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MEASURED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTION OF THIN WIRES

Technical Report

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ABSTRACT

A set of measured back scattering patterns is presented for a thin wire ($a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$) for $l/\lambda \approx 0.3$ (0.025) 0.55 (0.05) 1.60 (0.10) 5.42, where a is the radius of the wire, l is the length, and λ is the wavelength. The measurements were performed in an anechoic chamber at 2.370 GHz. From this set of patterns a number of curves has been extracted showing the amplitude and position of each back scattering lobe as a function of the wire length. These curves provide a convenient means of cross section estimation and may be used to reconstruct with reasonable accuracy the back scattering pattern for any value of l/λ , $l/\lambda \leq 5.42$.

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I

INTRODUCTION

In studies of electromagnetic scattering, a circular cylinder has probably received more attention than any other geometric shape. As early as 1877 Lord Rayleigh (Strutt, 1945) carried out the analysis explicitly for the case of a plane sound wave incident upon a thin column of gas of given compressibility and density. Hallén (1938) was the first to obtain an approximate solution for a thin cylindrical antenna by deriving an integral equation for the unknown current distribution and then solving it approximately by an iteration technique. This paved the way in a new field of research, and since then many authors have introduced modification for the integral equation, or used techniques such as Wiener-Hopf (Williams, 1956) or variational methods (Tai, 1951) to arrive at the solution. King (1956) has treated extensively the subject in a book Linear Antennas, and recently Einarsson, et al (1965) have published a survey report on electromagnetic and acoustic scattering by circular cylinders.

In studies dealing with scattering from composite geometric shapes it is often helpful to compare the back scattering patterns with those of a thin wire, especially in the resonance region. A search through the literature produced only isolated cases of back scattering data from thin wires, and a set was therefore obtained by measuring the return from a thin wire ($a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$) for $l/\lambda = 0.3(0.025)0.55(0.05)1.6(0.1)5.42$ at 2.370 GHz. These patterns constitute the body of this report. Also included is a set of curves showing the amplitudes and angular position of various back scattering lobes as a function of the length of the wire.

II

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

The data presented here were taken at the Radiation Laboratory Willow Run Facility of The University of Michigan. A conventional C.W. back scattering system whose block diagram is shown in Fig. 2-1 was used. The frequency was 2.370 GHz, the polarization horizontal, and the distance from the transmit-receive antenna to the model was about 30 feet. To assist in choosing a model, the back scattering patterns of aluminum and silver-plated stainless steel rods of 1/16 inch diameter were compared for $l/\lambda \approx 0.477$ and 3.815. There were no distinguishable differences between two sets of patterns, implying that for the rod of this radius at the frequency used the lesser conductivity of aluminum has a negligible effect on the back scattering behavior. Therefore, for convenience, an aluminum rod of 1/32 inch radius was used for a model.

In all, 81 back scattering patterns were measured, starting with a 27 inch ($l \approx 5.422\lambda$) long rod and then, after each measurement, shortening the rod by 1/2 inch ($\approx 0.100\lambda$). The increment was changed to 1/4 inch at $l = 8.0$ inches ($\approx 1.606\lambda$) and then to 1/8 inch at $l = 2.75$ inches ($\approx 0.552\lambda$) down to the shortest length measured, 1.5 inches ($\approx 0.3\lambda$). For calibration a 3.935 inch diameter sphere was used, and for each pattern both the wire at normal incidence and the sphere were rocked to compensate for the errors introduced by back-ground reflections (Blacksmith et al, 1965).

From these patterns a broadside return versus length of the rod was then plotted. However, the data points were slightly erratic; some values deviated as much as 1 db from the mean. An additional experiment in the anechoic chamber indicated that this erratic behavior was compositely due to:

- (a) interaction of the model with the pedestal,
- (b) diffraction of the incident wave by the upper edge of the absorber that was placed in front of the pedestral to shield its metallic turntable from the incident

wave, and

(c) room reflections.

To correct the errors introduced by (a) and (b) the regular pedestal was removed. The model was then supported by nylon strings as shown in Fig. 2-2. With this type of support only broadside returns could be measured and such measurements were performed for the same wire lengths as in the previous run. This time a 1.980 inch diameter sphere, suspended in a fine nylon hair net by a string from the ceiling, was used for calibration. Again, both the sphere and the wire were rocked to compensate for the errors resulting from back-ground reflections.

Using the last set of data as reference for calibration, $0 \text{ db} \lambda^2$ was determined for each pattern obtained previously by rotating the wire on the pedestal. These patterns are reproduced in this report, and for the most part they are self-explanatory. The broadside incidence is at $\theta = 0^\circ$ and the end-on incidence at $\theta = \pm 90^\circ$. For some patterns there may, however, be a slight overall displacement of the pattern, due to inaccurate centering of the pattern on the recording paper.

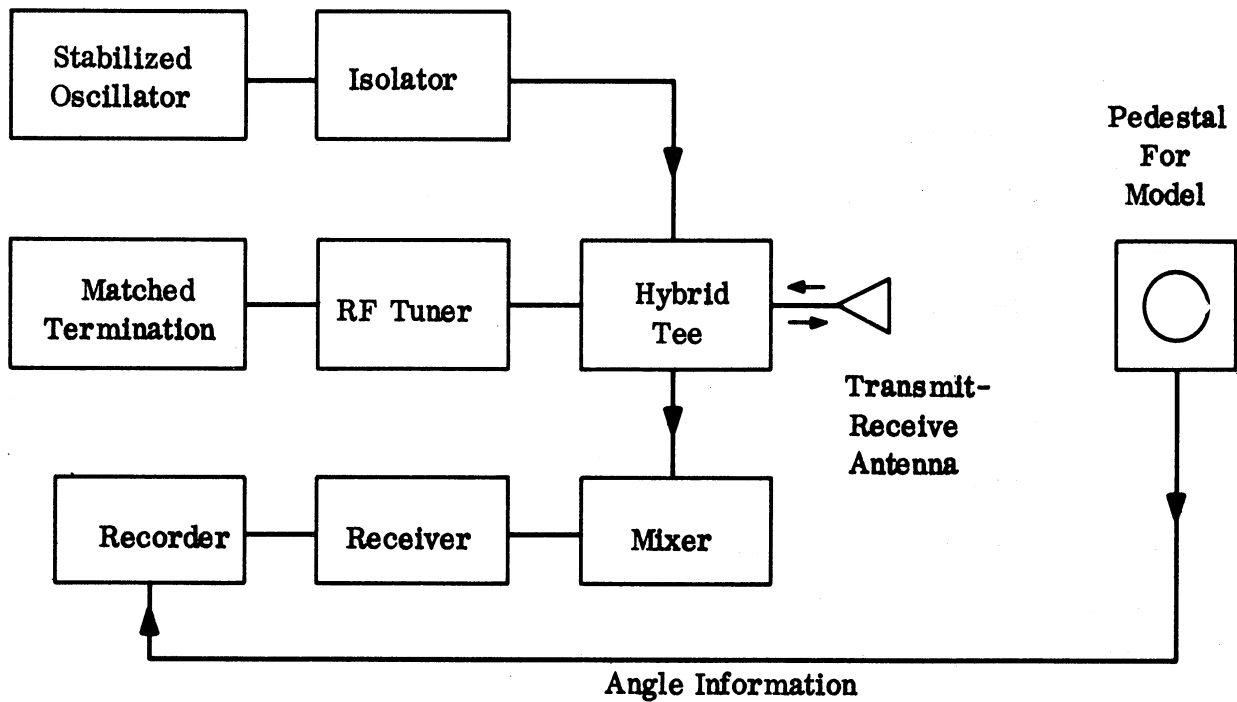


FIG. 2-1: BLOCK DIAGRAM OF CW SYSTEM USED FOR MEASURING BACK SCATTERING.

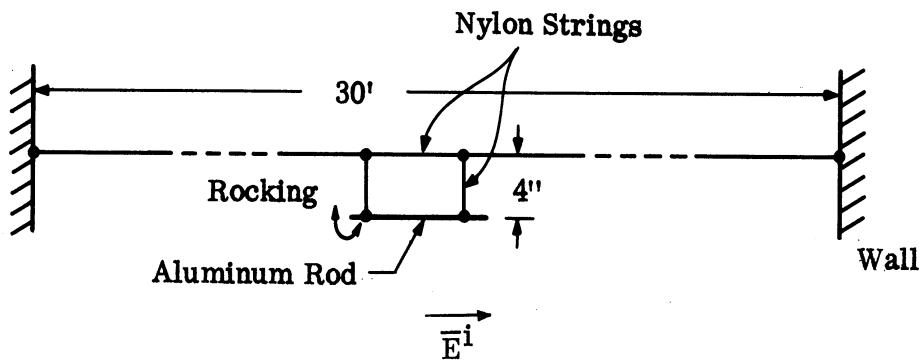


FIG. 2-2: SUPPORTING THE WIRE BY NYLON STRINGS.

III

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS

Once a set of patterns is available, it is of interest to examine the characteristic behavior of the back scattering lobes as a function of the length of the rod. For an electrically short rod, only a single (broadside) lobe appears. At $\ell/\lambda \approx 0.8$ a pair of adjacent lobes emerges, and as the length increases further, additional lobes appear. A closer examination of the back scattering patterns reveals that these lobes move in a definite manner. Consider, for example, the pattern for $\ell/\lambda = 5.221$ as well as patterns adjacent to it. We see that as ℓ/λ increases, the large lobes move toward the side of the pattern, and the small lobes that appear between the large lobes actually move toward the center. The motion of the lobes is depicted by arrows for increasing ℓ/λ in Fig. 3-1, where the pattern for $\ell/\lambda = 5.221$ has been reproduced. For reference purposes the lobes are numbered by the sequence of their appearance as ℓ/λ increases, starting with the near end-on lobe. It is observed that as ℓ/λ increases, the n th lobe generally appears first near the side of the pattern with a small amplitude, and as ℓ/λ increases further, it moves toward the center, and after reaching a certain angular position it moves back toward the side. Except possibly when it is near the broadside lobe, the n th lobe always lies between the $(n-1)$ th and the $(n+1)$ th lobes and its amplitude is always less than that of the $(n-1)$ th lobe for the same ℓ/λ .

As we have already seen, the important features of these back scattering patterns are the amplitudes and displacements of various lobes as a function of wire length. In Fig. 3-2 a familiar curve for broadside back scattering cross section versus ℓ/λ is shown. In part (a) the cross section scale is linear, and in (b) it is in dB. The same applies to other relevant figures. The data points are quite smooth and the values agree reasonably well with those measured by Ås and Schmitt (1957). Unfortunately, a direct comparison of the results cannot be made, since the measurements are not for the same value of a/λ .

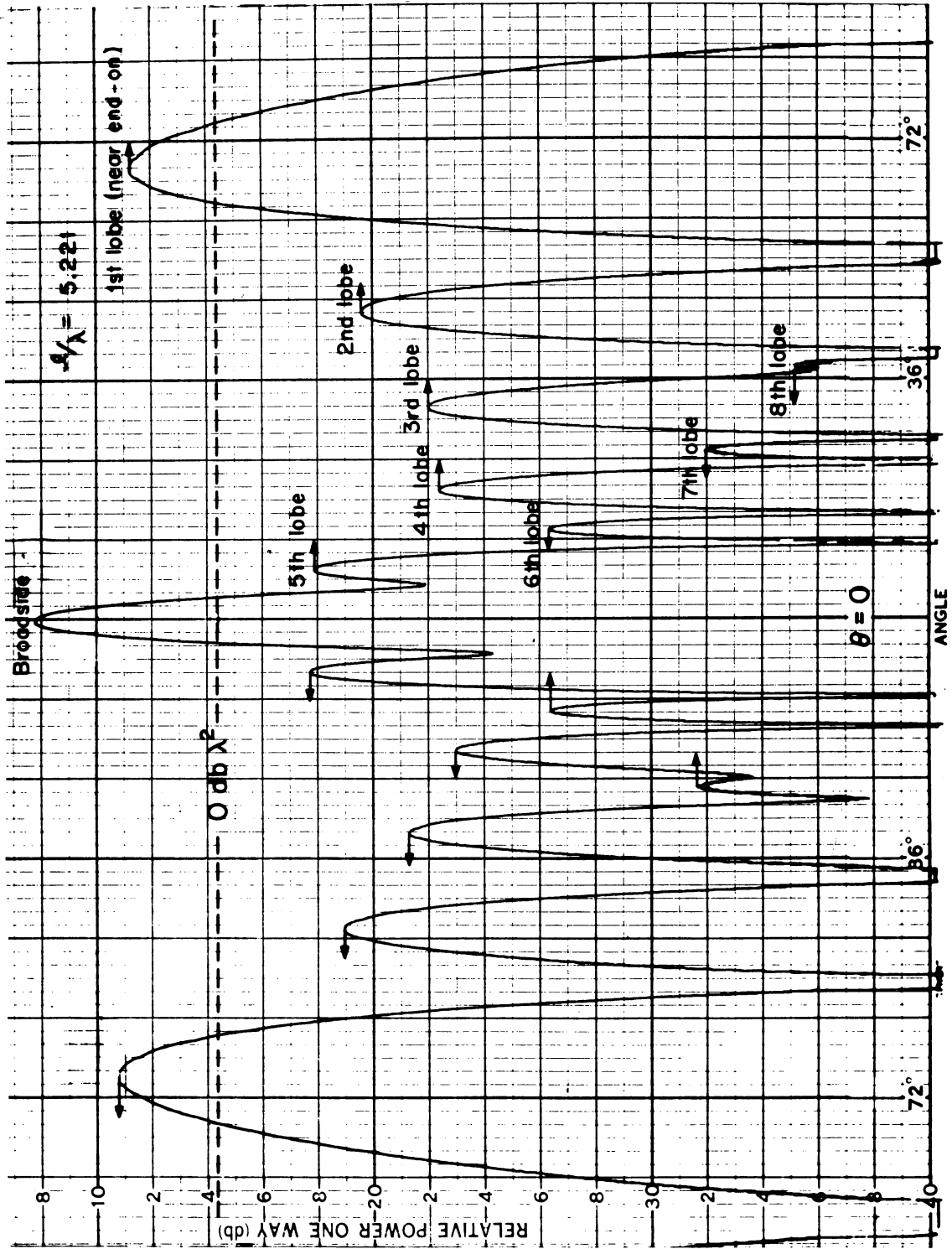


FIG. 3-1: DIRECTION (\rightarrow) OF THE DISPLACEMENT OF VARIOUS LOBES AS ℓ/λ INCREASES; $\ell/\lambda = 5.221$, $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$.

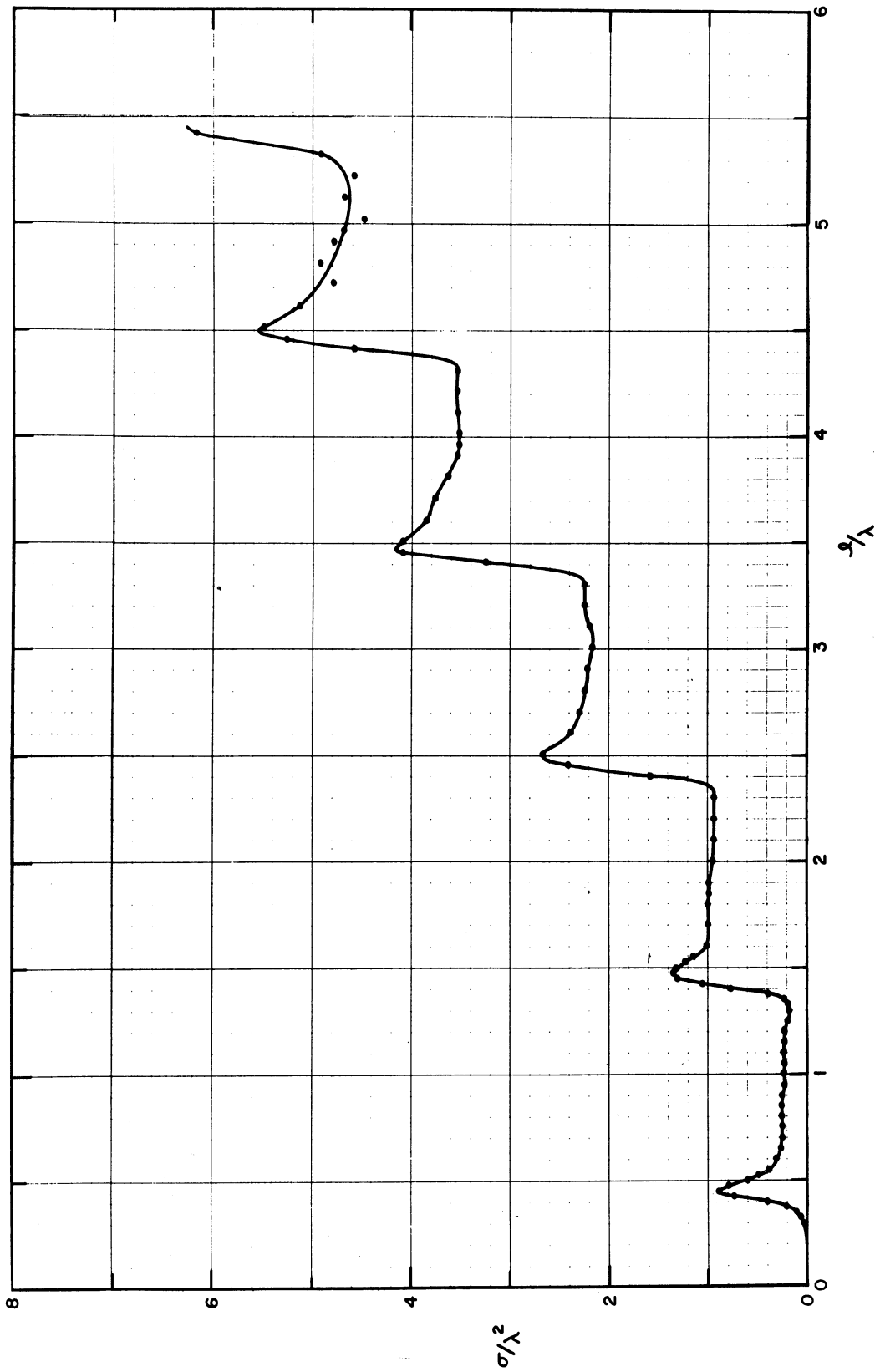


FIG. 3-2a: MEASURED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTION OF THE BROADSIDE LOBE;
 $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$ (Linear Scale).

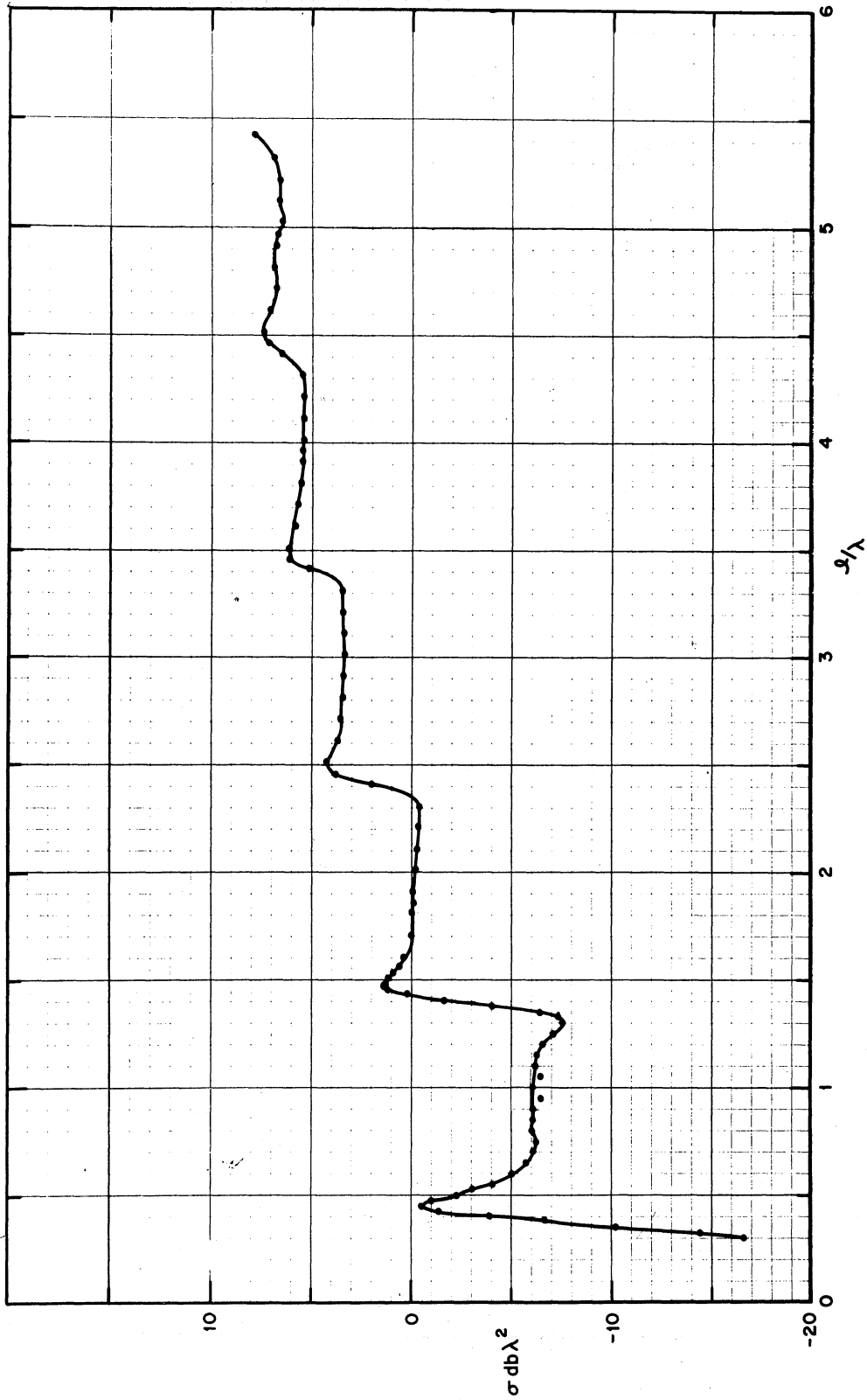


FIG. 3-2b: MEASURED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTION OF THE BROADSIDE LOBE;
 $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$ (db Scale).

In the next figure, Fig. 3-3, the back scattering cross section of the first lobe (near end-on) is shown. The lobe does not appear until $\ell/\lambda \approx 0.8$. Then, as ℓ/λ increases, its amplitude increases in a rapidly oscillating manner with a period of $\ell/\lambda \approx 0.5$, with peaks having higher values than those of the broadside return for the same ℓ/λ . For determining the side lobe cross section level from the patterns, an average value of the corresponding left-side and right-side lobes has been used.

In Fig. 3-4 the cross sections for the second and third lobes are shown. The oscillations are similar to those for the first lobe shown in Fig. 3-3, but the amplitudes are only about a tenth. On the left side (Fig. 3-4) the curves lose their regular pattern. This is a result of an overlapping of the lobe in the pattern with one of much larger amplitude. Dotted lines are used to give continuous curves wherever the lobe in the pattern disappears or becomes non-detectable due to this overlapping. The cross sections for the remaining lobes, fourth, fifth and sixth are shown in Figs. 3-5 and 3-6. Their amplitudes are again relatively small and give somewhat similar curves as shown in the left-side of Fig. 3-4. It is expected that as ℓ/λ increases further, they would also oscillate similarly as seen in Figs. 3-3 and 3-4.

The angular displacement of the various side lobes as a function of the rod length is shown in Fig. 3-7. The broadside lobe is always at $\theta = 0^\circ$ and is not shown. When $\ell/\lambda \approx 0.8$ the first lobe emerges at $\theta \approx 24^\circ$ and then is gradually displaced toward 90° as ℓ/λ increases. The other lobes first emerge at a higher value of θ , go through a minimum and then are gradually displaced toward the side as ℓ/λ increases. The negative slope of the curves indicates that the corresponding lobe moves toward the center as ℓ/λ increases (cf Fig. 3-1).

In addition, as a convenient means of cross section estimation, Figs. 3-2 through 3-7 may be used to provide an approximate reconstruction of the back scattering pattern for any value of ℓ/λ within the range considered here. For example, consider the case $\ell/\lambda = 3.5$. From Fig. 3-7 we find the peaks located

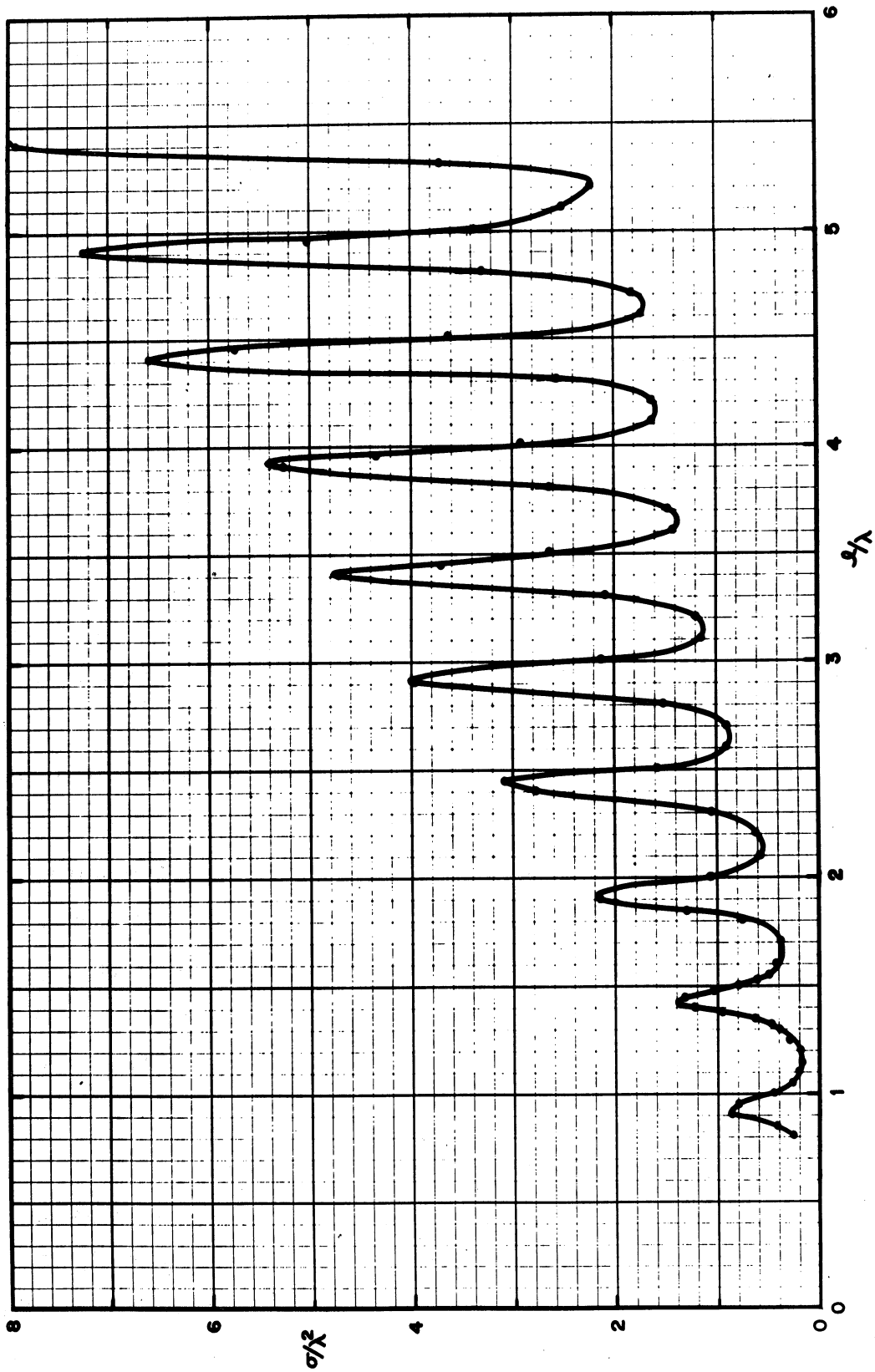


FIG. 3-3a: MEASURED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTION OF THE FIRST LOBE (Near End-on); $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$ (Linear Scale).

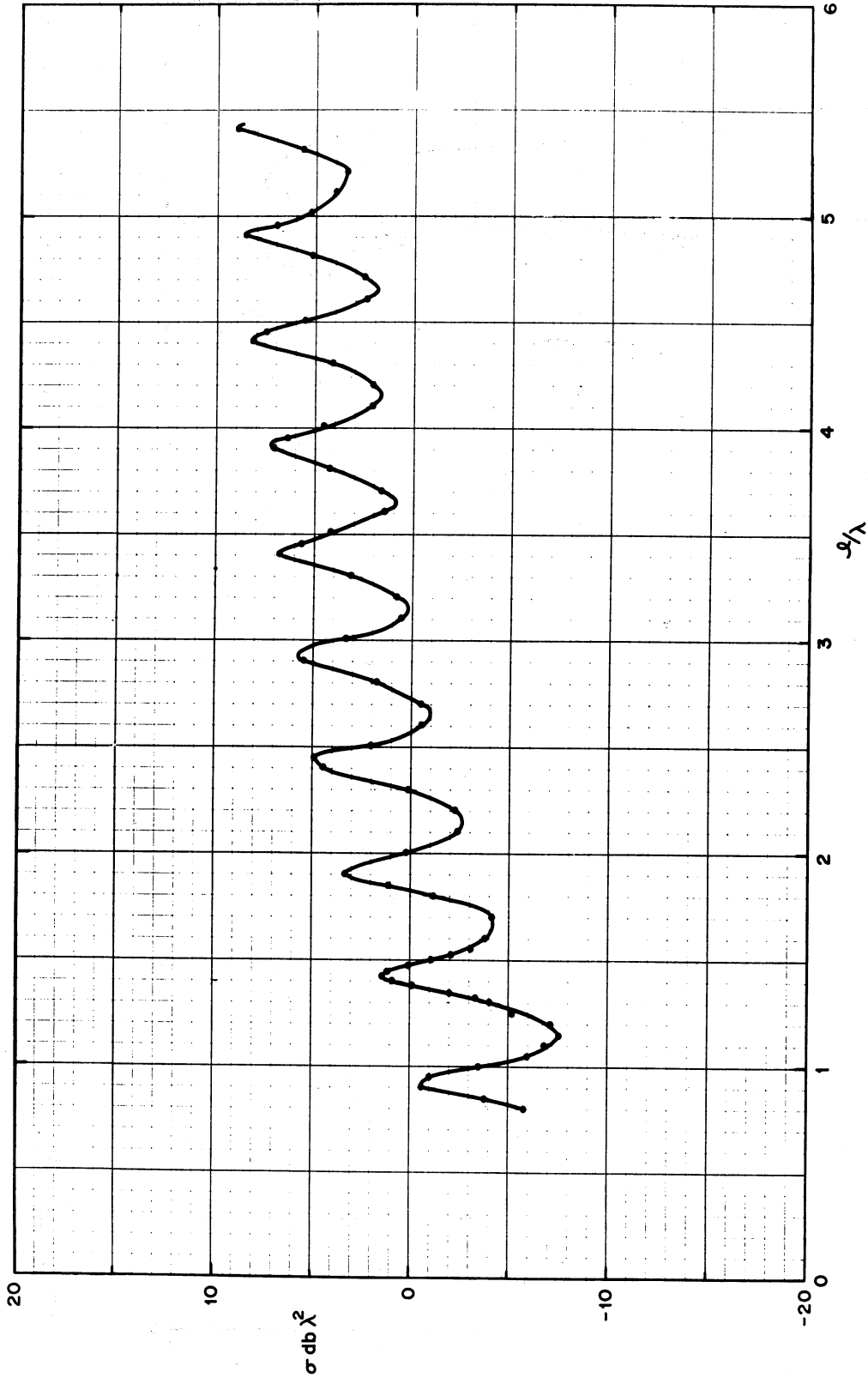


FIG. 3-3b: MEASURED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTION OF THE FIRST LOBE (Near End-on); $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$ (db Scale).

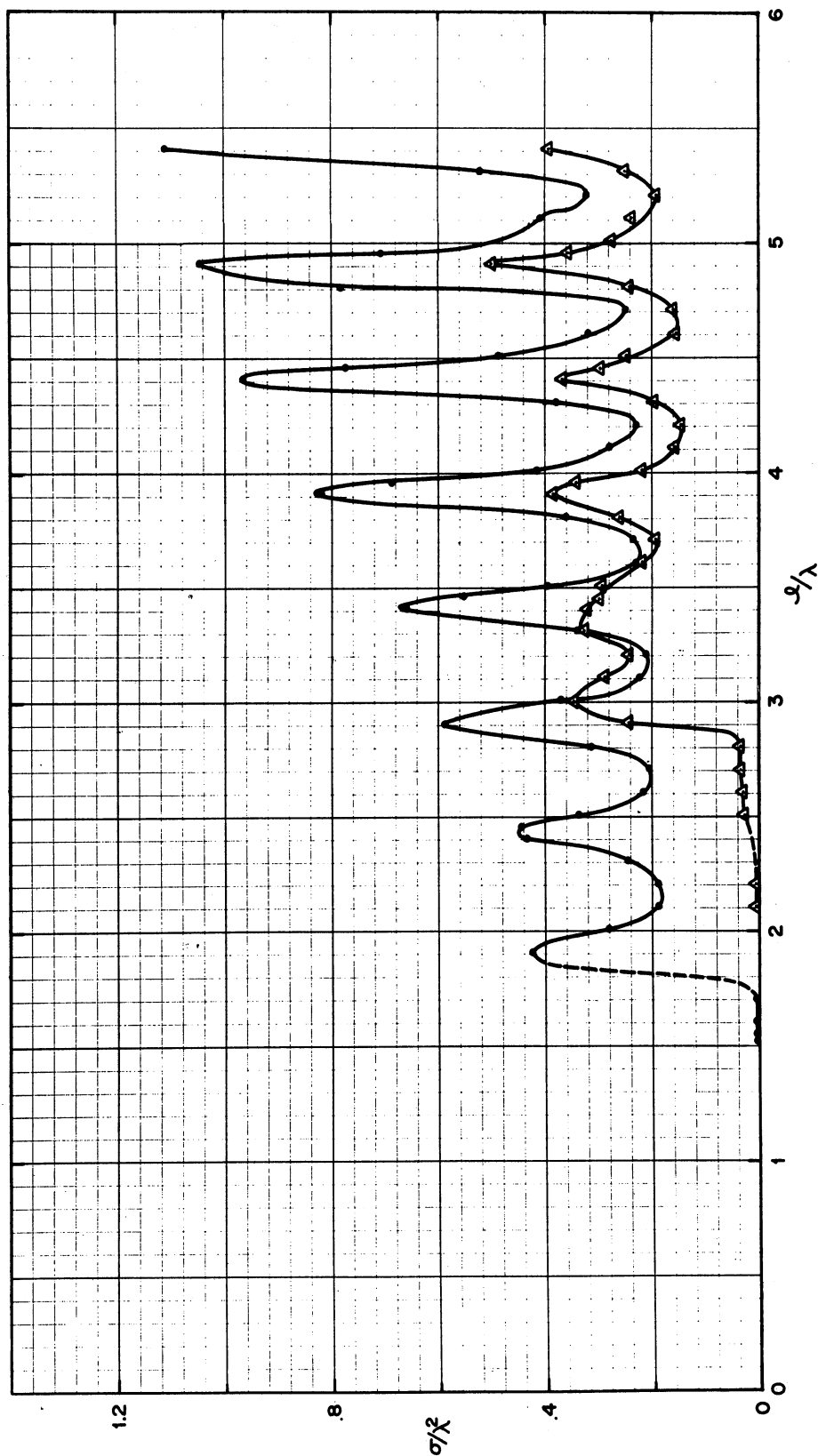


FIG. 3-4a: MEASURED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTIONS OF THE SECOND (•••) AND THIRD (▲▲▲) LOBES; $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$ (Linear Scale).

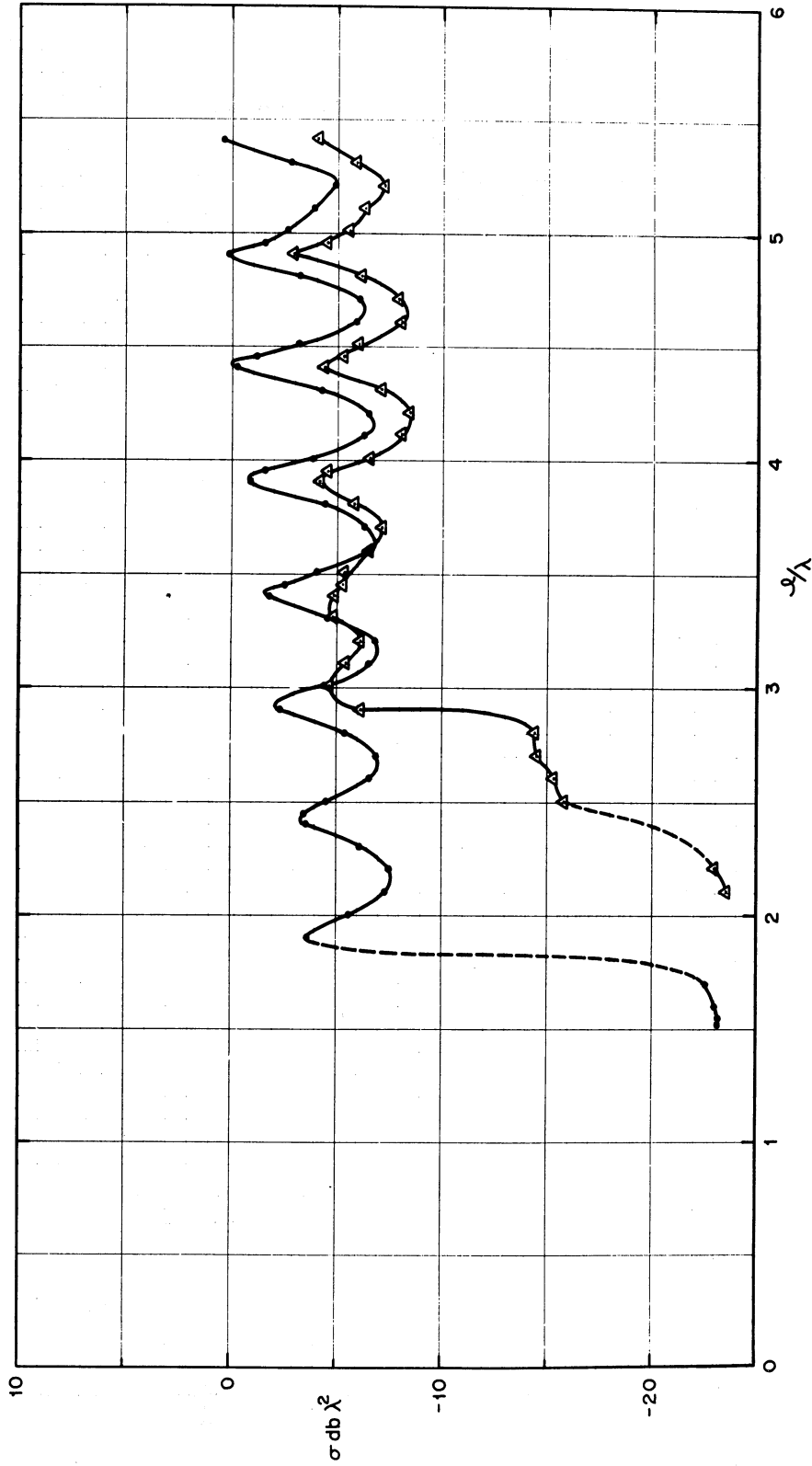


FIG. 3-4b: MEASURED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTIONS OF THE SECOND (●●●) AND THIRD (△△△) LOBES; $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$ (db Scale).

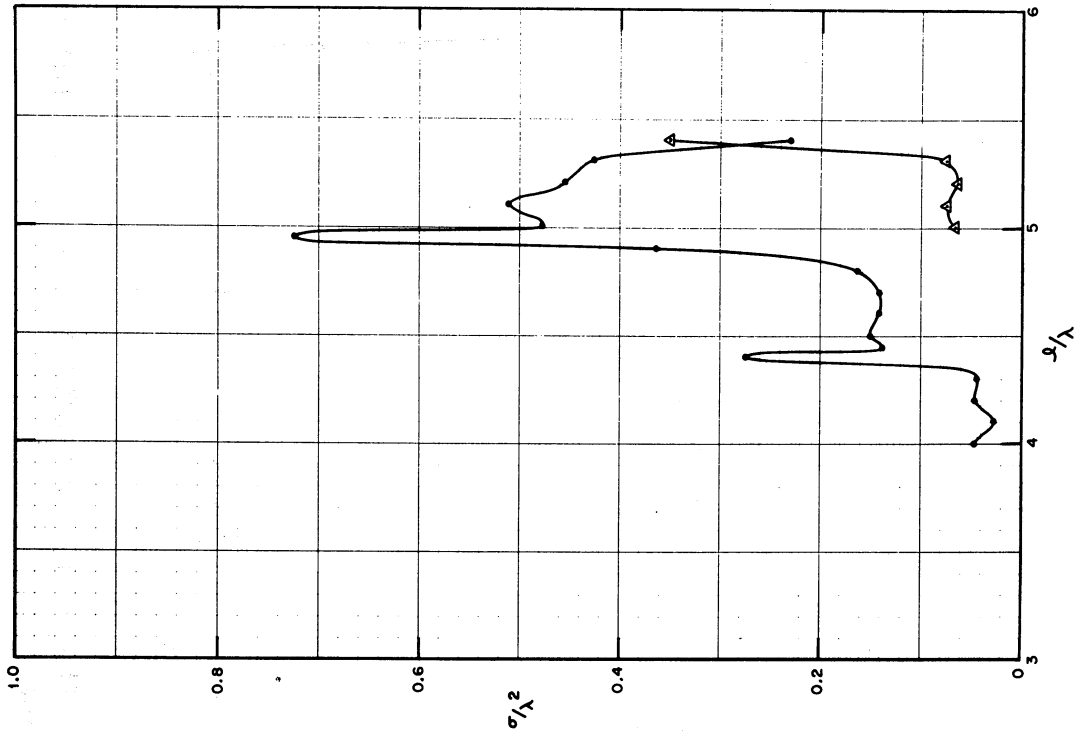


FIG. 3-6a: MEASURED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTIONS OF THE FIFTH (●●●) AND SIXTH (△△△) LOBES; $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$ (Linear Scale).

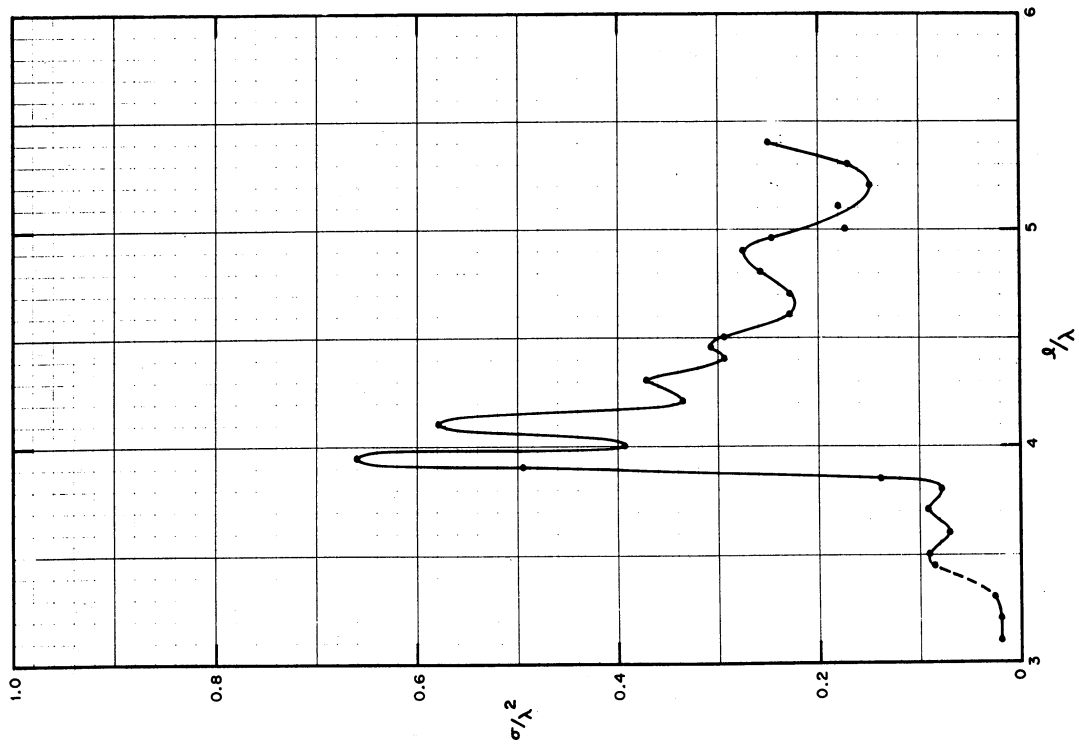


FIG. 3-5a: MEASURED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTION OF THE FOURTH LOBE ; $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$ (Linear Scale).

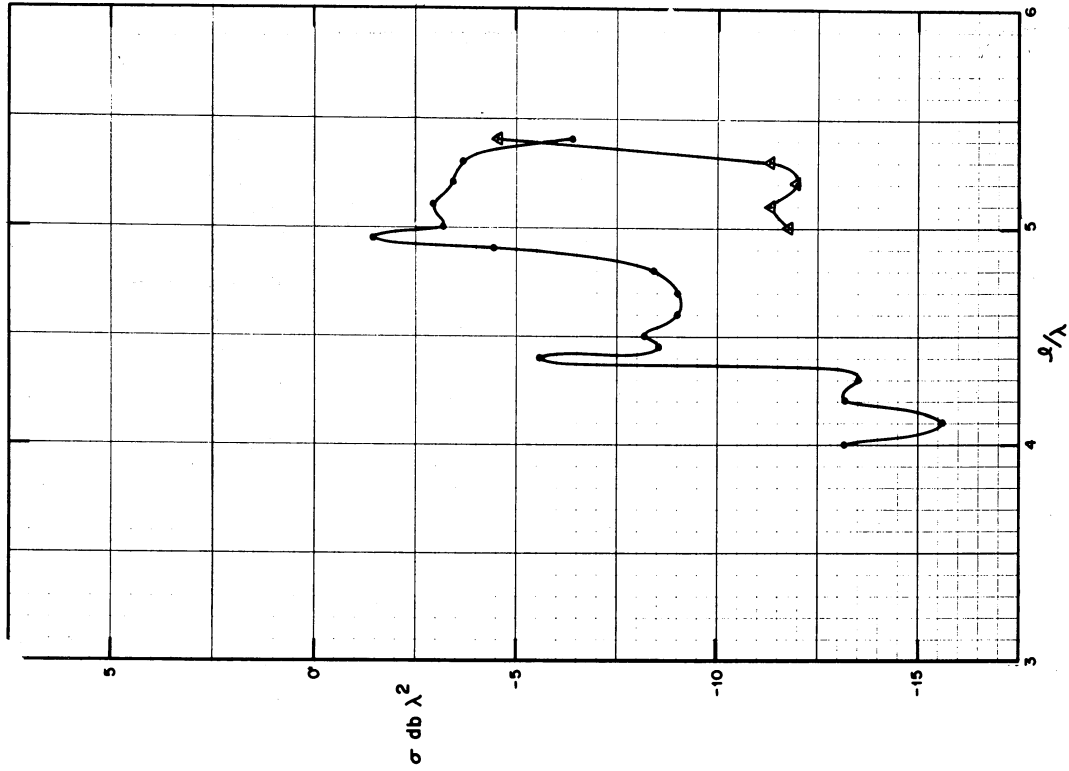


FIG. 3-6b: MEASURED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTIONS OF THE FIFTH (●●●) AND SIXTH (▲▲▲) LOBES; $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$ (db Scale).

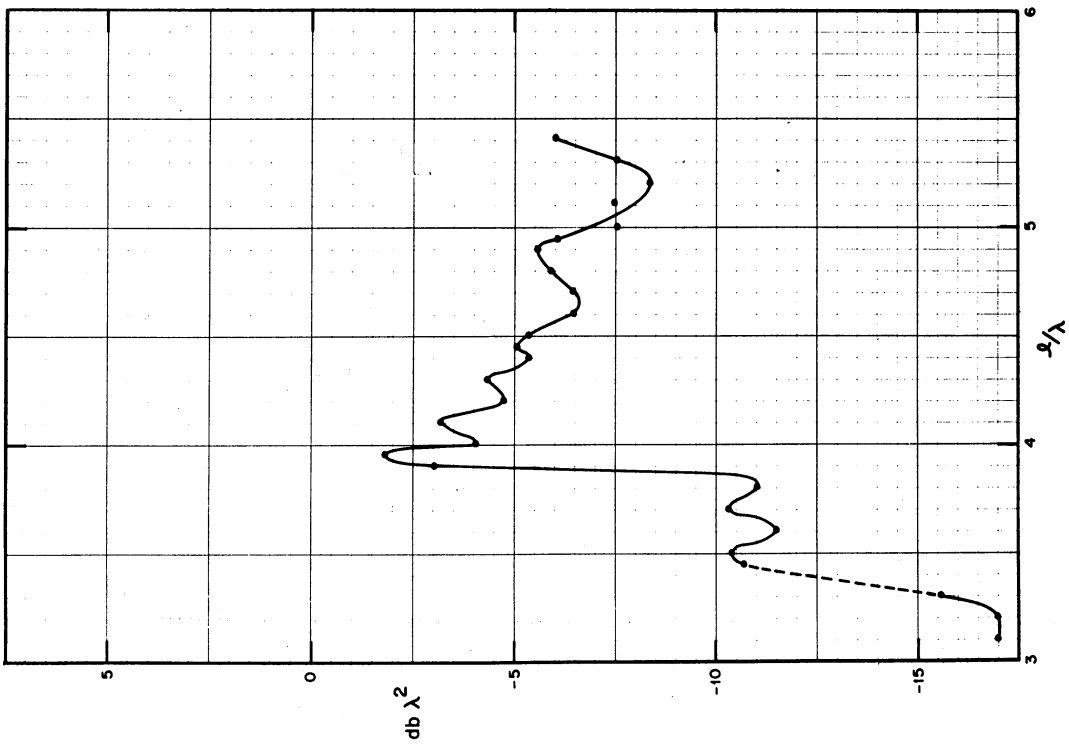


FIG. 3-5b: MEASURED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTION OF THE FOURTH LOBE; $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$ (db Scale).

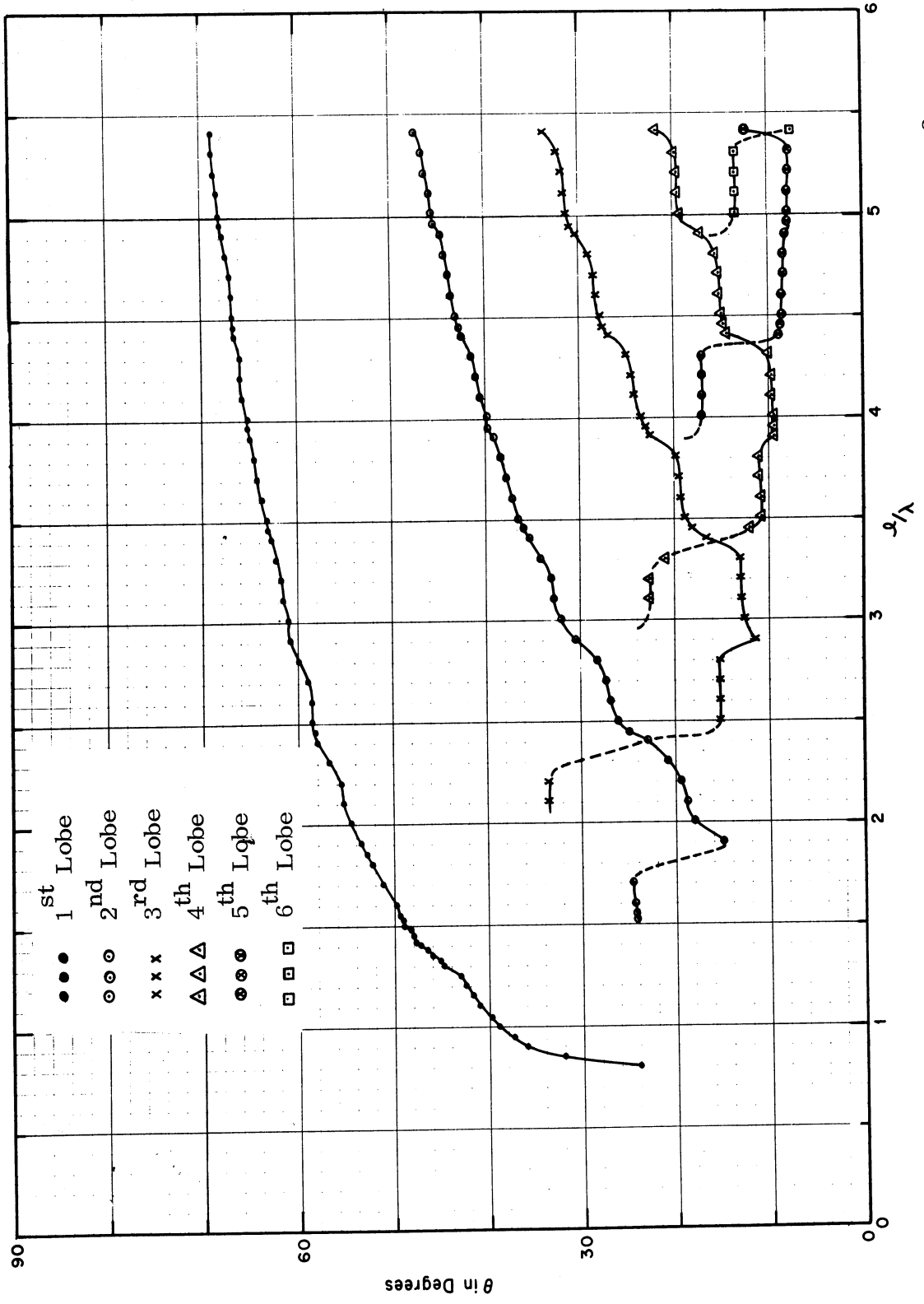


FIG. 3-7: MEASURED DISPLACEMENT OF VARIOUS LOBES; $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$.

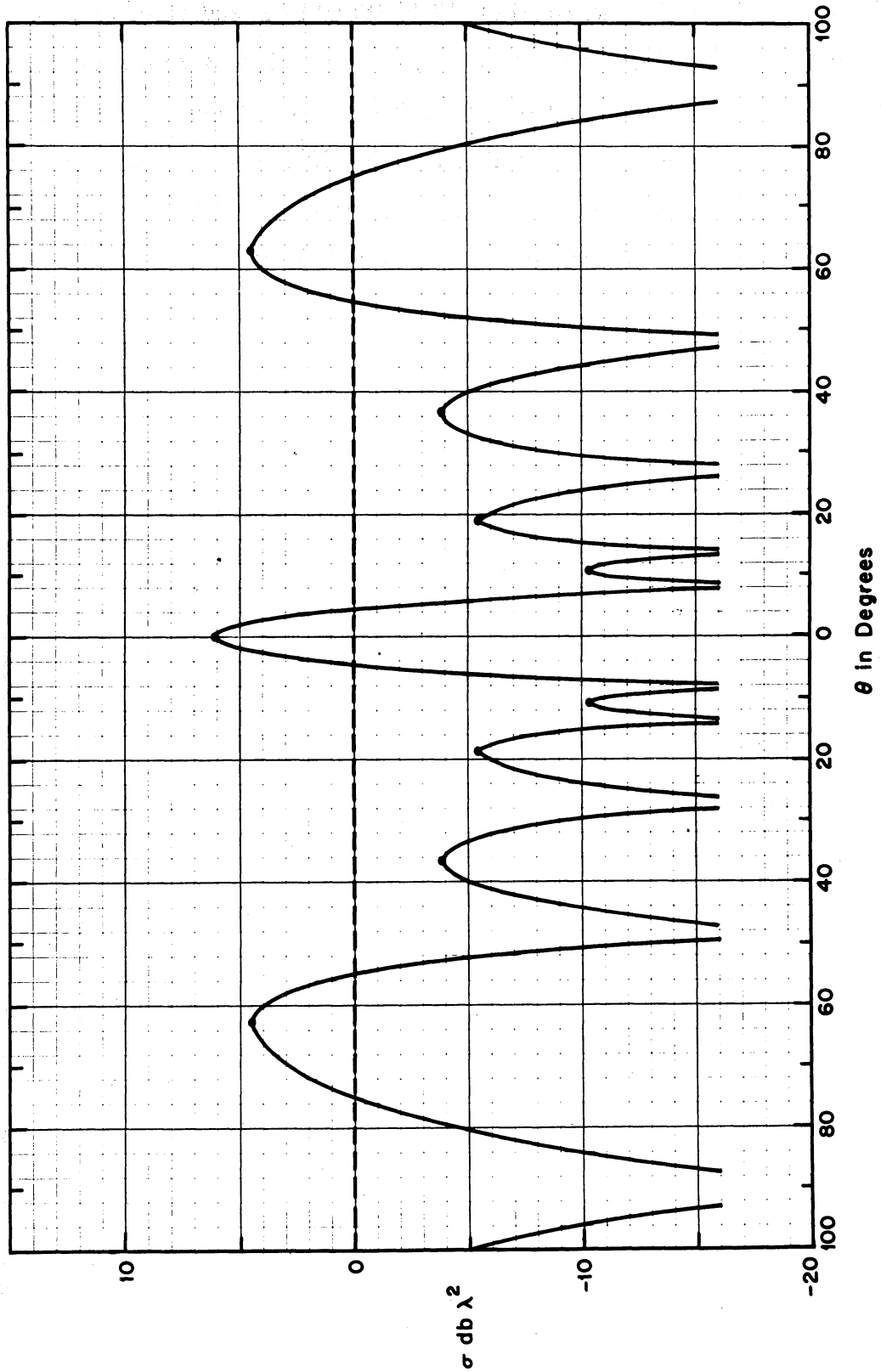


FIG. 3-8: A RECONSTRUCTED BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTION PATTERN FOR
 $l/\lambda = 3.5$, $a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$.

at $\theta = 63.0^\circ$ (first lobe), 36.5° (second lobe), 18.8° (third lobe) and 11.0° (fourth lobe). The broadside peak is located at $\theta = 0^\circ$. Then from Figs. 3-2 through 3-6 (use part (b) for reconstruction on a dB scale) we find the amplitudes for the corresponding peaks. Assuming that the return at end-on ($\theta = 90^\circ$) is zero, a pattern now can be sketched, as shown in Fig. 3-8. For reconstruction of patterns with a linear cross section scale, part (a) of Figs. 3-2 through 3-6 should be used.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are greatly indebted to Dr. T.B.A. Senior for his helpful suggestions, and to Messrs. August Antones and Richard Leland for preparing the illustrations.

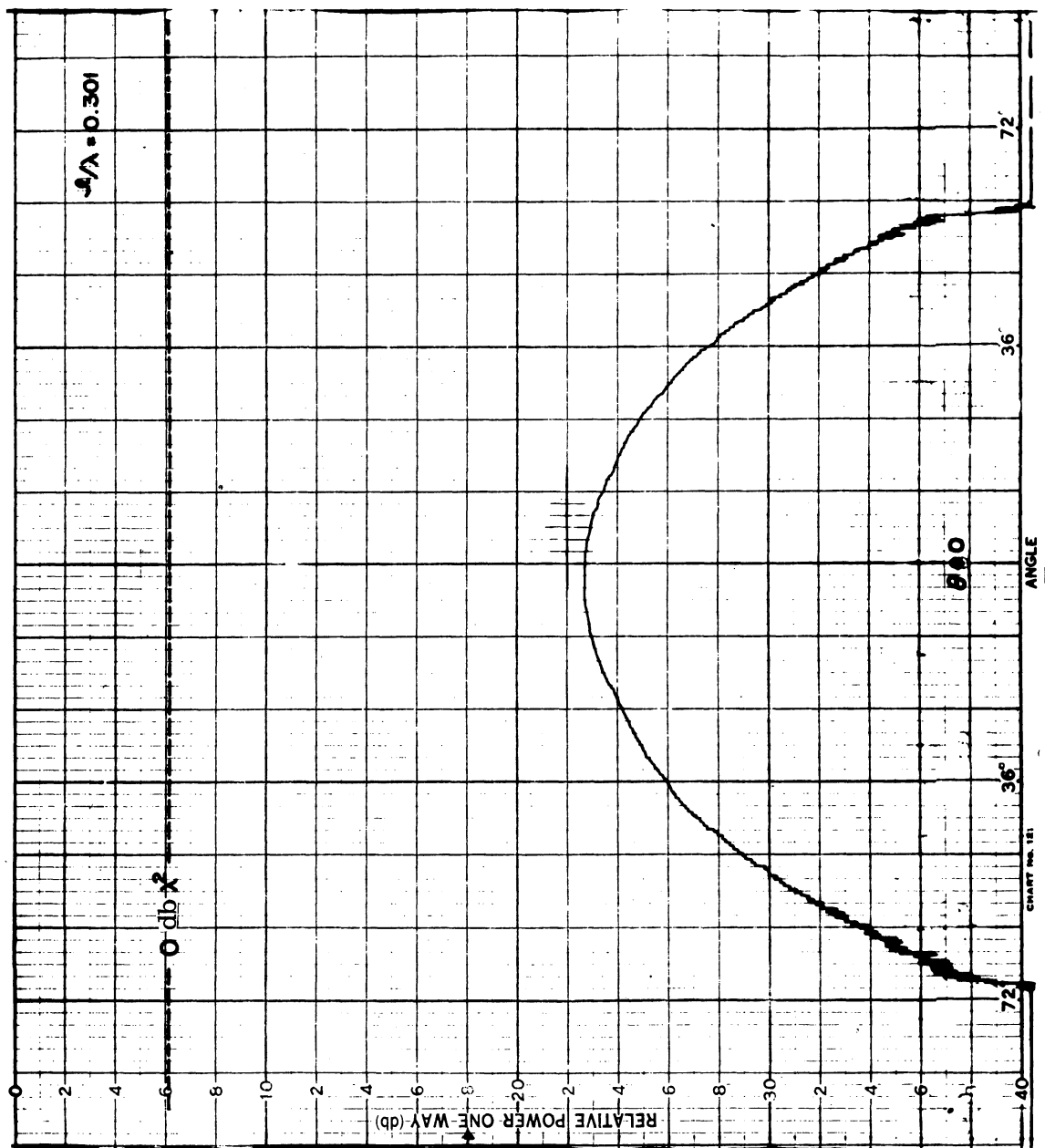
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BACK SCATTERING CROSS SECTION PATTERNS
OF A THIN ROD OF DIAMETER $2a = 1/16$ INCH
AS A FUNCTION OF THE ANGULAR POSITION,
 θ FOR VARIOUS VALUES OF l/λ WITH $\lambda = 4.98$
INCHES (frequency $f = 2.37$ GHz).

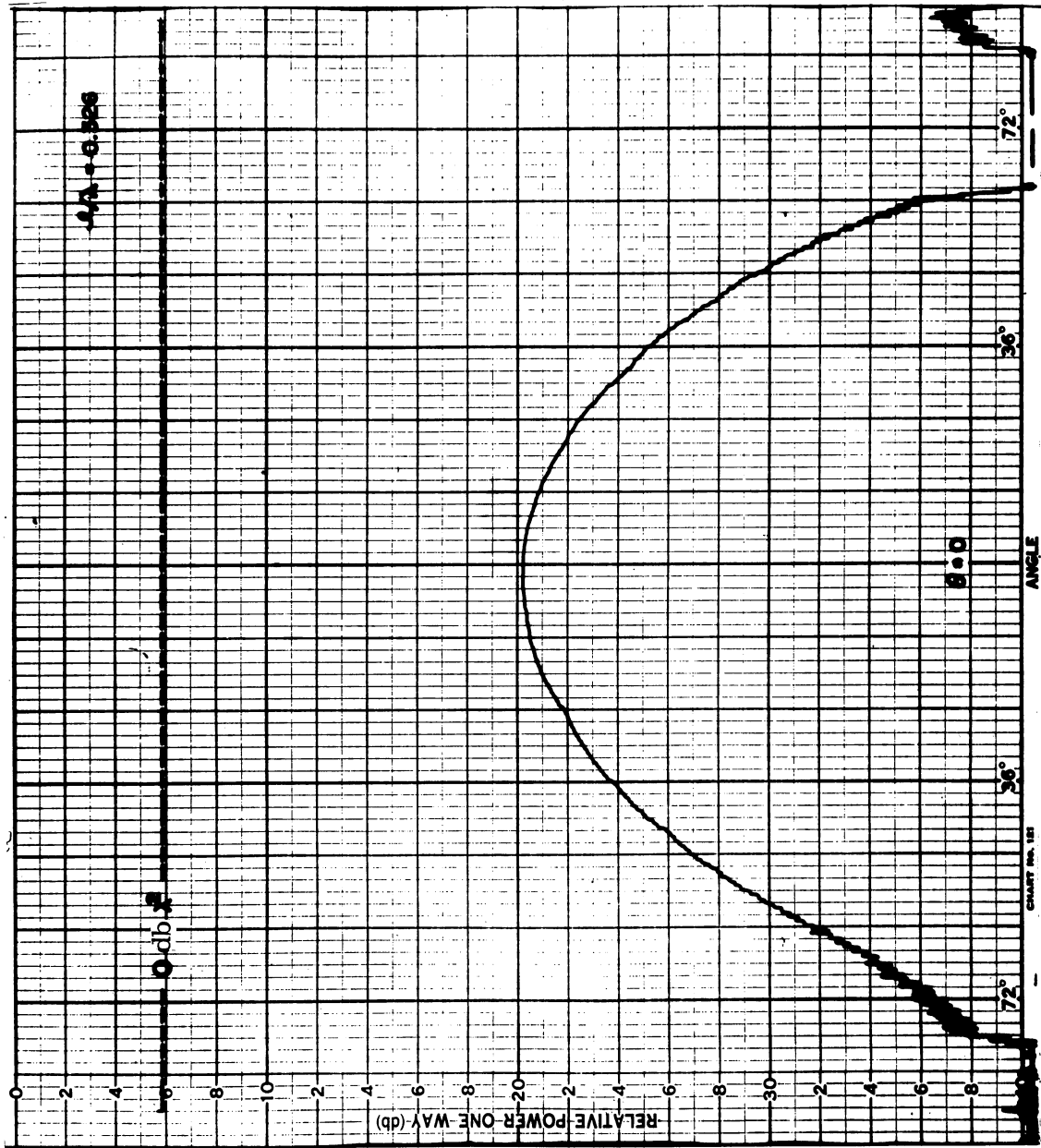
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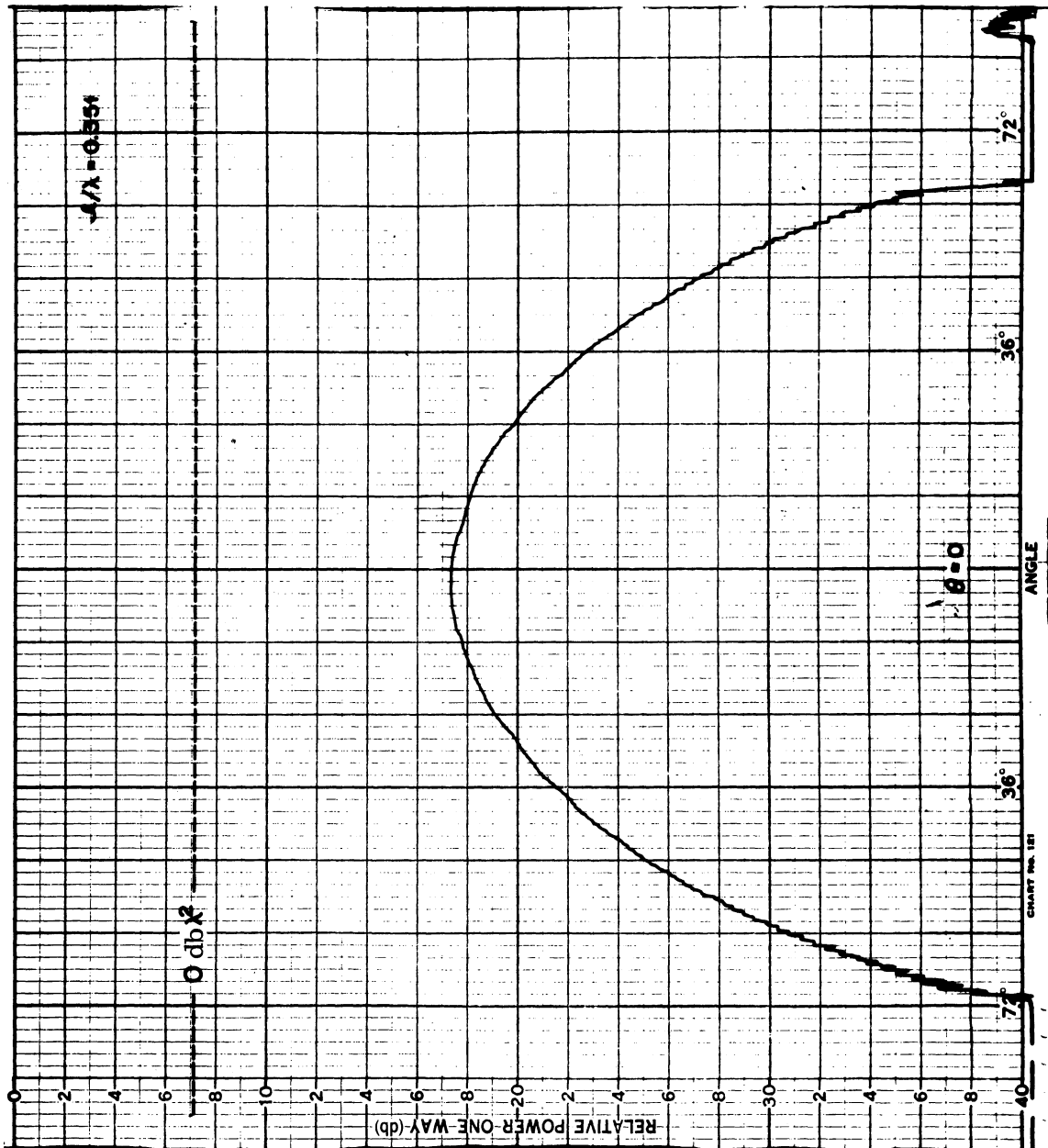
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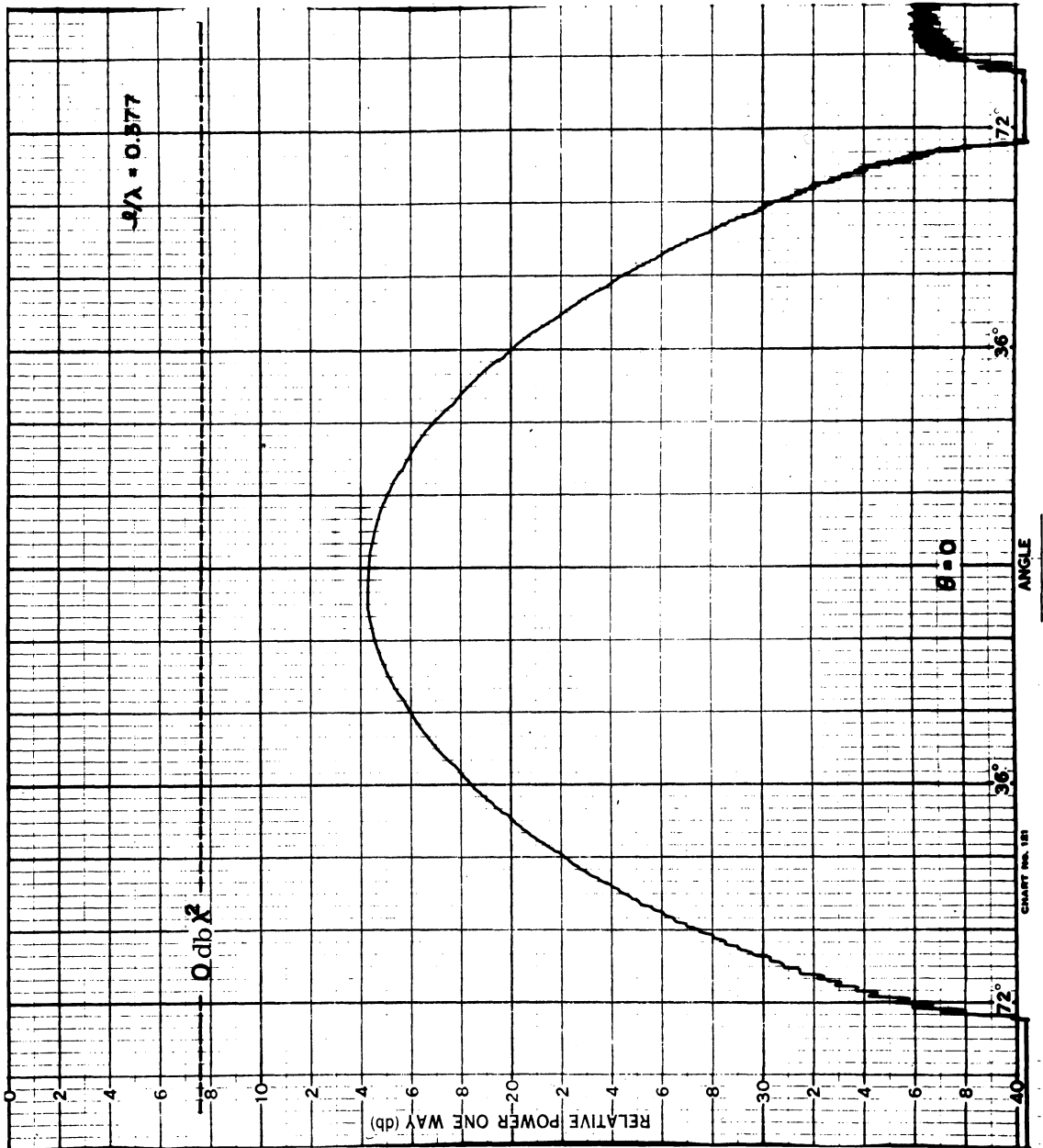
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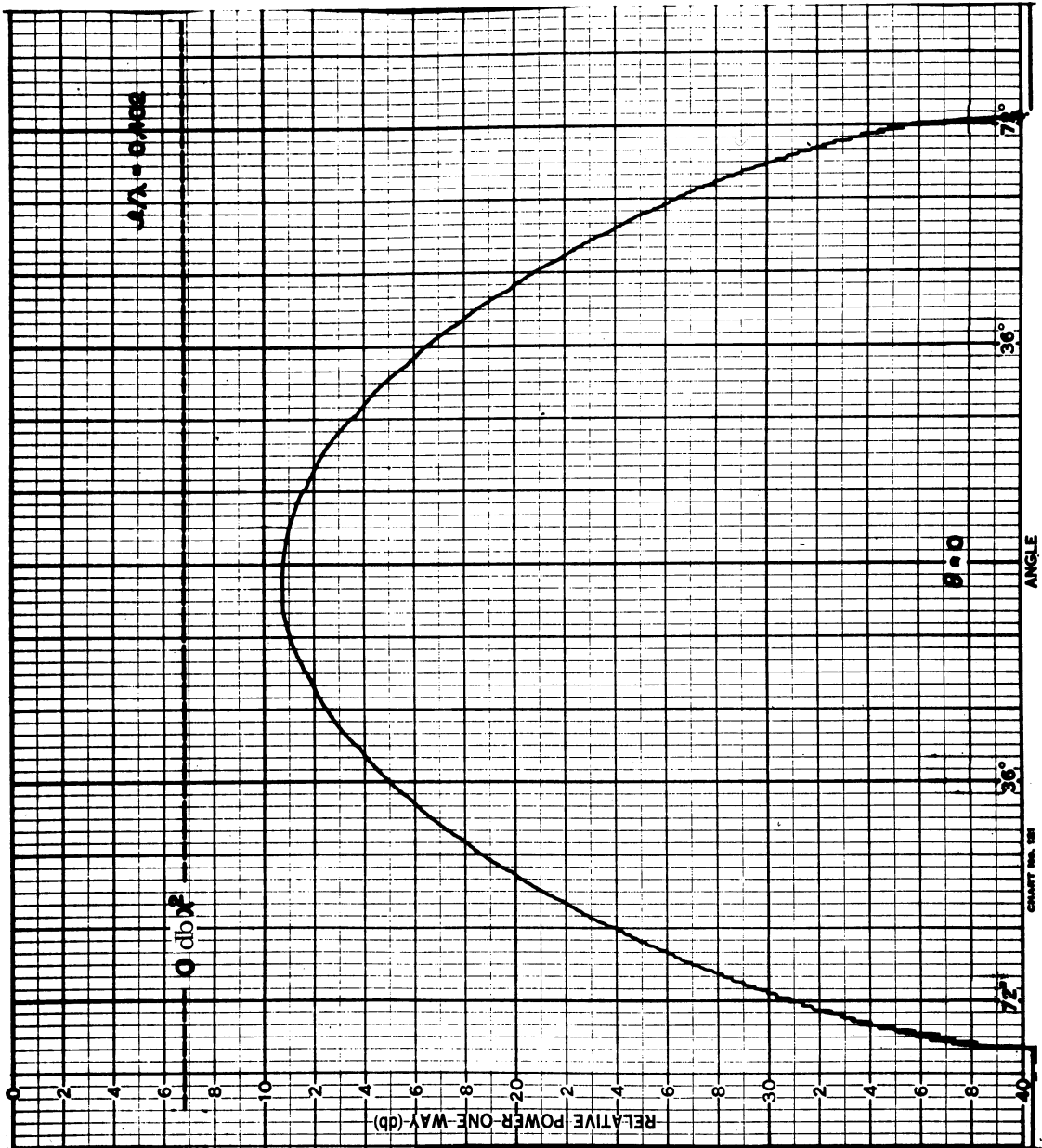
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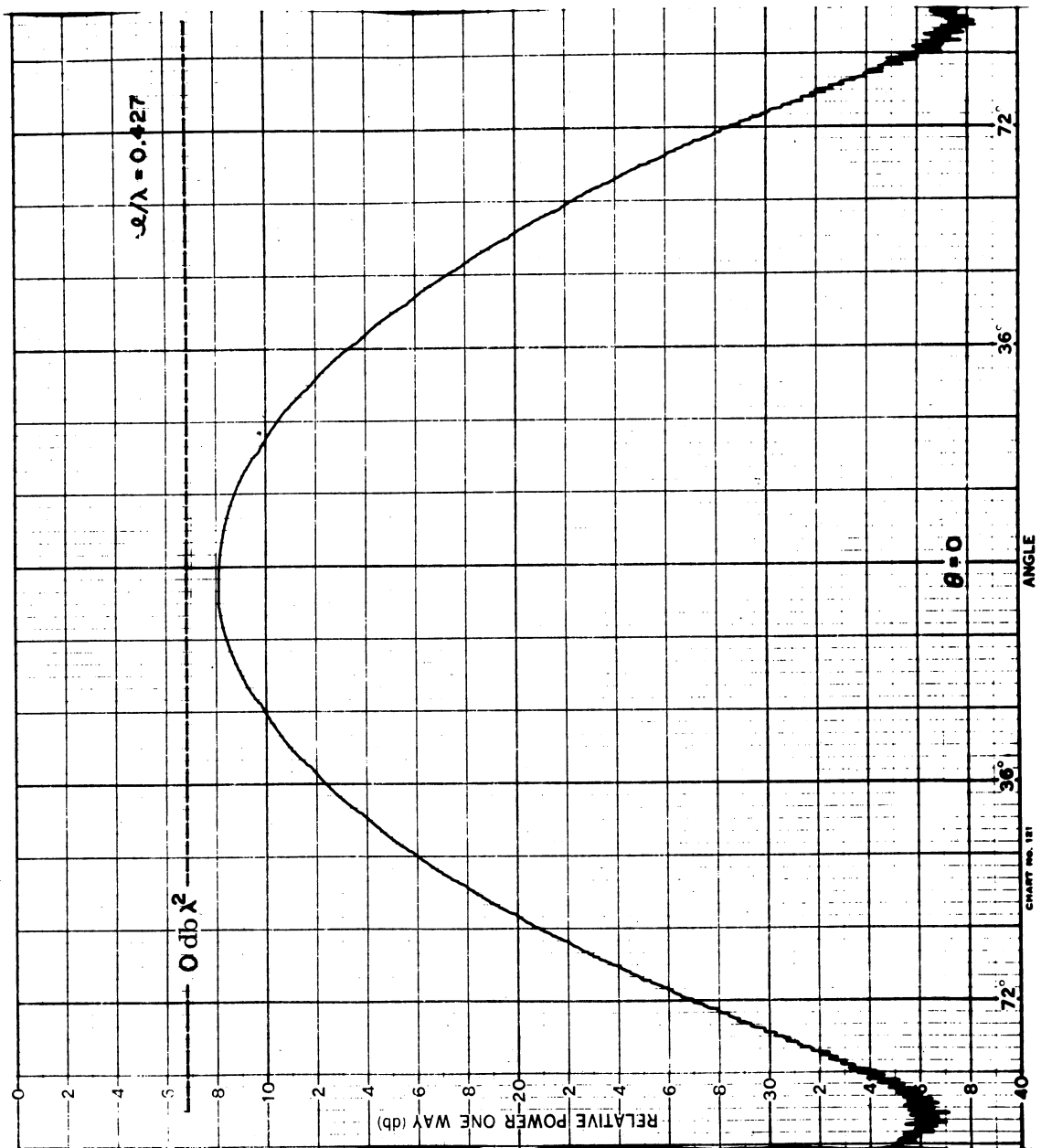
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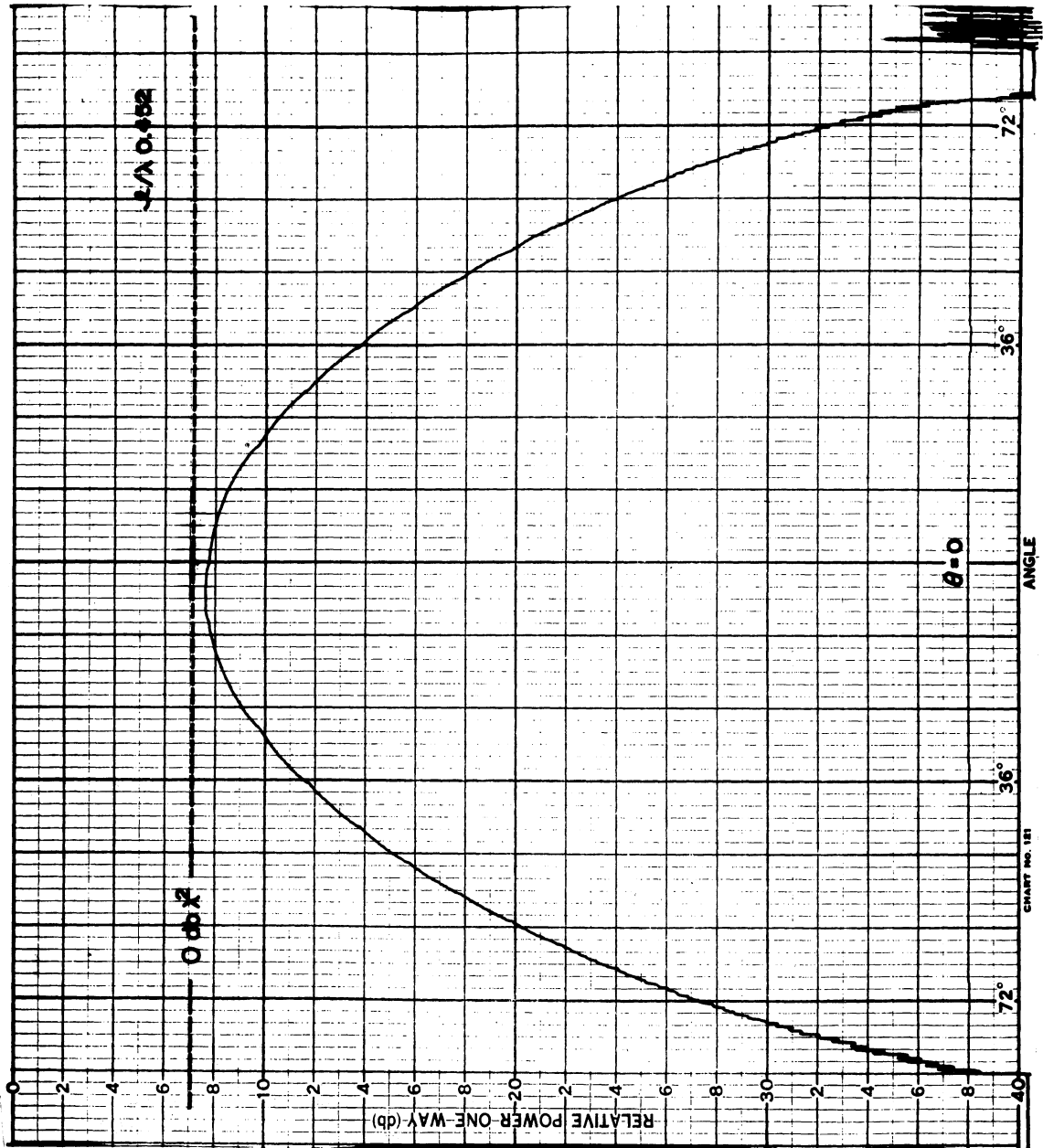
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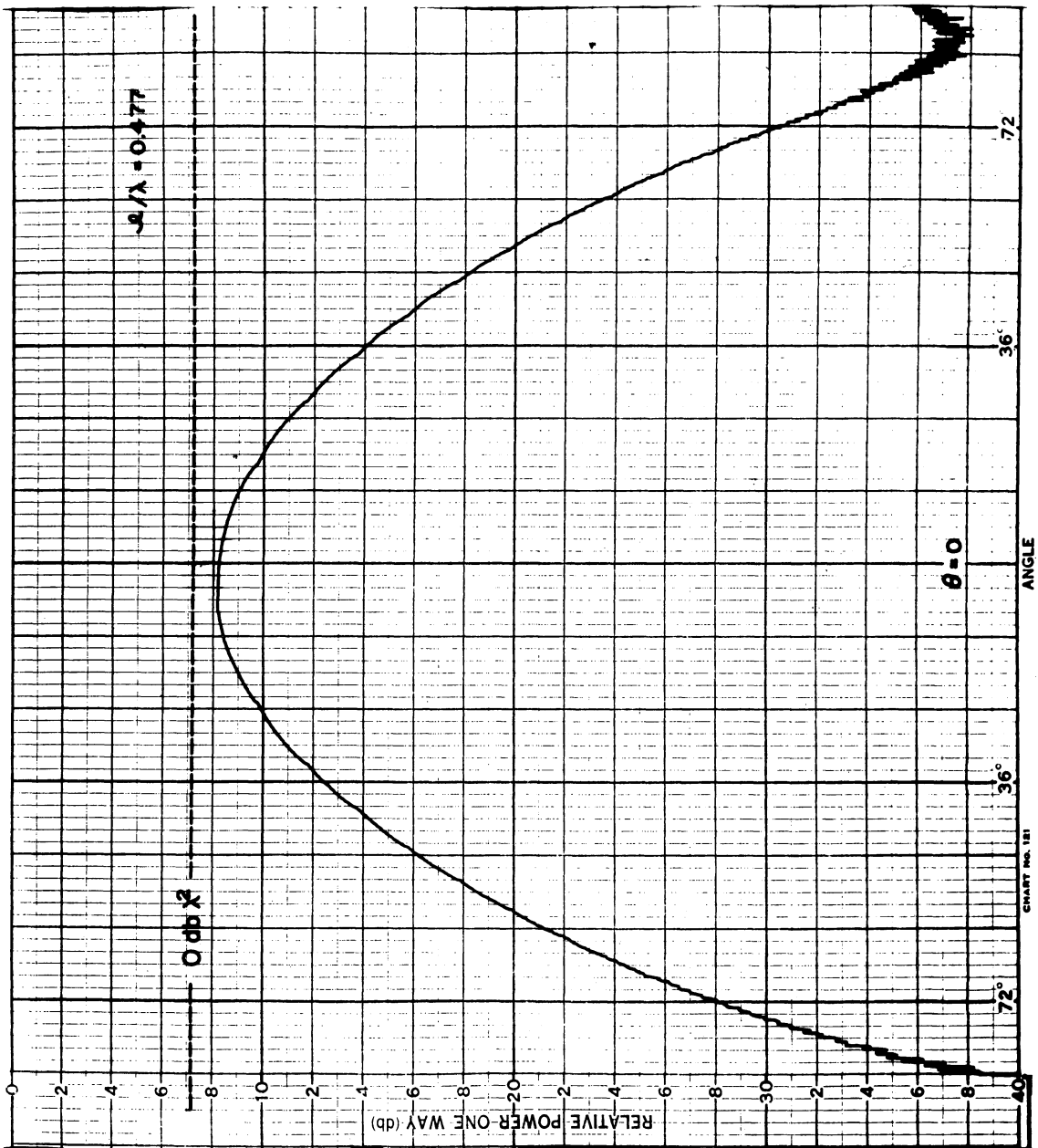
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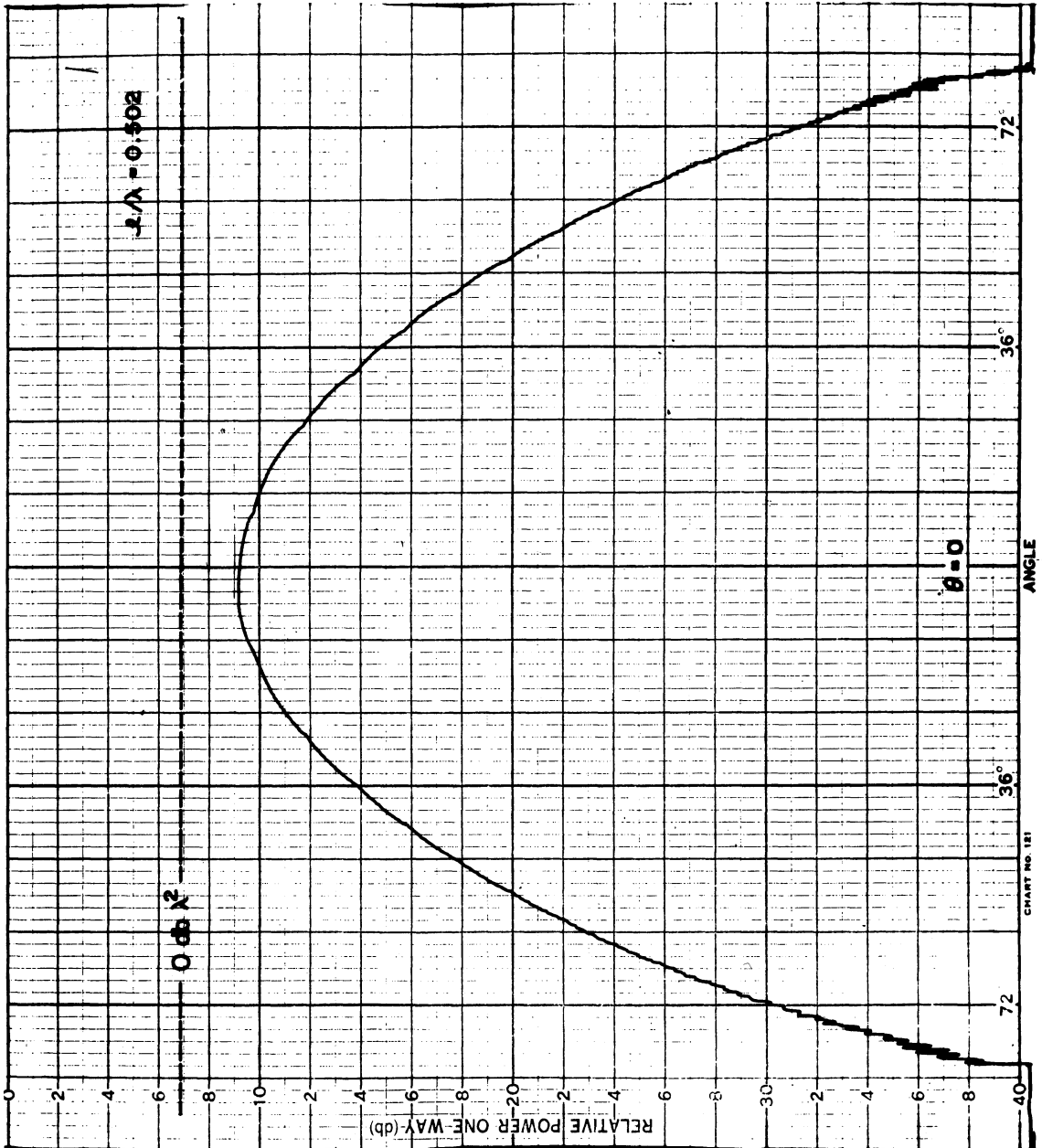
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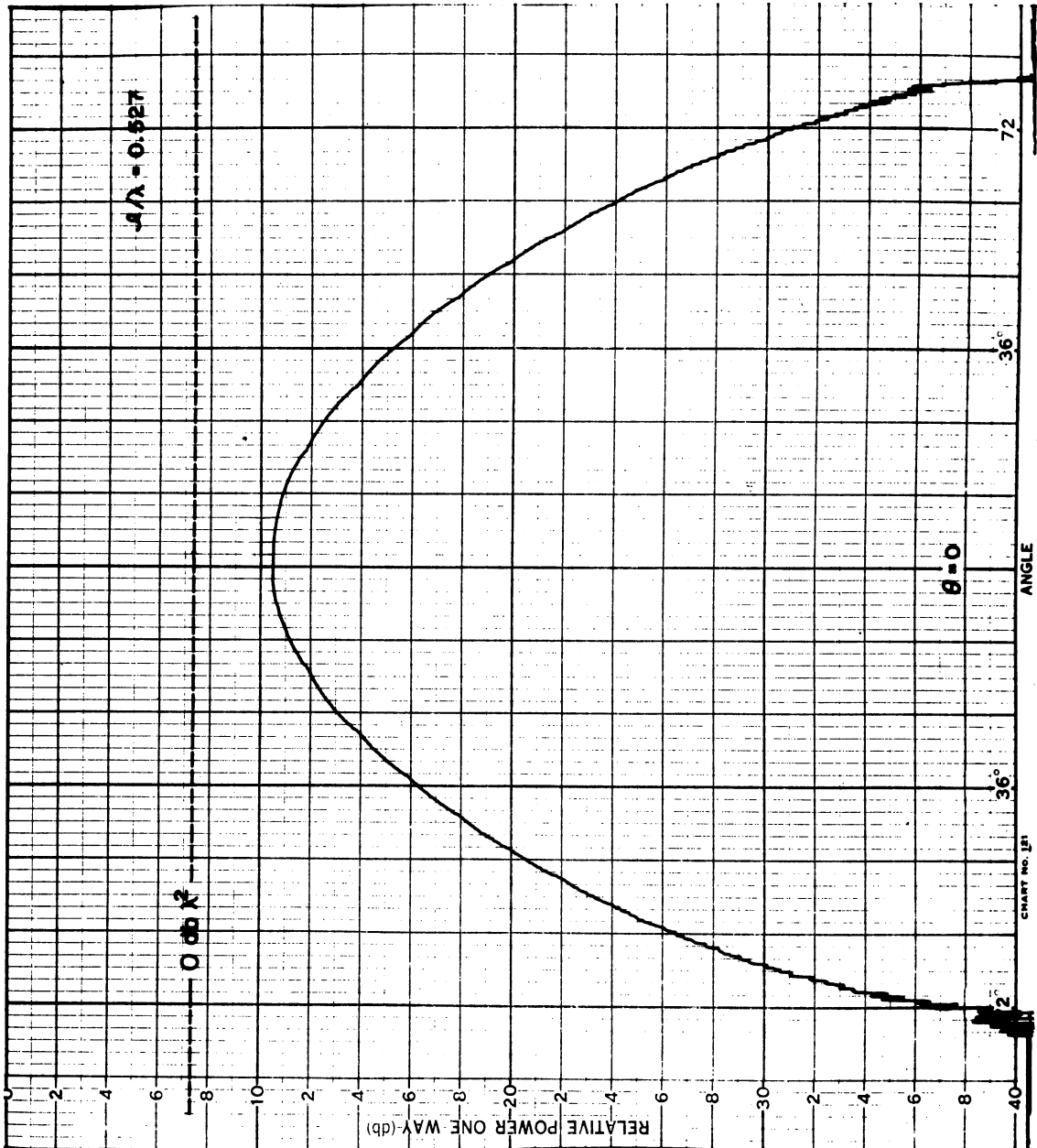
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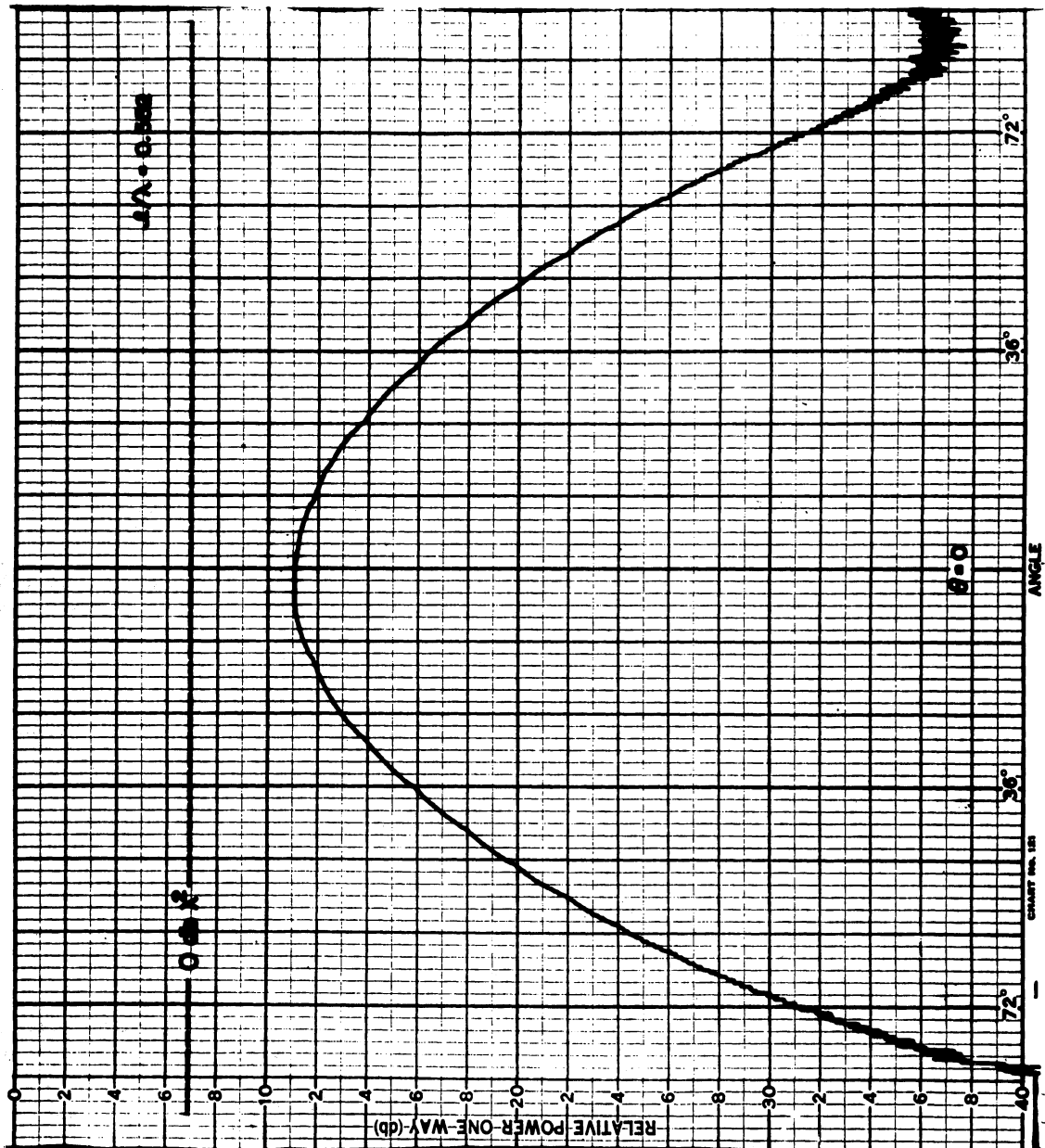
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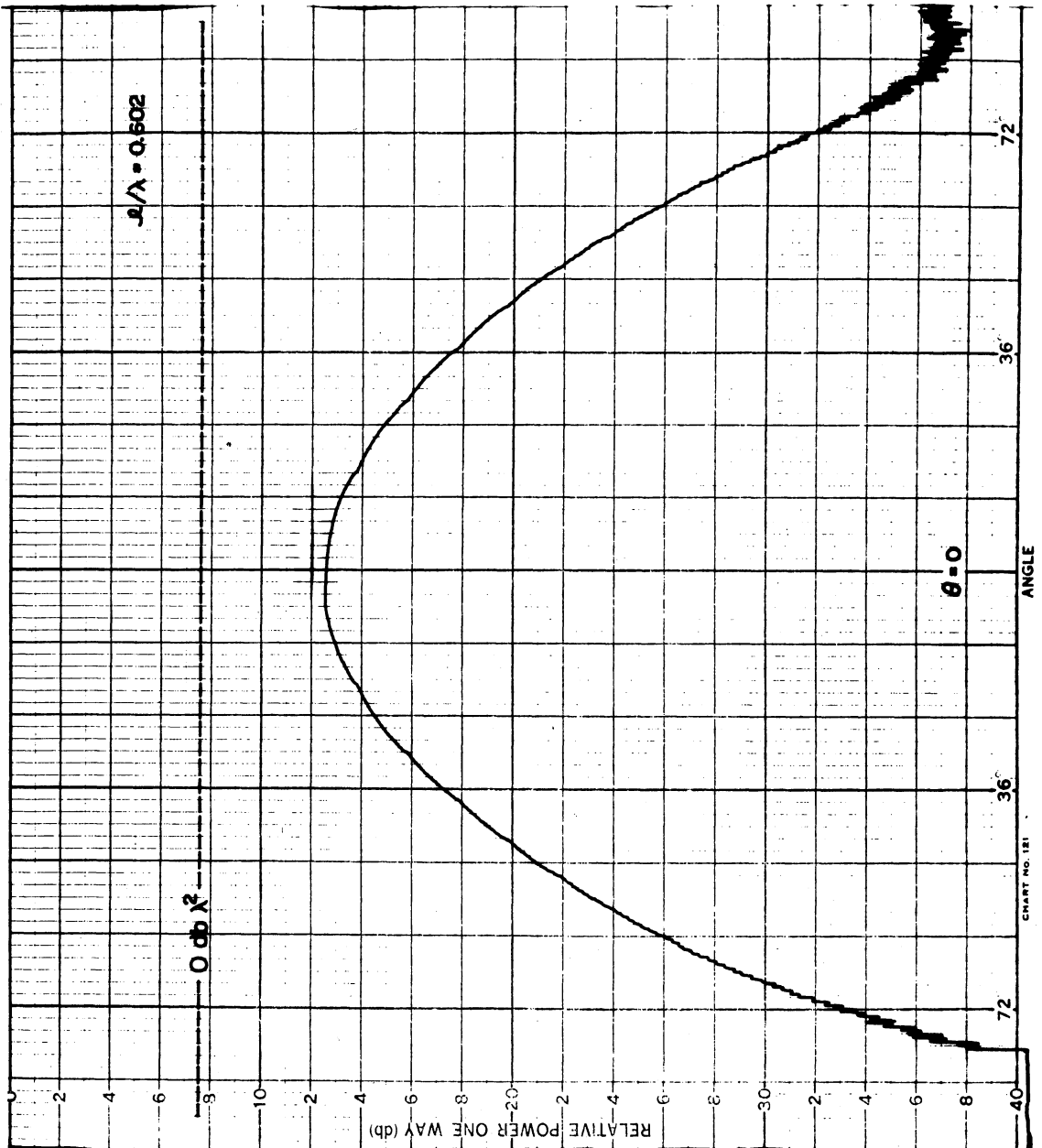
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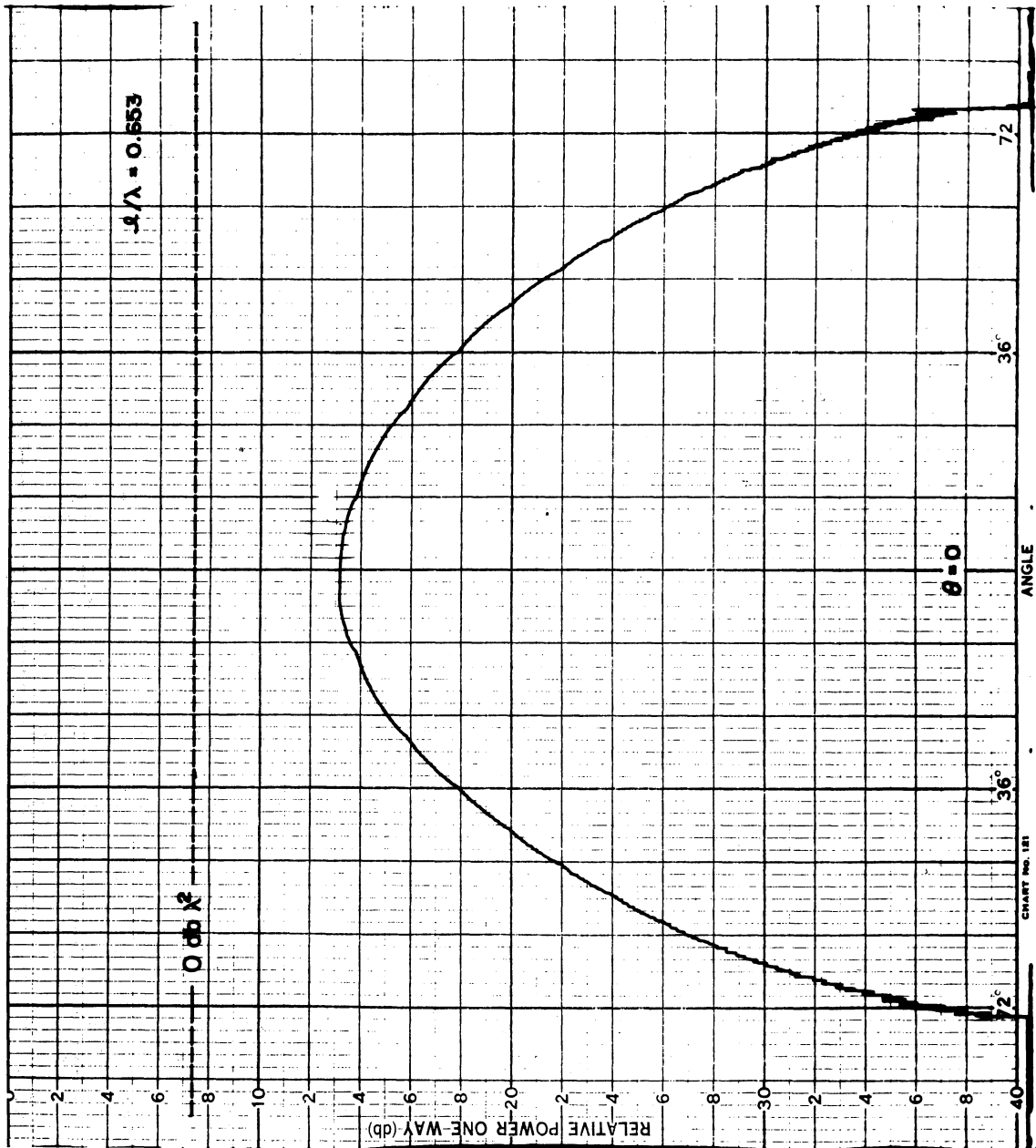
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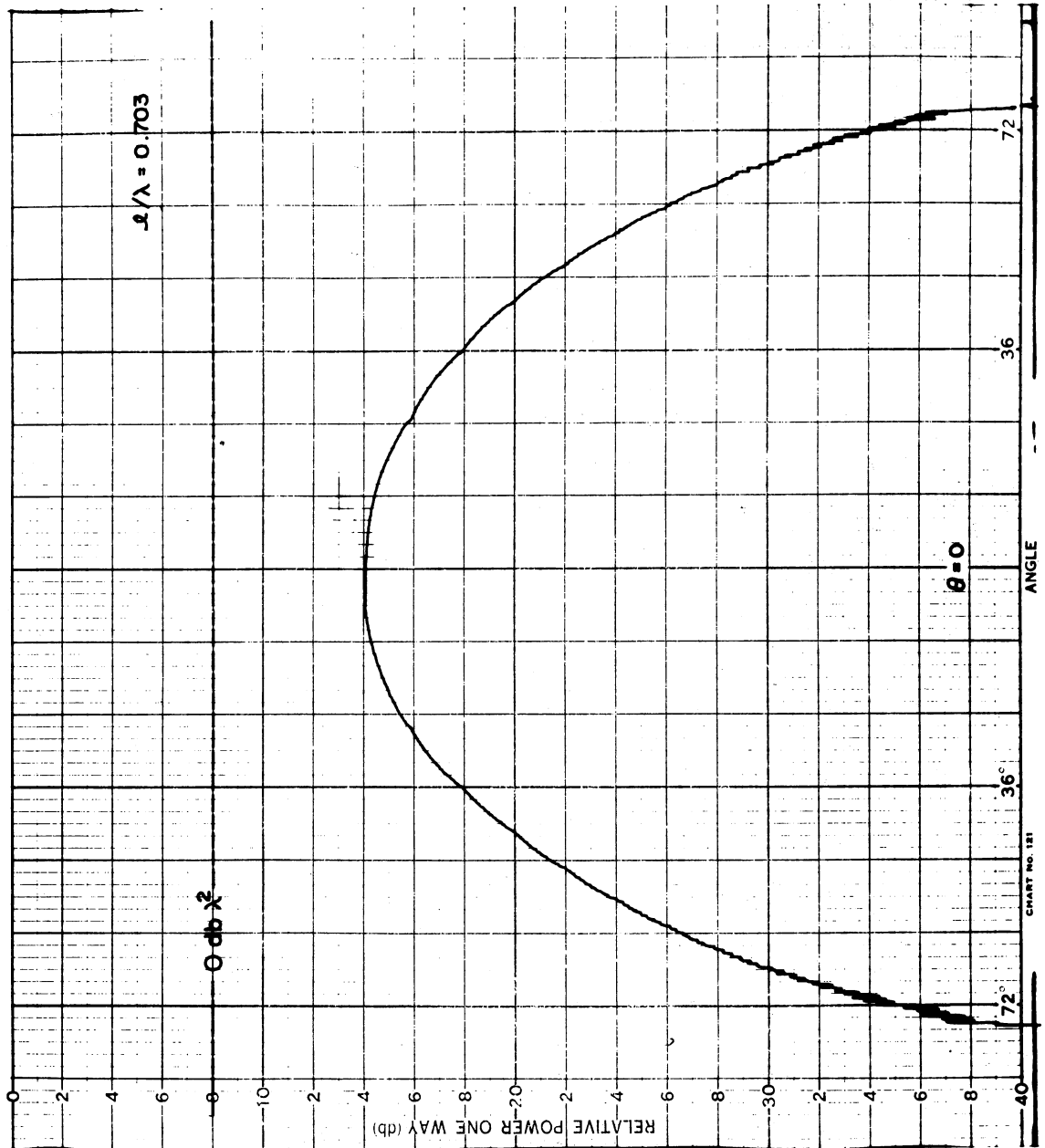
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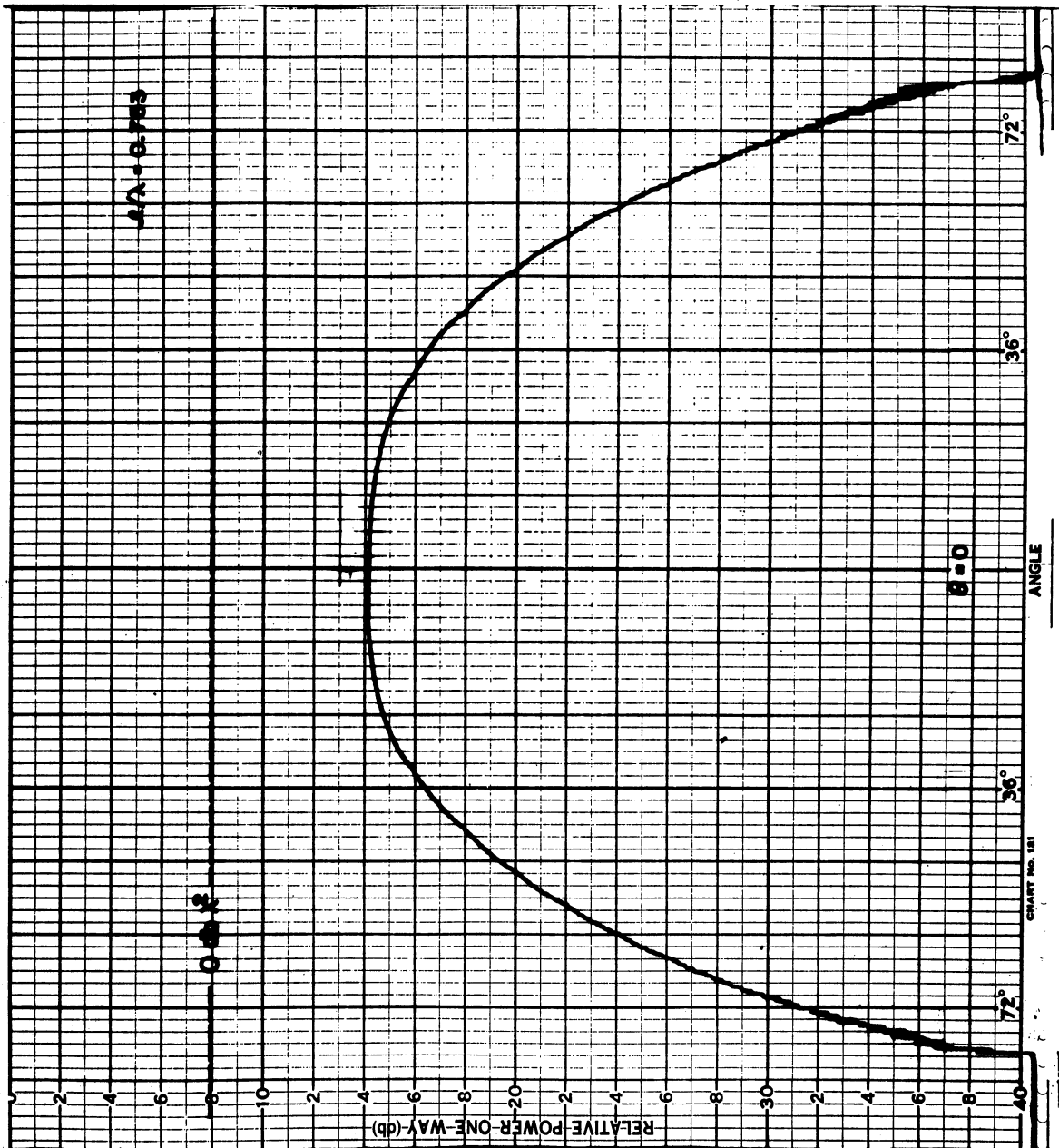
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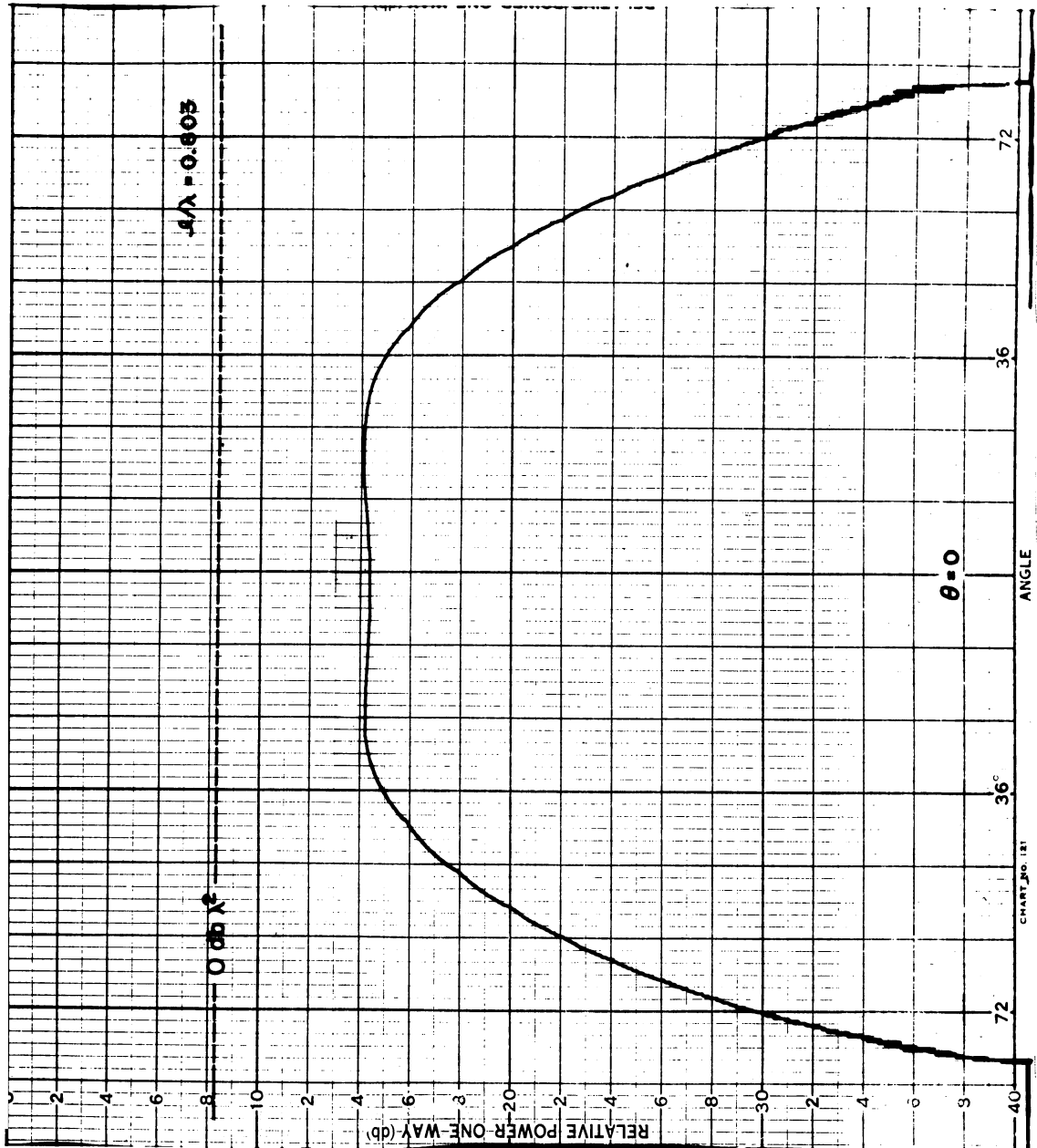
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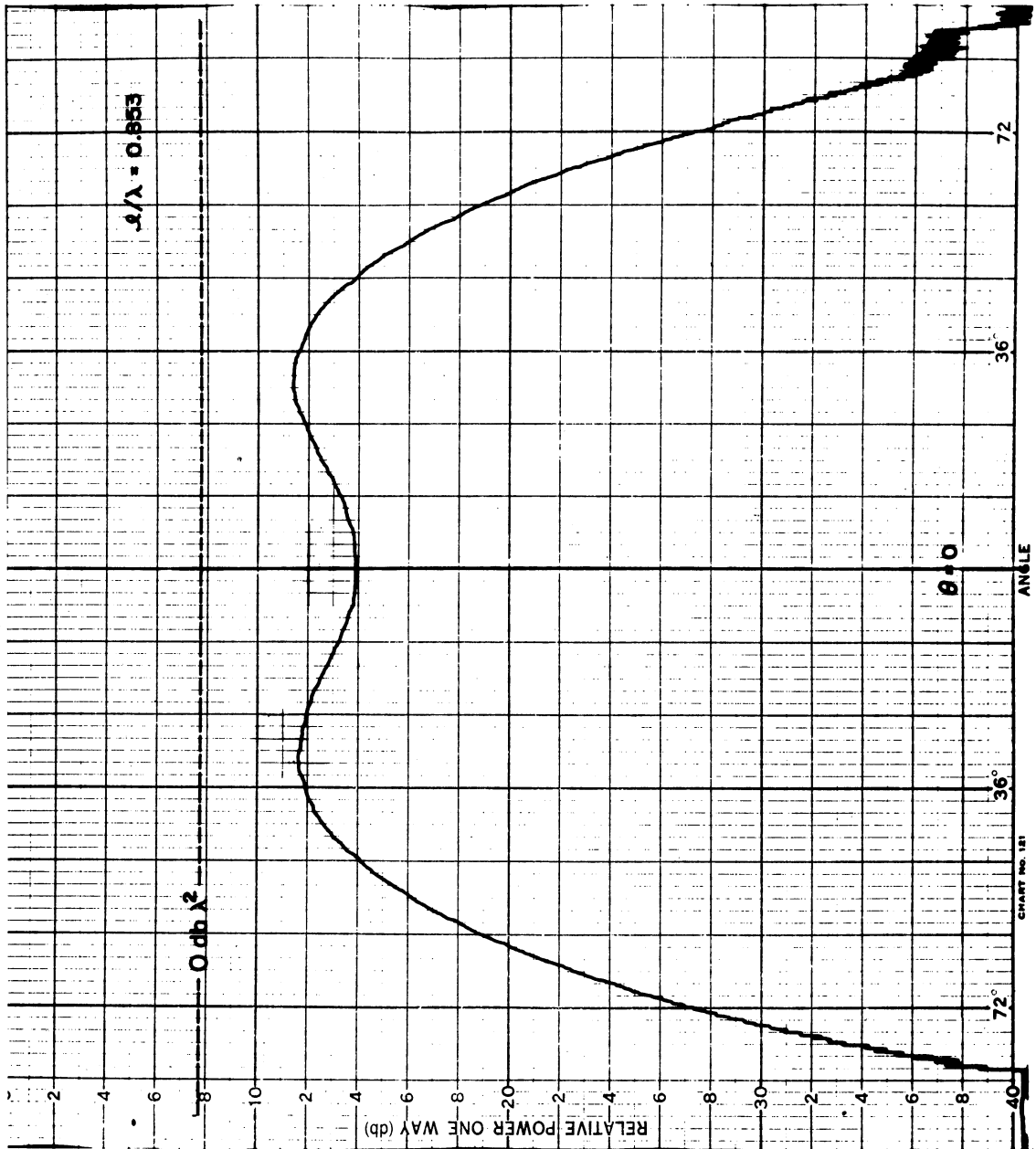
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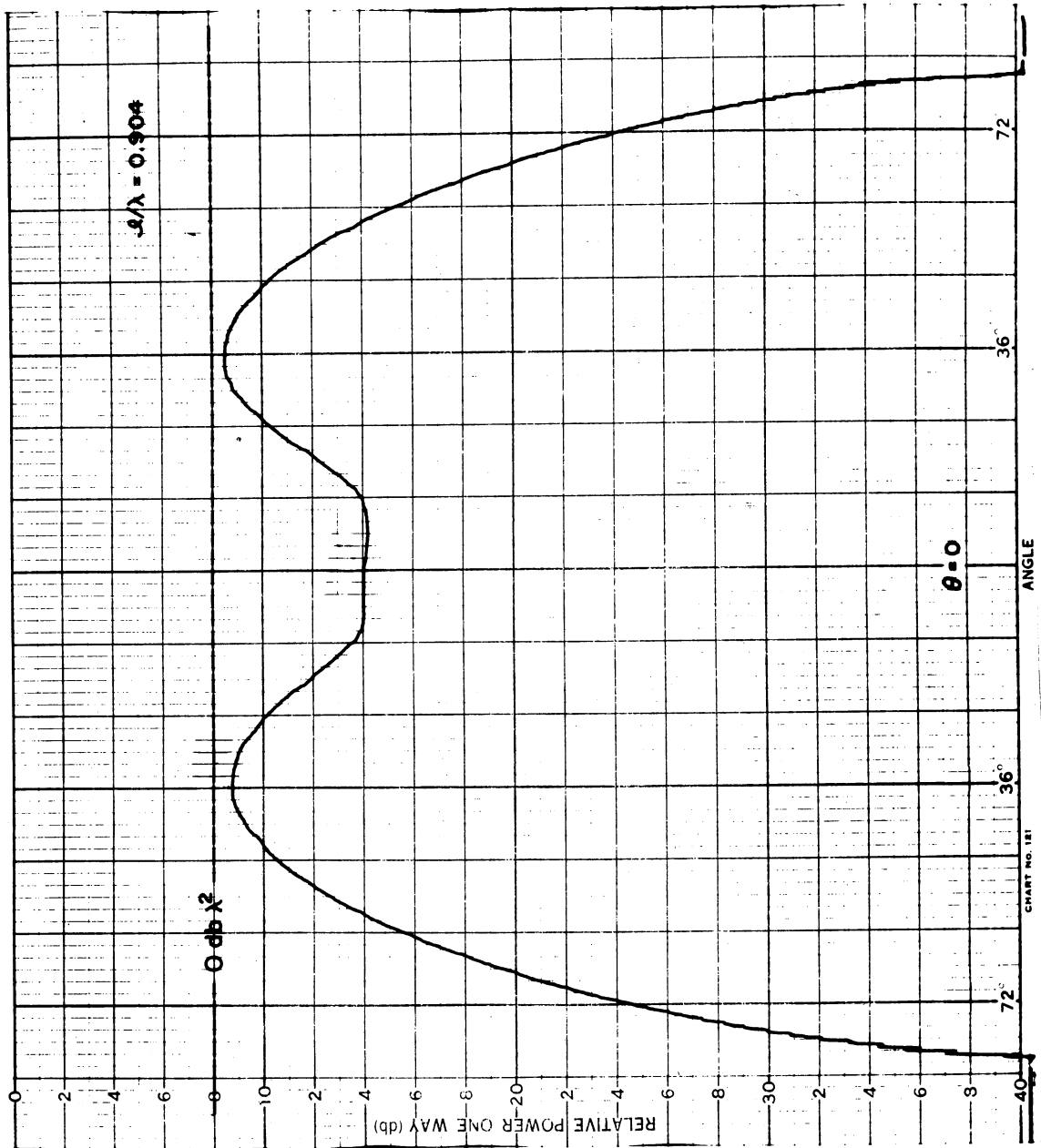
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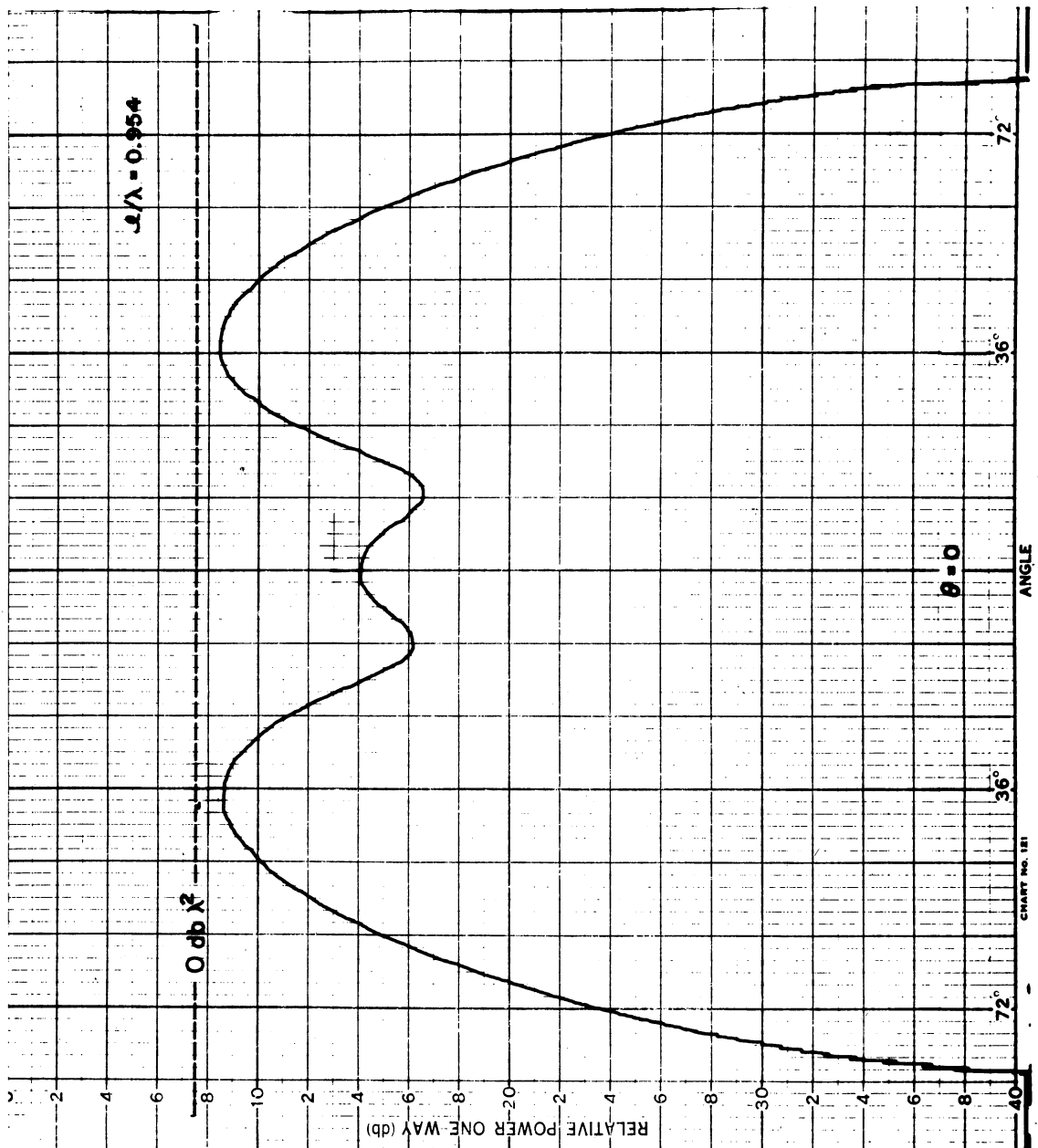
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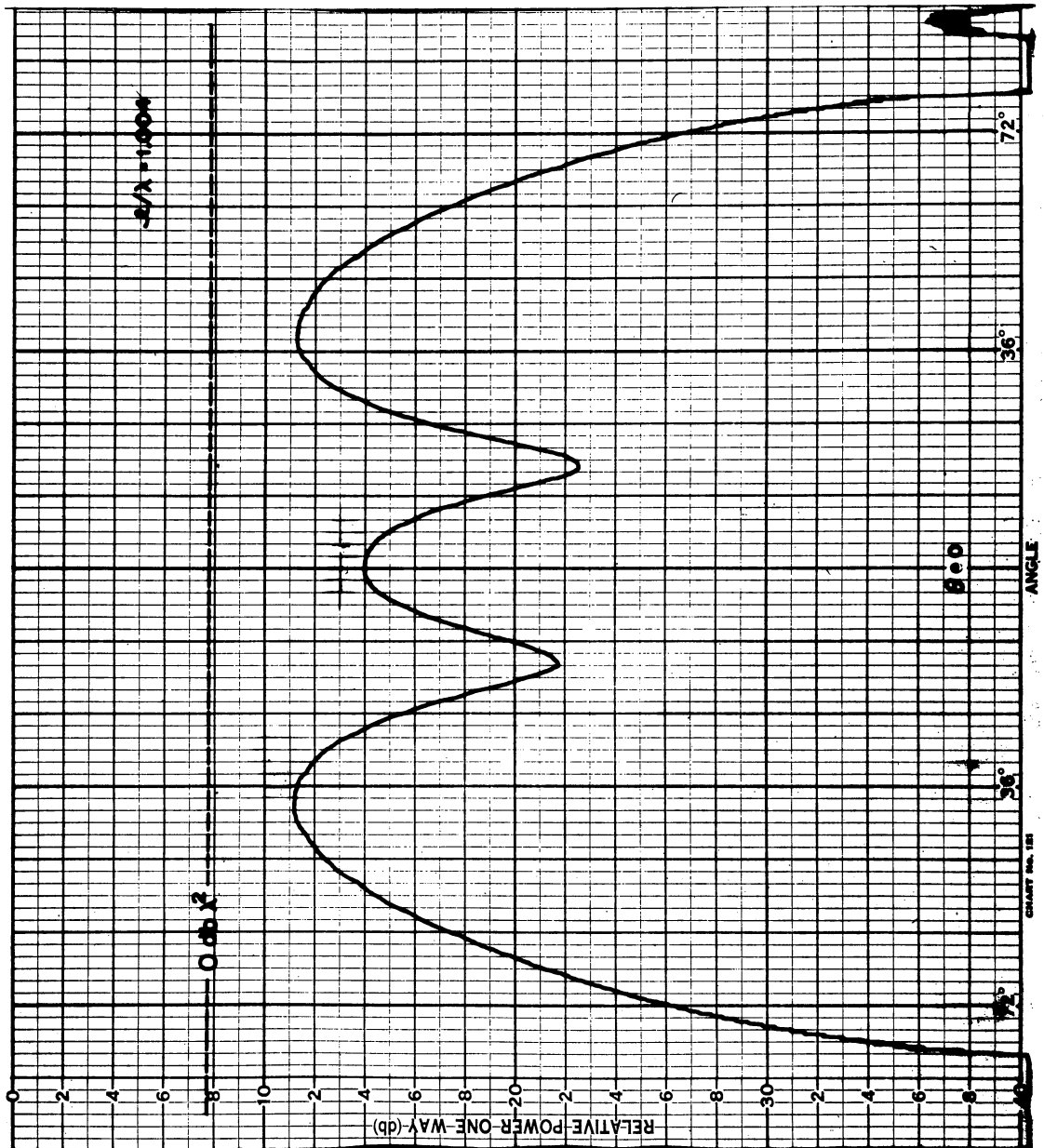
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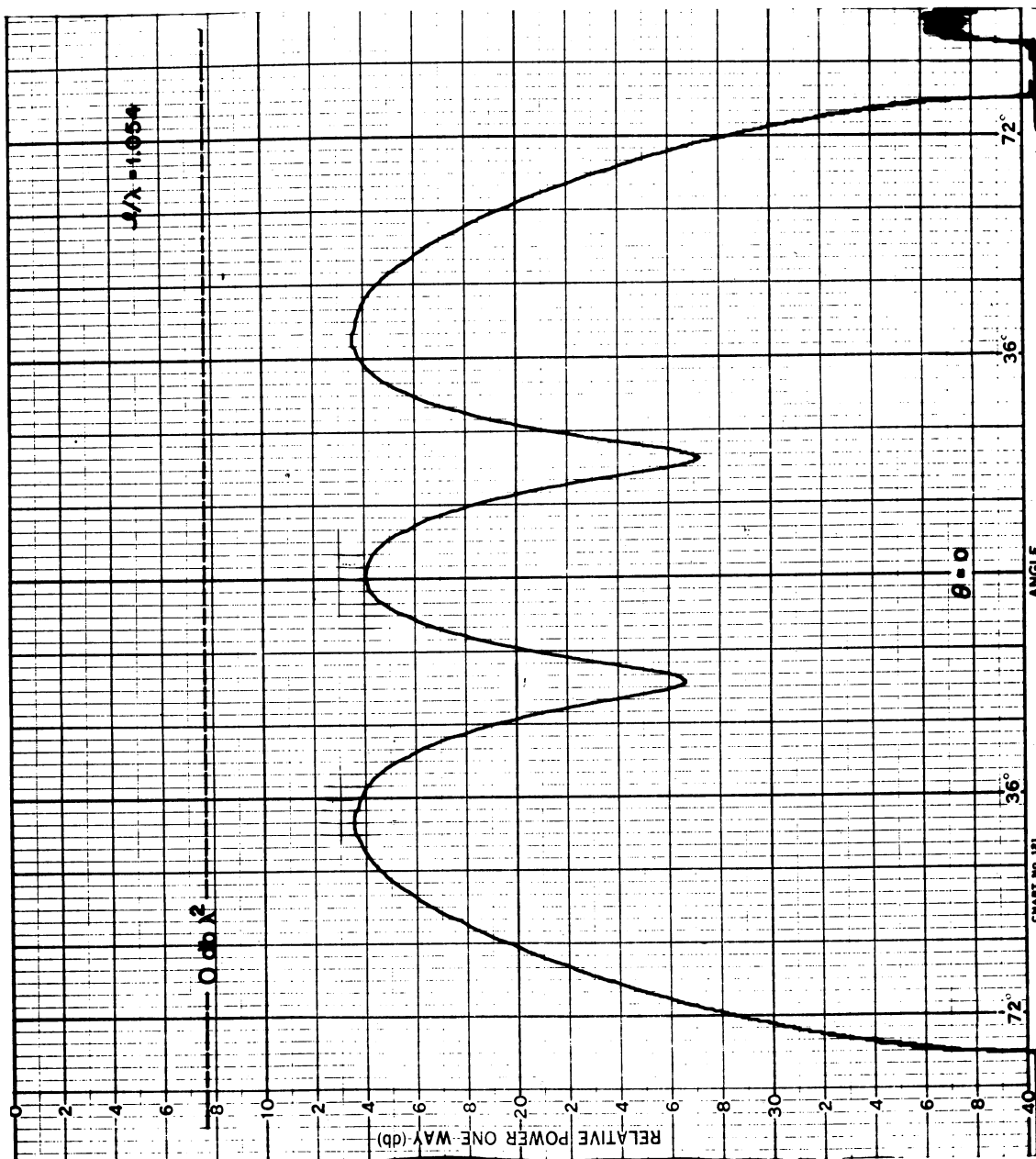
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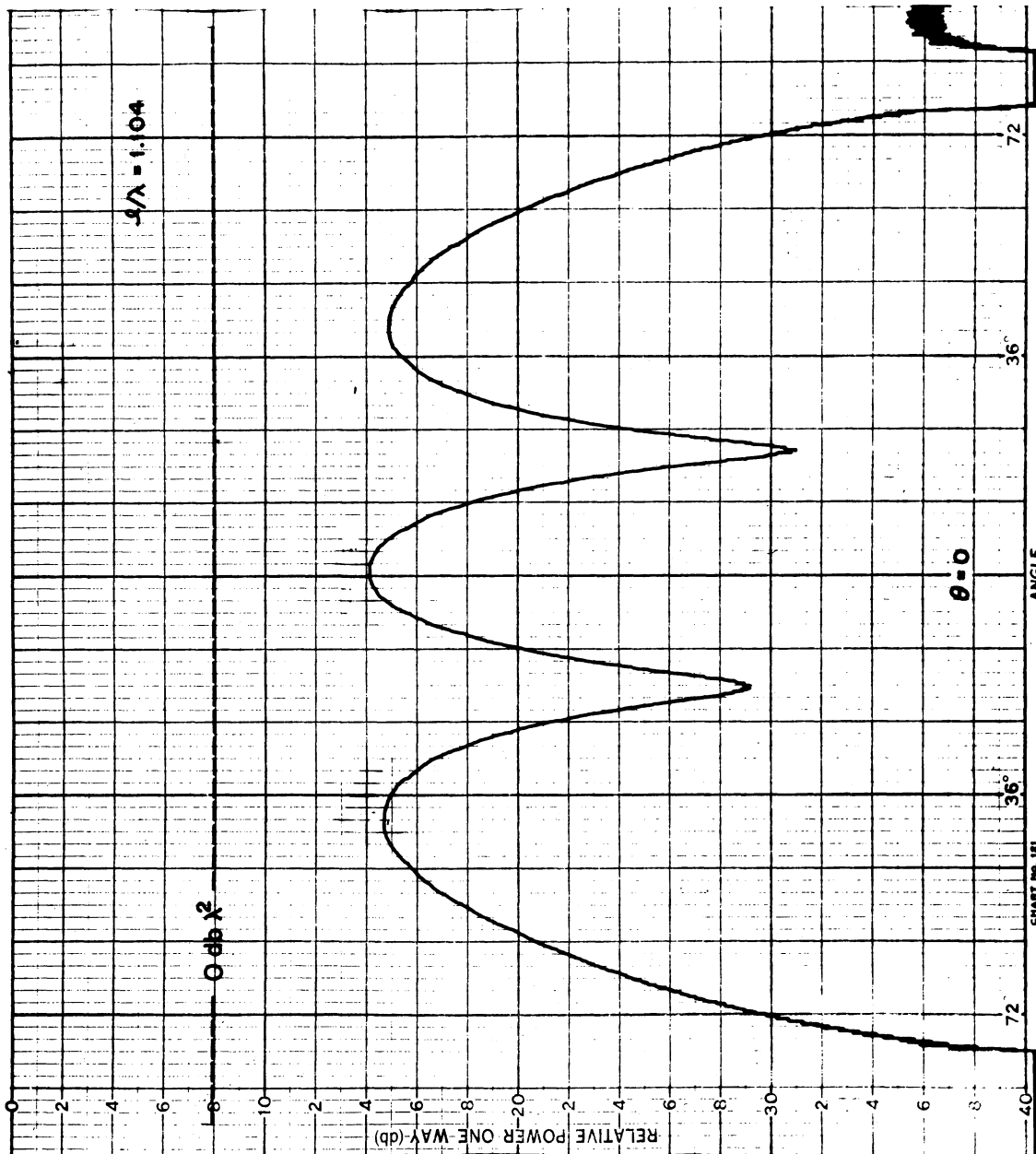
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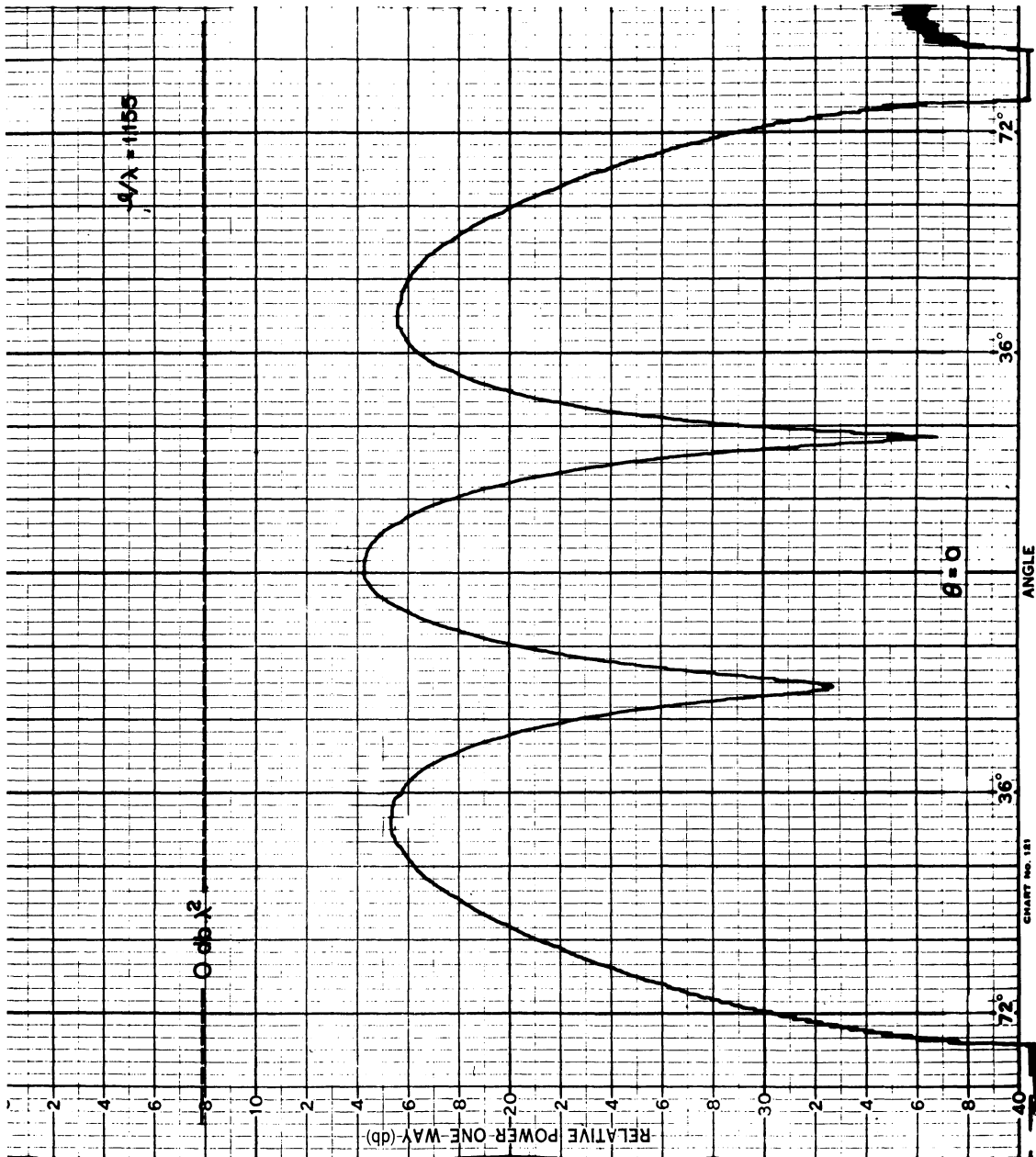
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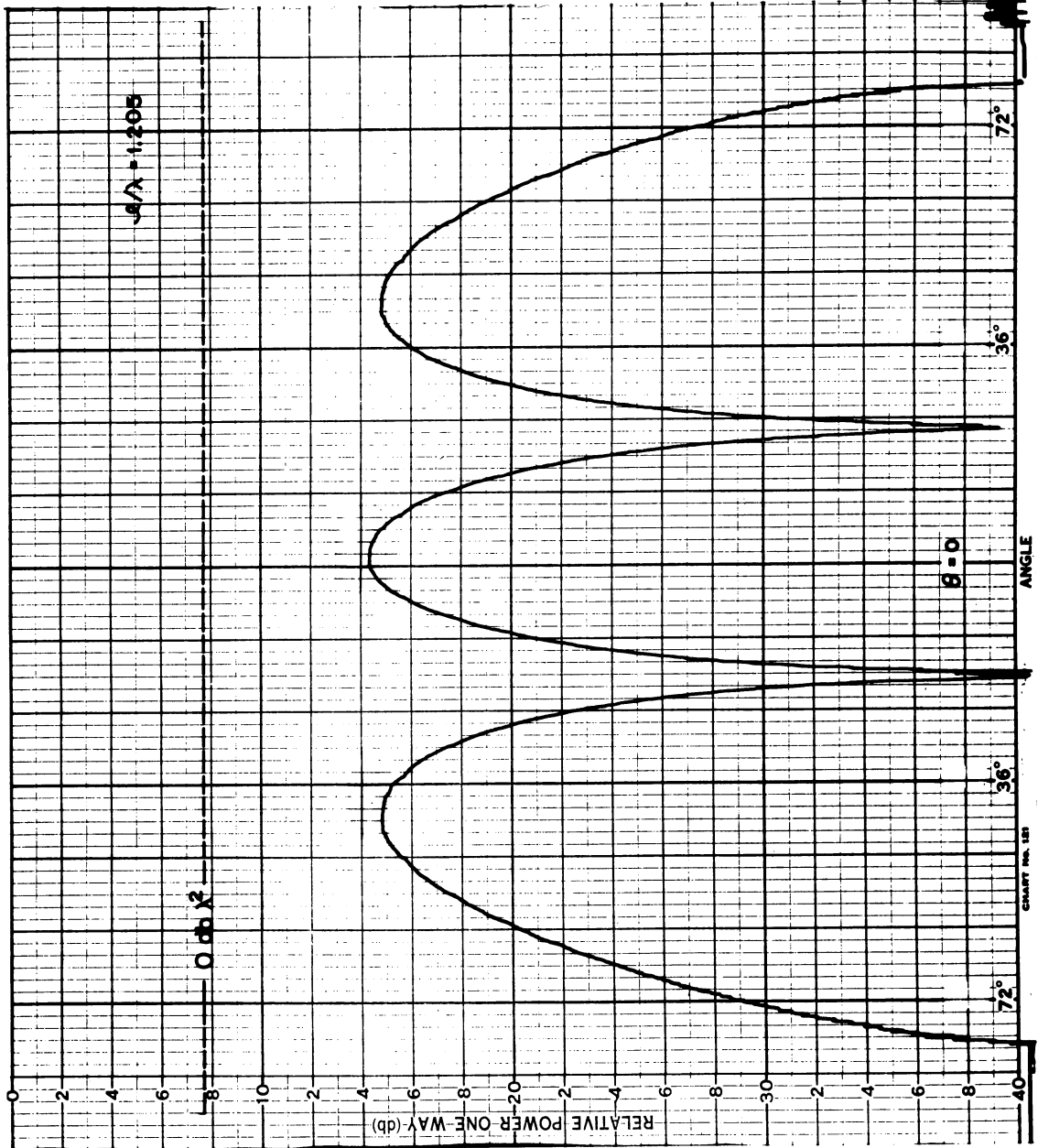
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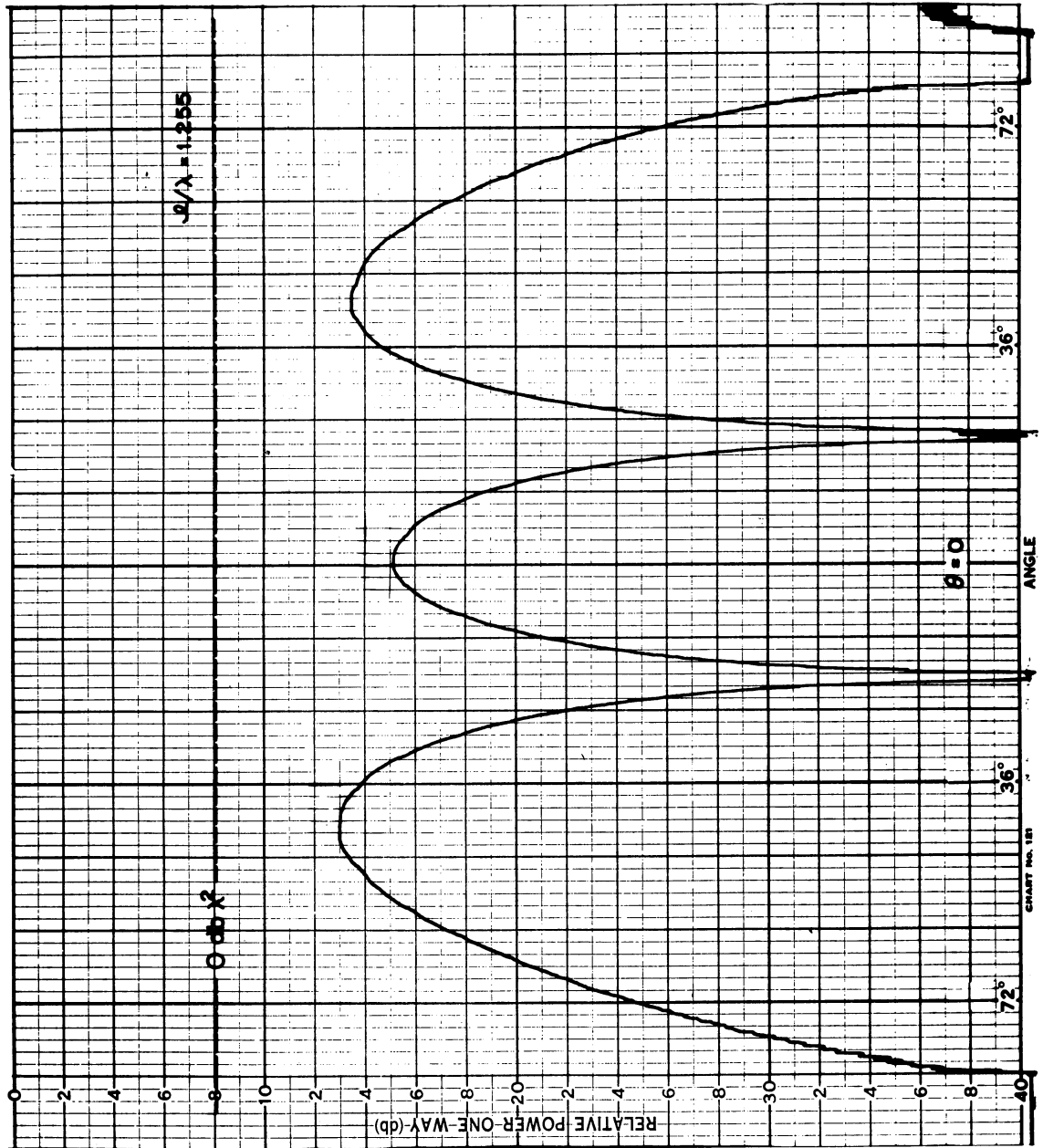
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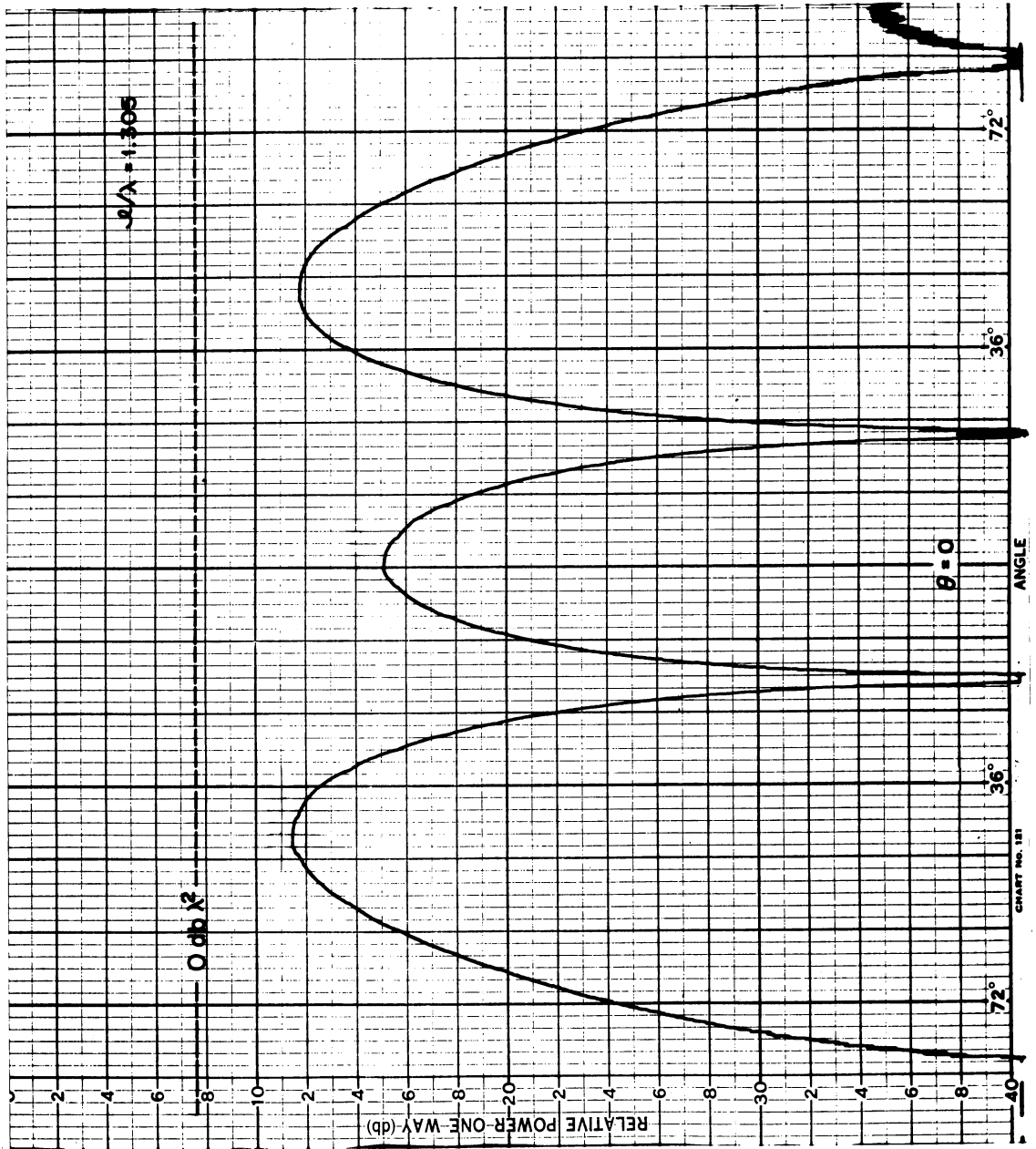
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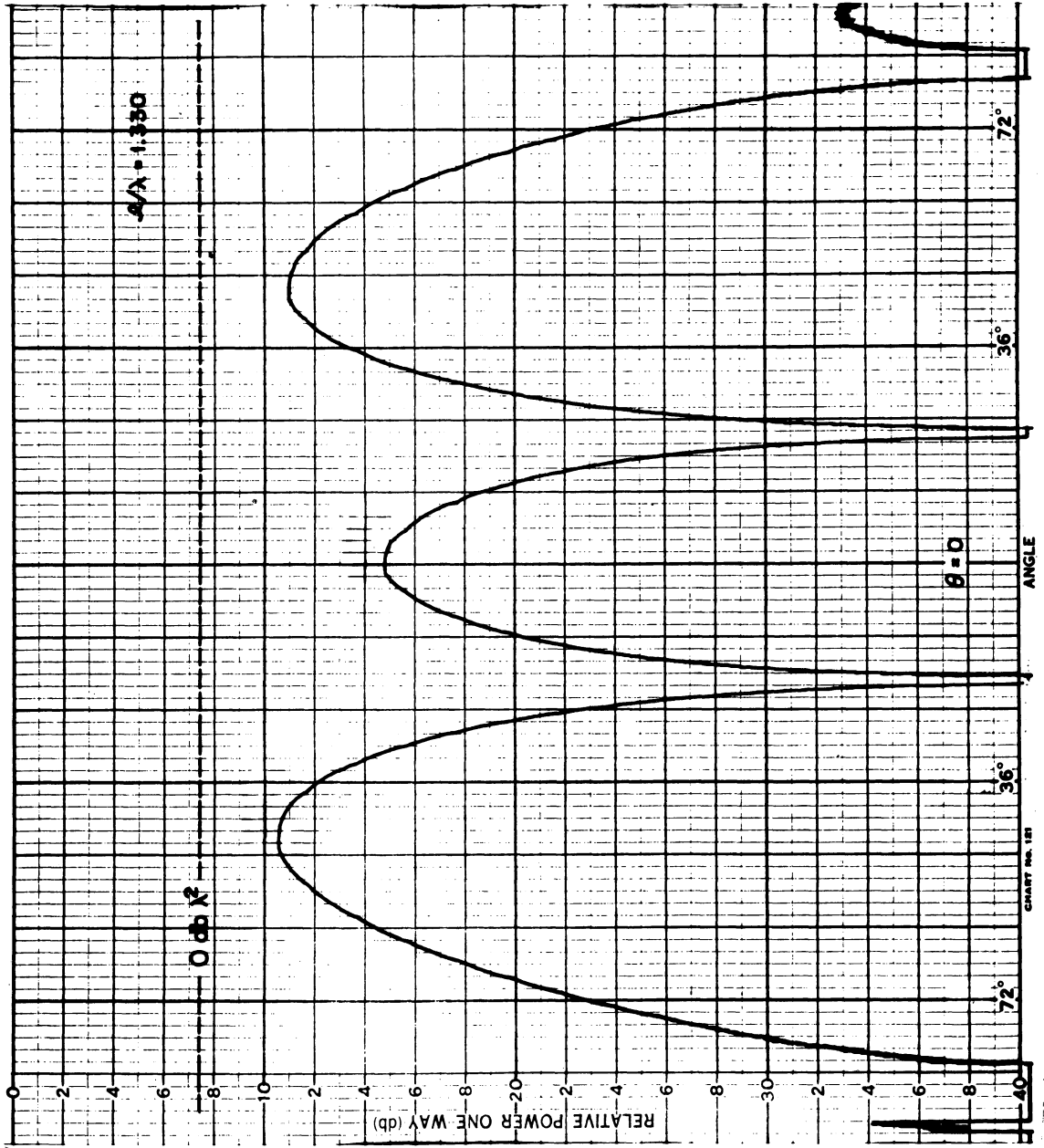
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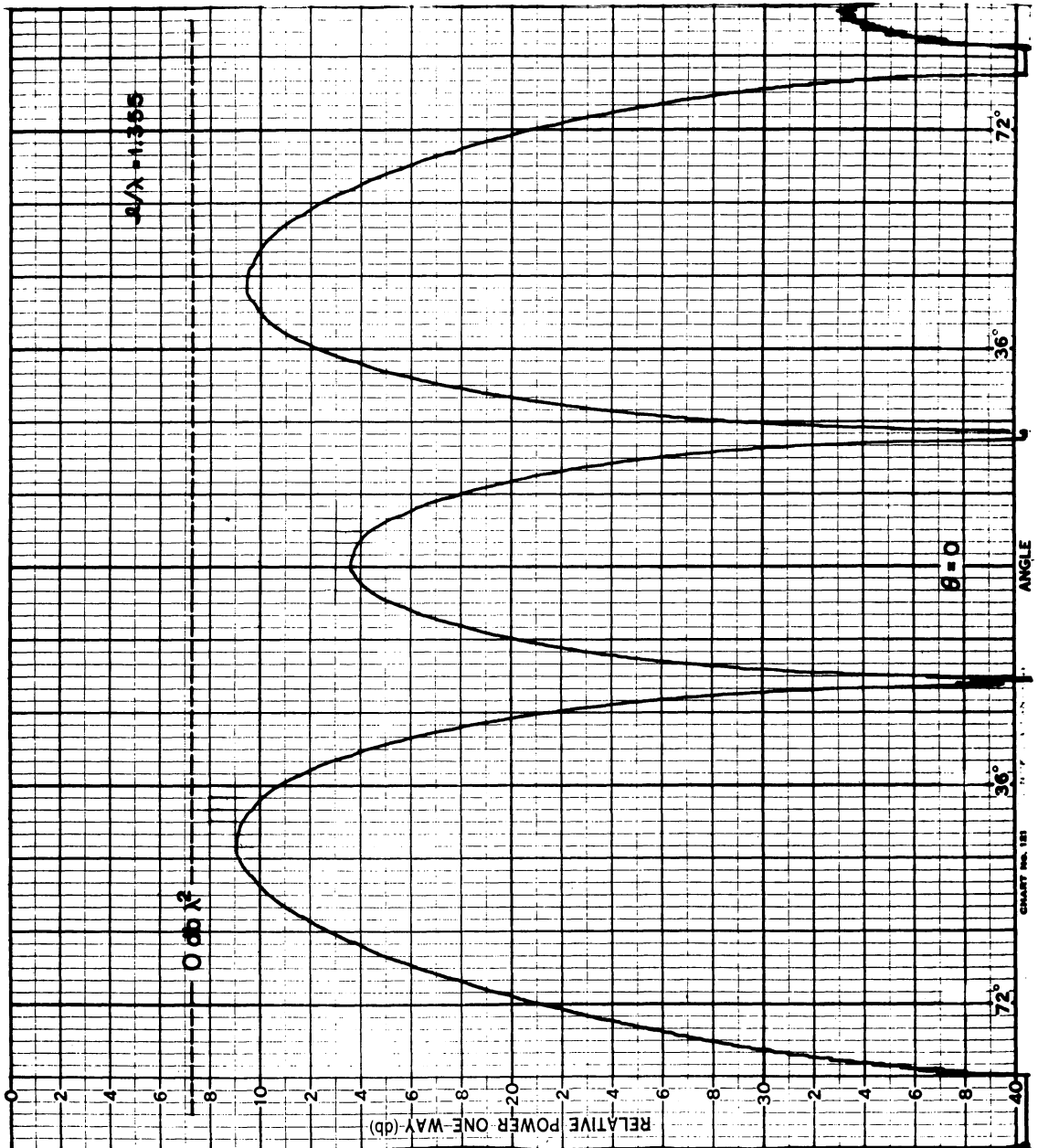
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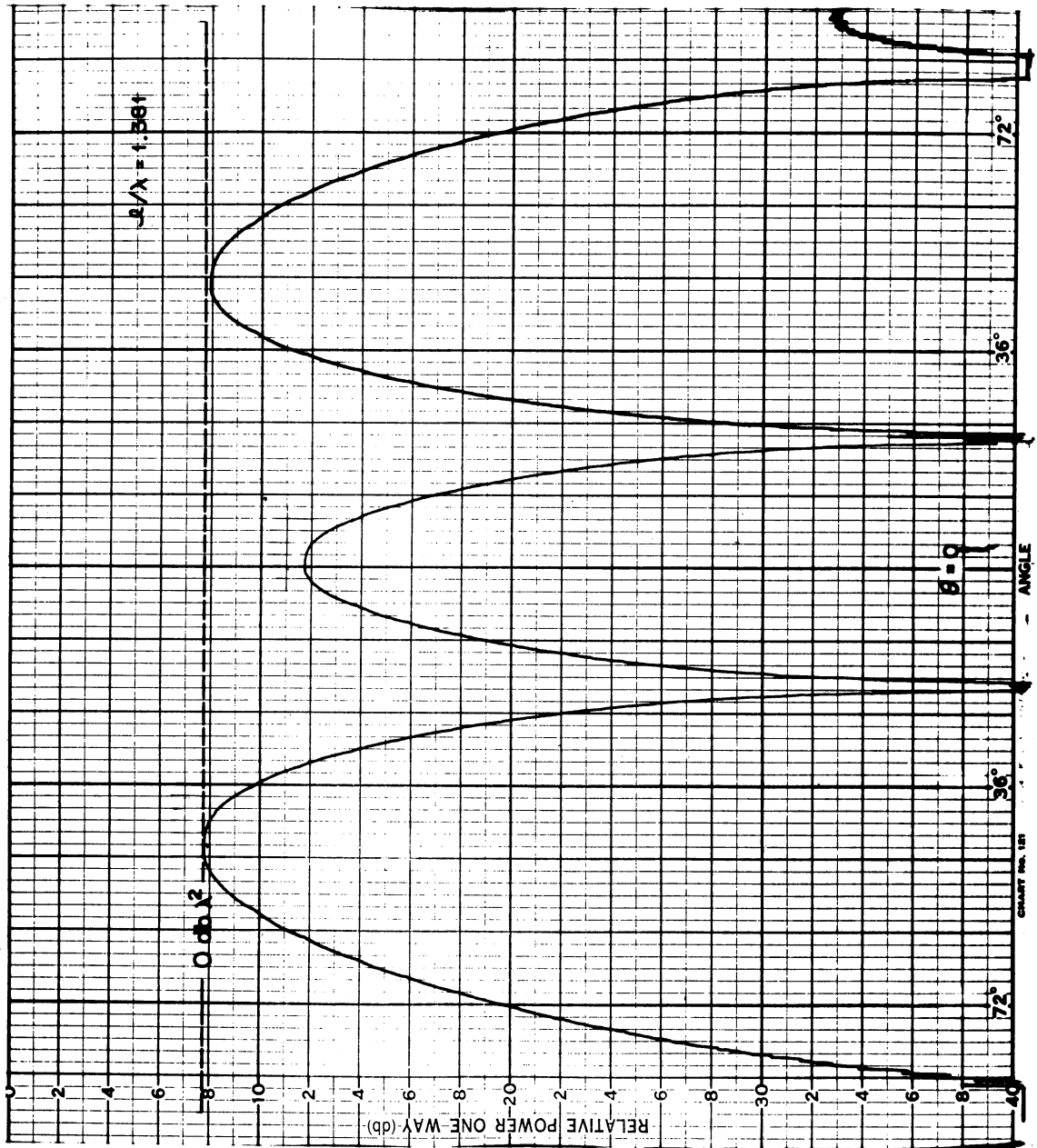


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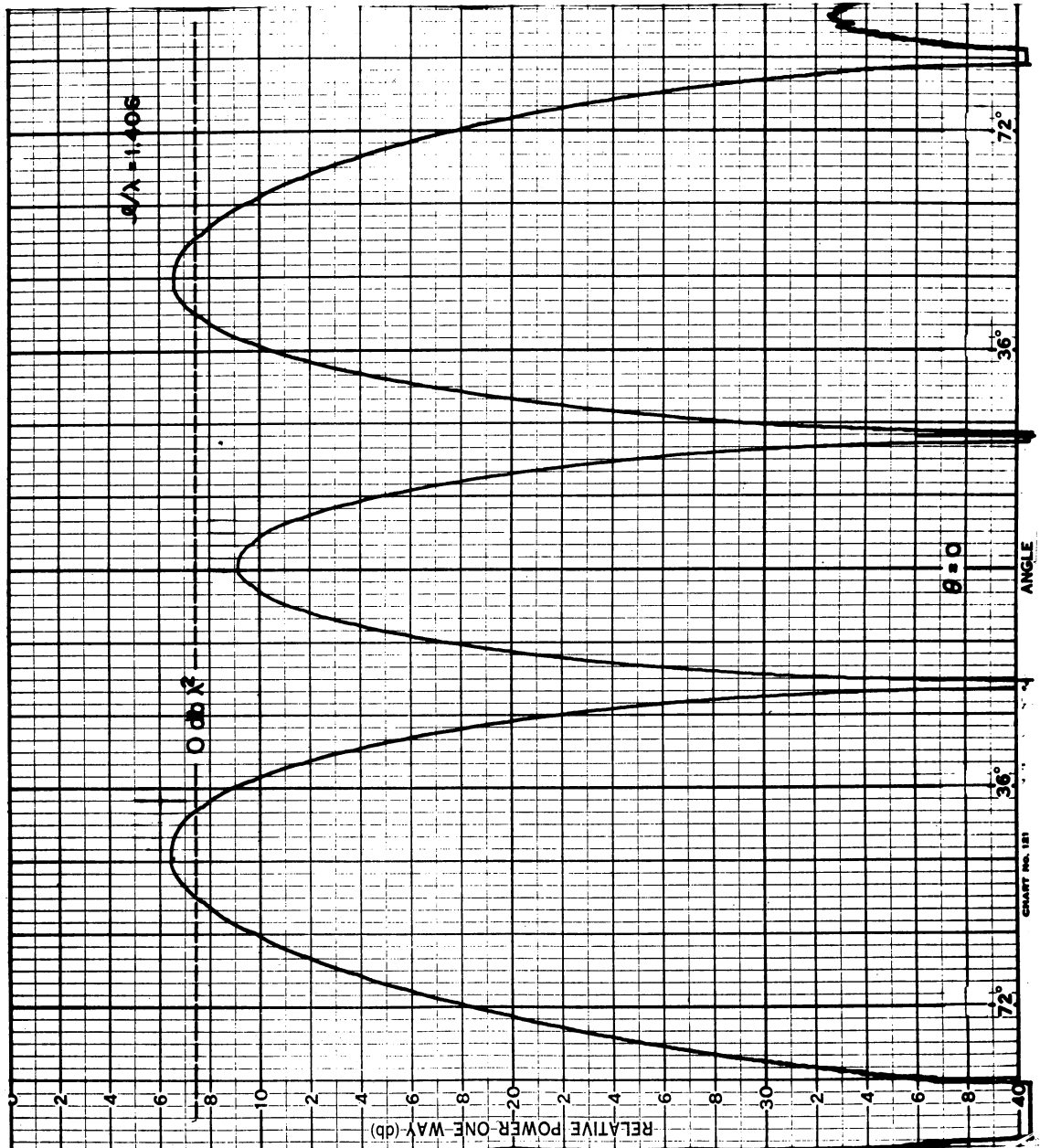
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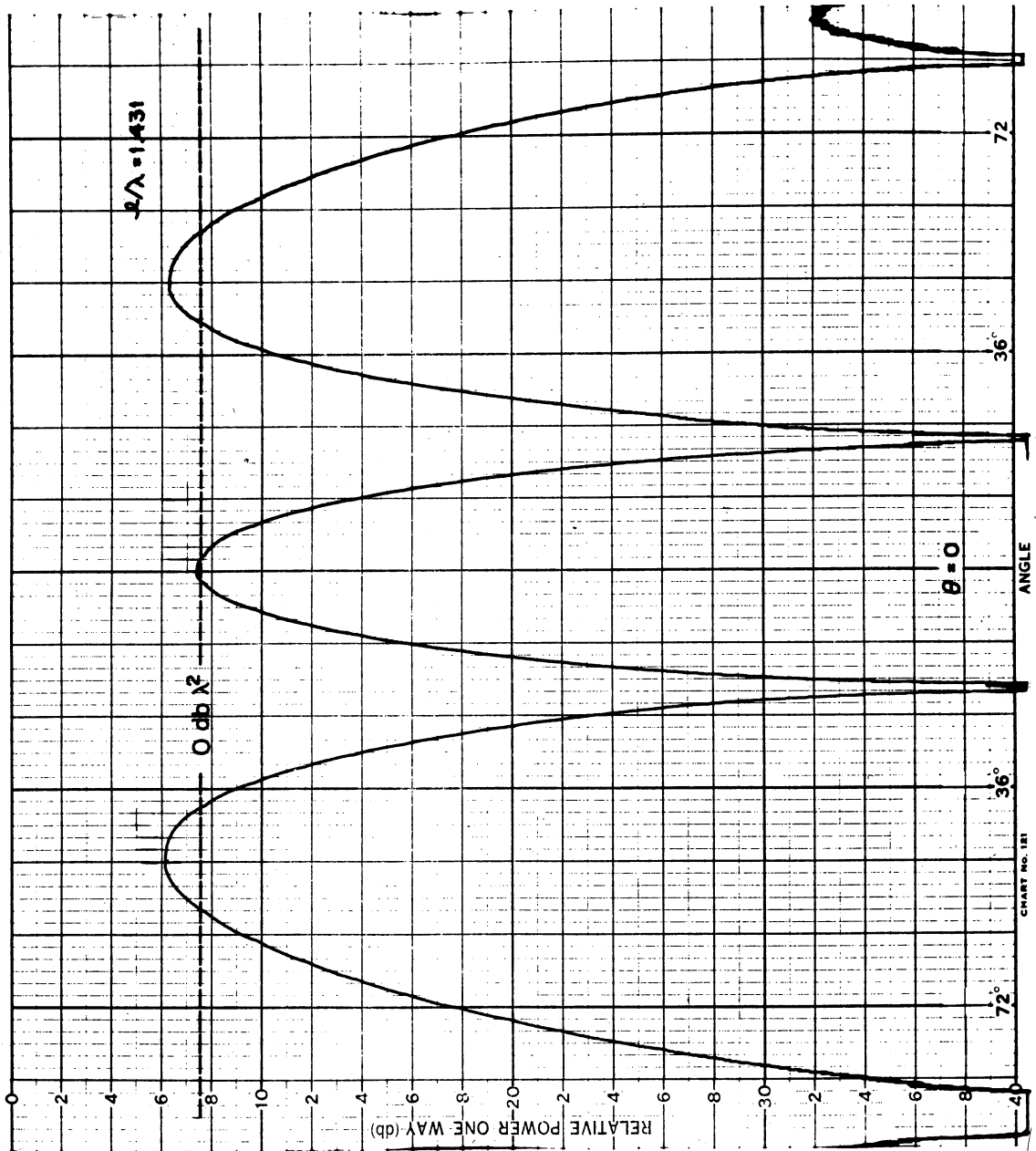
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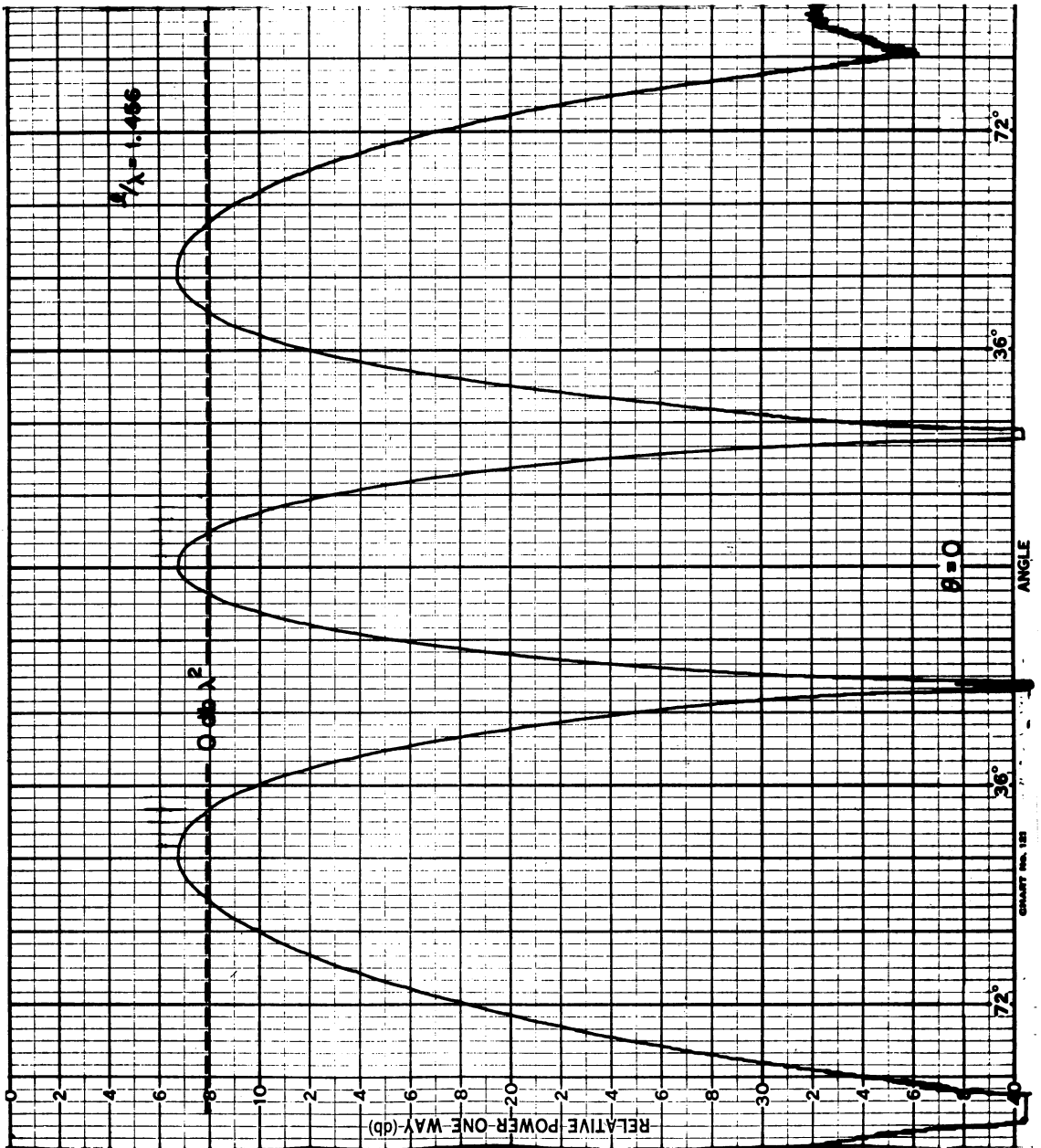
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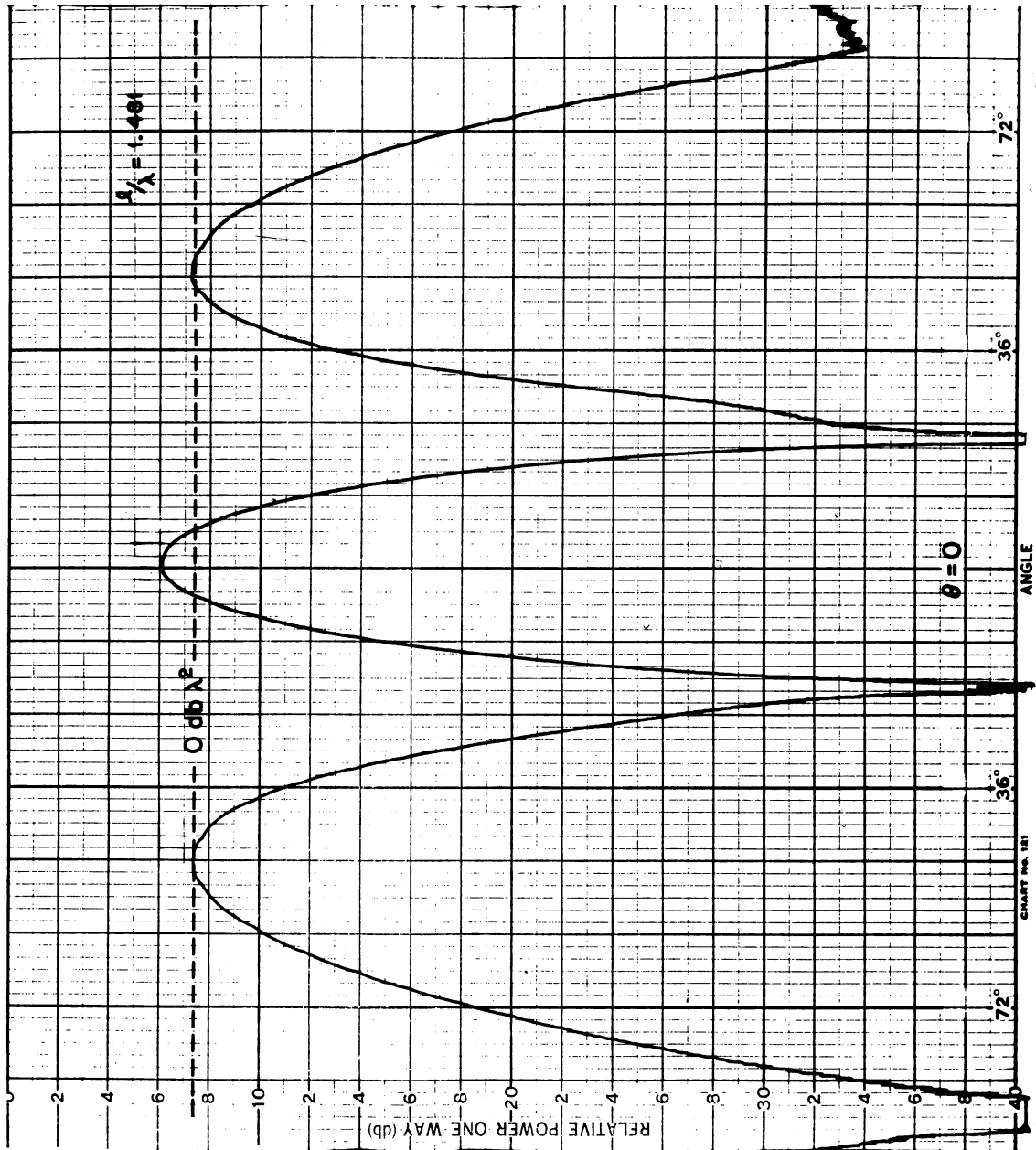
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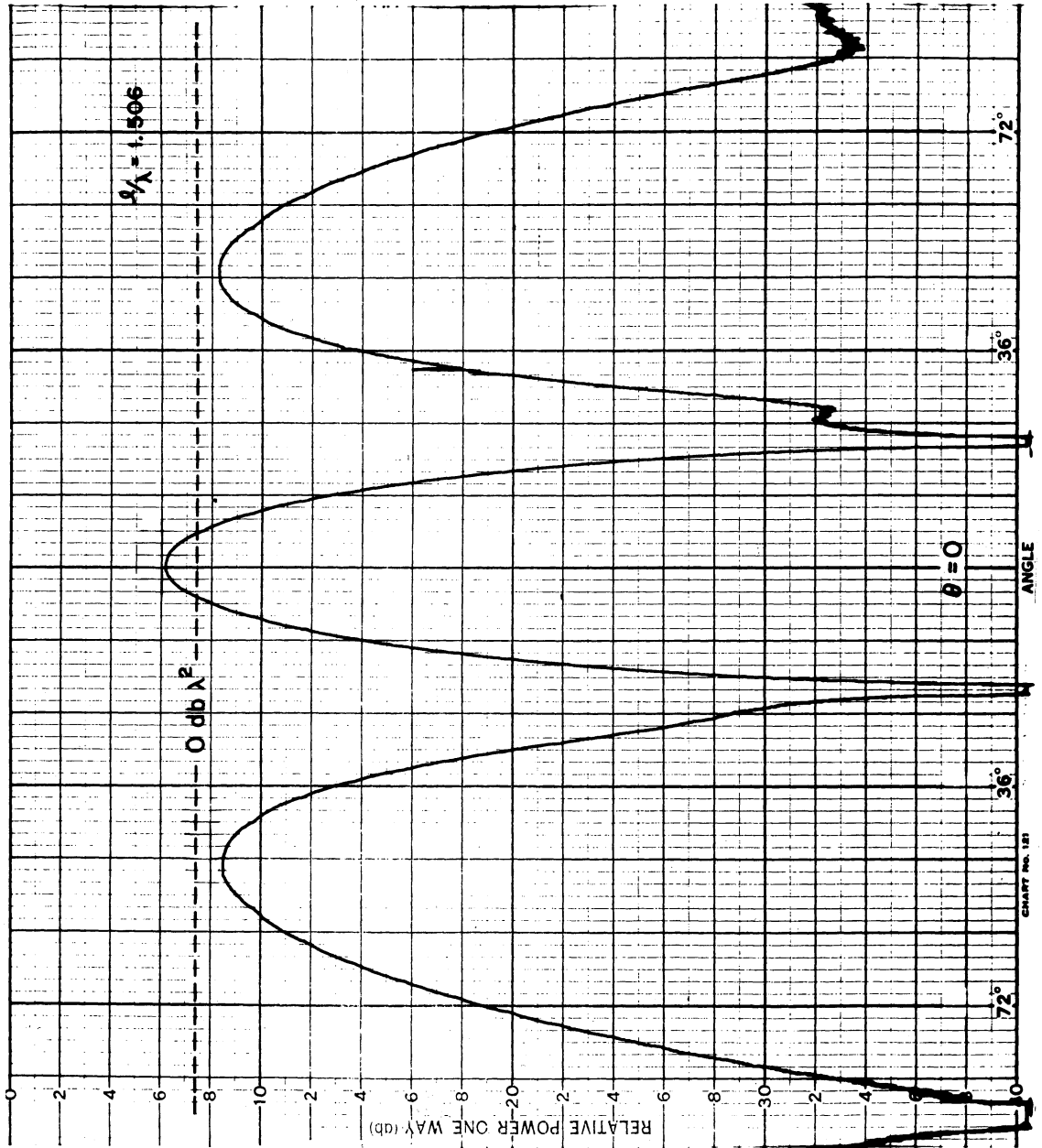
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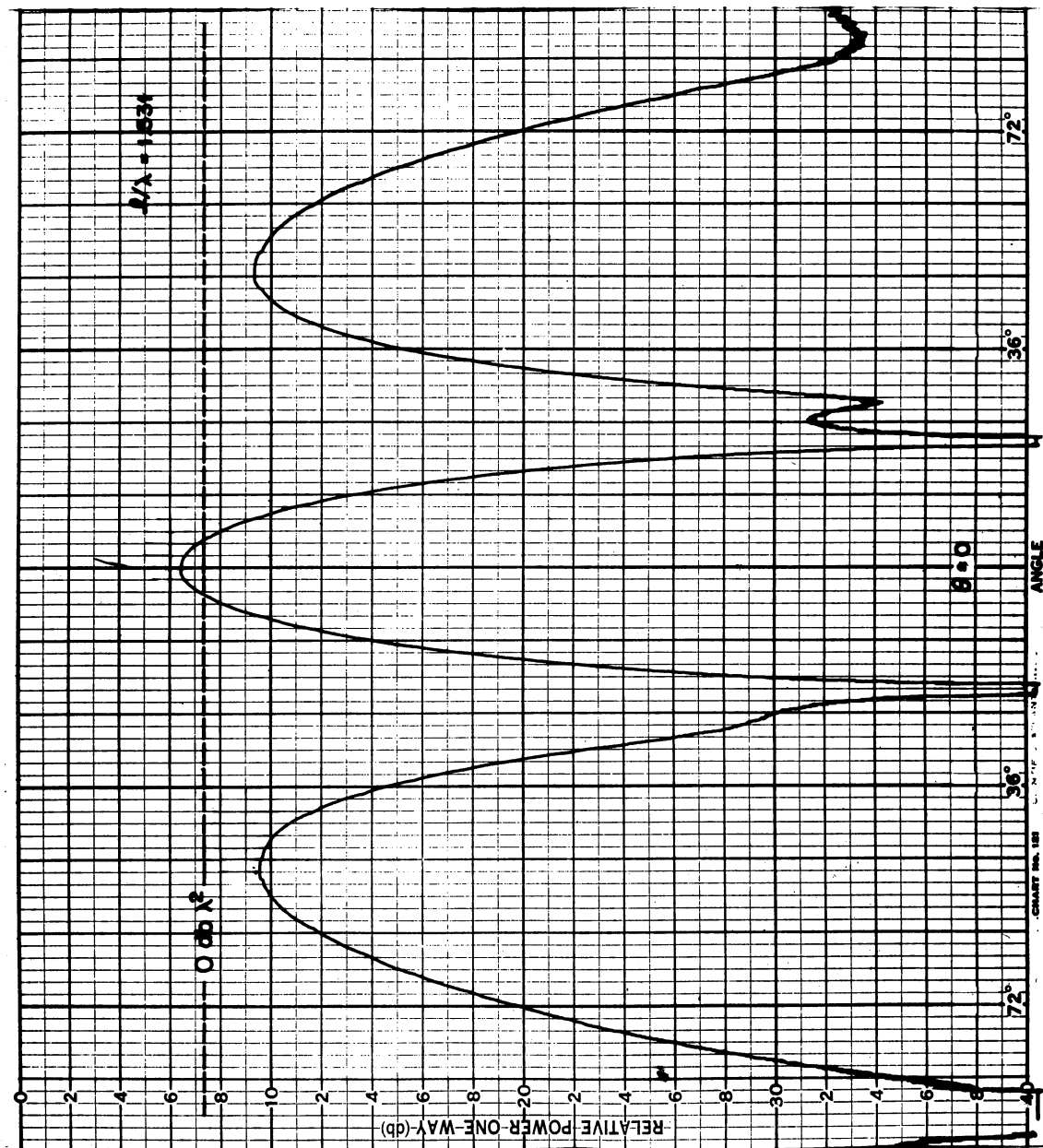
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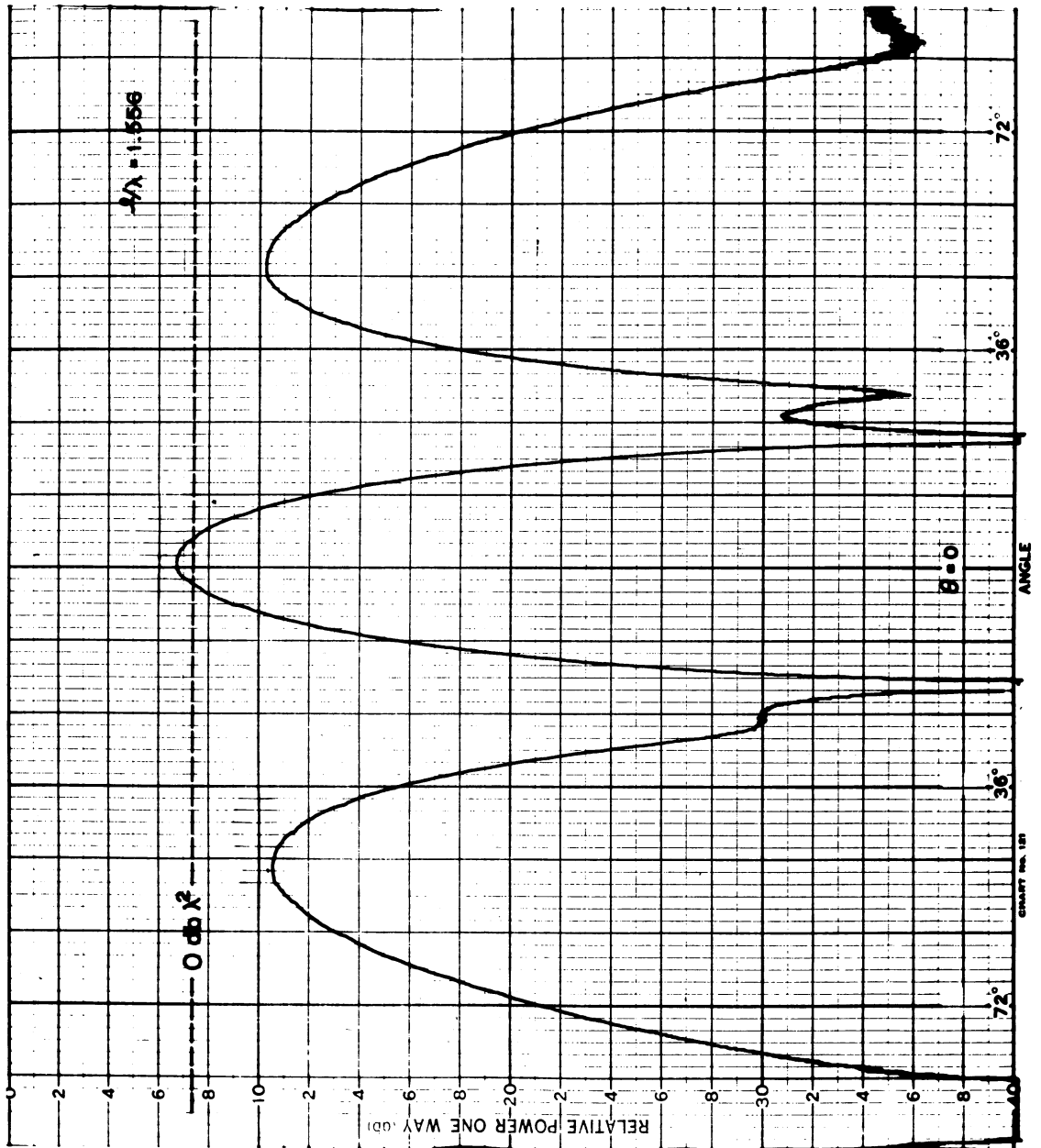


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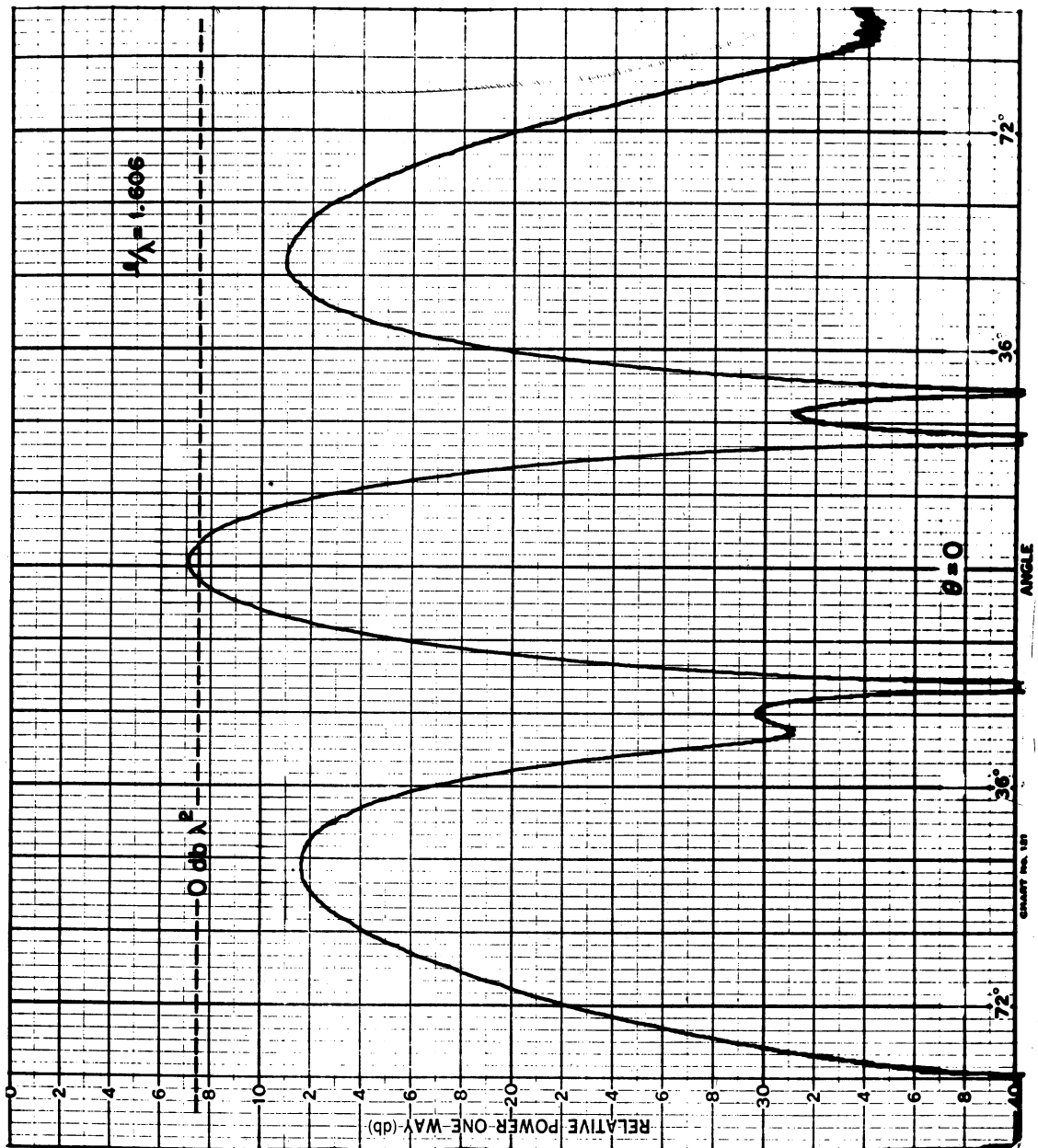


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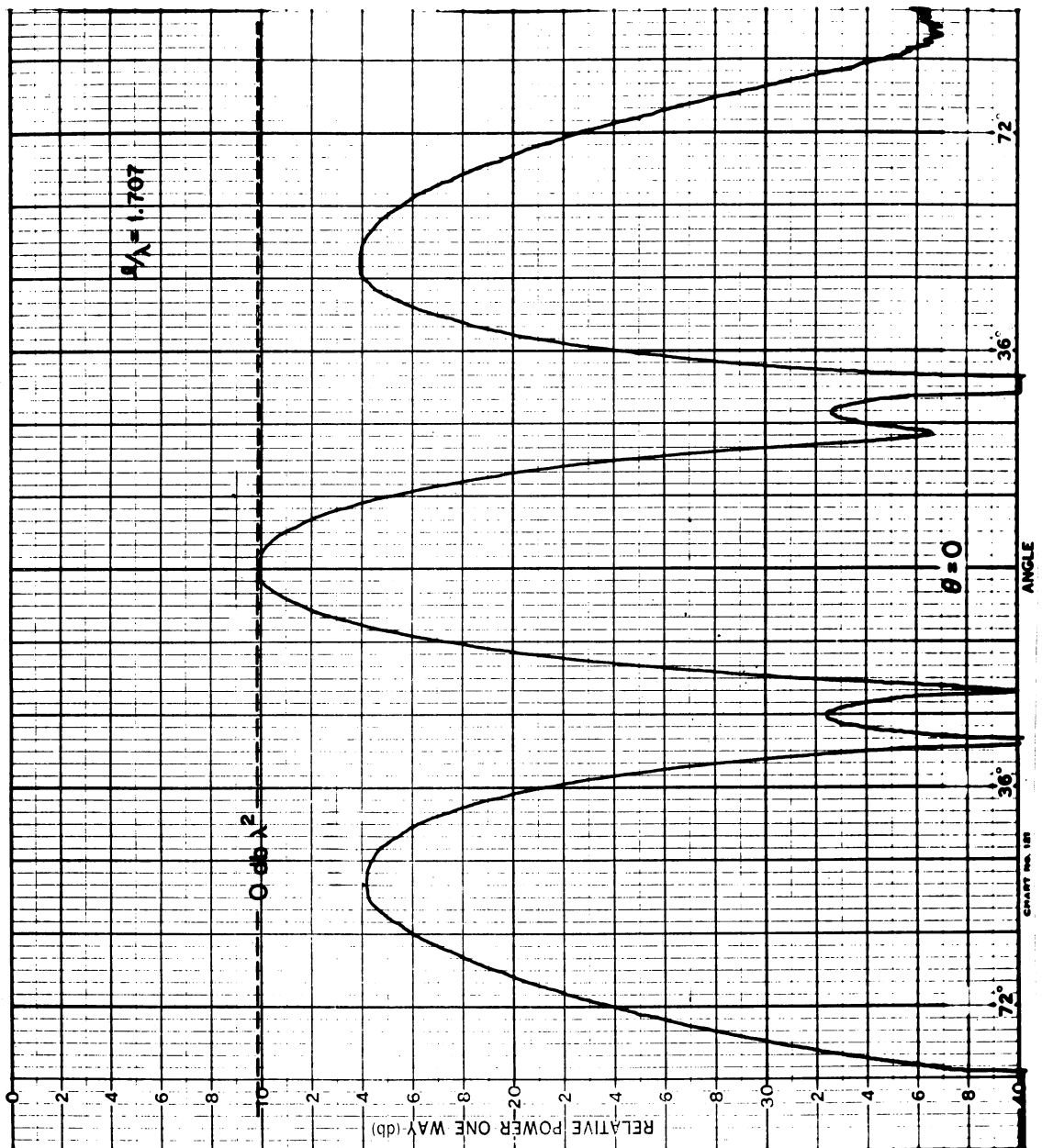
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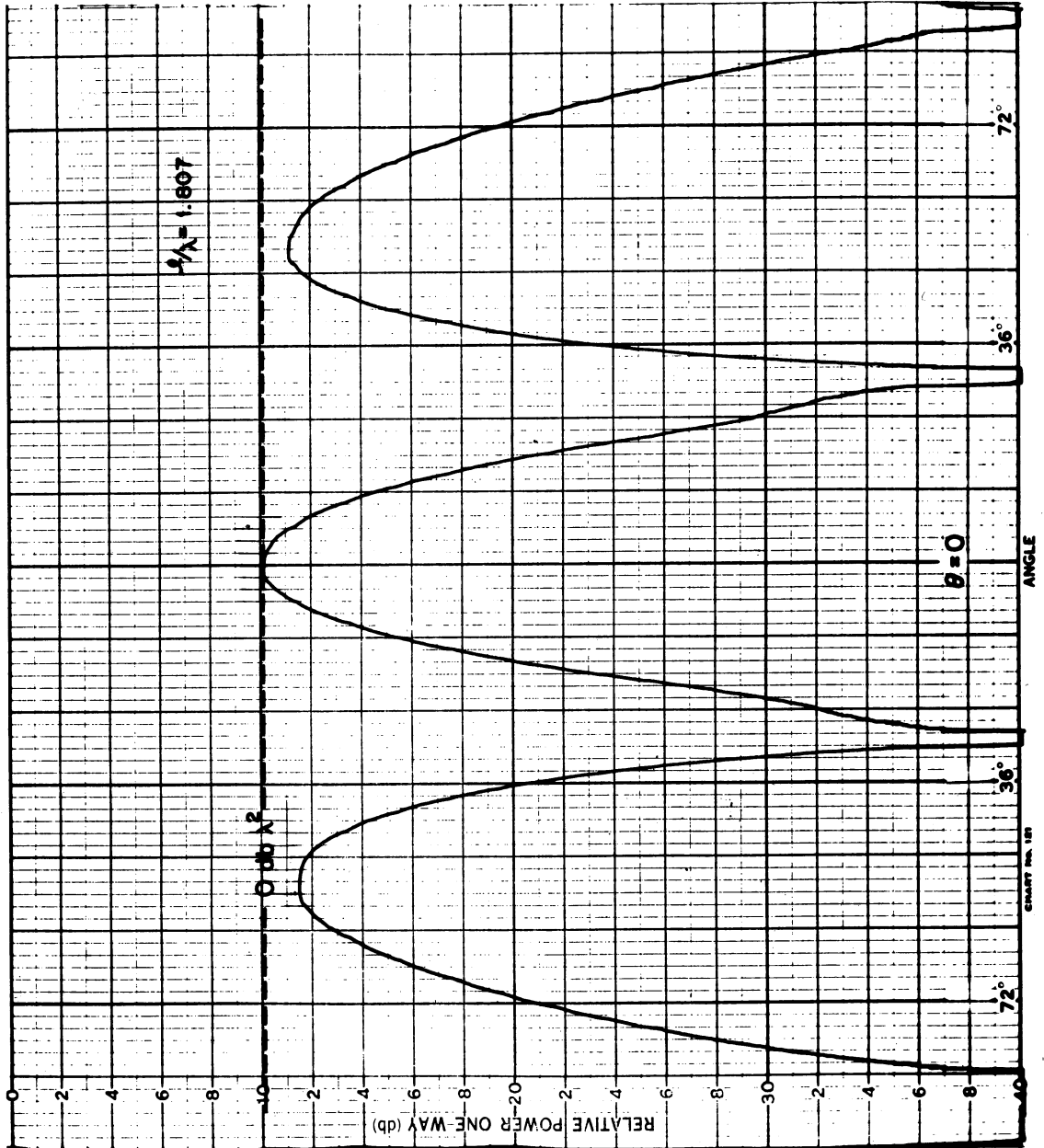
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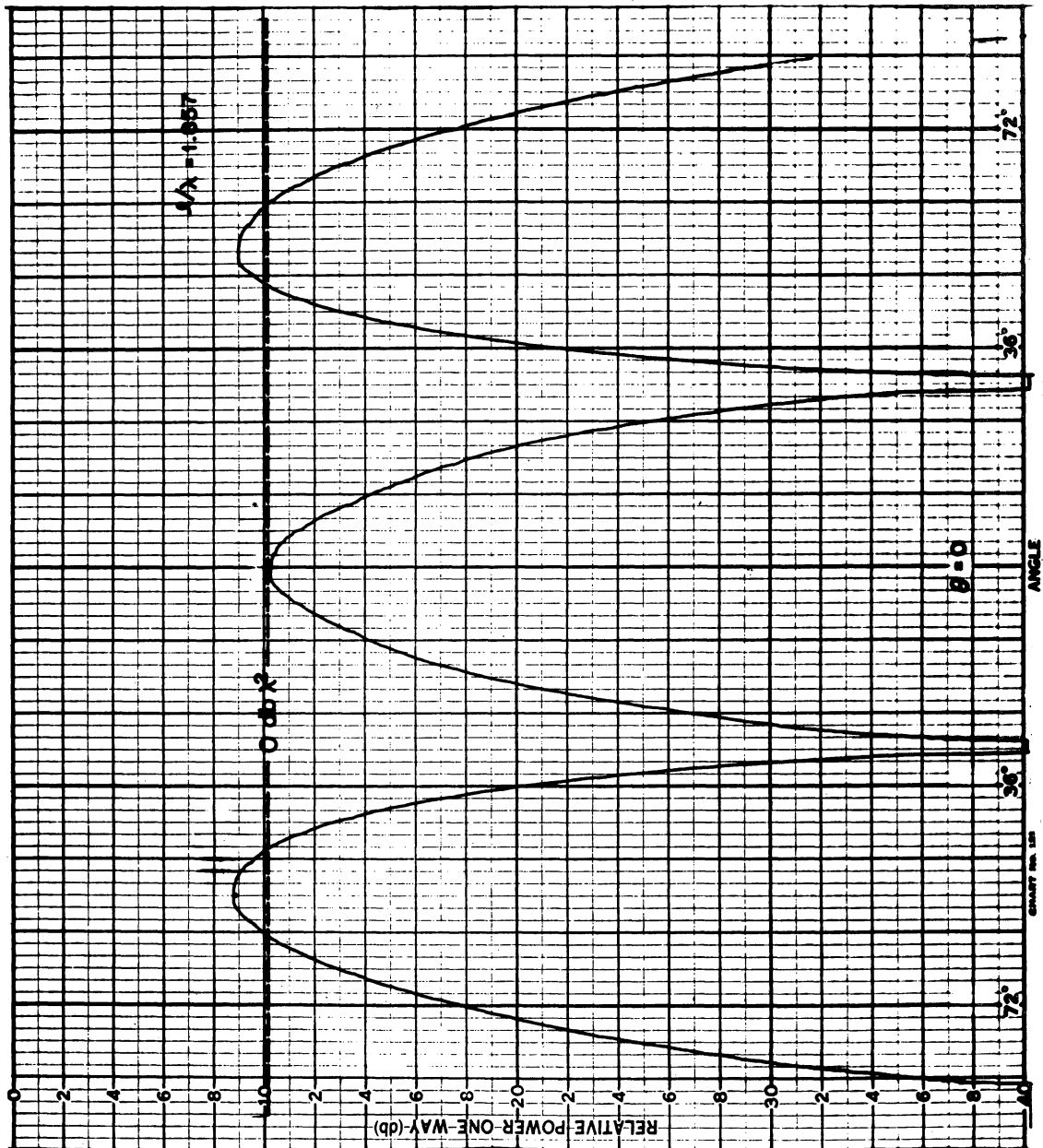
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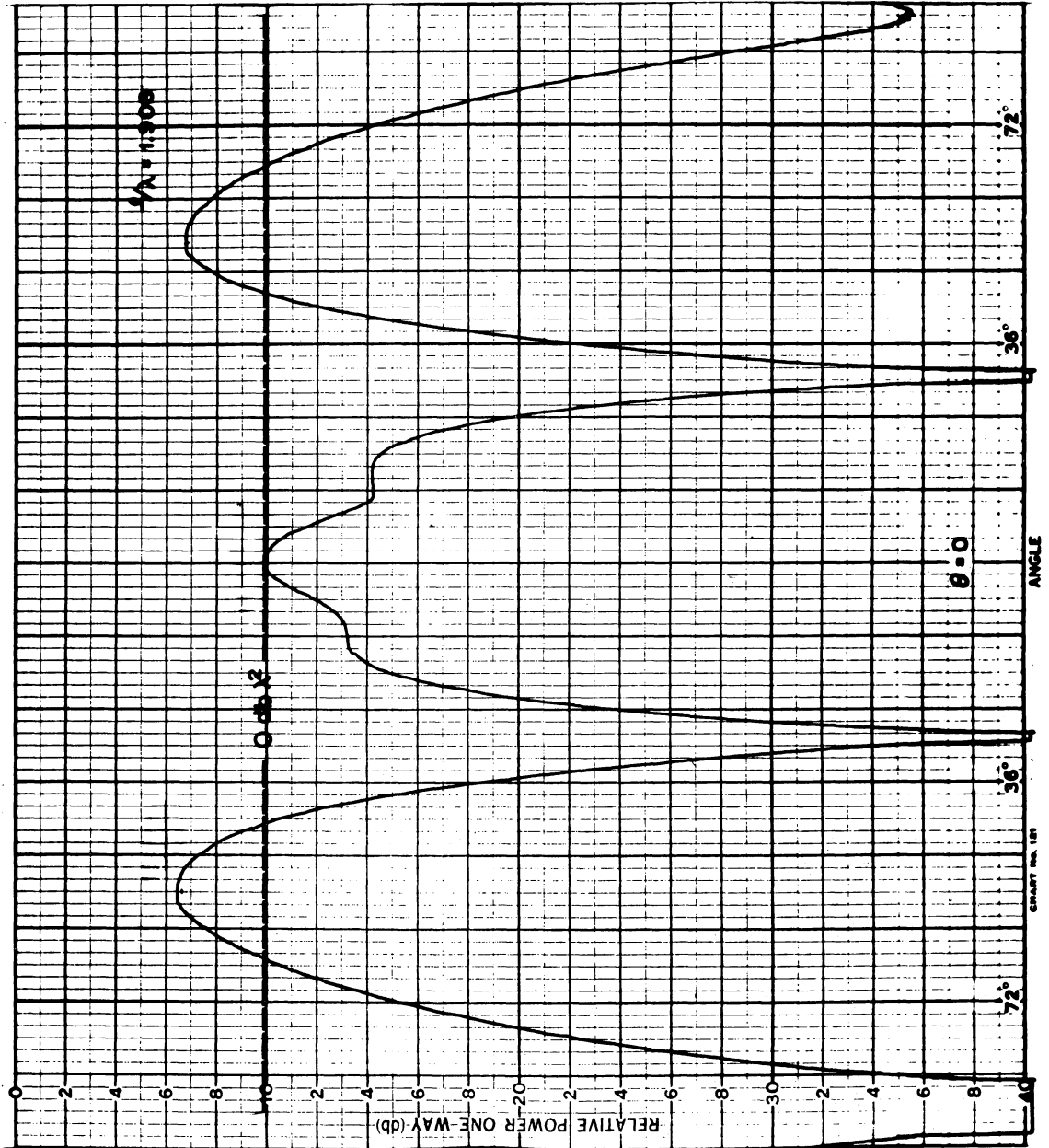
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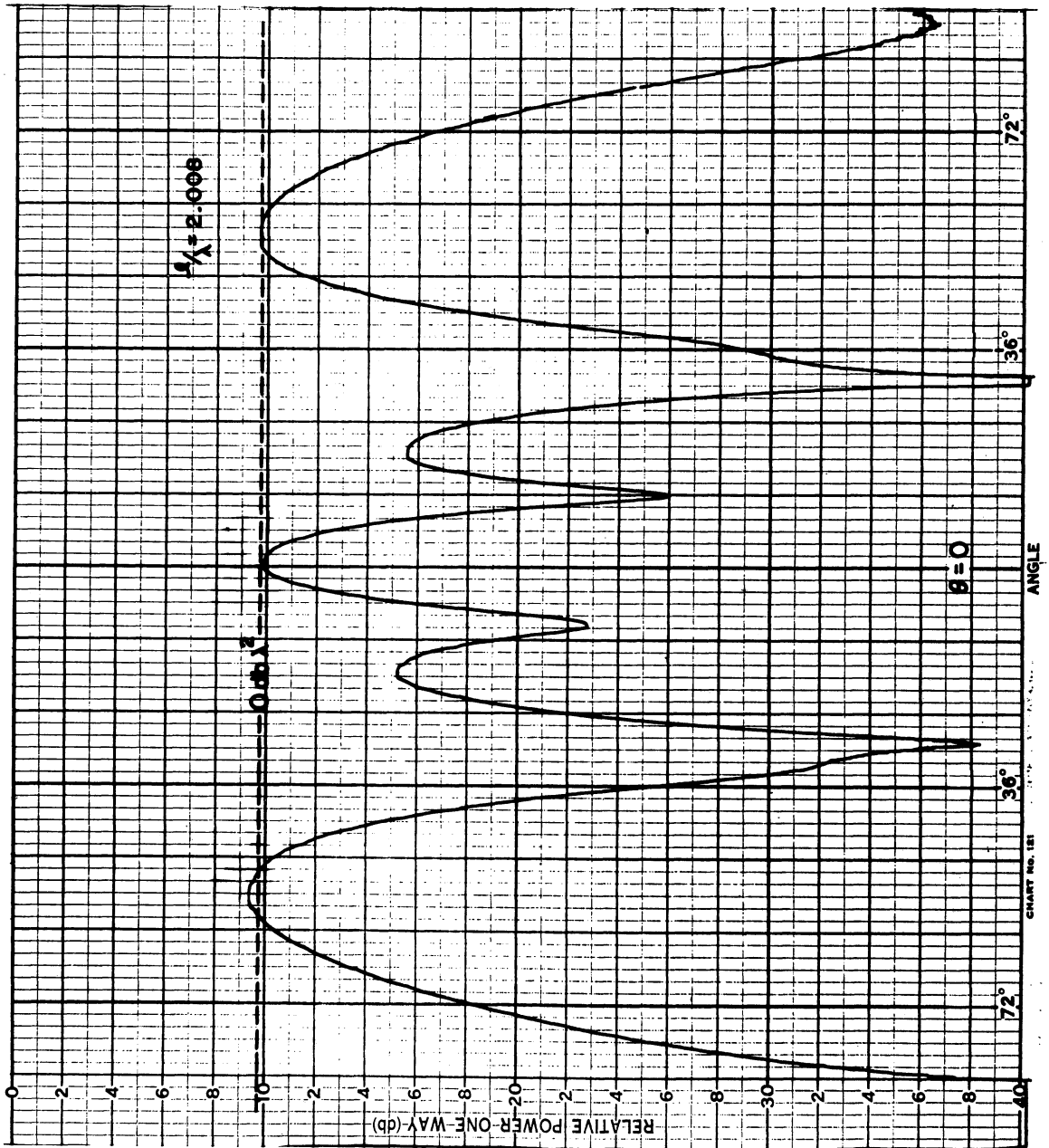
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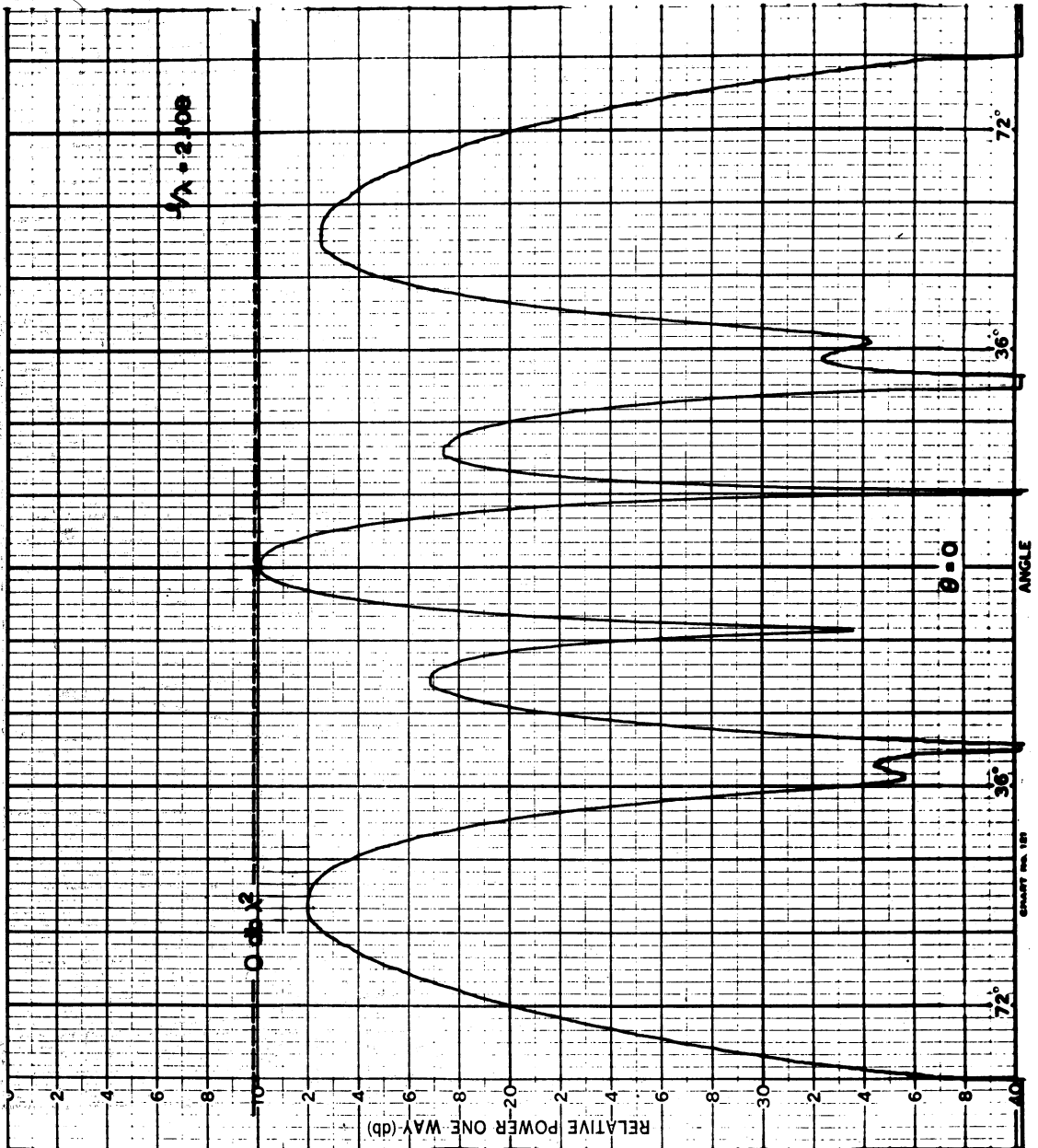
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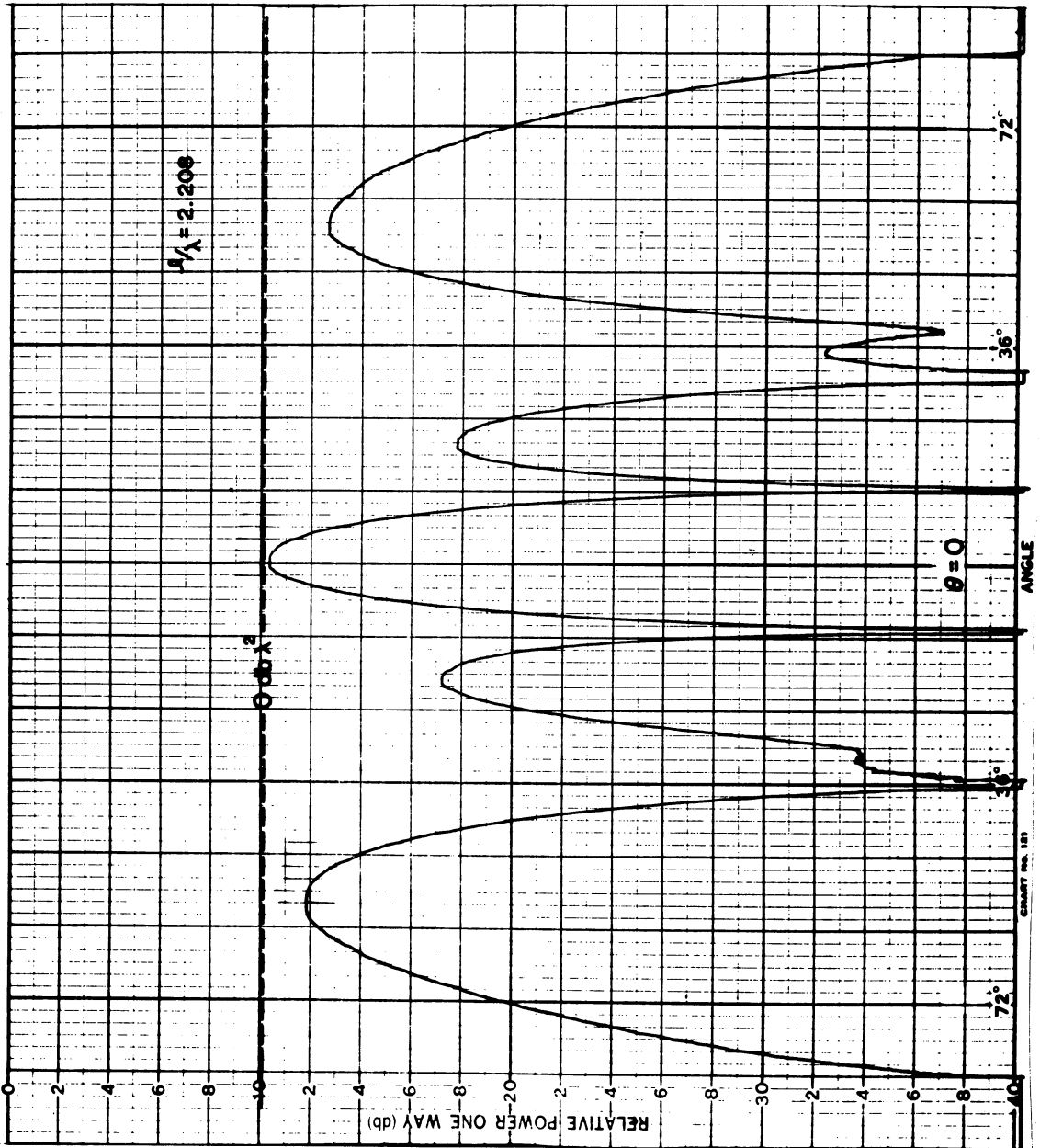
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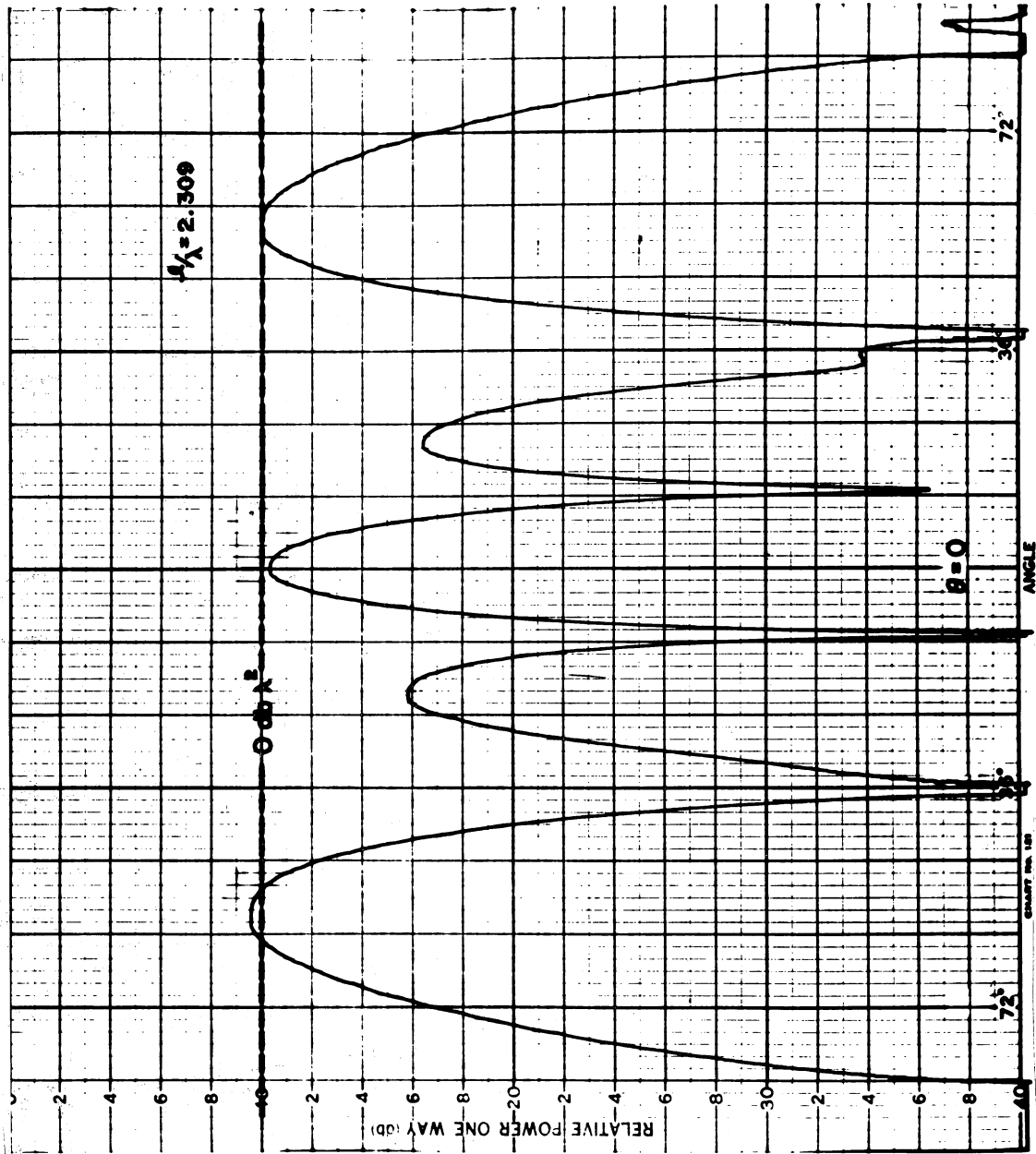
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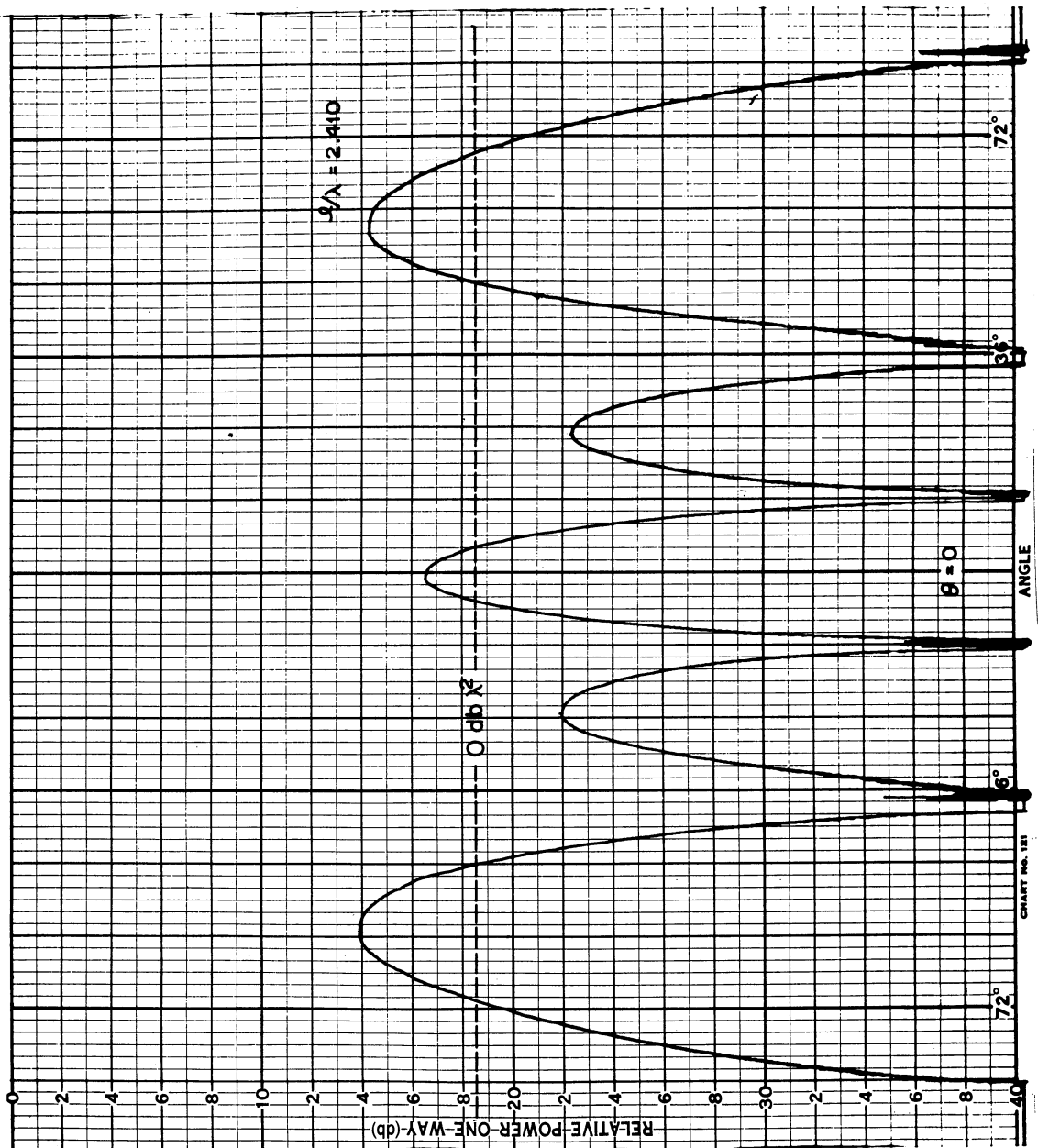
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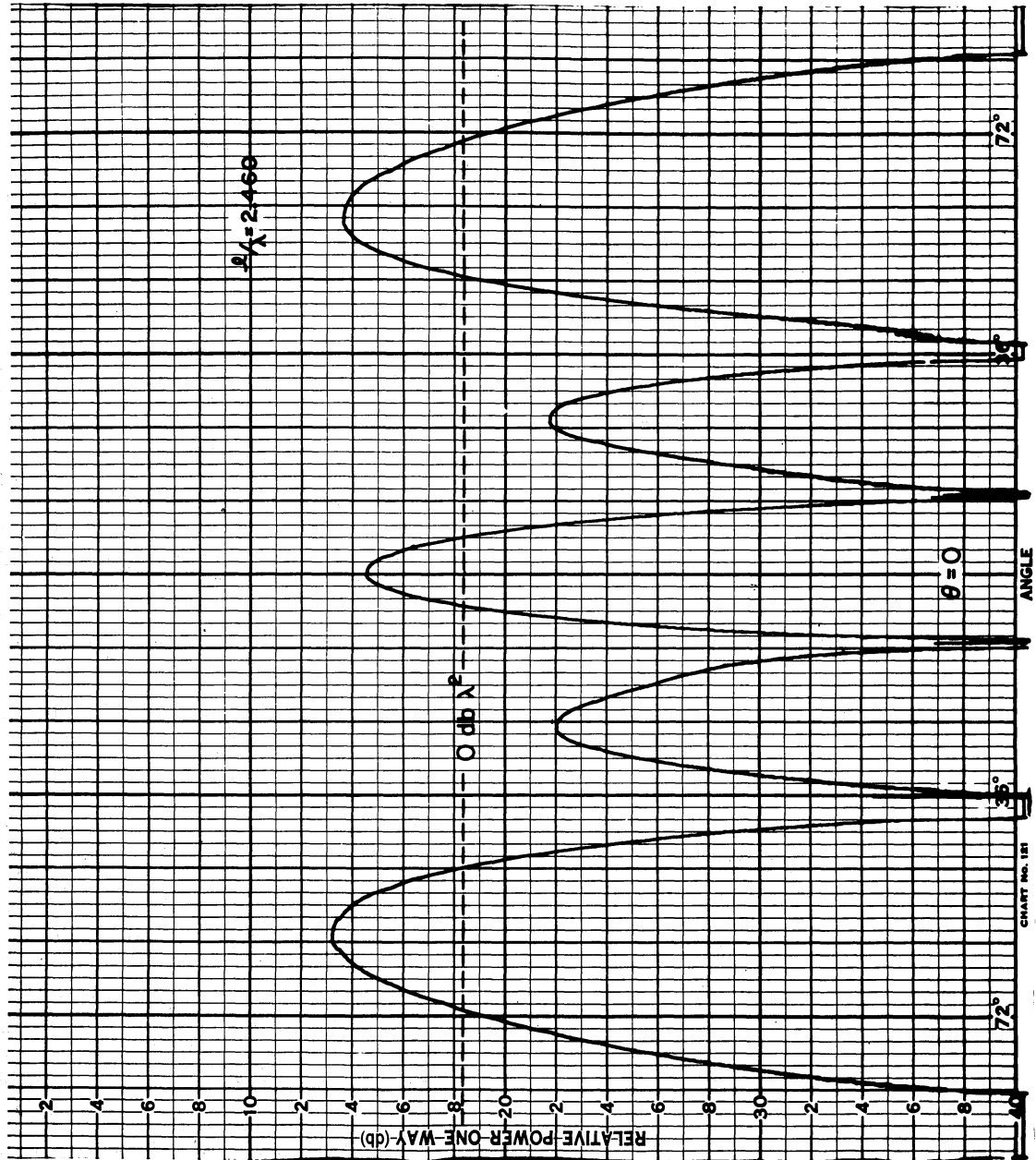
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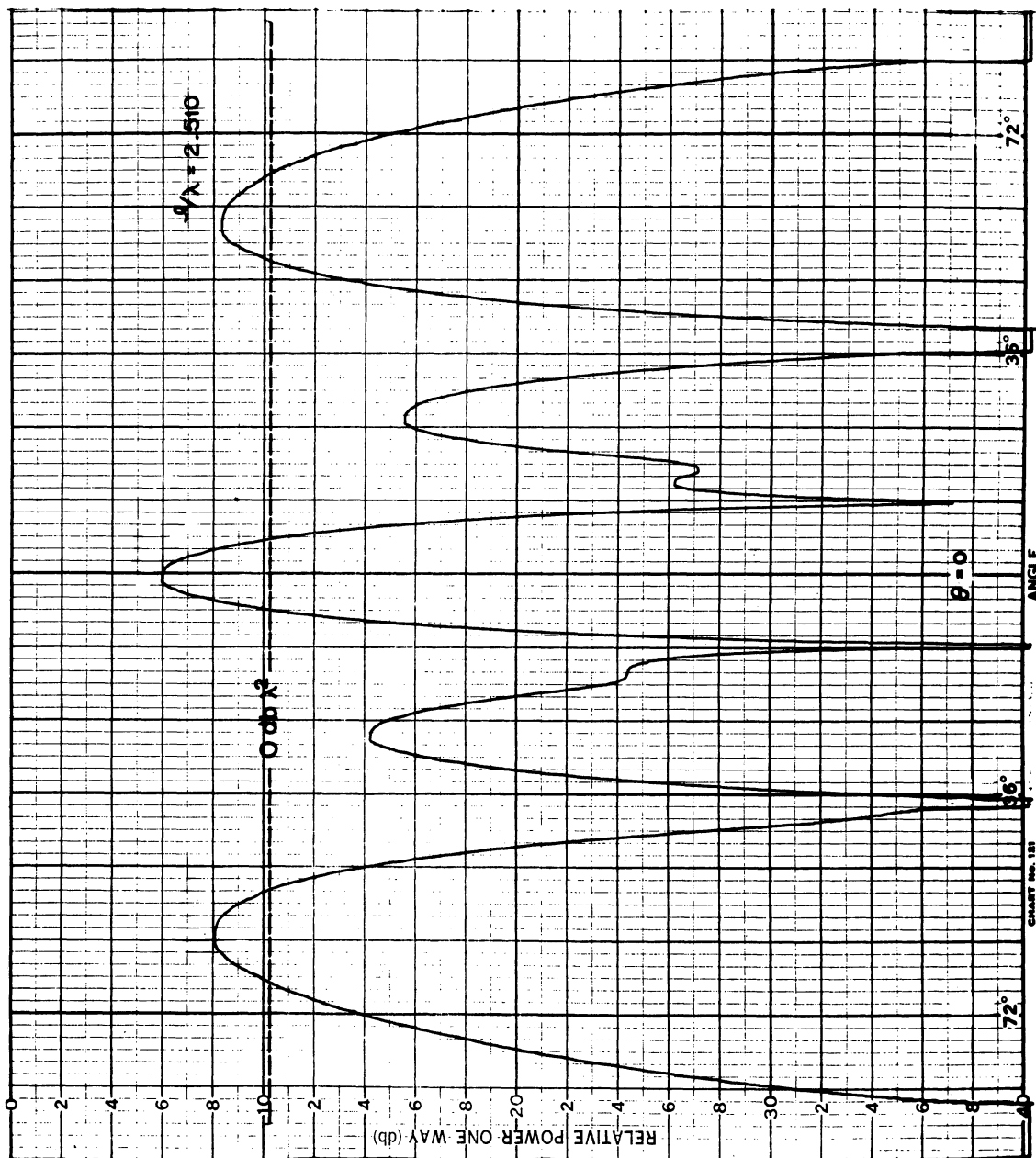
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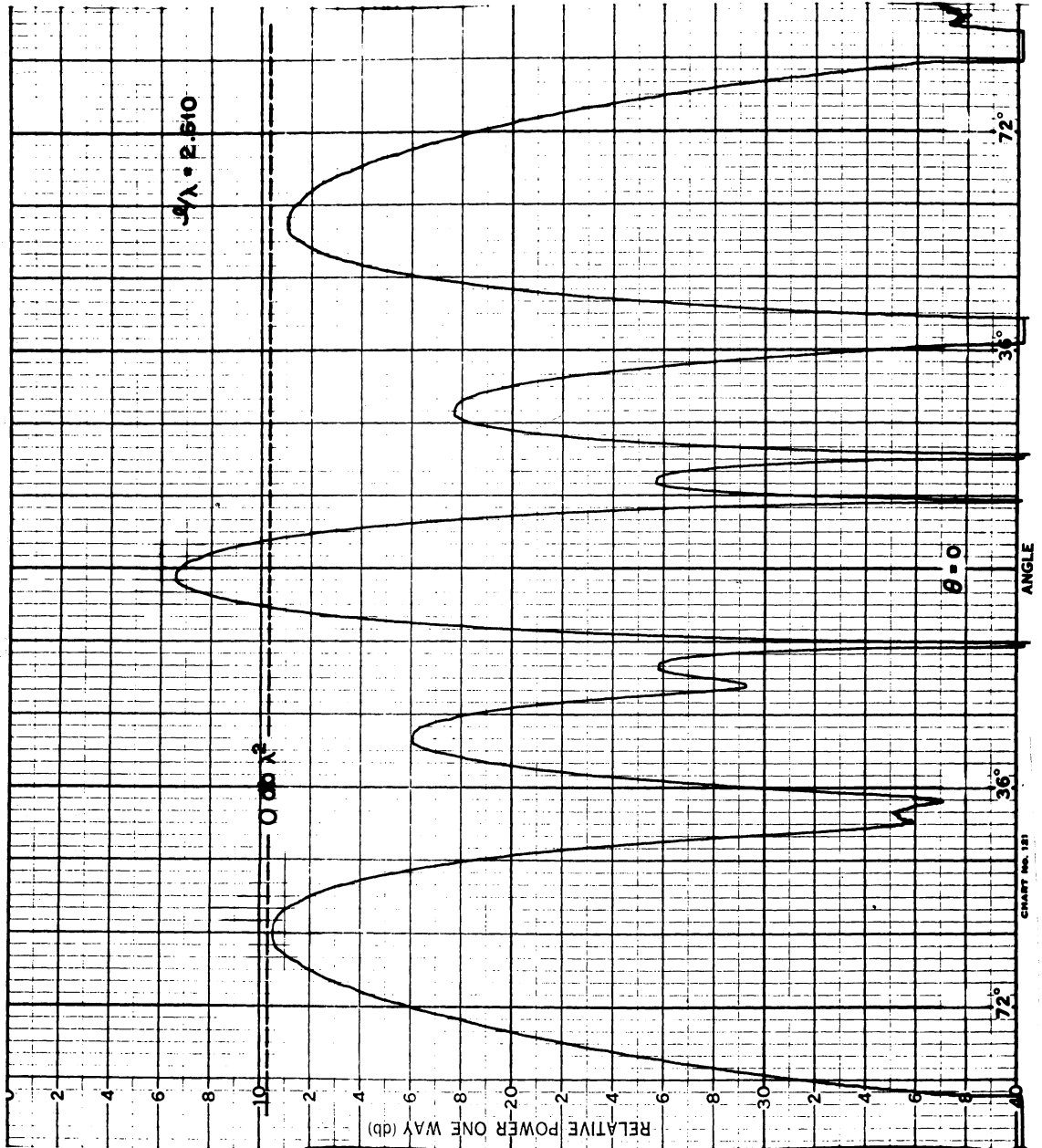
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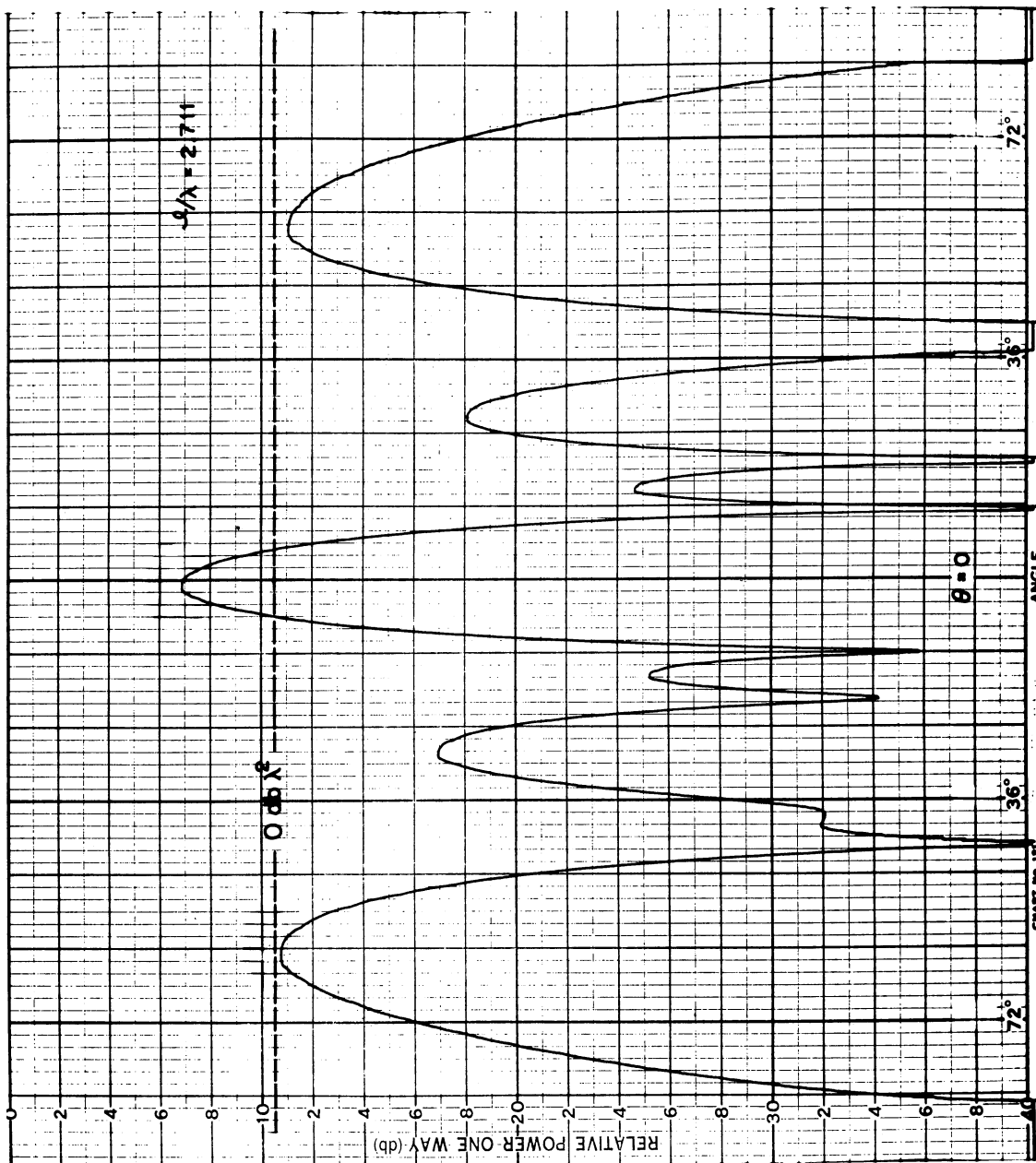
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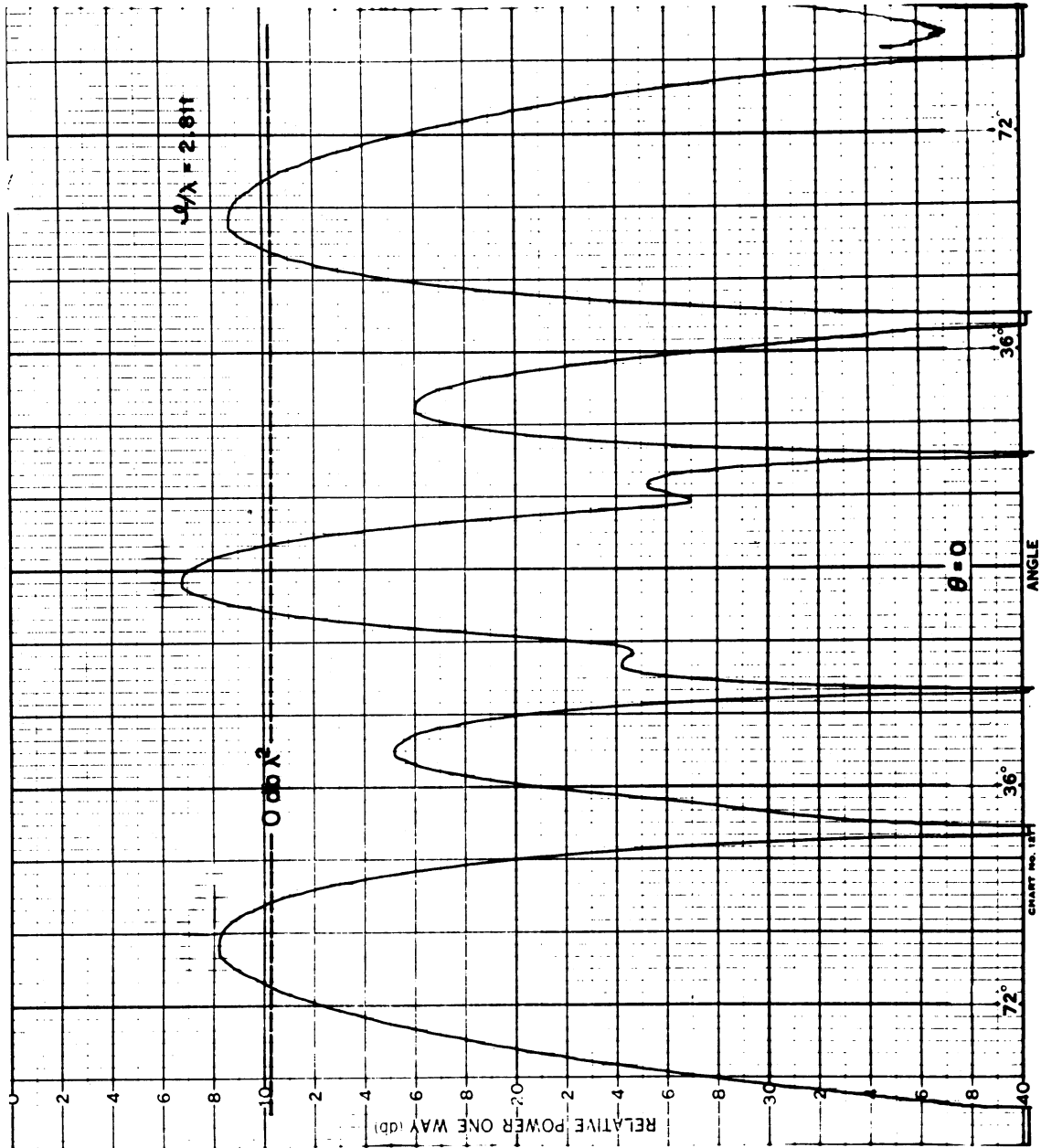
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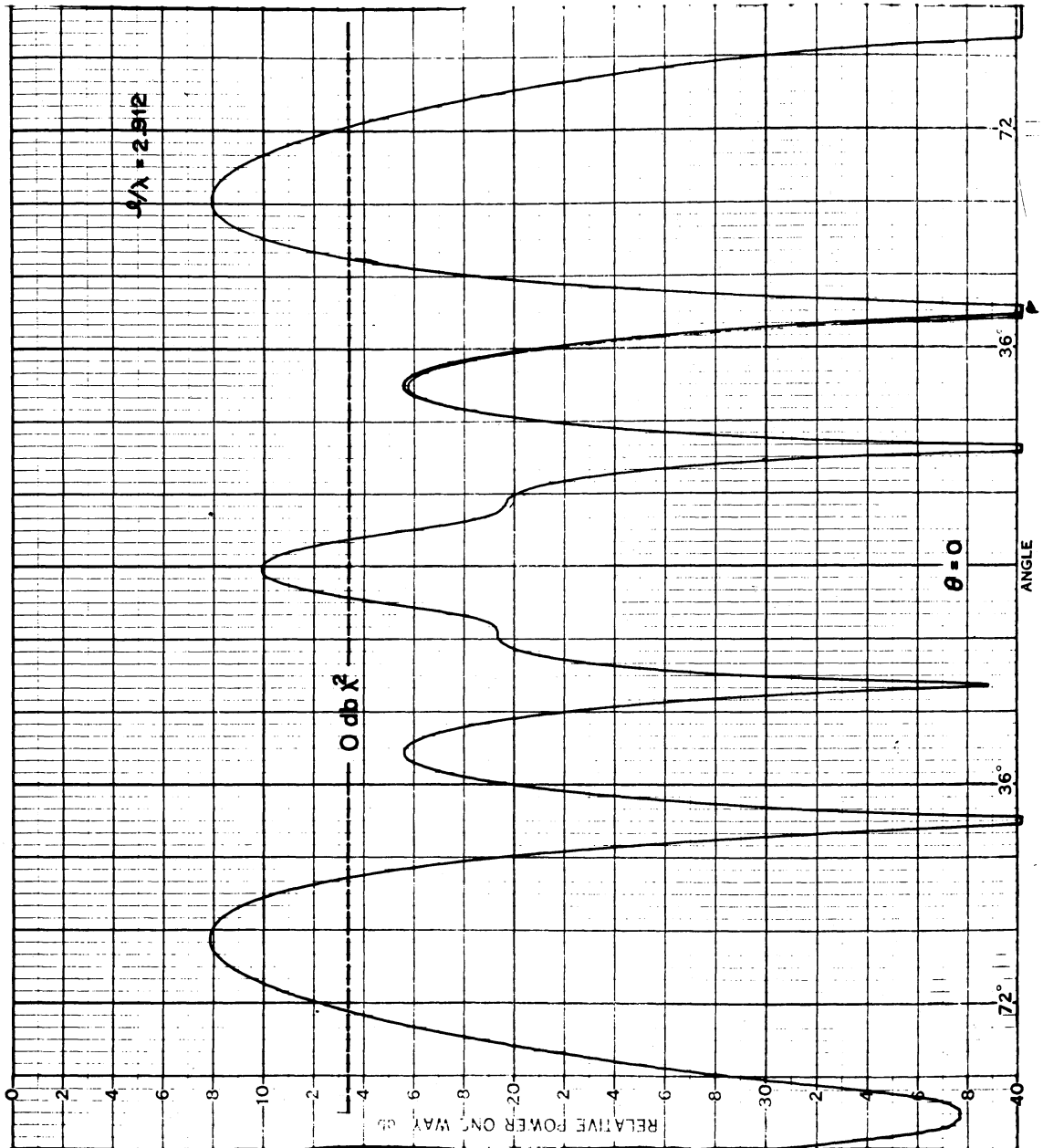
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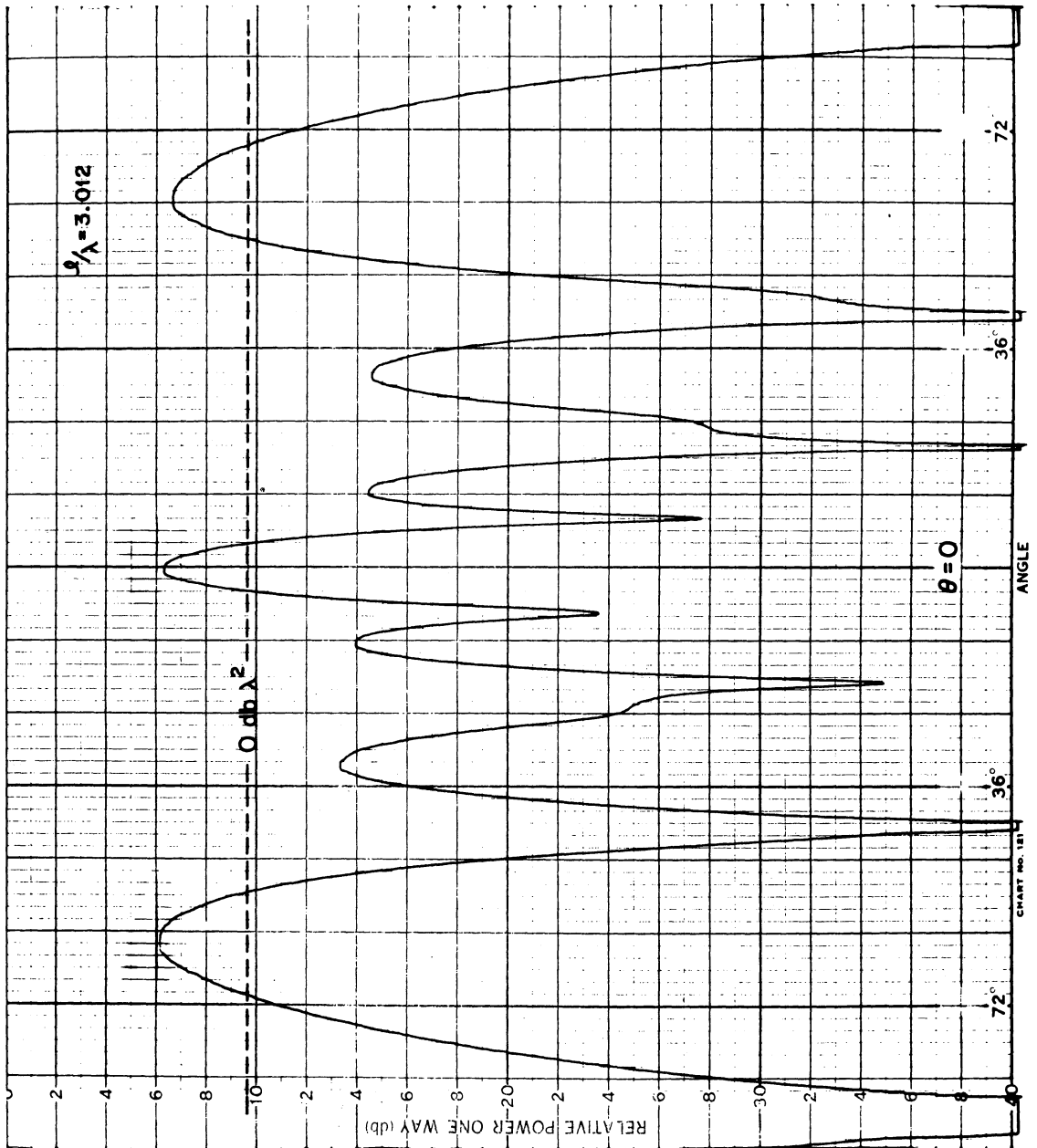
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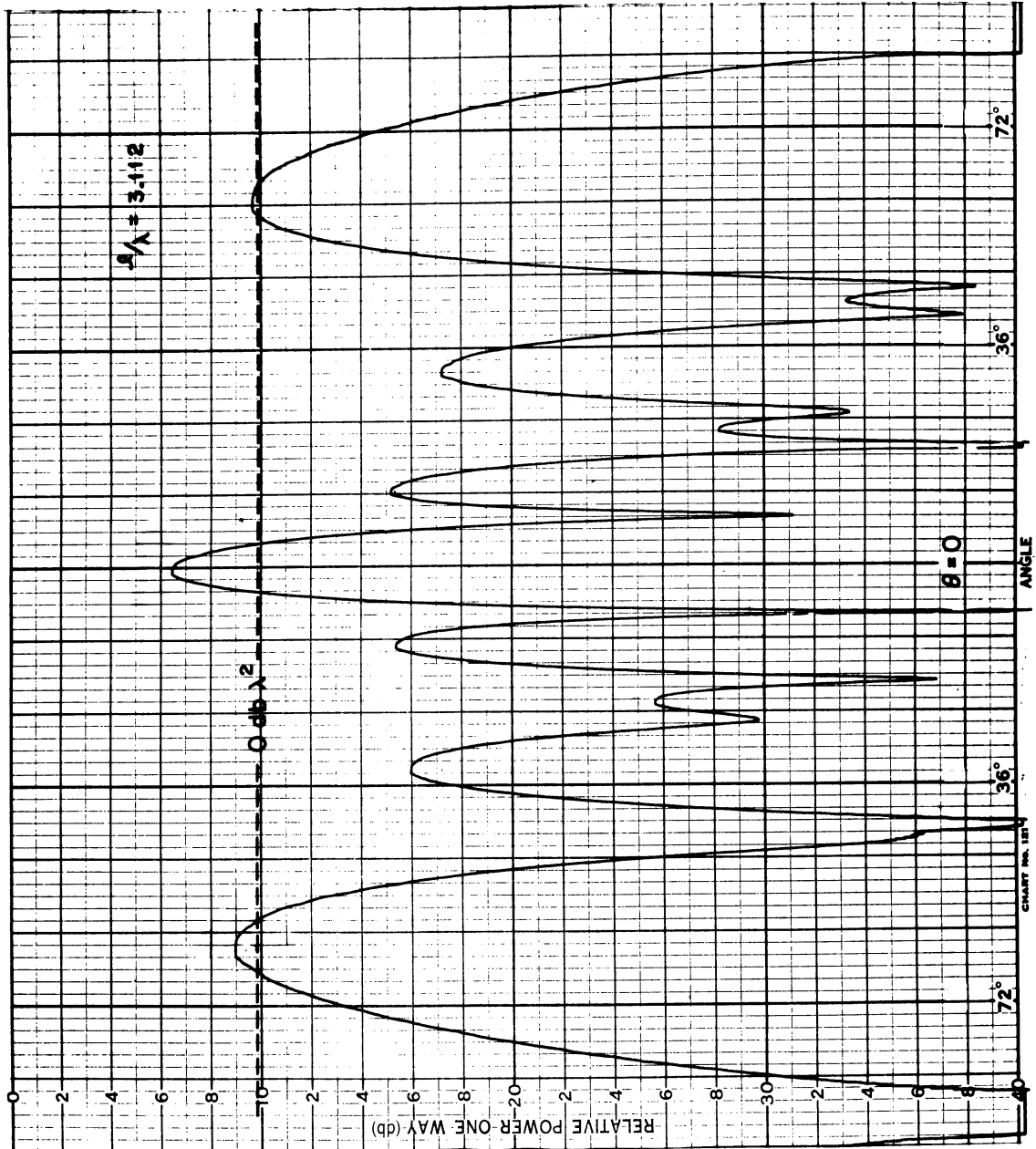
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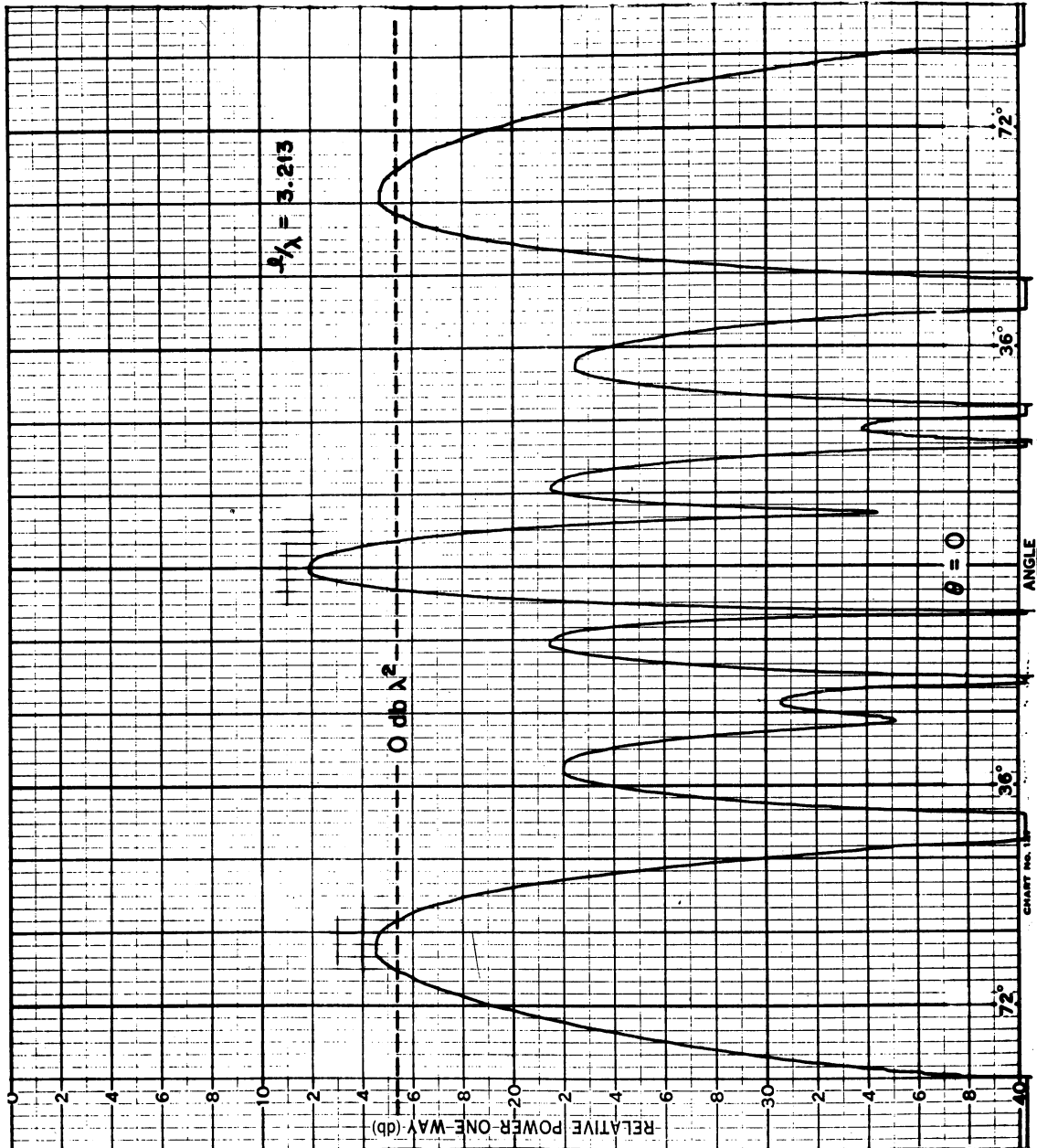
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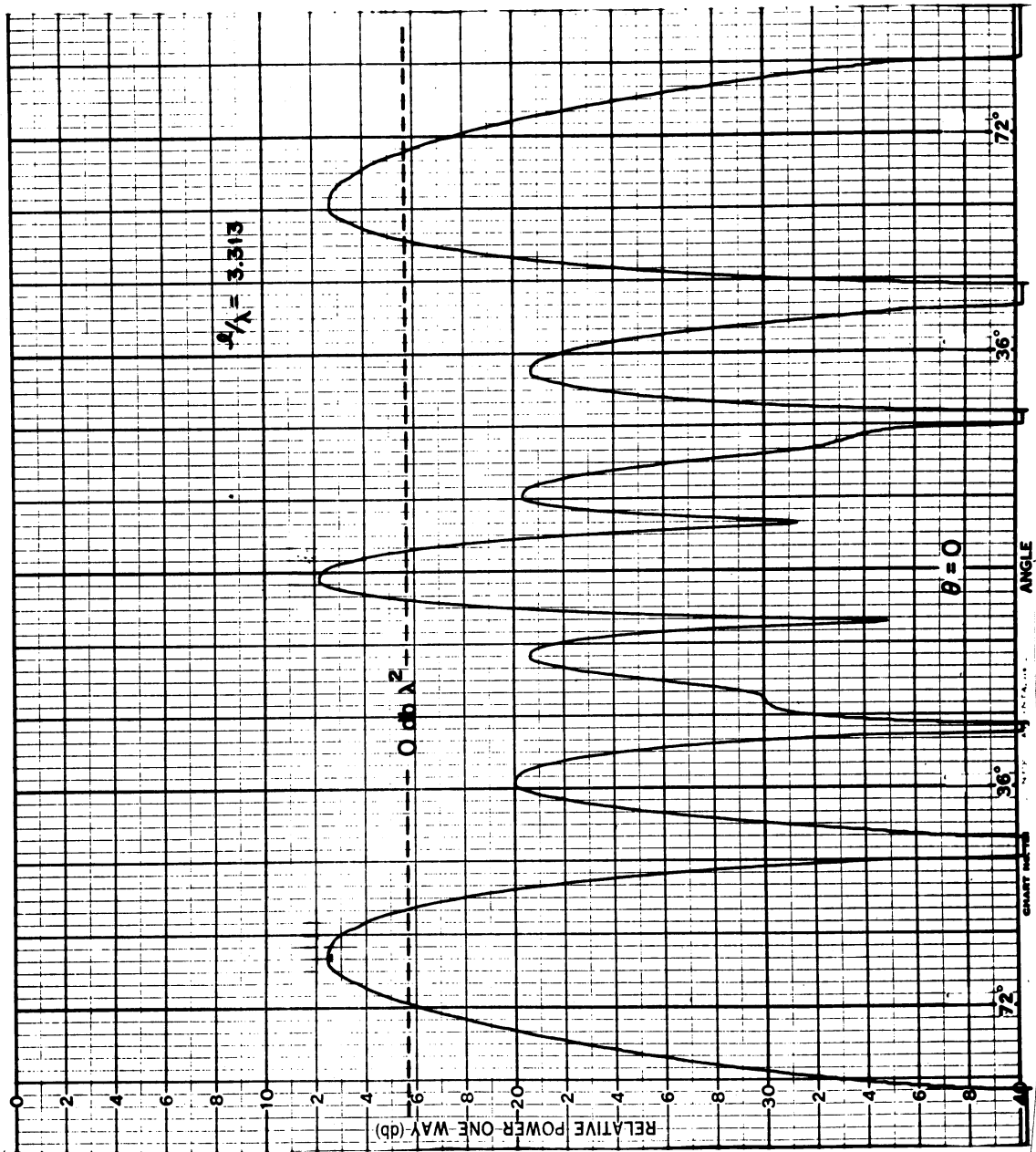
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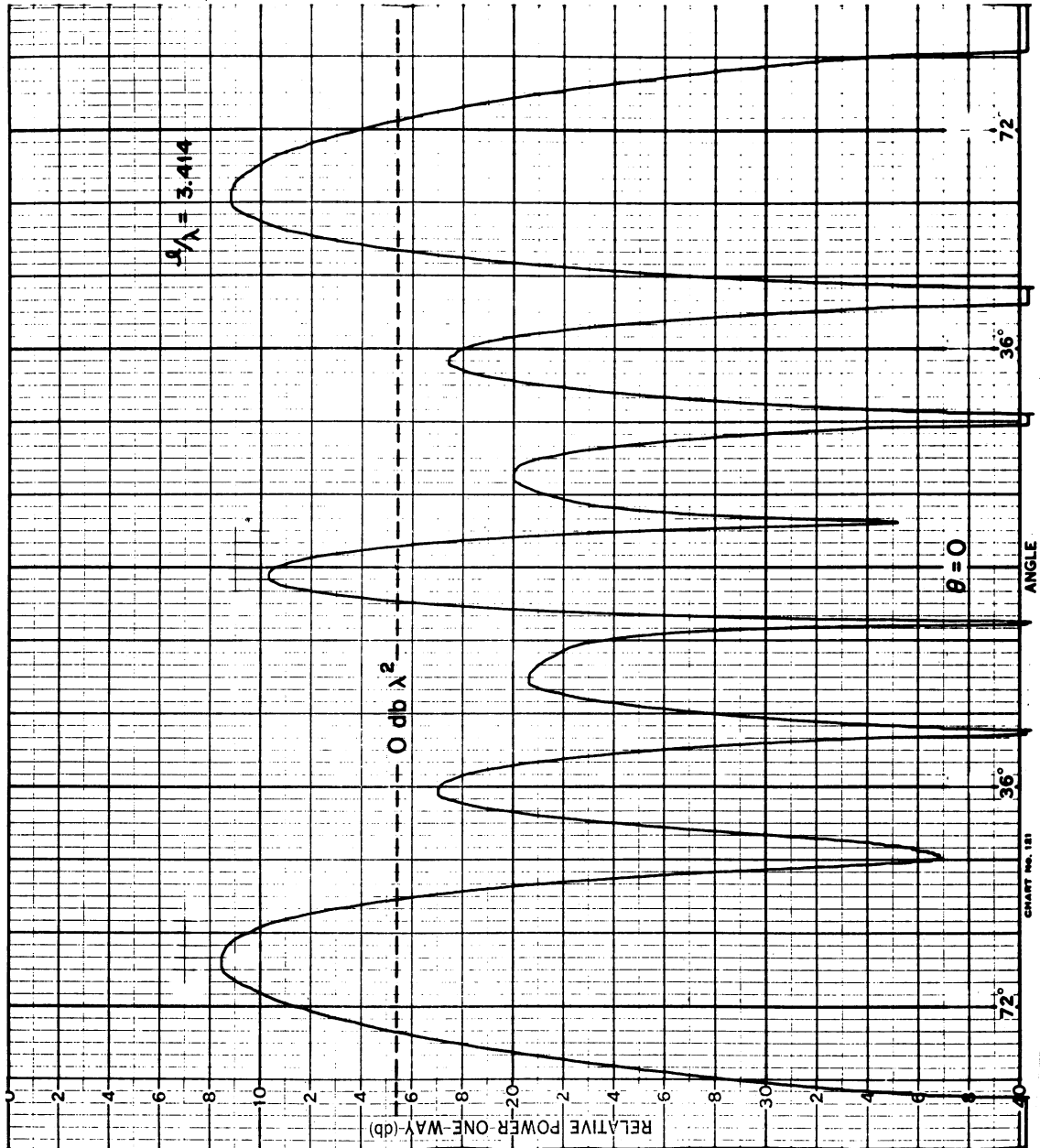
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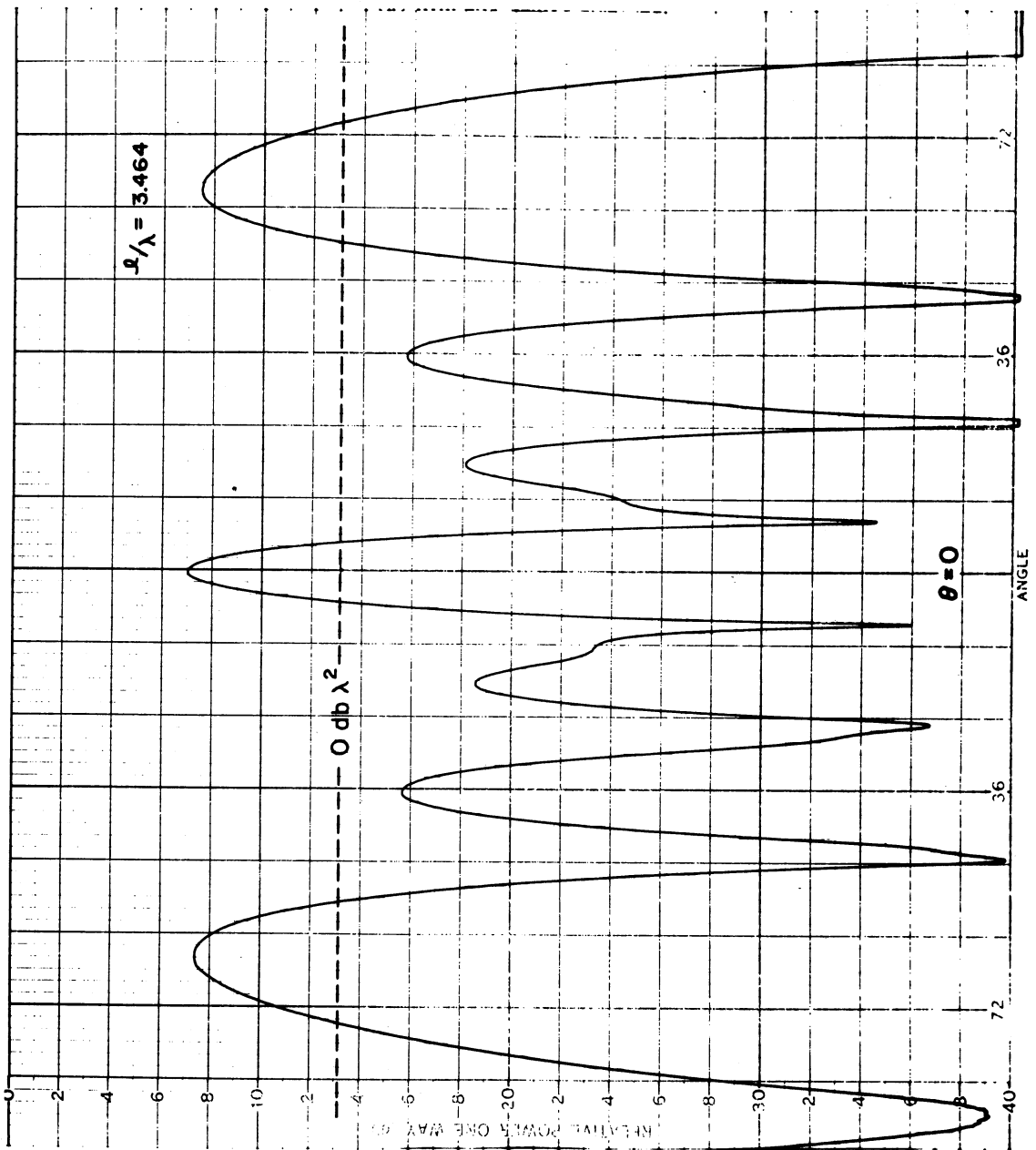
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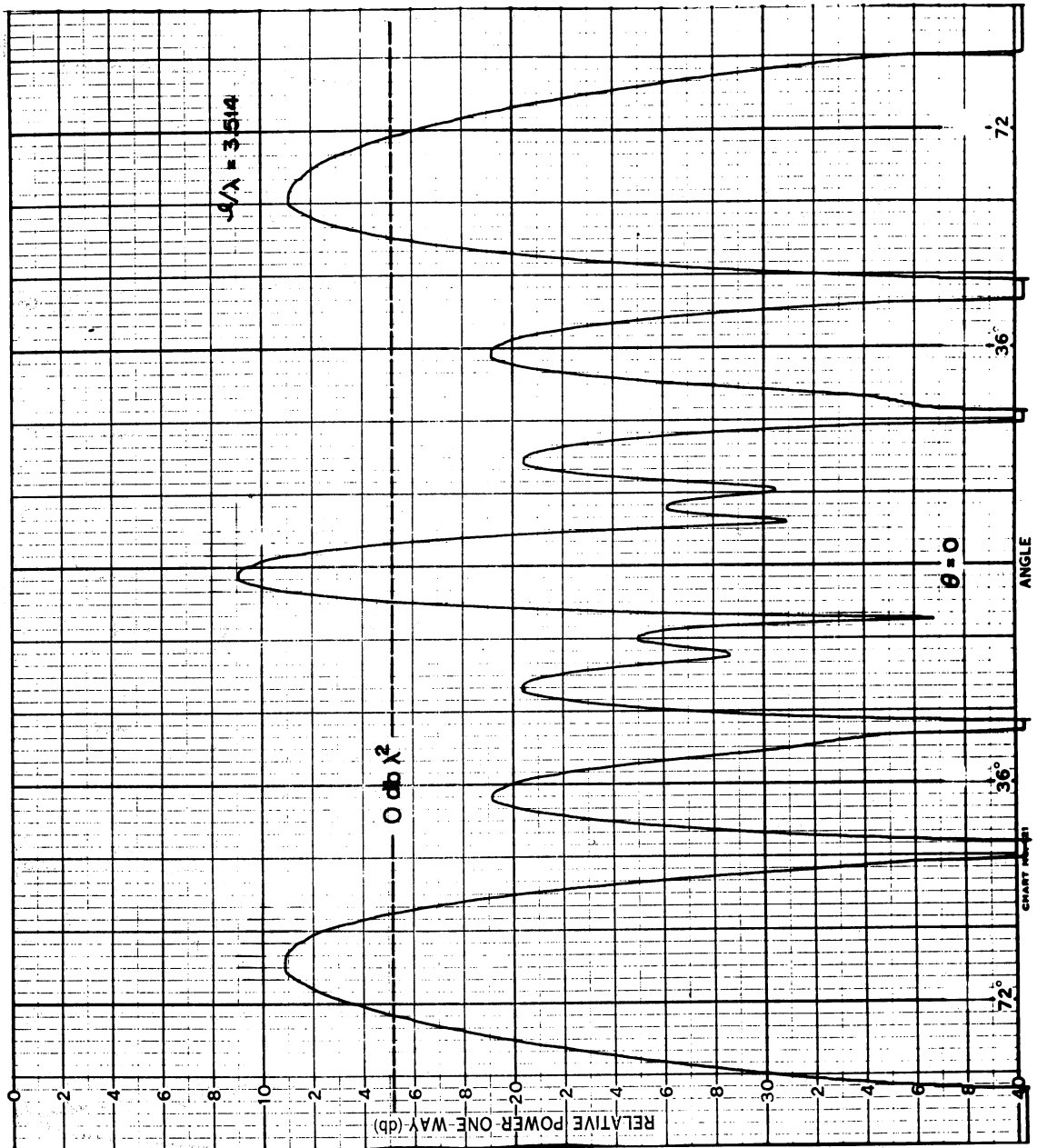
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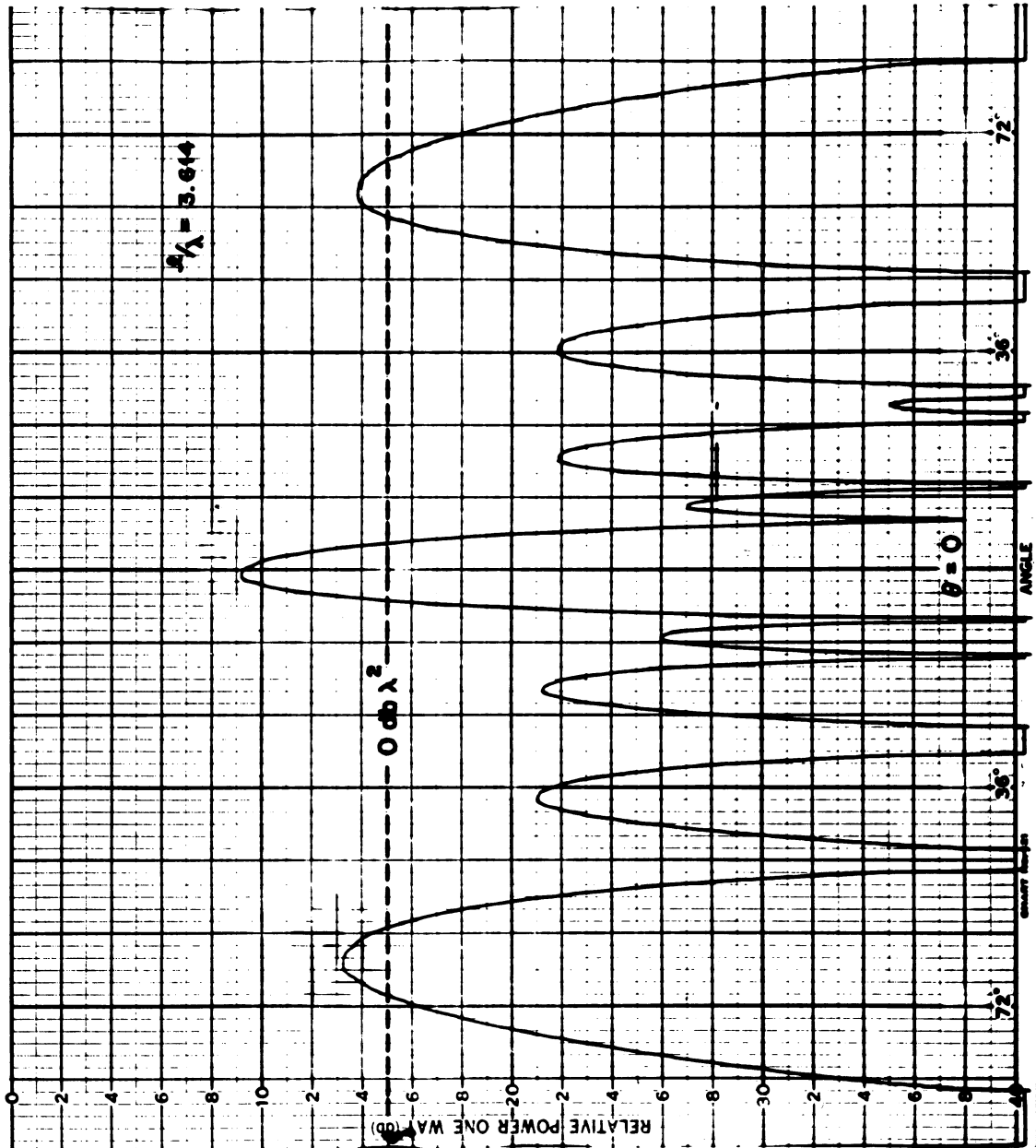
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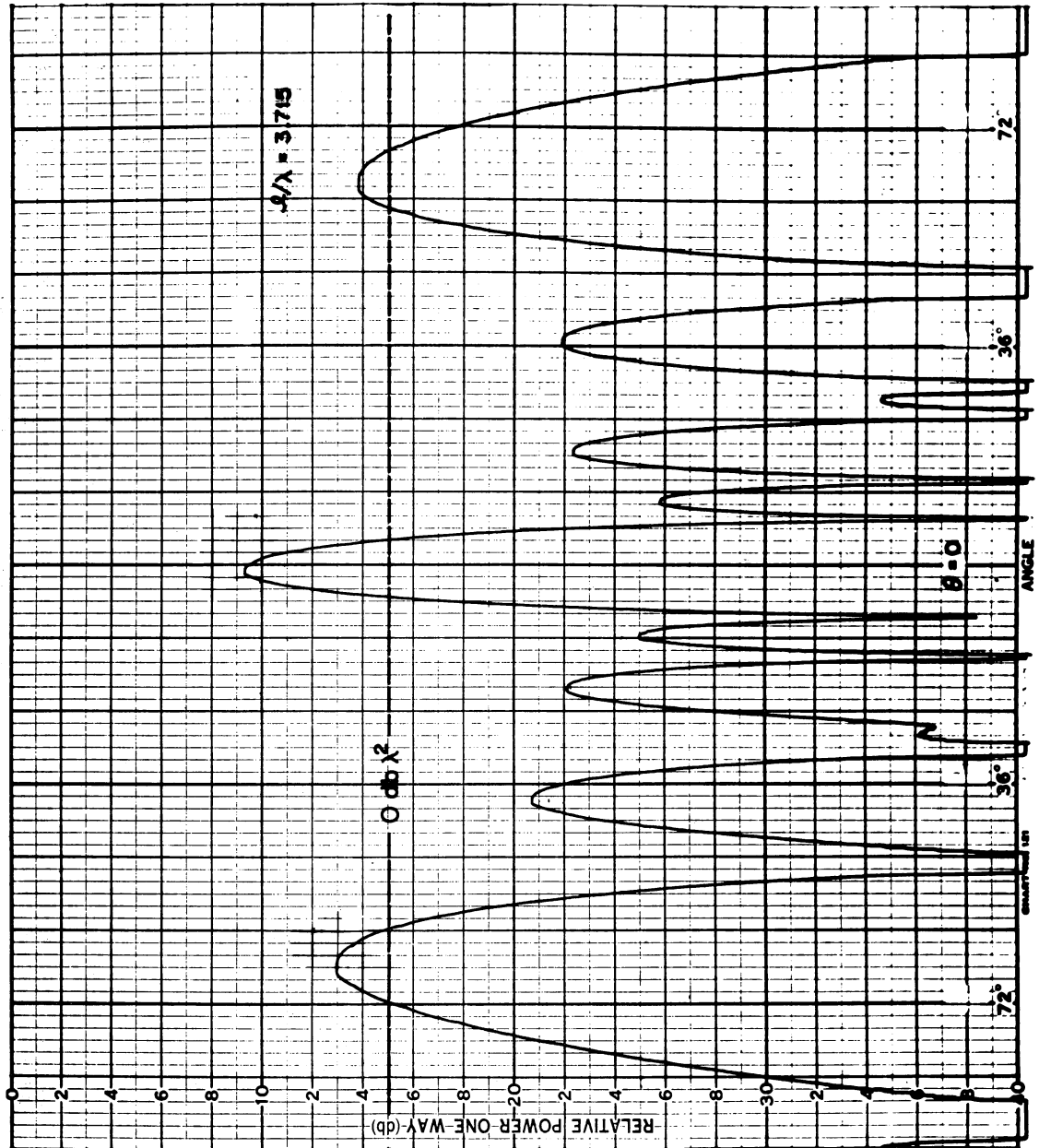
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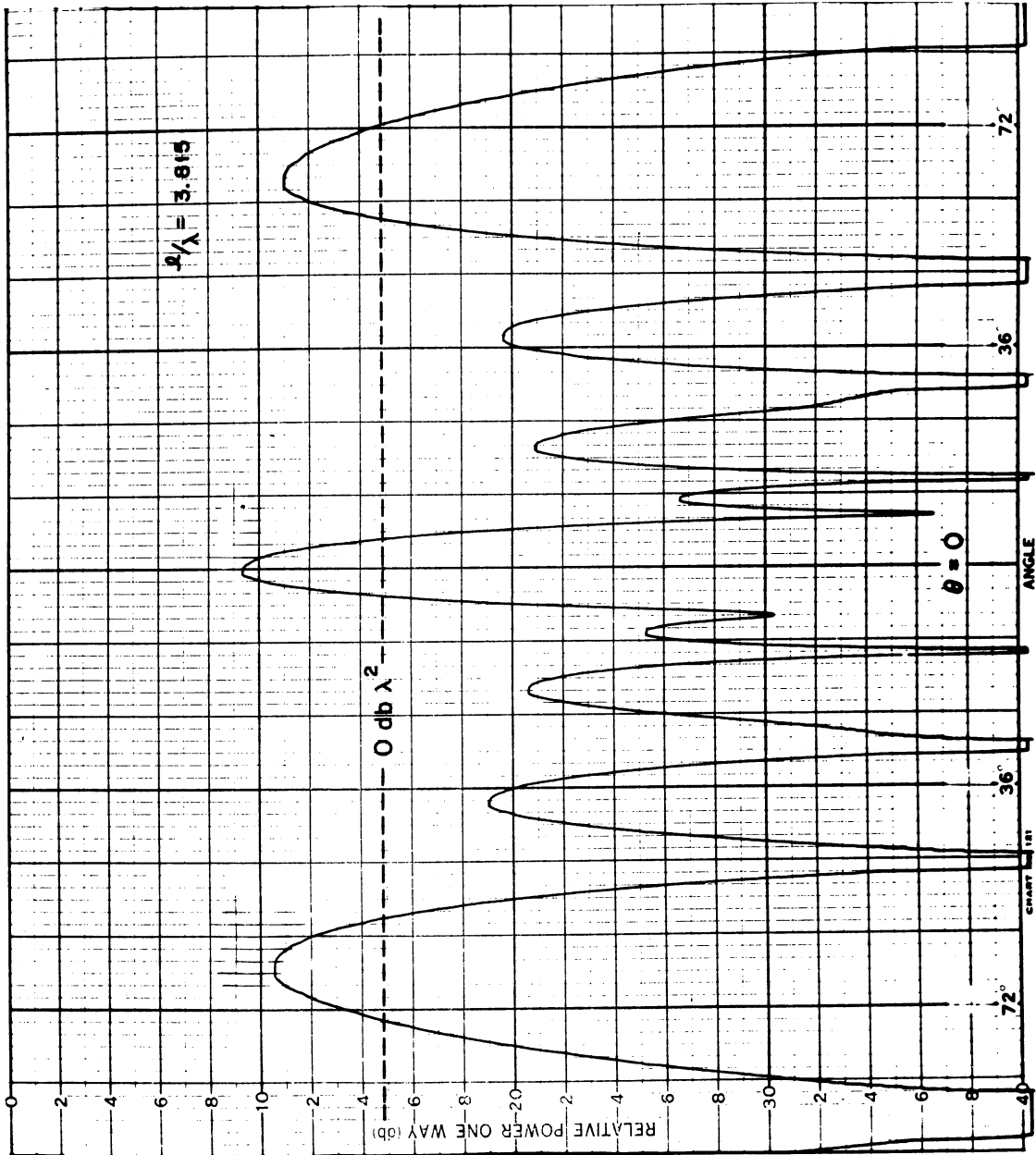
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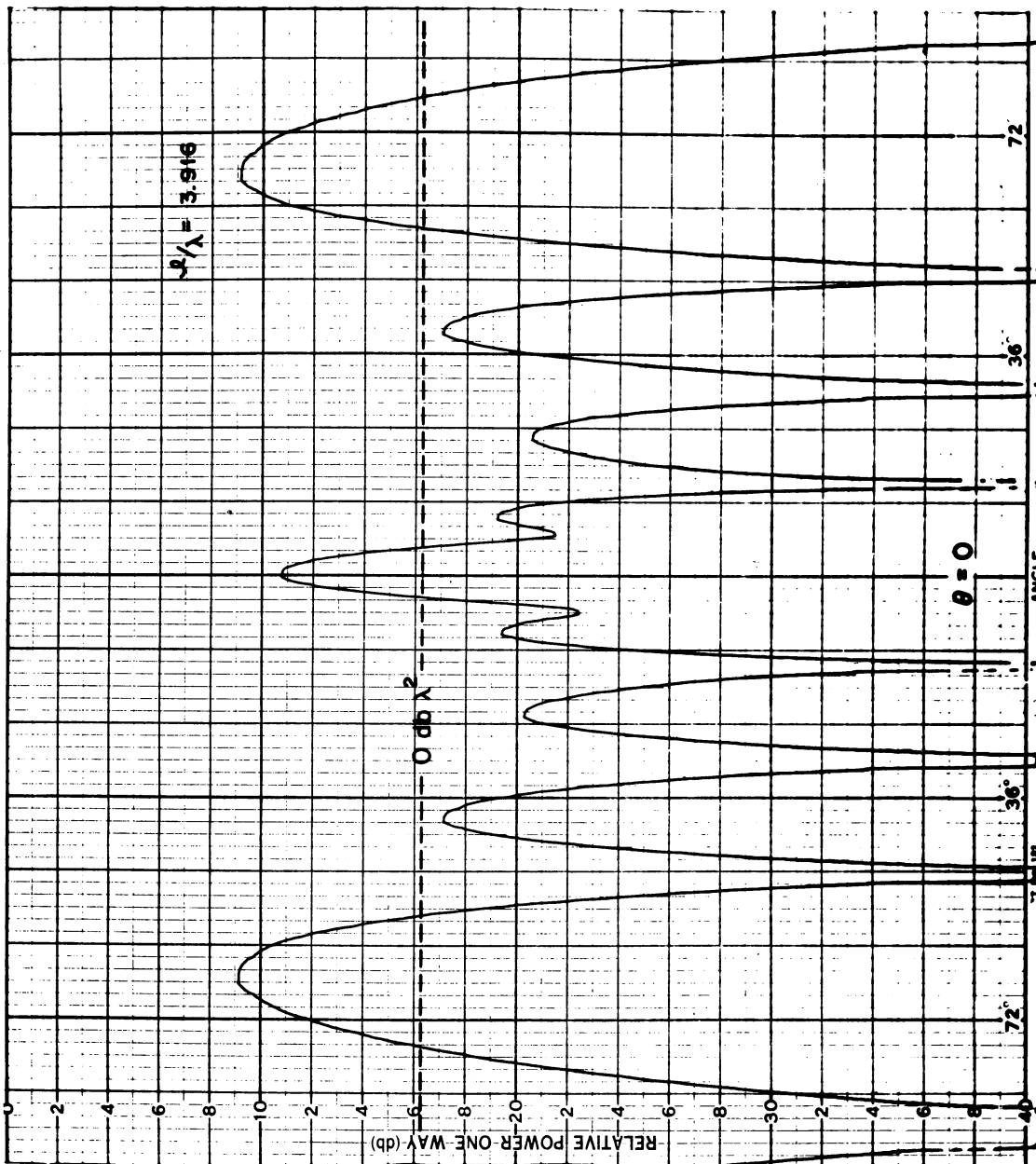
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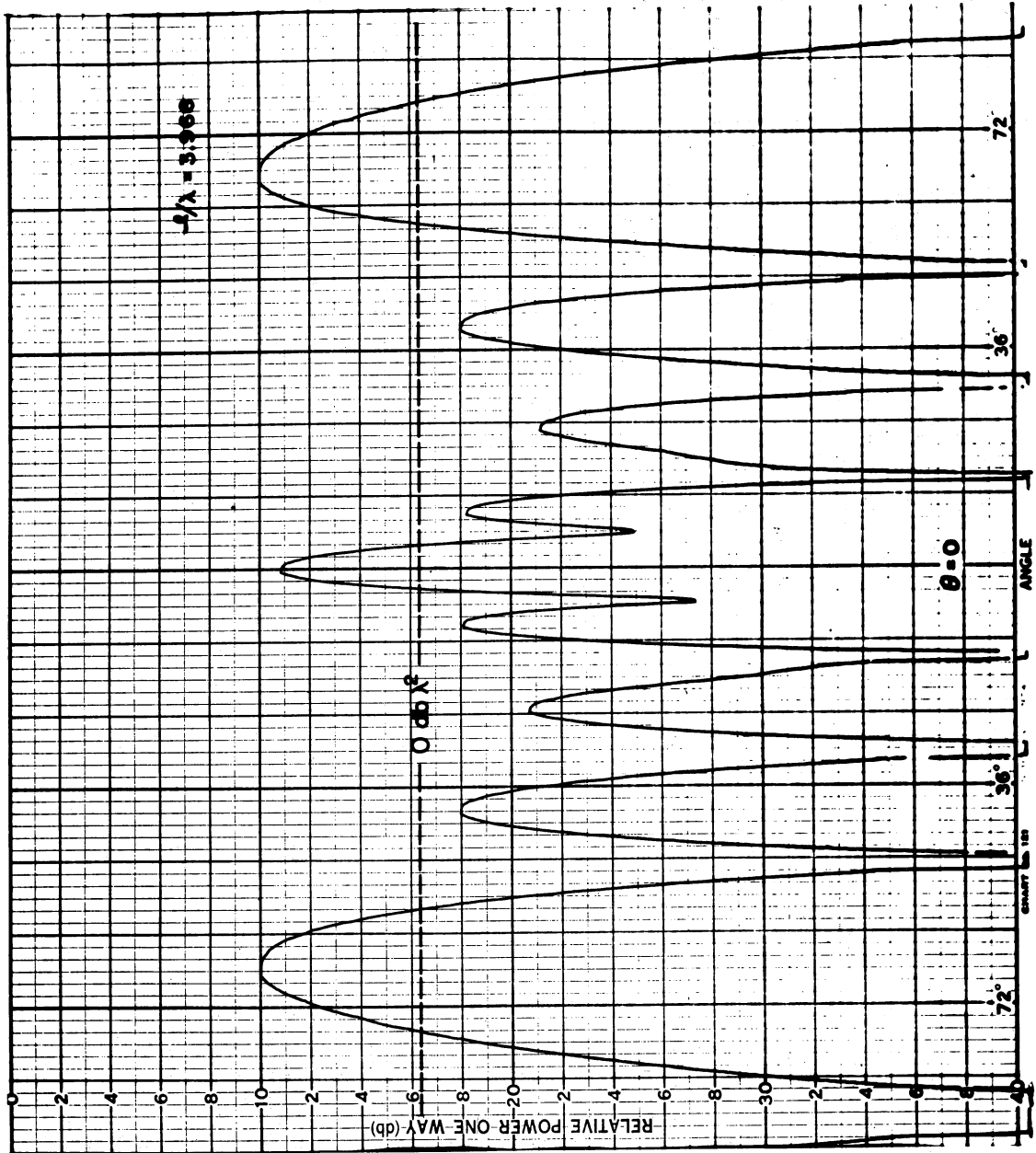




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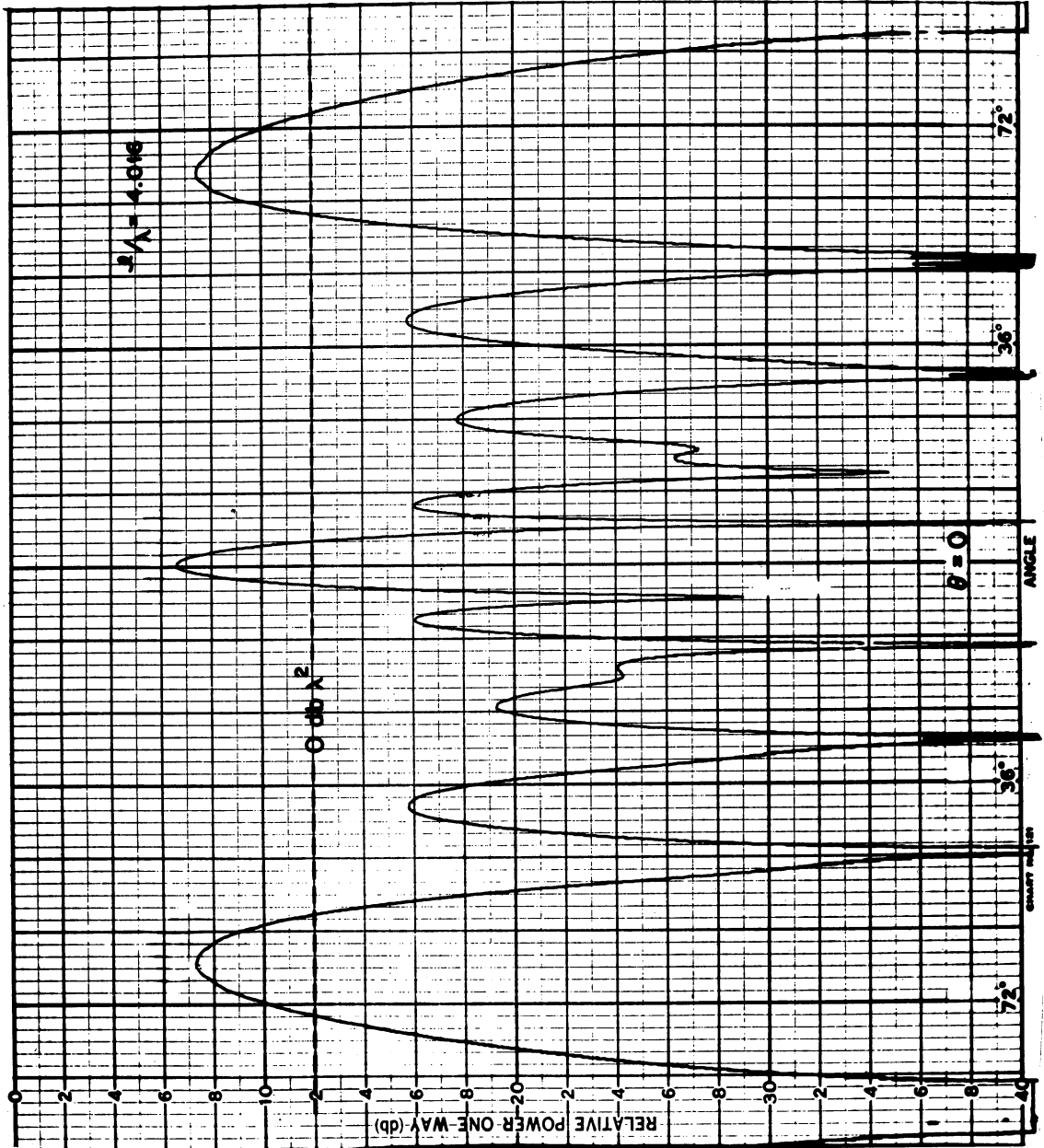
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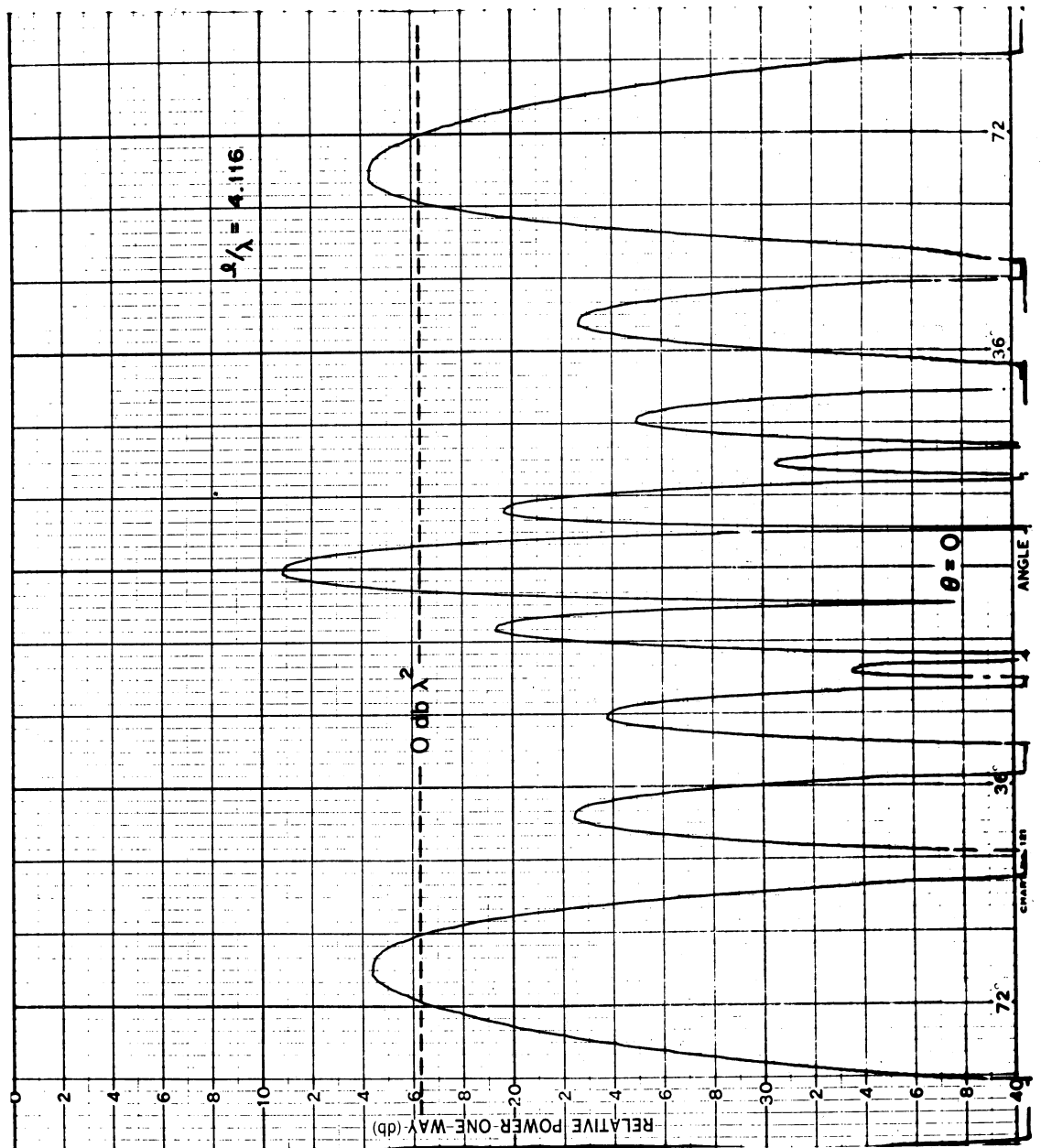
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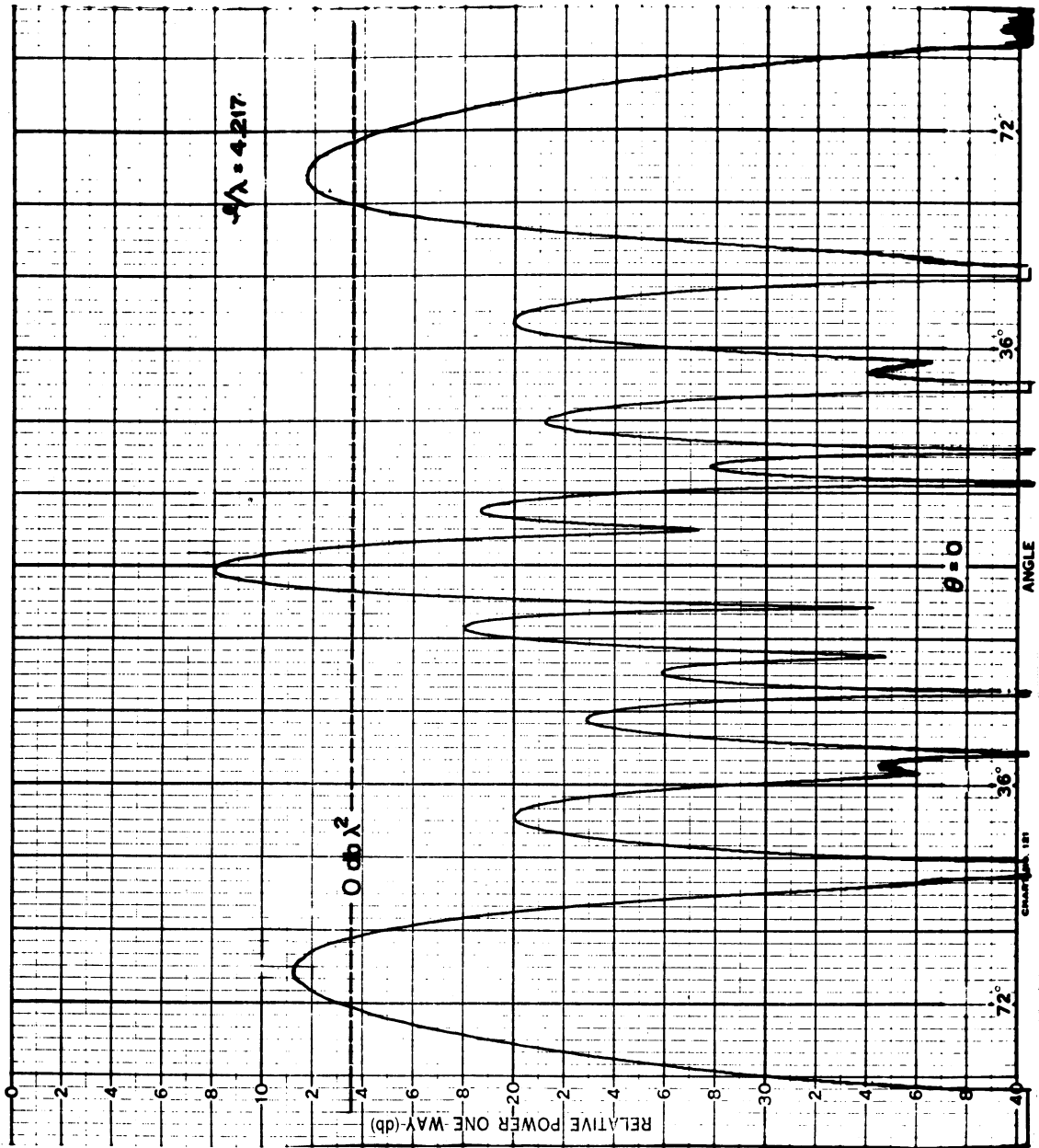
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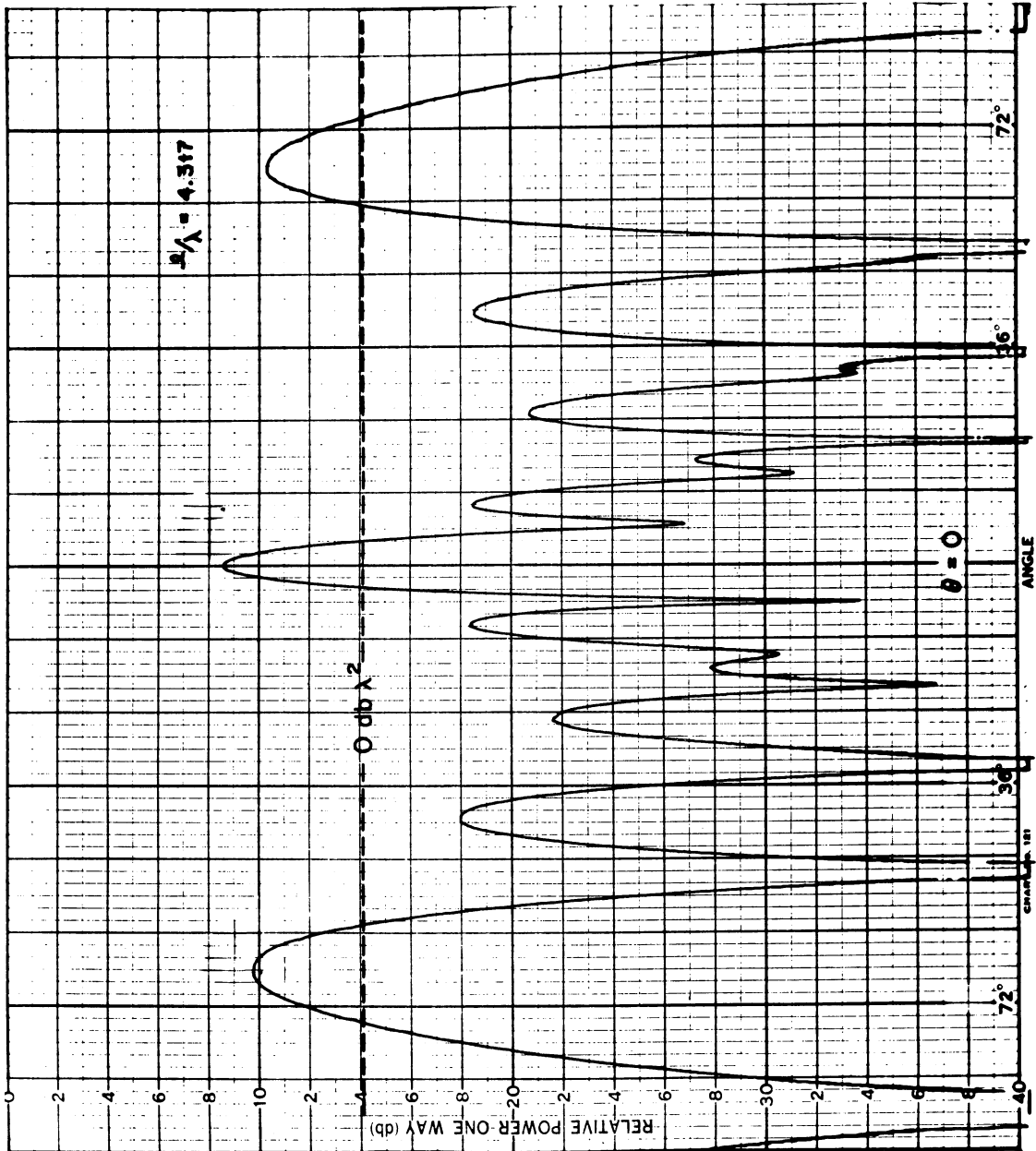
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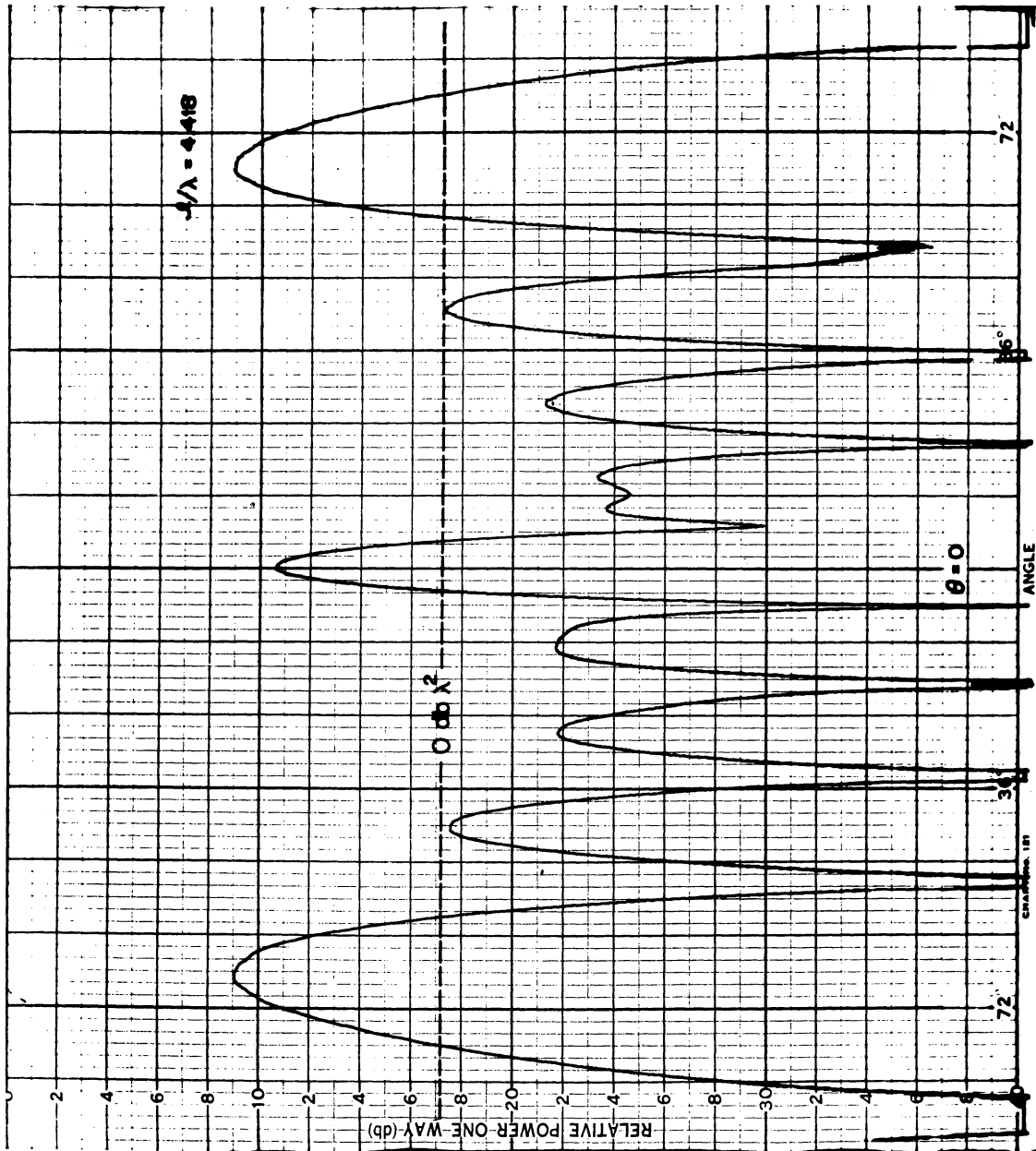
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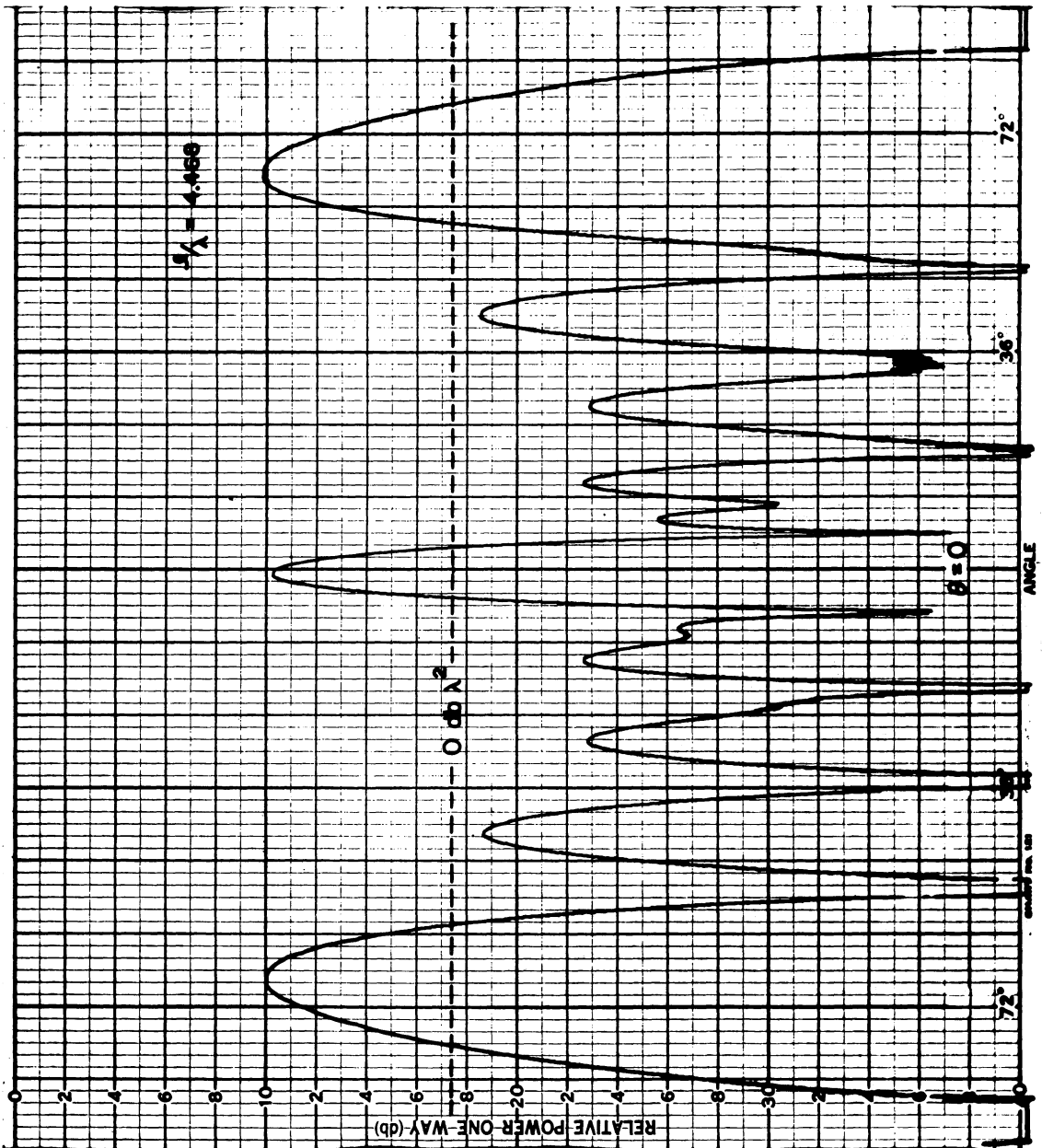
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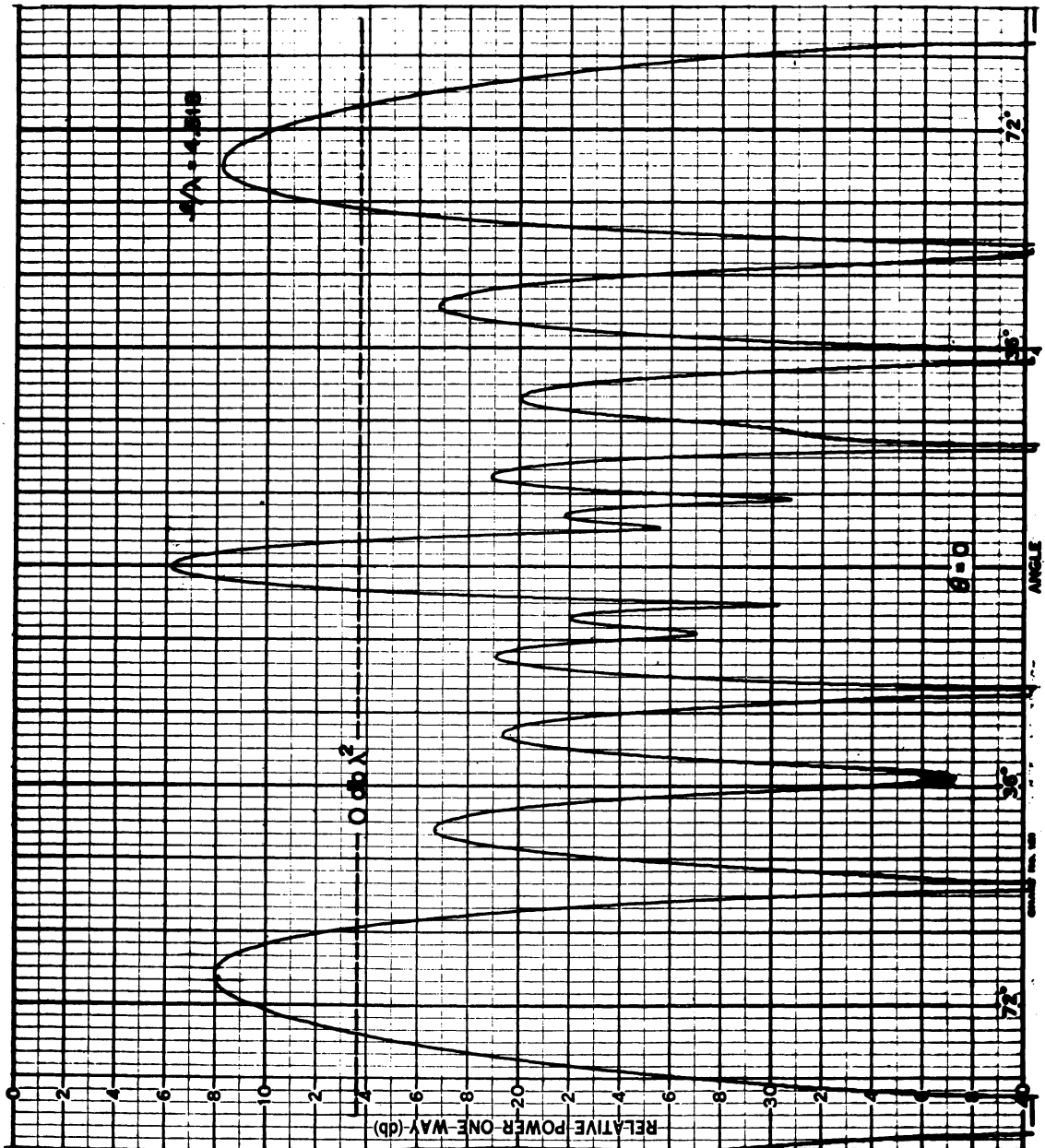
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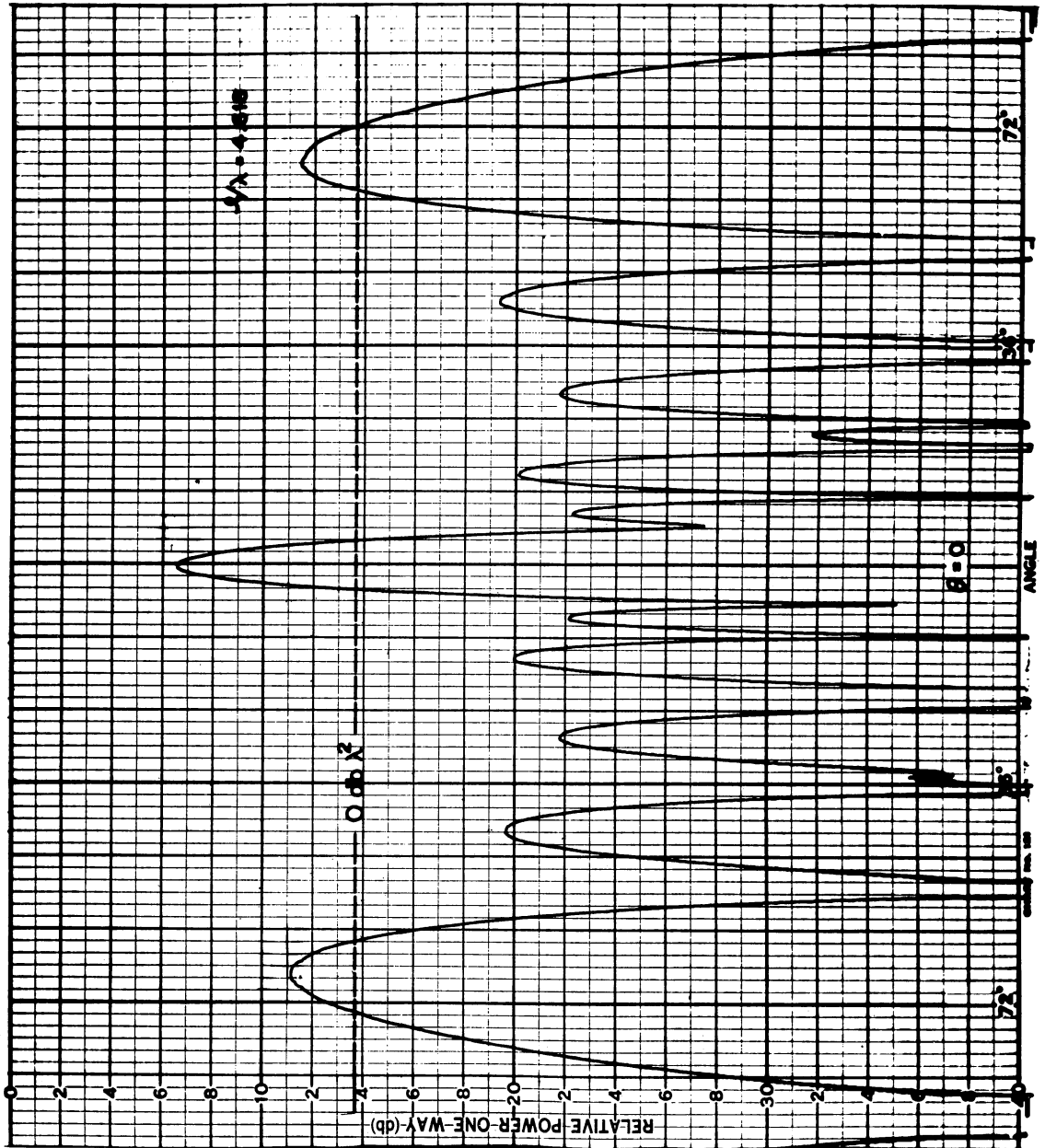
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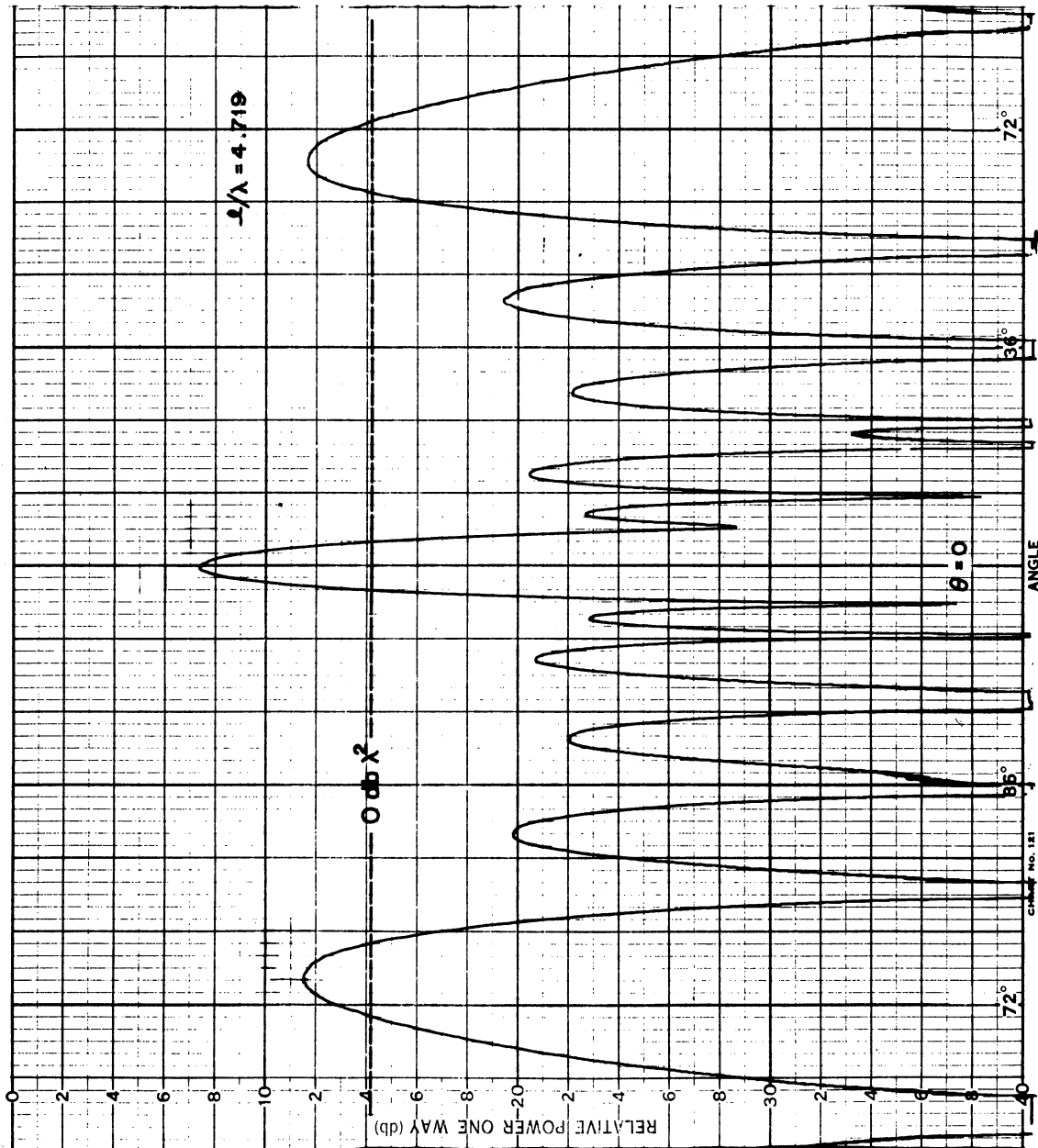
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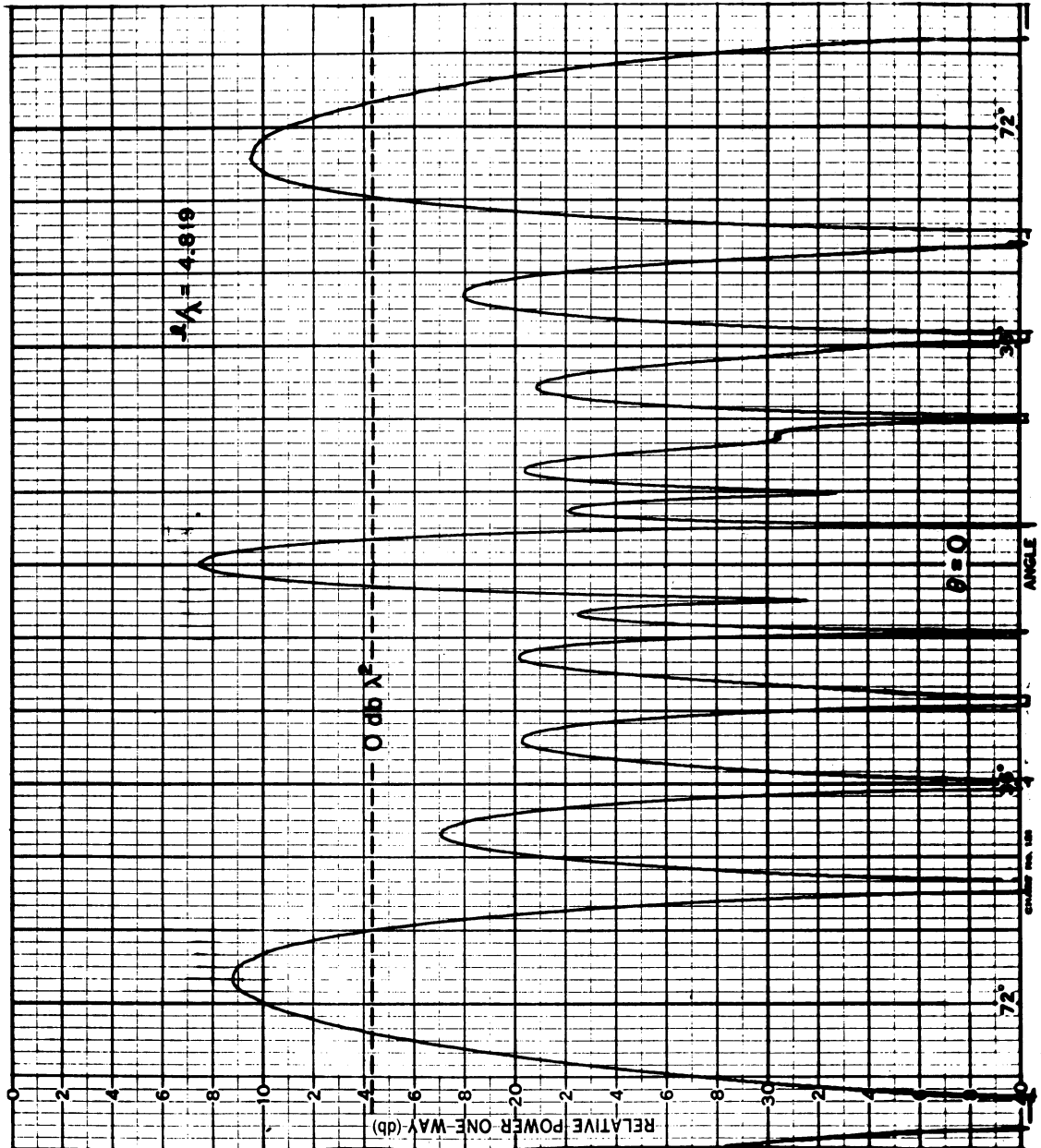
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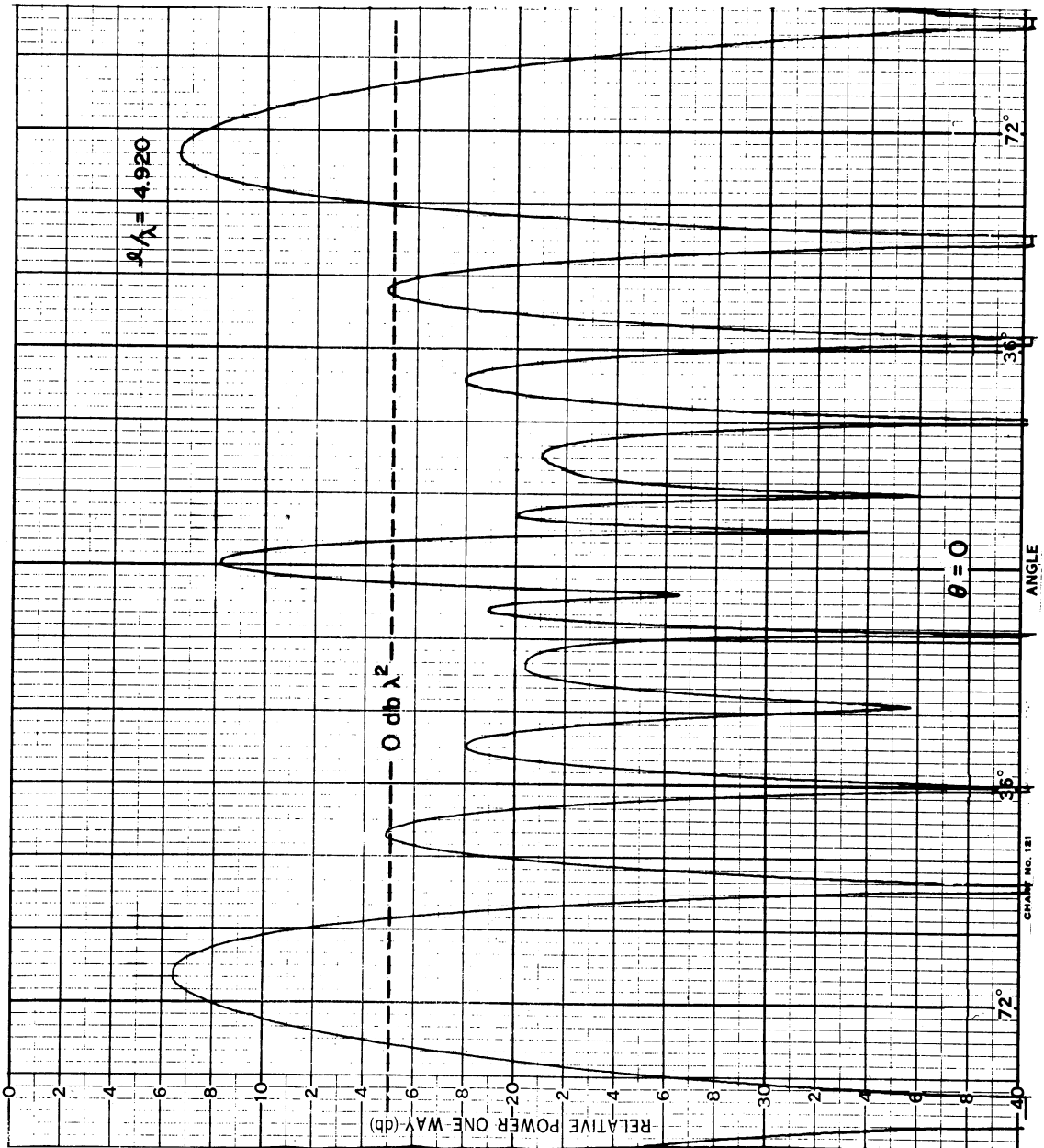
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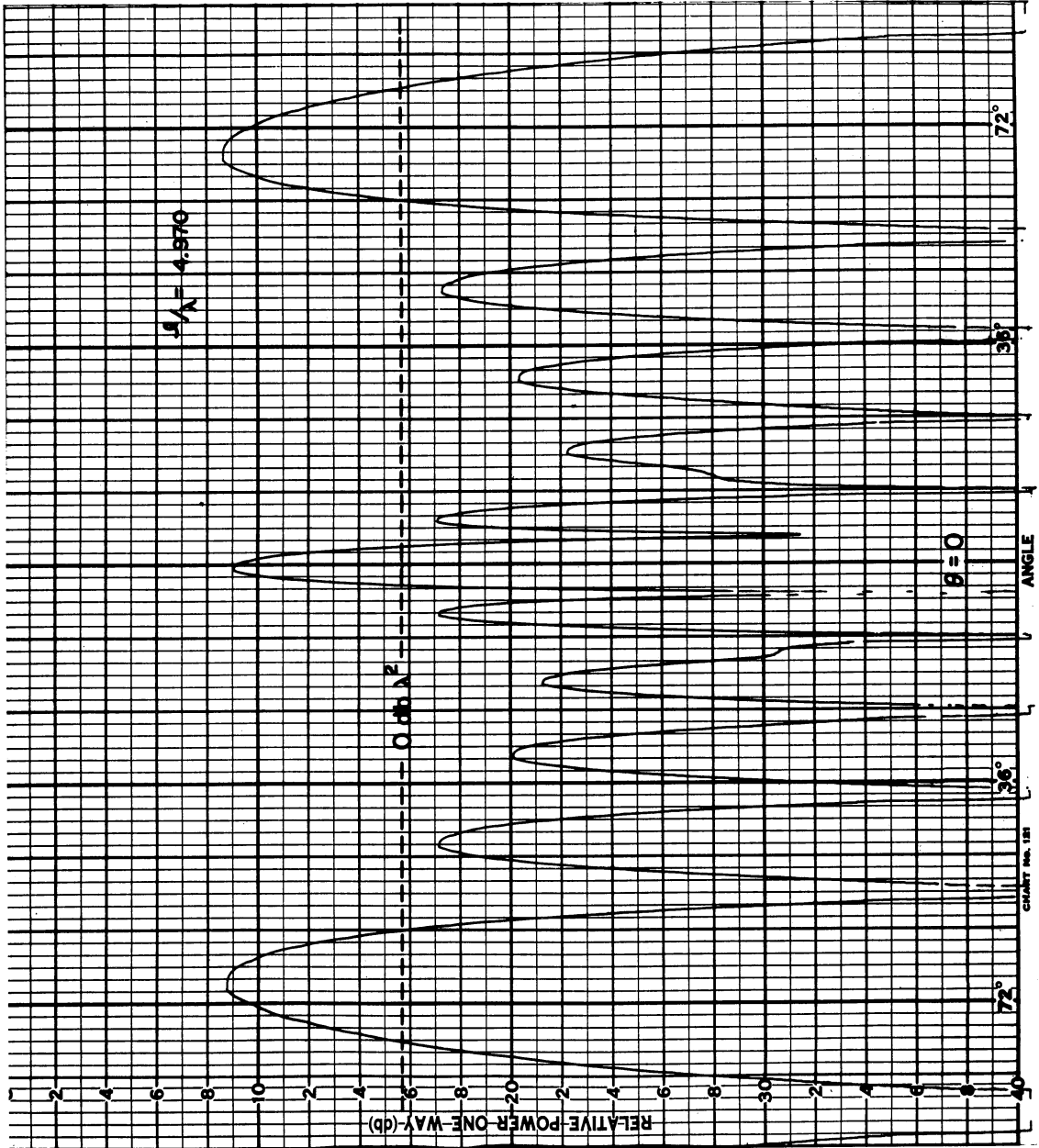
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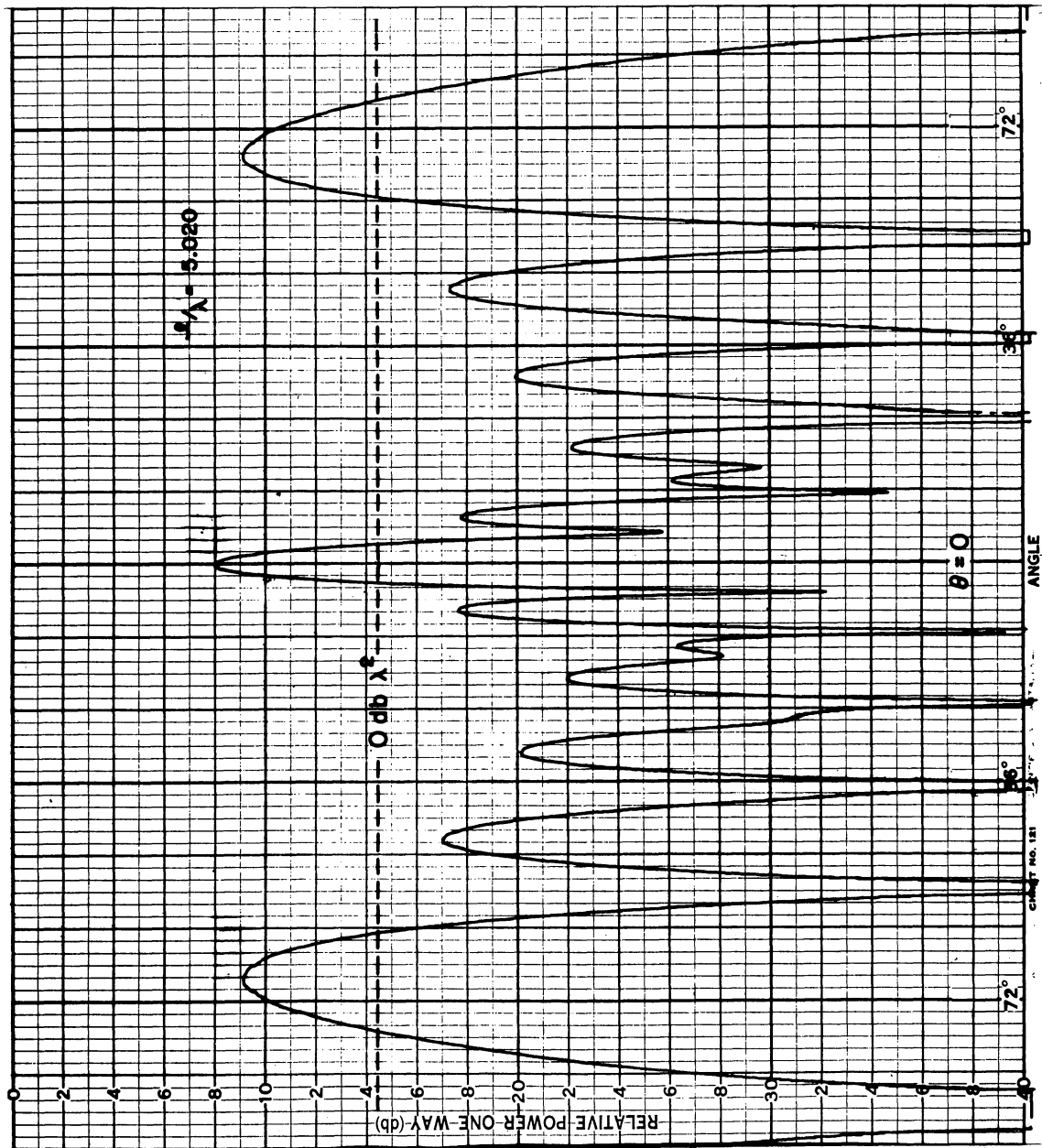
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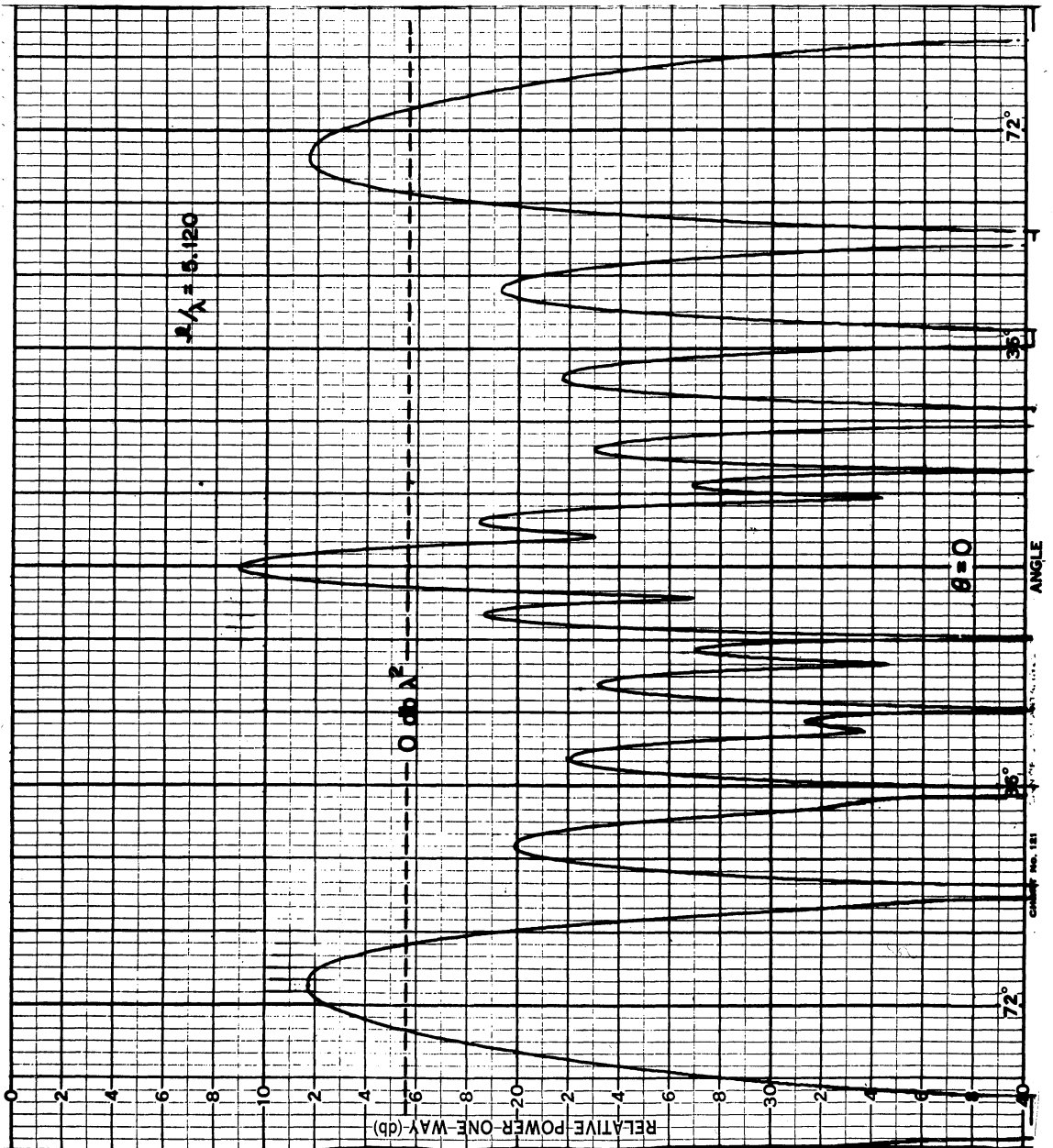
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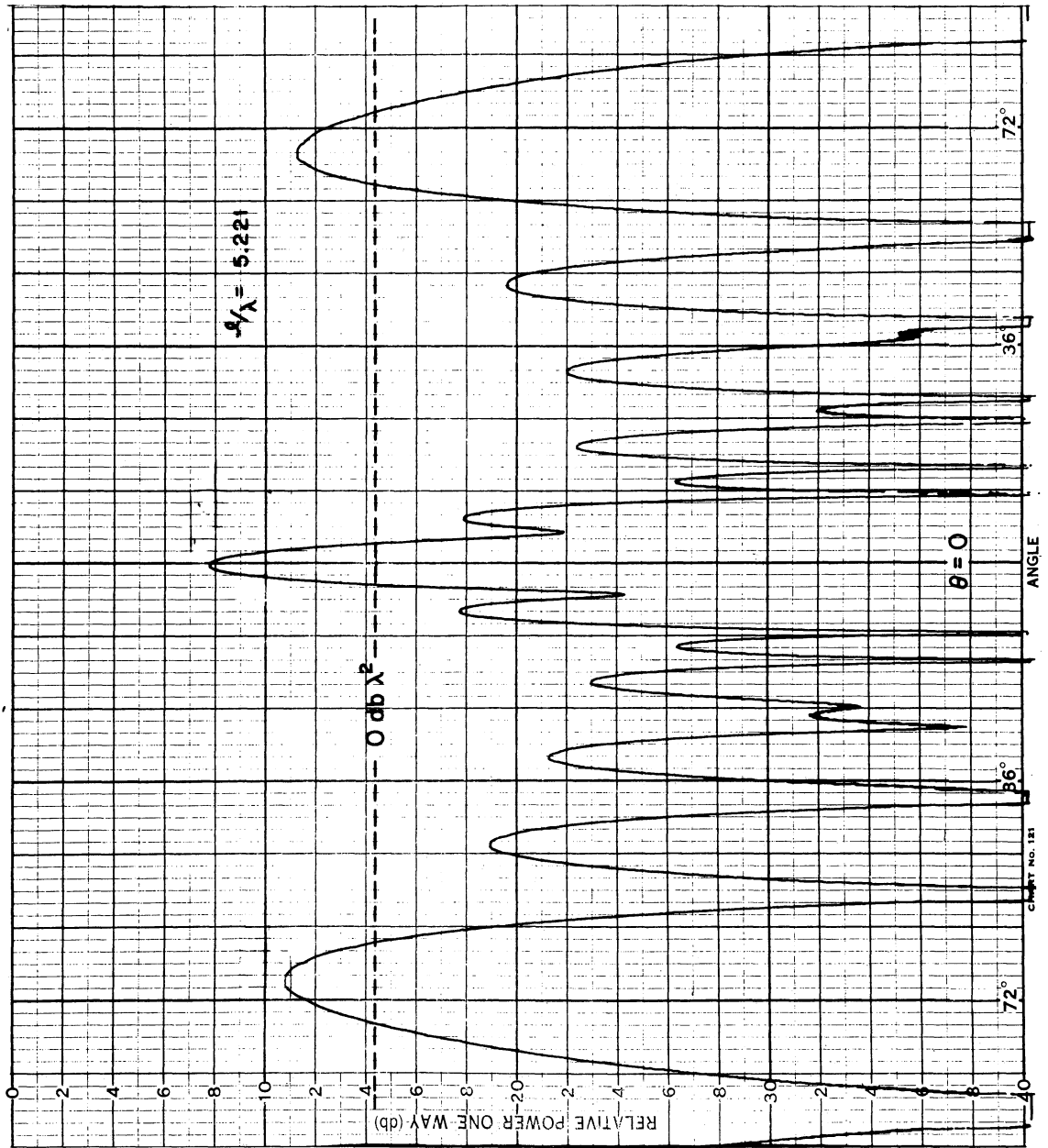
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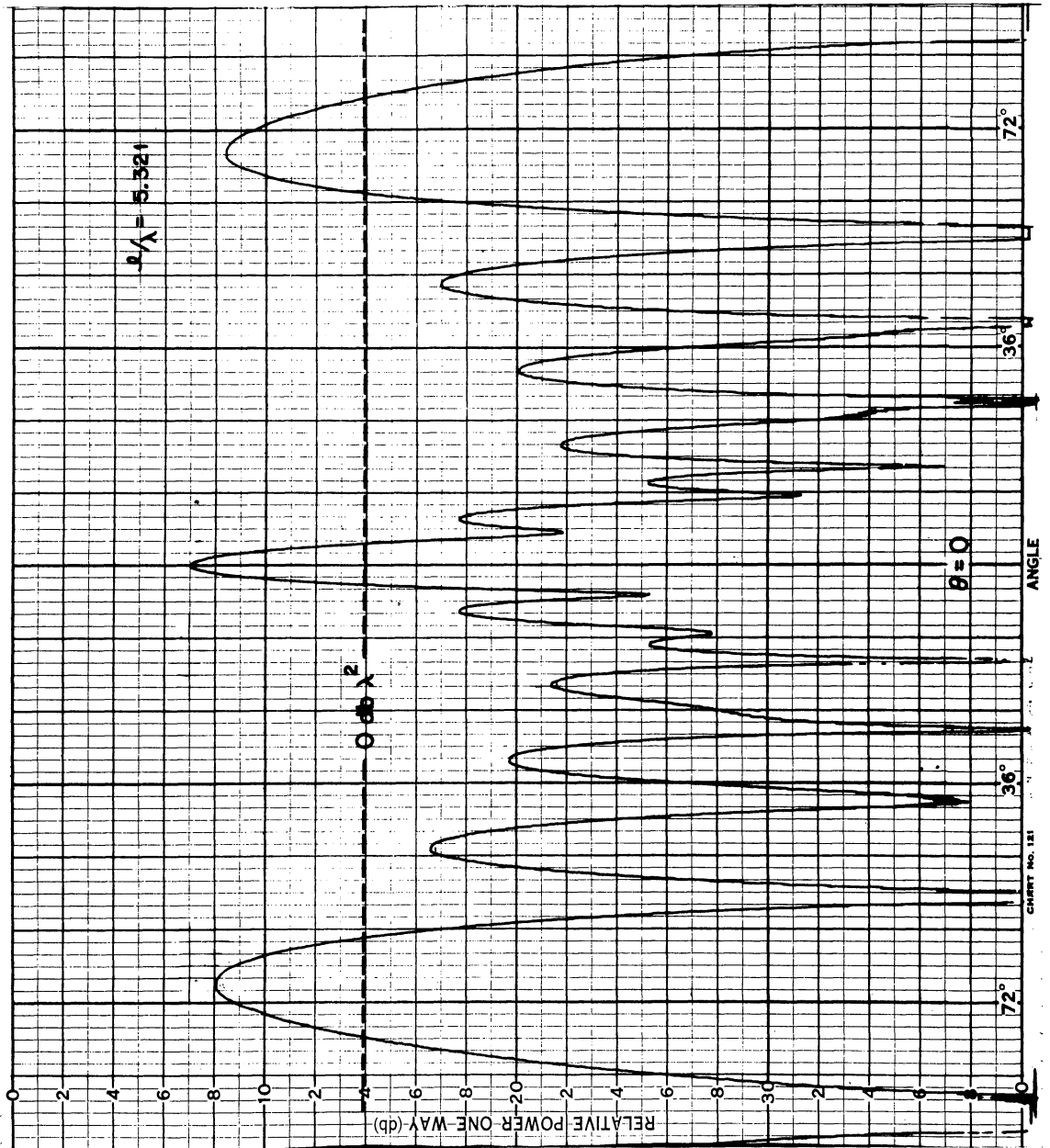
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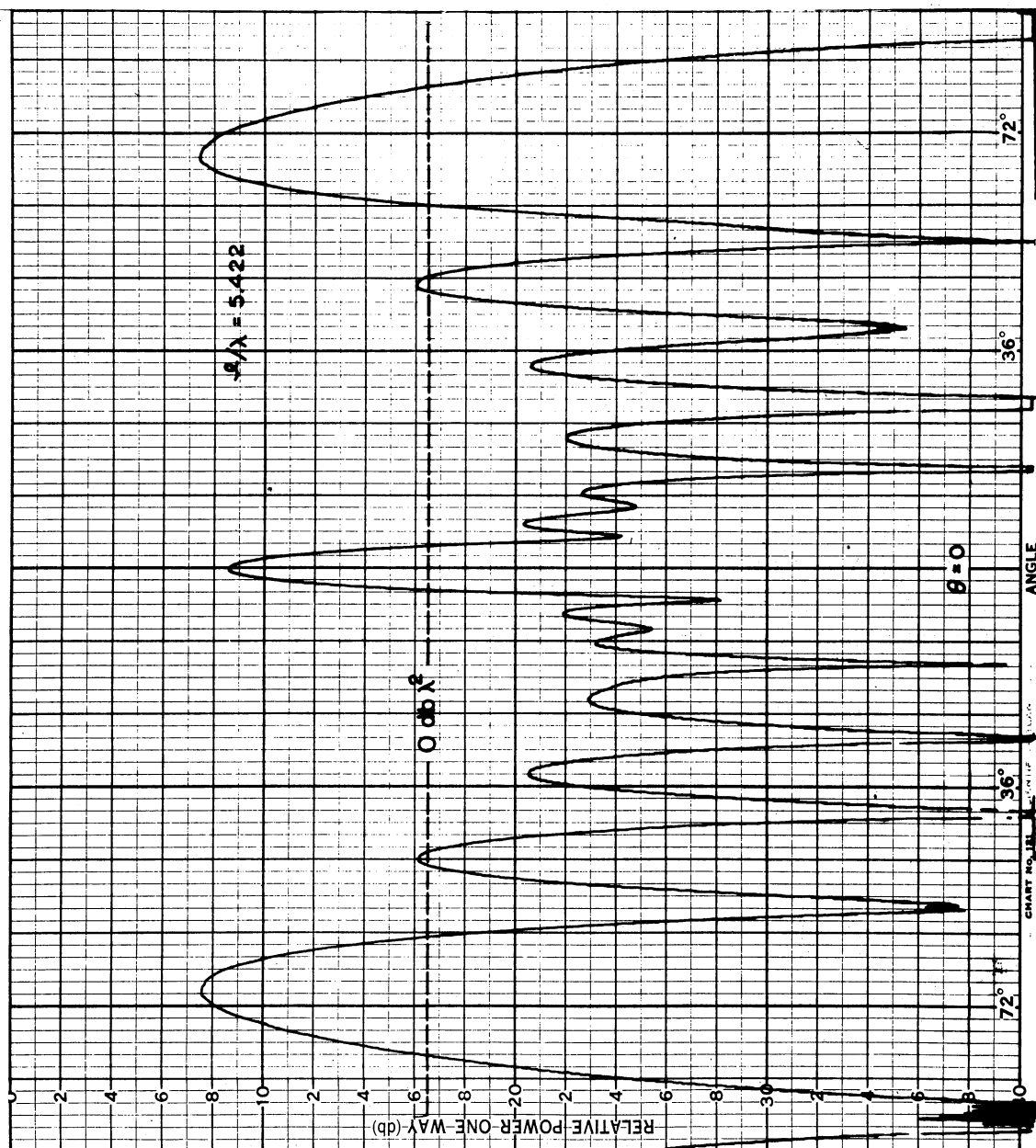
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13. ABSTRACT <p>A set of measured back scattering patterns is presented for a thin wire ($a/\lambda = 6.27 \times 10^{-3}$) for $l/\lambda = 0.3(0.025)0.55(0.05)1.60(0.10)5.42$, where a is the radius of the wire, l is the length, and λ is the wavelength. The measurements were performed in our anechoic chamber at 2.370 GHz. From this set of patterns a number of curves has been extracted showing the amplitude and position of each back scattering lobe as a function of the wire length. These curves provide a convenient means of cross section estimation and may be used to reconstruct with reasonable accuracy the back scattering pattern for any value of l/λ, $l/\lambda \leq 5.42$.</p>			

14. KEY WORDS	LINK A		LINK B		LINK C	
	ROLE	WT	ROLE	WT	ROLE	WT
<p>THIN WIRE BACK SCATTERING PATTERN RADAR CROSS SECTION EXPERIMENTAL DATA</p>						

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