



#322

ISIS 2
ELECTRON DENSITY + TEMPERATURE

71-024A-07A




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1. INTRODUCTION:

The documentation for this data set was originally on paper, kept in NSSDC's Data Set Catalogs (DSCs). The paper documentation in the Data Set Catalogs have been made into digital images, and then collected into a single PDF file for each Data Set Catalog. The inventory information in these DSCs is current as of July 1, 2004. This inventory information is now no longer maintained in the DSCs, but is now managed in the inventory part of the NSSDC information system. The information existing in the DSCs is now not needed for locating the data files, but we did not remove that inventory information.

The offline tape datasets have now been migrated from the original magnetic tape to Archival Information Packages (AIP's).

A prior restoration may have been done on data sets, if a requestor of this data set has questions; they should send an inquiry to the request office to see if additional information exists.

2. ERRATA/CHANGE LOG:

NOTE: Changes are made in a text box, and will show up that way when displayed on screen with a PDF reader.

When printing, special settings may be required to make the text box appear on the printed output.

| Version | Date | Person | Page | Description of Change |
|---------|------|--------|------|-----------------------|
| 01 | | | | |
| 02 | | | | |

3 LINKS TO RELEVANT INFORMATION IN THE ONLINE NSSDC INFORMATION SYSTEM:

<http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/>

[NOTE: This link will take you to the main page of the NSSDC Master Catalog. There you will be able to perform searches to find additional information]

4. CATALOG MATERIALS:

- a. Associated Documents To find associated documents you will need to know the document ID number and then click here.
<http://nssdcftp.gsfc.nasa.gov/miscellaneous/documents/>

- b. Core Catalog Materials

ELECTRON DENSITY + TEMPERATURE

71-024A-07A

SPIO-00152

THIS DATA SET HAS BEEN RESTORED. THERE WERE ORIGINALLY 8 BINARY 9-TRACK, 1600 BPI TAPES. THERE ARE 3 RESTORED TAPES. THE DR TAPES ARE 3480 CARTRIDGES AND THE DS TAPES ARE 9-TRACK, 6250 BPI. THE TAPES WERE CREATED ON AN IBM 360 COMPUTER. THE DR AND DS NUMBERS ALONG WITH THE CORRESPONDING D NUMBERS AND THE TIME SPAN ARE AS FOLLOWS:

| DR# | DS# | D# | FILES | TIME SPAN |
|---------|---------|--------|-------|---------------------|
| DR02976 | DS02976 | D20541 | 1 | 04/14/71 - 05/31/71 |
| | | D20542 | 2 | 06/01/71 - 09/30/71 |
| | | D20543 | 3 | 10/01/71 - 12/31/71 |
| DR02977 | DS02977 | D20544 | 1 | 01/01/72 - 02/29/72 |
| | | D20545 | 2 | 03/01/72 - 05/31/72 |
| | | D20546 | 3 | 06/01/72 - 10/01/72 |
| DR02978 | DS02978 | D20547 | 1 | 10/01/72 - 12/31/72 |
| | | D20548 | 2 | 01/01/73 - 03/31/73 |

REQ. AGENT
JVD

RAND NO.
RC4288

ACQ. AGENT
LLD

ISIS 2

ELECTRON DENSITY + TEMPERATURE

71-024A-07A

This data set consists of 8 tapes that are 9 track, 1600 BPI, Binary, 1 file made on the IBM 360.

The tapes are as follows:

| <u>D#</u> | <u>C#</u> | <u>TIME SPAN</u> |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| D-20541 | C-17056 | 4/14/71 - 5/31/71 |
| D-20542 | C-17057 | 6/01/71 - 9/30/71 |
| D-20543 | C-17058 | 10/01/71 - 12/31/71 |
| D-20544 | C-17059 | 1/01/72 - 2/29/72 |
| D-20545 | C-17060 | 3/01/72 - 5/31/72 |
| D-20546 | C-17061 | 6/01/72 - 10/01/72 |
| D-20547 | C-17062 | 10/01/72 - 12/31/72 |
| D-20548 | C-17063 | 1/01/73 - 3/31/73 |

ISISB FORMAT

| | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| NEW | |
| A(1) | DAY OF YEAR |
| A(2) | PASS NO. |
| A(3) | GEODETTIC LAT. |
| A(4) | GEODETTIC LONG. |
| A(5) | ALT. |
| A(6) | DATE |
| A(7) | GMT |
| A(8) | T(E) |
| A(9) | N(E) |
| A(10) | L |
| A(11) | DIP LAT. |
| A(12) | SOLAR ZENITH ANGLE |
| A(13) | CONFIDENCE VALUE FOR T(E) |
| A(14) | GEOMAGNETIC LAT. |
| A(15) | GEOMAGNETIC LONG. |
| A(16) | L. T. |
| A(17) | DIP |
| A(18) | SAT. POTENTIAL |
| A(19) | PROBE 0=BOTTOM 1=TOP |
| A(20) | INVARIANT LAT. |
| A(21) | VELOCITY ANGLE |
| A(22) | MAGNETIC FIELD ANGLE |
| A(23) | SUN ANGLE |
| A(24) | MAGNETIC LOCAL TIME |

B14885

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Lee Dubach, NSSDC

FROM : L. H. Brace, ISIS-I Probe Investigator

DATE: December 21, 1972

SUBJECT: Qualification of ISIS-I electrostatic probe measurements

The ISIS-I probe measurements of electron temperature (T_e) and concentration (N_e) that we have submitted to the data center require a certain amount of qualification with regard to their accuracy. In this letter, which can be copied for the use of prospective data users, I will attempt to outline what we know about the accuracy of these measurements.

The goal of the computer analysis program was to evolve an automatic system that reflected an appropriate balance between measurement accuracy on one hand and economy of computer time on the other. The latter is necessary to permit a large fraction of the data to be analyzed given the limited amounts of computer time available for this analysis.

In the process of developing the program we found that the data base had a whole spectrum of data quality. Much of it consisted of nearly ideal volt-ampere curves that could be handled by a relatively simple program. However some of the raw data suffers from such problems as sounder-induced interference, ionospheric fine structure, photoemission from the spacecraft and in cases of very low electron density, positive spacecraft potentials. Since it is often necessary in correlative studies to provide measurements with whatever accuracy is possible, we have had to stretch our criteria for eligible curves rather extensively. As a result, it is sometimes possible for the analysis program to fail to get a value for T_e or N_e , or to get values that are in error. However we have reached a compromise program that can analyze a very large fraction of the data it encounters (> 90%) and will usually provide accuracies within 10% of the value that could be obtained with a more careful hand analysis.

The absolute values for T_e may be high by up to 10% because of experimental factors not easily corrected for and because of a tendency of the exponential fitting routine to fit too far up the curve, especially at temperatures below 2000°k. At higher T_e , more samples are available in the exponential region, and the accuracy improves.



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The N_e values have been correlated with sounder-derived values, using the local plasma frequency, and are found to be systematically high by about 20-30%. This factor varies with satellite attitude and the value of N_e in a manner that has not been fully evaluated. If greater absolute accuracy is needed, I would suggest using the sounder-derived value.

In summary, then, it is important for users to note that all of the measurements are not equally good quality. If the user requires the greatest possible accuracy from a given set of data, it will be necessary to request us to scan the original data set to evaluate the accuracy or, alternatively, to reanalyze the data with a program that is more specific to that particular set of data. We will be happy to do that for limited amounts of data.

LH Brace
Larry H. Brace

B15644

Duplicate
copy 40

X-621-73-49

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**AN OVERVIEW OF THE ISIS-I
ELECTROSTATIC PROBE
MEASUREMENTS OF ELECTRON
TEMPERATURE AND CONCENTRATION**

**L. H. BRACE
R. F. THEIS
J. JOHNSTON**

FEBRUARY 1973



— GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER —

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

X-621-73-49

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February 1973

GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER
Greenbelt, Maryland

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ABSTRACT

The ISIS-I satellite is providing a comprehensive view of many of the parameters of the upper F-region between about 600 and 3500 kilometers. In this report we present a broad overview of the measurements of electron temperature and concentration made by one of the ISIS-I instruments, the cylindrical electrostatic probe. The global structure and its temporal behavior are presented as weekly pole-to-pole plots of the measurements and their locations in altitude and local time. The measurements cover the time interval between January 30, 1969 through June 6, 1971. The high inclination (88.4°) and eccentric nature of the orbit permit both the latitudinal and altitudinal structure of the ionosphere to be resolved during this more than two-year period of decreasing solar activity. As a matter of interest we point out a number of ionospheric features that are being studied for publication elsewhere, including the plasmopause, the effects of precipitation in the region of the high latitude cusp, and the behavior of the ionosphere in the night-side of the auroral zone.

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AN OVERVIEW OF THE ISIS-I ELECTROSTATIC PROBE MEASUREMENTS OF ELECTRON TEMPERATURE AND CONCENTRATION

INTRODUCTION

The ISIS-I satellite was launched on January 30, 1969 into a 600 by 3500 kilometer, near-polar orbit ($i = 88.4^\circ$). The satellite and its scientific instruments have been described briefly elsewhere (Florida, 1969) (Whitaker, et al., 1972). The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the measurements of electron temperature, T_e , and concentration, N_e , made by one of the ISIS-I instruments, the cylindrical electrostatic probe.

During the last solar minimum a similar instrument was employed on Explorer 22 to resolve the global structure and diurnal behavior of the ionosphere at a fixed altitude of about 1000 kilometers (Brace et al., 1967). The ISIS-I satellite measurements now make it possible to investigate the global structure of the ionosphere at solar maximum and beyond. In addition, the eccentricity of the orbit permits altitudinal variations to be derived, although it is not a trivial task to separate the altitude structure from the latitudinal variations. In general this can only be done statistically with the aid of empirical models that are based on a great number of measurements well distributed in latitude and extending over several orbital precession and apsidal rotation periods. The more than two years of probe measurements now available from ISIS-I provides an adequate data base for such a study. Mayr et al. (1972) have reported some initial results of such a model.

THE METHOD

Langmuir probes of the cylindrical type used on ISIS-I have been used extensively on satellites since 1963 when the first ones were flown on Explorer 17 (Brace and Spencer, 1964) (Brace, Spencer, Dalgarno, 1965). The theoretical basis for the method has been described extensively (c.f., Mott-Smith and Langmuir, 1926). The manner in which the method is employed on rockets and satellites has been described by Spencer et al. (1965) and Brace and Reddy (1965), while some of the possible sources of error have been evaluated experimentally by Brace, Findlay and Carignan (1971).

Figure 1 shows the mounting location of the ISIS-I probes. One was mounted on a boom about one meter in length and the other was mounted on the spin axis at the opposite end of the spacecraft. In this arrangement the boom probe provides some volt-ampere curves that are free of the spacecraft wake at least some time within the satellite spin cycle, while the axial probe is capable of unperturbed

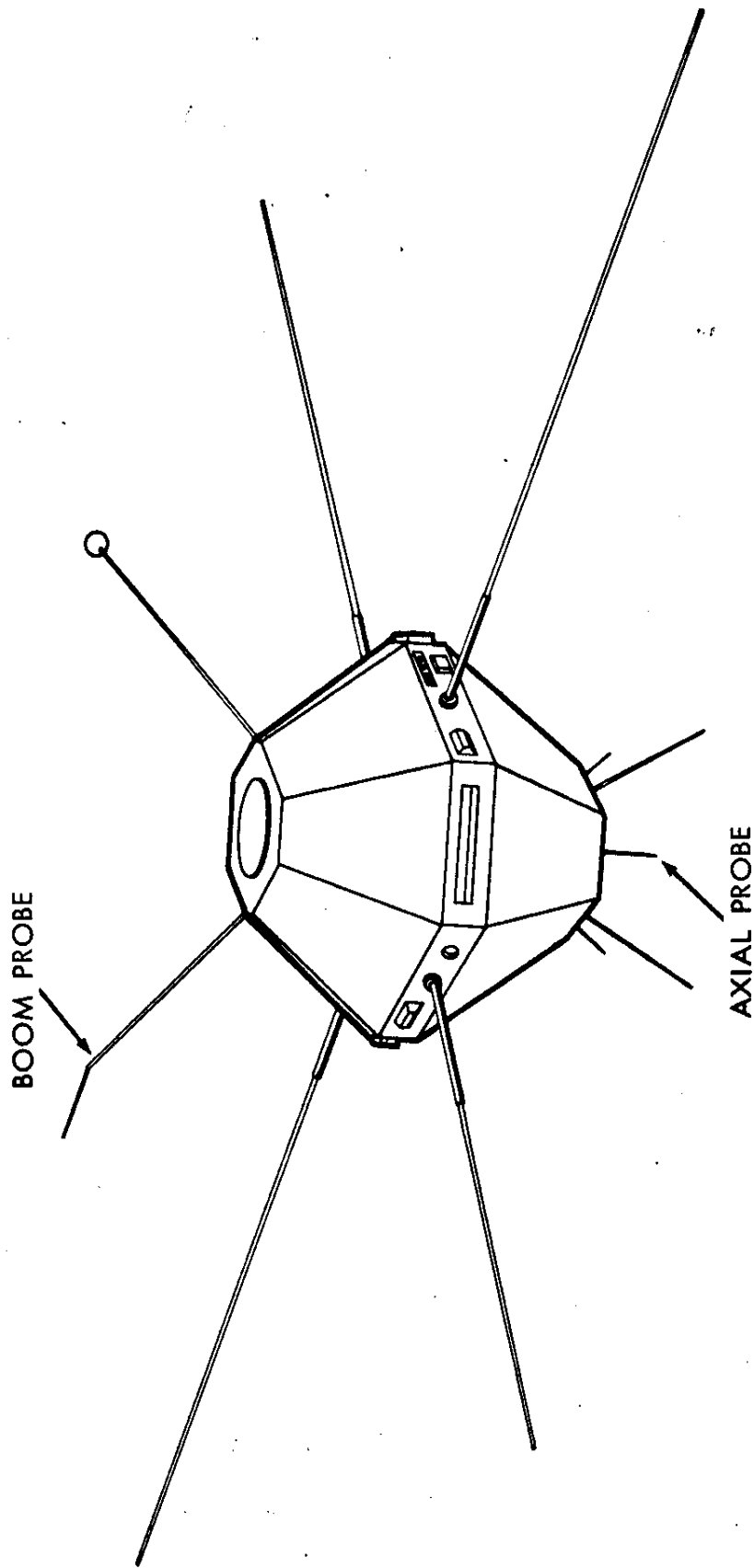


Figure 1. The ISIS-1 Spacecraft showing location of the two cylindrical probes. The boom probe is about 1.2 meters away from the spacecraft and perpendicular to the spin axis. The axial probe is mounted on the spin axis at the opposite end of the spacecraft.

measurements only when it precedes the spacecraft through the plasma. For this reason most of the data presented here are taken from the boom probe, although the axial probe can be used when the added spatial resolution is required.

The sensors consist of three concentric stainless steel tubes that are electrically isolated and arranged as shown in Figure 2. The largest element is the floating guard whose purpose is to place the driven guard and collector well into the plasma, i. e., well away from the disturbed region immediately surrounding the spacecraft. This element floats at its own equilibrium potential. The guard element is 0.165 cm in diameter and acts as an electrical guard for the collector. The collector itself is 0.058 cm in diameter and 23 cm long.

The electronic unit that operates the two probes is shown in simplified block diagram form in Figure 3. It is preprogrammed to operate each probe during alternate two-minute intervals. During each two-minute sequence, four linear electrometer ranges are employed sequentially to resolve the current characteristics of the probe as its voltage is swept from -2 to +10 volts with a period of 2 seconds. The full scale currents are 20, 2, 0.2, 0.02 microamperes, respectively. These ranges permit the curves to be resolved over a density range of about 1×10^2 to 4×10^5 /cc. The telemetry system provides 240 analog samples per curve, with eight bit accuracy. Thus current samples are taken at 50 millivolt sweep intervals.

Figure 4 shows the format of the computer plots that are used to display each two-minute segment of the data from a given probe. The top sequence is from the $20 \mu\text{a}$ range which has little deflection at this time. The lower sequences show the curves on consecutively more sensitive ranges. For a more concise presentation the 15 curves in each range are overlapped in time (horizontally) in this format. Since the satellite spin period is typically 20 seconds, a spin modulation of the curves that may be present can be seen within a given curve sequence. For example, in this case, the spin modulation in the ion current can be seen on the $0.02 \mu\text{a}$ range. At other spacecraft orientations, spin modulation of the electron current may also be present.

Figure 4 also illustrates the method of data analysis for N_e and T_e . The higher current ranges ($2 \mu\text{a}$ and $0.2 \mu\text{a}$ in this case) resolve the electron saturation currents that are collected when the probe is driven above the plasma potential and therefore attracts electrons from the plasma. The amplitude of the saturation region is directly proportional to N_e . The more sensitive ranges resolve the electron retarding region whose shape is sensitive to T_e . The solid lines that are superposed on the $0.2 \mu\text{a}$ curves represent a computer plotted fit of an equation given by Mott-Smith and Langmuir (1926) of the form

$$I_e = AN_e (1 + BV)^{3/2} \quad (1)$$

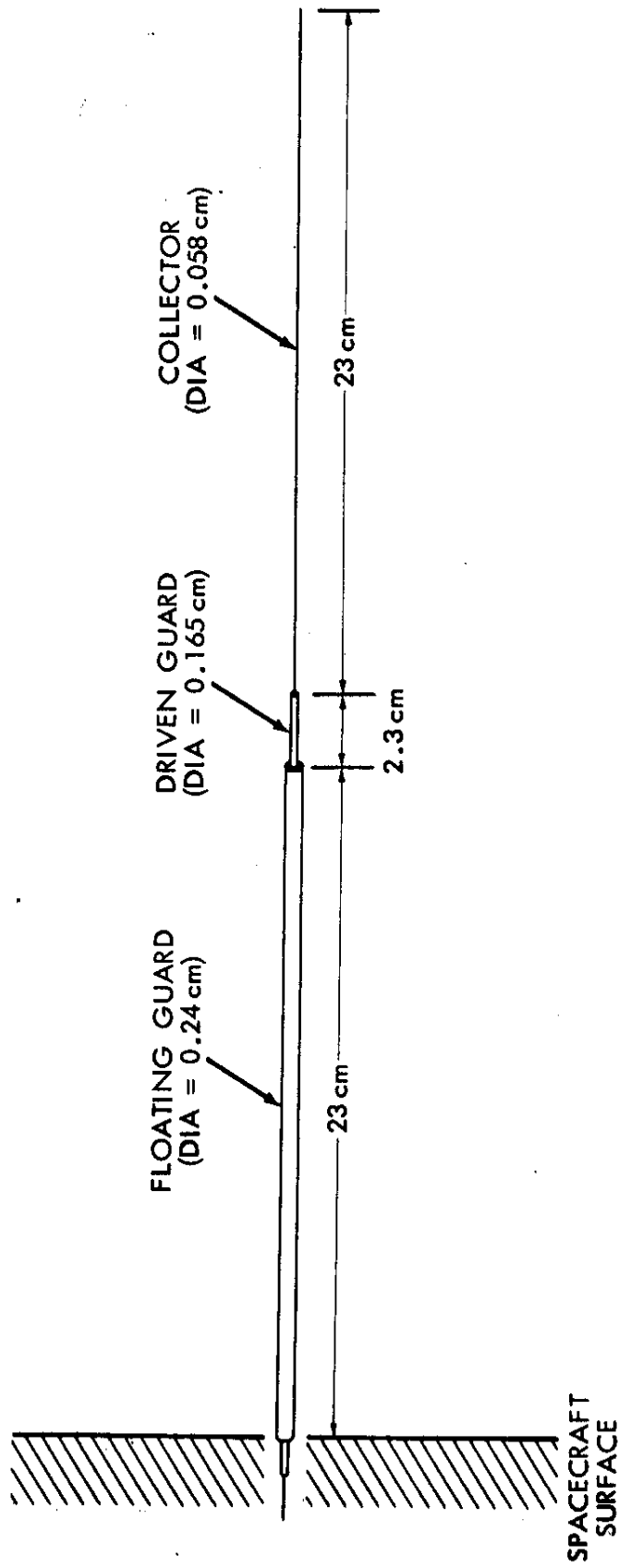


Figure 2. Configuration of the Sensors

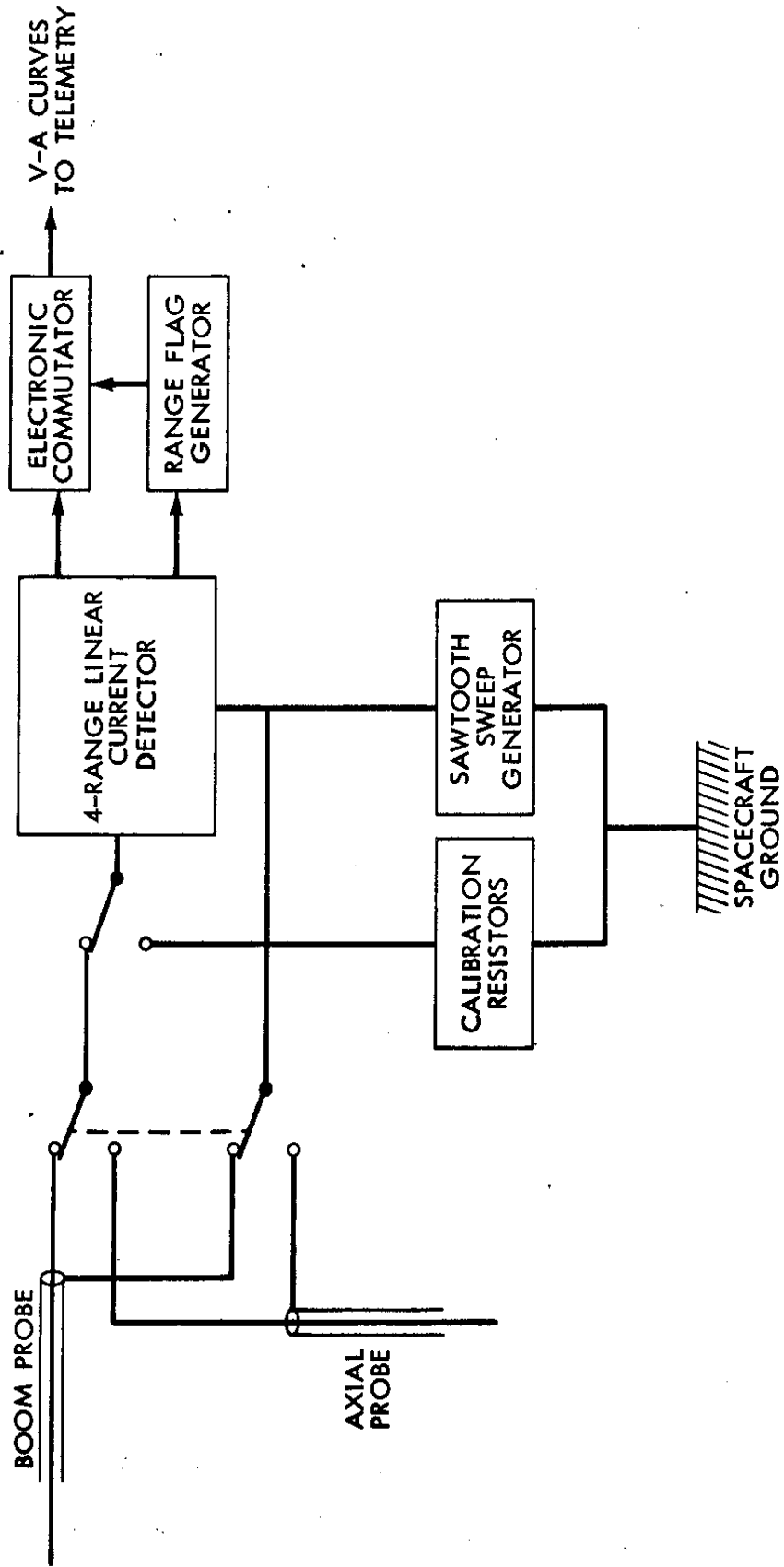


Figure 3. Simplified Block Diagram of the Electronics

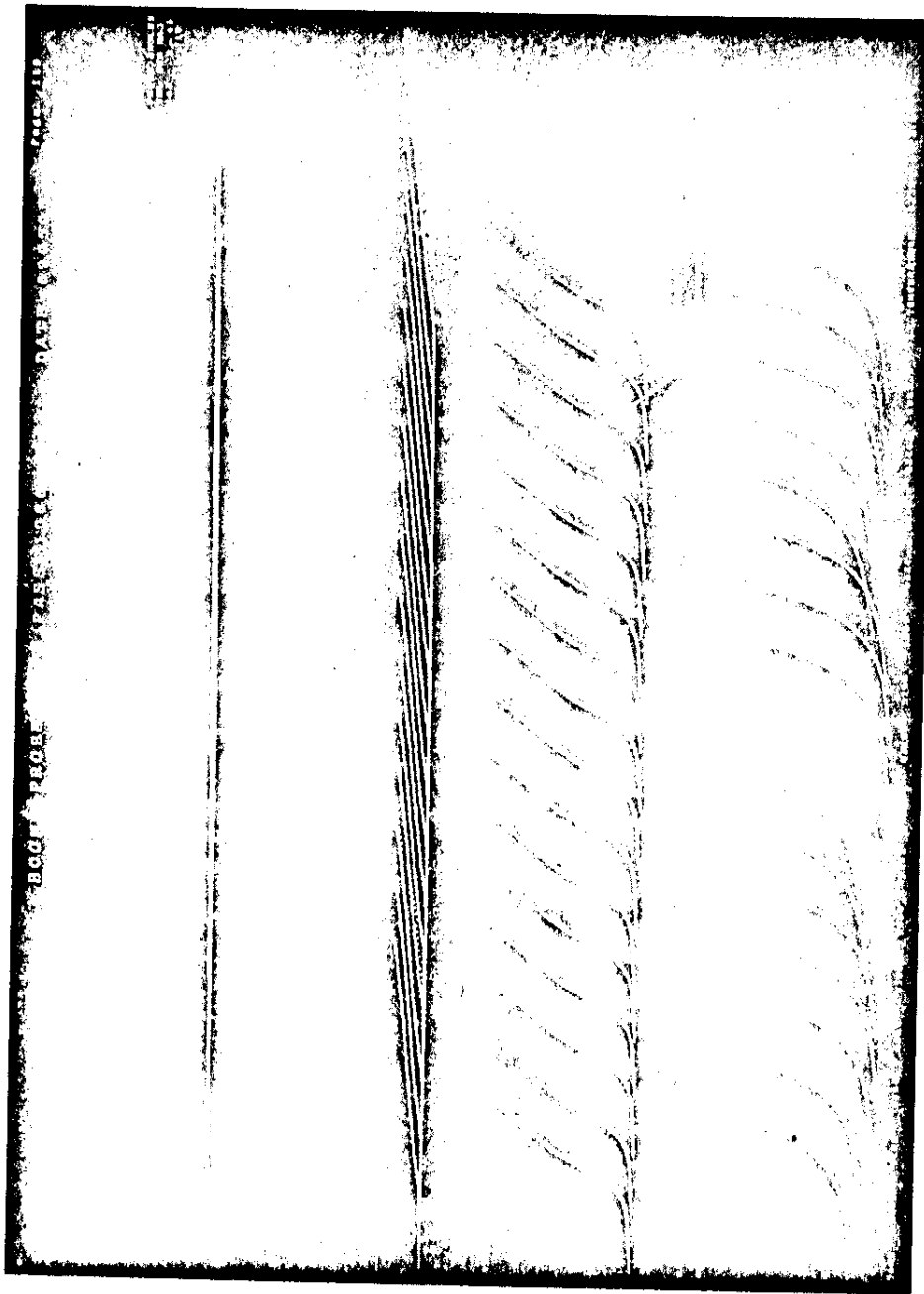


Figure 4. Computer plot format for the display of raw data (volt-ampere curves) and computer fitting of the curves for N_e and T_e . This pass was taken near the equator at 3500 kilometers during midday. The computer fits of the accelerating regions for N_e and the retarding regions for T_e are shown on the 0.2 and 0.02 μ a ranges, respectively.

where A and B include physical constants and known dimensions of the collector, and V is the probe potential relative to the plasma, a point identified as the inflection point of the curve. The value of N_e that is computed from each curve is listed below the start point of the curve, and an average of the N_e from all curves is listed at the right, suitably weighted by a quality of fit number for each curve.

Similarly the value of T_e is derived by fitting the retarding region with an equation of the form

$$I = A + BV + C \exp(eV/kT_e) \quad (2)$$

where A, B, C and T_e are free parameters of the fit. The solid lines superposed on the $0.02 \mu a$ curves represent the fits for T_e . The term $A + BV$ represents an approximation to the ion component of the current, while the electron current component is represented by the exponential term. From the closeness of fit observed on the $0.02 \mu a$ range, equation (2) appears to be a rather good representation of the curves. As before, the individual values of T_e are listed below each curve and an average of the entire 30-second interval is listed at the right of the sequence, again suitably weighted by the quality of fit for each curve.

The computer program will attempt to derive a value for N_e and T_e from whichever current ranges show adequate deflection and obey certain obvious criteria for being good curves. For example, fitting of the $0.2 \mu a$ curves for T_e was attempted, but these values are not used when better resolution is available on a subsequent range.

Another example of the raw data is shown in Figure 5, where the ionosphere temperature was about $1100^\circ K$. Although N_e was higher on this pass our program was unable to fit the $0.2 \mu a$ curves for T_e because of the few data points in the exponential region and the inherently lower amplitude of the retarding region at low T_e . However, the most sensitive range ($0.02 \mu a$) provided very good fits, except for a series of three or four curves in the middle where sounder interference was most pronounced. Sounder interference is seen also in some of the $20 \mu a$ and $2 \mu a$ curves and has been a continuing problem in machine analysis of the data.

THE GLOBAL PATTERNS OF T_e AND N_e

The ISIS-I satellite is operated such that data are acquired in the form of 15 to 20 minute intervals at various places about the orbit where the satellite can be

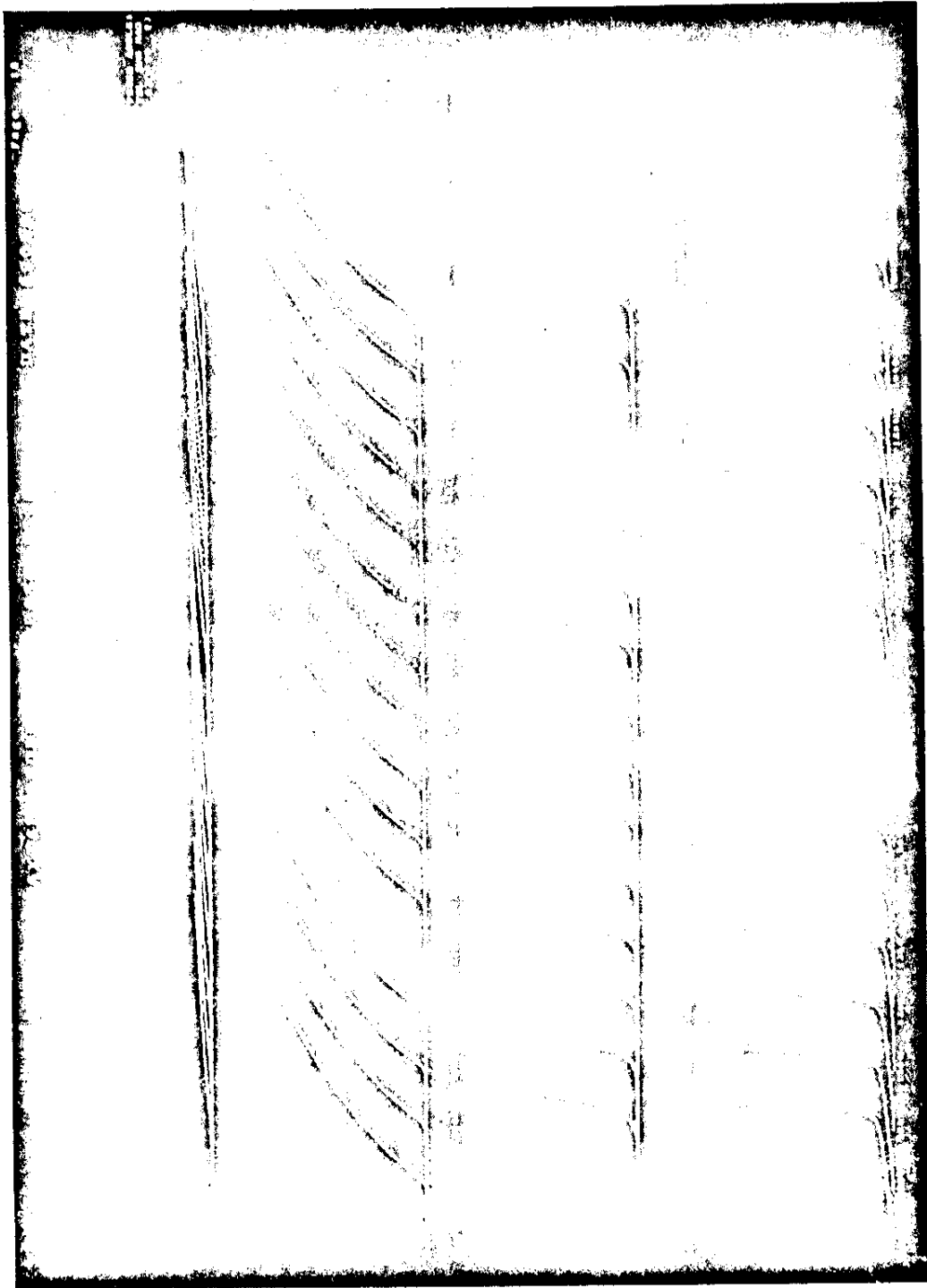


Figure 5. Data and computer fits for a low T_e pass at low latitudes at night and at about 800 kilometers.

interrogated by one of the NASA-STADAN stations or one of the stations operated by countries participating in the ISIS program (Franklin, Bibby, Hitchcock, 1969). An onboard tape recorder provided additional geographic coverage during the first year in orbit. The most extensive latitudinal coverage is obtained at U.S. longitudes, although there is broad longitudinal coverage above 30°N because of the stations at Alaska, England and Norway. However, because of the limited frequency of coverage at low latitudes, complete latitudinal coverage can be obtained only by combining the data from several days of operation. Since the orbital precession rate induces a local time drift of only one hour per week and an apsidal rotation of only 15°, one can obtain a fairly consistent global pattern from a weekly plot of the measurements. Figure 6 shows a typical week of measurements plotted versus magnetic dip latitude. Dip latitude was selected as the abscissa because of the very strong magnetic control that is evidenced by many features of the topside ionosphere. Dip latitude also includes the variation of the real field (based on the dip angle) without introducing discontinuities at the equator such as those experienced when plotting versus L or invariant latitude.

In addition to the values of T_e and N_e , Figure 6 shows the altitude and local times of the measurements. The measurements shown represent the 30-second averages taken every 4 minutes by the boom-mounted probe. Consecutive measurements within a particular pass are connected by solid lines to distinguish the instantaneous structure from the variations that occur from one pass to another. The latter variations reflect both real changes with UT as well as longitudinal structure in the ionosphere.

The remaining figures in this report simply show the weekly plots of T_e and N_e for the period from 30 January 1969 to 5 June 1971. These represent the data analyzed to date. We make no attempt in this report to interpret these data but simply present them as an attempt to convey a feeling for the nature of the data base that is now available for analysis. A number of studies using these data have been published, or submitted, and others are being prepared.

DISCUSSION OF MAJOR FEATURES OF THE DATA

Although we leave any detailed interpretation of the data to other reports, a number of ionospheric features and properties are so clearly evident in these global plots that they should be briefly noted.

Altitudinal Gradients in T_e and N_e

As noted earlier, it is often difficult from a single plot such as Figure 6 to distinguish between altitudinal and latitudinal structure. However, during those weeks when perigee is nearly on the equator (week of 69 10 20 - 10 25), the

ISIS-1 ELECTROSTATIC PROBE
DATES 690130 TO 690208

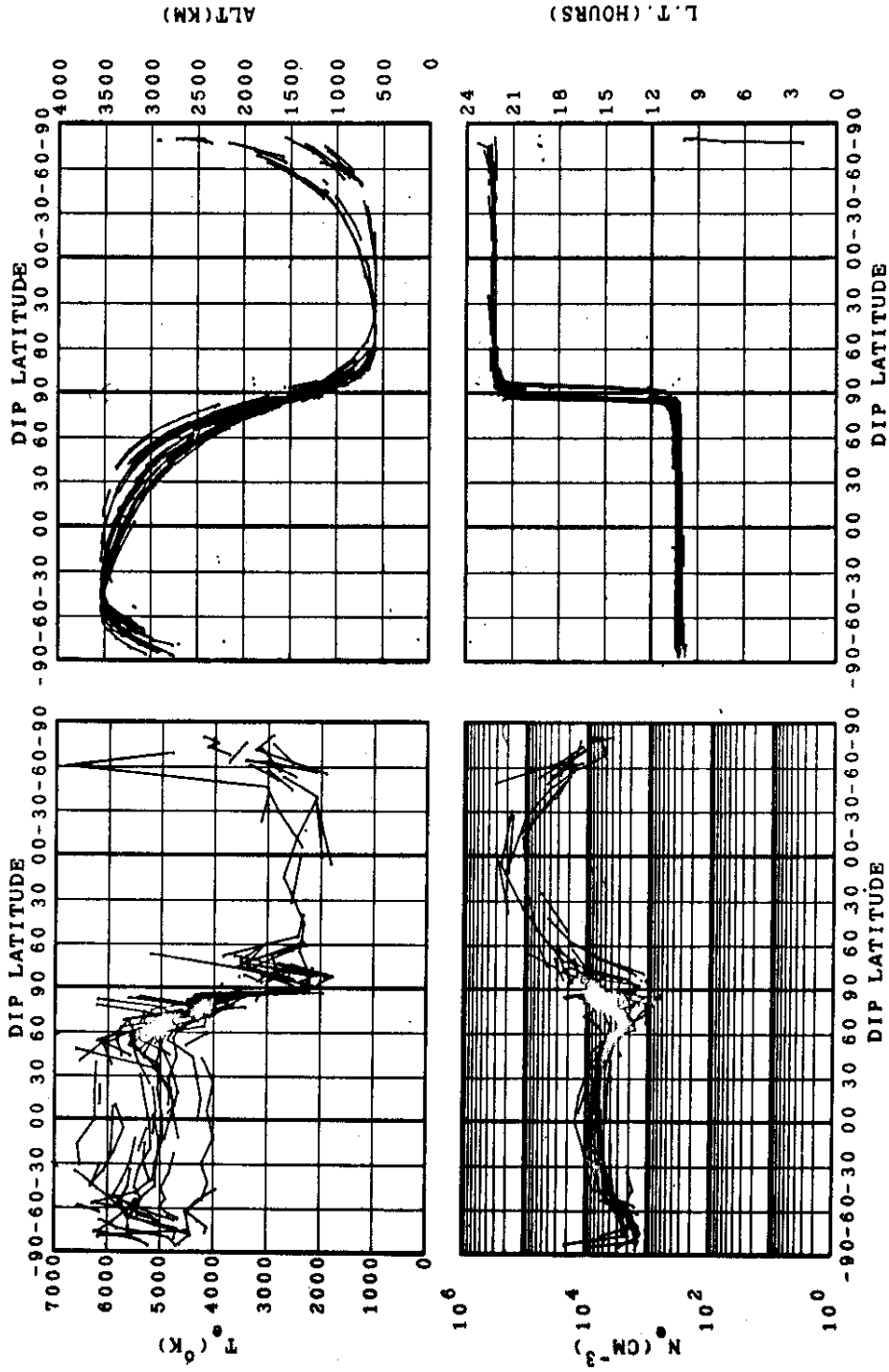


Figure 6. A typical week of ISIS-I probe measurements plotted vs dip latitude.

altitude varies symmetrically about the equator so that interhemispheric differences in the ionosphere can be seen directly. Similarly, during those periods when apogee and perigee are near the poles, the altitude varies over its entire range (600 to 3500 km) as the satellite moves from one pole to the other. At these times the altitudinal structure introduces rather large apparent asymmetries between T_e and N_e in opposing hemispheres, a fact that permits the altitudinal gradients to be evaluated. Many examples of this are evident in the plots for weeks such as this, as can be seen in many of the global plots (e.g. 67 09 06 - 13, 70 03 11 - 17, and 70 09 04 - 11) shown at the back of this report.

The Plasmapause

Although the equatorial plasmapause has received extensive study, and its correlation with troughs in the high latitude F-region has been established, there has as yet been little study of the high latitude plasmapause itself. Using the ISIS-I data, a number of questions about this part of the plasmasphere boundary are now being addressed; particularly changes in its location during magnetic sub-storms, variations with local time, and the correlation between its behavior and that found in its equatorial boundary.

When ISIS-I approaches higher latitudes on the apogee half of an orbit, the plasmapause is observed as a sharp decrease in N_e by one or two orders of magnitude. This feature is especially obvious in the winter hemisphere where the polar cap density falls to the order of 10^2 /cc such as seen in the November and December data of 1969. It is interesting to note that the nightside plasmapause is also marked by a peak in T_e , a fact that perhaps reflects the heat input that is associated with the formation processes of the plasmapause itself.

The Cusp Ionosphere

In the region known as the high latitude cusp, where magnetosheath particles impinge upon the atmosphere, it is not surprising to find enhanced values of T_e and N_e . These enhancements can be seen whenever the satellite passes over the dayside auroral zone, but are particularly enhanced at higher altitudes. The period from May through June 1969 shows the cusp enhancements very clearly at about 85° dip latitude. A study of the ionosphere response to these precipitated particles is proceeding. Similar but smaller enhancements are often seen on the nightside as the satellite passes over the auroral zone.

A Dynamic View of the ISIS-I Data

The figures at the end of this report have been arranged such that a kind of motion picture of the data base can be had by performing a suitably controlled release of the pages in kinoscope fashion. The effects of orbital precession on the local time, and of apsidal rotation on the drift of perigee, are easily

observed in this fashion. These orbital motions in turn produce readily observable changes in the T_e and N_e patterns that the satellite encounters. Shorter-term variations, such as the compression and expansion of the plasmopause during substorms, are less easily viewed in this way because they tend to occur in times shorter than one week. These effects can be observed within some of the weekly global plots such as the weeks 69 09 27 - 10 02 and 70 03 05 - 03 11.

The data shown in the global plots also exist on magnetic tape and microfilm listings that are available at the National Space Science Data Center at Goddard Space Flight Center. The data are arranged chronologically by UT and are associated with both geographic and magnetic coordinates, as well as the a_p and solar flux indices at the times of the observations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are greatly indebted to Clyde Freeman and Elbert Gregg for their efforts in processing the data and checking it for accuracy and to James Findlay for overseeing the development of the instrument and its integration into the ISIS-I spacecraft. We also express our gratitude and respect for the highly professional attitude and efforts of the Canadians at the Communications Research Center in Ottawa and at RCA Ltd, in Montreal who conceived, designed, fabricated and operated the ISIS-I satellite.

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