VOLUME 79 SEPARATE No. 169

PROCEEDINGS

AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF
CIVIL ENGINEERS

FEBRUARY, 1953

RATING CURVES FOR FLOW OVER DRUM GATES

By Joseph N. Bradley, A. M. ASCE

HYDRAULICS DIVISION

Headquarters of the Society
33 W. 39th St.
New York 18, N.Y.

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Published at Prince and Lemon Streets, Lancaster, Pa., by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Editorial and General Offices at 33 West Thirty-ninth Street, New York 18, N. Y.

Proceedings—Vol. 79 February, 1953 Separate No. 169

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Founded November 5, 1852

PAPERS

RATING CURVES FOR FLOW OVER DRUM GATES

By Joseph N. Bradley,[1] A M. ASCE

Synopsis

With water becoming more valuable in the western states each year, there is an increasing demand for better methods of measurement and additional rating structures. This condition applies not only to the requirements for main canals and laterals of irrigation works but also to the regulation and measurement of flow at dams. In fact, the need has reached the point at which operators are desirous of metering the flow at nearly all control devices in irrigation systems, and in other water supply or control systems.

The primary purpose of this paper is to point out that there are numerous control structures in existence that will serve a dual purpose—that of a metering station as well as that of a regulating device. Examples of such structures include spillways, with or without gates; outlet works for dams using gates or valves; and canal regulating structures using gates. With the accumulation of information from hydraulic model studies made by the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), United States Department of the Interior, it is now possible to prepare reasonably accurate rating curves for many such structures without the construction of models and without access to the prototypes. The method is especially useful for the rating of existing structures. This paper describes the method as it applies to the rating of drum gates and the paper is concluded with an engineering example. The method is also applicable to the rating of the Volet gate used in France, the bascule gate manufactured in the United States, and others to which the sector of a circle is hinged at or near the crest of a spillway.

Note.—Written comments are invited for publication; the last discussion should be submitted by August 1, 1953.

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INTRODUCTION

The drum gate is a type of gate that floats in a chamber and is buoyed into position by regulating the water level in that chamber. A medium-sized gate of this type is shown in Fig. 1. To use drum gates as metering devices, it is essential that each gate be equipped with an accurate position indicator. This indicator may consist of an arm or pointer connected directly to one of the gate pins, and is usually located inside an adjacent pier. The scale, which commonly indicates "position of high point of gate," may be a cast-metal arc mounted on the wall under the pointer, or a scale painted on the wall.

This paper presents a method of computing rating curves for all positions of the gate with an accuracy comparable to that which can be obtained from an average current-meter traverse of the river. The information required for rating a drum gate consists of the over-all dimensions of the gate and overflow crest, the information contained in this paper, and the coefficient of discharge

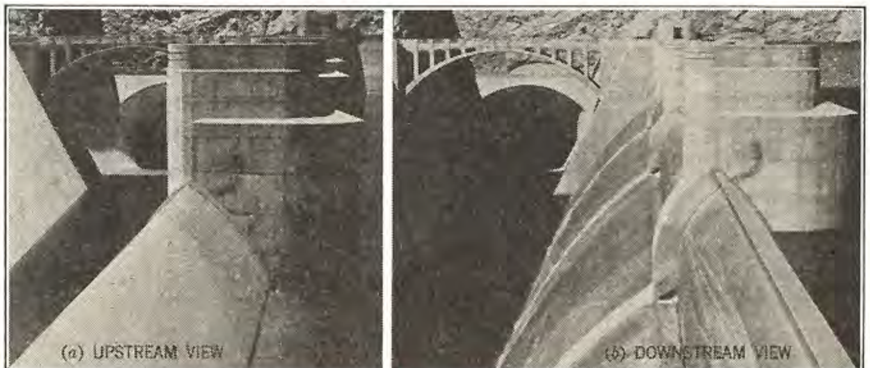


FIG. 1.—DRUM GATE, 100 FT BY ~~10~~ 16 FT, AT HOOVER DAM (ARIZONA-NEVADA)

for any appreciable head on the spillway with the gate in the completely lowered position. Should the coefficient data be lacking, the coefficient of discharge for the designed head can be estimated for nearly any overflow section by a method previously published.[2]

The method of rating described here is not intended to replace the measurements taken at river gaging stations. However, it has the following advantages: (1) The gates can be set in a few minutes to pass a desired discharge and (2) in time of flood, the gaging station may be out of order but the gate calibration is as accurate as usual. The flood that passed over Grand Coulee Dam (Washington) in 1948 is an example. The river gage, in the pier of a bridge downstream, was in error because of a drawdown in the water surface, adjacent to the pier, at the higher flows. Current-meter measurements were also attempted during the flood, but the swiftness of the current and other difficulties rendered these only partially successful. As a result, the discharge at the peak of the flood, which was finally estimated as 638,000

[2] "Discharge Coefficients for Irregular Overfall Spillway Sections," by J. N. Bradley, *Engineering Monograph No. 9*, Bureau of Reclamation, U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Denver, Colo., March, 1952.

sec-ft, is questionable. Measurement of the flow over the drum gates which is now possible, would have afforded a continuous record and one that would be as accurate for flood as for normal flows.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DRUM GATE

As a measuring device, the drum gate resembles a sharp-crested weir with a curved upstream face over the greater part of its travel. With an adequate positioning indicator, the drum gate can serve as a very satisfactory metering device.

When the drum gate simulates a sharp-crested weir—that is, when a line drawn tangent to the downstream lip of the gate makes a positive angle with the horizontal, as in Fig. 2(*a*), four principal factors are involved. These factors are H, the total head above the high point of the gate; θ, the angle made by a line drawn tangent to the downstream lip of the gate and the horizontal; r, the radius of the gate or an equivalent radius, should the curvature of the

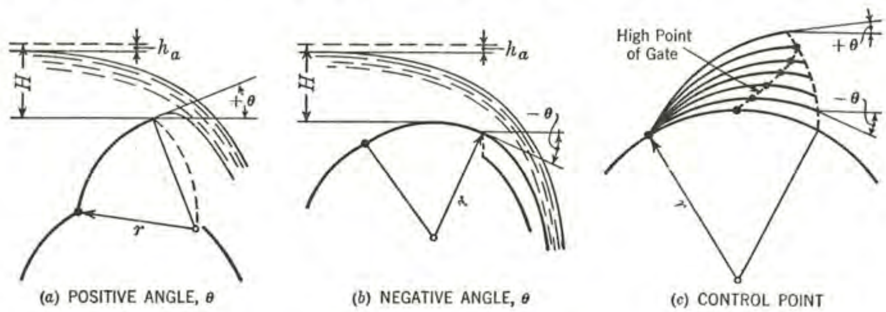


FIG. 2.—DRUM-GATE POSITIONS

gate involve a parabola; and C_q, the coefficient of discharge in $Q = C_q\,L\,H^{\frac{3}{2}}$, in which Q is the discharge in second-feet, and L is the length of the gate.

The depth of approach was not included as a variable because drum-gate installations studied were for medium and high dams at which approach effects were negligible. When the approach depth, measured below the high point of the gate, is equal to or greater than twice the head on the gate, it has been shown[3] that a further increase in approach depth produces very little increase in the coefficient of discharge. Most drum-gate installations satisfy this condition, especially when the gate is in a raised position. Therefore, with adequate approach depth the four variables H, θ, r, and C_q completely define the flow over this type of gate for positive angles of θ, Fig. 2(*a*).

For negative values of θ, Fig. 2(*b*), the downstream lip of the gate no longer controls the flow. Rather, the control point shifts upstream to the vicinity of the high point of the gate for each setting as illustrated in Fig. 2(*c*), and flow conditions gradually approach those of the free crest (as the gate is lowered). Although other factors enter the problem, the similitude also holds for this case down to an angle of approximately $-15°$.

[3] "Studies of Crests for Overfall Dams," *Bulletin No. 3*, Part VI, Boulder Canyon Final Reports, Bureau of Reclamation, U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Denver, Colo., 1948.

Sources of Information

The data for this drum-gate study were obtained from hydraulic models of various sizes and scales. The experiments were performed over a period of about eighteen years. The spillway drum gates tested, the principal dimensions of each, the model scale, the laboratory where the tests were conducted, and other information are given in Table 1. Gates for the first three dams

TABLE 1.—Principal Dimensions of Drum Gates Tested

Dam	No. of gates	Length of gate, in ft	Height of gate, in ft	Radius of gate, in ft	Approach depth, in ft	Maximum head on crest,[a] in ft	Model scale	Hydraulic lab.
Grand Coulee (Washington)	11	135	28	66.25	360	31.65	1:30	Fort Collins (Colo.)
Bhakra (India)	2	135	28	66.25	410	28	1:80	Customhouse (Denver, Colo.)
Shasta (California)	3	110	28	66.25	460	28	1:68	Customhouse
Hamilton (Texas)	1	300	28	74.17	50	32	1:30	Fort Collins
Hoover, Shape 4-M3[b] (Ariz.-Nev.)	4	100	16	26.8	50	26.6	1:20	Montrose, Colo.
Hoover, Shape 8-M5[b] (Ariz.-Nev.)	4	100	16	36.0	50	26.6	1:20	Montrose
Hoover, Shape 7-C4[b] (Ariz.-Nev.)	4	100	16	26.0	50	26.6	1:60	Fort Collins
Friant (California)	3	100	18	47.0	140	19.0	1:25	Fort Collins
Norris (Tennessee)	3	100	14	34.0	200	27.0	1:72	Fort Collins
Madden (Canal Zone)	4	100	18	30.0	120	30.0	1:72	Fort Collins
Capilano (British Columbia)	1	70	23	71.0	200	23.0	1:60	Denver Federal Center

[a] Gate down. [b] Refers to the shape of the spillway cross section.

listed in the table—Grand Coulee Dam (Washington), Bhakra Dam (India), and Shasta Dam (California)—are identical except for the length and number. The models of each were tested at different times by different personnel. The results of the tests are nearly identical, which fact indicates the consistency possible in this type of test. Although identical gates are of value in indicating the consistency of results, test results on dissimilar gates are desirable because they can give assurance that all factors involved in the establishment of similitude have been considered. The study includes only eleven gates (Table 1) but the dimensions of these vary over a fairly wide range, and the consistency indicated in compiling the results was quite satisfactory.

Cross sections of representative examples of the spillway overflow sections and drum gates listed in Table 1 are shown in Fig. 3. For Hoover Dam, Shape 4-M3 is shown. The data relating the coefficient, C_q, to the head for the model drum gates tested are tabulated in Table 2.

Results of Bazin on Straight Inclined Weirs

The straight inclined weir is comparable to a drum gate, having infinite radius, thus the results of M. Bazin serve as an introduction to this study.

Mr. Bazin, in his classical experiments, studied inclined sharp-crested weirs.[4] The angle of the weir was varied in increments from 14° to 90° with the horizontal, and each weir was 3.7 ft high (vertical dimension). The head on the crest of the weirs ranged from 0.32 ft to 1.48 ft. The results, presented in Fig. 4, show θ plotted against the Bazin coefficient, C_b (in the formula $Q = C_b\, L\, h$

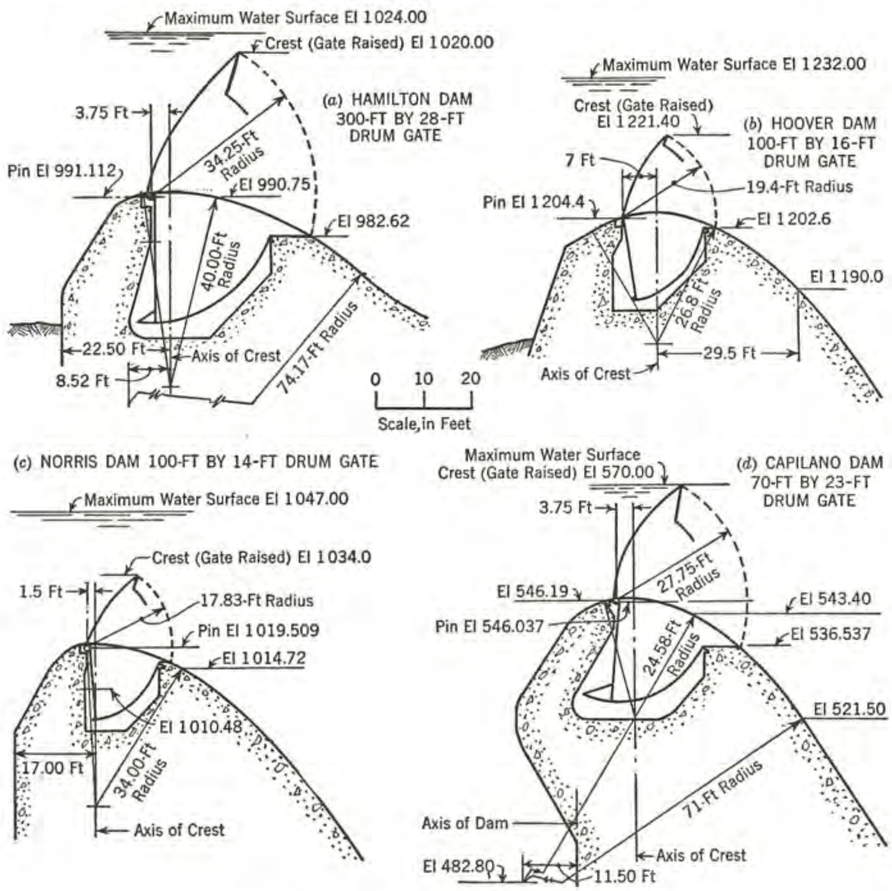


FIG. 3.—EXAMPLES OF DRUM-GATE CROSS SECTIONS

$\sqrt{2\, g\, h}$), in which h does not include the velocity head of approach (h_a). The angle θ is also plotted with respect to C_q (in the expression $Q = C_q\, L\, H^{3/2}$) in which H is the total head. This latter expression will be used throughout the paper.

By reference to Fig. 4 it can be observed (1) that the coefficient, C_q, varies only slightly with the observed head on the weir, (2) that there is a rather

[4] "Recent Experiments on the Flow of Water over Weirs," by M. Bazin, *Annales des Ponts et Chaussées*, October, 1888. (Translation by Arthur Marichal and John C. Trautwine, Jr., *Proceedings*, Engineer's Club of Philadelphia, Pa., Vol. IX, No. 4, 1892, p. 316.)

TABLE 2.—DRUM GATE COEFFICIENTS[a]

Grand Coulee Dam (Washington)		Bhakra Dam (India)		Shasta Dam (California)		Hamilton Dam (Texas)	
Reservoir elevation, in feet	Coefficient, C_q	Reservoir elevation, in feet	Coefficient, C_q	Reservoir elevation, in feet	Coefficient, C_q	Total head on gate, in feet	Coefficient, C_q
Gate Elevation[b] 1260.0		Gate Elevation[b] 1552.0		Gate Elevation[b] 1037.0		Gate Elevation[b] 992.0	
1295	3.920	1580	3.680	1075	3.895	35	3.710
1290	3.842	1575	3.645	1070	3.835	30	3.645
1285	3.745	1570	3.550	1065	3.760	25	3.580
1280	3.635	1565	3.420	1060	3.675	20	3.500
1275	3.510	1560	3.275	1055	3.575	15	3.400
1270	3.352	1555	3.120	1050	3.465	10	3.290
1265	3.220			1045	3.335	5	3.160
Gate Elevation 1263.51		Gate Elevation 1557.0		Gate Elevation 1039.0		Gate Elevation 995.52	
1295	3.530	1580	3.430	1075	3.637	30	3.400
1290	3.442	1575	3.380	1070	3.565	25	3.310
1285	3.360	1570	3.295	1065	3.490	20	3.223
1280	3.280	1565	3.170	1060	3.417	15	3.150
1275	3.220	1560	3.040	1055	3.340	10	3.085
1270	3.182			1050	3.250	5	3.040
Gate Elevation 1267.02		Gate Elevation 1562.0		Gate Elevation 1041.0		Gate Elevation 999.0	
1295	3.530	1580	3.550	1075	3.550	25	3.450
1290	3.457	1576	3.355	1070	3.494	20	3.390
1285	3.380	1572	3.290	1065	3.432	15	3.300
1280	3.300	1568	3.345	1060	3.365	10	3.195
1275	3.213	1564	3.465	1055	3.290	5	3.080
1270	3.120						
Gate Elevation 1270.48		Gate Elevation 1567.0		Gate Elevation 1045.0		Gate Elevation 1006.0	
1295	3.600	1580	3.665	1075	3.637	18	3.640
1290	3.530	1577	3.650	1070	3.565	15	3.635
1285	3.462	1573	3.600	1065	3.490	12	3.605
1280	3.410	1570	3.535	1060	3.415	9	3.560
1275	3.375			1055	3.330	6	3.505
				1050	3.220		
Gate Elevation 1274.01		Gate Elevation 1572.0		Gate Elevation 1050.0		Gate Elevation 1013.0	
1300	3.725	1580	3.780	1075	3.717	12	3.718
1295	3.695	1579	3.755	1070	3.670	10	3.690
1290	3.662	1578	3.690	1065	3.615	8	3.645
1285	3.630	1577	3.500	1060	3.560	6	3.595
1280	3.600	1576	3.150	1055	3.495	4	3.530
Gate Elevation 1277.50				Gate Elevation 1055.0		Gate Elevation 1020.0	
1295	3.750			1075	3.854	6	3.630
1290	3.738			1070	3.827	5	3.610
1285	3.740			1065	3.800	4	3.540
1280	3.765			1060	3.780	3.5	3.400
				1055	3.763		
Gate Elevation 1281.02				Gate Elevation 1060.0			
1295	3.730			1075	3.645		
1292	3.708			1072	3.683		
1288	3.705			1069	3.740		
1285	3.725			1066	3.815		
				1063	3.920		
Gate Elevation 1284.50				Gate Elevation 1065.0			
1300	3.840			1076	3.810		
1296	3.830			1074	3.865		
1292	3.875			1072	3.910		
1288	3.950			1070	3.950		
Gate Elevation 1288.0							
1296	3.750						
1294	3.720						
1292	3.670						
1290	3.580						

[a] Coordinates of curves prepared by plotting original data. [b] Gate down.

TABLE 2.[a]—(*Continued*)

Friant Dam (California)		Norris Dam (Tennessee)		Madden Dam (Canal Zone)		Capilano Dam (British Columbia)	
Reservoir elevation, in feet	Coefficient, C_q	Reservoir elevation, in feet	Coefficient, C_q	Total head on gate, in feet	Coefficient, C_q	Reservoir elevation, in feet	Coefficient, C_q
Gate Elevation[b] 560.0		Gate Elevation[b] 1020.0		Gate Elevation[b] 232.0		Gate Elevation[b] 547.0	
580	3.650	1055	3.915	35	3.900	580	3.775
577	3.625	1050	3.845	30	3.770	575	3.705
574	3.550	1045	3.765	25	3.660	570	3.625
571	3.460	1040	3.670	20	3.560	565	3.530
568	3.340	1035	3.550	15	3.460	560	3.415
565	3.175	1030	3.390	10	3.365	555	3.250
562	2.965	1025	3.125	5	3.280		
Gate Elevation 561.5		Gate Elevation 1022.0		Gate Elevation 236.0		Gate Elevation 555.4	
580	3.340	1055	3.785	30	3.810	580	3.615
577	3.300	1050	3.725	25	3.750	577	3.580
574	3.250	1045	3.655	20	3.675	574	3.540
571	3.200	1040	3.570	15	3.590	571	3.485
568	3.125	1035	3.460	10	3.500	568	3.420
564	2.950	1030	3.300	5	3.410	565	3.320
		1025	3.000				
Gate Elevation 563.0		Gate Elevation 1024.0		Gate Elevation 240.0		Gate Elevation 561.1	
580	3.320	1055	3.760	30	3.960	583	3.560
577	3.280	1050	3.720	25	3.890	580	3.530
574	3.240	1045	3.670	20	3.835	577	3.490
571	3.175	1040	3.605	15	3.800	574	3.435
568	3.080	1035	3.520	10	3.775	571	3.355
565	2.960	1030	3.380	5	3.740	568	3.130
		1025	3.000				
Gate Elevation 566.0		Gate Elevation 1026.0		Gate Elevation 245.0		Gate Elevation 568.5	
580	3.450	1055	3.835	25	3.900	583	3.785
577	3.410	1050	3.810	20	3.900	580	3.850
574	3.340	1045	3.780	15	3.890	577	3.890
571	3.240	1040	3.740	10	3.910	574	3.925
568	3.085	1035	3.685	5	3.935		
		1030	3.580				
Gate Elevation 569.0		Gate Elevation 1028.0		Gate Elevation 250.0			
580	3.625	1055	3.890	20	3.750		
578	3.605	1050	3.880	15	3.780		
576	3.575	1045	3.865	10	3.860		
574	3.550	1040	3.845	5	3.980		
572	3.500	1035	3.815				
570	3.400	1030	3.745				
Gate Elevation 572.0		Gate Elevation 1030.0					
580	3.725	1055	3.890				
578	3.720	1050	3.890				
576	3.680	1045	3.885				
574	3.620	1040	3.880				
		1035	3.875				
Gate Elevation 573.0		Gate Elevation 1032.0					
580	3.760	1055	3.870				
578	3.760	1050	3.875				
576	3.765	1045	3.880				
575	3.780	1040	3.895				
574	3.900	1035	3.920				
Gate Elevation 575.0		Gate Elevation 1034.0					
580	3.780	1055	3.815				
578	3.790	1050	3.835				
577	3.840	1045	3.855				
576	3.950	1040	3.885				
		1036	3.945				

[a] Coordinates of curves prepared by plotting original data. [b] Gate down.

TABLE 2.[a]—(*Continued*)

Hoover Dam (Arizona-Nevada) Shape 4-M3		Hoover Dam (Arizona-Nevada) Shape 8-M5		Hoover Dam (Arizona-Nevada) Shape 7-C4	
Total head on gate, in feet	Coefficient, C_q	Total head on gate, in feet	Coefficient, C_q	Total head on gate, in feet	Coefficient, C_q
Gate Elevation[b] 1205.4		Gate Elevation[b] 1205.4		Gate Elevation[b] 1205.4	
26	3.670	28	3.735	26	3.665
22	3.605	25	3.705	22	3.615
18	3.540	20	3.650	18	3.540
14	3.472	15	3.565	14	3.450
10	3.405	10	3.460	10	3.360
6	3.338	5	3.335	6	3.200
Gate Elevation 1209.4		Gate Elevation 1209.4		Gate Elevation 1209.0	
20	3.675	24	3.590	23	3.725
17	3.645	20	3.540	19	3.650
14	3.615	16	3.492	15	3.580
11	3.585	12	3.428	11	3.508
8	3.555	8	3.330	7	3.415
Gate Elevation 1213.4		Gate Elevation 1213.4		Gate Elevation 1213.0	
20	3.880	20	3.765	19	3.800
17	3.875	16	3.765	16	3.845
14	3.875	12	3.725	13	3.825
11	3.870	8	3.668	10	3.750
8	3.870	4	3.600	7	3.640
Gate Elevation 1217.4		Gate Elevation 1217.4		Gate Elevation 1217.0	
14	3.960	15	3.900	15	3.960
12	3.980	12	3.890	13	3.930
10	4.010	9	3.900	11	3.935
8	4.075	6	3.930	9	3.970
				7	4.020
Gate Elevation 1221.4		Gate Elevation 1221.4		Gate Elevation 1221.4	
10	3.890	11	3.830	14	3.815
8	3.930	9	3.840	12	3.820
6	4.020	7	3.875	10	3.823
5	4.100	5	3.935	8	3.825

[a] Coordinates of curves prepared by plotting original data. [b] Gate down.

sharp reversal in the curve when the angle θ approaches 28°, and (3) that the coefficient of discharge is a maximum at this angle. As the angle θ is increased from 28° to 90°, contraction of the jet gradually reduces the coefficient to approximately 3.33, which occurs when the weir is vertical. As θ is decreased from 28° to 0° the coefficient is gradually reduced—either by approach conditions, friction, or both—to that for a broad-crested weir, which may be some value between 2.8 and 3.1. As the principal difference between the drum gate and the straight inclined weir lies in the curvature of the gate, the trends for the two should be similar.

An inconsistency exists in Fig. 4, namely, the coefficient of discharge for a vertical sharp-crested weir should approximate 3.33, but Fig. 4 shows that M. Bazin obtained 3.45. This conclusion is supported by the fact that the USBR, Ernest W. Schoder, M.ASCE, and Kenneth B. Turner,[5] and others have not

[5] "Precise Weir Measurements," by Ernest W. Schoder and Kenneth B. Turner, *Transactions*, ASCE Vol. 93, 1929, p. 999.

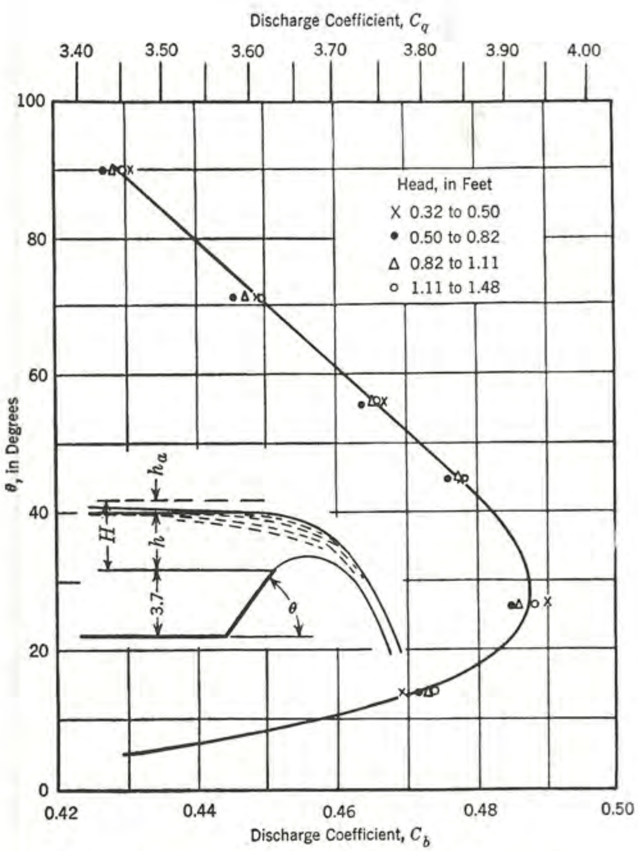


FIG. 4.—RESULTS OF BAZIN'S EXPERIMENTS ON SLOPING WEIRS

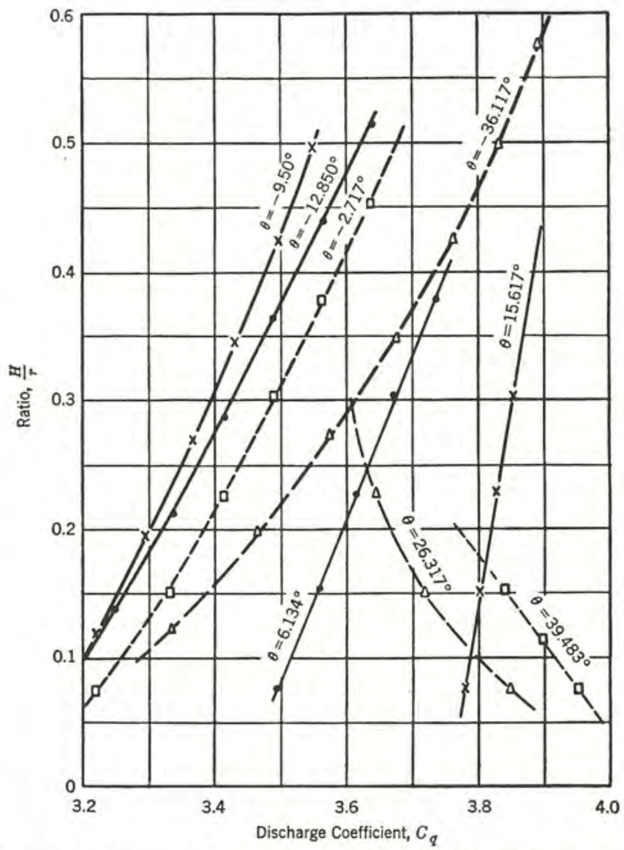


FIG. 5.—DIMENSIONLESS PLOTTING OF DATA FROM MODEL OF SHASTA DAM DRUM GATE

been able to check the discharge measurements of Mr. Bazin. However, the actual values are not so important for the case at hand as is the significance of the trend.

Method of Combining Test Results

The method for combining results from the eleven drum gates tested (Table 2) consisted of first plotting the coefficient of discharge data separately

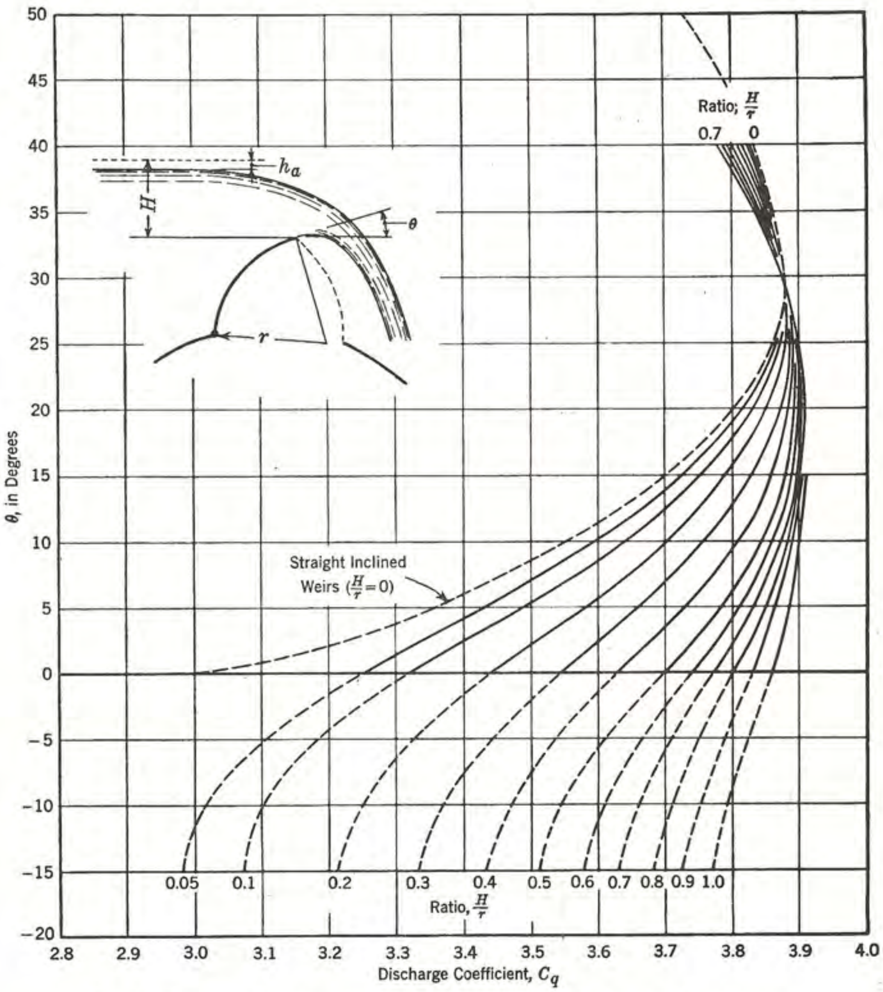


Fig. 6.—General Curves for the Determination of Discharge Coefficients

for each gate as illustrated by the sheet for the Shasta Dam gate (Fig. 5). With the coefficient of discharge as the abscissa and H/r as the ordinate, each curve in Fig. 5 represents a different gate angle θ, which the tangent to the downstream lip of the gate makes with the horizontal. In all cases, H is the total head, including the velocity head of approach, measured above the high point of the gate, and r is the radius of the gate. In Fig. 5, C_q is based on the relationship, $Q = C_q\ L\ H^{\frac{3}{2}}$. For positive values of θ, the head was measured above the lip of the gate, whereas for negative angles it was observed above the high point, or crest, of the gate proper. The method of measuring the head is illustrated in Fig. 2.

Upon completion of a similar set of curves for each gate tested, the eleven sets of curves were replotted and combined into the chart exhibited as Fig. 6. The results from the various gates showed good general agreement; and the curves in Fig. 6 constitute the general experimental information needed for determining the discharge coefficients for gates in raised or partly raised positions. The supporting points are not shown in Fig. 6, but the individual information for each gate is listed in Table 2.

Analysis of Test Results

The curves in Fig. 6 show a tendency toward reversal, similar to that exhibited by the Bazin curve in Fig. 4, but the points of inflection vary from $\theta = 20°$ to $\theta = 30°$, depending on the value of H/r. Fig. 4 showed the coefficients to vary only slightly with the head, but in this case the coefficients definitely vary with the head.

A matter of significance is the reversal of the (H/r)-order which occurs at 29° (Fig. 6). The coefficient of discharge has but one value 3.88 when θ approximates 29°, thus, it is insensitive to both the radius and the head on the gate for this angle. The curve for $H/r = 0$ approximates a drum gate of infinite radius and was obtained from the data of Mr. Bazin (Fig. 4) by applying a uniform adjustment.

As stated previously, similitude is valid for small negative angles of θ, as well as for positive angles up to 90°, thus, the curves in Fig. 6 are shown and recommended for use down to $\theta = -15°$. As the gate is lowered beyond this angle, the curves double back and converge, finally terminating in the free flow coefficient.

The discharge coefficients in the region between $\theta = -15°$ and the gate completely down are determined by graphical interpolation. Interpolation is accomplished by plotting head-discharge curves for several gate angles between $-15°$ and the maximum positive angle. Also the head-discharge curve is plotted for the free crest. This information is then cross-plotted to obtain values in the transition zone. The method will be explained in the example that follows. It will be discovered that negative angles greater than $-15°$ (with the exception of the free crest) are not particularly important from an operator's standpoint, as a change in gate position has little effect on the discharge in this range.

It must be assumed that the coefficient of discharge is known for at least one value of the head on the free crest (gate completely down) for the particular spillway under consideration. With the coefficient known for one or more heads, the complete coefficient curve for the free crest can be plotted by consulting Fig. 7, in which H_o and C_o are the designed head and the coefficient for the designed head, respectively. This chart was reproduced from a previous publication[2] and represents a curve well supported by tests of some fifty overfall spillway crests having wide variation in shape and operating conditions.

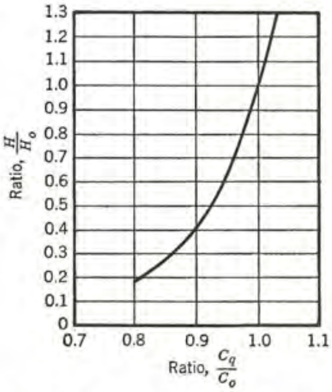


FIG. 7.—COEFFICIENTS OF DISCHARGE FOR OTHER THAN THE DESIGNED HEAD

APPLICATION OF RESULTS

From the plan and section of the Black Canyon Diversion Dam (Idaho), shown in Figs. 8 and 9, assume that it becomes necessary to compute and construct a rating curve for one drum gate for each 0.5 ft of gate elevation. The scale on the gate position indicator is calibrated to show the elevation of the high point of the gate, and the gate has a constant radius of 21.0 ft. The gate is 64 ft long. The coefficient of discharge for the free crest is $C_o = 3.48$ for the designed head (H_o) of 14.5 ft.

With the coefficient of discharge known for free flow at the designed head, the entire free-flow coefficient curve can be established by consulting Fig. 7. The free-flow coefficient curve for Black Canyon Dam spillway (for which $H_o = 14.5$ ft

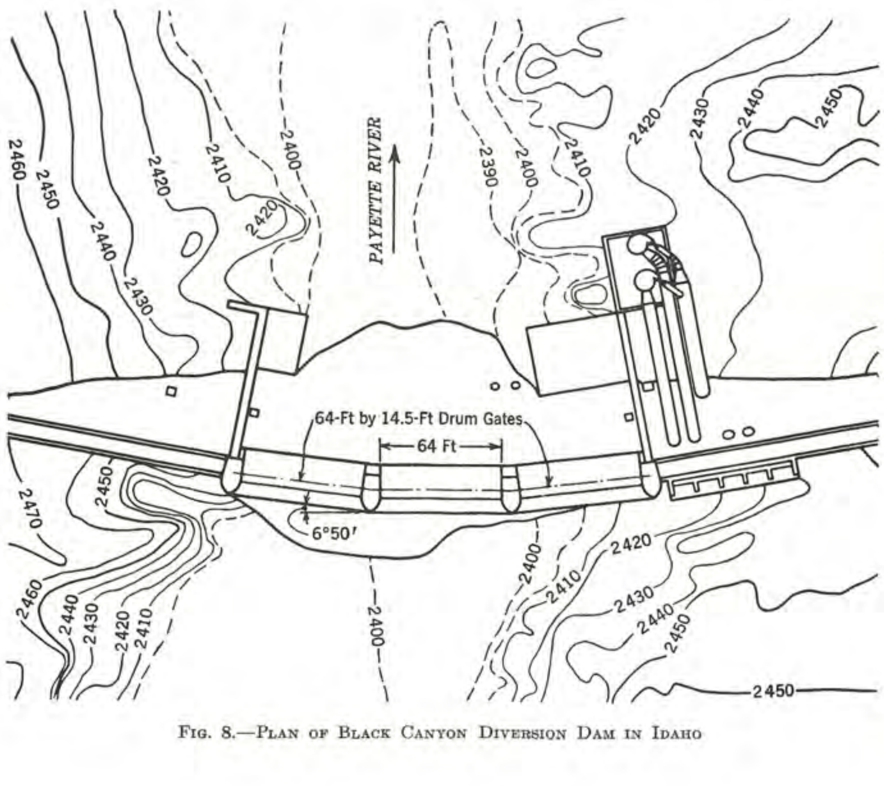


FIG. 8.—PLAN OF BLACK CANYON DIVERSION DAM IN IDAHO

and $C_o = 3.48$) is constructed by arbitrarily assuming several values of H/H_o and reading the corresponding values of C/C_o from Fig. 7. The method is illustrated in Table 3, and the head-coefficient curve for free flow (gate down), obtained in this manner, is shown in Fig. 10.

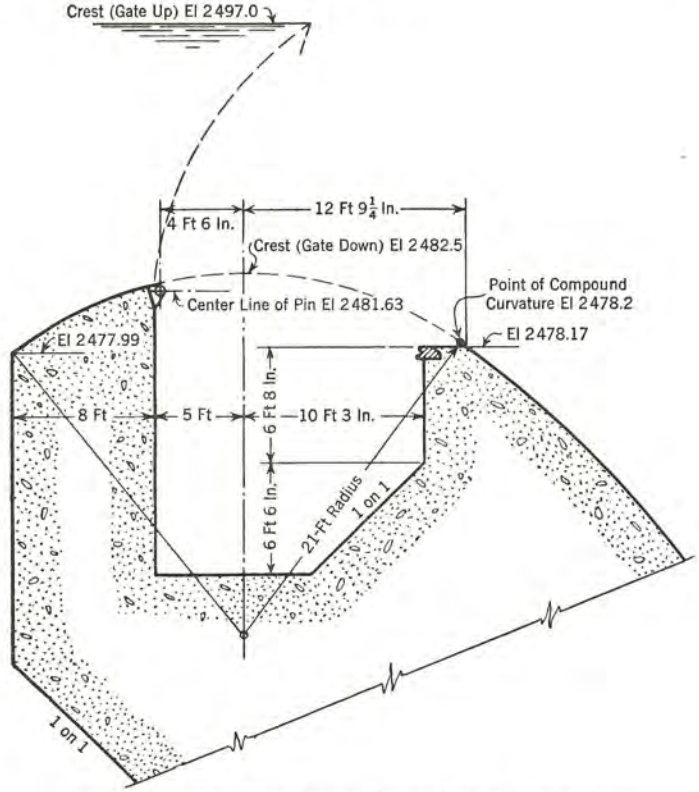


Fig. 9.—Spillway Crest Detail, Black Canyon Dam in Idaho

TABLE 3.—Head and Discharge Computations for a Free Crest (Black Canyon Dam in Idaho)

Total head, H, in ft (1)	Reservoir elevation, in ft (2)	Ratio,[a] H/H_o (3)	Ratio,[b] C_q/C_o (4)	Coefficient, C_q (5)	Q, in cu ft per sec[c] (6)
17	2499.5	1.172	1.020	3.55	15,950
16	2498.5	1.104	1.012	3.52	14,420
14.5	2497.0	1.0	1.0	3.48	12,296
12	2494.5	0.827	0.980	3.41	9,072
10	2492.5	0.690	0.960	3.34	6,759
8	2490.5	0.552	0.940	3.27	4,736
6	2488.5	0.414	0.905	3.135	2,949
4	2486.5	0.276	0.850	2.957	1,514
3	2485.5	0.207	0.815	2.835	943
2	2484.5	0.138	0.760	2.642	478

[a] $H_o = 14.5$ ft. [b] $C_o = 3.48$. [c] The discharge for one gate: $Q = C_q L H^{\frac{3}{2}}$, in which $L = 64.0$ ft.

Before considering the rating of the spillway with gates in raised positions, it is necessary to construct a diagram such as that shown in Fig. 11 to relate gate elevation to the angle θ for the Black Canyon Dam gate. The tabulation in Fig. 11 shows the angle θ for corresponding elevations of the downstream lip of the gate at intervals of 2 ft.

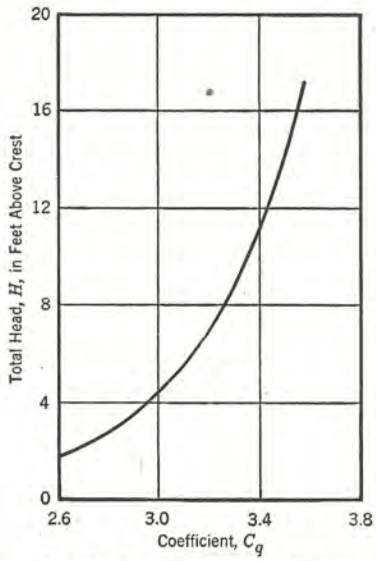


Fig. 10.—Head-Coefficient Curve, Black Canyon Dam, in Idaho

Beginning with the maximum positive angle of the gate, which is 34.883°, the computations may be started by choosing a representative number of reservoir elevations as indicated in Col. 2, Table 4. The difference between the reservoir elevation and the high point of the gate (which is the downstream lip in this case) constitutes the total head on the gate, and values of head are recorded in Col. 3. Col. 4 shows these same heads divided by the radius of the gate, which is 21.0 ft.

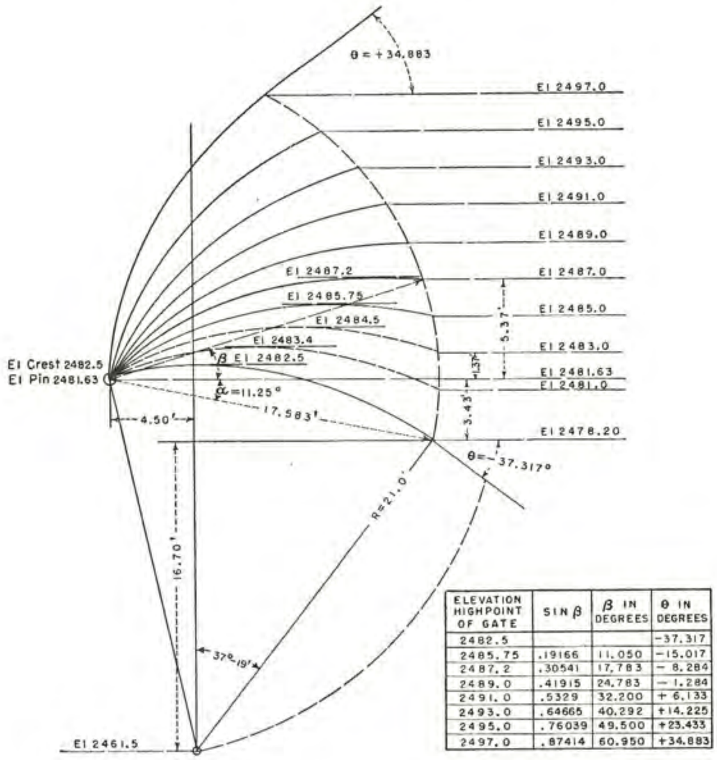
Entering the curves in Fig. 6 with the values in Col. 4, Table 4, for $\theta = +34.883°$, the discharge coefficients, listed in Col. 5 of the set of computations designated "A", are obtained. The remainder of the procedure outlined in Cols. 6 and 7, Table 4, consists of computing the discharge for one gate from the expression $Q = C_q L H^{\frac{3}{2}}$. A similar procedure of computation is repeated for other positive angles of θ as in sets B, C, and D of Table 4.

As the angle θ is given negative values, the procedure for determining the discharge remains the same for angles between 0 and $-15°$, except that the head on the gate is measured above the high point rather than above the lip. Discharge computations for negative angles of the gate down to $-15.017°$ are tabulated in E, F, and G of Table 4.

Plotting values of discharge, reservoir elevation, and gate elevation from Table 4 results in the seven curves in Fig. 12 for which the points are denoted by circles. The extreme lower curve, on which the points are identified by x-marks, represents the discharge of the free crest with the gate completely down. The latter values were obtained from Table 3.

The discharge values shown in Fig. 12 are for one gate only. When more than one gate is in operation, the discharges from the separate gates may be totaled providing the gates are each raised the same amount. The experimental models contained from one to four gates (with the exception of that of Grand Coulee Dam, which contained eleven) so a reasonable allowance for pier effect on the discharge is already present in the results.

The intervals between the eight curves identified by points (Fig. 12) are too great for rating purposes, especially the gap between gate elevations, 2485.75 ft and 2482.5 ft. This is remedied by cross-plotting the eight curves for various constant values of the discharge as shown in Fig. 13. Fortunately, the result is a straight-line variation for any constant value of discharge. The lines in Fig. 13 are not quite parallel and there is no assurance that they will be straight for every drum gate. Nevertheless, this will not detract appreci-



ELEVATION HIGHPOINT OF GATE	SIN β	β IN DEGREES	θ IN DEGREES
2482.5			-37.317
2485.75	.19166	11.050	-15.017
2487.2	.30541	17.783	- 8.284
2489.0	.41915	24.783	- 1.284
2491.0	.5329	32.200	+ 6.133
2493.0	.64665	40.292	+14.225
2495.0	.76039	49.500	+23.433
2497.0	.87414	60.950	+34.883

Fig. 11.—Relationship of Gate Elevation to Angle θ

ably from the accuracy obtained. Interpolated information from Fig. 13 is then utilized to construct the additional curves in Fig. 12. If all curves are considered, Fig. 12 shows the completed rating for the Black Canyon Dam spillway for 0.5-ft gate intervals. For intermediate values, straight-line interpolation is permissible.

Conclusions

This paper has demonstrated how an existing control structure, such as the Black Canyon Dam spillway, can also serve as a rating station. The accuracy of rating curves obtained by the method is estimated to approach that of an average current-meter traverse of the river providing that (1) the gate position indicators are made as large as possible and accurately calibrated, (2) the reservoir gage can be read to within 0.05 ft, (3) nearly atmospheric pressure exists under the sheet of water after it springs from the gate, and (4) all gates are set at approximately the same elevation.

TABLE 4.—HEAD AND DISCHARGE COMPUTATIONS FOR DRUM GATES IN RAISED POSITIONS

Set	Reservoir elevation, in ft	H, in ft[a]	Ratio, $\frac{H}{r}$	Coefficients, C_q	$H^{3/2}$, in ft	Q, in cu ft per sec[b]
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
GATE ELEVATION 2497.0; $\theta = +34.88°$						
A	2498.0	1	0.048	3.86	1	247
	2499.0	2	0.095	3.86	2.828	699
	2500.0	3	0.143	3.86	5.196	1.283
GATE ELEVATION 2495.0; $\theta = +23.43°$						
B	2496.0	1	0.048	3.85	1	246
	2497.0	2	0.095	3.86	2.828	698
	2498.0	3	0.143	3.87	5.196	1,284
	2499.0	4	0.190	3.87	8.00	1,979
	2500.0	5	0.238	3.88	11.18	2,770
GATE ELEVATION 2493.0; $\theta = +14.22°$						
C	2494.0	1	0.048	3.69	1	236
	2495.0	2	0.095	3.73	2.828	675
	2496.0	3	0.143	3.75	5.196	1,247
	2498.0	5	0.238	3.80	11.18	2,719
	2500.0	7	0.333	3.84	18.52	4,552
GATE ELEVATION 2491.0; $\theta = +6.13°$						
D	2492.0	1	0.048	3.47	1	222
	2493.0	2	0.095	3.51	2.828	635
	2494.0	3	0.143	3.57	5.196	1,187
	2496.0	5	0.235	3.63	11.18	2,597
	2498.0	7	0.333	3.70	18.52	4,386
	2500.0	9	0.429	3.77	27.00	6,515
GATE ELEVATION 2489.0; $\theta = -1.28°$						
E	2490.0	1	0.048	3.21	1	205
	2491.0	2	0.095	3.28	2.828	594
	2492.0	3	0.143	3.34	5.196	1,111
	2494.0	5	0.238	3.45	11.18	2,469
	2496.0	7	0.333	3.545	18.52	4,202
	2498.0	9	0.429	3.63	27.00	6,273
	2500.0	11	0.524	3.695	36.48	8,627
GATE ELEVATION 2487.2; $\theta = -8.28°$						
F	2488.0	0.8	0.038	3.02	0.716	138
	2489.0	1.8	0.086	3.10	2.415	479
	2490.0	2.8	0.133	3.17	4.685	950
	2492.0	4.8	0.229	3.31	10.52	2,229
	2494.0	6.8	0.324	3.43	17.73	3,892
	2496.0	8.8	0.419	3.51	26.10	5,863
	2498.0	10.8	0.515	3.58	35.49	8,131
	2500.0	12.8	0.610	3.635	45.79	10,653
GATE ELEVATION 2485.75; $\theta = -15.02°$						
G	2487.0	1.25	0.060	3.00	1.398	268
	2488.0	2.25	0.107	3.07	3.375	663
	2489.0	3.25	0.155	3.15	5.859	1,181
	2491.0	5.25	0.250	3.275	12.03	2,522
	2493.0	7.25	0.345	3.375	19.52	4,216
	2495.0	9.25	0.440	3.465	28.13	6,238
	2497.0	11.25	0.536	3.54	37.73	8,548
	2499.0	13.25	0.631	3.595	48.23	11,097

[a] H is the total head on the gate. [b] The discharge for one gate: $Q = C_q L H^{3/2}$.

In connection with provision (3), the blunt piers on the Black Canyon Dam spillway, Figs. 8 and 9, provide effective aeration under the overfalling sheet of water for all but very small heads with gate completely raised. In the case of provision (4), uniform operation of the gates is also most desirable from the standpoint of stilling basin operation for minimum erosion downstream.

Discharge measurements on the prototype are desirable whenever possible as a check on the accuracy of the above method. Sufficient observations should be taken, however, to establish the fact that the prototype information is consistent and reliable.

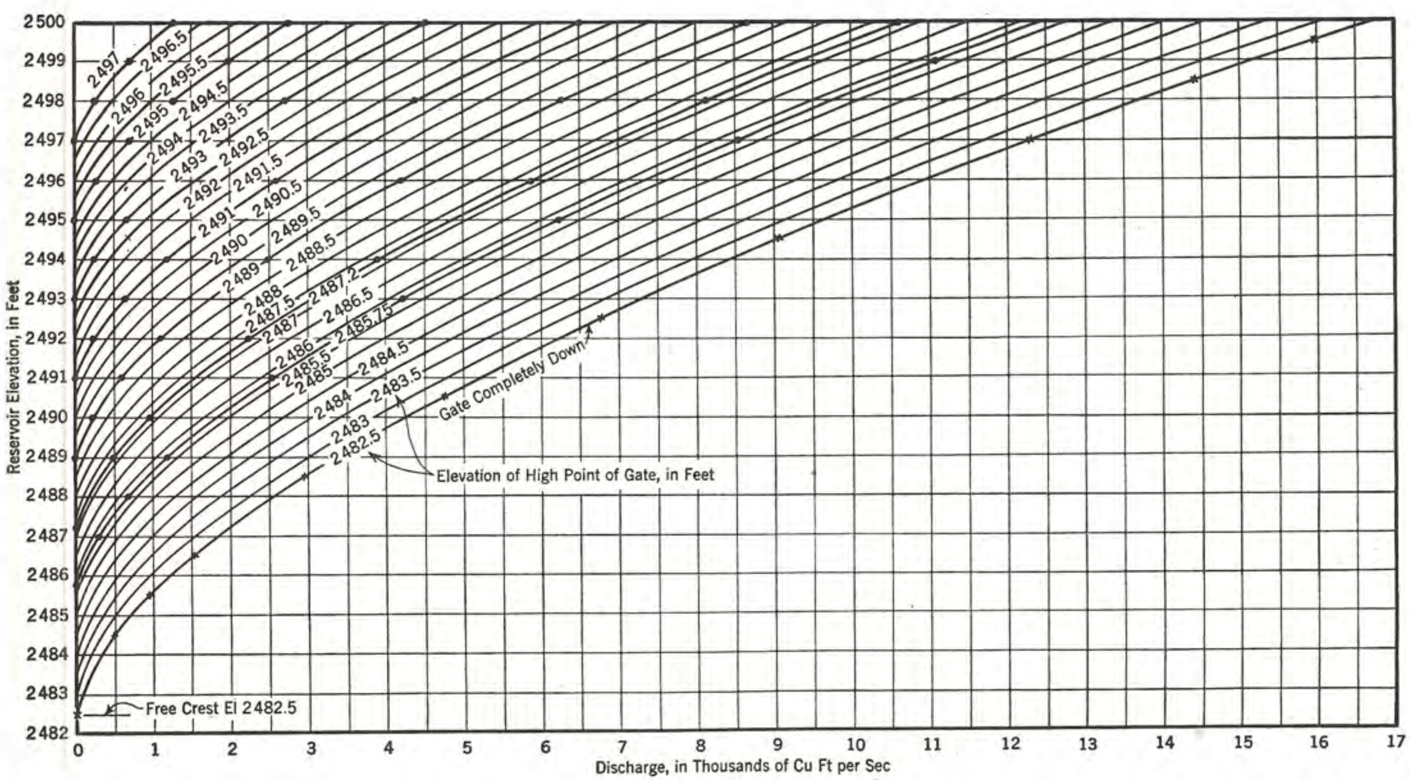


Fig. 12.—Rating Curves for Black Canyon Dam Drum-Gate Spillway in Idaho

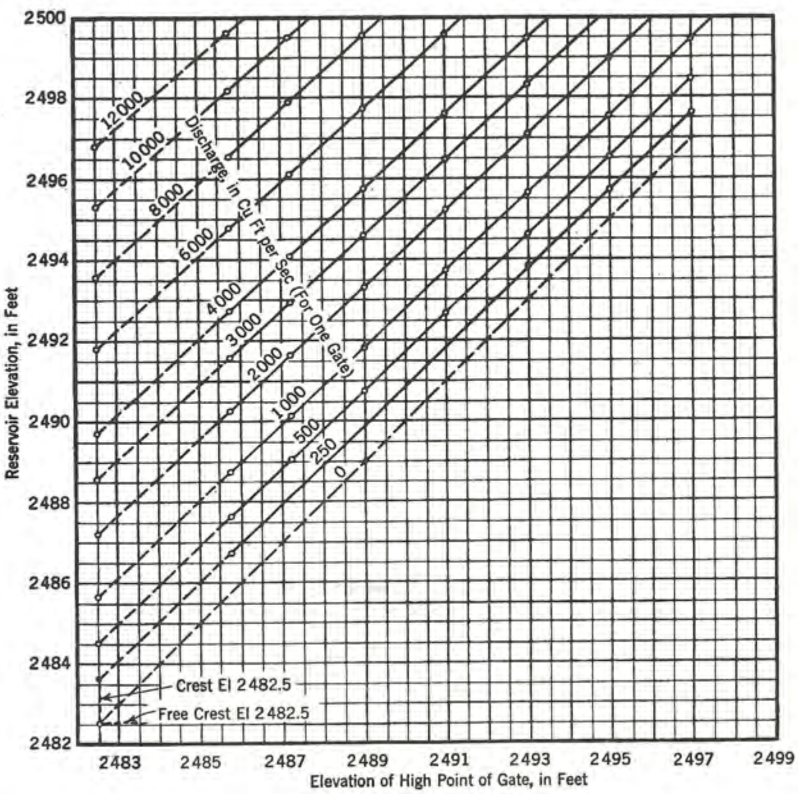


FIG. 13.—CROSS-PLOTTED INITIAL RATING CURVES, BLACK CANYON DAM IN IDAHO

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer wishes to thank C. E. Blee, M. ASCE, chief engineer of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the use of the data on the Norris Dam Spillway; Hal Birkeland, M. ASCE, of the International Engineering Corporation, for obtaining permission to include the Bhakra and Capilano Dam spillways in the paper; and the chief engineer of the Panama Canal for use of the data on the Madden Dam spillway. The writer is also grateful to the Bureau of Reclamation for the use of the remainder of the experimental information. He also wishes to thank his engineering associates, H. M. Martin, M. ASCE, D. J. Hebert, and A. J. Peterka, A. M. ASCE, for their most helpful comments and suggestions.