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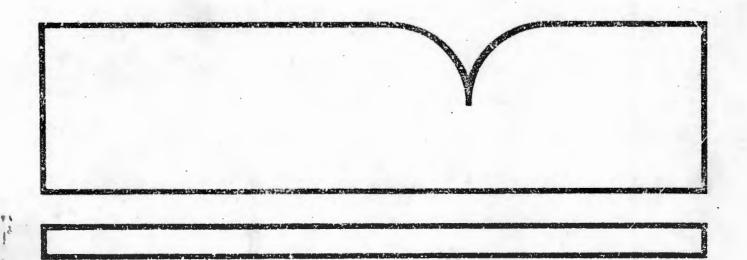
Pavement Management Using Video Imaging Techniques Phase 1 Final Research Report

AMI Consultants, Reno, NV

Prepared for

National Science Foundation, Washington, DC

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# PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT USING VIDEO IMAGING TECHNIQUES

PHASE I FINAL RESEARCH REPORT

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Pavement Management Using Video Imaging Techniques

Phase I Final Research Report

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to

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by

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July 1984

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#### IDENTIFICATION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM

One of the single greatest investments of public agencies, if not the greatest, is its network of roads and streets. The maintenance of these highways has posed significant problems in the management and survey of pavement surfaces. Just observing pavement surfaces to determine potential maintenance is a tremendous labor intensive problem. The collection of huge amounts of "Visual Data" (and other data as well) is the focal point of this research effort.

Typically, road crews walk or ride slowly moving vehicles to determine and record, by hand-written notes, the various distresses present in pavement surfaces. This activity leads to the classification of cracks along the pavement direction, transverse to pavement direction, area cracking, and a host of other pavement conditions that require maintenance attention; rutting, pavement flow, etc. To complicate matters, there are many techniques for "scoring" the pavement surface.

A recent advancement by some Departments of Transportation is to employ photographic techniques to gather pavement surface data. Although this collection technique has advantages over "walking and scoring", someone still has to evaluate the raw photograph and provide a "score" based upon certain classification techniques. What is addressed in this research effort is to investigate the use of high speed

video image processing techniques to evaluate scanned images of pavement surfaces in real-time.

#### BACKGROUND, TECHNICAL APPROACH, AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

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A standard television image frame is produced in 33 milliseconds. Each frame is converted to an array of picture elements (pixels) by using a high speed analog to digital converter module. These pixels are processed individually for "gray" scale or color content. Typically, a television frame is divided into an array of 512 x 512 pixels. Other pixel formats are also used (256 x 256 - 1024 x 1024) and depend upon the nature of the measurement accuracies required for a particular application. Considerable attention is given to the optics portion of the system — wide angle, zoom, etc. The system must be able to detect not only the extent of surface cracking but also the width of the crack in question. An N x N array is shown in Figure 1 with an 8 bit gray scale resolution.

Cracks are typically observed by noticing the shadow associated with the pavement separation. Crack shadows are typically much darker than the surrounding pavement. To an image processor, the difference in gray scale is easily detected by simple "threshold" techniques. The problem here is that the shadow value depends upon the available lighting. This threshold must be calculated to determine a

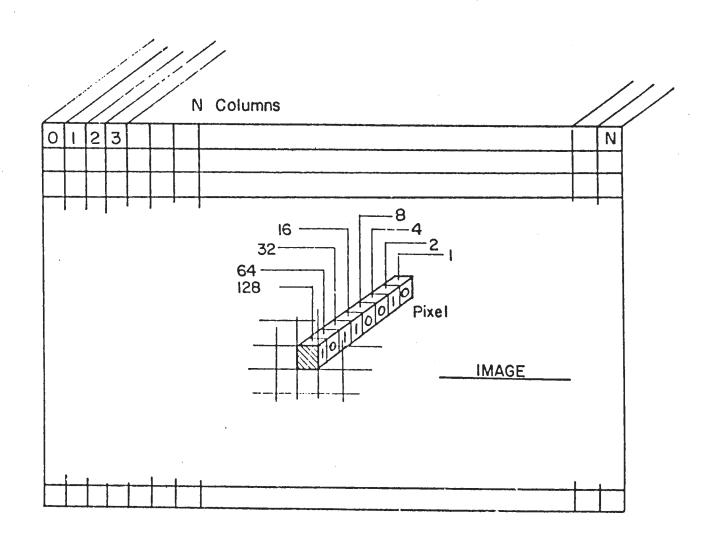


FIGURE 1 - N  $\times$  N Pixel Array with 8 Bit Gray Scale Resolution

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suitable value. As one would expect, pavement surface texture and aggregate color play an important role in this calculation. Additionally, images of pavement surfaces typically lack the contrast required for reliable processing. In order to do reasonable processing, contrast enhancement, threshold calculation, noise removal, and other pre-processing techniques must be employed.

As a first step in pre-processing, each pixel is "sorted" according to gray scale value. A simple count indicating the number of each gray value from black to white - typically 256 different gray scale values are plotted. This plot is called a <a href="https://distorted.nistogram">histogram</a> and provides much information about the original image. Objects such as cracks appear to "cluster" around a similar gray scale level as do larger objects of similar color. A typical histogram is shown in Figure 2.

The pavement texture appears to contain the bulk of the pixel information at medium gray scale and is typically found in the middle of the histogram. Dark objects will be indicated with activity close to the black end of the scale. The range of actual values are clearly indicated on a histogram plot.

Other objects of interest such as the white/yellow stripping are shown as a bump near the white end of Figure 2. In this example, the "determined" threshold for cracks is set equal

FIGURE 2 - Typical Pavement Gray Scale Histogram

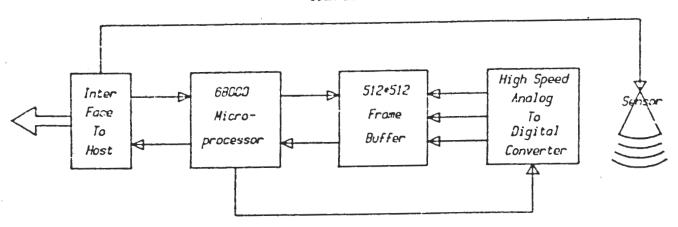
to a value greater than the background gray levels. The thresholded image is composed of two values - black pixels and white pixels. By assignment, pixels with values greater than the background level are black and pixels of value less than or equal to the background level are assigned a white value. Ideally, only the cracks appear in the thresholded image. The actual situation is never ideal and more refined techniques are required.

A typical system is composed of a sensor, a "frame buffer" - image memory, a processor producing scored attributes and a suitable output display. The block diagram of a typical system is shown in Figure 3.

Several sensors are commonly used in image processing. Standard television raster scanned cameras are available using Charge Coupled Devices (CCD), Charged Capacitor Sensors (CCS), and a conventional image vidicon. These sensors are suitable for the processing of fixed images such as a photograph or even pavement while the camera is motionless. Some movement of the camera is tolerated but one frame is analogous to a timed interval of 1/30 sec. In order to provide an image processing system capable of taking data while moving - a highly desirable feature - special consideration is given to a "slit" type of sensor shown in Figure 4.

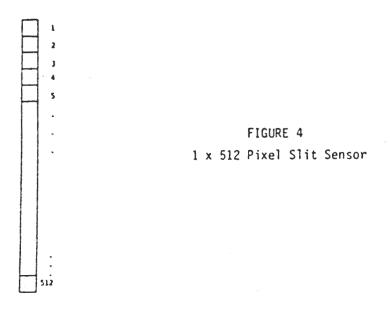
optics are provided to focus data in a single line across

#### Scan Control



## Modular Product Concept

FIGURE 3 - Image System Block Diagram



one lane of the pavement to be measured. The motion of the vehicle provides the second dimension of the image and is carefully synchronized with vehicle speed. As the vehicle is moving, the pixel data is loaded into the processor. the end of a "frame", data is stopped from entering the processor for a short period of time while the image is being processed. During the output of the processed image, new data replaces old information that has been scored and classified. It is possible to "classify" and "score" the pavement while the vehicle is in motion therby measuring the condition and eliminating the previous labor pavement intensive operation. The obvious advantage is the fast acquisition of data for an efficient and cost effective data management system.

this research effort is ultimately successful, If benefits to highway departments and subsequently to highway users can be substantial. Highway officials will have at their disposal much broader and more relevant information in the form of a data base to use as input to a Pavement Management System (PMS). Subsequently, more effective decisions regarding the expenditure of highway maintenance funds can be made. Highway users will ultimately benefit from more efficient use of those funds and by being provided with roadways of a higher quality.

It is estimated that a total research effort on the order of

\$500,000 will be required to produce a working prototype model of a pavement evaluation device. Production costs will be additional. A production model may have a user cost on the order of \$200,000. Considering the number of highway miles in existence and the billions of dollars invested in our nation's street and highway system, the cost associated with the development of a device of the type described in this research report is extremely small.

#### PHASE I RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The obvious objective of this phase I study is to establish the feasibility of employing the video image techniques described to a pavement management system. More specifically we attempted to answer the following questions:

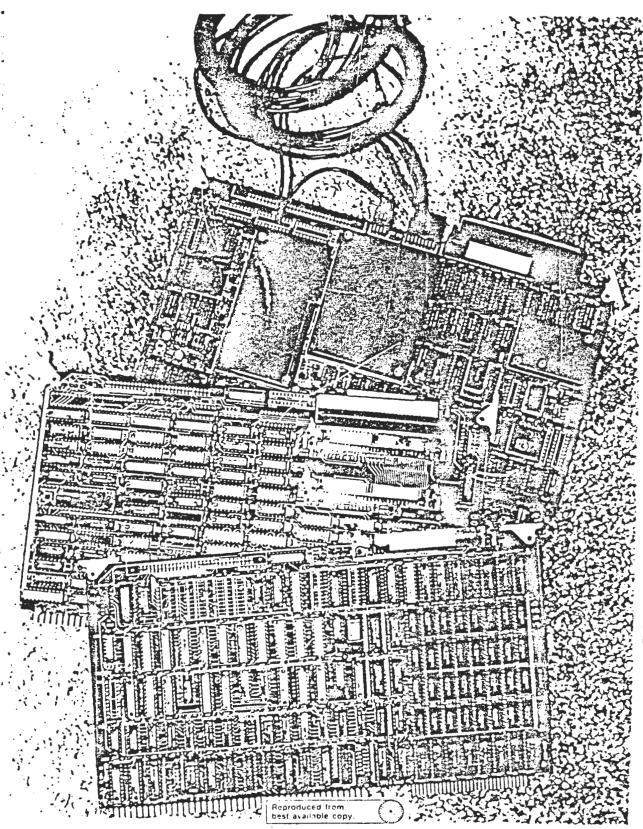
- 1. Is the use of a slit sensor feasible for observing pavement surfaces?
- What image processor algorithms are required for the detection of pavement distress?
- 3. What pavement condition scoring procedures best lend themselves to image processing techniques?
- 4. What data logging procedures are required to acquire, store and retrieve measured and processed data for the establishment of a usable data base?

#### DESCRIPTION OF THS RESEARCH CONDUCTED

Described in the following sections of this report are the research efforts conducted on the four objectives presented. Although the objectives overlap to some extent and the investigation of the four objectives was conducted in parallel, the objectives are discussed as independent efforts.

The most critical concern in this research study was the investigation of image processing algorithms. If algorithms could not be developed to detect pavement distress, then our research efforts would most likely be futile. If however, it could be shown that initial steps in the development of such algorithms showed promise, then the technical risk associated with the development of the proposed devise would be drastically diminished. To that end, AMI Consultants obtained three video image processing circuit boards on a loan basis from Imaging Technology, Inc. A picture of these boards is shown as Figure 5. These three boards consist of an ALU (arithmetic logic unit), a frame buffer (memory), and a microprocessor board.

In order to develop imaging software for specific use in a pavement monitoring device, AMI Consultants has designed and assembled a microprocessor circuit board and written the software to communicate with the Imaging Technology, Inc. board. AMI Consultants' board is shown in the foreground of



IGURE 5 - Circuit Boards On Loan From Imaging Technology, Inc.

FIGURE 6 - AMI Consultants' Microprocessing Circuit Board

Figure 6 in a rack mount configuration with the three borrowed circuit boards.

#### LINE SCAN (SLIT) IMAGE SENSOR

For the pavement management vision system, the problem of relative motion (vehicle moving, pavement surface fixed) of the pavement surface image is a significant problem to the scan (standard research effort. The normal raster television rates) at 1/30 second per frame will cause "blurring" at less than 10 miles per hour for a camera mounted vertical to the pavement surface. Even cameras mounted at 45 degrees to the pavement surface will observe blurring at speeds much less than 55 mph, and yield images with severe geometric distortion. In order to obtain images at highway speeds, a "reasonable" blurr-less controlled line scan sensor must be employed.

The line scan camera is composed of the usual optics (lens, focus arrangement, and diaphram), a line scan sensor (called a "slit" sensor) in 1 x 256, 1 x 512, etc. formats, and control circuitry to specify sensor scan rates, cell integration time, and output data flow. A block diagram of a typical slit sensor is shown in Figure 7. Photo energy is focused on the narrow slit which is composed of 256 photosites (512, 1024, etc.). These photosites are divided into even and odd picture elements (pixels). During the

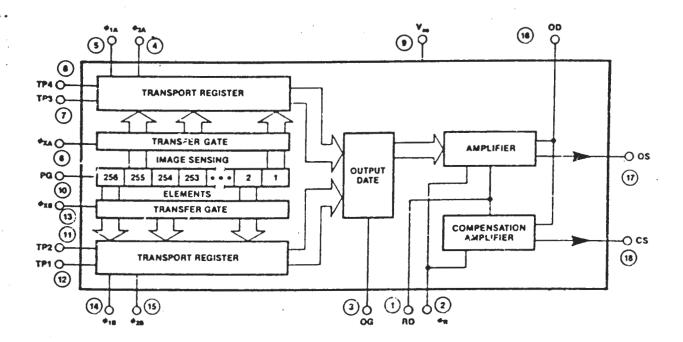


FIGURE 7 - Block Diagram of a Typical Slit Sensor

scanning process, the linear array is transferred to a shift register memory which is composed of even and odd photosite data. This transfer is done during a single clock pulse. The time between these transfer clock pulses is called the "integration time", so called because this time is directly proportional to amount of photo energy "collected" by each photosite. This time is very important to the success of blurr-less images.

AMI Consultants has investigated two well known manufactures of linear scan image sensors (Fairchild, and Thomson-CSF).

The minimum integration time required, therefore determining the blurring characteristics, is a function of transfer

frequency, photosite saturation levels, provided. the integration In addition to restriction, the output data rate must be within achievable a line scan sensor with 2048 For example, photosites may have an acceptable integration time but may the required sensor specifications because of a slow image generation characteristic--i. may not be able to generate the image fast enough for image processing as the vehicle moves along the pavement. It is clear that the sensor data rates must be closely matched to the image processor execution speed and the computer architecture.

Fairchild CCD-111 device is a 1 x 256 n-channel The sensor with analog shift registers, output amplifier, and two (even, odd) charge transfer gates. This device specifies a 10 mhz typical cutput rate with an integration time of 32 microseconds. (At 32 microseconds, approximately 1000 line scans may be performed within a "standard raster" of 33 milliseconds. Since AMI Consultants proposes to use a 512 x 512 pixel format, i.e. only 512 lines, the sensor may be used with adequate margin. At 60 mph (88 feet per second), the pavement is moving under the vertically mounted sensor at 0.001 inches per microsecond. The transfer of photosite data to the odd/even shift register occurs in one clock time  $(0.1 \times 10^6)$  seconds for a 10 mhz clock signal). This represents a ground movement of 0.0001 inch in the pavement direction. For 0.1 inch pixels,

the movement is approximately 0.1%—well within the tolerable level and will not require any restoration in the processor. In fact, some movement is quite desirable and will provide the effect of "neighborhood" pixel averaging. This innovative approach saves many precious milliseconds of processor time.

Real-time processing will require a data processor that can keep up with sensor data rates and handle the algorithms that produce the processed image. Algorithms must be chosen carefully to run efficiently on special purpose processor architecture——A system that has been developed at AMI Consultants. AMI Consultants has also obtained a small evaluation system from Fairchild called an I—SCAN Design Development Board Set for further verification of the line scan sensor. A discussion of this system appears later in this report.

#### IMAGE PROCESSING ALGORITHMS

AMI Consultants has investigated several data acquisition approaches for remote sensing using video image processing.

And, in particular those high speed systems that use the linear array sensor (slit sensor). The system algorithms have been broken down into five general categories:

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#### Algorithm Category

#### Description

1. Input

Sensor Scan Control, Vehicle Speed-Image Synchronization, Frame Buffer Storage Selection, Non-visual Data Acquisition.

2. Preprocessing

Image Noise Removal, Gradient and Edge Detection, Global and Local Thresholding, Perimeter and Edge Calculation, Direction Cracking Detection.

Processing

Object Identification, Instantaneous and Cumulative Pavement Scoring, Rut Depth Calculation, Signature Analysis--Moments, Transforms, Output Formatting.

4. Output

Image Display, Data Display, Recording Format.

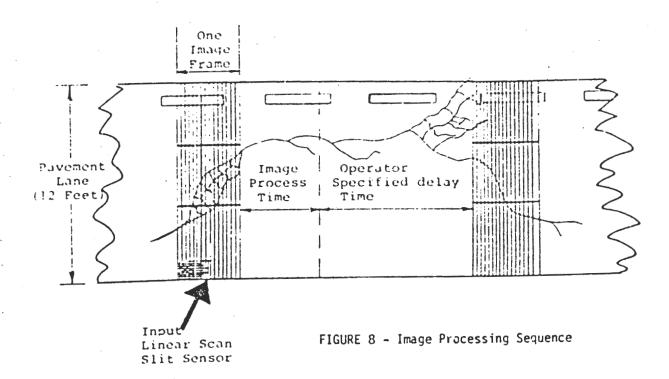
5. Administrative

Interactive Operator Data Inputs, Self-Test and Diagnostic Comments, System Performance Monitor, Directory Formats, Calibration, Histogramming.

Many of the preprocessing algorithms are currently running on a laboratory prototype developed by AMI Consultants. The results of the Phase I study look very promising and are briefly discussed here. Except for the Administrative category, the algorithms appear in approximately the order that must be accomplished during vehicle movement on the pavement lane.

As the vehicle moves across the road surface, the "slit sensor" scans a very small portion of the image. The scanning repetition rate is controlled by the vehicle speed

. . .



and desired image format. When enough scans are completed (when the frame is complete) to fill the image, processing begins. The timing sequence, except for calibration and some other administrative functions, proceeds as, "input frame image, processing, input frame image, processing, input .....". An operator may choose to control the number of frame images per lane mile by introducing a "delay" at the end of a processed image and before the input of the next frame as shown in Figure 8.

An additional approach recommended by AMI Consultants is to take advantage of the "serial" nature of the scanned slit sensor and design a hardware "convolver" (a special  $3 \times 3$ 

neighborhood multiplier circuit) that will directly be interfaced to the sensor for "preprocessing". As soon as the convolver "fills" with data approximately two scan lines), processed image lines are produced and may be ready for simple scoring. The suggested convolver arrangement is shown in Figure 9. The convolver receives serial data that is shifted byte by byte through the 3 x 3 neighborhood aperature, plus two 509 byte shift registers (assuming a 512 x 512 image format). After 1027 shifts (3+509+3+509+3), the convolver is "full" and neighborhood processing can begin. Neighborhood processing uses a "weighted" 3 x 3 Kernel in multiplying the 3 x 3 pixel image to produce a neighborhood:

- 1. Average
- 2. Gradient
- 3. Directly Cracking Correlation
- 4. Enhancement
- 5. Threshold

#### Noise Removal Algorithm :

The first order of preprocessing is to remove signal noise from the image. This could be caused by spurious vehicle noise, pavement surface background texture, and generally containes a "high frequency" signal content that should be removed prior to the application of the gradient algorithm.

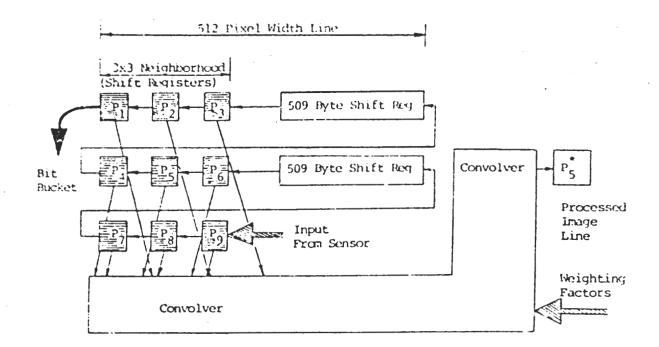


FIGURE 9 - Serial Convolver/Shifter

The general convolver equation is used:

$$P_5^* = \frac{P_1^{W_1} + P_2^{P_2} + \dots + P_9^{P_9}}{D}$$
 (1)

Then,

$$\frac{P_1 + P_2 \cdot P_9}{9} = P_5^*$$
 (3)

 $P_5^*$  is the processed pixel and represents the "center of the 3 x 3 solution image. As the 3 x 3 window is effectively "passed" over the image, a series of  $P_5^*$ 's form the processed image. An increase in speed occurs if a second convolver follows the first. Then,

$$\frac{P_1^*W_1^* + P_2^*W_2^* + \dots + P_9^*W_9^*}{D^*} = P_5^{**}$$
 (4)

The second convolver is "filled" after 2054 byte shifts (1027 from the first convolver plus 1027 from the second convolver) and begins to produce a solution, P<sub>5</sub>\*\* a short time after fill (between shift 2054 and 2055). Each convolver stage will usually have different sets of W<sub>1</sub>'s and therefore will provide for many kinds of neighborhood operations. Window "averaging" can be also accomplished by intentionally "blurring" the original slit sensor data. This is accomplished by controlling the sensor "integration time"—i.e. slowing down the cell transfer rate thereby increasing the integration time that will cause image blurring. AMI Consultants has determined that approximately 5%—8% blurring is desirable and can eliminate the need for averaging by convolution.

#### Gradient and Edge Detection Algorithm:

Pavement cracking, as seen in the "gray scale" image is characterized by a very narrow shadow caused by side

lighting and shadow cast--shown in Figure 10.

image camera "views" the crack as a "darker" shade of gray against a lighter gray background. The distance or difference in gray scale value is called the Crack Margin . For high speed, reliable, and efficient calculation, a large crack margin is desired. This feature also allows for considerable rejection of false cracking (oil spots, sealed cracks, etc.). A very nice algorithm to accomplish the increased crack margin is to use a "gradient" technique that is similar to differentiation. The slight difference in gray scale values are amplified. Larger differences in gray amplified and may cause gray scale зcale are also The gradient operation may be implemented by saturation. again using the neighborhood operations on four pixels:

$$P_1 P_2$$
  $(P_1 - P_5) + (P_2 - P_4) = P_5^*$  (5)

$$\frac{P_1 + P_2 + OP_3 + \dots - P_4 - P_5 - OP_6 - \dots - P_9}{D} = P_5^*$$

$$W_1 = 1, W_2 = 1, W_3 = 0, W_4 = 4 \dots W_9 = 0, D = 1$$
(6)

The gradient operation will produce low outputs  $(P_5^*)$ s) for approximately equal gray scale pixel values and high outputs for adjacent differing pixel gray values. Typically, the crack shadow is protrayed as an "object" noted in Figure 11.

The gradient will "outline" the crack with a perimeter

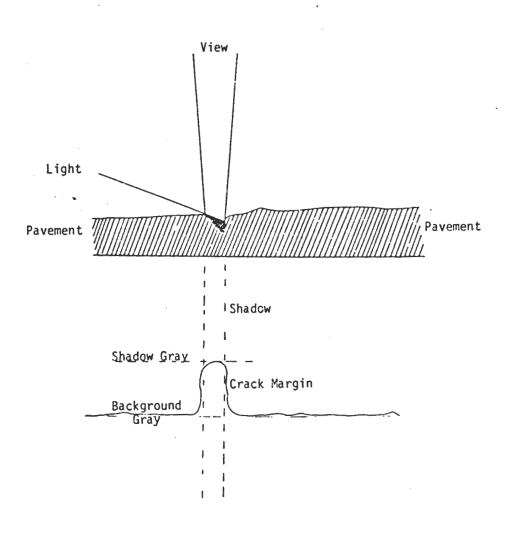


FIGURE 10 - Crack and Shadow Representation



Crack Boundry (Perimeter)

FIGURE 11

Crack Object (Area/Perimeter)

Crack Body (Area)

identified against a low level background. Except for slight anomalies, the gradient background will be close to zero (white), while the edge will be "elevated" in gray scale value tending toward a black representation.

#### Local and Global Thresholding Algorithm :

Thresholding, naturally follows the gradient algorithm for edge detection. The result of this arithmetic step is to produce a binary image--background white, edge or area data will be black. The simplest form of thresholding is to just apply a "threshold" test value to all the pixels in the image to be processed in the following fashion:

Assign 
$$P_{5}^{*} = 1 \text{ If } P_{i} \geq \text{Threshold Value, T}$$

$$P_{5}^{*} = 0 \text{ If } P_{i} < T$$
 (7)

The problem with this technique is two fold: First, the threshold value must be determined (not an easy task) which will be dependent upon ambient lighting (bright sunlight, cloudy, reflections, etc.). Secondly, the same threshold be advantageous to use in certain regions in the not may overall image--shadows and other low contrast, low detail, The technique posed in Equation 7 is called regions. "global" while a series of smaller areas within the image may also be thresholded, each area separatley, accordingly called "local" Equation 7. This technique is thresholding. AMI Consultants has developed both global and thresholding algorithms a Motorola 6809 local using microprocessor. Additional thresholding, called bandpass thresholding by AMI Consultants, provided by:

$$P_{5}^{*} = 1 \text{ If } P_{i} \leq T_{2} \quad \text{AND } P_{i} \geq T_{1}$$
Assign
$$P_{5}^{*} = 0 \text{ If } P_{i} > T_{2} \quad \text{OR } P_{i} < T_{1}$$
(8)

For example, if a pavement background is represented by some gray value, say  $T_1$ , and the shadow of the crack at another gray value, say  $T_2$ , then all pixels between  $T_2$  and  $T_1$  would represent the body of the crack. A "Bandpass" threshold algorithm would quickly identify the crack for

classification. The establishment of values  $T_2$  and  $T_1$  were found to be very effective if "local" thresholding techniques were used. This technique is illustrated in Figure 12.

Two significant figures of merit that emerge from the thresholding and gradient algorithms are the determination of shadow crack area (bcdy of the distressed pavement) and the perimeter (edge of the distressed area). A thresholded gradient algorithm provides the perimeter and a bandpass thresholded algorithm provides the crack area.

#### Crack Validation Algorithm :

So far, the algorithms discussed will detect cracks in relatively new pavement. This capability is not realistic and suitable techniques must be used to reject patches, sealers, and other non-crack gray scale objects contrasted with the pavement background. At this point, a valid crack is assumed to be a long slender object (as seen by the image sensor). This feature is verified using the area to perimeter ratio as shown in Equation 9.

$$S = K \frac{A}{p^2}$$
 (K = 4  $\Re$ , (circle normalizing factor)) (9)

If S = 1 Shape is circular

S = .8 Shape is square

S = .5 Shape is rectangular

S = .3 Shape is long, slender

S = .05 Shape most likely is "crack line"

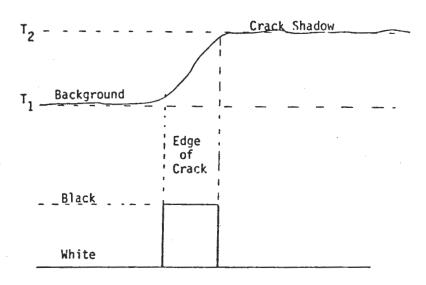


FIGURE 12 - Bandpass Threshold Selection

Assuming the processed "object" is a crack, then other attributes may be necessary for proper scoring from image detection. These are:

- 1. Crack Area--Proportional to total image area.
- Crack Direction--Recognizing longitudinal and traverse cracking.
- 3. Crack Width, Length, Depth.

#### Directional Cracking Algorithm :

detection algorithm is composed of several parts--averaging, gradient, thresholding, edge and area "area" subroutine of the algorithm calculations. The determines the "amount" of pavement distress--most likely a majority of cracking activity. The "area" image will contain thresholded "black" pixels that are simply counted. The entire 512 x 512 pixel image is then composed of 262,144 The number of black pixels in relation to 262,144 pixels. (times 100) is the percentage of "bad" pavement. direction of the crack within the pavement lane now has a bearing on the scoring. It becomes very desirable to determine the of the cracking in at least two direction directions:

- 1. Longitudinal to the pavement lane.
- 2. Transverse to the pavement lane.

AMI Consultants has developed four direction sensitive detection neighborhood operators much like the "Kirsch"

operators. As the neighborhood 3 x 3 window passes over the perimeter image, four counters keep track of those crack pixels that are oriented in each direction. These values are then provided for scoring of the pavement surface. These direction operators detect crack activity in the directions noted in Figure 13.

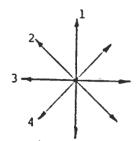


FIGURE 13
Crack Direction Sensitivity

#### Threshold Calculation and Image Calibration Algorithm:

The contrast difference between pavement background and a crack shadow will be largely dependant upon the reflected light and the texture of the pavement surface—variables that are largely independent. In order to obtain the necessary local and global threshold values, calibration must be performed. A "Histogram" algorithm is executed that establishes the number of pixels at each gray level. For a 262,144 pixel image, these pixels are "sorted" according to the gray levels from all white (zero gray scale value) to all black (255 gray scale value). The sorting algorithm

works very fast and may be done at the same time as other neighborhood operations. A "well lighted" histogram for road pavement surface is shown in Figure 14. It is clear from this histogram that the global threshold should be chosen between points "X" and "Y". Similarly, local histograms (meaning a smaller area of the image) will allow selection of a "local" threshold. The bandpass threshold window is clearly  $T_1 = X$ , and  $T_2 = Y$ .

on a dark day, the reflected light is very much less and therefore the histogram appears heavily "bunched" at the dark end of the gray scale. Points X and Y now become closer together and harder to determine. A histogram "equalization" algorithm is applied to enhance the image contrast and therefore "spreads" the histogram gray scale toward the white end. The histogram equalization process is lengthy and is not done for every image (done for every 10 to 100 images). Furthermore, the histogram calculation may survey a total of three adjacent image cameras—i.e. only one calculation for a three camera system need be processed.

# Scoring Vector:

The image processor algorithms are computing "figures of merit" that will be used by a host computer to determine the pavement condition score. A "Scoring Vector" is defined as a collection of "figures of merit". AMI Consultants is

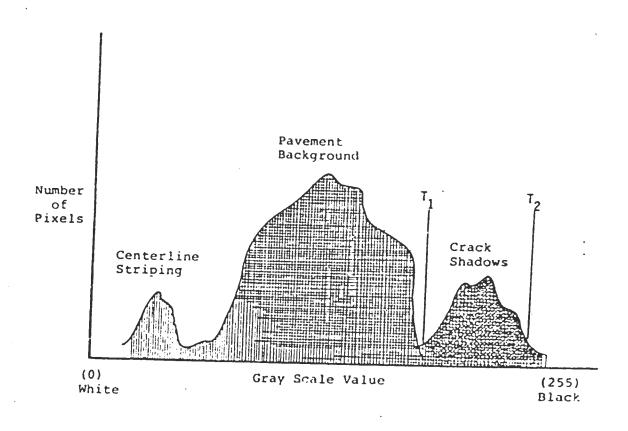
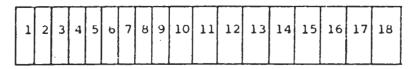


FIGURE 14 - Gray Scale Histogram

continuing the research for suitable pavement scoring, but has established the following format for each camera system.



Scoring Vector

These registers contain <u>all</u> of the necessary operand values needed for scoring. AMI Consultants proposes that at least two scores be made immediately available to the operator. These are called "quick look" scores and will aid the operator in determining the condition of the pavement surface as the vehicle is moving and recording data. The first score is an instantaneous distressed area count—the second score is an accumulation (integration) of the instantaneous score that is reset every mile or as determined by the operator.

The "Weighting" factors would be a representation of a state's scoring criteria. Florida, for example is known to use sea shells in the asphalt concrete mix. The textured background would then appear much different than the reddish aggregate found in the State of Oregon. The initial thresholded values would be generated from the weighting factors. Other effects would, of course, be included in the weight vector and would change all non-image sensor input

weighting towards the final scoring value.

Presented in Appendix A are examples of computer software developed by AMI Consultants. Although not all of the software used and/or developed during this Phase I effort is presented, the software shown does give an example of the nature of the software required for the proper operation of a computer based video imaging system. It should be noted that Appendix A is set aside

## Self Test:

The image processing pavement system is a moderately complicated device. It is very high speed and requires calibration while in operation (which is done by computer). In addition to these features, a system self test provices all the data required to perform system checks, and will identify modules requiring attention. Each sensor is exercised, calibration images are processed, memory modules are checked for proper operation. Output levels are "windowed" to insure proper recording. This test algorithm will be developed to insure a high "friendliness" factor toward a non-technical operator and will emphasize clear, simple instructions to execute the directory driven system.

### PAVING SCORING

In conjunction with our research effort, we have had discussions with some state highway officials regarding pavement scoring systems. A summary of the comments by these officials indicate:

- Each state agency has <u>evolved</u> its own scoring method based upon an empirical approach unique to its particular conditions of traffic, environment, availability of highway materials, etc.
- A need exists for the development of a standardized system of scoring.
- 3. No particular preference was given for a scoring system which starts with a score of 100 for a perfect pavement and decreases in value with increasing pavement distress, and a scoring system which starts with zero for a perfect pavement and increases in value with increasing pavement distress.

It would appear from these discussions that almost any reasonable approach to a scoring scheme would be acceptable for use in the system being researched. In that it would be much easier to start with a score of zero for a perfect pavement and add points for distress, as observed by the scoring vectors previously discussed, our research team has

made the decision to proceed with our study on this basis.

Presented as Figure 15 is an example of a computer generated pavement scoring system under development by AMI Consultants. This system has its roots in the system developed by the State of Nevada Department of Transportation and was adopted by AMI Consultants because it uses the "zero and increasing" approach to scoring. Additionally, the State of Nevada has agreed to cooperate with AMI Consultants on future development efforts.

## NON-VIDEO DATA ACQUISITION

As part of the Phase I objectives, question four addresses all necessary non-video parameters required as part of the data acquisition system. overall The total system is composed of a multi-processor video image data acquisition system and an 8 channel multiplexer, programmable gain amplitier, sample/hold amplifier, 12-bit analog to digital converter (ADC) and control logic clock. The non-video data acquisition system will provide analog inputs from contacting transducers mounted on the vehicle, and will allow extra channels for future expansion. The contacting transducers will provide vehicle distance traveled, velocity, and vehicle displacement between the rear axle and the body. This data then will be correlated with the video · image processed data to provide a direct measurement to the

	****************
	MILE POST IS 24.15
NEVADA	****** MEASURED DATA ******
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	SLOPE VARIANCE, in = 3.9
***********	SLOPE VARIANCE, in = 3 9 EXT OF ALLIGATOR, ft2 = 190 EXT OF LINEAR CRACK, ft = 13 WIOTH OF LINEAR CRACK, in = 22 RUT DEPTH, in = 21 EXT OF PATCHING, ft2 = 17
******* QA INPUT DATA ******	RUT DEPTH, in = .21 EXT OF PATCHING, ft2 = .13 EXT OF BLEEDING = MODERATE EXT OF RAVELING = NONE
OPERATERS NAME IS JOHN J DOE	******* SCORED DATA *******
DATE IS 4/12/1984	SLOPE VARIANCE = 48
DISTRICT IS 3	LINEAR CRACKING = 90
COUNTY IS WASHOE	PATCHING = 7
ROUTE NUMBER IS US 355	SLOPE VARIANCE = 48 ALLIGHTOR CRACKING = 295 LINEAR CRACKING = 90 RUT DEPTH = 9 PATCHING = 7 BLEEDING = 100 RAVELING = 0
	*** TOTAL TEST SECTION SCORE ***
TRAVEL DIRECTION- NORTH	TOTAL SCORE = 523
*******	************
MILE POST IS 23.15	MILE POST IS 25.15
•	****** MEASURED DATA ******
SLOPE VARIANCE, in = 13.0  EXT OF ALLIGATOR, ft <sup>2</sup> = 71  EXT OF LINEAR CRACK, ft = 187  WIDTH OF LINEAR CRACK, in = .96  RUT DEPTH, in = .98  EXT OF PATCHING, ft <sup>2</sup> = .83  EXT OF BLEEDING = .80  EXT OF RAVELING = .81  SLIGHT	SLOPE VARIANCE, in = 1.5 EXT OF ALLIGATOR, ft <sup>2</sup> = 54 EXT OF LINEAR CRACK, ft = 167 WIDTH OF LINEAR CRACK, in = 49 RUT DEPTH, in = .14 EXT OF PATCHING, ft <sup>2</sup> = 205 EXT OF BLEEDING = NONE EXT OF RAVELING = NONE
****** SCORED DATA *******	****** SCORED DATA ******
SLOPE VARIANCE = 226     ALLIGATOR CRACKING = 106     LINEAR CRACKING = 362     RUT DEPTH = 412     PATCHING = 42     BLEEDING = 0     RAVELING = 100	SLOPE VARIANCE = 18 ALLIGATOR CRACKING = 30 LINEAR CRACKING = 214 RUT DEPTH = 0 PATCHING = 102 BLEEDING = 0 RAVELING = 0
*** TOTAL TEST SECTION SCORE ***	*** TOTAL TEST SECTION SCORE ***
TOTAL SCORE = 1206	TOTAL SCORE = 313

FIGURE 15 - Example of Computer Generated Pavement Scoring Technique

visual measurement correlation thus adding confidence to the image processed data in addition to contributing information to the data base.

14 AP. 7

The two types of contacting transducers will be The first type will be a pulse counting encoder initially. to measure distance. It is capable of resolving 0.005% of a transducer type is a displacement mile. The second measuring system. It consists of two ultrasonic transducers with integrated signal conditioners. Their only requirement for operation is a bi-polar D.C. voltage power supply. The two displacement transducers will be mounted near the wheels at each end of the rear axle and the sum of the outputs will be acquired and processed to provide displacement data that is in time phase with video processed data. The system resolution for these transducers is 0.002 inches over a 10 inch range. The vehicle velocity will be determined by the pulse counting encoder transducer and the on-board system clock. This velocity measurement will be used to control the non-video and video data acquisition system rates.

It is recognized that a system operating in the field must have quality assured data, and that the system operator may not have all of the necessary skills required to calibrate sophisticated electronics sub-systems or diagnose electronic system problems. We propose to establish an automatic calibration procedure that serves as a systematic test of

all sub-system operations without the use of software diagnostic routines or costly manual maintenance procedures. With calibration conducted prior to a test run, the user is assured that the system is fully operational as well as completely calibrated.

If any calibration point cannot be successfully calibrated, flag is issued. Any error detected during calibration of the post amplifier is a gross error since it affects all data acquisition channels. In this case, the calibration process is aborted and the operator is notified that immediate attention is required at a specific location. preamplifier calibration, any channel drawing excessive current from the calibration bus is automatically disconnected for the remainder of the calibration procedure and flagged as a faulty channel. If an error is detected during zero and upscale preamplifier calibration or during hi-polar linearity check, the faulty channel is identified as well as the gain of filter step at which the In this case, the user can decide, error was detected. after consultation, whether or not to proceed with the test depending upon the effect the error would have on the test run objectives.

#### RESEARCH DATA

The DATA set presented in Appendix B and discussed in this section of the report was taken using the laboratory equipment shown in Figure 16. This equipment is composed of:

- A Video Camera--Standard Raster Scan (1/30 sec per frame).
- 2. A Frame Buffer--Quantex Company, 256 x 256 x 8.
- A motorola Microprocessor (6809) -- Developed by AMI Consultants.
- 4. A Video Monitor -- Sony Black and White.
- CRT Terminal--To communicate with the microprocessor.
- 6. A lighted easel to hold the photograph of a pavement surface.

The software algorithms were developed during the Phase I investigation to evaluate timing, sensor response, processing capability, and other factors relating to specifying a prototype to be used in a vehicle in road testing. A minimum set of algorithms has been established to provide for crack detection. Execution speed was not a factor in the laboratory data analysis and typically took up to 5 seconds to produce a thresholded image.

Each photograph was taken late in the day thereby exhibiting a significant shadow. The distance represented by each photograph is approximately 2 x 3 feet. This was done to establish the actual viewing area with respect to detail and crack measurements. This laboratory system was only a 256 x 256 x 8 system and the proposed system will need to be a 512

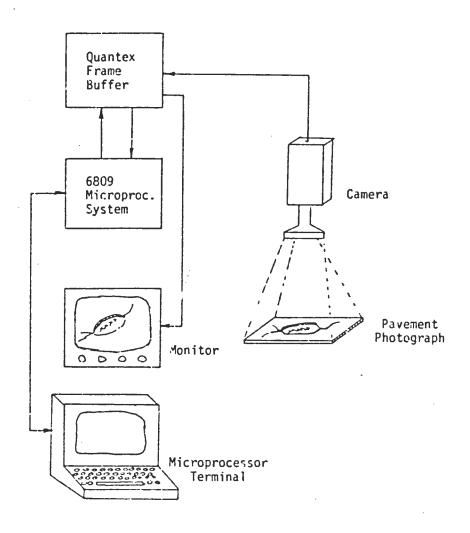


FIGURE 16 - Video Imaging System Prototype

x 512 x 8 image viewing area. Each of the 512 x 512 images will respond to a four foot square thereby producing image qualities similar to those shown in this report. All image processing is done on the actual linear photograph. The data presented here is a reproduction by a "copy machine" and actually introduces certain artitacts.

Data Photo	Description
1.	Good Pavement
2.	Oblique Cracking
3.	Transverse Cracking
4.	Crack With Moisture
5.	Longitudinal Cracking
6.	"Pot Hole"
7.	Large "Fork" Crack
8.	Pot Hole and Cracking
9.	Large Pot Hole

For each data photograph taken, the following analysis is performed:

- Histogram---Indicating the pavement sample composition.
- Simple Threshold--Indicating the body/crack area of the crack shadow.
- 3. Simple Gradient--Indicating the crack body edge.

As each photograph is being examined, make a mental note of the write, gray, and black areas. This information is carefully examined during the generation of the histogram. Very light areas are represented to the left and very dark areas (cracks, and other objects) are located to the right. The cracks in this laboratory study are shown at the extreme right and are easily detectable to determing the thresholds, (Figure 14). This information is then used to It can easily be produce a simple gradient photograph. noted that the edge and crack body has been segmented. The next step is ratio the area pixels to the whole image to determine the amount of distressed pavement. Weighting factors are incorporated to determine the pavement score. of this data is to grasp the potential capability of such image processing toward a high-speed prototype unit to be developed in Phase II.

## TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the results of the research efforts previously described in this Phase I study, it is the conclusion of AMI Consultants that a video image based pavement system is feasible. Although additional development effort is necessary, all of the <u>individual</u> potential problem areas researched to date have been shown to be solvable. The major effort remaining, in summary, is the integration of the research pieces into a total system so that <u>TOTAL SYSTEM PERFORMANCE</u> can be properly evaluated. As a result of this feasibility study, it appears that the greatest

technical risk remaining lies in the quality of operation of each of the system components interacting as a total system. Specifically, the following questions were addressed:

- The use of a "slit" type video sensor is not only desirable, but absolutely necessary for obtaining pavement data at highway vehicle speeds.
- 2. Image processing algorithms have been and will continue to be developed to recognize various types and degree of severity of pavement distress.
- 3. Pavement scoring vectors have been addressed in the image processing algorithm development. User meaningful pavement performance scores can casily be generated to reflect any particular highway agency's unique situation. Scoring which ranges from zero for a perfect pavement and assends in value with increased pavement distress, better lends itself to a computer generated composite rating score.
- 4. Vehicle speed and distance traveled are two manditory non-video data values to be acquired. Vehicle speed is required as input for video image scan rate control; while vehicle distance must be monitored to establish the locations of video images (pavement condition locations), and to allow for some operator control of the image scanning rate interval. Additional non-video data acquisition will include monitoring displacement transducers mounted to measure the relative movement

between the vehicle axle and frame. This data will be used to correlate road roughness to pavement condition as determined by the video portion of the test system.

# POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS OF THE RESEARCH

The target application of this research effort is the automation of pavement conditon surveys. Specific benefits associated with a system of this type have been previously discussed. In summary, these benefits are:

- 1. Higher quality pavement condition data.
- Data gathered in a more timely manner.
- 3. Less personnel required in data gathering.
- 4. Lover long-term costs than methods presently in use.
- 5. Establishment of a data base for input to pavement management system programs.

Two approaches are envisioned for the commercial application of the research findings. These are:

- 1. System production and sales.
- Pavement condition survey services.

It is anticipated that large highway agencies will want to procure the proposed system for in-house use in evaluation of their highway system. Agencies above a particular size will be able to justify the initial capital outlay required to purchase the proposed system in that they will be in a

position to use one or more systems on a continuous and full-time basis. It is believed that an international market also exists for the proposed device.

Smaller agencies, however, most likely will not be able to justify a large capital outlay because of the size of the highway system over which they have jurisdiction. In cases such as this, the need for pavement condition survey services would be more appropriate. A service company can be contracted with to provide pavement data on an hourly or cost per lane mile basis. It is estimated that more agencies would fall into this latter category.

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# APPENDIX A

COMPUTER SOFTWARE PRINTOUT

Appendix A is proprietary information which AMI Consultants requests not be released to persons outside the Government, except for purposes of evaluation.

002010 × H201, \* -----HYLU K 0245 \* UNIO W INTRODUCTION 8930 \* A FASTL HICH SPEED TMACE PROCESSING UPERATING SYSTEM (BIPOS) HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN IMAGE PROCESSING LAB OF U.N.R. BIPOS IS WRITEN BY ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE OF MARRY MICROPROCESSOR. THE ADVANTAGE OF THE 11735 × SYSTEM IS HIGH SPEED, EASY TO LEANE, EASY TO USE, PARTICULARLY IT IS 1194Ú ж USEFUL FOR EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITY FALSO FUR SOME BASTO AFFELLATION. 0945 « ひりごひ × 0960 \* FIGURE 1 IS THE DIAGRAM OF IMAGE PROCESSING WHICH WE USE. 0965 \* FIGURE 2 IS M6809 MEMORY MARFING. 11920 × ----0975 × RAM MPU M6809 ACIÉA KEY FOARD リン80 × -----**₩** (2896) 0990 « 0995 × F000 \* USER RAM 1005 × SENSOR PIA I 1010 \* 1015 ×  $1020 \times$ ÜLIANTAX OF.SY 1025 × £030 × 1035 × ----FTA 2 1040 × BIFOS 1045 × MONITER 1050 × 1055 × FIGURE 1 IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM DIAGRAM 1060 × 1065 × ----- FFFF 1070 × M6809 OP.SY 1075 × \_\_\_\_\_ F800 1080 × ----- C7FF 1085 × EIPOS 1090 × ----- C000 1095 × \_\_\_\_\_ ABFF 1100 × EIPOS USE RAM 1105 × \_\_\_\_\_ A3C0 1110 × \_\_\_\_\_ A38F 1115 × USER RAM 1120 × ----- A10G 1125 × RAM LTACK 1130 × 1135 \* 1140 × 8008 ACIA 1145 × 1150 × 4007 1155 x RUANTAX 1150 × 4000 1135 × \_\_\_\_\_\_03FF 1170 \* RAM ARRAY 1175 × \_\_\_\_\_\_0000 1180 × 1185 × MAPPING MEMORY 1190 × FIGURE 2 M6809 1195 ×

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1210 * THERE ARE IS SUBROUTEDE ORGANIZED (NEU 190 ROM (1012/16).
1215 * FOLLOWING IS A LIST:
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1240 * SUBROUTINE ABSOLUTE MEMORY OF
1245 * FUNCTION ADDRESS INPUT
1250 x
1255 * INTITATE $6000
1260 × PIA
1265 ×----
1270 * READ FIXEL $0020
1275 * FROM QUANTAX
1280 * -----
1285 * WRITE PIXEL $C040
1290 * FROM QUANTAX -
1295 x
DIVIDEND M(A3F1,A3F2) REMAINDER M(A3F7,A3F8)
1310 × -----
1315 * READ ARRAY $C090 STAR ROW M(A3D0)
L320 * FROM QUANTAX STAR COLUMN M(A3D1) ARRAY DATA ADDRESS
L325 * STOP ROW M(A3D2) IN Y REGISTER
L330 * STOP COLUMN M(A3D3)
1335 × -----
1340 * GRADIENT $C0C0 THRESHOLD VALUE ARE YOU SATISFIED?
1350 * THRESHOLD
                  IN M(A3D4)
                                 INPUT THRESHOLD:
1355 x -----
1360 * ENHANCE $C180 START PIXEL M(AGE1)
1365 * WHOLE IMAFE STOP FIXEL M(A3E2)
1370 × -----
1375 * LOGICAL $C1D0
1380 * PRODUCT
1385 × -----
1390 * THRESHOLD $C290 START ROW M(A3FF) START X: 1395 * WHOLE OR START COLUMN M(A3FE START Y:
1395 * WHOLE OR
1400 * PART OF
1405 * IMAGE
                 STOP ROW M(AGED) STOP X:
                 STOP COLUMN M(AGEC) STOP Y:
1410 x
                 THRESHOLD 1 M(A3FB) THRESHOLD 1:
1415 x
                 THRESHOLD 2 M(A3FA) THRESHOLD 2:
1420 * ----
1425 * FIDER FIXEL $0320
                                POSITION ON CRT & FIXEL
1430 * VALUE AND
                                VALUE POINTED BY CURSOR
1435 * POSITION
1440 x
1445 * TUTOR $C3E0
                                MESAGE
1450 × ----
1455 ×
1460 x
1465 ×
                     ROM 2
1470 x
1475 × ----
1490 × ----
1495 * READ FIXEL $C020
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           L=LOGICAL AND
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           F=FINDER
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2010 * AFTER TYPED I FOR ROM 2 , THE CRT DISPLY :
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                     C040
2040 ×
           H=HISTOGRAM
                            C060
                                     A=AVERAGE
                                                     C266
2045 ×
           C=CONTRACT
                             C345
                                     E=SIT SLICE
                                                     C383
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           I=SUEROUTINE
                            LIST
                                    Q=FRONEUC
                                                     F845
2055 ×
2060 * NOW YOU CAN TYPE CORRESPONDING LETTER TO ENTER DESIRED SUBROUTINE.
2065 ×
2070 * NOTE: IF YOU REMEMBER WHICH LETTER REPRESETS WHICH SUBROUTINE, IT
2075 ×
             IS NO NEED TO TYPE I EVERY TIME. YOU CAN ENTER SUBROUTINE
             IMMIDENTLY BY TYPING CORRESPONDING LETTER AFTER G C3E0.
2080 ×
2085 ×
2090 * FIGURE 4 TELLS YOU WHAT QUISTIONS YOU HAVE AND HOW TO ANSWER THEM
2095 * FOR EACH SUBROUTINE.
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2195	ж		THRESHOLD 2:	16	RUN
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2205			START X:	40	
2210			START Y:	40	
2215			STOP X:	ZF	
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2250				G AITH KEILKI	UNTIL RELEASE
2255				D	CONSOR GOES DOWN
2260				D WITH REFEAT	CORSOR GOES DOWN
2265				D WITH RELEAT	UNTIL RELEASE
2270				l.	MOVE TO LEFT
2275	ж			L WITH REPEAT	
2280	ж			R	MOVE TO RIGHT
2285	ж			R WITH REPEAT	
2290	ж				CRT DISPLY FIXEL
2295	ж				VALUE & FOSITION
2300	ж				
2305			ОИ		EACK TO FRONEUG
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2329			_	·	
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2370	ж		W6: W7: W8: W9	02 02 02 02	RUN
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00273 00030A C0F4 E6
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00277 00031A COF7 E7
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00290 00033A COFD 7C
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00300 00034A C100 7C
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00310 00035A C103 26
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00320 00036A C105 70
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00330 00037A C108 7C
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00418 00045A C110 ED
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00415 00046A C120 ED
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00420 00047A C123 B7
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00423 00048A C126 7F
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00425 00049A C129 7F
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00430 00050A C120 8D
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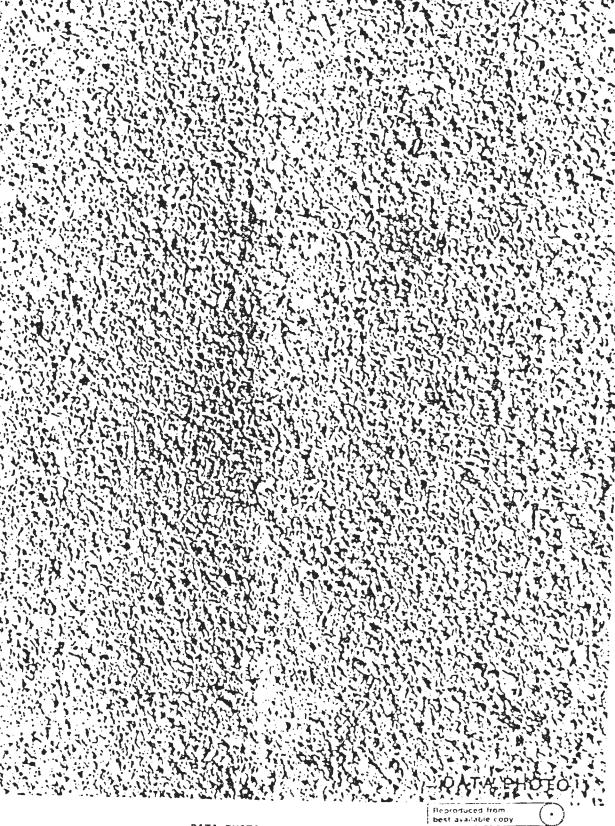
0:95\*

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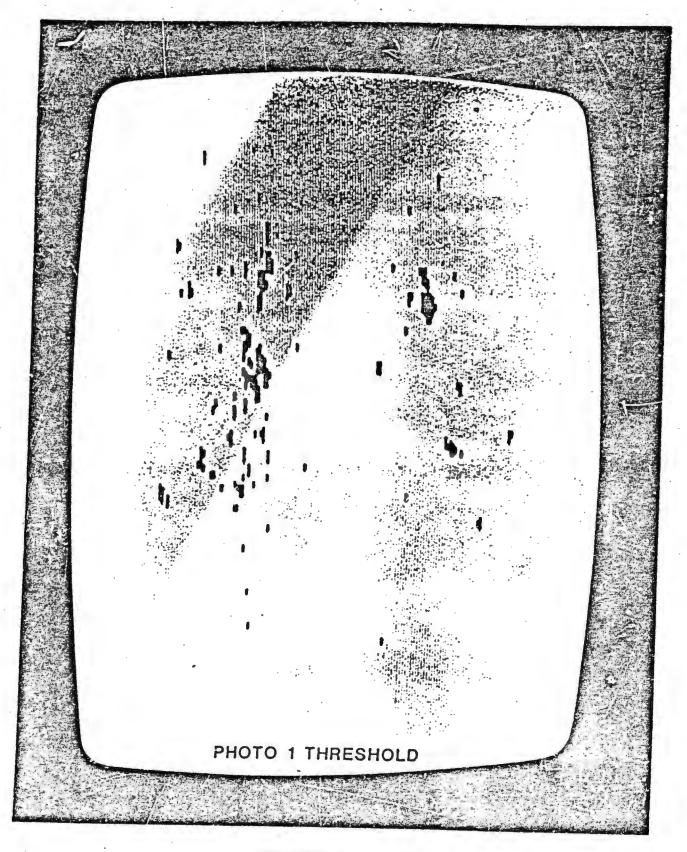
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00270 00026A COEE 35
                                       RTS
00280 00027A C0ED 39
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*** ERROR
TOTAL ERRORS: 00001 - LAST ERROR LINE: 00027
TOTAL HARNINGS: 00000 - LAST WARNING LINE: 00000
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APPENDIX B

RESEARCH DATA PHOTOGRAPHS



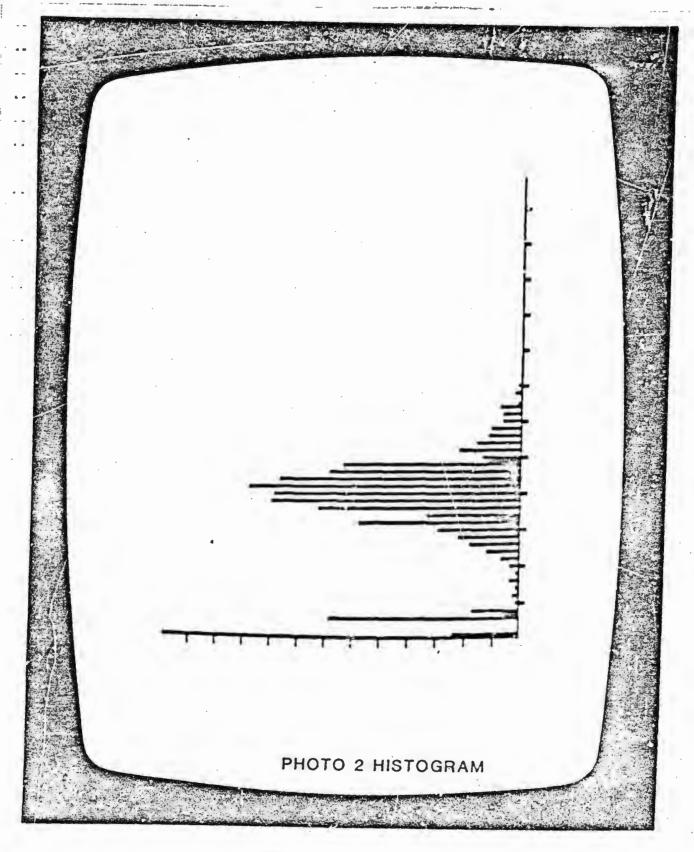
DATA PHOTO 1 - Good Pavement



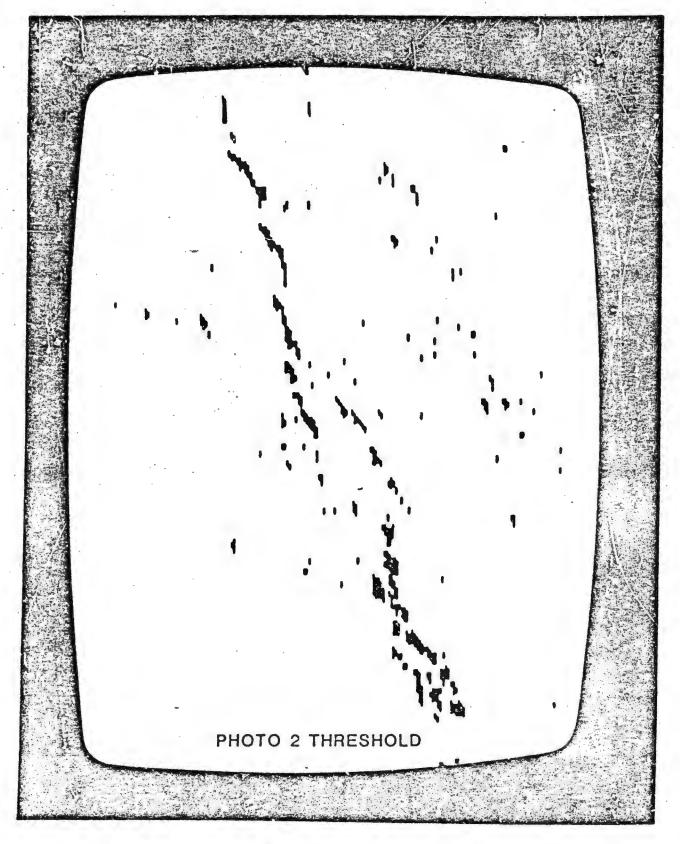
DATA PHOTO 1 - Threshold - 59



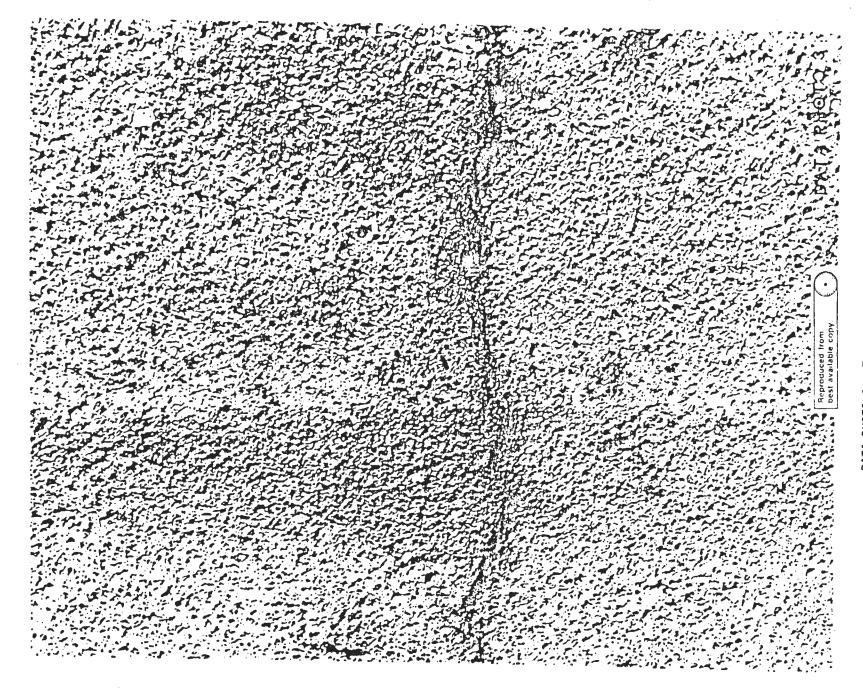
DATA PHOTO 2 - Oblique Cracking



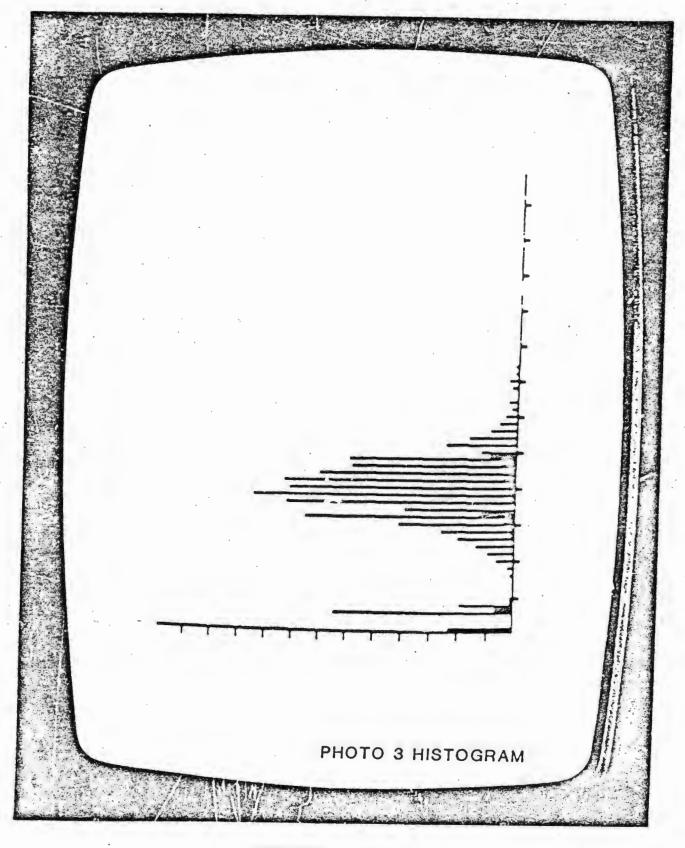
.DATA PHOTO 2 - Histogram



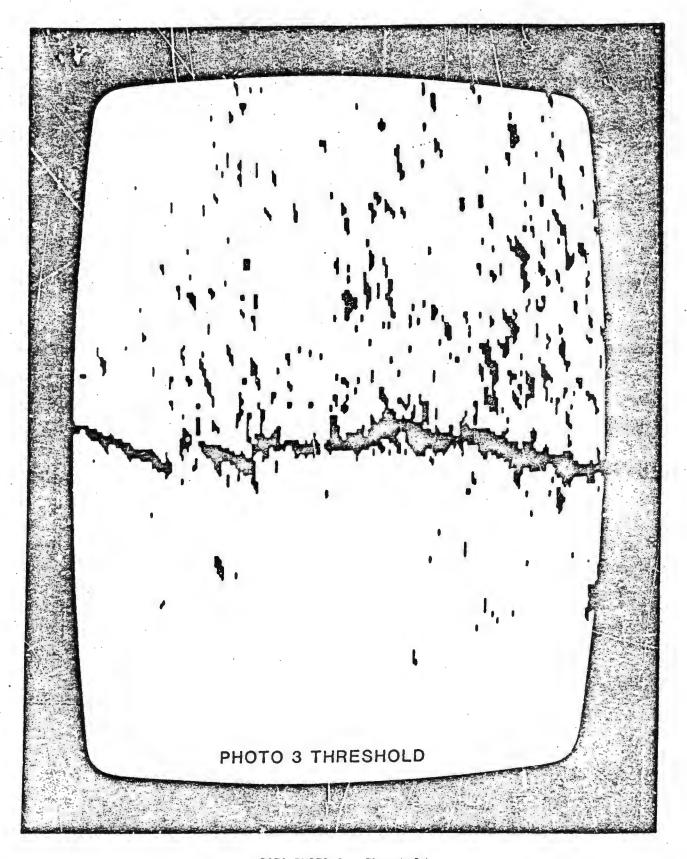
DATA PHOTO 2 - Threshold 62



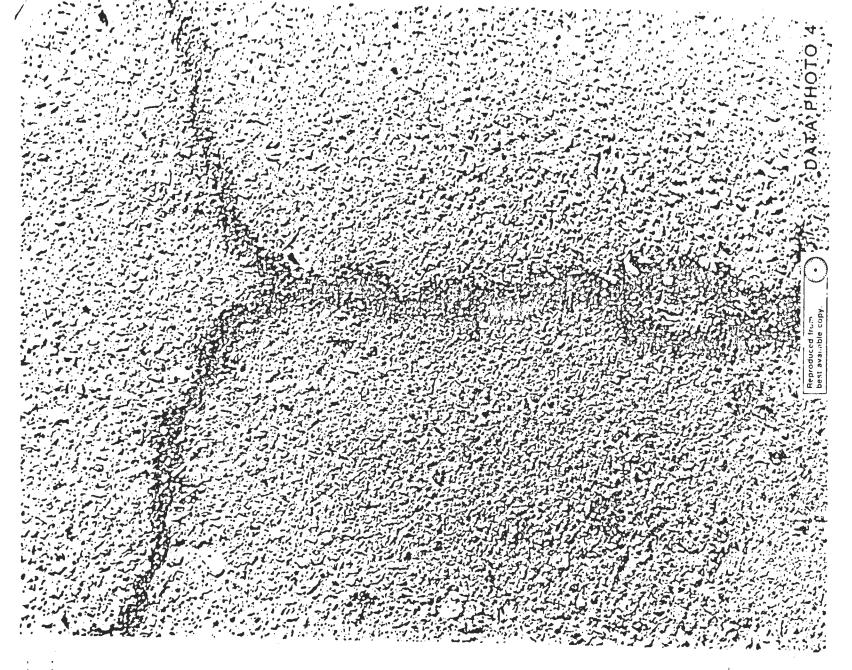
DATA PHOTO 3 - Transverse Cracking



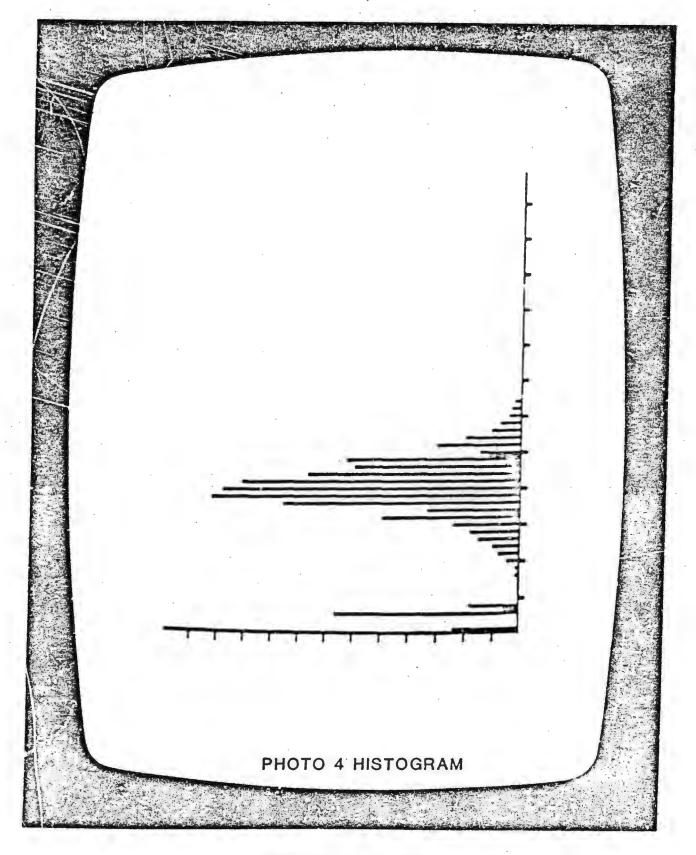
DATA PHOTO 3 - Histogram



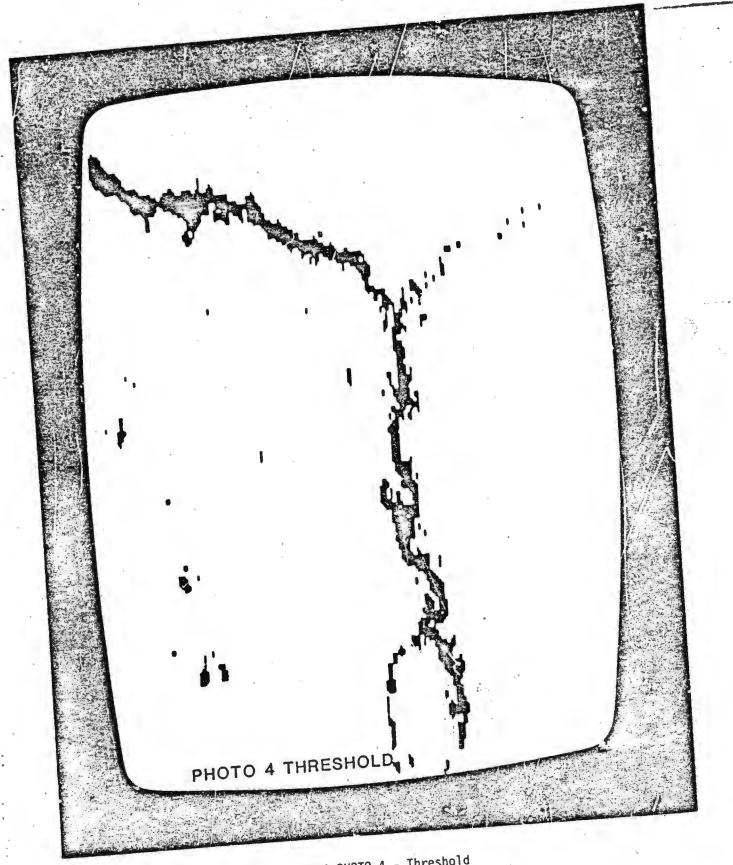
DATA PHOTO 3 - Threshold



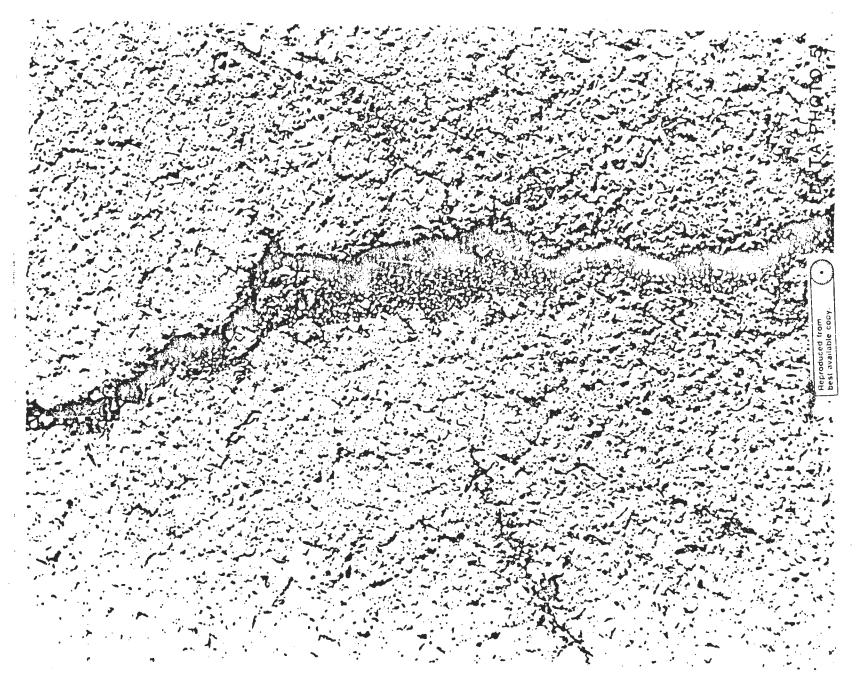
DATA PHOTO 4 - Crack with Moisture



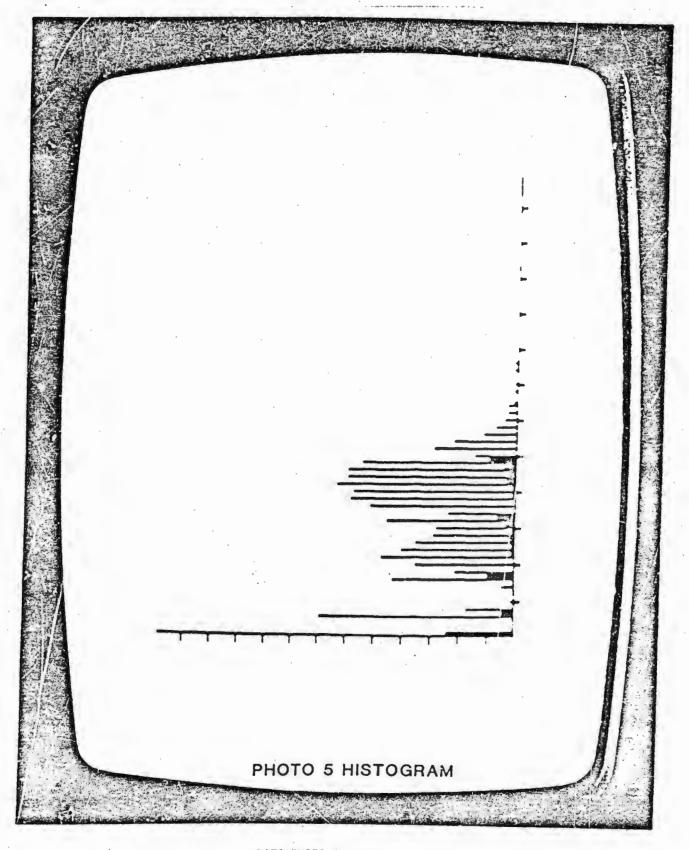
DATA PHOTO 4 - Histogram



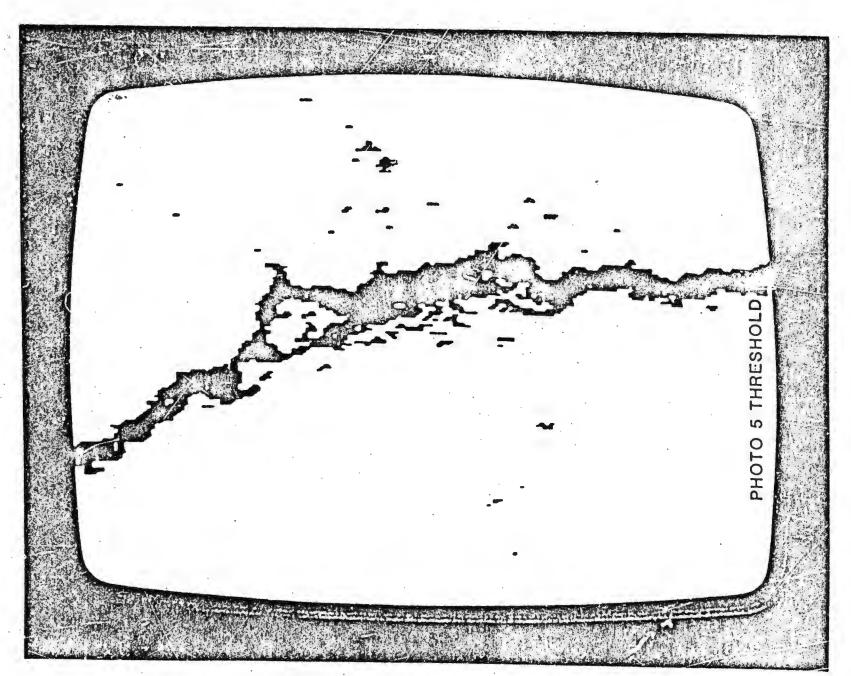
DATA PHOTO 4 - Threshold



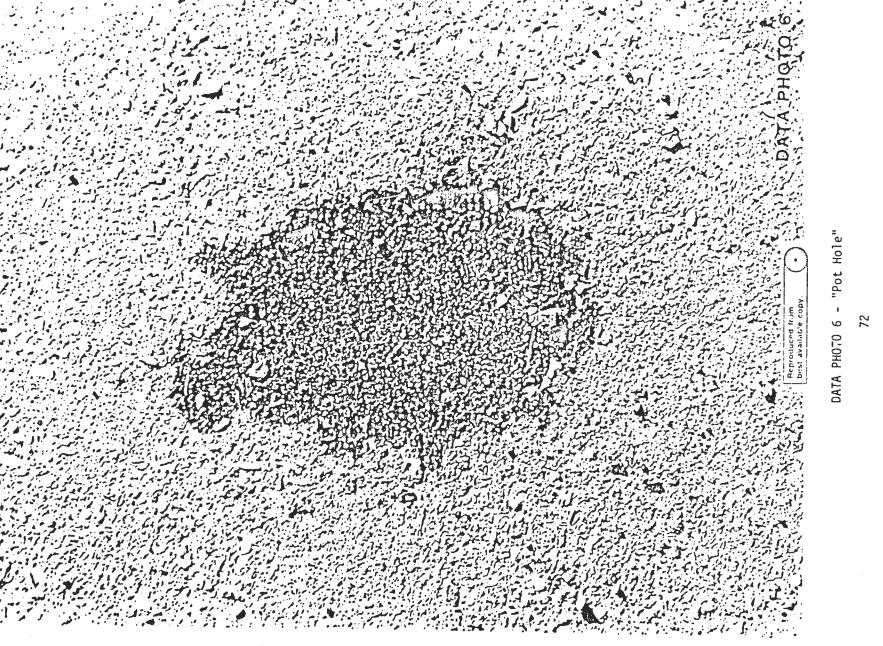
- Longitudinal Cracking 69 DATA PHOTO 5

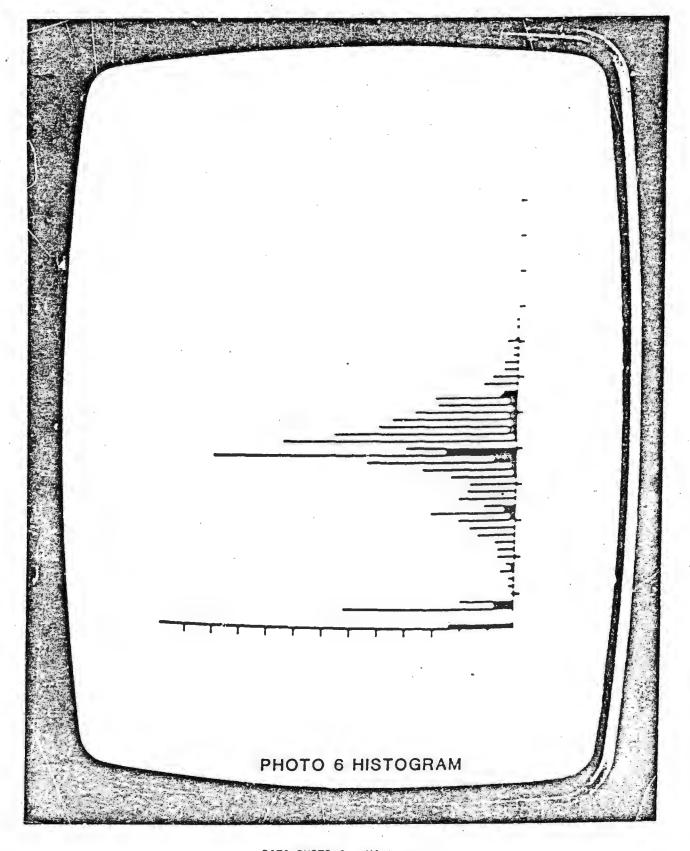


DATA PHOTO 5 - Histogram

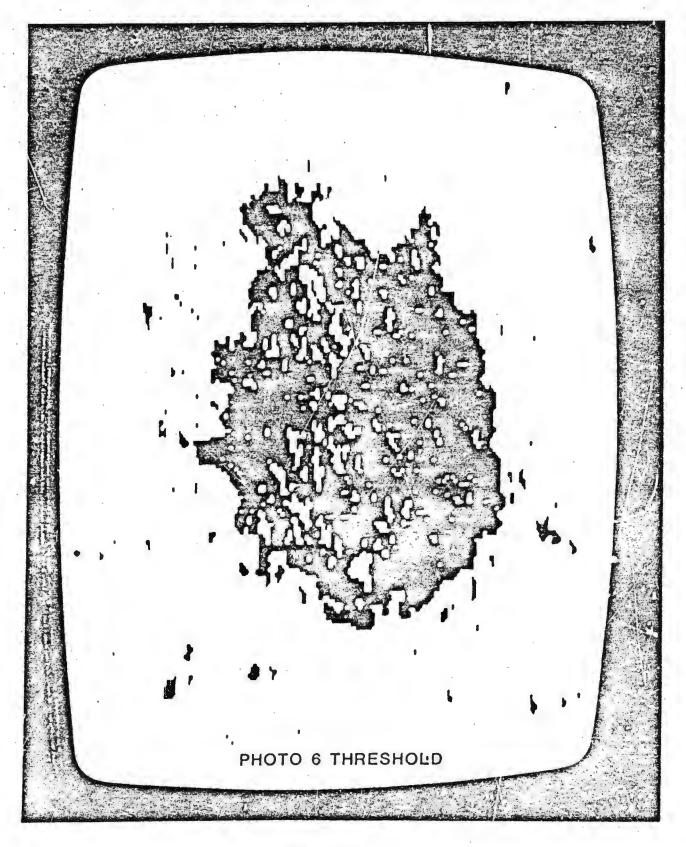


DATA PHOTO 5 - Threshold

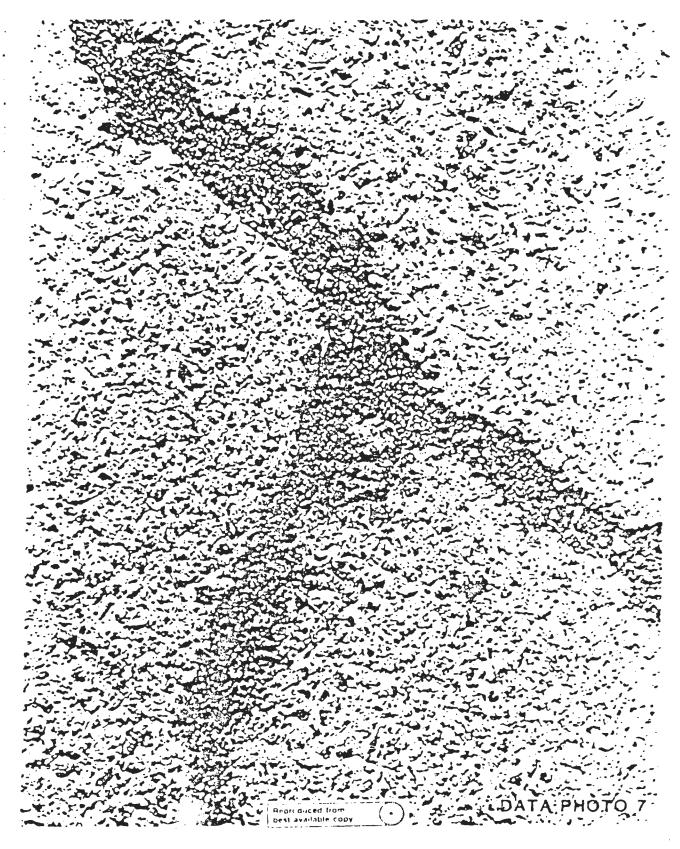




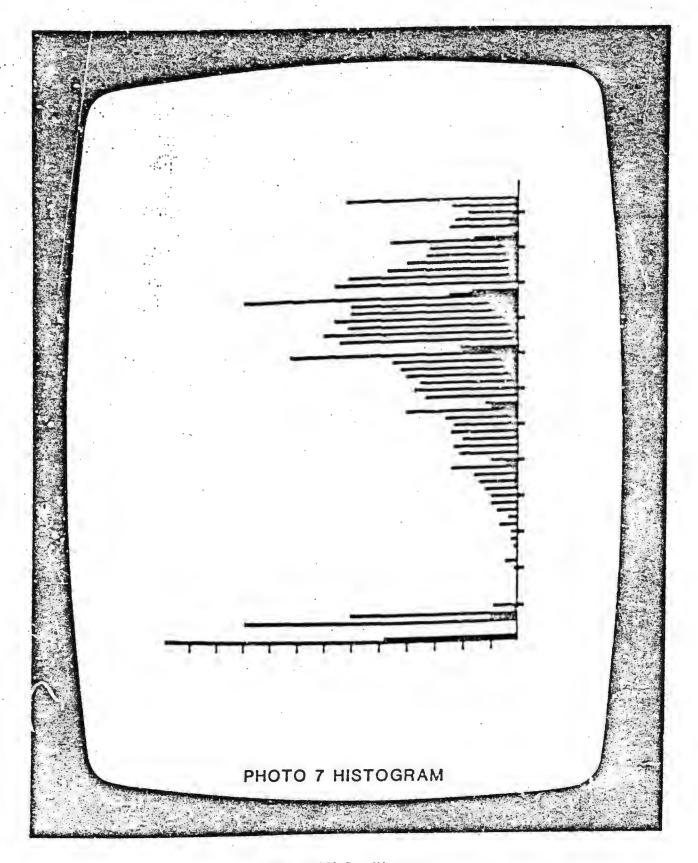
DATA PHOTO 6 - Histogram



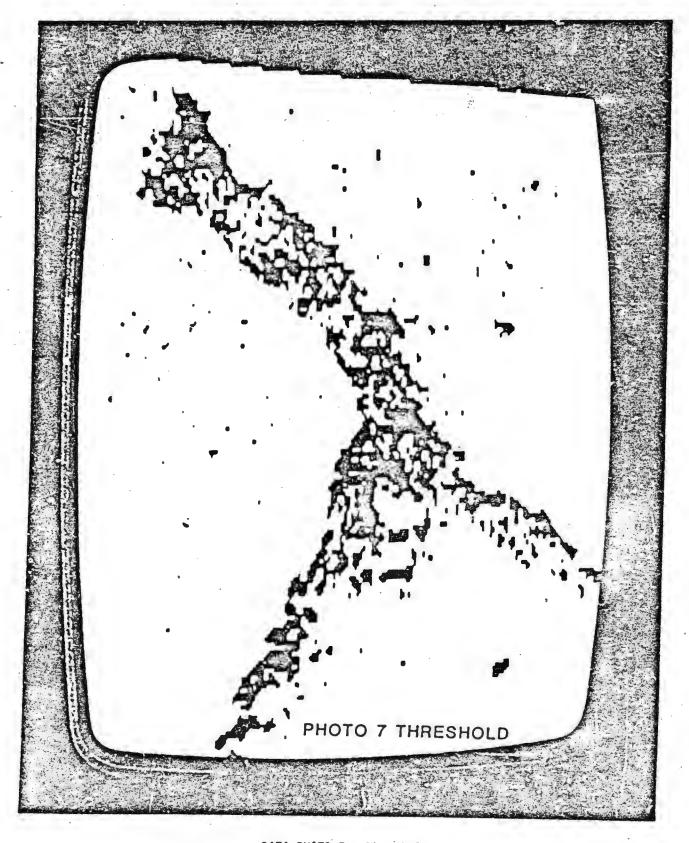
DATA PHOTO 6 - Threshold



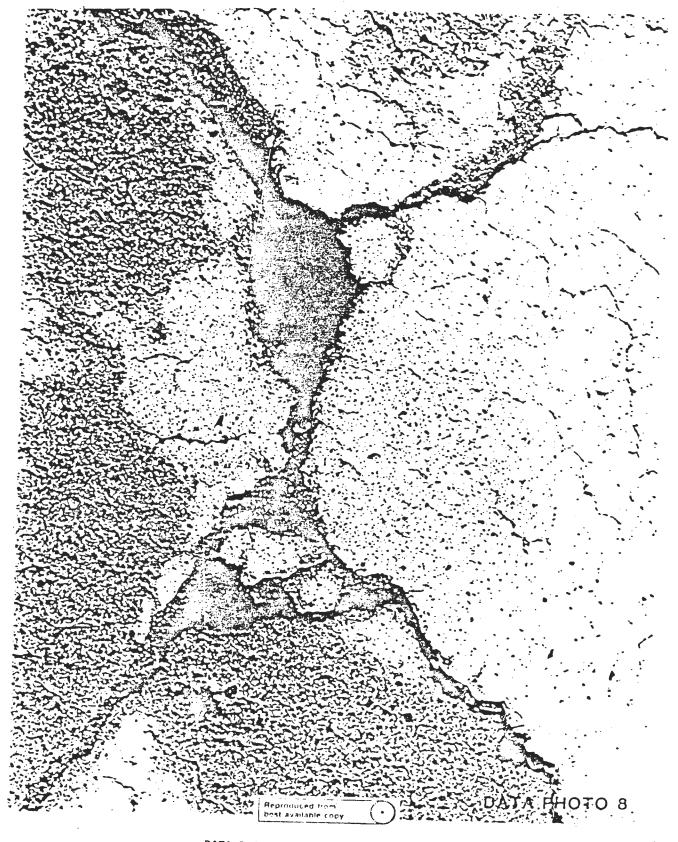
DATA PHOTO 7 - Large "Fork" Crack



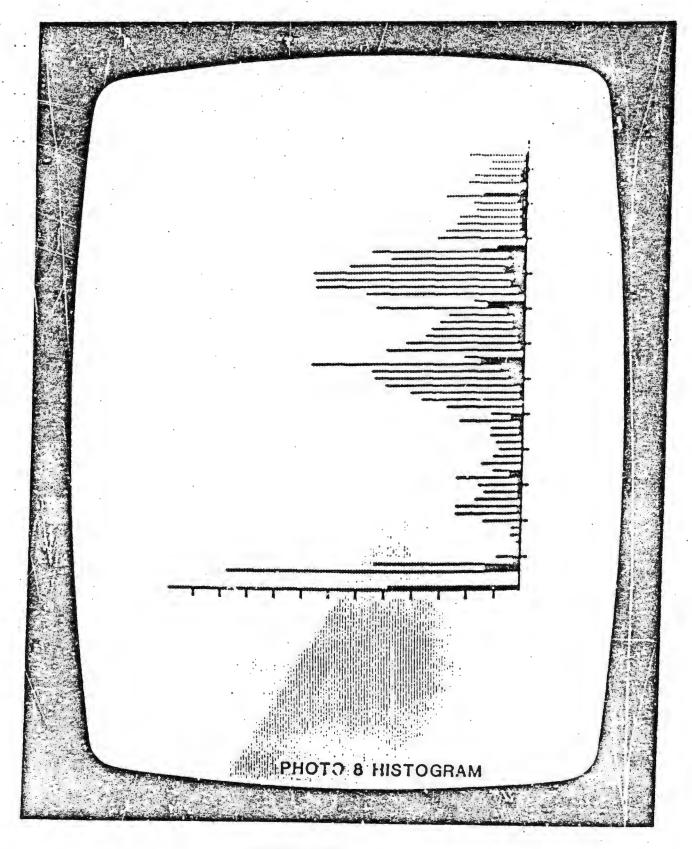
DATA PHOTO 7 - Histogram



DATA PHOTO 7 - Threshold



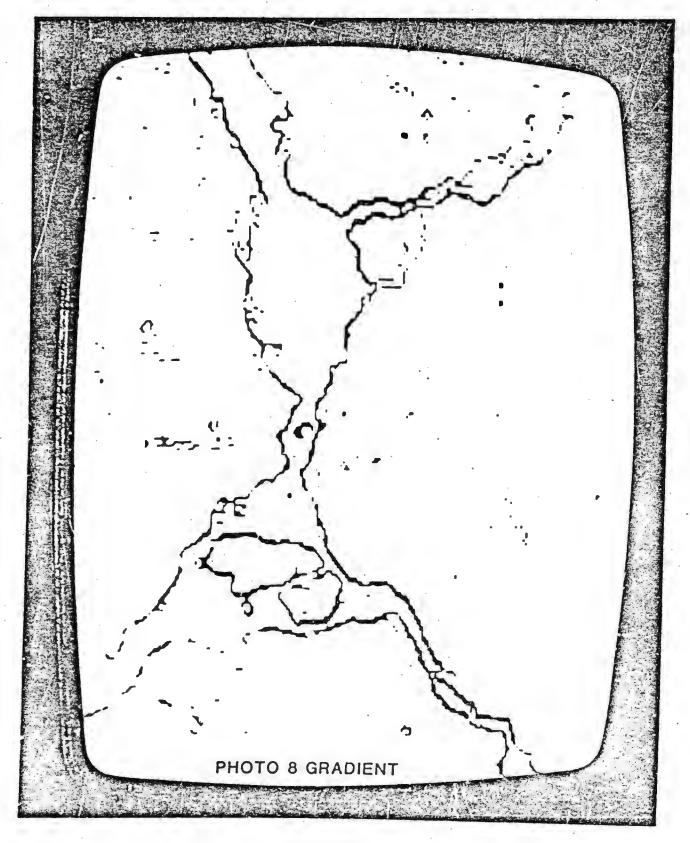
DATA PHOTO 8 - Pot Hole and Cracking



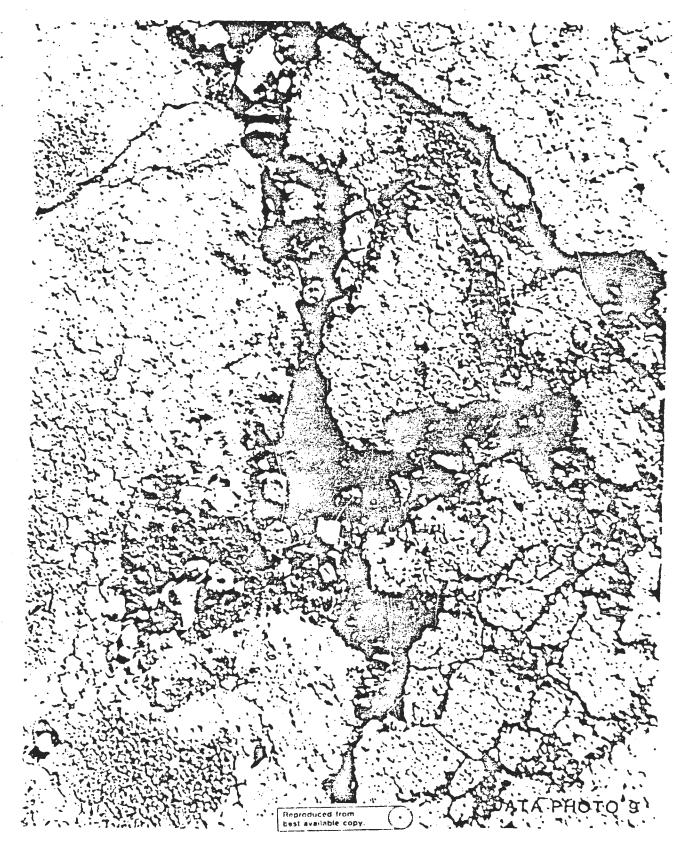
DATA PHOTO 8 - Histogram



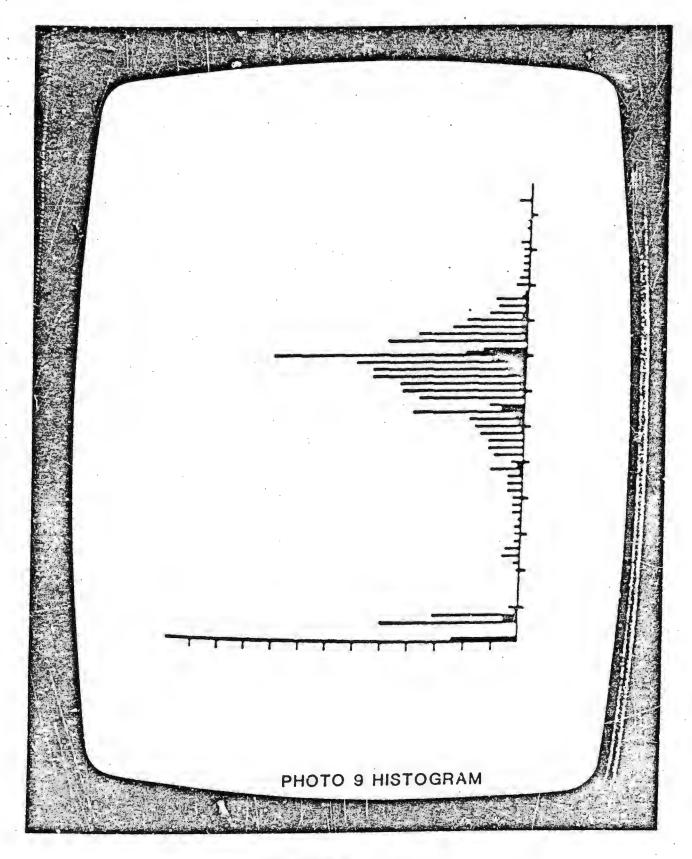
DATA PHOTO 8 - Threshold



DATA PHOTO 8 - Gradient



DATA PHOTO 9 - Large Pot Hole



DATA PHOTO 9 - Histogram



DATA PHOTO 9 - Threshold

## 3=12=