



MAPS at left depict segments of two typical meandering streams, the Mississippi River near Greenville, Miss. (a), and Blackrock Creek in Wyoming (b), as well as a segment of an experimental meander formed in a homogeneous medium in the laboratory (c). Measurements of the angular direction of the channels with respect to the mean downstream direction were made at regular inter-

vals along the center lines of the two natural meanders and along the thalweg, or deepest part of the channel, of the experimental meander. When these measurements were plotted against the distance of each channel, the resulting curves closely approximated sine waves (right). The corresponding sine-generated curves are superposed on their respective channel maps (broken black curves).