

The S814 and S815 Airfoils

October 1991—July 1992

D.M. Somers
Airfoils, Inc.
State College, Pennsylvania



NREL

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Prepared under Subcontract No. AF-1-11154-1



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Table of Contents

Abstract	1
Introduction.....	1
Symbols.....	1
Airfoil Design	2
Objectives and Constraints	2
Philosophy.....	3
Execution	6
Discussion of Results.....	6
S814	6
S815	8
Concluding Remarks.....	9
References.....	9

List of Tables

Table I. Airfoil Design Specifications	10
Table II. S814 Airfoil Coordinates	11
Table III. S815 Airfoil Coordinates	12

List of Figures

Figure 1: Airfoil shapes	13
Figure 2: Inviscid pressure distributions for S814 airfoil	14 – 20
Figure 3: Section characteristics of S814 airfoil.....	21 – 25
Figure 4: Inviscid pressure distributions for S815 airfoil	26 – 32
Figure 5: Section Characteristics of S815 airfoil	33 – 37

THE S814 AND S815 AIRFOILS

Dan M. Somers

June 1992

ABSTRACT

Two thick laminar-flow airfoils for the root portion of a horizontal-axis wind-turbine blade, the S814 and S815, have been designed and analyzed theoretically. For both airfoils, the primary objectives of high maximum lift, insensitive to roughness, and low profile drag have been achieved. The constraints on pitching moment and airfoil thicknesses have been satisfied.

INTRODUCTION

The two thick laminar-flow airfoils designed under this study are intended for the root portion of a horizontal-axis wind-turbine blade. Unlike an earlier thick root airfoil, the S811 (ref. 1), which sacrifices insensitivity to roughness in favor of a higher maximum lift coefficient, these airfoils should produce maximum lift coefficients which are insensitive to leading-edge roughness. Thus, these airfoils are proposed to replace the S811 airfoil.

The specific tasks performed under this study are described in Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI) Subcontract Number AF-1-11154-1. The initial specifications for the airfoils are outlined in the Statement of Work, dated 30 August 1991. These specifications were later refined during telephone conversations with Mr. James L. Tangler of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), formerly SERI.

Because of the limitations of the theoretical methods (refs. 2 and 3) employed in this study, the results presented are in no way guaranteed to be accurate—either in an absolute or in a relative sense. This statement applies to the entire study.

SYMBOLS

C_p pressure coefficient

c airfoil chord

c_d section profile-drag coefficient

c_l	section lift coefficient
c_m	section pitching-moment coefficient about quarter-chord point
L.	lower surface
MU	transition mode (ref. 3)
R	Reynolds number based on free-stream conditions and airfoil chord
S.	separation location, $1 - s_{sep}/c$
s_{sep}	arc length along which boundary layer is separated
s_{turb}	arc length along which boundary layer is turbulent including s_{sep}
T.	transition location, $1 - s_{turb}/c$
U.	upper surface
x	airfoil abscissa
y	airfoil ordinate
α	angle of attack relative to chord line, degrees

AIRFOIL DESIGN

OBJECTIVES AND CONSTRAINTS

The design specifications for the two airfoils are contained in table I. One airfoil is intended for the 0.40 blade radial station and the other, for the 0.30 blade radial station.

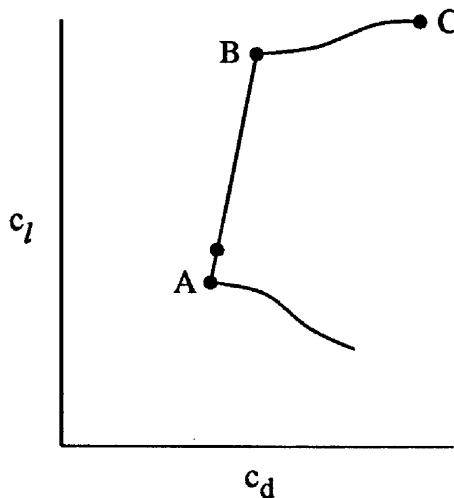
Two primary objectives are evident from the specifications. The first objective is to obtain maximum lift coefficients of 1.30 and 1.10 for Reynolds numbers of 1.5×10^6 and 1.2×10^6 , which correspond to the 0.40 and 0.30 blade radial stations, respectively. A requirement related to this objective is that the maximum lift coefficient not decrease with transition fixed near the leading edge on both surfaces. This means that the maximum lift coefficient cannot depend on the achievement of laminar flow. The second objective is to obtain low profile-drag coefficients over

the ranges of lift coefficients from 0.6 to 1.2 and from 0.4 to 1.0 for the 0.40 and 0.30 blade radial stations, respectively.

Two major constraints were placed on the design of these airfoils. First, the zero-lift pitching-moment coefficient must be no more negative than -0.15 for both airfoils. Second, the airfoil thicknesses must equal 24-percent chord and 26-percent chord for the 0.40 and 0.30 blade radial stations, respectively.

PHILOSOPHY

Given the above objectives and constraints, certain characteristics of the designs are evident. The following sketch illustrates a drag polar which meets the goals for these designs.

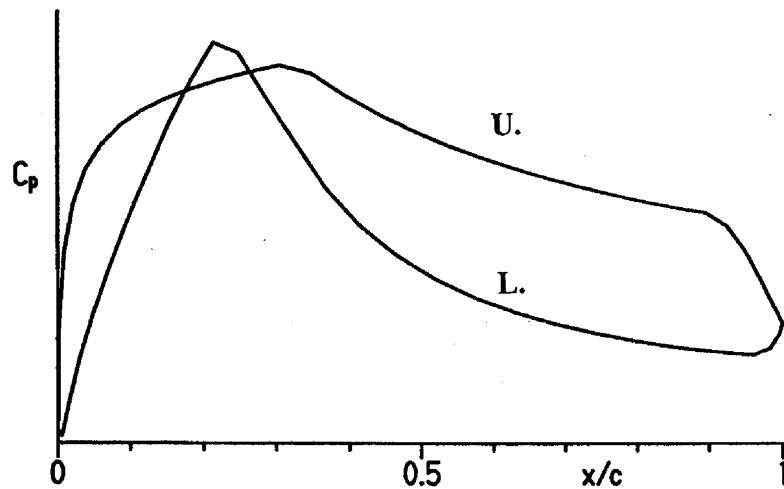


Sketch 1

The desired airfoil shapes can be traced to the pressure distributions which occur at the various points in the sketch. Point A is the lower limit of the low-drag lift-coefficient range. The lift coefficient at point A is 0.1 lower than the objective specified in table I. The difference is intended as a margin against such contingencies as manufacturing tolerances, operational deviations, finite-blade (three-dimensional) effects, and inaccuracies in the theoretical method. The drag at point B, the upper limit of the low-drag lift-coefficient range, is not as low as at point A, unlike the polars of many other laminar-flow airfoils where the drag within the laminar bucket is nearly constant. This characteristic is related to the elimination of significant (drag-producing) laminar separation bubbles on the upper surface. (See ref. 4.) It is acceptable because the ratio of the profile drag to the total drag of the wind-turbine blade decreases with increasing lift coefficient. A 0.1-lift-coefficient margin against contingencies is not possible at the upper limit of the low-drag lift-coefficient range because of the proximity of the upper limit to the maximum lift coefficient. As

large a margin as possible is sought, however. The drag increases very rapidly outside the laminar bucket because the transition point moves quickly toward the leading edge. This feature results in a rather sharp leading edge which produces a suction peak at higher lift coefficients, which ensures that transition will occur very near the leading edge. Thus, the maximum lift coefficient occurs with turbulent flow along the entire upper surface and, therefore, should be insensitive to roughness at the leading edge. Point C is the maximum lift coefficient.

From the preceding discussion, the pressure distributions along the polar can be deduced. The pressure distribution at point A for the 0.40-blade-radial-station airfoil should look something like the following. (The pressure distribution for the 0.30-blade-radial-station airfoil should be qualitatively similar.)



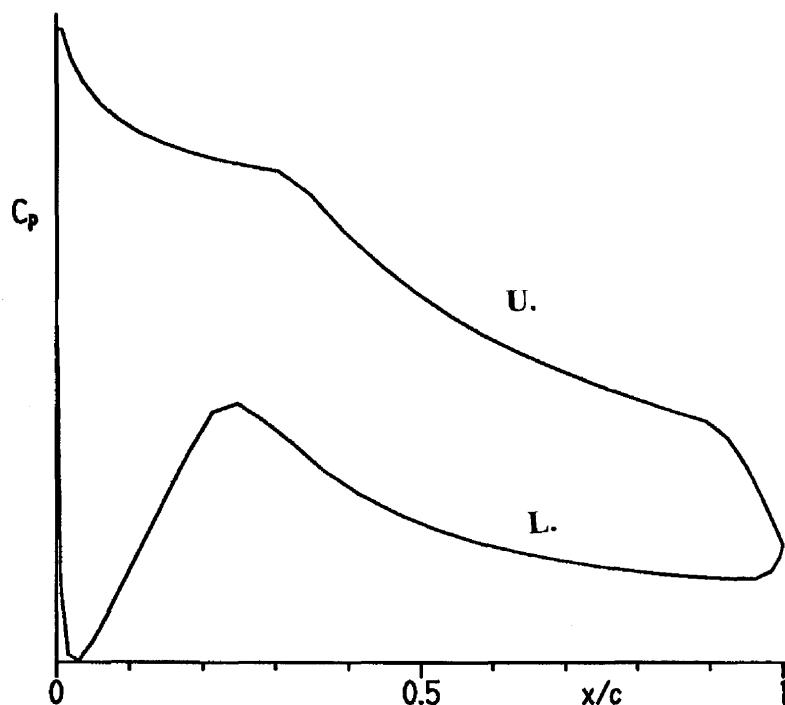
Sketch 2

To achieve low drag, a favorable pressure gradient is desirable along the upper surface to about 30-percent chord. Aft of this point, a short region of adverse pressure gradient ("transition ramp") is desirable to promote the efficient transition from laminar to turbulent flow (ref. 5). Thus, the initial slope of the pressure recovery is relatively shallow. This short region is followed by a steeper concave pressure recovery. The specific concave pressure recovery employed represents a compromise among high lift, low drag, and docile stall characteristics. The steep adverse pressure gradient on the upper surface aft of about 90-percent chord is a 'separation ramp,' originally proposed by F. X. Wortmann, which confines turbulent separation to a small region near the trailing edge. By controlling the movement of the separation point at high angles of attack, high lift coefficients can be achieved with little drag penalty. This feature has the added benefit that it too promotes docile stall characteristics. (See ref. 6.)

A favorable pressure gradient is desirable along the lower surface to about 20-percent chord to achieve low drag. The pressure gradients along the forward portion of the lower surface increase the amount of camber in the leading-edge region while maintaining low drag at the lower limit of the laminar bucket. The forward camber serves to balance, with respect to the pitching-moment constraint, the aft camber, both of which contribute to the achievement of the desired maximum lift coefficient. This region is followed by a curved transition ramp (ref. 4) which is longer than that on the upper surface. The transition ramp is followed by a concave pressure recovery which produces lower drag and has less tendency to separate than the corresponding linear or convex pressure recovery. The pressure recovery must begin relatively far forward to alleviate lower-surface separation at lower lift coefficients.

The amounts of pressure recovery on the two surfaces are determined by the airfoil-thickness and pitching-moment constraints.

At point B, the pressure distribution should look like this:



Sketch 3

No suction spike exists at the leading edge. Instead, the peak occurs just aft of the leading edge. This feature results from incorporating increasingly favorable pressure gradients toward the leading edge. It allows a wider laminar bucket to be achieved and higher lift coefficients to be reached without significant separation.

EXECUTION

Given the pressure distributions previously discussed, the design of the airfoils is reduced to the inverse problem of transforming the pressure distributions into airfoil shapes. The Eppler Code (refs. 2 and 3) was used because of confidence gained during the design, analysis, and experimental verification of several other airfoils. (See ref. 7.)

The airfoil for the 0.40 blade radial station is designated the S814. The airfoil for the 0.30 blade radial station, the S815, was derived from the S814 to increase the aerodynamic and geometric compatibilities of the two airfoils. The airfoil shapes are shown in figure 1 and the coordinates are contained in tables II and III. The S814 airfoil thickness is 24-percent chord; the S815, 26-percent chord.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

S814

Pressure Distributions

The inviscid (potential-flow) pressure distributions for the S814 airfoil for various angles of attack are shown in figure 2. Because the free-stream Mach number for all relevant operating conditions remains below 0.2, these and all subsequent results are incompressible.

Transition and Separation Locations

The variation of transition location with lift coefficient for the S814 airfoil is shown in figure 3. It should be remembered that the method of references 2 and 3 'defines' the transition location as the end of the laminar boundary layer whether due to natural transition or laminar separation. Thus, for conditions which result in relatively long laminar separation bubbles (low lift coefficients for the upper surface and high lift coefficients for the lower surface and/or low Reynolds numbers), poor agreement between the predicted 'transition' locations and the locations measured experimentally can be expected. This poor agreement is worsened by the fact that transition is normally confirmed in the wind tunnel only by the detection of attached turbulent flow. For conditions which result in shorter laminar separation bubbles (high lift coefficients for the upper surface and low lift coefficients for the lower surface and/or high Reynolds numbers), the agreement between theory and experiment should be quite good. (See ref. 8.)

The variation of turbulent-separation location with lift coefficient for the S814 airfoil is shown in figure 3. A small separation is predicted on the upper surface at almost all lift coefficients. This separation, which is caused by the separation ramp (fig. 2), increases in length

with transition fixed near the leading edge. Separation is predicted on the lower surface at lower lift coefficients. Such separation usually has little effect on the section characteristics. (See ref. 8.)

Section Characteristics

Reynolds number effects.- The section characteristics of the S814 airfoil are shown in figure 3. It should be noted that the maximum lift coefficient predicted by the method of references 2 and 3 is not always realistic. Accordingly, an empirical criterion has been applied to the computed results. This criterion assumes that the maximum lift coefficient has been reached if the drag coefficient of the upper surface is greater than 0.0240 or if the length of turbulent separation along the upper surface is greater than 0.10. Thus, the maximum lift coefficient for the design Reynolds number of 1.5×10^6 is predicted to be 1.56, which exceeds the design objective by 20 percent. Based on the movement of the upper-surface separation point, the stall characteristics are expected to be docile. Low drag coefficients are predicted over the range of lift coefficients from 0 to about 1.3, which exceeds the range specified (0.6 to 1.2). The drag coefficient at the specified lower limit of the laminar bucket ($c_l = 0.6$) is predicted to be 0.0099, which is 18 percent below the design objective. The zero-lift pitching-moment coefficient is predicted to be -0.1670, which exceeds the design constraint. However, the method of references 2 and 3 generally overpredicts the pitching-moment coefficient by about 10 percent. Thus, the actual zero-lift pitching-moment coefficient should be about -0.15, which satisfies the constraint.

An additional analysis (not shown) indicates that significant (drag-producing) laminar separation bubbles should not occur on either surface for any relevant operating condition.

Effect of roughness.- The effect of roughness on the section characteristics of the S814 airfoil is shown in figure 3. Transition was fixed at 2-percent chord on the upper surface and 10-percent chord on the lower surface using transition mode MU = 1 (ref. 3). The maximum lift coefficient is unaffected by fixing transition at these locations because transition is predicted to occur forward of 2-percent chord on the upper surface at the maximum lift coefficient. The 'rough' results were obtained using transition mode MU = 9 (ref. 3), which simulates distributed roughness due to, for example, leading-edge contamination by insects or rain. At the higher lift coefficients, this transition mode is probably comparable to NACA (National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics) Standard Roughness which "is considerably more severe than that caused by the usual manufacturing irregularities or deterioration in service" (ref. 9). For the rough condition, the maximum lift coefficient for the design Reynolds number of 1.5×10^6 is predicted to be 1.51, a reduction of three percent from that for the transition-free condition. Thus, one of the most important design requirements has been achieved. The drag coefficients are, of course, adversely affected by the roughness.

S815

Pressure Distributions

The inviscid (potential-flow) pressure distributions for the S815 airfoil for various angles of attack are shown in figure 4.

Transition and Separation Locations

The variations of transition and turbulent-separation locations with lift coefficient for the S815 airfoil are shown in figure 5. A small separation is predicted on the upper surface at all positive lift coefficients. This separation, which is caused by the separation ramp (fig. 4), increases in length with transition fixed near the leading edge. Separation is predicted on the lower surface at lower lift coefficients. Such separation usually has little effect on the section characteristics.

Section Characteristics

Reynolds number effects.- The section characteristics of the S815 airfoil are shown in figure 5. Using the previously-described empirical criterion, the maximum lift coefficient for the design Reynolds number of 1.2×10^6 is predicted to be 1.46, which exceeds the design objective by 33 percent. The stall characteristics are expected to be docile. Low drag coefficients are predicted over the range of lift coefficients from 0 to about 1.4, which exceeds the range specified (0.4 to 1.0). The drag coefficient at the specified lower limit of the laminar bucket ($c_l = 0.4$) is predicted to be 0.0108, which is 23 percent below the design objective, although substantial separation is predicted on the lower surface at this lift coefficient. The zero-lift pitching-moment coefficient is predicted to be -0.1668, which exceeds the design constraint. Again, because the method of references 2 and 3 overpredicts the pitching-moment coefficient, the actual zero-lift pitching-moment coefficient should be about -0.15, which satisfies the constraint.

An additional analysis (not shown) indicates that significant (drag-producing) laminar separation bubbles may occur on the lower surface only below a lift coefficient of about 0.8.

Effect of roughness.- The effect of roughness on the section characteristics of the S815 airfoil is shown in figure 5. Transition was fixed at 2-percent chord on the upper surface and 10-percent chord on the lower surface using transition mode $MU = 1$ (ref. 3). The maximum lift coefficient is unaffected by fixing transition at these locations because transition is predicted to occur forward of 2-percent chord on the upper surface at the maximum lift coefficient. For the rough condition ($MU = 9$), the maximum lift coefficient for the design Reynolds number of 1.2×10^6 is predicted to be 1.40, a reduction of four percent from that for the transition-free

condition. Thus, one of the most important design requirements has been achieved. The drag coefficients are, of course, adversely affected by the roughness.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Two thick laminar-flow airfoils for the root portion of a horizontal-axis wind-turbine blade, the S814 and S815, have been designed and analyzed theoretically. For both airfoils, the primary objectives of high maximum lift coefficients, insensitive to roughness, and low profile-drag coefficients have been achieved. The constraints on the pitching-moment coefficient and airfoil thicknesses have been satisfied.

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TABLE I.- AIRFOIL DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

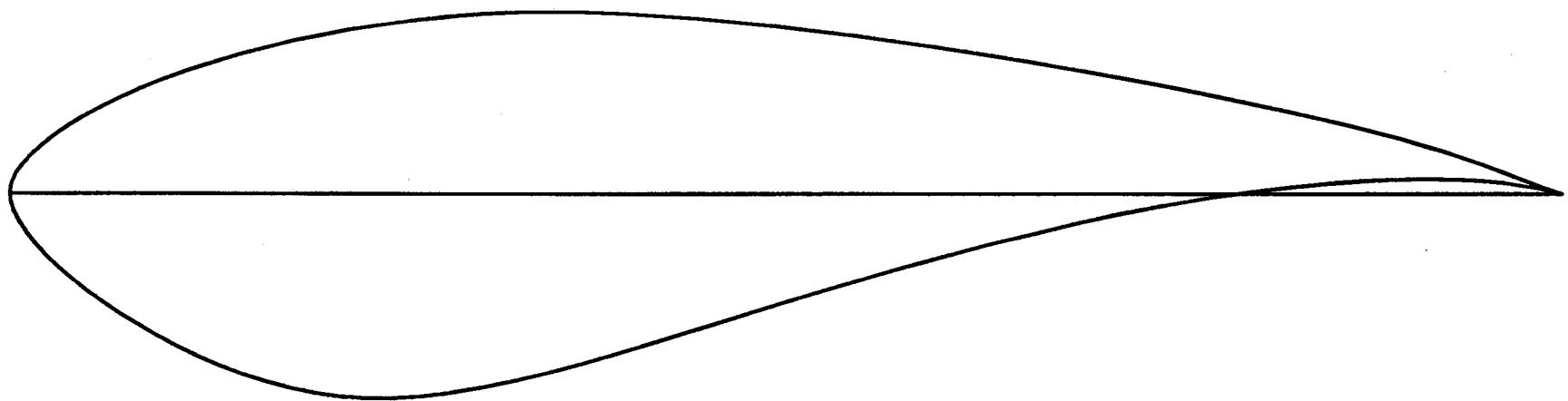
<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Objective/Constraint</u>	
Blade radial station	0.40	0.30
Reynolds number	1.5×10^6	1.2×10^6
Maximum lift coefficient	1.30	1.10
Low-drag lift-coefficient range:		
Lower limit	0.6	0.4
Upper limit	1.2	1.0
Minimum profile-drag coefficient	0.0120	0.0140
Zero-lift pitching-moment coefficient	≥ -0.15	≥ -0.15
Thickness	0.24	0.26

TABLE II.- S814 AIRFOIL COORDINATES

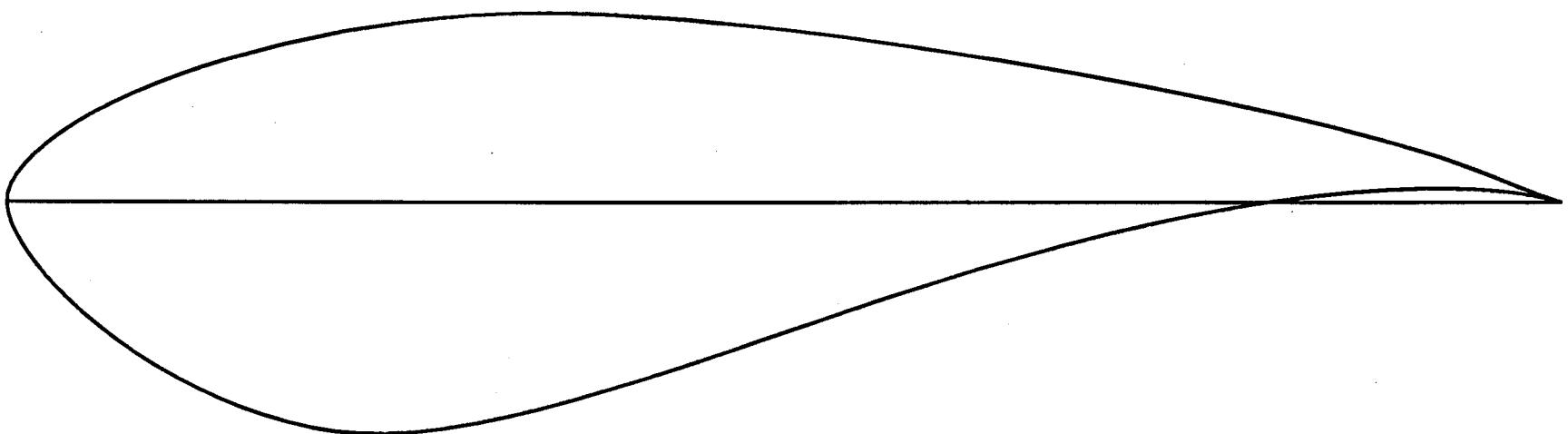
Upper Surface		Lower Surface	
x/c	y/c	x/c	y/c
0.00116	0.00703	0.00048	-0.00470
.00830	.01892	.00607	-.01746
.02064	.03130	.01644	-.03159
.03771	.04378	.03097	-.04646
.05918	.05608	.04923	-.06162
.08475	.06791	.07077	-.07662
.11409	.07903	.09515	-.09096
.14685	.08921	.12193	-.10412
.18266	.09821	.15072	-.11545
.22111	.10580	.18122	-.12425
.26177	.11175	.21322	-.12971
.30418	.11564	.24712	-.13079
.34829	.11696	.28389	-.12736
.39439	.11573	.32394	-.11990
.44237	.11251	.36753	-.10887
.49169	.10775	.41483	-.09511
.54177	.10173	.46552	-.07962
.59199	.09473	.51909	-.06328
.64174	.08698	.57485	-.04703
.69037	.07873	.63189	-.03173
.73723	.07016	.68912	-.01818
.78169	.06146	.74529	-.00701
.82312	.05276	.79901	.00134
.86095	.04417	.84887	.00671
.89460	.03567	.89348	.00917
.92380	.02706	.93154	.00910
.94879	.01848	.96197	.00701
.96963	.01071	.98364	.00377
.98582	.00470	.99606	.00102
.99632	.00112	1.00000	.00000
1.00000	.00000		

TABLE III.- S815 AIRFOIL COORDINATES

Upper Surface		Lower Surface	
x/c	y/c	x/c	y/c
0.00057	0.00537	0.00110	-0.00764
.00658	.01777	.00741	-0.02242
.01821	.03072	.01808	-0.03839
.03475	.04381	.03268	-0.05497
.05579	.05671	.05083	-0.07167
.08099	.06913	.07213	-0.08804
.11003	.08082	.09618	-0.10358
.14253	.09152	.12257	-0.11776
.17811	.10101	.15092	-0.12995
.21637	.10902	.18094	-0.13947
.25688	.11531	.21239	-0.14548
.29916	.11947	.24569	-0.14690
.34317	.12093	.28191	-0.14360
.38927	.11972	.32148	-0.13627
.43735	.11645	.36439	-0.12537
.48685	.11157	.41069	-0.11151
.53719	.10540	.46020	-0.09549
.58773	.09821	.51257	-0.07811
.63784	.09024	.56728	-0.06032
.68686	.08175	.62362	-0.04304
.73414	.07294	.68061	-0.02724
.77902	.06397	.73706	-0.01371
.82087	.05500	.79160	-0.00312
.85909	.04613	.84270	0.00417
.89307	.03733	.88881	0.00809
.92258	.02838	.92844	0.00894
.94785	.01943	.96029	0.00725
.96899	.01127	.98298	0.00400
.98548	.00495	.99592	0.00109
.99623	.00118	1.00000	0.00000
1.00000	.00000		

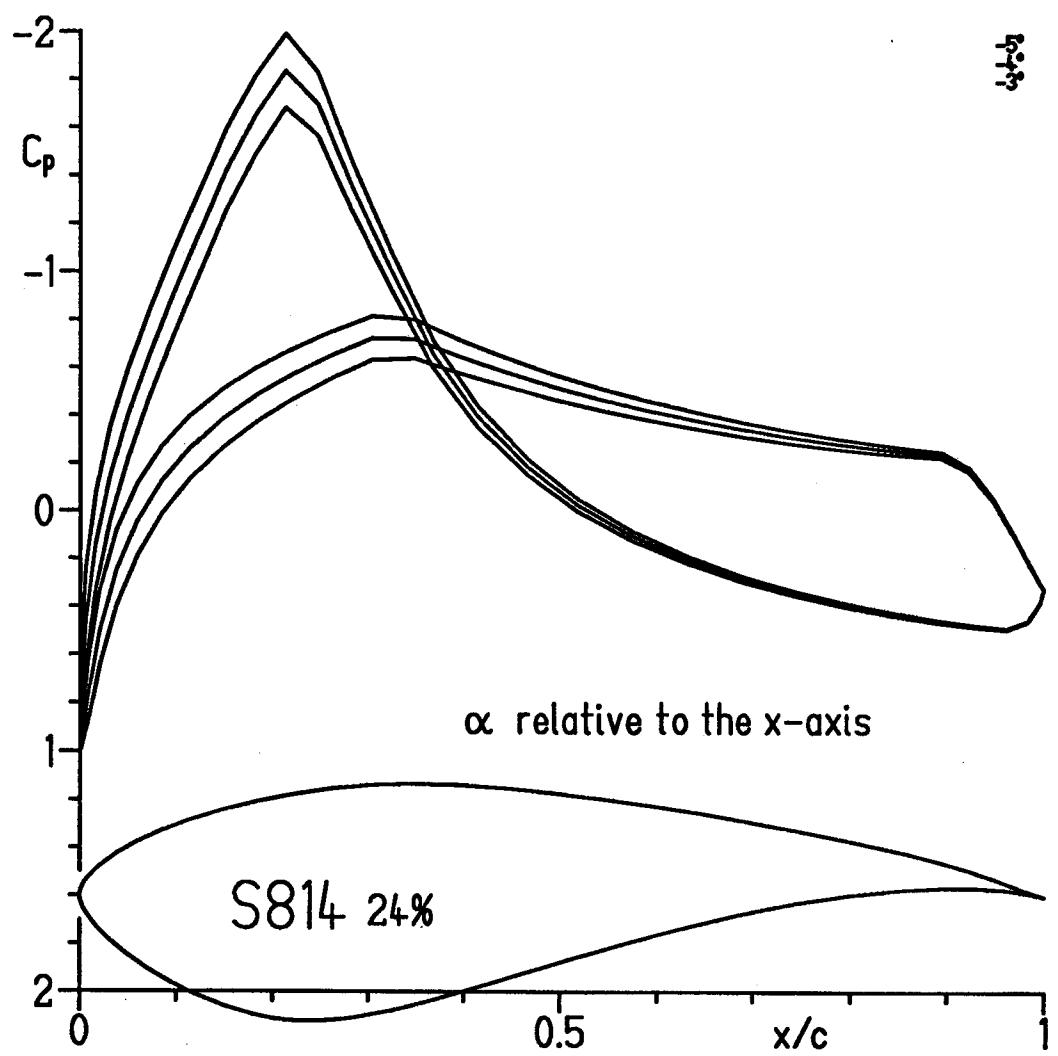


(a) S814.



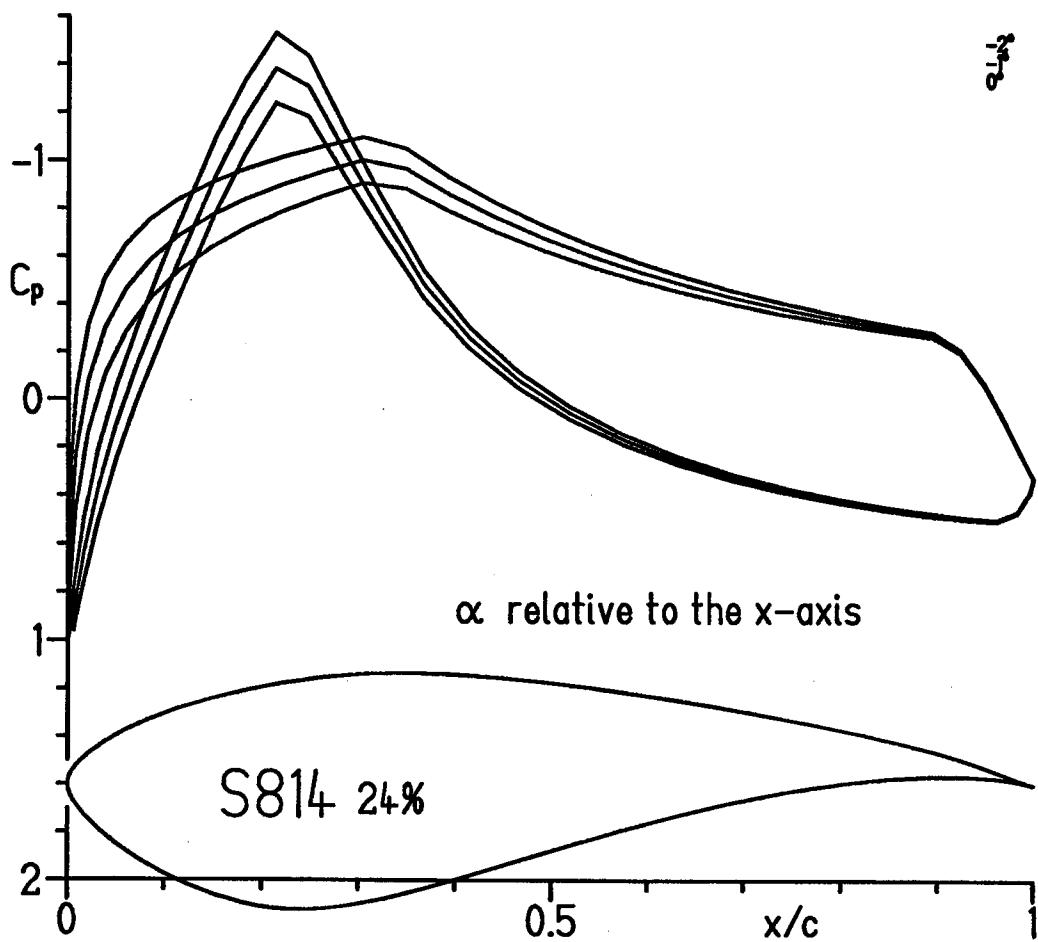
(b) S815.

Figure 1.- Airfoil shapes.



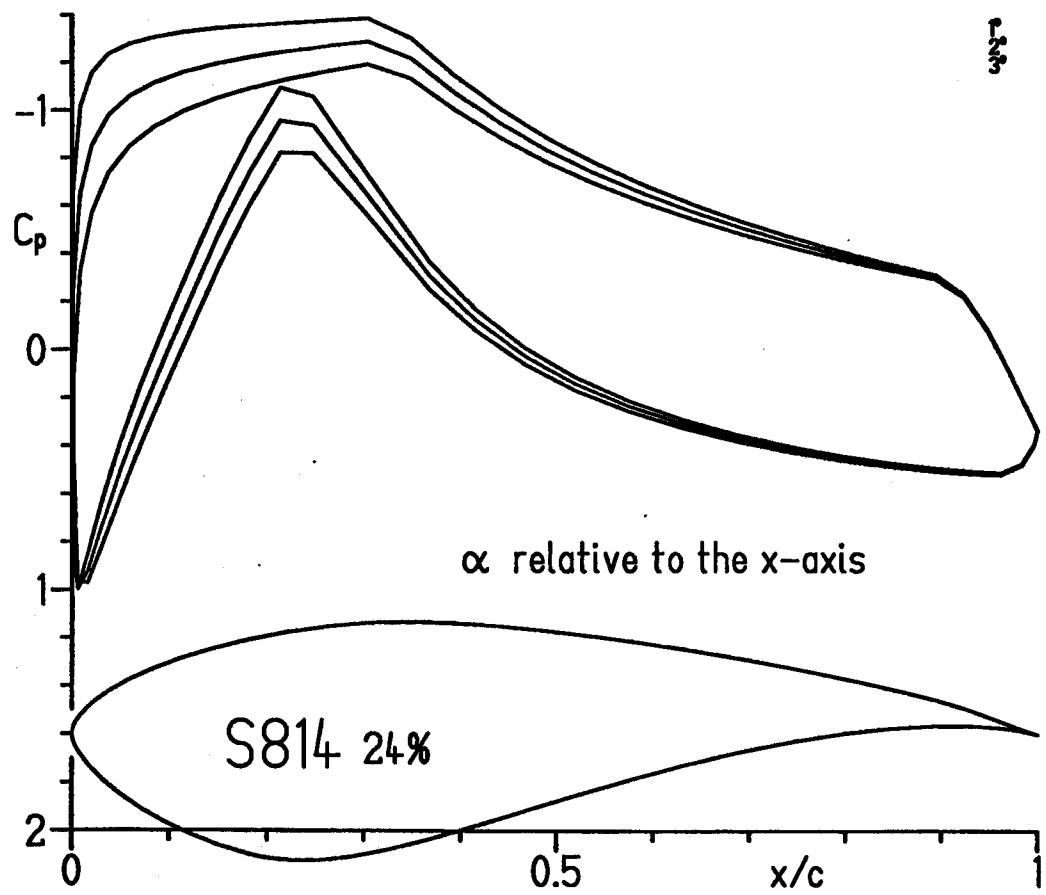
(a) $\alpha = -5^\circ, -4^\circ$, and -3° .

Figure 2.- Inviscid pressure distributions for S814 airfoil.



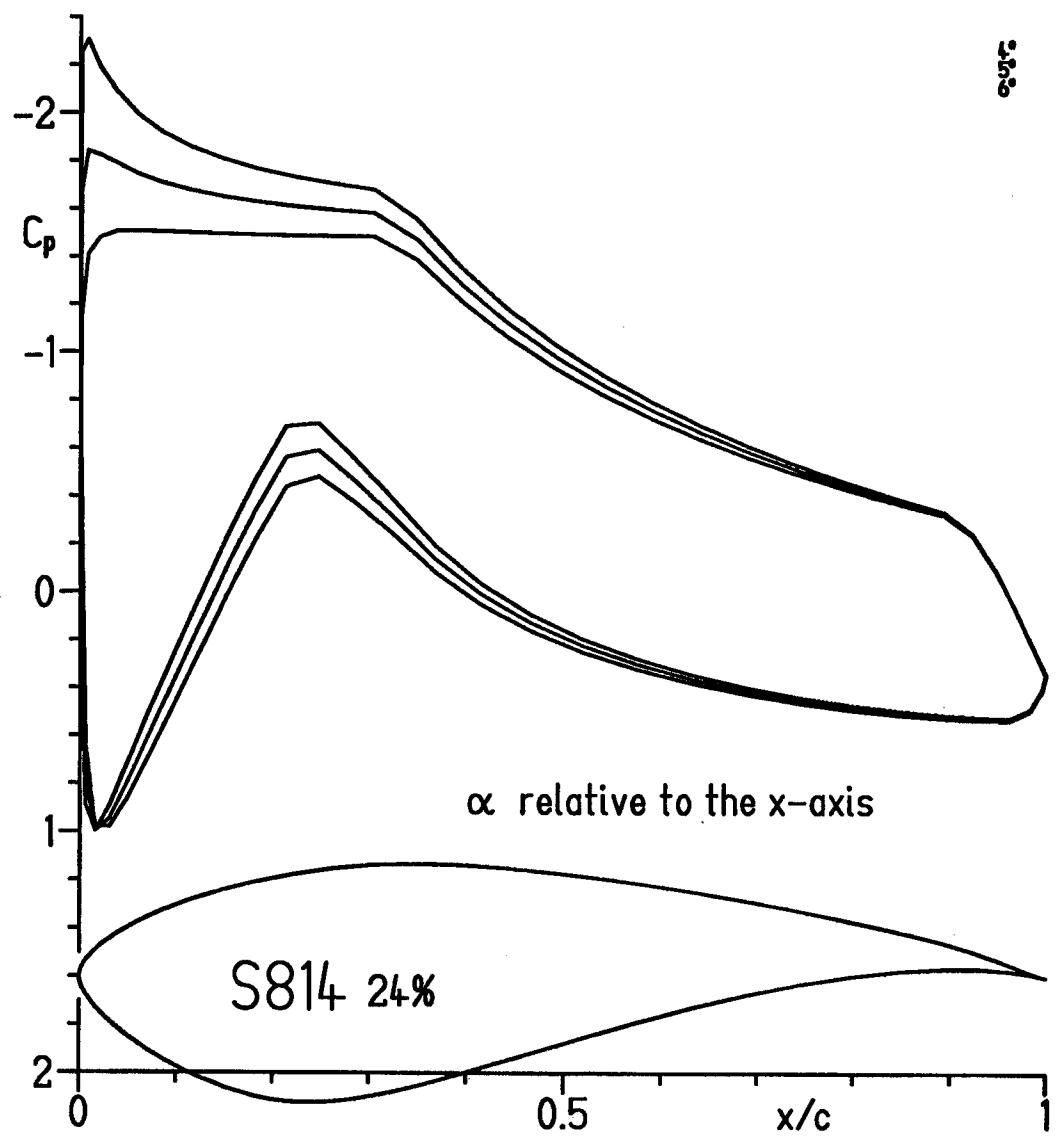
(b) $\alpha = -2^\circ, -1^\circ$, and 0° .

Figure 2.- Continued.



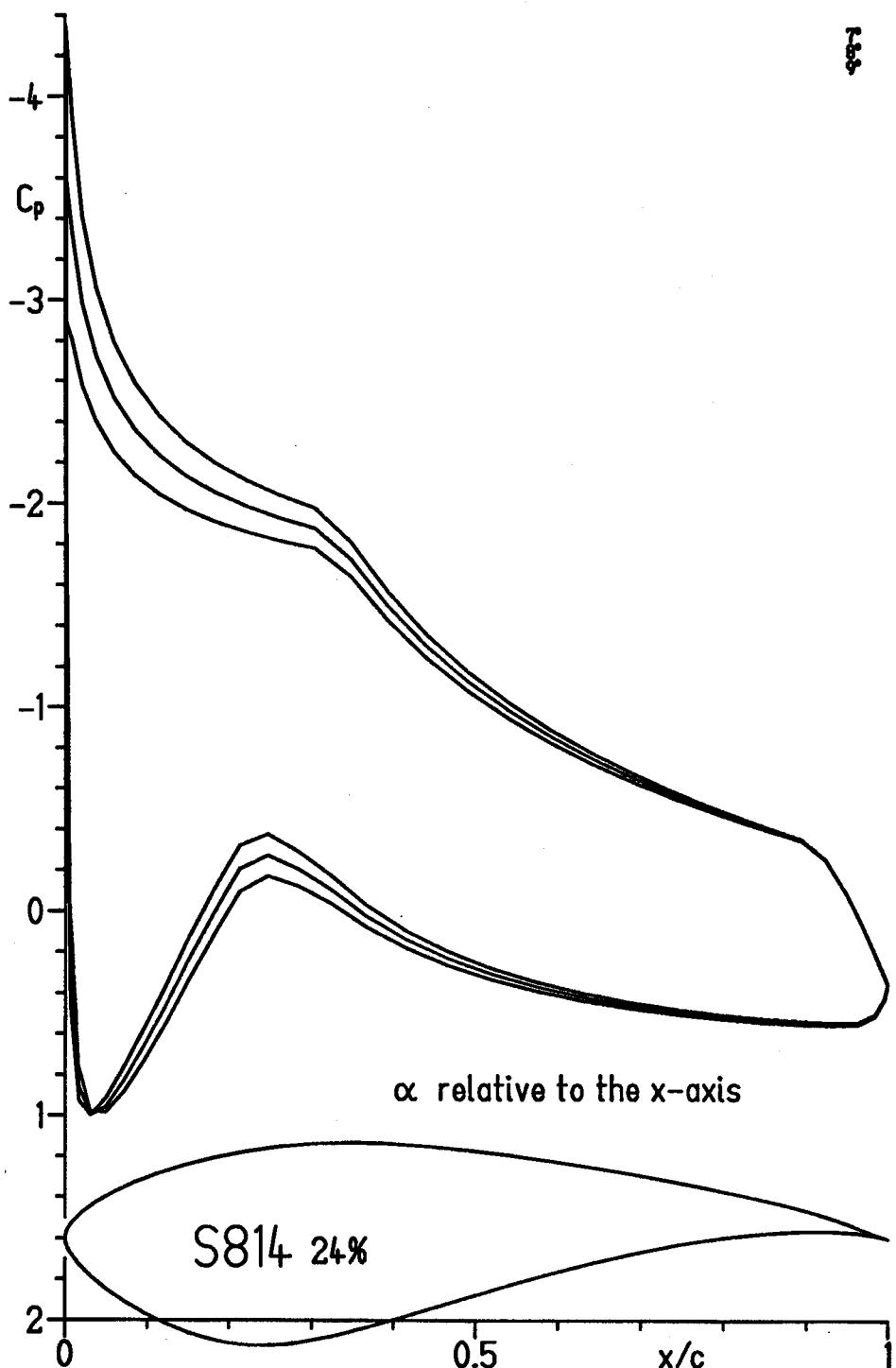
(c) $\alpha = 1^\circ, 2^\circ$, and 3° .

Figure 2.- Continued.



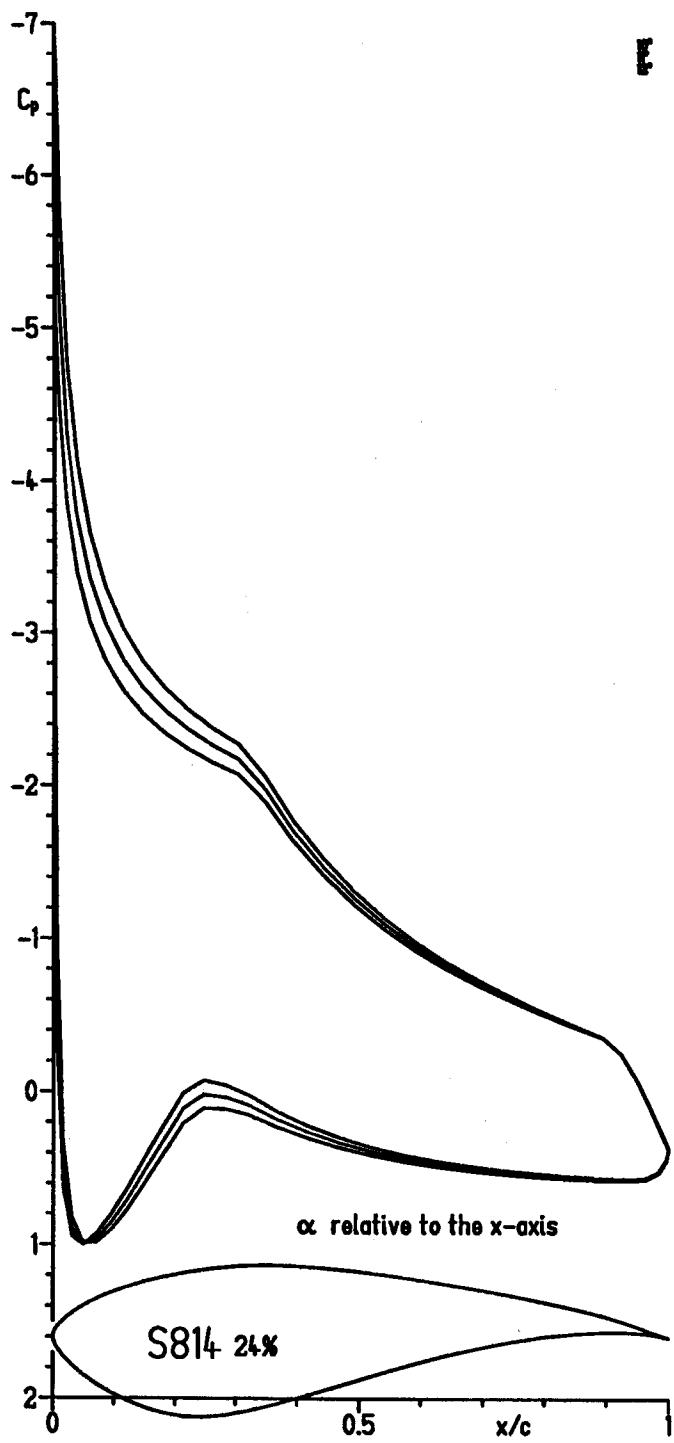
(d) $\alpha = 4^\circ, 5^\circ$, and 6° .

Figure 2.- Continued.



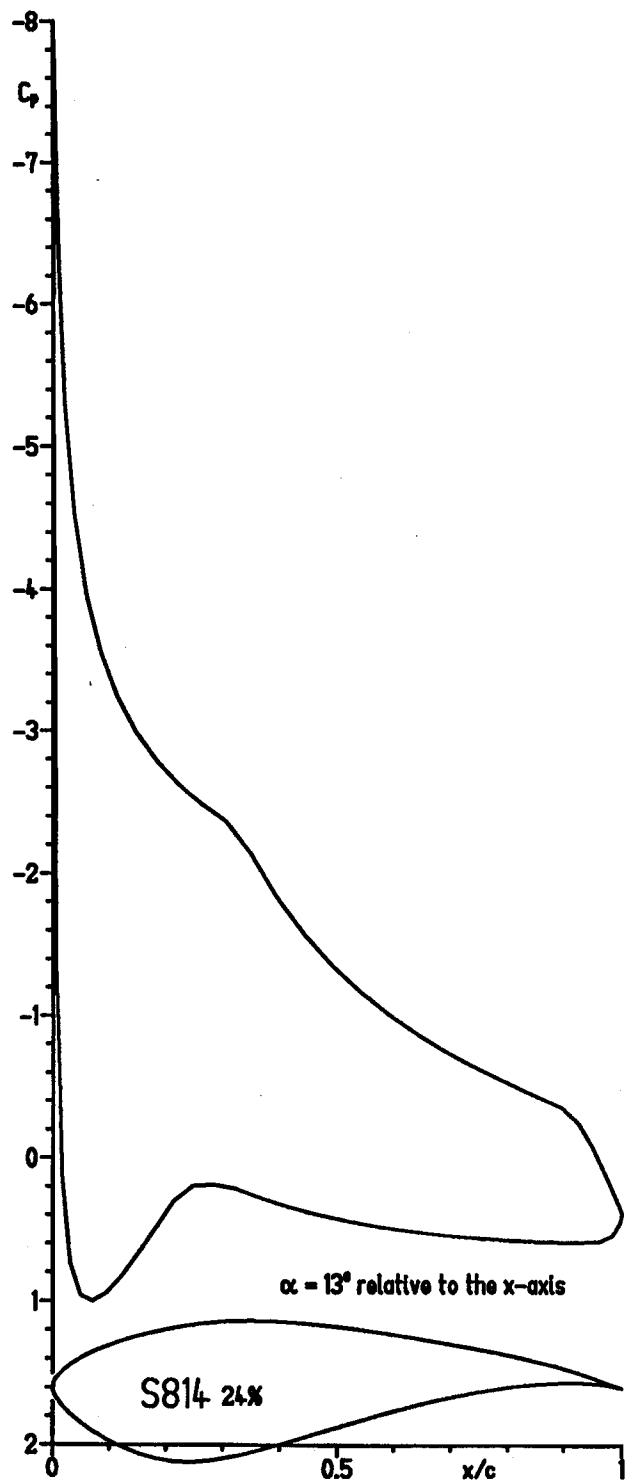
(e) $\alpha = 7^\circ, 8^\circ$, and 9° .

Figure 2.- Continued.



(f) $\alpha = 10^\circ, 11^\circ$, and 12° .

Figure 2.- Continued.



(g) $\alpha = 13^\circ$.

Figure 2.- Concluded.

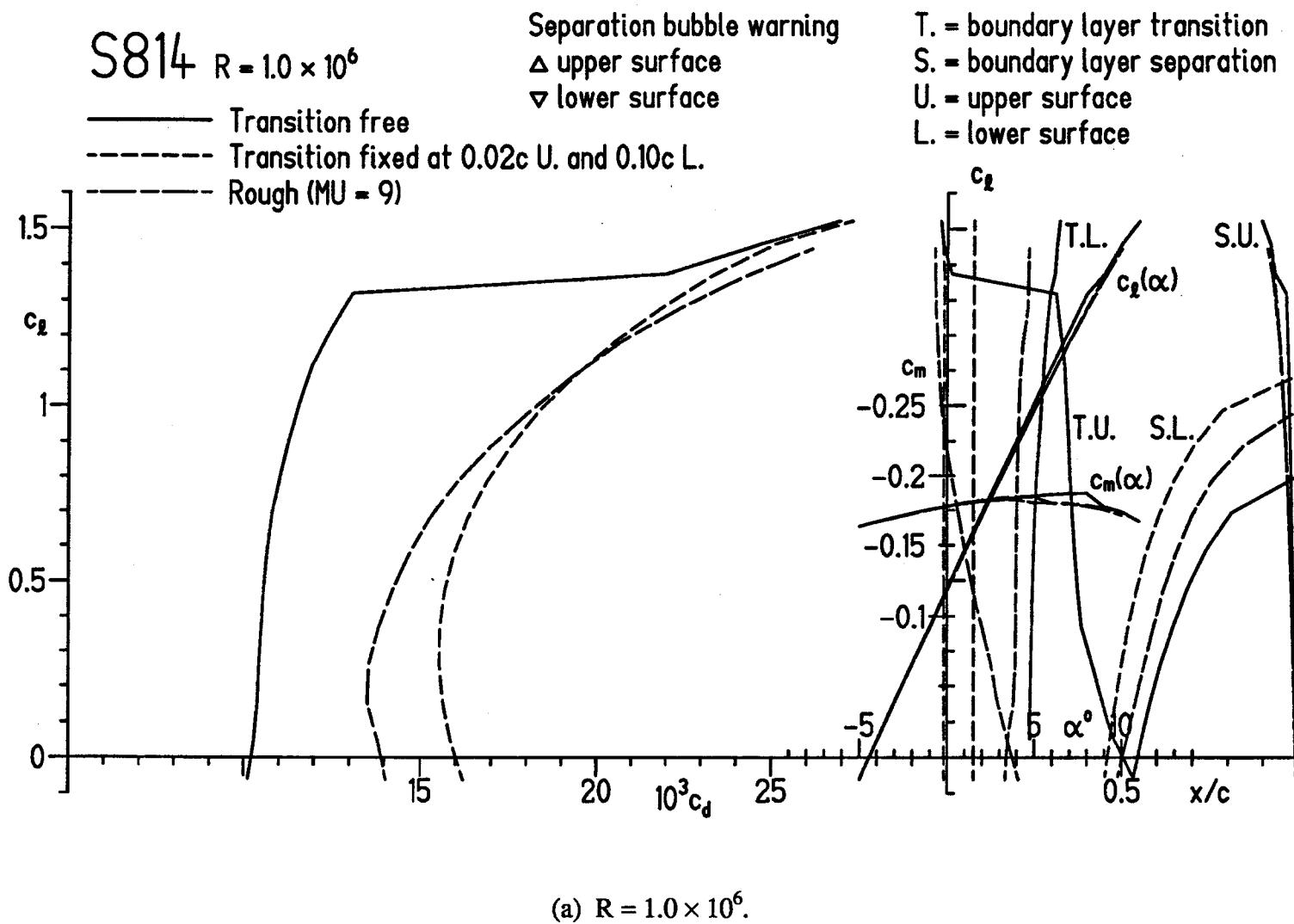


Figure 3.- Section characteristics of S814 airfoil with transition free and fixed and rough.

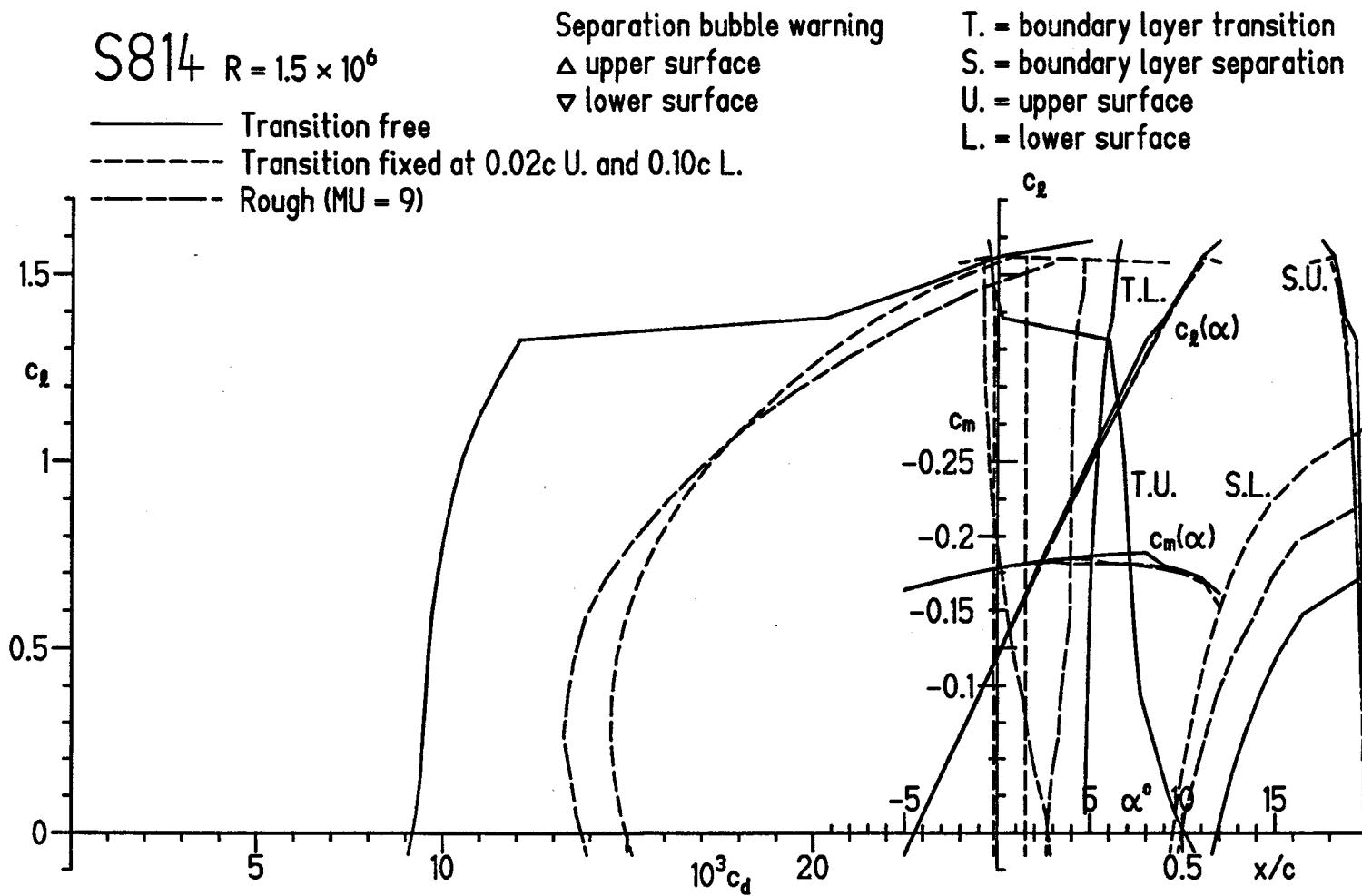
(b) $R = 1.5 \times 10^6$.

Figure 3.- Continued.

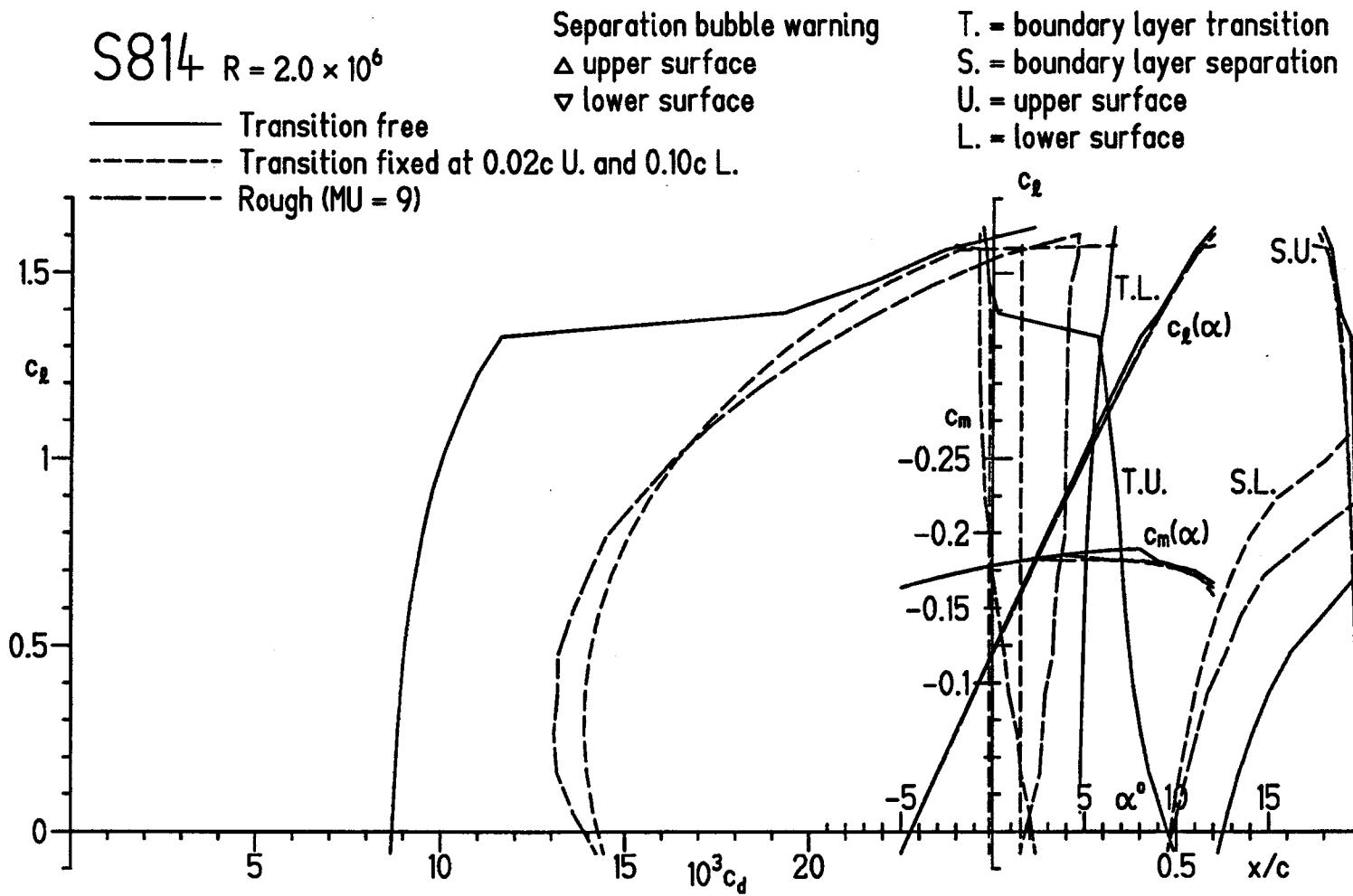
(c) $R = 2.0 \times 10^6$.

Figure 3.- Continued.

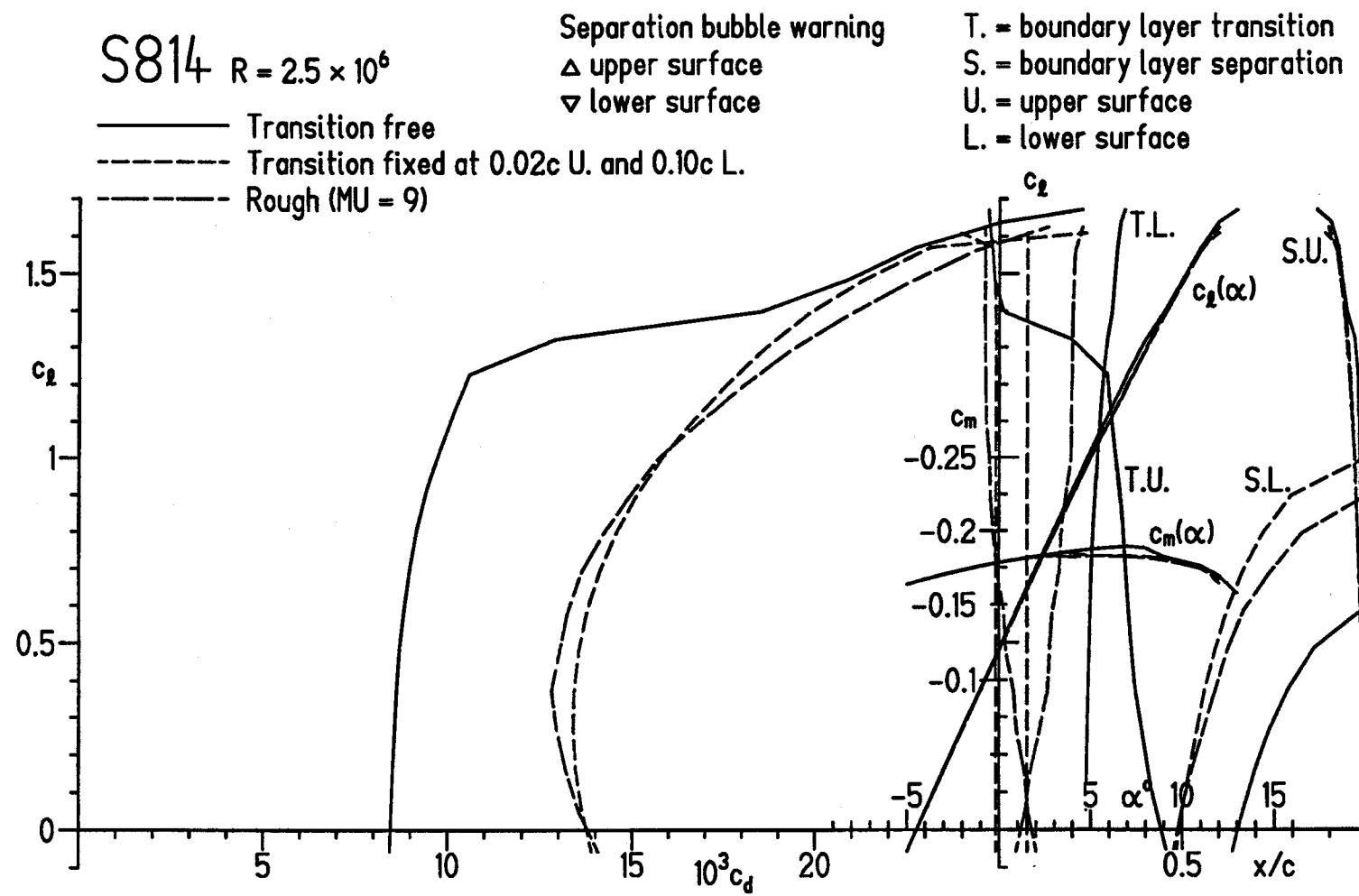
(d) $R = 2.5 \times 10^6$.

Figure 3.- Continued.

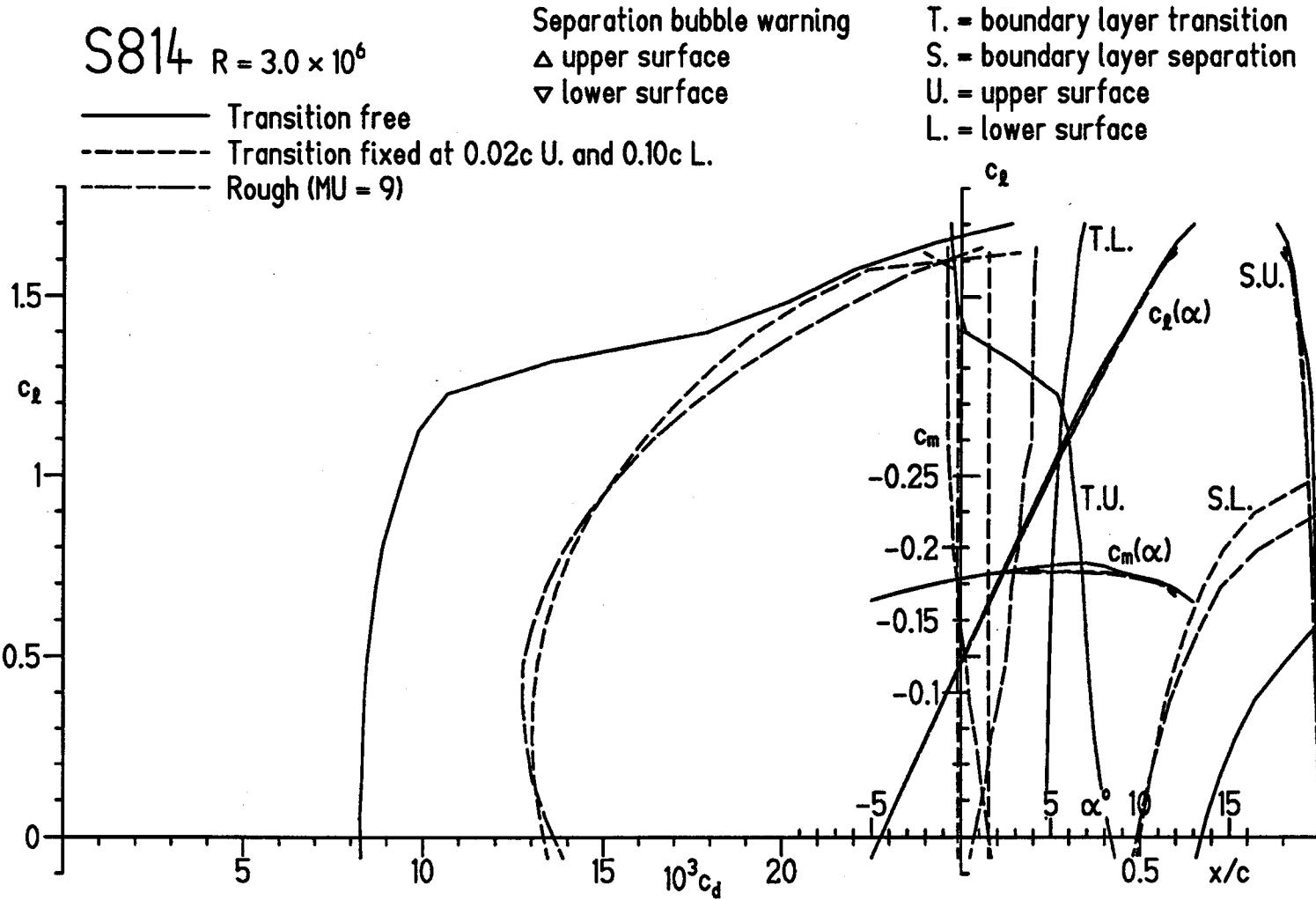
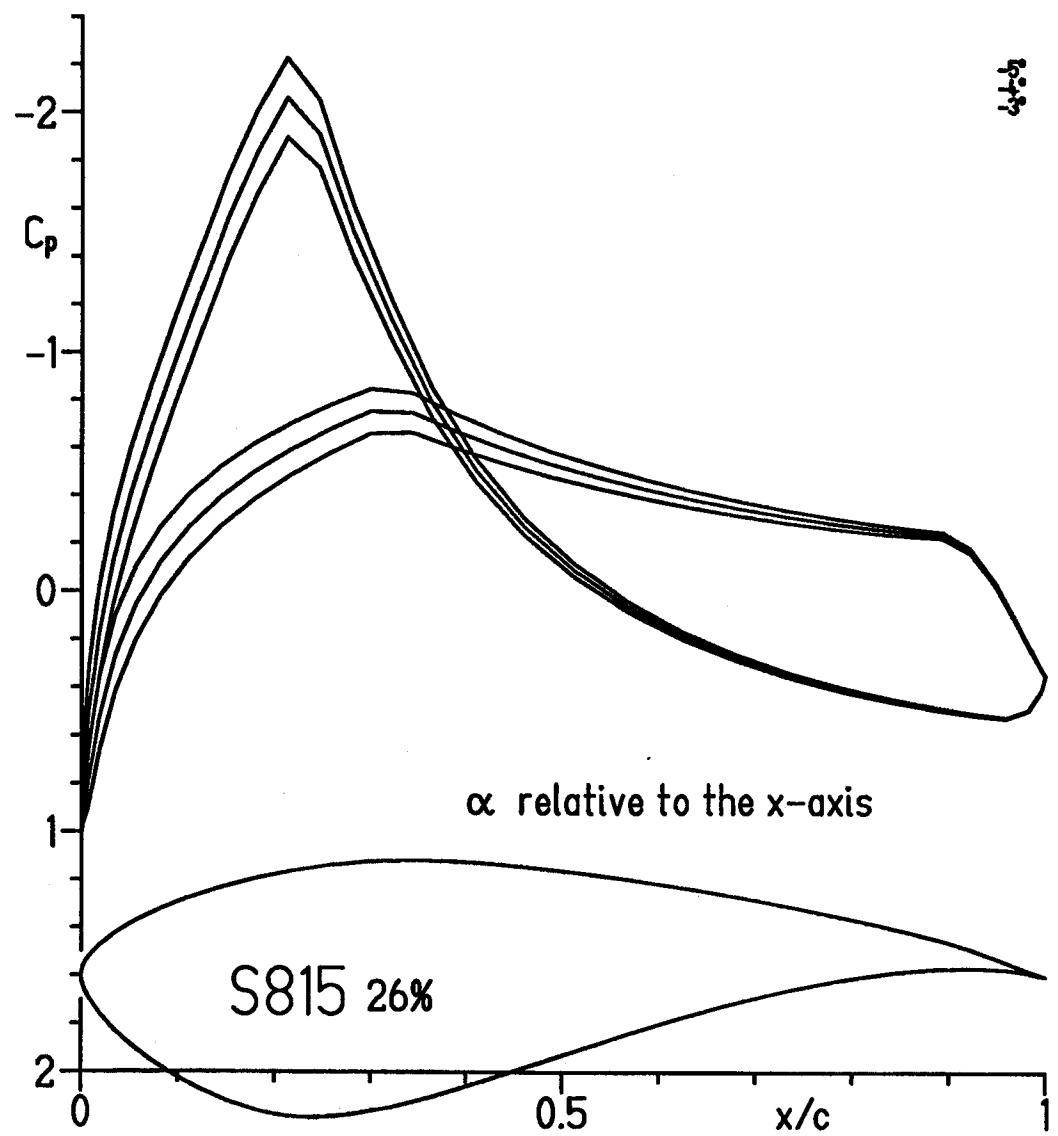
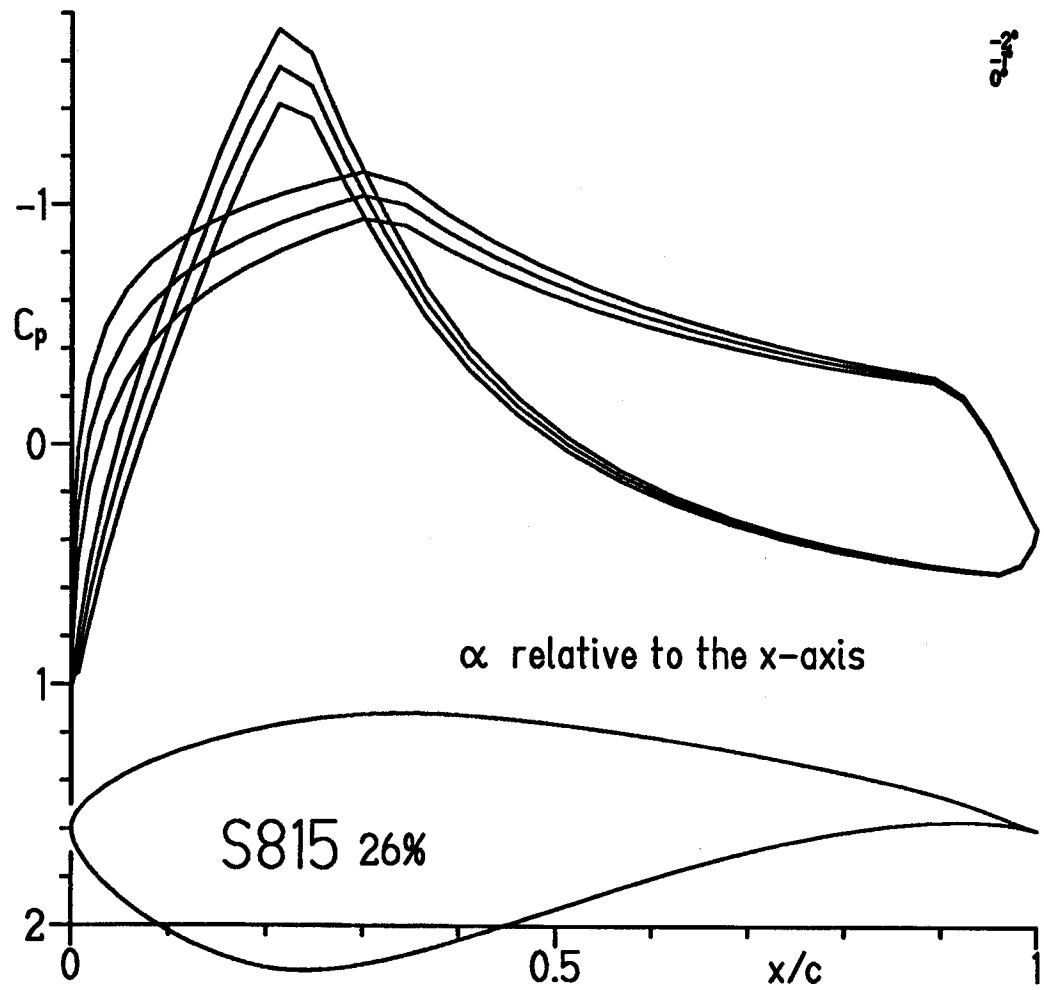
(e) $R = 3.0 \times 10^6$.

Figure 3.- Concluded.



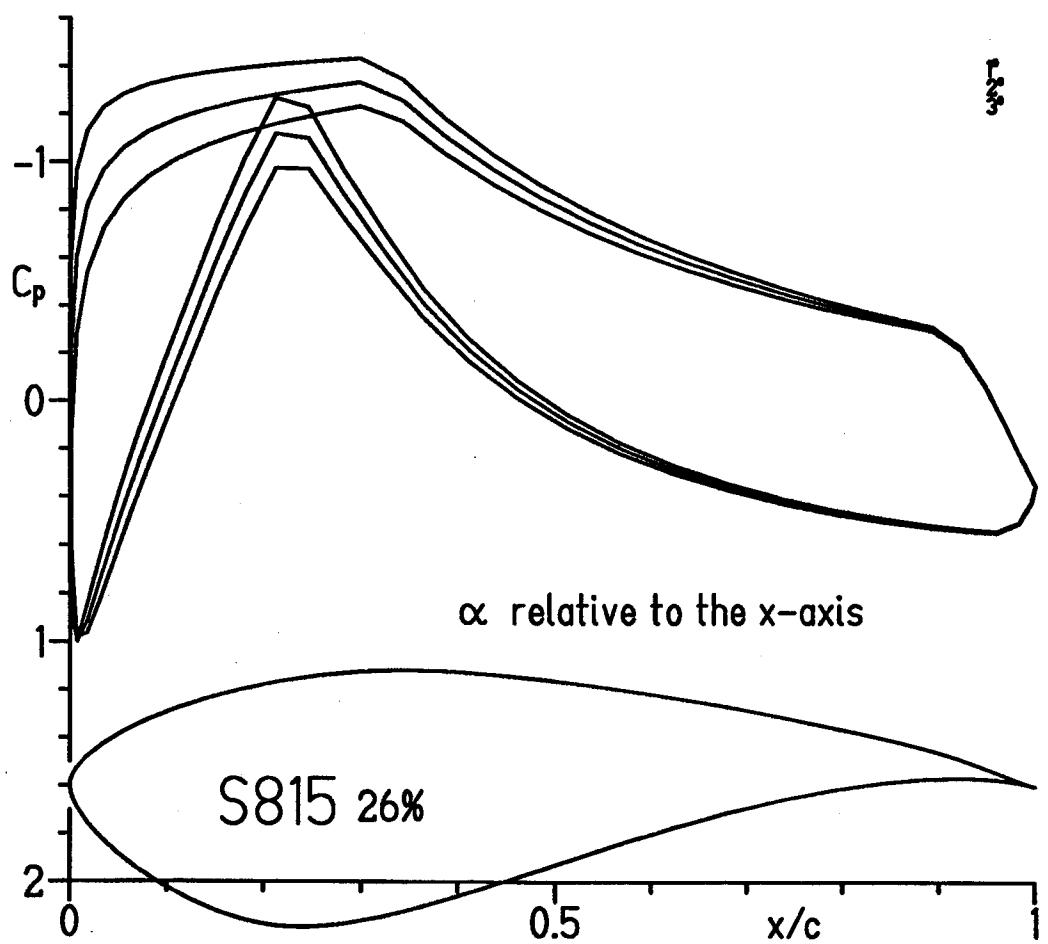
(a) $\alpha = -5^\circ, -4^\circ$, and -3° .

Figure 4.- Inviscid pressure distributions for S815 airfoil.



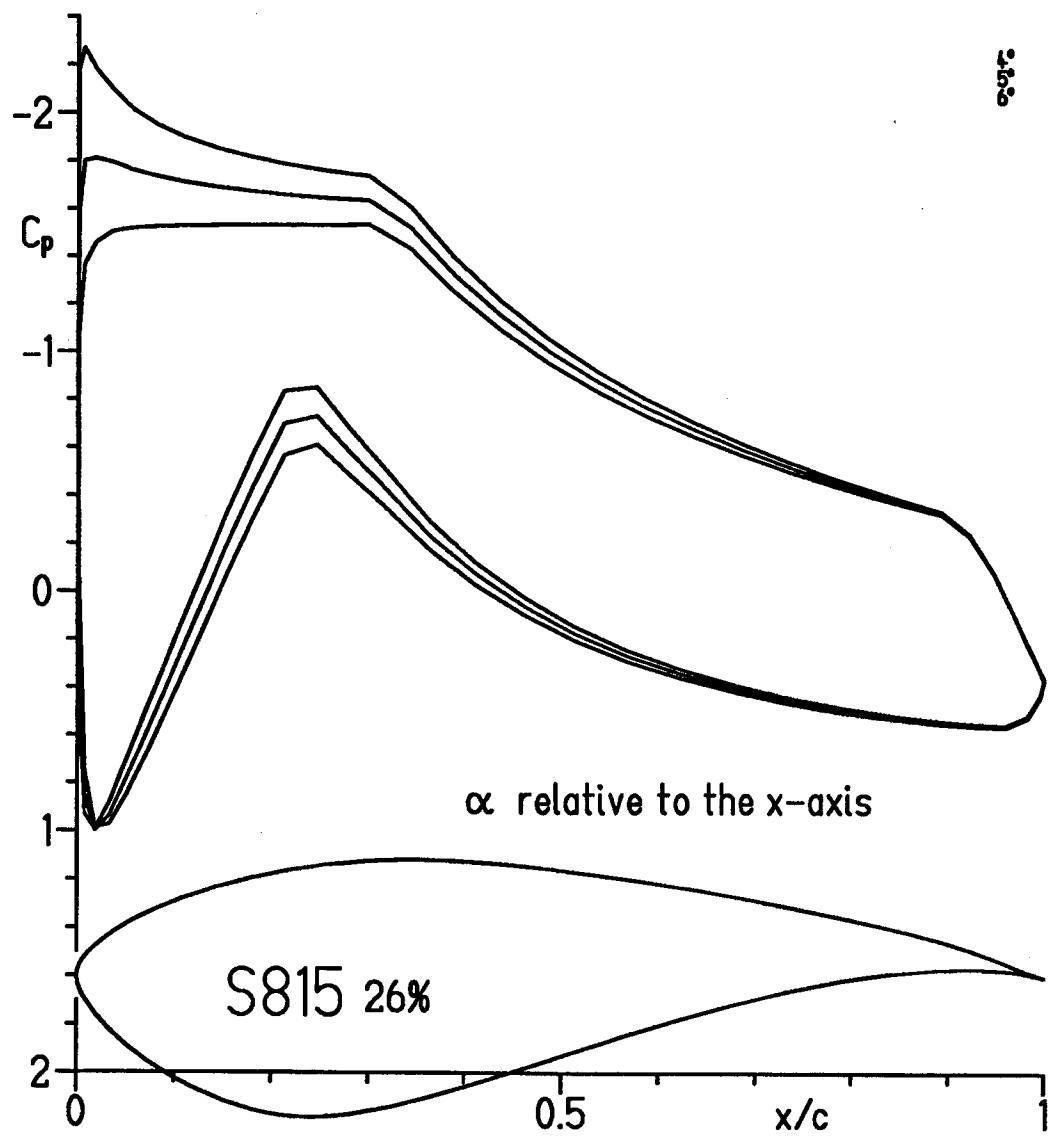
(b) $\alpha = -2^\circ, -1^\circ$, and 0° .

Figure 4.- Continued.



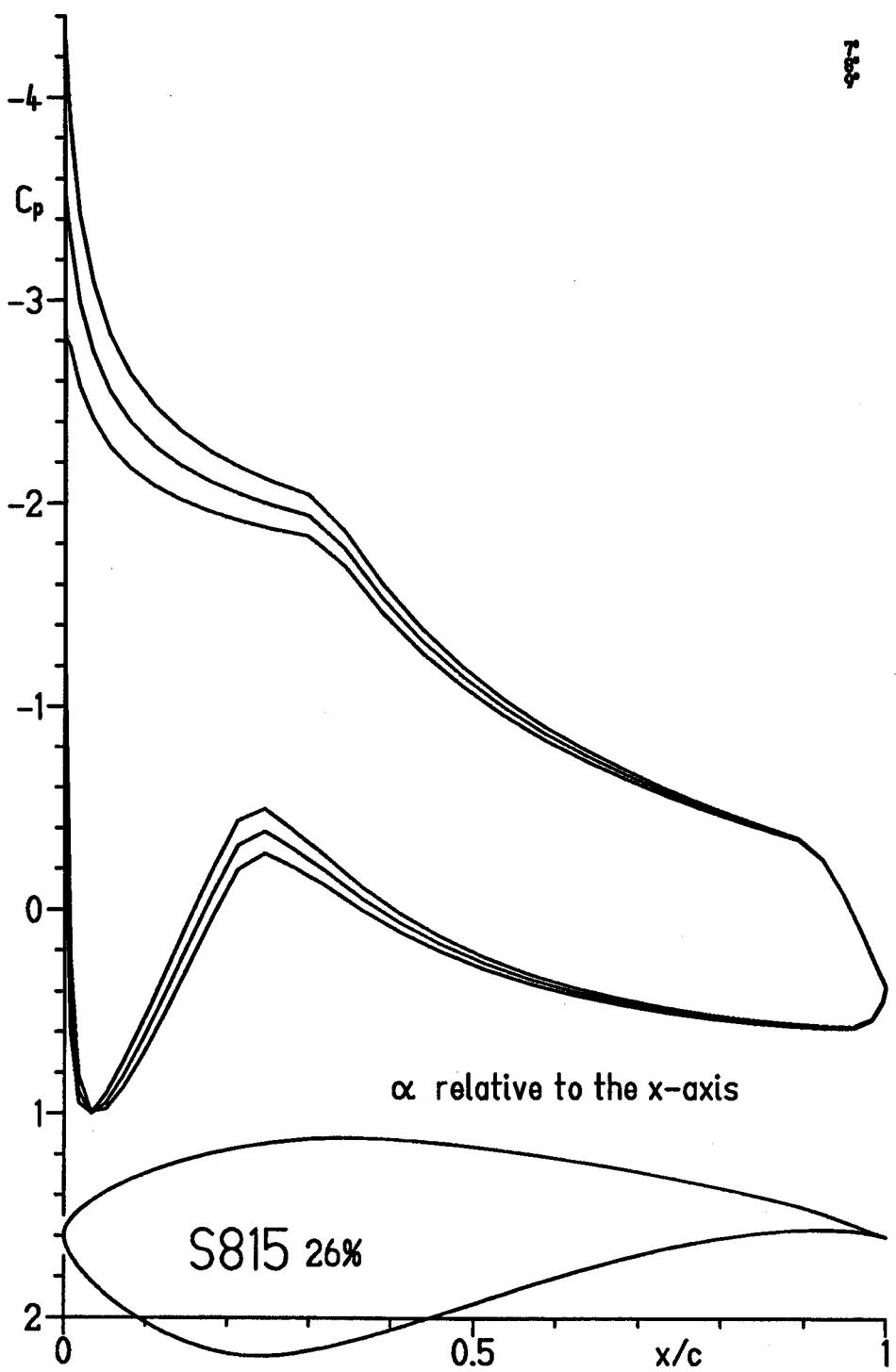
(c) $\alpha = 1^\circ, 2^\circ$, and 3° .

Figure 4.- Continued.



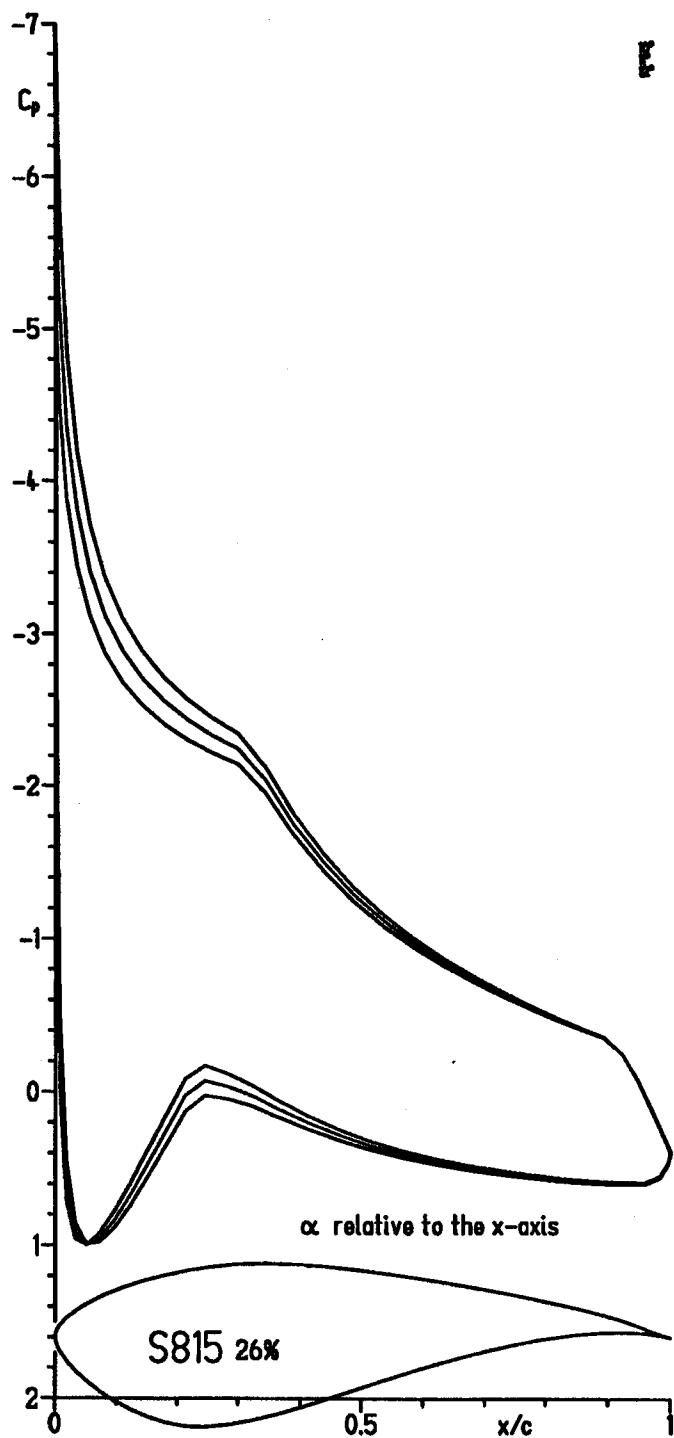
(d) $\alpha = 4^\circ, 5^\circ$, and 6° .

Figure 4.- Continued.



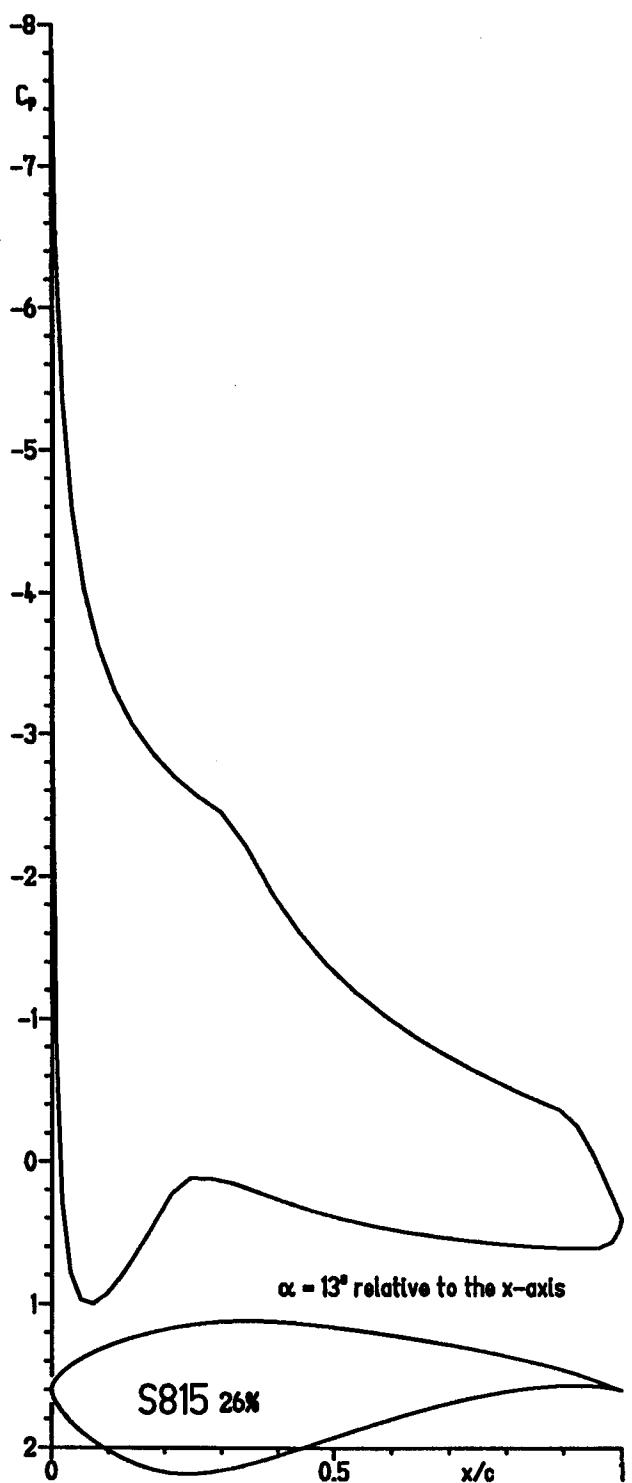
(e) $\alpha = 7^\circ, 8^\circ$, and 9° .

Figure 4.- Continued.



(f) $\alpha = 10^\circ, 11^\circ$, and 12° .

Figure 4.- Continued.



(g) $\alpha = 13^\circ$.

Figure 4.- Concluded.

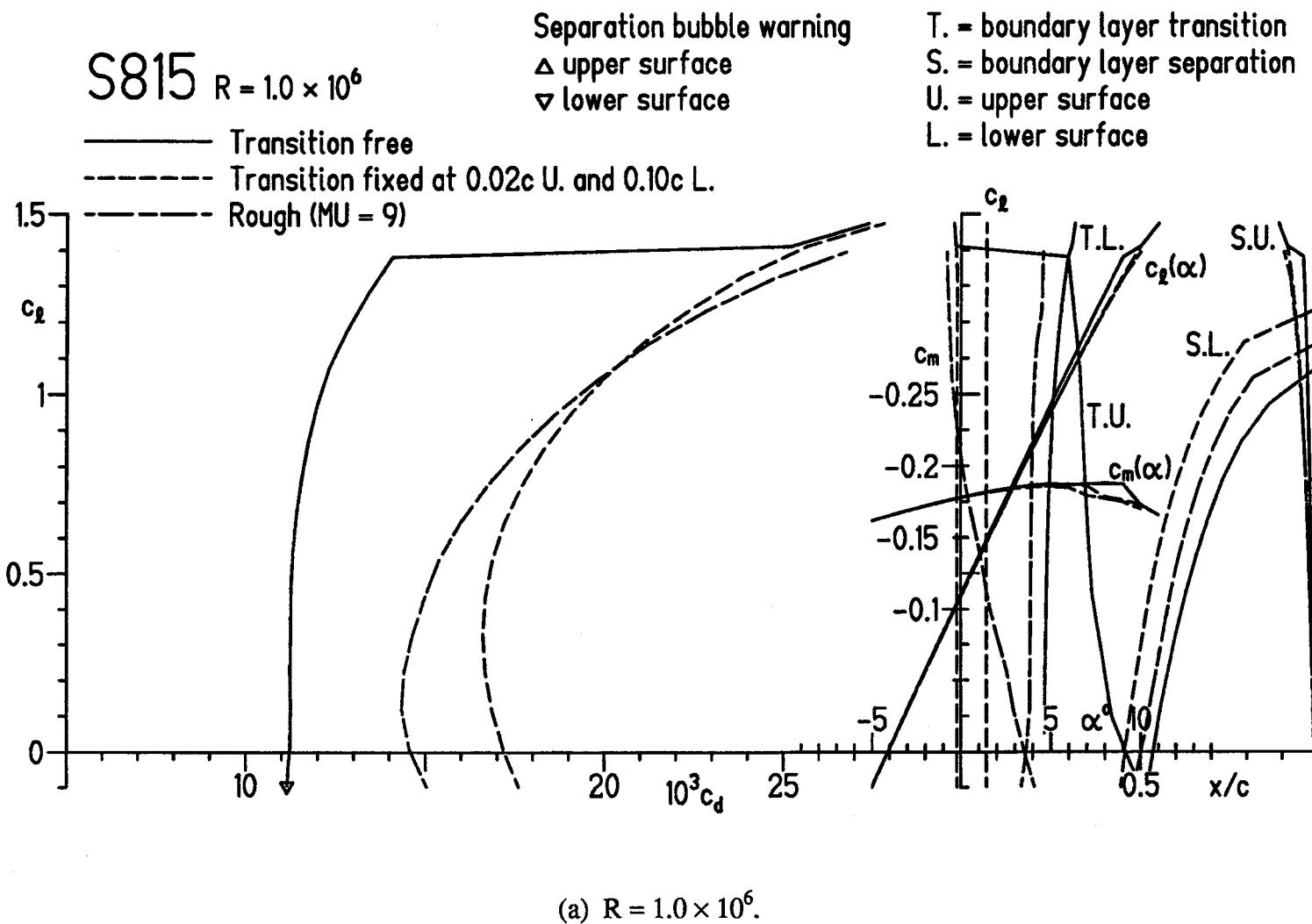


Figure 5.- Section characteristics of S815 airfoil with transition free and fixed and rough.

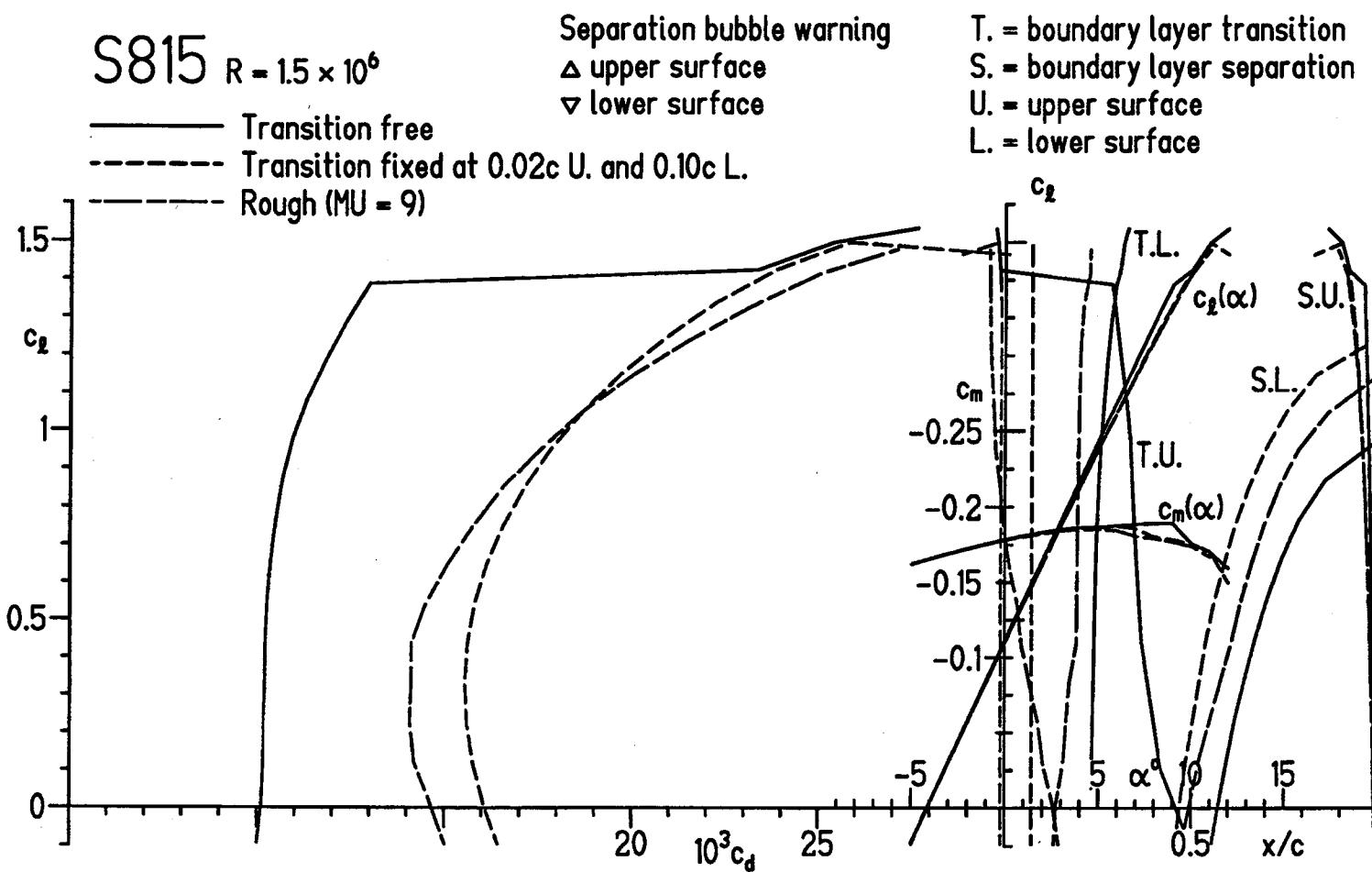
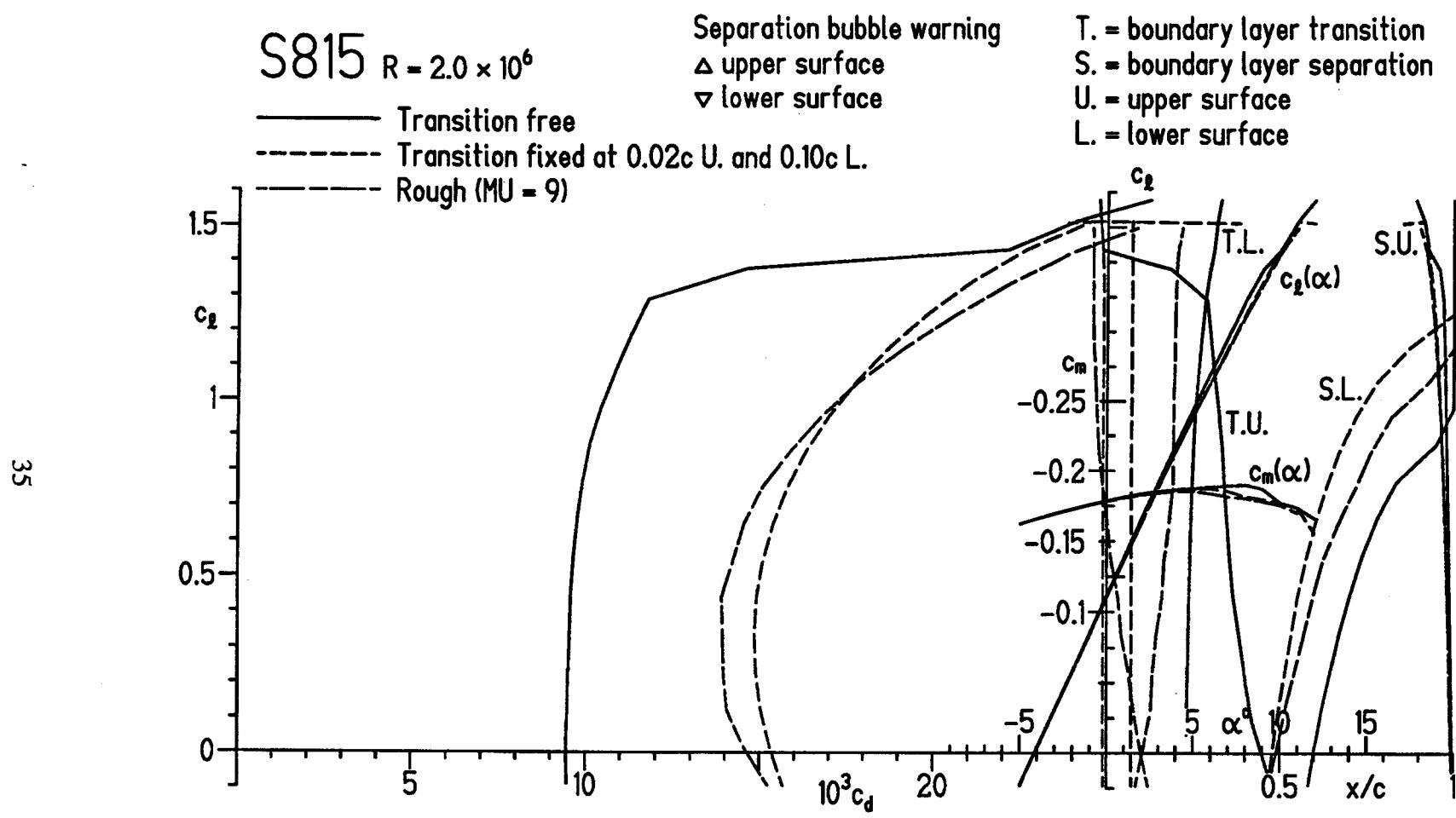
(b) $R = 1.5 \times 10^6$.

Figure 5.- Continued.



(c) $R = 2.0 \times 10^6$.

Figure 5.- Continued.

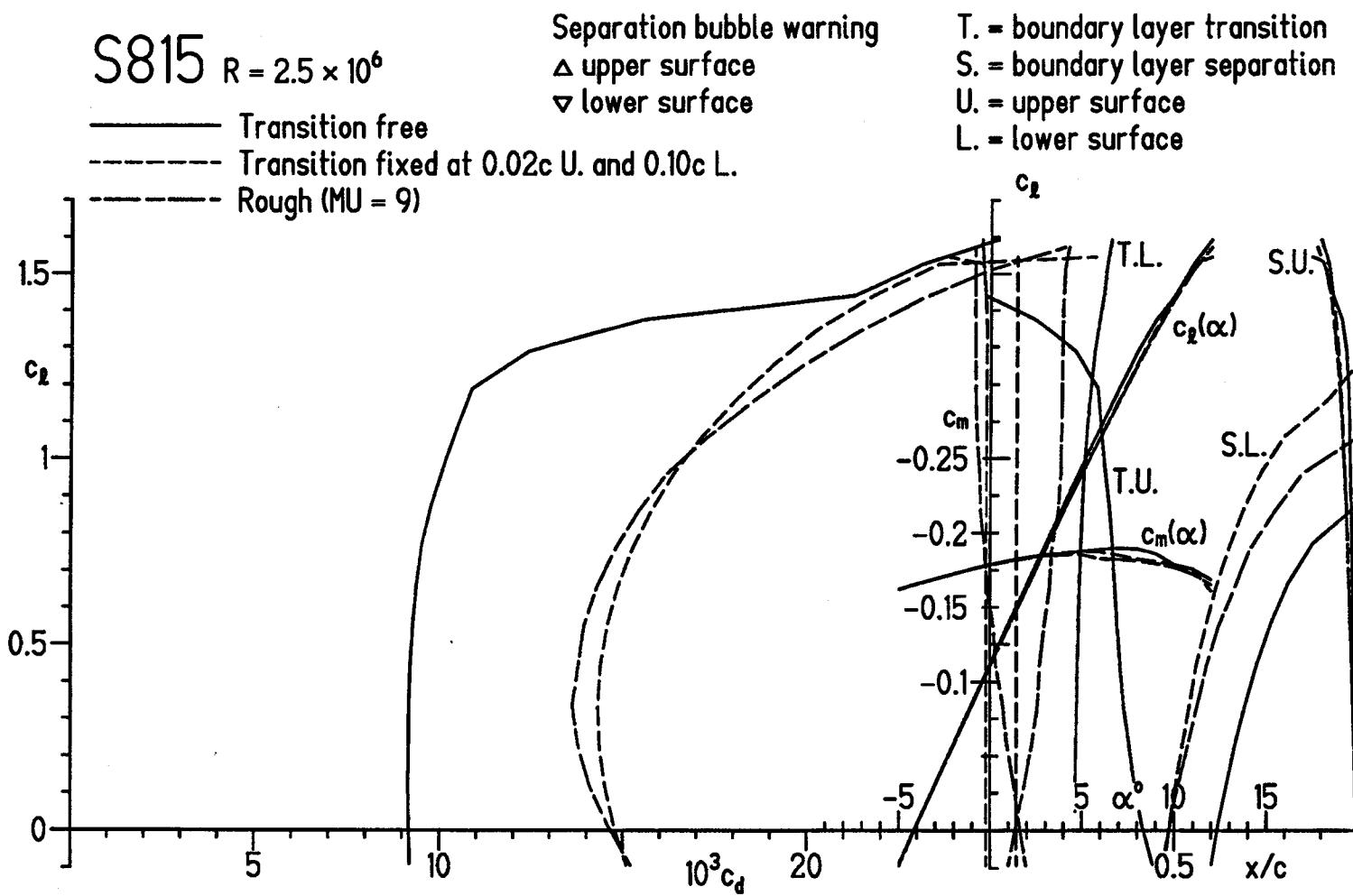
(d) $R = 2.5 \times 10^6$.

Figure 5.- Continued.

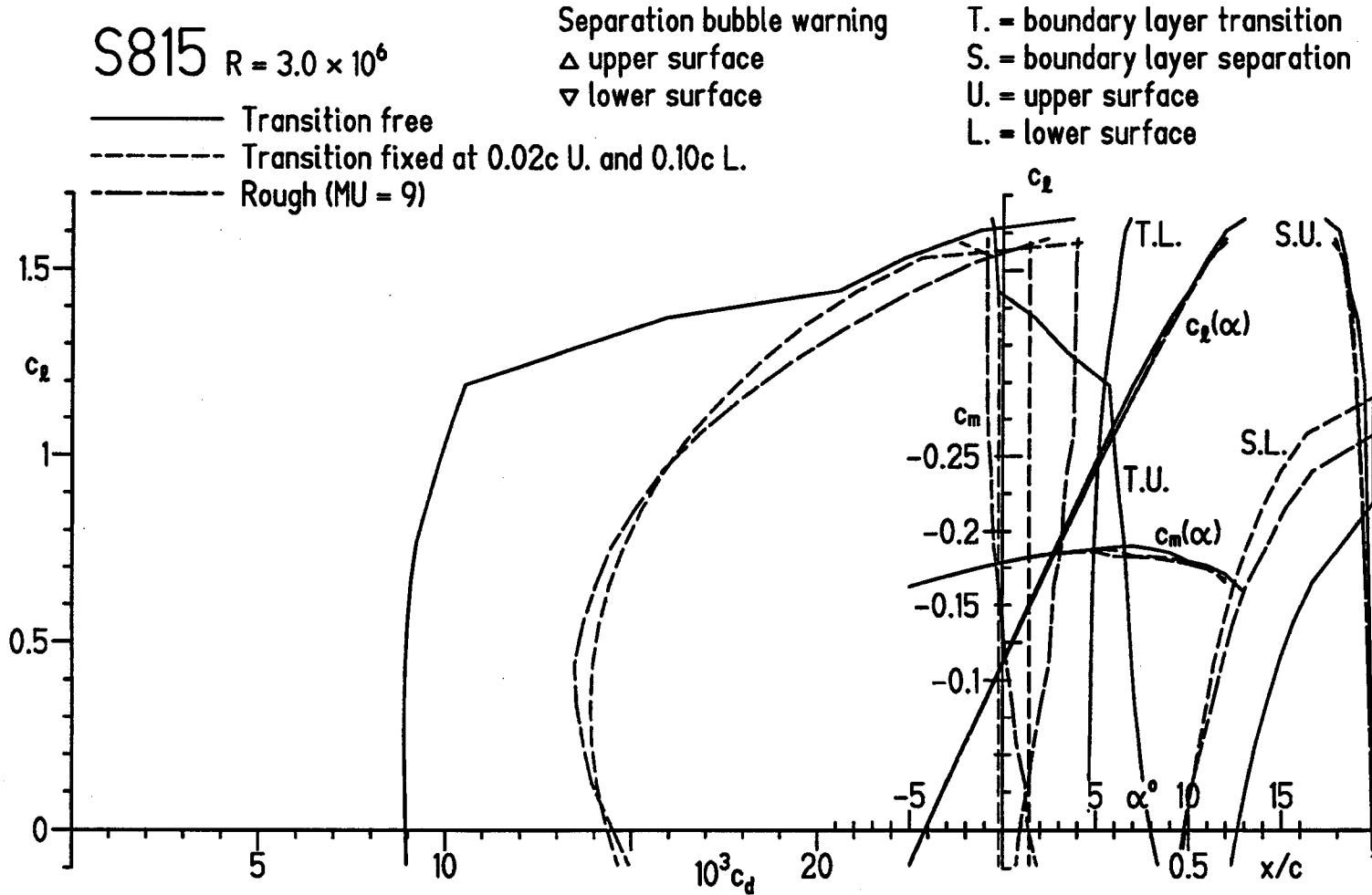
(e) $R = 3.0 \times 10^6$.

Figure 5.- Concluded.

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12/12/04	Subcontract report	10/91 - 7/92		
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		5b. GRANT NUMBER		
		5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
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		5e. TASK NUMBER WER4.3110		
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15. SUBJECT TERMS wind turbine airfoils; airfoils, horizontal axis wind turbine				
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a. REPORT Unclassified	b. ABSTRACT Unclassified	c. THIS PAGE Unclassified	UL	19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include area code)

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