

# International Agreement Report

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## RELAP5/MOD2 Post-Test Calculation of the OECD LOFT Experiment LP-SB-2

Prepared by  
J. Perez, R. Mendizabal

Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (C.S.N.)  
Madrid, Spain

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

April 1992

Prepared as part of  
The Agreement on Research Participation and Technical Exchange  
under the International Thermal-Hydraulic Code Assessment  
and Application Program (ICAP)

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## ABSTRACT

This document presents the analysis of the OECD LOFT LP-SB-2 experiment performed by the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear of Spain working group making use of RELAP5/MOD2 in the frame of the Spanish LOFT Project.

LP-SB-2 experiment studies the effect of a delayed pump trip in a small break LOCA scenario with a 3 inches equivalent diameter break in the hot leg of a commercial PWR.



## CONTENTS

	CONTENTS	PAGE
SECTION	1. INTRODUCTION	1
	2. DESCRIPTION OF THE LOFT INSTALLATION	1
	3. RELAP5/MOD2 MODEL OF LOFT FACILITY	2
	4. EXPERIMENT LP-SB-2	2
	4.1 Steady state calculation	2
	4.2 Transient boundary condition	2
	4.2.1 Decay heat data	2
	4.2.2 Pumps injection flow	3
	4.2.3 Auxiliary feedwater flow	3
	4.2.4 High pressure injection system	3
	4.2.5 Secondary side steam control valve	3
	4.2.6 Operational setpoints	3
	5. POST TEST CALCULATION	3
	5.1 Code performance	3
	5.2 Chronology of events	3
	5.3 Secondary side pressure	4
	5.4 Primary side pressure	5
	5.5 Temperatures	5
	5.6 Density distribution	5
	5.7 Break line density and break mass flow rate	5
	5.8 Loop flow	6
	5.9 Primary system mass inventory	6
	6. CONCLUSIONS	7
	7. REFERENCES	8
	TABLES	9
	FIGURES	12
APPENDIX	-DISKETTE CONTAINING THE RELAP5/MOD2 INPUT DECK FOR LP-SB-2	48

## FIGURES

	PAGE
1. LOFT PIPING SCHEMATIC	12
2. AXONOMETRIC PROJECTION OF THE LOFT SYSTEM CONFIGURATION FOR EXPERIMENT LP-SB-1 AND LP-SB-2	13
3. RELAP5 NODING DIAGRAM FOR LOFT LP-SB-2 CALCULATION	14
4. STEADY STATE CALCULATION - PRIMARY PRESSURE	15
5. STEADY STATE CALCULATION - S.G. & PZR LEVELS	16
6. STEADY STATE CALCULATION - RECIRCULATION RATIO	17
7. STEADY STATE CALCULATION - SURGE LINE MASS FLOW	18
8. C.P.U. TIME	19
9. TIME STEP	20
10. MAIN STEAM CONTROL VALVE STEM POSITION	21
11. BREAK LINE FLUID SUBCOOLING	22
12. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SIDES PRESSURE	23
13. SECONDARY SIDE PRESSURE - SHORT-TERM	24
14. SECONDARY SIDE PRESSURE	25
15. PRIMARY SIDE PRESSURE	26
16. HOT LEG TEMPERATURE	27
17. COLD LEG TEMPERATURE	28
18. PRESSURIZER TEMPERATURE	29
19. RV UPPER PLENUM VOID FRACTION	30
20. SG TUBES VOID FRACTION	31
21. HOT LEG DENSITY	32
22. COLD LEG DENSITY	33
23. LOOP SEAL DENSITY	34
24. CORE VOID FRACTION	35
25. BREAK LINE DENSITY	36
26. HOT LEG AND BREAK LINE VOID FRACTIONS	37
27. BREAK MASS FLOW RATE	38
28. VESSEL AND PUMPS DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURES	39
29. HOT LEG FLUID VELOCITY	40
30. COLD LEG FLUID VELOCITY	41
31. CORE INLET FLUID VELOCITY	42
32. CORE OUTLET FLUID VELOCITY	43
33. HOT LEG AND BREAK LINE FLOW REGIME NUMBER	44
34. PRIMARY COOLANT SYSTEM MASS INVENTORY	45
35. INLET MASS FLOW RATE TO PCS	46
36. HPIS MASS FLOW RATE	47



TABLES

	PAGE
1. INITIAL CONDITIONS FOR EXPERIMENT LP-SB-2	9
2. OPERATIONAL SETPOINTS FOR EXPERIMENT LP-SB-2	10
3. LP-SB-2 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS	11



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Experiment LP-SB-2 was conducted on July 14, 1983 in the LOFT facility at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

The LP-SB-2 experiment simulated a 7.6 cm (3 inch) equivalent diameter break in a hot leg pipe of a PWR plant. Experiment LP-SB-2 addresses the analysis of a small break loss of coolant accident with the break at the mid plane of the intact loop hot leg. LP-SB-2 was one of a pair of experiments aimed to address the effects of early and delayed pump trip on system behaviour. The primary coolant pumps were allowed to operate until tripped when the primary system pressure had decreased to 3.16 MPa in experiment LP-SB-2.

The main objective of this calculation was to assess the code in the challenging conditions of a small break scenario.

Our aim was to simulate the major physical phenomena of the transient that took place until the beginning of the plant recovery.

The code used to simulate the LP-SB-2 experiment was RELAP5/MOD2 Cycle 36.04 installed on a CYBER 810.

The input data was based on that used in previous LP-SB-1 calculations.

The major conclusions are:

- i) The two phase head multipliers used in the calculation caused that pumps degraded later and in a smoother way than in the experiment.
- ii) RELAP5/MOD2 failed to calculate onset of the stratified flow in the hot leg.
- iii) The code could not account for the liquid entrainment and vapor pull-through in the break tee due to the delayed detection of stratified flow conditions. So break uncovering was not detected and primary mass inventory was finally underpredicted.
- iv) RELAP5/MOD2 choked flow model underpredicted the break line velocities.



## FOREWORD

This report represents one of the assessment/application calculations submitted in fulfilment of the bilateral - agreement for cooperation in thermalhydraulic activities between the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear of Spain (CSN) and the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (US-NRC) in - the form of Spanish contribution to the International Code Assessment and Applications Program (ICAP) of the US-NRC whose main purpose is the validation of the TRAC and RELAP system codes.

The Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear has promoted a coordinated - Spanish Nuclear Industry effort (ICAP-SPAIN) aiming to - satisfy the requirements of this agreement and to improve the quality of the technical support groups at the Spanish - Utilities, Spanish Research Establishments, Regulatory Staff and Engineering Companies, for safety purposes.

This ICAP-SPAIN national program includes agreements between CSN and each of the following organizations:

- Unidad Eléctrica (UNESA)
- Unión Iberoamericana de Tecnología Eléctrica (UITESA)
- Empresa Nacional del Uranio (ENUSA)
- TECNATOM
- LOFT-ESPAÑA

The program is executed by 12 working groups and a generic code review group and is coordinated by the "Comité de Coordinación". This committee has approved the distribution of this document - for ICAP purposes.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Thermal-hydraulic research has required close interaction between experimental and analytical work. A number of separate-effect experiments have been performed to help in the validation of best estimate computer codes. Analogously the overall results of code calculations are assessed using data from integral test facilities. The analyses show that the codes generally provide accurate calculations of the Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA). Areas where model improvements are needed have also been identified by these tests. In particular the Loss of Fluid Test (LOFT) facility was adapted to study some small breaks. The motivation of one of these is explained hereafter.

An analysis performed after TMI showed that one of the key factors in the core damage was the tripping of the primary circuit pumps. The USNRC requested the reactor vendors to carry out an analysis of this problem. The conflict between the results of these investigations led to a recommendation to carry out experiments on this program in order to clarify the criteria for pump trip. The experiments LP-SB-1 and LP-SB-2 modelled small breaks in the hot leg. They differ in time of pump trip which is early in the former and delayed in the later of these tests. In this paper the results obtained in a post test analysis of the experiment LP-SB-2 by the CSN working group, part of the Spanish LOFT project are set down. The calculations with RELAP5/MOD2 Cycle 36.04 were carried out on a CYBER 810 in Madrid.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE LOFT INSTALLATION

The experimental LOFT installation simulates a four loop 1000 MW commercial PWR. It has a thermal power of 50 MW. The installation consists of a vessel scaled 1/47 in volume, an intact circuit with an active steam generator, a pressurizer, two pumps in parallel and a broken loop, connected by recirculation lines to the intact circuit in order to maintain a temperature of this broken circuit near to that of the coolant at core inlet at the beginning of the experiment. More detailed information on the LOFT system configuration is provided in (1).

A LOFT piping schematic with instrumentation for experiment LP-SB-1 and LP-SB-2, and an axonometric projection of the LOFT system configuration are shown respectively in Figures

### 3. RELAP5/MOD2 MODEL OF LOFT FACILITY

The code used for this calculation was RELAP5/MOD2 Cycle 36.04.

The input data was based on that used in previous LP-SB-1 (8) calculations. The splitting in two volumes of the break line was eliminated because it induces big break flow oscillations.

Figure 3 shows the final nodalization.

### 4. EXPERIMENT LP-SB-2

Experiment LP-SB-2 was conducted on July 14, 1983 in the LOFT facility at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

The LP-SB-2 experiment simulated a 7.6 cm (3 inch.) equivalent diameter break in the midplane of the hot leg pipe of a PWR plant. LP-SB-2 was one of a pair of experiments aimed to address the effects of early and delayed pump trip on system behaviour. The primary coolant pumps were tripped early in experiment LP-SB-1 and were allowed to operate until tripped when the primary system pressure had decreased to 3.16 MPa in this experiment.

A detailed description of the experiment is found in (2).

#### 4.1 Steady state calculations

To accelerate the achievement of steady-state conditions the following variables were controlled.

- (i) Liquid level in the "downcomer" of the steam generator.
- (ii) Primary mass flow.
- (iii) Liquid level in the pressurizer.

In addition the upper part of the pressurizer was connected to a dummy volume to maintain the desired pressure in the primary side.

Under this situation the code achieved steady-state conditions in 191 secs. Then a calculation without controls for 25 secs was carried out to demonstrate that a true steady state had been reached. These stationary state conditions are compared with the initial conditions of the plant in Table 1. The Figures 4 - 7 show significant parameters during the null transient.

#### 4.2 Transient boundary conditions

##### 4.2.1 Decay Heat Data

Reactor power after scram was specified by means of a table. During the first 2 seconds of the transient, data were taken from the RELAP5/MOD1 input deck used for the pretest prediction of LP-SB-2 (3). After that, data contained in (4) were used until the end of the transient.



#### 4.2.2 Pumps injection flow

The pumps injection flow was simulated assuming a constant flow of 0.0475 l/s, to each pump (2,5).

#### 4.2.3 Auxiliary Feedwater Flow

An auxiliary feedwater flow of 0.5 l/s (5) was manually initiated at 63.8 seconds and turned off at 1864. seconds.

#### 4.2.4 High Pressure Injection System

The HPIS was effective in experiment LP-SB-2 when the intact loop hot leg pressure had fallen to 7.99 MPa (2).

#### 4.2.5 Secondary Side Steam Control Valve

Descriptive data of the steam bypass valve were not available. Its function was assumed by the steam control valve. After 80 seconds it was latched closed to a flow area of 0.0925% of its fully opened value, throughout the transient.

#### 4.2.6 Operational setpoints

The operational setpoints measured during the experiment, and those used in the RELAP5/MOD2 calculation are given in table 2.(2)

### 5. POST TEST CALCULATION

The calculation was run for 2500 secs. This was considered to be sufficient to obtain the most significant data. Table 3 shows the event chronology.

#### 5.1 Code Performance

Two thousand and five hundred seconds of transient required about 230,000 cpu seconds (Fig. 8). This corresponds to a cpu/real time ratio of about 92. The user-specified minimum allowable time step throughout the calculation was 1.E-7 seconds and the maximum time step was set to 0.05 seconds. The code used the maximum value through the whole transient (Fig. 9).

The model consisted of 115 hydrodynamic volumes, 121 junctions and 122 heat structures with 658 mesh points.

The grid time for this run was 40. ms per volume per advancement.

#### 5.2 Chronology of events

The predicted timing of significant events is compared with measurements during the LP-SB-2 transient in Table 3.

The opening of the valve in the ILHL break line was the beginning of the transient.

The reactor scram occurred 1.6 seconds later than in the experiment.

One second after the reactor scram, closure of steam control valve was initiated. Isolation of the main feedwater took 2.5 seconds.

In our simulation, the main steam control valve assumed also the function of the steam bypass valve. It was fully closed at 17.8 seconds, 3 seconds later than in the experiment, and then was let to reopen at around 24 seconds (Fig. 10). The valve stem position was -4% of the fully opened value. After 80 seconds this valve was latched closed to a minimum flow area of 0.0925% of its fully opened value trying to simulate the experimental leakage of this valve.

The HPIS initiated at 38 sec., 4 seconds before than in the experiment.

The break line reached saturated conditions at 50 seconds. This marks the end of subcooled blowdown.(Fig. 11)

The auxiliary feedwater was initiated at 65.4 seconds and turned off at 1865 seconds.

The pumps degraded later (662 sec. vs. 582 sec.) and less sharply than in the experiment.

In the experiment, the break line was uncovered at -1192 sec. That did not appear in the simulation. From then on the break mass flow rate was overpredicted.

Around 1700 seconds the primary coolant system pressure fell bellow the secondary system pressure (1290 seconds in the experiment). (Fig. 12)

The minimum primary mass inventory was estimated to be reached at between 2100 and 2500 seconds in the experiment. At this time in the simulation, the break mass flow rate was still -0.5 kg/sec. higher than the sum of HPIS and pumps injection mass flow rates.

The pumps trip set-point was not reached in the simulation. The pumps were tripped at 2853 sec in the experiment.

### 5.3 Secondary side pressure

The closure of the steam control valve produced an increase on the secondary side pressure. This short-term behaviour was very well reproduced in the calculation (Fig. 13). Globally, the pressure was slightly underpredicted (Fig 14). Due to the secondary role played by the steam generator this did not affect significantly the results.

The energy removal from the steam generator was through the steam valve leakage (around  $3 \times 10^{-2}$  kg/sec. from 500 seconds on ) and heat losses through the shell. The minimum flow area of the main

steam valve was restricted to 0.0925% of its fully-open value.

#### 5.4 Primary side pressure

The primary pressure was in agreement with the experiment during the subcooled blowdown (-50 seconds) (Fig. 15). The rate of depressurisation was approximately well predicted. However, the simulation did not account for the increase in the rate of depressurisation due to the break uncovering. The result was that primary pressure was overpredicted from 1400 seconds on.

#### 5.5 Temperatures

The subcooled blowdown ended at -50 sec. (Fig. 11) both in the experiment and the calculation. From then on the loop temperatures (fig. 16 and 17) followed the pressure trend, being well reproduced until the break uncovering, and overpredicted afterwards. The maximum in the cold leg temperature at -100 (likely due to the heat transfer degradation in the steam generator) was not reproduced in the calculation.

The pressurizer temperature history shows (fig. 18) a sharp initial decrease. After the emptying of the component, around 33 seconds, the steam became superheated and its temperature began to increase. That is due to the radiative heat transfer from the pressurizer wall.

#### 5.6 Density distribution

The calculation showed a very uniform voiding rate in the intact loop (fig. 19 and 20). The calculated loop densities decreased almost linearly through the transient (fig. 21, 22 and 23), and were underpredicted from 1500. sec. on, when loop flow stagnated as quoted in 5.8 .

The core was always covered by a two phase mixture (fig. 24) with a vapour quality continuously increasing.

#### 5.7 Break line density and break mass flow rate

The break line density was overpredicted through the whole transient (fig. 25). This fact has been reported in other LP-SB-2 simulations with RELAP5/MOD2 (6,7). The low measured density may be caused by strong flashing in the break pipe, bubble concentration at the break piping inlet or intensive vapor pull through (2).

The code offtake model was active from -2100. sec. on, when the hot leg flow became stratified. So the hot leg and break line void fractions were coincident until that time (fig. 26).

The break mass flow rate (fig. 27) was well reproduced until the break uncovering. As stated in (2) the subcooled blowdown ended at a break mass flow rate of about 4 kg/s with a smooth transition into saturated break flow. The calculated blowdown ended at about the

same time but abruptly and at a break mass flow rate of -3kg/s. The code did not account for break uncover and after 1200 sec. overpredicted the break mass flow rate in -40% .

The break flow was choked from the beginning of the transient. The break line density overprediction implies that the critical velocity was basically underpredicted by the code.

### 5.8 Loop flow

Pumps behaviour played a very important role in the loop flow through the whole transient.

The two phase head multipliers used in the calculation were those from L3-6 data. Both pumps degraded at 662 sec., 80 sec. later than in the experiment, and in a smoother way (Fig. 28). The use of head multipliers derived from (9) should enhance this result. A detailed study about pumps behaviour will be found in (6).

Figures 29 to 32 show measured and calculated coolant velocities in the hot leg, cold leg, core inlet and core outlet respectively. It can be seen that around 1300 sec. the flow through the core ceased. The loop flow stopped at about 2000 sec. The simulation did not show flow stagnation. Some suggestions to justify this behaviour are given in (7).

Hot leg flow stratified between 1100 and 1400 sec. Figure 33 shows flow regimes found by the code. Stratification happened at -2100 sec. in the calculation. The code switched from bubbly to slug flow when the void fraction reached 0.5 and from slug to annular-mist for  $\alpha = 0.8$ .

### 5.9 Primary system mass inventory

Figure 34 compares the measured and calculated primary system mass inventory. Although not accurately known from the experimental data, minimum primary mass inventory was estimated to have occurred between 2100 and 2500 seconds. Until -1900 sec. the calculated mass was into the experimental uncertainty band. In the lapse between 1900 and the end of the calculation the mass was under the lower margin.

The experimental difference between the HPIS plus pumps injection and the break mass flow rate is compared with the calculated one in Fig. 35. This balance was slightly overpredicted in the transition from subcooled to saturated break flow (50 to 400 sec.). After the break uncover, it was underpredicted.

The HPIS flow rate was well reproduced globally (Fig. 36).

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The major conclusions are:

- i) The two phase head multipliers used in the calculation caused that pumps degraded later and in a smoother way than in the experiment.
- ii) RELAP5/MOD2 failed to calculate onset of the stratified flow in the hot leg.
- iii) The code could not account for the liquid entrainment and vapor pull-through in the break tee due to the delayed detection of stratified flow conditions. So break uncovering was not detected and primary mass inventory was finally underpredicted.
- iv) RELAP5/MOD2 choked flow model underpredicted the break line velocities.

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TABLE 1

## INITIAL CONDITIONS FOR EXPERIMENT LP-SB-2

	MEASURED	CALCULATED
PRIMARY COOLANT SYSTEM		
Core $\Delta T$ (K)	18.6 $\pm$ 1.7	19.74
Hot leg pressure	14.95 $\pm$ 0.11	15.06
Cold leg temperature (K)	557.2 $\pm$ 1.5	558.98
Mass flow rate (kgs-1)	480.0 $\pm$ 3.2	480.01
REACTOR VESSEL		
Power level (MW)	49.1 $\pm$ 1.2	49.12
STEAM GENERATOR SECONDARY SIDE		
Liquid level (m)	3.13 $\pm$ 0.01	3.13
Water temperature (K)	539.5 $\pm$ 4.4	544.46
Pressure (MPa)	5.6 $\pm$ 0.09	5.6
Mass flow rate (kgs-1)	26.7 $\pm$ 0.8	25.75
PRESSURIZER		
Liquid volume (m3)	0.6462 $\pm$ 0.002	0.590
Steam volume (m3)	0.356 $\pm$ 0.002	0.397
Water temperature (K)	615.8 $\pm$ 8.2	615.16
Pressure (MPa)	15.08 $\pm$ 0.16	15.08
Liquid level (m)	1.109 $\pm$ 0.003	1.108
BROKEN LOOP		
Cold leg temperature (K)	555.9 $\pm$ 6.3	558.02

TABLE 2

## OPERATIONAL SETPOINTS FOR EXPERIMENT LP-SB-2

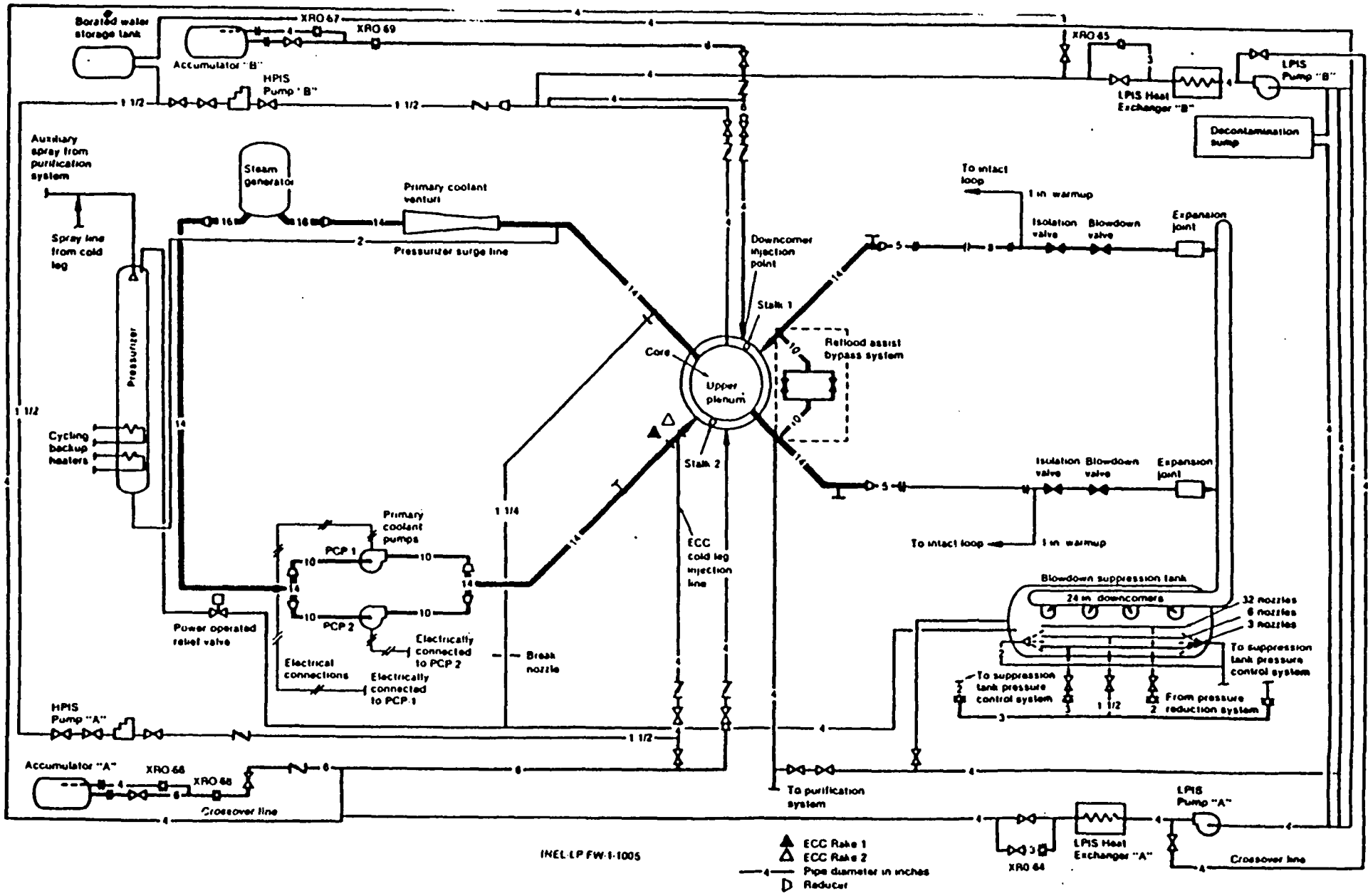
Action	Reference	Measured Setpoint
Small-break valve Opened	Time	0.
Reactor scrammed	ILHL pressure (MPa)	14.28± 0.02
Main feedwater Shut off	ILHL pressure (MPa)	14.28± 0.02
Main steam control valve started to close	Time after reactor scram (seconds)	1.0± 0.2
Primary coolant pumps tripped	ILHL pressure (MPa)	3.161±0.018
HPIS Flow) initiated	ILHL pressure (MPa)	8.07± 0.05
Auxiliary feed-water initiated	Time after reactor scram (seconds)	62.± 0.2
Auxiliary feed-water terminated	Time after reactor scram (seconds)	1862.2± 0.3



TABLE 3  
LP-SB-2 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

EVENT	PLANT	RELAP5
	(SECONDS)	
Small-break valve opened	0.0	0.0
Reactor scramed	1.8 ±0.05	3.4
Main feedwater shut off	1.8 ±0.2	3.4
Main steam control valve started to close	2.8 ±0.2	4.4
Main feedwater isolated	4.3 ±0.05	5.8
Main steam control valve fully closed	14.8 ±0.2	17.8
Pressurizer liquid level below indicating range	36.4±0.2	32.
HPIS flow initiated	42.4±0.2	38.0
Subcooled blowdown ended	50.2±1.0	50.
Auxiliary feedwater initiated	63.8±0.2	65.4
Pump two-phase performance degradation observed	582.2±0.2	662.
Break started to uncover	1192.5±2.5	950.*
Primary system pressure becomes less than secondary system pressure	1290.0±45.	1687.
Auxiliary feedwater shut off	1864.0±0.2	1865.0
HPIS flow rate exceeded break flow rate	2284.0±200.	
Primary coolant pumps tripped	2852.8±0.2	
Primary coolant pump 1 coastdown completed	2883.2±0.2	
Primary coolant pump 2 coastdown completed	2883.8±0.2	

-----  
\* Collapsed level under the HL pipe midplane



INEL LP FW-1-1005

- ▲ ECC Rake 1
- △ ECC Rake 2
- Pipe diameter in inches
- D Reducer

FIG. 1 LOFT piping schematic.

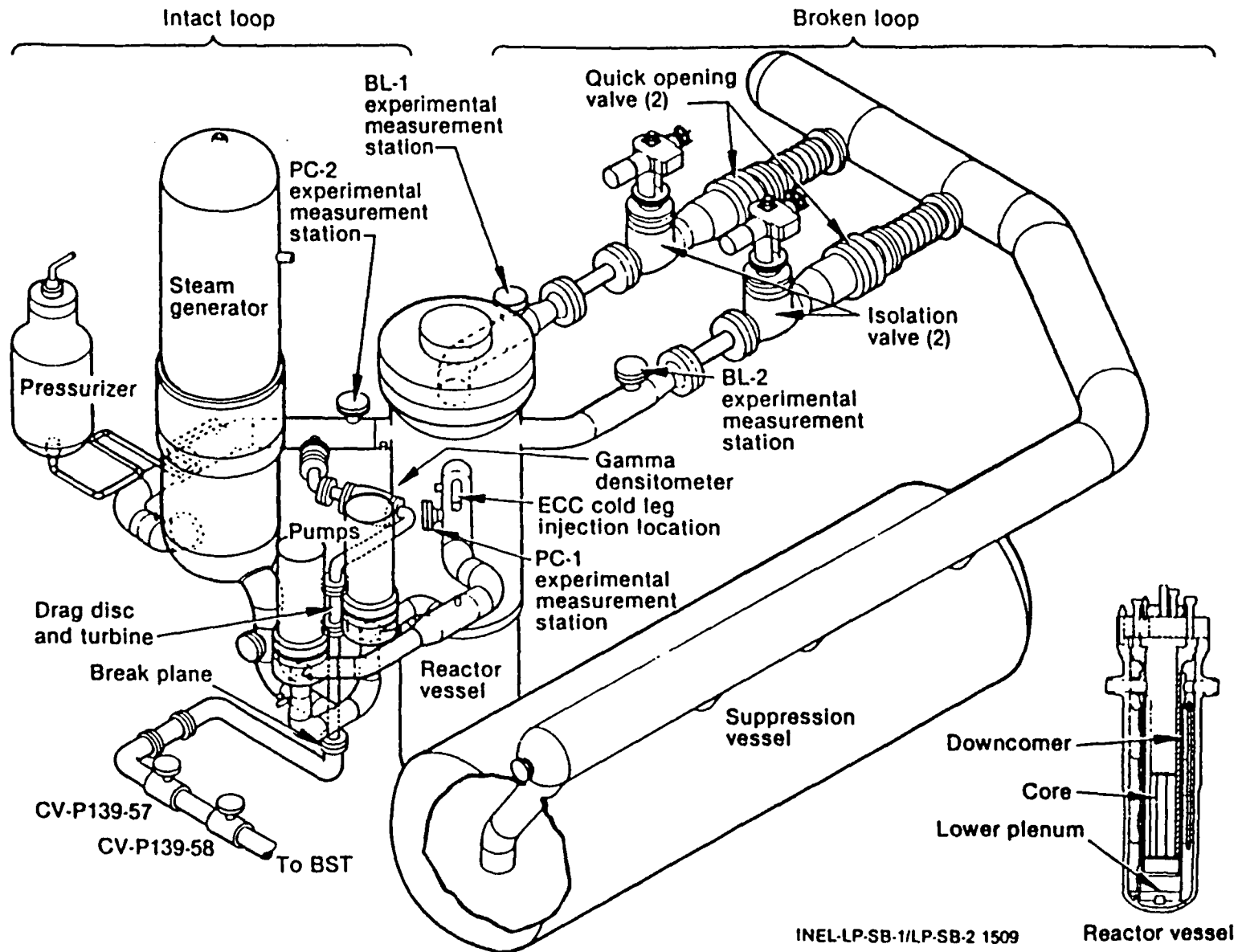
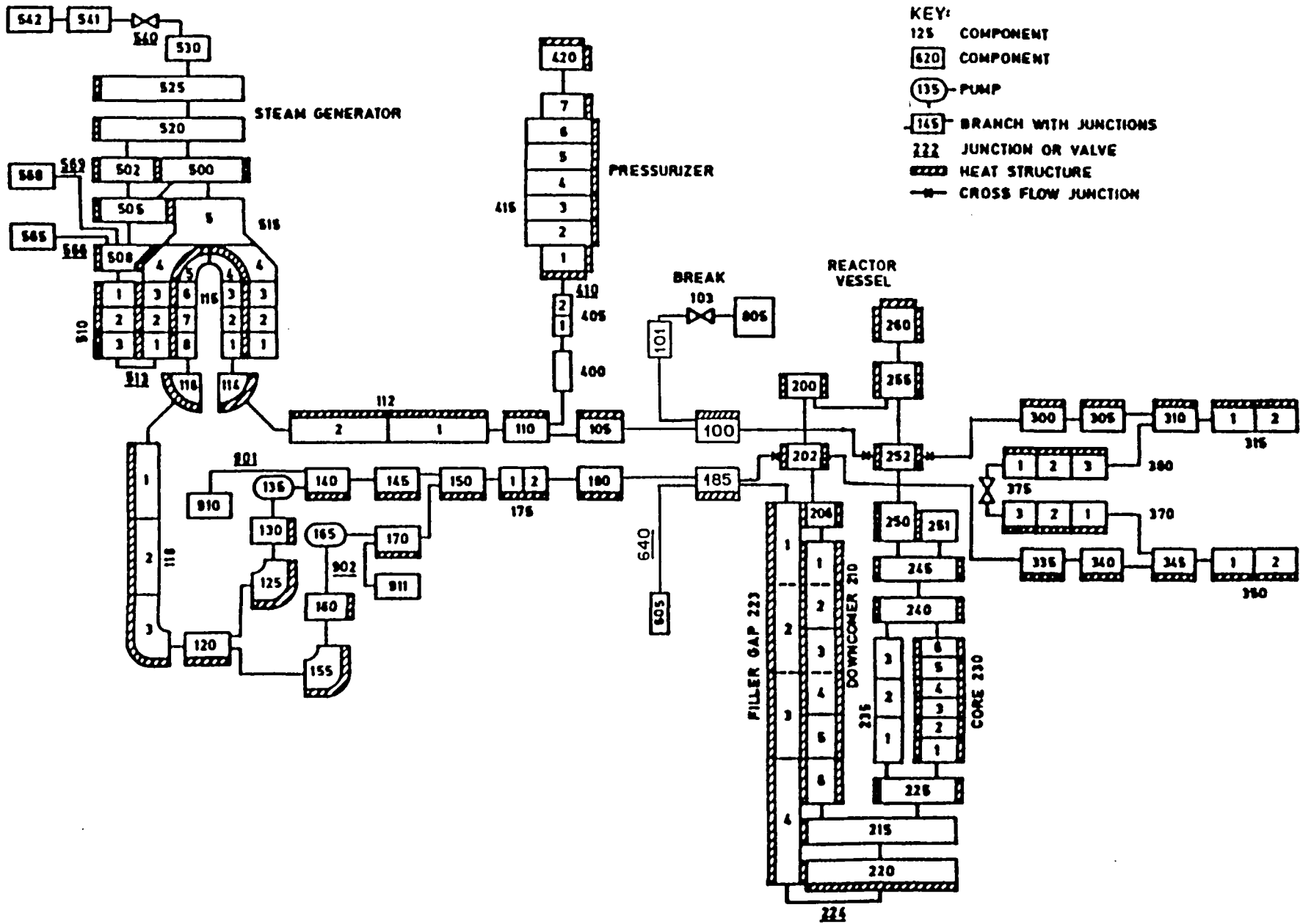
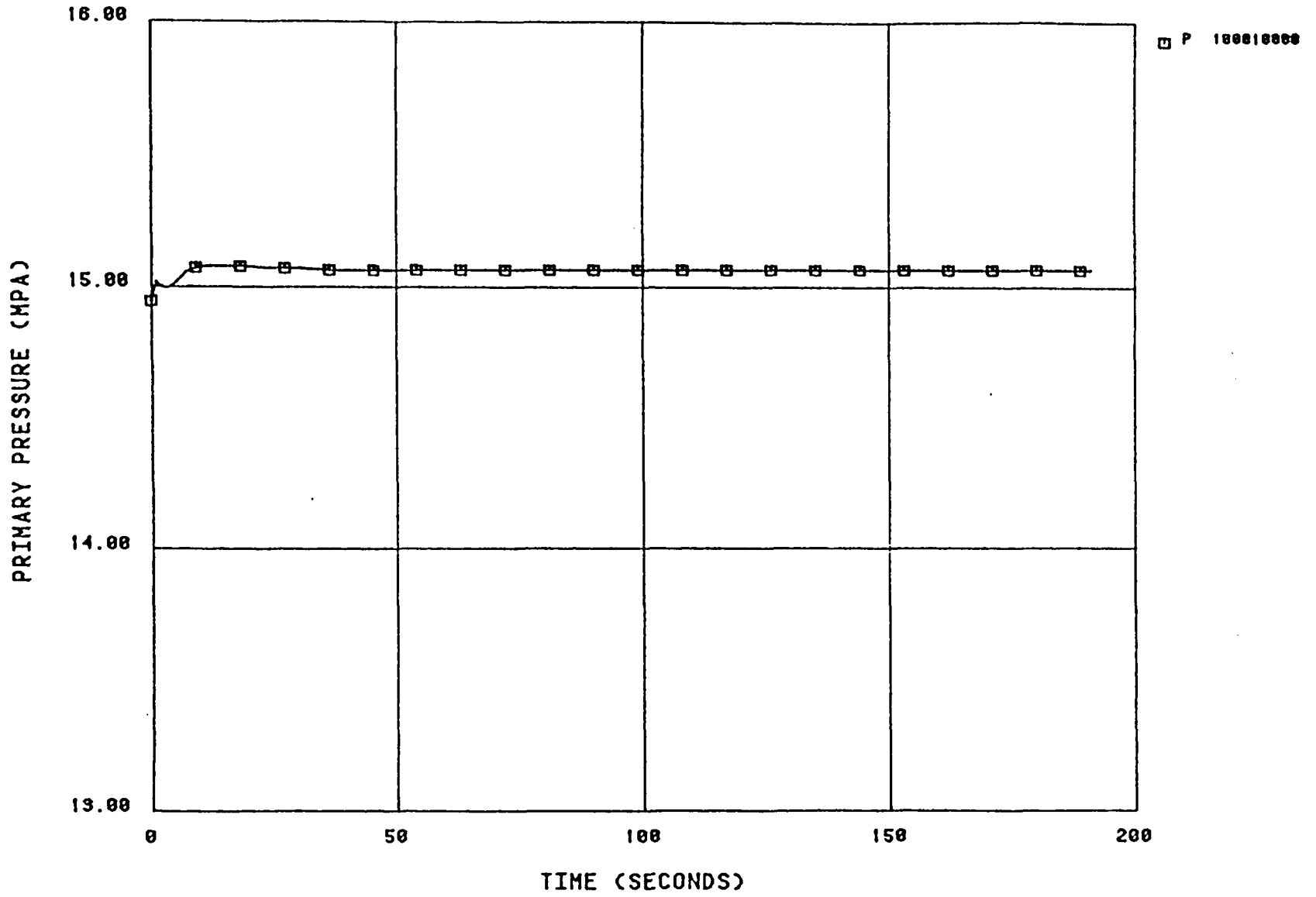


FIG. 2 Axonometric projection of the LOFT system configuration for Experiments LP-SB-1 and LP-SB-2.

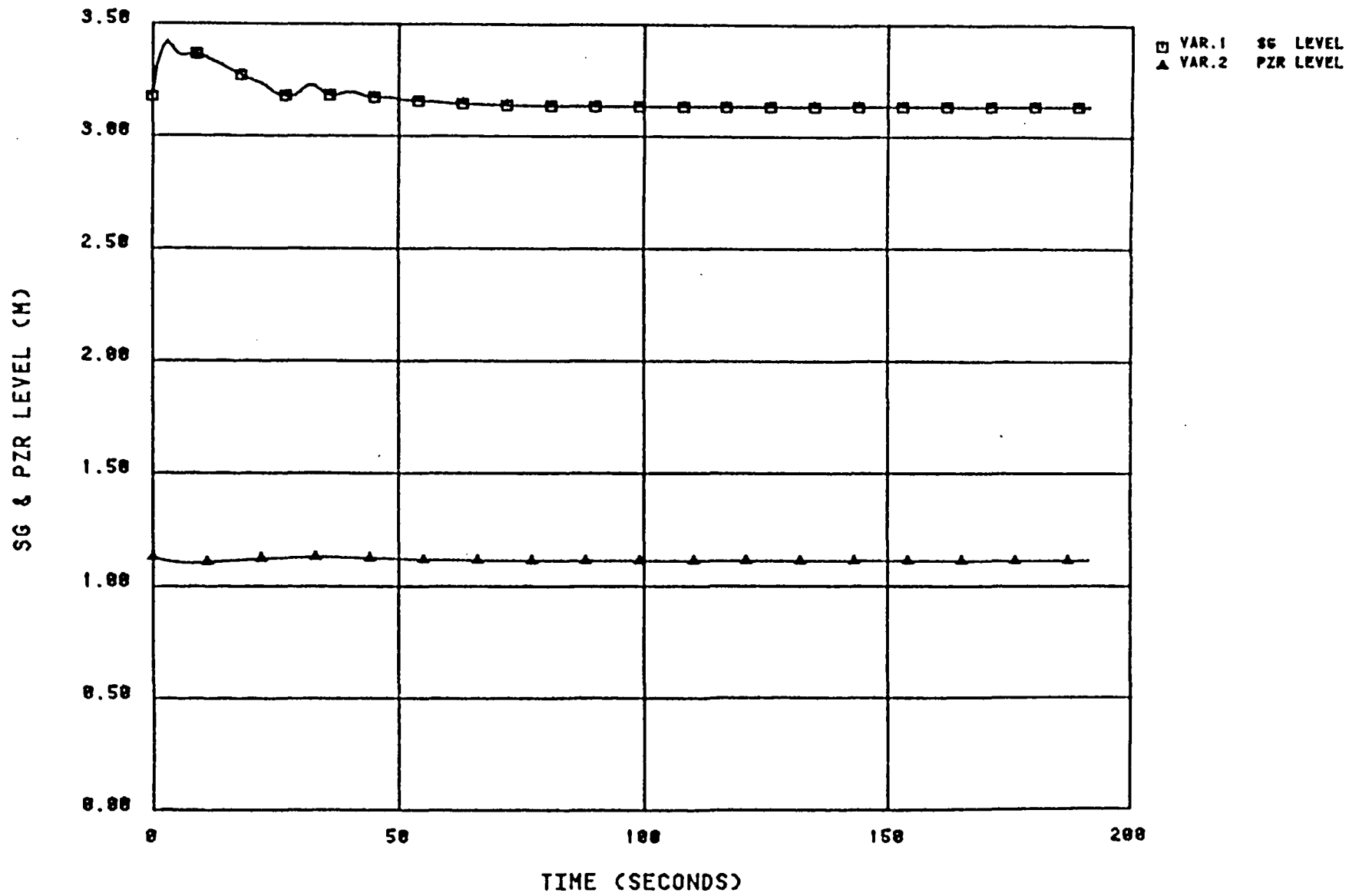
FIG. 3 RELAP 5 NODING DIAGRAM FOR LOFT LP-SB-2 CALCULATION





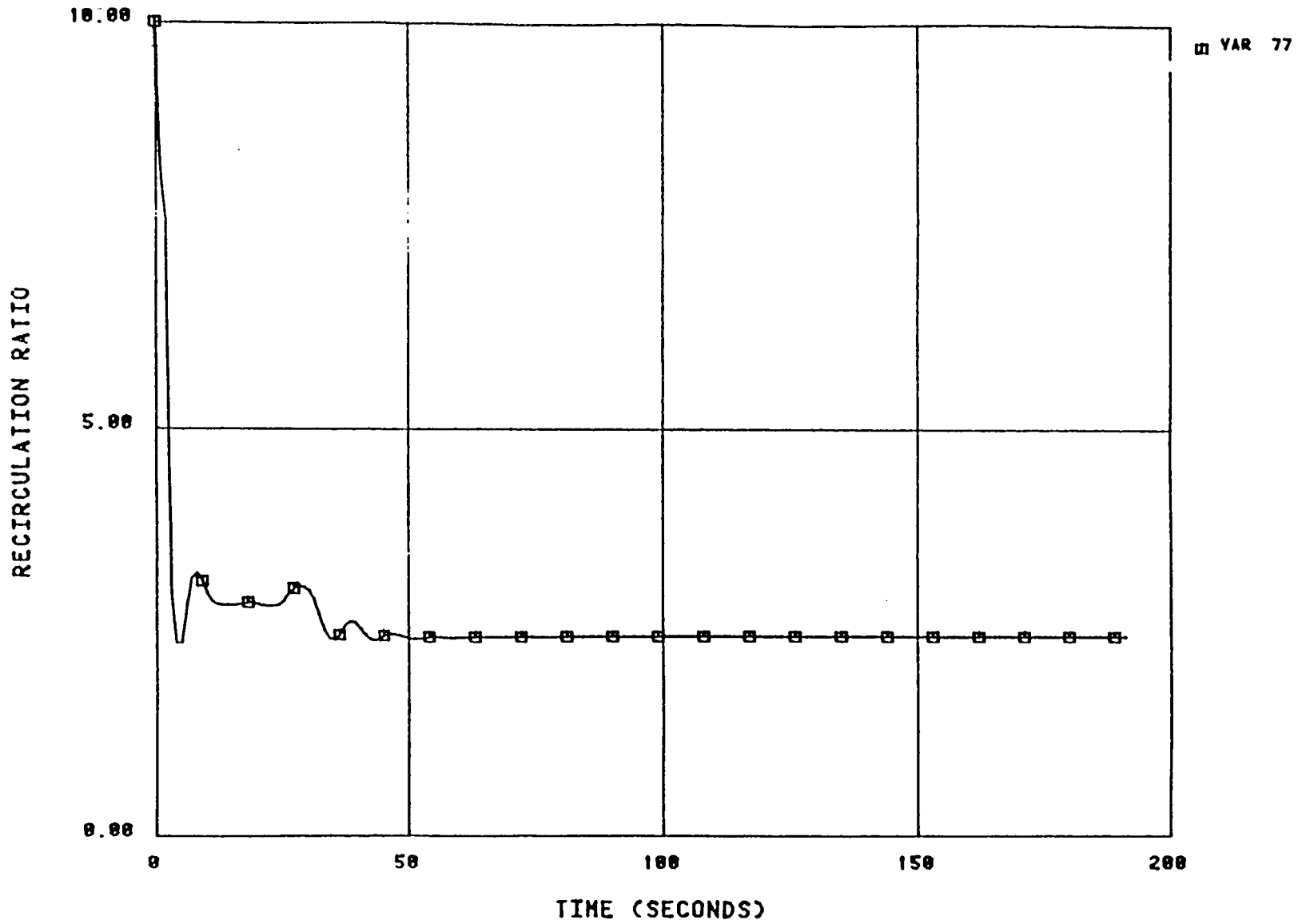
LP-SB-2 STEADY STATE

FIG. 4



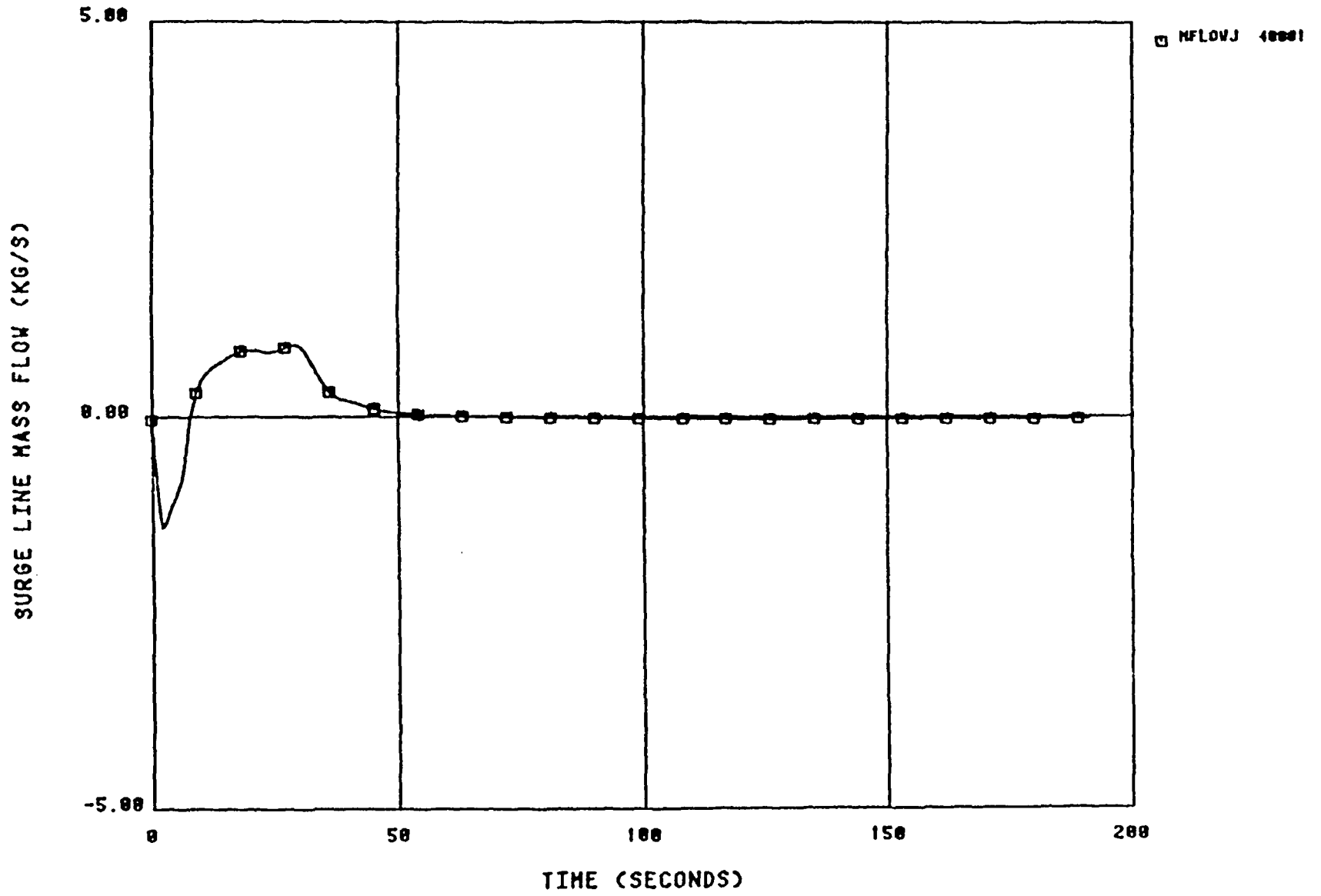
LP-SB-2 STEADY STATE

FIG. 5



LP-SB-2 STEADY STATE

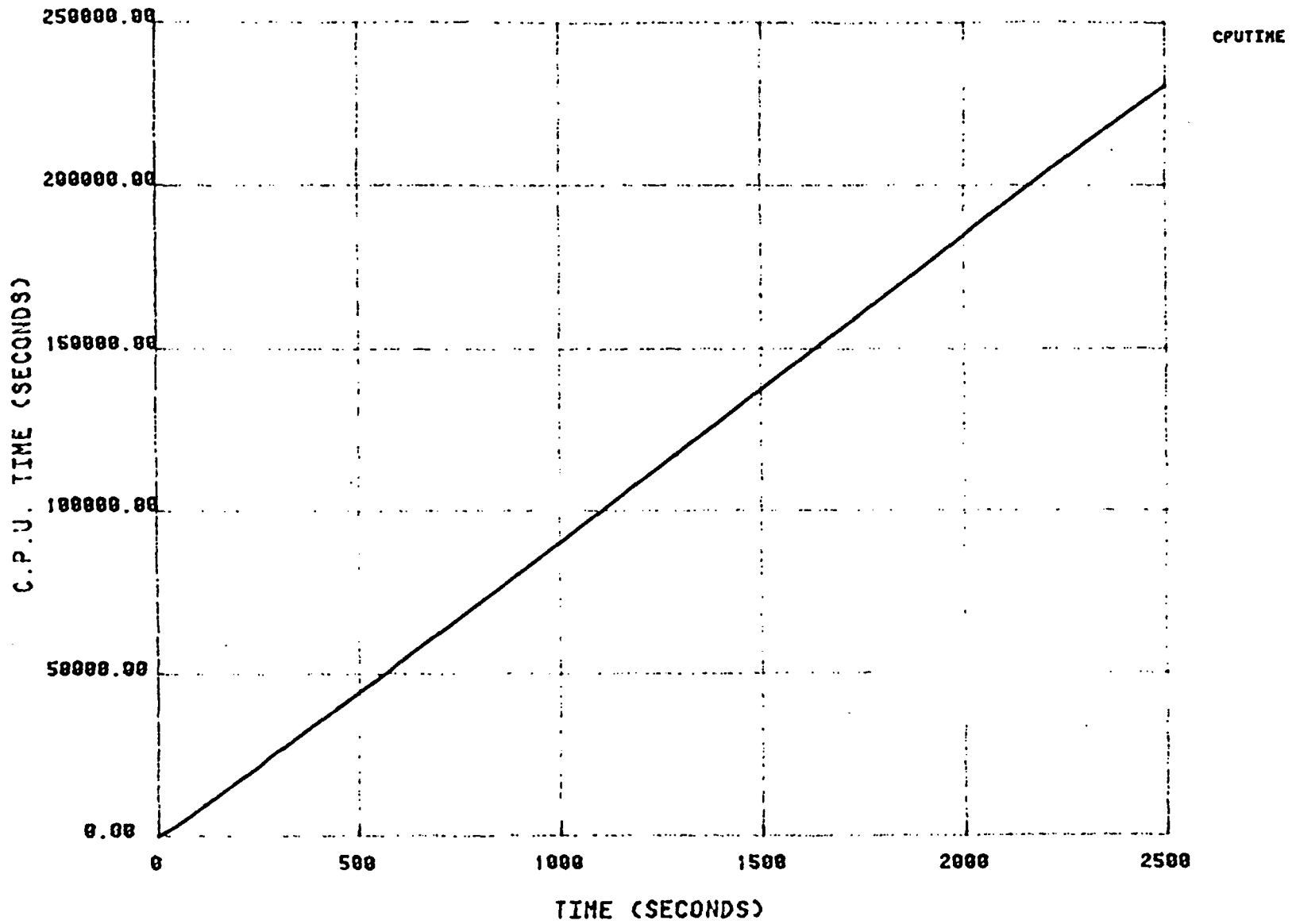
FIG. 6



LP-SB-2 STEADY STATE

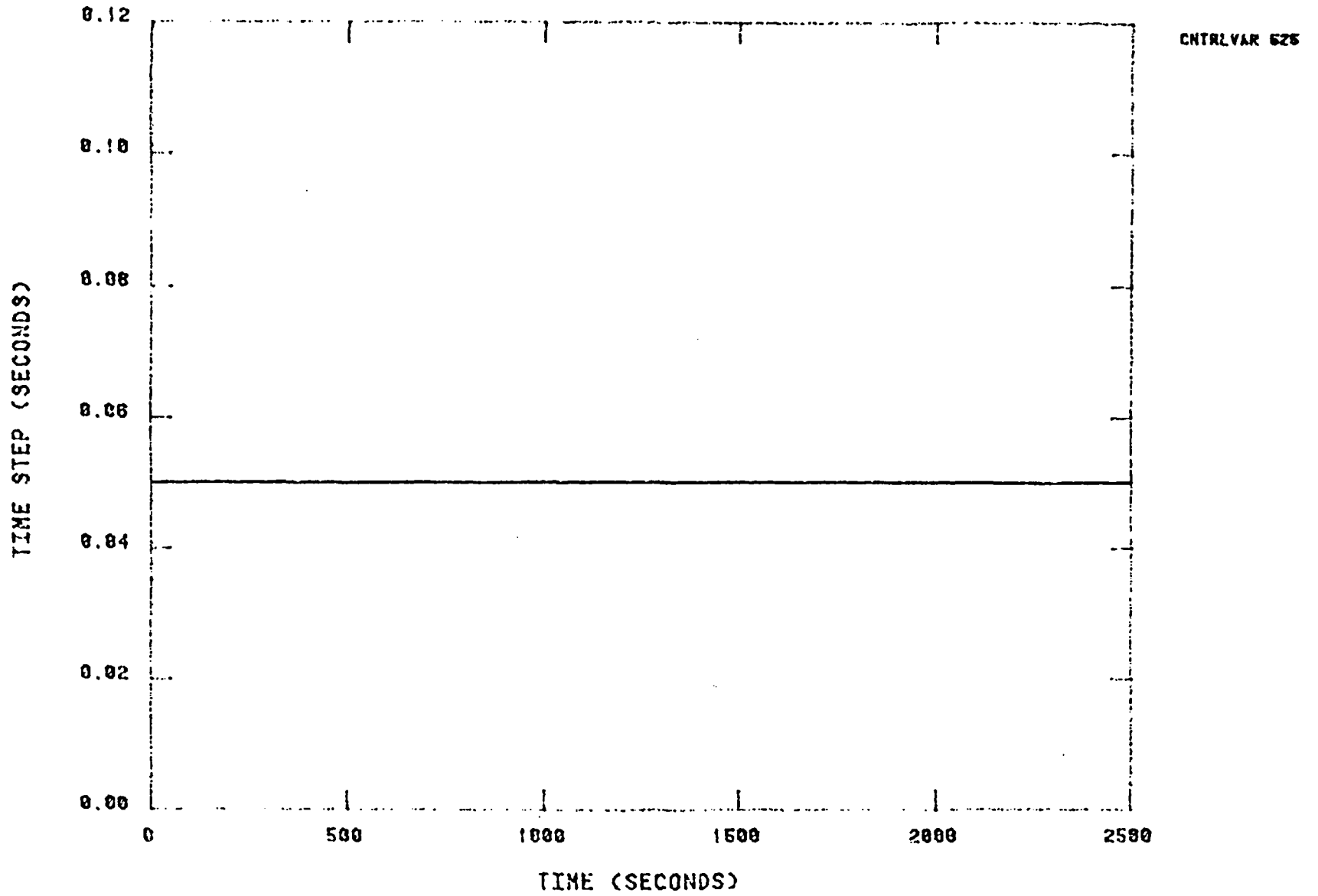
FIG. 7





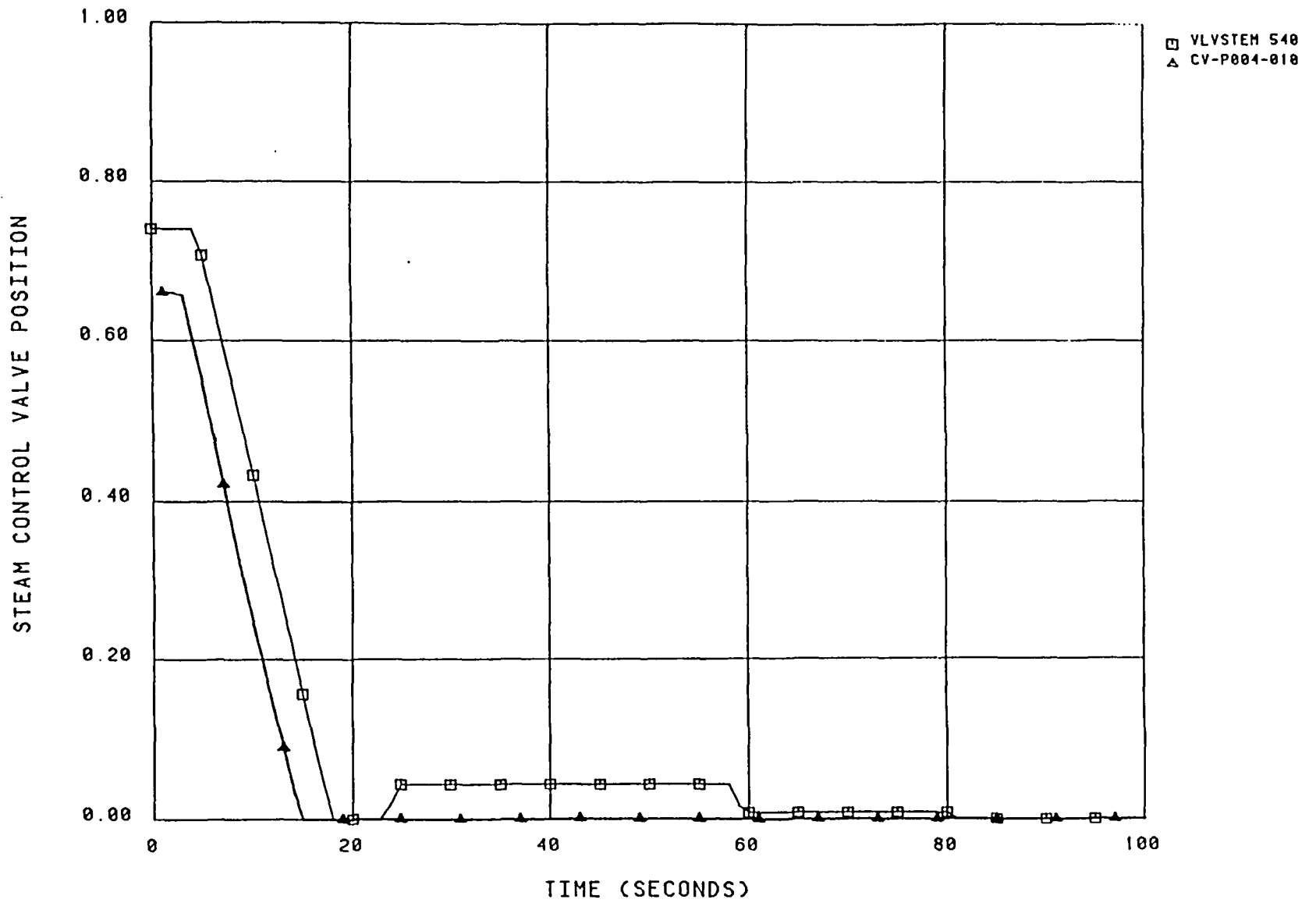
LP-SB-2.

FIG 8



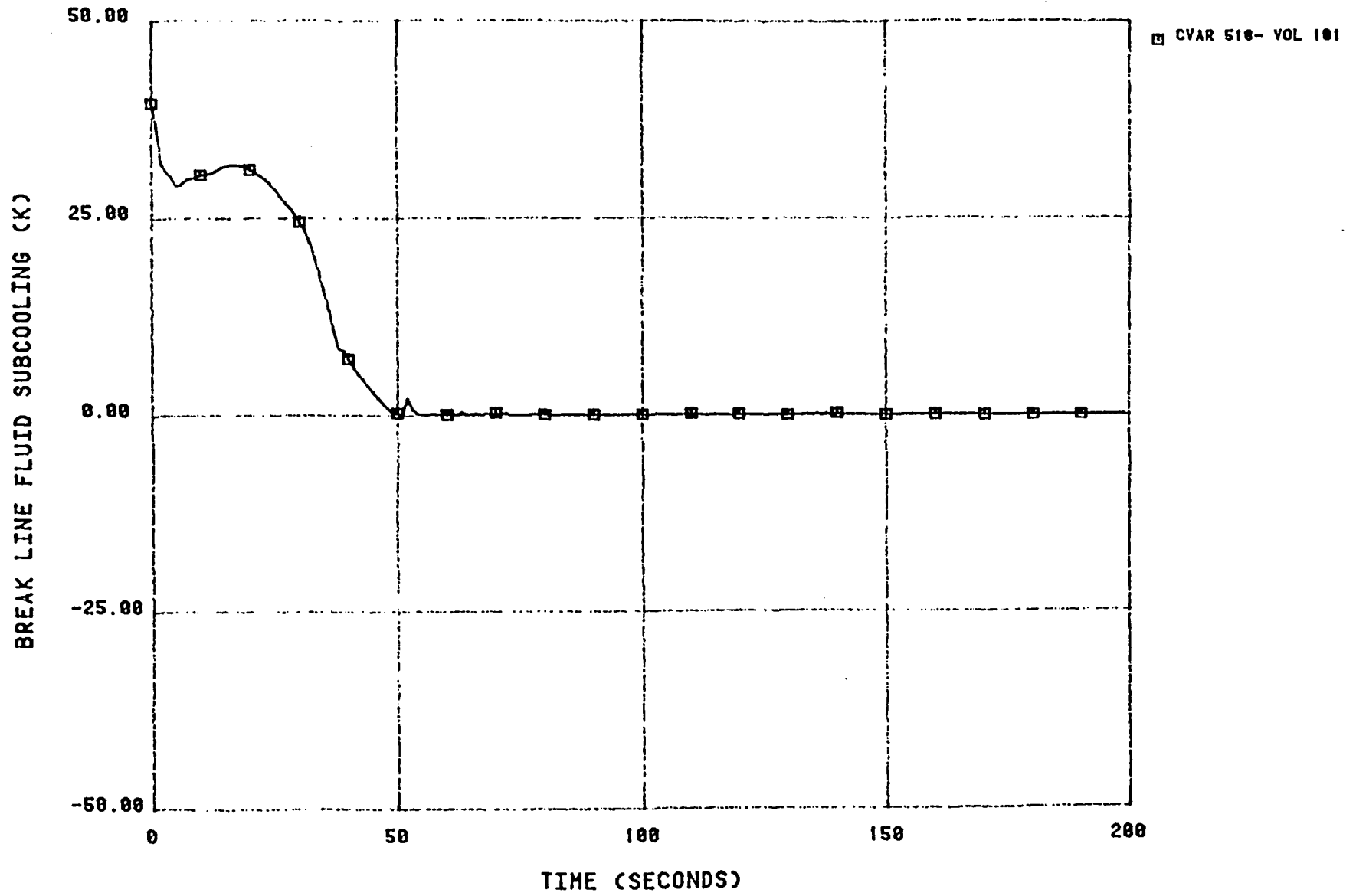
LP--SB--2.

FIG. 9



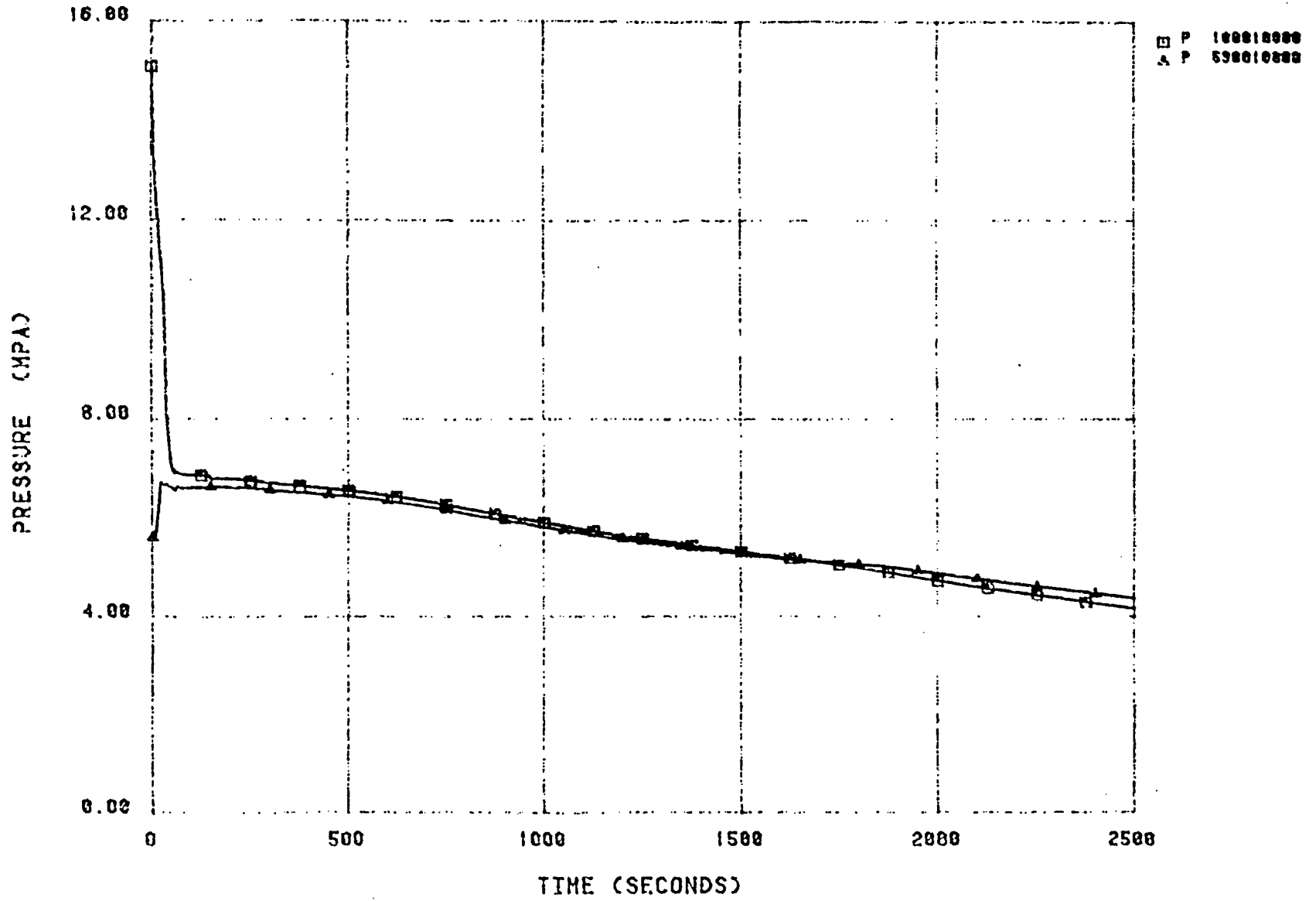
LP-SB-2

FIG. 10



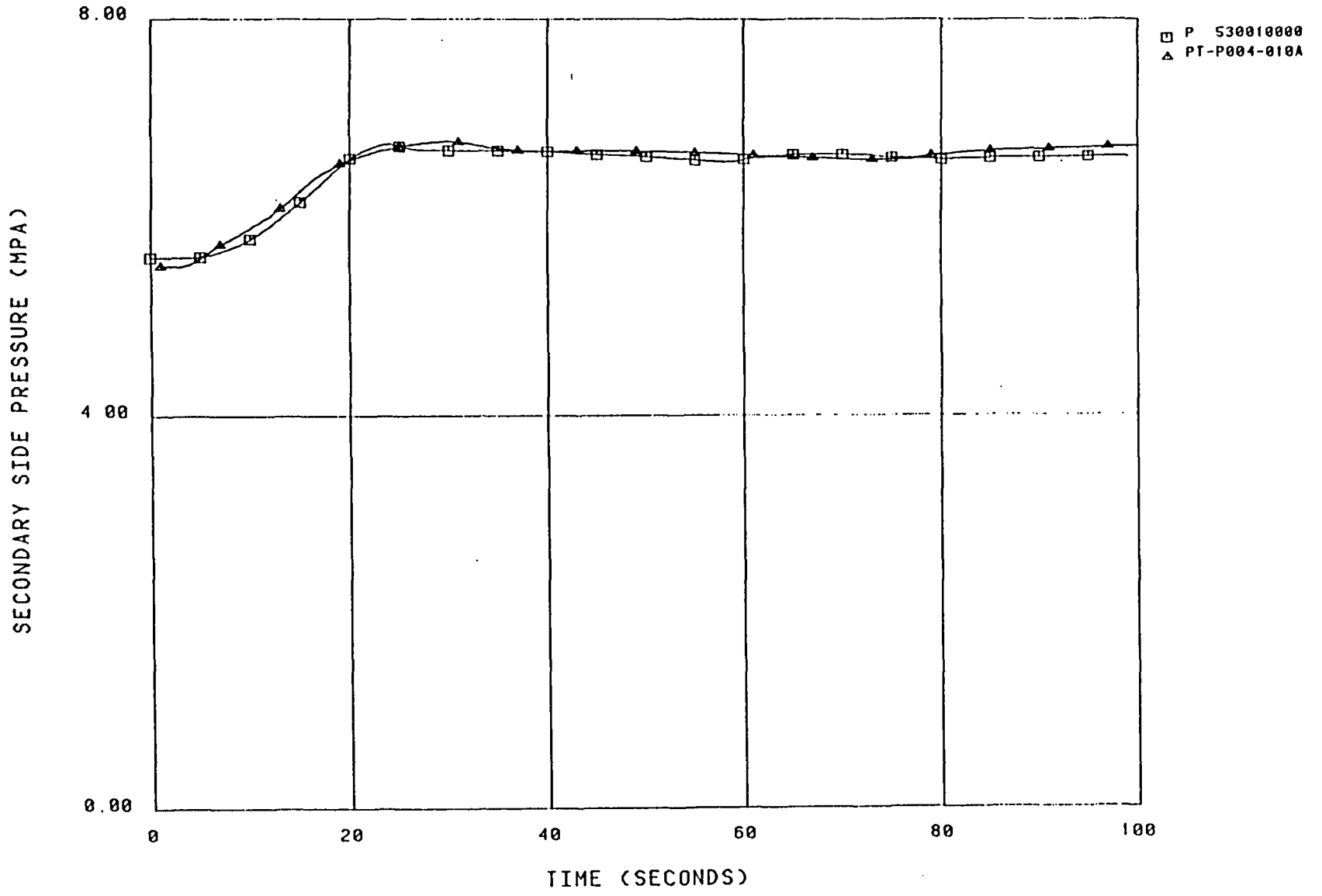
LP-SB-2.

FIG. 11



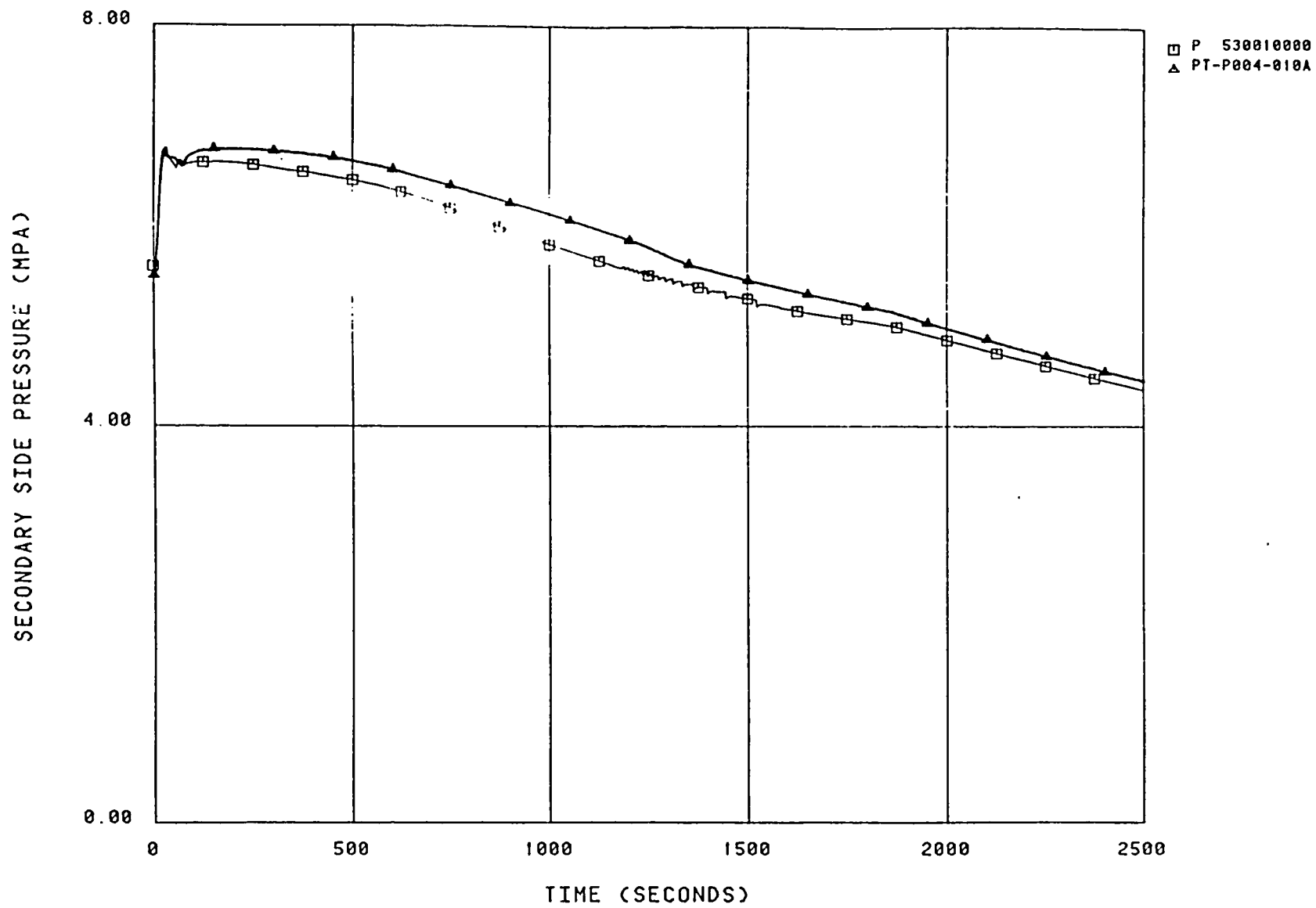
LP-SB-2.

FIG 12



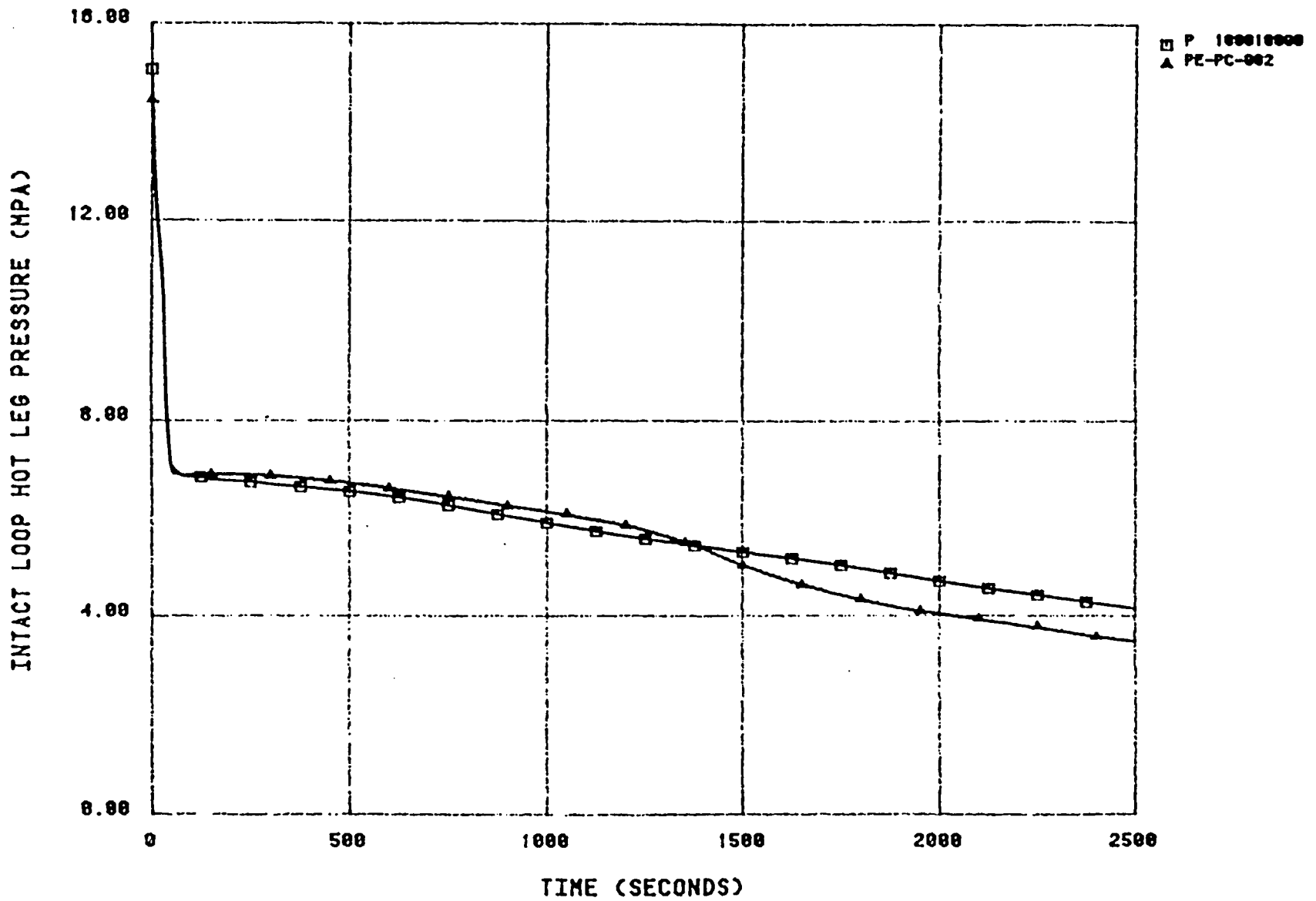
LP-SB-2

FIG. 13



LP-SB-2

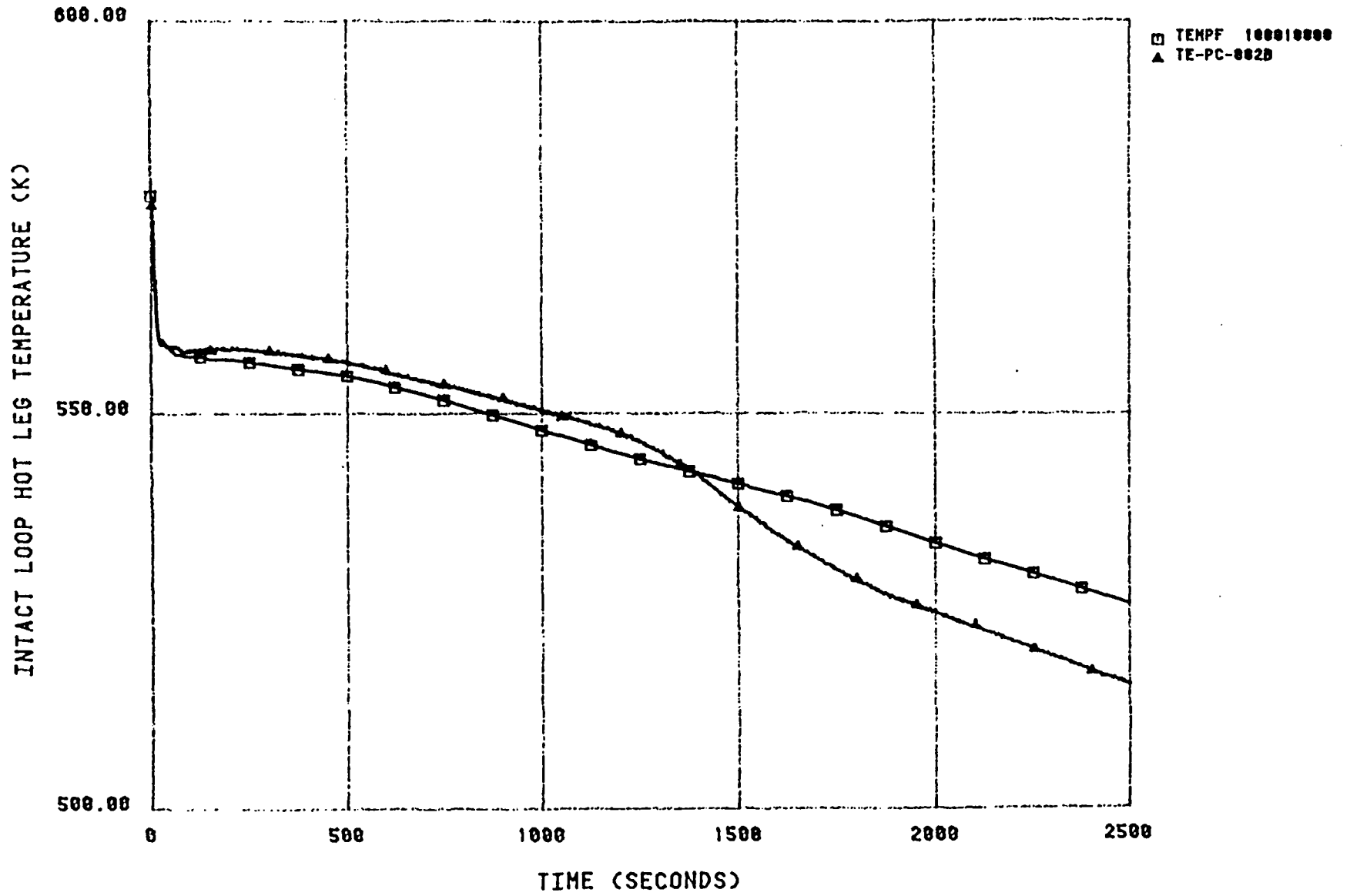
FIG. 14



LP-SB-2.

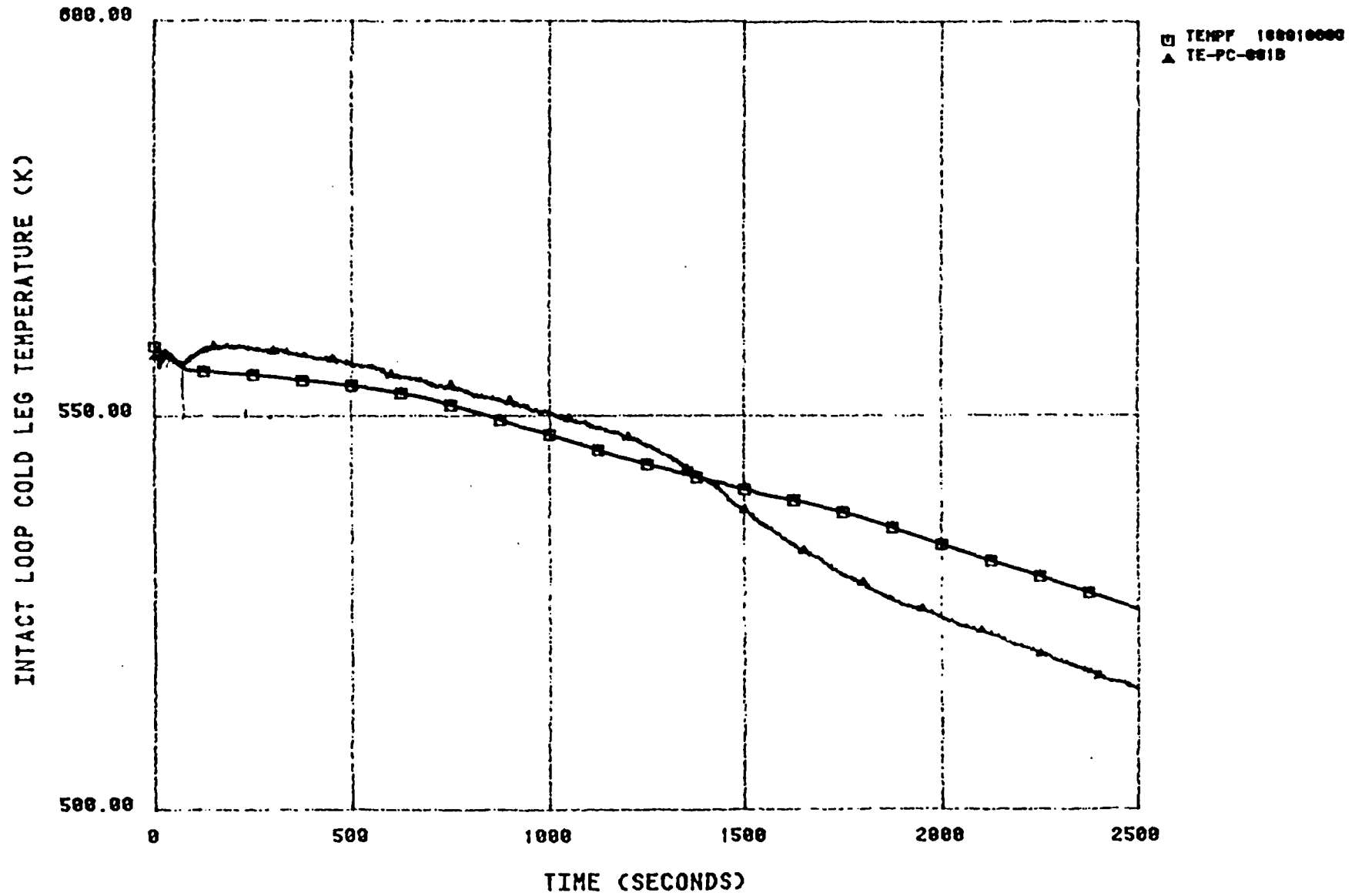
FIG. 15





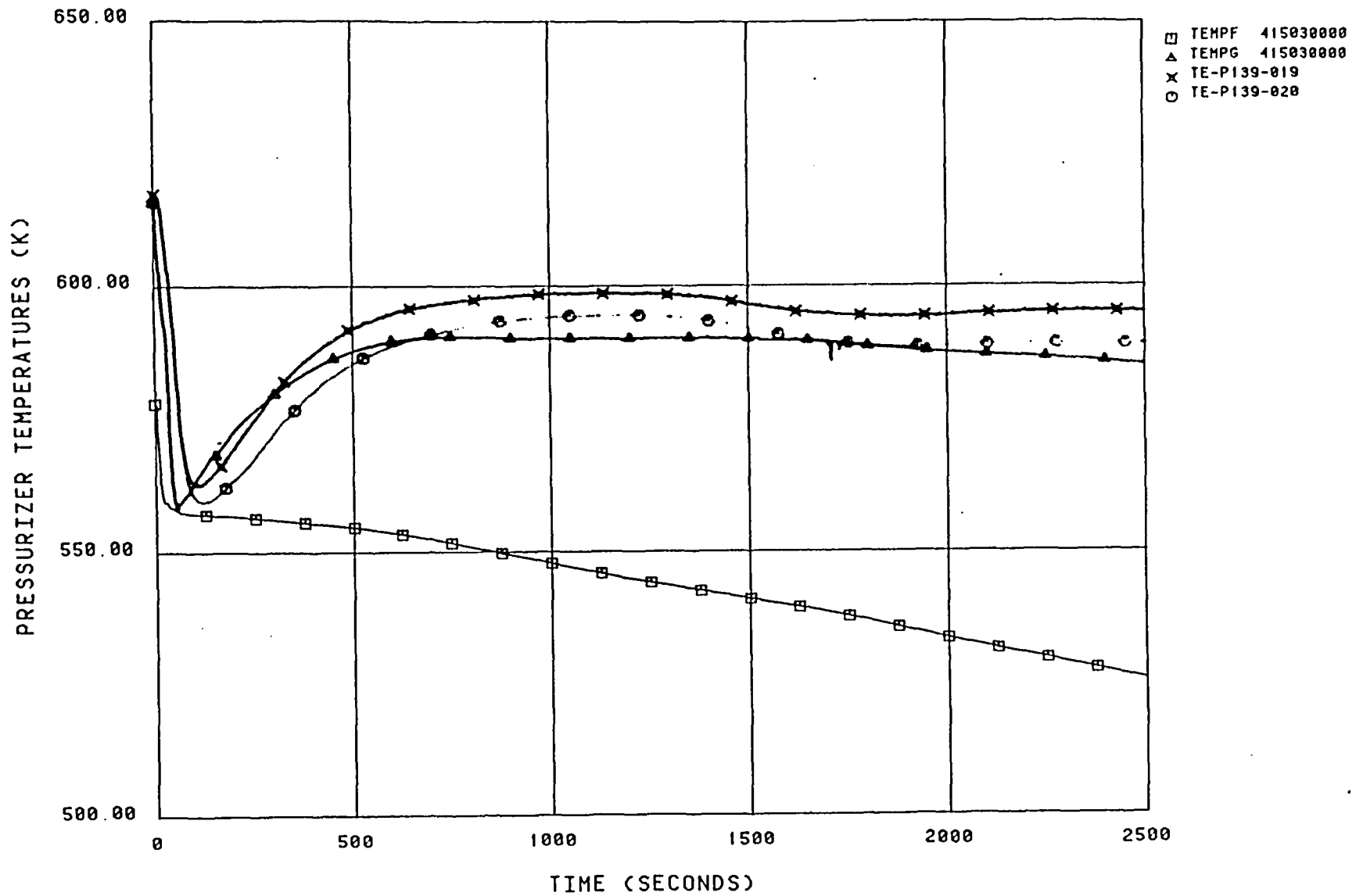
LP-SB-2.

FIG. 16



LP-SB-2.

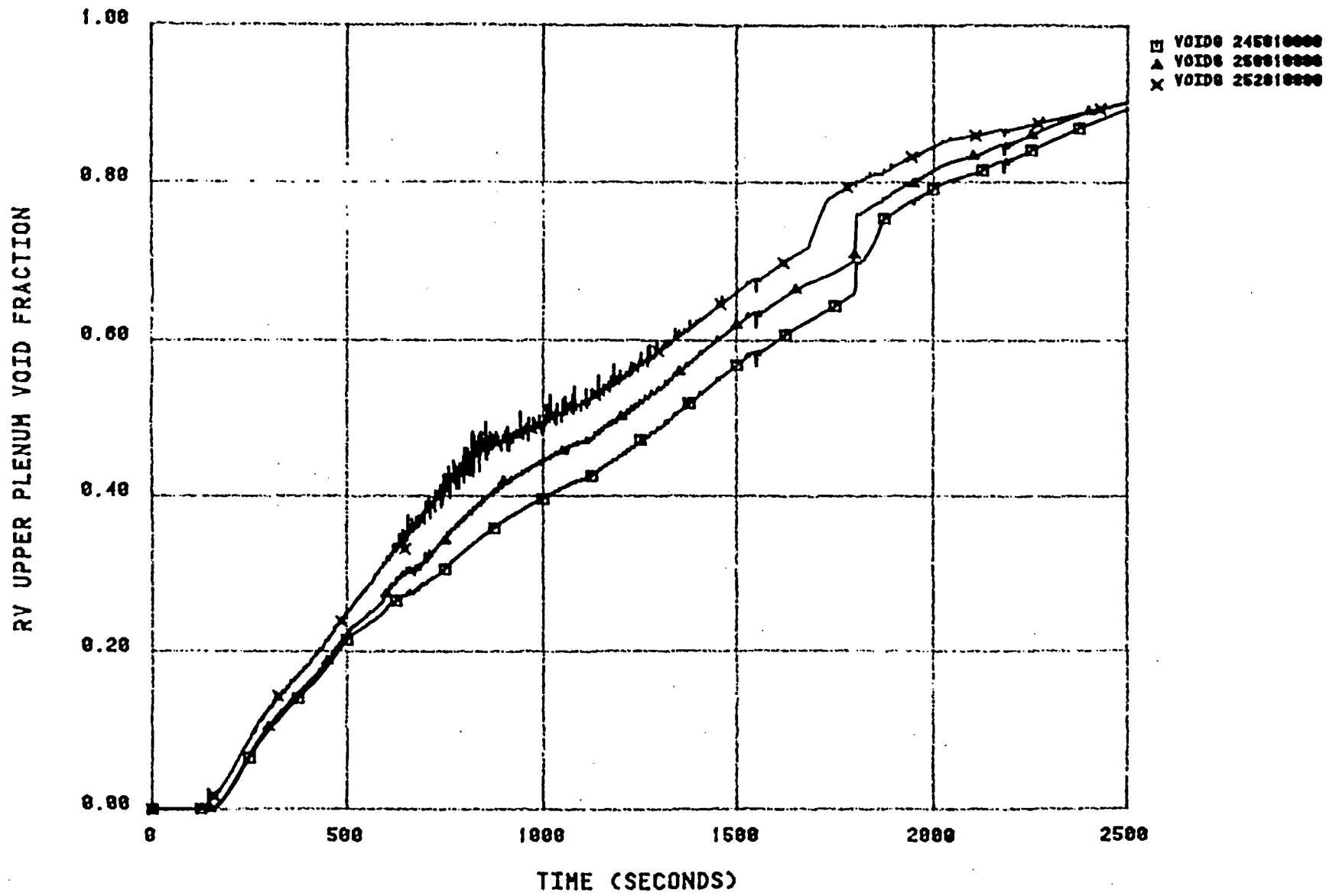
FIG. 17



LP-SB-2

FIG. 18

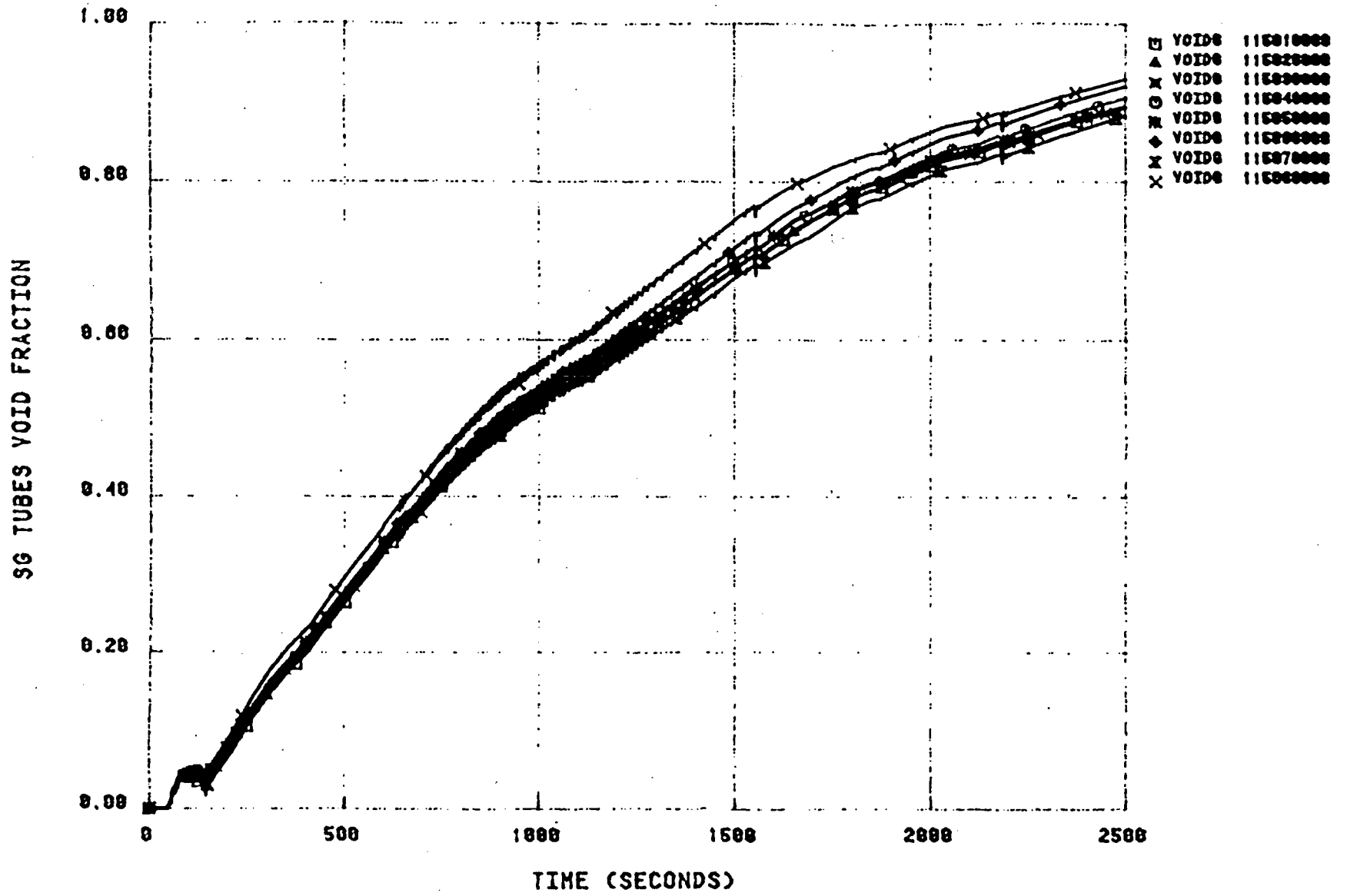
0E



LP-SB-2.

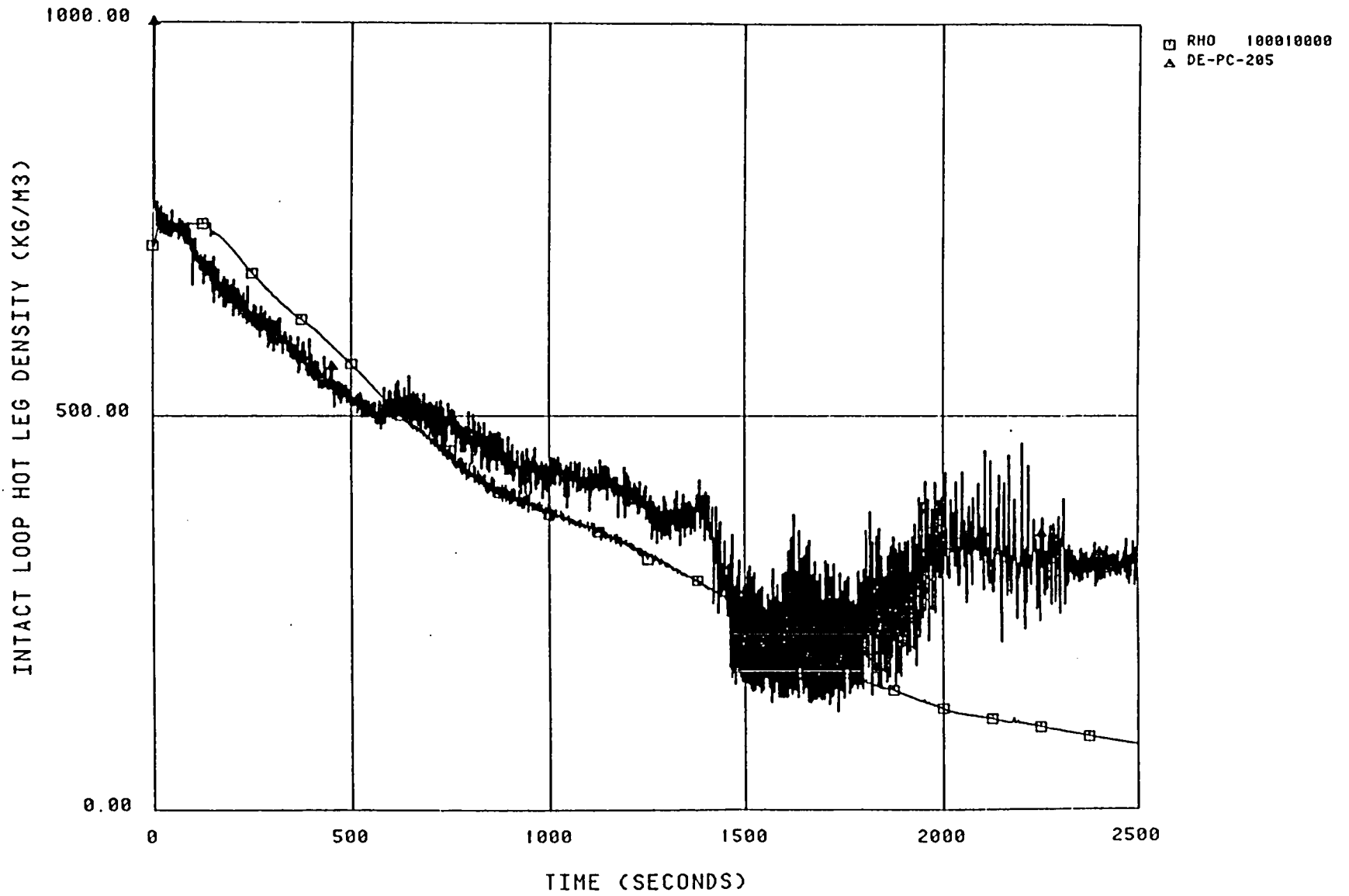
FIG. 19

1E



LP-SB-2.

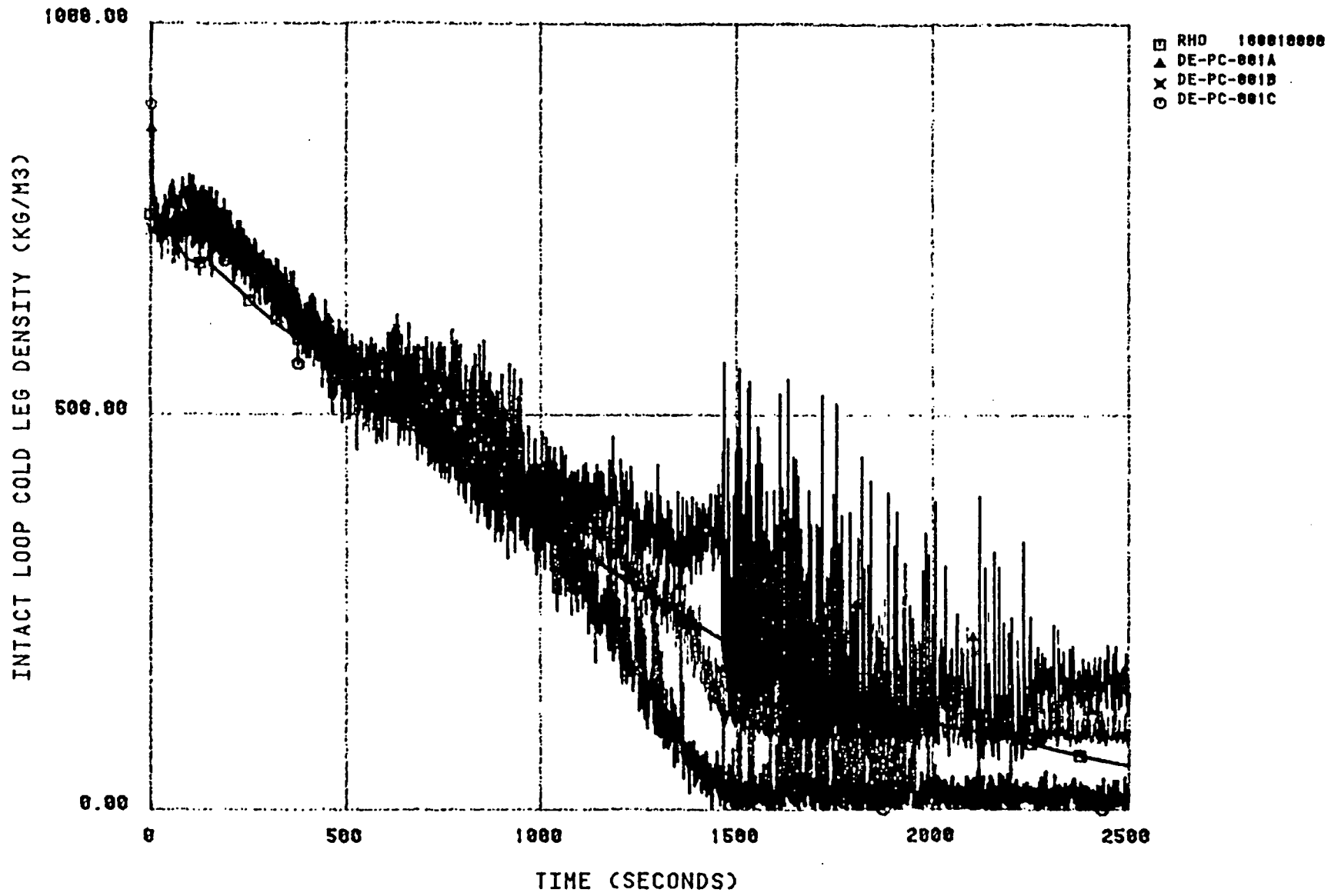
FIG. 20



LP-SB-2

FIG. 21

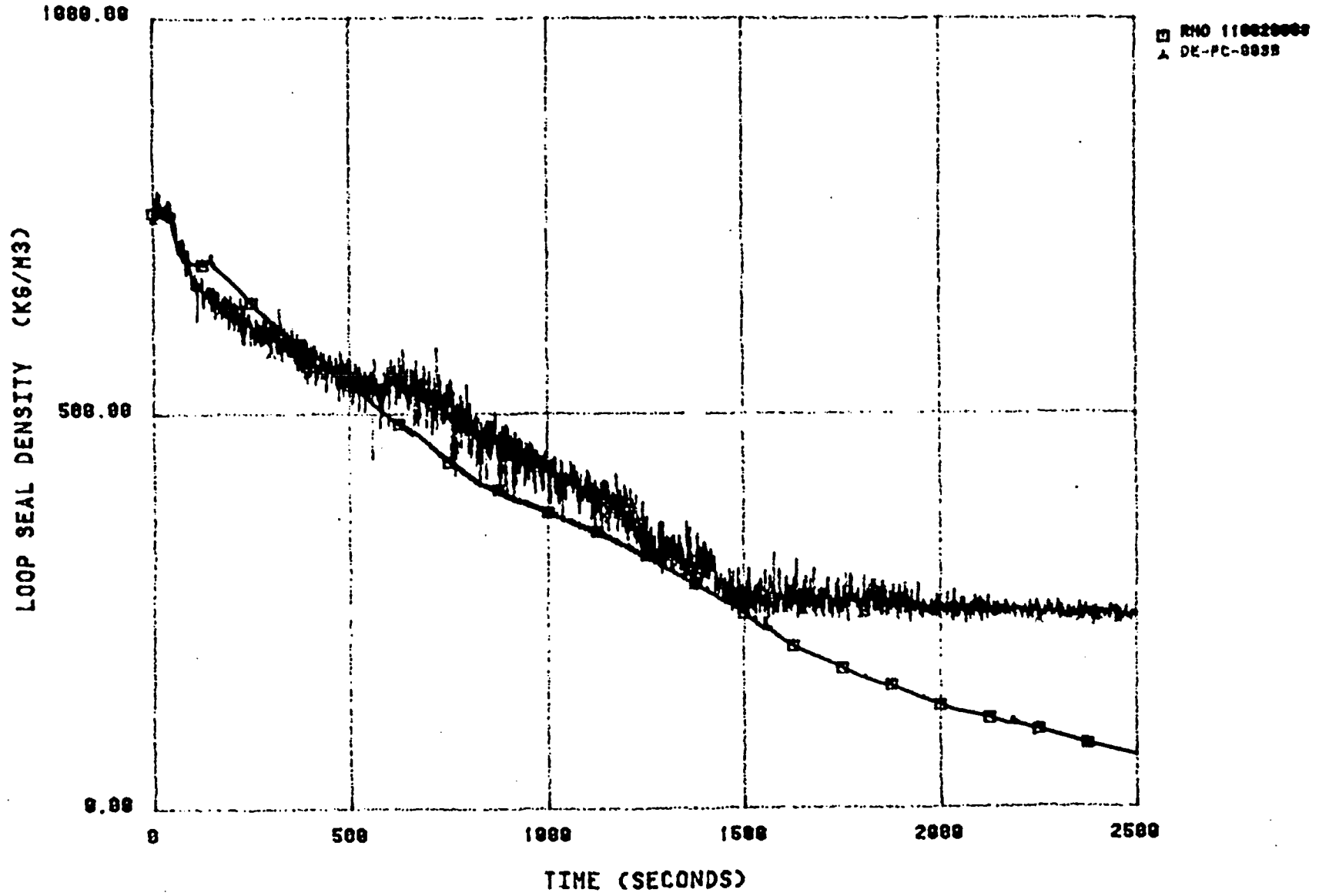
EE



LP-SB-2.

FIG. 22

7E

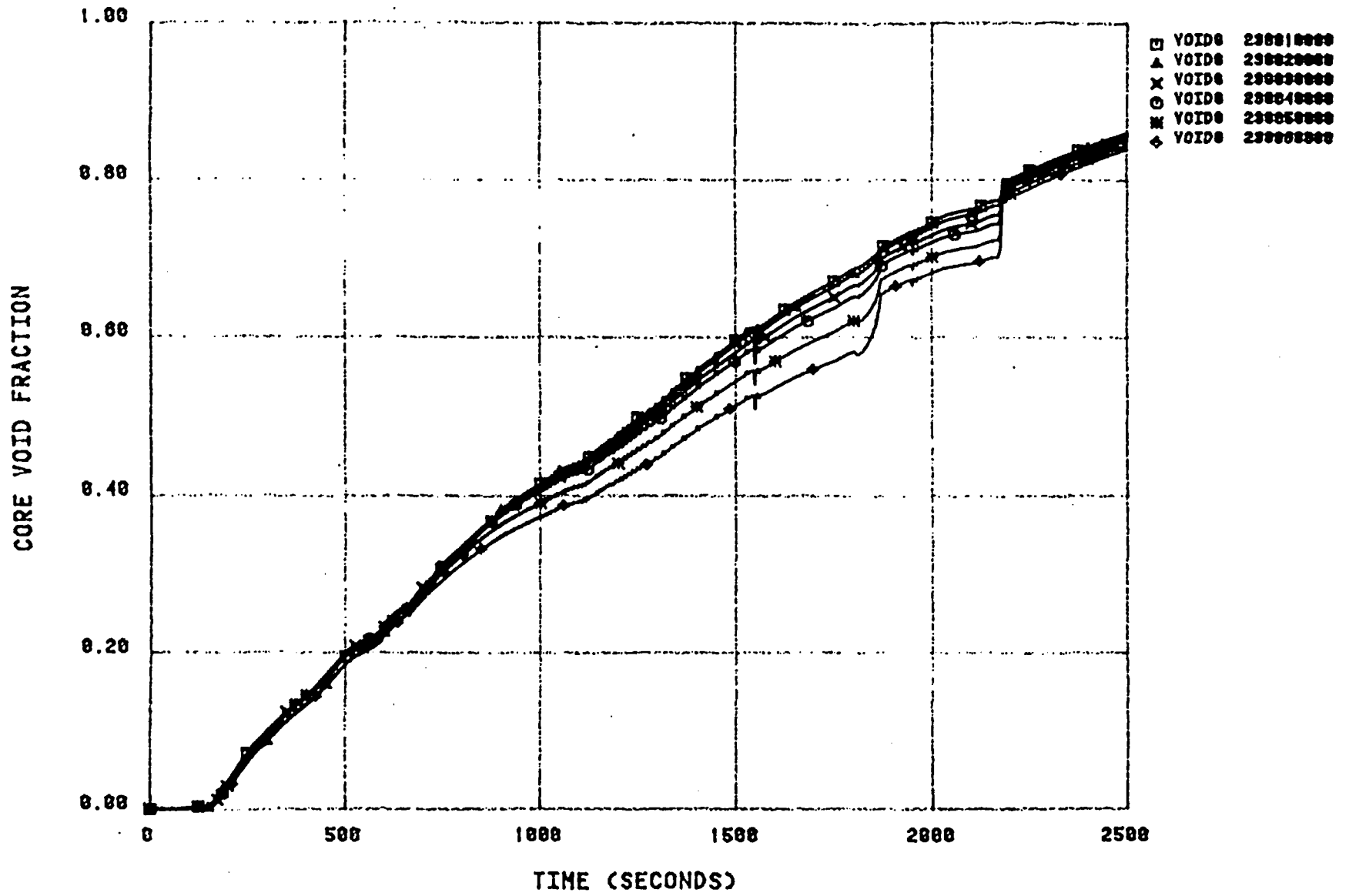


LP-SB-2.

FIG. 23

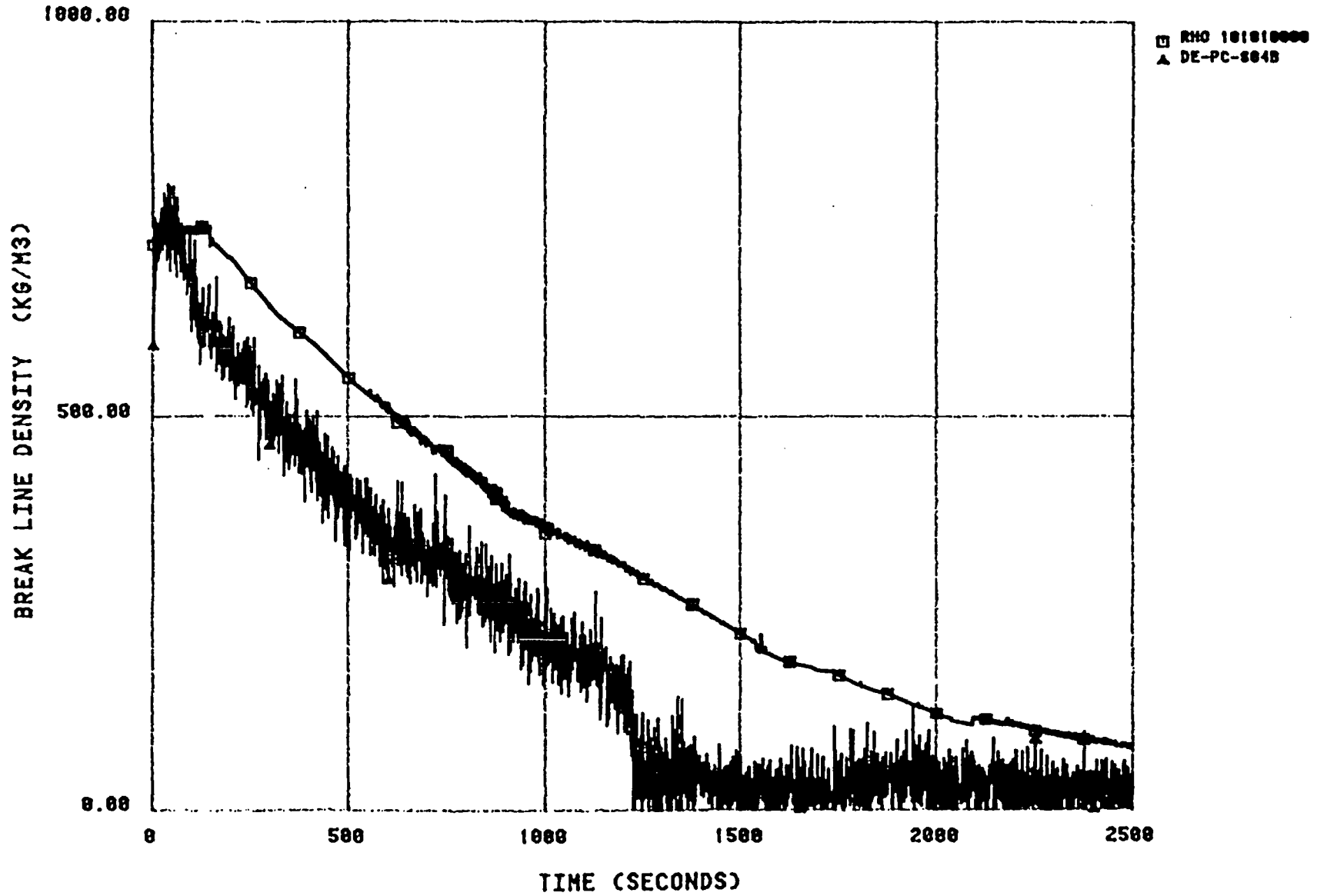


58



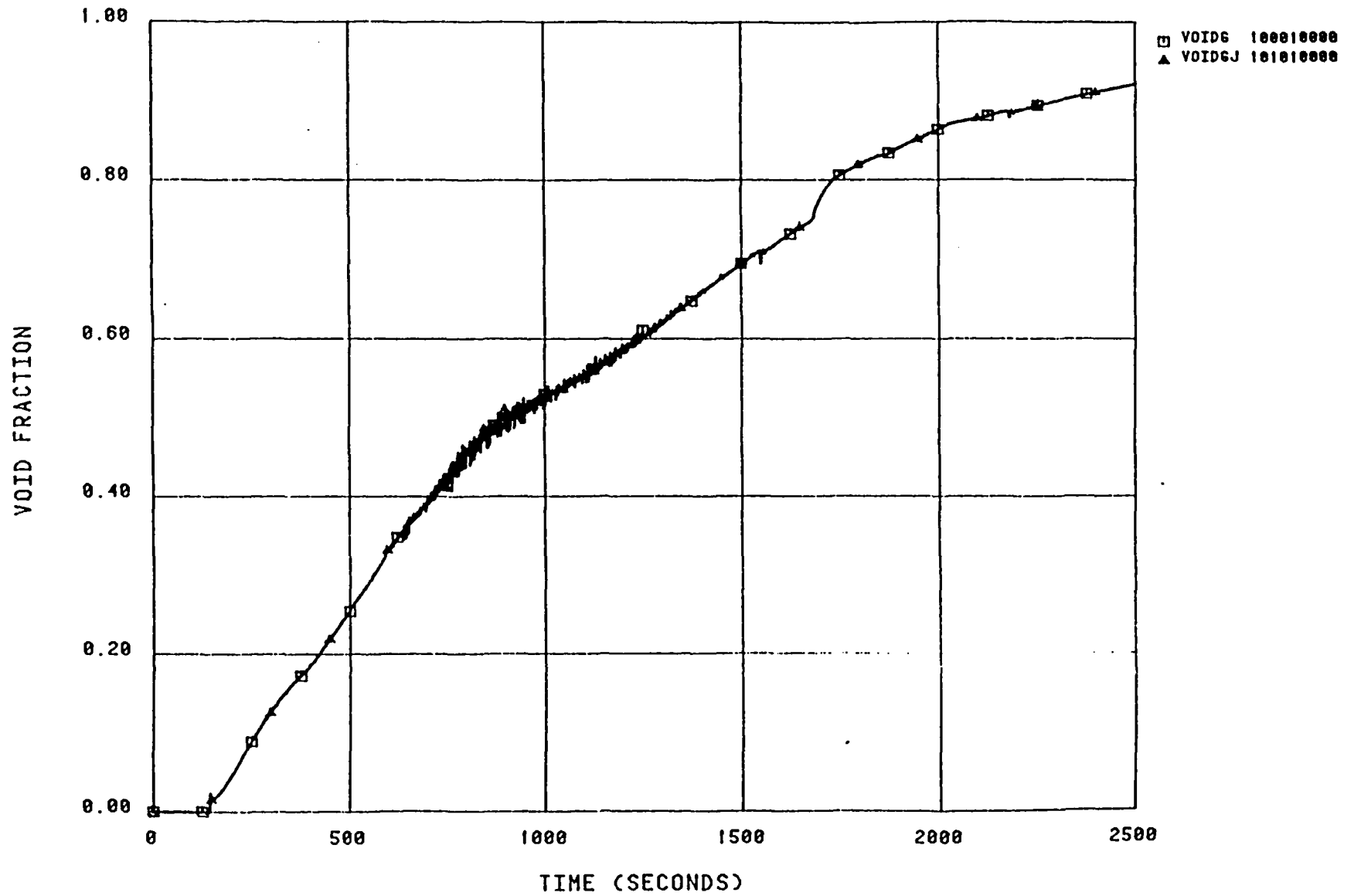
LP-SB-2.

FIG. 24



LP-SB-2.

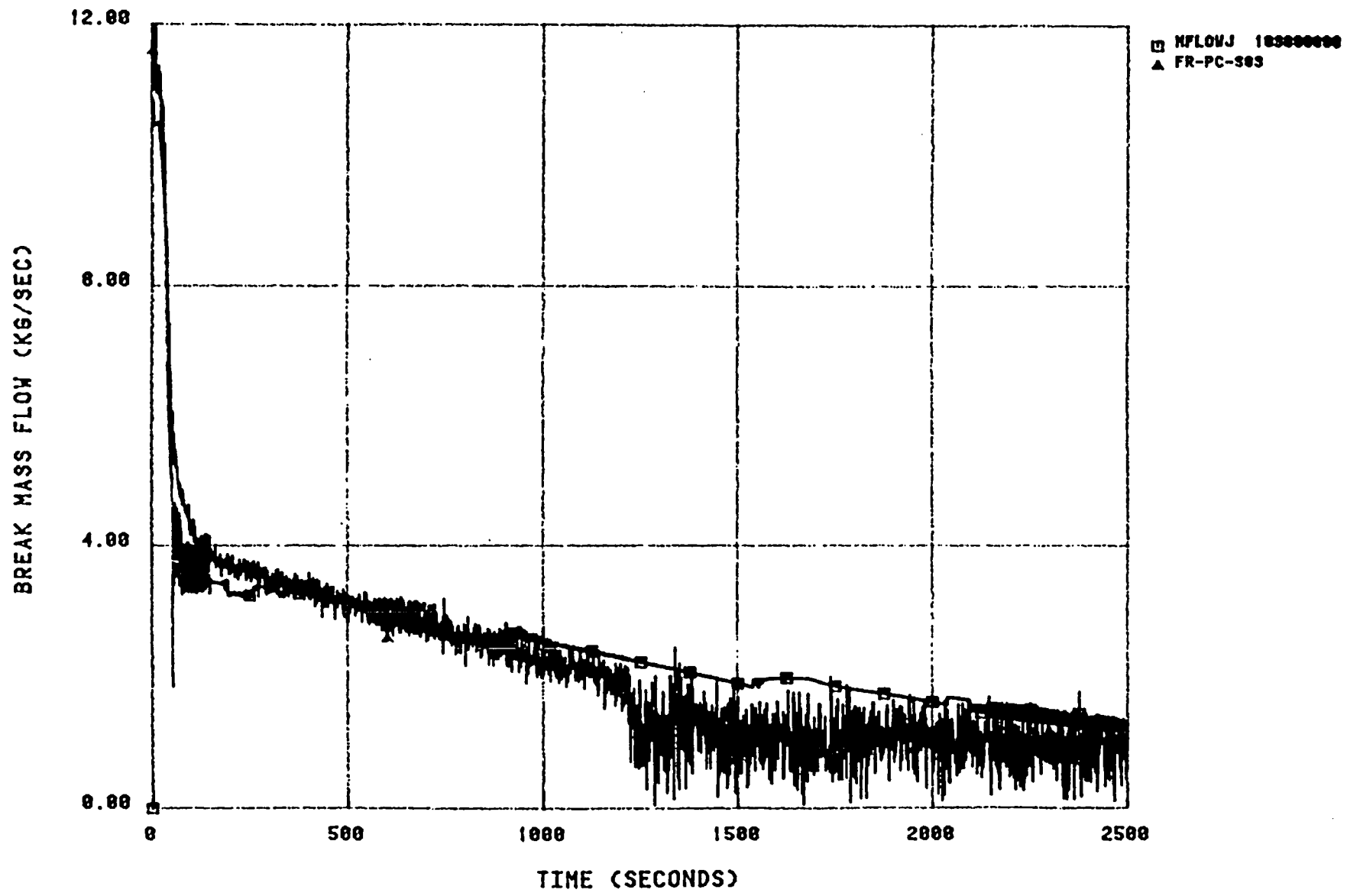
FIG. 25



LP-SB-2.

FIG. 26

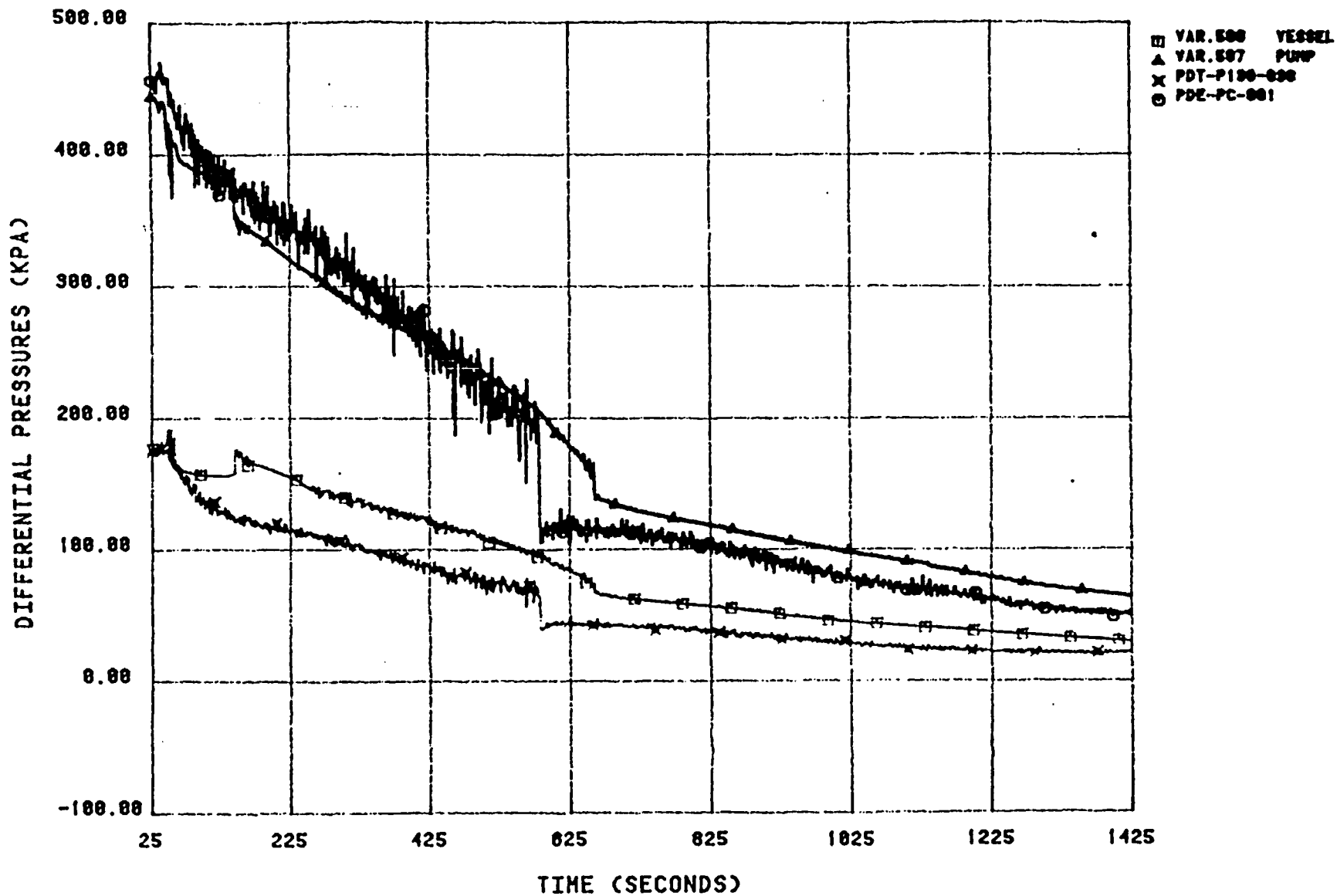
BE



LP-SB-2.

FIG. 27

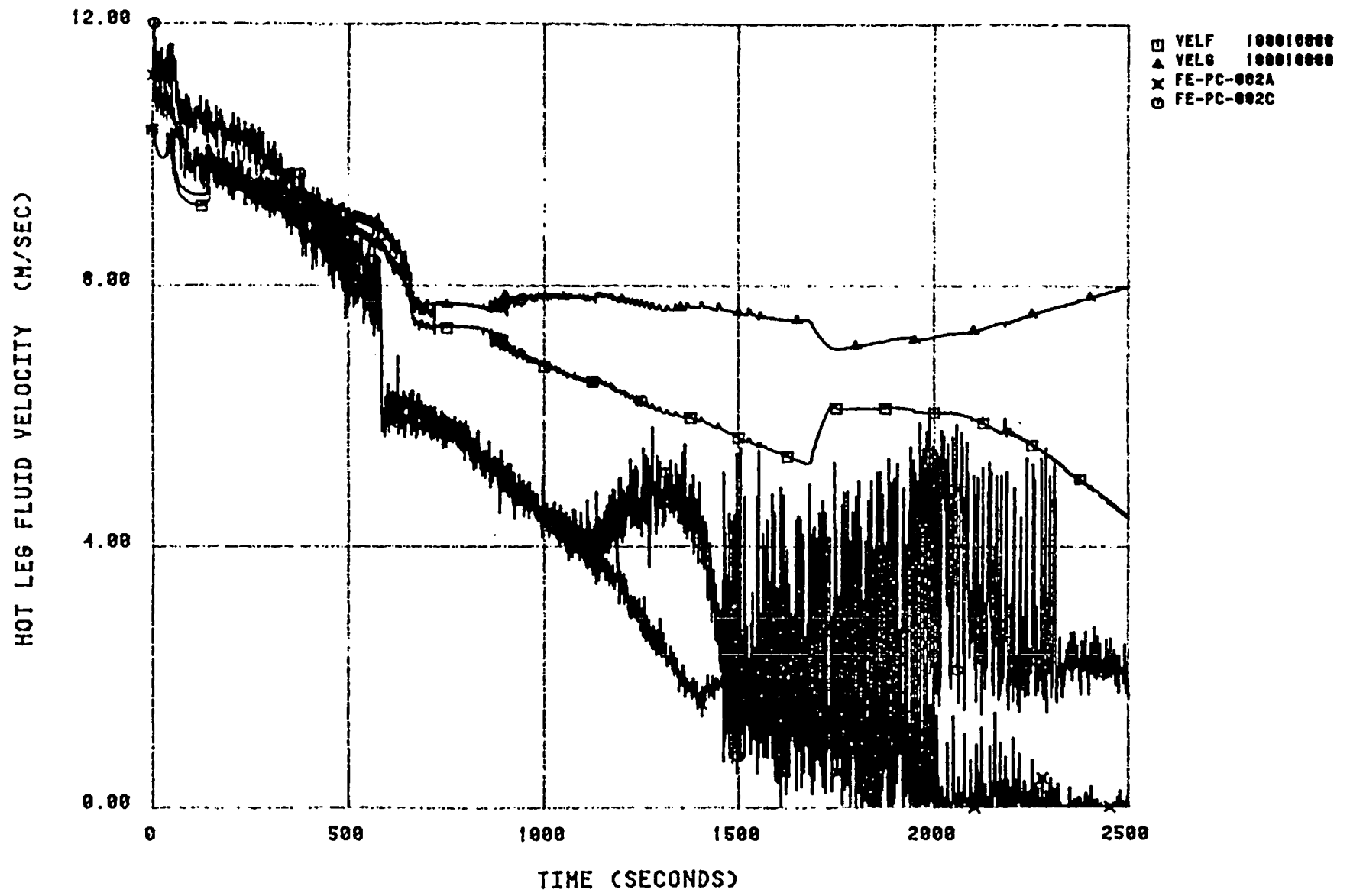
6E



LP-SB-2.

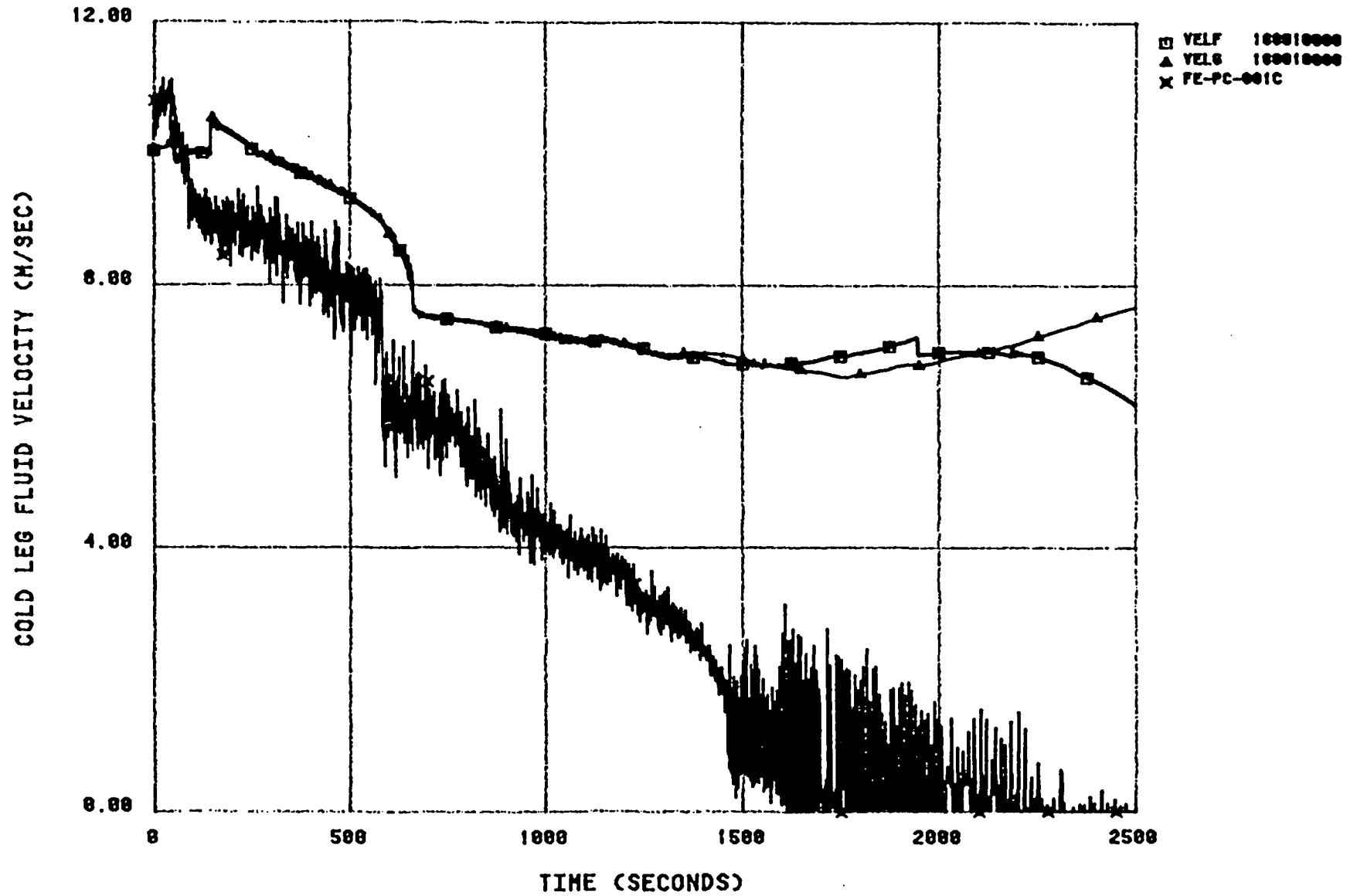
FIG. 28

40



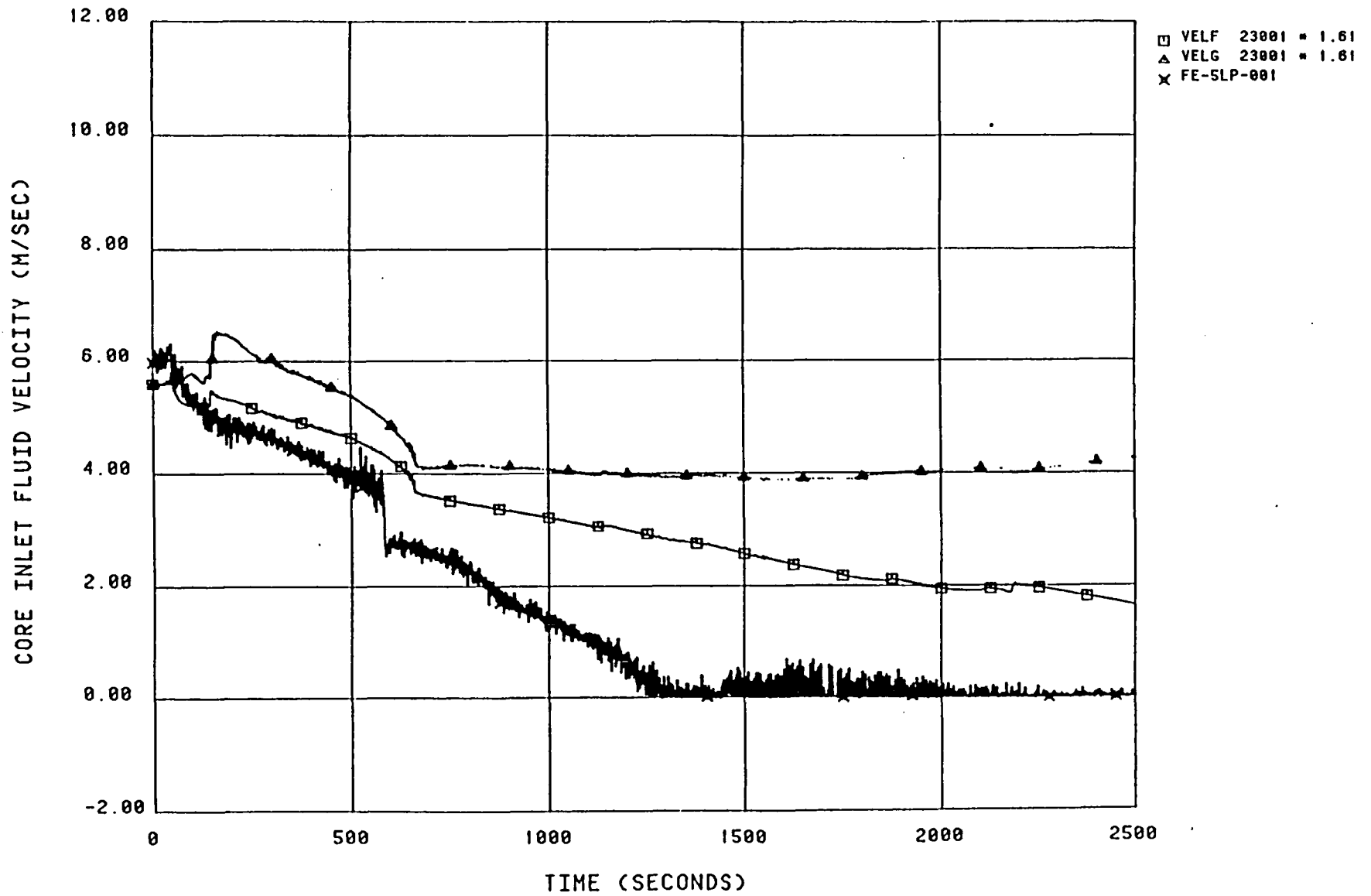
LP-SB-2.

FIG. 29



LP-SB-2.

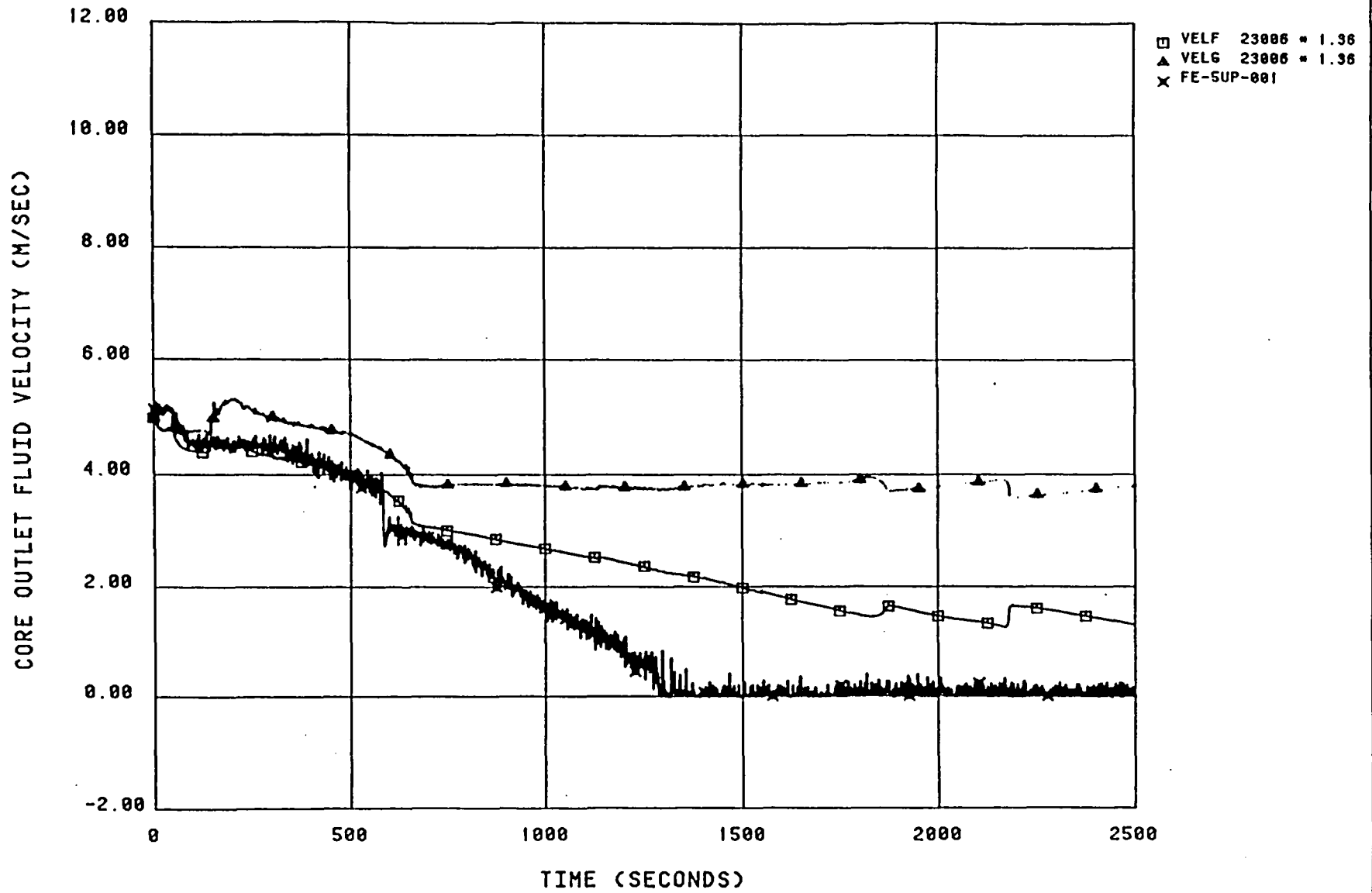
FIG. 30



LP-SB-2

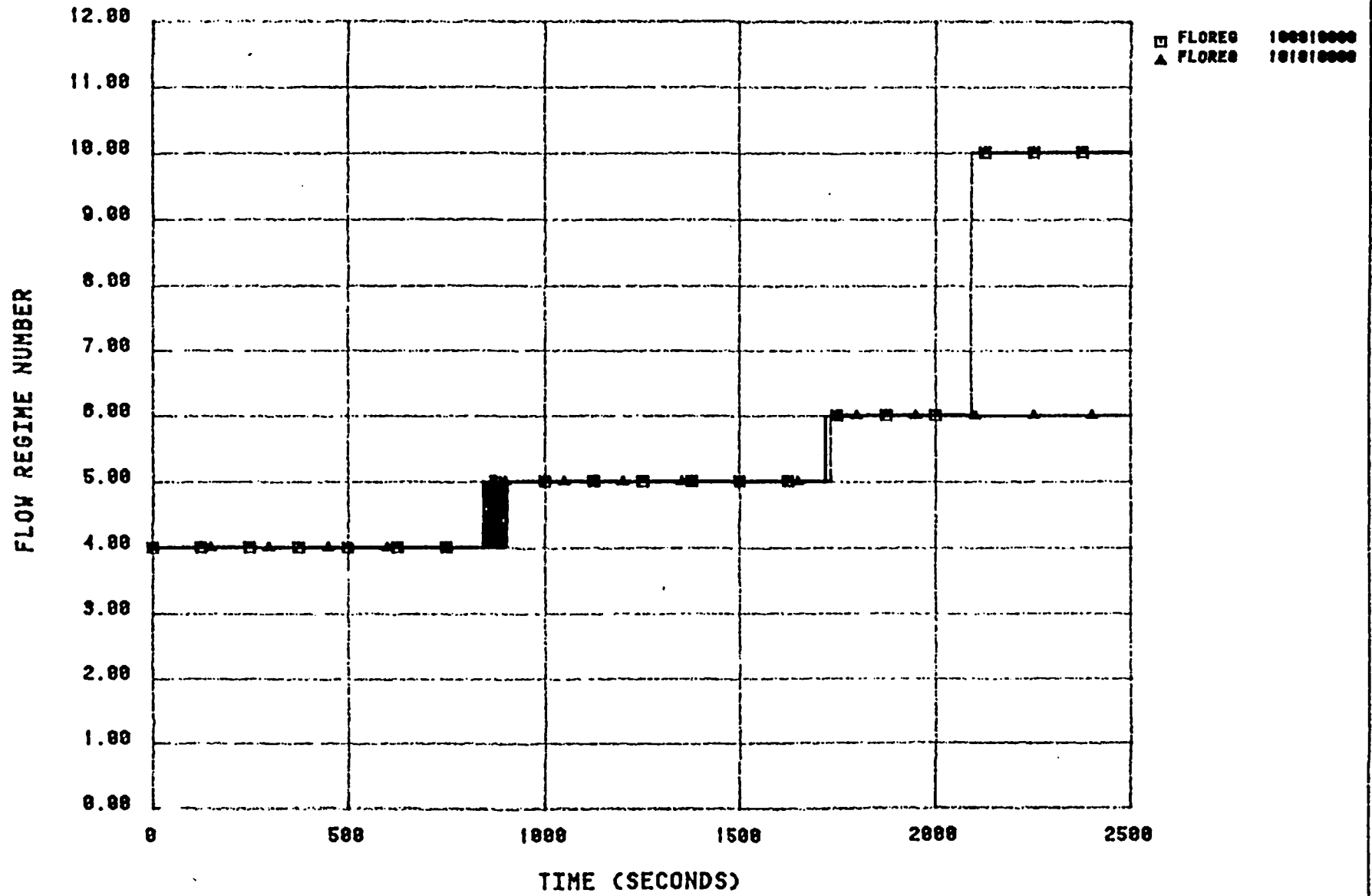
FIG. 31





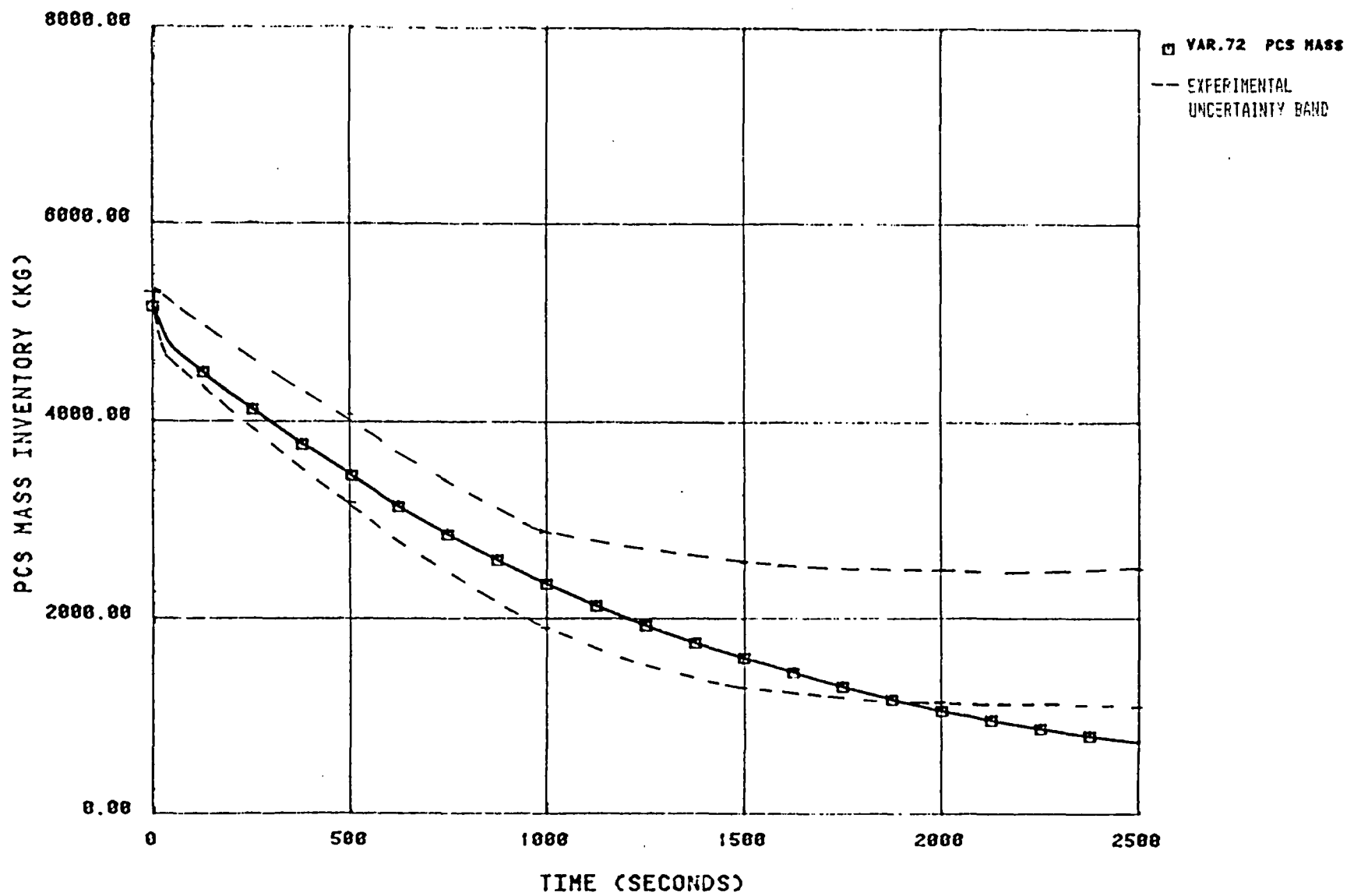
LP-SB-2

FIG. 32



LP-SB-2.

FIG. 33



LP-SB-2.

FIG. 34

LP-SB-2

97

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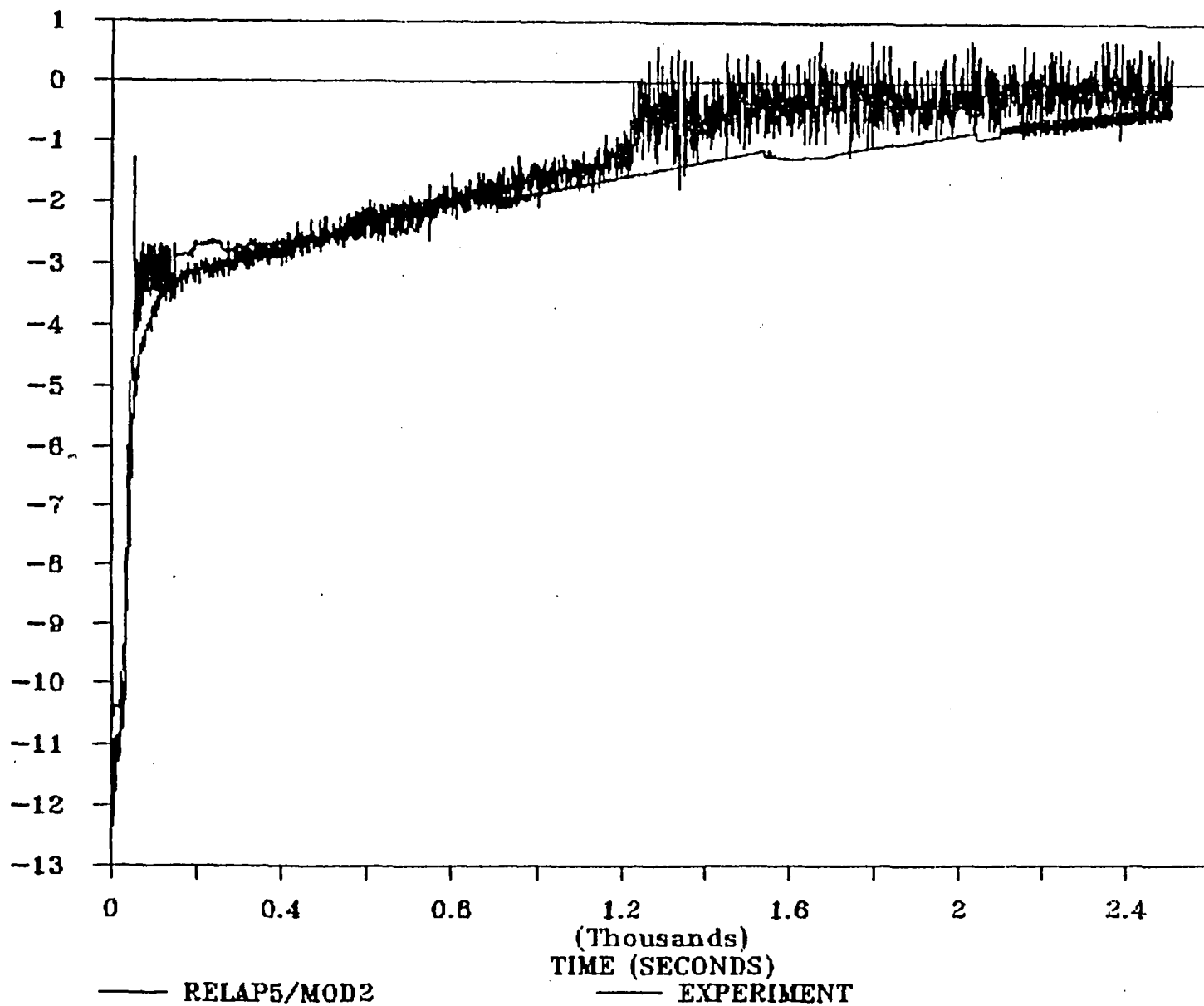
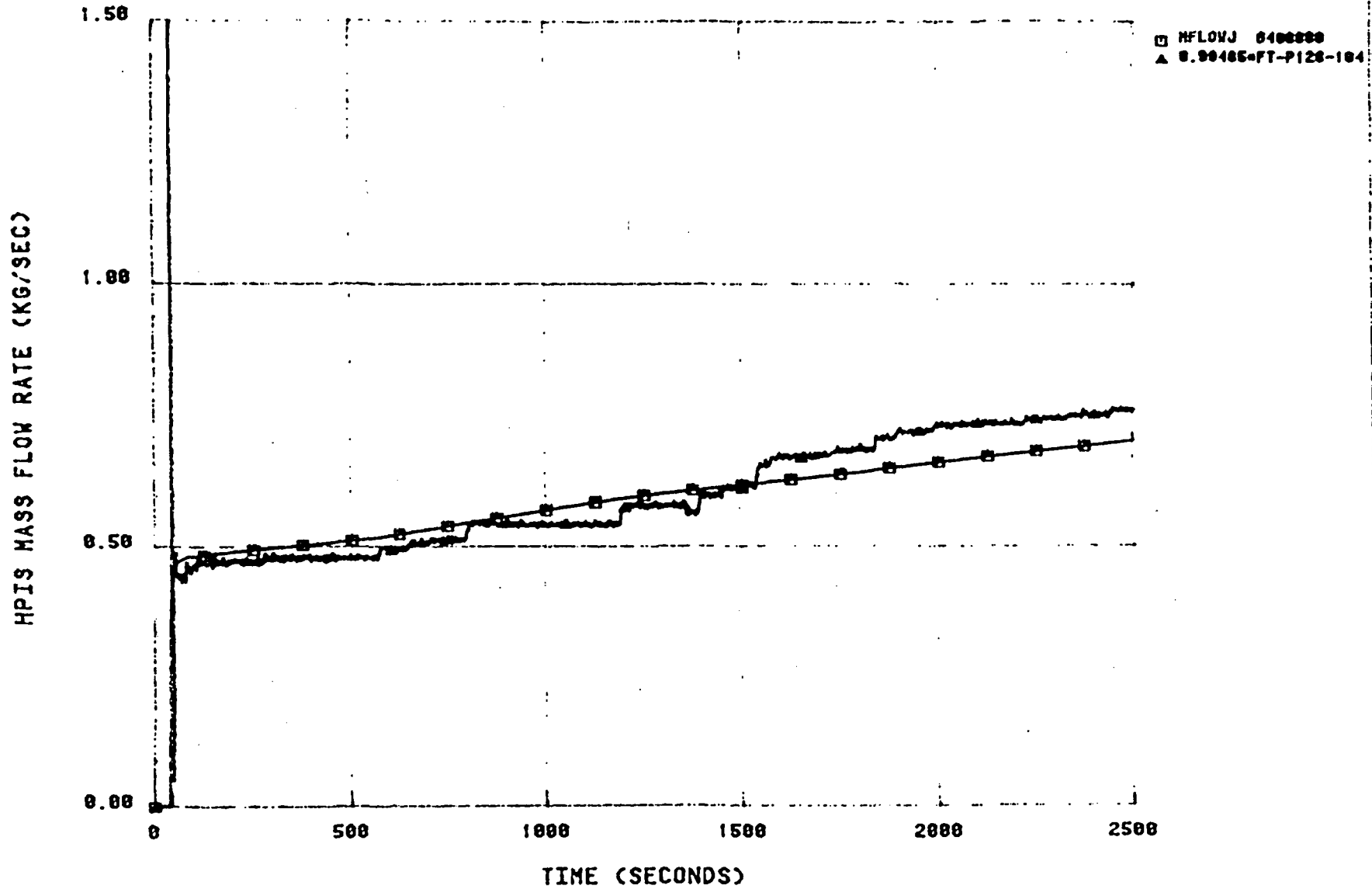


FIG. 35



LP-SB-2.

FIG. 36



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1. REPORT NUMBER  
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10. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

11. ABSTRACT *(200 words or less)*

This document presents the analysis of the OECD LOFT LP-SB-2 Experiment performed by the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear of Spain working group making use of RELAP5/MOD2 in the frame of the Spanish LOFT Project. LB-SB-2 experiment studies the effect of a delayed pump trip in a small break LOCA scenario with a 3-inch equivalent diameter break in the hot leg of a commercial PWR.

12. KEY WORDS/DESCRIPTORS *(List words or phrases that will assist researchers in locating the report.)*

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LOFT  
LP-SB-2

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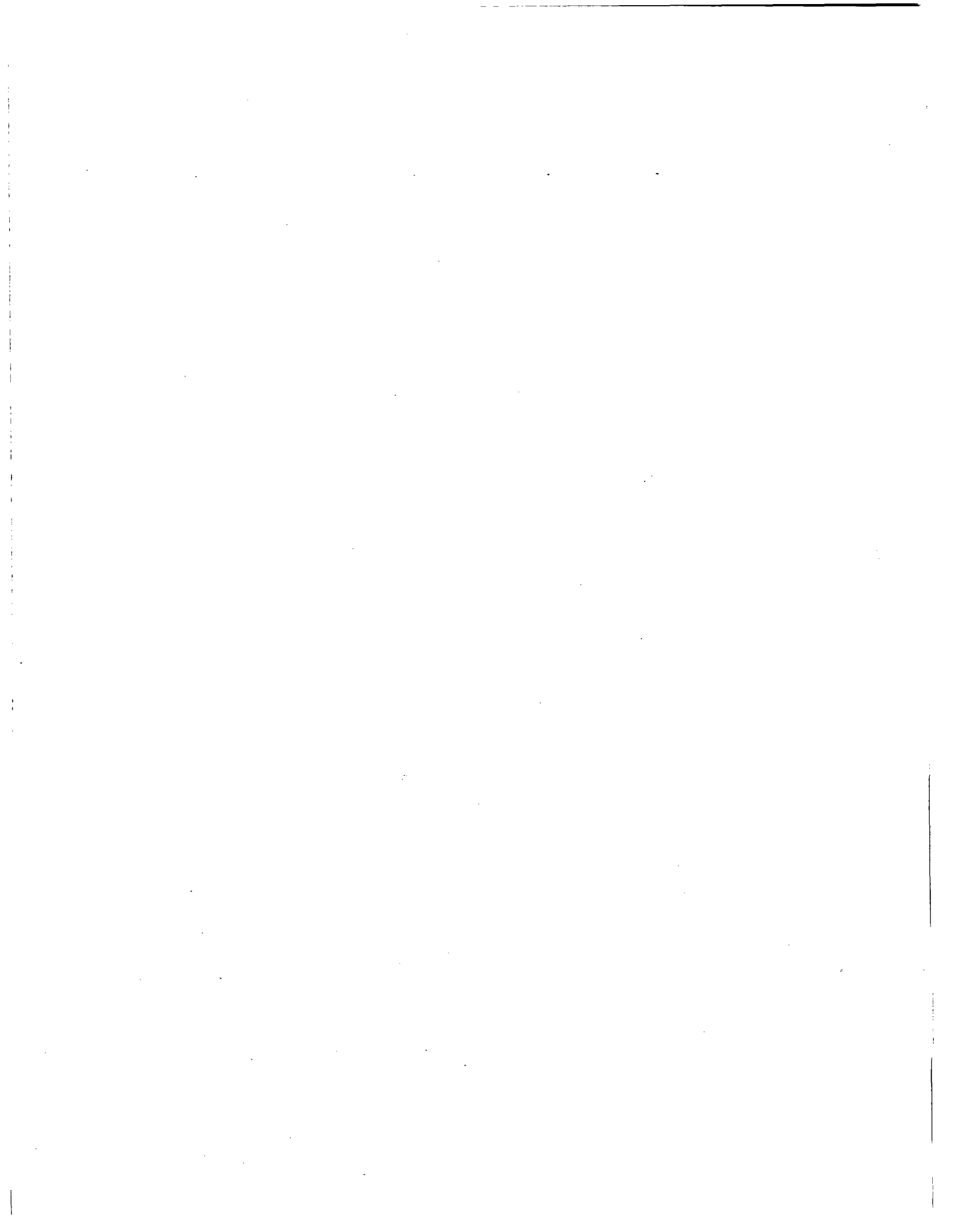
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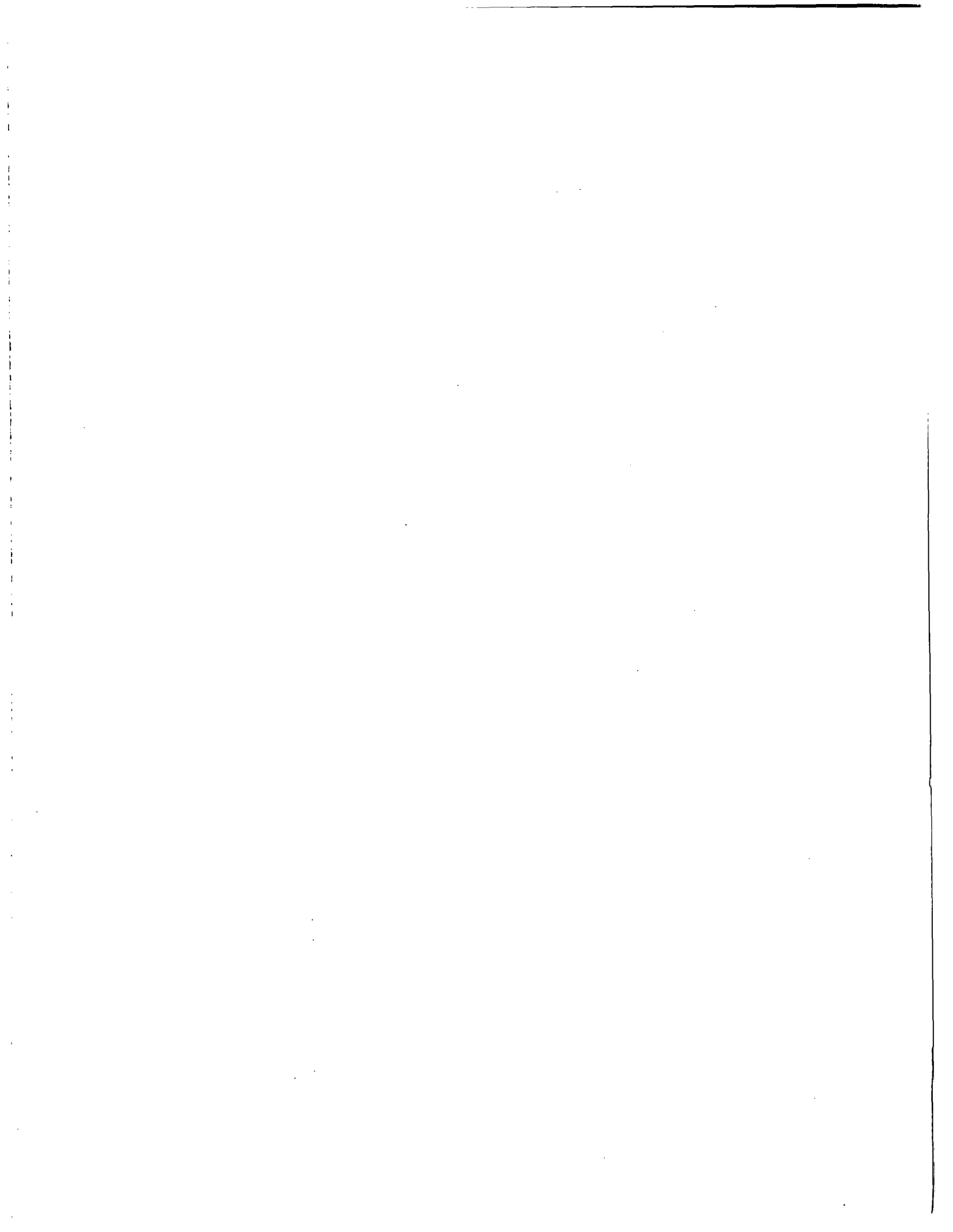
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