Note on the Theory of the Optimum Angle of a Conical Horn

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Hoersch has given a theoretical explanation of the optimum angle of a conical horn experimentally found by the writer. The optimum angle is the one giving the greatest amplification, the horn acting as a receiver. The theory of Hoersch states that the angle is an optimum when the dissipation at the vertex is equal to the dissipation at the open end. The value of this angle is expressed by the formula:

\[ \theta_m = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sqrt{\frac{\rho \omega y_2}{2 \pi a}} \]  

(1)

wherein \( n \) has the integer values 1, 2, 3, etc., these being used respectively for the fundamental and the overtones taken in order; \( \rho \) is the mean density of the air; \( \omega \) is \( 2\pi \) times the frequency; \( y_2 \) is defined by the admittance, \( y_1 + iy_2 \), this term being the ratio of the volume displacement and pressure; \( a \) is the velocity of sound.

It is the purpose of this note to compare the experimental results with Hoerseh's theory. The experimental values that are unchanged are \( a=0.16 \) cm\(^2\), \( a=34 \times 10^3 \) cm/sec. The other values and the experimental and computed values of \( \theta_m \) are shown in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( n )</th>
<th>( f )</th>
<th>( \theta_m )</th>
<th>( \theta_m ) Computed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>0.072</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results of computation are consistently about 20% higher than in the experiment.

The conclusion is that the agreement between experiment and theory justified confidence in the explanation of the optimum angle as given by Hoersch.

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THEORY OF MEGAPHONES AND RECEIVING HORNS

G. W. STEWART AND G. R. BUTZ

In 1919, A. G. Webster published a theory of the action of horns used as receivers. Recent development has given an in-