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A MIMI PROPAGATION STUDY: COHERENT SPECTRA OF WIDEBAND UNDERWATER ACOUSTIC RECEPTIONS IN THE STRAITS OF FLORIDA, 25 NOVEMBER 1970

by

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Approved by Judges Binds

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ABSTRACT

In an underwater acoustic propagation experiment conducted in November 1970 a periodic broadband signal, centered about 420 Hz, was transmitted across the Straits of Florida continuously for 19 days. This report presents the preliminary results from spectral analysis of the acoustic reception of this signal at Bimini, Bahamas, during a 7.61-hour period on 25 November 1970. The spectra are noteworthy for their slow rate of change during this period. Plots of the spectral amplitude and phase of the reception are presented for a 50 Hz bandwidth centered about 420 Hz.

FOREWORD

Underwater acoustic propagation experiments of the past few years have verified that the general features of long-range, single frequency reception are complicated amplitude fluctuations with deep fades, relatively stable phase and frequency, accompanied by surface scattered energy.

The next level of experiment should establish how close two frequencies have to be to behave "similarly," and how far apart two frequencies have to be to behave "independently." The work reported here is at this level. Sixty-one signal frequencies with spacing of 5/6 hertz that were transmitted simultaneously for over seven hours were analyzed and preliminary results are given in this report.

T. G. Birdsall

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	iii
FOREWORD	iv
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	vi
AUTHOR'S PREFACE	viii
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. THE MIMI PROPAGATION EXPERIMENT OF NOVEMBER 1970	3
2.1 The Miami-Bimini Range2.2 The Transmitted Signal2.3 The Quantities Measured	3 6 9
3. THE PROCESSING OF THE BIMINI RECEPTION	12
 3.1 The Equipment Configuration at Bimini 3.2 On-Site Digital Filtering and Recording 3.3 Selection of Data for Spectral Analysis 3.4 The Spectral Analysis 	12 12 17 18
4. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS	21
4.1 The On-Line Power Measurements4.2 Spectral Plots4.3 Preliminary Conclusions	21 23 28
APPENDIX A: Constant Time Plots	31
APPENDIX B: Constant Frequency Plots	78
REFERENCES	
DISTRIBUTION LIST	

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure	<u>Title</u>	Page
1	The Miami-Bimini range: (a) physical layout, (b) bottom profile	4
2	Sound speed vs depth, Miami to Cat Cay, 28-29 November 1961	6
3	Sound ray paths along 25 ⁰ 44' on 28-29 November 1961	7
4	A complement-phase modulated signal (a) a portion of the modulating waveform (b) the resulting CM transmission	8
5	The RMS spectrum of a complement-phase modulated signal for $L = 15$ and $D = 8$	10
6	Equipment configuration at Bimini	13
7	Complex demodulation of the hydrophone reception	14
8	The carrier and sideband filters used on the November 1970 reception	16
9	On-line power measurements for 25 November 1970	22
10	Prototype constant time plot	24
11	Prototype constant frequency plot	27
12	Spectrum at $t_0 = 1118$ hours, 25 November 1970	29
13	Spectrum at t ₀ + 1 minute, 40 seconds	29
14	Spectrum at t ₀ + 10 minutes	30

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS (Cont.)

Figure	<u>Title</u>	Page
15	Spectrum at $t_0 + 1$ hour, 3 minutes, 20 seconds	30

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

This report presents preliminary results rather than the polished conclusions of a completed investigation. No attempt has been made to draw conclusions from the data or to analyze it. A more substantial report on spectral analysis of Project MIMI transmissions is planned for a later date.

1. INTRODUCTION

In November 1970 an underwater acoustic propagation experiment (Project MIMI) was conducted jointly by the Acoustics Group of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at The University of Miama (Florida) and the Signal Processing Group of the Cooley Electronics Laboratory at the University of Michigan. A periodic broadband signal centered about 420 Hz was transmitted continuously across the Straits of Florida for 19 days. In the on-site portion of the experiment, the power and phase angle of the carrier, the power in the signal sidebands, and the noise power in the signal band were measured at two receiving sites. In addition, the total power and the power spectrum in a narrow band about the carrier frequency were computed to measure signal modulation due to forward-scattered surface reverberation. The received signal was also correlated with a pulse compression reference signal to measure the multipath structure of the acoustic channel.

During the course of the experiment, approximately 9 million digital words of the reception were recorded for later processing. Portions of these recordings were complex-valued demodulates of a comb-filtered version of the reception. A period of 7.61 hours on 25 November 1970 for which such recorded demodulates were available from Bimini, Bahamas, was selected for spectral analysis.

Chapter 2 presents background information on the acoustic range and equipment configuration used. Chapter 3 details the processing of the reception at Bimini and the methods used to transform the recorded receptions to frequency domain, and Chapter 4 presents plots of the spectra of the reception.

2. THE MIMI PROPAGATION EXPERIMENT OF NOVEMBER 1970

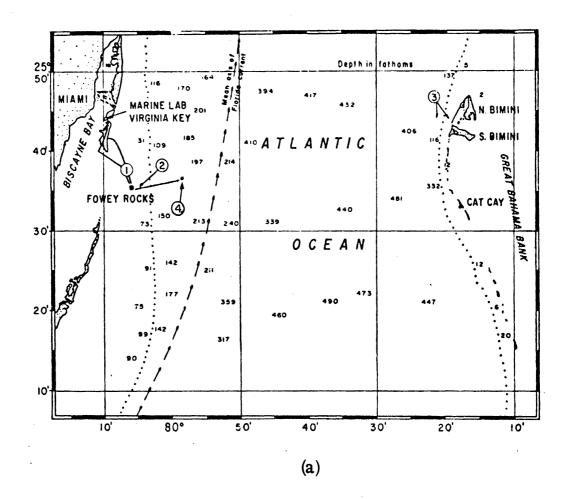
2.1 The Miami-Bimini Range

The Miami-Bimini range, illustrated in Fig. 1, is part of the facilities of the Acoustics Group of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (RSMAS) of The University of Miami. It extends across the Straits of Florida from Miami to Bimini, Bahamas.

The transmitting site is located at Fowey Rocks [point 2, Fig. 1(a)] approximately 12 miles (19 km) from the RSMAS laboratory and is connected to the laboratory by telephone lines (point 1, Fig. 1). At Fowey Rocks a bottom-mounted projector is located in 72 feet (22 m) of water at the focal point of a 24-foot (7.3 m) compliant tube parabolic reflector. It has a maximum source level of 120 dB/ μ bar at 1 m with a nominal bandwidth of 100 Hz. The source level for the November test was 110 dB/ μ bar/meter. The 30° beamwidth is directed toward Bimini, a distance of 43 nautical miles (78.6 km).

Two receiving sites were used in the experiment. At the first, a bottom-mounted hydrophone is located in 1000 ft (305 m) of water (point 4, Fig. 1) approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ nautical miles (12 km) from the source. The reception from this hydrophone is transmitted to the

¹The material in this section is taken from Ref. 1. A more complete discussion on the Miami-Bimini range can be found there.



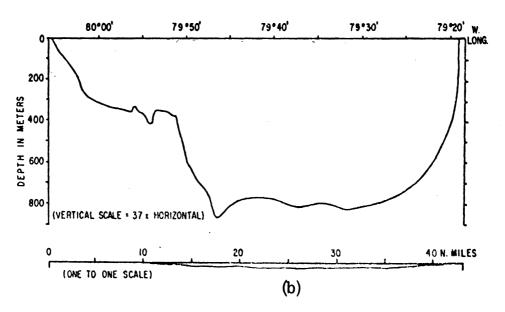


Fig. 1. The Miami-Bimini range: (a) physical layout, (b) bottom profile

RSMAS laboratory by marine cable. The second receiving site is located off Bimini (point 3, Fig. 1). There, two bottom-mounted hydrophones are cable-connected to a laboratory on Bimini. These hydrophones are located at 100 and 1200 feet depth (30 m and 366 m), 1 and 2 miles (1.8 and 3.6 km) off-shore and are referred to as the shallow and deep hydrophones, respectively.

The bottom profile of the Miami-Bimini range is illustrated in Fig. 1(b). A shelf extends out from Miami about 15 miles (28 km) to a depth of 400 m followed by a sharp drop-off to a depth of 800 m. Thirty miles (56 km) beyond, the Grand Bahamas bank rises abruptly from this depth.

A sound speed profile, obtained during November 1961, appears in Fig. 2. This profile is characterized by a mixed layer which extends to the relatively constant depth of 100 m followed by a region of negative velocity gradient. It is noted that the velocity gradient becomes increasingly negative as the Florida shore is approached.

The ray diagram corresponding to the sound speed profile of Fig. 2 is shown in Fig. 3. This diagram shows sound being propagated by reflections from surface and bottom, by refraction and reflection from the bottom and by refraction and reflection from the surface.

This latter mode of propagation does not appear in ray diagrams calculated from sound-speed profiles obtained in the spring and summer.

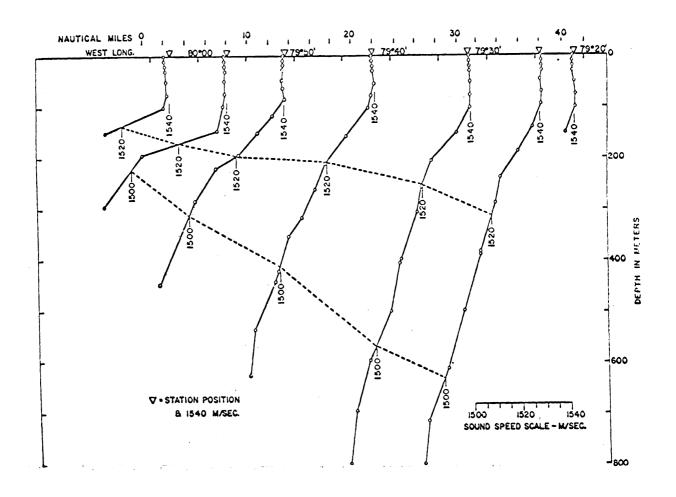


Fig. 2. Sound speed vs. depth, Miami to Cat Cay, 28-29 November 1961

2.2 The Transmitted Signal

The transmitted signal, complement-phase modulate (CM), consisted of a carrier wave at 420 Hz modulated by a linear-maximal, pseudorandom sequence. The phase of the carrier was shifted to either $+45^{\circ}$ or -45° depending on the value of the binary digit in the modulating sequence. A portion of such a CM signal is shown in Fig. 4 where

f = carrier frequency in hertz

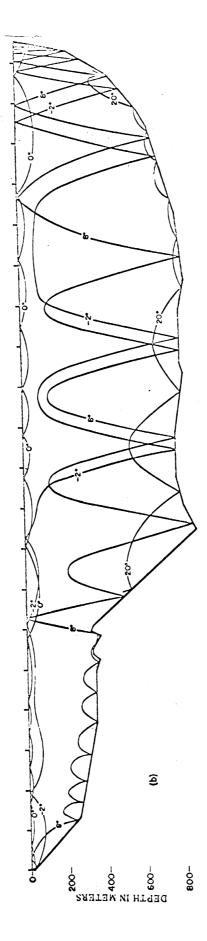


Fig. 3. Sound ray paths along 25° 44' on 28-29 Nov. 1961

d = duration of the sequence digit in seconds

D = number of cycles of carrier per sequence digit.

For all MIMI experiments, the number of cycles of carrier per digit

D is chosen to be integer-valued; thus the CM signal is periodic with

period

$$T = Ld = LD/f_c$$

where $\, L \,$ is the number of digits in one period of the modulating sequence.

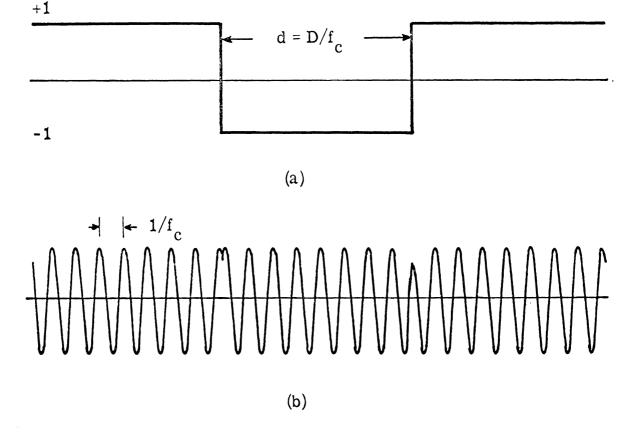


Fig. 4. A complement-phase modulated signal
(a) a portion of the modulating waveform
(b) the resulting CM transmission

The RMS power spectrum of a typical periodic signal of CM type is shown in Fig. 5. For all such signals, the spectrum has a $\sin(x)/x$ envelope except at the carrier frequency. Approximately half of the total power is contained in the carrier line with the other half contained in the sideband lines.

The signal used in the November experiment had

$$f_c = 420 \text{ Hz}$$

and
$$L = 63 \text{ digits}$$

with the result that the digit duration and the period were

$$d = 0.019$$
 seconds

and
$$T = 1.2$$
 seconds

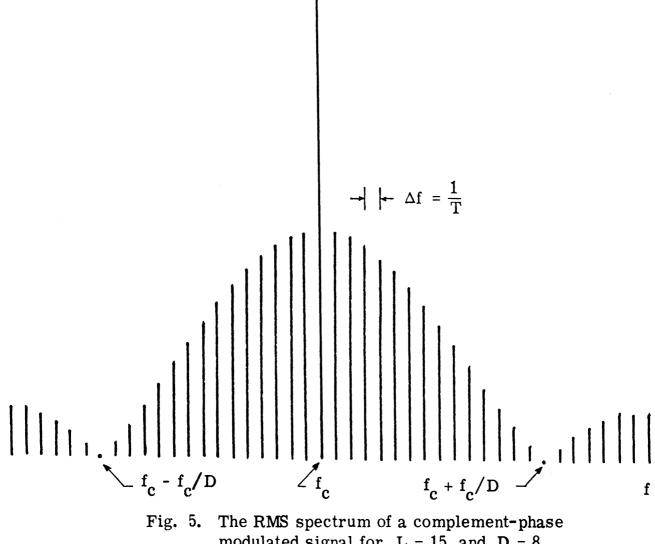
The spacing Δf between adjacent lines in the transmitted spectrum is

$$\Delta f = 1/T = 5/6 \text{ Hz}$$

Finally, there are 127 spectral lines lying within the nominal transducer bandwidth of about 105 Hz. The bandwidth of the main lobe of the transmitted spectrum is also 105 Hz.

2.3 The Quantities Measured

The quantities measured on site during the November 1970



modulated signal for L = 15 and D = 8

experiment can be grouped into three categories: (1) signal power, noise power and carrier angle measurements, (2) forward-scattered surface reverberation measurements, and (3) multipath structure measurements. These measurements were obtained using digital processing techniques implemented by a digital computer located at each receiving site. Each of the measurements was computed and recorded every 100 sec on the basis of 80 sec of reception. (The remaining 20 sec were used solely for computations.) As each 80 sec of reception was digitized, it was effectively passed through a comb-filter before being stored in the memory of the computer. This filtered reception was recorded on magnetic tape for later processing at Cooley Laboratory, and the spectra contained in this report are derived from this reception.

A discussion relating the spectra and the simultaneous measurements from categories (1) and (2) above is given in Chapter 4. For a detailed discussion of the on-site measurements, the reader is referred to Ref. 2.

3. THE PROCESSING OF THE BIMINI RECEPTION

3.1 The Equipment Configuration at Bimini

The equipment configuration at Bimini is shown in Fig. 6.

A frequency standard accurate to 1 part in 10¹⁰ provides a reference signal that is converted to a 1680 Hz (equal to 4 times carrier frequency) clock signal by a frequency synthesizer. After passing through an isolation amplifier, the clock signal controls the analog-to-digital conversion circuitry on the computer.

The receptions from both the shallow and the deep hydrophones are passed through signal conditioning bandpass filters and amplifiers and brought to a patch panel. There the operator selects which hydrophone signal is to be connected into the A/D converter on the computer. Because of an equipment failure on the deep hydrophone link, the shallow hydrophone reception was used for the data covered in this report. (Recall that the shallow hydrophone is in 100 ft of water 1 mile offshore.)

3.2 On-Site Digital Processing and Recording

The computer is programmed to demodulate the input at the A/D converter from a real-valued, bandpass signal centered at 420 Hz to a complex-valued, lowpass signal centered about dc (i. e., zero Hz). The processing is effectively shown in Fig. 7. The input signal

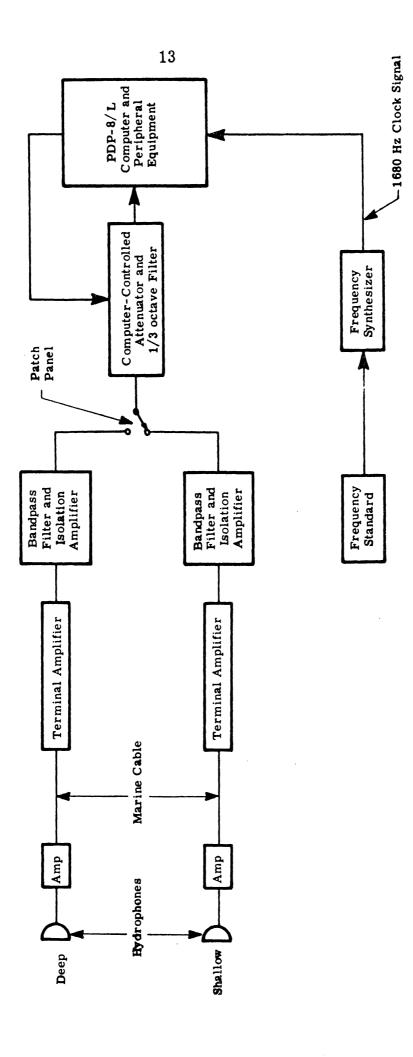


Fig. 6. Equipment configuration at Bimini

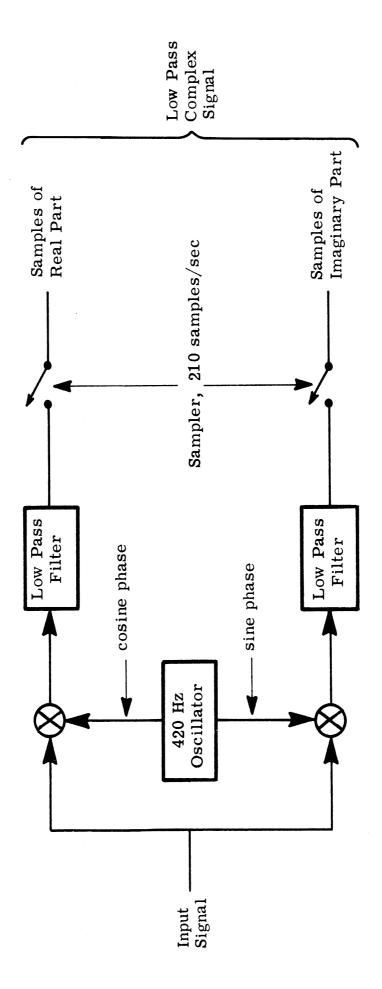


Fig. 7. Complex demodulation of the hydrophone reception

is demodulated by multiplication with both sine and cosine phase of a 420-Hz reference signal. A lowpass filter on the output of each multiplier passes only the difference-frequency components to the samplers, which provide 210 samples/sec of each channel. If the output from the cosine phase channel is called the real-part of the demodulated signal and the output of the sine channel is called the imaginary-part, then this real-imaginary pair can be thought of as a complex-valued representation of the input barapass waveform.

In point of fact, no information is lost in this process, and each signal processing operation that can be performed on the band-pass signal can also be performed on the lowpass complex signal to yield the same results (Ref. 3). An advantage of the complex representation in this case is that the number of samples per second which must be dealt with depends only upon the bandwidth of the signal and not upon its center frequency.

Inside the computer, the complex samples are passed through a number of digital filters to perform the on-line measurements described in Section 2.3. The spectral characteristics of the filters germane to this current investigation are shown in Fig. 8. These filters separate the line spectrum of the transmission into two disjoint pieces: the carrier alone, and the sidebands excluding the carrier. Of course, both filter outputs contain those noise components that are immediately adjacent to the signal lines. The sideband filter

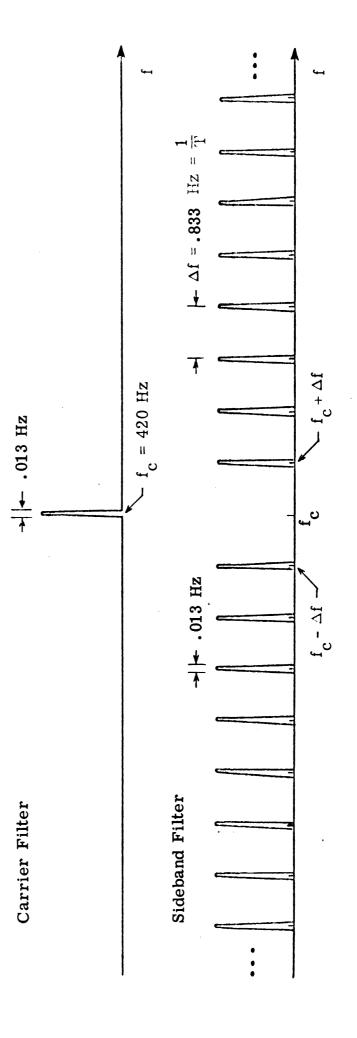


Fig. 8. The carrier and sideband filters used on the November 1970 reception

produces a time series of 252 complex points every 80 sec, and the carrier filter produces one complex point every 80 sec. The outputs of these filters are written onto magnetic tape after each 80-sec segment of reception is collected.

3.3 Selection of Data for Spectral Analysis

The record data from the Bimini receiving site span a period of 19 days. The data from the period from ~1130 hours to ~1900 hours local time, 25 November 1970, were selected for spectral analysis for the following reasons:

- (1) Recordings of sideband filter and carrier filter outputs are available for that period from the 7-mile hydrophone cabled back to RSMAS (point 4 on Fig. 1).
- (2) The receiving and transmitting frequency standards were closely matched in frequency during that period. (Inadvertently for some parts of the experiment, they were approximately 2 millihertz apart, which is enough to compromise the phase structure of the wideband spectra.)
- (3) The wideband, sideband power shows two distinct modes of behavior during the period, one of lower, constant power and another of higher, varying power. This behavior had been observed in past years on the carrier power measurement at the end of November, and a more thorough investigation was sought.

The data for analysis consisted of

- (1) 274 time series, each containing 252 complex points, and being the lowpass representation of an average (i.e., comb-filtered) period of the reception with the carrier removed.
 - (2) 274 complex points yielding carrier amplitude and phase.

Each (time series, carrier) pair was produced on the basis of 80 sec of data taken over a 100-sec time span. Thus the data spans 274×100 sec = 456 + 2/3 min = 7.61 hrs.

3.4 The Spectral Analysis

The spectral analysis proceeded in the steps outlined below.

(1) Fourier Transformation of the Time Series

Each 252-point time series Z(i) was discrete-Fourier-transformed according to the following definition:

$$H(k) = \sum_{i=0}^{251} Z(i) e^{j\frac{2\pi i k}{252}}, k = 0, ..., 251$$

where $j = \sqrt{-1}$. As expected, the frequency spectrum H(k) had an extremely low carrier value. (That the carrier value was not zero is attributed to the round-off errors in the computation.)

(2) Reinsertion of the Carrier

The large amplitude of the carrier in relation to the sideband lines H(k) called for some scaling of the carrier prior to its

reinsertion into H(k) and subsequent display. The scale factor chosen was such as to transform the transmitted spectrum of Section 2.2 into a pure $\sin(x)/x$ curve; i.e., the carrier was attenuated exactly enough to fit into the smooth $\sin(x)/x$ curve of the other lines.

The ratio of transmitted carrier power for the CM signal used to the carrier power in the equivalent $\left[\sin(x)/x\right]^2$ power spectrum is P , where

$$P = 1 + L\left(\frac{L-1}{L+1}\right) = L-1 + \frac{2}{L+1}$$

For the L = 63 digit sequence used in the experiment,

$$P = 62 - \frac{1}{32} = 62.03125 = (7.875992)^2$$

Since the spectra are in volts and not power, each carrier line was attenuated by 1/7.875992 and reinserted into its corresponding spectrum H(k) as H(0).

(3) Removal of Phase Bias

The relative phase of each of the frequency lines in the transmitted signal is determined by the pseudorandom modulating sequence. In general, the phase angles of adjacent lines are not at all close, making visual determination of phase behavior for even closely spaced lines rather difficult. Consequently, the phase of each line in all 274 received spectra was modified by subtracting from it the phase of the same line in the transmitted spectrum. This allowed phase

plots for adjacent lines to reflect oceanic influences rather than the phase structure of the transmitted signal.

(4) Selection of Lines for Further Analysis

Inspection of the on-line sideband power measurements for the data under investigation indicates that the wideband signal plus noise-to-noise ratio from the sideband filter varied from a minimum of 10 dB to a maximum of 25 dB. The centermost lines of the transmitted spectrum contain the most power. Subject to cancellation due to interference phenomena, the signal plus noise-to-noise ratio of the centermost lines is greater than or equal to that of the sideband filter output.

Thirty lines to each side of the carrier, as well as the carrier itself, were selected for further analysis and display. The power transmitted in these lines varies from 1.008 to 2.166 times the average line power in the main lobe of transmission.

The effective length of the time series that were transformed was 1.2 sec, yielding an eigenfrequency spacing in the spectrum of 5/6 Hz. Since 61 lines were selected, the spectra spanned 50 Hz, i.e., 25 Hz either side of the carrier.

4. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

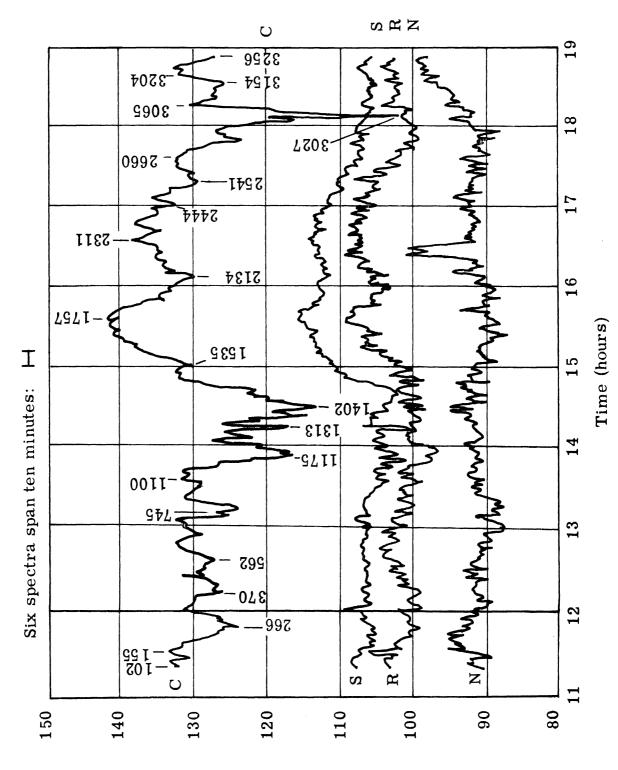
4.1 The On-Line Power Measurements

The results of the on-line signal power measurements are shown in Fig. 9, which is drawn from Ref. 2. The sideband filter output, labeled S, and the carrier filter output, labeled C, clearly show the two distinct modes of behavior mentioned in Section 3.3. Before 1440 hours the S-output is lower and relatively constant; after that time it rises rapidly and is much more variable.

In general the carrier level tends to follow the sideband level.

The substantial fluctuations in carrier level are probably caused by cancellation of the carrier due to interference phenomena occurring within the relatively narrow (13 millihertz) carrier tooth.

The trace on Fig. 9 labeled R is the output of a surface reverberation measurement filter and is the energy in a 5/6-Hz band about the carrier. The signal plus noise-to-noise ratio in dB of any of the C, S, or R outputs is simply the difference between it and the trace labeled N, which is a wideband noise measurement. For further information on the measurements shown on Fig. 9, refer to Ref. 2. The numeric labels on various features of the carrier level in Fig. 8 refer to the spectral plots and will be discussed in the next sections.



On-line neutron mena

Relative Power (decibels)

4.2 Spectral Plots

Plots of the spectra are bound into the rear of this report. They are presented in polar coordinate $r-\theta$ form to correspond to the amplitude-phase intuition of the electrical engineer (Appendixes A and B).

The spectra may be viewed as 274 samples of 61 complex-time series. They are denoted as

$$S(f, t), f = 1, ..., 61; t = 1, ..., 274$$

4.2.1 Constant Time Plots. Plots of S(f, t) holding t constant for each plot are shown in Appendix A. These correspond to 50-Hz wide spectra separated in time by 100 sec. A sample page is shown in Fig. 10. Six spectra spanning ten minutes in time are plotted on each page. Their time order is:

At each plot position, the amplitude |S(f, t)| is plotted above the phase angle arg[S(f, t)] with frequency increasing to the right. The carrier frequency is marked with a tick. The phase is plotted between two horizontal lines, the top one of which also serves as the zero line for the amplitude plot. The range of the angle plot is one revolution (i.e., 360 degrees or 2π radians).

The phase angles to be plotted were modified by the following transformation.

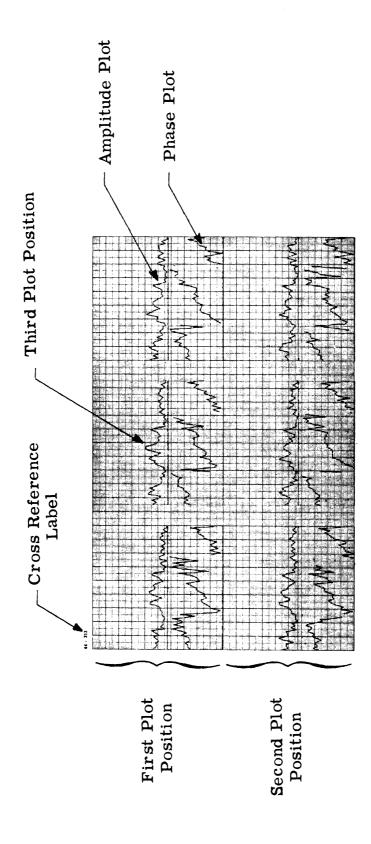


Fig. 10. Prototype constant time plot

$$arg[S(f, t)]_{plot} = arg[S(f, t)]_{data} - (af - b)$$

where the constants a and b were chosen empirically to be

a = 0.45507 revolution/frequency step

b = 0.58593 revolution

This transformation is equivalent to shifting the time origin 0.54608 sec and the phase origin 0.58593 revolutions. (The original time and phase origins were arbitrary since they were established by the instant-of-time at which the receiving processor began operating.)

The constants a and b were chosen to make the largest portions of all the 274 angle plots as flat (or alternately, as smoothly connected) as possible.

In those cases where the phase angle does cross the phase reference (zero revolution) axis, no attempt is made to draw a smooth line connecting adjacent angles. Rather the "offending" angle is plotted as a point instead of as a member of a line.

At the upper left of each page in Appendix A is a numeric label. This label is a computer data access code for the original recorded data that produced the spectrum in the upper left corner of the page, i.e., plot position 1. The second number in this label is the same as the numeric label on the C-power line of Fig. 9 and can be used to establish a time correspondence between power levels and spectral displays. The time duration of one page of spectra—ten minutes—is indicated on Fig. 9. (Hopefully these limited capabilities

for cross-referencing Fig. 9 and the plots in Appendix A will prove sufficient; the macroscopic rather than microscopic features are of interest here.)

4.2.2 Constant Frequency Plots. Plots of S(f, t) holding f constant for each plot are shown in Appendix B. These correspond to time series of signal amplitude and phase for each signal line in the 61-frequency ensemble selected in Section 3.4. Two $r-\theta$ time series, each spanning 7.61 hours, are plotted on a page, one in the top half and the other in the lower half of the page. A sample page is shown in Fig. 11 with |S(f, t)| plotted above arg[S(f, t)] with time increasing to the right. The vertical scaling is not the same as that of the constant time plots.

The angles portrayed in the constant frequency plots are computed directly via $\arg[S(f, t)]$ and undergo no transformation. Again, as with the constant time case, angles which cross the phase reference axis are plotted as points instead of as members of a smooth line. At the upper left of each time series plot is a number indicating the f value for the time series shown. To convert the f value into a frequency in hertz, use the following relation:

Frequency in hertz =
$$420 + \frac{5(integer f value - 31)}{6}$$

Accordingly, the carrier plot is labeled 31. Note that the C-power trace in Fig. 9 corresponds to time-series 31 when allowance is made for dB vs linear scales on amplitude.

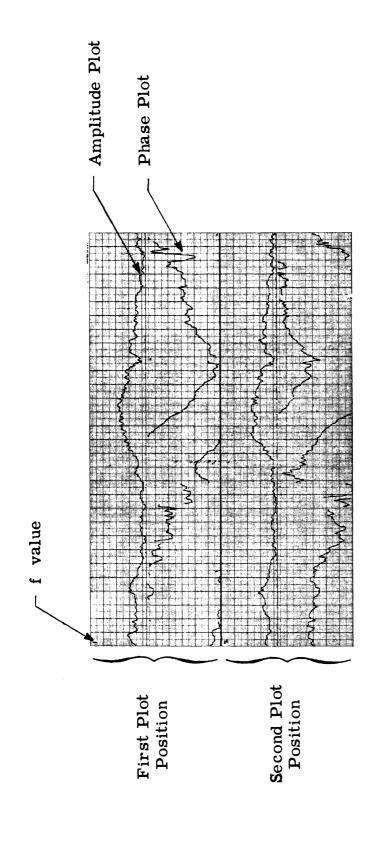


Fig. 11. Prototype constant frequency plot

4.3 Preliminary Conclusion

The most striking feature of the S(f,t) function is that it seems to change slowly both in frequency f and time t. Figures 12 to 15 show a sequence of spectra spanning over one hour. At the end of this time, the gross amplitude structure, especially the frequencies of the predominant nulls, has not changed appreciably. The frequency boundaries of the areas of linear phase angle behavior have also not shifted to an appreciable extent. Future work will consist of attempts to exploit the relative stationarity of the spectrum exhibited here, with some emphasis on better methods of display.

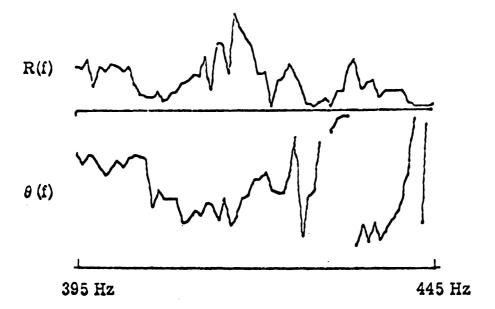


Fig. 12. Spectrum at $t_0 = 1118$ hrs, 25 November 1970

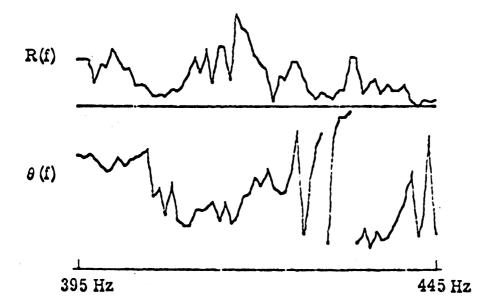


Fig. 13. Spectrum at $t_0 + 1$ minute, 40 seconds

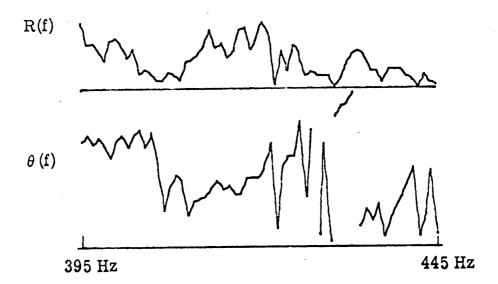


Fig. 14. Spectrum at $t_0 + 10$ minutes

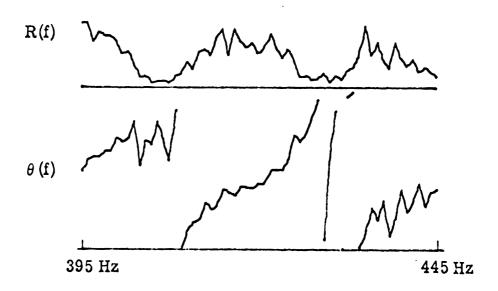
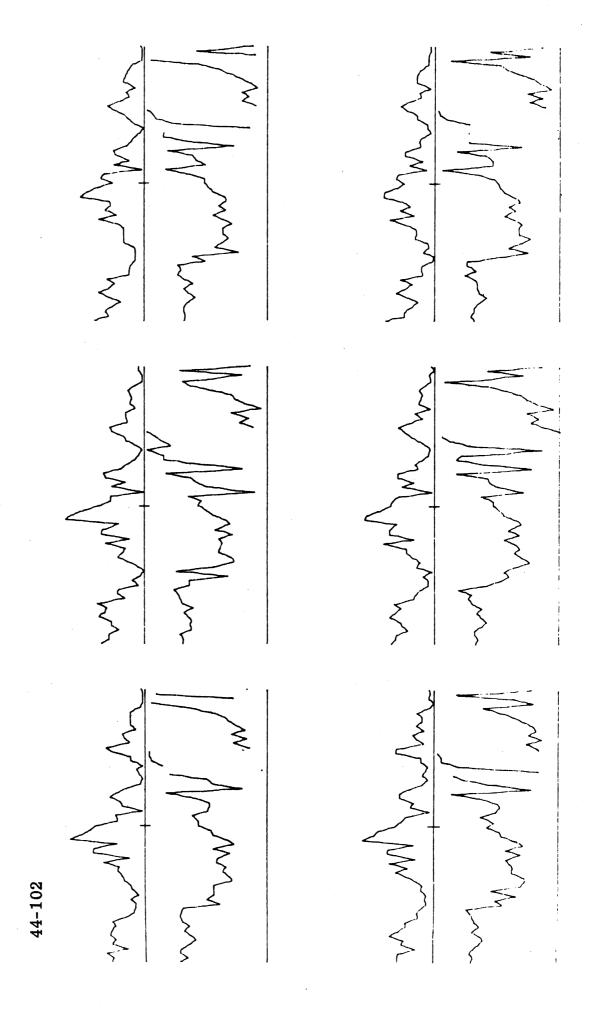


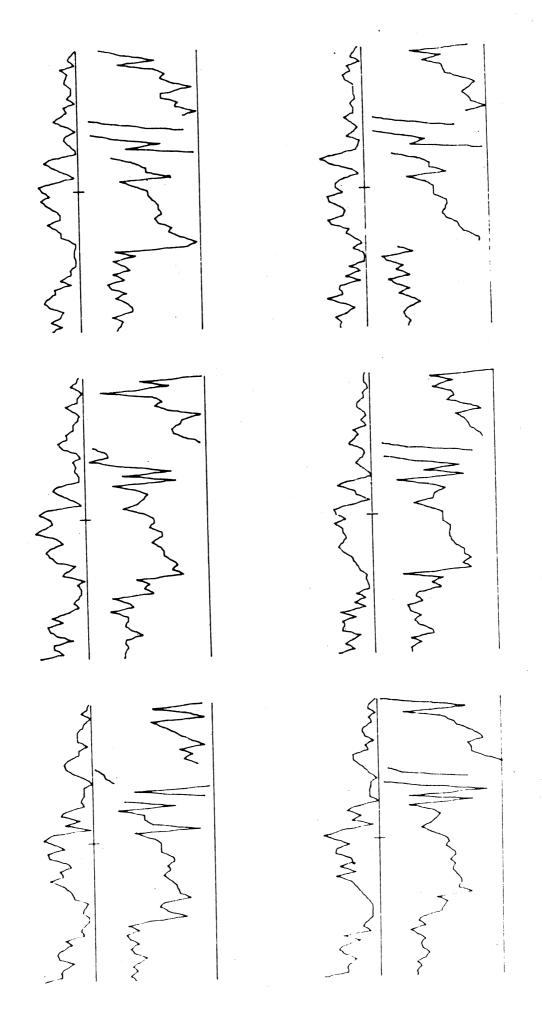
Fig. 15. Spectrum at $t_0 + 1$ hour, 3 minutes, 20 seconds

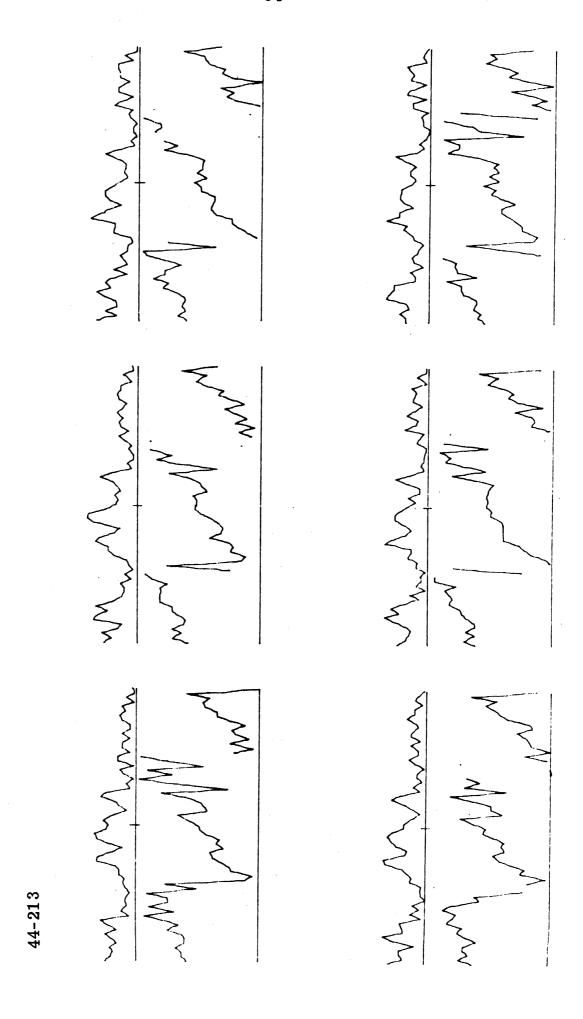
APPENDIX A

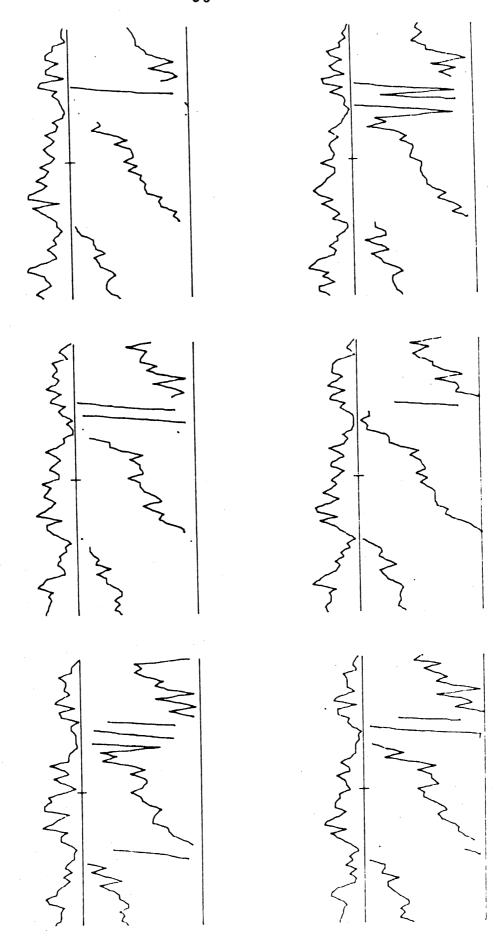
Constant Time Plots

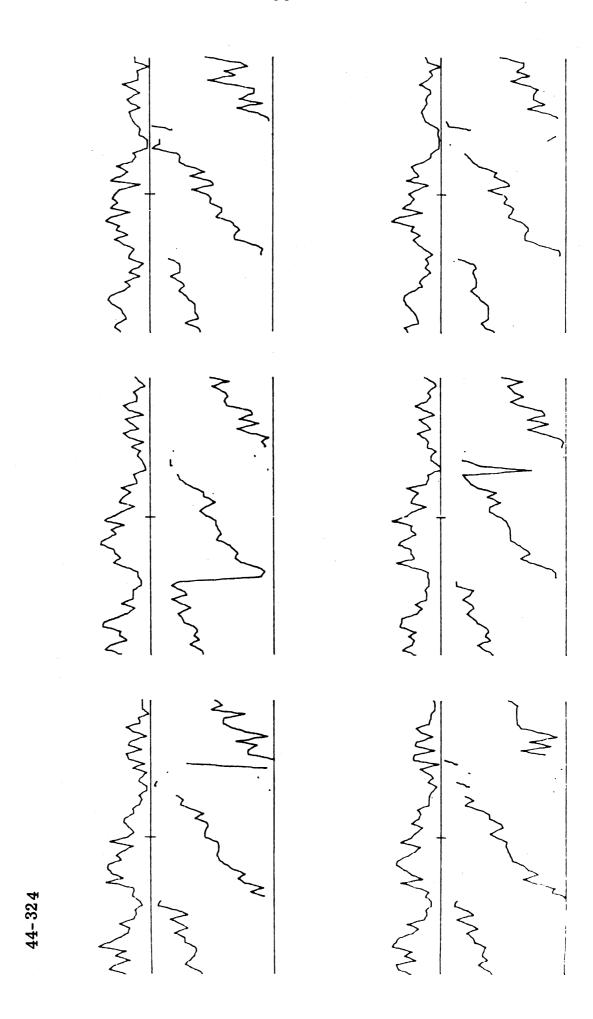
Section 4.2.1 explains how to interpret the constant time plots that follow.

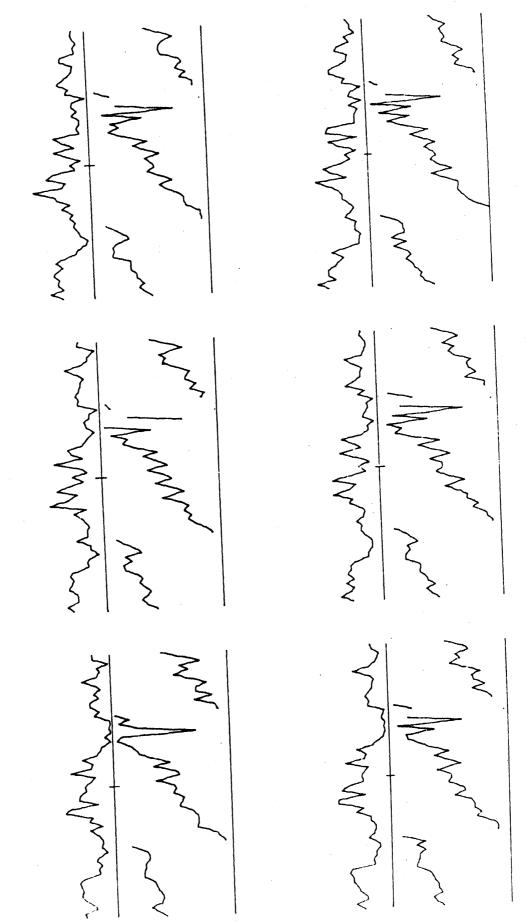


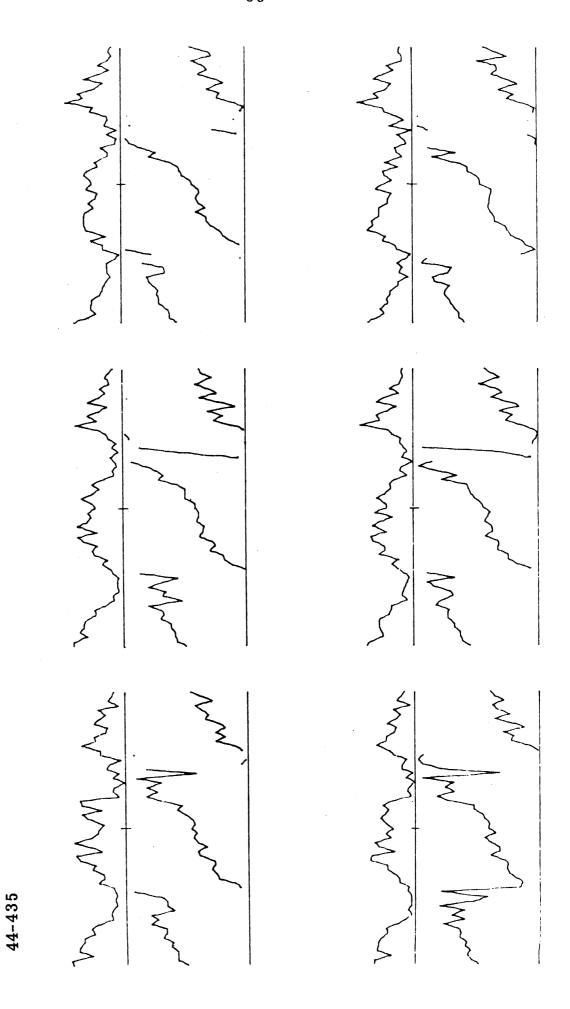


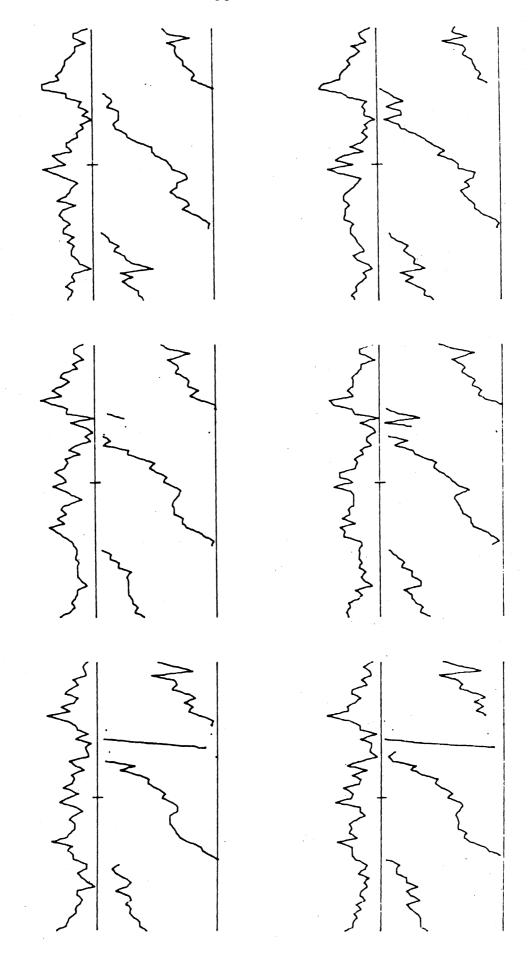


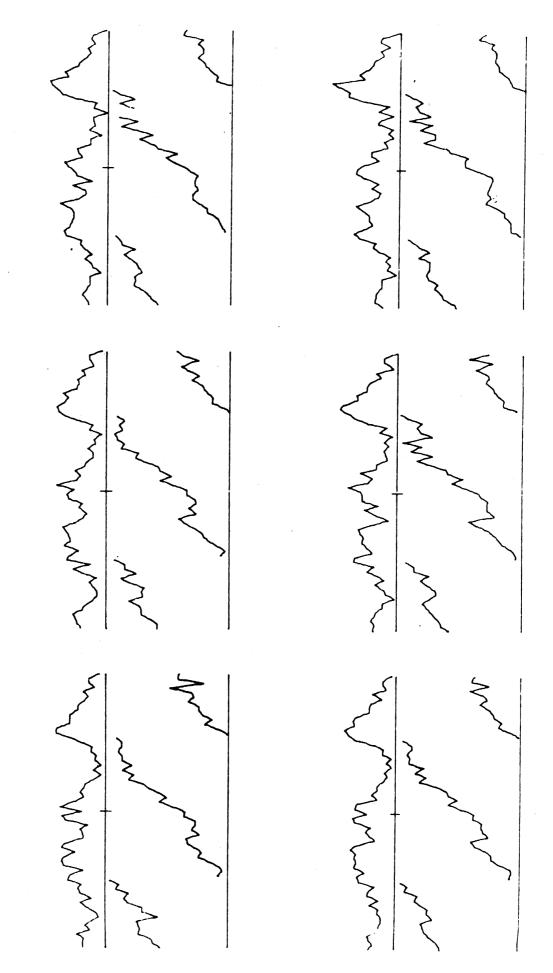




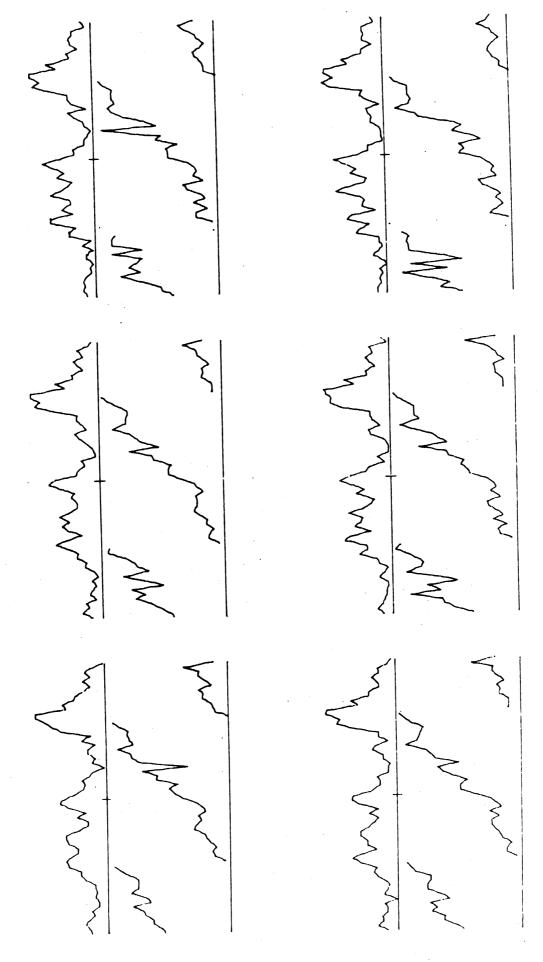




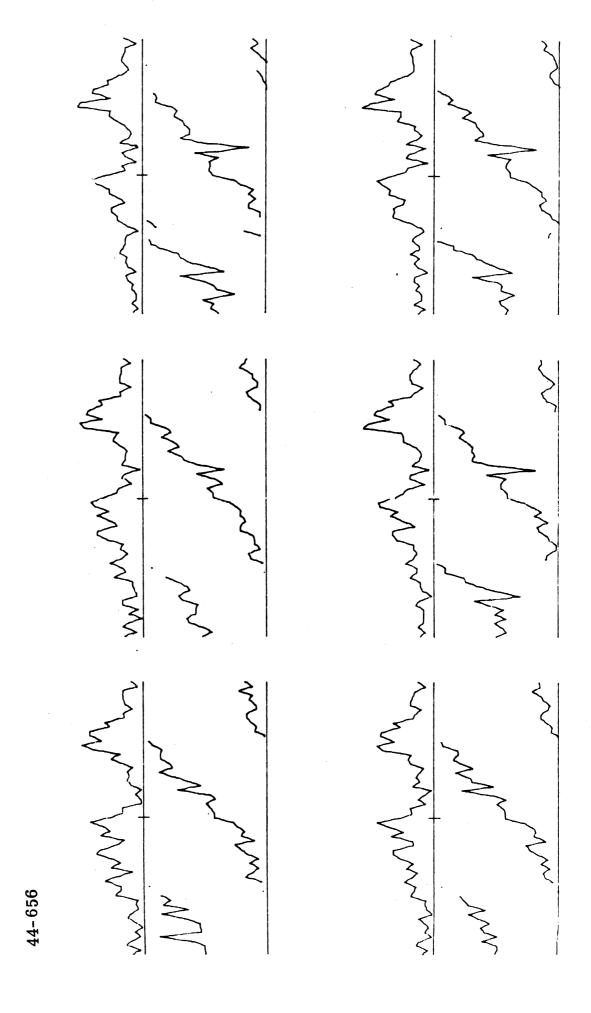


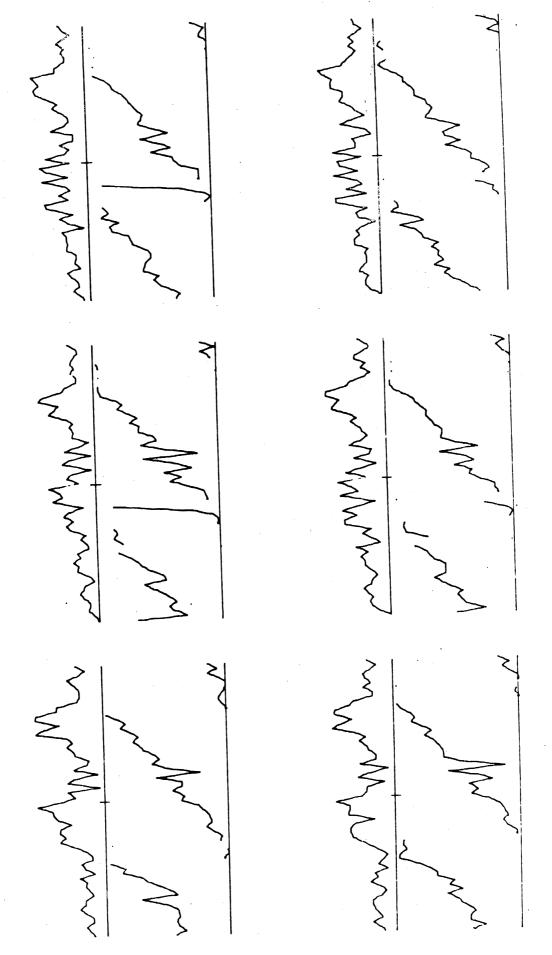


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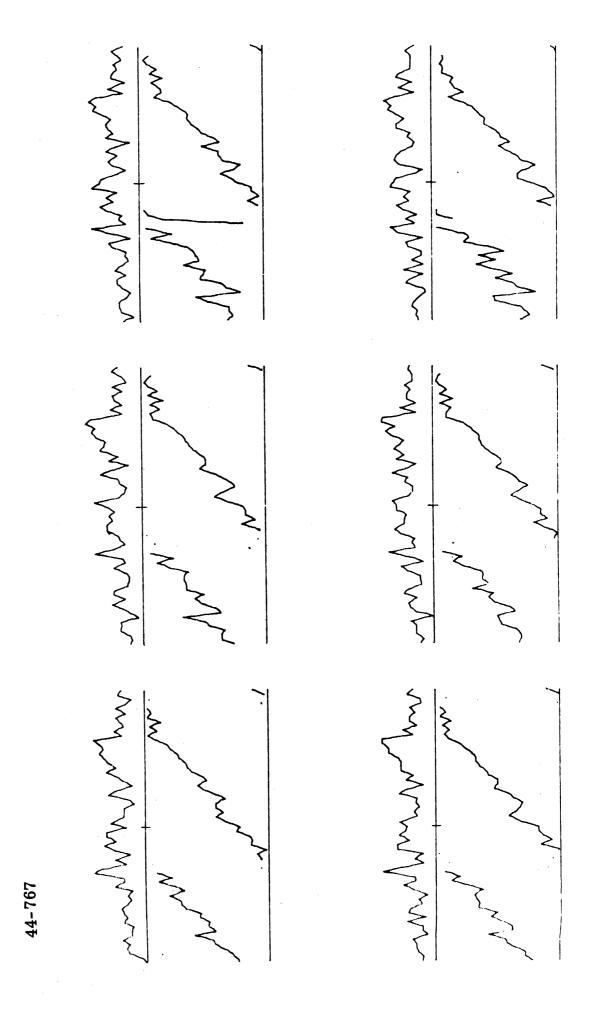


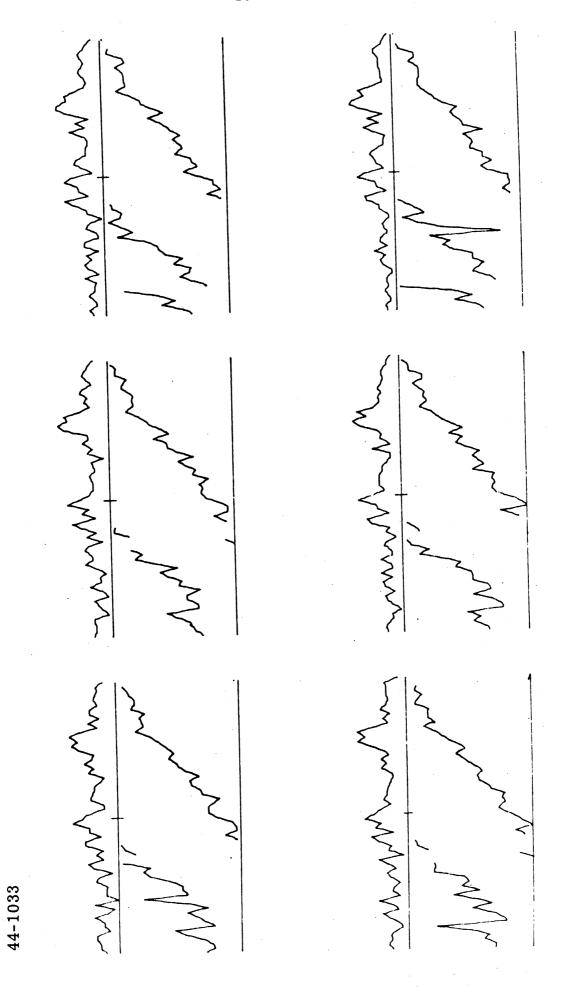
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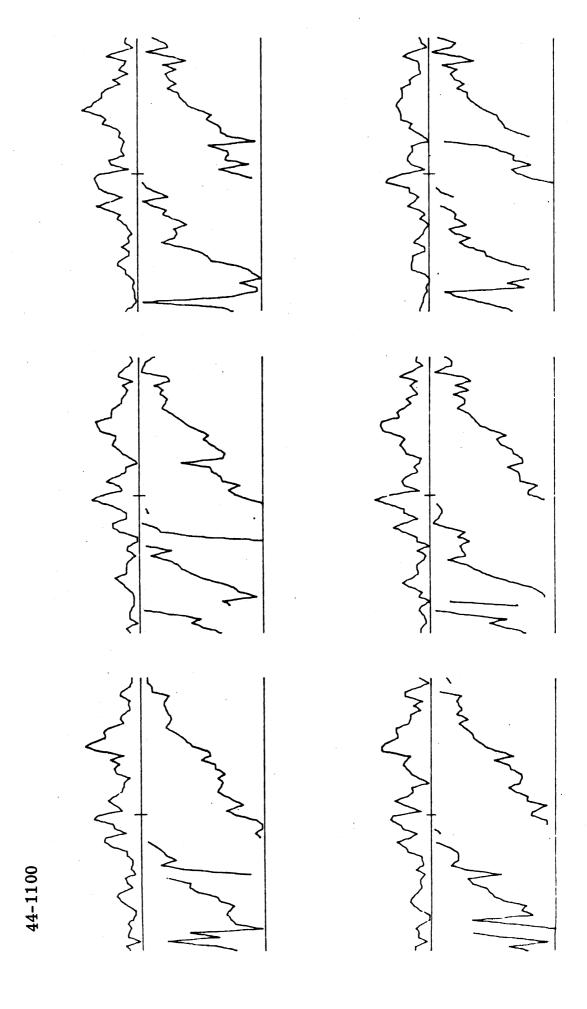


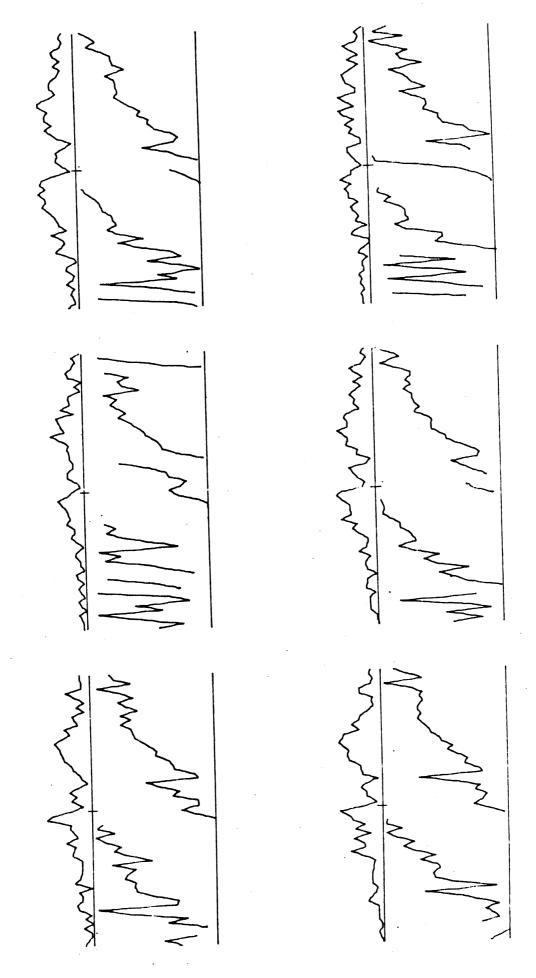


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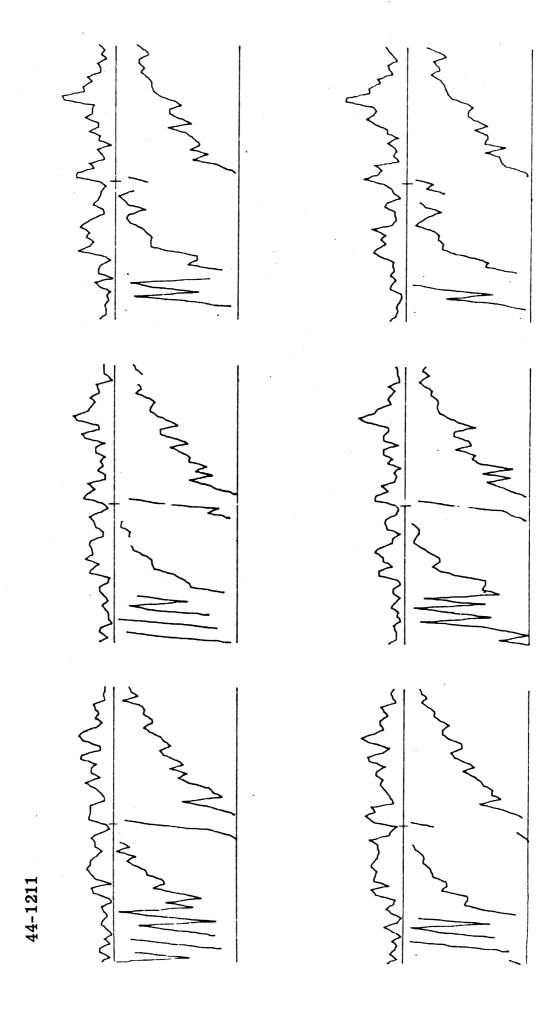


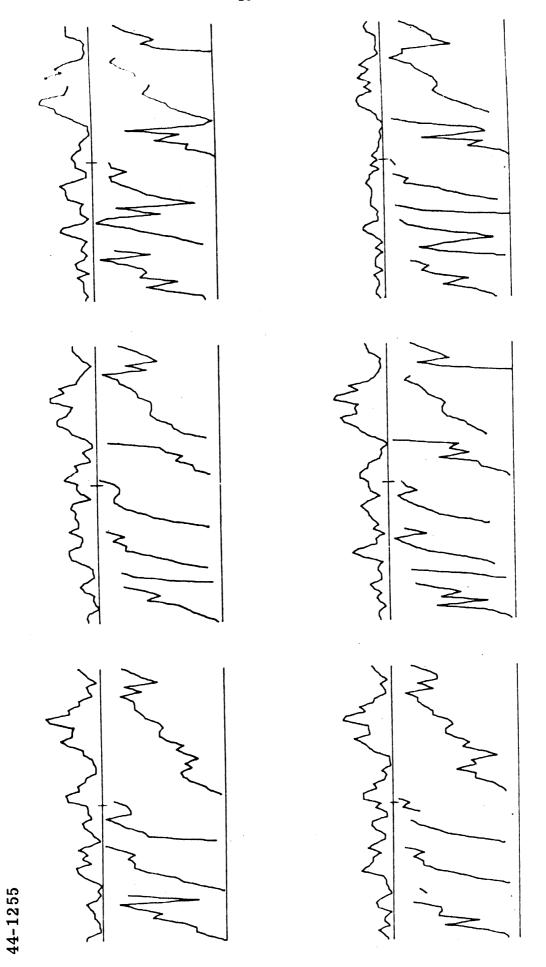


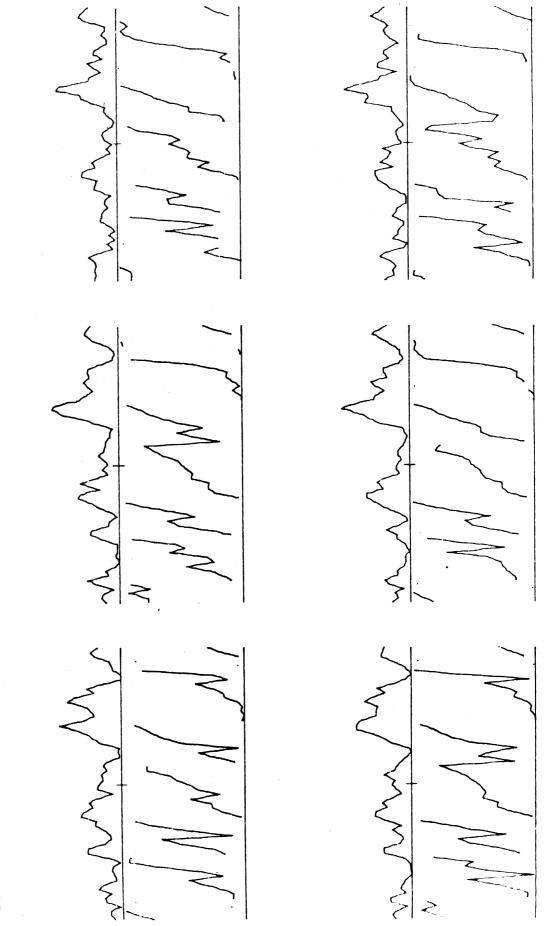




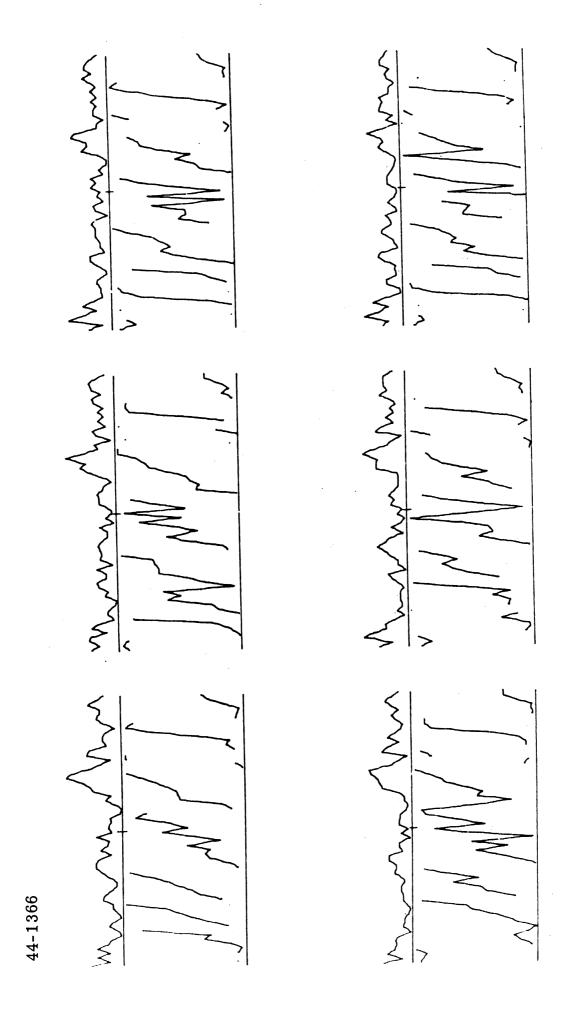
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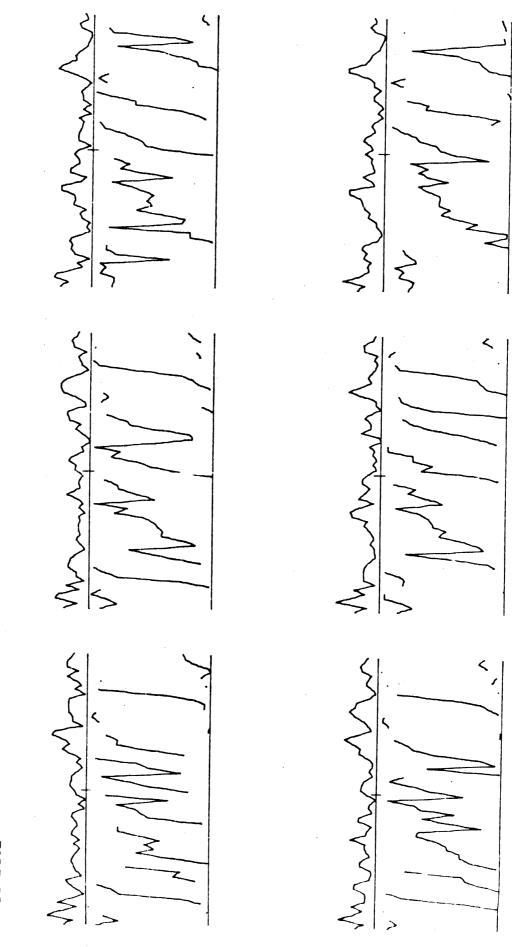




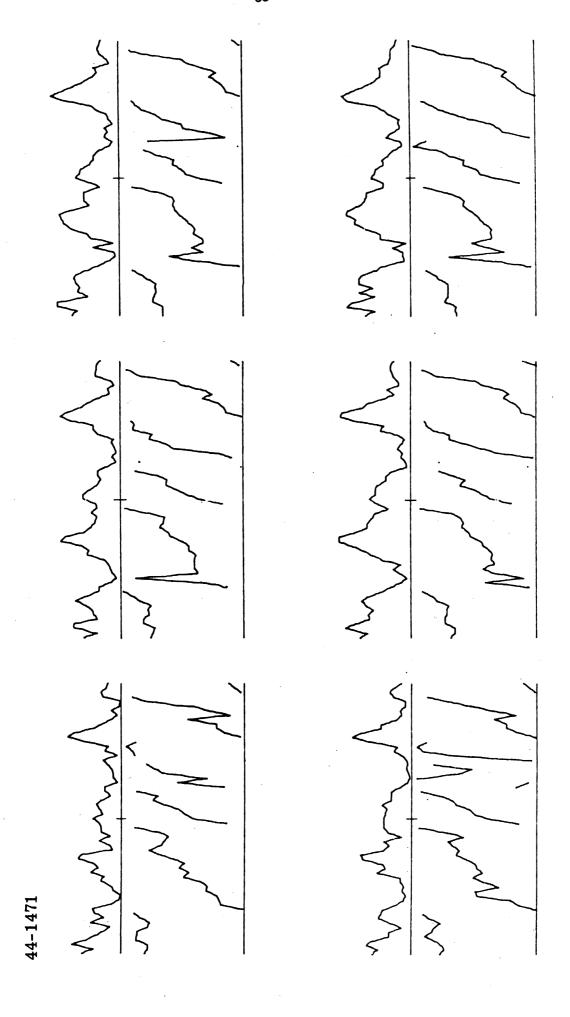


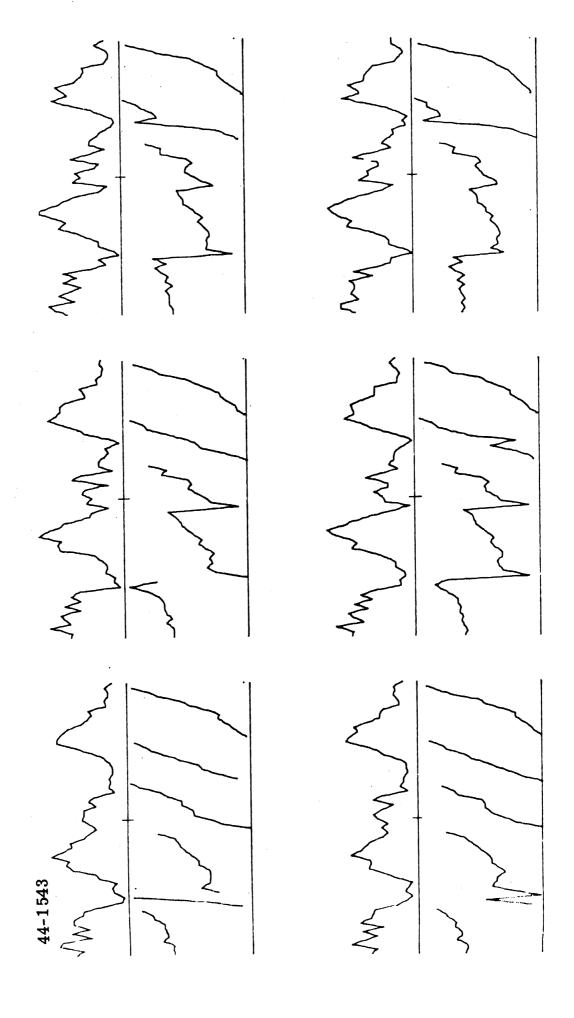
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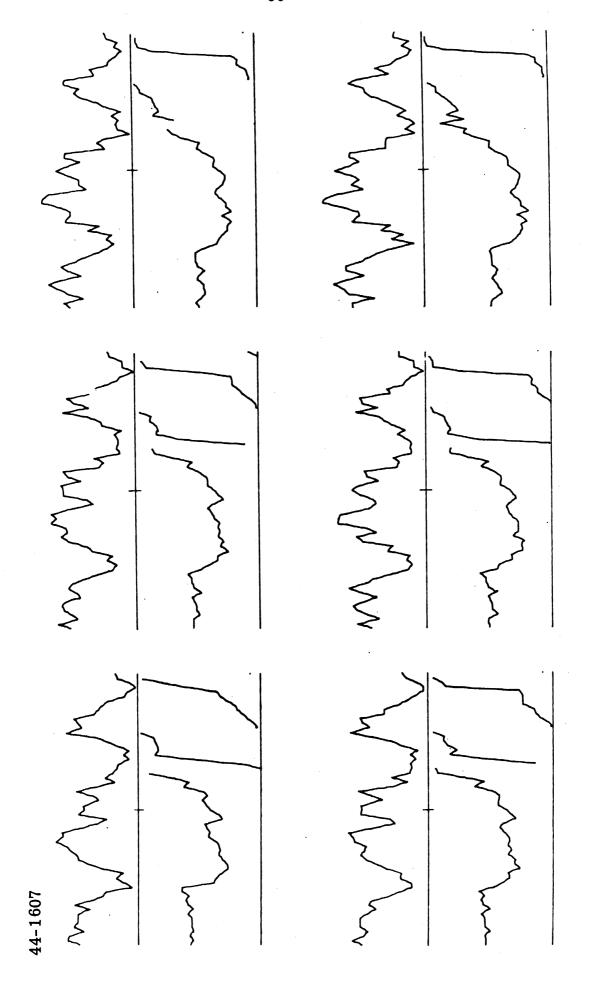


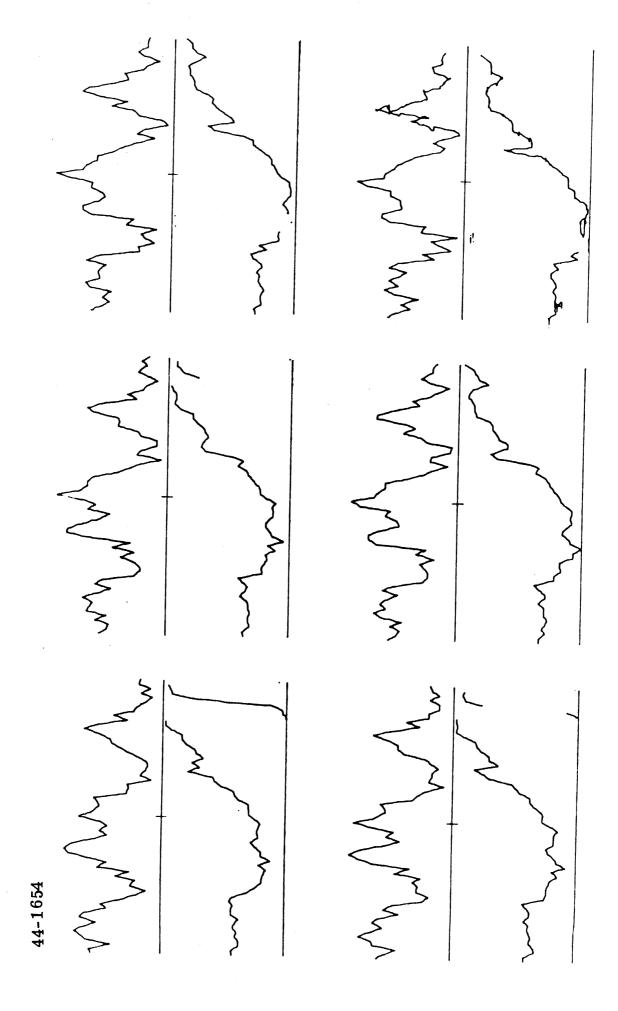


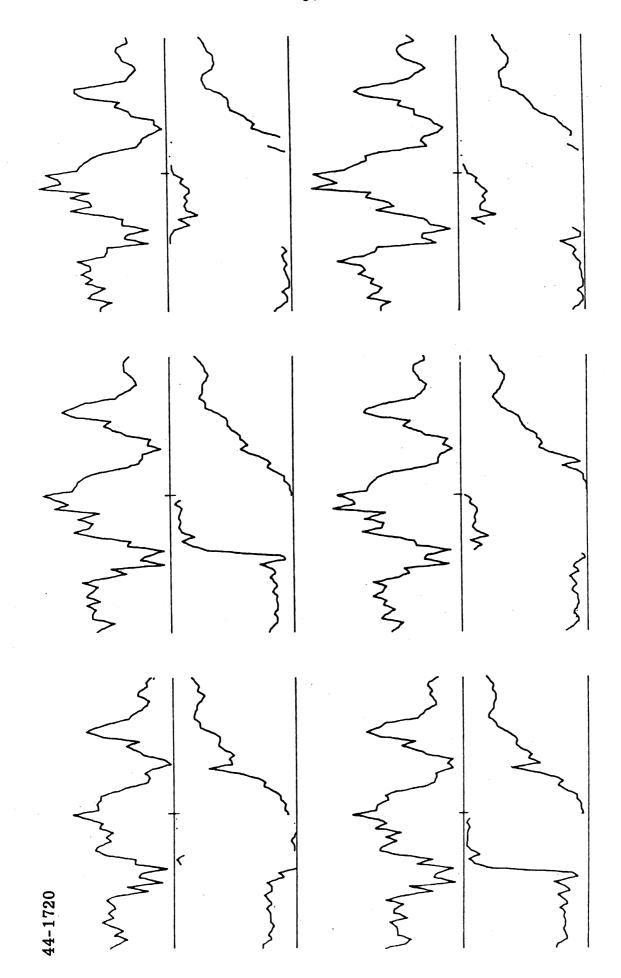
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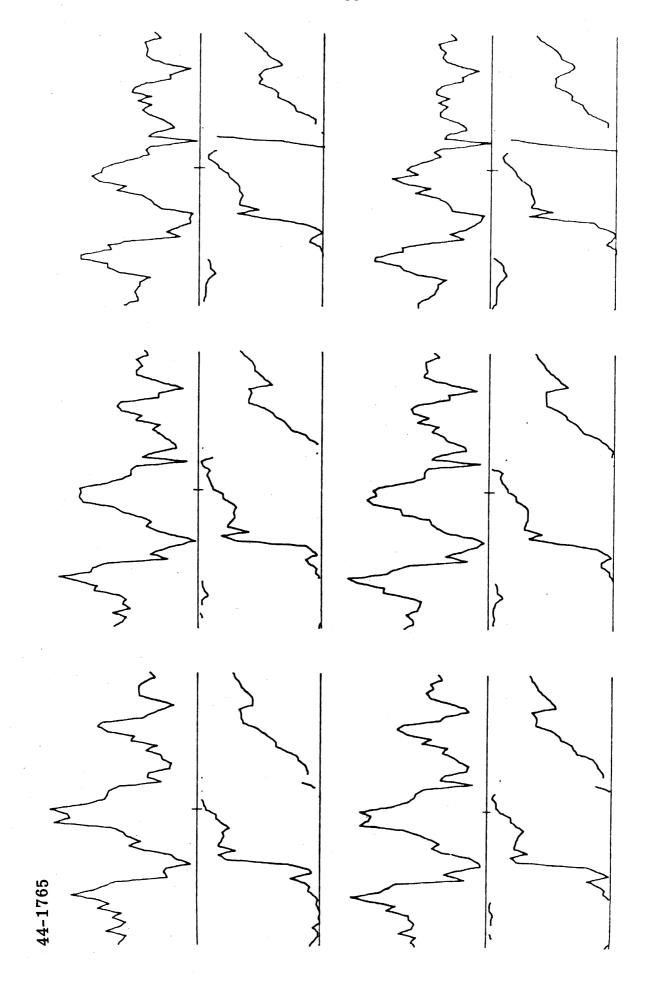


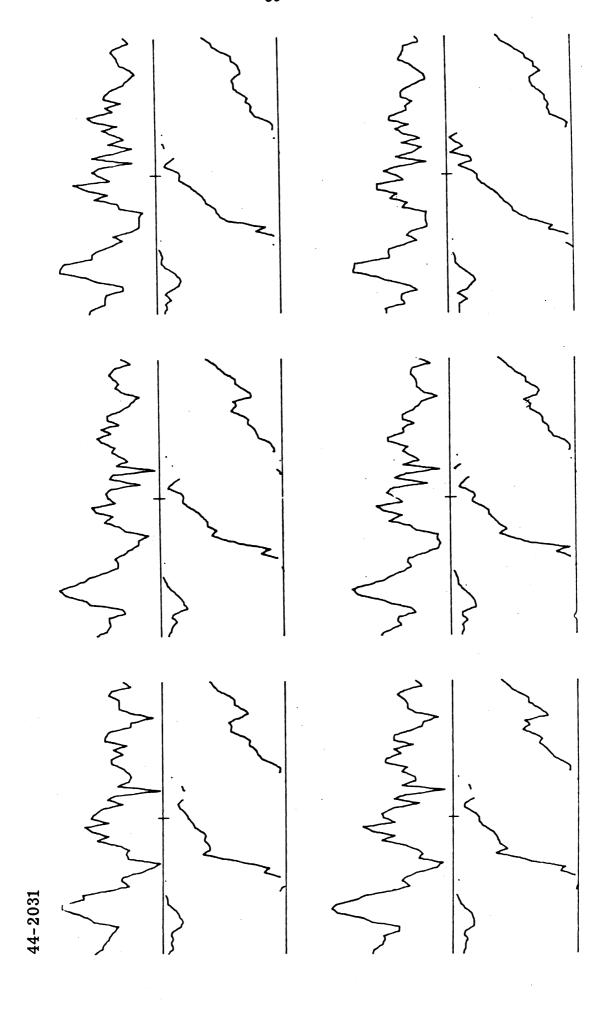


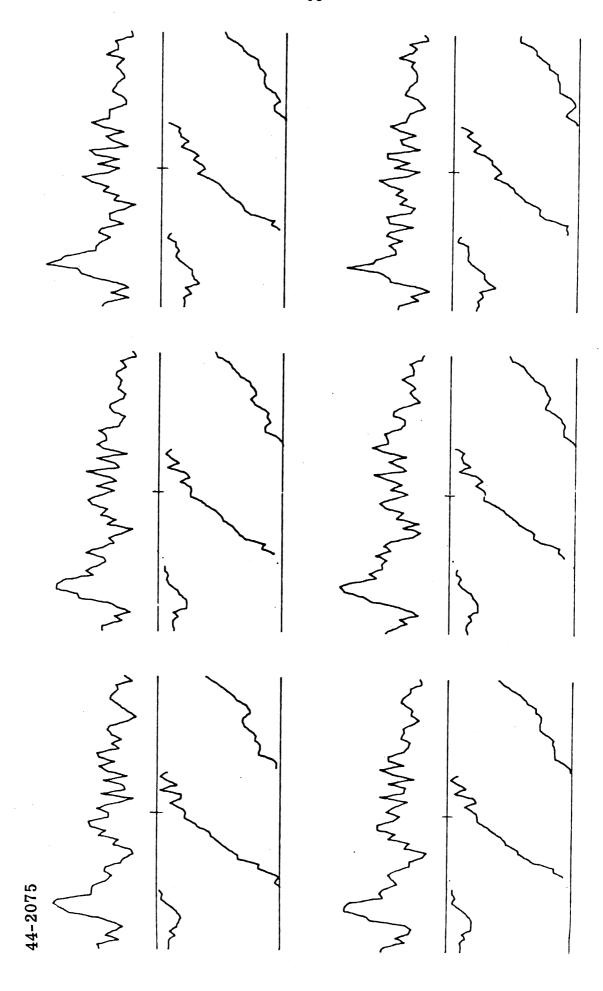


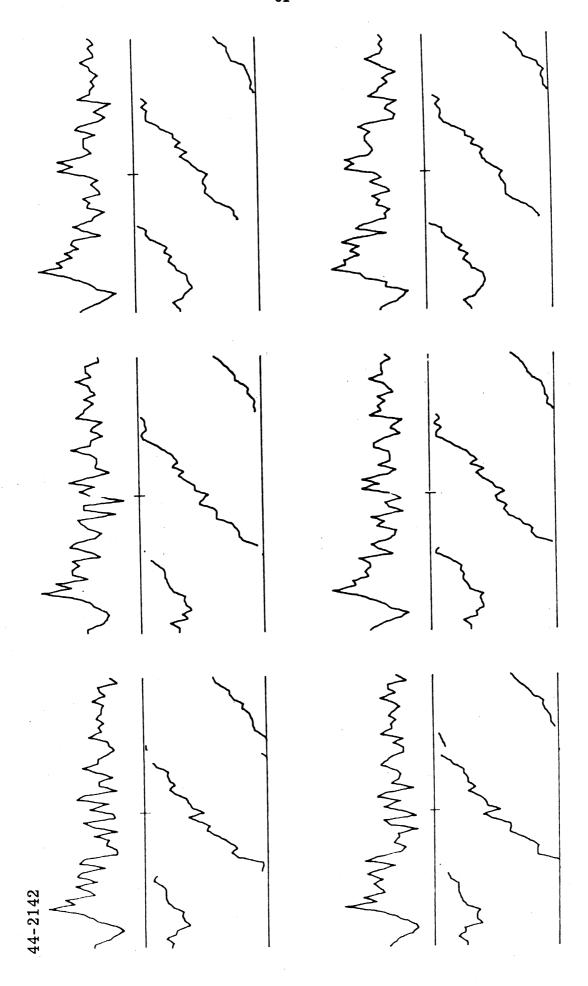


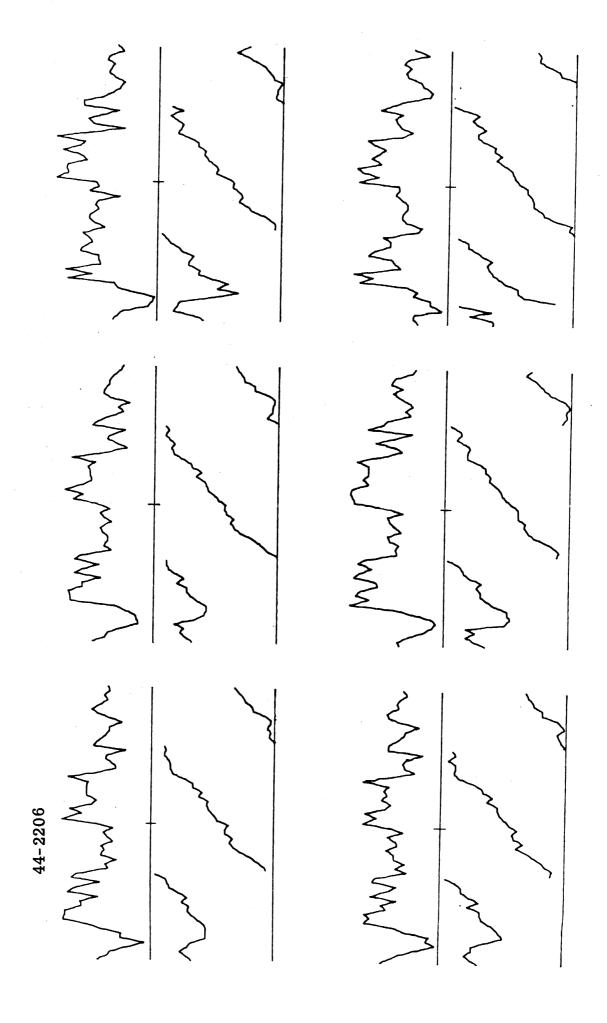


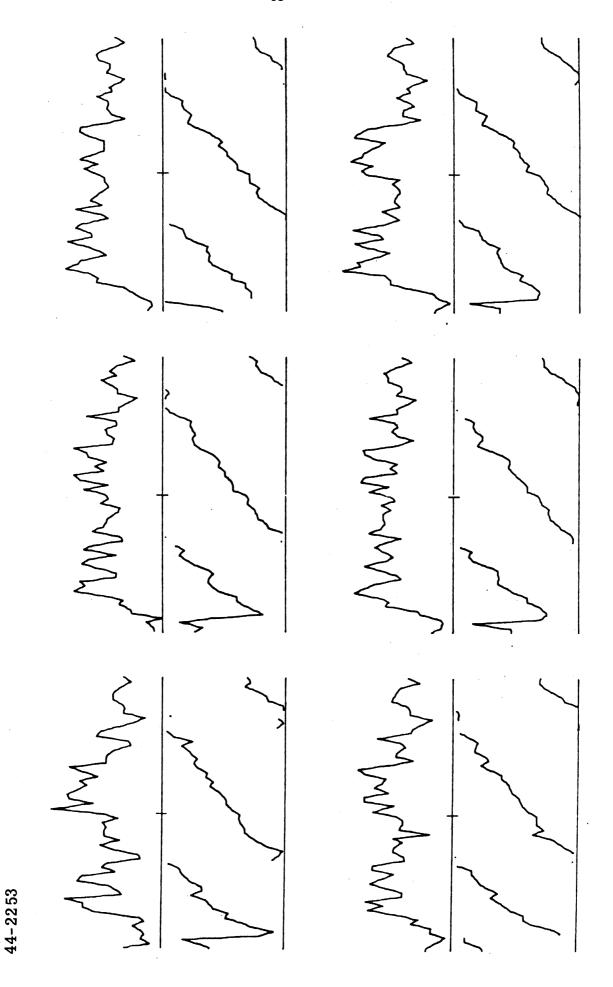


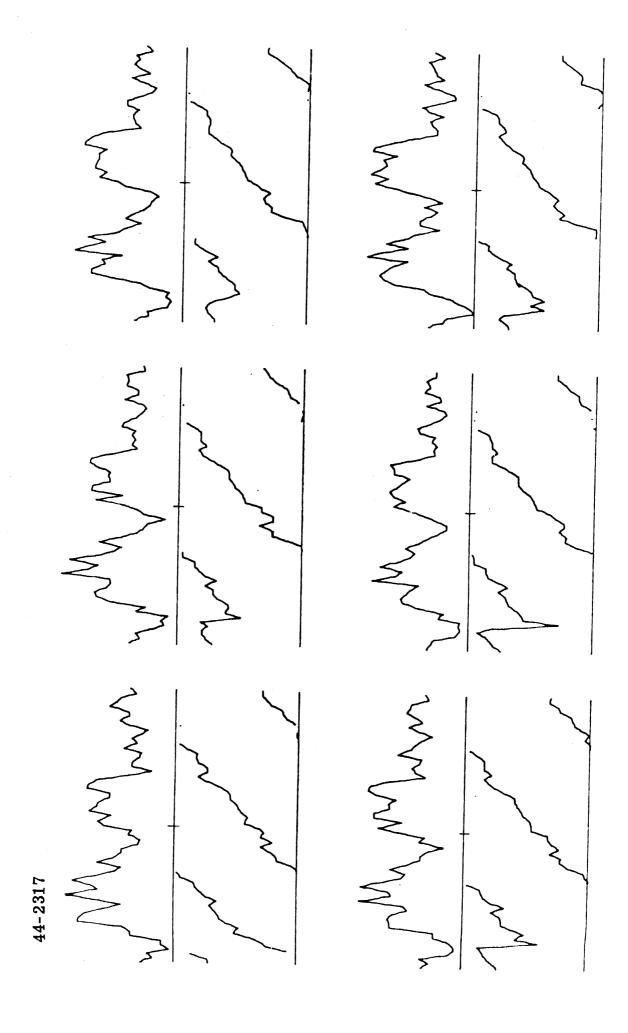


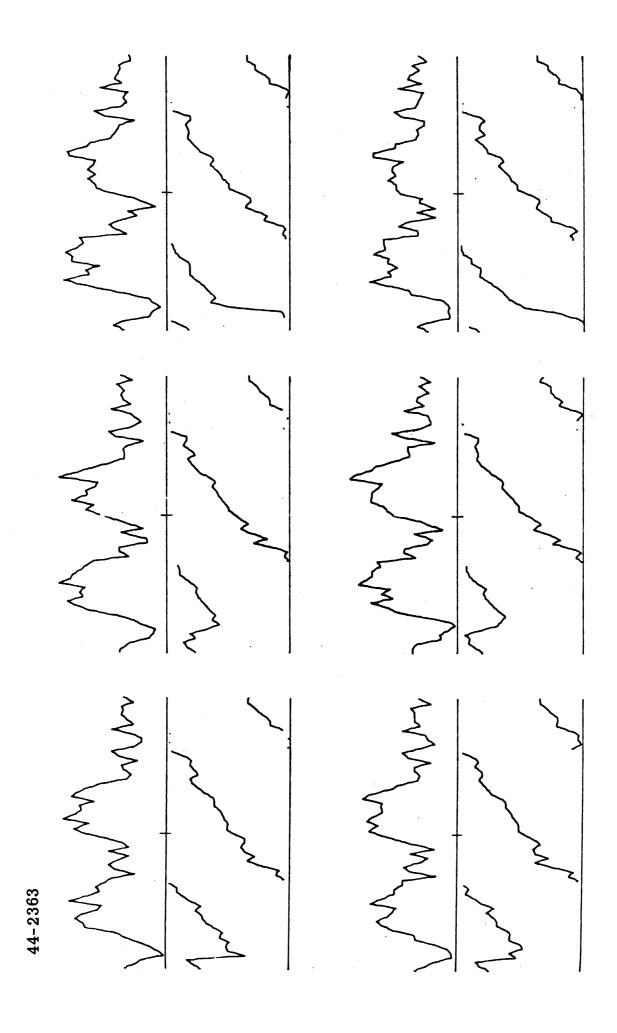


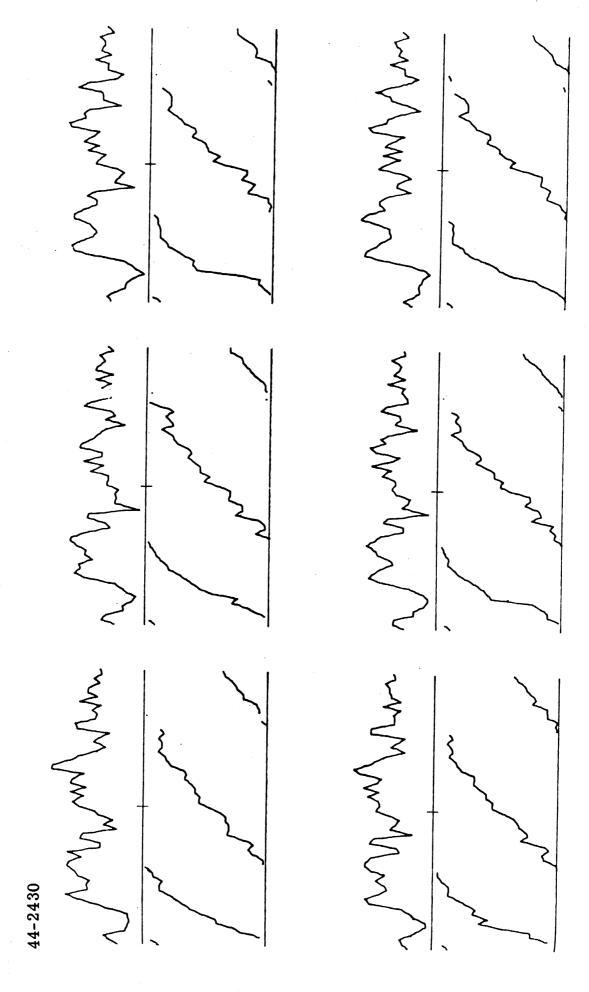


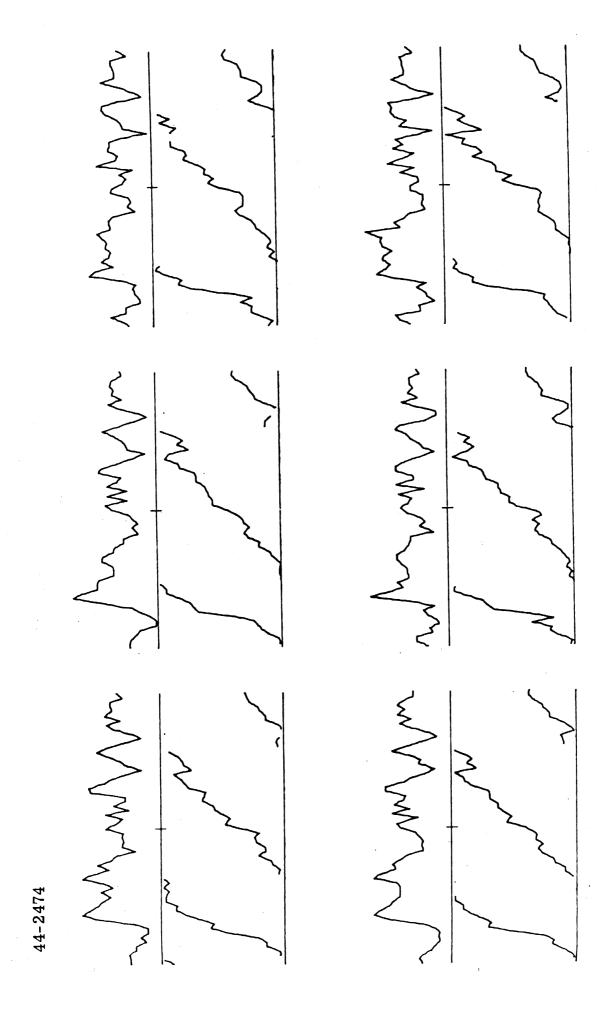


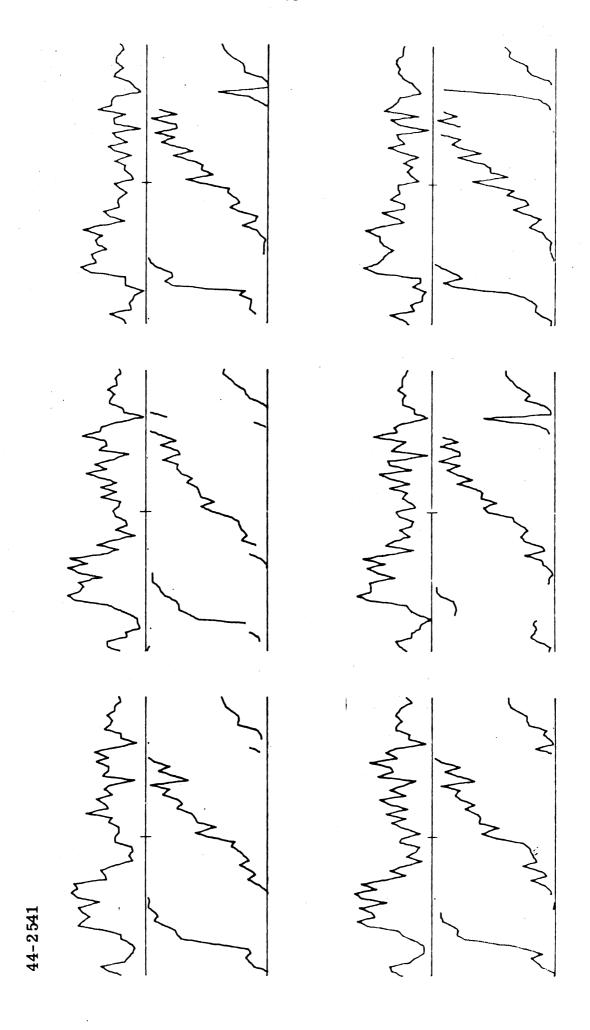


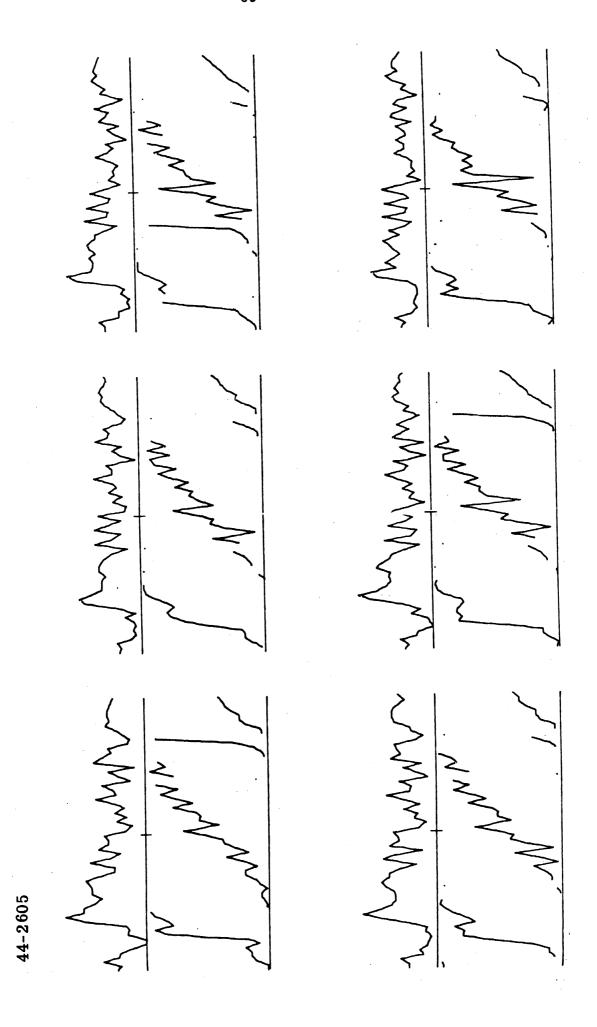


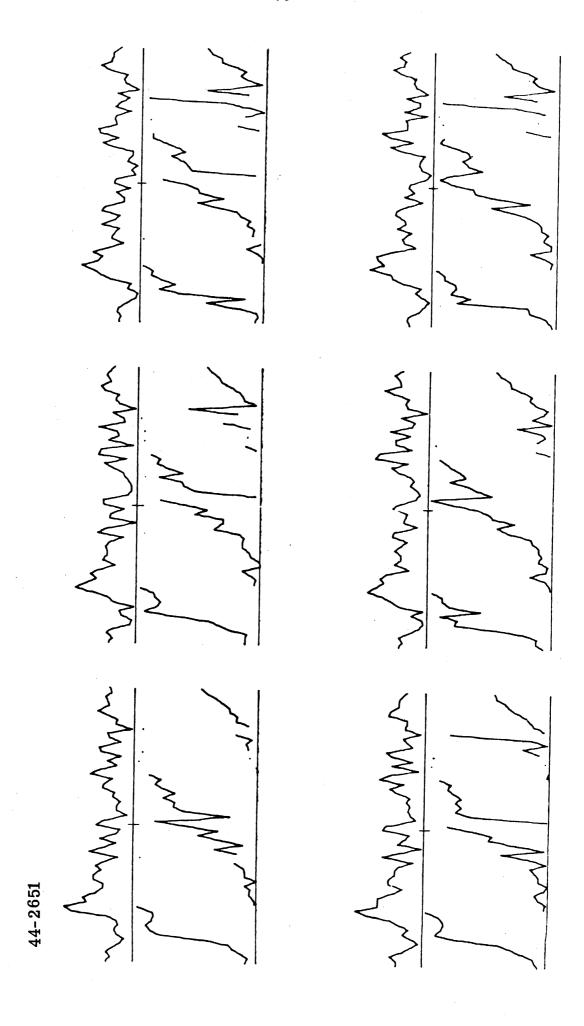


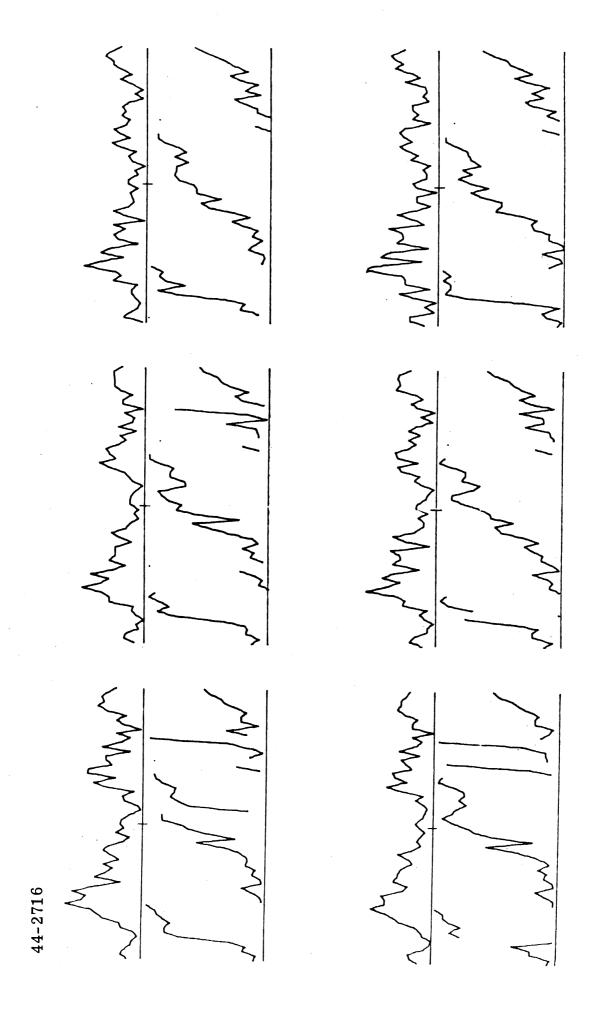


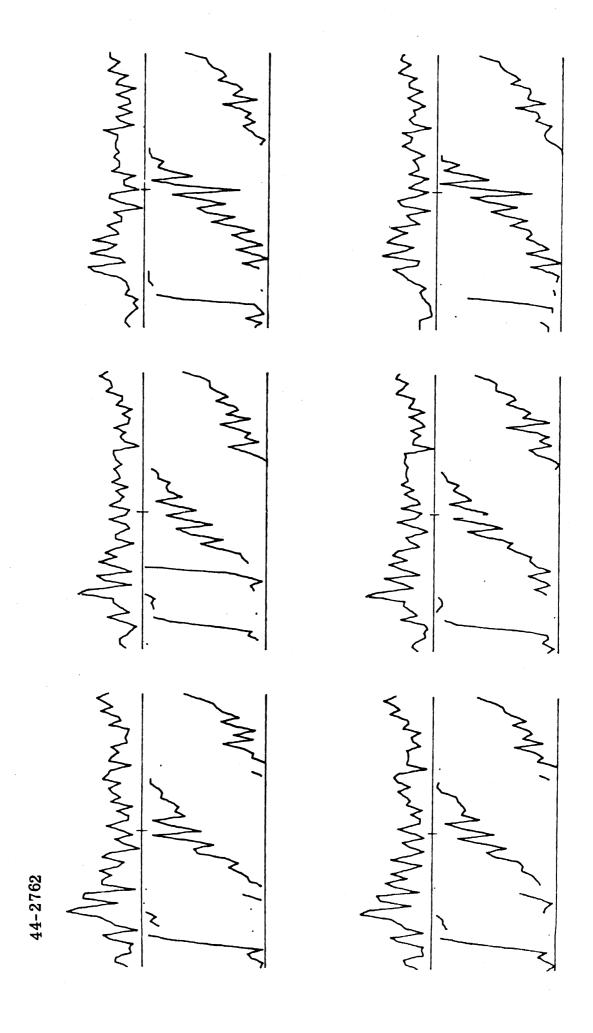


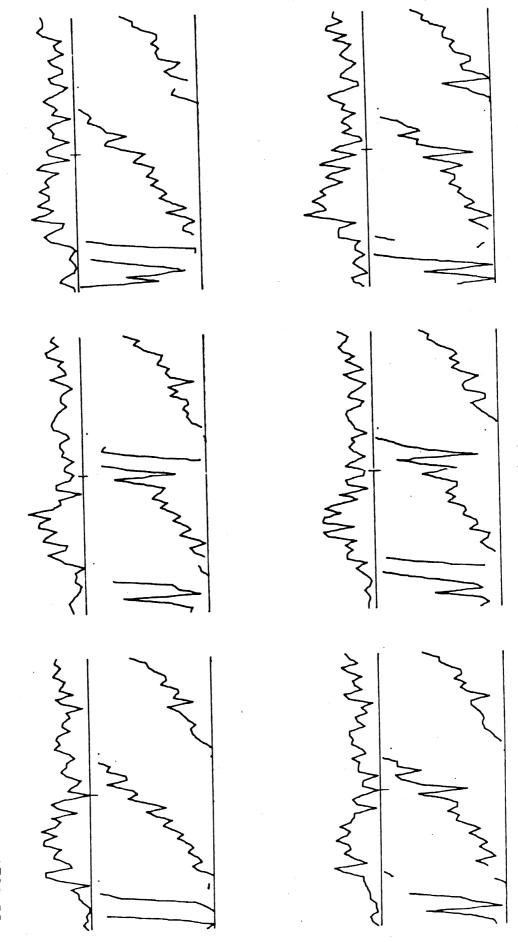




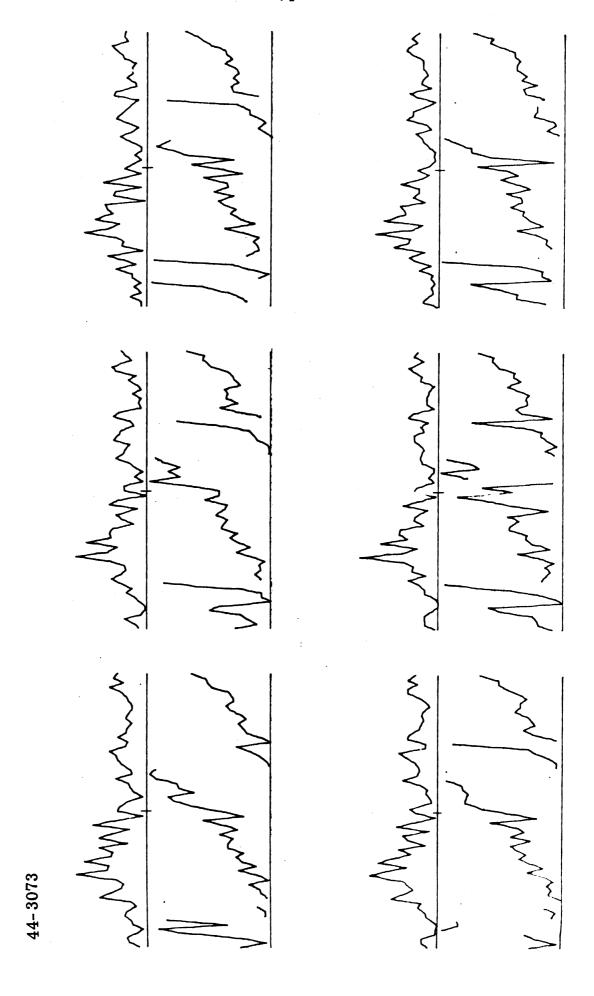


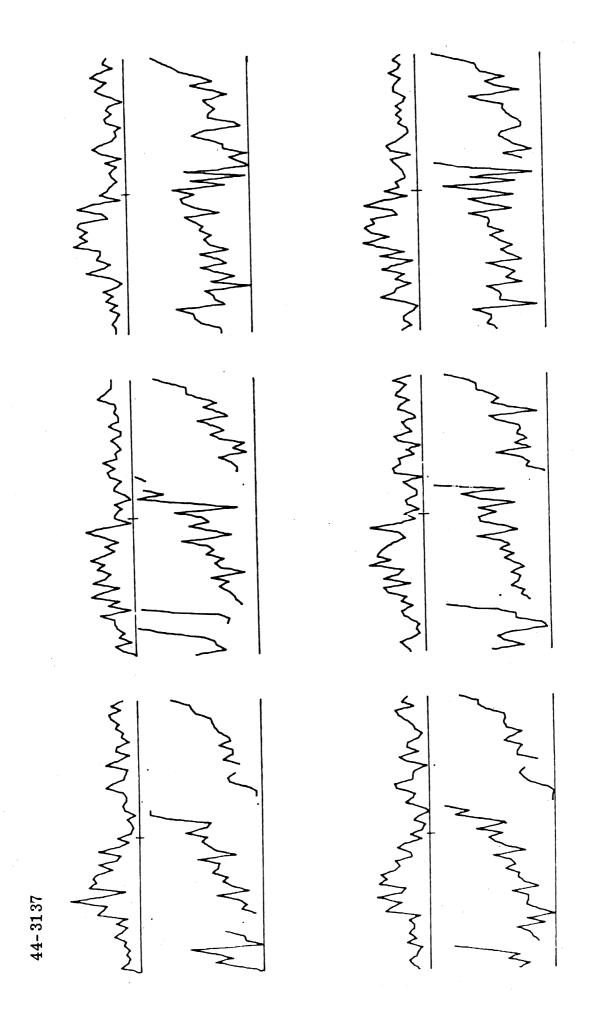


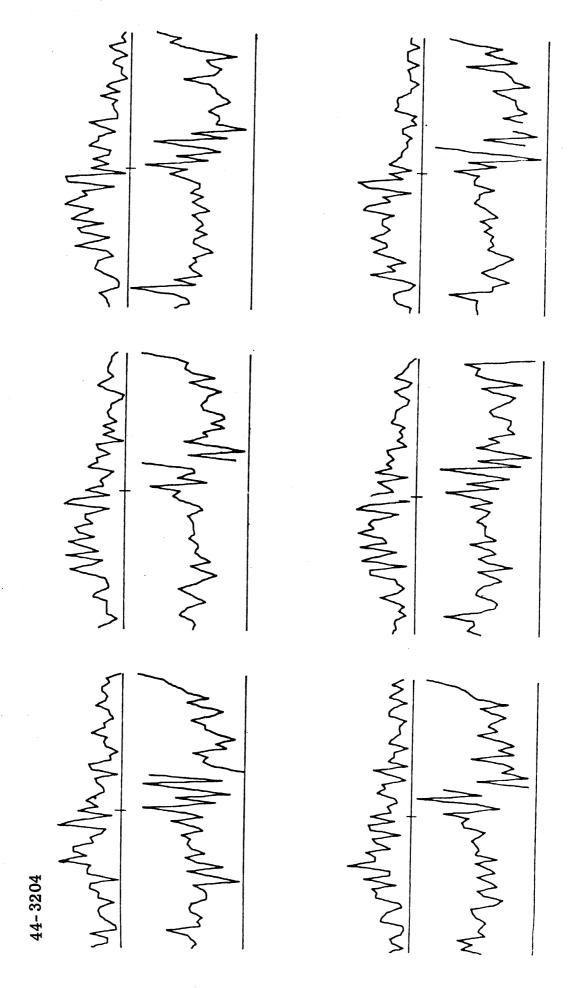


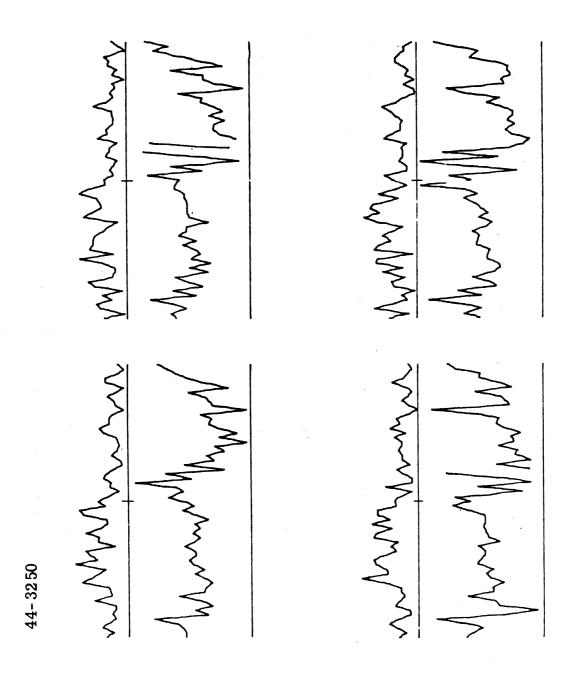


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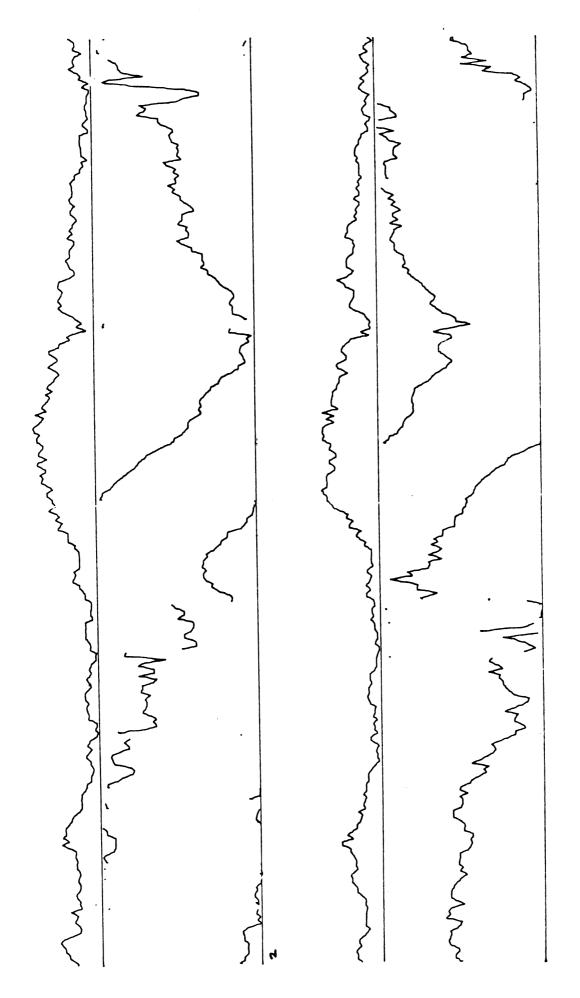


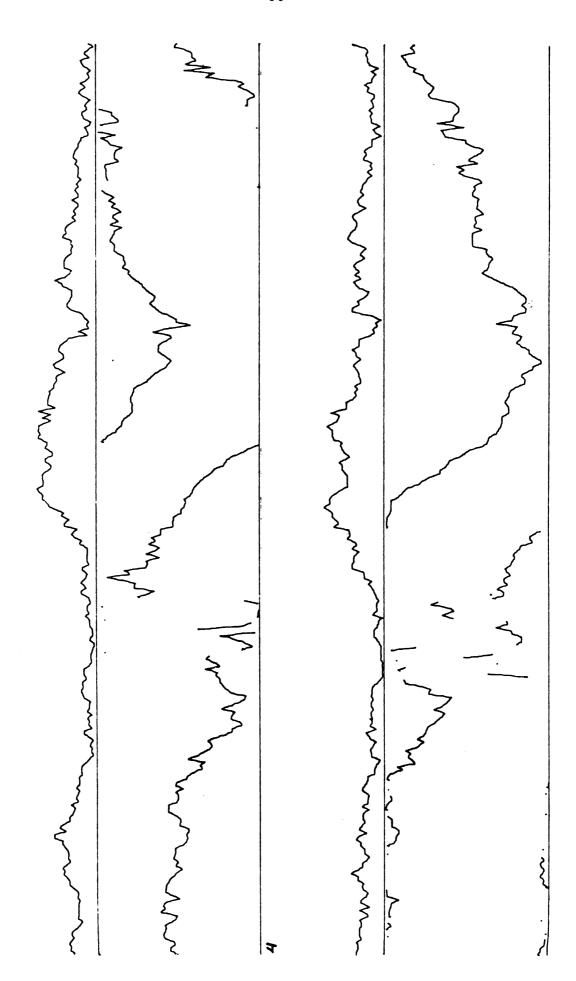


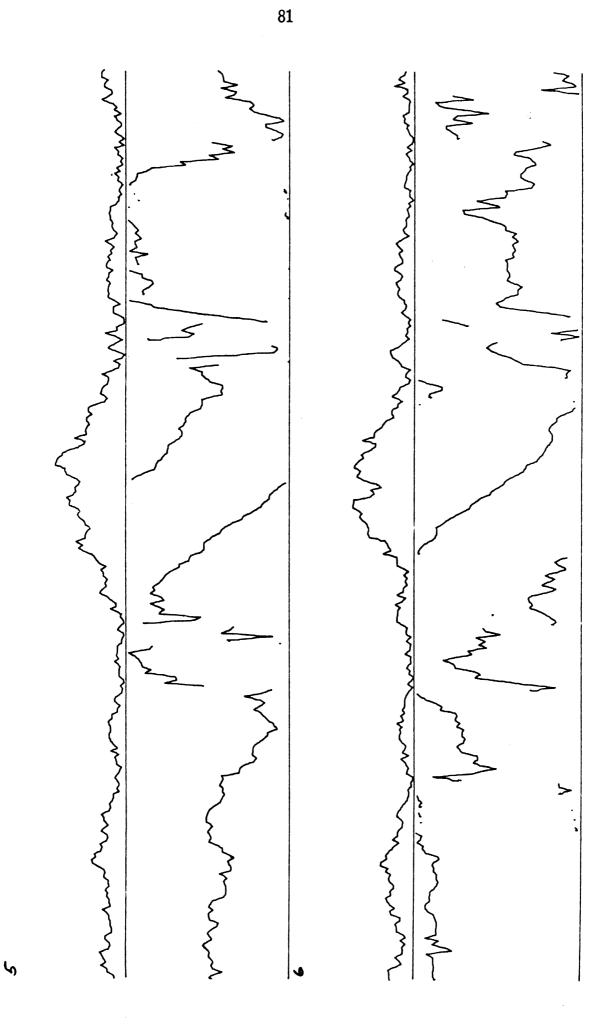
APPENDIX B

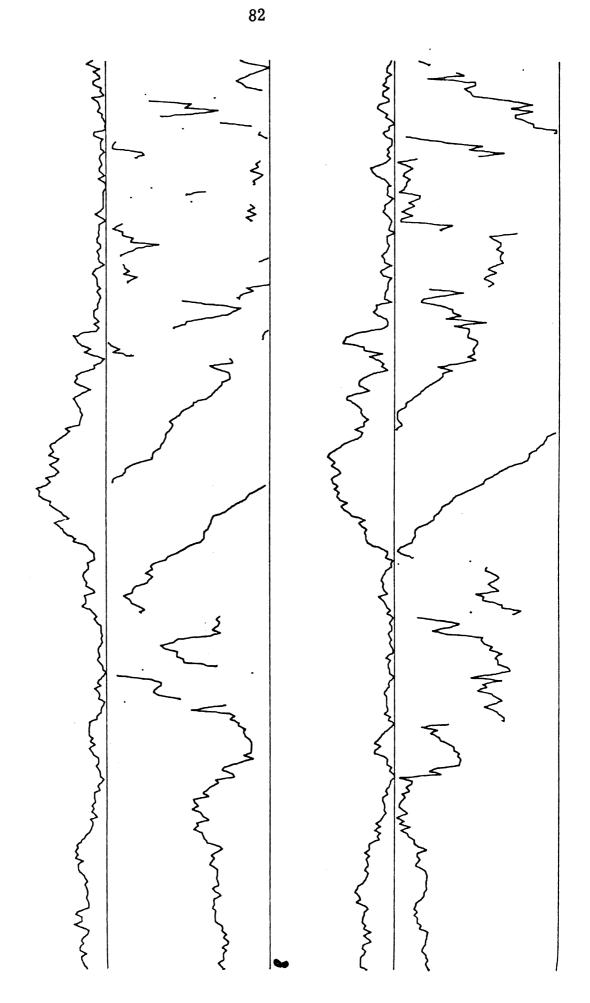
Constant Frequency Plots

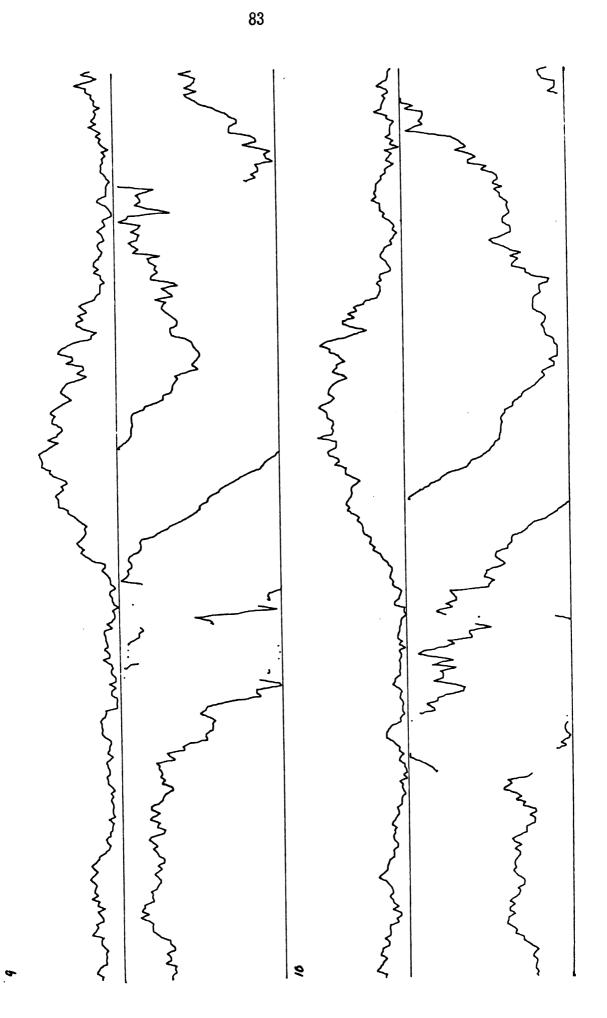
Section 4.3.2 explains how to interpret the constant frequency plots that follow.

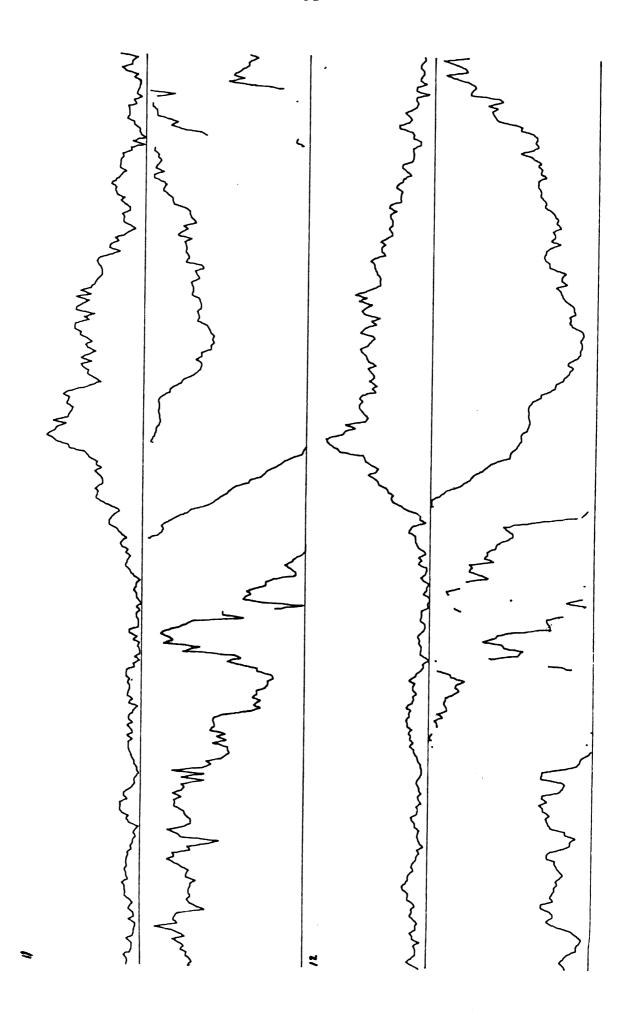


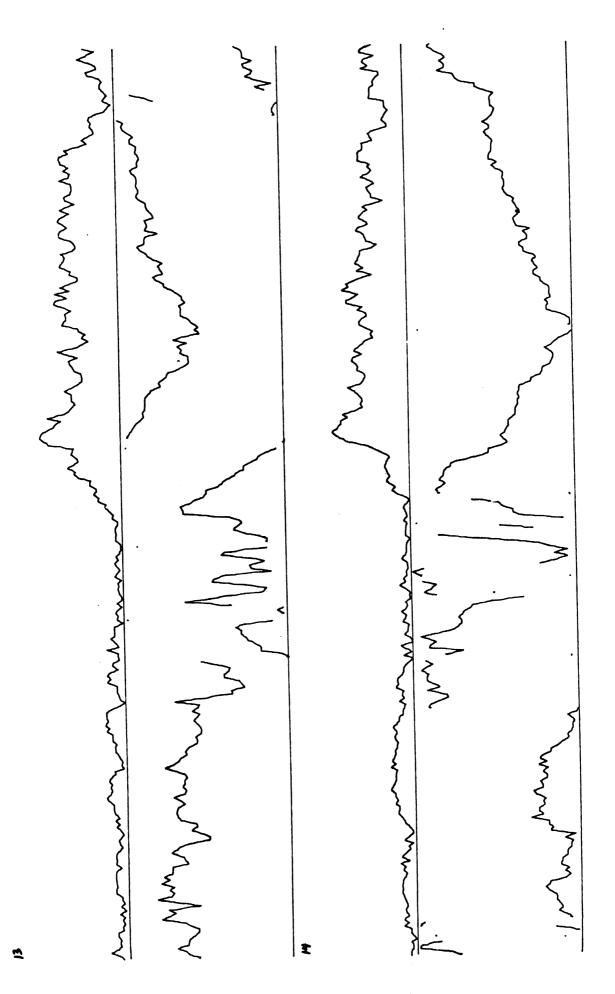


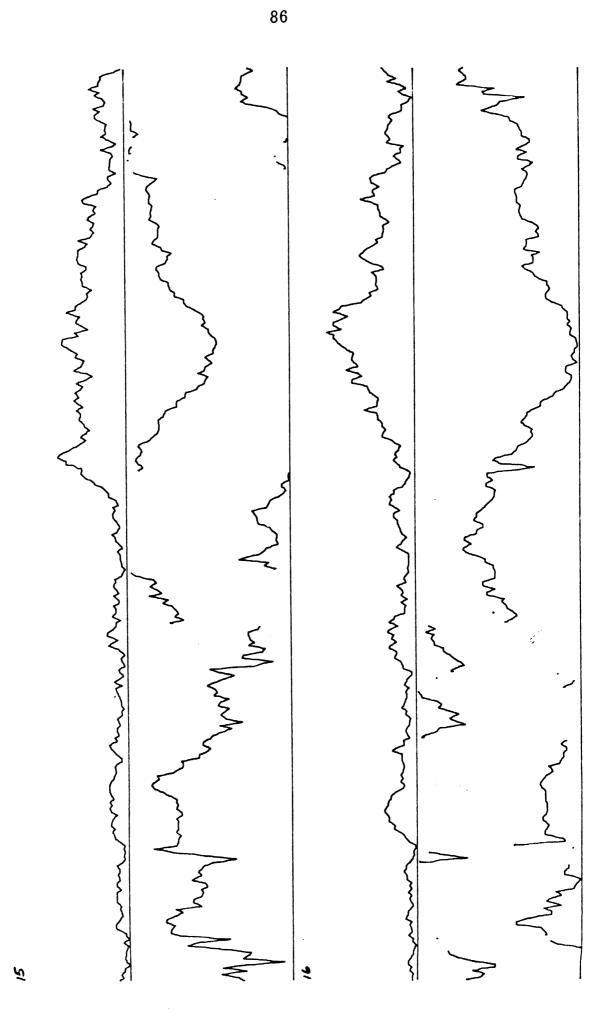


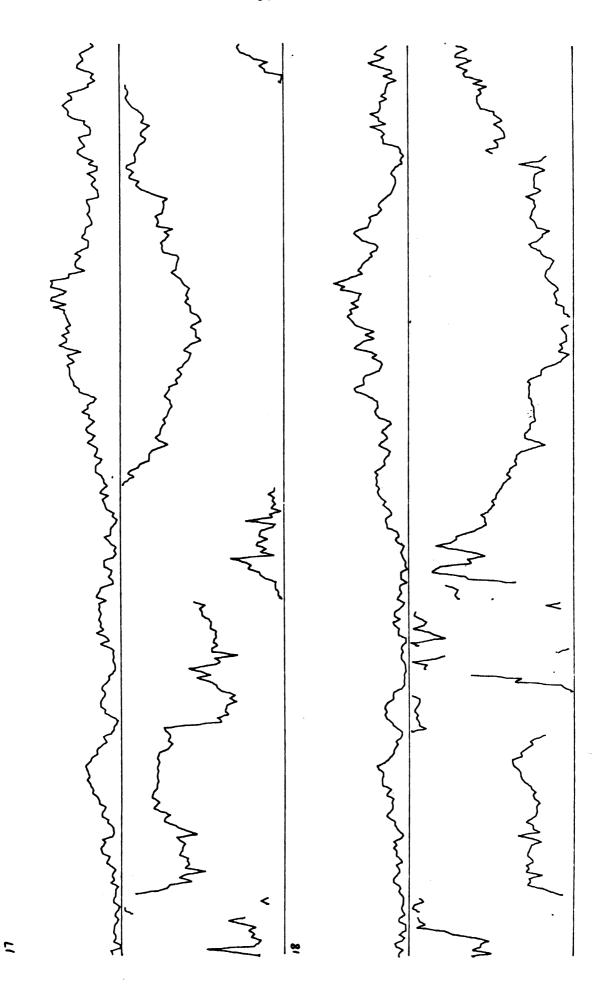


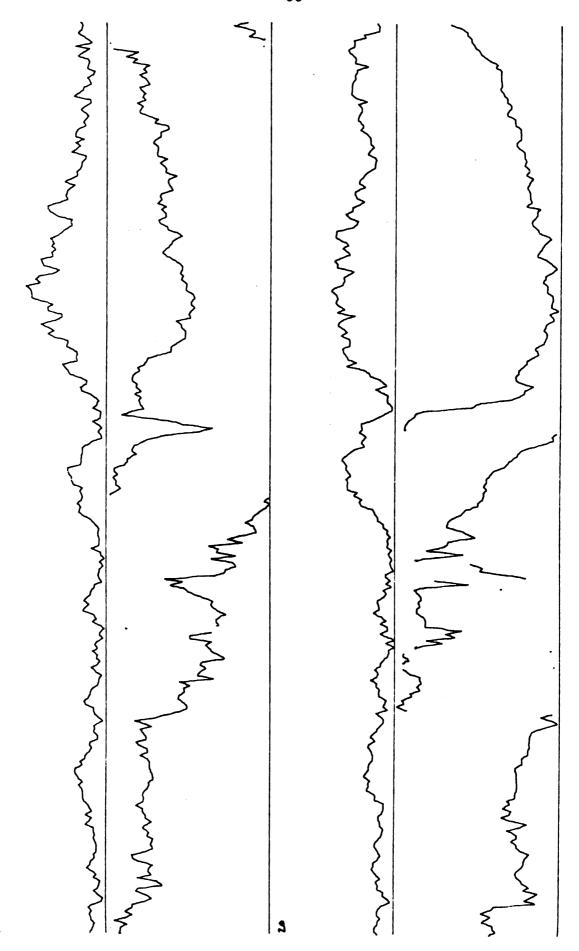


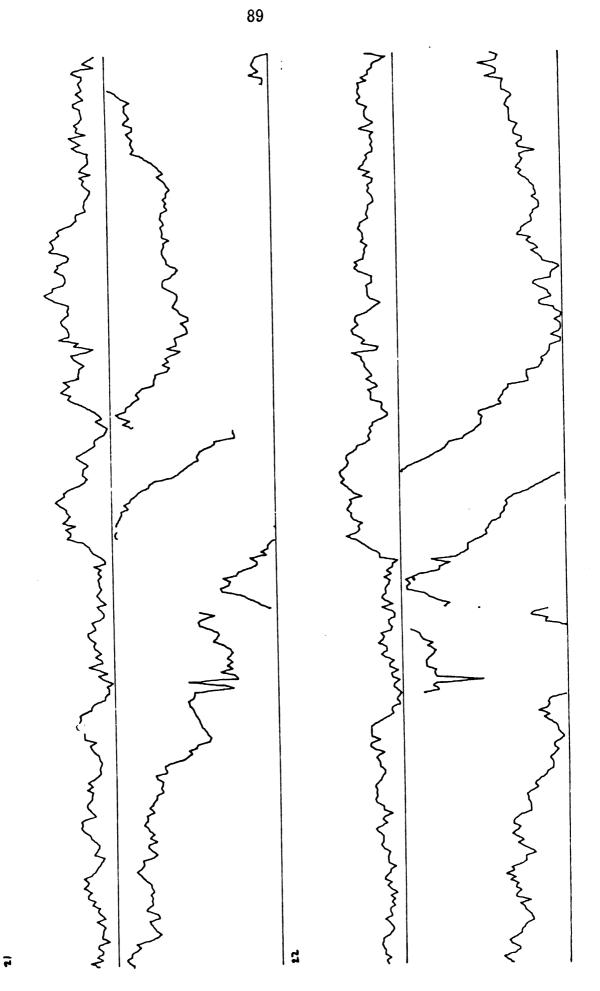


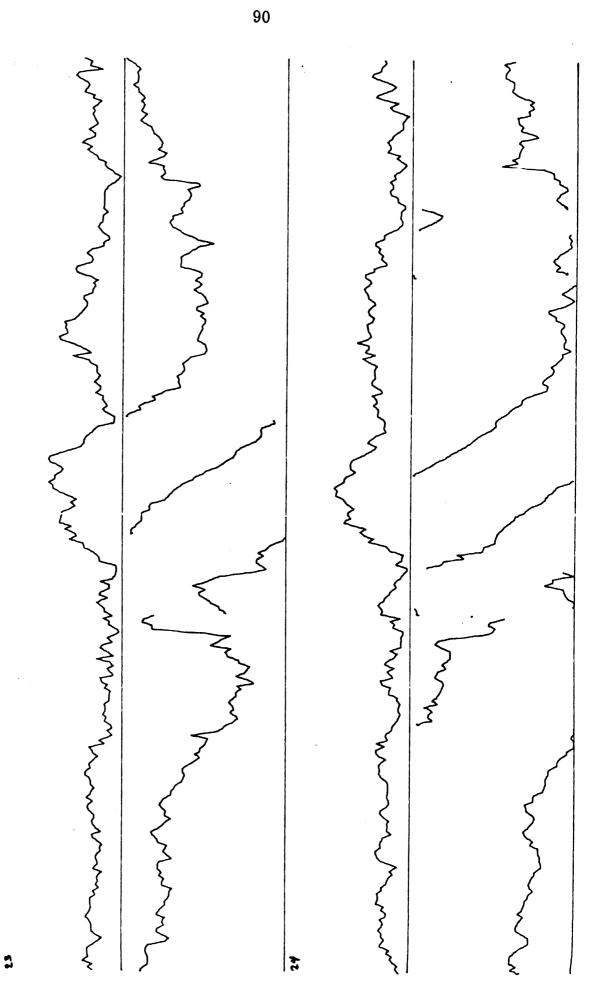


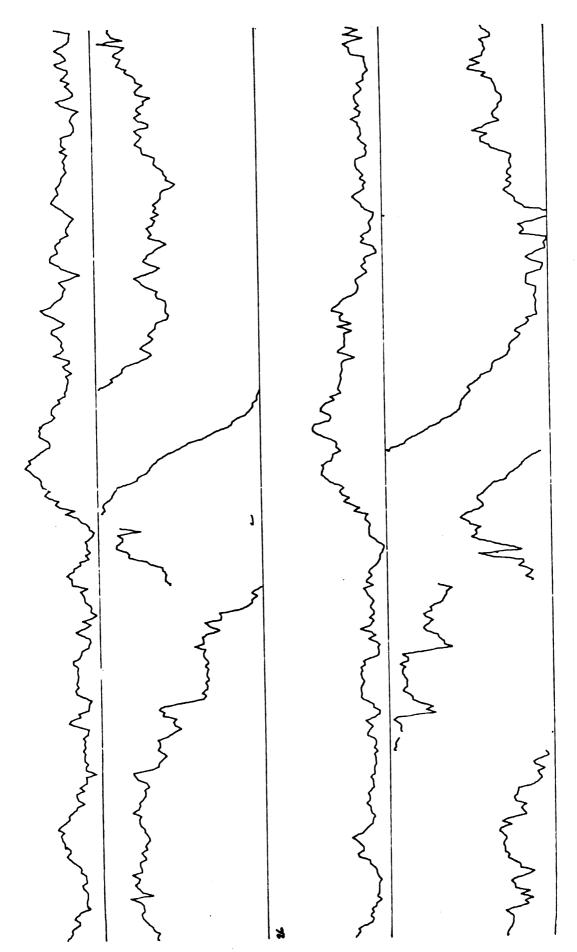




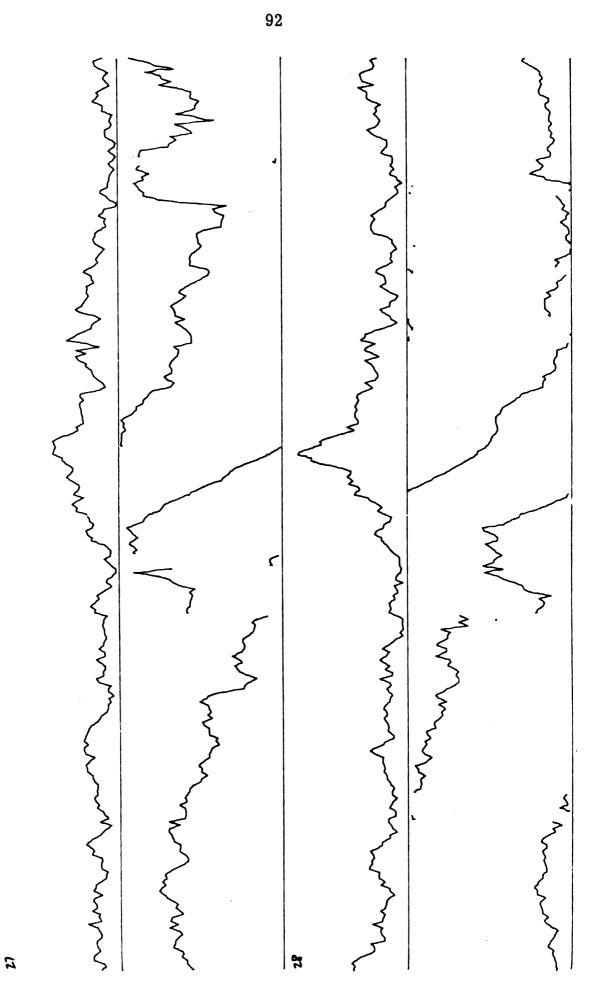


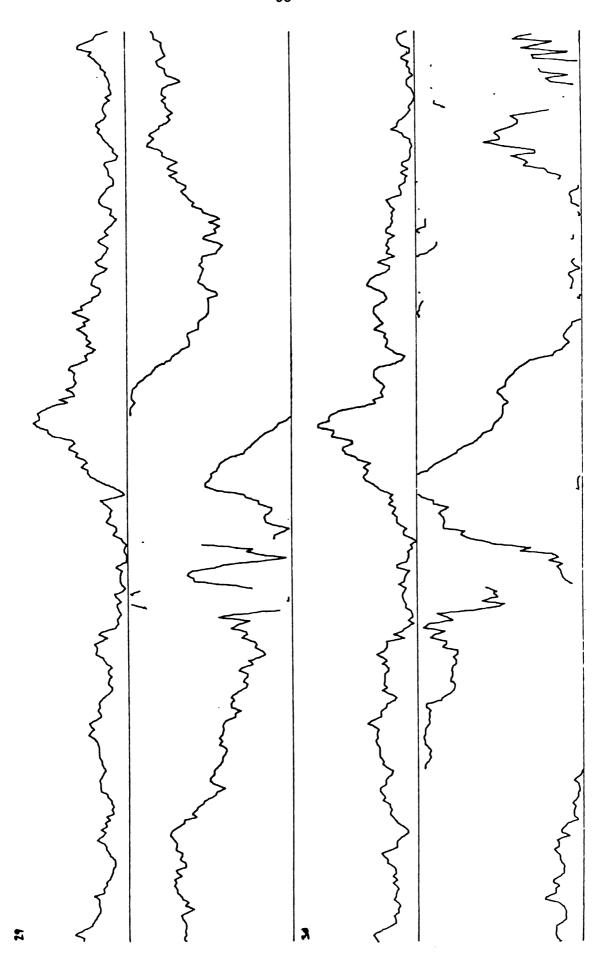


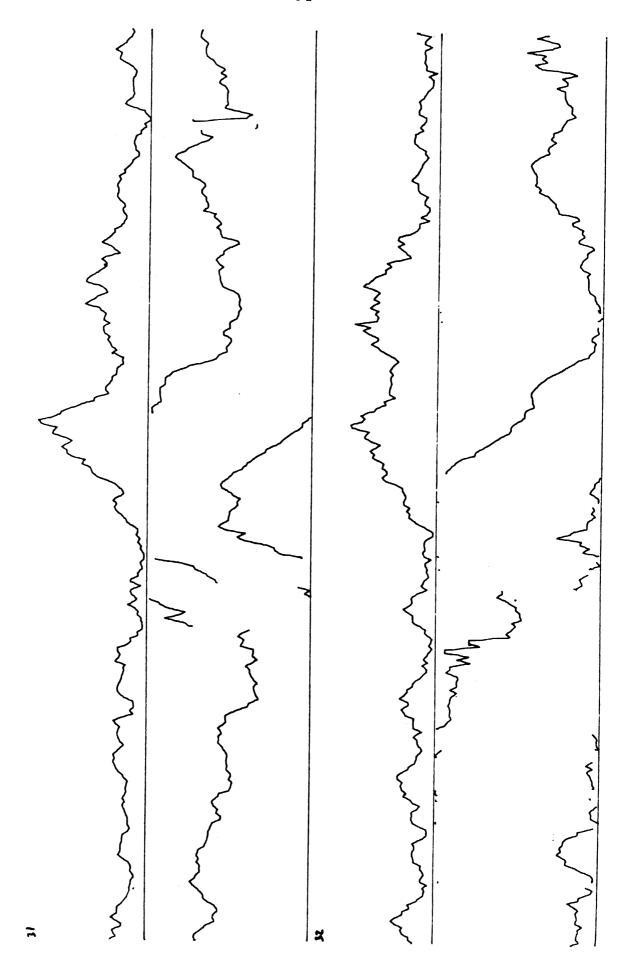


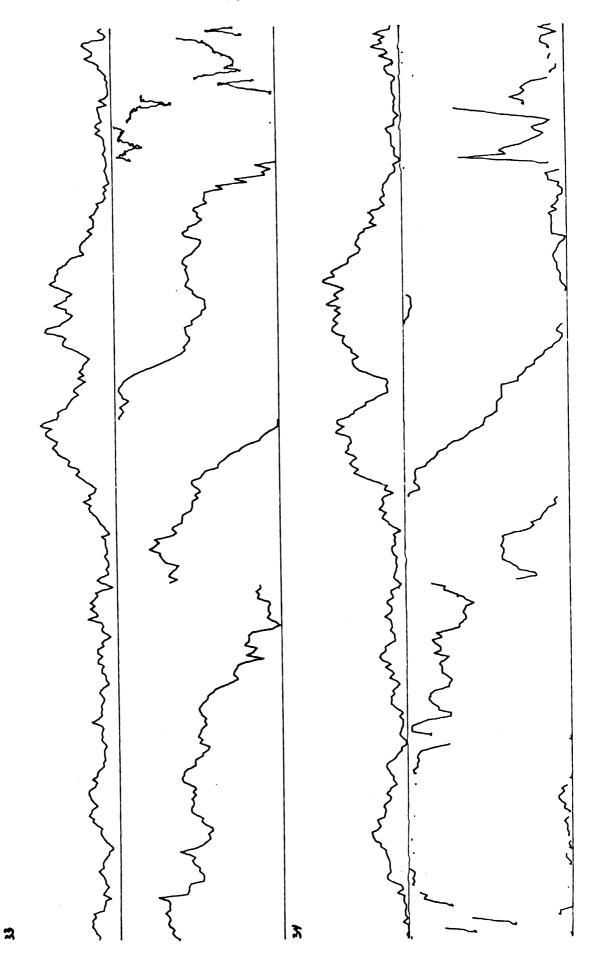


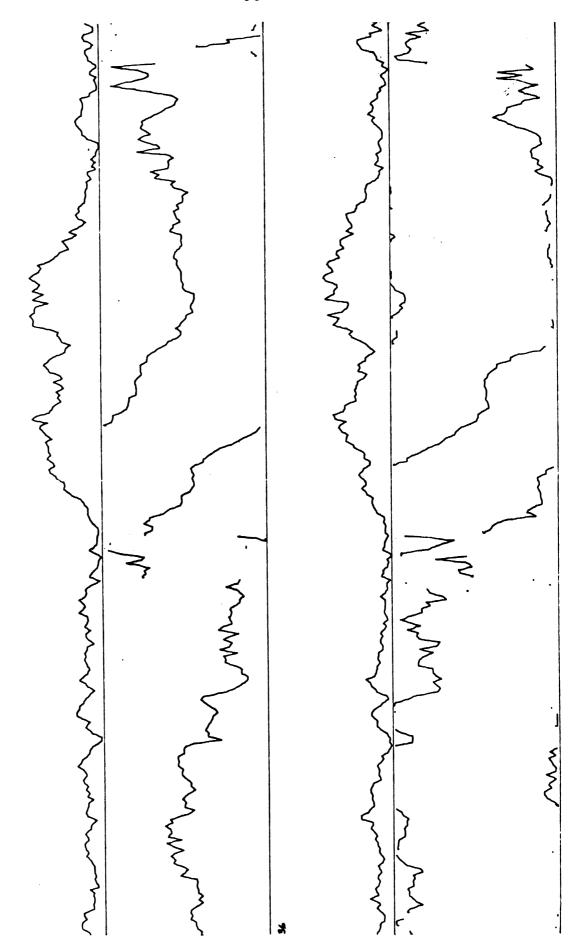
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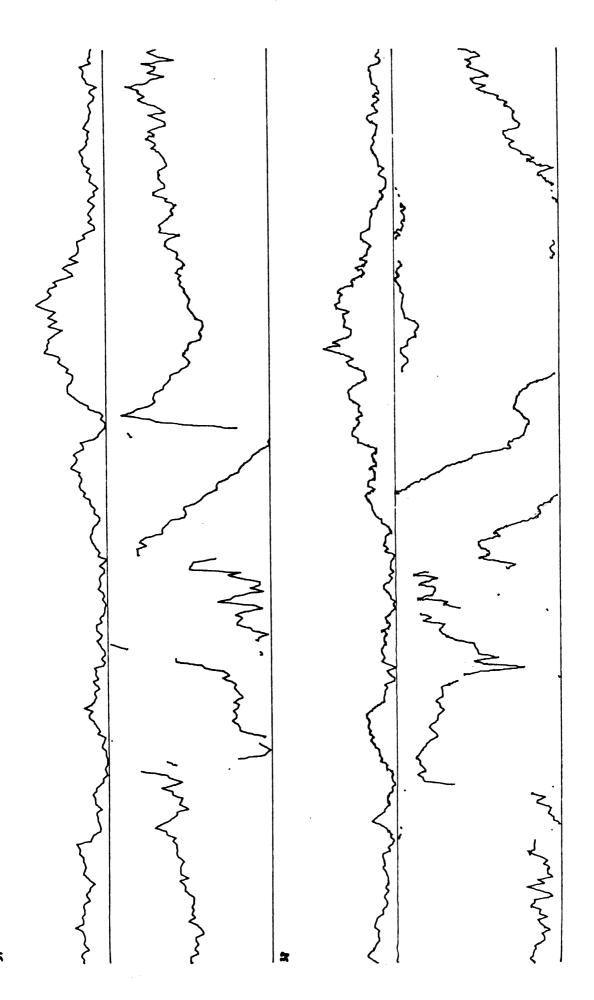


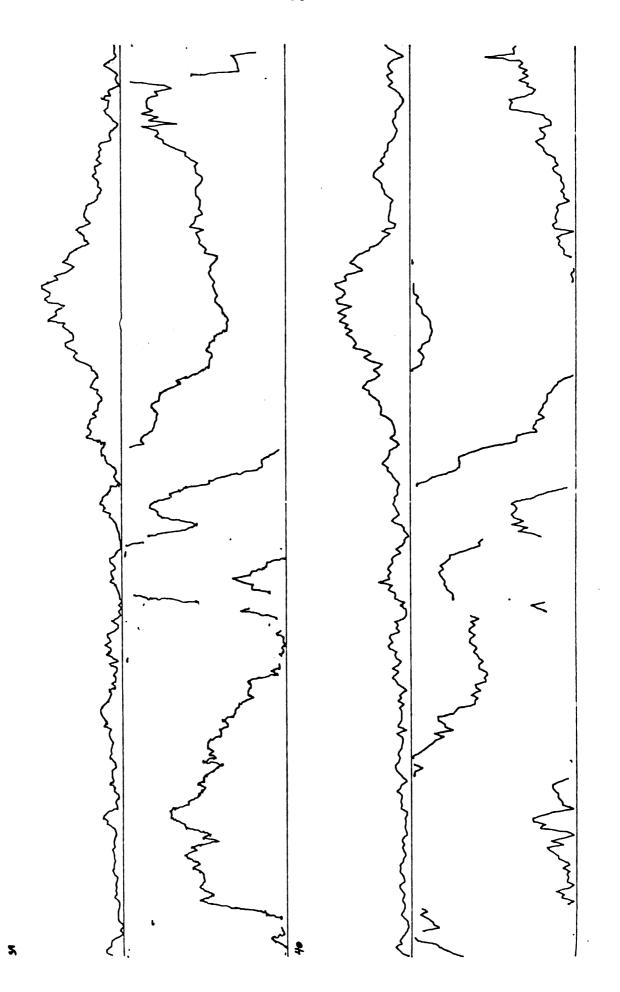


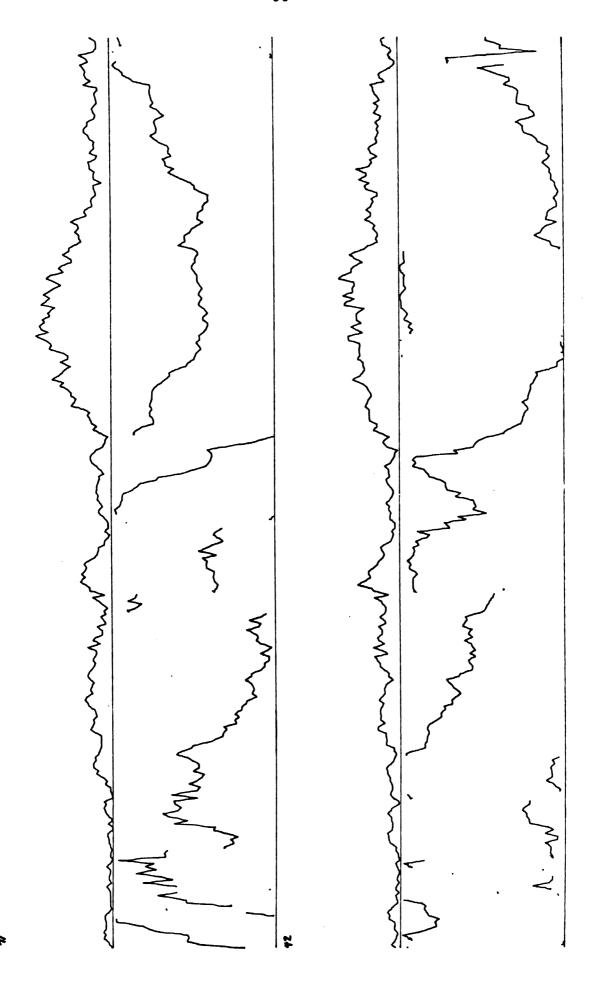


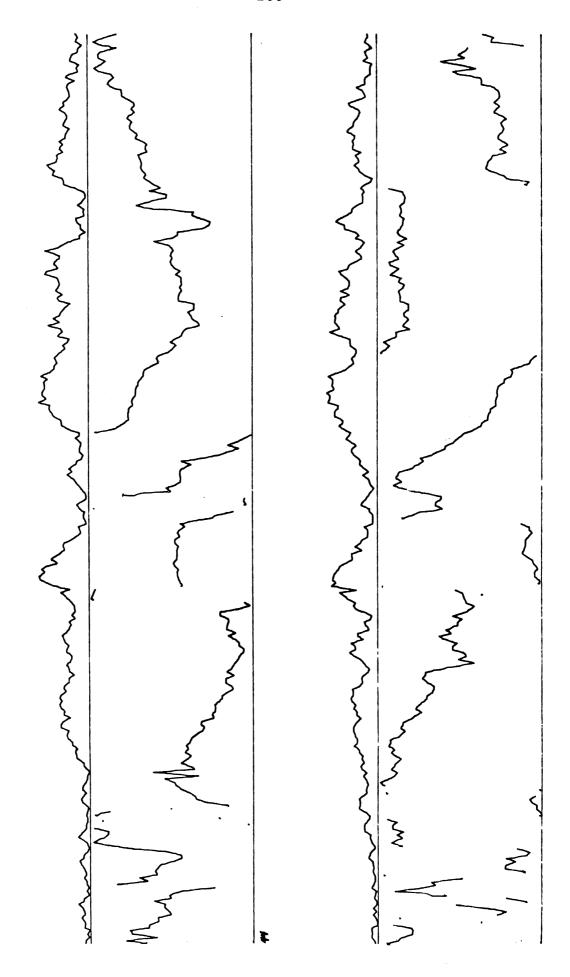


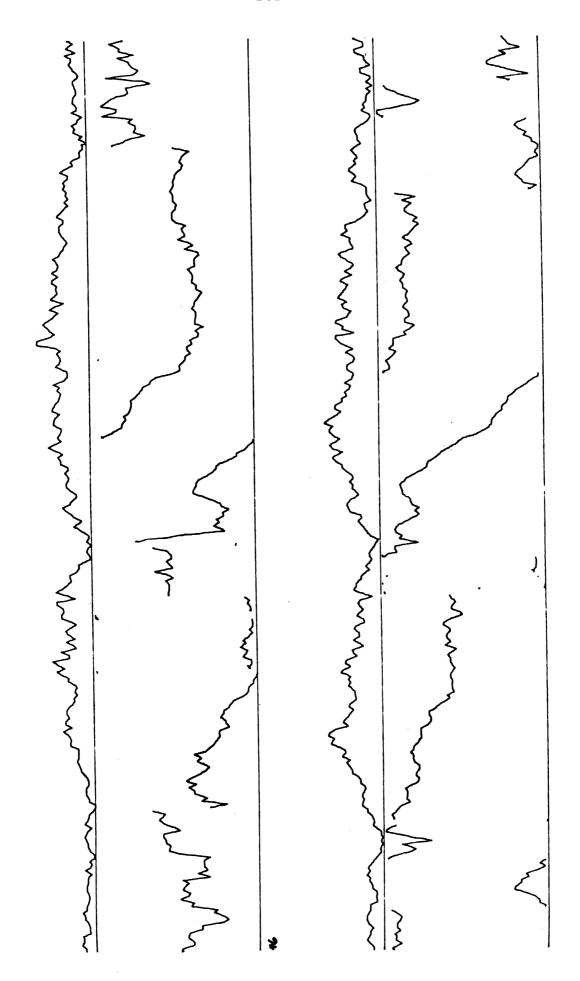
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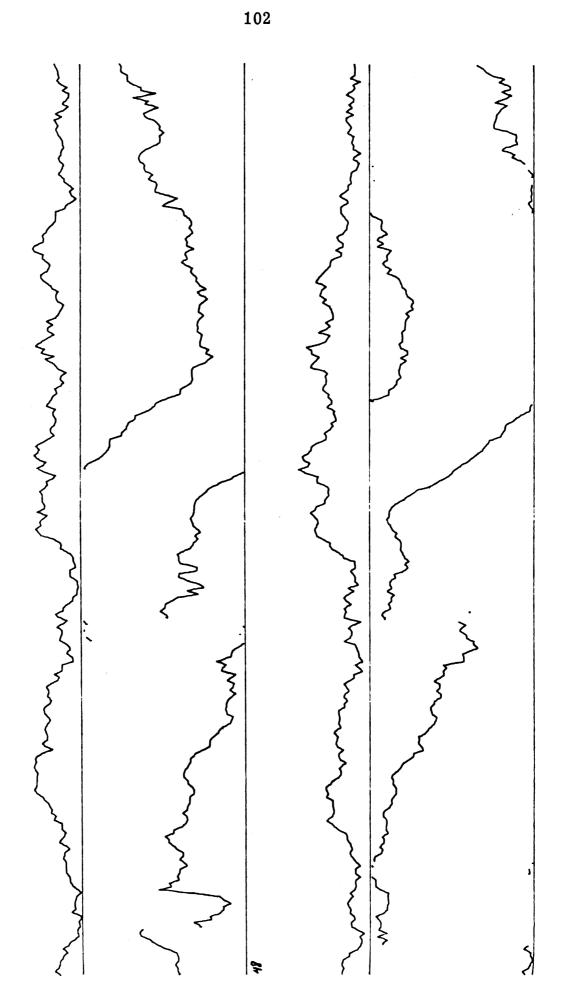


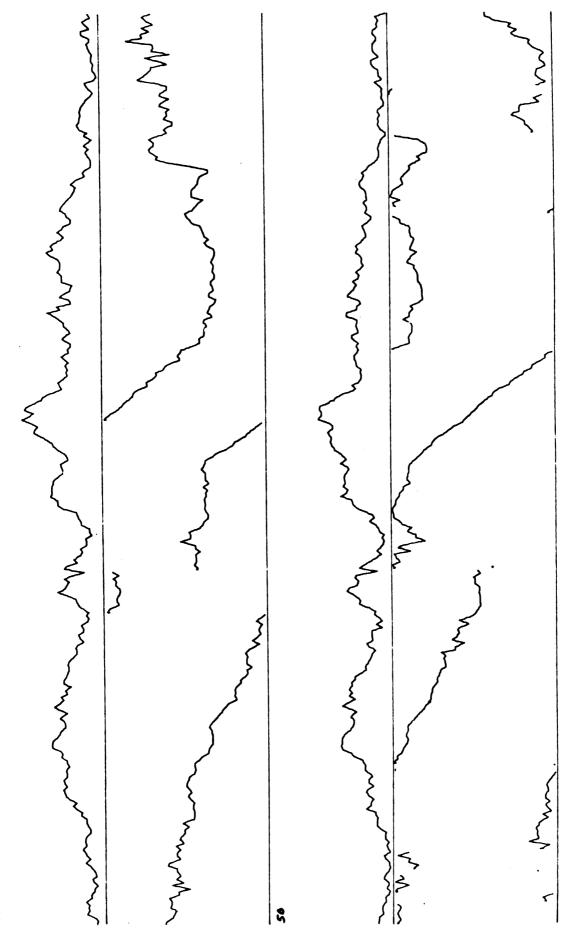




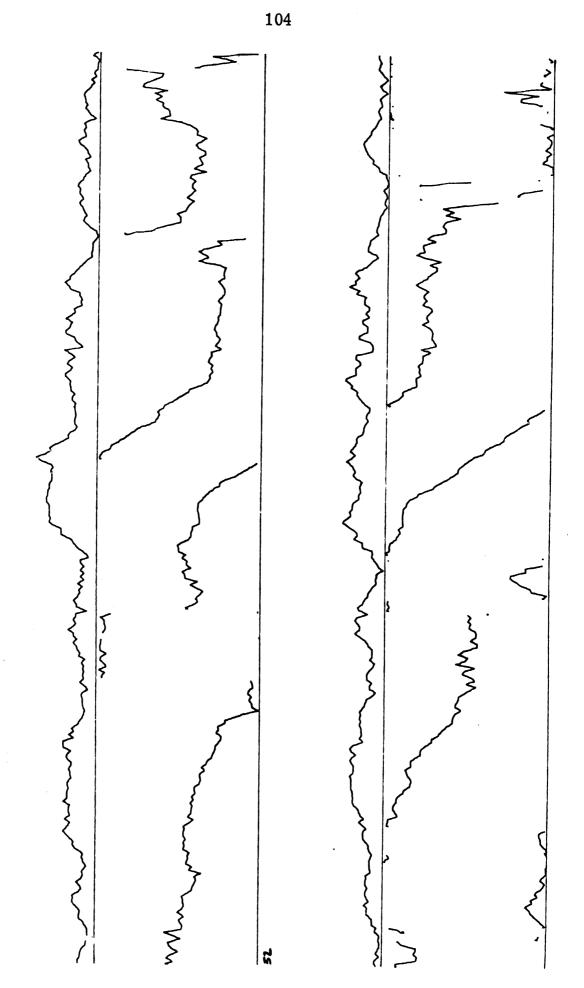


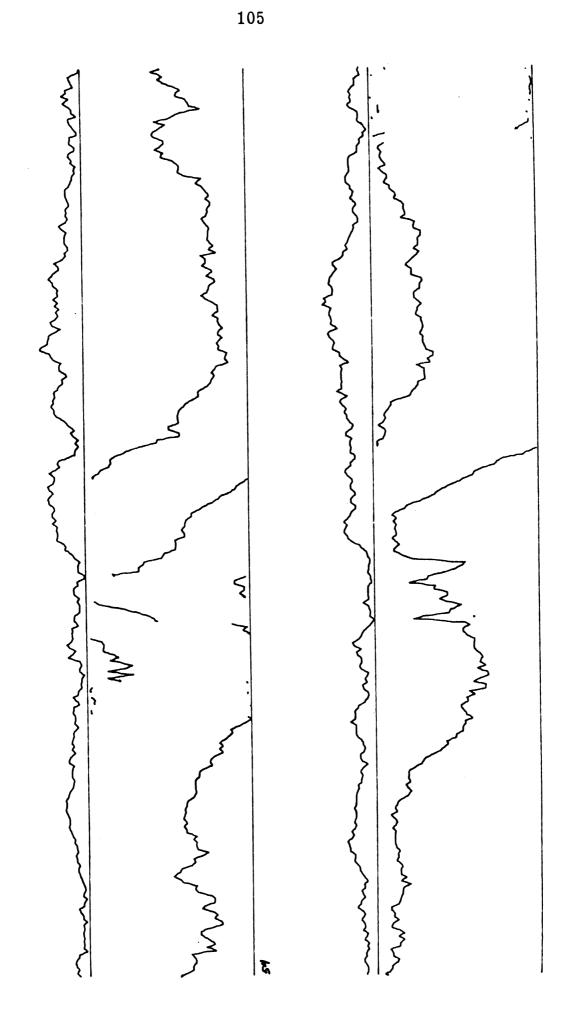


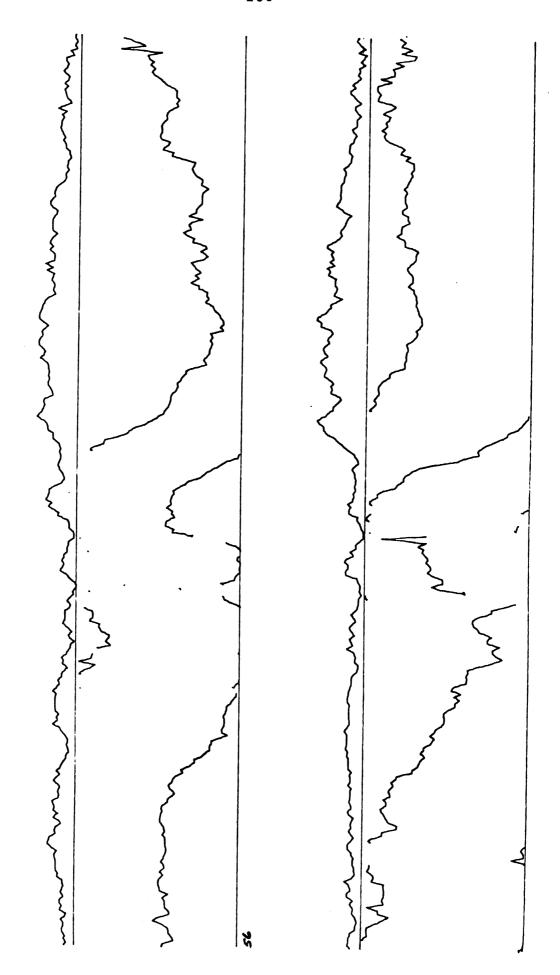


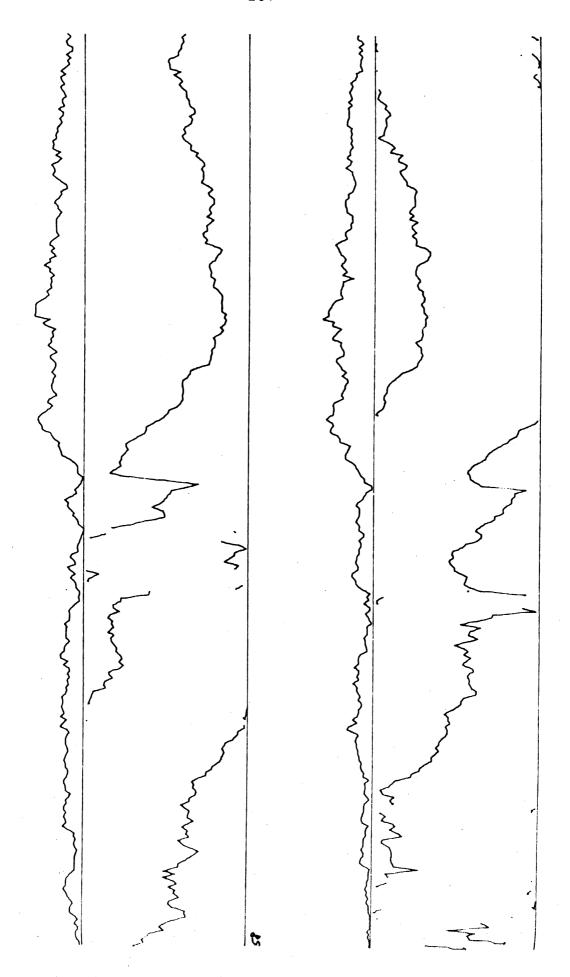


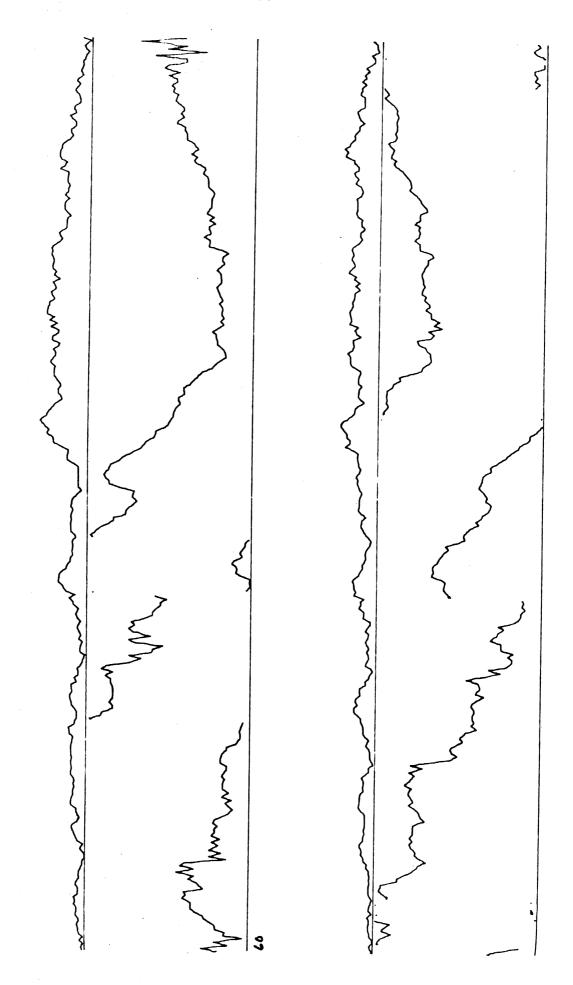
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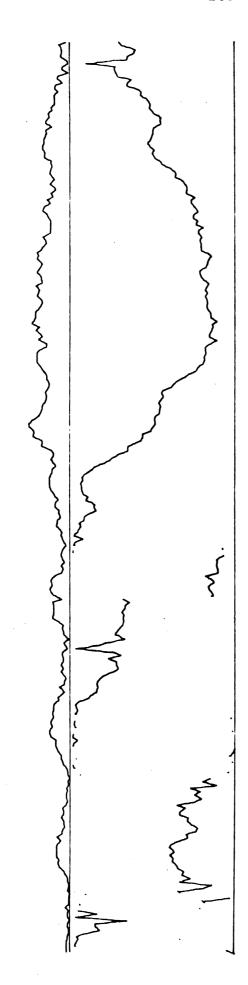








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- 3. A. Papoulis, <u>Probability</u>, <u>Random Variables</u>, and <u>Stochastic Processes</u>, <u>McGraw-Hill Inc.</u>, 1965, pp. 373-377.

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In an underwater acoustic propagation experiment conducted in November 1970 a periodic broadband signal, centered about 420 Hz, was transmitted across the Straits of Florida continuously for 19 days. This report presents the preliminary results from spectral analysis of the acoustic reception of this signal at Bimini, Bahamas, during a 7.61-hour period on 25 November 1970. The spectra are noteworthy for their slow rate of change during this period. Plots of the spectral amplitude and phase of the reception are presented for a 50 Hz bandwidth centered about 420 Hz.

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