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STUDY OF THE SURFACE WAVE AND RADIATION CHARACTERISTICS OF CYLINDRICAL METALLIC CORRUGATED STRUCTURES*

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(Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore-12)

[Received: September 2, 1971]

ABSTRACT

Surface wave characteristics like the guide wavelength, radial field decay, and radiation characteristics of a corrugated circular cylindrical metal rod are verified experimentally. A comparative study of the surface wave characteristics of the corrugated line, Sommerfeld surface wave line Harms-Goubau line reveal that corrugated structure compares favourably with the Harms-Goubau line and is superior to Sommerfeld line.

1. INTRODUCTION

The object is to present experimental results on the surface wave and radiation characteristics of a uniformly corrugated conductor excited in E_0 -mode and to verify some of the results of the theory published elsewhere^{1,2} by the authors.

2. CORRUGATED STRUCTURES

The corrugated structures (See Fig. 1,) used for experiment have the following specifications (Table 1).

3. RADIAL FIELD DECAY

The radial field decay (See Fig. 2) was measured by using a monopole probe. Some of the results are reported in Figures 3-5. The results show good agreement with theory. The theoretical value of the radial field component E_p of the fundamental harmonic is given by¹

$$E_p = C_0 \frac{\beta_0}{\gamma_0} H_1^{(1)}(j\gamma_0 \rho) \exp(-j\beta_0 z) \quad [1]$$

In Figs. 3-5 the normalisation of E_p is made with respect to the field amplitude at a distance of 1 mm from the structure. The axial propagation

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constant β_0 and radial propagation constant γ_0 for the fundamental harmonic are determined from the relations

$$\frac{2k_0}{l} \frac{J_0(\beta_0 W/2) \sin(\beta_0 W/2)}{\beta_0} = -\gamma_0 \frac{K_0(\gamma_0 b)}{K_1(\gamma_0 b)} \frac{F_1(k_0 b)}{F_0(k_0 b)} \quad [2]$$

and

$$\beta_0^2 = \gamma_0^2 + k_0^2 \quad [3]$$

where,

$$F_0(k_0 b) = J_0(k_0 a) Y_0(k_0 b) - Y_0(k_0 a) J_0(k_0 b) \quad [4]$$

and

$$F_1(k_0 b) = J_0(k_0 a) Y_1(k_0 b) - Y_0(k_0 a) J_1(k_0 b) \quad [5]$$

TABLE I.

Specifications of the structure dimensions.

a = inner rod radius = 0.25 cm.

b = disc radius in cms.

$l - W$ = thickness of discs = 0.047 cm.

l = period of the structure.

W = disc spacing in cms.

L = length of the structure = 75 cm.

Structure Number	b (cms.)	W (cms.)	Structure Number	b (cms.)	W (cms.)
1	0.4	0.2	8	0.5	0.2
2	0.4	0.4	9	0.5	0.4
3	0.4	0.6	10	0.5	0.6
4	0.4	0.8	11	0.5	0.8
5	0.4	1.0	12	0.5	1.0
6	0.4	1.2	13	0.5	1.2
7	0.4	1.4	14	0.5	1.4

4. GUIDE WAVELENGTH

The guide wavelength is measured from the plot of E_p Vs z_A . The measured values of λ_g as a function of spacing are compared with the theoretical values of λ_g calculated from the relation $\lambda_g = 2\lambda/\beta_0$. (See fig. 6). The measured values of λ_g for the structures are tabulated below.

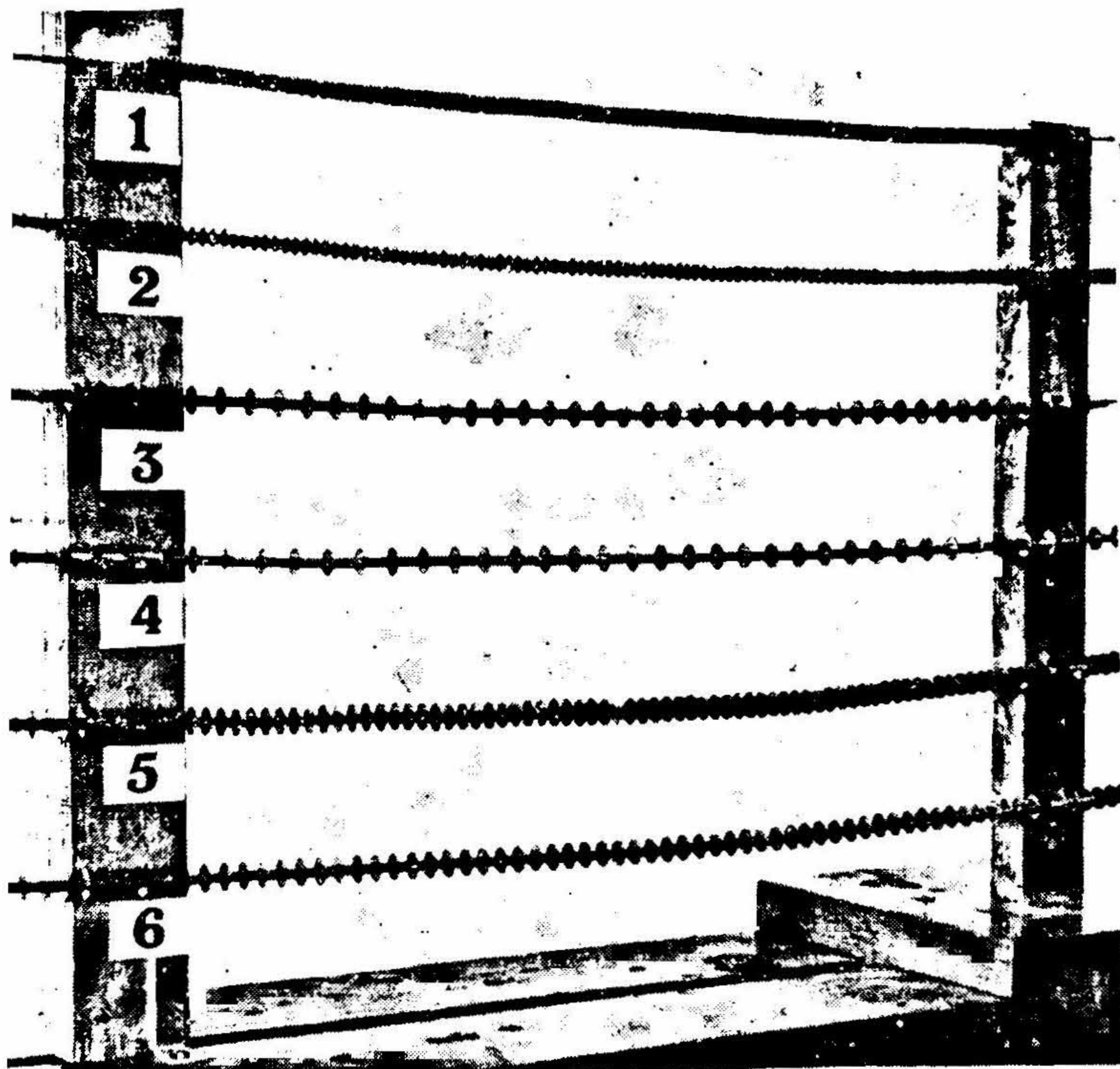


FIG. 1
Surface wave structures

constant β_0 and radial propagation constant γ_0 for the fundamental harmonic are determined from the relations

$$\frac{2k_0 J_0(\beta_0 W/2) \sin(\beta_0 W/2)}{l \beta_0} = -\gamma_0 \frac{K_0(\gamma_0 b) F_1(k_0 b)}{K_1(\gamma_0 b) F_0(k_0 b)}. \quad [2]$$

and

$$\beta_0^2 = \gamma_0^2 + k_0^2 \quad [3]$$

where,

$$F_0(k_0 b) = J_0(k_0 a) Y_0(k_0 b) - Y_0(k_0 a) J_0(k_0 b) \quad [4]$$

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$$F_1(k_0 b) = J_0(k_0 a) Y_1(k_0 b) - Y_0(k_0 a) J_1(k_0 b) \quad [5]$$

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2	0.4	0.4	9	0.5	0.4
3	0.4	0.6	10	0.5	0.6
4	0.4	0.8	11	0.5	0.8
5	0.4	1.0	12	0.5	1.0
6	0.4	1.2	13	0.5	1.2
7	0.4	1.4	14	0.5	1.4

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TABLE 2
Measured values of guide wavelength λ_g (cms).
Free space wavelength $\lambda_0 = 3.2$ cms.

Structure Number*	λ_g (cms.)	Structure Number*	λ_g (cms.)
1	2.72	8	2.4
2	2.85	9	2.45
3	2.96	10	2.6
4	2.29	11	2.65
5	3.13	12	2.77
6	3.06	13	2.89
7	2.98	14	3.0

*Refer to Table 1 for values of b and W .

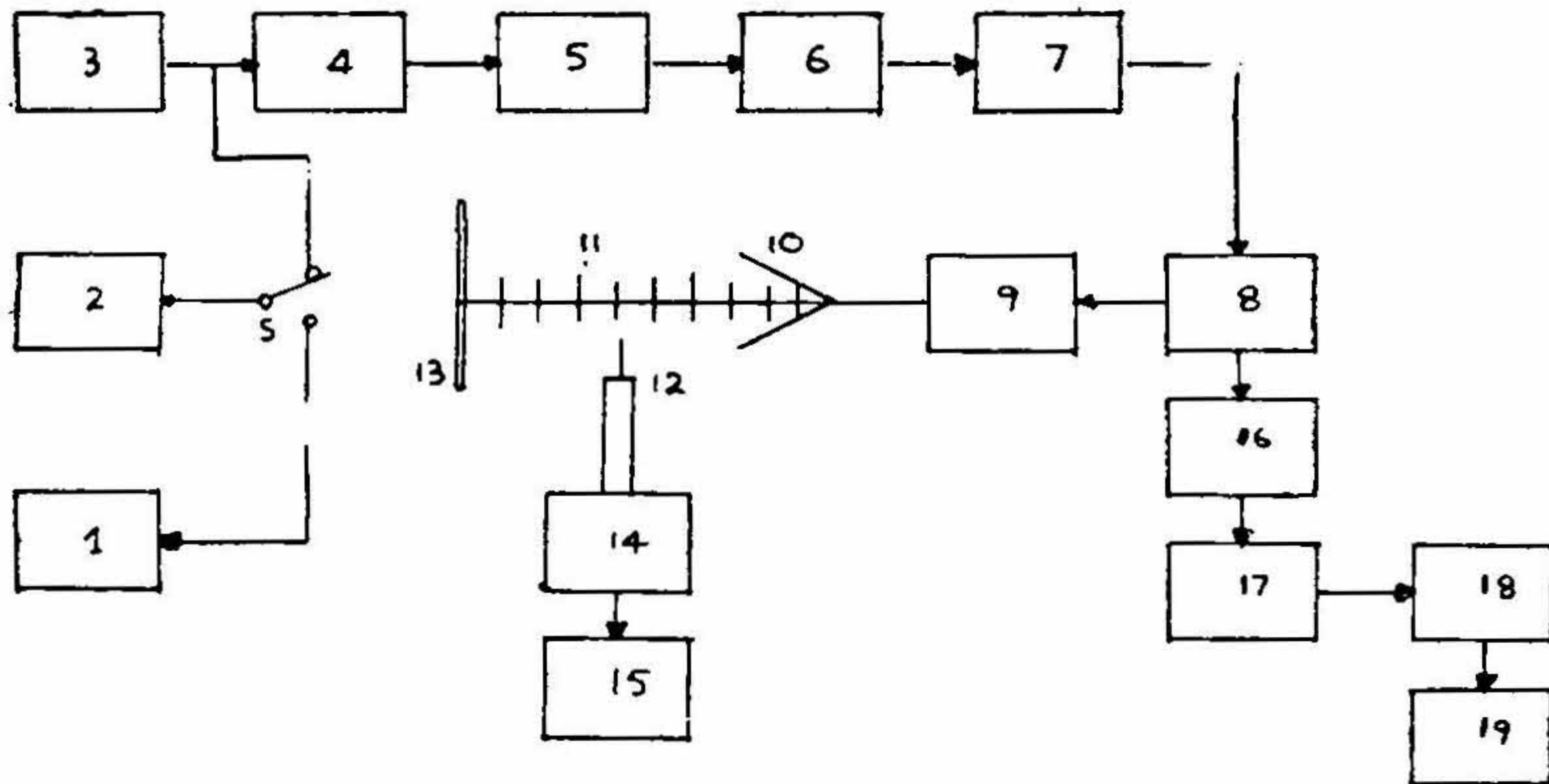


FIG. 2

Block schematic diagram of the experimental set-up for surface wave field measurement.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Saw tooth generator | 10. Circular metal cane |
| 2. Square wave modulator | 11. Cylindrical corrugated structure |
| 3. Klystron power supply | 12. Monopole probe |
| 4. Klystron (723 A/B) and feed | 13. Aluminium plate terminating the structure |
| 5. 'Uniline' ferrite isolator
(CRC Model 88-96 B) | 14. Crystal tuner (PRD type 612 A) |
| 6. Precision frequency meter
(PRD Type 55 B-A) | 15. Detector amplifier |
| 7. Precision attenuator (PRD Type 115-B) | 16. Flap attenuator (PRD type 160) |
| 8. H-Tee (PRD type 461) | 17. Waveguide tuner (PRD type 302) |
| 9. Wave guide to coaxial adapter
(Micro line model 249) | 18. Detecting section |
| | 19. Detector amplifier |
| | S. Switch for applying saw tooth or square
wave to the reflector of the klystron |

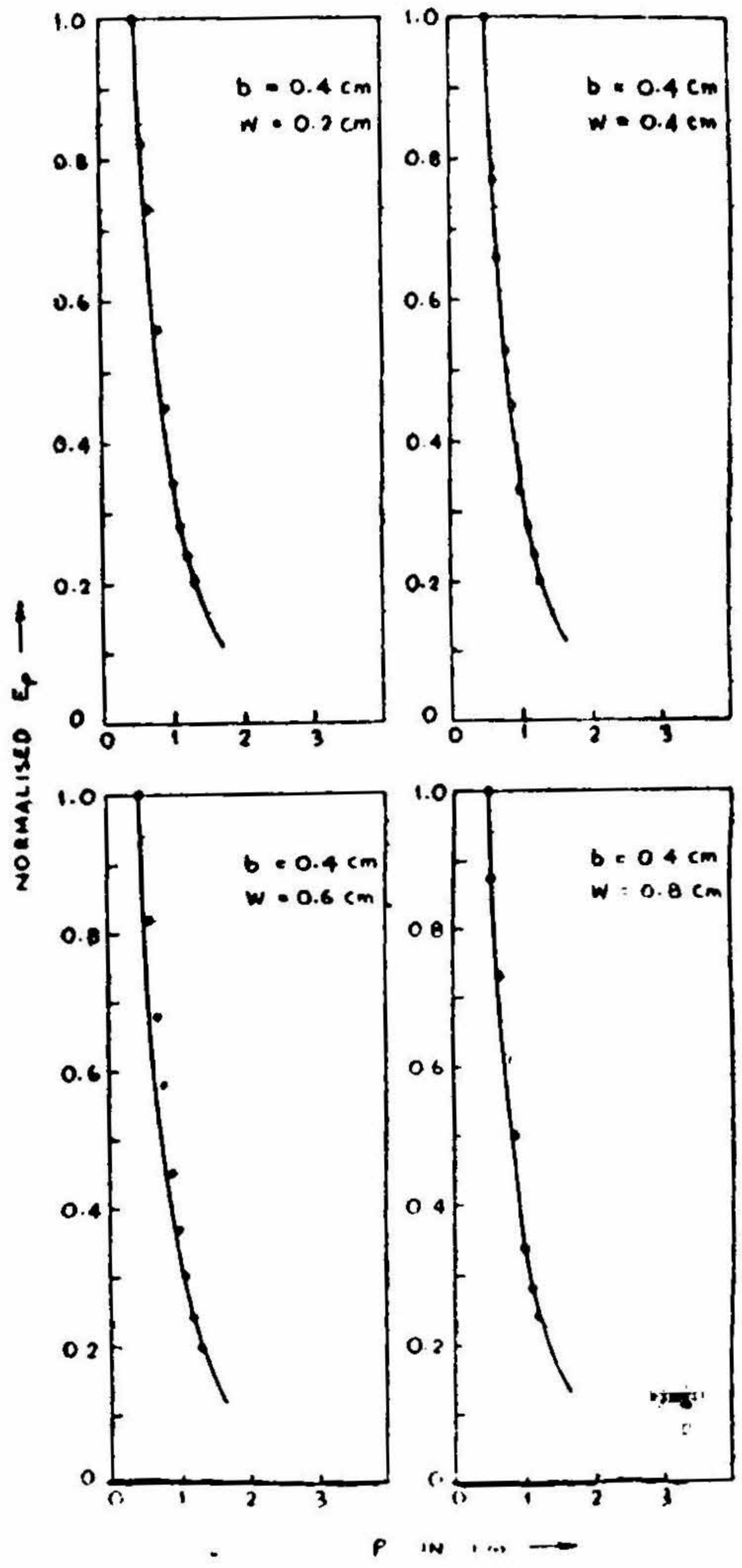


FIG. 3

Experimental and theoretical plots for the component E_p
 b : Disc-radius — Theoretical graph
 w : Disc-spacing · · Experimental points

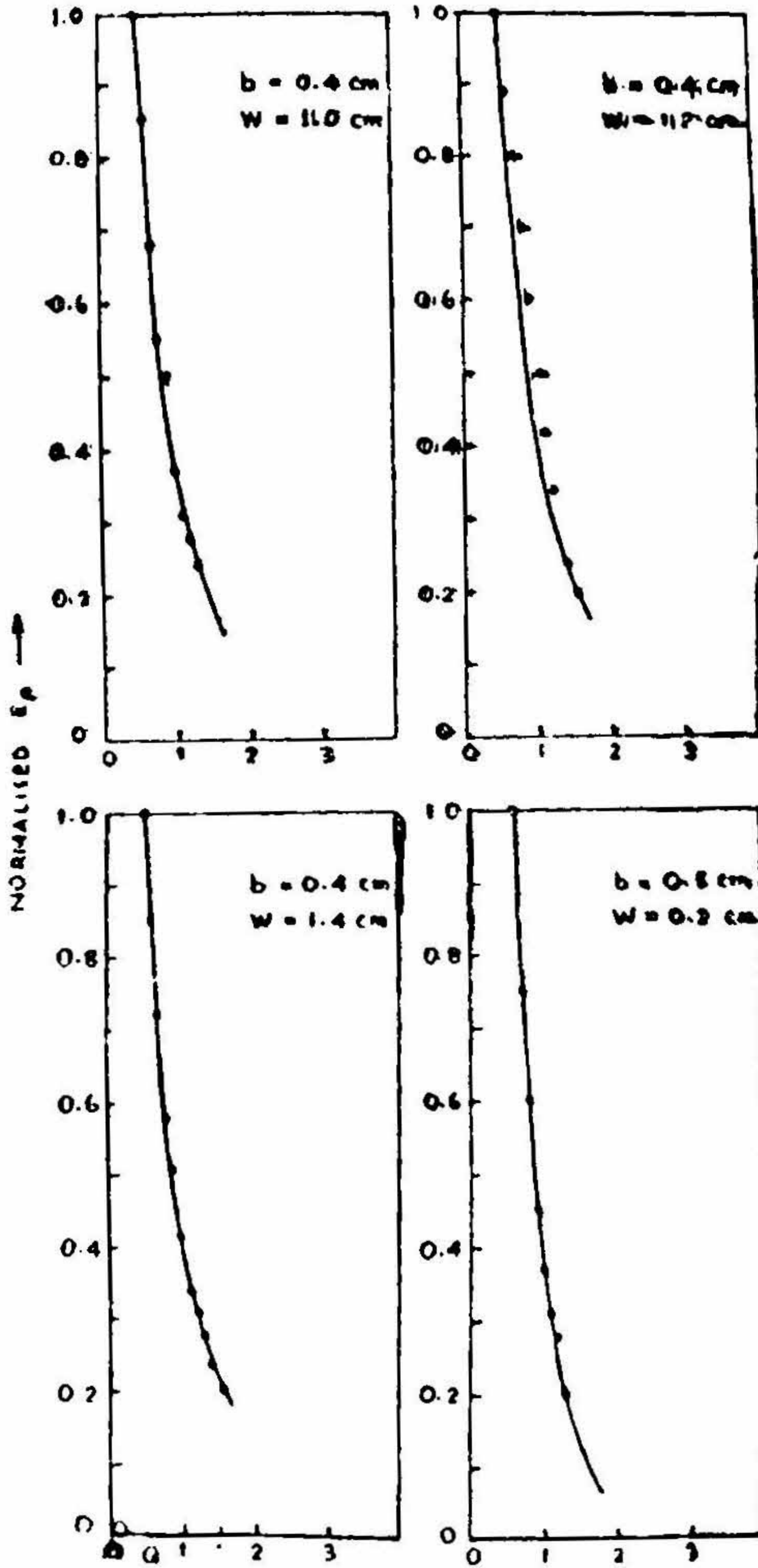


FIG. 4

Experimental and theoretical slots for the component E_p

b : Disc-radius
 w : Disc-spacing

— Theoretical graph
 · · Experimental points

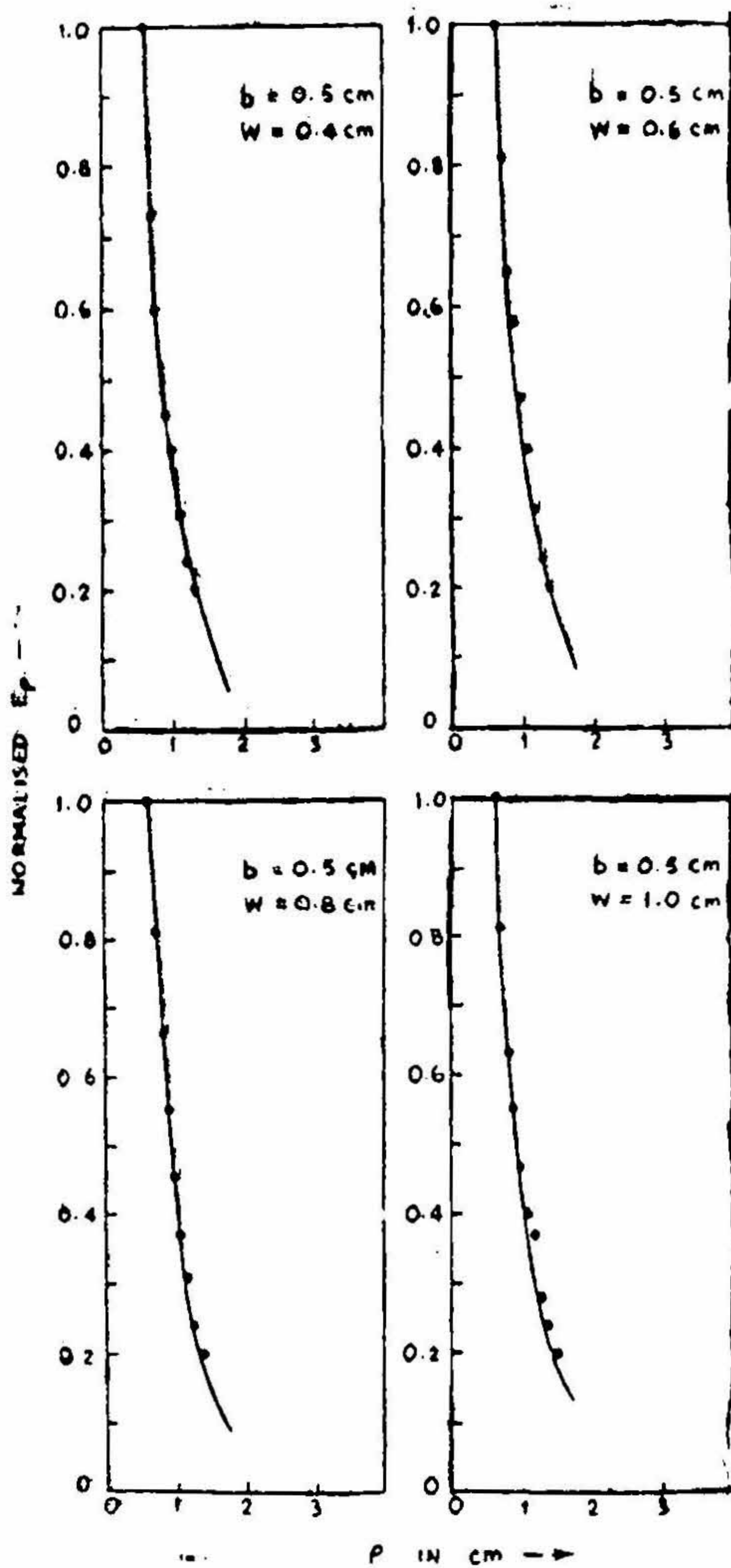


FIG. 5

Experimental and theoretical plots for the component E_p

b : Disc-radius	— Theoretical graph
w : Disc-spacing	• • Experimental points

Study of the Surface Wave and Radiation Characteristics

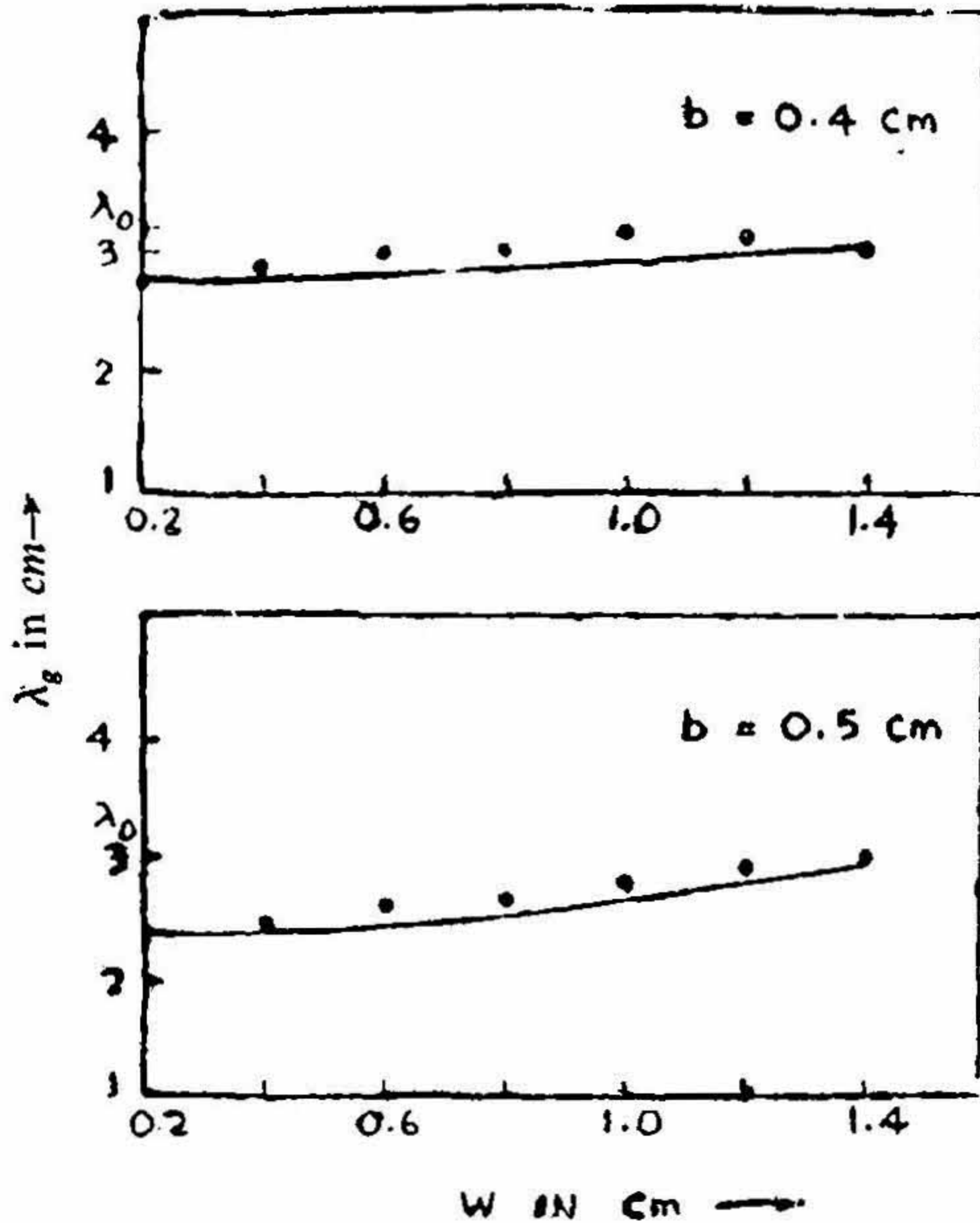


FIG. 6

Theoretical and experimental plots of λg versus w .

- Theoretical graph
- • Experimental points
- b : Disc-radius
- w : Disc-spacing
- λg : Guide wavelength

5. MEASUREMENT OF RADIATION FIELD

The block schematic diagram (See Fig. 7) shows the arrangement for measuring the radiation field. The method of measurement is conventional. Some of the results of measurement of the power pattern are shown in Figures 8–10. The theoretical patterns shown for the sake of comparison are derived from the following relation².

$$\vec{E} = D \hat{\theta} \left\{ \frac{k_0}{\gamma_0} \sin \theta K_1(\gamma_0 b) J_0(u) + K_0(\gamma_0 b) J_1(u) \right\} \frac{\sin X}{x} \cdot \frac{\exp(jk_0 r)}{r} \quad [6]$$

where,

$$X = \frac{(\beta_0 - k_0 \cos \theta) L}{2}$$

$$u = k_0 b \sin \theta$$

$$\text{and } D = \frac{1}{2} j k_0 C_0 b L \exp(-jX)$$

where L is the length of the structure ($= 50$ cm.) and θ is the angle measured from the axis of the structure.

Variation of the position of major lobe with disc-spacing W is shown in Fig. 11.

6. DISCUSSION OF THEORETICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS^(1, 2).

6.1. Dispersion Characteristics of the Structure.

The effect of variation of the frequency of excitation on the propagation characteristics of the structure is determined from the solution of the equation (2). The phase velocity (v_p), group velocity (v_g) are determined from the dispersion diagrams. Some of the values are tabulated in Table 3.⁴

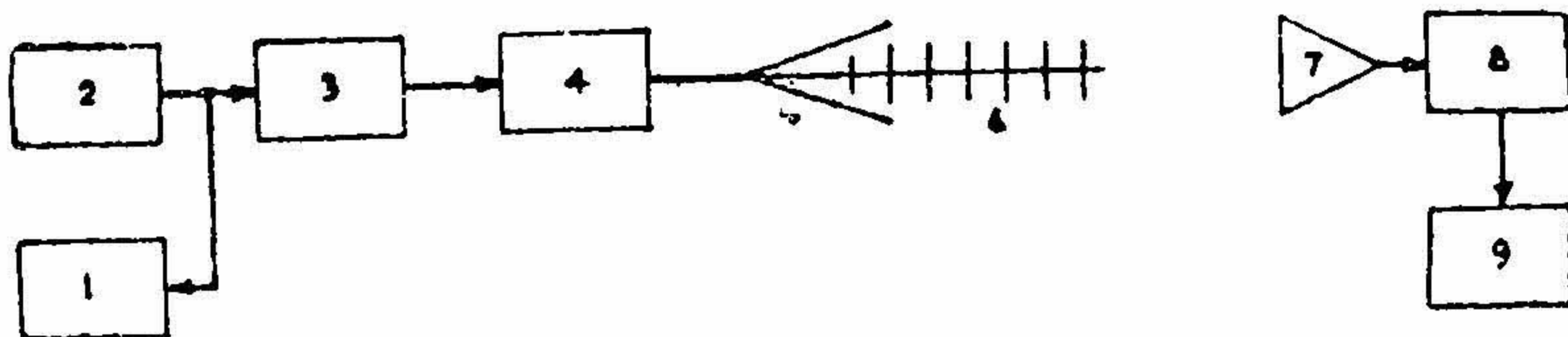


FIG. 7

Block schematic diagram of the experimental set-up for radiation field measurement

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Squire wave modulator | 5. Circular metal cone |
| 2. Klystron power supply | 6. Surface wave guide |
| 3. Klystron (723 A/B) and feed | 7. Pyramidal horn |
| 4. Rectangular wave guide-to-coaxial adapter (Microline Model 249) | 8. Detecting section |
| | 9. Detector amplifier |

Note: The distance between the feed end of the structure (6) and the horn (7), at any position of the horn is about 2 metres

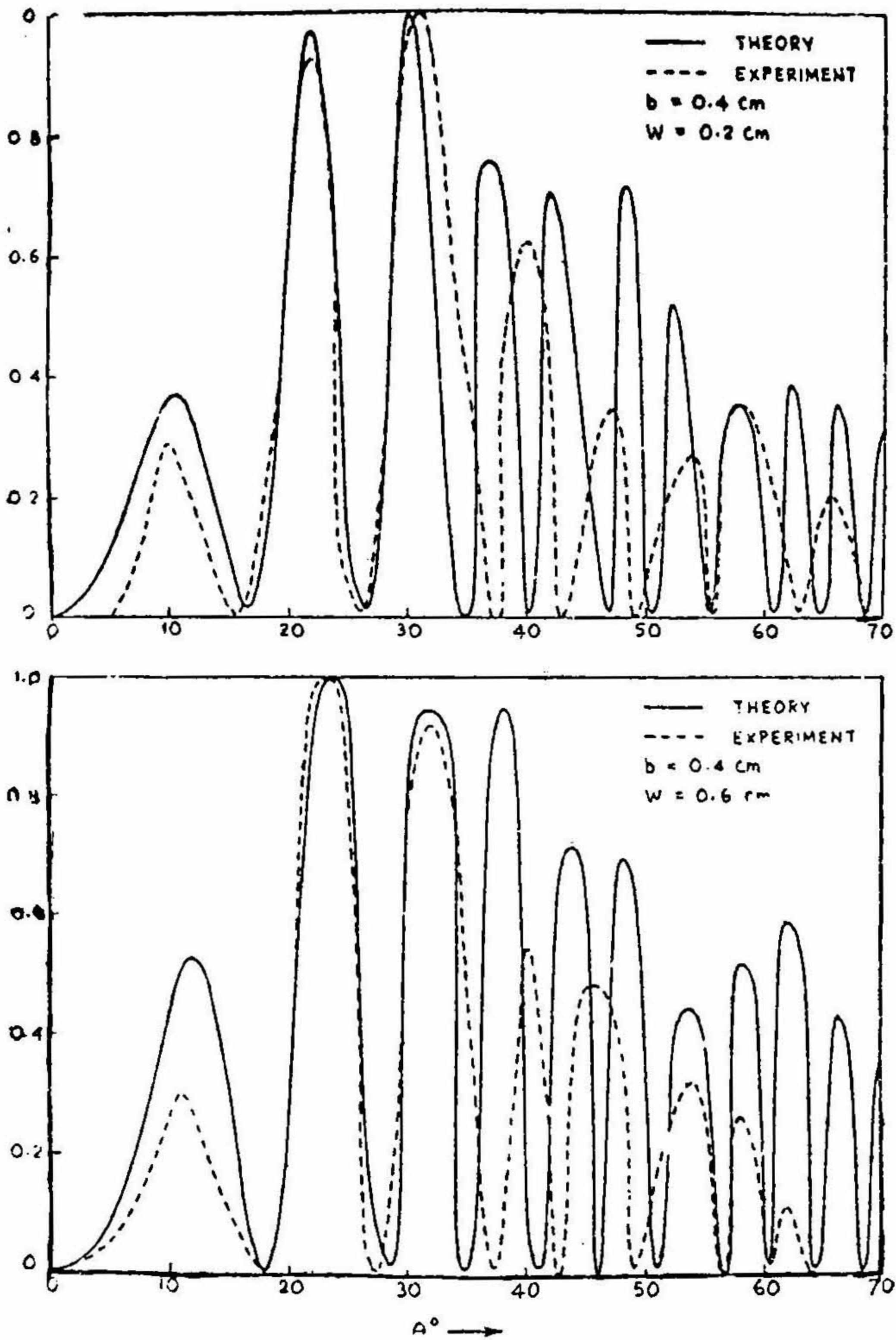


FIG. 8

Experimental and theoretical power patterns
 b : Disc-radius w : Disc-spacing
 θ : Angle measured from the axis of the structure
 length of the structure = 50 c.m.

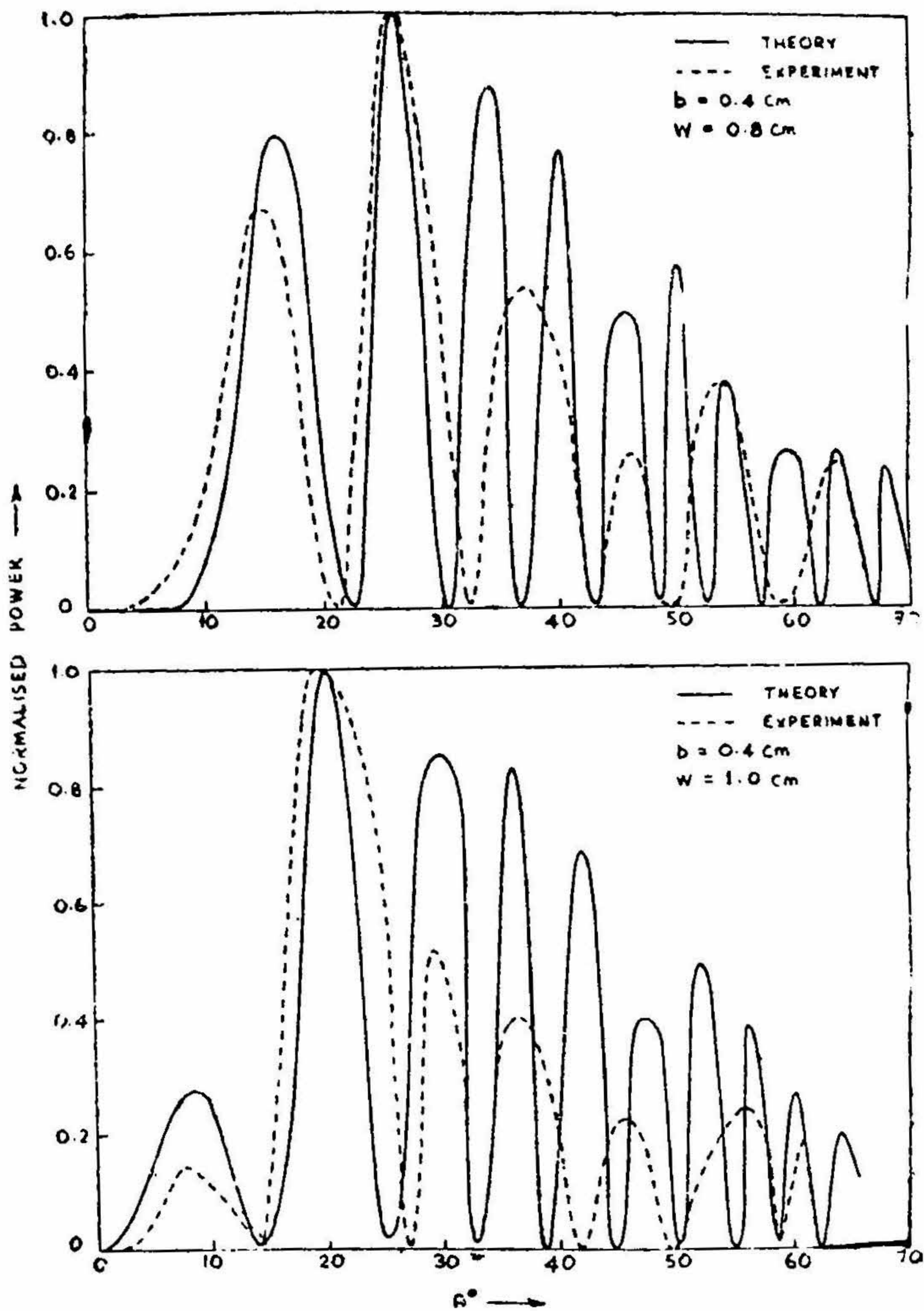


FIG. 9

Experimental and theoretical power patterns
 b : Disc-radius w : Disc-spacing
 θ : Angle measured from the axis of the structure,
 length of the structure = 50 c.m.

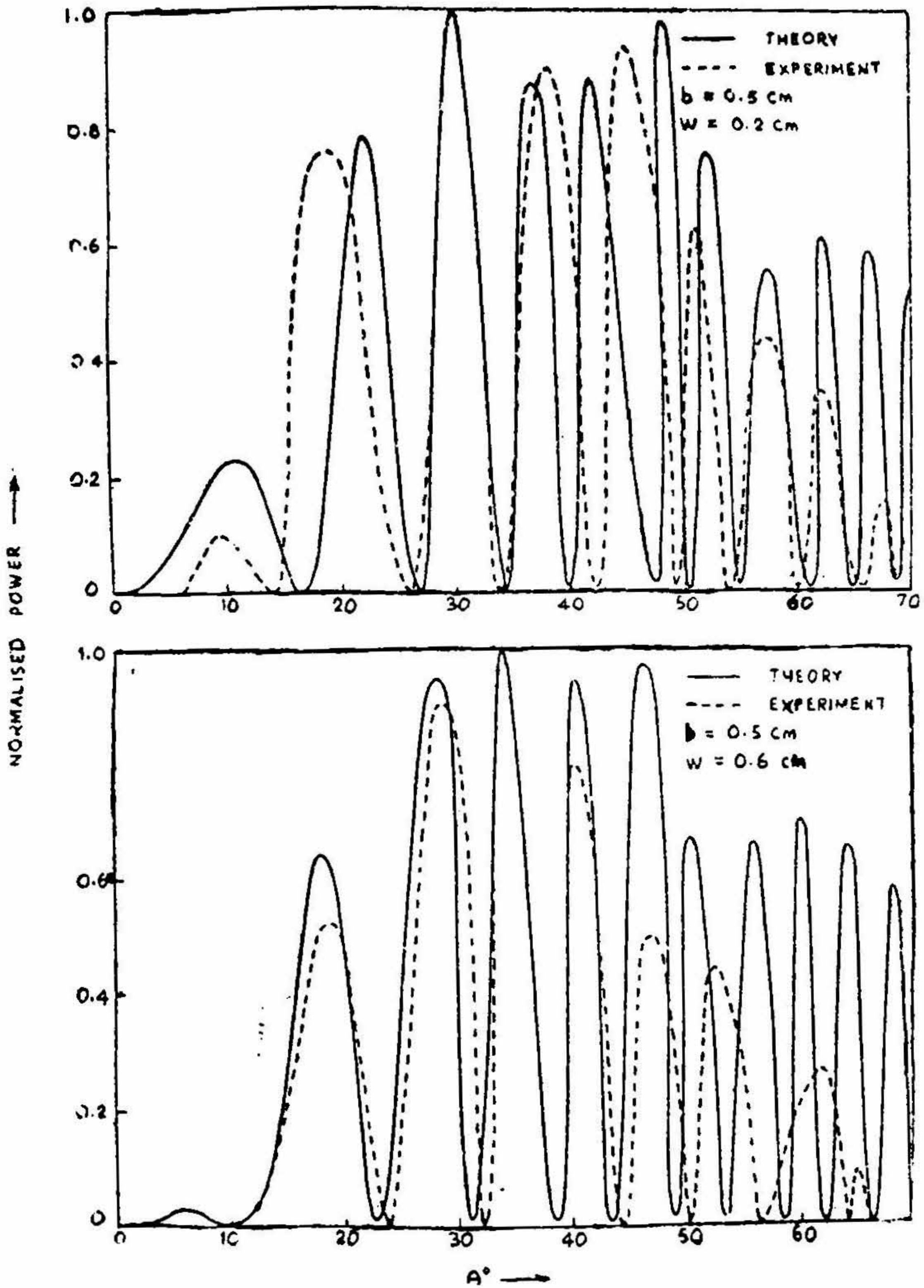


FIG. 10

Experimental and theoretical power patterns
 b : Disc-radius w : Disc-spacing
 θ : Angle measured from the axis of the structure,
 length of the structure = 50 c.m.,

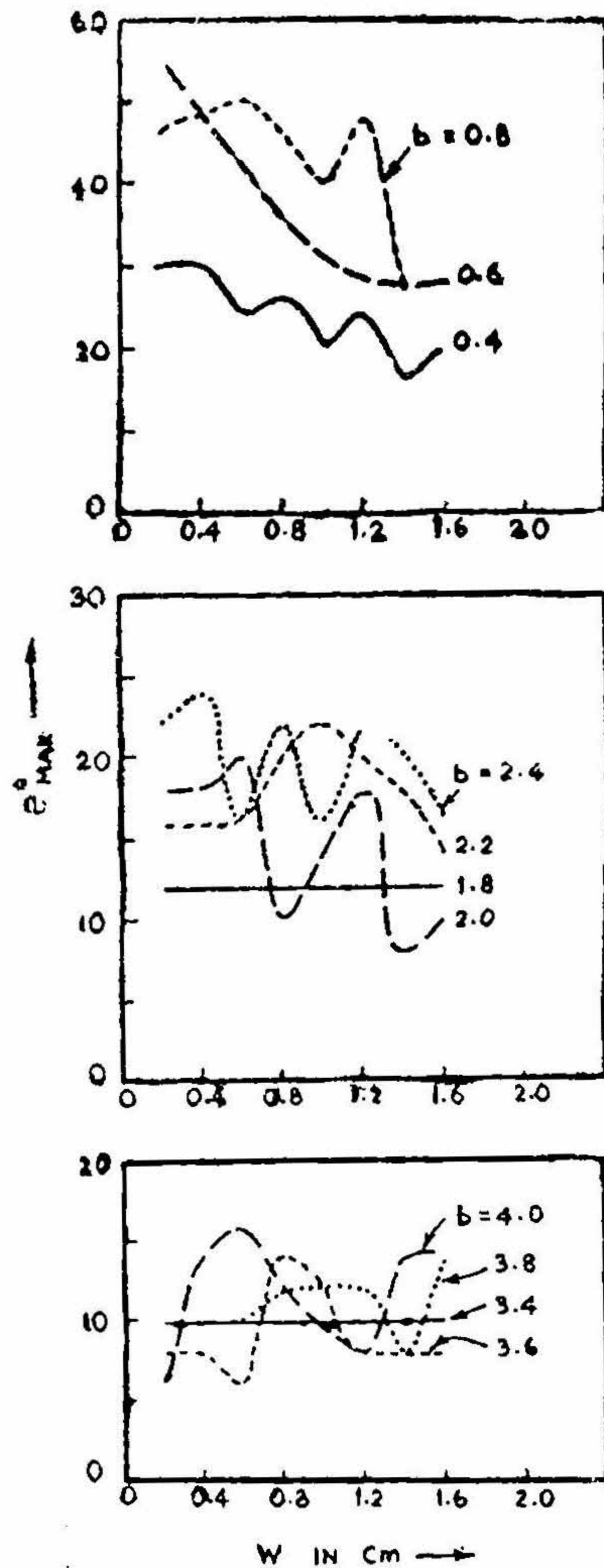


FIG. 11

Plots of the position of the major lobe (in the structure radiation pattern) versus the disc-spacing, W

θ_{Max} : Angle measured from the axis of the structure

b : Disc-spacing in cm

Length of the structure = 50 cm.

TABLE 3

Approximate values of v_p/c , v_g/c and $v_p v_g/c^2$.

b (cms)	k_0 (radians/cm)	v_p/c	v_g/c	$v_p v_g/c^2$
0.4	1.6	0.89	0.84	0.75
	4	0.76	0.60	0.45
0.6	1.6	0.67	0.48	0.32
	3.2	0.31	0.05	0.01
0.8	1.2	0.54	0.30	0.16
	1.6	0.38	0.14	0.53
1.8	2.4	0.78	0.27	0.21
	2.8	0.30	0.01	0.003

It follows from the above table that

- (i) in any band the phase velocity and group velocity decrease with frequency ; and
- (ii) in contrast to the conventional waveguides in which $v_p v_g = c^2$, in this case $v_p v_g < c^2$, and in any band, $v_p v_g/c^2$ decreases with frequency.

6.2 Attenuation

The frequency dependence of the attenuation constant (α) of the structure is determined from the relation¹

$$\alpha = \frac{P_1 + P_2 + P_3}{2lP_1} \tag{7}$$

where,

$$P_1 = \frac{B^2 \pi^3 W^2 \eta (1 - W) k_0^2 b}{4 l^2 \gamma_0^2} \frac{\epsilon_0}{\mu_0} \frac{K_1^2(\gamma_0 b)}{K_0^2(\gamma_0 b)} J_0^2(\beta_0 W/2)$$

$$P_2 = \frac{B^2 \pi W \eta \epsilon_0}{k_0^2 a \mu_0} \frac{1}{F_0^2(k_0 b)}$$

$$P_3 = \frac{B^2 \pi^3 \eta}{8 F_0^2(k_0 b)} \frac{\epsilon_0}{\mu_0} \left[b^2 \{F_1^2(k_0 b) - F_0(k_0 b) F_2(k_0 b)\} - \frac{4}{\pi^2 k_0^2} \right]$$

$$P' = \frac{1}{2} B^2 \pi W^2 \beta_0 k_0 \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_0}{\mu_0}} \frac{G(\gamma_0 b)}{l^2 \gamma_0^4} \left[\frac{J_0(\beta_0 W/2)}{H_0^{(1)}(j \gamma_0 b)} \right]^2$$

$$F_2(k_0 b) = J_0(k_0 a) Y_2(k_0 b) - Y_0(k_0 a) J_2(k_0 b)$$

$$G(\gamma_0 b) = (\gamma_0 b)^2 K_0^2(\gamma_0 b) + 2 \gamma_0 b K_0(\gamma_0 b) K_1(\gamma_0 b) - (\gamma_0 b)^2 K_1^2(\gamma_0 b)$$

It is evident that α depends on k_0 , or, the frequency (f) in a complicated way and it is difficult to give a definite proportionality relation between α and k_0 from equation (7). It has therefore been thought worth while to make an attempt to derive an approximate relation between α and k_0 from a plot of α versus k_0 made on a log—log scale (See Fig. 12 and 13). The proportionality relation between α and frequency derived from the above figures in different ranges of b and k_0 is tabulated in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Approximate slope $d\alpha / dk_0$ for the plots given in Figures 12 and 13.

b (cm)	k_0 (radians/cm)	$d\alpha / dk_0$	b (cm)	k_0 (radians/cm)	$d\alpha / dk_0$
0.4	1.6	0.82	0.6	2	3.08
	3.2	1.66		2.8	6.69
	4	1.8			
1.8	$2.3 \leq k_0$	19.08	2.2	$1.6 \leq k_0$	11.43
	≤ 2.8			≤ 2	
	$4.4 \leq k_0$	38.19		$3.2 \leq k_0$	28.64
	≤ 4.8			≤ 3.6	

It is observed that (a) on the average α is proportional to $f^{1/5}$ and that α increases very rapidly with f for $b = 1.8$ and 2.2 cms, and (b) the proportionality factor for f increases with f for $b = 0.4$ and 0.6 cms.

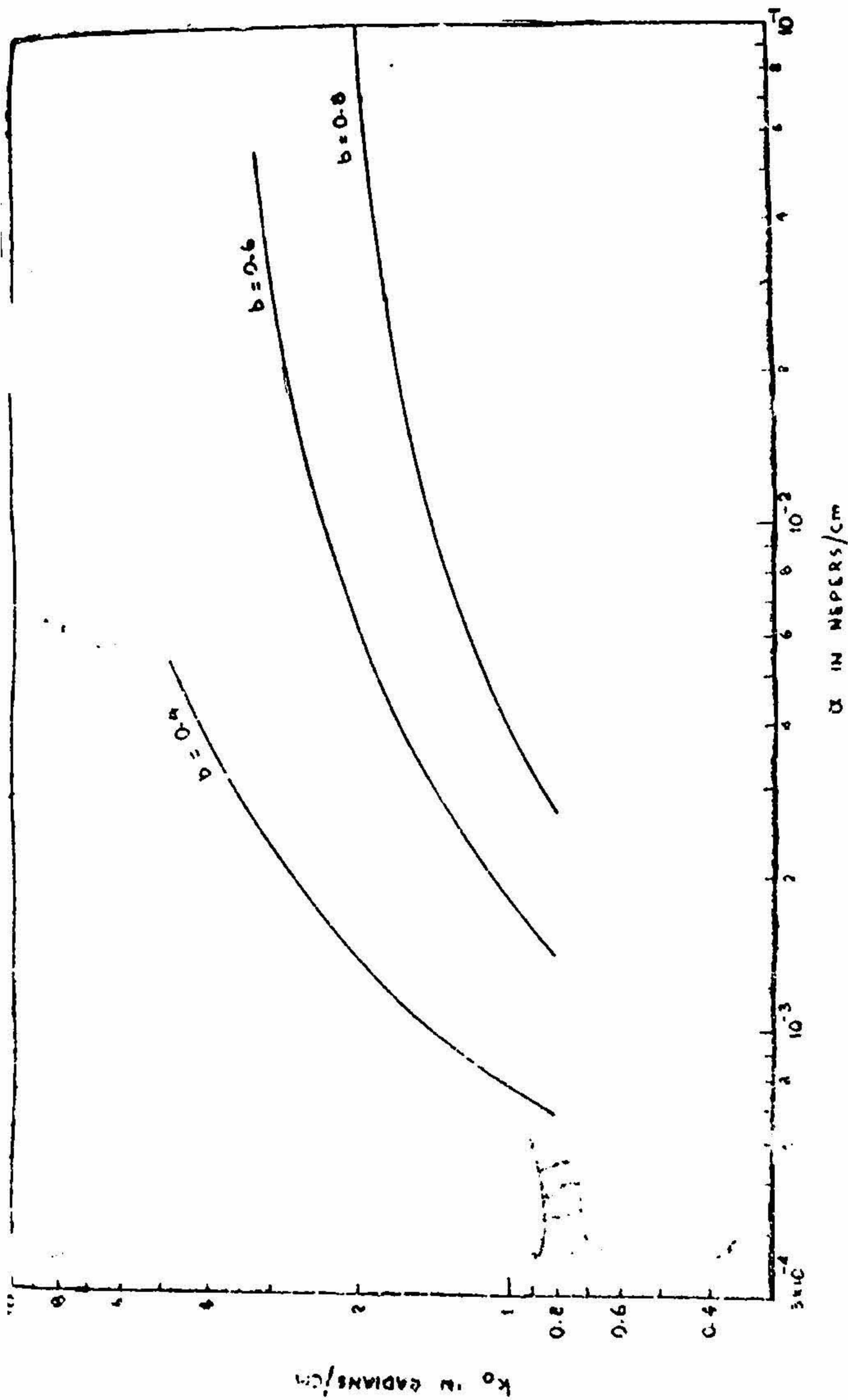


FIG. 12

Plots of k_0 versus α

- k_0 : Free space wave number
- b : Disc-radius in c.m.
- α : Attenuation constant
- Disc-spacing = 0.2 c.m.

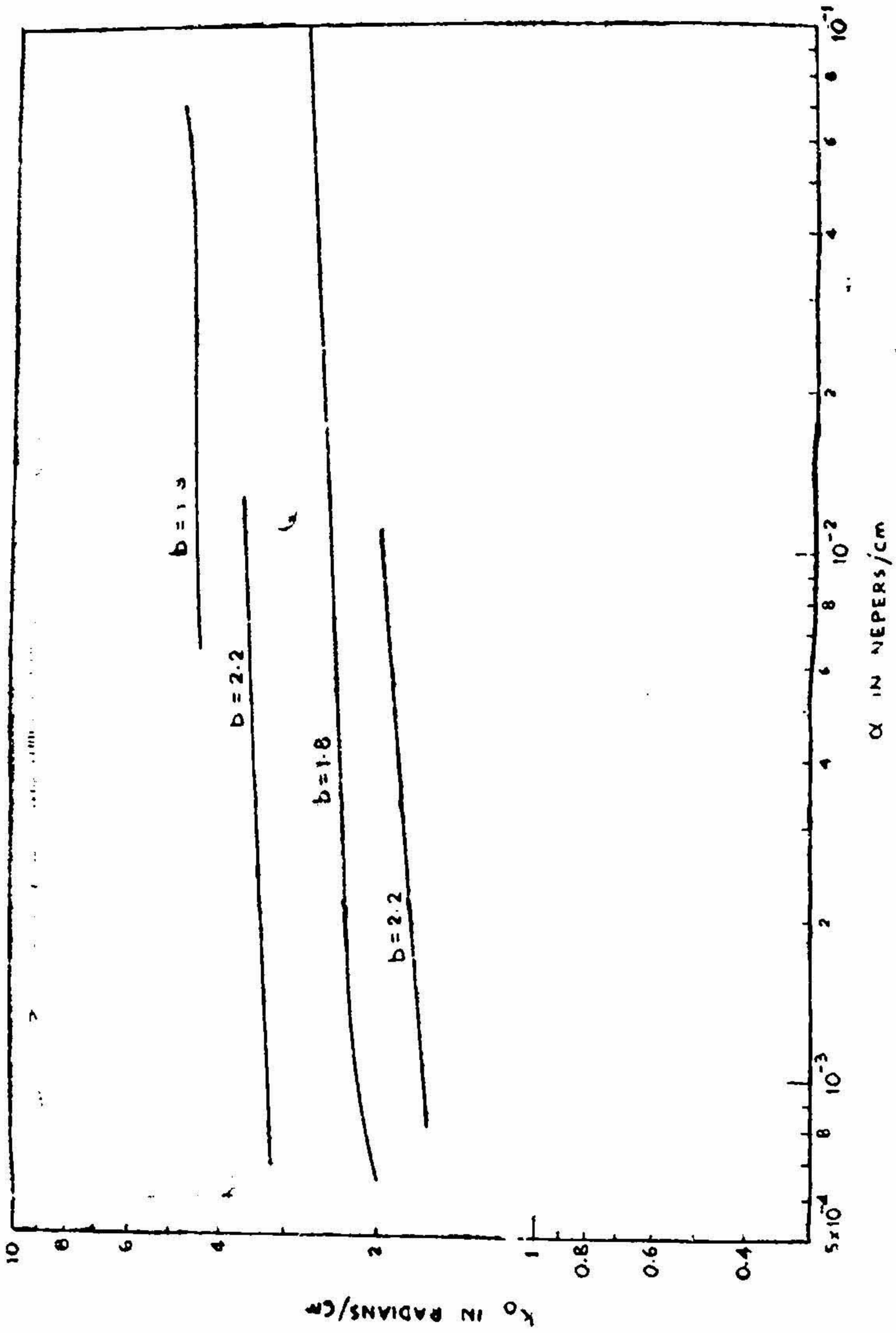


FIG. 13

Plots of k_0 versus α
 Free space wave number b : Disc-radius in cm .
 Attenuation constant Disc-spacing = 0.2 cm .

6.3 Purity of Surface Wave.

The close agreement between theory and experiment for the radial field decay (See Figs. 3-5) and guide wavelength (See Fig. 6) indicates that the surface wave launched on the structure is pure for the values of b and W indicated in the figures.

6.4 Impedance of the Grooves.

The condition under which the structure can support a pure surface wave can also be considered from the point of view of groove impedance. The impedance of the grooves is given by the relation

$$\frac{E_z^{(2)}}{H_\phi^{(2)}} = -j \left(\sqrt{\frac{\mu_0}{\epsilon_0}} \right) \frac{F_0(k_0 b)}{F_1(k_0 b)} \quad [8]$$

It has been pointed out in an earlier paper¹ published elsewhere, that surface wave roots can exist when

$$\frac{F_1(k_0 b)}{F_0(k_0 b)} < 0 \text{ or, } \frac{F_1(k_0 b)}{F_0(k_0 b)} > 0, \text{ but}$$

very small. This means that the surface wave roots can exist when the impedance of the grooves is inductive or is capacitive but very high.

6.5. Launching Efficiency

The question of how effectively surface wave can be launched on a structure depends not only on the nature of the surface of the structure but also on the launching efficiency of the launching device which in the present case is a slot of radius h . The launching efficiency η_e is given by the relations²

$$\eta_e = \frac{P_S}{P_R + P_S} \quad [9]$$

where,

$$P_S = \frac{32 e^{-2} h^2 \gamma_0}{b^2 \beta_0 G(\gamma_0 b)} \frac{\pi}{\gamma_0^2} \frac{\omega \mu_0 \gamma_0}{k_0^2} (b \gamma_0)^2 K_1^2(\gamma_0 h)$$

$$P_R = 4\pi c^{-2} h^2 Z_0 \int_0^{\pi/2} |\bar{G}(\theta)|^2 \sin \theta d\theta$$

$$\bar{G}(\theta) = F(-k_0 b \sin \theta) H_1^{(1)}(-k_0 h \sin \theta) + H_1^{(2)}(-k_0 h \sin \theta)$$

$$F(-k_0 h \sin \theta) = [X_S k_0^2 H_1^{(2)}(-k_0 b \sin \theta) - \omega \mu_0 k_0 \sin \theta H_0^{(2)}(-k_0 b \sin \theta)] /$$

$$[\omega \mu_0 k_0 \sin \theta H_0^{(1)}(-k_0 b \sin \theta) - X_S k_0^2 H_1^{(1)}(-k_0 b \sin \theta)]$$

$$X_S = \frac{\omega \mu_0 \gamma_0}{k_0^2} \frac{K_0(\gamma_0 b)}{K_1(\gamma_0 b)}$$

$$\bar{e} = \frac{V k_0^2}{4 \omega \mu_0}$$

The launching efficiency depends on b , w and h . It is difficult to determine the sensitivity of η_e with respect to these parameters. It is however, observed from the plots of maximum η_e versus b and W (See Figures 14 and 15) that maximum η_e is more sensitive with respect to b than W . The following table contains some typical values of maximum launching efficiency and the corresponding values b , W , c/v_p and λ_e ,

TABLE 5

Maximum value of η_e and corresponding values of c/v_p and λ_e

$b(\text{cm})$	$W(\text{cm})$	$\lambda_e(\text{cm})$	c/v_p	$\eta_e(\%)$
0.4	0.8	2.85	1.12	97
	1.2	2.98	1.07	94
	1.6	3.09	1.03	88
1.8	0.8	3.19	1	43
	1.2	3.12	1	40
	1.6	3.2	1	35
2	0.8	2.95	1.08	97
	1.2	3.06	1.05	92
	1.6	3.14	1.02	78
3.6	0.8	2.98	1.07	94
	1.2	3.07	1.04	89
	1.6	3.15	1.01	78

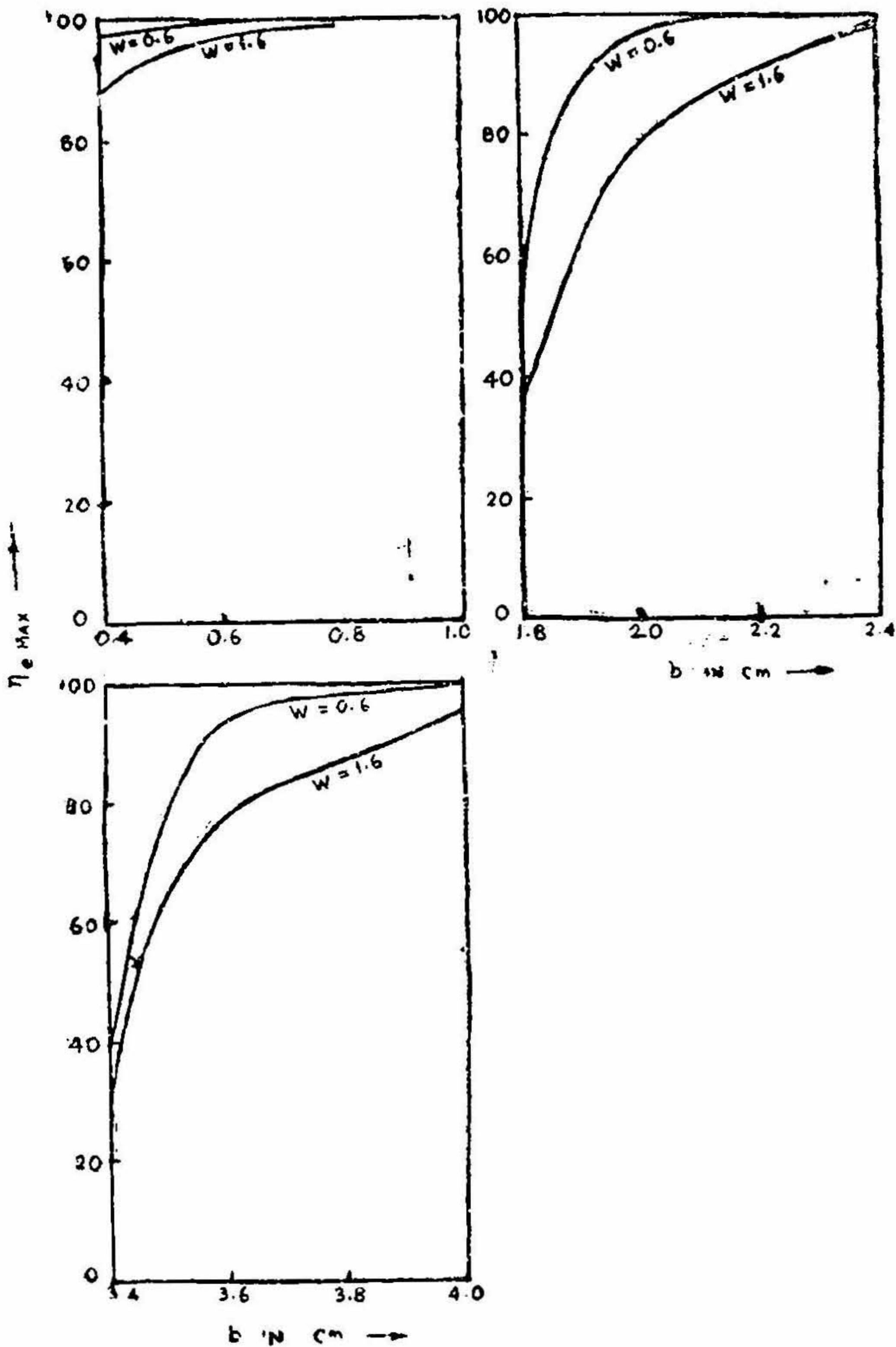


FIG. 14

Plots of maximum launching efficiency versus b .

b : Disc-radius.

W : Disc-spacing in cm.

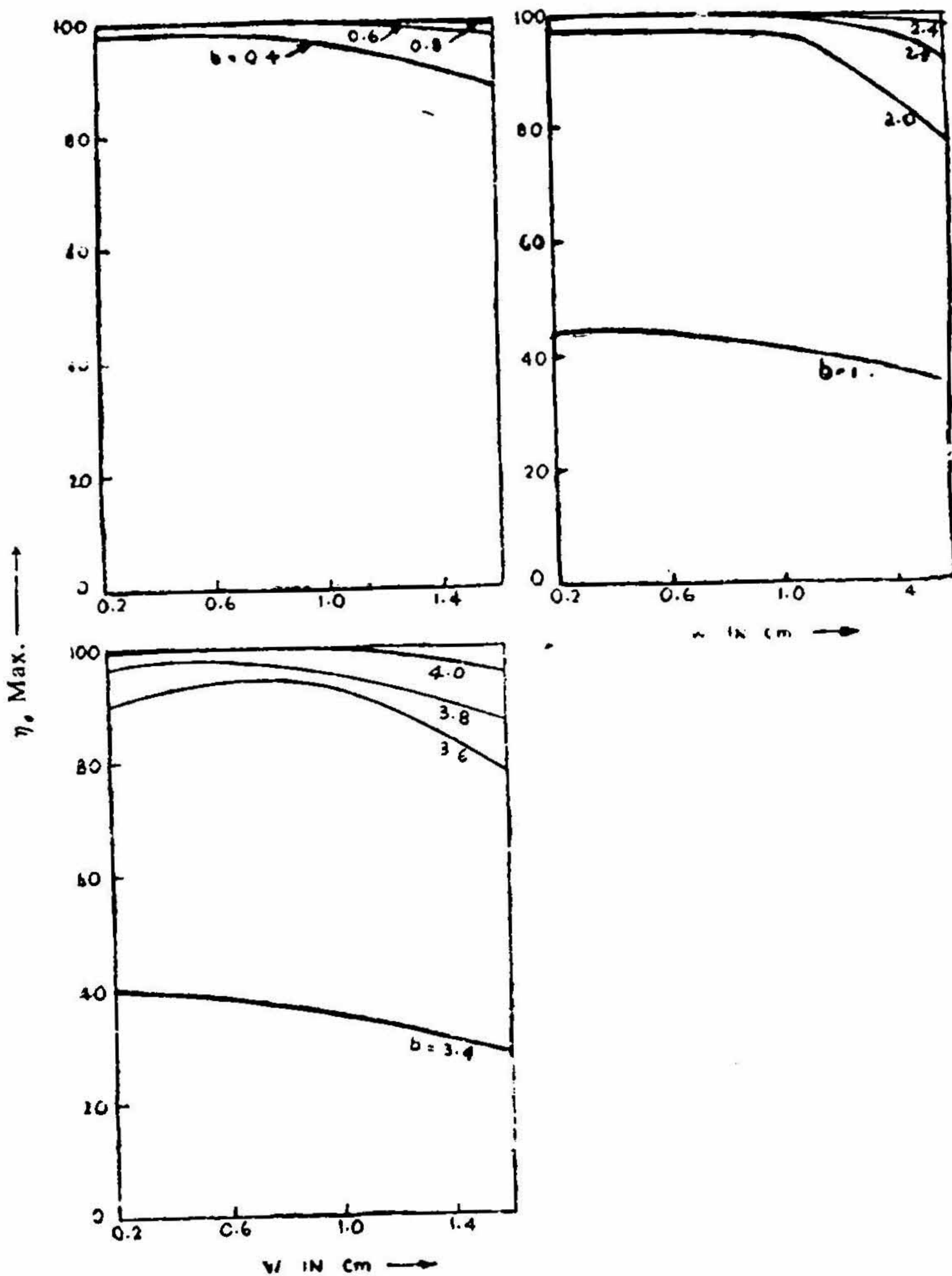


FIG. 15

Plots maximum launching efficiency versus w .

b : Disc-radius in cm.

w : Disc-spacing.

6.6 Source-excited Radiation Field.

The radiation field is not only due to structure radiation but also due to the presence of the exciting source. The source field modified by the structure is given by²,

$$H_{\phi}(\text{rad}) = -\frac{2j\bar{c}hG(\theta)}{r}\exp(-jk_0r)$$

is determined for the case (i) when b and W are such that it supports surface waves (class I), (ii) when b and W are such that it does not support surface wave (class II). A plot of the position of the major lobe versus the disc-radius is given in Fig. 16 from which it follows that the radiation pattern changes from nearly end fire to broadside direction and from broadside to end fire direction as the disc-radius is increased in class I and II respectively.

6.7 Comparison between Disc-loaded structure, Sommerfeld line and Harms-Goubau line

In order to compare the surface wave characteristics of the corrugated line with that of the Harms-Goubau line, the thickness of the polythene coating of the latter which would give the same phase velocity as that of the corrugated structure is found. The radius b' of the dielectric coating of the Goubau line is determined from the following relation³,

$$\frac{F_0(\gamma_i b')}{F_1(\gamma_i b')} = -\left(\frac{k_i}{k_0}\right)^2 \frac{\gamma_0}{\gamma_i} \frac{K_0(\gamma_0 b)}{K_1(\gamma_0 b)} \quad [10]$$

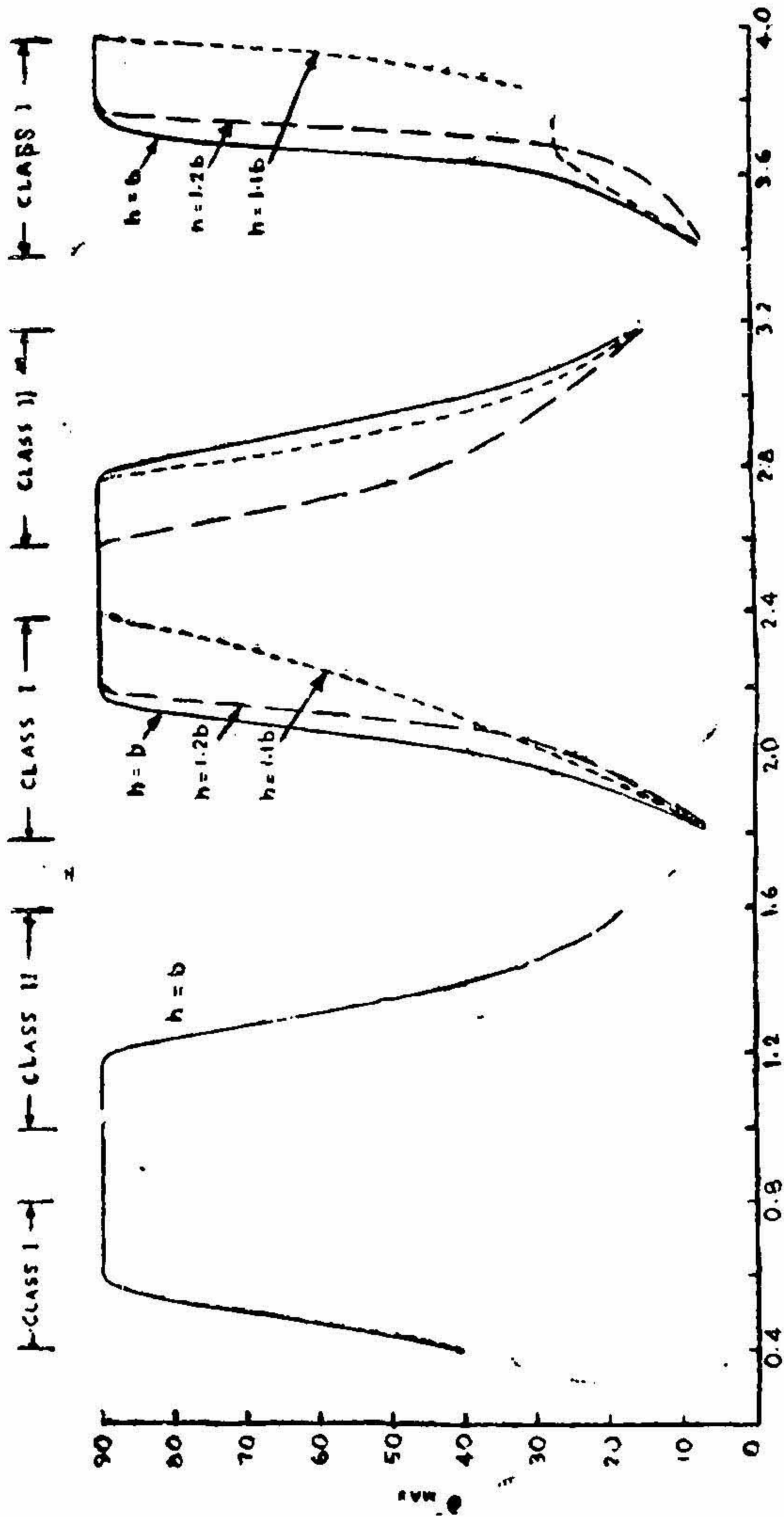
where, $k_i^2 = \omega^2 \mu_0 \epsilon_i$, $\gamma_i^2 = k_i^2 - \beta_0^2$

$$F_r(\gamma_i b') = J_0(\gamma_i a) Y_r(\gamma_i b') - Y_0(\gamma_i a) J_r(\gamma_i b')$$

where, $r = 0, 1$.

ϵ_i is the dielectric constant of the polythene, γ_0 is the radial propagation constant for the fundamental harmonic and b is the disc-radius of the equivalent structure.

The value of b' which would give the same phase velocity corresponding to particular values of b and W of the corrugated line is calculated from equation [10] and the results are given in Table 6. The blank spaces in the table correspond to the case $\beta_0 < k_i$. Since physically $\beta_0 > k_i$, it follows that b' cannot be determined for values of b and W for which $\beta_0 < k_i$. It is observed that when $h \approx a$, $b' > b$.



DISC-RADIUS, b IN CM

FIG. 16

Plots of the position of the major lobe (in the source excited radiation pattern) versus the disc-radius.

θ_{Max} : Angles measured from the axis of the structure

h : Slot-radius.

Disc-spacing = 0.2 cm.

TABLE 6
Values of b' (cm) and the corresponding b and W .

W (cm)	.2	.4	.6	.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6
b (cm)								
0.4	.495	.51	.485	.46	.43	.39	.36	.33
0.6	—	—	—	1.165	.785	.64	.54	.475
0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.205	6.755
1.8	.27	.265	.265	.26	.26	.26	.26	.255
2.0	.51	.515	.495	.48	.45	.415	.37	.35
2.2	1.38	1.405	.975	.785	.67	.58	.51	.455
2.4	—	—	—	—	—	1.115	.765	.63
3.4	.28	.28	.28	.275	.275	.27	.27	.265
3.6	.505	.525	.505	.48	.455	.42	.38	.35
3.8	1.1	1.105	.89	.745	.65	.57	.51	.455
4	—	—	—	—	—	.985	.73	.6

The attenuation constant calculated as a function of b and W with the aid of equation (7) is compared with the attenuation constant of the equivalent Harms-Goubau line in Table 7.

TABLE 7
Values of α for Harms-Goubau and corrugated surface wave line

W (cms)	b (cms)	b' (cm)	γ_0 radians/cm	α (H.G.) nepers/cm	α (corrugated) nepers/cm
1.6	0.4	0.33	0.525	1.1×10^{-4}	0.43×10^{-4}
0.2	1.8	0.27	0.111	0.44×10^{-4}	0.56×10^{-4}
1.6	1.8	0.255	0.059	0.35×10^{-4}	0.65×10^{-4}
0.2	3.4	0.28	0.125	0.46×10^{-4}	0.84×10^{-4}
1.6	3.4	0.265	0.063	0.35×10^{-4}	0.64×10^{-4}

The loss (L') per 100 ft. of Harms-Goubau line is given by³

$$L' = \frac{P(\gamma_0 b')}{b(\lambda_0)^{1/2}} + \frac{\epsilon_0}{\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_0} \tan \delta \frac{\lambda_0}{b'^2} Q(\gamma_0 b') \text{ (db)}$$

$$P(\gamma_0 b') = -1.33 \times 10^4 (\epsilon_0/\mu_0)^{1/4} \left(\frac{\pi}{\sigma}\right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{\ln \gamma_0 b' + 0.38} \quad [11]$$

$$Q(\gamma_0 b') = 2.11 \times 10^3 \left(1 - \frac{0.5}{\ln \gamma_0 b' + 0.38}\right) (\gamma_0 b')^2$$

σ : Conductivity of the inner conductor.

$\tan \delta$: Loss tangent of the dielectric.

The radial propagation constant γ_s , delay-ratio $(c/v_p)_s$ and the attenuation constant α_s of the Sommerfeld surface wave line of radius 'a' are as follows

$$\gamma_s = 0.01 \text{ radians/cm}$$

$$(c/v_p)_s = 0.001$$

$$\alpha_s = 0.2 \times 10^{-2} \text{ nepers per cm.}$$

The above values for Sommerfeld line are calculated from the following relation³.

$$\xi \ln \xi = \eta$$

$$\xi = (-j 0.89 \gamma_s a)^2$$

$$\eta = 2 (0.89)^2 [k_0^2 a / |k_c|] \exp(j 3 \pi/4)$$

$$k_c = (\omega \mu_0 \sigma)^{1/2} \exp(-j \pi/4) \quad [12]$$

CONCLUSION

(i) The grooved structure supports a surface wave when the impedance of the grooves is inductive³, and also when the impedance is capacitive but very high.

(ii) For the maximum value of disc-radius b , in the range in which a surface wave root exists, the launching efficiency is very high and the radiation pattern is broadside.

(iii) For the maximum value of b in the range in which surface wave root exists, the launching efficiency is very poor and the radiation pattern is near end fire.

(iv) The structure radiation pattern consists of a large number of lobes. In some cases, the minor lobe levels are comparable with that of the major lobe.

(v) When the structure is excited by a magnetic ring source in TM_0 -mode, the source-excited radiation field pattern depends mainly on the magnitude of the surface impedance and not on its nature².

8. REFERENCES

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