

INTERACTION NOTES

Note 313

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A Transmission Line Corona Experiment

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ABSTRACT

Because of possible importance of corona effects to EMP analysis and hardening programs, a two-part study program was undertaken: first, an experimental phase to measure electric and magnetic fields of a transmission line structure with corona; second, an analytical phase to develop a simple corona model and determine the model parameters from the test data.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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CONTENTS

| <u>Section</u> | | <u>Page</u> |
|----------------|--|-------------|
| I | INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| II | EXPERIMENTAL CONFIGURATION | 5 |
| | Test Facility | 5 |
| | High-Voltage Pulser | 11 |
| | Instrumentation | 20 |
| III | TEST RESULTS | 28 |
| IV | CORONA MODEL | 44 |
| | Basic Physical Mechanisms of Corona | 44 |
| | Corona Effect on Transmission Line Parameters | 46 |
| | Simple Transmission Line Model of Corona | 62 |
| V | CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS | 67 |
| APPENDIX | ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FLUX DATA | 69 |

ILLUSTRATIONS

| <u>Figure</u> | | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------|--|-------------|
| 1 | View of Test Facility from Termination End | 6 |
| 2 | View of Test Facility Including Instrumentation Trailer | 7 |
| 3 | Top View of Corona Test Facility | 8 |
| 4 | Attachment of Pulser Output to Test Wire | 10 |
| 5 | Diagram of High-Voltage Pulser | 12 |
| 6 | Photograph of High-Voltage Pulser | 13 |
| 7 | Pulser Output for Negative Voltages | 15 |
| 8 | Pulser Output for Positive Voltages | 17 |
| 9 | Pulser Output for Successive Pulses | 21 |
| 10 | Interior View of Instrumentation Trailer | 22 |
| 11 | Exterior View of Instrumentation Trailer | 23 |
| 12a | Response With Pulse Generator in Trailer | 25 |
| 12b | Response with Pulse Generator at Station One | 25 |
| 13 | Mounting Configuration for Magnetic and Electric Field Sensors | 26 |
| 14 | Impedance as a Function of Time-Station 1 | 35 |
| 15 | Impedance as a Function of Time-Station 1 | 36 |
| 16 | Impedance as a Function of Time-Station 3 | 37 |
| 17 | Impedance as a Function of Time-Station 3 | 38 |
| 18 | Impedance as a Function of Time-Station 5 | 39 |
| 19 | Impedance as a Function of Time-Station 5 | 40 |
| 20a | Simple Model of the Effects of Corona on the Transmission Line | 47 |
| 20b | Cross-Section of Transmission Line | 47 |
| 21 | Corona Radius as a Function of Time - Station 1 | 51 |
| 22 | Corona Radius as a Function of Time - Station 1 | 52 |
| 23 | Corona Radius as a Function of Time - Station 3 | 53 |
| 24 | Corona Radius as a Function of Time - Station 3 | 54 |
| 25 | Corona Radius as a Function of Time - Station 5 | 55 |
| 26 | Corona Radius as a Function of Time - Station 5 | 56 |
| 27 | Corona Radius as a Function of Spatial Position - $V = -30$ kV | 57 |
| 28 | Corona Radius as a Function of Spatial Position - $V = 30$ kV | 58 |
| 29 | Corona Radius as a Function of Spatial Position - $V = -80$ kV | 59 |
| 30 | Corona Radius as a Function of Spatial Position - $V = 80$ kV | 60 |
| 31 | Section of Lumped Transmission Line | 63 |

SECTION I
INTRODUCTION

It has been suggested that corona may be a significant factor in determining the voltage and current induced on an antenna by a severe electromagnetic pulse (EMP) environment. Because of the possible importance of corona effects to several on-going EMP analysis and hardening programs, a study program was undertaken. This program consisted of two parts: first, an experimental phase to measure the electric and magnetic fields of a transmission line structure with corona; second, an analytical phase to develop a simple corona model and determine the model parameters from the test data.

A wire over a ground plane was selected as the basic experimental configuration. This geometry was selected because of its compatibility with existing transmission line theory and also, because the cost and fabrication problems were less severe than for an alternative configuration such as a concentric cylinder transmission line.

Section II of this report describes the transmission line facility, the high-voltage pulser used to drive the test wire and the instrumentation used to acquire the electric and magnetic field data. Test results and some basic calculations performed on the raw data are contained in Section III. A simple corona model for the transmission line over a ground plane configuration is discussed in Section IV. Preliminary conclusions and recommendations for further work are presented in Section V.

SECTION II

EXPERIMENTAL CONFIGURATION

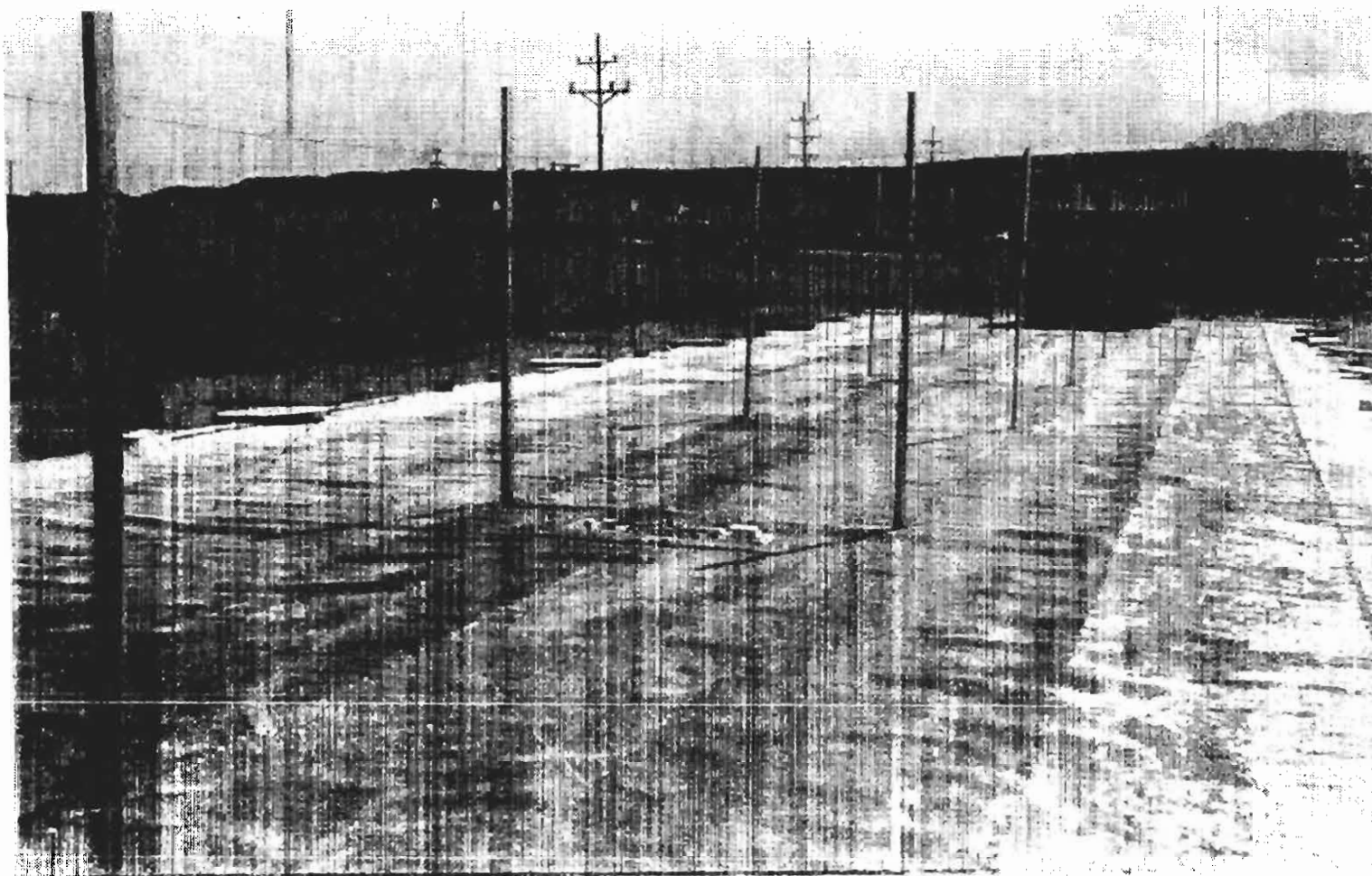
The three basic elements of the experimental configuration are the transmission line over a ground plane test facility, the high-voltage pulser used to drive the test wire, and the field sensors and recording instrumentation. Each of these basic elements is discussed in considerable detail because of their importance to the interpretation of the test data.

1. TEST FACILITY

The test facility was constructed on the northeast corner of the Kaman property in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Relatively minor grading and filling of the natural terrain resulted in a smooth, level area suitable for placement of the 30 x 130 foot ground plane. Figures 1 and 2 are photographs of the completed test facility and Figure 3 is a sketch illustrating some physical characteristics that are not apparent from the photographs.

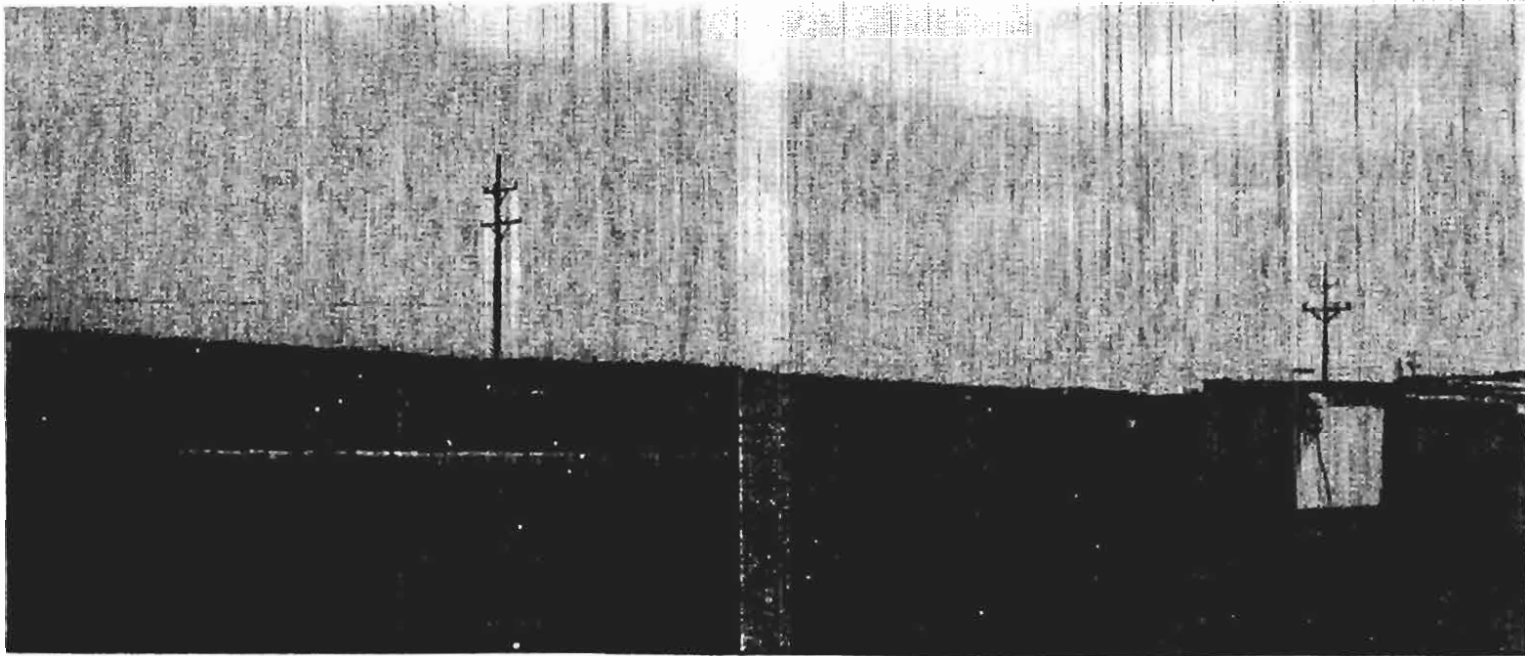
The vertical members of the wire support stanchions and the end support are 10 foot lengths of construction-grade 2 x 4 inch lumber set about 2 feet into the test site surface. The cross member of each stanchion is an 8 foot length of 1 x 4 inch lumber. Braided rayon cord is used to hold the test wire nearly parallel to the ground plane. This cord is attached directly to the wire and to small eyebolts fitted into the stanchion cross members and end support. An acute angle wire support geometry (i.e., the angle of the cord relative to the test wire) is not used because of the relatively low test voltage levels. However, the support structure is compatible with acute angle geometry if the need should arise in later testing.

A small corona ring (3/16 inch diameter copper tube formed into a 2½ inch diameter ring) is attached to the test wire at



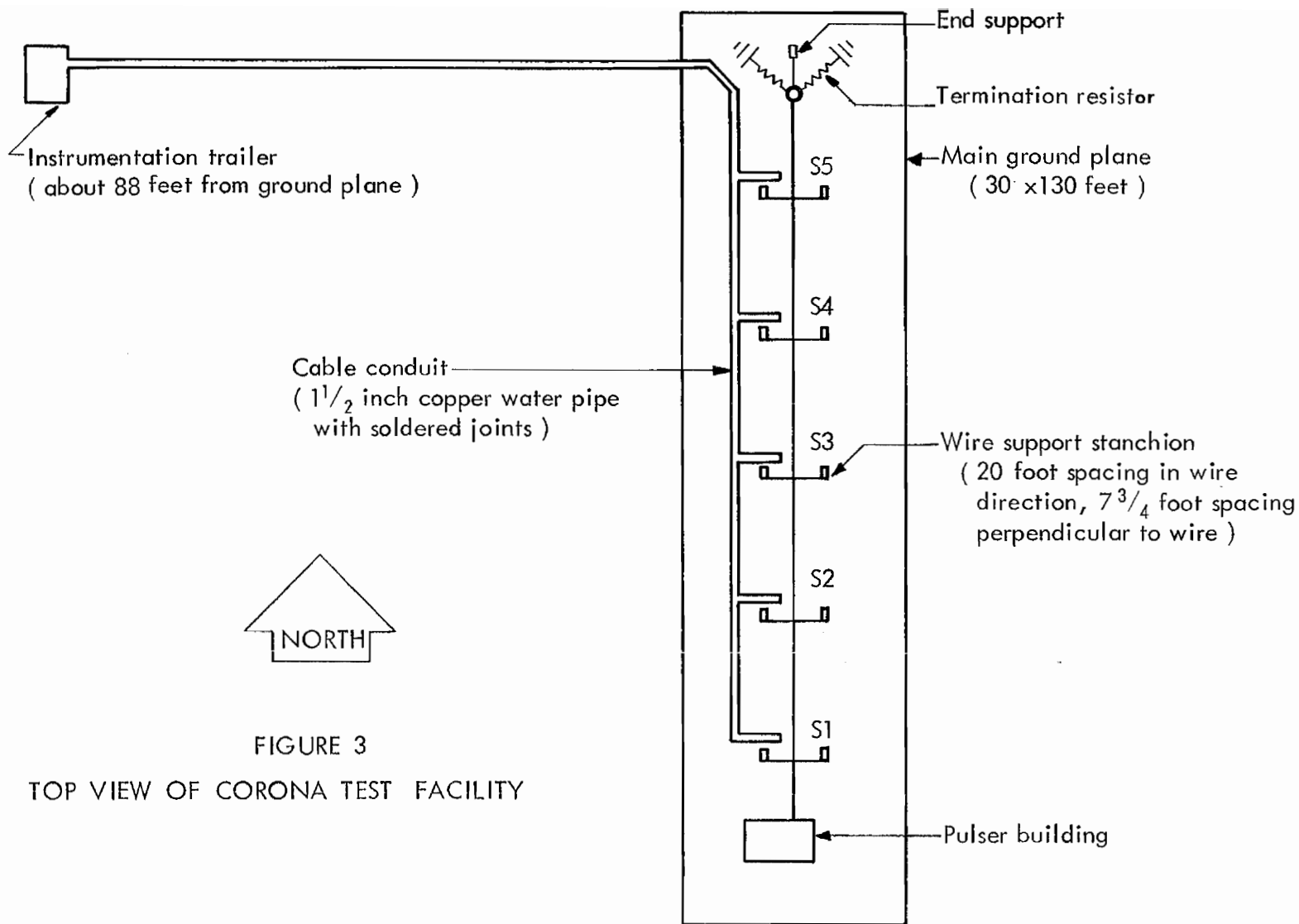
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FIGURE 1
VIEW OF TEST FACILITY FROM TERMINATION END



7

FIGURE 2
VIEW OF TEST FACILITY INCLUDING INSTRUMENTATION TRAILER



8

FIGURE 3
TOP VIEW OF CORONA TEST FACILITY

the termination end. Two strings of carbon composition resistors (20 2-watt, 51-ohm resistors in each string) are soldered to the corona ring and tapered down to the ground plane at approximately a 45 degree angle. The test wire is fastened to the end support with several feet of braided rayon cord running from the corona ring to a small spring scale attached directly to the end support. This scale is used to establish the proper tension for the test wire - about 2½ pounds for 20 guage copper wire.

The pulser is designed with a cap nut screwed over the primary output terminal. A small hole drilled through the cap nut provides for mechanical and electrical attachment of the test wire to the pulser output. As shown by Figure 4, this results in a very clean output configuration.

The test facility is configured for five measuring stations as indicated by the conduit outline shown in Figure 3. Solder fittings are used for all of the connections in the main part of the conduit; however, the short sections from the measuring stations are clamped into T-joints in the main conduit. All of the conduit in the ground plane region is buried about 4 inches into the test facility surface.

Cable pairs are routed from stations S1, S3 and S5 to the instrumentation trailer. In addition, jumper pairs are routed from S1 to S2 and S3 to S4 to enable measurements to be made from the intermediate stations. An RG-8/U size cable with foam dielectric was chosen because of its high propagation velocity ($v_p = 0.78c$) and relatively low-loss characteristics (nominal attenuation of 1.2 db/100 ft at 50 MHz and 1.8 db/100 ft at 100 MHz). Cable ends are fitted with locking type GR874 connectors at the sensors and with nonlocking type GR874 connectors at the instrumentation trailer.

Prior to placement of the ground plane, the test site surface was covered with a 0.006 inch plastic sheet to inhibit weed growth. The main ground plane consists of eight 4 x 130 foot

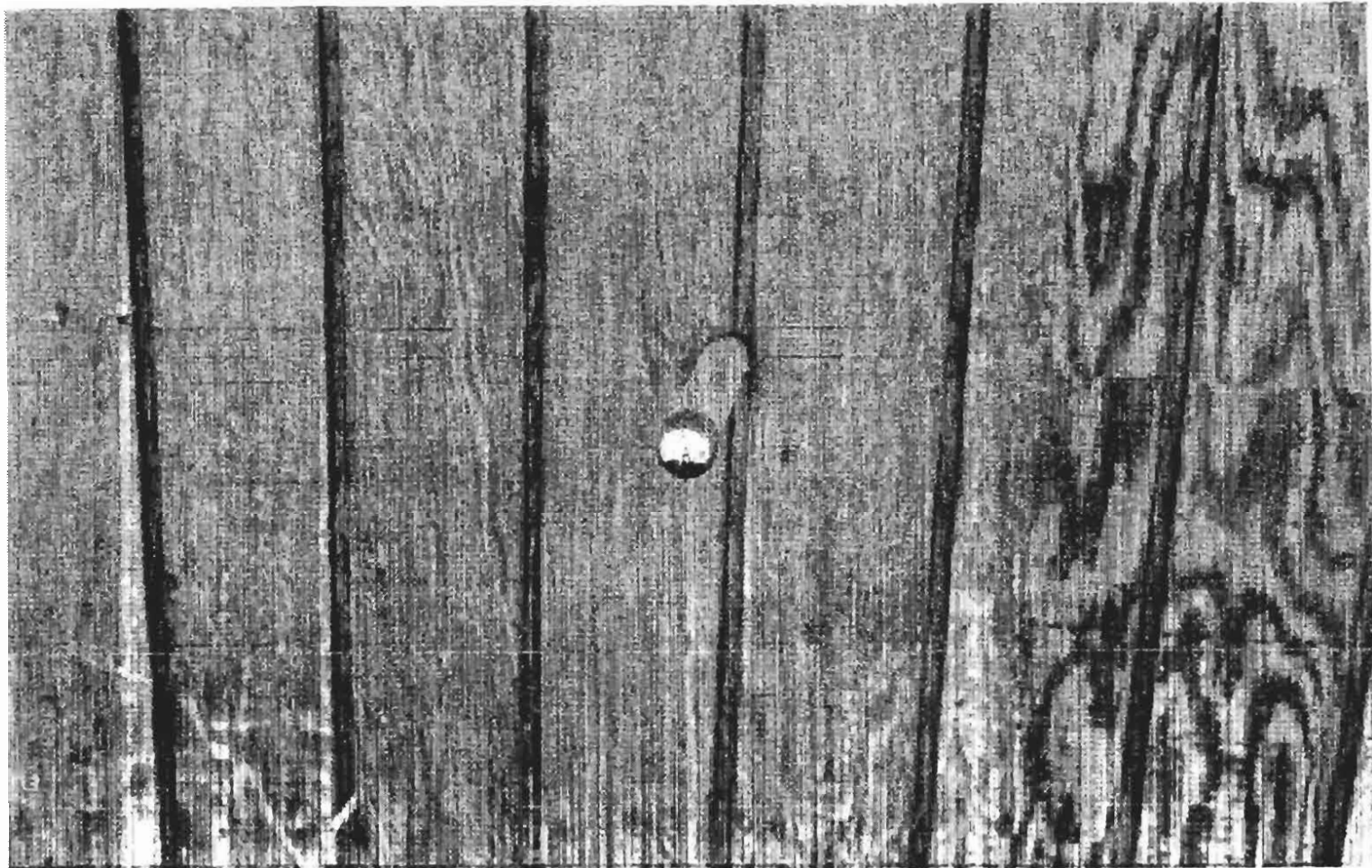


FIGURE 4
ATTACHMENT OF PULSER OUTPUT TO TEST WIRE

rolls of copper wire cloth (No. 16 mesh size, 0.017 inch wire diameter). The rolls are overlapped about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and spot-soldered at 4 to 6 inch intervals to form an overall surface slightly wider than 30 feet.

Power for the instrumentation trailer was obtained from a commercial outlet in a Kaman manufacturing building located about 100 feet west of the trailer site. A high-quality power line filter (Lindgren Model C-30-2) is built into the trailer to prevent noise coupled onto the power cord from interfering with operation of the recording oscilloscopes.

The trailer and instrumentation are inherently grounded by the main ground plane and the buried conduit. An additional and perhaps lower impedance ground is provided by an 8 foot copper rod located near the trailer and securely clamped to the cable conduit.

2. HIGH-VOLTAGE PULSER

The high-voltage pulser used to drive the transmission line was designed and fabricated at Kaman. It essentially consists of a 120 kV charging supply (Universal Voltronics Model BPO-130-5-K3), a coaxial cable energy storage element (140 feet of RG-220/U), and a 100 kV spark gap output switch (Maxwell Laboratories Model 40065). Figure 5 is a schematic of the pulser; it shows the basic pulser components plus the charging resistor and the trigger electrode grading resistors. The schematic also indicates the approximate layout of the various components.

Figure 6 is a photograph of the finished unit as installed in the test facility pulser building. The pulser output appears in the lower, left region of the photograph; the output cable exits from the building and is terminated with the cap nut as shown in Figure 4. In accordance with normal design practice, the spark gap and grading resistors are operated in an SF₆ environment. This environment is provided by a 2 x 3 x 3 foot

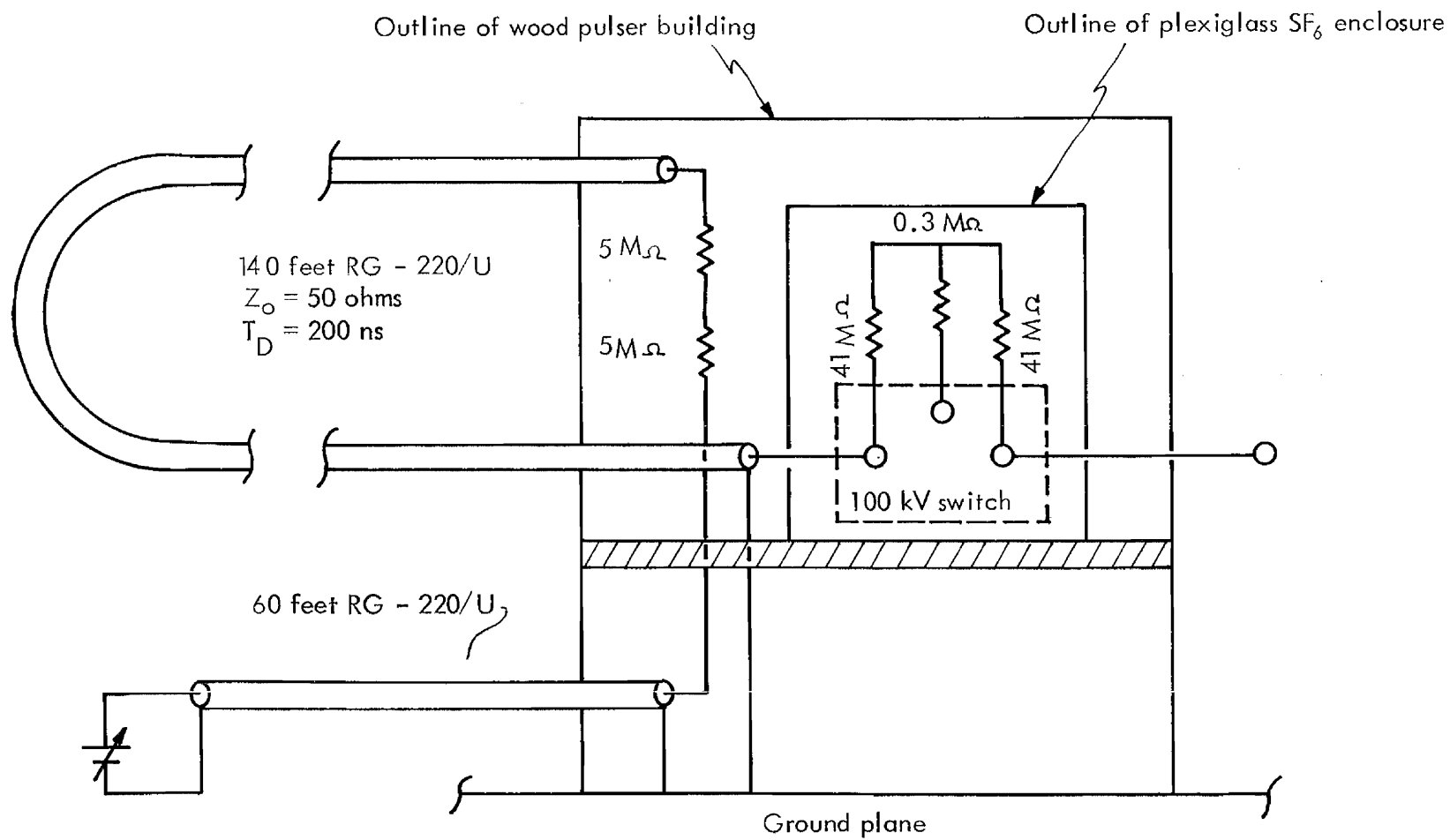


FIGURE 5
 DIAGRAM OF HIGH-VOLTAGE
 PULSER

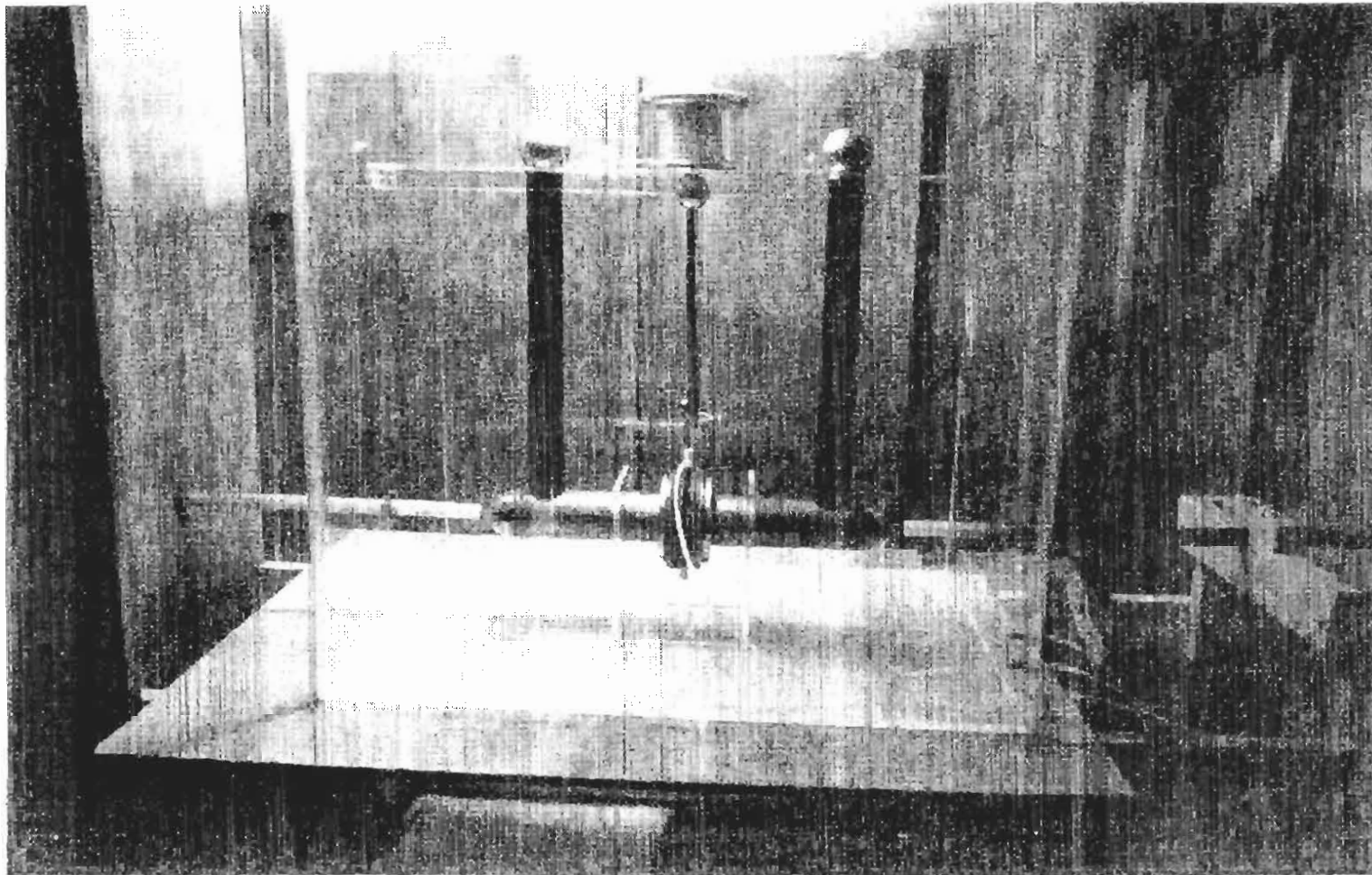
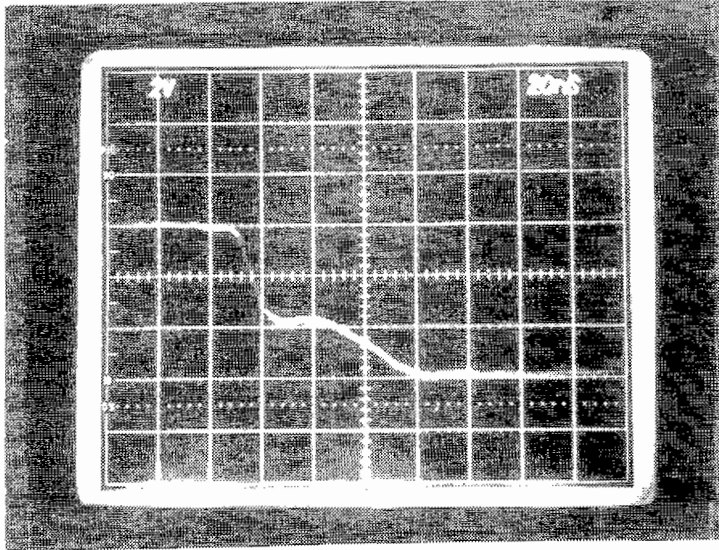


FIGURE 6
PHOTOGRAPH OF HIGH-VOLTAGE PULSER

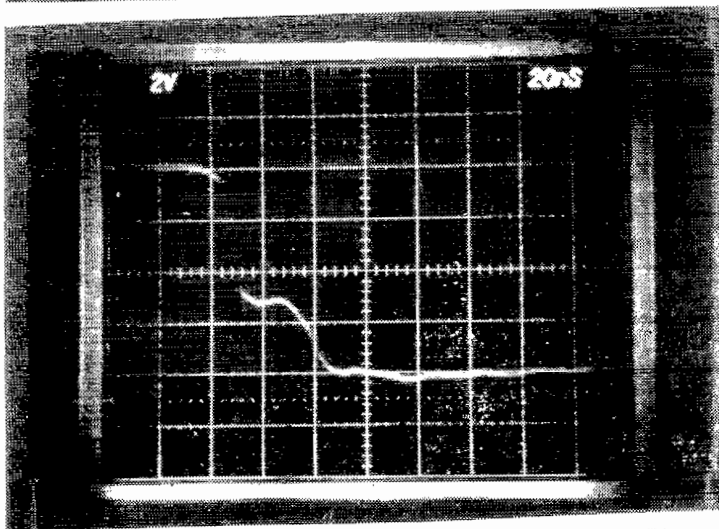
plexiglass enclosure fabricated from 3/8 inch stock. Air feed and vent lines for the spark gap and the SF₆ feed line to the enclosure are shown in the lower, right region of the photograph. It should be noted that the SF₆ enclosure is mounted on two horizontal 2 x 4s. The purpose of this design feature is to match the pulser height to the line height and thereby maintain a low-inductance configuration.

A second spark gap is apparent in the center, upper region of Figure 6. This gap was included in the initial design to provide a low-jitter trigger capability. However, this capability was not developed because creating a rapid decrease in the gap air pressure proved to be an effective triggering method. This air pressure decrease was effected by manual control of a valve on the air vent line. In addition to its simplicity, the pressure relief triggering method has a further advantage in that there is no precursor pulse.

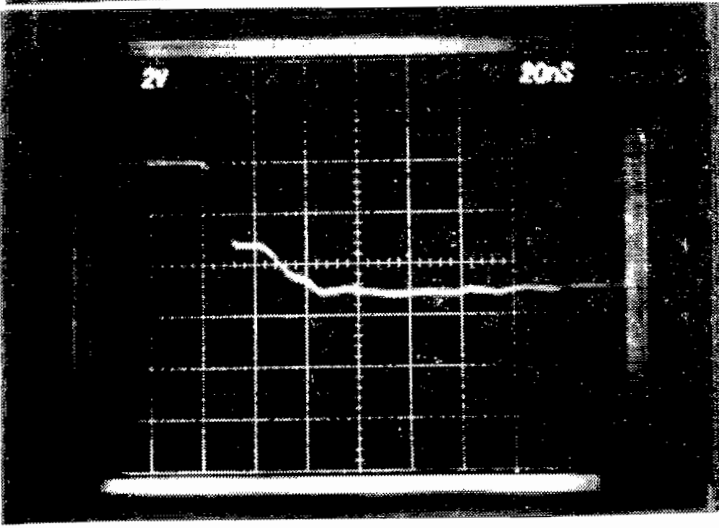
The pulser was characterized by operation into a load impedance comparable to the 500-ohm characteristic impedance of the transmission line test facility. Measurements were made with a 500-ohm copper sulfate resistor (2½ inch diameter x 23 inch length) and a 500-ohm carbon composition resistor configuration (two parallel strings with 10 2-watt, 100-ohm units in each string). In each case, the Stoddart Model 93686-3 current probe was located on the ground plane to minimize the effects due to the parasitic capacitance between the current probe and the pulser output lead. The current waveforms were recorded with the same oscilloscope as was used for primary data acquisition. Figures 7 and 8 show the current waveforms for various negative and positive operating levels. These photographs are for the carbon composition resistor, but other photographs with the copper sulfate resistor showed virtually the same waveform.



$V_P = - 30 \text{ kV}$
 $S_V = 20 \text{ A/cm}$

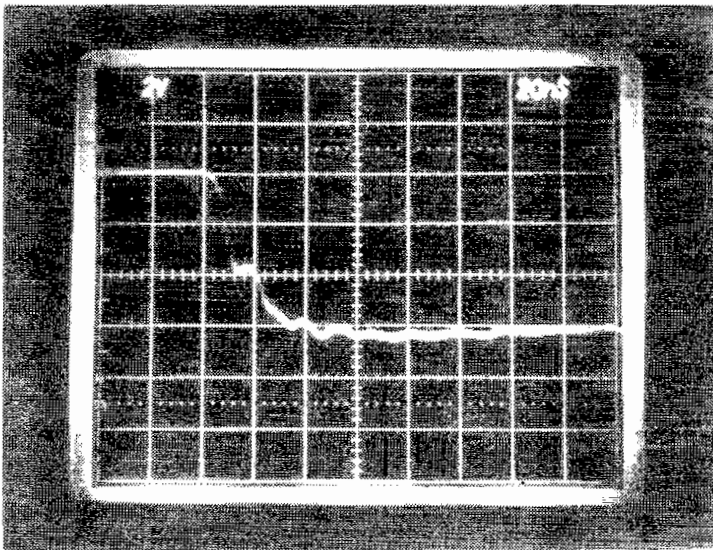


$V_P = - 40 \text{ kV}$
 $S_V = 20 \text{ A/cm}$



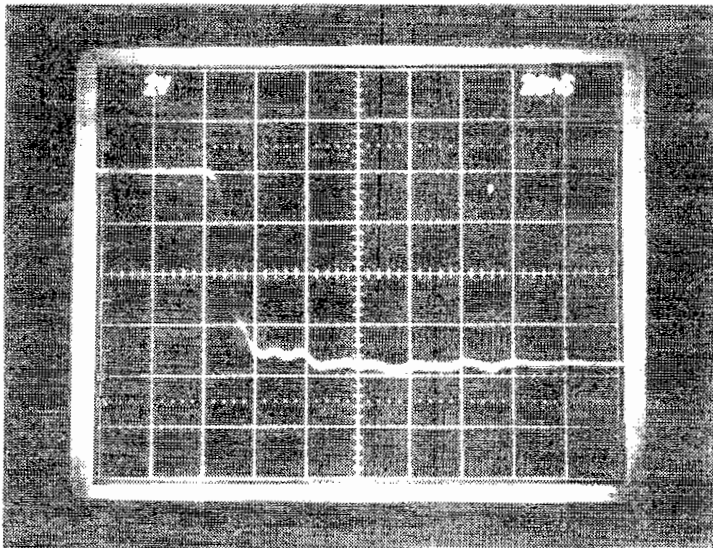
$V_P = - 50 \text{ kV}$
 $S_V = 40 \text{ A/cm}$

FIGURE 7
 PULSER OUTPUT FOR NEGATIVE VOLTAGES



$$V_P = -60 \text{ kV}$$

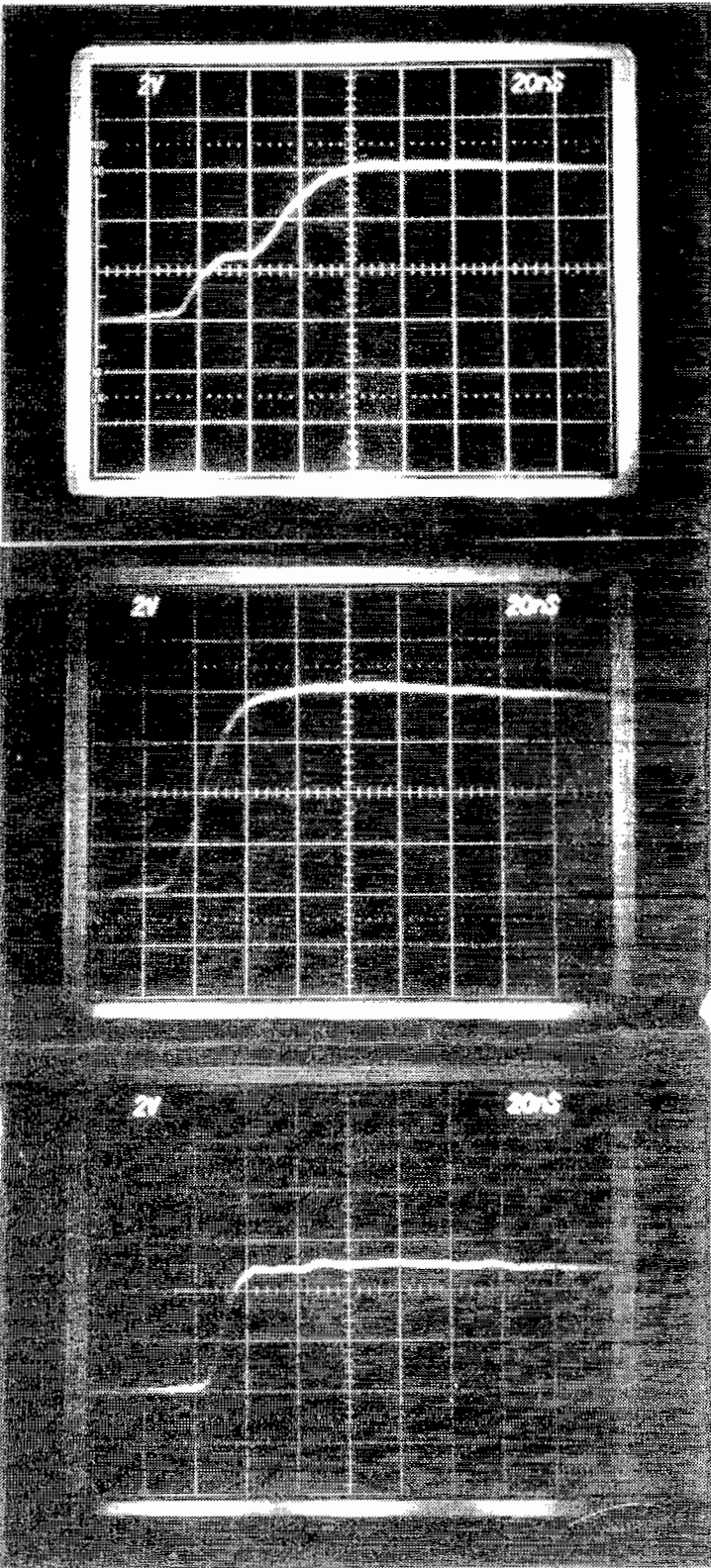
$$S_V = 40 \text{ A/cm}$$



$$V_P = -70 \text{ kV}$$

$$S_V = 40 \text{ A/cm}$$

FIGURE 7 (Continued)
PULSER OUTPUT FOR NEGATIVE VOLTAGES



$$V_P = 30 \text{ kV}$$

$$S_V = 20 \text{ A/cm}$$

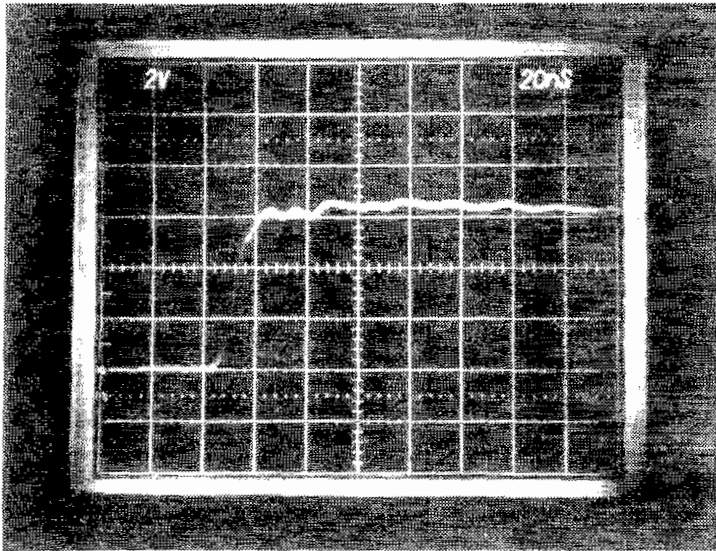
$$V_P = 40 \text{ kV}$$

$$S_V = 20 \text{ A/cm}$$

$$V_P = 50 \text{ kV}$$

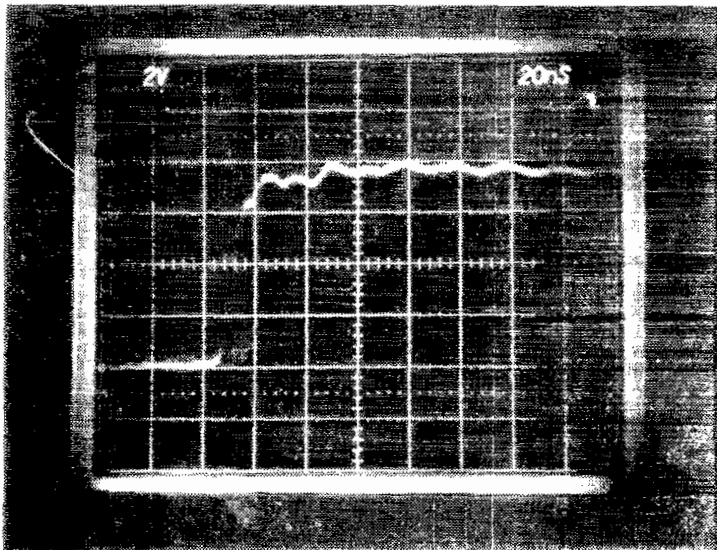
$$S_V = 40 \text{ A/cm}$$

FIGURE 8
PULSER OUTPUT FOR POSITIVE VOLTAGES



$$V_P = 60 \text{ kV}$$

$$S_V = 40 \text{ A/cm}$$



$$V_P = 70 \text{ kV}$$

$$S_V = 40 \text{ A/cm}$$

FIGURE 8 (Continued)
PULSER OUTPUT FOR POSITIVE VOLTAGES

The voltage levels referred to throughout this report are the levels on the charged coaxial cable. Since the RG-220/U cable has a 50-ohm characteristic impedance and the load impedance is 500 ohms, the peak line voltage is given by

$$V_L = \frac{R_L}{R_L + Z_0} V_P$$

$$V_L = 0.91 V_P$$

The expected peak load current is simply

$$I_L = \frac{V_L}{R_L} = \frac{V_P}{R_L + Z_0} = \frac{V_P}{550}$$

$$I_L = 1.82 V_P$$

where I_L is in amperes and V_P is in kV. A cursory examination of Figures 7 and 8 shows that the current levels are somewhat higher than expected. This probably indicates that the actual high-voltage level is a few percent greater than the recorded level since the current measurement is inherently more accurate than the voltage measurement.

A pulser characteristic of considerable importance in the interpretation of the test facility data is the decrease in current risetime at higher operating voltages. This is about as expected since the low voltage, high impedance operating condition represents an extremely light load for the model 40065 spark gap. Another characteristic of importance is the distinctive shoulder on the leading edge of the current waveform - particularly in the 30 to 40 kV operating region. Again, this is not too surprising since the 30 to 40 kV region is the lower end of the recommended operating range for the

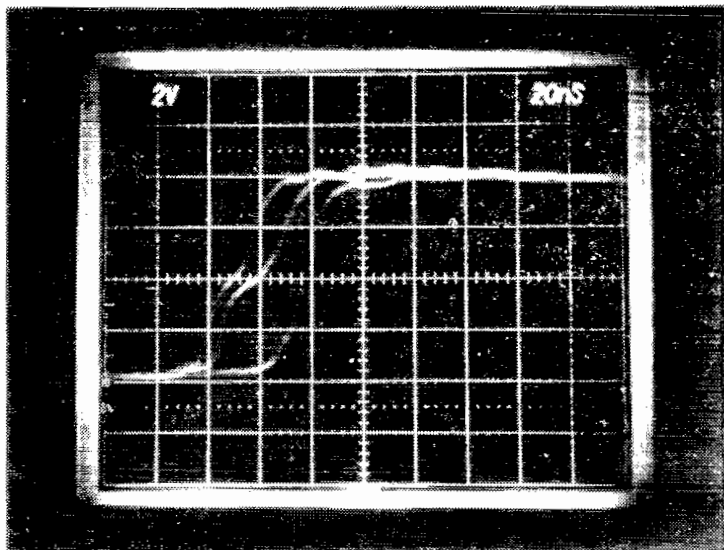
spark gap. Figure 9 is a comparison of pulse-to-pulse repeatability for two typical operating levels; very good pulse-to-pulse repeatability is apparent at 50 kV in contrast to the significant variations evident at 40 kV.

3. INSTRUMENTATION

The signal measuring instrumentation consisted of Tektronix type 7704A oscilloscopes with standard P31 phosphor, type 7A16A amplifiers and type 7B50 or 7B53A time base units. The specified bandwidth for this combination of equipment is 160 MHz. Each oscilloscope was equipped with a Tektronix type C50R camera. Based on specifications given in the supplier's product catalog, the expected photographic writing speed is about 1 cm/ns for the combination of P31 phosphor and C50R camera with Polaroid type 410 film (ASA 10,000).

Six complete oscilloscope/camera systems were assembled in the instrumentation trailer which was located about 90 feet west of the ground plane as shown in Figures 2 and 3. Figures 10 and 11 are close-up views of the trailer interior and exterior, respectively. One feature that should be noted in the interior view is the presence of a screen enclosure (shown with door open) for the oscilloscopes. Important features visible in the exterior view include the copper braid running from the end of the copper pipe to an entry port of the interior screen room, the power line filter just beneath the waterproof cover, and the equivalent-dipole antenna extending above the trailer.

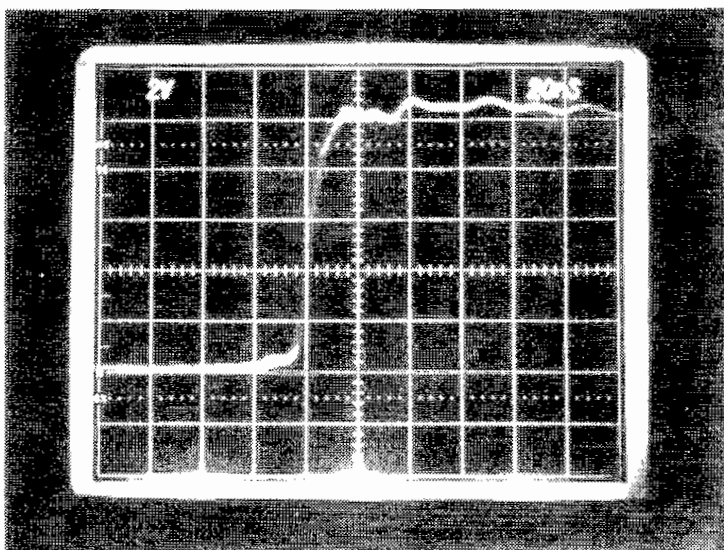
A signal from the dipole antenna noted in the preceding paragraph was used to generate a trigger for the recording oscilloscopes. The output of the dipole antenna was fed into the "External Trigger" input of a Tektronix type 485 oscilloscope in the instrumentation trailer. The "A Gate" output of the type 485 oscilloscope was used to trigger a special pulse generator which provided a high-level (~ 20 V), short-duration (~ 10 ns) pulse to drive the "External Trigger" inputs of all



$$V_P = 40 \text{ kV}$$

$$S_V = 20 \text{ A/cm}$$

3 Pulses



$$V_P = 50 \text{ kV}$$

$$S_V = 20 \text{ A/cm}$$

3 Pulses

FIGURE 9
PULSER OUTPUT FOR SUCCESSIVE PULSES



FIGURE 10
INTERIOR VIEW OF INSTRUMENTATION TRAILER

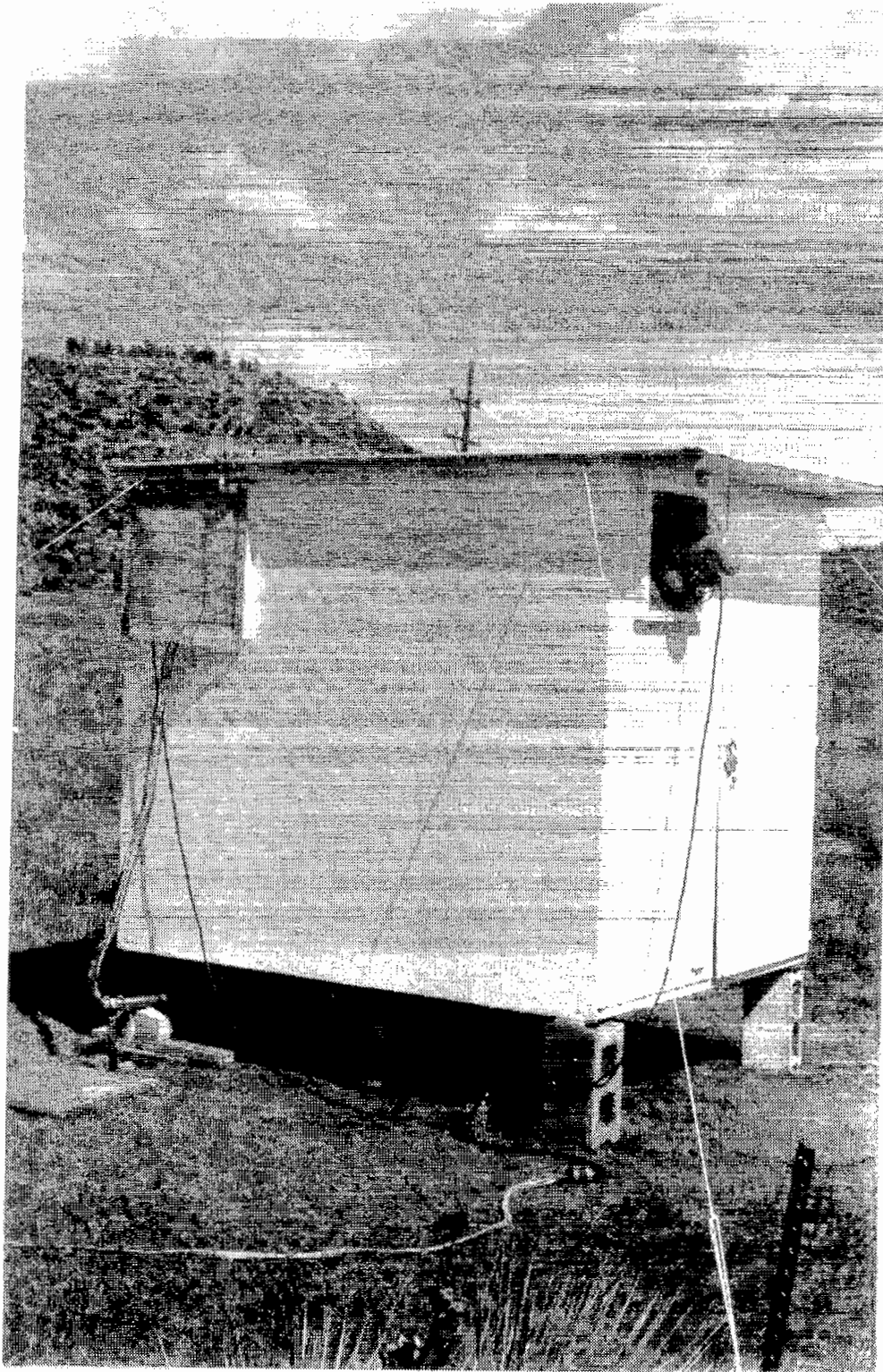


FIGURE 11
EXTERIOR VIEW OF INSTRUMENTATION TRAILER

of the type 7704A recording oscilloscopes. This triggering method enabled the leading edges of the sensor signals to be recorded with no difficulty because of the propagation times of these signals relative to the trigger signal.

A reference signal from a pulse generator was used to check the overall response of the recording instrumentation and the test facility cabling. Figure 12a shows the signal recorded on one of the type 7704A oscilloscopes with the pulse generator located in the instrumentation trailer. Figure 12b shows the same signal with the pulse generator located on the ground plane at station one (that is, after propagation through about 210 feet of the low-loss coaxial cable). As expected, the cable response is characterized by a rapid-rise phase followed by a slow approach to the final level. Since many of the signals of interest are in the 5 to 15 nanosecond regime, it is clear that the measurements will be somewhat low. However, this is not too severe a limitation if the analyses and modeling efforts are based primarily on relative signal levels.

Model MGL-S5A(A) B sensors and model HSD-S3A(R) D sensors were selected to measure the magnetic and electric fields at the ground plane. These types were chosen because of availability, a comparatively small size compatible with a transmission line height from 0.5 to 1 meter, and sufficient sensitivity to generate a measurable signal for the lowest expected operating voltage. Also, the risetime capability of less than 1 nanosecond for both types is considerably better than required.

As shown in Figure 13, each sensor is bolted to a copper sheet which is soldered to the ground plane. The transmission wire is located directly over the seam indicated in the center of the photograph (see Figure 1 for an overall view of the sensor locations). A 34 inch spacing between sensors was chosen to avoid mutual interference. Copper braid is used to shield the cable section between the sensor outputs and cable conduit located just below the ground plane. Each braid is clamped to

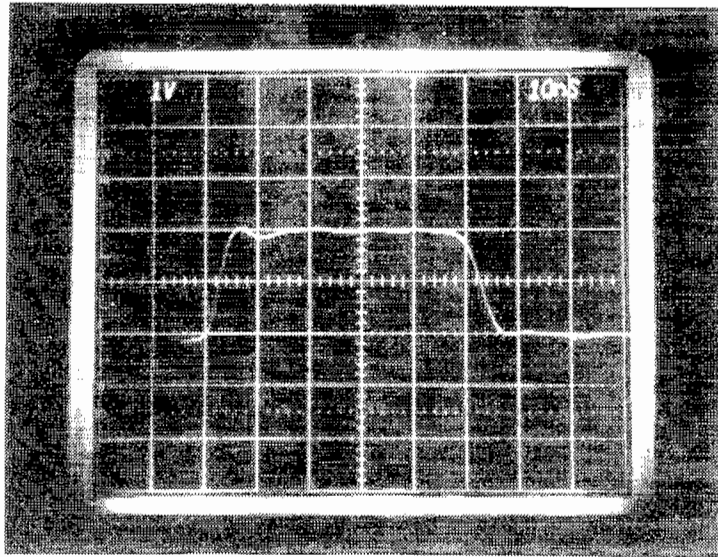


FIGURE 12a
RESPONSE WITH PULSE GENERATOR IN TRAILER

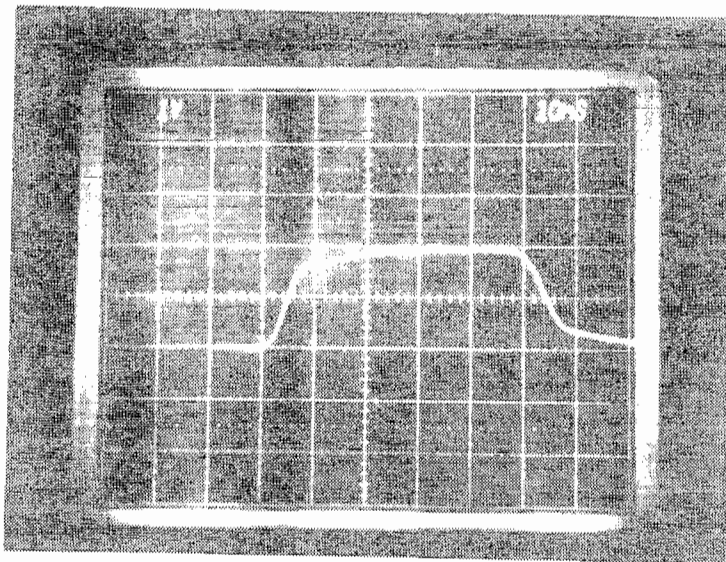


FIGURE 12b
RESPONSE WITH PULSE GENERATOR AT STATION ONE

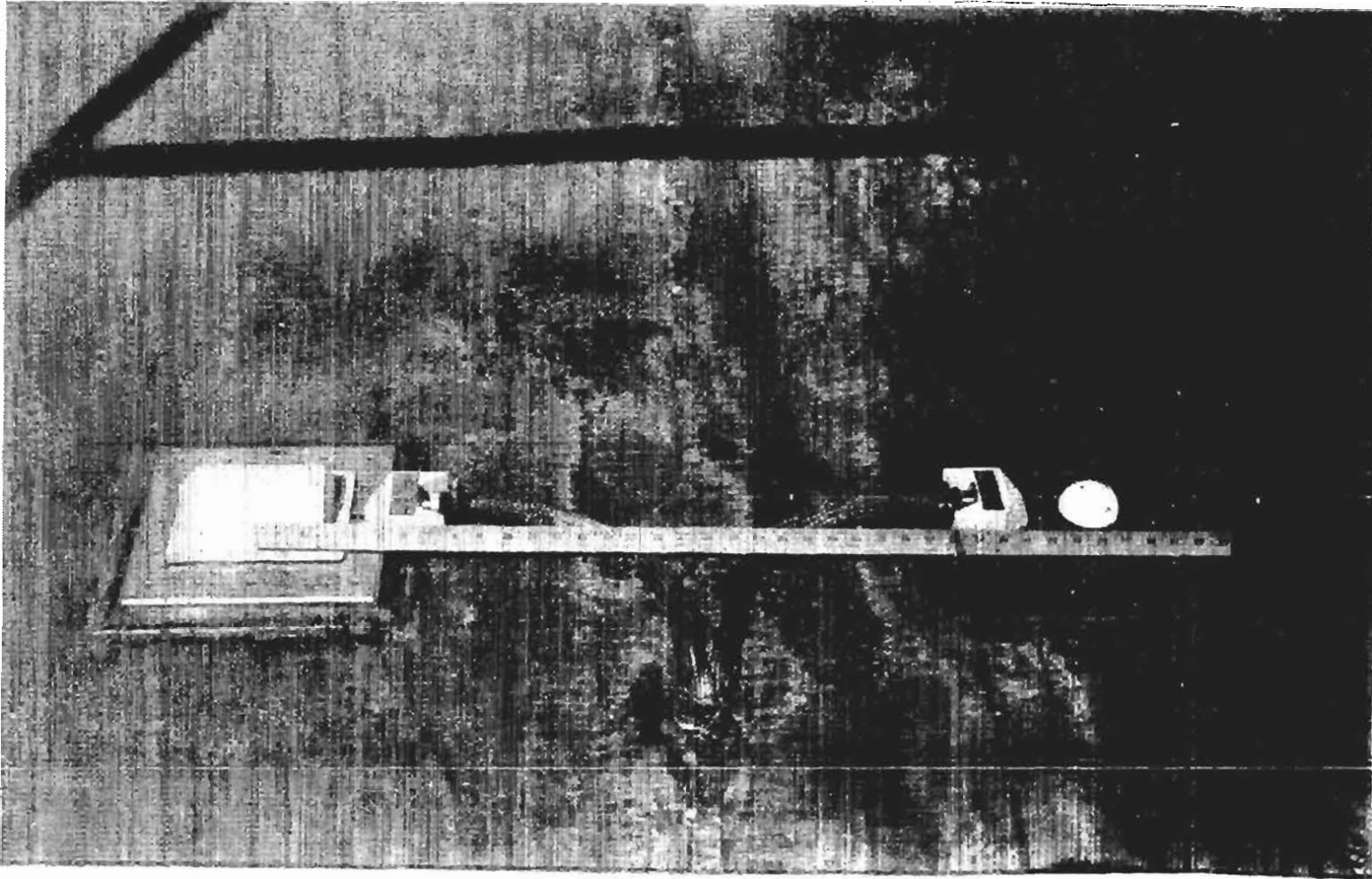


FIGURE 13
MOUNTING CONFIGURATION FOR MAGNETIC AND
ELECTRIC FIELD SENSORS

the connector shell on the sensor; it is spot-soldered to the ground plane at several places and soldered around the entire periphery where it feeds through the ground plane.

The pertinent equations for the sensors are

$$V_B = A_{eq} \frac{dB}{dt} \cos\theta$$

where

$$A_{eq} = 10^{-3} \text{ m}^2 = \text{sensor equivalent area}$$

$$\cos\theta = 1$$

$$B = \text{magnetic flux density in webers/m}^2$$

and

$$V_D = R A_{eq} \frac{dD}{dt}$$

where

$$A_{eq} = 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2 = \text{sensor equivalent area}$$

$$R = 50 \text{ ohms} = \text{load resistance}$$

$$D = \text{electric displacement or electric flux density in coul/m}^2$$

RCI-1C type integrators were used to electrically integrate the sensor outputs. The time constant for this type of integrator is 1 microsecond.

SECTION III
TEST RESULTS

Appendix A is a compilation of data for an operating voltage range from ± 30 kV to ± 80 kV. These data were taken with 0.8114 millimeter diameter (A.W.G. No. 20) copper wire positioned at 1 meter above the ground plane and the pulser configuration described in the preceding section. Other data taken earlier in the test program may be slightly different from the data presented in this report because of minor changes made to the test facility and/or the high-voltage pulser.

The atmospheric conditions were not recorded at the time the experiment was performed. However, Table 1 is a summary obtained from NOAA records for the Peterson Field measuring station in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The last column in Table 1 was calculated from the ideal gas law using a correction factor to account for the moisture content of the air (ref. 1). The test data presented in this report were acquired during the time period covered by Table 1, but a specific time cannot be assigned to each set of data.

The data given in Appendix A were taken on the basis of one station per excitation pulse. That is, \dot{B} and \dot{D} or B and D at a particular station pertain to the same excitation pulse but \dot{B} for station 3 is for a different pulse than \dot{B} for station 1. Similarly, \dot{B} and B at a particular station are for different pulses. As indicated by the current waveforms given in Section II, the pulse-to-pulse variation is significant at 30 to 40 kV which represents the lower end of the operating range for the 100 kV spark gap switch.

¹ Weast, R. C., Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, The Chemical Rubber Company, Cleveland, Ohio, 1968.

TABLE 1
LOCAL ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS

| DATE | TIME | TEMP (°F) | RELATIVE HUMIDITY (Percent) | DEW POINT (°F) | ABSOLUTE BAROMETRIC PRESSURE* (Inches of Hg) | AIR DENSITY (g/l) |
|--------------------|------|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 10 Sept 1976 | 0800 | 57 | 64 | 45 | 24.175 | 0.989 |
| | 0900 | 60 | 60 | 46 | 24.165 | 0.983 |
| | 1000 | 67 | 52 | 49 | 24.150 | 0.968 |
| | 1100 | 69 | 53 | 51 | 24.125 | 0.964 |
| | 1200 | 72 | 44 | 49 | 24.100 | 0.958 |
| | 1300 | 75 | 37 | 47 | 24.080 | 0.952 |
| | 1400 | 75 | 37 | 47 | 24.055 | 0.951 |
| | 1500 | 74 | 40 | 48 | 24.050 | 0.952 |
| | 1600 | 75 | 38 | 48 | 24.030 | 0.950 |
| | 1700 | 75 | 38 | 48 | 24.025 | 0.950 |
| 13 Sept 1976 | 0800 | 60 | 62 | 47 | 24.155 | 0.983 |
| | 0900 | 62 | 60 | 48 | 24.165 | 0.984 |
| | 1000 | 65 | 54 | 48 | 24.175 | 0.979 |
| | 1100 | 67 | 51 | 48 | 24.165 | 0.969 |
| | 1200 | 68 | 49 | 48 | 24.155 | 0.967 |
| | 1300 | 71 | 43 | 47 | 24.150 | 0.962 |
| | 1400 | 70 | 44 | 47 | 24.150 | 0.964 |
| | 1500 | 71 | 44 | 48 | 24.140 | 0.962 |
| | 1600 | 69 | 44 | 46 | 24.130 | 0.970 |
| 1700 | 68 | 44 | 45 | 24.130 | 0.972 | |
| 14 Sept 1976 | 0800 | 55 | 86 | 51 | 24.165 | 0.992 |
| | 0900 | 59 | 81 | 53 | 24.165 | 0.990 |
| | 1000 | 64 | 70 | 54 | 24.160 | 0.980 |
| | 1100 | 67 | 63 | 54 | 24.140 | 0.967 |
| | 1200 | 70 | 57 | 54 | 24.115 | 0.961 |
| | 1300 | 71 | 51 | 52 | 24.080 | 0.958 |
| | 1400 | 69 | 55 | 52 | 24.090 | 0.962 |
| | 1500 | 68 | 36 | 40 | 24.090 | 0.966 |
| | 1600 | 71 | 39 | 45 | 24.065 | 0.959 |
| 1700 | 64 | 56 | 48 | 24.105 | 0.973 | |

* The reference altitude for these data is 6092 feet.

TABLE 1 (Continued)
 LOCAL ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS

| DATE | TIME | TEMP (°F) | RELATIVE HUMIDITY (Percent) | DEW POINT (°F) | ABSOLUTE BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (Inches of Hg) | AIR DENSITY (g/l) |
|--------------------|------|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 15 Sept 1976 | 0800 | 64 | 58 | 49 | 24.090 | 0.972 |
| | 0900 | 67 | 50 | 48 | 24.100 | 0.967 |
| | 1000 | 69 | 45 | 47 | 24.100 | 0.963 |
| | 1100 | 72 | 44 | 49 | 24.090 | 0.957 |
| | 1200 | 66 | 63 | 53 | 24.080 | 0.967 |
| | 1300 | 69 | 55 | 52 | 24.065 | 0.961 |
| | 1400 | 69 | 55 | 52 | 24.050 | 0.960 |
| | 1500 | 70 | 51 | 51 | 24.050 | 0.959 |
| | 1600 | 67 | 49 | 47 | 24.060 | 0.965 |
| | 1700 | 65 | 52 | 47 | 24.065 | 0.970 |
| 16 Sept 1976 | 0800 | 54 | 80 | 48 | 24.150 | 0.994 |
| | 0900 | 57 | 75 | 49 | 24.140 | 0.987 |
| | 1000 | 58 | 72 | 49 | 24.140 | 0.985 |
| | 1100 | 62 | 65 | 50 | 24.130 | 0.977 |
| | 1200 | 65 | 61 | 51 | 24.110 | 0.971 |
| | 1300 | 68 | 55 | 51 | 24.090 | 0.964 |
| | 1400 | 69 | 53 | 51 | 24.080 | 0.962 |
| | 1500 | 68 | 55 | 51 | 24.055 | 0.963 |
| | 1600 | 69 | 57 | 53 | 24.080 | 0.961 |
| | 1700 | 69 | 57 | 53 | 24.080 | 0.961 |
| 17 Sept 1976 | 0800 | 59 | 81 | 53 | 24.080 | 0.980 |
| | 0900 | 63 | 70 | 53 | 24.080 | 0.973 |
| | 1000 | 68 | 59 | 53 | 24.075 | 0.963 |
| | 1100 | 74 | 41 | 49 | 24.055 | 0.952 |
| | 1200 | 77 | 32 | 45 | 24.040 | 0.947 |
| | 1300 | 80 | 25 | 41 | 24.015 | 0.944 |
| | 1400 | 78 | 28 | 42 | 24.010 | 0.945 |
| | 1500 | 79 | 26 | 41 | 24.000 | 0.943 |
| | 1600 | 74 | 33 | 43 | 24.000 | 0.951 |
| | 1700 | 70 | 47 | 49 | 24.000 | 0.957 |

Several basic calculations can be performed on the raw data to gain further insight into the transmission line response as a function of the pulser voltage. First of all, it is useful to summarize the relationships between the measured voltages and field quantities. For the MGL-S5A(A) \dot{B} sensor, the output voltage is given by

$$V_{\dot{B}} = A_{eq} \dot{B} \cos\theta$$

and since $A_{eq} = 10^{-3} \text{ m}^2$ and $\cos\theta = 1$

$$\dot{B} = 10^3 V_{\dot{B}}$$

For the HSD-S3A(R) \dot{D} sensor, the output voltage is given by

$$V_{\dot{D}} = R A_{eq} \dot{D}$$

and since $R = 50 \text{ ohms}$ and $A_{eq} = 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2$,

$$\dot{D} = 2V_{\dot{D}}$$

RCI-1C integrators were used to electrically integrate the derivative signals. For time intervals that are small compared to the RC time constant of the integrator, the expected output is

$$\begin{aligned} V_B &= \frac{1}{C} \int i dt = \frac{1}{C} \int \frac{V_{\dot{B}}}{R} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{RC} \int 10^{-3} dB \\ &= \frac{10^{-3} B}{RC} \end{aligned}$$

Since $RC = 10^{-6}$ seconds for the RCI-1C type integrator,

$$B = 10^{-3} V_B$$

A similar manipulation of V_D yields

$$D = 0.2 \times 10^{-5} V_D$$

The normal mode of propagation for the transmission line over a ground plane test configuration is TEM. For this mode of propagation, the ratio of E/H is simply the characteristic impedance of free space, Z_0 . One reasonable test on the data is to calculate Z at the ground plane to determine at what pulser level the impedance deviates significantly from Z_0 . The impedance can be calculated from the integral data in a very straightforward manner:

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= \frac{E}{H} = \frac{D/\epsilon_0}{B/\mu_0} = Z_0^2 \frac{D}{B} \\ &= \frac{Z_0^2}{500} \frac{V_D}{V_B} \\ &= 284 \frac{V_D}{V_B} \end{aligned}$$

Table 2 is a tabulation and Figures 14 through 19 are graphs of the calculated impedance at each of the three measuring stations.

One of the primary error sources in the foregoing impedance calculation is in the determination of t_0 for the recorded B and D waveforms. This limitation can be circumvented if the calculation is based on the peak \dot{B} and \dot{D} waveforms. For very early times or for pulser voltages less than the corona threshold, the appropriate relationship is

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= Z_0^2 \frac{\dot{D}}{\dot{B}} \\ &= 284 \frac{V_{\dot{D}}}{V_{\dot{B}}} \end{aligned}$$

Table 3 shows the impedance values calculated from the above expression.

TABLE 2
 IMPEDANCE VALUES CALCULATED FROM INTEGRAL DATA

| PULSER VOLTAGE (kV) | TIME (ns) | V _{B1} (mV) | V _{D1} (mV) | Z1 (ohms) | V _{B3} (mV) | V _{D3} (mV) | Z3 (ohms) | V _{B5} (mV) | V _{D5} (mV) | Z5 (ohms) |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| -30 | 20 | 10.5 | 15 | 406 | 10 | 14 | 397 | 10 | 15 | 428 |
| | 40 | 11 | 15.5 | 400 | 12 | 16 | 378 | 11 | 16 | 414 |
| | 60 | 13.5 | 19 | 400 | 14 | 20.5 | 416 | 14 | 20 | 406 |
| | 80 | 14.5 | 21 | 411 | 14.5 | 21 | 411 | 15 | 21 | 397 |
| | 100 | 15 | 21 | 397 | 14 | 21 | 426 | 14.5 | 21 | 426 |
| | 120 | 15 | 21 | 397 | 13.5 | 20.5 | 431 | 14 | 21 | 411 |
| -40 | 20 | 15 | 21 | 397 | 16 | 22 | 390 | 15.5 | 23 | 421 |
| | 40 | 20 | 29 | 412 | 17 | 25 | 418 | 15.5 | 23 | 421 |
| | 60 | 22 | 34 | 438 | 19 | 30 | 448 | 17 | 25 | 403 |
| | 80 | 23 | 38 | 470 | 20 | 34 | 482 | 19 | 31 | 464 |
| | 100 | 23 | 38 | 470 | 20 | 36 | 512 | 20 | 35 | 497 |
| | 120 | 23 | 39 | 482 | 21 | 38 | 515 | 20 | 40 | 568 |
| -60 | 20 | 28 | 40 | 406 | 19 | 28 | 418 | 17.5 | 25 | 406 |
| | 40 | 33 | 54 | 464 | 27.5 | 42 | 434 | 20 | 29 | 412 |
| | 60 | 35 | 60 | 487 | 31.5 | 52 | 469 | 29 | 45 | 435 |
| | 80 | 35 | 61 | 495 | 32.5 | 56 | 490 | 31 | 57 | 512 |
| | 100 | 35 | 61 | 495 | 32.5 | 57 | 498 | 31 | 61 | 559 |
| | 120 | 34 | 61 | 495 | 32 | 57 | 506 | 31 | 62 | 558 |
| | 140 | 34 | 61 | 495 | 32 | 57 | 506 | 31 | 63 | 578 |
| -80 | 20 | 36 | 52 | 410 | 22 | 30 | 387 | 18.5 | 29 | 446 |
| | 40 | 45 | 73 | 462 | 38 | 62 | 464 | 31 | 49 | 449 |
| | 60 | 47 | 79 | 478 | 42 | 71 | 481 | 39 | 69 | 502 |
| | 80 | 47 | 80 | 484 | 44 | 76 | 491 | 41 | 78 | 541 |
| | 100 | 47 | 82 | 496 | 43 | 77 | 508 | 41 | 82 | 568 |
| | 120 | 47 | 82 | 496 | 43 | 77 | 508 | 41 | 84 | 582 |
| +30 | 20 | 7.5 | 11 | 416 | 6.5 | 9 | 394 | 11 | 14.5 | 374 |
| | 40 | 12.5 | 17.5 | 398 | 12 | 16 | 379 | 14 | 18.5 | 375 |
| | 60 | 15 | 21 | 398 | 14 | 19.5 | 396 | 15 | 21 | 397 |
| | 80 | 15 | 21.5 | 407 | 15 | 20.5 | 388 | 15 | 21 | 397 |
| | 100 | 15 | 21.5 | 407 | 15 | 20.5 | 388 | 15 | 21 | 397 |
| | 120 | 15 | 21.5 | 407 | 15 | 20.5 | 388 | 15 | 21 | 397 |

TABLE 2 (Continued)
 IMPEDANCE VALUES CALCULATED FROM INTEGRAL DATA

| PULSER VOLTAGE (kV) | TIME (ns) | V _{B1} (mV) | V _{D1} (mV) | Z1 (ohms) | V _{B3} (mV) | V _{D3} (mV) | Z3 (ohms) | V _{B5} (mV) | V _{D5} (mV) | Z5 (ohms) |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| +40 | 20 | 17 | 23 | 384 | 17 | 23 | 384 | 15.5 | 22 | 403 |
| | 40 | 19 | 29 | 434 | 17 | 26 | 434 | 16.5 | 23 | 396 |
| | 60 | 20 | 32 | 454 | 17.5 | 26 | 422 | 17 | 26 | 434 |
| | 80 | 21.5 | 37 | 489 | 18.5 | 29 | 446 | 17 | 27 | 452 |
| | 100 | 22.5 | 38 | 479 | 19 | 31 | 463 | 17 | 27 | 452 |
| | 120 | 23 | 41 | 507 | 20 | 32 | 454 | 17 | 28 | 468 |
| +60 | 20 | 27 | 40 | 421 | 21 | 32 | 433 | 17 | 26 | 434 |
| | 40 | 31 | 49 | 449 | 23.5 | 38 | 459 | 18.5 | 30 | 461 |
| | 60 | 35 | 58 | 471 | 27.5 | 48 | 496 | 23 | 38 | 469 |
| | 80 | 36 | 62 | 489 | 30 | 48 | 549 | 26 | 50 | 547 |
| | 100 | 36 | 66 | 521 | 31 | 62 | 568 | 28.5 | 58 | 578 |
| | 120 | 36 | 67 | 528 | 32 | 64 | 568 | 29.5 | 63 | 606 |
| | 140 | | | | | | | 29.5 | 67 | 645 |
| +80 (Set 1) | 20 | 40 | 62 | 440 | 23 | 35 | 432 | 19 | 31 | 463 |
| | 40 | 46 | 80 | 494 | 35.5 | 58 | 464 | 23 | 38 | 469 |
| | 60 | 50 | 88 | 500 | 42 | 74 | 500 | 33 | 53 | 456 |
| | 80 | 51 | 94 | 523 | 44 | 84 | 542 | 38 | 70 | 524 |
| | 100 | 52 | 96 | 524 | 46.5 | 88 | 537 | 41 | 83 | 576 |
| | 120 | 52 | 98 | 536 | 48 | 90 | 533 | 41 | 91 | 631 |
| | 140 | | | | | | | 41.5 | 98 | 671 |
| +80 (Set 2) | 50 | 48 | 52 | 485 | 40 | 70 | 497 | 29 | 47 | 461 |
| | 100 | 52 | 96 | 524 | 46.5 | 88 | 538 | 41 | 83 | 575 |
| | 150 | 50 | 105 | 596 | 46 | 95 | 586 | 42 | 98 | 663 |
| | 200 | 49 | 105 | 608 | 44 | 105 | 677 | 41 | 107 | 741 |
| | 380 | 34 | 90 | 752 | 34 | 94 | 760 | 32 | 97 | 860 |

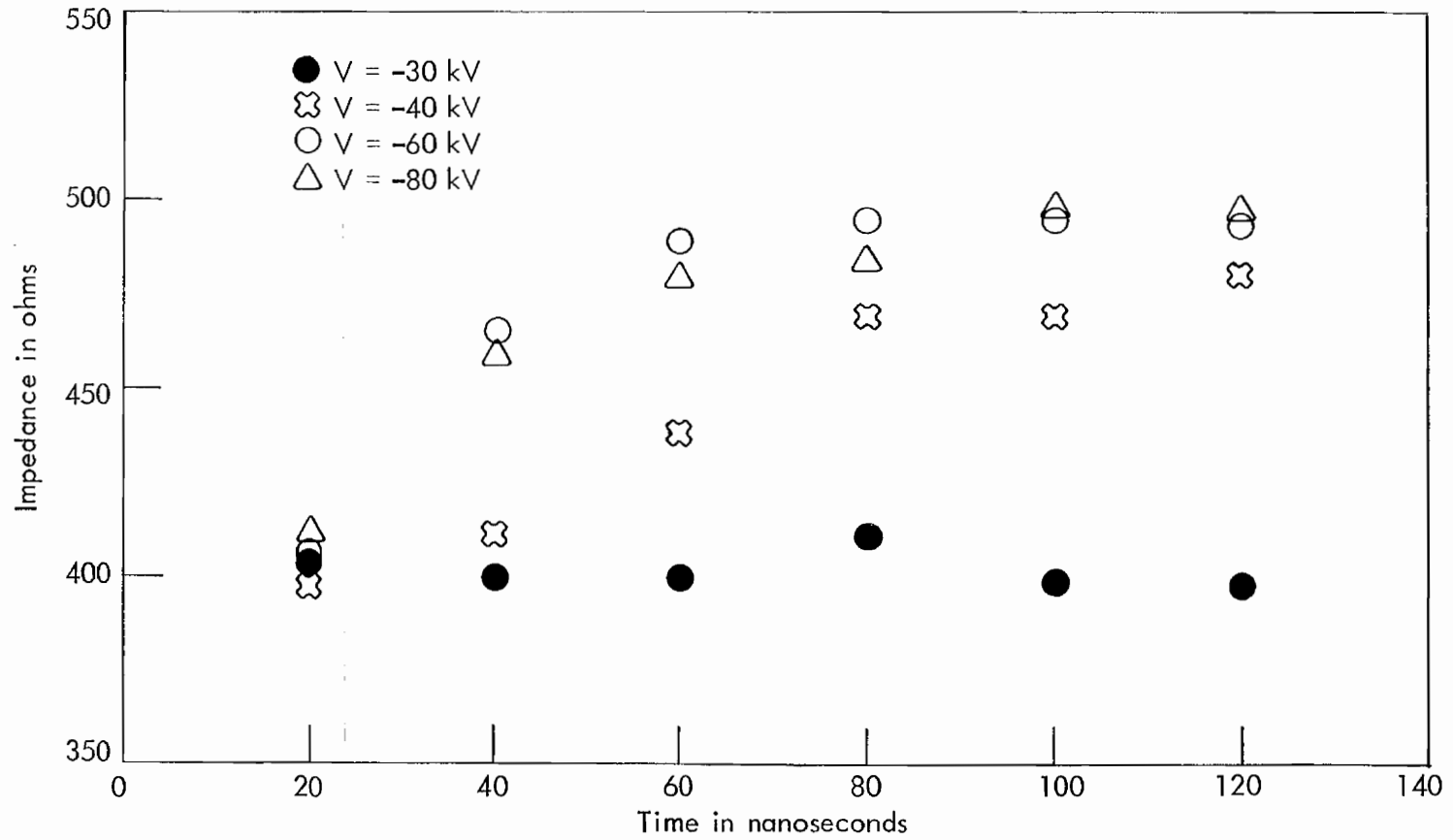


FIGURE 14

IMPEDANCE AS A FUNCTION OF TIME -STATION 1

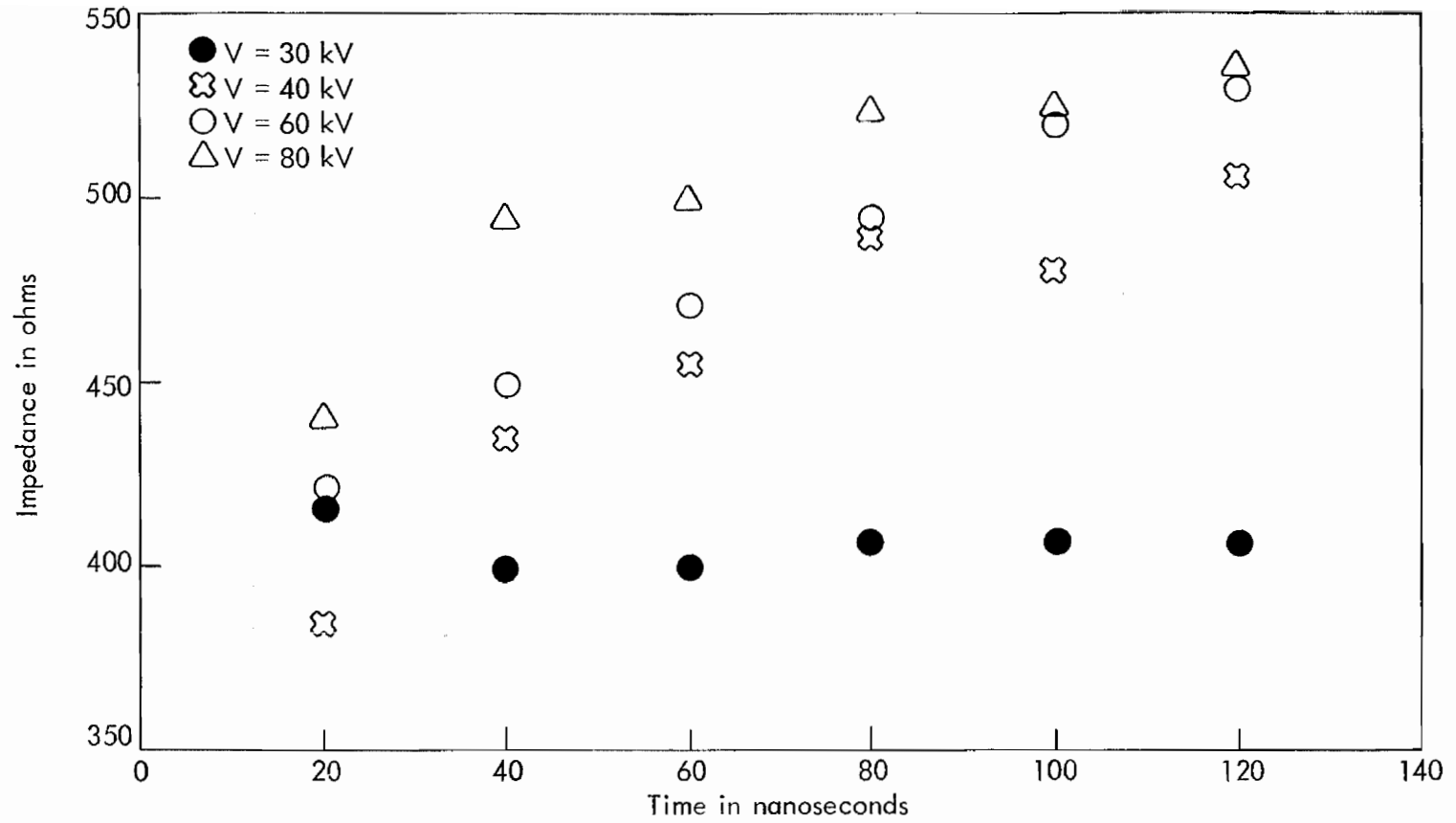


FIGURE 15

IMPEDANCE AS A FUNCTION OF TIME -STATION 1

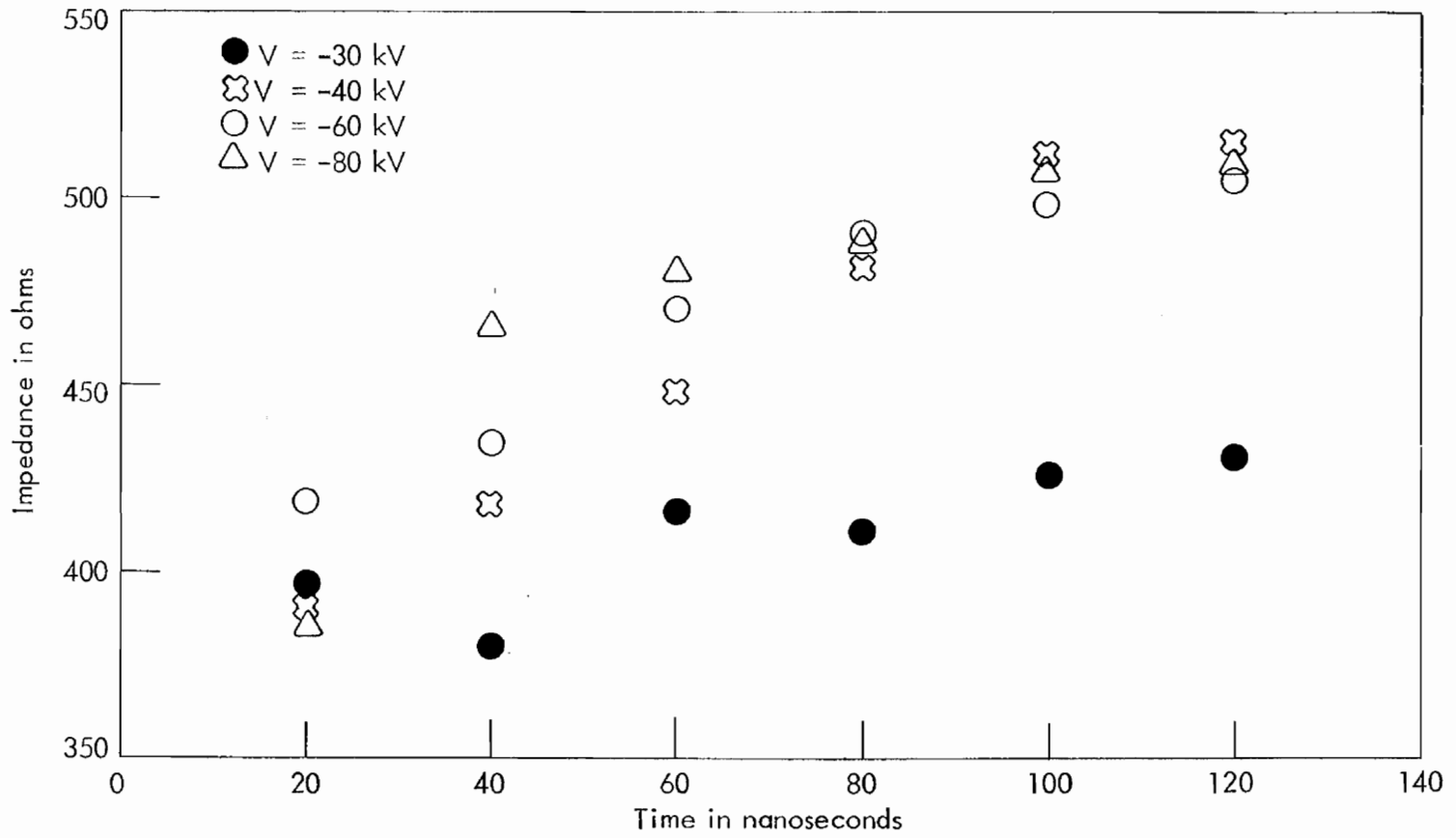


FIGURE 16

IMPEDANCE AS A FUNCTION OF TIME -STATION 3

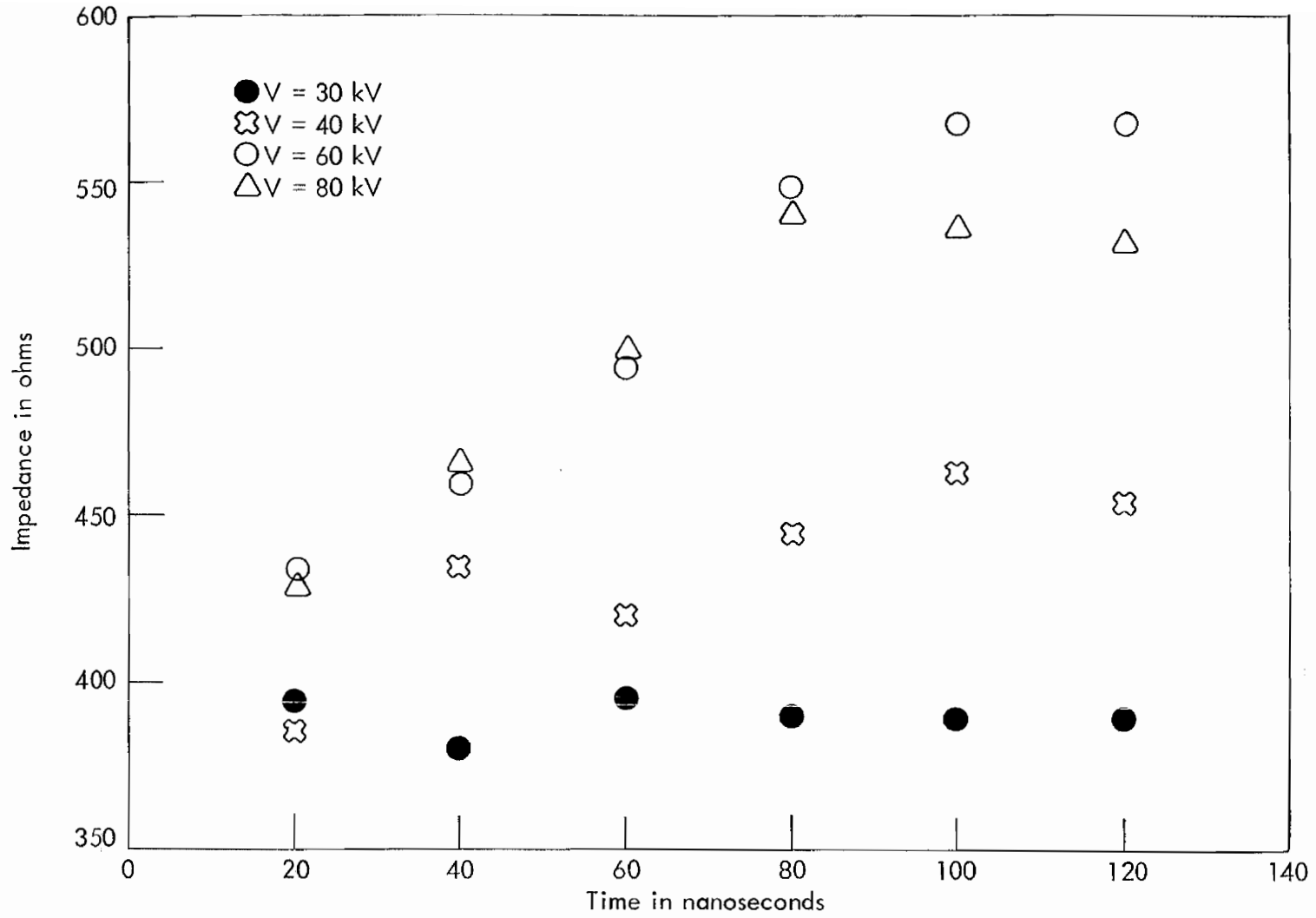


FIGURE 17

IMPEDANCE AS A FUNCTION OF TIME -STATION 3

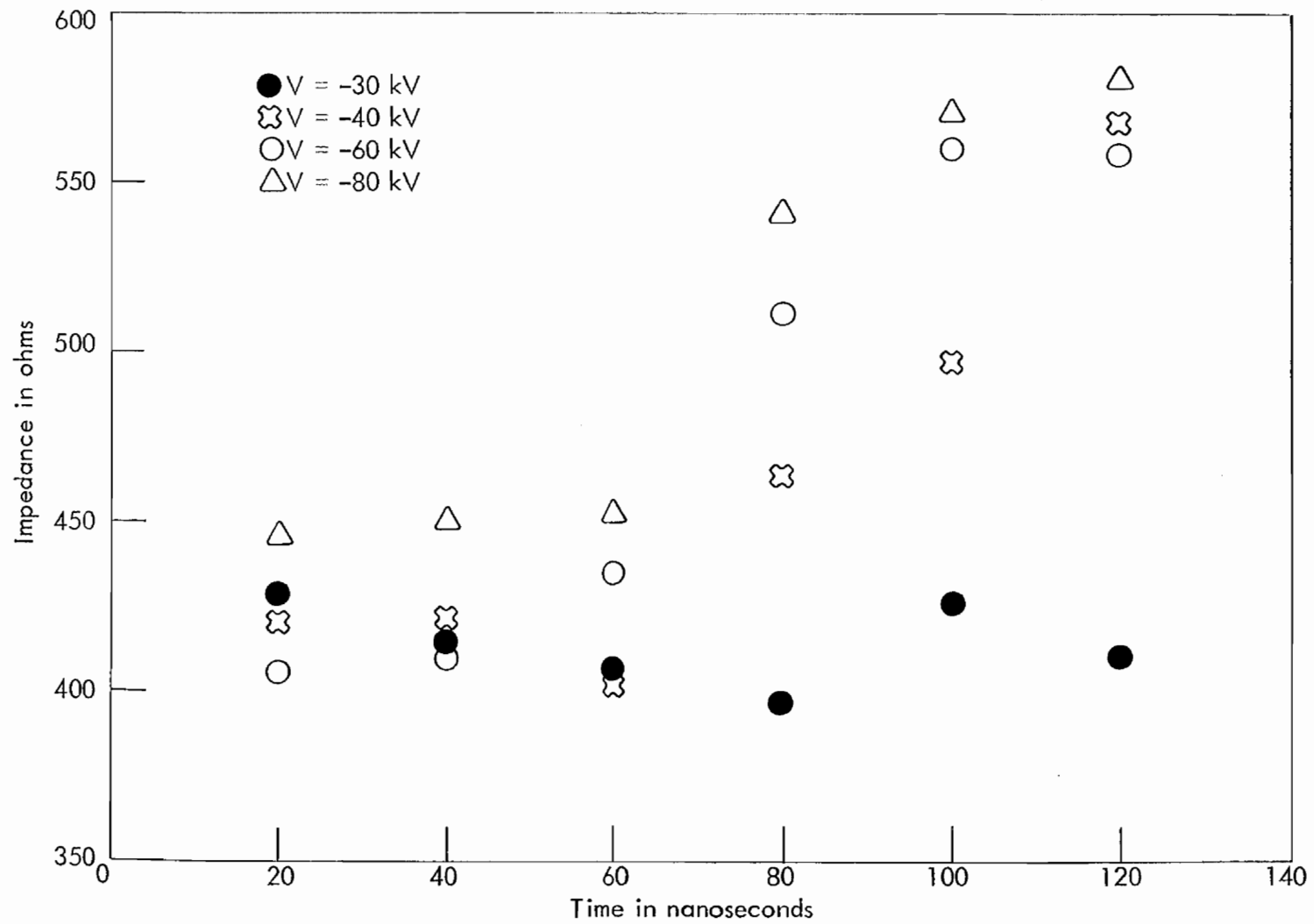


FIGURE 18

IMPEDANCE AS A FUNCTION OF TIME -STATION 5

4.0

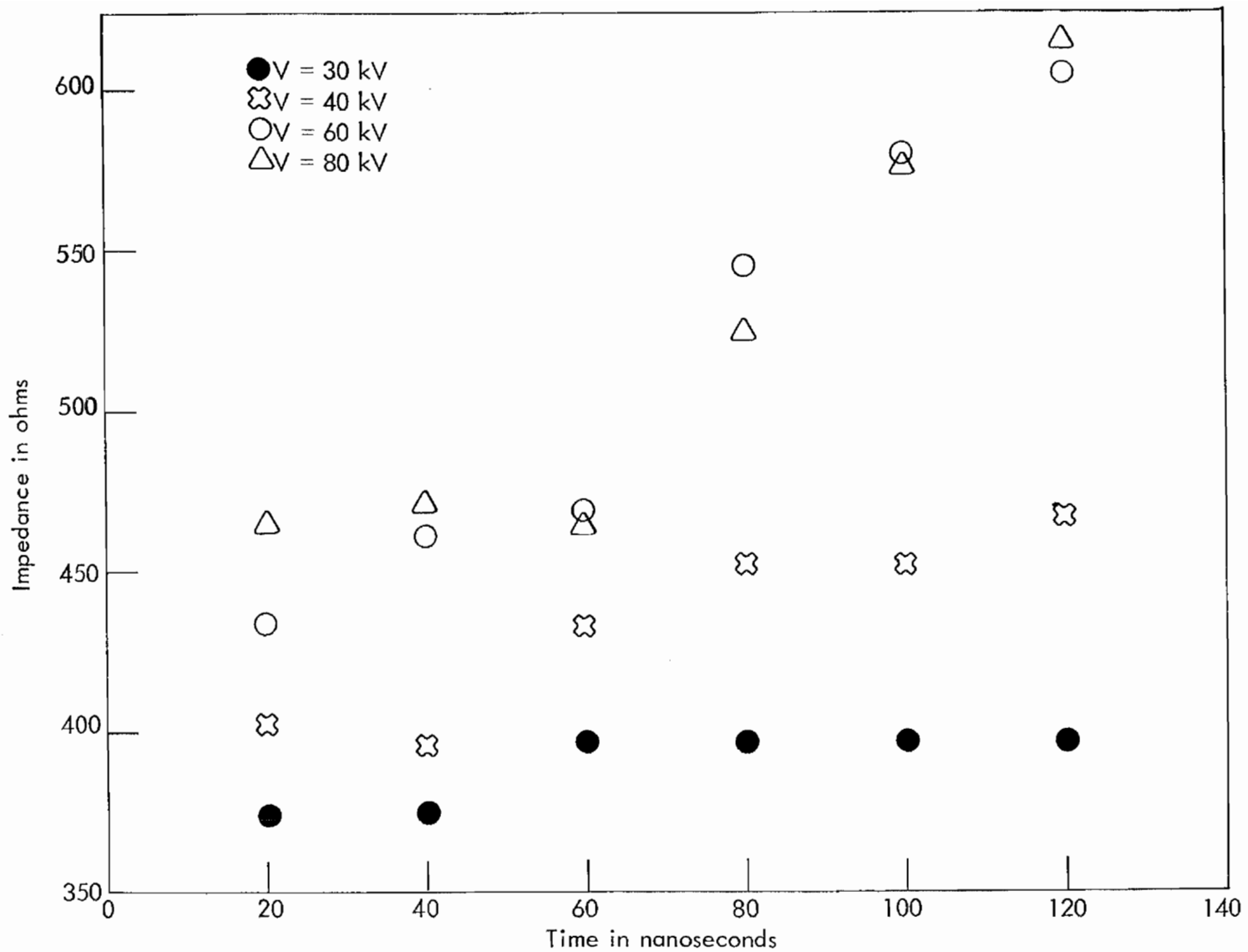


FIGURE 19
IMPEDANCE AS A FUNCTION OF TIME -STATION 5

TABLE 3

IMPEDANCE VALUES CALCULATED FROM PEAK DERIVATIVE DATA

| PULSER VOLTAGE (kV) | V_{B1} (volts) | V_{D1} (volts) | Z1 (ohms) | V_{B3} (volts) | V_{D3} (volts) | Z3 (ohms) | V_{B5} (volts) | V_{D5} (volts) | Z5 (ohms) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| -30 | .95 | 1.25 | 374 | .90 | 1.20 | 379 | 1.00 | 1.30 | 369 |
| -40 | 1.80 | 2.40 | 379 | 1.80 | 2.55 | 402 | 1.70 | 2.50 | 418 |
| -60 | 3.00 | 4.50 | 426 | 3.10 | 4.20 | 385 | 3.30 | 5.00 | 430 |
| 30 (1st pk) | .53 | .70 | 376 | .35 | .50 | 406 | .45 | .65 | 411 |
| 30 (2nd pk) | .50 | .72 | 409 | .64 | .90 | 399 | .55 | .80 | 413 |
| 40 (1st pk) | .73 | 1.00 | 389 | .83 | 1.20 | 411 | .68 | .95 | 396 |
| 40 (2nd pk) | 1.05 | 1.40 | 379 | .85 | 1.30 | 434 | 1.00 | 1.45 | 412 |
| 60 | 4.40 | 6.40 | 413 | 4.50 | 7.00 | 442 | 4.80 | 7.40 | 438 |
| 80 | 5.80 | 7.50 | 368 | 6.00 | 9.00 | 426 | 7.00 | 10.0 | 406 |

It is reasonable to infer that the impedance variation indicated by Tables 2 and 3 is due to corona on the transmission wire. As an aid to understanding the phenomenon, it may be useful to examine the data to determine if B or D is more affected by corona. One method of doing this is to calculate normalized output signals for late times (the early time calculation would be somewhat ambiguous since the pulser risetime is relative slow and subject to pulse-to-pulse variations at the lower operating voltages). Table 4 is a summary of the B and D outputs per unit of applied voltage.

Several preliminary conclusions can be drawn from the raw test data irrespective of any further analysis or reduction:

- (1) Some of the impedance values plotted in Figures 14 through 19 are corrupted by reflections from an imperfect line termination. Because of the measuring station spacing, the effects of pulse reflections will be apparent for $t > 20$ ns at station 5, $t > 100$ ns at station 3 and $t > 180$ ns at station 1.
- (2) The corona threshold for 0.8114 mm diameter wire at 1 meter above a ground plane is somewhat less than plus or minus 30 kV.
- (3) There is an observable corona starting time which generally decreases with applied voltage. However, it is difficult to quantify this parameter because of the variability of pulser risetime as a function of operating voltage.

TABLE 4

NORMALIZED OUTPUT SIGNALS FOR LATE TIMES

| PULSER VOLTAGE (kV) | TIME (ns) | V_{B1} (mV) | $\frac{V_{B1}}{V_P}$ | V_{D1} (mV) | $\frac{V_{D1}}{V_P}$ | V_{B3} (mV) | $\frac{V_{B3}}{V_P}$ | V_{D3} (mV) | $\frac{V_{D3}}{V_P}$ | V_{B5} (mV) | $\frac{V_{B5}}{V_P}$ | V_{D5} (mV) | $\frac{V_{D5}}{V_P}$ |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| -30 | 60 | 13.5 | .45 | 19 | .63 | 14 | .47 | 20.5 | .68 | 14 | .47 | 20 | .67 |
| | 120 | 15 | .50 | 21 | .70 | 14 | .47 | 21 | .70 | 14.5 | .48 | 21 | .70 |
| -40 | 60 | 22 | .55 | 34 | .85 | 19 | .48 | 30 | .75 | 17 | .43 | 25 | .63 |
| | 120 | 23 | .58 | 39 | .98 | 21 | .53 | 38 | .95 | 20 | .50 | 40 | 1.00 |
| -60 | 60 | 35 | .58 | 60 | 1.00 | 31.5 | .53 | 52 | .87 | 29 | .48 | 45 | .75 |
| | 120 | 34 | .57 | 61 | 1.02 | 32 | .53 | 57 | .95 | 31 | .52 | 62 | 1.03 |
| -80 | 60 | 47 | .59 | 79 | .99 | 42 | .53 | 71 | .89 | 39 | .49 | 69 | .85 |
| | 120 | 47 | .59 | 82 | 1.02 | 43 | .54 | 77 | .96 | 41 | .51 | 84 | 1.05 |
| +30 | 60 | 15 | .50 | 21 | .70 | 14 | .47 | 19.5 | .65 | 15 | .50 | 21 | .70 |
| | 120 | 15 | .50 | 21.5 | .72 | 15 | .50 | 20.5 | .68 | 15 | .50 | 21 | .70 |
| +40 | 60 | 20 | .50 | 32 | .80 | 17.5 | .44 | 26 | .65 | 17 | .43 | 26 | .65 |
| | 120 | 23 | .58 | 41 | 1.05 | 20 | .50 | 32 | .80 | 17 | .43 | 28 | .70 |
| +60 | 60 | 35 | .58 | 58 | .96 | 27.5 | .46 | 48 | .80 | 23 | .38 | 38 | .63 |
| | 120 | 36 | .60 | 67 | 1.12 | 32 | .53 | 64 | 1.17 | 29.5 | .49 | 63 | 1.05 |
| +80 | 60 | 50 | .63 | 88 | 1.10 | 42 | .53 | 74 | .93 | 33 | .41 | 53 | .65 |
| | 120 | 52 | .65 | 98 | 1.22 | 48 | .60 | 90 | 1.12 | 41 | .51 | 91 | 1.14 |

SECTION IV
CORONA MODEL

This section is concerned primarily with development of a simplified model to characterize the effects of corona on the transmission line. Some basic corona mechanisms are reviewed and the data are used to calculate an important parameter in the corona model. Also included in this section are some preliminary thoughts on an analytical approach for studying signal propagation under corona conditions.

1. BASIC PHYSICAL MECHANISMS OF CORONA

Ward has shown (ref. 2) that the Townsend Avalanche model is adequate for explaining the entire breakdown transition in air near atmospheric pressure. Previously, it was generally accepted that the avalanche model was valid for low pressures and low overvoltages and that for higher voltages and overpressures, the so-called streamer model was valid. Thus, it is believed that the avalanche model should be adequate to explain the corona phenomena observed on the transmission line.

In the Townsend Avalanche model, residual free electrons, i.e., those caused by cosmic rays, photoionization, etc., are accelerated in the presence of an electric field. These accelerated electrons produce additional electrons upon colliding with air molecules. When the magnitude of the electric field is sufficiently high, the colliding electrons, in the process of ionizing the air, produce an increase in electrons, so that the free electron density increases. Such a condition is termed corona and the value of electric field at which the net free electron density starts to increase is

² Ward, A. L., "Calculations of Electrical Breakdown in Air at or Near-Atmospheric Pressure," Phys. Rev., Vol. 138, Number 5A, 31 May 1965.

termed the breakdown strength of air. The parameter which measures the rate of increase of electrons per unit volume is called the avalanche coefficient and is a strong function of the local electric field strength.

The major competing process to the production of electrons by ionization is the loss of electrons due to attachment, primarily oxygen attachment. The loss of electrons due to oxygen attachment is also a strong function of the local electrical field strength. The avalanching and attachment of electrons can be summarized in the continuity equation for free electrons; i.e.,

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{i}_e + \frac{\partial \rho_e}{\partial t} = (G - \alpha) \rho_e + \dot{S} \quad (1)$$

where \vec{i}_e is the electron current density

ρ_e is the electron charge/unit volume

$G \equiv G(E)$ is the avalanche coefficient

$\alpha \equiv \alpha(E)$ is the electron attachment rate

\dot{S} is the residual production rate of free electrons due to natural causes, etc.

E is the electric field strength

The quantities G and α have been empirically determined, the best values apparently being those measured quite some time ago by A. V. Phelps at Westinghouse.

As the electric field is varied from low to high values, the quantity $G - \alpha$ in equation (1) changes sign, so that the character of the solution simultaneously changes from a stable to an unstable condition. The value of electric fields at which this transition occurs (approximately 2×10^6 volts/meter at 6000 foot altitude) separates regions of corona from those with no corona.

Another equation, similar to equation (1) could be written for the ions. However, for present considerations, the short time scales of interest seem to indicate that the electron motion is the predominant phenomenon.

Equation (1), together with Maxwell's equations and relations equating current, velocity, charge and mobility, are potentially soluble with appropriate boundary conditions at the cathode and/or anode. Such a solution has been attempted in connection with the Navy TACAMO programs. Unfortunately, the very small radii involved require, for numerical stability, extremely large computation times. Partial solutions obtained to date do indicate that space charge, and the resulting displacement currents, play a predominant role. The solutions also indicate that the corona region surrounding a small wire increases rapidly outwards and extends appreciable distances from the wire. Also, the corona region increases as the wave travels down the wire. These effects can be seen in the measured data.

2. CORONA EFFECT ON TRANSMISSION LINE PARAMETERS

It can be seen from the foregoing analysis that corona will cause a region of high, free-electron density in the immediate region surrounding the transmission line where the electric field is highest. The currents in this region cause both resistive losses and capacitive currents. A very simple model of the line above a ground plane is shown in Figure 20. If it is assumed that the corona loss resistance is very low or that the corona capacitance is very high, the radius of corona effects around the wire can be estimated from the measured data. In the following material, it is assumed that the corona resistance is very low, so that for capacitive purposes, the effective radius (corona radius) increases.

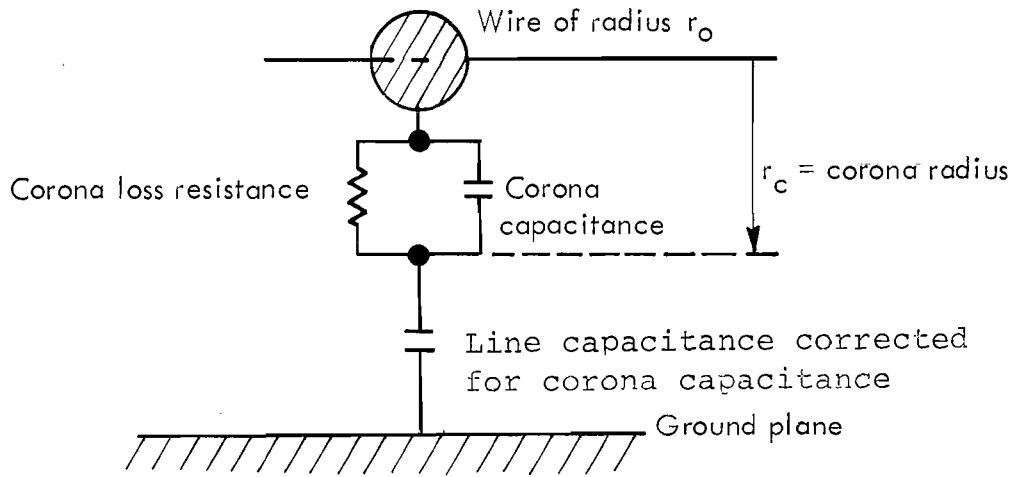


FIGURE 20A
SIMPLE MODEL OF THE EFFECTS OF CORONA ON THE TRANSMISSION LINE

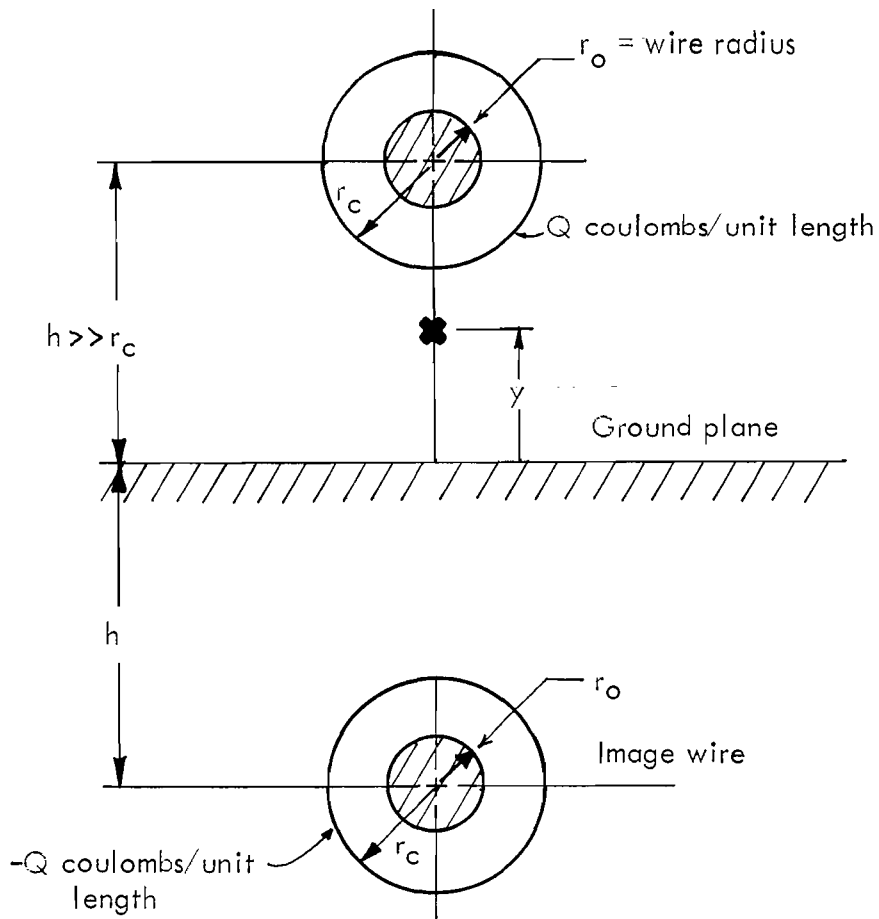


FIGURE 20B
CROSS-SECTION OF TRANSMISSION LINE

Refer to Figure 20 and assume that the conductor potential extends to the corona radius, r_c , where a charge of Q coulombs/unit length exists. The field at point y is

$$E_y = -\frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{1}{h-y} + \frac{1}{h+y} \right) \quad (2)$$

so that the potential difference between the corona radius and the ground plane is

$$V = - \int_0^{h-r_c} E_y dy = \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \ln \frac{2h-r_c}{r_c} \approx \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \ln \frac{2h}{r_c} \quad (3)$$

Combining equations (2) and (3), the electric field at $y = 0$ is

$$E_{y=0} = E_0 = \frac{2}{h} \frac{V}{\ln \frac{2h}{r_c}} \quad (4)$$

If the line carries a current I , the magnetic field at $y = 0$ is

$$H_{y=0} = H_0 = \frac{I}{\pi h} \quad (5)$$

so that the ratio of electric to magnetic field at $y = 0$ is

$$\frac{E_0}{H_0} = \frac{2\pi}{\ln \frac{2h}{r_c}} \frac{V}{I} \quad (6)$$

The capacitance of the line is Q/V ; thus, from equation (3),

$$C = \frac{2\pi\epsilon_0}{\ln \frac{2h}{r_c}}$$

The inductance of the line is

$$L = \frac{\phi}{I} = \frac{1}{I} \int_{r_0}^{h-r_0} B dy$$

Here the radius r_0 is used since the magnetic field penetrates the plasma readily. Since,

$$B = -\frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \left\{ \frac{1}{h-y} + \frac{1}{h+y} \right\}$$

it follows that

$$\phi = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \ln \frac{2h-r_0}{r_0} \approx \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \ln \frac{2h}{r_0}$$

so that

$$L = \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi} \ln \frac{2h}{r_0}$$

The characteristic impedance of the line is then

$$R_0 = \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}} = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\mu_0}{\epsilon_0}} \sqrt{\ln \frac{2h}{r_0} \ln \frac{2h}{r_c}}$$

Using this value in equation (6) yields

$$\frac{E_0}{H_0} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_0}{\epsilon_0}} \sqrt{\frac{\ln \frac{2h}{r_0}}{\ln \frac{2h}{r_c}}} \quad (7)$$

Equation (7) can be used to determine the effective corona radius r_c in terms of the measured fields; that is,

$$\begin{aligned} r_c &= 2h \left(\frac{r_0}{2h} \right) \frac{\mu_0}{\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{H_0}{E_0} \right)^2 \\ &= 2h \left(\frac{r_0}{2h} \right) \frac{\epsilon_0}{\mu_0} \left(\frac{B_0}{D_0} \right)^2 \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Equation (8) can also be written as

$$r_c = 2h \left(\frac{r_o}{2h} \right) \left(\frac{Z_o}{Z} \right)^2 \quad (9)$$

where Z_o is the characteristic impedance of free space
 Z is the impedance measured at the ground plane.

The graphs on the following pages (Figures 21 through 26) show the calculated corona radii versus time for stations 1, 3, and 5 which are each separated by 40 feet. The following conclusions can be drawn from these figures:

- (1) Positive and negative excitations of the wire produce different results for corona radius.
- (2) The threshold value of voltage to produce corona on this wire is less than 30 kV.
- (3) For a given retarded time on the waveform, the corona radius increases with distance along the wire. Typical values at 100 ns for + 80 kV excitation are 25 mm, 30 mm, and 52 mm for stations 1, 3, and 5. The data have been presented this way in Figures 27 through 30.
- (4) For a given spatial position along the wire, the corona radius increases with time for a given excitation voltage. For example, with -60 kV excitation, the corona radius at station 5 changes from 1.3 mm at 20 ns to 42 mm at 100 ns. The data do not unambiguously show whether or not the corona radius has stopped increasing by 100 ns, however, the data suggest in most cases corona radius is still increasing at 100 ns.
- (5) The numerical values of corona radius inferred by the simple model are much larger than those which would be predicted from the static

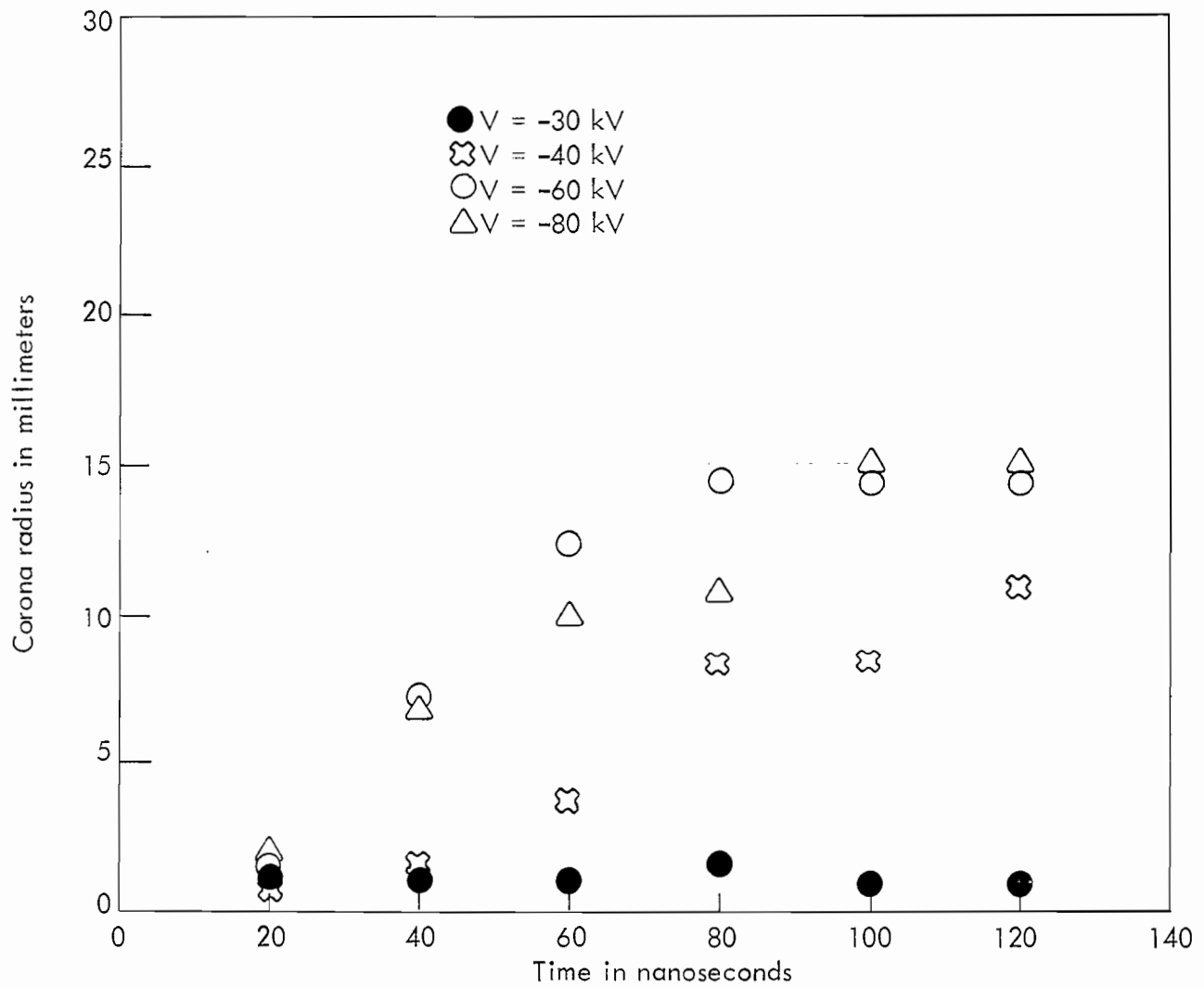


FIGURE 21
 CORONA RADIUS AS A FUNCTION OF TIME - STATION 1

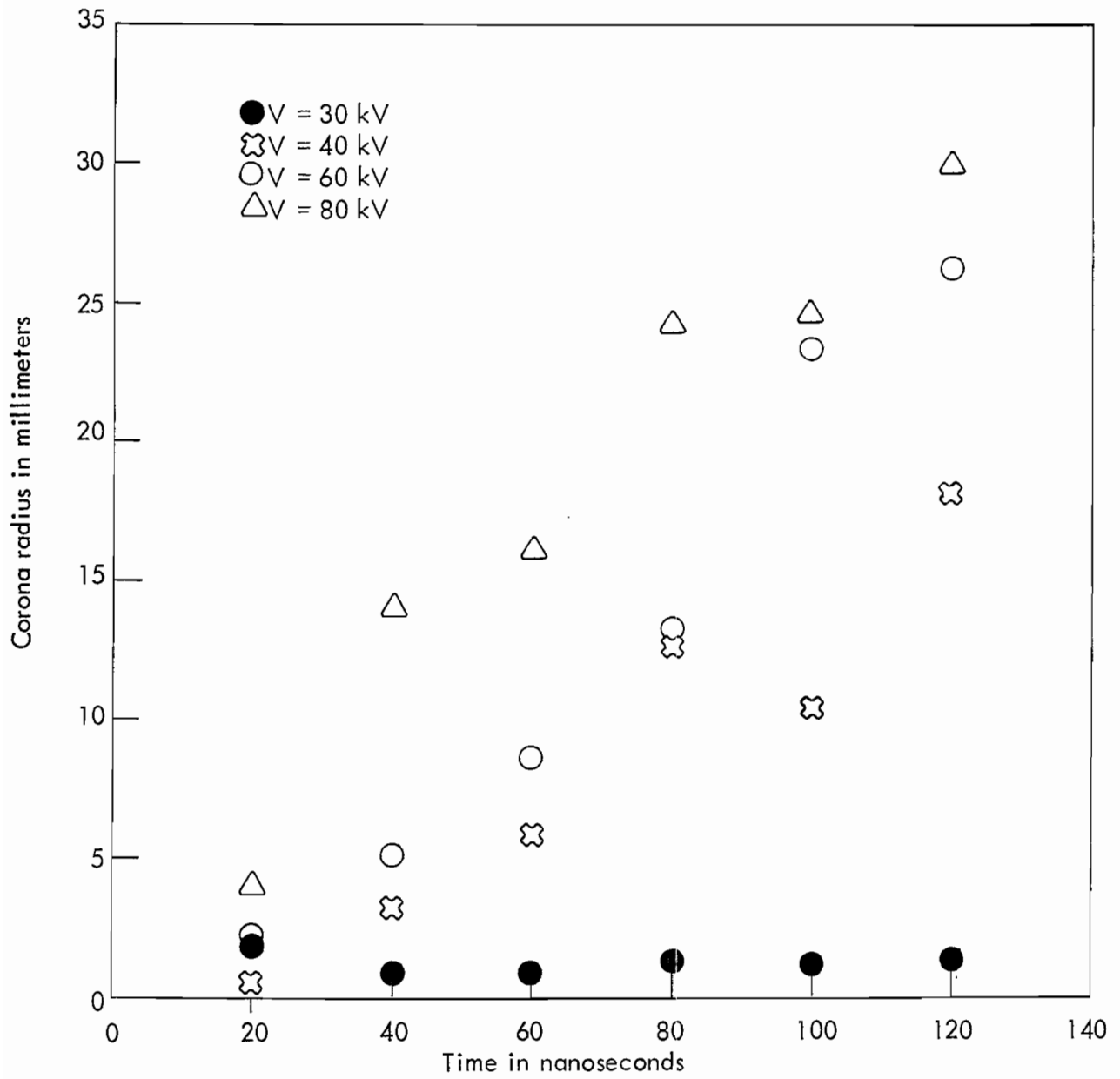


FIGURE 22
CORONA RADIUS AS A FUNCTION OF TIME -STATION 1

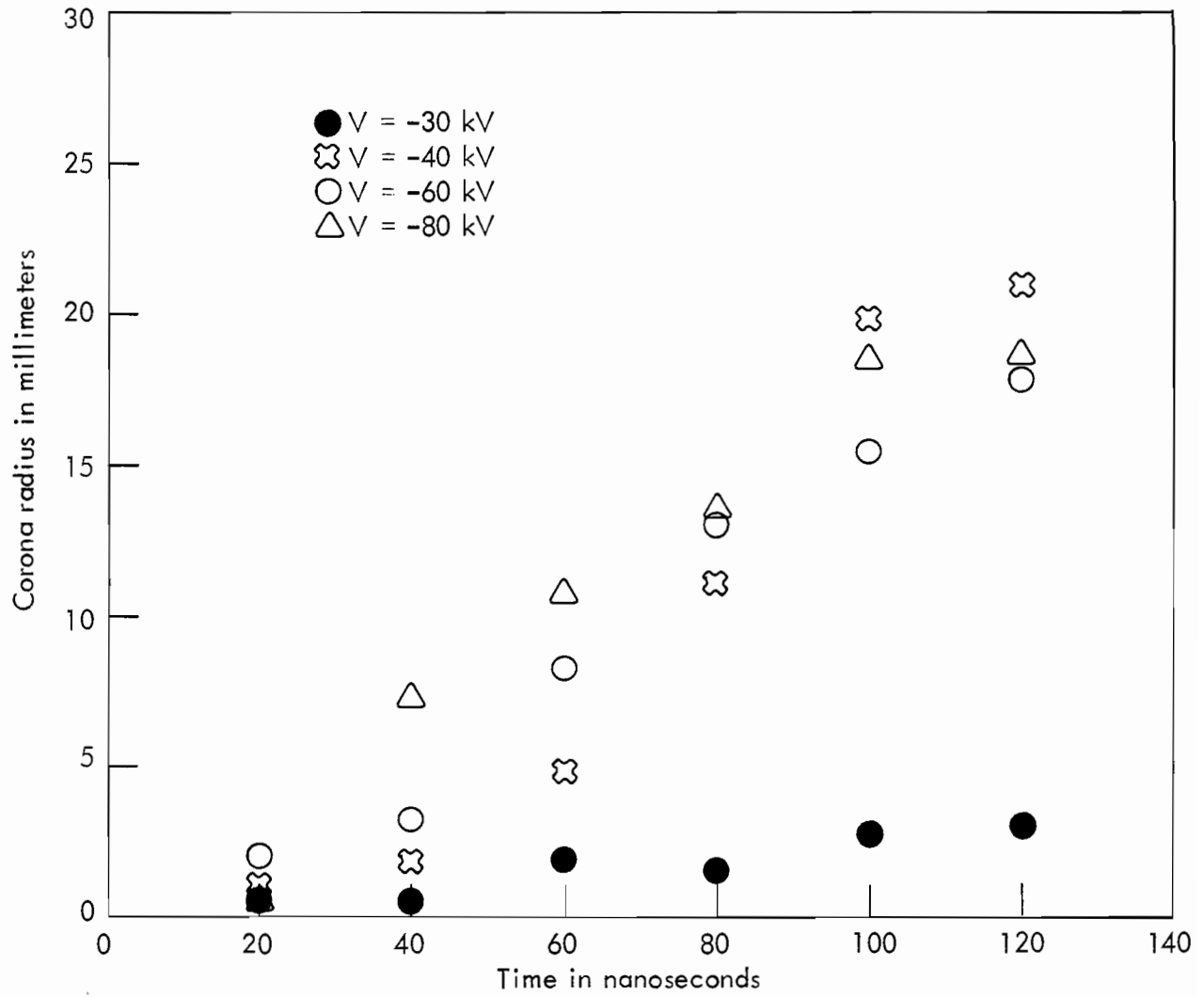


FIGURE 23
 CORONA RADIUS AS A FUNCTION OF
 TIME - STATION 3

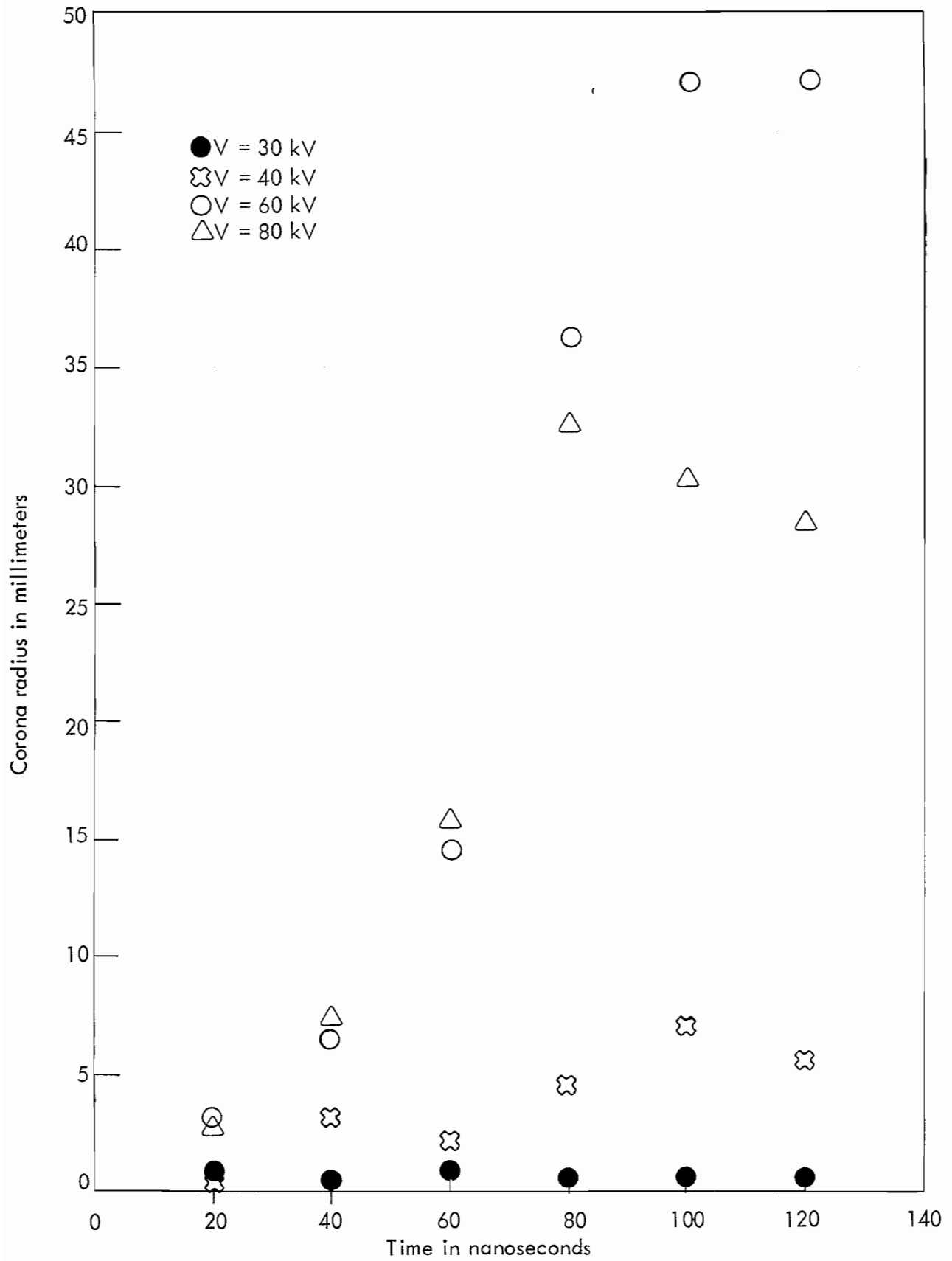


FIGURE 24

CORONA RADIUS AS A FUNCTION OF TIME - STATION 3

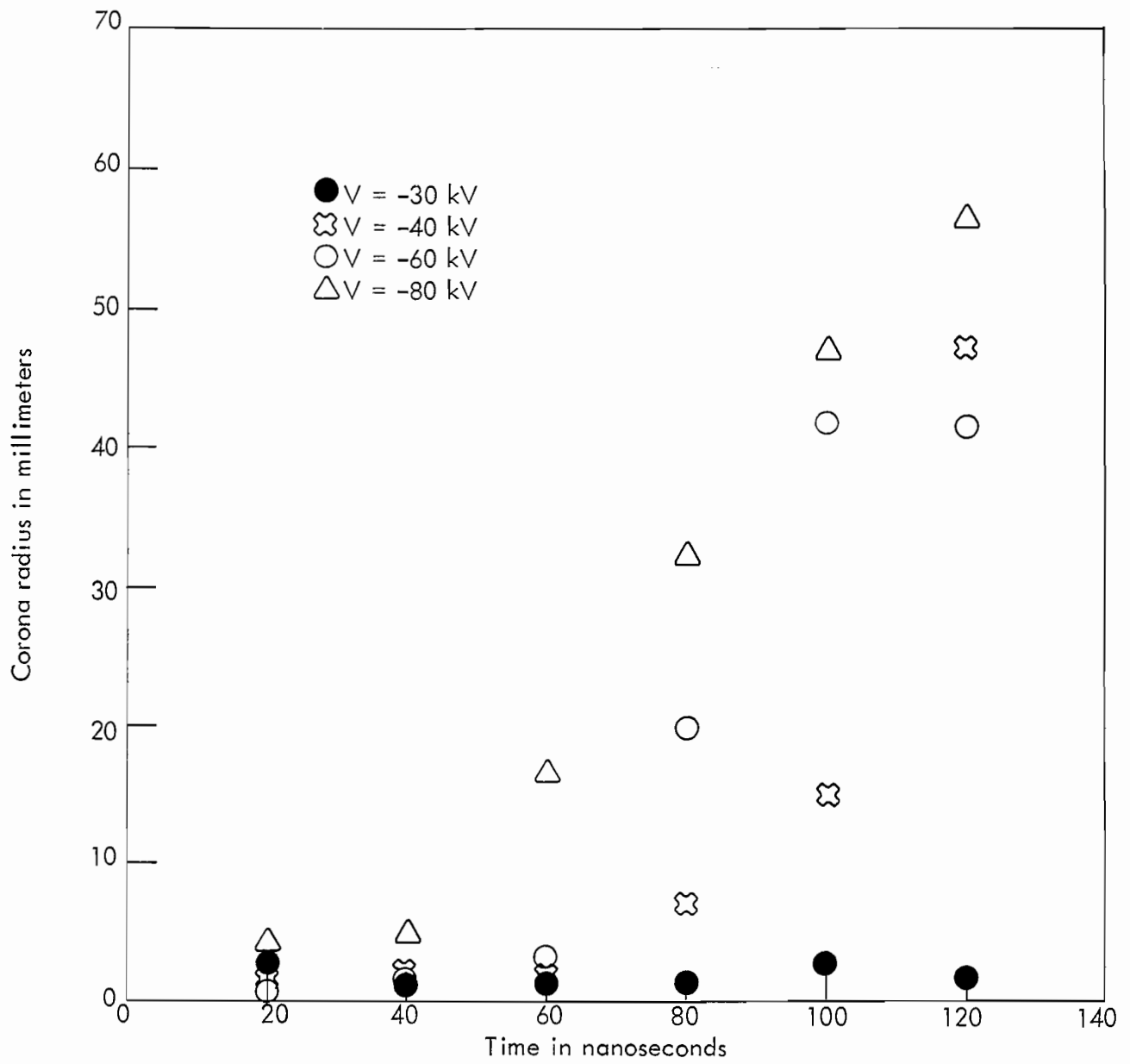


FIGURE 25
 CORONA RADIUS AS A FUNCTION OF
 TIME - STATION 5

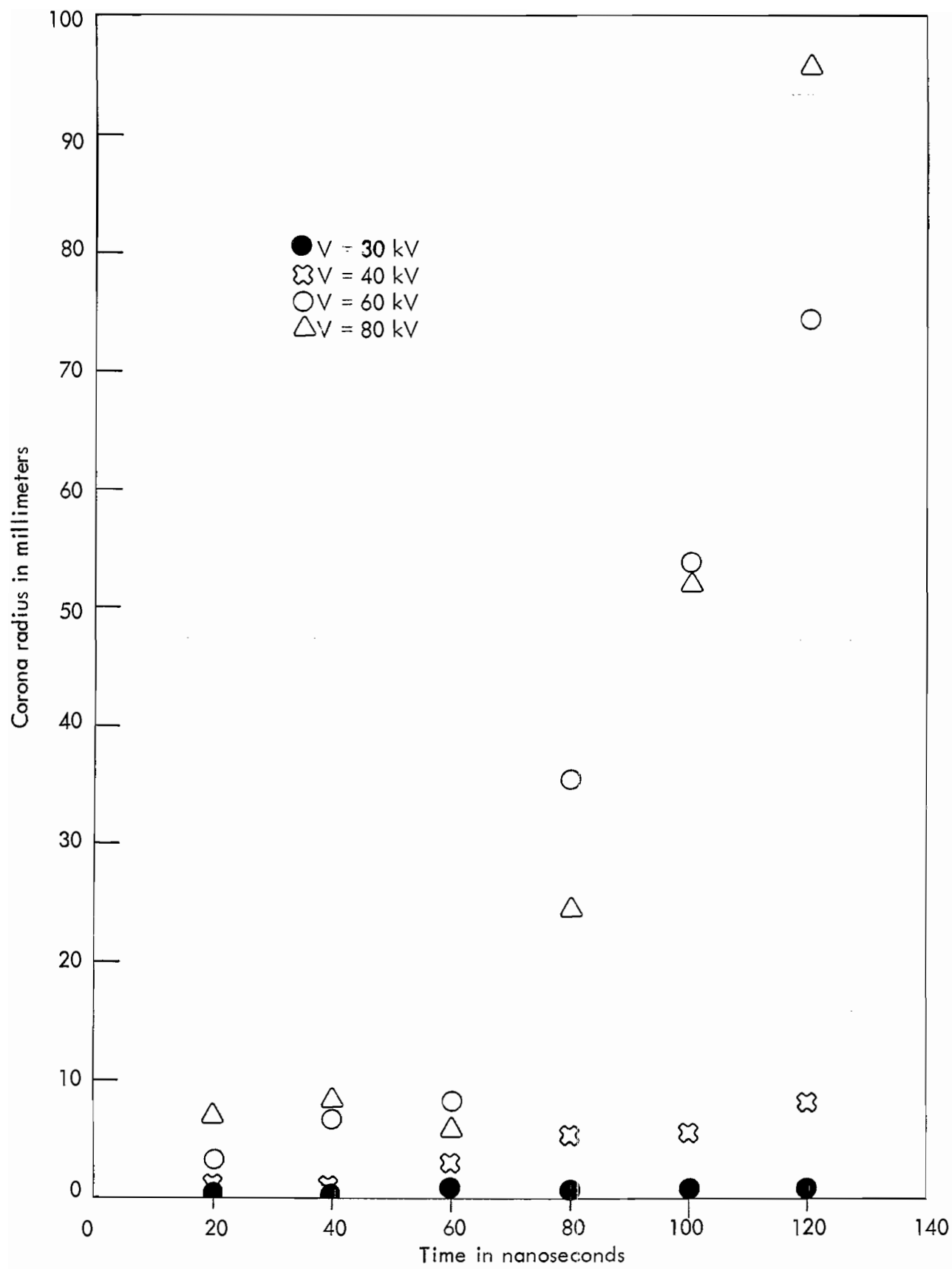


FIGURE 26

CORONA RADIUS AS A FUNCTION OF TIME - STATION 5

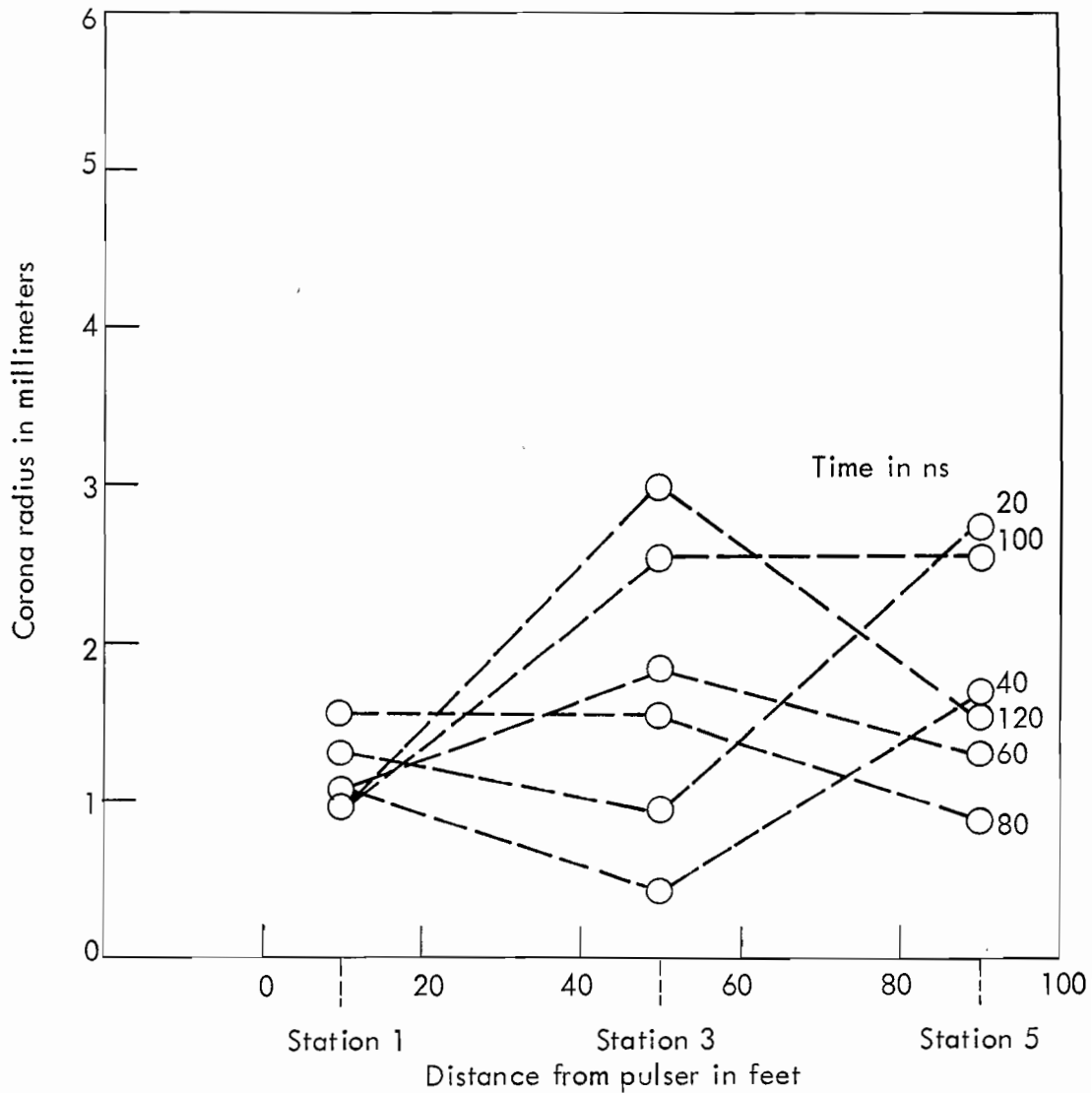


FIGURE 27
 CORONA RADIUS AS A FUNCTION OF SPATIAL
 POSITION - $V = -30$ KV

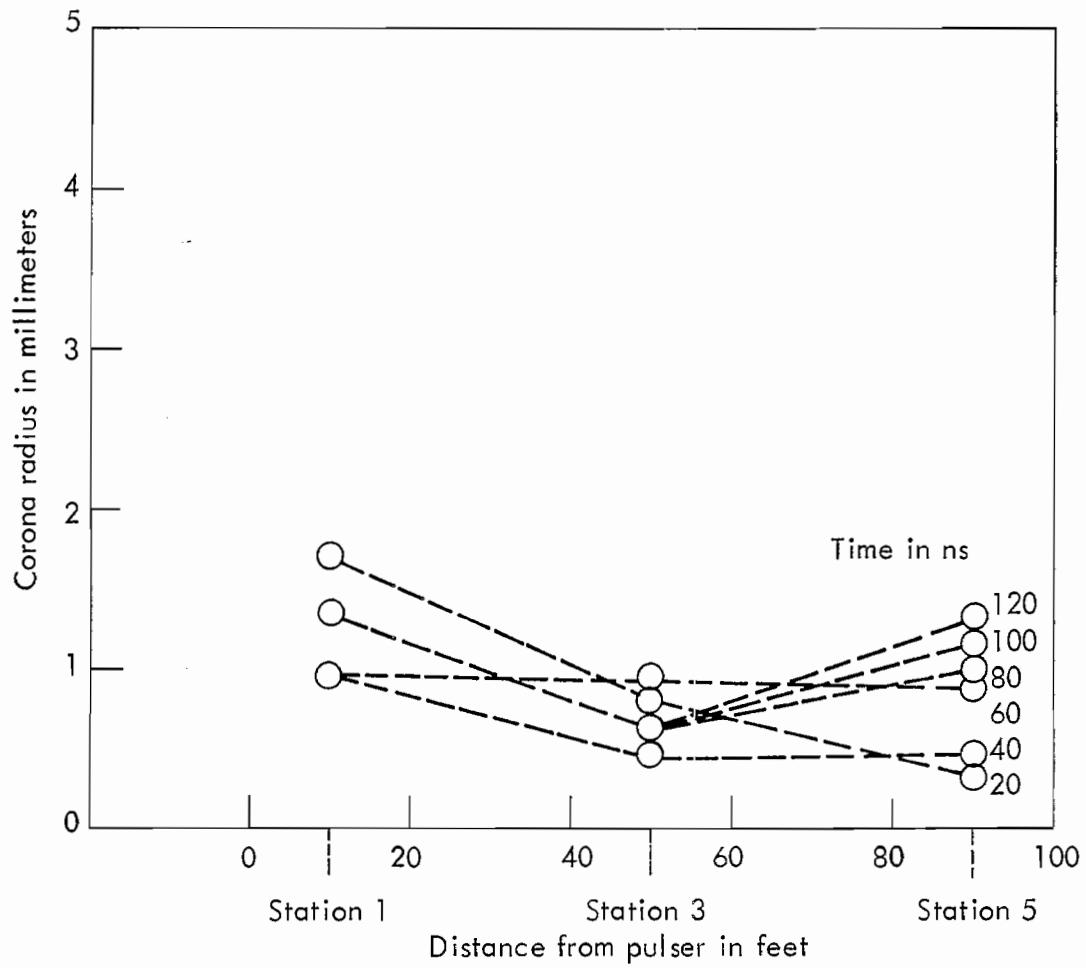


FIGURE 28
 CORONA RADIUS AS A FUNCTION OF
 SPATIAL POSITION -
 V = 30 KV

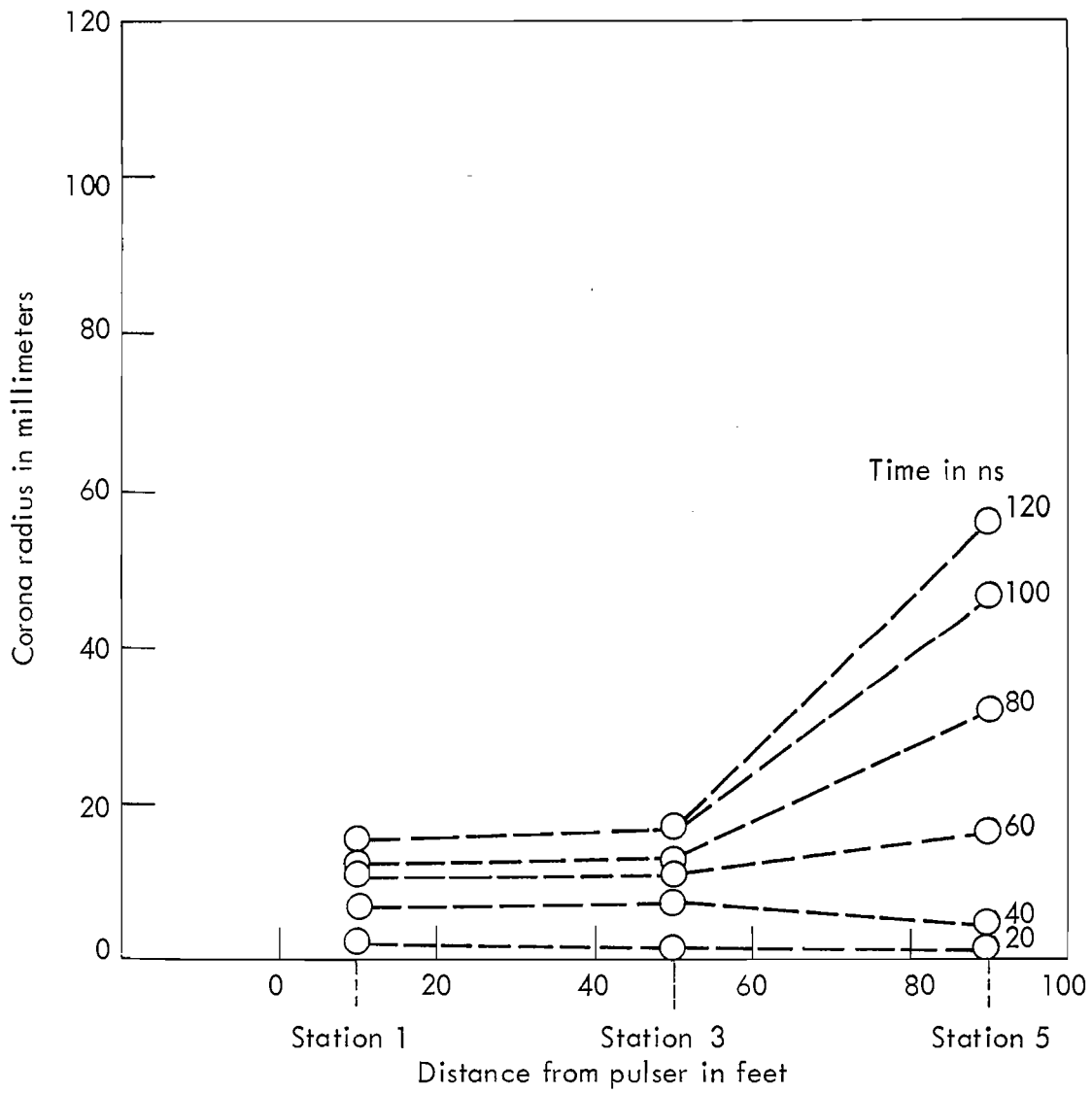


FIGURE 29

CORONA RADIUS AS A FUNCTION OF SPATIAL POSITION - $V = -80$ KV

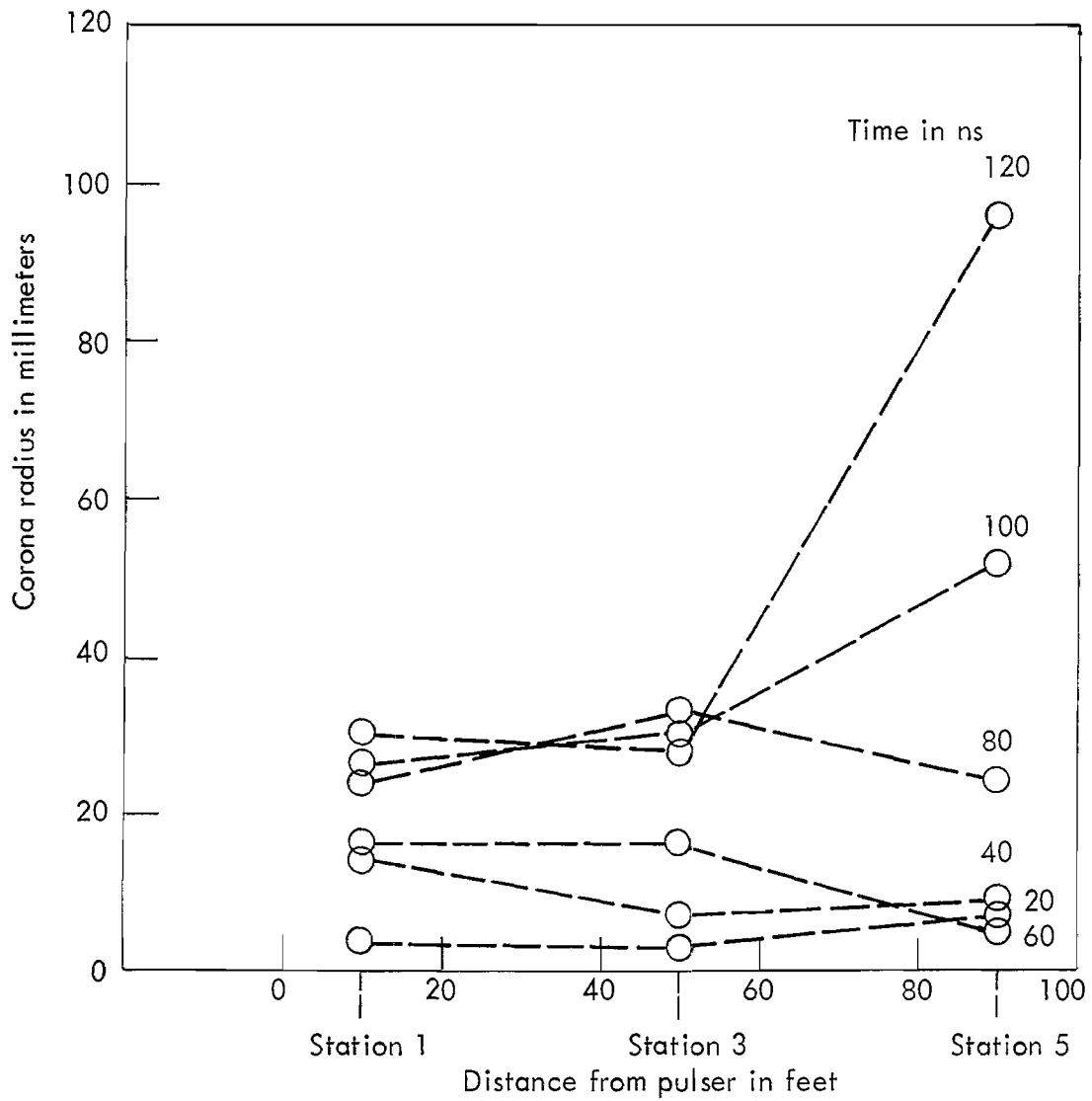


FIGURE 30

CORONA RADIUS AS A FUNCTION OF SPATIAL POSITION
 $V = 80 \text{ KV}$

approach of setting

$$E_r \approx \frac{V}{r_{cs} \ln \frac{2h}{r_{cs}}} \equiv 2 \times 10^6 \text{ v/m}$$

and inferring r_{cs} therefrom. Typical values of r_{cs} obtained this way are

| <u>Voltage (kV)</u> | <u>r_{cs} (mm)</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 30 | 2.2 |
| 40 | 3.1 |
| 60 | 5.0 |
| 80 | 7.1 |

Clearly charge transport, time and electric field modification play important roles in determining corona effects.

There is a third corona model which is more complex than the simple static model but somewhat simpler than the transmission line model presented in Figure 20. For late time intervals where the pulse reflections are not important, the current to voltage ratio is determined by the wire termination. Therefore, from equation (6), the corona radius is given by

$$\ln \frac{2h}{r_{ct}} = \frac{2\pi}{Z} \frac{V}{I}$$

$$r_{ct} = 2he^{-\frac{2\pi \times 510}{Z}} \quad (10)$$

where r_{ct} is used to distinguish between r_c and r_{cs} calculated from the transmission line and static models, respectively. Table 5 is a summary of calculated values of r_{ct} for stations 3 and 5 at the longest time for which extensive data are available.

It is apparent from Table 5 that corona radii calculated from the line termination model are more in agreement with the static

model calculations than with the transmission line model calculations. Additional analytical and experimental work is required to resolve the differences among the models and determine which model provides the best representation of the corona phenomenon.

TABLE 5
CORONA RADII FROM LINE TERMINATION MODEL

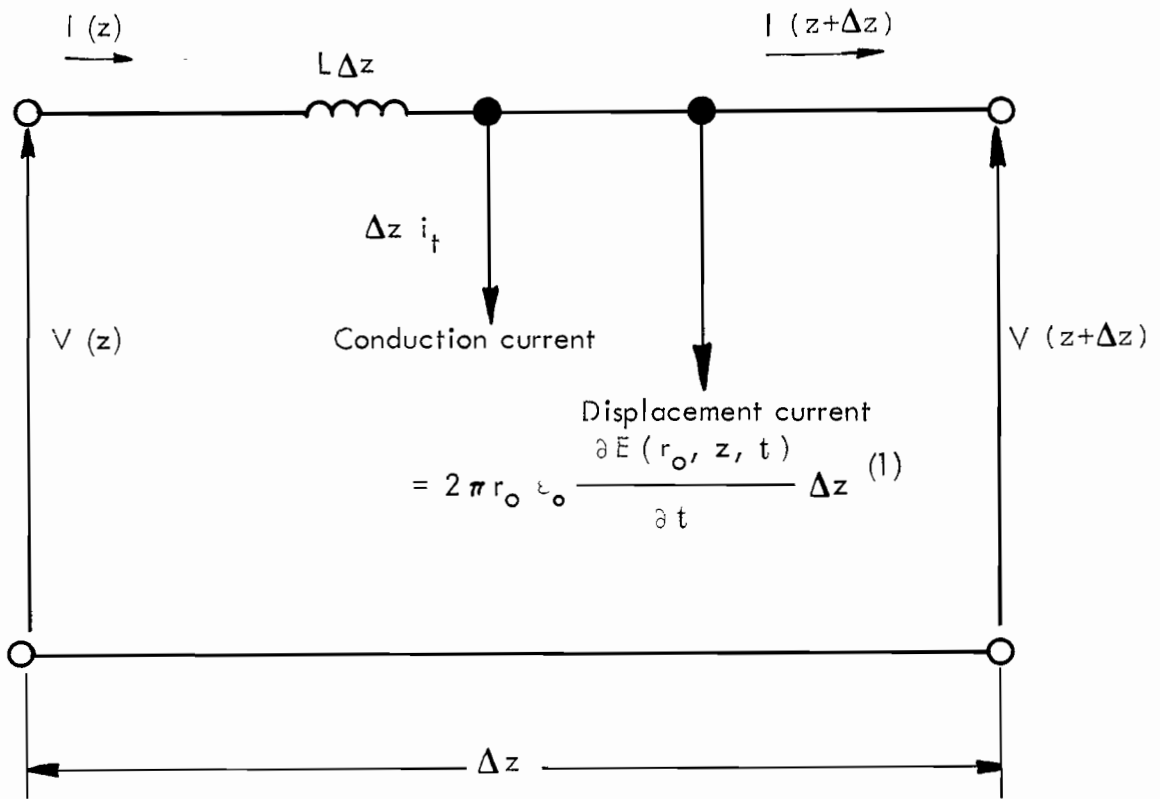
| PULSER VOLTAGE (kV) | TIME (ns) | CORONA RADIUS | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | STATION 3 (mm) | STATION 5 (mm) |
| -30 | 120 | 1.18 | 0.82 |
| -40 | 120 | 3.97 | 7.09 |
| -60 | 120 | 3.55 | 6.41 |
| -80 | 120 | 3.64 | 8.13 |
| +30 | 120 | 0.52 | 0.62 |
| +40 | 120 | 1.72 | 2.12 |
| +60 | 120 | 7.09 | 10.1 |
| +80 | 120 | 4.90 | 12.5 |

3. SIMPLE TRANSMISSION LINE MODEL OF CORONA

The corona phenomenon is of interest to AFWL because of the potential impact on EMP pickup by long wire antennas trailing from the aircraft. In this coupling situation, attenuation and speed of pulses along the wire under corona conditions are of primary importance. The following transmission line model represents a preliminary effort towards the development of an analytical model for evaluating signal propagation under corona conditions.

Consider a short section of lossless transmission line in the presence of corona as shown in Figure 31. Two currents flow in a direction transverse to the line currents at the wire surface*: conduction current and displacement current. The

* These currents flow across the entire cross section of the line; however, the wire surface is a convenient place to quantify them.



(1) This is the displacement current for a coaxial line

FIGURE 31

SECTION OF LUMPED TRANSMISSION
LINE

conduction current, present only with corona, is due to actual charge transfer across the wire surface. The displacement current consists of two terms - the normal displacement current due to line capacity and a second term due to the displacement current induced by charge-transfer alteration of the electric field.

Kirchoff's laws applied to this short section of line yield, in the limit $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial z} = -L \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \quad (11)$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial z} = -2\pi r_o \epsilon_o \frac{\partial E(r_o, z, t)}{\partial t} - i_t \quad (12)$$

Combining equations (11) and (12), the expression which governs the line voltage is

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} - 2\pi L r_o \epsilon_o \frac{\partial^2 E(r_o, z, t)}{\partial t^2} - L \frac{\partial i_t}{\partial t} = 0 \quad (13)$$

Since propagation occurs along the line at the speed of light, it is convenient to change equation (13) to retarded time; i.e.,

$$\tau = t - \frac{z}{\xi}$$

where ξ = speed of light.

With this change of variable, equation (13) becomes

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} - \frac{2}{\xi} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z \partial \tau} + \frac{1}{\xi^2} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \tau^2} - 2\pi L r_o \epsilon_o \frac{\partial^2 E(r_o, z, \tau)}{\partial \tau^2} - L \frac{\partial i_t}{\partial \tau} = 0 \quad (14)$$

Assuming spatial derivatives are small compared with time derivatives, then

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \left(-\frac{2}{\xi} \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{\xi^2} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \tau} - 2\pi L r_o \epsilon_o \frac{\partial^2 E(r_o, z, \tau)}{\partial \tau^2} - L i_t \right) = 0 \quad (15)$$

or

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial z} - \frac{1}{2\xi} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \tau} + \pi L r_o \epsilon_o \xi \frac{\partial E(r_o, z, \tau)}{\partial \tau} + \frac{L\xi}{2} i_t = f(z) \quad (16)$$

when V is small, i_t is small and

$$\pi r_o \epsilon_o \xi \frac{\partial E(r_o, z, \tau)}{\partial \tau} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2\xi} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \tau}$$

thus,*

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial z} - \frac{1}{2\xi} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \tau} + \pi L r_o \epsilon_o \xi \frac{\partial E(r_o, z, \tau)}{\partial \tau} + \frac{L\xi}{2} i_t = 0 \quad (17)$$

Assume that $E(r_o, z, \tau) = E_{\text{applied}} + E_{\text{induced}}$; where, E_{applied} is the field which exists in the absence of corona. For the coaxial geometry under consideration,

$$E_{\text{applied}} = \frac{V}{r \ln \frac{r_{\text{max}}}{r_o}}$$

so that equation (17) can be written

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial z} + \pi L r_o \epsilon_o \xi \frac{\partial E_i(r_o, z, \tau)}{\partial \tau} + \frac{L\xi}{2} i_t = 0 \quad (18)$$

It is anticipated that the results from the corona radius model can be used to express the induced voltage and i_t terms as functions of line voltage and current. This would lead to a

* Dr. Carl Baum of AFWL has shown that this equation is true to the order of the last two terms on the left side.

differential equation for line voltage and current and thereby provide a basis for studying signal propagation under corona conditions. Additional work is required to develop this concept and fully evaluate its applicability.

SECTION V
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The experiment demonstrated the existence of a corona threshold in the range of plus or minus 30 kV for a 0.8114 millimeter diameter (A.W.G. No. 20) test wire suspended 1 meter above a ground plane. Basic calculations performed on the electric and magnetic field measurements show that the impedance at the ground plane increases as a function of retarded time, operating voltage and spatial position along the test wire.

A modeling effort associated with the experimental program resulted in a simple model which represents the corona phenomenon by a variable-radius conduction region (defined as the corona radius) around the actual conductor. Calculations of the conduction region from the test data and model equations show that the corona radii are much greater than the actual conductor radius. Moreover, the calculated corona radii increase as a function of retarded time, operating voltage and spatial position along the test wire due to the increase in measured impedance with these same variables.

A continuation of both the experimental and analytical phases of the program is recommended. Two changes in the test phase are recommended although the test facility and test results were generally satisfactory for an initial study program. The first change has to do with the acquisition of test data unambiguously below the corona threshold; this could be accomplished by changing to a larger diameter test wire or through the use of a lower-voltage spark gap in the high-voltage pulser. The second recommended change consists of increasing the length of the ground plane and transmission wire by about 50 feet to minimize the effects of the reflected pulse on the measured data. It is clear from the tabulated data presented in Section III and Figures 15 through 30 given in Section IV that the scatter of the data is more than can

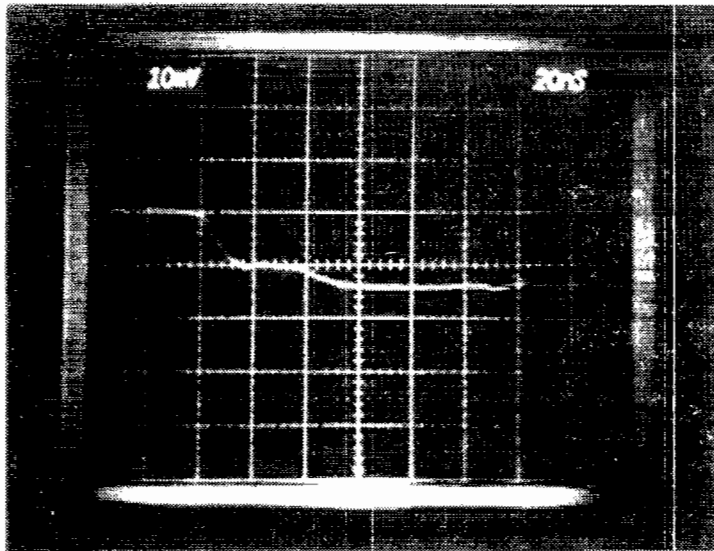
reasonably be attributed to experimental uncertainty. It is believed that elimination of the reflected pulse would cause both the data and calculations based on the data to exhibit the expected monotonic characteristic.

One of the basic objectives of this study and related studies is to provide a framework for evaluating signal propagation on a conductor under corona conditions. This aspect of the problem was briefly considered in Section IV, Part 3, where the transmission line model was presented. Further analytical work with the transmission line model and/or other promising approaches is recommended.

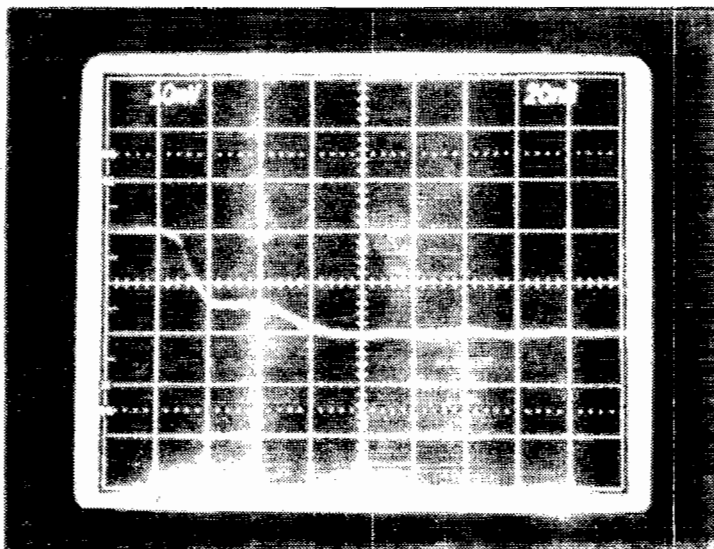
APPENDIX

ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FLUX DATA

This appendix is a compilation of B, D, \dot{B} and \dot{D} data for a test voltage range from ± 30 kV to ± 80 kV. The data are identified by a pair of alphanumeric characters where the alphabetical character designates the type of data and the number designates the measuring station. Station 1 is near the pulser, station 3 is midway between the pulser and the termination, and station 5 is near the termination. The characters displayed in the upper sections of each photograph are the vertical and horizontal deflection factors in terms of volts/division and time/division, respectively.

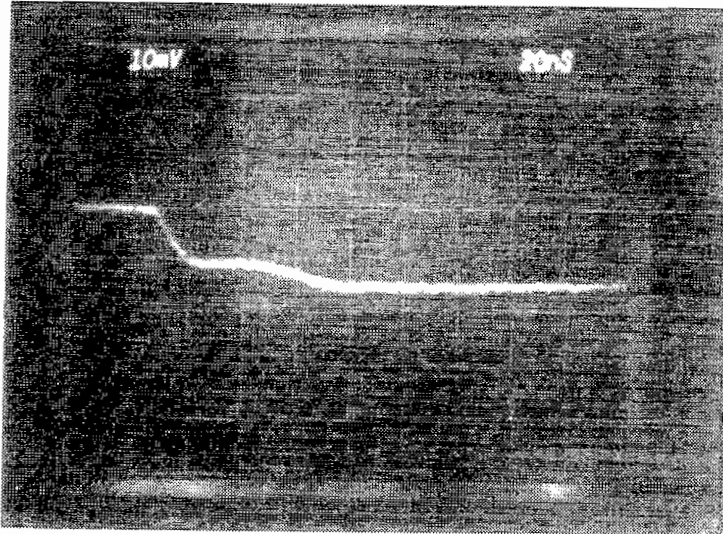


B1

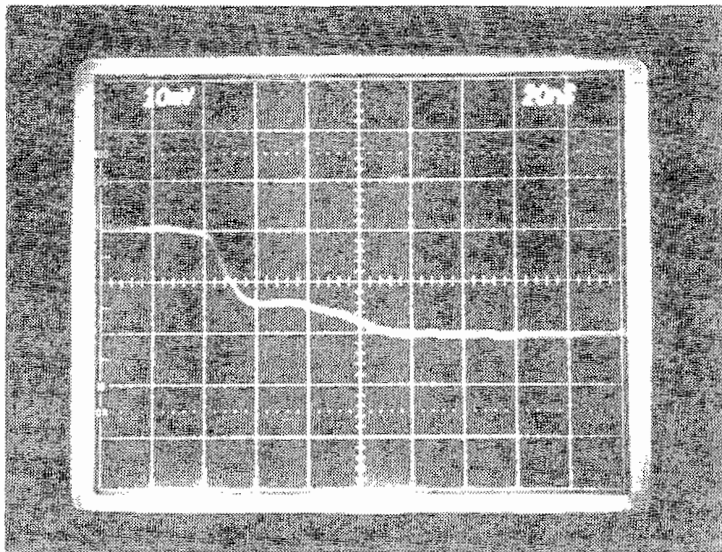


D1

FIGURE A1
B AND D DATA FOR -30 KV

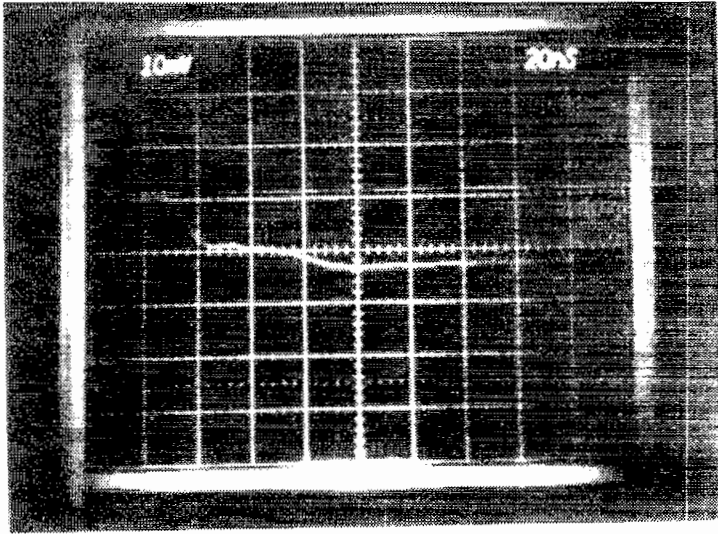


B3

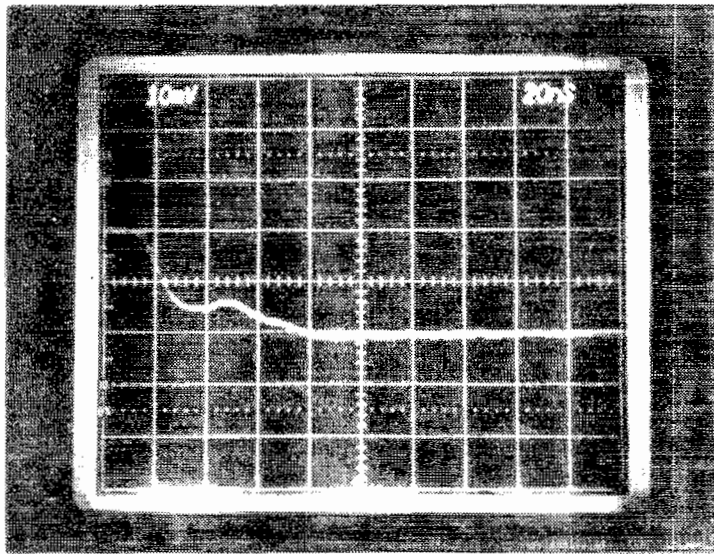


D3

FIGURE A1 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -30 KV

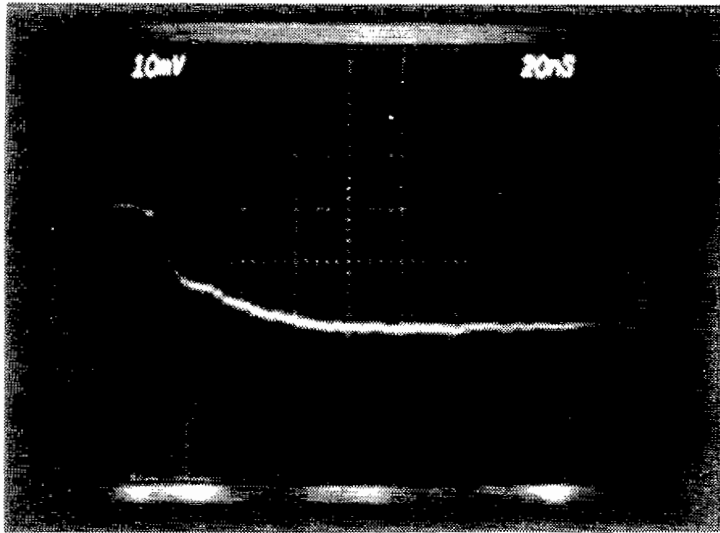


B5

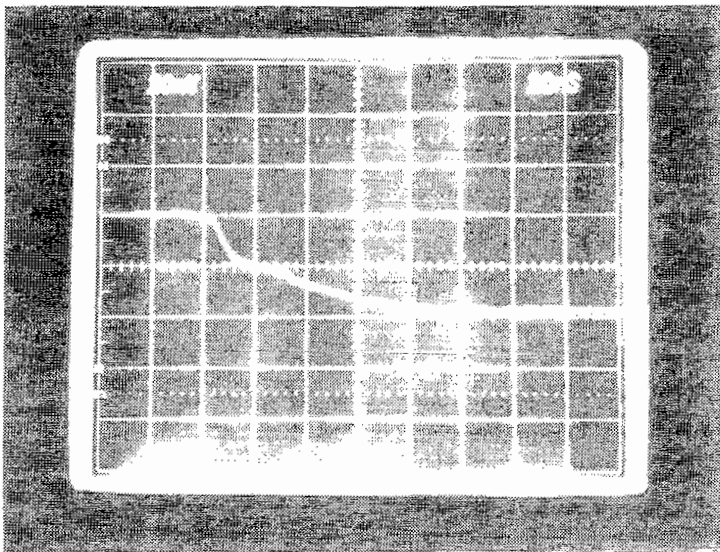


D5

FIGURE A1 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -30 KV

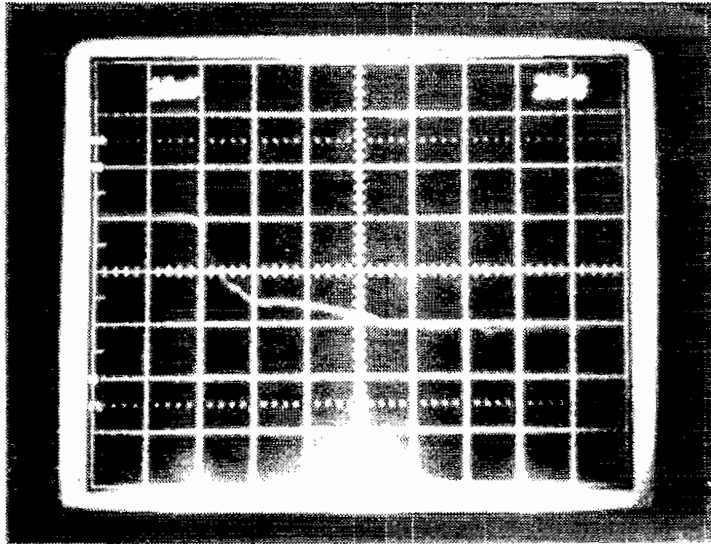


B1

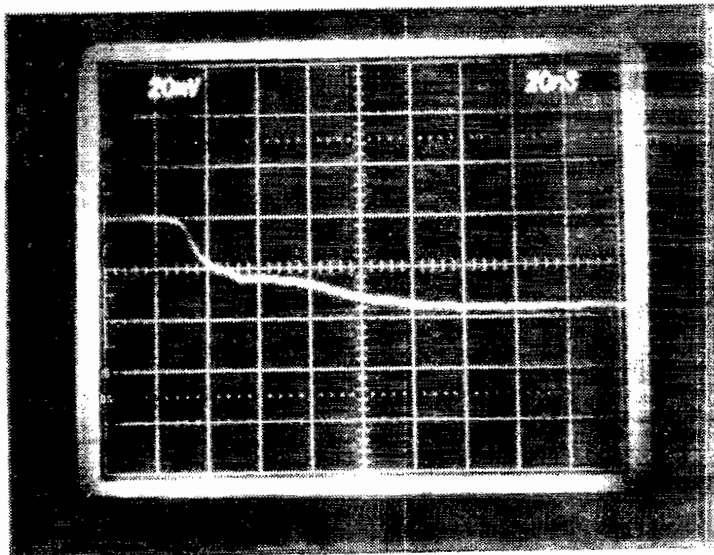


D1

FIGURE A2
B AND D DATA FOR -40 KV

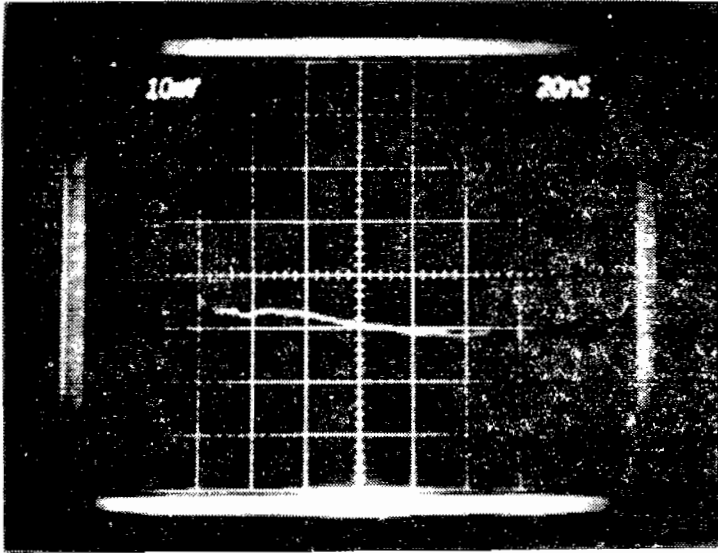


B3

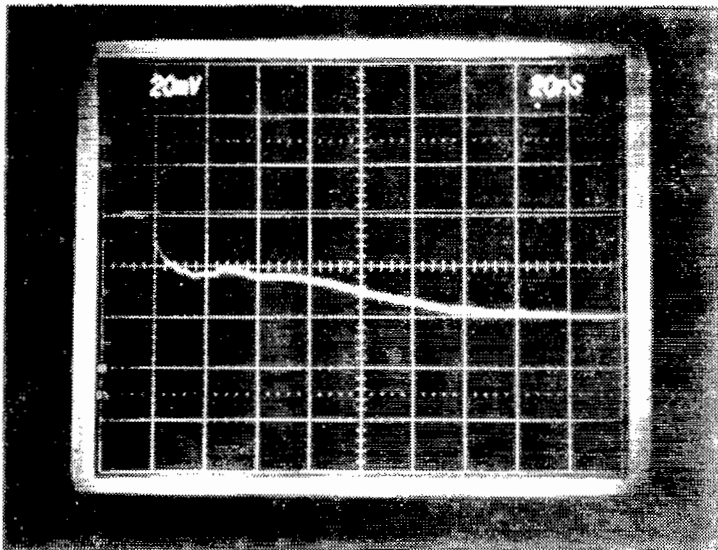


D3

FIGURE A2 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -40 KV

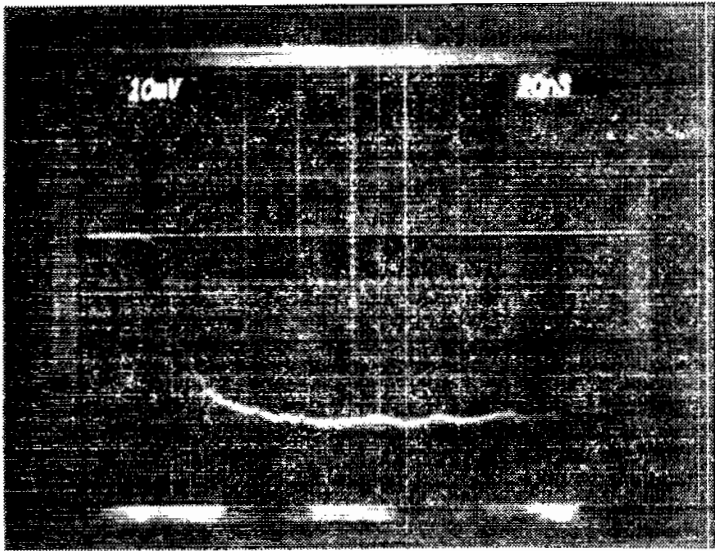


B5

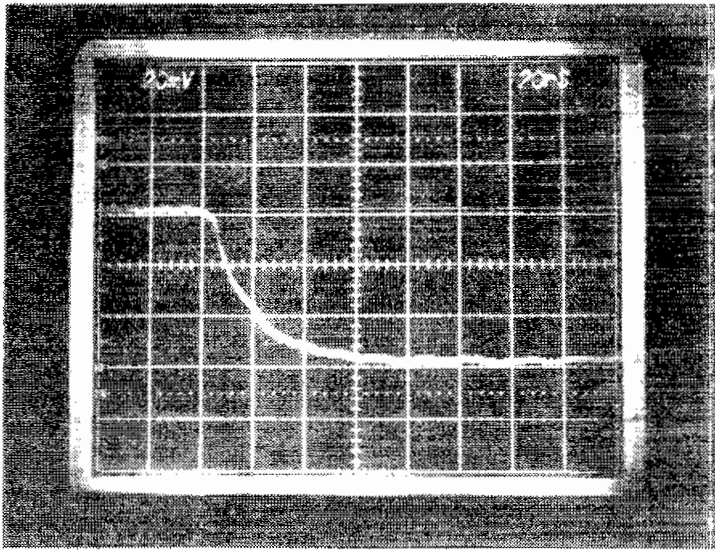


D5

FIGURE A2 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -40 KV

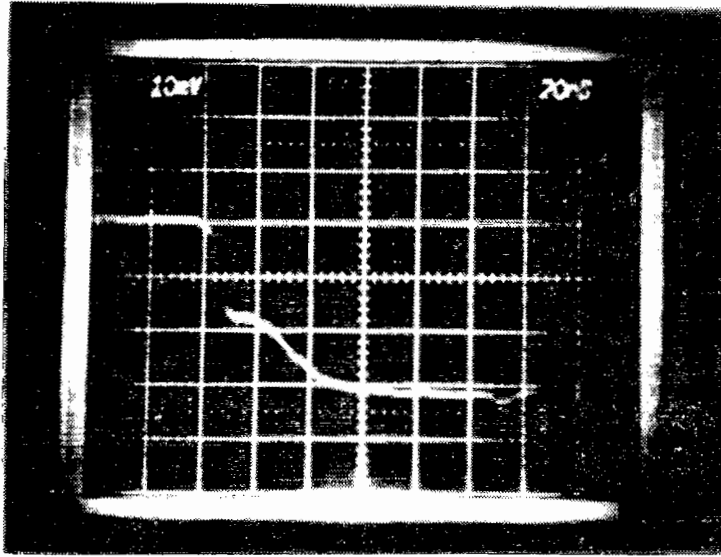


B1

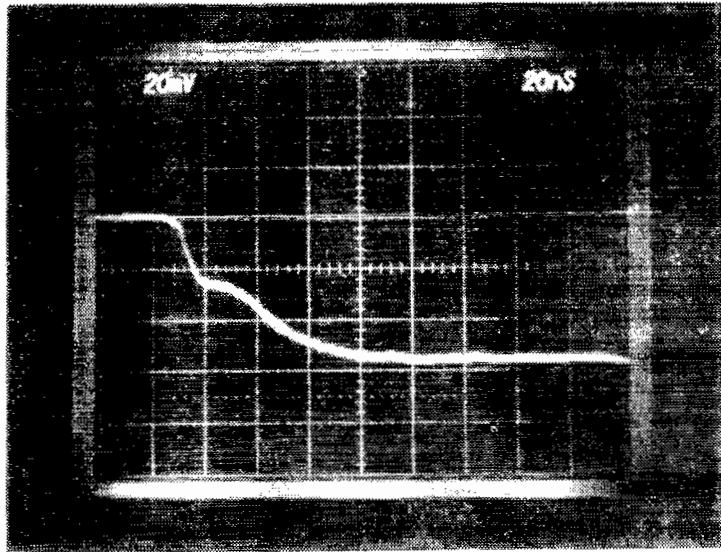


D1

FIGURE A3
B AND D DATA FOR -60 KV

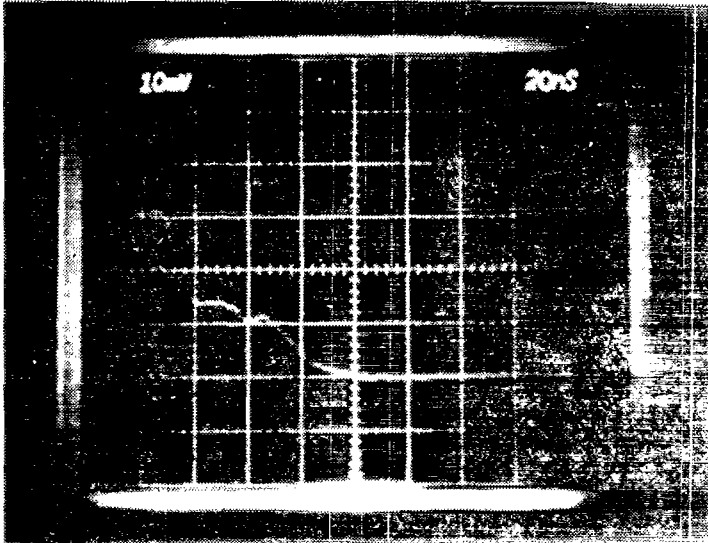


B3

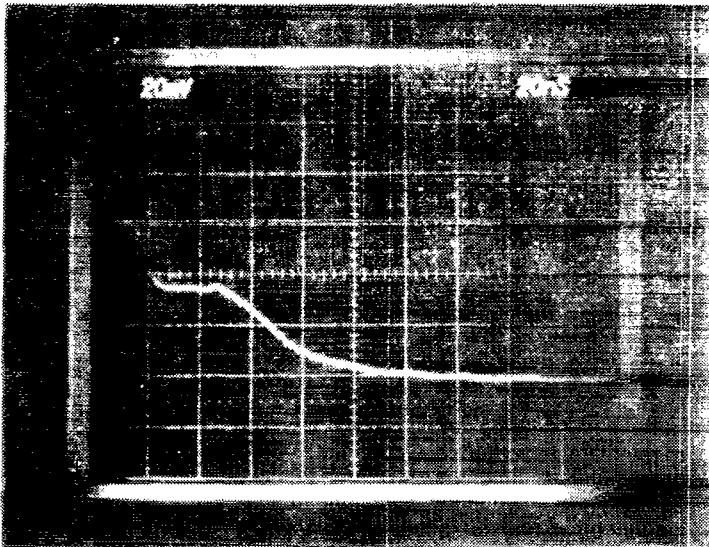


D3

FIGURE A3 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -60 KV

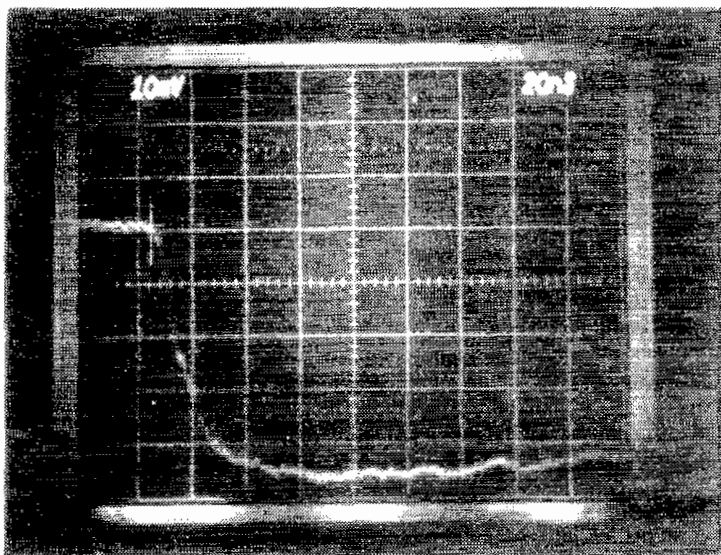


B5

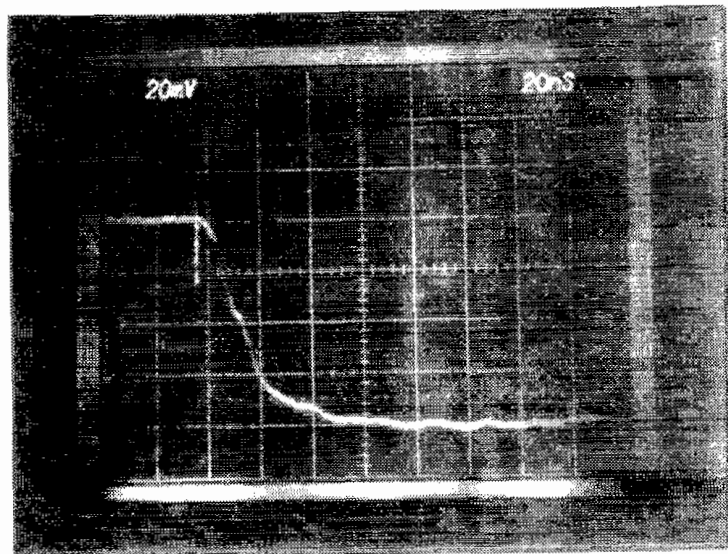


D5

FIGURE A3 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -60 KV

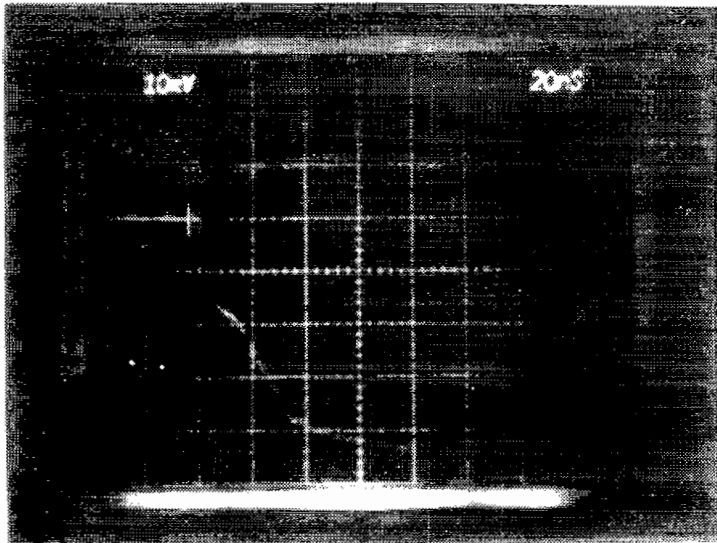


B1

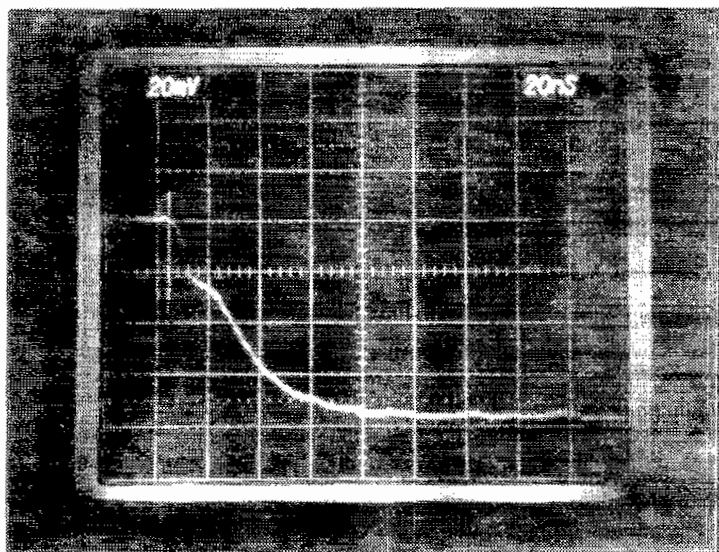


D1

FIGURE A4
B AND D DATA FOR -80 KV

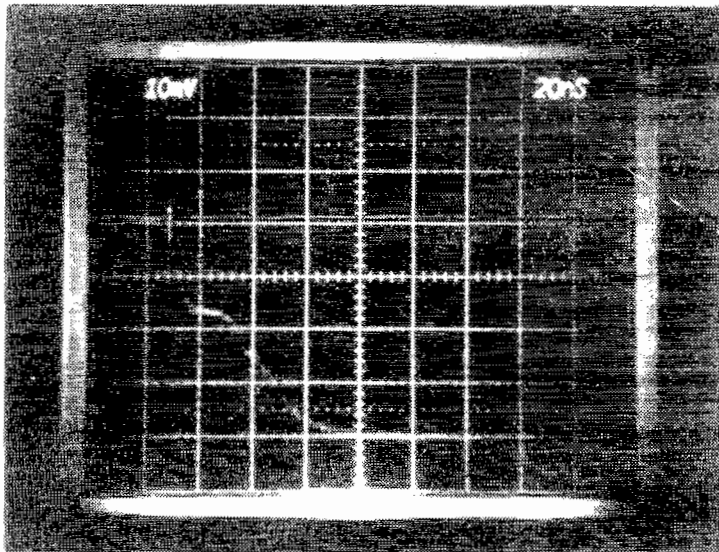


B3

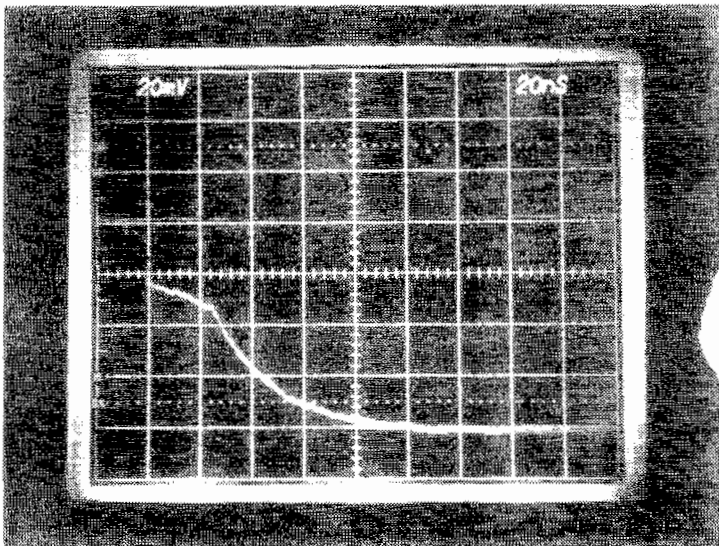


D3

FIGURE A4 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -80 KV

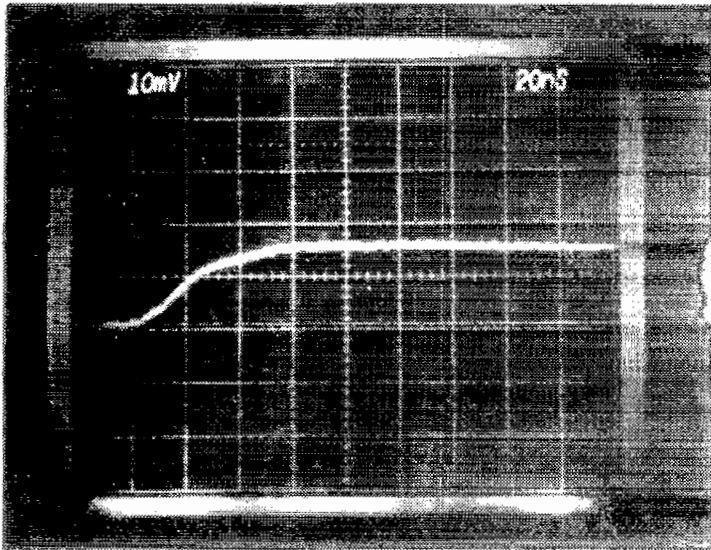


B5

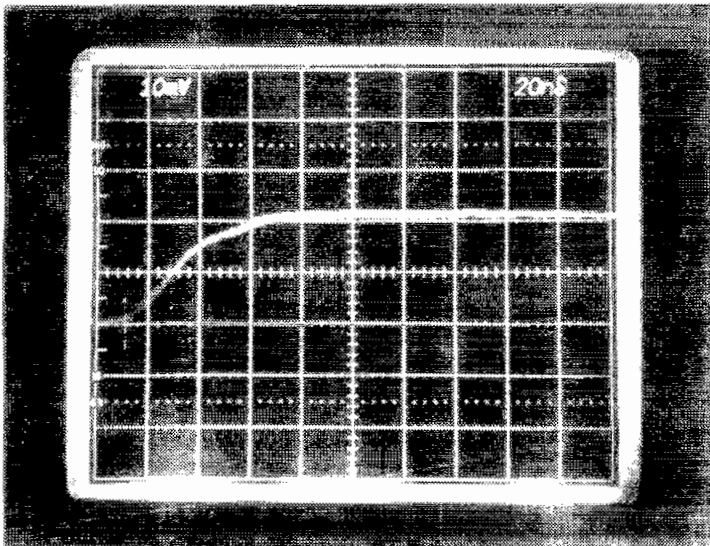


D5

FIGURE A4 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -80 KV

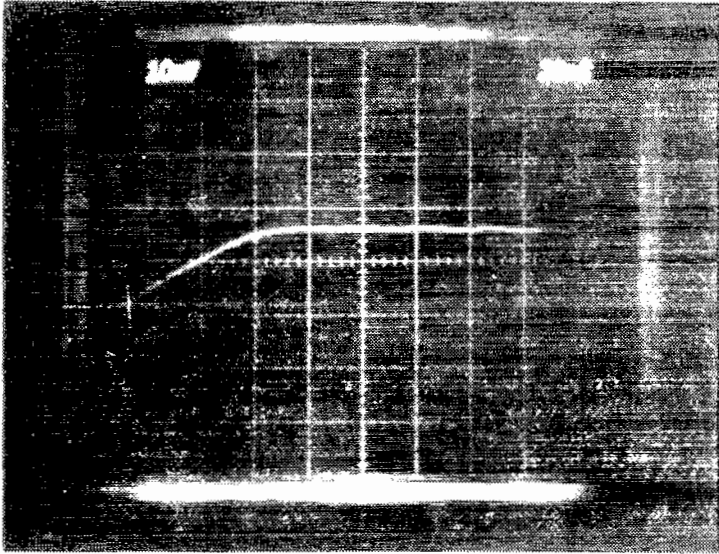


B1

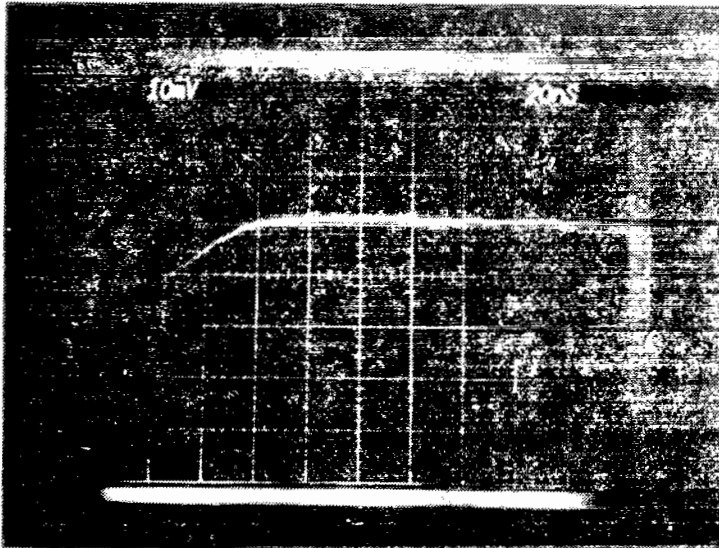


D1

FIGURE A5
B AND D DATA FOR +30 KV

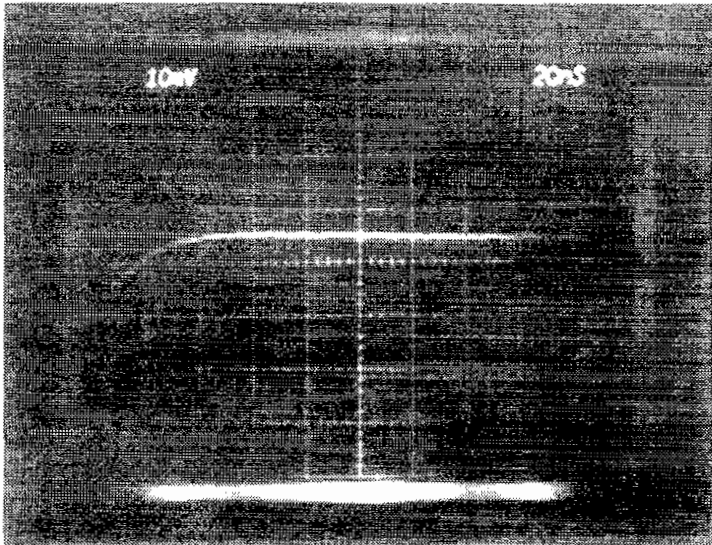


B3

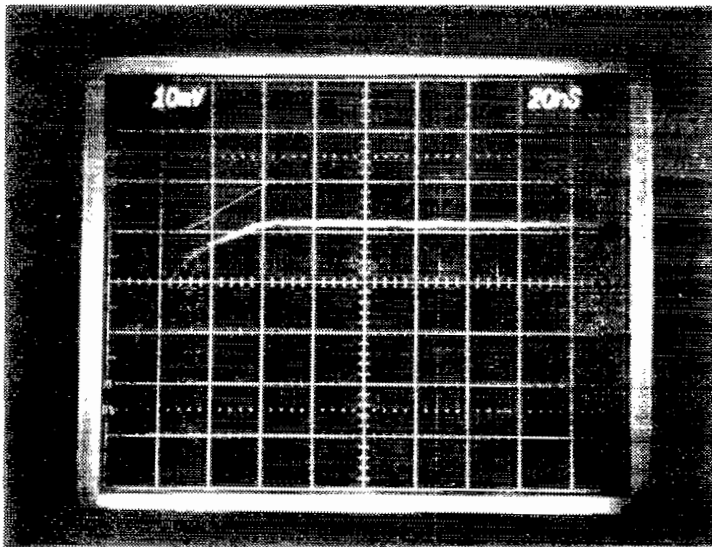


D3

FIGURE A5 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +30 KV

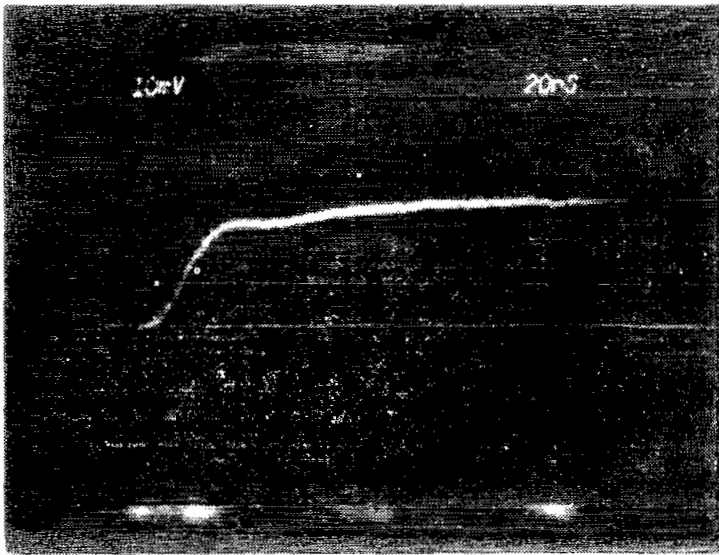


B5

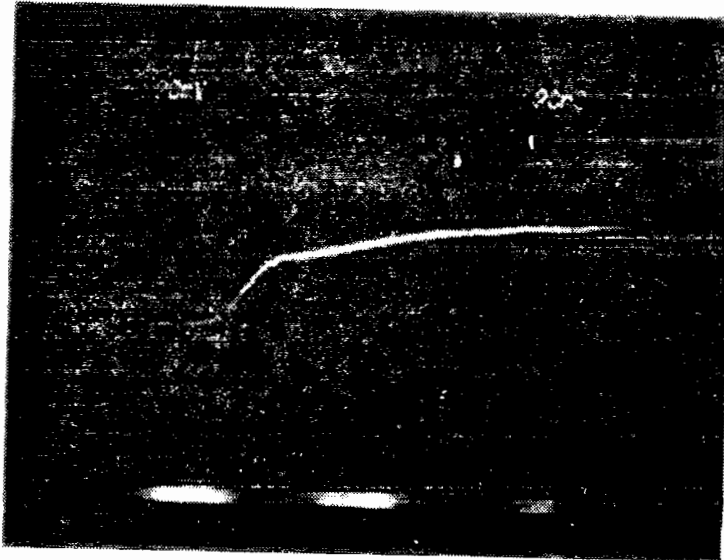


D5

FIGURE A5 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +30 KV

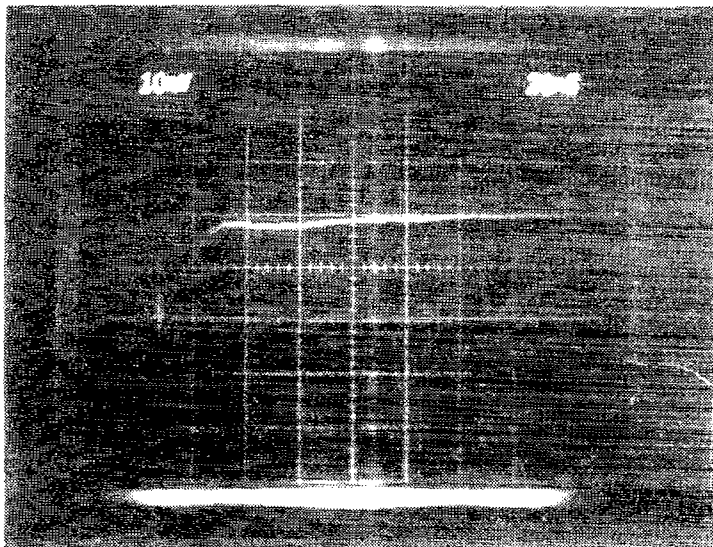


B1

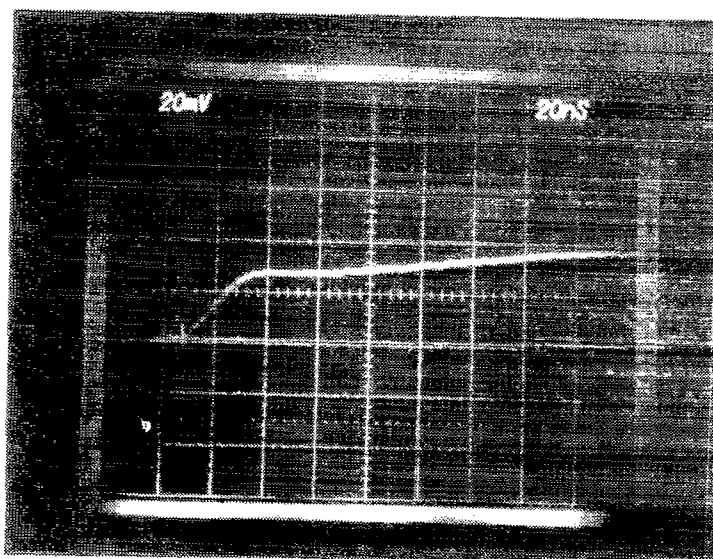


D1

FIGURE A6
B AND D DATA FOR +40 KV

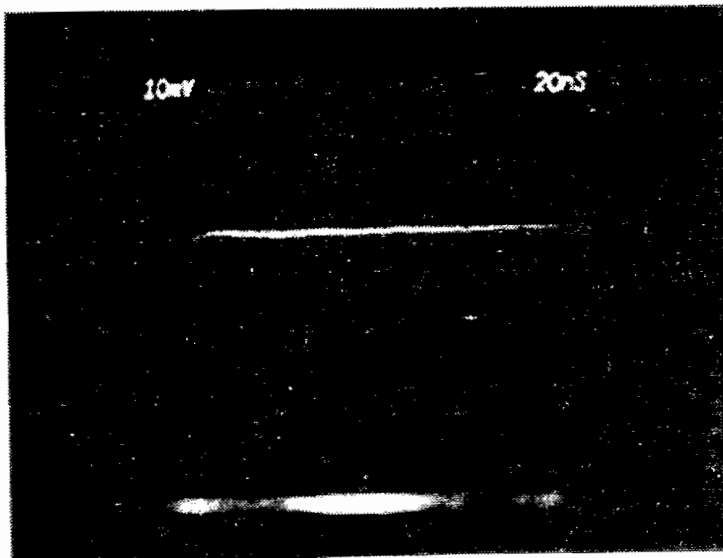


B3

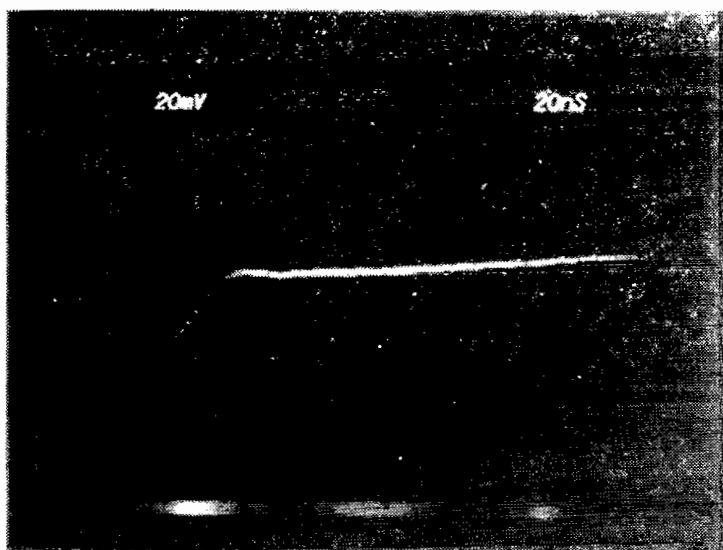


D3

FIGURE A6 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +40 KV

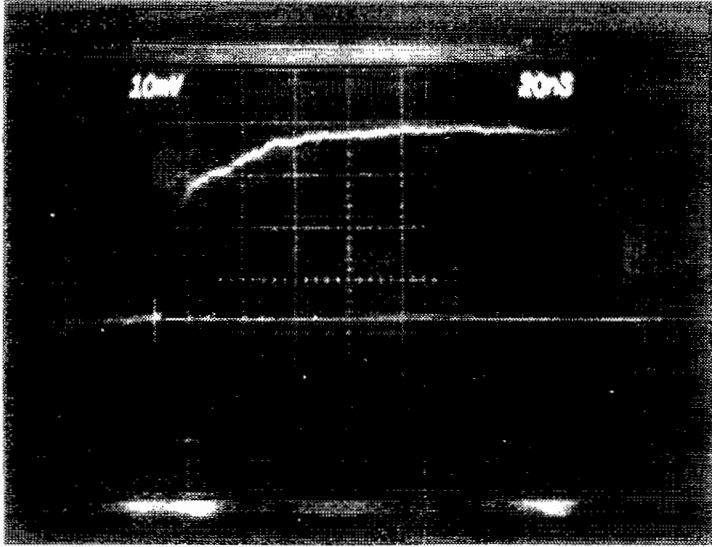


B5

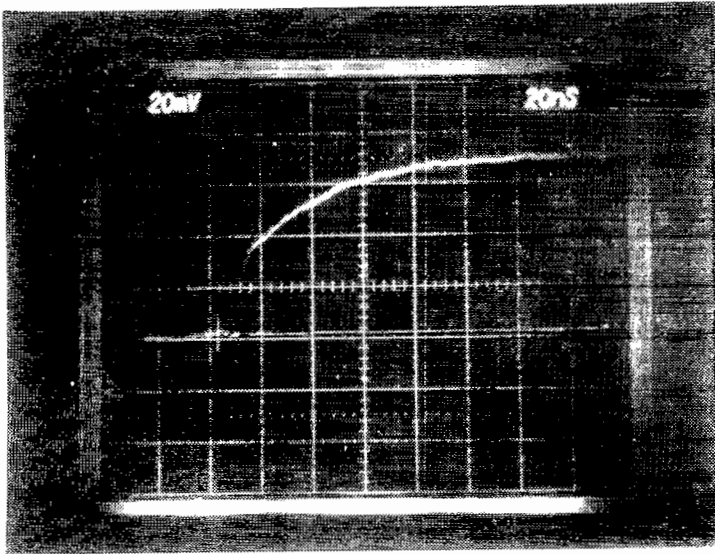


D5

FIGURE A6 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +40 KV

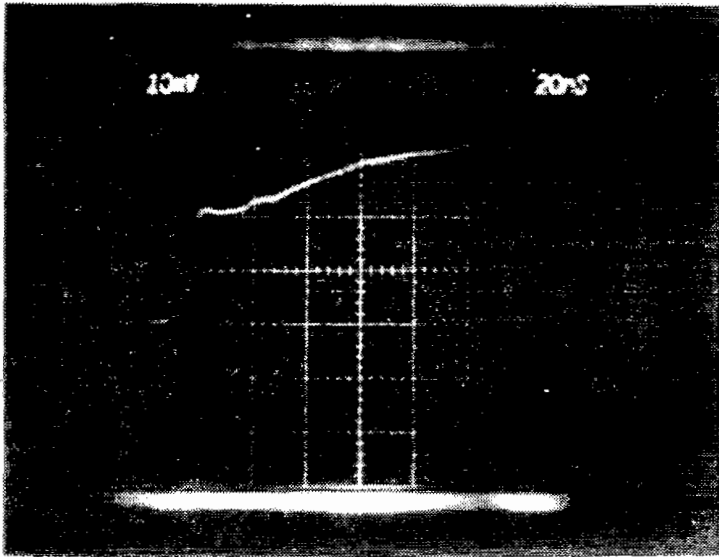


B1

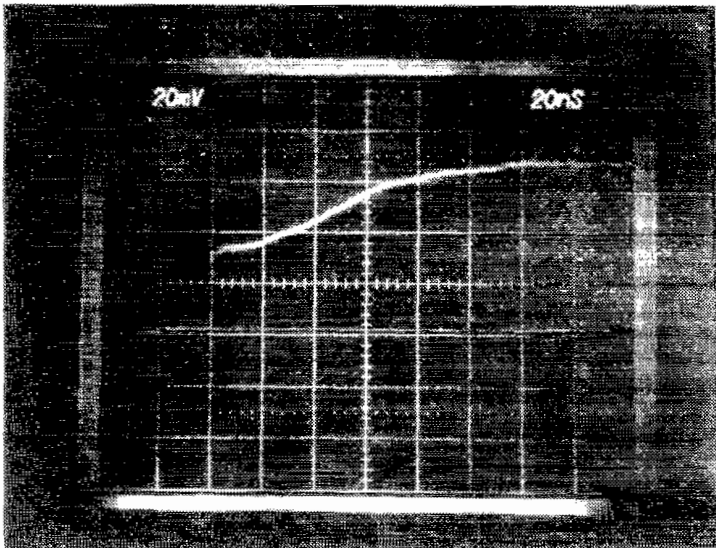


D1

FIGURE A7
B AND D DATA FOR +60 KV

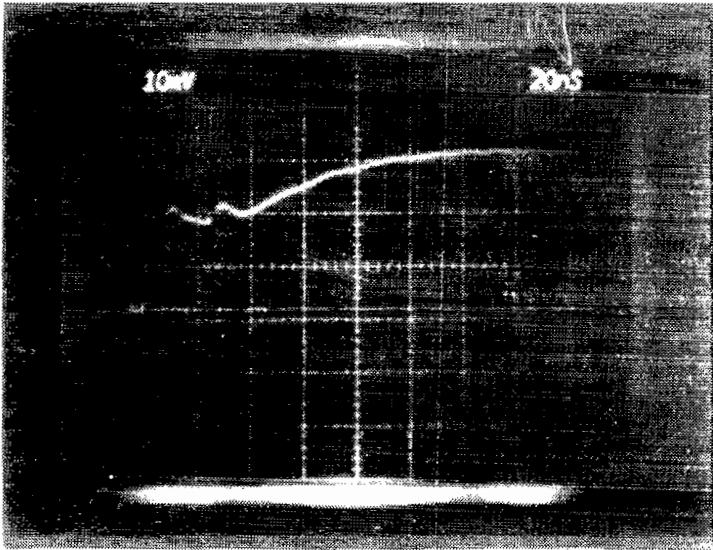


B3

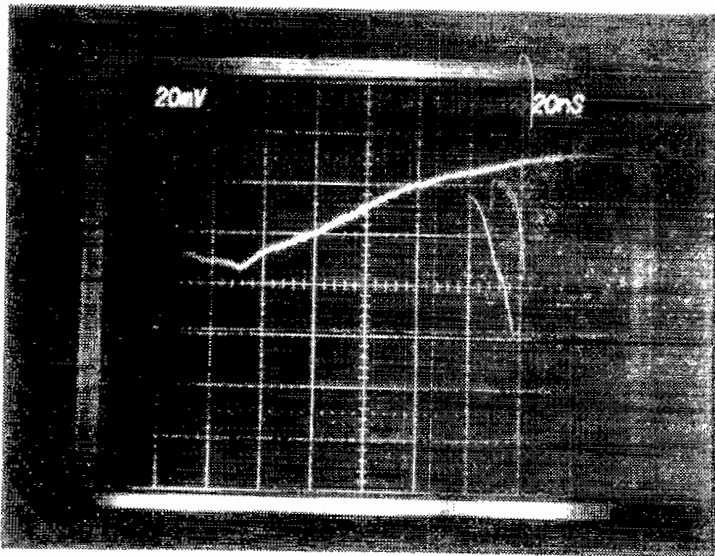


D3

FIGURE A7 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +60 KV

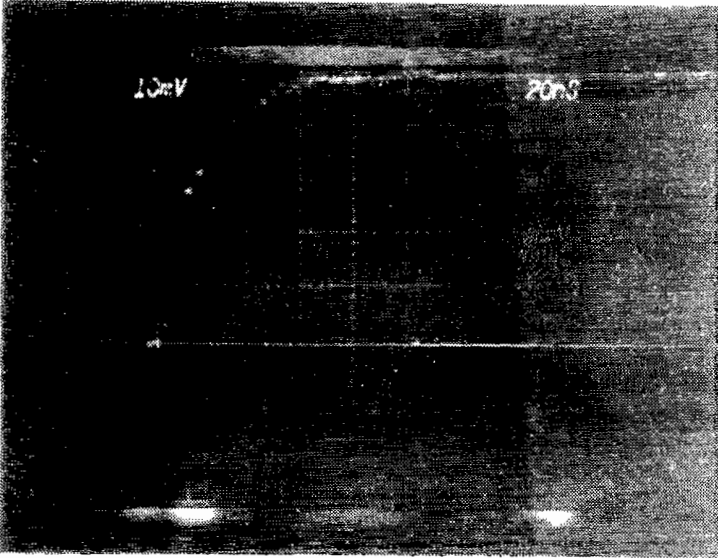


B5

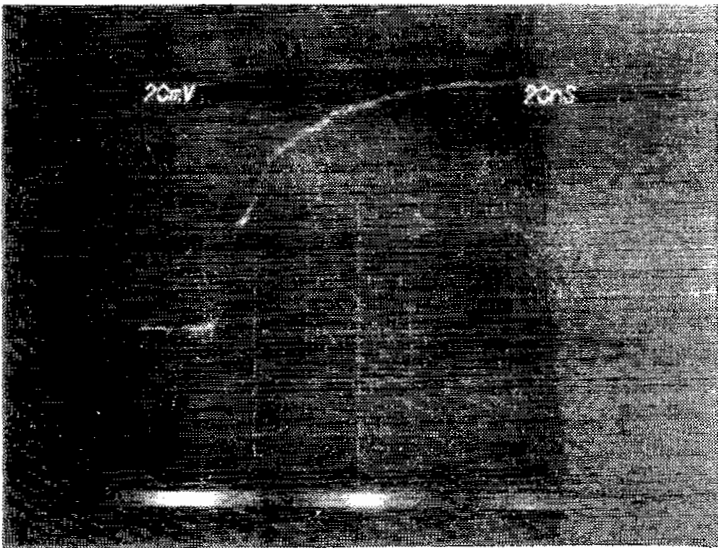


D5

FIGURE A7 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +60 KV

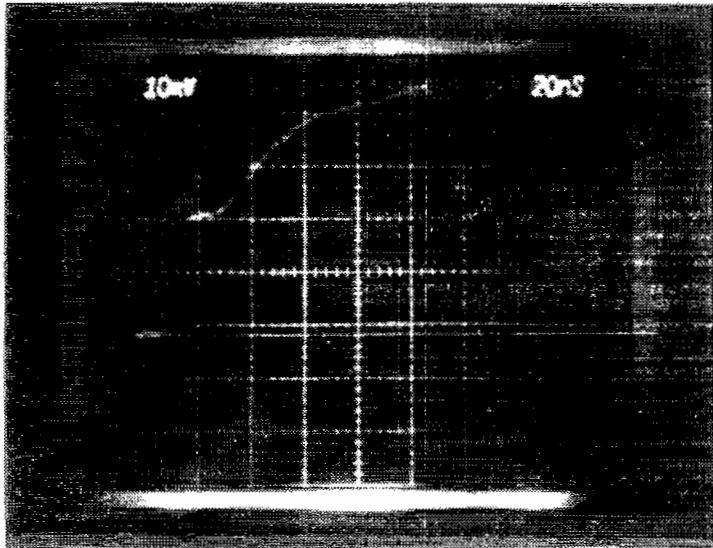


B1

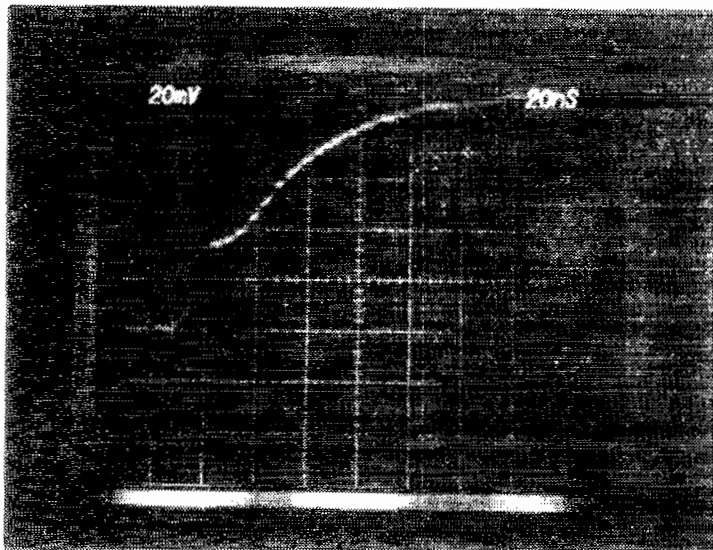


D1

FIGURE A8
B AND D DATA FOR +80 KV - SET 1

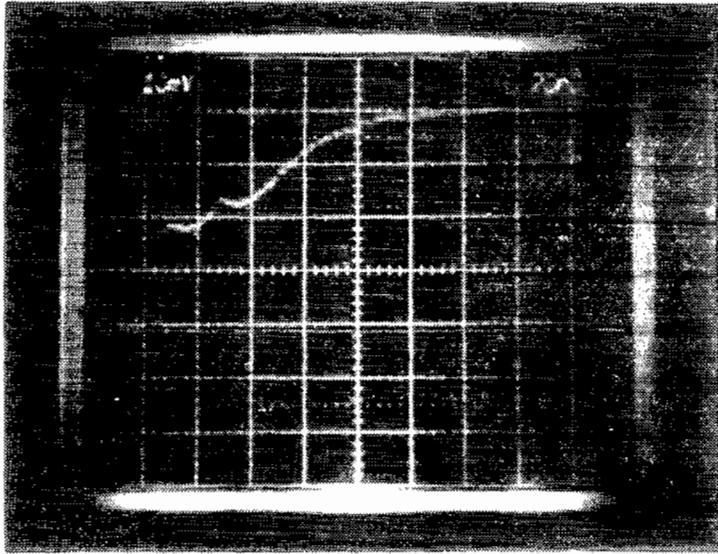


B3

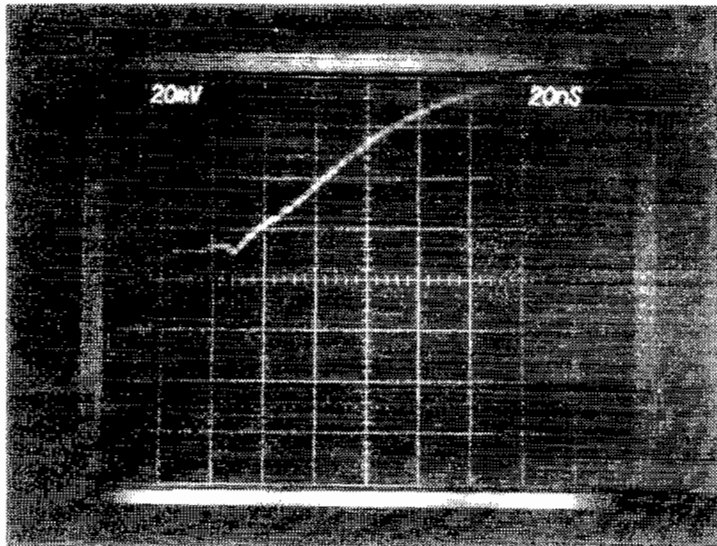


D3

FIGURE A8 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +80 KV - SET 1

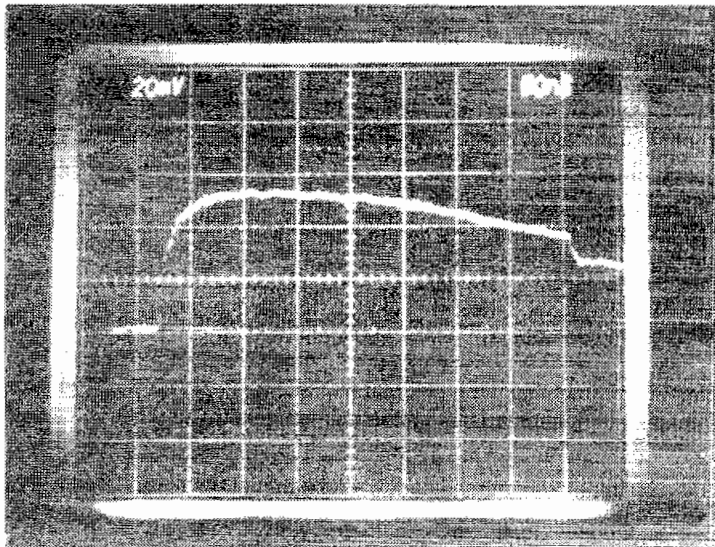


B5

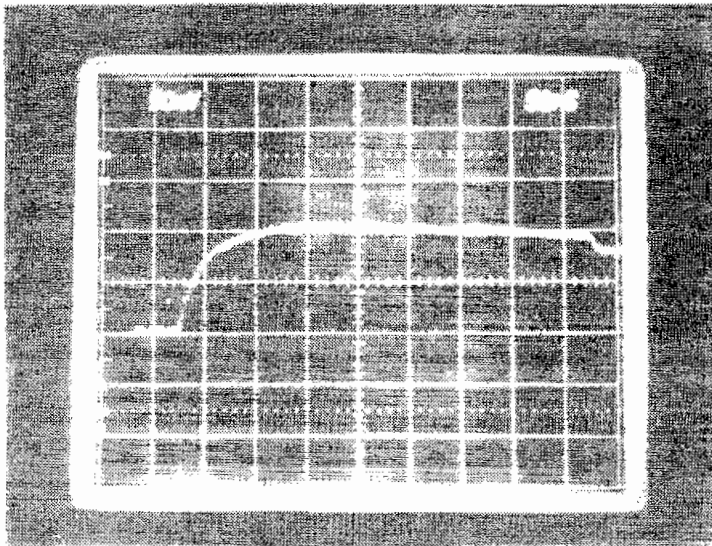


D5

FIGURE A8 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +80 KV - SET 1

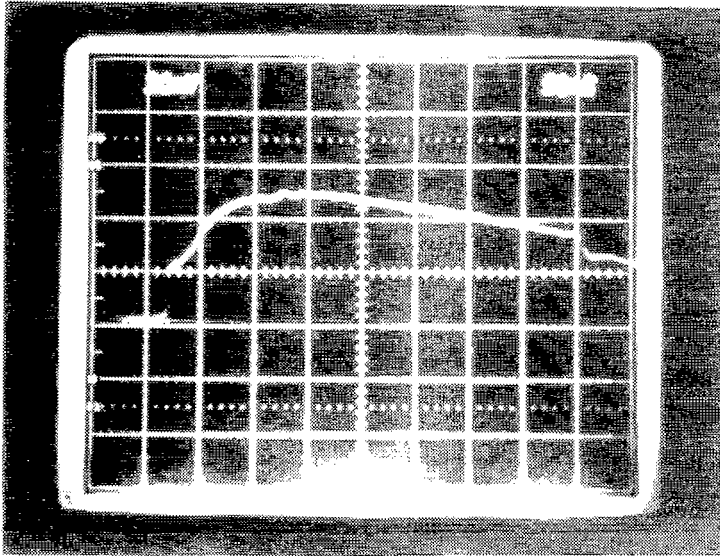


B1

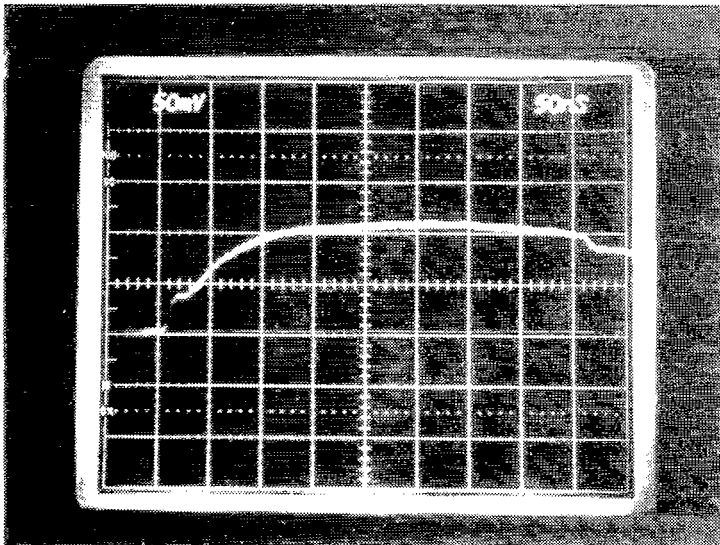


D1

FIGURE A9
B AND D DATA FOR +80 KV - SET 2

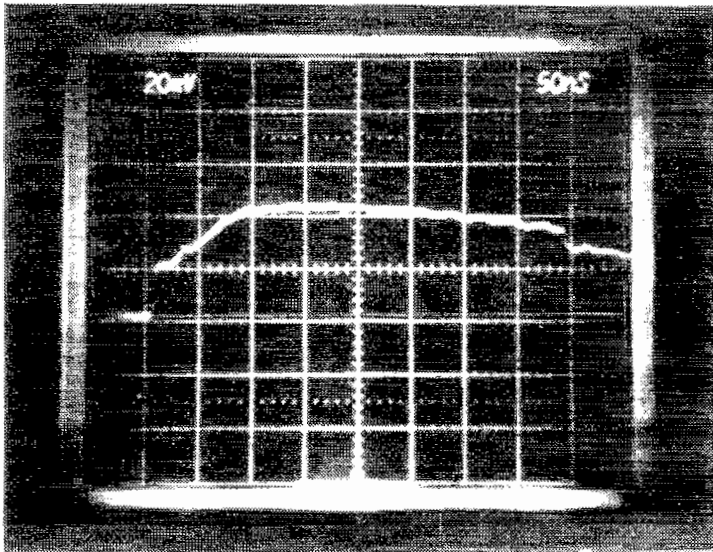


B3

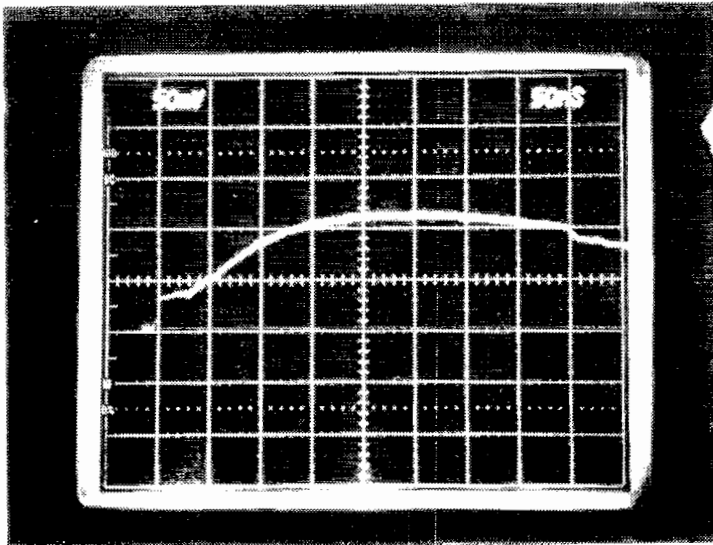


D3

FIGURE A9 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +80 KV - SET 2

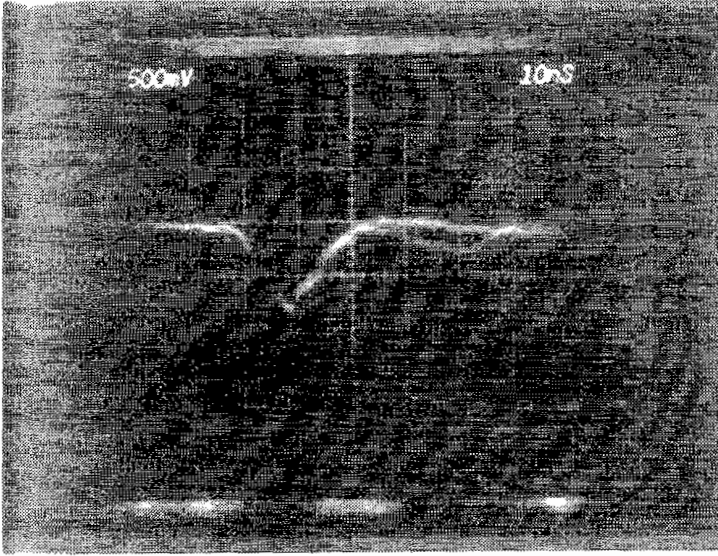


B5

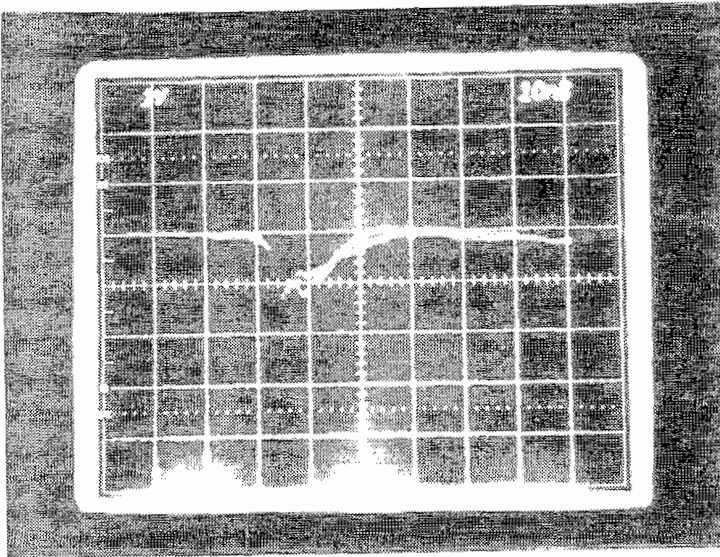


D5

FIGURE A9 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +80 KV - SET 2

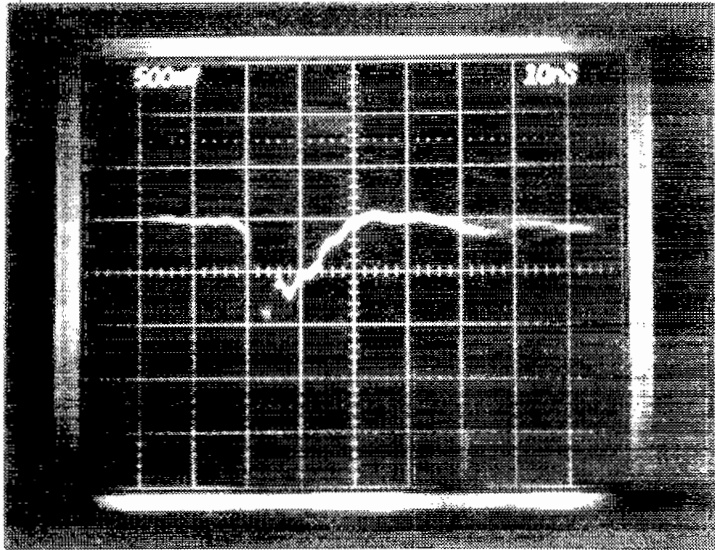


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B1

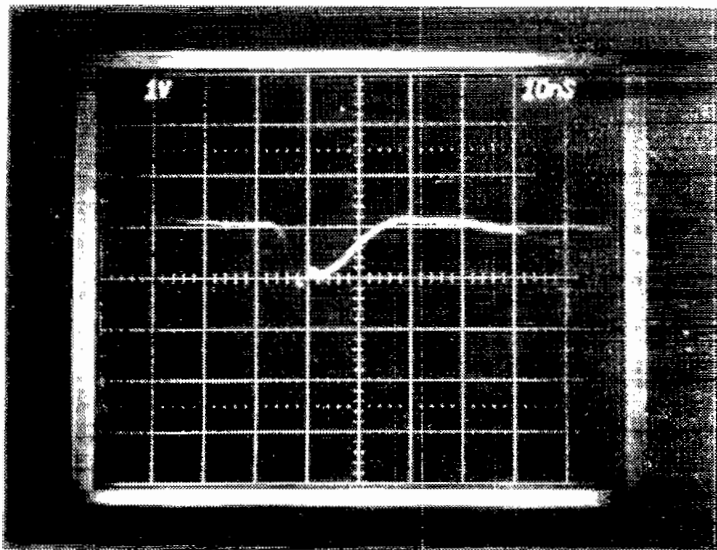


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D1

FIGURE A10
• B AND • D DATA FOR -30 KV



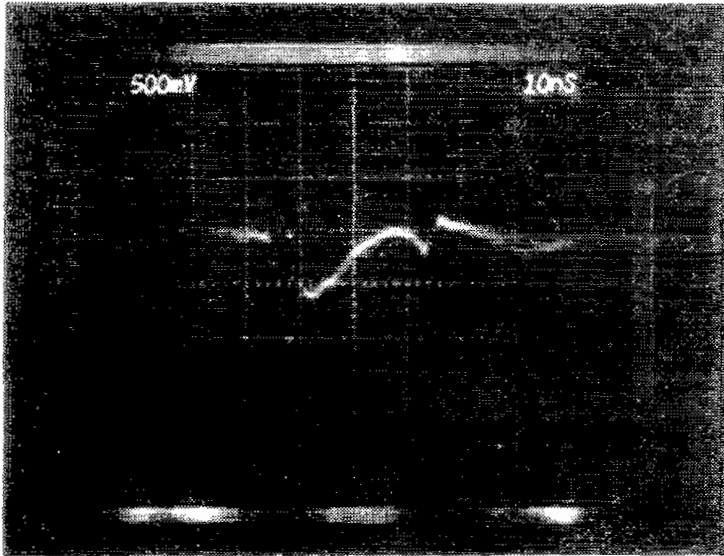
B3



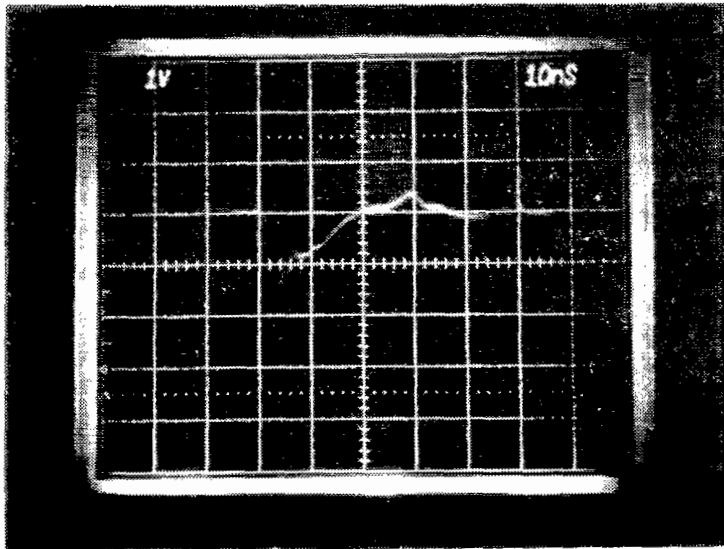
D3

FIGURE A10 (Continued)

B AND D DATA FOR -30 KV

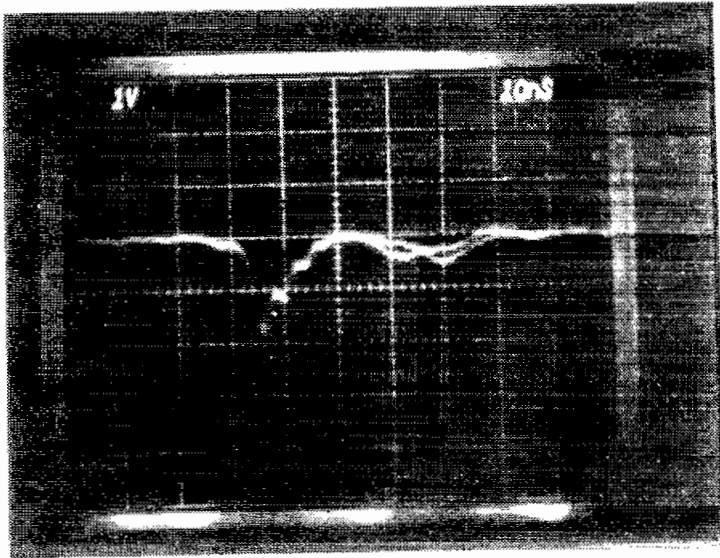


B5

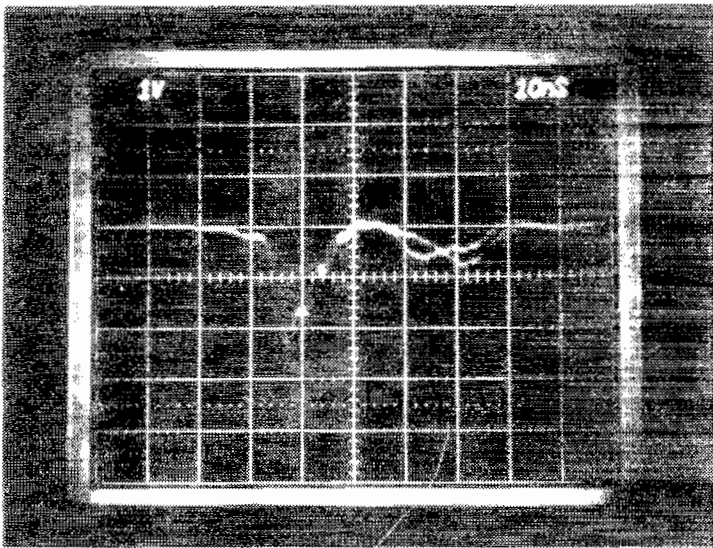


D5

FIGURE A10 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -30 KV

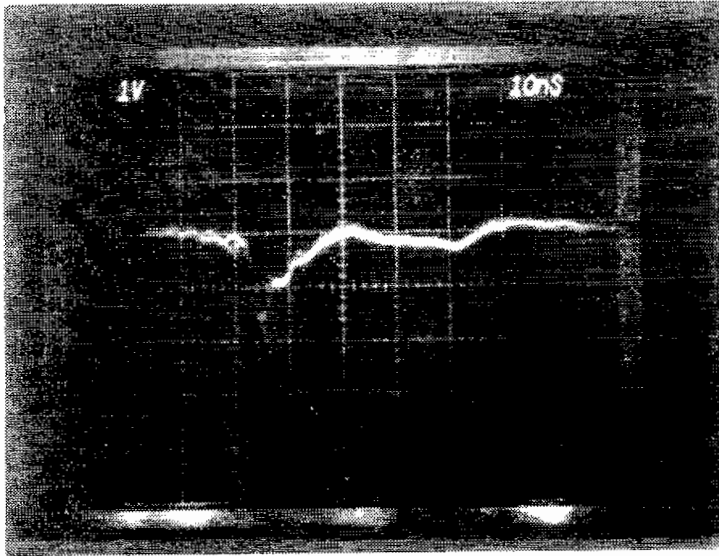


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B1

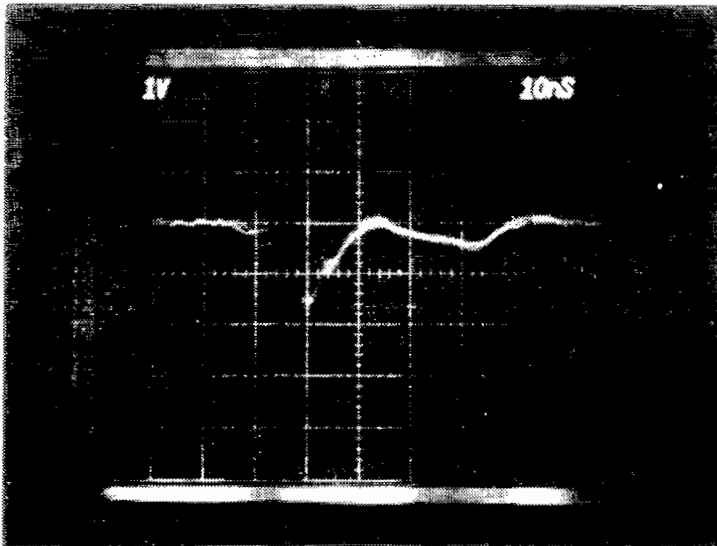


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D1

FIGURE A11
• •
B AND D DATA FOR -40 KV

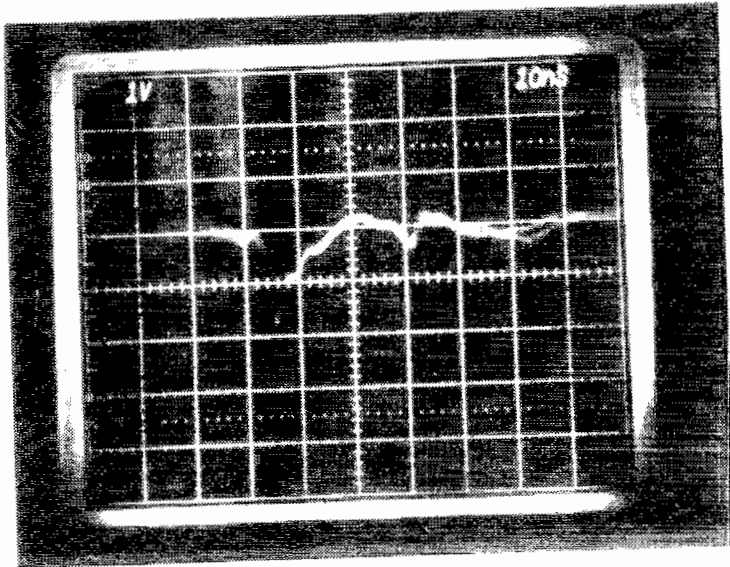


B3

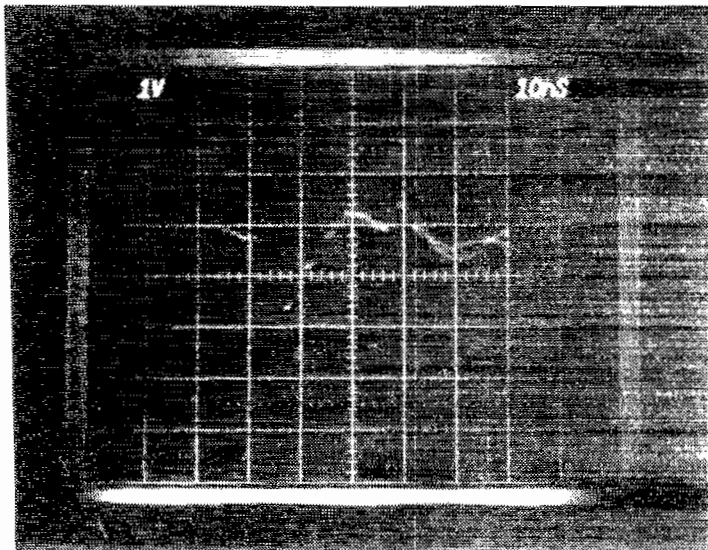


D3

FIGURE A11 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -40 KV

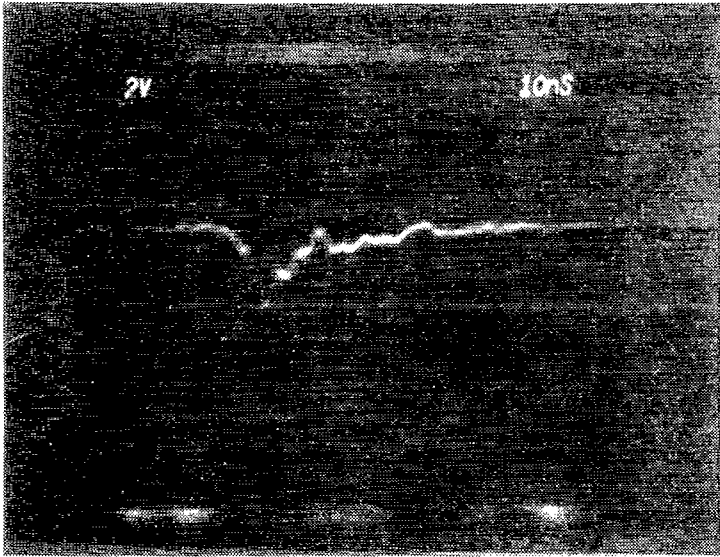


B5

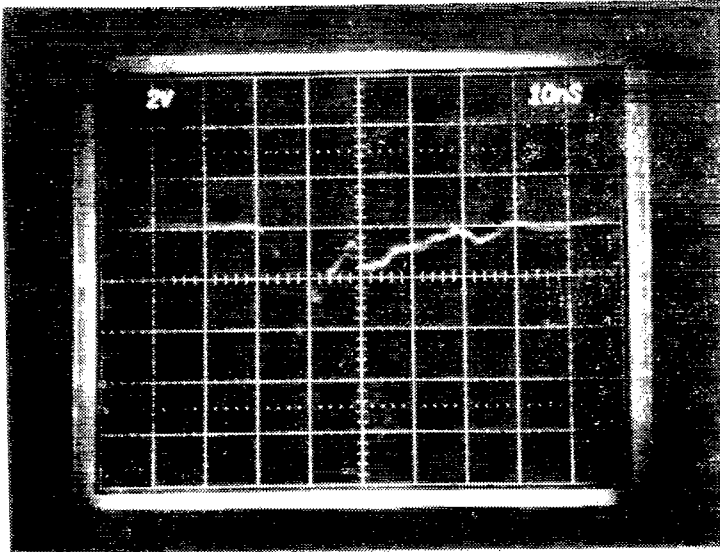


D5

FIGURE All (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -40 KV

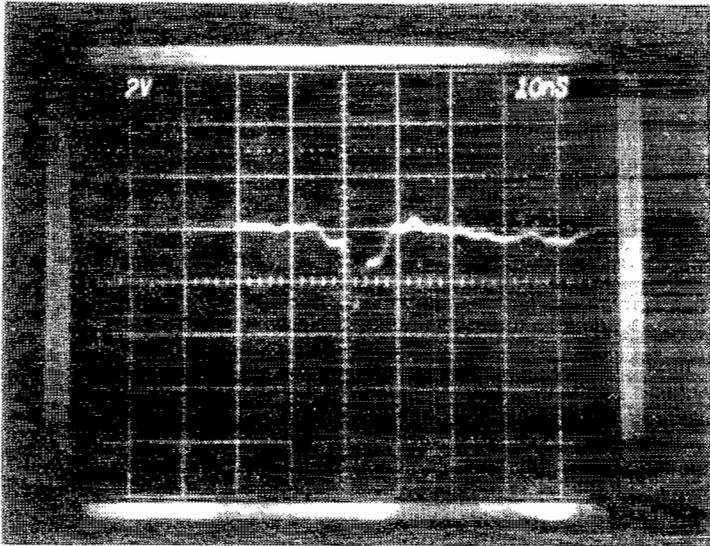


B1

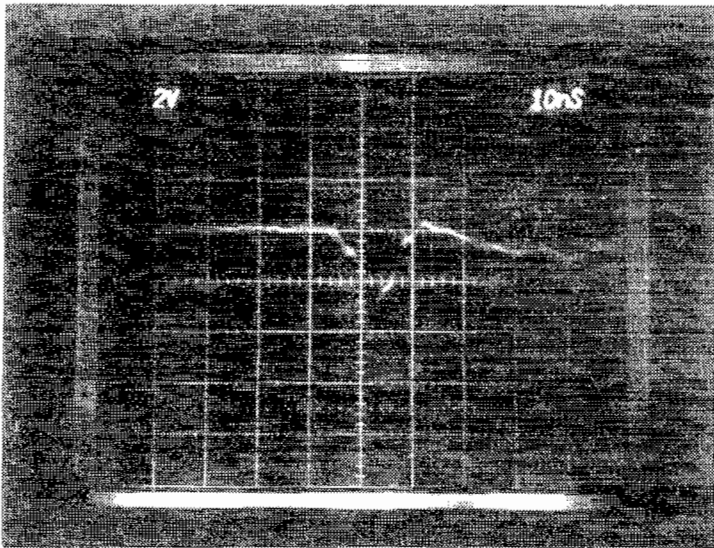


D1

FIGURE A12
B AND D DATA FOR -60 KV

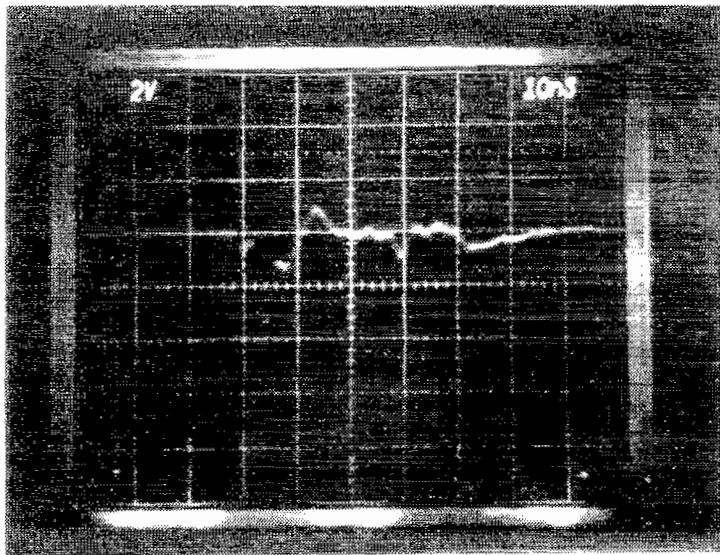


B3

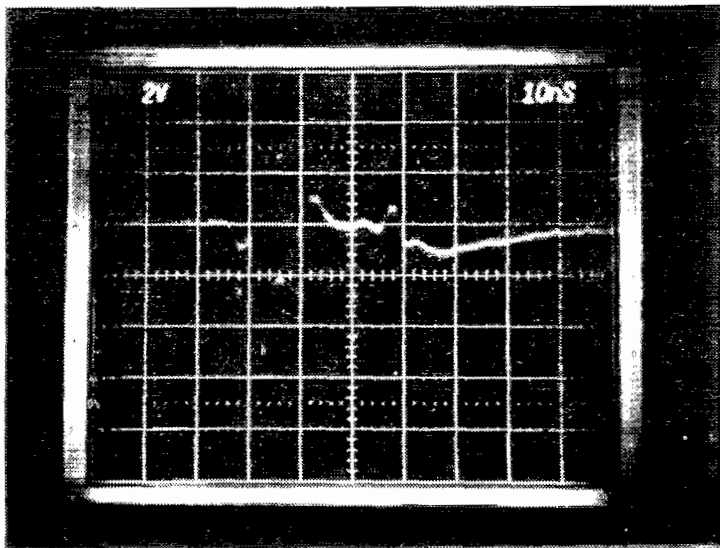


D3

FIGURE A12 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -60 KV

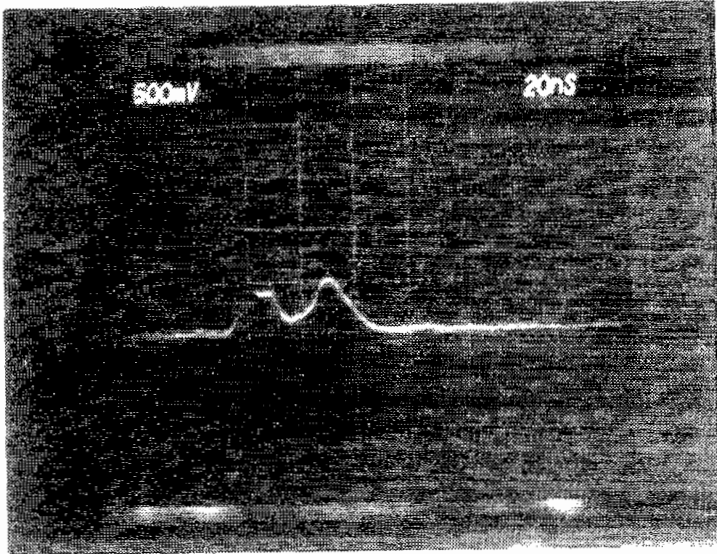


B5

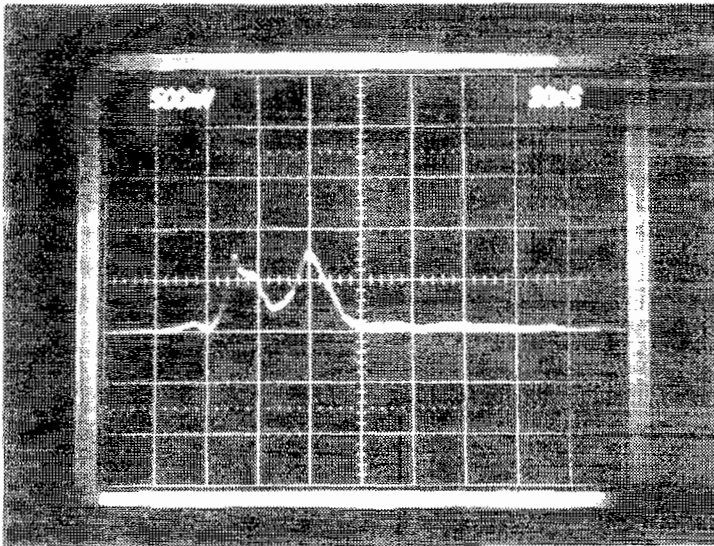


D5

FIGURE A12 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR -60 KV



B1



D1

FIGURE A13
B AND D DATA FOR +30 KV

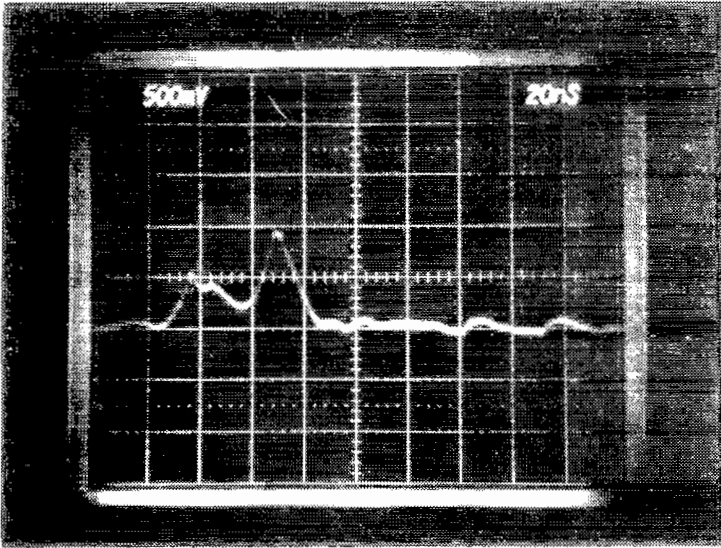
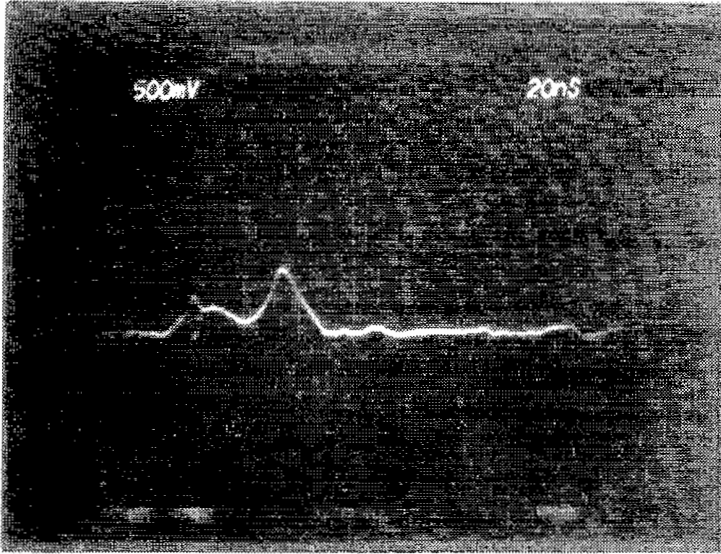
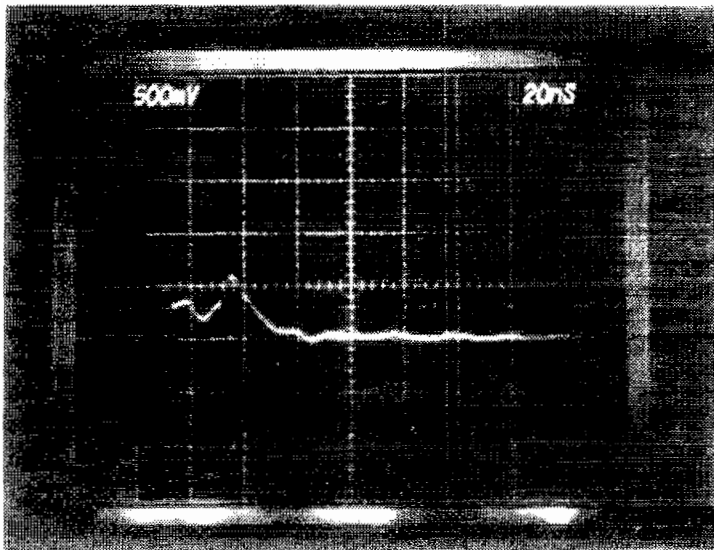
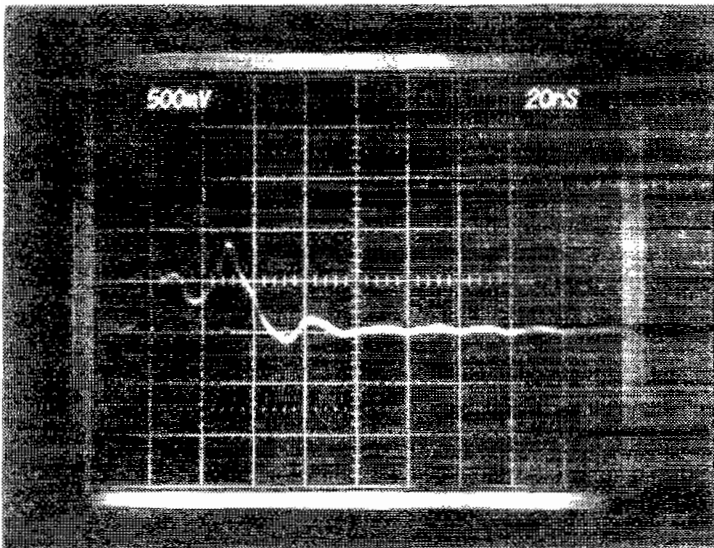


FIGURE A13 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +30 KV

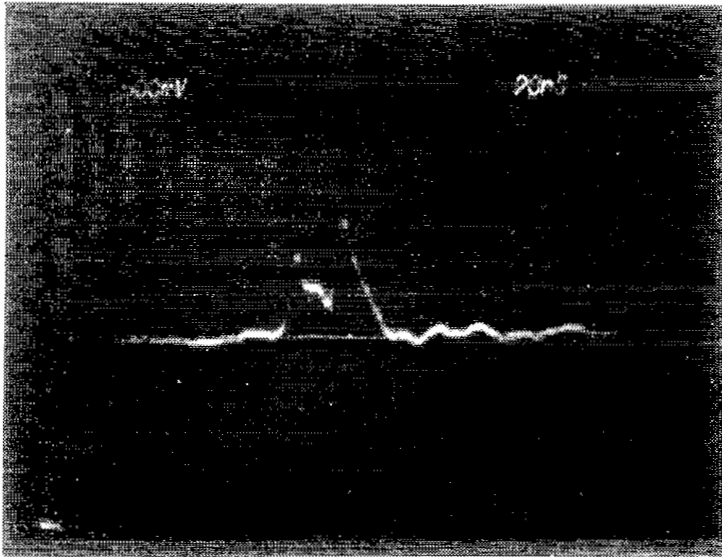


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B5

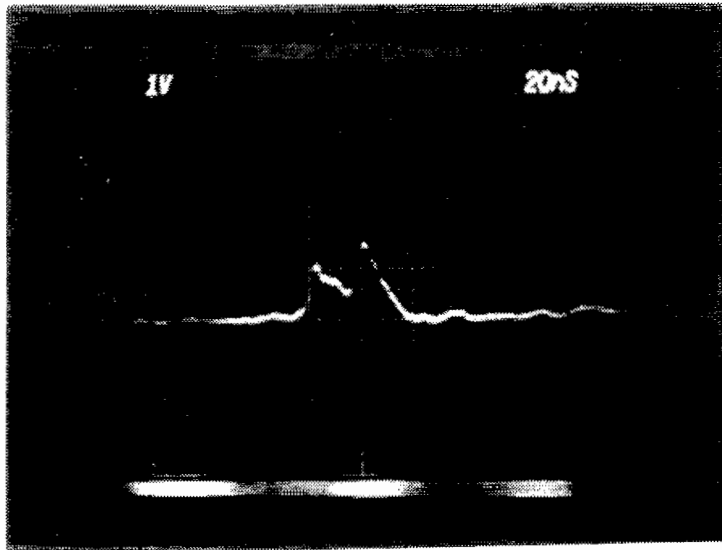


•
D5

FIGURE A13 (Continued)
• B AND D DATA FOR +30 KV

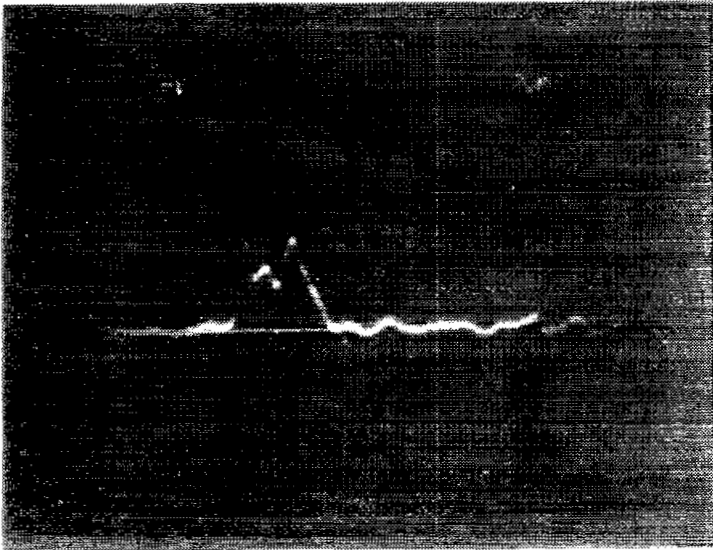


•
B1

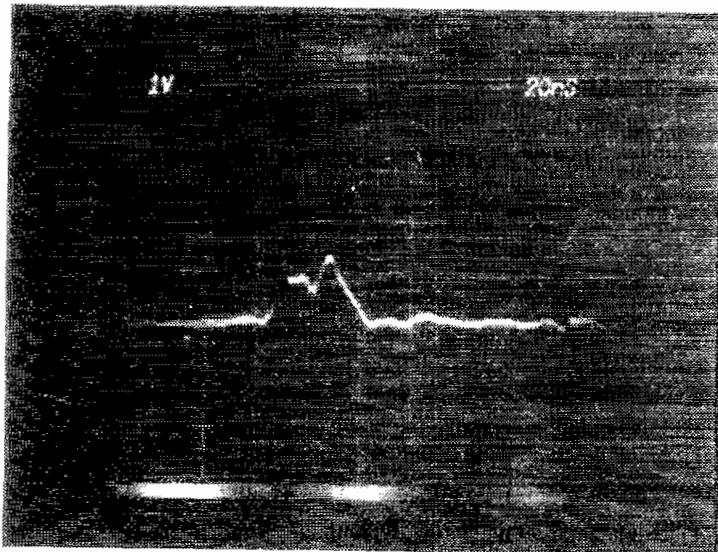


•
D1

FIGURE A14
B AND D DATA FOR +40 KV

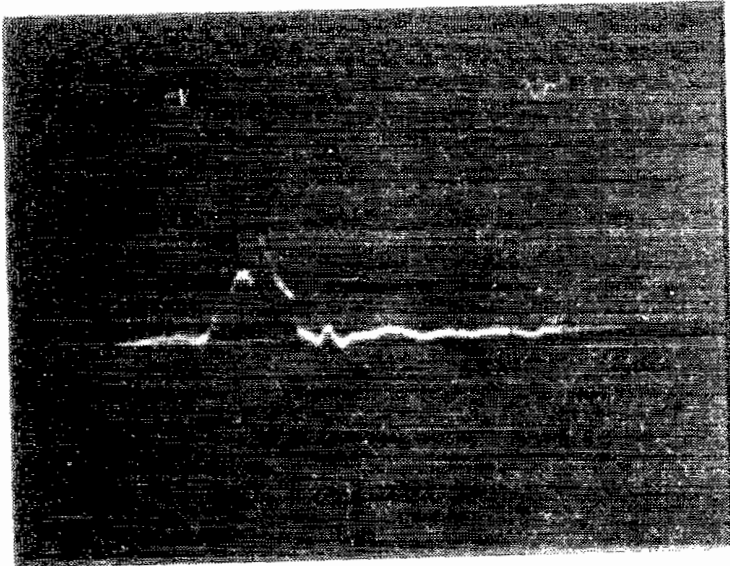


B3

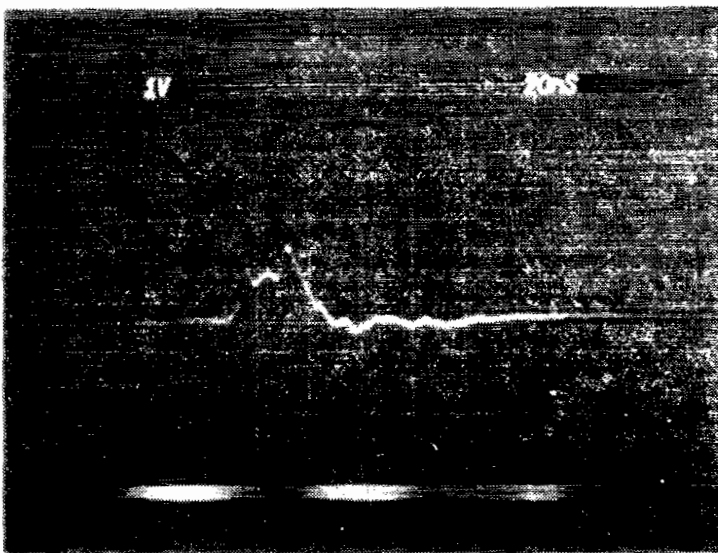


D3

FIGURE A14 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +40 KV

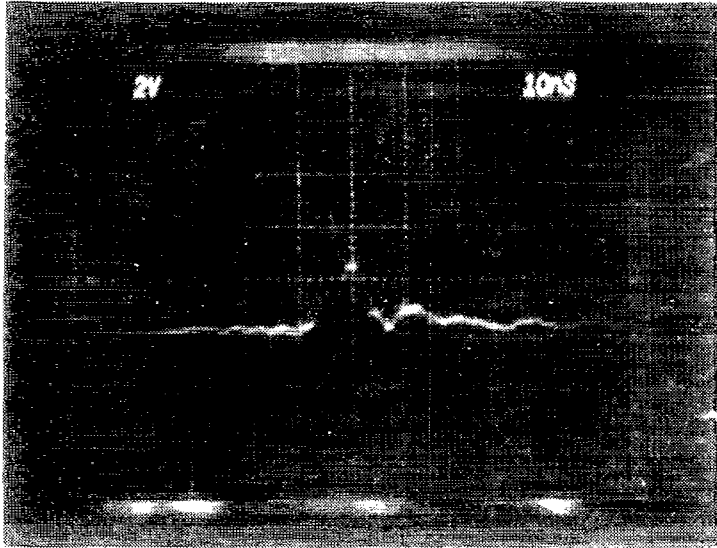


B5

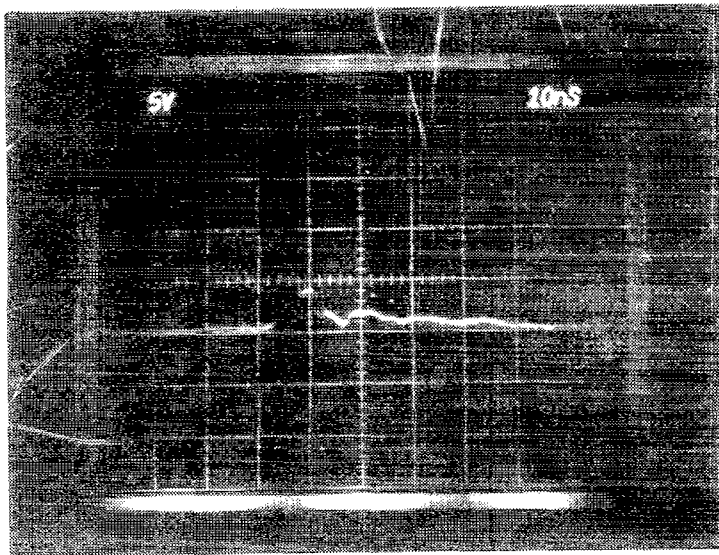


D5

FIGURE A14 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +40 KV

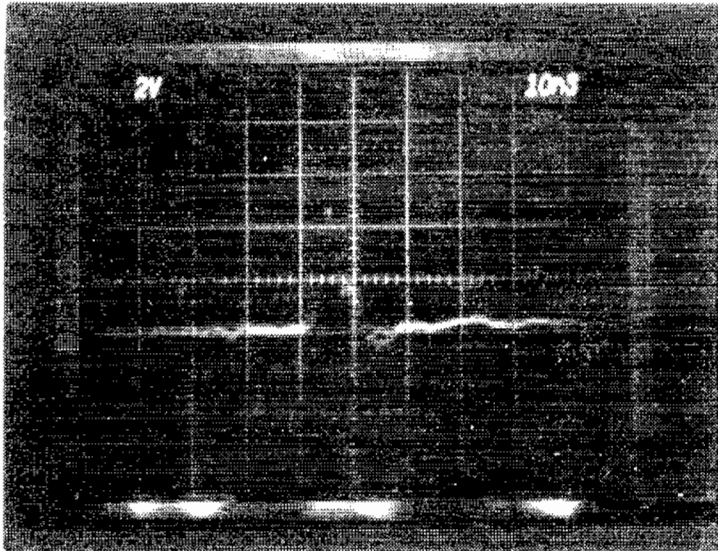


B1

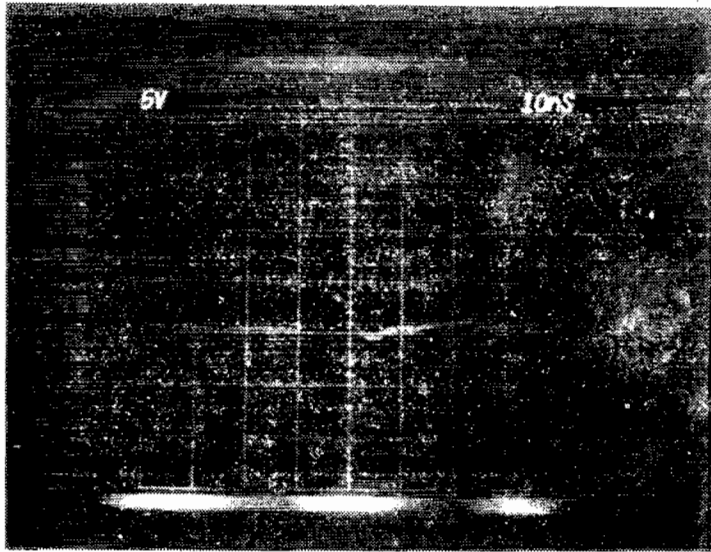


D1

FIGURE A15
B AND D DATA FOR +60 KV

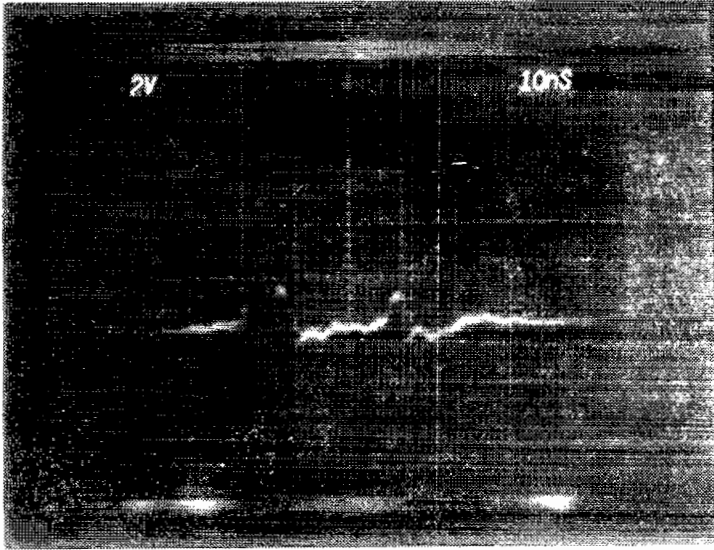


B3

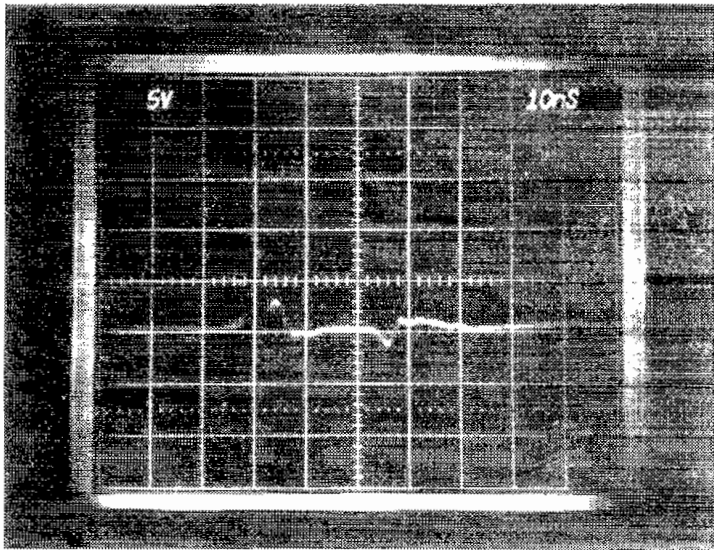


D3

FIGURE A15 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +60 KV

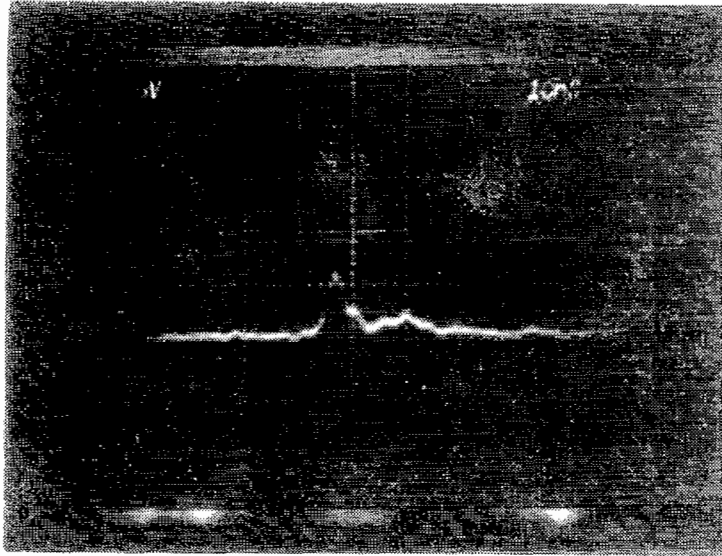


B5

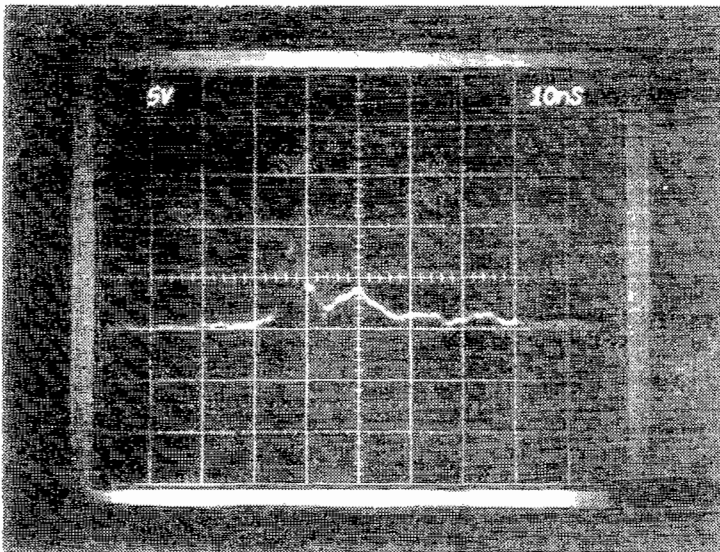


D5

FIGURE A15 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +60 KV

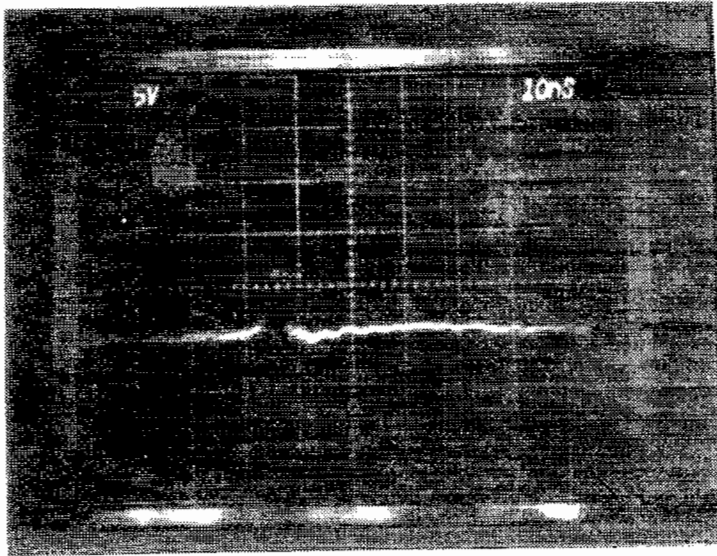


B1

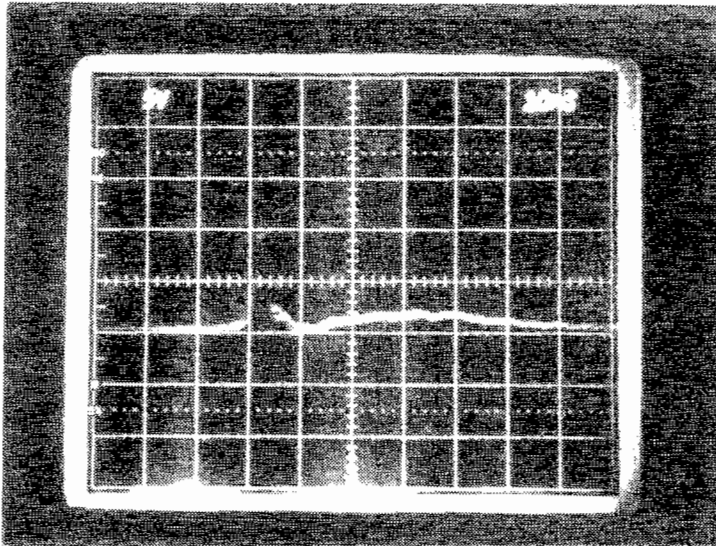


D1

FIGURE A16
B AND D DATA FOR +80 KV

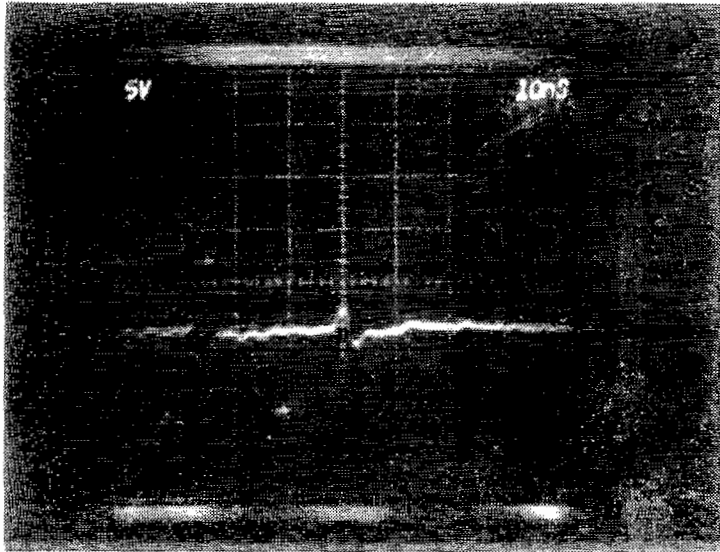


B3

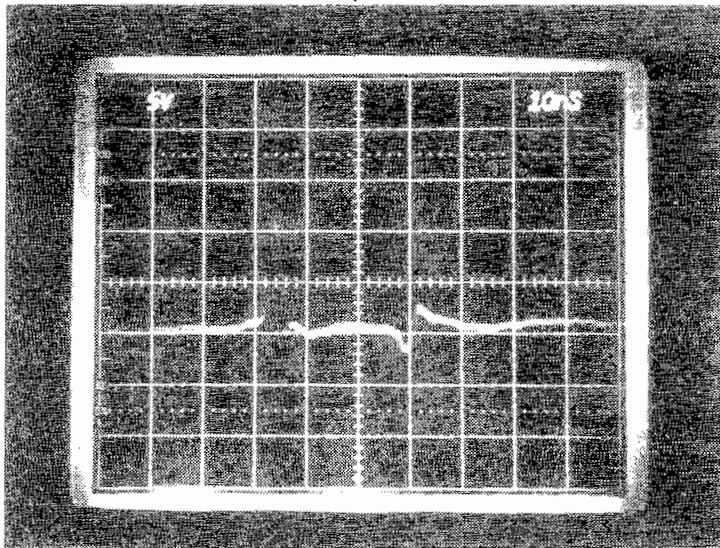


D3

FIGURE A16 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +80 KV



B5



D5

FIGURE A16 (Continued)
B AND D DATA FOR +80 KV