

Resonance Tube

Equipment Capstone, complete resonance tube (tube, piston assembly, speaker stand, piston stand, mike with adapters, channel), voltage sensor, 1.5 m leads (2), (room) thermometer, flat rubber stopper, meter stick

Reading Sections in your text books on waves, sound, resonance, and normal modes

Warning! When applying voltage to the speaker keep the applied voltage to 2 volts or less. Eleven benches in resonance with an applied voltage of 2 volts will be loud. **Eleven benches in resonance with the maximum applied voltage will be deafening!**

1 Purpose

This lab will investigate standing sound waves in a tube subject to different boundary conditions. One end of the tube is closed off with a small speaker. The other end of the tube can be closed off with a movable piston which can be used to change the length of the tube. The piston can also be removed leaving one end of the tube open. Sinusoidal sound waves are excited in the tube with a speaker. A small microphone (mike) in the tube detects the sound waves. At the resonant frequencies the sound waves in the tube will be enhanced.

In another experiment, a pulse of sound will be sent down the tube and the reflected pulse examined. The nature of the reflected pulse will depend on whether the end of the tube is open or closed. Also, it will be possible to make a direct measurement for the speed of sound.

2 Theory

2.1 Air As A Spring

Gas is a springy material. Consider gas inside a cylinder that is closed off with a piston. Initially, assume that the pressure on both sides of the piston is the same. If the piston is pushed in, the entrained gas is compressed, the pressure rises, and there is a net force pushing the piston out. If the piston is pulled out, the entrained gas is rarefied, the pressure drops, and there is a net force pushing the piston back in. Because a gas acts like a spring and has mass it can support oscillations and waves. In this experiment we confine our attention to the mixture of gases we call air, which is roughly 80% N_2 and 20% O_2 .

2.2 Traveling Sound Waves in Air

When the cone of a loud speaker moves out, it compresses the air next to it and also imparts an outward velocity to the air molecules. This velocity is in addition to the random thermal velocities of the air molecules. Those air molecules nearest the speaker collide with the adjacent air molecules and impart to those molecules their motion. In this way the compression propagates away from

the speaker, and sound is produced. Similar statements apply to the rarefactions produced when the speaker cone moves in. If the speaker cone is vibrated sinusoidally, a propagating sinusoidal sound wave or traveling wave moves out from the speaker. The wave relation, $\lambda f = v$, is satisfied by this wave. Here, λ is the wavelength, f frequency, and v is the wave speed. As the motion of air molecules move along the direction in which the wave propagates, the waves are called longitudinal waves. This is in contrast to the waves on string which are called transverse waves as the elements of the string move transverse to the direction in which the wave travels.

In traveling sound waves the displacement of air particles satisfies the wave equation. It is found that the velocity of a waves v is given by

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma p}{\rho}} \quad (1)$$

where p is the air pressure and ρ is the air mass density. The quantity γ is the ratio of the specific heats at constant pressure and volume, C_P/C_V . The quantity γ appears because the compressions and rarefactions that occur in sound waves are so fast that the process is adiabatic (there is no heat flow). For air, which is composed mostly of diatomic molecules, $\gamma = 1.4$.

With the aid of the ideal gas law, Eq.(1) can be written as

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma RT}{M}}, \quad (2)$$

where R is the molar gas constant, T is the absolute temperature, and M is the molar mass. For a given gas the speed is only proportional to the square root of the temperature. Some insight into this fact is given by noting that the root mean square thermal speed (v_{rms}) of the molecules in a gas is

$$v_{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{3RT}{M}}. \quad (3)$$

The speed of sound in a gas is quite close to the thermal speed of the molecules in gas. The disturbance of the wave is propagated by the molecules colliding with each other, and the velocity of propagation is essentially at thermal speeds of the molecules.

A convenient expression for the speed of sound for v in air at room temperatures is given by

$$v = 331.5 + .606T \text{ m/s}, \quad (4)$$

where T is the temperature in centigrade.

2.3 Traveling Sound Waves in a Tube

Sound waves can travel down a tube as they do in free space. It is assumed here that the walls of the tube are rigid so that they do not flex under the pressure variations of the wave, and that the walls of the tube are smooth so that there is not much attenuation of the wave. The waves speed in the tube is essentially the same as in free space.

2.4 Standing Sound Waves in a Finite Tube

Traveling sound waves in a finite tube are reflected at the ends of a tube. If a tube length and boundary conditions at the two ends of the tube are appropriate, resonance can occur at certain frequencies which are called resonant frequencies. (These are also the normal modes of the air

entrained in the tube.) Resonance occurs when the reflected waves at the two ends of the tube reinforce each other. A small excitation builds up a large standing wave resonance.

The “pressure” of air in the wave is understood to be the change in the pressure from the average value. The “displacement” of the air in the wave is understood to be the displacement of the air from its equilibrium position. At resonance, both the pressure and displacement vary sinusoidally in space and time. Points in the tube where the pressure variations are maximum are called pressure anti-nodes, and points in the tube where the pressure variations are zero are called pressure nodes. Points where the displacement variations are maximum are called displacement anti-nodes, and points where the displacement variations are zero are called displacement nodes. In standing sound waves pressure nodes occur at displacement anti-nodes and pressure anti-nodes occur at displacement nodes.

The open end of finite tube is a pressure node because of the reservoir of normal air pressure outside the tube. (Actually the pressure node occurs a bit outside at end of the tube.) The same point must be a displacement anti-node. The end of a closed tube must be a displacement node and a pressure anti-node. From these boundary conditions the resonance frequencies of a tube open at both ends, closed at both ends, and open at one end and closed at the other end, can be calculated. A tube with both ends open is called an open tube. A tube with one end open and one end closed is called a closed tube. Fig. 1 shows the air displacement for the first 4 resonances of an open tube and a closed tube. The resonance wavelengths are determined by fitting standing waves into the tube so that the boundary conditions at both ends are satisfied. The lowest resonant frequency is called the fundamental or 1st harmonic. The n^{th} harmonic is n times the fundamental. Not all harmonics need to be present.

3 Apparatus and Setup

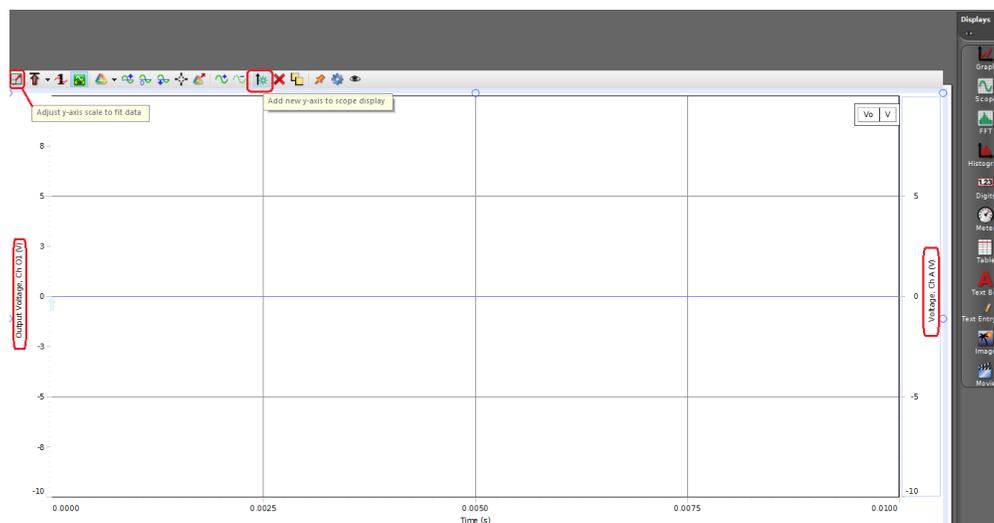
The resonance tube is shown assembled in Fig. 2, and the parts are shown in Fig. 3. The tube has a built in metric scale. The speaker-microphone stand is affixed at one end of the tube and secured by shock cord. This stand has a vertical plate that holds the speaker. A hole in the plate accommodates the small microphone (mike). **A thumbscrew holds the microphone in place. PLEASE TIGHTEN THIS THUMBSCREW ONLY SLIGHTLY.** Always make sure that the plate holding the speaker and mike presses firmly against the tube. The lead from the mike goes to a small battery powered preamplifier which has an off-on switch. **At the start of the experiment, turn the switch on (red showing next to switch).** To conserve the battery, turn the switch off when you are done. The output of the preamplifier

goes to a phone plug. There is an adapter that receive the banana plugs of the voltage sensor. The speaker will be driven by Output 1 on top right of the interface. You will connect Output 1 to the speaker by using two leads. **DO NOT OVERDRIVE THE SPEAKER. Limit voltages to the speaker to 2 V.** You should hear sound, but it should not be very loud. You will connect a voltage sensor to an analog channel of the interface and to the output of the preamplifier mike. Look at figure 3.

Program the interface as follows.

- Click on the Output 1 terminals of the interface of the 850 interface in the Hardware setup window. Select **Output Voltage - Current Sensor**.
- Connect Output 1 of the interface to the speaker by using two leads.
- Click on the Signal Generator icon. Click on Output 1 and set a sine wave with a 1.5 volt amplitude @ 300 hz to test that your speaker is working. After click on the auto button.

- Plug the voltage sensor into one of the analog plugs.
- In the experiment window click on analog channel where the voltage sensor is plugged in and select voltage sensor.
- In the voltage sensor properties (you need to click on the gear icon in the Hardware Setup window). Change the gain from the default of "low 1x" to "medium 10x". (Capstone has an analog to digital converter (ADC) of $2^{12} = 4096$. At a sensitivity of low, voltages from -10 to $+10$ volts are digitized by dividing this voltage interval up into 4096 steps. Each step is about 5 mV. At medium sensitivity the voltage interval is -1 to $+1$, and each step is about 0.5 mV. At high sensitivity, the voltage interval is -0.1 to $+0.1$ and each step is 0.05 mV.)
- Click and drag the scope icon from the display window to the center screen. For the y axis, under select measurements, choose **Output Voltage Ch 01**. At the top of the scope window next to the red X, click **Add new y axis** to add a second channel. For the new y axis choose **Voltage, Ch**. The signal generator output voltage is now applied to the first channel of the scope, and the voltage of the voltage sensor is on the second channel. The channel the scope triggers on. is the first channel. **(It is preferable to trigger on the larger voltage driving the speaker than on the much smaller preamplifier voltage.)**
- Below are some key icons you will use.

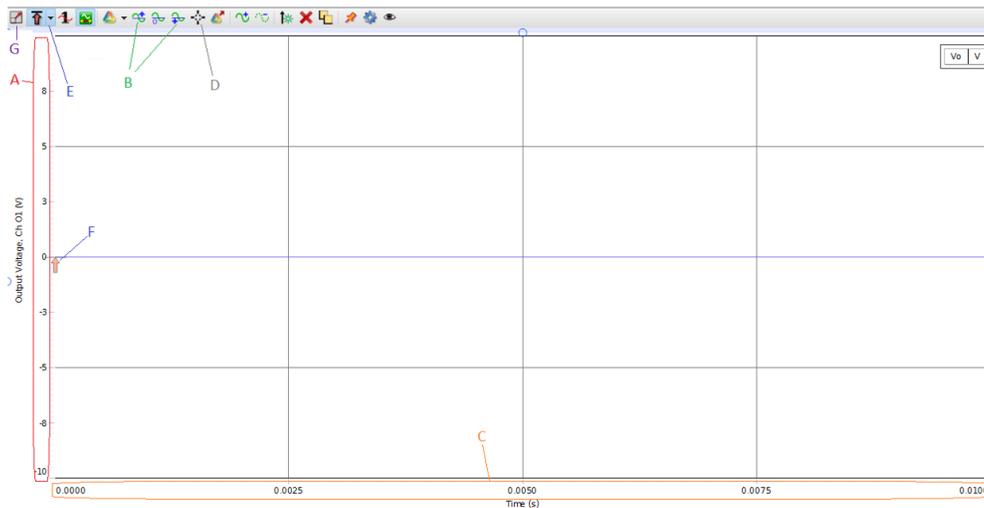


4 Using the Capstone Scope

The Capstone oscilloscope can be used to observe the waveform of the sound waves. The x axis of the scope is time, and the y axis is voltage input. Practice using the following components of the Capstone scope. See the figure below for the scope diagram.

- Click and hold the y-axis to change the scale, either by stretching or shrinking the trace in the vertical direction.
- Moves the scope trace up or down on the screen.

- C. Click and hold on to the x-axis scale, either stretching or compressing the trace in the horizontal direction.
- D. This button selects the smart tool function.
- E and F.** The trigger is used to make the scope trace appear static on the screen. If you notice that the trace is “moving” across the screen, turn on the trigger button. Move the arrow (**F**) up or down to freeze the trace, and/or adjust the trigger level (the value at which the sweep will start the signal).
- G. Adjust the y axis scale to fit data. This is useful to see the full amplitude of multiple waveforms.



5 Experiment: Measuring Wavelength

Using a 500 Hz sine wave with an amplitude of 1.0 V, determine the positions of the piston that result in maximum signal from the mike. **What is the uncertainty for each position measurement and how did you determine them? Are these positions of maximum amplitude on pressure nodes or anti-nodes? displacement nodes or anti-nodes?** Draw a diagram showing where the nodes are in the tube for this frequency and where your positions were measured. Determine the wavelength λ from your data, averaging appropriately your various measurements. Compute the speed of sound (and uncertainty!) from your measurements of λ and f , compare to theory.

Repeat the above measurements for frequencies of 1000 Hz and 1500 Hz, and make the same analysis. These are shorter wavelengths and more resonances will be observable. **Do the wavelengths change with frequency in the way you expect? Is the speed of sound consistent for all the frequencies you measure?**

6 Pulsed Experiments

6.1 Theory

In these experiments, short pulses will be sent down the tube from the speaker. This is achieved by driving the speaker with a relatively low frequency square wave of 10 Hz. The speaker cone moves very quickly one way and then stops. This sends a short compression or rarefaction pulse down the tube. This pulse is reflected from the end of the tube and propagates back toward the speaker. It bounces off the speaker end of the tube, and continues to go up and down the tube until it is damped. The period of the square wave is chosen long enough so that the pulse is completely dissipated before the speaker cone moves the other way in response to the square wave and sends the next pulse down the tube. The pulses alternate between compressions and rarefaction.

6.2 Reflected Pulse and Speed of Sound

- Set the signal generator for a 10 Hz symmetric square wave with an amplitude of 2 V.
- Loosen the thumbscrew holding the mike, back off the speaker stand, and slide the mike into the tube to the 10 cm mark on the tube scale. **Why are we suggesting to do this?**
- Push the speaker stand back against the tube. Move the piston out to 80 cm, supporting the end of the piston rod with the channel.
- Adjust the scope so that the pattern looks something like Fig. 4. Explain the scope trace.
- Now zoom in so that the trace looks like Fig. 5. **Is the reflected pulse inverted? Why or why not?**
- Using the scope pattern, measure the time it takes the pulse to travel down the tube, be reflected, and travel back to the mike.

You will need to choose a point in the pulse which can be identified with minimum uncertainty. **How did you choose this point and what is the uncertainty in your measurement and how did you determine the uncertainty?** Determine the speed of sound in the tube, and compare to theory and your measurements from the last section using wavelengths. **Which method of measuring speed is more accurate? You might want to measure the room (or tube air) temperature. Why? How much would the temperature of the air have to change for you to be able to tell from your measurements that the speed of sound is different? With the scope running, slowly move the piston toward the speaker. What do you see on the scope? Explain. Try measuring the speed of sound again, using a smaller distance between the mike and piston. Do you get a more or less precise measurement? Why?**

6.3 Boundary Conditions

When a wave or a pulse hits the boundary between two mediums, it is partially reflected and partially transmitted. An example would be light impinging on glass. The nature of the reflected pulse depends on the boundary conditions. **If the end of the tube where the pulse is reflected is open, the pressure in the reflected pulse must be inverted so as to cancel the pressure of the incoming pulse. Why? Is the end of the open tube a pressure node or anti-node? What if the tube is closed with the piston?** Remove the piston and piston stand from the

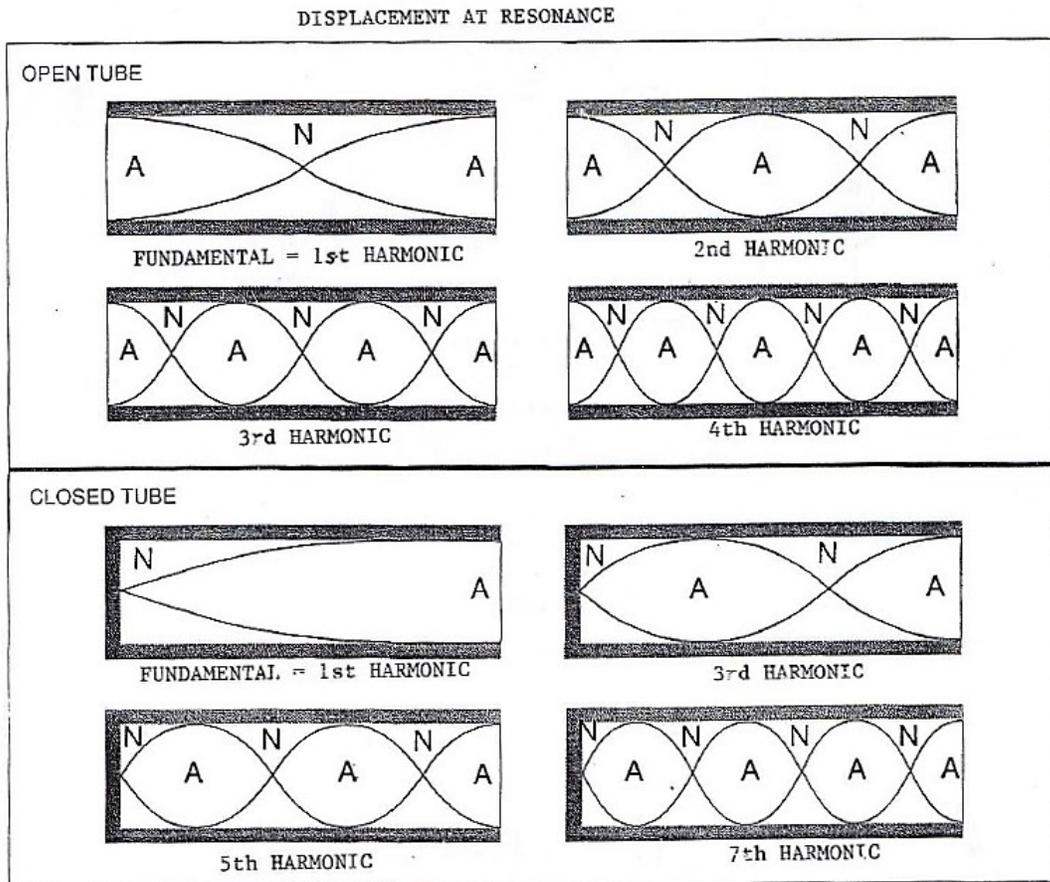
tube and support the end of the tube with the channel. Observe the nature of the reflected pulse. Now close the end of the tube with the rubber stopper provided and note the change in the nature of the reflected pulse. Discuss what you see and try to explain the phenomena. **Is the speed of sound you measure in each case the same? Why or why not? Can you determine where along the tube (or outside the tube!) the wave is reflected? What is your measurement of this position (and uncertainty)?** With the stopper in place on the end of the tube, try cracking open the end of the tube a bit by bending the stopper. **How much of a crack is necessary to change the reflected pulse? Can you explain what is happening?**

7 Questions

1. Let the length of the tubes in Fig. 1 be L . What are the wavelengths at the fundamental frequencies of the two types of tubes? (Note that both types have at least one open end!)
2. What is the wavelength at the fundamental frequency of a tube of length L closed at both ends?
3. Show that Eq.(2) follows from Eq.(1).

8 Finishing Up

Please leave the bench as you found it. TURN OFF THE MIKE PRE-AMPLIFIER SO AS TO CONSERVE THE BATTERY. Thank you.



Resonance States: Open and Closed Tubes

Fig. 1

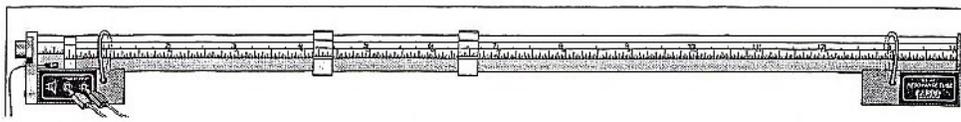


Fig. 2

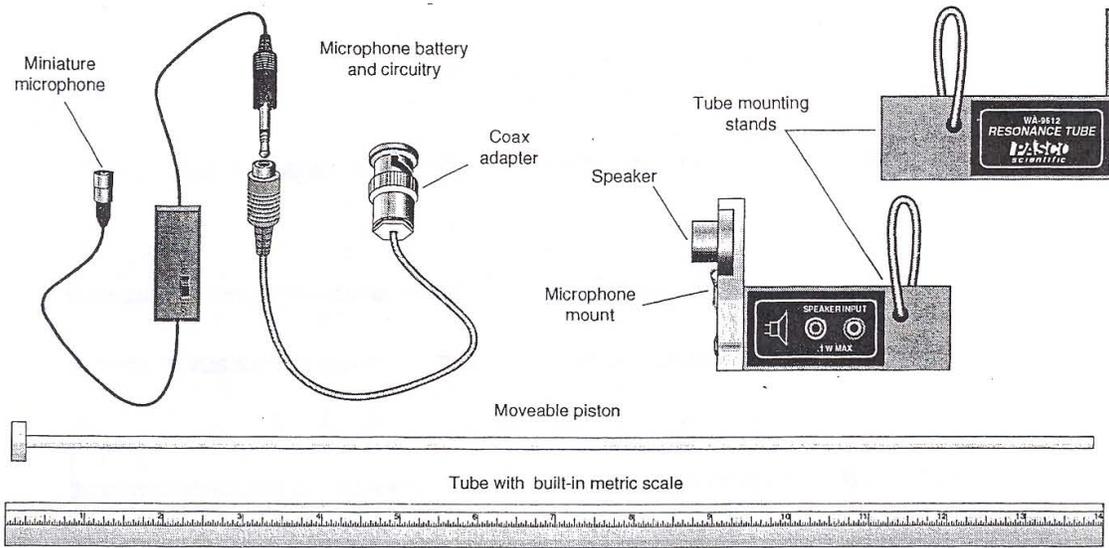


Fig. 3

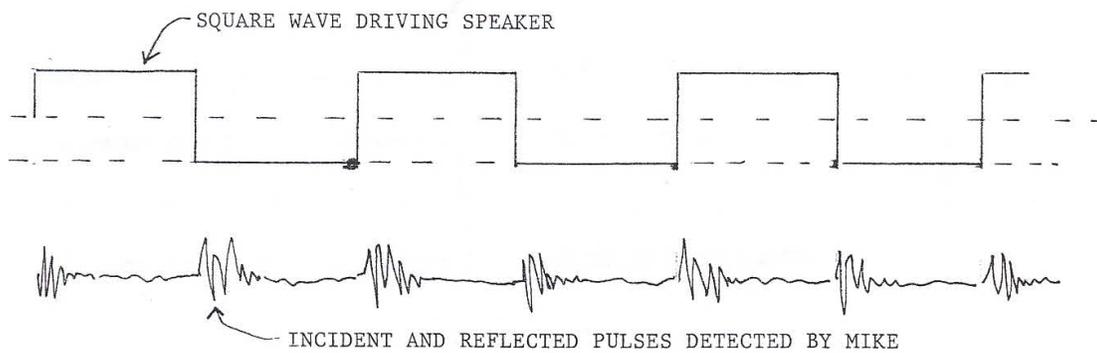


Fig. 4

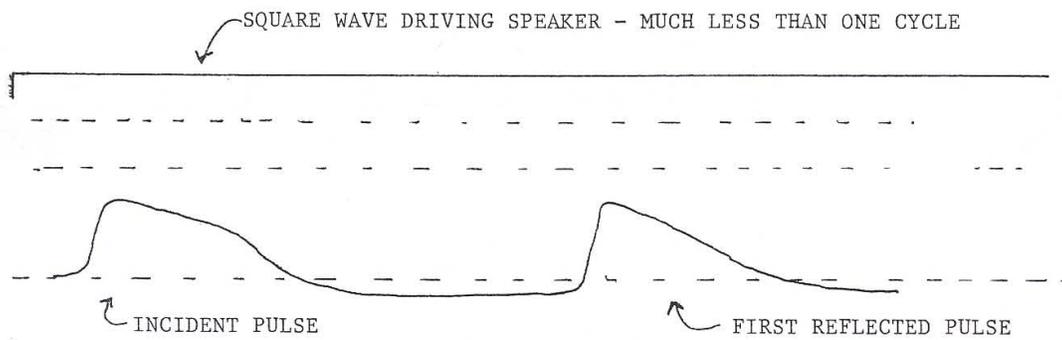


Fig. 5 (Fig. 4 with greatly expanded time scale)