

Accelerator Development Department

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ANALYSIS OF THE ENERGY FLOW FROM THE "HOT SPOT" IN A QUENCHING
SUPERCONDUCTING MAGNET, DD0017 AND SLN-012

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Magnet DD0017 was equipped with spot heaters and potential taps arranged so that the details of the physical process associated with a quench can be studied. The experiment consisted of firing the "spot heater" and measuring the electrical potential vs time developed across a short length of the conductor. From this information and the knowledge of temperature vs resistance of the conductor including magneto-resistive effects, the temperature-time function can be computed, see Figure 5. Since the enthalpy vs temperature of the cable is also known, the thermal energy deposited in the observed length of cable can be computed. When this energy is subtracted from the electrical $E \times I$ input, quantities of missing energy are observed. These results are shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 for the various events observed.

For the early part of the quench, only a small part of the electrical input energy is used to raise the conductor temperature. Helium expansion removes the balance of this electrical input energy and results in a lowering of the temperature of the "hot spot".

The piece of cable under observation consists of the following:

Length	10. inches (4" in SLN-012)
Width	0.366 inches
Thickness, avg.	0.0574 inches
No. of wires	23
Copper/superconductor ratio	1.6:1
Wire diameter	0.0318 inches
Wire area, total	0.11785 cm ²
Helium volume	0.4483 cm ³
Mass	0.0624 grams
Temperature	4.3 K
Helium pressure	5.0 atms (1 atm, liquid in SLN-12)

The integral under the power-time curve for the removed energy is shown on the respective figure. This energy must be carried away by warmed and expanding helium. The T-S diagram for the process described in Figure 1 is shown in Figure 4. A unit mass of helium moves from point A to point B by two imaginary processes. First, a constant volume (no work) heating to 52.5 K, the time average temperature (see Figure 5), followed by a constant temperature expansion back to the 5 atms. pressure line. The thermal energy required to move from point A to point B along this path is given by $J/M = (H_2 - H_1) + T(S_2 - S_1)$. Using the values shown on Figure 4, J becomes 69.4 joules and is in fair agreement with the measured missing thermal energy of 61 joules.

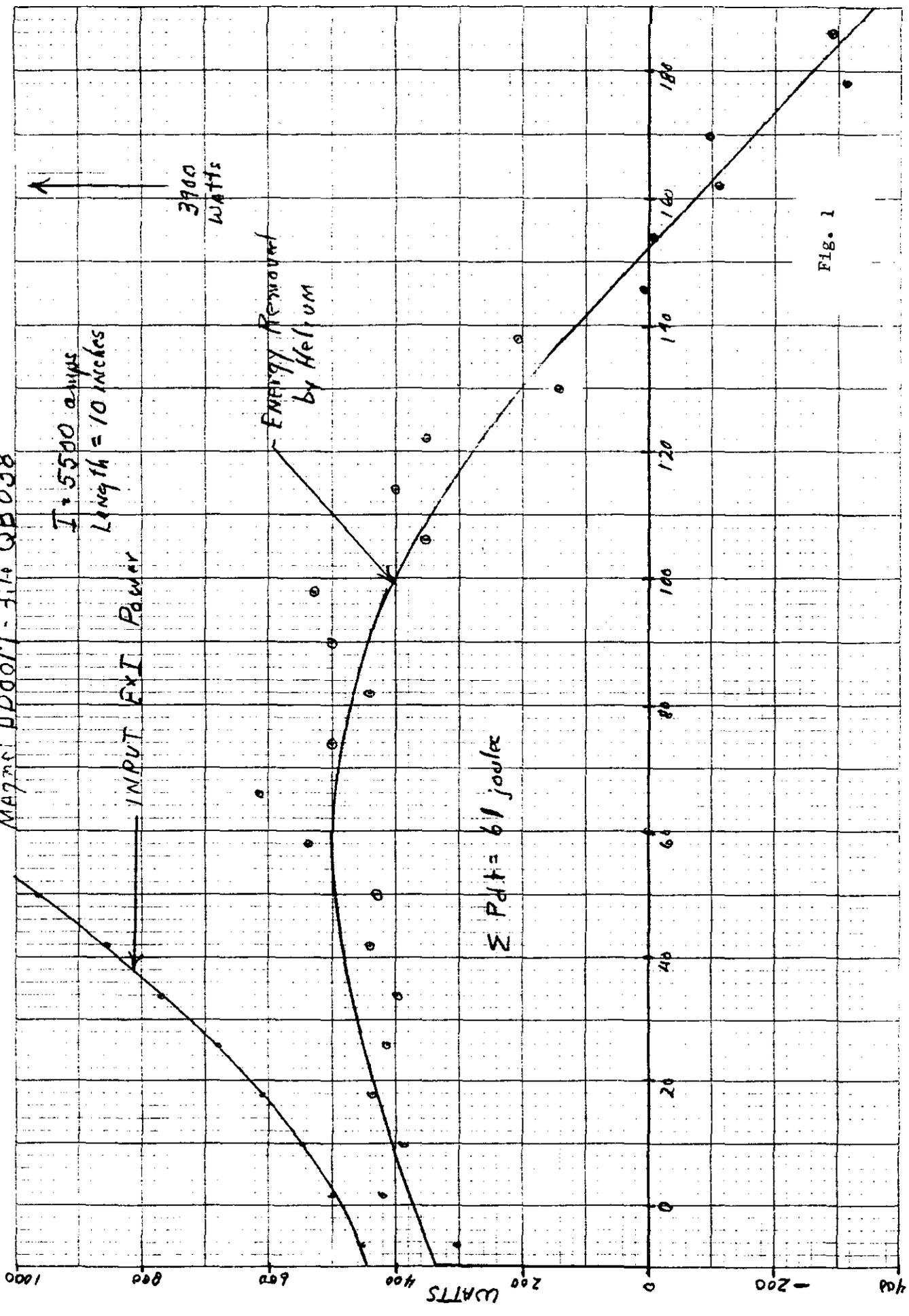
This expanding gas is working against the vicious friction of other helium which may, through friction, deposit heat ahead of the quench front and be part of the mechanism that accelerates the quench.

While the mechanism for quench acceleration is speculative, the cooling is clear. Figure 6 shows the adiabatically computed MIITS-temperature relationship and experimental measurements of the same. The measured relationship is clearly shifted toward lower temperatures, similar to that indicated by the cooling calculated above.

The measured results reported for magnet DD0017 represents MIITS vs temperature for the single event indicated. Those reported by Ganetis and Prodel are the peak values observed on different events. This explains the difference in shape of the two curves. If one believes that 800K represents the cable burnout temperature then this cable can go to 14 MIITS.

Magnet DP0017 - 5/4 QB038

$I = 5500$ amps
Length = 10 inches



SSC - P00017 - Q8024 Spot No. #2

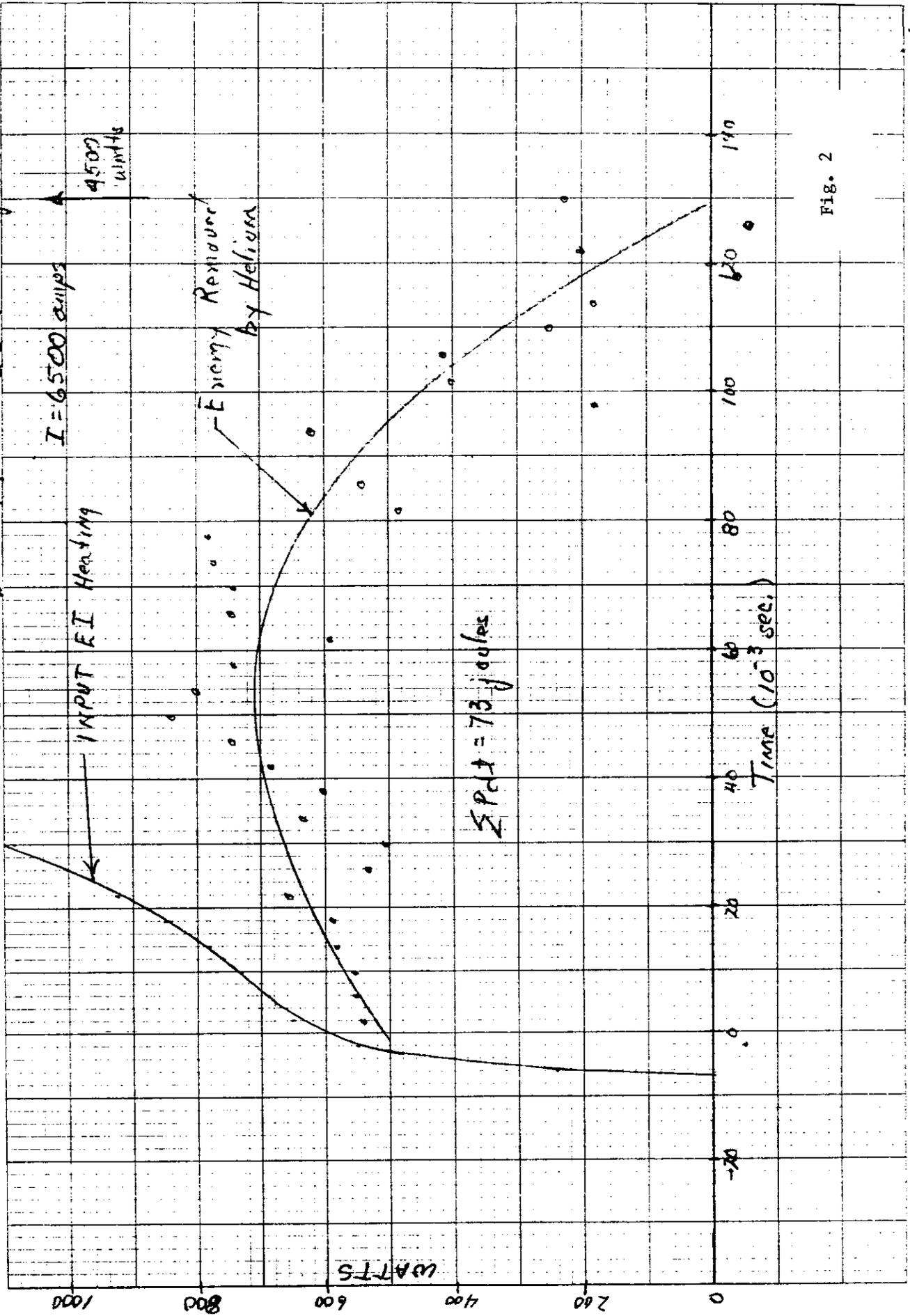


FIG. 2

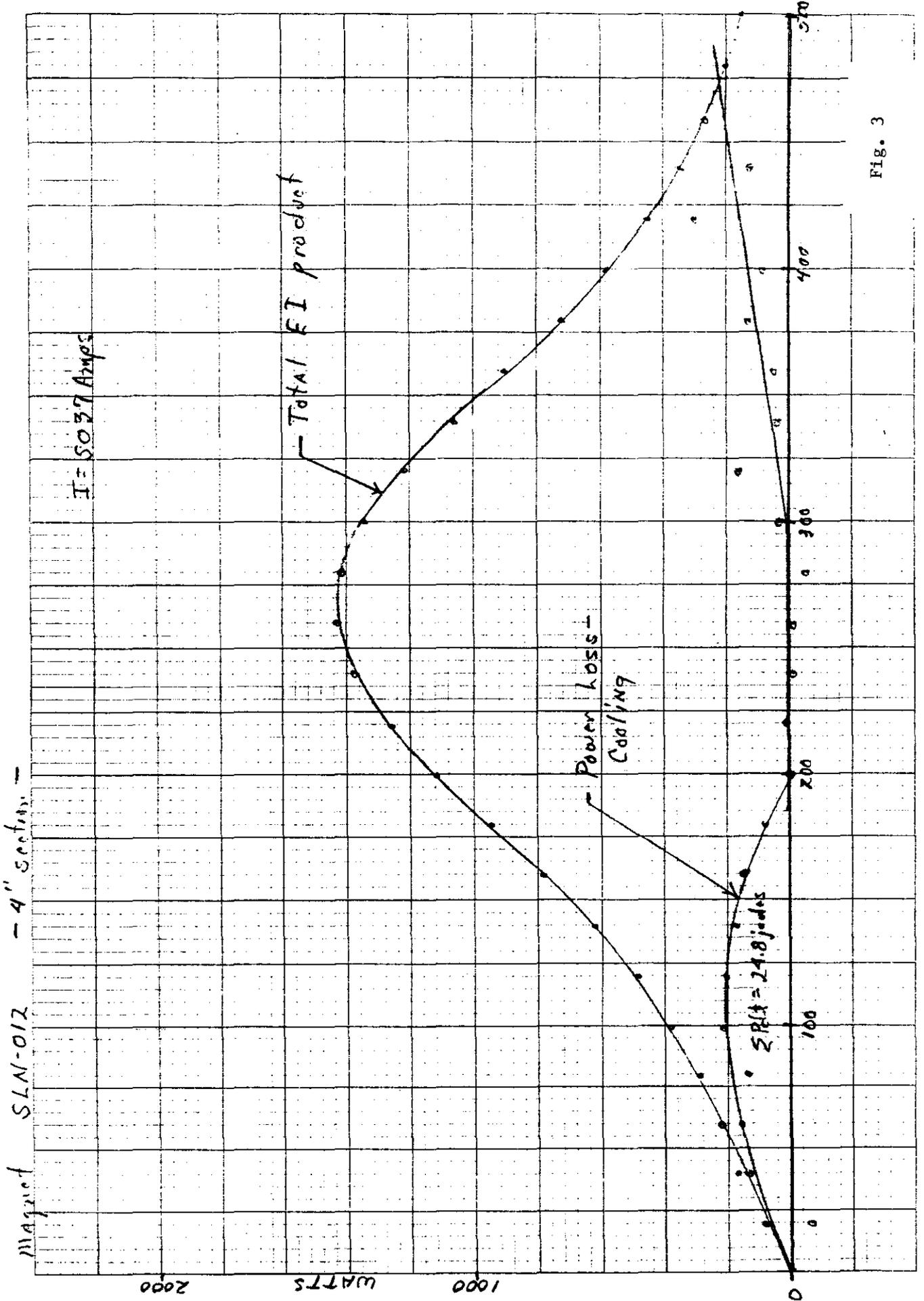


Fig. 3

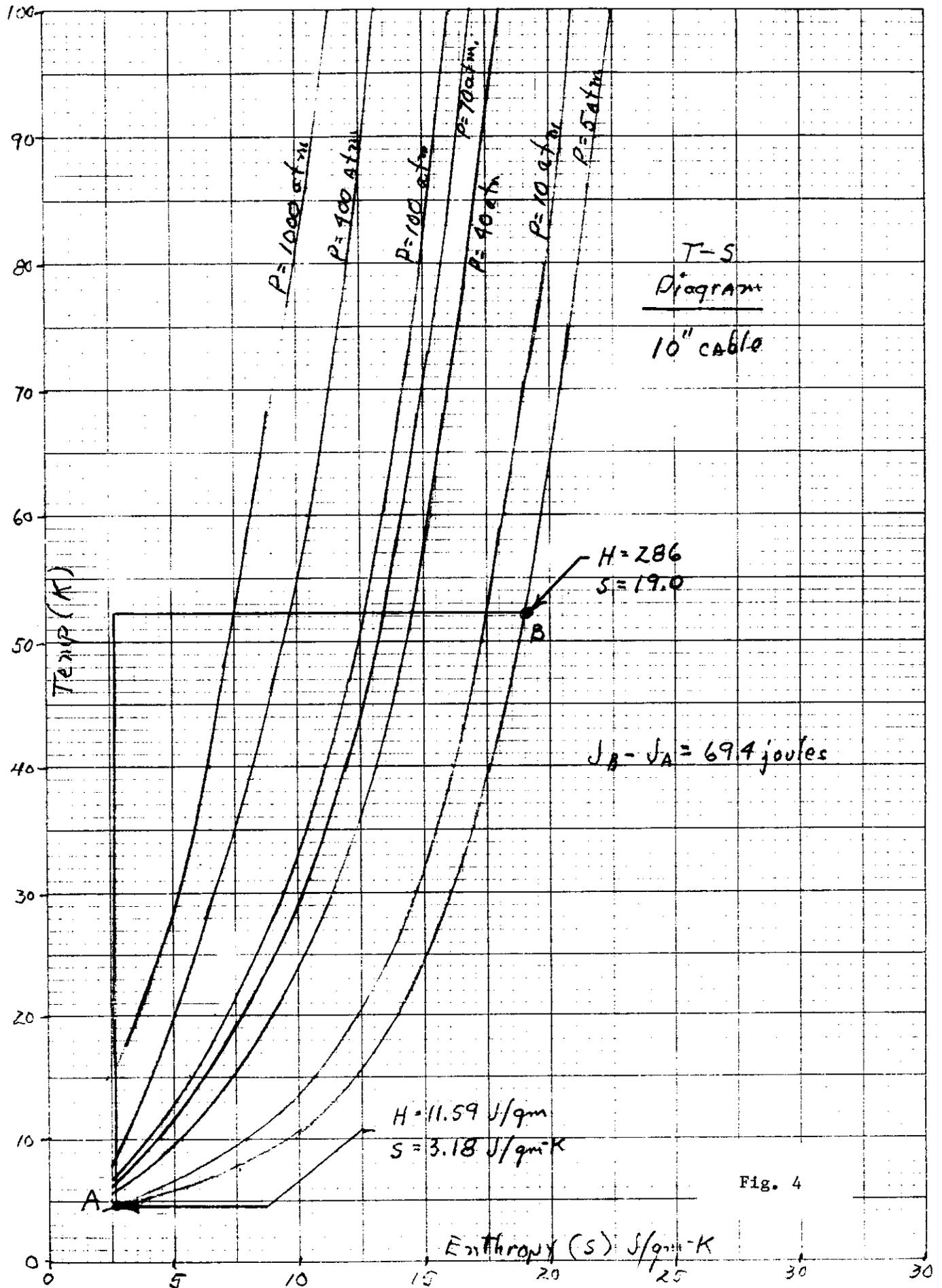


Fig. 4

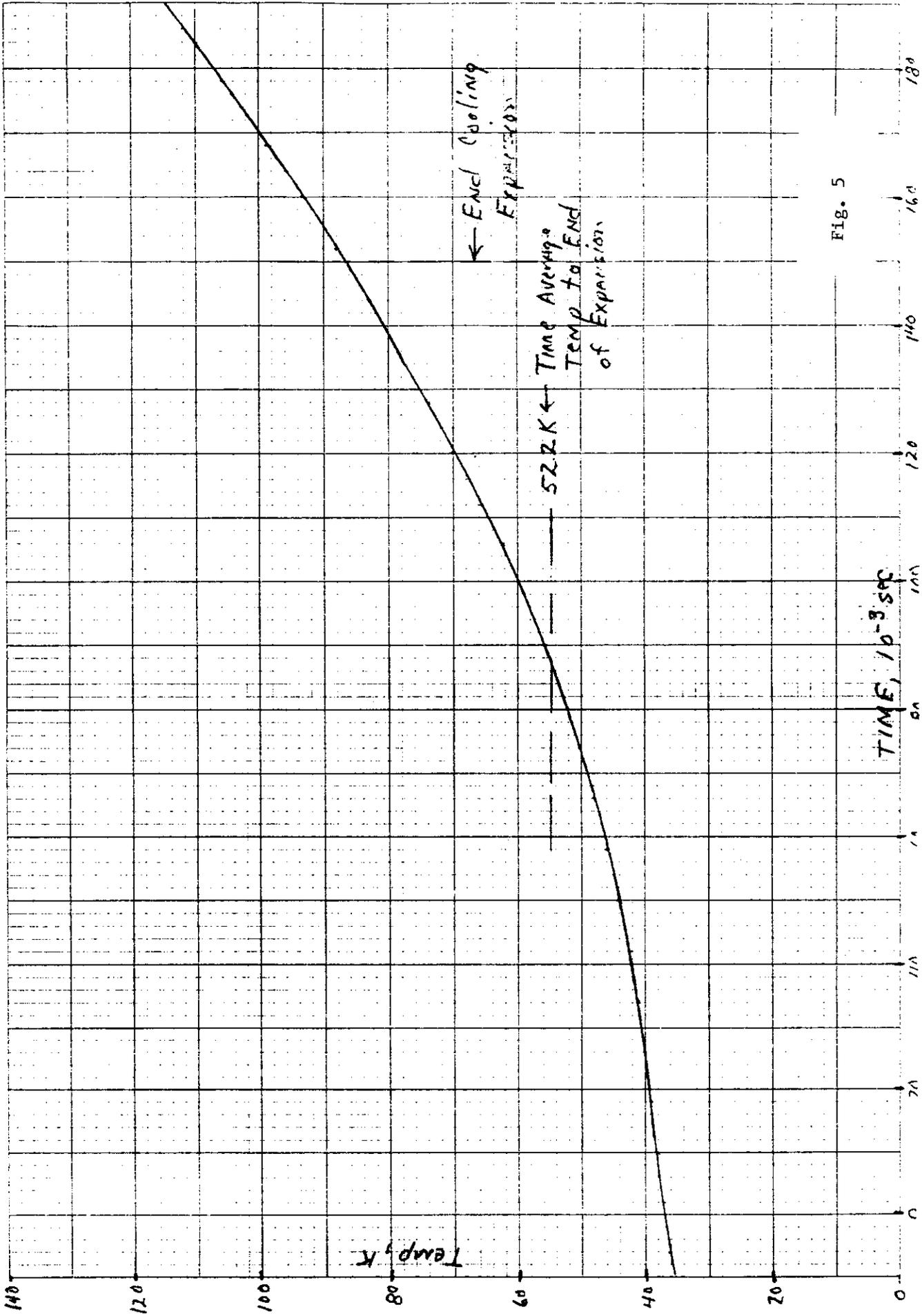


FIG. 5

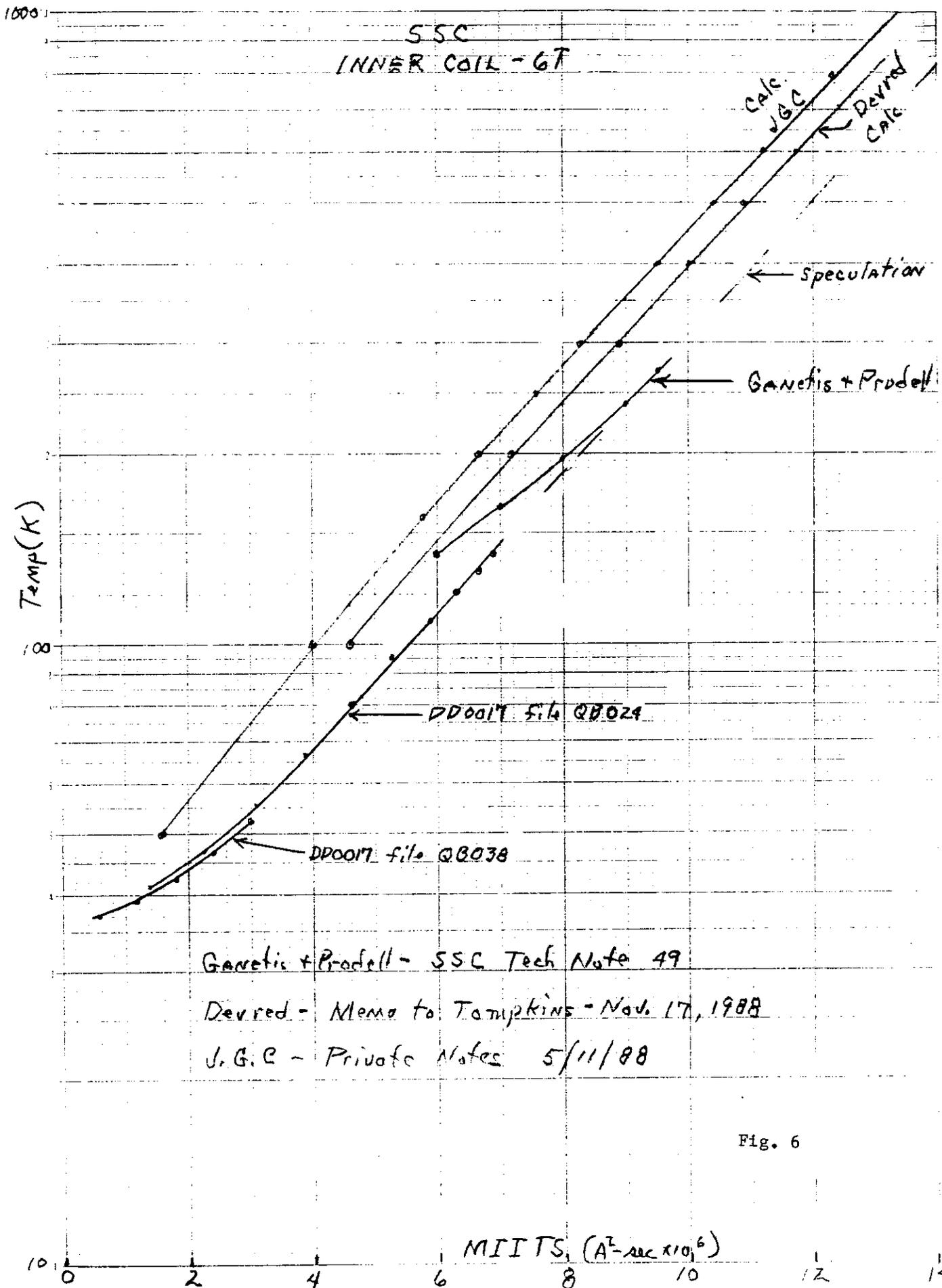


Fig. 6

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