

Chapter III

DESCRIPTION OF COMPUTER PROGRAMS DEVELOPED FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE METHODOLOGY

Introduction

During the course of this research two computer programs were developed to compute the evaluation measures and evaluation ratios described in the previous chapter by analyzing the driver eye movements and the driving performance data collected in this research. The two computer programs are called SEADEM I and SEADEM II (Sign Evaluation by the Analysis of Driver Eye Movements).

The program, SEADEM I, was developed as a part of the first one and one-half years of research efforts and it was designed to analyze data collected in Studies F-1 and F-4. This program did not consider exact highway geometry but rather assumed the highway to be perfectly plane and straight. This assumption was not too unrealistic as the majority of the data collected in the Studies F-1 and F-4 were collected on relatively straight and plane sections of interstate highways.

The computer program, SEADEM II, was further developed to satisfy the need for increasing accuracy and to consider exact locations of approaching signs with respect to driver's eye position as the driver travels on a highway with complex geometrics involving both the vertical and the horizontal curves. The SEADEM II was used to analyze data collected in Studies F-6, F-7, and F-8.

Basic Computational Task of SEADEM Programs

Both SEADEM I and SEADEM II perform the same basic task. The basic task essentially consists of separating the fixations that a driver makes as he approaches a sign (or signs, in case of multiple signs) into two categories; i. e., i) the fixations that present resolvable information of the message displayed on the sign, and ii) the fixations that do not present resolvable information from any portion of the displayed message.

In order to perform the task, the computer program analyzes each successive fixation that a driver makes as he approaches a sign. Let us assume that t is the time at which a driver makes a fixation; i. e., the fixation begins at time t . Then for that t , the computer determines the values of the following measures from the input data.

- i. $[\sigma(t), \psi(t)]$ = angular location of the fixation
(See Figure 3.1.)
- ii. $x(t)$ = longitudinal distance of the driver
from the sign
- iii. $[\theta_1(t), \phi_1(t)]$ = location of the center of the sign
- iv. $\eta_i(t)$ = eccentricity angle of the sign at i^{th}
position on the sign
Note: $i = 1$ for center of sign, and
 $i = 2$ and 3 respectively denote
positions at the left and
right edge of the sign
(See Figure 3.1.)
- v. $5.5^{-1} [\eta_i(t)]$ = resolution angle measured in minutes
of arc in the driver's visual field at
eccentricity angle $\eta_i(t)$
- vi. $\gamma_i(t)$ = angle subtended by largest letter size
at i^{th} position

The program, then computes the values of the following ratio for each value of

$$\frac{\gamma_i(t)}{5.5^{-1} [\eta_i(t)]} \quad \text{for} \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

If any of the above three values are greater than or equal to 1.00, the fixation is considered to provide resolvable information of the sign to the driver.

The program, thus, determines all the fixations which provide resolvable information to the driver and computes T_{used} , T_f and T_c .

In order to determine T_{max} , the program performs the following computation:

T_{max} = value of t at maximum value of $x(t)$ for which

$$\frac{\gamma_i(t)}{5.5^{-1} [0^\circ]} = 1.0$$

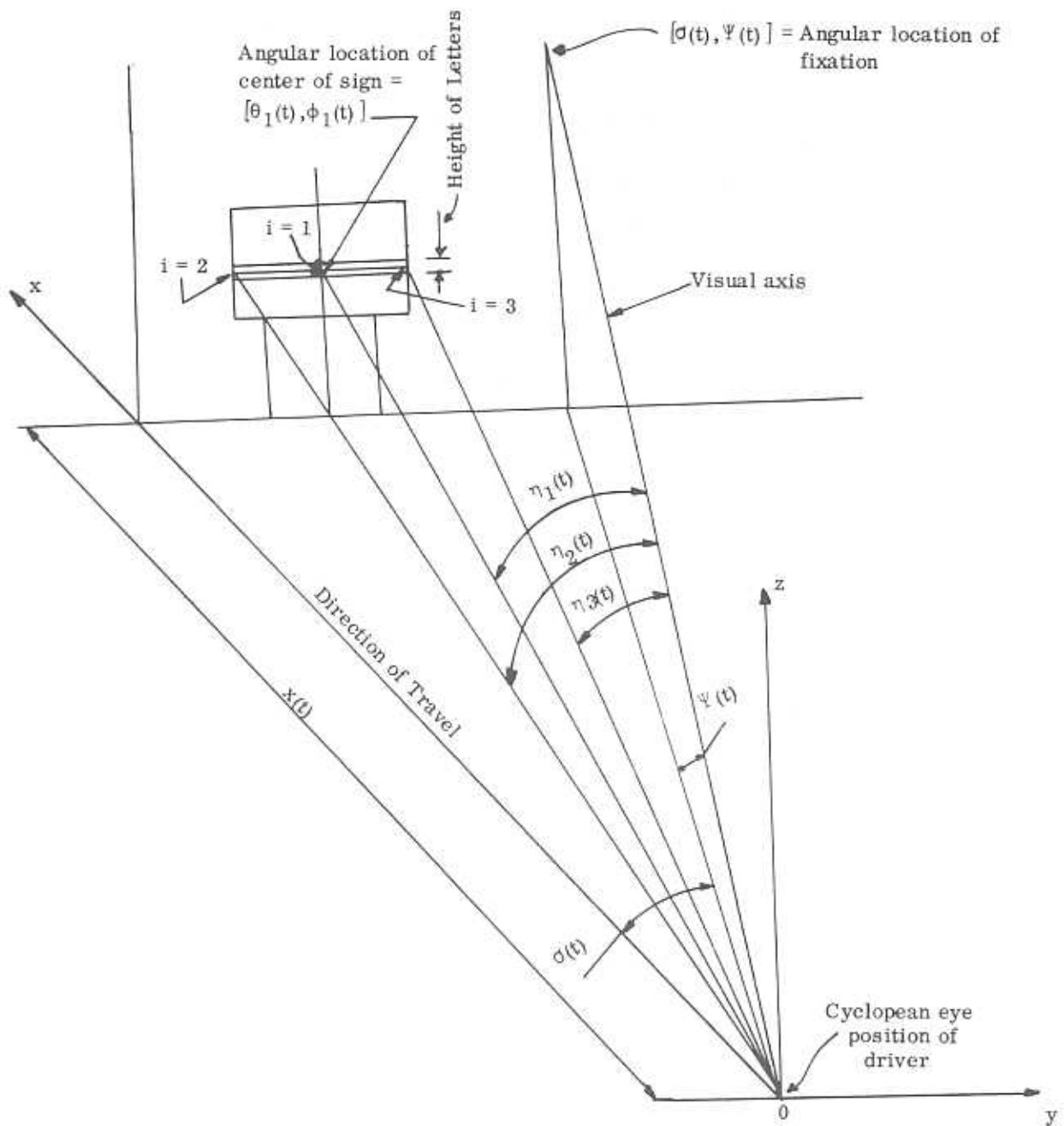


Figure 3.1.--Geometric Relationship of the Sign with Respect to the Driver's Cyclopean Eye Position

Thus, after obtaining T_{used} , T_f , T_e and T_{max} , the following evaluation ratios are computed:

$$T_{max}/T_{used}, T_{max}/T_i, T_i/T_{used}, \text{ and } T_{max}/T_f.$$

Differences between SEADEM I and SEADEM II

The primary difference between SEADEM I and II are due to the differences in the input data required for each. Table 3.1 presents the basic differences in computation.

The computer program SEADEM I is described in detail in the interim report (Rockwell, et al., 1970) of this project and therefore, only the SEADEM II is presented in the succeeding pages of this chapter.

Table 3.1

Basic Differences in SEADEM I and II

Variable	Input data required to compute the variable	
	SEADEM I	SEADEM II
$x(t)$	determined by integrating velocity profile of the vehicle	determined by input from direct recording of distance by using the fifth wheel
$[\theta_i(t), \phi_i(t)]$	determined analytically by assuming straight highway by the knowledge of height and lateral position of the sign with respect to the driving lane	determined by input from recorded sign highway geometry master film

Specialized Instrumentation and Procedures Developed for Obtaining Sign-Highway Geometrics Data

As mentioned earlier, SEADEM II was developed to consider exact locations of approaching signs with respect to driver's eye position; i. e., cyclopean eye position, as he travels on a highway with complex geometrics.

In order to obtain data on the angular locations of the signs as a driver travels on the highway, a 16 mm camera with a 32° wide angle lens was used. The camera was mounted at driver's eye height and at the center line of the car as shown in Figure 3.2. The instrumented vehicle was driven in a preselected lane on each of the test sections and the road was filmed at 2 frames per second film speed. At the same time, a fifth wheel was used to record distance. The distance was recorded on a Honeywell Oscillograph recorder in terms of blips after every $1/100$ th of a mile traversed by the instrumented vehicle. In order to synchronize the fifth wheel and camera data, a synchronization device was used, which generated blips on the recording paper after every four and forty frames of the film. Figure 3.3 presents an example of the recorded paper data obtained from the Honeywell Oscillograph. In order to identify beginning and end of a run and also the instances when the vehicle passed the longitudinal plane of the sign, an additional stimulus trace was used. The circuit of the stimulus trace was so designed that it also lighted a bulb in the view of the camera so that film and paper data could be synchronized.

The film data was then reduced frame by frame and the coordinates of the centers of the sign (or signs, in case of multiple signs) for every frame of the film were punched on the cards. The oscillograph paper data was also reduced, and the film frame numbers corresponding to every $1/100$ th of a mile blip were punched. Further, in addition to the above two sets of data, the lane position of the instrumented vehicle; i. e., the number of lanes in which the instrumented vehicle was driven, was obtained with respect to film frame numbers.

Thus, the following three sets of data cards, all synchronized on the basis of the film frame numbers, constitute complete data to define sign-highway geometry; i. e., location of sign with respect to any point on the highway:

- i. locations of signs with respect to film frame numbers,
- ii. film frame numbers corresponding to every successive $1/100$ th of a mile, and
- iii. frame numbers corresponding to driving lane numbers.



Figure 3.2.--Instrumented Vehicle Used for Collecting
Sign-Highway Geometry Data

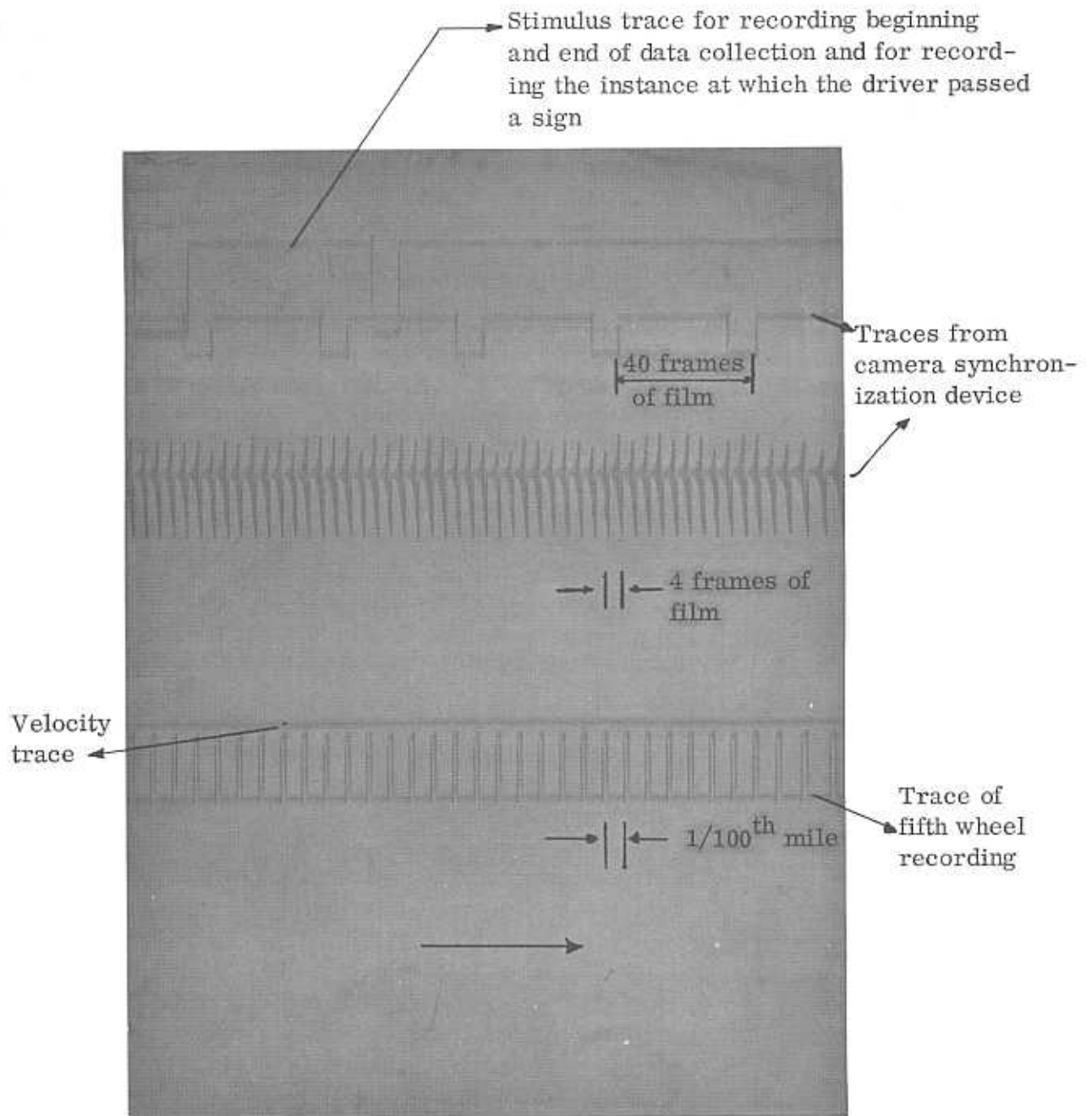


Figure 3.3.--An illustration of synchronized data obtained from Oscillograph

Procedures for Obtaining Synchronized Driver Eye Movements and Vehicle Performance Data

The experimental setup similar to that used for sign highway geometry data was used to collect data of subjects while driving. In the subject data collection runs, the 16 mm camera was mounted on a vertical pillar (between roof and floor of the instrumented car) located between the front and the back seat. In this case, instead of the 32° wide angle lens, the input of the scene lens and the eye spot were fed into the camera by means of a beam splitter (see Appendix B). The driver eye-movement data was collected at the film speed of 16 frames/second. The distance traversed by the driver was also recorded on paper by using the Honeywell Oscillograph and the fifth wheel. The synchronization device used for collecting the sign-highway geometry data was also used. Thus, the data of the test subjects consisted of the following:

- i. 16 mm eye-movement film (recorded at 16 frames/second speed); from this data the following information was obtained:
 - a. locations of successive eye fixations with respect to the perspective of the driving lane,
 - b. durations of successive fixations,
 - c. number of lane in which the driver was driving, and
 - d. stimulus marks obtained from the bulb in the beam splitter: this information was used to identify beginning and ending of the trials and also the instances when the driver passed a sign.
- ii. oscillograph paper data (recorded at 0.4 inches/second); from this data the following information was obtained:
 - a. distance traversed in relation to the film frames, and
 - b. stimulus marks that identify
 - i. beginning and ending of runs, and
 - ii. the instances when the driver passed a sign.

Inputs to SEADEM II

The inputs to the SEADEM II, therefore, consisted of two distinct types of data packages as follows:

Data Package Type I:	<u>Sign-highway road geometry data:</u> (referred in the program as S0; i. e., "Subject Zero" data.
Data Package Type II:	<u>Subject data:</u> driver-vehicle performance data collected during test runs.

The above two types of data packages were prepared for each test route and since a test route consisted of more than one sign locations and one or more signs at each location, the following scheme was used for assembling the data in each of the two types of packages.

Figure 3.4 shows a sketch of one of the test routes used in Study F-6. This test route was numbered "231" and the data was collected at three sign locations, namely, 231-1, 231-2, and 231-3. Figure 3.5 gives a computer print-out of the data package of Type I for the test route 231. The data package consists of many sub-packages (see Figure 3.5) and the information contained in the sub-packages are briefly described in Table 3.2.

Similarly, Figure 3.6 presents an example of data package of Type II for Subject KF on test route 231. Table 3.3 gives description of information that forms different sub-packages of the data package of Type II.

Description of the Computational Procedure of SEADEM II

The SEADEM II computer program is written in FORTRAN IV(G) and is set up to run in IBM 370/165. The program requires 91,328 bytes of core. The setup time for this program on IBM 370/165 is approximately 30 seconds. The input data is stored by the program on disk units and 30 cylinders (2300 units) of data storage space is required for this purpose. The program consists of one main program and eight subroutine programs. The total number of FORTRAN statements in this program is over 675. The data processing time required by the program for a test route requiring approximately 180 seconds (real time) of driving time can be presented as follows:

- i. approximately 10 seconds to process "S0" data for a trial; i. e., test route, and
- ii. approximately 12 seconds to process data of each subject on the test route.

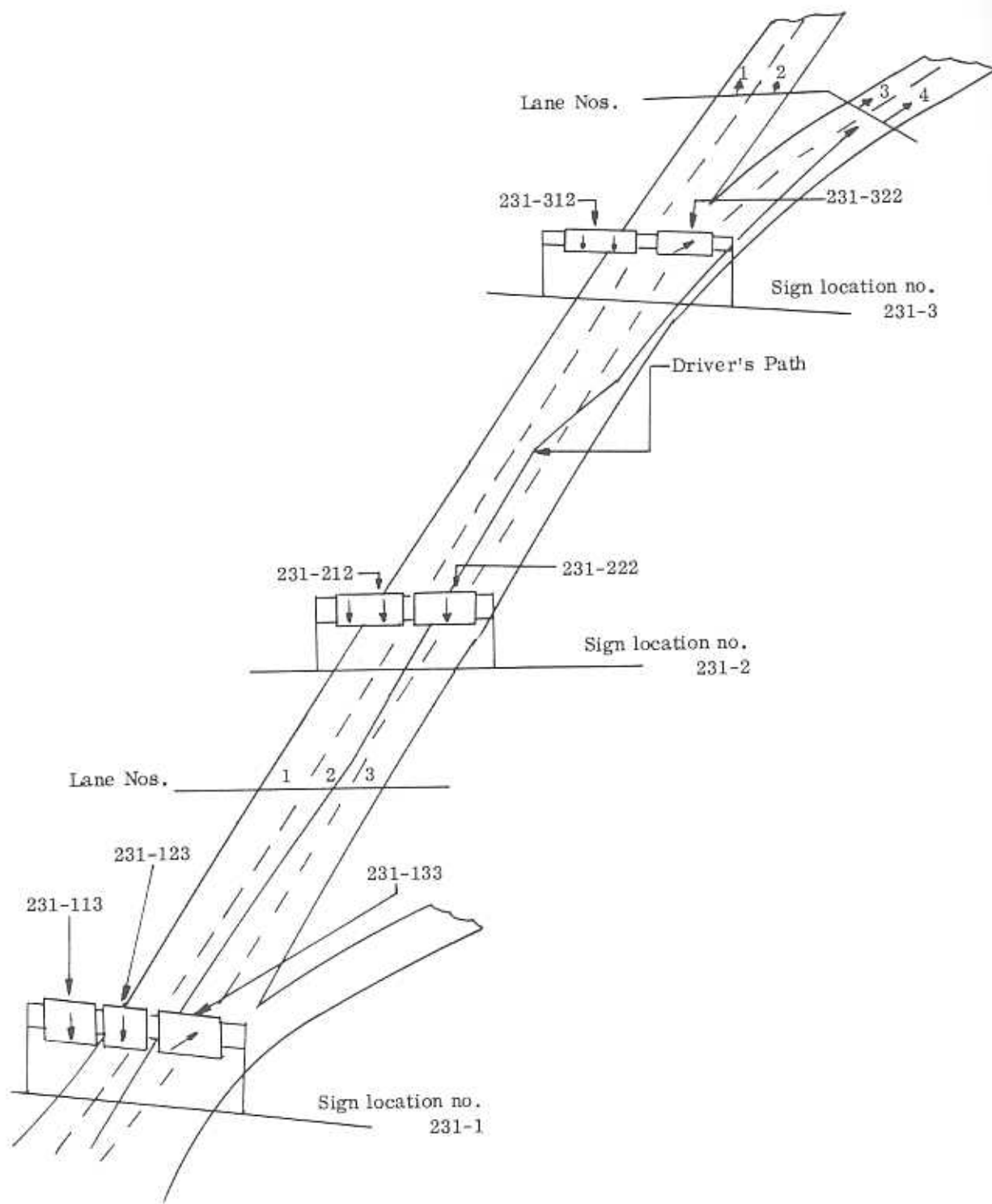
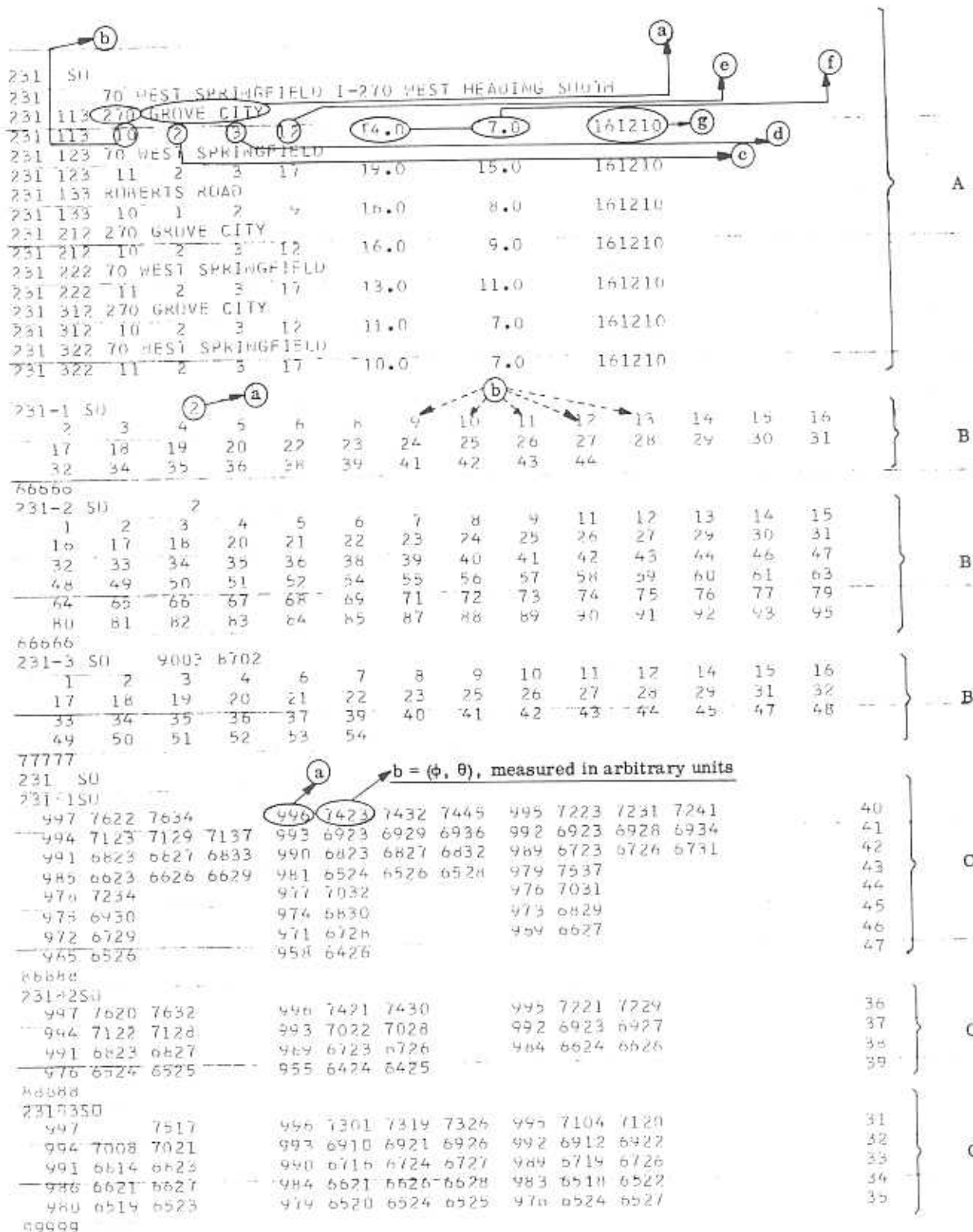


Figure 3.4.--Illustration of Identification Number System
Used for Test Route Numbered 231

Table 3.2

Details of Data Package of Type I

Sub-package	Description of data in the Sub-package
A	For each sign at each location: - message displayed by the sign - type of informational need of the driver (NR = 00, NP = 10, PR = 11) - no. of lines of message - no. of words in the message - no. of letters in the message - height and width of the sign - letter sizes
B	For each sign location: - lane position information: lane numbers and film frame numbers at lane change - film frame numbers at every 1/100th of mile distance (measured in the direction opposite to travel from the location of the sign)
C	For each sign location: - film frame numbers measured from sign location (while reversing the film) - coordinates of sign (or signs, up to three signs at the longitudinal sign location) corresponding to above film frame numbers Note: Coordinates of centers of signs were measured with reference to a fixed object in the car.



Note: Please refer to Table 3.2 for notation.

Figure 3.5.--An example of the data package of Type I

Table 3.3

Details of Data Package of Type II (Subject Data)

Sub-package	Description of data in the Sub-package
D	a. route number, e.g., 231 b. subject name, e.g., KF c. binocular foveal visual acuity of the subject d. film speed (0.0625 sec/frame)
E	For each sign location: a. lane position information Note: If "blank" computer assumes lane 1. b. film frame numbers at every 1/100th of mile distance (measured in the direction opposite to travel from the location of sign)
F	For each sign location: Details of successive eye fixations that a driver makes until he passes a sign location. This data includes: a. coordinates of fixations b. film frame number at which the fixations end c. details in the view where a fixation occurs, e.g., LC = lead car, OV = out of camera field.

Figure 3.7 presents a schematic flow diagram of computation procedure programmed in SEADEM II. The program is designed such that it can process data collected over many test routes and for many subjects on a test route. The length of input data to be processed, therefore, depends upon the maximum time limit specified, and the computer program will continuously process the sets of data decks; i. e., repetitions of Step 1 followed by Step 2 type data, in succession. As shown in Figure 3.7, the program begins computational procedure by reading in the first data deck of Type I and performs the computational Stage I. In the computation Stage I, the input data is processed and restored in synchronized version; i. e., sign locations and lane position synchronized as a function of distance. Then it reads the first data deck of Type II for the first subject on the first test route and processes it through the computational Stages II and III. The computational Stage II is essentially similar to computational Stage I and it basically synchronizes the subject data; i. e., eye movements and lane positions, as a function of distance from the oncoming sign.

The computation Stage III actually analyzes every single fixation that a driver makes for all the signs at each of the approaching longitudinal sign locations. Figure 3.8 briefly illustrates some of the important steps in the computation Stage III. It should be noted that the subroutine SEEN has a built in visual acuity plot of the visual field of a driver with normal vision. This SEEN subroutine is the most important in this program. It determines the location of the driver at each fixation from the sign and computes the angles subtended by different sizes of letters. The angles subtended by the letters are then compared with the resolution angles in the drivers visual field at the computed eccentricity angles of the fixation at the three different locations on the sign (see Figure 3.1) and the "resolvability" of displayed information on the sign in that fixation is determined.

Figure 3.9 presents the isograms of resolution angles in 32° visual fields of the driver with normal vision that is modeled in the subroutine, SEEN. It should be noted that here an assumption is made, that the isograms of resolution angles in 32° binocular visual fields of humans are circular. This appears to be justifiable as the differences in visual acuity at different radial positions in the central vision are small. The subroutine SEEN adjusts the above modeled resolution angles according to binocular foveal visual acuity of an individual test driver. For subjects with above normal or subnormal binocular foveal visual acuity, the subroutine modifies the isograms within 40° visual field in a linear fashion. Thus, for the drivers with below normal binocular foveal visual acuity; e.g., 20/40, the program increases the resolution angles within 40° visual field. It should be noted that here an assumption is made that the visual acuity in only 40° visual field is affected in case of subjects with above normal or below normal binocular foveal visual acuity.

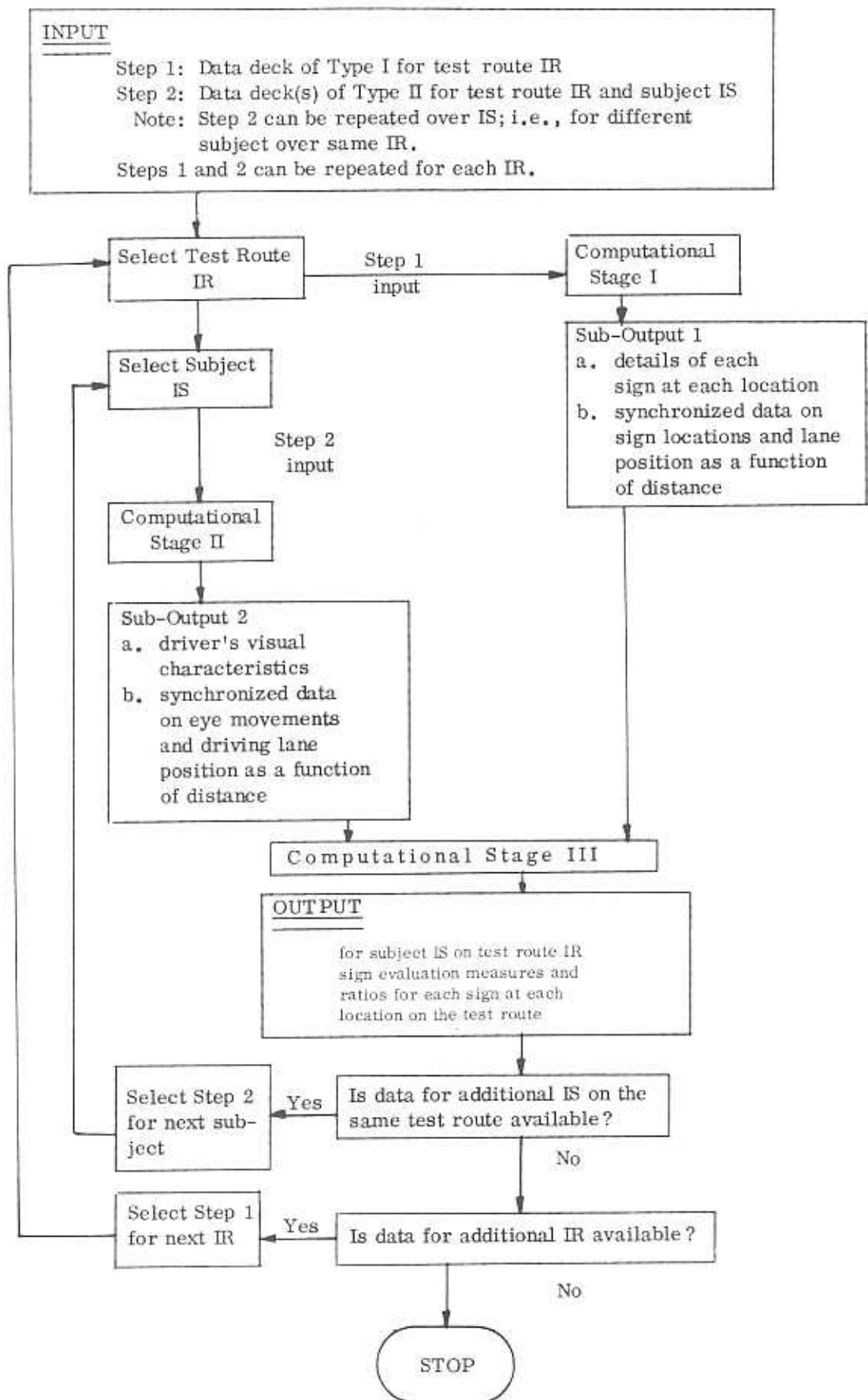


Figure 3.7.--Schematic Flow Diagram of the Computational Procedure of SEADEM II

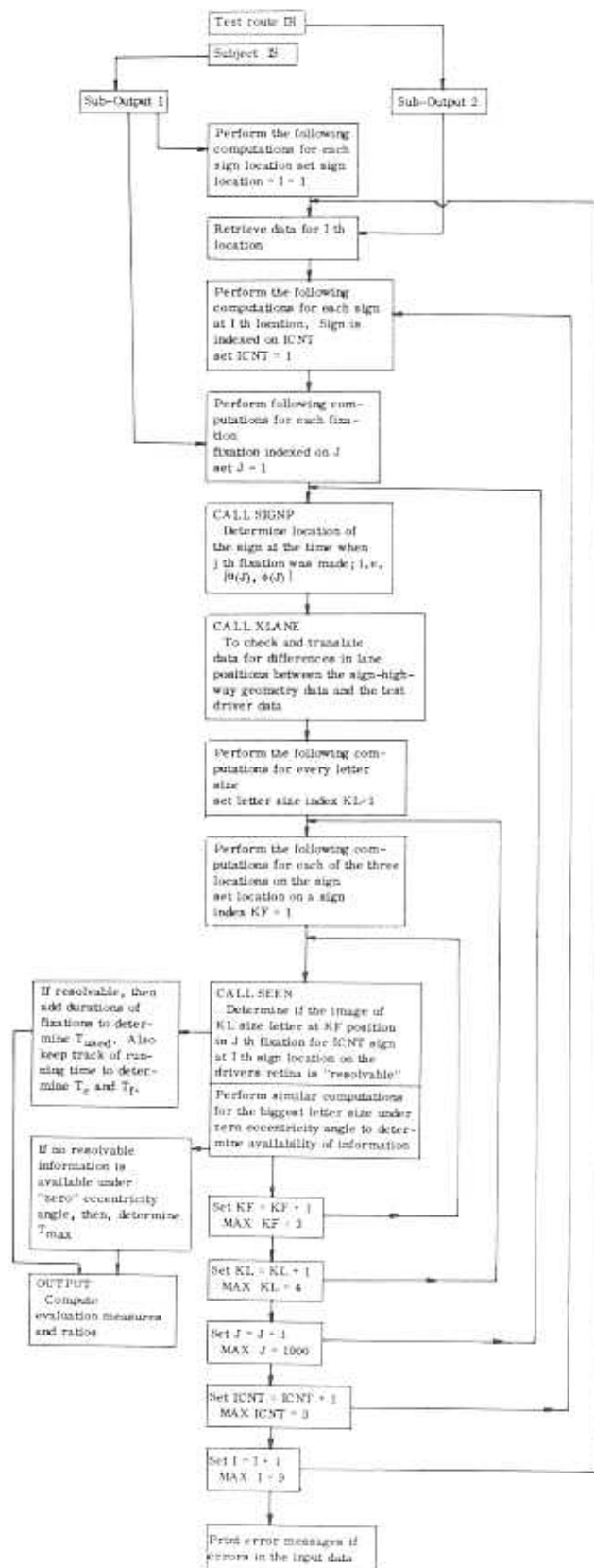


Figure 3.8.--Flow Diagram of Operations in Computational Stage III

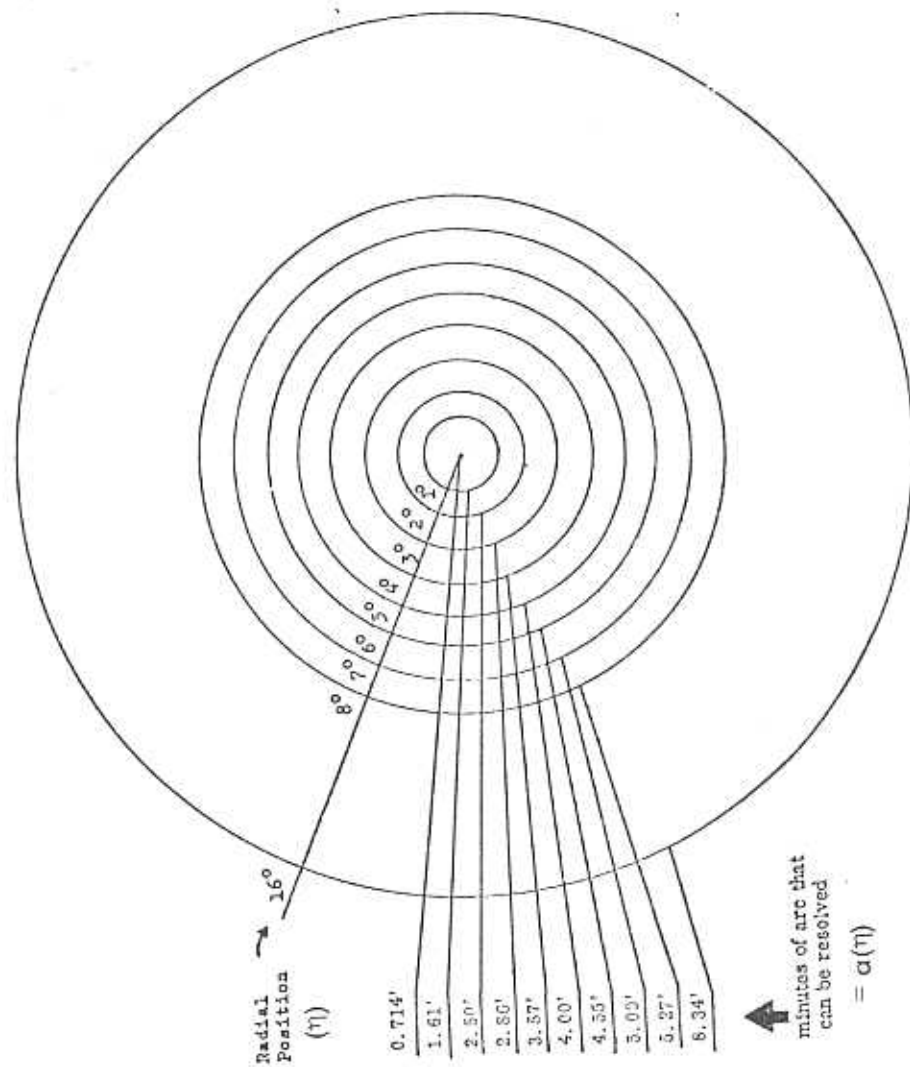


Figure 3.9. --Resolution angles in the 32° binocular visual field of drivers with normal vision

For more detailed discussions on this problem of modeling the visual acuity, an interested reader is referred to Rockwell, et al., (1970) and Bhise, (1971).

Since all the three computational stages of SEADEM II are complex and lengthy, a more detailed documentation of the program is considered to be beyond the scope of this report. An interested reader is, therefore, requested to refer to the project files on this research where detailed descriptions and listing of the program is presented. The project files can be obtained by contacting the Systems Research Group.

Illustration of Output of SEADEM II

In order to give the reader some idea on the output information obtained from this program, illustrative examples of partial computer printed outputs for the following three levels of computation are presented in Figures 3.10, 3.11, and 3.12 for a test route numbered 602:

- i. sub-output 1 (Figure 3.10),
- ii. sub-output 2 (Figure 3.11), and
- iii. OUTPUT from computational Stage III (Figure 3.12).

RUN NUMBER 2

DESCRIPTION= AKRON RUN 1 JCT 1-80S AND 1-77

SIGN DETAILS

CODE	MESSAGE
602 112	JCT 77 1 MILE
602 122	KENMORE BLVD
602 212	77 NORTH CLEVELAND
602 222	8'S EAST AKRON ONLY
602 312	77 NORTH CLEVELAND
602 322	80S EAST AKRON ONLY
602 412	77 NORTH CLEVELAND
602 422	8'S EAST AKRON

SIGN SIZE(FT)	LETTER SIZES(IN)
13.0 X 9.0	16.0 12.0 10.0 0.0
15.0 X 6.0	16.0 12.0 10.0 0.0
13.0 X 9.5	16.0 12.0 10.0 0.0
11.0 X 9.5	16.0 12.0 10.0 0.0
13.0 X 9.5	16.0 12.0 10.0 0.0
11.0 X 9.5	16.0 12.0 10.0 0.0
13.0 X 9.5	16.0 12.0 10.0 0.0
14.0 X 7.0	16.0 12.0 10.0 0.0

SIGN LOCATION DETAILS

SIGN LOCATION 602-1

DISTANCE	THETAS	PHIS	LANE
52.8	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
115.6	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
158.4	27 36 0	70 71 0	2
211.2	27 34 0	69 69 0	2
264.0	27 32 0	68 68 0	2
290.4	26 31 0	66 66 0	2
316.8	26 30 0	65 65 0	2
369.6	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
422.4	26 29 0	64 64 0	2
448.8	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
475.2	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
528.0	26 28 0	63 63 0	2
580.8	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
607.2	25 27 0	63 63 0	2
633.6	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
686.4	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
712.8	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
739.2	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
792.0	25 27 0	62 62 0	2
818.4	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
844.8	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
897.6	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
950.4	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
976.8	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
1003.2	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
1066.0	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
1092.4	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
1118.8	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
1161.6	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
1188.0	26 27 0	61 61 0	2
1214.4	0 0 0	0 0 0	2

Note: Non-interpolated coordinates of centers of measured in arbitrary units (converted later degrees).

SIGN LOCATION 602-2

DISTANCE	THETAS	PHIS	LANE
52.8	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
115.6	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
158.4	16 25 0	71 71 0	2
211.2	18 25 0	71 70 0	2
237.6	19 25 0	69 69 0	2
264.0	20 25 0	67 67 0	2
316.8	0 0 0	0 0 0	2
369.6	21 24 0	66 66 0	2

Figure 3.10.--An example of sub-output 1 obtained from SEADEM II

SUBJECT FS BINOCULAR FOVEAL VISUAL ACUITY 20 / 20.

CAMERA SPEED 0.0625SECOND/FRAME

SIGN LOCATION = 602-1

FIX NO.	RUNTM (SEC)	DUR (SEC)	DISTANCE (FEET)	FIX LOC (THETA/FI)	DRIVER'S LANE	VEHICLE VEL(MPH)
1	0.06	0.06	5.9	(2, 2)	1	64.0
2	0.19	0.13	11.7	(-1, -2)	1	64.0
3	0.44	0.25	23.5	(1, 1)	1	64.0
4	1.00	0.56	46.9	(2, 2)	1	56.9
5	1.13	0.13	93.9	(0, 1)	1	48.0
6	3.88	2.75	102.7	(2, 2)	1	53.1
7	5.69	1.81	316.8	(2, 1)	1	51.9
8	5.75	0.06	454.7	(-2, -2)	1	48.0
9	5.81	0.06	459.1	(-10, -4)	1	48.0
10	6.13	0.31	463.5	(-3, -2)	1	48.0
11	6.31	0.19	485.5	(-3, 3)	1	48.0
12	6.38	0.06	498.7	(-10, -4)	1	57.6
13	6.56	0.19	503.9	(1, 1)	1	57.6
14	6.75	0.19	519.8	(-2, -1)	1	57.6
15	7.00	0.25	535.6	(4, 1)	1	56.3
16	7.06	0.06	556.3	(-10, -4)	1	52.4
17	7.94	0.88	561.1	(2, 2)	1	50.8
18	8.56	0.63	626.3	(2, 1)	1	50.9
19	8.75	0.19	672.9	(2, 2)	1	57.6
20	9.13	0.38	688.7	(-1, -1)	1	54.4
21	9.38	0.25	718.7	(2, 2)	1	48.0
22	9.75	0.38	736.3	(3, 2)	1	48.0
23	9.94	0.19	762.7	(50, -4)	1	48.0
24	10.00	0.06	775.9	(-10, -4)	1	48.0
25	10.25	0.25	780.3	(2, 1)	1	48.0
26	11.69	1.44	797.9	(-2, -2)	1	56.3
27	11.69	0.0	916.7	(-10, -4)	1	56.3

SIGN LOCATION = 602-2

FIX NO.	RUNTM (SEC)	DUR (SEC)	DISTANCE (FEET)	FIX LOC (THETA/FI)	DRIVER'S LANE	VEHICLE VEL(MPH)
1	0.88	0.88	4.8	(1, 2)	1	52.4
2	1.06	0.19	72.0	(0, 2)	1	52.4
3	2.44	1.38	86.4	(1, 2)	1	76.7
4	2.94	0.50	229.0	(4, 2)	1	61.6
5	3.38	0.44	274.1	(-3, -2)	1	64.0
6	3.63	0.25	315.2	(6, 0)	1	64.0
7	3.69	0.06	338.7	(-10, -4)	1	64.0
8	3.94	0.25	344.5	(3, 3)	1	52.0
9	4.13	0.19	363.6	(2, 2)	1	48.0
10	4.31	0.19	376.8	(3, 2)	1	48.0
11	4.44	0.13	390.0	(3, 1)	1	48.0
12	4.50	0.06	398.8	(-10, -4)	1	48.0
13	5.00	0.50	403.2	(6, 0)	1	48.0
14	5.38	0.38	438.4	(50, -4)	1	49.5
15	5.44	0.06	465.6	(-10, -4)	1	52.4
16	5.75	0.31	470.4	(7, 0)	1	52.4
17	5.88	0.13	494.4	(7, -1)	1	52.4
18	6.38	0.50	504.0	(7, 0)	1	56.9
19	6.44	0.06	545.8	(-10, -4)	1	57.6
20	7.06	0.63	551.0	(50, -4)	1	62.7
21	7.13	0.06	608.5	(-10, -4)	1	64.0
22	7.25	0.13	614.4	(7, 0)	1	72.0

Figure 3.11.--An example of sub-output 2 obtained from SEADEM II

Figure 3.12. --An example of output from computational stage III of SEADEM II