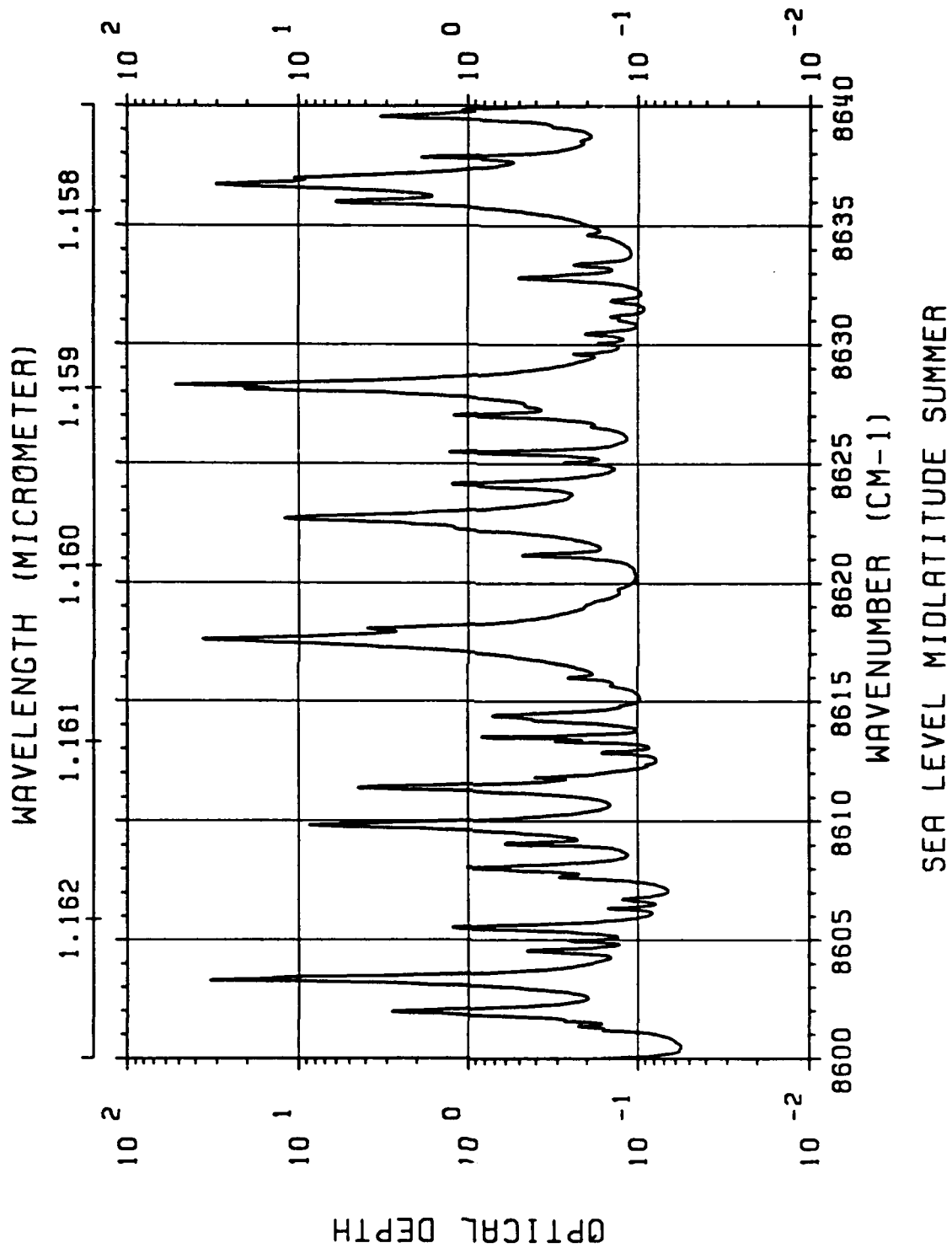


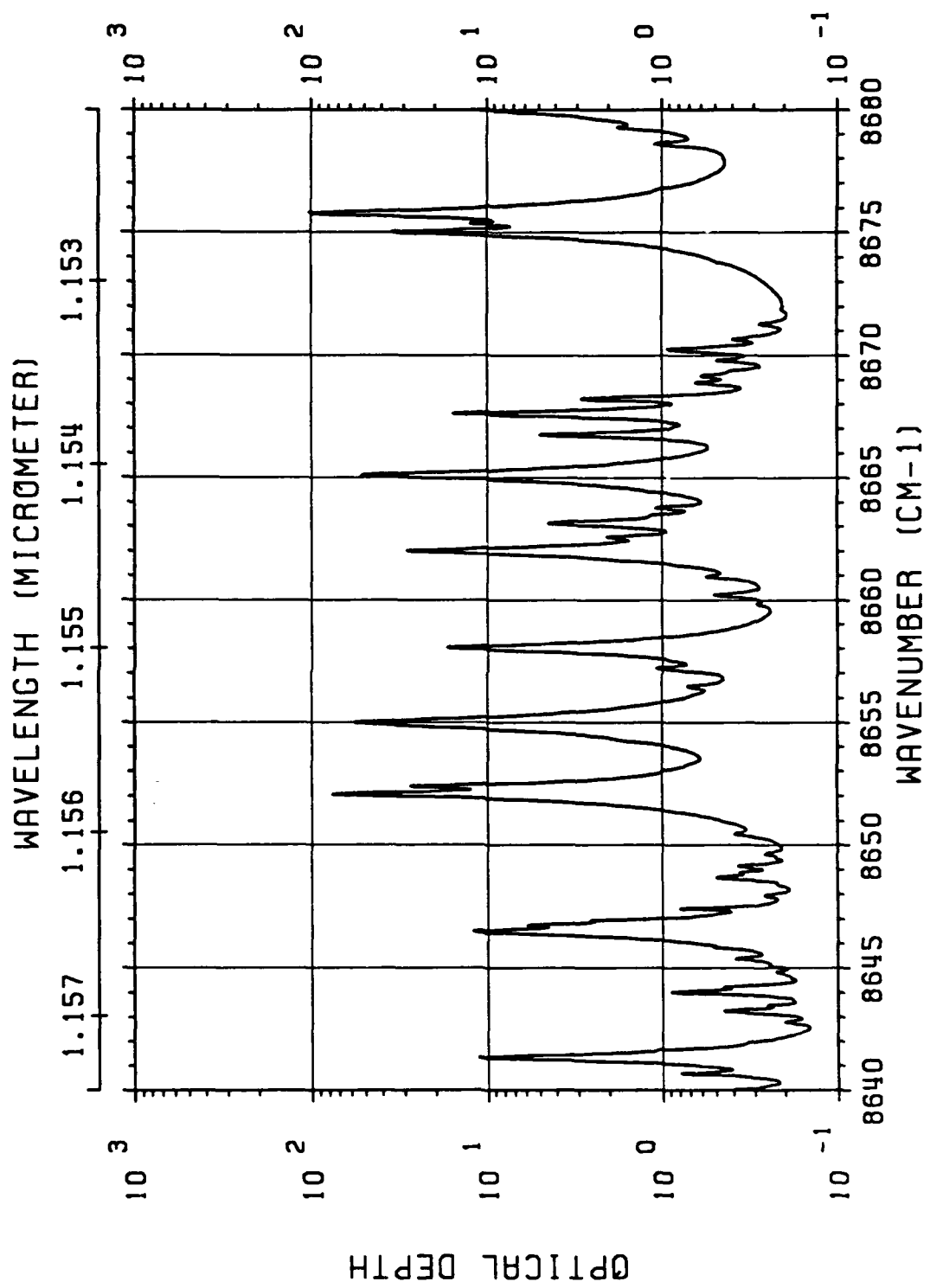
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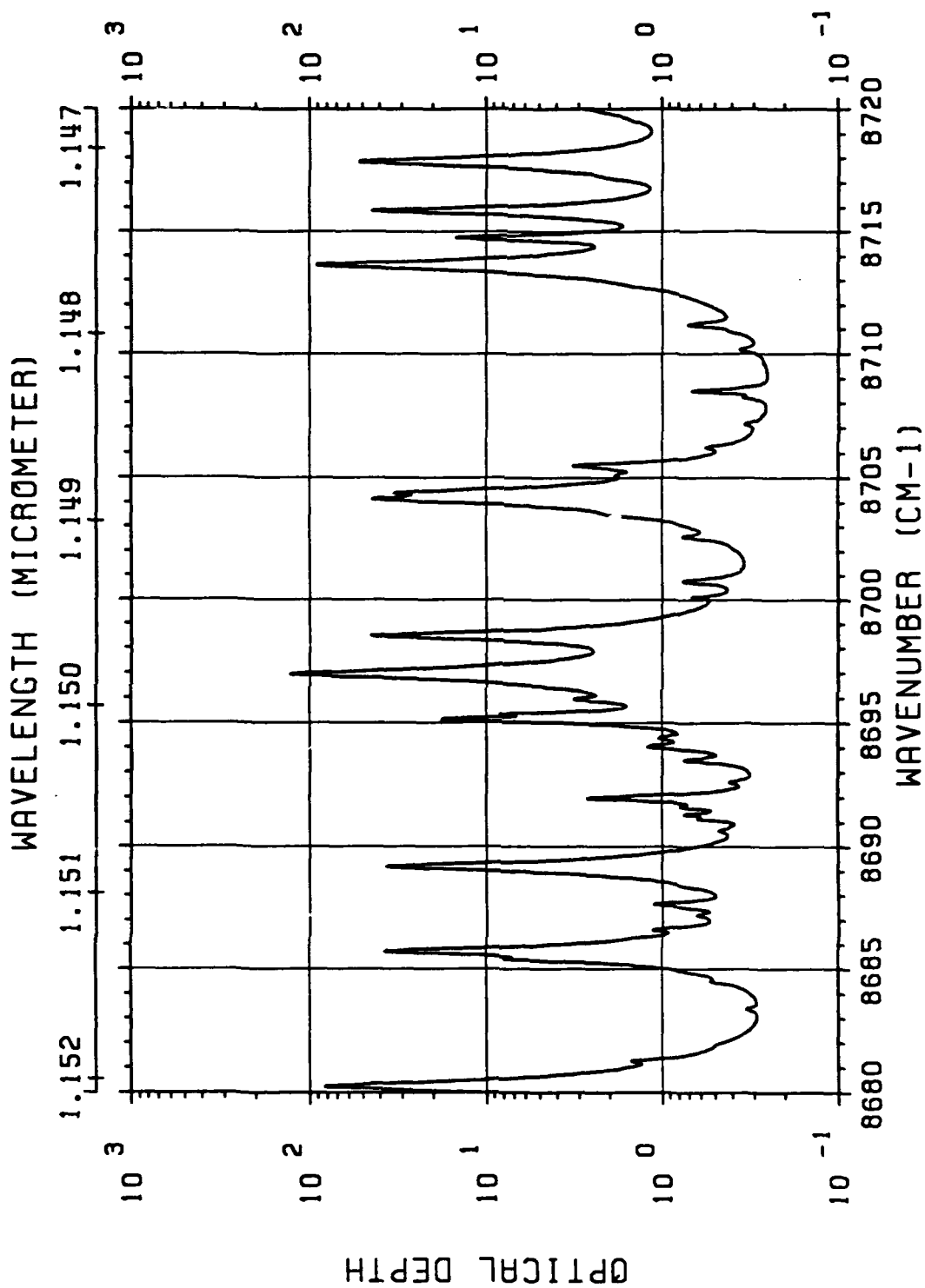


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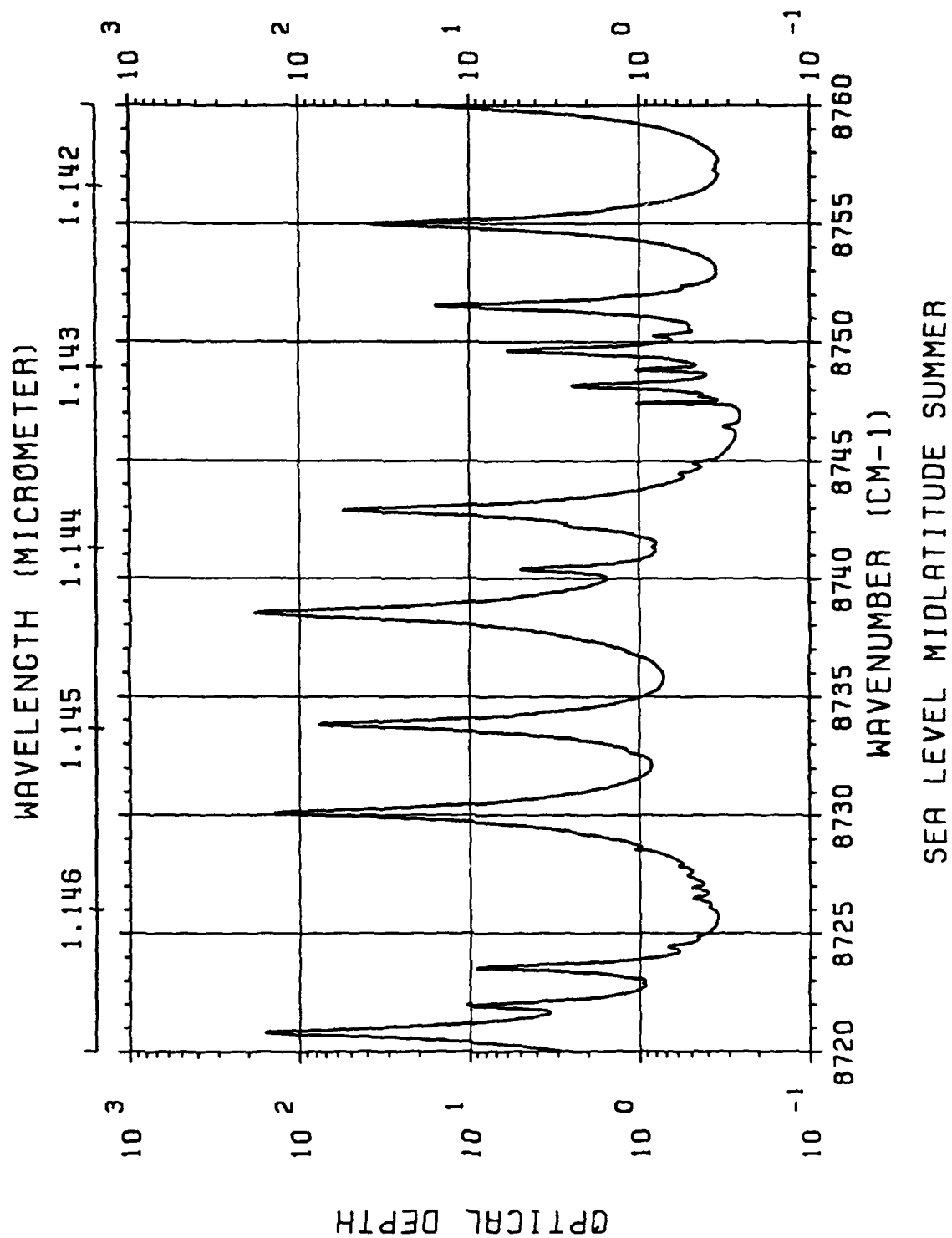


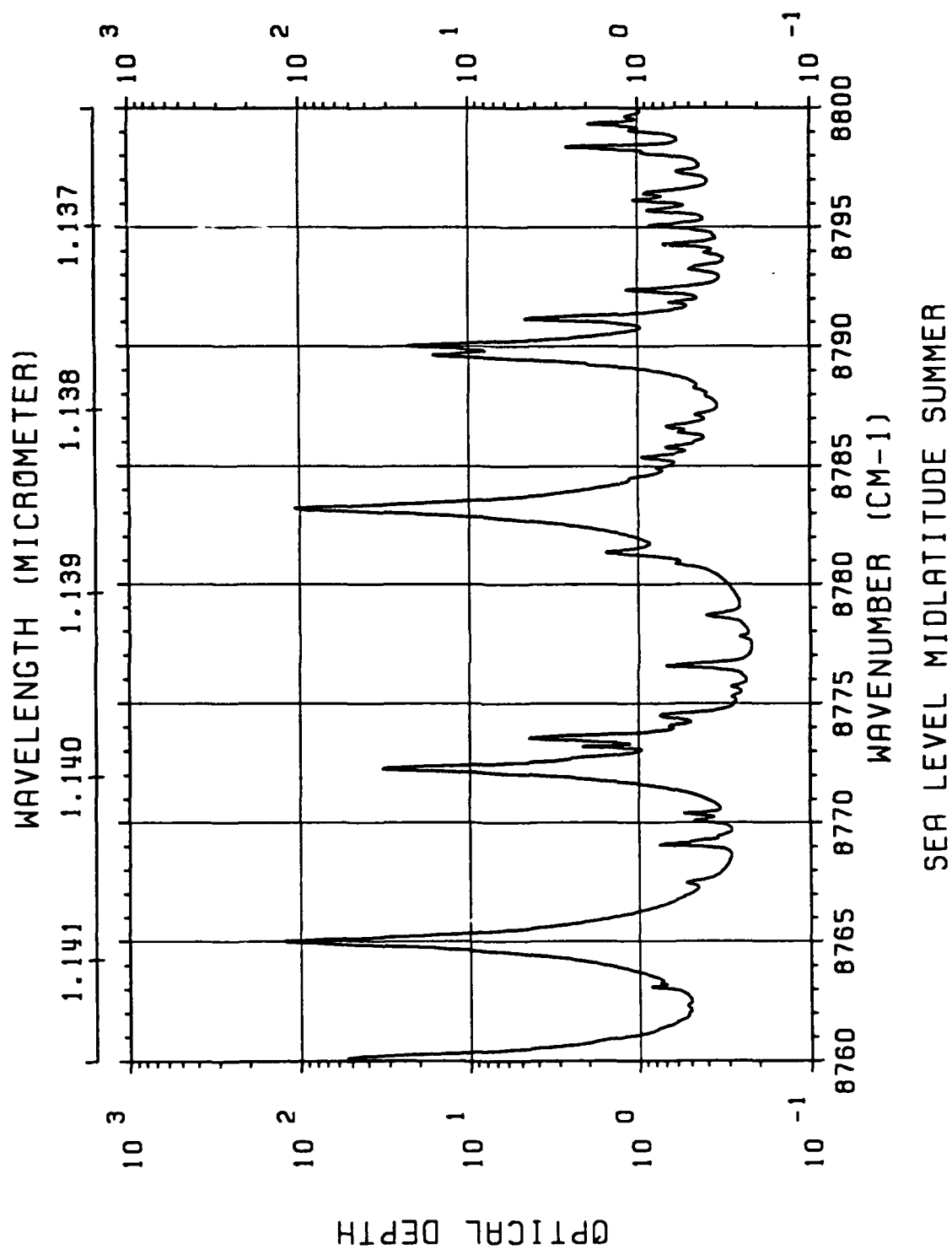


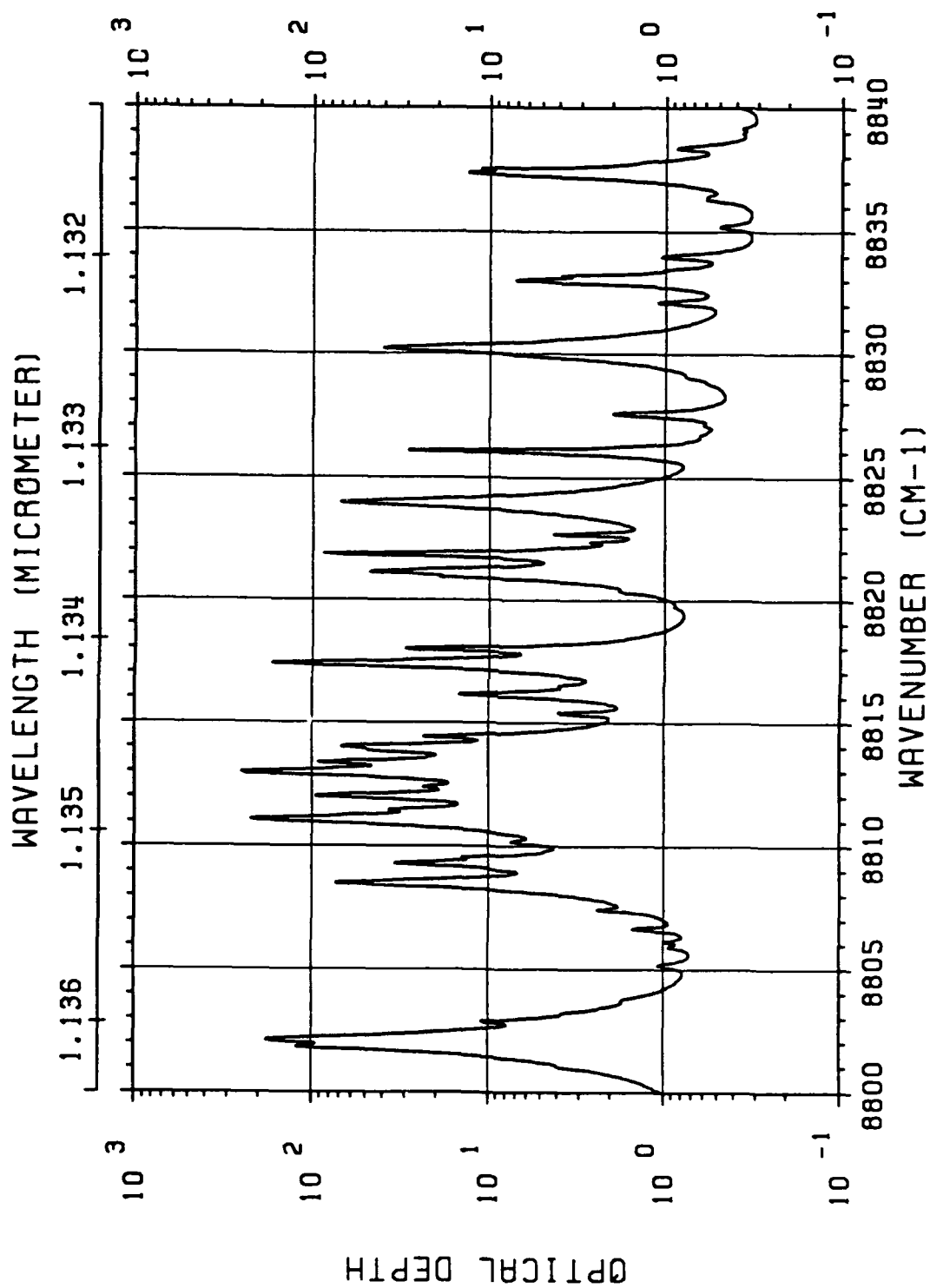
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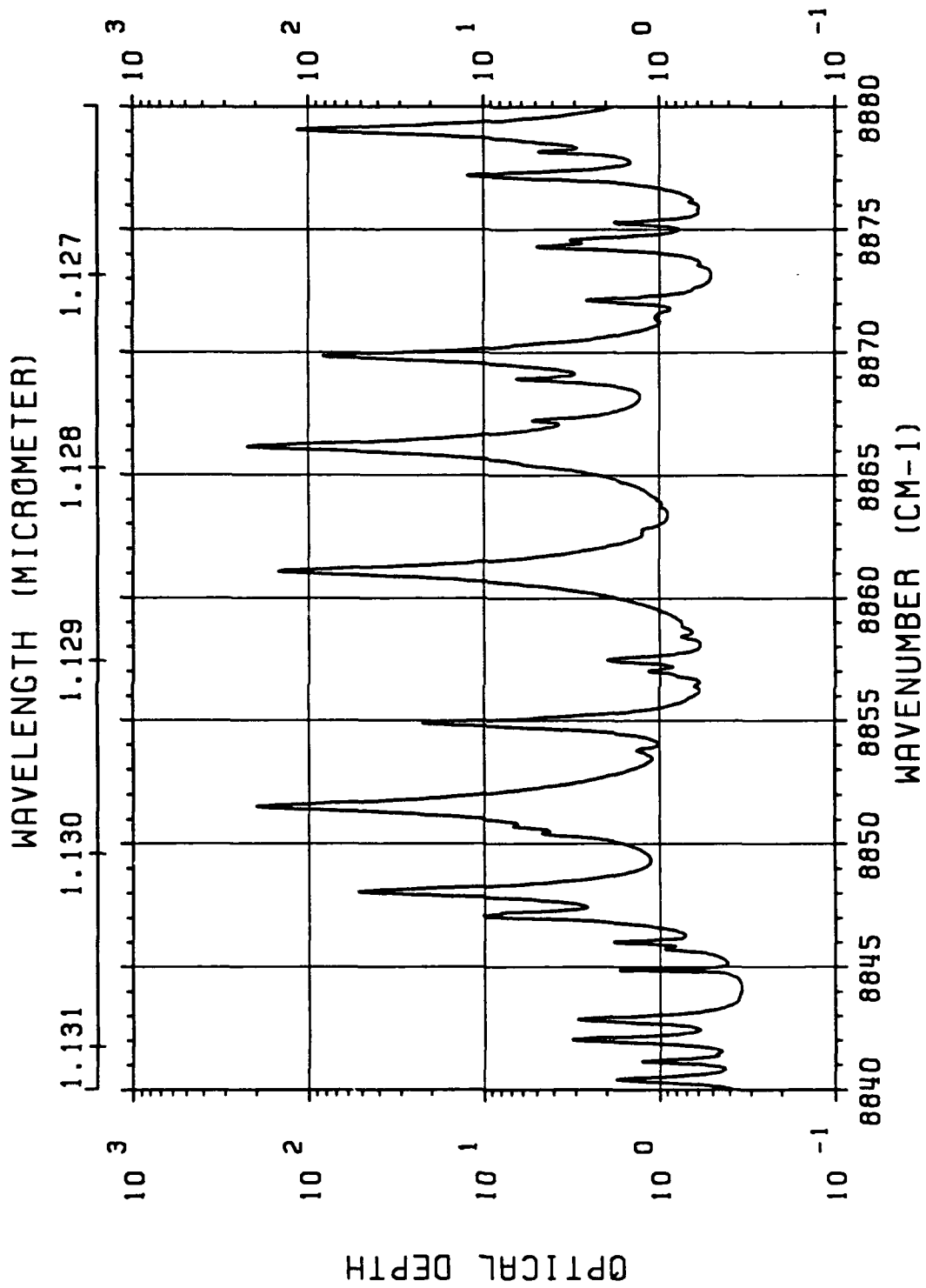
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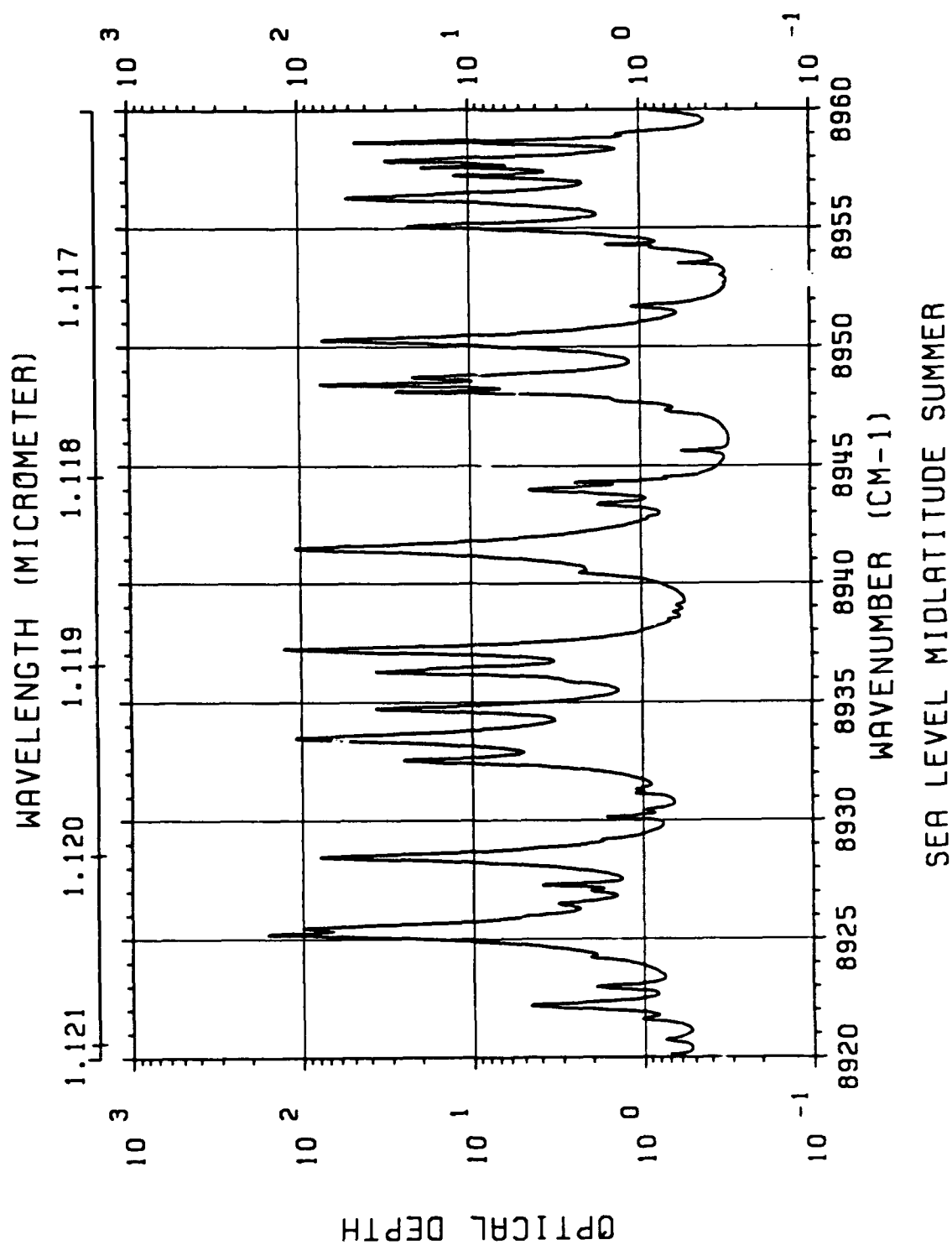


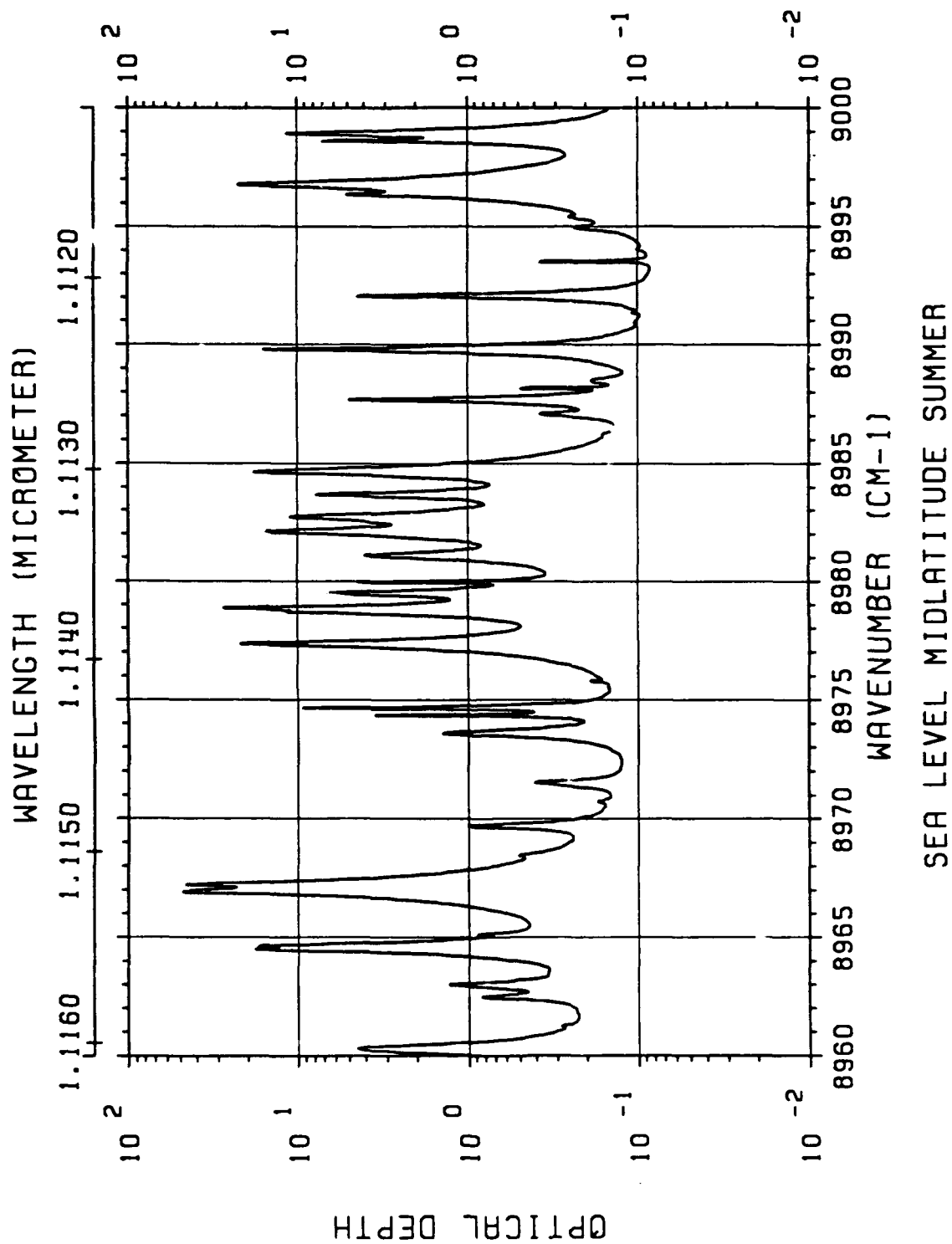


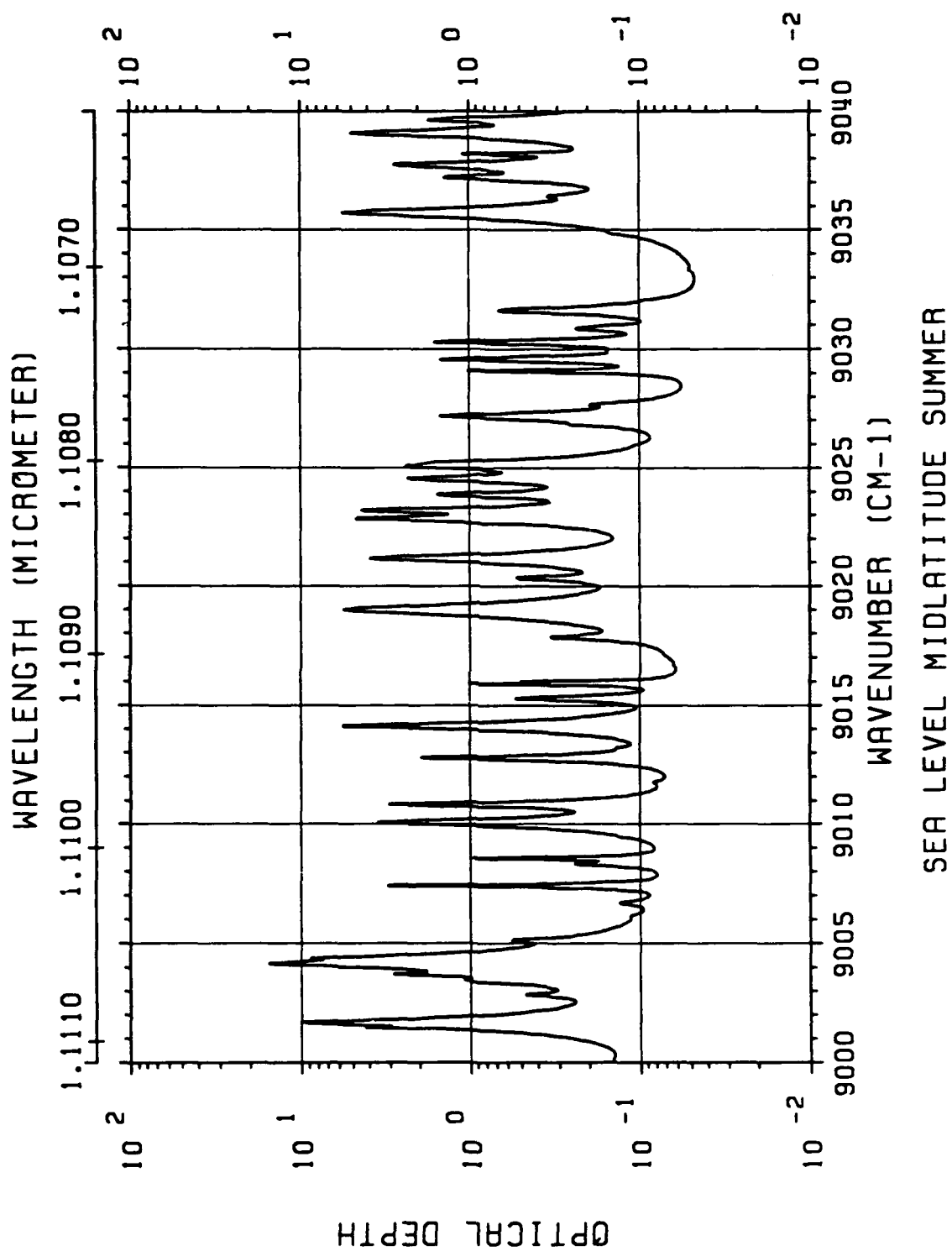
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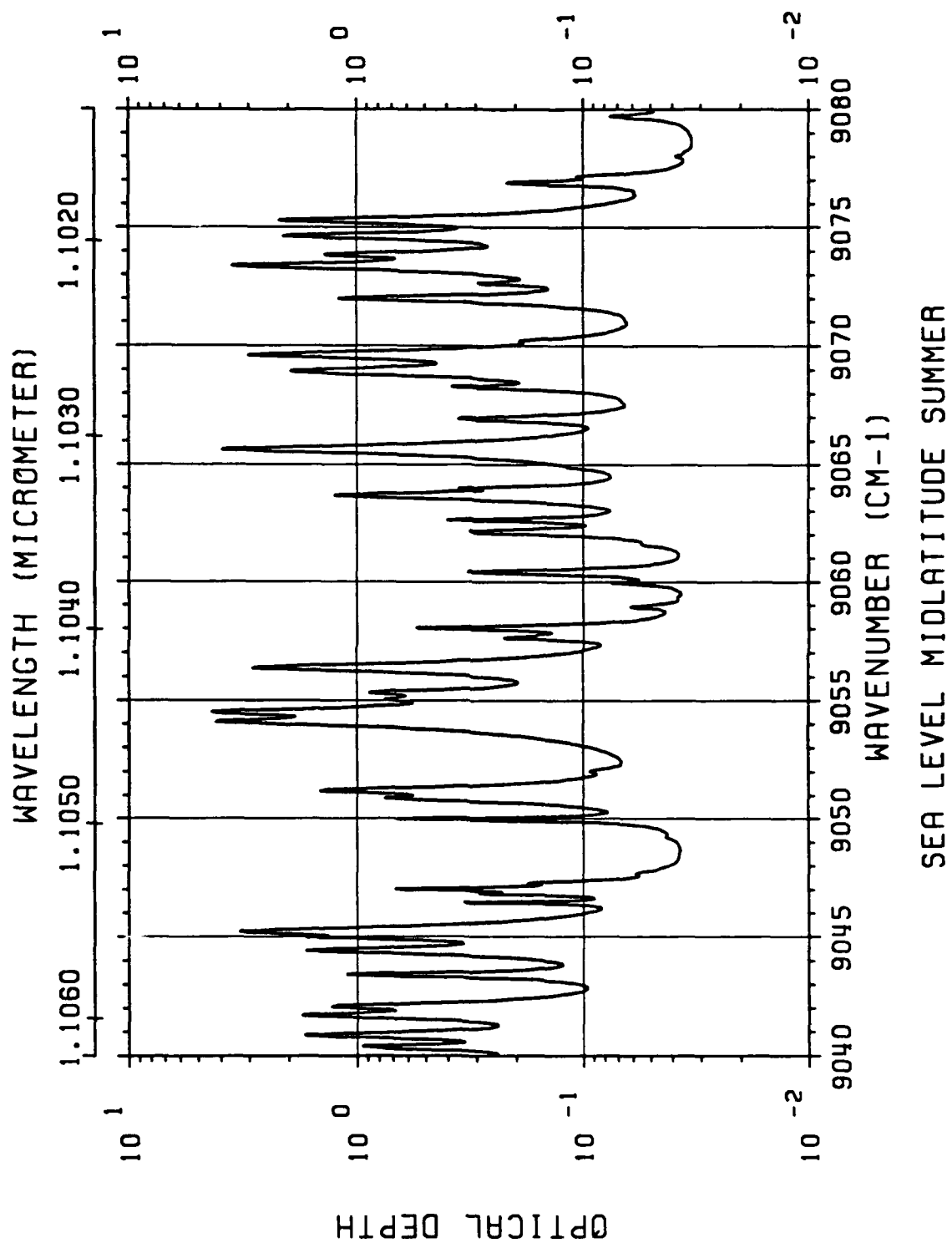


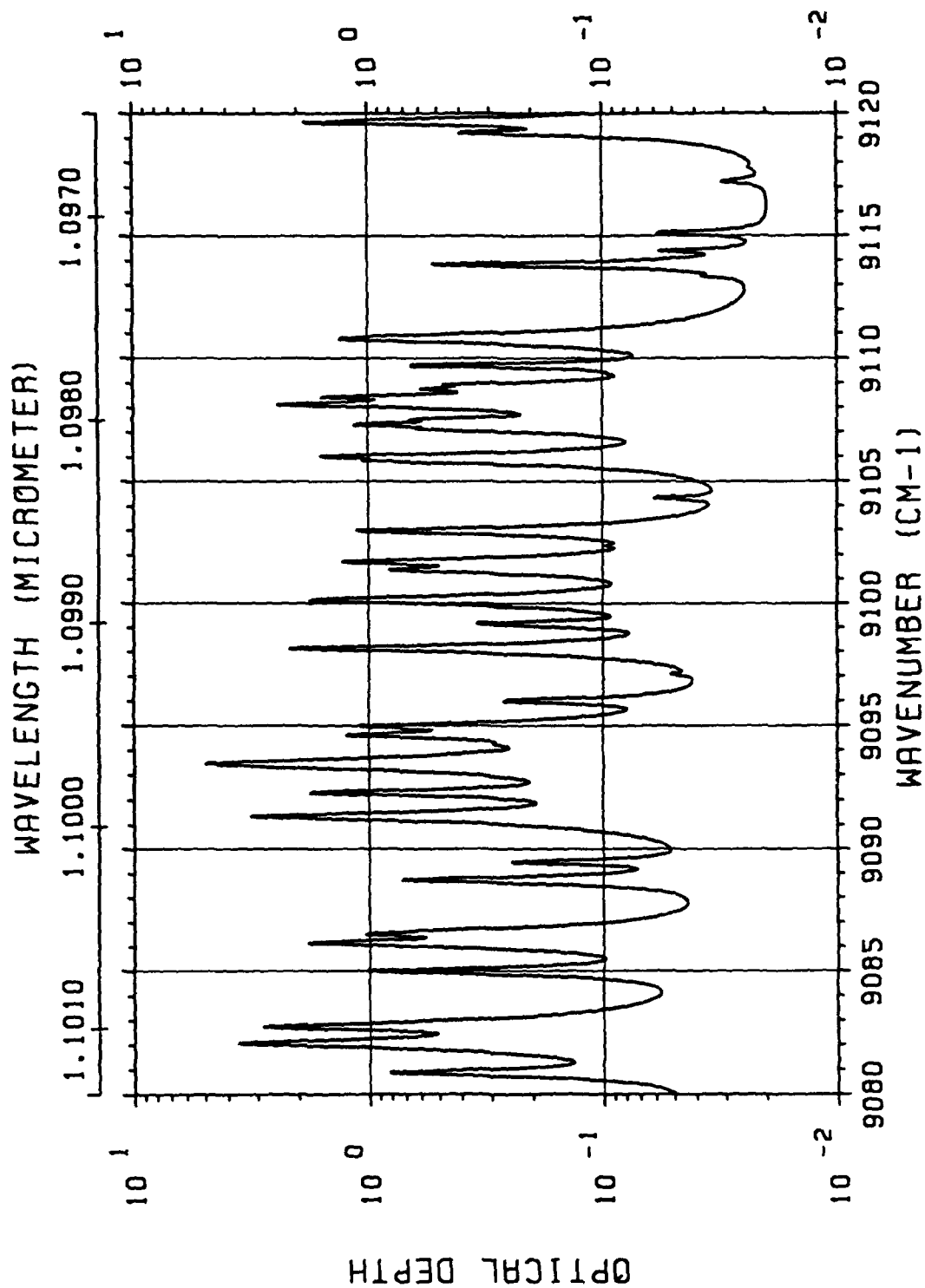
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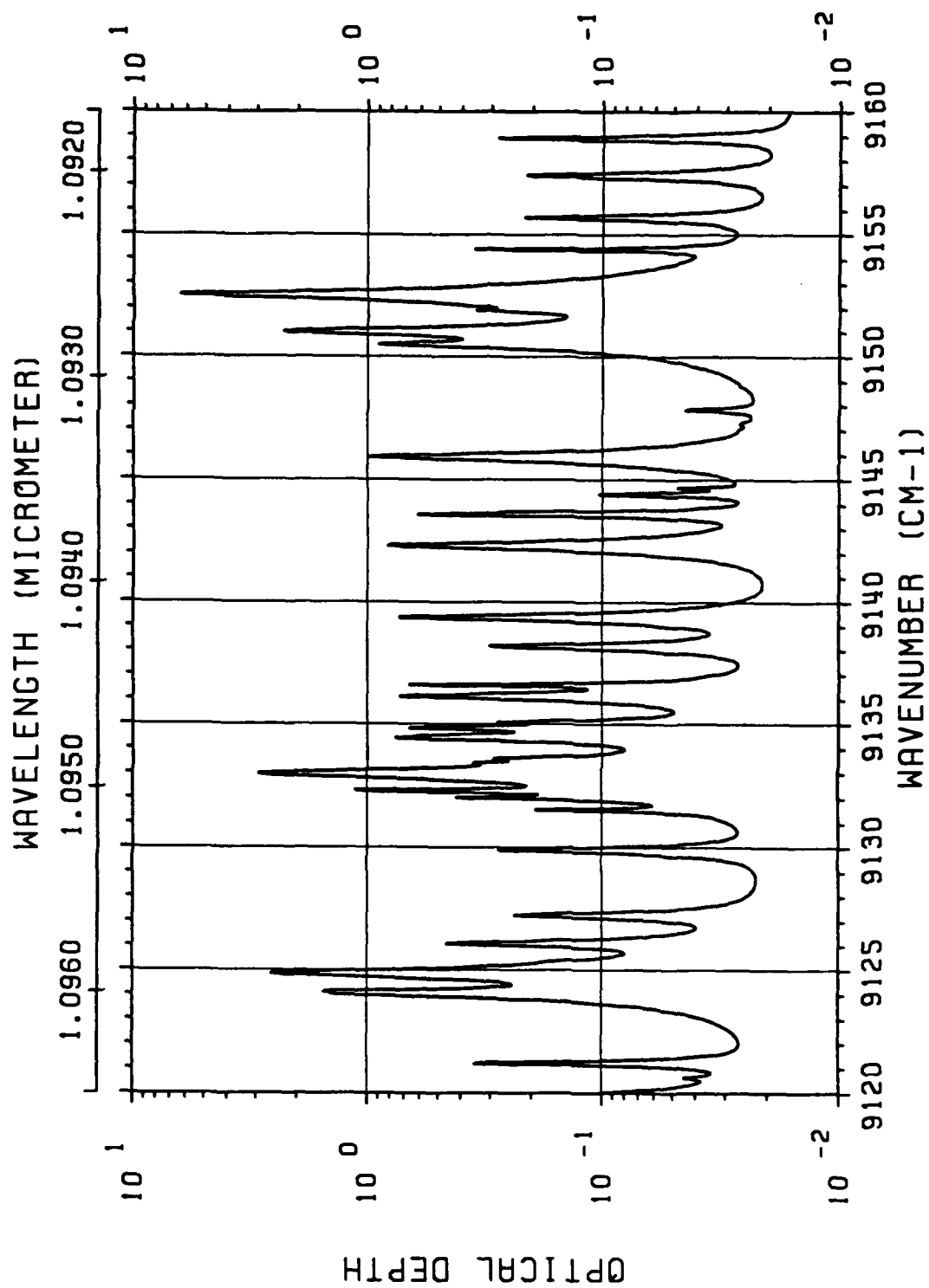




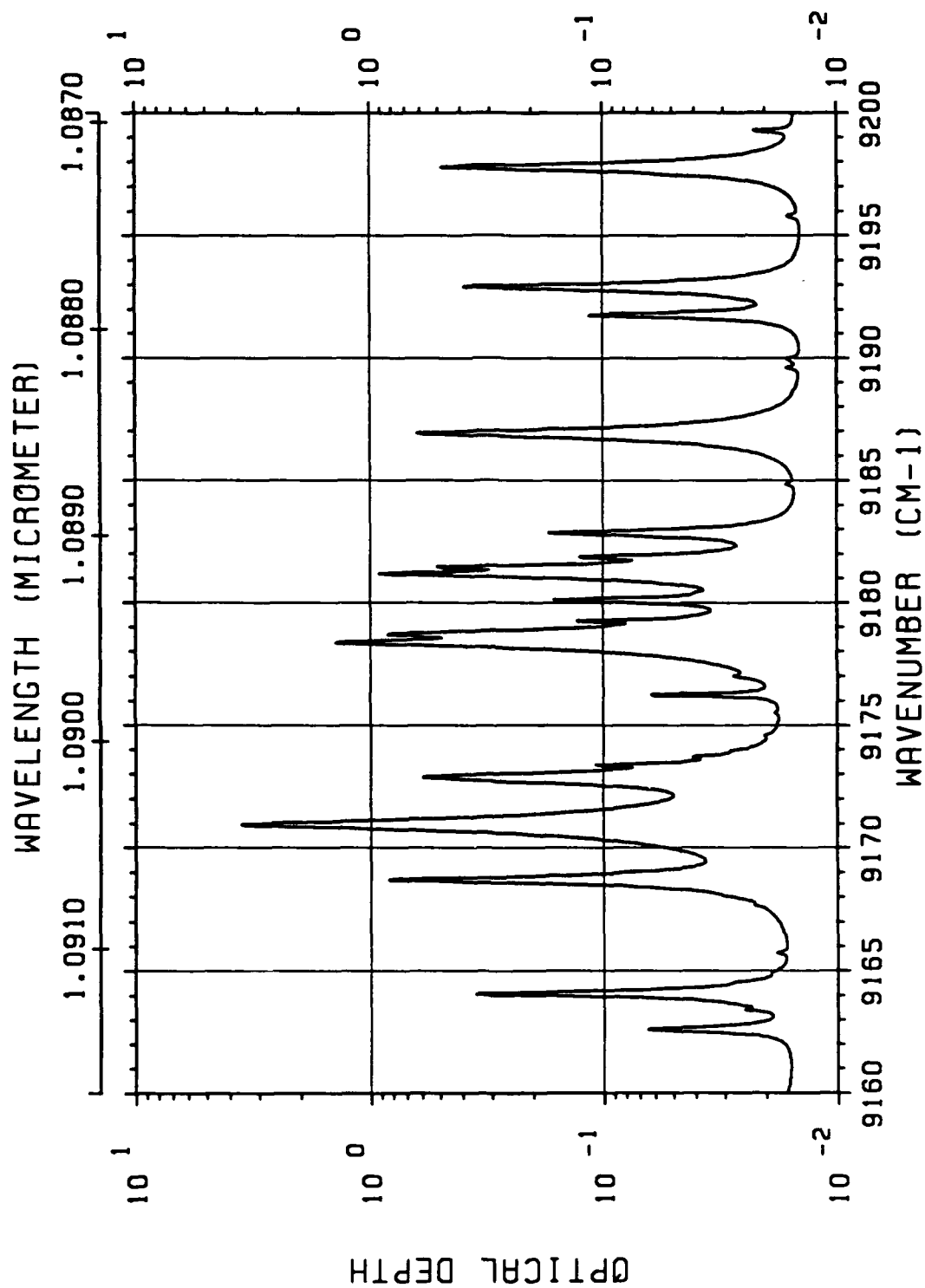




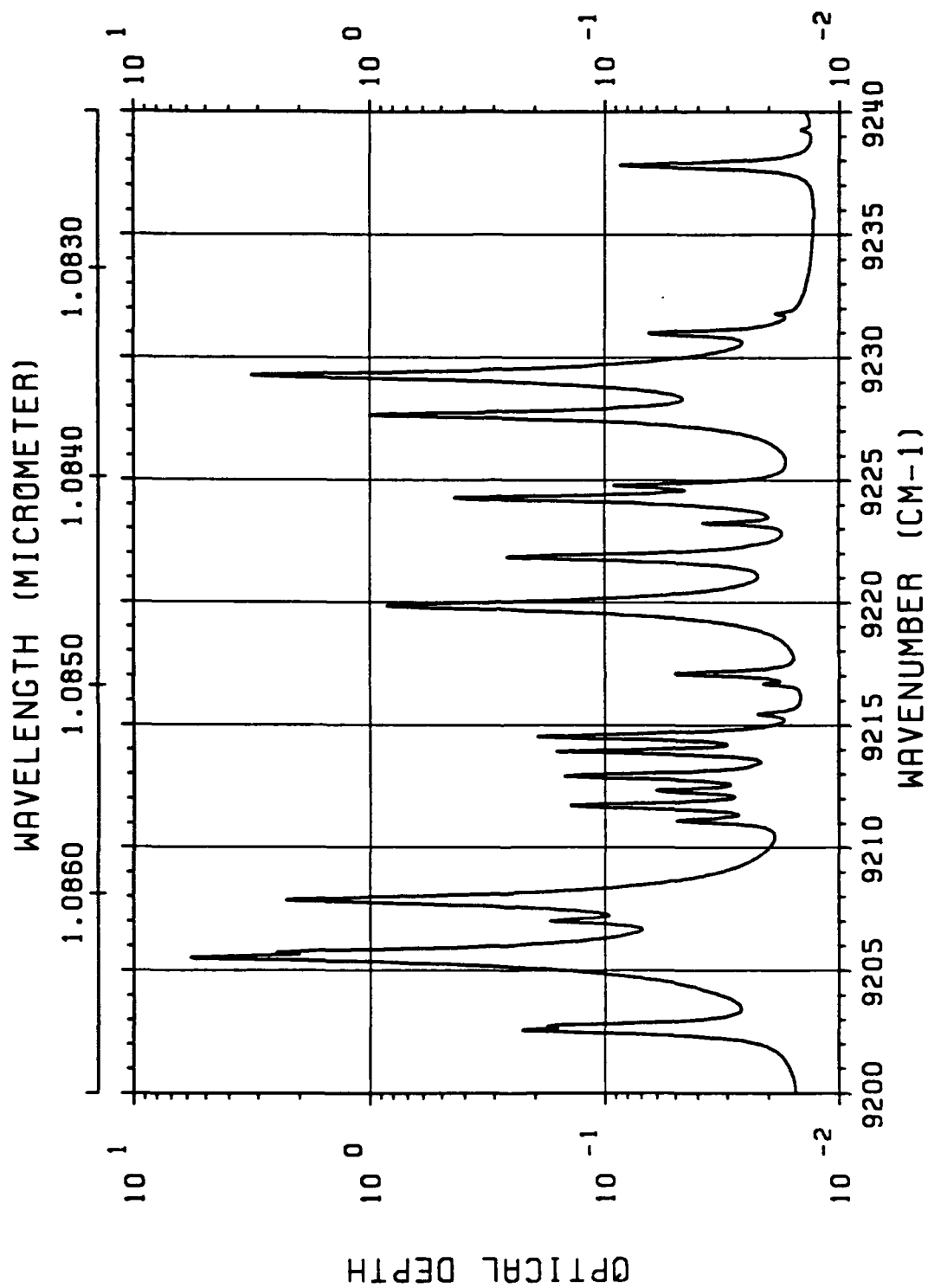
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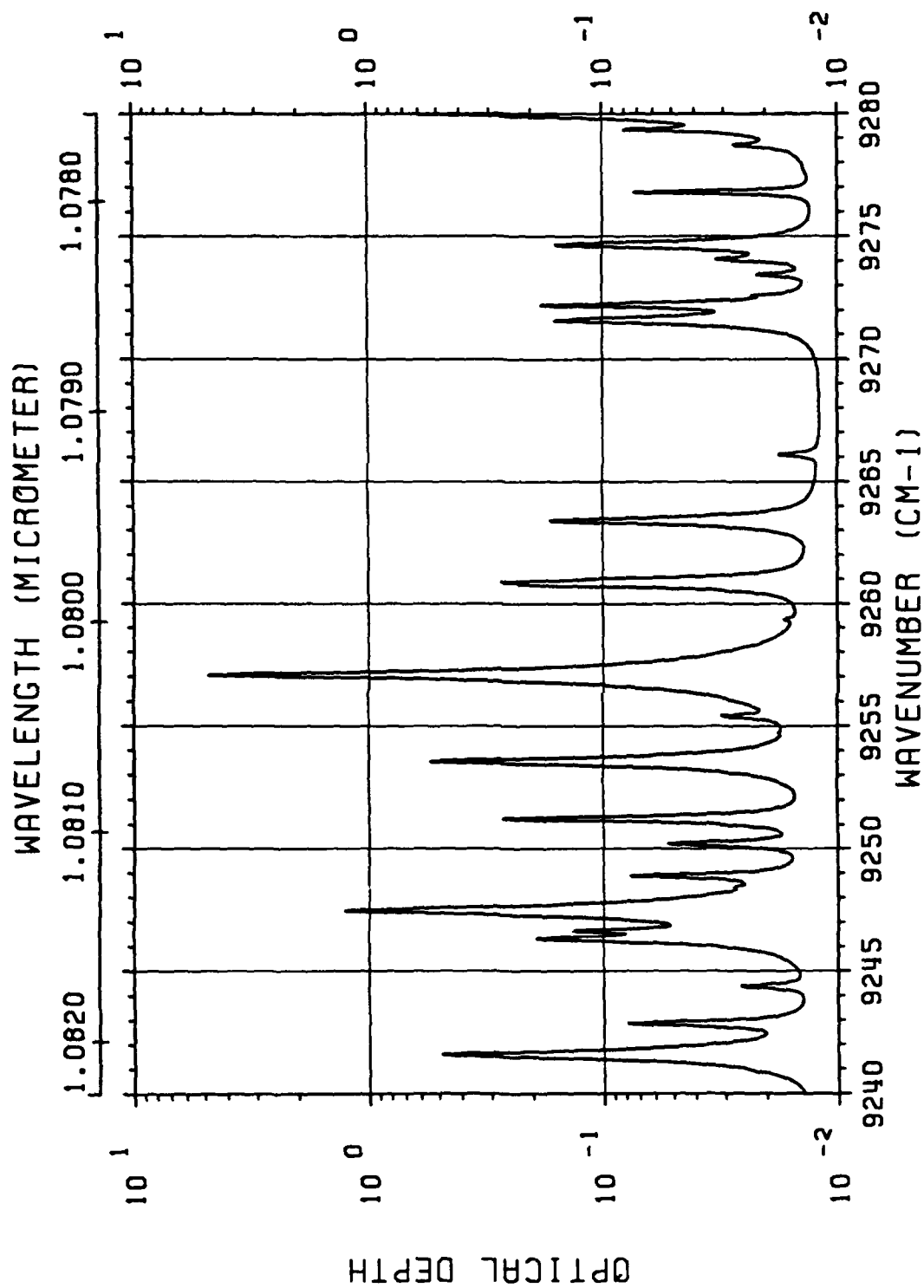
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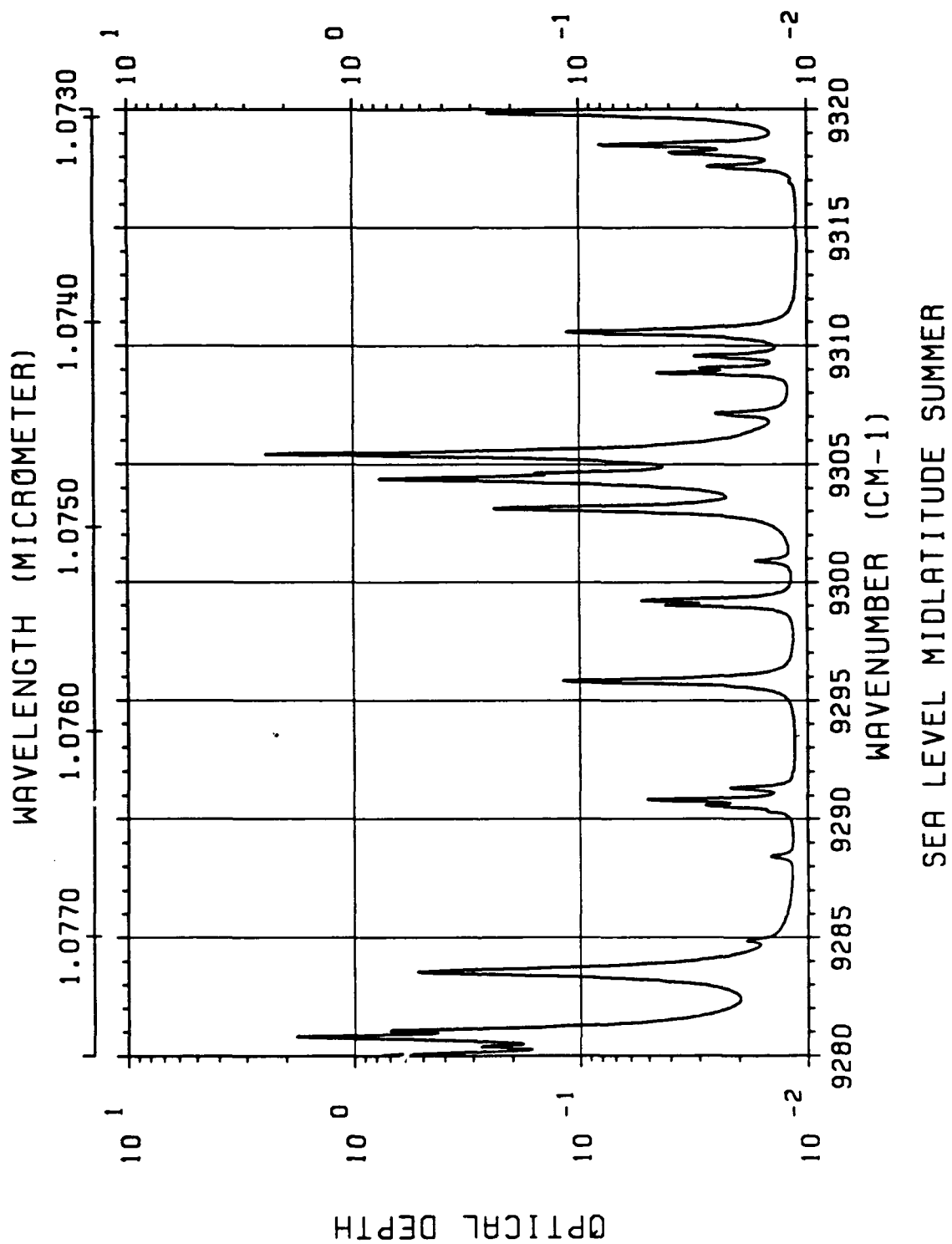
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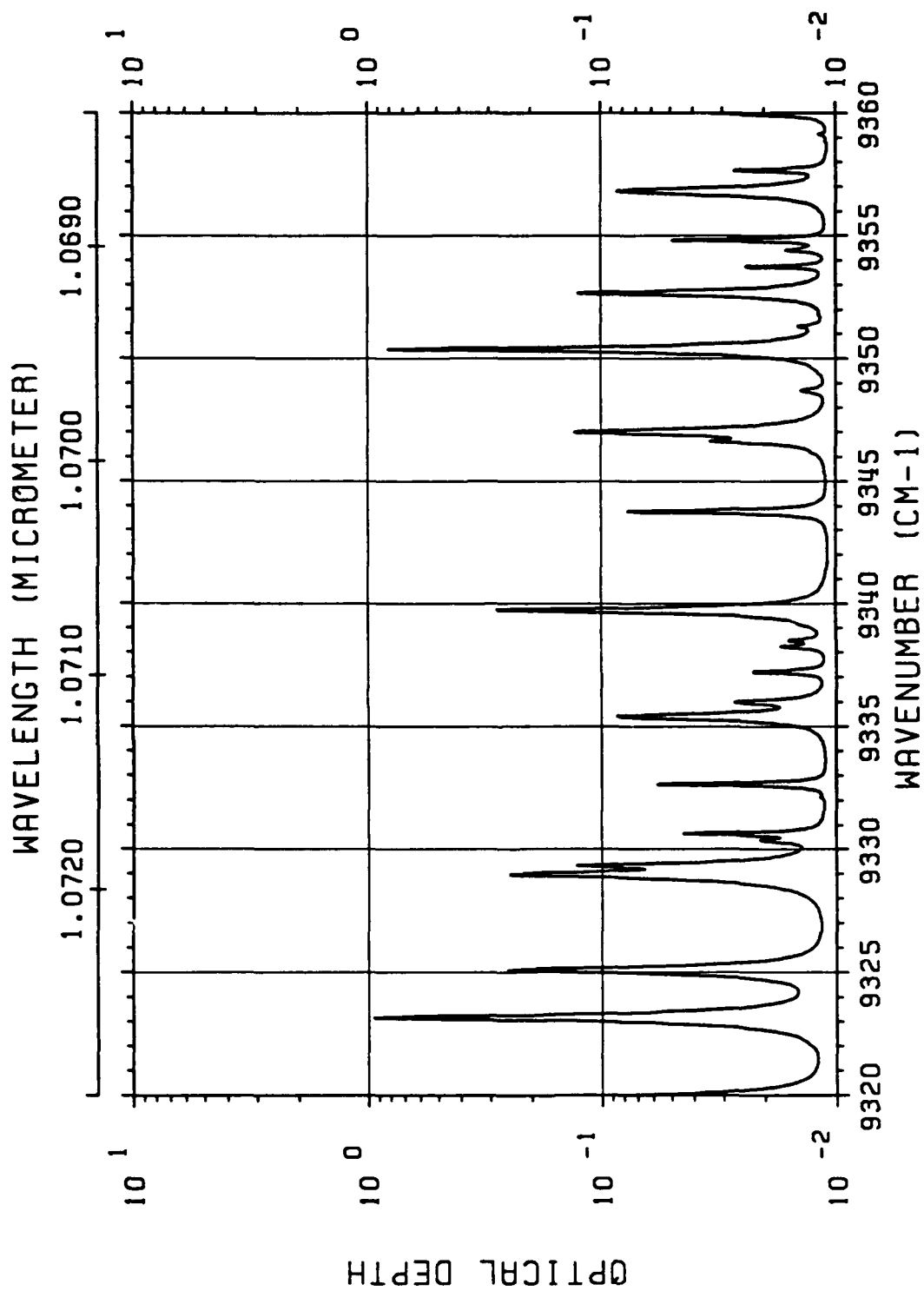


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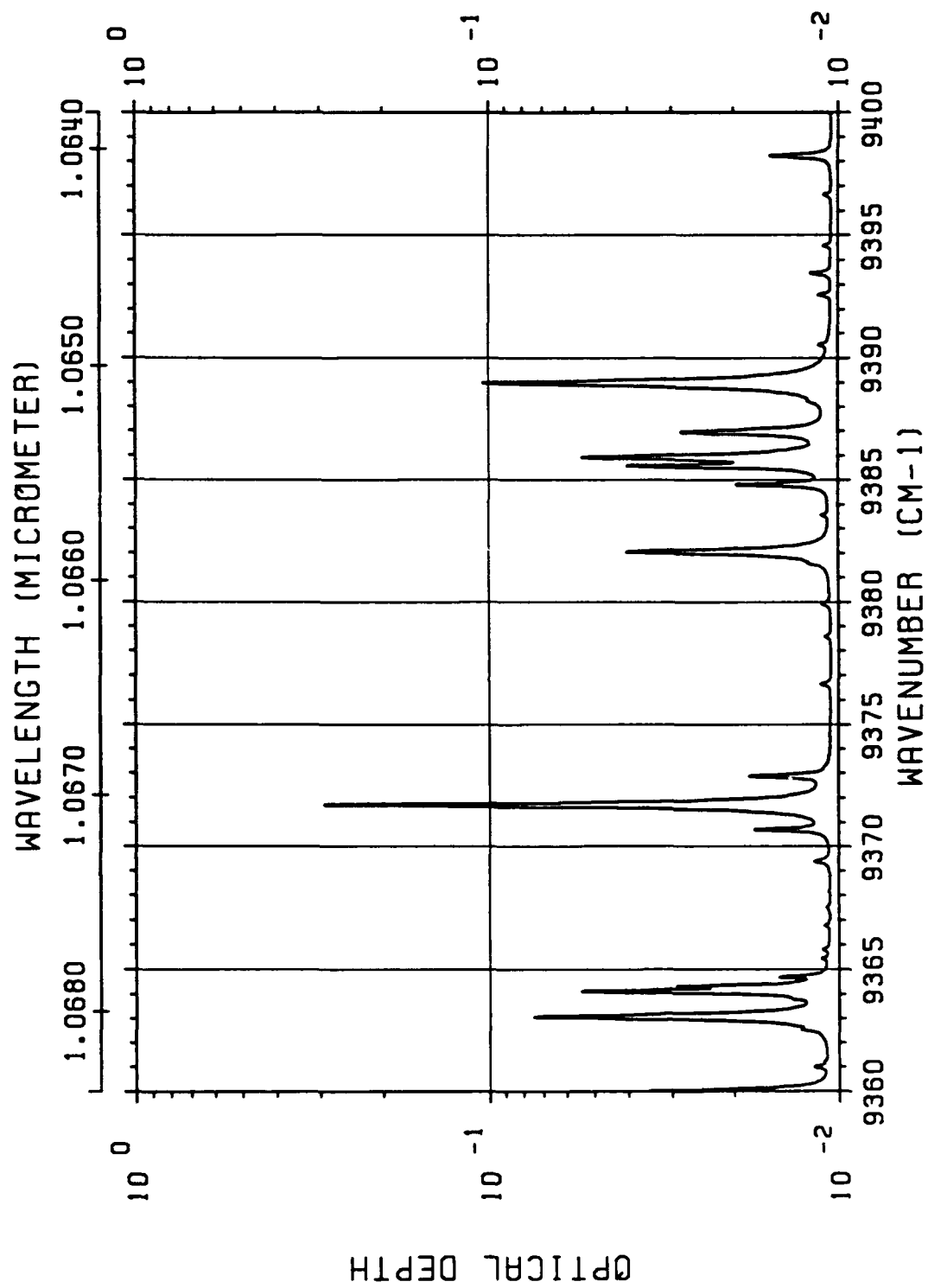


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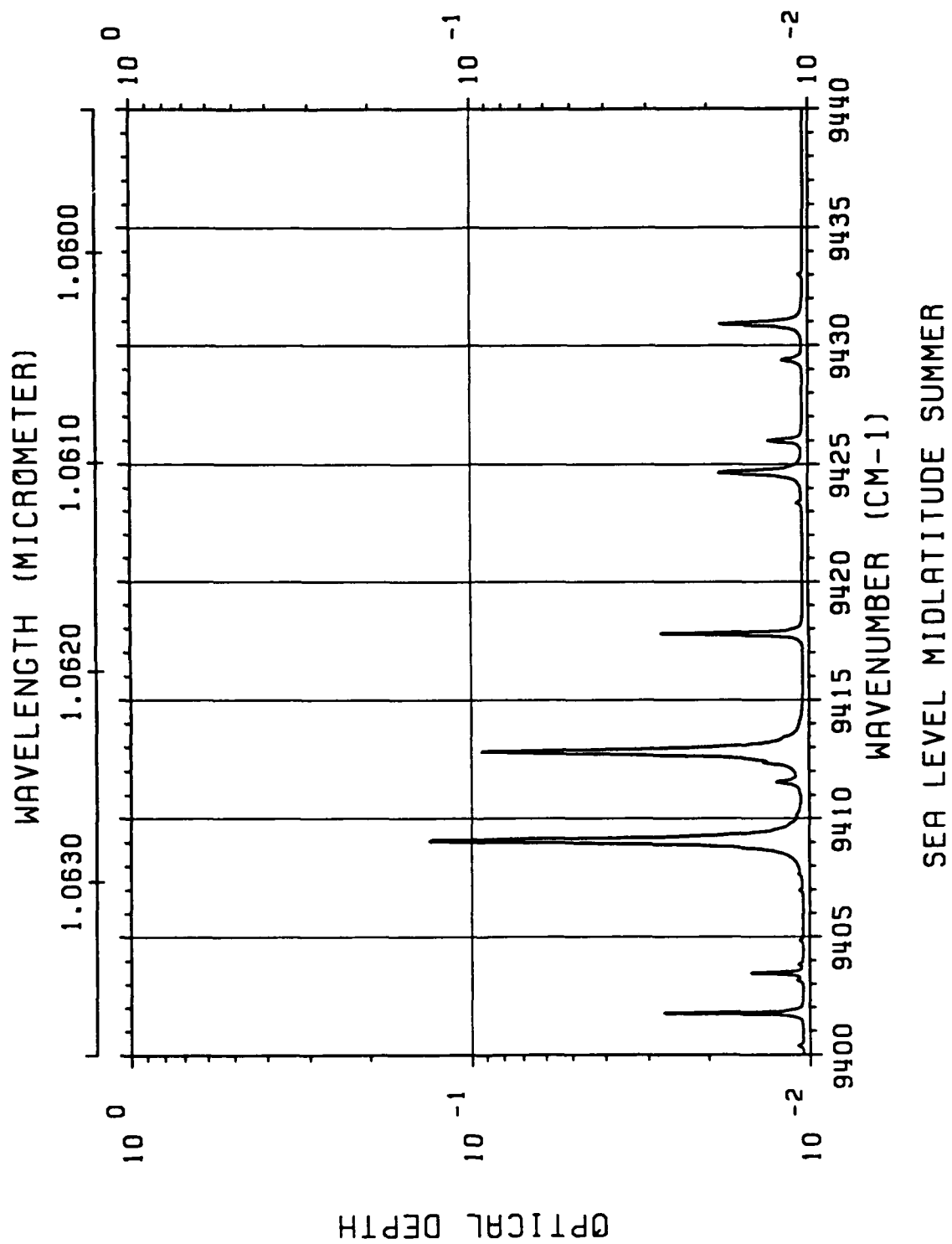


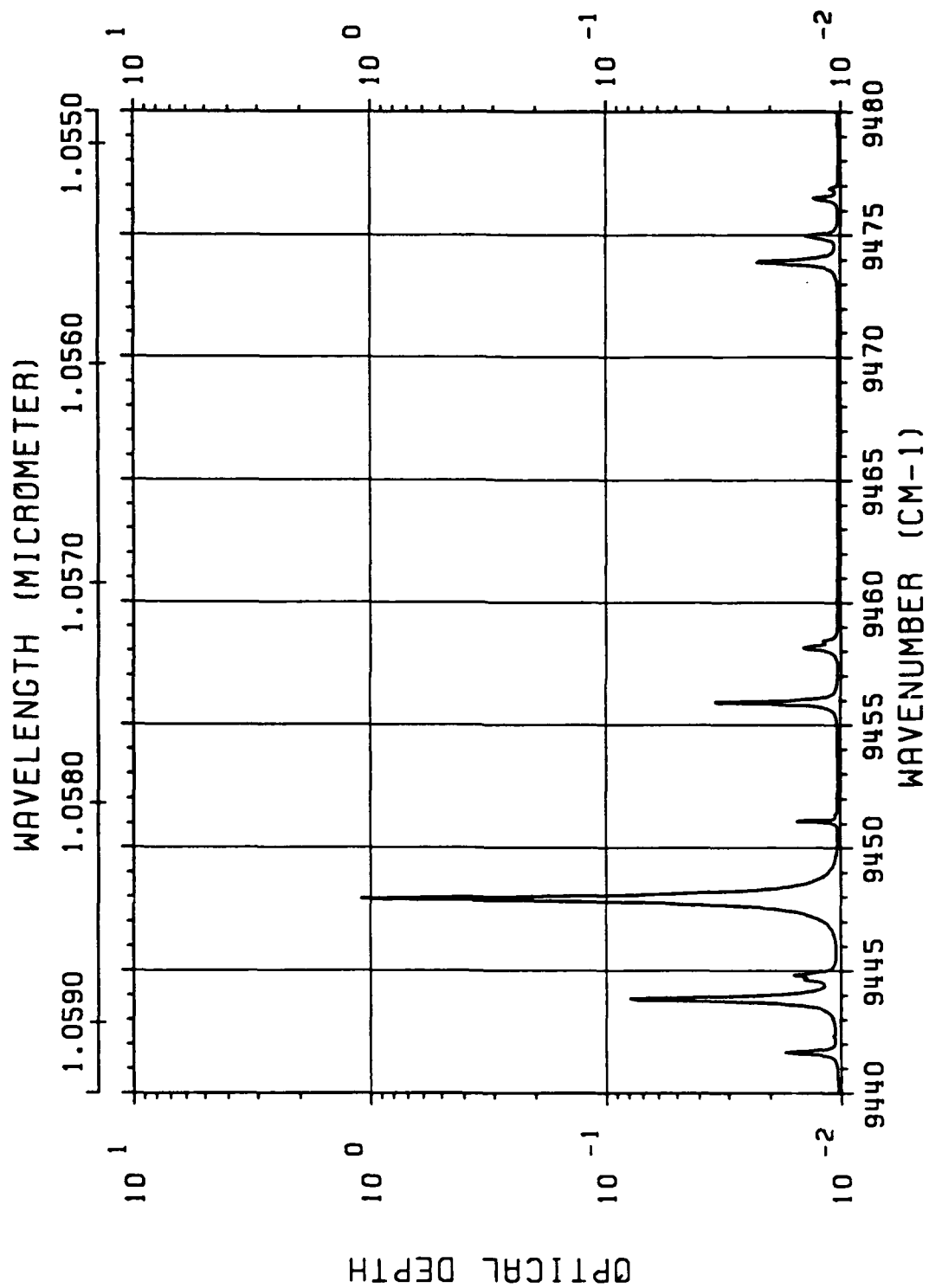


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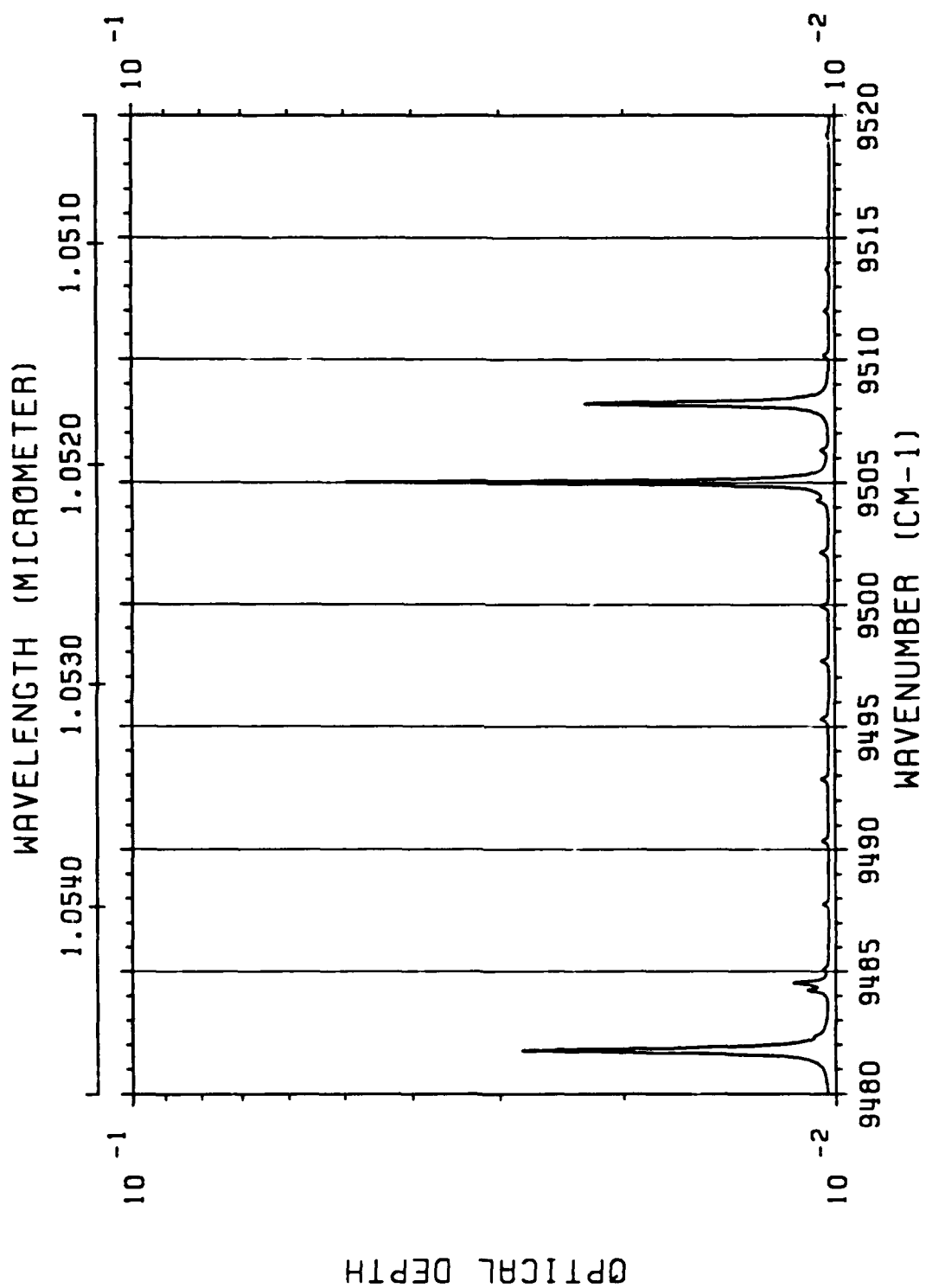


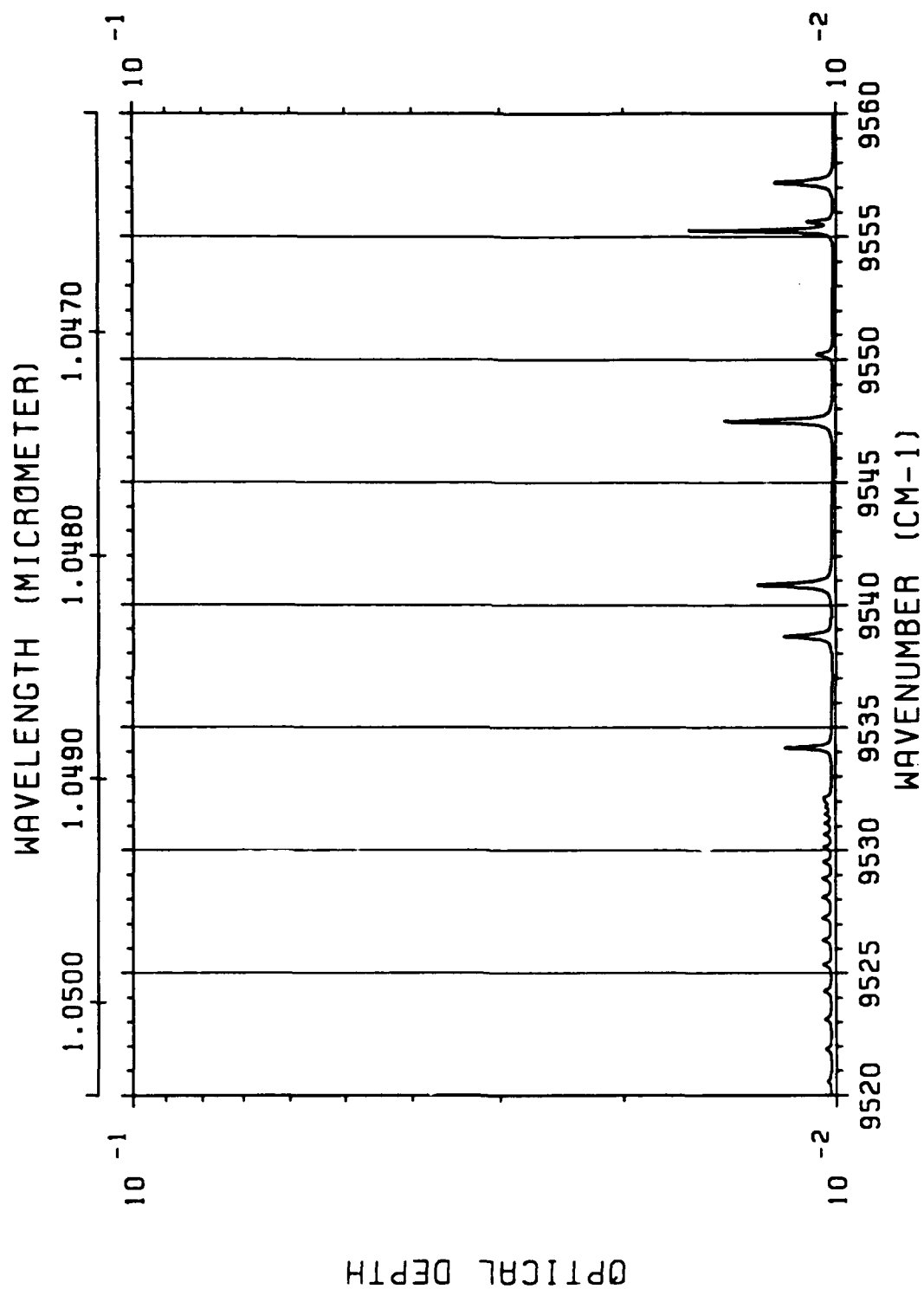
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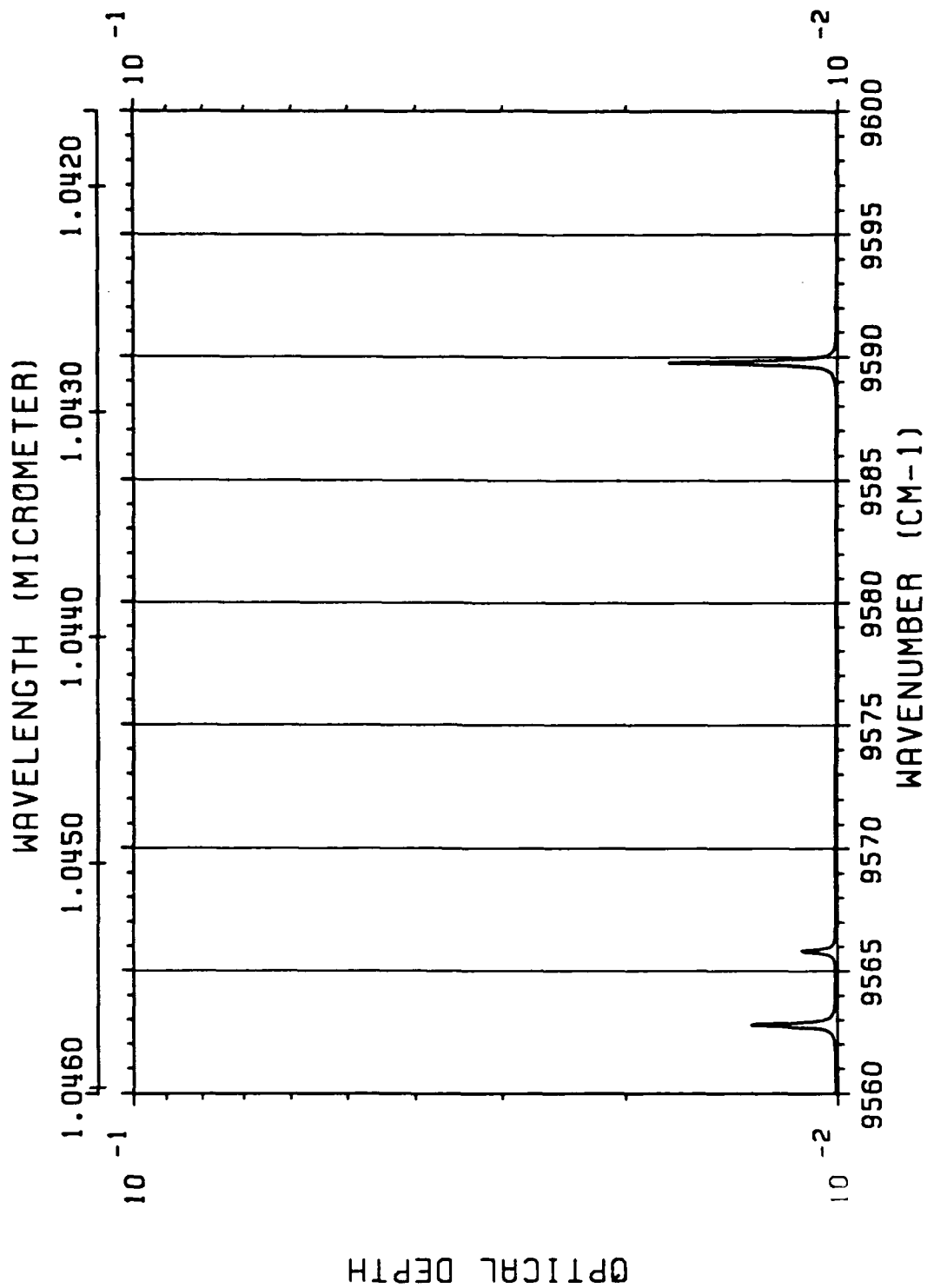




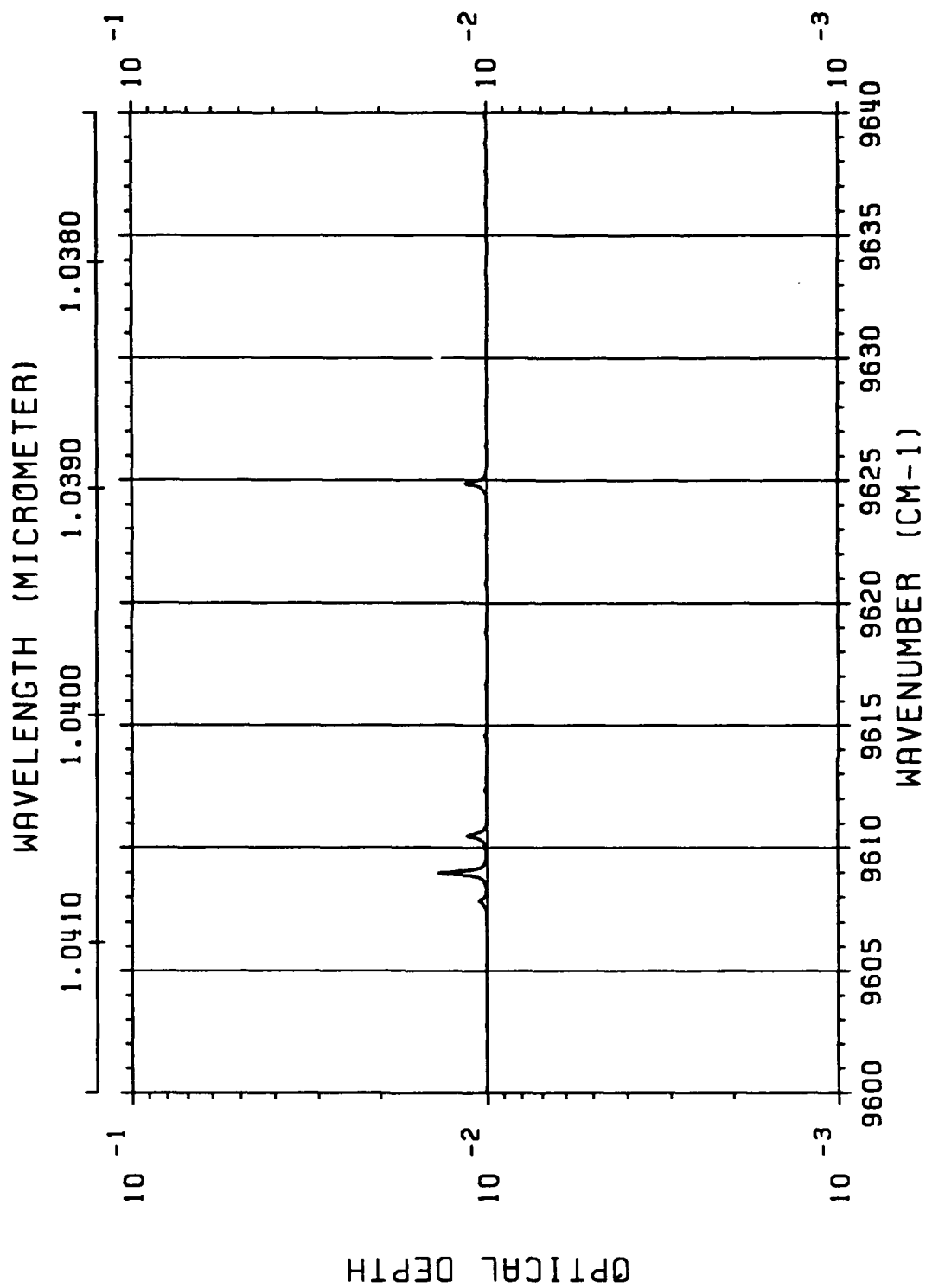
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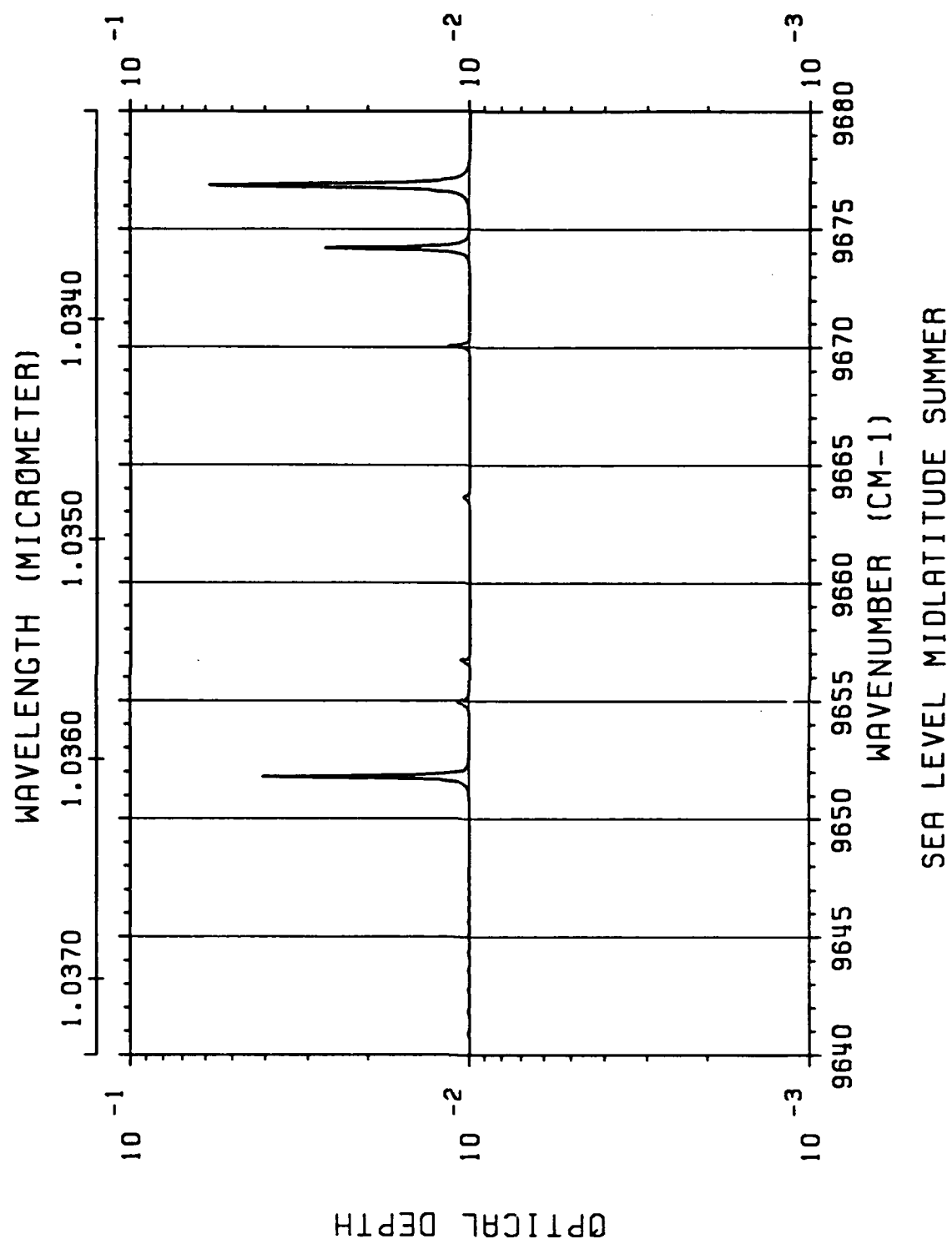


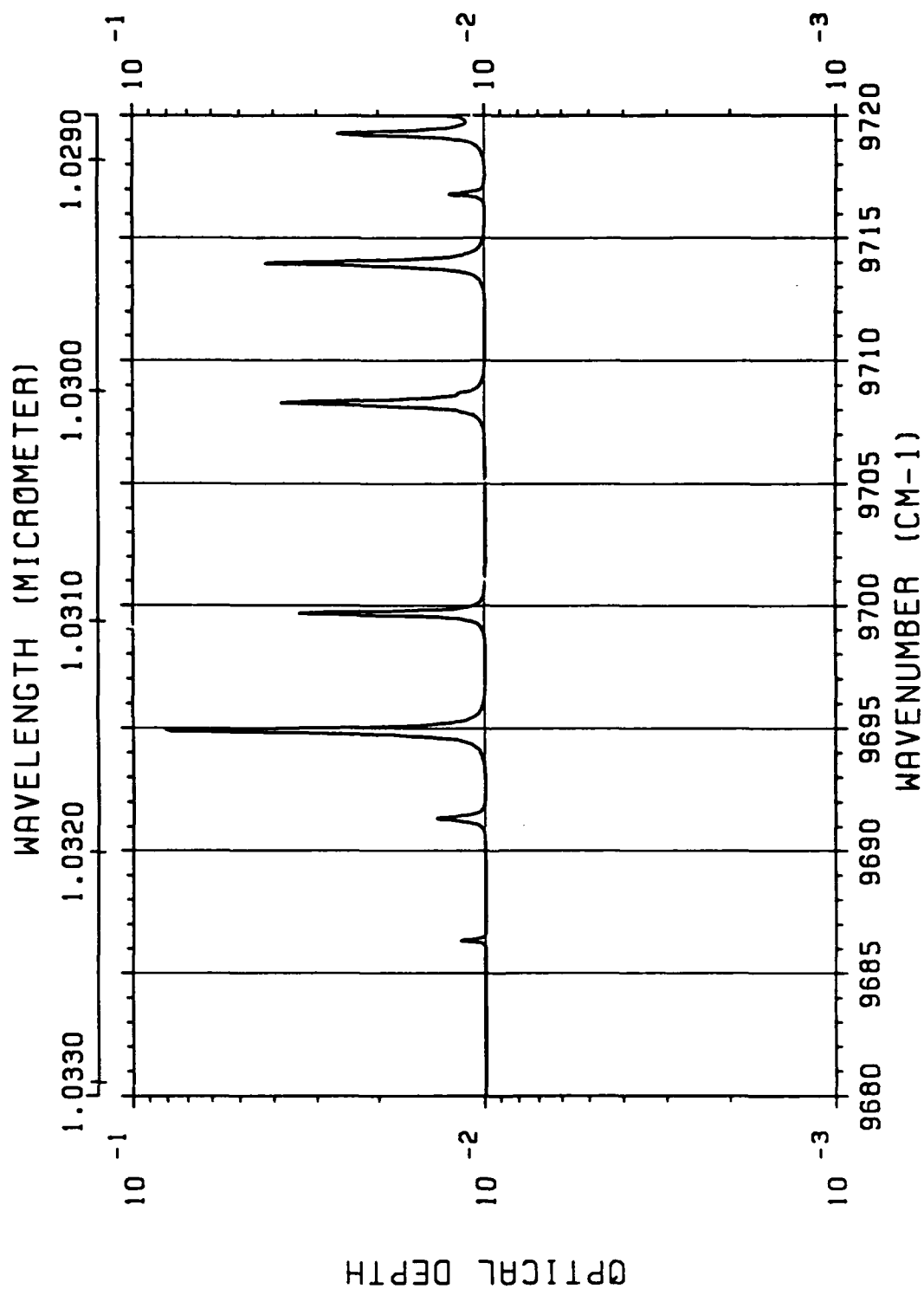


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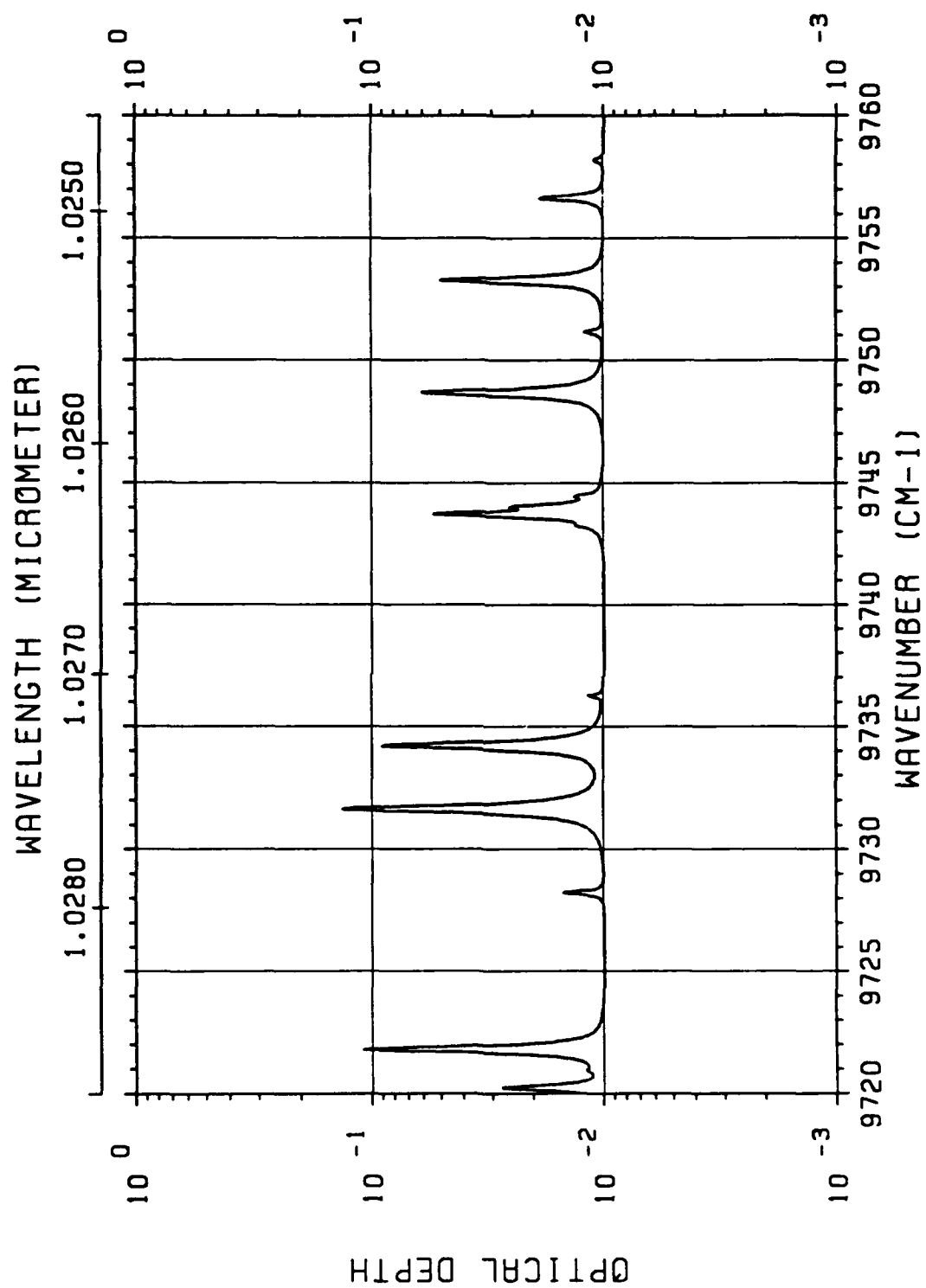


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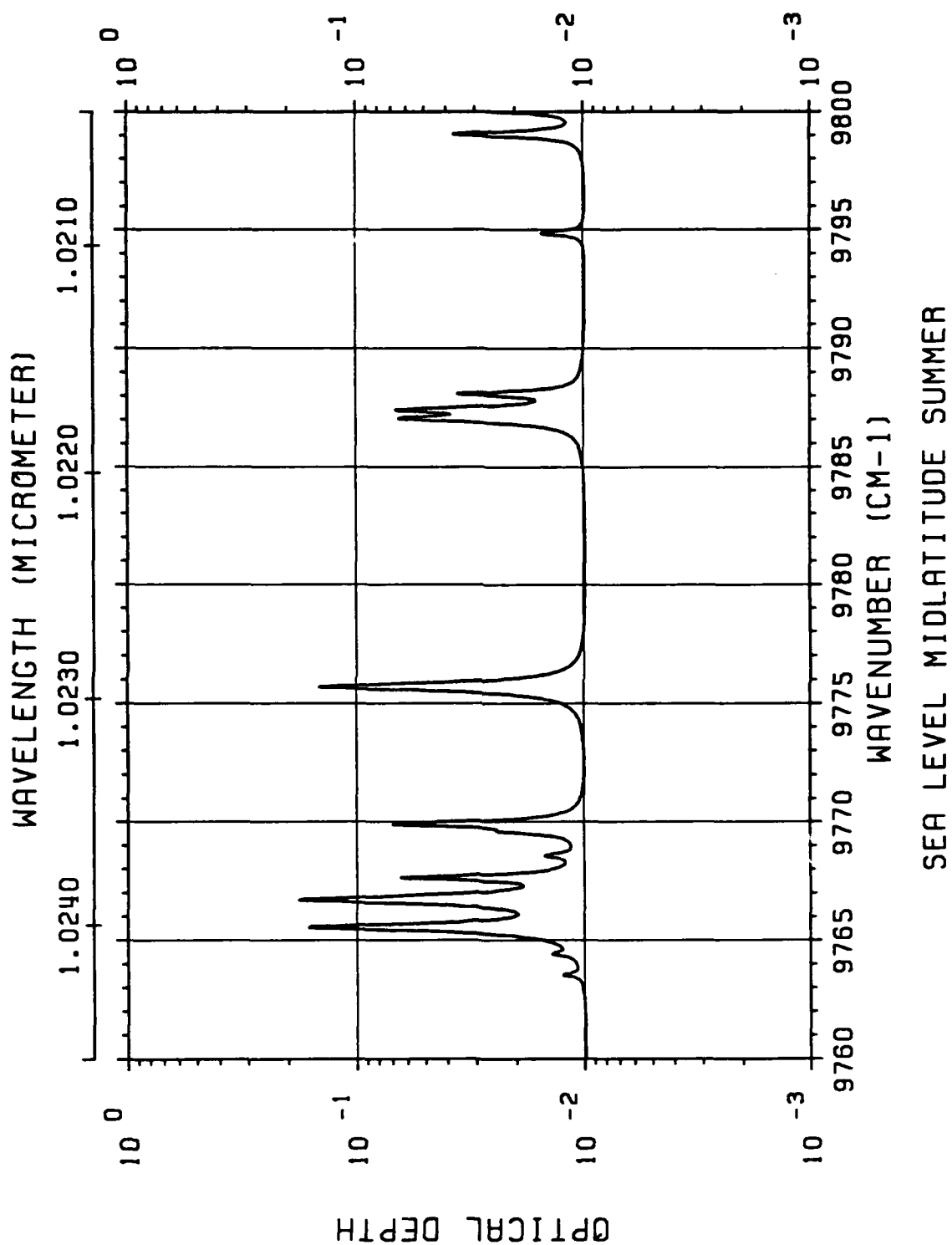


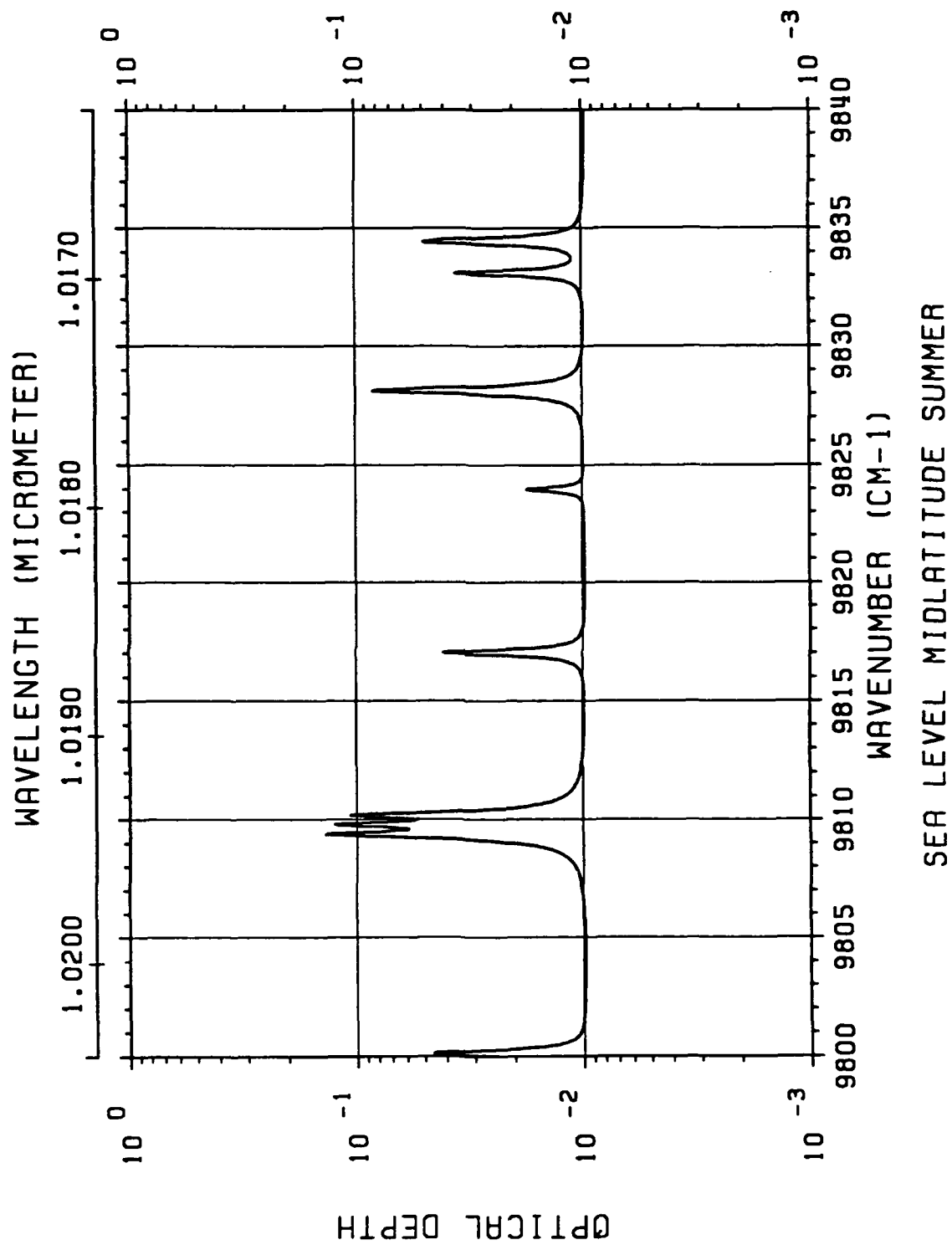


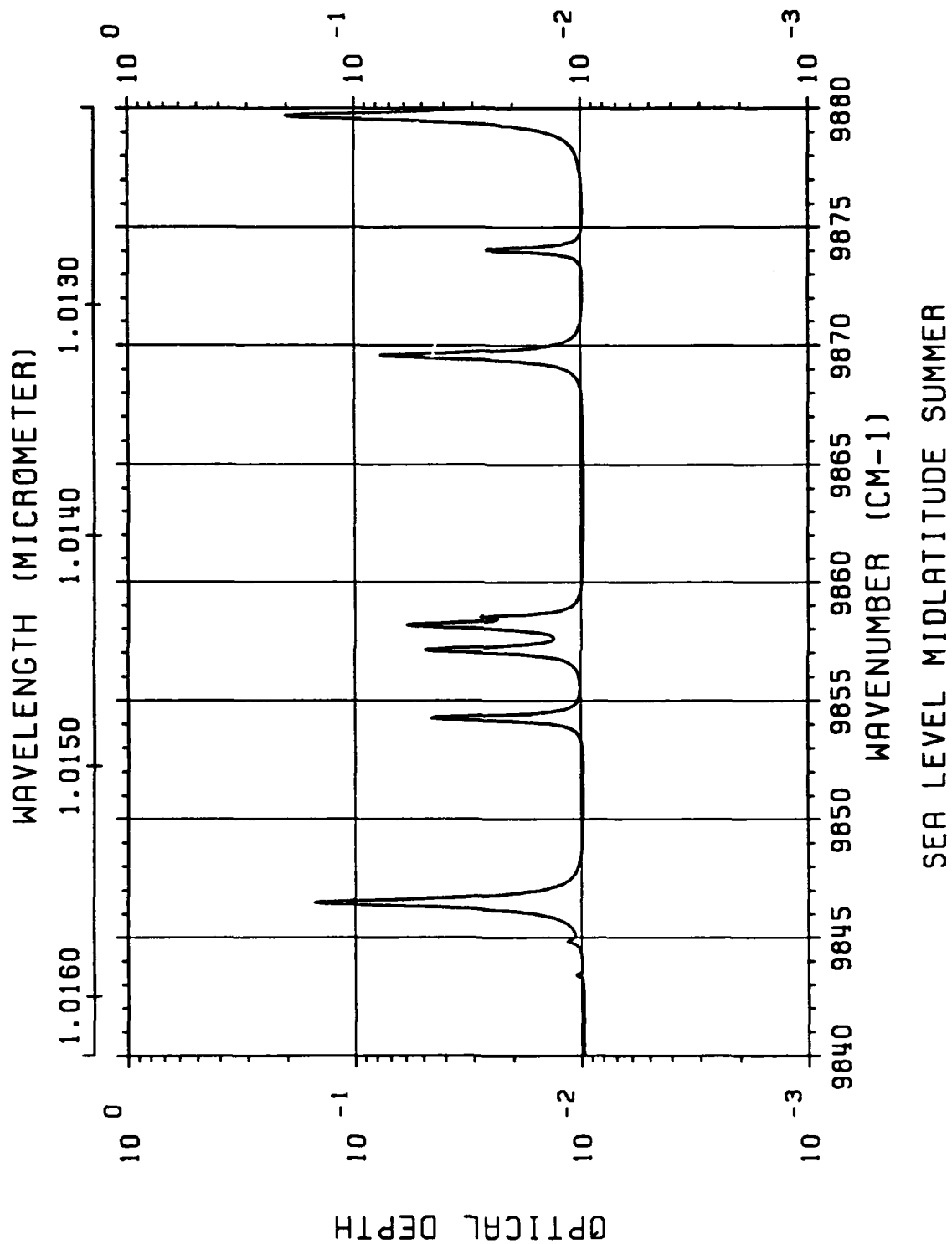
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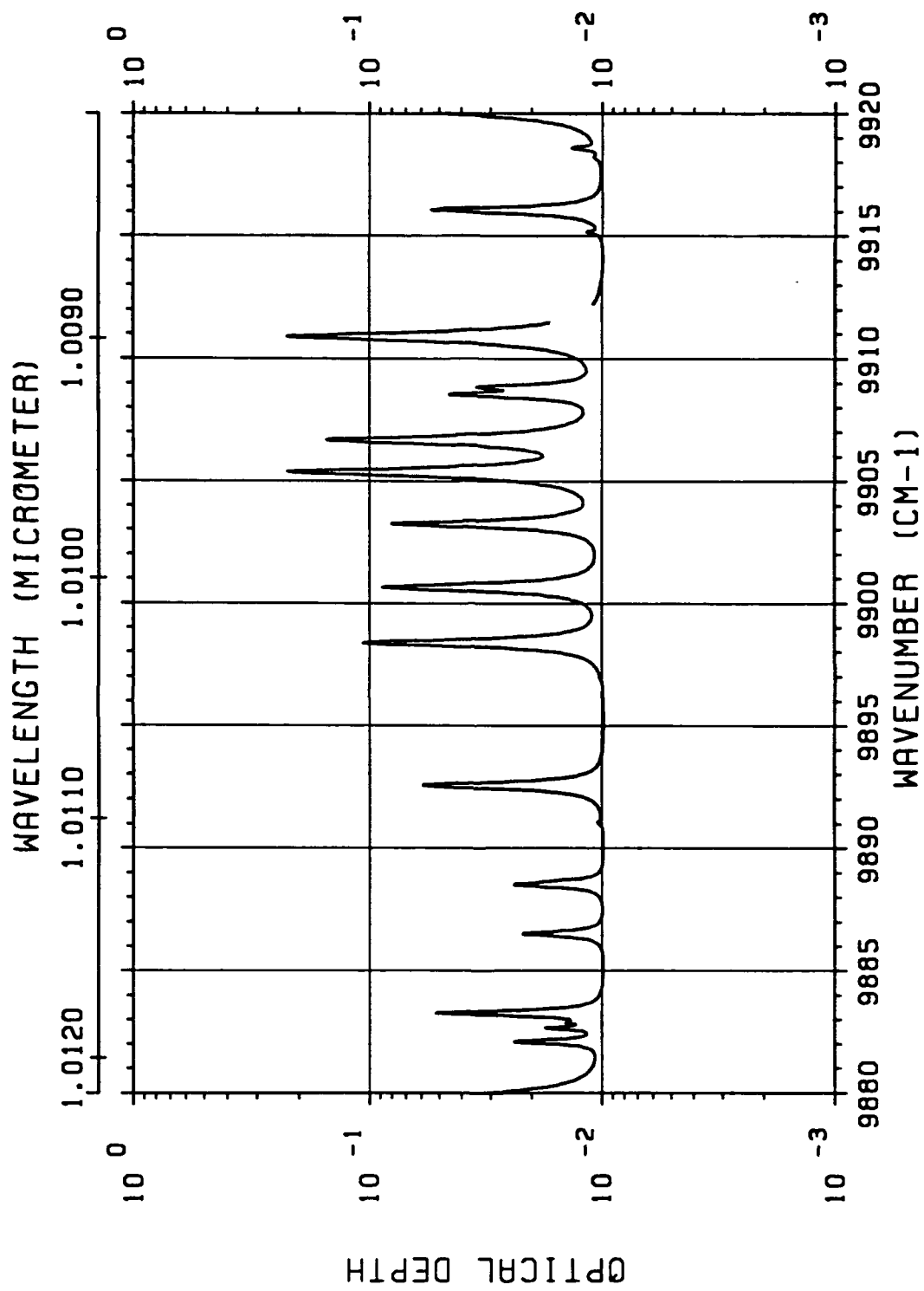


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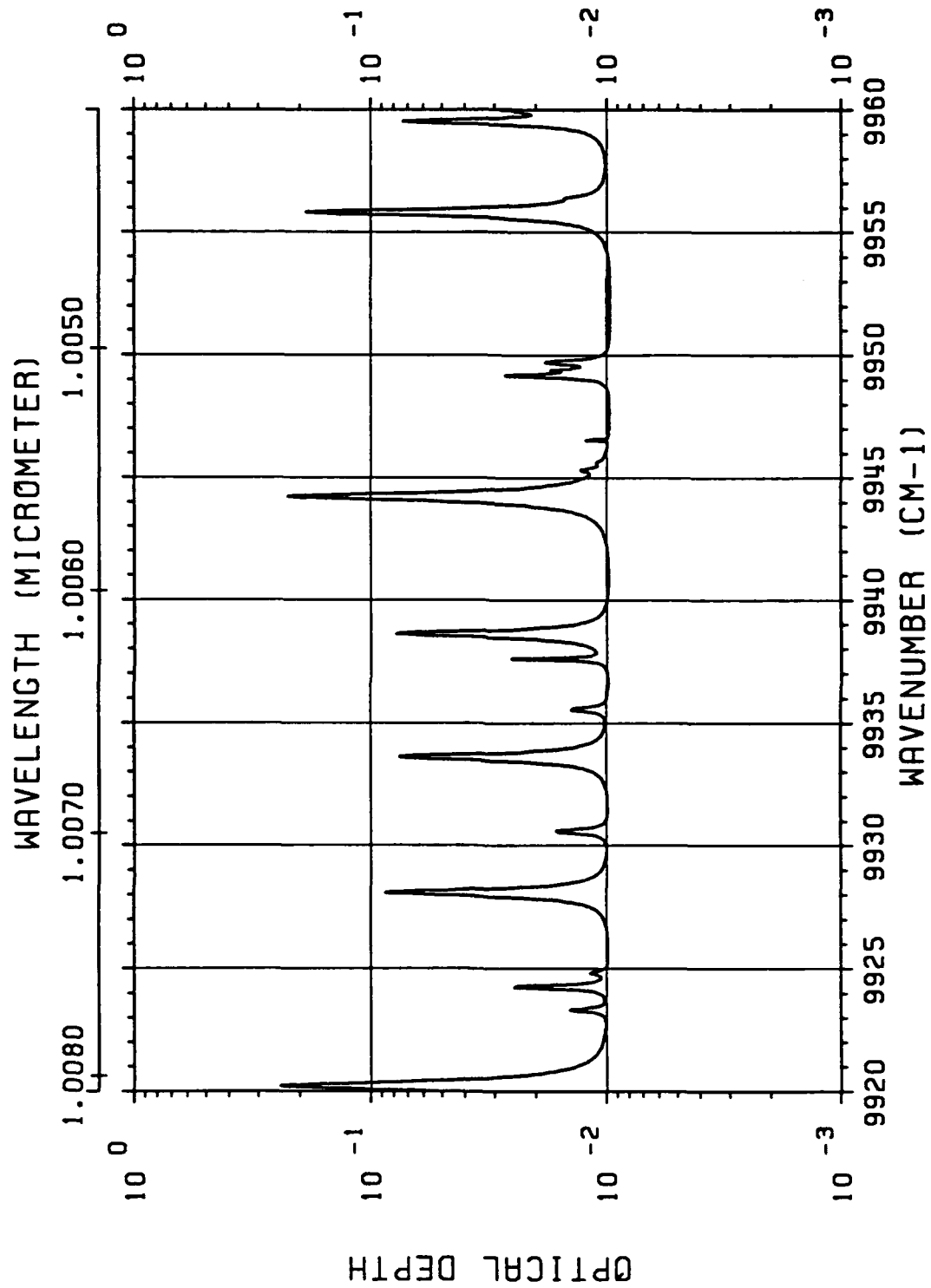




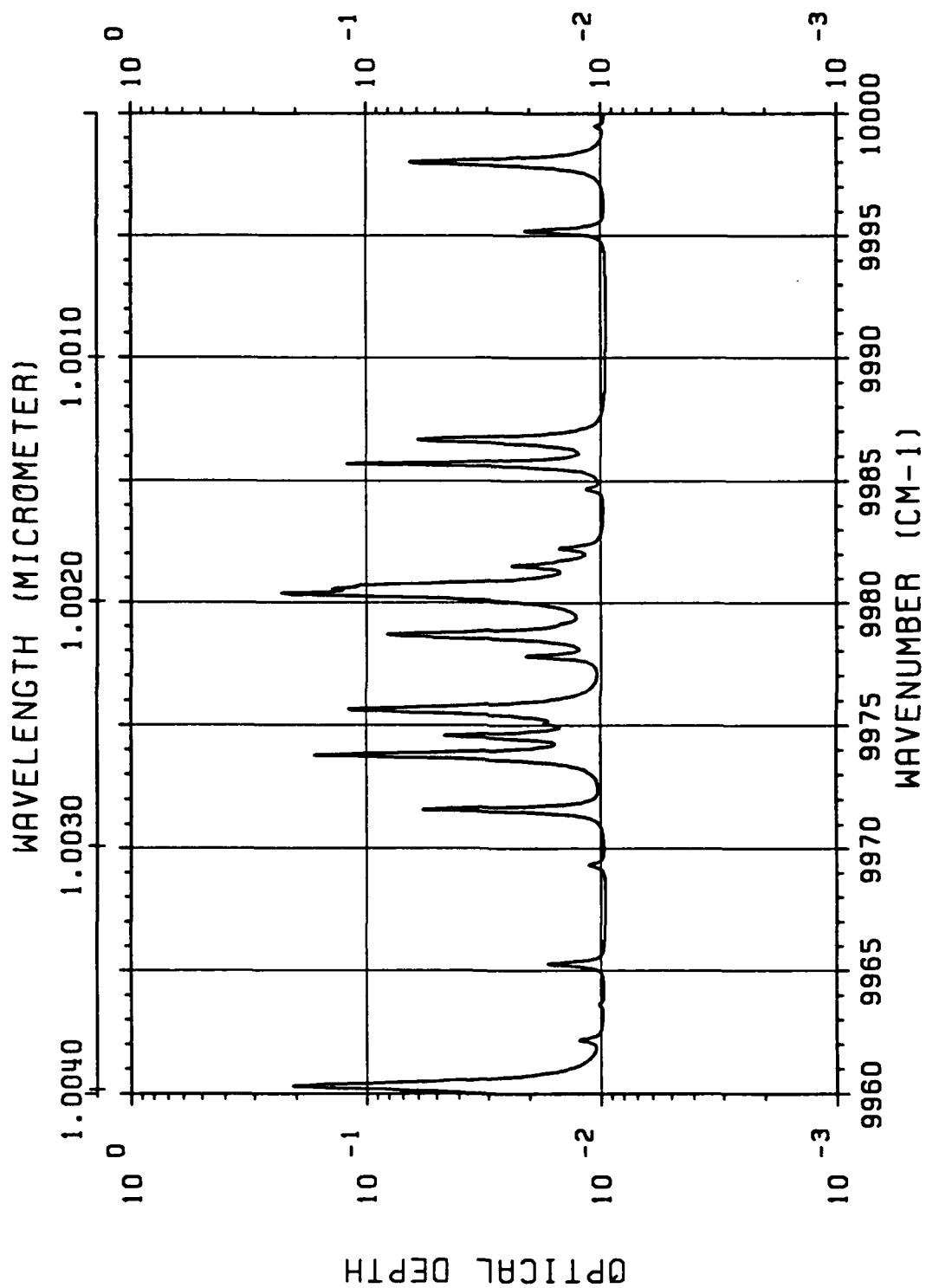




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