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7 August 1964

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THE J MISSION
METHODS OF SYSTEM APPLICATION
AND POTENTIAL
CAPABILITIES

PROGRAM [redacted]

August 1964

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Declassified and Released by the NRO

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is one of a sequel of documents to [REDACTED] System Operational Capability, which was issued March 1964. This preceding document [REDACTED] provided a summary of (1) the applicable physics of the sun/earth/satellite/camera system and, (2) the performance and programming capabilities for up to 30 day missions.

It is the intent of this document to describe the various ways that the J system can be used in achieving quantity and value of data, and to quantitatively compare the yield of the area search and reconnaissance information for each of these ways.

It is to be recognized that the J system can be utilized for purposes other than emphasized in this document, (e. g. storage in orbit until target requirements are assigned, a single quick-reaction response, etc.). There are also ways of planning missions in order to obtain data of maximum quality which are still to be described. Subsequent addenda are to be issued in the near future covering these information areas.

The quantitative evaluation presented herein makes use of a weather/target/operations model which produces an Index of Yield. This Index is a comparative measure of the efficiency of film usage. The higher the Index value, the higher is the yield of information per square foot of film operationally available on orbit.

A Phase I study that has preceded this documentation delved into the mission concept, the system problems, and the constraints in relation to maximizing the mission information yield potential. As a result of this Phase I study, means were determined for minimizing such problems and constraints. A general summary of these results are given herein, in Section 6.0, as the changes that would be required in the current system and procedures in order to use these various methods of system application.

In addition, this document presents, in Section 5.4.7, an example of how equivalent or greater information yield can be attained by trading off mission configuration for system procedures.

2.0 CAPABILITIES SOUGHT

Operational flexibility is the capability that is sought in order that the information yield of the J mission can be increased to the maximum practical value.

Yield of information is measurable by an index number that represents the total film square-footage which is cloud-free and is over ground areas of greatest information density and interest. Thus the system must be able to select only those operations which have acceptable predicted cloud cover over specific areas of maximum value.

The operational flexibility sought must therefore be able to provide:

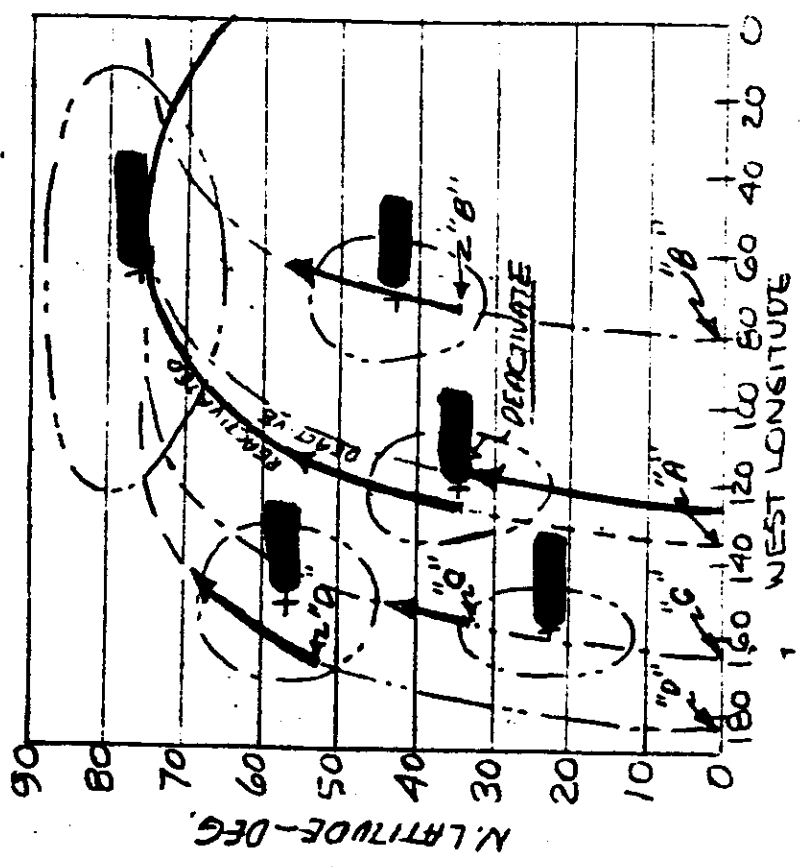
1. Launch in coincidence with predicted weather spans.
2. Reaction on orbit to quickly and efficiently select payload operations in coincidence with favorable predicted local weather conditions.
3. Required orbit parameters at injection and maintainance of such parameters during the useful life on orbit so as to produce operations of the highest quality (See [REDACTED]).
4. A pattern of ground tracks, and maintain such a pattern during the useful life on orbit so that the greatest percentage of area of maximum value is repetitively covered during a mission.
5. Power conservation and synchronism of the stored programs with instantaneous spaceposition so as to allow extended useful orbit life for achieving coincidence of overfly over valuable area with an optimal weather condition.

3.0 CURRENT OPERATION CONCEPTS AVAILABLE

In the logical development of the area search and reconnaissance concept from the previous single capsule M system to the two capsule, single D/R cycle J system, the final development steps to realize full system potential are still to be accomplished. However, the current system configuration allows the following operation concepts:

- 3.1 The vehicle is active and stabilized from injection until first recovery initiation. The normal span of time is 4 days for approximately 40 payload mission-operations.
- 3.2 The vehicle can be maintained active and stabilized for a subsequent 4 days and 40 more payload mission-operations. The J mission is therefore accomplished in a continuous 8 day, 80 operation run ending with initiation of the second recovery.
- 3.3 The vehicle can be placed in a pitch-tumbling mode and deactivated immediately after initiation of the first recovery. Power consumption during the deactive phase is in the order of 130 watt hours per day. The number of deactivated days will depend on the next predicted favorable 4 day weather span. The maximum number of deactivated days possible is a performance function, see [REDACTED] and the adequacy of the orbit parameters and the ground cover pattern.
- 3.4 Reactivation must be accomplished at the same station at which deactivation was preprogrammed and executed. (See Figures 1 & 2)
- 3.5 Payload operation programming is optimized to permit deactivation after completion of day 3.
- 3.6 For successive orbits not contacted by a ground station unique control is limited to 4 or less. These successive uncontacted orbits range from one for orbit plane inclination of 90° to five for 85° or 115° .
- 3.7 Prestored payload operations can not be changed, added to, or deleted except for system "off" or "intermix." Intermix is the unique control referred to in item 3.6 and is the current method for selecting which orbits will have payload operating, which one program will be executed, and whether the interval to the next command contact shall be stereo or mono. (See Figure 3).

FIGURE 1
D/R AT DIFFERENT STATIONS



"A" - AFTER A DEACTIVE PERIOD, REACTIVATE RESUMES THE PROGRAMMING LATITUDE CONTINUITY (D/R BOTH AT [REDACTED] HOWEVER, SOME LONGITUDE DIFFERENCE OCCURS. THE A/P PROGRAMMING ARRAY PROVIDES SELECTIONS TO MATCH FIXED-CONTINUOUS PROGRAMS, SUCH AS STATION CONTACT DO NOT HAVE THIS FLEXIBILITY.

"B" - AFTER DEACTIVATION AT [REDACTED] REACTIVATION CAN BE MADE AT [REDACTED] AT THE PROPER LATITUDE, BUT THE LONGITUDE DIFFERENCE PUTS PROGRAMS ABOUT TWO ORBITS OUT OF PHASE

"C" & "D" - REACTIVATION AT [REDACTED] OR [REDACTED] WOULD RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE MISMATCH OF PROGRAMMING IN BOTH LONGITUDE & LATITUDE.

CONSTRAINT

INABILITY TO SLEW THE PROGRAMMER TAKE UNO/PRA TO A SUBCYCLE THAT APPROXIMATELY MATCHES THE LONGITUDE TRAVERSE AT REACTIVATE PREVENTS USE OF MULTIPLE STATION COMMAND FOR D/R. (REACTIVATION MAY BE DEFERRED TO DAY OF BEST LONGITUDE MATCH)

FIGURE 2 - REACTIVATION - REACTION TIME

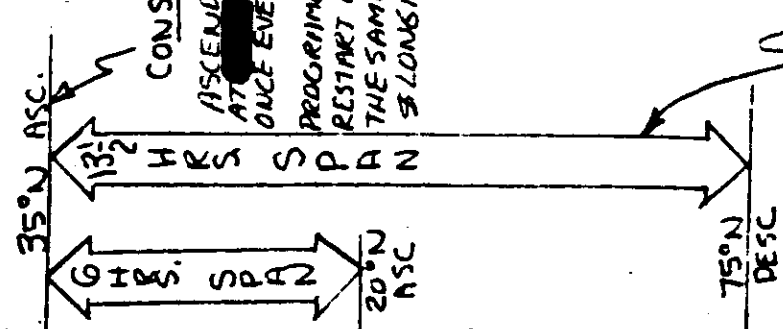
ORBIT SEQUENCE	POTENTIAL CAMERA OPS	STATION COMMAND CONTACT DIRECTION OF FLT
X9	DESC	
X10	—	
X11	—	
X12	—	
X13	ASC	
X14	ASC	
X15	ASC	
X16	ASC	
X1	ASC	
X2	ASC/DESC	
X3	ASC/DESC	NO STATION COMMAND CONTACTS
X4	ASC/DESC	
X5	ASC/DESC	
X6	DESC	
X7	DESC	
X8	DESC	

REACTIVATE AT [REDACTED] PROGRAMMER STARTS, S-BAND BEGINS WARMUP AT [REDACTED] - ADJUST & RESET TIMER, RECONSTRUCT V/A RAMP VEHICLE HAS STABILIZED, TOUCH UP THE PROGRAMMER, AS REQUIRED, TARGET PROGRAMMING SET UP AS REQUIRED. TOUCH UP, RESET, OR SELECT AS REQUIRED.

FIRST ASCENDING PHOTO, IF PROGRAMMED,

FIRST DESCENDING PHOTO, IF PROGRAMMED

CONSTRAINT BUNDLE OF SEQUENTIALLY UNCONTACTED ORBITS



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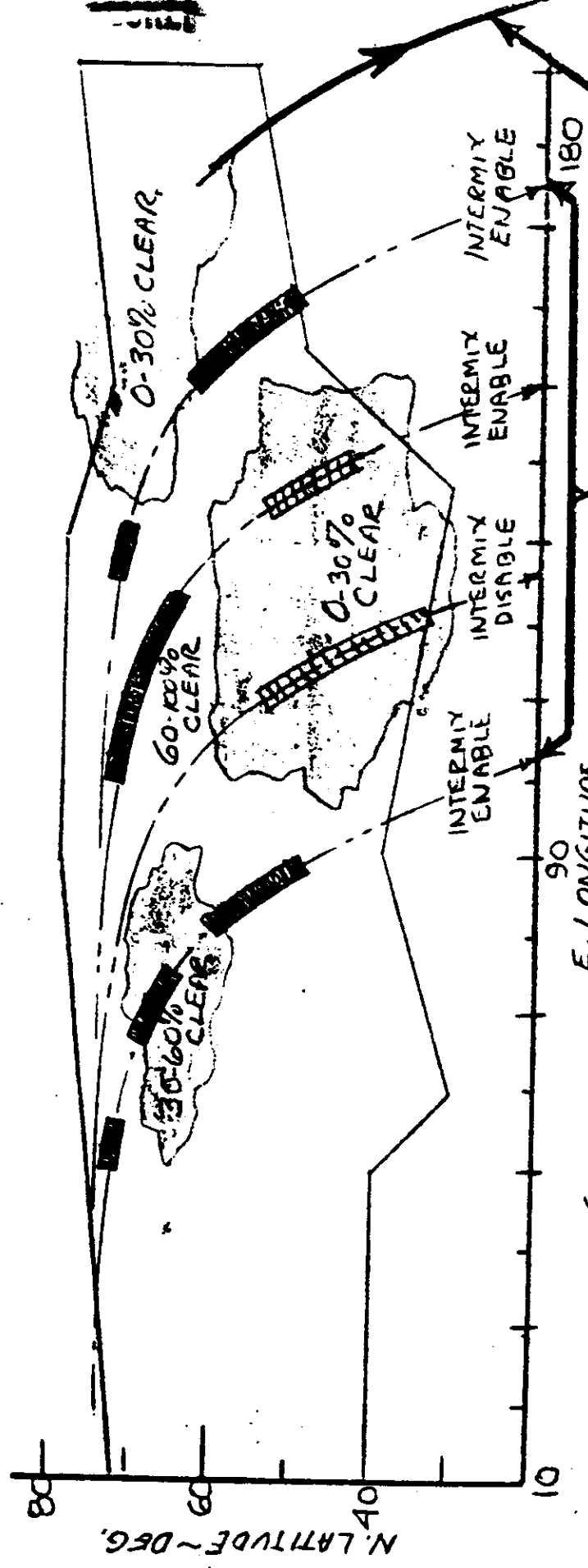
FIGURE 3 - INTERMIX SELECTION

THE CURRENT PATTERN OF STATION CONTACTS CAUSES A "BUNDLE" OF SEQUENTIAL UNCONTACTED ORBITS WHOSE NUMBER VARIES WITH INCLINATION FOR CURRENT MISSION PERIODS.

FOR $i = 60^\circ$
 $i = 70^\circ$
 $i = 80^\circ$
 $i = 90^\circ$

BUNDLE = 5 AVG.
 BUNDLE = 4 AVG.
 BUNDLE = 3 AVG.
 AVG. ONE ORBIT

DESCENDING & ASCENDING OPERATIONS OCCUR DURING THESE BUNDLES



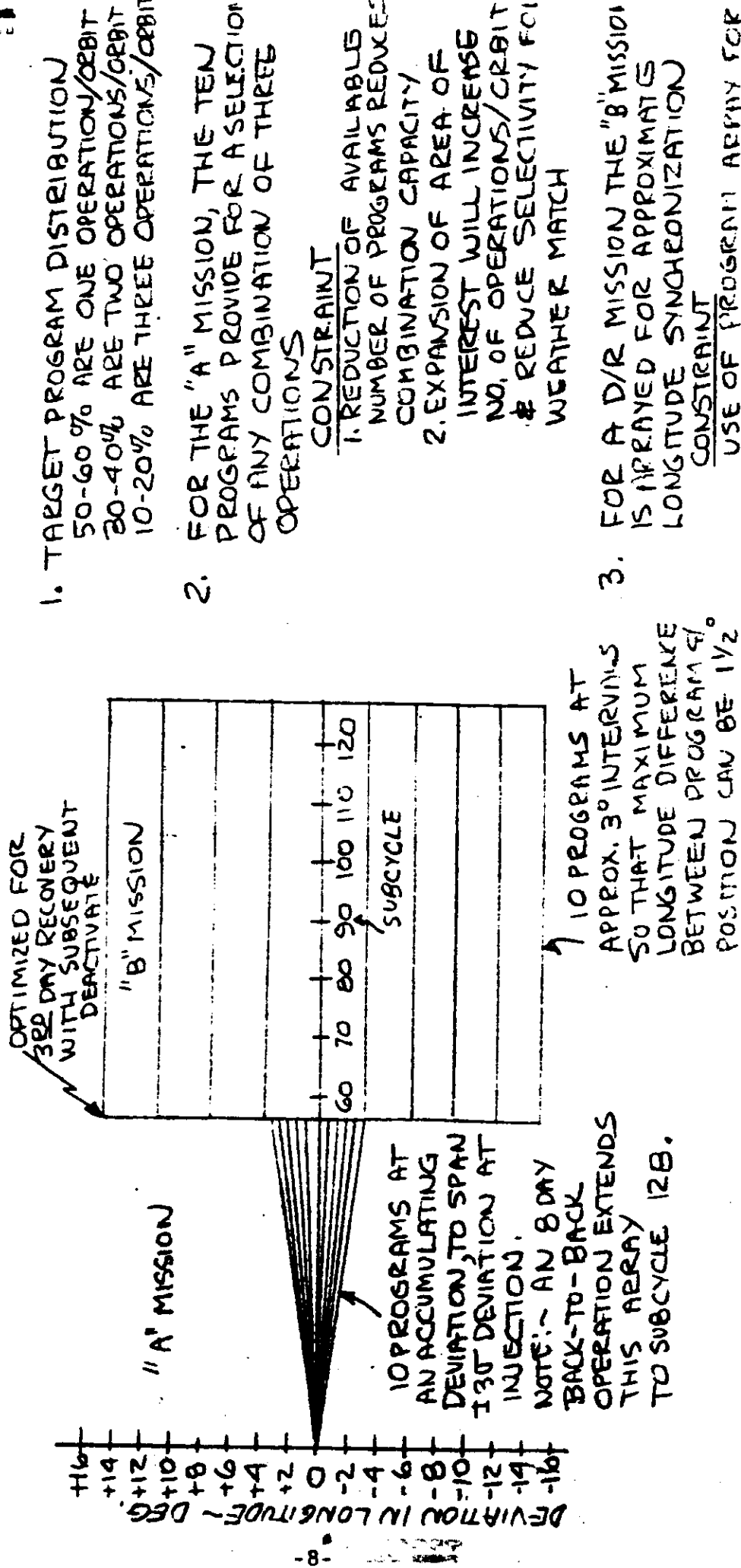
CONSTRAINT - (EXAMPLE)

SINGLE PROGRAM MUST BE USED FOR 4 ORBITS - OPTIMUM FOR DARK SWITCHING SEQUENCE
 SINGLE MODE MUST BE USED FOR 4 ORBITS
 AN OPERATION ON 2ND ORBIT IS MADE, THOUGH NOT DESIRED

LAST ORBIT CONTACT
 CONTACT
 CONTACT
 INTERMIX
 SELECTED &
 THE PROGRAM

- 3.8 The programming of the first three days of operations is based on possible $\pm 3\sigma$ period dispersions at injection. Ten stored programs are arrayed, including special programming for Vulnerability and Indicator targets (See Figure 4).
- 3.9 The subsequent programming uses 10 programs arrayed within $\pm 15^\circ$ in longitude about the preprogrammed reactivation longitude. Program array is therefore used to provide longitudinal synchronization. (See Figure 4).

FIGURE 4
PAYLOAD PROGRAM ARRAYS



1. TARGET PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION
 50-60% ARE ONE OPERATION/ORBIT
 20-40% ARE TWO OPERATIONS/ORBIT
 10-20% ARE THREE OPERATIONS/ORBIT
2. FOR THE "A" MISSION, THE TEN PROGRAMS PROVIDED FOR A SELECTION OF ANY COMBINATION OF THREE OPERATIONS
 CONSTRAINT
 1. REDUCTION OF AVAILABLE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS REDUCES COMBINATION CAPACITY
 2. EXPANSION OF AREA OF INTEREST WILL INCREASE NO. OF OPERATIONS/ORBIT & REDUCE SELECTIVITY FOR WEATHER MATCH
3. FOR A D/R MISSION THE "B" MISSION IS PRAYED FOR APPROXIMATE LONGITUDE SYNCHRONIZATION CONSTRAINT
 USE OF PROGRAM ARRAY FOR LONGITUDINAL SYNCHRONIZATION REDUCES SELECTIVITY FOR WEATHER MATCH. FUTURE EFFICIENCY WILL BE REDUCED.

4.0 METHODS OF SYSTEM APPLICATION

4.1 Basic Requirements To Be Met

4.1.1 Cover

To be useful, a satellite must pass over an area of value. Orbital parameters must therefore be initially achieved, and subsequently controlled, to allow one or more passes over the maximum percentage of area of value within a minimum number of days.

4.1.2 Acquisition

Command and control capability must efficiently match the longitude and latitude spans of area-of-value on any orbit to the complete exclusion of any undesired operation. Each operation and the mode (stereo or mono) must therefore be individually selectable.

4.1.3 Observation

The vehicle must have payload operational capability with cover coincident with the most favorable local weather conditions over areas of value. Observation therefore requires an extended useful time on orbit and the necessary reaction time to operate.

4.2 Operations Strategies

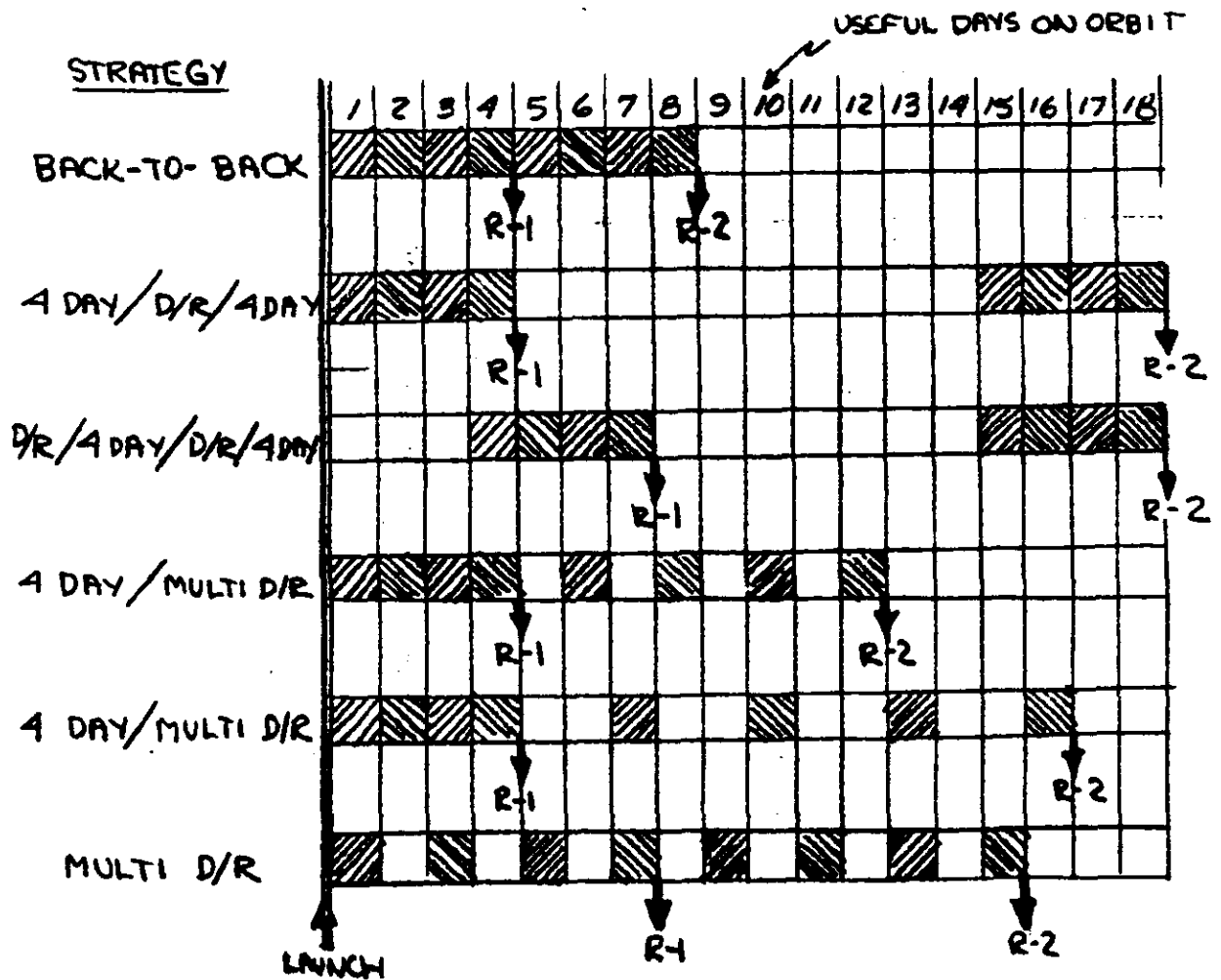
There are four basic strategies that can be applied singly or in any combination and permutation, and the system must be capable of accomplishing any of the four in accord with what is the most practical for the conditions encountered. These are illustrated in Figure 5.

These four basic strategies are; (of which the first two are within the capabilities of the system as currently configured):

1. Eight days continuous operation (back to back)
2. Single Cycle Deactivate/Reactivate
3. Two Cycle Deactivate/Reactivate (Deactivate after injection)
4. Multiple Cycle Deactivate/Reactivate

FIGURE 5

OPERATIONS STRATEGIES



NOTES:- 1. NUMBER OF USEFUL DAYS ON ORBIT & TIMES OF RECOVERIES R-1 AND R-2 ARE DESIGN POINTS, NOT EVALUATED MAXIMUMS OR MINIMUMS

2. FOR MULTI D/R, AN ACTIVE DAY CAN BE A PARTIAL OF NOT LESS THAN 4 ORBITS FOR PAYLOAD OPERATIONS.

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The conditions which govern the choice of strategy are time of year and weather conditions. Winter time eliminates the possibility of photographing the northern latitudes due to the lack of sun illumination. This reduces the number of payload operations available from which selections can be made to maximize information yield for a given square footage of film carried. In addition, payload operations are available only on either the ascending or the descending node, also reducing the number of payload operations available from which such selection can be made. Summer time has neither limitation providing that orbits are properly tailored and controlled.

Weather conditions govern the strategy at any time between pre-launch to on-orbit. As will be shown, timely reaction can optimize the total yield of information, if the launch and a favorable weather span are coincident.

If a highly favorable span of 4 days is matched by the launch, a high yield will result for the first 40 operations. If the condition persists, a continuous 8 day operation would be carried out rather than gambling on a future condition that may not afford a much greater yield. If the condition does not persist, deactivation would follow first recovery with subsequent 40 operations in a continuous reactivated period or by multiple D/R. This subsequent mode would be determined by whether future predictions show a reasonable fixed pattern or a fluctuating pattern.

If launch can not be coincident with a favorable span of 4 days then the vehicle could be put into a deactivated mode with a 4 day operation for the first 40 operations at a favorable time, or all subsequent 80 operations can be accomplished by multiple D/R when persistence of a favorable pattern does not occur.

As will be shown by the weather model, the average percent clear sky over the entire gross area of interest does not vary much (7%) between all four seasons, but some climatic regions show considerable seasonal difference. Climatic regions whose areas are very dense with valuable information will therefore yield radically different quantities of information if the cloud cover varies considerably seasonally.

5.0 GAINS FROM SYSTEM APPLICATIONS

5.1 Index of Yield

An index of the yield of information was created in order to quantitatively establish the comparative gains from the methods of J system application. In principle it is a summation of numbers that are the product of the percent clear sky at the time of a payload operation and the information value of the area. These values of interest range from one to 22 and are primarily representative of the density of information within a given area.

It is recognized that a true interest value would fluctuate with current events, and a value of "one" on one mission can rise to a value of "1,000" on the next mission. However, the evaluation of system use is aimed at area search and reconnaissance, rather than tactical use. It is therefore representative of information density.

This Index of Yield reflects the fact that a substantially greater yield of information is obtainable from a high density area with a small percentage of clear sky than from a low density area with a large percentage clear sky. Repetitive photography over these high density areas is considered as desirable as long as the time interval between sequential covers is long enough to assure statistical independence of the local weather conditions across the swath width.

The index of yield is the sum total of the values for 40 operations selected during any 4 day period, 80 operations during an 8 day period, or 80 operations accomplished by multiple D/R during x useful days on orbit.

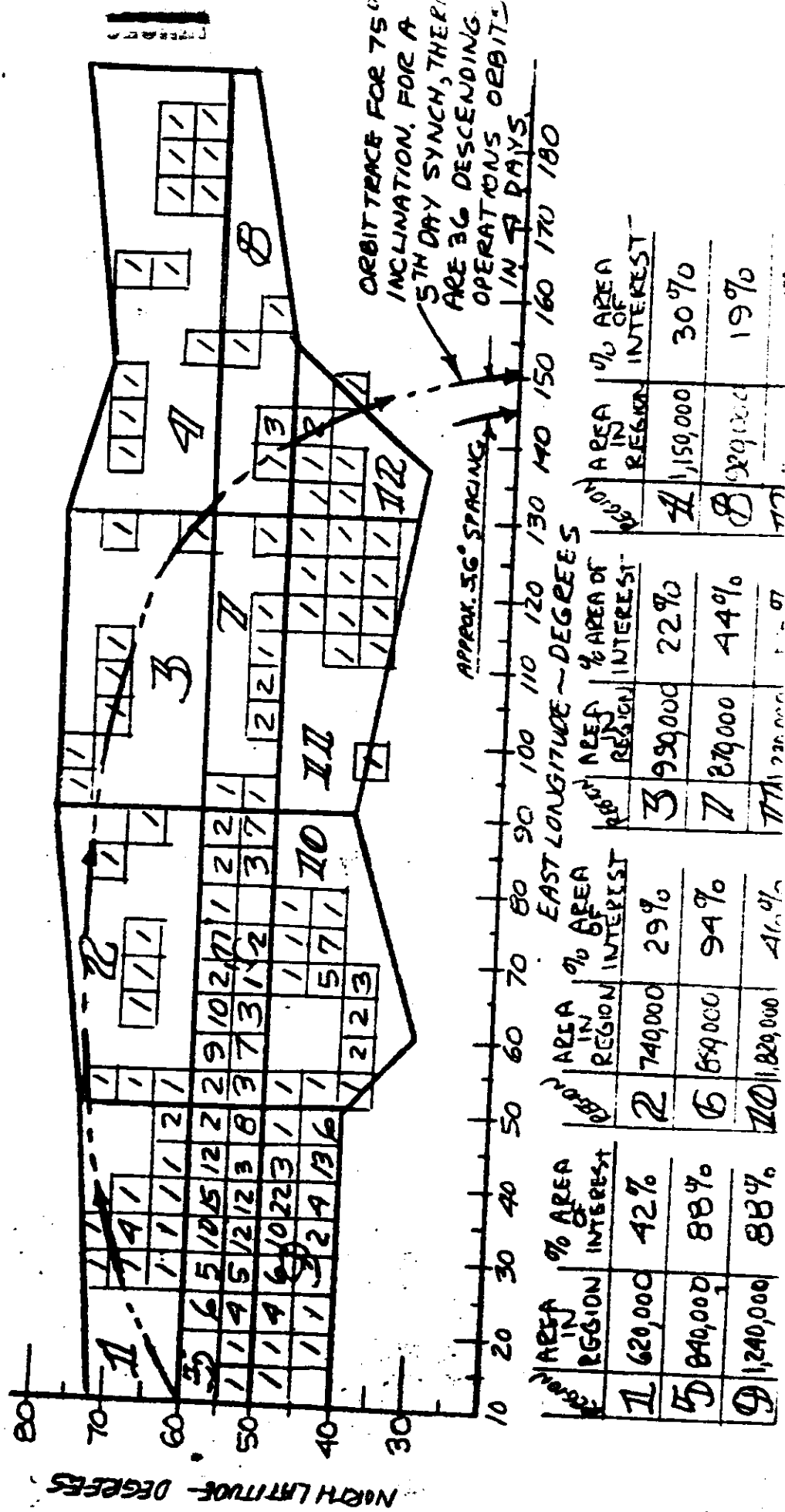
5.2 Weather/Target/Operations

A weather model has been derived at LMSC based on raw data supplied by the USAF Climatic Center of daily observations at noon for the period 1957 through 1960. As shown in Figure 6, the area of interest is divided into 12 climatic regions. These areas differ in the climatic conditions throughout the 4 seasons and in total area contained. However, the entire area in each region is not of interest on every mission. To reflect a weighting as to contained interest, specific 5° x 5° areas were given comparative information values reflecting density of information. As shown in the table of Figure 6, the result is that from 21% to 94% of the region areas are valued at "one" or more.

FIGURE 6

WEATHER/TARGET/OPERATIONS MODEL

1. A DEFINED AREA OF INTEREST IS DIVIDED INTO 12 SEPARATE CLIMATIC REGIONS.
2. WITHIN EACH CLIMATIC REGION ARE DEFINED 5°X5° SPECIFIC AREAS WEIGHTED AS TO CONTAINED INTEREST.



An overlay of the orbit traces for a 75° inclination for 4 days at 5th day synchronous provides 9 operating orbits per day for descending node only, and 13 to 14 operating orbits per day for both ascending and descending nodes.

For each operating orbit there is a total of the information values (numbers in the 5° x 5° blocks that the orbit crosses) for each of the climatic regions.

For each season of the year there is a statistical probability of percent clear sky. As shown in Figure 7, three values of clear sky are given:

- A = 0-30% clear sky (15% avg.)
- B = 30-60% clear sky (45% avg.)
- C = 60-100% clear sky (80% avg.)

Figure 7 tabulates the average number of days per month as the frequency of occurrence. Making a random selection based on these statistics, a model was chosen for a 30 day period for summer, Figure 8, and winter, Figure 9. This model gave a percent clear sky value for each of 30 days for each climatic region. This percent clear sky value multiplied by the summation information value for each pass, gave an index of yield.

For a 4 day period, the total number of operations possible totalled approximately 100 for descending only and 200 for both ascending and descending. Simulating selectivity, the highest values for 40 operations were selected for a 4 day period and their sum total represented the index of yield. For an 8 day period the highest values for 80 operations were selected. For multiple D/R, the highest 80 operations were selected out of the total for from 8 to 30 days.

5.3 Test of Model

The validity of the model was tested by comparing the simulated operations against [redacted] and [redacted] Program statistics:

5.3.1 Operations per Orbit

Statistics show that the distribution of operations were as follows:

- 50-60% were one operation per orbit
- 30-40% were two operations per orbit
- 10-20% were three operations per orbit

FIGURE 7

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS PER MONTH WITH VARIOUS CLEAR SKIES - AT NOON

CLIMATIC REGION	DEC/JAN/FEB			MAR/APR/MAY			JUN/JUL/AUG			SEP/OCT/NOV		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
1	25.4	4.4	0.2	22.7	6.7	1.6	23.7	5.8	0.5	27.4	2.5	0.1
2	10.6	10.5	0.9	18.2	10.2	2.6	21.9	7.6	1.5	26.7	3.3	0.3
3	9.4	14.5	9.4	13.8	12.7	4.5	21.5	7.3	2.2	21.6	7.4	1.0
4	11.5	14.9	3.6	15.9	12.8	2.3	24.9	5.9	0.2	22.3	7.6	0.1
5	28.1	1.8	0.1	21.9	7.8	1.3	25.8	4.7	0.5	26.1	3.7	0.2
6	20.0	8.8	1.2	19.0	9.2	2.0	21.8	8.1	1.1	22.9	5.9	1.2
7	11.7	14.8	3.5	19.3	10.5	1.2	21.4	9.1	0.5	20.8	8.8	0.4
8	16.0	11.9	2.1	21.0	8.7	1.3	26.1	4.7	0.2	20.4	9.3	0.3
9	24.2	5.8	0.0	22.5	7.8	0.7	8.2	17.2	5.6	14.6	13.7	1.7
10	10.3	15.0	4.7	14.4	12.4	4.2	1.1	12.3	17.6	2.0	11.1	16.9
11	2.3	9.2	18.5	11.0	13.7	6.3	10.6	17.1	3.3	0.6	14.1	15.3
12	11.6	14.1	4.3	12.8	8.6	2.4	25.4	5.4	0.2	11.2	17.0	4.8

LEGEND:
 A = 0-30% CLEAR
 B = 30-60% CLEAR
 C = 60-100% CLEAR

NOTE:
 FOR DECEMBER/FEB, THE CLIMATIC REGIONS 1, 2, 3 & 4 HAVE NO ILLUMINATION & FOR REGIONS 5, 6, 7, & 8, ONLY THE LATITUDE SPAN OF 50° TO 55°N IS CONSIDERED IN WEATHER EVALUATION.

FIGURE 8
 PERCENT CLOUD CLEAR - SUMMER (JUN/JUL/AUG)

CLIMATIC REGION

DAY OF MONTH SPAN
 LEGEND:
 A = 0.15 CLOUD - CLEAR AVG.
 B = 0.45 CLOUD - CLEAR AVG.
 C = 0.80 CLOUD - CLEAR AVG.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
1	B	C	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		
2	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	B	B	C	A	A	A	A	A		
3	C	A	B	A	C	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A		
4	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	
5	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
6	A	A	A	B	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	C	B	B	B	
7	A	B	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	B	A	A	A	B	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	
8	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	A	
9	C	A	B	B	A	C	B	B	C	A	A	B	B	A	C	B	A	B	A	B	B	B	C	B	B	B	C	B	B	A	B	A	
10	C	B	B	C	B	A	C	C	B	B	C	B	B	C	C	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	B	C	C	
11	A	A	B	B	A	B	H	B	A	B	B	C	B	B	C	B	H	B	C	B	C	B	A	B	C	B	A	B	A	A	B		
12	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

FIGURE 9

PERCENT CLOUD CLEAR-WINTER (DEC/JAN/FEB)

CLIMATIC REGION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
5	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
6	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	
7	B	B	B	A	A	A	B	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	B	A	C	B	A	B	A	B	B	
8	A	A	B	A	A	C	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	
9	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	B	A	A	A	
10	B	A	B	B	B	C	B	C	C	B	C	B	B	A	B	C	B	C	A	B	B	A	B	C	B	B	C	B	C	B	
11	C	B	B	B	C	C	C	B	C	C	A	B	C	A	C	B	B	B	B	C	C	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	B
12	B	C	A	A	B	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	A	B	B	C	A	B	B	B	B	B	B

DAY OF A MONTH
SPAN

LEGEND:
 A = 0.15 CLOUD - CLEAR AV.
 B = 0.45 CLOUD - CLEAR AV.
 C = 0.80 CLOUD - CLEAR AV.

Simulated operations, using the model, show:

	Spring	Summer
one operation	61%	52%
two operations	36%	36%
three operations	3%	12%

5.3.2 Operations per Day

Choosing the highest index of information yield over a 30 day span resulted in 8 to 13 operations per day with an average of 10 per day.

5.3.3 Average Cloud Clear Percentage

The randomly chosen 30 day model (Figure 8) shows an average of 30% cloud clear over the entire 12 climatic regions as against the statistical average of 34.3% for summer, over a 30 day period.

5.4 Comparison of Information Yield

Using the Index of Yield, a comparison has been made of the information yield for the various strategies, between summer and winter operations, and between a descending node only operation and an ascending and descending one.

Fundamental to the comparison is the determination of the day-to-day variance. This is illustrated by Figure 10 for summer. The descending node only shows a persistence of the 4th day of a 4 day cycle to be minimum in yield whereas tailoring orbits to use the cover of both ascending and descending nodes results in a more random pattern of yields for each of the 4 days of the 4 day cycle over a 30 day period.

The difference in the daily yield between summer and winter is illustrated by Figure 11. Of particular interest, beside the greater yield in summer, is the random variance of the yields of each of the 4 days of the 4 day cycle over a 30 day period in winter reflecting to some extent the decrease in valuable areas available for observation due to lack of illumination.

The 4 day active period is the basic, or standard, strategy and its yield is the sum of 40 operations with more or less than 10 performed each day selected as to the highest predicted yield. This 4 day, 40 operations represents the first capsule capacity, and two such periods make up the 8 day back-to-back, or the single cycle D/R.

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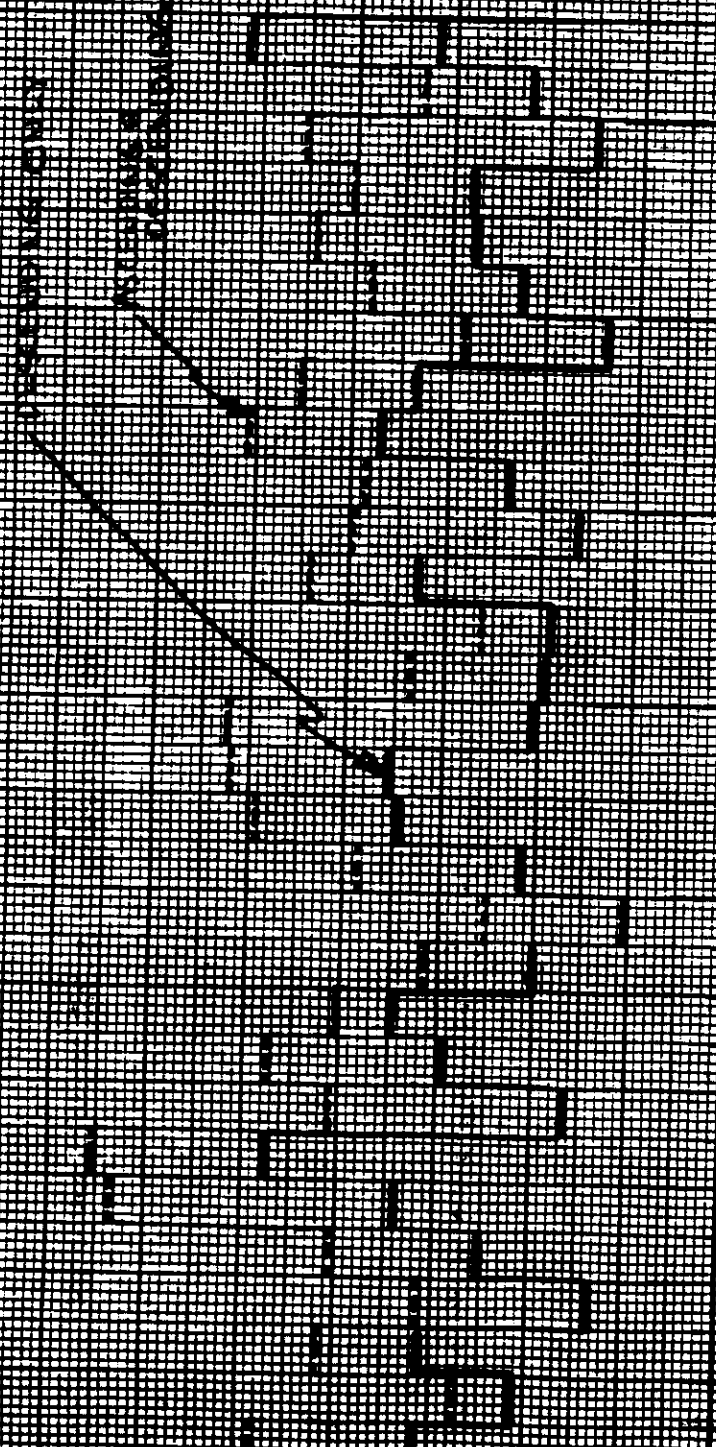
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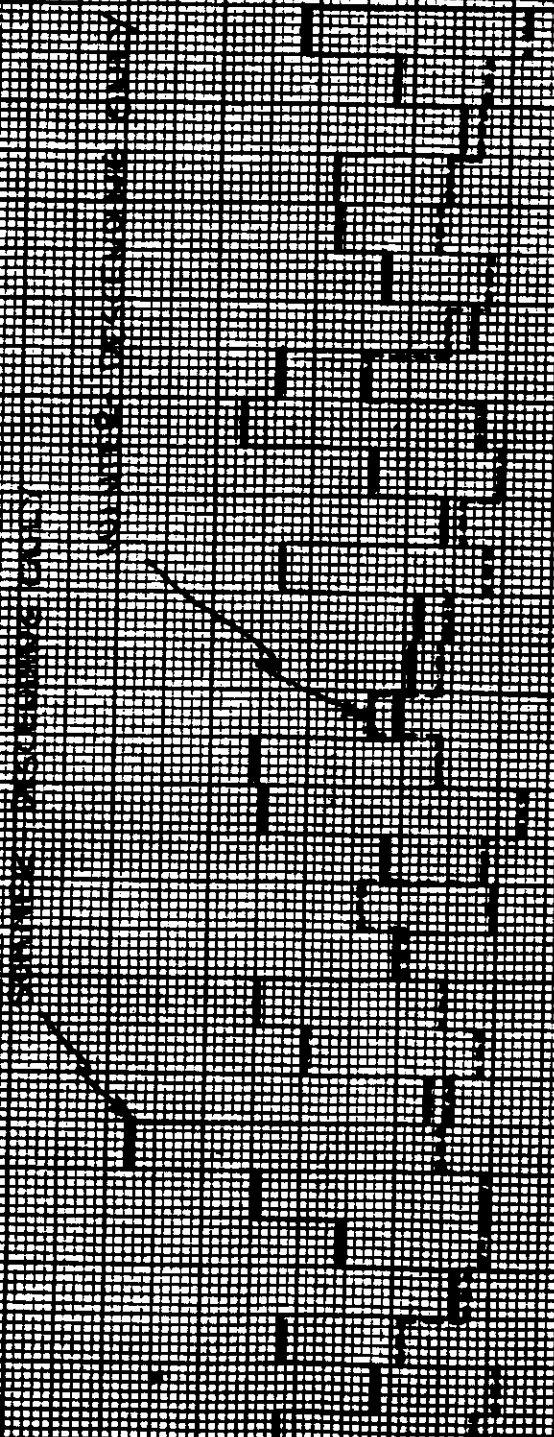


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PROJECT

WALTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
SUMMER 1954

AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
 COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



WALTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (SUMMER 1954) ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
 UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA (SUMMER 1954) ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
 DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING

5.4.1 Summer-Descending Only vs Ascending & Descending

The summary comparison is presented by Figure 12 for the descending node only, and by Figure 13 for the ascending and descending node.

A quick comparison of the magnitude of the Index of Yield shows a considerable increase for the ascending and descending as against descending only (includes tangency). This difference is due to the availability of 13 to 14 orbits per day passing over areas of high value as against 9 for the descending only so that there is a greater number of high value operations available from which 40 and 80 operations can be selected. (About double)

In general, current mission altitudes have not been tailored for quality for the entire ascending and descending node operations (apogees are too high). Nor have useful times on orbit, with proper time-of-day launch, been long enough to permit the orbit to decay down to the desired altitudes. The current maximum potentials are therefore represented by Figure 12 with the values of Figure 13 representing the maximum potential attainable. These values are at least 6% to 13% higher than are nominally attainable with today's unmodified system and procedures since they utilize the operational flexibility for the elimination of any undesired operation, for efficiency of latitude and longitude match, and 100% control of each operation for optimum selectivity of coincidence with favorable weather.

Values intermediate to those of Figures 12 and 13 are attainable by use of ascending and descending for one capsule capacity and descending for the other depending on the orbit control or the orbit decay characteristics to provide the necessary altitudes.

Comparisons of the Index of Yield between the descending node only and the ascending and descending nodes are given in Figures 14 through 17 for each strategy (4 day continuous, 8 day continuous, single cycle D/R, and Multiple D/R).

5.4.2 Winter - Descending Only

In the winter season, at the time of the winter solstice, the sun is farthest south from the equator. Thus the latitudes north of 55°N were analytically considered as of zero value