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DYNAMIC ANALYSIS OF FALLING-WEIGHT DEFLECTOMETER DATA

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DYNAMIC ANALYSIS OF

FALLING-WEIGHT DEFLECTOMETER DATA

by

Allen H. Magnuson

Research Report <u>1175-1</u>

Research Study No. 2/3-18-88-1175

Sponsored by

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ABSTRACT

Falling-Weight Deflectometer data from three in-service pavement sections has been used to analyze dynamic response characteristics. The analyzed data will be used later in the project along with computer predictions of pavement response to back-calculate engineering properties of pavements. The pavements had thicknesses of 1.5 in., 9 in., and 12 in., and two load levels were tested. The full pulse data is presented for the dropweight force and all seven surface displacement sensors. The analysis was performed in the frequency domain using frequency response functions computed from the pulse data. The frequency response functions were computed by dividing the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) of the displacements by the FFT of the force. Magnitude and phase angles of the frequency response functions are presented. An undesirable oscillation was present in the frequency response functions. This was attributed to a discontinuity in the displacement pulses resulting from zero-packing in the FFT program. The pulses have a non-zero "tail" value at the end of the 60 msec sample period which causes the discontinuity. The pulse "tail" may be due to drift, permanent deformation of the pavement, or premature truncation before the transient response has died out. A linear correction to the pulses that eliminated the discontinuity was applied to one test case. This eliminated the undesirable oscillation, giving the responses a more regular behavior similar to predicted theoretical responses. This correction should facilitate comparison studies of computed versus measured FWD responses.

DISCLAIMER

The contents of this report reflect the views of the author who is responsible for the opinions, findings, and conclusions herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Federal Highway Administration or the Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background

This study is part of the Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation Project 2/3-18-88-1175 entitled "Development of Dynamic Analysis techniques for Falling-Weight Deflectometer Data." The report has been written in preparation for Task 2 of this project: "Measurement and Verification of Deflection and Surface Wave Data."

Task 1 of the Project 1175 called for selection of pavement sections for nondestructive test measurements. Thirty highway sections were selected under this task. The sections are from Districts 1, 8, 11, and 21 and the TTI pavement Test Facility. The sections selected make maximum use of data from related studies. Most sites are monitored under Projects 1123, 1159, 473, and NCHRP 10-27. The locations of the test sites are shown in Figure 1. The characteristics of the in-service highway sections are shown in Table 1 where the pavement type and subgrade conditions, as well as special cases, are indicated. Special cases include rock ledge subgrade and cement-stabilized base sections.

Dynamic data from all these sites will be acquired using the Falling-Weight Deflectometer system which consists of the dropweight apparatus and a series of geophones mounted on a trailer as shown in Figure 2. The trailer is towed by a van containing electronic apparatus (computer and associated peripheral devices) for data acquisition, remote operation of the test and data analysis and display. During testing, the dropweights are raised by a hydraulic piston and released remotely by the operator in the van. At a given test site, the geophones are raised and lowered hydraulically. The test operation, including data acquisition and analysis, is performed remotely by the operator in the van. Because the whole operation is automated, great quantities of data can be acquired in a short time. Normally, only the peak values of the dropweight force and deflection are measured and recorded. The peak values are assumed to represent a static deflection basin. The peak values are used for the backcalculation analysis which assumes the pavement is a layered linear elastic (static) solid. However, the full-time history of the force and deflection pulses can be recorded if desired for dynamic analysis. This report will show how the full-time history can be analyzed and interpreted for dynamic analysis purposes.



Figure 1. Location of Monitored Highway Sites Selected for Dynamic Analysis Using Falling-Weight Deflectometer Data

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TABL	E 1.
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Pavement Sections Selected for Dynamic Analysis Using the Falling-Weight Deflectometer.

			Pavement Type	
Subgi Cond	rade itions	Surface Treated (Thin)	Medium (2"-5")Thick A.C. on Granular Base	Thick (6" or more) A.C. on Granular Base
	wet	8.6, 21.2	21.4	8.5, 11.1, 21.5
Clay	dry	1.3, 11.3, 11.4	1.2, 1.5, 21.6	1.1, 1.4
Ū	Wet	21.1	8.2	21.3
Sand	dry	1.6, 8.1, 11.5	(8.3)	11.2, (8.4)
Shallow Bedrock			8.3	8.4
Cement Stabilize Base	d	11.9	11.8	11.7



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THE FALLING WEIGHT DEFLECTOMETER

Figure 2. Schematic Diagram of the Dynatest Falling-Weight Deflectometer

The FWD nondestructive test data to be collected for this project includes the complete load impulse and geophone response signals, making available for the first time masses of pavement data that can, if analyzed properly, give useful information on the dynamic response of pavements. This research builds on the extensive past and ongoing work at TTI on pavement technology, design, research, testing, and evaluation, (Lytton, Roberts, and Stoffels, 1986; Lytton, 1988).

The overall approach or strategy of this research project is to extend or build on existing methods of extracting pavement properties from FWD data. Current practice is to use elastic (static) models to extract information on the properties of pavements, e.g, back-calculating elastic moduli for each layer (Uzan, Lytton, and Germann, 1988). Full use is not being made of the data which contains information on the dynamic properties of the pavement layers. Viscoelastic behavior such as creep and relaxation is exhibited in the pavement layers. To extract this information, new techniques must be developed that use analytical models of the dynamic properties. This is the ultimate objective of Project 1175. The work of Magnuson (1988) is the first step in developing a fast, efficient predictive computer program for pavement dynamics including viscoelastic effects. Successful completion of the project should result in new methods for:

- 1. More accurate determination of surface layer moduli,
- 2. Determination of layer thicknesses by data analysis rather than by labor-intensive core sampling and laboratory analysis,
- 3. Development of an improved structural index,
- 4. Prediction of remaining life of pavements, and
- 5. Possible in situ measurement of the rutting properties of pavements, using the FWD as a pavement evaluation tool.

Monitored sections from District 1 were chosen for a pilot study of FWD dynamic analysis. (See Table 1). The characteristics of the pavement section selected for the pilot study are given in Table 2. This study is based primarily on State Highways 19 and 24 having a 9-inch thick asphaltic concrete pavement. For comparison purposes, data is also presented for a thin (1.5 inch) pavement from Farm-to-Market road 79 and a thick (12-inch) pavement from State Highway 82.

Section	County	Pavement Section	Route	Location and/or Mile Post	Surface	Base	Subbase	Subgrade	Groundwater
1.1	Ləmar	Thick	State 19 & 24	Paris, Texas to Sulphur River	9" AC	7" Crushed Stone	10" Lime- Treated Clay	Clay	No
1.4	Lamar	Thick	State 82	East of Loop 271	12" AC	22" Sandy S/G		Clay	No
1.6	Lamar	Thin	FM 79	0.7 miles East of Pine Creek	1.5" AC	6" Flex	6" Lime-treated Material	Silty Sand	No

Table 2. Description of Analyzed Pavement Sections (District 1)

Objectives

The major objectives of this study were to introduce dynamic pavement analysis methods to the highway engineering community and to prepare the way for the upcoming large-scale data acquisition and analysis effort. Other related objectives are to:

- Present proposed standardized procedures for reducing and presenting data for use in subsequent comparison studies of computed versus measured FWD responses. In the comparison studies, key engineering properties related to pavement life and performance will be extracted by an iterative back-calculation procedure.
- 2. Develop a computerized system for data analysis and plotting.
- 3. Demonstrate how the dynamic response data looks and how to interpret it.
- 4. Point out any problems in analyzing data and present ways to resolve them.

CHAPTER II

DYNAMIC ANALYSIS OF PAVEMENTS

The purpose of this chapter is to introduce some "linear systems" concepts that are helpful in understanding pavement dynamics. The system concept involves a transformation of an input into an output. The system can be described or characterized by how it transforms the input into the output; that is, the system can be treated as an unknown "black box": where only the input and output are known.

The system description can be done in the time domain or in the frequency domain. The most direct approach is to use the time domain. However, the frequency domain characterization provides more insight into specific phenomena occurring within the system; therefore, it is a better "diagnostic" or analysis tool. The system concept will be described briefly here as it applies to pavement dynamics in both the time and frequency domains. The system approach is described in many books, for example Bendat and Piersol (1971), Bendat and Piersol (1980) and Lee (1960).

The FWD provides both input and output data to characterize the pavement section as a system. The input (excitation or forcing function) is the force, and the output or responses are each of the surface deflections, as shown in Figure 3a. The output for a linear system, z(t), is related to the input, F(t), by the impulse response function, h(t), which is used in the convolution (or superposition) integral as follows:

$$z(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(\tau) F(t - \tau) d\tau \qquad (1)$$

where τ = Dummy time variable associated with the "shift" of the input F.

The FWD force and deflection time pulse data can, in principle, be used to compute the impulse response function, h(t), through a computational deconvolution procedure. This will characterize or describe the input-output relationships for the given system. Note that the response from each displacement sensor will give a different impulse response function, or a different "system."

Generally, when analyzing a relatively unknown system (such as the dynamic



Figure 3a. Input-Output Relation in Time Domain.



Figure 3b. Phasor Diagram of Input and Output.



Figure 3c. Sketch Showing Lag Angle Introduced by Internal (Material) Damping.

response of a highway section), it is preferable to work in the so-called frequency domain. This is because more physical insight can be obtained on the system, even though the method appears to be less direct than working in the time domain. Another advantage of working in the frequency domain, is that the theoretical predicted responses are more readily computed in the frequency domain. Therefore, comparisons between theory and experiment can be made more readily in the frequency domain and differences can be "diagnosed" better. For example, specific phenomena such as natural frequencies, normal modes or surface waves, can be detected and damping effects can be identified directly.

To work in the frequency domain, it is necessary to perform a transformation on the time pulse data. This is done using a Fourier integral transform (Lee, 1960). If the time pulse signal is designated as f(t), its Fourier integral transform is denoted $F(\omega)$, defined as follows:

$$F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\omega} f(t) e^{-i\omega t} dt$$
 (2)

where: $i^2 = -1$, and

 ω = is the radian frequency.

The inverse transform recovers the time pulse from the frequency domain transform $F(\omega)$ as follows:

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega) e^{i\omega t} d\omega$$
 (3)

Equation (3) can be considered to be a synthesis or addition of oscillatory responses with $F(\omega)$ acting as the weighting function used to synthesize a given pulse f(t). The exponential term $e^{i\omega t}$ is the kernel of this transform and it can be expanded as follows:

$$e^{\pm i\omega t} = \cos \omega t \pm i \sin \omega t$$
 (4)

This means the transform $F(\omega)$ is a complex number having a real and imaginary part.

In practice, the Fourier Transform (2) is performed on experimental data using a computer program with a Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) algorithm (Davis and Rabinowitz, 1975). The FFT treats the pulse as a periodic (repeated or cyclic) function with a period T which varies with the number of sample points and the sampling interval. It is customary to use zero-packing to extend the pulse to a convenient point depending on the desired resolution of the transformed function. This will be discussed in more detail in Chapter IV.

The frequency domain counterpart to the convolution integral input-output relation in Equation (1) is written as:

$$Z(\omega) = H(\omega) F(\omega)$$
(5)

where: $Z(\omega) =$ Fourier-transformed displacement (output),

 $F(\omega)$ = Fourier-transformed force (input), and

 $H(\omega) =$ frequency-response function.

This relation (5) is simpler than the convolution integral relation, which is part of the reason for working in the frequency domain. The frequency response function is a complex number having a magnitude and phase angle associated with it, both defined as follows:

$$H(\omega) = H_{R}(\omega) + i H_{I}(\omega) = |H|e^{i\phi_{H}}$$
(6)

where: $H_R =$ real part, $H_I =$ imaginary part, $|H| = (H_R^2 + H_I^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} =$ magnitude, and $\phi_H =$ tan⁻¹ (H_I/H_R) = phase angle.

The significance of the response function may be illustrated by taking an oscillatory cosine forcing function:

$$f(t) = F_o \cos \omega t = F_o R_e (e^{i\omega t})$$

where: R_{e} indicates taking the real part. From Equations (5) and (6), the time domain response z(t) is:

 $z(t) = F_{o} |H| R_{e} \{e^{\omega t + \phi_{H}}\} = F_{o} |H| \cos (\omega t + \phi_{H})$ (7)

This result indicates why $H(\omega)$ is referred to as a frequency response function: for a unit cosine forcing function ($F_o = 1$), the magnitude of the response of the system is the magnitude of the frequency response function |H|, and the phase shift or phase angle response is the phase angle ($\phi_{\rm H}$) of the frequency response function.

This can be interpreted graphically with a phasor diagram shown in Figure 3b. The oscillatory force $F(\omega)$ and the response $z(\omega)$ are drawn as rotating vectors in the complex plane, both rotating counterclockwise at an angular velocity, ω . The response leads the force by the phase angle $\phi_{\rm H}$ while the magnitude of the response is given as:

$$|Z| = F_{o} |H|$$

That is, the output to an oscillatory input for a given frequency is characterized by a change in magnitude and a phase shift relative to the input, as indicated in Equation (7). The phase shift for the pavement is caused by inertia or wave effects and internal damping, as shown in Figure 3c.

The pavement system is to be characterized dynamically by the frequency response function. This is done by solving for $H(\omega)$ in Equation (5):

$$H(\omega) = Z(\omega)/F(\omega)$$
(8)

That is, Equation (8) indicates that the frequency response is obtained by dividing the FFT of the response at each sensor location by the FFT of the force pulse. This has been done for pavement sections and the results are shown in Chapter IV.

To this point, the discussion has treated the "system," the highway section as an unknown "black box." The response of the system can also be predicted theoretically (at least to the level of simplifying approximations made in the formulation of the theory). To illustrate what the frequency response functions should look like for a highway section, the theory of Reissner (1936), as modified by Arnold, Bycroft, and Warburton (1955) and Sung (1953), can be used. In this theory, the highway is modeled as a uniform elastic halfspace with a circular uniform oscillatory pressure distribution acting on the surface (Figure 4). The surface displacement at the center of the pressure distribution was computed. This simulates the sensor 1 data on the FWD apparatus after the pulse data is transformed using an FFT.

Reissner introduced a dimensionless representation for the response as follows:



Figure 4. Sketch of Dynamic Testing of Pavements.

$$u_{z} = \frac{P}{Ga} \left(f_{1} + if_{2} \right)$$
(9)

= surface vertical displacement (dimensional), where: uz Ρ = force magnitude, = G halfspace rigidity modulus, a radius of pressure distribution, = real part of the dimensionless response, and f, = imaginary part of the dimensionless response. f, = Equation (9) indicates that the response is proportional to the force and

inversely proportional to the rigidity and the disk radius. The dimensionless functions f_1 and f_2 are in turn functions of Poisson's ratio (μ) and the dimensionless frequency (a_o) defined as:

$$a_{o} = \frac{\omega a}{C_{T}}$$
(10)

where: the shear wave speed (C_T) is given as $C_{T} = (G/\rho)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ and

 ρ = mass density ($\gamma = \rho g$).

That is,

$$f_1 = f_1(a_o, \mu)$$

 $f_2 = f_2(a_o, \mu)$

These functions, f_1 and f_2 , are plotted against a_o for various values of Poisson's ratio in Figures 5 and 6 taken from Magnuson (1988).

It is more convenient and easier to interpret the results if the dimensionless functions are expressed in magnitude and phase form as follows:

$$f_1 + if_2 = |f|e^{i\phi_f}$$
(11)

where:

 $|f| = (f_1^2 + f_2^2)^{\frac{1}{2}},$ $\phi_f = \tan^{-1} (f_2/f_1).$

The magnitude and phase for a Poisson's ratio of 1/3 are shown in Figures 7 and 8, respectively, taken from Magnuson (1988). Elastic results are from Sung's



Figure 5. In-Phase Dimensionless normal Displacement for r = 0 and Uniform Pressure Distribution versus Dimensionless Frequency for Poisson's Ratio of 0, 1/4, 1/3, and 1/2 (Sung, 1954)



Figure 6. Out-of-Phase Dimensionless Normal Displacement for r = 0 and Uniform Pressure Distribution Versus Dimensionless Frequency for Poisson's Ratio of 0, 1/4, 1/3, and 1/2 (Sung, 1954).



Figure 7. Dimensionless Magnitude of Normal Displacement for r = 0 and Uniform Pressure Distribution for Poisson's Ratio of 1/3: Comparison of Theory and Computed Values.

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Figure 8. Phase Angle of Normal Displacement for r = 0 and Uniform Pressure Distribution for Poisson's Ratio of 1/3: Comparison of Theory and Computed Values.

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(1953) computations while the damping = $\frac{1}{2}$ percent, and damping = $\frac{1}{4}$ percent results were computed as part of this project by Magnuson (1988). These plots indicate that the magnitude response falls off gradually as frequency increases and the phase angle is nearly linear in frequency. Damping is seen to decrease the amplitude and increase the phase angle. In Chapter IV, Figures 7 and 8 will be shown to resemble the frequency response functions computed from FWD data. However, the FWD data includes effects of layering, inhomogeneities, etc., which are not accounted for in the Reissner-Sung theory, so a quantitative comparison cannot be made.

CHAPTER III

TIME PULSE DATA FROM THE FALLING-WEIGHT DEFLECTOMETER

Time-pulse data for SH 19 and 24 are presented and discussed in this Chapter. Appendices A and B contain similar data on FM 79 and SH 82, respectively. Characteristics of these pavement sections are given in Table 2. Test time, date, temperature and moisture content are given in Table 3. The load or force pulses are shown in Figures 9 and 10. The data is sampled every 0.2 msec and the sampling time is 60 msec. The lowest load is shown in Figure 9 and the highest load is shown in Figure 10. (Data was acquired for four load levels.) Note the double peak in the pulse. The second peak is higher than the first for the highest load. The load is given in units of kiloPascals (kPa).

Deflections are shown in Figures 11 and 12 for the lowest load and highest load, respectively. The deflections are plotted for all seven seismometer sensors. The sensors are all spaced at varying distances from the center of the dropweight as follows:

<u>Sensor</u>	<u>Distance (ft.)</u>
1	0
2	1
3	2
4 -	3
5	4
6	5
7	6

Note from Figures 11 and 12 how the deflections decrease as the distance increases. The pulse peaks occur at later times as the distance increases. This indicates wavelike behavior where the response is delayed the farther the distance from the dropweight.

Normal practice for static analysis is to take the peaks of each of the deflection pulses as the deflection basin. The static force is taken as the peak of the corresponding force pulse. This practice involves some approximations because the peaks do not occur at the same time and the shapes of the pulses are distorted. The time delay and the pulse distortion indicate dynamic effects are present. This will be confirmed in the frequency domain analysis in the next chapter.

	Highway				
-	SH 19 & 24	FM 79	SH 82		
Test Date	3/30/88	3/29/88	3/30/88		
Test Time	9:30 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.		
Thermocouple Depth (in.)					
TC1	9	2	6		
TC2	16	6	12		
TC3	13	14	15		
Temperature (°F)					
Surface	65	58	67		
TC1	62	63	60		
TC2	66	68	62		
TC3	72	72	64		
Moisture Content (Bars)					
Base	Saturated	Saturated	-0.167		
Subbase	Saturated	Saturated	Saturated		

Table 3. Temperature and Moisture Content Data

PEAK LOAD 364 kPa



Figure 9. Load versus Time, Lowest Load (SH 19 and 24).



PEAK LOAD 1163 kPa

Figure 10. Load Versus Time, Highest Load (SH 19 and 24).

PEAK LOAD 364 kPa



Figure 11. Deflections versus Time, Lowest Load (SH 19 and 24).

PEAK LOAD 1163 kPa



Figure 12. Deflections versus Time, Highest Load (SH 19 and 24).

Another significant feature is the truncation of the pulses at the end of the 60 msec sample time. Ideally, the pulses should "die out" or go to zero at the end of the sample period. Instead, the deflection pulses usually cross the time axis and become negative before they are truncated. What causes the truncated "tails" of the pulses is not known at this time, however one or more of the following factors are probable causes:

- 1. "Drift" caused by digital integration and digital filtering of the seismometer.
- 2. Permanent deformation caused by plastic flow of the asphaltic concrete pavement or compaction of the granular material in the base or subbase.
- Premature truncation of the pulses before the transient response has died out. The pulses may have a damped oscillatory behavior as shown in Figure 13.

Recommendations for resolving the pulse truncation problem are given in Chapter V. The pulse truncation causes problems when the time-domain data is transformed into the frequency domain by using a Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) algorithm. Why the problem occurs and how the problem can be alleviated is discussed in the next Chapter.

Pulse data on a thin pavement (FM 79) is given in Appendix A (Figures Al to A4) and thick pavement data is given in Appendix B (Figures Bl to B4). Comparisons of force pulses in Figures 9, 10, A1, A2, B1, and B2 show that the first peak is higher than the second for the lowest load. For the highest load, the second peak is higher than the first peak for the thicker pavements (SH 19 and 24 and SH 82). For the thin pavement (FM 79), the first peak is higher for the highest load. This indicates that the force pulse may be dynamically interacting with the pavement depending on pavement stiffness.

The pavement deflection pulses for FM 79 and SH 82 are shown in Figures A3, A4, and B3 and B4, respectively. The behavior of the pulses at truncation is summarized in Table 4 where the ratios of the pulse "tail" at truncation to pulse peak is shown for the force and all the deflection sensors. SH 82 pulse data behaved similarly to the SH 19 and 24 data discussed above whereby the relative size of the tails is higher for the lower loads. The thin pavement data (FM 79), Figures A3 and A4, showed a different pattern. The lowest load tails were moderate in size for all sensors while the first two sensors for the highest load



Figure 13. Possible Extrapolated Behavior of Pulse.

behaved differently. The sensor 1 pulse drops tangent to the horizontal axis and then rises again. Sensor two crosses the time axis becoming negative, then rises again and crosses a second time. The other sensors (sensors 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) have very small "tails." .

CHAPTER IV

PAVEMENT SECTION FREQUENCY RESPONSE FUNCTIONS

The time domain data in Chapter III was transformed into the frequency domain, and the results are presented here. A Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) was performed on the force pulse and on each displacement sensor for each test case. The FFT is discussed in Davis and Rabinowitz (1975). The FFT numerically performs the Fourier Transform in Equation (2) on digitized data.

The FFT's are computed in the program listed in Appendix C. The FFT works on a digitized signal which is a series of discrete values sampled at fixed intervals of time. The sampling rate of the Dynatest FWD is 0.2 msec, giving 300 samples for the 60 msec pulse. The FFT sample size must be a power of two. The normal sample size is $2^{10} = 1024$. To obtain this sample size, the FWD data is supplemented by a series of zeroes. This process is called zero-packing. When the data pulse has a truncated tail, which is usually the case for FWD data, the full pulse has a discontinuity as shown in Figure 14a. It will be shown shortly that the pulse discontinuity produces an undesirable effect on the FFT of the pulse. It will also be shown that the effect can be alleviated (if not totally eliminated) by adjusting the pulse with a linear correction, as shown in Figure 14b. The corrected deflection pulse data eliminating the tail discontinuity is shown in Figure 15.

The FFT of the force pulse for the lowest load (SH 19 and 24) is shown in Figures 16 and 17 for the real and imaginary components, respectively. The FFT algorithm sets the FFT frequency range as the reciprocal of the sampling rate, or 1/0.0002 = 5000 Hz. The normal frequency resolution Δf is given as:

$$\Delta f = \frac{1}{(0.0002 \times 1024)} = 4.8828 \text{ Hz}$$

Note in Figures 16 and 17 that most of the energy of the force pulse is in the 0-250 Hz range. The real and imaginary components of the sensor 1 deflection for the lowest load (SH 19 and 24) are given in Figures 18 and 19.

The frequency response functions are obtained by dividing the FFT of the deflections $[Z(\omega)]$ by the FFT of the force $[F(\omega)]$. Since the FFT's are complex numbers, the frequency response function is also a complex number. If the frequency response function is denoted $H(\omega)$, one has:



Figure 14a. Truncated Pulse With Zero-Packing Showing Discontinuity.



Figure 14b. Linear Correction to Pulse to Eliminate Tail Discontinuity.



Figure 15. Corrected Deflection versus Time, Lowest Load (SH 19 and 24).

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Figure 16. Real Part of Fast-Fourier Transform of Force Pulse, Lowest Load (SH 19 and 24).



Figure 17. Imaginary Part of Fast-Fourier Transform of Force, Pulse Lowest Load (SH 19 and 24).

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Figure 18. Real Part of Fast-Fourier Transform of Deflection Sensor 1, Lowest Load (SH 19 and 24).



Figure 19. Imaginary Part of Fast-Fourier Transform of Deflection Sensor 1, Lowest Load (SH 19 and 24).

$$H(\omega) = \frac{Z(\omega)}{F(w)} = H_{R} + iH_{I} = |H|e^{i\phi}_{H}$$
(12)

where the magnitude |H| and the phase $\phi_{\rm H}$ are given by:

$$|H| = (H_R^2 + H_I^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\phi_H = \arctan\left(\frac{H_I}{H_R}\right)$$

The magnitude |H| has dimensions of in./lb.

Figures 20 and 21 show magnitudes of the frequency response functions for the lowest load (SH 19 and 24) for frequency ranges of 0-300 Hz and 0-125 Hz, respectively. For a given sensor, one expects the magnitude response to decrease with frequency similar to the theoretical result in Figure 7. One sees from Figure 20 that the noise apparently takes over at about 120 to 150 Hz, where the magnitude starts to increase. The noise becomes dominant when the FFT of the force pulse becomes small because of the division indicated in Equation 12. The dominance of numerical "noise" starts at about 250 Hz, as can be seen from Figures 16 and 17 where the FFT of the force is seen to be small. Figure 21 shows the magnitude response over the relatively noise-free range. One sees from Figure 21 that (despite the marked oscillation), on the average, the response decreases with distance as well as with frequency. Later, the frequency oscillation will be shown to be associated with the truncation of the pulse and the resulting discontinuity.

A study of the effect of the responses to the resolution of the FFT was made by taking a sample size of $2^{11} = 2048$ (higher resolution) and $2^9 = 512$ (lower resolution). The results are shown in Figures 22 and 23 for higher and lower resolutions, respectively. Figure 22 shows improved resolution relative to the "normal" FFT in Figure 21. Figure 23 shows an unacceptable deterioration of resolution, as the frequency step size was about 10 Hz, which was too crude to characterize the oscillations which had a "period" of about 20 Hz. The same oscillation was present regardless of the resolution.

Figure 24 shows the responses for the adjusted pulses with no discontinuity, using the correction scheme shown in Figure 14b. The oscillations present in the previous four plots have all but disappeared, giving a smooth, well-behaved,



Figure 20. Magnitude of Frequency Response Function versus Frequency, Lowest Load, 0-300 Hz (19 and 24).



Figure 21. Magnitude of Frequency Response Function versus Frequency, Lowest Load, 0-125 Hz (SH 19 and 24).



Figure 22. Magnitude of Frequency Response Function versus Frequency, Lowest Load N = 2048 (higher resolution), 0-125 Hz (SH 19 and 24).



Figure 23. Magnitude of Frequency Response Function versus Frequency, Lowest Load N = 512 (lower resolution), 0-115 Hz (SH 19 and 24).



Figure 24. Magnitude of Frequency Response Function versus Frequency, Lowest Load, Corrected Pulse with No Discontinuity, 0-125 Hz (SH 19 and 24).

almost monotonic decrease in response with frequency and distance. This response is more consistent with computed responses from models based on elasto-dynamic or viscoelastic theory (Figure 7 for example).

The response magnitude for the highest load (SH 19 and 24) is shown in Figure 25 for a frequency range of 0-300 Hz. Comparison of Figure 25 with Figure 20 (lowest load) shows that noise effects (as manifested by an increase of response magnitude with frequency) are less pronounced for the highest load case, where noise effects are apparent only at the highest frequencies (250-300 Hz). The highest load response also exhibits much less oscillation than the lowest load. The noise effects are smaller for higher loads, probably because the noise is independent of load. This reduces the effect of division by a small number (containing random noise), as indicated in Equation 12.

The correlation between the discontinuity caused by the truncated pulse tail and the oscillations can be seen more readily by referring to Table 4, which shows the ratio of the pulse "tail" discontinuity to the pulse peak for the force pulse and all the displacement sensors. High values of the "tail ratio" in Table 4 consistently indicate severe oscillations in the magnitude and phase of the frequency response functions. The "tail ratio" is consistently higher for the lowest load cases, apparently because the pulse tail is relatively independent of load. Therefore, low load cases will have relatively large "tails."

Nonlinear effects in the magnitude responses can be determined by a frequency-by-frequency comparison of Figures 24 and 25. If the pavement response system is linear, the responses in Figure 24 and 25 for a given frequency and sensor (distance) should be equal, since the frequency response function is defined on a per unit load basis.

Phase angle data for the lowest level (SH 19 and 24) is shown in Figures 26-31. The uncorrected phase angle data in Figures 26-29 is difficult to interpret because of "jumps" or discontinuities caused by the arctangent function, which is restricted to the range between -180° and +180°. The jumps occur when the phase angle gets more negative than -180°, causing the arctangent to go to the next "branch" starting at +180°. In Figure 26, the "jumps" start at about 35 Hz, with the outermost sensors jumping first. The first three sensors show no jumps at all because the phase angle never gets more negative than -180°. The "jumps" are so numerous in Figure 27 (which shows the extended 0-300 Hz frequency range) that it would be impractical to try to correct the data. The improved resolution seen in Figure 28, with sample size of 2048, helps in interpreting the

PEAK LOAD 1163 kPa



Figure 25. Magnitude of Frequency Response Function versus Frequency, Highest Load, 0-300 Hz (SH 19 - 24).

Highway	Load Level	Force Load	Sensor						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SH 19 & 24	Lowest	0.0027	-0.104	-0.0864	-0.172	-0.238	-0.3125	-0.4167	-0.25
	Highest	-0.0094	-0.0218	-0.0084	-0.017	-0.0652	-0.103	-0.117	-0.1617
FM 79	Lowest	-0.016	-0.190	-0.138	-0.174	-0.194	-0.258	-0.35	-0.375
	Highest	-0.037	-0.055	-0.010	-0.032	-0.065	-0.083	-0.121	-0.172
SH 82	Lowest	-0.032	-0.051	-0.064	-0.156	-0.192	-0.192	-0.175	-0.161
	Highest	-0.009	+0.048	0.161	0.00787	-0.0078	-0.027	-0.0511	-0.091

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Table 4. Tail Ratio for Three Pavements and Two Load Levels.



Figure 26. Phase Angle versus Frequency, Lowest Load, 0-125 Hz (SH 19 - 24).







Figure 28. Phase Angle versus Frequency, Lowest Load, 0-125 Hz, N = 2048 (higher resolution), (SH 19 and 24).



Figure 29. Phase Angle versus Frequency, Lowest Load, 0-115 Hz, N = 512 (lower resolution), (SH 19 and 24).

discontinuities, but interpretation is still difficult. The poor resolution in Figure 29 with sample size of 512, makes interpretation impossible. The phase data in Figure 30 shows the effect of applying the linear correction to the pulse to eliminate the tail discontinuity, as indicated in Figure 14b. Figure 30 shows a single jump for each of the last three sensors.

The jumps in the last three sensors were eliminated by subtracting 360° from the phase angles immediately after the jump. The results are seen in Figure 31. The phase angle data is seen to behave regularly, with the phase angle for each sensor increasing with frequency and the phase angles increasing with distance. The phase angles are nearly linear with frequency for the first 20-30 degrees. Some irregularity is present in the phase data for the higher frequencies and the outer sensors. This is probably due to noise in the sensor or force signal. A comparison of the uncorrected phase data in Figures 26 and 28 to the corrected data in Figure 31 shows the dramatic improvement made possible by the correction.

The phase angle data for the highest load (SH 19 and 24) is shown in Figure 32. Except for the first three sensors, the phase angle data has many discontinuities due to branch jumps and is therefore difficult to interpret. The oscillations are not as pronounced as they were for the lowest load, again because the tail discontinuity was moderate due to the high load level (Table 4).

Frequency response data on a thin pavement (FM 79) is given in Appendix A (Figures A5 to A9), and thick pavement data (SH 82) is given in Appendix B (Figures B5 to B9). No frequency resolution studies or pulse corrections were made on the data in Appendices A and B. The data is presented for comparison purposes to illustrate the changes in pavement thickness. The most interesting comparison is the correlation of the pulse tail ratio (Table 3) to the oscillations. The frequency response functions for SH 82 behaved similarly to SH 19 and 24, whereby the oscillations are worse for the lowest load. The thin pavement (FM 79) behaved differently; the moderate "tails" in the lowest load pulses resulted in moderate oscillations in the frequency response functions in Figures A5 and A6. The highest load data in Figure A7 showed severe oscillations by sensor 2 which had the worst tail. Sensors 3 through 7 had very little oscillation because the "tails" were small (Table 4). The phase angle data for the FM 79 highest load (Figure A9) had the least number of discontinuities, or jumps from -180° to +180°, of any of the uncorrected data in the frequency range of 0 to 125 Hz because the oscillations were small for the outer sensors. All of the other phase data for SH 82 and FM 79 is very difficult to interpret because



Figure 30. Phase Angle versus Frequency, Lowest Load, 0-125 Hz Corrected Pulse with No Discontinuity (SH 19 and 24).



Figure 31. Phase Angle versus Frequency, Lowest Load, 0-125 Hz Using Corrected Pulse with Branch Jumps Eliminated (SH 19 and 24).

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PEAK LOAD 1163 kPa



Figure 32. Phase Angle versus Frequency, Highest Load, 0-300 Hz (SH 19 and 24).

of the phase discontinuity problem. Whether this behavior is typical of thin pavements will not be known until more thin pavement data is analyzed.
CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Falling-Weight Deflectometer (FWD) full-pulse data from three in-service highway sections have been analyzed to obtain dynamic response information. The three sections analyzed have thin (1.5"), medium (9") and thick (12" asphaltic concrete pavements. Data for two load levels for each pavement have also been analyzed. The time series data for the force pulse and the seven seismometer surface deflection pulses at r = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 ft. are presented. The force and deflection pulse data were Fourier transformed using a Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) algorithm and pavement frequency response functions were computed. The frequency response functions are the FFT deflections divided by the FFT force. They are preseOnted in the form of separate magnitude and phase angle plots versus frequency for each displacement. These plots have an oscillatory component superimposed on them that is not predicted by the elasto-dynamic or viscoelastic theory. The oscillation makes the phase angle data for the outer sensors extremely difficult to interpret because it produces many "jumps" or discontinuities between -180° and $+180^{\circ}$. This will make the phase angle data reduction very expensive and time-consuming. In general, the severity of the oscillations is higher for the low load levels. The oscillation is attributed to the truncation of the pulses at 60 msec. This results in a discontinuity in the pulse because of zero-packing of the data in the FFT algorithm. The discontinuity occurs because the pulses do not decay out to zero at the end of the fixed sample time. The pulse "tails" may be due to one or more of the following factors:

- Drift from digital integration and filtering of the raw seismometer data,
- 2. Permanent deformation of the pavement, or
- 3. Premature truncation before the transient response has decayed out.

The relationship between the "tail" and the load level is shown by taking ratios of the "tails" to the peaking of the respective pulses. The results are shown in tabular form. A definite correlation between the "tail ratio" and the severity of oscillatory behavior of the frequency response functions is evident

by visually comparing the frequency plots to the "tail" ratios for both load levels.

To verify if the discontinuity in the displacement pulses was causing the oscillations, the pulses were adjusted by introducing a linear (in time) correction such that the discontinuity at 60 msec was eliminated. For the SH 19 and 24 lowest load data, the frequency response functions were recalculated using the corrected pulses. The result was that the superimposed oscillations were virtually eliminated for both magnitude and phase responses, giving the data a much smoother, regular variation with frequency. This greatly simplified interpretation of the phase angle data which without the correction has many discontinuities (from -180° to +180°) due to branch interchanges of the arctangent function. Making this correction to the data will enable investigators to make more accurate comparisons of computed responses to measured FWD responses. The improvement will make it economical and practical to interpret phase angle data for the full frequency range of 0-125 Hz.

Recommendations

- 1. For use in back-calculation studies to be performed later in the project, FWD full-pulse data should be presented in the form of frequency-response functions as defined in this report. The results should be presented in magnitude and phase-angle format. This format for presenting the data is similar to the format used in the computer programs developed for this project. The phase angle data (as shown, for example, in Figure 31) is particularly sensitive to damping effects, which are directly related to rutting and cracking properties of pavements.
- 2. As an interim measure to eliminate oscillations in frequency response functions, the FWD full-pulse data should be corrected to eliminate the "tail" discontinuity by using a linear correction in time as described in this report.
- 3. An investigation of the cause or causes of the pulse "tail" should be conducted and means of improving measurements for dynamic data analysis should be developed to reduce or eliminate the "tail." This investigation requires:
 - a. Dynatest FWD software and/or hardware modification so that a 100 msec or 120 msec pulse sampling period can be used as an option.

- b. Time-domain synthesis of responses should be computed from a linear layered viscoelastic media computer program using actual force pulse data as input (for comparison with extended time pulses).
- c. The manufacturer of the Dynatest units should investigate possible causes of drift and recommend ways to reduce or correct for drift.
- d. The possibility of pavement permanent deformation as a contributing cause of the pulse "tail" should be investigated. This will require analysis of responses using nonlinear stress-strain relationships locally, using finite element analysis.

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APPENDIX A

DATA FOR FM ROAD 79

Figure:

A1	Force pulse, lowest load
A2	Force pulse, highest load
A3	Deflection pulses, lowest load
A4	Deflection pulses, highest load
A5	Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, lowest load
A6	Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-250 Hz, lowest load
A7	Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, highest load
A 8	Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, lowest load
A9	Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, highest load



PEAK LOAD 375 kPa

Figure A-1. Force pulse, lowest load.



Figure A-2. Force pulse, highest load.



PEAK LOAD 375 kPa

Figure A-3. Deflection pulses, lowest level.

РЕАК **LOAD 1222** kPa



Figure A-4. Deflection pulses, highest load.



PEAK LOAD 375 kPa

Figure A-5. Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, lowest load.

PEAK LOAD 375 kPa



Figure A-6. Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-250 Hz, lowest load.



PEAK LOAD 1222 kPa

Figure A-7. Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, highest load.

PEAK LOAD 375 kPa



Figure A-8. Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, lowest load.



Figure A-9. Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, highest load.

APPENDIX B

DATA FOR STATE HIGHWAY 82

Figure:

 B2 Force pulse, highest load B3 Deflection pulses, lowest load B4 Deflection pulses, highest load B5 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, lowest load B6 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-250 Hz, lowest load B7 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, highest load B8 Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, lowest load B9 Phase angle of response, 0-125 Hz, highest load 	B1	Force pulse, lowest load
 B4 Deflection pulses, highest load B5 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, lowest load B6 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-250 Hz, lowest load B7 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, highest load B8 Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, lowest load 	B2	Force pulse, highest load
 B5 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, lowest load B6 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-250 Hz, lowest load B7 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, highest load B8 Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, lowest load 	B3	Deflection pulses, lowest load
 B6 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-250 Hz, lowest load B7 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, highest load B8 Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, lowest load 	B4	Deflection pulses, highest load
 B7 Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, highest load B8 Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, lowest load 	B5	Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, lowest load
B8 Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, lowest load	B6	Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-250 Hz, lowest load
	B7	Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, highest load
B9 Phase angle of response, 0-125 Hz, highest load	B8	Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, lowest load
	B9	Phase angle of response, 0-125 Hz, highest load



PEAK LOAD 365 kPa

Figure B-1. Force pulse, lowest load.



Figure B-2. Force pulse, highest load.



PEAK LOAD 365 kPa

Figure B-3. Deflection pulses, lowest load.

PEAK LOAD 1102 kPa SH 82: PT 0 ---- SENSOR 1 ---- SENSOR 2



Figure B-4. Deflection pulses, highest load.

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PEAK LOAD 365 kPa

Figure B-5. Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, lowest load.

PEAK LOAD 365 kPa



Figure B-6. Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-250 Hz, lowest load.

PEAK LOAD 1102 kPa



Figure B-7. Magnitude of frequency response function, 0-300 Hz, highest load.

PEAK LOAD 365 kPa



Figure B-8. Phase angle of response, 0-300 Hz, lowest load.



PEAK LOAD 1102 kPa

Figure B-9. Phase angle of response, 0-125 Hz, highest load.

APPENDIX C

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LISTING OF DATA ANALYSIS PROGRAM FOR FFT AND FREQUENCY-RESPONSE FUNCTIONS

C C C		THIS PROGRAMME IS TO COMPUTE FAST FOURIER TRANSFORMS AND TRANSFER FUNCTIONS OF THE RAW FWD DATA
с с с с с	*	
C C		AK1 is to convert micron to 'mu' i.e. milliseconds i.e. 1/1000 AK2 is to convert KPa to Psi
C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	* * *	<pre>N = 1024 PI=3.1415926535891924 MAX = -1. AK1 = .0001/2.54 AK2 = 109.73/6.894757 XMAX = 1023. XMIN = 0. YMAX = 1. r=0. t=0 tt=0 WRITE(6,*)'SH1924.DAT:point=0:LOWEST LOAD:N=1024' WRITE(7,*)'SH1924.DAT:point=0:LOWEST LOAD:N=1024' WRITE(9,*)'SH1924.DAT:point=0:LOWEST LOAD:N=1024' WRITE(9,*)'SH1924.DAT:point=0:LOWEST LOAD:N=1024' WRITE(10,*)'SH1924.DAT:point=0:LOWEST LOAD:N=1024' WRITE(10,*)'SH1924.DAT:point=0:LOWEST LOAD:N=1024' WRITE(6,111) FORMAT(2X,'FREQUENCY',10X,'FFTLOAD',10X,'FFTDEFLECTION') DO 220 I=0,299,2 READ(5,*)ILOAD(I),IENSOR(I,1),IENSOR(I,2),IENSOR(I,3), IENSOR(I,4),IENSOR(I,5),IENSOR(I,6),IENSOR(I,7),ILOAD(I+1), IENSOR(I+1,1),IENSOR(I+1,2),IENSOR(I+1,3),IENSOR(I+1,4), IENSOR(I+1,5),IENSOR(I+1,6),IENSOR(I+1,7) CONTINUE</pre>
с с		THE FOLLOWING STEP IS TO WRITE ALL THE DATA IN A SYSTEMATIC FASHION IN A FILE
CC C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	*	<pre>DO 221 I=0,299 write(10,113)ILOAD(I),IENSOR(I,1),IENSOR(I,2),IENSOR(I,3),</pre>
с с		ADJUSTING TAIL OF THE PULSE
c		DO 223 I=0,299

.

C C C 2222 C C C 1111 223	DO 222 K=1,7 T=(I-50) TT=(299-50) R=T/TT ALOAD(I)=FLOAT(ILOAD(I)) SENSOR(I,K)=FLOAT(IENSOR(I,K)) ALOAD(I)=(ALOAD(I)-(ALOAD(299)*R)) SENSOR(I,k)=(SENSOR(I,k)-(SENSOR(299,k)*R)) CONTINUE write(9,111)ALOAD(I),SENSOR(I,1),SENSOR(I,2),SENSOR(I,3), * SENSOR(I,4),SENSOR(I,5),SENSOR(I,6),SENSOR(I,7) FORMAT(5X,8(F6.0,3X)) CONTINUE
с С	ZERO PACKING:
C c c c	the following loop is to put zeroes for load & sensor values after 300 i.e. after sixty milliseconds value,since we have data only until sixty m.sec and we have defined n value to be larger than 300
230 240	DO 240 I = 300,N-1 DO 230 J=1,7 ALOAD(I) = 0. SENSOR(I,J)= 0. CONTINUE CONTINUE
с	DO 500 I=0,N-1
500 C	TEMP(I)=ALOAD(I)*AK2 TEMPX2(I+1)=CMPLX(TEMP(I),0.) CONTINUE CALL FFT(TEMPX2,10)
	DO 110 J=1,7 DO 120 I=0,N-1 TEMP(I)=SENSOR(I,J)*AK1 TEMPX1(I+1)=CMPLX(TEMP(I),0.)
120	CONTINUE CALL FFT(TEMPX1,10)
C C C C	THE NEXT STEP IS TO WRITE TRANSFER FUNCTIONS OF LOAD AND DISPLACEMENT FOR RAW DATA
	DO 160 I=0,1023 X(I+1)=I/.0002/1023
160	CONTINUE do i=1,1024 write(8,*)x(i),tempx2(i),tempx1(i) end do
с	DO 140 I=0,1023 IF (tempx1(i).EQ.0) THEN IF (tempx2(i).EQ. 0) THEN GO TO 140
С	end if end if
c	TEMPX3(I)=TEMPX1(I)/TEMPX2(I) MAG(I,J)=CABS(TEMPX3(I)) D1=AIMAG(TEMPX3(I)) D2=DEXI(TEMPX3(I))
С	D2=REAL(TEMPX3(I)) MAY BE THIS: WRITE(7,*)D1,D2 IF (D1.EQ.0) THEN IF (D2 .EQ. 0) THEN GO TO 140 END IF END IF

	PHASE(I,J) = ATAN2(D1, D2)
	PHASE(I,J)=(180.0*PHASE(I,J))/PI
140	CONTINUE
110 c	CONTINUE
С	THE MAX VALUE 'N' FOR I DEPENDS ON
С	(5000/1024)=(100/N)
C C	E.G.FOR A FR OF 100, N=(100*1024/5000)
د	DO 122 I=1,1024
	X(I+1)=I/.0002/1023
122	CONTINUE
с	DO I=1,62 For magnitudes
•	WRITE(6,900)X(I),(MAG(I,J),J=1,7)
900	FORMAT(F10.4,2X,7(E10.4,1X))
С	NOW FOR THE PHASE ANGLES
920	WRITE(7,920) X(I),(PHASE(I,J),J=1,7) Format(f10.4,2X, 7(f8.2, 1X))
320	END DO
	STOP
•	END
С	SUBROUTINE FFT(X,M)
	COMPLEX X(1024), U, W, T
	N=2**M
4	PI=3.1415926535891924
	DO 20 L=1,M LE=2**(M+1-L)
	LE1=LE/2
	U=(1.0,0.0)
	W=CMPLX(COS(PI/FLOAT(LE1)),-SIN(PI/FLOAT(LE1)))
	DO 20 J=1,LE1 DO 10 I=J,N,LE
	IP=I+LE1
	T=X(I)+X(IP)
10	X(IP)=(X(I)-X(IP))*U X(I)=T
20	V=U*W
	NV2=N/2
	NM1=N-1
	J=1 D0 20 T=1 NM1
	DO 30 I=1,NM1 IF(I.GE.J) GO TO 25
	T=X(J)
-	X(J) = X(I)
25	X(<u>1</u>)=T K=NV2
26	IF(K.GE.J) GO TO 30
	J=J-K
•	K=K/2.
30	GO TO 26 J=J+K
<i></i>	RETURN
	END