

## Appendix D Computer Program for Designing Banked Curves for Supercritical Flow in Rectangular Channels

### D-1. Introduction

*a. General.* The design of curves for supercritical flow may include several alternatives which produce curves that perform satisfactorily for the design flow and that are compatible with existing field conditions. The solution for any one alternative is time consuming, requiring trial-and-error computations. The alternative designs described in this appendix include basic limiting design criteria developed by the US Army Engineer District (USAED), Los Angeles. Combining the results of two or more of these alternatives should produce a satisfactory design for nearly any condition. A list of symbols used in the program (Plate D-1), a program listing (Plate D-2), a program flow chart (Plate D-3), subroutine flow charts (Plates D-4 and D-5), an example input sheet (Plate D-6), and an example output listing (Plate D-7) are included herein. The computer program is written in FORTRAN IV and has been tested on a GE-425 computer through a remote teletype terminal.

*b. Hydraulic elements.* The hydraulic elements are computed using an equation for open channel flow adapted from the Colebrook-White equation for pipe flow (HDC 224-1). The equivalent open channel flow equation in terms of Chezy  $C$  is

$$C = -32.6 \log_{10} \left( \frac{C}{5.2R_n} + \frac{k}{12.2R} \right) \quad (D-1)$$

where

$R_n$  = Reynolds number =  $4RV/v$

$R$  = hydraulic radius

$V$  = velocity

$v$  = kinematic viscosity of water at  
given temperature

$k$  = assigned equivalent roughness  
height

Equation D-1 is graphically presented in Plate 3,

Appendix B. Its derivation is described in HDC 631 to 631-2. The equation has been used in the program subroutine because it is equally applicable to all flow zones and eliminates the need of advanced prediction of the channel flow type.

*c. Spiral transition.* The modified spiral (McCormick 1948) is used for the transition between the tangent and fully banked sections of the curved channel.<sup>1</sup> This type of curve permits location of the channel interior and exterior walls by means of a simple coordinate system based upon a series of circular arcs of uniform length compounded to approximate a conventional spiral. The initial arc has a large radius, and the radius of each succeeding arc is decreased in a prescribed manner until the desired channel curve radius is attained. The advantage of the modified spiral over a conventional spiral is realized during field layout of the short chord lengths required for the concrete wall forms.

*d. Tables of spiral transition.* Tables have been prepared for 22 different spirals (McCormick 1948) to facilitate design layout and field location. The curve numbers in the tables correspond to the number of seconds in the central angle of the first arc of the spiral. This designation is followed in the computer program. However, the curve and corresponding number computed by the program may not be listed in the modified spiral tables because the program selects the exact curve for the specified radius and spiral length.

### D-2. Description of Problem

The basic criteria for the design of spiral-banked curves for rectangular channels are given by Equations 2-33, 2-34, and 2-36 of the main text. A review of these equations reveals that the designer has several alternatives at his disposal to satisfy the design criteria. For example, if the minimum radius of curvature is selected from Equation 2-34, i.e.,

$$r_{\min} = \frac{4WV^2}{gy} = 4WF^2 \quad (2-34, D-2)$$

then the maximum allowable amount of banking (difference between inside and outside invert elevations in the circular curve) is required. The amount of banking ( $e$  ,

<sup>1</sup> References cited in this appendix are included in Appendix A.

Plate D-8) is equal to twice the superelevation given by Equation 2-36. For  $C = 0.5$ ,

$$e = 2\Delta y = (2)(0.5) \frac{V^2 W}{gr} = \frac{V^2 W}{gr} \quad (2-36, D-3)$$

Where  $r = r_{\min}$ ,  $e$  is therefore a maximum, or

$$e_{\max} = \frac{V^2 W}{gr_{\min}} = \frac{y}{4} \quad (D-4)$$

Also, the minimum recommended spiral length for banked curves (Equation 2-33) is

$$L_s = 30\Delta y \quad (2-33, D-5)$$

The choice of minimum radius of curvature in Equation 2-34 (D-2), maximum banking (Equation D-3), and the corresponding spiral lengths (Equation D-5) results in the shortest total curve length. If radii greater than minimum are selected, then according to Equation 2-36 (D-3), the amount of banking would be less than that expressed by Equation D-4. Moreover, both the radius of curvature and the spiral lengths may be arbitrarily selected to satisfy field conditions so long as they exceed the minimum criteria as expressed by Equations 2-33 (D-5) and 2-34 (D-2). Also, the entering and exit spiral lengths do not have to be equal as long as each exceeds the value determined by Equation 2-33 (D-5). It should be noted that with banked inverts, an upper limit on the radius of curvature exists at which the banking ( $2\Delta y$ ) is less than 0.5ft. In this case banking and spiral transitions may not be necessary (paragraph 2-5b). Substituting this limiting (0.5 ft) value for  $e$  into Equation D-3 and solving for  $r$ , the limits for the radius of curvature where banking is required can be expressed as

$$4WF^2 \leq r \leq 2WyF^2 \quad (D-6)$$

Lastly, the transverse slope  $2\Delta y/W$  of the water surface should not exceed 0.18 which corresponds to a slope angle  $\phi$  of 10 deg (Equation 2-36, D-3).

*a. Free drainage.* Another criterion that must be

satisfied in some cases is that the channel be free draining. Banking is introduced by rotation of the bottom about the channel invert center line. Therefore, to provide free drainage along the inside wall, the product of the exit spiral length and centerline invert slope must be greater than the superelevation ( $\Delta y$ ), i.e.

$$L_s S > \Delta y \quad (D-7)$$

Generally, the curves designed for minimum radii (Equations D-2, D-4, and D-5) will not be free draining unless the channel center-line invert slope is extremely steep. There are several ways of accomplishing free drainage by varying independently or dependently the spiral length and channel invert slope. However, the most common method is illustrated in Plate D-8. In this plate the length of the exit spiral is increased to satisfy Equation D-7 while the channel invert slope is held constant. The unequal spiral lengths generated by increasing the exit spiral should perform satisfactorily, but if symmetry is desired, the entering spiral may be equally increased.

*b. Alternatives.* The following list of design alternatives is based on the previously discussed criteria.

(1) Minimum radius of curvature (Equation D-2), maximum banking (Equation D-4), and corresponding spiral length (Equation D-5). Shortest total length. Not free draining. Equal spiral lengths.

(2) Minimum radius of curvature (Equation D-2), maximum banking (Equation D-4), and arbitrary spiral length greater than value given by Equation D-5. Not free draining. Equal spiral lengths.

(3) Arbitrary radius of curvature greater than Equation D-2, banking in accordance with Equation D-3, and corresponding spiral length (Equation D-5). Not free draining. Equal spiral lengths.

(4) Arbitrary radius of curvature and spiral length both greater than value given by Equations D-2 and D-5, respectively. Banking per Equation D-3. Not free draining. Equal spiral lengths.

(5) Arbitrary radius of curvature greater than value given by Equation D-2. Arbitrary entering and exit spiral lengths (unequal) but both greater than value given by Equation D-5. Banking computed using Equation D-3. Not free draining. Unequal spiral lengths.

(6) Same as (1) above except free drainage provided by increasing exit spiral length. Entering spiral remains per Equation D-5. Unequal spiral lengths.

(7) Same as (1) above except free drainage provided by increasing length of both spirals. Equal spiral lengths.

(8) Same as (3) above except free drainage provided by increasing exit spiral length; entering spiral remains per Equation D-5. Unequal spiral lengths.

(9) Same as (3) above except free drainage provided by increasing length of both spirals. Equal spiral lengths.

(10) Same as (4) above except free drainage provided by increasing exit spiral length. Entering spiral length retains arbitrary assigned value. Unequal spiral lengths.

(11) Same as (4) above except free drainage provided by increasing lengths of both spirals. Equal spiral lengths.

(12) Same as (5) above except free drainage provided by increasing exit spiral length. Unequal spiral lengths.

The various characteristics of these alternatives are compared in Plate D-9.

### D-3. Description of Program

The program herein described is comprehensive in that any of the above-listed alternatives can be solved. The program is written for remote terminal use because of the increasing use of remote terminals and the definite advantages gained through this mode of operation provided the volume of input-output data is moderate. The main advantage of the remote terminal is that the program can be written so that it is user oriented. The user is guided by typewritten messages throughout the program execution, and the program is controlled by the user's response to these typed questions. Communication between the user and the computer during program solutions results in advantages in problems having alternative solutions. Conversion to batch processing is relatively simple and only requires modification of the READ statements in the program. A complete description of each input variable is given prior to its respective READ statement in the program listing (Plate D-2).

### D-4. Input Data

*a. Hydraulic parameters.* Plate D-6 shows sample input data format. The first line of input represents the given design data, which include the discharge (cfs), channel center-line invert slope (ft/ft), channel width (ft), equivalent roughness height (ft), water temperature (°F), and the deflection angle (deg) between the curve tangents. Since the hydraulic elements are solved by trial and error using Equation D-1, the roughness parameter is the equivalent roughness height  $k$ . The curve design should be based on the maximum average channel velocity, for which the recommended minimum value of  $k$  for concrete-lined channels is 0.002 ft (paragraph 2-2c). The  $k$  value should always be the lowest value of the expected equivalent roughness height range if the minimum of that range is less than 0.002 ft. However, the wall heights in the curve, as in the case of the straight channel, should be designed for capacity based on  $k = 0.007$  ft (paragraph 2-2c) or a higher value if anticipated.

*b. Circular curve data.* The second line of input is the design radius for the circular curve. The recommended minimum radius as calculated from the given flow conditions (Equation D-2) is stated in the typed request for this variable. If the minimum radius is desired, then 0.0 is assigned, otherwise, the desired value is typed in. The third and fourth lines of input are for the entering and exit spiral lengths, respectively. Similar to the request for the radius, the minimum spiral length based on Equation 2-33 (D-5) is stated. Either 0.0 or the desired value for each spiral length is assigned.

*c. Radius of curvature.* Occasionally, field conditions will limit the radius of curvature such that it must be less than the recommended minimum. The program can design a curve for values of radius and spiral length that are less than the recommended minimums, but the amount of banking will exceed the value given by Equation D-4. Furthermore, the cross-slope angle of the water surface will be greater than that which would occur with the recommended minimum radius. Should it exceed 10 deg, a message will be generated to advise the user that this criterion has been violated. Model testing of curves that violate any of these criteria should be considered.

*d. Free drainage.* The fifth line of input is for providing free drainage. The question is typed on the keyboard, and the user replies "yes" or "no." If yes, the

program computes the length of spiral necessary to provide free drainage and compares it with the exit spiral length as per input line 4. If the value supplied by input line 4 is less than the length required for free drainage, the exit spiral length is increased accordingly. Input line 6 affords the user the option to make both spirals equal length for symmetry and appears only if the reply of "yes" is made to input line 5.

#### **D-5. Program Output**

The program output (Plate D-7) consists of the hydraulic and geometric design of the channel curve. The hydraulic elements include a listing of all the given design data and the pertinent computed hydraulic parameters. The channel curve elements are presented in two parts. The first part

gives the information required to prepare contract drawings. The second part gives the detailed data for field layout of the channel center line. The field book format is set up under the assumption that the entering spiral is first surveyed from TS; then the transit is moved to the end of the curve (ST) and the exit spiral backed in; finally, the transit is moved to the downstream end of the entering spiral (SC) and the circular curve surveyed. This is the recommended procedure for field layout found in most route survey textbooks. Curve stations are established using 12.5-ft chords around the spiral and 100-ft chords around the circular curve rather than the actual curve lengths. Shorter chord lengths may be required at the beginning and end of the circular curve, but these can be easily computed during the actual field layout.

A:	DEFLECTION ANGLE FOR POINTS ALONG SPIRAL, DEG	DIFF:	PERCENT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHZC AND CHZC1	RC:	DESIGN RADIUS OF CURVATURE, FT
ANG:	DEFLECTION ANGLE BETWEEN INITIAL AND FINAL TANGENTS; TOTAL CENTRAL ANGLE OF CIRCULAR CURVE AND SPIRALS, DEG	FRUDN:	FRUONDE NUMBER	RELRO:	RATIO OF HYDRAULIC RADIUS TO EQUIVALENT ROUGHNESS HEIGHT (RELATIVE ROUGHNESS)
ARCI(1):	LENGTH OF ENTERING SPIRAL, FT	G:	ACCELERATION DUE TO GRAVITY, FT/SEC <sup>2</sup>	REYN:	REYNOLDS NUMBER
ARCI(2):	LENGTH OF EXIT SPIRAL, FT	IARC:	NUMBER OF HUNDRED DIGITS IN ENTERING SPIRAL LENGTH, I.E., THE LENGTH OF SPIRAL IS 000000. THE HUNDRED DIGITS ARE THOSE TO THE LEFT OF THE + SIGN, FT	RMIN:	MINIMUM RADIUS OF CURVATURE OF CIRCULAR CURVE, FT
ARCF:	DIGITS TO RIGHT OF PLUS SIGN IN STATION NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO LENGTH OF ENTERING SPIRAL, I.E. 000000.00	IARCI:	SAME AS IARC EXCEPT THAT IT DESIGNATES THE LENGTH OF THE CIRCULAR CURVE	S:	CHANNEL CENTER-LINE INVERT SLOPE, FT/FT
ARCFI:	DIGITS TO RIGHT OF PLUS SIGN IN STATION NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO LENGTH OF EXIT SPIRAL, I.E. 000000.00	ICSS:	DIGITS TO LEFT OF PLUS SIGN IN STATION NUMBER OF C.S., I.E. 00100.00	SCC:	POINT OF CHANGE FROM SPIRAL TO CIRCULAR CURVE MEASURED FROM BEGINNING OF CURVE (S.S.), FT
ARCL:	LENGTH OF ENTERING SPIRAL, FT	ISCC:	SAME AS ICSS EXCEPT THAT IT DESIGNATES THE STATION NUMBER OF THE S.C.	SCCFI:	DIGITS TO RIGHT OF PLUS SIGN IN STATION NUMBER OF THE S.C., I.E. 00000.00
ARCL1:	LENGTH OF EXIT SPIRAL, FT	ICLGT:	SAME AS IARC EXCEPT THAT IT DESIGNATES THE LENGTH OF THE CIRCULAR CURVE	STA:	STATION NUMBERS OF POINTS ALONG SPIRAL CURVE
ARCL2:	MINIMUM LENGTH OF EXIT SPIRAL TO PROVIDE FREE DRAINAGE, FT	ISTA:	DIGITS TO LEFT OF PLUS SIGN IN STATION NUMBER OF C.S., I.E. 00100.00	STAF:	DIGITS TO RIGHT OF PLUS SIGN IN CIRCULAR CURVE STATION NUMBERS, I.E. 00100.00
AREA:	CROSS-SECTION AREA OF FLOW IN CHANNEL, FT <sup>2</sup>	ISTT:	DIGITS TO LEFT OF PLUS SIGN IN STATION NUMBER OF S.T., I.E. 00100.00	STAS:	STATION NUMBERS OF 12.5-FT-CHORD SPIRAL POINTS
B:	CHANNEL WIDTH, FT	ISTAS:	DIGITS TO LEFT OF PLUS SIGN FOR ANY STATION NUMBER ON EXIT OR ENTERING SPIRAL	STASF:	DIGITS TO RIGHT OF PLUS SIGN IN STATION NUMBERS OF SPIRAL POINTS, I.E. 00100.00
C:	CHORD LENGTH OF INDIVIDUAL ARCS ALONG THE SPIRAL, FT	KS:	EQUIVALENT ROUGHNESS HEIGHT OF CHANNEL BOUNDARY, FT	STT:	POINT OF CHANGE FROM SPIRAL TO TANGENT OR S.T., FT
CHORDC:	CHORD LENGTH USED IN STAKING OUT CIRCULAR CURVE; IN THIS CASE 100 FT	KV:	KINEMATIC VISCOSITY OF WATER, FT <sup>2</sup> /SEC	STTF:	DIGITS TO RIGHT OF PLUS SIGN IN STATION NUMBER OF S.T.
CHZC:	CHEZY C AS CALCULATED BY CHEZY'S EQUATION	LS:	DESIGN EXIT SPIRAL LENGTH; MUST BE GREATER THAN 30 TIMES THE SUPER-ELEVATION, FT	TEMP:	WATER TEMPERATURE, °F
CHZC1:	CHEZY C AS CALCULATED BY COLEBROOK-WHITE TRANSITIONAL ZONE EQUATION	LS1:	DESIGN ENTERING SPIRAL LENGTH; MUST BE GREATER THAN 30 TIMES THE SUPER-ELEVATION, FT	TL:	TANGENT DISTANCE OF SPIRALED CURVE; DISTANCE FROM T.S. OR S.T. TO POINT OF INTERSECTION OF TANGENTS (PI), FT
CLGTHE:	DIGITS TO RIGHT OF PLUS SIGN IN STATION NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO LENGTH OF CIRCULAR CURVE, I.E. 00000.00	MDG:	NUMBER OF DEGREES, MINUTES, AND SECONDS, RESPECTIVELY, IN DEFLECTION ANGLE TO ANY POINT ON SPIRAL	VEL:	MEAN CHANNEL VELOCITY, FPS
CSS:	POINT OF CHANGE FROM CIRCULAR CURVE TO SPIRAL	MDC:	NUMBER OF DEGREES, MINUTES, AND SECONDS, RESPECTIVELY, IN DEFLECTION ANGLE TO ANY POINT ON CIRCULAR CURVE	VELL:	VELOCITY HEAD OF FLOW IN CHANNEL, FT
CSSF:	DIGITS TO RIGHT OF PLUS SIGN IN STATION NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO THIS POINT (C.S.), I.E. 00000.00	MDCB:	NUMBER OF DEGREES, MINUTES, AND SECONDS, RESPECTIVELY, IN BACK DEFLECTION ANGLE TO T.S. WITH TRANSIT AT S.C.	X:	SPIRAL ALONG PRIMARY TANGENT, FT
DEFC:	DEFLECTION ANGLES FOR POINTS ALONG CIRCULAR CURVE, MIN	MSECB:	NUMBER OF DEGREES, MINUTES, AND SECONDS, RESPECTIVELY, IN DEFLECTION ANGLE TO ANY POINT ON CIRCULAR CURVE WITH TRANSIT AT S.C.	YC:	DEPTH OF FLOW IN CHANNEL, FT
DEGC:	DEGREE OF CURVATURE OF CIRCULAR CURVE, DEG	MSECC:	NUMBER OF DEGREES, MINUTES, AND SECONDS, RESPECTIVELY, IN DEFLECTION ANGLE TO ANY POINT ON CIRCULAR CURVE WITH TRANSIT AT S.C.	Y:	ORDINATE OR TANGENT OFFSET OF POINTS ALONG SPIRAL, FT
DELTA:	CENTRAL ANGLE OF INDIVIDUAL ARCS, SEC	Q:	DESIGN CHANNEL DISCHARGE, CFS	Z:	AMOUNT OF BANKING OR DIFFERENCE IN ELEVATION BETWEEN OUTSIDE AND INSIDE INVERT OF CHANNEL, FT
DELTA1:	MEDIAN ANGLE OF INDIVIDUAL ARCS, SEC	R:	RADIUS OF CURVATURE OF INDIVIDUAL ARCS ALONG SPIRAL, FT		
DELTA2:	CENTRAL ANGLE OF WHOLE SPIRAL, DEG				
DELTA3:	CENTRAL ANGLE OF CIRCULAR CURVE, DEG				

COMPUTER PROGRAM  
SYMBOLS



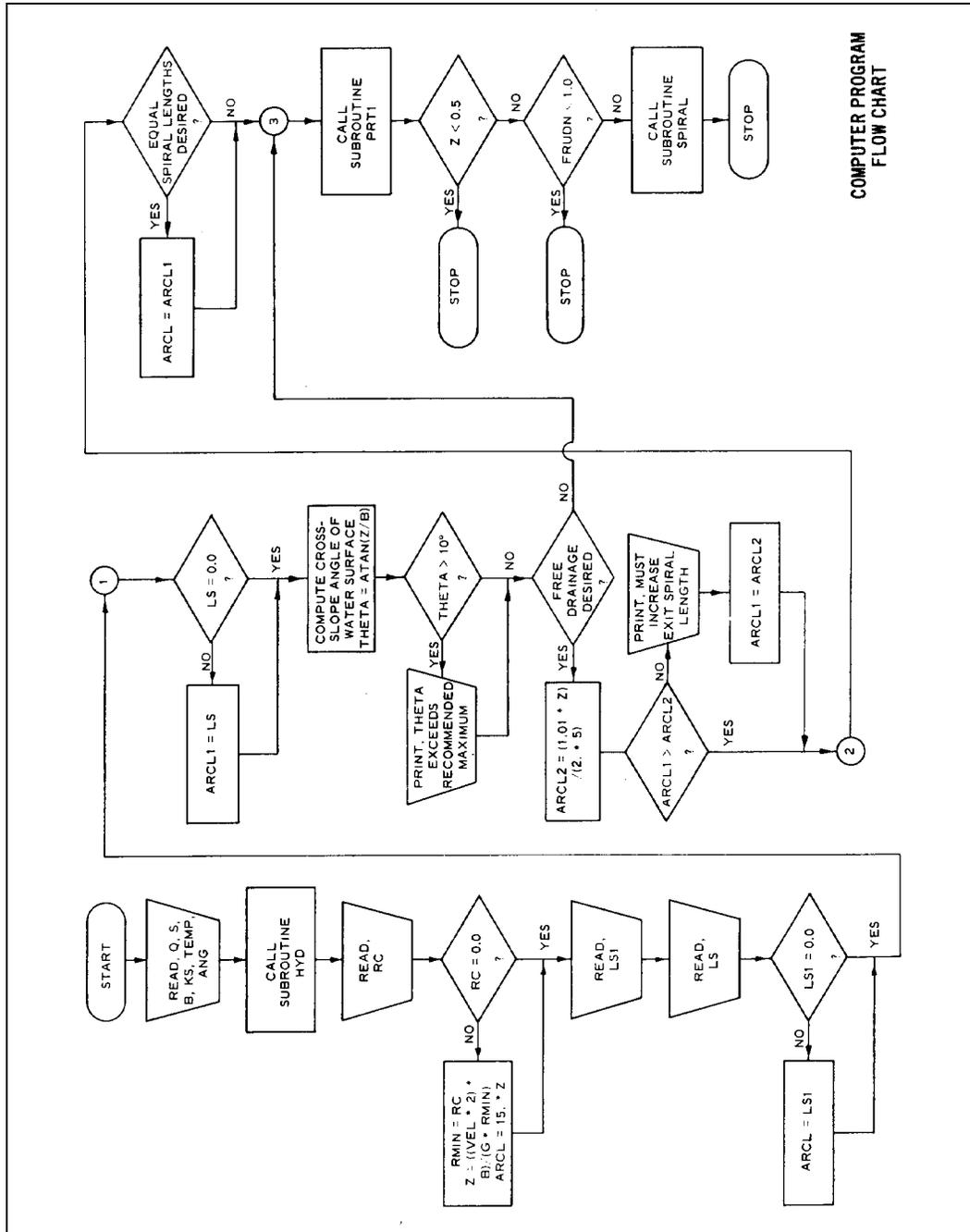


PLATE D-3

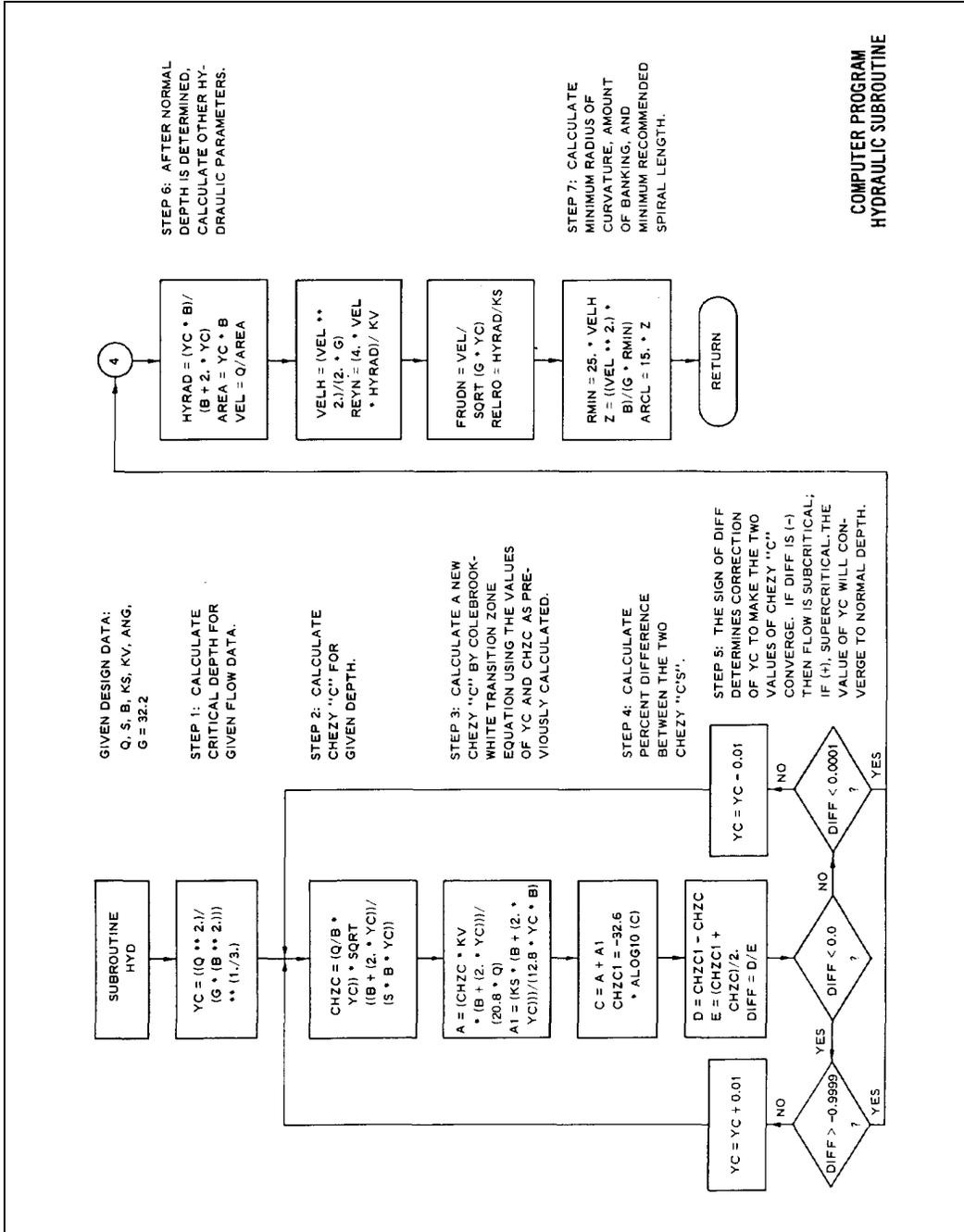


PLATE D-4



EXAMPLE PROBLEM:

GIVEN: Q = 15,000 CFS      S = 0.01 FT/FT      B = 50.0 FT  
KS = 0.002 FT      WATER TEMP = 60° F  
ANG = 45°

FIND: SHORTEST CURVE FOR GIVEN CONDITIONS AND PROVIDE  
FREE DRAINAGE.

READ DESIGN DATA - Q,S,B,KS,TEMP,ANG  
INPUT:00250  
?15000.,.01,50.,.002,60.,45.

READ THE DESIGN RADIUS OF CURVATURE. THE MINIMUM RECOMMENDED  
RADIUS = 1049.44FT. IF MINIMUM RADIUS IS DESIRED, ASSIGN A VALUE  
OF 0.0 TO THIS VARIABLE.  
INPUT:00320  
?0.0

READ DESIGN ENTERING SPIRAL LENGTH. THE MINIMUM RECOMMENDED  
SPIRAL LENGTH = 30.40FT. IF MINIMUM LENGTH DESIRED, ASSIGN A VALUE  
OF 0.0 TO THIS VARIABLE.  
INPUT:00410  
?0.0

READ DESIGN EXIT SPIRAL LENGTH. THE MINIMUM RECOMMENDED  
SPIRAL LENGTH = 30.40FT. IF MINIMUM LENGTH DESIRED, ASSIGN A VALUE  
OF 0.0 TO THIS VARIABLE.  
INPUT:00460  
?0.0

IS FREE DRAINAGE DESIRED? TYPE YES OR NO  
INPUT:00550  
?YES

MUST INCREASE EXIT SPIRAL LENGTH TO 102.34FT. TO PROVIDE FREE DRAINAGE.

ARE EQUAL SPIRAL LENGTHS DESIRED? TYPE YES OR NO!  
INPUT:00660  
?NO

PROGRAM INPUT  
EXAMPLE



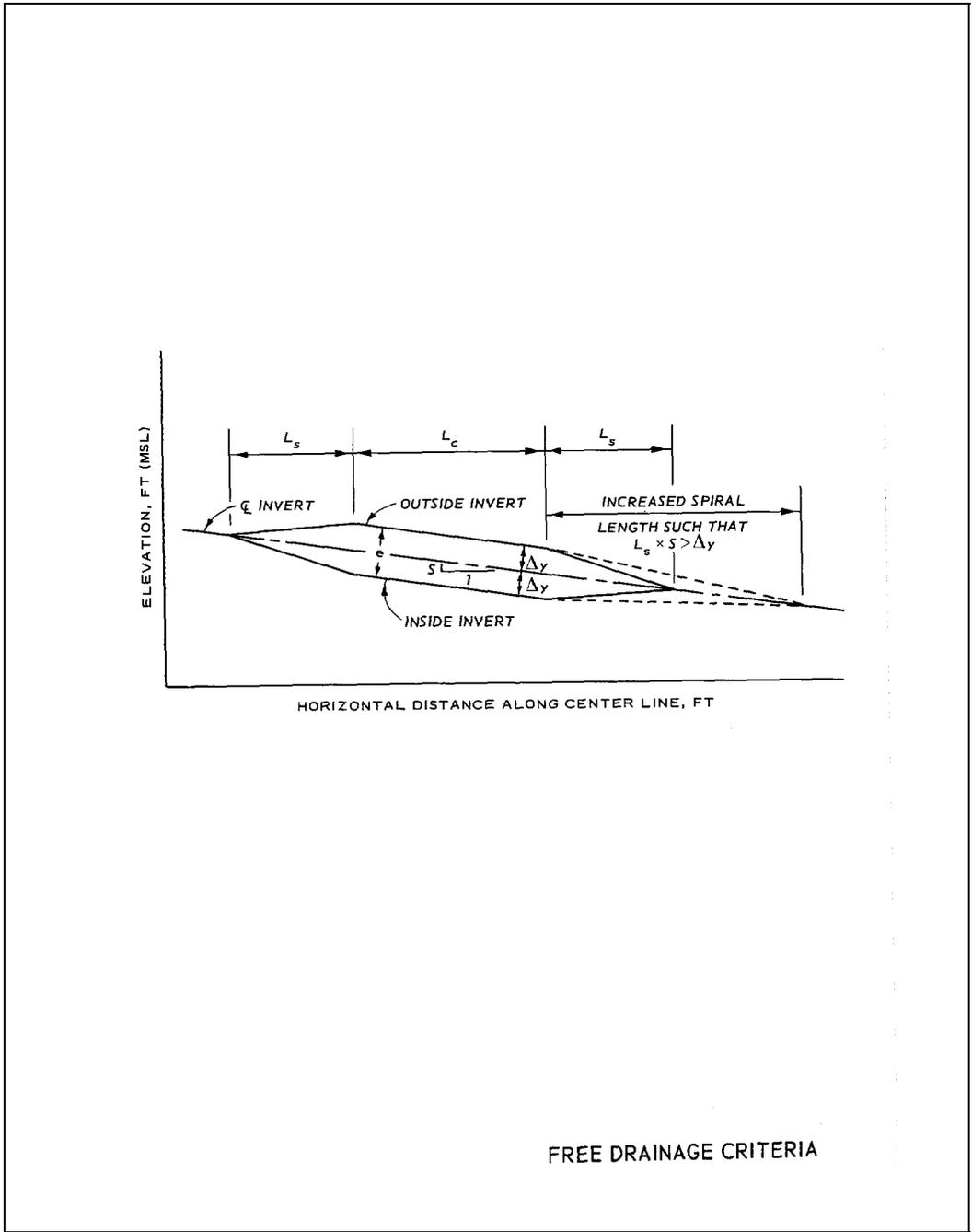


PLATE D-8

<u>ALTERNATIVE</u>	<u>RADIUS CURVE</u>	<u>CURVE BANKING</u>	<u>BOTH SPIRALS</u>	<u>SPIRAL LENGTH</u>	<u>FREE DRAINAGE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
(1)	MIN EQ D-2	MAX EQ D-4	EQUAL	MIN EQ D-5	NO	SHORTEST TOTAL LENGTH
(2)	MIN EQ D-2	MAX EQ D-4	EQUAL	ARBITRARY > EQ D-5	NO	
(3)	ARBITRARY > EQ D-2	CORRESPONDING EQ D-3	EQUAL	CORRESPONDING EQ D-5	NO	
(4)	ARBITRARY > EQ D-2	CORRESPONDING EQ D-3	EQUAL	ARBITRARY > EQ D-5	NO	
(5)	ARBITRARY > EQ D-2	CORRESPONDING EQ D-3	UNEQUAL	ARBITRARY > EQ D-5	NO	
(6)	MIN EQ D-2	MAX EQ D-4	UNEQUAL	ENTERING = MIN EQ D-5 EXIT TO DRAIN > EQ D-5	YES	SIMILAR TO (1)
(7)	MIN EQ D-2	MAX EQ D-4	EQUAL	ENTER = TO EXIT EXIT TO DRAIN > EQ D-5	YES	SIMILAR TO (1)
(8)	ARBITRARY > EQ D-2	CORRESPONDING EQ D-3	UNEQUAL	ENTER = CORRESPONDING EQ D-5 EXIT TO DRAIN > EQ D-5	YES	SIMILAR TO (3)
(9)	ARBITRARY > EQ D-2	CORRESPONDING EQ D-3	EQUAL	ENTER = EXIT EXIT TO DRAIN > EQ D-5	YES	SIMILAR TO (3)
(10)	ARBITRARY > EQ D-2	CORRESPONDING EQ D-3	UNEQUAL	ENTER = ARBITRARY > EQ D-5 EXIT TO DRAIN > EQ D-5	YES	SIMILAR TO (4)
(11)	ARBITRARY > EQ D-2	CORRESPONDING EQ D-3	EQUAL	ENTER= EXIT EXIT TO DRAIN > EQ D-5	YES	SIMILAR TO (4)
(12)	ARBITRARY > EQ D-2	CORRESPONDING EQ D-3	UNEQUAL	ENTER = ARBITRARY > EQ D-5 EXIT TO DRAIN > EQ D-5	YES	SIMILAR TO (6)

**SPIRAL ALTERNATIVES  
COMPARISONS**