

Experimental Investigation of Unsteady Fan Flow  
Interaction with Downstream Struts

by

Timothy L. Olsen

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APPROVED:

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Dr. W. F. Ng, Chairman

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Dr. W. F. O'Brien

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Dr. J. R. Mahan

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Blacksburg, Virginia

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(ABSTRACT)

Pressure signals were taken on a rotor blade surface of a single-stage, low-speed axial flow compressor. The data showed unsteady, stationary pressure perturbations that correlated with the locations of five large downstream support struts. In the present work, these data are thoroughly analysed. Strut-induced pressure amplitudes as measured on the rotor are presented as a function of the downstream strut locations. Unsteady lift and moment are calculated by integrating the pressures measured by the blade-mounted transducers. In addition, a sequence of instantaneous pressure distributions on the blade surfaces presented over time shows how the rotor is influenced by the potential effect of the struts. The strut is shown to produce a significant effect on rotor flow. This effect exceeds the unsteady stator effect at design rotor-stator-strut spacing, but falls off rapidly as the struts are moved downstream.

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## NOMENCLATURE

A	area along blade chord
Amp	amplitude, magnitude
b	filter weighting coefficient
$C_L$ , CL	lift coefficient
$C_M$ , CM	moment coefficient
$C_P$ , CP	pressure coefficient
$C_x$	axial flow rate
$f_N$	Nyquist frequency
$f_s$	sample frequency
i, j, k	counters
L	lift
M	moment
N, NCY	number of cycles
NPTS	number of data points
P	pressure on pressure side of blade
S	pressure on suction side of blade
t	time
T	sample size in time or number of points
$U_T$	blade tip speed
x	distance along chord from quarter chord; time domain data for input to Fourier transform or filter convolution
X	Fourier transform coefficients (output)

$y$	filtered data (output)
$\theta$	rotor angular position
$\rho$	fluid density
$\omega$	frequency

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The interaction of thick struts with adjacent components in aircraft gas-turbine engines often causes large pressure fluctuations. In the fan duct such disturbances are produced by support struts located downstream of an axial-flow fan and stator. A similar flow nonuniformity occurs in the transition duct between the fan and the high compressor since struts are needed for service lines and an accessory drive assembly. These struts produce a potential field distortion which commonly extends upstream through the stator row to cause unsteady excitation on the fan blades and, thus, the threat of vibratory fatigue, acoustic noise, and reduced fan performance. The blades can be thickened to avoid fatigue, but that adds extra weight. Blade sizes may be optimized with early prediction of distortion patterns. An attempt to counter the strut effect by varying stator blade cambers (1) encountered problems in manufacturing the blades and controlling the flow turning angles. Another strategy to minimize the interaction is optimization of relative axial locations of fan, stator, and struts.

The VPI&SU Turbomachinery and Propulsion Research Group has carried on an investigation for several years which was designed to provide insight into the fundamental aspects of fan rotor-downstream strut interaction with emphasis on the acoustic noise problem. (2,3,4). High response, miniature pressure transducers were embedded in the rotor blades of an experimental fan rig. Five downstream struts were placed in the discharge flow annulus of the single-stage machine and their axial

location was varied. Significant interaction of the rotor blade surface pressures with the flow disturbance produced by the downstream struts was measured. These perturbations exist continually during machine operation and are stationary in time and position. They contribute to tone noise depending on the strength of the flow response and pressure fluctuations. Several numerical procedures for calculating the quasi-steady rotor response due to downstream flow obstructions were developed (4). A preliminary comparison of experimental and calculated fluctuating blade pressures on the rotor blades shows general agreement between the experimental and calculated values. Although progress has been made as a result of this effort, there are still areas in which further work is needed.

The overall objective of the program is to further investigate the interaction of fan rotor flow with downstream struts. This investigation should improve understanding of noise prediction and lead to the development of a design-for-noise capability with a data base for use in validating analytical prediction methods and noise-reduction concepts. The present program focusses on further analysis of the existing data base from previous work. Specific tools are developed for the analyses which include calculation of unsteady lift and moment coefficients, spectral analysis with phase information, filtering, and presentation of instantaneous pressure distributions.

The struts are shown to produce a significant effect on rotor flow. This effect exceeds the stator effect at design rotor-stator-strut spacing, but falls off rapidly as the struts are moved downstream. Although this study does not address theoretical modeling, it provides exper-

imental data for validation of an analytical code, which is currently under development as a separate task.

The report begins with a literature review in chapter 2. A brief description of the experiment follows in chapter 3, which includes a discussion of the basic dimensions used in the data analysis. The experimental observations are presented in chapter 4, followed by conclusions in chapter 5.

## 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Compressor noise gained importance when jet noise was reduced with the development of the high bypass ratio jet engine. Its main component has been a group of high frequency tones sometimes called "compressor screech". Tyler and Sofrin (5) found three main sources of the tones: rotor blades cutting upstream stator wakes, rotating rotor blade wakes hitting downstream stators, and steady aerodynamic loading of the rotor. Working with upstream stators, Hanson (6,7) split rotor-stator interaction into harmonic noise from periodic pulsing and broadband noise from random unsteady stator lift caused by rotor turbulence. He noticed that ingested inlet turbulence contributed to both types of noise. Through experimentation, Savell (8) discovered that tones decreased with increasing rotor-stator spacing until a spacing equal to two rotor chords was reached.

On the downstream side, Barber and Weingold (9) found that thick struts caused unsteady forcing on an upstream fan. They adapted the Douglas-Neumann method to predict the steady, two-dimensional flowfield through multibody cascade geometries. Rubbert, et al. (1) examined screening of the strut effect through stator modification. Gallus et al. (10) showed that a downstream cascade induces higher lift variations near the trailing edge of an upstream cascade. Greitzer (11) reported an increase in pressure disturbances with blade loading and a decrease in pressure non-uniformity with distance upstream in a cascade. Using a JT15D test engine, Preisser et al. (12) and Schoenster (13) correlated

blade-mounted transducer signals and far field noise with the interaction of a rotor and six struts located downstream with four rotor axial chords of separation. Woodward, et al. (14) conducted an experimental program on a JT15D fan stage and confirmed the significance of rotor-downstream support strut interaction. Yokoi, et al. (15) tested a two-stage fan with downstream struts and showed that the potential field of these struts could induce significant blade vibration in the upstream rotor. Reimers (3) increased the rotor-strut spacing and found strut-induced pressures to drop off rapidly. Richardson (4) and O'Brien et al. (16) coupled a Douglas-Neumann potential flow solution with a time-marching code to model the rotor-stator-strut interaction.

In all of the experimental investigations mentioned above, there have been no attempts to calculate the unsteady lift and moment on the fan blades resulting from interaction with the downstream struts. Not only is such information useful for comparison with theoretical predictions, but it is a necessary part of a global integrated rotor response model. The present effort focuses on the calculation of unsteady lift and moment on the fan blades. Also a design criterion for optimal rotor-strut spacing according to experimental data is developed. Finally, the extents of unsteadiness caused by rotor/stator and rotor/strut interactions are compared.



### 3.0 EXPERIMENT

The data used for this work were taken from a low-speed axial flow research compressor at the VPI&SU turbomachinery research laboratory. This section outlines the equipment, instrumentation, and treatment of dimensions in the analysis.

#### 3.1 EQUIPMENT

A research compressor was fashioned from a General Electric Model 5GDY34A1 axial-flow fan-dynamometer set, used as a single stage rotor and stator. Six radial struts across the bell-mouthed inlet support the front drive. The compressor hub and tip radii are 157 mm and 229 mm. The rotor has 24 RAF-6 propeller sections with four degree twist, 45 degree mid-span stagger angle, 0.84 solidity, 1.66 aspect ratio, and 42.9 mm aerodynamic chord. 37 stators are located 33 mm behind the rotor trailing edge with eight degree twist, 27 degree turning angle, 15 degree mid-span stagger angle, 1.36 solidity, and 1.58 aspect ratio.

Moving downstream, the 990 mm discharge annulus contains five NACA 0021 uncambered airfoils with 165 mm chord and 34 mm width (thickness) installed as radial struts. Spaced evenly around the circumference, the struts are placed at a uniform but moveable axial location. This test program used axial locations of 119, 140, 165, and 254 mm (3.50, 4.12, 4.85, and 7.47 strut widths) behind the rotor trailing edge, as shown in Fig. 1. They are correspondingly referred to as strut positions 1, 1.5,

2, and 3, with the additional position 0 (zero) indicating the absence of struts. The first and nearest location corresponds to that in a JT-15D engine. The maximum distance (position 3) was set for a negligible difference with the no-strut case. A cubic plenum follows the discharge annulus, with an adjustable valve for air flow regulation leading to the long exhaust duct.

### 3.2 DATA ACQUISITION

Pressures were measured along the rotor blade surface by miniature Kulite strain gauge pressure transducers with a 10 kHz frequency response. Six transducers are located on the pressure surface at 50 percent span at chord positions 10, 25, 40, 55, 70, and 85 percent. Another six are on the suction side of another blade with the same chord positions; 12 more transducers were similarly mounted at 85 percent span on two more blades (Figs. 2,3). Instrumentation limitations allowed measurement of only the ac component of the fluctuating pressure. No absolute dc level of the pressure on the blade was recorded during the experiment. The circuitry and calibration procedure are available in Reimers (3). All analog data recorded on tapes were digitized and transferred to the computers at VPI&SU for digital analysis (17, 18).

During testing, the compressor was run at a constant speed of 2900 rpm, which corresponds with a tip speed of 69.4 m/s. Separate data sets were made at two stall margins: 15 percent ( $C_x/U_T = 0.48$ ), and 35 percent ( $C_x/U_T = 0.54$ ). The stall margin is set by adjusting the downstream throttle which controls the mass flow rate through the machine.

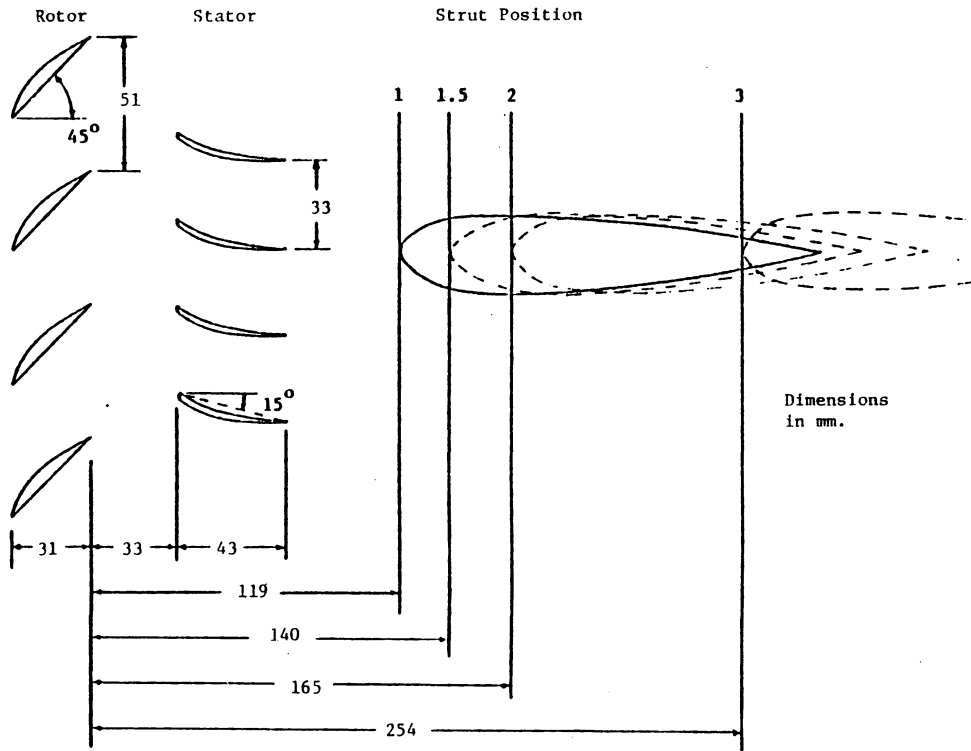


Figure 1. Compressor cross section: rotor-stator-strut spacing (from Ref. 3)

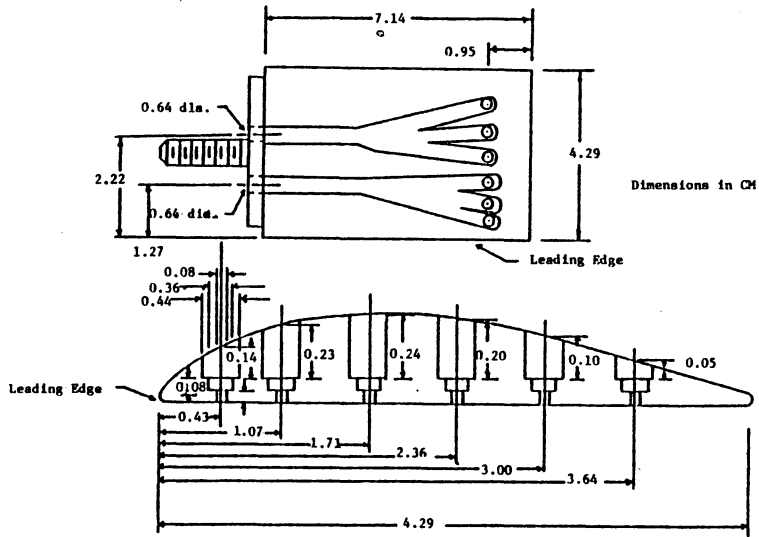


Figure 2. Rotor Blade Transducer Mounting for Pressure Side Measurements at 85% Span (from Ref. 3; not to scale)

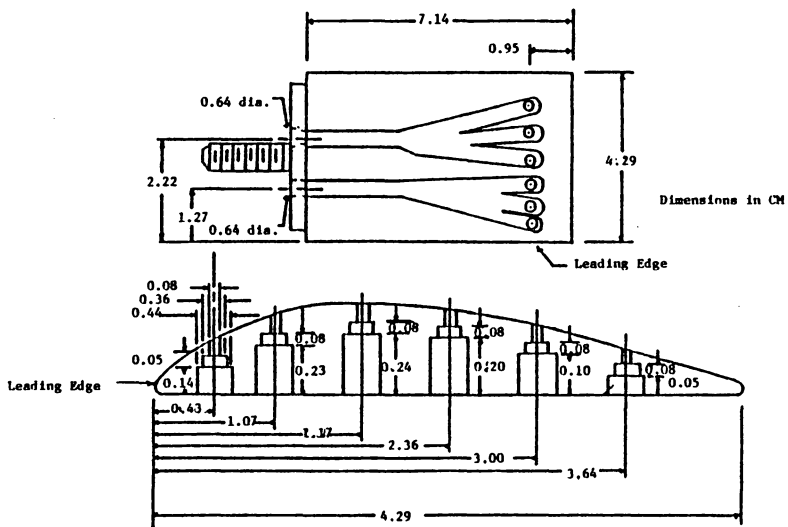


Figure 3. Rotor Blade Transducer Mounting for Suction Side Measurements at 85% Span (from Ref. 3; not to scale)

### 3.3 TREATMENT OF DIMENSIONS

The actual measured units in time, frequency, length, and pressure are difficult to visualize relative to machine geometry, so they have been converted to units which convey significant concepts more easily. The conversions are discussed in this section.

The significant units of time are the digitization sample increments and the duration of one shaft revolution. The numbers in fractions of seconds are difficult to compare. However, one shaft revolution contains 360 sample increments, so that one increment may be related to one degree of the rotor angle. One revolution contains 360 degrees, and five equally spaced struts would occur every 72 degrees. Therefore, all time axes are reported in degrees of rotor angle.

The rotor shaft speed of 2900 rpm is equivalent to 48.33 Hz. As a rotor blade passes some number of objects (struts or stators) during one cycle it will experience that number of disturbances. If the objects are equally spaced circumferentially, they will produce a frequency of disturbance which is a multiple of the rotor speed. If the rotor speed is defined as harmonic one, then object harmonics are readily conceived integers which equal the numbers of each object. For example, six upstream struts cause the sixth harmonic with a frequency of  $6 \times 48.33 = 290$  Hz. Frequency axes in this report are labeled machine order, which is the harmonic of the rotor speed.

The distance on a rotor blade from its leading edge to its trailing edge is defined as one aerodynamic chord length, which in this case is 42.9 mm. Axes showing distance along the chord from the blade leading

edge are labeled as percent of chord. Different strut-rotor spacings are measured in number of strut thicknesses from the rotor trailing edge to the strut leading edge.

Pressure, force, and moment have been non-dimensionalized. Pressure, available in pascals, is non-dimensionalized by dynamic pressure to give a coefficient of pressure,  $C_p$ :

$$C_p = \text{pressure} / (0.5 \times \rho \times U_T^2) ,$$

where  $\rho$  is the fluid density (1.265 Kg/m<sup>3</sup> for air at 1 atm and 300 K), and  $U_T$  is the tip speed of the blade (69.4 m/s). Lift is computed in force per unit length of span, which is non-dimensionalized by dynamic pressure and rotor chord to give the lift coefficient  $C_L$ . Similarly, moment in torque per length is non-dimensionalized by dynamic pressure and chord squared.

$$C_L = \text{lift} / (0.5 \rho U_T^2 \times \text{chord})$$

$$C_M = \text{moment} / (0.5 \rho U_T^2 \times \text{chord}^2)$$

For graphs the in frequency domain, these coefficients are simple amplitudes (not power or amplitude squared). The vertical axis is labelled such that  $C_L \times 10^4$  indicates that a value read from that axis is 1000 times the true value. Thus, if the axis reads two, the lift coefficient is 2/1000 or 0.002.

In the next section the results of data analysis will be presented, with both experimental observations and discussion.

## 4.0 EXPERIMENTAL OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 ANALYSIS TECHNIQUE AND SAMPLE DATA

Meaningful information is easily hidden in large amounts of noisy data. An array of tools has been developed to extract such information. Specifically, ensemble averaging reduces random background fluctuation, Fourier transformation displays frequency contents, and filtering enhances frequencies of particular interest. Unfortunately, these tools often exhibit unexpected behavior and require thorough examination and testing before use. Appendices A and B address specific routines used for digital Fourier transformation and filtering.

The first tool applied to all data is ensemble averaging. The data are assumed to be stationary and periodic with a fundamental period of one rotor revolution. They contain various harmonics of this fundamental plus random high frequency fluctuation. The machine was run at 2900 rpm, or 48.33 Hz, which will be referred to as the fundamental, the first harmonic, or machine order one for simplicity. When many cycles of data are averaged together point by point over time, random fluctuations are smoothed out in the resulting data set. Two hundred cycles are used for ensemble averaging with the equation:

$$\bar{P}(\theta_k) = \frac{N}{\sum_{i=1}^N} P_i(\theta_k) , \quad k=1,2,\dots,360$$

where N cycles are averaged for each rotor angle,  $\theta_k$ . Figures 4-7 show sample raw data plots for 50% span, 15% stall margin for strut location



one and for no strut. Random high frequency fluctuations mask the useful information in these plots. Figs. 8-11 show corresponding samples after averaging. The five-per-rev strut disturbance can be seen clearly in Figs. 8 and 9 but is missing in Figs. 10 and 11, which resulted from tests without the struts. In addition, all four figures (8-11) show the 37-per-rev stator disturbance superimposed on the pressure fluctuation.

The remaining frequency content is then displayed by performing a digital Fourier transformation of a set of averaged data, which produces a set of complex coefficients. These are converted to an amplitude and phase component at each frequency. Figure 12 demonstrates the effects of averaging and Fourier transformation on the pressure side, 50% span, 15% stall margin, 10% chord data set for strut location one. Notable components appear at harmonics 1, 5, 6, and 37, which correspond to the once-per-rev background disturbance, the five downstream struts, the six upstream struts, and the 37 stator blades. It is expected that some five-per-rev signal may result from uncontrollable background disturbance, so test cases with no struts were included for comparison. This no-strut component can be subtracted from those cases with struts to give net components due to the struts alone. However, a difference in phase must be accounted for, so this subtraction is done in the complex domain (vectorially).

To examine the effect of a particular frequency in time domain, a digital band-pass filter can be used to filter out all frequencies except for those of interest. This technique was used to retain the fifth harmonic for the instantaneous pressure distributions shown later (section 4.4). Appendix 2 presents the filter used. Figure 13 shows the effect

of band-pass filtering on the pressure side, 50% span, 15% stall, 10% chord data set.

## 4.2 STRUT-INDUCED PRESSURE AMPLITUDES

Having a primary concern with the effect of the five downstream struts, we must examine fifth harmonic data more closely. In Figs. 14 and 15, fifth harmonic pressure amplitudes from the Fourier transformed data for 15% and 35% stall margins are compiled at 50% and 85% span. Each plot shows pressure coefficient amplitudes versus percent chord for each strut location. The behavior on the suction surface appears less well behaved. Shaffer (19) shows more turbulent flow patterns near a blade suction surface. The strong signal at 85% span on the suction surface may result from wall boundary layer effects.

Notice that some fifth order signal occurs even when there is no strut. This indicates the magnitude of background disturbance resulting from uncontrollable factors in the lab. To remove this disturbance, each strut value has its corresponding no-strut value subtracted from it. Since phases can differ, phase information must be accounted for in the calculation. This is most easily done by subtracting the original complex coefficients before converting them to amplitude and phase. These values give net strut effect plots as shown in Figs. 16 and 17. The shapes are still similar to those in Figs. 14 and 15, but the magnitudes are lower. Therefore, the struts have less effect than that indicated by the unprocessed data. A complete set of pressure data is available from the author.

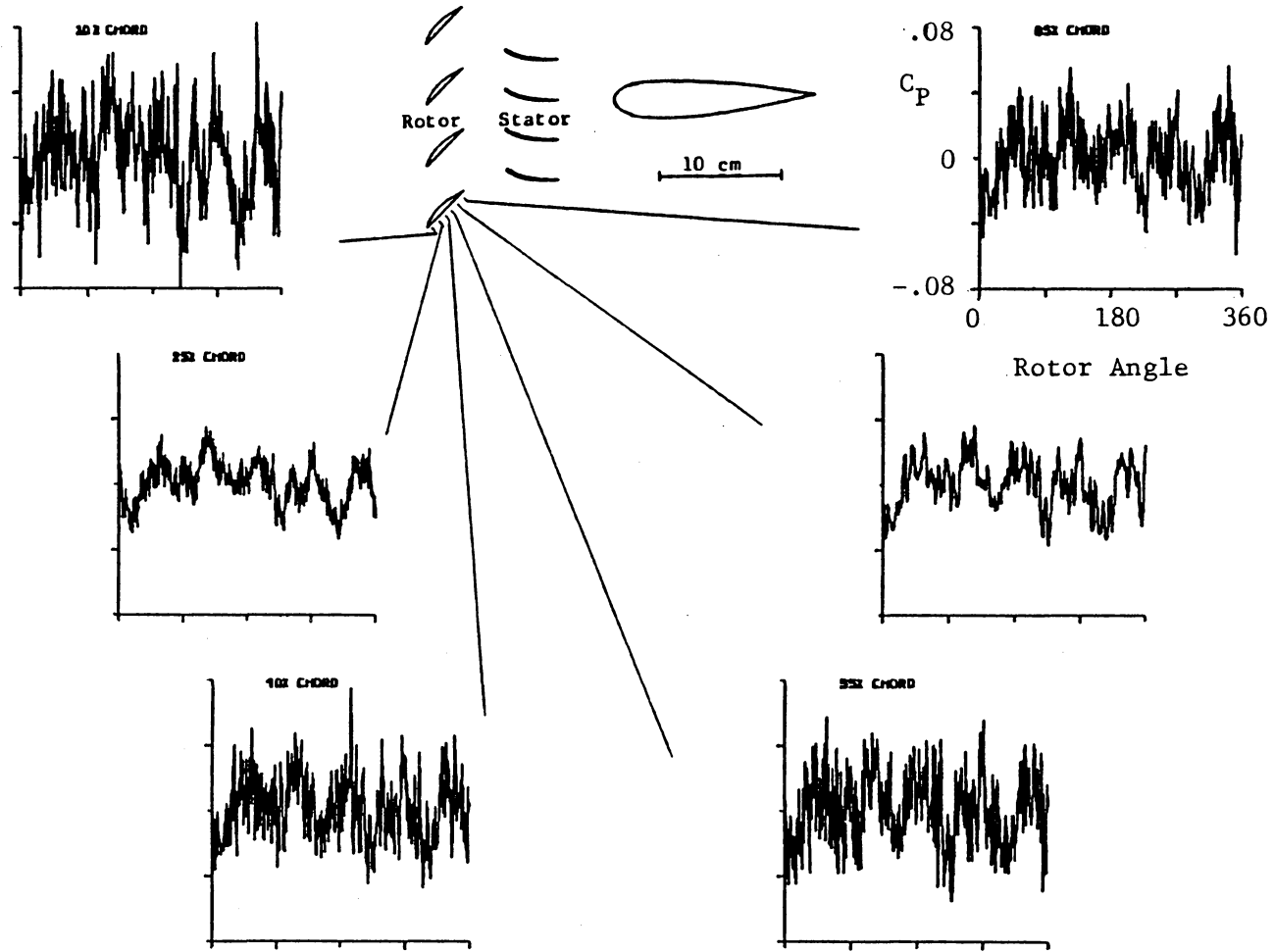


Figure 4. Sample raw unsteady pressure data, pressure side, strut location one

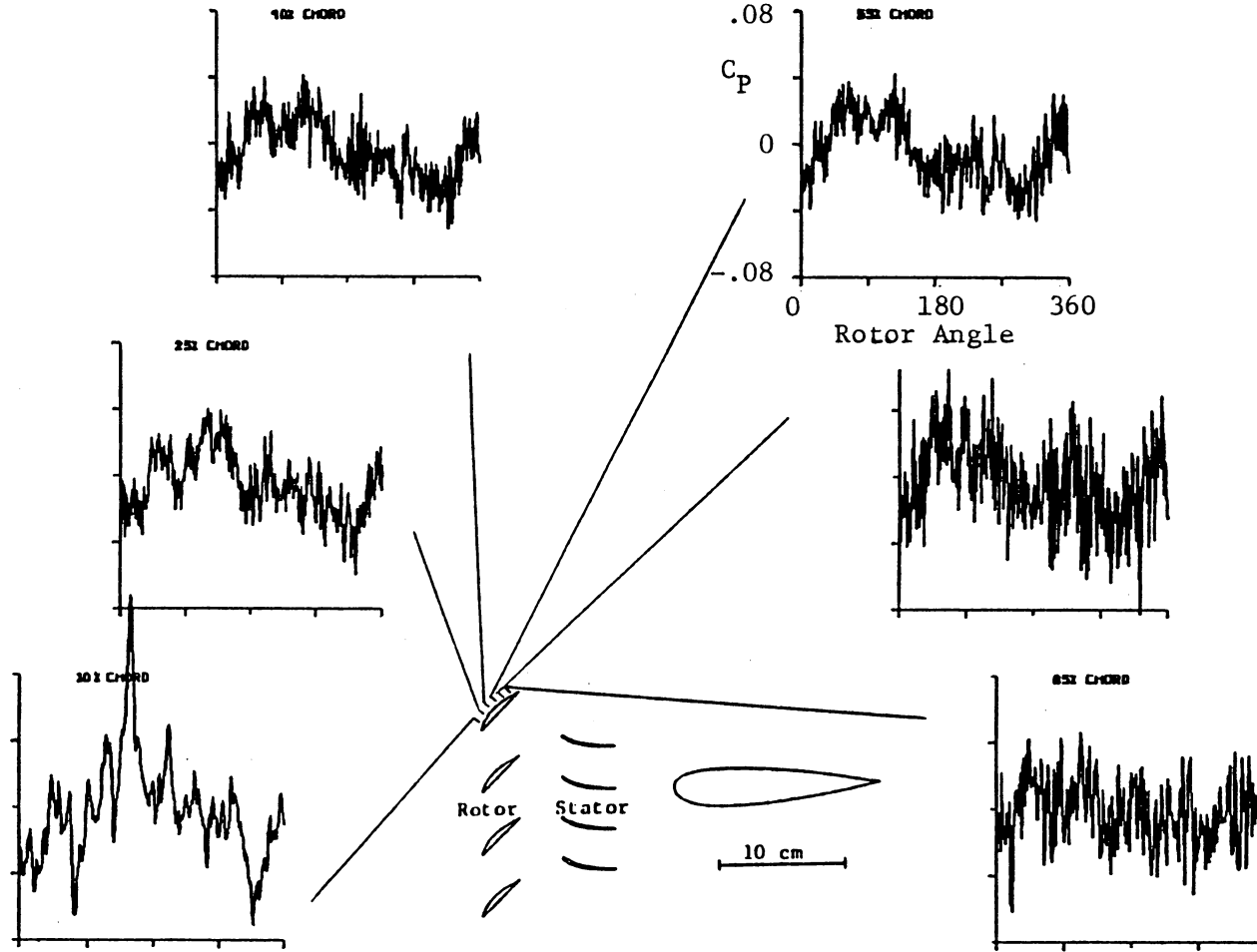


Figure 5. Sample raw unsteady pressure data, suction side, strut location one

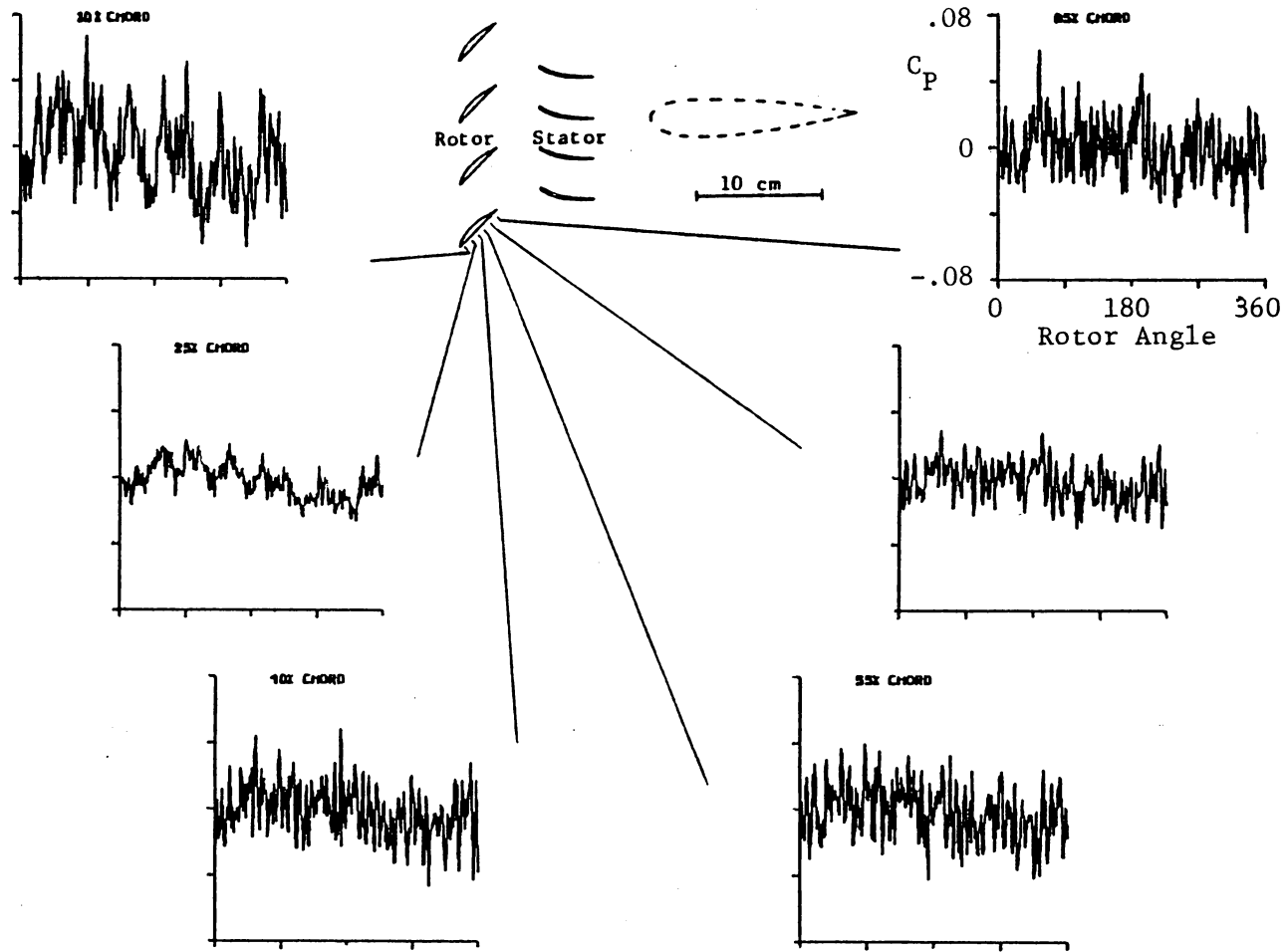


Figure 6. Sample raw unsteady pressure data, pressure side, no strut

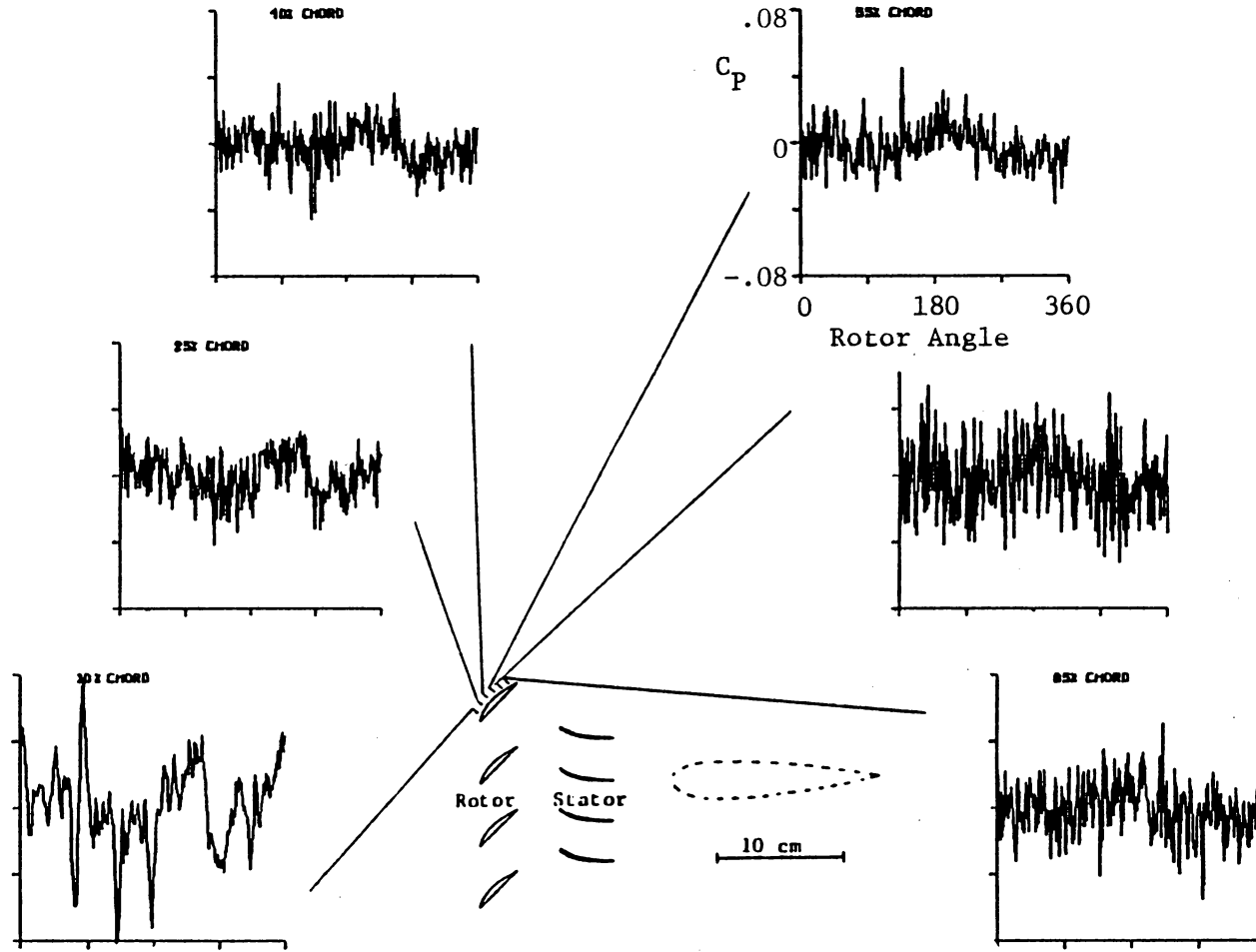


Figure 7. Sample raw unsteady pressure data, suction side, no strut



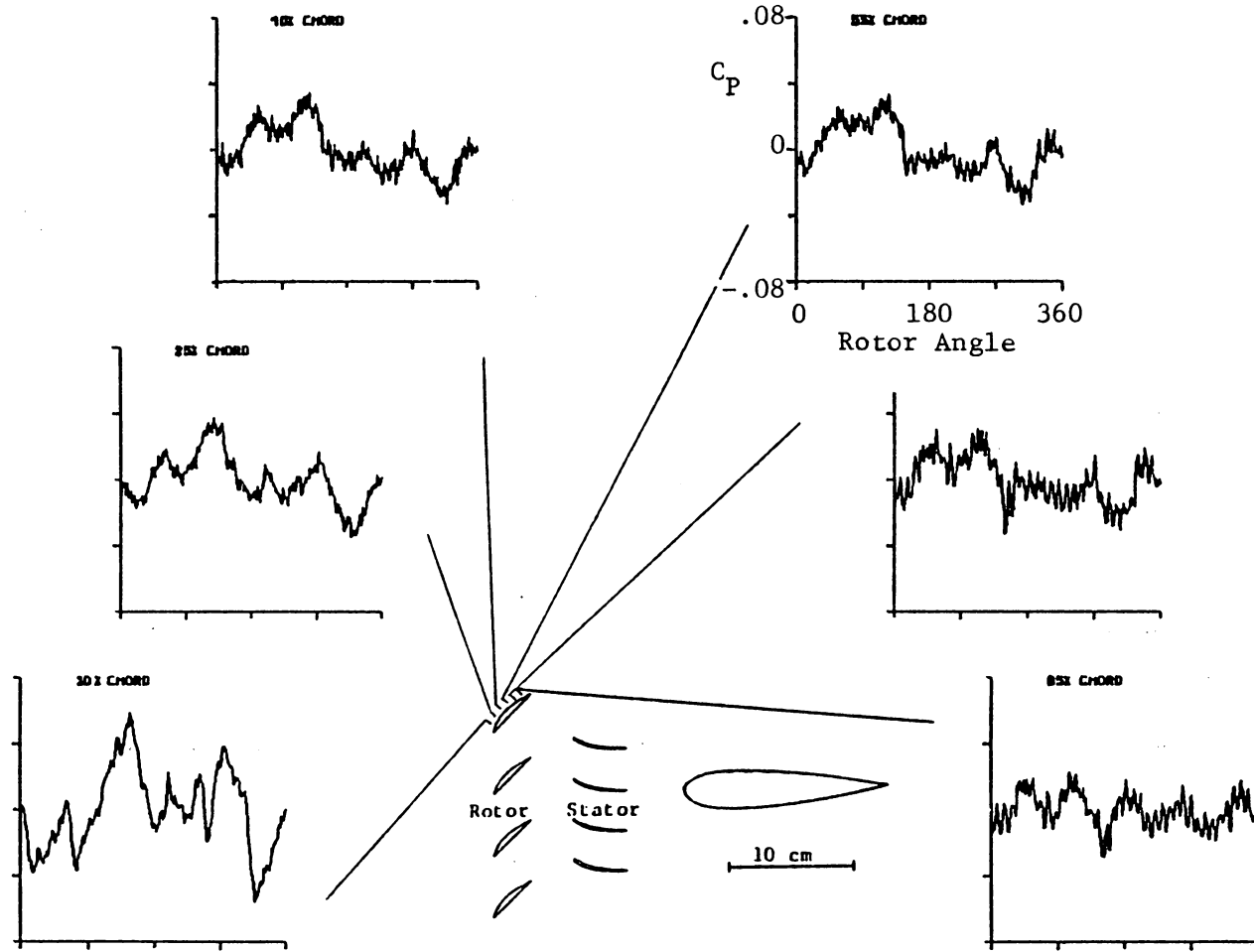


Figure 9. Sample averaged unsteady pressure data, suction side, strut location one



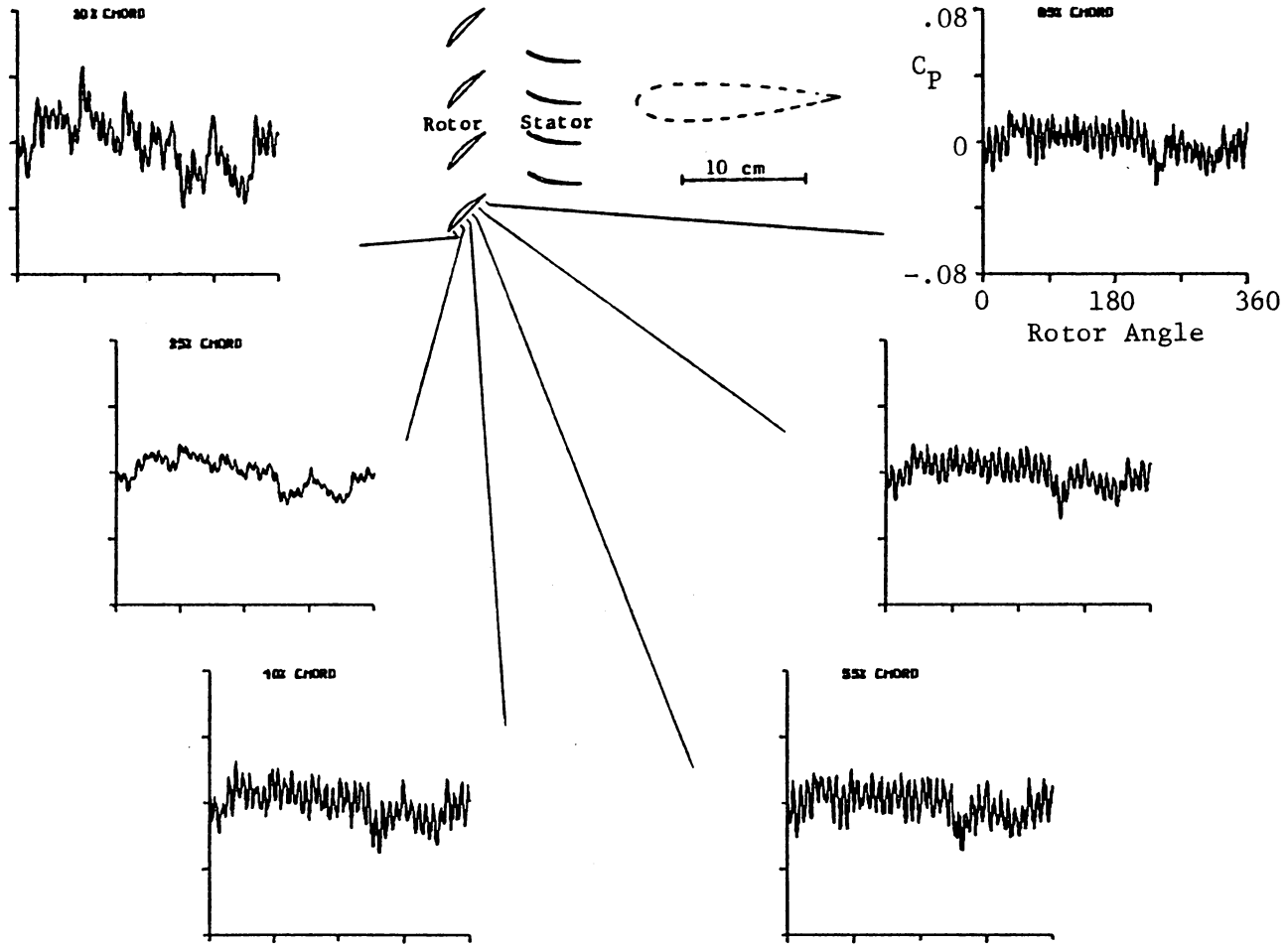


Figure 10. Sample averaged unsteady pressure data, pressure side, no strut

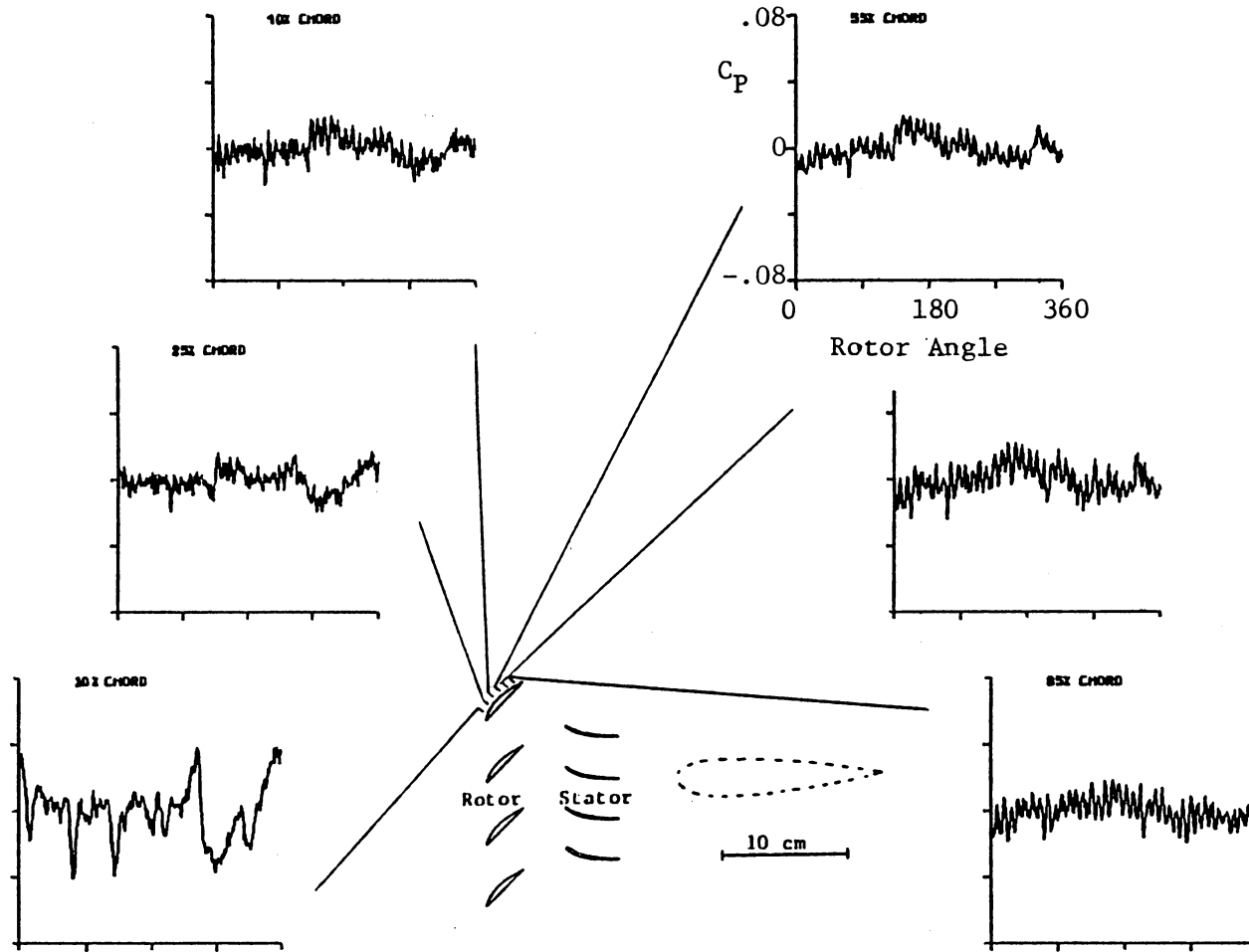


Figure 11. Sample averaged unsteady pressure data, suction side, no strut

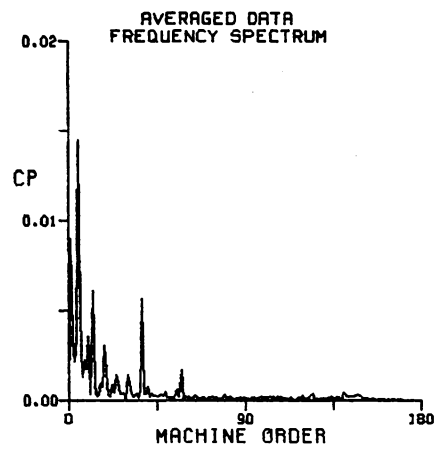
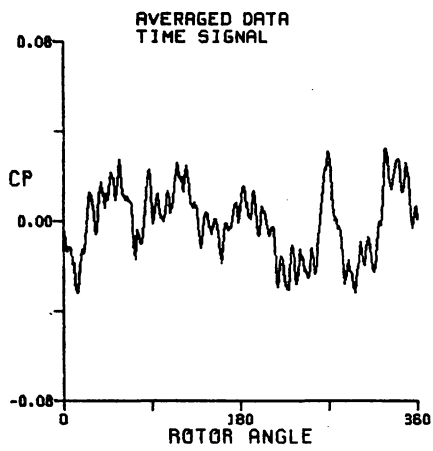
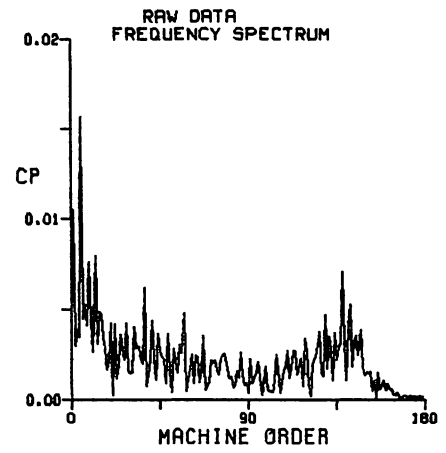
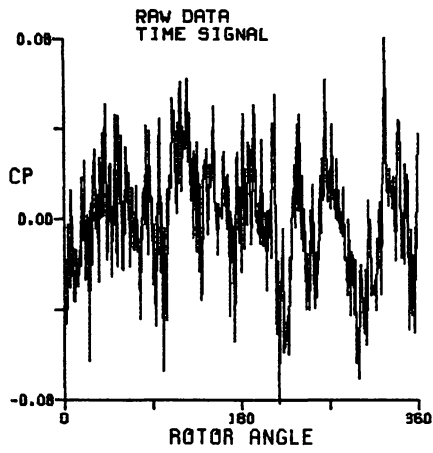


Figure 12. Sample raw and averaged time data with frequency spectra

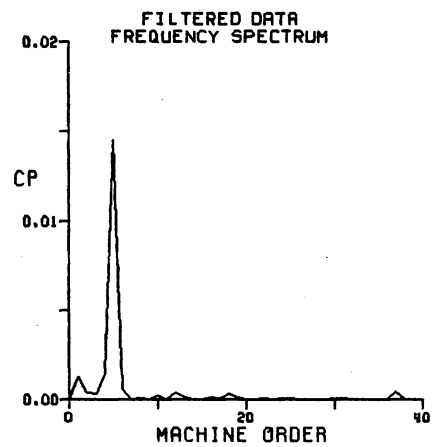
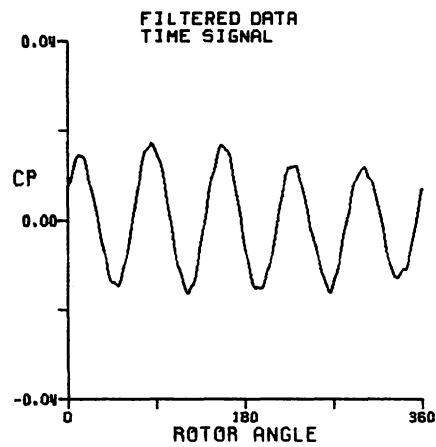
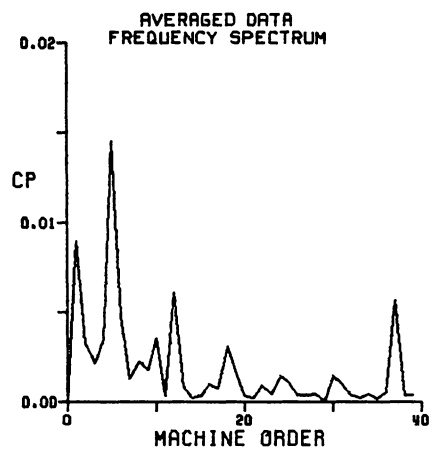
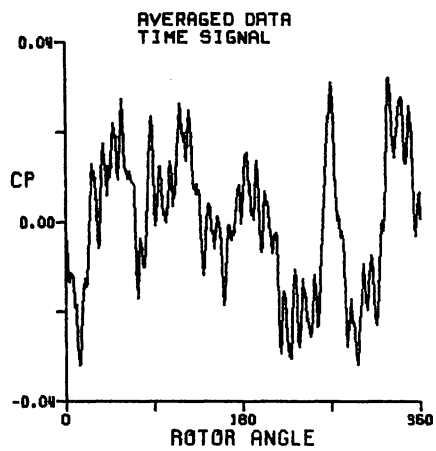


Figure 13. Sample averaged data before and after filtering, with frequency spectra

- STRUT LOC. 1
- △ STRUT LOC. 1.5
- + STRUT LOC. 2
- × STRUT LOC. 3
- ◇ NO STRUT

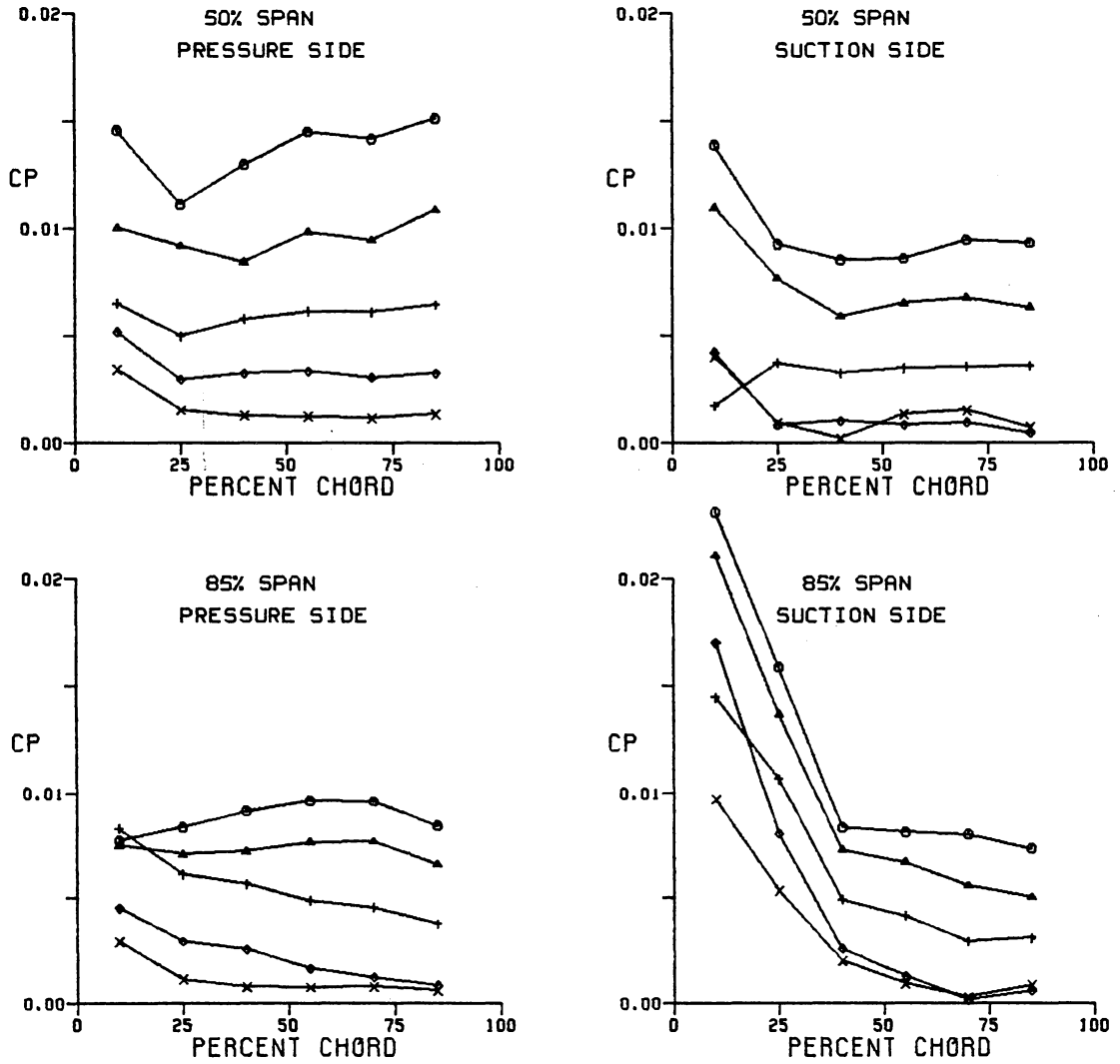


Figure 14. Fifth order pressure amplitudes for 15% stall margin

- STRUT LOC. 1
- △ STRUT LOC. 1.5
- + STRUT LOC. 2
- × STRUT LOC. 3
- ◇ NO STRUT

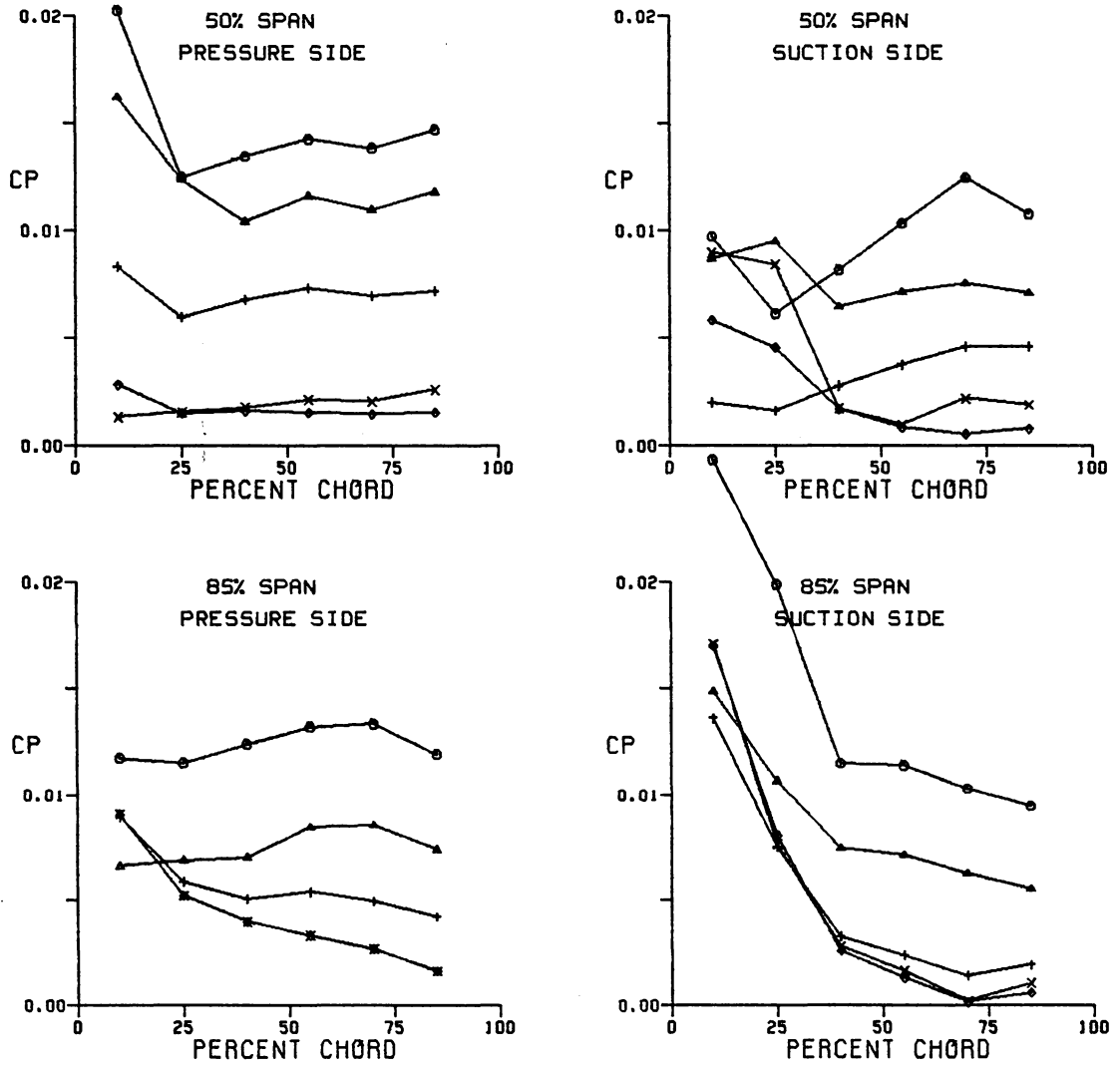


Figure 15. Fifth order pressure amplitudes for 35% stall margin

○ STRUT POS. 1  
 ▲ STRUT POS. 1.5  
 + STRUT POS. 2  
 × STRUT POS. 3

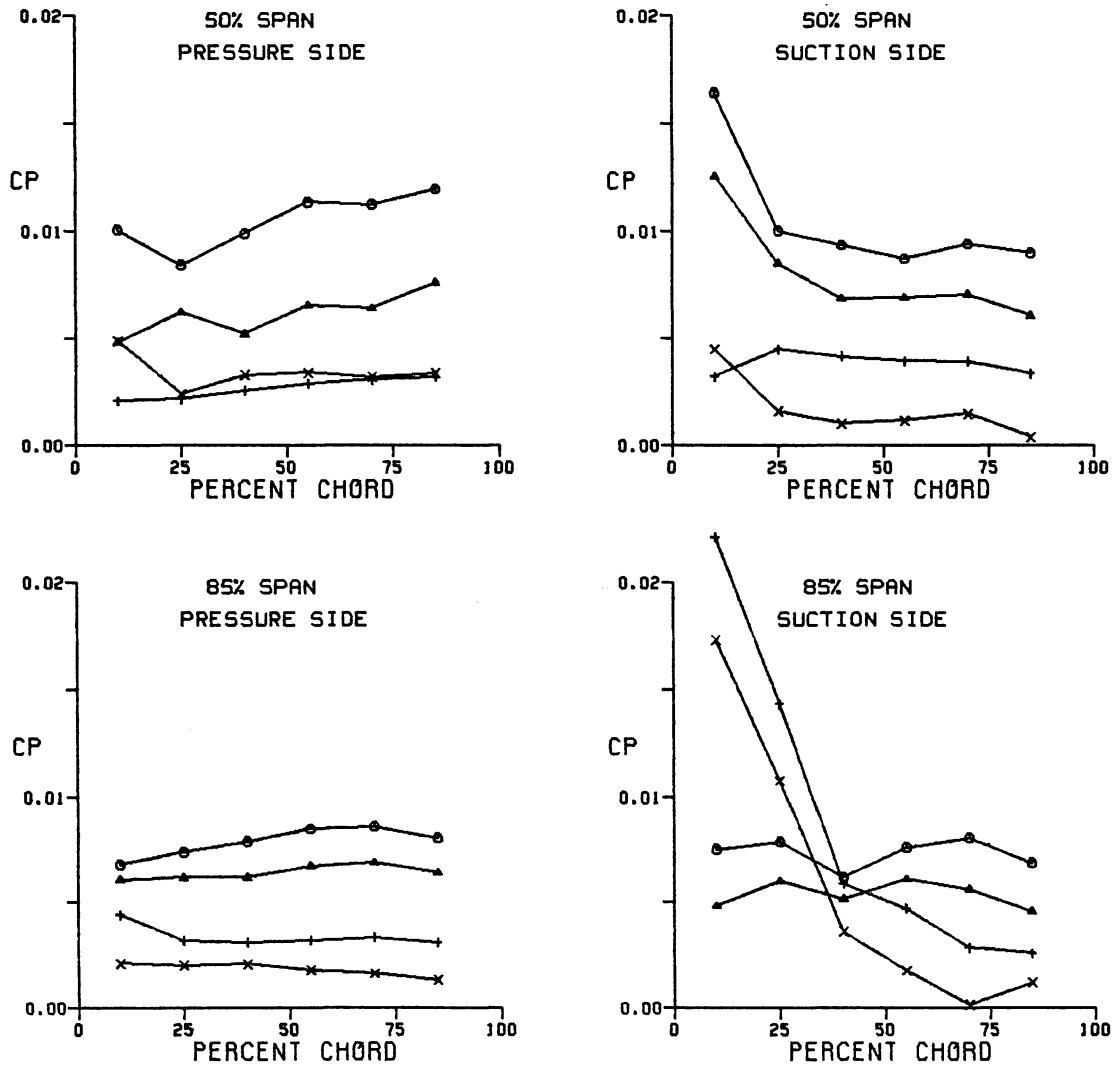


Figure 16. Net fifth order pressure amplitudes due to strut, 15% stall margin (other effects removed vectorially)

- STRUT POS. 1
- ▲ STRUT POS. 1.5
- + STRUT POS. 2
- × STRUT POS. 3

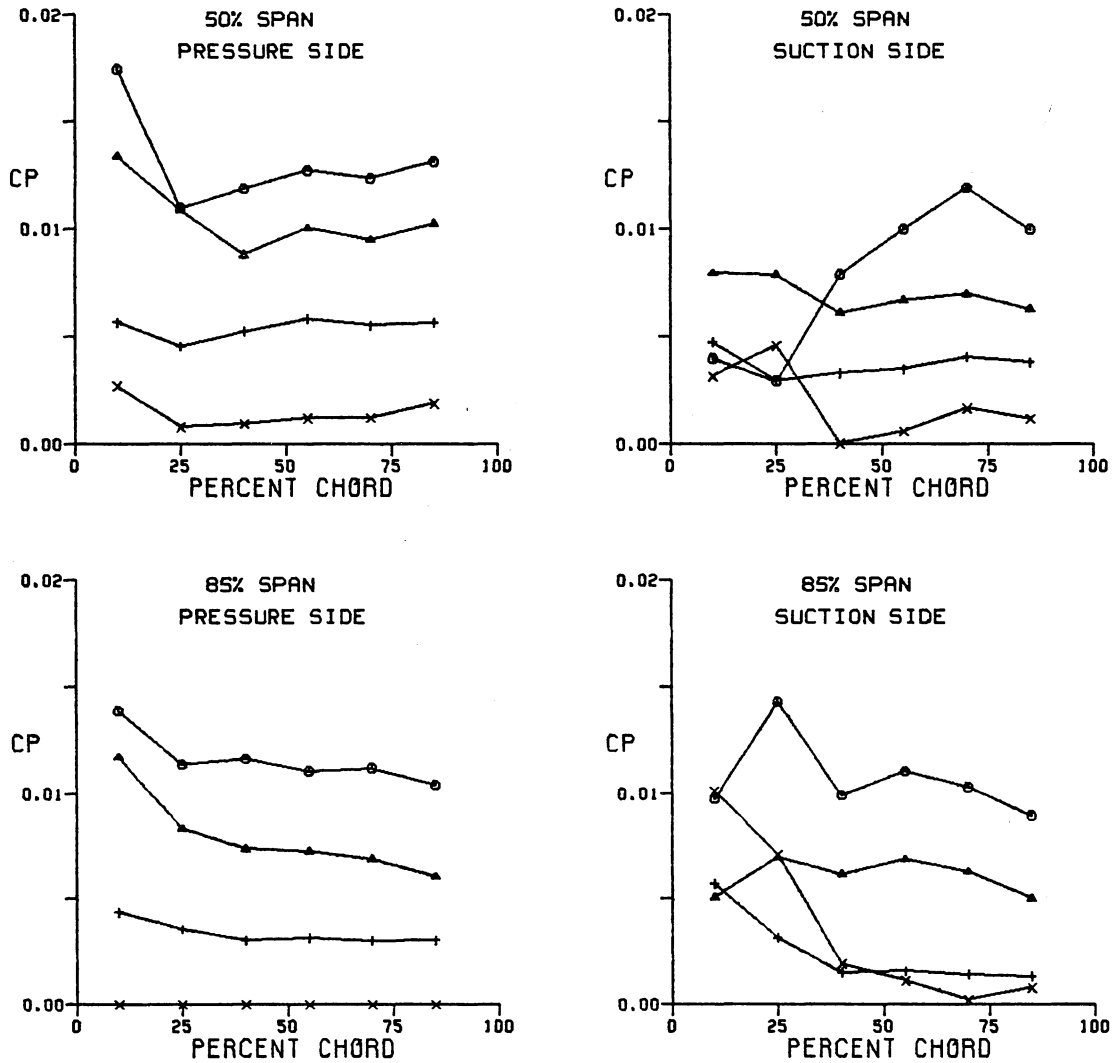


Figure 17. Net fifth order pressure amplitudes due to strut, 35% stall margin (other effects removed vectorially)



### 4.3 UNSTEADY LIFT AND MOMENT CALCULATION

A rotor blade experiences varying lift and moment as the surrounding pressure distribution changes. Lift can be calculated by integrating the pressure over the blade area. Lift per unit span is obtained by summing the product of pressure difference and incremental distance along the chord.

$$L = \sum_i (P_i - S_i) \Delta A_i$$

where  $i$  denotes chord position (there are six),  $P$  and  $S$  stand for pressures on the blade pressure and suction sides, and  $\Delta A$  is the differential area associated with each transducer. Each pressure can be separated into two components: steady-state (dc), and time-varying (ac):

$$P(t) = P_{dc} + P_{ac}(t) ,$$

$$S(t) = S_{dc} + S_{ac}(t) .$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} L(t) &= \sum_i (P-S)_{dc,i} \Delta A_i + \sum_i (P(t)-S(t))_{ac,i} \Delta A_i \\ &= L_{dc} + L_{ac}(t) . \end{aligned}$$

Since the data were not referenced or zeroed, the steady (dc) part cannot be determined. However, the fluctuating (ac) part can be isolated by referencing the data to zero over large time. This ac component is the subject of analysis here, and it is used to give fluctuating lift and moment. So the equation for unsteady lift is simplified to

$$L_{ac}(t) = \sum_i (P_{ac}(t) - S_{ac}(t))_i \Delta A_i .$$

The unsteady moment calculation is similar, but it requires a moment-arm. The moment-arm is referenced to the blade quarter-chord: the point 1/4 chord length behind the leading edge.

$$\begin{aligned} M(t) &= \sum_i x_i (P-S)_{dc,i} \Delta A_i + \sum_i x_i (P(t) - S(t))_{ac,i} \Delta A_i \\ &= M_{dc} + M_{ac}(t) . \end{aligned}$$

And we use

$$M_{ac}(t) = \sum_i x_i (P_{ac}(t) - S_{ac}(t))_i \Delta A_i .$$

A question arises concerning the precision of the six-point integration and the treatment of the leading and trailing edges. The integration is refined by using a 16-point spline fit across the chord. The pressures on the top and bottom blade surfaces are assumed to match at the leading and trailing edges so that their difference is zero. For spline fitting, that value is chosen midway between the nearest measured

pressure and suction surface pressures. A 40-point spline produced results comparable to the 16-point spline, while both differed up to 10 percent from the 6-point fit, so the 16-point spline was considered sufficient. (See appendix C for detail.)

The time-domain lift data for each stall margin/blade span permutation are shown in Figs. 18-21, which each contain five plots for the five strut locations tested. The corresponding lift frequency spectra are given in Figs. 22-25. These are followed by the time-domain moment data (Figs. 26-29) and the moment frequency spectra (Figs. 30-33). There is wide variation in the fundamental (once per rev) so that it appears independent of stall margin and strut location, although it is more pronounced in 85% span tests. This first harmonic is generally attributed to random room disturbances and possible shaft vibration. It is often echoed by the third harmonic.

The next strong harmonic is the fifth, which correlates with the five downstream struts. It appears to decrease exponentially with the struts' axial distance behind the rotor, as seen on the solid lines in Figs. 34 and 35 (for 15% and 35% stall margins). These plots show lift and moment values versus axial separation in multiples of strut thickness between the rotor trailing edge and the strut leading edge. The solid curves were fit with exponential functions of the form  $y=\exp(a+bx)$ . The lift and moment amplitudes were obtained from the frequency spectra of Figs. 22-25 and 30-33. In all fifth order cases, the levels drop rapidly up to 5 strut thicknesses (170 mm) with the rate of change becoming negligible after 6 strut widths (204 mm). Therefore, given the available space, a 6-strut-width spread between rotor and strut would effectively reduce the

rotor-strut interaction to insignificant levels, while 5 widths would reduce the interaction by over 50% from the design location of 3.50 widths (119 mm).

The similarity of the 50% and 85% span curves in Figs. 34 and 35 imply that the assumption of two-dimensionality is valid for the fifth order strut effects. This is an important simplification for analytical and theoretical studies.

Adjacent to the fifth order effect in Figs. 22-25 and 30-33 is the sixth harmonic resulting from the six upstream struts. It rises at 85% span, and it appears insensitive to stall margin and strut location.

The final significant harmonic is the 37th, caused by the 37 stator blades. It increases with stall margin and drops at 85% span. The 37th levels appear nearly constant with strut location, as shown by the dashed lines in Figs. 34 and 35. These curves were fit using a linear regression of the form  $y=a+bx$ .

An important observation is evident in these plots: the fifth harmonic amplitude is not only in the same range as the 37th, but it exceeds the 37th at the design strut location (3.50 strut thicknesses). However, this strut effect (5th order) falls below the stator effect (37th order) as the struts approach 5 thicknesses separation.

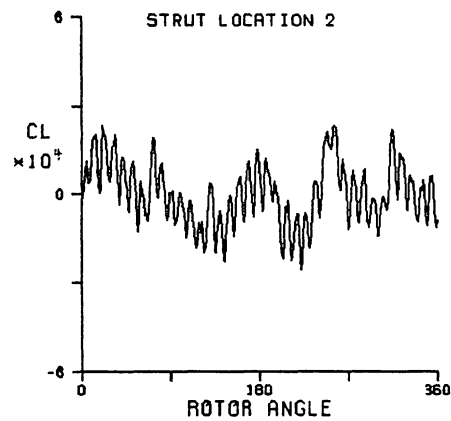
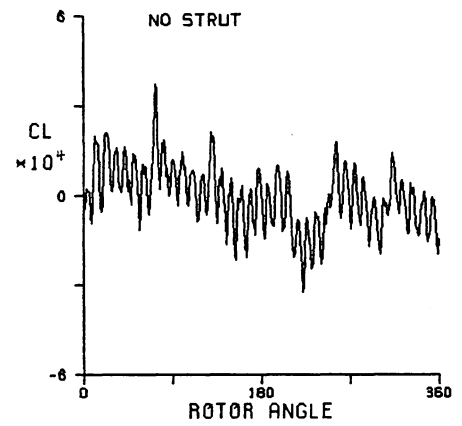
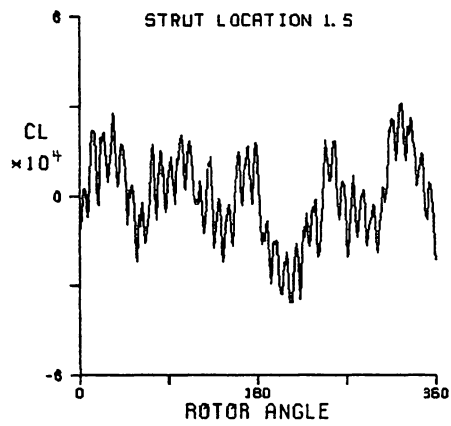
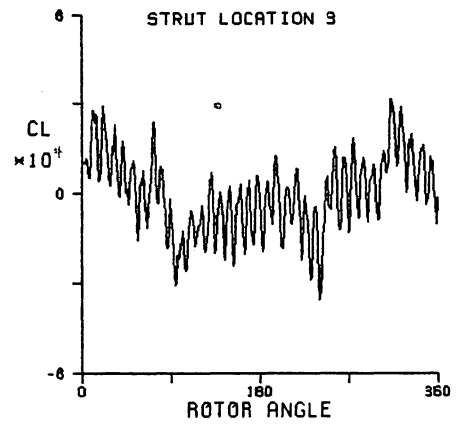
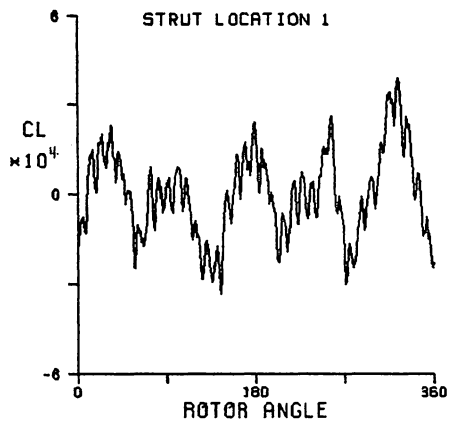


Figure 18. Time-domain lift data for 50% span, 15% stall margin

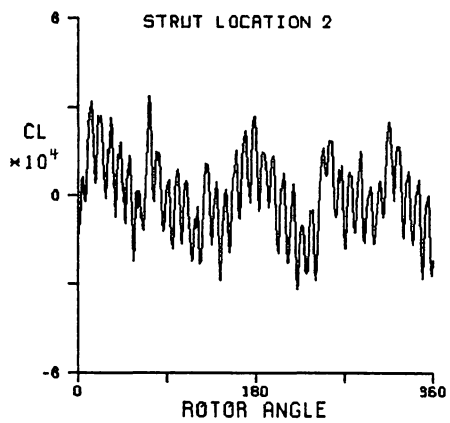
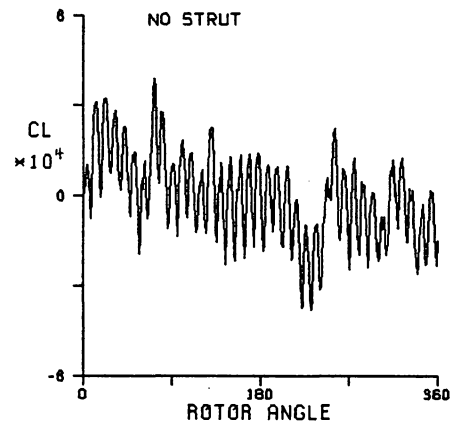
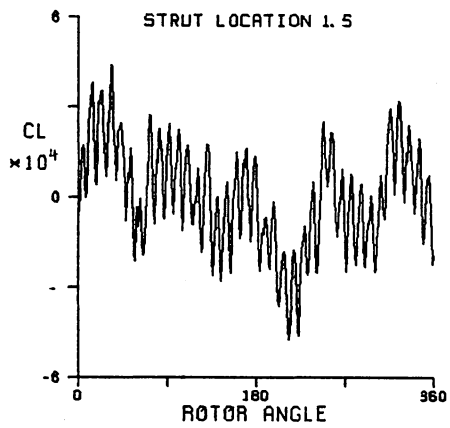
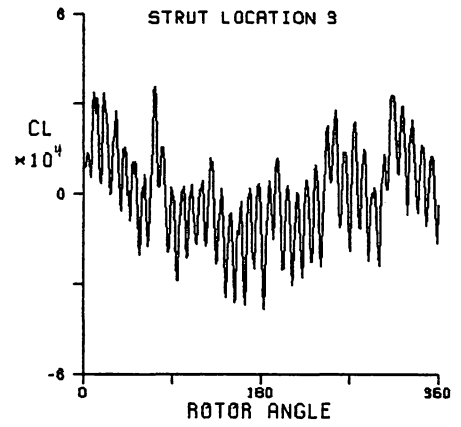
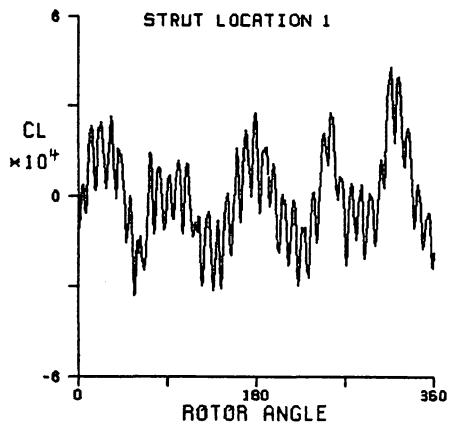


Figure 19. Time-domain lift data for 50% span, 35% stall margin

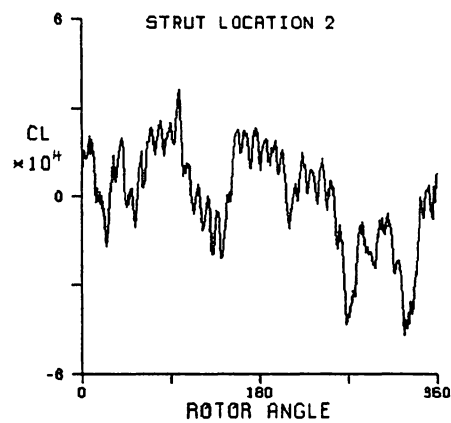
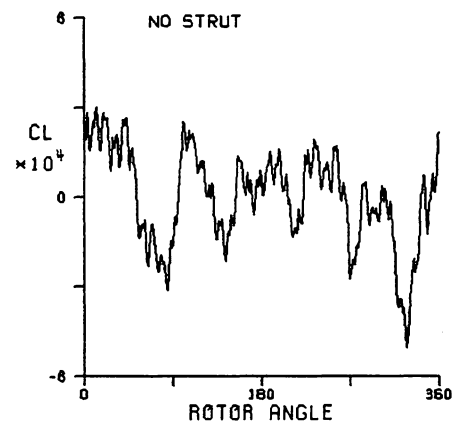
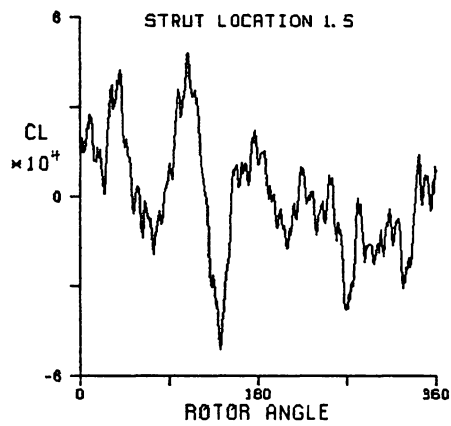
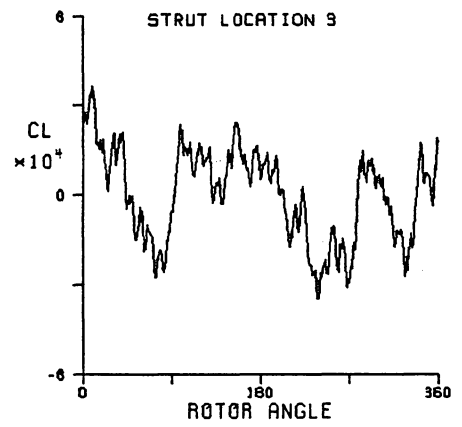
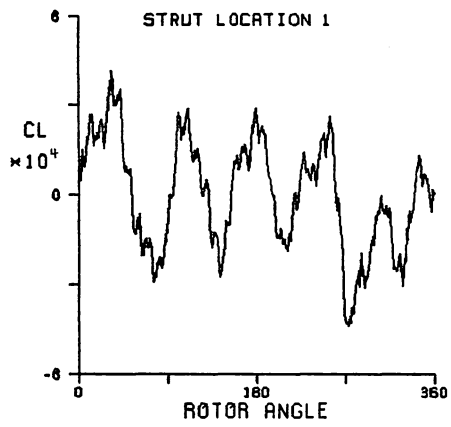


Figure 20. Time-domain lift data for 85% span, 15% stall margin

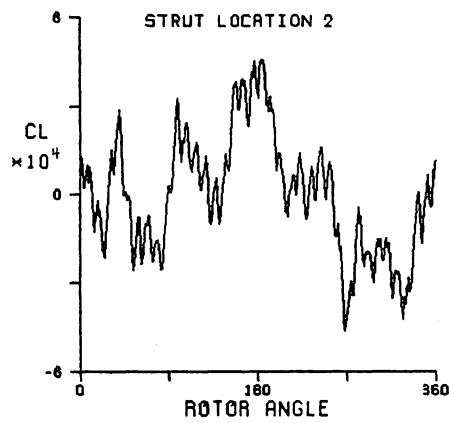
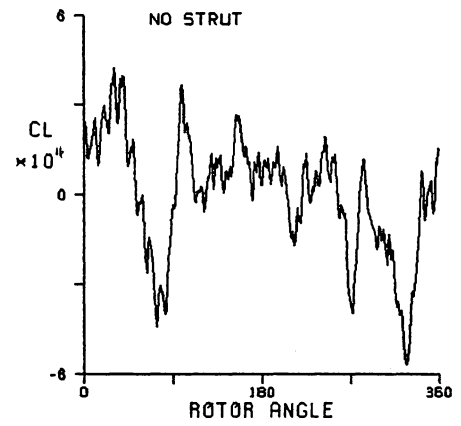
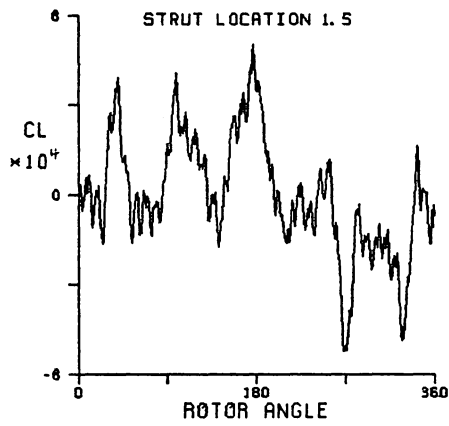
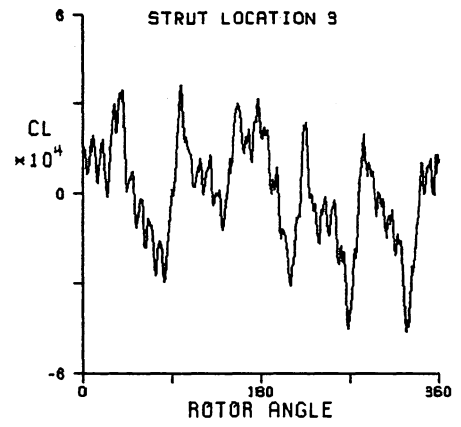
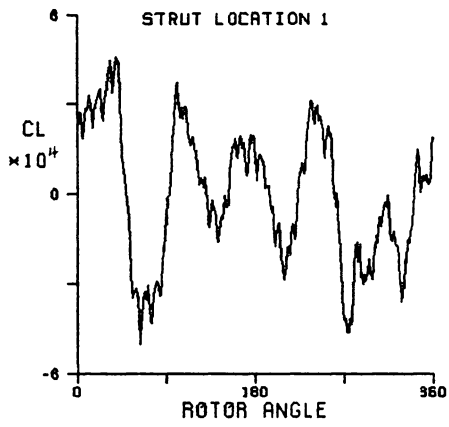


Figure 21. Time-domain lift data for 85% span, 35% stall margin



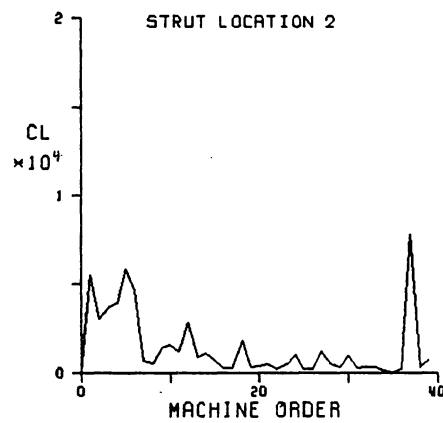
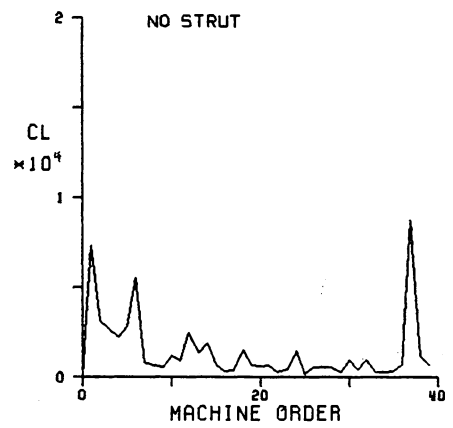
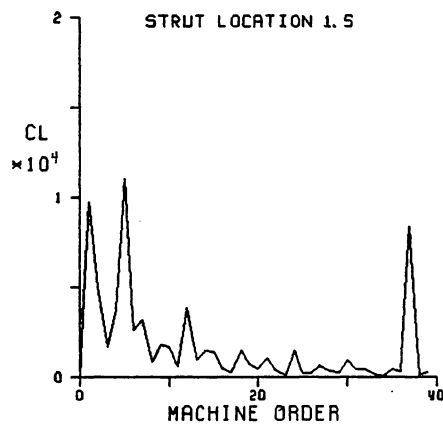
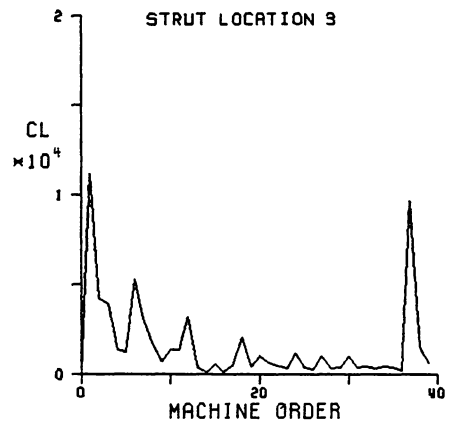
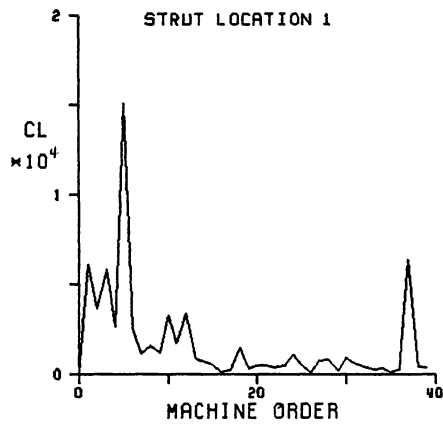


Figure 22. Lift frequency spectra for 50% span, 15% stall margin

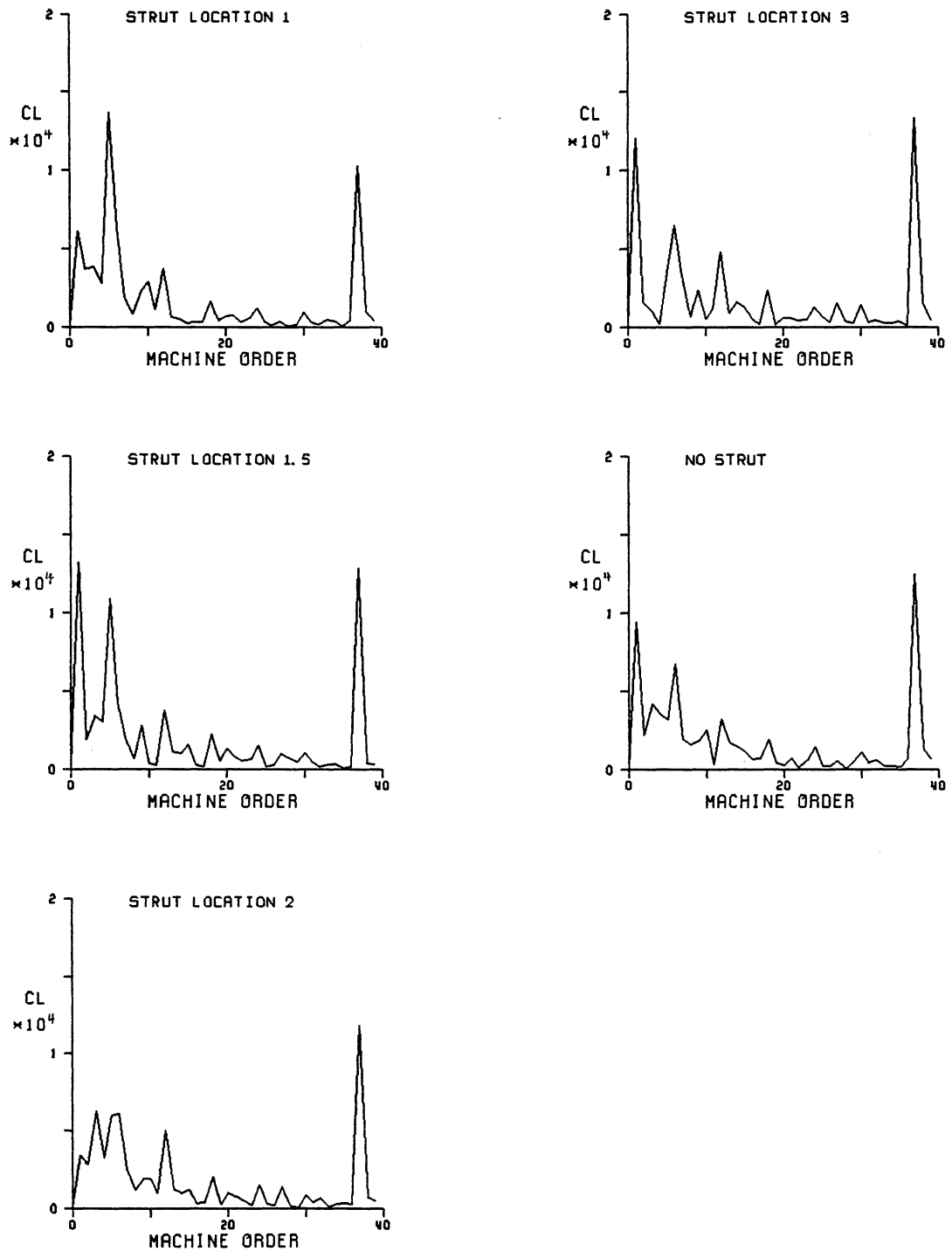


Figure 23. Lift frequency spectra for 50% span, 35% stall margin

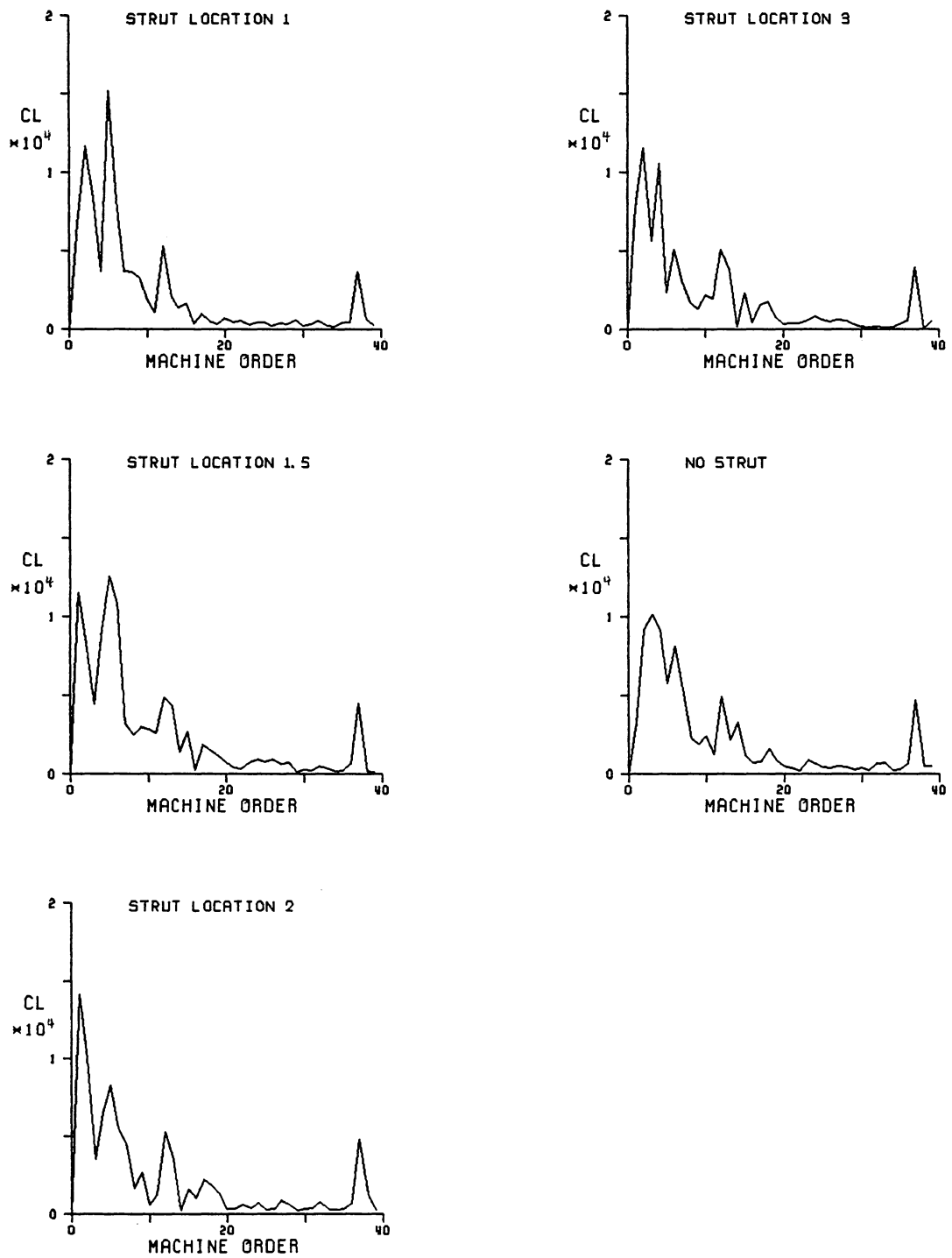


Figure 24. Lift frequency spectra for 85% span, 15% stall margin

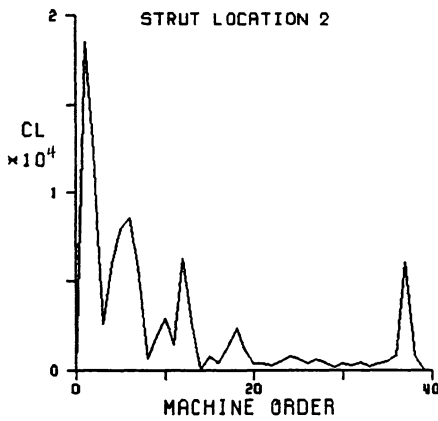
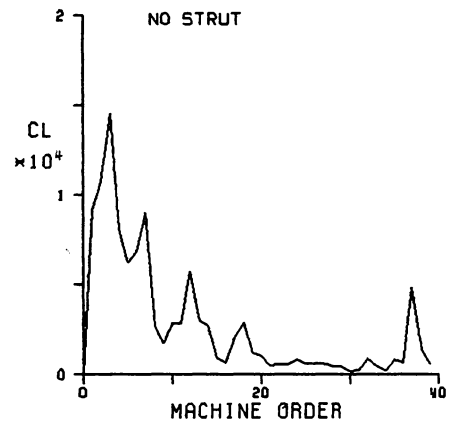
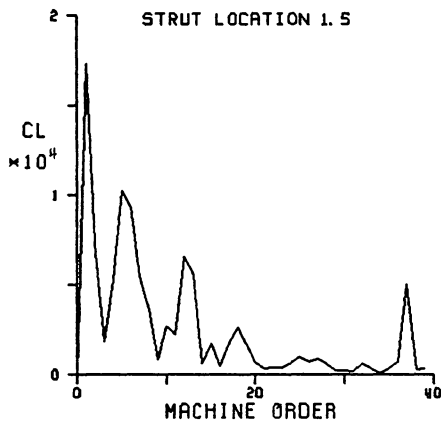
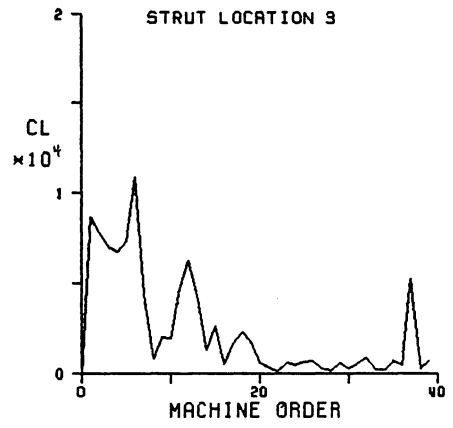
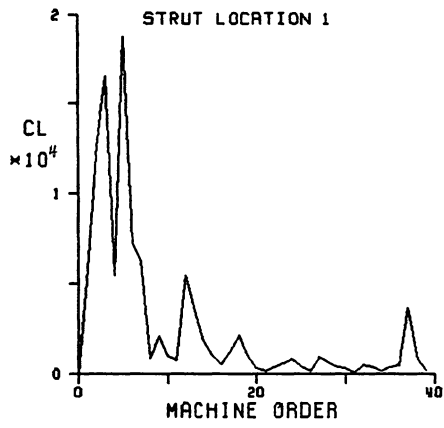


Figure 25. Lift frequency spectra for 85% span, 35% stall margin

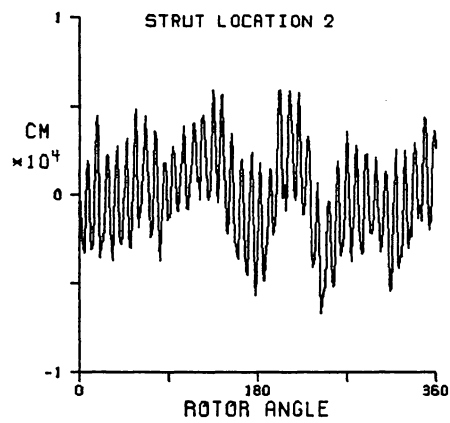
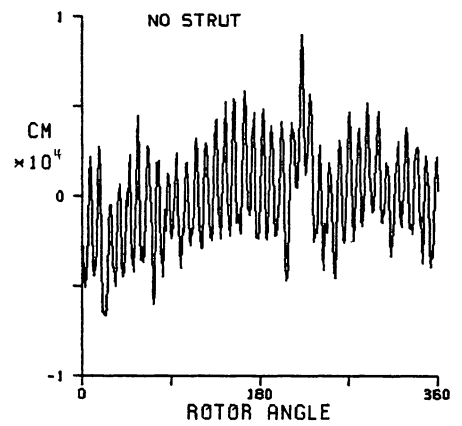
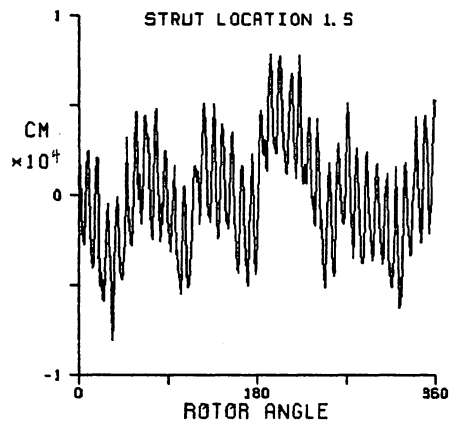
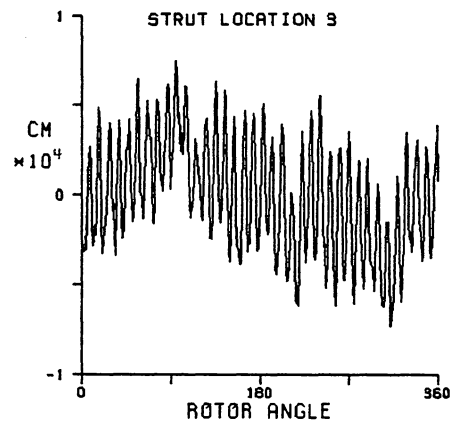
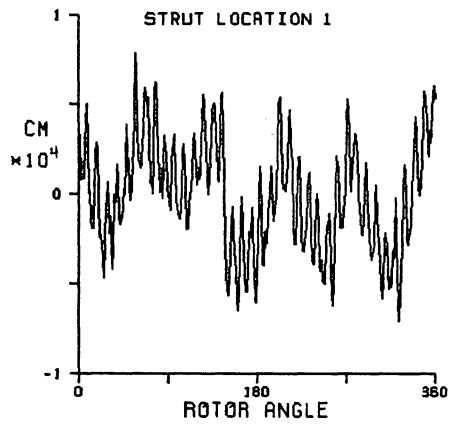


Figure 26. Time-domain moment data for 50% span, 15% stall margin

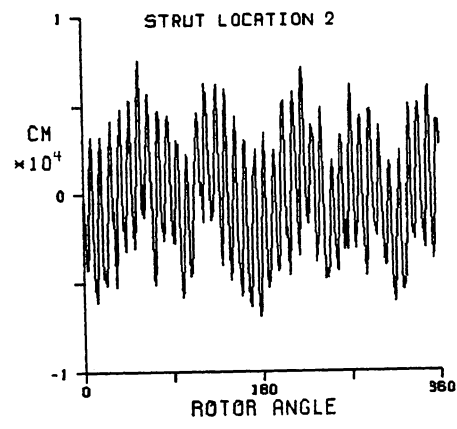
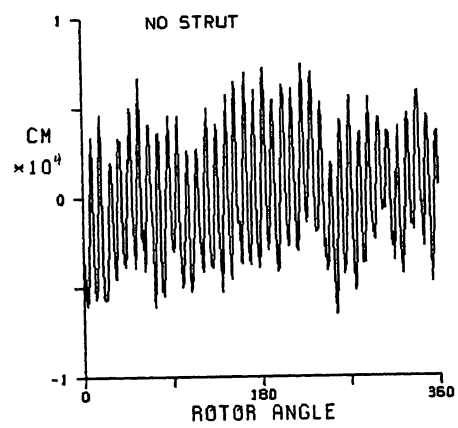
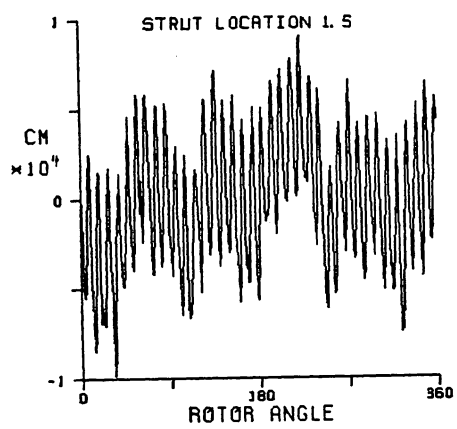
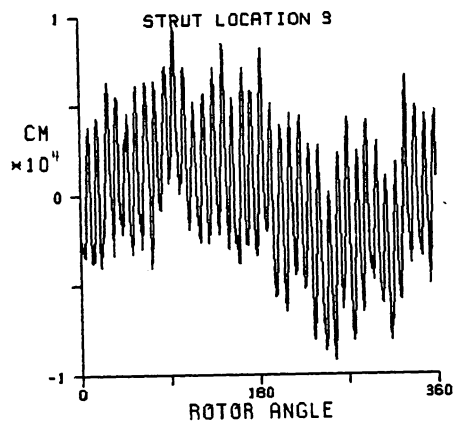
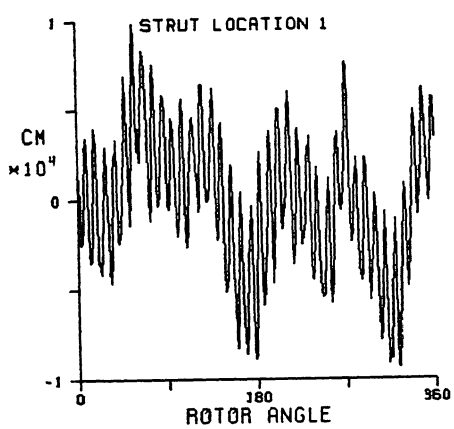


Figure 27. Time-domain moment data for 50% span, 35% stall margin

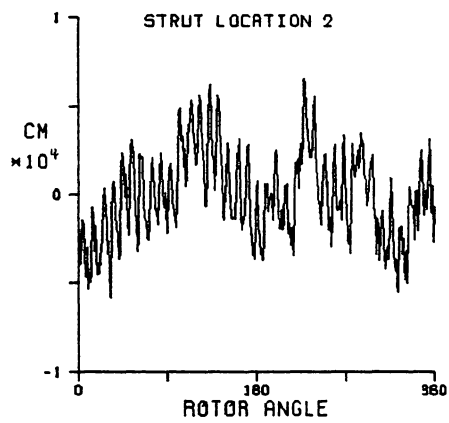
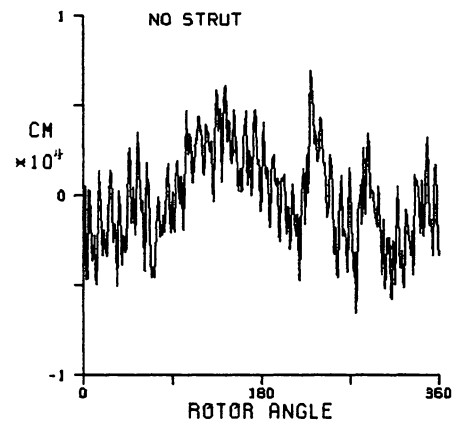
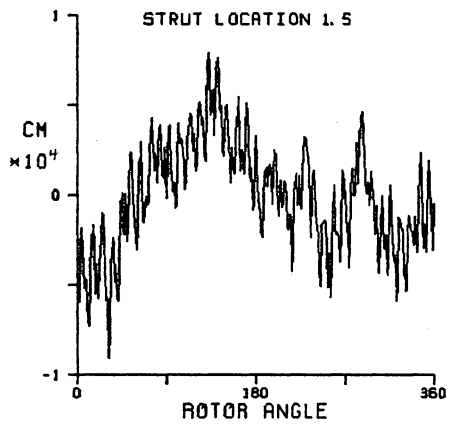
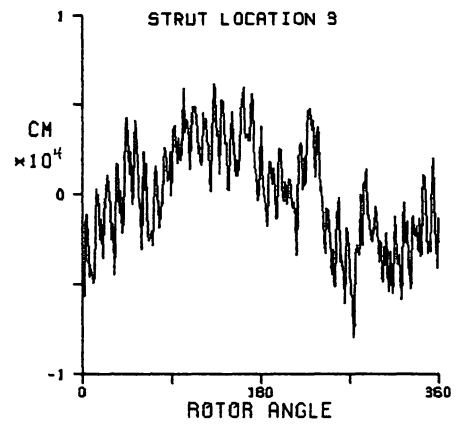
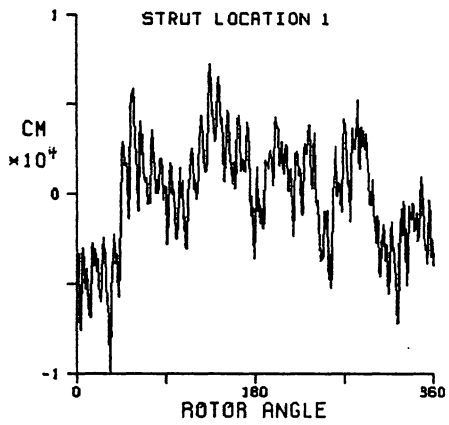


Figure 28. Time-domain moment data for 85% span, 15% stall margin

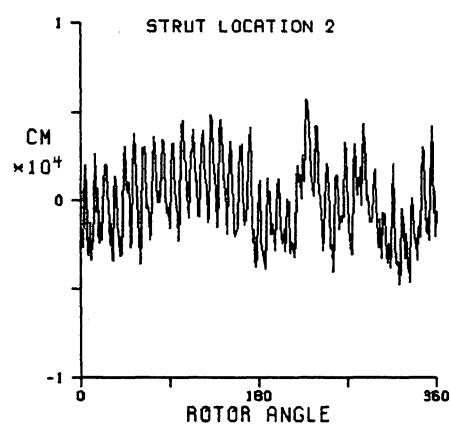
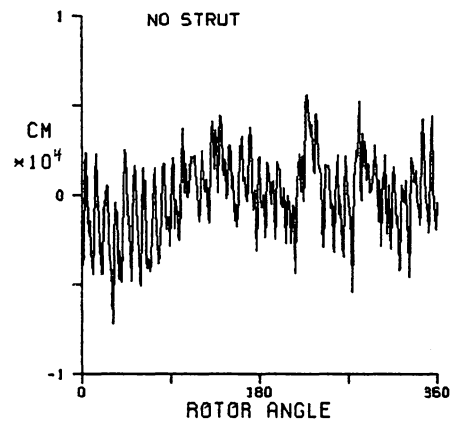
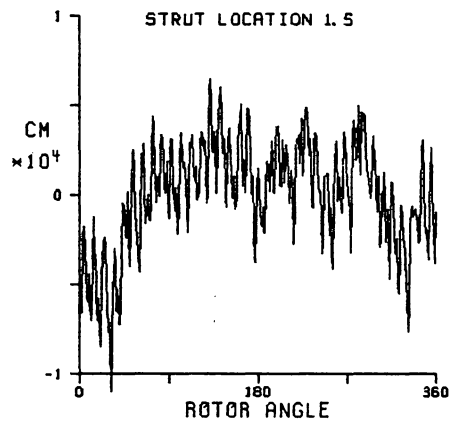
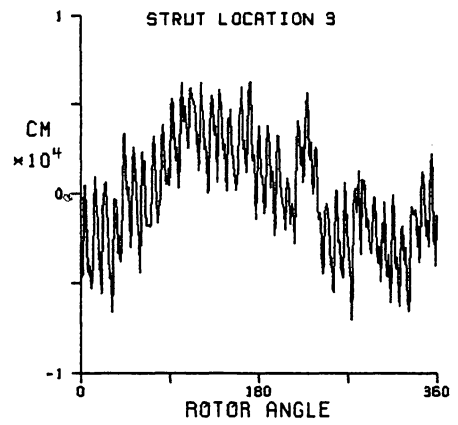
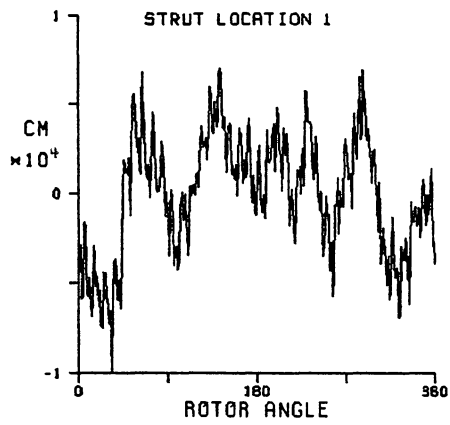


Figure 29. Time-domain moment data for 85% span, 35% stall margin



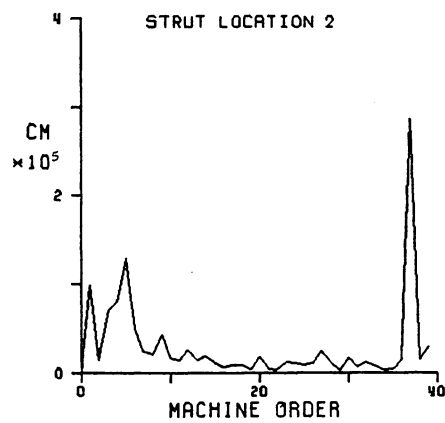
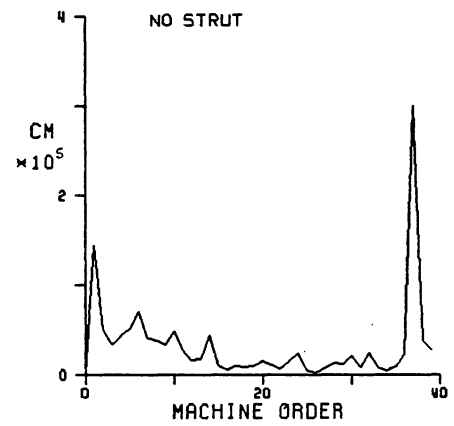
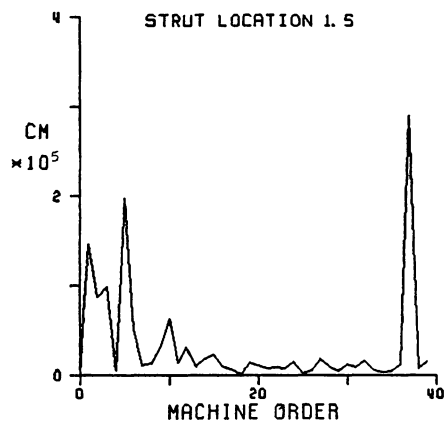
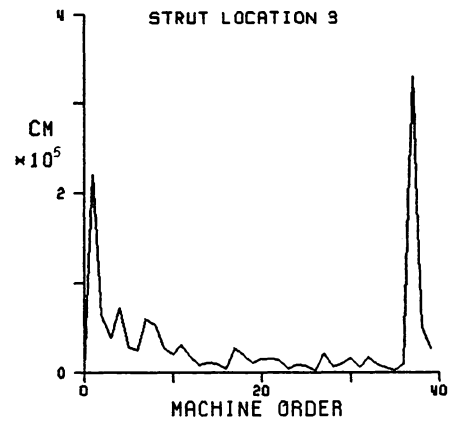
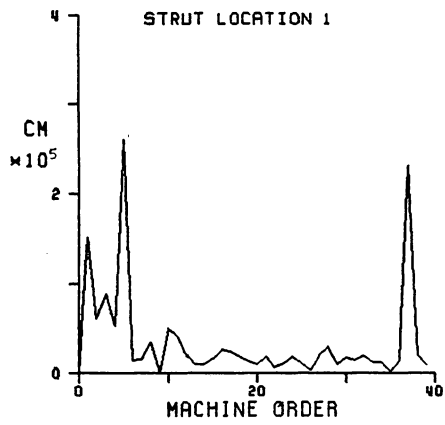


Figure 30. Moment frequency spectra for 50% span, 15% stall margin

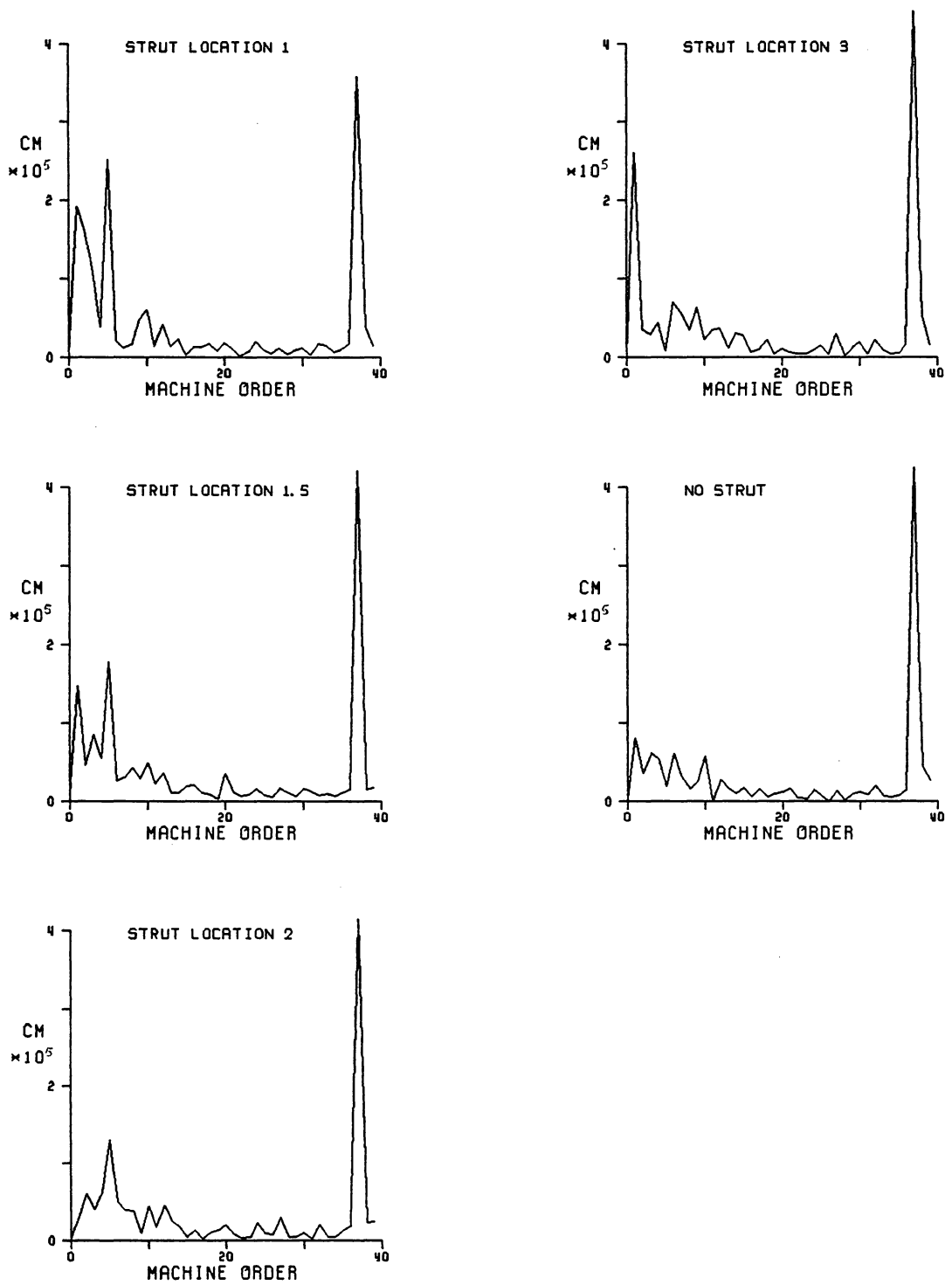


Figure 31. Moment frequency spectra for 50% span, 35% stall margin

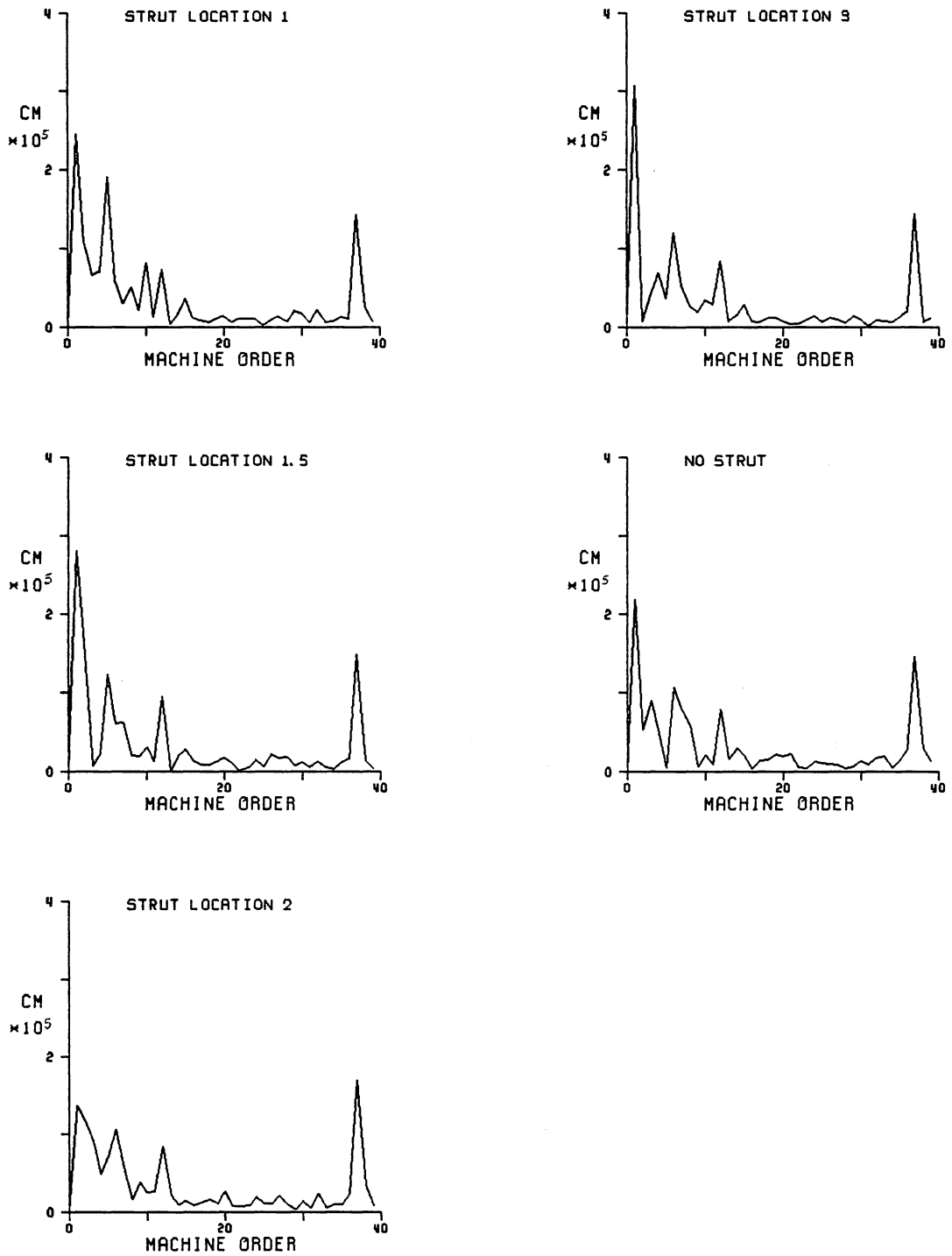


Figure 32. Moment frequency spectra for 85% span, 15% stall margin

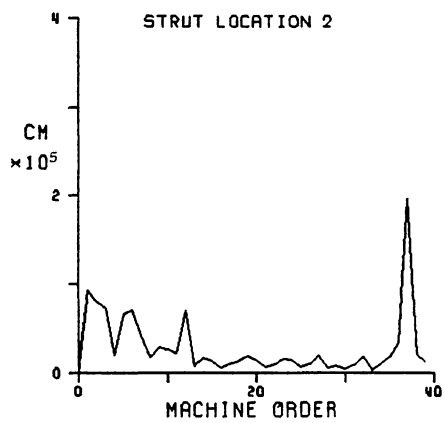
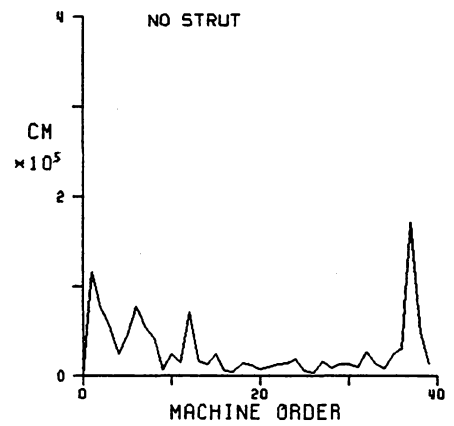
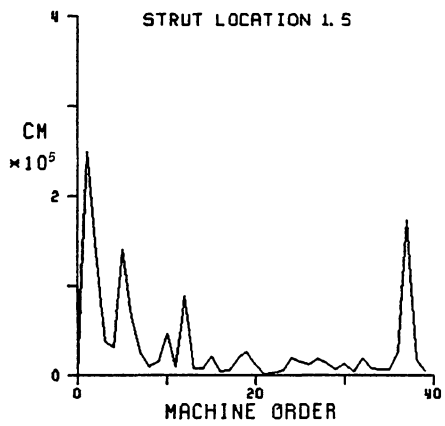
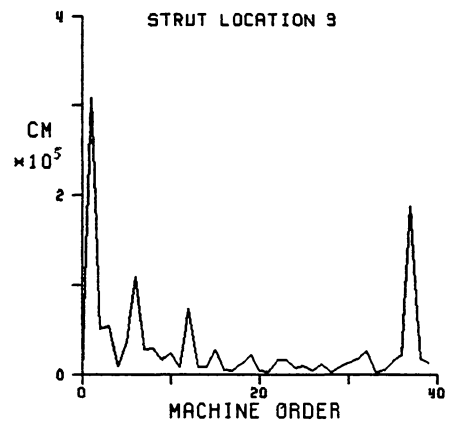
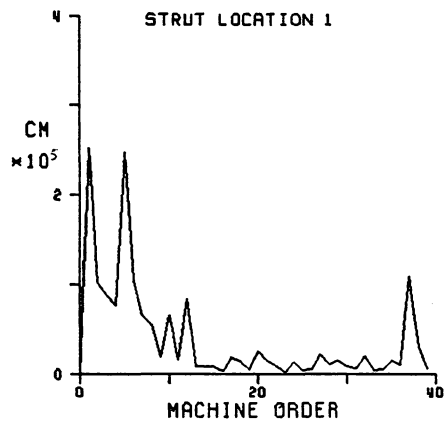


Figure 33. Moment frequency spectra for 85% span, 35% stall margin

- 50% SPAN, STRUT
- △ 85% SPAN, STRUT
- + 50% SPAN, STATOR
- × 85% SPAN, STATOR

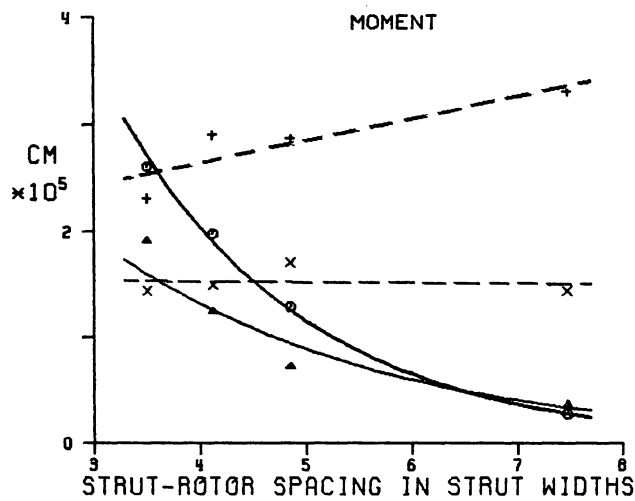
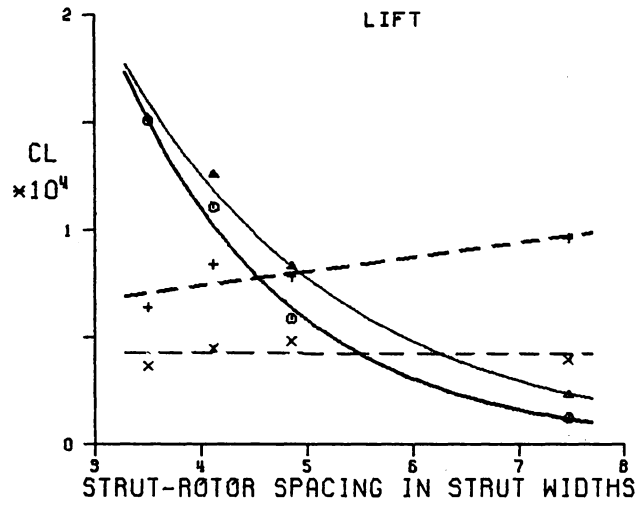


Figure 34. Lift and Moment versus axial strut location for 15% stall margin

- 50% SPAN, STRUT
- △ 85% SPAN, STRUT
- + 50% SPAN, STATOR
- × 85% SPAN, STATOR

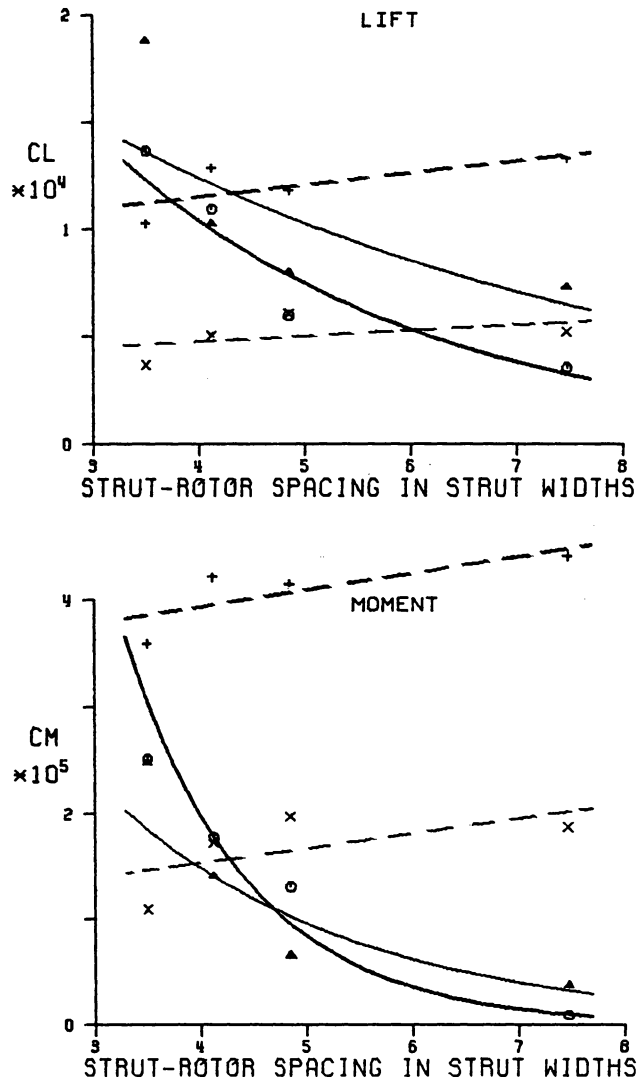


Figure 35. Lift and Moment versus axial strut location for 35% stall margin

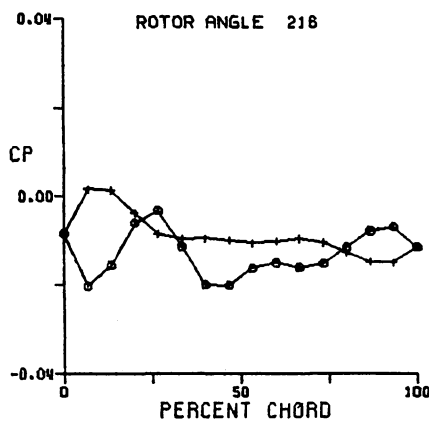
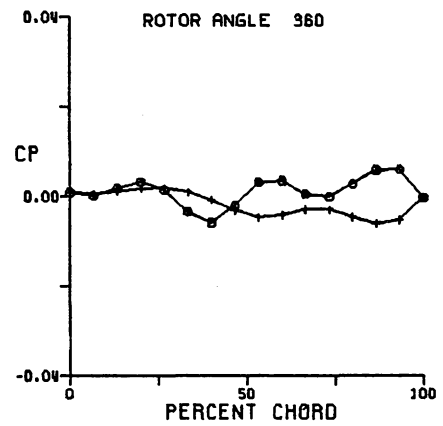
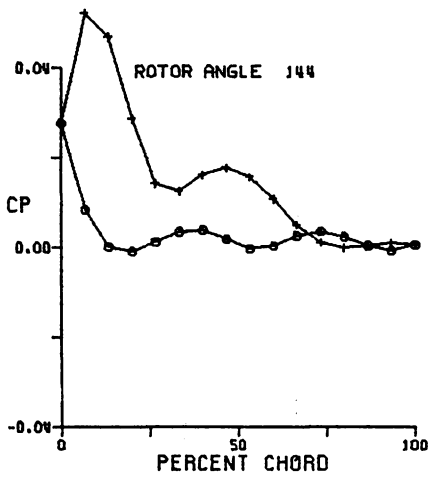
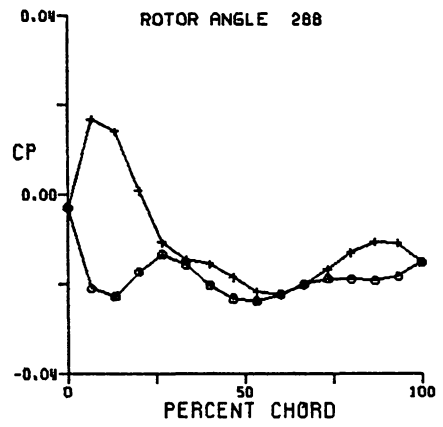
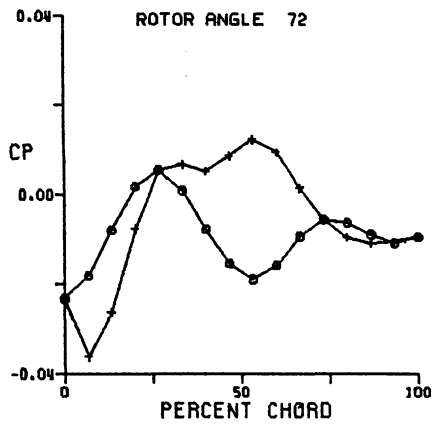
#### 4.4 INSTANTANEOUS PERTURBATION PRESSURE DISTRIBUTIONS

The use of filtering and spline fitting make possible visual imaging of the perturbation effect of specific frequency components on the pressure distribution over the blade. Without filtering, several frequencies interact so that the pictures are complex beyond comprehension. But filtering can isolate the effect of a particular frequency. The filter was set to pass the fifth harmonic and stop those below 4.5 and those above 5.5. Now the fifth order becomes the fundamental, and the same perturbation pressure distribution appears every one/fifth revolution or 72 degrees. Figure 36 shows distributions of pressure perturbations at five equally-spaced rotor angles before filtering for the 50% span, 15% stall, strut location one, pressure-side data set. These plots are repeated after filtering in Fig. 37. The effect of filtering can be seen by comparing Figs. 36 and 37. Notice the repeating pressure distribution on the blade surfaces at every 72 degree increment in Fig. 37. These angles are equivalent relative to the five circumferential strut locations.

A series of pressure perturbation distribution plots in time shows the progression of the downstream strut disturbance across the blade chord. Such a series is examined for the 50% span, 15% stall, pressure side data set, first at strut location one in Fig. 38, then with no strut in Fig. 39. The rotor angle is incremented by six degrees from zero to 72, covering one-fifth rotor revolution and one complete strut passing. Looking more closely at Fig. 38, one can follow the propagation of one cycle of the strut passage: the rotor blade encounters the strut dis-

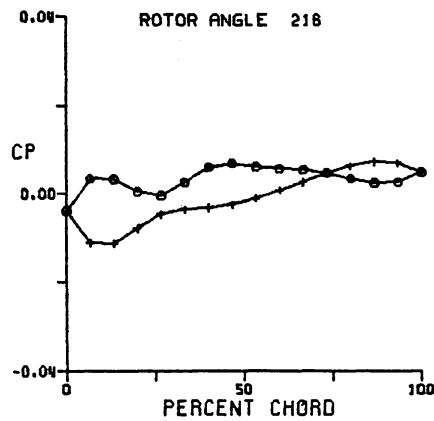
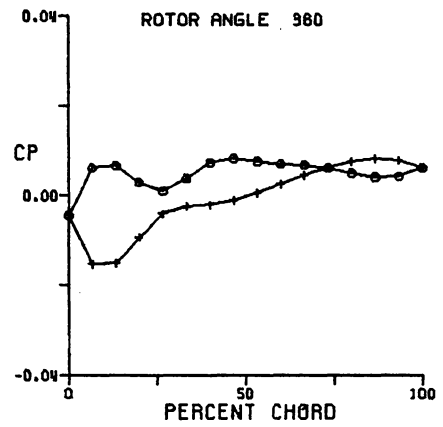
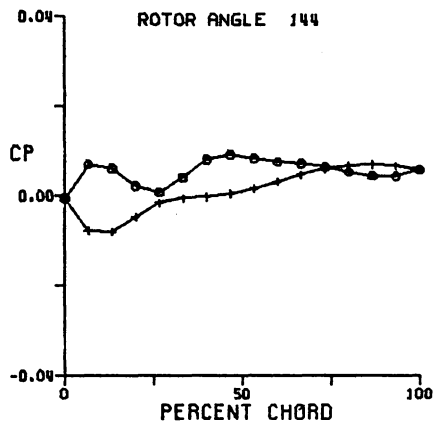
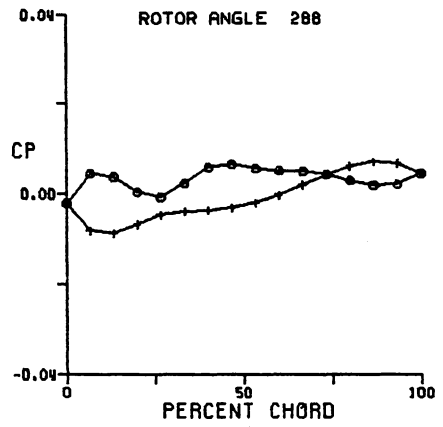
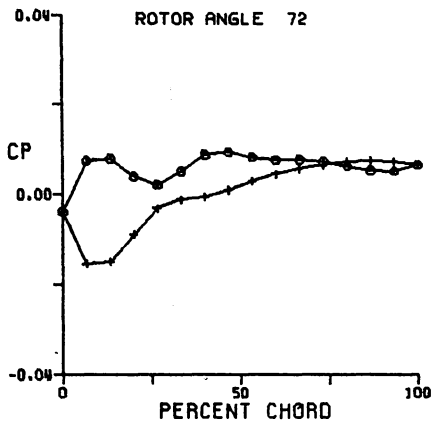
turbance just after angle 54 where the suction side coefficient exceeds the pressure side coefficient. As the leading edge of the blade enters the disturbance, its pressure side level rises above the suction side pressure (angle 60). The pressure wave moves back along the chord on the pressure side, followed by increased pressures on the suction side at angles 66, 72, and 6. The high pressure levels on both surfaces at angles 12 and 18 indicate the peak of the disturbance. The rotor starts to pass out of the strut disturbance after angle 18 and pressure on the pressure side falls below that on the suction side, starting with the leading edge and moving along the chord (angles 24 to 42). The blade is between struts at angle 48 where the pressures are low on both sides. Then a new cycle begins with rotor angle 54. Notice how the whole distribution rises and falls, reaching maxima at angle 18 and minima near angle 54. Some five-per-rev cycling is also evident in Fig. 39 without the strut, but there is no propagation down the chord and the whole distribution remains centered at zero rather than rising and falling as before.





○ PRESSURE SIDE  
+ SUCTION SIDE

Figure 36. Fluctuating pressure distributions every 72 degrees, unfiltered



○ PRESSURE SIDE  
+ SUCTION SIDE

Figure 37. Fluctuating pressure distributions every 72 degrees, bandpass filter retaining fifth order only

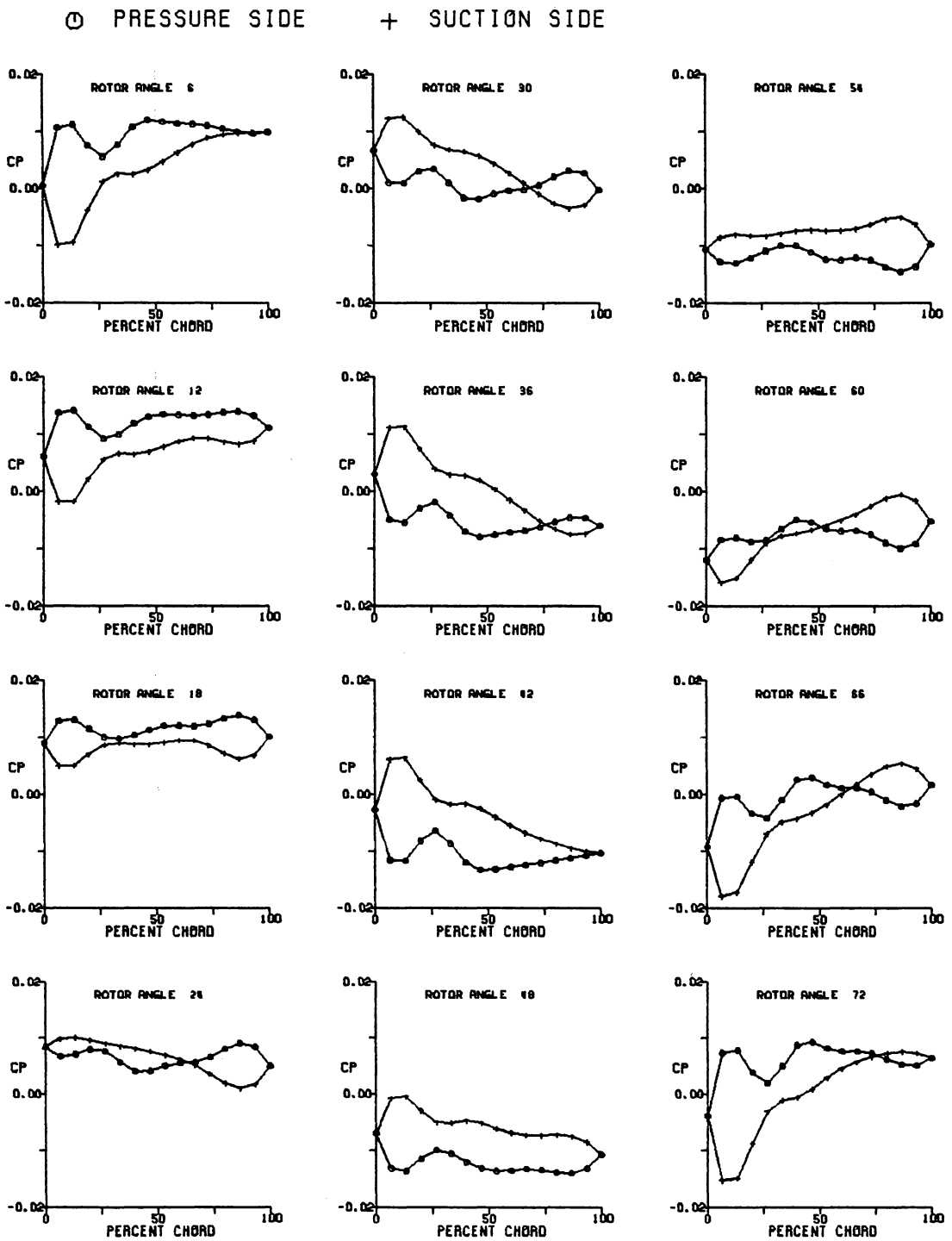


Figure 38. Filtered series of fluctuating pressure distributions, strut location one

⊖ PRESSURE SIDE

+ SUCTION SIDE

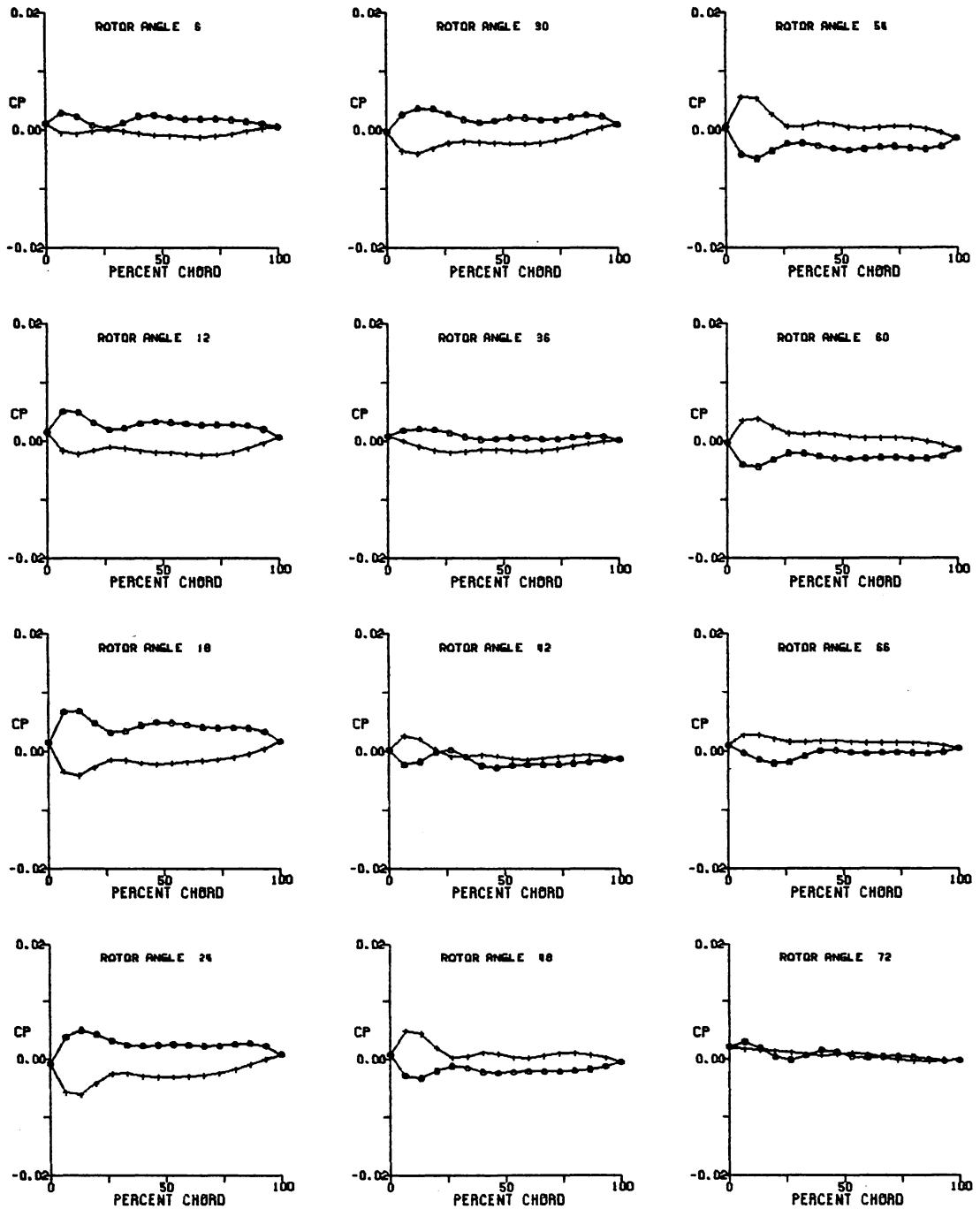


Figure 39. Filtered series of fluctuating pressure distributions, strut removed

## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The significant effect of the upstream potential field of a strut on rotor blade passage was confirmed and shown to be larger than the stator effect at design rotor-stator-strut spacing. After removing unavoidable background disturbances, this rotor-strut interaction was found to be somewhat less than that indicated by the original data. Further investigation revealed an exponential relationship between strut-rotor interaction and spacing so that the interaction reduces considerably with an increase in axial separation to 5 strut thicknesses between the rotor trailing edge and the strut leading edge, thereby decreasing the noise level and rotor fatigue. The potential effect due to the strut becomes negligible after 6 widths separation. Also, the similarity between 50% and 85% span data characteristics indicates two-dimensionality of the flow. In addition, a technique has been developed to visualize rotor blade pressure distributions as they change with rotor angle over time. A flow disturbance can be seen to propagate down the chord as the blade passes through the disturbance.

For further study, it would be interesting to vary the stator location relative to rotor and strut to see how it would affect both rotor-stator interaction and rotor-strut interaction. Also, instrumentation of the struts might reveal correlations between rotor and strut unsteady pressures. Finally, thorough comparison with an analytical model is needed as well as observation of the steady pressure field.

## APPENDIX A. FOURIER TRANSFORM STUDY

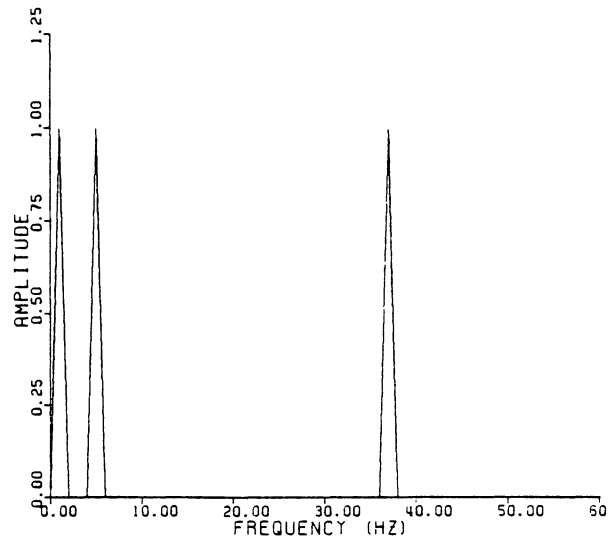
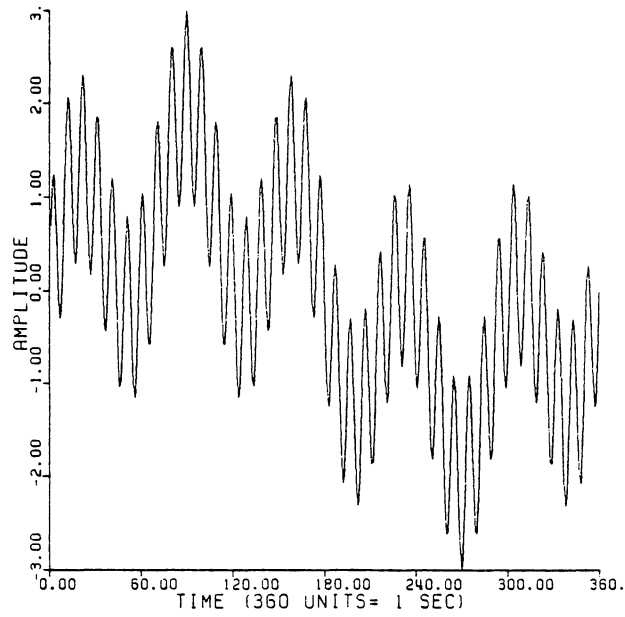
**360 Versus 512 ( $2^9$ ) Data Points:** For examination of frequency content, time-domain data must be transformed to frequency domain. Current fast Fourier transform algorithms (FFTs) are most easily used on data which is periodic in groups of a power of two ( $2^n$ ). The data available has its fundamental period in 360 points. When using an FFT on a group of data whose number is not a power of 2, accuracy and resolution often come into question. The frequency spectrum of a cosine wave broken into 360 points was compared with the same using 512 points. Peak amplitudes, resolution, and leakage (noise) were checked. The amplitudes and resolutions matched, and neither case showed any leakage. Therefore 360 and 512 data points per cycle produce the same results and a power of 2 is not required. Figures 40 and 41 show input cosine waves and resulting frequency spectra using 360 and 512 points per cycle.

**Magnitude:** Fourier transformation produces complex numbers  $X(\omega)$  from which magnitudes are calculated using:

$$\text{Amp} = \text{sqrt}(\text{Re}^2(X(\omega)) + \text{Im}^2(X(\omega))) .$$

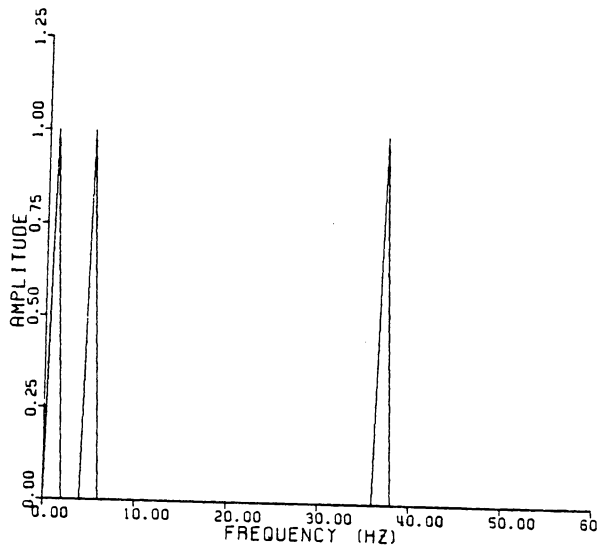
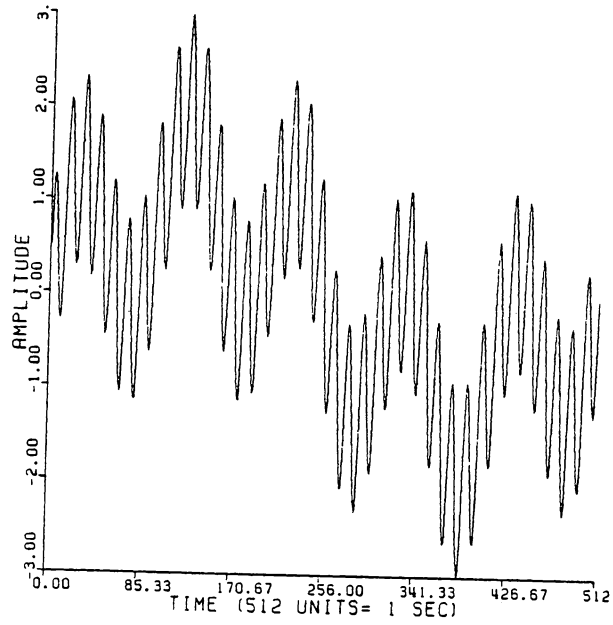
Figure 42 is a sample plot of pressure magnitude coefficient versus machine order.

The case with no struts was run as a control to show the background frequency spectrum in the test equipment. This spectrum can be removed



$$y = \cos(2\pi x/360) + \cos(5*2\pi x/360) + \cos(37*2\pi x/360)$$

Figure 40. Time and Frequency Spectra of Cosine Waves: 360 Points per Cycle



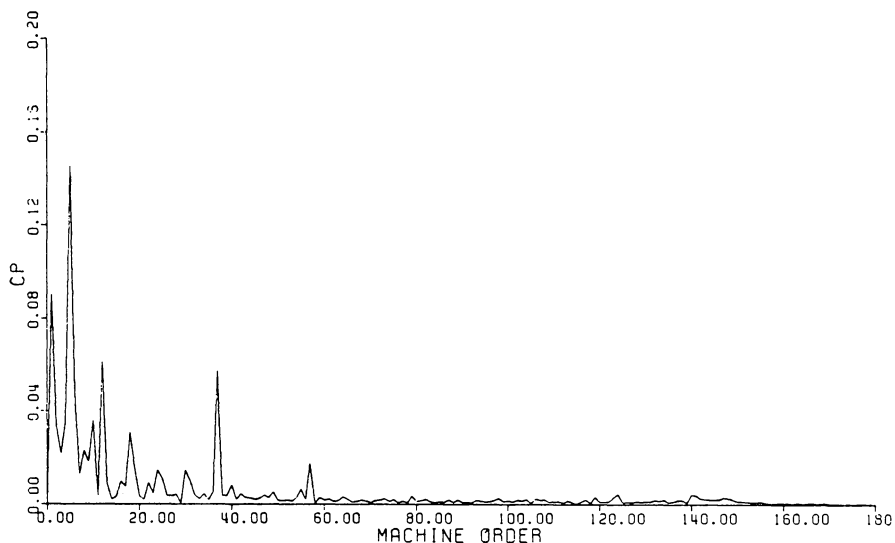
$$y = \cos(2\pi x/512) + \cos(5*2\pi x/512) + \cos(37*2\pi x/512)$$

Figure 41. Time and Frequency Spectra of Cosine Waves: 512 Points per Cycle



from the strut cases with a complex difference of the  $X(\omega)$ 's at each  $\omega$ . Then the net magnitudes are computed as above on these differences.

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Figure 42. Sample Frequency Spectrum Plot of Pressure Magnitude

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**Phase Angle:** The FFT routine was tested with a single period cosine wave broken into 360 points, the window size. Additional functions had 5 and 37 periods in the window. Input amplitudes were varied and checked on output, successfully. Phases did not fare so well. They were off by an amount relative to their frequencies. In discussing transformation of periodic functions, Newland shows (20):

$$X(\omega) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x_k \delta(\omega - 2\pi k/T) .$$

" $\delta$ " cuts on at  $(2\pi k/T)$ , thus shifting the phase by that amount. For the application used here (IMSL routine FFTRC):

$x_k$  refers to time-domain data,

$X(\omega)$  is the complex value of the fourier transform at  $\omega$ ,

$2\pi = 360^\circ$ ,

$k = I-1$ ,

$T = NPTS/NCY \quad (360)$ ,

so the output phase can be corrected. Thus:

$$\text{Phase} = \arctan(\text{Im}(X(\omega))/\text{Re}(X(\omega))) - 360(I-1)NCY/NPTS .$$

This shift can be ignored when summing complex numbers at a given frequency because all are shifted by the same phase. Figure 43 is a sample plot of phase versus machine order.

Phase plots are noisy and unreadable because all frequencies have some phase, no matter how small their amplitude. To make these more readable, frequencies below a chosen amplitude can be set to zero, or filtered out. A filtered phase plot is shown in Fig. 44.

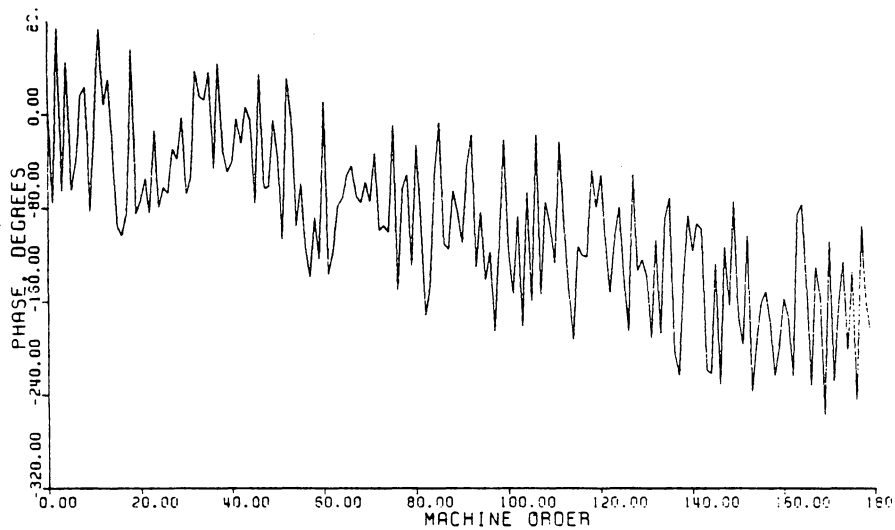


Figure 43. Sample Frequency Spectrum Plot of Pressure Phase

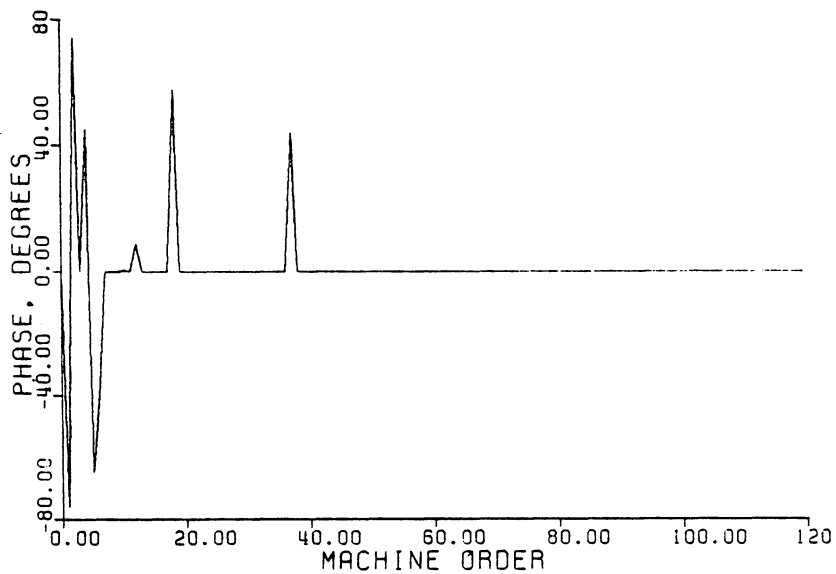


Figure 44. Sample Frequency Spectrum Plot of Pressure Phase, Filtered

## APPENDIX B. FILTER

The digital filter used is a frequency impulse response (FIR) linear phase filter developed in reference 21. A desired filter shape is input to the filter program which creates a set of weighting coefficients ( $b_k$ ). These are convoluted (22) with the time-domain data ( $x$ ) to produce the filtered set ( $y$ ):

$$y_n = \sum_{k=-N}^N b_k x_{n-k} .$$

Fourier transformation of the coefficients reveals the actual filter shape (Fig. 45). Higher precision and smoothness require a higher span ( $2N$ ) and thus geometrically higher cost.

A large span,  $N=360$ , is used for this application because high resolution is required: the fifth order is passed (retained), and all others are stopped on a scale of 1 to 180. Specifically, two stopbands were set: 0.0-3.2 and 6.0-180.0. The passband was 4.8-5.2. All three bands had a weighting of one. This produced a gain of 97.2, which can be removed in the convolution. To aid filter efficiency, the transition bands (3.2-4.8 and 5.2-6.0) were made as large as possible without including significant harmonics.

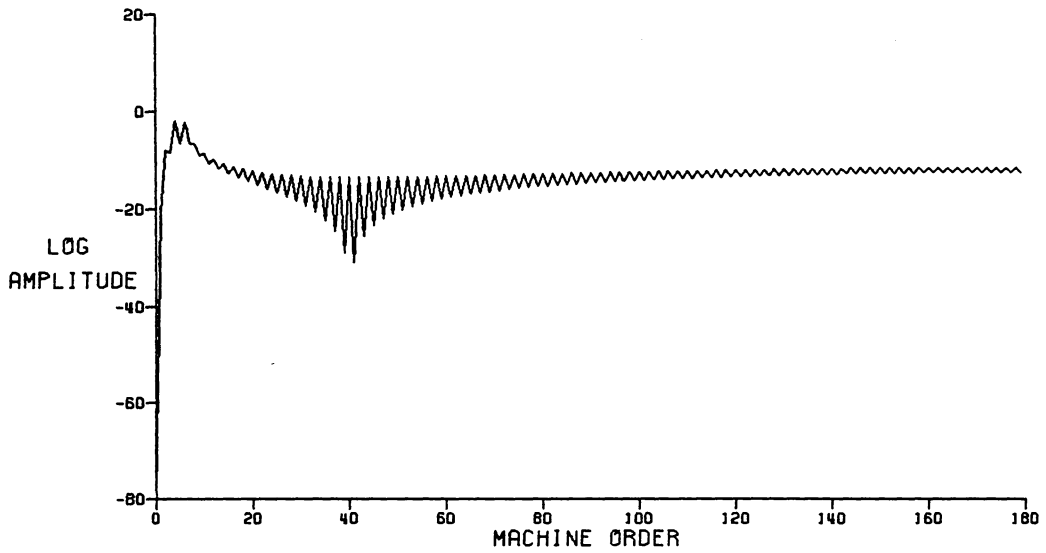
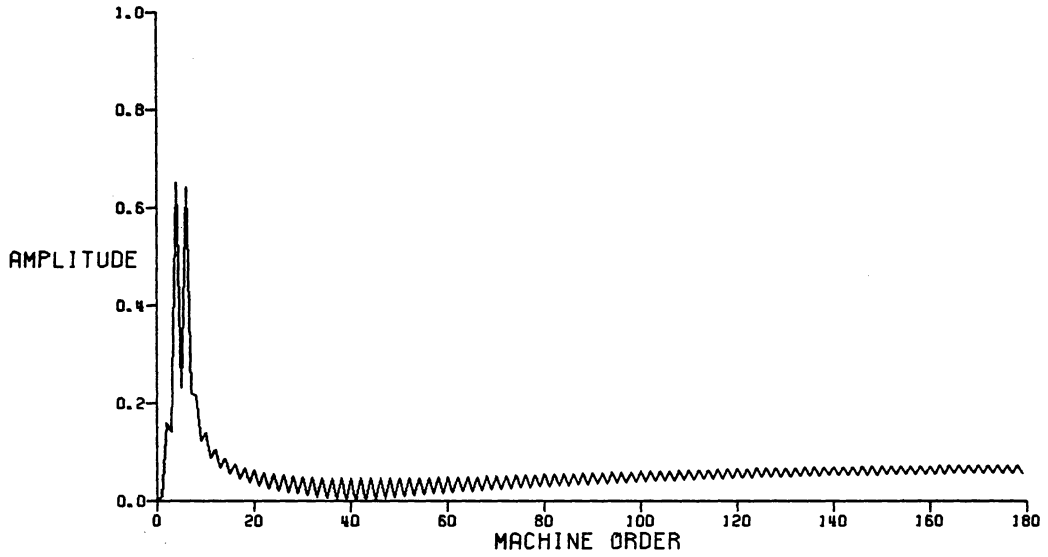


Figure 45. Digital filter shape for fifth order enhancement

## APPENDIX C. INTEGRATION WITH SPLINE FITTING

Integration is performed using a trapezoid rule on  $n$  equally spaced points. In the following equations  $P$ ,  $S$ ,  $L$ , and  $M$  refer to ac components of the pressure side pressure, suction side pressure, lift, and moment although the subscripts are not shown. (See Fig. 46 for geometry.)

$$L = \Delta A_i [0.5(P-S)_1 + \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} (P-S)_i + 0.5(P-S)_n]$$

$$= \frac{A}{n-1} \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} (P_i - S_i) ,$$

since  $P_1 - S_1 = 0$  ,  $P_n - S_n = 0$  at the leading and trailing edges, and the area increment  $\Delta A_i = A/(n-1)$  .

$$M = \Delta A_i [0.5(P-S)_1 x_{cm} + \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} (P-S)_i x_i + 0.5(P-S)_n x_n] ,$$

$$P_1 - S_1 = 0 , \quad P_n - S_n = 0 ,$$

$$A = (n-1) \Delta A_i ,$$

$$x_i = x_{cm} - (i-1) \Delta A_i$$

$$= x_{cm} - (i-1) \left( \frac{A}{n-1} \right) , \quad \text{so}$$

$$M = \frac{A}{n-1} \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} (P_i - S_i) [x_{cm} - (i-1) \left( \frac{A}{n-1} \right)] .$$

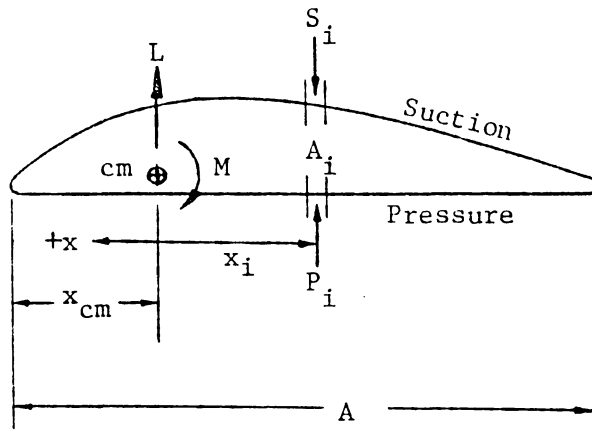


Figure 46. Rotor blade cross section: geometry

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