

# Evaluating NOAA Satellite Products for Global Climate Monitoring

by  
John J. Bates

NOAA Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory

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N 9 4 - 2 3 6 0 4

1. Validation criteria for satellite products
2. Long-term global validation examples
3. Lessons of history - Applications to the EOS era

# 1. Validation criteria for satellite products

1.1. Are the physics of the radiative transfer sound?

1.2. How do the means and higher moments compare with in situ measurements?

1.3. How do the spatial and temporal variations in the satellite data compare with other observations and hydrodynamic models?

# The Forward and Inverse Problems in Remote Sensing of the Environment

## The Forward Problem

Using radiative transfer theory and relevant geophysical variables, model the upwelling and scattered radiance that a particular instrument should measure

Interpreters - Required to specify a base state around which the radiative transfer equation is linearized

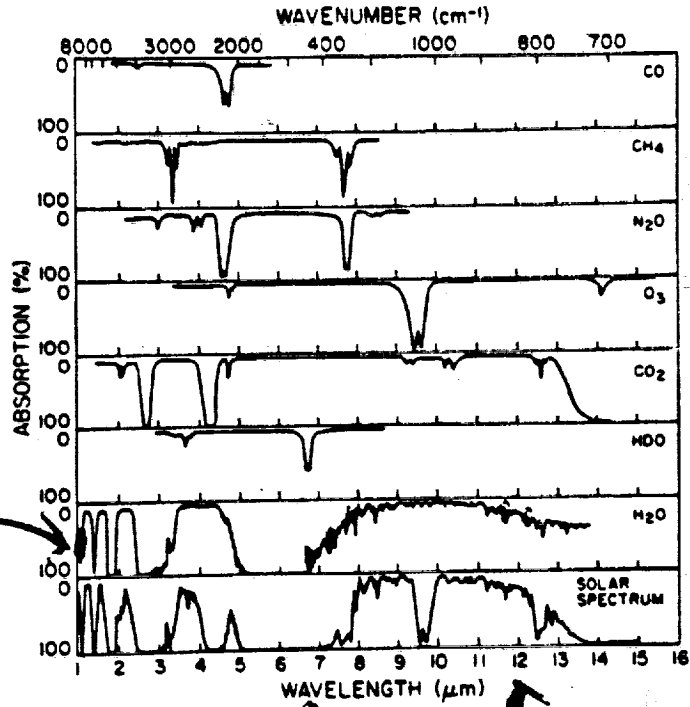
- Class 1 A priori information dependent  
Hydrodynamic model dependent
- Class 2 A priori information dependent  
Hydrodynamic model independent
- Class 3 A priori information independent  
Hydrodynamic model independent

## The Inverse Problem

Using upwelling and scattered radiances, invert the radiative transfer equation to retrieve geophysical variables

$$R_{\nu} = -\epsilon_s B_{\nu}(T_s) \tau_{\nu}(p_s) - \text{Surface} \rightarrow \text{Cloud EMISSION}$$
$$+ \int_{p_s}^{\infty} B_{\nu}(T(p)) \frac{d\tau_{\nu}(p)}{dp} dp - \text{ATMOSPHERIC TERM}$$
$$+ (1 - \epsilon_s) \int_0^{p_s} B_{\nu}(T(p)) \frac{d\tau_{\nu}^*(p)}{dp} dp - \text{REFLECTED ATMOSPHERIC TERM}$$

# INFRARED

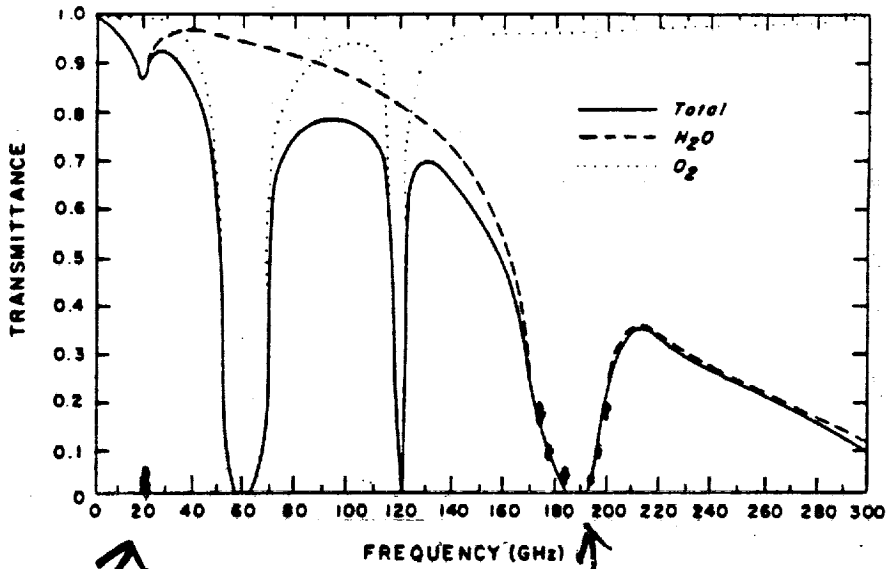


JACE II

TOVS

AVHRR/2

# MICROWAVE



SSM/I

SSM/T 2

## 2. Long-term global validation examples

### 2.1. Sea surface temperature

#### 2.1.1. The JPL intercomparison workshops

#### 2.1.2. Evaluation of the operational MCSST product

### 2.2. Global water vapor content

#### 2.2.1. TOVS study conference comparisons

#### 2.2.2. HIRS channel 12 brightness temperature climatology

## 2. Long-term global validation examples

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INTERPRETING MULTI-CHANNEL  
SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURES  
FOR AN INFRARED WINDOW CHANNEL

$$R_i = B_i(T_s) \tau_i + B_i(T_a) (1 - \tau_i)$$

CONVERT FROM RADIANCE TO  
BRIGHTNESS TEMPERATURE AND  
USE WEAK ABSORPTION APPROXIMATION

$$T_i - T_s = k_i \times (\bar{T} - T_s)$$

FOR TWO WINDOWS  $i$  AND  $j$

$$T_s = T_i + \frac{k_i}{k_j - k_i} (T_i - T_j)$$

WHERE  $k_i$  &  $k_j$  ARE ABSORPTION  
COEFFICIENTS ASSUMING A  
SINGLE ABSORBING GAS VARIES  
IN THE TWO WINDOWS



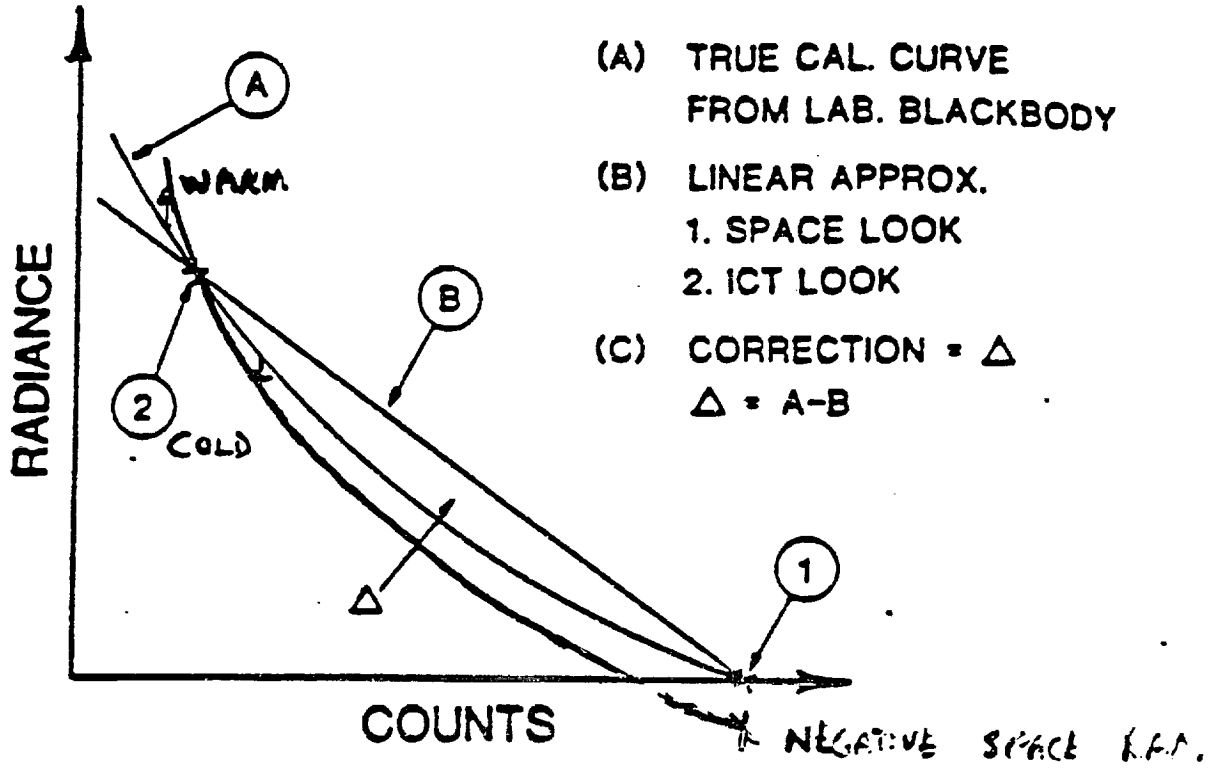
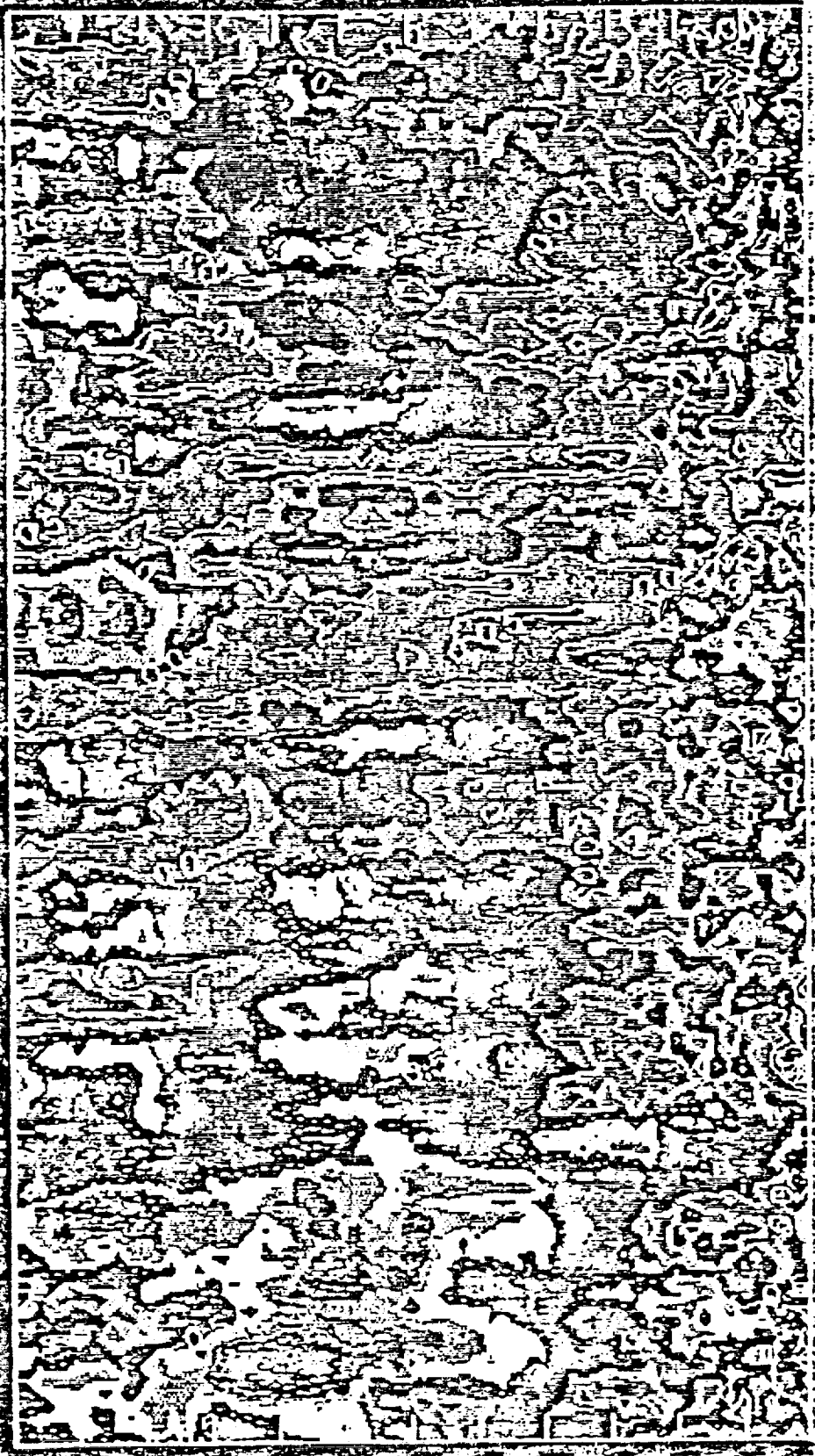


Fig. 3. Illustration of how nonlinearity correction terms are computed.

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# ZONALLY-AVERAGED MOST MINUS ROADS (C)



60N  
50N  
40N  
30N  
20N  
10N  
EQ  
10S  
20S  
30S  
40S  
50S  
60S

LAKEIDE

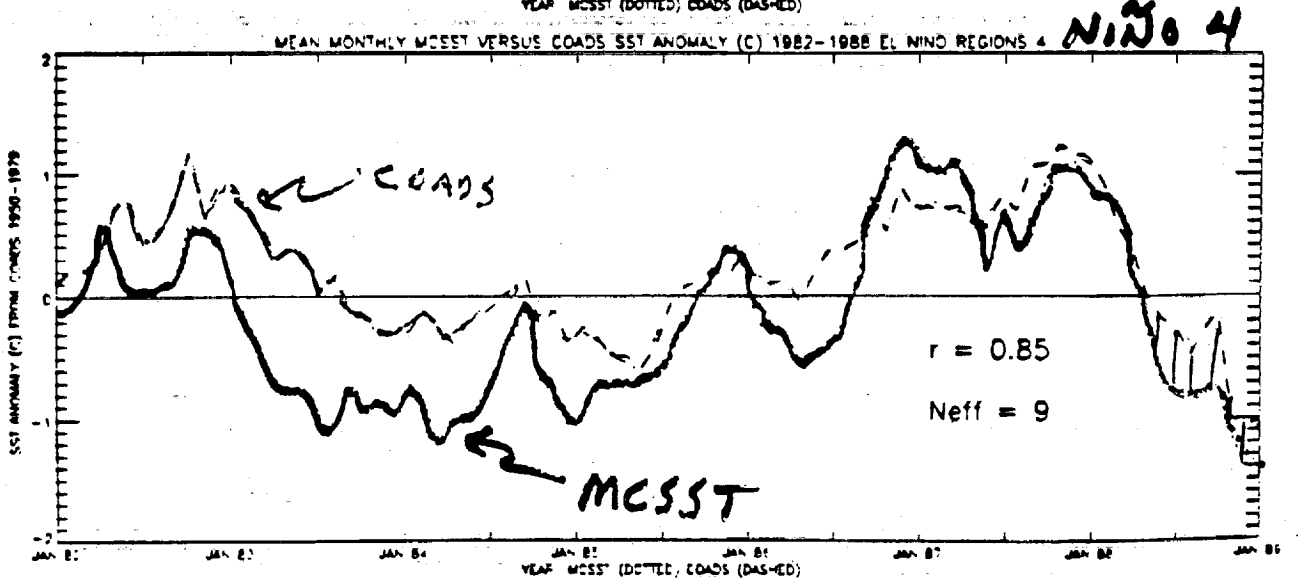
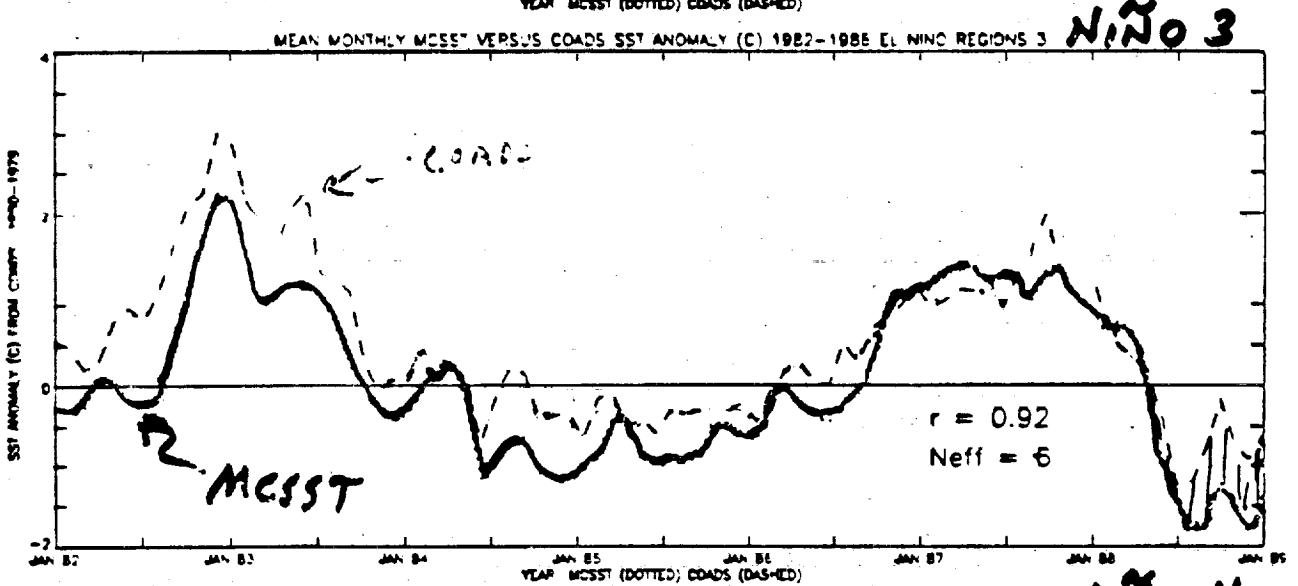
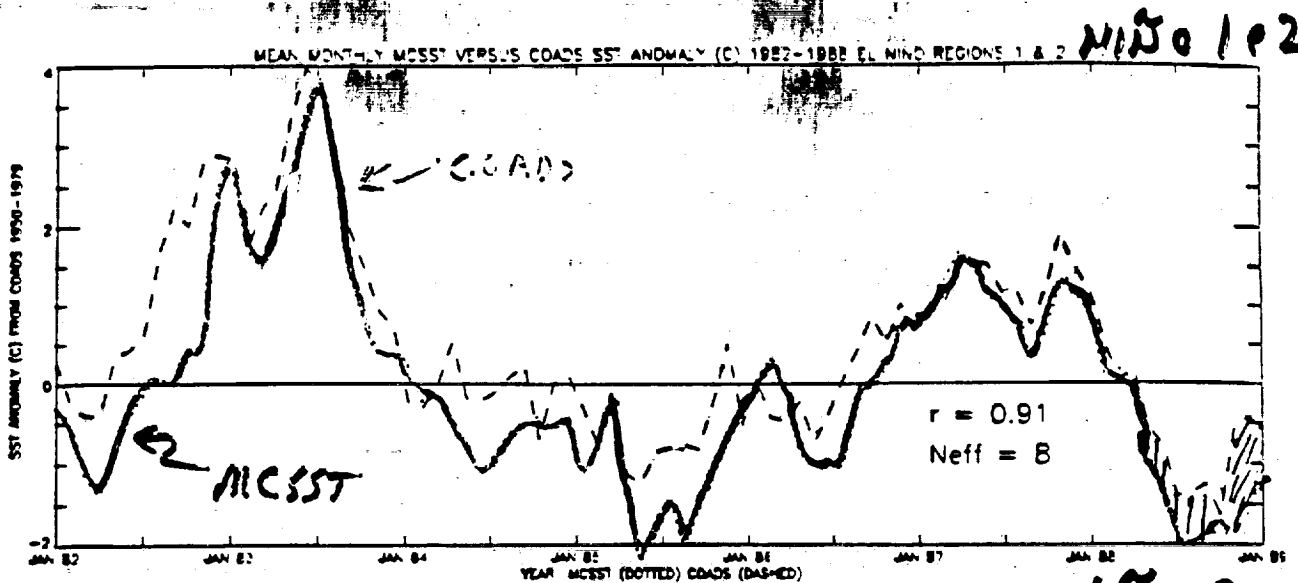
1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991

YEAR

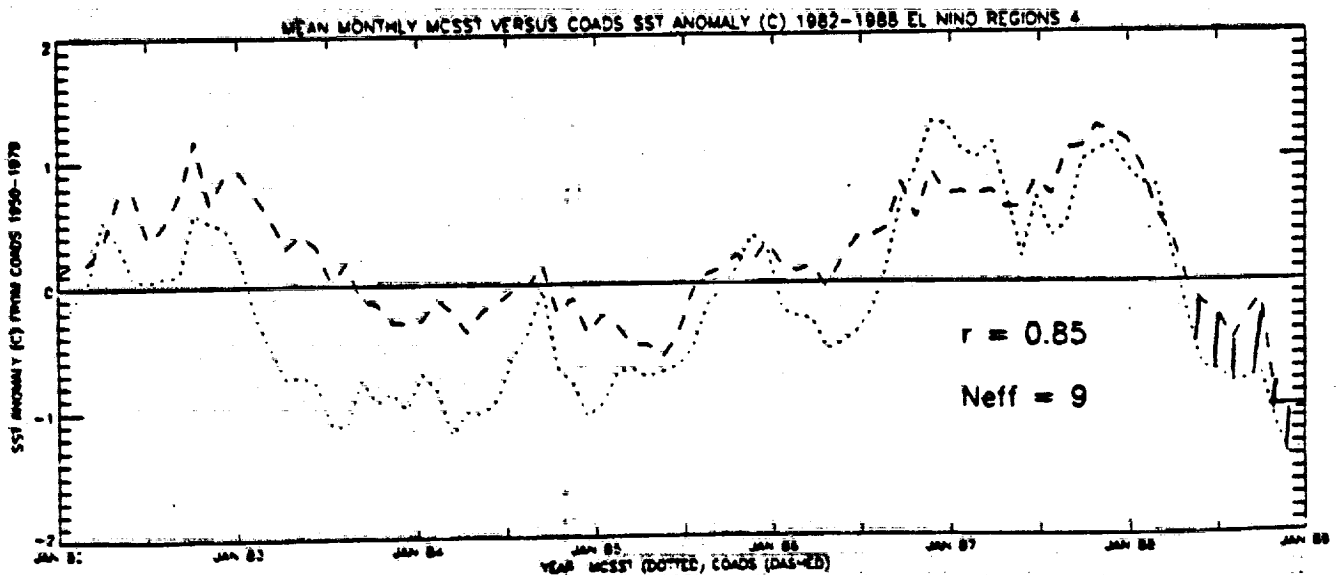
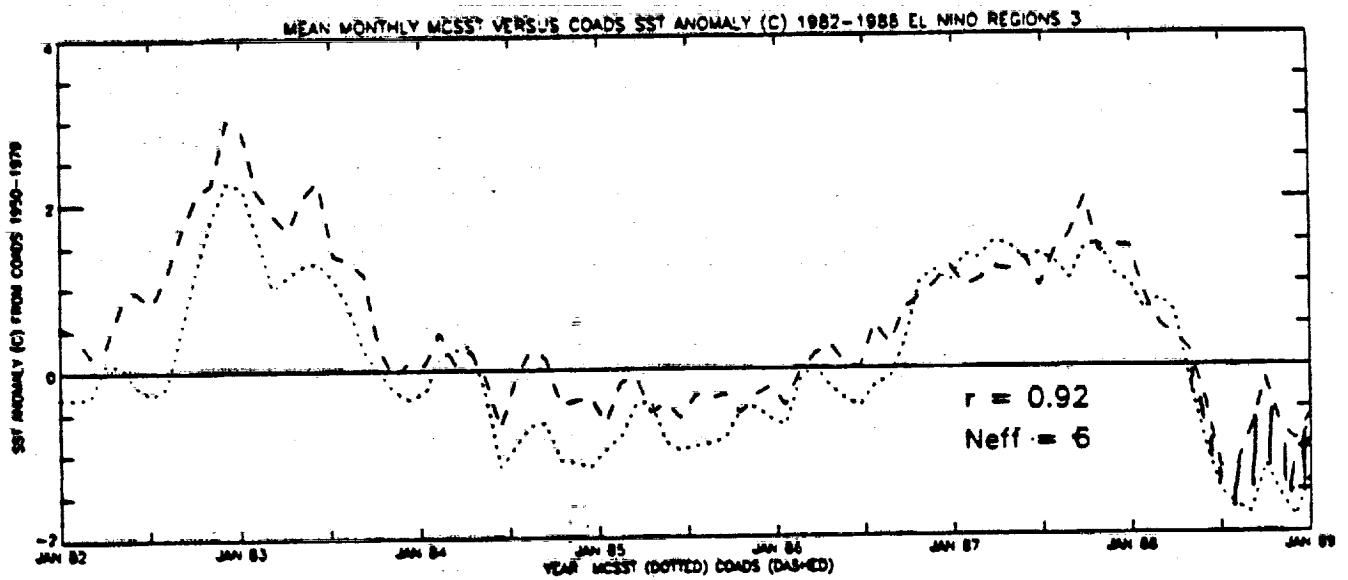
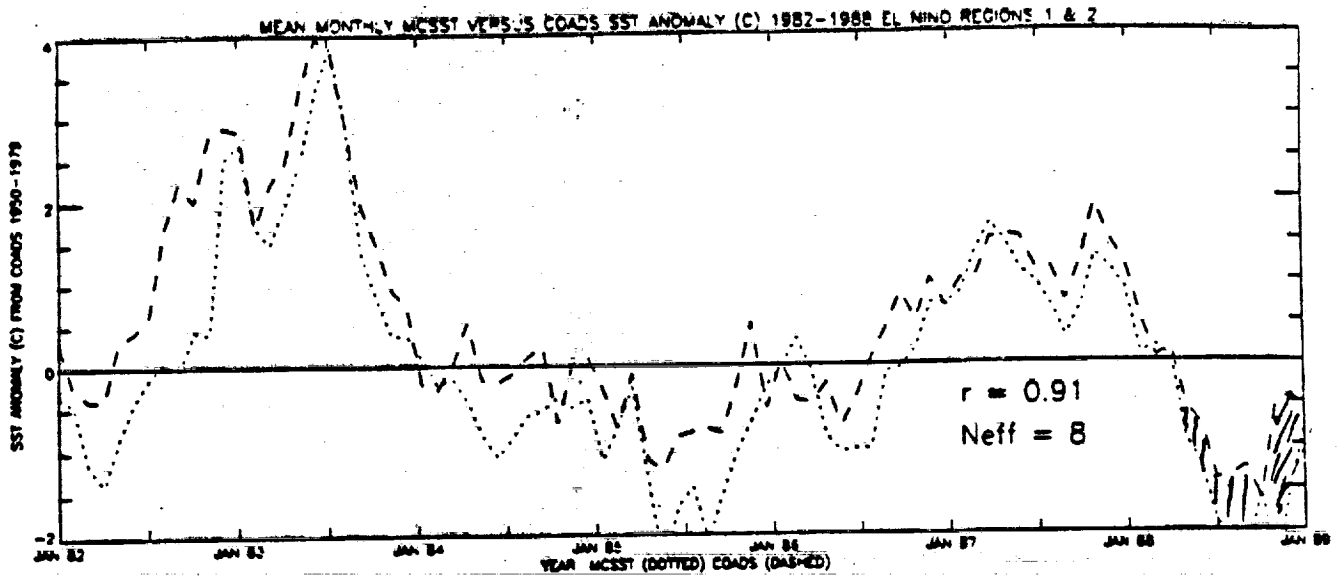


200000 000000 200000

# EL NIÑO REGIONS



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# SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

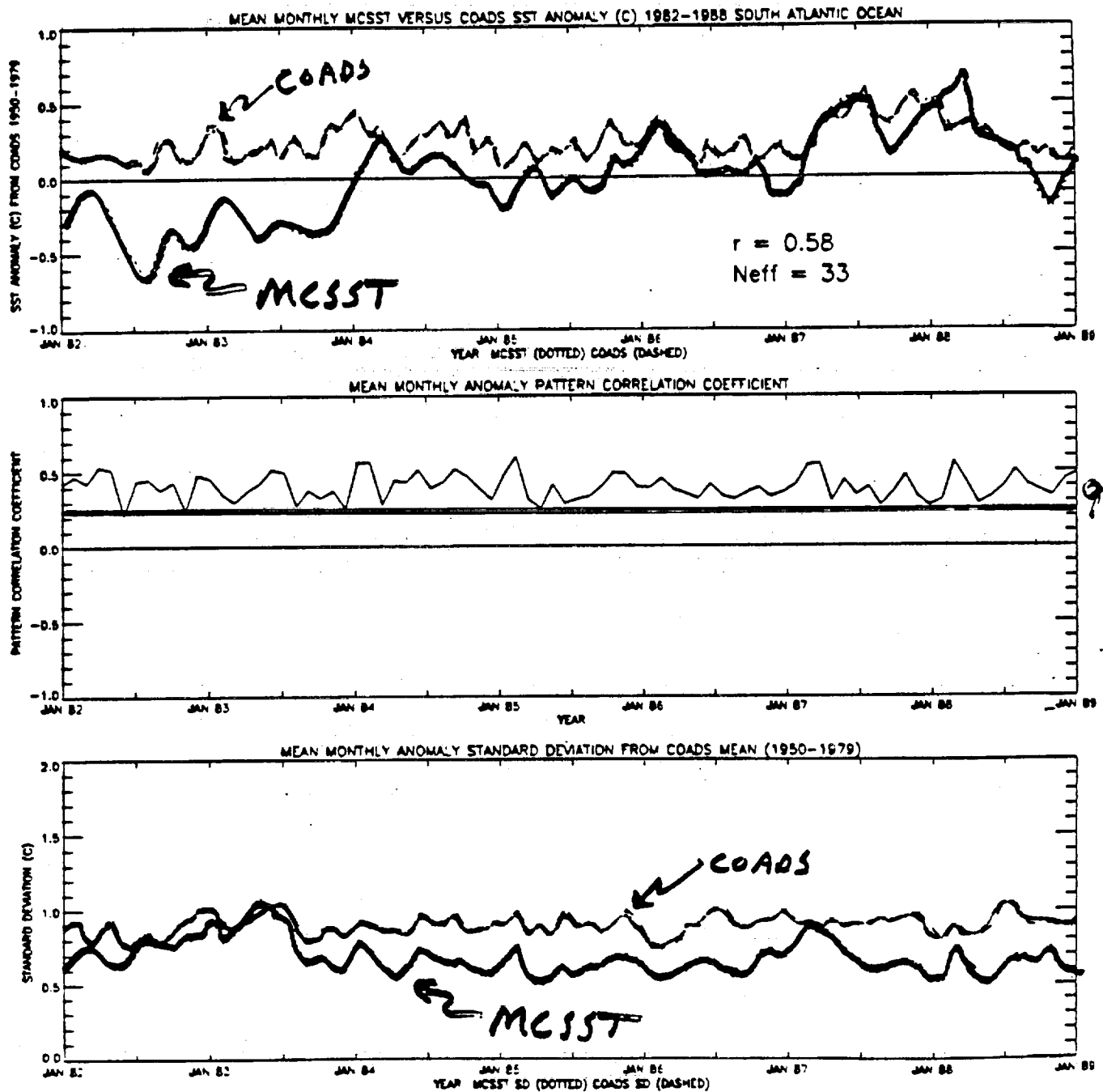


FIG 7

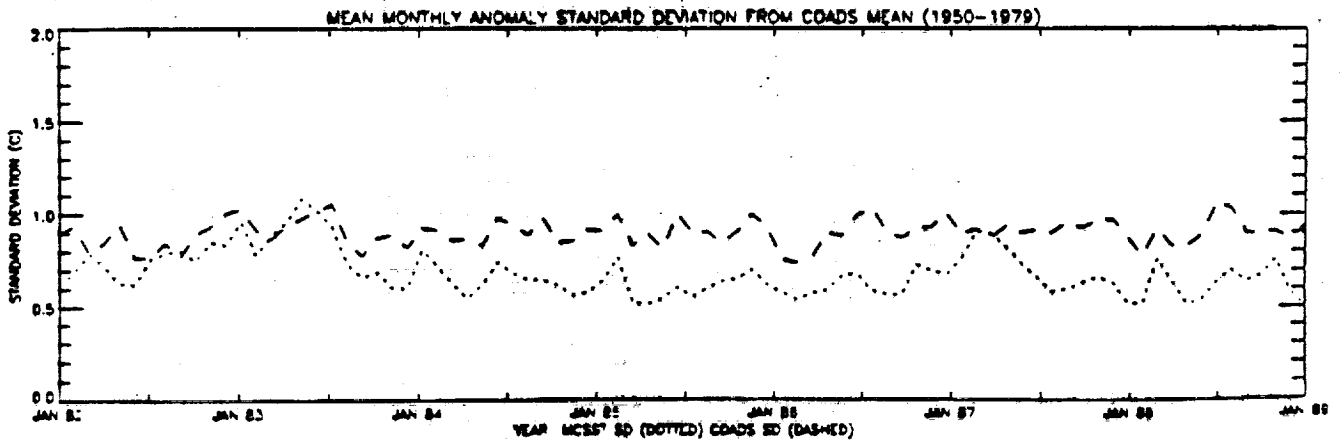
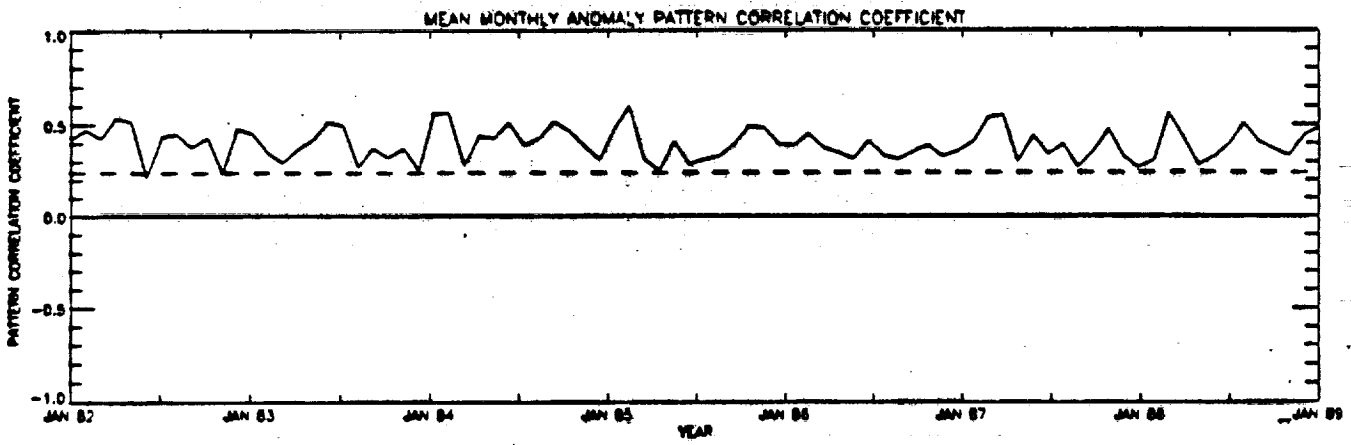
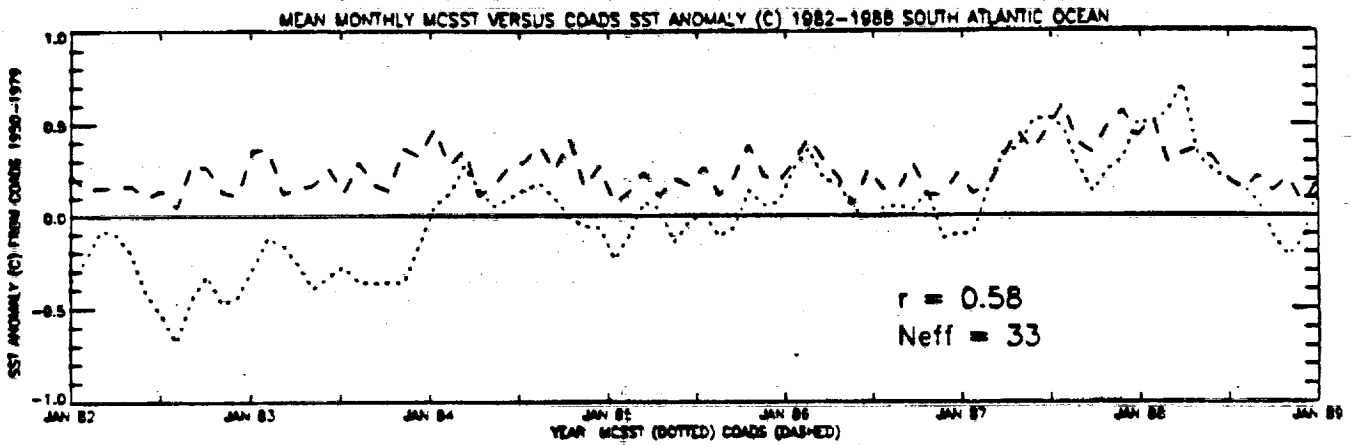


FIG 7

# SST SUMMARY STATISTICS

Ocean Basin or Region	Anomaly Cross Correlation	Effective Degrees of Freedom	Signal-to-Noise Variance Ratio	First Monthly Difference Cross Correlation	Mean MCSST Anomaly (°C)	Mean COADS Anomaly (°C)	Mean MCSST Standard Deviation (°C)	Mean COADS Standard Deviation (°C)
Global	0.65 *	19	1.14	0.02	-0.16	0.13	0.75	0.84
Northern Hemisphere 0°-60°N, 0°-360°	0.55 *	40	0.56	0.21	-0.32	0.03	0.74	0.76
Southern Hemisphere 0°-60°S, 0°-360°	0.67 *	22	2.42	0.16	0.04	0.23	0.70	0.92
Indian Ocean 20°N-60°S, 30°E-120°E	0.70 *	21	2.93	0.30 *	0.06	0.32	0.60	0.81
North Pacific Ocean 0°-60°N, 120°E-90°W	0.66 *	26	0.59	0.23	-0.34	0.01	0.79	0.86
South Pacific Ocean 0°-60°S, 120°E-80°W	0.62 *	27	2.21	0.03	-0.04	0.15	0.70	0.95
North Atlantic Ocean 0°-60°N, 0°-90°W	0.43	20	0.49	0.36 *	-0.33	0.04	0.66	0.63
South Atlantic Ocean 0°-60°S, 0°-80°W	0.63 *	28	2.86	0.57 *	0.00	0.25	0.68	0.90
El Niño 1 & 2 0°-10°S, 80°W-90°W	0.89 *	23	4.69	0.58 *	-0.03	0.50	0.75	1.19
El Niño 3 6°N-6°S, 90°W-150°W	0.93 *	17	4.67	0.50 *	0.08	0.50	0.67	1.12
El Niño 4 6°N-6°S, 160°E-150°W	0.91 *	12	1.97	0.25	-0.17	0.22	0.62	0.89
North Pacific Region 1 50°N-60°N, 155°W-175°W	0.43	26	1.27	0.25	-0.14	0.17	0.34	0.37
North Atlantic Region 1 30°N-40°N, 60°W-80°W	0.69 *	23	0.51	-0.13	-0.17	0.01	0.66	0.58
North Atlantic Region 2 15°N-25°N, 40°W-60°W	0.50	23	0.34	0.51 *	-0.59	0.05	0.29	0.46

Table 3. Summary statistics for MCSST and COADS 1984-1988 anomaly cross correlations, means, and standard deviations. All anomaly cross correlations are significant at the 95% level except the North Atlantic Ocean and North Atlantic Region 2.

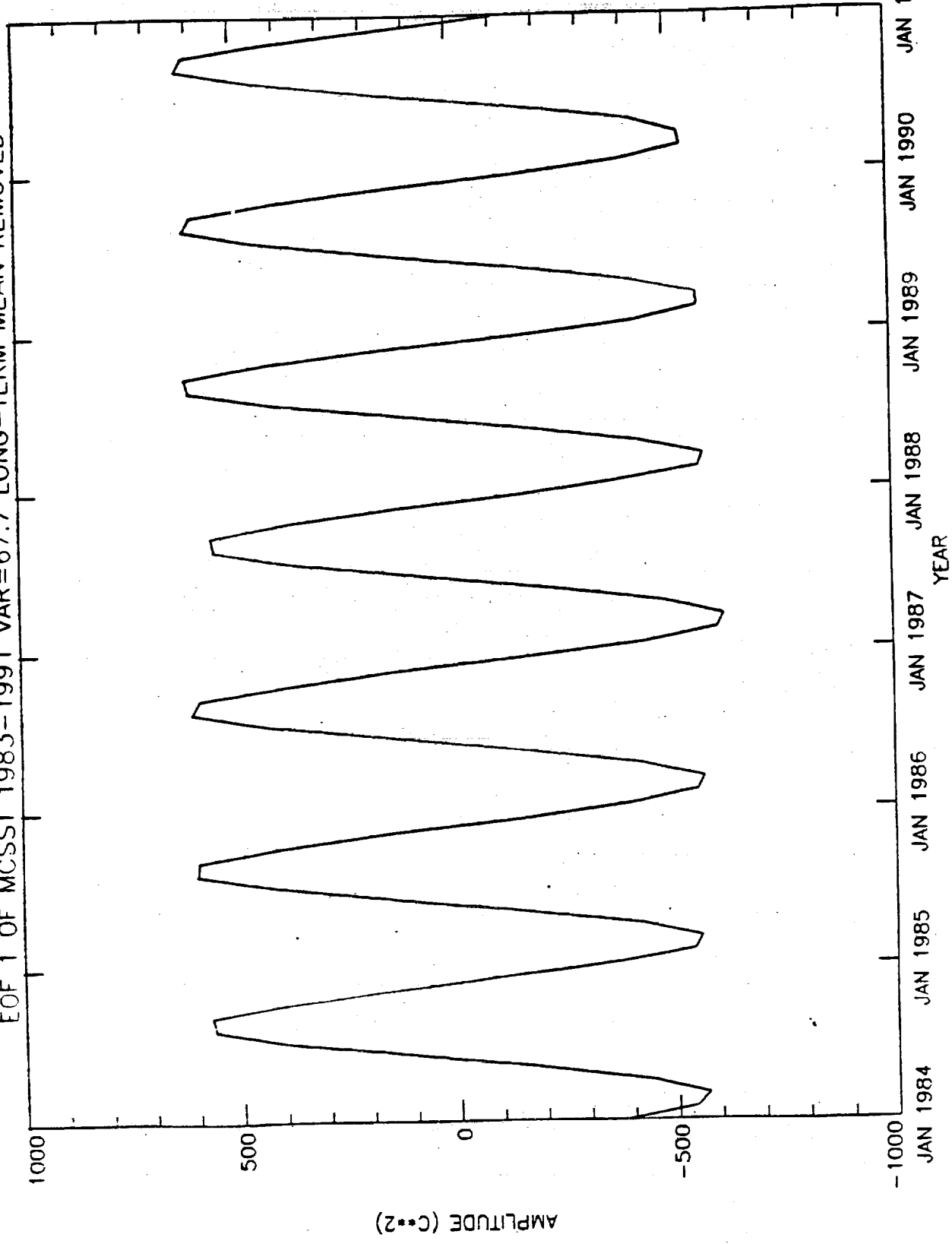
\* SIGNIFICANT AT 95% FOR NEFF

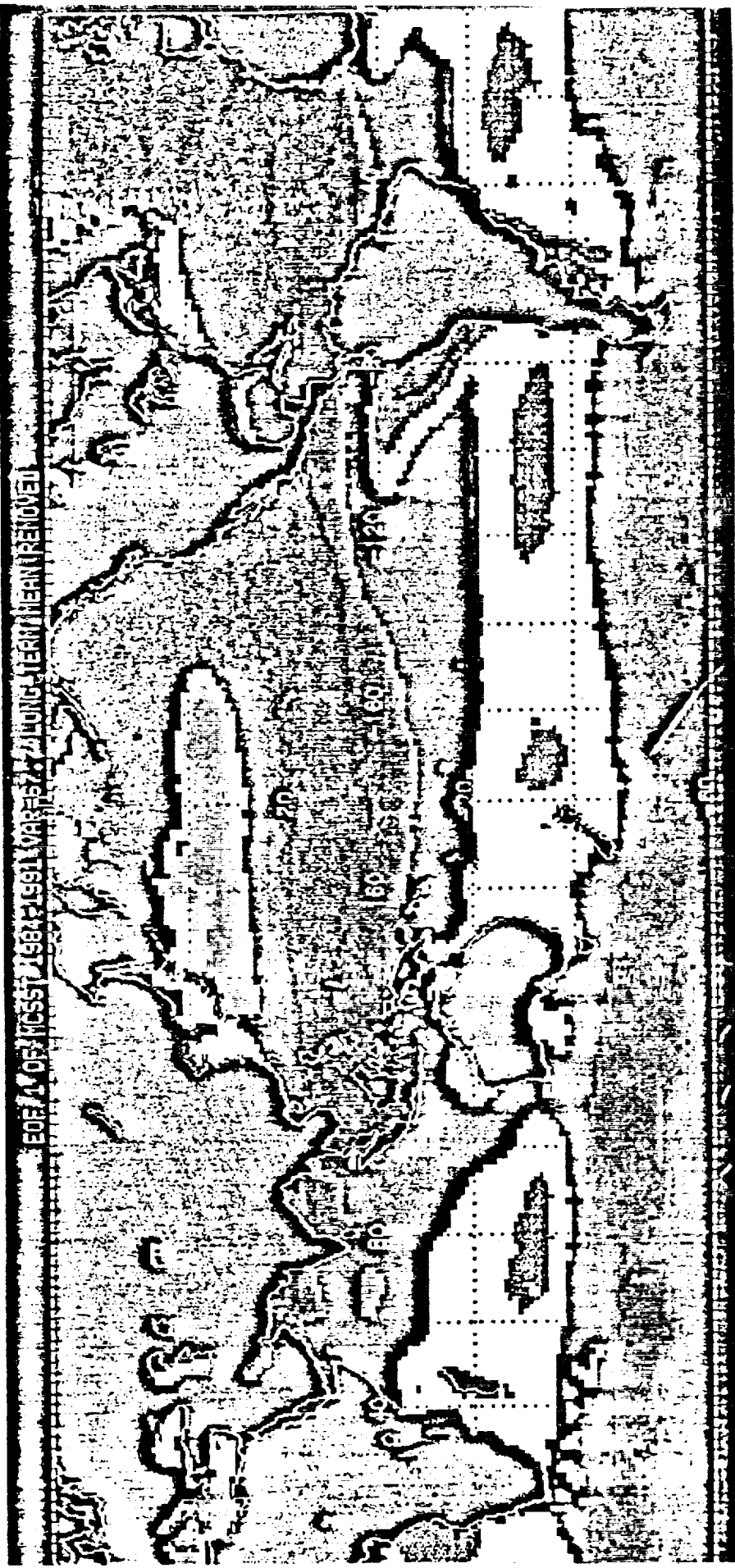
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15°N-25°N, 40°W-60°W								

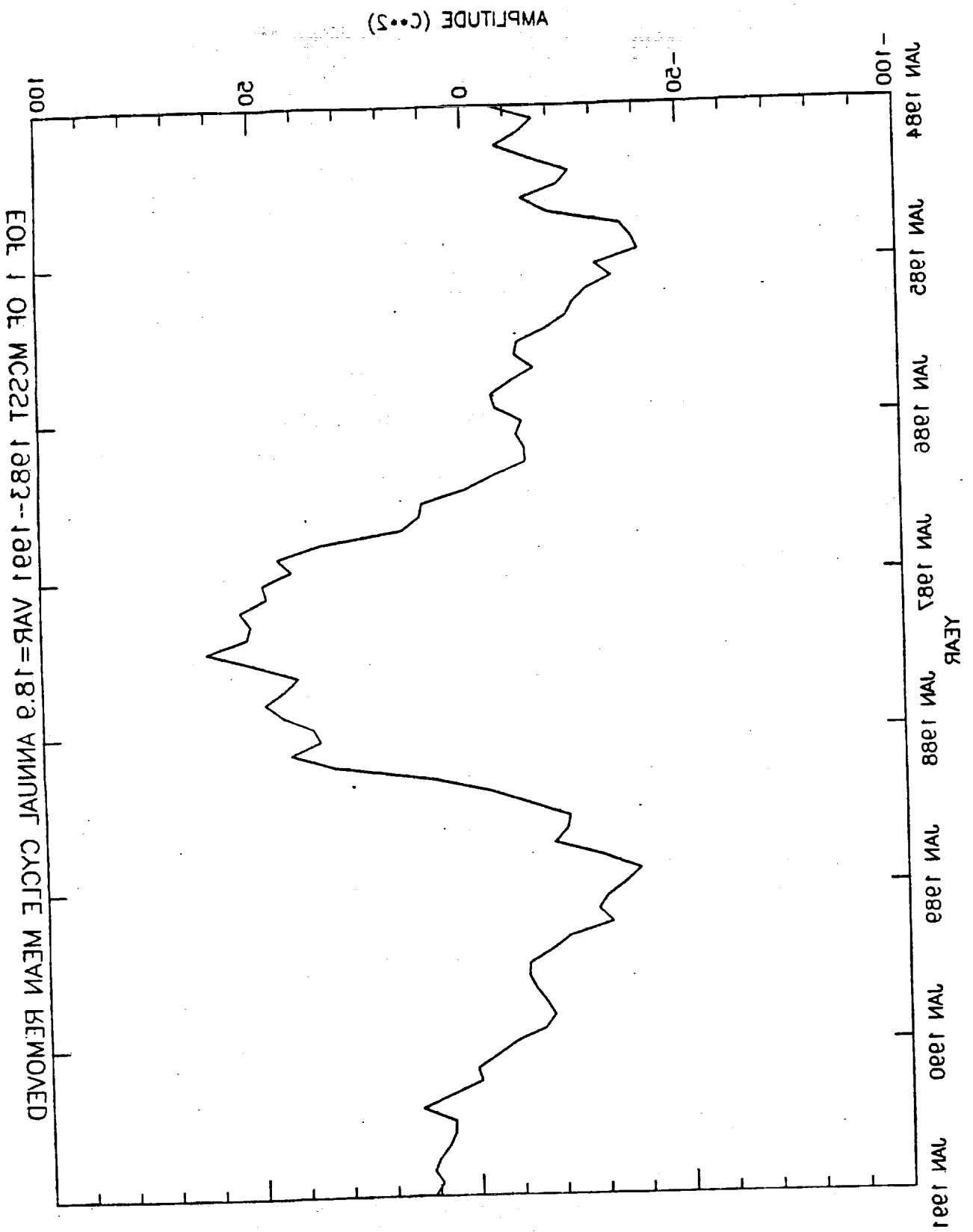
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EOF 1 OF MCSST 1983-1991 VAR=67.7 LONG-TERM MEAN REMOVED







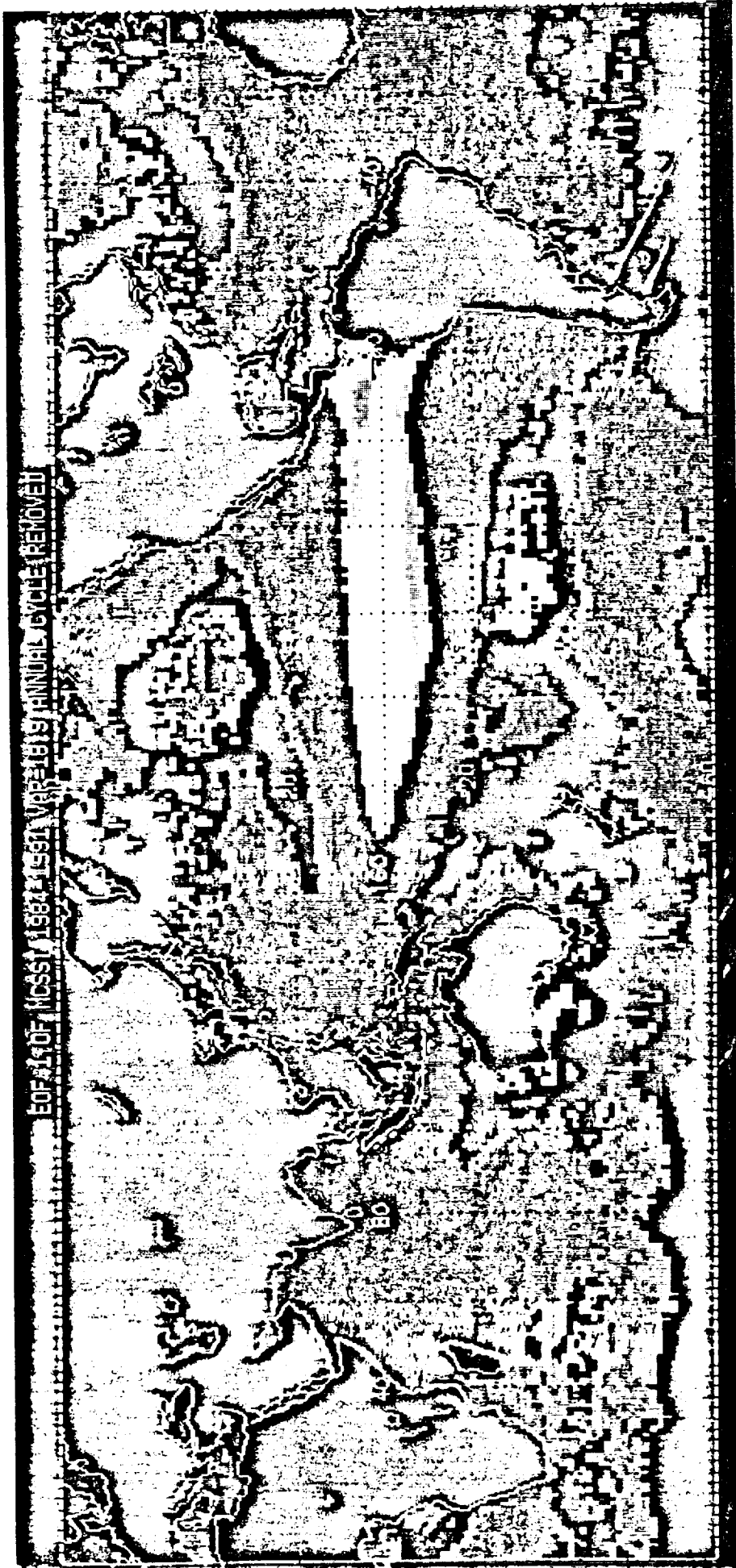
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EO 12958 OF MCSST 1987-1991 VAP-1815 ANNUAL CYCLE (REMOVED)

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1.1. Are the physics of the radiative transfer sound?

1.2. How do the means and higher moments compare with in situ measurements?

1.3. How do the spatial and temporal variations in the satellite data compare with other observations and hydrodynamic models?

TABLE 1

Summary of contributions to the intercomparison study. (Note T represents temperature data, Z represents thickness data and P represents precipitable data. ITPP1, ITPP2, and ITPP3 represents International TOVS Processing Package 1, 2 and 3 respectively, RFG represents regression first guess, CFG represents climatology first guess, MFG represents first guess fields derived from a forecast model, SD indicates the use of surface data in the retrieval scheme. AVHRR represents the use of locally generated regression coefficients and NRC indicates the use of NESDIS regression coefficients.)

DATA ORIGIN	ALPKZ	CONTENT	DATA	TOT. NOBS	NOBS (CLEAR)	RET. SCHEME
British Met. Office	ALUK	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	~695	~420	Statistical (Modified ITPP1, NRC)
CIUSS/NOAA-NESDIS Wisconsin	ALW1	T, Z, P	clear only	~1719	~1719	Physical (Iterative, ITPP2, RFG, SD)
	ALW2	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	~1819	~1333	Physical (One step, ITPP3, CFG, SD)
	ALW3	T, Z, P	clear only	~1828	~1828	Physical (One step, ITPP3, RFG, SD)
DFVLR West Germany	ALDF	T, Z, P	clear only	~1389	~1389	Physical (Iterative, modified ITPP2, RFG, SD)
Laboratoire de Meteorologie Dynamique France	ALDF	T, Z	clear, cloudy, and microwave	~1890	~1879	Physical/ Statistical
NASA/GLAS United States	ALMA	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	~903	~614	Physical (Relaxation, MFG)
NOAA/NESDIS Washington	ALNH	T, Z	clear only	~223	~223	Statistical (Operational Algorithms)
University of Bologna Italy	ALIT1	T, Z, P	cloudy only	~1517	-	Physical (Iterative, modified ITPP2)
	ALIT2	T, Z, P	clear only	~1757	~1757	Physical (Iterative, modified ITPP2, SD)
Western Australian Institute of Tech.	ALWA	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	~2808	~1757	Statistical (Modified ITPP1, NRC)
DATA ORIGIN	TASMAN	CONTENT	DATA	TOT. NOBS	NOBS (CLEAR)	RET. SCHEME
Bureau of Meteorology Australia	TAAU	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	~2037	~859	Physical (Modified ITPP3, RFG)
CIUSS/NOAA-NESDIS	TAVI	T, Z, P	clear only	~1626	~1626	Statistical (ITPP3, RFG, SD)
NOAA-NESDIS	TANF	T, Z	clear only	~229	~229	Statistical (Modified ITPP1, NRC)
New Zealand Meteorological Service	TANZ	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	~2049	~1329	Statistical (Operational Algorithms)
DATA ORIGIN	US	CONTENT	DATA	TOT. NOBS	NOBS (CLEAR)	RET. SCHEME
Atmospheric Environment Services (AES) Canada	USCA	T, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	~192	~95	Statistical (Modified ITPP1, NRC)
British Met. Office	USUK	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	~163	~83	Statistical (Modified ITPP1, NRC)
CIUSS/NOAA-NESDIS	USVI	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy,	~194	~42	Physical (Iterative, AVHRR)

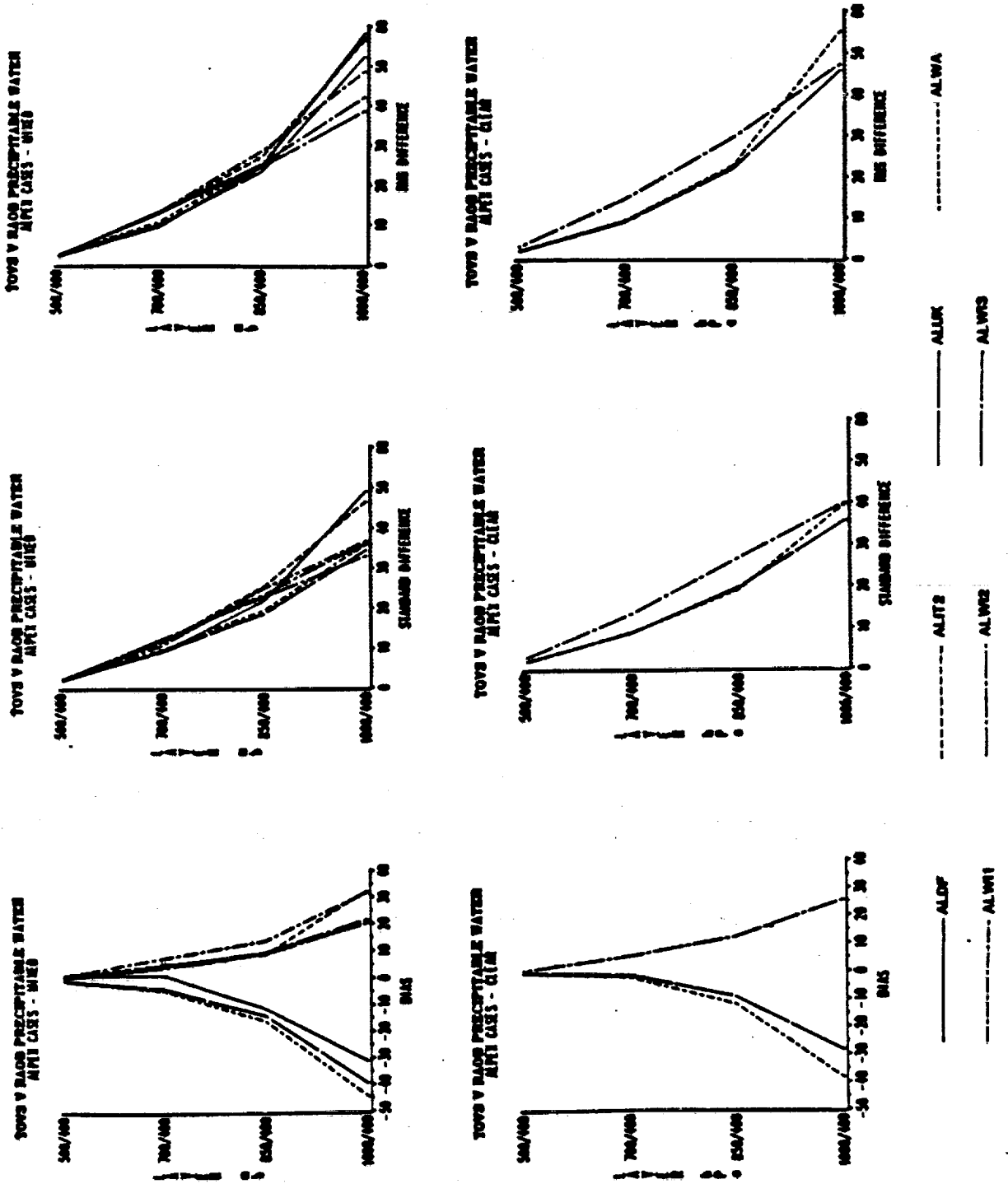
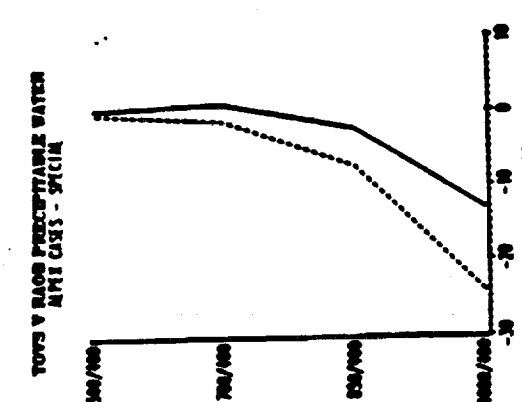
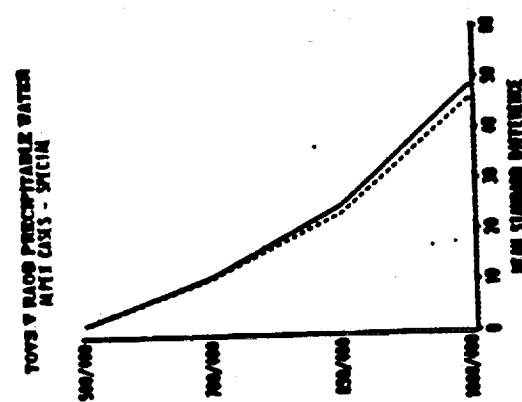
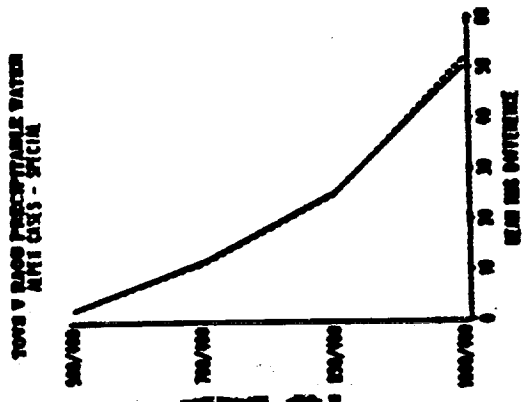


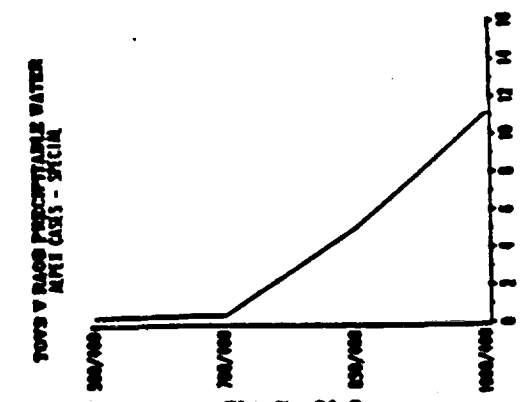
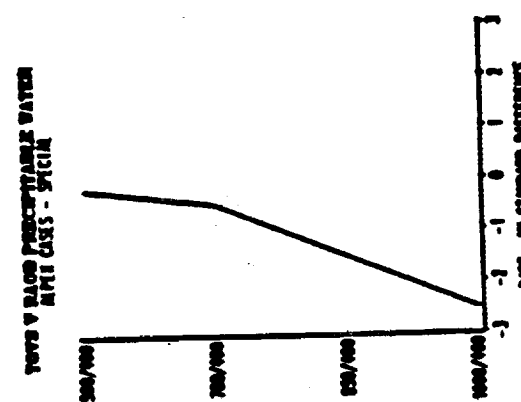
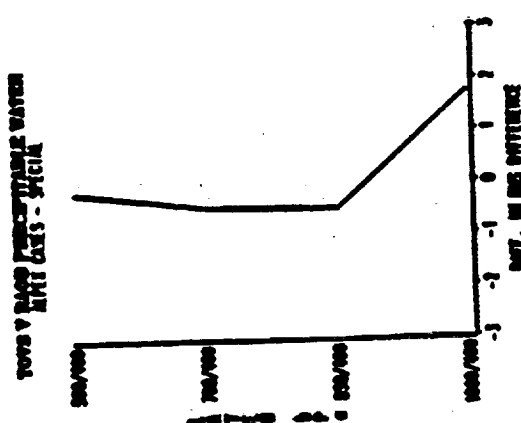
Figure 9a Basic statistics for TOVS retrievals compared with radiosonde for precipitable water observations for both the mixed and clear case. Precipitable water units. (cm x 100)

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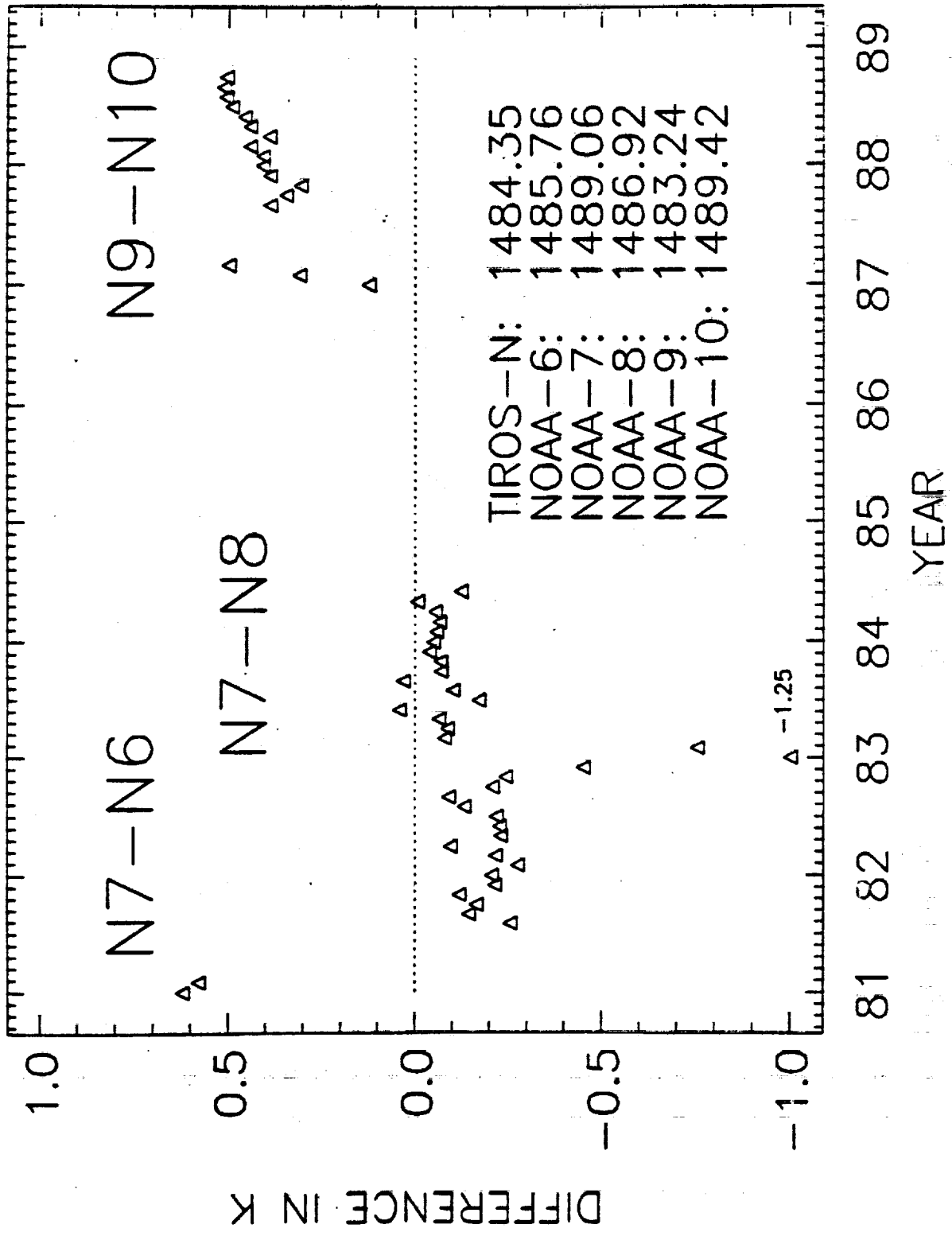
———— CLEAR-OP      - - - - - MIXED-OP



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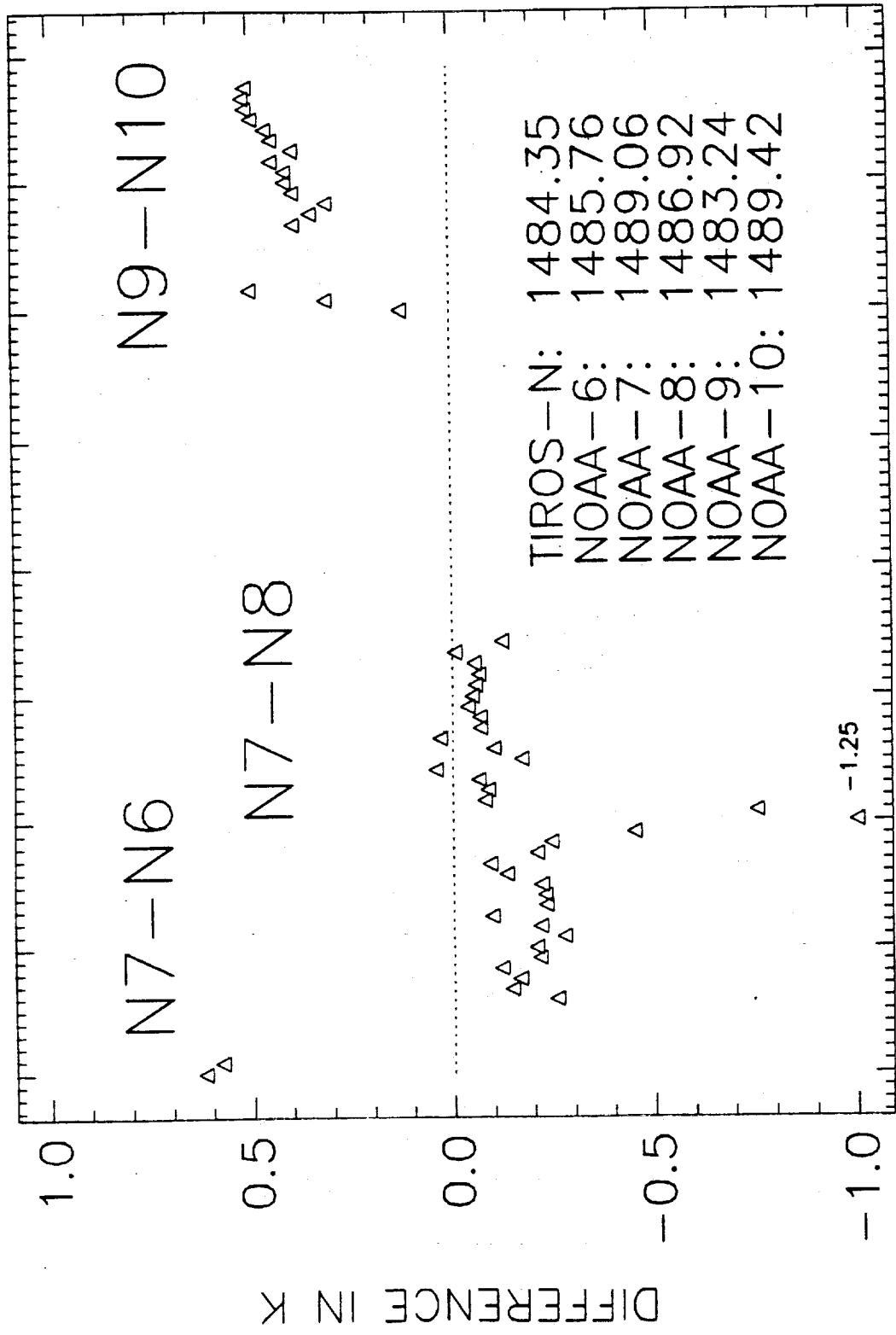
Figure 10. Mean statistics and the difference in mean statistics for precipitable water for the ALUK, ALWA and ALV2 cases.

PM Sat. - AM Sat.



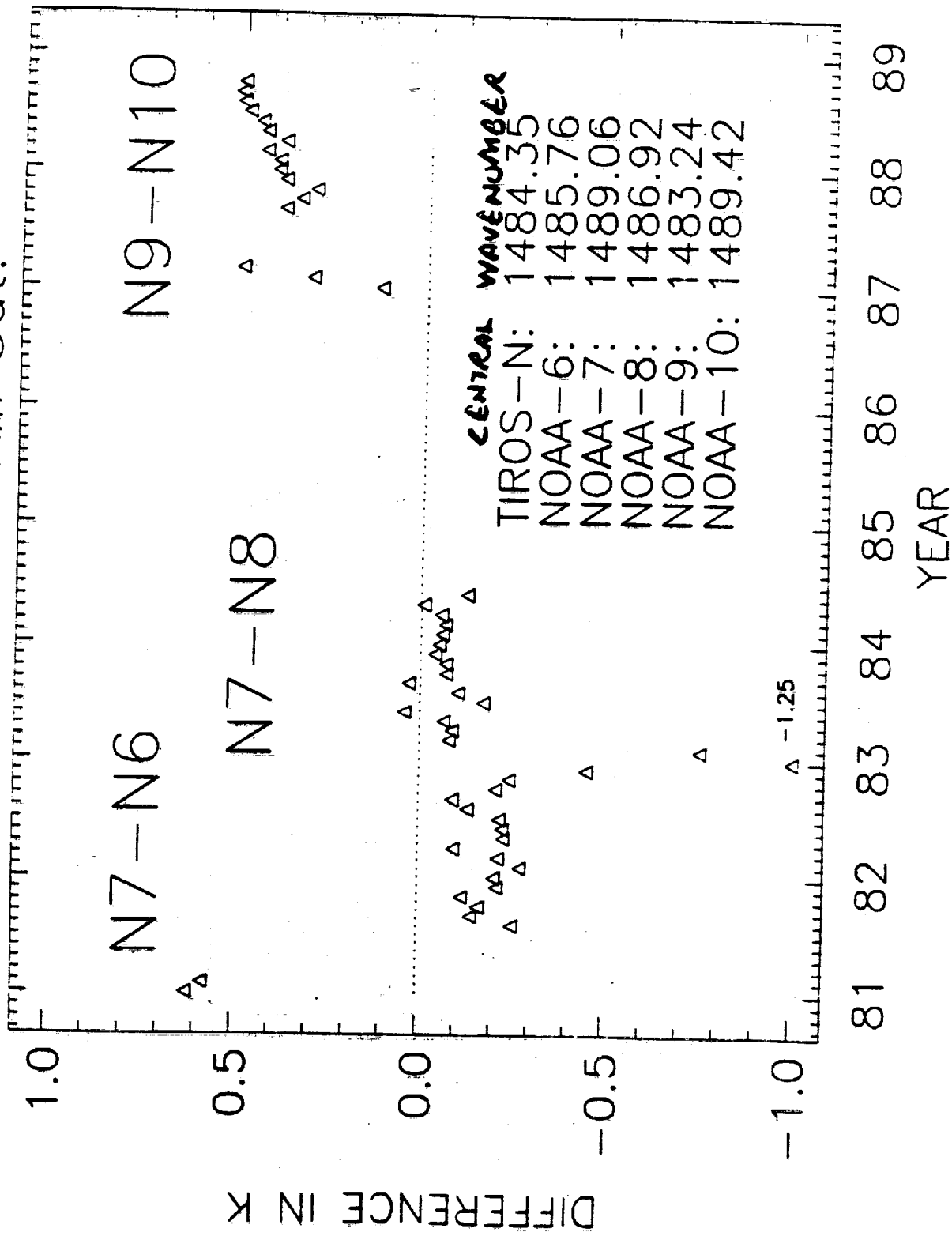
100-

PM Sat. - AM Sat.

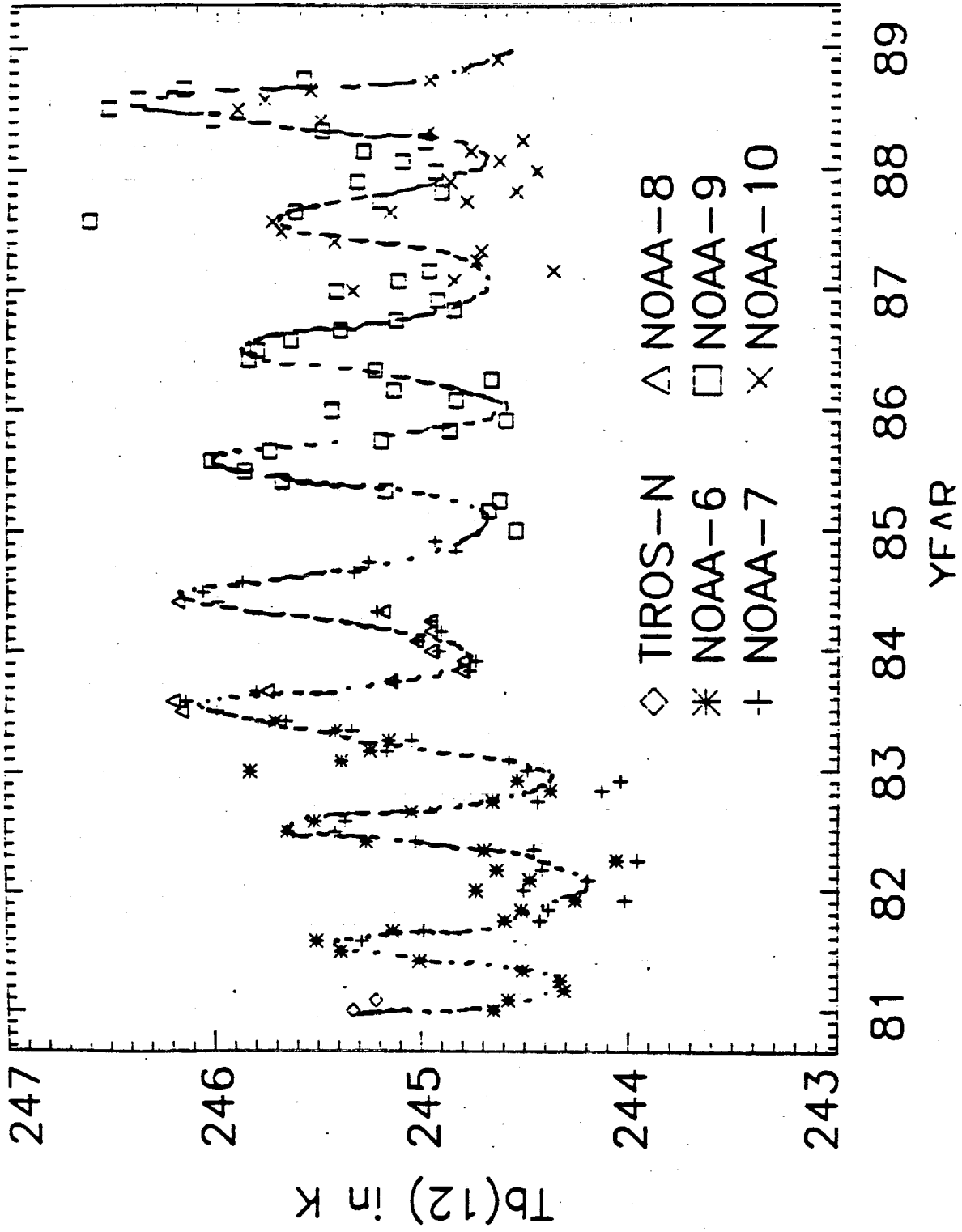


81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89  
YEAR

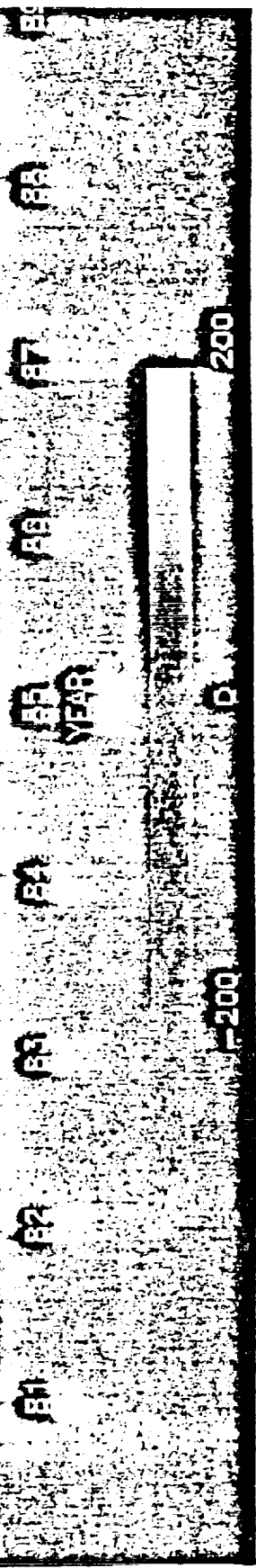
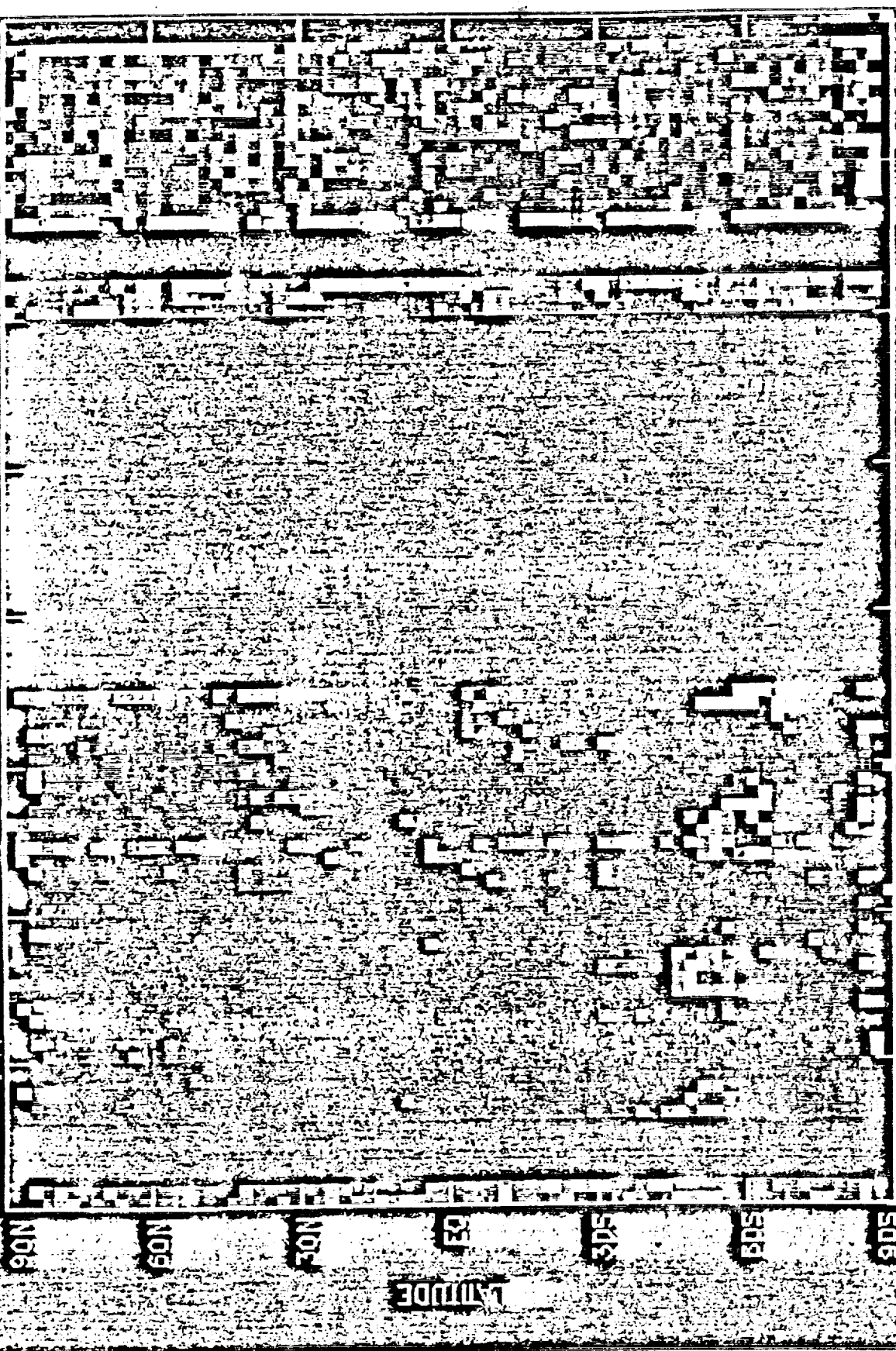
**GLOBAL HIRS CHANNEL 12 BRIGHTNESS TEMPERATURE**  
**PM Sat. - AM Sat.**



# GLOBAL, MONTHLY HIRS CHANNEL 12



PM/SAT/AM/SAT MONTHLY ZONAL AVERAGE K100



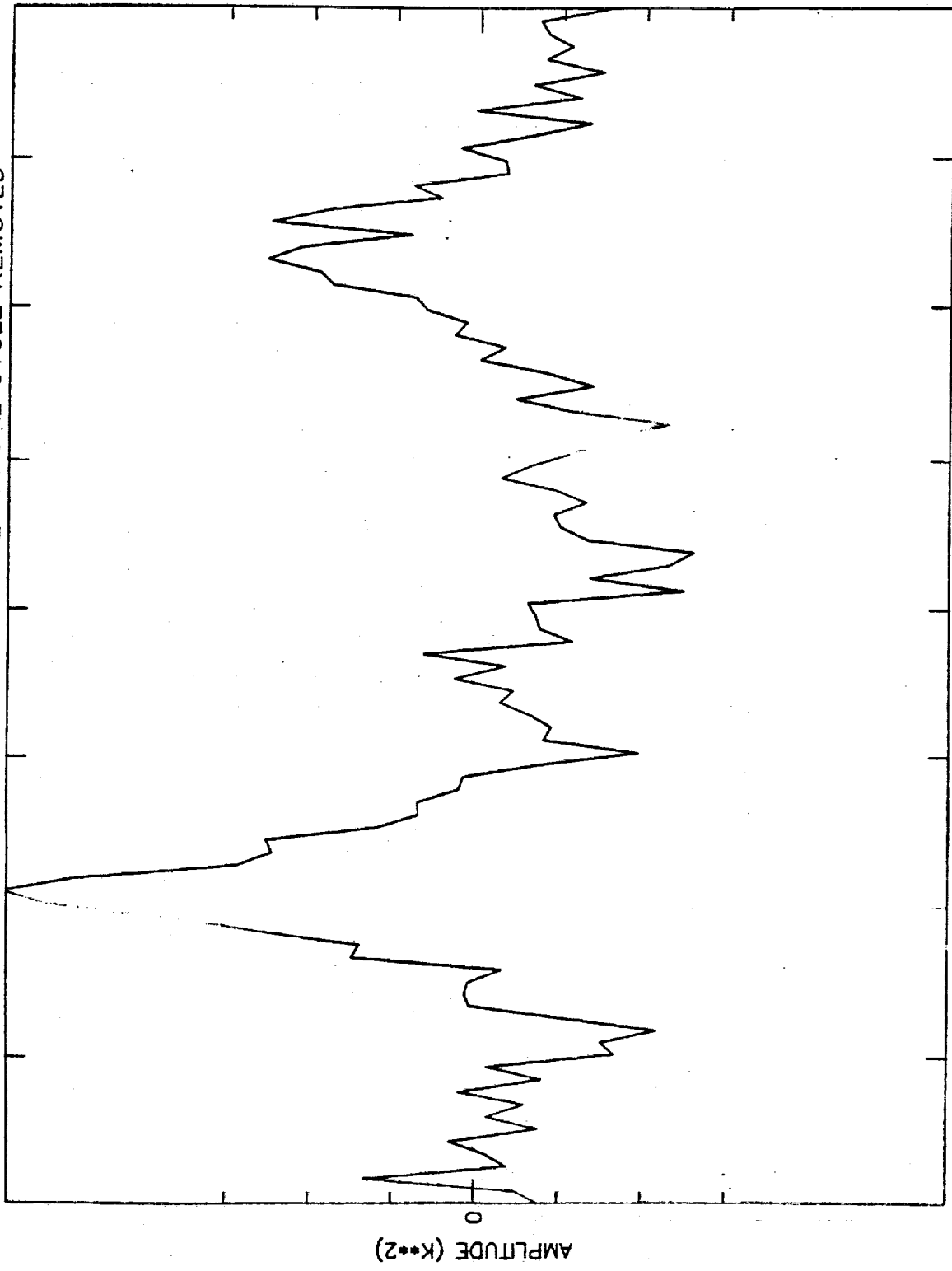
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1967 O 311-001



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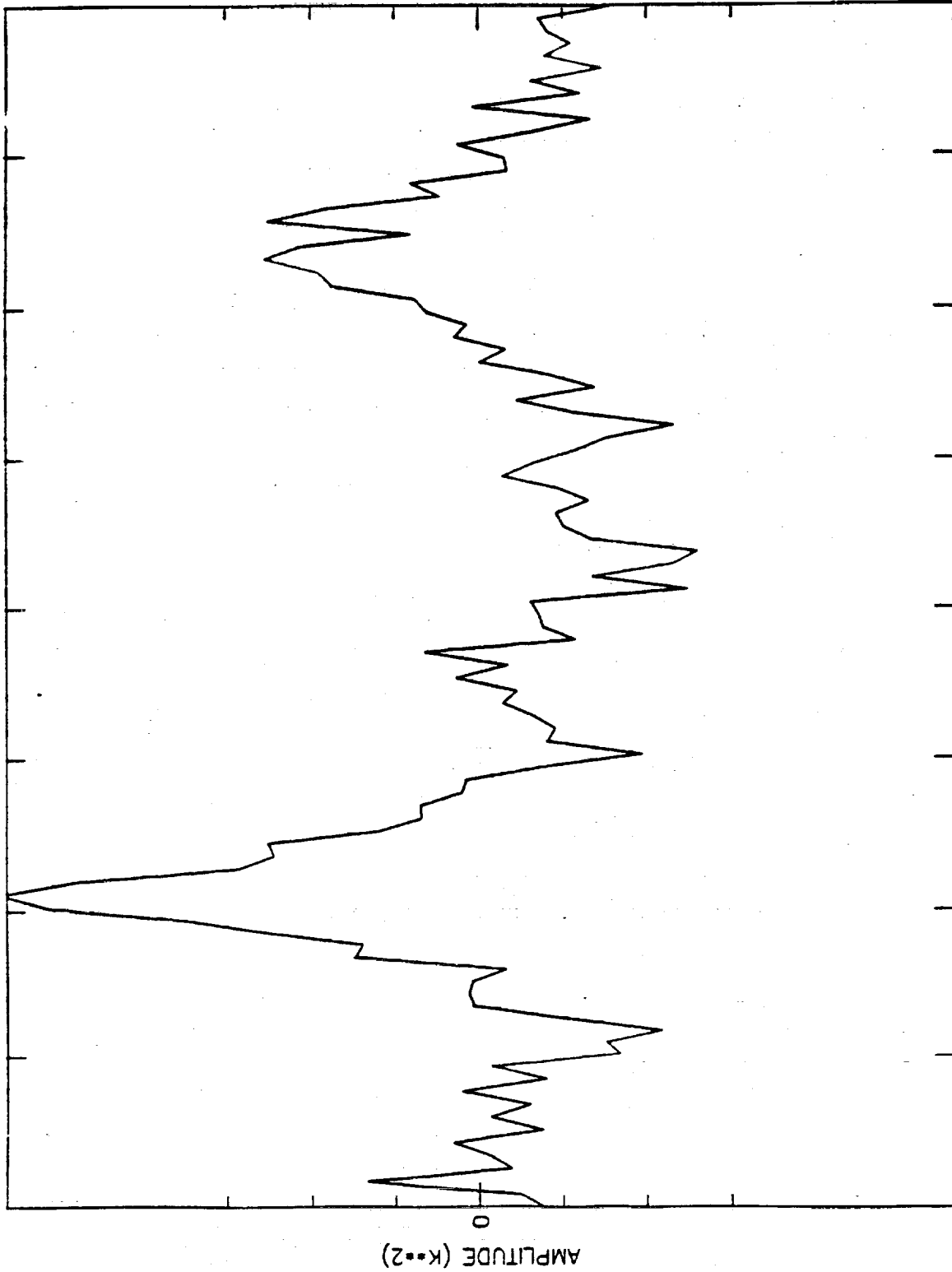
EOF 1 OF HIRS CHANNEL 12 VAR=7.2 ANNUAL CYCLE REMOVED



JAN 1981 JAN 1982 JAN 1983 JAN 1984 JAN 1985 JAN 1986 JAN 1987 JAN 1988 JAN 1989

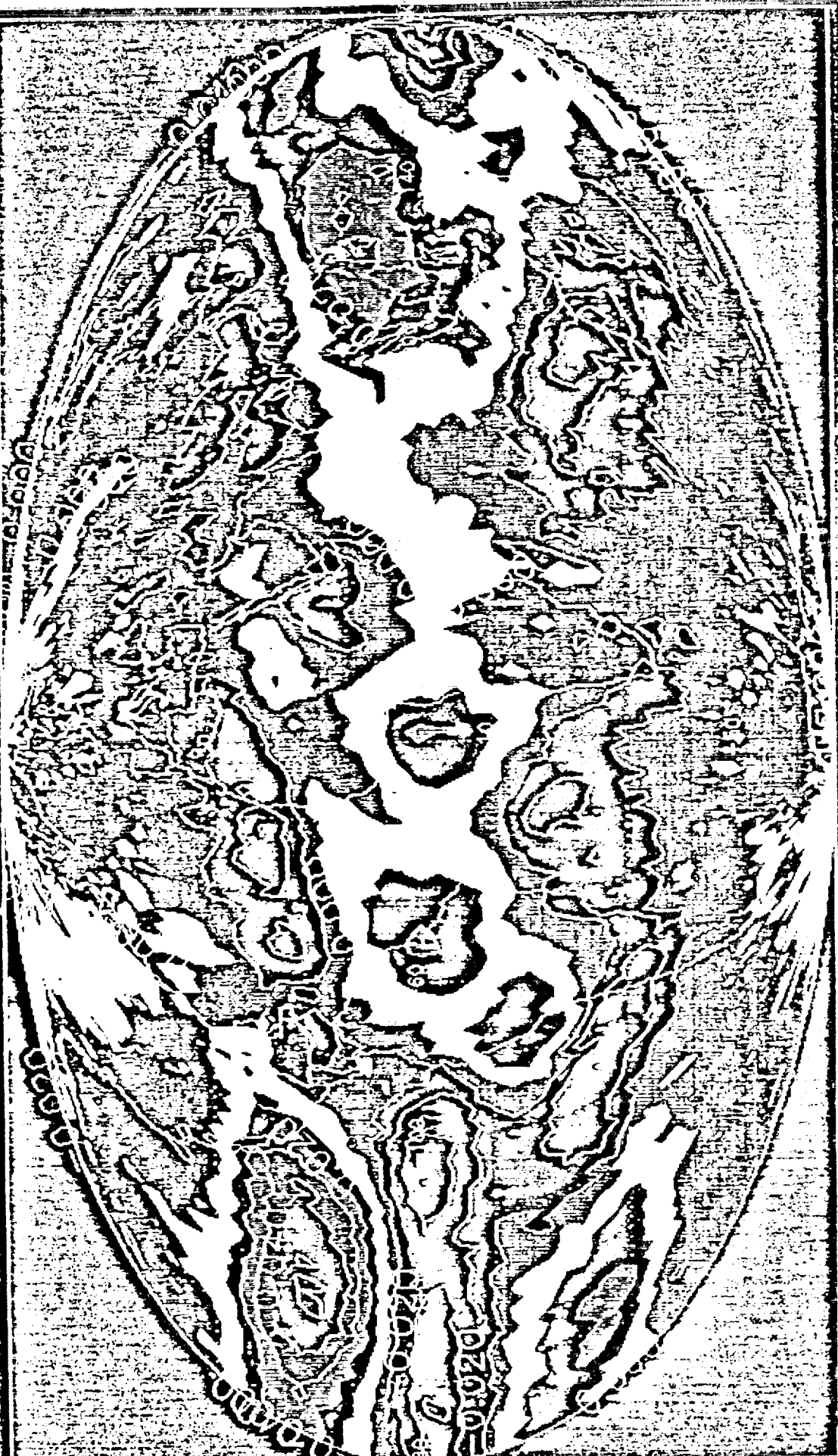


EOF 1 OF HIRS CHANNEL 12 VAR=7.2 ANNUAL CYCLE REMOVED

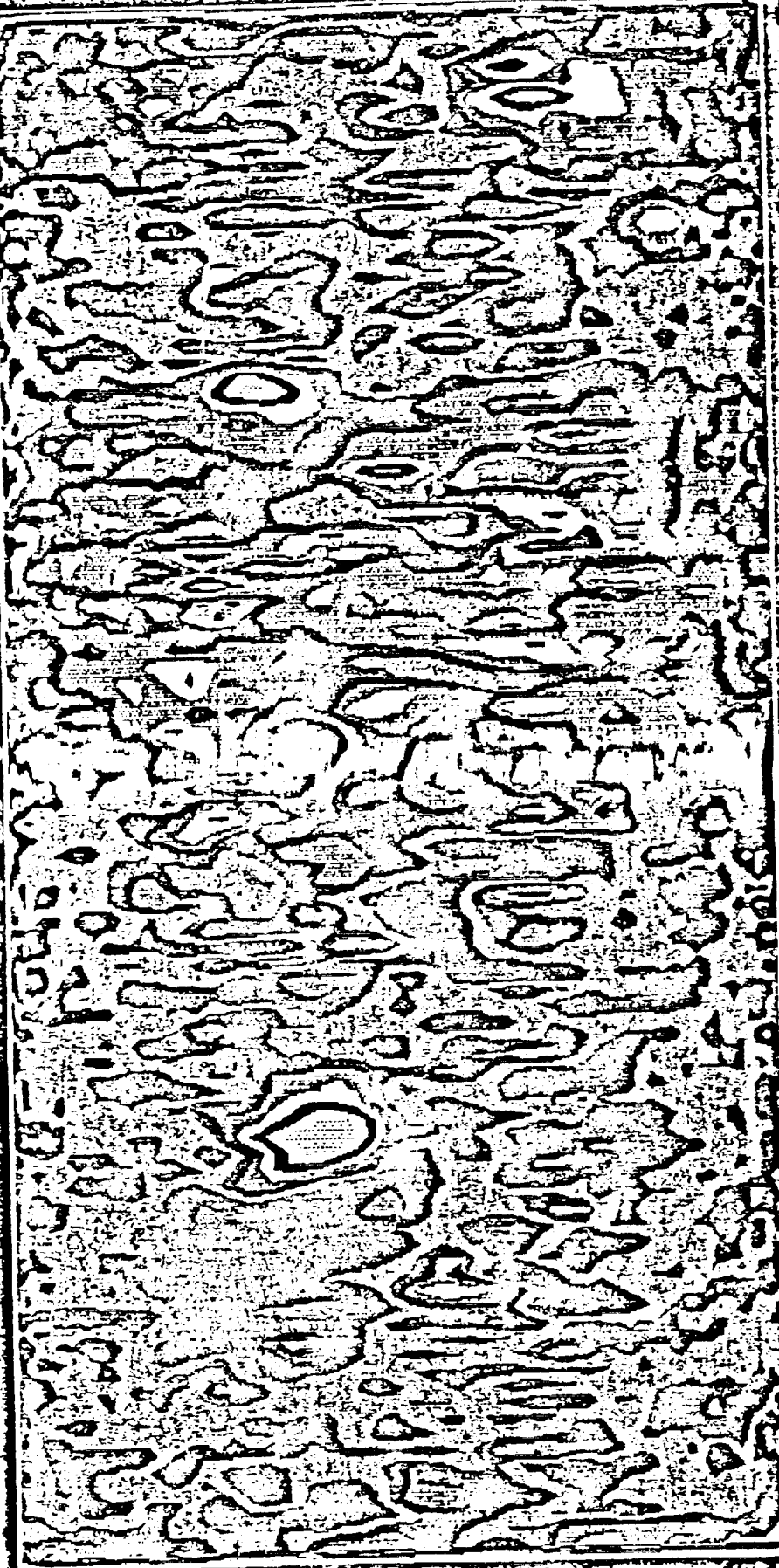


JAN 1981 JAN 1982 JAN 1983 JAN 1984 JAN 1985 JAN 1986 JAN 1987 JAN 1988 JAN 1989

TOP MORPHS CANNED 1987-1988 ANNUAL CYCLE (REMOVED)



ANOMALY OF MONTHLY ZONAL AVERAGE



90N  
60N  
30N  
EQ  
30S  
60S  
90S

LATITUDE

0  
30  
60  
90  
120  
150  
180  
210  
240  
270  
300  
330  
360



0.40000

2.80000

-2.80000

### **3. Lessons of history - Applications to the EOS era**

**3.1. We must establish long-term, global validation programs based on the three principles of validation**

**3.2. Both satellite and in situ data must be subject to rigorous quality control and continuous monitoring**

**3.3. Extend and examine the overlap periods of similar instruments on different satellites**

**3.4. Sampling of most fields must extend over several ENSO cycles, since most fields show large interannual variability related to ENSO.**

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51. NOVA-101 PWC (K6/AM#2) JAN 31-FEB 4 1988



70N  
55N  
EQ  
35S  
70S

0 40E 80E 120E 160E 180W 80W 40W 0

WENTZ 155M/1 PWC (K6/AM#2) JAN 31-FEB 4 1988



70N  
55N  
EQ  
35S  
70S

0 40E 80E 120E 160E 180W 80W 40W 0