

BACKWATER AT BRIDGES AND DENSELY WOODED
FLOOD PLAINS, COLDWATER RIVER NEAR
RED BANKS, MISSISSIPPI

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HYDROLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS ATLAS
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INTRODUCTION

New techniques for predicting water-surface profiles, needed in the design of economical, structurally sound, and environmentally compatible stream crossings, are under investigation. The investigation has accelerated with the advent of digital computers capable of analyzing large quantities of data. Among the techniques is the development of two-dimensional (2-D) digital models. Field data are essential for development and evaluation of these techniques for predicting water-surface profiles. This atlas is one of a series that provide a wide range of field data.

Since 1969 the U.S. Geological Survey has been collecting backwater data where wide, densely vegetated flood plains are crossed by highway embankments and single-opening bridges. This work was done in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration Department of Transportation, the Alabama State Highway Department, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, and the Mississippi State Highway Department. The objective of this cooperative project is to present the data in a format conducive to the development of improved models for predicting the hydraulic responses of flow at highway crossings of streams in complex hydrologic and geographic settings.

Backwater data were obtained at 22 sites for 35 floods; that is, 11 sites had 1 flood each, 9 sites, 2 floods each, and 2 sites, 3 floods each. Analysis of data (Schneider and others, 1976) showed that backwater and discharge at these sites computed by methods presently in use, would be inaccurate. The floodflow data are unique in the range and detail in which information was collected and provide a base for evaluating digital models relating to open-channel flow.

The data sites (fig. 1) are listed below. This atlas shows flood data obtained on Coldwater River near Red Banks, Mississippi, one of the 22 sites.

HYDROLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS ATLAS NUMBER

ALABAMA	
Buckhorn Creek near Shiloh	HA-607
Pea Creek near Louisville	608
Poley Creek near Sanford	609
Yellow River near Sanford	610
Whitesaver Creek near Tarentum	611

LOUISIANA	
Alexander Creek near St. Francisville	HA-600
Beaver Creek near Kentwood	601
Comite River near Olive Branch	602
Cypress Creek near Downsville	603
Flagon Bayou near Libus	604
Little Bayou de Loure near Trevel	605
Tennille Creek near Elizabeth	606

MISSISSIPPI	
Bogue Chitto near Johnston Station	HA-591
Bogue Chitto near Summit	592
Coldwater River near Red Banks	593
Lobatcha Creek at Johnston	594
Oakoma Creek east of Magee	595
Oakoma Creek near Magee	596
Tallahatcha Creek at Waldrup	597
Thompson Creek near Clara	598
West Fork Amite River near Liberty	598
Yockanookany River near Thomastown	599

DESCRIPTION OF DATA

TYPE OF DATA

Data collected at all study sites consist of (1) depths, velocities, and discharges measured through the bridge openings, and (2) peak water-surface elevations along the highway embankment and along cross sections. A minimum of eight valley cross sections were surveyed at approximately one valley-width intervals in the vicinity of the bridge at each site. Locations of the cross sections were aimed perpendicularly to the assumed direction of flow. Cross sections were extended to the base maps. The cross sections equal water-surface elevations. Surveying procedures described in the U.S. Geological Survey Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations series (Mattioli, 1967; Benson and Dalrymple, 1967) were followed.

HIGH-WATER MARKS

Water-surface elevations were determined from high-water marks identified along the cross sections and the edges of the valley after each flood. During peak discharge measurements, water-surface elevations were marked with standard surveying stakes along the upstream and downstream sides of the highway embankment. For some floods additional high-water marks were identified in the valley adjacent to the bridge to define in detail the water surface in the approach and exit reaches.

BRIDGE GEOMETRY

Detailed bridge geometry was obtained at each site. The bridge cross section was surveyed at the most contracted section. Piers, spur dikes, wingwalls, abutment slopes, and other pertinent geometry were measured.

MANNING'S ROUGHNESS COEFFICIENT

Schneider and others (1976) used composite Manning's roughness coefficient values n where frequent changes in roughness occurred. In their study, composite values of n were verified by matching step backwater computations of the water surface with actual water-surface profiles for measured discharges. The range of n values used in this report is based on values used by Schneider and others (1976). Roughness varies from open fields to dense forests.

Roughness values or ranges of roughness values in different parts of the flood plain are shown on the maps. The values shown are based on water depth. The high value is the value where water depth is less than 0.6 meter and the low value applies where water depth is greater than 1.0 meter. A linear relation of roughness to water depth is assumed for water depths between 0.6 and 1.0 meter.

PRESENTATION OF DATA

The data are presented on topographic maps enlarged from standard 1:24,000 or 1:62,500 scale U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps which comply with National Map Accuracy Standards. Accuracy limitations of the base maps are retained in the enlargements. Although positions may be scaled closely on the enlargements, they are not defined with greater accuracy than positions on the base maps.

Ground elevations are placed adjacent to solid squares. Elevations of floodmarks are indicated by numerical values adjacent to solid triangles. Floodmark elevations for separate floods are shown on separate sheets. Bridge geometry and road-embankment dimensions are shown with brief notations of pier spacing and configuration.

In addition to the data points shown on the maps, discharge measurements of selected floods, plots of cross sections, and velocity distribution diagrams are shown. Cross-section elevations are tabulated to define stream channels and flood-plain features in greater detail. Each cross section is referred to a zero station established at the extreme left edge (facing downstream) of the valley.

DATUM

All elevations presented in this report are referred to National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD).

FLOOD FREQUENCY

Flood-frequency relations are presented graphically. Techniques for deriving flood-frequency relations are those described by the U.S. Water Resources Council (1977), and by Colson and Hudson (1976).

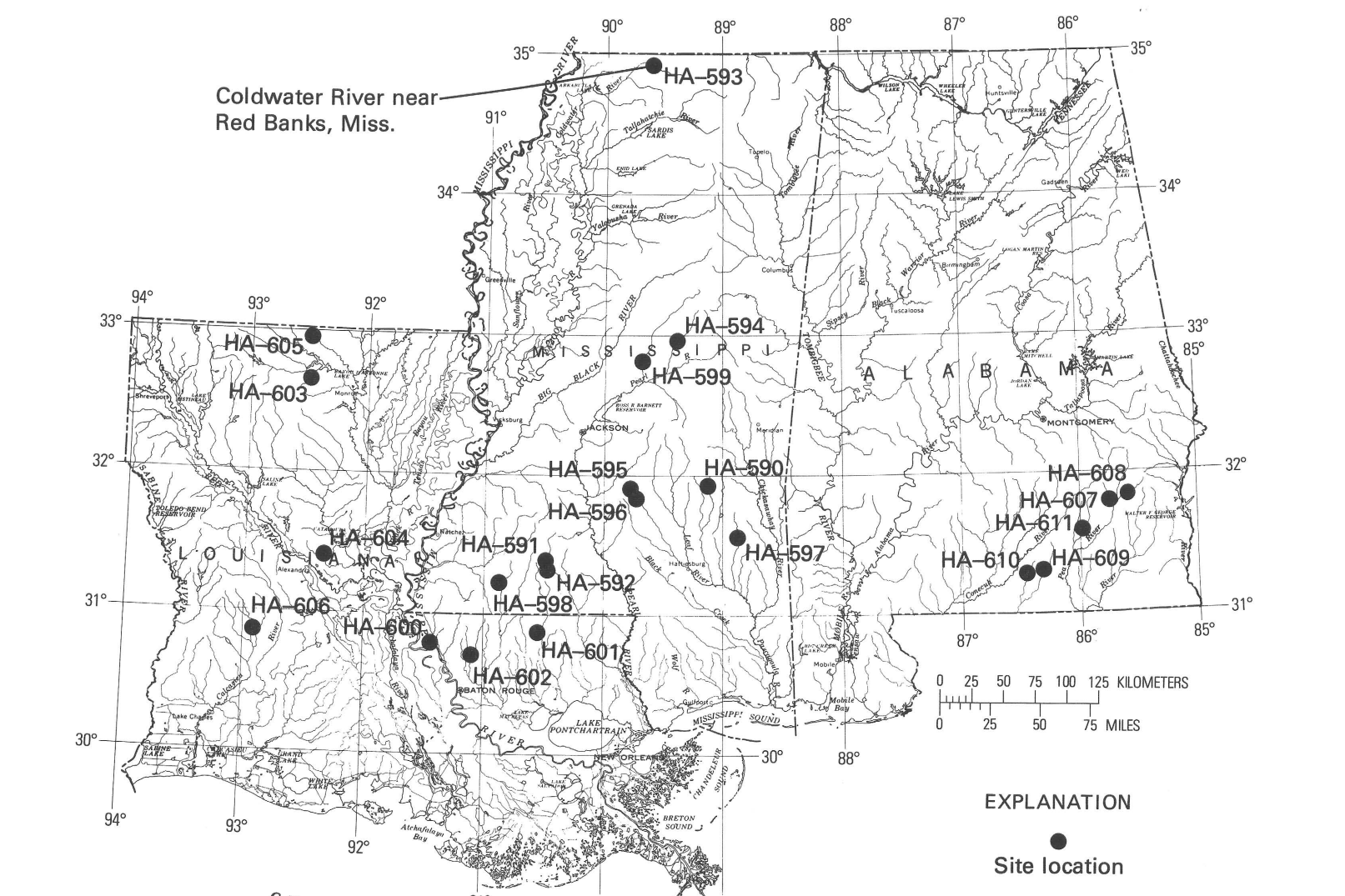


FIGURE 1—INDEX MAP OF STUDY SITES IN THE BRIDGE BACKWATER INVESTIGATION PROJECT, ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, AND MISSISSIPPI.

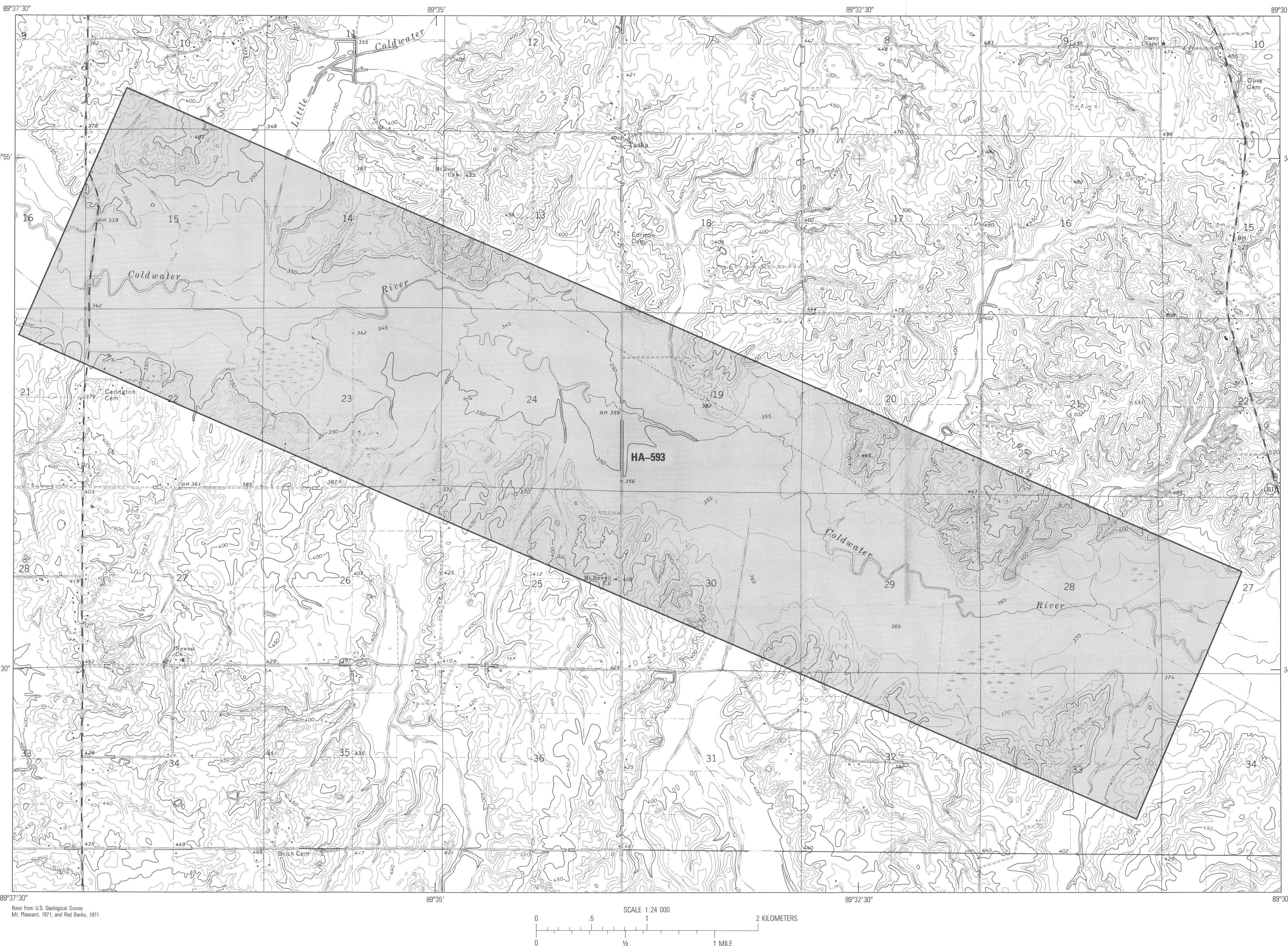


FIGURE 2—INDEX MAP OF STUDY REACH, COLDWATER RIVER NEAR RED BANKS, MISSISSIPPI



FIGURE 3—AERIAL VIEW LOOKING UPSTREAM IN VICINITY OF MARSHALL COUNTY ROAD, COLDWATER RIVER NEAR RED BANKS, MISSISSIPPI

TABLE 1—VALLEY CROSS SECTION DATA FOR COLDWATER RIVER NEAR RED BANKS, MISSISSIPPI. ZERO STATION IS AT THE LEFT EDGE OF THE VALLEY (FACING DOWNSTREAM)

CROSS SECTION 1		CROSS SECTION 2 (Cont.)		CROSS SECTION 4		CROSS SECTION 5 (Cont.)		CROSS SECTION 7		CROSS SECTION 8 (Cont.)	
STATION	ELEVATION	STATION	ELEVATION	STATION	ELEVATION	STATION	ELEVATION	STATION	ELEVATION	STATION	ELEVATION
(METERS)	(METERS)	(METERS)	(METERS)	(METERS)	(METERS)	(METERS)	(METERS)	(METERS)	(METERS)	(METERS)	(METERS)
0	103.91	770	102.05	901	106.50	959	106.29	1082	106.42	1101	111.01
10	103.64	773	101.96	905	106.28	963	106.26	1086	106.42	1105	110.79
20	103.64	777	101.86	907	106.27	965	106.26	1088	106.42	1107	110.28
30	103.56	781	101.80	909	106.21	967	106.20	1090	106.42	1109	110.79
40	103.56	785	101.78	911	106.17	969	106.19	1092	106.42	1111	111.01
50	103.56	789	101.28	913	106.11	971	106.18	1094	106.42	1113	111.16
60	103.15	793	101.20	915	106.08	973	106.15	1096	106.42	1115	111.47
70	102.88	797	101.10	917	106.05	975	106.12	1098	106.42	1117	111.80
80	102.88	801	101.03	919	106.01	977	106.09	1100	106.42	1119	112.12
90	102.88	805	100.94	921	105.98	979	106.06	1102	106.42	1121	112.45
100	102.88	809	100.84	923	105.94	981	106.03	1104	106.42	1123	112.78
110	102.88	813	100.74	925	105.90	983	106.00	1106	106.42	1125	113.11
120	102.88	817	100.64	927	105.86	985	105.97	1108	106.42	1127	113.44
130	102.88	821	100.54	929	105.82	987	105.94	1110	106.42	1129	113.77
140	102.88	825	100.44	931	105.78	989	105.91	1112	106.42	1131	114.10
150	102.88	829	100.34	933	105.74	991	105.88	1114	106.42	1133	114.43
160	102.88	833	100.24	935	105.70	993	105.85	1116	106.42	1135	114.76
170	102.88	837	100.14	937	105.66	995	105.82	1118	106.42	1137	115.09
180	102.88	841	100.04	939	105.62	997	105.79	1120	106.42	1139	115.42
190	102.88	845	99.94	941	105.58	999	105.76	1122	106.42	1141	115.75
200	102.88	849	99.84	943	105.54	1001	105.73	1124	106.42	1143	116.08
210	102.88	853	99.74	945	105.50	1003	105.70	1126	106.42	1145	116.41
220	102.88	857	99.64	947	105.46	1005	105.67	1128	106.42	1147	116.74
230	102.88	861	99.54	949	105.42	1007	105.64	1130	106.42	1149	117.07
240	102.88	865	99.44	951	105.38	1009	105.61	1132	106.42	1151	117.40
250	102.88	869	99.34	953	105.34	1011	105.58	1134	106.42	1153	117.73
260	102.88	873	99.24	955	105.30	1013	105.55	1136	106.42	1155	118.06
270	102.88	877	99.14	957	105.26	1015	105.52	1138	106.42	1157	118.39
280	102.88	881	99.04	959	105.22	1017	105.49	1140	106.42	1159	118.72
290	102.88	885	98.94	961	105.18	1019	105.46	1142	106.42	1161	119.05
300	102.88	889	98.84	963	105.14	1021	105.43	1144	106.42	1163	119.38
310	102.88	893	98.74	965	105.10	1023	105.40	1146	106.42	1165	119.71
320	102.88	897	98.64	967	105.06	1025	105.37	1148	106.42	1167	120.04
330	102.88	901	98.54	969	105.02	1027	105.34	1150	106.42	1169	120.37
340	102.88	905	98.44	971	104.98	1029	105.31	1152	106.42	1171	120.70
350	102.88	909	98.34	973	104.94	1031	105.28	1154	106.42	1173	121.03
360	102.88	913	98.24	975	104.90	1033	105.25	1156	106.42	1175	121.36
370	102.88	917	98.14	977	104.86	1035	105.22	1158	106.42	1177	121.69
380	102.88	921	98.04	979	104.82	1037	105.19	1160	106.42	1179	122.02
390	102.88	925	97.94	981	104.78	1039	105.16	1162	106.42	1181	122.35
400	102.88	929	97.84	983	104.74	1041	105.13	1164	106.42	1183	122.68
410	102.88	933	97.74	985	104.70	1043	105.10	1166	106.42	1185	123.01
420	102.88	937	97.64	987	104.66	1045	105.07	1168	106.42	1187	123.34
430	102.88	941	97.54	989	104.62	1047	105.04	1170	106.42	1189	123.67
440	102.88	945	97.44	991	104.58	1049	105.01	1172	106.42	1191	124.00
450	102.88	949	97.34	993	104.54	1051	104.98	1174	106.42	1193	124.33
460	102.88	953	97.24	995	104.50	1053	104.95	1176	106.42	1195	124.66
470	102.88	957	97.14	997	104.46	1055	104.92	1178	106.42	1197	124.99
480	102.88	961	97.04	999	104.42	1057	104.89	1180	106.42	1199	125.32
490	102.88	965	96.94	1001	104.38	1059	104.86	1182	106.42	1201	125.65
500	102.88	969	96.84	1003	104.34	1061	104.83	1184	106.42	1203	125.98
510	102.88	973	96.74	1005	104.30	1063	104.80	1186	106.42	1205	126.31
520	102.88	977	96.64	1007	104.26	1065	104.77	1188	106.42	1207	126.64
530	102.88	981	96.54	1009	104.22	1067	104.74	1190	106.42	1209	126.97
540	102.88	985	96.44	1011	104.18	1069	104.71	1192	106.42	1211	127.30
550	102.88	989	96.34	1013	104.14	1071	104.68	1194	106.42	1213	127.63
560	102.88	993	96.24	1015	104.10	1073	104.65	1196	106.42	1215	127.96
570	102.88	997	96.14	1017	104.06	1075	104.62	1198	106.42	1217	128.29
580	102.88	1001	96.04	1019	104.02	1077	104.59	1200	106.42	1219	128.62
590	102.88	1005	95.94	1021	103.98	1079	104.56	1202	106.42	1221	128.95
600	102.88	1009	95.84	1023	103.94	1081	104.53	1204	106.42	1223	129.28
610	102.88	1013	95.74	1025	103.90	1083	104.50	1206	106.42	1225	129.61
620	102.88	1017	95.64	1027	103.86	1085	104.47	1208	106.42	1227	129.94
630	102.88	1021	95.54	1029	103.82	1087	104.44	1210	106.42	1229	130.27
640	102.88	1025	95.44	1031	103.78	1089	104.41	1212	106.42	1231	130.60
650	102.88	1029	95.34	1033	103.74	1091	104.38	1214	106.42	1233	130.93
660	102.88	1033	95.24	1035	103.70	1093	104.35	1216	106.42	1235	131.26
670	102.88	1037	95.14	1037	103.66	1095	104.32	1218	106.42	1237	131.59
680	102.88	1041	95.04	1039	103.62	1097	104.29	1220	106.42	1239	131.92
690	102.88	1045	94.94	1041	103.58	1099	104.26	1222	106.42	1241	132.25
700	102.88	1049	94.84	1043	103.54	1101	104.23	1224	106.42	1243	132.58
710	102.88	1053	94.74	1045	103.50	1103	104.20	1226	106.42	1245	132.91
720	102.88	1057	94.64	1047	103.46	1105	104.17	1228	106.42	1247	133.24
730	102.88	1061	94.54	1049	103.42	1107	104.14	1230	106.42	1249	133.57
740	102.88	1065	94.44	1051	103.38	1109	104.11	1232	106.42	1251	133.90
750	102.88	1069	94.34	1053	103.34	1111	104.08	1234	106.42	1253	134.23
760	102.88	1073	94.24	1055	103.30	1113	104.05	1236	106.42	1255	134.56
770	102.88	1077	94.14	1057	103.26	1115	104.02	1238	106.42	1257	134.89
780	102.88	1081	94.04	1059	103.22	1117	103.99	1240	106.42	1259	135.22
790	102.88	1085	93.94	1061	103.18	1119	103.96	1242	106.42	1261	135.55
800	102.88	1089	93.84	1063	103.14	1121	103.93	1244	106.42	1263	135.88
810	102.88	1093	93.74	1065	103.10	1123	103.90	1246	106.42	1265	136.21
820	102.88	1097	93.64	1067	103.06	1125	103.87	1248	106.42	1267	136.54
830	102.88	1101	93.54	1069	103.02	1127	103.84	1250	106.42	1269	136.87
840	102.88	1105	93.44	1071	102.98	1129	103.81	1252	106.42	1271	137.20
850	102.88	1109	93.34	1073	102.94	1131	103.78	1254	106.42	1273	137.53
860	102.88	1113	93.24	1075	102.90	1133	103.75	1256	106.42	1275	137.86
870	102.88	1117	93.14	1077	102.86	1135	103.72	1258	106.42	1277	138.19
880	102.88	1121	93.04	1079	102.82	1137	103.69	1260	106.42	1279	138.52
890	102.88	1125	92.94	1081	102.78	1139	103.66	1262	106.42	1281	138.85
900	102.88	1129	92.84	1083	102.74	1141	103.63	1264	106.42	1283	139.18
910	102.88	1133	92.74	1085	102.70	1143	103.60	1266	106.42	1285	139.51
920	102.88	1137	92.64	1087	102.66	1145	103.57	1268	106.42	1287	139.84
930	102.88	1141	92.54	1089	102.62	1147	103.54	1270	106.42	1289	140.17
940	102.88	1145	92.44	1091	102.58	1149	103.51	1272	106.42	1291	140.50
950	102.88	1149	92.34	1093	102.54	1151	103.48	1274	106.42	1293	140.83
960	102.88	1153	92.24	1095	102.50	1153	103.45	1276	106.42	1295	141.16
970	102.88	1157	92.14	1097	102.46	1155	103.42	1278	106.42	1297	141.49
980	102.88	1161	92.04	1099	102.42	1157	103.39	1280	106.42	1299	141.82
990	102.88	1165	91.94	1101	102.38	1159	103.36	1282	106.42	1301	142.15
1000	102.88	1169	9								