



MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

AERONAUTICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
REPORTS AND MEMORANDA

# The Pressure in a Two-Dimensional Static Hole at Low Reynolds Numbers

*By*

A. THOM and C. J. APELT

Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford

© *Crown Copyright* 1958

LONDON: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1958

FIVE SHILLINGS NET

# The Pressure in a Two-Dimensional Static Hole at Low Reynolds Numbers

By

A. THOM and C. J. APELT

Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford

---

*Reports and Memoranda No. 3090*

*February, 1957*

---

*Summary.*—A description is given of an arithmetical method for obtaining solutions for steady incompressible viscous flow at low Reynolds numbers in the form of expansions in powers of the Reynolds numbers. The method has been used to find a solution for the flow past the mouth of a two-dimensional static hole. The pressure in the hole is determined and it is shown that the disturbance to the flow caused by the hole produces an error in the pressure recorded in the hole. The error is positive and if it is expressed in non-dimensional form, *i.e.*, (pressure error/ $\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2$ ), its magnitude decreases with increasing Reynolds number for the range for which the solution is valid. The theoretical results are compared with experimental results obtained for the error in the pressure recorded by a circular static hole.

1. *Method.*—(Note: In what follows, for convenience, the usual convention is reversed and a dash indicates that a variable is dimensional while the absence of a dash means that a variable is in non-dimensional form).

The Navier-Stokes equations for the steady flow in two-dimensions of an incompressible viscous fluid may be written:

$$\nabla'^2 \zeta' = \frac{1}{\nu} \left( \frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial x'} \frac{\partial \zeta'}{\partial y'} - \frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial y'} \frac{\partial \zeta'}{\partial x'} \right), \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

$$\nabla'^2 \psi' = \zeta', \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

where  $\nabla'^2 \equiv \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x'^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y'^2} \right)$ ,

$\nu$  is the kinematic viscosity,  $\psi'$  the stream function defined by

$$u' = - \frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial y'}, v' = \frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial x'} \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

and  $\zeta'$  is the vorticity

$$\zeta' = \frac{\partial v'}{\partial x'} - \frac{\partial u'}{\partial y'} \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

$(u', v')$  are the rectangular components of the velocity  $q'$  in the directions of the axes of  $x'$  and  $y'$  respectively.

The equations (1) and (2) may be rendered dimensionless by the substitutions

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x' &= Lx, y' = Ly, u' = Uu, v' = Uv, q' = Uq \\ \psi' &= UL\psi, \zeta' = \frac{U}{L}\zeta, p' = \frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 p \end{aligned} \right\}, \dots \dots \quad (5)$$

where  $x, y, u$ , etc., are dimensionless variables corresponding to  $x', y', u'$ , etc.,  $U$  is a representative velocity and  $L$  a representative length. The equations then become

$$\nabla^2 \zeta = R \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} \right), \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \quad (1a)$$

$$\nabla^2 \psi = \zeta, \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \quad (2a)$$

where  $R = \frac{UL}{\nu}$ , a Reynolds number.

It is proposed to expand  $\zeta$  and  $\psi$  in the form

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \zeta &= \zeta_h + \delta_1 R + \delta_2 R^2 + \delta_3 R^3 + \dots \\ \psi &= \psi_h + \Delta_1 R + \Delta_2 R^2 + \Delta_3 R^3 + \dots \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots \quad (6)$$

Here  $\zeta_h, \psi_h$  represent the values of  $\zeta, \psi$  in the solution of  $\nabla^4 \psi = \nabla^2 \zeta = 0$ , and the  $\delta$ 's and  $\Delta$ 's are numerical coefficients and are functions of position. Substitution of these expansions in equations (1a and 2a) gives, on rearranging,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} &\nabla^2 \zeta_h + R \nabla^2 \delta_1 + R^2 \nabla^2 \delta_2 + R^3 \nabla^2 \delta_3 + \dots \\ &= R \left( \frac{\partial \psi_h}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \psi_h}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x} \right) \\ &\quad + R^2 \left( \frac{\partial \psi_h}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \delta_1}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \psi_h}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \delta_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Delta_1}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \Delta_1}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x} \right) \\ &\quad + R^3 \left( \frac{\partial \psi_h}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \delta_2}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \psi_h}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \delta_2}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Delta_1}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \delta_1}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \Delta_1}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \delta_1}{\partial x} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\partial \Delta_2}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \Delta_2}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x} \right) \\ &\quad + \dots \dots \dots \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \quad (7)$$

and

$$\left. \begin{aligned} &\nabla^2 \psi_h + R \nabla^2 \Delta_1 + R^2 \nabla^2 \Delta_2 + R^3 \nabla^2 \Delta_3 + \dots \\ &= \zeta_h + \delta_1 R + \delta_2 R^2 + \delta_3 R^3 + \dots \end{aligned} \right\}$$



way, to the desired degree of accuracy, the factor  $\frac{1}{16} [(a - c)(B - D) + (b - d)(C - A)]$  is calculated for each point and equations (9(ii)) are then used to obtain values of  $\delta_1, \Delta_1$  in a similar fashion. The process can be continued to give as many terms as desired in the expansion of  $\zeta$  and  $\psi$ ; however, there is a practical limit to the number of terms which can be obtained because of the increasing complexity of the factor to be determined for insertion in the right-hand side of the first of each pair of equations.

The method described above has similarities to that used by Thom and Klanfer<sup>2</sup> to obtain a solution for the potential function in compressible flow in the form of an expansion in powers of the Mach number.

3. *Boundary Conditions.*—At a solid boundary  $\psi$  is usually known, but the value of  $\zeta$  must be calculated from the pattern of flow in the vicinity of the boundary. The formula used here is that due to Woods<sup>3</sup>:

$$\zeta_E = \frac{3(\psi_F - \psi_E)}{m^2} - \frac{\zeta_F}{2}, \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad (10)$$

where  $\zeta_E, \psi_E$  are the values at  $E$ , a point on the boundary, and  $\zeta_F, \psi_F$  the values at a point,  $F$ , in the flow distant  $m$  from  $E$  (Fig. 2). Substitution of the expansions (6) for  $\zeta$  and  $\psi$  in equation (10) gives:

$$\begin{aligned} & \zeta_{hE} + R\delta_{1E} + R^2\delta_{2E} + \dots \\ &= \frac{3}{m^2} (\psi_{hF} + R\Delta_{1F} + R^2\Delta_{2F} + \dots - \psi_{hE}) \\ & \quad - \frac{1}{2} (\zeta_{hF} + R\delta_{1F} + R^2\delta_{2F} + \dots) \end{aligned}$$

(Note that on the boundary  $\psi_E = \psi_{hE}$ ).

The equation can be separated into

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \zeta_{hE} &= \frac{3}{m^2} (\psi_{hF} - \psi_{hE}) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_{hF} \\ \delta_{1E} &= \frac{3}{m^2} \Delta_{1F} - \frac{1}{2} \delta_{1F} \\ \text{etc.} & \end{aligned} \right\}, \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad (11)$$

which enables boundary values for each term in the expansion of  $\zeta$  to be determined.

The validity of solutions obtained by the method described above is discussed in the Appendix.

4. *Viscous Flow Past a Two-dimensional Static Hole.*—The method described above was used to obtain a solution to the steady viscous flow past a two-dimensional static hole in the side of a channel, shown in Fig. 3. The representative velocity  $U$  of the substitution (5) above was taken as the centre-line velocity in the undisturbed flow and the representative length  $L$  as the width of the mouth of the static hole. The solution has been continued far enough to give the coefficients  $\delta_2, \Delta_2$  of  $R^2$  in the expansions of  $\zeta$  and  $\psi$  and to give a reliable estimate of the magnitude of  $\delta_3, \Delta_3$ . Numerical values obtained for the first three terms are recorded for the part of the field near the static hole in Figs. 4, 5 and 6. The grid used had eight squares to the width of the slot. The sharp corner at the edge of the slot presents a difficulty and further subdivision of the mesh in the immediate neighbourhood of the sharp corner would be required to give the details

of the flow in that area. However, the advance from a coarser mesh (four squares across the mouth of the slot) to the present mesh made little difference to the solution except in the immediate vicinity of the corner and altered the magnitude of the integrals for pressure by less than 5 per cent. It is considered that further subdivision would have little effect on the solution, except at the corner itself.

The first term of the solution, which is in fact the solution for  $\nabla^4\psi = 0$ , gives a pattern which is symmetrical about the line BAB' of Fig. 3. The next term, in  $R$ , destroys this symmetry, being itself anti-symmetrical about BAB'. The term in  $R^2$  is symmetric about BAB', that in  $R^3$  anti-symmetric, and so on. The streamlines for the  $\nabla^4\psi = 0$  solution are drawn in Fig. 7a. In Fig. 7b the dividing streamline across the mouth of the static hole is drawn for  $R = 0$  and for  $R = 5$ , to illustrate the destruction of the symmetry about BAB' when  $R \neq 0$ .

5. *Pressure in Static Hole.*—In Ref. 1, equations are obtained by integration of the Navier-Stokes equations along lines  $x = \text{constant}$ ,  $y = \text{constant}$ , which enable the difference in pressure at points in the fluid to be calculated. The corresponding equations in non-dimensional form are

$$p_2 - p_1 = q_1^2 - q_2^2 + \frac{2}{R} \int_1^2 \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} dy - 2 \int_1^2 u \zeta dy \quad \dots \quad (12)$$

for integration between points 1 and 2, on a line  $x = \text{constant}$ , and

$$p_4 - p_3 = q_3^2 - q_4^2 - \frac{2}{R} \int_3^4 \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} dx + 2 \int_3^4 v \zeta dx \quad \dots \quad (13)$$

for integration between points 3 and 4, on a line  $y = \text{constant}$ . These equations were used to evaluate the pressure difference between points O and B (Fig. 3). The point O was taken at such distance from the slot ( $OA = 2L$ ) that the flow there was practically the undisturbed flow. The result obtained by taking account of the first three terms of expansion (6) was

$$p_B - p_0 = \frac{-7.49}{R} + 0.187 - 0.00046R - 0.00144R^2. \quad \dots \quad (14)$$

If the slot had caused no disturbance of the flow:

$$(p_B - p_0)_{\text{undisturbed}} = (p_A - p_0)_{\text{undisturbed}} = OA \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} = -\frac{8.00}{R}.$$

Let  $(p_B - p_0) - (p_B - p_0)_{\text{undisturbed}} = \Delta p$ ,

then  $\Delta p$  is the error in the pressure recorded in the static hole due to the disturbance caused in the flow by the hole itself.

$$\Delta p = \frac{0.51}{R} + 0.187 - 0.00046R - 0.00144R^2. \quad \dots \quad (15)$$

Also

$$p_B - p_A \equiv \Delta' p = 0.082 - 0.00144R^2. \quad \dots \quad (16)$$

It is of interest to note that if the integrations for pressure take account of only the first terms



which takes some account of the shape of the velocity profile near the static hole as well as of the velocity itself. If this latter form is used,  $F(R)$  of Ref. 5 is altered relatively little, as shown in Fig. 8, but  $\Delta p_1 = \frac{1}{2}\Delta p$ .  $\log(\Delta p/2)$  is plotted on Fig. 8 also, as curve 'b'.

In comparing the theoretical with the experimental results, account should be taken of the fact that the theoretical analysis is for a two-dimensional static hole. The value of  $\Delta p$  for the three-dimensional case of a circular hole could be expected to be smaller than in the two-dimensional case by a factor which might be expected to be approximately one half. These tentative three-dimensional values are shown as curve 'c', which is a plot of  $\log(\Delta p/4)$ .

The curve 'c' is considerably removed from the extrapolated value of Ray's function,  $F(R)$ . However, it must be recorded that the theoretical results presented are for laminar flow and are considered to be valid only for  $0 < R < 1$ ; Ray's results are almost entirely for turbulent flow and were obtained in the range  $3 < R < 1000$ . It is possible that as in the case of resistance to flow in a pipe there should be two different functions for  $\Delta p$ , one for laminar and one for turbulent flow, connected by a range of transition values.

---

### LIST OF SYMBOLS

$\psi$	Stream function in viscous flow
$\zeta$	Vorticity
$\nu$	Kinematic viscosity
$q$	Local velocity of flow
$u, v$	Rectangular components of $q$ in the direction of $x$ and $y$ respectively
$\nabla^2$	The Laplacian operator $\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}\right)$
$R$	Reynolds number
$U$	A representative velocity
$L$	A representative length
$\Delta p$	Error in the pressure recorded in a static hole due to the disturbance caused in the flow by the hole itself.

The addition of a dash to the symbol for a variable indicates that the variable is in dimensional form while the symbol without a dash represents a variable which is in non-dimensional form.



## REFERENCES

<i>No.</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Title, etc.</i>
1	A. Thom	An investigation of fluid flow in two dimensions. R. & M. 1194. 1928.
2	A. Thom and L. Klanfer	The method of influence factors in arithmetical solutions of certain field problems. R. & M. 2440. November, 1947.
3	L. C. Woods	A note on the numerical solution of fourth order differential equations. <i>Aero. Quart.</i> V, Pt. 3. September, 1954.
4	G. Birkhoff	<i>Hydrodynamics</i> . Princeton University Press. 1950.
5	A. K. Ray	On the effect of orifice size on static pressure reading at different Reynolds numbers. <i>Ing.-Arch.</i> 24. 3. p. 171. 1956. Translated by Sylvia W. Skan, Aerodynamics Division, N.P.L. A.R.C. 18,829. November, 1956.

## APPENDIX

### *Validity of Solutions*

The Navier-Stokes equations for steady flow in two dimensions of an incompressible viscous fluid may be written (in non-dimensional form)

$$X - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} = -\frac{1}{R} \nabla^2 u + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}, \quad \dots \quad (17)$$

$$Y - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{R} \nabla^2 v + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}. \quad \dots \quad (18)$$

Where  $X, Y$ , are in non-dimensional form the components of the external forces acting on unit mass of the fluid  $\{X' = (U^2/L) X\}$ . On eliminating  $p$  we obtain

$$\frac{\partial X}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial Y}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{R} \nabla^2 \zeta - \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} \right). \quad \dots \quad (19)$$

In the solution presented in this paper it has been assumed that

$$\frac{\partial X}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial Y}{\partial x} = 0. \quad \dots \quad (20)$$

The correctness of the solution obtained is determined by how accurately the values of  $\zeta, \psi$  obtained fulfil this condition when substituted into equation (19). The solution has been obtained in the form (6):

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \zeta &= \zeta_h + \delta_1 R + \delta_2 R^2 + \delta_3 R^3 + \dots \\ \psi &= \psi_h + \Delta_1 R + \Delta_2 R^2 + \Delta_3 R^3 + \dots \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \quad (6)$$

Inspection of Figs. 4, 5 and 6 will show that everywhere  $\delta_1$  and  $\delta_2$  are respectively of the orders  $\zeta_h/50$  and  $\zeta_h/500$  or less, and that  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$  are respectively of the orders  $\psi_h/500$  and  $\psi_h/5000$  or less. It is known also that  $\delta_3, \Delta_3$  are of the order one-tenth  $\delta_2, \Delta_2$  respectively. Consequently, for  $R < 1$  the solution presented in Figs. 4, 5 and 6 should be a good approximation to the final solution for  $\zeta$  and  $\psi$ .

At the same time the condition (20) above has been satisfied to the same degree of accuracy, for  $(\partial X/\partial y - \partial Y/\partial x)$  differs from zero by an amount

$$\frac{1}{R} \nabla^2 \zeta - \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} \right),$$

which has a magnitude

$$R^2 \left[ \nabla^2 \delta_3 - \left( \frac{\partial \psi_h}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \delta_2}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \psi_h}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \delta_2}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Delta_1}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \delta_1}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \Delta_1}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \delta_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Delta_2}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \Delta_2}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x} \right) \right]$$

for the solution taken as far as the terms in  $R^2$ . This is known to have a magnitude of the same order as that of  $\delta_3, \Delta_3$ . It is considered therefore that the solution of Figs. 4, 5 and 6 is valid for  $R < 1$ . It may be valid for somewhat higher values of  $R$ , but this could be determined only when more terms in the expansions of  $\zeta, \psi$  are known.

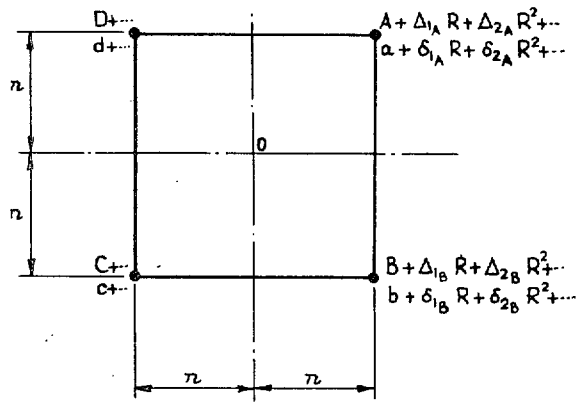


FIG. 1.

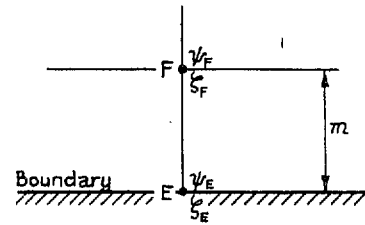


FIG. 2.

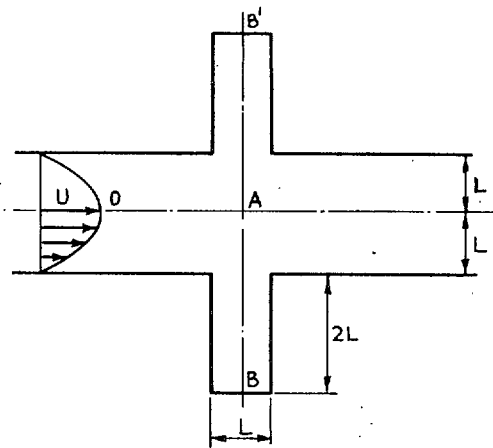
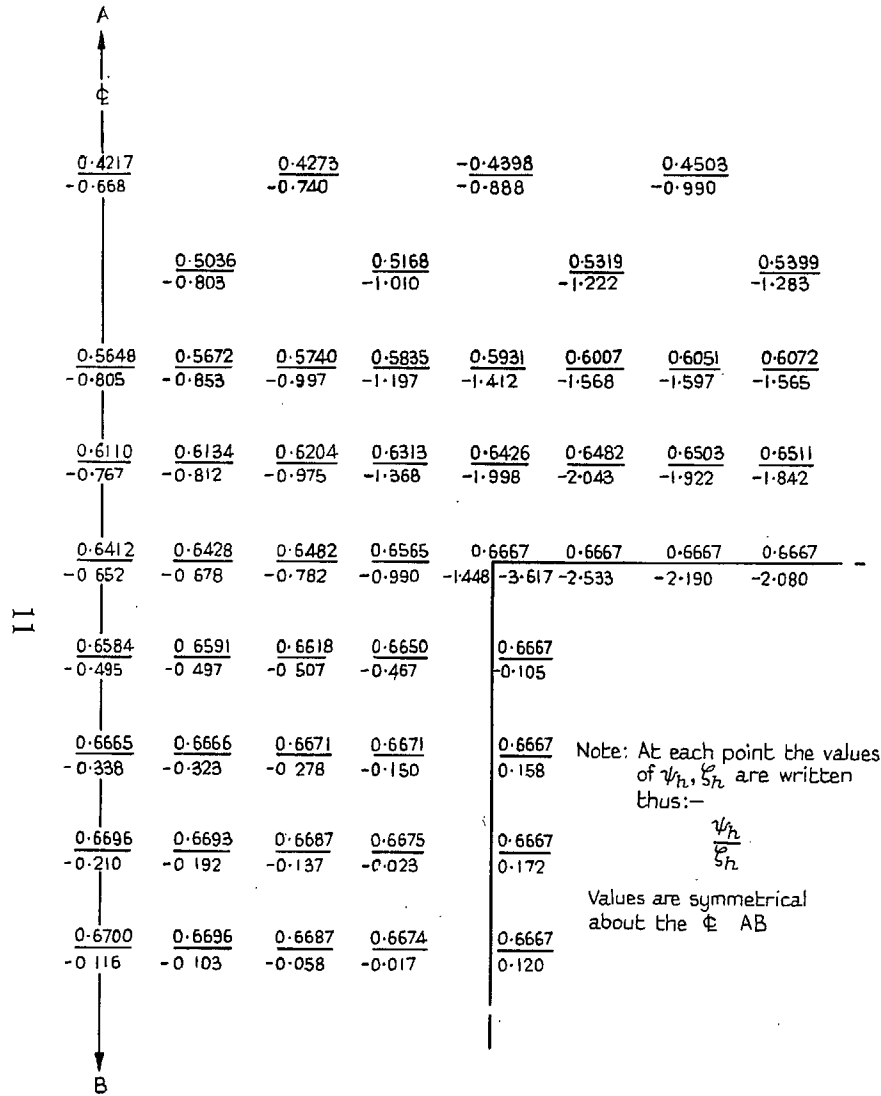
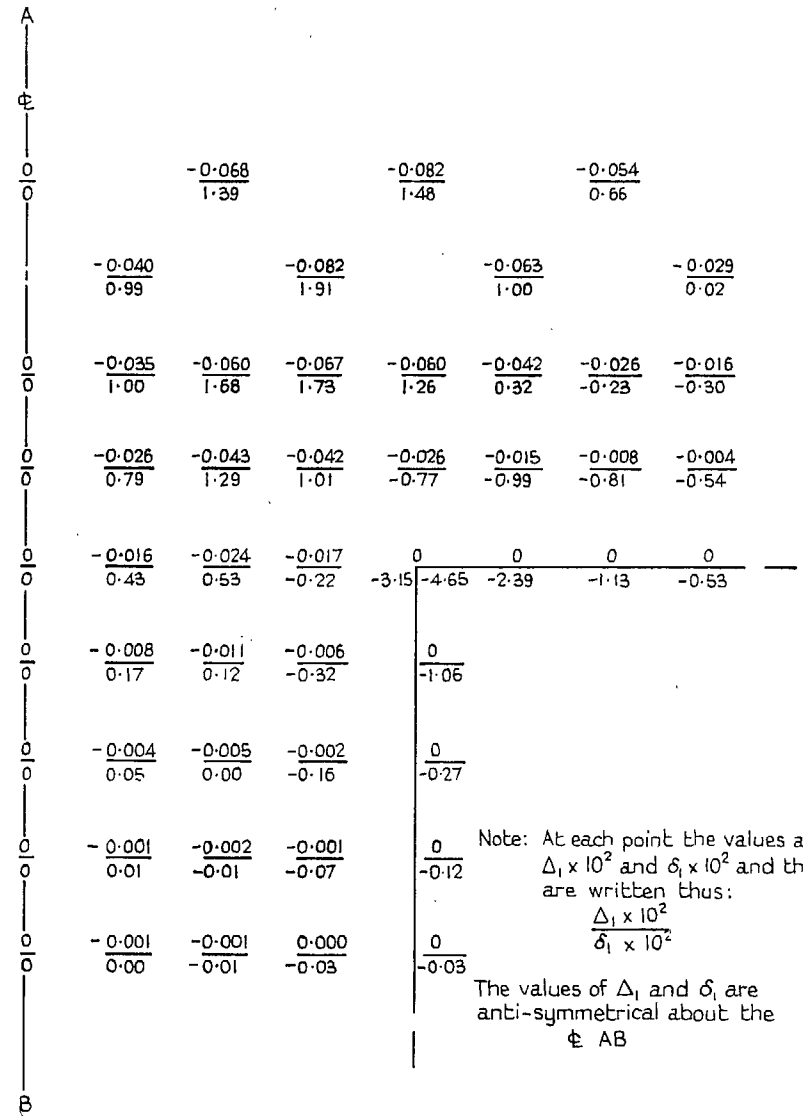


FIG. 3.



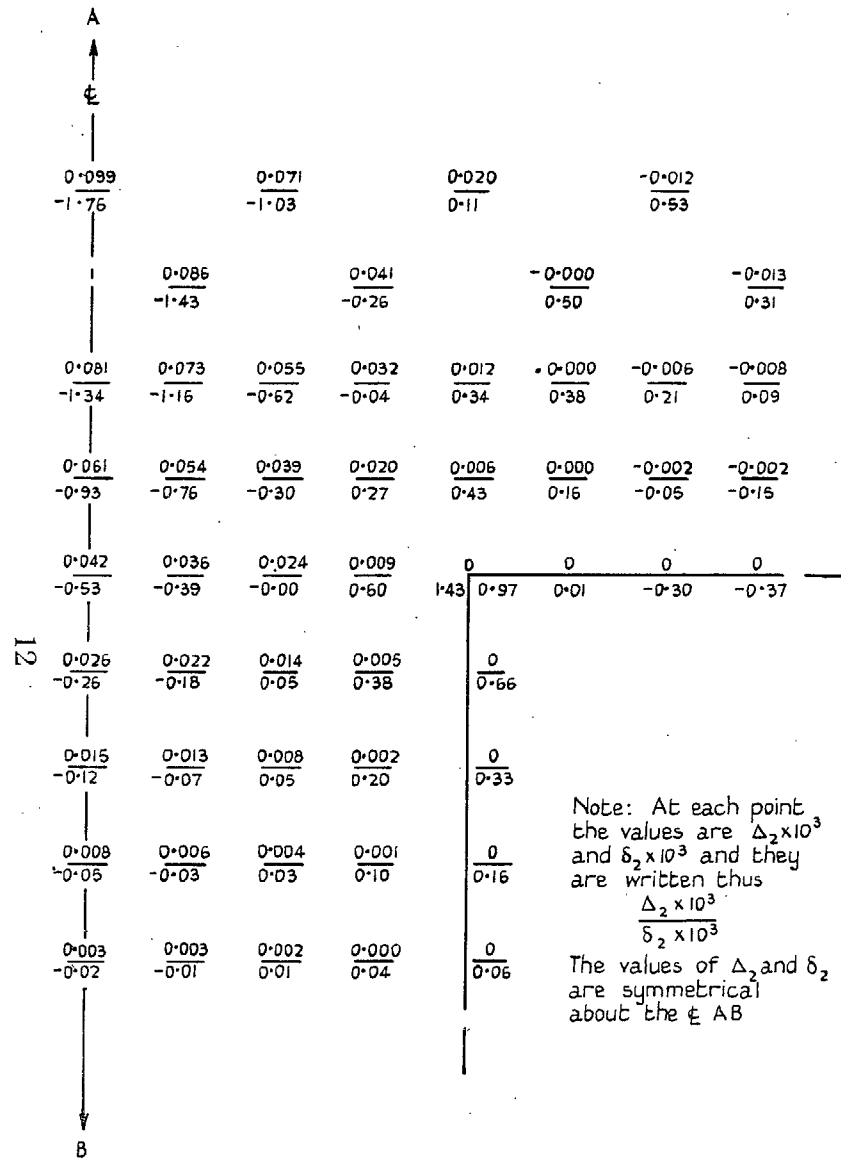
$(\psi_h, \phi_h)$

FIG. 4.



$(\Delta_1, \delta_1)$

FIG. 5.



$(\Delta_2, \delta_2)$   
FIG. 6.

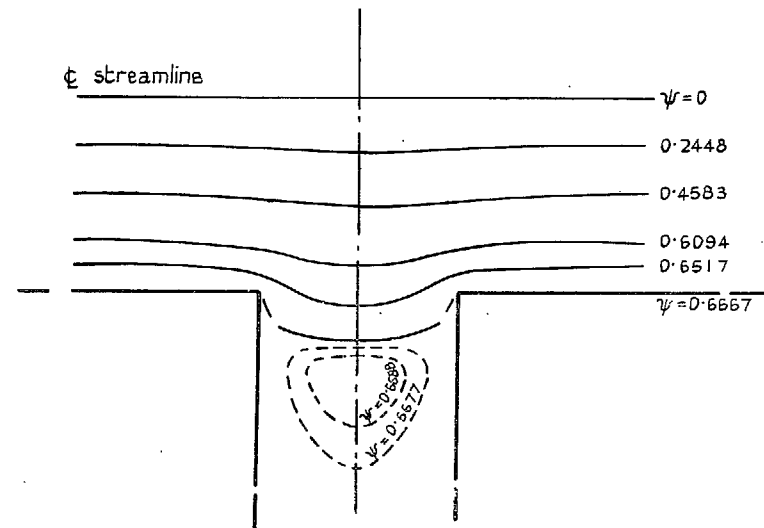


FIG. 7a.

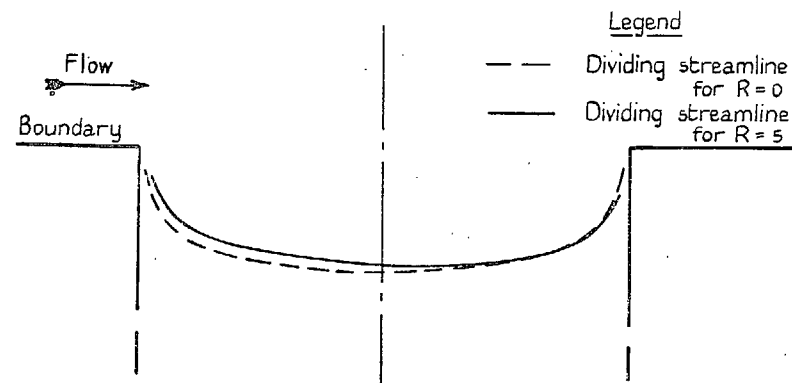


FIG. 7b.

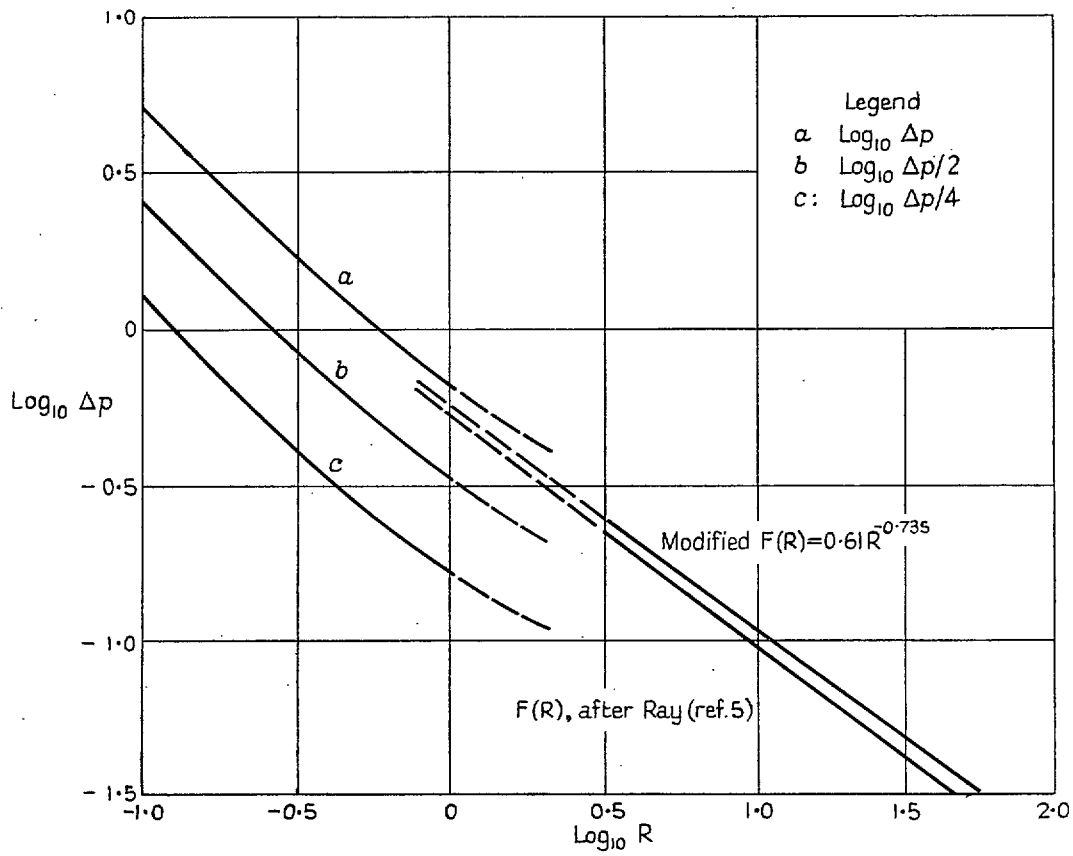


FIG. 8.

## Publication of the Aeronautical Research Council

### ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORTS OF THE AERONAUTICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (BOUND VOLUMES)

- 1939 Vol. I. Aerodynamics General, Performance, Airscrews, Engines. 50s. (52s.)  
Vol. II. Stability and Control, Flutter and Vibration, Instruments, Structures, Sea-planes, etc. 63s. (65s.)
- 1940 Aero and Hydrodynamics, Aerofoils, Airscrews, Engines, Flutter, Icing, Stability and Control Structures, and a miscellaneous section. 50s. (52s.)
- 1941 Aero and Hydrodynamics, Aerofoils, Airscrews, Engines, Flutter, Stability and Control Structures. 63s. (65s.)
- 1942 Vol. I. Aero and Hydrodynamics, Aerofoils, Airscrews, Engines. 75s. (77s.)  
Vol. II. Noise, Parachutes, Stability and Control, Structures, Vibration, Wind Tunnels. 47s. 6d. (49s. 6d.)
- 1943 Vol. I. Aerodynamics, Aerofoils, Airscrews. 80s. (82s.)  
Vol. II. Engines, Flutter, Materials, Parachutes, Performance, Stability and Control, Structures. 90s. (92s. 9d.)
- 1944 Vol. I. Aero and Hydrodynamics, Aerofoils, Aircraft, Airscrews, Controls. 84s. (86s. 6d.)  
Vol. II. Flutter and Vibration, Materials, Miscellaneous, Navigation, Parachutes, Performance, Plates and Panels, Stability, Structures, Test Equipment, Wind Tunnels. 84s. (86s. 6d.)
- 1945 Vol. I. Aero and Hydrodynamics, Aerofoils. 130s. (132s. 9d.)  
Vol. II. Aircraft, Airscrews, Controls. 130s. (132s. 9d.)  
Vol. III. Flutter and Vibration, Instruments, Miscellaneous, Parachutes, Plates and Panels, Propulsion. 130s. (132s. 6d.)  
Vol. IV. Stability, Structures, Wind Tunnels, Wind Tunnel Technique. 130s. (132s. 6d.)

### Annual Reports of the Aeronautical Research Council—

1937 2s. (2s. 2d.)      1938 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.)      1939-48 3s. (3s. 5d.)

### Index to all Reports and Memoranda published in the Annual Technical Reports, and separately—

April, 1950 - - - - R. & M. 2600 2s. 6d. (2s. 10d.)

### Author Index to all Reports and Memoranda of the Aeronautical Research Council—

1909—January, 1954      R. & M. No. 2570 15s. (15s. 8d.)

### Indexes to the Technical Reports of the Aeronautical Research Council—

December 1, 1936—June 30, 1939	R. & M. No. 1850 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
July 1, 1939—June 30, 1945	R. & M. No. 1950 1s. (1s. 2d.)
July 1, 1945—June 30, 1946	R. & M. No. 2050 1s. (1s. 2d.)
July 1, 1946—December 31, 1946	R. & M. No. 2150 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
January 1, 1947—June 30, 1947	R. & M. No. 2250 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

### Published Reports and Memoranda of the Aeronautical Research Council—

Between Nos. 2251-2349	R. & M. No. 2350 1s. 9d. (1s. 11d.)
Between Nos. 2351-2449	R. & M. No. 2450 2s. (2s. 2d.)
Between Nos. 2451-2549	R. & M. No. 2550 2s. 6d. (2s. 10d.)
Between Nos. 2551-2649	R. & M. No. 2650 2s. 6d. (2s. 10d.)
Between Nos. 2651-2749	R. & M. No. 2750 2s. 6d. (2s. 10d.)

*Prices in brackets include postage*

### HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

York House, Kingsway, London W.C.2; 423 Oxford Street, London W.1; 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh 2;  
39 King Street, Manchester 2; 2 Edmund Street, Birmingham 3; 109 St. Mary Street, Cardiff;  
Tower Lane, Bristol, 1; 80 Chichester Street, Belfast, or through any bookseller.