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DRAINAGE OF AN AGRICULTURAL  
SOIL UNDERLAIN BY AN INCLINED  
IMPERVIOUS LAYER

BY

Dr. Saad I. El-Khawalka<sup>1</sup>

ABSTRACT

The problem of draining a clay layer , overlying an inclined impervious substratum , by means of a system of parallel drain tubes is mathematically solved in this paper .

The complex potential , the velocity potential and the stream function of the system are established .

A new drain discharge formula satisfying the proper boundary conditions is also deduced . Finally the effect of the angle of inclination of the impervious layer , on the drain discharge is investigated .

INTRODUCTION

Many theories treated the problem of draining an agricultural clay soil underlain by a horizontal flat impervious layer<sup>(7)</sup> are Spottle , Walker<sup>(8)</sup> , 1911 , Kozeny<sup>(6)</sup> , 1931 , Houghoudt<sup>(4)</sup> 1940 , Kirkham<sup>(5)</sup> , 1949 , Van Deemter<sup>(9)</sup> , 1950 , Glover<sup>(1)</sup> , 1954 , Hammad<sup>(2)</sup> , 1965 and Hathoot<sup>(3)</sup> , 1979.

None of the above treatments took into account the case in which the impervious sublayer is inclined , as shown in Fig.

1. The present paper presents a mathematical solution of the above problem which is based on a hydrodynamical basis .

MATHEMATICAL MODEL

To study the effect of the inclined impervious substratum on a single tile drain B, Fig.2, the effect of the two neighbouring drains A and C is taken into account . If drain B is hydrodynamically represented by a point sink of strength  $m$ , the two drains A and C may be similarly represented by two point sinks of strengths  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  , respectively . To represent the inclined impervious substratum , the latter is considered as a mirror and the images of points A, B and C , which are G, F and E respectively and G are introduced , Fig.2.

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## COMPLEX POTENTIAL

The complex potential of the three sinks at points A, B, and C and their images at points E, F and G is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 W = & m \ln Z + m_1 \ln [Z+L] + m_2 \ln [Z - L] \\
 & + m \ln [Z + 2D \sin \alpha + 2iD \cos \alpha] \\
 & + m_1 \ln [Z + L + 2(D-L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha + 2i(D-L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha] \\
 & + m_2 \ln [Z - L + 2(D+L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha + 2i(D+L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha] \quad (1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Rearranging

$$\begin{aligned}
 W = & m \left\{ \ln Z + \ln [Z + 2D \sin \alpha + 2iD \cos \alpha] \right\} \\
 & + m_1 \left\{ \ln [Z+L] + \ln [Z+L+2(D-L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha + 2i(D-L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha] \right\} \\
 & + m_2 \left\{ \ln [Z-L] + \ln [Z-L+2(D+L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha + 2i(D+L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha] \right\} \quad (2)
 \end{aligned}$$

Substituting  $Z = x + iy$  where  $i = \sqrt{-1}$  and simplifying :

$$\begin{aligned}
 W = & m \left\{ \ln (x+iy) + \ln [x+2D \sin \alpha + i(y+2D \cos \alpha)] \right\} \\
 & + m_1 \left\{ \ln (x+L+iy) + \ln [x+L+2(D-L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha \right. \\
 & \left. + i(y+2(D-L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha)] \right\} + m_2 \left\{ \ln (x-L+iy) \right. \\
 & \left. + \ln [x-L+2(D+L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha \right. \\
 & \left. + i(y+2(D+L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha)] \right\} \quad (3)
 \end{aligned}$$

Setting  $W = \phi + i\psi$ , where  $\phi$  is the velocity potential and  $\psi$  is the stream function, and equating real to real and imaginary to imaginary in both sides of Eq. (3) results in

$$\phi = m (\ln R_1 + \ln R_2) + m_1 (\ln R_3 + \ln R_4) + m_2 (\ln R_5 + \ln R_6) \quad (4)$$

In which :

$$R_1 = (x^2 + y^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (5)$$

$$R_2 = [(x+2D \sin \alpha)^2 + (y+2D \cos \alpha)^2]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (6)$$

$$R_3 = [(x+L)^2 + y^2]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (7)$$

$$R_4 = \left\{ [x+L+2(D-L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha]^2 + [y+2(D-L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha]^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (8)$$

$$R_5 = [(x-L)^2 + y^2]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (9)$$

and

$$R_6 = \left\{ [x - L + 2(D + L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha]^2 + [y + 2(D + L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha]^2 \right\}^{1/2} \quad (10)$$

and

$$\psi = m(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + m_1(\theta_3 + \theta_4) + m_2(\theta_5 + \theta_6) \quad (11)$$

in which

$$\theta_1 = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{y}{x} \right) \quad (12)$$

$$\theta_2 = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{(y + 2D \cos \alpha)}{(x + 2D \sin \alpha)} \right] \quad (13)$$

$$\theta_3 = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{y}{(x + L)} \right] \quad (14)$$

$$\theta_4 = \tan^{-1} \left\{ \frac{[y + 2(D - L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha]}{[x + L + 2(D - L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha]} \right\} \quad (15)$$

$$\theta_5 = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{y}{(x - L)} \right] \quad (16)$$

and

$$\theta_6 = \tan^{-1} \left\{ \frac{[y + 2(D + L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha]}{[x - L + 2(D + L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha]} \right\} \quad (17)$$

#### DISCHARGE FORMULA

The velocity potential,  $\phi$ , may be written in the form :

$$\phi = K \left( \frac{P}{\rho g} + y \right) \quad (18)$$

in which  $K$  is the hydraulic conductivity of the soil,  $P$  is the gauge pressure,  $\rho$  is the density of water and  $g$  is the acceleration due to gravity.

Combining Eqs. (4) and (18) :

$$K \left( \frac{P}{\rho g} + y \right) = m [\ln R_1 + \ln R_2] + m_1 [\ln R_3 + \ln R_4] + m_2 [\ln R_5 + \ln R_6] \quad (19)$$

At points B and C, Fig. 3, assuming that drains are running just full, the pressures are atmospheric. Also at point O on the free water surface the pressure is atmospheric.

Applying Eq. (19) to point B :

$$K \cdot \frac{d}{2} = m(\ln R_{11} + \ln R_{21}) + m_1 (\ln R_{31} + \ln R_{41}) + m_2 (\ln R_{51} + \ln R_{61}) \quad (20)$$

in which

$$R_{11} = \frac{d}{2} \quad (21)$$

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$$R_{21} = \left[ (2D \sin \alpha)^2 + \left( \frac{d}{2} + 2D \cos \alpha \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (22)$$

$$R_{31} = \left[ L^2 + \left( \frac{d}{2} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (23)$$

$$R_{41} = \left\{ \left[ L + 2(D - L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha \right]^2 + \left[ \frac{d}{2} + 2(D - L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha \right]^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (24)$$

$$R_{51} = \left[ L^2 + \left( \frac{d}{2} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (25)$$

$$\text{and } R_{61} = \left\{ \left[ -L + 2(D + L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha \right]^2 + \left[ \frac{d}{2} + 2(D + L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha \right]^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (26)$$

applying Eq. (19) to point O :

$$\begin{aligned} KH = m (\ln R_{12} + \ln R_{22}) + m_1 (\ln R_{32} + \ln R_{42}) \\ + m_2 (\ln R_{52} + \ln R_{62}) \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

in which

$$R_{12} = \left[ \left( \frac{L}{2} \right)^2 + H^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (28)$$

$$R_{22} = \left[ \left( \frac{L}{2} + 2D \sin \alpha \right)^2 + (H + 2D \cos \alpha)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (29)$$

$$R_{32} = \left[ \left( 3 \frac{L}{2} \right)^2 + H^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (30)$$

$$R_{42} = \left\{ \left[ 3 \frac{L}{2} + 2(d - L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha \right]^2 + \left[ H + 2(D - L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha \right]^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (31)$$

$$R_{52} = \left[ \left( \frac{L}{2} \right)^2 + H^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (32)$$

$$\text{and } R_{62} = \left\{ \left[ -\frac{L}{2} + 2(D + L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha \right]^2 + \left[ H + 2(D + L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha \right]^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (33)$$

and applying Eq. (19) to point C :

$$\begin{aligned} K \frac{d}{2} = m (\ln R_{13} + \ln R_{23}) + m_1 (\ln R_{33} + \ln R_{43}) \\ + m_2 (\ln R_{53} + \ln R_{63}) \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

in which :

$$R_{13} = \left[ L^2 + \left( \frac{d}{2} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (35)$$

$$R_{23} = \left[ (L + 2D \sin \alpha)^2 + \left( \frac{d}{2} + 2D \cos \alpha \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (36)$$

$$R_{33} = \left[ (2L)^2 + \left( \frac{d}{2} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (37)$$

$$R_{43} = \left\{ \left[ 2L + 2(D - L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha \right]^2 + \left[ \frac{d}{2} + 2(D - L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha \right]^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (38)$$

$$R_{53} = \frac{d}{2} \quad (39)$$

$$\text{and } R_{63} = \left\{ \left[ 2(D + L \sin \alpha) \sin \alpha \right]^2 + \left[ \frac{d}{2} + 2(D + L \sin \alpha) \cos \alpha \right]^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (40)$$

Equations (20), (27) and (34) may be put in the forms :

$$Am + A_1 m_1 + A_2 m_2 - K \frac{d}{2} = 0 \quad (41)$$

$$Bm + B_1 m_1 + B_2 m_2 - KH = 0 \quad (42)$$

and

$$Cm + C_1 m_1 + C_2 m_2 - K \frac{d}{2} = 0 \quad (43)$$

respectively .

in which :

$$A = \ln R_{11} + \ln R_{21} \quad (44)$$

$$A_1 = \ln R_{31} + \ln R_{41} \quad (45)$$

$$A_2 = \ln R_{51} + \ln R_{61} \quad (46)$$

$$B = \ln R_{12} + \ln R_{22} \quad (47)$$

$$B_1 = \ln R_{32} + \ln R_{42} \quad (48)$$

$$B_2 = \ln R_{52} + \ln R_{62} \quad (49)$$

$$C = \ln R_{13} + \ln R_{23} \quad (50)$$

$$C_1 = \ln R_{33} + \ln R_{43} \quad (51)$$

and

$$C_2 = \ln R_{53} + \ln R_{63} \quad (52)$$

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Solving Eqs.(41) , (42) and (43) simultaneously , the strength  $m$  becomes :

$$m = \frac{K \left( \frac{d}{2A_1} - \frac{H}{B_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{B_1 C_2}{B_2 C_1} \right) + \left( \frac{H}{B_1} - \frac{d}{2C_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{B_1 A_2}{B_2 A_1} \right)}{\left[ \left( \frac{A}{A_1} - \frac{B}{B_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{B_1 C_2}{B_2 C_1} \right) + \left( \frac{B}{B_1} - \frac{C}{C_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{B_1 A_2}{B_2 A_1} \right) \right]} \quad (53)$$

The discharge ,  $Q$ , of the middle drain is thus given by :

$$Q = \frac{2\pi \cdot K \left[ \left( \frac{d}{2A_1} - \frac{H}{B_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{B_1 C_2}{B_2 C_1} \right) + \left( \frac{H}{B_1} - \frac{d}{2C_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{B_1 A_2}{B_2 A_1} \right) \right]}{\left[ \left( \frac{A}{A_1} - \frac{B}{B_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{B_1 C_2}{B_2 C_1} \right) + \left( \frac{B}{B_1} - \frac{C}{C_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{B_1 A_2}{B_2 A_1} \right) \right]} \quad (54)$$

### EFFECT OF THE ANGLE $\alpha$ ON THE DISCHARGE

The relation between the drain discharge per unit length ,  $Q$ , and the angle of inclination of the impervious substratum ,  $\alpha$ , as given by Eq.(54) , is shown in Fig. 4.

In Fig 4 all the parameters ,  $L, D, H, d$ , and  $K$  are kept constant such that the only variable is  $\alpha$  .

### CONCLUSIONS

From Fig. 4 , it is clear that the relation between the drain discharge and the angle of inclination of the substratum ,  $\alpha$  , is more or less linear . As the angle  $\alpha$  increases the discharge decreases . It is worthy to note that the drain discharge is slightly affected by the change of the angle of inclination  $\alpha$  and hence applying the ordinary discharge formulas (  $\alpha = 0.0$  ) on drains underlain by an inclined impervious substratum will result in negligible errors .

## APPENDIX I REFERENCES

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APPENDIX II NOTATION

The following symbols are used in this paper :

- A = Quantity defined by Eq. 44 .
  - $A_b$  = Quantities defined by Eqs. 45 and 46
  - B = Quantity defined by Eq. 47 .
  - $B_b$  = Quantities defined by Eqs. 48 and 49 .
  - C = Quantity defined by Eq. 50 .
  - $C_b$  = Quantities defined by Eqs. 51 and 52 .
  - D = The distance from the drain to the impervious layer .
  - d = Drain diameter .
  - g = Gravitational acceleration .
  - H = Height of water table midway between the middle and right drains above drain centres .
  - i =  $\sqrt{-1}$
  - K = Hydraulic conductivity of clay .
  - L = Distance between two successive drains .
  - m = Strength of the sink representing the middle drain .
  - $m_1$  = " " " " " " left " .
  - $m_2$  = " " " " " " right " .
  - P = Gauge pressure .
  - Q = Drain discharge per unit length .
  - $R_e$  = Quantities defined by Eqs. from 5 to 10 .
  - $R_{en}$  = " " " " " 21 to 26 , from 28 to 33 and from 35 to 40 .
  - W = Complex potential
  - x,y = Cartesian coordinates with origin of coordinates at the centre of the middle drain .
  - Z =  $x + iy$  .
  - $\alpha$  = Angle of inclination of the impervious substratum .
  - $\phi$  = Velocity potential .
  - $\psi$  = Stream function .
  - $\rho$  = Density of water .
- and
- $\theta_e$  = Quantities defined by Eqs. from 12 to 17 .

Subscripts

- b = 1, 2 ;
- e = 1, 2, ..., 6.

and

- n = 1, 2, 3 .

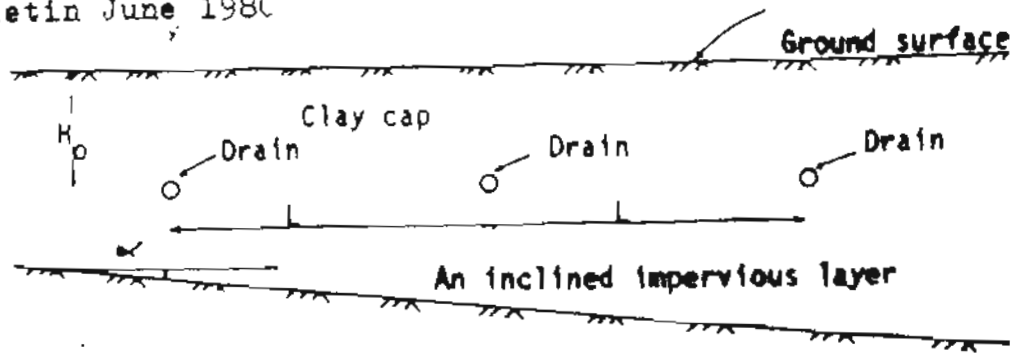


Fig. 1: GEOLOGICAL SECTION

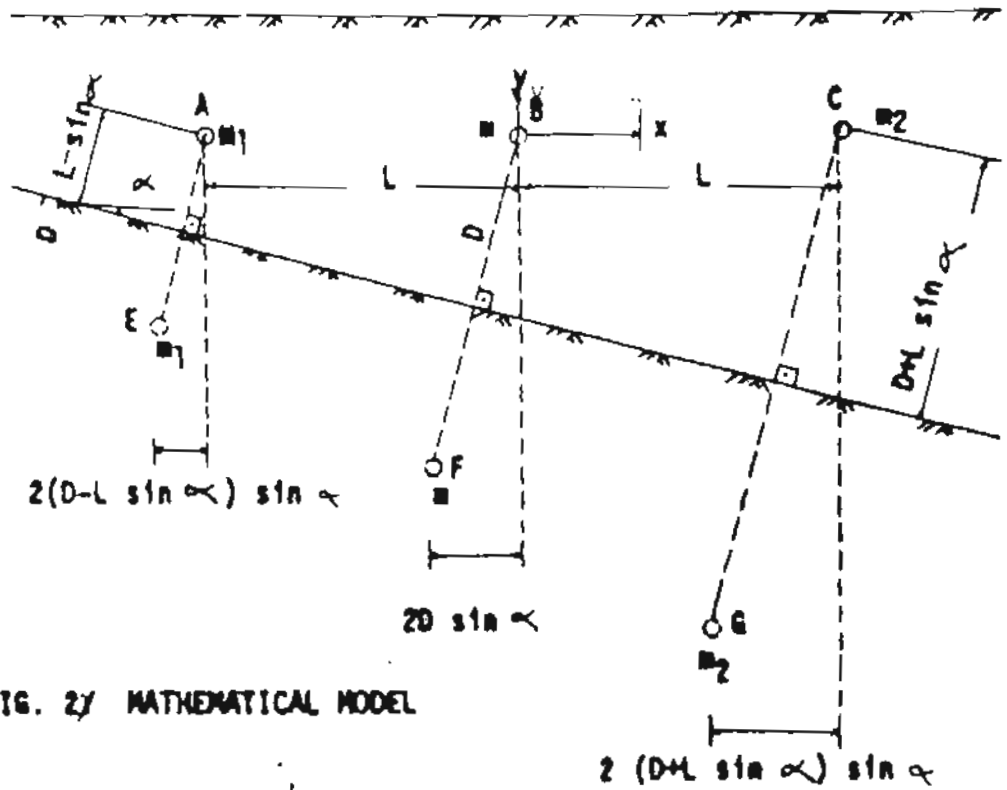


FIG. 2/ MATHEMATICAL MODEL

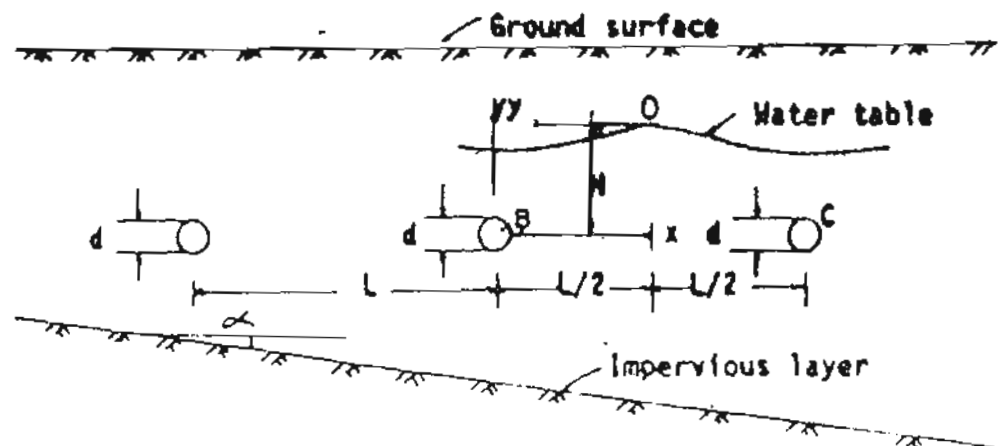


FIG. 3: BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

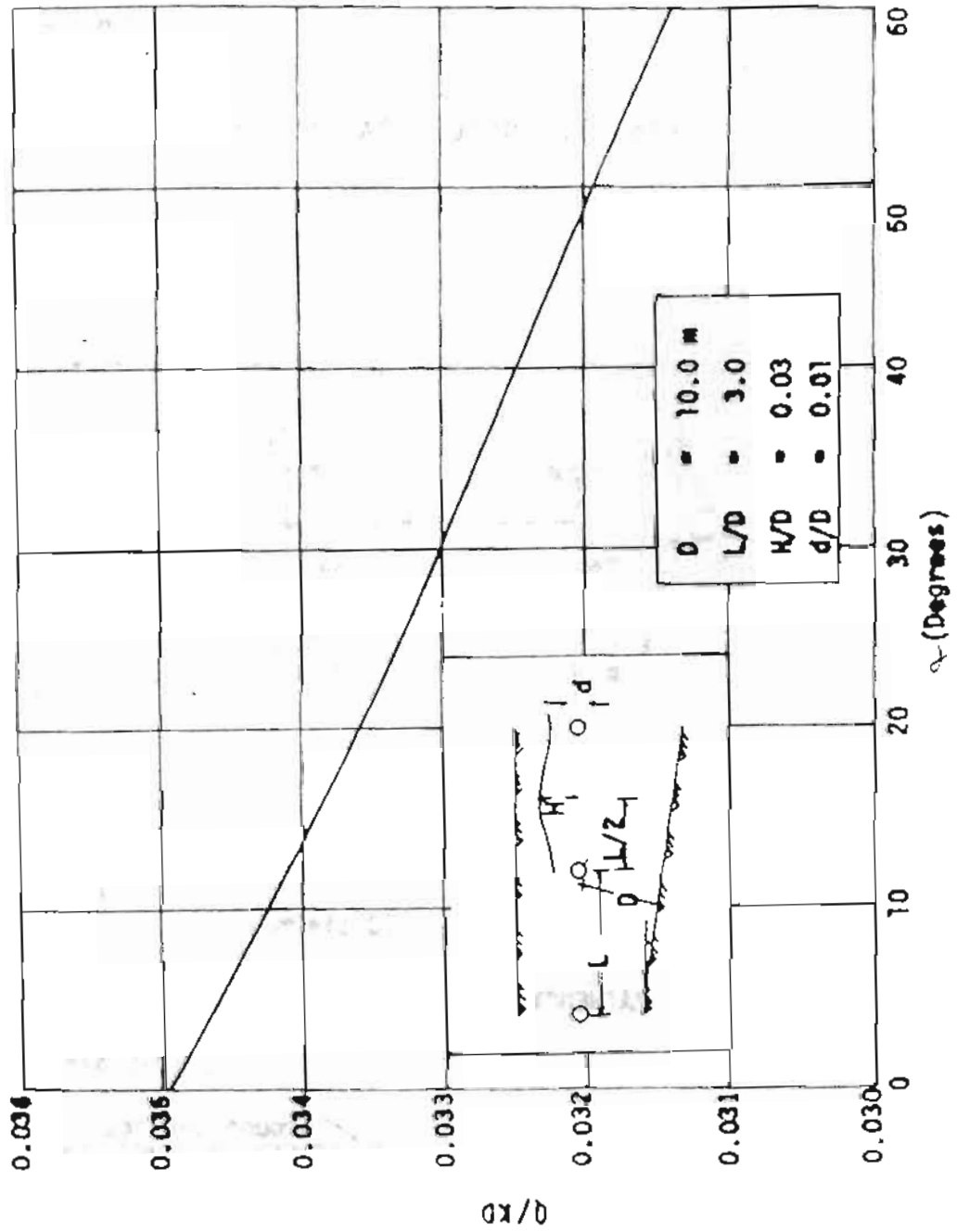


FIG. 4: RELATION BETWEEN DISCHARGE AND ANGLE,  $\alpha$